Self-Interaction in Electromagnetic Rotation

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Introduction

The electromagnetic rotation is the motion of a magnetized body ina direction perpendicular to both the vector of magnetization J_m and the direction of the electric current j in a liquid inside which the magnet is located (Fig. 1).

Editor: Readers can compare this vector composition and the device scheme of Godin and Roschin with the Searl experiments. The similarity is evident. A. V. Frolov

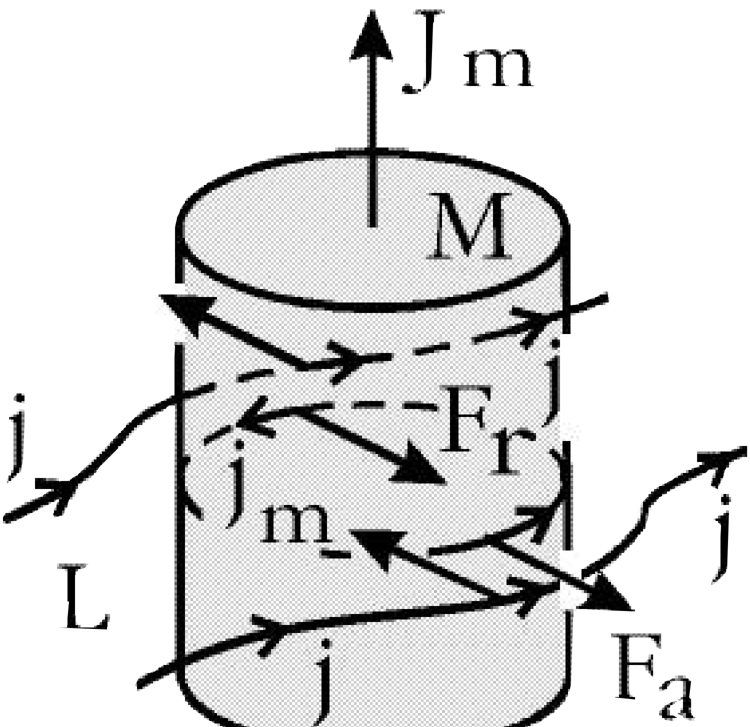

Fig.1
Electromagnetic rotation. A magnet M of magnetization J_m that is partly or entirely submerged in a conductive liquid L with a direct current of density j is moving in the direction of the force F_a+F_r

The force producing such a motion is sufficiently weak and, normally, the phenomenon is observed at rotation. Although, this is quite a well-explored phenomenon [1-6], nobody knows what makes the magnet rotate [4]. There is an opinion [2,3] that the motion of the magnet in the conductive liquid is caused by the forces of attraction $\mathbf{F}_a$ and repulsion $\mathbf{F}_r$ between currents of density $\mathbf{j}$ flowing in the liquid and surface magnetization currents $\mathbf{j}_m$ of the magnet, often called the Ampere currents as shown in Fig. 1.

The external magnetic field of a long cylindrical magnet originating far from either pole is zero. Therefore, no force is exerted on charges moving in the liquid far from the ends of the magnet. Nevertheless, the magnet still moves in the liquid with the direct current even if it is only a thin magnetized needle [5]. Thus, the deeper the magnet is immersed in the conductive liquid, the more liquid gathers around it. The deeper the immersion is, the higher the total force must be. That should be so.

In reality, it is quite different. During intermediate immersions when the magnet is partly submerged in the liquid, the torque N does not depend on the depth of immersion, in the other words, currents flowing round the cylindrical magnet do not influence the exerting force acting [6]. Moreover, during shallow immersions, the magnet moves together with the liquid. **This is none other than *the self-interaction* [7].** The conductive liquid under the magnet experiences the magnetic action. The direction of this force coincides with the direction of the magnet motion. **Thus, the part of the conductive liquid moving in this direction under the action of the magnetic field B, affected by the frictional forces in the liquid causes the motion of the magnet in the same direction.** The only way to find out the role of the self-interaction in this phenomenon is experimental investigation. It would be appropriate to exclude the currents flowing under the magnet. In this case the magnet must rotate in the opposite direction.

