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(54) WELL TOOL FOR USE IN A WELL PIPE

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- **ZHABKO, Georgy, Petrovich**
St. Petersburg 198332 (RU)
- **BELOV, Andrey, Aleksandrovich**
St. Petersburg 194064 (RU)
- **ADAMIAN, Yuri, Eduardovich**
Pos. Kuzmolovski
Leningradskaya obl. 187663 (RU)

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(74) Representative: **Onsagers AS**
P.O. Box 1813 Vika
0123 Oslo (NO)

(73) Proprietor: **FMC Kongsberg Subsea AS**
3601 Kongsberg (NO)

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(72) Inventors:
• **KRIVOSHEEV, Sergey, Ivanovich**
St. Petersburg 19530 (RU)
• **SVECHNIKOV, Evgeni, Lvovich**
St. Petersburg 197136 (RU)

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Description

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The present invention relates to a well system comprising a well pipe and a well tool for use in the well pipe. In particular the well tool is arranged to generate an electromagnetic pulse which provides physical vibrations in the well pipe.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] Cavities are often filled with a material for insulation or other purposes. In one instance this can for example be a tank with double walls where the cavity between the walls is filled with cement or other hardening material. In another instance it can be a special purpose building, for example a power station having walls where the cavity is filled with cement. Some times it may be necessary to ascertain the quality of the filling but where there are difficulties due to inaccessibility or safety reasons.

[0003] One typical example of such a cavity is the annular space between the casing strings of a hydrocarbon well. A typical hydrocarbon well construction consists of a number of coaxial pipes called casing strings that are successively installed in the well as the drilling progresses. Normally, the first pipe (conductor pipe) is set in the well by being bonded to the surrounding formation with cement that is pumped down the pipe and allowed to flow up in the space between the conductor pipe and the surrounding ground. Then, after drilling further down a second casing normally called surface casing is installed in the well and again the casing is set by filling the annular space between the pipe and the borehole resp. conductor pipe with cement. Then, depending on the length of the hole drilled, and the rock structure, successive casing strings with diminishing diameters are introduced into the borehole and hung off from the wellhead. These casings are normally cemented only partway up from the bottom of the borehole. Lastly, production tubing is installed into the well down to the producing formation and the casings are perforated to allow fluids to enter the well to flow up through the tubing and through the Christmas tree into a flowline.

[0004] When cementing each pipe the normal practice is to calculate the amount of cement needed, based on the annular space and the length of the space designed to be filled. However, it is often difficult to calculate the exact amount of cement needed and the cement level may be lower than intended. In the case of surface casing it is desirable to fill the annular space all the way up to the mudline (seabed), but this may not always be achieved, leading to so-called cement shortfall. The top of the surface casing may therefore be filled with a fluid (water or brine) instead of cement resulting in that the surface casing string is not bonded to the conductor pipe all the way up to the mudline. In such a case the part of

the surface casing that is not cemented can be regarded as a free-standing column that, if subjected to loads, can be damaged.

[0005] The surface casing carries a wellhead and is the principal load-carrying structure for the equipment mounted on top of the wellhead. It serves both the purpose of being a foundation for external loads, such as production equipment (Christmas tree) and for borehole support against the formation. A well will be subjected to various loads during its lifetime. In for example a workover situation, a BOP and riser is attached to the Christmas tree, the riser extending to the surface. The movements of the riser and the use of drilling equipment can set up cyclic loads in the wellhead and the surface casing string (See Fig. 1). This may induce fatigue in the casing string.

[0006] Another cause of loads comes from the casing strings being subjected to loads from being heated by the producing fluids.

[0007] If the cement has filled the annular space completely and, in addition, has bonded properly with the steel pipe cyclic loads will be spread along the length of the casing and transferred to the conductor pipe and the ground. However, if there is a length that has not been properly filled that part of casing can act as a free-standing column (ref. above) and cyclic loads can lead to fatigue and damage of the casing. It is also possible that the point where the top of cement level is can act as a breaking point because of the movements of the column above.

[0008] Similarly, heating and cooling of the casing may induce loads that can lead to fatigue problems and deformation of the casing.

[0009] As can be understood from the above it is therefore of prime interest to find out if the cement job is properly executed, e.g. the annular space is properly filled. The main purpose of the invention is therefore to find the level of the cement from which the length of the column can be determined.

[0010] If later work has to be performed on the well the BOP and riser is reattached to the Christmas tree so that operations can be carried out in a safe manner.

[0011] Both during drilling and (if necessary) workover operations the wellhead is subjected to external loads, as explained above. How this affects the wellhead depends on the length of the free standing column. A longer column will be more vulnerable to fatigue. If the length of the free standing column can be determined it can be calculated how much load the wellhead can be subjected to and this will in turn determine how much work that can be done. This enables an operator to predict the operational lifetime of the well and to ensure the integrity of the well structure.

[0012] One method for non-destructive logging of layers of different materials comprises the creation of a magnetic pulse within a pipe to cause the pipe to act as an acoustic transmitter. One such example is disclosed in US Patent No. 6595285 where there is described a method and device for emitting radial seismic waves using

electromagnetic induction that generates a magnetic pressure pulse that causes a distortion within a pipe and which utilizes the elastic restoring property of the pipe to cause it to become an acoustic transmitting device. This can be used for generating seismic waves in the subsoil. In US Patent No. 3752257 a similar device is located within a conductor pipe and used to measure acoustic velocity within a formation. The reflected acoustic signals are reflected from the formation and recorded by two receivers and the delta travel time between the receivers is recorded. It is also stated that this apparatus can be used to measure the quality of the cement bond between the conductor pipe and the earth formation. However, there is no further explanation on how this may be achieved and our research has found that this is not a reliable way of determining the cement level.

[0013] In both these examples of the known art the transmitter is located such that the acoustic waves only have to traverse one pipe wall, e.g. the conductor pipe. If the device is to be located in a fully completed well there is the challenge to create a signal that is both strong enough to penetrate through several different casing pipes and to be able to distinguish between the reflected signals from the various casings.

[0014] In WO 2011/117355 belonging to the applicant, this problem is addressed by using a signal of very short duration. Because of the short duration of the signal it is possible to separate the reflections on a time lapse basis. The speed of the acoustic waves are different in cement (a solid) than in water. When transmitting signals at various points in the well it will be possible to find the spot where the signal is different. This, in theory, marks the exact location of the top of the level of cement.

[0015] In addition to the problem of separating the various reflections from each other there is also the problem with signal noise. This can be signal noise being generated by the system itself, but also second and third reflections from the various casings. The latter of course becomes even more complicated when the reflected signal comes from an annulus that are several layers away from the receiver, as is the case of the annulus between the conductor and the surface casing, known in the art as the "D" annulus. Both the transmitted and the reflected signal must in this case pass through four casing pipes. There may also be reflected signals travelling along the pipe that also can produce noise.

[0016] US-5 047 992 A discloses an electromagnetic source or sources in a sonde in a well bore that is caused to emit electromagnetic forces into the well casing. The electromagnetic forces cause displacement of the casing, inducing acoustic waves. The acoustic waves may be either P-waves or S-waves, depending on the type of electromagnetic source used. The response of earth formations to the acoustic waves, once detected, is used to detect fractures in the formations.

[0017] In view of the above background, there is a need for an improved well system comprising a well pipe and a well tool for use in the well pipe, wherein the well tool

is arranged to generate an electromagnetic pulse which provides physical vibrations in the well pipe.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0018] The invention relates to a well system comprising a well pipe and a well tool for use in the well pipe, as set forth in the appended independent claim 1.

[0019] Advantageous embodiments have been set forth in the dependent claims.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0020] In the following, embodiments of the invention will be described in detail with reference to the enclosed drawings, where:

Fig. 1 is a simplified sketch of a completed well supported by the seabed;

Fig. 2 is a partial illustration of the well of fig. 1, showing the instrument located in the production tubing;

Fig. 3 is an illustration of a well tool for use in a well pipe;

Fig. 4 is a schematic diagram of an induction coil with its associated circuitry;

Fig. 5 is a schematic view of an induction coil and accompanying field lines;

Fig. 6 is a schematic view of an induction coil according to the present invention;

Fig. 7 illustrates a reflected signal from one pulse;

Fig. 8 illustrates a simulation of reflected signals from several pulses fired at different heights in a well;

[0021] In fig. 1 there is shown an illustrative embodiment of a completed hydrocarbon well 1. The well is completed with a wellhead 2, production tubing 3, a first intermediate casing 4, a second intermediate casing 5, surface casing 6 and conductor casing 7. The annulus between the surface casing 6 and the conductor 7 is shown filled with cement 8.

