ConcepTest 27.4b Mass Spectrometer II

A proton enters a uniform magnetic field that is perpendicular to the proton's velocity. What happens to the kinetic energy of the proton?

- 1) it increases
- 2) it decreases
- 3) it stays the same
 - 4) depends on the velocity direction
 - 5) depends on the *B* field direction

x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x

XXXXXXXXXXXXX

x x ⁄ x x x x x x x x x x x x

x/x x x x x x x x x x x x x x

The velocity of the proton changes **direction** but the **magnitude** (speed) doesn't change. Thus the **kinetic energy stays the same**.

