

Homework 3

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1. In the popular novel “Angels and Demons” by Dan Brown, some magnetic traps containing antimatter are stolen from CERN. This sets off a race to find the antimatter before the batteries of the traps die and the antimatter is freed to interact and annihilate with matter. The antimatter is in the form of positrons. A positron is the antimatter partner of the electron and thus is positively charged with a charge of $1.6 \cdot 10^{-19}[\text{C}]$ each and a mass of $9.1 \cdot 10^{-31}[\text{kg}]$ each. Assume that the positrons in the trap form a spherical shell (why?) of radius 1[mm] and have a total mass of one nano-gram.
 - (a) Find the pressure that the trap must exert on the surface of the sphere to keep it from expanding
 - (b) Calculate
 - i. the electrostatic energy of the trapped positrons and
 - ii. the energy that would be released by antimatter annihilation (twice the rest energy of the positrons)
2. For a particular configuration of charges, the potential is given by $V(r) = A \frac{e^{-\lambda r}}{r}$, where A is a constant with units [V m] and λ is a constant with units [m^{-1}].

- (a) Find the electric field $\vec{E}(r)$

We know that the electric field may be expressed as:

$$\vec{E} = -\vec{\nabla}V$$

We can then take the gradient to find the electric field as:

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{E} &= Ae^{-\lambda r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left(\frac{1}{r} \right) + \frac{A}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} (e^{-\lambda r}) \\ &= - \left(-\frac{Ae^{-\lambda r}}{r^2} + \frac{-\lambda Ae^{-\lambda r}}{r} \right) \\ &= \boxed{\left(\frac{Ae^{-\lambda r}}{r^2} + \frac{\lambda Ae^{-\lambda r}}{r} \right) \hat{\mathbf{r}}}\end{aligned}$$

- (b) Show that the charge density is given by $\rho(r) = \varepsilon_o A \left(4\pi\delta^3(\vec{r}) - \frac{\lambda^2 e^{-\lambda r}}{r} \right)$
By Poisson's formula:

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{E} = \frac{\rho}{\varepsilon_o} \rightarrow \varepsilon_o \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{E} = \rho$$

Thus, we take the differential of the above once more:

$$A \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left(\frac{\hat{\mathbf{r}}}{r^2} (1 + \lambda r) e^{-\lambda r} \right)$$

By the product rule, we get:

$$A \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left(\frac{\hat{\mathbf{r}}}{r^2} \right) (1 + \lambda r) e^{-\lambda r} + \frac{A}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} ((1 + \lambda r) e^{-\lambda r})$$

We know

$$\vec{\nabla} \left(\frac{\hat{\mathbf{r}}}{r^2} \right) = 4\pi\delta^3(\vec{r})$$

Which then gives us:

$$4A\pi\delta^3(\vec{r})(1 + \lambda r)e^{-\lambda r} + \frac{A}{r^2} (\lambda e^{-\lambda r} - \lambda(1 + \lambda r)e^{-\lambda r})$$

All of the terms dependent on r and multiplied by the δ function can be ignored, as they would only be important when $r = 0$, which would make them equal to 1 anyway. Doing so, and simplifying, we get:

$$4A\pi\delta^3(\vec{r}) - \frac{A\lambda^2 e^{-\lambda r}}{r}$$

Then multiplying by ε_o , we finally get:

$$\boxed{\rho(r) = \varepsilon_o A \left(4\pi\delta^3(\vec{r}) - \frac{\lambda^2 e^{-\lambda r}}{r} \right)}$$

- (c) Find the total integrated charge Q

To find the charge, we may integrate over the entire volume:

$$\begin{aligned} \int \rho(r) dV &= \varepsilon_o A \int \left(4\pi\delta^3(\vec{r}) - \frac{\lambda^2 e^{-\lambda r}}{r} \right) dV \\ &= 4\pi\varepsilon_o A \underbrace{\int \delta^3(\vec{r}) dV}_1 - \varepsilon_o A \int \frac{\lambda^2 e^{-\lambda r}}{r} dr dA \\ &= 4\pi\varepsilon_o A - \varepsilon_o A \int 4\pi r \lambda^2 e^{-\lambda r} dr \end{aligned}$$

$$4\pi\epsilon_o A - 4\pi\epsilon_o A\lambda^2 \int_0^\infty r e^{-\lambda r} dr$$

$$4\pi\epsilon_o A - 4\pi\epsilon_o A\lambda^2 \left(\frac{1}{\lambda^2} \right)$$

$$\boxed{Q = 0}$$

3. A metal sphere of radius R is given a total charge Q . Find the force between two hemispheres.

First, we need to average the electric field about the sphere:

$$\frac{1}{2} (\vec{E}_{in} + \vec{E}_{out}) = \frac{1}{2} \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_o R^2}$$

Due to symmetry, we can cancel horizontal components, thus meaning only the z components are important. We then find the force per unit area:

$$F_z = \sigma \vec{E}$$

Then using spherical coordinates and only taking the z -direction force, we get:

$$\int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \sigma \vec{E} R^2 \sin(\theta) \cos(\theta) d\theta d\phi = \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \frac{Q}{4\pi R^2} \cdot \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_o R^2} R^2 \sin(\theta) \cos(\theta) d\theta d\phi$$

We can then simplify using trigonometric identities:

$$\frac{Q^2}{32\pi^2\epsilon_o R^2} \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \sin(\theta) \cos(\theta) d\theta d\phi \rightarrow \frac{Q^2}{64\pi^2\epsilon_o R^2} \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \sin(2\theta) d\theta d\phi$$

$$\boxed{\frac{Q^2}{32\pi\epsilon_o R^2} \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \sin(2\theta) d\theta = \frac{Q^2}{32\pi\epsilon_o R^2}}$$

4. Two spherical cavities of radii a and b , are hollowed out from the interior of a (neutral) conducting sphere of radius R . At the center of each cavity a point charge is placed — call these charges q_a and q_b .

