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Understanding the concept of electromagnetic induction is fundamental in physics and engineering. When a conductor moves within a magnetic field, an electromotive force (emf) is generated, which can drive current through a circuit. In this article, we will explore how to calculate the emf induced in a wire moving parallel to a magnetic field, using the given parameters: a 0.200-meter-long wire, a magnetic field strength of 0.500 Tesla, and a movement speed of 1.50 meters per second. We will delve into the physics principles involved, the relevant formulas, and step-by-step calculations to determine the induced emf.

Fundamentals of Electromagnetic Induction

What is Electromagnetic Induction?

Electromagnetic induction is the process of generating an electric current in a conductor by changing the magnetic environment around it. This phenomenon was first discovered by Michael Faraday in 1831 and forms the basis for many electrical devices such as transformers, electric generators, and inductors.

The core principle states that a change in magnetic flux through a conductor or coil induces an emf (voltage) in the conductor. This emf can then cause a current if the circuit is closed.

Magnetic Flux and Its Role

Magnetic flux (Φ) is defined as:

$$\Phi = B \times A \times \cos \theta$$

where:

- B is the magnetic field strength (Tesla),
- A is the area of the loop or conductor (square meters),
- θ is the angle between the magnetic field and the normal (perpendicular) to the surface.

In cases where the conductor moves within a magnetic field, the change in flux is related to the motion of the wire relative to the magnetic field lines.

Calculating the Induced emf in a Moving Wire

The Fundamental Formula

When a straight conducting wire of length (L) moves with velocity (v) perpendicular to a magnetic field (B) , the emf induced across its ends is given by:

$$\boxed{\mathcal{E} = B \times L \times v \times \sin \theta}$$

where:

- $(\mathcal{E})$ is the induced emf (Volts),
- (B) is the magnetic flux density (Tesla),
- (L) is the length of the wire within the magnetic field (meters),
- (v) is the velocity of the wire (meters per second),
- (θ) is the angle between the velocity vector and the magnetic field.

Key Assumption: When the wire moves exactly parallel to the magnetic field lines, the angle (θ) between the velocity and the magnetic field is 0° , and $(\sin 0^\circ = 0)$. Therefore, no emf is induced in this specific case.

However, if the wire moves perpendicular to the magnetic field lines $(\theta = 90^\circ)$, the emf reaches its maximum value. Since the problem states the wire moves parallel to the magnetic field, the induced emf is zero.

Clarification:

Given the statement, "A 0.200 M wire is moved parallel to a 0.500 T magnetic field," the critical factor is the direction of motion relative to the magnetic field lines.

If the wire moves parallel to the magnetic field $(\theta = 0^\circ)$, then:

$$\sin 0^\circ = 0 \rightarrow \mathcal{E} = 0$$

If the wire moves perpendicular to the magnetic field $(\theta = 90^\circ)$, then:

$$\sin 90^\circ = 1 \rightarrow \mathcal{E} = B \times L \times v$$

Applying to Our Scenario:

Since the problem explicitly states the wire moves parallel to the magnetic field, the induced emf is:

$\mathcal{E} = 0$

$$\mathcal{E} = 0$$

\]

Therefore, the answer is zero volts.

Implications and Additional Considerations

What if the Motion Were Perpendicular?

In many real-world applications, wires or conductors are moved perpendicular to magnetic fields to generate emf and current. For example, in electric generators, coils rotate within magnetic fields, leading to continuous change in magnetic flux and emf.

Using the maximum emf formula:

\[

$$\mathcal{E}_{\text{max}} = B \times L \times v$$

\]

Plugging in the given values:

\[

$$\mathcal{E}_{\text{max}} = 0.500 \, \text{T} \times 0.200 \, \text{m} \times 1.50 \, \text{m/s}$$

\]

\[

$$\mathcal{E}_{\text{max}} = 0.500 \times 0.200 \times 1.50 = 0.150 \, \text{V}$$

\]

This means, if the wire moved perpendicular to the magnetic field, the maximum induced emf would be 0.150 volts.

Summary of Key Parameters

- **Wire length (L):** 0.200 meters
- **Magnetic field strength (B):** 0.500 Tesla
- **Velocity (v):** 1.50 meters per second
- **Angle (θ):** 0° (parallel movement) or 90° (perpendicular movement)

Practical Applications and Real-World Examples

Electromagnetic Generators

In electricity generation, turbines rotate coils or magnetic fields to induce emf, converting mechanical energy into electrical energy. Understanding the relationship between motion, magnetic fields, and emf is crucial for designing efficient generators.

Inductive Sensors and Devices

Many sensors operate on the principle of electromagnetic induction. For instance, proximity sensors detect the movement of metallic objects by measuring changes in emf induced as objects move within magnetic fields.

Electric Motors and Transformers

The principles of emf induction also underpin the operation of electric motors and transformers, where changing magnetic flux induces voltages that facilitate energy transfer.

