

# Ferromagnetic hysteresis with Cobra SMARTsense



Physics

Electricity &amp; Magnetism

Magnetism &amp; magnetic field

Applied Science

Engineering

Materials Science

Magnetic Properties



Difficulty level

hard



Group size

2



Preparation time

45+ minutes



Execution time

45+ minutes

This content can also be found online at:



<https://www.curriculab.de/c/5fbe6c54ec7c2d0003d7e4d7>

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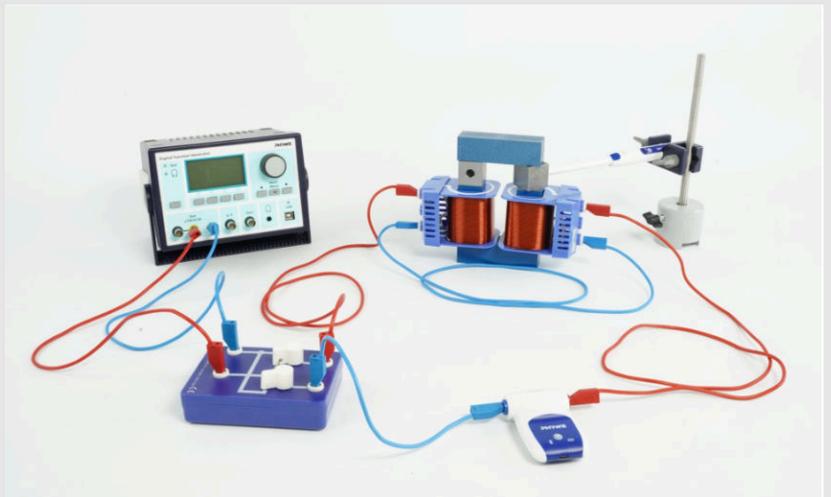
# General information

## Application

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Ferromagnetic hysteresis has many applications, e.g. in computer sciences. There, the most vivid example is the process that makes it possible to store data on a common hard disc drive.

On a more general level of applications the principles of ferromagnetic hysteresis explain which characteristics of a metal to use for a permanent magnet as compared to an electromagnet.



Experimental set up

## Other information (1/2)

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**Prior  
knowledge**



**Main  
principle**

In addition to the standard knowledge of electromagnetism, before performing this experiment, make yourself familiar with the following principles: hysteresis loop, coercive force / coercivity, retention of magnetism / retentivity / remanence / residual magnetism, point of saturation, hysteresis loss, magnetic domains.

The knowledge of these issues is a prerequisite to understand, e.g., that for permanent magnets, material with high retentivity and high coercivity are required versus material with low retentivity and low coercivity for electromagnets.

A magnetic field is generated in a ring-shaped iron core by a continuous adjustable direct current applied to two coils. The field strength  $H$  and the flux density  $B$  are measured and the hysteresis recorded. The remanence and the coercive field strength of two different iron cores are compared.

## Other information (2/2)

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**Learning  
objective**

The goal of this experiment is to investigate the lasting effects of magnetic fields on iron.



**Tasks**

1. Record the hysteresis curve both for a massive iron core and for a laminated one.

## Theory

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The field strength is calculated with the formula  $\mathbf{H} = \mathbf{I} \cdot \mathbf{n}/\mathbf{L}$ , where H represents the magnetic field strength, n = number of turns in the coil (600 turns) and L = average field line length in the core. (Solid core:  $L_{sc} = 232 \text{ mm}$ , laminated core:  $L_{lc} = 244 \text{ mm}$ )

The factor  $n/L$  changes due to the different dimensions of the two iron cores as follows:

Solid iron core:  $n/L = 2586 \text{ in } 1/m$ , laminated iron core:  $n/L = 2459 \text{ in } 1/m$

The calculation of the field strength is combined with a change of the x-axis in the visualisation. The factor in the mathematical formula depends on the used iron core and is equal to  $n/L$ .

