

Electricity and Magnetism Magnetic Force on a Curved Wire Torque on a Wire Loop Magnetic Dipole Moment

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Last time

- particle accelerators: synchotrons
- force on a wire with a current in a B-field

Overview

- force on a curved wire with a current in a B-field
- torque on a wire loop in a magnetic field
- motors
- relating a current loop to a magnet
- magnetic dipole moment
- torque and potential energy of magnetic dipole

What is the net force on this semicircular wire loop in a uniform B-field, given that the current in the loop is *I*?



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First: use symmetry. The wire is in the x, y-plane, $\mathbf{B} = B\mathbf{j}$, any magnetic force can only point in the **k**-direction.

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Mentally, break the wire into two pieces, the bottom, straight piece and the top curved piece.

Bottom segment:

 $\mathbf{F}_b = I\mathbf{L} \times \mathbf{B}$ Since $\mathbf{L} = 2R\mathbf{i}$, and $\mathbf{B} = B\mathbf{j}$:

$$\mathbf{F}_b = 2RIB\,\mathbf{k}$$

Top segment:

$$\mathbf{F}_t = I \int \mathrm{d}\mathbf{s} \times \mathbf{B}$$

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The top segment is semi-circular. A path along it is a circular arc: $s = R\theta \rightarrow d\mathbf{s} = R d\theta(\hat{\mathbf{\theta}}).$

$$F_{t} = I \int RB \sin \theta \, d\theta \, (-\mathbf{k})$$
$$= -IRB \, \mathbf{k} \int_{0}^{\pi} \sin \theta \, d\theta$$
$$= -IRB \, \mathbf{k} \, [\cos \theta]_{0}^{\pi}$$
$$= -2RIB \, \mathbf{k}$$

Bottom segment:

$$\mathbf{F}_b = 2RIB\,\mathbf{k}$$

Top segment:

$$\mathbf{F}_t = -2RIB\,\mathbf{k}$$

Total:

$$\boldsymbol{F}_{net}=\boldsymbol{0}$$

This is a general result. The force on any loop of wire in a **uniform** magnetic field is zero!

Or, how to turn electricity into motion.

Consider two wires in a magnetic field with currents flowing in opposite directions.



They will experience forces in opposite directions.

This is the situation that occurs when a loop of wire is placed in a B-field.



These opposing forces on opposite sides of the loop creates a torque on the loop.

The current on the two sides away from the axle gives an upward force on the left and downward on the right.



On the two ends that connect to the axle, the force is zero when the loop lays flat parallel to the B-field.

When the loop rotates, the forces on those two ends are equal and opposite.



$$oldsymbol{ au}_{F} = oldsymbol{\mathsf{r}} imes oldsymbol{\mathsf{F}}$$
 ; $oldsymbol{ au}_{\mathsf{net}} = \sum_{i} oldsymbol{ au}_{i}$

 $\tau_{\text{net}} = \textbf{r}_1 \times \textbf{F}_1 + \textbf{r}_2 \times \textbf{F}_2$

$$\mathbf{F}_1 = I\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{B} = i\mathbf{a}B \mathbf{j} = -\mathbf{F}_3$$



$$\boldsymbol{\tau}_{\mathsf{net}} = \mathbf{r}_1 \times \mathbf{F}_1 + \mathbf{r}_3 \times \mathbf{F}_3$$



$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{\tau}_{\mathsf{net}} &= \mathbf{r}_1 \times \mathbf{F}_1 + \mathbf{r}_2 \times \mathbf{F}_2 \\ &= \left(\frac{b}{2}\right) (IaB) \sin \theta + \left(\frac{b}{2}\right) (IaB) \sin \theta \quad [\mathsf{cw} \text{ in diag.}] \end{aligned}$$

Noting that the area of the loop A = ab:

 $\mathbf{\tau} = IAB\sin\theta$



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We can make this expression more compact by defining $\mathbf{A} = A\hat{\mathbf{n}}$ where $\hat{\mathbf{n}}$ is normal to the loop plane.

 $\boldsymbol{\tau} = I\boldsymbol{\mathsf{A}}\times\boldsymbol{\mathsf{B}}$

Which of the rectangular loops has the largest magnitude of the net force acting on it?



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Rank the magnitudes of the torques acting on the rectangular loops from highest to lowest.



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 $\bm{\tau} = I\bm{A}\times\bm{B}$

Remarkably, that equation also holds for other shapes of loop as long as they are flat (in one plane). A is the area of the loop.

For a *coil* of N loops stacked together, the effect of each loop adds up:

$$\mathbf{\tau} = NI\mathbf{A} \times \mathbf{B}$$

Electric Motors

This effect can be used to turn electricity into mechanical work.



¹Figure from hyperphysics.phys-arstr.gsu.edu

Electric Motors

Either direct current (DC) or alternating current (AC) can be used for a motor.



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 $\boldsymbol{\tau} = I \boldsymbol{\mathsf{A}} \times \boldsymbol{\mathsf{B}}$

Magnetic Moment for a Current Loop

For a current loop, we can define the **magnetic moment** of the loop as

$$\mu = I \mathbf{A}$$

And for a coil N turns (loops) of wire carrying a current:

 $\mu = NIA$

Then the expression for the torque can be written

$$\tau = \mu \times B$$

Reminder: Electric Dipole Moment

Recall our definition for the Electric dipole moment: **dipole moment**:

$\mathbf{p}=q\,\mathbf{d}$

where **d** is a vector pointing from the negative charge to the positive charge, and its magnitude d is the separation of the charges and each charge in the dipole has magnitude q.

Torque on a electric dipole in an electric field:

$$\mathbf{\tau} = \mathbf{p} \times \mathbf{E}$$

Potential energy:

,

$$U = -\mathbf{p} \cdot \mathbf{E}$$

Current Loop vs Bar Magnet

A loop of wire with a current in it produces a magnetic field similar to a bar magnet.



Magnetic Dipole Moment

magnetic dipole moment, μ

The quantity relating an external magnetic field that a magnet or coil of wire is in to the torque on the magnet or coil due to that field.

$\tau = \mu \times B$

For a magnet, it is a vector pointing from the south pole of a magnet to the north pole, that is proportional to the strength of the B-field produced by the magnet itself.

For a coil, it is defined according the the right hand rule for current in a wire loop and is proportional to the coil area and current.

Potential Energy of a Dipole in a B-Field





The energy can be found by integrating the torque over the angle of rotation.

$$U = -\mathbf{\mu} \cdot \mathbf{B}$$

The figure shows four orientations, at angle θ , of a magnetic dipole moment μ in a magnetic field. Rank the orientations according to the magnitude of the torque on the dipole, greatest first.



(A) 1 and 2, 3 and 4
(B) 1 and 4, 2 and 3
(C) 3, 2, 1, 4
(D) all the same

¹Halliday, Resnick, Walker, 9th ed, page 745.

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Electric Dipole and Magnetic Dipole



Summary

- force on a curved wire in a magnetic field
- torque on a current-carrying wire loop
- relating a current loop to a magnet
- magnetic dipole moment
- torque and potential energy of magnetic dipole

3rd Test Friday, Mar 9.

Homework

• Collected homework 3, due on Monday, Mar 5.

Serway & Jewett:

- PREVIOUS: Ch 29, Problems: 37, 41
- NEW: Ch 29, Problems: 42, 47, 48, 49, 51, 53, 57