

# BEAMDP as a General-Purpose Utility

C.-M. Ma and D.W.O. Rogers  
Ionizing Radiation Standards  
National Research Council of Canada, Ottawa

Printed: April 14, 2021  
NRCC Report PIRS-0509(E)revA

## **Abstract**

BEAMDP (BEAM Data Processor) is developed for the OMEGA (Ottawa Madison Electron Gamma Algorithm) project. This program can be used to analyze the phase-space parameters of a clinical electron beam generated using BEAMnrc and to derive the data required by a multiple-source model for representation and reconstruction of the electron beam for use in Monte Carlo radiotherapy treatment planning.

This report covers general BEAMDP inputs and outputs for deriving particle energy spectral, mean energy, planar fluence and angular distributions. It describes how to combine phase-space data files and list particle parameters on the screen, and gives information on how to compile and run BEAMDP.



# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Methods</b>	<b>3</b>
2.1	Definition of Scoring Quantities . . . . .	3
2.2	Descriptions of Input Variables . . . . .	4
2.2.1	field types: . . . . .	5
2.2.2	particle types: . . . . .	5
2.2.3	LATCH filters: . . . . .	5
2.2.4	graph types: . . . . .	8
2.2.5	fluence type: . . . . .	8
2.2.6	format of output data: . . . . .	8
2.2.7	file name inputs: . . . . .	8
2.2.8	multiple-curves: . . . . .	8
2.3	Analysis of Statistical Uncertainties . . . . .	8
2.3.1	Basic Formulas . . . . .	9
<b>3</b>	<b>BEAMDP Utility Options</b>	<b>10</b>
3.1	Fluence vs Position from a Phase-Space File . . . . .	10
3.1.1	Field Types: . . . . .	10
3.1.2	Fluence Types: . . . . .	11
3.2	Energy Fluence vs Position from a Phase-Space File . . . . .	11
3.2.1	Fluence Types: . . . . .	11
3.3	Energy Spectrum from a Phase-Space File . . . . .	11
3.3.1	Field Types: . . . . .	11
3.3.2	Range of Energy: . . . . .	12
3.3.3	Fluence Types: . . . . .	12
3.4	Energy Fluence Distribution from a Phase-Space File . . . . .	12
3.4.1	Fluence Types: . . . . .	12
3.5	Mean Energy from a Phase-Space File . . . . .	12
3.5.1	Field Types: . . . . .	13
3.6	Angular Distribution from a Phase-Space File . . . . .	13

3.6.1	Field Types: . . . . .	13
3.6.2	Range of Angle: . . . . .	13
3.7	ZLAST Distribution from a Phase-Space File . . . . .	13
3.7.1	Field Types: . . . . .	14
3.7.2	Range of ZLAST: . . . . .	14
3.8	Particle Weight Distribution from a Phase-Space File . . . . .	14
3.8.1	Field Types: . . . . .	14
3.8.2	Range of Particle Weights: . . . . .	14
3.9	X-Y Scatter Plot from a Phase-Space File . . . . .	14
3.9.1	Field Types: . . . . .	15
3.9.2	Range of Energy: . . . . .	15
3.10	Combine two phase-space files into one . . . . .	15
3.11	List parameters of phase-space particles . . . . .	15
3.11.1	Parameters to Be Listed . . . . .	15
3.11.2	A Sample Listing . . . . .	16
<b>4</b>	<b>Compile and Run BEAMDP</b>	<b>16</b>
4.1	Compile BEAMDP . . . . .	16
4.2	Run BEAMDP . . . . .	17
<b>5</b>	<b>References</b>	<b>17</b>

# 1 Introduction

BEAMDP (BEAM Data Processor) is a program, originally developed for the OMEGA (Ottawa Madison Electron Gamma Algorithm) project, to analyze the BEAM phase-space data and to derive the spectral and planar fluence distributions for use by beam characterization models (see BEAMDP users' manual). However, BEAMDP can also be used as a utility program to derive other information about the simulated electron beams from their phase-space files.

When running BEAMDP, a user is given the following options:

1. to analyze a phase-space data file for beam characterization models. When this option is chosen the user will be requested to provide further information about the operation to be carried out (see BEAMDP users manual);
2. to derive fluence vs position from a phase-space data file;
3. to derive energy fluence vs position from a phase-space data file;
4. to derive spectral distributions from a phase-space data file;
5. to derive energy fluence distributions from a phase-space data file;
6. to derive mean energy distributions from a phase-space data file;
7. to derive angular distributions from a phase-space data file;
8. to derive ZLAST distributions from a phase-space data file;
9. to derive the particle weight distribution from a phase-space file;
10. to derive an X-Y scatter plot of particles from a phase-space file;
11. to combine two phase-space files into one;
12. to list the parameters of phase-space particles on the screen.

In the following sections we describe how options items 2-11 are performed with BEAMDP. The details of beam characterization models and their data processing procedures with BEAMDP can be found in BEAMDP user's Manual.

