

Is there a future for the OPA code?

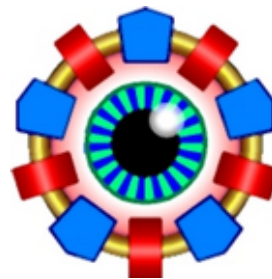
BESSY, Berlin, April 3, 2025

Andreas Streun

- 1992-2022 PSI Villigen, Switzerland
- Lattice design work for SLS, CoSAMI, SLS 2.0 etc.
- Development of OPA lattice design code since 1993

about OPA

OPA Icon:
visualization of
storage ring
beam dynamics



- Design of [electron] storage rings (synchrotrons) and transfer lines
 - highly specialized task: global but small user community
- **Pros**
 - interactive and visual for quick and intuitive design from scratch
 - reasonably user friendly (?)
 - pragmatic: accelerator physics driven, developed during real design
 - fast: algorithms and implementations optimized for efficiency
- **Cons**
 - “one man show” (AS)
 - old fashioned programming style (1980’s origin):
 - not well structured (physics - graphics - data handling – I/O)
 - partially “spaghetti code”
 - not “object oriented”

Features

Accelerator Physics

- linear optics design with matching
- betatron coupling included
- non-linear dynamics optimization (NLO) with sextupoles and octupoles
- editors for longitudinal gradient bends and RF bucket
- several tracking modes
 - phase space and amplitude dependent tunes
 - DA grid probing, binary search and flood fill
 - Fast Touschek tracking (FTT)
- Orbit correction with girders and correlated misalignments
- Injection simulation and kicker timing
- Accelerator layout incl. geometric matching

Non-physics

- building block and text based lattice editors
- reads *and writes* lattice text files
 - partial import/export of ELEGANT, TRACY-2/-3, MAD, BMAD lattice files
- nice and well comprehensible plots
- EPS export
- works in Windows (W10) and Linux (xubuntu)
- fairly well documented

Loose ends

- Linear matching and NLO with coupling
- Tracking with errors
- 3D lattice geometry
- Catch and report all user errors
- Bug fixes... (Linux event handling problems)

History and contributors

- ~ mid 1980s: OPTIK code by [Klaus Wille](#) (DELTA)
Borland Turbo Pascal on MS-DOS
- 1993 given to [AS](#), modified and extended during SLS-design and named OPA
Non-linear optimization and signal processing algorithms provided by [Johan Bengtsson](#)
[J. Bengtsson, The sextupole scheme for the Swiss Light Source \(SLS\): an analytic approach, SLS-Note 9/97 \(1997\)](#)
- 200x ported to **Borland Delphi on Windows**
Non-linear terms checked and shared with ELEGANT by [Chun-xi Wang](#) and [Michael Borland](#).
Octupoles and longitudinal gradient bends added in collaboration with [Simon Leemann](#).
[S.C.Leemann and AS, Perspectives for future light source lattices incorporating yet uncommon magnets, Phys. Rev. ST Accel. Beams 14, 030701 \(2011\)](#)
- 2019 ported to **Lazarus Free Pascal (open source) on Windows and Linux**
Linear coupling and coupled radiation integrals added in collaboration with [Volker Ziemann](#)
[V. Ziemann and AS, Equilibrium parameters in coupled storage ring lattices and practical applications, Phys. Rev. Accel. Beams 25, 050703 \(2022\)](#)
- July 2022 retirement [AS](#), private OPA page <https://andreas-streun.de/opa/>
Flood fill tracking added in collaboration with [Bernard Riemann](#)
[M. Aiba, J. Kallestrup, B. Riemann and AS, Efficient algorithms for dynamic aperture and momentum acceptance calculation in synchrotron light sources, Phys. Rev. Accel. Beams 27, 094002 \(2024\)](#)



The main purpose of the OPA code is to support the development of electron (positron) storage rings. Emphasis is on visualization and interactivity rather than on elaborate beam dynamics models. OPA is in particular useful for designing high brightness light source lattices, but may be used for transfer lines and other types of lattices as well. Storage ring design with OPA starts from scratch and ends at a bare (i.e. error free) lattice with optimized dynamic apertures, to be passed on to other codes like TRACY, MAD or ELEGANT, which use more complete models.

