Designation: A341/A341M − 16

Standard Test Method for Direct Current Magnetic Properties of Soft Magnetic Materials Using D-C Permeameters and the Point by Point (Ballistic) Test Methods[1]

This standard is issued under the fixed designation A341/A341M; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ε) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

This standard has been approved for use by agencies of the U.S. Department of Defense.

1. Scope

1.1 This test method provides dc permeameter tests for the basic magnetic properties of soft magnetic materials in the form of bars, rods, wire, or strip specimens which may be cut, machined, or ground from cast, compacted, sintered, forged, extruded, rolled, or other fabricated materials. It includes tests for determination of the normal induction under symmetrically cyclically magnetized (SCM) conditions and the hysteresis loop (B-H loop) taken under conditions of rapidly changing or steep wavefront reversals of the direct current magnetic field strength. This method has been historically referred to as the ballistic test method. For testing hard or permanent magnet materials, Test Method A977/A977M shall be used.

1.2 This test method shall be used in conjunction with Practice A34/A34M.

1.3 This test method covers a range of magnetic field strength in the specimen from about 0.05 Oe [4 A/m] up to above 5000 Oe [400 kA/m] through the use of several permeameters. The separate permeameters cover this test region in several overlapping ranges.

1.4 Normal induction and hysteresis properties may be determined over the magnetic flux density range from essentially zero to the saturation induction for most materials.

1.5 Recommendations of the useful magnetic field strength range for each of the permeameters are shown in Table 1.[2] Permeameters particularly well suited for general testing of soft magnetic materials are shown in boldface. Also, see Sections 3 and 4 for general limitations relative to the use of permeameters.

1.6 The symbols and abbreviated definitions used in this test method appear with Fig. 1 and in appropriate sections of this document. For the official definitions, see Terminology A340. Note that the term magnetic flux density used in this document is synonymous with the term magnetic induction.

1.7 **Warning**—Mercury has been designated by EPA and many state agencies as a hazardous material that can cause central nervous system, kidney, and liver damage. Mercury, or its vapor, may be hazardous to health and corrosive to materials. Caution should be taken when handling mercury and mercury-containing products. See the applicable product Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for details and EPA's website (http://www.epa.gov/mercury/faq.htm) for additional information. Users should be aware that selling mercury or mercury-containing products, or both, in your state may be prohibited by state law.

1.8 The values and equations stated in customary (cgs-emu and inch-pound) or SI units are to be regarded separately as standard. Within this standard, SI units are shown in brackets except for the sections concerning calculations where there are separate sections for the respective unit systems. The values stated in each system may not be exact equivalents; therefore, each system shall be used independently of the other. Combining values from the two systems may result in nonconformance with this standard.

1.9 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*[3]

A34/A34M Practice for Sampling and Procurement Testing

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[1] This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee A06 on Magnetic Properties and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee A06.01 on Test Methods.

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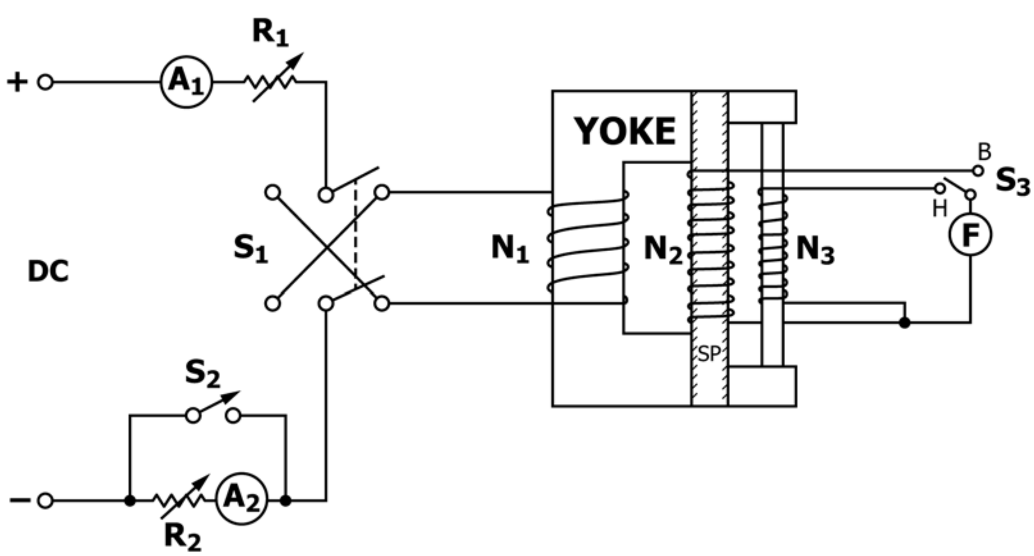
[2] The boldface numbers in parentheses refer to a list of references at the end of this standard.

