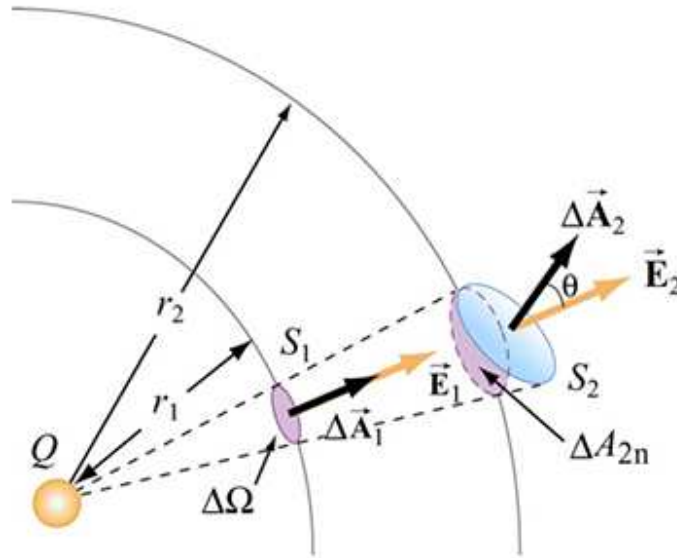


Problem 2(a):

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

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

which in our notations corresponds to

$$d\Omega = \frac{\mathbf{n} \cdot d^2\text{area}}{R^2} \quad (\text{S.2})$$

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 \mathcal{S} located at \mathbf{y} ,

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

hence

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

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

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

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 $< 90^\circ$ 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 $> 90^\circ$ with the line of site. 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 for the direction of the $d\mathbf{a}$ vector is topological. The surface \mathcal{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 \mathcal{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 $4\pi \times$ an integer. To see how this works, let two surfaces \mathcal{S}_1 and \mathcal{S}_2 span \mathcal{L} and consider the space \mathcal{V} trapped between these surfaces. Together, \mathcal{S}_1 and \mathcal{S}_2 form the complete surface of the volume \mathcal{V} , but one of the the two surfaces — say, \mathcal{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 $\mathcal{S}_1 - \mathcal{S}_2$. By Gauss theorem, this means that for any vector field $\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{y})$

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

Now let

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

for any fixed point \mathbf{x} . Then calculating $\Omega(\mathbf{x})$ using the surfaces \mathcal{S}_1 and \mathcal{S}_2 and taking the difference, we obtain

$$\Omega_1(\mathbf{x}) - \Omega_2(\mathbf{x}) = \iint_{\mathcal{S}_1} \frac{(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}) \cdot d^2\mathbf{a}(\mathbf{y})}{|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}|^3} - \iint_{\mathcal{S}_2} \frac{(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}) \cdot d^2\mathbf{a}(\mathbf{y})}{|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}|^3} = \iiint_{\mathcal{V}} \nabla_y \cdot \left(\frac{(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x})}{|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}|^3} \right) d^3\mathbf{y}. \quad (\text{S.7})$$

But

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

hence

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

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 \mathcal{S}_1 and \mathcal{S}_2 and the loop \mathcal{L} onto the the unit sphere centered at \mathbf{x} . The image of the loop \mathcal{L} divides the sphere into two parts, and if the surfaces \mathcal{S}_1 and \mathcal{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

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

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.*,

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

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 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,

