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# **Laboratory instructions**

**TFY4155/FY1003 Electricity and Magnetism**

**for students at the study programme**

**MTFYMA/MLREAL/BFY/BKJ**

**NTNU**

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# Preface / Forord

This document contains the texts for the laboratory part of the course TFY4155/FY1003 Electricity and Magnetism.

Denne versjonen markerer restrukturering som følge av den nye XFys ferdighetstreng programmet. Laboppgavene ble fornyet for å muliggjøre mer egenstendig eksperimentering, sette fokus på dokumentasjon med labjournal og introdusere mer feilanalyse.

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25. november 2019

English translation, change of layout, and various minor adjustments.

Thorvald Molthe Ballestad  
January 9th 2022

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The experiments in this laboratory course are safe and do not pose any danger if sensible and obvious precautions are followed and the students follow the safety instructions given below. There is always a potential danger of electric shock or fire wherever there are wall outlets, sockets, wiring or connections, which are found in all laboratories and homes. The purpose of this chapter is to provide you with general information that will prepare you to perform laboratory tests without putting yourself or others at unnecessary risk, and to describe the procedure to follow if you or anyone else nearby is in an emergency.

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## 1.1 The electrical equipment

As stated in Ohm's law,  $V = RI$ , and the law of power development in a resistor,  $P = VI = RI^2$ , there will always be a voltage drop  $V$  over a live conductor with current  $I$  and resistance  $R$ , and there will always be generated heat in the conductor (provided that  $R > 0$ ).

To protect the consumer against electric shock, the outer casing of all equipment with a conductive outer casing is permanently connected to earth. This is done through the ground connector in the plug. If a fault occurs which causes the supply voltage of the equipment to come into contact with the conductive outer casing, the safety earthing will ensure that the voltage is connected to earth and not applied to the outer casing, with the dangers this entails. The current will thus be short-circuited to earth and normally the fuse will blow, causing the current to be interrupted.<sup>1</sup>

To avoid personal safety being dependent on the power fuses, electrical energy networks are often equipped with a so-called *ground fault circuit interrupter*.<sup>2</sup> The ground fault circuit breaker can detect earth leakage currents that are much less than the fault value of the circuit. The switch does this by comparing the current in the two wires of a circuit, i.e. the current into the circuit with the current returning from the circuit. Loss of current is interpreted as leakage current to

1: It is important in this regard that the safety earth line is dimensioned so that it can withstand the current in the main supply line, i.e., it must have at least the same cross-section as the main supply line.

2: Also known as a residual-current device and residual-current circuit breaker.

earth. If the ground fault breaker detects a difference between the phase currents that is greater than a certain preset value (eg 30 mA), then the current is interrupted.

A third method of protecting the consumer against electric shock is *double insulated* equipment (Class II equipment, marked with a double square:  $\square$ ). Do not attempt to ground double insulated equipment as this will reduce contact safety.

Experience has shown that the vast majority of faults in electrical systems are earthing faults. Careful handling of earth and correct earthing of electrical equipment is a prerequisite for safe use of electrical energy and for electrical equipment to work correctly. Never plug electrical equipment that requires a grounded plug into a non-grounded electrical outlet.

## 1.2 Connecting electrical circuits

According to the Norwegian Electricity Regulatory Authority's regulations, all AC voltages above 25 V rms value and all ripple-free DC voltages above 60 V must be properly insulated. When connecting circuits in the laboratory, make sure that these regulations are followed.

You must make sure that the wires you use are sufficiently large, so that they do not heat up. Although the resistance in electrical wires is small, the value will not always be negligible. For twisted copper cables used for fixed installations in houses (with 230 V), the regulations state that a cable with a cross-section of  $2.5 \text{ mm}^2$  can carry a maximum current of 16 A. As a rule of thumb in the laboratory, we can assume that  $5 \text{ A/mm}^2$  at voltages below 300 V will be safe. The flexible laces we use for connections all have cross-sections that are larger than  $1 \text{ mm}^2$ . Currents up to 5 A will therefore not present any problem for these laces. Another factor you need to take care of is choosing a large enough cross-section on your wires so that the voltage drop across the wires does not contribute to measurement errors.

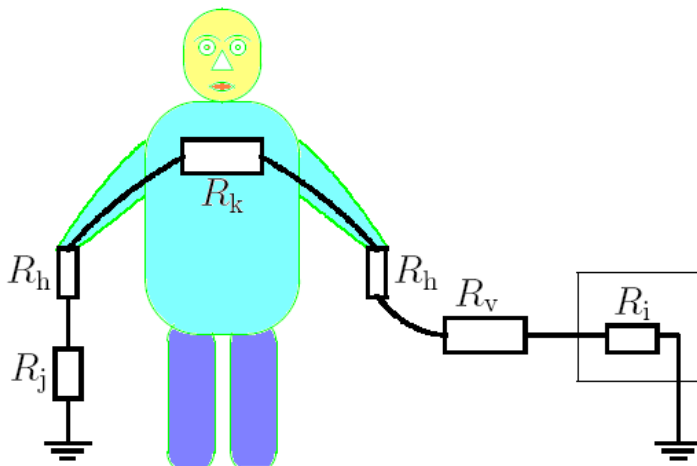
Be careful not to send current through coils of electrical wire. The requirements described above apply to wires in the open with natural air cooling. If the wire is coiled tightly together, the heat development will lead to a significantly

greater temperature increase which can lead to the insulation melting.

When using electrical connection equipment, it is important that you make sure that all equipment is in order. Look for damage to wires and especially connectors. It is also important that you treat the coupling material so that it is not damaged. Be sure to place the wires during use so that there is no danger of them getting caught in moving parts or getting pinched so that the insulation is damaged. The cables should also be left free so that they have sufficient cooling. When the wiring material is not in use, it should not be twisted up as heavy twisting can damage the insulation and the connection between the conductor and the socket.

### 1.3 The effect of electrical currents on the body

The danger of electric shock is given by the magnitude of the current flowing through the body and the current path it follows. How much voltage the body can withstand will depend on the total resistance in the circuit where the body is included. Figure 1.1 shows the human body as part of a circuit.



**Figure 1.1:** The human body as part of a circuit, where  $R_j$  is the insulation resistance between the body and earth,  $R_h$  is the transition resistance in the skin,  $R_k$  is the body's internal resistance,  $R_i$  is the internal resistance of the voltage source that drives the current in the circuit and  $R_v$  is the insulation resistance between the voltage terminal of the voltage source and the body.

Current can damage the body, either by damaging body tissue when heated, or by the current interfering with the electrical signals in the nervous system. The heating is given by the current  $I$  and the resistance  $R$  in the tissue being heated.

A sustained flow through the tissue will cause an increasing amount of heat energy and risk of injury. Disruption of the electrical signals in the nervous system can, among other things lead to heart fibrillation and paralysis. In particular, alternating current in the frequency range 15 to 60 Hz is dangerous for the nervous system. Our network supply of 50 Hz is therefore in the dangerous category. When the frequency of the alternating current increases, the influence on the nervous system will decrease, and for frequencies above 10 kHz the influence is almost gone. However, the heating effect is still present.

Current paths through the heart and lung region are particularly dangerous due to the vital organs that exist there. The kidneys are also particularly sensitive to current damage.

From the circuit in figure 1.1 we see that the current through the body is given by

$$I = \frac{V}{R_j + 2R_h + R_k + R_i + R_v}. \quad (1-1)$$

When referring to the voltage on a supply network, we usually refer to the root mean square voltage, defined as

$$V_{\text{eff}} = \sqrt{\langle V(t)^2 \rangle} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{T} \int_0^T V_0^2 \sin^2 \left( \frac{2\pi t}{T} \right) dt} = \frac{V_0}{\sqrt{2}}. \quad (1-2)$$

This means that for a 230 volt system, the peak voltage (amplitude) is  $V_0 = \sqrt{2} \times 230 \text{ V} = 325 \text{ V}$ .

Safety precautions against electrical damage involve reducing the value of the current through the body to harmless values. This can be done for a given voltage  $V$  by making sure that the sum of the resistances below the fractional line in eq. (1-1) is sufficiently large:

$R_v$  Ordinary electrical insulation of electrical equipment involves making  $R_v$  sufficiently large.

$R_k$  The internal resistance of the body  $R_k$  is constant and of the order of  $500 \Omega$ . Note that the limit for mandatory isolation of AC voltage of 25 V effective voltage corresponds to 50 mA when we assume that the resistance in the circuit consists only of the body's internal resistance, ie worst case.



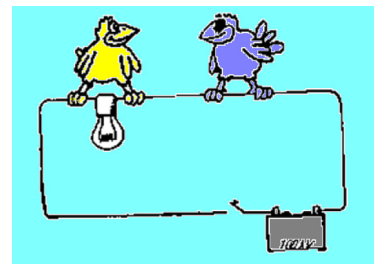
$R_h$  The transition resistance  $R_h$  in the skin can vary from  $0\ \Omega$  for moist skin to well above  $10\ 000\ \Omega$  for dry skin.  $R_h$  also decreases with increasing voltage and it also varies with the frequency so that it is lowest in the frequency range around 50 Hz. This helps to make AC voltage more dangerous than DC voltage. Another factor that makes alternating voltage more dangerous than direct voltage is that the magnitude of the voltage referred to when alternating voltage is mentioned is the effective voltage. However, the peak voltage is  $\sqrt{2}\times$  higher, as described in equation (1-2).

$R_j$  If the body is not in contact with the ground,  $R_j$  will be large. Why do the birds not die when they are on power lines (see Figure 1.2)? Answer this question by modifying Figure 1.1. Now look at Figure 1.3, and then answer the question asked there.

In addition to the above, it is important to be aware that high-frequency electromagnetic radiation in the MHz - GHz range (microwaves - radar) can be dangerous for the body in that the electric alternating field leads to heating of the body tissue, the same effect which provides heating in a microwave. Such high-frequency heating is extra dangerous because it often takes place without normal pain functions taking effect. People should be shielded if the power per unit area against the body is  $> 0.01\ \text{W}/\text{cm}^2$ .



**Figure 1.2:** A bird sitting on a power line.



**Figure 1.3:** What happens when turning on the circuit?

Exposure characteristics	Magnetic flux density
Occupational <sup>b</sup>	
Exposure of head and trunk	2 T
Exposure of limbs <sup>c</sup>	8 T
General public <sup>b</sup>	
Exposure to any part of the body	400 mT

**Table 1.1:** Limits of exposure<sup>a</sup> to static magnetic fields.

- <sup>a</sup> ICNIRP recommends that these limits should be viewed operationally as spatial peak exposure limits.
- <sup>b</sup> For specific work applications, exposure up to 8 T can be justified, if the environment is controlled and appropriate work practices are implemented to control movement-induced effects.
- <sup>c</sup> Not enough information is available on which to base exposure limits beyond 8 T.
- <sup>d</sup> Because of potential indirect adverse effects, ICNIRP recognizes that practical policies need to be implemented to prevent inadvertent harmful exposure of persons with implanted electronic medical devices and implants containing ferromagnetic material, and dangers from flying objects, which can lead to much lower restriction levels such as 0.5 mT.

## 1.4 Effect of static magnetic field

The International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) provides in its guidelines recommended limit values for exposure to electromagnetic fields (see Table 1.1). In Norway, the Radiation Protection Regulations stipulate that ICNIRP's guidelines must be followed, and that all exposure must be kept as low as practicable. For static magnetic fields, the recommended limit is 2 T for workers and 400 mT for the general population. Individuals with pacemakers, ferromagnetic implants or implanted electronic components should not be exposed to magnetic fields above 0.5 mT.<sup>3</sup> In the experiment using the Helmholtz coils the magnetic flux density  $B$  in the immediate vicinity of the coils has a value slightly exceeding 0.5 mT for  $I = 1$  A and  $R = 0.07$  m, where  $I$  is the current flowing in the coils and  $R$  is the average radius of the coils. But the field decreases rapidly outside the coils; the magnitude of  $B$  at a point perpendicular to the coil at a distance 0.15 m (or greater) from the center of the coil is less than 50  $\mu$ T. If a current of 0.5 A is used, the field everywhere will be lower than the recommended limit for people with implants. Students with an implant that is sensitive to magnetic fields should inform the person in charge, who will ensure that this student has a partner who does not have an implant and that the partner makes the measurements.

