

## Lecture 27.

Force on a current-carrying wire and on a loop.

Magnetic torque on a loop.

## Last Time:

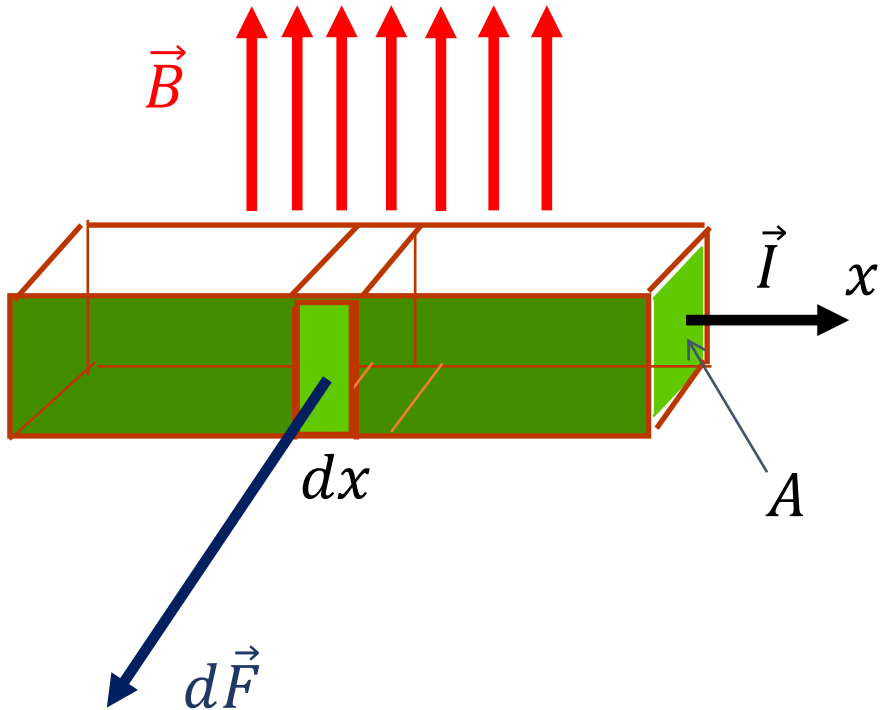
- Force on a wire segment  $dx$ :

$$d\vec{F} = I d\vec{x} \times \vec{B}$$

- Force on a straight piece of wire in a uniform field:

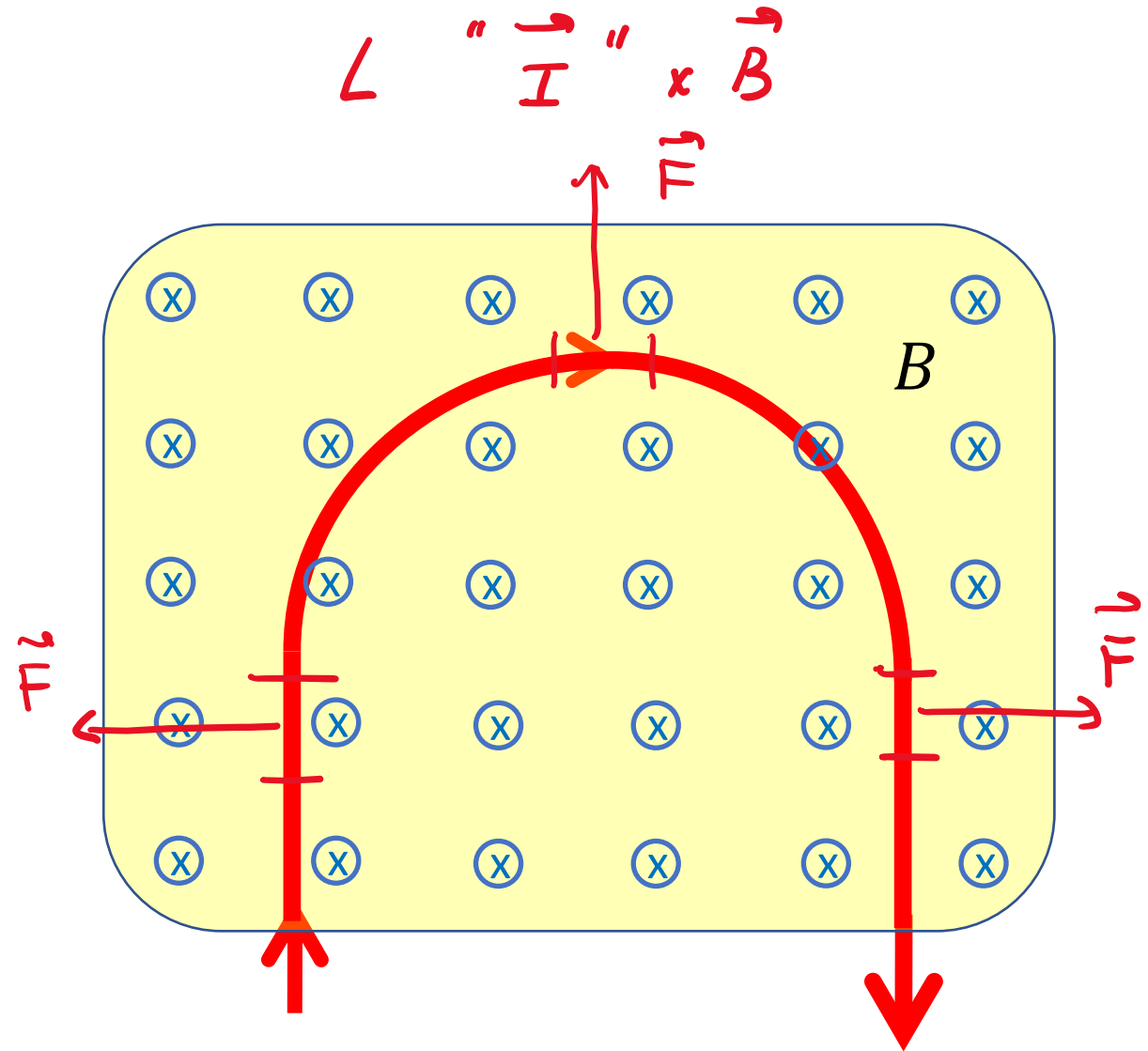
$$\vec{F} = I \vec{L} \times \vec{B}$$

Magnitude:  $F = ILB \sin \theta_{\vec{B}, \text{dir } I}$

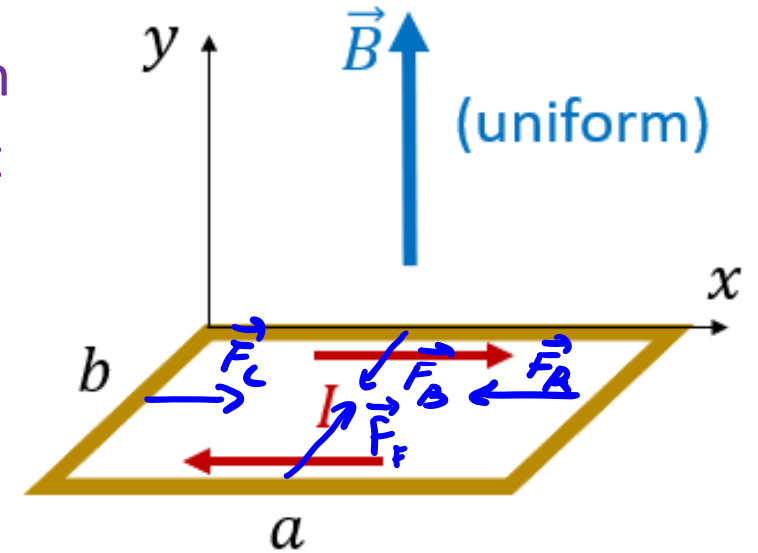


Q: A current carrying wire passes through a region with a uniform B-field.  
Will there be a force on this wire? If so, in which direction?

- A. Upward
- B. Downward
- C. Right
- D. Left
- E. No net force (symmetry)



Q: This rectangular loop carries a clockwise current. A uniform magnetic field is perpendicular to the plane of the loop. What is the net magnetic force and the torque on the loop?



$$F = L \cdot I \cdot B \cdot \sin 90^\circ$$

$$\vec{F}_{net} = 0$$

$$\tau \stackrel{?}{=} 0$$

(unstable equil.)

- A.  $F_{net} = 0, \tau = 0$
- B.  $F_{net} \neq 0, \tau = 0$
- C.  $F_{net} = 0, \tau \neq 0$
- D.  $F_{net} \neq 0, \tau \neq 0$

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

Q: Now the uniform magnetic field is at  $60^\circ$  with respect to the plane of the loop. What are the magnetic force and the torque now?

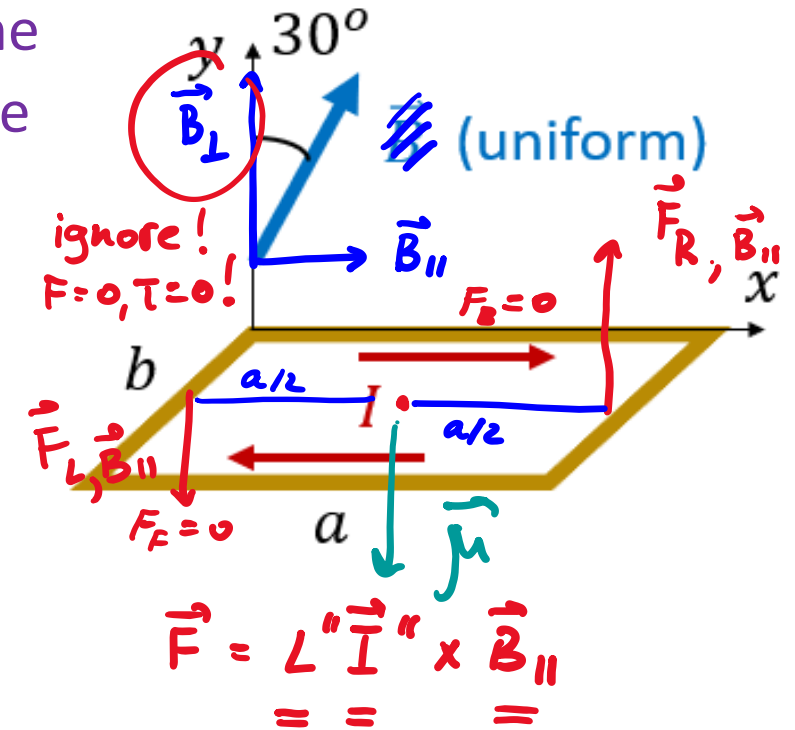
$$\vec{F}_{net} = 0 \quad (B = \text{same})$$

$$F_L = F_R = b \cdot I \cdot B_{||} = bIB \sin 30^\circ$$

$$\tau = F_L \frac{a}{2} + F_R \frac{a}{2} = 2 \cdot \frac{a}{2} \cdot bIB \sin 30^\circ$$

$$\tau = (ab)I B \sin 30^\circ$$

$$\tau = \underbrace{A \cdot I \cdot B \cdot \sin 30^\circ}_{\mu}, \text{ CCW (see fig)}$$



- A.  $F_{net} = 0, \tau = 0$
- B.  $F_{net} \neq 0, \tau = 0$
- C.  $F_{net} = 0, \tau \neq 0$
- D.  $F_{net} \neq 0, \tau \neq 0$

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

# Magnetic moment

- Magnetic dipole moment of a current-carrying loop is a vector, called  $\vec{\mu}$ :

