

3.1

Laplace's equation

One of main tasks is to find \vec{E} for given $\rho(\vec{r})$ (Not $\rho(\vec{r}, t)$ now.)

$$\text{Formally, } \vec{E} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int \frac{\hat{r}}{r^2} \rho(\vec{r}') dz'$$

but the integration is usually complicated.

$$\text{one can try } V(\vec{r}) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int \frac{1}{r^2} \rho(\vec{r}') dz' \quad \textcircled{1}$$

and get $\vec{E} = -\vec{\nabla}V$ but again this integral may not be solvable.

The differential form we had was (Poisson eq.)

$$\nabla^2 V = -\frac{\rho}{\epsilon_0}$$

and is mathematically equivalent to $\textcircled{1}$ w/ appropriate boundary conditions.If we are interested in $\nabla^2 V$ at a space point w/o charge at \vec{r} ,

$$\nabla^2 V = 0 \quad (\text{of course we may have charge elsewhere})$$

$$\text{or } \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial z^2} = 0$$

• Laplace eq. in one dimension

$$\frac{d^2 V}{dx^2} = 0 \quad \rightarrow \quad V = mx + b \quad (\text{general sol.})$$

: straight line.

Note: m and b are to be fixed by boundary conditions

$$\text{[Ex)} \quad V(x=1) = 4, \quad V(x=5) = 0$$

$$4 = m + b \quad 0 = 5m + b \quad \rightarrow \quad m = -1, \quad b = 5,$$

$$V(x) = -x + 5 \quad \text{]}$$

Things to note (too obvious?)

1. $V(x) = \frac{1}{2} [V(x+a) + V(x-a)]$

$(\because \frac{1}{2} [m(x+a)+b + m(x-a)+b] = mx+b = V(x))$

$\therefore V(x)$ is the average of $V(x+a)$ and $V(x-a)$.

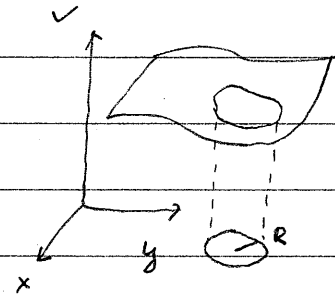
2. No local maxima or minima

Laplace's eq. in two dimensions.

$\frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial y^2} = 0$ (not ordinary diff. eq. anymore)

: no obvious sol. exists in this case.

1. $V(x,y) = \frac{1}{2\pi R} \oint_{\text{circle}} V dq$

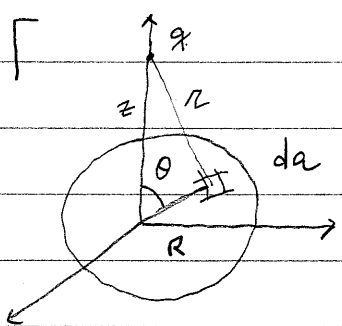


2. V has no local maxima or minima. Extreme values of V must occur at the boundaries

Laplace's eq. in 3 dimensions

1. $V(\vec{r}) = \frac{1}{4\pi R^2} \oint_{\text{sphere}} V da$

2. V can have no local maxima or minima.



The potential at a point on the surface is

$V = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q}{r}$

where $r^2 = z^2 + R^2 - 2zR \cos\theta$
 $(\vec{r} = \vec{z} - \vec{R})$

$$V_{ave} = \frac{1}{4\pi R^2} \oint_{\text{sphere}} V \, da \quad - \sin\theta \, d\theta = d(\cos\theta)$$

$$= \frac{1}{4\pi R^2} \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int [z^2 + R^2 - 2zR\cos\theta]^{-1/2} R^2 \sin\theta \, d\theta \, d\phi$$

$$= \frac{1}{4\pi R^2} \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} R^2 \cdot 2\pi \int [z^2 + R^2 - 2zR\cos\theta]^{-1/2} d(\cos\theta)$$

