In the presence of magnetic field, a wire through which electric current passes receives a force. This force is perpendicular to both magnetic field and electric current, and if magnetic field and electric field are parallel to each other, the wire doesn't receive any force. To determine the direction of force, "right-hand rule" is useful. See Figure. 1. If your thumb points to the electric current, and the other four fingers point the magnetic field, the direction that palm shoves is the direction of the force.





Summary

Magnetic field exerts a magnetic force on electric current.

This force is perpendicular to both the magnetic field and the electric current.

Its direction is given by right-hand rule.

(The figure is from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Regla_mano_derecha_Laplace.svg)