Now, the coercive field strength and the remanence can be extracted from the hysteresis. Therefore, use the zoom function in the region of the intersection of the axes and obtain the points of intersection of the x and y-axis with aid of the cursor lines, which can be freely moved and shifted. A comparison of fig. 3 and 4 shows that the remanence and coercive field strength are substantially greater in a solid iron core than in a laminated one.

## Equipment

Position	Material	Item No.	Quantity
1	Coil, 600 turns	06514-01	2
2	Iron core, U-shaped, solid	06491-00	1
3	Iron core, I-shaped, solid	06490-00	1
4	Iron core, U-shaped, laminated	06501-00	1
5	Iron core, I-shaped, laminated	06500-00	1
6	Commutator switch	06006-00	1
7	PHYWE Digital Function Generator, USB	13654-99	1
8	Barrel base for 1 rod	02004-00	1
9	Right angle clamp expert with fulcrum screw	02054-00	1
10	Support rod, stainless steel, l = 250 mm, d = 10 mm	02031-00	2
11	Cobra SMARTsense High Current - Sensor for measuring electric current $\pm 10$ A (Bluetooth + USB)	12925-02	1
12	Cobra SMARTsense 3-Axis Magnetic field - Sensor for measuring the magnetic field in 3 axes $\pm 130$ mT / $\pm 5$ mT (Bluetooth + USB)	12947-00	1
13	USB charger for Cobra SMARTsense and Cobra4	07938-99	2
14	Connecting cord, 32 A, 250 mm, red	07360-01	2
15	Connecting cord, 32 A, 250 mm, blue	07360-04	2
16	Connecting cord, 32 A, 500 mm, red	07361-01	1
17	Connecting cord, 32 A, 500 mm, blue	07361-04	1
18	Holder for Cobra SMARTsense	12960-00	1
19	Adapter for magnetic field sensor	12947-01	1
20	measureAPP - the free measurement software for all devices and operating systems	14581-61	1

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# Setup and Procedure

## Setup (1/4)

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The Cobra SMARTsense sensors Magnetic Field and High Current as well as the measureAPP are required to perform the experiment. The app can be downloaded for free from the App Store - QR codes for tablets, smartphones and Windows computers see below. Use the USB connection, and not the Bluetooth connection, for this experiment.



measureAPP for Android operating systems



measureAPP for iOS operating systems



measureAPP for Tablets / PCs with Windows 10

## Setup (2/4)

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The experimental set-up is shown in Fig. 1a. Place the solid coil set-up far from the computer and from the Cobra SMARTsense 3-Axis Magnetic Field sensor (MFS) to avoid influences of the magnetic fields on the equipment and sensors.

Connect the commutator switch as shown in Fig. 1b to the digital function generator, the coil and the Cobra SMARTsense High Current sensor.

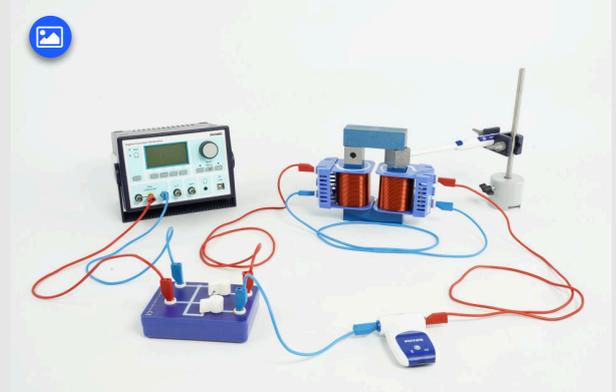


Fig. 1a

## Setup (3/4)

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The flux density  $B_0$ , measured by the MFS, and the current  $I$  through the coils are recorded.

Open measureAPP. Check that the recording rate is set to max.  $5 \text{ Hz}$ . For the hysteresis measurement the current  $I$  and the magnetic flux density  $B$  are measured. The magnetic field density  $H$  is calculated separately using the formula  $H = 2459 \cdot I$ .

