

Lecture 29.

B-field due to a wire (short segment and long wire).

“Two-step logic” in magnetic problems.

Ampere's law.

Announcement

Midterm 2 – next Monday

What is on MT2?

- All electricity (Coulomb law and on)
- Cutoff: Up to Lorentz force (Week 9)

Resources?

- Lectures, textbook, HW, tutorial problems...
- Posted practice exams

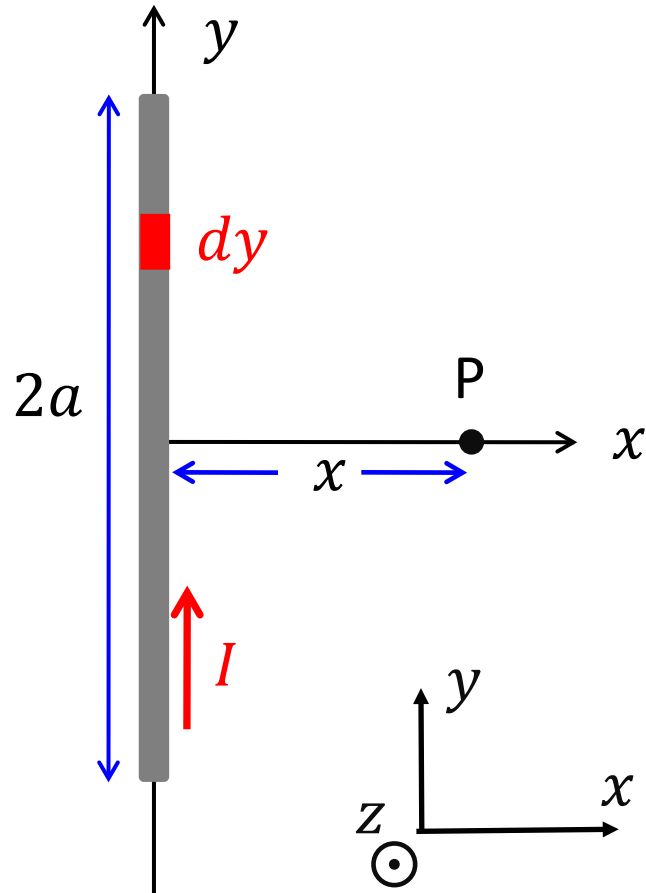
Help sessions?

- Monday 17:30-18:30 (Henn 318)
- Wednesday 17:00 - 18:00 (Henn 318)
- Friday 17:00 - 18:00 (Henn 318) & on Zoom
- Saturday 14:00 - 16:00 (Hebb 112)

Magnetic field of a short straight wire

Last Time

Q: Use the Biot-Savart Law to compute magnetic field B created by a short current segment of length $2a$ with current I at the symmetry axis of the wire. Your answer should be a vector.



Exercise: Before you do the math, think about how to solve the problem and write a few sentences outlining your strategy.

- First consider a small wire segment $dy \Rightarrow$ find the field $d\vec{B}$ produced by it at P \Rightarrow considering symmetry, integrate its components to get the resultant field at P

You might need:

$$\int \frac{x dy}{(x^2 + y^2)^{3/2}} = \frac{y}{x \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}}$$

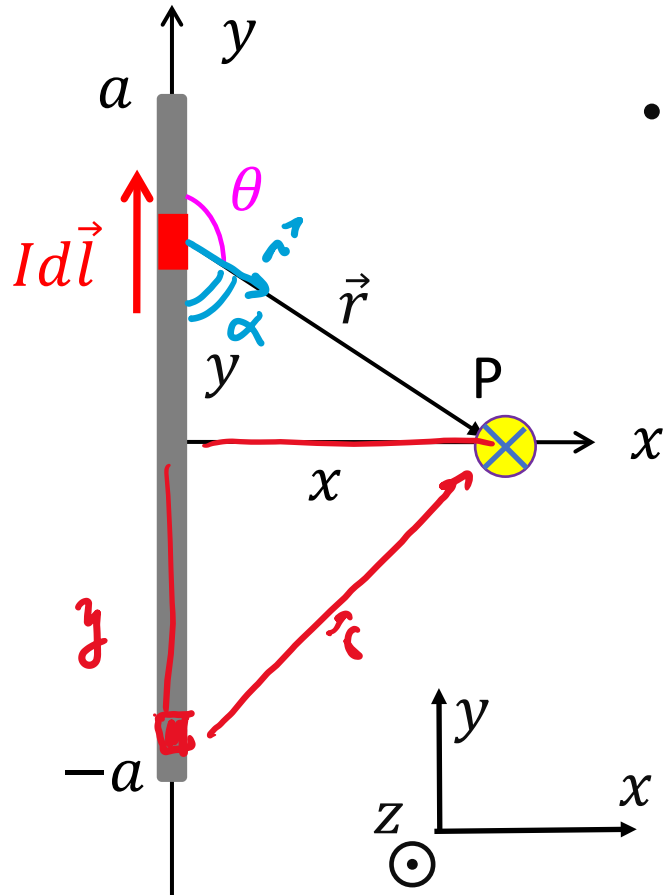
Biot-Savart law:

$$d\vec{B} = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \frac{I d\vec{l} \times \hat{r}}{r^2}$$

Magnetic field of a short straight wire

$$d\vec{B} = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \frac{I d\vec{l} \times \hat{r}}{r^2} \quad \sin \theta = \sin(\pi - \theta) = x/r$$

Q: Use the Biot-Savart Law to compute magnetic field B created by a short current segment of length $2a$ with current I at the symmetry axis of the wire. Your answer should be a vector.