$$\theta: [0, \pi]$$

$$\cos\theta: [1, -1]$$

$$= \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \cdot \frac{1}{2} \int_{-1}^1 (z^2 + R^2 - 2zRx)^{-1/2} dz \quad \int x^p dx = \frac{1}{p+1} x^{p+1}$$

$$= \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \cdot \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{-\frac{1}{2}+1} \right) (z^2 + R^2 - 2zRx)^{1/2} \cdot \frac{1}{(-2zR)} \Big|_{-1}^1$$

$$= \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \cdot \frac{1}{2zR} (z^2 + R^2 - 2zRx)^{1/2} \Big|_{-1}^1$$

$$= \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \cdot \frac{1}{2zR} [z+R - (z-R)] = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{1}{z}$$

$$\therefore V_{ave} = V(z)!$$

Boundary conditions and Uniqueness Theorems

→ Laplace's eq. does not by itself determine V .

In addition, suitable boundary conditions must be supplied.

First uniqueness theorem: The solution to Laplace's eq. in some volume V is uniquely determined if potential V is specified on the boundary surface S .

Suppose two sol. to Laplace eq.
 $\nabla^2 V_1 = 0$, $\nabla^2 V_2 = 0$ and both of which assume the specified value on the surface.

We define $V_3 \equiv V_1 - V_2$ then $\nabla^2 V_3 = \nabla^2 V_1 - \nabla^2 V_2 = 0$ and $V_3(\text{on } S) = 0$.

→ From "no local maxima/minima, $V_3 = 0$ everywhere."

$$\therefore V_1 = V_2$$

Conductors and the 2nd Uniqueness Theorem

2nd uniqueness theorem:

In a volume V surrounded by conductors and containing a specified charge density ρ , \vec{E} is uniquely determined if the total charge on each conductor is given.

▮ Suppose two fields \vec{E}_1 and \vec{E}_2 satisfy the conditions of the problem.

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{E}_1 = \frac{1}{\epsilon_0} \rho \quad \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{E}_2 = \frac{1}{\epsilon_0} \rho$$

Apply Gauss's law w/a Gaussian surface enclosing each conductor:

$$\oint \vec{E}_1 \cdot d\vec{a} = \frac{1}{\epsilon_0} Q_i \quad \oint \vec{E}_2 \cdot d\vec{a} = \frac{1}{\epsilon_0} Q_i$$

Likewise, for the outer boundary

$$\oint \vec{E}_1 \cdot d\vec{a} = \frac{1}{\epsilon_0} Q_{tot} \quad \oint \vec{E}_2 \cdot d\vec{a} = \frac{1}{\epsilon_0} Q_{tot}$$

Define $\vec{E}_3 \equiv \vec{E}_1 - \vec{E}_2$, $\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{E}_3 = 0$ in the region between conductors

$\oint \vec{E}_3 \cdot d\vec{a} = 0$ over each boundary surface.

$$\text{Now, } \vec{\nabla} \cdot (V_3 \vec{E}_3) = V_3 \underbrace{\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{E}_3}_0 + \vec{E}_3 \cdot (\vec{\nabla} V_3) = -(\vec{E}_3)^2$$

If we use divergence theorem w/ integrating over V

$$\int_V \vec{\nabla} \cdot (V_3 \vec{E}_3) d\tau = \oint V_3 \vec{E}_3 \cdot d\vec{a} = - \int_V (\vec{E}_3)^2 d\tau$$

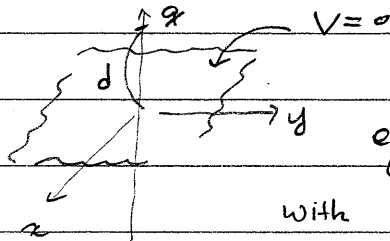
$$= V_3 \oint \vec{E}_3 \cdot d\vec{a}$$