OPA 4

Documentation

- [OPA user guide](#) (pdf)
- ["inside OPA"](#) (pdf): the physics part.
- [Tutorial](#) (pdf) (and [example file](#) from tutorial)

Downloads

- [Windows executable 4.062 zip](#)
- [Source files 4.062 zip](#) for Lazarus 2.2.0, work both for W10 and Ubuntu.
- A .deb file to install OPA on linux is not yet available (I don't know how to create one, help appreciated), instead you may download the source and install Lazarus to build the executable.
- Document sources [user guide](#) (tex.zip), ["inside"](#) (tex.zip), [tutorial](#) (docx).

Major changes from OPA version 3 to 4

- Transfer from Borland Delphi to [Lazarus Free Pascal](#).
- Include coupling by Edward-Teng formalism.
- Also available for Linux now: tested for xubuntu 20.04 (some debugging going on...)

OPA 3.91d (2017)

The last (more or less) robust Delphi-version, for flat lattices only (no coupling).

Take a [Tour of OPA](#) to see if it may be useful for you too!

Read the [User guide \(PDF\)](#) to learn about its capabilities and limitations, how to install and use it and also about some physics behind.

[Download](#) the ZIP-file containing the program including example files and user guide. The program is a single executable and should run on any Microsoft Windows system.

This page is a mirror of the [official OPA page](#) of the [SynBD \(former ADOS\) group](#) at PSI. It may be ahead in updates since the official page is not maintained continuously anymore due to my retirement.

Last update Mar 7, 2025. [Andreas Streun](#)

Homepage

<https://andreas-streun.de/opa/>



Demonstrations

- how to start from scratch
 - elements, cells, chromaticity
 - dynamic aperture, layout
- from step-by-step tutorial (available at the OPA homepage.) →
 - variables, coupling
 - injection, tracking
- elaborate design: SLS 2.0
 - orbit correction
 - nonlinear optimization
- eps export

OPA Tutorial (4.030)

Andreas Streun, PSI, January 2022

Let's design a small storage ring in order to get started with OPA and demonstrate its features!

This is OPA's start panel:

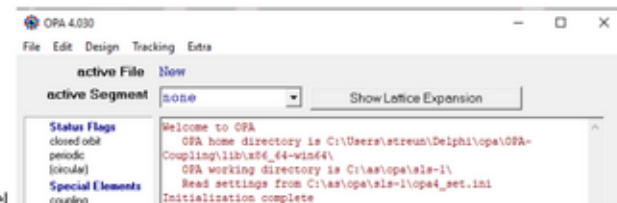


Fig.1 OPA start panel

File is for reading and saving .opa files and for exporting files to other codes.

Edit contains two editors, a plain text editor, and the interactive OPA Editor.

Design is the main part of OPA leading to modules for linear lattice design in terms of beta functions, non-linear optimization, orbit correction etc.

Tracking is for simulation of dynamic aperture, beam lifetime etc. in order to test the performance of the lattice.

Extra contains special options, some of them implemented preliminary or temporary only.