• Direction? $d\vec{l} \times \hat{r} \Rightarrow$ along $(-\hat{k}) =$ **into the page**

• Magnitude? $|I d\vec{l} \times \hat{r}| = I dl |\hat{r}| \sin \theta = I dy \sin \theta$

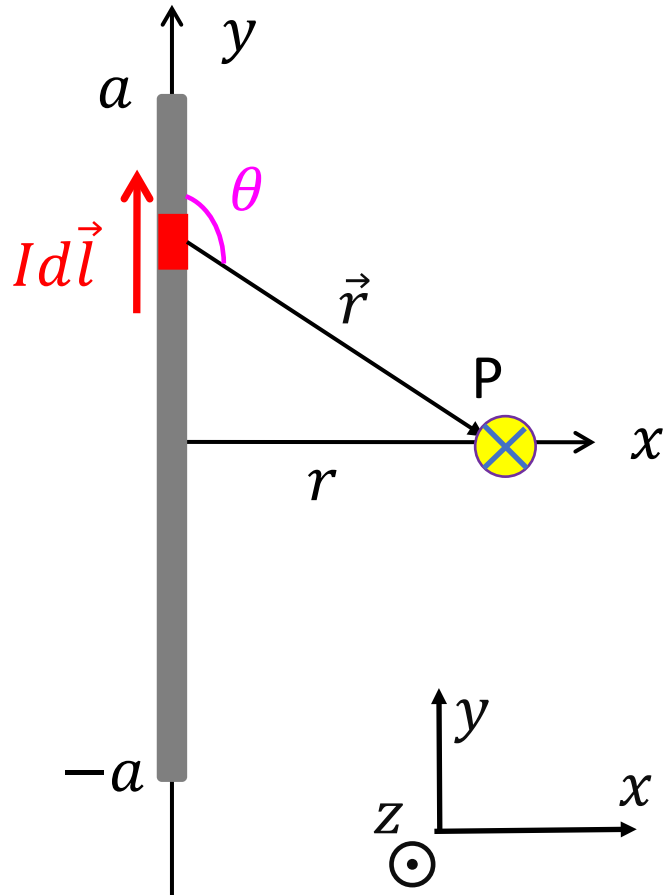
$$\begin{aligned} \vec{B}_{\text{at P}} &= \int d\vec{B} = \int \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \frac{I d\vec{l} \times \hat{r}}{r^2} = (-\hat{k}) \frac{\mu_0 I}{4\pi} \int_{-a}^a \frac{\sin \theta dy}{r^2} \\ &= (-\hat{k}) \frac{\mu_0 I}{4\pi} \int_{-a}^a \frac{x dy}{r^3} = (-\hat{k}) \frac{\mu_0 I x}{4\pi} \int_{-a}^a \frac{dy}{(x^2 + y^2)^{3/2}} \end{aligned}$$

$$\vec{B}_{\text{at P}} = -\frac{\mu_0 I}{4\pi} \frac{2a}{x\sqrt{x^2 + a^2}} \hat{k}$$

- y = integration variable
- x = parameter

Magnetic field of an infinitely long straight wire

Q: Use the Biot-Savart Law to compute magnetic field B created by an infinitely long current-carrying wire with current I at a perpendicular distance r from the wire.



- Finite wire:
$$\vec{B}_{\text{at P}} = -\frac{\mu_0 I}{4\pi} \frac{2a}{r\sqrt{r^2 + a^2}} \hat{k}$$

- Take limit: $a \gg \underline{r}$ (neglect r^2 in comparison with a^2)

$$\frac{\mu_0 I}{4\pi} \frac{2a}{r\sqrt{r^2 + a^2}} \rightarrow \frac{\mu_0 I}{4\pi} \frac{2a}{r\sqrt{a^2}} \Rightarrow \frac{\mu_0 I}{2\pi r}$$

