

Problem 2.36)

- a) Electric field \mathbf{E} [volt/meter]: Use Newton's second law $\mathbf{F} = m\mathbf{a}$ and the Lorentz force law $\mathbf{F} = q\mathbf{E}$. The units of force \mathbf{F} are thus $[kg \cdot meter/sec^2]$, and the units of the electric field are $[kg \cdot meter/(coulomb \cdot sec^2)]$ or $[kg \cdot meter/(ampere \cdot sec^3)]$.
- b) Magnetic induction \mathbf{B} [weber/m²]: Use Faraday's law, $\nabla \times \mathbf{E} = -\partial\mathbf{B}/\partial t$, in conjunction with the units of \mathbf{E} determined in part (a). The curl operator does differentiation with respect to spatial coordinates; therefore, the units of $\nabla \times \mathbf{E}$ are those of \mathbf{E} divided by the length unit, [meter]. On the right-hand-side of the equation, the time-derivative of \mathbf{B} has the units of \mathbf{B} divided by those of time, [second]. Consequently, $[weber/m^2] = [kg/(ampere \cdot sec^2)]$.
- c) Poynting vector $\mathbf{S} = \mathbf{E} \times \mathbf{H}$ [volt · ampere/m²]: The units of \mathbf{H} are [ampere/meter], and the units of \mathbf{E} were found in part (a) to be $[kg \cdot meter/(ampere \cdot sec^3)]$. Multiplying the two, we find the units of \mathbf{S} to be $[volt \cdot ampere/m^2] = [kg/sec^3]$. Note that \mathbf{S} is expected to have the units of energy per unit area per unit time. Energy, however, has the units of force times displacement, that is, $[kg \cdot meter^2/sec^2]$. Dividing by $[meter^2 \cdot sec]$ then yields the units of \mathbf{S} as before, namely, $[kg/sec^3]$.
- d) Permittivity of free space ϵ_0 [farad/meter]: The charge Q and the voltage V of a capacitor are related via $Q = CV$. The capacitance C has units of [farad], the units of Q are [coulomb] = [ampere · sec], and the units of V are $[kg \cdot meter^2/(ampere \cdot sec^3)]$; see part (a). Consequently, the units of ϵ_0 are $[farad/meter] = [ampere^2 \cdot sec^4/(kg \cdot meter^3)]$.
- e) Permeability of free space μ_0 [henry/meter]: Use the fact that in free space $\mathbf{B} = \mu_0\mathbf{H}$. The units of \mathbf{H} are [ampere/meter]; those of \mathbf{B} were found in part (b) to be $[kg/(ampere \cdot sec^2)]$. Consequently, the units of μ_0 are $[henry/meter] = [kg \cdot meter/(ampere^2 \cdot sec^2)]$.
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