

COMPARISON EFFECT OF PULSE-POWER GENERATED  
ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELD ON THE GROWTH RATE OF GREEN SOYBEAN

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UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MALAYSIA

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In the name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

This thesis is dedicated

To my beloved parents Zawahir Ismail and Ruhani Mat Hussin for their priceless  
sacrifices and supports

To my supportive sisters and brothers

To my beloved wife Nurhasyyati Zahri

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## ABSTRACT

This research is to investigate and make preliminary comparison on the effect 50 Hz sine waveform of pulsed magnetic field on the growth rate of green soybean with a variety of magnetic field values (600 mG, 100 mG, 70 mG, 20 mG, 8 mG and 3 mG). A circuit consisting of excitation ferrite-core coil, diode, power MOSFET, resistor, function generator and power supply has been designed and developed to generate pulse magnetic field. It has the ability to produce a stable value of magnetic field operating at a frequency of 50 Hz. Selected green soybean seeds were exposed to three types of waveforms, namely sine wave, square wave and sawtooth wave at 50 Hz. In the experiment, 400 seeds of green soybean arranged in a straight line were exposed to magnetic field in the range of 3 to 600 mG. Values of the magnetic field have been determined by the distance between source (excitation ferrite-core coil) and subject (green soybean). The experiment was conducted for a duration of seven days and samples were taken randomly. The experiment was conducted into two different parts: in the first three days the experiment was conducted in the dark and second four successive day of experiment was conducted under daylight. The results of sine wave show that six magnetic field values at root inhibit the germination rate while six magnetic field values at hypocotyls part has sped up growth rate. Moreover, growth rate at leaf part has been sped up but only for 70 mG magnetic field. In the sawtooth experiment, only three magnetic values (20 mG, 8 mG and 3 mG) show speed up progress on growth rate, while others show the sign of decreasing germination and growth rates for root and leaf part. Lastly, for the square wave, all the seeds were exposed to six different magnetic field values (600 mG, 100 mG, 70 mG, 20 mG, 8 mG and 3 mG) and the result show that the germination and growth rates for root, hypocotyls and leaf were inhibited. As a conclusion, the most pronounce effect of different waveform was sine waveform that affect to speed up the growth rate of hypocotyls and leaf.

## ABSTRAK

Kajian ini adalah untuk mengkaji dan membuat perbandingan ke atas kesan awal 50 Hz bentuk gelombang sinus denyutan medan magnet kepada kadar pertumbuhan kacang soya hijau dengan pelbagai nilai medan magnet (600 mG, 100 mG, 70 mG, 20 mG, 8 mG dan 3 mG). Sebuah litar yang terdiri daripada gegelung pengujaan berteras ferit, diod, MOSFET kuasa, perintang, penjana fungsi dan bekalan kuasa telah direka dan dibangunkan untuk menjana denyutan medan magnet. Ia mempunyai keupayaan untuk menghasilkan nilai medan magnet yang stabil yang beroperasi pada frekuensi 50 Hz. Benih kacang soya hijau terpilih didedahkan kepada tiga jenis bentuk gelombang iaitu gelombang sinus, gelombang segi empat dan gelombang gerigi pada 50 Hz. Dalam eksperimen, 400 biji kacang soya hijau disusun dalam satu barisan lurus didedahkan kepada medan magnet dalam julat 3 hingga 600 mG. Nilai medan magnet telah ditentukan oleh jarak antara sumber (gegelung pengujaan teras ferit) dan subjek (kacang soya hijau). Eksperimen telah dilakukan selama tujuh hari dan sampel diambil secara rawak. Eksperimen dilakukan dalam dua bahagian yang berbeza: dalam tiga hari pertama eksperimen dilakukan dalam gelap dan empat hari berturut-turut eksperimen dilakukan di siang hari. Keputusan gelombang sinus menunjukkan, 6 nilai medan magnet pada akar menghalang kadar percambahan manakala 6 nilai medan magnet pada bahagian hipokotil telah mempercepatkan kadar pertumbuhan. Selain itu, kadar pertumbuhan pada bahagian daun juga telah dipercepatkan tetapi hanya untuk 70 mG medan magnet. Dalam eksperimen gelombang gergaji, hanya 3 nilai medan magnet (20 mG, 8 mG dan 3 mG) menunjukkan peningkatan kemajuan ke atas kadar pertumbuhan. Manakala yang lain menunjukkan tanda penurunan kadar percambahan dan kadar pertumbuhan untuk bahagian akar dan daun. Akhir sekali untuk gelombang segi empat, kesemua biji yang terdedah kepada 6 nilai medan magnet (600 mG, 100 mG, 70 mG, 20 mG, 8 mG dan 3 mG) yang berbeza dan keputusan menunjukkan kadar percambahan dan pertumbuhan untuk akar, hipokotil dan daun terhalang. Sebagai kesimpulan, kesan sebahagian besar bentuk gelombang yang berbeza adalah bentuk gelombang sinus yang memberi kesan peningkatan kepada kadar pertumbuhan hipokotil dan daun.



