

# Magnetic Forces on Currents

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1) The magnetic force is more complex than the electric force.

The force on a charged particle  $q$  is

$$\underline{F} = q \underline{v} \times \underline{B} \quad (\text{HR-660})$$

Force      charge      particle velocity      magnetic field,      cross product.

From this we get

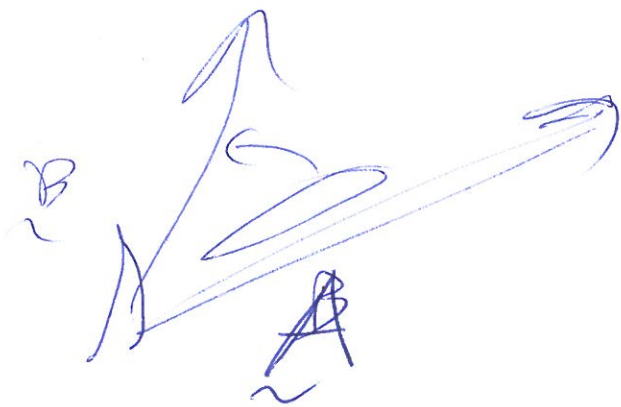
Recall

$$\underline{A} \times \underline{B} = AB \sin \theta \hat{n}$$

for cross product

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where  $\hat{n}$  is a unit vector perpendicular to  $\underline{A}$  and  $\underline{B}$  and whose direction is determined by a right-hand rule



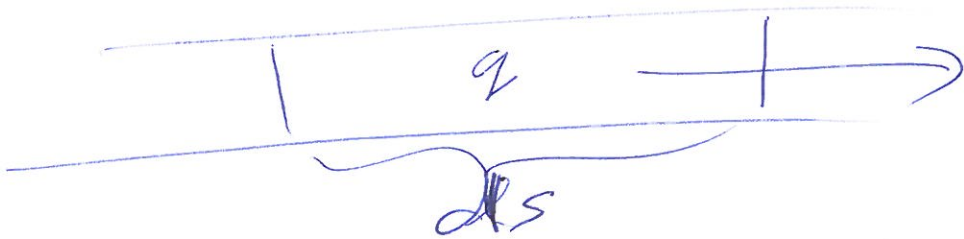
→ sweep fingers of right hand from  $\underline{A}$  to  $\underline{B}$  and the thumb gives the  $\hat{n}$  direction.

$$\underline{A} \times \underline{B} = \begin{cases} AB \sin \theta \hat{n} \\ AB \hat{n} & \theta = 90^\circ \\ 0 & \theta = 0^\circ \text{ or } 180^\circ \\ -\underline{B} \times \underline{A} \end{cases}$$

cross product multiplication 3  
anti commutes

2) B-force on a  
current element

Consider a thin wire



Let  $q$  be the free charge  
in length  $ds$ .

This charge all moves right  
with velocity  $\vec{v}$

The current is  $I = \frac{q}{dt}$  where

$dt$  is the time for all the

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change to clean  
out of  $ds$

$$I ds = q \frac{ds}{dt}$$

$$I d\vec{s} = q \frac{d\vec{s}}{dt}$$

where we have vectorized  
 $ds \rightarrow d\vec{s}$

$d\vec{s}$  points along the  
thin wire in the direction  
of the current.

$$I d\vec{s} = q \frac{d\vec{s}}{dt} = q \frac{d\vec{r}}{dt}$$

The total magnetic force on the current element is

$$d\vec{F} = q \vec{v} \times \vec{B}$$

or  $d\vec{F} = I d\vec{\ell} \times \vec{B}$  (HR-680)

If one integrates over the ~~whole wire~~,

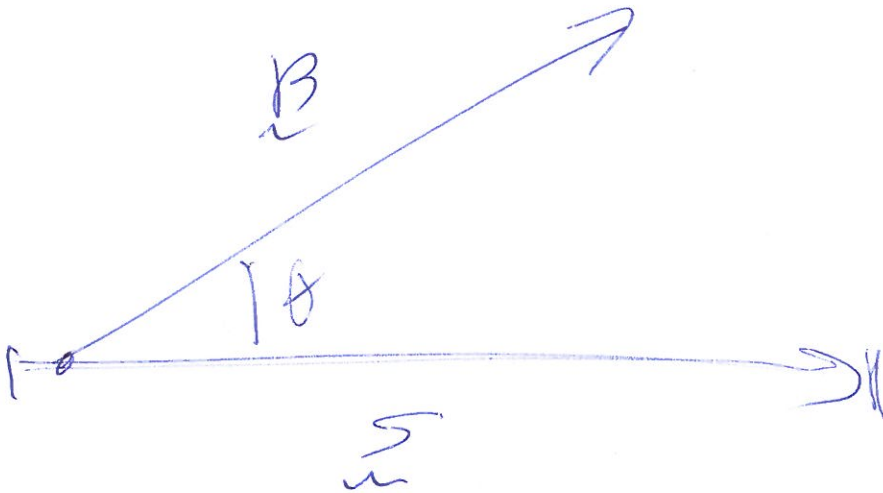
~~F~~ a finite ~~bit~~ segment of wire

$$\vec{F} = \int I d\vec{\ell} \times \vec{B}$$

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If the wire segment  
is straight  
and  $B$  is constant  
over the segment

