

Physics 412: Introduction to Electrodynamics  
Homework 1  
Due: Friday, 9 October, 2009

1. Problem 2.1

2. Problem 2.4

3. Problem 2.41

4. For the dipole electric field,

$$E(r, \theta) = \frac{C_o}{r^3} (2 \cos\theta \hat{r} + \sin\theta \hat{\theta}) \quad (1)$$

find and sketch the field lines.

5. Electric field of and force on continuous charge distributions

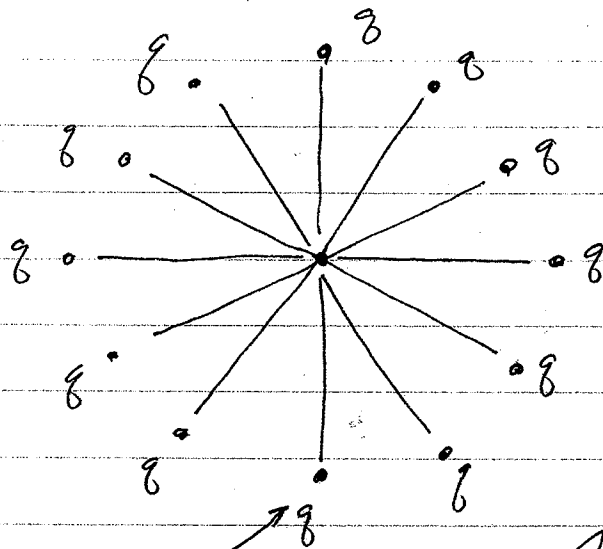
- a. Find the electric field for a charged sphere of radius  $R$  with spherically symmetric charge distribution. Find the field both inside and outside the sphere.
- b. Place another charged sphere of radius  $R$  with an identical spherically symmetric charge distribution such that the distance between the centers of the two spheres is  $D$ , where  $D > 2R$ . Find the total force between the two charged spheres.

6. An infinitesimally thin flat disk with radius  $R$  and surface charge density  $\sigma > 0$  is placed so that its center lies at the origin of a Cartesian coordinate system.

- a. Find the electric field of the disk on its symmetry axis. For this problem let the  $z$ -axis be the symmetry axis of the disk.
- b. A charge  $q$ , where  $q\sigma < 0$ , is placed at the center of the disk. What is the force on charge  $q$ ?
- c. If charge  $q$  is constrained to move only along the  $z$ -axis find and describe its subsequent motion if it is pushed off the origin an amount  $h \ll R$ .

① Prob 2.1

a) 12 equal charges  $q$  are placed at the corners of a 12-sided polygon. What is the net force placed on a charge  $Q$  at the center of the polygon?



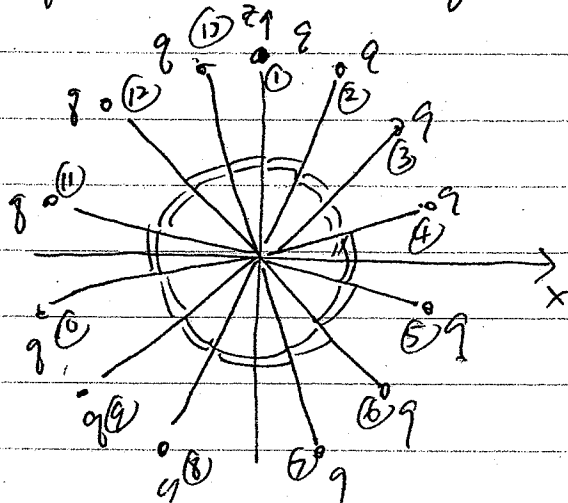
By symmetry, each charge  $q$  has an opposite partner, the next  $\vec{E}$  at the center is 0

$$\vec{F}_a = 0$$

b) Suppose  $\rightarrow$  is removed. What is the force on  $Q$ ? If each charge is a distance  $R$  from the center, only the charge at 12 is unbalanced. If we define the  $z$ -axis as aligned from 6pm  $\rightarrow$  12 and we remove the charge at 12,

$$\vec{F}_a = \frac{(-1)}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{qQ}{R^2} \hat{z}$$

c) Suppose we have 13 charges. What is the field at the center?



