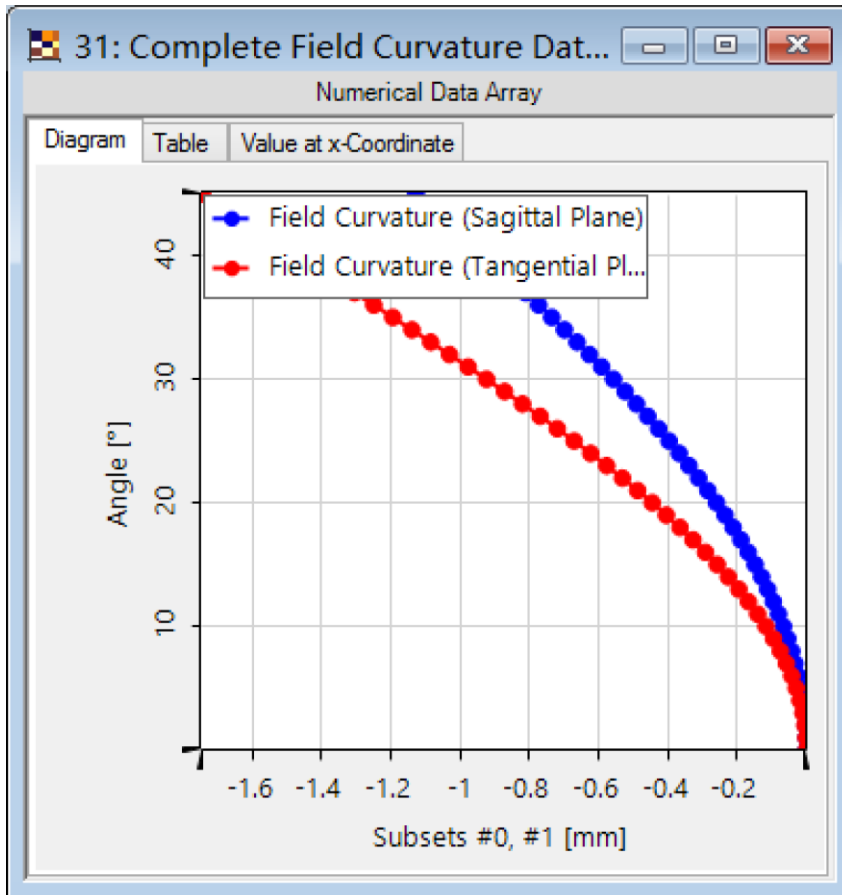# Usage of Field Curvature Analyzer

Abstract

In VirtualLab Fusion, the field curvature of a lens component can be analyzed precisely, with the field curvature analyzer. The field curvature curve can be calculated with respect to angle or object height, and shows the aberration in both sagittal plane and tangential plane. This use case shows how to set up the parameters in the field curvature analyzer.

