A preliminary assessment of the electron cloud effect for the FNAL main injector upgrade

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We present results from a preliminary assessment, via computer simulations, of the electron-cloud density for the FNAL main injector upgrade at injection energy. Assuming a peak value for secondary emission yield $\delta_{\text{max}} = 1.3$, we find a threshold value of the bunch population, $N_{b,\text{th}} \approx 1.25 \times 10^{11}$, beyond which the electron-cloud density $\rho_e$ reaches a steady-state level that is $\sim 10^4$ times larger than for $N_b < N_{b,\text{th}}$, essentially neutralizing the beam, and leading to a tune shift $\sim 0.05$. Our investigation is limited to a field-free region and to a dipole magnet region, both of which yield similar results for both $N_{b,\text{th}}$ and the steady-state value of $\rho_e$. Possible dynamical effects from the electron cloud on the beam, such as emittance growth and instabilities, remain to be investigated separately.

I. INTRODUCTION.

An upgrade to the main injector (MI) at FNAL is being considered [1] which would increase the beam intensity, $N_b$, by a factor of 5 from its present value of $6 \times 10^{10}$. Such an increase would place the MI in a regime in which a significant electron-cloud effect has been observed at other hadron machines [2–4].

In this article we present an examination of the EC at the MI by means of computer simulations with the code POSINST [5–8]. For the purposes of the present work, we fix two important parameters, namely the beam energy $E$ at its injection value, and the peak value $\delta_{\text{max}}$ of the secondary emission yield (SEY) of the vacuum chamber at 1.3. Furthermore, we confine our attention to only two regions of the ring: a drift, and a dipole magnet of strength $B = 0.1$ T. More specifically, we compute the electron density $\rho_e$ as a function of $N_b$, and we consider two models of the SEY that differ in the emitted-energy spectrum at fixed $\delta_{\text{max}}$. We find a threshold value for the bunch intensity, $N_{b,\text{th}} \approx 1.25 \times 10^{11}$, beyond which $\rho_e$ grows exponentially in time with an $e$-folding time $\tau \approx 100$ ns upon injection into an empty ring, and reaches a steady-state value that is $10^4$ times larger than for $N_b < N_{b,\text{th}}$. In steady state, for $N_b > N_{b,\text{th}}$, the EC essentially neutralizes the beam and leads to a tune shift $\Delta \nu \sim 0.05$. An assessment of possible dynamical effects on the beam from the EC, such as emittance growth and instabilities, falls outside the scope of this article, as does a systematic sensitivity analysis of our results on various assumed input parameters, particularly $\delta_{\text{max}}$.

II. ELECTRON SOURCES.

A. Primary mechanisms.

In general, the build-up of the electron cloud (EC) is seeded by primary electrons from three main sources: photoelectrons, ionization of residual gas, and electrons produced by stray beam particles striking the chamber wall. Since these processes are essentially incoherent, it is customary to quantify them in terms of the number of primary electrons produced per beam particle per unit length of beam traversal, $n_e'$. For the MI, the contribution to the primary electron density from photoelectrons is wholly negligible. The contribution from residual gas ionization can be estimated from the gas density. The inverse of the mean free path for an ionization event by a particle traveling in a gas is given by $\rho_e\sigma_i$, where $\sigma_i$ is the ionization cross-section and $\rho_e$ the gas density. Expressing $\rho_e$ in terms of the pressure $P$ and temperature $T$ yields

$$n_e'(i) \text{[m}^{-1}] = 3.3 \sigma_i \text{[Mbarn]} \times P \text{[Torr]} \times \frac{294}{T[\text{K}]}.$$  \hspace{1cm} (1)

Implicit in this formula is the assumption that the ionization event yields a single electron. A typical value for $\sigma_i$, which we assume in this note, is 2 Mbarns [9] (for simplicity, we neglect here the dependence of $\sigma_i$ on beam energy). Assuming $P = 20$ nT and $T = 305$ K, Eq. (1) yields $n_e'(i) = 1.27 \times 10^{-7} (e/p)/m$.