(i) Each charge is separated from its neighbors by

$$a = \frac{360^\circ}{13}$$

ii) Each charge pair:  $(1, 2)$ ,  $(2, 3)$ ,  $(3, 4)$ ,  $(4, 5)$ ,  $(5, 6)$ ,  $(6, 7)$

cancels in the  $x$ -dir<sup>n</sup>  $\Rightarrow \vec{E}_x = 0$  at the center. (charge (1) has no  $x$ -component).

$\Rightarrow$  the only possible field can lie in the  $z$ -dir<sup>n</sup>

(iii) there was nothing special about using a charge 1 as the "center". This argument holds true for any other charge.

$\Rightarrow \vec{E}$  must be 0 at the origin.

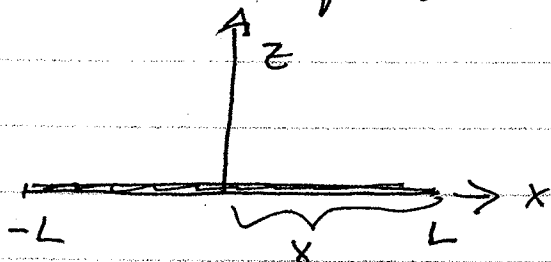
d) If charge at (1) is removed the force on Q becomes

$$\vec{F}_Q = \frac{(-1)}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{qQ}{R^2} \hat{z}$$

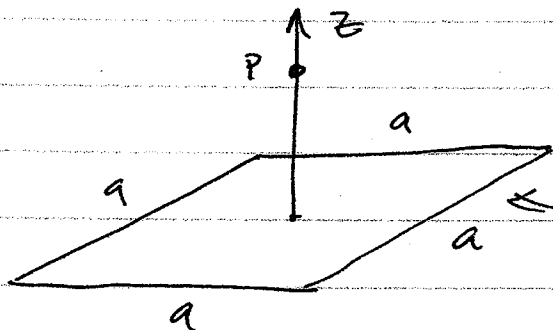
② Prob 2.4

From example 2.1, the field of a charged wire of length  $2L$  and line density  $\lambda$  is

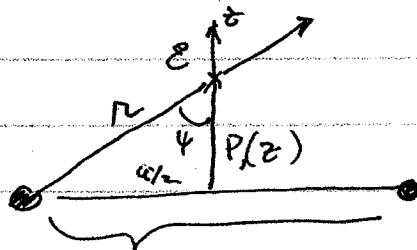
$$\vec{E}_z = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{2\lambda L}{z\sqrt{z^2+L^2}} \text{ in the } z\text{-direction}$$



Consider a square loop w/ sides  $a$  and  $\lambda$  charge per unit length. Find  $\vec{E}$  on the  $z$ -axis.



From Ex 2.1, the field due to any side at  $P$  will be directed as



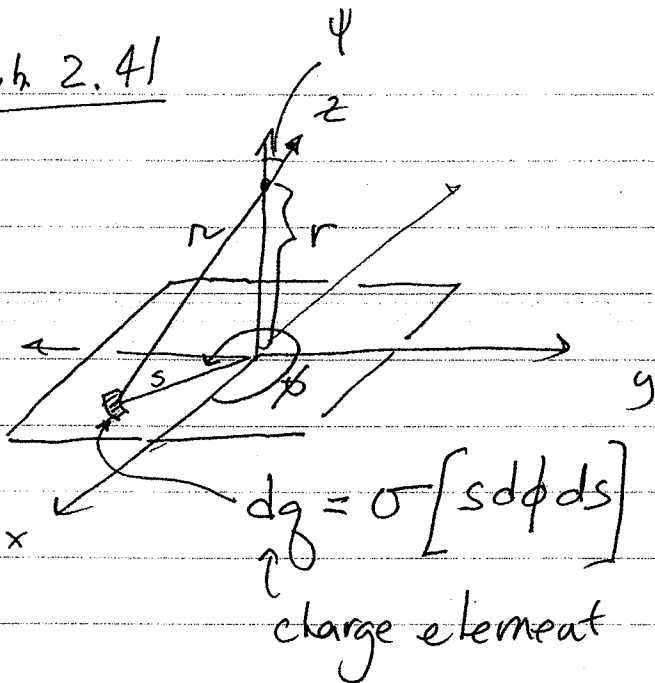
$\Rightarrow$  field projected on  $z$ -axis is what we need. So, we want