- (a) Find the surface charge densities σ_a , σ_b , and σ_R

A surface charge density is simply the charge per unit area. This can be expressed for the point charges q_a and q_b :

$$\sigma_{a'} = \frac{q_a}{4\pi a^2} \quad \text{and} \quad \sigma_{b'} = \frac{q_b}{4\pi b^2}$$

The surface of the cavities, would, however, have an equal but opposite charge, meaning they would be defined as:

$$\sigma_a = -\frac{q_a}{4\pi a^2} \quad \text{and} \quad \sigma_b = -\frac{q_b}{4\pi b^2}$$

The gathering of the negative charge on the inside of the conductor would create an equal but opposite charge on the surface of the sphere; applying similar logic, we find:

$$\sigma_R = \frac{q_a + q_b}{4\pi R^2}$$

- (b) What is the field outside the conductor?

As we know the total charge on the surface of the conductor, the electric field is given as:

$$\vec{E} = \frac{q_a + q_b}{4\pi\epsilon_o r^2} \hat{r}$$

where r is the radially outwards direction.

- (c) What is the field within each cavity?

The two cavities have similar electric fields, found in a process similar to the field outside of the conductor. That is, the fields may be described by the charge contained:

$$\vec{E}_a = \frac{q_a}{4\pi\epsilon_o r^2} \hat{r} \quad \text{and} \quad \vec{E}_b = \frac{q_b}{4\pi\epsilon_o r^2} \hat{r}$$

- (d) What is force on q_a and q_b ?

The force on both should be equal to zero. This occurs because we know the electric field through a conductor is zero. Thus, the only force acting on the charge itself would be its equal and opposite counterpart on the surface of the cavity. Since this equal and opposite charge is evenly distributed in a radial distribution, it would cancel out. Thus, the force is zero.

- (e) Which of these answers would change if a third charge, q_c , were brought near the conductor?

Anything inside of the conductor, or σ_a , σ_b , \vec{E}_a , \vec{E}_b , and the force on both charges, would not change, as the charge outside of the conductor does not change the electric field through the conductor itself (as it would still be zero). The quantities associated with the outside of the conductor, or σ_R and \vec{E} would change, as the addition of a new charge would change the distribution of charge on the surface, and modify the electrical field.

5. Consider an infinitely long conducting cylinder of radius a surrounded by a coaxial conducting cylindrical shell of inner radius b . Assume there is no material between the two conductors. (This is a basic coaxial cable, except that the space between would typically be filled with an insulating material.)

- (a) Calculate the capacitance per unit length in terms of a and b .

We can define the capacitance per unit length using the following formula:

$$\frac{C}{l} = \frac{q}{l\Delta V}$$

We can use Gauss's law to write:

$$\int \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{l} = \frac{q}{\epsilon_o}$$

Since \vec{E} is independent of the length, we get:

$$\vec{E} \int dl = \frac{q}{\epsilon_o}$$

$$\vec{E}(2\pi rl) = \frac{q}{\epsilon_o}$$

$$\vec{E} = \frac{q}{2\pi rl\epsilon_o}$$

We can write the $\frac{q}{l}$ term as λ , the charge density per unit length, which will be the same for both lines due to it being a capacitor:

$$\vec{E} = \frac{\lambda}{2\pi r\epsilon_o}$$

We then find the voltage:

$$\Delta V = \int \vec{E} dr$$

$$\Delta V = \int_a^b \frac{\lambda}{2\pi r\epsilon_o} dr$$

$$\Delta V = \frac{\lambda}{2\pi\epsilon_o} \ln\left(\frac{b}{a}\right)$$

Now plugging into the above equation for capacitance per unit length, we get:

$$\frac{C}{l} = \frac{2q\pi\epsilon_o}{\lambda l \ln\left(\frac{b}{a}\right)}$$

$$\boxed{\frac{C}{l} = \frac{2\pi\epsilon_o}{\ln\left(\frac{b}{a}\right)}}$$

- (b) For $a = 1.0[\text{mm}]$, $b = 1.2[\text{mm}]$ find the capacitance in $\left[\frac{\text{nF}}{\text{m}}\right]$.

Using the equation above, we can get:

$$\frac{2\pi \cdot 8.85 \cdot 10^{-12}}{\ln(1.2)} = 3.05 \cdot 10^{-10}$$

Now converting to nano-Farads, we get:

$$\boxed{\frac{C}{l} = .305 \left[\frac{\text{nF}}{\text{m}} \right]}$$

- (c) What happens to the capacitance if both a and b are increased by a factor of 10?
Since the function depends on a ratio of b to a , increasing both by a factor of 10
makes no difference