

# Measurement and Visualization of Three-Dimensional Radial and Vectored Magnetic Field Distribution by Use of the Magnetic CT Method

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The measurement and visualization of three-dimensional radial and vectored magnetic field distribution based on the magnetic computed tomography (CT) method have been reported. Applying the method, it is possible to measure a surrounding magnetic field such as a spherical region by using a simple probe, which is not limited to the measurement of two-dimensional magnetic field distribution. It has been shown that the magnetic field distribution of a spherical surface covering a sample object can be visualized from the measured and calculated results with a spherical CT probe and CT reconstruction algorithm.

**Index Terms**—Magnetic computed tomography (CT) method, magnetic field measurement, spherical magnetic CT probe, spherical magnetic field visualization.

## I. INTRODUCTION

THERE ARE many kinds of magnetic sensors, i.e., Flux-gate sensors, MI and MR sensors, and superconducting quantum interference device (SQUID) sensors for measuring a magnetic field. These are capable of also measuring dc fields. In order to know a surrounding magnetic field of an object, usually a scanning measurement is performed repetitively with these sensors. However, this method has a problem in the case of measuring narrow areas of equipment inside an air gap due to the size of measurement equipment. Moreover, a scanning measurement needs a lot of measuring time. To solve this problem, the computed tomography (CT) method [1], [2] is applicable. By use of this method, with a simple probe that is called the magnetic CT probe [3], an ac magnetic field is easily measured and visualized at a time. The principle of two-dimensional (2-D) magnetic CT algorithms has been reported so far. Furthermore, as a development of a multidimensional magnetic driving system such as a spherical surface motor [4], the measurement with no limitation to the plane distribution will be requested in future. In this paper, we propose the new idea of measurement magnetic flux distribution on a curved surface, as shown in Fig. 1. Then, the advanced principles of measurement radial and vectored magnetic fields are shown, and a simple experiment is carried out to measure and visualize magnetic field distribution from the magnetic source with a spherical magnetic CT probe.

## II. RECONSTRUCTION ALGORITHM

As is well known, the projection of an unknown field  $f(x, y)$  is obtained by the following parallel line integral equation, where the field can be easily reconstructed and

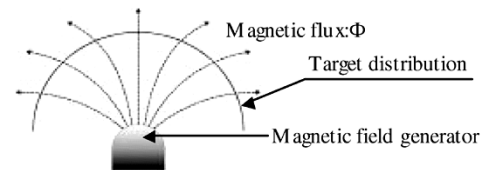


Fig. 1. Measuring target of magnetic flux distribution.

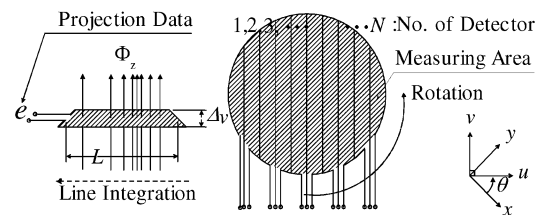


Fig. 2. Two-dimensional magnetic CT probe [3] and its principle.

visualized after a proper signal processing is utilized to this projection  $p$

$$p \equiv \int_u f(x, y) du \quad (1)$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} u \\ v \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta & \sin \theta \\ -\sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} \quad (2)$$

where  $p$  is the projection of the unknown field along the line  $u$ , and  $u, v$  are the rotated coordinates of  $x$  and  $y$  with  $\theta$  as the angle in Fig. 2.

In the reconstruction processing from obtained projection data, the filtered back projection (FBP) algorithm [2] is utilized generally, which is one of the reconstruction techniques.

Accordingly, after the whole projection is scanned around the field, obtained projection data is resolved numerically by use of the FBP method.

Applying this method to the magnetic field, the line integration of magnetic flux distribution  $B(x, y)$  can be obtained as an induced ac voltage between terminals of every each slender coil shown in Fig. 2. This figure also introduces the magnetic CT



TABLE I  
STRUCTURE OF MAGNETIC SPHERICAL CT PROBE

Probe diameter	L×W×H = 100 mm×100 mm×50 mm
Lead line	1 mm width copper foil tape
Coil width	12 mm
Number of projection & back projection angle	10/180 (point/degree)
Reconstruction algorithm	Filtered back projection with spline interpolation

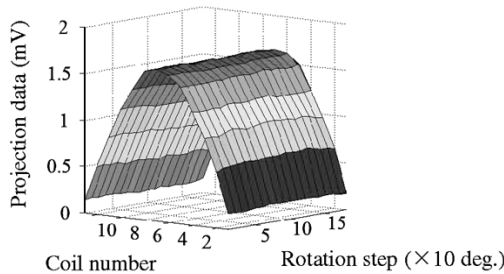


Fig. 7. Projection data of spherical magnetic CT probe.

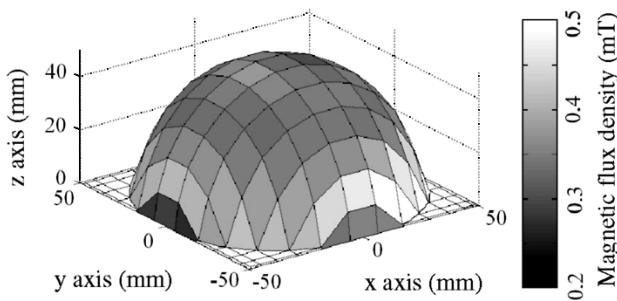


Fig. 8. Reconstructed magnetic field distribution.

To check this scheme, the reconstruction result was compared with the other two methods, where one is the search coil and the other is the finite-element method FEM (Maxwell-2D); see Fig. 6 and Table I. Fig. 9 shows the comparison result between these results on the curved line at  $x = 0$  in Fig. 8, and it has been cleared that these results are in the same order.

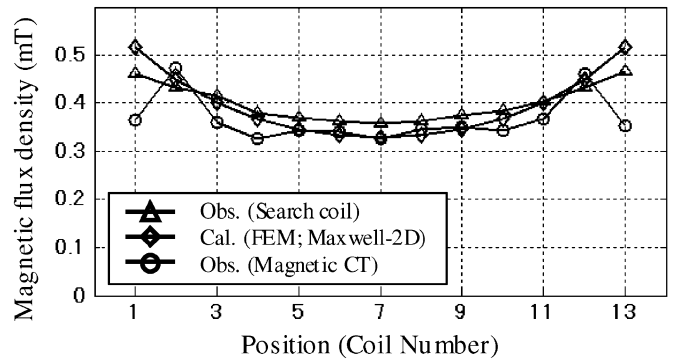


Fig. 9. Comparison between measured data and FEM result.

V. CONCLUSION

The measurement and visualization of a radial vectored magnetic field distribution by means of the magnetic CT method has been reported. Using this probe, a radial vectored magnetic field is measured at a time. After signal processing, the objective field distribution is reconstructed with a CT algorithm. Employing the multilayered CT probe, the procedure for getting all of the projection data can be done in the electronic mode without mechanical moving.

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