The contribution from stray protons striking the chamber walls is given by

$$n_{e(pl)} = \eta_{\text{eff}} n_{pl}'$$  \hspace{1cm} (2)

where $n_{pl}'$ is the number of lost protons per stored proton per unit length of beam traversal, and $\eta_{\text{eff}}$ is the effective electron yield per proton-wall collision (“$pl$” stands for “proton loss”). We focus on the beam injection process,
since the most significant fraction of beam loss ($f = 1.2\%$ of the beam) occurs during this time, which lasts for $\Delta t_{\text{inj}} = 0.4 \text{ s}$ or $N_{\text{inj}} = 3.59 \times 10^4$ turns. Assuming that the beam losses occur uniformly throughout the machine circumference $C$, and uniformly during $\Delta t_{\text{inj}}$, we obtain

$$n'_e = \frac{f}{CN_{\text{inj}}} = 10^{-10} \text{ p/m.}$$

The effective electron yield per proton-wall collision $\eta_{\text{eff}}$ has been estimated [10] at the PSR to be $\eta_{\text{eff}} \simeq 100 - 200$. Although $\eta_{\text{eff}}$ is a function of the beam energy ($E = 1.7 \text{ GeV}$ for the PSR vs. 8.9 GeV for the case considered here), we set $\eta_{\text{eff}} = 100$ for definiteness, hence Eq. (2) yields $n'_e = 10^{-8} (\text{e/p})/\text{m}$. The total primary-electron production rate, therefore, is

$$n'_e = n'_e + n'_{\text{c(i)}} = 1.37 \times 10^{-7} (\text{e/p})/\text{m}$$

and the number of primary electrons generated by one bunch passage through a section of length $L$ is given by

$$N_e = n'_e LN_b = 4116$$

where the numerical value corresponds to the choices $L = 0.1 \text{ m}$ and $N_b = 3 \times 10^{11}$.

As for the time dependence of $n'_e$, the fact that the primary electron-generation processes are incoherent implies that $n'_e(t) \propto I_b(t)$ where $I_b(t)$ is the instantaneous beam current at the ring location under investigation [12].

### B. Secondary electron emission.

The secondary emission yield (SEY) function $\delta(E_0, \theta_0)$ is the average number of electrons emitted when an electron of kinetic energy $E_0$ impinges on a surface at an incident angle $\theta_0$ (conventionally measured relative to the normal to the surface). The SEY reaches a peak value $\delta_{\text{max}}$ (conventionally specified at normal incidence) at an energy $E_0 = E_{\text{max}}$. A fairly detailed phenomenological probabilistic description of the secondary emission process is presented in Refs. [7, 8], upon which we base the analysis in this article.

Closely related to $\delta$ is the emitted-energy spectrum of the secondary electrons, $d\delta/dE$ at given incident energy $E_0$, where $E$ is the emitted electron energy. The spectrum covers the region $0 \leq E \lesssim E_0$, and it exhibits three fairly distinct main components: elastically reflected electrons ($\delta_r$), rediffused ($\delta_r$), and true secondaries ($\delta_{\text{se}}$). The SEY is given by $\delta = \delta_r + \delta_r + \delta_{\text{se}}$. The three components are emitted with qualitatively different energy spectra. Depending upon various features of the storage ring considered, the three components can contribute differently to various aspects of the ECE.

Since we do not have data for the SEY of the MI vacuum chamber, for the discussions in this note we adopt two models, which we call “K” and “H,” that may be considered representative of the possible range of SEY parameters for the MI. As seen in Fig. 1, the SEY functions $\delta(E_0)$ are essentially the same for the two models, but the emitted energy spectra are not: the SEY for model K has a larger backscattered component (composed of elastic plus rediffused electrons) than model H (see Table I). When these two models are applied to the estimate of the EC power deposition in the LHC arc dipoles, for example, one finds significantly different results [12], underscoring the importance of the emission spectrum.

### III. ELECTRON-CLOUD BUILD-UP.

#### A. General considerations.

A convenient phenomenological parameter to characterize the EC build-up (and decay) is the effective SEY, $\delta_{\text{eff}}$, defined as an average over a time window of the convolution of $\delta(E_0, \theta_0)$ with the energy-angle electron-wall collision spectrum (normalized to unity) $dN/dE_0d\theta_0$,

$$\delta_{\text{eff}} = \int dE_0d\theta_0 \frac{dN}{dE_0d\theta_0} \delta(E_0, \theta_0).$$

The spectrum $dN/dE_0d\theta_0$ is a function of many variables such as the bunch intensity and fill pattern, the vacuum chamber geometry, etc. This spectrum is not known a priori, and hence neither is $\delta_{\text{eff}}$. Nevertheless, in general, $\delta_{\text{eff}}$ has a monotonic dependence on $\delta_{\text{max}}$. In effect, the integral in Eq. (6) is evaluated during the simulation process: $\delta_{\text{eff}}$ is obtained by dividing the number of emitted