3: <http://www.icnirp.de/documents/emfgdl.pdf> [Health Physics 96 (2009) 504–519.]

*Important:* Students with an implant that is sensitive to magnetic fields should inform the person in charge.

## 1.5 Common sense in handling electrical equipment

In addition to the usual risks associated with electricity, some laboratories have high voltage equipment <sup>4</sup> which poses an even greater potential hazard. Students should be extra careful with such equipment, and should learn how to disconnect the power source in an emergency. Here are some rules that must be followed when working with and near electricity.

4: For our purposes, it will be sufficient to consider any voltage higher than 50 V as high voltage.

1. Do not work with electricity if your hands, feet, or other parts of your body are wet, or if you are standing on a wet floor.
2. Inspect electrical equipment (with power off and unplugged) for broken wires and damaged connections. If such a thing is detected, do not use the equipment. Then report it to the person in charge so that the equipment can be repaired.
3. Never attempt to repair electrical equipment yourself — this must be done by qualified personnel.
4. If you are subjected to even a mild shock from any equipment, report it immediately so that it may be repaired.
5. Do not use or store extremely flammable liquids near electrical equipment. Some substances, such as ether, can be ignited by sparks from electrical equipment.
6. Always use earthed plugs in earthed wall sockets. Never attempt to insert a grounded electrical plug into an unearthed wall outlet.
7. Extension cords should not be used instead of permanent wiring; they should only be used temporarily and they should not be pulled under doors, across hallways, through windows or holes in walls, around pipes or near sinks.
8. Do not overload circuits by using branch outlets on a standard outlet.
9. Do not remove or change safety measures on high voltage equipment. Remember they are there to protect you.
10. Make sure that the power is switched off during connection or when making changes to the circuit.
11. Make sure that all equipment is set up with the correct settings according to the measurement to be performed

before the circuit is made live.

12. Make sure that the components used are of a rating that can withstand the applied current and voltage.
13. Replace broken fuses with new ones of the correct type and with the correct specifications.
14. *If you think someone has been subjected to a severe electric shock:*
  - ▶ do not remove the injured person from the electrical source until the power has been switched off.
  - ▶ if you do not turn off the power, use an insulator such as a dry rope, cloth or broom handle to pull the person away from the power.
  - ▶ check if you are able to make contact with the person.
  - ▶ check if there is breathing.
  - ▶ secure open airways.
  - ▶ if the injured does not breathe or is experiencing cardiac arrest, call the emergency services at 113.
  - ▶ provide cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) using 30 compressions and 2 breaths. Continue until the emergency services arrive.
  - ▶ if the injured person breathes by themselves, put the person in the recovery position (on their side, with open airways).
  - ▶ look for burns and cool burns with water and treat them as third-degree burns.
  - ▶ after first aid has been given, the injured must be supervised at all times. Conscious people should be talked to. All injuries should be treated further by medical personnel.
  - ▶ people sent to the Emergency Room by taxi / private car must be followed all the way in and out. Bring any HSE data sheets!
  - ▶ all incidents / near incidents are to be regarded as deviations in relation to normal operation, and must be reported on the deviation form.

In the experiment with Coulomb's law, the high-voltage cannon used to charge the bullets provide 25 kV when activated. However, the current is limited to 75  $\mu\text{A}$ . Such currents usually have no physiological effect on the body, but still: *the cannon is to be handled as if it was lethal.*

# STATIC MAGNETIC FIELD

# 2

## Goal

In this lab assignment you will

- ▶ develop your skills in documenting laboratory work with the lab journal,
- ▶ set up and carry out physical measurements,
- ▶ perform basic error analysis,
- ▶ learn to measure magnetic fields with Hall effect gauss-meter,
- ▶ study the magnetic field around a short coil, Helmholtz coil and solenoid,
- ▶ use Python or Excel spreadsheets to compare calculated and measured results.

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## 2.1 Theoretical background

Biot-Savart's law is presented here. Some theory is presented in the text for the calculation tasks in section 2.2. Otherwise, reference is made to the textbook and the lectures in electromagnetism.

### 2.1.1 Biot-Savart's Law

Electric fields are generated around any electric charge while magnetic fields are generated around electric charges that move. In 1820, Jean-Baptiste Biot and Félix Savart performed magnetic field experiments on live conductors and set up the following expression for the magnetic field contribution  $d\vec{B}$  at a point P in space from the current  $I$  in a wire element  $d\vec{s}$ ,

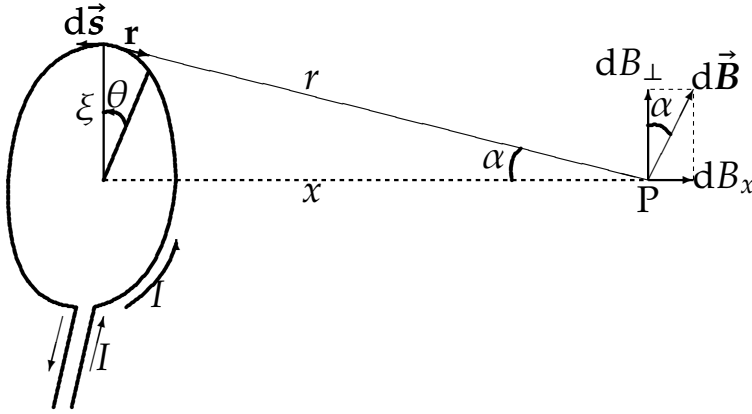
$$d\vec{B} = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \frac{I d\vec{s} \times \vec{r}}{r^2}, \quad (2-1)$$

where  $\vec{r}$  is the position vector of the point P measured from the current element  $I d\vec{s}$ ,  $\vec{r} = \vec{r}/r$  is the unit vector along  $\vec{r}$  and  $\mu_0$  is the magnetic permeability in empty space. Note the  $r^{-2}$  dependence, the same as for the electric field strength

in Coulomb's law. The superposition principle applies to magnetic fields, and consequently the total field strength  $\vec{B}$  at point P from the whole conductor can be found by integrating over the length  $s$  of the conductor:

$$\vec{B}(\vec{r}) = \frac{\mu_0 I}{4\pi} \int_s \frac{d\vec{s} \times \vec{r}}{r^2}. \quad (2-2)$$

In the experiment, you will examine the magnetic field along the axis of circular coils. The simplest circular spool you can make consists of a simple wire loop as shown in Figure 2.1.



**Figure 2.1:** The magnetic field on the normal axis of a circular coil.

The magnetic field on the axis of the coil will have a component in the axis direction  $x$  and a component normal to this. According to Biot-Savart's law, the normal component will be zeroed out by contributions (integration) over the entire loop, as the symmetry of the system gives equal strength in all directions. For the  $x$  component we get by inserting  $r^2 = x^2 + \xi^2$  and using  $\sin \alpha = \xi/r$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} dB_x &= \frac{\mu_0 I}{4\pi} \frac{ds}{x^2 + \xi^2} \sin \alpha \\ &= \frac{\mu_0 I}{4\pi} \frac{\xi d\theta}{x^2 + \xi^2} \frac{\xi}{\sqrt{x^2 + \xi^2}}, \end{aligned} \quad (2-3)$$

where  $\theta$  is the integration angle around the loop circle. Integrated over the loop with  $\int d\theta = 2\pi$  gives this result

$$B_x = \frac{\mu_0 I}{4\pi} \frac{2\pi \xi^2}{(x^2 + \xi^2)^{3/2}} = \frac{\mu_0 I}{2\xi} \left(1 + \frac{x^2}{\xi^2}\right)^{-3/2}. \quad (2-4)$$

For  $x = 0$  (middle of the loop) this gives  $B_x = \mu_0 I / 2\xi$  and for  $x \gg \xi$  (far away from the loop),  $B_x = \mu_0 I \xi^2 / 2x^3$ .

## 2.2 Calculation tasks

### 2.2.1 Calculation and documentation

To perform calculations and to create tables / diagrams, you can freely choose between suitable programs (for example Python, Matlab, Origin, Excel or similar). Data and results must be documented in the lab journal (for example by pasting printouts of the tables and diagrams in the lab journal or by writing the results by hand). The source code and the original files used for calculation must be available in case of questions. The source code can be pasted into the lab journal.

### 2.2.2 Short Coil

The magnetic field from a short coil with  $N$  windings can be considered far from the coil (in relation to the extent of the coil) as the sum of the magnetic field from  $N$  current loops given in equation (2-4). The magnetic field on the axis at a distance  $x$  from the mean center<sup>1</sup> of the coil is then according to equation (2-4) given by

1: Recall that the coils have finite thickness, so we use the mean center.

$$B(x) = \frac{N\mu_0 I}{2R} \left(1 + \frac{x^2}{R^2}\right)^{-3/2}, \quad (2-5)$$

where  $R$  is the average radius of the current loops.

Assume that you have a short coil with  $N = 330$  windings and an average radius  $\langle R \rangle = 70$  mm with a constant current  $I = 1.00$  A through the windings.

1A. Make a table of the magnetic flux density  $B(x)$  on the axis of the coil in the area  $-20 \text{ cm} < x < 20 \text{ cm}$ .

A suggested table is shown in Table 2.1. Constants are entered in rows under the heading.

1B. Present the result in a graph.

Discuss the calculation of the magnetic field of a short coil when the extent of the coil is taken into account.

The program or spreadsheet in Excel can also be used to calculate expected magnetic field strengths as a result of Biot-Savart's (2-4) law and subsequent comparison with

Magnetic permeability for vacuum, $\mu_0$	1.26E-06	H/m
Number of windings, $N$	330	#
Current, $I$	1.00	A
Average loop radius, $R$	0.07	m

**Table 2.1:** Calculated and measured values of the magnetic field  $B$  along the axis of a short coil as a function of the distance  $x$  from the center of the coil.

Position (cm)	$x$ (m)	Calculated (gauss = $10^{-4}T$ )	Measured (gauss)	Difference (%)
24.5	-0.25	0.581		-100.0
29.5	-0.2	1.068		-100.0
34.5	-0.15	2.241		-100.0
39.5	-0.10	5.588		-100.0
44.5	-0.05	15.965		-100.0
47.5	-0.02	26.339		-100.0
48.5	-0.01	28.745		-100.0
49.5	0.00	29.629		-100.0

experimentally measured magnetic field strengths in section 2.3.

1C. Include a column for measured value of  $B$  and a column for deviation between measured and calculated value given in %, and also prepare to show the deviation graphically. (A suggestion is given in Table 2.1.)

Calculate also one of the values of  $B$  by hand, and verify the value of the difference between calculated and measured.

*A small challenge for those with extra time:*

The actual spool you are going to use in the problem has 22 windings in 15 layers with an effective wire diameter equal to 0.93 mm, wound with inner diameter equal to 126 mm and outer diameter equal to 154 mm.

2. How do you think the real magnetic field near the coil will differ from the magnetic field calculated from equation (2-5)? <sup>2</sup>

3. If you were to take into account the extent of the coil during the calculations of the field, how would you proceed? <sup>3</sup>

2: TIP: Look at the extent of the coil as an error in  $x$  and estimate the corresponding error  $\Delta B$  in  $B(x)$ .

3: TIP: Divide the coil into e.g. three coils with 110 windings each and calculate the field from each of the coils and superimpose the effect. The best thing you can do is treat each winding separately, and in practice, that means integration over each winding.

4: Named after Hermann Ludwig Ferdinand von Helmholtz (1821-1894), German physicist and physician.

### 2.2.3 Helmholtz coils

So-called Helmholtz coils <sup>4</sup> consist of two identical, short coils connected in series set up concentrically at a distance  $a$  as shown in figure 2.2. The axial magnetic field on the



axis is given by equation (2-5) for each coil. According to the superposition principle, we find the total field at a distance  $x$  from the center plane between the coils to be equal

$$B_x(x) = \frac{N\mu_0 I}{2R} \left[ \left( 1 + \frac{(x - a/2)^2}{R^2} \right)^{-3/2} + \left( 1 + \frac{(x + a/2)^2}{R^2} \right)^{-3/2} \right]. \quad (2-6)$$

Here the average radius of the coils is equal to  $R$ , the current through the coils is equal to  $I$  and we have neglected the extent of the coils.

