

Spin Physics Research INfractrucrure and Technologies for NICA experiments

V.P. Ladygin on behalf of SPRINT@NICA group

Spin Physics ahead of NICA SPD Workshop,
24.03.2026, JINR

SPRINT@NICA mission

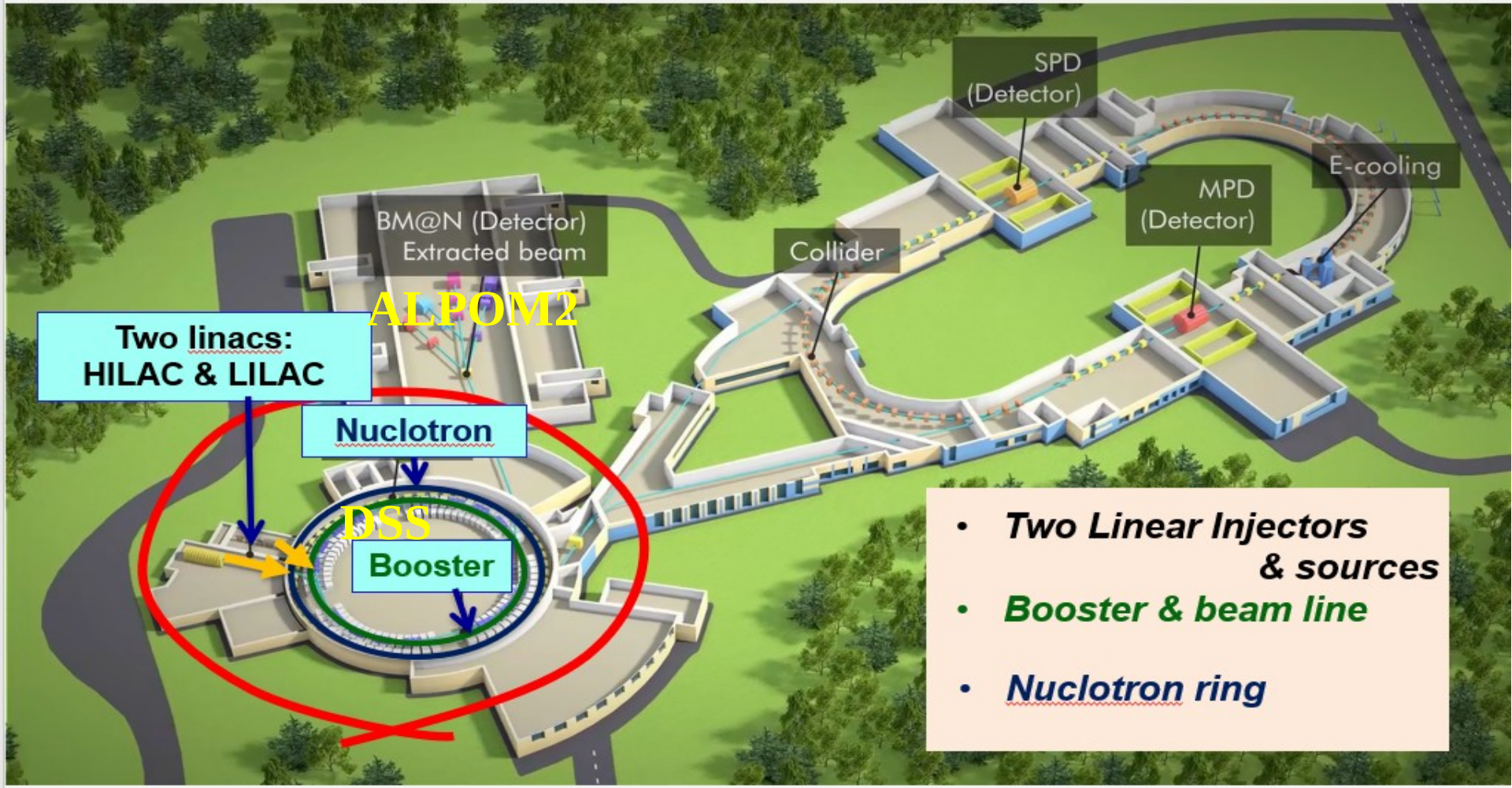
The main goal of the SPRINT@NICA project is to provide the research infrastructure and to develop the technologies for the current and planned spin studies at Nuclotron/NICA.

Main directions of planned developments are:

- **-high intensity polarized beams of deuterons and protons**
- **-beam polarimetry (LE, HE, CNI, APol, local etc.)**
- **-techniques of the spin manipulation to provide Spin Transparency (ST) mode at Nuclotron/NICA**
- **-secondary polarized beams (neutrons, protons, HI)**
- **-polarized targets (^{3}He)**
- **-preparation of the high precision spin experiments (dichroism/birefringence, axionlike particles search, EDM etc.)**

Working group: JINR, MIPT, ITP, INR RAS, INP BSU ….

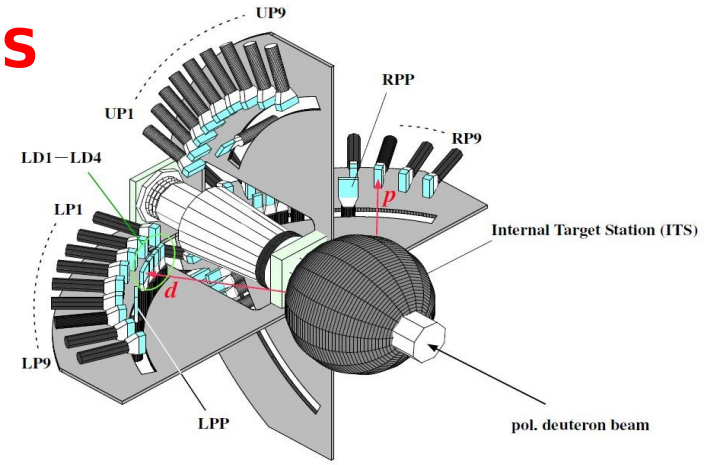
NICA in 2025-2026



Injection complex is already in commissioning for few years (FT mode).
Run-2023 achievements: 5-8·10⁶ ^{124}Xe ions at 3.9 GeV/n.
Run-2025 started in February also with ^{124}Xe.
Simultaneous circulation of both beams at NICA is achieved!

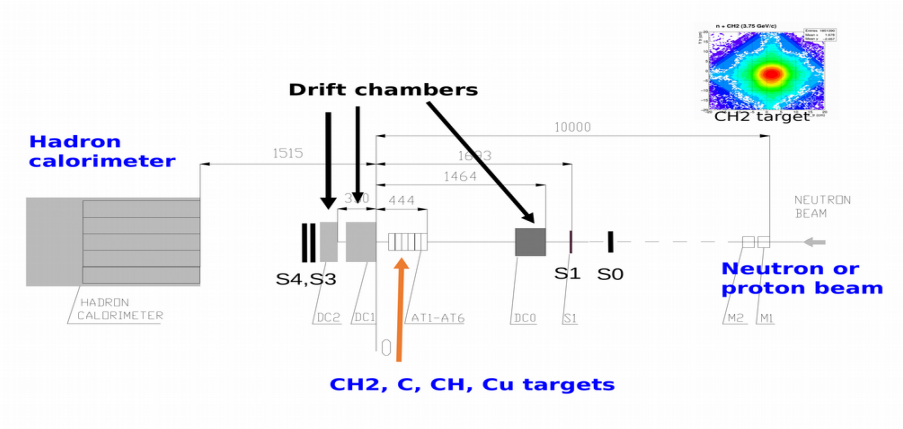
Requirements of Fixed Target experiments to polarized beam facility

