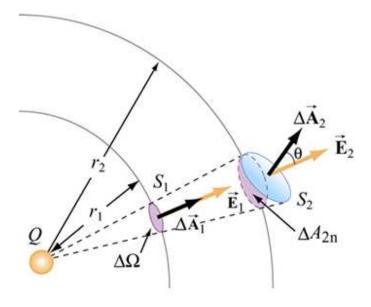
Problem $\mathbf{2}(a)$:

Let's span the current-carrying wire loop \mathcal{L} with some surface \mathcal{S} . To find the solid angle occupied by the image of \mathcal{S} as viewed from point \mathbf{x} , we project \mathcal{S} onto a unit sphere centered on \mathbf{x} , and then measure the area of the image. For an infinitesimal piece of \mathcal{S} of vector area $d\mathbf{a}$, we first project this piece onto a line of sight from \mathbf{x} and then further project it onto the unit sphere:



On this picture

$$\Delta A_{2n} = \Delta A_2 \times \cos \theta, \quad \Delta \Omega = \frac{\Delta A_1}{r_1^2} = \frac{\Delta A_2}{r_2^2},$$
 (S.1)

which in our notations corresponds to

$$d\Omega = \frac{\mathbf{n} \cdot d^2 \mathbf{area}}{R^2} \tag{S.2}$$

where R is the distance from the observation point \mathbf{x} and \mathbf{n} is the unit vector along the line of sight. For the infinitesimal piece of S located at \mathbf{y} ,

$$R = |\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}|, \quad \mathbf{n} = \frac{\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}}{|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}|},$$
 (S.3)

hence

$$d\Omega = \frac{(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}) \cdot d^2 \mathbf{area}(\mathbf{y})}{|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}|^3}.$$
 (S.4)

Integrating this formula over the whole surface S spanning the loop \mathcal{L} , we arrive at

$$\Omega(\mathbf{x}) = \iint_{\mathcal{S}} \frac{(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}) \cdot d^2 \operatorname{area}(\mathbf{y})}{|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}|^3}.$$
(2)

Quod erat demonstrandum.

Problem 2(b):

The sign convention for the $\Omega(\mathbf{x})$ follow from eq. (2) and the standard convention for the direction of the area vector. For simplicity, consider a flat loop \mathcal{L} spanned by a flat surface \mathcal{S} . The area vector \mathbf{a} of this surface is perpendicular to the surface itself, but which perpendicular? To make the Stokes' theorem work without an extra sign, the direction of \mathbf{a} should follow from the sense of the loop \mathcal{L} by the right hand rule: if you see the loop (or rather the current in the loop) running clockwise, then the area vector \mathbf{a} points away from you, *i.e.*, makes angle < 90° with the line of sight; but if you see the loop \mathcal{L} running counterclockwise, then \mathbf{a} points towards you, *i.e.*, makes angle > 90° with the line of sight. The same rule applies to the area vector of any infinitesimal piece of \mathcal{S} , so the integrand in eq. (2) is positive for a clockwise loop \mathcal{L} and negative for a counterclockwise \mathcal{L} .

For a non-flat surface, the rule for the direction of the $d\mathbf{a}$ vector is topological. The surface S spanning the loop \mathcal{L} must be orientable, *i.e.*, have two well defined sides; Möbius strips and similar non-orientable surfaces are not allowed. Depending on the sense of the loop \mathcal{L} , we call one side 'inner' and the other side 'outer' according at the right hand rule, and then the direction of $d\mathbf{a}$ is the \perp to the surface (at the point in question) and pointing from the 'inside' to the 'outside'. Consequently, if the loop \mathcal{L} and the surface S are not too twisted and lie largely to one side of \mathbf{x} , then the sign of $\Omega(\mathbf{x})$ obtaining from eq. (2) follows from the sense of the loop as viewed from \mathbf{x} similarly to the flat-surface case.