Modeling Task

- What is the definition of field curvature
- How to set the field curvature analyzer in VirtualLab
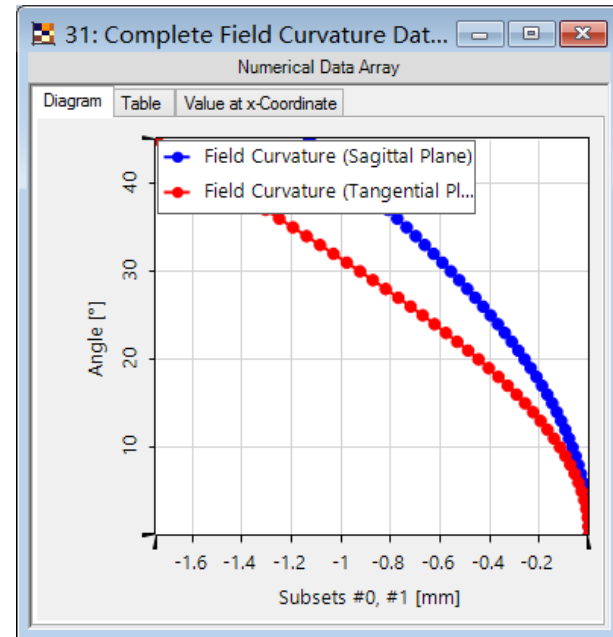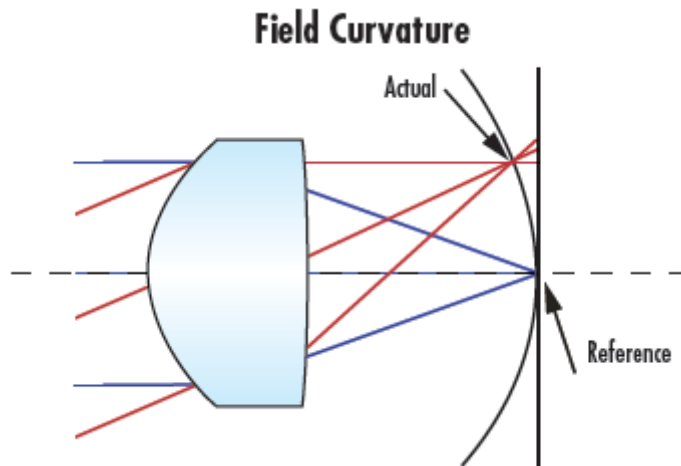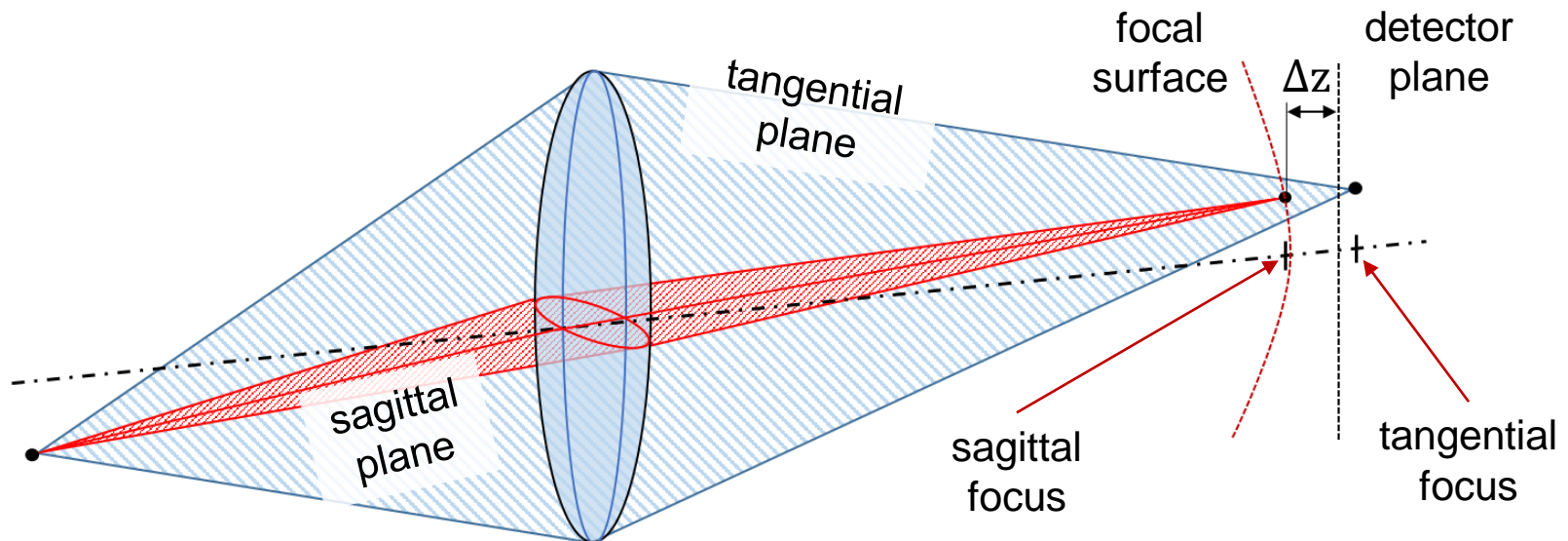
What is Field Curvature?

