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COMMISSIONING AND EARLY OPERATION EXPERIENCE OF THE NSLS-II STORAGE RING RF SYSTEM*

Feng Gao[#], James Rose, John Cupolo, Tom Dilgen, Ben Rose, Bill Gash, Vishy Ravindranath[§], Murali Yeddulla[¶], Joe Papu, Pete Davila, Brian Holub, Jueri Tagger, Bob Sikora, Gloria Ramirez and John Kulpin, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, New York 11973, USA

Energy Sciences Directorate, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, NY 11973

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National Synchrotron Light Source II

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COMMISSIONING AND EARLY OPERATION EXPERIENCE OF THE NSLS-II STORAGE RING RF SYSTEM*

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Abstract

The National Synchrotron Light Source II (NSLS-II) is a 3 GeV electron X-ray user facility commissioned in 2014. The storage ring RF system, essential for replenishing energy loss per turn of the electrons, consists of digital low level RF controllers, 310 kW CW klystron transmitters, CESR-B type superconducting cavities, as well as a supporting cryogenic system. Here we will report on RF commissioning and early operation experience of the system for beam current up to 200mA.

INTRODUCTION

The NSLS-II storage ring was designed to maintain a 3GeV, 500mA circulating electron beam with very small horizontal (down to 0.5 nm-rad) and vertical (8 pm-rad) emittance [1]. There are fifteen 9.3 m straights and fifteen 6.6 m straight in the ring, where two of the 9.3 m straights were allocated for RF cavities. The fully built-out RF system is expected to have two CESR-B type 500 MHz superconducting cavities and one passive 1500 MHz superconducting Landau cavity on each RF straight.

To operate these superconducting cavities, an 840 watt liquid helium (LHe) refrigeration system has been commissioned [2]. Currently NSLS-II has two 500 MHz CESR-B type cavities on site, one of which is in the ring for daily operation, while the other is in the blockhouse (a test setup) for conditioning and studies. A prototype passive 1500 MHz Landau cavity is on site, whose construction is pending a cold test with LHe. Two 310 kW klystron transmitters, driven by FPGA based cavity field controllers (CFC) [3], have been commissioned to power the two 500MHz cavities. We will first briefly describe the status, then discuss a few interesting cases we have experienced, and finally the future plan and summary.

CURRENT STATUS

Figure 1 shows a simplified diagram of the storage ring RF system. The 500 MHz cavity design was optimized with flexibility for various scenarios with one to four operating cavities, and both first built cavities have measured Qext of 79,000. To reduce power reflection under operation with low beam current (< 200 mA), a 3-stub tuner has been added to raise the Qext of the cavity to 200,000. A cavity frequency tuner PLC was implemented to adjust tuner position based on the phase difference between the cavity field and the forward field.

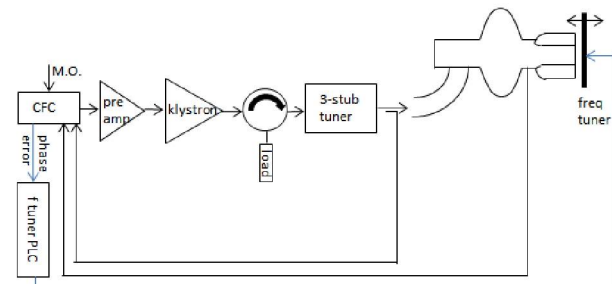


Figure 1: Simplified diagram of the NSLS-II storage ring RF system.

This PLC also monitors vacuum and water temperatures.

Table 1 shows typical operation parameters as of early April, 2015. The first cavity had been partially conditioned to 1.4 MV in the blockhouse before being moved to the ring. It then experienced frequent vacuum trips forcing the voltage to be lowered to 1.2 MV for reliability to accommodate optimization of other systems. In January 2015 the cavity was pulse conditioned to 1.87 MV with increasing duty cycles to CW, then the voltage was lowered to 1.778 MV for early operation.

Table 1: A Typical Set of Early Operation Parameters

M.O. frequency (MHz)	499.6815
r/Q (Ω)	89
Q0	2.7e+8
QL and Qext with 3-stub tuner	2.0e+5
Cavity voltage Vc (MV)	1.776
Cavity power (W)	131
Beam energy (GeV)	3.0
Beam energy loss per turn Va (kV)	288
Beam current (mA)	200
Revolution frequency (kHz)	378.55
Cavity detuning frequency (kHz)	-2.47
Momentum compaction	3.7e-4
Momentum acceptance	2.42e-2
Synchrotron frequency (Hz)	2550
Beam power (kW)	57.6
Forward power (kW)	77.8

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[#] fgao@bnl.gov

[§] Vishy is currently with SLAC.

[¶] Murali is currently with Varian Medical Systems.

Although the cavity demonstrated $Q_0 = 6.8 \times 10^8$ at a voltage of 3 MV during the vertical test, once assembled with copper plated thermal transitions and HOM dampers it shows a lower Q_0 of 2.7×10^8 at 1.778 MV. It is not yet clear what the cause might be. The cavity will be fully warmed up to room temperature in the May shutdown and the Q_0 will be re-measured after restart. Heaters inside the LHe vessel were used to measure Q_0 . When RF was on and the heaters were off, the cold gas return flow of the cryomodule was recorded; then the RF was turned off and the heaters were turned on with gradually increasing power. When the cold gas return flow of the latter matches that of the former, the heater power should be equal to the cavity power previously dissipated on the wall. The Q_0 can then be obtained.