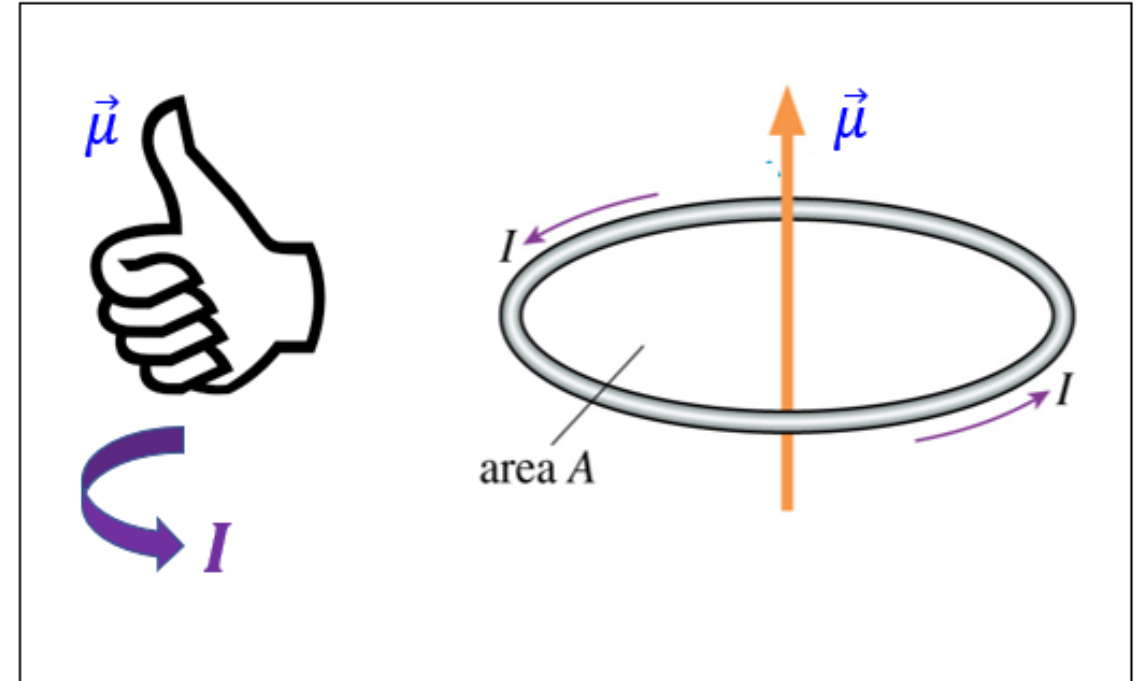
➤ Magnitude:  $\mu = IA$

❖  $I$  = current in the loop

❖  $A$  = its area

➤ Direction: **curled-fingers right-hand rule**

❖ Curled fingers along the current, right thumb shows  $\vec{\mu}$



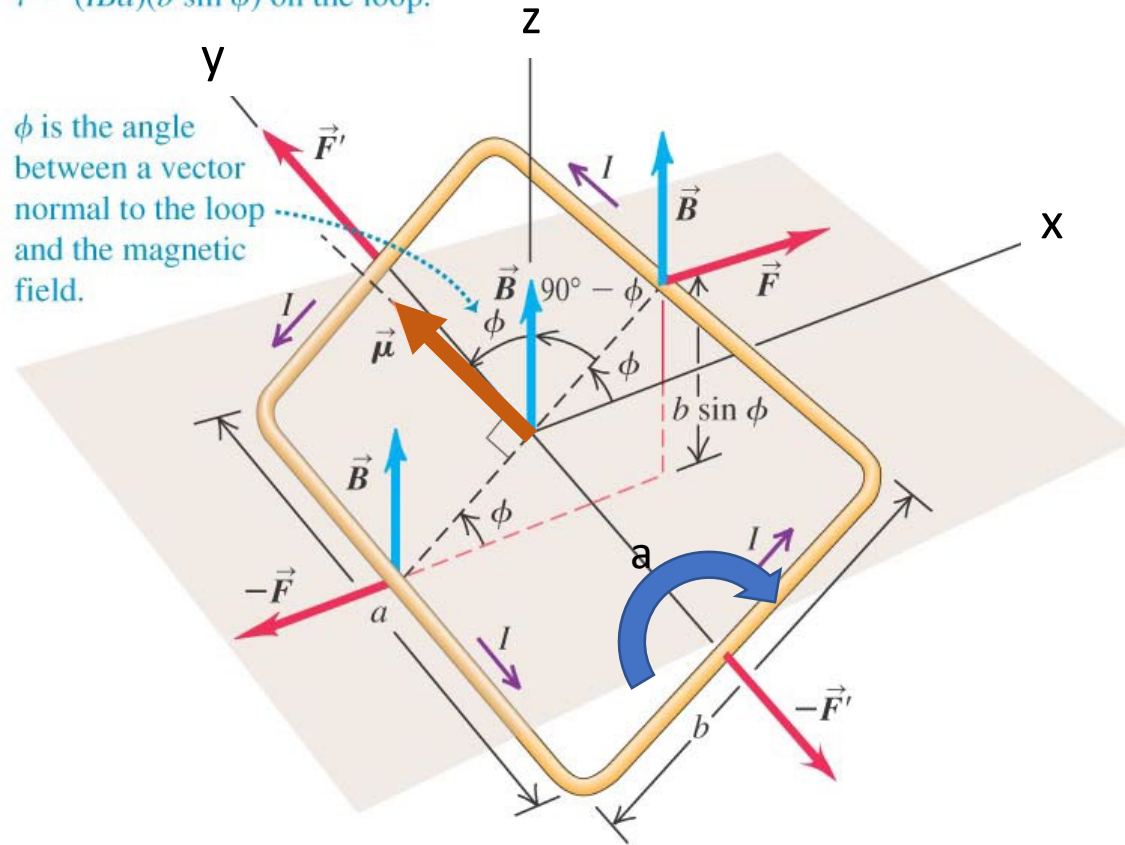
# Magnetic torque

$$\begin{aligned}\tau &= Fb \sin \phi \\ &= I(ab)B \sin \phi = \mu B \sin \phi\end{aligned}$$

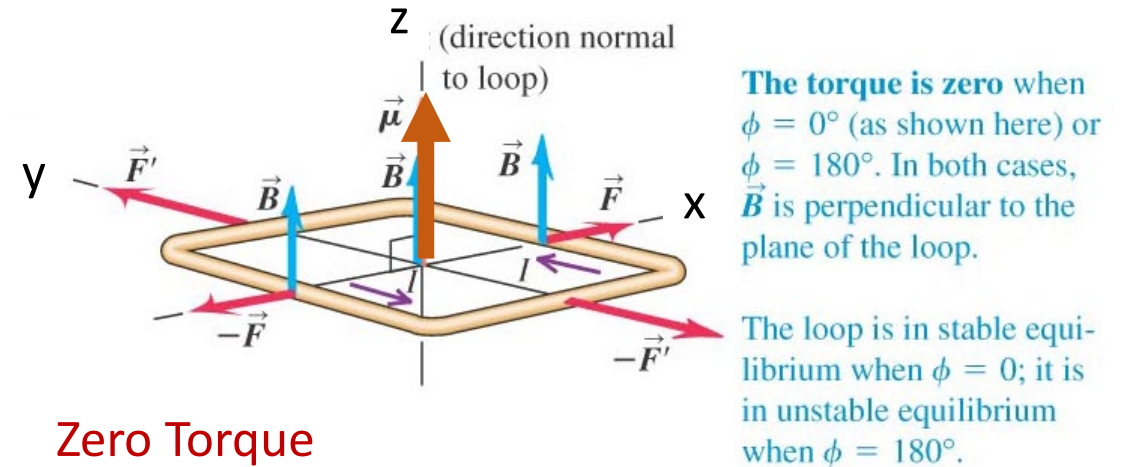
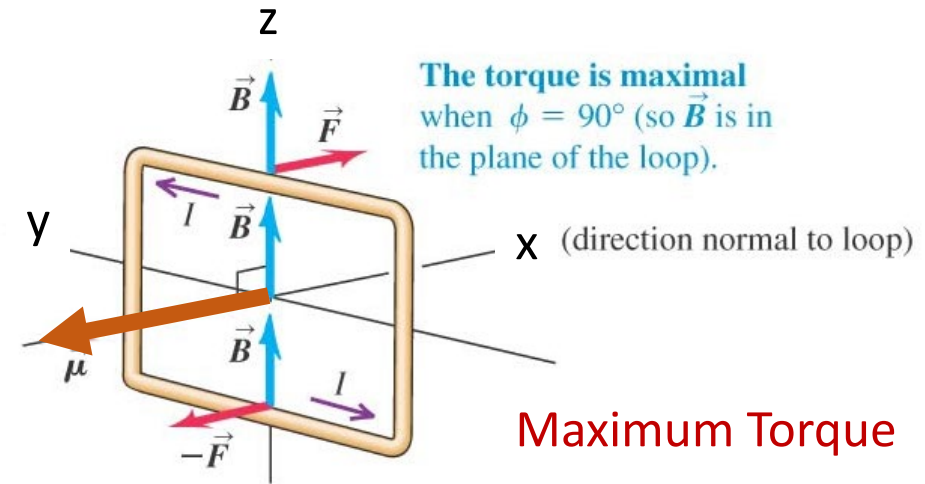
$\phi$  = angle between  $\vec{B}$  and  $\vec{\mu}$

