

# Development and installation of a radio frequency quadrupole cooler test

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## ABSTRACT

A Radio Frequency Quadrupole Cooler (RFQC) prototype was adapted for insertion into a high uniformity magnetic field, with  $B_z$  up to 0.2 T, to improve radial confinement. While the RFQC purpose is to reduce (by gas collisions) the energy spread and emittance of a beam of radioactive nuclei, to finely select ion mass in nuclear physics, the prototype is tested in a setup including a stable ion source, a pepper pot emittance meter, and two Faraday cups; this makes a precise characterization of the RFQC feasible. The ion extraction was studied in detail by simulations, both to match it to the emittance meter granularity and to verify the effect of the typical nonuniformity of the longitudinal electric field  $E_z$  inside the RFQC; an average motion description (including friction force from gas collisions) was used, introducing the ballistic and diffusive regimes. With a preliminary optimization of the electrode shape, buffer gas pressure  $p_g$ , and radio frequency voltage, the ion beam can be extracted with a significant cooling margin.

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## I. INTRODUCTION

For the accurate mass spectrometry (with resolution goal 1:20 000) of exotic ion beams,<sup>1</sup> it is necessary to cool ions both in energy spread (goal is about 0.5 eV rms or better) and in transverse oscillations.<sup>2</sup> In the radio frequency (rf) quadrupole cooler (RFQC), this is accomplished by collisions with a light gas, while ions are trapped and transported by rf and static voltages applied to RFQC electrodes.

The actual performance depends on a fine balance between cooling and heating effects (due to collisions and rf field) and on the ion extraction process, which needs a complicated theoretical, numerical, and experimental investigation.<sup>3-5</sup> To this aim, a prototype RFQC was developed at INFN-LNL and INFN-MI with a ten-fold longitudinal segmentation of electrodes and an external axial magnetic field (provided by the Eltrap device's solenoid<sup>6</sup>) to improve confinement at reduced rf voltage;<sup>7</sup> Eltrap stands for "Electron Trap." This installation into the Eltrap facility has also the practical purpose to test the diagnostics (emittance meters) and to

train for the operation and maintenance of another RFQC,<sup>8</sup> to be installed at the SPES (Selective Production of Exotic Species) accelerator of LNL, where exotic nuclei produced by a primary source will be selected and reaccelerated;<sup>1</sup> some emphasis is given to nuclei with atomic number  $A \in [80, 140]$ .

Note that the ion kinetic energy (before deceleration at RFQC input)  $K_1$  is relatively large (40 keV) in the SPES installation, being determined by the primary source. Furthermore, a larger ion kinetic energy  $K_2 \geq 100$  keV may be required at the input flange of the high resolution mass spectrometer (HRMS); thus, HRMS may be placed on some high voltage (HV) platform<sup>2</sup> [see Fig. 1(a)]. On the contrary, in the Eltrap installation,  $K_1$  is limited by the installed  $\text{Cs}^+$  ion source to 5 keV or less; for simplicity, we treat only the case  $K_1 = 5$  keV in the following results, noting that all voltages have to be scaled down or adjusted when  $K_1$  is smaller. With the Eltrap vacuum chamber as the ground reference, the ion source emitter is held at  $V_s = 200$  V so that the injection line drift tubes are at  $V_0 = V_2 = V_4 = V_s - K_1/e = -4.8$  kV (see Ref. 7 for notation and Fig. 1 therein for an overall scheme; in brief, injection line electrodes

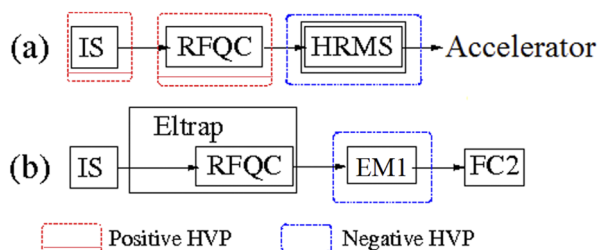


FIG. 1. High Voltage Platforms (HVPs) for ion sources (IS) and RFQC setups: (a) RFQC before HRMS; (b) RFQC in Eltrap.

are labeled from  $V_0$  to  $V_7$  and extraction electrodes from  $V_8$  to  $V_{11}$ , held at voltages  $V_i$  with  $i = 0, \dots, 11$ ). This ground choice simplifies ion energy loss measurement (see later) and RFQC control (possibly with some complications in ion source management), so it is adequate for a test installation as the present one. The whole beamline fits<sup>7</sup> inside the Eltrap solenoid, which can provide a magnetic flux density component  $B_z$  up to 0.2 T; the purpose is to investigate possible advantages<sup>9</sup> and disadvantages of  $B_z$  with an existing solenoid, before finalizing design to an accelerator installation (and possibly higher  $B_z$ ).

