

# 53. IWK

Internationales Wissenschaftliches Kolloquium  
International Scientific Colloquium



Faculty of  
Mechanical Engineering



## PROSPECTS IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

8 - 12 September 2008

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Home / Index:

<http://www.db-thueringen.de/servlets/DocumentServlet?id=17534>

**Published by**  
**Impressum**

Publisher Herausgeber	Der Rektor der Technischen Universität Ilmenau Univ.-Prof. Dr. rer. nat. habil. Dr. h. c. Prof. h. c. Peter Scharff
Editor Redaktion	Referat Marketing und Studentische Angelegenheiten Andrea Schneider
	Fakultät für Maschinenbau Univ.-Prof. Dr.-Ing. habil. Peter Kurz, Univ.-Prof. Dr.-Ing. habil. Rainer Grünwald, Univ.-Prof. Dr.-Ing. habil. Prof. h. c. Dr. h. c. mult. Gerd Jäger, Dr.-Ing Beate Schlüter, Dipl.-Ing. Silke Stauche
Editorial Deadline Redaktionsschluss	17. August 2008
Publishing House Verlag	Verlag ISLE, Betriebsstätte des ISLE e.V. Werner-von-Siemens-Str. 16, 98693 Ilmenau

**CD-ROM-Version:**

Implementation Realisierung	Technische Universität Ilmenau Christian Weigel, Helge Drumm
Production Herstellung	CDA Datenträger Albrechts GmbH, 98529 Suhl/Albrechts

ISBN: 978-3-938843-40-6 (CD-ROM-Version)

**Online-Version:**

Implementation Realisierung	Universitätsbibliothek Ilmenau <u>Ilmedia</u> Postfach 10 05 65 98684 Ilmenau
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K. Zimmermann / V. Böhm / J. Popp / I. Zeidis

## A contribution about ferrofluid based apedal locomotion

### ABSTRACT

Ferrofluids are superparamagnetic suspensions, whose surface contour and/ or pressure can be modified with electromagnetic fields. This property allows its controlled movement, which can be used to develop novel locomotion systems.

The poster presentation refers to design proposals and characteristics of ferrofluid based apedal locomotion systems. Thereby potential functional locomotion principles will be classified and a theoretical and experimental description of those will be offered using selected implemented models.

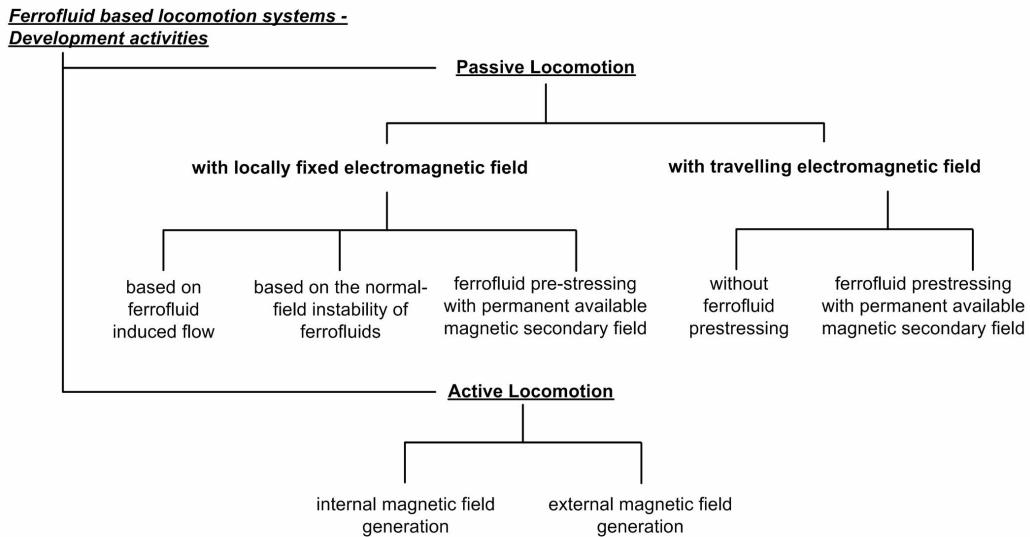


Figure 1: Development activities on ferrofluid based locomotion systems

Two types of systems will be regarded – active (global change of the ferrofluid position together with the moving system) (figure 2) [1] and passive ones. The latter one (local change of the mechanical properties of the fluid which affects the locomotion) is mainly focused on the locomotion on the free ferrofluid surface [2] (figure 3).