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



# 3) B-fields of Long straight wires

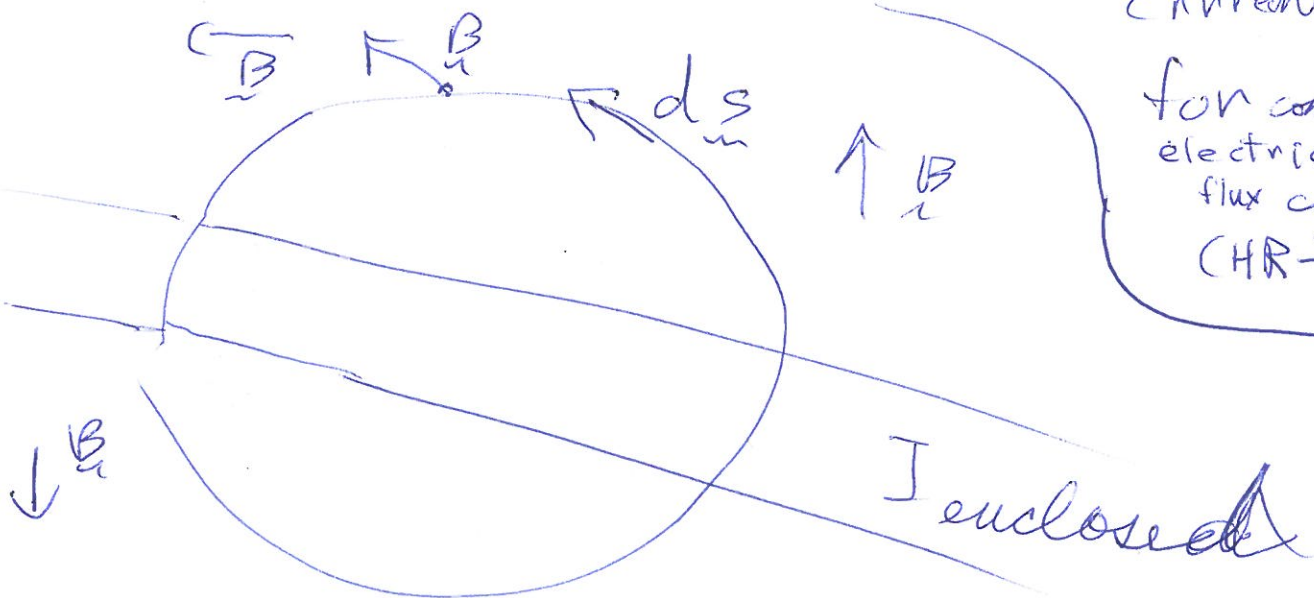
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Ampère's law

$$\oint \vec{B} \cdot d\vec{s} = \mu_0 I_{\text{enclosed}}$$

(HR-699)

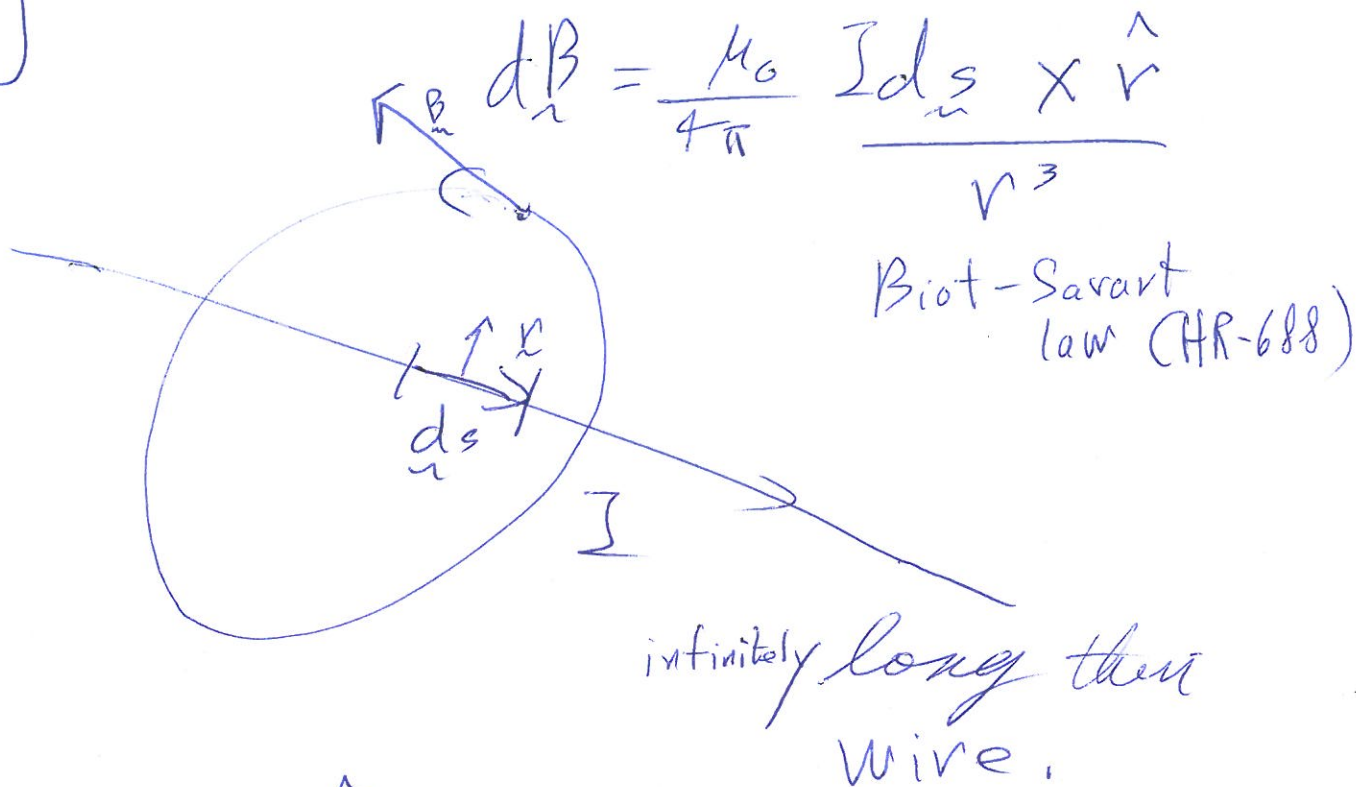
for constant  
electric  
flux cases  
(HR-759)



