



The B-field

A charged particle that is moving with velocity \mathbf{v} in a magnetic field \mathbf{B} will feel a magnetic force \mathbf{F} . Since the magnetic force always pulls sideways to the direction of motion, the particle moves in a circle.

The magnetic field vector \mathbf{B} at any point can be defined as the vector that, when used in the Lorentz force law, correctly predicts the force on a charged particle at that point

The first term in the Lorentz equation is from the theory of electrostatics, and says that a particle of charge q in an electric field \mathbf{E} experiences an electric force:

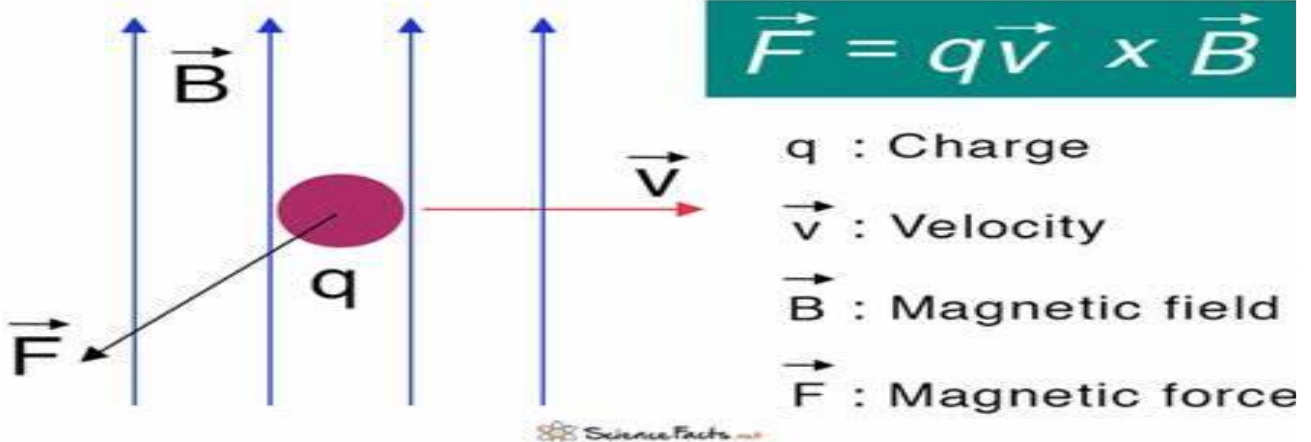
$$F_e = q E$$

The second term is the magnetic force

$$F_m = q (\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B}) = q v B \sin \theta$$

Using the definition of the cross product, the magnetic force can also be written as a scalar equation:

Magnetic Force





where F_{magnetic} , v , and B are the scalar magnitude of their respective vectors, and θ is the angle between the velocity of the particle and the magnetic field. The vector \mathbf{B} is *defined* as the vector field necessary to make the Lorentz force law correctly describe the motion of a charged particle.