

CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR 2010 PROJECT SUMMARY

Name(s)

Nathan P. Storey

Project Number

J0914

Project Title

Gauss Gun: Multi-Stage Magnetic Linear Accelerator

Abstract

Objectives/Goals

To test and demonstrate the effects of magnetic acceleration

Methods/Materials

- (1) 6 foot aluminum rail
- (10) steel, 1/2 inch, ball bearings
- (12) Neodymium, 1/4 inch magnets

Plastic tie wraps

Tape Measure

Eraser

Results

By allowing the first ball to be attracted to the first magnet, it set off a series of events that ultimately caused the final ball bearing to be shot off at increase velocity. I noticed that three magnets secured at 6 inch intervals launched the ball bearings the farthest. The best shot was the three magnets at six inches which shot the ball bearing 46 inches.

Conclusions/Discussion

I learned that magnetic propulsion is an efficient method of transportation. It is also more environmentally friendly than coal or petroleum. It can be scaled up to be applied to propel magnetic levitation trains. I have included a small scale example of a magnetic levitation train that could be propelled by magnetic acceleration.

Summary Statement

To test and demonstrate the effects of magnetic acceleration

Help Received

My father cut the aluminum rail and helpled build the mag lev train box. My mother helped draw on the display board.