

**PHYSICS 110A WINTER 2010**  
**SAMPLE QUESTIONS FOR MIDTERM II**

PROBLEM 1 [25 POINTS]

A charge  $+Q$  sits at the point  $(0, 0, 2d)$ , while a charge  $-Q$  sits at  $(0, 0, -2d)$ .

a) What is the electrostatic potential at the point  $(r/\sqrt{2}, 0, r/\sqrt{2})$ , in the limit that  $r \gg d$ ?

b) What is the magnitude of the force that a charge  $q$  would feel at that point?

PROBLEM 2 [20 POINTS]

A charge  $q > 0$  moves towards the center of a grounded conducting sphere with a speed  $v$ . At  $t = 0$ , the charge is a distance  $a$  from the center of the sphere, where  $a > R$ , and  $R$  is the radius of the sphere. What current (amount of charge per second) flows out of ground onto the sphere at  $t = 0$ ? Make sure to specify whether the current is positive (positive charge flowing onto sphere) or negative.

PROBLEM 3 [25 POINTS]

The following problem illustrates several essential points about the electrostatics of insulators.

An infinitely long insulating cylinder of radius  $a$ , with a ‘frozen in’ polarization of

$$\vec{P} = k s \hat{s},$$

sits at rest deep in space, far from any other sources of electric field.

- a) What is the electric field at every point in space, inside and outside the cylinder, in the vicinity of the cylinder?
- b) Calculate the insulator’s electrical susceptibility  $\chi_e$ .

PROBLEM 4 [30 POINTS]

A rectangular pipe, running parallel to the  $z$  axis (from  $-\infty$  to  $+\infty$ ), has three grounded metal sides, at  $y = 0$ ,  $y = a$ , and  $x = 0$  (see diagram). The fourth side, at  $x = b$ , is maintained at the potential

$$V(y) = V_0 \sin(2\pi y/a).$$

Find the potential  $V(x, y, z)$  for all points  $(x, y, z)$  inside the pipe. It may be convenient to recall that

$$\sinh(x) = \frac{e^x - e^{-x}}{2}.$$