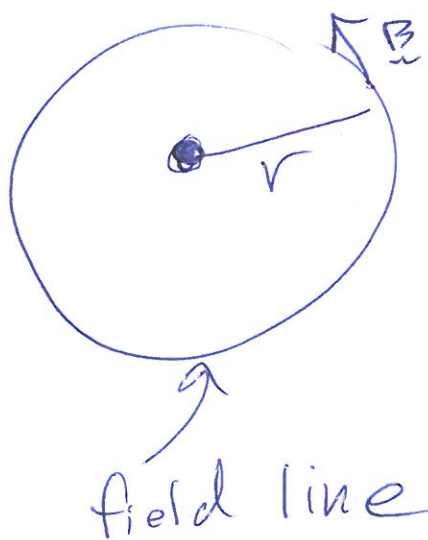
In a few cases  
of high symmetry,

one can use Ampère's law  
to solve the B-field  
directly.

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$d\vec{s} \times \hat{r}$  suggests that  $\vec{B}$  points counterclockwise around the wire and is tangent to a circle centered,



Wire coming straight out of page



Symmetry tells us 9  
 that  $(B)$  should  
 be constant on circle  
 & the Biot-Savart law  
 that it should be tangent  
 and the field line run  
 counterclockwise.

$\therefore \oint \vec{B} \cdot d\vec{s} = \mu_0 I_{\text{enc}}$

$\hookrightarrow B \cdot 2\pi r = \mu_0 I$

$$\vec{B} = \frac{\mu_0 I}{2\pi r} \hat{\theta}$$

The direction of  $\hat{\theta}$   
 is determined in general  
 by another right-hand rule:

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Put the thumb of  
your right hand  
in the current  
direction  
and your fingers  
curl in the direction  
of the B-field line.

#### 4) Forces between Infinite thin Wires

Conventions



Vector

pointing out of page

(a head of an arrow  
coming at you)