If you differentiate equation (2-6) with respect to  $x$  you will find that at  $x = 0$  the derivatives

$$\frac{dB}{dx} = \frac{d^2B}{dx^2} = \frac{d^3B}{dx^3} = 0$$

when  $a = R$ . This means that when  $a = R$  you have a geometry that gives you a particularly good homogeneous magnetic field in the area between the coils. Such Helmholtz coils are used to set up homogeneous magnetic fields in many situations.

Suppose you have Helmholtz coils with  $N = 330$  windings on each coil,  $R = 70$  mm and send a constant current  $I = 1.00$  A through the windings.

4A. Make a table of the magnetic flux density  $B(x)$  on the axis of the Helmholtz coil in the range  $-20 \text{ cm} < x < 20 \text{ cm}$  for each of the three different values  $a = R/2, R$  and  $2R$ .

A suggested table is shown in Table 2.2.

**Table 2.2:** Calculated and measured values of the magnetic field  $B$  along the axis of a Helmholtz coil as a function of the distance  $x$  from the center of the coil, for different values of the separation  $a$ .

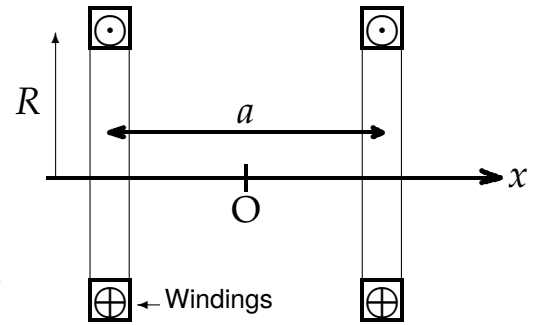
Magnetic permeability for vacuum, $\mu_0$		1.26E-06	H/m
Number of windings, $N$		330	#
Current, $I$		1.00	A
Average loop radius, $R$		0.07	

Position (cm)	$x$ (m)	$a = R/2$			$a = R$			$a = 2R$		
		Calculated (gauss)	Measured (gauss)	Difference (%)	Calculated (gauss)	Measured (gauss)	Difference (%)	Calculated (gauss)	Measured (gauss)	Difference (%)
30	-0.20	3.626			2.454			2.213		
35	-0.15	9.286			5.478			4.719		
40	-0.10	24.643			14.549			11.996		
43	-0.07	32.279			26.258			22.393		
45	-0.05	30.129			35.312			33.160		
47	-0.03	24.981			41.063			45.054		
48	-0.02	22.821			42.105			49.866		
49	-0.01	21.429			42.382			53.017		
50	0.00	20.951			42.402			54.108		

4B. Present the result in a curve diagram

The spreadsheet shall also be used for the calculation of expected magnetic field strengths as a result of Biot-Savart's



**Figure 2.2:** Helmholtz coils consist of two thin concentric coils at a distance  $a$  from each other.

law (2-4) and subsequent comparison with experimentally measured magnetic field strengths in section 2.3.

4C. Include a column for measured value of  $B$  and a column for deviations between measured and calculated value given in % for  $a = 2R$ . Repeat this for the other two values of  $a$ . Prepare to display the deviation graphically. (A suggestion is given in the table in Table 2.2.)

Calculate also one of the values of  $B$  by hand, and verify the value of the difference between calculated and measured.

### 2.2.4 Anti-Helmholtz Coil

Anti-Helmholtz coils consist of two identical, short coils connected in series set up concentrically at a distance  $a$  as shown in Figure 2.3, with opposite directions of the magnetic field. How do you find the field in this configuration?

5A. Make a table of the magnetic flux density  $B(x)$  on the axis of the Anti-Helmholtz coil in the area  $-20 \text{ cm} < x < 20 \text{ cm}$  for each of the three different distances  $a = R/2, R$  and  $2R$ .

5B. Present the result in a graph.

The spreadsheet shall also be used for the calculation of expected magnetic field strengths as a result of Biot-Savart's law (2-4) and subsequent comparison with experimentally measured magnetic field strengths in section 2.3.

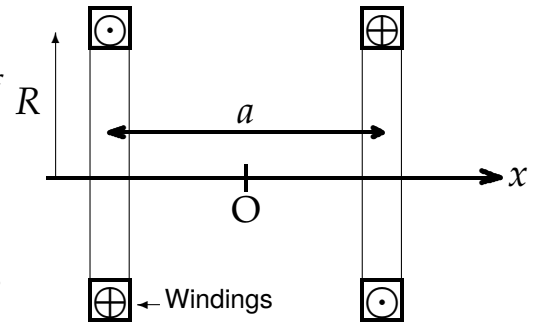
5C. Include a column for measured values of  $B$  and a column for discrepancies between measured and calculated values given in % for  $a = 2R$ . Repeat this for the other two values of  $a$ . Prepare the spreadsheet to display the deviation graphically. (A suggestion is given in Table 2.2.)

Make a control calculation by hand of one of the calculated  $B$ . Check the calculated difference by entering the hand-calculated value.

### 2.2.5 Solenoid

The magnetic field at a point  $P$  on the axis of a solenoid can be found from Biot-Savart's law, and the result is

$$B = \frac{N\mu_0 I}{2\ell} (\cos \theta_1 - \cos \theta_2), \quad (2-7)$$



**Figure 2.3:** Anti-Helmholtz coils consist of two identical, short coils connected in series set up concentrically at a distance  $a$ , with the current running opposite of each other.

where  $\ell$  is the length of the solenoid and the angles  $\theta_1$  and  $\theta_2$  are defined in Figure 2.4, and in a larger version in Figure 2.5.

Analytically the angles are given by

$$\cos \theta_1 = \frac{z}{\sqrt{z^2 + R^2}}, \quad \cos \theta_2 = -\frac{\ell - z}{\sqrt{(\ell - z)^2 + R^2}}, \quad (2-8)$$

where  $R$  is the inner radius of the solenoid and  $z$  is the distance from the left end of the solenoid to the point  $P$ . Inside the solenoid the angles are restricted to  $\theta_1 \in \langle 0, \pi/2 \rangle$  and  $\theta_2 \in \langle \pi/2, \pi \rangle$ . The formula also applies outside the solenoid.

*Proof.* We offer here a short proof of Equation (2-7): In equation (2-4) we have found magnetic fields on the axis at a distance  $x$  from a single loop. In a solenoid we have many loops close together, we define current per unit length as  $IN/\ell = In$ , where  $n$  is the number of windings per length. Flux density at a point  $P$  on the axis then receives a contribution from the thin current loop  $dI = In \, dx$  in position  $x$ , and according to the first part of equation (2-4) the flux density is

$$dB = \frac{\mu_0 dI}{4\pi} \frac{2\pi R^2}{(x^2 + R^2)^{3/2}} = \frac{\mu_0 In}{2} \frac{R^2}{(R^2 + x^2)^{3/2}} dx. \quad (2-9)$$

With  $\theta$  as the angle at point  $P$  between the solenoid axis and the periphery at position  $x$  (Figure 2.4) we see that  $\tan \theta = R/x$ , and differentiation of  $x = R/\tan \theta$  gives

$$dx = R \frac{-1}{\tan^2 \theta} \frac{1}{\cos^2 \theta} d\theta = -R \frac{1}{\sin^2 \theta} d\theta. \quad (2-10)$$

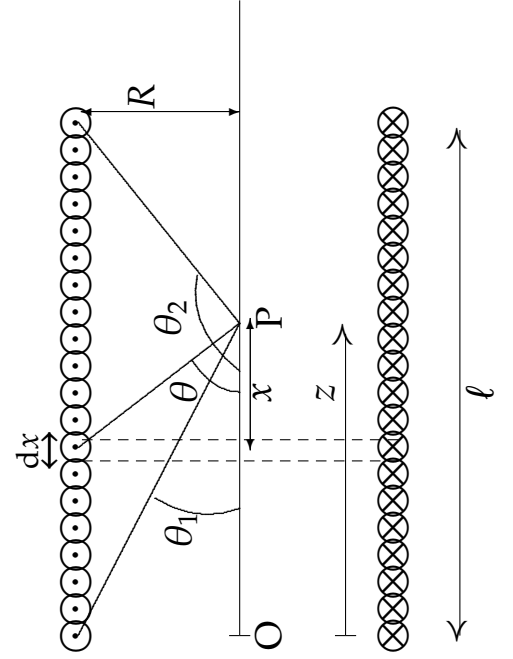
We notice that

$$\sin^3 \theta = \frac{R^3}{(R^2 + x^2)^{3/2}}, \quad (2-11)$$

so that

$$dx = -R \frac{1}{\sin^3 \theta} \sin \theta d\theta = -R \frac{(R^2 + x^2)^{3/2}}{R^3} \sin \theta d\theta \quad (2-12)$$

and by substituting  $\tan \theta = R/x$  in equation (2-9) and inserting boundaries  $\theta_2$  (right end, lowest  $x$ ) to  $\theta_1$  (left end,



**Figure 2.4:** A solenoid. The angles are used for calculation of the magnetic field along the axis of the solenoid. See the main text for details. See Figure 2.5 for a larger version.

highest  $x$ ), we will get

$$B(x) = -\frac{\mu_0 I n}{2} \int_{\theta_2}^{\theta_1} \sin \theta \, d\theta = \frac{\mu_0 I n}{2} (\cos \theta_1 - \cos \theta_2), \quad (2-13)$$

the result we wanted to show.  $\square$

5. What is the expression of the magnetic field deep inside the solenoid, and what is it at the end of the solenoid?

TIP: What are  $\theta_1$  and  $\theta_2$  at these positions?

Suppose you have a solenoid with  $N = 397$  windings,  $\ell = 420$  mm,  $R = 50$  mm and current  $I = 1.00$  A.

6A. Make a table of the magnetic flux density  $B(z)$  on the axis of the solenoid in the area  $-10 \text{ cm} < z < 50 \text{ cm}$  where  $z = 0$  at the left edge of the solenoid.

A suggested table is shown in Table 2.3.

Magnetic permeability for vacuum, $\mu_0$		1.26E-06	H/m
Number of windings, $N$		397	#
Current, $I$		1.00	A
Inner loop radius, $R$		0.05	m
Length, $\ell$		0.42	m

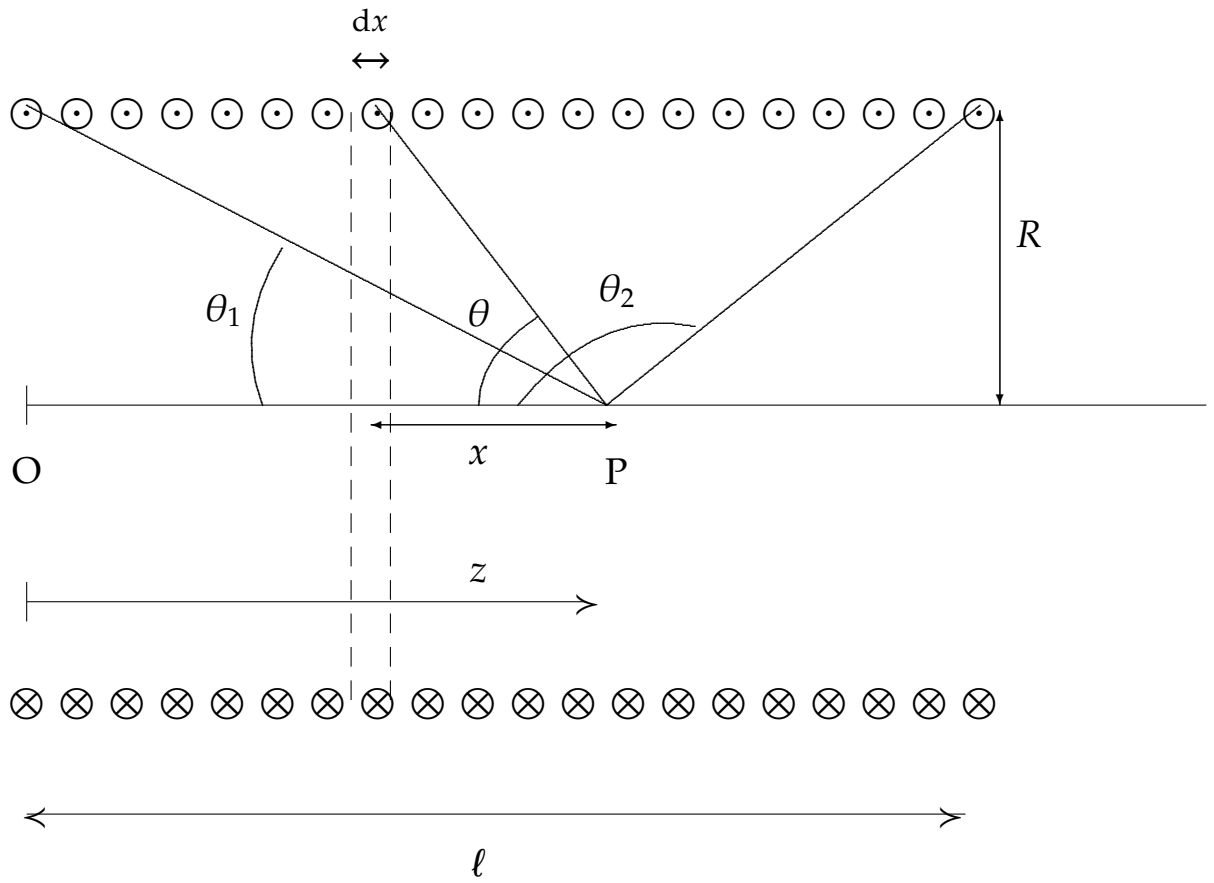
Position (cm)	$z$ (m)	$\cos \theta_1$	$\cos \theta_2$	Calculated (gauss)	Measured (gauss)	Difference (%)
60	-0.10	-0.894	-0.995	0.600		-100.0
55	-0.05	-0.707	-0.994	1.707		-100.0
53	-0.03	-0.514	-0.994	2.848		-100.0
52	-0.02	-0.371	-0.994	3.696		-100.0
51	-0.01	-0.196	-0.993	4.736		-100.0
50	0.00	0.000	-0.993	5.899		-100.0
49	0.01	0.196	-0.993	7.062		-100.0

