

Quantities and units in Magnetism

Olivier FRUCHART

Univ. Grenoble Alpes / CEA / CNRS SPINTEC, Grenoble, France

Slides: <u>https://fruchart.eu/slides</u>











ESM2025, 1-11 July 2025, Liège, Belgium 🤇 👔

2

Some references





The Analysis of Magnetic Microstructures

Magnetism in Condensed Matter Stephen Blundell

OXFORD MASTER SERIES IN CONDENSED MATTER PHYSICS

Bureau International des Poids et Mesures. URL http://www.bipm.org/

Siunits LATEX package. URL https://www.ctan.org/pkg/siunits

F. CARDARELLI, Encyclopedia of Scientific units, weights and measures, Springer, London, 2003.

R. B. GOLDFARB, The Permeability of Vacuum and the Revised International System of Units, IEEE Trans. Magn. 8, 1–3 (2017).

R. B. GOLDFARB, *Electromagnetic Units, the Giorgi System, and the Revised InternationalSystem of Units,* IEEE Magn. Lett. 9, 1205905 (2018).

S. SCHLAMMINGER, Redefining the kilogram and other SI units, IOP, 2018.

Springer



Quantities and units in physics



What is a quantity?

What is a unit ?





spinter

Quantities and units in physics

Quantity

(CC) BY

- \Box Example: speed $\mathbf{v} = \delta \boldsymbol{\ell} / \delta t$
- \Box Dimension: $\dim(\mathbf{v}) = \mathbf{L} \cdot \mathbf{T}^{-1}$



Units

- □ Why?
 - Provide a measure
 - □ Universality: share with others
- Possible formalism:

 $X = X_{\alpha} \langle X \rangle_{\alpha}$ Quantify Quantify Quantify Measure $\langle L \rangle_{SI} = meter = 100 \langle L \rangle_{cgs}$ $L = 50 \langle L \rangle_{SI} = 5000 \langle L \rangle_{cgs}$

intec

The electric charge and the electric field







chinter

The electric charge and the electric field



spinter

Origin of magnetism



Century-old facts

Magnetic materials (rocks)









Hans-Christian Oersted, 1777–1851.

Birth of electromagnetism

ESM2025, 1-11 July 2025, Liège, Belgium 🤇





Olivier FRUCHART – Units in Magnetism

(CC)

BY

 $\delta \mathbf{B} = \frac{\mu_0 I \delta \mathbf{\ell} \times \mathbf{u}}{4\pi r^2}$



The electric current and the magnetic induction field



spinter

10

Maxwell equations (in vacuum)





spinter

The magnetic point dipole (a magnetic moment)



Olivier FRUCHART – Units in Magnetism

spinter

Energy

Zeeman energy

Demonstration

 $\mathcal{E} = -\mathbf{\mu} \cdot \mathbf{B}$

- Work to compensate Lenz law during rise of B
- Integrate torque from Laplace force while flipping dipole in B

Force

(CC) BY

 $\mathbf{F} = \mathbf{\mu} \cdot$

Ν

- □ Valid only for fixed dipole
- No force in uniform magnetic induction field

Olivier FRUCHART – Units in Magnetism

Torque

$$\boldsymbol{\Gamma} = \oint \mathbf{r} \times I(\mathbf{d}\boldsymbol{\ell} \times \mathbf{B}) = \boldsymbol{\mu} \times \mathbf{B} \qquad \mathbf{N} \cdot \mathbf{m} = \mathbf{J}$$

Inducing precession of dipole around the field

 It is energy-conservative, as expected from Laplace (Lorentz) force



Two interacting magnetic point dipoles



□ The dipole-dipole interaction is anisotropic





spinter

Magnetization

Spin IN ELECTRONICS

Definition

- □ Volume density of magnetic point dipoles $\mathbf{M} = \frac{\delta \mathbf{\mu}}{\delta \mathbf{n}} \qquad A/m$
- Total magnetic moment of a body
 - $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{M}} = \int_{\mathcal{V}} \mathbf{M} \, \mathrm{d} \boldsymbol{\mathcal{V}} \qquad \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{m}^2$
 - Applies to: ferromagnets, paramagnets, diamagnets etc.
 - Must be defined at a length scale much larger than atoms
 - Is the basis for the micromagnetic theory