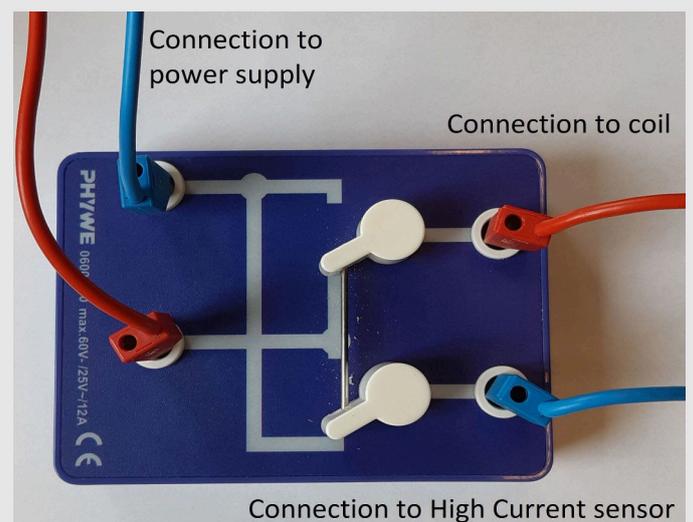


Fig. 1b

## Setup (4/4)

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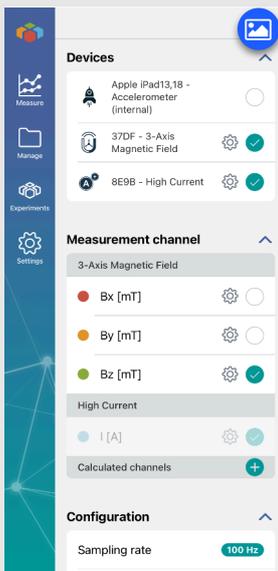
Digital function generator

Select the following settings for the digital function generator:

- Signal: Triangle
- Voltage p-p: 8V
- Frequency: 1 Hz

## Software setup and data analysis (1/3)

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**Left image:**

In measureAPP for Windows, the sensors Cobras SMARTsense 3-Axis Magnetic Field (MFS) and Cobra SMARTsense High Current are connected.

For the MFS activate only the Bz measurement channel. For this sensor the measurement range is set from -130...+130mT.

Set the sampling rate to 100 Hz.

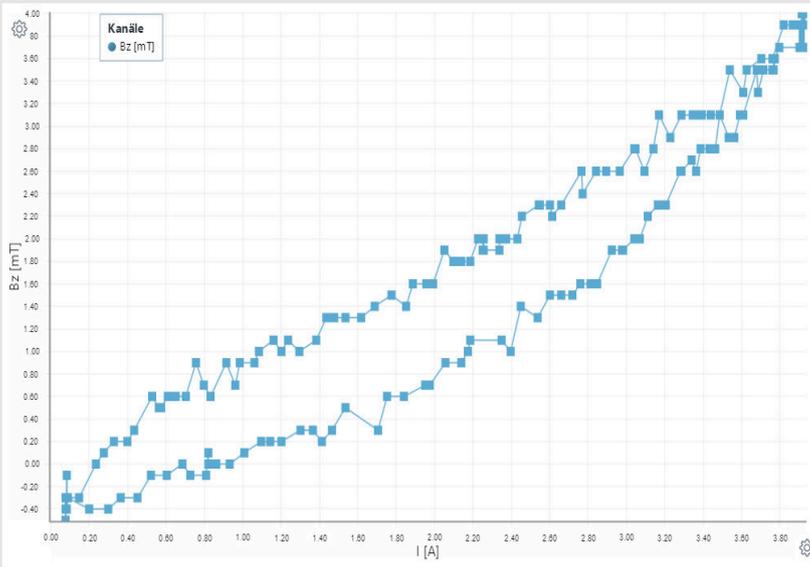
**Right image:**

Now choose Current I [A] for the X-axis by clicking on  symbol on the bottom right.



## Software setup and data analysis (2/3)

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Perform a measurement for approx. 2 s  
A typical graph by measureAPP is shown on the right.

If your hysteresis curve is in another orientation change the position of the commutator switch.

