

Observations about magnetic fields

**Poles** of a magnet are the ends where objects are most strongly attracted  
 Two poles, called *north* and *south*

Like poles repel each other and unlike poles attract each other  
 Similar to electric charges

**Magnetic poles cannot be isolated**  
 If a permanent magnetic is cut in half repeatedly, you will still have a north and a south pole

This differs from electric charges

There is some theoretical basis for monopoles, but none have been detected

Slightly more quantitative

- A vector quantity
- Symbolized by  $\vec{B}$
- Direction is given by the direction a *north pole* of a compass needle points in that location
- *Magnetic field lines* can be used to show how the field lines, as traced out by a compass, would look

**Magnetic Field Lines, sketch**

- A compass can be used to show the direction of the magnetic field lines (a)
- A sketch of the magnetic field lines (b). Direction and strength just like E-field

**Magnetic Field Lines, Bar Magnet**

- Iron filings are used to show the pattern of the magnetic field lines
- The direction of the field is the direction a north pole would point

**Earth's Magnetic Field**

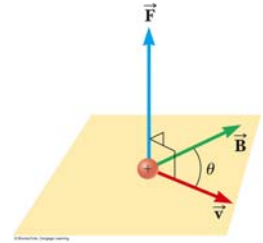
- The Earth's geographic north pole corresponds to a magnetic south pole
- The Earth's geographic south pole corresponds to a magnetic north pole
  - Strictly speaking, a north pole should be a "north-seeking" pole and a south pole a "south-seeking" pole

## Magnetic Fields

- When a charged particle is moving through a magnetic field, a magnetic force acts on it
  - This force has a maximum value when the charge moves perpendicularly to the magnetic field lines
  - This force is zero when the charge moves along the field lines

## Finding the Direction of Magnetic Force

- Experiments show that the direction of the magnetic force is always perpendicular to both  $\vec{v}$  and  $\vec{B}$
- $F_{\max}$  occurs when  $\vec{v}$  is perpendicular to  $\vec{B}$
- $F = 0$  when  $\vec{v}$  is parallel to  $\vec{B}$
- Proportional to the magnitude of the  $\vec{v}, \vec{B}$ , and charge  $q$ .



## Magnetic Fields, cont

- One can define a magnetic field in terms of the magnetic force exerted on a test charge moving in the field with velocity  $\vec{v}$ 
  - Similar to the way electric fields are defined

- $$\vec{B} \equiv \frac{\vec{F}}{qv \sin \theta}$$

## Units of Magnetic Field

- The SI unit of magnetic field is the *Tesla* (T)

$$T = \frac{Wb}{m^2} = \frac{N}{C \cdot (m/s)} = \frac{N}{A \cdot m}$$

- Wb is a Weber
- The cgs unit is a *Gauss* (G)
  - $1 T = 10^4 G$

## A Few Typical B Values

- Conventional laboratory magnets  
25000 G or 2.5 T
- Superconducting magnets  
200000 G or 20 T
- Magnet lab (Tallahassee)  
about 1000000 G or 100 T
- Earth's magnetic field  
0.5 G or  $5 \times 10^{-5}$  T