

# **Magnetohydrodynamic Calculation of In-Mold Electromagnetic Stirring**

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## I. INTRODUCTION

IN-mold electromagnetic stirring in continuous casting has been developed for about 20 years, and got a lot of superior quality in slab surface and metallurgical characteristics[1]. However, the users' demand for high quality steel and cost reduction is necessary for the high metallurgical quality in the continuous casting process. As a result, the in-mold electromagnetic stirring in the continuous casting is expected to be one of the most important technologies to control the initial solidification in order to get the clean slab surface and the low number of non-metallic inclusions. In order to get the optimal design and operation of the in-mold electromagnetic stirring, numerical analysis is necessary to get the fundamental characteristics.

## II. SYSTEM CONSTRUCTION

The in-mold electromagnetic stirring is used to control the initial solidification of molten steel of the continuous casting. The stirring coils are installed on the both sides of the mold as shown in Fig. 1. The stirring coil is treated as the primary part of the linear induction motor and the molten steel is treated as the secondary part[2]. There is a mold made of copper and stainless steel between the stirring coil and the molten steel. The mold makes the operating frequency to become as small as a few Hz, because it makes a role of electromagnetic shield from the coils to the molten steel. The mold makes the molten steel cool down and the molten steel becomes the solid steel starting from the surface of the molten steel.

The stirring coil is supplied with alternative current and multiphase power source, and creates the traveling flux through the molten steel. Eddy current is induced in the molten steel, and the electromagnetic force is induced as the Lorentz's force. Since the molten metal becomes solid from liquid above the Curie temperature, it is non-magnetic but conductive.

Because of the electromagnetic force supplied by the in-mold electromagnetic stirring, the molten steel picks up some velocity. The rotating stirring mode is considered as the stirring direction, since a uniform velocity at the surface of the molten steel is obtained compared as with the parallel stirring mode. In this case, a clean slab surface and a low number of non-metallic inclusions are obtained.

To get the fundamental characteristics of in-mold electromagnetic stirring, magnetohydrodynamic calculation is important.

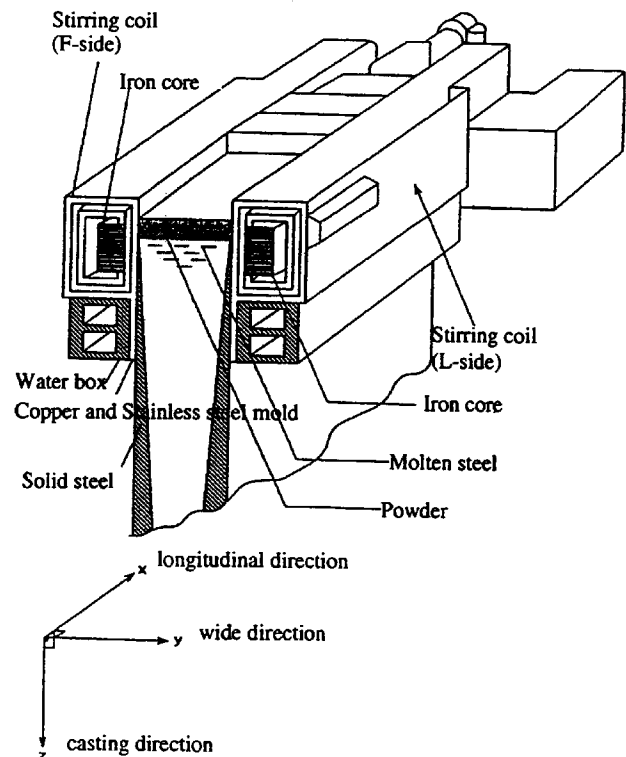


Fig. 1. In-mold electromagnetic stirring(schematic view).

