

Problem 2.62) a) Using Gauss' law in conjunction with spherical surfaces of radius ρ , we find, since the E -field inside the metallic shell of the inner sphere must vanish, that the total charge on the interior surface of the inner sphere must be zero. Therefore, $\sigma_{12} = 0$. The charge content of the inner sphere is thus distributed entirely on its outer surface, namely, $\sigma_{11} = \sigma_1$.

As for the outer sphere, we place the Gaussian surface inside its metallic shell. Since the E -field inside the metal must be zero, the total charge inside the Gaussian sphere must vanish, that is, $4\pi R_1^2 \sigma_1 + 4\pi R_2^2 \sigma_{22} = 0$. This yields $\sigma_{22} = -(R_1/R_2)^2 \sigma_1$. The remaining charge will then appear on the outer surface of the outer sphere, that is, $\sigma_{21} = \sigma_2 - \sigma_{22}$.

b) Inside the small sphere the E -field is zero. The total charge on the inner shell is $Q = 4\pi R_1^2 \sigma_1$. Therefore, in the region between the two spheres,

$$\mathbf{E}_1(\rho) = (Q/4\pi\epsilon_0\rho^2)\hat{\rho} = (\sigma_1/\epsilon_0)(R_1/\rho)^2\hat{\rho}; \quad R_1 < \rho < R_2.$$

Outside the large sphere, the fields of the two spheres are superimposed, that is,

$$\mathbf{E}_2(\rho) = [(\sigma_1/\epsilon_0)(R_1/\rho)^2 + (\sigma_2/\epsilon_0)(R_2/\rho)^2]\hat{\rho}; \quad \rho > R_2.$$

c) The potential difference (i.e., voltage) between the spheres is given by the integral of $\mathbf{E}_1(\rho)$ along the radial direction from R_1 to R_2 , that is,

$$\begin{aligned} V_{12} &= \int_{R_1}^{R_2} E_{1\rho}(\rho) d\rho = \int_{R_1}^{R_2} (\sigma_1/\epsilon_0)(R_1/\rho)^2 d\rho = -(\sigma_1 R_1^2/\epsilon_0) [(1/R_2) - (1/R_1)] \\ &= (\sigma_1/\epsilon_0)(R_1/R_2)(R_2 - R_1). \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$C = Q/V = \frac{4\pi R_1^2 \sigma_1}{(\sigma_1/\epsilon_0)(R_1/R_2)(R_2 - R_1)} = 4\pi\epsilon_0 R_1 R_2 / (R_2 - R_1).$$