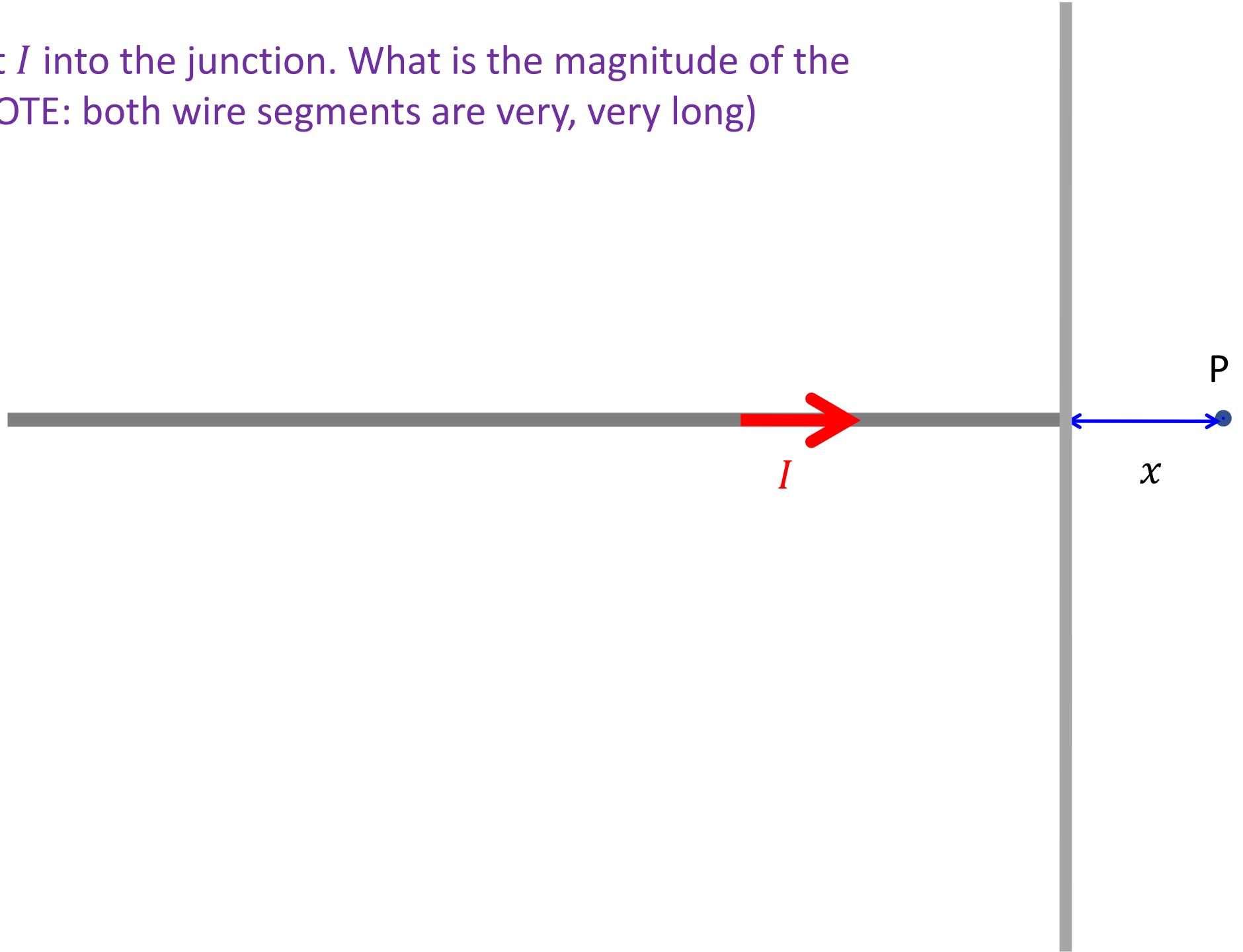
← perp distance
from the wire

$$\vec{B}_{\text{at P}} = -\frac{\mu_0 I}{2\pi r} \hat{k}$$

long wire

We will see very shortly that there is a much easier way to compute the B-field for a long straight wire – Ampere's Law

A wire carries current I into the junction. What is the magnitude of the B-field at point P? (NOTE: both wire segments are very, very long)