$$\cos\phi = \frac{z}{\sqrt{\frac{a^2}{4} + z^2}}$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{E}_z = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{\lambda a}{z\sqrt{z^2 + \frac{a^2}{4}}} \frac{z}{\sqrt{z^2 + \frac{a^2}{4}}}$$

Total field is  $\boxed{4\vec{E}_z = \frac{1}{\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{\lambda a}{(z^2 + \frac{a^2}{4})}}$

③ Prob 2.41



Use cylindrical polar coordinates

$$\rightarrow d\vec{E} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{\sigma s ds d\phi}{(s^2 + r^2)}$$

By symmetry the s-comp. on d-comp. of the field are zero on the z-axis

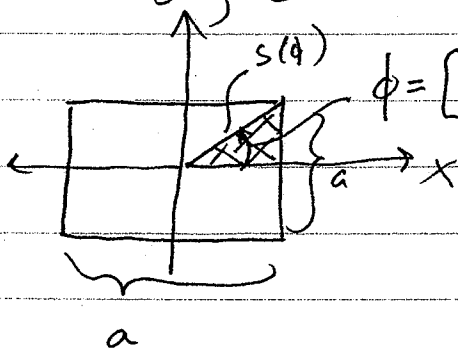
we

$$dE_z = \hat{z} \cdot d\vec{E} = \frac{\sigma}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left[ \frac{s ds d\phi}{(s^2 + r^2)} \cos\psi \right]$$

$$\cos\psi = \frac{z}{\sqrt{s^2 + r^2}}$$

$$\Rightarrow E_z = \frac{\sigma}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^{s_{\max}} \frac{r s ds d\phi}{(s^2 + r^2)^{3/2}}$$

note: by symmetry we see that we need only integrate over



$\phi = [0, \frac{\pi}{4}]$  and then multiply by 8

note: we see that the limits of the s integration depend on phi as

$$s(\phi) = \frac{a}{2 \cos\phi}$$

and

$$E_z = \frac{\sigma r \times 8}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_0^{\pi/4} \int_0^{\frac{a}{2\cos\phi}} \frac{s ds d\phi}{(s^2 + r^2)^{3/2}}$$

to perform the  $s$  integration, let

$$W = s^2 + r^2 \rightarrow dW = 2s ds$$

$$\Rightarrow E_z = \frac{2\sigma r}{\pi\epsilon_0} \int_0^{\pi/4} d\phi \int_{\frac{r^2}{4\cos^2\phi}}^{\frac{a^2}{4\cos^2\phi} + r^2} \frac{\frac{1}{2} dW}{W^{3/2}}$$

$$= \frac{\sigma r}{\pi\epsilon_0} \int_0^{\pi/4} d\phi \left[ \frac{-2}{W^{1/2}} \right]_{\frac{r^2}{4\cos^2\phi}}^{\frac{a^2}{4\cos^2\phi} + r^2}$$

$$= -\frac{2\sigma r}{\pi\epsilon_0} \int_0^{\pi/4} d\phi \left[ \frac{1}{\sqrt{\frac{a^2}{4\cos^2\phi} + r^2}} - \frac{1}{r} \right]$$

$$= -\frac{2\sigma r}{\pi\epsilon_0} \int_0^{\pi/4} d\phi \left\{ \frac{\cos\phi}{r \sqrt{\frac{a^2}{4r^2} + \cos^2\phi}} - \frac{\pi}{4r} \right\}$$

$$= -\frac{2\sigma r}{\pi\epsilon_0 r} \left\{ \int_0^{\pi/4} \frac{d(\sin\phi)}{\sqrt{\frac{a^2}{4r^2} + 1 - \sin^2\phi}} - \frac{\pi}{4} \right\}$$