DSS



Intensity:
~5·10^9 ppp for CH_2 target
~5·10^{10} ppp for nuclear targets
Beams polarizations
Deuterons
Pzz=-1.4,+0.8
Pz=±0.75
Protons
P= ±0.75

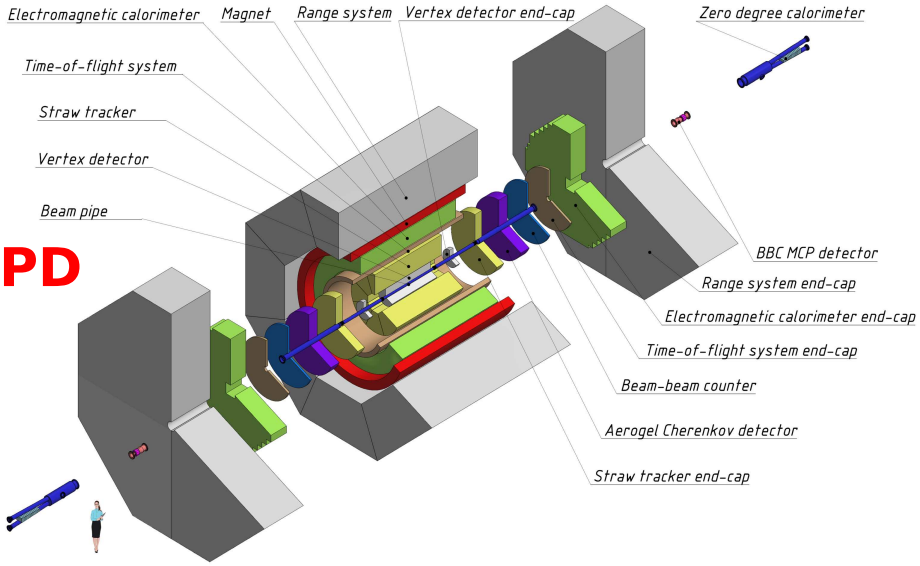
ALPOM-2



Intensity:
~10^{11} ppp
Beams polarizations:
Deuterons
Pz=±0.55-0.75
Protons
P= ±0.75

Goals are to increase the beams intensities and proton beam polarization.
Possibility to have sideway components of the polarization in future.

SPD requirements to polarized beam facility



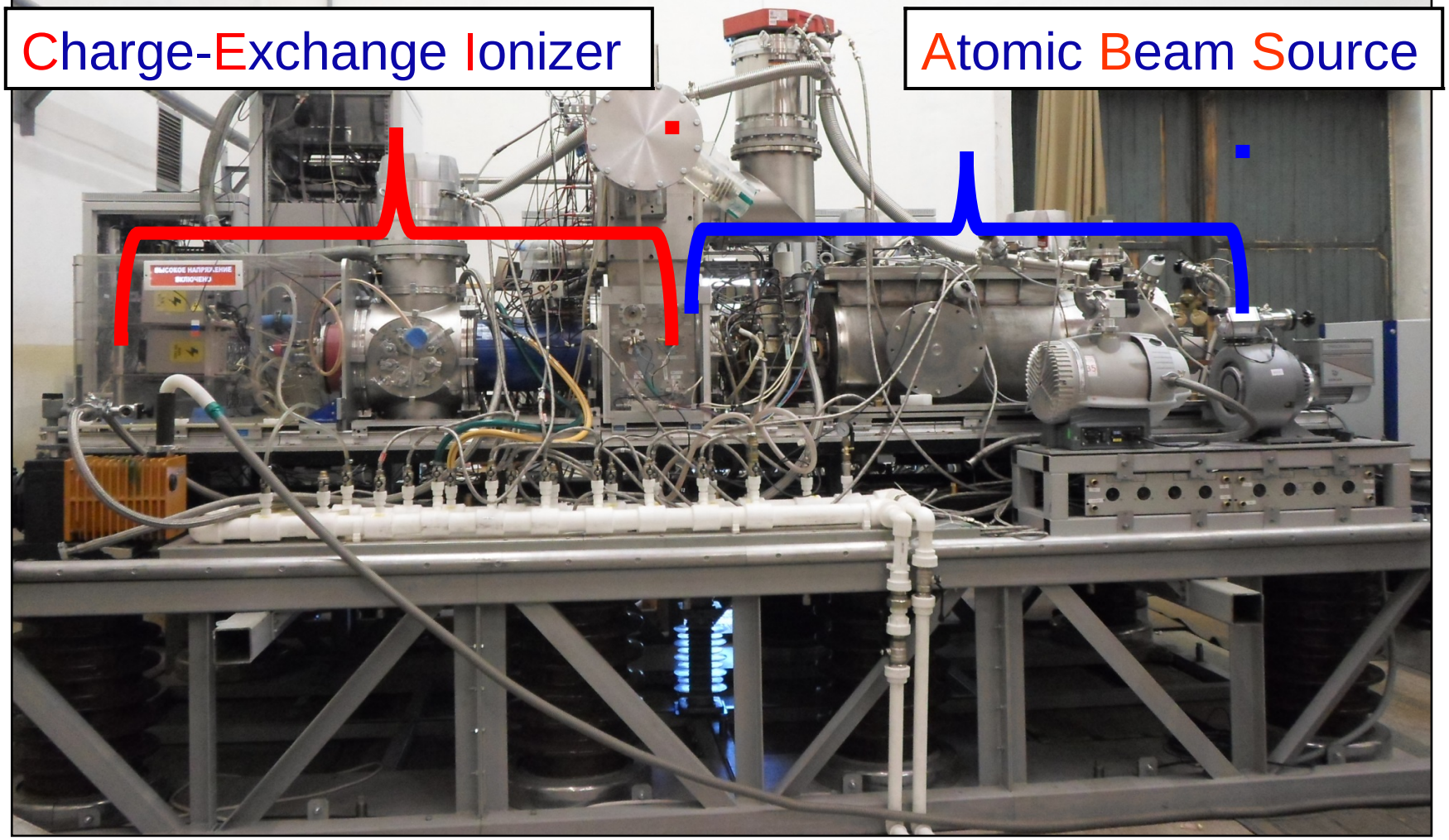
SPD

- polarized and nonpolarized pp- , dd–collisions
- $p\uparrow p\uparrow(p)$ at $\sqrt{s_{pp}} = 12 \div 27$ GeV
- $d\uparrow d\uparrow(d)$ at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 4 \div 13$ GeV
- $L_{av} \approx 10^{+32}$ cm^{-2}s^{-1} (at $\sqrt{s_{pp}} \geq 27$ GeV)

- sufficient lifetime and polarization degree (few hours, ~70%)
- longitudinal and transverse polarization at the SPD IP
- pd- collision mode should be available

The facility operation in pp – mode at $\sqrt{s_{pp}} = 27$ GeV reaching average luminosity of 10^{+32} cm$^{-2}\cdot$s^{-1} remains the first priority task for coming years.

