



Al-Mustaqbal University

Department of medical physics

Second stage

Magnetism

Fourth Seven

Magnetic Permeability and Magnetic Susceptibility

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What Is Magnetic Permeability?

Magnetic permeability, also referred to as **permeability in electromagnetism**, is a property of a magnetic material which supports the formation of a magnetic field. The term was coined by Oliver Heaviside in the year 1885. Magnetic permeability is a property that basically allows magnetic lines of force to pass through a material.

In other words, the magnetic permeability of a material can also be said to be its magnetisation capability. This helps in determining how much magnetic flux can the material support, which will pass through it.

Magnetic Permeability Definition

Magnetic permeability is defined as the ratio of the magnetic induction to the magnetic intensity. It is a scalar quantity and is denoted by the symbol μ . Magnetic permeability helps us measure a material's resistance to the magnetic field or measure the degree to which a magnetic field can penetrate through a material.

If the material has greater magnetic permeability, the greater will be the conductivity for magnetic lines of force.

Factors Affecting Magnetic Permeability

Permeability also depends on several factors, such as the nature of the material, humidity, position in the medium, temperature, and frequency of the applied force. Magnetic permeability is always positive and can vary with a magnetic field. On the other hand, the opposite of magnetic permeability is magnetic reluctivity.

Magnetic Permeability Formula

The magnetic permeability formula is given as follows;

$$\text{Magnetic permeability } (\mu) = B/H$$

Where B = magnetic intensity and H = magnetising field.

The SI unit of magnetic permeability is henry per meter (H/m) or newton per ampere squared ($\text{N} \cdot \text{A}^{-2}$).

Types of Permeability

The different types of permeability include the following:

1-Permeability of Free Space

It is the ratio of magnetic intensity in a vacuum and magnetising field. The permeability of free space, also known as the permeability of air or vacuum, is represented by :

$$\mu_0 = B_0/H.$$

2-Permeability of Medium

It is the ratio of magnetic intensity in the medium and magnetising field. It is expressed as,

$$\mu = B/H$$

3-Relative Permeability

Relative permeability is a dimensionless quantity. It is the ratio of two quantities with the same units, so relative permeability has no unit. The relative permeability of free space is 1. Its expression is given as:

$$\mu_r = \mu/\mu_m$$

Relative permeability = (number of lines of magnetic induction per unit area in a material)/(number of lines per unit area in a vacuum).

What is Magnetic Susceptibility?

Magnetic susceptibility is a dimensionless proportionality constant that indicates the degree of magnetization of a material in response to an applied magnetic field. It is caused by the interactions of electrons and nuclei with the externally applied magnetic field.

In electromagnetism, magnetic susceptibility is defined as:

The measure of how much a material will be magnetized in an applied magnetic field.

It is denoted by χ .

Magnetic Susceptibility Formula

The mathematical definition of magnetic susceptibility is the ratio of magnetization to applied magnetizing field intensity. This is a dimensionless quantity. Where:

$$\chi = M/H$$

χ : magnetic susceptibility **M**: magnetization **H**: field intensity

Relation between Relative Permeability and Magnetic Susceptibility

The relation between magnetic susceptibility and relative permeability is described as follows:

$$\chi_m = \mu_r - 1$$