

**Force Between Two Parallel Current Carrying Conductors**

- Two parallel conductors carrying currents in the same direction attract each other while those carrying currents in the opposite direction repel each other.
- When two parallel conductors separated by a distance  $r$  carry currents  $I_1$  and  $I_2$ , the magnetic field of one will exert a force on the other. The force per unit length on either conductor is

$$f = \frac{\mu_0 2I_1 I_2}{4\pi r}$$

- The force of attraction or repulsion acting on each conductor of length  $l$  due to currents in two parallel conductors is

$$F = \frac{\mu_0 2I_1 I_2 l}{4\pi r}$$

- If two linear current carrying conductors of unequal length are held parallel to each other, then the force on a long conductor is due to magnetic field interaction due to currents of short conductor and long conductor. If  $l, L$  be the lengths of short and long conductor and  $I_1, I_2$  are the currents through short and long conductors respectively and  $r$  is the separation between these two parallel conductors, then the force on long conductor is equal to the force on short conductor =  $\frac{\mu_0 2I_1 I_2 l}{4\pi r}$ .

**Illustration 4**

Two parallel, long wires carry currents  $I_1$  and  $I_2$  with  $I_1 > I_2$ . When the currents are in the same direction, the magnetic field at a point midway between the wires is  $10 \mu\text{T}$ . If the direction of  $I_2$  is reversed, the field becomes

$30 \mu\text{T}$ . Find the value of  $\frac{I_1}{I_2}$ .

**Soln.: Case 1**

$$\text{At } P, B_1 = \frac{\mu_0 I_1}{2\pi d} - \frac{\mu_0 I_2}{2\pi d}$$

$$B_1 = \frac{\mu_0 (I_1 - I_2)}{2\pi d} = 10 \mu\text{T}$$

**Case 2**

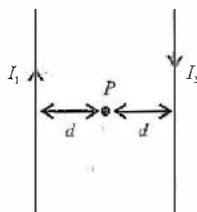
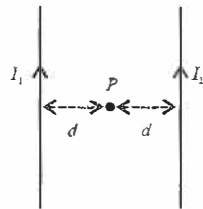
$$\text{At } P, B_2 = \frac{\mu_0 I_1}{2\pi d} + \frac{\mu_0 I_2}{2\pi d}$$

$$= \frac{\mu_0}{2\pi d} (I_1 + I_2) = 30 \mu\text{T}$$

$$\frac{B_1}{B_2} = \frac{I_1 - I_2}{I_1 + I_2} = \frac{10 \mu\text{T}}{30 \mu\text{T}}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{I_1 - I_2}{I_1 + I_2} = \frac{1}{3}$$

Using Componendo and Dividendo rule,



$$\frac{(I_1 - I_2) + (I_1 + I_2)}{(I_1 - I_2) - (I_1 + I_2)} = \frac{1+3}{1-3} \Rightarrow \frac{I_1}{-I_2} = \frac{4}{-2} \text{ or } \frac{I_1}{I_2} = 2$$

**Torque on a Current Carrying Coil Placed in a Uniform Magnetic Field**

- When a current carrying coil is placed in a uniform magnetic field, the net force on it is always zero but different parts of the coil experience forces in different directions. Due to it, the coil may experience a torque or couple.
- When a coil of area  $A$  having  $N$  turns, carrying current  $I$  is placed in a uniform magnetic field  $B$ , it will experience torque which is given by  $\tau = NIAB \sin\theta = MB \sin\theta$  where magnetic dipole moment  $M = NIA$  and  $\theta$  is the angle between the direction of magnetic field and normal to the plane of the coil.
- If the plane of the coil is perpendicular to the direction of magnetic field i.e.  $\theta = 0^\circ$ , then  $\tau = 0$  (minimum)
- If the plane of the coil is parallel to the direction of magnetic field i.e.  $\theta = 90^\circ$ , then  $\tau = NIAB$  (maximum)
- If  $\alpha$  is the angle between plane of the coil and the magnetic field, then torque on the coil is  $\tau = NIAB \cos\alpha = MB \cos\alpha$ .

Potential energy of the coil is

$$U = -\vec{M} \cdot \vec{B}$$

- Workdone in rotating the coil through an angle  $\theta$  from the field direction is  $W = MB (1 - \cos \theta)$

**MOVING COIL GALVANOMETER**

- It is an instrument used for the detection and measurement of small currents.

**Principle of a Moving Coil Galvanometer**

- When a current carrying coil is placed in a magnetic field, it experiences a torque.
- In moving coil galvanometer the current  $I$  passing through the galvanometer is directly proportional to its deflection ( $\theta$ ).  $I \propto \theta$  or,  $I = G\theta$ .

where  $G = \frac{k}{NAB}$  = galvanometer constant

$A$  = area of a coil,  $N$  = number of turns in the coil,  $B$  = strength of magnetic field,  $k$  = torsional constant of the spring i.e. restoring torque per unit twist.

- **Current sensitivity** : It is defined as the deflection produced in the galvanometer, when unit current flows through it.

$$I_s = \frac{\theta}{I} = \frac{NAB}{k}$$

The unit of current sensitivity is  $\text{rad A}^{-1}$  or  $\text{div A}^{-1}$ .

