



What do you know about magnets and electromagnetics? For most people the answer would probably be not a lot. You probably know two facts about magnets; they attract and repel other and they have a north and south pole. But besides these two small observations most people don't know anything about them, how they are made and what specific uses they have.

Are there any magnetic fields that our bodies react to that are so fundamental to our organisms' ability to survive we take it for granted? Do we have our own North and South Pole, are we in fact magnets? Is the planet we live on a magnet? If you think about those two points in isolation, we know that the earth is a big magnet because of the properties of a compass. We also know it has a North and South Pole. Everyone knows this, but we seem to forget we know it. We are standing on a big magnetic lump called Earth. Surely we are being affected by its electromagnetic field and as a consequence it follows that we must have a north and south pole within our biological makeup?

This idea however raises a lot of questions to which I do not have any answers. If I were to stand on a long metal bar that was magnetised with one end being south and the other north would my internal north and south pole be affected? If it was, how would I know? Would it mean that my feet became south and my head north? I have not had any scientific education that allows me to work out the answer to this issue. Maybe the answer is simply that the magnetic bar has no influence on my biochemistry.

Could I, with my hand on my heart say that magnetic forces are not likely to have any effect on my body at all? In order to find the answer to this question I had to work out a logical theory. Was there an issue that could answer this simply once and for all? A question that occurred to me was this, what would happen if I swallowed several magnets, how would this affect me?