

Hg System Operation during the MERIT In-Beam Experiment
Van Graves, Oak Ridge National Laboratory
January 11, 2008

The Mercury Intense Target (MERIT) experiment is a proof-of-principle experiment to determine the feasibility of using a free-stream Hg jet as a target for a Neutrino Factory or Muon Collider. High-speed optics are used to record the interaction of a 14- or 24-GeV proton beam with a 20m/s Hg jet inside a 15T solenoid magnet. After working throughout the summer to correct equipment problems and complete the installation, the in-beam physics run was scheduled for October 22 – November 12, 2007. ORNL was responsible for the design, fabrication, and development of the Hg delivery system. Operation of the Hg delivery system was performed by ORNL engineers during the first and last weeks of the experiment, with the middle week covered by personnel from Rutherford Appleton Laboratory.

A layout of the integrated Hg system with the solenoid is shown in Figure 1. In this image, the proton beam and jet travel from right to left. The optical viewports are shown in the image, and viewport #2 is located at the point of highest field intensity and is the intended location of the jet-beam interaction.

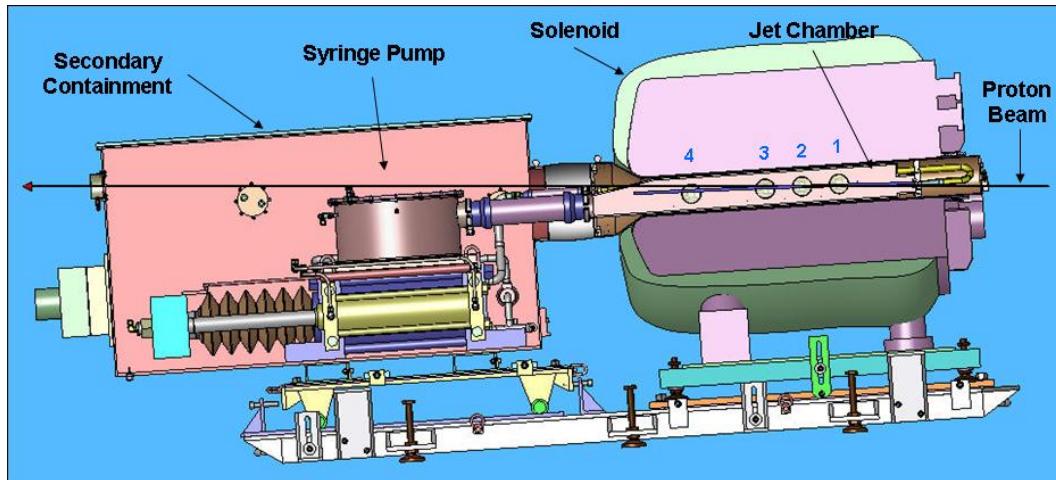


Figure 1. MERIT equipment layout

The equipment in its installed condition is shown in Figure 2, with the upstream end of the target snout visible in the magnet bore.



Figure 2. Hg system mated with solenoid.

The majority of the first week was spent steering the beam and calibrating various beam components. Timing of the various subsystems (Hg jet, optical diagnostics, magnet power supply, particle detectors, cryogenics) to the beam trigger pulse was tested and verified. Images of the jet in a magnetic field were recorded. Horizontal and vertical scans of the beam were performed in order to steer the beam onto the Hg target.

At approximately 8:30pm on October 26th, the first recorded images of a jet-field-beam interaction were completed. These are shown in Figure 2 and correspond to a 15m/s Hg jet inside a 5T magnetic field with a 14GeV proton beam; proton intensity was 10TP.

