

**MAGNETIC MOMENT**

The magnetic field, particularly at significant distances, arising from the current in a circular loop, exhibits behavior akin to the electric field of an electric dipole. As we understand, this magnetic field is present on the axis of a circular loop with a radius  $R$ , carrying a constant current  $I$ .

$$B = \frac{\mu_0 I (2\pi a^2)}{4\pi(a^2 + x^2)^{3/2}}$$

Its direction is along the axis and given by the right-hand thumb rule. Here,  $x$  is the distance along the axis from the centre of the loop.

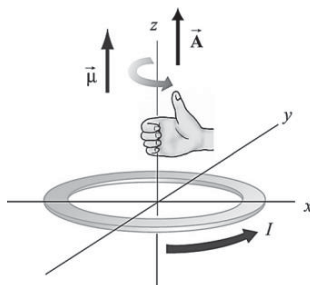
For  $x \gg R$ , we may drop the  $R^2$  term in the denominator. Thus

$$B = 2\left(\frac{\mu_0}{4\pi}\right)\left(\frac{IA}{x^2}\right)$$

Where  $A = \pi R^2 =$  area of the loop

The expression closely resembles an earlier expression derived for the electric field of a dipole. This resemblance becomes apparent if we can establish a definition for the magnetic dipole moment  $\vec{\mu}$  as.  $\vec{\mu} = IA\vec{A}$

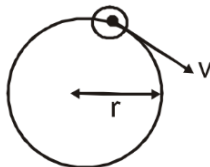
The direction of  $\vec{\mu}$  is the same as the area vector  $\vec{A}$  (perpendicular to the loop's plane) and is ascertained using the right-hand rule (as illustrated in the figure). The SI unit for this is.  $\mu\text{αγνετιχδ1πολεμομεντ1σαμπερε} - \text{μετερ}^2 (\text{A} \cdot \text{m}^2)$ .



**Ex.** Find the magnetic moment of an electron orbiting in a circular orbit of radius  $r$  with a speed  $v$ .

**Sol.** Magnetic moment  $\mu = iA$  we can write

$$i = \frac{e}{T} = \frac{e}{\frac{2\pi r}{v}} = \frac{ev}{2\pi r}$$



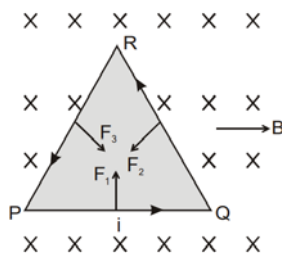
$A =$  area of the loop  $= \pi r^2$

$$\mu = (I)\left(\frac{ev}{2\pi r}\right)(\pi r^2)$$

$$\mu = \frac{evr}{2}$$

**Ex.** A wire is bent in the form of an equilateral triangle PQR of side 20 cm and carries a current of 2.5 A. It is placed in a magnetic field  $B$  of magnitude 2.0 T directed perpendicularly to the plane of the loop. Find the forces on the three sides of the triangle.

**Sol.** Suppose the field and the current have directions as shown in figure. The force on PQ



$$\vec{F}_1 = i\vec{\ell} \times \vec{B} \text{ or, } F_1 = 2.5 \text{ A} \times 20 \text{ cm} \times 2.0 \text{ T} = 1.0 \text{ N}$$

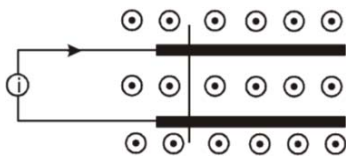
The rule of vector product shows that the force  $F_1$  is perpendicular to  $PQ$  and is directed towards the inside of the triangle.

The forces  $\vec{F}_2$  and  $\vec{F}_3$  on  $QR$  and  $RP$  can also be obtained similarly. Both the forces are  $1.0\text{ N}$  directed perpendicularly to the respective sides and towards the inside of the triangle.

The three forces  $\vec{F}_1, \vec{F}_2$  and  $\vec{F}_3$  will have zero resultant, so that there is no net magnetic force on the triangle. This result can be generalized. Any closed current loop, placed in a homogeneous magnetic field, does not experience a net magnetic force.

**Ex.** Figure shows two long metal rails placed horizontally and parallel to each other at a separation  $y$ . A uniform magnetic field  $B$  exists in the vertically upward direction. A wire of mass  $m$  can slide on the rails. The rails are connected to a constant current source which drives a current  $i$  in the circuit. The friction coefficient between the rails and the wire is  $\mu$ .

- (a) What is the minimum value of  $\mu$  which can prevent the wire from sliding on the rails?  
 (b) Describe the motion of the wire if the value of  $\mu$  is half the value found in the previous part.