[3] For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

TABLE 1 Permeameters

Permeameter	Useful Magnetic Field Strength Range[A]		*H* Measuring Device[B]	Reluctance Compensation	Magnetizing Coil Surrounds Specimen	References[D]
	Oe	kA/m				
Babbit	40/1000	3.2/80	*I, HC*	yes	yes	(**1**,**2**)
Burroughs	0.1/300	0.008/24	*I*	yes	yes	(**1**,**3**,**4**,**5**)
Fahy Simplex[C]	0.1/300	0.008/24	*HC*	no	no	(**1**,**4**,**5**,**6**,**7**)
Fahy Simplex Super H adapter[C]	100/2500	8/200	*HC*	no	no	(**1**,**3**)
Full range	0.05/1400	0.004/112	*HC*	yes	yes	(**1**,**8**)
High H	100/5000	8/400	*FC*	yes	no	(**1**,**5**,**7**,**9**)
Iliovici	0.5/500	0.04/400	*I, HC*	yes	yes	(**4**,**10**,**11**)
IEC Type A	0.1/2500	0.008/200	*HC, HP*	no	yes	IEC 60404-4
IEC Type B	0.1/630	0.008/50	*RCC*	no	no	IEC 60404-4
Isthmus	100/20 000+	8/1600+	*HC, HP*	no	no	(**1**,**4**,**12**,**13**)
MH	0.1/300	0.008/24	*FC*	yes	yes	(**1**,**6**,**14**)
NPL	0.5/2500	0.04/200	*I, HC*	yes	yes	(**15**)
Saturation	100/4000	8/320	*HC*	no	yes	(**5**,**16**,**17**)

[A] Although the permeameters are capable of being used at the lower end of the measurement range, the measurement accuracy is reduced.
[B] *I*—magnetizing current; *HC*—fixed *H* coil; *FC*—flip coil; *HP*—Hall probe; *RCC* —Rogowski-Chattock coil.
[C] Fahy permeameters require a standard of known magnetic properties for calibration of the *H* coil.
[D] The boldface numbers in parentheses refer to a list of references at the end of this standard.



NOTE 1—
A_1—Multirange ammeter (main current)
A_2—Multirange ammeter (hysteresis current)
B—Magnetic flux density test position for Switch S_3
F—Electronic Fluxmeter
H—Magnetic field strength test position for Switch S_3
N_1—Magnetizing coil
N_2—Magnetic flux sensing (*B*) coil
N_3—Magnetic field strength (*H*) sensing coil
R_1—Main current control rheostat
R_2—Hysteresis current control rheostat
S_1—Reversing switch for magnetizing current
S_2—Shunting switch for hysteresis current control rheostat
S_3—Fluxmeter selector switch
SP—Specimen

FIG. 1 Basic Circuit Using Permeameter

of Magnetic Materials
A340 Terminology of Symbols and Definitions Relating to Magnetic Testing
A596/A596M Test Method for Direct-Current Magnetic Properties of Materials Using the Ballistic Method and Ring Specimens
A977/A977M Test Method for Magnetic Properties of High-Coercivity Permanent Magnet Materials Using Hysteresigraphs

2.2 *IEC Standard:*
Publication 60404-4, Ed. 2.2 Magnetic Materials – Part 4: Methods of Measurement of D.C. Magnetic Properties of

Iron and Steel, IEC, 1995 Plus Amendments 1 in 2000 and 2 in 2008[4]

2.3 *Other Documents:*

NIST Circular No. 74, pg. 269[5]

NIST Scientific Paper 117, SPBTA[5]

3. Significance and Use

3.1 Permeameters require the use of yokes to complete the magnetic circuit and are therefore inherently less accurate than ring test methods. Refer to Test Method A596/A596M for further details on ring test methods. However, when testing certain shapes as bars or when magnetic field strength in excess of 200 Oe [16 kA/m] is required, permeameters are the only practical means of measuring magnetic properties.

3.2 This test method is suitable for specification acceptance, service evaluation, research and development and design.

3.3 When the test specimen is fabricated from a larger sample and is in the same condition as the larger sample, it may not exhibit magnetic properties representative of the original sample. In such instances the test results, when viewed in context of past performance history, will be useful for judging the suitability of the material for the intended application.

4. Interferences

4.1 In general, permeameters do not maintain a uniform magnetic field in either the axial or radial directions around the test specimen. The field gradients in both of these directions will differ in the various permeameters. Also the *H*-sensing and *B*-sensing coils of the different permeameters are not identical in area, in turns, or in length or identically located. Although test specimens are prepared to have uniform physical cross section, they may have undetected nonuniform magnetic properties radially or axially along the specimen length adjacent to the *H* or *B* coils. Some permeameters may also introduce clamping strains into the test specimen. For the above reasons test results obtained on a test specimen with one type permeameter may not agree closely with those obtained on the same test specimen using another type of permeameter.

5. Apparatus

5.1 Because of the differences in physical construction of the various permeameters listed in Table 1, no standard list of components is given. When used with a particular type of permeameter, the components should conform to the general requirements listed below. A basic schematic of a permeameter is shown in Fig. 1.

5.2 *Permeameter*—The particular permeameter used shall be of high quality construction. The yokes should be made of high permeability alloy such as oriented or nonoriented silicon iron or nickel-iron alloy, although low carbon steel or iron is acceptable in certain instances. The preferred yoke dimensions are listed in the appended references (see Table 1). Deviations from these dimensions should be such that the yoke is operating at or below the point of maximum permeability for the highest test magnetic flux densities encountered. Yoke construction may consist of either stacked laminations or stripwound C cores suitably bolted or adhesive bonded together.