The two pairs of forces acting on the loop cancel, so no net force acts on the loop.

However, the forces on the  $a$  sides of the loop ( $\vec{F}$  and  $-\vec{F}$ ) produce a torque  $\tau = (IBa)(b \sin \phi)$  on the loop.



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# Magnetic Moment and Magnetic Torque

- Magnetic torque vector:

$$\vec{\tau}_B = \vec{\mu} \times \vec{B}$$

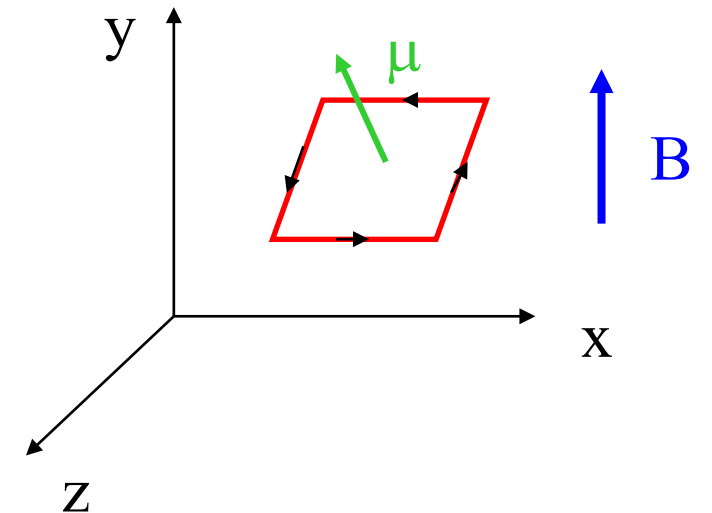
- For comparison:  $\vec{\tau}_E = \vec{p} \times \vec{E}$

- Magnitude of the torque:

$$\tau = \mu B \sin \theta$$

with  $\mu = IA$  and  $\theta$  being the angle between the B-field and the normal to the loop (= direction of  $\vec{\mu}$ ).

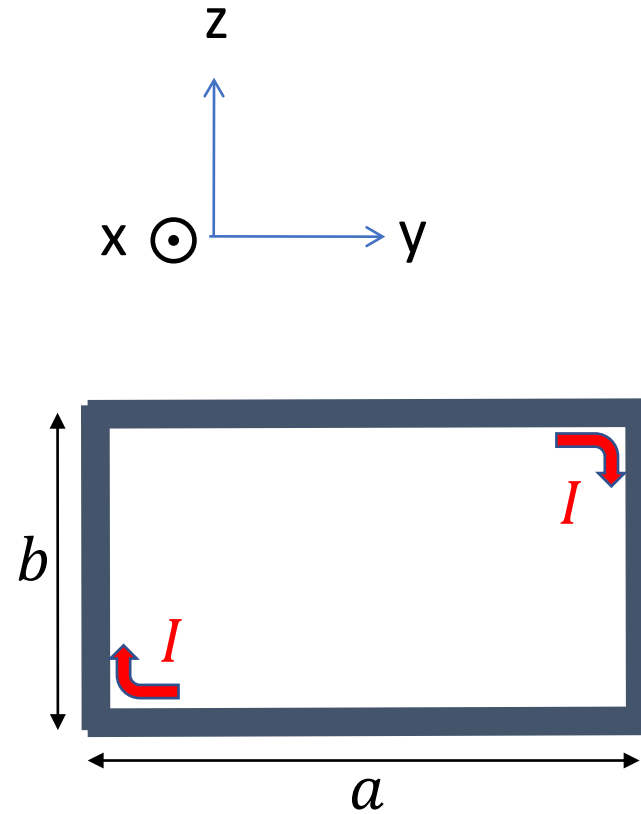
- Note that the torque is non-zero if  $\vec{\mu}$  is **not aligned** with  $\vec{B}$ .
- In other words: **magnetic torque aligns  $\vec{\mu}$  with  $\vec{B}$  !**



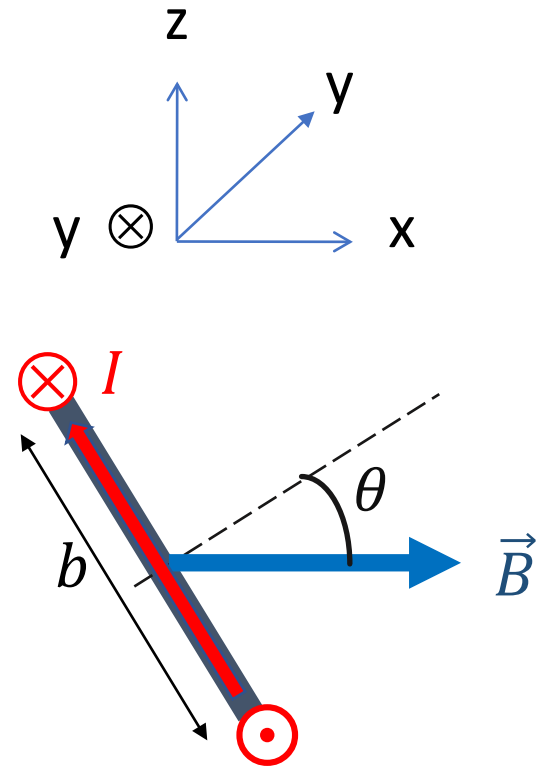


Q: A current-carrying wire loop is immersed in an external B-field as shown below. The B-field is at an angle  $\theta$  with respect to the normal to the loop. What is the direction for the torque on the wire loop ?

