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## Magnetic Induction Tomography with Atomic Magnetometers

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### Imaging – is there a need for more systems?

Widely used in medicine and in security applications (cargo scanning etc)



No imaging system is universal – limitations in performances or in use

Xray: unsafe (foetus) illegal (cargo scanning in France)

Sometime the "right" imaging systems does not exist (e.g. how to image current loops in the heart)?

Principles of Magnetic Induction Tomography (MIT)



The secondary field has the same frequency of the driver, but different phase. From the phase lag and amplitude, one can reconstruct  $\sigma$ ,  $\mu_r$ ,  $\epsilon_r$ 



## $\Delta B/B \approx Q \omega \mu_0 [\omega \varepsilon_0 (\varepsilon_r - 1) - i\sigma] + R(\mu_r - 1)$

## Forward problem (easy)



## Inverse problem (hard...)

Provides a 3D image (map of σ) given the measurements
 In general undetermined

## ad hoc solutions

Planar geometry Back projection

### The 16/32 channel Graz MIT system







## 16/32-channel system for low-resolution imaging of brain oedema

## **The Graz MIT system - perspectives**













### The russian 16 channel MIT system









#### In-vivo image of the human head

### The UCL 400-channels planar MIT system







No solution of the inverse problem required





#### **MIT for Cargo screening**



The use of dual frequencies allows imagining through metallic screens



B.J. Darrer, J.C. Watson, P. Bartlett and FR, Sci. Rep. 5, 7944 (2015)

## New challenges for MIT: diagnosis of atrial fibrillation





It affects 3-5% of the population over 70 Main complication: increase risk of stroke

#### ATRIAL FIBRILLATION

Impuses have chaotic, random pathways in atria





Baseline irregular, ventricular response irregular

#### Causes

Atrial fibrillation occurs when abnormal electrical impulses suddenly start firing in the atria. These impulses override the heart's natural pacemaker, which can no longer control the rhythm of the heart. This causes you to have a highly irregular pulse rate.

The cause is not fully understood...

#### Treatment

medication to prevent a stroke medication to control the heart rate or rhythm ... controlled electric shock to restore normal rhythm cather ablation, to prevent atrial fibrillation from occurring having a pacemaker fitted...





Rotors: rotational activity around a centre

Hypothesis: rotors activate rapidly enough to cause disorganized AF

Rotors are the target of RF ablation







Map of activation times

## **Cardiac mapping using MIT**

identification of zones of anomalous conductivity



**Requirements:** 

extreme sensitivity

resolution







- Potential for miniaturization
- Extreme sensitivity



Room temperature operation



The NIST system for Magnetoencephalography





Precession of a spin in a magnetic field at the Larmor frequency

ω = γB

Preparation of the spin (optical pumping)

Detection of the Larmor precession (via an optical probe)



# De-polarizing collision with the walls of the glass cell Solution: coating

Short interaction time with the laser field Solution: buffer gas

Alternative/complementary approach: repolarize the atoms by optical pumping

## Optical pumping pulse synchronized with the Larmor precession









## **MIT with Atomic Magnetometers**







## **UCL**







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#### Where are we now?





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**EPSRC** 

Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council

dstl



Innovate UK Technology Strategy Board



#### wellcometrust

A. Wickenbrock, et al, APL 103, 243503 (2013)
A. Wickenbrock et al, Opt. Lett. **39**, 6367 (2014)
L. Marmugi and FR, submitted.



- Principles of Magnetic Induction Tomography
- Magnetic images" are conductivity maps
- Atomic magnetometers are the ideal sensor
- Applications in medicine