

Figure 7.11

In particular, although the magnetic force is responsible for establishing the emf, it is certainly *not* doing any work—magnetic forces *never* do work. Who, then, is supplying the energy that heats the resistor? *Answer:* The person who's pulling on the loop! With the current flowing, charges in segment *ab* have a vertical velocity (call it *u*) in addition to the horizontal velocity *v* they inherit from the motion of the loop. Accordingly, the magnetic force has a component quB to the left. To counteract this, the person pulling on the wire must exert a force per unit charge

$$f_{\text{pull}} = uB$$

to the *right* (Fig. 7.11). This force is transmitted to the charge by the structure of the wire. Meanwhile, the particle is actually *moving* in the direction of the resultant velocity *w*, and the distance it goes is $(h/\cos\theta)$. The work done per unit charge is therefore

$$\int \mathbf{f}_{\text{pull}} \cdot d\mathbf{l} = (uB) \left(\frac{h}{\cos\theta} \right) \sin\theta = vBh = \mathcal{E}$$

($\sin\theta$ coming from the dot product). As it turns out, then, the *work done per unit charge is exactly equal to the emf*, though the integrals are taken along entirely different paths (Fig. 7.12) and completely different forces are involved. To calculate the emf you integrate around the loop at *one instant*, but to calculate the work done you follow a charge in its motion around the loop; \mathbf{f}_{pull} contributes nothing to the emf, because it is perpendicular to the wire, whereas \mathbf{f}_{mag} contributes nothing to work because it is perpendicular to the motion of the charge.⁴

There is a particularly nice way of expressing the emf generated in a moving loop. Let Φ be the flux of \mathbf{B} through the loop:

$$\Phi \equiv \int \mathbf{B} \cdot d\mathbf{a}. \quad (7.12)$$

For the rectangular loop in Fig. 7.10,

$$\Phi = Bhx.$$

⁴For further discussion, see E. P. Mosca, *Am. J. Phys.* **42**, 295 (1974).

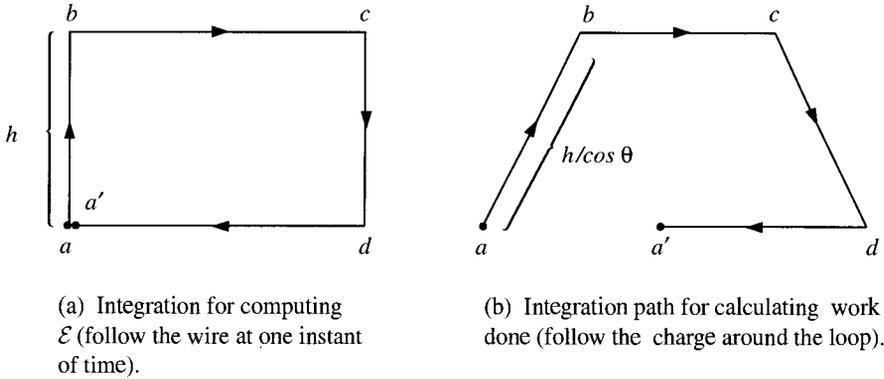


Figure 7.12

As the loop moves, the flux decreases:

$$\frac{d\Phi}{dt} = Bh \frac{dx}{dt} = -Bhv.$$

(The minus sign accounts for the fact that dx/dt is negative.) But this is precisely the emf (Eq. 7.11); evidently the emf generated in the loop is minus the rate of change of flux through the loop:

$$\boxed{\mathcal{E} = -\frac{d\Phi}{dt}} \quad (7.13)$$

This is the **flux rule** for motional emf. Apart from its delightful simplicity, it has the virtue of applying to *nonrectangular* loops moving in *arbitrary* directions through *nonuniform* magnetic fields; in fact, the loop need not even maintain a fixed shape.

Proof: Figure 7.13 shows a loop of wire at time t and also a short time dt later. Suppose we compute the flux at time t , using surface \mathcal{S} , and the flux at time $t + dt$, using the surface consisting of \mathcal{S} plus the “ribbon” that connects the new position of the loop to the old. The *change* in flux, then, is

$$d\Phi = \Phi(t + dt) - \Phi(t) = \Phi_{\text{ribbon}} = \int_{\text{ribbon}} \mathbf{B} \cdot d\mathbf{a}.$$

Focus your attention on point P : in time dt it moves to P' . Let \mathbf{v} be the velocity of the *wire*, and \mathbf{u} the velocity of a charge *down* the wire; $\mathbf{w} = \mathbf{v} + \mathbf{u}$ is the resultant velocity of a charge at P . The infinitesimal element of area on the ribbon can be written as

$$d\mathbf{a} = (\mathbf{v} \times d\mathbf{l}) dt$$