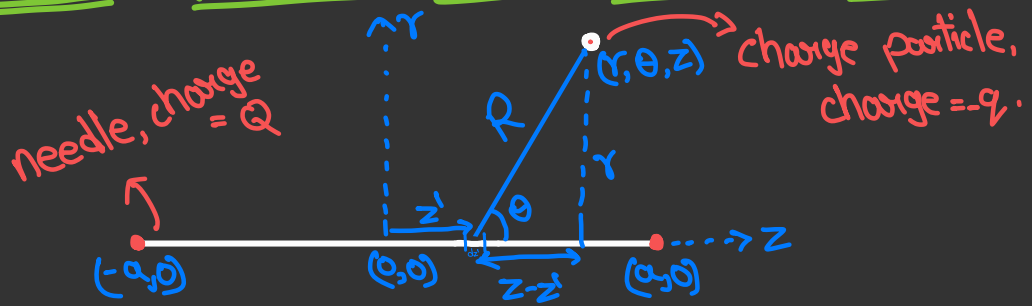


KNITTING NEEDLE AND CHARGED DROPLET



Questions we wish to Answer:-

- ① How is the motion in $z=0$ plane?
- ② What is the trajectory of the particle, when a sufficiently low velocity is imparted to it in z -direction?
- ③ What is the minimum velocity for the particle to not be trapped inside the Electric Bottle?

Solution:-

$$\text{charge density} = \frac{Q}{2a} = \lambda$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{Electric Potential } V(r, \theta, z) = \int_{-a}^a \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{\lambda dz'}{R}$$

$$= \int_{-a}^a \frac{\lambda}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{dz'}{[r^2 + (z-z')^2]^{1/2}}$$

$$= -\frac{\lambda}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \ln[\sqrt{r^2 + (z-z')^2} + z-z'] \Big|_{-a}^a$$

$$\Rightarrow V(r, z) = \frac{\lambda}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \ln \left(\frac{z + a + R_1}{z - a + R_2} \right); \quad R_1 = \sqrt{r^2 + (z + a)^2}$$

$$R_2 = \sqrt{r^2 + (z - a)^2}$$

Now to analyze motion in $z=0$ plane, Let us find \vec{E} in $z=0$:

By symmetry, we can see that \vec{E} has only radial component.

$$\Rightarrow E_{(r, z=0)} = -\frac{\partial V_{(r, z=0)}}{\partial r} \hat{r} = -\frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left[\frac{\lambda}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \ln \frac{a + \sqrt{r^2 + a^2}}{\sqrt{r^2 + a^2} - a} \right] \hat{r}$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{E}_{(r, z=0)} = \frac{\lambda}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{2a}{r\sqrt{r^2 + a^2}} \hat{r}$$

\Rightarrow A charged particle with $-q$ charge and mass m will have a circular orbit around the needle in $z=0$ with, say, radius r_0 and velocity $v_0 = r_0 \omega_0$

$$\Rightarrow m\omega_0^2 r_0 = |\vec{E}| q$$

$$m\omega_0^2 r_0 = \frac{\lambda}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{2aq}{r_0\sqrt{r_0^2 + a^2}}$$

$$\omega_0^2 = \frac{\lambda}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{2aq}{mr_0^2\sqrt{r_0^2 + a^2}}$$

Before we answer the next questions, Let us analyze Angular momentum of the particle moving in a random path around the needle: \longrightarrow

$$\vec{r} = r\hat{r} + z\hat{z}$$

We know that, $\frac{d\hat{r}}{dt} = \dot{\theta}\hat{\theta}$; $\frac{d\hat{\theta}}{dt} = -\dot{\theta}\hat{r}$; $\frac{d\hat{z}}{dt} = 0$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{v} = \frac{d}{dt}(\vec{r}) = \frac{d}{dt}(r\hat{r} + z\hat{z})$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{v} = \dot{r}\hat{r} + r\dot{\theta}\hat{\theta} + \dot{z}\hat{z}$$

$$\vec{L} = \vec{r} \times m\vec{v} = (r\hat{r} + z\hat{z}) \times m(\dot{r}\hat{r} + r\dot{\theta}\hat{\theta} + \dot{z}\hat{z})$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{L} = -mrz\dot{\theta}\hat{r} + m(rz - r\dot{z})\hat{\theta} + mr^2\dot{\theta}\hat{z}$$

With some tedious math,

$$\Rightarrow \frac{d\vec{L}}{dt} = -mz(2\dot{r}\dot{\theta} + r\ddot{\theta})\hat{r} + m(\ddot{r}z + r\ddot{z} - r\dot{z}\ddot{\theta})\hat{\theta} + mr(2\dot{r}\dot{\theta} + r\ddot{\theta})\hat{z}$$

