

## 1) Solution

1. The wall is infinite, therefore, the potential  $\phi$  on it is zero. Let us introduce a cylindrical coordinate system  $(\rho, \theta, z)$ , as shown in Fig. 1.a. The task is symmetric with respect to  $\theta$ .

We can replace the PEC wall by a mirror charge  $-q$ , placed on the opposite side of the wall, at distance  $-h$ . Using the principal of superposition, the potential at point  $(\rho, z)$  is equal to:

$$\phi(\rho, z) = q \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{\rho^2 + (z - h)^2}} - \frac{1}{\sqrt{\rho^2 + (z + h)^2}} \right) \quad (1)$$

The potential on the wall  $\phi(\rho, z = 0)$  is thus zero.

Electric field  $\vec{E}(\vec{r})$  is given by the field superposition of two charges:

$$\vec{E}(\vec{r}) = -\frac{q}{|\vec{r}_2|^3} \vec{r}_2 + \frac{q}{|\vec{r}_1|^3} \vec{r}_1 \quad (2)$$

Distribution of charge density  $\sigma(\rho, z = 0)$  is found from:

$$\sigma(\rho) = -\frac{1}{4\pi} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} \Big|_{z=0} = -\frac{1}{2\pi} \frac{qh}{(\rho^2 + h^2)^{3/2}} \quad (3)$$

Total charge induced on the wall is the integral of charge density over the whole surface:

$$Q = \int_0^{+\infty} \int_0^{2\pi} \sigma(\rho) \rho d\rho d\theta = -q \quad (4)$$

We can see that the charge  $+q$  induces charge  $-q$  on the PEC wall.

2. Mirror charges should be placed as shown in Fig. 1.b. It can be shown that the potential on a corner wall is equal to zero.

The distribution of the electric field is given by field superposition of four charges:

$$\vec{E}(\vec{r}) = -\frac{q}{|\vec{r}_1|^3} \vec{r}_1 + \frac{q}{|\vec{r}_2|^3} \vec{r}_2 - \frac{q}{|\vec{r}_3|^3} \vec{r}_3 + \frac{q}{|\vec{r}_4|^3} \vec{r}_4 \quad (5)$$

Distribution of charge density  $\sigma(\rho, z = 0) = \sigma(\rho = 0, z)$  is:

$$\sigma(\rho) = -\frac{1}{4\pi} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} \Big|_{z=0} = -\frac{q}{4\pi} \left( \frac{2h}{((\rho - h)^2 + h^2)^{3/2}} - \frac{2h}{((\rho + h)^2 + h^2)^{3/2}} \right) \quad (6)$$

3. We solve this task in two steps. First, consider that the sphere is grounded, so that the potential is zero on the surface  $\phi(R, \theta) = 0$ . Here we introduced spherical coordinates  $(r, \theta, \varphi)$  as shown in, Fig. 1.c. We have symmetry with respect to angle  $\varphi$ . We place a mirror charge  $q' = -qR/h$  at distance  $a = R^2/h$  from the center of sphere. One can check that condition  $\phi(R, \theta) = 0$  is thus fulfilled. Once the sphere is grounded, a total charge  $q'$  is induced on its surface. Next, we unplug the sphere from the ground. Since the sphere was neutral initially, we should add a charge  $-q'$  to its surface. This charge  $-q'$  will be distributed uniformly on the surface, since the electrostatic forces are zero on the sphere. In terms of potential, adding a charge  $-q'$ , is equivalent to putting a charge  $-q'$  in the center of the sphere. So the total potential outside the sphere is given by superposition of the potentials of three charges:

$$\phi(r, \theta) = q \frac{1}{|\vec{r}_1|} + q' \frac{1}{|\vec{r}_2|} - q' \frac{1}{|\vec{r}_3|} \quad (7)$$

Potential on the surface of the sphere is:

$$\phi(R, \theta) = \frac{q}{\sqrt{R^2 + h^2 - 2Rh \cos \theta}} + \frac{q'}{\sqrt{R^2 + a^2 - 2Ra \cos \theta}} - \frac{q'}{R} \quad (8)$$

Distribution of charge density on the surface  $\sigma(\theta)$  is:

$$\sigma(\theta) = -\frac{1}{4\pi} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial r} \Big|_{r=R} = -\frac{1}{4\pi} \left( \frac{q(h^2 - R^2)}{R(R^2 + h^2 - 2Rh \cos \theta)^{3/2}} - \frac{q}{Rh} \right) \quad (9)$$

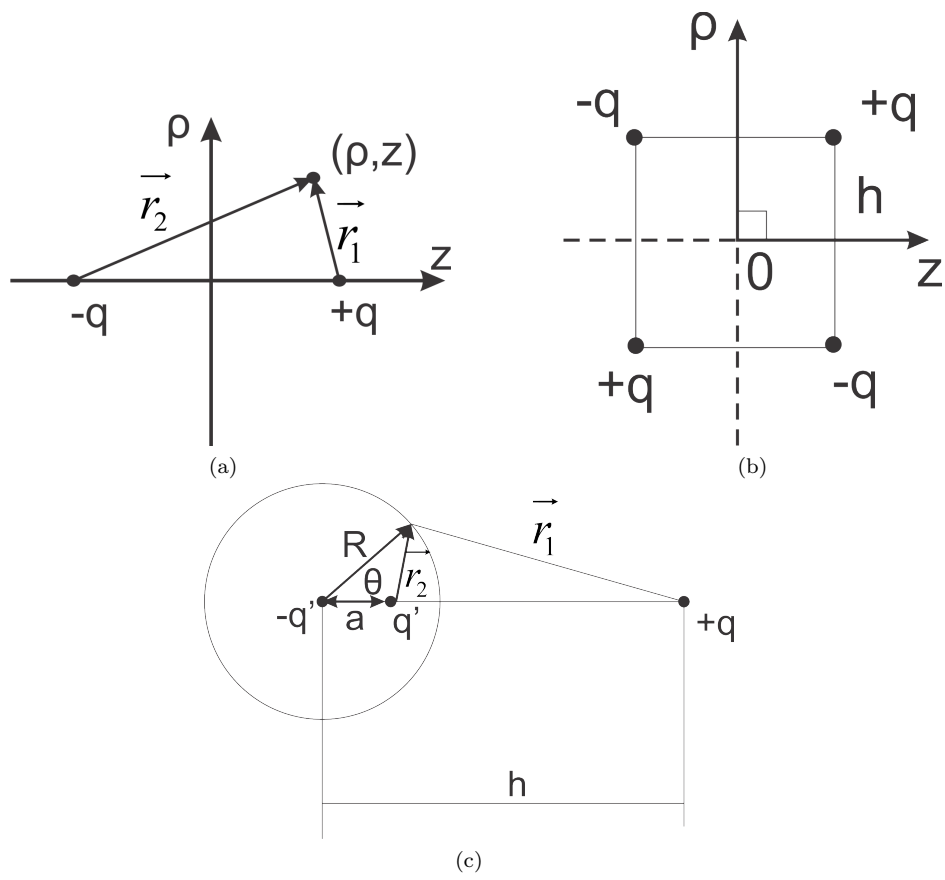


Figure 1