

1. A spherical surface of radius  $R$  and center at origin carries a surface charge  $\sigma(\theta, \phi) = \sigma_0 \cos \theta$ . Find the electric field at  $z$  on  $z$ -axis. Treat the case  $z < R$  (inside) as well as  $z > R$  (outside). [Hint: Be sure to take the positive square root:  $\sqrt{R^2 + z^2 - 2Rz \cos \theta} = (R - z)$  if  $R > z$ , but its  $(z - R)$  if  $R < z$ .]

Solution: In this problem, we find the electric field due to non-uniform charge distribution by direct integration.

Let  $\mathbf{r} = z\hat{\mathbf{z}}$  and  $\mathbf{r}' = R(\sin \theta' \cos \phi' \hat{\mathbf{x}} + \sin \theta' \sin \phi' \hat{\mathbf{y}} + \cos \theta' \hat{\mathbf{z}})$ .

$$dS' = R^2 \sin \theta' d\theta' d\phi'$$

$$|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'| = (R^2 + z^2 - 2Rz \cos \theta')^{1/2}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{E}(z\hat{\mathbf{z}}) &= \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_S \frac{\sigma(\mathbf{r}')(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}')}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|^3} dS \\ &= \frac{\sigma_0}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_S \frac{\cos \theta' (-R \sin \theta' \cos \phi' \hat{\mathbf{x}} - R \sin \theta' \sin \phi' \hat{\mathbf{y}} + (z - R \cos \theta') \hat{\mathbf{z}})}{(R^2 + z^2 - 2Rz \cos \theta')^{3/2}} R^2 \sin \theta' d\theta' d\phi' \\ &= \frac{\sigma_0 R^2}{2\epsilon_0} \hat{\mathbf{z}} \int_{-1}^1 \frac{u(z - Ru)}{(R^2 + z^2 - 2Rzu)^{3/2}} du \\ &= \frac{2\sigma_0 R^3}{3\epsilon_0 z^3} \hat{\mathbf{z}} \quad z > R \\ &= -\frac{\sigma_0}{3\epsilon_0} \hat{\mathbf{z}} \quad z < R \end{aligned}$$

The  $\hat{\mathbf{x}}$  and  $\hat{\mathbf{y}}$  terms vanish because of  $\phi'$  integral. Note:  $\mathbf{E}$  is constant inside sphere.

2. Suppose the electric field in some region is found to be  $\mathbf{E} = 2r \sin \theta \cos \phi \hat{\mathbf{r}} + r \cos \theta \cos \phi \hat{\theta} - r \sin \phi \hat{\phi}$ , in spherical coordinates ( $k$  is some constant).

- (a) Find the charge density  $\rho$ .  
 (b) Find the total charge contained in the sphere of radius  $R$ , centered at the origin. (Do it two different ways.)

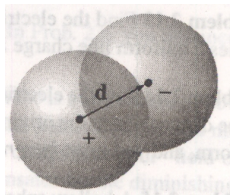
Solution:

- (a) By Gauss law, the charge density is given by

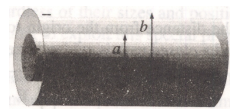
$$\begin{aligned} \rho &= \epsilon_0 \nabla \cdot \mathbf{E} \\ &= \epsilon_0 \left[ \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} (r^2 E_r) + \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} (\sin \theta E_\theta) + \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} (E_\phi) \right] \\ &= 4 \sin \theta \cos \phi \end{aligned}$$

- (b) First method: Integrate  $\rho$

$$Q = \int \rho (r^2 \sin \theta dr d\theta d\phi) = 0$$



(a) Problem 3



(b) Problem 4

because of  $\phi$  integral.

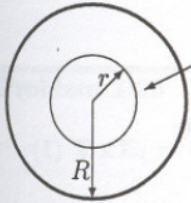
Second method:

$$\begin{aligned}
 Q &= \epsilon_0 \int \mathbf{E} \cdot d\mathbf{S} \\
 &= \epsilon_0 \int \mathbf{E} \cdot (\hat{\mathbf{r}} R^2 \sin \theta d\theta d\phi) \\
 &= \epsilon_0 \int 2R \sin \theta \cos \phi (R^2 \sin \theta d\theta d\phi) = 0
 \end{aligned}$$

again because of  $\phi$  integral.