A. $B = \frac{2\mu_0 I}{\pi x}$

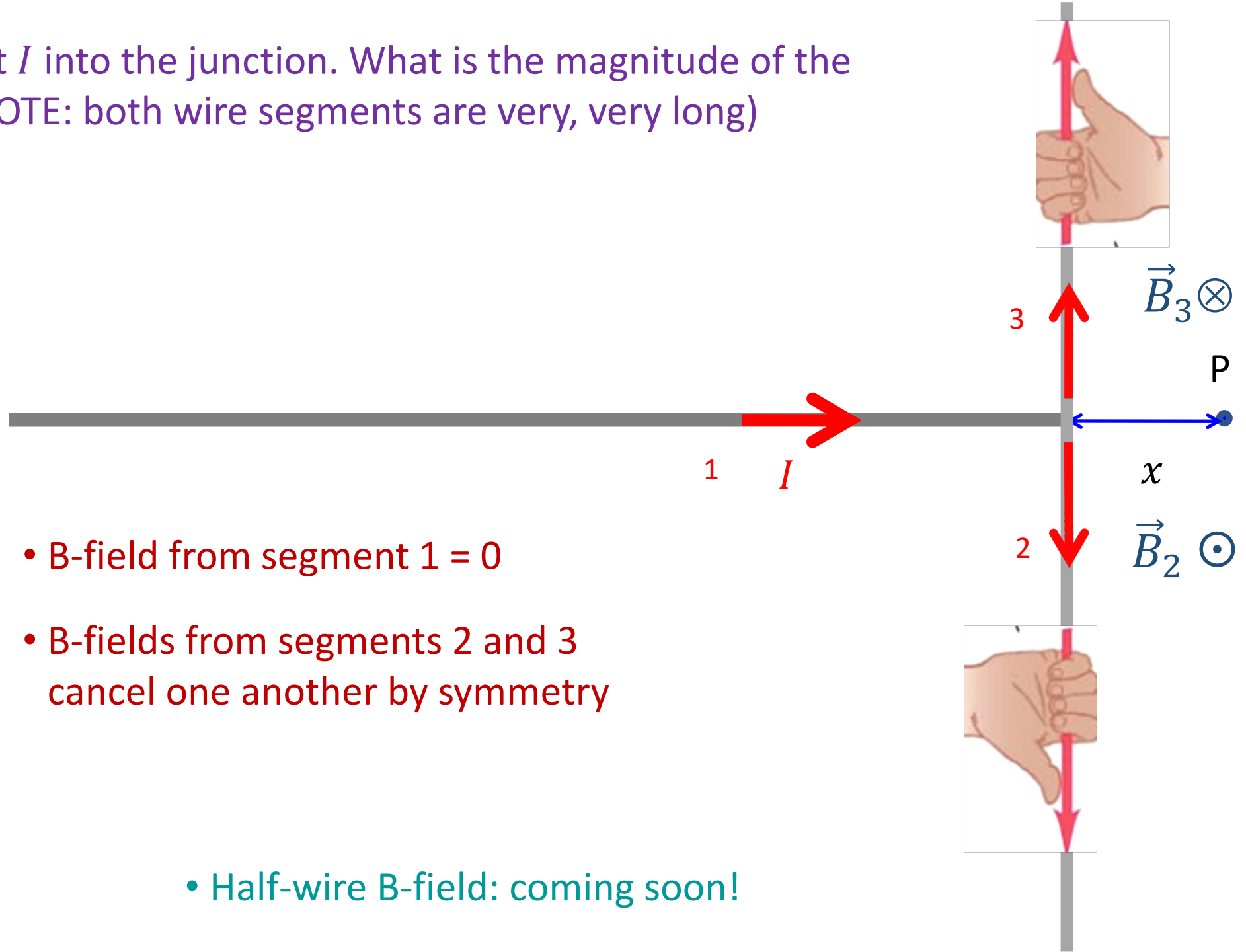
B. $B = \frac{\mu_0 I}{\pi x}$

C. $B = \frac{\mu_0 I}{2\pi x}$

D. $B = \frac{\mu_0 I}{4\pi x}$

E. $B = 0$

A wire carries current I into the junction. What is the magnitude of the B-field at point P? (NOTE: both wire segments are very, very long)



A. $B = \frac{2\mu_0 I}{\pi x}$

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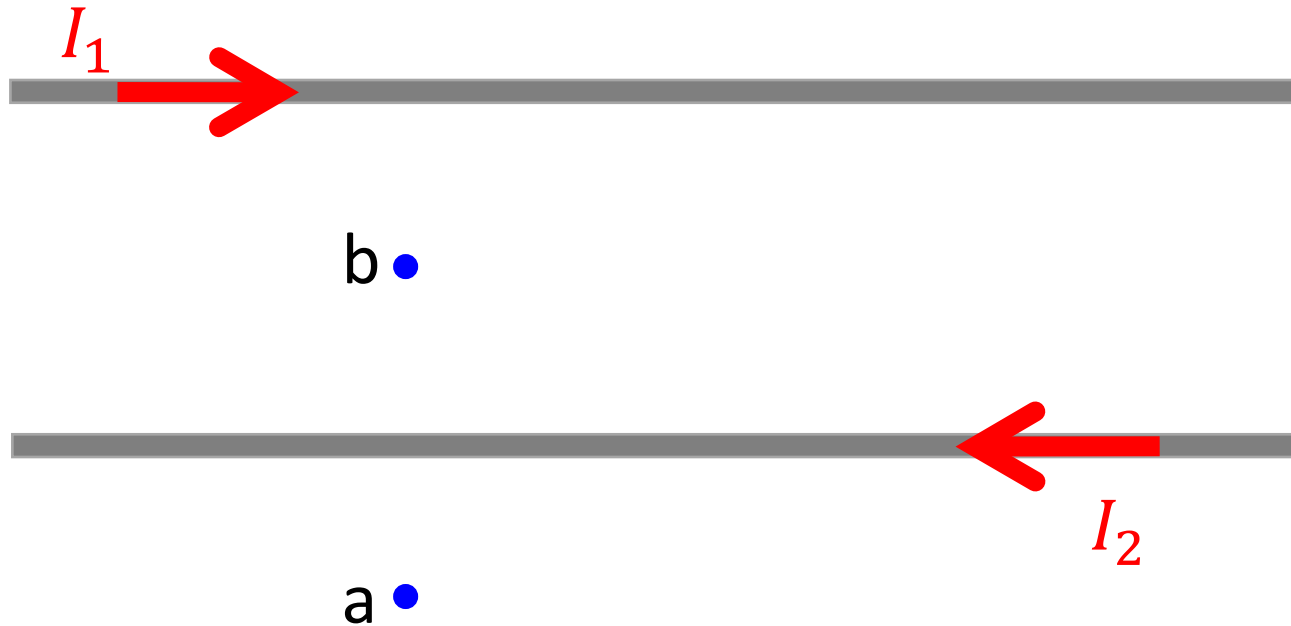
D. $B = \frac{\mu_0 I}{4\pi x}$

E. $B = 0$

- B-field from segment 1 = 0
- B-fields from segments 2 and 3 cancel one another by symmetry

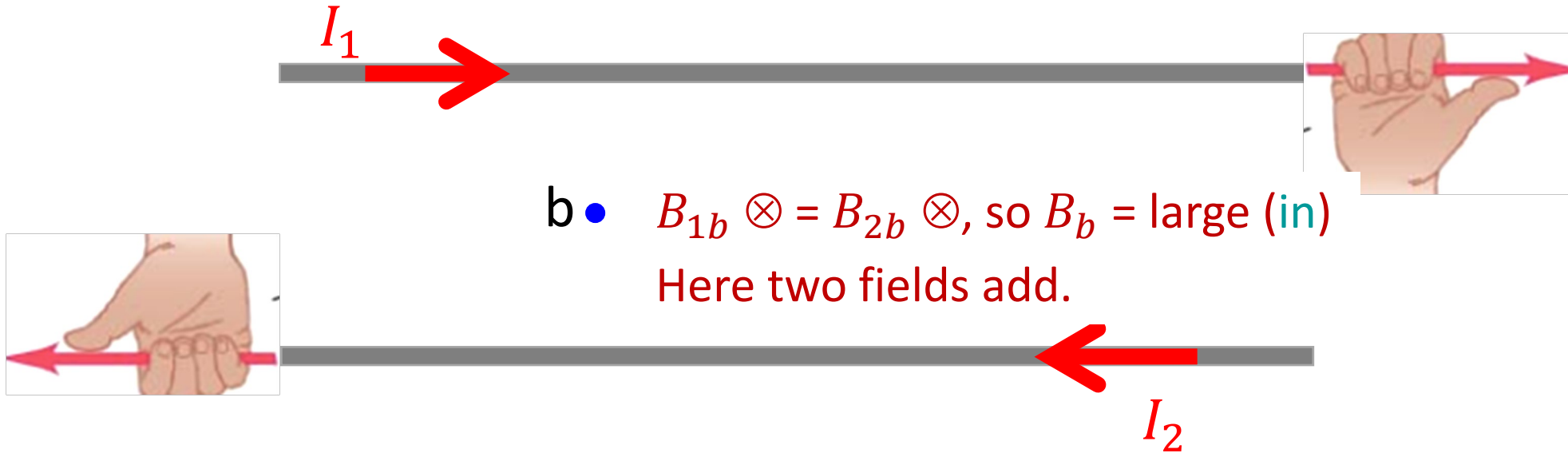
• Half-wire B-field: coming soon!

