

**Syllabus:** Application of Biot-Savart's law to determine the magnetic field of a straight conductor, circular coil.

**Magnetic field due to a straight conductor**

Let a straight wire be considered whose magnetic field is to be determined at a certain point P which is nearby the conductor at a distance 'a'. Let a small portion of length  $\vec{dl}$  be considered whose distance from P is ' $\vec{r}$ '.

From Biot-savart law, magnetic field due to current carrying element dl at point P is

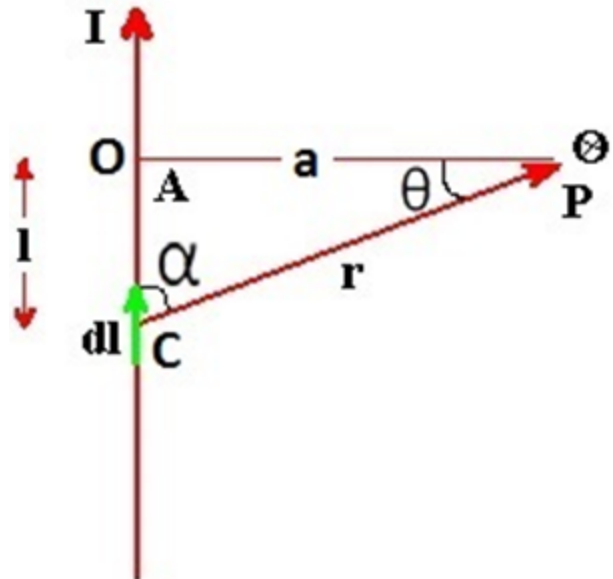
$$dB = \frac{\mu_0 I dl \sin\alpha}{4\pi r^2} \text{----- (i)}$$

from fig,  $\sin\alpha = \frac{a}{r} = \cos\theta$

$$r = \frac{a}{\cos\theta} \text{----- (ii)}$$

again,  $\tan\theta = \frac{a}{l}$

$$dl = a \sec^2 \theta d\theta \text{----- (iii)}$$



From the above three equations

$$dB = \frac{\mu_0 I a \sec^2 \theta d\theta \cos\theta}{4\pi \left(\frac{a}{\cos\theta}\right)^2}$$

$$dB = \frac{\mu_0 I a \sec^2 \theta d\theta \cos\theta}{4\pi (a)^2} \cos^2 \theta$$

$$dB = \frac{\mu_0 I \cos\theta d\theta}{4\pi a}$$

Total magnetic field due to straight current carrying conductor is

$$B = \int_{-\theta_1}^{\theta_2} \frac{\mu_0 I \cos\theta d\theta}{4\pi a}$$

$$B = \frac{\mu_0 I}{4\pi a} \int_{-\theta_1}^{\theta_2} \cos\theta d\theta$$

$$B = \frac{\mu_0 I}{4\pi a} [\sin\theta]_{-\theta_1}^{\theta_2}$$

$$B = \frac{\mu_0 I}{4\pi a} (\sin\theta_2 + \sin\theta_1)$$

This is the final expression for total magnetic field due to straight current carrying conductor.

If the conductor having infinite length then,

$$\theta_1 = \theta_2 = \frac{\pi}{2}$$

$$B = \frac{\mu_0 I}{4\pi a} \left( \sin \frac{\pi}{2} + \sin \frac{\pi}{2} \right)$$

$$B = \frac{\mu_0 I}{4\pi a} 2$$

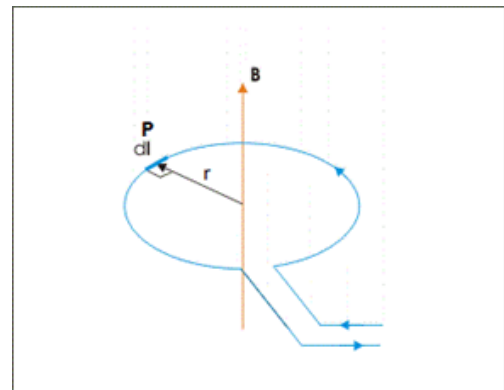
$$B = \frac{\mu_0 I}{2\pi a} \text{ Tesla}$$

### Magnetic field due to current carrying circular coil at its center

Consider a circular current carrying coil having radius  $r$  and center  $O$ . When the current is passing through the circular coil, magnetic field is produced. To find the magnetic field at the center of the circular coil, consider a length of element  $dl$  at point  $p$  which is tangent to the circular coil. The angle between element  $dl$  and radius  $r$  is  $90^\circ$ .