## 2 Methods

### 2.1 Definition of Scoring Quantities

1. **Fluence vs Position:** the total number of particles scored in spatial bins of equal area. The user has a choice to score either planar fluence, which does not take into account the angle at which the particle strikes the scoring plane, or actual fluence (See section 3.1.2 below for more details on fluence type).;

2. **Energy Fluence vs Position:** the total energy scored in spatial bins of equal area. Obtained by multiplying each particle's weight by it's kinetic energy before scoring it in a bin. The user has a choice to score either planar fluence or actual fluence (See section 3.2.1 below);
3. **Spectrum:** fluence (planar or actual—See section 3.3.3) scored in a user-specified field vs energy with energy bins of equal bin width within a specified spatial region. Fluence is normalized to the bin width and the number of incident particles;
4. **Energy Fluence Distribution:** energy fluence (planar or actual—See section 3.4.1) scored in a user-specified field vs energy with energy bins of equal bin width within a specified spatial region. Fluence is normalized to the bin width and the number of incident particles;
5. **Mean Energy:** the ratio of the total particle energy to the total number of particles scored in a spatial bin of equal area;
6. **Angular Distribution:** the total number of particles scored in an angular bin of equal bin width within a specified spatial region;
7. **ZLAST Distribution:** the total number of particles scored in a bin of equal bin width within a specified spatial region;
8. **Weight Distribution:** number of particles vs the statistical weight of particles with weight bins of equal width on a logarithmic scale;
9. **X-Y Scatter Plot:** a plot of the X-Y positions of all particles having a user-specified charge and latch setting within a user-specified field;
10. **Statistics:** the error bars represent one-standard deviation statistical uncertainties of the scored quantity.

## 2.2 Descriptions of Input Variables

When running BEAMDP a user is requested to input information regarding the distributions required, such as field types, field dimensions, particle type, `LATCH` options, graph options, etc. This section describes these input variables.

In fact, BEAMDP provides two levels of prompts for information, one for “experienced” users and one for “new” users. Detailed descriptions of the required input and range of acceptable values are given to the new users. After the first run through the program the shorter, less informative prompts are provided, to the “experienced” users. However, at any time the user may obtain additional information about any of the inputs by typing “?”, or by providing an unacceptable value except for the cases where the user is requested to input a filename (in this case press Ctrl/C to interrupt the program).

### 2.2.1 field types:

Different field types have been used for planar fluence, spectrum, mean energy and angular distributions and X-Y scatter plots (see Figs. 1 and 2). Detailed information can be found in each of the sections describing the scoring quantities.

### 2.2.2 particle types:

One can choose from the following combinations:

IQ = -1 for electrons

IQ = 0 for photons

IQ = 1 for positrons

IQ = 2 for all the particles

IQ = 3 for electrons and positrons

### 2.2.3 LATCH filters:

LATCH is a phase-space parameter used to record the history of a particle (see BEAMnrc user's manual). For example, if one has chosen LATCH option 2 for the BEAM simulation, bit 0 of LATCH is used to indicate whether this particle is a photon or a charged particle created by a photon (set to 1 if yes). Bits 1 - 23 of LATCH will be used to record whether the particle has been to (IREGION-TO-BIT) regions 1 - 23 (each bit represents a region, i.e., bit 1 will be set to 1 if the particle has been to/interacted in IREGION-TO-BIT region 1, and bit 5 will be set to 1 if the particle has been to/interacted in IREGION-TO-BIT region 5). Bits 24 - 28 will be used to record the number of an (IREGION-TO-BIT) region where a secondary particle is created (it is recorded as a 5-digit binary number). Thus, 00001 in bits 24 - 28 means that the particle is created in IREGION-TO-BIT region 1, and 00101 in bits 24 - 28 means that the particle is created in IREGION-TO-BIT region 5. Because a secondary can only be created in IREGION-TO-BIT regions 1 - 23, if one finds 00000 in bits 24 - 28 of LATCH, it indicates that the particle is a primary since any region not assigned a specific IREGION-TO-BIT number is assigned a value of 23 by BEAM. The IREGION-TO-BIT region number, where a secondary is created, can be calculated by  $\text{int}(LATCH/2^{24})$ .