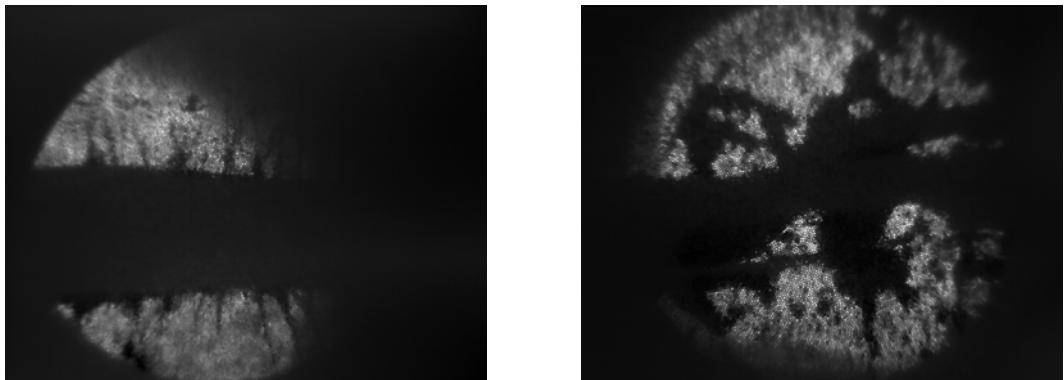


Figure 2. First beam-jet interaction. The left image is from viewport #1 2ms after beam. The right image is from viewport #3 26ms after beam.

During this pulse, the beam interacted with the jet in viewport #1. The "whiskers" of pending jet explosion can be seen in this image. By the time that portion of the jet had traveled to viewport #3 (300mm), the jet explosion was completed. This was the expected behavior in a low-intensity magnetic field.

Additional beam tuning occurred the following day to move the beam-jet interaction to viewport #2, which was the actual intended location. This effort concluded the first week and left the experiment in a condition ready to perform more involved physics testing during the remaining two weeks. Because multiple runs of low field (5T) intensity could be performed without actively cooling the magnet, the run plan was modified to conduct the low-field portion of the experiment early in the program and delay the higher field (15T) runs until the end.

The run plan for the experiment was developed with three goals in mind:

- to study the effect of varying beam charge intensities from 1 TP to 30 TP,
- to study the influence of solenoid field strength on jet dispersal by varying B_Z from 0 T to 15 T, and
- to study possible cavitation effects by varying the PS spill structure (pump/probe).

Appendix A contains a listing of the runs performed during the MERIT experiment and shows how the various parameters were changed to meet the experimental goals.

During operation of the experiment, the Hg system operated as expected, with no major issues encountered. The Hg pressure sensor, which is located within the secondary containment box near the solenoid and thus was subject to the particle shower during each beam pulse, began having periods of intermittent inoperability during the first week of the experiment. This sensor has on-board electronics and was not expected to last for the duration of the experiment; the information it provided was required during the integrated systems test at MIT to observe possible magneto-hydrodynamic effects of the magnetic field on the Hg flow, but was not a critical piece of information required for the in-beam experiment since the flow had already been characterized.

There were some aspects of the control system user interface that could be improved upon, especially given that persons besides the system developer operated the Hg system. Should follow-on efforts be pursued, these changes will be incorporated. In general, remote control of the other sub-systems (cryogenics, optical diagnostics, and magnet power supplies) worked well during the experiment.