The injection line including a Faraday cup FC1 (see Fig. 2) and the RFQC enclosure (which is needed to regulate and maintain a He gas pressure up to 10 Pa) were indeed mounted on a rigid support for insertion into Eltrap; the rf matching box was built,<sup>10</sup> and the in-vacuum multiplexer (for the distribution of rf and static voltages to the electrodes) is in the assembly stage. At the same time, the test  $\text{Cs}^+$  ion source and a movable pepper pot emittance meter were calibrated in a test bench.

Another issue is the challenging accuracy (sub-electronvolt) of the output energy measurement:<sup>11,12</sup> the stability of the bias  $V_d$  between the RFQC and the source should be in the order of 0.1 V rms; finally, a device like a Retarding Field Energy Analyzer with similar accuracy<sup>11</sup> must be used and adapted, which also requires time consuming simulations. To this aim, another Faraday cup FC2 with retarding field and grids is under construction.

The rest of this paper is organized as follows: Sec. II introduces the Eltrap extraction beamline, with some setup details.

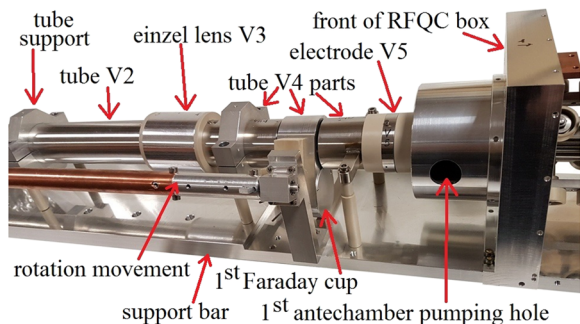


FIG. 2. Injection line into the RFQC (box cover removed); note the movement for the 1st Faraday cup.

Section III gives a simplified description of the RFQC beam transport, making use of the ponderomotive potential concept, including the  $\text{Cs}^+/\text{He}$  cross section and introducing the distinction between ballistic and diffusive regimes in the ion drift; the potential distribution at junctions between RFQC segments is also evaluated. The last section reports ballistic beam simulations, with the aim of validating the electrode shape of the extraction line; a good matching of the beam to the emittance meter physical resolution limits is obtained.

## II. SETUP

The  $\text{Cs}^+$  ion source (maximum ion energy 5 keV) and the emittance meter were commissioned in a small test bench built around a CF160 6-way cross (see Figs. 1 and 2 in Ref. 13), up to a few hundreds of nanoampere current. A first matching box,<sup>10</sup> also splitting the rf input into two rf outputs (in phase opposition) matched to the RFQC load (mainly capacitive, 200 pF), was built; the operation frequency is 4 MHz.

The RFQC enclosure is a 0.74 m long box (gas tight but for the necessary beam passage and connections), mounted together with the injection line and source on a rigid 1.72 m long Al/stainless steel bar (partly shown in Fig. 2); the box is earthed, and all RFQC section static voltages  $V_i^s$  are roughly within the range  $[0, V_s]$ , which allows us to reuse the Eltrap power supplies.<sup>6</sup> On the contrary, the ion source and emittance meter have to be powered by a HV platform at  $V_0 = -4.8$  kV potential.

In our coordinate system,  $z$  is the beam axis (horizontal),  $z = 0$  is the Eltrap yoke middle,  $y$  is the vertical axis, and the source emitter is placed at  $z_s = 1.02$  m. The beam is directed toward negative  $z$ , so the pepper pot emittance meter EM1 can be inserted at  $z = -1.05$  m. A Faraday cup FC1 can be inserted at  $z = 0.09$  m into the V4 drift tube to check RFQC input current; a second cup FC2 (under construction) will be placed downstream of EM1, primarily to verify  $\text{Cs}^+$  transmission.