5.3 *Power Supply*—The magnetizing current shall be supplied by either storage batteries or dc power supplies. Linear power supplies have been found to be well suited for this use. The source of dc current must be stable, have negligible ripple and be capable of quickly returning to the stable state after switching. When programmable power supplies are used, either digital or analog programming signals are permissible provided that equal but opposite polarity current cycling is possible.

5.4 *Main-Current-Control Rheostats, R_1*—When used, these rheostats must have sufficient power rating and heat-dissipating capacity to handle the voltage and largest test current and must provide sufficient resistance to limit the test currents to those required for the lowest magnetic field strength to be used.

5.5 *Hysteresis-Current-Control Rheostats, R_2*—When used, these rheostats must have the same characteristics as the main-current control rheostats.

5.6 *Main-Current Ammeter, A_1*—Magnetizing current measurement shall be conducted using a digital ammeter or combination of a digital voltmeter and precision current sensing resistor with an overall accuracy of better than 0.25 % when the magnetic field strength will be determined from the current. In those permeameters where the magnetic field strength is determined by other means, such as Hall probes or *H* coils, lower accuracy analog instruments can be used. In such permeameters, the ammeter is used to prevent excessive currents from being applied and, based on past experience, to roughly establish the required magnetic field strength.

5.7 *Hysteresis-Current Ammeter, A_2*—The requirements of 5.6 shall apply. In general, a separate ammeter is not required.

5.8 *Reversing Switch, S_1*—When nonprogrammable dc current sources such as storage batteries are used, a current reversing switch is required. The reversing switch should be either a high quality knife switch, mechanical or electrical solenoid-operated contractors or mercury switches having high current rating and the ability to maintain uniform contact resistance of equal magnitude in both current directions. Switches with contact bounce or other multiple contacting behavior on make or break must be avoided. Because of the presence of leakage currents in the open condition, solid state relays are not permitted.

5.9 *Hysteresis Switch, S_2*—This single pole switch must conform to the same requirements as the reversing Switch, S_1.

5.10 *Fluxmeter, F*—Because of their superior accuracy, stability, and ease of operation, electronic fluxmeters shall be used to measure the magnetic flux density and, if an H-coil is used, the magnetic field strength. Fluxmeters using either operational amplifier and capacitor feedback (analog integrator) or analog to digital conversion and digital integration are permitted. The accuracy of the fluxmeter must be better than

[4] Available from American National Standards Institute (ANSI), 25 W. 43rd St., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10036.

[5] Available from National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), 100 Bureau Dr., Stop 1070, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-1070, http://www.nist.gov.

TABLE 2 Number of Test Strips

Nominal Thickness		Number of Strips
in.	mm	
0.0100 to 0.0250	0.254 to 0.635	12
0.0280 to 0.0435	0.711 to 1.105	8
0.0500 and over	1.27 and over	4

1 % full scale. If analog display meters are used to read the value of magnetic flux, the measurement should be made on the upper two-thirds of the scale. Analog fluxmeters must have drift adjust circuitry and the drift should not exceed 100 maxwell-turns [10^{-6} Wb-turns] per minute on the most sensitive range. It is also desirable that the fluxmeter have appropriate scaling circuitry to permit direct reading of either magnetic flux (φ) or magnetic flux density (B).

5.11 *B Coils*—Prewound fixed magnetic flux sensing coils are often used. When used, the cross-sectional area enclosed by the secondary winding and number of turns must each be known to within 0.5 %.

5.12 *Magnetic Field Strength Measuring Devices*—Certain permeameters do not or cannot use the magnetizing current to determine the magnetic field strength accurately. Such permeameters instead use stationary H coils, flip coils, or Hall probes. When such devices are used, they shall be capable of determining the magnetic field strength to accuracy of 1.0 % or better.

6. Test Specimens

6.1 Test specimen area shall normally be determined from mass, length, and density as indicated in 9.1 and 10.1. When the test specimen is machined or ground to have a very smooth surface, the physical dimensions obtained from micrometer measurements may be used to calculate the cross-sectional area.

6.2 Test specimens in bar form may be of round, square, or rectangular cross-sectional shape. In some permeameters the bar specimen may be a half round or any shape having a uniform cross-sectional area. Certain permeameters must have a good magnetic joint between the ends of the test specimen and the permeameter yoke or pole faces. Pole shoes may be necessary to create this joint. Generally, to achieve a good magnetic joint, the test specimen must be of square or rectangular cross section and must be machined or ground to have straight and parallel surfaces. For permeameters using specimens butted to pole pieces, the specimen ends must be smooth and parallel.

6.3 When the material is in flat-rolled form and is to be evaluated as half transverse-half longitudinal, the specimen shall be sheared to have strips in accordance with Table 2 except that multiples of four are not required. When material is to be evaluated in one direction, it shall conform to this table or to the requirements for best test quality in a particular permeameter. For strip and sheet less than 0.0100 in. [0.254 mm] in thickness, the cross-sectional area shall be not less than 0.31 in.^{2} [200 mm^2] and not more than 0.62 in.^{2} [400 mm^2].

6.4 When the test specimen for strip materials is to be half transverse and half longitudinal, the preferred method is to test the transverse strips as one specimen and the longitudinal strips as another specimen. Mixing the specimens when significant magnetic anisotropy is present could result in unrealistic test results.