Free currents and bound currents

Back to Maxwell equations

Disregard fast time dependence: magnetostatics

 $\mathbf{\nabla} \times \mathbf{B} = \mu_0 \left(\mathbf{j} + \epsilon_0 \frac{\partial \mathbf{E}}{\partial t} \right)$

Consider separately real charge current, j_c from fictitious currents of magnetic dipoles j_m

 $\mathbf{\nabla} \times \mathbf{B} = \mu_0 (\mathbf{j}_{\rm c} + \mathbf{j}_{\rm m})$

(CC)

BY

- ✓ One can show: $\nabla \times \mathbf{M} = \mathbf{j}_{m}$ A/m² $\mathbf{M} \times \mathbf{n} = \mathbf{j}_{m,s}$ A/m
 - Units of the same μ_0 H coincide and have exactly the same meaning.

The magnetic field HImage: One has: $\nabla \times \left(\frac{\mathbf{B}}{\mu_0} - \mathbf{M}\right) = \mathbf{j}_c$ Image: By definition: $\mathbf{H} = \frac{\mathbf{B}}{\mu_0} - \mathbf{M}$ Image: Addition of the second second

B versus H : definition of the system

- M: local (infinitesimal) part in $\delta \mathcal{V}$ of the system defined when considering a magnetic material
- H: The remaining of B coming from outside $\delta \mathcal{V}$, liable to interact with the system



Derivation of the dipolar field

The dipolar field $\mathbf{H}_{\rm d}$

 By definition: the contribution to H not related to free currents (possible to split as Maxwell equations are linear)

Analogy with electrostatics

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{E} = \mathbf{0} \qquad \qquad \mathbf{E} = -\nabla \phi$$
$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{E} = \frac{\rho}{\epsilon_0} \qquad \qquad \text{Volume density of charges}$$

Derive the dipolar field Maxwell equation $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} = \mathbf{0} \rightarrow \nabla \cdot \mathbf{H}_{d} = -\nabla \cdot \mathbf{M}$ $\longrightarrow \mathbf{H}_{d}(\mathbf{r}) = -M_{s} \iiint_{\mathcal{V}'} \frac{[\nabla \cdot \mathbf{m}(\mathbf{r}')](\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}')}{4\pi |\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|^{3}} d\mathcal{V}'$ To lift the singularity that may arise at boundaries, a volume integration around the boundaries yields:

$$\mathbf{H}_{\mathrm{d}}(\mathbf{r}) = \iiint \frac{\rho(\mathbf{r}') (\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}')}{4\pi |\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|^3} \mathrm{d}\mathcal{V}' + \oiint \frac{\sigma(\mathbf{r}') (\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}')}{4\pi |\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|^3} \mathrm{d}\mathcal{S}'$$

 $\rho(\mathbf{r}) = -M_s \nabla \cdot \mathbf{m}(\mathbf{r}) \rightarrow \text{volume density of magnetic charges}$ $\sigma(\mathbf{r}) = M_s \mathbf{m}(\mathbf{r}) \cdot \mathbf{n}(\mathbf{r}) \rightarrow \text{surface density of magnetic charges}$



cointec

Stray field and demagnetizing field



Illustration from: M. Coey's book





Dintec

B versus H – Amperian versus Coulombian – Continuity conditions



Dipolar energy and demagnetizing tensor

Dipolar energy

BY

CC)

