

Homework Week 9

Question 1. Potential of non-uniformly charged sphere

- Rework example 3.8, for a neutral metal sphere in a homogeneous electric field. Find the electric potential outside the sphere. Assume that the metal sphere is held at a potential of $V=0$. Do not make the same mistake as we did in class, so first use the boundary condition at $r=R$ to derive a relation between A_1 and B_1 . Use the Fourier trick and the boundary condition in infinity to determine the constants.
- Determine the surface charge density on the surface of the metal.

Question 2. Potential of non-uniformly charged sphere

- Suppose that on the surface of a sphere of radius R there is a surface charge density $\sigma(\theta) = \sigma_0 \cos^2 \theta$, where σ_0 is a constant. What is $V(r, \theta)$ inside and outside the sphere? What is the electric field $E(r, \theta)$ inside and outside the sphere? Confirm that the field is discontinuous at the surface of the sphere in accord with the given charge distribution.
- Now repeat the above exercise for the surface charge density $\sigma(\theta) = \sigma_0 \sin^2 \theta$. Note that in this case:

$$V(r, \theta) = \begin{cases} \frac{2}{3} \frac{R\sigma_0}{\epsilon_0} - \frac{2R\sigma_0}{15\epsilon_0} \left(\frac{r}{R}\right)^2 P_2(\cos \theta) & r < R \\ \frac{2}{3} \frac{R\sigma_0}{\epsilon_0} - \frac{2R\sigma_0}{15\epsilon_0} \left(\frac{R}{r}\right)^3 P_2(\cos \theta) & r \geq R \end{cases}$$

Question 3. Spherical

The potential on the surface of a sphere (radius R) is given by $V=V_0 \cos(2\theta)$.

(Assume $V(r=\infty)=0$, as usual. Also, assume there is no charge inside or outside, it's ALL on the surface!)

i) Find the potential inside and outside this sphere.

(Hint: Can you express $\cos(2\theta)$ as a simple linear combination of some Legendre polynomials?)

ii) Find the charge density $\sigma(\theta)$ on the sphere.

Question 4. work problem 3.17 from the text