



# MERU UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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## UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2023/2024

FOURTH YEAR, SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF  
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN PHYSICS, BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN MATHEMATICS  
AND PHYSICS AND BACHELOR OF EDUCATION SCIENCE

### SPH 3450: ELECTRODYNAMICS

DATE: APRIL 2024

TIME: 2 HOURS

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**INSTRUCTIONS: Answer Question ONE and any other TWO questions.**

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#### QUESTION ONE (30 MARKS)

- a) i. State Ampere's law (2 Marks)  
ii. Show that Ampere's law leads to an equation describing static fields. (6 Marks)  
iii. Modify the equation in a (ii) above to a situation of rapidly varying fields. (6 Marks)
- b) a soap bubble 10 cm in radius with a wall thickness of  $3.3 \times 10^{-6}$  cm is charged to potential of 100V. the bubble bursts and falls as a spherical drop. Estimate the potential of the drop. (8 Marks)
- c) a metallic ring of cross-section  $2.5 \text{ cm}^2$ , mean radius 40 cm and relative permeability 1500 is wound uniformly with 300 turns of wire if a current of 1.6 A passes through the wire, find the mean  $\vec{B}$  field and the sensitization in the ring. (8 Marks)



## QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

- a) write down Maxwell's equations in the presence of electric charge  $\rho$  and current density  $J$ .  
(4 Marks)
- b) using equation in (a) above,
- i. derive the wave equations for  $\vec{E}$  and  $\vec{B}$  and show that the wave equations reduce to free wave equations under appropriate or specified conditions. (10 Marks)
- c) derive the continuity equation governing conservation of electromagnetic energy in terms of the pointing vector. (6 Marks)

## QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

- a) i. State Gauss' law in differential form. (2 Marks)
- ii. Using Gauss' law in (a) (i) above, derive Laplace equations. (4 Marks)
- i. Give the boundary conditions for potential  $\varphi(\vec{r})$  with reference to a coaxial cable. (4 Marks)
- ii. Calculate the potential  $\varphi(\vec{r})$  at a point  $\vec{r}$  for the above cable. (6 Marks)
- b) The coaxial cable has an inner and outer conductor of radius  $a = 1.5 \text{ mm}$  and  $b = 3 \text{ mm}$  respectively. The outer conductor is earthed, calculate the potential of the cable at a point  $\vec{r} = 2 \text{ mm}$  from centre of the cable given that potential difference between the inner and outer conductor is  $0.2 \text{ mV}$ . (4 Marks)

## QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)

- a) Show that Maxwell's 4 equations of electrodynamics can be reduced to two coupled equations. (8 Marks)
- b) State the Gauge conditions and show that the Coulomb's Gauge condition applied to reduced Maxwell's equations in (c) above give rise to Poisson equation. (5 Marks)
- c) Consider a rectangular wave guide with internal dimensions of  $a = 2 \text{ cm}$  and  $b = 1 \text{ cm}$ , suppose the frequency of a  $\text{TE}_{mn}$  mode is  $f = 20 \text{ GHz}$  with corresponding vacuum wavelength  $\lambda_0 = 1.5 \text{ cm}$ . Calculate the  $\text{TE}_{mn}$  modes that are accessible. (7 Marks)