

Parabolic focusing

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This is a technical document to ease calculations of beam parabolic focusing parameters. Let us start with Shrödinger equation

$$\mathbf{i} \frac{\partial E}{\partial z} + \frac{D}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left(r \frac{\partial E}{\partial r} \right) = 0. \quad (1)$$

Solution can be derived in the following form:

$$E = A(z) \exp(-ar^2) \exp(\mathbf{i}br^2), \quad (2)$$

where $A \in \mathbb{C}$, $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$. By substituting (2) into (1):

$$\mathbf{i}A' - \mathbf{i}Aa'r^2 - Ab'r^2 - 4DA(a - \mathbf{i}b) + 4DA(a - \mathbf{i}b)^2r^2 = 0, \quad (3)$$

we can derive the following relations:

$$a' = -8Dab \quad (4)$$

$$-b' + 4D(a^2 - b^2) = 0 \quad (5)$$

$$\mathbf{i}A' - 4DA(a - \mathbf{i}b) = 0 \quad (6)$$

From (4) and (5) we have:

$$-a''a + \frac{3}{2}a'^2 = 32D^2a^4 \quad (7)$$

$$b = -\frac{a'}{8Da} \quad (8)$$

The final solution is the following:

$$a = \frac{1}{\frac{16D^2}{R_0^2}z^2 + R_0^2} \quad (9)$$

$$b = \frac{4Dz}{R_0^2} \frac{1}{\frac{16D^2}{R_0^2}z^2 + R_0^2} \quad (10)$$

Inverse formulas read as follows:

$$R_0^2 = \frac{a}{a^2 + b^2} \quad (11)$$

$$z = \frac{1}{4D} \frac{b}{a^2 + b^2} \quad (12)$$

Let us also derive something to get R_0 from z_1 and initial radius R_1 ($1/a(z_1)$). From (9) we have:

$$R_0^2 = \frac{R_1^2}{2} - \sqrt{\frac{R_1^4}{4} - 16D^2 z_1^2}$$

Let us also rewrite for focal diameter:

$$D_0^2 = \frac{D_1^2}{2} - \sqrt{\frac{D_1^4}{4} - 256D^2 z_1^2}$$

Here R_0^2 is beam radius square ($1/a(z=0)$) at focal point ($z=0$). Now let us find solution for complex amplitude A which can be rewritten in the following form: $A = |A| \exp(\mathbf{i}\phi)$. Then from (6) we have:

$$\mathbf{i}A' A - 4D|A|^2(a - \mathbf{i}b) = 0$$

$$-\mathbf{i}A'^* A - 4D|A|^2(a + \mathbf{i}b) = 0$$

Then

$$(|A|^2)' - 8D|A|^2 b = 0$$

Using (4) we can derive the following:

$$\frac{(|A|^2)'}{|A|^2} + \frac{a'}{a} = 0$$

Then for $|A|^2$:

$$|A|^2 a = \text{const}$$

and for ϕ :

$$\phi' + 4Da = 0$$

1 FWHM

Let us also add convenience relations for beam width in FWHM notation. Let the field amplitude to be set in the form

$$A(r) \propto \exp\left(-\frac{r^2}{r_{A/e}^2}\right)$$

Then intensity would be

$$I(r) \propto A^2 \propto \exp\left(-2\frac{r^2}{r_{A/e}^2}\right)$$

here r_0 is field radius at $1/e$. We want intensity radius at $1/2$ level, so

$$-2 \frac{r^2}{r_{A/e}^2} = -\ln(2)$$

$$r_{I/2} = \sqrt{\frac{\ln(2)}{2}} r_{A/e} \approx 0.588 r_{A/e}$$

and vice versa

$$r_{A/e} \approx 1.7 r_{I/2}$$