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6.641 Electromagnetic Fields, Forces, and Motion
Spring 2009

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Quiz 1 - Solutions

Problem 1

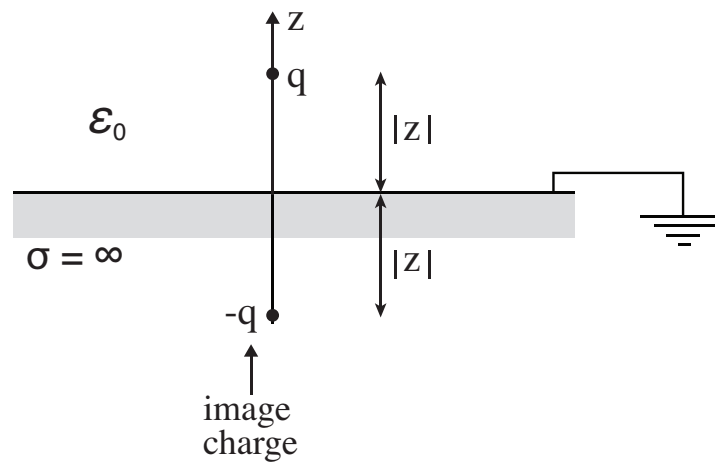


Figure 1: Charge q of a mass m above a perfectly conducting ground plane and its image charge $-q$. (Image by MIT OpenCourseWare.)

A

Question: What is the velocity of the charge as a function of position z ?

Solution: Force = ma

$$\Rightarrow m \frac{d\bar{v}}{dt} = \bar{F}_{\text{due to image charge}}$$

$$\Rightarrow m \frac{d\bar{v}}{dt} = \frac{q(-q)}{4\pi\epsilon_0(2z)^2} \bar{i}_z \Rightarrow m \frac{dv_z}{dt} = -\frac{q^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 4z^2}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{dv_z}{dt} = -\frac{q^2}{16\pi\epsilon_0 m z^2} \text{ Use of chain rule: } \frac{dv_z}{dt} = \frac{dv_z}{dz} \frac{dz}{dt} = \frac{dv_z}{dz} v_z = \frac{d}{dz} \left(\frac{v_z^2}{2} \right)$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{d}{dz} \left(\frac{v_z^2}{2} \right) = -\frac{q^2}{16\pi\epsilon_0 m z^2} \Rightarrow \int d \left(\frac{v_z^2}{2} \right) = \int -\frac{q^2}{16\pi\epsilon_0 m z^2} dz$$

$$\Rightarrow v_z^2 = +\frac{q^2}{8\pi\epsilon_0 m z} + C$$

Use I.C. $v_z(z=d) = 0$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{C = -\frac{q^2}{8\pi\epsilon_0 m d}}$$

$$v_z^2 = \frac{q^2}{8\pi\epsilon_0 m} \left(\frac{1}{z} - \frac{1}{d} \right)$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{v_z(z) = -\sqrt{\frac{q^2}{8\pi\epsilon_0 m} \left(\frac{1}{z} - \frac{1}{d} \right)}}$$

since particle is moving towards the conducting ground plane $\vec{v} = v_z \vec{i}_z$ (v_z has minus sign)

B

Question: How long does it take the charge to reach the $z = 0$ ground plane?

Hint:

$$\int \frac{dz}{\left[\frac{1}{z} - \frac{1}{d} \right]^{\frac{1}{2}}} = -\sqrt{zd(d-z)} + d^{\frac{3}{2}} \tan^{-1} \sqrt{\frac{z}{d-z}}$$

Solution:

$$v_z = \frac{dz}{dt} = -\sqrt{\frac{q^2}{8\pi\epsilon_0 m} \left(\frac{1}{z} - \frac{1}{d} \right)}$$

$$\Rightarrow \int \frac{dz}{\sqrt{\frac{1}{z} - \frac{1}{d}}} = \int -\sqrt{\frac{q^2}{8\pi\epsilon_0 m}} dt$$

$$-\sqrt{zd(d-z)} + d^{\frac{3}{2}} \tan^{-1} \sqrt{\frac{z}{d-z}} = -t \sqrt{\frac{q^2}{8\pi\epsilon_0 m}} + \underbrace{C}_{\text{constant}}$$

We use I.C. to find constant \Rightarrow at $t = 0$, $z(t=0) = d$.

$$\Rightarrow \underbrace{d^{\frac{3}{2}} \tan^{-1} \sqrt{\frac{d}{0}}}_{\frac{\pi}{2}} = C \Rightarrow C = \frac{\pi}{2} d^{\frac{3}{2}}$$

plugging in $z = 0$ gives the time (T) it takes for the charge to reach the $z = 0$ ground plane.