6.5 For full testing accuracy, the length and size of the test specimen must meet the requirements of the permeameter being used. Generally, for most permeameters, a test specimen length of 10 in. [0.25 m] or more is required. Shorter specimens with some permeameters will require the use of pole-piece extensions, and may cause a reduction in testing accuracy. Other permeameters are designed for short specimens without loss of testing accuracy.

6.6 All test specimen forms shall be cut, machined, or ground to have a uniform cross-sectional area along the active length of the test specimen. The cross-sectional area shall be sufficiently uniform so that its nonuniformity will not materially affect the accuracy of establishing and measuring magnetic flux density in the test sample.

6.7 When required for development of material properties the test specimen shall have received a stress relief or other heat treatment after preparation. This anneal is subject to agreement between producer and user; producer's recommendation; or the recommended heat treatment provided by the appropriate ASTM standard for the material. The heat treatment used shall be reported with the test results as indicated in 11.1.3.

7. Calibration

7.1 *Fluxmeter*—Practical operating experience has shown that provided a proper warmup period is allowed, electronic fluxmeters require infrequent calibration therefore calibration is not an integral part of this test method. When calibration is required, it can be accomplished with either a mutual inductor or a volt-second source. Because of their traceability to the fundamental units of voltage and time, volt-second sources are the preferred means of calibration. The accuracy of either the mutual inductor or volt-second source must be better than the rated full scale accuracy of the fluxmeter.

7.2 *Fixed B and H Coils*—The effective area turns of such search coils can be determined by comparison with a coil of known area turns or by individual calibration in a series of known magnetizing fields. Such fields can be obtained using either long solenoids electromagnets or appropriate Helmholtz coil systems.

7.3 *Comparison Permeameters*—Certain types of permeameters such as the Fahy permeameter require a standard specimen of known magnetic properties to derive the relationship between field sensor output and true magnetic field strength. In the absence of nationally recognized standard specimens, a standard may be developed by mutual agreement between producer and user, and if possible, a referee laboratory.

8. Procedure

8.1 Many permeameters use a compensating system of magnetizing coils to provide extra magnetomotive force to overcome the reluctance of the yokes and joints in the magnetic circuit. Hence, the detailed operation procedure will vary somewhat with the type of permeameter used. Detailed operating procedures can be found in the references appended to this test method. The procedure listed below is common to all types of permeameters.

8.2 In Fig. 1, the dc power source supplies testing current measured by ammeter A_1 or A_2. Rheostats R_1 and R_2 and Switches S_1 and S_2 determine the magnitude and direction of the current as required by various operations. In general, three kinds of switching operations are required.

8.2.1 The first operation is the reversal of the magnetizing current direction without change in its magnitude as required for establishing a symmetrically cyclically magnetized condition used in determination of the normal induction curve. This is done by throwing Switch S_1 from one side to another. Normally this current reversal is done several times until a stable reading on the fluxmeter is obtained. Since the fluxmeter reads only the change in flux linkages or flux density depending on how it is scaled, this is the key switching operation since it establishes the reference point for all subsequent measurements of magnetic flux density and magnetic field strength.

8.2.2 The second operation is the reduction of the magnitude of magnetizing current without change of direction. This is done by opening Switch S_2. This allows for the measurement of the first quadrant of the hysteresis loop. If the fluxmeter is zeroed before opening Switch S_2 and the fluxmeter is calibrated to read magnetic flux density for the specimen, the resulting value is the difference between the maximum flux density (B_m) and the value of magnetic flux density corresponding to the magnetic field strength established by the hysteresis control rheostat R_2. Note that prior to making the next measurement, the maximum magnetic flux density must be reestablished by closing Switch S_2 and cycling Switch S_1 several times always ending at the same polarity.

8.2.3 The third operation combines reversal of direction of magnetizing current with reduction in magnitude. This switching operation is required to measure points on the hysteresis loop in the second and third quadrants. This is done by simultaneously throwing Switch S_1 from one side to the other and opening Switch S_2. Use care to be sure S_2 is opened before S_1 is closed for reversal. When determining the hysteresis loop, Switches S_1 and S_2 must be operated to traverse the loop in the same direction between successive measurements so as to preserve the cyclically magnetized state of the test specimen.

8.2.4 The usual practice for measuring the hysteresis loop is to measure the first and second quadrant and assume symmetry to complete the construction of the loop.

8.3 Before testing, demagnetize the specimen in the permeameter or by some other acceptable means. Demagnetize by first establishing a magnetic field strength sufficiently large to cause the magnetic flux density in the test specimen to reach a point well above the knee of the magnetization curve. Then while continuously operating the reversing switch at half-second or longer intervals, slowly reduce the magnetizing current to zero in small increments. An auxiliary demagnetizing circuit using a time delay relay will make this operation more reproducible and less tedious.

NOTE 1—Due to the inhomogeneous nature of permeameter magnetic circuits and the varying resolution of current control among different test systems, complete demagnetization of the test specimen (that is, $B = 0$ at $H = 0$) is seldom achievable. Provided the residual induction (B_r) in the specimen after demagnetization is less than 20 % of the lowest test magnetic flux density, the specimen can be considered to be demagnetized.