**Table 2.3:** Calculated and measured values of the magnetic field  $B$  along the axis of a solenoid as a function of the distance  $z$ .

6B. Present the result in a line diagram

The spreadsheet shall also be used for the calculation of expected magnetic field strengths as a result of Biot-Savart's law (2-4) and subsequent comparison with experimentally measured magnetic field strengths in section 2.3.

6C. Include a column for measured value of  $B$  and a column for deviations between measured and calculated value given in %. (A suggestion is given in the table in Table 2.3.)



**Figure 2.5:** A solenoid. The angles are used for calculation of the magnetic field along the axis of the solenoid. See the main text for details.

## 2.2.6 Python Data Analysis

The previous tasks can be done in Python, for example. It is advisable to save the data in text files. Here we use comma separated files as shown in the margin.

Here, the first column represents the *Position*, and the second column represents *Measured* in Table 2.1. The remaining columns can be calculated in Python. To read the data, we create the following code:

```
1 # Assumes numpy imported as np.
2 def read_CSV(filename):
3     data = np.loadtxt (filename, delimiter = ',')
4     xe = data[:, 0]
5     Be = data[:, 1]
6     return xe, Be
```

In the function `read_CSV`, the text file with filename *filename* is read. The position data, located in the first column, is stored in the variable `xe` and the data for the measured magnetic field is stored in the variable `Be`.

The next thing we need to do is implement a function that calculates the magnetic field according to equation (2-5). We can do this as follows:

```
1 def B_field_short_coil(x):
2     prefactor = N * mu_0 * I0 / (2 * R)
3     return prefactor * (1.0 + (x / R) ** 2) ** (-1.5)
```

To plot the result for the calculated field, we add some lines in the main function. We also need to define some parameters used in the calculation. The whole program then looks like this:

```
1 import numpy as np
2 from matplotlib import pyplot as plt
3
4 N = 330 # [] number of windings
5 I0 = 1.0 # [A] current
6 mu_0 = 4.0 * np.pi * 1e-7 # [H / m] permeability in
   empty space
7 R = 0.07 # [m] radius
8 x0 = 0.400 # [m] center of coil
9
10 def B_field_short_coil (x):
11     prefactor = N * mu_0 * I0 / (2 * R)
12     return prefactor * (1.0 + (x / R) ** 2) ** (- 1.5)
```

Example of a CSV file.

```
# Position (m), B-field (Gauss)
0.245,0.0
0.295,0.623
...
```

A quick note about the main function. You will quite often see code with a function called `main`, and then a code

```
if(__name__=='__main__'):
    main ()
```

at the end of the file. This is a common convention which is useful for larger projects using several files. It makes it easier for others to see what is the “entry point” of your code, and also prevents accidental execution of code. Feel free to search the web for this if you want to know more.

```

13
14 def read_CSV(filename):
15     data = np.loadtxt (filename, delimiter = ',')
16     xe = data[:, 0]
17     Be = data[:, 1]
18     return xe, Be
19
20 def main ():
21     xe, Be = read_CSV("short_spool.csv")
22
23     # Calculate the B field
24     xb = np.linspace (xe [0], xe [-1], 100) # multiple
        data points
25     Bb = B_field_short_coil (xb) * 1e4 # calculated B-
        field (Gauss)
26
27     # Plot the results
28     plt.plot (xb, Bb, label = 'Calculated')
29     plt.plot (xe, Be, '.', label = 'Measurement data')
30     plt.xlabel ('Distance from center of coil (m)')
31     plt.ylabel ('Magnetic field (Gaussian)')
32     plt.legend ()
33     plt.show ()
34
35 if (__name__ == '__main__'):
36     main ()

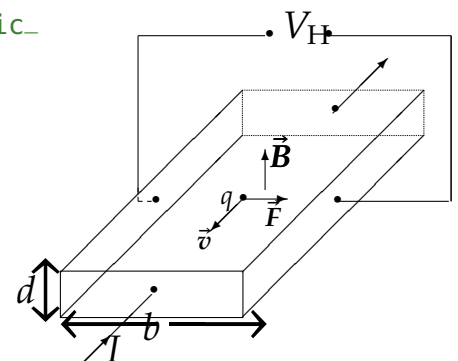
```

You can now create more functions to plot the results for a Helmholtz coil and a solenoid. Remember that it often pays to divide the program into smaller functions. This makes the code easier to read, but also allows you to reuse much of the code for other purposes. More examples of plotting can be found at the NumFys webpage: [https://nbviewer.jupyter.org/urls/www.numfys.net/media/notebooks/basic\\_plotting.ipynb](https://nbviewer.jupyter.org/urls/www.numfys.net/media/notebooks/basic_plotting.ipynb).

### 2.2.7 Hall effect probe

When electrons move at speed  $\vec{v}$  in a semiconductor located in a magnetic field  $\vec{B}$  as shown in Figure 2.6, the electrons will bend to one side. The deflection is given by the Lorentz force  $\vec{F} = q(\vec{v} \times \vec{B})$ , where  $q = -e$  for electrons.

The Lorentz force acts normal to the current direction and normal to  $B$ ; the deflection due to this causes the electron concentration to become stronger against one wall of the



**Figure 2.6:** Hall effect in a semiconductor probe. A current  $I$  is made to flow through the sample, causing the electrons to experience a force  $\vec{F}$ .

semiconductor. An electric field  $\vec{E}$  thus builds up in the conductor with the same direction as the Lorentz force, and this field gives an additional force  $\vec{F} = q\vec{E}$  on the electrons. Equilibrium will quickly arise where electrostatic force and Lorentz force are equal so that

$$\vec{F} = q\vec{E} + q(\vec{v} \times \vec{B}) = \vec{0} \Rightarrow \vec{E} = -\vec{v} \times \vec{B}. \quad (2-14)$$

The speed  $v$  of the electrons through the semiconductor is determined by the current at the expression  $I = nqvA$ , where  $n$  is the density of electrons and  $A = bd$  is the cross section in the conducting direction, see Figure 2.6. This gives

$$v = \frac{I}{A} \frac{1}{nq} = \frac{I}{bd} R_H, \quad (2-15)$$

where we have defined the Hall constant  $R_H = 1/nq$ .

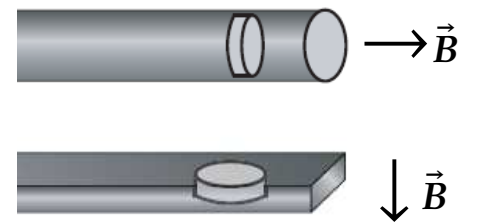
With  $b$  equal to the width of the probe, the voltage  $V_H = Eb$  will form across the side walls. If we disregard the sign and use that  $\vec{v} \perp \vec{B}$  we get the Hall voltage  $V_H$ :

$$V_H = Eb = vBb = \frac{R_H I}{d} B, \quad (2-16)$$

where  $d$  is the thickness of the Hall probe where the magnetic field  $B$  is present. The hall constants  $R_H$  and  $d$  are constants for a given probe and the current  $I$  is kept constant. The magnetic flux density  $B$  normal to the probe will then be proportional to the Hall voltage  $V_H$  which is measured with a voltmeter.

The hall effect is used in for example magnetometers <sup>5</sup>, instruments for measuring magnetic fields. A Hall effect magnetometer will essentially consist of a current source that provides a constant current  $I$  through a probe, and a voltmeter. The probe is placed in the magnetic field to be measured. Through a calibration process, the relationship between the measured Hall voltage and the magnetic field can be established and the voltage reading unit is graded directly in  $T = \text{Wb/m}^2$  or gauss =  $10^{-4} T$ .

In practice, the extent of a Hallprobe is of the order of a few  $\text{mm}^2$ . Two different probe geometries are common: transverse probes and axial probes, as shown in Figure 2.7.



**Figure 2.7:** Probe geometries: **(Top)** Axial probe, **(Bottom)** Transversal probe.

5: Also known as Gaussmeters and Teslameters.



Typical value for the electron density in a doped semiconductor is  $n = 10^{20}$  electrons/m<sup>3</sup>. By comparison, copper has  $n = 10^{28}$  electrons/m<sup>3</sup>. In our magnetometers we have  $I = 20$  mA and  $d = 1.0$  mm. Assume that the magnetic field varies from 1 to 100 gauss.

7A. What measuring range must the magnetometer's voltmeter have to measure in this magnetic field range? (Assume at  $n = 10^{20}$  electrons/m<sup>3</sup>.)

7B. Why do you think semiconductors are used in magnetic field probes? Explain why e.g. copper will not be a suitable material.

7C. Also explain why an insulator will not be a suitable material in a magnetic field probe.

## 2.2.8 Magnetic scattering fields

In the laboratory, there are background magnetic fields, or "noise", which can interfere with the magnetic field measurements. These noise fields have three main sources:

- ▶ the Earth's magnetic field,
- ▶ magnetic fields from magnetic materials in building structures and fixtures,
- ▶ induced magnetic fields from for example 230 V power cords.

The Earth's magnetic field, which is constant and of the order of magnitude 1 gauss, is believed to originate from convection currents of electric charges in the Earth's liquid core. Assume that in the middle of the Earth's interior there is a current loop perpendicular to the Earth's axis of rotation. Let the radius of the current loop be  $R = R_j/4$ , where  $R_j = 6371$  km is the radius of the Earth. The axial component of the magnetic field in position  $x$  on the axis of such a current loop is given by equation (2-4), which reads

$$B_x = \frac{\mu_0 I}{4\pi} \frac{2\pi \xi^2}{(x^2 + \xi^2)^{3/2}} = \frac{\mu_0 I}{2\xi} \left(1 + \frac{x^2}{\xi^2}\right)^{-3/2}.$$

8. How large must the current in the loop be for the magnetic field on the Earth's surface at the pole ( $x = R_j$ ) to be equal to 1 gauss?

Contributions to the background magnetic field from the building and the inventory will depend on the building and

construction materials used. You will evaluate the contributions to this in the laboratory through your own measurements.

Contribution to the background field from the currents in non-shielded wires can be estimated by calculating the field set up by a long straight conductor leading the current  $I$ . The azimuthal component of the magnetic field at a distance  $r$  from a long conductor can be found from <sup>6</sup> Biot-Savarts Law (2-2)

$$B_{\theta}(r) = \frac{\mu_0 I}{2\pi r}. \quad (2-17)$$

6: Derivation in e.g. Lillestøl et al. [1, Ch. 23.5].