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1 Models K and H correspond to the fits to stainless steel and copper data, respectively, in Refs. 7 and 8, except that in the present article we scale all three components of $\delta$ so that $\delta_{\text{max}} = 1.3$ instead of 2.05.
### TABLE I: Assumed MI parameters for EC simulations at injection.

| Parameter | Symbol (unit) | Value |
|-----------|---------------|-------|
| **Ring and beam parameters** | | |
| Ring circumference | $C$ (m) | 3319.419 |
| Beam energy | $E$ (GeV) | 8$^a$ |
| Relativistic beam factor | $\gamma_b$ | 8.526312 |
| Revolution period | $T_0$ ($\mu$s) | 11.1493 |
| Beam pipe semi-axes | ($a, b$) (cm) | (6.15, 2.45) |
| Harmonic number | $h$ | 588 |
| RF wavelength | $\lambda_{RF}$ (m) | 5.645270 |
| No. bunches per beam | ... | 504 |
| Bunch spacing | $s_b$ (m) | 5.645270 |
| Gap length | ... (buckets) | 84 |
| Bunch population | $N_b$ | $(0.6 - 3) \times 10^{11}$ |
| RMS bunch length | $\sigma_z$ (m) | 0.75 |
| Longit. bunch profile | ... | gaussian |
| Transverse bunch profile | ... | gaussian |
| Average beta function | $\bar{\beta}$ (m) | 25 |
| Normalized tr. emittance (95%) | $\epsilon_N$ (m-rad) | 40$\pi$ |
| RMS relative momentum spread | $\sigma_p/p$ | $10^{-3}$ |
| Transverse RMS bunch sizes | ($\sigma_x, \sigma_y$) (mm) | (5,5) |

#### Parameters for primary $e^-$ sources

| Parameter | Symbol | Value |
|-----------|--------|-------|
| Proton loss rate | $n'_{pl}$ (p/m) | $1 \times 10^{-10}$ |
| Proton-electron yield | $\eta_{ef}$ | 100 |
| Residual gas pressure | $P$ (nTorr) | 20 |
| Temperature | $T$ (K) | 305 |
| Ionization cross-section | $\sigma_i$ (Mbars) | 2 |
| Proton-loss $e^-$ creation rate | $n'_{e(pl)} ((e/p)/m)$ | $1 \times 10^{-8}$ |
| Ionization $e^-$ creation rate | $n'_{e(i)} ((e/p)/m)$ | $1.27 \times 10^{-7}$ |

#### Secondary $e^-$ parameters

| Parameter | Symbol | Value |
|-----------|--------|-------|
| Peak SEY | | $\delta_{max} \equiv \delta(E_{max}) = 1.3^{b,c}$ |
| Energy at peak SEY | $E_{max}$ (eV) | 293$^{b, 272}$c |
| SEY at 0 energy | $\delta(0)$ | $0.32^{b, 0.31}$c |
| Backscattered component at $E_{max}$ | $\delta_e(E_{max}) + \delta_r(E_{max})$ | $0.53^{b, 0.13}$c |

#### Simulation parameters

| Parameter | Symbol | Value |
|-----------|--------|-------|
| Simulated section | ... | drift or dipole magnet |
| Length of simulated region | $L$ (m) | 0.1 |
| Dipole magnet field | $B$ (T) | 0.1 |
| No. kicks/bunch | $N_k$ | 11 |
| (Full bunch length)/(RMS bunch length) | $L_b/\sigma_z$ | 4 |
| No. steps between bunches | $N_g$ | 9 |
| No. primary macroelectrons/bunch | $M_e$ | 10 |
| Macroelectron charge at $N_b = 3 \times 10^{11}$ | $Q/e$ | 412 |
| Time step size | $\Delta t$ (ns) | 1 |

$^a$See footnote 4.
$^b$Model “K”.
$^c$Model “H”.
electrons by the number of incident electrons during any given time window.

