

Problem 1.

If a charged particle is undeflected in passing through uniform crossed electric and magnetic fields E and B (mutually perpendicular and both perpendicular to the direction of motion), what is its velocity? If we now turn off the electric field, and the particle moves in an arc of radius R , what is its charge-to-mass ratio?

solution

1. lorentz force

$$F = q(E + v \times B) \quad (1)$$

2. poynting vector (not used)

$$S = E \times H \quad (2)$$

from the lorentz force, the velocity is derived by

$$qE = -v \times B \quad (3)$$

because the force is zero. (The E and B are perpendicular and the particle is undeflected.)

Turn off E , and then moving in radius R , what is its charge-to-mass ratio?
motion of circle

$$F = mv^2/R = qvBq/m = (v(vel))^2/(v(vol)BR) \quad (4)$$

Problem 2.

The mass of Yukawa's meson can be estimated as follows. When two protons in a nucleus exchange a meson (mass m), they must temporarily violate the conservation of energy by an amount mc^2 (the rest energy of the meson). The Heisenberg uncertainty principle says that you may 'borrow' an energy ΔE , provide you 'pay it back' in a time Δt given by $\Delta E \Delta t = \frac{\hbar}{2}$ (where $\hbar \equiv \frac{h}{\pi}$). In this case, we need to borrow $\Delta E = mc^2$ long enough for the meson to make it from one proton to the other. It has to cross the nucleus (size r_0), and it travels, presumably, at some substantial fraction of the speed of light, so, roughly speaking, $\Delta t = r_0/c$. Putting all this together, we have

$$m = \frac{\hbar}{2r_0c}$$

Using $r_0 = 10^{-13}\text{cm}$ (the size of a typical nucleus), calculate the mass of Yukawa's meson. Express your answer in MeV/c^2 , and compare the observed

mass of the pion. [Comment: If you find that argument compelling. I can only say that you're pretty gullible. Try it for an atom, and you'll conclude that the mass of the photon is about 7×10^{-30} g, which is nonsense. Nevertheless, it is a useful device for 'back-of-the-envelope' calculations, and it does very well for the pi meson. Unfortunately, many books present it as though it were a rigorous derivation, which is certainly not.

$$\hbar = 6.58 \times 10^{-22} \text{ MeV}\cdot\text{s}$$

$$r_0 = 10^{-15} \text{m}$$

$$c = 3 \times 10^8 \text{m/s}$$

$$m = \frac{6.58 \times 10^{-22} \text{MeV} \cdot s}{2 \cdot 10^{-15} m \cdot 3 \times 10^8 \text{m/s}}$$

$$m = 3.29 \cdot 10^{-23} \text{MeV}/c^2$$