9. How large is the magnetic flux density at a distance 5 cm from a long 230 V mains lead due to a current 1 A in this wire?

### 2.2.9 Magnetic field-free room

The permanent magnetic field on the Earth's surface leads to problems with zeroing of magnetometers. However, magnetic fields can be shielded by using materials with high permeability. Pure iron can be used. There are also special alloys that have even higher permeability  $\mu$  and thus shields even better. An example is mu-metal<sup>7</sup>. Magnetometers are usually zeroed by inserting the probe into a chamber that shields it from the Earth's magnetic field during zeroing.

7: Mu-metal is an alloy of 77 % nickel, 15 % iron plus some copper and molybdenum. It got its name due to very high value for magnetic permeability,  $\mu$ .

## 2.3 Experimental

### 2.3.1 Equipment

The experiment uses PASCO's data logging system (Capstone) with interfaces and sensors for magnetic fields and position. The following instruments are included in the line-up:

- **Interface.** PASCO 550 Universal Interface.
- **Magnetic field sensor.** PASCO Magnetic Field Sensor CI-6520A. Measuring range: 0.01 G - 100 kG. Resolution: 50 mG. Accuracy: 10 % of reading
- **Zero field chamber.** PASCO Zero Gauss Chamber EM-8652.
- **Position sensor.** PASCO Rotary Motion Sensor PS-2120A. Catalog Resolution: 0.09°. Radii on the three pulleys: 10 mm, 29 mm, 48 mm.

- ▶ **Short coils.** 330 Vikings, 22 Vikings / Team × 15 Teams  
Inner diameter 126 mm, Outer diameter 154 mm. Wire: lacquer-insulated copper, diameter 0.75 mm, maximum coil current: 1.0 A.
- ▶ **Solenoid.** 368 windings, length ~ 400 mm, inner diameter 100 mm. Wire: lacquer-insulated copper, diameter 1.0 mm, maximum solenoid current 1.0 A.
- ▶ **Multimeter.** Escort Mod. EDM 168A, or equivalent.
- ▶ **Miscellaneous:** Meter, screwdriver.
- ▶ **Power supply.** Mascot Type 719. Range: 0- 30 V, 30 mA - 2 A. This is a combined power-controlled / voltage-controlled power supply. That is, it can supply a constant current or a constant voltage, up to a certain maximum load. The box has two adjustment buttons, one for voltage marked "0 → 30 V" and one for current marked "30 mA → 2 A".

**Current controlled power supply (current source)** the voltage adjustment is set to maximum. The current is regulated with the current adjustment knob.

**Voltage controlled power supply(voltage source)** the power adjustment is set to maximum. The voltage is regulated with the voltage adjustment knob.

When current controlled, the maximum current that may be supplied is 2 A, given that the resistance is maximum  $R = U/I = 30 \text{ V}/2 \text{ A} = 15 \Omega$ . The box also has a button marked "range" which can limit the maximum voltage to 15 V instead of the standard 30 V. If 15 V is selected, the maximum output resistance will be  $R = U/I = 15 \text{ V}/2.0 \text{ A} = 7.5 \Omega$ . At higher output resistance, the output voltage will be kept at maximum value and the current will be lower.

There is a corresponding maximum regulation for voltage-controlled power supply. 30 V maximum voltage can be given to a resistance of

$$R = U/I = 30 \text{ V}/2.0 \text{ A} = 15 \Omega.$$

At lower resistance, the supply will not be able to provide enough current so that the voltage will drop.

### 2.3.2 Calibration of the Hall probe

It is difficult to produce Hall probes with exactly the same Hall constants. The Hall voltage that occurs at a given magnetic field and current may therefore vary slightly from probe to probe. In order to be able to use several probes for the same Gaussmeter, each probe has often assigned a calibration number which is used to adjust the gain of the Gaussmeter's voltmeter so that the meter shows the correct magnetic field. PASCO's sensors are adjusted and a calibration is not normally needed. Before use, the sensor must be reset.

#### Resetting:

- ▶ Set the area knob on the sensor to position 1x and axial.
- ▶ Insert the probe into the zero field chamber and press the zero adjustment button.

**Note:** When changing the measuring range, make a new reset!

#### Units and signs of the Hall probe:

- ▶ The meter shows the magnetic flux density,  $B$ , of the device you select in Capstone.
- ▶ The Gaussian meter shows *positive* signs when the field lines have direction *into* the cylindrical tip of the probe.

### 2.3.3 Magnetic scattering fields

*Task: Investigate the magnetic background fields, noise fields, in the laboratory.*

- ▶ How does the measured direction of the earth's magnetism correspond to the assumed direction of our latitude? <sup>8</sup>
- ▶ Compare the results with results from the other groups. Is there variation of the measured earth magnetism within the laboratory?
- ▶ Will the magnetic field from the iron in the laboratory tables be able to interfere with the measurements?

8: The magnetic north pole is located near the geographical south pole. Magnetic field lines are closed curves and have direction from magnetic north pole to south pole outside of the magnet and from south pole to north pole inside the magnet.

### 2.3.4 Statistical error in measurements

Reading magnetic field strengths from the Hall probe will give a somewhat varying result. You can use this to find the statistical error.

Task: *Investigate statistical errors in the measurements:*

- ▶ Connect the sensors in the PASCO interface and the computer interface. Start Capstone and get ready for data sampling.
- ▶ Reset and sample data in 10 s. Select data and perform a statistical analysis with built-in functionality in Capstone. What is the standard deviation of the data? What standard deviations do you get if you sample in 1 s and 100 s? How many samples should you use?
- ▶ Use the standard deviation as an error in your data from the Hall probe.

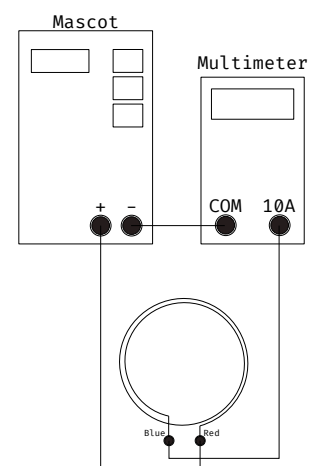
### 2.3.5 Magnetic field in short coil

Task: *Investigate the magnetic field along the central axis of a short coil.*

To measure the magnetic field, you can either hold the coil and move the Hall probe or you can attach the Hall probe and move the coil. Which of these is best to use? Motivate your answer!

#### Procedure:

- ▶ Mount the rotation sensor on the stand.
- ▶ Connect the sensors to the interface and the interface of the computer. Start Capstone and get ready for data sampling.
- ▶ Mount a short spool on the movable carriage.
- ▶ Adjust the position of the magnetic field sensor so that it is on the coil axis. Use a bubble level.
- ▶ Connect the coil circuit as shown in Figure 2.8. **IMPORTANT:** The power supply must be switched off during connection. Select current measurement on both the power supply and the multimeter. Use the 10A input on the multimeter.
- Ask the lab supervisor to approve the connection.
- ▶ Reset the magnetic field sensor. (It is safest to break the coil circuit during zeroing.)



**Figure 2.8:** The coil circuit. Mascot power supply, multimeter, and the coil are shown. Note the direction of the windings, and where the coil is here shown from the direction of the connectors on the coil.

- Measure the magnetic field  $B(x)$  along the axis of the coil as a function of the distance  $x$  from the center plane of the coil.<sup>9</sup>

Analyze the results and compare measured and calculated value. Print out the table and graph, and paste in the journal.

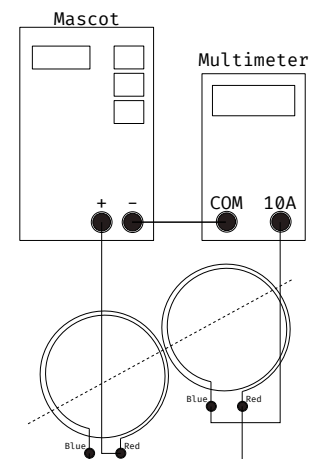
9: Remember: maximum coil current is 1.0 A. Check that you do not have a drift in the measurement.

### 2.3.6 Magnetic field in Helmholtz coil

Task: Investigate the magnetic field along the axis between two short coils as a function of the distance from the center of the coil, and the distance between the coils.

#### Procedure:

- Mount on the movable trolley two short coils at a distance  $a = R$ , measured from center of the coils.
- Measure the magnetic field  $B(x)$  along the coil axis as a function of the distance  $x$  from the center plane between the coils with e.g.  $I = 1.00$  A and enter the results in the spreadsheet table for the Helmholtz coil. Continue some distance outside the end of the spool.
- Repeat the measurement with coil distances  $a = 2R$  and  $a = R/2$ .
- Analyze the results and compare measured and calculated value. Print out the table and graph, and paste in the journal.



**Figure 2.9:** The Helmholtz coil circuit. Note that for the coils to be sufficiently close, the coils must be mounted with the connectors pointing out. Take care to have the current flow in the same direction in each coil.

### 2.3.7 Magnetic field in Anti-Helmholtz coil

Task: Repeat the same experiment as above for Anti-Helmholtz coils.

### 2.3.8 Magnetic field in solenoid

Task: Investigate the magnetic field along the axis of a solenoid.

#### Procedure:

- Mount the solenoid on the movable carriage and connect the circuit.

- ▶ Measure the magnetic field  $B(x)$  along the axis of the solenoid as a function of the distance  $x$  from the end plane of the solenoid, and enter the results in the spreadsheet.
- ▶ Analyze the results and compare measured and calculated value. Print out the table and graph, and paste in the journal.

### 2.3.9 Magnetic field in short coil - extra assignment

Task: *Investigate the magnetic field parallel to a short coil ( $y$ -axis) as a function of the distance from the coil.*

Here the coil is mounted so that the magnetic field sensor passes parallel to the coil. How does the field vary? (Take note of the direction of the field.) Explain why the curve looks the way it does.

### 2.3.10 General Discussion

- ▶ Carry out error analysis of the results and discuss possible systematic deviations.
- ▶ Discuss discrepancies between measurement results and the modeling you have included in the calculation section. Where are the biggest differences? What is the reason?
- ▶ Discuss possible applications of the physical effects observed in the experiment.

### 2.3.11 Before you leave

Switch off all appliances, unplug all cables and leave the space in at least as good an order as you found it.

# The Lorentz force

# 3

## Goal

In this lab assignment you will

- ▶ document experiments in the lab journal,
- ▶ perform error analysis of the experiment,
- ▶ use numerical methods to model the experiment,
- ▶ study forces on electrons in homogeneous and constant electric and magnetic fields,
- ▶ determine the ratio  $e/m$  between the charge of the electron  $e$  and the mass  $m$  (the Thomson experiment).

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## 3.1 Theoretical background

The theory is presented for the presentation of the calculation tasks below. Reference is also made to the textbook and the lectures in electromagnetism.

## 3.2 Calculation tasks

### 3.2.1 The Lorentz force

The force from electric and magnetic fields on charged particles is often called the Lorentz force. The force on a charged particle with charge  $q$  moving at velocity  $\vec{v}$  in an electrostatic field  $\vec{E}$  and a magnetostatic field  $\vec{B}$  is given by

$$\vec{F} = q\vec{E} + q\vec{v} \times \vec{B}. \quad (3-1)$$

To create a fast electron beam, electric fields are always used to accelerate the electrons. However, the expression for Lorentz force shows that both electric and magnetic fields give rise to a force on charged particles.

1. Explain from the expression of the Lorentz force why magnetic fields (as opposed to electric fields) can not give a charged particle increased kinetic energy.



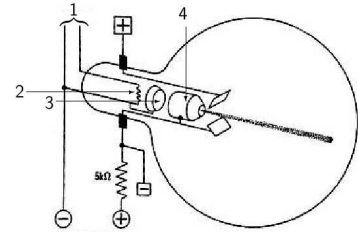
### 3.2.2 Charges in an $E$ -field

A homogeneous electric field is most easily set up between two parallel plate electrodes. This geometry provides an electric field  $E = U_a/\ell$  where  $U_a$  is the voltage between the plates and  $\ell$  the distance between them. A charged particle with charge  $q$  and mass  $m$  experiences an acceleration

$$a = \frac{qE}{m} = \frac{qU_a}{m\ell}, \quad (3-2)$$

when travelling between the two plates. This is used in sources of charged particle beams.