For data processing options 1-8, the user can “filter” the particles output by beamdp so that only particles with certain LATCH bits set or not set will be output for plotting. There are 4 latch filters available, controlled by the setting of the input variable I\_IN\_EX. A description of each filter, along with the required input variables is given below:

**I\_IN\_EX=0** This is an inclusive/exclusive bit filter. On the same line as I\_IN\_EX, the user must input the integers Nbit1 and Nbit2. Nbit1 is the number of bits to include and Nbit2 is the number of bits to exclude. Restriction is that  $0 \leq \text{Nbit1} + \text{Nbit2} \leq 29$ . Both Nbit1 and Nbit2 can be set to zero. On the next line, the user inputs BIT(I) (I=1,Nbit1), the bits to be included, and on the following line BIT(I) (I=Nbit1+1,Nbit1+Nbit2),

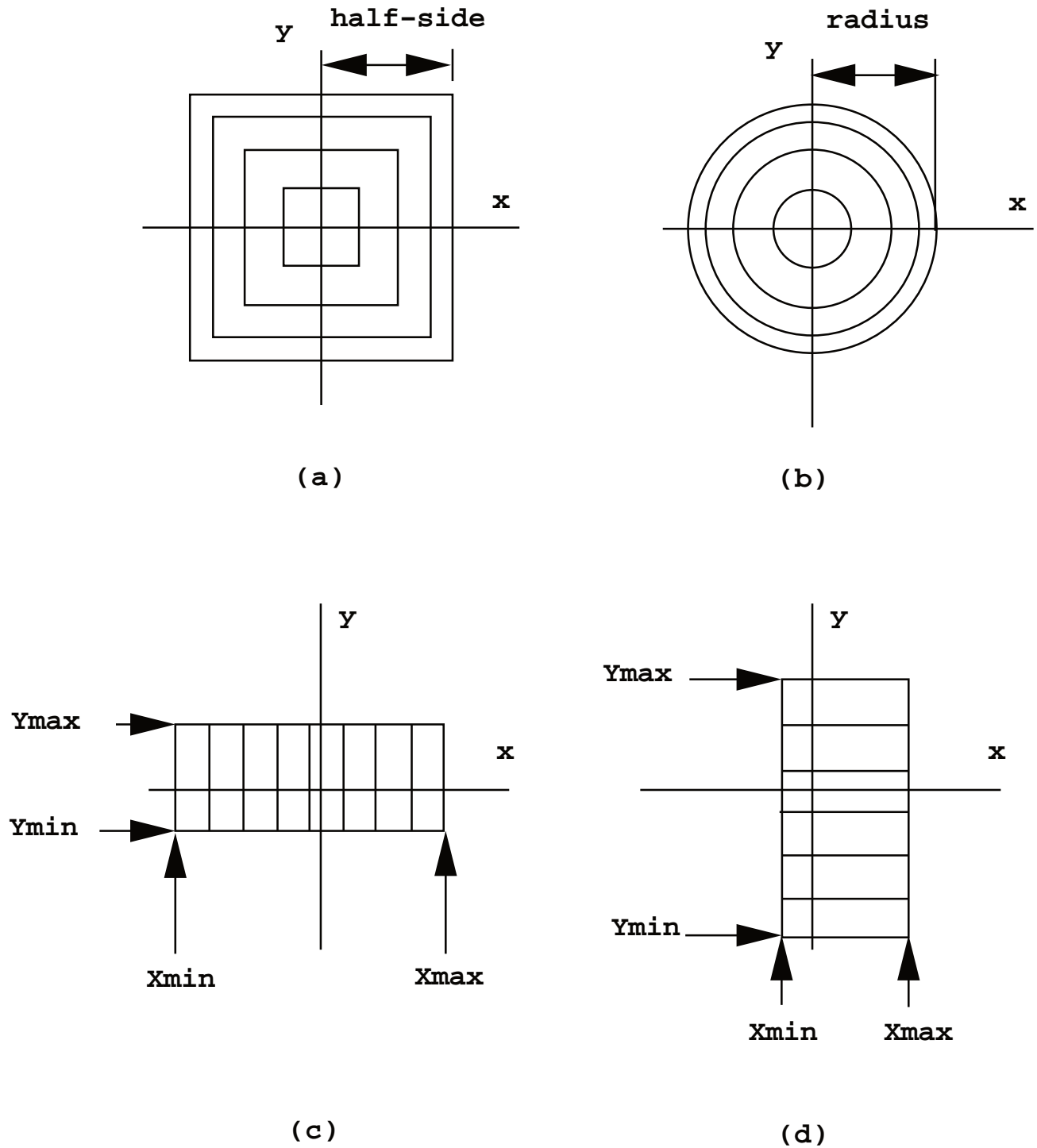


Figure 1: Field types for scoring planar fluence and mean energy: (a) square rings of equal area; (b) annular bins of equal area; (c) rectangular bins of equal area along x-axis; and (d) rectangular bins of equal area along y-axis.



