

Earth's magnetic field

Related topics

Magnetic inclination and declination, isoclinic lines, isogonic lines, inclinometer, magnetic flow density, Helmholtz coils.

Principle

A constant magnetic field, its magnitude and direction known, is superimposed on the unknown earth-magnetic field. The earth-magnetic field can then be calculated from the magnitude and direction of the resulting flux density.

Equipment

Pair of Helmholtz coils	06960.00	1
Power supply, universal	13500.93	1
Rheostat, 100 Ohm, 1.8 A	06114.02	1
Teslameter, digital	13610.93	1
Hall probe, axial	13610.01	1
Digital multimeter	07134.00	1
Magnetometer	06355.00	1
Barrel base -PASS-	02006.55	1
Right angle clamp -PASS-	02040.55	1
Support rod -PASS-, square, $l = 250$ mm	02025.55	1
Stand tube	02060.00	1
Connecting cord, $l = 1000$ mm, red	07363.01	1
Connecting cord, $l = 1000$ mm, blue	07363.04	4

Tasks

1. The magnetic flux of pair of Helmholtz coils is to be determined and plotted graphically as a function of the coil current. The Helmholtz system calibration factor is calculated from the slope of the line.
2. The horizontal component of the earth-magnetic field is determined through superimposition of the Helmholtz field.
3. The angle of inclination must be determined in order to calculate the vertical component of the earth-magnetic field.

Set-up and procedure

The experiment composition is as depicted in Fig. 1.

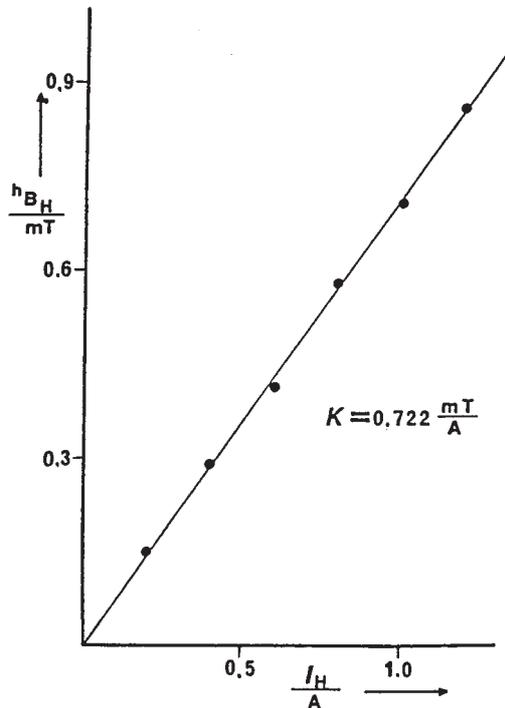
The Helmholtz coils, complete with mounted space-holders, are connected in series (linkage of equally-numbered connections) and connected with the DC-generator by the rheostat and the multimeter used as ammeter. The Hall probe is to be fixed on the support rod with barrel base pointing inward toward the coil axis in the center of the Helmholtz arrangement. In this arrangement, the horizontal flux density hB_H of the pair of coils is to be determined as a function of the pair of coils is to be determined as a function of the coil current I_H . The calibration factor $K = {}^hB_H/I_H$ is determined through the appertaining graphic representation. (See Fig. 2).

Fig. 1: Experimental set-up to determine the earth's magnetic field.



Earth's magnetic field

Fig. 2: Calibration function of the pair of Helmholtz coils.



Note:

Before measuring begins, the zero-point position of the tesla-meter must be set precisely.

By means of barrel base, stand tube and optic judgement, the magnetometer (with a leveled graduated circle) is placed between the coils so that the center of the graduated circle is approximately identical with the center of the pair of coils.

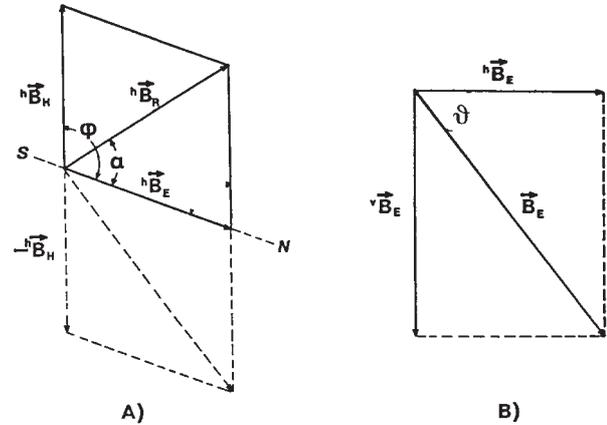
First, the direction "north/south" is noted on the graduated circle for currentless coils. In order to secure the direction "north/south" of the magnetic needle, the needle should be slightly turned away from its resting position several times. Possible friction resistance can be reduced by gently tapping the instrument. In order to determine the horizontal component hB_E of the earth-magnetic field, the deflection angle α of the magnetic needle is measured from its resting position as a function of small coil currents. If the polarity of the coil current is reversed, the measuring series must be repeated. In determining the exact angle, the indications from both needle tips must be considered.

The angle φ (Fig. 3a) between the direction "north/south" and the axis of the pair of coils is obtained through maximal needle deflection when the resistor is short-circuited the ammeter eliminated and the coil current set to approximately 4 A.

In conclusion, and for currentless coils, the graduated circle of the magnetometer is turned to the vertical plane so that the magnetic needle now indicates the inclination angle ϑ_1 . Make sure that the spin axis is consistent with the direction "north/south". In order to check on ϑ_2 , the magnetometer is turned by 180° and thus replaced on the vertical plane.

Fig. 3: Vector diagram of the magnetic flux densities:

- A) Horizontal plane
- B) Vertical plane.



Theory and evaluation

For currentless coils, the magnetic needle of the magnetometer aligns itself with the horizontal component hB_E (direction north/south) of the earth-magnetic field. If an additional magnetic field hB_H is superimposed on this component through the Helmholtz coils, the needle will be turned around the angle α and will point in the direction of the resulting hB_R . In Fig. 3A), the field components for the general case $\varphi \neq 90^\circ$ are represented. The components drawn by a broken line represent the resulting conditions of the polarity of the coil current is reversed.

By means of the sine-theorem, we obtain:

$$\frac{\sin \alpha}{\sin \beta} = \frac{\sin \alpha}{\sin (\varphi - \alpha)} = \frac{{}^hB_H}{{}^hB_E} \tag{1}$$

In the special case where the coil axis is perpendicular to the direction "north/south" ($\varphi = 90^\circ$), the following applies:

$${}^hB_E = {}^hB_H \cot \alpha. \tag{2}$$

By means of the calibration

$${}^hB_H = I_H \cdot K \text{ (see Fig. 2)} \tag{3}$$

we get from (1):

$${}^hB_E \cdot \frac{\sin \alpha}{\sin \beta} = I_H \cdot K \tag{4}$$

EARTH'S MAGNETIC FIELD EXPERIMENT

➤ **Report the guidelines in the following respectively:**

Make sure you include the following points in your discussion of the experimental results:

- Measurement of the calibration factor of the Helmholtz coil
- **Table** of current vs. magnetic field values
- Measurement of the horizontal component of the Earth magnetic field
- **Table** of current vs. angle of deflection values
- **Graph** of current vs. the relevant trigonometric function of the angle of deflection
- What is your measured value of the horizontal component of the magnetic field in Ankara?
- Measurement of the vertical component of the Earth magnetic field
- What is your measured value of the angle of inclination in Ankara?
- What is your measured value of the vertical component of the magnetic field in Ankara?

