

- 5 A cloud chamber consists of a rectangular box saturated with alcohol vapour. When a charged particle enters the cloud chamber, it interacts with the vapour and leaves a trail, indicating its path in the chamber.

A student designed a cloud chamber with a detector for the charged particles placed at one side of the chamber. A sample which emits identical charged particles is placed at a small opening through one side of the chamber. The charged particles are all emitted with the same speed. A uniform vertical magnetic field of flux density B is directed perpendicularly through the entire chamber.

Fig. 5.1 shows the top view of the chamber and the dotted line represents the path of a charged particle entering the chamber and moving on a horizontal plane in the chamber.

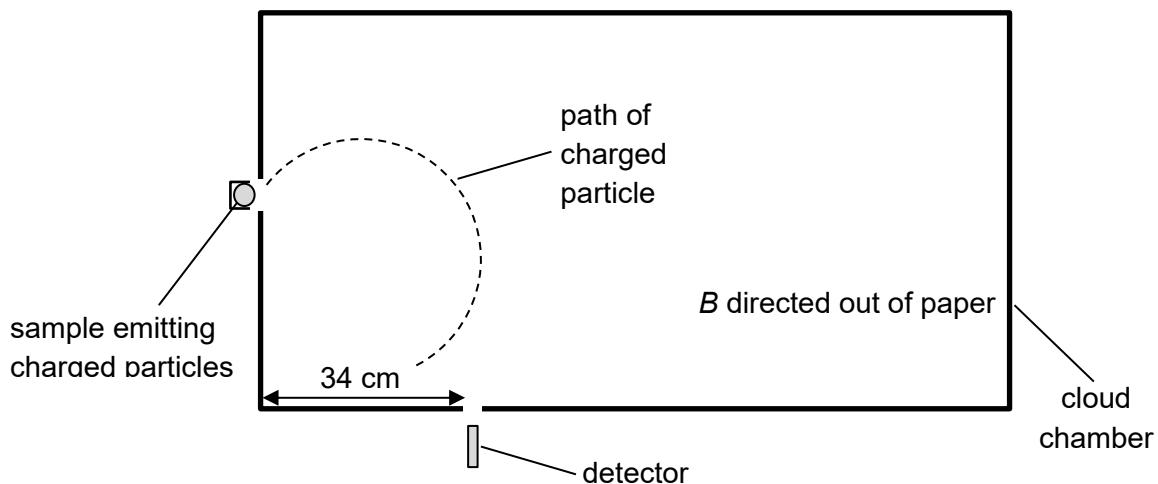


Fig. 5.1 (top view)

- (a) (i) Define magnetic flux density.

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..... [2]

- (ii) State if the charged particle is positively or negatively charged.

..... [1]

- (b) The design of the cloud chamber is refined so that particles only enter perpendicularly, as shown in Fig. 5.2.

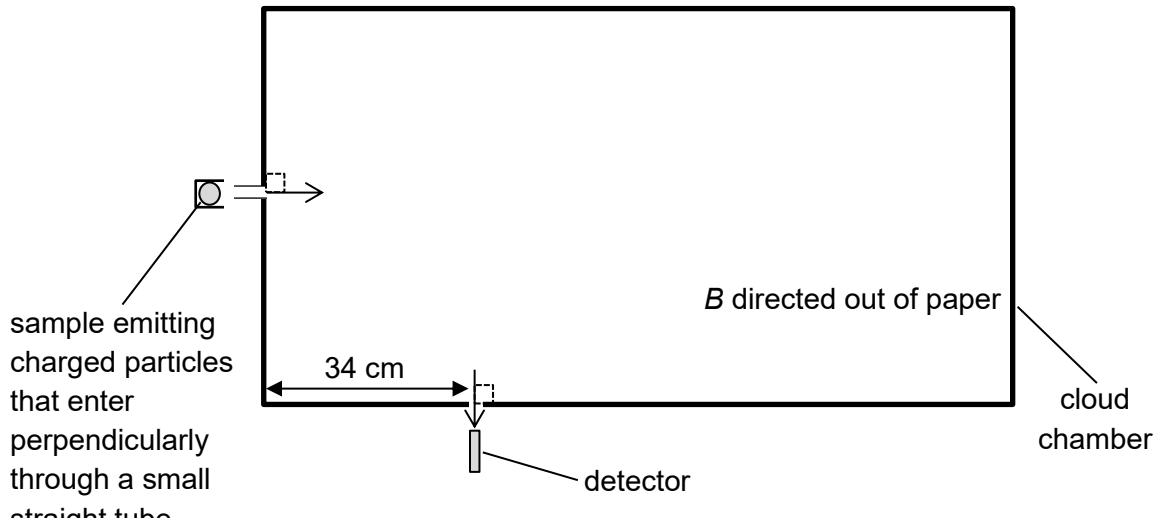


Fig. 5.2 (top view)

The magnitude of B is adjusted so that the particles with the same speed as in Fig. 5.1 will exit perpendicularly through a small opening on another side where the detector is placed. The detector is placed 34 cm from the corner of the chamber.

