

Midterm 1 Review

The electrical field within a uniform ball of charge of radius R and charge Q . is

$\vec{E}(r < R) = \frac{Q r}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R^3} \hat{r}$, its charge density is $\rho = \frac{3Q}{4\pi R^3}$, and the stored energy of a

ball of charge is $U_{\text{ball}} = \frac{3}{5} \frac{Q^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R}$. We put a cancelling charge of $-Q$ on the surface of the ball so that there is no electrical field for $r > R$. Recall the stored energy in a thin shell of charge is given by: $U_{\text{shell}} = \frac{Q^2}{8\pi\epsilon_0 R}$

(a) Calculate the potential function $V(r) - V_\infty$ for this system and use it to

compute the stored energy using $U = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\text{volume}} \rho V d\tau$

(b) Check your answer by computing the stored energy using the “interference”

approach: $U_{\text{ball+shell}} = U_{\text{ball}} + U_{\text{shell}} + \frac{\epsilon_0}{2} \int 2\vec{E}_{\text{ball}} \cdot \vec{E}_{\text{shell}} d\tau$