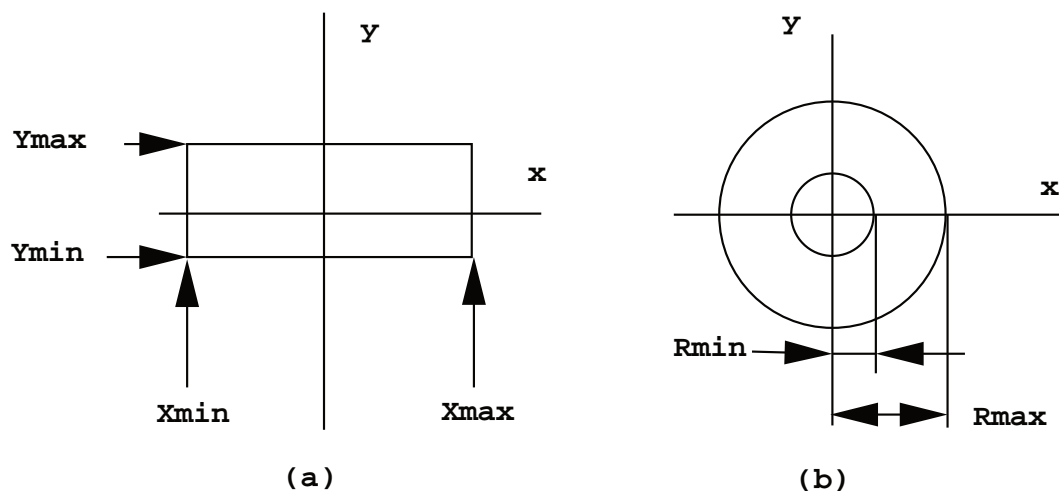


Figure 2: Field types for scoring spectrum, angular distribution and X-Y scatter plots: (a) rectangular field and (b) annular field.

the bits to be excluded. If any of the first set of `Nbit1` bits are set and none of the second set of `Nbit2` bits are set, the particle is scored.

**I\_IN\_EX=1** This is an exclusive bit filter. On the same line as `I_IN_EX`, the user has only to input the integer `Nbit1`, the number of bits to be excluded ( $0 \leq \text{Nbit1} \leq 29$ ). `Nbit2` is not relevant for this filter and is automatically set to 0. On the next line, the user inputs, `BIT(I)` ( $I=1, \text{Nbit1}$ ), the bits to be excluded. If any of these `Nbit1` bits are set, the particle is NOT scored.

**I\_IN\_EX=2** An inclusive region-of-origin filter. The user inputs `Nbit1` on the same line as `I_IN_EX`, where `Nbit1` is the number of regions of origin to be included. Since regions of origin are distinguished only by their values of `IREGION_TO_BIT`, `Nbit1` can also be seen as the number of distinct values of `IREGION_TO_BIT` to be included. The restriction on `Nbit1` is  $0 \leq \text{Nbit1} \leq 24$ . `Nbit2` is not relevant for this filter and is automatically set to 0. On the next line, the user inputs `IREGION_TO_BIT(I)` ( $I=1, \text{Nbit1}$ ), the `IREGION_TO_BIT` values of the `Nbit1` regions of origin to be included. If the particle originated in any one of these `Nbit1` regions, then it is scored. Primary particles will be included if `IREGION_TO_BIT=0` is one of the `Nbit1` values of `IREGION_TO_BIT` to include.

**I\_IN\_EX=3** An exclusive region-of-origin filter. The user inputs `Nbit1` ( $0 \leq \text{Nbit1} \leq 24$ ), the number of regions of origin to be excluded, on the same line as `I_IN_EX` and ignores `Nbit2`, since it is not relevant for this filter. On the next line the user inputs `IREGION_TO_BIT(I)` ( $I=1, \text{Nbit1}$ ), the `IREGION_TO_BIT` values of the regions of origin to be excluded. If a particle originated in any one of these regions, then it is NOT

scored. Note that primary particles will be excluded if `IREGION_TO_BIT=0` is one of the `Nbit1` values of `IREGION_TO_BIT` to exclude.

#### 2.2.4 graph types:

One can choose either normal-point graphs or histograms, except for the X-Y scatter plots, which, by definition, are unconnected points in the X-Y plane.

#### 2.2.5 fluence type:

For fluence/energy fluence vs position and energy/energy fluence distributions, the user can choose between plotting planar fluence or actual fluence.

#### 2.2.6 format of output data:

All output graphics are in a format suitable for use by the `xvgr` plotting package. If the user has another plotting package only the subroutine “`xvgrplot`” need be rewritten to match the needed format.

#### 2.2.7 file name inputs:

File names should be given with extension. For example, for a phase-space file scored at the first scoring plane during a BEAM simulation it can be “`try.egspsphsp1`”. BEAMDP will check the first record of the file and recognize whether it is a “`MODE0`” or a “`MODE2`” file (see BEAM user’s manual). For the `xvgr` data file the extension can be arbitrary although we find it useful to always call it `.xvgr`.

#### 2.2.8 multiple-curves:

One can derive several planar fluence, mean energy, spectral and angular distributions, and X-Y scatter plots from the same phase-space data and output them into the same `xvgr` data file.

### 2.3 Analysis of Statistical Uncertainties

BEAMDP can be used as a BEAM utility program to analyze the phase-space data and generate formatted data files suitable for `xvgr` plots. Currently, one can derive either fluence, spectrum, mean energy, or angular distributions from the phase-space data using BEAMDP. The statistical uncertainties on the derived distributions will depend on the size of the phase-space data.

