

Figure 6.27

magnet. If you want to eliminate the remaining magnetization, you'll have to run a current backwards through the coil (a negative I). Now the external field points to the right, and as you increase I (negatively), M drops down to zero (point d). If you turn I still higher, you soon reach saturation in the other direction—all the dipoles now pointing to the right (e). At this stage switching off the current will leave the wrench with a permanent magnetization to the right (point f). To complete the story, turn I on again in the positive sense: M returns to zero (point g), and eventually to the forward saturation point (b).

The path we have traced out is called a **hysteresis loop**. Notice that the magnetization of the wrench depends not only on the applied field (that is, on I), but also on its previous magnetic "history."⁸ For instance, at three different times in our experiment the current was zero (a , c , and f), yet the magnetization was different for each of them. Actually, it is customary to draw hysteresis loops as plots of B against H , rather than M against I . (If our coil is approximated by a long solenoid, with n turns per unit length, then $H = nI$, so H and I are proportional. Meanwhile, $\mathbf{B} = \mu_0(\mathbf{H} + \mathbf{M})$, but in practice M is huge compared to H , so to all intents and purposes \mathbf{B} is proportional to \mathbf{M} .)

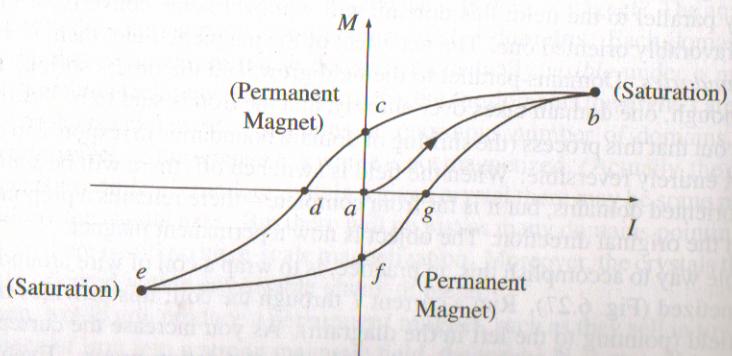


Figure 6.28

6.4. LINEAR AND NONLINEAR MEDIA

To make the units consistent (teslas), I have plotted notice, however, that the vertical scale is 10^4 times greater speaking, $\mu_0\mathbf{H}$ is the field our coil would have produced what we *actually* got, and compared to $\mu_0\mathbf{H}$ it is gigantic when you have ferromagnetic materials around. That's why a powerful electromagnet will wrap the coil around an iron external field to move the domain boundaries, and as soon as all the dipoles in the iron working with you.

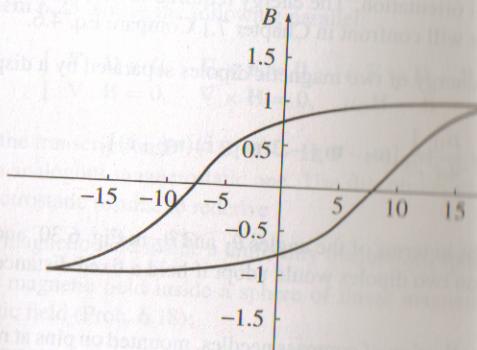


Figure 6.29

One final point concerning ferromagnetism: It all follows the dipoles within a given domain line up parallel to one another. They compete with this ordering, but as long as the temperature doesn't budge the dipoles out of line. It's not surprising, though, that they destroy the alignment. What is surprising is that this occurs at a certain temperature (called the **Curie point**) for iron. Below this temperature (called the Curie point) it is paramagnetic. The Curie point is rather like the boiling point of water: there is no gradual transition from ferro- to para-magnetic between water and ice. These abrupt changes in the properties at sharply defined temperatures, are known in statistical mechanics.

Problem 6.20 How would you go about demagnetizing a wrench we have been discussing, at point c in the hysteresis loop, to restore it to its original state, with $M = 0$ at $I = 0$?

Problem 6.21

(a) Show that the energy of a magnetic dipole in a magnetic field

⁸Etymologically, the word *hysteresis* has nothing to do with the word *history*—nor with the word *hysteria*.