



THE UNIVERSITY
of ADELAIDE

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THE BALL BEARING MOTOR MYSTERY (142)

adelaide.edu.au

Outline

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 - **Disadvantages**
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- **Experiments**
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- **Management**
 - **Budget**
 - **Timeline**
 - **Risk management**
- **Conclusion**

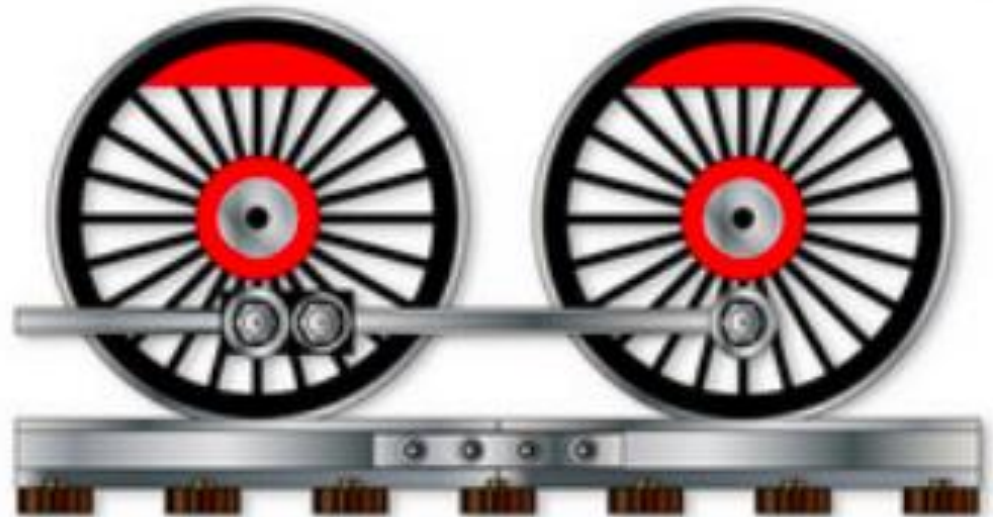
Background Information

The Huber Effect

Pair of railway
wheels



Steel axis



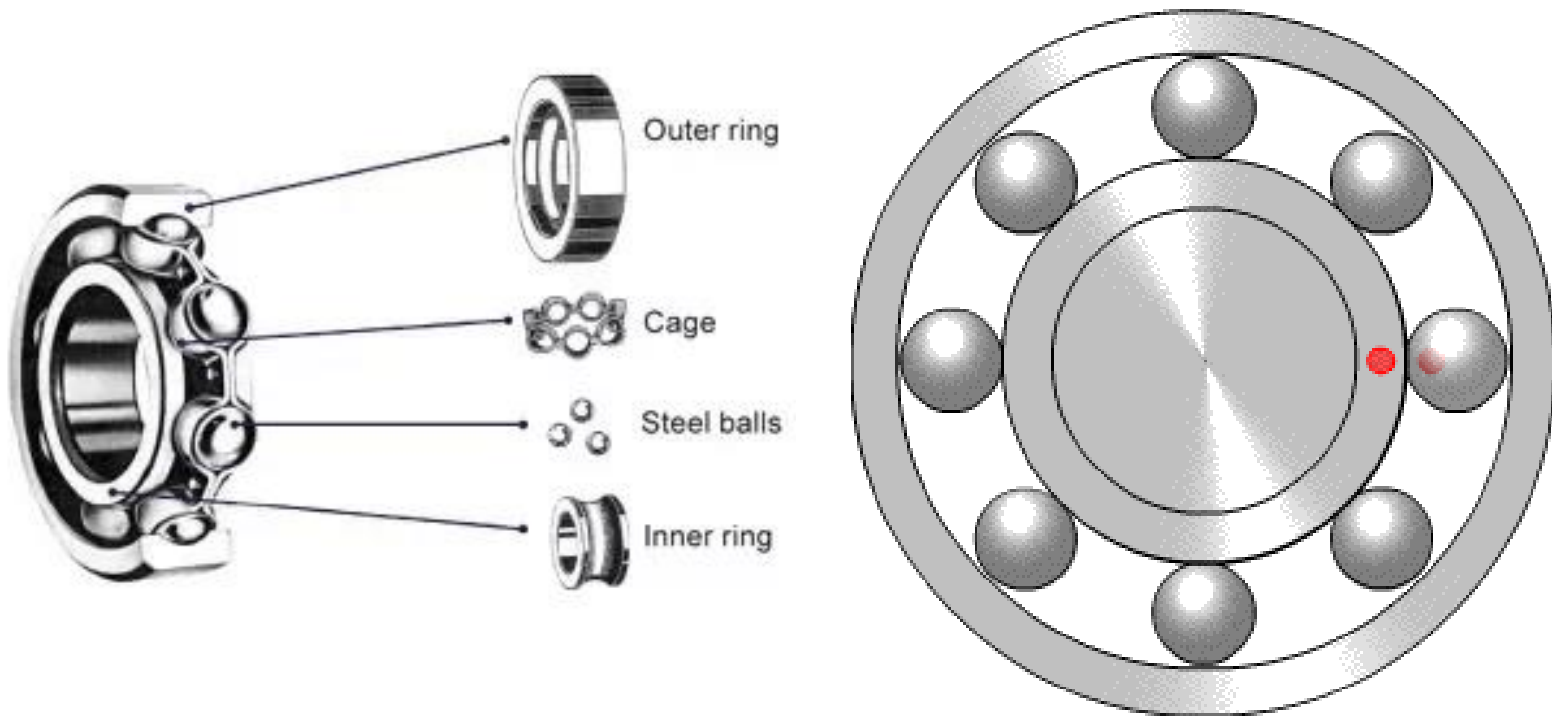
If current is applied across these wheels,
then a *small force* begins to act.