## Software setup and data analysis (3/3)

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1



2



3

Helpful functions in measureAPP:

1. Fit in-button above the measurement window: press repeatedly during measurement to refresh the display of the complete measurement.
2. Save data-button below the measurement window. After finishing the measurement you can save it in the Manage folder of measureAPP.
3. In the Manage folder, chose the measurement which you want to view or export. With this Export-button you can save your data in the CSV format which can be opened in spreadsheet programs like Microsoft Excel to perform data analysis.

## Procedure

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**Caution: Do not change the position of the switch while a voltage is applied and do not turn off the voltage rapidly. Otherwise induced current/voltage may damage the setup.**

If residual magnetism is present in the iron core, it is demagnetized: Set the commutator switch in such a manner that an opposing field is generated. Slightly increase the voltage till the flux density changes sign. Repeat till the flux density is approximately zero. The MFS might have an offset. You can check if there is residual magnetization by lifting the top iron bar. Alternatively, in measureAPP, you can set all values to zero.

After pressing the icon in the center bottom, slowly and steadily increase the voltage from zero upwards and decrease it to zero again. Using the commutator switch reverse the polarity of the voltage. Again increase and then decrease the voltage in the same way. Once again reverse the polarity of the voltage with the commutator switch and increase the voltage. Click on the icon again to end measurement and reset the voltage to 0 V (Fig. 2, 3). Fig. 2 shows flux density  $B$  as a function of time, fig. 3 as a function of current. Repeat the experiment with the laminated coil set.

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## Evaluation

## Task (part 1)

Typical values for this experimental set-up are:

<b>iron core:</b>	massive	laminated
<b>coercive field strength:</b>	436 A/m	80 A/m
<b>remanence:</b>	143 mT	41 mT

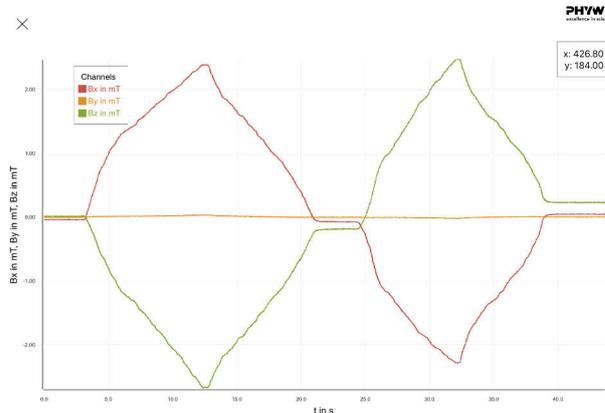


Fig. 2: Example curve for flux density measurement.

## Task (part 2)

### Remarks

After importing the data into a spreadsheet program, you need to convert the current values  $I$  into magnetic field density values  $H$ . Use the  $n/L$  factors for conversion as described above.

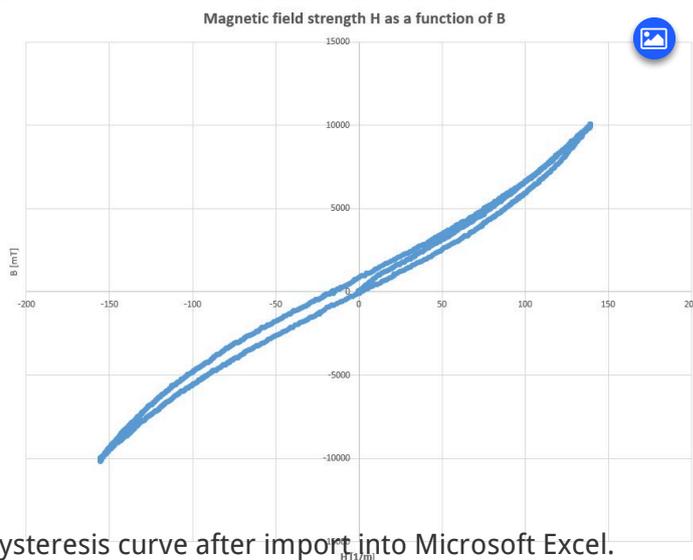


Fig. 3: Hysteresis curve after import into Microsoft Excel.