3. [G 2.12] Use Gauss's law to find the electric field inside a uniformly charged sphere (charge density  $\rho$ ). [G 2.18] Two spheres each of radius  $R$  and carrying uniform charge densities  $+\rho$  and  $-\rho$ , respectively, are placed so that they partially overlap (See Figure). Call the vector from the positive center to the negative center  $\mathbf{d}$ . Show that the field in the region of overlap is constant, and find its value.

Solution:



Gaussian surface

$$\oint \mathbf{E} \cdot d\mathbf{a} = E \cdot 4\pi r^2 = \frac{1}{\epsilon_0} Q_{\text{enc}} = \frac{1}{\epsilon_0} \frac{4}{3}\pi r^3 \rho. \quad \text{So}$$

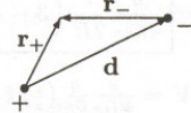
$$\mathbf{E} = \frac{1}{3\epsilon_0} \rho r \hat{\mathbf{r}}.$$

Since  $Q_{\text{tot}} = \frac{4}{3}\pi R^3 \rho$ ,  $\mathbf{E} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{Q}{R^3} \hat{\mathbf{r}}$

From Prob. 2.12, the field inside the positive sphere is  $\mathbf{E}_+ = \frac{\rho}{3\epsilon_0} \mathbf{r}_+$ , where  $\mathbf{r}_+$  is the vector from the positive center to the point in question. Likewise, the field of the negative sphere is  $-\frac{\rho}{3\epsilon_0} \mathbf{r}_-$ . So the *total* field is

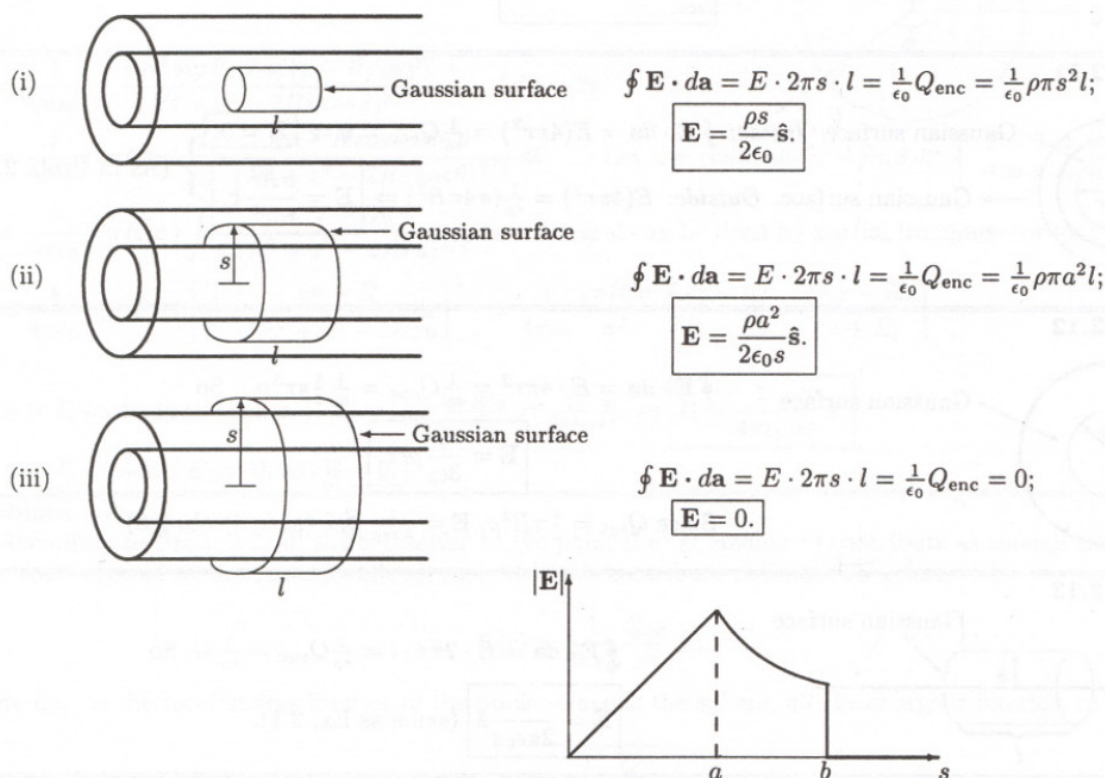
$$\mathbf{E} = \frac{\rho}{3\epsilon_0} (\mathbf{r}_+ - \mathbf{r}_-)$$

But (see diagram)  $\mathbf{r}_+ - \mathbf{r}_- = \mathbf{d}$ . So  $\mathbf{E} = \frac{\rho}{3\epsilon_0} \mathbf{d}.$



4. [G 2.16] A long coaxial cable (see figure) carries a uniform *volume* charge density  $\rho$  on the inner cylinder (radius  $a$ ), and a uniform *surface* charge density on the outer cylindrical shell (radius  $b$ ). This surface charge is negative and of just the right magnitude so that the cable as a whole is electrically neutral. Find the electric field in each of the three regions: (a) inside the inner cylinder ( $s < a$ ), (b) between the cylinders ( $a < s < b$ ), (c) outside the cable ( $s > b$ ). Plot  $|\mathbf{E}|$  as a function of  $s$ .