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

In particular, let

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

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

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

and hence

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

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

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{c} \cdot \nabla \Omega(\mathbf{x}) &= (\mathbf{c} \cdot \nabla_x) \iint_{\mathcal{S}} \frac{(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x})}{|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}|^3} \cdot d^2 \mathbf{a}(\mathbf{y}) = \iint_{\mathcal{S}} (\mathbf{c} \cdot \nabla_x) \left(\frac{(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x})}{|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}|^3} \right) \cdot d^2 \mathbf{a}(\mathbf{y}) \\ &\quad \langle\langle \text{using } \nabla_x f(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}) = -\nabla_y f(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}) \rangle\rangle \\ &= - \iint_{\mathcal{S}} (\mathbf{c} \cdot \nabla_y) \left(\frac{(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x})}{|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}|^3} \right) \cdot d^2 \mathbf{a}(\mathbf{y}) \\ &= - \iint_{\mathcal{S}} \left(\nabla_y \times \left(\frac{(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x})}{|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}|^3} \times \mathbf{c} \right) \right) \cdot d^2 \mathbf{a}(\mathbf{y}) \quad \langle\langle \text{using eq. (3)} \rangle\rangle \\ &= - \oint_{\mathcal{L}} \left(\frac{(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x})}{|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}|^3} \times \mathbf{c} \right) \cdot d^2 \mathbf{y} \quad \langle\langle \text{by the Stokes' theorem} \rangle\rangle \\ &= + \oint_{\mathcal{L}} \left(\mathbf{c} \cdot \left(\frac{(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x})}{|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}|^3} \times d\mathbf{y} \right) \right) \quad \langle\langle \text{vector identity} \rangle\rangle \\ &= \mathbf{c} \cdot \oint_{\mathcal{L}} \frac{(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x})}{|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}|^3} \times d\mathbf{y}. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{S.15})$$

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

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

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 \mathbf{H} follows from $\Psi(\mathbf{x})$ as $-\nabla \Psi$, hence according to eqs. (1) and (S.16),

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

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 3:

Before addressing the problem at hand, let's consider the work and the energy for a variable-capacitance capacitor connected to a battery. As the capacitance changes, the charge stored in the capacitor changes, so a current flows through the battery, which performs electric work

$$W_{\text{el}} = V \delta Q.$$

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

$$\delta U = \delta W_{\text{el}} + \delta W_{\text{mech}} \quad (\text{S.18})$$

where

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

is the energy stored in the capacitor. Consequently

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

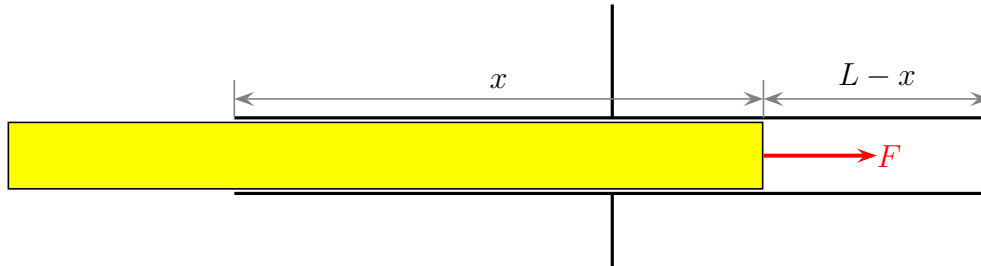
and hence

$$\delta W_{\text{mech}} = \delta U - V \delta Q = -\frac{V^2}{2} \delta C. \quad (\text{S.21})$$

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.

Now consider moving 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

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

Pulling the dielectric in through length δx changes the capacitance by

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

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

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

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,

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

Finally, let's turn the capacitor plates vertically and immerse them part-way 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,

$$F = g\rho wd h, \quad (\text{S.26})$$

and hence

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

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/m^3 , make the gap between the plates 1.00 mm wide, and charge the capacitor to $V = 3000 \text{ Volts}$, then the oil in the gap will rise to $h = 4.6 \text{ mm}$.

Problem 4:

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

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

or in Cartesian coordinates

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

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

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

so the quasistatic magnetic field moving with the wire is

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

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

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{E} = -\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \mathbf{B} \quad (\text{S.31})$$

but instead of solving this equation directly for the field (S.30), it's easier to find the time-

dependent vector potential $\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{x}, t)$ and then use

$$\mathbf{E} = -\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\mathbf{A} - \nabla\Phi. \quad (\text{S.32})$$

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

$$\mathbf{E} = -\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\mathbf{A}. \quad (\text{S.33})$$

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

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

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

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

or in Cartesian coordinates

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

Consequently, for a moving wire

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

and it is easy to check that

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

Therefore, the induced electric field is

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Furthermore, by the double cross product formula

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

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

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

Consequently, according to Faraday's Induction Law

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

hence

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

and therefore

$$\mathbf{E} + \mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B} = -\nabla \Phi \quad (\text{S.47})$$

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

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

Quod erat demonstrandum.