### III. MAGNETOHYDRODYNAMIC CALCULATION

#### A. Calculation Method

The magnetohydrodynamic calculation is necessary for electromagnetic analysis and fluid dynamic analysis. The usual magnetohydrodynamic calculation needs the iteration between them as shown in Fig. 2(a). The electromagnetic force is transferred from the electromagnetic analysis to the fluid dynamic analysis. The electromagnetic force is treated as disturbance force of fluid dynamic. The velocity and surface are transferred from the fluid dynamic analysis to the electromagnetic analysis to take into account for the velocity electromagnetic motive force and the boundary condition of conductive material.

However, in case of the in-mold electromagnetic stirring, the surface is assumed to be fixed, and the velocity electromagnetic motive force is also assumed to be negligible. The synchronous speed of linear induction motor (traveling speed of electromagnetic flux, about 3m/s) is large enough as the maximum part velocity in the molten steel (about 0.2m/s).

Therefore, the magnetohydrodynamic calculation procedure of the in-mold electromagnetic stirring is that the electromagnetic force distribution is calculated first, and then the fluid dynamics is calculated second as shown in Fig. 2(b).

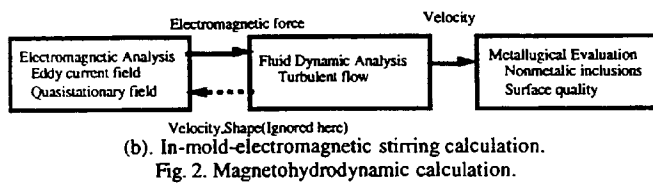
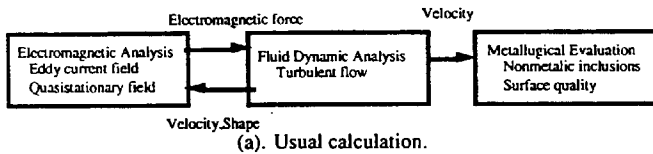


Fig. 2. Magnetohydrodynamic calculation.

#### B. Electromagnetic Analysis

The electromagnetic calculation method is finite elements using the  $A-\phi$  method. The displacement current in Maxwell equation is ignored, and the quasistationary field is assumed (time partial differential is treated as  $j\omega$ ) [3]. The phase unbalance in power source, which occurs usually in linear induction motor, is ignored here. Studied model is shown in Fig. 3 and the material constants used here are shown in Table I.

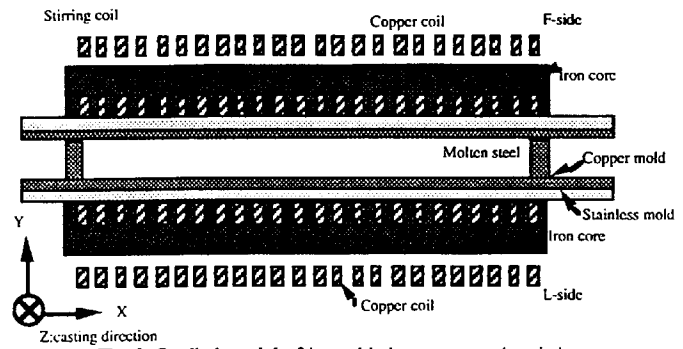
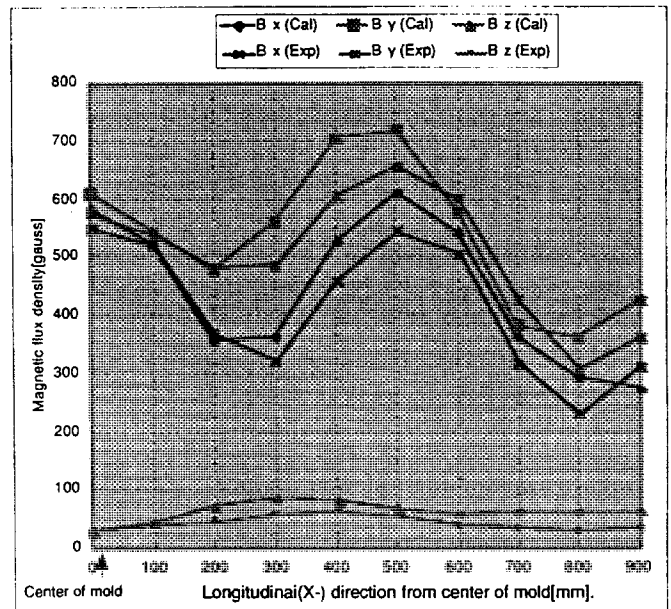


Fig. 3. Studied model of in-mold electromagnetic stirring.

