Electricity and Magnetism

Numerical Analysis of Wien Filter Velocity Selector

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1. Introduction

We will solve at first the following problem.

Suppose we have a charged particle with a charge q, moving under the influence of a constant electric field and a constant magnetic field.

$$\begin{cases} \overrightarrow{E}(\vec{r}) = E\hat{y} \\ \overrightarrow{B}(\vec{r}) = -B\hat{x} \end{cases}$$

In $t = 0$, the particle has the following velocity, $v(t = 0) = u\hat{z}$ and $u = \dfrac{3E}{B}$.

Solution

Let's start calculating the force on such a particle. The magnetic field points in $\hat{x}$ and the velocity in $\hat{z}$. We can reduce our problem in to 2-D problem on the zy plane. We will get:

$$\begin{cases} \overrightarrow{v} = v_y\hat{y} + v_z\hat{z} \\ \overrightarrow{B} = -B\hat{x} \end{cases} \quad \Rightarrow \quad q\overrightarrow{v} \times \overrightarrow{B} = qv_yB\hat{z} - qv_zB\hat{y}$$

So the net force will be

$$\overrightarrow{F} = (qE - qv_zB)\hat{y} + qv_yB\hat{z}$$

And from newton's second law

$$\begin{cases} m\dot{v}_y = qE - qv_zB \\ m\dot{v}_z = qBv_y \end{cases}$$

We can derive from the second equation

$$m\ddot{v}_z = qB\dot{v}_y \Rightarrow \dot{v}_y = \frac{m}{qB}\ddot{v}_z$$

We will substitute our result for $\dot{v}_z$ in the first equation and we will get

$$\frac{m^2}{q^2B^2}\ddot{v}_z = \frac{E}{B} - v_z$$

We got an harmonic oscillator for v_z, the solution is

$$v_z = Acos(\omega t + \phi) + \frac{E}{B}$$

We know that $v(t = 0) = u\hat{z}$, and we know that $\dot{v}_z(t = 0) = 0$. So the full solution for v_z is

$$v_z = \frac{2E}{B}cos(\frac{qB}{m}t) + \frac{E}{B}$$

From here we can derive v_y instantly using:

$$v_y = \frac{m}{qB}\dot{v}_z = \frac{m}{qB}\frac{-2E}{B}\frac{qB}{m}sin(\frac{qB}{m}t)$$

$$\Rightarrow v_y = \frac{-2E}{B}sin(\frac{qB}{m}t)$$

Now, in order to get r_y and r_z we will just integrate the velocities, using the given $\vec{r}(t=0)=0$.

$$r_y = \int v_y dt = \frac{2mE}{qB^2}cos(\frac{qB}{m}t) - \frac{2mE}{qB^2}$$

$$r_z = \int v_z dt = \frac{2mE}{qB^2}sin(\frac{qB}{m}t) + \frac{E}{B}t$$

The graph for $\vec{r}(t)$ for $0 \le t \le \frac{2\pi}{\omega}$ is