



MAGNETISM

Magnets are always attractive objects for the humans. In fact famous scientist Einstein has mentioned that he was always attracted by magnets in his childhood. In the olden days magnets were used in the ships. Captains of the ships effectively used the magnets to identify the direction of the ship in the sea.

There are two kinds of magnets that we can see around us: Natural magnet and Artificial magnet. Natural magnets exist in the nature. These kind of magnets can be found in rocks and sandy deposits in various parts of the world. The strongest natural magnet is lodestone magnetite.

The magnetic property in the natural magnets is permanent. It never gets destroyed. The lodestones were used to make compasses in the olden days. Artificial magnets are made by us. The magnets available in the shops are basically artificial magnets.

Magnetic field (B):

Magnets have an invisible field all around them which attracts magnetic materials. In this space we can feel the force of attraction or repulsion due to the magnet.

Thus, magnetic field is the region around the magnet where its magnetic influence can be felt. It is denoted by B and its unit is Tesla. The direction of the magnetic field around a magnet can be found by placing a small compass in the magnetic field.

Magnetic field can penetrate through all kinds of materials, not just air. The Earth produces its own magnetic field, which shields the earth's ozone layer from the solar wind and it is important for navigation also.

Magnetic Field Lines:

A magnetic field line is defined as a curve drawn in the magnetic field in such a way that the tangent to the curve at any point gives the direction of the magnetic field. They start at north pole and ends at south pole.

Magnetic flux :

Magnetic flux is the number of magnetic field lines passing through a given area . It is denoted by ϕ and its unit is weber (Wb).

The number of magnetic field lines crossing unit area kept normal to the direction of field lines is called magnetic flux density. Its unit is Wb/m^2 .

Some sea turtles (loggerhead sea turtle) return to their birth beach many decades after they were born, to nest and lay eggs. In a research, it is suggested that the turtles can perceive variations in magnetic parameters of Earth such as magnetic field intensity and remember them. This memory is what helps them in returning to their homeland.

Properties of magnetic lines of force :

- Magnetic lines of force are closed, continuous curves, extending through the body of the magnet.
- Magnetic lines of force start from the North Pole and end at the South Pole.
- Magnetic lines of force never intersect.
- They will be maximum at the poles than at the equator.
- The tangent drawn at any point on the curved line gives the direction of magnetic field.

Magnetic Properties:

The properties of a magnet can be explained under the following headings.

- Attractive property
- Reflective property
- Directive property

Magnetic Materials:

Materials which are attracted by magnets are called magnetic materials and those materials which are not attracted by magnets are called non-magnetic materials. There are a number of materials that can be attracted by magnets. These can be magnetised to create permanent magnets. Magnetic materials can be categorised as magnetically hard or magnetically soft materials. Magnetically soft materials are easily magnetised. Magnetically hard materials also can be magnetised but they require a strong magnetic field to be magnetised. It is because materials have different atomic structure and they behave differently when they are placed in a magnetic field. Based on their behaviour in a magnetic field they can be classified as below.

- Diamagnetic materials
- Paramagnetic materials
- Ferromagnetic materials

Diamagnetic materials

Diamagnetic materials have the following characteristics.

- When suspended in an external uniform magnetic field they will align themselves perpendicular to the direction of the magnetic field.
- They have a tendency to move away from the stronger part to the weaker part when suspended in a non-uniform magnetic field.
- They get magnetised in a direction opposite to the magnetic field.
- Examples for diamagnetic substances are bismuth, copper, mercury, gold, water, alcohol, air and hydrogen.
- Magnetic character of these substances is not affected by the external temperature.

Paramagnetic materials

- The following are the characteristics of paramagnetic materials.
- When suspended in an external uniform magnetic field they will align themselves parallel to the direction of the magnetic field.
- They have a tendency to move from the weaker part to the stronger part when suspended in a non-uniform magnetic field.
- They get magnetised in the direction of the field.
- Examples for paramagnetic substances are aluminium, platinum, chromium, oxygen, manganese, solutions of salts of nickel and iron.
- Magnetic character of these substances is affected by the external temperature.

Ferromagnetic materials

The characteristics of ferromagnetic materials are given below.

- When suspended in an external uniform magnetic field they will align themselves parallel to the direction of the magnetic field.
- It has a tendency to move quickly from the weaker part to the stronger part when suspended in a non-uniform magnetic field.
- They get strongly magnetised in the direction of the field.
- Examples for ferromagnetic substances are iron, cobalt, nickel, steel and their alloys.
- Magnetic character of these substances is affected by the external temperature. When they are heated they become para magnetic.

