

## Classical Electrodynamics Qualifying Exam: August, 2012

1. [10] A thin charged disk of radius  $R$  has uniform area charge density  $\sigma$ . Find the electrostatic potential  $\Phi(z)$  along  $\hat{z}$ , its symmetry axis. Check that your result makes sense when  $z \gg R$ .
2. [10] A neutral, conducting sphere of radius  $a$  is placed in a uniform external electric field  $E_0 \hat{z}$ . Charge is induced on the sphere, modifying the external field. Find the electrostatic potential  $\Phi(r, \theta)$  outside the sphere. Adopt spherical coordinates with  $\hat{z}$  the polar axis.
3. [10] Show that, for a spherically symmetric charge distribution, all multipole moments beyond the monopole vanish. (Hint: Recall that the spherical harmonics are orthogonal.)
4. [20] A paraboloidal surface  $z = r_{\perp}^2/r_0$ , extending from  $r_{\perp} = 0$  to  $r_{\perp} = r_0$  ( $r_{\perp}$  and  $z$  are cylindrical coordinates), spins with angular velocity  $\omega \hat{z}$  and carries a surface-charge density

$$\sigma(r_{\perp}) = \frac{Q}{r_0^2} \left(1 + \frac{4r_{\perp}^2}{r_0^2}\right)^{-1/2}$$

where  $\omega$ ,  $Q$  and  $r_0$  are constants.

- a) [10] Find the magnetic dipole moment  $\vec{m}$ .
  - b) [10] Find the magnetic induction  $\vec{B}(r, \theta, \phi)$  in spherical coordinates, in the limit  $r \gg r_0$ .
5. [10] Starting with Maxwell's equations in vacuum (i.e.,  $\epsilon = \epsilon_0$  and  $\mu = \mu_0$ , but free charges and currents are allowed), derive the wave equations satisfied by the scalar and vector potentials in the Lorenz gauge.