Electricity and Magnetism

Magnetic Fields and Forces

Force on Moving Charges



Concept:

High voltage applied to one end of the tube produces a horizontal electron beam. A bar magnet with its long axis oriented perpendicular to the plane of the above picture produces a vertical deflection of the beam. The direction of the force causing this deflection is given by:

$$\mathbf{F} = q\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B}$$

where \mathbf{v} is the electron's velocity and \mathbf{B} is the magnetic field.

Equipment:

- Handheld Tesla Coil
- Support Stand
- Rod Clamp
- Large 3 Pronged Clamp
- Bar Magnet
- Wooden Stand
- Evacuated Glass Tube with Fluorescent Screen

Procedure:

- 1. Assemble apparatus so the end of the glass tube with the slit is touching the tip of the Tesla coil.
- 2. Plug in the Tesla coil to power it on (there is no on/off switch).
- 3. If necessary, dial the knob on the top of the Tesla coil until you see the bright electron beam.
- 4. Bringing the north (or south) pole of the magnet from behind the glass tube and perpendicular to the beam will bend the electron beam upwards (or downwards).

Notes and Extras:

- Video Link
- In this demonstration q is negative. This produces a force opposite in direction to that expected for the same magnetic field applied to a current carrying wire.