Solution:



5. [G 2.20] Which of these vector fields can be electrostatic field? If it is, find the corresponding potential, using the *origin* as your reference point. Check your answers by computing  $\nabla V$ .

- (a)  $\mathbf{E} = k [xy\hat{\mathbf{x}} + 2yz\hat{\mathbf{y}} + 3xz\hat{\mathbf{z}}]$   
 (b)  $\mathbf{E} = k [y^2\hat{\mathbf{x}} + (2xy + z^2)\hat{\mathbf{y}} + 2yz\hat{\mathbf{z}}].$   
 (c)  $\mathbf{E} = 2r \sin \theta \cos \phi \hat{\mathbf{r}} + r \cos \theta \cos \phi \hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}} - r \sin \phi \hat{\boldsymbol{\phi}}.$

Here  $k$  is a constant with the appropriate units. [Hint: You must select a specific path to integrate along. It does not matter *what* path you choose, since the answer is path-independent, but you simply cannot integrate unless you have a particular path in mind.]

Solution:

$$(1) \nabla \times \mathbf{E}_1 = k \begin{vmatrix} \hat{\mathbf{x}} & \hat{\mathbf{y}} & \hat{\mathbf{z}} \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial}{\partial y} & \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \\ xy & 2yz & 3zx \end{vmatrix} = k [\hat{\mathbf{x}}(0 - 2y) + \hat{\mathbf{y}}(0 - 3z) + \hat{\mathbf{z}}(0 - x)] \neq 0,$$

so  $\mathbf{E}_1$  is an *impossible* electrostatic field.

$$(2) \nabla \times \mathbf{E}_2 = k \begin{vmatrix} \hat{\mathbf{x}} & \hat{\mathbf{y}} & \hat{\mathbf{z}} \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial}{\partial y} & \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \\ y^2 & 2xy + z^2 & 2yz \end{vmatrix} = k [\hat{\mathbf{x}}(2z - 2z) + \hat{\mathbf{y}}(0 - 0) + \hat{\mathbf{z}}(2y - 2y)] = 0,$$

so  $\mathbf{E}_2$  is a *possible* electrostatic field.

Let's go by the indicated path:

$$\mathbf{E} \cdot d\mathbf{l} = (y^2 dx + (2xy + z^2)dy + 2yz dz)k$$

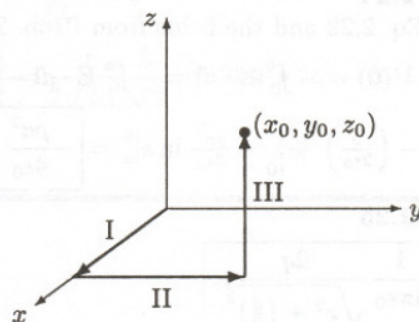
Step I:  $y = z = 0; dy = dz = 0. \mathbf{E} \cdot d\mathbf{l} = ky^2 dx = 0.$

Step II:  $x = x_0, y: 0 \rightarrow y_0, z = 0. dx = dz = 0.$

$$\mathbf{E} \cdot d\mathbf{l} = k(2x_0 y + z^2)dy = 2kx_0 y dy.$$

$$\int_{II} \mathbf{E} \cdot d\mathbf{l} = 2kx_0 \int_0^{y_0} y dy = kx_0 y_0^2.$$

