



Flipping Physics Lecture Notes:
Inductance of an Ideal Solenoid

<http://www.flippingphysics.com/inductance-solenoid.html>

Considering the most common shape for an inductor is a small, ideal solenoid, let's look at that case specifically. We have two different equations for induced emf which we can set equal to one another:

- $\epsilon_{\text{induced}} = -N \frac{d\Phi_B}{dt} = -L \frac{dI}{dt} \Rightarrow Nd\Phi_B = LdI$
 - N is the total number of loops or coils in the solenoid shaped inductor.
 - We can cancel out dt on both sides of the equation
- $\Rightarrow \int Nd\Phi_B = \int LdI \Rightarrow N \int_0^{\Phi_B} d\Phi_B = L \int_0^I dI \Rightarrow N\Phi_B = LI \Rightarrow L_{\text{solenoid}} = \frac{N\Phi_B}{I} = \frac{N(BA \cos \theta)}{I}$
 - Take the integral of the whole equation.
 - Both N and L are constants and can be taken out from their integrals.
 - Substitute in the equation for the magnitude of magnetic flux.
- $\Rightarrow L_{\text{solenoid}} = \frac{NBA \cos(\theta^\circ)}{I} = B \left(\frac{NA}{I} \right) \ \& \ B_{\text{solenoid}} = \mu_0 nI = \frac{\mu_0 NI}{\ell}$
 - In an ideal solenoid, angle between magnetic field and loop area vector is always 0° .
 - We have the equation for an ideal solenoid which we derived earlier.
 - n is the turn density of the solenoid. $n = \frac{N}{\ell}$
 - We already defined N as the total number of loops in the solenoid,
 - Therefore, the curly ℓ , is the entire length of the ideal solenoid.
 - Note $L \neq \ell$. (Inductance does not equal solenoid length.)
 - (L for a resistor is its length not its inductance. \square)
- $\Rightarrow L_{\text{solenoid}} = \left(\frac{\mu_0 NI}{\ell} \right) \left(\frac{NA}{I} \right) \Rightarrow L_{\text{solenoid}} = \frac{\mu_0 N^2 A}{\ell}$
 - The inductance of an ideal solenoid is determined by:
 - N, the number of turns: A, the cross-sectional area: ℓ , solenoid length.
 - μ , the magnetic permeability of the space inside the solenoid. For an ideal solenoid with nothing inside it, that equals the magnetic permeability of free space.
 - μ , the magnetic permeability of the core material, replaces μ_0 when the solenoid has a core material such as iron.
 - Inductance does *not* depend on current through the solenoid!
 - Resistance does *not* depend on current either!