

Block 16 - Ampère's Law and Magnetomotive Force (MMF)

Student Group

First Name	Surname	Matrikel Nr.

Table of Contents

Block 16 - Ampère's Law and Magnetomotive Force (MMF)	2
<i>Learning objectives</i>	2
<i>Preparation at Home</i>	2
<i>90-minute plan</i>	2
<i>Conceptual overview</i>	2
<i>Core content</i>	2
<i>Generalization of the Magnetic Field Strength</i>	2
Notice:	3
Notice:	4
<i>Common pitfalls</i>	5
<i>Exercises</i>	5
Task 3.2.3 Magnetic Potential Difference	5
Exercise E1 Magnetic Voltage (written test, approx. 6 % of a 120-minute written test, SS2021)	6
Exercise E2 Magnetic Field Lines (written test, approx. 4 % of a 120-minute written test, SS2021)	7
Exercise E1 Magnetic Field Lines (written test, approx. 6 % of a 120-minute written test, SS2024)	9
Exercise E2 Magnetic Potential (written test, approx. 8 % of a 120-minute written test, SS2024)	11
<i>Embedded resources</i>	12

Block 16 - Ampère's Law and Magnetomotive Force (MMF)

Learning objectives

After this 90-minute block, you can

- ...

Preparation at Home

Well, again

- read through the present chapter and write down anything you did not understand.
- Also here, there are some clips for more clarification under 'Embedded resources' (check the text above/below, sometimes only part of the clip is interesting).

For checking your understanding please do the following exercises:

- ...

90-minute plan

1. Warm-up (x min):
 1.
2. Core concepts & derivations (x min):
 1. ...
3. Practice (x min): ...
4. Wrap-up (x min): Summary box; common pitfalls checklist.

Conceptual overview

1. ...

Core content

Generalization of the Magnetic Field Strength

So far, only the rotational symmetric problem on a single wire was considered in formula, when the current I and the length s of a magnetic field line around it is given:

$$\begin{aligned} \quad H_{\varphi} = \frac{I}{s} = \frac{I}{2 \cdot \pi \cdot r} \quad \Leftrightarrow \end{aligned}$$

$$\oint \vec{H} \cdot d\vec{s} = I_{\text{enc}} \quad \text{applies only to the long, straight conductor}$$

Now, this shall be generalized. For this purpose, we will look back at the electric field. For the electric field strength E of a capacitor with two plates at a distance of s and the potential difference U holds:

$$U = E \cdot s \quad \text{applies to capacitor only}$$

In words: The potential difference is given by adding up the field strength along the path of a probe from one plate to the other.

This was extended to the voltage between two points 1 and 2 . Additionally, we know by Kirchhoff's voltage law that the voltage on a closed path is "0".

$$\oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s} = 0$$

We can now try to look for similarities. Also for the magnetic field, the magnitude of the field strength is summed up along a path to arrive at another field-describing quantity.

Because of the similarity the so-called **magnetic potential difference V_m** between point 1 and 2 is introduced:

$$V_m = \int \vec{H} \cdot d\vec{s} \quad \text{applies to rotational symmetric problems only}$$

$$V_m = \int \vec{H} \cdot d\vec{s} = \theta$$

We need to take a closer look here. Any closed path in the static electric field leads to a potential difference of $\oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s} = 0$.

BUT: closed paths in the static magnetic field leads to a magnetic potential difference which is **not mandatorily** 0 ! $\oint \vec{H} \cdot d\vec{s} = \theta$

Another new quantity is introduced: the **magnetic voltage θ** :

1. The magnetic voltage θ is the magnetic potential difference on a closed path.
2. Since the magnetic voltage θ is valid for exactly one turn along our single wire, θ is also equal to the current through the wire:

$$\theta = I \quad \text{applies only to the long, straight conductor}$$
3. The magnetic potential difference can take a fraction or a multiple of one turn and is therefore **not mandatorily** equal to I .
4. The magnetic voltage is generalized in the following box.

Notice:

The path integral of the magnetic field strength along an arbitrary closed path is equal to the free currents (= current density) through the surface enclosed by the path.

The magnetic voltage θ (and therefore the current) is the cause of the magnetic field strength.

