

# Infantile Magnetic Attraction and Repulsion: Clinical Trials in the Field of Infant Psycho-Gravitation

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## Abstract

This study provides evidence, through trials involving nine subjects, supporting the contention that infants hold the ability to “magnetically” attract and repulse objects for which they hold either deep-rooted desire or disdain. Three infant cohorts participated in two tests that propelled them into the air in both the direction of, and away from, a series of three objects. A control cohort was apathetic toward all objects used.

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## Introduction

Recent observations in the fields of child and educational psychology have provided exciting and substantial opportunities for research within the emerging discipline of infant psycho-gravitation. Hermeneutic researchers accomplished within the qualitative paradigm, though focusing on two originally unlinked research tracks, have recently produced a number of grounded theories related to what appears to be an explanation for the same peculiar phenomenon: the *infant attraction/infant repulsion theory*, and the *infantile gravity control theory* (Eutic, 2000). Upon reflection, the essence of these stems from the same fundamental preoccupation—an intriguing bewilderment about the nature of presumed infant “magnetic” attraction toward objects for which they hold a deep-rooted desire. The purpose of this study is to provide

empirical evidence that clearly substantiates infant psycho-gravitation. Of the published material in this field, the vast majority deals with the tertiary study of social conditions and socio-economic status of infants observed to hold some propensity toward such attraction-repulsion or gravity control experiences (Published Material, 2002). This study will not contribute to such tomes. At the time of this article’s release for publication, the presence of solid literature detailing an empirical study to either prove or disprove the hypothesis outlined above simply does not exist (Absence, *in press*). For this reason, we will endeavor to provide as detailed a methodology and concatenation of results as is possible within the space allotted. The purpose of which is to establish concrete evidence that this phenomenon is very much real, measurable, and replicable through similar future studies.

The purpose of this study, therefore, is to prove the existence of both infant magnetic attraction toward objects for which they hold a deep-rooted desire, and magnetic repulsion away from objects for which they notably disdain.

### Method

The selection of infants (hereafter to be known as *subjects*) was based upon four criteria: age, desire toward *object x*, disdain toward *object y* and apathy toward *object z*. The four criteria required the cooperation of a parent (hereafter *key informant*) who provided

cohorts (Strømme, *in press*). Cohort A contained three subjects fulfilling all criteria where *object x* was desired, *object y* was disdained and where the opinion surrounding *object z* was apathy. Cohort B likewise contained three subjects, similarly fulfilling all criteria, but emotions and opinions surrounding *objects x* and *y* were reversed from their colleagues in Cohort A. Cohort C was classified as a control group and similarly contained three subjects. The subjects comprising Cohort C portrayed general apathy toward all three objects. Each cohort was sequestered from the others, and

**Table 1.** Selection Interview Questions

- Are you between the ages of 0 and 1.5 years?
- Would you classify yourself as an “infant”?
- On a scale from 1 to 10, where 1 is utter disdain and 10 is deep-rooted desire, what is your opinion of *object x*?
- On a scale from 1 to 10, where 1 is utter disdain and 10 is deep-rooted desire, what is your opinion of *object y*?
- On a scale from 1 to 10, where 1 is utter disdain and 10 is deep-rooted desire, what is your opinion of *object z*?
- Do you enjoy the company of others who share both your age, classification and opinions of both *objects x, y* and *z*?
- Can you recommend another potential *subject* whom you believe would answer these questions as you have?

answers to several questions presented to the subjects during a selection interview. A snowball method was used in the collection of potential subjects (reflected in the final question asked). Questions appear in *Table 1*.