Moreover, by scanning FC2 collector and suppression voltages, a simplified RFEA (retarding field energy analyzer<sup>11</sup>) can be

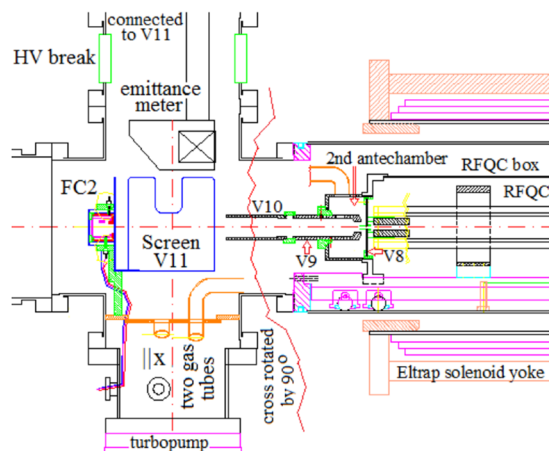


FIG. 3. Details of the extraction line (with emittance meter retracted and part of gas tubes shown).

implemented to verify the energy spread. Achieving a sub-electronvolt resolution is challenging and may require a well focused beam or fine pitch grids.<sup>11,12</sup> Similarly, by changing  $V_s$  by  $\pm\Delta V$ , we can mimic a larger input energy spread, increased by an amount proportional to  $e\Delta V$  (with usual rules for summing rms values; for example, a source energy spread of 0.1 eV rms and  $\Delta V = 5$  V give a spread of 4.1 eV rms); electronic noise sums similarly.

The extraction beamline is made of two parts, see Fig. 3: one part (including a gas pumping antechamber, extraction electrode V8, and drift tubes V9 and V10) is cantilevered on the RFQC box and the other (including the Faraday cup FC2 and the screen preceding it) is bolted to the vacuum chamber.

### III. ION TRANSPORT

Let  $m_i$  and  $q = e$  be the ion mass and charge, with  $K_i = \frac{1}{2}m_i v^2$  the kinetic energy and  $\mathbf{v}$  the ion velocity in the laboratory frame; similarly, let  $m_t$  be the mass of one gas molecule (called target). Since  $m_t/m_i \ll 1$  in our case (He target,  $\text{Cs}^+$  ion), the ion trajectory is not largely perturbed by each single gas-Cs collision; after averaging on all collisions, the first order effect is a friction force  $\mathbf{F}_r$  (at the second order, we have Cs diffusion and straggling, whose details are outside this paper's scope; heavier gases will increase these  $(m_t/m_i)^2$  effects and are similarly postponed to future studies). Also, the static electric field  $\mathbf{E} = -\nabla\phi$  and the ponderomotive force ( $\mathbf{F}_p$ ) contribute to driving the ion macromotion (motion average on a rf period); the averaged total force is thus

$$\mathbf{F} = \mathbf{F}_r + q\mathbf{E} + q\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B} + \mathbf{F}_p, \quad \mathbf{F}_p = -q\nabla\phi_p \equiv q\mathbf{E}_p, \quad (1)$$

where  $\phi_p$  is the so-called ponderomotive potential.<sup>7</sup> Its value  $V_p = \frac{1}{2}m(\omega_M r_0)^2/e$  at  $r = r_0$  (on RFQ rods) is related to the macromotion angular frequency,

$$\omega_M \equiv \frac{k_q \omega}{\sqrt{8}}, \quad k_q = \frac{|4eV_{rf}|}{m_i \omega^2 r_0^2}, \quad (2)$$

where  $k_q$  is the stability parameter of Mathieu equations for micro-motion,<sup>14</sup>  $\omega$  is the rf angular frequency,  $2V_{rf}$  is the rf peak to peak voltage, and  $2r_0$  is the distance between RFQ opposing rods. The micromotion stability condition<sup>9</sup> is  $k_q < 0.908 - O(\Omega_i^2/\omega^2)$  where  $\Omega_i$  is the ion cyclotron angular frequency; for example, with  $\omega/2\pi = 4$  MHz,  $r_0 = 4.5$  mm, and  $V_{rf} = 200$  V, we have  $k_q = 0.045$  and  $\Omega_i/\omega < 0.01$  with a large safety margin.