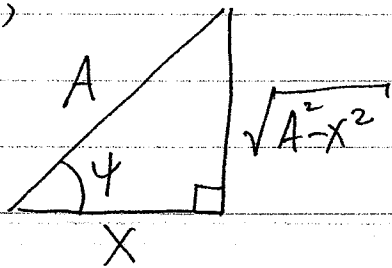
do the integral

$$\text{let } A^2 = \left(1 + \frac{a^2}{4r^2}\right); \quad X = \sin\phi \rightarrow dX = d(\sin\phi)$$

$$E_z = \frac{\sigma}{2\epsilon_0} - \frac{2\sigma}{\pi\epsilon_0} \int \frac{dX}{\sqrt{A^2 - X^2}}$$

$\int$  w/ appropriate limits

Consider,



$$\begin{cases} \tan \psi = \sqrt{\frac{A^2}{x^2} - 1} \\ \frac{A}{\sqrt{A^2 - x^2}} = \frac{1}{\sin \psi} \\ \cos \psi = \frac{x}{A} \\ \rightarrow -\sin \psi d\psi = \frac{dx}{A} \end{cases}$$

Substitute into the integral,

$$E_z = \frac{\sigma}{2\epsilon_0} - \frac{2\sigma}{\pi\epsilon_0} \int -A \sin \psi d\psi \times \left( \frac{1}{A \sin \psi} \right)$$

$$= \frac{\sigma}{2\epsilon_0} + \frac{2\sigma}{\pi\epsilon_0} \left[ \psi \right]_{\psi_0}^{\psi_1}$$

$$= \frac{\sigma}{2\epsilon_0} + \frac{2\sigma}{\pi\epsilon_0} \left[ \tan^{-1} \left\{ \sqrt{\frac{1 + a^2/4r^2}{\sin^2 \psi} - 1} \right\} \right]_{\pi/4}^{\pi/4}$$

$$= \frac{\sigma}{2\epsilon_0} + \frac{2\sigma}{\pi\epsilon_0} \left[ \tan^{-1} \sqrt{2 + \frac{a^2}{2r^2} - 1} - \tan^{-1} \sqrt{\infty} \right]$$

$$= \frac{\sigma}{2\epsilon_0} + \frac{2\sigma}{\pi\epsilon_0} \left[ \tan^{-1} \sqrt{1 + \frac{a^2}{2r^2}} - \frac{\pi}{2} \right]$$

$$E_z = \frac{\sigma}{2\epsilon_0} \left[ \frac{4}{\pi} \tan^{-1} \sqrt{1 + \frac{a^2}{2r^2}} - 1 \right]$$

initially checked  
sheet

a)  $a \rightarrow \infty \Rightarrow E_z \rightarrow \frac{\sigma}{2\epsilon_0} \left[ \frac{4}{\pi} \left( \frac{\pi}{2} \right) - 1 \right] = \frac{\sigma}{2\epsilon_0}$  ✓

b)  $z \gg a \Rightarrow E_z \rightarrow \frac{\sigma}{2\epsilon_0} \left[ ?, \text{ what is the expansion for } \tan^{-1} ? \right]$

looked it up and find,  $E_z \rightarrow \left[ \frac{4\sigma}{\pi 2\epsilon_0} \left( \frac{\pi}{4} + \frac{a^2}{8r^2} \right) - \frac{\sigma}{2\epsilon_0} \right]$

$$= \frac{\sigma a^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2} = Q$$

$$\rightarrow E_z = \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2} \checkmark$$



$$\textcircled{4} \quad \vec{E} = \frac{C_0}{r^3} (2\cos\theta \hat{r} + \sin\theta \hat{\theta})$$

