Fast RF trip diagnostics using GPS and IRIG-B

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- Motivation
- Requirements
- Implementaion
 - Hardware
 - Software
- Results

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Requirements

- Need a "precise" timestamp for
 - each unit trip
 - beam loss
- Timescales:
 - Cavity filling time ~ 2ms
 - Coupling via beam ~ 1 synchrotron period ~ 1ms
 - Cavity tuner bandwidth ~ 5ms

 \rightarrow ~100 $\!\mu s$ precision is sufficient

- Data is
 - logged in ORACLE DB (for RF experts)
 - available in PCR (for operators)

The solution

- Use Time-of-Day (IRIG-B) synchronised to GPS distributed to each RF sector (SL/CO)
 - IRIG-B receiver in 1 RF front-end (Data Manager) per RF sector (LRF_232, LRF_272, LRF_432, ...) → Total of 8 IRIG-B VME modules
 - Each IRIG-B module is used to synchronise a DSP board which timestamps trips from 3 RF units
 - 1 MCB, 1 Crowbar, 2 RF switches per unit
 - Each DSP system also uses a pickup to monitor the beam current and timestamp the beam loss

Hardware details



Software

- Start of coast: DSP start command sent via RS232
- DSP waits for next 1PPS and replies with start pulse \rightarrow captured by IRIG module
- DSP polls 16 digital I/O lines + 1 ADC every 10μs
- DSP writes a record in memory at every change of state (or change in I beam of > 100µA)
- Record is timestamped using the DSP's internal clock (resolution of 10 μs , accurate to ~10 ppm)
- DSP clock is resynchronised once per second using the 1PPS signal from the IRIG module (\rightarrow 10µs max. error)
- After a beam loss: DSP stop command sent via RS232
- DSP replies with stop pulse \rightarrow captured by IRIG module
- State change history table read out of memory via RS232 and stored in ORACLE database
- Control room diagnostics generated from DB table
- \rightarrow Correlation with alarm from slow diagnostics

RF fast diagnostics: the end result

Fill number: 7210



Timing check



- Look at the decay of beam current at a beam dump
- Timestamps at all IPs agree to within 30µs
- Limited by
 - DSP sampling rate
 - DSP clock drift
 - differences in integration time of current measurement electronics
- \rightarrow More than adequate for our needs

In conclusion:

- The system was implemented using a "quick and easy" approach, but works very well
- It was installed and working for LEP high energy startup 2000
 - Some minor problems due to defects in the IRIG decoder board firmware took about 2 months to iron out
- Now an essential tool for RF system optimisation as we push for the highest possible energy