Spin flipping with an rf dipole and a full Siberian snake

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We recently used an rf dipole magnet to study the spin flipping of a 120 MeV horizontally polarized proton beam stored in the presence of a nearly full Siberian snake in the Indiana University Cyclotron Facility Cooler Ring. We flipped the spin by ramping the rf dipole’s frequency through an rf-induced depolarizing resonance. After optimizing the frequency ramp parameters, we used multiple spin flips to measure a spin-flip efficiency of $86.5 \pm 0.5\%$. The spin-flip efficiency was apparently limited by the field strength in the rf dipole. This result indicates that spin flipping a stored polarized proton beam should be possible in high energy rings such as the Brookhaven Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider and HERA where Siberian snakes are certainly needed and only dipole rf-flipper magnets are practical.

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Polarized beam experiments are now a major component of the programs in storage rings such as the Indiana University Cyclotron Facility (IUCF) Cooler Ring [1], the MIT-Bates Storage Ring [2], the Brookhaven Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider [3], and HERA at DESY [4]. Frequent reversals of the beam polarization direction can significantly reduce the systematic errors in an experiment’s spin asymmetry measurements. An rf solenoid was used earlier to spin flip a horizontally polarized proton beam stored in the Cooler Ring containing a Siberian snake [5] with $97 \pm 1\%$ spin-flip efficiency [6]. However, a solenoid’s spin rotation decreases linearly with energy because of the Lorentz contraction of its $\int B \, dl$; thus, a solenoid is impractical for spin flipping in high energy rings. Fortunately, a dipole’s spin rotation is energy independent. Therefore, we recently used an rf dipole to spin flip a 120 MeV horizontally polarized proton beam stored in the IUCF Cooler Ring with a nearly full Siberian snake.

In any flat circular accelerator or storage ring with no horizontal magnetic fields, each proton’s spin precesses around the vertical fields of the ring’s dipole magnets. The spin tune $\nu_s$, which is the number of spin precessions during one turn around the ring, is proportional to the proton’s energy

$$\nu_s = G \gamma,$$

where $G = (g - 2)/2 = 1.792847$ is the proton’s gyromagnetic anomaly and $\gamma$ is its Lorentz energy factor.

This vertical spin precession can be perturbed by the horizontal rf magnetic field from either an rf solenoid or an rf dipole. This perturbation can induce an rf depolarizing resonance, which can be used to flip the spin direction of the ring’s stored polarized protons [6,7]. The frequency $f_r$, at which an rf-induced depolarizing resonance occurs, is given by

$$f_r = f_c(k \pm \nu_s),$$

where $f_c$ is the proton’s circulation frequency and $k$ is an integer. Sweeping the rf magnet’s frequency through $f_r$ can flip the spin. The Froissart-Stora equation [8] relates the beam’s polarization after crossing the resonance $P_f$ to its initial polarization $P_i$,

$$P_f = P_i \frac{1}{2 \exp \left[ - \left( \frac{\pi \epsilon f_c}{\Delta f / \Delta t} \right)^2 \right] - 1}.$$

where $\epsilon$ is the resonance strength and $\Delta f / \Delta t$ is the resonance crossing rate, while $\Delta f$ is the frequency range during the ramp time $\Delta t$.

The apparatus used for this experiment, including the rf dipole, the IUCF Cooler Ring, and the polarimeter, were discussed earlier [6,9–23] and are shown in Fig. 1. The 120 MeV horizontally polarized proton beam in the Cooler Ring was obtained using the new cooler injector polarized ion source (CIPIOS) [24] and the new cooler injection synchrotron (CIS) [25]. The beam polarization after the 7 MeV linac was $59 \pm 2\%$. At 120 MeV, the circulation frequency in the Cooler Ring was $f_c = 1.59784$ MHz.

With a nearly full Siberian snake in the ring, the spin tune $\nu_s$ is very near but not exactly equal to 1/2. Therefore, at 120 MeV, Eq. (2) implies that two closely spaced rf depolarizing resonances should be centered around

$$1.5f_c = 2.39676 \text{ MHz},$$

with their frequencies at

$$f_r^- = f_c(2 - \nu_s),$$

$$f_r^+ = f_c(1 + \nu_s).$$

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Since our snake strength $s$ was about 1.01, $\nu_s$ was about 0.505; thus, the $f_r$ resonance should have a frequency slightly below $1.5f_c$.