- A. CW about the x axis
- B. CW about the y axis
- C. CW about the z axis
- D. CCW about the x axis
- E. CCW about the y axis



Top view

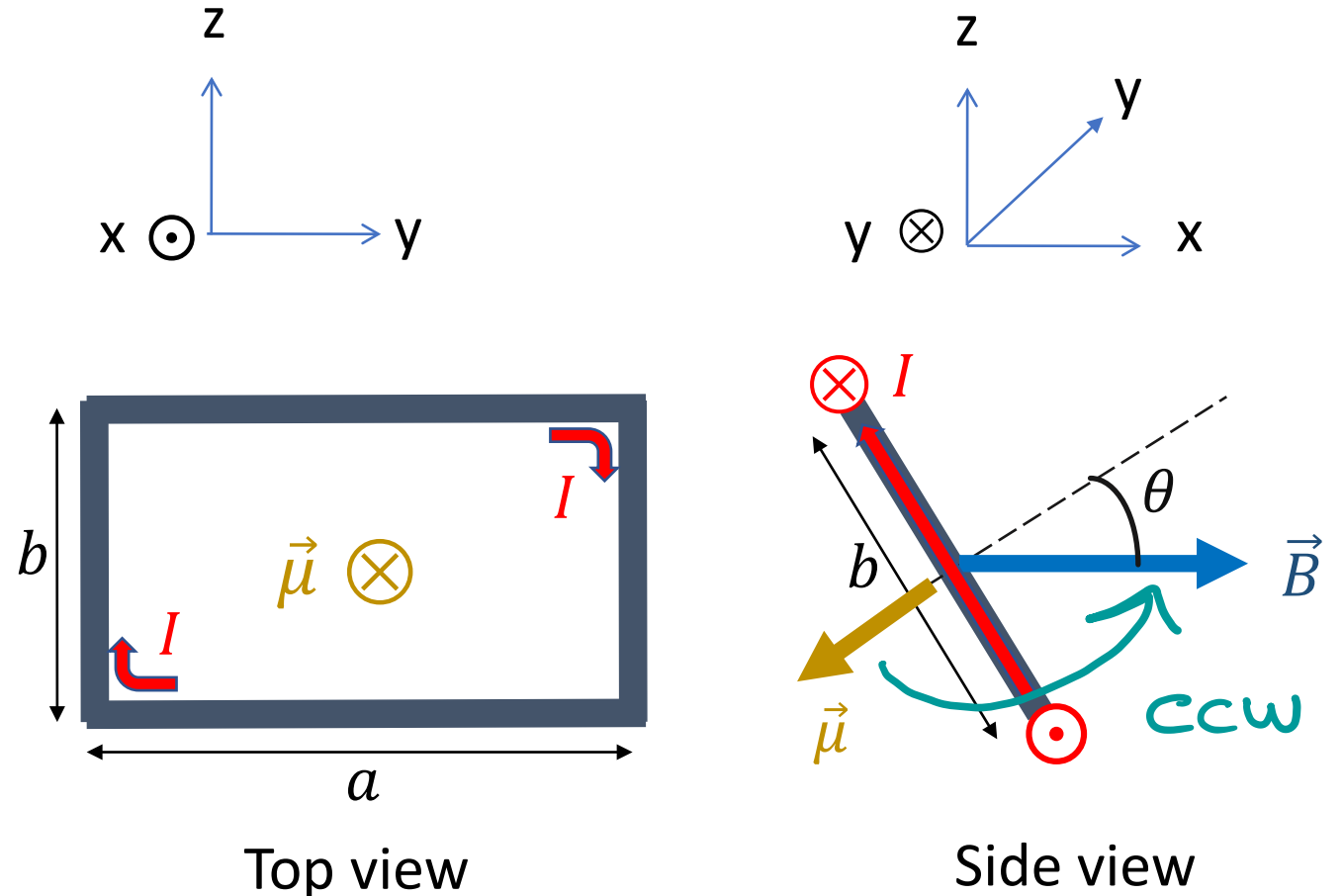


Side view

Q: A current-carrying wire loop is immersed in an external B-field as shown below. The B-field is at an angle  $\theta$  with respect to the normal to the loop. What is the direction for the torque on the wire loop ?

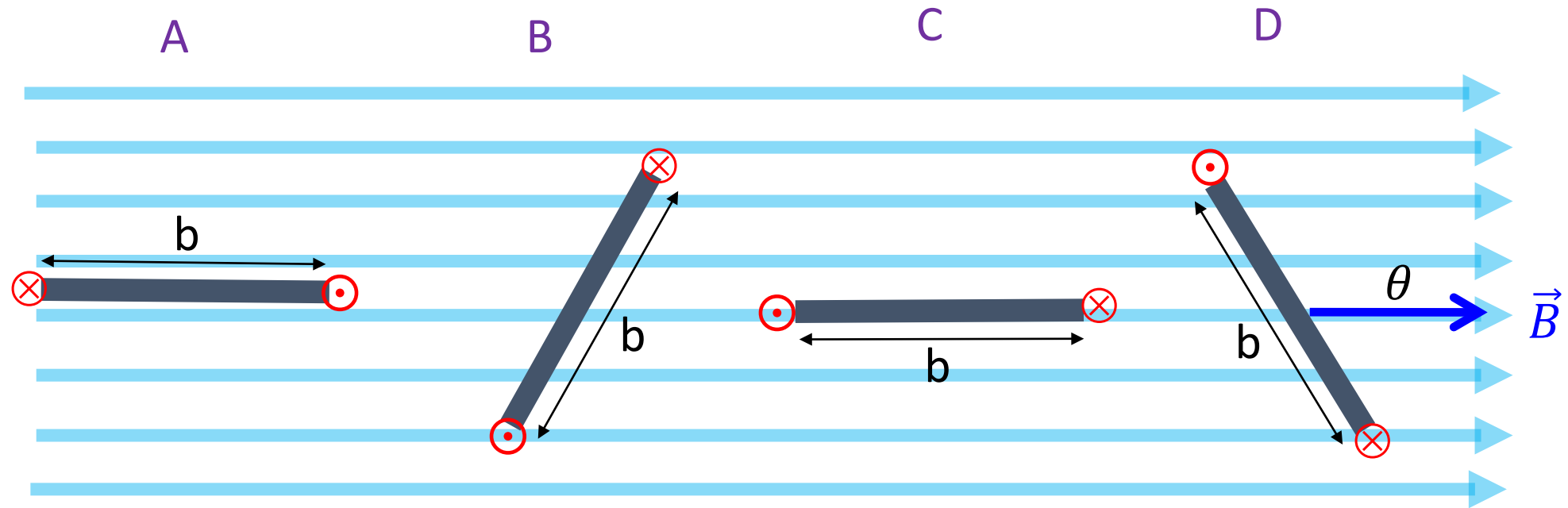
- Torque tends to align the magnetic moment  $\vec{\mu}$  with the external field  $\vec{B}$

- A. CW about the x axis
- B. CW about the y axis
- C. CW about the z axis
- D. CCW about the x axis
- ☒ E. CCW about the y axis



Because of the torque, potential energy can be stored in a current carrying wire loop when it is immersed in an external B-field.