Note that the friction force depends on the difference between the ion and average gas flow velocities; the latter is usually negligible, for gas flow is partly impeded by the electrode system itself; in other words, the gas is at rest in the laboratory frame, and the friction force takes the form  $\mathbf{F}_r = -m_i v_m(K_i)$  where  $v_m$  is the momentum collision frequency. From the  $\text{Cs}^+$ -He interatomic potential<sup>3</sup> and standard collision kinematics,  $v_m$  can be easily calculated averaging on all impact parameters, with the result

$$v_m = f_1 n_g |v| \sigma(K_i), \quad f_1 = \frac{m_t}{m_t + m_i}, \quad \sigma = \pi r_e^2, \quad (3)$$

where  $n_g$  is the gas density,  $\sigma$  is the cross section, and  $r_e(K_i)$  is the effective collision radius. The mobility coefficient  $\mu(K_i) \equiv q/(m_i v_m)$  is related to the equilibrium velocity  $\mathbf{v}_{eq}$  for a hypothetical  $F = 0$  case with uniform electric field and  $\mathbf{B} = 0$ ; thanks to Eq. (1), this is

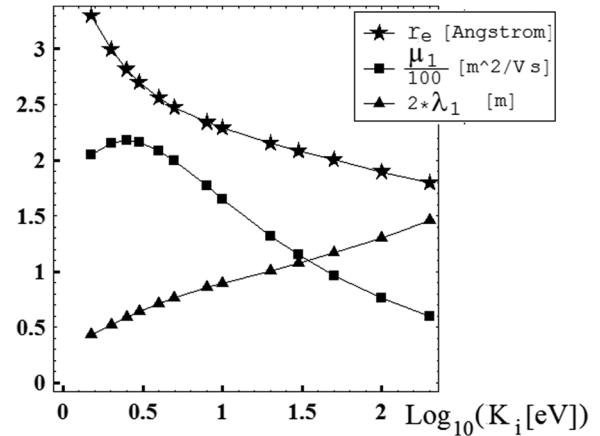


FIG. 4. Collision radius for  $\text{Cs}^+$  against He (at rest) vs  $\text{Cs}^+$  kinetic energy  $K_i$  from 1.5 eV to 200 eV [also,  $\lambda_1$  as defined after Eq. (4) and  $\mu_1$  are shown]; see legend for units.

$\mathbf{v}_{eq} = \mu(K_i)[\mathbf{E} + \mathbf{E}_p]$ . In general, the friction force may also be written as  $\mathbf{F}_r = -e\mathbf{v}/\mu$ .

Let  $\mu_1$  be the  $\mu$  value when  $p_g = 1$  Pa; of course,  $\mu = \mu_1/p_g$  for other He pressures  $p_g$  expressed in Pascal. We plot  $r_e$  and  $\mu_1$  in Fig. 4; note that  $r_e$  decreases only slowly with  $K_i$  (similarly to the hard sphere approximation, where  $r_e$  is constant); also,  $\mu_1$  decreases slightly with  $K_i$  due to the opposing increase of  $|v|$  and decrease of  $r_e$ . For rapid ion tracing, we take  $\mu_1 \cong 150 \text{ m}^2/\text{V s}$ ; this is similar to the value of  $200 \text{ m}^2/\text{V s}$  used in Ref. 7.

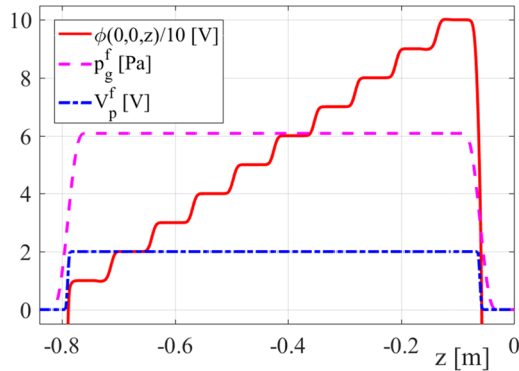
The decrease of ion kinetic energy along the beam path  $s = -z$  is similarly calculated as