TABLE I  
MATERIAL CONSTANTS USED HERE

Materials	Relative permeability[-]	Conductivity[S/m]
Molten steel	1	$7.69 \times 10^6$
Copper mold	1	$1.78 \times 10^7$
Stainless mold	1	$1.33 \times 10^7$
Iron core at coil	1000	0.0

To confirm the usefulness of the calculation model, we compare the calculation data and the experimental data by 3-dimensional model as shown in Fig. 4. The magnetic flux density is measured at the empty mold. The magnetic flux density distribution in 3-dimensions is in good agreement between the calculation data and the experimental data. The z-direction flux density appears in the figure because of the unsymmetry in the z-direction of the mold.



(a). Longitudinal direction distribution.

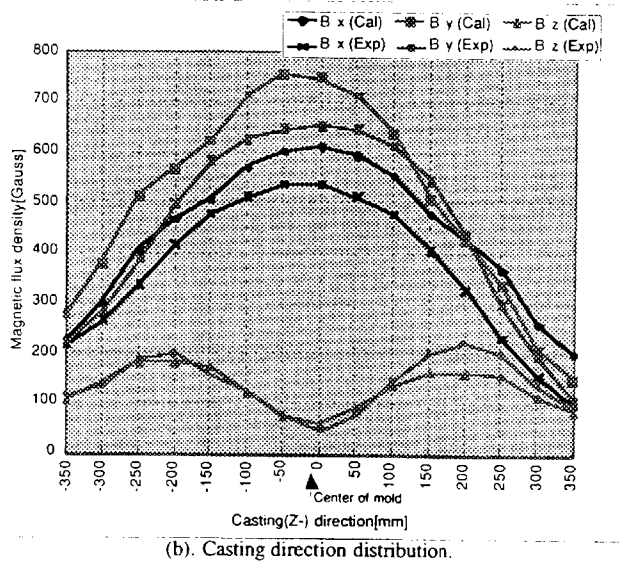


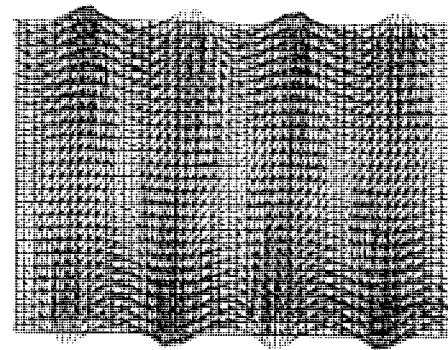
Fig. 4. Magnetic flux density distribution.  
(Calculation and experimental data).

The magnetic flux density distribution in molten steel at the rotating stirring mode is shown in Fig. 5. There are some parts with no magnetic flux in the mold at the real part (a) as well as the imaginary part (b). These parts are considered to occur by the magnetic flux interaction between the F-side coil and the L-side coil[4]. Because these parts have no magnetic flux at all time, they also have no electromagnetic force.

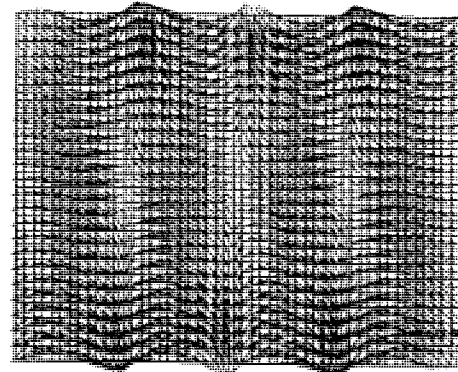
Electromagnetic force distribution in the molten metal is shown in Fig. 6. The rotating force along the longitudinal wall and the normal force vertical to the wall are obtained. Then the eddy distribution of the electromagnetic force appears. The eddy position of the electromagnetic force is the same as the position of no magnetic flux in Fig. 5. The eddy distribution of electromagnetic force is considered to be caused from the magnetic interaction between the coils. The eddy distribution of the electromagnetic force makes the normal force of the electromagnetic force.