[0022] Cement is normally provided between the drilled hole and the conductor casing, and between the conductor casing and the surface casing. As mentioned above the annular space between the conductor and the surface casing should ideally be filled with cement all the way to the wellhead. The annular spaces between the other casings are normally only filled partway up from the bottom with cement, the amount determined by the formation characteristics. It should be noted that there may be used more than these casings for the foundation of the well, depending on the seabed properties etc. The

top end of the production tubing is connected to a tubing hanger that in turn is anchored in the well head or Christmas tree (depending on type of completion) while its lower end is fastened in the first casing with a production packer, as is well known in the art.

[0023] In fig. 2 there is shown a part of the well in vertical section showing the casing strings and with the position of the pulse generator 14 and receiver 16 indicated inside the production tubing 3. There are also lines indicating the signals going from the pulse generator and being reflected back to the receiver.

[0024] In Fig. 3 there is shown a sketch of the well tool 10. The tool 10 comprises a tool housing 11, and a pulse generator 14 for generating an electromagnetic pulse, which due to the magnetic properties of the pipe will cause the pipe to oscillate.

[0025] In an aspect the well tool 10 is intended to be used in a well pipe. The tool 10 comprises a housing 11, and a pulse generator 14 which is provided within the housing 11.

[0026] The pulse generator 14 comprises an inductor Ls and a power supply device HV, c, which, in use, supplies electrical power to the inductor Ls. Thereby an electromagnetic pulse is generated. The tool and the well pipe are arranged in such a way that the electromagnetic pulse is providing physical vibrations in the well pipe. To this end, the well pipe may be made, at least partly, of a magnetic material. The inductor may comprise a metallic core, the metallic core may e.g. be a cylinder.

[0027] The inductor may have a cylindrical shape. The cylindrical inductor's wall may be thin relatively to the cylindrical inductor's diameter and relatively to the diameter of the well pipe. Although the cylindrical inductor actually has an inner diameter and an outer diameter, it may be reasonable to simplify the description of the inductor by introducing the median diameter d, as illustrated in figure 6. The median diameter may be the average value of the inner diameter and the outer diameter of the cylindrical inductor.

[0028] Hence, the inductor has a median diameter d. The cross sectional area of the inductor up to a circle defined by the median diameter d of the inductor is denoted Ainner.

[0029] The cross sectional gap area Agap between the circle defined by the median diameter of the inductor and the circular inner wall of the well pipe (production tube 3) is denoted Agap.

[0030] In an aspect, the cross sectional area Agap is substantially equal to the sectional area Ainner. In this context, "substantially equal" may, e.g. mean that the ratio between the cross sectional gap area Agap and the inner cross sectional area Ainner is in the range 0.9 to 1.1. More advantageously, the area ratio may be in the range 0.95 to 1.05, and even more advantageously, the area ratio may be in the range 0.98 to 1.02.

[0031] Particularly advantageously, the cross sectional gap area Agap is equal to the inner cross sectional area Ainner.

[0032] The well tool 10 may advantageously comprise a centralizing device which is configured to positioning the well tool 10 in a central position within the well pipe.

[0033] The inductor may advantageously have an inductance in the range of $10 \cdot 10^{-6}$ H to $40 \cdot 10^{-6}$ H.

[0034] The power supply device may advantageously comprise a capacitor, c, connected to the inductor, Ls, wherein the capacitor, c, is configured to discharge its energy over the inductor. Also, the power supply device may comprise a switch, s, connected between the inductor Ls and the capacitor c.

[0035] In another aspect the well tool 10 is provided for determining or measuring the presence or absence of cement in an annular area between two concentric pipes in a hydrocarbon well. In such an aspect the well tool comprises a tool housing 11, a pulse generator 14 provided within the tool housing 1 for generating a magnetic field, where the pulse generator 14 comprises an inductor, Ls, and a power supply device, HV, c, for supplying electrical power to the inductor Ls and thereby providing that an electromagnetic pulse is generated, in such a way that the electromagnetic pulse provides physical vibrations in the pipe being closest to the pulse generator 14.

[0036] In such an aspect the well tool further comprises at least one signal recorder 16 provided within the tool housing 11 for recording reflected acoustic signals from the well. Further, a first distance, H1, between the signal recorder 16 and the pulse generator 14 is substantially equal to a second distance, H2, between the pulse generator 14 and the annular area. In this context, "substantially equal" may, e.g. mean that the ratio between the first distance H1 and the second distance H2 is in the range 0.7 to 1.3. More advantageously, the distance ratio may be in the range 0.9 to 1.1, and even more advantageously, the distance ratio may be in the range 0.95 to 1.05.

[0037] Particularly advantageously, the first distance H1 and the second distance H2 are equal.

[0038] Advantageously, the well tool 10 may comprise a centralizing device which is configured to positioning the tool 10 in a central position within the well pipe. The second distance H2 may advantageously be measured in a radial direction in relation to the well from the center axis of the inductor Ls and the center of the annular area.

[0039] The well tool 10 may advantageously be provided in the innermost pipe of the well.

[0040] The pulse generator 14 may e.g. be located at a distance between 10 and 20 cm from the signal recorder 16.

[0041] Advantageously, the well tool 10 may comprise an ultrasonic absorber 15 located between the pulse generator 14 and the signal recorder 16.

[0042] In a particular aspect, the signal recorder may be located above the pulse generator. In this particular aspect, a second signal recorder may also be arranged, and in particular, it may be located in close proximity to the first signal recorder.

[0043] Additionally, a third signal recorder may also be arranged, and in particular, it may be located below the pulse generator, at the distance substantially equal to or equal to H1 below the pulse generator.

[0044] In any of the mentioned aspects, the tool 10 may thus comprise signal recorder(s) 16, 17, 18 for recording signals representing the vibrations being reflected back from the pipes in the well. Since acoustic signals are investigated, a preferred signal recorder may be a hydrophone. The tool 10 may be held in a central position by centralizers (not shown). The pulse generator 14 and the signal recorder(s) 16, 17, 18 are provided within the housing 11.

[0045] The pulse generator 14 is housed within the tool 10 that may further comprise a power supply and charging device 22 and a data storage system 24. Further, the tool may comprise a cable head 26 for attaching the tool to a cable 30. The cable 30 may provide communication between the tool and a surface equipment that may e.g. comprise a first control unit 32 for the control of the tool, and a second control unit 34 for receiving and processing data from the tool.

[0046] An sound absorber (not shown) may be located between the pulse generator 14 and the signal recorder(s) and may be used to prevent acoustic pulses from the inductor to reach the signal recorder and create noise in the system. The tool may be coupled to a tractor 20 or similar device for moving the tool in the well.

[0047] In Fig. 3 there are shown three signal recorders. However, there may be only one located above or below the signal generator or there may be one located above and one located below. In a preferred embodiment there is only one signal recorder which preferably is located above the signal generator.

[0048] The distance between the pulse generator and the signal receiver in relation to the distance to the target may have significant effect. As shown in Fig. 2 the outward waves travels outwards to the D annulus and get reflected back as acoustic waves to the signal recorder. As mentioned above, the distances involved are very small. The standard nominal diameter of a surface casing is 20 inches (50 cm) and a normal size for the conductor casing is 30 inches (75 cm). If we regard the center of the well as the datum, the signals will only have traveled 25 - 35 cm before they reach the surface casing resp. the conductor pipe. In fig. 2, the distance H1 between the pulse generator 14 and the closest signal receiver 16 is indicated. Moreover, the distance H2 between the pulse generator 14 and the D annulus is indicated. More specifically, the distance H2 is indicating the horizontal distance between the center axis of the pulse generator 14 and the center of the D annulus.

