

Chapter 12: Magnetic Effects of Electric Current

◆ Introduction

Electric current doesn't just produce heat — it also creates magnetic effects. When current passes through a conductor, it produces a magnetic field around it. This chapter explains:

- Magnetic fields and field lines
- Magnetic effects of current
- Right-hand and left-hand rules
- Magnetic field from coils and solenoids
- Force on current-carrying conductors
- Domestic electric circuits

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◆ 12.1 Magnetic Field and Field Lines

Magnetic Field:

The region around a magnet where its magnetic force can be felt.

Magnetic Field Lines:

Imaginary lines that represent the direction and strength of magnetic fields.

- They emerge from the north pole and enter the south pole.
- They are denser where the magnetic field is stronger.
- Magnetic field lines never intersect.

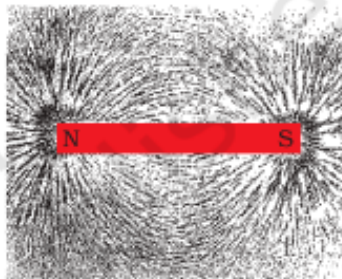


Figure 12.2

Iron filings near the bar magnet align themselves along the field lines.

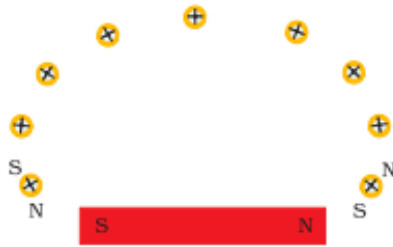


Figure 12.3
Drawing a magnetic field line with the help of a compass needle

Activity 12.2:

Sprinkle iron filings around a bar magnet. Tap the board gently. The filings align along field lines, showing magnetic field patterns.

Activity 12.3:

Use a compass to draw field lines of a bar magnet by tracing how the needle points from north to south.

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◆ 12.2 Magnetic Field due to Current-Carrying Conductor

Activity 12.1:

Place a compass near a current-carrying straight wire. The needle deflects, showing magnetic field is produced.

Conclusion:

Electric current produces a magnetic field.

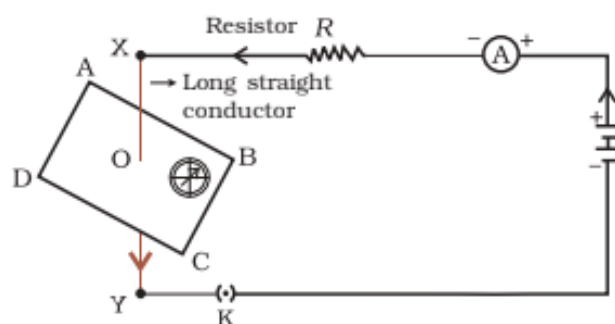


Figure 12.1
Compass needle is deflected on passing an electric current through a metallic conductor

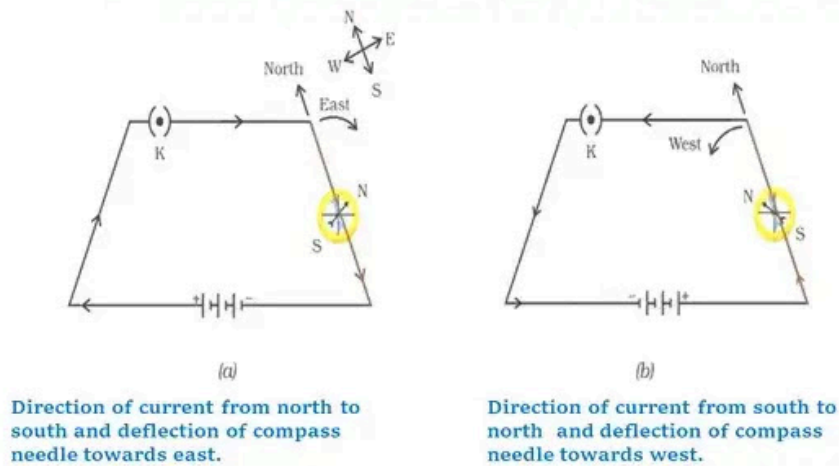
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◆ 12.2.1 Magnetic Field from Straight Wire

Activity 12.4 & 12.5:

Connect a long straight wire in circuit over a compass. Observe deflection when current flows. Reverse the current to reverse the deflection.

