

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

## Student Group

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# 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:

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

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

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:

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

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".

$$\oint U_{12} = \int_1^2 \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s} \quad | \quad U = \oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s} = 0$$

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:

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

$$\boxed{V_m = V_{m, 12} = \int_1^2 \vec{H} \cdot d\vec{s} \quad | \quad V_m = \oint \vec{H} \cdot d\vec{s} = \theta}$$

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

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

Another new quantity is introduced: the **magnetic voltage  $\theta$** :

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

$$\theta = \oint \vec{H} \cdot d\vec{s} = I \quad | \quad \text{applies only to the long, straight conductor}$$
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  $\theta$  (and therefore the current) is the cause of the magnetic field strength.

From the chapter [block15](#) the general representation of the current through a surface is known.

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

$\begin{aligned} \oint_S \vec{H} \cdot d\vec{s} = \theta \end{aligned}$	<p>The magnetic voltage <math>\theta</math> can be given as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <math>\theta = I</math> for a single conductor</li> <li>• <math>\theta = N I</math> for a coil</li> <li>• <math>\theta = \sum_n I_n</math> for multiple conductors</li> <li>• <math>\theta = \int_A \vec{S} \cdot d\vec{A}</math> for any spatial distribution</li> </ul>
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$d\vec{s}$  and  $d\vec{A}$  build a right-hand system.

1. Once the thumb of the right hand is pointing along  $d\vec{A}$ , the fingers of the right hand show the correct direction for  $d\vec{s}$  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

## Worked examples

...

## Embedded resources

Explanation (video): ...

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