Experimental system

A commercially available cylindrical magnet M of magnetization $J_m = 1{,}95 \cdot 10^5$ A/m and a balanced load *P* connected by a rocker R are suspended by a thread *T* as shown in Fig. 2.

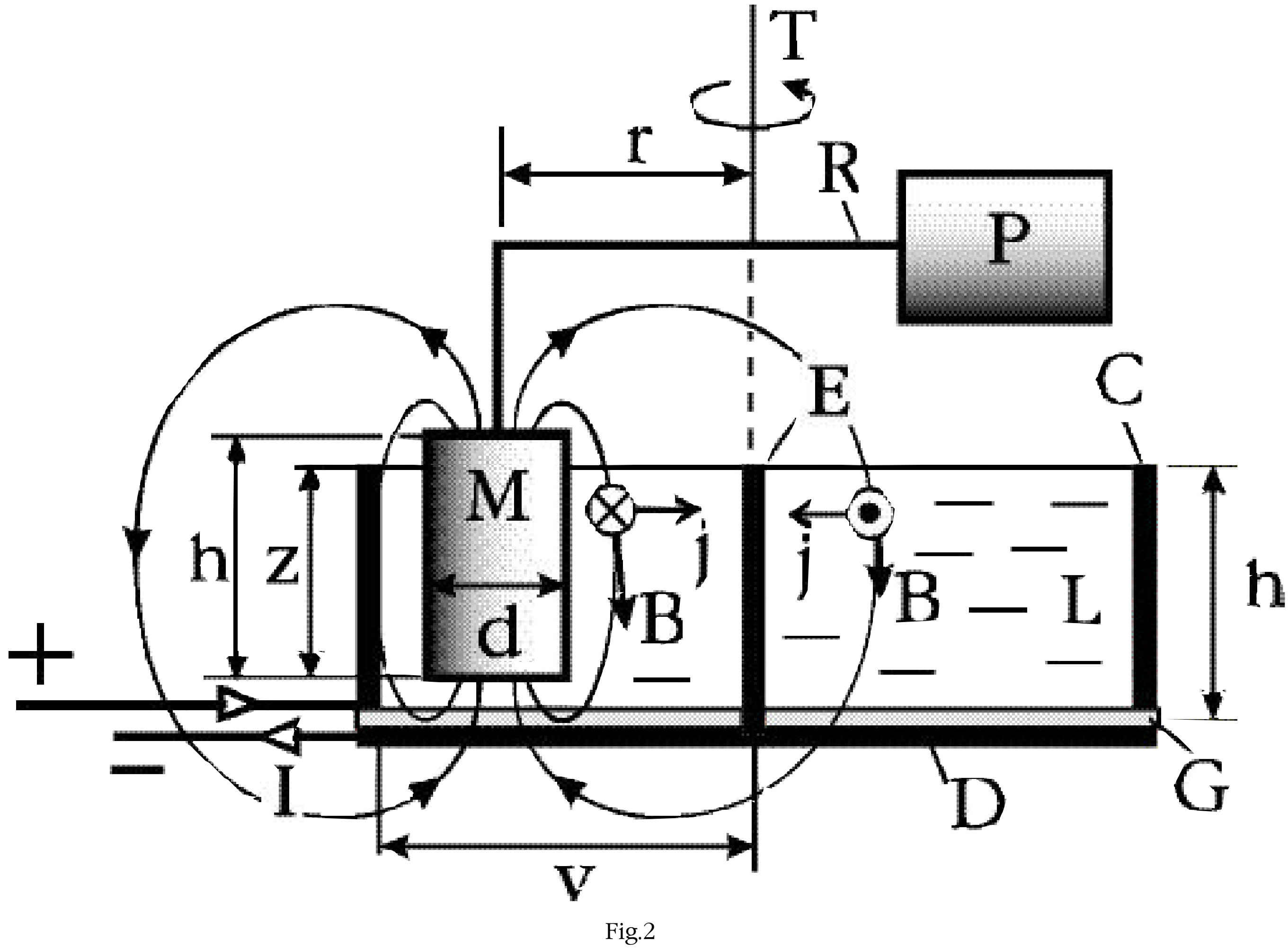

Fig.2
The experimental set and its parameters: h=50 mm, r=35 mm, d=25 mm, v=70 mm, the diameter of the central electrode E is 5 mm, the thickness of the bottom G is 2 mm. (×) and (·) are directions of the force acting on current elements of current density j in the magnetic field of inductance B

The magnet is immersed in the 5% copper sulfate solution ($CuSO_4$) so that the depth *z* of immersion can vary. A vessel containing the conductive liquid *L* is large enough for the magnet to be almost entirely immersed. The cylindrical surface *C* of the vessel and the central electrode *E* of the system are made of non-magnetic materials. The bottom of the vessel *G* is, of course, insulator. The magnet is coated with an insulating moisture-proof varnish. The length of the electrode *E* equals the height h of the vessel. A direct current of strength *I* passing through the cylindrical electrode *C*, the conductive liquid *L*, the central electrode *E* and the disk electrode *D* generate a torque of electromagnetic origin which results to the rotation of the magnet. The disk electrode *D* is intended to provide the system with the symmetrical supply of the current.

