

2.2 Solution: (a) The result for a point charge located *outside* of the hollow, grounded, conducting sphere equally applies to the case when the point charge is located inside the sphere. Therefore, the potential inside the sphere at \mathbf{x} for a point charge at \mathbf{y} is given by

$$\begin{aligned}\Phi(\mathbf{x}) &= \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left(\frac{1}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}|} - \frac{a}{y \left| \mathbf{x} - \frac{a^2}{y^2} \mathbf{y} \right|} \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 - 2xy \cos \gamma}} - \frac{1}{\sqrt{\frac{x^2 y^2}{a^2} + a^2 - 2xy \cos \gamma}} \right),\end{aligned}$$

where γ is the angle between x and y .

(b) The charge density on the inner surface is

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma &= -\epsilon_0 \left. \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial n} \right|_{x=a} = \epsilon_0 \left. \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial x} \right|_{x=a} \\ &= \frac{q}{4\pi} \left(\frac{y \cos \gamma - x}{(x^2 + y^2 - 2xy \cos \gamma)^{3/2}} + \frac{\frac{y^2}{a} - y \cos \gamma}{\left(\frac{x^2 y^2}{a^2} + a^2 - 2xy \cos \gamma \right)^{3/2}} \right) \Bigg|_{x=a} \\ &= \frac{q}{4\pi a} \frac{y^2 - a^2}{(a^2 + y^2 - 2ay \cos \gamma)^{3/2}} \\ &= \frac{q}{4\pi a^2} \left(\frac{a}{y} \right) \frac{1 - \frac{a^2}{y^2}}{\left(1 + \frac{a^2}{y^2} - 2\frac{a}{y} \cos \gamma \right)^{3/2}}.\end{aligned}$$

A simple surface integration will show that the total induced charge is $-q$. In fact,

$$\begin{aligned}Q &= \int \sigma ds = \frac{q}{2} \frac{a}{y} \int_{-1}^1 \frac{1 - \frac{a^2}{y^2}}{\left(1 + \frac{a^2}{y^2} - 2\frac{a}{y} \cos \gamma \right)^{3/2}} d(\cos \gamma) \\ &= \frac{q}{2} \frac{1 - \frac{a^2}{y^2}}{\left(1 + \frac{a^2}{y^2} - 2\frac{a}{y} u \right)^{1/2}} \Bigg|_{u=-1}^1 \\ &= \frac{q}{2} \left(1 - \frac{a^2}{y^2} \right) \left(\frac{1}{|1 - a/y|} - \frac{1}{|1 + a/y|} \right) \\ &= \frac{q}{2} \left(1 - \frac{a^2}{y^2} \right) \left(\frac{1}{a/y - 1} - \frac{1}{a/y + 1} \right) \quad (\text{since } a > y) \\ &= \frac{q}{2} \left(1 - \frac{a^2}{y^2} \right) \frac{2}{a^2/y^2 - 1}\end{aligned}$$

$$= -q. \tag{1}$$

(c) The total force acted on the charge q can be calculated with its image charge, which is oppositely charged with $-aq/y$ and located at a^2/y . Thus, using Coulomb's law, the total force is

$$F = \frac{q^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{a}{y} \frac{1}{(a^2/y - y)^2} = \frac{q^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{ay}{(a^2 - y^2)^2},$$

pointing from the charge to the sphere, along the direction of \mathbf{y} .