2nd Midterm Solutions

Problem 1) a) Because of symmetry, the *H*-field cannot depend on *x* or *z*. Take a rectangular loop $\ell_x \times \ell_y$ parallel to the *xy*-plane and write the integral form of Ampere's law, $\nabla \times H = J_{\text{free}}$, for this loop. The contributions of ℓ_y to the loop integral cancel out, leaving only the contributions of ℓ_x on opposite sides of the current sheet. Therefore, $2H_x\ell_x = J_{\text{so}}\ell_x$, where $J_{\text{so}}\ell_x$ is the current crossing the loop. The magnitude of the *H*-field is thus independent of *y*, although its direction depends on whether *y* is positive or negative. Taking the right-hand rule into account, the final result is

$$\boldsymbol{H}(\boldsymbol{r},t) = -\frac{1}{2}\operatorname{sign}(\boldsymbol{y})\boldsymbol{J}_{so}\hat{\boldsymbol{x}}.$$



Note: Using symmetry and Maxwell's 4th equation, $\nabla \cdot B = 0$, it is easy to see why H_y must be zero everywhere: Take a cylinder whose axis is parallel to y and which the *xz*-plane cuts in the middle, then use the fact that the net flux of H into or out of the cylinder must be zero. Similarly, Maxwell's 2nd equation can be used to show that H_z is independent of y; the argument parallels that used above to evaluate H_x , except that the rectangular loop is now chosen in the *yz*-plane. Since H_z is already known to be independent of x and z, we conclude that it must be constant through the entire space. Showing that H_z is identically zero, however, requires the full solution of Maxwell's equations, which is done in part (b).

b) Fourier transforming the current density $J(\mathbf{r},t) = J_{so}\delta(y)\hat{z}$ yields

$$\boldsymbol{J}(\boldsymbol{k},\omega) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} J_{so} \delta(y) \hat{\boldsymbol{z}} \exp[-i(\boldsymbol{k}\cdot\boldsymbol{r}-\omega t)] d\boldsymbol{r} dt = (2\pi)^3 J_{so} \delta(k_x) \,\delta(k_z) \,\delta(\omega) \hat{\boldsymbol{z}}.$$

The *H*-field is thus given by

$$H(\mathbf{r},t) = \mu_0^{-1} \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{r},t) = \mu_0^{-1} \nabla \times \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{r},t) = (2\pi)^{-4} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{i\mathbf{k} \times \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{k},\omega)}{k^2 - (\omega/c)^2} \exp[i(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r} - \omega t)] d\mathbf{k} d\omega$$
$$= \frac{iJ_{so}}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{(\mathbf{k} \times \hat{\mathbf{z}}) \,\delta(k_x) \delta(k_z) \delta(\omega)}{k^2 - (\omega/c)^2} \exp[i(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r} - \omega t)] d\mathbf{k} d\omega$$
$$= \frac{iJ_{so}}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{k_y \hat{\mathbf{y}} \times \hat{\mathbf{z}}}{k_y^2} \exp(ik_y y) dk_y = iJ_{so} \hat{\mathbf{x}} (2\pi)^{-1} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{\exp(ik_y y)}{k_y} dk_y = -\frac{1}{2} \operatorname{sign}(y) J_{so} \hat{\mathbf{x}}$$

Problem 2) a) Because of symmetry, the *E*-field is independent of ϕ and *z*. Take a cylinder of radius ρ and height *h*, and write the integral form of Maxwell's first equation, $\nabla \cdot \varepsilon_0 E = \rho_{\text{free}}$, for this cylinder. The contributions to the integral of the top and bottom surfaces of the cylinder cancel out, leaving only the contribution of the cylindrical side-wall, which is $2\pi\rho h \varepsilon_0 E_{\rho}(\rho)$. Therefore, $2\pi\rho h \varepsilon_0 E_{\rho}(\rho) = 2\pi R h \sigma_{so}$, where the right-hand-side of the equation gives the total electrical charge inside the cylinder of radius ρ , provided, of course, that $\rho > R$. Consequently,