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER	TITLE	PAGE
	<b>DECLARATION</b>	ii
	<b>DEDICATION</b>	iii
	<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT</b>	iv
	<b>ABSTRACT</b>	v
	<b>ABSTRAK</b>	vi
	<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b>	vii
	<b>LIST OF TABLES</b>	x
	<b>LIST OF FIGURES</b>	xi
	<b>LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS</b>	xiii
	<b>LIST OF SYMBOLS</b>	xiv
	<b>LIST OF APPENDICES</b>	xvi
<b>1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1</b>
	1.1 Problem Statement	2
	1.2 Research Objectives	3
	1.3 Research Scopes	3
	1.4 Organisation of Thesis	4
<b>2</b>	<b>LITERATURE REVIEW</b>	<b>5</b>
	2.1 Introduction	5
	2.1.1 Types of treatment	8
	2.1.2 DC Electric Field Treatment	8
	2.1.3 Pulse Electric Field (PEF) Treatment	9
	2.1.4 Static Magnetic Field Treatment	10
	2.1.5 Pulse Magnetic Field Treatment	13
	2.2 Generator for treatment	18
	2.3 Statistical Analyses	20
	2.4 Summary	21

<b>3</b>	<b>METHODOLOGY</b>	<b>25</b>
3.1	Introduction	25
3.2	Research Framework	25
3.3	Coil	27
3.4	Circuit Design	28
	3.4.1 Preliminary circuit testing	28
	3.4.2 Final Circuit	30
3.5	Finite Element Method Magnetic simulation	32
3.6	Experimental Procedures	33
	3.6.1 Seed Selection	33
	3.6.2 Arrangement of subject experiment	33
	3.6.3 Experiment	35
3.7	Biostatistical Analysis	37
	3.7.1 Student t-test	37
	3.7.1.1 Null Hypothesis	38
	3.7.1.2 Alternative Hypothesis	38
	3.7.2 ANOVA	39
3.8	Summary	40
<b>4</b>	<b>RESULT AND ANALYSIS</b>	<b>41</b>
4.1	General	41
4.2	Relationship among frequency, current of coil circuit and MF.	42
4.3	Relationship between distance and electromagnetic field	44
4.4	Experiment (Biostatistical analysis)	46
	4.4.1 Results of sine wave signal and analysis	47
	4.4.1.1 Root	47
	4.4.1.2 Hypocotyls	49
	4.4.1.3 Leaf	50
	4.4.2 Results square wave signal and analysis	52
	4.4.2.1 Root	52
	4.4.2.2 Hypocotyls	54
	4.4.2.3 Leaf	56
	4.4.3 Results sawtooth wave signal and analysis	58
	4.4.3.1 Root	58
	4.4.3.2 Hypocotyls	60
	4.4.3.3 Leaf	62
4.5	Summary	64

<b>5</b>	<b>CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE WORK</b>	<b>69</b>
5.1	Conclusion	69
5.2	Contribution to Treatment	70
5.3	Recommendation for future work	70
	<b>REFERENCES</b>	<b>72</b>
	Appendices A – B	78 – 84