The normal component of the molten steel velocity makes no influence on the metallurgical characteristics, because the surface of the solid steel has some parts with no velocity. Then it is said that the normal component of the electromagnetic force usually has a bad influence on it.

To consider the mechanism of the eddy distribution of the electromagnetic force, the parallel stirring mode is also shown for comparison. The rotating stirring mode is caused when the directions of the traveling flux of each coil are different, and the parallel stirring mode is caused when the directions of the traveling flux of each coil are the same. The electromagnetic force distribution in rotating stirring mode has eddy distributions, though the one in the parallel stirring mode has no eddy distribution. Then, it is found that the eddy distribution of the electromagnetic force is a characteristic of the rotating stirring mode.

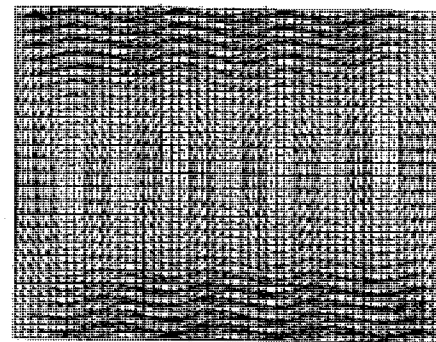


(a). Real part.

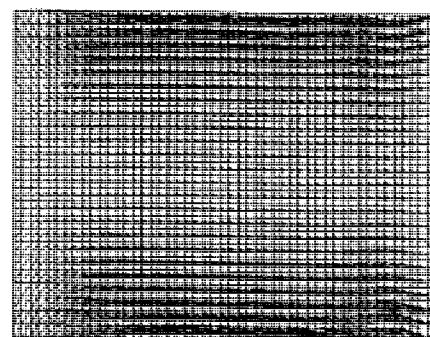


(b). Imaginary part.

Fig. 5. Magnetic flux density distribution.  
(rotating stirring mode, 2Hz, 4 pole)



(a). Rotating stirring mode.



(b). Parallel stirring mode.

Fig. 6. Electromagnetic force distribution in mold.  
(DC components only)

C. Fluid Dynamic Analysis

To evaluate the eddy distribution of the electromagnetic force, we did 3-dimensional fluid dynamic calculation, when electromagnetic force is treated as disturbance force of fluid dynamics. Table II shows the numerical method of fluid dynamics[5] and table III shows material properties for the numerical analysis.

Fig. 7 is the fluid dynamic analysis result at the surface of the molten steel. The surface velocity distribution of the molten steel is very important for the metallurgical quality, because the quality of the slab surface is decided by the initial solidification and the initial solidification starts at the surface of the molten steel.

The eddy distribution of velocity in fluid dynamics disappears. It is considered that the continuity and the inertia effect of molten metal diminish the eddy distribution of the electromagnetic force.

The electromagnetic force distribution along the longitudinal mold wall is shown in Fig. 8. Thrust force component and normal force component are distinguished. It is found that the thrust force is some times larger than the normal force. Then the normal component of the flow velocity is almost negligible.



→ Maximum velocity:0.43m/s

Fig. 7. Velocity distribution at surface. (rotating stirring mode, 2Hz, 4 pole)

TABLE II  
NUMERICAL METHOD

approximation of partial difference	finite difference method
turbulence model	LES
algorithm	fractional step

TABLE III  
MATERIAL PROPERTIES FOR THE NUMERICAL ANALYSIS

density	7000 kg/m <sup>3</sup>
viscosity	0.0043 kg/s.m.

