

A proton beam that carries a total current of 4.3 mA has a 5.0 mm diameter. The current density in the proton beam increases linearly with distance from the center. This is expressed mathematically as follows $J = J_e(r/R)$, where R is the radius of the beam and J_e is the current density at the edge. How many protons are delivered each second by this proton beam?

The total current in the beam is $4.3 \text{ mA} = 4.3 \times 10^{-3} \text{ A}$.

The charge flowing through the cross section of the beam per second will be $4.3 \times 10^{-3} \text{ C}$.

Hence the number of protons delivered per second will be given by the ratio of the charge crossing per second to the charge of one proton, which is

$$\frac{4.3 \times 10^{-3} \text{ C}}{1.6 \times 10^{-19} \text{ C}} = 2.69 \times 10^{16}$$

Hence 2.69×10^{16} protons are delivered per second.

(Don't get confused with the current density, the number of proton per second depends on the current only.)