$\underbrace{\quad}_0$ on the surface (V_3 constant)

$$E_3 = 0, \vec{E}_1 = \vec{E}_2!$$

The method of Images

Q: q is held a distance d above an infinite grounded conducting plane. $V = ?$



Mathematically, it is solving Poisson's eq. in $z > 0$ with q at $(0, 0, d)$

with

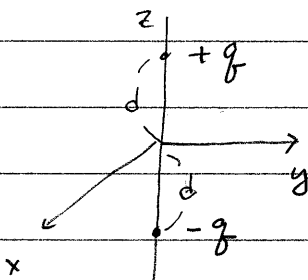
$$1) V = 0 \text{ when } z = 0$$

$$2) V \rightarrow 0 \text{ when } x^2 + y^2 + z^2 \gg d^2$$

Trick:

Let's imagine a situation of

For this configuration



$$V(x, y, z) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left[\frac{q}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + (z-d)^2}} - \frac{q}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + (z+d)^2}} \right]$$

and this satisfies above two boundary conditions $\rightarrow V(x, y, z)$ should be the potential for the original problem (\because uniqueness theorem)

Induced Surface Charge.

We know that
$$\sigma = -\epsilon_0 \frac{\partial V}{\partial n}$$

In this case, $\hat{n} = \hat{z}$. So
$$\sigma = -\epsilon_0 \frac{\partial V}{\partial z} \Big|_{z=0}$$

$$\frac{\partial V}{\partial z} \Big|_{z=0} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left[\frac{-q \cdot 2(z-d)}{2(x^2 + y^2 + (z-d)^2)^{3/2}} + \frac{q \cdot 2(z+d)}{2(x^2 + y^2 + (z+d)^2)^{3/2}} \right] \Big|_{z=0}$$

$$= \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left[\frac{q \cdot d}{(x^2 + y^2 + d^2)^{3/2}} \cdot 2 \right] \quad \therefore \sigma(x, y) = \frac{-q \cdot d}{2\pi(x^2 + y^2 + d^2)^{3/2}}$$

What about total charge?

$Q = -q \frac{z}{d}$ expect

$$Q = \int \sigma da = \int_0^{\infty} \int_{0}^{2\pi} \frac{-q d}{\sqrt{r^2 + d^2}^{3/2}} r dr d\phi$$

$$= (-q d) \int_0^{\infty} (r^2 + d^2)^{-3/2} r dr \left(\int_0^{2\pi} d\phi \right)$$

$$= (q d) \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{r^2 + d^2}} \Big|_0^{\infty} = -q$$

or $(-q d) \int_0^{\infty} (r^2 + d^2)^{-3/2} r dr = (-q d) \int_0^{\pi/2} [d(1 + \tan^2 \theta)]^{-3/2} d \tan \theta d \sec^2 \theta d\theta$

$r = d \tan \theta \quad dr = d \sec^2 \theta d\theta$

$$= (-q d) d^{-3+2} \int_0^{\pi/2} \sec^{-3} \theta \tan \theta \sec^2 \theta d\theta$$

$$= (-q) \int_0^{\pi/2} \cos \theta \cdot \frac{\sin \theta}{\cos \theta} d\theta = (-q) (-\cos \theta) \Big|_0^{\pi/2} = -q$$

• Force and Energy

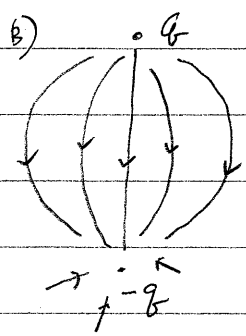
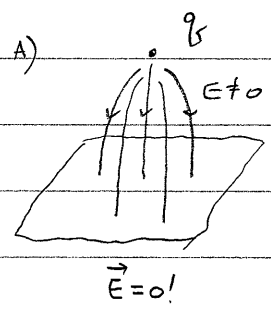
$\vec{F} \downarrow q$

The charge q is attracted toward the plane. Since the potential is same for $+q$ and $-q$ at the distance of (zd)

$\vec{F} = - \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q^2}{(zd)^2} \hat{z}$

V same $\rightarrow E$ same $\rightarrow F$ same

Energy?



We can guess that the right one has twice \vec{E} field so energy will be twice!

