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学位論文題目 Study on Accelerator Operation and Diagnostics in Wide Area
Environment

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論文内容の要旨
Summary of thesis contents

Title: Study on Accelerator Operation and Diagnostics in Wide Area Environment

Remote operation and diagnostic systems for particle accelerators have been developed in previous studies for beam operation and maintenance in a variety of situations. After the collaborative commencement, all associates will need to have methods for remote maintenance, control, and monitoring of associated devices via Wide Area Network (WAN) links. For example, a method has to be provided for connecting to the control system network via WAN links from various collaborating institutions. Such remote operation needs to implement components that have concepts different from those of daily operation, for example, communication, man-machine user interface (UI), and system security. On the other hand, systems for remote operation have been developed by research organizations. Almost all such systems are allocated enough system resources.

As described above, remote operation is necessary in many situations. However, it is not always possible to use environments with rich system resources, such as dedicated networks, for remote operation. Therefore, the purpose of this study is to establish the technique of troubleshooting without rich system resources for remote operation. For this reason, in this study, methods regarding UI and system security are discussed for remote operation with limited system resources, such as low-bandwidth networks.

Considering operator interface (OPI) for remote operation, the use of standard protocols, such as Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP), has certain advantages because system-dependent protocols are not necessary between remote clients and on-site servers. On the other hand, Web services that provide a UI component to accelerator control systems have been utilized for various purposes already because such services possess the advantages of being platform-independent systems, providing software maintenance, and can be developed rapidly.

In this study, the author develops a client system based on WebSocket as a next-generation OPI over the Web using Experimental Physics and Industrial Control System (EPICS) Channel Access (CA); WebSocket is a new protocol provided by the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) for Web-based systems. In order to construct a WebSocket server as an EPICS CA client, add-on software for Node.js, called Node-CA, was developed by the author in C/C++ using the EPICS CA library, which is included in the EPICS base. As a result of this implementation, WebSocket-based client systems have become available for remote operation using EPICS in wide area environments.

In addition, from a practical application standpoint; the remote operation of an accelerator via WAN is beset by a number of issues. One of such issue is that the accelerator has both experimental device and radiation generator characteristics. Therefore, any error in the operation of the remote control system could result in an immediate breakdown. For these reasons, the author proposes the

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implementation of an operator intervention system for remote accelerator diagnostics and support that can interconnect any divergences between the local control room and remote locations.

The purpose of the proposed operator intervention system is to ensure safe remote output control of EPICS via the WebSocket server. To simply monitor the status of the accelerator parameters using the WebSocket-based OPI, permission from the on-site operator is not necessary, provided that authentication has been accomplished through a Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) connection. The WebSocket-based client system is designed such that output control via remote operation always requires the permission of an on-site accelerator operator who can intervene at any time. The main part of the proposed operator intervention system consists of a Process Variable (PV) gateway provided by EPICS collaboration, a MySQL database, and Web applications. After the implementation, the on-site accelerator operator can determine the availability of the equipment, and decide whether to grant operation requests from remote users.

Finally, the system that combines WebSocket-based OPI and an operator intervention system is implemented for the 28 GHz superconducting electron cyclotron resonance ion source (28 GHz SC-ECRIS), which is one of the components in the RIKEN Radioisotope (RI) Beam Factory project, for verification of usefulness. Using this system, the author confirmed that the output instructions did not reach the EPICS IOC without the on-site operator's permission. In addition, remote operation can be satisfactorily performed even with a network latency of 200 ms, which is approximately the same network latency between Japan and the USA. Therefore, networking performance tolerance should allow this system to be used over networks provided by almost all Japanese Internet service providers. Because the system is implemented with RIKEN 28 GHz SC-ECRIS remote operation, the author confirmed that this new operator intervention system via WebSocket-based OPIs is a useful method for ensuring the physical security from operational error.

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博士論文の審査結果の要旨

Summary of the results of the doctoral thesis screening

内山暁仁さんの研究は、加速器等の施設を遠隔地から制御するシステムについての研究です。実験装置などを遠隔操作するシステムについては幾つかの先行する研究も存在しますが、加速器のような大型の実験装置を遠隔操作する際の安全性の確保が重要かつ未解決の課題となっていました。また、先行する研究では専用線を用いる等、多くの資源を必要とするシステムになっていました。氏は、先行する研究を調査する事により、現在利用可能な技術についての綿密な検討を行っています。その上で、遠隔制御システムの基盤として、Web 技術とくに WebSocket と呼ばれる新しい技術に着目し、これを加速器の制御等で広く使われている EPICS(Experimental Physics and Industrial Control System)フレームワークと組み合わせる事を提案し、其のための技術開発を行いました。また、加速器の遠隔操作で重要となる安全性の確保のために、施設制御室に滞在する操作員と遠隔操作を行おうとする者との間で、相互認証を行い、操作員の許可/監視のもとでのみ遠隔操作が可能となるシステムを提案しその実装しました。これらの開発技術は、理研の超伝導 ECR イオン源の制御システムに適用され、その有用性を実証しています。

内山さんの研究成果によって、たとえば出張などにより研究施設外にいる専門家が利用可能な限られた資源のもとで、安全で実用的な加速器設備の診断を可能とするシステムが実現可能であることが示されました。このことから、この研究は今後の発展も期待される、学位論文として十分な内容であるということが出来ます。

審査委員に対する研究内容の紹介では、加速器制御システムおよびその基本となる様々な技術などに関する質問が出されましたが、それらの質問に対する確かな回答をおこない、この分野に於ける知識・理解は十分なものと判断されました。

また、論文は英文で作成され、国際会議に於ける口頭発表もあることから、今後の国際的な研究についても十分な能力があると判断されました。

この博士論文の研究内容は、複数の国際会議で発表されており、其の内容は査読付きの論文雑誌 (Rev. Sci. Instrum. 85, 2014, 02A904)にも出版されています。

以上より、内山暁仁さんの論文は博士論文として十分な内容であり、本審査委員会は委員全員が一致して合格と判定いたします。