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Many Years of Experiences with UNILAC Operation

The GSI UNILAC (Universal Linear Accelerator) is in operation since 1974. By different enhancements its performance was increased from a machine accelerating only one heavy ion species beam to a specified energy to a pulse-to-pulse switching machine. Up to three different ion species beams generated in three ion source terminals are accelerated to different energies up to 12 MeV/u in a defined sequence basing on a 50 Hz cycle. Furthermore the beam intensity was increased to the 1 MW beam power region. The talk gives an overview of active and dynamic beam protection equipments, major breakdown reasons, and aging implicated failures. Also improvements of component cohorts initiated by operational experiences and the effects on beam availability are reported.

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