- □ Zeeman energy of microscopic volume $\delta \mathcal{E}_{Z} = -\mu_{0} \mathbf{M} \delta \mathcal{V} \cdot \mathbf{H}_{ext}$
- Elementary volume of a macroscopic system creating its own dipolar field $E_{\rm d} = \delta \mathcal{E}_{\rm d} / \delta \mathcal{V} = -\frac{1}{2} u_0 \mathbf{M} \cdot \mathbf{H}_{\rm d}$
- Total dipolar energy of macroscopic body $\mathcal{E}_{d} = -\frac{1}{2}\mu_{0} \iiint_{\mathcal{V}} \mathbf{M} \cdot \mathbf{H}_{d} d\mathcal{V}$

$$\mathcal{E}_{d} = \frac{1}{2} \mu_{0} \iiint_{\mathcal{V}} \mathbf{H}_{d}^{2} \, d\mathcal{V}$$

Always positive. Zero means minimum

Size considerations $H_{d}(\mathbf{r}) = \text{Volume} + \oint \frac{\sigma(\mathbf{r}') (\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}')}{4\pi |\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|^{3}} d\mathcal{S}'$ $\cup \text{ Unchanged if all lengths are scaled: homothetic.} \text{ NB: the following is a solid angle:} d\Omega = \frac{(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}') d\mathcal{S}'}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|^{3}}$

- H_d does not depend on the size of the body
- Said to be a long-range interaction

20

Range of dipolar interactions in low dimensionality



- Dipolar fields are short-ranged in low dimensions
- Dipolar fields are highly non-homogeneous in such large aspect ratio systems
- Consequences: non-uniform magnetization switching, edge modes etc.
- **Olivier FRUCHART Units in Magnetism**

(CC) BY

ESM2025, 1-11 July 2025, Liège, Belgium



EN

Demagnetizing coefficients – Maths



Demagnetizing coefficients – Take-away messages

For any shape of body

$$\langle \mathbf{H}_{\mathrm{d}}(\mathbf{r}) \rangle = -M_{\mathrm{s}} \,\overline{\mathbf{N}} \cdot \mathbf{m}$$

 $\mathcal{E}_{\mathrm{d}} = K_{\mathrm{d}} V \, \mathbf{m} \cdot \overline{\mathbf{N}} \cdot \mathbf{m}$

Dipolar anisotropy is always of second order

 $\overline{\mathbf{N}} \text{ demagnetizing tensor. Always positive,}$ $and can be diagonalized. <math>N_x + N_y + N_z = 1$ $\mathcal{E}_d = K_d V \left(N_x m_x^2 + N_y m_y^2 + N_z m_z^2 \right)$

Along main directions

 $\langle H_{\mathrm{d},i}(\mathbf{r}) \rangle = -N_i M_\mathrm{s}$



BY

(CC)

Hypothesis uniform **M** may be too strong Remember: dipolar field is NOT uniform

For ellipsoids etc.

Condition: boundary is a polynomial of the coordinates, with degree at most two

Slabs (thin films), cylinders, ellipsoids $z^{2} = \left(\frac{t}{2}\right)^{2} \left(\frac{x}{a}\right)^{2} + \left(\frac{y}{b}\right)^{2} = 1$ $H_{d} = -M_{s} \overline{N} \cdot m$ $\mathcal{E}_{d} = K_{d}V \mathbf{m} \cdot \overline{N} \cdot m$

Along main directions $H_{d,i} = -N_i M_s$



M and H may not be colinear along nonmain directions

Demagnetizing coefficient (examples)



Olivier FRUCHART – Units in Magnetism

ESM2025, 1-11 July 2025, Liège, Belgium 🚺

spinter

Magnetostatics – The F_{iik} functions



[CC]

BY

Magnetostatics – The H_{ijk} functions – Examples of use



Dimensional analysis (example: lengths)