Step III:  $x = x_0, y = y_0, z: 0 \rightarrow z_0; dx = dy = 0.$



$$\mathbf{E} \cdot d\mathbf{l} = 2kyz dz = 2ky_0 z dz.$$

$$\int_{III} \mathbf{E} \cdot d\mathbf{l} = 2y_0 k \int_0^{z_0} z dz = ky_0 z_0^2.$$

$$V(x_0, y_0, z_0) = - \int_0^{(x_0, y_0, z_0)} \mathbf{E} \cdot d\mathbf{l} = -k(x_0 y_0^2 + y_0 z_0^2), \text{ or } \boxed{V(x, y, z) = -k(xy^2 + yz^2)}.$$

$$\text{Check: } -\nabla V = k \left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (xy^2 + yz^2) \hat{x} + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} (xy^2 + yz^2) \hat{y} + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} (xy^2 + yz^2) \hat{z} \right] = k[y^2 \hat{x} + (2xy + z^2) \hat{y} + 2yz \hat{z}] = \mathbf{E}.$$

(c) Check that  $\nabla \times \mathbf{E} = 0$ . Now we will choose a path:  $(0, 0, 0) \rightarrow (r, \theta, \phi)$  keeping  $\theta$  and  $\phi$  constant. Then

$$V = - \int_0^r 2r' \sin \theta \cos \phi dr' = r^2 \sin \theta \cos \phi$$

Just for the sake of it, if we choose the reference point at  $z_0 \hat{z}$  (a point on  $z$  axis), then a convenient path is:  $z_0 \hat{z} \rightarrow (0, 0, 0) \rightarrow (r, \theta, \phi)$ . This parametrization is simple. How about a line directly from  $z_0 \hat{z}$  to  $(r, \theta, \phi)$ ? Can you figure out the parametrization?

6. [G 2.21] Find the potential inside and outside a uniformly charged solid sphere whose radius is  $R$  and whose total charge is  $q$ . Use infinity as your reference point. Compute the gradient of  $V$  in each region, and check that it yields the correct field. Sketch  $V(r)$ .

Solution:

$$V(r) = - \int_{\infty}^r \mathbf{E} \cdot d\mathbf{l} \quad \begin{cases} \text{Outside the sphere } (r > R) : & \mathbf{E} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q}{r^2} \hat{r}. \\ \text{Inside the sphere } (r < R) : & \mathbf{E} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q}{R^3} r \hat{r}. \end{cases}$$

$$\text{So for } r > R: V(r) = - \int_{\infty}^r \left( \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q}{\bar{r}^2} \right) d\bar{r} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} q \left( \frac{1}{\bar{r}} \right) \Big|_{\infty}^r = \boxed{\frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{1}{r}},$$

$$\text{and for } r < R: V(r) = - \int_{\infty}^R \left( \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q}{\bar{r}^2} \right) d\bar{r} - \int_R^r \left( \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q}{R^3} \bar{r} \right) d\bar{r} = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left[ \frac{1}{R} - \frac{1}{R^3} \left( \frac{r^2 - R^2}{2} \right) \right]$$

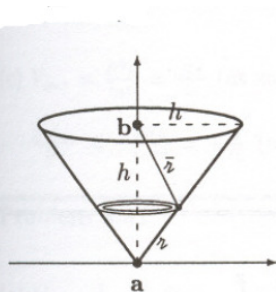
$$= \boxed{\frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{1}{2R} \left( 3 - \frac{r^2}{R^2} \right)}.$$

$$\text{When } r > R, \nabla V = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left( \frac{1}{r} \right) \hat{r} = -\frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{1}{r^2} \hat{r}, \text{ so } \mathbf{E} = -\nabla V = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{1}{r^2} \hat{r}.$$

$$\text{When } r < R, \nabla V = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{1}{2R} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left( 3 - \frac{r^2}{R^2} \right) \hat{r} = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{1}{2R} \left( -\frac{2r}{R^2} \right) \hat{r} = -\frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{r}{R^3} \hat{r}; \text{ so } \mathbf{E} = -\nabla V = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q}{R^3} r \hat{r}.$$

7. [G 2.26] A conical surface (an empty ice-cream cone) carries a uniform surface charge  $\sigma$ . The height of the cone is  $h$ , as is the radius of the top. Find the potential difference between points **a** (the vertex) and **b** (the center of the top).