Earth's Magnetism:

Earth has been assumed or imagined by the scientists as a huge magnetic dipole. However, the position of the Earth's magnetic poles is not well defined in the Earth. The south pole of the imaginary magnet inside the Earth is located near the geographic north pole and the north pole of the earth's magnet is located near the geographic south pole. The line joining these magnetic poles is called the magnetic axis.

The magnetic axis intersects the geographic north pole at a point called the north geomagnetic pole or northern magnetic pole. It intersects the geographic south pole at a point called the south geomagnetic pole or southern magnetic pole. The magnetic axis and the geographical axis (axis of rotation) do not coincide with each other. The magnetic axis of the Earth is inclined at an angle of about 10° to 15° with the geographical axis.

The exact cause of the Earth's magnetism is not known even today. However, some important factors, which may be the cause of the Earth's magnetism, are as follows.

- Masses of magnetic substances in the Earth
- Radiations from the Sun
- Action of the Moon However, it is believed that the Earth's magnetic field is due to the molten charged metallic fluid inside the Earth's surface with a core of radius of about 3500 km compared to the Earth's radius of 6400 km.

Magnetic effect of current:

Oersted aligned a wire XY such that they were exactly along the North-South direction. He kept one magnetic compass above the wire at A and another under the wire at B. When the circuit was open and no current was flowing through it, the needle of both the compass was pointing to north. Once the circuit was closed and electric current was flowing, the needle at A pointed to east and the needle at B to the west. This showed that current carrying conductor produces magnetic field around it.

The direction of the magnetic lines around a current carrying conductor can be easily understood using the right hand thumb rule. Hold the wire with four fingers of your right hand with thumbs-up position. If the direction of the current is towards the thumb then the magnetic lines curl in the same direction as your other four fingers.

This shows that the magnetic field is always perpendicular to the direction of current. The strength of the magnetic field at a point due to current carrying wire depends on:

- i. the current in the wire,
- ii. distance of the point from the wire,
- iii. the orientation of the point from the wire and
- iv. the magnetic nature of the medium. The magnetic field lines are stronger near the current carrying wire and it diminishes as you go away from it. This is represented by drawing magnetic field lines closer together near the wire and farther away from the wire.

Force on a current carrying conductor in a magnetic field:

H.A.Lorentz found that a charge moving in a magnetic field, in a direction other than the direction of magnetic field, experiences a force. It is called the magnetic Lorentz force. Since charge in motion constitutes a current, a conductor carrying moving charges, placed in magnetic field other than the direction of magnetic field, will also experience a force and can produce motion in the conductor.

Michael Faraday discovered that a current carrying conductor also gets deflected when it is placed in a magnetic field. In Figure 5.7, we can see that the magnetic field of the permanent magnet and the magnetic field produced by the current carrying conductor interact and produce a force on the conductor.

If a current, I is flowing through a conductor of length, L kept perpendicular to the magnetic field B , then the force F experienced by it is given by the equation, $F = I L B$

The above equation indicates that the force is proportional to current through the conductor, length of the conductor and the magnetic field in which the current carrying conductor is kept.

The angle of inclination between the current and magnetic field also affects the magnetic force. When the conductor is perpendicular to the magnetic field, the force will be maximum ($=BIL$). When it is parallel to the magnetic field, the force will be zero.

The force is always a vector quantity. A vector quantity has both magnitude and direction. It means we should know the direction in which the force would act. The direction is often found using what is known as Fleming's Left hand Rule (formulated by the scientist John Ambrose Fleming).

Force on parallel current carrying conductors:

We have seen that a current carrying conductor has a magnetic field around it. If we place another conductor carrying current parallel to the first one, the second conductor will experience a force due to the magnetic field of the first conductor. Similarly, the first conductor will experience a force due to the magnetic field of the second conductor. These two forces will be equal in magnitude and opposite in direction.

Using Fleming's left hand rule we can find that the direction of the force on each wire would be towards each other when the current in both of them are flowing in the same direction, i.e., the wires would experience an attractive force. However, if the direction of the flow of current is in opposite direction, then the force on each of the wire will be in opposite direction.