The problem with eq. (2) is that different surfaces spanning the same loop \mathcal{L} may yield different values of $\Omega(\mathbf{x})$, although all the different values for the same point \mathbf{x} differ by 4π ,

or at worst by $4\pi \times \text{an}$ integer. To see how this works, let two surfaces S_1 and S_2 span \mathcal{L} and consider the space \mathcal{V} trapped between these surfaces. Together, S_1 and S_2 form the complete surface of the volume \mathcal{V} , but one of the the two surfaces — say, S_2 — has a wrong orientation — its infinitesimal area vectors point inside \mathcal{V} rather than outside. So properly speaking, the complete surface of \mathcal{V} is $S_1 - S_2$. By Gauss theorem, this means that for any vector field $\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{y})$

$$\iiint_{\mathcal{V}} (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{f}) d^3 \mathbf{y} = \iint_{\mathcal{S}_1} \mathbf{f} \cdot d^2 \mathbf{a} - \iint_{\mathcal{S}_2} \mathbf{f} \cdot d^2 \mathbf{a}.$$
(S.5)

Now let

$$\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{y}) = \frac{(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x})}{|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}|^3}$$
(S.6)

for any fixed point \mathbf{x} . Then calculating $\Omega(\mathbf{x})$ using the surfaces S_1 and S_2 and taking the difference, we obtain

$$\Omega_{1}(\mathbf{x}) - \Omega_{2}(\mathbf{x}) = \iiint_{\mathcal{S}_{1}} \frac{(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}) \cdot d^{2} \mathbf{a}(\mathbf{y})}{|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}|^{3}} - \iint_{\mathcal{S}_{2}} \frac{(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}) \cdot d^{2} \mathbf{a}(\mathbf{y})}{|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}|^{3}} = \iiint_{\mathcal{V}} \nabla_{y} \cdot \left(\frac{(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x})}{|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}|^{3}}\right) d^{3} \mathbf{y}.$$
(S.7)

But

$$\nabla_y \cdot \left(\frac{(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x})}{|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}|^3}\right) = 4\pi \delta^{(3)}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}), \qquad (S.8)$$

hence

$$\Omega_1(\mathbf{x}) - \Omega_2(\mathbf{x}) = \begin{cases} 4\pi & \text{if } \mathbf{x} \text{ lies inside } \mathcal{V}, \text{ } i.e. \text{ between } \mathcal{S}_1 \text{ and } \mathcal{S}_2, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$
(S.9)

In other words, if we take two surfaces spanning the same loop \mathcal{L} but on different sides from point \mathbf{x} , then the corresponding angles $\Omega_1(\mathbf{x})$ and $\Omega_2(\mathbf{x})$ differ by 4π .

A qualitative way to see this multivaluedness is to project both surfaces S_1 and S_2 and the loop \mathcal{L} onto the unit sphere centered at \mathbf{x} . The image of the loop \mathcal{L} divides the sphere into two parts, and if the surfaces S_1 and S_2 lie on different sides of \mathbf{x} , then their images are precisely the two parts of the sphere divided by the image of \mathcal{L} . Together, these two images complete the sphere, so their solid angles must add up to 4π . But one of the two images has a wrong orientation, so the solid angle it occupies should be taken with a minus sign, hence

either
$$\Omega_1(\mathbf{x}) - \Omega_2(\mathbf{x}) = 4\pi$$
 or $\Omega_2(\mathbf{x}) - \Omega_1(\mathbf{x}) = 4\pi$. (S.10)

Finally, when the wire loop \mathcal{L} is a coil of many turns, a surface spanning it must span every turn, which calls for some kind of a helicoid. Projecting such a helicoid onto a sphere creates many overlapping patches, and their solid angles must be added up to produce the correct $\Omega(\mathbf{x})$. Consequently, for an \mathbf{x} close to a coil of many turns we may get $\Omega(\mathbf{x}) \gg 4\pi$. Also, when \mathbf{x} is in the middle of the coil, then different helicoid-like surfaces spanning the same coil may have several turns on different side of \mathbf{x} . Consequently, the values of $\Omega(\mathbf{x})$ for these two surfaces may differ not just by 4π but by $4\pi \times$ an integer, *i.e.*,

$$\Omega_1(\mathbf{x}) - \Omega_2(\mathbf{x}) = 0 \text{ or } \pm 4\pi \text{ or } \pm 8\pi \text{ or } \pm 12\pi \text{ or } \cdots$$
 (S.11)