$$\Rightarrow 0 + \underbrace{d^{\frac{3}{2}} \tan^{-1} \sqrt{\frac{0}{d}}}_0 = -\sqrt{\frac{q^2}{8\pi\epsilon_0 m}} T + \frac{\pi}{2} d^{\frac{3}{2}}$$

$$\Rightarrow T = \frac{\frac{\pi}{2} d^{\frac{3}{2}}}{\sqrt{\frac{q^2}{8\pi\epsilon_0 m}}} = \sqrt{\frac{\pi^2}{4} d^3 \frac{8\pi\epsilon_0 m}{q^2}} \Rightarrow \boxed{T = \sqrt{\frac{2\pi^3 d^3 \epsilon_0 m}{q^2}}}$$

Problem 2

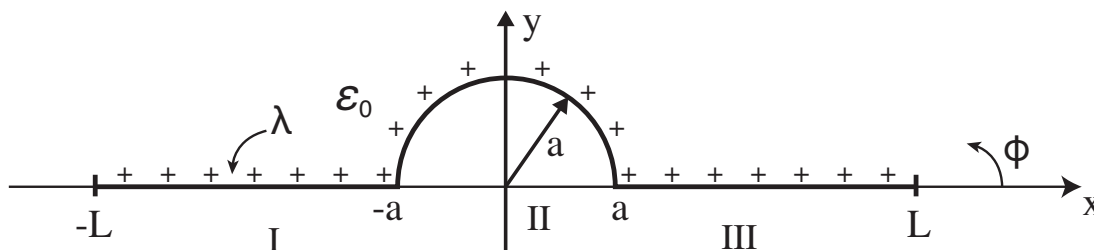


Figure 2: Uniformly distributed line charge λ . (Image by MIT OpenCourseWare.)

$$\Phi(\vec{r}) = \int_{l'} \frac{\lambda(\vec{r}') dl'}{4\pi\epsilon_0 |\vec{r} - \vec{r}'|} \quad \vec{E}(\vec{r}) = \int_{l'} \frac{\lambda(\vec{r}') \vec{i}_{r'r} dl'}{4\pi\epsilon_0 |\vec{r} - \vec{r}'|^2}$$

A

Question: Find the potential at the point $(x = 0, y = 0, z = 0)$

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi(x = 0, y = 0, z = 0) &= \int_{x=-L}^{-a} \frac{\lambda dx}{4\pi\epsilon_0 (-x)} + \int_{\phi=0}^{\pi} \frac{\lambda a d\phi}{4\pi\epsilon_0 a} + \int_{x=a}^L \frac{\lambda dx}{4\pi\epsilon_0 (x)} \\ &= \frac{\lambda}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left[-\ln x \Big|_{-L}^{-a} + \phi \Big|_0^{\pi} + \ln x \Big|_a^L \right] \\ &= \frac{\lambda}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left[-\ln \frac{a}{L} + \pi + \ln \frac{L}{a} \right] = \boxed{\frac{\lambda}{4\pi\epsilon_0} (\pi + 2 \ln \frac{L}{a})} \end{aligned}$$

B

Question: Find the electric field (magnitude and direction) at $(x = 0, y = 0, z = 0)$.

Solution:

$$\begin{aligned}
\vec{E}(x=0, y=0, z=0) &= \int_{x=-L}^{-a} \frac{\lambda \vec{i}_x dx}{4\pi\epsilon_0 x^2} + \int_{\phi=0}^{\pi} \frac{\lambda(-\vec{i}_r) a d\phi}{4\pi\epsilon_0 a^2} + \int_{x=a}^L \frac{\lambda(-\vec{i}_x) dx}{4\pi\epsilon_0 x^2} \\
&= \frac{\lambda}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left[-\frac{1}{x} \Big|_{-L}^{-a} \vec{i}_x + \int_{\phi=0}^{\pi} \frac{-\cos\phi \vec{i}_x - \sin\phi \vec{i}_y}{a} d\phi + \frac{1}{x} \Big|_a^L \vec{i}_x \right] \\
&= \frac{\lambda}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left[\left(-\frac{1}{-a} + \frac{1}{-L} \right) \vec{i}_x + \frac{1}{a} \left(\underbrace{-\sin\phi \Big|_0^{\pi}}_0 \vec{i}_x + \underbrace{\cos\phi \Big|_0^{\pi}}_{-2} \vec{i}_y \right) + \left(\frac{1}{L} - \frac{1}{a} \right) \vec{i}_x \right] \\
&= \frac{\lambda}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left(\frac{-2}{a} \right) \vec{i}_y \Rightarrow \boxed{\vec{E}(x=0, y=0, z=0) = -\frac{\lambda}{2\pi\epsilon_0 a} \vec{i}_y}
\end{aligned}$$