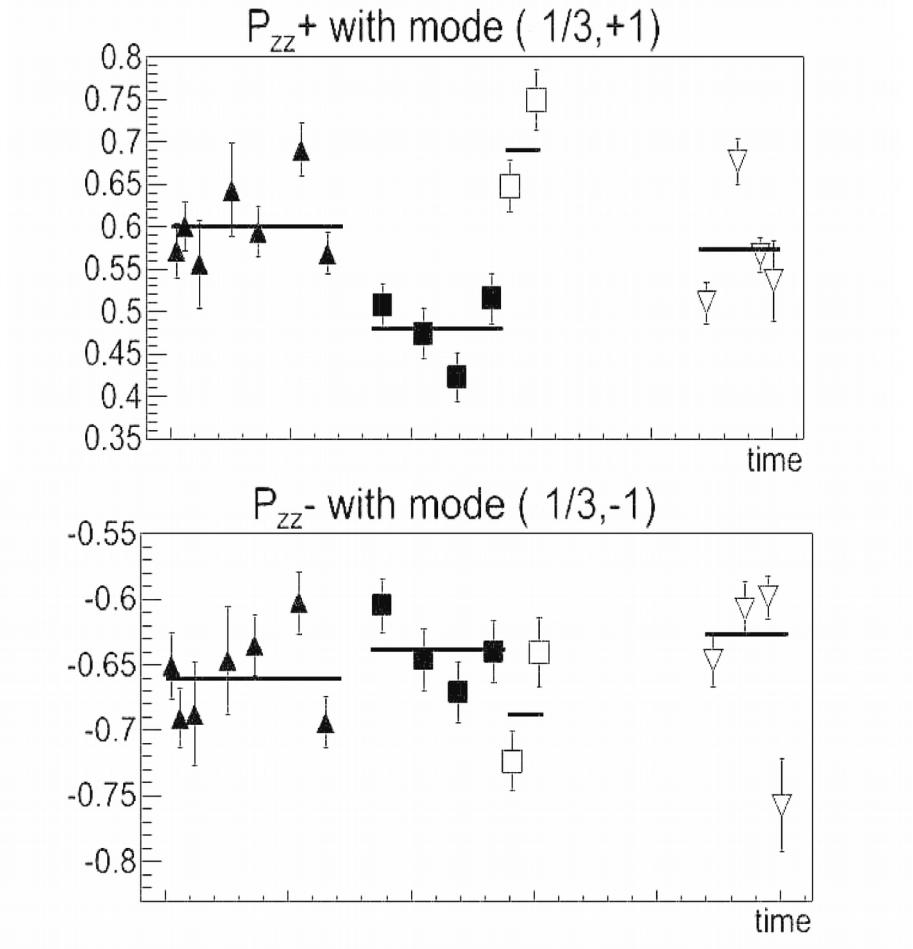
General View of SPI

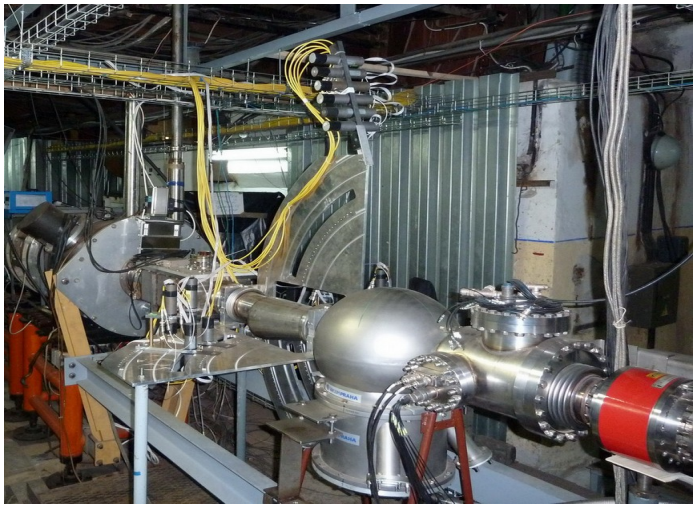


SPI was put into operation in 2016-2017 with deuterons (tested with protons).
SPI current and polarization (for deuterons) are ~3 mA and 70-75%.

Plans are to increase the current up to ~10 mA.

Vector and tensor deuteron beam polarizations using dp- elastic scattering at 270 MeV at ITS

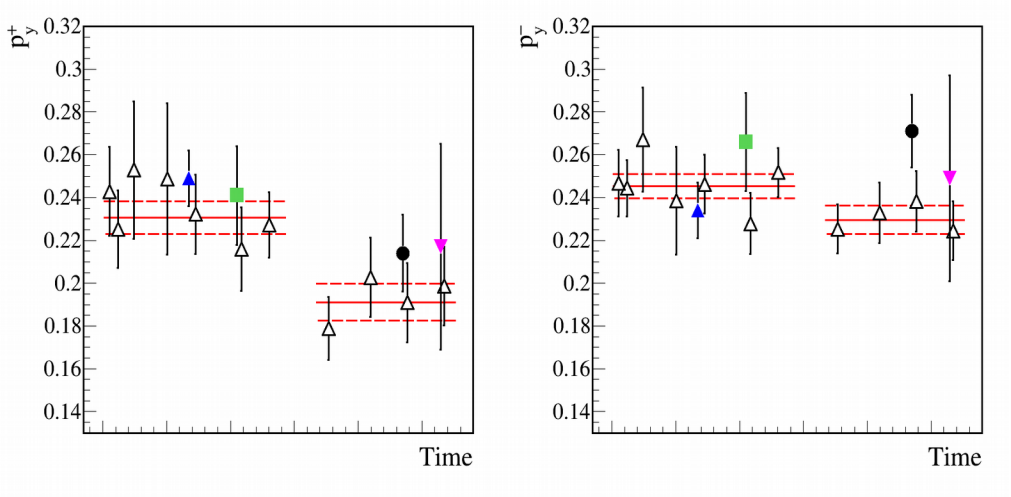


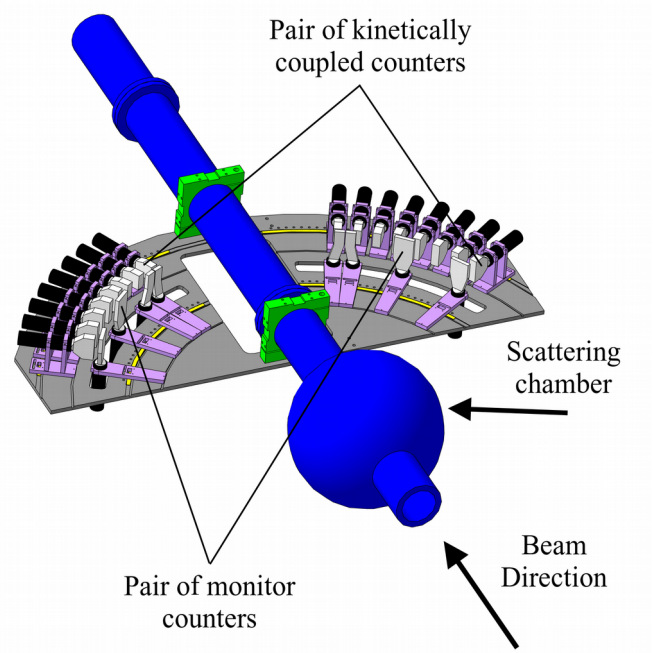


P.K.Kurilkin et al.,
NIM A642 (2011) 45.

SPI was tuned for 6 spin modes (p_z,p_{zz}) = (1/3,1), (1/3,-1), (0,+1), (0,-2), (-2/3,0),(+1,0).