Q: Compare the magnitude and direction of the B-fields at points a and b. (“out”=out of the page, “in”=into the page). NOTE: both wire segments are infinitely long and $I_1 = I_2$.



- A. B_a (in) $<$ B_b (in)
- B. B_a (out) $<$ B_b (out)
- C. B_a (out) $>$ B_b (in)
- D. B_a (out) $<$ B_b (in)
- E. B_a (in) $>$ B_b (out)

Q: Compare the magnitude and direction of the B-fields at points a and b. (“out”=out of the page, “in”=into the page). NOTE: both wire segments are infinitely long and $I_1 = I_2$.



b • $B_{1b} \otimes = B_{2b} \otimes$, so B_b = large (in)
Here two fields add.

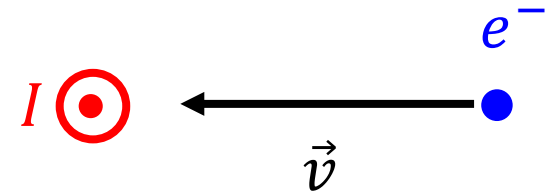
a • $B_{1a} \otimes < B_{2a} \odot$, so B_a = small (out)
Here two fields partially subtract.

- A. B_a (in) < B_b (in)
- B. B_a (out) < B_b (out)
- C. B_a (out) > B_b (in)
- D. B_a (out) < B_b (in)**
- E. B_a (in) > B_b (out)

$$B_{\text{wire}}(r) = \frac{\mu_0 I}{2\pi r}$$

Q: A long straight wire carries current I out of the page.

An electron travels towards the wire from the right. What is the direction of the force on the electron?



A.

B.

C.

D.

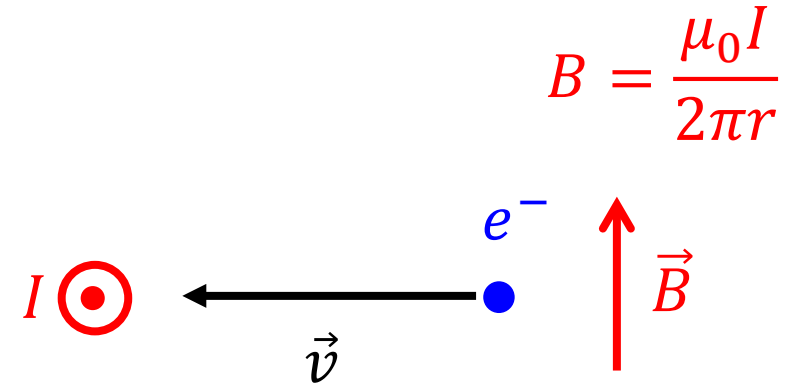
E.

Q: A long straight wire carries current I out of the page.

An electron travels towards the wire from the right. What is the direction of the force on the electron?

Force on the electron:

$$\vec{F}_m = q_{\pm} \vec{v} \times \vec{B}$$



A.

☒ B.

C.

D.

E.

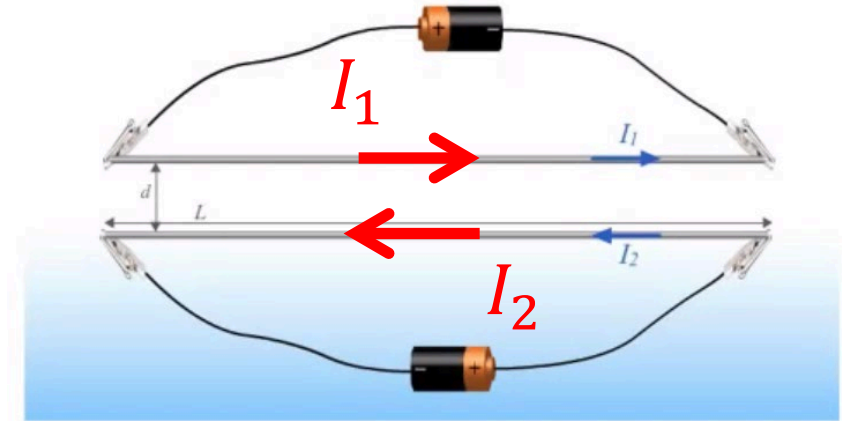
- Why there is a force on the electron?? – Because it is a charged particle moving in a magnetic field.

- Who creates this magnetic field?? – The wire!

- “Two-step logic”: object #1 creates magnetic field at the location of object #2 => object #2 experiences magnetic force!