[0049] As is known in the art, see for example Fig. 10 in US 6595285, it may be desirable to have a large distance between the pulse generator and the signal recorder. This is no problem when doing seismic surveys since the signals may travel several thousand meters. However, in the confined circumstances in a well and with many

scattered 3rd, 4th or even higher reflected signals, the separation becomes very important. This technology would not give satisfying results in the confined environment of a well.

[0050] The applicant has found that a particularly advantageous result is obtained when the distance H1 between the pulse generator and the signal recorder is substantially equal to, or equal to, the distance H2 between the pulse generator and the annulus being analyzed.

[0051] Based on the abovementioned exemplary dimensioning, that means that the signal recorder should be located about 30 cm from the pulse generator when the D annulus is analyzed. But a small deviation from this is possible so between 20 and 40 cm will still enable a good separation of reflected signals. In the case of having signal recorders both above and below the pulse generator they should both be the same distance (H1) from the pulse generator. In the case of having two signal recorders located above the pulse generator (as shown in Fig. 3) they are preferably placed as close to each other as possible. Arrangements with several signal recorders enables recordings to be compared with each other and can be used to check for anomalies or to find (and eliminate) noise. Another possibility is as use as backup in case of failure.

[0052] In fig. 4 there is shown a schematic drawing of a preferred embodiment of the pulse generator. The pulse generator 14 comprises a charging device, for example a high voltage power supply HV for charging an energy storage device, for example a capacitor C. The capacitor C is connected to a series connection of a switching device S, at least one inductor L and a resistor device R. In fig. 4, the at least one inductor L is represented by a first inductor L_s and a second inductor L_i. The second inductor L_i is shown only to illustrate self inductance, i.e. internal inductance in the pulse generator 14.

[0053] Initially, the switch is turned off. The voltage U₀ is applied by the high voltage power supply HV to the capacitor C for charging the capacitor. When fully charged, the switch is turned on, and the capacitor C will discharge by supplying a current I through the inductor MS and the resistor R. The current through the magnetic inductor MS generates the electromagnetic signal pulse which will result in mechanical action on the pipes in the well. These mechanical stress waves are transmitted outwards as acoustic waves which are reflected back to the tool as the waves hit the boundaries.

[0054] An illustrative example of the inductor MS is shown in Fig. 5 and 6. The inductor comprises a coil 42 with a number of turns, where the number of turns is determining the electromagnetic discharge characteristics. A supporting sleeve 43 (shown in fig. 6) may be arranged to support the coil 42 during use and also during production of the coil. When current passes through the inductor L_s it will produce a magnetic field as shown in the figure 5.

[0055] The requirements of the elements of the pulse

generator 14 will depend on the desired parameters of the generated electromagnetic pulse and the characteristics of the system it is being used in.

[0056] Inductance ($L+MS$) results from the magnetic field forming around a current-carrying conductor. Electric current through the conductor creates a magnetic flux proportional to the current. A change in this current creates a corresponding change in magnetic flux which, in turn, by Faraday's law generates an electromotive force (EMF) in the conductor that opposes this change in current. Thus inductors oppose changes in current through them. Inductance is a measure of the amount of EMF generated per unit change in current. For example, an inductor with an inductance of 1 Henry produces an EMF of 1 volt when the current through the inductor changes at the rate of 1 ampere per second. It is this electromotive force that is exploited in the invention. When the inductor is placed within a pipe having magnetic properties, the magnetic pressure from the inductor is converted into a mechanical pressure that sets the pipe in motion, as shown in Fig. 5.

[0057] The number of loops, the size of each loop, and the material it is wrapped around may all affect the inductance. An inductor is usually constructed as a coil of conducting material, typically copper wire, wrapped around a core either of air or of ferromagnetic or non-ferromagnetic material. When current is delivered through the inductor, magnetic field lines will form around the coil as shown in Fig. 4.

[0058] The inductance (in Henry) is presented by the general formula for a type of induction coil called an "air core coil".

$$L = \frac{\mu_0 K N^2 A}{l}$$

- L = inductance in Henry (H)
- μ_0 = permeability of free space = $4\pi \times 10^{-7}$ H/m
- K = Nagaoka coefficient
- N = number of turns
- A = area of cross-section of the coil in square meters (m^2)
- l = length of coil in meters (m)

[0059] The present invention may, in an exemplary aspect, use an "air core coil" that does not use a magnetic core made of a ferromagnetic material. The term also refers to coils wound on plastic, ceramic, or other non-magnetic forms. Air core coils have lower inductance than ferromagnetic core coils. If the coil is not placed into a conductive pipe the field lines inside the inductor will

be closer together and therefore the field will be stronger on the inside than outside. This kind of coil directs the magnetic pressure outwards, i.e. the magnetic pressure acts to the inductor extending it in a radial direction.

[0060] When the inductor is placed within a conductive screen, e.g. a metal pipe such as tubing the field in the gap between the inductor and pipe will be much stronger than inside the inductor. This effect will depend on the size of the gap and will be strongest when the gap is small. The magnetic pressure then acts to the inductor compressing it in the radial direction.

[0061] When the coil is placed within a conductive pipe the general formula can also be expressed thus:

$$L = \frac{\mu N^2 g \pi d}{l}$$

Where

- N = number of turns
- g = gap between median of coil and pipe
- d = median diameter of coil (see Fig. 6).
- We have also the following possible parameters:
 - do = outer diameter of coil
 - this can also be expressed as $D-2g$ where D is inner diameter of pipe
 - di = inner diameter of coil, representing the magnetic air gap inside the coil
 - This can be expressed as $D-2(g-w)$, where $2w$ is the difference between the outer diameter do and the inner diameter di of the coil
 - l = length of coil in meters

[0062] Parameters g , d and l are exemplary illustrated in fig. 6. In fig. 6, the housing 11 of the tool has been removed for clarity and ease of understanding.

[0063] The inventors have found that particularly advantageous result for limiting noise in the recorded signals depends on the position of the first inductor L_s and also the size of the inductor L_s in relation to the conductive pipe. This is realized when the cross sectional area of the annular gap area around the coil is equal to the cross sectional area of the inductor inner cross section.

[0064] In fig. 6, the cross sectional gap area A_{gap} can be expressed as:

$$A_{gap} = \pi \left(\frac{D}{2}\right)^2 - \pi \left(\frac{d}{2}\right)^2$$

[0065] In fig. 6, the cross sectional area A_{inner} of the inductor inner cross section can be expressed as:

$$A_{inner} = \pi \left(\frac{d}{2}\right)^2$$

[0066] As described above, particularly advantageous results may be achieved when A_{gap} and A_{inner} are substantially equal, in the sense that has already been disclosed. Specially advantageous results may be achieved when $A_{gap} = A_{inner}$.

[0067] In this case the field value in the gap is nearly equal to the field inside the inductor. Magnetic pressure will then act on the inductor in the radial direction equally from both sides. In this case the inductor is mechanically balanced and has minimal displacement. This results in minimal inductor acoustic emission and hence less noise in the received signals.

[0068] Such an exemplary design of the coil is illustrated in Fig. 6. The coil 42 of the first inductor L_s is here placed inside a conductive pipe which in this example is the production tubing 3. The coil may be wound around a supporting sleeve 26 of a non-conductive material. The pipe has an inner diameter D , and the coil has a median diameter d , and it can be readily understood that $D - d = 2g$ where g is the gap between the median of the inductor and the inner side of the pipe 3. The length of the inductor is 1.

[0069] In an alternative embodiment a conductive (metallic) cylinder is arranged inside the coil. This will function as a balancing element, allowing equalized magnetic pressures inside and outside coil. Due to its mechanical strength it will actually not generate acoustic noise itself. In this case the gap between coil and pipe can be reduced and this may result in lower energy consumption needed for generating of strong enough magnetic field.

[0070] In use, the pulse generator is charged up, and when the switch is closed, the inductor will discharge an electromagnetic pulse. The pulse will transmit to the pipe and set the pipe in oscillation. This oscillation excites from the pipe and propagates as pressure pulses through the layers of pipes. As it reaches each layer the pipes will be set in motion and this motion creates acoustic waves that will be reflected back and be recorded by the signal recorder.

