Homework No. 03 (Spring 2025)

PHYS 205B-002: UNIVERSITY PHYSICS

School of Physics and Applied Physics, Southern Illinois University–Carbondale

Due date: Tuesday, 2025 Feb 4, 4:00 PM, 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 this homework is a measure of how much extra work you need to put in to master the associated concepts. Solutions should be the last resource.
- Links to solutions are provided.
- Variations of homework problems and additional problems with hyperlinks to old exams are available in Lecture Notes. These serve as practice problems.
- Describe your thought process in detail and organize it clearly. Make sure your answer has units and right number of significant digits.
- After completion, scan the pages as a single PDF file, and submit the file on D2L (under Assesments → Assignments). You can replace your PDF file as many times as you like, only the last file is graded. The deadline has an (undisclosed) buffer period, so do not hesitate to try submissions after the deadline.

Problems

1. (**10 points.**) Consider a thin conducting spherical shell of radius $a = 1.0\,\text{cm}$ with a total charge of $Q = 3.0\,\text{nC}$ (distributed uniformly) on its surface. The electric field due to such a spherical charge distribution is given by

$$\mathbf{E} = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if} \quad r < a \quad \text{(inside)}, \\ \hat{\mathbf{r}}\dfrac{kQ}{r^2}, & \text{if} \quad a < r \quad \text{(outside)}. \end{cases} \tag{1}$$

   (a) Find the electric field 0.5 cm from the center of the charge distribution.

   (b) Find the electric field 2.0 cm from the center of the charge distribution.

   [**Solution**, Caution: The numbers in the solution are different.]

2. (**10 points.**) Consider a configuration consisting of two charged concentric spherical shells of radius a and b with charges Q_a and Q_b, respectively. Let us have $a < b$. Given $a = 1.0\,\text{cm}$, $b = 3a$, $Q_a = +1.0\,\text{nC}$, and $Q_b = -3.0\,\text{nC}$. See Figure 1.

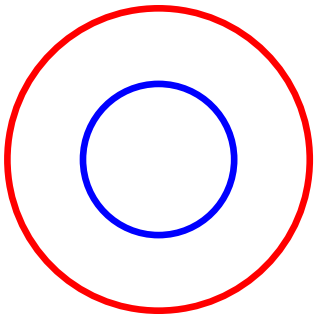

Figure 1: Problem 2

(a) Determine the expression for the electric field in region $r < a$. Determine the magnitude and direction of the electric field at $r = 0.25\,\text{cm}$.

(b) Determine the expression for the electric field in region $a < r < b$. Determine the magnitude and direction of the electric field at $r = 2.0\,\text{cm}$.

(c) Determine the expression for the electric field in region $b < r$. Determine the magnitude and direction of the electric field at $r = 4.0\,\text{cm}$.

[**Solution**]

3. (**10 points.**) A large, flat, horizontal sheet of dielectric material has a charge per unit area of $8.85\,\mu\text{C/m}^2$. Find the electric field just above the middle of the sheet. See Figure 2. Hint: Use

$$\vec{\mathbf{E}} = \hat{\mathbf{n}}\frac{\sigma}{2\varepsilon_0}. \tag{2}$$

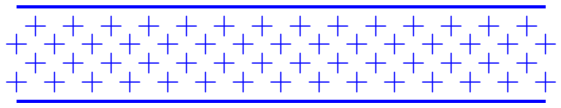

Figure 2: Problem 3

Solution

4. (**10 points.**) A large, flat, horizontal sheet of conducting material has a charge per unit area of $8.85\,\mu\text{C/m}^2$. Find the electric field just above and below the middle of the sheet.

See Figure 3. Hint: Use

$$\vec{\mathbf{E}} = \hat{\mathbf{n}}\frac{\sigma}{\varepsilon_0}. \tag{3}$$

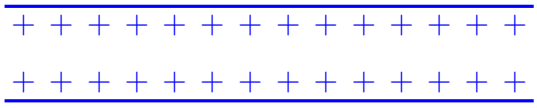

Figure 3: Problem 4

Solution

5. (**10 points.**) Consider a region of uniform electric field

$$\vec{\mathbf{E}} = (1.0\,\hat{\mathbf{i}} + 2.0\,\hat{\mathbf{j}}) \times 10^3\,\frac{\mathrm{N}}{\mathrm{C}}. \tag{4}$$

Calculate the electric flux through a rectangular plane 0.40 m wide and 0.20 m long if the plane is parallel to the yz plane.

[**Solution**]

6. (**10 points.**) A charge of 105 μC is at the center of a cube of edge 75.0 cm. No other charges are nearby.

   (a) Find the flux through each face of the cube.

   (b) Find the flux through the whole surface of the cube.

   (c) Would your answers to parts (a) or (b) change if the charge were not at the center?

[**Solution**]

7. (**10 points.**) Charges are placed on the $z = 0$ plane such that it forms a square lattice of length a that extends to infinity in the plane. Refer Figure 4. The charge on each lattice point has a magnitude of 17.7×10^{-12} C. Determine the electric flux through the surface G of a sphere of radius $R = 1.7\,a$ shown in Figure 4.

[**Solution**]

8. (**10 points.**) A point charge Q sits at the center of a charged spherical shell of radius R with charge Q' uniformly distributed on its surface. Using Gauss's law to find the expression for electric field inside and outside the spherical shell.

[**Solution**]

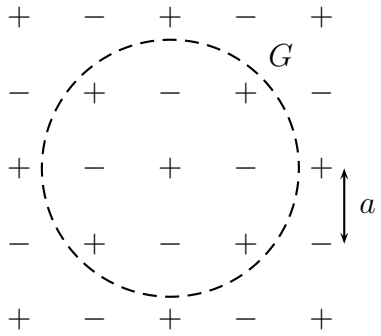

Figure 4: Problem 7