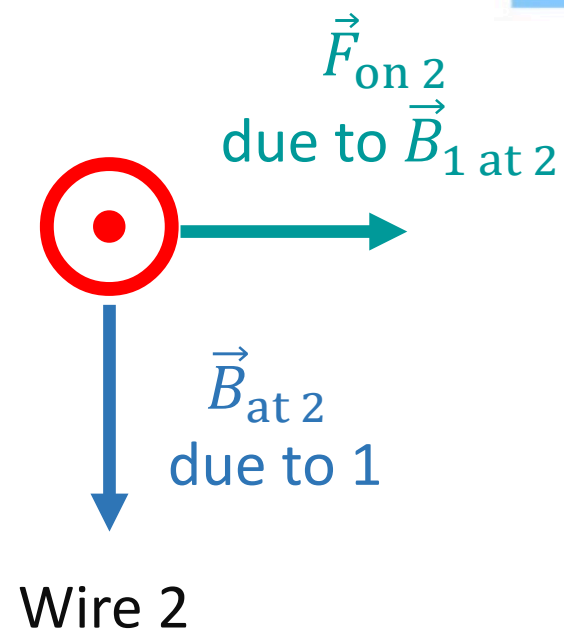
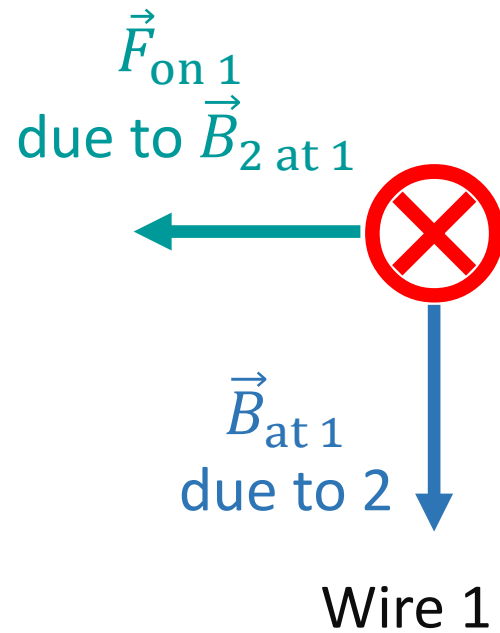
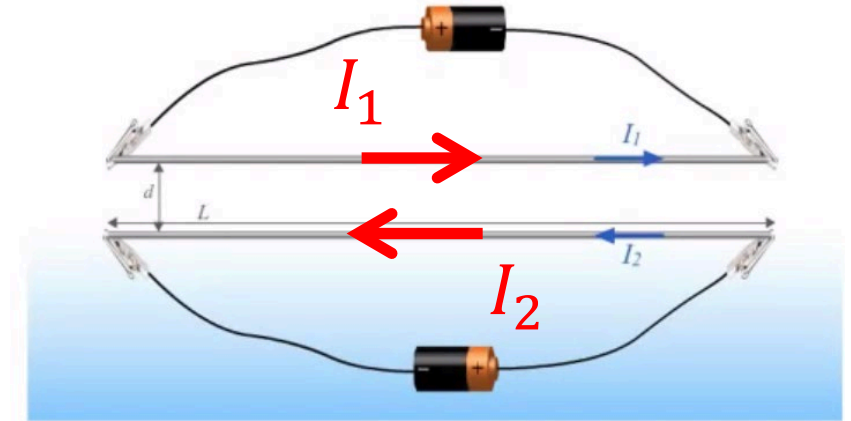
Q: Two wires carry current in opposite directions. What the wires will do?

- A. Attract
- B. Repel
- C. No effect on each other



Q: Two wires carry current in opposite directions. What the wires will do?