[0071] Several exemplary tests have been performed, using different values and parameters:

Voltage U_0 : 3 - 15 kV

Capacitor C: Capacitance $C = 10 - 100 \cdot 10^{-6}$ F

Magnetic device MS: Its inductance is $L = 10 - 40 \cdot 10^{-6}$ H

[0072] Initially, the switch is turned off. The voltage U_0 is applied over the capacitor C for charging the capacitor until a voltage of 3 - 15 kV is achieved, as mentioned above. The voltage U_0 is applied via the wire 12. When fully charged, the switch is turned on, and the capacitor will discharge by supplying a current I through the magnetic device L and the resistor R. During tests, the switch

was turned on for periods between 20 - 200 μ s. Even shorter periods of 4 - 20 μ s have also been tested. This short duration is achieved by the geometry of the coil.

[0073] The current I will, with the values given above, have an amplitude value in the range of 5 - 20 kA. The current through the magnetic device MS will generate an electromagnetic signal pulse which will result in mechanical oscillations of the pipes in the well. During the tests, the best results were achieved with an energy of the electromagnetic signal of 0,1 - 3 kJ.

[0074] An example of a reflected signal is shown in Fig. 7. As can be seen from this graph the reflected signals coming from the nearest pipe(s) are very strong but get progressively weaker the further away from the signal recorder they are, in the graph this is shown as response time. Therefore, reflections from the area of the "D" annulus are very weak and difficult to interpret.

[0075] It was thought that it should be possible to see from the reflected signals whether there was cement or water in the outer annulus, due to the different speed of propagation through these media. However, this has been very difficult to achieve due to the strength of the signals and that the differences we were looking for are relatively small.

[0076] One possible solution to this problem was to use extremely short duration pulses. The short duration signal pulses result in shorter signals being reflected. Hence, it should be possible to distinguish the reflections from the different structures from each other. Moreover, the distance between the different structures, i.e. the diameter of the different casings, are known. Hence, it is possible to predict when the reflection wave from the different casings will return to the signal recorder, and this information may also be used to analyze the recorded signal. However, this has proved to be difficult due to the reflection from the outer annulus that is obscured by the reflections from the inner layers of the pipe system.

[0077] To determine where there is cement or where there is water the tool must be positioned at various locations in the tubing. According to the invention the tool is positioned at a point in the well a distance below the inferred cement level location. The tool is then moved upwards at small intervals, preferably around 4 cm. At each position the pulse generator is activated. Each time the pulse generator is activated a signal of the type shown in Fig. 7 is recorded by the signal recorder. Data representing the acoustic reflections is recorded by means of the signal recorder. The recorded data is transferred to the analyzing device 18 for performing the analysis. The output from the analyzing device is a time-delayed signal that is depicted as lines and curves on a monitor. But for further analysis a two dimensional matrix is used where the columns represent depth of the well and each row represents the time of returned signals. Each element will then show strength of signal. This matrix will be used for the subsequent 2D filtering, as discussed below.

[0078] As has been described earlier, in a completed well there may be four or even more layers of pipe be-

tween the tool and the target. This means that there are orders of magnitude of reflections from the various pipes. This makes the process of acoustic wave propagation in a system of several concentric pipes very complex. The inventors have found that there are at least three different kinds of propagation. The first kind is waves traveling in the radial direction and reflected by the layers of steel, cement and water as shown in Fig. 2. But in addition there are waves traveling along the pipe in the vertical direction and reflected from the ends of a pipe. Lastly there are waves not belonging to the above mentioned types but are waves that are scattered at various angles and then reflected back to be picked up by the signal recorder. All this means that the differences we are looking for are relatively small. This is because we are looking for the reflection from the outer annulus that is obscured by the reflections from the inner layers of the pipe system. [0079] In Fig. 8 there is shown a diagram of reflected signals after having positioned the tool at several locations and thereby representing the recorded signals from the total number of pulses. The vertical lines show the waves coming from the edges, i.e. the pipes. Since we know the strength of the signals, the speed of the acoustic waves and the dimensions of the system we can reliably predict which lines represent which pipe. This will give us a horizontal position of the pipe of interest (the conductor or surface casing). It should be noted that in fig. 8, the signals are from an experimental setup with known cement/water boundary and it was known where the cement was (indicated by dashed line) and where the water was located (indicated by dashed circle). However, as seen in fig. 8, it is not possible to see the difference between the signals representing water from signals representing cement. In fig. 8, the darker lines representing the pipes 4, 5, 6 and 7 from fig. 1 are indicated.

Claims

1. Well system comprising a well pipe and a well tool (10) arranged within the well pipe, wherein the well tool comprises:
 - a housing (11);
 - a pulse generator (14) provided within the housing (11), where the pulse generator (14) comprises a cylindrical inductor (Ls), and a power supply device (HV, c) for supplying electrical power to the inductor (L) and thereby providing that an electromagnetic pulse is generated, in such a way that, in use, the electromagnetic pulse is providing physical vibrations in the well pipe; the inductor comprising a coil arranged axially within the well pipe,

characterized in that the ratio between the cross sectional gap area, A_{gap} , and the inner cross sectional area, A_{inner} , of the inductor (Ls) is in the range

0,9 to 1,1, wherein the cross sectional gap area, A_{gap} , is defined by

$$A_{gap} = \pi \left(\frac{D}{2}\right)^2 - \pi \left(\frac{d}{2}\right)^2$$

and the cross sectional area, A_{inner} , is defined by

$$A_{inner} = \pi \left(\frac{d}{2}\right)^2$$

wherein D denotes the inner diameter of the pipe and d denotes the median diameter of the inductor (Ls), the median diameter being the average value of the inner diameter and the outer diameter of the cylindrical inductor.

2. Well system according to claim 1, where the tool (10) comprises a centralizing device configured to positioning the well tool (10) in a central position within the well pipe.
3. Well system according to claim 1, where the inductor has an inductance in the range of $10 \cdot 10^{-6}$ H to $40 \cdot 10^{-6}$ H.
4. Well system according to claim 1, where the power supply device (HV, c) comprises a capacitor (c) connected to the inductor (Ls), where the capacitor (c) is configured to discharge its energy over the inductor.
5. Well system according to claim 4, where the power supply device comprises a switch (s) connected between the inductor (Ls) and the capacitor (c).
6. Well system according to claim 1, where the well pipe is made of a magnetic material.
7. Well system according to claim 1, where the inductor comprises a metallic core.
8. Well system according to claim 7, where the metallic core is a cylinder.
9. Well system according to one of the claims 1-8, wherein the ratio between the cross sectional gap area (A_{gap}) and the inner cross sectional area (A_{inner}) is in the range 0.95 to 1.05.
10. Well system according to one of the claims 1-8, wherein the ratio between the cross sectional gap area (A_{gap}) and the inner cross sectional area (A_{inner}) is in the range 0.98 to 1.02.
11. Well system according to one of the claims 1-8,

wherein the cross sectional gap area (A_{gap}) is equal to the inner cross sectional area (A_{inner}).

12. Method for generating vibrations in a well pipe, comprising the step of arranging a well tool (10) within the well pipe, wherein the well tool comprises a housing (11), and a pulse generator (14) provided within the housing (11), where the pulse generator (14) comprises an inductor (L_s), and a power supply device (HV, c), the inductor comprising a coil arranged axially within the well pipe, the method characterized in that the ratio between the cross sectional gap area, A_{gap} , and the inner cross sectional area, A_{inner} , of the inductor (L_s) is in the range 0,9 to 1,1, wherein the cross sectional gap area, A_{gap} , is defined by

$$A_{gap} = \pi \left(\frac{D}{2} \right)^2 - \pi \left(\frac{d}{2} \right)^2$$

and the cross sectional area, A_{inner} , is defined by

$$A_{inner} = \pi \left(\frac{d}{2} \right)^2$$

wherein D denotes the inner diameter of the pipe and d denotes the median diameter of the inductor (L_s), the median diameter being the average value of the inner diameter and the outer diameter of the cylindrical inductor, the method further comprising supplying electrical power to the inductor (L), thereby providing that an electromagnetic pulse is generated, in such a way that, in use, the electromagnetic pulse is providing physical vibrations in the well pipe.