8.4 To obtain the magnetic flux density (B) corresponding to a specific magnetic field strength (H), establish the proper magnetic field strength (including the proper hysteresis current if appropriate), cycle the reversing switch several times to establish the symmetrically cyclically magnetized (SCM) condition, zero the fluxmeter and execute the proper switching procedure detailed in 8.2. The value of the magnetic flux or magnetic flux density can then be computed from the fluxmeter reading. Additional test points on the magnetization curve can be obtained without demagnetization if they are obtained in ascending order of B or H. Otherwise, it is necessary to demagnetize before additional testing. It is not necessary to demagnetize provided the maximum magnetic field strength is well above the knee of the magnetization curve.

8.5 To obtain the magnetic field strength corresponding to a specific magnetic flux density, a procedure similar to 8.4 is used with the exception that the magnetic field strength must be found by trial and error. If the specified magnetic flux density is exceeded, demagnetization is usually required before proceeding further unless operating at very low magnetic flux densities.

8.6 Electronic fluxmeters do not determine magnetic flux densities directly, rather the change in magnetic flux linkages ($N_2\Delta\varphi$) is measured. This result is converted to changes in magnetic flux density by division by the specimen cross-sectional area A and number of secondary turns N_2. To determine the actual value of magnetic flux density, the starting or reference points must be known. In the case of magnetization curve measurements, it is customary to zero the fluxmeter and measure the change in magnetic flux density for a fully reversed change in magnetic field strength. In this instance, the true value of magnetic flux density is one half of the total change in magnetic flux density. For hysteresis loop determination, the fluxmeter is zeroed at the point of maximum magnetic field strength. The resulting change in magnetic flux density is equal to the difference in magnetic flux density between the point of maximum magnetic field strength and the point corresponding to the hysteresis loop measurement magnetic field strength.

9. Calculation (Customary Units)

9.1 The sample cross-sectional area shall normally be determined from test specimen mass, length, and density using the equation:

$$A = m/\delta l \tag{1}$$

where:

A = cross-sectional area, cm^2;
m = mass of specimen, g;
δ = density of material, g/cm^3; and
l = specimen length, cm.

9.2 In permeameters using a fixed B coil, the B coil cross-sectional area is often much larger than the test specimen cross-sectional area; when this occurs, a correction for air flux in the *B* coil is required. This correction shall be made as shown in 9.2.1 through 9.2.3.

9.2.1 The geometric correction factor is given by:

$$K = (a - A)/A \quad (2)$$

where:

a = cross-sectional area of test (B), coil, cm^2, and
A = cross-sectional area of test specimen, cm^2.

9.2.2 The corrected or true magnetic flux density is given by:

$$B = B_{obs} - K\mu_0 H \quad (3)$$

where:

B = true magnetic flux density, G, in test specimen;
B_{obs} = measured magnetic flux density, G;
H = magnetic field strength, Oe; and
μ_0 = magnetic constant = 1.

9.2.3 For determining the value of magnetic flux density at a point on a hysteresis loop, the corrected magnetic flux density is given by:

$$B = B_m - (\Delta B_{obs} - K\mu_0 \Delta H) \quad (4)$$

where:

B = true magnetic flux density, G, at the test point on hysteresis loop;
B_m = maximum value of magnetic flux density, G, developed at magnetic field strength, H_m;
ΔB_{obs} = change in magnetic flux density from B_m to B at the test point;
ΔH = change in magnetic field strength, Oe, required to reduce the magnetic flux density from B_m to B at the test point; and
μ_0 = magnetic constant = 1.

10. Calculation (SI Units)

10.1 The sample cross-sectional area shall normally be determined from test specimen mass, length, and density using the equation:

$$A = m/\delta l \quad (5)$$

where:

A = cross-sectional area, m^2;
m = mass of specimen, kg;
δ = density of material, kg/m^3; and
l = specimen length, m.

10.2 In permeameters using a fixed *B* coil, the *B* coil cross-sectional area is often much larger than the test specimen cross-sectional area; when this occurs a correction for air flux in the *B* coil is required. This correction shall be made as shown in 10.2.1 through 10.2.3.

10.2.1 The geometric correction factor is given by:

$$K = (a - A)/A \quad (6)$$

where:

a = cross-sectional area of test (B) coil, m^2, and
A = cross-sectional area of test specimen, m^2.

10.2.2 The corrected or true magnetic flux density is given by:

$$B = B_{obs} - K\mu_0 H \quad (7)$$

where:

B = true magnetic flux density, T, in test specimen;
B_{obs} = measured magnetic flux density, T;
H = magnetic field strength, A/m; and
μ_0 = magnetic constant = $4\pi \times 10^{-7}$ H/m.

10.2.3 For determining the value of magnetic flux density at a point on a hysteresis loop, the corrected magnetic flux density is given by:

$$B = B_m - (\Delta B_{obs} - K\mu_0 \Delta H) \quad (8)$$

where:

B = true magnetic flux density, T, at the test point on hysteresis loop;
B_m = maximum value of magnetic flux density, T, developed at magnetic field strength, H_m;
ΔB_{obs} = change in magnetic flux density from B_m to B at the test point;
ΔH = change in magnetic field strength, A/m, required to reduce the magnetic flux density from B_m to B at the test point; and
μ_0 = magnetic constant = $4\pi \times 10^{-7}$ H/m.