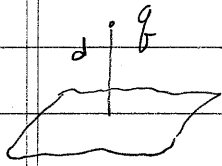
B) The work to assemble two charges

$$W = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q \cdot (-q)}{zd} = - \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q^2}{zd}$$

Work required to bring q in from infinity. Force is $-\frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q^2}{4d^2} \hat{z}$ 3-7

$$A) \quad W = \int_{\infty}^d \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{\ell} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_{\infty}^d \frac{q^2}{4z^2} dz = \frac{q^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \cdot \frac{1}{4} \left(-\frac{1}{z}\right) \Big|_{\infty}^d$$

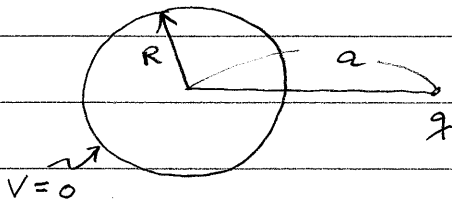
$$= -\frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q^2}{4d}$$



• Other Image Problems

Ex3.2

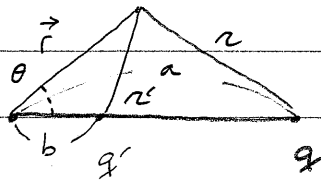
A point charge q is situated a distance a from the center of a grounded conducting sphere (radius R). Potential outside the sphere?



Consider the following situation:

point charge q , another charge $q' = -\frac{R}{a}q$

placing a distance $b = \frac{R^2}{a}$



The potential of this conf. is

$$V(\vec{r}) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left(\frac{q}{r} + \frac{q'}{r'} \right)$$

Now, $V(R) = ?$ Cosine law says

$$r^2 = R^2 + a^2 - 2Ra \cos\theta$$

$$r'^2 = R^2 + b^2 - 2Rb \cos\theta = R^2 + \frac{R^4}{a^2} - 2R \frac{R^2}{a} \cos\theta$$

$$\frac{a^2}{R^2} \cdot r'^2 = a^2 + R^2 - 2Ra \cos\theta = r^2$$

$$\therefore r' = \frac{R}{a} r$$

$$\text{so, } V(R) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left(\frac{q}{R} + \left(-\frac{R}{a}\right)q \cdot \frac{1}{\frac{R}{a}r} \right) = 0.$$

$\therefore V(\vec{r}) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left(\frac{q}{r} + \frac{q'}{r'} \right)$ must be the solution of the problem

Force between the charge and the sphere is

$$F = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q q'}{(a-b)^2} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q \cdot \left(-\frac{R}{a}\right) q}{\left(a - \frac{R^2}{a}\right)^2} \times a^2$$

$$= -\frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q^2 R a}{(a^2 - R^2)^2}$$

3.3

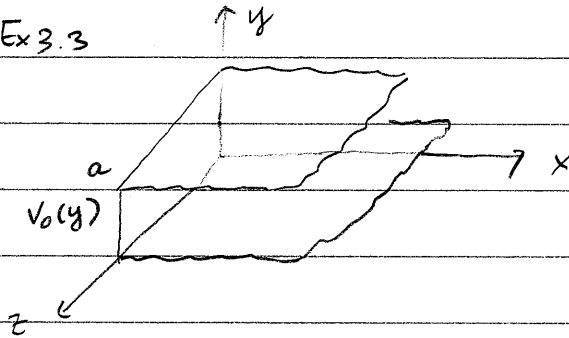
Separation of Variables

Solving Laplace's eq. directly. \rightarrow Using separation of variables

3.3.1

Cartesian coord.

Ex 3.3



Two infinite grounded metal plate:
one at $y=0$, the other at $y=a$

The left end, at $x=0$, is closed off
w/ an infinite strip, insulated from
two plates, at a specific potential
 $V_0(y)$. Potential inside this slot?

This configuration is independent of z . \rightarrow 2-dim.