From their answers, nine subjects were selected and grouped within three

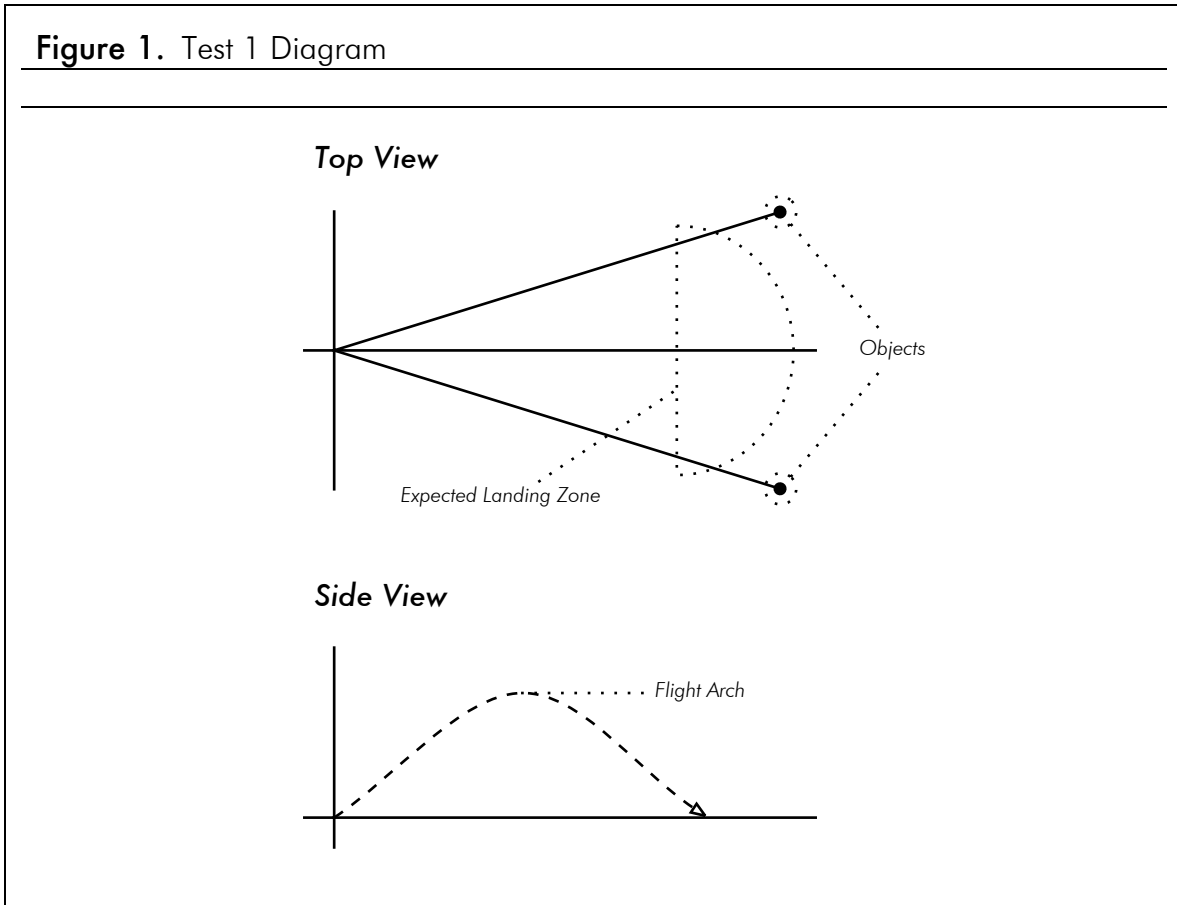
none of the cohorts were made aware of either their letter or the nature of their common collegiality of opinion.

Objects were selected *a priori* to the collection of participants from the results of mail-in surveys sent to three primary infant caregivers (Strømme, *in*

press). Object x was a small brown teddy bear named Snoodles; object y was a 150 ml bowl of processed vegetable food-matter (30% carrots,

area to the centre of the study area where they were greeted and advised of the procedure for the study by the chief researcher.

**Figure 1.** Test 1 Diagram



20% peas, 20% ground fiberglass thickener, 12% salt, 10% water, 8% sugar). Object z, a Betamax videocassette tape containing a collection of six 1984 Barbara Walters' Specials, proved to be the most controversial of all.

Subject access to objects x, y and z was strictly limited to both the premises and time of experimentation. The cohorts were brought onto a large abandoned sports pitch (the study area) and placed in a waiting area. One by one, the subjects were brought from the waiting

Two different tests were performed in order to query the hypothesis. In the first test, subjects were individually "loaded" into a regulation 8 litre watermelon cannon and shot into the air at a 45° angle from horizontal propelled by a 1500 kg•m/s<sup>2</sup> air force release (corrected to 15° C at 1000 metres above sea level). Measurements of the distance covered, trajectory, parabolic flight arch and deviation from a central flight path were calculated and corrected against a litany of meteorological data (Figure 1). Each member of the cohort was