- A. Attract
- B. Repel**
- C. No effect on each other



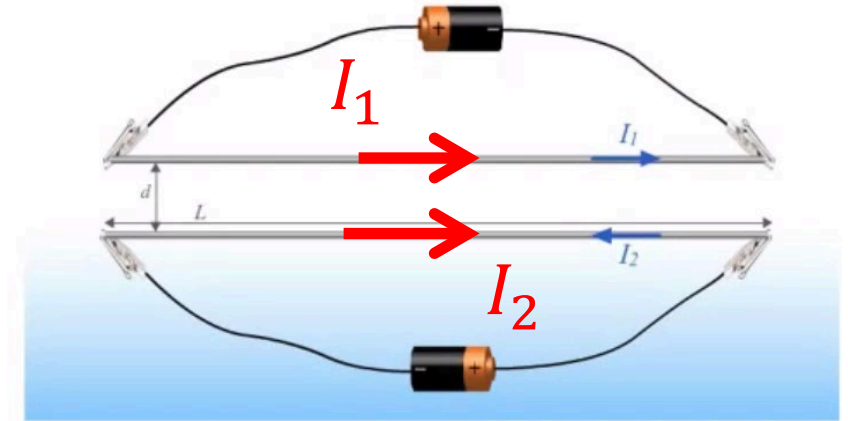
\vec{B}_{wire} : RHR



$$\vec{F}_{\text{on wire}} = L \vec{I} \times \vec{B}$$

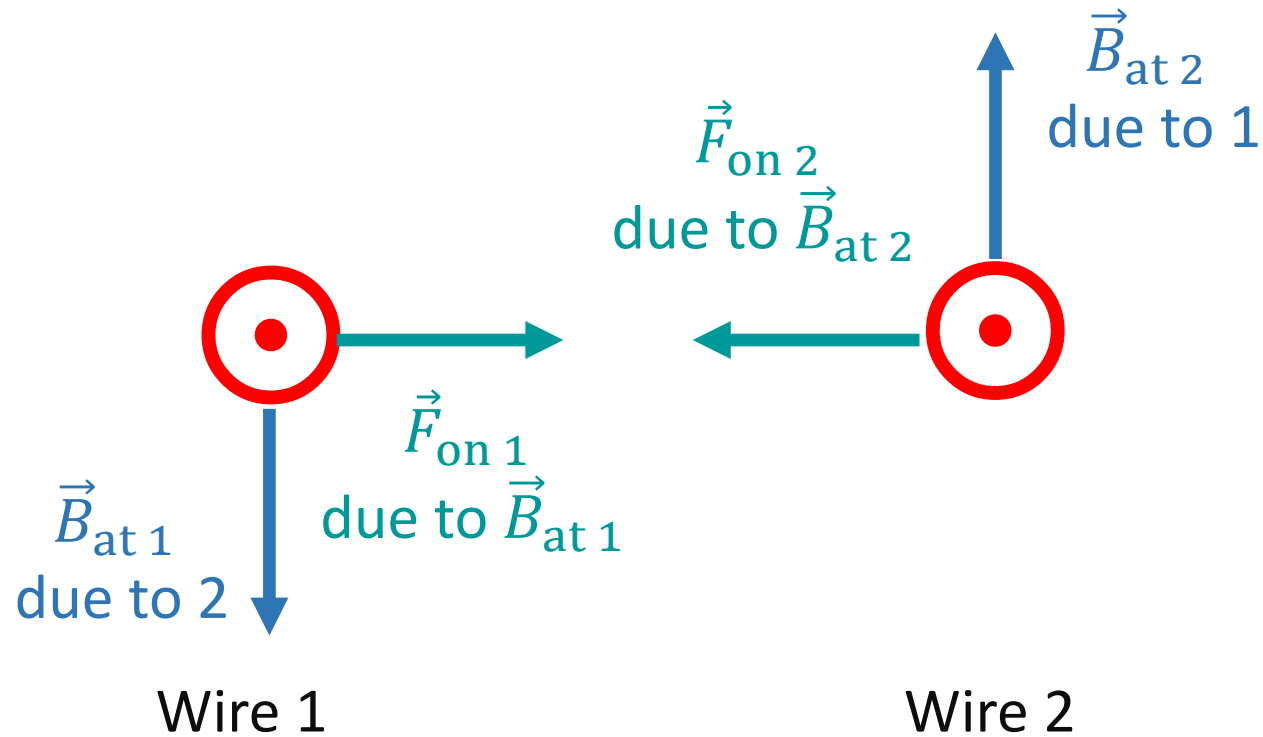
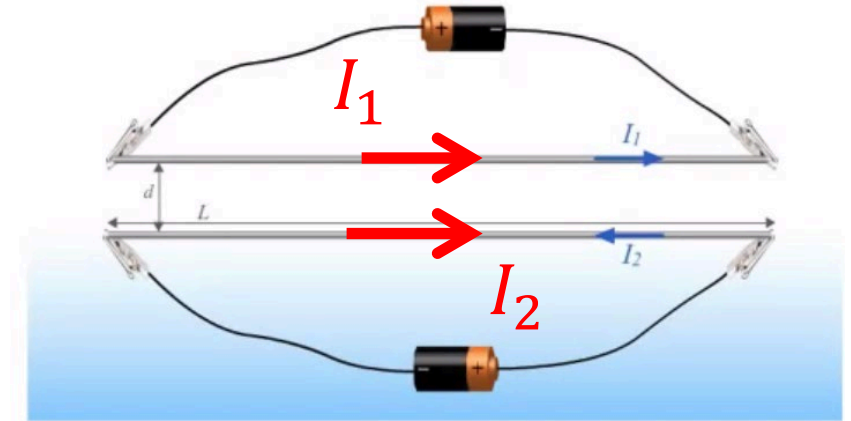
Q: Two wires carry current in the same directions. What the wires will do?

- A. Attract
- B. Repel
- C. No effect on each other



Q: Two wires carry current in opposite directions. What the wires will do?

- ☒ A. Attract
- ☐ B. Repel
- ☐ C. No effect on each other



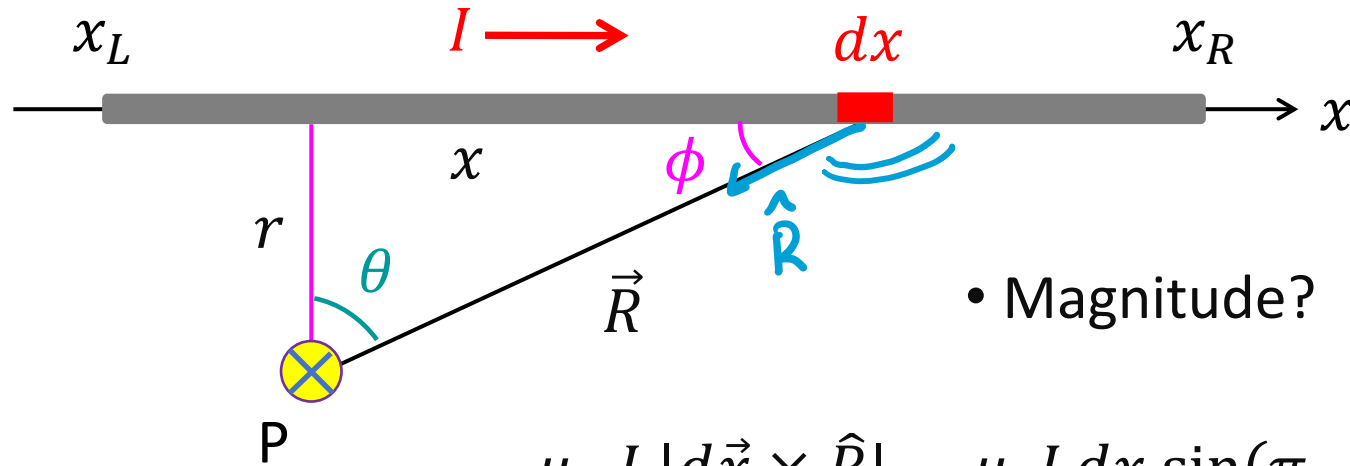
\vec{B}_{wire} : RHR



$$\vec{F}_{on wire} = L \vec{I} \times \vec{B}$$

B-Field of a short straight wire (off-center)

$$d\vec{B} = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \frac{I d\vec{x} \times \hat{R}}{R^2}$$