This leads to the **Ampere's Circuital Law**

$$\oint_{\gamma} \vec{H} \cdot d\vec{s} = \theta$$

The magnetic voltage θ can be given as

- $\theta = I$ for a single conductor
- $\theta = N \cdot I$ for a coil
- $\theta = \sum_n I_n$ for multiple conductors
- $\theta = \oint_A \vec{S} \cdot d\vec{A}$ for any spatial distribution (see [block15](#))

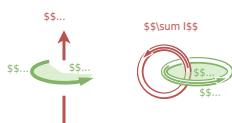
The unit of the magnetic voltage θ is **Ampere** (or **Ampere-turns**).

Notice:

$\oint_{\gamma} \vec{H} \cdot d\vec{s}$ and $\oint_A \vec{S} \cdot d\vec{A}$ in $\oint_{\gamma} \vec{H} \cdot d\vec{s} = \theta = \oint_A \vec{S} \cdot d\vec{A}$ build a right-hand system.

1. Once the thumb of the right hand is pointing along $\oint_A \vec{S} \cdot d\vec{A}$, the fingers of the right hand show the correct direction for $\oint_{\gamma} \vec{H} \cdot d\vec{s}$ for positive $\vec{H}$ and $\vec{S}$
2. Currents into the direction of the right hand's thumb count positive. Currents antiparallel to it count negative.

Fig. 1: Right hand rule



Common pitfalls

- ...

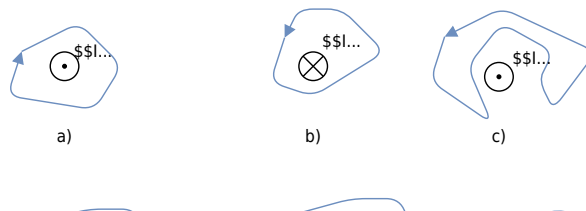
Exercises

Task 3.2.3 Magnetic Potential Difference

Fig. 3: different trajectories around current-carrying conductors

Result **b)**

$$b) \quad V_{\text{mm}}(\theta) = 20 \text{ mV} = (-2.5 \text{ A} \cdot \text{m}) \cdot 4 \text{ A} \cdot \text{m}^{-1} = -10 \text{ mV}$$



Given are the adjacent closed trajectories in the magnetic field of current-carrying conductors (see [figure 3](#)). Let $I_1 = 2 \text{ A}$ and $I_2 = 4.5 \text{ A}$ be valid.

In each case, the magnetic potential difference V_{mm} along the drawn path is sought.

Path

- The magnetic potential difference is given as the **sum of the current through the area within a closed path**.
- The direction of the current and the path have to be considered with the righthand rule.

Exercise E1 Magnetic Voltage

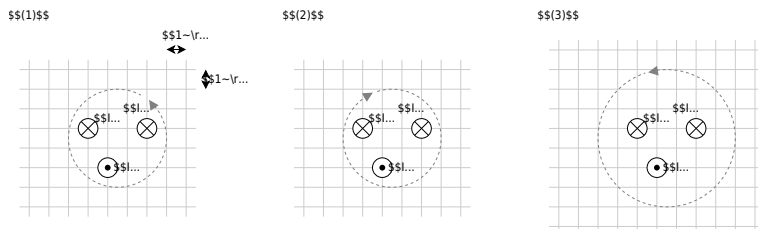
(written test, approx. 6 % of a 120-minute written test, SS2021)

The following images show cross-sections of electrical cables.

A closed path is shown as a dashed line. The magnetic voltage $\oint \vec{H} \cdot d\vec{s}$ on these paths shall be analyzed.

The following values are given for the currents:

- $I_1 = 5 \text{ A}$ $I_2 = 1 \text{ A}$ $I_3 = 1 \text{ A}$ $I_4 = 4 \text{ A}$
- $I_1 = 5 \text{ A}$
 - $I_2 = 1 \text{ A}$
 - $I_3 = 1 \text{ A}$
 - $I_4 = 4 \text{ A}$



Specify which magnetic voltages $\theta_{(1)}$, $\theta_{(2)}$, and $\theta_{(3)}$ result. Note the direction of the path in each case!