Patentansprüche

1. Bohrlochsystem mit einem Rohrschacht und einem Bohrwerkzeug (10), das innerhalb des Rohrschachts angeordnet ist, wobei das Bohrwerkzeug (10) Folgendes aufweist:
- ein Gehäuse (11);
 - einen Impulsgenerator (14), der innerhalb des Gehäuses (11) vorgesehen ist, wobei der Impulsgenerator (14) eine zylindrische Induktivität (L_s) und eine Energieversorgungsvorrichtung (HV, c) aufweist, um die Induktivität (L_s) mit elektrischer Energie zu versorgen, so dass dafür gesorgt wird, dass ein elektromagnetischer Impuls erzeugt wird, und zwar derart, dass im Betrieb der elektromagnetische Impuls physikalische Vibrationen in dem Rohrschacht erzeugt; wobei die Induktivität (L_s) eine Spule aufweist, die axial innerhalb des Rohrschachts angeordnet ist,

dadurch gekennzeichnet,

dass das Verhältnis zwischen der Spalt-Querschnittsfläche, A_{gap} , und der inneren Querschnittsfläche, A_{inner} , der Induktivität (L_s) im Bereich von 0,9 bis 1,1 liegt, wobei die Spalt-Querschnittsfläche, A_{gap} , definiert ist durch die Formel:

$$A_{gap} = \pi \left(\frac{D}{2} \right)^2 - \pi \left(\frac{d}{2} \right)^2$$

und wobei die innere Querschnittsfläche, A_{inner} , definiert ist durch die Formel:

$$A_{inner} = \pi \left(\frac{d}{2} \right)^2$$

wobei D den Innendurchmesser des Rohrschachts bezeichnet und d den mittleren Durchmesser der Induktivität (L_s) bezeichnet, wobei der mittlere Durchmesser der Mittelwert aus dem Innendurchmesser und dem Außendurchmesser der zylindrischen Induktivität (L_s) ist.

2. Bohrlochsystem nach Anspruch 1, wobei das Werkzeug (10) eine Zentriereinrichtung aufweist, die derart ausgebildet ist, dass sie das Bohrwerkzeug (10) in einer zentralen Position innerhalb des Rohrschachts positioniert.
3. Bohrlochsystem nach Anspruch 1, wobei die Induktivität (L_s) eine Induktivität im Bereich von 10×10^{-6} H bis 40×10^{-6} H aufweist.
4. Bohrlochsystem nach Anspruch 1, wobei die Energieversorgungsvorrichtung (HV, c) einen Kondensator (c) aufweist, der mit der Induktivität (L_s) verbunden ist, wobei der Kondensator (c) derart ausgebildet ist, dass er seine Energie über die Induktivität (L_s) entlädt.
5. Bohrlochsystem nach Anspruch 4, wobei die Energieversorgungsvorrichtung einen Schalter (s) aufweist, der zwischen die Induktivität (L_s) und den Kondensator (c) geschaltet ist.
6. Bohrlochsystem nach Anspruch 1, wobei der Rohrschacht aus einem magnetischen Material hergestellt ist.
7. Bohrlochsystem nach Anspruch 1, wobei die Induktivität einen metallischen Kern aufweist.
8. Bohrlochsystem nach Anspruch 7, wobei der metallische Kern ein Zylinder ist.

9. Bohrlochsystem nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 8, wobei das Verhältnis zwischen der Spalt-Querschnittsfläche (Agap) und der inneren Querschnittsfläche (Ainner) im Bereich von 0,95 bis 1,05 liegt.
10. Bohrlochsystem nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 8, wobei das Verhältnis zwischen der Spalt-Querschnittsfläche (Agap) und der inneren Querschnittsfläche (Ainner) im Bereich von 0,98 bis 1,02 liegt.
11. Bohrlochsystem nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 8, wobei die Spalt-Querschnittsfläche (Agap) gleich der inneren Querschnittsfläche (Ainner) ist.
12. Verfahren zum Erzeugen von Vibrationen in einem Rohrschacht, das folgenden Schritt aufweist:

- Anordnen eines Bohrwerkzeugs (10) innerhalb des Rohrschachts, wobei das Bohrwerkzeug ein Gehäuse (11) und einen Impulsgenerator (14) aufweist, der innerhalb des Gehäuses (11) vorgesehen ist, wobei der Impulsgenerator (14) eine Induktivität (Ls) und eine Energieversorgungsvorrichtung (HV, c) aufweist, wobei die Induktivität (Ls) eine Spule aufweist, die axial innerhalb des Rohrschachts angeordnet ist,

wobei das Verfahren **dadurch gekennzeichnet ist, dass** das Verhältnis zwischen der Spalt-Querschnittsfläche (Agap), und der inneren Querschnittsfläche, Ainner, der Induktivität (Ls) im Bereich von 0,9 bis 1,1 liegt, wobei die Spalt-Querschnittsfläche, Agap, definiert ist durch folgende Formel:

$$Agap = \pi \left(\frac{D}{2}\right)^2 - \pi \left(\frac{d}{2}\right)^2$$

und wobei die innere Querschnittsfläche, Ainner, definiert ist durch die folgende Formel:

$$Ainner = \pi \left(\frac{d}{2}\right)^2$$

wobei D den Innendurchmesser des Rohrschachts bezeichnet und d den mittleren Durchmesser der Induktivität (Ls) bezeichnet, wobei der mittlere Durchmesser dem Mittelwert aus dem Innendurchmesser und dem Außendurchmesser der zylindrischen Induktivität entspricht,

wobei das Verfahren ferner den Schritt der Lieferung von elektrischer Energie an die Induktivität (Ls) aufweist, so dass dafür gesorgt wird, dass ein elektromagnetischer Impuls erzeugt wird, und zwar derart, dass im Betrieb der elektromagnetische Impuls physikalische Vibrationen in dem Rohrschacht erzeugt.

Revendications

1. Système de forage comprenant un conduit de forage et un outil de forage (10) agencé à l'intérieur du conduit de forage, dans lequel l'outil de forage comprend :

- un logement (11) ;
 - un générateur d'impulsions (14) disposé à l'intérieur du logement (11), le générateur d'impulsions (14) comprenant une bobine d'induction cylindrique (Ls), et un dispositif d'alimentation en énergie (HV, c) pour alimenter la bobine d'induction (L) en électricité et assurer ainsi qu'une impulsion électromagnétique soit générée, de sorte que, en fonctionnement, l'impulsion électromagnétique fournisse des vibrations physiques dans le conduit de forage ; la bobine d'induction comprenant un enroulement agencé axialement à l'intérieur du conduit de forage,

caractérisé en ce que le rapport entre l'aire de la section du jeu, Agap, et l'aire de la section interne, Ainner, de la bobine d'induction (Ls) est dans la plage de 0,9 à 1,1, l'aire de la section du jeu, Agap, étant définie par

$$Agap = \pi \left(\frac{D}{2}\right)^2 - \pi \left(\frac{d}{2}\right)^2$$

et l'aire de la section interne, Ainner, est définie par

$$Ainner = \pi \left(\frac{d}{2}\right)^2$$

où D désigne le diamètre interne du conduit et d désigne le diamètre médian de la bobine d'induction (Ls), le diamètre médian étant la valeur moyenne du diamètre interne et du diamètre externe de la bobine d'induction cylindrique.

2. Système de forage selon la revendication 1, dans lequel l'outil (10) comprend un dispositif de centrage configuré pour positionner l'outil de forage (10) dans une position centrée à l'intérieur du conduit de forage.
3. Système de forage selon la revendication 1, dans lequel la bobine d'induction a une inductance dans la plage de $10 \cdot 10^{-6}$ H à $40 \cdot 10^{-6}$ H.
4. Système de forage selon la revendication 1, dans lequel le dispositif d'alimentation en énergie (HV, c) comprend un condensateur (c) connecté à la bobine d'induction (Ls), le condensateur (c) étant configuré pour décharger son énergie dans la bobine d'induc-

tion.

