

Phys 202- Right Hand Rule

The **right hand rule** is a tool used to help identify the direction of different fields and forces due to different objects.

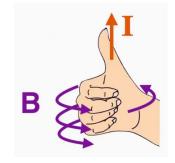
Helpful Key:



= coming out of the page (towards you)

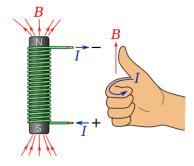
- Right hand rule #1:

| | Moving Point Charge | Straight Wire |
|--------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Thumb | Velocity (v) | Current (I) |
| Fingers curl | Magnetic field (\vec{B}) | Magnetic field (\overrightarrow{B}) |
| Notes: | *For a negative charge, the magnetic | |



- Right Hand Rule #2:

| | Loop of wire | |
|--------------|----------------------------|--|
| Thumb | Magnetic field (\vec{B}) | |
| Fingers curl | Current (I) | |



- Right Hand Rule #3:

| | Force on a Moving Charge | Force DUE to a wire | Electromagnetic (EM) Waves |
|----------------|---|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Thumb | Force (F) | Current (I) | Direction of propagation |
| Pointer finger | Velocity (v) | Magnetic field (\vec{B}) | Electric field (\vec{E}) |
| Middle finger | Magnetic field (\vec{B}) | Force (F) | Magnetic field (\overrightarrow{B}) |
| Notes: | *B field will point in opposite direction for a negative charge | | |

To create the correct RHR #3 positioning, place hand like this first, then raise your middle finger so that it is parallel to both pointer finger and thumb. Then alter wrist placement so that your fingers are pointing in the direction of the two given vectors to find the direction of the 3rd vector.

