

78. By the right-hand rule, the magnetic field \vec{B}_1 (evaluated at a) produced by wire 1 (the wire at bottom left) is at $\phi = 150^\circ$ (measured counterclockwise from the $+x$ axis, in the xy plane), and the field produced by wire 2 (the wire at bottom right) is at $\phi = 210^\circ$. By symmetry ($\vec{B}_1 = \vec{B}_2$) we observe that only the x -components survive, yielding

$$\vec{B}_1 + \vec{B}_2 = 2 \frac{\mu_0 i}{2\pi \ell} \cos 150^\circ \hat{i} = -3.46 \times 10^{-5} \hat{i} \text{ T}$$

where $i = 10 \text{ A}$, $\ell = 0.10 \text{ m}$, and Eq. 30-6 has been used. To cancel this, wire b must carry current into the page (that is, the $-\hat{k}$ direction) of value

$$i_b = (3.46 \times 10^{-5}) \frac{2\pi r}{\mu_0} = 15 \text{ A}$$

where $r = \sqrt{3} \ell / 2 = 0.087 \text{ m}$ and Eq. 30-6 has again been used.