We can calculate $\frac{d\vec{L}}{dt}$ in a different way:

$$\frac{d\vec{L}}{dt} = \vec{r} \times \vec{F} = \vec{r} \times (-q\vec{E}) = \vec{r} \times [q\nabla V(r, z)]$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{d\vec{L}}{dt} = (zF_r - rF_z)\hat{\theta} \rightarrow L_r \text{ \& } L_z = \text{Const}$$

$$\Rightarrow L_z = mr^2\dot{\theta} = \text{Constant}$$

$$\Rightarrow \dot{\theta} = \frac{L_z}{mr^2}$$

The trajectory when the particle is given a velocity v_{0z} perpendicular to $z=0$ plane, while the particle is orbiting in $z=0$ plane:

When the velocity is given to the particle while it's orbiting, we can intuitively see that the particle will now follow an Helical path.

Now, the final Question!!

At $z=0, r=r_0, \dot{r}=0, r_0\omega_0=v_0, L_z = m r_0 v_0, \dot{z}=v_{0z}$

Initial Conditions, at $z=0$ plane, when velocity is given.

In the subsequent motion, The total energy U , is conserved.

$$\Rightarrow U = \frac{1}{2} m (\vec{v})^2 + V(r, z) = \frac{1}{2} m (\vec{v}_0)^2 + V(r_0, z=0)$$

$$U = \frac{m}{2} (\dot{r}^2 + r^2 \dot{\theta}^2 + \dot{z}^2) - \frac{\lambda q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \ln \left(\frac{z+a+R_1}{z-a+R_2} \right)$$

Let $U = \frac{R_1+R_2}{2}$; R_1, R_2 were defined earlier.

$$U = \frac{m}{2} \left(\dot{r}^2 + \frac{L_z^2}{m^2 r^2} + \dot{z}^2 \right) - \frac{\lambda q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \ln \left(\frac{U+a}{U-a} \right)$$

Energy is conserved.

$$\Rightarrow U(r_0, z=0) = U(r, z)$$

$$\frac{m}{2} \left(\frac{L_z^2}{m^2 r_0^2} + v_{0z}^2 \right) - \frac{\lambda q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \ln \left(\frac{U_0 + a}{U_0 - a} \right) = \frac{m}{2} \left(\dot{r}^2 + \frac{L_z^2}{m^2 r^2} + \dot{z}^2 \right) - \frac{\lambda q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \ln \left(\frac{U}{U-a} \right)$$

$$; U_0 = \sqrt{r_0^2 + a^2}$$

If there exist $\pm z_1$ for the helical motion, so that the particle is trapped in between $\pm z_1 \rightarrow$ Electric bottle

$$\Rightarrow \text{At } z = z_1, \dot{r} = 0, \dot{z} = 0, r = r_1$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{m}{2} \left(\frac{L_z^2}{m^2 r_0^2} + v_{0z}^2 \right) - \frac{\lambda q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \ln \left(\frac{U_0 + a}{U_0 - a} \right) = \frac{m}{2} \left(0 + \frac{L_z^2}{m^2 r_1^2} + 0 \right) - \frac{\lambda q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \ln \left(\frac{U_1 + a}{U_1 - a} \right)$$

$$; U_1 = \frac{\sqrt{r_1^2 + a^2} + \sqrt{r_1^2 + z_1^2 + a^2}}{2}$$

for, $z_1 \rightarrow \infty$, Potential $\rightarrow 0$.

$$\Rightarrow \frac{L_z^2}{m^2 r_0^2} + v_{0z}^2 - \frac{\lambda q}{2\pi\epsilon_0 m} \ln \left(\frac{U_0 + a}{U_0 - a} \right) = \frac{L_z^2}{m^2 r_1^2}$$

As, $r_1 < r_0$

$$\Rightarrow v_{0z}^2 > \frac{\lambda q}{2\pi\epsilon_0 m} \ln \left(\frac{\sqrt{r_0^2 + a^2} + a}{\sqrt{r_0^2 + a^2} - a} \right)$$

\rightarrow Velocity required to eject the droplet.

Thus turning points exist for,

$$V_0^2 \leq \frac{\lambda q}{2\pi m \epsilon_0} \ln \left(\frac{\sqrt{r_0^2 + a^2} + a}{\sqrt{r_0^2 + a^2} - a} \right).$$

References:

- * Youtube \rightarrow Science off the Sphere, Knitting needle
- * J.D. Jackson, 3rd edition