a) Find and sketch the field lines

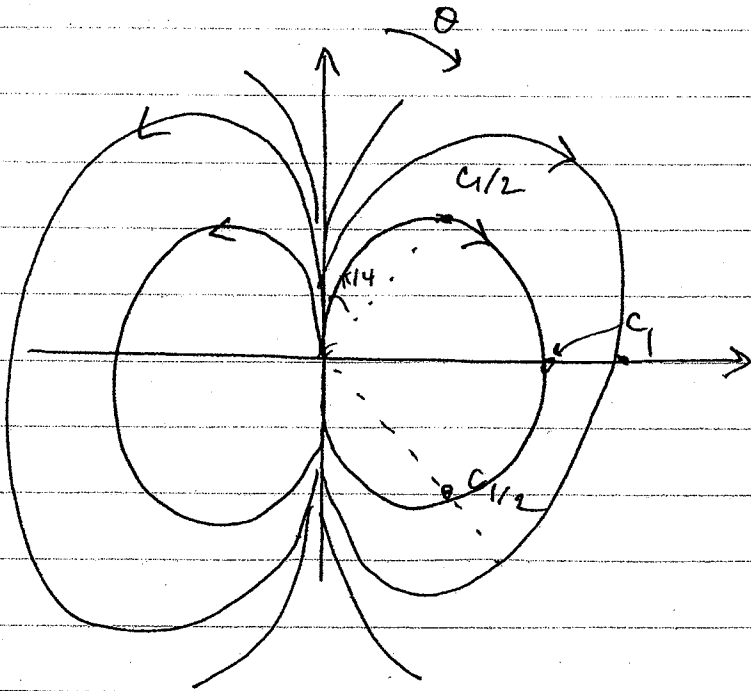
$$\frac{1}{r} \frac{dr}{d\theta} = \frac{E_r}{E_\theta} \rightarrow \frac{1}{r} \frac{dr}{d\theta} = \frac{2\cos\theta}{\sin\theta}$$

$$\text{and } \int \frac{dr}{r} = 2 \int \frac{\cos\theta d\theta}{\sin\theta}$$

$$\ln r = 2 \int \frac{d(+\sin\theta)}{\sin\theta}$$

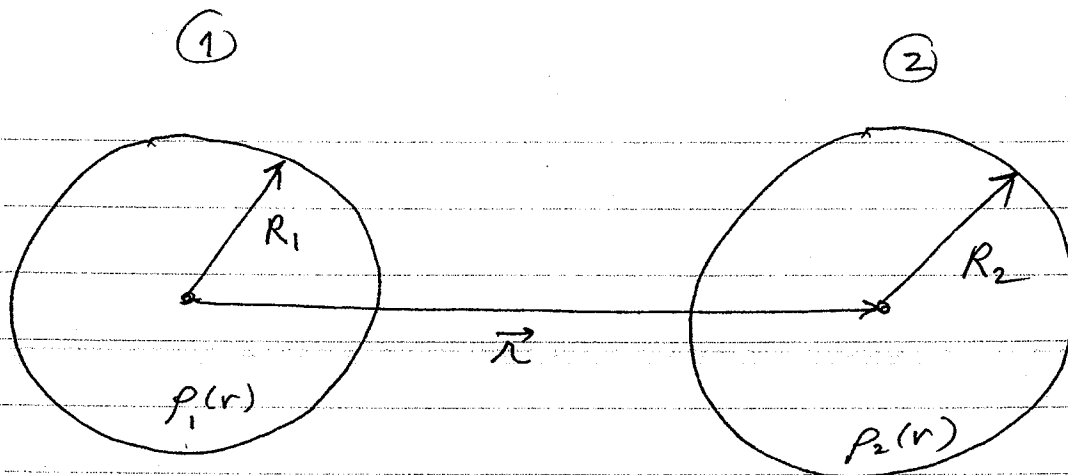
$$= +2 \ln \sin\theta + C$$

$$r = C_1 \sin^2 \theta \quad ; \quad \text{defines a family of solutions parameterized by } C_1$$



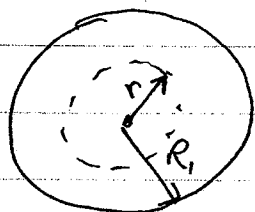
$\theta$	$r$
0	0
$\pi/4$	$C_1/2$
$\pi/2$	$C_1$
$3\pi/4$	$C_1/2$
$\pi$	0

