

1. Experimental Contents

- 1) Measure the magnetic field intensity point by point along the axis of a single current-carrying coil, and compare results with theoretical values.
- 2) At fixed current, measure on-axis magnetic field intensities $B(a)$ and $B(b)$ of two single coils a and b , and compare with the magnetic field intensity $B(a+b)$ of Helmholtz coils.
- 3) Measure the magnetic field distribution along the axis of Helmholtz coils with different coil spacing of $R/2$, R , and $2R$, and verify the magnetic field superposition principle.
- 4) Plot the magnetic field distributions of a single current-carrying coil and Helmholtz coils, respectively.
- 5) Measure the horizontal component of the earth's magnetic field.

2. Experimental Procedure

A. Measure magnetic field intensity on central axis of a single coil and Helmholtz coils

- 1) For a single coil, refer Figure 1 to connect wires of coil a and set the current of the coil to $I=100$ mA. Move the probe and measure magnetic flux density $B(a)$ along the axis of coil a by recording data in every 1.0 cm. **Note:** prior to measurement, turn off current ($I=0$ mA) and zero the Tesla meter.
- 2) Compare the measured magnetic field intensity at the center of the coil with theoretical value.
- 3) Rotate the Tesla probe at a point along the axis while observing the direction of the magnetic field at this point.
- 4) For Helmholtz coils, adjust the spacing between the two coils to 10.0 cm for the formation of Helmholtz coils.
- 5) Set current at $I=100$ mA to single coil a and b , respectively, while measuring magnetic field intensities $B(a)$ and $B(b)$ along axis, respectively. Next, apply current to both coils simultaneously while measuring magnetic field intensity $B(a+b)$ along the axis. Verify $B(a+b)=B(a)+B(b)$, the magnetic field intensity at any point along the axis of Helmholtz coils is the summation of that of two single coils.
- 6) Adjust the spacing of the two coils at $R/2$ and $2R$, respectively while measuring the magnetic field intensity along the axis at current $I=100$ mA.
- 7) Plot magnetic field intensity B of the Helmholtz coils versus position z ($B\sim z$ graph) at $d=R/2$, $d=R$, and $d=2R$, respectively. Verify the magnetic field superposition principle.

B. Map the magnetic induction lines on a plane through the axis of a current-carrying coil

Place a piece of coordinate paper on the board which is through the axis of the Helmholtz coils, select a proper point, aim the probe at the point, and apply current $I=100$ mA to the Helmholtz coils. Rotate the probe while observing the change in magnetic field intensity. The normal direction of the sensor at which a maximal reading is observed from the sensor is the direction of the magnetic field at this point. Compare the directional change in magnetic field between on-axis points and off-axis points. Approximate the distribution map of the magnetic field lines of current-carrying Helmholtz coils.

3. Examples of Data Recording and Processing

Note: Following data are for reference purposes only, not the criteria for apparatus performance.

1) Measure the magnetic field intensity $B(a)$ on the axis of a current-carrying coil (a) are shown in Table 1, where current $I=100$ mA, coil average radius $R=10.00$ cm, number of turns of the coil $N=500$, and the permeability in vacuum $\mu_0=4\pi\times 10^{-7}$ H/m.

Table 1

x (cm)	-1.00	0.00	1.00	2.00	3.00	4.00	5.00
$B(a)$ (mT)	0.300	0.316	0.312	0.297	0.278	0.251	0.225
x (cm)	6.00	7.00	8.00	9.00	10.00	11.00	12.00
$B(a)$ (mT)	0.198	0.173	0.150	0.130	0.113	0.097	0.083

According to formula (2), the magnetic field intensity at the center of coil a is as follows:

$$B_0(a) = \frac{\mu_0}{2R} N \cdot I = \frac{4\pi \times 10^{-7} \times 500 \times 0.100}{2 \times 0.1000} = 0.314 \text{ mT}$$

In Table 1, the measured result at the center is $B_0(a)=0.316$ mT, yielding a measurement error of 0.64%.

According to formula (1), the magnetic field intensity at $x=5.00$ cm is calculated as:

$$B_5(a) = \frac{\mu_0 \cdot \bar{R}^2}{2(\bar{R}^2 + x^2)^{3/2}} N \cdot I = \frac{4\pi \times 10^{-7} \times 0.100^2 \times 500 \times 0.100}{2(0.100^2 + 0.0500^2)^{3/2}} = 0.2248 \text{ mT}$$

In Table 1, the measured result at $x=5.00$ cm is $B_5(a)=0.225$ mT, yielding a small measurement error.

2) Verify magnetic field superposition principle. The current in Helmholtz coils is $I=100$ mA, and the spacing of the two coils is $d=10.00$ cm. Set the central point of the two coil axis as the coordinate origin. Measured data are shown in Table 2, where a and b represent single coil a and b , respectively; and $(a+b)$ represents Helmholtz coils.

Table 2

x (cm)	-7.00	-6.00	-5.00	-4.00	-3.00	-2.00	-1.00	0.00
$B(a)$ (mT)	0.295	0.309	0.316	0.312	0.297	0.278	0.251	0.225
$B(b)$ (mT)	0.080	0.093	0.112	0.128	0.148	0.172	0.195	0.224
$[B(a)+B(b)]$ (mT)	0.375	0.402	0.428	0.440	0.445	0.450	0.446	0.449
$B(a+b)$ (mT)	0.381	0.408	0.428	0.440	0.448	0.451	0.450	0.451

x (cm)	1.00	2.00	3.00	4.00	5.00	6.00	7.00
$B(a)$ (mT)	0.198	0.173	0.150	0.130	0.113	0.097	0.083
$B(b)$ (mT)	0.251	0.275	0.296	0.308	0.312	0.307	0.394

$[B(a)+B(b)]$ (mT)	0.449	0.448	0.446	0.438	0.425	0.404	0.377
$B(a+b)$ (mT)	0.451	0.451	0.448	0.441	0.427	0.405	0.379

From Table 2, it is apparent that the values of $B(a)+B(b)$ and $B(a+b)$ are consistent within error limit, proving the magnetic field superposition principle. Range from -2.50 cm to 2.50 cm has a uniform magnetic field. At $x=0.00$ cm, the measured magnetic field intensity is $B_0=0.449$ mT while the corresponding theoretical value can be calculated using formula (4):

$$B_0' = \frac{8}{5^{3/2}} \cdot \frac{\mu_0 \cdot N \cdot I}{R} = \frac{8}{5^{3/2}} \frac{4\pi \times 10^{-7} \times 500 \times 0.100}{0.1000} = 0.450 \text{ mT}$$

Therefore, the error limit is within 1%.

3) Change the spacing between the two coils, at $d=R/2$, $d=R$, and $d=2R$, respectively, while measuring the magnetic field intensity at various positions along the axis. Measured data are plotted as shown in Figure 2.

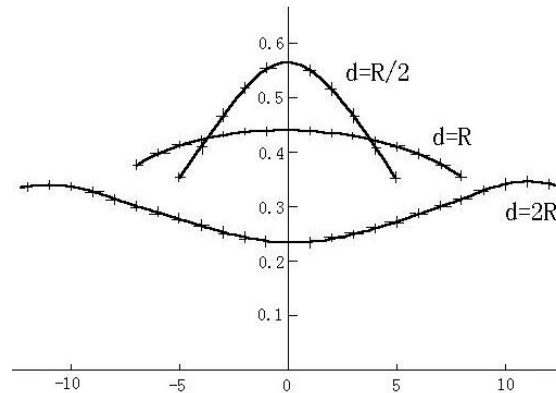


Figure 2 Magnetic field intensity distributions with different coil spacing