SI / mks

Gaussian / cgs

Basic rule of thumb: $\mu_{\scriptscriptstyle 0} \varepsilon_{\scriptscriptstyle 0} = 1 \, / \, c^2$ and

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbf{B} & \longrightarrow & \mathbf{B} \, / \, c \\ \varepsilon_0 & \longrightarrow & 1 \, / \, 4\pi \end{array}$$

Therefore

$$\begin{array}{cccc} \mathbf{A} & \longrightarrow & \mathbf{A} \ / \ c \\ \mu_0 & \longrightarrow & 4\pi \ / \ c^2 \end{array}$$

E, current I, current density **J**, charge e,

charge density ρ_c , and potential Φ all stay the same

Maxwell's Equations:

$$\begin{split} \nabla \cdot \mathbf{E} &= \rho_c \mathrel{/} \varepsilon_0 \\ \nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} &= 0 \\ \nabla \times \mathbf{E} &= -\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} \\ \nabla \times \mathbf{B} &= \mu_0 \mathbf{J} + \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial \mathbf{E}}{\partial t} \\ \end{split} \qquad \begin{aligned} \nabla \cdot \mathbf{E} &= 4\pi \rho_c \\ \nabla \times \mathbf{B} &= 0 \\ \nabla \times \mathbf{E} &= -\frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} \\ \nabla \times \mathbf{B} &= \frac{4\pi}{c} \mathbf{J} + \frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \mathbf{E}}{\partial t} \end{aligned}$$

Forces:

$$\begin{split} \mathbf{F}_{\text{\tiny Coulomb}} &= \frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_{_{0}}}\frac{e_{_{1}}e_{_{2}}}{r^{2}} \\ \mathbf{F}_{\text{\tiny Lorentz}} &= e\Big[\mathbf{E} + \mathbf{v}\times\mathbf{B}\Big] \\ \end{split} \qquad \begin{split} \mathbf{F}_{\text{\tiny Coulomb}} &= \frac{e_{_{1}}e_{_{2}}}{r^{2}} \\ \\ \mathbf{F}_{\text{\tiny Lorentz}} &= e\Big[\mathbf{E} + \frac{1}{c}\mathbf{v}\times\mathbf{B}\Big] \end{split}$$

Etc:

$$\begin{split} \mathbf{E} &= -\nabla \Phi - \frac{\partial \mathbf{A}}{\partial t} \\ \mathbf{B} &= \nabla \times \mathbf{A} \\ \mathbf{B} &= \frac{\mu_0 I}{4\pi} \int \frac{d\mathbf{l} \times \mathbf{r}}{r^3} \\ U &= \frac{1}{2} \int d^3 v \left[\varepsilon_0 E^2 + \frac{1}{\mu_0} B^2 \right] \end{split} \qquad \begin{aligned} \mathbf{E} &= -\nabla \Phi - \frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \mathbf{A}}{\partial t} \\ \mathbf{B} &= \nabla \times \mathbf{A} \\ \mathbf{B} &= \frac{I}{c} \int \frac{d\mathbf{l} \times \mathbf{r}}{r^3} \\ U &= \frac{1}{2} \int d^3 v \left[E^2 + B^2 \right] \end{aligned}$$

Plasma parameters:

$$\Omega_c = \frac{eB}{m} \qquad \qquad \Omega_c = \frac{eB}{mc} \qquad \qquad \text{Gyro-frequency,} \\ a.k.a. \ \text{Larmor frequency,} \\ a.k.a. \ \text{cyclotron frequency,} \\ a.k.a. \ \text{Larmor radius,} \\ \omega_p = \sqrt{\frac{v_{thermal}}{\Omega_c}} = \frac{c\sqrt{Tm}}{eB} \qquad \qquad \text{Gyro-radius,} \\ a.k.a \ \text{Larmor radius} \\ \omega_p = \sqrt{4\pi n e^2 / m} \qquad \qquad \text{Plasma frequency} \\ \lambda_D = \sqrt{\frac{\varepsilon_0 T}{ne^2}} \qquad \qquad \lambda_D = \sqrt{\frac{T}{4\pi n e^2}} \qquad \qquad \text{Debye length} \\ v_A = B / \sqrt{4\pi n_i m_i} \qquad \qquad v_A = B / \sqrt{4\pi n_i m_i} \qquad \qquad \text{Alfven speed} \\ \beta = 2\mu_0 p / B^2 \qquad \qquad \beta = 8\pi p / B^2 \qquad \qquad \text{Beta} \\ v_* = \frac{v_{thermal}^2}{\Omega R} = \frac{cT}{eBR} \qquad \qquad \text{Drift speed} \\ \end{cases}$$

The relations
$$\omega_{p}\lambda_{D}=v_{thermal}$$
, $v_{*}=\frac{v_{thermal}^{2}}{\Omega R}=\frac{\rho_{L}v_{thermal}}{R}$, and $\frac{v_{thermal,i}^{2}}{v_{A}^{2}}=\frac{\beta}{2}$ all hold in both systems of units.

A reverse transformation from Gaussian to SI exists as well, but it is much more cumbersome:

SI / mks

Gaussian / cgs

<u>SI / mks</u>		Gaussian / cgs
$rac{e}{\sqrt{4\piarepsilon_0}}$	\leftarrow	e
$\sqrt{4\piarepsilon_0}\mathbf{E}$	\leftarrow	${f E}$
$c\sqrt{4\pi\varepsilon_0}\mathbf{B} = \sqrt{\frac{4\pi}{\mu_0}}\mathbf{B}$		В
$\frac{\rho_c}{\sqrt{4\pi\varepsilon_0}}$		$ ho_c$
$rac{1}{\sqrt{4\piarepsilon_0}}\mathbf{J}$	\leftarrow	J
$\sqrt{4\piarepsilon_0}\Phi$	\leftarrow	Φ
$c\sqrt{4\piarepsilon_0}{f A}$	\leftarrow	\mathbf{A}

All non-electromagnetic quantities (length, frequency, speed, force, density, temperature, pressure, etc.) stay the same.

Warning!: these substitutions do not necessarily work for dielectrics (permittivity, susceptibility, etc.) and magnetic moment.

For more info on E&M in various systems of units:

- D. J. Griffiths, Introduction to Electrodynamics, appendix C
- NRL Plasma Formulary, p.19 in 2009 edition
- J. D. Jackson, Classical Electrodynamics, appendix