

Digital LLRF Operation using MicroTCA at ELBE

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ELBE – Center for high power radiation sources



Characteristic:

- Multi-source facility
- Pulsed and CW mode operation

Example beam parameter:

- Beam energy: 8 MeV 40 MeV
- Average beam current: 1600 μA

HZDR

Accelerator



Cavity powering at ELBE

Individual SSPAs allow single cavity control in cw mode!



Accelerator



Accelerator



Digital Low Level RF (LLRF) at ELBE

What is a LLRF?

Controller that stabilizes the RF field inside a cavity.

This means to control:

Amplitude

Phase





Motivation for the digital LLRF:

- Improve diagnostics
- Longitudinal beam based feedback
- Flexibility of the system
- Improve stability

Challenge:

- Single cavity control
- CW and pulsed mode operation
- ⇒ We develop a universal solution applicable to other machines like MESA, TARLA,...









Integration into ELBE infrastructure





ELBE operation with dLLRF

What changed with the dLLRF in operation at ELBE?

- Look and feel did not change for operators
- More diagnostics improve beam tuning

Example:

Phase tuning of the buncher





Out of loop measurement of Amplitude Modulation and Phase Noise

Out of loop: Measurement of the probe signal with respect to the internal reference of the signal source analyser.



Includes all noise sources in the control loop
MO is the dominant noise source below 10 Hz



Noise measurements for a 1.3 GHz SRF cavity Absolute noise measurement with p-controller and Notch filter



Controller performance:

- Phase noise of dLLRF is similar to aLLRF phase noise
- Amplitude modulation of dLLRF is reduced by about 10 dB

Summary

Digital low level RF at ELBE:

- \checkmark Integration into machine protection system
- ✓ Integration into HMI (WinCC)
- ✓ Controller design for all super conducting RF cavities and the normal conducting buncher cavities
- ✓ Digital LLRF in user operation
- Performance of the digital LLRF is comparable to the analogue LLRF
- Short development cycles thanks to our collaborators at DESY (LLRF Server+Firmware) and TUD/IOSB (OPC-UA)



Outlook



Beam based feedback:

- Diagnostic crate design and firmware
- ChimeraTK diagnostics application
- Feedback controller



Backup



Why replacing the analogue with a digital LLRF?

Analogue LLRF:

- Components are partly not available anymore / will not be available in future
- The system can not cover 360° for phase shift

Digital LLRF:

- Improves diagnostics
- Improves phase and amplitude stability (at least long term)
- Allows implementation of a longitudinal beam based feedback system





Components of the digital LLRF at ELBE

Hardware:



- Master oscillator: 1.3 GHz (REF), 260 MHz (REF), 78 MHz (CLK)
- UniLOGM: 8×LO (1.3 GHz+54¹/₆ MHz), 8×CLK (65 MHz), 8×REF (1.3 GHz))

Software:

- Firmware for struck boards ⇒ LLRF controller (adopted for cw operation in collaboration with DESY)
- Control software for the LLRF ⇒ ChimeraTK (together with DESY)
- Adapter for ChimeraTK that is compatible with WinCC ⇒ OPC-UA Adapter (TU Dresden, now IOSB Karlsruhe)

LLRF controller



- Per cavity/buncher: forward, reflected, probe, reference are sampled
- Control loop is based on vector sum signal \equiv probe signal
- Remote control and DAQ via ChimeraTK LLRF server (developed at DESY)

