University Physics, 13/e

Young/Freedman

Chapter 27 Problem-Solving Strategy

Problem-Solving Strategy 27.2 Motion in Magnetic Fields

IDENTIFY *the relevant concepts:* In analyzing the motion of a charged particle in electric and magnetic fields, you will apply Newton's second law of motion, $\sum \vec{F} = m\vec{a}$, with the net force given by $\sum \vec{F} = q(\vec{E} + \vec{v} \times \vec{B})$. Often other forces such as gravity can be neglected. Many of the problems are similar to the trajectory and circular-motion problems in Sections 3.3, 3.4, and 5.4; it would be a good idea to review those sections.

SET UP *the problem* using the following steps:

1. Determine the target variable(s).
2. Often the use of components is the most efficient approach. Choose a coordinate system and then express all vector quantities (including, and) in terms of their components in this system.

EXECUTE *the solution* as follows:

1. If the particle moves perpendicular to a uniform magnetic field, the trajectory is a circle with a radius and angular speed given by Eqs. (27.11) and (27.12), respectively.
2. If your calculation involves a more complex trajectory, use $\sum \vec{F} = m\vec{a}$ in component form: $\sum F_x = ma_x$, and so forth. This approach is particularly useful when both electric and magnetic fields are present.

EVALUATE *your answer:* Check whether your results are reasonable.