• Direction? into the page (RHR)

• Magnitude?

$$dB = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \frac{I |d\vec{x} \times \hat{R}|}{R^2} = \frac{\mu_0 I}{4\pi} \frac{dx \sin(\pi - \phi)}{R^2} = \frac{\mu_0 I}{4\pi} \frac{dx \sin(\phi)}{R^2} = \frac{\mu_0 I}{4\pi} \frac{dx \cos(\theta)}{R^2}$$

• Note: integration is much easier using θ :

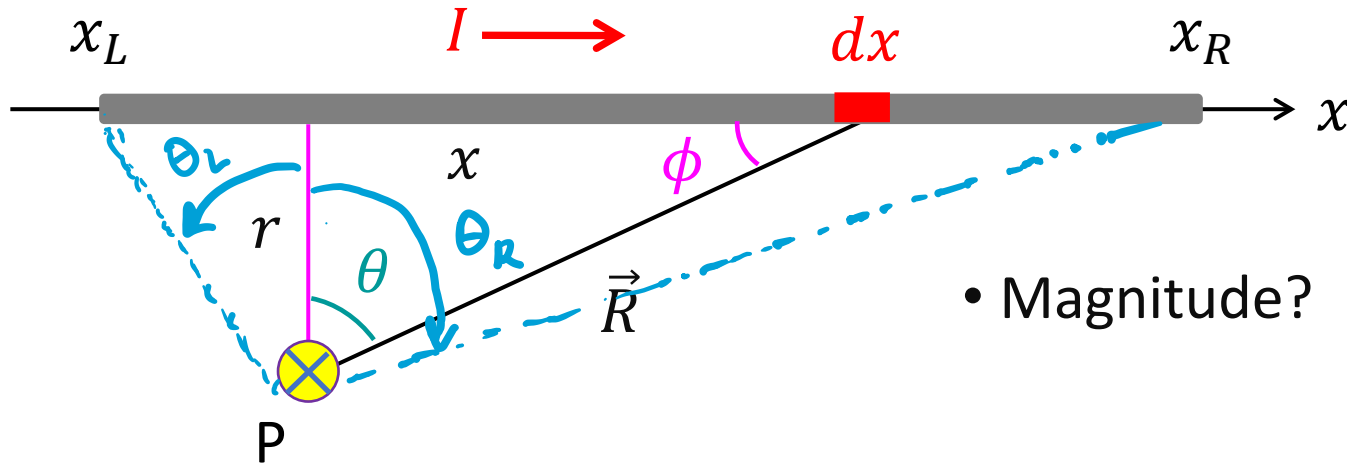
$$x = r \tan \theta \Rightarrow \frac{dx}{d\theta} = \frac{r}{\cos^2 \theta} \Rightarrow dx = \frac{r d\theta}{\cos^2 \theta} \Rightarrow dB = \frac{\mu_0 I}{4\pi} \frac{d\theta \cos(\theta)}{\cos^2(\theta)} \frac{1}{R^2}$$

$r \neq$

... and $R \cos(\theta) = r \Rightarrow dB_{\text{wire}} = \frac{\mu_0 I}{4\pi} \frac{d\theta \cos(\theta)}{r}$

B-Field of a short straight wire (off-center)

$$d\vec{B} = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \frac{I d\vec{x} \times \hat{R}}{R^2}$$



• Direction? into the page (RHR)

• Magnitude?
$$dB_{\text{wire}} = \frac{\mu_0 I}{4\pi} \frac{d\theta \cos(\theta)}{r}$$

$$B_{\text{wire}} = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \frac{I}{r} \int_{\theta_L}^{\theta_R} d\theta \cos(\theta)$$

$$B_{\text{wire}} = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \frac{I}{r} (\sin(\theta_R) - \sin(\theta_L))$$

$$\sin(\theta_R) = \frac{x_R}{\sqrt{x_R^2 + r^2}},$$

etc.

• Infinite wire: $\sin(\theta_R) = +1$, $\sin(\theta_L) = -1$, and we get:

$$B_{\text{LOOOONG wire}} = \frac{\mu_0}{2\pi} \frac{I}{r}$$

• Semi-Infinite wire with $x_L = 0$: $\sin(\theta_R) = +1$, $\sin(\theta_L) = 0$:

$$B_{\text{half-wire}} = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \frac{I}{r}$$

Did you enjoy this derivation?

- Let's recall: we could derive the electric field of a **very long** line of charge by integrating Coulomb law – but there was an alternative:

Gauss's law

$$\Phi_e = \oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A} = \frac{Q_{in}}{\epsilon_0}$$

- Requires symmetry to obtain E by integrating electric flux over a **closed surface** with an **enclosed volume**
- Solving for B_p for a **very long** current-carrying wire (i.e. $a \gg x$) using Biot-Savart's Law was also hard, but there is a MUCH easier alternative!

Ampere's law

$$\Phi_m = \oint \vec{B} \cdot d\vec{l} = \mu_0 I_{in}$$

- Requires symmetry to obtain B by integrating magnetic flux over a **closed path** with an **enclosed area**