When $\delta_{\text{eff}} < 1$ the chamber walls act as net absorbers of electrons, and the EC build-up is dominated by the production of primary electrons. Since the beam, on average, produces a fixed number of primary electrons per unit time, the EC line density at a given location in the ring, $\lambda_e$, grows linearly in time $t$ following injection of the beam into an empty chamber according to

$$\lambda_e(t) \approx \tilde{\lambda}_b \tilde{n}_e t$$

where $\tilde{\lambda}_b = eN_b/s_b$ is the average beam line density and $\tilde{n}_e$ is the number of primary electrons generated per beam particle per unit time, $\tilde{n}_e = n_b v_b$, where $v_b$ is the beam velocity. After a typical time $\tau$, the EC line density reaches saturation when the number of primary electrons generated per unit time equals the number of electrons absorbed by the walls per unit time. The saturated value of $\lambda_e$ and the time constant $\tau$ are given by [11]

$$\lambda_e = \tilde{\lambda}_b \tilde{n}_e \tau, \quad \tau = \frac{\Delta t_{tr}}{1 - \delta_{\text{eff}}} \quad (\delta_{\text{eff}} < 1)$$

where $\Delta t_{tr}$ is the characteristic traversal time of the electrons across the chamber under the action of the beam. This situation typically happens when $N_b$ and/or $\delta_{\text{max}}$ are low, although it can also happen when $N_b$ is very large owing to the fall-off of $\delta(E_0)$ at very high $E_0$. If the production of primary electrons ceases (for example, when the beam is extracted, or during a gap in the bunch train), the EC density decays exponentially in time if the space-charge forces are negligible [12].

If, on the other hand, $\delta_{\text{eff}} > 1$, the EC build-up is dominated by secondary electron emission quickly following injection of the beam into an empty chamber on account of the inherently compound effect of secondary emission: the more electrons are present, the more are generated. In this case the average EC density grows exponentially in time until a saturation is reached when the space-charge forces from the EC suppress further secondary emission from the walls. The saturation level reached by the EC density is insensitive to $n'_e$. It does not grow indefinitely as $\delta_{\text{eff}} \rightarrow 1^-$, as Eq. (8) might imply, but rather reaches a limit comparable to the beam neutralization level. This situation happens when $N_b$ and/or $\delta_{\text{max}}$ are sufficiently high. In the exponential growth regime, the growth time $\tau$ of the EC density is related to $\delta_{\text{eff}}$ and $\Delta t_{tr}$ by [12]

$$\delta_{\text{eff}} = e^{\Delta t_{tr}/\tau} \quad (\delta_{\text{eff}} > 1).$$

The traversal time $\Delta t_{tr}$ is also an “effective” quantity in the same sense that $\delta_{\text{eff}}$ is, namely it is an average of the traversal time of all electrons crossing the chamber over their energy and angles. $\Delta t_{tr}$ is a function of the beam intensity and fill pattern, external magnetic fields, etc. As discussed below, both situations ($\delta_{\text{eff}} < 1$ and $\delta_{\text{eff}} > 1$) can be realized in the MI, depending upon the value of $N_b$.

### B. Results for the Main Injector.

For the studies presented in this note we have used the simulation code POSINST [5-8]. We consider only two regions of the MI: a drift, and a dipole magnet of field $B = 0.1$ T, and we fix the beam energy at its injection value, $E = 8$ GeV. Since the longitudinal motion of the electrons is negligible over the time scales of interest, we perform separate simulations for these two sections. The simulation is restricted to the dynamics of the EC under the action of successive passages of bunches during one machine revolution. The beam is represented by a prescribed function of space and time, hence it is not dynamical. Therefore, aside from the tune shift estimate discussed below, all dynamical effects from the EC on the beam, including single-bunch and multi-bunch instabilities, emittance growth, etc., remain to be addressed.

Simulation parameters for the MI used here are listed in Table I. For the above-stated reasons, the length of the simulated region has negligible impact on our results, so we fix it at 0.1 m for definiteness. For the purposes of a first exploration of parameter space, we choose the bunch population $N_b$ in the range $6 \times 10^{10} \leq N_b \leq 3 \times 10^{11}$ while we fix $\delta_{\text{max}} = 1.3$. We carry out simulations for one revolution period ($T_0 = 11.15 \mu s$) for a MI beam consisting of 504 full buckets followed by a gap of 84 buckets. A brief discussion on the SEY model dependence is presented in Sec. IV.