11. Report

11.1 When normal induction or hysteresis tests are made in a permeameter, the following shall be reported along with the test data:

11.1.1 Name or type of permeameter used.

11.1.2 Size and shape of the test specimen.

11.1.3 Heat treatment or other processing applied to the test specimen before testing.

11.1.4 When permeability is reported, the corresponding value of either *B* or *H* must be reported.

11.1.5 With hysteresis data, when coercive field strength, residual induction, or other specific hysteresis test points are reported, the value of cyclically symmetrical peak magnetic field strength or magnetic flux density must be reported.

11.1.6 When magnetic flux density values are reported, the corresponding value of magnetic field strength must be reported.

12. Precision and Bias

12.1 The reliability of the results of magnetic tests in permeameters depends not only upon the method or apparatus used, but also upon the nature of the specimen. The most common sources of variations in magnetic properties due to the test specimen are: *(1)* lack of uniformity in permeability along the length of the specimen, *(2)* mechanical strain, and *(3)* temperature variations. Variations as a result of these causes are difficult to measure and may be large.

12.2 In comparing the results of direct-current magnetic tests, it should be recognized that magnetic flux density, *B*, and magnetic field strength, *H*, are independently determined quantities, each of which is separately subject to experimental error. Magnetic flux density errors include those caused by

TABLE 3 Estimated Permeameter Precision of Measurement in Percent

Test Permeameter	Test Specimen Operating Permeability (*B/H*) at the Test Induction	Precision of Measurement When Compared to Other Permeameters of the Same Type (±)		Estimated Errors When Compared to Measurements Using Standard Ring Specimens (18) (±)	
		B	*H*	*B*	*H*
Fahy	1 to 100	1	2	2	4
	100 to 1000	1	4	2	8
	1000 to 5000	1	8	2	16
	5000 and above	not recommended			
MH	1 to 100	1	1	1	2
	100 to 1000	1	2	1	3
	1000 to 5000	1	4	1	5
	5000 to 10 000	1	8	1	10
High *H* saturation	1 to 100	1	1	1	2
					3
	1 to 100	1	1	1	
Full range	1 to 100	1	1	1	3
	100 to 1000	1	2	1	4
	1000 to 5000	1	4	1	5
	5000 to 10 000	1	8	1	10

nonuniform magnetic flux density and nonuniform properties along the specimen length and, when fixed *B* coils are used, errors caused by imprecise air flux correction. Field distortion in permeameters can be severe around the test specimens and *H* coils. For this reason, the determination of magnetic field strength in the test specimen is inherently less accurate than the determination of magnetic flux density. With some permeameters the use of flip *H* coils or multiple *H* coils with extrapolation to the specimen surface or Hall effect devices may improve the accuracy of *H* determination. However, the field around these devices and the test specimen can be distorted in both the axial and radial directions. To be effective, they must be used in such a manner as to integrate the field around the test specimen and over the same length as that covered by the *B* coil. The magnitudes of the various errors are peculiar to the test permeameter and the characteristics of the material under test. For a given set of corresponding measured values of *B* and *H* wherein the errors are $\pm\delta B$ and $\pm\delta H$ in *B* and *H*, respectively, the true characteristic curve of the test specimen may lie anywhere within the boundaries of the region defined by the two curves $(B + \delta B)$ versus $(H - \delta H)$ and $(B - \delta B)$ versus $(H + \delta H)$.

12.3 For specimens having a satisfactory degree of uniformity, clamped or mounted so as to be free from mechanical strain, and kept at a constant temperature within ±5°C, for *H* greater than 1 Oe [80 A/m], the methods may be expected to determine average magnetic flux density, *B*, to a precision of ±1 % and to determine average magnetic field strength, *H*, to the precisions indicated in Table 3. When these values are combined to calculate permeability, μ, its precision may be expected to fall within the limits imposed by the sum of the precisions of measurement for the corresponding *B* and *H* values.

13. Keywords

13.1 coercive field strength; magnetic field strength; magnetic flux density; magnetic induction; magnetic test; permeability; permeameter; residual induction

APPENDIXES

(Nonmandatory Information)

X1. MUTUAL INDUCTOR CONSTRUCTION (CUSTOMARY UNITS)

X1.1 A standardized mutual inductor for calibrating the fluxmeter may be required. It should have mutual inductance between 10 and 100 mH and be able to carry a continuous current of at least 1 A in the primary winding without appreciable heating.

NOTE X1.1—If a mutual inductor must be constructed, the following specifications will provide an inductor of approximately 50 mH. A layer of insulating material should be provided between primary and secondary windings and the foundation forms should be constructed from nonmagnetic nonconducting materials.

Part	Specifications
Tubular winding form	4-in. outside diameter by 3½-in. inside diameter by 2-in. length
Two end disks	each ¼ in. thick by 7½-in. diameter
Bottom (primary) winding	50 turns of No. 18 insulated copper wire
Top (secondary) winding	530 turns of No. 18 single insulated copper wire

For detailed construction of a precision inductor, see National Institute for Standards and Technology Circular No. 74, p. 269.

X2. HYSTERESIS LOSS CALCULATION

X2.1 A hysteresis loop and the magnetization curve corresponding to it are shown in Fig. X2.1. For a short distance at the higher magnetic flux densities it will be noted that the magnetization curve lies outside of the hysteresis loop. This is more often the case than not, although text books generally show the magnetization curve well inside of the hysteresis loop. No satisfactory explanation of this effect has been found, although several have been suggested.