Solution:



$$V(\mathbf{a}) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_0^{\sqrt{2}h} \left( \frac{\sigma 2\pi r}{z} \right) dz = \frac{2\pi\sigma}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (\sqrt{2}h) = \frac{\sigma h}{2\epsilon_0}.$$

(where  $r = z/\sqrt{2}$ )

$$V(\mathbf{b}) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_0^{\sqrt{2}h} \left( \frac{\sigma 2\pi r}{\bar{z}} \right) dz, \quad \text{where } \bar{z} = \sqrt{h^2 + z^2} - \sqrt{2}hz.$$

$$= \frac{2\pi\sigma}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \int_0^{\sqrt{2}h} \frac{z}{\sqrt{h^2 + z^2} - \sqrt{2}hz} dz$$

$$= \frac{\sigma}{2\sqrt{2}\epsilon_0} \left[ \sqrt{h^2 + z^2} - \sqrt{2}hz + \frac{h}{\sqrt{2}} \ln(2\sqrt{h^2 + z^2} - \sqrt{2}hz + 2z - \sqrt{2}h) \right]_0^{\sqrt{2}h}$$

$$= \frac{\sigma}{2\sqrt{2}\epsilon_0} \left[ h + \frac{h}{\sqrt{2}} \ln(2h + 2\sqrt{2}h - \sqrt{2}h) - h - \frac{h}{\sqrt{2}} \ln(2h - \sqrt{2}h) \right] = \frac{\sigma}{2\sqrt{2}\epsilon_0} \frac{h}{\sqrt{2}} \left[ \ln(2h + \sqrt{2}h) - \ln(2h - \sqrt{2}h) \right]$$

$$= \frac{\sigma h}{4\epsilon_0} \ln \left( \frac{2 + \sqrt{2}}{2 - \sqrt{2}} \right) = \frac{\sigma h}{4\epsilon_0} \ln \left( \frac{(2 + \sqrt{2})^2}{2} \right) = \frac{\sigma h}{2\epsilon_0} \ln(1 + \sqrt{2}).$$

$$\therefore \boxed{V(\mathbf{a}) - V(\mathbf{b}) = \frac{\sigma h}{2\epsilon_0} \left[ 1 - \ln(1 + \sqrt{2}) \right]}.$$



8. [G 2.34] Consider two concentric spherical shells, of radii  $a$  and  $b$ . Suppose the inner one carries a charge  $q$ , and the outer one a charge  $-q$  (both of them uniformly distributed over the surface). Calculate the energy of this configuration, (a) using  $W = \frac{\epsilon_0}{2} \int E^2 d\tau$ , and (b) using  $W_{tot} = W_1 + W_2 + \epsilon_0 \int \mathbf{E}_1 \cdot \mathbf{E}_2 d\tau$ .

Solution:

**Problem 2.34**

(a)  $W = \frac{\epsilon_0}{2} \int E^2 d\tau$ .  $\mathbf{E} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q}{r^2} \hat{\mathbf{r}}$  ( $a < r < b$ ), zero elsewhere.

$$W = \frac{\epsilon_0}{2} \left( \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \right)^2 \int_a^b \left( \frac{1}{r^2} \right)^2 4\pi r^2 dr = \frac{q^2}{8\pi\epsilon_0} \int_a^b \frac{1}{r^2} = \boxed{\frac{q^2}{8\pi\epsilon_0} \left( \frac{1}{a} - \frac{1}{b} \right)}.$$

(b)  $W_1 = \frac{1}{8\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q^2}{a}$ ,  $W_2 = \frac{1}{8\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q^2}{b}$ ,  $\mathbf{E}_1 = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q}{r^2} \hat{\mathbf{r}}$  ( $r > a$ ),  $\mathbf{E}_2 = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{-q}{r^2} \hat{\mathbf{r}}$  ( $r > b$ ). So  $\mathbf{E}_1 \cdot \mathbf{E}_2 = \left( \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \right)^2 \frac{q^2}{r^4}$ , ( $r > b$ ), and hence  $\int \mathbf{E}_1 \cdot \mathbf{E}_2 d\tau = - \left( \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \right)^2 q^2 \int_b^\infty \frac{1}{r^4} 4\pi r^2 dr = - \frac{q^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 b}$ .  
 $W_{tot} = W_1 + W_2 + \epsilon_0 \int \mathbf{E}_1 \cdot \mathbf{E}_2 d\tau = \frac{1}{8\pi\epsilon_0} q^2 \left( \frac{1}{a} + \frac{1}{b} - \frac{2}{b} \right) = \frac{q^2}{8\pi\epsilon_0} \left( \frac{1}{a} - \frac{1}{b} \right)$ . ✓

9. [G 2.45] A sphere of radius  $R$  carries a charge density  $\rho(r) = kr$  (where  $k$  is a constant). Find the energy of the configuration. Check your answer by calculating it in at least two different ways.

