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THI SAFETY SYSTEM

Christophe Jamet, Thierry André, Pascal Anger, J.L. Baelde,
Clément Doutressoulles, Bernard Ducoudret, E. Petit, Eric Swartvagher
GANIL, BP 55027, 14076 Caen Cedex 5, France

Abstract
For several years, GANIL has been allowed to reach a
maximum beam power of six kilowatts (400W in normal
mode) thanks to the THI system (High Intensity Transport
System). Three modes of running are necessary to
accelerate a THI beam ("Injector" mode, "tuning" mode
and "surveillance" mode). The "surveillance" mode
requires a safety system to protect equipment against
beam losses. Inside cyclotrons, diagnostics measure
beam-loss currents at the injection and extraction devices.
Along beam lines, diaphragms measure beam-loss
currents at the input and output of dipoles. Current
transformers are used for beam transmission
measurements through beam lines and the cyclotrons. The
safety system controls beam losses and quickly cuts the
beam with a chopper if losses exceed thresholds. These
thresholds can be seen and changed by software.

THI MODES

Three modes of running are necessary to tune a THI
beam. C01 or C02 can be chosen to post accelerate the
THI beam.

“Injector mode”
This mode permits us to accelerate the beam at the
input of SSC1. (Pbeam < 400W)

“Tuning mode”
This mode permits us to tune the beam through the
accelerators. Beam chopping rates limit the beam power
(Pbeam<400W)

“Surveillance mode”
This mode permits us to tune the beam at a
maximum power (Pbeam max = 6kW). Beam current
average is increased progressively by changing beam-
chopping rates. The safety system controls beam losses.

INTRODUCTION

The production of exotic ions at GANIL is performed
by fragmentation of the projectile in the target of SISSI
[5] or/and by the ISOL method with an acceleration of the
exotic beams by the cyclotron CIME [3].

Layout of GANIL

Both devices require high intensity primary
beams. Primary beam intensity has been increased up to
15µAe (3kW) for 13C at 95MeV/A and 26µAe (5kW) for
36Ar at 95MeV/A. Therefore, uncooled or unshielded
elements can melt very rapidly and must be protect by a
safety system.
**BEAM LOSSES DIAGNOSTICS**

Inside cyclotrons, diagnostics measure beam-loss currents at the input of the injection an extraction. Along beam lines, diaphragms detect beam-loss currents at the input and output of dipoles.

Current transformers (GANIL ACCT) are used to measure the beam transmission through beam lines and the cyclotrons. A change of the efficiency within the accelerators can be detected. The beam is modulated to measure beam currents with the ACCT. The maximum chopping rate is 91%.

**SAFETY SYSTEM**

Interceptive beam diagnostics are connected to test boards. Each board is able to inject a test signal (10μA) to the diagnostics and filter the signal from the device. Test signals can be sent by software. Each VME board (PFAIS) measures 4 diagnostic currents with logarithmic I/V converters, which generate a voltage proportional to the logarithm of the current. This voltage is digitised, compared to a threshold and numerically converted into a current.

The signals generated by the current transformers (ACCT) are sent to a differential board. An inhibition board validates the difference between 2 current transformers. Then a VME board digitises, compares to a threshold and numerically converts into a current.

“Alarm detection” signals are generated by VME boards and sent to “alarm validation” boards. “THI control” board collects all alarm signals. A programmable logic controller indicates to the control board different configuration states. If “surveillance” mode is validated for example, when a VME board generates an alarm detection, the THI control board commands the chopper to cut the beam. If a problem is detected on the chopper, the acceleration voltage of the C0 injector is cut.

A reloading system gives us the possibility to restore the beam just after an overshoot. When 3 trigger actions arrive in under 10 seconds, the programmable logic controller passes from “surveillance” mode to “tuning” mode.

**CONTROL**

Software is used to control and tune the beam.

Users can choose various modes of running (normal mode or THI mode and injector, tuning, surveillance mode). Beam current (μA), beam power (W) and efficiency (%) are displayed on the screen. Beam chopping rates can be changed (rythme) and pepper pots inserted in the lines (red32 and red33).
A second program enables us to control and change thresholds of each diagnostic device.

Current or power thresholds can be selected. When a new beam is tuned, we initialise all thresholds in power with beam characteristics. Each value can be displayed and modified. A test command permits sending a test current to each beam-loss diagnostic device and to verify the detection.

**RESPONSE TIME**

To measure the response time, the beam is tuned to lose 4µAe in SSC1. We cut the beam by the chopper and we set the threshold to 2µAe. The beam is then sent through the cyclotron, and the safety system detects the loss and stops the beam.

The response time for a beam current of 4µA and a threshold of 2µA is around 18 ms. It depends on the ratio between threshold and loss current.

**REFERENCES**

[2] F. Chautard et al., GANIL status report, EPAC 2004, Switzerland
[4] M. Lieuvin et al., Commissioning of SPIRAL, the GANIL radioactive beam facility, ibid