BEAMnrc uses the history-by-history method[1] for estimating uncertainty in scored quantities (eg dose, fluence). In this method, particles from each statistically independent event (ie each primary history) are grouped together for uncertainty analysis. Grouping is facilitated by the negative energy markers in the phase space file[2] which mark the first particle scored for each primary history. The history-by-history method ensures that correlations between scored particles arising from the same primary history are taken into account when calculating uncertainty.

Note that, until recently, BEAMDP assumed that each particle in the phase space file represented a statistically-independent event. It has been shown[1] that this does not result in a significant underestimate of uncertainty even with the relatively high bremsstrahlung splitting numbers used by the selective bremsstrahlung splitting (SBS) algorithm in BEAM[2]. With the advent of the more efficient directional bremsstrahlung splitting (DBS) algorithm[3] in BEAM, however, splitting numbers have increased by as much as an order of magnitude, potentially making correlations a significant factor in uncertainty analysis.

The following sections give detailed descriptions of the formulas used in BEAMDP for determining uncertainties. Most of these equations are taken directly from the paper on history-by-history statistics[1].

### 2.3.1 Basic Formulas

BEAMDP reads the parameters of the phase-space particles and bins particles according to their position (for fluence distribution), energy (for spectral distribution), angle (for angular distribution), etc. Within a bin, particles are grouped according to primary history. Assuming that a phase-space data file contains particles from  $N$  primary histories, the mean of a quantity of interest in a bin,  $\bar{X}$  ( $\bar{X}$  can be energy, angle, fluence, etc), can be calculated as

$$\bar{X} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N X_i}{N} \quad (1)$$

where  $X_i$  is the sum of the contributions from the  $i$ -th primary history. For most quantities of interest  $X_i$  is the sum of the particle weights from the  $i$ -th primary history. However, if you are plotting energy fluence or energy fluence vs position then  $X_i$  is the sum of (particle weight)\*(particle energy), and if you are plotting a distribution of particle weights then each particle contributes unity to  $X_i$  regardless of its weight.

The uncertainty in  $\bar{X}$  is calculated using:

$$s_{\bar{X}} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{N-1} \left( \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N X_i^2}{N} - \left( \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N X_i}{N} \right)^2 \right)} \quad (2)$$

Mean energy vs position presents a special case in BEAMDP because mean energy is a ratio of correlated quantities. The mean energy in a bin,  $\bar{E}$  is given by:

$$\bar{E} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N (wtE)_i}{\sum_{i=1}^N wt_i} \quad (3)$$

where  $(wtE)_i$  is the sum of (particle weight)\*(particle energy) from the i-th primary history and  $wt_i$  is the sum of particle weights from the i-th primary history. These are correlated quantities that, if output separately (as energy fluence vs position and fluence vs position, respectively), would have their own uncertainties.

The fractional uncertainty in  $\bar{E}$  is given by:

$$\frac{s_{\bar{E}}}{\bar{E}} = \sqrt{\left(\frac{s_{(wtE)}}{(wtE)}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{s_{wt}}{wt}\right)^2 - \frac{2cov(wtE, wt)}{(N-1)(wtE)wt}} \quad (4)$$

where  $s_{(wtE)}$  is the uncertainty on  $(wtE)$  (or energy fluence vs position) and  $s_{wt}$  is the uncertainty on  $wt$  (or fluence vs position) and are calculated using Equation 2, and  $cov(wtE, wt)$  is the covariance of the two quantities, given by:

$$cov(wtE, wt) = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N (wtE)_i wt_i}{N} - \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N (wtE)_i \sum_{i=1}^N wt_i}{N^2} \quad (5)$$

In practice, the calculation of covariance using Equation 5 is not valid if there are a small number of particles in a spatial bin. We have set the minimum number of particles for considering covariance in a bin to 10. Thus, if there are <10 particles in the bin, then  $cov(wtE, wt)$  is set to 0. This is consistent with the calculation of uncertainty on ratios of correlated quantities in the BEAM code. In order to keep track of the number of particles in a spatial bin BEAMDP uses an array called `JUSTONE(I)` which is incremented every time a particle contributes to bin I.

For more details on calculating uncertainty and how we keep track of  $\sum_{i=1}^N X_i$  and  $\sum_{i=1}^N X_i^2$  in each bin on the fly, see the paper on history by history statistics[1].

## 3 BEAMDP Utility Options

### 3.1 Fluence vs Position from a Phase-Space File

When this option is chosen BEAMDP will process the phase-space data and generate a fluence vs position data file with format suitable for `xvgr` plots. The user will be asked to select field types, field dimensions, particle type, `LATCH` options, the names of the phase-space file to be processed and the data file for outputs, the graph type, and finally the type of fluence to be plotted. Each data point in the data file represents the total number of particles scored within a given spatial bin for the particle types and `LATCH` options chosen.