 $E_{\rho}(\rho) = R \sigma_{so}/(\rho \varepsilon_{o})$ when $\rho > R$, and $E_{\rho}(\rho) = 0$ when $\rho < R$. From Maxwell's 3rd equation, $\nabla \times E = 0$, we conclude that $E_{\phi} = 0$, otherwise a circular loop of radius ρ , parallel to the *xy*-plane and centered on the *z*-axis, will have a nonzero line integral. As for E_z , consider the rectangular loop $\ell_{\rho} \times \ell_z$ shown in the figure. The contributions of ℓ_{ρ} to the line-integral of the *E*-field around the loop cancel out because E_{ρ} is independent of *z*. For the contributions of the vertical legs, ℓ_z , to also cancel out, it is necessary for E_z to be independent of ρ . We thus see that E_z must be constant through the entire space. In fact, because of the



system's up-down symmetry, it is not difficult to see that E_z must be identically zero everywhere: There is as much reason for the *E*-field to point up as there is for it to point down. Therefore $E_z = 0$ and we have

$$\boldsymbol{E}(\boldsymbol{r},t) = \begin{cases} (R \, \sigma_{so} / \varepsilon_o \rho) \, \hat{\boldsymbol{\rho}}; & \rho > R, \\ 0; & \rho < R. \end{cases}$$

b) The Fourier transform of the electric charge-density, $\rho(\mathbf{r},t) = \sigma_{so}\delta(\rho - R)$, is given by

$$\rho(\mathbf{k},\omega) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \sigma_{so} \delta(\rho - R) \exp[-i(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r} - \omega t)] d\mathbf{r} dt$$

$$= (2\pi)^{2} \sigma_{so} \delta(k_{z}) \delta(\omega) \int_{\rho=0}^{\infty} \int_{\phi=0}^{2\pi} \delta(\rho - R) \exp(-ik_{\parallel}\rho\cos\phi)\rho d\rho d\phi$$

$$= (2\pi)^{2} R \sigma_{so} \delta(k_{z}) \delta(\omega) \int_{\phi=0}^{2\pi} \exp(-ik_{\parallel}R\cos\phi) d\phi$$

$$= (2\pi)^{3} R \sigma_{so} \delta(k_{z}) \delta(\omega) J_{0}(k_{\parallel}R).$$

The *E*-field is thus obtained as follows:

$$\begin{split} \boldsymbol{E}(\boldsymbol{r},t) &= -\nabla \psi(\boldsymbol{r},t) = -(2\pi)^{-4} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{\mathrm{i}\boldsymbol{k}\rho(\boldsymbol{k},\omega)}{\varepsilon_{\mathrm{o}}[k^{2}-(\omega/c)^{2}]} \exp[\mathrm{i}(\boldsymbol{k}\cdot\boldsymbol{r}-\omega t)] \mathrm{d}\boldsymbol{k} \mathrm{d}\omega \\ &= -\frac{\mathrm{i}R\sigma_{so}}{2\pi\varepsilon_{\mathrm{o}}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{\boldsymbol{k}\,\delta(k_{z})\,\delta(\omega)\,J_{0}(k_{\parallel}R)}{k^{2}-(\omega/c)^{2}} \exp[\mathrm{i}(\boldsymbol{k}\cdot\boldsymbol{r}-\omega t)] \mathrm{d}\boldsymbol{k} \mathrm{d}\omega \\ &= -\frac{\mathrm{i}R\sigma_{so}}{2\pi\varepsilon_{\mathrm{o}}} \int_{k_{\parallel}=0}^{\infty} \int_{\phi=0}^{2\pi} \frac{k_{\parallel}\cos\phi\hat{\rho}\,J_{0}(k_{\parallel}R)}{k_{\parallel}^{2}} \exp(\mathrm{i}k_{\parallel}\rho\cos\phi)\,k_{\parallel}\mathrm{d}k_{\parallel}\mathrm{d}\phi \\ &= -\frac{\mathrm{i}R\sigma_{so}\hat{\rho}}{2\pi\varepsilon_{\mathrm{o}}} \int_{k_{\parallel}=0}^{\infty} J_{0}(k_{\parallel}R) \int_{\phi=0}^{2\pi}\cos\phi\exp(\mathrm{i}k_{\parallel}\rho\cos\phi)\,\mathrm{d}\phi\mathrm{d}k_{\parallel} \\ &= \frac{R\sigma_{so}\hat{\rho}}{\varepsilon_{\mathrm{o}}} \int_{0}^{\infty} J_{0}(k_{\parallel}R)\,J_{1}(k_{\parallel}\rho)\,\mathrm{d}k_{\parallel} = \begin{cases} (R\sigma_{so}/\varepsilon_{\mathrm{o}}\rho)\hat{\rho}; & \rho > R, \\ 0; & \rho < R. \end{cases}$$