Units in SI versus cgs



	S.I.		cgs-Gauss			
Definitions	Meter	m	Centimeter	cm	P	roblems with cgs versus SI
	Kilogram	kg	Gram	g		The quantity for charge current is missing
	Second	S	Second	S		No check for homogeneity;
	Ampere	А	Ab-Ampere	ab-A = 10 A		paradox for spintronics
$\mathbf{B} = \mu_0 (\mathbf{H} + \mathbf{M})$ $\mu_0 = 4\pi \times 10^{-7} \text{ S. I.}$		(+ M) × 10 ⁻⁷ S. I.	$\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{H} + 4\pi \mathbf{M}$ $"\mu_0" = 4\pi.$		ľ	Inconsistent definition of H Dimensionless quantities are affected: demag coefficients, susceptibility etc.

Conversion of measures for the same quantity

Field	Н	1 A/m	← →	$4\pi \times 10^{-3}$ Oe	Œrsted
Moment	μ	$1 \mathrm{A}\cdot\mathrm{m}^2$	← →	10 ³ emu	
Magnetization	Μ	1 A/m	← →	10 ⁻³ emu/cm ³	Electromagnetic Unit
Induction	В	1 T	← →	10 ⁴ G	Gauss
Susceptibility	$\chi = M/H$	1	← →	$1/4\pi$	

Tutorial on unitsQuestions:http://magnetism.eu/esm/2018/abs/fruchart-practical-abs1.pdfAnswers:http://magnetism.eu/esm/2018/abs/fruchart-practical-abs1.pdf

ESM2025, 1-11 July 2025, Liège, Belgium 🚺



Example: length $X = X_{\alpha}(X)_{\alpha}$ Quantity Reference quantity Measure

The SI standard is 100 times LARGER than the cgs one

 $L = 50 \langle L \rangle_{\rm SI} = 5000 \langle L \rangle_{\rm cgs}$

 $50\ m$ is equivalent to $5000\ cm$

The SI measure is 100 times **SMALLER** than the cgs one

The ratio is opposite if one considers the standard for a quantity (a quantity) or the measure (a number) of a given quantity





How to convert units from one system to another?

Process for converting units

- 1. Convert all basic units (MKSA)
 - $\langle L \rangle_{SI} = meter = 10^2 \langle L \rangle_{cgs}$
 - $\langle M \rangle_{SI} = kilogram = 10^3 \langle M \rangle_{cgs}$
 - $\langle T \rangle_{SI} = second = \langle T \rangle_{cgs}$
 - $\langle I \rangle_{SI} = Ampère = 10^{-1} \langle I \rangle_{cgs}$
- 2. Decompose any given quantity in fundamental quantities. In practice, identify a formula linking it to quantities already decomposed
- 3. Apply the formalism defining units and measures

 $X = X_{\alpha} \langle X \rangle_{\alpha}$

Example Mechanics, force F $\mathbf{F} = m \mathbf{a}$ $\dim(\mathbf{F}) = \mathbf{M} \cdot \mathbf{L} \cdot \mathbf{T}^{-2}$ $F = F_{\rm SI} \langle F \rangle_{\rm SI}$ $= F_{\rm SI} \langle L \rangle_{\rm SI} \langle M \rangle_{\rm SI} \langle T \rangle_{\rm SI}^{-2}$ $= F_{\rm SI} \ 10^2 \langle L \rangle_{\rm cgs} \ 10^3 \langle M \rangle_{\rm cgs} \ (1)^{-2} \langle T \rangle_{\rm cgs}^{-2}$ $= F_{\rm SI} \ 10^5 \langle F \rangle_{\rm cgs} = F_{\rm cgs} \langle F \rangle_{\rm cgs}$ $(F)_{SI} = 10^5 \langle F \rangle_{cgs}$ $F_{SI} = 10^{-5} F_{cgs}$ 1 N is equivalent to 10^5 erg