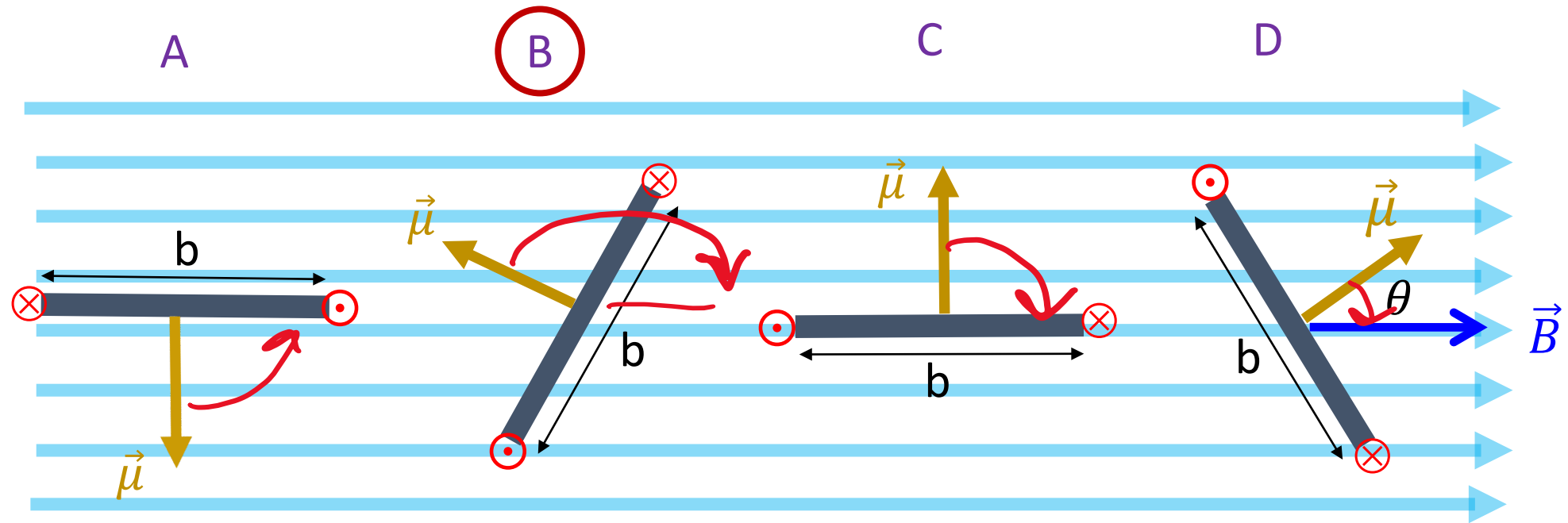
Which orientation below corresponds to the highest value of the stored potential energy?



Because of the torque, potential energy can be stored in a current carrying wire loop when it is immersed in an external B-field.

Which orientation below corresponds to the highest value of the stored potential energy?

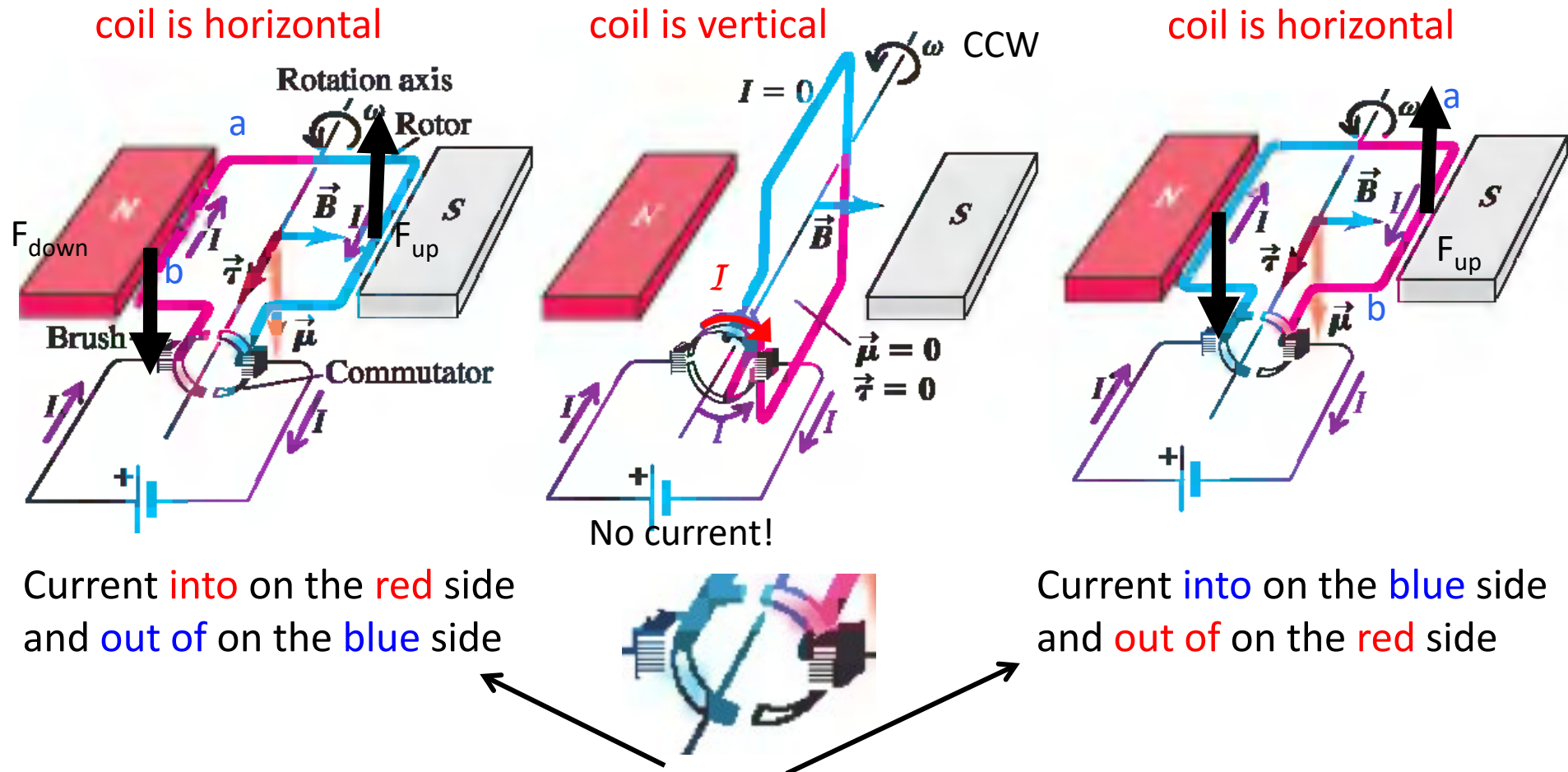
- The torque on the magnetic dipole moment  $\vec{\mu}$  always tries to align it with the external B- field (make it parallel to the B-field)
- The potential energy is:  $U_B = -\vec{\mu} \cdot \vec{B}$  (compare:  $U_E = -\vec{p} \cdot \vec{E}$ )



