DESIGN, EVOLUTION AND IMPACT OF THE AGS/RHIC CONTROL SYSTEM*

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The AGS/RHIC complex has evolved from an accelerator which wasbuilt (1961) before control systems in the modern sense weredeveloped. It has experienced the impact of computer-based controlsystems from the very beginnings of the field, and today employs adistributed control system which conforms to the "Standard Model".Whereas the present AGS controls labor under a certain "burden ofhistory" as a consequence of extended development, the design ofRHIC controls was specifically liberated from this constraint. Theevolution of this control system is discussed, with attention to bothits features and deficits. The impact of both upon the operation andflexibility of the accelerators is considered.