#### 3.1.1 Field Types:

There are three field types for the planar fluence distributions:

1. a circular field with annular regions of equal area (the user should input the number of annular regions requested and the field radius, see Fig. 1b);

2. a square field with square rings of equal area (the user should input the number of spatial bins requested and the half-side of the square field, see Fig. 1a);
3. a rectangular field with equal spatial bins along x- or y-axis (the user should input the number of bins requested, the orientation (0 - along x-axis; 1 - along y-axis), and the x- and y-coordinates defining the field, see Fig. 1 c and d);

### 3.1.2 Fluence Types:

The fluence vs position option gives the user the choice of plotting either planar fluence (1) or the actual fluence (0) as a function of position. Planar fluence plots the sum of the particle weights in each spatial bin. Actual fluence divides each particle weight by  $\text{MAX}(0.08716, \cos(\text{particle angle wrt scoring plane}))$  before adding it to the sum. The number 0.08716 is  $\cos(85^\circ)$  and is a lower limit to prevent division by 0 for angles close to  $90^\circ$ .

## 3.2 Energy Fluence vs Position from a Phase-Space File

When this option is chosen BEAMDP will process the phase-space data and generate an energy fluence vs position data file with format suitable for **xvgr** plots. The input parameters are the same as for a fluence vs position plot.

### 3.2.1 Fluence Types:

Similar to fluence vs position, the user can choose to plot either planar energy fluence (1) or actual energy fluence (0). Planar energy fluence plots the sum of the product (particle weight\*kinetic energy) in each spatial bin, while actual fluence divides the product by the cosine of the particle's angle with respect to the scoring plane (again, there is a cap of  $85^\circ$  to avoid division by zero).

## 3.3 Energy Spectrum from a Phase-Space File

When this option is chosen BEAMDP will process the phase-space data and generate a spectral data file with format suitable for **xvgr** plots. The user will be asked to select field types and field dimensions, energy range, particle type, **LATCH** options, the names of the phase-space file to be processed and the data file for outputs graph options, graph type, and finally the fluence type. Each data point in the data file represents the fluence within a given energy bin for the particle types and **LATCH** options chosen. Fluence is normalized by the bin width, number of incident particles and the area of the field being considered.

### 3.3.1 Field Types:

For spectral calculations one can choose the following field types:

1. a rectangular region anywhere on the scoring plane (the user should input the x- and y-coordinates defining the region, see Fig. 2a);
2. an annular region centred at beam axis (the user should input the inner and outer radius for the annular region, see Fig. 2b);

### 3.3.2 Range of Energy:

The energies should be between 0 and the maximum energy of the particles in the phase-space file.

### 3.3.3 Fluence Types:

The energy spectrum option also allows the user to choose between plotting planar fluence (1) and actual fluence (0) vs energy. Planar fluence sums the particle weights in each energy bin and divides the sum by the number of incident particles, the area of the scoring region selected by the user, and the width of the energy bins. Actual fluence divides each particle weight by  $\text{MAX}(0.08716, \cos(\text{particle angle wrt scoring plane}))$  before adding it to the sum in each energy bin.

## 3.4 Energy Fluence Distribution from a Phase-Space File

When this option is chosen BEAMDP will process the phase-space data and generate an energy fluence vs energy distribution with format suitable for **xvgr** plots. Input parameters are the same as for the energy distribution option.

### 3.4.1 Fluence Types:

Similar to the energy distribution, the user can plot planar energy fluence (1) or actual energy fluence (0) vs energy. Planar fluence sums the product (particle weight\*kinetic energy) in each energy bin and divides the sum by the number of incident particles, the area of the scoring region selected by the user, and the width of the energy bins. Actual fluence divides each product (particle weight\*kinetic energy) by  $\text{MAX}(0.08716, \cos(\text{particle angle wrt scoring plane}))$  before adding it to the sum in each energy bin.

## 3.5 Mean Energy from a Phase-Space File

When this option is chosen BEAMDP will process the phase-space data and generate a mean energy data file with format suitable for **xvgr** plots. The user will be asked to select field types, field dimensions, particle type, **LATCH** options, graph options, and finally the names of the phase-space file to be processed and the data file for outputs. Each data point in the data file represents the mean energy of the particles scored within a given spatial bin for the particle types and **LATCH** options chosen.

### 3.5.1 Field Types:

There are three field types for the planar fluence distributions:

1. a circular field with annular regions of equal area (the user should input the number of annular regions requested and the field radius, see Fig. 1b);
2. a square field with square rings of equal area (the user should input the number of spatial bins requested and the half-side of the square field, see Fig. 1a);
3. a rectangular field with equal spatial bins along x- or y-axis (the user should input the number of bins requested, the orientation, and the x- and y-coordinates defining the field, see Fig. 1 c and d);

## 3.6 Angular Distribution from a Phase-Space File

When this option is chosen BEAMDP will process the phase-space data and generate an angular data file with format suitable for XVGR/XMGR plots. The user will be asked to select field types and field dimensions, angular range, particle type, **LATCH** options, graph options, and finally the names of the phase-space file to be processed and the data file for outputs. Each data point in the data file represents the total number of particles scored within a given angular bin (the angle between the particle incident direction and the z-axis) for the particle types and **LATCH** options chosen.