5



Find force of sphere 1 on sphere 2

(a) Find field of sphere 1. Use Gauss's law because of symmetry



$$\oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{S} = \frac{\int \rho d^3x}{\epsilon_0}$$

on sphere w/ radius  $r$

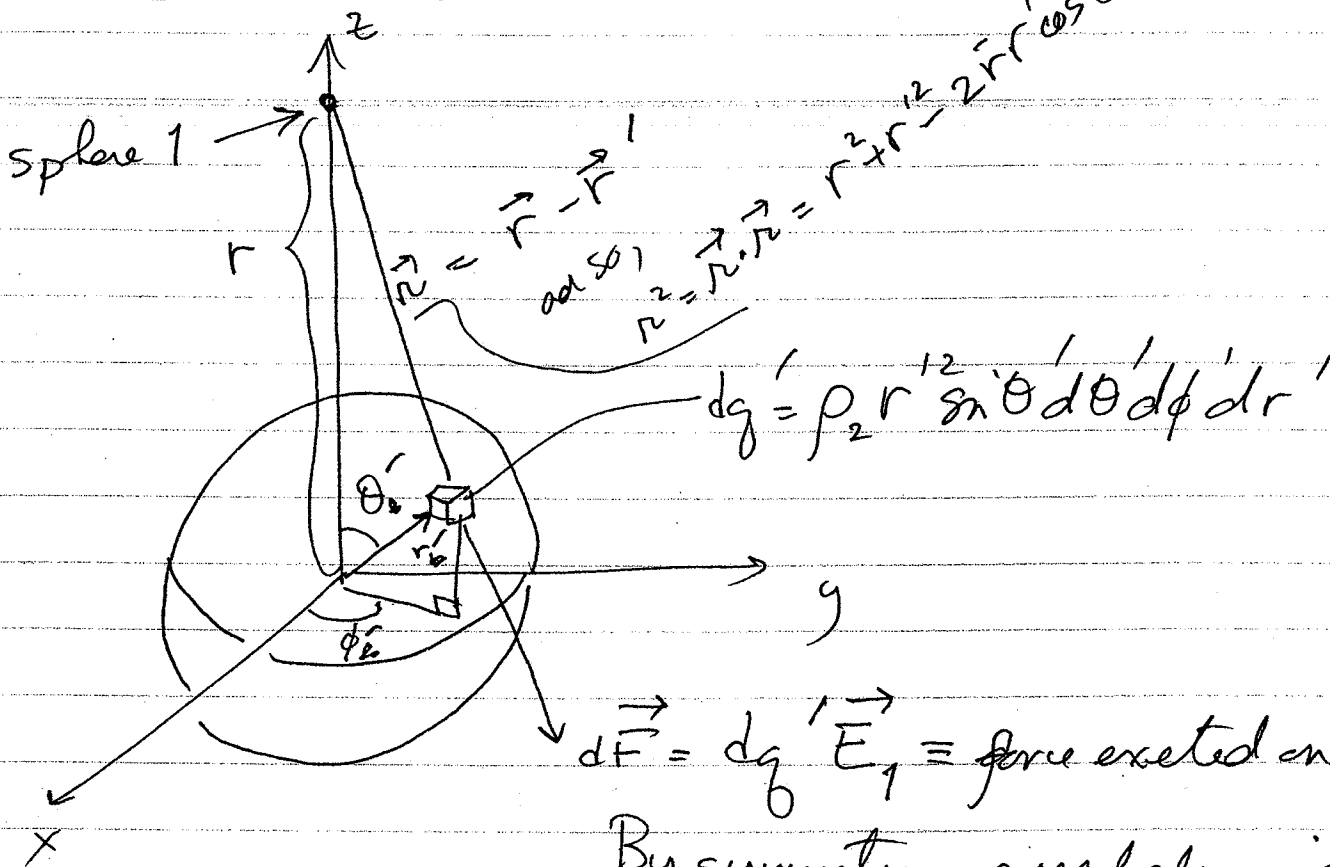
over sphere w/ radius  $r$   
 ← charge within in sphere of radius  $r$

$$E_r 4\pi r^2 = \frac{Q(r)}{\epsilon_0}$$

and for  $r > R_1 \Rightarrow \boxed{E_r = \frac{Q_1}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2}}$

the field acts as if all of the charge were concentrated at the center of the sphere.