Vector polarization of the deuteron beam using dp- elastic scattering at 270 MeV and pp-quasielastic scattering at ITS





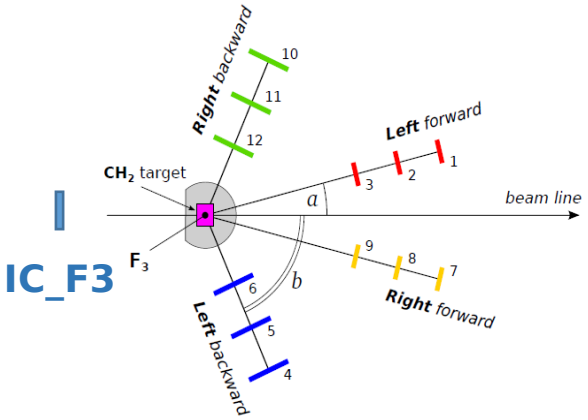
- **Vector component of the deuteron beam polarization has been measured at 500, 650, 550 and 200 MeV/nucleon using pp-quasielastic scattering.**
- **Detectors placed in the horizontal plane only were used.**
- **Analyzing power values from SAID were used to evaluate of the beam polarization values for the pp-quasi- elastic scattering measurements.**

Both methods give similar results!

I.S.Volkov et al.,
Phys.At.Nucl. 87 (2024) 459

Upgrade is in progress:
A.A.Terekhin et al.,
Phys.Part.Nucl. 54 (2023) 634

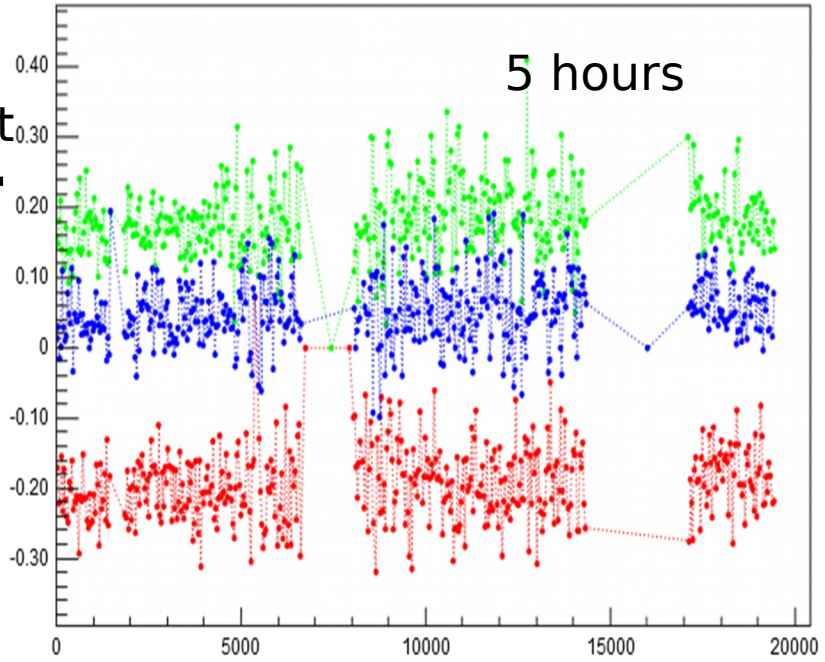
Deuteron extracted beam polarization measurements (vector component) using pp- quasielastic scattering





each point corresponds to one spill.

$$\frac{\text{Left-Right}}{\text{IC_F3}}$$



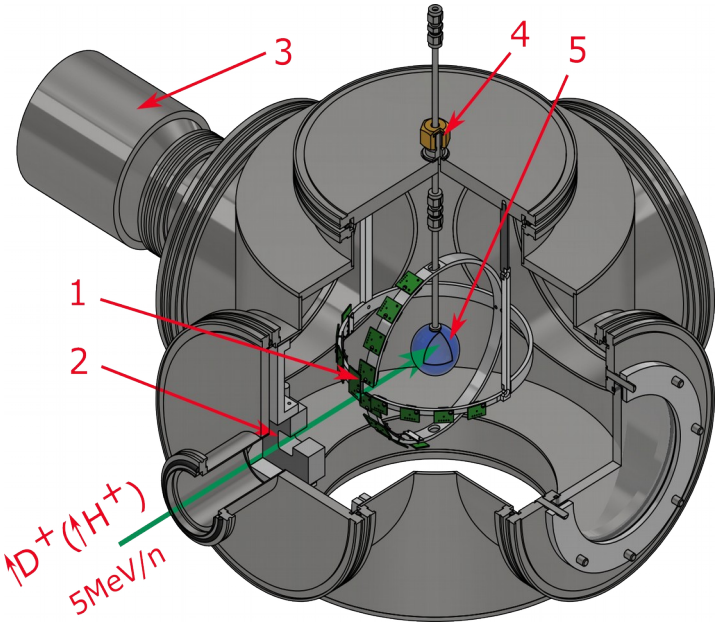
The polarization in one mode is two times lower than the other one

$$P(+) - P(-) = 0.96 \pm 0.05$$

Upgraded polarimeter:
L.S.Azhgirey et al., NIM A497 (2003)340.

HE tensor polarimeter is needed!

LE polarimetry developments



1 - array of 16 silicon detectors with an active area of 5x20 mm each
2 - variable diaphragm
3 - turbomolecular pump
4 - gas inlet syste
5 - a high-pressure (3 bar) mylar spherical target (**150 μm**)

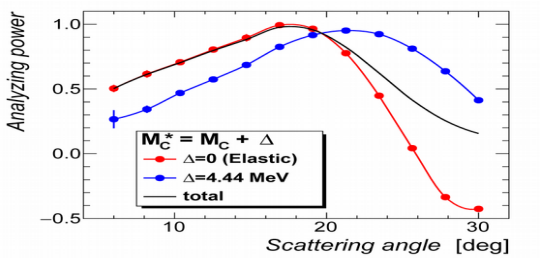
Under construction

Deuteron(proton) energy is 5 MeV/nucleon after RFQ&LINAC.

The ^{3}He target (3bar) enables to measure both the proton polarization using ^{3}He(p,p)^{3}He elastic scattering reaction and the vector and tensor polarizations of deuterons using ^{3}He(d,d)^{3}He elastic scattering as well as ^{3}He(d,p)^{4}He reaction.

The detection of the secondary particles will be provided by the silicon detectors. The detector positions can be adjusted according reaction kinematic.

Absolute proton polarimetry developments



APol 3D view



1. Proton-carbon elastic scattering at 200 MeV at the scattering angle of 16.2° in lab. has very large analyzing power close to an absolute value

$$A = 0.993 \pm 0.003$$

Elastic events will be selected using sets of scintillation detectors with absorbers.

The polarimeter can be installed at the Nuclotron ITS.