Path

For the resulting current the direction of the path has to be considered with the right-hand rule:

- $I_{(1)} = +I_2 - I_1 - I_3 \quad \rightarrow \quad \theta_{(1)} = 2 \text{ A} - 5 \text{ A} - 1 \text{ A}$
- $I_{(2)} = +I_3 + I_4 - I_1 \quad \rightarrow \quad \theta_{(2)} = 1 \text{ A} + 4 \text{ A} - 5 \text{ A}$
- $I_{(3)} = +I_3 - I_4 - I_2 \quad \rightarrow \quad \theta_{(3)} = 1 \text{ A} - 4 \text{ A} - 2 \text{ A}$

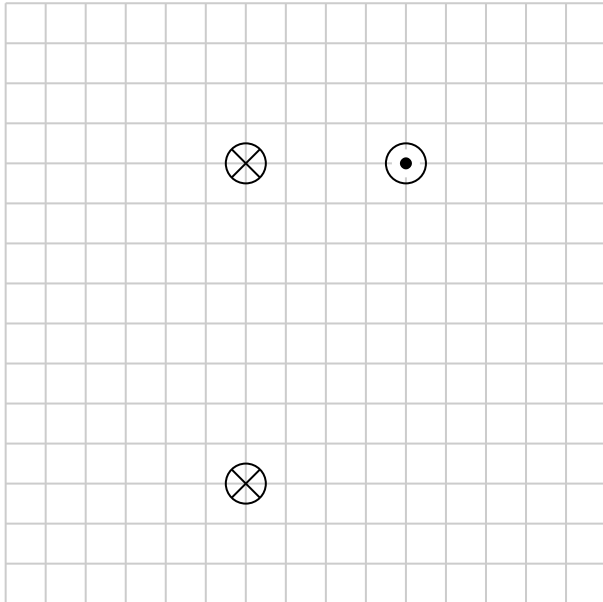
Exercise E2 Magnetic Field Lines

(written test, approx. 4 % of a 120-minute written test, SS2021)

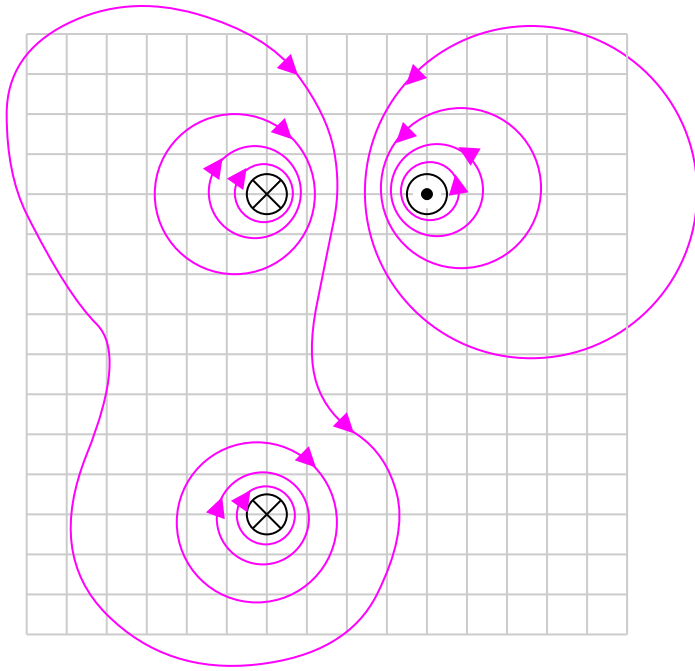
Several parallel conductors are projecting out of the plane.

The same current I flows through all the conductors in different directions (see image below).

Sketch at least 10 field lines of the magnetic field strength $\vec{H}$ in such a way that the different properties of the field lines (e.g. direction and density) can be seen.

**Result**

- high density of field lines near the conductors
- direction of the field lines given by the right-hand rule
- magnetic field has closed field lines
- resulting field given by superposition of field lines



Exercise E1 Magnetic Field Lines

(written test, approx. 6 % of a 120-minute written test, SS2024)