However, since the differences between the values of $\Omega(\mathbf{x})$ for the same point \mathbf{x} are always integer multiples of 4π , they cannot gradually change from \mathbf{x} to $\mathbf{x} + \delta \mathbf{x}$. Therefore, *despite* the multivaluedness of the $\Omega(\mathbf{x})$, the gradient $\nabla \Omega(\mathbf{x})$ is single-valued.

Problem $\mathbf{2}(c)$:

First, let's derive eq. (3). Take any vector field $\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{y})$ and any constant vector \mathbf{c} . By the double vector product formula,

$$\nabla \times (\mathbf{f} \times \mathbf{c}) = (\mathbf{c} \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{f} - (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{f})\mathbf{c}.$$
(S.12)

In particular, let

$$\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{y}) = \frac{(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x})}{|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}|^3} = \nabla_y \left(\frac{-1}{|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}|}\right)$$
(S.13)

for a fixed **x**. For this 'field', $\nabla_y \cdot \mathbf{f} = 0$ for $\mathbf{y} \neq \mathbf{x}$, so eq. (S.12) simplifies to

$$\nabla_y \times (\mathbf{f} \times \mathbf{c}) = (\mathbf{c} \cdot \nabla_y)\mathbf{f} \tag{S.14}$$

and hence

$$\nabla_y \times \left(\frac{(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x})}{|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}|^3} \times \mathbf{c} \right) = (\mathbf{c} \cdot \nabla_y) \frac{(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x})}{|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}|^3}.$$
 (3)

Now let's use this formula to calculate the gradient of $\Omega(\mathbf{x})$ as calculated in eq. (2). Let **c** be come constant vector, then

Since \mathbf{c} on both sides of this equation is an arbitrary constant vector, this means

$$\nabla\Omega(\mathbf{x}) = \oint_{\mathcal{L}} \frac{(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x})}{|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}|^3} \times d\mathbf{y} = -\oint_{\mathcal{L}} d\mathbf{y} \times \frac{(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x})}{|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}|^3}.$$
 (S.16)

Finally, let's see what all this math has to do with eq. (1) for the scalar magnetic potential $\Psi(\mathbf{x})$. The magnetic intensity field **H** follows from $\Psi(\mathbf{x})$ as $-\nabla\Psi$, hence according to eqs. (1) and (S.16),

$$\mathbf{H}(\mathbf{x}) = -\nabla \Psi(\mathbf{x}) = -\frac{I}{4\pi} \nabla \Omega(\mathbf{x}) = +\frac{1}{4\pi} \oint_{\mathcal{L}} I \, d\mathbf{y} \times \frac{(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x})}{|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}|^3}.$$
(S.17)

But this is precisely the Biot–Savart–Laplace formula for the magnetic field of the current I flowing through the wire loop \mathcal{L} !

Quod erat demonstrandum.

Problem $\mathbf{3}(a)$:

Let's consider the work and the energy for a variable-capacitance capacitor connected to a battery (or some other DC power supply). As the capacitance changes, the charge stored in the capacitor changes, so a current flows through the battery, which performs electric work

$$W_{\rm el} = V \,\delta Q.$$

Also, changing the capacitance of a charged capacitor takes a mechanical work W_{mech} , which can be calculated from the energy balance equation

$$\delta U = \delta W_{\rm el} + \delta W_{\rm mech} \tag{S.18}$$

where

$$U = \frac{Q^2}{2C} = \frac{CV^2}{2} = \frac{VQ}{2}$$
(S.19)

is the energy stored in the capacitor. Consequently

$$\delta U = \frac{Q\delta Q}{C} - \frac{Q^2}{2C^2}\delta C = V\delta Q - \frac{V^2}{2}\delta C, \qquad (S.20)$$