Activity 13.4 Class 10 Science Chapter 13



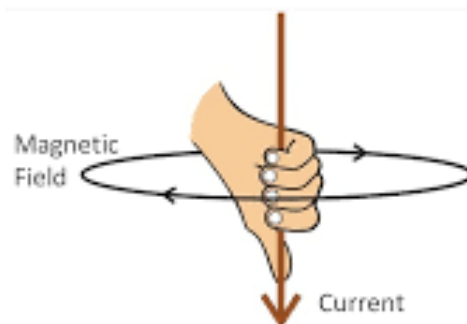
Key Observations:

- Magnetic field is stronger when current increases.
- Magnetic field is weaker when distance from wire increases.

12.2.2 Right-Hand Thumb Rule

Right-Hand Thumb Rule:

Hold a straight conductor in your right hand with thumb in the direction of current. Fingers curl in the direction of magnetic field.



12.2.3 Magnetic Field from Circular Loop

Circular Loop:

When a wire is bent into a circle and current flows, magnetic field forms concentric circles at every point. At the center, field lines appear straight and strong.

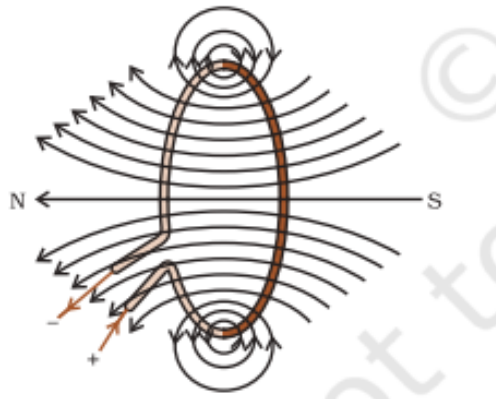


Figure 12.8
Magnetic field lines of the field produced by a current-carrying circular loop

Multiple Turns:

Field strength increases with number of turns in coil.

Activity 12.6:

Pass current through circular coil. Iron filings show strong field at center.

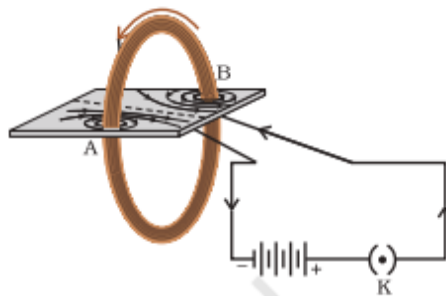


Figure 12.9
Magnetic field produced by a current-carrying circular coil.

12.2.4 Magnetic Field from Solenoid

Solenoid:

A coil of many turns of wire in cylindrical shape.

- Field inside is uniform and strong (like bar magnet).
- One end acts as north pole, the other as south.

Electromagnet:

A solenoid with soft iron core becomes a temporary magnet.

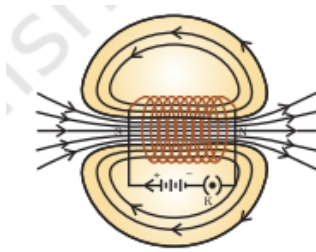


Figure 12.10
Field lines of the magnetic field through and around a current carrying solenoid.

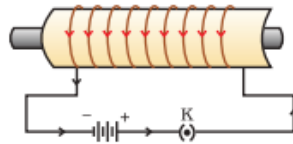


Figure 12.11
A current-carrying solenoid coil is used to magnetise steel rod inside it – an electromagnet.

◆ 12.3 Force on a Current-Carrying Conductor in a Magnetic Field

📖 Magnetic Force:

A current-carrying conductor experiences a force when placed in a magnetic field.

🔧 Activity 12.7:

Place aluminium rod between magnetic poles and pass current. Rod moves, indicating a magnetic force is acting.