According to the Biot-Savart law, the magnetic field at the center of the circular coil due to element  $dl$  is

$$dB = \frac{\mu_0 I dl \sin\theta}{4\pi r^2} = \frac{\mu_0 I dl \sin 90^\circ}{4\pi r^2} = \frac{\mu_0 I dl}{4\pi r^2}$$



Total magnetic field due to the circular coil is

$$\begin{aligned} B &= \int_0^{2\pi r} dB = \int_0^{2\pi r} \frac{\mu_0 I dl}{4\pi r^2} = \frac{\mu_0 I}{4\pi r^2} \int_0^{2\pi r} dl \\ &= \frac{\mu_0 I}{4\pi r^2} [l]_0^{2\pi r} \\ &= \frac{\mu_0 I}{4\pi r^2} 2\pi r \\ &= \frac{\mu_0 I}{2r} \end{aligned}$$

### Magnetic field at the axis of the circular current carrying coil

Consider a circular coil having radius  $a$  and centre  $O$  from which current  $I$  flows in anticlockwise direction. The coil is placed at  $yz$  plane so that the centre of the coil coincide along  $x$ -axis.  $P$  be the any point at a distance  $x$  from the centre of the coil where we have to calculate the magnetic field. let  $dl$  be the small current carrying element at any point  $A$  at a distance  $r$  from the point  $P$  where  $r = \sqrt{(x^2 + a^2)}$

the angle between  $r$  and  $dl$  is  $90^\circ$ . Then from Biot-Savart law, the magnetic field due to current carrying element  $dl$  is

$$dB = \frac{\mu_0 Idl \sin\theta}{4\pi r^2} = \frac{\mu_0 Idl \sin 90}{4\pi r^2} = \frac{\mu_0 Idl}{4\pi r^2}$$

the direction of magnetic field is perpendicular to the plane containing  $dl$  and  $r$ . So the magnetic field  $dB$  has two components

$dB \cos\theta$  is along the  $y$ -axis

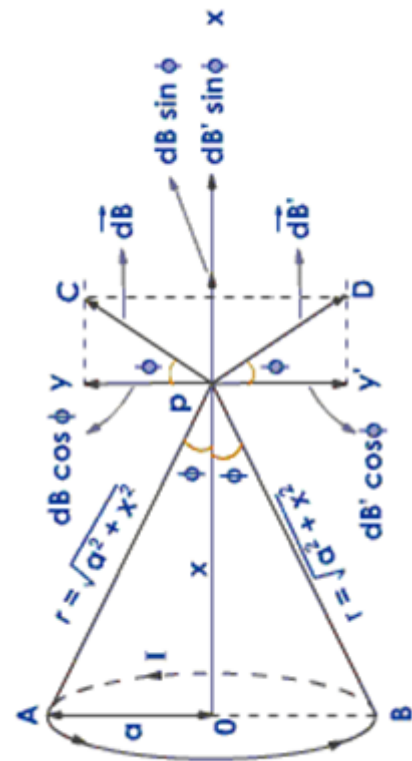
$dB \sin\theta$  is along the  $x$ -axis

Similarly, consider another current carrying element  $dl'$  which is diametrically opposite to the point  $A$ . The magnetic field due to this current carrying element  $dB'$  also has two components

$dB' \cos\theta$  is along the  $y$ -axis

$dB' \sin\theta$  is along the  $x$ -axis

Here both  $dB \cos\theta$  and  $dB' \cos\theta$  are equal in magnitude and opposite in direction. So they cancel each other. Similarly, the components  $dB \sin\theta$  and  $dB' \sin\theta$  are equal in magnitude and in same direction so they add up.



Total magnetic field due to the circular current carrying coil at the axis is

$$B = \int_0^{2\pi a} dB \sin\theta = \int_0^{2\pi a} \frac{\mu_0 I dl a}{4\pi r^2 r}$$

since  $\sin\theta = \frac{a}{r}$   $B = \int_0^{2\pi a} \frac{\mu_0 I dl}{4\pi (x^2 + a^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}} \frac{a}{(x^2 + a^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}} = \frac{\mu_0 I a}{4\pi (x^2 + a^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}} \int_0^{2\pi a} dl$

$$B = \frac{\mu_0 I a}{4\pi (x^2 + a^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}} 2\pi a$$

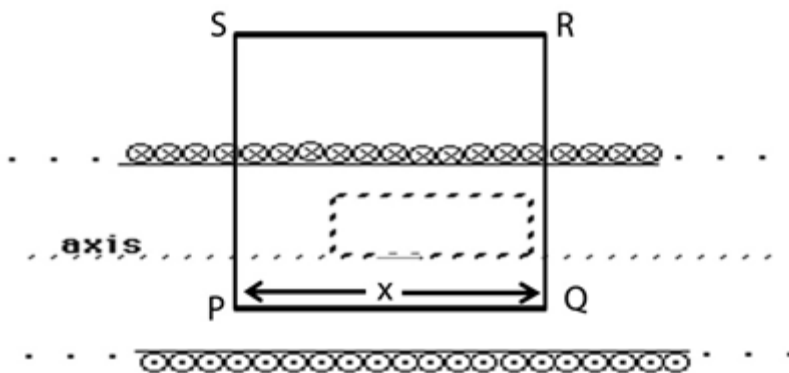
$$B = \frac{\mu_0 I a^2}{2 (x^2 + a^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}} \text{ Tesla}$$

This is the expression for magnetic field due to circular current carrying coil along its axis.