**Sol.** (a) The force on the wire due to the magnetic field is

$$\vec{F} = i\vec{\ell} \times \vec{B}$$

$$F = iyB$$

It acts towards right in the given figure. If the wire does not slide on the rails, the force of friction by the rails should be equal to  $F$ . If  $\mu_0$  be the minimum coefficient of friction which can prevent sliding, this force is also equal to  $\mu_0 mg$ . Thus,

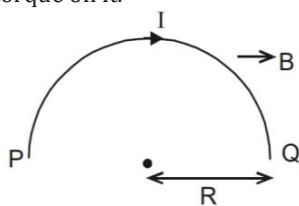
$$\mu_0 mg = iyB$$

$$\mu_0 = \frac{iyB}{mg}$$

- (b) If the friction coefficient is  $\mu = \frac{\mu_0}{2} = \frac{iyB}{2mg}$  the wire will slide towards right. The frictional force by the rails is  $f = \mu mg = \frac{iyB}{2}$  towards left.

The resultant force is  $iyB - \frac{iyB}{2} = \frac{iyB}{2}$  towards right. The acceleration will be  $a = \frac{iyB}{2m}$ . The wire will slide towards right with this acceleration.

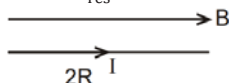
**Ex.** In the figure shown a semicircular wire is placed in a uniform  $\vec{B}$  directed towards right. Find the resultant magnetic force and torque on it.



**Sol.** The wire is equivalent to

$$\theta = 0$$

$$F_{\text{res}} = 0$$

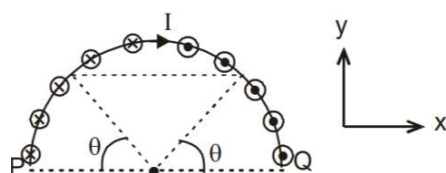


Forces on individual parts are marked in the figure by  $\otimes$  and  $\odot$ . By symmetry there will be pair of forces forming couples.

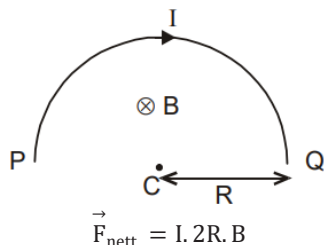
$$\tau = \int_0^{\pi/2} i(Rd\theta)B\sin(90 - \theta) \cdot 2R\cos\theta$$

$$\tau = \frac{i\pi R^2}{2} B$$

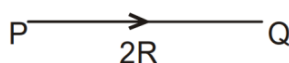
$$\vec{\tau} = \frac{i\pi R^2}{2} B(-\hat{j})$$



**Ex.** In the figure shown find the resultant magnetic force and torque about 'C', and 'P'.



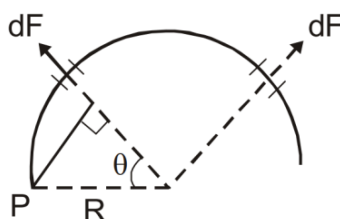
wire is equivalent to



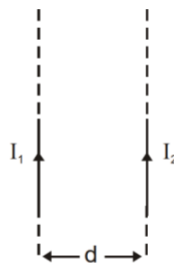
Force on each element is radially outward :  $\tau_c = 0$  point about

$$P = \int_0^\pi [i(Rd\theta)B \sin 90^\circ] R \sin \theta$$

$$= 2IBR^2$$



**Ex.** Prove that magnetic force per unit length on each of the infinitely long wire due to each other is  $\mu_0 I_1 I_2 / 2\pi d$ . Here it is attractive also.



**Sol.** On (2), B due to (i) is  $= \frac{\mu_0 I_1}{2\pi d} \otimes$

F on (2) on 1 m length

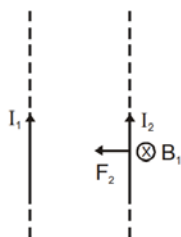
Towards left it is attractive

Similarly on the other wire also.

$$I_2 \cdot \frac{\mu_0 I_1}{2\pi d} \cdot 1$$

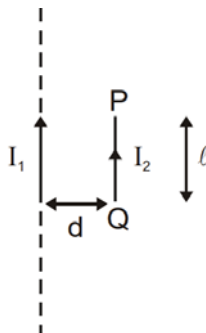
$$\frac{\mu_0 I_1 I_2}{2\pi d}$$

(Hence proved)



**Note**

- The definition of the ampere, the fundamental unit of current, is established by the formula provided above. If  $I_1 = I_2 = 1 \text{ A}$ ,  $d = 1 \text{ m}$  then  $F = 2 \times 10^{-7} \text{ N}$
- If two lengthy wires, each carrying an identical current and positioned 1 meter apart, generate a magnetic force of  $2 \times 10^{-7} \text{ N}$  on a 1-meter length, the current flowing through them is 1 ampere.
- The formula mentioned above is applicable even when one wire is infinitely long, and the other is of finite length. In such a scenario, the force per unit length on each wire will not be equal.  
Force per unit length on PQ =  $\frac{\mu_0 I_1 I_2}{2\pi d}$  (attractive)
- When the currents flow in opposite directions, the magnetic force acting on the wires will be repulsive.



**Ex.** Find the magnetic force on the loop 'PQRS' due to the loop wire.

**Sol.**  $F_{\text{res}} = \frac{\mu_0 I_1 I_2}{2\pi a} a(\hat{i}) + \frac{\mu_0 I_1 I_2}{2\pi(2a)} a(\hat{i}) = \frac{\mu_0 I_1 I_2}{4\pi} (-\hat{i})$

