M08E.3 - Electromagnet with an Iron Core

Problem

A long solenoid is made from N = 1000 turns of wire, wound at 10 turns per cm. Recall that $\mu_0 = 4\pi \cdot 10^{-7}$ T m/A.

- a) Give the approximate value in Tesla of the magnitude of the *B*-field at the center of the solenoid for I = 100 A of current.
- b) Insert a soft-iron core through the solenoid and bend the two ends together leaving a uniform gap distance of 30 cm. The total length L of the core is 3 meters and it has a constant cross-sectional area $A_{\text{core}} = 400 \text{ cm}^2$. The relative permeability of the soft-iron is $\mu_r = 400$. Compute the magnitude of the *B*-field in the core B_{core} , and in the gap, B_{gap} , for a current I = 100 A. Assume that the *B*-field is uniform in the gap and there is no hysteresis.



c) Assume the maximum value of $B_{\text{core}} = 1.5 \text{ T}$. New pole-faces are added to the gap that shorten the cap to 10 cm, but increase the cross-sectional area at the gap to $A_{\text{pole}} = 1600 \text{ cm}^2$. The cross-sectional area of the core is unchanged. Compute the maximum value of B_{gap} given the constraint on B_{core} and the new pole-face geometry. Assume that the *B*-field is uniform in the gap and there is no hysteresis.