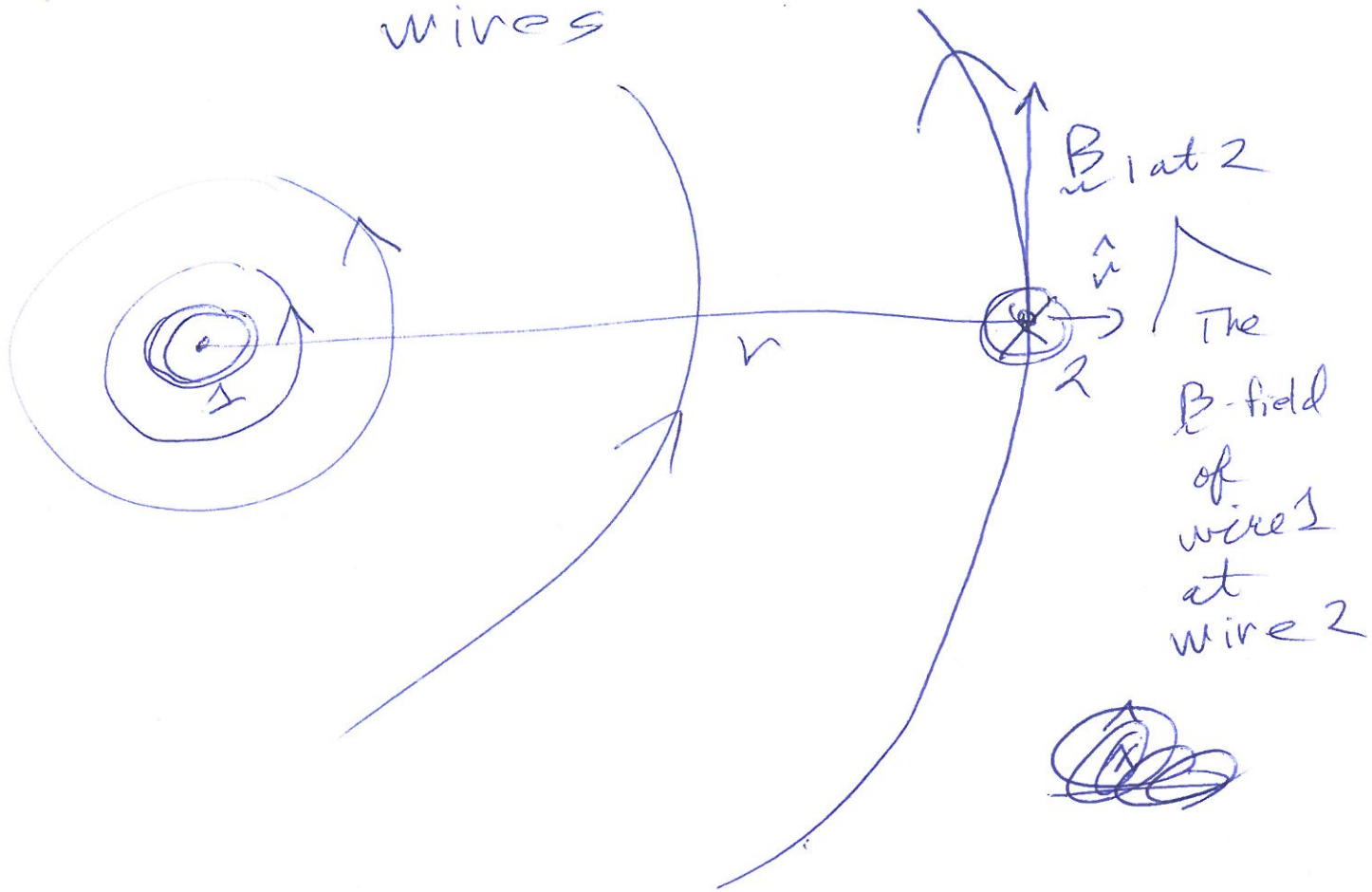


Vector

pointing  
into page

(tail feathers of  
arrows going  
away from you)

Two current in infinite long wires



Wire 2 only feels wire 1's B-field, not its own.

Recall Biot-savart law (HR-688)

$$d\vec{B} = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \frac{I d\vec{s} \times \hat{r}}{r^3}$$

if  $d\vec{s}$  and  $\hat{r}$  are parallel  
 $d\vec{s} \times \hat{r} = 0$



12)

$$B_{\text{at } 2} = \frac{\mu_0 I_1}{2\pi r} \hat{\theta}$$

$$dF_{\text{on } 2} = I_2 ds_2 \times \frac{\mu_0 I_1}{2\pi r} \hat{\theta}$$

$$F_{\text{on } 2} = \frac{\mu_0 I_1 I_2 l}{2\pi r} \left( \begin{matrix} -\hat{r} \\ +\hat{r} \end{matrix} \right)$$

for length  $l$

$$F_{\text{on } 2} = \frac{\mu_0 I_1 I_2}{2\pi r}$$

force magnitude per unit length.

OR

$-\hat{r}$  for  $I_2$  out of page

$+\hat{r}$  for  $I_2$  into page

$-\hat{r}$  for  $I_2$  and  $I_1$  in opposite directions

$+\hat{r}$  for  $I_2$  and  $I_1$  in the same direction.

So do parallel  
currents

attract or repel?

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Do antiparallel currents  
attract or repel?

