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Calculation of focal spot of secondary X-rays generated by high-energy electron beam bombarding of heavy metal targets

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One of the main methods to generate X-rays is to bombard metal targets with electron beams. However, this process introduces uncertainty in the electron transport, which leads to uncertainty in the position and momentum of the secondary X-rays. As a result, the focal spot of the X-rays is larger than the electron beam. In this paper, we use the Monte Carlo software Geant4 to investigate the conditions for minimizing the X-ray focal spot size. We assign different weights to the X-rays according to their energy components, based on the actual application parameters, and calculate the focal spot size for three target materials: lead, copper, and tungsten, finding that when the incident electron energy is in the MeV range and the electron source radius is 1 μm , the mass thickness of the target of $1.935 \times 10^{-3} \text{ g/cm}^2$ is the limit for achieving the smallest equivalent focal spot size.

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Primary author: SHI, Chongnan (Tsinghua University in Beijing)

Co-authors: FENG, Boyuan (Tsinghua University in Beijing); ZHA, Hao (Tsinghua University in Beijing); LI, Hongyu (Tsinghua University in Beijing); CHEN, Huaibi (Tsinghua University in Beijing); SHI, Jiaru (Tsinghua University in Beijing); ZHOU, Rong (Sichuan University)

Presenter: FENG, Boyuan (Tsinghua University in Beijing)

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