2. Since for pp- elastic scattering beam and target analyzing powers equal:

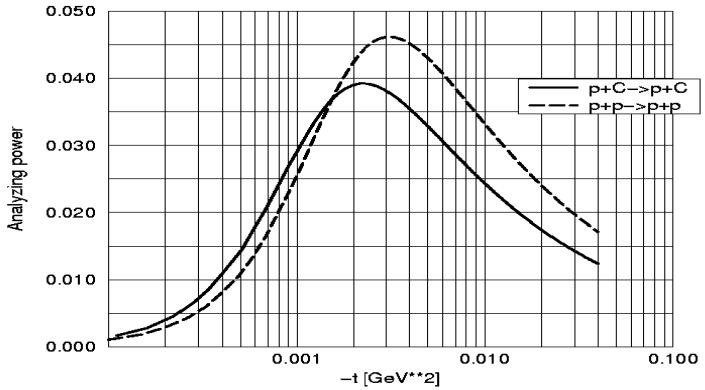
$$A_{beam} = A_{target}$$

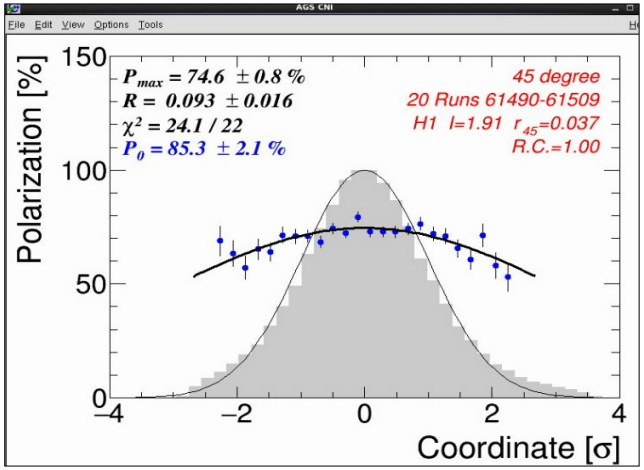
the polarization of the proton beams can be obtained using left-right asymmetry from polarized H-jet target by an absolute method.

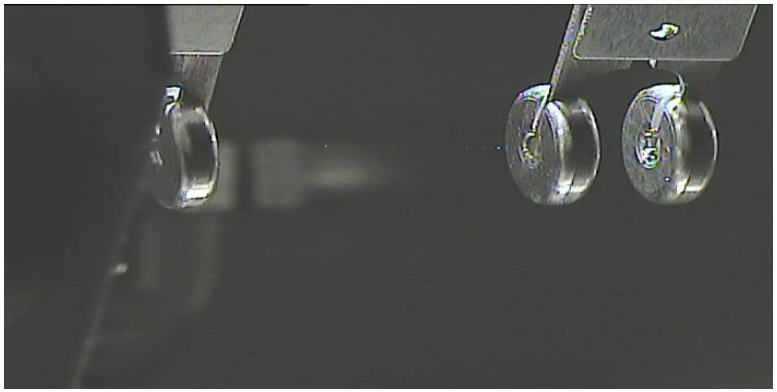
The ABS is ready, chamber and detection system are under construction.

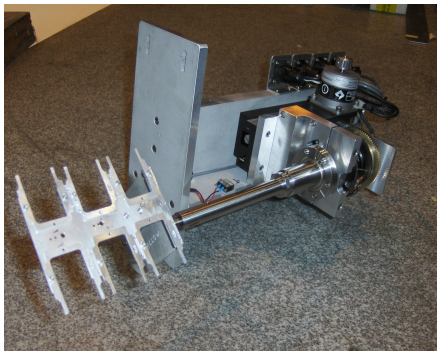
V.V.Fimushkin, M.V.Kulikov

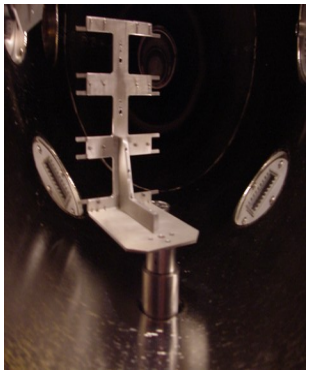
CNI proton polarimetry developments











Very thin carbon strip target-20um x 25 nm

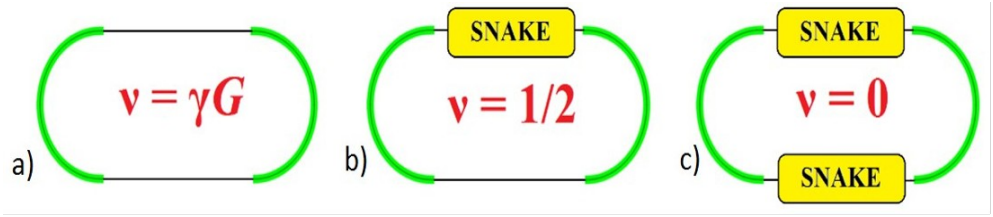
CNI proton polarimetry at NICA energies is not an absolute method because of non-zero spin-flip hadron amplitude (AGS results).

The selection of the events will be provided by the detection of the recoil carbon using SSD.

CNI polarimeters will be able to measure the proton beam polarization profiles using advanced ribbon target.

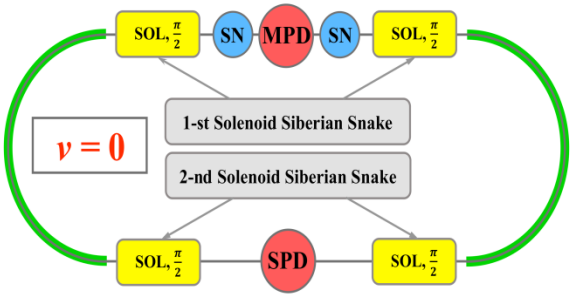
V.V.Fimushkin, A.N.Zelenski

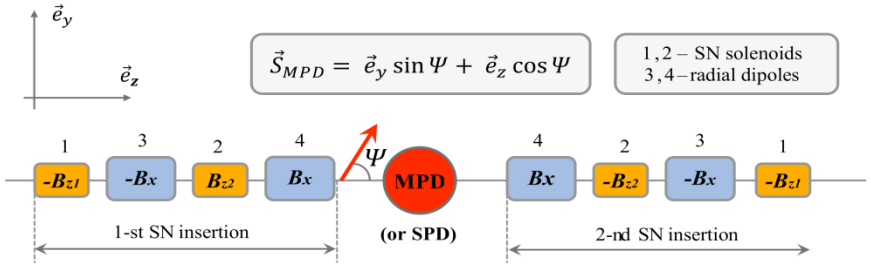
Proton spin manipulation at NICA



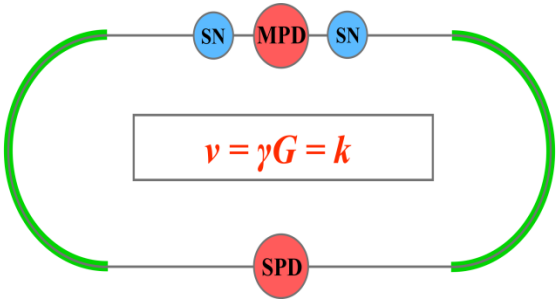
RHIC

LE-regime





HE-regime



Spin transparency (ST) mode with ν=0 is very well suited to the SPD physics tasks.

Realistic scenario.

LE-regime: ST up to $\sqrt{s_{pp}}$ = 6-7 GeV using ~12 T·m Siberian snakes in each ring.

HE-regime: ST at the integer resonances k at $\sqrt{s_{pp}}$ > 6-7 GeV (E_p = 0.108+k·0.523 GeV).

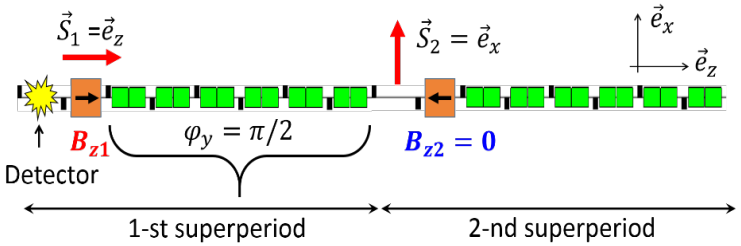
Details:

Yu.N.Filatov,Phys.Part.Nucl.56 (2025) 363.