Connection between Electricity and Magnetism:

Before 18th century people thought that magnetism and electricity were separate subjects of study. After Oersted's experiment the electricity and magnetism were united and became a single subject called 'Electromagnetism'.

When there is current, the magnetic field is produced and the current carrying conductor behaves like a magnet. You may now wonder how was it possible for a lodestone to behave like a magnet when there was no current passing through it. Only in the twentieth century, we understood that the magnetic property arises due to the motion of electrons in the lodestone. In the circuit the electrons flow from negative of the battery to positive of the battery and constitutes current. As a result it produces magnetic field. In natural magnets and artificial magnets that we buy in shops, the electrons move around the nucleus constitutes current which leads to magnetic property. Here, every orbiting electron in its orbit is like a current carrying loop. Even though in all the materials electrons orbit around the nucleus, only for certain special type of material called magnetic material the motion of electrons around the nucleus gets added up and as a result we have permanent magnetic field.

Electric motor:

An electric motor is a device which converts electrical energy into mechanical energy. Electric motors are crucial in modern life. They are used in water pump, fan, washing machine, juicer, mixer, grinder etc. We have already seen that when electric current is passed through a conductor placed normally in a magnetic field, a force is acting on the conductor and this force makes the conductor to move. This is harnessed to construct an electric motor.

Electromagnetic Induction:

When it was shown by Oersted that magnetic field is produced around a conductor carrying current, the reverse effect was also attempted. In 1831, Michael Faraday explained the possibility of producing an e.m.f across the conductor when the magnetic flux linked with the conductor is changed.

All these observations made Faraday to conclude that whenever there is a change in the magnetic flux linked with a closed circuit an emf is produced and the amount of emf induced varies directly as the rate at which the flux changes. This emf is known as induced emf and the phenomenon of producing an induced emf due to change in the magnetic flux linked with a closed circuit is known as electromagnetic induction.

The direction of the induced current was given by Lenz's law, which states that the induced current in the coil flows in such a direction as to oppose the change that causes it. The direction of induced current can also be given by another rule called Fleming's Right Hand Rule.

Fleming's Right Hand Rule:

Stretch the thumb, fore finger and middle finger of your right hand mutually perpendicular to each other. If the fore finger indicates the direction of magnetic field and the thumb indicates the direction of motion of the conductor, then the middle finger will indicate the direction of induced current. Fleming's Right hand rule is also called 'generator rule'.

Electric generator :

An alternating current (AC) generator, consists of a rotating rectangular coil ABCD called armature placed between the two poles of a permanent magnet. The two ends of this coil are connected to two slip rings S1 and S2 . The inner sides of these rings are insulated. Two conducting stationary brushes B1 and B2 are kept separately on the rings S1 and S2 respectively. The two rings S1 and S2 are internally attached to an axle. The axle may be mechanically rotated from outside to rotate the coil inside the magnetic field. Outer ends of the two brushes are connected to the external circuit.

When the coil is rotated, the magnetic flux linked with the coil changes. This change in magnetic flux will lead to generation of induced current. The direction of the induced current, as given by Fleming's Right Hand Rule, is along ABCD in the

coil and in the outer circuit it flows from B2 to B1 . During the second half of rotation, the direction of current is along DCBA in the coil and in the outer circuit it flows from B1 to B2. As the rotation of the coil continues, the induced current in the external circuit is changing its direction for every half a rotation of the coil.

To get a direct current (DC), a split ring type commutator must be used. With this arrangement, one brush is at all times in contact with the arm moving up in the field while the other is in contact with the arm moving down. Thus, a unidirectional current is produced. The generator is thus called a DC generator.

Transformer:

Transformer is a device used for converting low voltage into high voltage and high voltage into low voltage. It works on the principle of electromagnetic induction. It consists of primary and secondary coil insulated from each other. The alternating current flowing through the primary coil induces magnetic field in the iron ring. The magnetic field of the iron ring induces a varying emf in the secondary coil.

Depending upon the number of turns in the primary and secondary coils, we can step up or step-down the voltage in the secondary coil.

Step up transformer: The transformer used to change a low alternating voltage to a high alternating voltage is called a step up transformer. ie $V_s > V_p$. In a step up transformer, the number of turns in the secondary coil is more than the number of turns in the primary coil ($N_s > N_p$).

Step down transformer: The transformer used to change a high alternating voltage to a low alternating voltage is called a step down transformer ($V_s < V_p$). In a step down transformer, the number of turns in the secondary coils are less than the number of turns in the primary coil ($N_s < N_p$).

