



Canadian Association
of Physicists

Association canadienne
des physiciens et physiciennes

Contribution ID: 284 Type: **Oral Competition (Undergraduate Student) / Compétition orale (Étudiant(e) du 1er cycle)**

Direct current coil designs for a portable magnetic resonance scanner

Wednesday 9 June 2021 13:20 (5 minutes)

Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) is a powerful non-invasive imaging technique with high resolution and excellent soft tissue contrast. However, access to MRI is limited by the high instrument cost and high maintenance cost. Current scanners cannot be easily relocated because of their size and weight. A low cost, portable scanner will enable point-of-care diagnosis as well as other industrial applications such as agriculture disease screening.

In MRI experiments, a highly homogenous static magnetic field is required to ensure image quality, which is usually achieved by the direct current (DC) shimming coils. Magnetic field gradients are generated by DC gradient coils for spatial encoding. The portable magnetic resonance scanner requires novel DC coils due to the unconventional single-sided configuration. The magnetic field distribution, heat dissipation and volume constraint must be considered in the design. Recent development on shimming and gradient coils for a portable magnetic resonance scanner and future applications will be presented.

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Session Classification: W2-3 Medical applications of imaging - Part 2 (DPMB/DAP1) / Applications médicales de l'imagerie - Partie 2 (DPMB/DPA1)

Track Classification: Physics in Medicine and Biology / Physique en médecine et en biologie (DPMB-DPMB)