Physics 1C • Practice Midterm 1

Problem 1. Solar Sail (10 Points)

At what radius would a perfectly reflective solar sail with area A and mass m that is initially at rest with respect to the sun remain at rest (10 points)? Assume that the sun has a mass m_{\odot} and a luminescent power output of P. Hint: $F_{\text{light}} = \langle S \rangle A/c$.

Problem 2. Ampere's Law on a Limaçon (15 Points)

Suppose that an Amperian loop is described by the limaçon $r(\theta) = 1 + \cos(\theta)$. If the magnetic field on the limaçon is described by $\vec{B}(\theta) = B_0 \sin(\theta/2)\hat{z}$, what is the enclosed current (15 points)? It may help to recall the product-to-sum identity: $\cos(u)\sin(v) = \frac{1}{2}\sin(u+v) - \frac{1}{2}\sin(u-v)$.

Problem 3. Elliptical Current Loop (25 Points)

The Biot-Savart Law is:

$$d\vec{B} = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \frac{I d\vec{\ell} \times \hat{r}}{r^2}$$

Consider an elliptical current loop with current I and loop radius $\rho(\theta) = ab/\sqrt{(a\sin(\theta))^2 + (b\cos(\theta))^2}$. Assuming cylindrical coordinates (ρ, θ, z) , write the integral for the magnetic field at a point at height h on the z axis (5 points). Evaluate the integral in the case a = b = s (10 points).

For (10 points), integrate in the case where a = s and $b = s + \delta s$ for $|\delta s| \ll |s|$. It may help to note that in this case:

$$\frac{1}{(h^2 + \rho^2(\theta))^{3/2}} \approx \frac{1}{(h^2 + s^2)^{3/2}} - \frac{3s\,\delta s\,\sin^2(\theta)}{(h^2 + s^2)^{5/2}} \qquad \text{and} \qquad \int_0^{2\pi} d\theta \,\sin^2(\theta) = \pi \tag{1}$$

Problem 4. Damped Circuit (15 Points)

Consider the RLC circuit:



Write a differential equation that models the circuit (6 points). Find the general solution to the differential equation, using for instance the method of characteristic equations (6 points). Apply the boundary conditions $Q(0) = Q_0$ and $\dot{Q}(0) = 0$ to find the solution to the differential equation for these boundary conditions (3 points). Note: $I = \dot{Q}$.

Problem 5. Circuit with Impedance (35 Points)

Consider the driven circuit:



Supposing that $I(t) = I_0 \cos(\omega t)$, what is the impedance of the circuit as measured across the current source (10 points)? What is the current through the resistor with resistance 2R (5 points)? Find an expression for the current through the inductor with inductance 2L as a function of time (5 points)? What is the current through the inductor with inductance L as a function of time (5 points)? What is the phase difference between the voltage in the two inductors (5 points)? What is the phase difference between the voltage in the two inductors (5 points)? What is the phase difference between the voltage in the two inductors (5 points)? What is the phase difference between the current in the two resistors (5 points)?