Appendix A. MERIT Run List

comment	Beam	Flag 1	Flag1	Flag2	Flag2	Angle	Angle	Window	Window	# bunches	beam	intensity	Field	Jet	action comment	
		No	H	V	H	V	H	V	H	V	TP	T	m/s			
5:34 PM	5:34 PM	15035	1.15	-10.3	-3.8	-7.7	-3.09	1.63	-13.08	-2.83	8	6	5	15		
5:37 PM	5:37 PM	15036	1.3	-10.48	-3.8	-7.6	-3.19	1.80	-13.36	-2.20	8	6	5	0	Target out	
5:49 PM	5:49 PM	15037	1.15	-10.34	-4.1	-7.7	-3.28	1.65	-13.94	-2.75	8	6	5	15		
6:43 PM	6:43 PM	15038	-0.14	-10.48	-3.72	-7.4	-2.24	1.93	-10.43	-1.63	8	10	5	15		
6:56 PM	6:56 PM	15039	0.14	-10.89	-4.13	-7.58	-2.67	2.07	-12.14	-1.37	8	8	5	15		
7:10 PM	7:10 PM	15040	2.01	-10.75	-1.1	-8.38	-1.94	1.48	-6.93	-3.94	8	8	5	15		
7:18 PM	7:18 PM	15041	2.73	-10.6	-1.2	-8.38	-2.46	1.39	-8.57	-4.22	8	6	5	15		
7:29 PM	7:29 PM	15042	3	-10.3	-0.5	-8.2	-2.19	1.31	-7.06	-4.26	8	6	5	15		
7:56 PM	7:56 PM	15043	2.87	-10.2	-1.2	-7.7	-2.54	1.56	-8.83	-3.01	16	6	5	15		
8:59 PM	8:59 PM	15044	2.87	-10.2	-1.2	-7.7	-2.54	1.56	-8.83	-3.01	4	12	5	15		
9:04 PM	9:04 PM	15045	2.87	-10.2	-0.69	-8.2	-2.23	1.25	-7.37	-4.45	4	12	5	15		
10-Nov																
9:30 AM	9:30 AM	16001	4	-10	-0.13	-7.7	-2.58	1.44	-7.87	-3.39	1	3	0	15	Warmup shot	
9:33 AM	9:33 AM	16002	3.3	-10.4	-0.13	-7.7	-2.14	1.69	-6.56	-2.64	4	10	4	15	1/2 SMD images	
9:55 AM	9:55 AM	16003	3.5	-10.2	0	-8.2	-2.19	1.25	-6.56	-4.45	4	12	4	15	1/2 SMD images	
10:11 AM	10:11 AM	16004	3.3	-10	0.1	-8	-2.00	1.25	-5.90	-4.25	4	14	6	15	Weak Splash in V3	
11:35 AM	11:35 AM	16005	3.4	-10.6	0	-7.9	-2.13	1.69	-6.38	-2.84	8	12	5	15		
11:42 AM	11:42 AM	16006	5.3	-10.7	2.4	-8.3	-1.81	1.50	-3.04	-3.80	8	12	5	15		
11:46 AM	11:46 AM	16007										8	12	5	15	Flag info lost
12:06 PM	12:06 PM	16008	5.9	-10.3	1.1	-7.5	-3.00	1.75	-7.90	-2.25	4+4	6+6	5	15	No SMD images	
12:28 PM	12:28 PM	16009	2.18	-10.48	-0.5	-8.06	-1.68	1.51	-5.53	-3.52	4+4	6+6	5	15	40 us delay hit in V3	
12:37 PM	12:37 PM	16010	3.3	-10.4	-0.1	-8	-2.13	1.50	-6.48	-3.50	4+4	6+6	5	15	350us delay hit in VP3	
12:46 PM	12:46 PM	16011	2.6	-10.7	-0.8	-8	-2.13	1.69	-7.18	-2.94	4+4	6+6	5	15	700us weak splash	
2:16 PM	2:16 PM	16012	0.59	-9.7	-0.14	-8.1	-0.46	1.00	-1.51	-5.10	4	14	5	15	No SMD images	
2:29 PM	2:29 PM	16013	3	-9.1	0.14	-7.7	-1.79	0.88	-5.22	-5.08	4	14	10	15	No SMD images	
2:42 PM	2:42 PM	16014	3	-9.4	-0.7	-7.1	-2.31	1.44	-7.64	-2.79	4	12	10	15		