Proposed logarithmic formalism for dimensionality $\dim(\mathbf{X}) = \mathbf{L}^{\alpha} \cdot \mathbf{M}^{\beta} \cdot \mathbf{T}^{\gamma} \cdot \mathbf{I}^{\delta}$ $\langle X \rangle_{\rm SI} / \langle X \rangle_{\rm cgs}$ Log 10² $[L] = [1 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0]$ 2 M (meter) $[M] = [0 \ 1 \ 0 \ 0] \qquad 10^3$ 3 K (kg) $[T] = [0 \ 0 \ 1 \ 0]$ 1 0 S (second) 10^{-1} $[I] = [0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 1]$ -1A (Ampère) $[\mathbf{X}] = \alpha[\mathbf{L}] + \beta[\mathbf{M}] + \gamma[\mathbf{T}] + \delta[\mathbf{I}]$ $[\mathbf{X}] = [\alpha \ \beta \ \delta \ \gamma]$

Olivier FRUCHART – Units in Magnetism

(CC) BY

```
Example
                Mechanics, force F
 \mathbf{F} = m \mathbf{a}
[\mathbf{F}] = [m] + [\mathbf{a}] = [0\ 1\ 0\ 0] + [1\ 0\ -2\ 0]
[\mathbf{F}] = [1\ 1\ -2\ 0]
          2 3 0
          230
                                \rightarrow 5
       1 \text{ N} is equivalent to 10^5 \text{ erg}
```

cointer

Dimensionality of units in magnetism

Dimensionality

- A magnetic moment has the dimension of a pinpoint magnetic dipole $\mu = IS$. thus, $[\mu] = [2 \ 0 \ 0 \ 1]$.
- Magnetization is a volume density of magnetic moments: $\mathbf{M} = \mu/V$, so: $[\mathbf{M}] = [-1\ 0\ 0\ 1]$. **M** and **H** have the same dimension as we can see from: $\mathbf{B} = \mu_0(\mathbf{H} + \mathbf{M})$. Thus: $[\mathbf{H}] = [-1\ 0\ 0\ 1]$.
- Magnetic induction B is what matters in Lorentz force $\mathbf{F} = q\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B}$, so that: $[\mathbf{B}] = [0 \ 1 \ -2 \ -1]$.
- Magnetic flux is $\phi = BS$ so that: $[\phi] = [2 \ 1 \ -2 \ -1]$.
- Finally, as in electricity, μ_0 makes the link between the source (current) and fields on one side, and energy and mechanics on the other side, as for the Lorentz force above: $\mathbf{B} = \mu_0(\mathbf{H} + \mathbf{M})$, or in vacuum: curl $\mathbf{B} = \mu_0 \mathbf{j}$, from which one derives: $[\mu_0] = [1 \ 1 \ -2 \ -2]$.

Units (easy situations)

- Induction **B**. 1 T is equivalent to 10^4 G, G standing for *Gauss*.
- Magnetization M. 1 A/m is equivalent to 10^{-3} uem/cm³, emu standing for *ElectroMagnetic Unit*.
- Flux ϕ . 1Wb (Weber) is equivalent to 10^8 Mx, Mx standing for *Maxwell*.
- Moment $\mu.~1\,A\cdot m^2$ is equivalent to $10^3\,\text{emu}.$

EM



How to convert units from one system to another?

Tricky case 1: magnetic permeability

 $\mu_0 = \mu_{0_{\rm SI}} \langle \mu_0 \rangle_{\rm SI}$

 $[\mu_0] = [1 \ 1 \ -2 \ -2]$

- $\rightarrow \langle \mu_0 \rangle_{\rm SI} = 10^2 \cdot 10^3 \cdot (10^{-2})^{-1} \langle \mu_0 \rangle_{\rm cgs}$
- $\rightarrow \langle \mu_0 \rangle_{\rm SI} = 10^7 \langle \mu_0 \rangle_{\rm cgs}$

$$\mu_0 = \mu_{0_{\text{SI}}} \langle \mu_0 \rangle_{\text{SI}} \rightarrow "\mu_{0_{\text{cgs}}}" = 4\pi$$