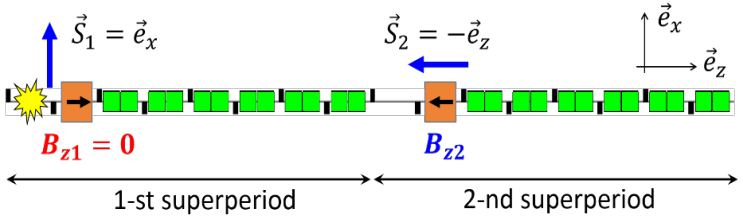
E.M.Syresin et al., Phys.Part.Nucl.52(2021) 997.

Proton spin manipulation at Nuclotron

Stage 1.
Nuclotron with Spin Navigator based on 2 additional weak solenoids
Experimental verification of the ST mode at integer spin resonance γG=2 (108 MeV)



Longitudinal polarization at the detector



Radial polarization at the detector

Stage 2.
Nuclotron with Spin Navigator based on regular correction dipoles
Experimental verification of the ST mode at integer spin resonance γG=7 (2723 MeV)

Stage 3.
Modernized Nuclotron with ~12 T·m solenoidal Siberian snake
ST mode up to proton energy of 13.5 GeV

Experimental proof of ST requires serious upgrade of the proton beam polarimetry at Nuclotron

Yu.N.Filatov, A.M.Kondratenko

Supported by:

RFBR 20-02-00808, RSF 22-42-04419, RSF 25-72-30005

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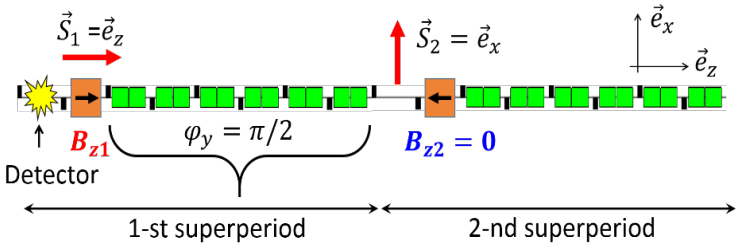

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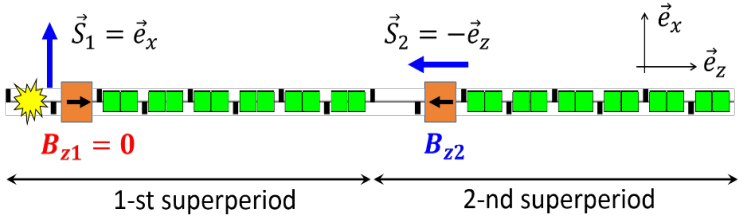

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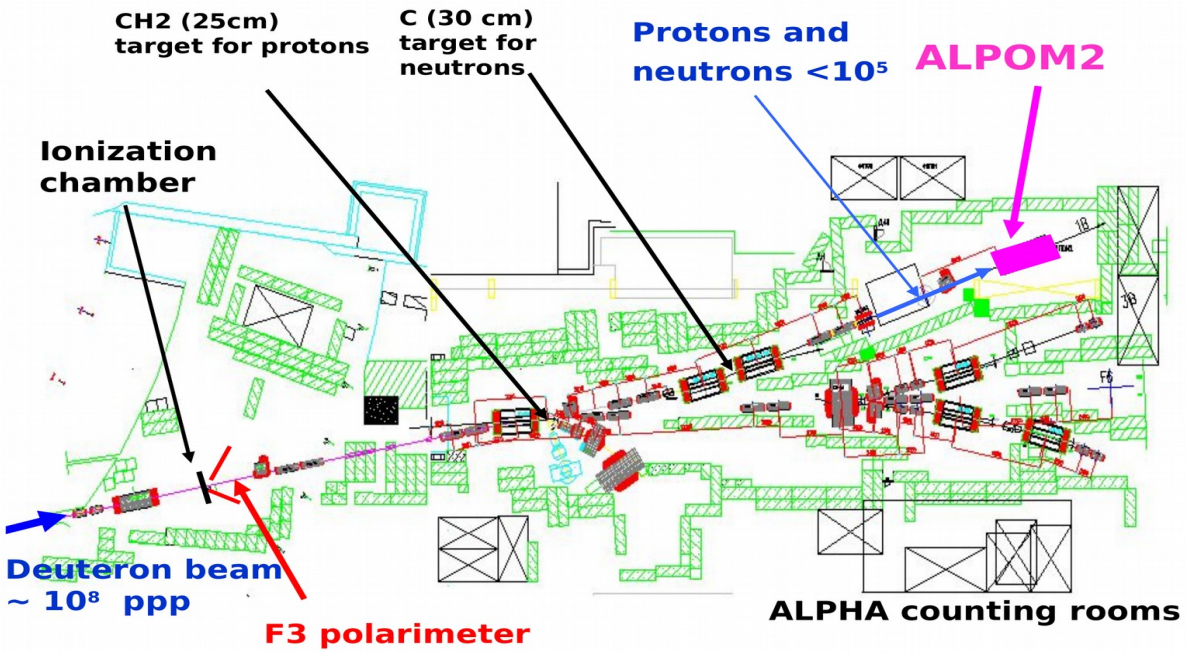
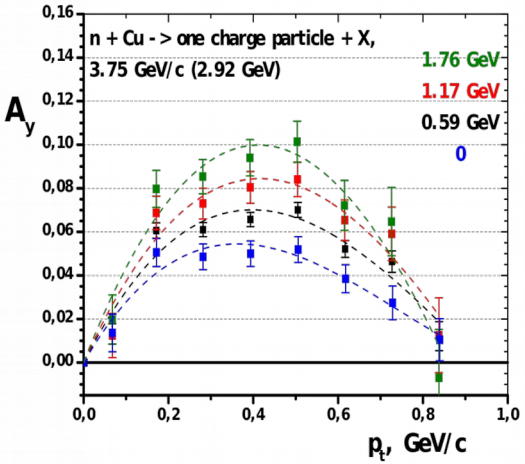
Secondary proton and neutron polarized beam at Nuclotron