(b) Find force of sphere 2



$$dq' = \rho_2 r'^2 \sin \theta' d\theta' d\phi' dr'$$

$$d\vec{F} = dq' \vec{E}_1 \equiv \text{force exerted on } dq'$$

By symmetry, we need only consider the force along z.

$$\Rightarrow dF_z = \hat{z} \cdot d\vec{F}' = (dq' E_1) \left[ \frac{r - r' \cos \theta'}{|\vec{r}|} \right]$$

$$F_z = \int \rho_2 r'^2 dr' \sin \theta' d\theta' d\phi' \left[ \frac{Q_1}{4\pi \epsilon_0} \left( \frac{r - r' \cos \theta'}{\{r^2 + r'^2 - 2rr' \cos \theta'\}^{3/2}} \right) \right]$$

{ note:  $\int d\phi' = 2\pi$

{ note:  $\sin \theta' d\theta' = d(-\cos \theta')$

$$\Rightarrow F_z = \frac{Q_1}{2\epsilon_0} \int \rho_2 r'^2 dr' \left[ \frac{r - r' \cos \theta'}{(r^2 + r'^2 - 2rr' \cos \theta')^{3/2}} \right] d(\cos \theta')$$

Let:  $W = r^2 + r'^2 - 2rr'\cos\theta'$

$$dW = -2rr'd(\cos\theta')$$

$$\rightarrow = \frac{Q_1}{2\epsilon_0} \int \rho_2 r'^2 dr' \left[ \frac{r-r' \left( \frac{r^2+r'^2-W}{2rr'} \right)}{\frac{\frac{1}{2r}(r^2-r'^2) W^{3/2}}{r - \frac{1}{2} \frac{r^2+r'^2}{r}}} \right] \frac{dW}{2rr'}$$

$$= \frac{Q_1}{4\epsilon_0 r} \int \rho_2 r' dr' \left[ \frac{r - \frac{1}{2} \frac{r^2+r'^2}{r}}{W^{3/2}} + \frac{1}{2r} \frac{1}{W^{1/2}} \right] dW$$

$$= \frac{Q_1}{4\epsilon_0 r} \int \rho_2 r' dr' \left[ \frac{(r^2-r'^2)}{2r} \frac{-2}{W^{3/2}} + \frac{1}{2r} \frac{2}{W^{1/2}} \right] \left. \begin{array}{l} W_1 = (r+r')^2 \\ W_0 = (r-r')^2 \end{array} \right.$$

$$= \frac{Q_1}{4\epsilon_0 r^2} \int \rho_2 r' dr' \left[ -(r^2-r'^2) \left[ \frac{1}{(r+r')} - \frac{1}{(r-r')} \right] + (r+r') - (r-r') \right]$$

$$= \frac{Q_1}{4\epsilon_0 r^2} \int \rho_2 r' dr' \left[ \underbrace{-(r-r') + (r+r') + 2r'}_{4r'} \right]$$