## LIST OF TABLES

TABLE NO.	TITLE	PAGE
2.1	DC Electric Field	22
2.2	Pulse Electric Field	23
2.3	Static Magnetic Field	23
2.4	Pulse Magnetic Field	24
2.5	Statistical Analyses	24
4.1	Sine Wave comparison 78 Hz and 50 Hz	42
4.2	Relationship between electromagnetic field and distance for different poles	45
4.3	T-test for root	47
4.4	ANOVA for root	48
4.5	T-test for Hypocotyls	49
4.6	ANOVA for Hypocotyls	49
4.7	T-test for Leaf	51
4.8	ANOVA for Leaf	51
4.9	T-test for root	52
4.10	ANOVA for root	53
4.11	T-test for Hypocotyls	55
4.12	ANOVA for Hypocotyls	55
4.13	T-test for Leaf	57
4.14	ANOVA for Leaf	57
4.15	T-test for root	59
4.16	ANOVA for root	59
4.17	T-test for Hypocotyls	61
4.18	ANOVA for Hypocotyls	61
4.19	T-test for Leaf	63
4.20	ANOVA for Leaf	63
4.21	Summary table result sine experiment	65
4.22	Summary table result square experiment	66
4.23	Summary table result sawtooth experiment	67

## LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE NO.	TITLE	PAGE
2.1	Animal cell structures [26]	6
2.2	A bilayer of such lipids in an aqueous electrolyte solution [29]	7
2.3	Plant cell [13]	8
2.4	The setup experiment Daikon Radish [33]	9
2.5	Electromagnetic field generator with variable magnetic field strength and a pole gap of 5 cm [11].	11
2.6	A experimental set up for EF treatment.[2]	12
2.7	Magnetic field generator and external loop [43].	13
2.8	Schematic plans showing the angle between GeoMF and WEMF [22].	14
2.9	The Four coil system [44].	15
2.10	The complete setup experiment [51].	17
2.11	View of alternating magnetic field application on strawberry plants [12]	18
2.12	Cross-section of treatment chamber and onion epidermis sample [36]	19
2.13	The set-up for the experiment of thale-cress [33]	19
3.1	Flow Chart of Research Framework	26
3.2	Excitation coil	27
3.3	Excitation coil dimensions	27
3.4	Circuit Drive with IC UC3825	28
3.5	Circuit Drive with IC UC3825 and HCPL 3210	29
3.6	Circuit Drive with IC UC3825 and Power MOSFET	29
3.7	Gauss Meter	30
3.8	Circuit drive current with component	31
3.9	Circuit board drive current with component	32
3.10	Magnetic Flux Density mapping	33
3.11	Top view	34
3.12	Front view	34
3.13	Measurement taken during experiment	35

3.14	Growth of green soybean from seed	36
4.1	Relationship between the voltage supplied to the coil circuit and the magnetic field produced	43
4.2	Relationship between magnetic field and distance for the negative pole	44
4.3	Relationship between magnetic field and distance for positive pole	44
4.4	Comparison distance between positive pole and negative pole	45
4.5	Mean Plots for root	48
4.6	Mean Plots for Hypocotyls	50
4.7	Mean Plots for Leaf	52
4.8	Mean Plots for root	54
4.9	Mean Plots for Hypocotyls	56
4.10	Mean Plots for Leaf	58
4.11	Mean Plots for root	60
4.12	Mean Plots for Hypocotyls	62
4.13	Mean Plots for Leaf	64

**LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

AMF	-	Alternating Magnetic Field
ANOVA	-	Analysis of Variance
DC	-	Direct Current
DFB	-	Degrees of freedom between
DFW	-	Degrees of freedom within
ELF	-	Extreme Low Frequency
EF	-	Electric Field
MF	-	Magnetic field
MFT	-	Magnetic Field Treatment
EMPT	-	Electromagnetic Pulse Therapy
EMT	-	Electromagnetic Therapy
FEMM	-	Finite Element Method Magnetic
MOSFET	-	Metal Oxide Semiconductor Field Effect Transistor
MSB	-	mean square between
MSW	-	mean square within
PCB	-	Printed Circuit Board
PEFT	-	Pulsed Electric Field Treatment
PMFT	-	Pulse Magnetic Field Treatment
SMF	-	Static Magnetic Field
SPSS	-	Statistical Package for the Social Sciences

## LIST OF SYMBOLS

$\alpha$	-	Significance Level
mT	-	milli Tesla
T	-	Tesla
mG	-	milli Gauss
$\mu$ T	-	micro Tesla
nm	-	nanometer
°	-	Degree
C	-	Celcius
Hz	-	Hertz
kHz	-	kilo Hertz
MHz	-	Mega Hertz
$\mu$ s	-	microsecond
s	-	second
h	-	hour
mm	-	milimeter
cm	-	centimeter
m	-	meter
%	-	Percent
V	-	Voltage
$V_{pp}$	-	Voltage Peak to Peak
kA	-	kilo Ampere
mg	-	mili gram
RH	-	Relative Humidity
$H_0$	-	Null Hypothesis
$H_1$	-	Alternative Hypothesis
$\mu_1$	-	mean 1
$\mu_2$	-	mean 2
$T$	-	Student T-Test
$\bar{x}$	-	sample average x
$\bar{y}$	-	sample average y