If the coil having N number of turns then magnetic field along its axis is

$$B = \frac{\mu_0 I N a^2}{2 (x^2 + a^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}} \text{ Tesla}$$

### Magnetic field along axis of solenoid



A solenoid is a long cylindrical coil having number of circular turns. Consider a solenoid having radius R consists of n number of turns per unit length. Let P be the point at a distance  $x$  from the

origin of the solenoid where we have to calculate the magnitude of the magnetic field. The current carrying element  $dx$  at a distance  $x$  from origin and a distance  $r$  from point P

$$r = \sqrt{(R^2 + (x_0 - x)^2)}$$

The magnetic field due to current carrying circular coil at any axis is

$$dB = \frac{\mu_0 IR^2}{2 r^3} \times N$$

where  $N = ndx$

then

$$dB = \frac{\mu_0 nIR^2 dx}{2 r^3} \text{----- (i)}$$

$$\sin\phi = \frac{R}{r}$$

$$r = R \operatorname{cosec}\phi \text{----- (a)}$$

$$\tan\phi = \frac{R}{x_0 - x}$$

$$x_0 - x = R \cot\phi$$

$$\frac{dx}{d\phi} = R \operatorname{cosec}^2\phi$$

$$dx = R \operatorname{cosec}^2\phi d\phi \text{----- (b)}$$

Now from above three equations, we get,

$$dB = \frac{\mu_0 nIR^2 R \operatorname{cosec}^2\phi d\phi}{2 R^3 \operatorname{cosec}^3\phi}$$

$$dB = \frac{\mu_0}{2} nI \sin\phi d\phi$$

Now total magnetic field can be obtained by integrating from  $\Phi_1$  to  $\Phi_2$ , we get

$$B = \frac{\mu_0 n I}{2} \int_{\Phi_1}^{\Phi_2} \sin\Phi d\Phi$$

$$B = \frac{\mu_0 n I}{2} [-\cos\Phi]_{\Phi_1}^{\Phi_2}$$

$$B = \frac{\mu_0 n I}{2} (\cos\Phi_1 - \cos\Phi_2)$$

Hence this expression gives the magnetic field at point p of the solenoid of finite length. For infinite long solenoid  $\Phi_1 = 0, \Phi_2 = \pi$

So

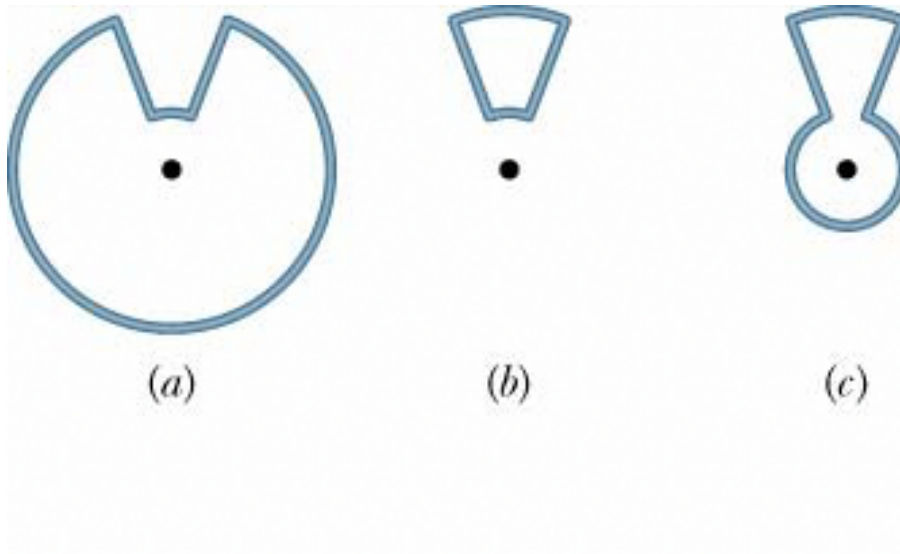
$$B = \frac{\mu_0 n I}{2} (\cos 0 - \cos \pi)$$

$$B = \frac{\mu_0 n I}{2} (1 + 1)$$

$$B = \mu_0 n I \text{ Tesla}$$

### Home work:

Find the magnetic field for the following partial loops



**Note on problems** when you have to evaluate a B field at a point from several partial loops  
Only loop parts contribute, proportional to angle (previous slide)

Straight sections aimed at point contribute exactly 0

Be careful about signs, e.g. in (b) fields partially cancel, whereas in (a) and (c) they add