Figure 2 shows the time evolution of the EC line density. The above-mentioned behaviors are clearly seen. For $N_b = 6 \times 10^{10}$, the EC reaches an average line density $\lambda_e \approx 1 \times 10^{-5}$ nC/m for a drift and $\lambda_e \approx 2 \times 10^{-5}$ nC/m for a dipole, while for $N_b = 3 \times 10^{11}$, the EC density saturates at $\lambda_e \approx 5.5$ nC/m for both cases. This latter value should compared with the average beam line density, $\tilde{\lambda}_b = 8.5$ nC/m, implying an average beam neutralization factor $\lambda_e/\tilde{\lambda}_b \approx 0.65$. The exponential growth of the EC density for $N_b = 3 \times 10^{11}$ is clearly seen over 4 orders of magnitude in density during the first $\sim 1.5 \mu s$, with a growth time $\tau \approx 110$ ns for the drift and $\tau \approx 90$

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2 The condition $\delta_{\text{max}} < 1$ is not sufficient to ensure $\delta_{\text{eff}} < 1$ because the dependence of $\delta$ on $\theta_0$ enhances $\delta_{\text{max}}$.

3 The simpler arguments used in Ref. 12 lead to $\tau = -\Delta t_{tr}/\ln \delta_{\text{eff}}$, which agrees with Eq. (8) only when $\delta_{\text{eff}} \approx 1$. A fuller discussion will be presented in Ref. 11.

4 Owing to a misunderstanding, we erroneously chose 8 GeV in our simulations instead of the actual value of 8.9 GeV. The slightly lower value has a negligible effect on our simulation results, except possibly that it leads to an overestimate of the tune shift, Eq. (10), by $\sim 10\%$. 
The density for case (b) during the first ∼1.5 ms has an e-folding time τ ≈ 110 ns for a dipole and τ ≈ 90 ns for a dipole. The saturation level is λe ≈ 5.5 nC/m for both cases. For case (b) the horizontal green line represents the average beam line density, λb = eNb/σb = 8.5 nC/m.

Figure 3 shows the time- and space-averaged electron-wall collision energy spectrum. For Nb = 6 × 10^{10}, the spectra are sharply cut off at E0 ≲ 200 eV and yield an average electron-wall collision energy ~ 50 – 100 eV, while for Nb = 3 × 10^{11} the spectra exhibit a high-energy tail up to ~ 500 eV, with an average ~ 100 – 150 eV. Referring to Fig. 1, these averages explain qualitatively why δeff < 1 in the first case while δeff > 1 in the second.

To assess the simple model embodied by Eqs. (7–9), we consider the results for a drift. For Nb = 6 × 10^{10} the effective SEY at saturation, obtained directly from the simulation, is δeff ≈ 0.85. The behavior of the build-up in Fig. 2a is in agreement with the simple model, which implies τ ≈ 140 ns and Δtr ≈ 21 ns. This value of Δtr, in turn, implies a typical electron energy ~ 45 eV, in agreement with independent results (see Fig. 3a). For Nb = 3 × 10^{11} we obtain δeff ≈ 1.15 and τ ≈ 110 ns during the exponential growth regime. Equation (9) implies Δtr = 15 ns, which implies an electron energy ~ 90 eV.

This value is lower by a factor ~ 2 than what is independently observed in the simulation (eg., Fig. 3b), presumably owing to the excessive simplicity of the model. The results for a dipole are in qualitative agreement with the above results for a drift.

A straightforward consequence of the EC density is a tune shift Δν owing to the focusing effect of the electrons on the beam. Assuming that the EC density distribution is round in the transverse plane, the tune shift per unit length of beam traversal through the cloud, Δν/L, is given by [13]

\[ \Delta \nu/L = \frac{r_p \beta \gamma_b}{2 \gamma_b} \]

where r_p = 1.535 × 10^{-18} m is the classical proton radius, γ_b is the relativistic factor of the beam, and ρ_e is the EC density (with dimensions of volume^{-1}) seen by the center.
of the bunch, and \( \beta \) is the usual lattice beta function. For \( N_b = 3 \times 10^{11} \) the steady-state value of the density is \( \rho_c \simeq 7.5 \times 10^{12} \, \text{m}^{-3} \). Assuming a value of 25 m for the average beta function, we obtain

\[
\Delta \nu/L \simeq 1.7 \times 10^{-5} \, \text{m}^{-1}.
\] (11)

To get an idea of the magnitude of \( \Delta \nu \), we replace \( L \) by the circumference \( C \), yielding \( \Delta \nu = 0.056 \). For \( N_b < N_{b,\text{th}} \), the electron density is \( \sim 10^8 \, \text{m}^{-3} \), hence \( \Delta \nu \sim 5 \times 10^{-6} \).

