

Polarized Targets - Twenty Years On

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In 1982 a talk entitled 'Polarized Targets - what is happening' was given at the Brookhaven Spin Physics Symposium. At that time the dynamically polarized solid-state target dominated the experimental spin physics scene and had already become a mature technology. The status of this technology was reviewed in the talk, and performance and operational limitations were discussed.

During the last twenty years a large amount of development work has been carried out on solid-state targets and there has been big improvements in performance. As a consequence this type of target is still being used in a wide range of spin physics experiments. New types, using polarized gases, have also been developed and used in a number of experiments.

These performance gains and the current state of the technology of solid state targets will be reviewed, with emphasis on the effects that experimental constraints have had on the development programs. Some possible future developments in this area will also be considered.