Figure 3.1 shows how an electron beam source can be made. A tungsten filament is heated by electric current passing through it. When it is red hot, it emits electrons from the surface. The filament is placed just behind a plate electrode with holes in it. Voltage is applied between the filament and the plate electrode. The electrons are accelerated towards the plate electrode and the electrons passing through the hole go out in a beam on the other side of the plate. Another way to make electrons in electron sources is to use an oxide cathode that is heated indirectly by a filament. This construction provides better field conditions during acceleration, and it is this version that is shown in Figure 3.1.



**Figure 3.1:** Sketch of a electron beam source. (1) AC source (5-10 V). (2) Incandescent filament heats up the (3) oxide layer. The acceleration voltage between the filament and (4) anode accelerated the electrons.

Assume that an electron is accelerated from a standstill to a voltage of 30 V in a static electric field.

2. What is the speed of the electron after the acceleration?

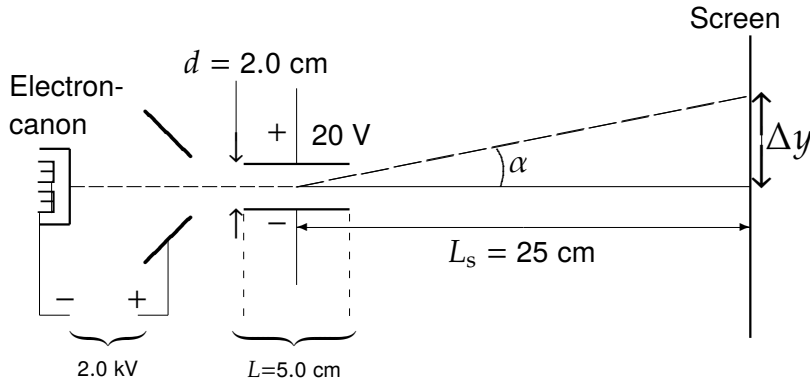
In particle accelerator physics, the energy unit "electron volt" is abbreviated eV. A particle with the charge  $1e$  gets the energy 1 eV when it is accelerated through a voltage drop of 1 V.

3A. How many joules is equivalent to 1 eV?

3B. What is the energy of an electron that is accelerated to a voltage of 30 V expressed in the unit eV?

An electron beam from an electron source with zero potential accelerated to a potential  $U_a$  can be deflected in a transverse electric field  $E = U_d/d$  over a distance  $L$  as shown in Figure 3.2. The deflection angle  $\alpha$  is given by

$$\tan \alpha = \frac{1}{2} \frac{U_d}{U_a} \frac{L}{d}. \quad (3-3)$$



**Figure 3.2:** Deflection of an electron beam in a transverse electric field. The numerical values in the figure are used in the exercise.

Equation (3-3) describes the physical laws that form the basis of the oscilloscope, which is an instrument for measuring electrical voltage. The voltage to be measured is placed between the transverse deflection plates and the deflection of the electron beam observed on a phosphorescent screen is a measure of the voltage.

Assume the electrons are accelerated by a 2 kV acceleration potential and the other parameters are as shown in Figure 3.2.

4. How much deflection  $\Delta y$  does the beam on the screen get if the deflection voltage is 20 V?

### 3.2.3 Charges in a B-field

When an electron moves in a space free of electric field but with a magnetic field  $B$ , the Lorentz force at all times acts normal to the path (unless the path is parallel to the magnetic field). Let us assume the electron is shot into the  $B$ -field at velocity perpendicular to the field, the Lorentz force then becomes  $F_B = evB$  and constitutes the centripetal force. The electron orbit becomes a circle of radius  $r$  with centripetal acceleration  $a_s = v^2/r = F_B/m$ . The speed  $v$  can be determined from the kinetic energy of the electron given by  $\frac{1}{2}mv^2 = eU_a$ . By putting these equations together, we get the following expression for the radius

$$r = \frac{1}{B} \sqrt{\frac{2U_a}{e/m}}. \quad (3-4)$$

5. Set up a curve diagram curve intersections over  $r$  sfa.  $B$  in the range  $0 < B < 15$  gauss for  $U_a = 20, 40$  and  $60 \text{ V}$ . Use, for example, Python or Matlab.

5. Set up a set of curves for the radius  $r$  as a function of  $B$ .

Do this for the range  $B \in (0 \text{ gauss}, 15 \text{ gauss})$  with  $U_a = 20, 40$ , and  $60 \text{ V}$ . Use for example Python or Matlab.

### 3.2.4 Determination of $e/m$ (The Thomson experiment)

In 1897, Thomson discovered <sup>1</sup> extremely light, negatively charged particles – which later turned out to be electrons. That same year, he used deflection in static electric and magnetic fields to find the relationship between their charge and mass. The expression (3-4) can be rewritten to

$$\frac{e}{m} = \frac{2U_a}{B^2 r^2}. \quad (3-5)$$

The ratio  $e/m$  can thus be determined by measuring the radius  $r$  of the electron path of electrons accelerated by a voltage  $U_a$  in a magnetic field  $B$  perpendicular to the path.

You will repeat Thomson's experiment in the laboratory. The size of the equipment limits the diameter of the largest electron orbit to approx. 8 cm.

6. Use the graph of the curves that you made in the problem above to estimate the appropriate magnetic field  $B$  for three different acceleration voltages  $U_a = 20, 40$  and  $60 \text{ V}$ .

When rewriting (3-5) you get

$$m = \frac{qB^2 r^2}{2U_a}, \quad (3-6)$$

showing that the mass  $m$  of a charged particle with a known charge  $q$  that has been accelerated to a known potential  $U_a$  can be determined by measuring the magnetic flux density  $B$  and the orbital radius  $r$  of the particle in a magnetic field. This is the idea behind the magnetostatic mass spectrometer which is one of the most important instruments for determining atomic and molecular particle masses. With his work, Thomson laid the foundation for this technique.

1: Sir Joseph John Thomson (1856–1940) was a British physicist and Nobel Laureate in Physics, credited with the discovery of the electron, the first subatomic particle to be discovered.

### 3.2.5 Voltage components

The so-called voltage divider is among the most common electrical connections. You must use it in the experiment. In its simplest form, the voltage divider looks like the top circuit in Figure 3.3.

Through the coupling, the voltage  $V_{\text{in}}$  can be reduced to  $V_{\text{out}}$ . To find the size of  $V_{\text{out}}$  as a function of  $V_{\text{in}}$  you can look at the current  $I$  through the resistors  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  which according to Ohm's is

$$I = \frac{V_{\text{in}}}{R_1 + R_2}. \quad (3-7)$$

Use Ohm's law again on  $R_2$ :

$$V_{\text{out}} = IR_2 = \frac{R_2}{R_1 + R_2} V_{\text{in}}. \quad (3-8)$$

The voltage divider can be made variable by replacing  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  with a potentiometer, a resistor with variable resistance, as shown in the middle circuit in Figure 3.3. Together with a fixed voltage source, this provides an opportunity to create a cheap variable voltage source.

However, the voltage divider has a disadvantage.

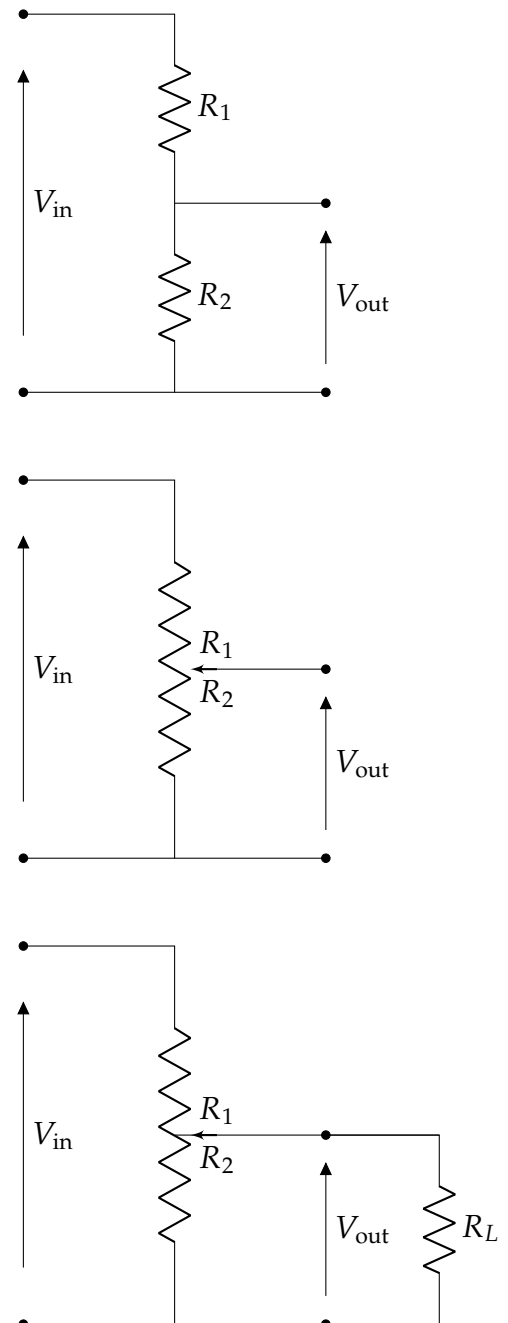
7. Can you find what disadvantage?

TIP: What happens to  $V_{\text{out}}$  when you start drawing power from the output? See the bottom circuit in Figure 3.3. The resulting resistance across the parallel connection of  $R_2$  and  $R_L$  is denoted  $R_2 || R_L$  and is equal to  $(R_2 R_L) / (R_2 + R_L)$ .

## 3.3 Experimental

### 3.3.1 Equipment

- ▶ **Electron fine beam tube.** Leybold Hereaus 555 571. <sup>2</sup>
- ▶ **Power supply for accelerator and focusing electrode.** Leybold Didactics 521 651 Tube power supply 0 ... 500 V.
- ▶ **Power supply for the Helmholtz coils.** Mascot, type 719. Used as a power source. Range: 0- 15 V, 30 mA - 2 A.
- ▶ **Multimeter for coild current.** Escort EDM168A, 3 digits, or equivalent.



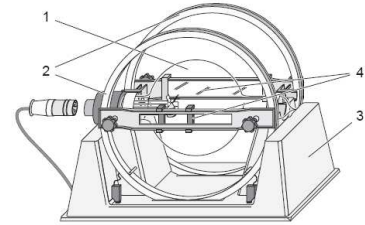
**Figure 3.3:** Voltage dividers. (Top) With fixed resistors. (Middle) With variable resistance (potentiometer). (Bottom) With variable resistance and a load  $R_L$ .

2: <http://www.hep.fsu.edu/~wahl/phy3802/expinfo/em/555571e.pdf>

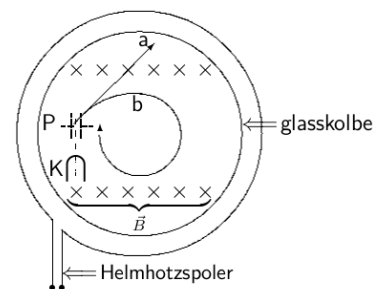
- **Multimeter for acceleration voltage.** Escort EDM168A, 3 digits, or equivalent.
- **Junction box with voltage divider.**
- Various wires of different lengths.

The apparatus is shown schematically in Figures 3.4 and 3.5. The electron gun (K) emits electrons that can be deflected in a static electric field between the parallel deflection plates (P) and/or in a static magnetic field from the Helmholtz coils. The glass flask around the electron gun is filled with thin hydrogen gas to a pressure of approximately  $10^{-5}$  atmospheres, 1 Pa. Shock between the electrons and the gas will excite the electrons in the gas molecules which then relax and emit light (same phenomenon as in the northern lights). The trace of the electrons then becomes visible as a blue-green stripe.