Q) Net Field of Two  
infinite ~~aligned~~ parallel  
wires

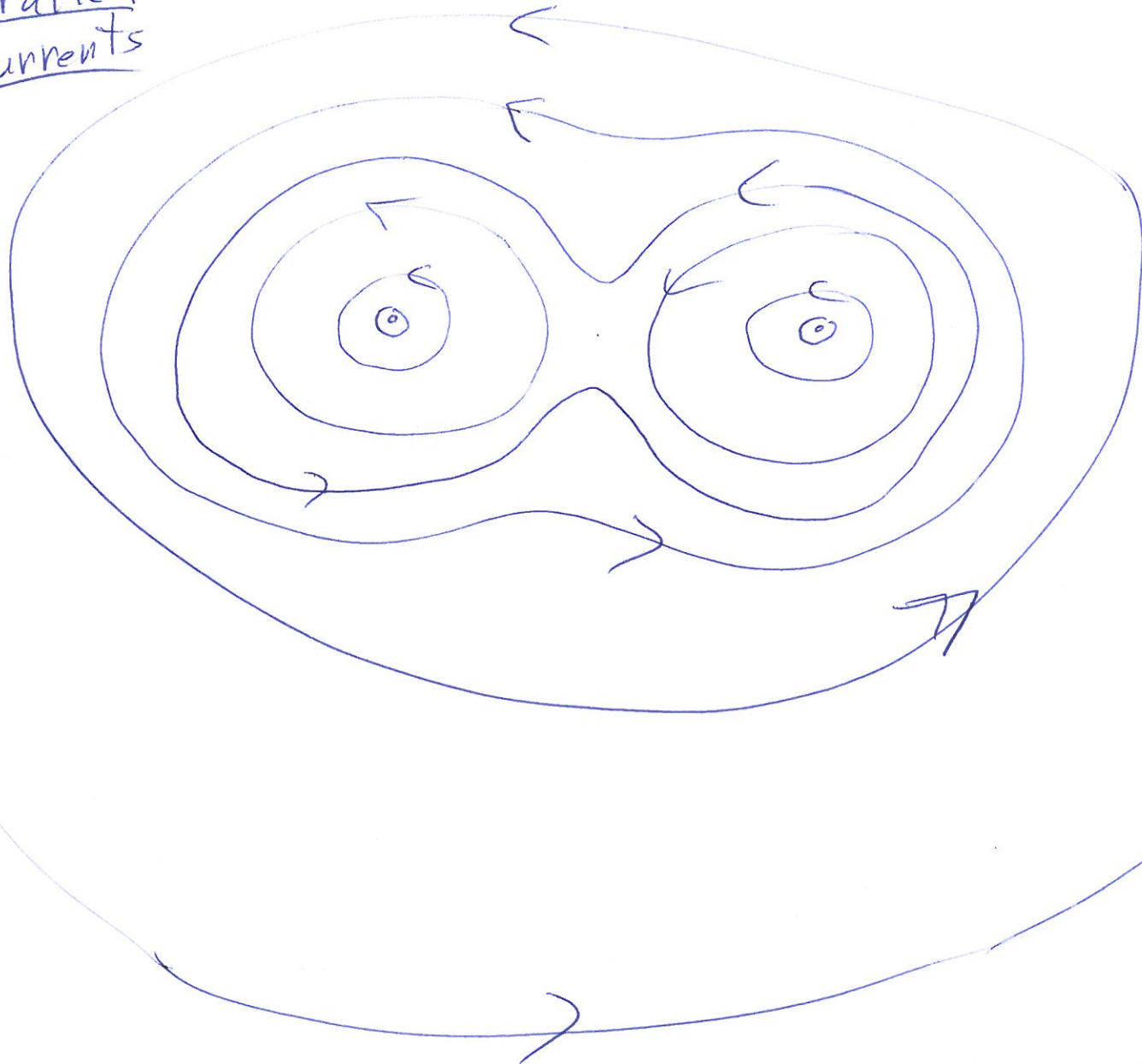
To calculate the force  
between two wires you  
don't need to know this  
net field,  
Which is good because  
it's complex.

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Recall  $B = \frac{\mu_0 I}{2\pi r} \hat{\theta}$

for an infinite thin wire

Parallel currents



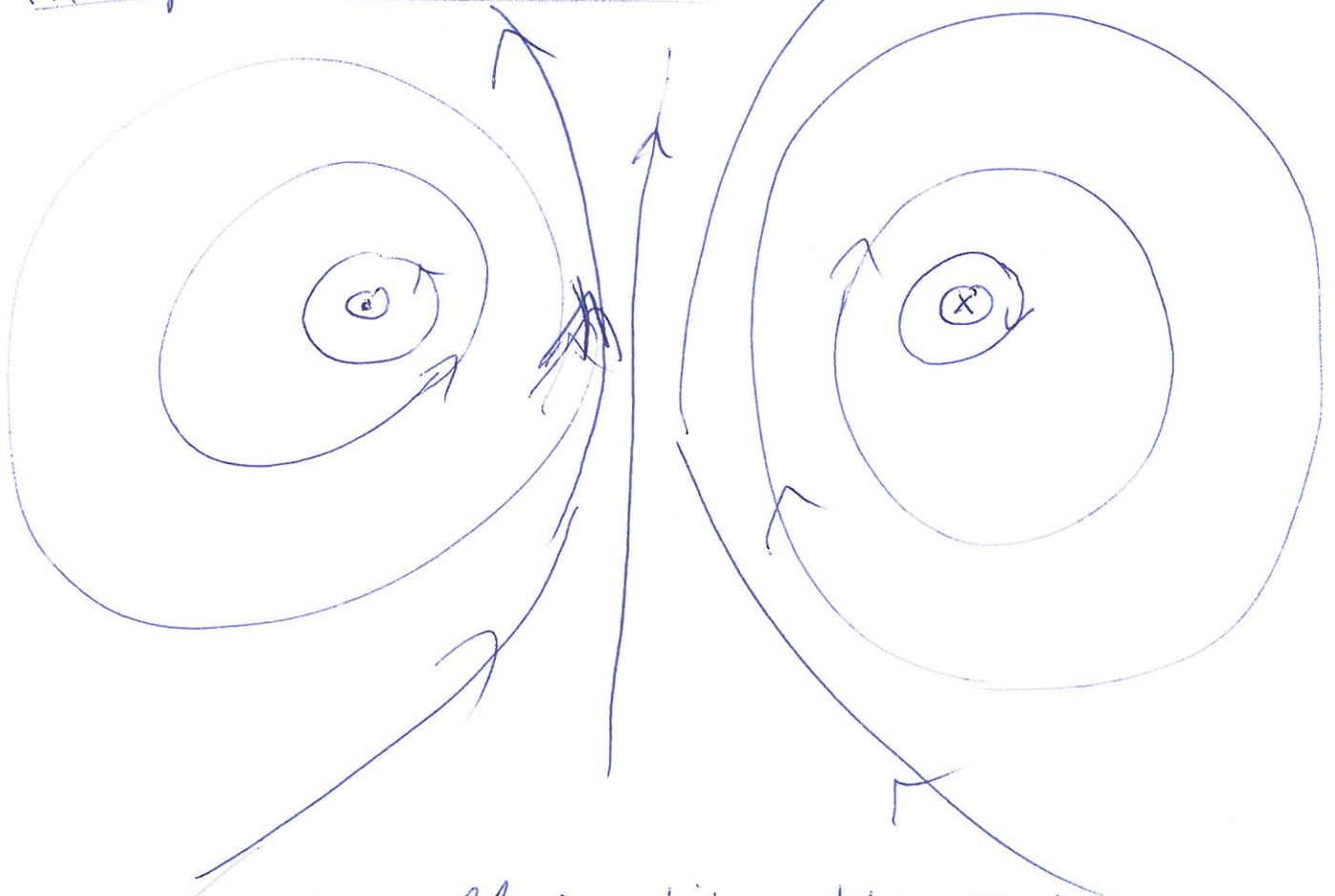
Close to each one, their individual field dominates