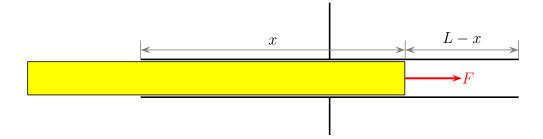
and hence

$$\delta W_{\text{mech}} = \delta U - \delta W_{\text{el}} = \left(V \,\delta Q - \frac{V^2}{2} \,\delta C \right) - V \,\delta Q = -\frac{V^2}{2} \,\delta C. \tag{S.21}$$

BTW, the above calculation does not depend on the battery's voltage V being fixed. So the mechanical work involved in an infinitesimal change of capacitance is always given by eq. (S.21), regardless of whether the capacitor is hooked up to a fixed-voltage battery, or to more complicated power supply, or even charged and disconnected. Problem $\mathbf{3}(b)$:

Let's move a piece of dielectric in or out from between the plates of a charged capacitor. Such movement changes the capacitance C, and according to eq. (S.21) this takes a mechanical work and hence mechanical forces. Specifically, there is a force pulling the dielectric inside the capacitor.

To see how this works, take a parallel plate capacitor, with rectangular plates of length L, width w, and distance d between the plates, $d \ll L, w$. The movable dielectric completely fills the gap between the plates and covers their whole width but not the length:



This capacitor can be thought as a parallel circuit of two capacitors, one vacuum-filled of length L - z and the other dielectric-filled of length x, so altogether

$$C = \epsilon \epsilon_0 \times \frac{xw}{d} + \epsilon_0 \times \frac{(L-x)w}{d}.$$
 (S.22)

Pulling the dielectric in through length δx changes the capacitance by

$$\delta C = (\epsilon - 1)\epsilon_0 \frac{w}{d} \times \delta x, \qquad (S.23)$$

and according to eq. (S.21) this takes mechanical work upon the capacitor

$$W_{\text{mech}} = -\frac{V^2}{2} \times \frac{(\epsilon - 1)\epsilon_0 w}{d} \times \delta x.$$
 (S.24)

The mechanical work done by the capacitor obtains by sign reversal, and equating this work to $F \times \delta x$, we find the force F pulling the dielectric inside the capacitor,

$$F = +\frac{V^2}{2} \times \frac{(\epsilon - 1)\epsilon_0 w}{d}.$$
 (S.25)

Problem $\mathbf{3}(c)$:

Let's turn the capacitor plates from the previous example vertically and immerse them partway into transformer oil. The oil is a dielectric, so the force (S.25) pulls it into the space between the plates, and that's what raises the oil level between the plates compared to its level outside. The height h through which the oil is raised follows from balancing the pulling force F against the weight of extra oil between the plates,

$$F = g\rho w dh, \tag{S.26}$$

and hence

$$h = \frac{F}{g\rho w d} = (\epsilon - 1)\epsilon_0 \frac{V^2}{2g\rho d^2}.$$
(4)

Note that the plates' width w cancels out from this formula.

For a numeric example, take transformer oil with dielectric constant $\epsilon = 1.34$ and mass density 882 kg/m³, make the gap between the plates 1.00 mm wide, and charge the capacitor to V = 3000 Volts, then the oil in the gap will rise to h = 4.6 mm.

Problem 4:

Let's start with the quasi-static magnetic field of the wire. At the moment the wire hangs along the z axis, we have

$$\mathbf{B}(s,\phi,z) = \frac{\mu_0 I}{2\pi s} \mathbf{n}_{\phi}, \qquad (S.27)$$

or in Cartesian coordinates

$$\mathbf{B}(x,y,z) = \frac{\mu_0 I}{2\pi} \frac{(-y,+x,0)}{x^2 + y^2}.$$
 (S.28)

For the sake of definiteness, let the wire move in the x direction,

$$x_{\text{wire}}(t) = vt, \quad y_{\text{wire}}(t) = 0,$$
 (S.29)

so the quasi-static magnetic field moving with the wire is

$$\mathbf{B}(x, y, z, t) = \frac{\mu_0 I}{2\pi} \frac{(-y, x - vt, 0)}{(x - vt)^2 + y^2}.$$
(S.30)