A transformer cannot be used with the direct current (DC) source because, current in the primary coil is constant (ie. DC). Then there will be no change in the number of magnetic field lines linked with the secondary coil and hence no emf will be induced in the secondary coil.

Applications of Electromagnets

Electromagnetism has created a great revolution in the field of engineering applications. In addition, this has caused a great impact on various fields such as medicine, industries, space etc.

Speaker

Inside the speaker, an electromagnet is placed in front of a permanent magnet. The permanent magnet is fixed firmly in position whereas the electromagnet is mobile. As pulses of electricity pass through the coil of the electromagnet, the direction of its magnetic field is rapidly changed. This means that it is in turn attracted to and repelled from the permanent magnet vibrating back and forth. The electromagnet is attached to a cone made of a flexible material such as paper or plastic which amplifies these vibrations, pumping sound waves into the surrounding air towards our ears.

Magnetic Levitation

Trains Magnetic levitation (Maglev) is a method by which an object is suspended with no support other than magnetic fields. In maglev trains two sets of magnets are used, one set to repel and push the train up off the track, then another set to move the floating train ahead at great speed without friction. In this technology, there is no moving part. The train travels along a guideway of magnets which controls the train's stability and speed using the basic principles of magnets.

Medical System

Nowadays electromagnetic fields play a key role in advanced medical equipments such as hyperthermia treatments for cancer, implants and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). Sophisticated equipments working based on electromagnetism can scan even minute details of the human body.

Many of the medical equipments such as scanners, x-ray equipments and other equipments also use the principle of electromagnetism for their functioning.

Practice Questions

1. Following are types of iron ores?

- I. Hematite
- II. Magnetite
- III. Siderite

Which of these iron ore has more magnetic property?

- a. I, II b. I, II, III c. II only d. III only

இரும்பின் தாதுக்கள் மூன்று வகைப்படும்

- I. ஹேமடைட்
- II. மேக்னடைட்
- III. சிடரைட்

இவற்றுள் அதிகமான காந்தப் பண்பினைப் பெற்றுள்ள தாதுக்கள் யாவை?

- a. I, II b. I, II, III c. II மட்டும் d. III மட்டும்

2. Which of the following materials get magnetised in the direction opposite to the magnetic field?

- a. Dia magnetic materials b. Para magnetic materials
c. Ferro magnetic materials d. all the above

கீழ்காணும் பொருள்களுள் எந்த பொருள் காந்தப்புலத்திற்கு எதிரான திசையில் காந்தமாகின்றன?

- a. டயா காந்தப் பொருள்கள் b. பாரா காந்தப் பொருள்கள்
c. ∴பெர்ரோ பொருள்கள் d. இவை அனைத்தும்

3. The magnetic character of which among the following materials is not affected by the external temperature?

- a. Diamagnetic materials b. Para magnetic materials
c. Ferromagnetic materials d. None of the above

கீழ்காணும் பொருள்களுள் எந்த பொருளின் காந்தப் பண்புகள் வெப்பதினால் மாற்றமடைவதில்லை?

- a. டயா காந்தப்பொருட்கள் b. பாரா காந்தப்பொருட்கள்
c. ∴பெர்ரோ காந்தப்பொருட்கள் d. மேற்கண்ட ஏதுமில்லை

4. A process in which a substance is made a permanent or temporary magnet by exposing it to an external magnetic field? This process is known as _____

- a. Artificial Magnets b. Natural Magnets
c. Magnetisation d. Permanent Magnets

புறக் காந்தப்புலத்தில் ஒரு பொருளினை வைத்து, அதனை நிலையான அல்லது தற்காலிகக் காந்தமாக உருவாக்கும் முறையே _____ எனப்படும்.

- a. செயற்கைக் காந்தங்கள் b. இயற்கை காந்தங்கள்
c. காந்தமாக்கல் d. நிரந்தர காந்தங்கள்

5. Which among the following magnets are the strongest and the most powerful magnets on earth?

- a. Neodymium b. ALNICO
c. Samarium d. all the above

கீழ்காணும் காந்தகளுக்கு எந்த காந்தங்களில், பூமியில் வலிமையான திறன்மிகுந்த காந்தங்களாக காணப்படுகிறது?

- a. நியோடியியம் b. ALNICO
c. சமாரியம் d. அனைத்தும்