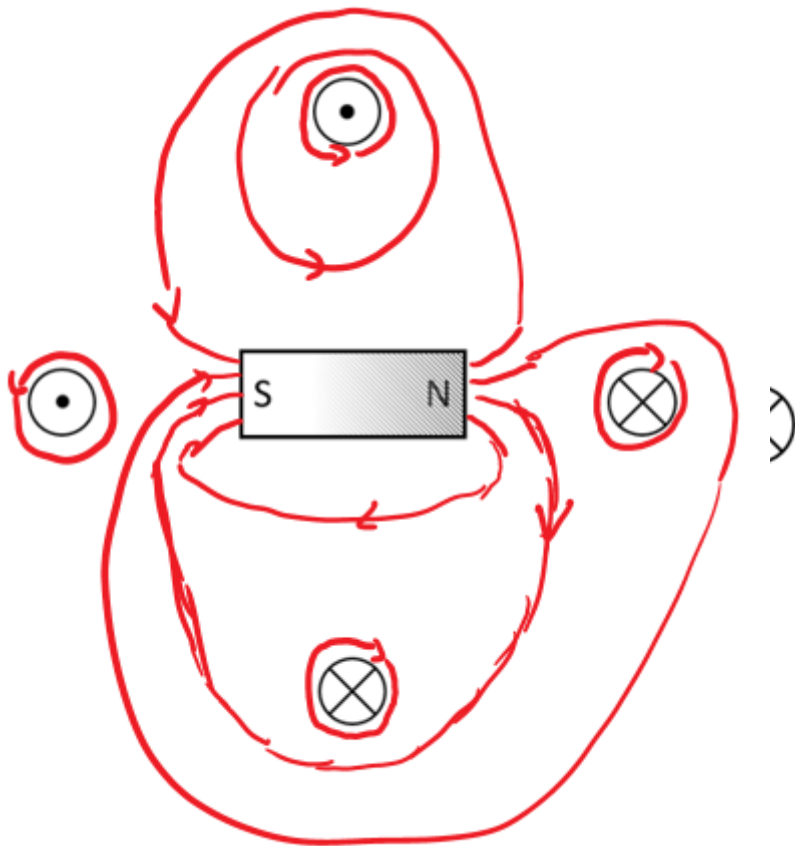
The following setup illustrates how a permanent magnet affects the H-field, based on the fundamental definition of the H-field.

- Four conductors are located perpendicular to the plane of the diagram

Result: All of them conduct a current with the same magnitude, but not in the same direction.

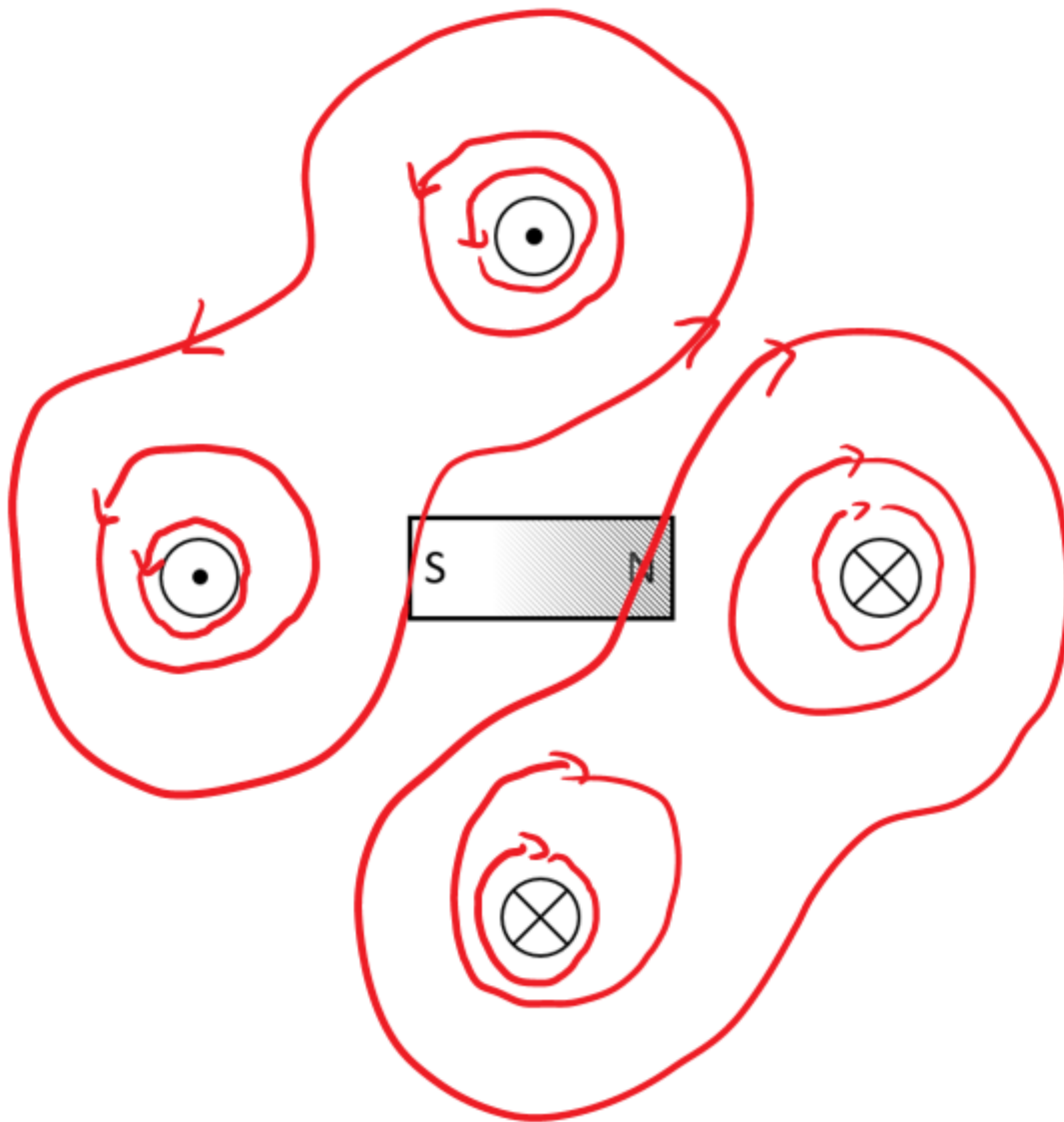
- A permanent magnet is located in between the conductors.