- Field Curvature, also known as "curvature of field" is a common optical problem that causes a flat object to appear sharp in a certain part(s) of the frame, instead of being uniformly sharp across the frame. This happens due to the curved nature of optical elements, which project the image in a curved manner, rather than flat.
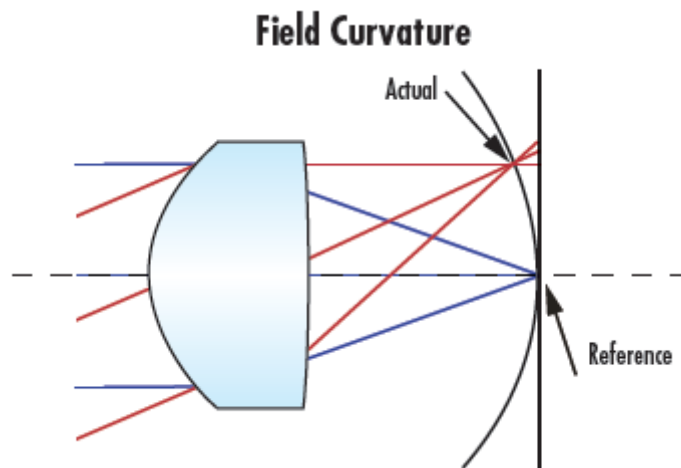
Field curvature is the aberration that describes the magnitude to which the image plane wants to be naturally curved.

Determination of Field Curvature

- The field curvature is measured along the z-axis (Δz is the distance between focus of the ray bundle and detector plane).

- The position of focus is determined via the RMS spot radius in two separated planes: the tangential and the sagittal plane (see figure below).

- It is a criteria for defocusing of off-axis beams regarding a flat image plane. The perfect image describes a curved surface instead. This fact has to be taken into account for example in laser scanning applications.