$S_x^2$	-	sample variance x
$S_y^2$	-	sample variance y
$n_1$	-	number of observation x
$n_2$	-	number of observation y
F	-	F statistic
$\beta$	-	Electromagnetic Field
$\mu_0$	-	Relative Permeability material
$i$	-	current
N	-	number of turn
$\pi$	-	pi
$r$	-	Radial Distance
$X_L$	-	Inductive Reactance
L	-	Inductance
$\omega$	-	Omega

**LIST OF APPENDICES**

<b>APPENDIX</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>PAGE</b>
A	Datasheet	78
B	List of Publications	84

## **CHAPTER 1**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Living matters communicate with many mechanisms, depending on complexity of the biological environment. Intracellular interactions are the mechanisms of communication between cells which closely related to the chemical and electrical signalling. Change in voltage gradients often correlates with morphogenetic events during growth patterning of plants and animals [1]. Human activities that produce an electric field (EF) and a magnetic field (MF) give strength to an effect of natural phenomena on plants. EF is a field of force surrounding a charged particle, while ME is a field of force surrounding a moving charged particle. EF and MF are always related with each other because a charged particle always has an MF and an EF [2].

The variety of intensities of MF and EF are used in several applications including electronic equipment, food sterilization, medical diagnostics, medical therapies and levitation. For direct biological applications, high intensity MF and EF have been used due to their damage effects on biological samples. Moreover, beneficial effect on living organisms had been reported by using weak MF and EF. As a way of regulating the biological activity of these systems, knowledge on the mechanisms of the MF and EF action on various biological systems may effectively use [2, 3].

Investigations into the effect of MF on plants and seeds have been done since the late 1900s recommended that the growth and yield to plants would be improved more than chemical fertilizers and thus it contributes to the improvement on the crop productivity and protection. Other than that, a few countries have developed magnetic technologies that were environmentally friendly and non-polluting to the soil and were reasonably priced to farmers [4]. An affordable physical and potentially a safe method has been reported by using MF treatment of seeds to speed up the release of seeds from dormant state, to improve seed germination, plant growth and plant yield. Moreover, MF also affects in an increase in seed water uptake, enzymatic activity of

seeds, essential nutrient uptake into leaves, chlorophyll pigment content, protection against heat stress and pathogens without adversely affecting the environment [4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9]. Base on scientific debate, potential health risk cannot still be ruled out, even if the mechanistic, animal, and in vitro toxicology literature fail to demonstrate any consistent pattern across studies. Up to date, the scientific community is actively working to clarify all the existing controversies about this matter [10].

## **1.1 Problem Statement**

Investigations into the effect of MF on plants have been performed by many researchers. Their investigations have covered a variety of aspects, for example physical considerations, such as the weight of fruits, length of shoot, the length of root, the length of leaf, the length of hypocotyls and etc. Moreover, they have also investigated the physiological changes in plants, such as nutrient element uptake, electroporation, cell volume changes due to water uptake and etc [11,12,13, 14, 15, 16,17]. Most experiments have been conducted in a condition of extreme low frequency (ELF), static MF or alternating MF [11, 12, 18, 19, 20].

In this research, the pulsed generator MF was developed to be a simple circuit and it could be compatible with use of a variety of ferrite-core coils. The important consideration is the limitation of a MF produced by the coil, so specific components will be placed in the circuit to stabilise the drive of the current to the coil. Also, the selected coils can pick-up three types of waveform square, triangle and sinusoidal waves.

Because of limitation of the experiment process, in the research, the selected subjects must have a short grow up duration. The selected subject is green soybean and considerations are genetics, size and weight of seeds; there are all important and may become the main factors affecting the results of the experiment. Moreover, orientation of green soybean position when exposed to a pulse MF should be considered in the design of experiment.

The main purpose of this research is to observe green soybean growth rate due to the exposure of MF intensities with a variety of waveforms.