# Direct Current electric motor

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The rotor is a wire loop free to rotate about an axis



Key idea: switching the current direction (using a split ring)

\*\*\*Torque is counterclockwise in both orientations\*\*\*

# Disk Drive DC Motor – 12 coils

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Coils

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The permanent magnets can also be located on the **rotating** turntable. By using several **fixed** coils a constant speed can be maintained

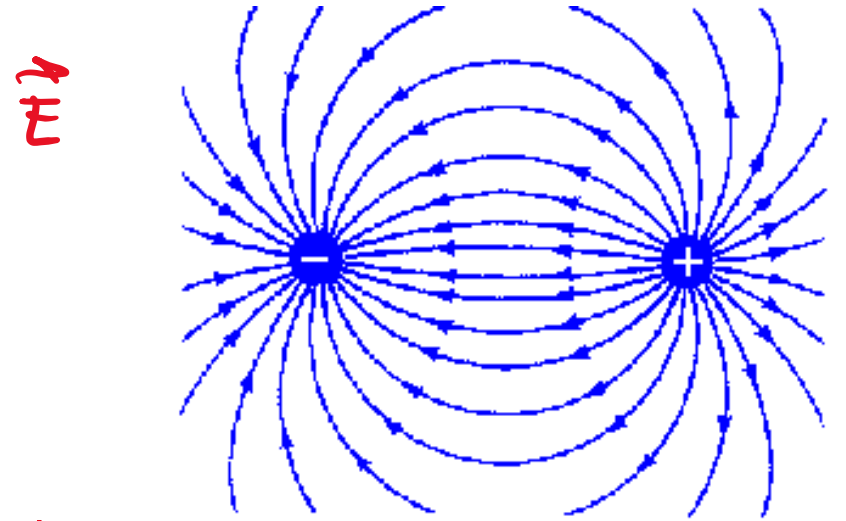
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZAY5JInyHXY&t=24s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bCEiOnuODac>



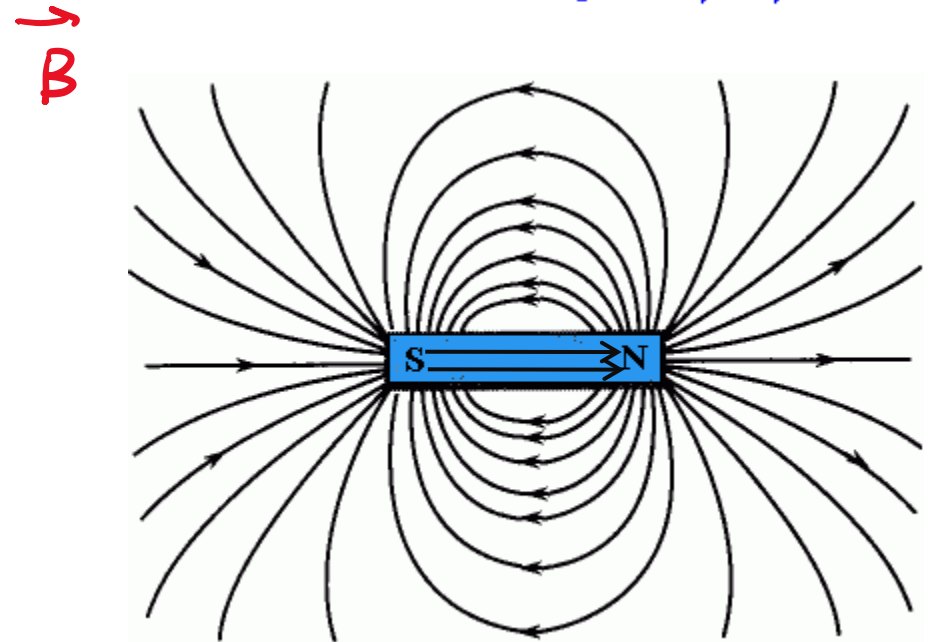
# Magnetic Field of a Magnetic Dipole (aka Magnet)

Electric field from an electric dipole



Magnetic field from a magnetic dipole (magnet).

**Note** that the magnetic field lines are **continuous** – they do **NOT** stop at the poles!!  
They are always in the shape of a loop.



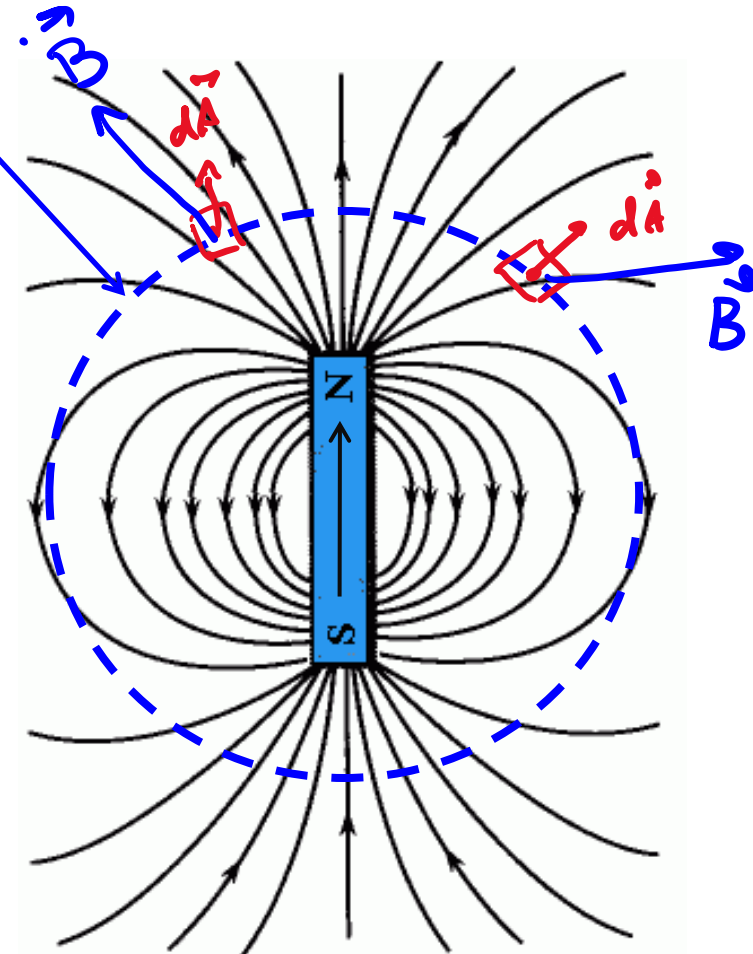
- Both fields have the same shape !!