Far away, they must become like one infinite wire.

In between near [15]  
and far field limits,  
one can interpolate.

There must be a point  
of zero field somewhere  
in ~~between~~ between.

Antiparallel currents



Something like this I'd guess  
In far field limit, there seems  
no net current

10)

and so

$B_{\text{far field}}$

must fall off faster

the  $\frac{1}{r}$  where

$r$  is measured from  
a point between the  
wires.

## 6) Practicalities

We are using power  
sources that  
can be crank ~~up~~  
to high voltage  
and current.



So try to keep 17

$$V \lesssim 5V$$

$$I \lesssim 10A$$

and don't touch  
live (i.e., current  
carry or high potential  
conductors with your  
hands).

We are just being ultra-safe.

Just good practice.

Use a pencil or pen  
to damp oscillations

18) of the current balance.

Turn knobs of source  
down when turning  
off source for any  
length of time.

(Just so when you  
turn it ~~do~~ on  
you aren't surprised)

With  $V \lesssim 5V$ , there  
is probably no danger  
of a shock.

But if you break

a large current

~~there~~ quickly,

there will be an

induced EMF

$$\mathcal{E} = L \frac{dI}{dt}$$

$\frac{dI}{dt}$  gets  
large,  
 $\mathcal{E}$  gets  
large

that can cause arcing

at the point  
of break.

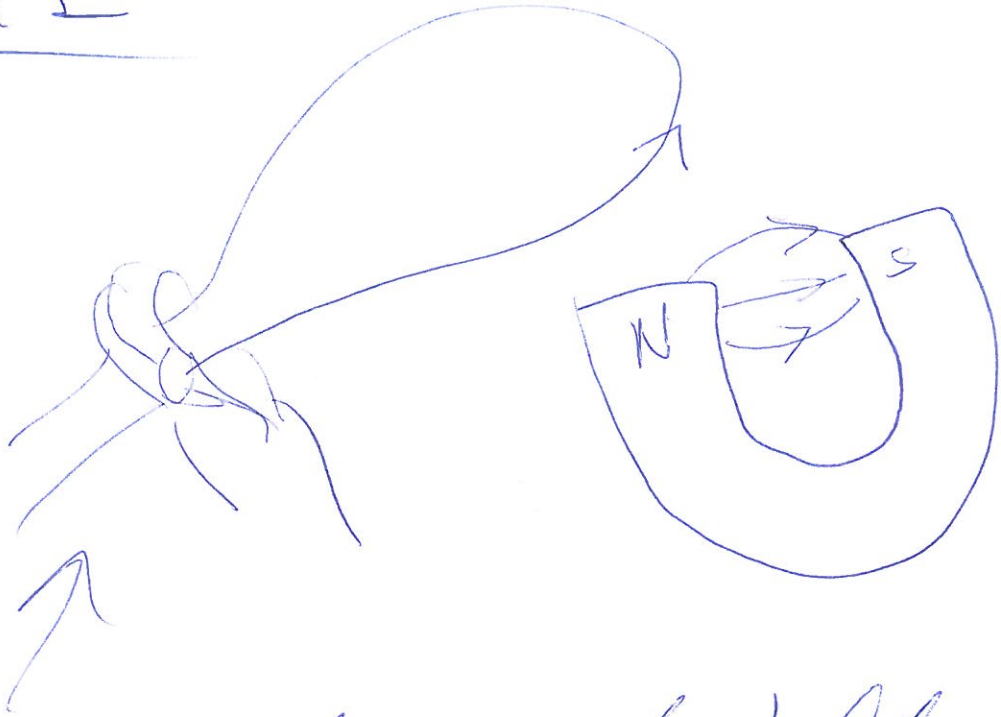
Not too dangerous  
but surprising.