$$\frac{\partial K_i}{\partial s} = -\frac{K_i}{\lambda_e}, \quad \frac{1}{\lambda_e} = n_g \sigma f_2, \quad f_2 = \frac{2m_t m_i}{(m_t + m_i)^2}, \quad (4)$$

with  $\lambda_e$  a kind of attenuation distance for ion energy; its value  $\lambda_1$  for  $n_g = 2.4 \times 10^{20} \text{ m}^{-3}$  (that is at pressure  $p_g = 1$  Pa) is also given in Fig. 4; moreover,  $\lambda_e = \lambda_1/p_g$ .

In most RFQCs, due to the electrode segmentation as in our case, the on-axis electric potential  $\phi(0, 0, z)$  has not an uniform slope, but as in a stairway, it changes from one plateau (or step) to the next (see Fig. 5), with jumps of half width  $g$  (given later), spaced by distances  $L_s$ , equal to the electrode periodicity or length; in our case,  $L_s = 72$  mm. Electrodes and on-axis potential are also described in Refs. 3–5 and 15.

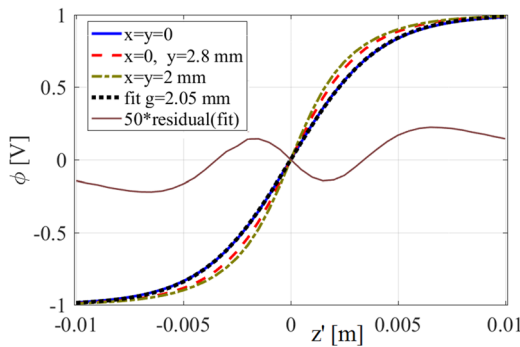
If  $p_g \ll 1$  Pa, we have  $\lambda_e \gg L_s$  for each step, so obtaining a negligible cooling. For  $p_g \cong 4$  Pa, we have  $\lambda_e \cong 150$  mm at  $K_i = 100$  eV, so two steps are enough for a considerable reduction of energy; still, we have  $\lambda_e > L_s$ , which we define as the ballistic regime, where the ion rapidly passes through the plateau, reaching the potential jump where its energy  $K_i$  is increased again (by 10 eV in Fig. 5 case). In the opposite case of diffusive regime  $\lambda_e \ll L_s$ , the ion is nearly stopped inside one plateau and completes its travel to the next jump helped by diffusion. The latter seems helpful for cooling, but the long residence time raises concerns about transverse losses; in our RFQC, voltages are graded so that the ion path is in the ballistic regime, with possibly the step before extraction approaching the diffusive regime.



**FIG. 5.** Profile of on-axis potential (divided by 10) vs  $z$ ; also,  $p_g^f$  and  $V_p^f$  are shown (see legend for units).

A practical reason to avoid purely diffusive regimes is the large  $p_g$  required (which makes installing a reasonably effective differential pumping difficult). In the beam simulations, we will use Eq. (1), and thus, we neglect diffusive effects, which is well justified for most of these RFQCs.

Let us now calculate the major effects of an RFQC electrode segmentation in detail. The on-axis potential for two cylinder electrodes (with inner radius  $R$  and a negligible gap in between, held for simplicity at potentials  $\pm V_0$ ) can be well approximated<sup>16</sup> by  $V_0 \tanh[z'/(2g)]$ , where  $g \cong R/2.64$  and  $z'$  is a local coordinate with  $z' = 0$  the middle plane between electrodes; in the simplified 3D electrode geometry, in place of each cylinder, we have four rods (circumscribed to a  $R = r_0 = 4.5$  mm construction cylinder) at the static potential  $\phi = -V_0$  for  $z' < 0$  and  $V_0$  for  $z' > 0$ ; also, a  $\phi = 0$  overall enclosure at  $R_1 = 31$  mm accounts for RFQC support bars. In Fig. 6 results, we note that (1) the on-axis potential has the same fit form, with a similar  $g = 2.05$  mm  $\cong r_0/2.2$  half width, and (2) the off-axis potential does not appreciably depend on azimuth arctan ( $y/x$ ) at least for  $r \leq 0.6R$ , that is to say, multipoles (octupole and harmonics) in static potential are well negligible.