Field Curvature Analyzer in VirtualLab
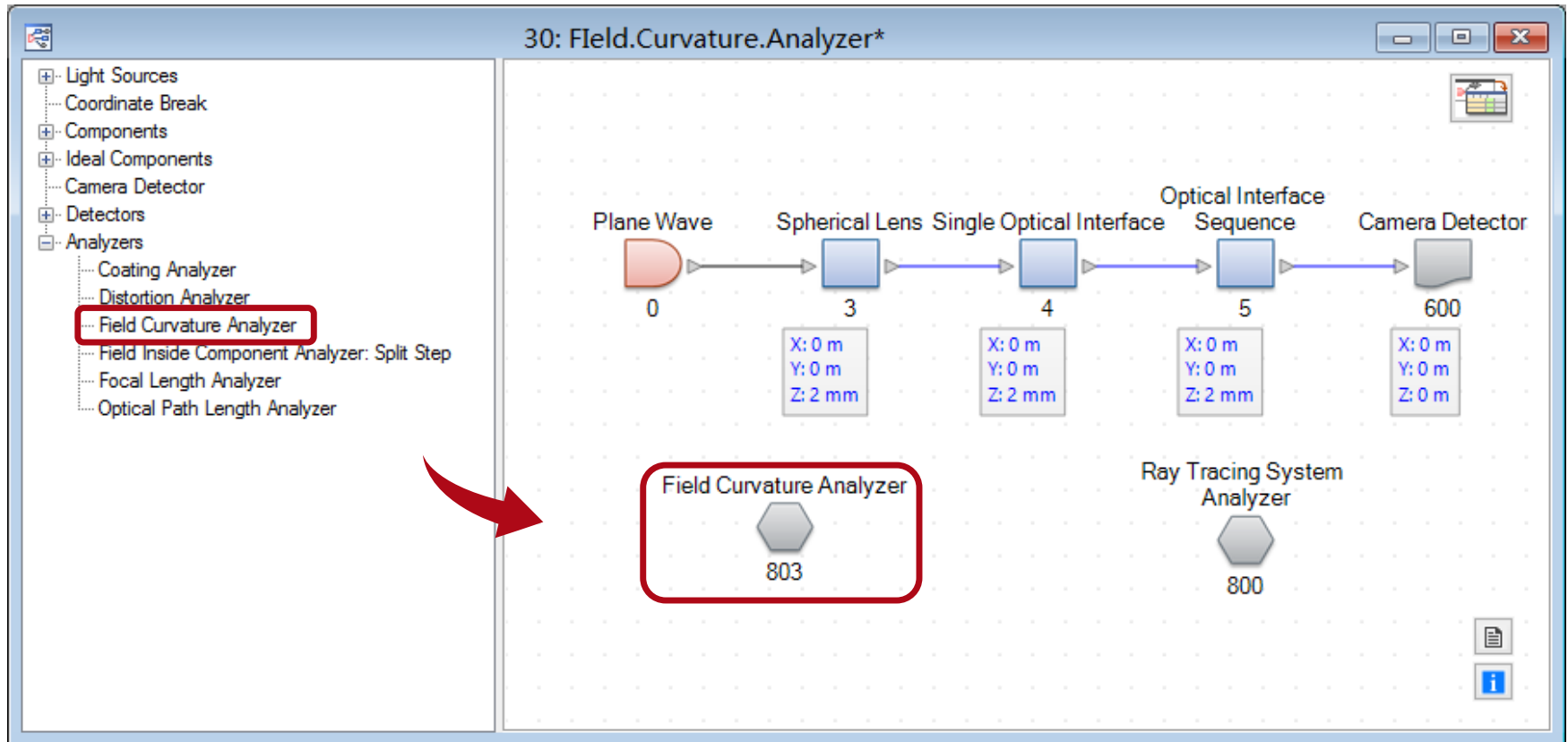
Setting of the Analyzer
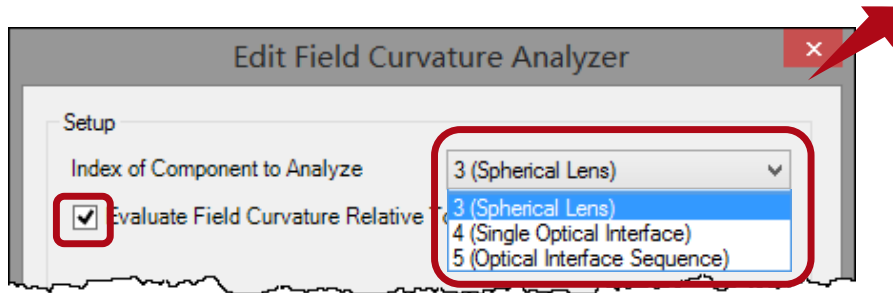
or
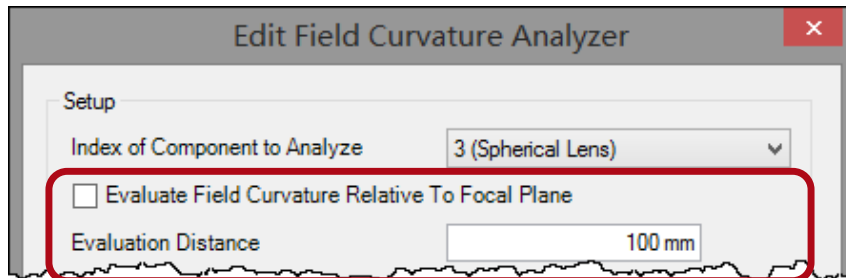
- Select a lens component to be analyzed. The analysis is independent of the system.

- Check the option to set the detector plane at effective focal length

- Determine the *Evaluation Distance* according to user's requirement

Setting of the Analyzer

Field Curvature vs. Angle

Field Curvature vs. Object Height

Field Curvature of Spherical Lens

Field Curvature of Spherical Lens

Field Curvature vs. Angle

Field Curvature vs. Object Height

Document Information

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