IV. DISCUSSION.

Figure 4 summarizes the results for the electron density at saturation as a function of \( N_b \). A threshold value for \( N_b, N_{b,\text{th}} \simeq 1.25 \times 10^{11} \), is strongly indicated both for drifts and dipoles, which seems fairly insensitive to the SEY model. The saturated value of \( \rho_c \), on the other hand, shows a sensitivity to the SEY model on the level of a factor of \( \sim 2 \). Figure 5 shows the growth time \( \tau \) of the EC density upon injection into an empty chamber, and Fig. 6 the effective SEY \( \delta_{\text{eff}} \). As is the case for \( \rho_c \), \( \tau \) and \( \delta_{\text{eff}} \) show some sensitivity to the model, but \( N_{b,\text{th}} \) does not (the non-smooth behavior in the dipole cases in these three figures for low \( N_b \) is probably due to the fact that the EC has not quite reached steady state after one turn, as is apparent in Fig. 2a for \( N_b = 6 \times 10^{10} \)).

Although the assessment presented in this article is limited, this threshold dependence is the most striking conclusion. Above threshold, the EC density is high enough to lead to a tune shift \( \sim 0.05 \). However, owing to the intrinsic limitations of the simulation technique used, we cannot assess the dynamical effects upon the beam.

As seen in Table I, the backscattered component of the SEY at \( E_0 = E_{\text{max}} \) is \( (\delta_c(E_{\text{max}}) + \delta_r(E_{\text{max}}))/\delta(E_{\text{max}}) = 0.41 \) for model K and 0.10 for model H. In the regime of interest to the MI this implies that, in SEY model K, the electrons are emitted with higher average energy than in model H. The higher energy implies a faster traversal across the chamber, and an effectively higher yield in subsequent electron-wall collisions, which helps to explain why \( \rho_c, \delta_{\text{eff}} \) and \( 1/\tau \) are higher in the former model than in the latter (see Figs. 4, 5 and 6 for a more complete set of results).

The essential parameters that determine \( N_{b,\text{th}} \) are almost certainly \( \delta_{\text{max}}, E_{\text{max}} \) and \( \delta(0) \). It seems imperative, therefore, to determine \( N_{b,\text{th}} \) as a function of these three quantities. In addition, the beam energy may play an important, but indirect role primarily through the bunch length \( \sigma_z \). At top energy, \( E = 120 \) GeV, \( \sigma_z \) is shorter by a factor of 5 relative to injection energy. This shorter bunch length probably leads to longer high-energy tails in the \( E_0 \) spectrum, and therefore to a possibly higher value of \( \delta_{\text{eff}} \) relative to the injection-energy case. The dependence of \( N_{b,\text{th}} \) on \( \sigma_z \) should, therefore, also be established. However, once threshold is exceeded, the sat-
urated value of the EC density is probably always comparable to the beam neutralization level, which is independent of beam energy. Therefore, above threshold, the tune shift follows the rather simple scaling $\Delta \nu \sim 1/E$, which leads to the estimate $\Delta \nu \simeq 3 \times 10^{-3}$ at $E = 120$ GeV.

For simplicity, we have assumed a tri-gaussian density distribution for the bunch, with round aspect ratio in the transverse plane. In reality, the bunch has an elliptical aspect ratio owing to the variation of the $\beta$ function, while the longitudinal profile is probably not quite gaussian. The dependence of our results on deviations from these simplifying approximations should be quantified, and an assessment of the EC density in other magnets, especially quadrupoles, should be investigated.

In addition to the above-mentioned possible dependencies on physical parameters, the simulation parameters should also be checked for numerical stability. In the cases presented here, we have taken bunch length effects into consideration by dividing the full bunch length into $10$ equal time steps, (ie., $N_b = 11$ kicks), and the inter-bunch spacing into $N_p = 9$ steps. Given the beam parameters, this slicing leads to time steps of size $\Delta t \simeq 1$ ns both within the bunch and in between bunches. The EC space-charge forces are computed and applied at every time step by means of a 2D grid of size $5\,\text{mm} \times 5\,\text{mm}$. The $N_p$ primary electrons, Eq. (5), are represented by $M_e = 10$ macroparticles of charge $Q/e = N_e/M_e = 411.6$. The rather low value of $M_e$ accounts for the noisiness of the EC line density for $N_b = 6 \times 10^{10}$, Fig. 2a, but it is practically inconsequential above threshold. From our experience with EC simulations for other storage rings, it appears that these simulation parameters provide approximately stable results, although methodical tests remain to be carried out.

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