The magnetic field lines from a magnet point away from the North pole and point into the South pole.

What can you say about the magnetic flux passing through this Gaussian surface?

$$\Phi_B = \oint \vec{B} \cdot d\vec{A}$$

Gaussian  
surface



- A.  $\Phi_B = 0$
- B.  $\Phi_B > 0$
- C.  $\Phi_B < 0$
- D. Can't tell without evaluating the integral



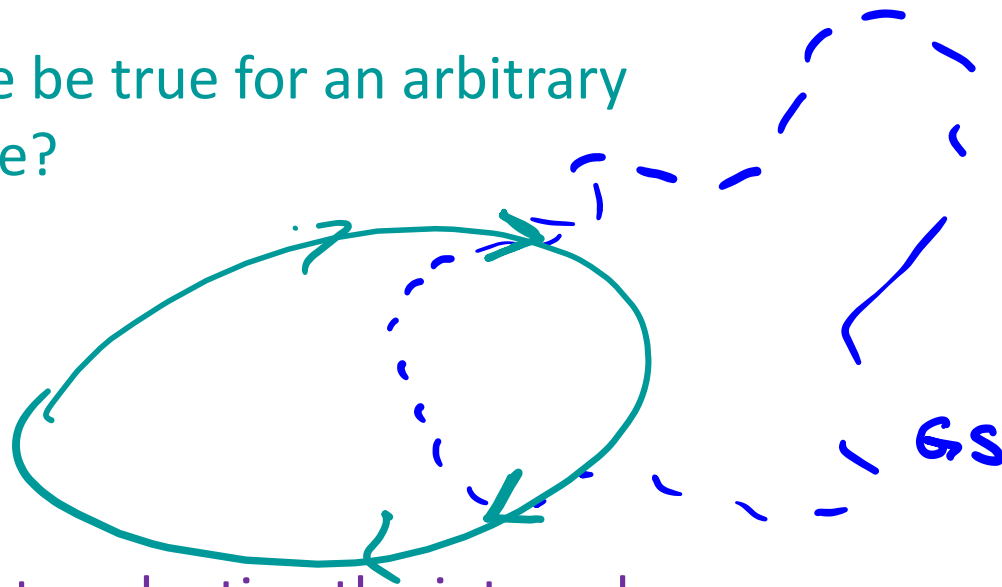
The magnetic field lines from a magnet point away from the North pole and point into the South pole.

What can you say about the magnetic flux passing through this Gaussian surface?

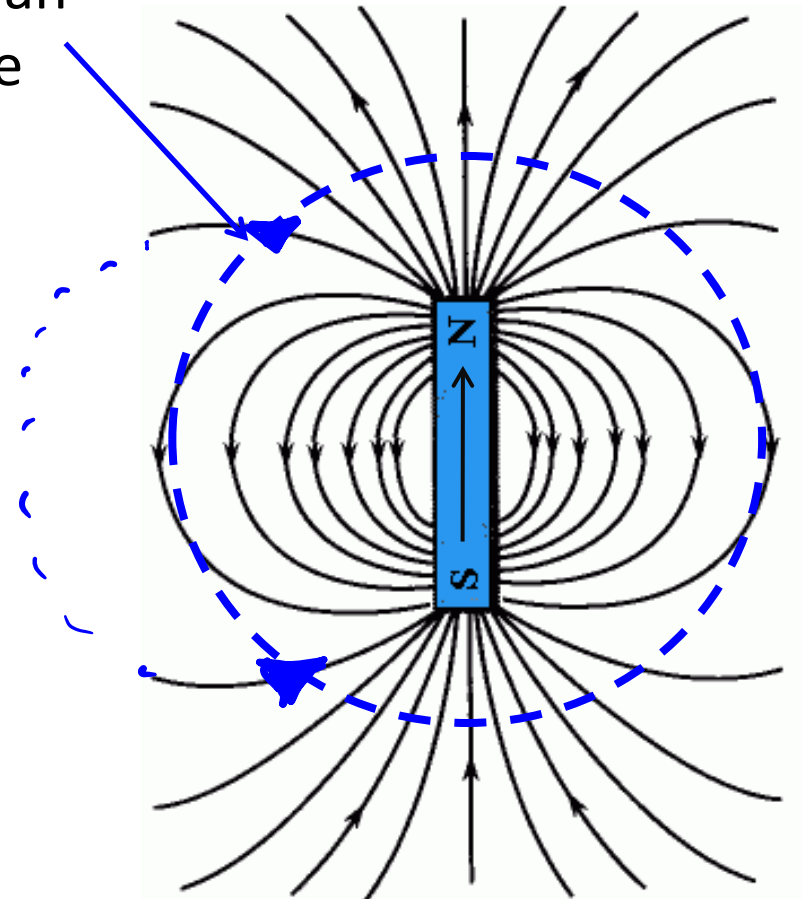
$$\Phi_B = \oint \vec{B} \cdot d\vec{A}$$

- By symmetry, the same number of flux lines enter and leave the spherical Gaussian surface
- Would the same be true for an arbitrary Gaussian surface?

- ☒ A.  $\Phi_B = 0$
- B.  $\Phi_B > 0$
- C.  $\Phi_B < 0$
- D. Can't tell without evaluating the integral



Gaussian surface



# Gauss's law for Magnetism

- The magnetic flux through any **closed surface** is ALWAYS zero:

$$\Phi_B = \oint \vec{B} \cdot d\vec{A} = 0$$



no enclosed single  
magnetic pole

- There is no way to isolate a North or South magnetic pole => magnetic lines are always in the shape of a loop
- The simplest **E-field** is from a **point charge**, while the simplest **B-field** is from a **magnetic dipole** (e.g. Bar Magnet)

# Maxwell's equations

- Essentially all of Electricity & Magnetism can be described by a set of 4 equations, referred to as **Maxwell's equations**.
- We now have **two** of them!

Gauss's law

$$\Phi_E = \oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A} = \frac{Q_{\text{encl}}}{\epsilon_0}$$

$$\Phi_B = \oint \vec{B} \cdot d\vec{A} = 0$$

Faradays' law

$$\oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{l} = -\frac{d\Phi_B}{dt}$$

Ampere's Law

$$\oint \vec{B} \cdot d\vec{l} = \mu_0 I_{\text{encl}} + \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{d\Phi_E}{dt}$$

- We will learn about these other two Maxwell equations shortly