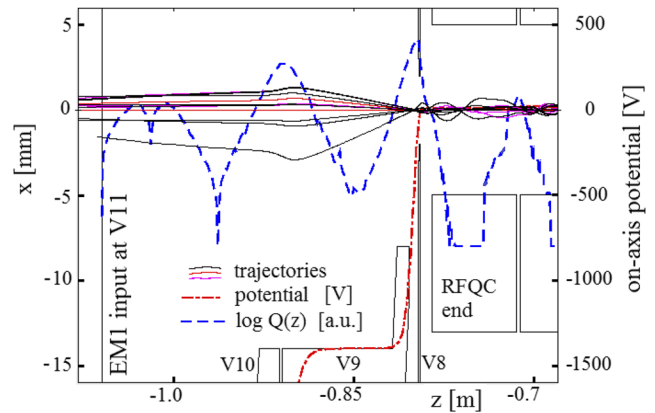


**FIG. 6.** Profiles of the static potential (which controls drift) at a segmentation of electrodes (held at  $-V_0$  and  $V_0 = 1$  V) from 3D simulations.

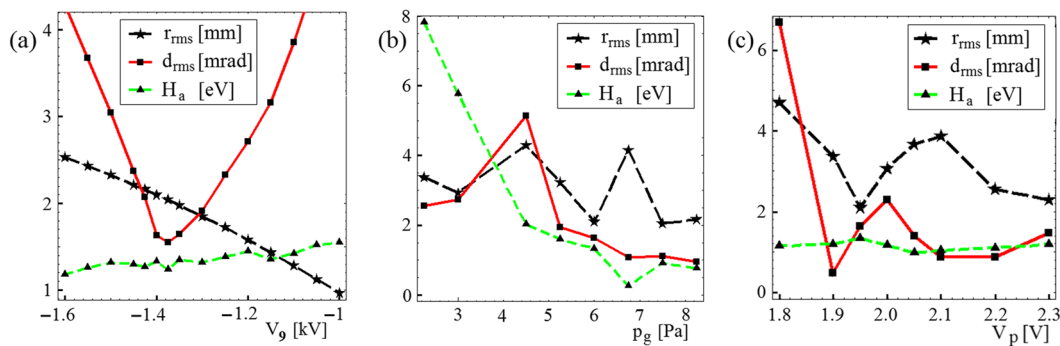
#### IV. EXTRACTION BEAMLINE OPTIMIZATION

As is well known, unipolar electrostatic lenses are always converging, while immersion lenses (or anode lens) may be defocusing when the beam is decelerated; a focusing strength index is  $Q(z) = 3(V_a'(z)/V_a(z))^2/16$  with  $V_a = V_s - \phi(0, 0, z)$  the acceleration potential.<sup>16</sup> So in the injection beamline design,<sup>7</sup> the main concern was to balance the defocusing effect of the necessary beam deceleration, by converging lenses, provided by a four-electrode system. The gas conductance was kept as low as possible, and lateral holes for differential gas pumping were provided. The extraction design is seemingly simpler, since beam acceleration gives focusing; but actually a too strong focusing should be avoided (since it gives large divergences later). Telescopic systems, named “triode” (3 electrodes) or “tetraode” (4 electrodes), were so envisioned, with a converging lens after the waist that is unavoidably formed after beam reacceleration. The extraction design is also constrained by practical considerations: (1) the same gas flow issue as in the injection; (2) until it reaches the emittance meter EM1 at potential  $V_{11}$  (from  $-2$  to  $-4.8$  kV), the beam should be shielded from the vacuum chamber potential by some set of drift tubes held at potential  $V_{10} \cong V_{11}$ ; when EM1 is retracted, a surrounding screen remains in place and shields the beam up to FC2; (3) the EM1 acceptance is  $r < R_1 = 12.5$  mm, and divergence is within  $\pm 12$  mrad; the beam should be contained inside these limits with large safety margins (say factor 2 to account for possible fluctuations of RFQC performance); on the other hand, the beam radius must exceed pepper spacing  $L_p = 1$  mm.