Experimental results

The size of this experimental device differs from that described previously [6]. **As a result we have obtained the torque N, which is about ten times more intensive than the former one.** But the main result is that the torque does not change its sign when the magnet is being immersed in the conductive liquid (Fig. 3).

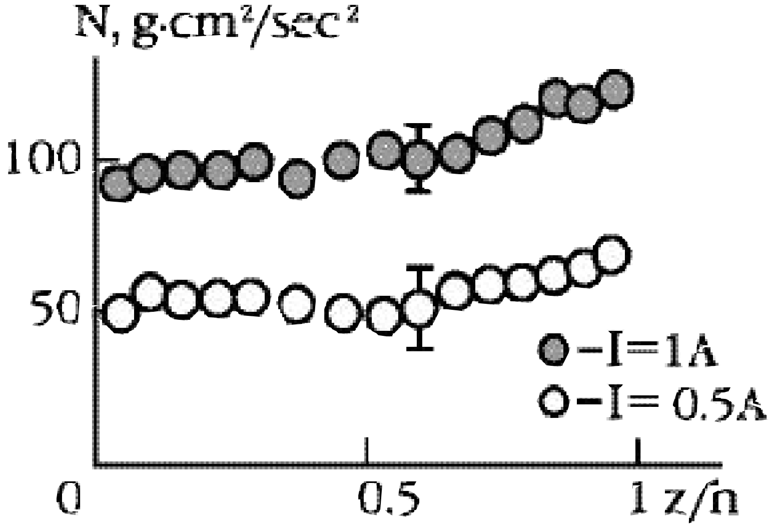

Fig.3
A typical experimental dependencies of the torque *N* acting on the magnet depending on the depth of immersion *z*

When the magnet is almost entirely submerged in the liquid the depth of which equals the height of the magnet, no currents are flowing under and above it. In this case the rotation of the magnet is expected to be the result of drag action of the rotating liquid located in the intermediate field relative to the magnet. This part of the conductive liquid is rotating in the direction opposite to that of the motion of the magnetized body. It seems to be the right way. The magnet pushes the liquid away and, therefore, is moving in the opposite direction. No, this is wrong. If it was correct, this effect would also occur during the shallow immersion. At small *z* the magnet and the liquid rotate together. So far we still do not know what makes the magnet rotate.

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