- The H-field is defined by currents $\sum I = \int \mathbf{H} \cdot d\mathbf{s}$.
- In the permanent magnet, there are no free currents.
- The bound currents (of the permanent magnet) create also an H field.
- This exits on the north pole and enters the magnet on the south pole (similar to the B-field)
- $\mathbf{H} = \mathbf{B} / \mu_0$
- The H-field from task 1 gets distracted



... Do not consider the permanent magnet at first. Draw at least 10 field lines of the H-field qualitatively. Give a correct representation of their direction, and density for the shown area.

Result



Exercise E2 Magnetic Potential

(written test, approx. 8 % of a 120-minute written test, SS2024)

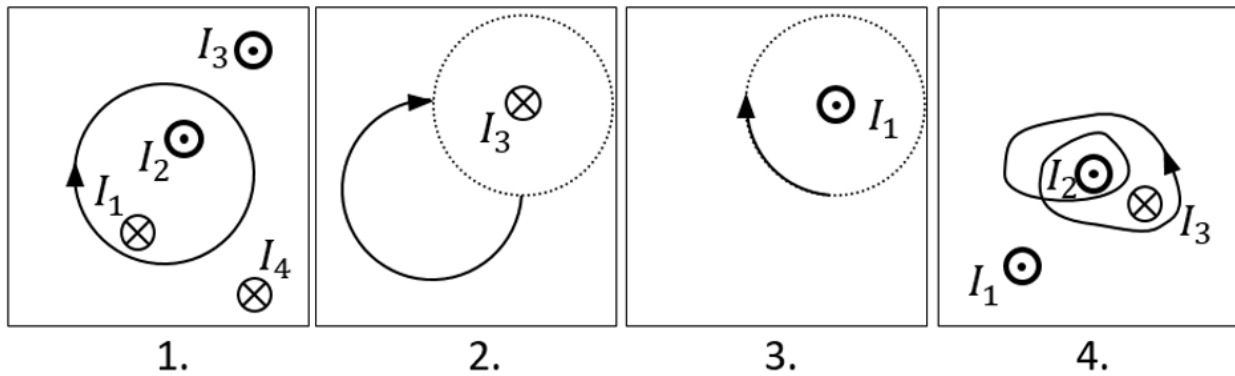
Calculate the magnetic potential difference V_{m} for the following paths as shown by the solid lines.

Dotted lines are only for there for symmetry aspects!

The wires conduct the following currents:

- $|I_1| = 2 \text{ A}$
- $|I_2| = 5 \text{ A}$
- $|I_3| = 11 \text{ A}$
- $|I_4| = 7 \text{ A}$

Pay attention to the signs of the currents (given by the diagrams) and of the results!



Result

Based on the right-hand rule and the part of a full revolution the following results:

1. Task: $I_1 - I_2 = -3 \text{ A}$
2. Task: $I_3 = 11/4 \text{ A}$ (it does not matter which way the path goes from the startpoint to the endpoint, as long as it has the same direction and number of revolutions)
3. Task: $I_1 = -0.5 \text{ A}$
4. Task: $2 I_2 - I_3 = -1 \text{ A}$

Embedded resources

Explanation (video): ...

From:

<https://wiki.mexle.te.hs-heilbronn.de/> - MEXLE Wiki

Permanent link:

https://wiki.mexle.te.hs-heilbronn.de/electrical_engineering_and_electronics_1/block16?rev=1763836316

Last update: 2025/11/22 19:31