Solution:

First let's determine the electric field inside and outside the sphere, using Gauss's law:

$$\epsilon_0 \oint \mathbf{E} \cdot d\mathbf{a} = \epsilon_0 4\pi r^2 E = Q_{enc} = \int \rho d\tau = \int (kr) \tilde{r}^2 \sin\theta d\tilde{r} d\theta d\phi = 4\pi k \int_0^r \tilde{r}^3 d\tilde{r} = \begin{cases} \pi k r^4 & (r < R), \\ \pi k R^4 & (r > R). \end{cases}$$

So  $\mathbf{E} = \frac{k}{4\epsilon_0} r^2 \hat{\mathbf{r}}$  ( $r < R$ );  $\mathbf{E} = \frac{kR^4}{4\epsilon_0 r^2} \hat{\mathbf{r}}$  ( $r > R$ ).

Method I:

$$\begin{aligned} W &= \frac{\epsilon_0}{2} \int E^2 d\tau \text{ (Eq. 2.45)} = \frac{\epsilon_0}{2} \int_0^R \left( \frac{kr^2}{4\epsilon_0} \right)^2 4\pi r^2 dr + \frac{\epsilon_0}{2} \int_R^\infty \left( \frac{kR^4}{4\epsilon_0 r^2} \right)^2 4\pi r^2 dr \\ &= 4\pi \frac{\epsilon_0}{2} \left( \frac{k}{4\epsilon_0} \right)^2 \left\{ \int_0^R r^6 dr + R^8 \int_R^\infty \frac{1}{r^2} dr \right\} = \frac{\pi k^2}{8\epsilon_0} \left\{ \frac{R^7}{7} + R^8 \left( -\frac{1}{r} \right) \Big|_R^\infty \right\} = \frac{\pi k^2}{8\epsilon_0} \left( \frac{R^7}{7} + R^7 \right) \\ &= \boxed{\frac{\pi k^2 R^7}{7\epsilon_0}}. \end{aligned}$$

Method II:

$$\begin{aligned} W &= \frac{1}{2} \int \rho V d\tau \text{ (Eq. 2.43)}. \\ \text{For } r < R, V(r) &= - \int_\infty^r \mathbf{E} \cdot d\mathbf{l} = - \int_\infty^R \left( \frac{kR^4}{4\epsilon_0 r^2} \right) dr - \int_R^r \left( \frac{kr^2}{4\epsilon_0} \right) dr = - \frac{k}{4\epsilon_0} \left\{ R^4 \left( -\frac{1}{r} \right) \Big|_\infty^R + \frac{r^3}{3} \Big|_R^r \right\} \\ &= - \frac{k}{4\epsilon_0} \left( -R^3 + \frac{r^3}{3} - \frac{R^3}{3} \right) = \frac{k}{3\epsilon_0} \left( R^3 - \frac{r^3}{4} \right). \\ \therefore W &= \frac{1}{2} \int_0^R (kr) \left[ \frac{k}{3\epsilon_0} \left( R^3 - \frac{r^3}{4} \right) \right] 4\pi r^2 dr = \frac{2\pi k^2}{3\epsilon_0} \int_0^R \left( R^3 r^3 - \frac{1}{4} r^6 \right) dr \\ &= \frac{2\pi k^2}{3\epsilon_0} \left\{ R^3 \frac{R^4}{4} - \frac{1}{4} \frac{R^7}{7} \right\} = \frac{\pi k^2 R^7}{2 \cdot 3\epsilon_0} \left( \frac{6}{7} \right) = \frac{\pi k^2 R^7}{7\epsilon_0}. \end{aligned}$$

10. If the potential  $V(s, \phi, z) = s^2 z \sin(\phi)$  in cylindrical coordinates  $s, \phi$  and  $z$ , calculate the energy within the region defined by  $1 < s < 4$ ,  $-2 < z < 2$ ,  $0 < \phi < \pi/3$ .

Solution:

First, we will calculate the electric field.

$$\mathbf{E} = -\nabla V = -2sz \sin \phi \hat{\mathbf{s}} - sz \cos \phi \hat{\phi} - s^2 \sin \phi \hat{\mathbf{z}}$$

Then

$$|\mathbf{E}|^2 = 4s^2 z^2 \sin^2 \phi + s^2 z^2 \cos^2 \phi + s^4 \sin^4 \phi$$

Now, the energy stored in the given region is given by

$$\begin{aligned} W &= \frac{\epsilon_0}{2} \int_1^4 ds \int_0^{\pi/3} s d\phi \int_{-2}^2 dz |\mathbf{E}|^2 \\ &= \frac{\epsilon_0}{2} 1508. \end{aligned}$$

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