

Problem 2.37)

a) The polarization \mathbf{P} has units of *coulomb/m²*. Since the units of current are *ampere*, and since, by definition, electrical current I is the rate-of-flow of charge ΔQ during the time interval Δt , that is $I = \Delta Q/\Delta t$ in the limit when $\Delta t \rightarrow 0$, the units of charge are *coulomb = ampere·sec*. Therefore, the units of \mathbf{P} are *ampere·sec/m²*.

b) The magnetization \mathbf{M} has units of *weber/m²*. Since, by definition, $\mathbf{B} = \mu_0\mathbf{H} + \mathbf{M}$, the units of \mathbf{M} must be the same as those of \mathbf{B} . The Lorentz force law states that $\mathbf{F} = q(\mathbf{E} + \mathbf{V} \times \mathbf{B})$, where \mathbf{F} is force (units: *newton*), q is electrical charge (units: *coulomb*), \mathbf{E} is electric field (units: *volt/m*), \mathbf{V} is velocity (units: *m/sec*), and \mathbf{B} is magnetic induction (units: *weber/m²*). We may thus write: *newton = coulomb·(m/sec)·(weber/m²)*. Now, from newton's law $\mathbf{F} = m\mathbf{a}$, we have *newton = kg·m/sec²*. Also, from $I = \Delta Q/\Delta t$, we have *coulomb = ampere·sec*. Consequently,

$$\text{weber/m}^2 = (\text{kg} \cdot \text{m/sec}^2) / (\text{ampere} \cdot \text{m}) = \text{kg} / (\text{ampere} \cdot \text{sec}^2).$$

c) The electrical resistance R has units of *ohm*. According to Ohm's law, the voltage V and the current I of a resistor R are related via $V = RI$. Therefore, R has units of *volt/ampere*. From the Lorentz force law cited in part (b), we know that *newton = coulomb·(volt/m)*, that is, *volt = newton·m/coulomb = kg·m²/(ampere·sec³)*. Consequently, *ohm = kg·m²/(ampere²·sec³)*.

d) The units of capacitance C are *farad*. The relation between electrical charge on the plates of a capacitor and the voltage difference between those plates is $Q = CV$. Consequently,

$$\text{farad} = \text{coulomb/volt} = \text{ampere} \cdot \text{sec} / (\text{newton} \cdot \text{m} / \text{coulomb}) = \text{ampere}^2 \cdot \text{sec}^4 / (\text{kg} \cdot \text{m}^2).$$

e) The units of inductance L are *henry*. The relation between the voltage V and the current I of a solenoid are $V = L(dI/dt)$. Therefore, the units of L must be *volt·sec/ampere*. We know from the Lorentz force law that *volt = newton·m/coulomb*. Consequently,

$$\text{henry} = \text{newton} \cdot \text{m} \cdot \text{sec} / (\text{coulomb} \cdot \text{ampere}) = \text{kg} \cdot \text{m}^2 / (\text{ampere}^2 \cdot \text{sec}^2).$$

f) The electromagnetic momentum-density $\mathbf{p}_{EM} = \mathbf{E} \times \mathbf{H}/c^2$ has units of the E -field times the units of the H -field divided by the units of velocity squared, i.e., *(volt/m)·(ampere/m)/(m²/sec²)*. From the Lorentz force law we know that *volt/m = newton/coulomb = kg·m/(sec²·coulomb)*. Therefore, the units of \mathbf{p}_{EM} are *kg/(m²·sec)*.