Editor

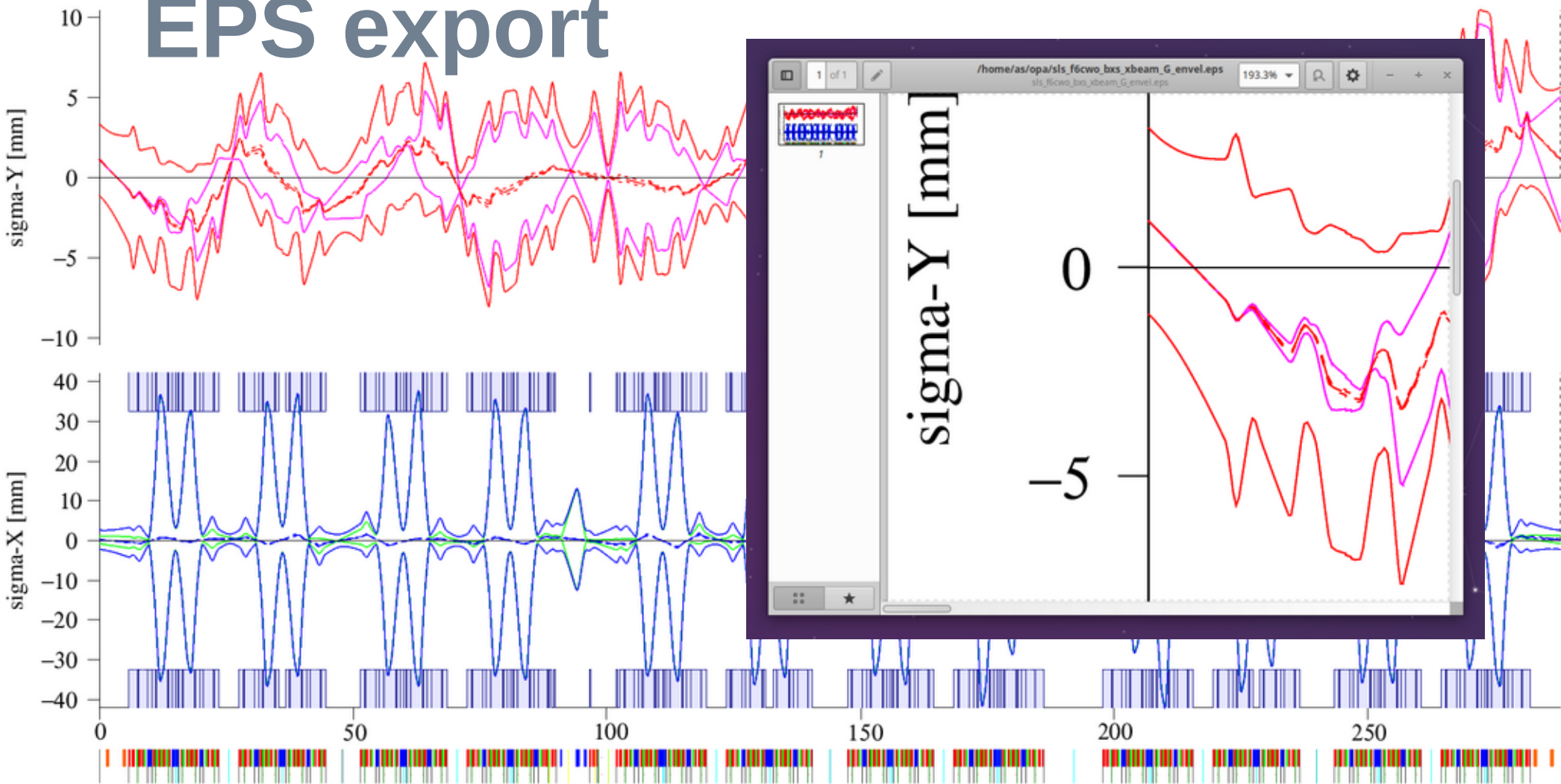
We don't load an existing .opa file but start from scratch, by using **Edit → OPA Editor**:



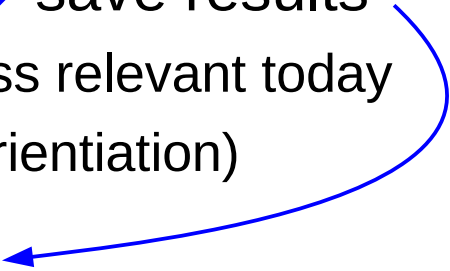
Fig. 2 OPAEditor panel

At first, enter the (maximum) energy of our storage ring, and an optional short description.

EPS export



Speed

- interactive code : fast response mandatory
 - late 1980's PCs: 80286 CPU 10 MHz, 640 KB RAM
 - memory management
 - temporary allocation, use of pointers
 - try to split calculations
 - expensive (slow) and infrequent → save results
 - compromise on memory saving – less relevant today
 - compromise on modularity (object orientation)
 - cheap (fast) and frequent ← use
- 

Example: non-linear driving terms

- 8 1st order Hamiltonian modes

e.g. SLS 2.0

$$h_{jklmp} = \sum_{n=1}^{S \cdot K} (b_3 l)_n \beta_{xn}^{(j+k)/2} \beta_{yn}^{(l+m)/2} D_{xn}^p e^{i[(j-k)\mu_{xn} + (l-m)\mu_{yn}]}$$

- S = number of sextupoles in lattice
- K = number of kicks per sextupole
- F = number of sextupole families

