

Homework No. 07A (Fall 2025)

PHYS 205B-001: UNIVERSITY PHYSICS

School of Physics and Applied Physics, Southern Illinois University–Carbondale

Due date: Thursday, 2025 Oct 09, 9:30 AM, on D2L

Instructions

- You are encouraged to use any of the resources to complete this homework. However, the extent to which you depend on resources while doing this homework is a measure of how much extra work you need to put in to master the associated concepts. Solutions should be the last resource.
- Links to solutions are provided.
- Variations of homework problems and additional problems with hyperlinks to old exams are available in [Lecture Notes](#). These serve as practice problems.
- Describe your thought process in detail and organize it clearly. Make sure your answer has units and right number of significant digits.
- After completion, scan the pages as a single PDF file, and submit the file on D2L (under Assesments → Assignments). You can replace your PDF file as many times as you like, only the last file is graded. The deadline has an (undisclosed) buffer period, so do not hesitate to try submissions after the deadline.

Problems

1. **(10 points.)** An electron that has velocity $\vec{v} = (2.1 \times 10^6 \text{ m/s}) \hat{i} + (2.7 \times 10^6 \text{ m/s}) \hat{j}$ moves through a magnetic field $\vec{B} = (0.03 \text{ T}) \hat{i} - (0.15 \text{ T}) \hat{j}$. Find the force on the electron.

[Solution](#)

2. **(10 points.)** Motion of a charged particle of mass m and charge q in a uniform magnetic field \mathbf{B} is governed by the Lorentz equation

$$m \frac{d\mathbf{v}}{dt} = q \mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B}. \quad (1)$$

For the case when \mathbf{B} is pointing along the z -axis, show that the above vector equation corresponds to the following three coupled differential equations,

$$\frac{dv_x}{dt} = \omega v_y, \quad (2a)$$

$$\frac{dv_y}{dt} = -\omega v_x, \quad (2b)$$

$$\frac{dv_z}{dt} = 0, \quad (2c)$$

for the components of velocity of the particle. (Rest of this problem need not be submitted for assessment.) These differential equations can be solved to determine the position $\mathbf{x}(t)$ and velocity $\mathbf{v}(t)$ of the particle as a function of time. In particular, for initial conditions,

$$\mathbf{x}(0) = 0\hat{\mathbf{i}} + 0\hat{\mathbf{j}} + 0\hat{\mathbf{k}}, \quad (3a)$$

$$\mathbf{v}(0) = 0\hat{\mathbf{i}} + v_0\hat{\mathbf{j}} + 0\hat{\mathbf{k}}, \quad (3b)$$

it can be shown that the solution describes a circle of radius $R = mv_0/(qB)$ centered at position $R\hat{\mathbf{i}}$.

Solution

3. (10 points.) A proton and an electron enters a region containing a magnetic field going into the page, $\vec{\mathbf{B}} = -2.0\hat{\mathbf{k}}$ T. Let the velocity of both the particles while they enter the region be to the right, $\vec{\mathbf{v}} = 3.0 \times 10^5 \hat{\mathbf{i}}$ m/s.
 - (a) Determine the magnitude of the magnetic force on the proton and the electron.
 - (b) Determine the direction of the magnetic force on the proton and the electron, using the right-hand rule.
 - (c) Determine the corresponding accelerations experienced by the proton and the electron.
 - (d) Determine the cyclotron frequency of the proton and the electron.
 - (e) Determine the radius of the circle described by the paths of the proton and the electron.

Solution (Erratum: At Timestamp 10:30 the radius R should be 8.6×10^{-7} m.)