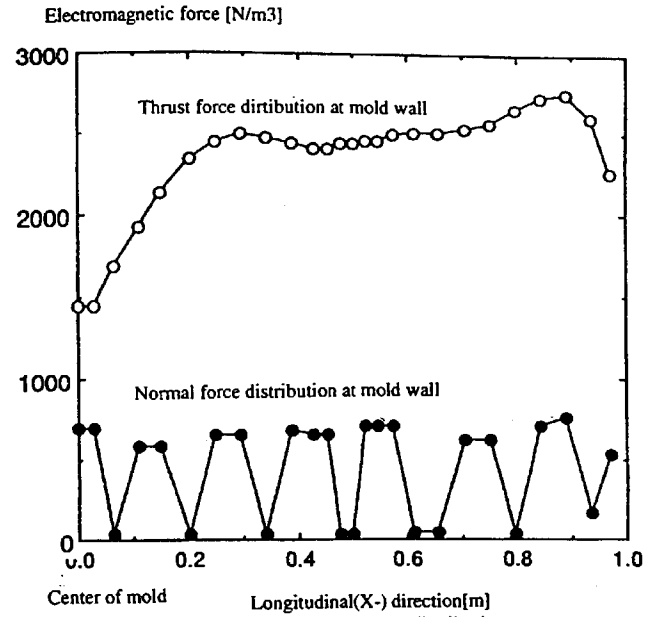


Fig. 8. Electromagnetic force distribution.

IV. CONCLUSION

To get the optimal operation of in-mold electromagnetic stirring through the fundamental characteristics, we did the magnetohydrodynamic calculation. The electromagnetic force has the eddy distribution through the electromagnetic analysis in case of the rotating stirring mode which is thought to give the uniform velocity at surface. However, it does not much influence on the fluid dynamics, because the inertial effect and the continuity are large enough.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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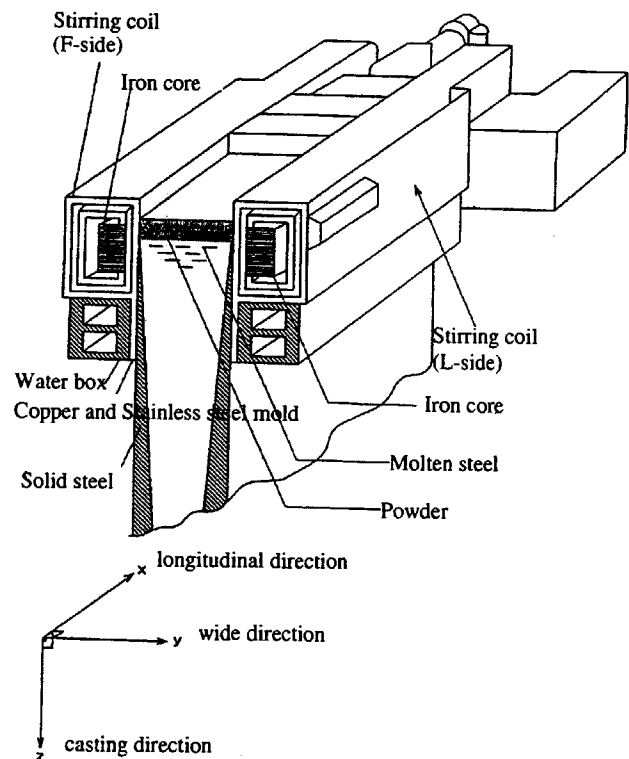


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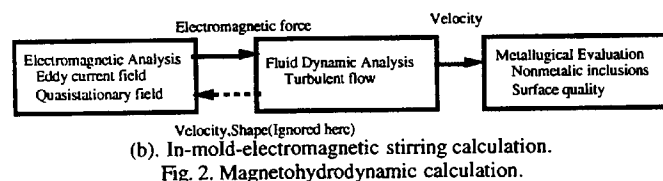
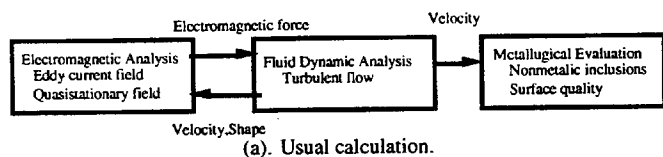


Fig. 2. Magnetohydrodynamic calculation.