Summary and Key Takeaways

- When a conductor moves within a magnetic field, an emf is induced proportional to the magnetic flux change.
- The maximum emf occurs when the conductor moves perpendicular to magnetic field lines.
- If the conductor moves parallel to the magnetic field, no emf is induced.
- In our specific scenario, since the wire moves parallel to the magnetic field, the induced emf is zero volts.
- For perpendicular movement, the emf can be calculated using $\mathcal{E} = B L v$.

Conclusion

Understanding the principles of electromagnetic induction is vital for many technological applications. In the case of a 0.200-meter wire moving parallel to a 0.500 Tesla magnetic field at 1.50 m/s, the induced emf is zero because the motion is aligned with the magnetic field lines, resulting in no change in magnetic flux. Recognizing the importance of the direction of motion relative to the magnetic field allows engineers and physicists to optimize devices like generators and sensors for maximum efficiency.

Remember: Always consider the angle between the conductor's movement and the magnetic field when calculating induced emf, as it directly influences the magnitude of the induced voltage.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the formula to calculate the induced emf in a moving wire within a magnetic field?

The induced emf (ε) can be calculated using the formula $\varepsilon = B L v \sin\theta$, where B is the magnetic flux density, L is the length of the wire, v is the velocity, and θ is the angle between the wire and the magnetic field.

In the given problem, what is the orientation of the wire relative to the magnetic field?

The problem states the wire is moved parallel to the magnetic field, so the angle θ between the wire and the magnetic field is 0° , meaning $\sin\theta = 0$, which would imply no emf is induced if the wire is moved exactly parallel. However, if considering the typical scenario for emf induction, the movement is perpendicular or at an angle; in this case, more context is needed.

How do you calculate the induced emf for the given parameters: $B = 0.500 \text{ T}$, $L = 0.200 \text{ m}$, $v = 1.50 \text{ m/s}$?

If the wire moves perpendicular to the magnetic field, the emf is calculated as $\varepsilon = B L v$. Substituting the values: $\varepsilon = 0.500 \text{ T} \cdot 0.200 \text{ m} \cdot 1.50 \text{ m/s} = 0.150 \text{ V}$.

What assumptions are made when calculating the emf in this scenario?

The calculation assumes the wire moves perpendicular to the magnetic field, the magnetic field is uniform, and there are no other effects such as resistance or external influences affecting the emf.

Would moving the wire parallel to the magnetic field induce any emf?

No, moving the wire parallel to the magnetic field (i.e., along the field lines) does not change the magnetic flux through the wire and thus does not induce emf. Induction occurs when the wire moves perpendicular to the magnetic field.

What is the significance of the magnetic flux density (B) in emf induction?

Magnetic flux density (B) determines the strength of the magnetic field. A higher B results in a greater rate of change of magnetic flux when the wire moves, leading to a higher induced emf.

How does the length of the wire affect the induced emf?

The induced emf is directly proportional to the length of the wire (L); longer wires experience a greater change in magnetic flux when moving through a magnetic field, resulting in a higher emf.

Additional Resources

Understanding Induced Electromotive Force (EMF) in a Moving Conductor within a Magnetic Field

Electromagnetic induction is one of the foundational principles in electromagnetism, underpinning many technological applications from electric generators to transformers. When a conductor moves within a magnetic field, an electric voltage, or electromotive force (EMF), is induced across it. This phenomenon was first explained by Michael Faraday in the 19th century and remains central to our understanding of how electrical energy can be generated from mechanical motion.

In this comprehensive exploration, we delve into a specific scenario: a wire with a given length, moving parallel to a magnetic field at a specified velocity, and the calculation of the resulting EMF. The problem statement is as follows:

A wire of length 0.200 meters is moved parallel to a magnetic field of 0.500 Tesla at a speed of 1.50 meters per second. What EMF is induced?

To fully understand and accurately solve this problem, we need to unpack the relevant physics principles, understand the variables involved, and explore the calculations step-by-step.

Fundamental Concepts in Electromagnetic Induction

Faraday's Law of Induction

Faraday's law states that the EMF induced in a circuit is proportional to the rate of change of magnetic flux through the circuit:

$$\mathcal{E} = - \frac{d\Phi_B}{dt}$$

Where:

- $\mathcal{E}$ is the EMF (in volts),

- Φ_B is the magnetic flux (in webers, Wb),
- t is time (in seconds).

In the context of a moving conductor, the changing flux can be due to:

- The motion of the conductor in a magnetic field,
- Variations in the magnetic field itself (not relevant here),
- Changes in the orientation of the conductor relative to the field.

Since the problem involves a wire moving at a constant velocity parallel to a magnetic field, the key factor is the relative motion between the conductor and the magnetic field.

Motional EMF

For a conductor moving within a magnetic field, the induced EMF can be directly calculated using the concept of motional EMF:

$$\mathcal{E} = B v L \sin \theta$$

Where:

- B is the magnetic flux density (Tesla),
- v is the velocity of the conductor (m/s),
- L is the length of the conductor within the magnetic field (m),
- θ is the angle between the velocity vector and the magnetic field.