The electric field induced by this time-dependent magnetic field obeys the Induction Law

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{E} = -\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \mathbf{B} \tag{S.31}$$

but instead of solving this equation directly for the field (S.30), it's easier to find the timedependent vector potential $\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{x}, t)$ and then use

$$\mathbf{E} = -\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\mathbf{A} - \nabla\Phi. \tag{S.32}$$

Moreover, in the Coulomb gauge $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{A} = 0$ for the potential, the $\Phi(\mathbf{x}, t)$ here is the instantaneous Coulomb potential of the electric charges in the system. But the system at hand has no electric charges, in the Coulomb gauge $\Phi(\mathbf{x}, t) \equiv 0$, hence

$$\mathbf{E} = -\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \mathbf{A} \,. \tag{S.33}$$

Quasi-statically, the Coulomb-gauge vector potential for a current in a wire obtains as

$$\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \int_{\text{wire}} \frac{I \, d\mathbf{y}}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}|} \,. \tag{S.34}$$

For the wire hanging along the z axis, this integral evaluates to

$$\mathbf{A}(s,\phi,z) = \frac{\mu_0 I}{2\pi} \mathbf{n}_z (\text{const} - \log s), \qquad (S.35)$$

or in Cartesian coordinates

$$\mathbf{A}(x, y, z) = \frac{\mu_0 I}{4\pi} \mathbf{n}_z (\text{const} - \log(x^2 + y^2)).$$
 (S.36)

Consequently, for a moving wire

$$\mathbf{A}(x, y, z, t) = \frac{\mu_0 I}{4\pi} \mathbf{n}_z \left(\text{const} - \log((x - vt)^2 + y^2) \right),$$
(S.37)

and it is easy to check that

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{A} = 0, \quad \nabla \times \mathbf{A} = \mathbf{B}[\text{from eq. (S.30)}].$$
 (S.38)

Therefore, the induced electric field is

$$\mathbf{E}(x, y, z, t) = -\frac{\partial \mathbf{A}}{\partial t} = +\frac{\mu_0 I}{4\pi} \mathbf{n}_z \left(\frac{\partial \log((x - vt)^2 + y^2)}{\partial t} \right)$$
$$= \frac{\mu_0 I}{4\pi} \frac{-2v(x - vt)}{(x - vt)^2 + y^2} \mathbf{n}_z$$
$$= -\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B}(x, y, z, t).$$
(S.39)

PS: In fact, for any magnet or electromagnet moving as a rigid body, the induced electric field is

$$\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{x},t) = -\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{x},t). \tag{S.40}$$

Indeed, the magnetic field of a magnet moving as a rigid body moves with the magnet, thus

$$\mathbf{B}(\mathbf{x},t) = \mathbf{B}_0(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{v}t). \tag{S.41}$$

Consequently, the time-derivative of this field at a fixed location \mathbf{x} is related to its space derivatives as

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} = -(\mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{B}. \tag{S.42}$$

Furthermore, by the double cross product formula

$$\nabla \times (\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B}) = (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B})\mathbf{v} - (\mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{B} = 0 - (\mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{B}$$
(S.43)

where the second equality stems from $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} = 0$, hence

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} = -(\mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{B} = +\nabla \times (\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B}).$$
(S.44)

Consequently, according to Faraday's Induction Law

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{E} = -\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} = -\nabla \times (\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B}), \qquad (S.45)$$

hence

$$\nabla \times (\mathbf{E} + \mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B}) = 0, \tag{S.46}$$

and therefore

$$\mathbf{E} + \mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B} = -\nabla \Phi \tag{S.47}$$

for some scalar potential Φ . In the absence of electric charges we may set $\Phi(\mathbf{x}, t) \equiv 0$, and therefore

$$\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{x},t) = -\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{x},t). \tag{S.48}$$

Quod erat demonstrandum.