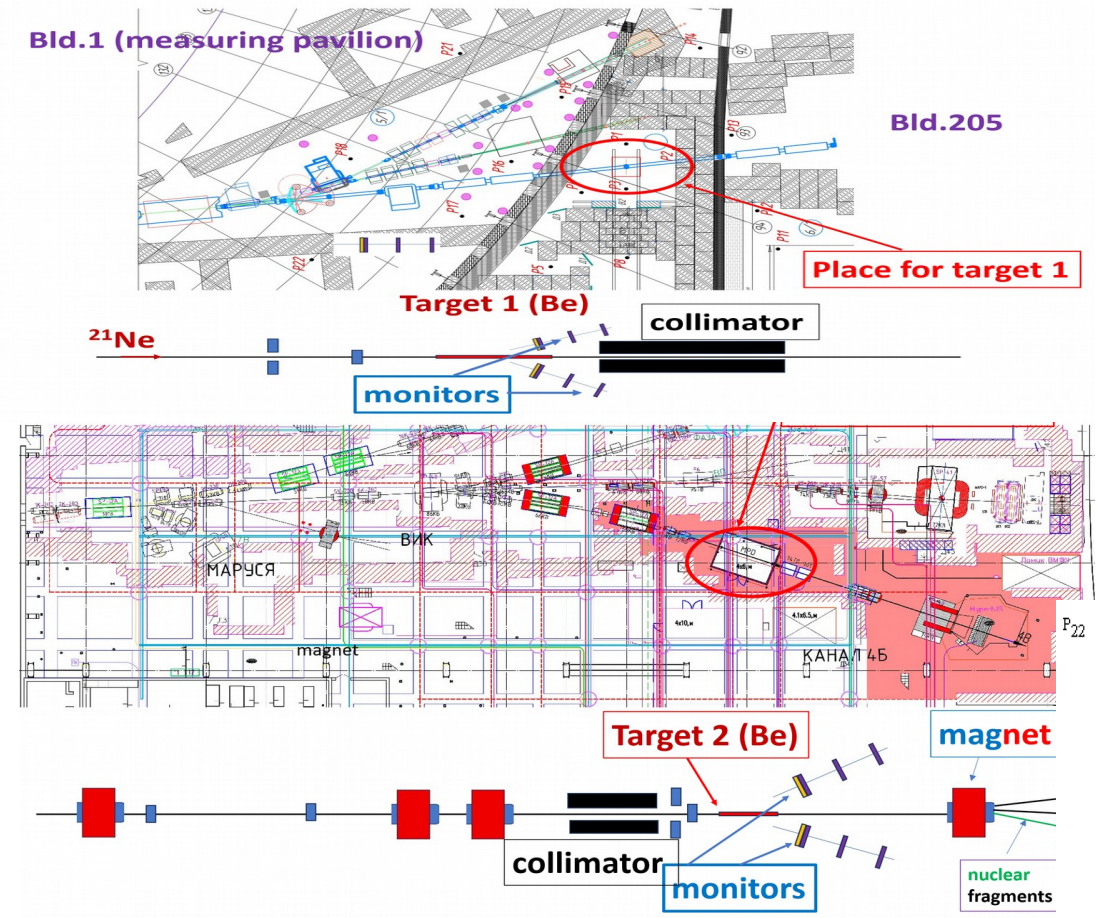


S.N.Basilev et al., Eur.Phys.J.A 56 (2020) 26

Required intensity for physics is ~10^{11} ppp

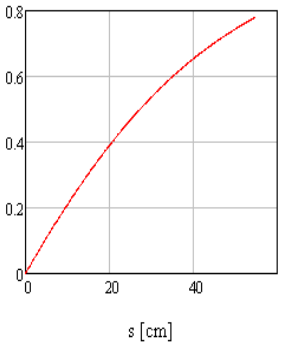
The beam line was built for spin correlation np- scattering experiment: the upgrade of existing polarized target is under consideration.

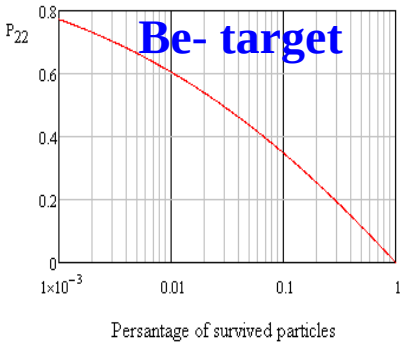
Tensor polarized ^{21}Ne beam at Nuclotron



-Method is based on the large quadrupole deformation of ^{21}Ne (β_2=0.463).

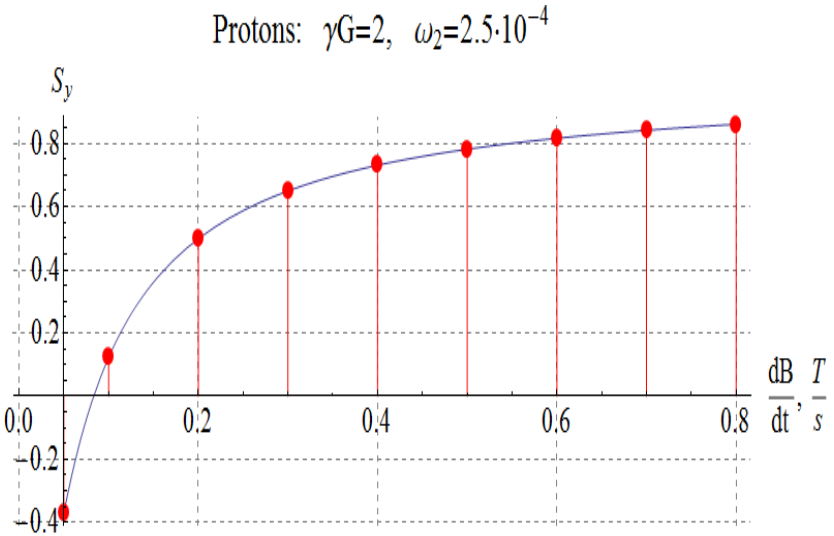
-Tensor polarization appears after passing through the thick nuclear target (Be-20cm).

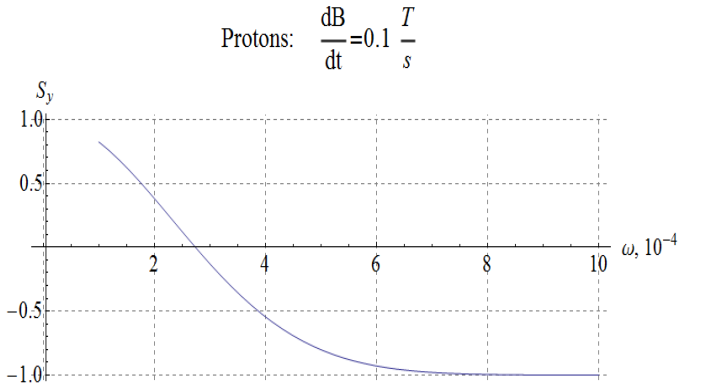


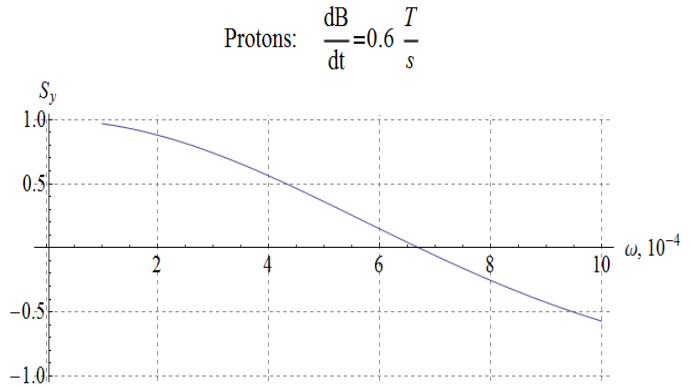


~10^7-10^8 ^{21}Ne ions/spill with the tensor polarization ~0.4 will be available for physics.