NOTE X2.1—Only normal or symmetrical hysteresis loops will be considered in this appendix.

X2.2 *Characteristics*—There are several characteristics of the hysteresis loop which are of use in classifying soft magnetic materials. These characteristics in general vary with the maximum flux density, B_m, according to some more or less definite laws.

X2.2.1 The residual induction, B_r, is the magnetic flux density remaining in the material when the magnetic field strength has been reduced to zero. This means that not only shall there be no external applied magnetic field strength, but that also there shall be no demagnetizing fields as a result of variations in the magnetic circuit. These conditions can only be met by a ring specimen of homogeneous material and uniform cross section.

X2.2.2 The coercive field strength, H_{cB}, is the demagnetizing magnetic field strength necessary to bring the magnetic flux density in the material to zero. This factor is closely associated with the hysteresis loss, since it determines the width of the loop. It is of very great importance in permanent magnets, because it opposes the demagnetizing fields and therefore controls the stability of the material under external magnetic influences. For soft magnetic materials, it is desirable to have the coercive field strength as small as possible, and for permanent magnets, the coercive field strength should be as large as possible.

X2.2.3 The hysteresis loss is proportional to the area of the hysteresis loop. When the magnetic flux density is measured in gausses and the magnetic field strength in oersteds, the hysteresis loss is equal to:

$$W_h = A/4\pi \quad (X2.1)$$

where:

W_h = the hysteresis loss in ergs/cm ^{3}/cycle, and
A = the area of the loop expressed in gauss-oersteds.

X2.2.4 When measurements are made using SI units, the hysteresis loss can be determined from the B-H loop and is:

$$W_h = A_{BH} \quad (X2.2)$$

where:

W_h = hysteresis loss in joules/m^3, and
A_{BH} = area of the B-H hysteresis loop where B is measured in tesla and H is measured in ampere/metre.

X3. EXTRAPOLATION OF MAGNETIC FIELD STRENGTH FROM *H* COIL POSITION TO TEST SPECIMEN SURFACE

X3.1 *Scope*—This appendix covers the method of extrapolation to be used when the *H* coil and test specimen are situated in different levels in the same magnetizing field.

X3.2 The magnetic flux density in air is measured by the *H* coil as magnetic flux density, *B*, in gausses. This magnetic flux density when divided by μ_0, the magnetic constant, equals magnetic field strength *H* in oersteds (in cgs system $\mu_0 = 1$ or $B = \mu_0 H$ (see Appendix X4).

X3.3 To extrapolate *H* coil measurements properly to the surface of the specimen, several *H* measurements will be required with known coil positions relative to the test specimen surface. The measured values of *H* are then plotted versus distance from the specimen surface. This curve, which is frequently exponential in shape, is then extrapolated to the specimen surface to obtain *H* in the test specimen.

X3.4 When one *H* coil at one position is used for extrapolation or measurement of *H* in the test specimen, the field gradient or percentage variation in magnetic field, over the space between specimen surface and *H* coil and along the length of the specimen and *H* coil must be considerably smaller than the permissible error in measurement of magnetic field strength, *H*.

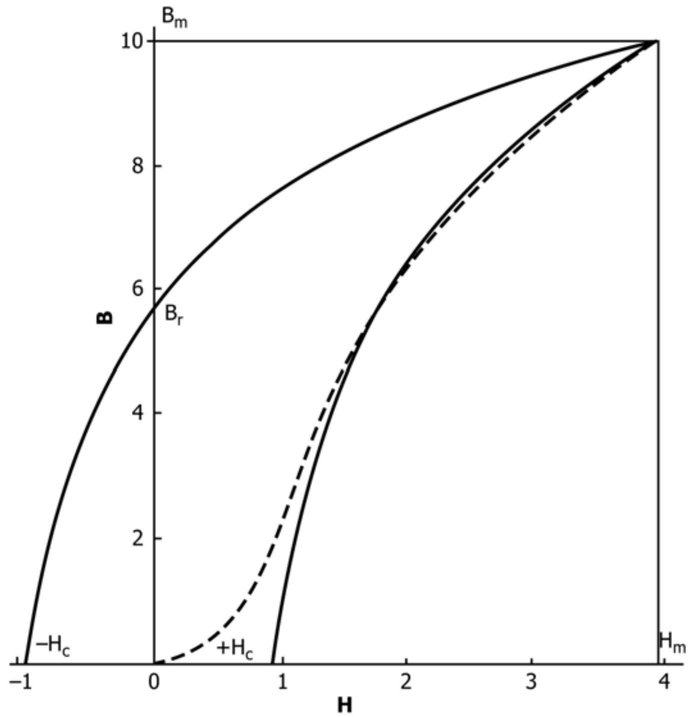


FIG. X2.1 Magnetization Curve and Upper Half of Hysteresis Loop (Arbitrary Units)

X4. USE OF FLIP H COILS OR HALL-EFFECT DEVICES FOR MEASUREMENT OF MAGNETIC FIELD STRENGTH IN PERMEAMETERS

X4.1 Scope

X4.1.1 This appendix covers the use of flip *H* coils and Hall-effect devices or other localized field measuring devices for determination of magnetic field strength in a test specimen under test in a permeameter.