When the wheels start to roll, the
strength of this *small force* increases.

<https://cdn1.vectorstock.com/i/thumb-large/38/75/pair-of-train-wheels-vector-20753875.jpg>

Background Information

Description of Bearing

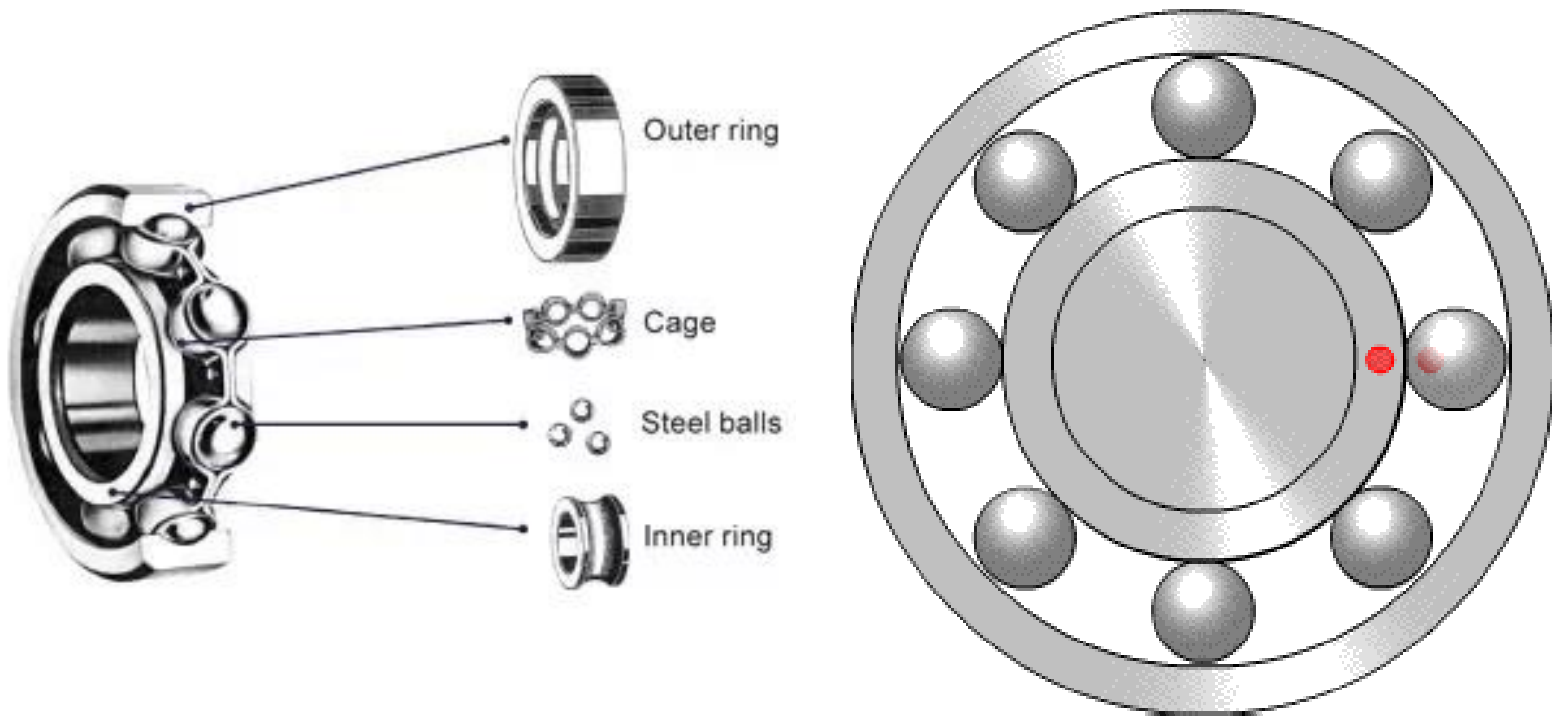


<https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/3/30/BallBearing.gif>