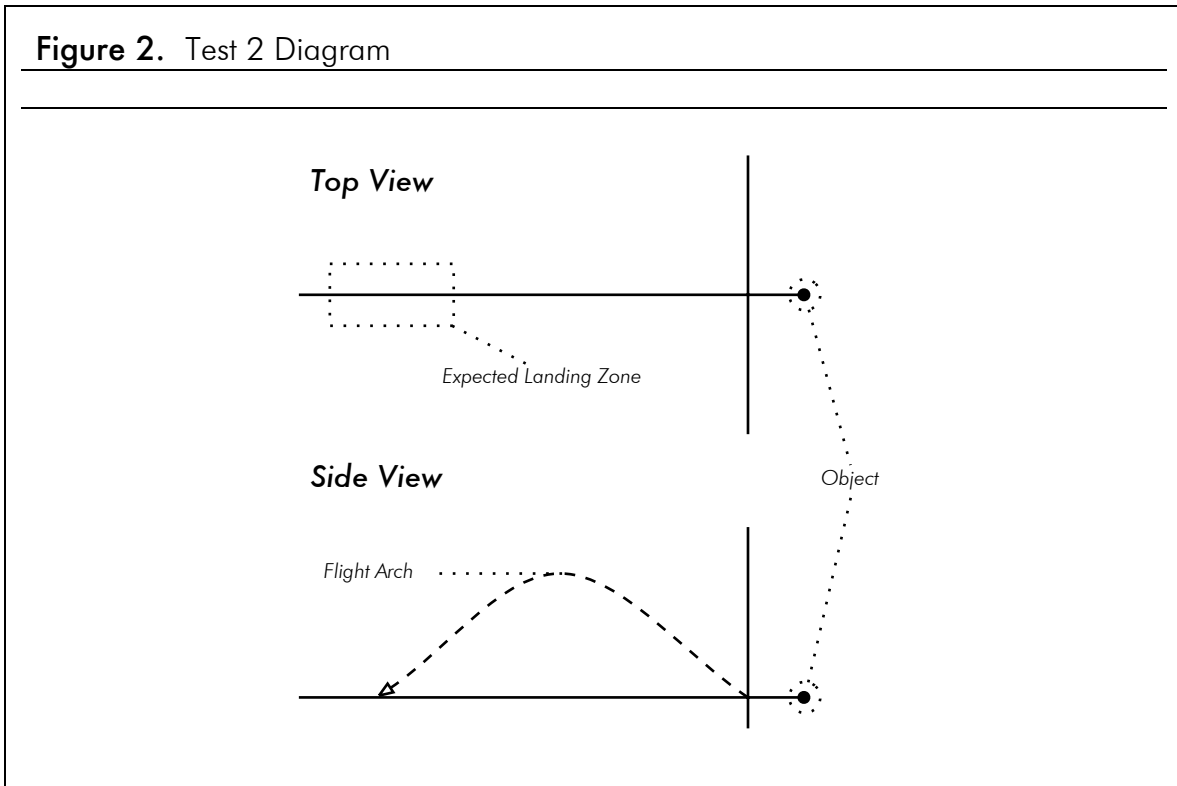
shot a total of three times (Strømmen, *in press*). In the first trial, object x was placed to the right of the subject's flight path and object y to the left; object z was not present. For the second trial,

distance were used to corroborate results found in the first test.

## Results

In the cases of participants in both

**Figure 2.** Test 2 Diagram



object x was removed and y was relocated to replace x; object z was placed to the left, where y had been. During the third trial, object y was removed and z was moved to replace y; object x was placed to the left where z had been in the previous trial.

In the second test, subjects were again individually shot from the same cannon three times in three trials (Strømmen, *in press*). Each time however, the subject was shot away from an object, and only one object was placed on the pitch at a time—x followed by y, and then z (Figure 2). Measurements of

Cohorts A and B, a positive attraction was shown toward respective objects for which the particular cohort held a deep-rooted desire (Table 2). Similarly, in both cases, a repulsive force was shown toward objects for which the cohort held disdain. The way in which these were shown may be broken down as follows: 1) When Cohort A was shot between objects x and y (for which they respectively held a desire and disdain), an average deviation from centre toward x of  $4.37^\circ$  was displayed. 2) However, when Cohort A was shot between objects z and x (for which they respectively held apathy and desire), the average deviation toward x was

3.93°—a difference of 0.44°, consistent with the removal of the repellant object y but not proven to be statistically significant.

object y when paired with x (4.67°), and when paired with z (4.20°).