- **Voltage sensitivity** : It is defined as the deflection produced in the galvanometer when a unit voltage is applied across the two terminals of the galvanometer.

$$V_s = \frac{\theta}{V} = \frac{\theta}{IR} = \frac{NAB}{kR}$$

The unit of voltage sensitivity is  $\text{rad V}^{-1}$  or  $\text{div V}^{-1}$ .

$$V_s = \frac{1}{R} I_s$$

**AMMETER**

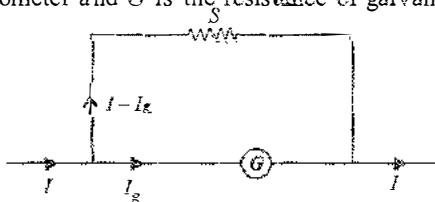
- It is an instrument used to measure current in an electrical circuit.

**Conversion of Galvanometer into an Ammeter**

- A galvanometer can be converted into an ammeter of given range by connecting a suitable low resistance  $S$  called shunt in parallel to the given galvanometer, whose value is given by

$$S = \left( \frac{I_g}{I - I_g} \right) G$$

where  $I_g$  is the current for full scale deflection of galvanometer,  $I$  is the current to be measured by the galvanometer and  $G$  is the resistance of galvanometer.



- Ammeter is a low resistance instrument and it is always connected in series to the circuit. An ideal ammeter has zero resistance.

**Illustration 5**

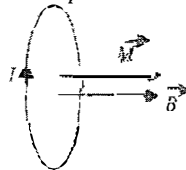
A circular coil of 20 turns and radius 10 cm is placed in a uniform magnetic field of 0.10 T normal to the plane of the coil. If the current in the coil is 5.0 A, what is the

- total torque on the coil,
- total force on the coil,
- average force on each electron in the coil due to the magnetic field?

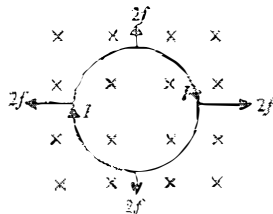
(The coil is made of copper wire of cross-sectional area  $10^{-5} \text{ m}^2$ , the free electron density in copper is given to be at  $10^{29} \text{ m}^{-3}$ .)

**Soln.:** The magnetic field is normal to the plane of the coil, so condition of minimum torque.

- Torque on the coil  
 $\tau = NIAB \sin \theta$   
 Here  $\theta = 0^\circ$   
 $\therefore \tau = 0$



- Force on every element of the coil is cancelled by force on corresponding element. Net force on the unit is zero.



- To calculate force on each electron, let us find drift velocity.

$$I = Anev_d$$

$$5 = 10^{-5} \times 10^{29} \times 1.6 \times 10^{-19} v_d$$

$$v_d = 3.125 \times 10^{-5} \text{ m s}^{-1}$$

Now force

$$F = e v_d B$$

$$F = 1.6 \times 10^{-19} \times 3.125 \times 10^{-5} \times 0.1$$

$$F = 5 \times 10^{-25} \text{ N}$$

**VOLTMETER**

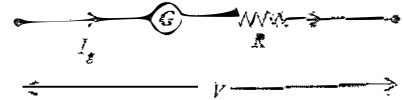
- It is an instrument used to measure potential difference across any element in an electrical circuit.

**Conversion of Galvanometer into Voltmeter**

- A galvanometer can be converted into voltmeter of given range by connecting a suitable resistance  $R$  in series with the galvanometer, whose value is given by

$$R = \frac{V}{I_g} - G$$

where  $V$  is the voltage to be measured,  $I_g$  is the current for full scale deflection of galvanometer and  $G$  is the resistance of galvanometer.



- Voltmeter is a high resistance instrument and it is always connected in parallel with the circuit element across which potential difference is to be measured. An ideal voltmeter has infinite resistance.
- In order to increase the range of an ammeter  $n$  times, the value of shunt resistance to be connected in parallel is  $S = G/(n - 1)$ .
- In order to increase the range of voltmeter  $n$  times the value of resistance to be connected in series with galvanometer is  $R = (n - 1)G$ .

**Illustration 6**

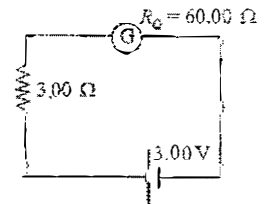
In the circuit given below the current is to be measured. What is the value of the current if the ammeter shown (a) is a galvanometer with a resistance  $R_G = 60.00 \Omega$ ; (b) is a galvanometer described in (a) but converted to an ammeter by a shunt resistance  $r_s = 0.02 \Omega$ ; (c) is an ideal ammeter with zero resistance?

**Soln.:** (a) The ammeter shown is a galvanometer with resistance

$$R_G = 60.00 \Omega$$

Current in the circuit

$$I = \frac{3.00}{63} = 0.048 \text{ A}$$



- Now the galvanometer is converted into ammeter by using shunt resistance. So the equivalent resistance of ammeter

$$R_A = \frac{r_s R_G}{r_s + R_G} = \frac{0.02 \times 60}{60.02} \approx 0.02 \Omega$$

Now, total resistance in circuit  $R = 3.02 \Omega$

$$\text{Hence current } I = \frac{3}{3.02} \approx 0.99 \text{ A}$$

- For an ideal ammeter the resistance is zero, and the reading of current is accurate.

$$I = 3/3 = 1.00 \text{ A}$$