$L$  is the  
inductance  
of the  
current  
loop  
- determined  
by geometry

Also with the large  
current, wires can  
get hot.

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## Task 1



a good way to hold wires

Use the right hand rule to predict direction of the magnetic force.

Task 2  
Task 3

} the repulsion and attraction forces are rather small

$$f = \frac{\mu_0 I_1 I_2}{2\pi r} \quad \left[ \frac{21}{\text{force per unit length}} \right]$$

$$= \frac{(4\pi \times 10^{-7}) I_1 I_2}{2\pi r}$$

$$= \frac{2}{r} \times 10^{-7} I_1 I_2$$

$r$  in meters.

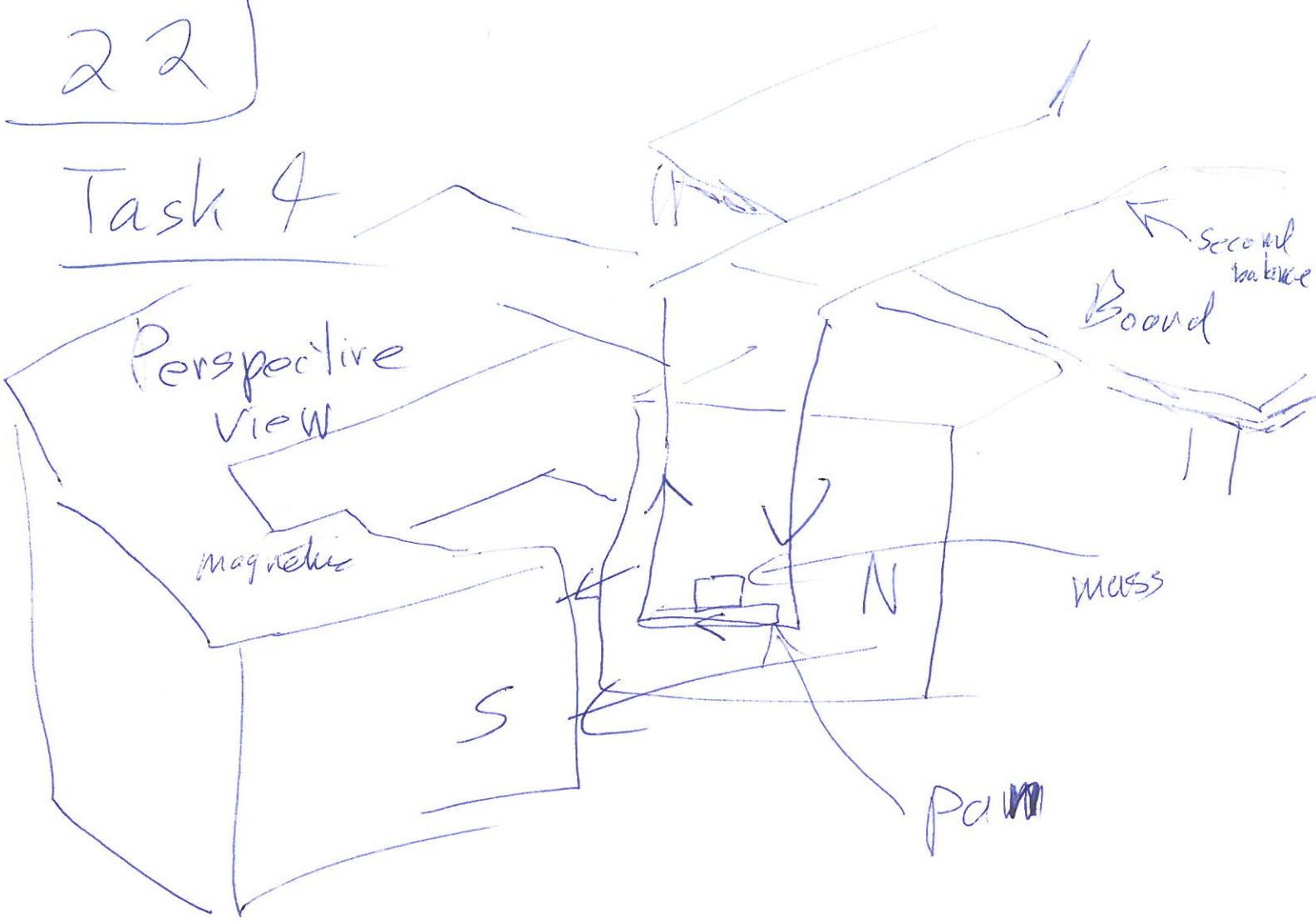
$$\text{So even } r = 10^{-3} \text{ m} \\ = 1 \text{ mm}$$

won't give a big force.