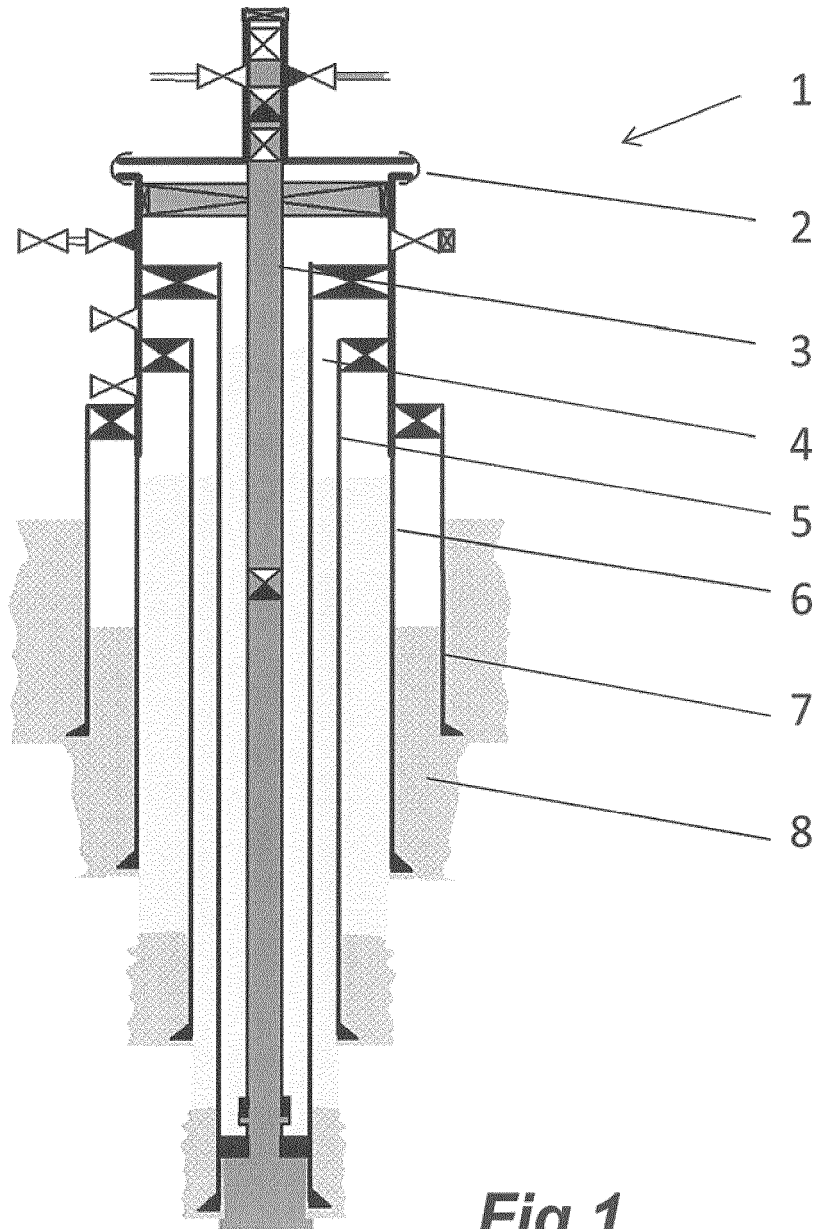
5. Système de forage selon la revendication 1, dans lequel le dispositif d'alimentation en énergie comprend un interrupteur (s) connecté entre la bobine d'induction (Ls) et le condensateur (c). 5
6. Système de forage selon la revendication 1, dans lequel le conduit de forage est constitué d'un matériau magnétique. 10
7. Système de forage selon la revendication 1, dans lequel la bobine d'induction comprend un noyau métallique. 15
8. Système de forage selon la revendication 7, dans lequel le noyau métallique est un cylindre.
9. Système de forage selon l'une des revendications 1 à 8, dans lequel le rapport entre l'aire de la section du jeu (Agap) et l'aire de la section interne (Ainner) est dans la plage de 0,95 à 1,05. 20
10. Système de forage selon l'une des revendications 1 à 8, dans lequel le rapport entre l'aire de la section du jeu (Agap) et l'aire de la section interne (Ainner) est dans la plage de 0,98 à 1,02. 25
11. Système de forage selon l'une des revendications 1 à 8, dans lequel l'aire de la section du jeu (Agap) est égale à l'aire de la section interne (Ainner). 30
12. Procédé de génération de vibrations dans un conduit de forage, comprenant l'étape d'agencement d'un outil de forage (10) à l'intérieur du conduit de forage, l'outil de forage comprenant un logement (11), et un générateur d'impulsions (14) disposé à l'intérieur du logement (11), le générateur d'impulsions (14) comprenant une bobine d'induction (Ls), et un dispositif d'alimentation en énergie (HV, c), la bobine d'induction comprenant un enroulement agencé axialement à l'intérieur du conduit de forage, le procédé étant **caractérisé en ce que** le rapport entre l'aire de la section du jeu, Agap, et l'aire de la section interne, Ainner, de la bobine d'induction (Ls) est dans la plage de 0,9 à 1,1, l'aire de la section du jeu, Agap, étant définie par 35 40 45

$$Agap = \pi \left(\frac{D}{2}\right)^2 - \pi \left(\frac{d}{2}\right)^2 \quad 50$$

et l'aire de la section interne, Ainner, étant définie par

$$Ainner = \pi \left(\frac{d}{2}\right)^2 \quad 55$$

où D désigne le diamètre interne du conduit et d désigne le diamètre médian de la bobine d'induction (Ls), le diamètre médian étant la valeur moyenne du diamètre interne et du diamètre externe de la bobine d'induction cylindrique, le procédé comprenant en outre l'alimentation de la bobine d'induction (L) en électricité, assurant ainsi qu'une impulsion électromagnétique est générée, de telle sorte que, en fonctionnement, l'impulsion électromagnétique fournisse des vibrations physiques dans le conduit de forage.



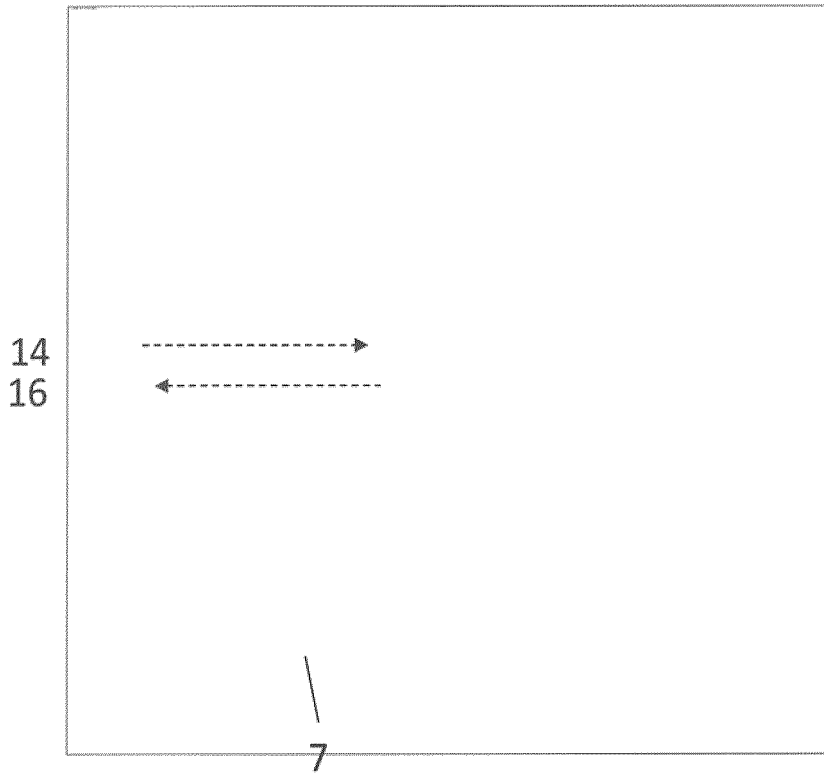


Fig.2.