3:34 PM	3:34 PM	16015	2.9	-9	-0.3	-6.6	-2.00	1.50	-6.30	-2.10	4	12	15	15		
3:43 PM	3:43 PM	16016	3.2	-9.1	-0.4	-7.7	-2.25	0.88	-7.15	-5.08	4	10	5	15		
11-Nov																
10:05 AM	10:05 AM	17001	2.7	-10.7	-0.9	-8	-2.25	1.69	-7.65	-2.94	16	6	5	15		
11:18 AM	11:18 AM	17002	2.5	-10.4	-0.5	-8	-1.88	1.50	-6.13	-3.50	16	8	5	15	Hit in VP2 focus poor	
11:27 AM	11:27 AM	17003	2.7	-10.8	-0.8	-7.9	-2.19	1.81	-7.36	-2.46	16	6	5	15		
11:35 AM	11:35 AM	17004	2.7	-10.6	-0.8	-7.4	-2.19	2.00	-7.36	-1.40	16	6	5	15		
11:53 AM	11:53 AM	test	1.3	-10.3	-3.6	-7.6	-3.06	1.69	-12.79	-2.54						
11:59 AM	11:59 AM	17005	1.4	-10.6	-3.5	-7.7	-3.06	1.81	-12.69	-2.26	16	6	5	15		
12:24 PM	12:24 PM	17006	1.3	-9.9	-3.6	-7.5	-3.06	1.50	-12.79	-3.00	16	6	7	15		
12:37 PM	12:37 PM	17007	1.9	-10.3	-3.3	-7.7	-3.25	1.63	-13.05	-2.83	16	4	7	15		
2:26 PM	2:26 PM	17008	0	0	-3	-7.7	-1.88	-4.81	-8.63	-22.14	16	8	7	15	Flag1 info lost	
2:39 PM	2:39 PM	17009	0.4	-10.3	-4.2	-7.7	-2.88	1.63	-12.83	-2.83	8+8	8	7	15	40us delay	
2:47 PM	2:47 PM	17010	1.3	-10.3	-3.5	-7.7	-3.00	1.63	-12.50	-2.83	8+8	8	7	15	40us delay	
3:11 PM	3:11 PM	17011	1	-10.6	-3.4	-7.4	-2.75	2.00	-11.65	-1.40	8+8	8	7	15	80us delay	
3:16 PM	3:16 PM	17012	1.3	-10.2							8+8	8	7	15	20us delay	
4:14 PM	4:14 PM	17013	1	-10.3	-3.8	-7.9	-3.00	1.50	-12.80	-3.40	8+8	8	7	15	60us delay	
4:26 PM	4:26 PM	17014	1.3	-10.7	-3.2	-7.7	-2.81	1.88	-11.64	-2.08	8+8	8	7	15	10us delay booster problem	
4:29 PM	4:29 PM	17015	1.15	-10.6	-3.6	-7.7	-2.97	1.81	-12.51	-2.26	8+8	8	7	15	10us repeat	
4:40 PM	4:40 PM	17016	1.3	-10.4	-3.5	-7.7	-3.00	1.69	-12.50	-2.64	8+8	7	7	15	5.8us delay	
4:52 PM	4:52 PM	17017	1.4	-10.6	-3.4	-7.9	-3.00	1.69	-12.40	-2.84	8+8	8	7	15	0us delay	
5:56 PM	5:56 PM	17018	1.3	-10.2	-3.1	-7.9	-2.75	1.44	-11.35	-3.59	8+8	6	7	15	3.2us delay	
6:18 PM	6:18 PM	17019	1.8	-9.9	-2.9	-7.9	-2.94	1.25	-11.71	-4.15	8+0	4	7	15	Pump only	
6:26 PM	6:26 PM	17020	2.15	-10.3	-2.89	-7.9	-3.15	1.50	-12.34	-3.40	8+0	6	7	15	Pump only	
6:36 PM	6:36 PM	17021	2.3	-10.3	-3.1	-7.9	-3.38	1.50	-13.23	-3.40	16	15	10	15		
7:44 PM	7:44 PM	17022	2.6	-10.6	-2.6	-7.4	-3.25	2.00	-12.35	-1.40	16	15	15	15		
8:40 PM	8:40 PM	17023	1.4	-10.7	-3.1	-6.9	-2.81	2.38	-11.54	0.22	16	29	15	15		
8:51 PM	8:51 PM	17024	1.2	-10.5	-3.7	-7.5	-3.06	1.88	-12.89	-1.88	16	29	10	20		