<https://www.quora.com/How-do-ball-bearings-work-What-are-they-for>

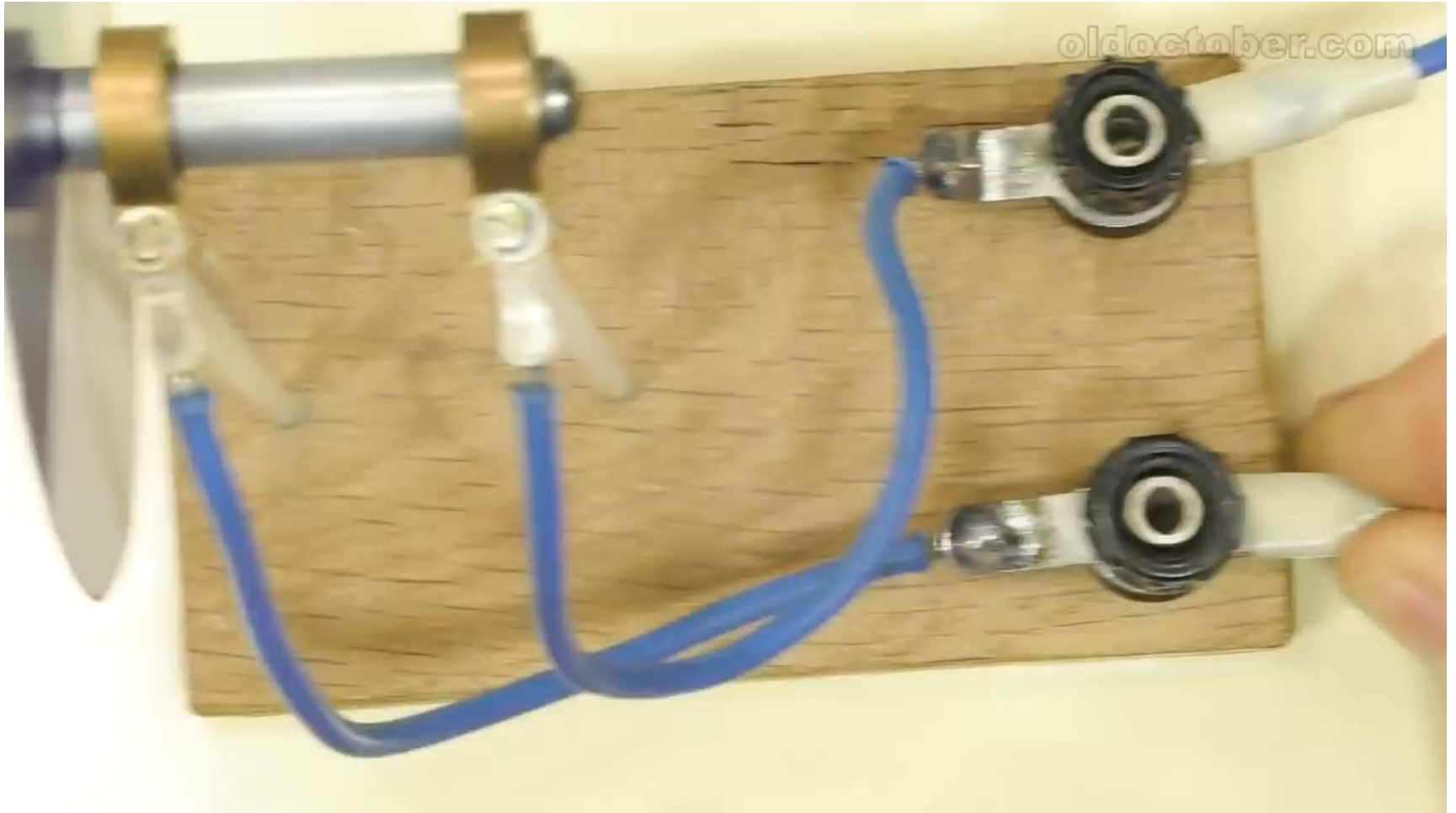
Background Information

Description of Bearing



<https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/3/30/BallBearing.gif>

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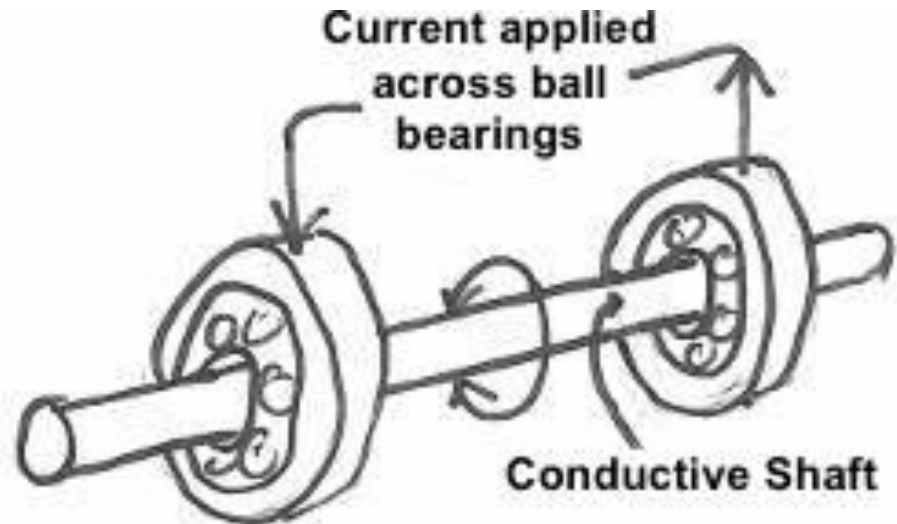


https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8E4_SQTBye4

Background Information

Description of Motor

- High current is applied at opposite ends of the shaft.
- After giving the motor an initial spin, the motor will independently rotate in that direction.



<https://www.electronicweekly.com/blogs/engineer-in-wonderland/general-engineer-in-wonderland/ball-bearing-motors-a-mystery-2012-11/>