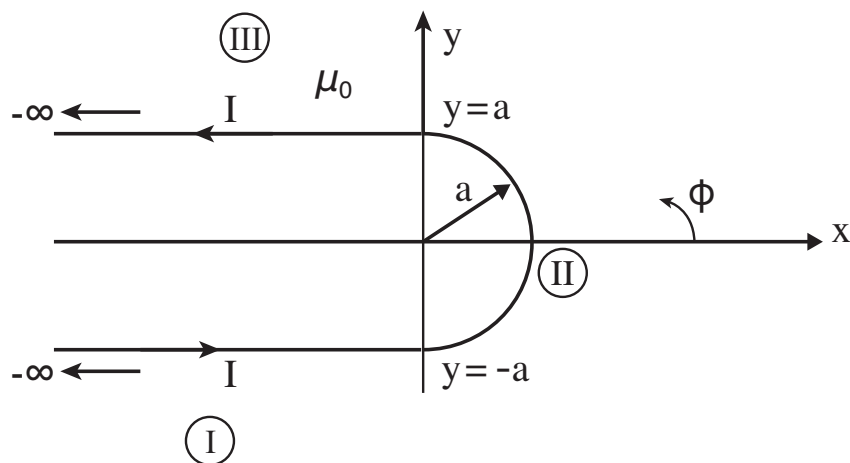
Problem 3

Figure 3: Current. (Image by MIT OpenCourseWare.)

Question: What is the magnetic field \vec{H} at the point $(x=0, y=0, z=0)$?

Hint: One or more of the following indefinite integrals may be useful.

- $\int \frac{dx}{[x^2+a^2]^{\frac{1}{2}}} = \ln [x + \sqrt{x^2+a^2}]$
- $\int \frac{xdx}{[x^2+a^2]^{\frac{1}{2}}} = [x^2+a^2]^{\frac{1}{2}}$
- $\int \frac{dx}{[x^2+a^2]} = \frac{1}{a} \tan^{-1} \frac{x}{a}$
- $\int \frac{dx}{[x^2+a^2]^{\frac{3}{2}}} = \frac{x}{a^2[x^2+a^2]^{\frac{1}{2}}}$
- $\int \frac{xdx}{[x^2+a^2]^{\frac{3}{2}}} = -\frac{1}{[x^2+a^2]^{\frac{1}{2}}}$

Solution:

$$\vec{H}(\vec{r}) = \frac{1}{4\pi} \int \frac{\vec{I} d\vec{l}' \times \vec{i}_{r'r}}{|\vec{r} - \vec{r}'|^2}$$

$$\vec{H}(x = 0, y = 0, z = 0)$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= \frac{1}{4\pi} \left\{ \int_{x=-\infty}^0 \frac{I \vec{i}_x dx \times (-x \vec{i}_x + a \vec{i}_y)}{(x^2 + a^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}} + \int_{\phi=-\frac{\pi}{2}}^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \frac{I \vec{i}_\phi a d\phi \times (-\vec{i}_r)}{a^2} + \int_{x=-\infty}^0 \frac{I(-\vec{i}_x) dx \times (-x \vec{i}_x - a \vec{i}_y)}{(x^2 + a^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}} \right\} \\ &= \frac{I}{4\pi} \left\{ \int_{x=-\infty}^0 \frac{a \vec{i}_z dx}{(x^2 + a^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}} + \int_{\phi=-\frac{\pi}{2}}^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \frac{\vec{i}_z d\phi}{a} + \int_{x=-\infty}^0 \frac{a \vec{i}_z dx}{(x^2 + a^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}} \right\} \\ &= \frac{I}{4\pi} \left\{ \frac{1}{a} \frac{x}{(x^2 + a^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}} \Big|_{-\infty}^0 \vec{i}_z + \frac{1}{a} \phi \Big|_{-\frac{\pi}{2}}^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \vec{i}_z + \frac{1}{a} \frac{x}{(x^2 + a^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}} \Big|_{-\infty}^0 \vec{i}_z \right\} \\ &= \frac{I}{4\pi a} i_z \left\{ 0 - (-1) + \frac{\pi}{2} + \frac{\pi}{2} + 0 - (-1) \right\} \\ &= \boxed{\frac{I}{4\pi a} (2 + \pi) \vec{i}_z} \end{aligned}$$