

2-22 The motion of a charged particle in an electromagnetic field can be obtained from the Lorentz equation\* for the force on a particle in such a field. If the electric field vector is  $\mathbf{E}$  and the magnetic field vector is  $\mathbf{B}$ , the force on a particle of mass  $m$  that

carries a charge  $q$  and has a velocity  $\mathbf{v}$  is given by

$$\mathbf{F} = q\mathbf{E} + q\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B}$$

where we assume that  $v \ll c$  (speed of light).

(a) If there is no electric field and if the particle enters the magnetic field in a direction perpendicular to the lines of magnetic flux, show that the trajectory is a circle with radius

$$r = \frac{mv}{qB} = \frac{v}{\omega_c}$$

where  $\omega_c \equiv qB/m$  is the cyclotron frequency.

(b) Choose the  $z$ -axis to lie in the direction of  $\mathbf{B}$  and let the plane containing  $\mathbf{E}$  and  $\mathbf{B}$  be the  $yz$ -plane. Thus

$$\mathbf{B} = B\mathbf{k}, \quad \mathbf{E} = E_y\mathbf{j} + E_z\mathbf{k}$$

Show that the  $z$  component of the motion is given by

$$z(t) = z_0 + \dot{z}_0 t + \frac{qE_z}{2m} t^2$$

where

$$z(0) \equiv z_0 \quad \text{and} \quad \dot{z}(0) \equiv \dot{z}_0$$

(c) Continue the calculation and obtain expressions for  $\dot{x}(t)$  and  $\dot{y}(t)$ . Show that the time averages of these velocity components are

$$\langle \dot{x} \rangle = \frac{E_y}{B}, \quad \langle \dot{y} \rangle = 0$$

(Show that the motion is periodic and then average over one complete period.)

(d) Integrate the velocity equations found in (c) and show (with the initial conditions  $x(0) = -A/\omega_c$ ,  $\dot{x}(0) = E_y/B$ ,  $y(0) = 0$ ,  $\dot{y}(0) = A$ ) that

$$x(t) = \frac{-A}{\omega_c} \cos \omega_c t + \frac{E_y}{B} t, \quad y(t) = \frac{A}{\omega_c} \sin \omega_c t$$

These are the parametric equations of a trochoid. Sketch the projection of the trajectory on the  $xy$ -plane for the cases (i)  $A > |E_y/B|$ , (ii)  $A < |E_y/B|$ , and (iii)  $A = |E_y/B|$ . (The last case yields a cycloid.)