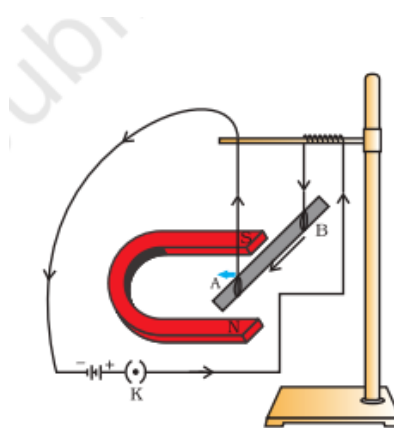


Figure 12.12
A current-carrying rod, AB, experiences a force perpendicular to its length and the magnetic field. Support for the magnet is not shown here, for simplicity.

📖 Fleming's Left-Hand Rule:

Stretch thumb, forefinger, and middle finger of left hand at right angles.

- Forefinger → Magnetic field
- Middle finger → Current
- Thumb → Force (motion)

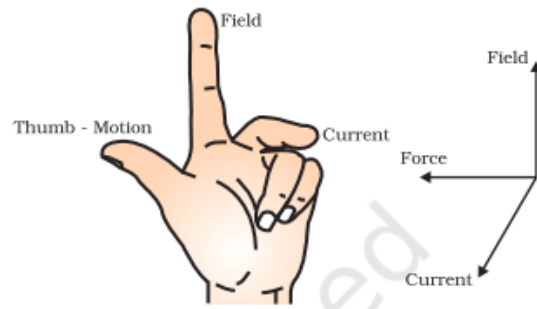


Figure 12.13
Fleming's left-hand rule

Example:

Direction of force on an electron moving perpendicular to a magnetic field is determined using this rule.

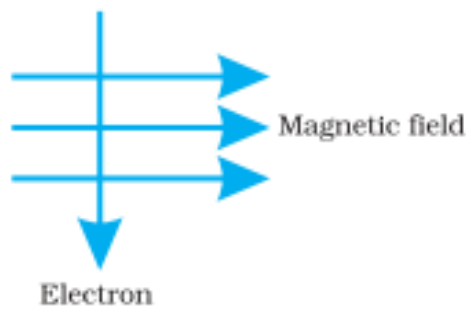


Figure 12.14

◆ 12.4 Domestic Electric Circuits

Components:

- Live wire (Red) – carries current
- Neutral wire (Black) – returns current
- Earth wire (Green) – for safety

Supply:

AC power supply of 220 V and 50 Hz in India

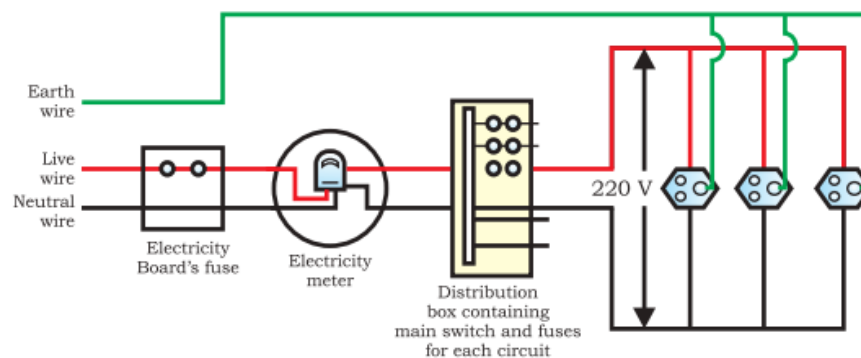


Figure 12.15 A schematic diagram of one of the common domestic circuits

Two circuits at home:

- 15 A – for heavy appliances (geyser, heater)
- 5 A – for low power items (fan, bulb)

Earthing:

Connects metal body to ground → prevents electric shock from leakage.

Electric Fuse:

A safety device that melts if current is too high, breaking the circuit.

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Summary

- Electric current produces magnetic field (Oersted's experiment)
- Magnetic field lines are visualized using iron filings and compass
- Right-hand thumb rule shows direction of field around a conductor
- Circular loops and solenoids enhance field strength
- Fleming's left-hand rule determines force on conductor in magnetic field
- Electromagnets are used in electric motors and medical MRI machines
- Domestic wiring includes live, neutral, and earth wires
- Fuses prevent damage from short circuits and overloading