

Consider two nearly concentric conducting spherical shells. They have radii  $a$  and  $b$ , as shown. Their centers are misaligned by a small distance,  $\delta$ . Charge  $+Q$  is placed on the outer sphere and  $-Q$  on the inner.

- a. Let  $\delta = 0$ . Calculate the potential  $V(r, \theta, \phi)$  in the three regions (I, II, and III) described below:

For convenience, pick  $V = 0$  at  $r = 0$ .

- I. Inside the outer surface of the small sphere ( $r < a$ ),
- II. Between the spheres ( $a < r < b$ ),
- III. Outside the inner surface of the large sphere ( $r > b$ ).

Suppose the large sphere is offset by a small distance,  $\delta$ , along the  $z$  axis, as shown in the figure. The small sphere remains centered at the origin.

- b. Calculate the electric dipole moment of the system. (It is not  $Q\delta$ .)
- c. To first order in  $\delta$ , the inner surface of the outer sphere is described by the equation,  $r = b + \delta \cos \theta$ . The function that describes the potential in region II must satisfy, at  $r = a$  and  $r = b$ , boundary conditions of the form  $V = v_0 + v_1 \cos \theta$ . Calculate  $v_{0a}$ ,  $v_{1a}$ ,  $v_{0b}$ , and  $v_{1b}$ .
- d. Calculate, to first order in  $\delta$ , the potential  $V(r, \theta, \phi)$  in the three regions described in part (a). If you were unable to determine  $v_{0a}$ ,  $v_{1a}$ ,  $v_{0b}$ , and  $v_{1b}$  in part (c), leave them as symbols in your answer.

