



Flipping Physics Lecture Notes:  
Magnetic Force on Current

<http://www.flippingphysics.com/magnetic-force-current.html>

What if we have a series of charges all moving in the same direction? Like a current carrying wire?

- We already derived the equation for the current in a wire:  $I = nAv_dq$
- And we know the magnetic force acting on *each individual charge* moving in the wire:

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

- However, what we want to know is the net magnetic force acting on all the charges moving in the wire. So, we need to use charge carrier density,  $n$ :

$$n = \frac{\text{\# of charges}}{V} \Rightarrow \text{\# of charges} = nV = nAL$$

- Which we can use to get the magnetic force acting on *all the charges* moving in the wire:

$$\vec{F}_B = (q\vec{v} \times \vec{B}) nAL = nAvq\vec{L} \times \vec{B}$$

- And we have derived the general equations for the magnetic force on a current carrying wire both for a straight wire and, using an integral, a wire that does not follow a straight path.

$$\Rightarrow \vec{F}_B = I\vec{L} \times \vec{B} \Rightarrow \vec{F}_B = \int I(d\vec{L} \times \vec{B}) \quad \& \quad \|F_B\| = ILB \sin \theta$$

- You use the same wonderful right-hand rule to determine the direction of this force.