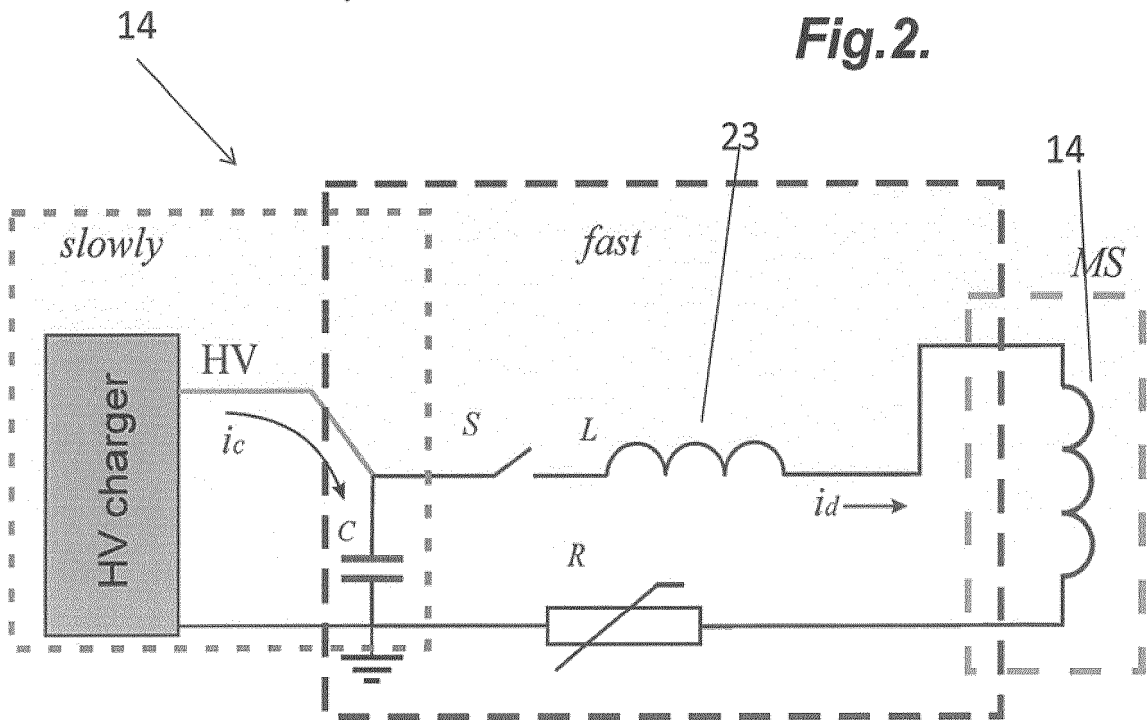


Fig.4.

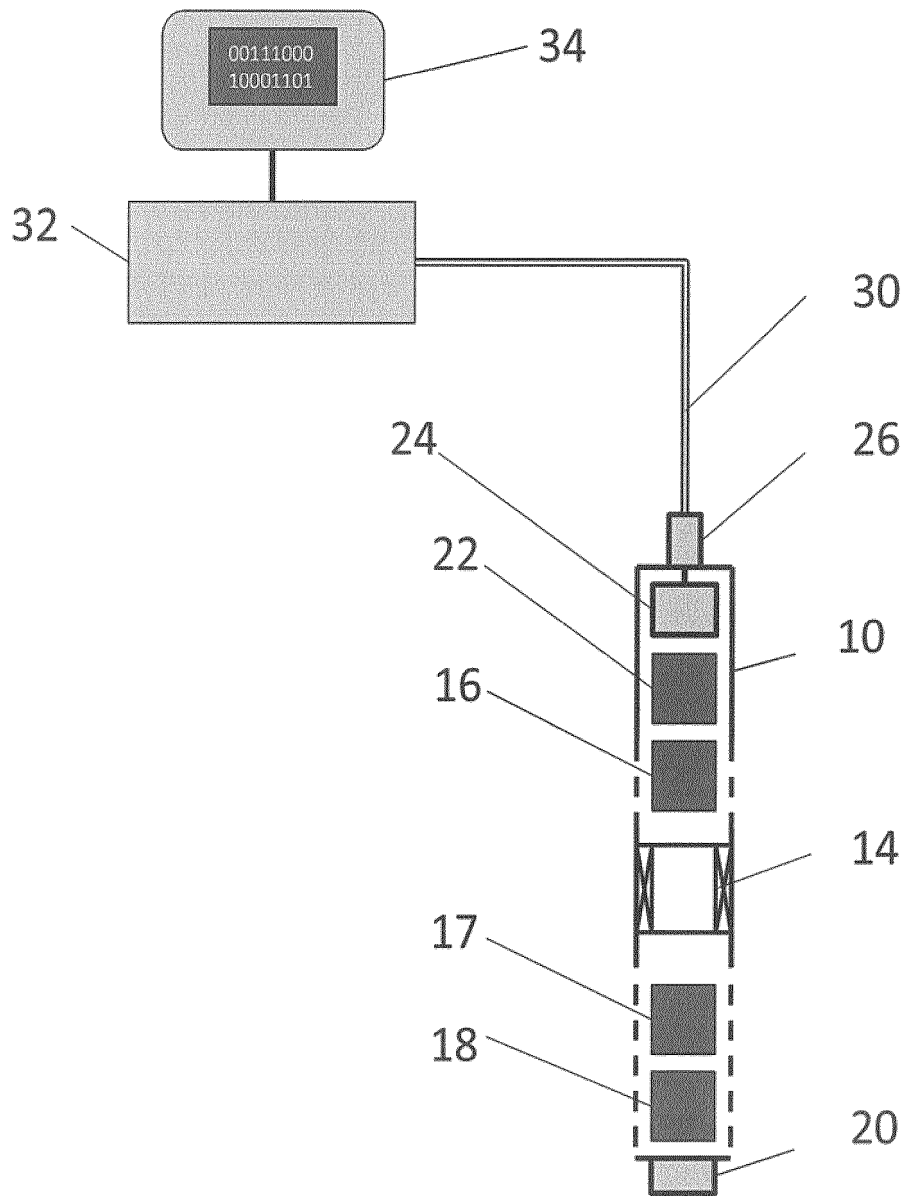


Fig.3.