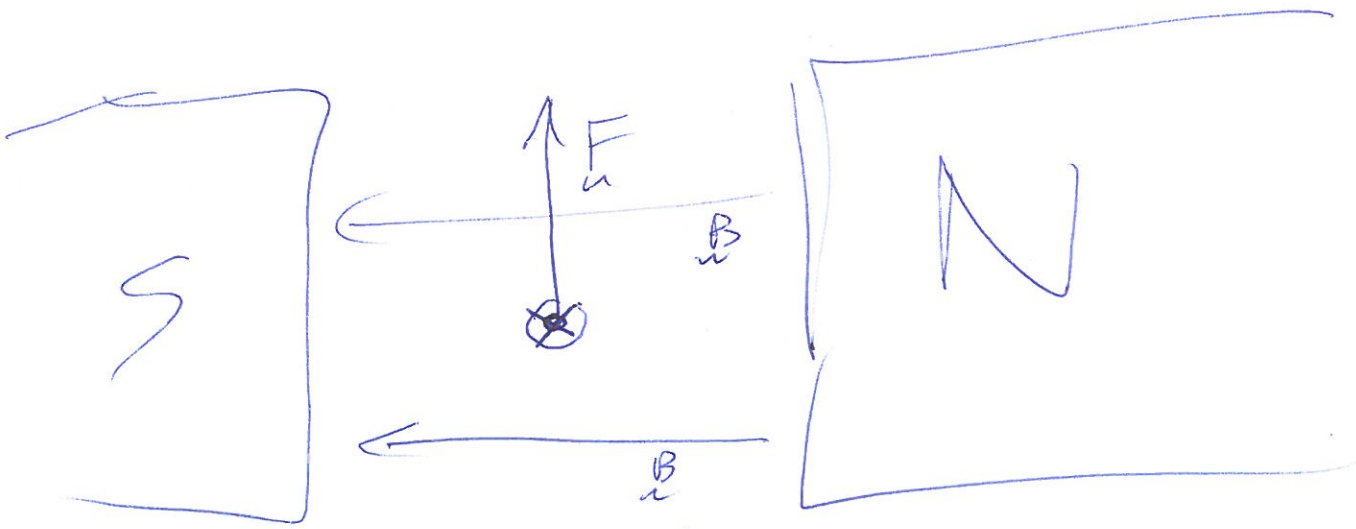
The balance will just bob a little with switching current off and on.

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# Task 4



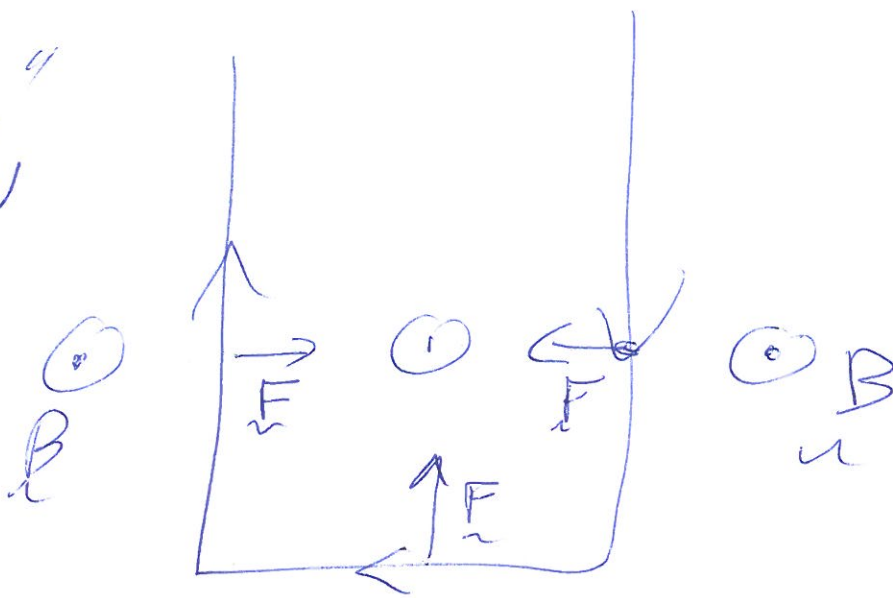
Side View



current out of page.

"Front"  
View

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The side forces cancel  
and in any case  
the balance isn't free  
to move horizontally.  
It's constrained.

Bottom

$$F = \int I d\vec{s} \times \underline{B}$$

$$= I s B$$

length of horizontal current segment  
~~any~~

24)

If the second  
balance is  
balanced with  
No ~~B-field~~  
B-force or extra  
mass, and

~~then~~ with extra mass  
and B-force it  
is balanced again.

then

$$\left( \begin{array}{c} \uparrow \\ F_{\text{B down}} \\ \text{up} \end{array} \right) = \left( \begin{array}{c} \downarrow \\ F_g \text{ down} \\ \text{an extra mass} \end{array} \right).$$