Background Information

Disadvantages

- Heats up
- Sparking occurs
- Very poor torque

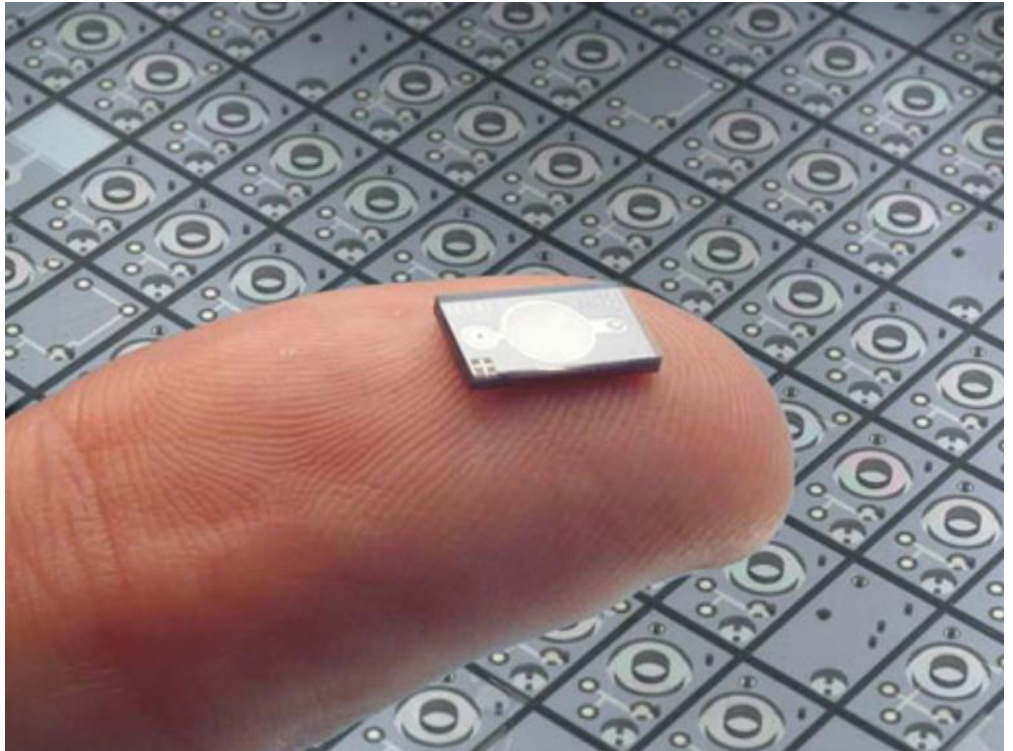


<https://d3vl3jxeh4ou3u.cloudfront.net/IISTD%20Damaged%20Wheel%20Bearing%20.jpg>

Motivation

Application (MEMS)

- Make it smaller
- Increase reliability and velocity
- Less current
- No more overheating
- Use in Micro Electro-Mechanical Systems



<https://internetofthingsagenda.techtarget.com/definition/micro-electromechanical-systems-MEMS>

Motivation

Application (Micro Motor)

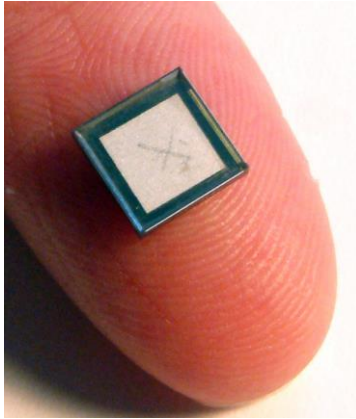
- Size in the order of microns
- Uses in the medical field



<https://scienceprog.com/what-are-mems/>

Motivation

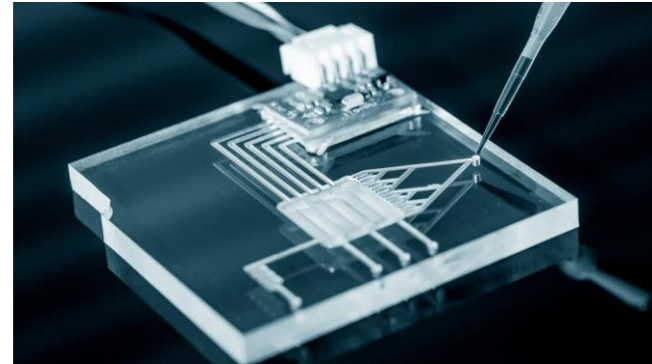
Application (Micro pump and LOC)



Micro pump

- Can manipulate picolitres of liquid
- Applications in the military

<https://educalingo.com/en/dic-en/micropump>



Lab on a Chip (LOC)

- About 1x1 cm in size
- All the operations in a normal lab
- Can run tests on a small amount of blood and duplicate DNA segments

<https://singularityhub.com/2017/02/19/one-cent-lab-on-a-chip-can-detect-cancer-and-infections/>

Motivation

Purpose of This Study

- Better understand Huber effect
- Potentially unlock new potentials for MEMS
- Might give insight to today's technical problem

Experiments

What Are We Looking For?