Figure 2 shows the RF traces at the first 200 mA injection. Two loops are keeping cavity RF stable: a closed-loop CFC maintains a preset cavity field phase and amplitude with respect to the master oscillator; and the frequency tuner maintains the phase difference between the cavity field and the forward field, i.e. cavity detuning is being adjusted based on the field induced by the beam. During injection the forward power goes up while the reverse power goes down, and the increasing gap is equal to the beam power.

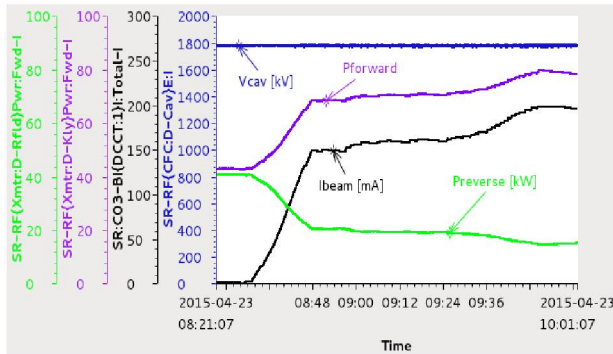


Figure 2: RF behaviours when beam current was ramped to 200 mA for the first time.

CASE STUDIES

While it has been mostly straight forward to operate the storage ring RF system, we did experience interesting cases, based on some of which we have improved the system.

Interference between the transmitter HVPS switching harmonics and the synchrotron frequency

Figure 3 shows the interference between the transmitter HVPS switching harmonics and the synchrotron frequency. Although the data was taken with a temporary 7-cell PETRA III cavity at the early stage of ring commissioning, the same principles apply to the superconducting cavities as well. The switching frequency of the klystron supply unit was 112 kHz with 86 switching modules, which yielded a switching sub-harmonic of about 1.3 kHz. The switching sub-harmonic

is adjustable by design to avoid overlap with other spectrum peaks.

In the top screenshot of Figure 3, the synchrotron frequency was 2.715 kHz at the given cavity voltage at that time, and there was some distance between it and twice the switching sub-harmonic, therefore they didn't interfere with each other and the beam was stable. In the bottom screenshot, the cavity voltage was intentionally lowered so that the synchrotron frequency went down to 2.67 kHz which was almost identical to twice the switching sub-harmonic. Then the synchrotron peak was widened due to beam instability, in the meantime large beam horizontal oscillation in a dispersive section was observed. Recently the switching frequency was raised to 137 kHz, yielding a switching sub-harmonic of 1.6 kHz, so that for a wide range of cavity voltage the synchrotron frequency always sits between 1.6 kHz and 3.2 kHz with safe distance between them.

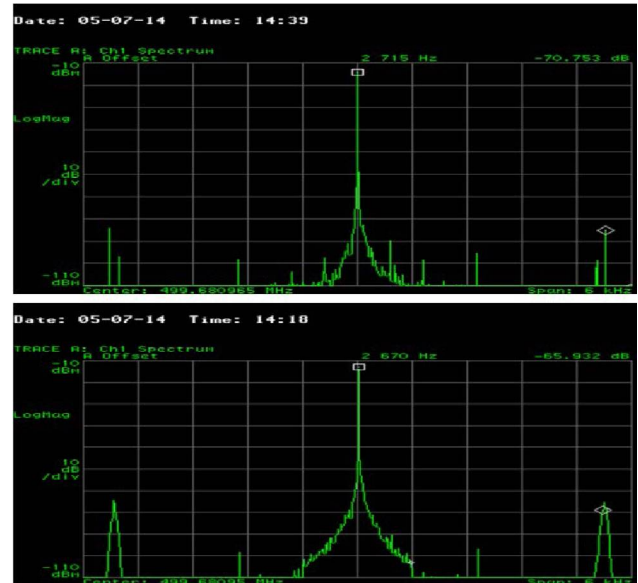


Figure 3: Top: The synchrotron oscillation peak 2.715kHz is clean when away from two times the switching harmonic 2.65kHz; Bottom: The synchrotron oscillation peak 2.67kHz is widened due to beam instability. Large beam horizontal oscillation is observed with a BPM.

Quench protection and prevention

The 500 MHz niobium cavity is cooled to 4.5 K by LHe at 1.26 bar vapour pressure. There are two dedicated pressure sensors to detect sudden pressure rise inside the LHe vessel, and once the pressure is above 1.35 bar, the RF will be tripped off by the quench detection circuit. In addition, the LHe supply valve will be closed, and the warm gas return valve will be fully opened to direct helium gas to the compressor suction side via an ambient heater. If the LHe vessel pressure drops to below 1.05 bar which is the normal compressor suction side pressure, all valves on the cryomodule will close to avoid contamination. If the pressure builds up to 1.35 bar again the warm gas return valve will open again.

Slow drift on tuner position

Date: 04-09-15 Time: 11:17

TRACE R: Ch1 PSD
A Offset

10
dBm/Hz

37 Hz -55.37 dB

LogMag

10
dB
/d1v

-90
dBm/Hz

Center: 499.581339 MHz Span: 400 MHz

- [1] NSLS-II Storage Ring Parameters, fetched on April 9th, 2015; <http://www.bnl.gov/ps/accelerator/>
- [2] Jim Rose, *et al*, WEPWI058, this proceeding.
- [3] Brian Holub, *et al*, MOPTY038, this proceeding.