

Wearable Microwave Imaging System for Brain Stroke Imaging

Original

Wearable Microwave Imaging System for Brain Stroke Imaging / Rodriguez-Duarte, D. O.; Origlia, C.; Tobon Vasquez, J. A.; Scapaticci, R.; Crocco, L.; Vipiana, F.. - ELETTRONICO. - (2022), pp. 1716-1717. (Intervento presentato al convegno 2022 IEEE International Symposium on Antennas and Propagation and USNC-URSI Radio Science Meeting (AP-S/URSI) tenutosi a Denver, CO, USA nel 10-15 July 2022) [10.1109/AP-S/USNC-URSI47032.2022.9887338].

Availability:

This version is available at: 11583/2971980 since: 2022-10-02T21:31:55Z

Publisher:

IEEE

Published

DOI:10.1109/AP-S/USNC-URSI47032.2022.9887338

Terms of use:

This article is made available under terms and conditions as specified in the corresponding bibliographic description in the repository

Publisher copyright

IEEE postprint/Author's Accepted Manuscript

©2022 IEEE. Personal use of this material is permitted. Permission from IEEE must be obtained for all other uses, in any current or future media, including reprinting/republishing this material for advertising or promotional purposes, creating new collecting works, for resale or lists, or reuse of any copyrighted component of this work in other works.

(Article begins on next page)

Wearable Microwave Imaging System for Brain Stroke Imaging

D. O. Rodriguez-Duarte⁽¹⁾, C. Origlia⁽¹⁾, J. A. Tobon Vasquez⁽¹⁾, R. Scapaticci⁽²⁾, L. Crocco⁽²⁾, and F. Vipiana^{*(1)}

⁽¹⁾ Depart. of Electronics and Telecommunications, Politecnico di Torino, 10129 Torino, Italy, (*francesca.vipiana@polito.it)

⁽²⁾ Institute for the Electromagnetic Sensing of the Environment, National Research Council of Italy, 80124 Naples, Italy

Abstract—This paper presents the experimental validation of the detection capabilities of a low complexity wearable system designed for the imaging-based detection of brain stroke. The system approaches the electromagnetic inverse problem via a 3-D imaging algorithm based on the Born approximation and the Truncated Singular Value Decomposition (TSVD). For testing, flexible antennas with custom-made coupling-medium are prototyped and assessed in mimicked hemorrhagic and ischemic stroke conditions. The experiment emulates the clinical scenario using a single-tissue anthropomorphic head phantom and strokes with both 20 cm³ and 60 cm³ ellipsoid targets. The imaging kernel is computed via full-wave simulation of a virtual twin model. The results demonstrate the capabilities for detecting and estimating the stroke-affected area.

I. INTRODUCTION

Stroke is a severe medical condition that disrupts the normal oxygen-rich blood-feeding of the brain, triggering the death of millions of neurons per minute and provoking temporal and permanent disabilities, or even the dead in many cases. There are two typologies of stroke, ischemic and hemorrhagic. In the first case, a clot diminishes the blood irrigation, starving the surrounding areas gradually by the ischemia. In the second type, the burst of a vessel leads to internal bleedings. Whatever the typology, a prompt diagnosis and intervention directly impact the patient's recovery [1].

Clinicians support stroke emergency care with imaging-based diagnosis techniques such as magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and computerized X-ray tomography (CT), which contribute with valuable information for the prognosis. Though, current standard technologies present limitations in terms of cost, portability, time-consume, and harmfulness (in the CT case). Thus, in recent years, microwave imaging (MWI) technologies have arisen as complementary solutions [2]–[6]. MWI relies on the contrast of the electrical properties (permittivity and conductivity) between the stroke-affected area and the healthy brain tissues at microwave frequencies.

In this paper, we assess experimentally the detection and imaging capabilities of a new wearable version of the system for 3-D stroke imaging presented in [5], [6], considering both stroke typologies.

This work was supported by the Italian Ministry of University and Research under the PRIN project “MiBraScan”, and by the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Program under the EMERALD project, Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No. 764479.

II. METHODS

A. Imaging Algorithm

The detection imaging-based algorithm used here aims to retrieve a qualitative mapping of the variation of the electric contrast due to a stroke onset or a status variation, e.g. the growing or shrinking of the affected brain area. The algorithm takes as input a differential scattering matrix (ΔS), referred to the time interval (t_0, t_1) , and a pre-computed electric field \mathbf{E} of a reference nominal condition, which is obtained via a full-wave simulation of a realistic virtual twin [7]. In this case, the reference condition is a healthy scenario using a single-tissue head, i.e. a homogeneously filled head without the stroke. Then, considering the expected weak and concentrated field perturbations, the imaging kernel is built using the fields and the Born approximation [5].