X4.2 Summary

X4.2.1 When testing accuracy is of paramount importance, use of the flip *H* coil or Hall-effect devices should be considered since they have a distinct accuracy advantage over the fixed *H* coil.

X4.2.2 By proper measurement and extrapolation, these devices can determine with a high degree of accuracy the average field value at the surface of the test specimen.

X4.2.3 In most permeameters, there are steep field gradients in the space surrounding a test specimen. These gradients are present in both a radial direction and in a longitudinal direction parallel to the sample length. To average and extrapolate properly, enough measurements must be made to represent satisfactorily the field gradient situation in both the radial and longitudinal directions.

X4.3 Flip *H* Coil

X4.3.1 The flip *H* coil is essentially a standard *H* coil which may be rotated at a constant angular velocity through an angle of 180°. The center of rotation is the geometric center of the *H* coil so that the two ends replace each other in physical position relative to the test specimens.

X4.3.2 The flip *H* coil is an averaging device and averages out the effects of longitudinal field gradients.

X4.3.3 The flip *H* coil has the same limitations, but to a lesser degree than the fixed *H* coil when used in permeameters having large longitudinal field gradients. In these permeameters, the length of the *H* coil or flip *H* coil should be as nearly as possible the same length as the *B* coil and physically should cover, or be located adjacent to, the same parts of the test specimens.

X4.3.4 Since field gradients in the radial direction are seldom linear, it is necessary to have three or more flip *H* coils located at known distance from the test specimen surfaces. This permits a curve to be plotted with field intensity versus distance which can then be extrapolated to the specimen surface (Appendix X3).

X4.4 Hall-Effect or Other Point-Field Measuring Devices

X4.4.1 Hall-effect or other small-volume sensing element devices essentially measure field at a point in space. For this reason, when they are used as field measuring devices with permeameters, the *H* value must be determined at three or more positions along the active test specimen length. At each of these positions three or more measurements must be made at different distances from the test specimens. A curve is then plotted for each position and is extrapolated to the specimen surface (Appendix X3). The *H* values at the specimen surface for these three positions are then averaged to determine the value of the field in the test specimen.

X4.4.2 When considerable error may be tolerated, the Hall probe is placed as close as possible to the specimen and is moved along the specimen from end to end. The field readings are visually averaged and reported as one value.

X5. ARC SUPPRESSION FOR DIRECTLY SWITCHED TEST UNITS

X5.1 The high sensitivity of electronic fluxmeters renders them susceptible to noise-induced error. One potentially significant source of noise is arcing across the contacts of the current reversing switch S_1 shown in Fig. 1. Such arcing is favored by use of a large number of magnetizing turns. If the magnitude and duration of the arc and the transients in the secondary winding are significant, the fluxmeter output will be incorrect.

X5.2 The magnitude of this fluxmeter error can be established by moving the position of S_1 from one side to the other, waiting until the fluxmeter reading stabilizes, and then moving S_1 back to its original position. The amount by which the fluxmeter output changes at the completion of this cycle, less the amount caused by fluxmeter drift, is indicative of the magnitude of the error to be expected in normal use. If this difference can be attributed to arc noise and not to differences in contact resistance and if the magnitude is unacceptable, the techniques described in X5.3-X5.5 should be used to reduce this error to an acceptable level.

X5.3 The sudden interruption of the current flowing in the magnetizing winding can cause the voltage across the winding to become very large, producing arcing at the contacts of S_1. If the magnetizing current were allowed to decay at a slower rate, the voltage across the magnetizing winding would be much lower, and the arcing would be reduced accordingly. This can be accomplished by placing a diode bridge with capacitor (D_1, D_2, D_3, D_4)C across the magnetizing winding as shown in Fig. X5.1. The diode bridge and capacitor provide a path for the discharge of the stored magnetic energy. The capacitance required depends on the impedance of the power supply and resistors R_1 and R_2 in Fig. 1. The lower these impedances are, the smaller is the capacitance required to reduce arcing.

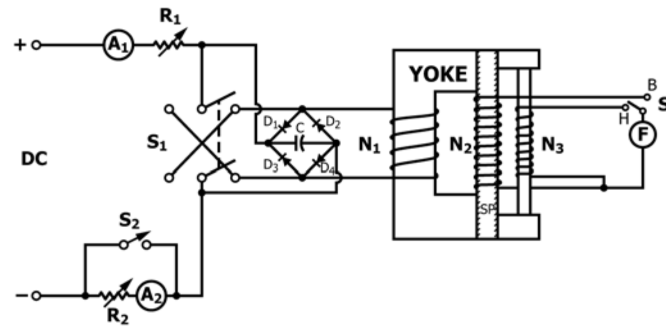


FIG. X5.1 Schematic Illustration of Arc Suppression Diode Bridge Placed in the Circuit Shown Previously in Fig. 1

X5.4 Arc-generated noise can also be reduced by use of a relay with magnetic arc suppression or with mercury-wetted contacts in place of a manually operated switch. However, the use of the diode bridge and capacitor further reduces this noise.

X5.5 All transients and arcing conditions can be eliminated by use of remotely programmed bipolar power supplies thereby eliminating the use of the current reversing switch.

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