- (i) Derive an expression for B in terms of mass m , speed v and charge q of a charged particle and the radius r of its circular path in the chamber.

[2]

- (ii) Deduce whether the magnitude of B has increased or decreased.

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[1]

- (iii) Given the magnitude of B is 7.6×10^{-3} T, and each particle has a charge of magnitude 3.2×10^{-19} C and mass 6.6×10^{-27} kg, determine the speed of the charged particle that reaches the detector.

$$\text{speed} = \dots \text{ m s}^{-1} \quad [2]$$

- (c) The design of the cloud chamber is further amended so that particles which enter perpendicularly will move though the chamber undeflected. This is achieved by simultaneously applying a uniform electric field across the chamber.

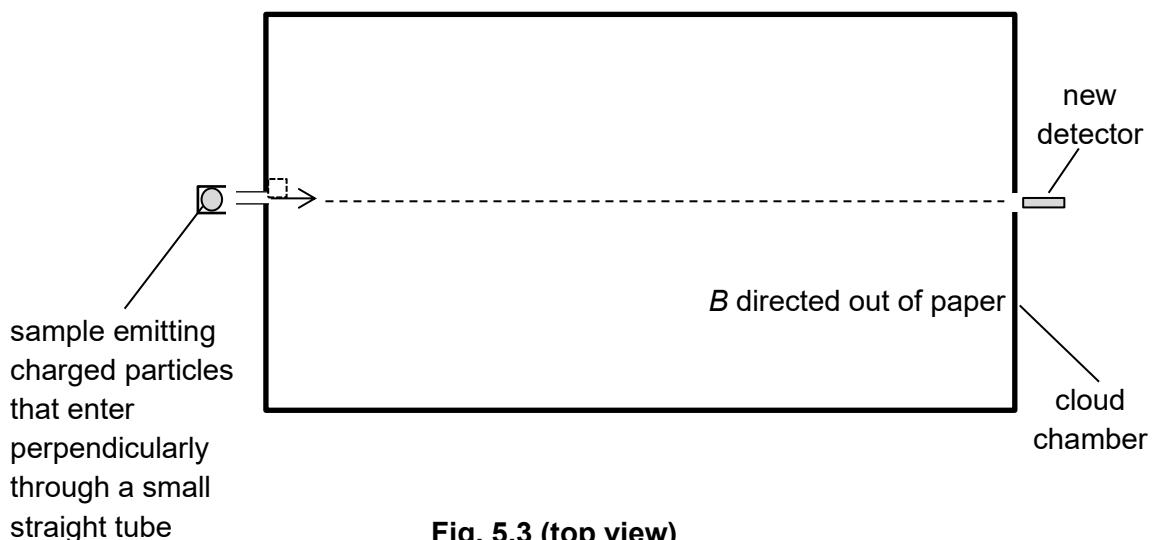


Fig. 5.3 (top view)

- (i) State and explain the direction of the electric field.

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[2]

- (ii) The sample is now placed in the centre of the cloud chamber. Fig. 5.4 shows the direction of speed v of one of the emitted charged particles.

With the electric and magnetic fields still applied in the same directions in the cloud chamber as in (c)(i), draw arrows to represent the electric force and the magnetic force acting on the particle at this instant. Label the forces.

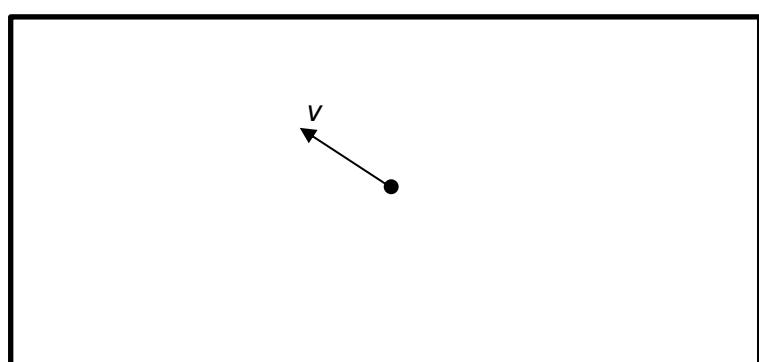


Fig. 5.4 (top view)

[2]