288

3

12

summation over
8 $S \cdot K \sim 7000$ terms

- Sextupole strengths $\{b_{3n}\}$ are optimizer knobs

- calculate optical functions only once at beginning:

$$h_{jklmp} = \sum_{q=1}^F (b_3 l)_q \sum_{n \in \mathcal{F}_q} \beta_{xn}^{(j+k)/2} \beta_{yn}^{(l+m)/2} D_{xn}^p e^{i[(j-k)\mu_{xn} + (l-m)\mu_{yn}]}$$

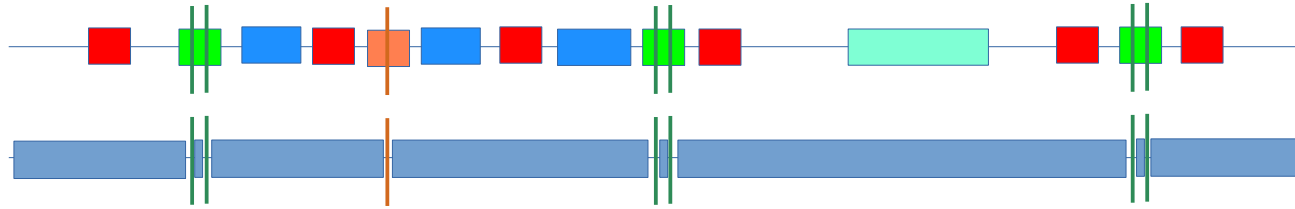
- save 8×12 matrix → summation over 96 terms only

- 11 2nd order modes: replace sum over 11($S \cdot K$)² $\approx 1E7$ terms by 11×144 matrix

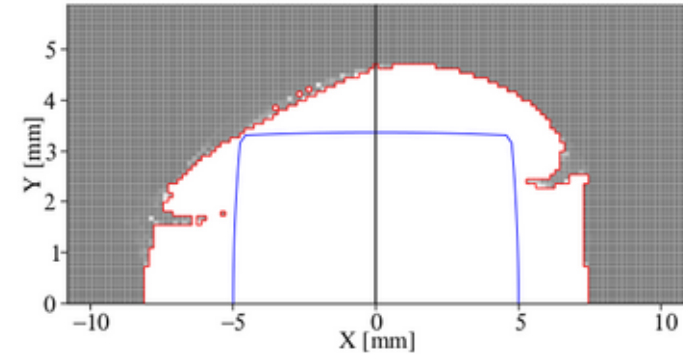
CrX lin	0.00	0.81
CrY lin	0.00	1.57
Qx	H21000	29.22
3Qx	H30000	3.52
Qx	H10110	18.04
Qx-2Qy	H10020	8.63
Qx+2Qy	H10200	29.76
2Qx	H20001	2.40
2Qy	H00201	3.03
Qx	H10002	0.01
		9.63
		28.19
		-24253.57
dQxy, yx	0.00	-14401.80
dQyy	0.00	11829.87
2Qx	H31000	9100.92
4Qx	H40000	11157.37
2Qx	H20110	4259.21
2Qy	H11200	5995.50
2Qx-2Qy	H20020	3211.44
2Qx+2Qy	H20200	2040.90
2Qy	H00310	454.24
4Qy	H00400	459.79
CrX cub	0.00	-45.14
CrY cub	0.00	243.39

Example: tracking

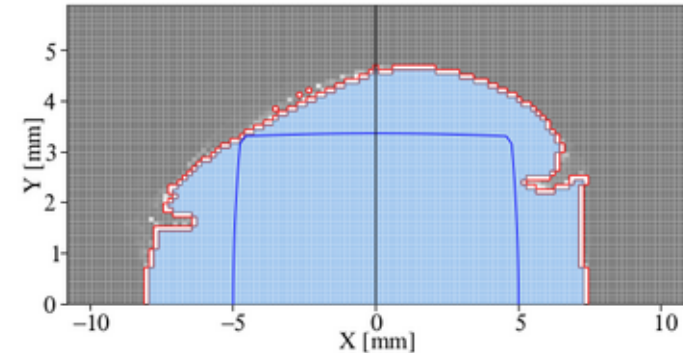
- Concatenation of linear elements
 - Tracking = series of (matrix + kick)



