



Without loss of generality, let I, I' be the current of the bigger and smaller loop respectively, and let the bigger loop be on the x - y plane, with z + direction chosen that makes I counterclockwise. Let the smaller loop be rotated by α around the x -axis.

Any point P on the smaller loop can be parameterized by an angle β as shown above. In the frame S' where the smaller loop is "upright", point P 's coordinate and the differential current at P have coordinates

$$\mathbf{x}' = b \begin{bmatrix} \cos \beta \\ \sin \beta \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad I' d\mathbf{l}' = I' b \begin{bmatrix} -\sin \beta \\ \cos \beta \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad (1)$$

In the frame S where the bigger loop is upright, these corresponding representations are obtained by left multiplying the rotation matrix

$$R_x(\alpha) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos \alpha & -\sin \alpha \\ 0 & \sin \alpha & \cos \alpha \end{bmatrix} \quad (2)$$

which gives

$$\mathbf{x} = R_x(\alpha) \mathbf{x}' = b \begin{bmatrix} \cos \beta \\ \cos \alpha \sin \beta \\ \sin \alpha \sin \beta \end{bmatrix} \quad I' d\mathbf{l} = R_x(\alpha) \cdot I' d\mathbf{l}' = I' b \begin{bmatrix} -\sin \beta \\ \cos \alpha \cos \beta \\ \sin \alpha \cos \beta \end{bmatrix} \quad (3)$$

The torque exerted by the magnetic field generated by the outer loop on the inner loop is given by

$$\mathbf{N} = \int \mathbf{x} \times (\mathbf{J} \times \mathbf{B}) d^3x = \oint_{\text{inner}} \mathbf{x} \times (I' d\mathbf{l} \times \mathbf{B}) = I' \oint_{\text{inner}} [(\mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{B}) d\mathbf{l} - (\mathbf{x} \cdot d\mathbf{l}) \mathbf{B}] \quad (4)$$

The second term vanishes because \mathbf{x} and $d\mathbf{l}$ are orthogonal by virtue of being on a circle centered at origin. In section 5.5, we see that the magnetic field generated by the outer loop has a radial component (equation 5.48)

$$B_r = \frac{\mu_0 I a}{2r} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n (2n+1)!!}{2^n n!} \frac{r_{<}^{2n+1}}{r_{>}^{2n+2}} P_{2n+1}(\cos \theta) \quad (5)$$

as well as a polar component B_θ . In the first term of integral (4), \mathbf{x} is in the radial direction, so B_θ has no effect for \mathbf{N} .

Taking $r_{<} = |\mathbf{x}| = b, r_{>} = a$ and inserting (5) into (4), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{N} &= \frac{\mu_0 I I' a}{2} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n (2n+1)!!}{2^n n!} \frac{b^{2n+1}}{a^{2n+2}} \oint_{\text{inner}} P_{2n+1}(\cos \theta) d\mathbf{l} \\ &= \frac{\mu_0 I I' b^2}{2a} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n (2n+1)!!}{2^n n!} \left(\frac{b}{a}\right)^{2n} \int_0^{2\pi} \mathbf{f}(\beta) d\beta \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

where the integrand is a vector function in β , given by (3):

$$\mathbf{f}(\beta) = \begin{bmatrix} -P_{2n+1}(\cos \theta) \sin \beta \\ P_{2n+1}(\cos \theta) \cos \alpha \cos \beta \\ P_{2n+1}(\cos \theta) \sin \alpha \cos \beta \end{bmatrix} \quad (7)$$

Recall the polar angle θ can be deduced by the cartesian coordinate in (3), i.e.,

$$\cos \theta = \frac{z}{|\mathbf{x}|} = \sin \alpha \sin \beta \quad (8)$$

Since for any k ,

$$\int_0^{2\pi} \sin^k \beta \cos \beta d\beta = 0 \quad (9)$$

we know $N_y = N_z = 0$.

