Example 5.1

(a) What happens if a bar magnet is cut into two pieces: (i) transverse to its length, (ii) along its length?

(b) A magnetised needle in a uniform magnetic field experiences a torque but no net force. An iron nail near a bar magnet, however, experiences a force of attraction in addition to a torque. Why?

EXAMPLE 5.1

(c) Must every magnetic configuration have a north pole and a south pole? What about the field due to a toroid?

(d) Two identical looking iron bars A and B are given, one of which is definitely known to be magnetised. (We do not know which one.) How would one ascertain whether or not both are magnetised? If only one is magnetised, how does one ascertain which one? [Use nothing else but the bars A and B.]

Solution

(a) In either case, one gets two magnets, each with a north and south pole.

(b) No force if the field is uniform. The iron nail experiences a non-uniform field due to the bar magnet. There is induced magnetic moment in the nail, therefore, it experiences both force and torque. The net force is attractive because the induced south pole (say) in the nail is closer to the north pole of magnet than induced north pole.

(c) Not necessarily. True only if the source of the field has a net non-zero magnetic moment. This is not so for a toroid or even for a straight infinite conductor.

(d) Try to bring different ends of the bars closer. A repulsive force in some situation establishes that both are magnetised. If it is always attractive, then one of them is not magnetised. In a bar magnet the intensity of the magnetic field is the strongest at the two ends (poles) and weakest at the central region. This fact may be used to determine whether A or B is the magnet. In this case, to see which one of the two bars is a magnet, pick up one, (say, A) and lower one of its ends; first on one of the ends of the other (say, B), and then on the middle of B. If you notice that in the middle of B, A experiences no force, then B is magnetised. If you do not notice any change from the end to the middle of B, then A is magnetised.

EXAMPLE 5.1

Example 5.2 Figure 5.4 shows a small magnetised needle P placed at a point O. The arrow shows the direction of its magnetic moment. The other arrows show different positions (and orientations of the magnetic moment) of another identical magnetised needle Q.

(a) In which configuration the system is not in equilibrium?

(b) In which configuration is the system in (i) stable, and (ii) unstable equilibrium?

(c) Which configuration corresponds to the lowest potential energy among all the configurations shown?

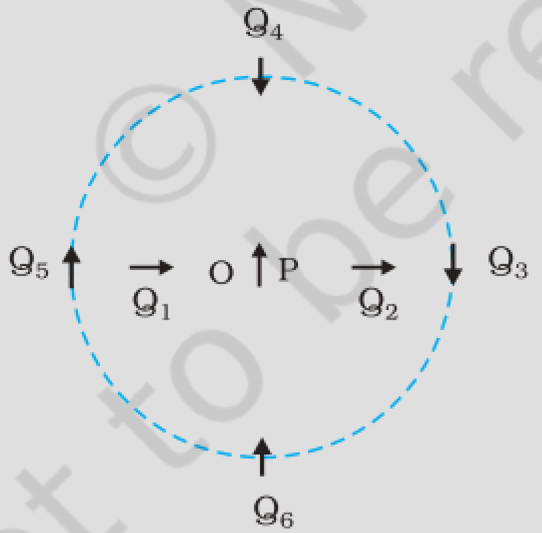

FIGURE 5.4

Solution

Potential energy of the configuration arises due to the potential energy of one dipole (say, Q) in the magnetic field due to other (P). Use the result that the field due to P is given by the expression [Eqs. (5.7) and (5.8)]:

$$\mathbf{B}_P = -\frac{\mu_0}{4\pi}\frac{\mathbf{m}_P}{r^3} \quad \text{(on the normal bisector)}$$

$$\mathbf{B}_P = \frac{\mu_0 2}{4\pi}\frac{\mathbf{m}_P}{r^3} \quad \text{(on the axis)}$$

where $\mathbf{m}_P$ is the magnetic moment of the dipole P.

Equilibrium is stable when $\mathbf{m}_Q$ is parallel to $\mathbf{B}_P$, and unstable when it is anti-parallel to $\mathbf{B}_P$.

EXAMPLE 5.2

EXAMPLE 5.2

For instance for the configuration Q_3 for which Q is along the perpendicular bisector of the dipole P, the magnetic moment of Q is parallel to the magnetic field at the position 3. Hence Q_3 is stable. Thus,

(a) PQ_1 and PQ_2

(b) (i) PQ_3, PQ_6 (stable); (ii) PQ_5, PQ_4 (unstable)

(c) PQ_6

Example 5.3 is useless

EXAMPLE 5.4

Example 5.4

(a) Magnetic field lines show the direction (at every point) along which a small magnetised needle aligns (at the point). Do the magnetic field lines also represent the *lines of force* on a moving charged particle at every point?

(b) If magnetic monopoles existed, how would the Gauss's law of magnetism be modified?

(c) Does a bar magnet exert a torque on itself due to its own field? Does one element of a current-carrying wire exert a force on another element of the *same wire*?

(d) Magnetic field arises due to charges in motion. Can a system have magnetic moments even though its net charge is zero?

Solution

(a) *No*. The magnetic force is always normal to **B** (remember magnetic force = $q\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B}$). It is misleading to call *magnetic field lines* as *lines of force*.