$$= \frac{Q_1}{4\epsilon_0 r^2} \int 4\rho_2 r'^2 dr'$$

$$= \frac{Q_1}{\epsilon_0 r^2} \int \rho_2 r'^2 dr'$$

In spherical symmetry, this integral is

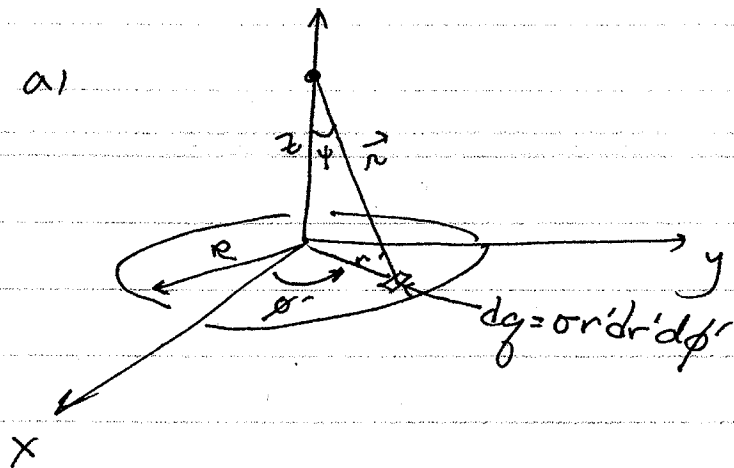
$$\frac{Q_2}{4\pi}$$

$$\rightarrow \boxed{F_z = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{Q_1 Q_2}{r^2}}$$

behaves as if both spheres were point charges!

Prob. 6

a)



By symmetry, we need only calculate the z-component for  $d\vec{E}$

$$\Rightarrow dE_z = \hat{z} \cdot d\vec{E} = \frac{\hat{z} \cdot (\sigma r' dr' d\phi')}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2}$$

$$= \frac{\sigma}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left[ \frac{r' dr' d\phi'}{r^2} \times \frac{z}{r} \right]$$

$$\Rightarrow E_z = \frac{\sigma z}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_0^R \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{r'}{(r'^2 + z^2)^{3/2}} dr' d\phi'$$

$$= \frac{\sigma z}{2\epsilon_0} \int_0^R \frac{r' dr'}{(r'^2 + z^2)^{3/2}}$$

Let  $X = r'^2 + z^2 \rightarrow dX = 2r' dr' \rightarrow r' dr' = \frac{dX}{2}$

$$= \frac{\sigma z}{2\epsilon_0} \int_{z^2}^{R^2 + z^2} \frac{\frac{1}{2} dX}{X^{3/2}}$$

$$= \frac{\sigma z}{4\epsilon_0} \left( \frac{-2}{X^{1/2}} \right) \Big|_{z^2}^{R^2 + z^2}$$

$$E_z = -\frac{\sigma z}{2\epsilon_0} \left[ \frac{1}{\sqrt{R^2 + z^2}} - \frac{1}{|z|} \right]$$

b) at  $x=y=z=0 \Rightarrow E_z=0 \rightarrow \vec{E}_g=0$

c) find  $E_z$  for  $|h/R| \ll 1$  or  $(|z| \ll R)$

$$E_z = -\frac{\sigma z}{2\epsilon_0} \left[ \frac{1}{R} \frac{1}{\sqrt{1+z^2/R^2}} - \frac{1}{|z|} \right]$$

$$\approx -\frac{\sigma z}{2\epsilon_0} \left[ \frac{1}{R} \left( 1 - \frac{1}{2} \frac{z^2}{R^2} \right) - \frac{1}{|z|} \right]$$

$$\approx \frac{\sigma}{2\epsilon_0} \left[ \frac{z}{|z|} - \left( \frac{z}{R} \right) \right]$$

Equation of Motion is

$$m \ddot{z} = \frac{q\sigma}{2\epsilon_0} \left[ \frac{z}{|z|} - \left( \frac{z}{R} \right) \right] \approx \frac{q\sigma}{2\epsilon_0} \left[ \frac{z}{|z|} \right]$$

(i) if the charge is released from  $z_0 = h$ ; at rest,  $\dot{z}_0 = 0$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} z = \frac{1}{2} \frac{q\sigma}{2\epsilon_0} \left[ \frac{z}{|z|} \right] t^2 + h \\ \dot{z} = \frac{q\sigma}{2\epsilon_0} \left[ \frac{z}{|z|} \right] t \end{cases}$$

the charge falls to disk, reaching the disk after time

$$t_s = \sqrt{\frac{4\epsilon_0 h}{q\sigma}}$$

if a hole is drilled in the disk to allow the charge to pass through the disk, then it moves to a distance  $+h$  below the disk and stop and then falls back toward the disk, passing through it and returning to height  $h$ . The motion is periodic/period,  $P = 4t_s$ .