The ion trajectories were simulated with an adaptive step leapfrog, using Eq. (1) and the Eltrap  $B_z$  profile<sup>6</sup> with  $B_z = 0.11$  T at the solenoid center; the gas pressure profile  $p_g^f(z)$  is zero outside the range  $[-0.82, -0.03]$  m and has smooth transitions (6 cm wide) to the constant  $p_g$  inside this range (see Fig. 5). The ponderomotive potential  $V_p^f(z)$  is zero outside the range  $[z_1 - w, z_2 + w]$  and smoothly rises to  $V_p$  in a length  $2w = 1$  cm, as  $V_p^f(z) = V_p \Theta_s((z - z_1)/w) \Theta_s((z_2 - z)/w)$  with  $z_1 = -0.785$  m and  $z_2 = -0.065$  m and  $\Theta_s$  is a smoothed Heaviside function; this range roughly follows the RFQ box extents. In detail,  $\Theta_s(x) = [8 + (15 - 10x^2 + 3x^4)x]/16$  for  $|x| < 1$  and  $\Theta_s(x)$  equals the Heaviside function elsewhere.



**FIG. 7.** Plot of rays in the extraction design (thin lines); for comparison,  $\phi(0, 0, z)$  and the focusing strength index  $Q(z)$  are shown (thicker lines).



**FIG. 8.** (a) Final (at the emittance meter) rms radius  $r_{rms}$  and divergence  $d_{rms}$  vs electrode voltage  $V_9$  with  $p_g = 6$  Pa; the final average energy  $H_a$  (about  $13 \pm 2$  eV) is also shown; (b) same quantities vs gas pressure  $p_g$ , with  $V_9 = -1.4$  kV and  $V_p = 1.95$  V; (c) same quantities vs  $V_p$  with  $p_g = 6$  Pa and  $V_9 = -1.4$  kV.

Ion tracing starts at  $z = z_s = 0.986$  m (ion source waist) before entering the solenoid field, as in Ref. 7. Due to simplified model axial symmetry, ion rays start from the  $xx'$  plane, that is,  $y(z_s) = 0 = y'(z_s)$ , filling (uniformly as possible) an ellipse with  $x$ -semiaxis  $x_1 = 2$  mm that is the assigned waist envelope and  $x'$ -semiaxis  $d_1 = 5$  mrad that is the source divergence; only rays with  $x > 0$  are traced, and results for uniformly distributed azimuth  $\arctan(y/x)$  are calculated only in postprocessing (error  $\pm 15\%$ ).

For the triode system, see the overall trajectory plot in Fig. 7 and a scan of the electrode voltage  $V_9$  for the case  $p_g = 6$  Pa and  $V_p = 1.95$  V in Fig. 8(a); the voltage  $V_9 \approx -1.4$  kV is preferable since it attains a clear divergence minimum, while it provides a beam radius convenient for both considerations explained. The residual average total energy  $H_a$  at EM1 (13 eV, similar to the voltage jump of 10 V) compared to the total ion energy  $H_i$  at the source (200 eV) shows that 6 Pa provides enough friction. Indeed, Fig. 8(b) shows that at lower  $p_g$ , the residual energy is considerably larger (70 eV). At 6 Pa, for a 5 eV input  $H_i$  change,  $H_a$  changes by 0.7 eV, which indicates a lower bound for the output energy spread; this is a promising step for reaching a 1 eV pp output spread, even if worthwhile for further investigation and optimization. The range of  $V_p$  [in Fig. 8(c)] is rather small as a lower  $V_p$  gives less confinement (simulation is stopped if an ion collides with any electrode) and a larger  $V_p$  induces more scalloping of the beam inside the RFQC (with possibly some preferred phase of scallop oscillation for extraction).

## V. CONCLUSION AND PERSPECTIVES

A test facility for an RFQC is being completed, featuring several beam input/output diagnostics and the possibility of adding a  $B_z$  field.<sup>7</sup> The extraction beam optics was adapted to the existing pepper pot emittance meter, while the energy spread diagnostic is under development. The effects of RFQC electrode segmentation were theoretically assessed and introduced in simulations, which need to account for a complicated geometry, now including the extraction optics; we plan to improve computational efficiency in order to

include diffusion and beam straggling. A differential gas pumping system is also in completion.

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