Homework No. 04 (Fall 2024)

PHYS 205B: UNIVERSITY PHYSICS

School of Physics and Applied Physics, Southern Illinois University–Carbondale
Due date: Tuesday, 2024 Sep 17, 9:30 AM, on D2L

Instructions

- You are encouraged to use any of the resources to complete this homework. However, the extent to which you depend on resources while doing homework is usually a measure of how much extra work you need to put in to master the associated concepts. Solutions should be the last resource.
- Describe your thought process in detail and organize it clearly. Make sure your answer has units and the right number of significant digits.
- Additional problems, with hyperlinks to exams, are available in Lecture Notes.
- After completion, scan the pages as a single PDF file, and submit the file on D2L (under Assessments → Assignments).

Problems

1. (**10 points.**) Consider a region of uniform electric field $\vec{\mathbf{E}} = -E\,\hat{\mathbf{j}}$ of magnitude $E = 1.0\times 10^3\,\text{N/C}$ and direction vertically down. Distance between points A to B is $h = 6.0\,\text{cm}$, and the distance between points B to C is $d = 8.0\,\text{cm}$. Refer Fig. 1.
   (a) What is the potential difference between points A and B?
   (b) What is the potential difference between points B and C?
   (c) What is the potential difference between points A and C?

   Solution

2. (**10 points.**) A sphere with uniform charge distribution $-Q = -3.0\,\mu\text{C}$ is fixed at the origin. Point A is on a sphere of radius 5.0 cm and point B is on a sphere of radius 10.0 cm. Refer Figure 2.
   (a) What is the work done by the electric force acting on charge $q = +2.0\,\mu\text{C}$, when q is moved from point A to point B.
   (b) What is the change in the electric potential energy between $-Q$ and q when q is moved from point A to point B.

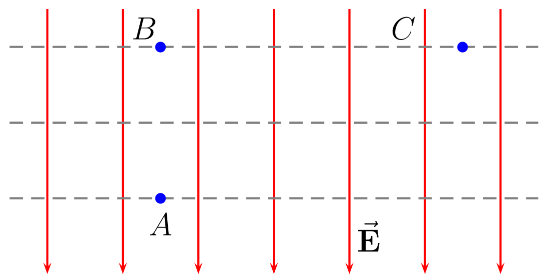

Figure 1: Problem 1

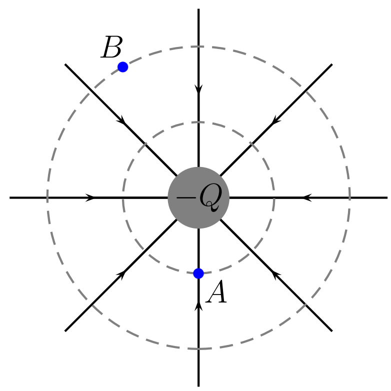

Figure 2: Problem 2

(c) If there are no other forces acting on charge q, using the work-energy theorem calculate the change in kinetic energy of charge q.

Solution

3. (**10 points.**) Find the electric potential at the point marked $\times$ on the x axis in Figure 3. Given $q_1 = -1.0\,\text{nC}$, $q_2 = +2.0\,\text{nC}$, $s = 2a$, $t = 3a$, $y = 4a$, $a = 1.8\,\text{cm}$.

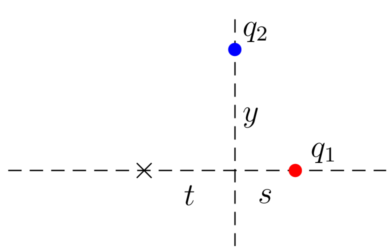

Figure 3: Problem 3

Solution

4. (**10 points.**) Four charges $q_1 = q$, $q_2 = -2q$, $q_3 = -3q$, and $q_4 = 4q$, are placed at the corners of a square of side L, such that q_1 and q_4 are at diagonally opposite corners. Refer Figure 4.

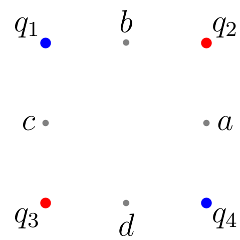

Figure 4: Problem 4

(a) What is the electric potential at the center of square?

(b) What is the electric potential at point a?

(c) What is the electric potential at point b?

(d) What is the electric potential difference between points a and c?

(e) How much potential energy is required to move another charge q from infinity to the center of the square?

(f) How much additional potential energy is required to move this charge from the center of the square to point a?

Solution

5. (**10 points.**) Determine the total energy required to assemble four identical positive charges Q at the corners of a square of length L. Assume that the charges are brought from infinity.

Solution

6. (**10 points.**) A positive charge $Q_1 = 1.0\,\text{nC}$ is held fixed. Another positive charge $Q_2 = 2Q_1$ is tied to charge Q_1 using a string of length $a = 5.0\,\text{cm}$. Assume the radius of the two charges to be small in comparison to a. The charges have masses $m_1 = 0.05\,\text{grams}$ and $m_2 = 2m_1$. When the string is cut the two charges fly off in opposite directions. Determine the speed of each of the charges when they are (infinitely) far apart. (Hint: Use conservation of momentum and conservation of energy.)

Solution

7. (**10 points.**) Consider a uniformly charged disc of radius R with charge per unit area σ placed on the yz plane such that the origin is the center of the disc. Determine the electric potential on the x axis to be

$$V(x) = -\frac{\sigma}{2\varepsilon_0}\left[x - \sqrt{x^2 + R^2}\right]. \tag{1}$$

Using the fact that the electric field is the negative gradient of the electric potential, calculate the x-component of the electric field on the x axis to be

$$E_x = -\frac{\partial V}{\partial x} = \frac{\sigma}{2\varepsilon_0}\left[1 - \frac{x}{\sqrt{x^2 + R^2}}\right]. \tag{2}$$

(a) Show that this leads to the potential and electric field of a point charge in the limit $R \ll x$.

(b) Analyze the limit $x \ll R$. Show that this leads to the potential and electric field for a non-conducting uniformly charged plate. Plot the electric potential as a function of x for this case.

Solution

8. (**10 points.**) The electric field inside and outside a conducting sphere of radius R is given by

$$\mathbf{E} = \begin{cases} 0, & r < R \ \text{(inside)}, \\ \dfrac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_0}\dfrac{Q}{r^2}\hat{\mathbf{r}}, & R < r \ \text{(outside)}. \end{cases} \tag{3}$$

Determine the electric potential inside (and outside) the sphere using

$$\Delta V = -\int_{\mathbf{r}_i}^{\mathbf{r}_f} d\mathbf{l} \cdot \mathbf{E}. \tag{4}$$

Hint: Since the electric field is zero inside a perfect conductor, the electric potential inside the conductor must be a constant.

Solution