S.I. cgs-Gauss $\mathbf{B} = \mu_0(\mathbf{H} + \mathbf{M})$ $\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{H} + 4\pi \mathbf{M}$

 \rightarrow Unit for permeability dropped; H 4pi larger in cgs

Tricky case 2: magnetic field H $\mu_0 H = \mu_{0_{\rm SI}} \langle \mu_0 \rangle_{\rm SI} H_{\rm SI} \langle H \rangle_{\rm SI}$ SI: $\mu_0 H = 4\pi 10^{-7} \ 10^7 \langle \mu_0 \rangle_{\text{cgs}} \ 10^{-3} H_{\text{SI}} \langle H \rangle_{\text{cgs}}$ Remember: [H] = [10 - 20] $H = H_{\rm cgs} \langle H \rangle_{\rm cgs}$ cgs: $\langle \mu_0 \rangle_{\rm cgs} = 1$ $\rightarrow 4\pi \ 10^{-3} \ H_{\rm SI} = H_{\rm cgs}$ 1 A/m is equivalent to $4\pi \ 10^{-3}$ Oe



spinter

The most tricky situation: dimensionless quantities

Demagnetizing coefficients link H with M $\langle \mathbf{H}_{d}(\mathbf{r}) \rangle = -M_{s} \,\overline{\mathbf{N}} \cdot \mathbf{m}$ **Unit**: dimensionless $\mathcal{E}_{d} = K_{d}V \mathbf{m} \cdot \overline{\mathbf{N}} \cdot \mathbf{m}$ $N_{\chi} + N_{\gamma} + N_{z} = 1$ Definition H = -N M $\rightarrow \left(N_{\chi} + N_{y} + N_{z}\right)_{\text{cgs}} = 4\pi$ Definition $H = -4\pi N M$ $\rightarrow \left(N_x + N_y + N_z\right)_{cgs} = 1$

(CC) BY

Magnetic susceptibility links M with H

 \Box Definition $\chi = \delta M / \delta H$

$$\rightarrow \chi_{\rm cgs} = \chi_{\rm SI}/4\pi$$

$$\Box$$
 Definition $\chi = 4\pi \ \delta M / \delta H$

$$\rightarrow \chi_{\rm cgs} = \chi_{\rm SI}$$



Both definitions are used...



spinter

Quantum revolution in SI units in 2019



Define quantities

Times

🗉 Length

Mass

Electric charge

Fixed values

	Speed of light	-> Defines m
--	----------------	--------------

- Hyperfine Cs transition -> Defines s
- Planck constant -> Defines kg
- □ Charge of the electron -> Defines A

R. B. Goldfarb, IEEE Trans. Magn. MAG. 8, 1-3 (2017); R. B. Goldfarb, IEEE Mag. Lett. 9, 1205905 (2018) S. Schlamminger, Redefining the kilogram and other SI units, IOP Physics World Discovery (2018)



ESM2025, 1-11 July 2025, Liège, Belgium 🤇 👔



Cool-down Quizz 1 – Stray field above thin film



(cc) BY

inter

Cool-down Quizz 2 – Maximum stray field



- 1. M/3
- **2. M**/2
- 3. M
- 4. As high as we like, no limit





Dintec

Cool-down Quizz 3 – Demagnetizing coefficients



Cool-down Quizz 3 – Demagnetizing coefficients





- 1. Always negative
- 2. Always positive
- 3. Depends on the shape of the body
- 4. Depends on other energies: exchange, anisotropy etc.





- 1. Always negative
- 2. Always positive
- 3. Depends on the shape of the body
- 4. Depends on other energies: exchange, anisotropy etc.



I can "demonstrate" that magnetostatic energy can be positive and negative at the same time





Thank you for your attention !

www.spintec.fr | in

email: olivier.fruchart@cea.fr