(b) Gauss's law of magnetism states that the flux of **B** through any closed surface is always zero $\int_S \mathbf{B}.\Delta\mathbf{s} = 0$.

If monopoles existed, the right hand side would be equal to the monopole (magnetic charge) q_m enclosed by S. [Analogous to Gauss's law of electrostatics, $\int_S \mathbf{B}.\Delta\mathbf{s} = \mu_0 q_m$ where q_m is the (monopole) magnetic charge enclosed by *S*.]

(c) *No*. There is no force or torque on an element due to the field produced by that element itself. But there is a force (or torque) on an element of the same wire. (For the special case of a straight wire, this force is zero.)

(d) *Yes*. The average of the charge in the system may be zero. Yet, the mean of the magnetic moments due to various current loops may not be zero. We will come across such examples in connection with paramagnetic material where atoms have net dipole moment through their net charge is zero.

EXAMPLE 5.4

EXAMPLE 5.5

Example 5.5 A solenoid has a core of a material with relative permeability 400. The windings of the solenoid are insulated from the core and carry a current of 2A. If the number of turns is 1000 per metre, calculate (a) H, (b) M, (c) B and (d) the magnetising current I_m.

Solution

(a) The field H is dependent of the material of the core, and is
$H = nI = 1000 \times 2.0 = 2 \times 10^3$ A/m.

(b) The magnetic field B is given by
$B = \mu_r \mu_0$ H
$= 400 \times 4\pi \times 10^{-7}$ (N/A^2) $\times 2 \times 10^3$ (A/m)
$= 1.0$ T

(c) Magnetisation is given by
$M = (B - \mu_0 H)/ \mu_0$
$= (\mu_r \mu_0 H - \mu_0 H)/\mu_0 = (\mu_r - 1)H = 399 \times H$
$\cong 8 \times 10^5$ A/m

(d) The magnetising current I_M is the additional current that needs to be passed through the windings of the solenoid in the absence of the core which would give a B value as in the presence of the core. Thus $B = \mu_r n (I + I_M)$. Using $I = 2$A, $B = 1$ T, we get $I_M = 794$ A.

EXAMPLE 5.5

Magnetic flux	ϕ_B	Scalar	[$ML^2T^{-2}A^{-1}$]	W (weber)	$W = $ T m^2
Magnetisation	**M**	Vector	[L^{-1} A]	A m^{-1}	$\frac{\text{Magnetic moment}}{\text{Volume}}$
Magnetic intensity Magnetic field strength	**H**	Vector	[L^{-1} A]	A m^{-1}	$\mathbf{B} = \mu_0 (\mathbf{H} + \mathbf{M})$
Magnetic susceptibility	χ	Scalar	-	-	$\mathbf{M} = \chi \mathbf{H}$
Relative magnetic permeability	μ_r	Scalar	-	-	$\mathbf{B} = \mu_0 \mu_r \mathbf{H}$
Magnetic permeability	μ	Scalar	[$MLT^{-2}A^{-2}$]	T m A^{-1} N A^{-2}	$\mu = \mu_0 \mu_r$ $\mathbf{B} = \mu \mathbf{H}$

POINTS TO PONDER

1. A satisfactory understanding of magnetic phenomenon in terms of moving charges/currents was arrived at after 1800 AD. But technological exploitation of the directional properties of magnets predates this scientific understanding by two thousand years. Thus, scientific understanding is not a necessary condition for engineering applications. Ideally, science and engineering go hand-in-hand, one leading and assisting the other in tandem.
2. Magnetic monopoles do not exist. If you slice a magnet in half, you get two smaller magnets. On the other hand, isolated positive and negative charges exist. There exists a smallest unit of charge, for example, the electronic charge with value $|e| = 1.6 \times 10^{-19}$ C. All other charges are integral multiples of this smallest unit charge. In other words, charge is quantised. We do not know why magnetic monopoles do not exist or why electric charge is quantised.
3. A consequence of the fact that magnetic monopoles do not exist is that the magnetic field lines are continuous and form closed loops. In contrast, the electrostatic lines of force begin on a positive charge and terminate on the negative charge (or fade out at infinity).
4. A miniscule difference in the value of χ, the magnetic susceptibility, yields radically different behaviour: diamagnetic versus paramagnetic. For diamagnetic materials $\chi = -10^{-5}$ whereas $\chi = +10^{-5}$ for paramagnetic materials.
5. There exists *a perfect diamagnet*, namely, a superconductor. This is a metal at very low temperatures. In this case $\chi = -1$, $\mu_r = 0$, $\mu = 0$. The external magnetic field is totally expelled. Interestingly, this material is also a perfect conductor. However, there exists no classical theory which ties these two properties together. A quantum-mechanical theory by Bardeen, Cooper, and Schrieffer (BCS theory) explains these effects. The BCS theory was proposed in1957 and was eventually recognised by a Nobel Prize in physics in 1970.
6. Diamagnetism is universal. It is present in all materials. But it is weak and hard to detect if the substance is para- or ferromagnetic.
7. We have classified materials as diamagnetic, paramagnetic, and ferromagnetic. However, there exist additional types of magnetic material such as ferrimagnetic, anti-ferromagnetic, spin glass, etc. with properties which are exotic and mysterious.