*Study the electron gun through the glass flask. Also study the disassembled cannon from an old beam generator laid out in the laboratory.*



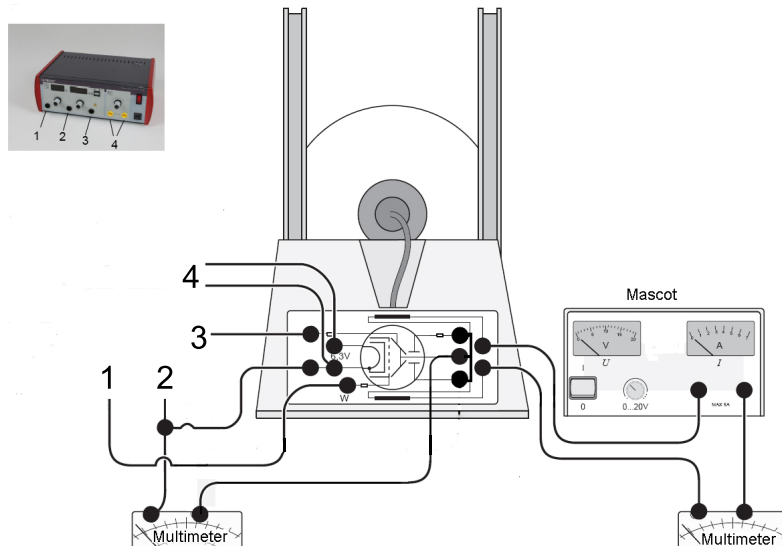
**Figure 3.4:** The Leybold apparatus with the electron canon inside a glass vessel (1). Helmholtz coils (2), holder (3), and radius measuring device (4).



**Figure 3.5:** Schematic drawing. The electron canon (K), deflection of the electron beam between the deflection plates (P). The magnetic field is indicated with crosses,  $\times$ , into the paper and the electron beam is shown without (a) and with (b) the  $B$ -field.

### 3.3.2 Connection of voltages to the electron gun

Figures 3.7 and 3.6 show schematically the electrical connections for the electron gun. Note the common ground point (output 2 on Leybold Power supply)



**Figure 3.6:** Wiring diagram for the electron canon. The power supply Leybold and multimeter for measuring the anode voltage. See Figure 3.7 for details of the wiring diagram on the beam apparatus.

There are several alternative ways to connect the electron gun, but it is important to connect correctly. However, it is not difficult to break a couple of fuses if you connect incorrectly, so ask the supervisor if you are in doubt.

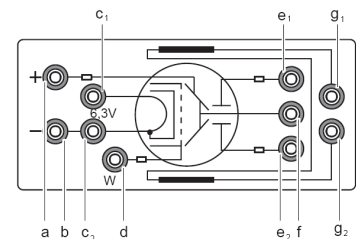
*Connect the circuit according to figure 3.6.*

Notes and tips:

- ▶ You must connect socket 4 to the unit. Which one you use is irrelevant, but one is grounded via contacts b and  $c_1$  in figure 3.7.
- ▶ The unit must be switched off during connection.
- ▶ Ask the lab supervisor to approve the connection.
- ▶ Switch on the unit and adjust the glow voltage to “6” (V) and observe that the wire glows. This assumes that the ceiling lighting is switched off and the table lighting is dimmed. Note that the glow voltage can be lowered to 5 V during the experiments.
- ▶ Switch off the unit again.

To extract an electron beam from the cathode, the electrons must be accelerated as explained above in the theory section. This is done by applying an acceleration voltage between the cathode and the anode.

*Connect the acceleration voltage according to figure 3.6.*



**Figure 3.7:** Wiring diagram for the apparatus' side panel.

- a: Anode
- b: Cathode
- c: Cathode heating
- d: Wehnelt cylinder
- e: Deflection plates
- f: Anode, for symmetrical adjustment of the deflection voltage
- g: Helmholtz coils

Notes and tips:

- ▶ Make sure that the power supply is switched off and that the power and voltage adjustment knobs are turned all the way down when connecting.
- ▶ Connect Leybold output 3 to “a” and output 2 to “b”.
- ▶ Starting potential is  $U_d = 0$ , connect therefore the two deflection plates ( $e_1$  and  $e_2$ ) and possibly ground or connect them to the anode, to prevent charge from building up on them.
- ▶ To avoid measurement errors due to voltage drop across the series resistor, you can connect the voltmeter directly to the anode instead of “f”. Use measuring range 1000 V DC. Check the value of the Leybold unit. How big a measurement error do you get and what determines the size of the error?
- ▶ The series resistors mounted internally in the equipment are inserted for safety reasons to avoid excessive current in the circuit in the event of an internal short circuit (e.g. a gas discharge).

*Now it is ready to turn on all voltages and see that the electron beam is visible:*

- ▶ Ask the lab supervisor to approve the connection.
- ▶ Switch on the glow voltage.
- ▶ Check that the filament starts to glow.
- ▶ Increase the acceleration voltage slowly until you (at 20–30 V or slightly higher if your eyes have not adapted to the dark) see the trace of the electron beam in the hydrogen gas as a blue-violet stripe out of the electron gun.
- ▶ Observe how the beam changes when you change the acceleration voltage.
- ▶ Why does the beam not reach the glass wall at low acceleration? At higher voltages, quite abruptly, the beam will meet the wall, then lower the voltage slightly. This happens at different voltages at the different setups, follow closely from around 100 V, and possibly upwards to approx. 150 V.
- ▶ NOTE: If the anode starts to glow, turn off the appliance and let it cool down. Never use higher acceleration voltages than necessary to avoid glowing.

*Make a sketch of the beam path for different acceleration voltages.*

*Procedure to turn the apparatus off:*

- ▶ Switch off the glow voltage.
- ▶ Reduce the acceleration voltage to zero and switch off the power supply.

NOTE: It is not dangerous to have on acceleration voltage and magnetic field without having a glow voltage, but it is not good to have on glow voltage without acceleration voltage. Therefore, always switch off the glow voltage when you have short or long breaks.

In an electron beam, all the particles have the same sign of charge. The beam will therefore have a tendency to diverge due to internal Coulomb power. If the focusing ring (Wehnelt cylinder) in front of the cathode is made slightly negative, this will have a focusing effect on the beam.

*Connect the Wehnelt cylinder according to Figure 3.6. Output 1 to "W". Notes and tips:*

- ▶ Check that the power supply is switched off and that the power and voltage adjustment knobs are turned down completely before connecting it.
- ▶ After connecting the Wehnelt cylinder and switching on the power supply, adjust the voltage on the focusing electrode (Wehnelt cylinder) if you think the beam is poorly focused. Use maximum 10 V.



### 3.3.3 Deflection in an $E$ -field

*Task: You will study the deflection of an electron beam in an electrostatic field.*

In the setup so far, you have put both deflection plates at the same voltage, namely the anode voltage  $U_a$ . To obtain deflection, one plate is placed on a somewhat lower voltage. This is done by adding a voltage divider to the anode voltage; the principle of voltage division is shown in Figure 3.3. Here you have to make changes to the connection. The anode voltage (3) should now be connected with a junction box according to the diagram in Figure 3.8 shows changes you must make from the connection in Figure 3.6 where the deflection potential was zero. The connection between  $e_1$  and  $e_2$  is removed.

The voltage divider consists of a precision potentiometer (Helipot) and is mounted on junction box B. The acceleration voltage  $U_a$  is connected across the potentiometer. From the center tapping, we take out a voltage that varies with the position of the potentiometer button, which needs 10 revolutions to turn from top to bottom. The deflection voltage is taken out between the top outlet (which is at potential  $U_a$ ) and the middle outlet at potential  $xU_a$ , where  $x$  can vary from 0 to 100 %. This means that one deflection plate is at the anode voltage  $U_a$  and the other at  $xU_a$ . The deflection voltage then becomes

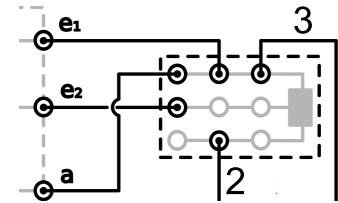
$$U_d = U_a - xU_a = (1 - x)U_a. \quad (3-9)$$

If you connect incorrectly and take out voltage division to the ground potential, the electron beam will be reduced strongly and easily disappear. You can find out which plate should have lower potential by thinking, or by trial and error.

*Connect the deflection potential according to Figure 3.8.*

Notes and tips:

- Set the potentiometer to 100 % so that the center tap has the same potential as the anode voltage.
- Switch on glow, focusing voltage and acceleration as described previously.
- Vary the deflection by turning the potentiometer knob.



**Figure 3.8:** Circuit diagram for connecting the voltage divider.

*Explain what you observe with regard to the expression of the Lorentz force in equation (3-1).*

*Sketch the beam for different deflection stresses, e.g.  $U_d = \frac{1}{2}U_a$  and  $\frac{4}{5}U_a$ .*

### 3.3.4 Deflection in a B-field

*Task: You will study the deflection of an electron beam in a static magnetic field.*

- ▶ Connect the equipment according to Figure 3.6. Note that the connection of the voltage divider in the previous step is not necessary for the tests to be performed here
- ▶ Connect the circuit to the magnets with the Mascot unit in (g).

Notes and tips:

- ▶ Verify that the power supply for the Helmholtz coils is switched off and that the control buttons for current and voltage are turned down completely.
- ▶ Set the power supply to the power source (METER: A and the control knob for voltage up 1/2 revolution) and set RANGE to 15 V.
- ▶ Use the multimeter (6) for current measurement.
- ▶ Turn up the current to approx. 1 A, and check that the circuit is working. NOTE: The coils can withstand max. 2 A. Turn the current down again afterwards.
- ▶ Switch on the electron beam as described earlier.
- ▶ Adjust the acceleration voltage to approx: 100 V and the magnetic current to 0.75 A.

*Explain what happens using the expression for the Lorentz force.*

*Ask the lab supervisor to help you twist the electron beam tube until the beam takes a helical path.*

*Sketch the beam and explain the reason for the helical path.*

### 3.3.5 The Thomson Experiment: Measurement of $e/m$

*Task: You will find the relation  $e/m$  between the electron charge and mass from equation (3-5) by measuring the acceleration voltage  $U_a$ , the radius  $r$  of the electron orbit and the magnetic field  $B$ .*

The magnetic field is pre-calibrated against the current in the coils. The result is given in a calibration curve attached to the apparatus and as an empirical expression of the magnetic field as a function of the measured coil current found from the calibration curve. Alternatively, this expression can be used:

$$B = \mu_0 \cdot \left(\frac{4}{5}\right)^{3/2} \cdot \frac{n}{R} \cdot I, \quad (3-10)$$

with  $R$ : Radius of the coils,  $n$ : number of turns = 130 per coil.

Notes and tips:

- ▶ Align the tube so that the beam becomes a circle and not a helix.
- ▶ Set the multimeter for voltage measurement in the range 0-1000 V DC voltage.
- ▶ Ask the lab supervisor to show you how to measure the diameter of the electron path using the parallax mirror behind the electron beam tube and a ruler.
- ▶ It is possible to photograph the electron path and analyze in TRACKER to get the diameter of the path. Note that you must have a scale (ruler) in the image.

### Analysis and Discussion of the Thomson Experiment

- ▶ Determine  $e/m$  for the electron based on your measurements of  $U_a$ ,  $r$ ,  $I$  and the calibration curve or formula for  $B(I)$ .
- ▶ If you have time, repeat the experiment for another set of values of  $U_a$  and  $I$ .
- ▶ Estimate the errors in the measured quantities and find the measurement error in  $e/m$ . Which sources of error dominate?
- ▶ Compare the measured value of  $e/m$  with the table value.

- ▶ What is the correspondence between the measurement results from different values of  $U_a$  and  $I$  and your error estimate?
- ▶ Discuss possible applications of the physical effects that have been observed in the experiment.

### 3.3.6 Before you leave

Switch off all appliances, unplug and clean all cables. Leave the place in at least as good an order as you found it.

# Force on a conductor

# 4

## Goal

In this lab assignment you will

- ▶ develop your skills in documenting laboratory work in the lab journal,
- ▶ study the force between a live conductor and a constant magnetic field,
- ▶ gain experience in producing results from precision measurements,
- ▶ perform data processing of the measurement results using regression analysis in Python (method of least squares).