New experiments on the proton spin manipulation







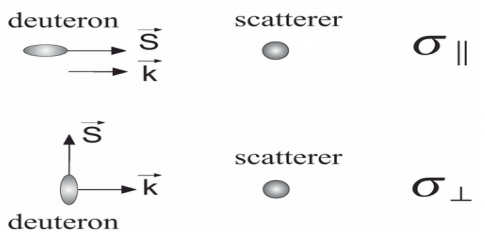
Measurements of the integer resonance γG=k=2 power (Tkin=108 MeV)

Measurements of the proton beam polarization at 100 and 120 MeV at different dB/dt

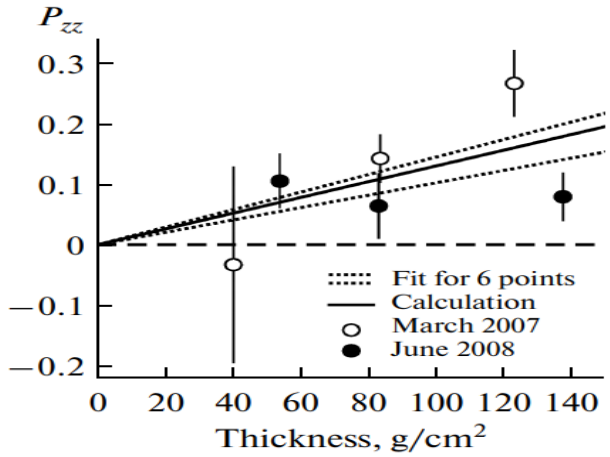
Yu.N.Filatov et al.,
JETP Lett. 116 (2022) 413;
JETP Lett. 118 (2023) 387.

The final goal is to prove the possibility of Spin- Transparency mode at integer resonances (for SPD at NICA)

Deuteron spin dichroism at Nuclotron at 270 MeV



$$p_{zz}(l) = \frac{I_{+1}(l) + I_{-1}(l) - 2 \cdot I_0(l)}{I_{+1}(l) + I_{-1}(l) + I_0(l)} \approx \frac{2}{3}\rho\, l(\sigma_0 - \sigma_1) = -\frac{8\pi}{3}\,\rho\, l\frac{\mathrm{Im}(d_1)}{k}$$



Nuclotron results with the extracted 5 GeV/c deuteron beam.

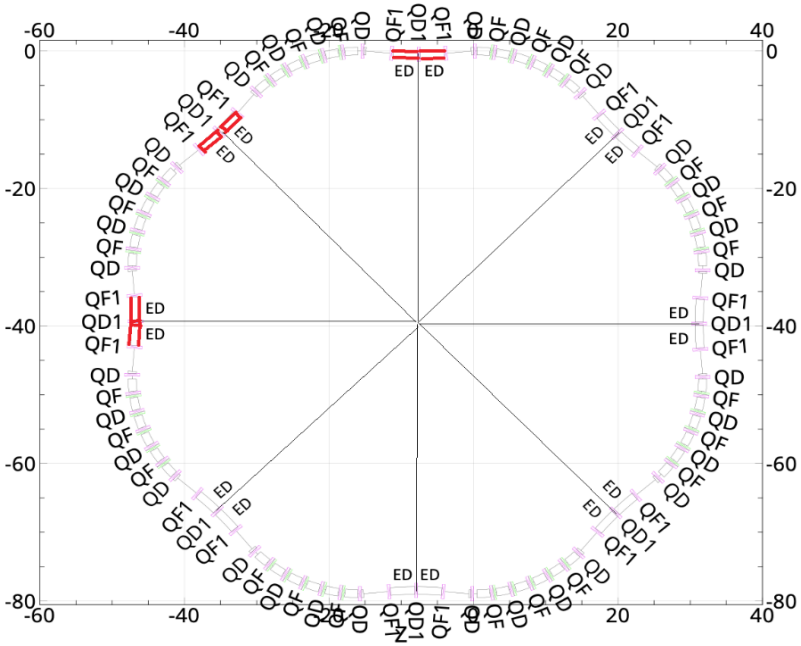
-Spin dichroism effect is one of the phenomena acquiring by the deuteron beam passing through the nonpolarized target.

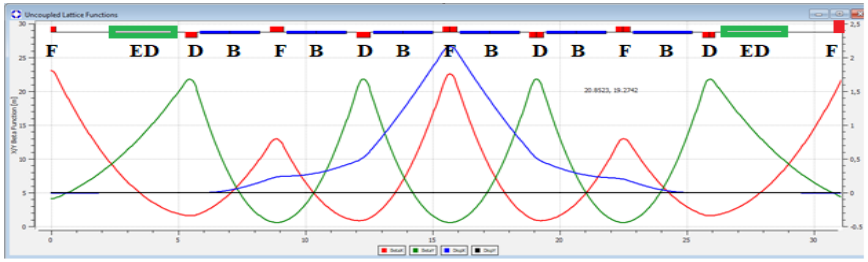
-The method is the measurement of the tensor polarization acquiring by a nonpolarized deuteron beam moving in Nuclotron and passing through the internal target.

-The polarization measurements will be provided by the vector-tensor deuteron polarimeter based on the measurements of dp- elastic scattering at 270 MeV.

V.G.Baryshevsky et al.,
arXiv: 2508.11718v1[nucl-th]

Deuteron EDM studies at 270 MeV





Option for Nuclotron in "quasi-frozen spin" mode with electrostatic deflectors (ED)

-Search for EDM of nucleons and nuclei is necessary to understand the origin of CP violation and baryogenesis in the Universe.

-The method is the measurement of the transverse polarization appearing for the longitudinally polarized particles.

-Several options of the magnetic optics are under consideration:
-NICA with bypasses,
-modernized Nuclotron ring,
-separate low energy (~300 MeV) ring.

-The polarization measurements must be provided by the 2π-deuteron polarimeter based on the measurements of dC scattering at 270 MeV.

N.N.Nikolaev, Yu.V.Senichev et al.

Conclusion

SPRINT@NICA project is devoted to developments of the research infrastructure and the technologies for the current and planned spin experiments at Nuclotron/NICA.

Several fixed target experiments are already working at Nuclotron using polarized beams provided by new SPI. Part of research infrastructure is ready. They are the drivers of the SPRINT developments together with SPD at least up to 2030.

Main directions of planned activity within SPRINT@NICA are further development of the high intensity polarized beams and corresponding beam polarimetry, experimental verification of Spin Transparency mode and preparation of the high precision spin experiments.

SPRINT@NICA group

JINR

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The group is growing.

New peoples with their ideas are welcome.

1. Spin Physics Research INfractrucrure and Technologies at NICA (SPRINT@NICA)

V.P. Ladygin on behalf of SPRINT@NICA group

Talk 26-th International Spin Symposium (SPIN-2025)
22-26 September 2025, Qingdao, China, ***PoS(SPIN2025) 152- submitted.***

2. Several talks at RuPAC'25

15-19 September 2025, St.Petersburg, RF
Accepted in Phys.Part.Nucl.Lett.

3. Review: Synchrophasotron and Nuclotron Equipment for Investigation of Polarization Phenomena

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SPRINT@NICA steps

Meetings:

1. Beam Polarimetry at Nuclotron/NICA
12.11.2025, LHEP JINR -done, munutes are uploaded.

2. Spin Manipulation Techniques at Nuclotron/NICA
26.11.2025, LHEP JINR -done, munutes are uploaded.

3. Polarized Beams, Sources and Targets at Nuclotron/NICA
18.02.2026, LHEP JINR -done, munutes are uploaded.

4. High Precision Spin Experiments at Nuclotron/NICA (must include also first test experiments)
04.03.2026, LHEP JINR -done, munutes are prepared.

September 2026 – DSPIN2026? (SPRINT day+ plenary talk?)

Draft of the SPRINT@NICA CDR -end 2026

Thank you for the attention!