

Task 1 (60 points)

(a.) Solve the Poisson equation (in three dimensions) with the help of the Green function,

$$\vec{\nabla}^2 \Phi(\vec{r}) = -\frac{1}{\epsilon_0} \rho(\vec{r}), \quad \rho(\vec{r}) = q_1 \delta^{(3)}(\vec{r} - \vec{r}_1) + q_2 \delta^{(3)}(\vec{r} - \vec{r}_2). \quad (1)$$

Symbols are defined as in the lecture. Two point charges are placed at \vec{r}_1 and \vec{r}_2 . Show your work and all intermediate steps! (b.) Calculate the electric field

$$\vec{E}(\vec{r}) = -\vec{\nabla}\Phi(\vec{r}). \quad (2)$$

(Of course, you are supposed to find an analytic expression involving the parameters q_1 , q_2 , \vec{r} , \vec{r}_1 and \vec{r}_2 . **Carefully distinguish independent arguments of functions, integration variables, and parameters!**) (c.) Assume $q_1 = 0.04 \text{ C}$ and $q_2 = 0.16 \text{ C}$, $\vec{r}_1 = \vec{0}$, and $\vec{r}_2 = (2.5 \text{ m}) \hat{e}_x$. Calculate the quantities

$$\Phi(\vec{r}_a) = ?, \quad \vec{E}(\vec{r}_a) = ?, \quad \vec{r}_a = (0.5 \text{ m}) \hat{e}_x + (1.5 \text{ m}) \hat{e}_y + (0.5 \text{ m}) \hat{e}_z, \quad (3)$$

and

$$\Phi(\vec{r}_b) = ?, \quad \vec{E}(\vec{r}_b) = ?, \quad \vec{r}_b = (-0.5 \text{ m}) \hat{e}_x + (-1.5 \text{ m}) \hat{e}_y + (0.5 \text{ m}) \hat{e}_z. \quad (4)$$

Write a computer program (in your favorite language!) and give numerical results for all three vector components of the electric fields at \vec{r}_a and \vec{r}_b . Finally, calculate **using the same computer program**

$$\Phi_{\text{diff}} = \Phi(\vec{r}_b) - \Phi(\vec{r}_a). \quad (5)$$

Express your results in SI mksA units, preferably, to an accuracy of at least 4 decimals! The vacuum permittivity is $\epsilon_0 = 8.8542 \times 10^{-12} \text{ C V}^{-1} \text{ m}^{-1}$, so that $1/(4\pi\epsilon_0) = 8.9875 \times 10^9 \text{ N m}^2/\text{C}^2$.

Task 2 (60 points)

Write an **essay** to develop the concepts of a self-energy of an electrostatic field of a charge distribution, and the interaction energy of an electrostatic field of two charge distributions.

Show, by an explicit calculation, the formula

$$W = 2W_0 + W_{\text{int}} = 2 \times \frac{q^2}{8\pi\epsilon_0 a} - \frac{q^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R} > 0 = \frac{q^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left(\frac{1}{a} - \frac{1}{R} \right), \quad (6)$$

for the total energy stored in the electrostatic field of a configuration consisting of two uniformly charged spheres, each of radius a , of charges $+q$ and $-q$, a distance R apart. You may use lecture notes. **SHOW WORK!!!!**

Also, calculate the total field energy (sum of self energies and interaction energies) of the electrostatic field of three (!) uniformly charged spheres, each of charge $-q$, at positions \vec{x}_1 , \vec{x}_2 and \vec{x}_3 .

The tasks are due Thursday, 21-OCT-2021. Have fun doing the problems!