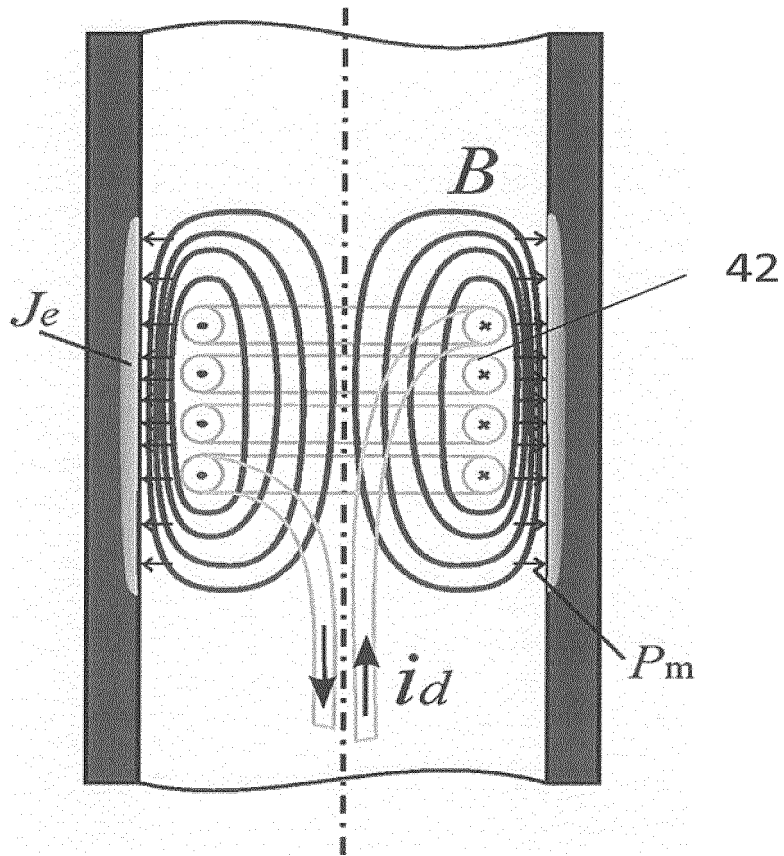


Fig. 5

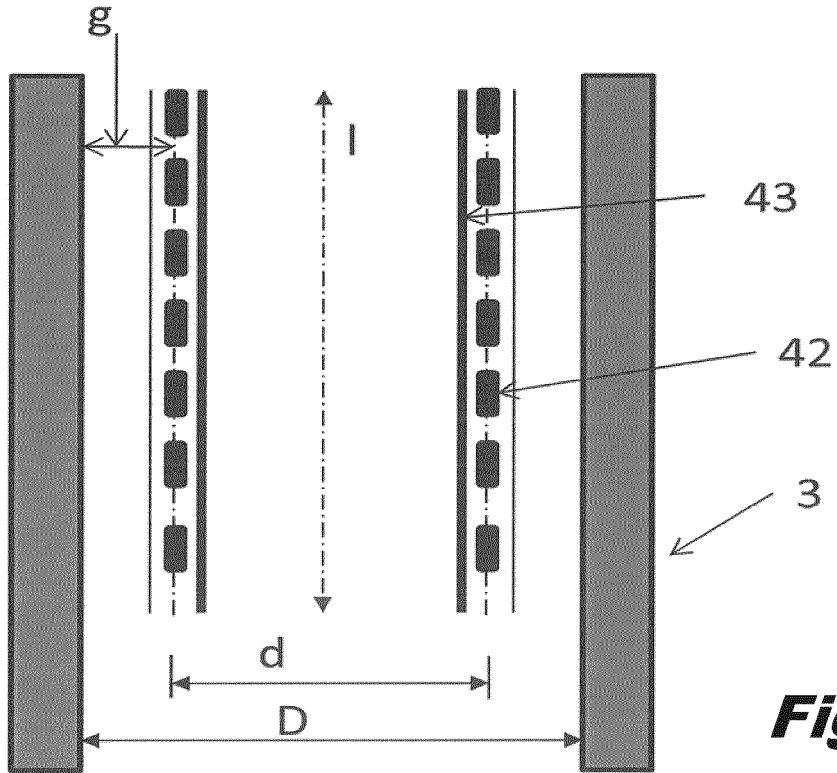


Fig. 6

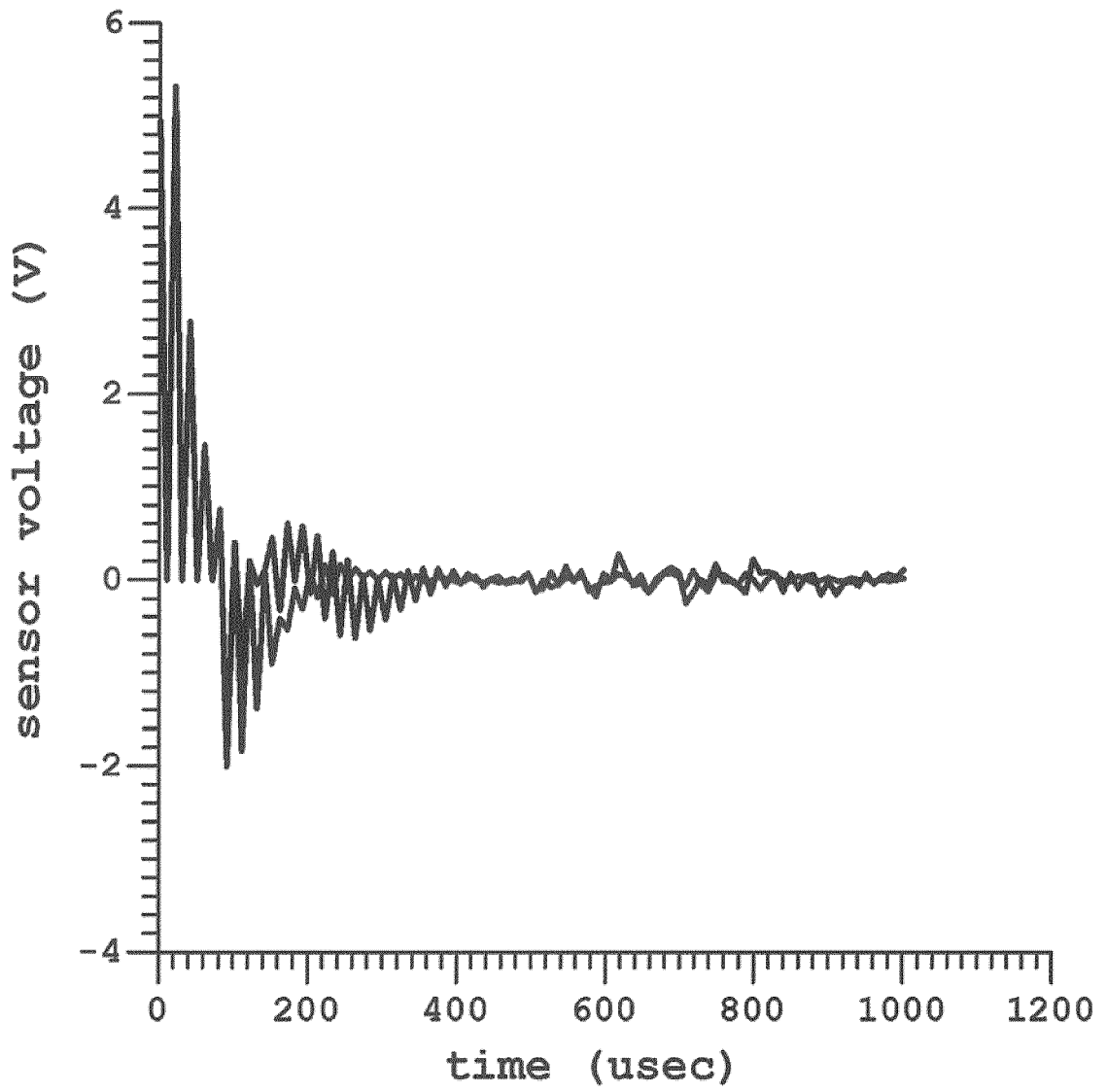


Fig.7.

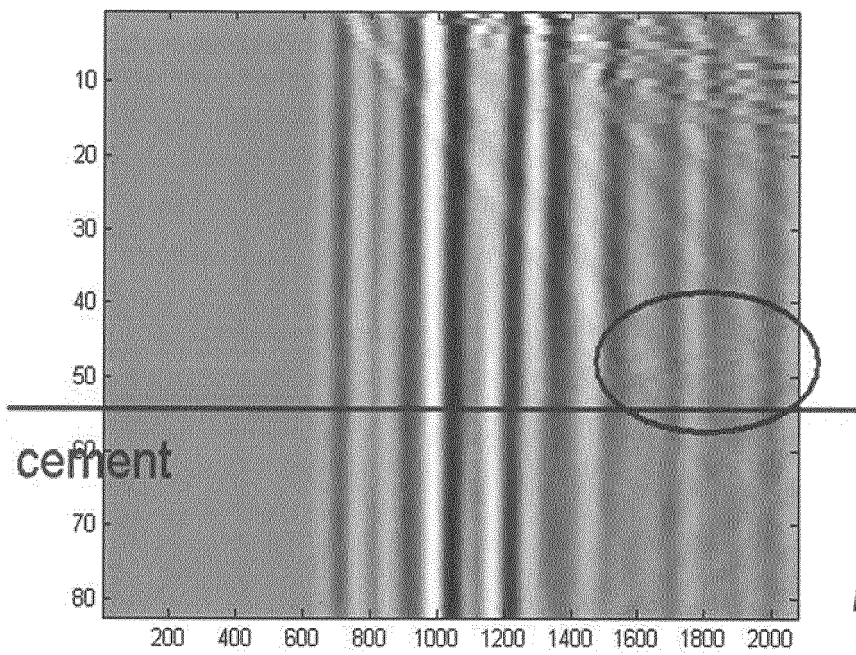


Fig.8.

REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION

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