

# Forces Caused by Magnetic Fields

## Current Carrying Wires

- ◆ The magnetic fields around two current carrying wires placed next to each other will interact, causing a force between them.
  - When parallel conductors carrying charge in the same direction are placed near each other, they are attracted to one another.
  - When the charges in the conductors are flowing in the opposite direction, the wires are repelled from one another.

## Current Carrying Wires

- ◆ The strength of this magnetic force can be found by using the equation:

$$F = \frac{(2kl)I_1I_2}{d}$$

Where

$k = 1 \times 10^{-7} \text{ N/A}^2$

$l$  = the length of the conductors

$I_1$  and  $I_2$  = current flowing through the two wires

$d$  = the distance between the conductors

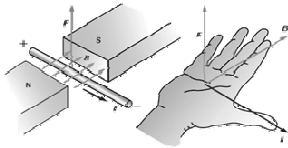
- ◆ Notice that the direction of the current will determine if it is a repulsive or attractive force

## A Wire in a Magnetic Field

- ◆ The magnetic field around a current carrying wire can interact with an existing magnetic field causing a force on the wire.
- ◆ The direction of the force on the wire can be found by using the Third Right Hand Rule.

## Third Right Hand Rule

- ◆ Place your fingers in the direction of the magnetic field and your thumb in the direction of the current.
- ◆ Your palm will show the direction of the force on the wire.



## Size of the Force on a Wire in a Magnetic Field

- ◆ To find the size of the force on a current carrying wire, we can use:

$$F = BIL$$

where

- $B$  is the magnetic field strength in Teslas
- $I$  is the current in Amps
- $L$  is the length of the wire in the B-field

## Sample Problem

- ◆ A 45 cm wire carrying 3.0 A of current to the right is placed in a 0.55 T magnetic field directed upward. What is the size and direction of the force on the wire?

$$(F = .7435 \text{ N})$$

## Common Magnetic Fields

- ◆ Here are a few common magnetic fields and their strengths:

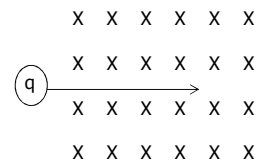
Source and Location	Strength (T)
Surface of neutron star (predicted)	$10^8$
Strong laboratory electromagnets	10
Small bar magnet	0.01
Earth's magnetic field	$5 \times 10^{-5}$

## Forces on Single Charges

- ◆ A single charge moving through a magnetic field acts like a current in a wire and therefore will have a force applied to it.
- ◆ The direction of the force on the charge can be found by using the Third Right Hand Rule.
  - It will be the same direction for a positive particle.
  - It will be the opposite direction for a negative particle.

## Forces on Single Charges

- ◆ Use the Right Hand Rule to find the direction of the force on the charged particle.



## Forces on Single Charges

- ◆ The size of the force can be found by using the equation:

$$F = Bqv$$

where:

- B is the magnetic field strength in Teslas
- q is the size of the charge in Coulombs
  - ◆ Remember protons and electrons have a charge of  $\pm 1.6 \times 10^{-19} \text{ C}$ .
- v is the velocity of the charge in m/s

## Sample Problem

- ◆ An electron is shot upward at  $4.0 \times 10^6 \text{ m/s}$  through a 0.35 T magnetic field that is directed toward the left. What is the size and direction of the force on the electron?

$$(F = -2.24 \times 10^{-13} \text{ N})$$

Return to Physics Notes