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## 4.1 Theoretical background

### 4.1.1 Force on a conductor

An electron with charge  $q = -e$  moving at a speed  $\vec{v}$  in a conductor located in a magnetic field  $\vec{B}$  will be affected by a force according to the Lorentz force

$$\vec{F} = q\vec{v} \times \vec{B}. \quad (4-1)$$

The total force on a live conductor in a magnetic field is the total force on all the electrons in the conductor:

$$\vec{F} = q(\vec{v}_d \times \vec{B})nA\ell, \quad (4-2)$$

where  $\ell$  is the length of the conductor,  $A$  is the cross-sectional area,  $n$  is the electron density and consequently  $nA\ell$  is equal to the total number of electrons in the conductor. The speed  $\vec{v}_d$  must be understood as the average velocity (drift velocity) of the electrons. The electric current in a conductor is defined as

$$I = nqv_dA, \quad (4-3)$$

and consequently the force can be expressed

$$\vec{F} = I\vec{\ell} \times \vec{B}, \quad (4-4)$$

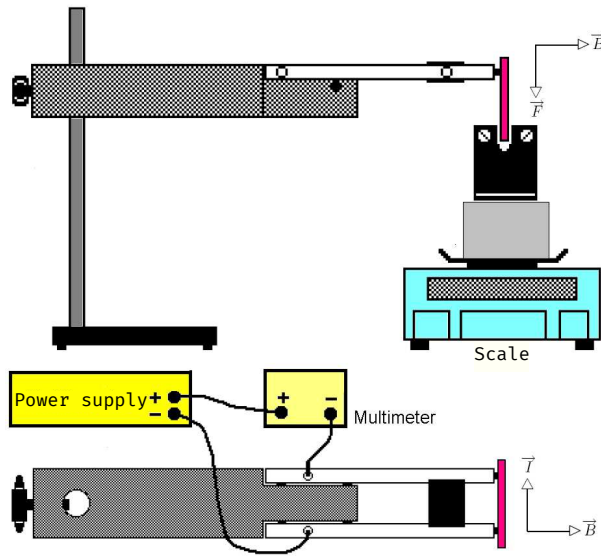
where  $\vec{\ell}$  is understood as the vector with direction along the conductor in the current direction, with length  $l$ . In scalar quantities, the equation is

$$F = I\ell B \sin \theta, \quad (4-5)$$

where  $\theta$  is the angle between the magnetic field and the positive current direction in the conductor. When the conduction direction is perpendicular to the magnetic field  $\theta = \pi/2$ , and equation (4-5) is simplified to

$$F = I\ell B. \quad (4-6)$$

The force on a live conductor in a magnetic field can be measured with the arrangement in Figure 4.1. The magnet



**Figure 4.1:** Sketch of the setup used for measuring force on a live conductor. **(Top)** Seen from the side. **(Bottom)** Seen from above.

rests on the scale, while the live conductor is fixed independently of the scale. The force between the conductor and the magnet will be registered on the scale. However, the weight is calibrated and graded to measure mass  $M$  in grams as a certain value for gravitational acceleration  $g$  is assumed. As is well known, the connection between power and mass is given by

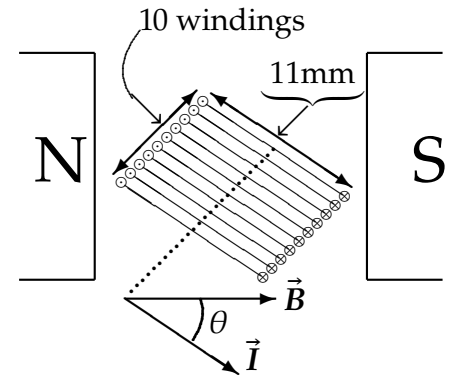
$$F = Mg, \quad (4-7)$$

so that from equation (4-5) we will express the mass reading on the scale as:

$$M = \frac{I\ell B}{g} \sin \theta. \quad (4-8)$$

### 4.1.2 Force as a function of angle

You replace the conductor with a coil as shown in Figure 4.2 where the angle between the coil axis and the magnetic field direction is variable. The coil has  $N = 10$  rectangular windings with side lengths 11 mm and only the lower part of the coil lies in the magnetic field so that the force only acts on the lower horizontal part of the windings, i.e. a total length of 110 mm. The angle between the current direction and the magnetic field is  $\theta$  and is included in the equation for calculating the force.



**Figure 4.2:** Turnable coil placed in the magnetic well, seen from above. Only the lower part of the coil is in the magnetic field. The vertical conductors (marked with  $\otimes$  and  $\odot$ ) experience horizontal forces, which in total zero out.

## 4.2 Preliminary Tasks

Familiarize yourself with the linear curve fitting script located in Blackboard (Jupyter notebook). Two examples of data sets that can be used for testing are distributed.

## 4.3 Experimental

### 4.3.1 Equipment

The following instruments are included in the line-up:

- ▶ **Electromagnetic scale.** Mettler Mod. PM480. Range: 0- 400 g. Precision:  $\pm 1$  mg, or Mettler Mod. PB-SDR / FACT. Range 0- 60 g  $\pm 1$  mg / 70- 310 g  $\pm 8$  mg.
- ▶ **Mount.** Pasco SF-8607.
- ▶ **Solid conductors** and **magnetic well** with variable magnetic field from 125 G to 750 G in steps of 125 G. Make and type: Pasco SF-8607. Max 5A
- ▶ **Turnable coil** with 10 rectangular windings horizontal, dimension 11  $\times$  23 mm, with associated magnetic well with magnetic field equal to approx. 250 G. Max 5A. Make and type: Pasco SF-8608.
- ▶ **Power supply.** Fredriksen Mod. 364000. Area: 0- 24 V 0- 10 A. Used as a power source.

- **Multimeter.** Keithley 175A or GW plug GDM-8246.
- **Gaussmeter.** Magnetic Instruments RFL, Mod. 912.  
Measuring range: 0.01 G – 100 kG. Catalog  
Precision:  $\pm$  (0.4 % of reading + 0.1 % of range + 1 in the last digit).  
Transversal probe.
- **Calipers.**

The scale is a precision instrument that you must handle with care. Take special care to avoid impacts to the scale's bottom plate during assembly and disassembly of the setup. The scale is based on an electromagnetic weighing method according to the compensation principle so that the bottom plate does not change position during weighing. This is important for our measurements.

The conductors used in the experiments are built up as modern electronic circuit boards with narrow current paths of copper mounted on fiberglass-reinforced polyester sheets. To prevent oxidation of the copper surface, it is covered with tin. In total, the instrument set-up contains six fixed current paths of different lengths, of which four are single and two are double.

As a magnetic field source, a magnetic well built up of six identical permanent magnets is used. The field in the well can be varied by removing the magnets one by one.

To investigate the power as a function of the angle between field direction and current direction the last experiment utilizes a rotatable coil with its own magnetic well.

### 4.3.2 Force as a function of the current

*Task: Investigate how the force between a thin conductor and a magnetic field normal to the conductor depends on the current in the conductor.*

Suggested procedure:

- Select one of the current paths and measure the length  $\ell$  and the width  $t$  of the current path with calipers. (Be careful not to damage the current path with the caliper.) For now, define the length of the current path as the outer dimension in the longitudinal direction.



Later you will have the opportunity to reconsider this definition.

- ▶ Prepare the power supply: Check that it is switched off and the current and voltage are set to 0.
- ▶ Use the multimeter to measure the current
- ▶ Connect the circuit as shown in Figure 4.1. .
- ▶ Check the scale level (bubble level in the back, adjust feet) and then turn on the scale.
- ▶ Place the magnetic well in the middle of the scale with the perforated cylinder between the magnetic well and the scale. (The perforated cylinder is inserted to increase the distance between the magnetic well and the weight to avoid the magnetic field from the magnetic well interfering with the weight.)
- ▶ Adjust the position of the conductor relative to the magnetic well so that it is in the center of the magnetic field.
- ▶ Tare the scale. NOTE: To be absolutely sure that no current is flowing in the circuit during the taring, disconnect the circuit by unplugging one of the connectors.

The measurement can now be started. The power supply must be current-controlled, but the power supply can deliver up to 10 A while the *conductors take a maximum of 5 A*. It is your responsibility to make sure that the conductor is not overloaded! Keep an eye on the current measurement!

The measurement should provide answers to the following:

- ▶ What is the relationship between the weight  $M = F/g$  as a function of the current  $I$  in the range 0-5 A? Write down the measurement results in the lab journal and in a data file.
- ▶ What happens when you change the polarity of the current path? Do you get an expected result?
- ▶ What happens when you rotate the magnet? Do you get an expected result?
- ▶ Show in a sketch current directions and force directions and identify the magnetic poles.
- ▶ Finally, measure the magnetic field  $B$  in the magnetic well with the Gauss meter.

### Analysis / Discussion:

- ▶ Fit the measurement data to  $M^* = a_0 + a_1 I$ . Find the "best" straight line through the measuring points using

linear regression and determine the slope  $a_1$  and the uncertainty  $\Delta a_1$ .

- ▶ Calculate the expected slope number  $a'_1$  for  $M(I)$  using measured values for  $\ell$  and  $B$  and equation (4-8). Also find the uncertainty  $\Delta a'_1$ .
- ▶ Is the value of  $a'_1$  equal to the slope number  $a_1$  from the experimental curve within the uncertainty? If not, can you explain the discrepancy?
- ▶ Plot the deviation between measured values and values from linear regression for the force as a function of current. Does it look like there is a linear relationship between the force and the current? (Hint: Look at how the measurement points are distributed around the regression line.) If you assume that there is a linear relationship, does the size of the deviations correspond to the measurement accuracy of the weight?
- ▶ Can you, when you take into account the results of the error analysis, claim that you have verified equation (4-8)?
- ▶ Print curve diagrams and graphs and paste in the journal along with comments.

### 4.3.3 Force as a function of length

*Task: Investigate how the force on a thin conductor in a magnetic field normal to the conductor depends on the length of the conductor.*

- ▶ Setup and measurement of the force takes place as in the task above.<sup>1</sup>
- ▶ Measure the length and width of each circuit as accurately as possible. Use external dimension for the length. Note that two of the current paths are double.
- ▶ Document the results in the lab journal and in a data file as you measure.

1: IMPORTANT: Reduce the current in the circuit to zero each time you change the conductor.

#### Analysis / Discussion:

- ▶ Fit measurement data to  $M^* = b_0 + b_1 \ell$ . Find the "best" straight line through the measuring points using linear regression and determine the slope  $b_1$  and the uncertainty  $\Delta b_1$ .

- ▶ Calculate the expected slope number  $b'_1$  for  $M(\ell)$  using measured values for  $I$  and  $B$  and equation (4-8). Also find the uncertainty  $\Delta b'_1$ .
- ▶ Is the value of  $b'_1$  within the uncertainty  $b_1 \pm \Delta b_1$  from the experimental curve? If not, can you explain the discrepancy?
- ▶ Based on your results here, possibly revise your definition of the conductor length.
- ▶ When you take into account the results of the error analysis, can you claim that you have verified equation (4-8)?
- ▶ Print curve diagrams and graphs and paste in the journal along with comments.

### 4.3.4 Force as a function of angle

Task: *Investigate how the force on a thin conductor depends on the angle between the conductor and a magnetic field.*

Procedure:

- ▶ Place the turnable coil on the stand and use the corresponding magnetic well.
- ▶ Measure the weight  $M$  as a function of the angle  $\theta$  between the coil and the magnetic field at fixed current (e.g. 2 A).
- ▶ Document the results in the lab journal and in a data file as you measure.
- ▶ Create a regression curve of the shape  $M^* = c_0 + c_1 \sin \theta$  for your results. Note that we can use linear regression to adjust a sine if we use  $\sin \theta$  as  $x$  values.
- ▶ Carry out the same analysis / discussion as for previous measurements.

### 4.3.5 General Discussion

- ▶ Discuss the measurement accuracy of the experiment and its influence on the possibilities for comparison with the theory.
- ▶ Discuss the most correct way to specify the length of the conductor in exercise 4.3.3. Are you able to calculate an effective length based on experimental data?

### 4.3.6 Before you leave

- Switch off all appliances, unplug all cables and leave the space in at least as good an order as you found it.

# Bibliography

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- [3] N.C. Barford, 1985, *Experimental Measurements: Precision, Error and Truth* (2nd edn), Wiley, Chichester.