## **CONCEPT: FORCE ON CURRENT-CARRYING WIRES**

Charges can move in space, OR inside a WIRE → CURRENT

CHARGES IN SPACE	CURRENT-CARRYING WIRES
- A moving Charge PRODUCES a NEW B-Field	- A current-carrying wire PRODUCES a NEW B-Field
→ B =	→ B =
- A Charge moving in an EXISTING Field FEELS a Force	- A wire in an EXISTING Field <u>FEELS</u> a Force (if i ≠ 0)
→ F =	→ F =

• Directions are given by the RIGHT HAND RULE

Negative charges → LHR

Currents → ALWAYS RHR

- The Magnetic Force on a current-carrying wire will cause it to bend slightly:

(i) current up:

(b) current down:

S N

S N

S N

S N

EXAMPLE: A 2-meter-long wire is passed through a constant magnetic field, as shown below:

- (a) If the wire experiences a force of 3 N when it has a current of 4 A, what is the strength of the field?
- (b) If the wire experiences a downward force, what must the direction of the current be?

 $\times$   $\times$   $\times$ 

 $\times$   $\times$   $\times$ 

 $\times$   $\times$   $\times$ 

 $\times$   $\times$   $\times$ 

## **EXAMPLE: FORCE ON CURRENT-CARRYING WIRE AT AN ANGLE**

A 2-m long wire is immersed in a 3 T magnetic field that is directed in the negative y axis. What is the magnitude of the magnetic force on the wire if it has 4 A flowing through it and it is directed:

- (a) in the negative y axis
- **(b)** in the positive x axis
- (c) in a direction that makes 53° with the +y axis

## **PRACTICE: CURRENT ON WIRE AT AN ANGLE**

A 5-m current-carrying wire (red line) is ran through a 4 T magnetic field (blue lines), as shown. The angle shown is 30°. What must the magnitude and direction of the current in the wire be when it feels a 3 N force directed into the page?