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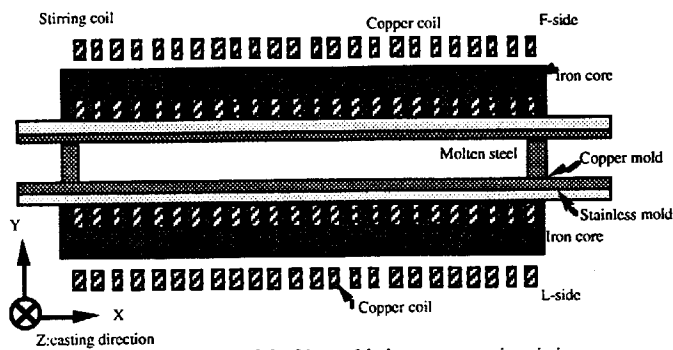
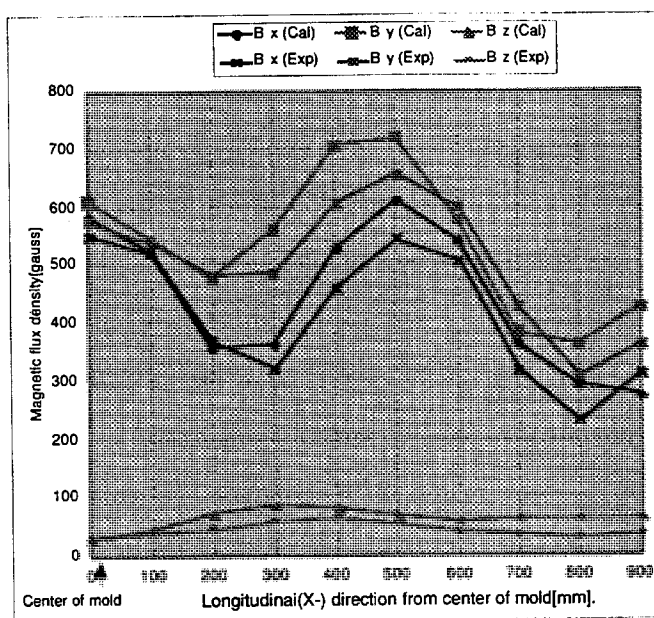


Fig. 3. Studied model of in-mold electromagnetic stirring.

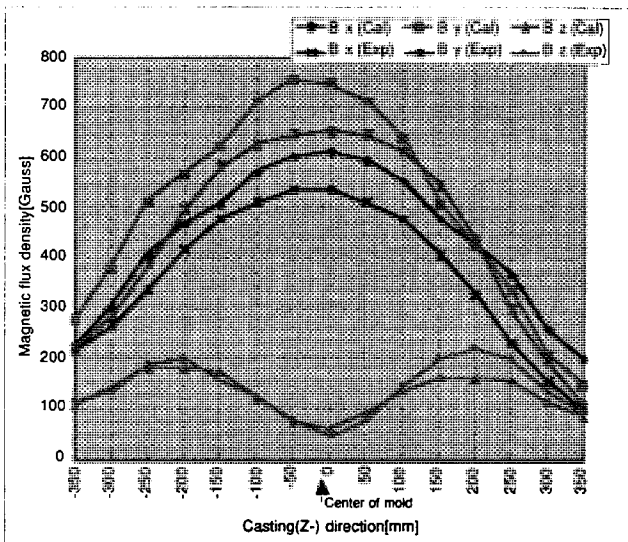
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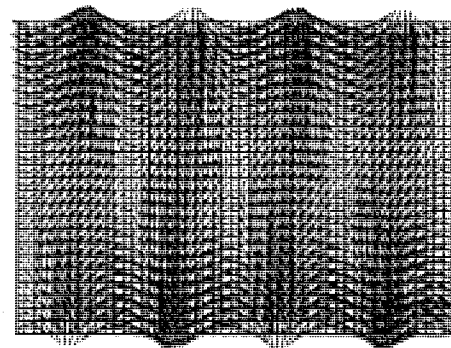
(b). Casting direction distribution.  
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The magnetic flux density distribution in molten steel at the rotating stirring mode is shown in Fig. 5. There are some parts with no magnetic flux in the mold at the real part (a) as well as the imaginary part (b). These parts are considered to occur by the magnetic flux interaction between the F-side coil and the L-side coil[4]. Because these parts have no magnetic flux at all time, they also have no electromagnetic force.