In the second test, Cohort A exhibited

**Table 2.** Data Collected by Cohort

Cohort A (object x attraction)										
Subject Name	mass (kg)	Test 1						Test 2		
		x and y trial		y and z trial		z and x trial		x trial	y trial	z trial
		$d_c$	$\square$	$d_c$	$\square$	$d_c$	$\square$	$d_c$	$d_c$	$d_c$
Subject 1	4.2	+2.9	+4.6	-1.6	+3.0	+2.5	+4.2	-6.3	+5.1	+0.1
Subject 2	5.8	+3.1	+4.1	-1.9	+2.8	+2.0	+3.7	-6.7	+5.5	-0.1
Subject 3	6.9	+3.6	+4.4	-2.0	+2.9	+2.8	+3.9	-7.0	+5.8	-0.2

Cohort B (object y attraction)										
Subject Name	mass (kg)	Test 1						Test 2		
		x and y trial		y and z trial		z and x trial		x trial	y trial	z trial
		$d_c$	$\square$	$d_c$	$\square$	$d_c$	$\square$	$d_c$	$d_c$	$d_c$
Subject 4	7.1	+3.3	+4.4	+2.2	+3.9	-2.0	+2.9	+4.8	-7.1	+0.2
Subject 5	8.1	+3.9	+4.9	+2.9	+4.5	-2.6	+3.5	+5.4	-7.4	-0.1
Subject 6	7.6	+3.6	+4.7	+2.6	+4.2	-2.3	+3.1	+5.1	-7.2	-0.1

Cohort C (control: all object apathy)										
Subject Name	mass (kg)	Test 1						Test 2		
		x and y trial		y and z trial		z and x trial		x trial	y trial	z trial
		$d_c$	$\square$	$d_c$	$\square$	$d_c$	$\square$	$d_c$	$d_c$	$d_c$
Subject 7	6.7	-0.1	+0.1	-0.1	-0.1	+0.0	-0.2	+0.0	-0.1	+0.2
Subject 8	7.2	-0.1	+0.0	+0.2	+0.0	+0.1	+0.0	+0.1	-0.2	+0.0
Subject 9	3.1	-0.1	+0.1	+0.0	+0.2	+0.2	+0.0	-0.1	+0.1	-0.1

Where:  $d_c$ =horizontal distance coefficient expressed as a percentage of expected horizontal distance compared to real horizontal distance; and  $\square$ =angle of deviation from center toward attraction, or in absence of attraction toward apathy (in the case of Cohort C, toward object on right).

Data collected in conjunction with the tests performed on Cohort B (also presented in Table 2) show similarities in both average deviation toward

an average horizontal distance coefficient when shot away from object x equal to -6.67%, consistent with an attraction toward an object placed

behind the cannon. An average horizontal distance coefficient of +5.47% was shown when Cohort A's subjects were shot away from object y, that which it disdained.

Cohort C, as a control, showed a negligible deviation and distance within both tests; Cohorts A and B showed negligible deviations and distance when tests related to object z were performed.

### Discussion

The findings presented appear consistent with the hypothesis outlined earlier. Of particular interest was the attractive or repulsive forces displayed, both in terms of angular deviation and horizontal distance, by cohorts toward their desired objects and away from those they disdained. Clearly, the findings of these tests produced a statistically significant result when compared in the context of data collected from the trials of the control cohort—Cohort C.

During the trials, a number of possible sources of error were noted. As each subject was of a different mass, the interrelationship between attraction or repulsion and mass was not a concern of the researchers. Two possible solutions have been prepared in absence of nonuplet subjects: 1) mass may be removed from individual subjects in order to equate their mass with the subject with the least mass (a process more commonly referred to as *coring*), or 2) several subjects may be lashed together (or magnetically joined) into a large sphere, again to equate their mass.

Other questions of wind resistance were noted as a source of error. A proposed solution is to perform future trials within a vacuum.

Questions that lay outside of the scope of this particular study similarly evolved. Is this phenomenon exclusive to infants, or is its manifestation only statistically significant among infant populations? Do the elderly, for example, hold similar psycho-gravitational characteristics? Are infants in fact magnetically charged? How do infant pheromones affect their gravitation? What are the relationships between distance and mass within the context of psycho-gravitational forces? Future studies are obviously required.

### Conclusions

Quite clearly, the evidence presented within this study has validated the attractive and repulsive power held by infants related to objects for which they hold deep-rooted desire or disdain. Similarly, empirical evidence that infants are cognoscente of their surroundings and are able to distinguish with great accuracy between objects of desire, disdain and apathy has been a tertiary finding of this study. Undoubtedly, both the former and latter evidence will hold far-reaching repercussions for the advancement of the discipline of infant psycho-gravitation.

### References

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