### 3.6.1 Field Types:

For spectral calculations one can choose the following field types:

1. a rectangular region anywhere on the scoring plane (the user should input the x- and y-coordinates defining the region, see Fig. 2a);
2. an annular region centred at beam axis (the user should input the inner and outer radius for the annular region, see Fig. 2b);

### 3.6.2 Range of Angle:

The angles should be between 0 and 90 degrees.

## 3.7 ZLAST Distribution from a Phase-Space File

This option will process the phase-space data and generate a ZLAST data file with format suitable for XVGR/XMGR plots. The user will be asked to select field types and field dimensions, ZLAST range, particle type, **LATCH** options, graph options, and finally the names of the phase-space file to be processed and the data file for outputs. Each data point in the

data file represents the total number of particles scored within a given ZLAST bin (the z-position of the particle where it is generated or last scattered) for the particle types and LATCH options chosen.

### 3.7.1 Field Types:

For ZLAST scoring one can choose the following field types:

1. a rectangular region anywhere on the scoring plane (the user should input the x- and y-coordinates defining the region, see Fig. 2a);
2. an annular region centred at beam axis (the user should input the inner and outer radius for the annular region, see Fig. 2b);

### 3.7.2 Range of ZLAST:

This should be consistent with the simulation geometry (the default range is 0 - 100 cm).

## 3.8 Particle Weight Distribution from a Phase-Space File

When this option is chosen, BEAMDP will generate a distribution of particle weights which can be displayed using XMGR/XVGR. The user will be asked to input the field type and field dimensions, particle type, weight range, LATCH options, graph options, the name of the phase-space file to be processed and the name of the output file. Each data point represents the number of particles, of the user-selected type and LATCH properties, having weights falling within a given energy bin. Weight bins are of equal width on a logarithmic scale to allow greater resolution of low weights.

### 3.8.1 Field Types:

Similar to the energy spectrum option (see above) the user can choose either a rectangular field anywhere in the scoring plane or an annular field centred on the Z-axis in which to determine particle weights.

### 3.8.2 Range of Particle Weights:

The minimum particle weight chosen for plotting must be  $> 0$ .

## 3.9 X-Y Scatter Plot from a Phase-Space File

This option generates a scatter plot of the X-Y positions of particles in a user-specified field. In addition to specifying the field type (annular or rectangular) and dimensions, the user also specifies the charge, energy range and latch settings of the particles to be plotted.



**beamdp** will then output the X-Y positions of all particles meeting the charge, energy and latch criteria in the specified field.

### 3.9.1 Field Types:

The user can specify either a rectangular field anywhere on the scoring plane or an annular field centred on the Z-axis. These field types are the same as those available for the energy spectrum option (see above).

### 3.9.2 Range of Energy:

The minimum and maximum particle energies of the specified range should be between 0 and the maximum energy of the particles in the phase-space file.

## 3.10 Combine two phase-space files into one

This feature is useful to those who run BEAM on different machines (with different random number seeds, of course) and would like to combine separate phase-space data into one file.

It has been designed to read the phase-space data from file 1 and write it to file 2. Note the two files must be of the same mode (either "MODE0" or "MODE2"). After finishing reading/writing the phase-space data BEAMDP will re-write the first record of file 2 with proper numbers of the particles/photons stored in the file and their minimum and maximum energies, etc.

## 3.11 List parameters of phase-space particles

Another useful feature of BEAMDP is to list parameters of phase-space particles on the screen. One can choose the number of particles to be listed and the particle types (IQ = -1 for electrons, IQ = 0 for photons, IQ = 1 for positrons, IQ = 2 for all the particle types, IQ = 3 for charged particles). The name of the phase-space data file should be given with proper extension (.egs4phsp1, .egs4phsp2 or .egs4phsp3).

### 3.11.1 Parameters to Be Listed

The following parameters are printed on the screen:

1. **Energy:** particle energy (kinetic only) in MeV
2. **IQ:** charge of particle (-1 for electron, 0 for photon, 1 for positron)
3. **X,Y:** x- and y-coordinates in cm
4. **U,V,W:** direction cosines with respect to x-, y-, and z-axis

5. **WEIGHT**: weight of particle
6. **LATCH**: a tag to record the history of a particle. Only bits 0 - 28 will be listed (bits 29 - 31 have been used by BEAM to store particle charge and another parameter NPASS, see “BEAM Users Manual” (1995)).