The algorithm allows to map the unknown electric contrast $\Delta\chi = (\epsilon(t_1) - \epsilon(t_0))/\epsilon_b$, where $\epsilon(t_0)$ and $\epsilon(t_1)$ are the complex permittivities, and b stands for the background, inverting the following relation,

$$\Delta S(t_0, t_1) = -\frac{j\omega\epsilon_b}{2a_p a_q} \int_D \mathbf{E}_p(t_0) \cdot \mathbf{E}_q(t_0) \Delta\chi \, dr, \quad (1)$$

through the truncated singular value decomposition (TSVD) scheme [8], where the symbol “ \cdot ” denotes the dot product between vectors, D the imaging domain, j is the imaginary unit, $\omega = 2\pi f$ is the angular frequency, and a_p and a_q are the known incoming root-power waves at the p and q antenna ports, respectively [9]. Thus, the truncation index, here set to -30 dB, acts as a regularizer. Finally, the variation description is given by the normalized modulus of the retrieved differential contrast.

B. Antenna Module and MWI System

To gather the needed S-parameters for the imaging reconstruction, we employ a low complexity MWI prototype that consist of a 2-port vector network analyzer (VNA) [10], set with 0dBm and 50Hz intermediate filter (IF), an 2-to-24 electro-mechanical switching matrix and a 24-element array of antenna-coupling pairs (see Fig. 1(a)), following the rigorous design procedures described in [11]. For details on the switching matrix refer to [5], [6].

The antenna in this case, is an optimized version of the one in [12], that reduces the size and weight of the device while keeps the benefit of using a discrete and solid matching medium. It is designed to work in vicinity of the human head

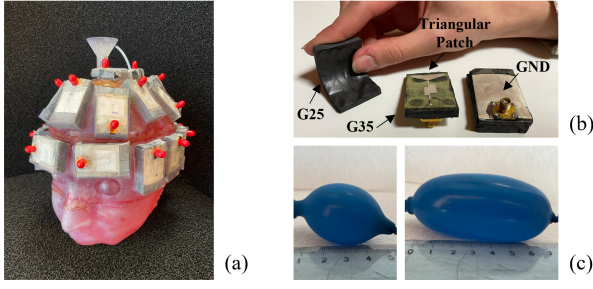


Fig. 1. Experimental system components. (a) Homogeneous head phantom filled with brain-mimicking liquid and surrounded by the 24 antenna-coupling elements. (b) Sectioned antenna. (c) Balloon filled of hemorrhagic or ischemic-like liquid, mimicking the stroke cases.

TABLE I
MATERIALS COMPOSITION AND PERMITTIVITY

	Isopropyl Alcohol[%]	Demineralized Water[%]	Salt [%]	ϵ_r (1 GHz)	σ [S/m]
Brain	32.5	67.2	0.3	42.6	0.78
HEM	18.5	80.7	0.8	67.1	1.30
ISC	55.3	45.7	1.0	30.5	0.72

in a band around 1 GHz, hence reaching a good trade-off between wave penetration and spatial resolution [2], [11]. In the specific, we use flexible custom-made materials based on a mix of graphite powder and rubber as either matching medium and the substrate between the monopole antenna and the ground plane as shown in Fig. 1(b). For the matching (referred as G25), the percentual weight proportion is 25% graphite – 75% rubber, obtaining a relative permittivity and conductivity at 1 GHz of 13 and 0.18 S/m, respectively. Instead, the substrate (G35) is a 35%–65% mixture, with a relative permittivity and conductivity of 18 and 0.3 S/m.

Finally, to perform the experiment we consider a 3-D printed anthropomorphic head [13], filled with alcohol-water-salt liquid mimicking the electric properties of an average brain at 1 GHz. The stroke is realized using a balloon, representing a 60 cm³ hemorrhage (HEM) and a 20 cm³ ischemia (ISC). Table I summarizes materials composition and their electric properties.

III. RESULTS

The normalized reconstructed dielectric contrast of both mimicked hemorrhagic and ischemic conditions are summarized in Fig. 2, illustrating the detection, localization, and the 3-D recovered shape.