## 1.2 Research Objectives

The target of this research is to compare effect of a variety of pulsed MF intensities on the green soybean plants with three types of waveform. Below are the research objectives:

- Design and fabricate a pulsed generator magnetic device that can control frequency in a certain range to get the necessary MF for the treatment.
- Choose suitable green soybean seeds and create suitable experimental methods.
- Implement the pulsed magnetic device to the green soybean seeds and observe the effect of MF exposure to the green soybean seeds.

## 1.3 Research Scopes

The scope of this research is to design a pulsed magnetic generator which can drive current to an excitation coil. In details, the generator was built with a circuit drive current and with a power supply to power up it. A function generator was used to pump in pulses to the designed circuit so that current could have been induced into the excitation coil to produce pulsed MF. A device called Gauss meter was used to measure the generated MF by the excitation coil.

The research scopes can be divided into two, experiment on circuit testing and experiment on treatment of exposing samples. For circuit testing, the developed hardware was tested on a few aspects such as the ability to generate MF, the MF magnitude and the sensing field. Meanwhile, experiment of exposing pulsed MF to the samples involves three stages. First stage is the selection of samples, criteria includes subject grow up rate and easy handling. Next stage is to design an experimental setup, which suitable with samples, so it will be easy to handle sample and collect data. The last stage is data analysis. Data collected being analysed by software and results will identify if further repetition experiment is needed.

## **1.4 Organisation of Thesis**

Chapter 1 discusses the general history of treatment in the field of agriculture. This chapter also elaborates on the problem statement, research objectives and scope of this research.

Chapter 2 presents the literature review of magnetic treatment. Types of treatment and the recent investigations into the effect the EF and MF due to exposure of plant cells to the MF were described. This chapter also includes previous studies regarding the MF generator and the magnetic source, induction coil.

Chapter 3 describes the criteria of coil selection, the circuit design, the procedures of experiment and the biostatistician data analysis.

Chapter 4 discusses the results of the experiments and the data analysis in terms of sine, square and sawtooth waves.

Chapter 5 presents the conclusions and the recommendations for future work.

only. Sine wave, square wave and sawtooth experiments gave results of the inhibited germination and growth rates at root and leaf parts, as exception, there was one group of samples exposed to the sine wave MF resulted with a speed up growth rate for the leaf part.

## **5.2 Contribution to Treatment**

This research provides a significant contribution in the agricultural field. The MF treatment for plant cells was performed. First, 6 different values of magnetic field (600 mG, 100 mG, 70 mG, 20 mG, 8 mG and 3 mG), which could give different results were investigated. The results showed that the MF treatments could be used at a specific part such as root, hypocotyls or leaf. Results from experiments showed that sine wave had inhibit effect on root and leaf, but hypocotyls exposed to all the magnetic levels slightly effect with a speed up growth rate. Only 70 mG MF gave a slightly effect, to speed up the growth rate of the leaf.

Second contribution is to test square wave and sawtooth wave as the waveforms to the induced coil. Square wave experiments showed that it was suitable to slow down or inhibit the germination and growth rates for seeds and plant, in the test conditions around 50 Hz of all the tested 6 MF levels in this research. Sawtooth experiments showed a different result, where a speed up growth rate in 20 mG, 8 mG or 3 mG exposed MF for the hypocotyls. Sawtooth experiment also inhibited the germination and growth rates for the exposed sample of root and leaf parts.

The third contribution is explored into the 50 Hz frequency, that it is not commonly implemented in Malaysia. The emitting frequency was in the range of 50-60 Hz, which was produced by an electrical equipment whereby inductions of the MF occurred in the electrical line. From the research, we can predict that a slightly exposure to an MF will cause side effects, either good or bad, on the animal and plant cells.

## **5.3 Recommendation for future work**

This research can be improved further, especially the hardware part and the experimental procedures. For hardware development, circuit drive current can be

redesign and rebuilt again for a more stable current and an easy to do experiment. The experimental procedures can be improved on the repetition rate of the treatments. Experiments can be conducted 3 or 5 times with a larger number of samples, which more than 400 samples, to get an average result. By doing so, it will give closely results near to the accurate results that a better data analysis can be produced. It is recommended to have a variety of seeds as samples, such as corn seeds, cucumber seeds, peanuts seeds and etc to enhance the subject samples.



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