This formula arises from the Lorentz force law acting on free charges within the conductor, causing a separation of charge and hence an EMF.

Application to the Given Problem

Variables and Their Significance

Let's identify each parameter in the problem:

- Magnetic Field (B): 0.500 Tesla. This is the magnetic flux density, indicating the strength of the magnetic field.
- Wire Length (L): 0.200 meters. This is the length of the conductor that is exposed to or within the magnetic field.
- Velocity (v): 1.50 meters per second. The speed at which the wire moves parallel to the magnetic field.
- Direction of Motion: Parallel to the magnetic field.

Note: The problem states the wire is moved parallel to the magnetic field. This detail is crucial because the induced EMF depends on the angle θ between the velocity vector and magnetic field.

Analyzing the Geometry: Angle Considerations

The magnitude of motional EMF depends on $\sin \theta$:

- If the wire moves parallel to the magnetic field ($\theta = 0^\circ$ or 180°), then $\sin 0^\circ = 0$, and no EMF is induced.
- If the wire moves perpendicular to the magnetic field ($\theta = 90^\circ$), then $\sin 90^\circ = 1$, and the EMF reaches its maximum value.

Given the problem states "moved parallel to the magnetic field," the initial assumption might be that there is no induced EMF because $\sin 0^\circ = 0$. However, in many practical contexts, the phrase "moved parallel" can be ambiguous. It's crucial to interpret whether the motion is along the field lines or perpendicular.

In this problem:

- The phrase "moved parallel to the magnetic field" suggests that the velocity vector is aligned with the magnetic field lines.
- Therefore, the angle θ between the velocity and magnetic field is 0° .

Calculating the Induced EMF

Step 1: Determine the Correct Formula

Since the wire moves parallel to the magnetic field ($\theta = 0^\circ$), the motional EMF formula simplifies:

$$\mathcal{E} = B v L \sin 0^\circ = 0$$

Therefore, no EMF is induced in this case.

Step 2: Realizing the Physical Implication

- When a conductor moves parallel to the magnetic field lines, charges within the conductor do not experience a force perpendicular to their motion; hence, no charge separation occurs.
- As a result, the induced EMF is zero.

Conclusion from this analysis:

$$\boxed{\text{Induced EMF} = 0, \text{V}}$$

Alternative Interpretation: Could There Be a Non-Zero EMF?

Suppose the problem intended for the wire to move perpendicular to the magnetic field (which is a common scenario in electromagnetic induction problems). If that were the case:

- $\theta = 90^\circ$,
- $\sin 90^\circ = 1$,

then the induced EMF would be:

$$\mathcal{E} = B v L$$

Plugging in the values:

$$\mathcal{E} = 0.500 \text{ T} \times 1.50 \text{ m/s} \times 0.200 \text{ m} = 0.500 \times 1.50 \times 0.200$$

Calculating:

$$\begin{aligned} 0.500 \times 1.50 &= 0.75 \\ 0.75 \times 0.200 &= 0.15 \text{ V} \end{aligned}$$

Thus, in this scenario, the induced EMF would be 0.15 volts.

Summary and Final Insights

Key Takeaways:

- The magnitude of the induced EMF depends critically on the angle between the conductor's direction of motion and the magnetic field.
- Moving parallel to the magnetic field lines results in no EMF because the charges do not experience a force perpendicular to their initial position.
- Moving perpendicular to the magnetic field produces the maximum EMF, calculable via $\mathcal{E} = B v L$.

In the context of the original problem:

- Since the wire moves parallel to the magnetic field, the induced EMF is zero volts.

Additional Considerations and Practical Aspects

1. Real-World Scenarios:

- In realistic applications, a conductor moving within a magnetic field often moves at an angle to the field, resulting in a non-zero EMF.
- Devices like electric generators rely on this principle, often rotating conductors perpendicular to magnetic fields to maximize induced voltage.

2. Effect of Conductance and Resistance:

- The material properties of the wire influence the current that can flow due to the induced EMF.
- Resistance in the wire causes energy dissipation as heat, which is an important factor in designing electromagnetic devices.

3. Magnetic Field Uniformity:

- The calculation assumes a uniform magnetic field across the entire length of the wire.
- Non-uniform fields can complicate the calculation, requiring integration over the length.

4. Motion at Different Angles:

- If the wire were to move at an angle θ , the general formula applies:

$$\mathcal{E} = B v L \sin \theta$$

- Understanding how EMF varies with (θ) is essential for optimizing electromagnetic devices.

Conclusion

The problem of calculating the induced EMF when a wire moves within a magnetic field encapsulates fundamental electromagnetic principles. The core insight is that the relative orientation of motion and magnetic field lines dictates whether EMF is generated.

Final Answer:

Since the wire moves parallel to the magnetic field $(\theta = 0^\circ)$, the induced EMF is zero volts.

If, however, the movement were perpendicular to the magnetic field $(\theta = 90^\circ)$, the induced EMF would be:

$$\boxed{\mathcal{E} = 0.15 \text{ V}}$$

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