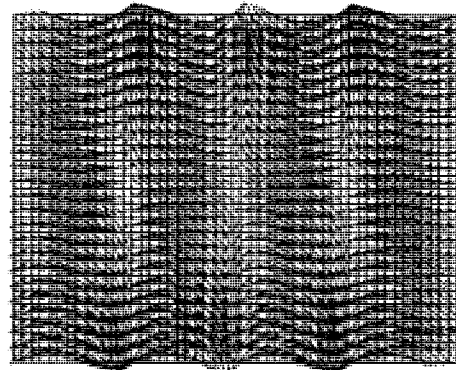
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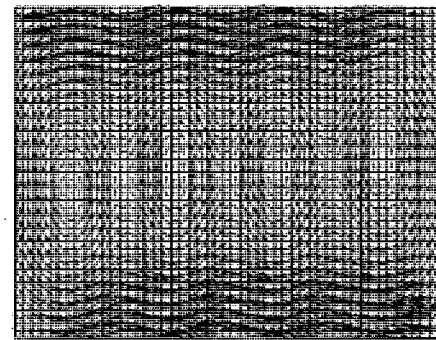


(a). Real part.

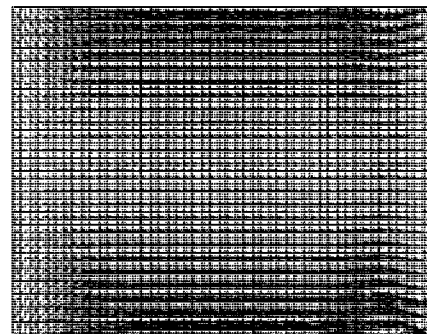


(b). Imaginary part.

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(b). Parallel stirring mode.

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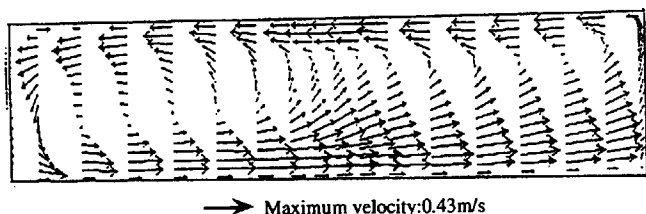


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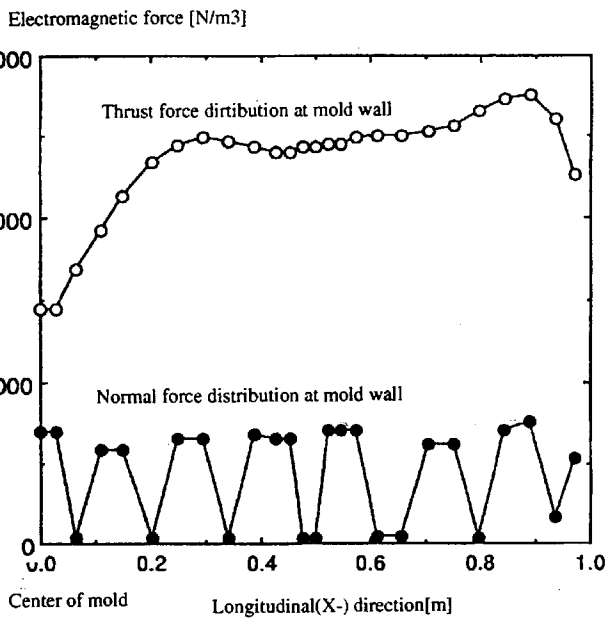


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