We first determined the $f_r$ resonance’s frequency to be near 2.384 MHz by using the much stronger rf solenoid. Then we used a simple LC resonant circuit to increase the rf dipole’s input voltage to 71 V rms corresponding to an $Bdl$ amplitude of 0.06 T mm rms. We then measured, at different dipole frequencies, the radial polarization, which is about 89% of the total horizontal polarization at the position of our polarimeter at 120 MeV. This measured radial polarization is plotted against the rf dipole’s frequency in Fig. 2. The curve is a second-order Lorentzian fit to the data with a resonance frequency of $f_r = 2384040 \pm 90$ Hz and a width $\nu$ of 970 $\pm$ 20 Hz.

The separation $\delta$ of this $f_r$ resonance from the central frequency of $1.5f_c$ allows one to determine the spin tune $\nu_s$, and thus the Cooler Ring’s total snake strength $1 + \Delta s$, using the approximation [13,26]

$$\Delta s = 2(\nu_s - 0.5) = 2\delta/f_c$$

$$= 2(2.39676 - 2.38404)/1.59784 = 0.8\%.$$  

(6)

To study spin flipping, we crossed this rf-induced resonance by linearly ramping the rf-dipole’s frequency, through the measured $f_r$, from $f_r - 5$ to $f_r + 5$ kHz, with various ramp times $\Delta t$, while measuring the beam polarization after each frequency ramp. The measured radial polarization is plotted against the ramp time in Fig. 3. Note that, after a very rapid change, the polarization’s magnitude seems constant for ramp times above 200 msec. We fit this measured polarization to a modified [6] Froissart-Stora formula

$$P_f = P_i\left(1 + \eta \exp\left[-\frac{(\pi ef_c)^2}{\Delta f/\Delta t}\right] - \eta\right).$$  

(7)

where $\eta$ is the spin-flip efficiency; from this fit, we obtained an 87 $\pm$ 2% spin-flip efficiency.

We tried to further increase the spin-flip efficiency by varying the rf dipole’s frequency range $\Delta f$ with its ramp time $\Delta t$ set at 500 msec, its amplitude set at 0.06 T mm,
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FIG. 3. The measured radial proton polarization at 120 MeV is plotted against the rf dipole ramp time $\Delta t$. The frequency range $\Delta f$ was 10 kHz, and the rf dipole’s $\int B \, dl$ was 0.06 T mm. The curve is a fit to the data using Eq. (7). The arrow shows the $\Delta t$ value used for Fig. 4.

and its range centered around 2.384 04 MHz. The data indicated that the spin-flip efficiency had a broad maximum near $\Delta f = 10$ kHz.

After setting $\Delta t$ and $\Delta f$ to maximize the spin-flip efficiency, we more precisely determined this efficiency by measuring the radial polarization after many spin flips. We varied the number of spin flips while keeping, for each spin flip, the ramp time, the frequency range, and the rf voltage all fixed. This radial polarization is plotted against the number of spin flips in Fig. 4. We fit this data using

$$P_n = P_i \cdot \eta^n,$$

where $P_n$ is the measured radial beam polarization after $n$ spin flips, $P_i$ is the initial polarization, $\eta$ is the spin-flip efficiency, and $n$ is the number of spin flips. The best fit gave a spin-flip efficiency of $86.4 \pm 0.5\%$. The spin-flip efficiency was apparently limited by the strength of the rf dipole’s field; we hope to further increase the spin-flip efficiency by further increasing the rf-dipole’s $\int B \, dl$.

In summary, we used an rf dipole to spin flip a stored 120 MeV horizontally polarized proton beam with a nearly full Siberian snake in the IUCF Cooler Ring. Combining the data from Figs. 3 and 4, the measured spin-flip efficiency is $86.5 \pm 0.5\%$. This result indicates that spin flipping a stored polarized proton beam should be possible in 100 GeV to 1 TeV rings where Siberian snakes are certainly needed and only dipole rf-flipper magnets are practical.

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[26] There was also an inadvertent Type-3 snake in the electron cooling section of the Cooler Ring whose strength was typically less than 1%.