

# Classical Electrodynamics (I) PhD Qualifying Exam (5 problems)

Note: 1. This is a closed-book exam.

2. Terms and notations follow Jackson.

1. Answer “yes” or “no” to the following statements (no explanation is required).

(45%, 3 points for each correct answer; –1 point for each wrong answer; 0 point for each unanswered question. If total points  $< 0$ , it will be regarded as 0.)

- (1) In electrostatics, the potential  $\phi$  is continuous and electric field  $\mathbf{E}$  is discontinuous across a single layer of surface charge distribution.
- (2) In electrostatics,  $\phi$  is discontinuous and  $\mathbf{E}$  is continuous across a dipole layer.
- (3) The static electric field  $\mathbf{E}$  can be calculated by using  $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{E} = \rho / \epsilon_0$  alone.
- (4) The integral form of Gauss’s law for  $\mathbf{E}$  is *mathematically* equivalent to the differential form of Gauss’s law for  $\mathbf{E}$  whether  $\mathbf{E}$  is static or time-dependent.
- (5) If  $\oint_S \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{x}) \cdot \mathbf{n} da = 0$  for any *closed* surface  $S$  ( $da$  is a differential area of the surface and  $\mathbf{n}$  is its outward normal), it implies  $\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{x}) = 0$  everywhere.
- (6) The electric field  $E$  on the surface of a conductor with static surface charge density  $\sigma$  is  $E = \sigma / \epsilon_0$  even if the surface is curved or  $\sigma$  is non-uniform.
- (7)  $\epsilon_0 E^2(\mathbf{x})$  and  $q \delta(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_0) \Phi(\mathbf{x})$  have the same dimension
- (8) Electric polarization  $\mathbf{P}$  and electric dipole moment  $\mathbf{p}$  do not have the same dimension.
- (9) The polarization charge density ( $\rho_{pol} = -\nabla \cdot \mathbf{P}$ ) is only a convenient definition. It does not represent real charges.
- (10) The reason a 2.45 GHz microwave oven can heat food is because water molecules in food have a resonant frequency at approximately 2.45 GHz.
- (11) The dipole moment  $\mathbf{p}$  of a distribution of electrical charges is always independent of its point of reference.
- (12) The magnetic field energy density,  $w_b = \mathbf{H} \cdot \mathbf{B}$ , is derived for a *linear* medium, i.e.  $\mathbf{B} = \mu \mathbf{H}$  with  $\mu$  independent of  $\mathbf{B}$ .
- (13) The magnetization current density ( $\mathbf{J}_M = \nabla \times \mathbf{M}$ ) is only a convenient definition. It does not represent real current.
- (14) A static magnetic field can penetrate through a good conductor with  $\mu = \mu_0$  as if there were no conductor present.
- (15) Newton’s law states that the total mechanical momentum of an isolated system is conserved. This is also true in electrodynamics.

2. (a) Write down the 4 microscopic Maxwell equations in differential form. (4%)

(b) Show that conservation of charge is implicit in this set of equations. (5%)

(c) Show that the electric field  $\mathbf{E}$  and magnetic induction  $\mathbf{B}$  can be represented by a scalar potential  $\phi$  and a vector potential  $\mathbf{A}$ . (6%)

(continued on next page)

3. A plane electromagnetic wave with instantaneous fields  $\mathbf{E}_i$  and  $\mathbf{B}_i$  is incident normally from the free space onto a stationary and perfectly-conducting plane. The reflected wave has instantaneous fields  $\mathbf{E}_r$  and  $\mathbf{B}_r$ .
- (a) What is the relation between  $\mathbf{E}_r$  and  $\mathbf{E}_i$  on the conductor? Give your reason. (8%)
  - (b) What is the relation between  $\mathbf{B}_r$  and  $\mathbf{B}_i$  on the conductor? Give your reason. (8%)
4. Verify Poynting's theorem for the case of a long, straight conducting wire of radius  $a$  and conductivity  $\sigma$ , which carries a direct current  $I$ . [The resistance per unit length of the wire is  $R = 1/(\sigma\pi a^2)$ ]. (16%)
5. A measuring device is disturbed by the following influences. How would you separately protect the device from each of the following influences?
- (a) High-frequency electromagnetic fields. (4%)
  - (b) A static magnetic field. (4%)