IV. CONCLUSION AND PERSPECTIVES

This paper explores experimentally the detection capabilities of a wearable low complexity system to detect mimicked hemorrhagic and ischemic affected brain areas applying a differential imaging algorithm based on a distorted Born approximation. The system retrieves truthful 3-D shape and location estimation of the stroke contrast, significant medical information, in a simplified clinical condition. Future work approaches the open issue of the stroke classification and the

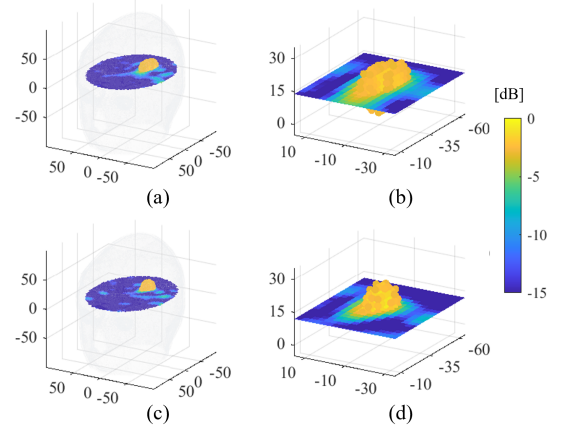


Fig. 2. Normalized reconstructed dielectric contrast transverse sliced in the middle of the stroke region, zooming up in the right column the values above -3 dB. (a, b) 60 cm³ HEM; (c, d) 20 cm³ ISC. Dimensions in [mm].

applicability of the system on more complex and realistic scenarios.

REFERENCES

- [1] C. Johnson et al., “Global, regional, and national burden of stroke, 1990 – 2016: a systematic analysis for the global burden of disease study 2016,” *The Lancet Neurology*, vol. 18, no. 5, pp. 439–458, 2019.
- [2] L. Crocco, I. Karanasiou, M. James, R. Conceição (eds), *Emerging Electromagnetic Technologies for Brain Diseases Diagnostics, Monitoring and Therapy*. Springer, 2018.
- [3] A. Fedeli, C. Estatico, M. Pastorino, and A. Randazzo, “Microwave detection of brain injuries by means of a hybrid imaging method,” *IEEE Open Journal of Antennas and Propagation*, pp. 1–11, 2020.
- [4] A. S. M. Alqadami, A. Zamani, A. Trakic and A. Abbosh, “Flexible Electromagnetic Cap for Three-Dimensional Electromagnetic Head Imaging,” *IEEE Transactions on Biomedical Engineering*, vol. 68, no. 9, pp. 2880–2891, Sept. 2021, doi: 10.1109/TBME.2021.3084313.
- [5] J. A. Tobon Vasquez et al., “A Prototype Microwave System for 3D Brain Stroke Imaging,” *Sensors*, vol. 20, no. 9, May 2020, doi: 10.3390/s20092607.
- [6] D. O. Rodriguez-Duarte, J. A. Tobon Vasquez, R. Scapaticci, G. Turvani, M. Cavagnaro, M.R. Casu, L. Crocco and F. Vipiana, “Experimental Validation of a Microwave System for Brain Stroke 3-D Imaging,” *Diagnostics*, vol. 11, no. 7, 2021, doi: 10.3390/diagnostics11071232.
- [7] D. O. Rodriguez-Duarte, J. A. Tobon Vasquez, R. Scapaticci, L. Crocco and F. Vipiana, “Assessing a Microwave Imaging System for Brain Stroke Monitoring via High Fidelity Numerical Modelling,” *IEEE Journal of Electromagnetics, RF and Microwaves in Medicine and Biology*, vol. 5, no. 3, pp. 238–245, Sept. 2021, doi: 10.1109/JERM.2020.3049071.
- [8] M. Bertero and P. Boccacci, *Introduction to Inverse Problems in Imaging*. Inst. Phys., Bristol, U.K., 1998.
- [9] N. K. Nikolova, *Introduction to Microwave Imaging*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2017.
- [10] Keysight Technologies. Keysight Streamline Series USB Vector Network Analyzer P937XA 2-port, up to 26.5 GHz. *Data Sheet Tech. Specif.* 2018.
- [11] R. Scapaticci, J. Tobon, G. Bellizzi, F. Vipiana and L. Crocco, “Design and Numerical Characterization of a Low-Complexity Microwave Device for Brain Stroke Monitoring,” *IEEE Transactions on Antennas and Propagation*, vol. 66, no. 12, pp. 7328–7338, Dec. 2018, doi: 10.1109/TAP.2018.2871266.
- [12] D. O. Rodriguez-Duarte, J. A. Tobon Vasquez, R. Scapaticci, L. Crocco and F. Vipiana, “Brick Shaped Antenna Module for Microwave Brain Imaging Systems,” *IEEE Antennas and Wireless Propagation Letters*, vol. 19, no. 12, Dec. 2020, pp. 2057–2061, doi: 10.1109/LAWP.2020.3022161.
- [13] N. Joachimowicz, B. Duchene, C. Conessa, and O. Meyer, “Anthropomorphic breast and head phantoms for microwave imaging,” *Diagnostics*, vol. 85, pp. 1–12, Dec. 2018.