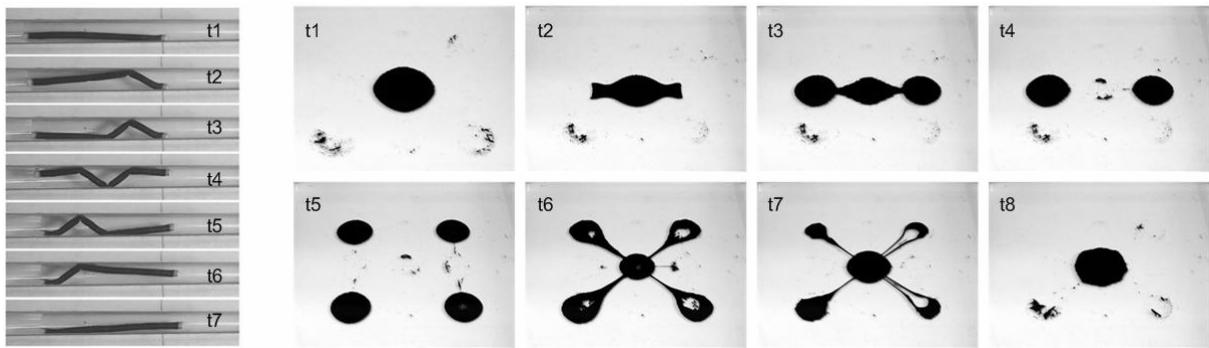


Figure 2: Examples for ferrofluid based active locomotion systems (left: snake like locomotion of a ferrofluid filled capsula; right: controlled movement of ferrofluid droplets)

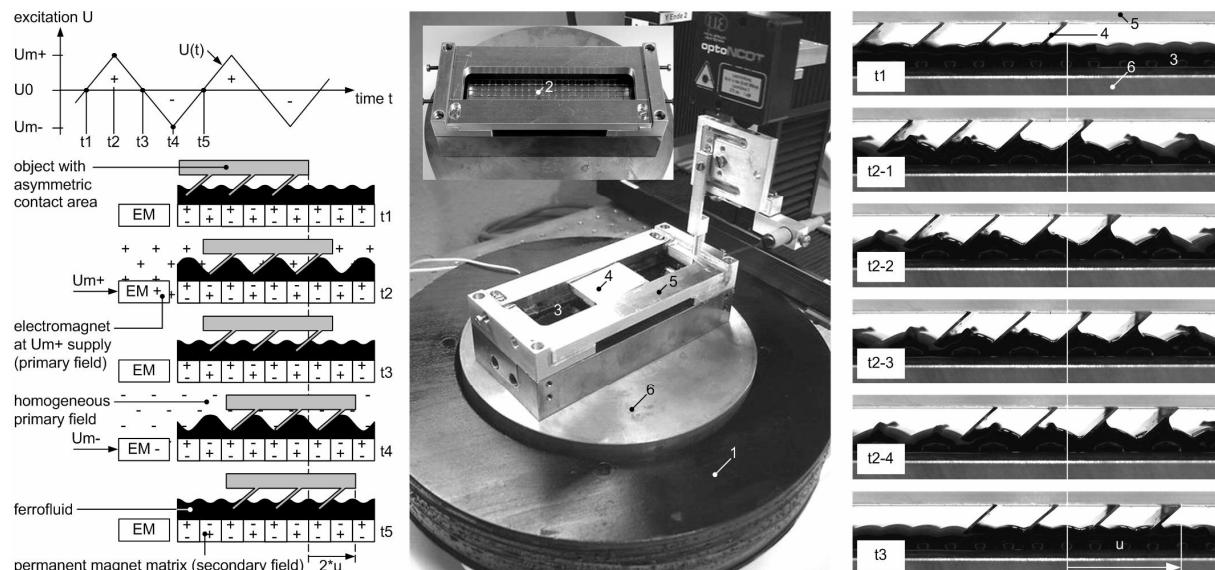


Figure 3: Example of a ferrofluid based passive locomotion system (left: functional shematic; center: experimental assembly - 1: coil, 2: permanent magnet matrix (+/-: opposing field directions), 3: ferrofluid, 4: non-magnetic object, 5: lateral guidance, 6: iron core; right: moving behaviour of the object for one half of an excitation periode)

## References:

- [1] Zimmermann, K.; Naletova, V. A.; Zeidis, I.; Böhm, V.; Kolev, E.: Modelling of locomotion systems using deformable magnetizable media, *Journal of Physics: Condensed Matter* 18 (2006) S2973-S2983.
- [2] Zimmermann, K.; Böhm, V.; Zeidis, I.; Popp J.: Ferrofluid based locomotion system with locally fixed electromagnetic field Proc. of the ACTUATOR 08 - 11th International Conference on New Actuators and Drive Systems (2008), S834-837. (ISBN-3-933339-10-3)

## Authors:

Univ.-Prof. Dr.-Ing. habil. Klaus Zimmermann  
 Dr.-Ing. Valter Böhm  
 Dipl.-Ing. Jana Popp  
 Dr. rer. nat. Igor Zeidis  
 TU Ilmenau, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, P.O.B. 100565  
 D-98684, Ilmenau  
 Phone: +49-(0)3677-69-2474  
 Fax: +49-(0)3677-69-1823  
 E-mail: klaus.zimmermann@tu-ilmenau.de