- **The electromagnetic force effect**
- The thermal expansion effect
- The plasma discharge effect

**Relationship between angular velocity
and torque?**

Experiment

Simulation Setup

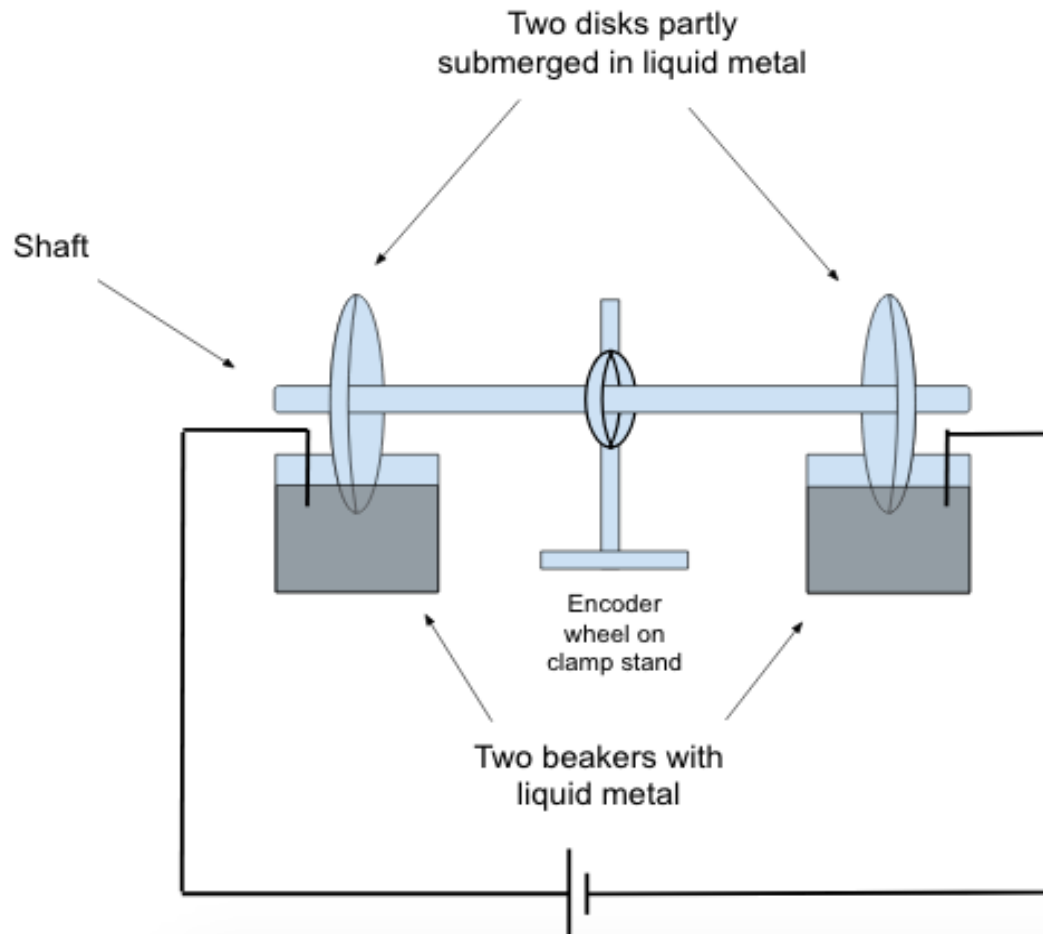
- Can create and simulate real or ideal situations
- Will be used to simulate the ball bearing motor in a frictionless environment
- Enable us to collect and compare data



<https://d3vl3jxeh4ou3u.cloudfront.net/IISTD%20Damaged%20Wheel%20Bearing%20.jpg>

Experiment

Physical Setup



Experiment

Gallium



<https://www.businessinsider.com/gallium-safe-metal-liquid-mercury-2016-5/?r=AU&IR=T>