### 3.11.2 A Sample Listing

The following is a listing for an electron created in (IREGION-TO-BIT) region 7 and has gone through regions 7, 1 (note, because of the way in which the user has set up the IREGION-TO-BIT numbers, higher region numbers mean that the regions are further away from the scoring plane). It can be seen that bits 14 and 21 of **LATCH** are also set but this probably an indication that its parent has gone through regions 14 and 21 because it is very unlikely that an electron created in region 7 could go through regions 14 and 21 and then scatter back to region 1 (see “BEAM Users Manual” for more details).

```
ENERGY IQ   X    Y    U    V    W    WEIGHT    LATCH (set=1, not set=0)
1.330  -1  2.419 3.015 0.019 0.209 0.978  1.000E+00 00111 001000000100000010000010
```

Note **LATCH** is given in 2 parts: each number (0 or 1) in the first part represents a bit for **LATCH** bits 24-28 (where a secondary particle was created), each number in the second part represents a bit for **LATCH** bits 0-23 (where the particle has been).

Thus, one should read **LATCH** bits (in increasing order) from right to left.

## 4 Compile and Run BEAMDP

BEAMDP is a stand alone program for BEAM data processing. In order to output graphics data in a format for use by **xmgrace** plotting package BEAMDP uses a subroutine called **xvgrplot** (written by Andrew Booth). If a user has another plotting package, subroutine **xvgrplot** can be modified to output in a needed format.

The MORTRAN BEAMDP source file, **beamdp.mortran**, is stored in the directory **\$OMEGA\_HOME/progs/beamdp** together with its **Makefile**. This directory also contains the files **beammodel.macros.mortran** and **beammodel.routines.mortran** which are used by BEAMnrc[2] and DOSXYZnrc[4] to implement multiple source models created using BEAMDP (See the BEAMDP Manual[5] for more about multiple source models).

### 4.1 Compile BEAMDP

BEAMDP is installed and compiled as part of the OMEGA/BEAM installation (See the BEAMnrc Manual[2] for installation instructions).

To compile BEAMDP separately, go into **\$OMEGA\_HOME/progs/beamdp** and issue the command  
**make**

This will concatenate the files specified in the variable `SOURCES` in `Makefile` to create `mortjob.mortran` and then do the MORTRAN/Fortran compilation on this. Note that `Makefile` also references `$HEN_HOUSE/specs/config.conf` and `$HEN_HOUSE/specs/beamnrc.spec`.

After compilation, the files `beamdp_config.mortlst` (MORTRAN listing) and `beamdp_config.f` (Fortran code) will be left in `$OMEGA_HOME/progs/beamdp`, while the executable, `beamdp*`, will be copied to the `$HEN_HOUSE/bin/config` directory for your particular configuration.

## 4.2 Run BEAMDP

To run BEAMDP from the command line one can issue the command (from any directory):

```
beamdp
```

Note that you must have included the directory `$HEN_HOUSE/bin/config` in your `$PATH` environment variable, where `config` is the name of the configuration you are running on (eg `gcc`, `win2k`). BEAMDP will prompt for input.

Running BEAMDP is much easier with the BEAMDP GUI[6]. The GUI enables you to run different analyses of the same phase space data without having to re-enter all parameters (such as field size/type, bit filters, etc). Alternatively, you may run the same analysis on a different phase space file simply by changing the name of the phase space file to analyze.

To run the BEAMD GUI from a Linux/Unix window, type:

```
beamdp_gui
```

from any directory. You must have sourced the file `egsnrc_cshrc_additions` (or `egsnrc_bashrc_additions`) in your `.cshrc` (or `.bashrc`) file (See the BEAMnrc User's Manual[2] for more about this).

To run the GUI in a Windows environment, double click on the GUI icon (or on the word `beamdp_gui` after using Windows Explorer to enter directory `$OMEGA_HOME/progs/gui/beamdp`).

## 5 References

- [1] B. R. B. Walters, I. Kawrakow, and D. W. O. Rogers. History by history statistical estimators in the BEAM code system. *Med. Phys.*, 29:2745 – 2752, 2002.
- [2] D. W. O. Rogers. Accuracy of the Burns equation for stopping-power ratio as a function of depth and  $R_{50}$ . *Med. Phys.*, 31:2961 – 2963, 2004.
- [3] Iwan Kawrakow, D. W. O Rogers, and B.R.B. Walters. Large efficiency improvements in BEAMnrc using directional bremsstrahlung splitting. *Med. Phys.*, 31:2883 – 2898, 2004.
- [4] B. R. B. Walters and D. W. O. Rogers. DOSXYZnrc Users Manual. *NRC Report PIRS 794 (rev B)*, 2004.
- [5] C.-M. Ma and D. W. O. Rogers. BEAMDP Users Manual. *NRC Report PIRS 509c(rev A)*, 2004.

- [6] J. A. Treurniet, B. R. B. Walters, and D. W. O. Rogers. BEAMnrc, DOSXYZnrc and BEAMDP GUI User's Manual. *NRC Report PIRS 0623(rev C)*, 2004.