- Flood fill (FF) applied to dynamic aperture
 - *Bernard Riemann's idea*
 - factor ~ 10 speed up compared to grid probing
 - extended to Fast Touschek Tracking (FTT)
 - FF calculation of 3D $x, x', \Delta p$ acceptance at end of lattice
 - tracking of particles from scattering location to end of lattice to check acceptance



(a) Grid probing, $(dp/p) = 0\%$



(c) Flood-fill, $(dp/p) = 0\%$

```
~/lazarus/opa4$ wc -l *.pas ../com/*.pas
```

```
640 Bucket.pas
416 CHamLine.pas
79 ChromGUILib1.pas
93 ChromGUILib2.pas
1813 chromlib.pas
454 CSexLine.pas
144 EdElCreate.pas
861 EdElSet.pas
444 EdSgSet.pas
421 knobframe.pas
471 LGBeditorLib.pas
702 LGBeditor.pas
2075 mathlib.pas
480 MomentumLib.pas
1413 OPAChroma.pas
145 OPAChromaSVector.pas
303 OPACurrents.pas
346 OPAEditor.pas
2387 OPAElements.pas
2010 OPAGeometry.pas
2986 OPAGlobal.pas
1839 opalatticefiles.pas
901 opamenu.pas
949 OPAmomentum.pas
2353 OPAorbit.pas
472 opatest.pas
1666 OPATrackDA.pas
1422 OPATrackP.pas
1726 OPATrackT.pas
634 OPAtune.pas
372 OpticEnvel.pas
1457 OpticMatch.pas
119 OpticMatchScan.pas
2840 opticplot.pas
615 Opticstart.pas
251 OpticTune.pas
1143 opticview.pas
125 OpticWOMK.pas
190 texteditor.pas
1502 tracklib.pas
349 ../com/asaux.pas
314 ../com/asfigure.pas
332 ../com/conrect.pas
1276 ../com/Vgraph.pas
41530 total
```

Source code

- 44 Pascal modules *.pas
 - **Physics** mainly (not only...) in **4 units**
 - own libraries
 - mathematics
 - floating point graphics with eps-export
 - >40.000 lines of Pascal code
- + 28 corresponding Lazarus GUI forms *.lfm
 - *including 4 frames* (= self-made GUI components)
- + miscellaneous: button icons etc.
- no linked libraries, all code included
 - Numerical Recipes: FFT, SVD, Powell etc.
 - Contour Plot
 - Arithmetic evaluator



Lazarus

Rapid applications development tool and libraries for FPC

Brought to you by: [mgaertner](#), [mhess](#), [user4martin](#), [vlx](#), [vsnljders](#)

★★★★★ 153 Reviews

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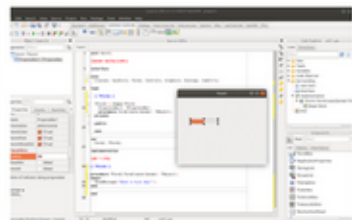
External Link ▼

Mailing Lists

Code (GIT)

The Lazarus IDE is a stable and feature rich visual programming environment for the FreePascal Compiler. It supports the creation of self-standing graphical and console applications and runs on Linux, FreeBSD, MacOSX and Windows.

Project Samples



Lazarus Free Pascal:

- well established RAD environment
- Cross-platform, open source
- active user community, [helpful forum](#)



Recommended Projects



Free Pascal Compiler

Free 32/64/16-bit multi-platform Pascal and Object...



Lazarus Code and Component Repository

Lazarus is a free and open source development tool for...



ZeosLib

Database components for Delphi, FreePascal/Lazarus,...



ACRA

Application crash reports for Android

Top Searches

[lazarus](#)

OPA's future ?

- **maintain & consolidate**
 - continue in [Lazarus Free Pascal](#)
 - programmers should be familiar with accelerator physics
- **reincarnate**
 - rewrite in modern language (Python):
 - modern well-established language with rich physics and graphics libraries
 - employ young motivated software engineers 😊
 - requires detailed specification of functionality from accelerator physics
- **cannibalize**
 - extract useful algorithms and visualizations and include in other open codes like AT
 - (a previous attempt to link TRACY-2 libraries as shared object to an OPA-like IDL-GUI started promising but failed due to memory conflicts.)