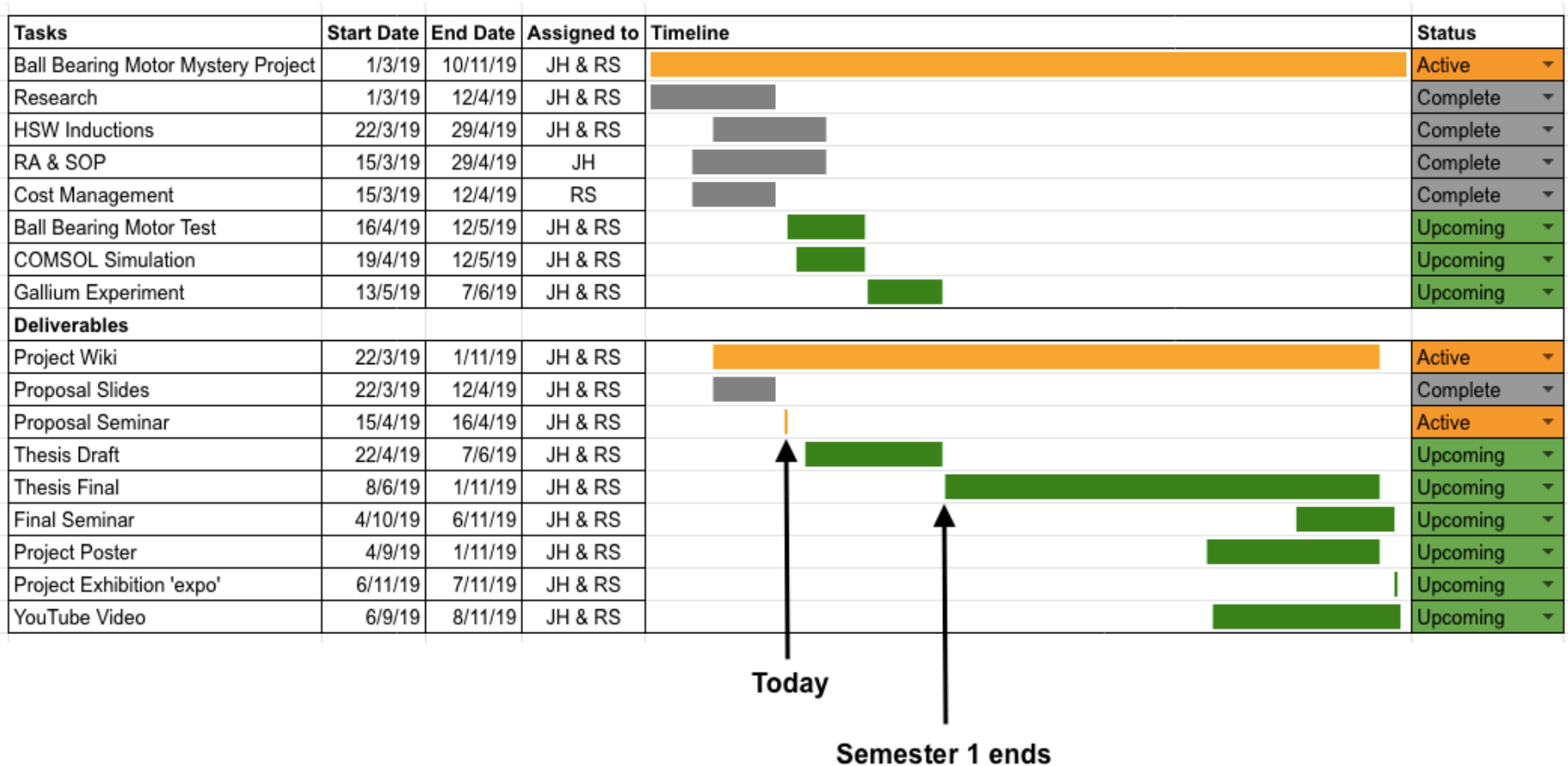
	Gallium	Galinstan	Francium	Mercury	Caesium	Bromine
Liquid near room temperature? (Melting Point)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (30°)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (10°)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (27°)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (-30°)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (-28°)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (-7°)
Not toxic?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fit our budget?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Management

Budget

- Gallium (\$130 for 250g)
- Encoder wheel (\$70-\$100)
- Ball bearing races (\$5-\$10)
- Total (\$205-\$240)

Management Timeline



Management

Risk (HSW)

- Ball bearings get too hot to touch.
 - Mitigated by leaving to cool and ensuring the ball bearings are cool to touch before handling.
- Sparks are likely to occur.
 - Mitigated by wearing safety glasses.
- High current from car battery passing through motor.
 - Mitigated by wearing safety gloves.

Management

Risk (Project)

- Shipping may take longer than expected.
 - Mitigated by allowing more time to work on experiment.
- Simulation results differ from actual results.
 - Mitigated by simulating simple projects.

Conclusion

- On a large scale the motor is ineffective
- Has a lot of potential when made smaller
- Looking for the relationship between angular velocity and torque
- The motor will be simulated using COMSOL as well
- Motor will be modelled with the liquid metal Gallium
- See which theory the results support if at all.

Questions?



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