The x component of the torque is

$$N_x = \frac{\mu_0 I I' b^2}{2a} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n+1} (2n+1)!!}{2^n n!} \left(\frac{b}{a}\right)^{2n} \overbrace{\int_0^{2\pi} P_{2n+1}(\sin \alpha \sin \beta) \sin \beta d\beta}^I \quad (10)$$

Here we make reference to the *Addition Theorem of Associated Legendre Functions* (see [equation 14.18.2 on nist.gov](#)), which states that for $\theta_1, \theta_2, \theta_1 + \theta_2 \in [0, \pi]$ and ϕ real,

$$P_l(\cos \theta_1 \cos \theta_2 + \sin \theta_1 \sin \theta_2 \cos \phi) = \sum_{m=-l}^l (-1)^m P_l^{-m}(\cos \theta_1) P_l^m(\cos \theta_2) \cos(m\phi) \quad (11)$$

Assigning $\theta_1 = \pi/2, \theta_2 = \alpha$ in (11) gives

$$P_l(\sin \alpha \cos \phi) = \sum_{m=-l}^l (-1)^m P_l^{-m}(0) P_l^m(\cos \alpha) \cos(m\phi) \quad (12)$$

With variable change $\beta = \pi/2 - \phi$, integral I in (10) becomes

$$\begin{aligned} I &= \int_{-3\pi/2}^{\pi/2} P_{2n+1}(\sin \alpha \cos \phi) \cos \phi d\phi \\ &= \sum_{m=-(2n+1)}^{2n+1} (-1)^m P_{2n+1}^{-m}(0) P_{2n+1}^m(\cos \alpha) \overbrace{\int_{-3\pi/2}^{\pi/2} \cos(m\phi) \cos \phi d\phi}^{\pi \delta_{m1} + \pi \delta_{m,-1}} \\ &= -\pi [P_{2n+1}^{-1}(0) P_{2n+1}^1(\cos \alpha) + P_{2n+1}^1(0) P_{2n+1}^{-1}(\cos \alpha)] \quad (\text{by 3.51}) \\ &= \left[\frac{2\pi}{(2n+1)(2n+2)} \right] \cdot P_{2n+1}^1(0) P_{2n+1}^1(\cos \alpha) \quad (\text{by 5.45}) \\ &= \left[\frac{\pi}{(2n+1)(n+1)} \right] \left[\frac{(-1)^{n+1} \Gamma(n+3/2)}{\Gamma(n+1) \Gamma(3/2)} \right] P_{2n+1}^1(\cos \alpha) \quad (13) \end{aligned}$$

Plugging (13) back into (10) yields

$$\begin{aligned} N_x &= \frac{\mu_0 I I' \pi b^2}{2a} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left[\frac{(2n-1)!!}{2^n n! (n+1)} \right] \left[\frac{\Gamma(n+3/2)}{\Gamma(n+1) \Gamma(3/2)} \right] \left(\frac{b}{a}\right)^{2n} P_{2n+1}^1(\cos \alpha) \\ &= \frac{\mu_0 I I' \pi b^2}{2a} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{n+1}{2n+1}\right) \left[\frac{(2n+1)!!}{2^n (n+1)!} \right] \left[\frac{\Gamma(n+3/2)}{\Gamma(n+2) \Gamma(3/2)} \right] \left(\frac{b}{a}\right)^{2n} P_{2n+1}^1(\cos \alpha) \\ &= \frac{\mu_0 I I' \pi b^2}{2a} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{n+1}{2n+1}\right) \left[\frac{\Gamma(n+3/2)}{\Gamma(n+2) \Gamma(3/2)} \right]^2 \left(\frac{b}{a}\right)^{2n} P_{2n+1}^1(\cos \alpha) \quad (14) \end{aligned}$$

Note that $P_1^1(\cos \alpha) = -\sin \alpha$, thus the leading order of (14) is negative for $\alpha \in [0, \pi]$, which agrees with the 0th order approximation obtained from $\mathbf{N} = \mathbf{m} \times \mathbf{B}(0)$.