Problem.

$$\frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial y^2} = 0$$

w/ boundary conditions i) $V=0$ when $y=0$

ii) $V=0$ when $y=a$

iii) $V=V_0(y)$ " $x=0$

iv) $V \rightarrow 0$ as $x \rightarrow \infty$

Let's assume $V(x,y) = X(x) \cdot Y(y)$

$$Y \frac{d^2 X}{dx^2} + X \frac{d^2 Y}{dy^2} = 0 \rightarrow \frac{1}{X} \frac{d^2 X}{dx^2} + \frac{1}{Y} \frac{d^2 Y}{dy^2} = 0$$

This is a form of $f(x) + g(y) = 0$ for all x and y .

$\rightarrow f(x) = C_1$ and $g(y) = C_2$, $C_1 + C_2 = 0!$

Let's assume $C_1 > 0$ (this choice will be clearer later)

3-9

$$\rightarrow \frac{d^2 X}{dx^2} = k^2 X \quad \frac{d^2 Y}{dy^2} = -k^2 Y$$

$$X(x) = A e^{kx} + B e^{-kx}$$

$$Y(y) = C \sin ky + D \cos ky$$

$$\text{so, } V(x,y) = (A e^{kx} + B e^{-kx}) \cdot (C \sin ky + D \cos ky)$$

iv) $V \rightarrow 0$ as $x \rightarrow \infty$ force us $A=0$.

$$\therefore V(x,y) = e^{-kx} (C \sin ky + D \cos ky)$$

i) $V=0$ when $y=0$ force us $D=0$

$$\therefore V(x,y) = C e^{-kx} \sin ky$$

$\Gamma_{n=0}$ not interesting.

ii) $V=0$ when $y=a$ " " $ka = n\pi$ ($n=1,2,3,\dots$)

Now, it is obvious that $C_1 < 0$ will not satisfy iv) at ∞ .

So, separation of variables gives us an infinite family of solutions (one for each n).

Our general sol. becomes

$$V(x,y) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} C_n e^{-n\pi x/a} \sin\left(\frac{n\pi y}{a}\right)$$

Note: we have not used boundary cond (iii) yet!

$$V(0,y) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} C_n \sin\left(\frac{n\pi y}{a}\right) = V_0(y)$$

\hookrightarrow This requirement will decide C_n uniquely? (must be!?)

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} C_n \int_0^a \sin\left(\frac{n\pi y}{a}\right) \sin\left(\frac{n'\pi y}{a}\right) dy = \int_0^a V_0(y) \sin\left(\frac{n'\pi y}{a}\right) dy$$

$$= 0 \text{ if } n \neq n' \\ = \frac{a}{2} \text{ if } n = n' \quad \left(\int_0^a \sin^2\left(\frac{n\pi y}{a}\right) dy = \frac{a}{2} \right) \quad \int_0^a (\sin^2\left(\frac{n\pi y}{a}\right) + \cos^2\left(\frac{n\pi y}{a}\right)) dy = a$$

$$\therefore C_n = \frac{2}{a} \int_0^a V_0(y) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi y}{a}\right) dy$$

so the solution is completely determined on given $V_0(y)$.

Suppose we think of $V_0(y) = V_0 = \text{constant}$

Then $C_n = \frac{2V_0}{a} \int_0^a \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{a}y\right) dy = \frac{2V_0}{a} \cdot \left(\frac{-a}{n\pi}\right) \cos\left(\frac{n\pi}{a}y\right) \Big|_0^a$

$$= \frac{2V_0}{n\pi} (1 - \cos n\pi) = \begin{cases} 0 & n: \text{even} \\ \frac{4V_0}{n\pi} & n: \text{odd} \end{cases}$$

$$\therefore V(x,y) = \frac{4V_0}{\pi} \sum_{n=1,3,5,\dots} \frac{1}{n} e^{-\frac{n\pi}{a}x} \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{a}y\right)$$

This can be written as a closed form: using $\sin\theta = \text{Im}(e^{i\theta})$

$$V(x,y) = \frac{4V_0}{\pi} \text{Im} \sum_{n=1,3,5,\dots} \frac{1}{n} e^{i\left(\frac{n\pi}{a}\right)(y+ix)}$$

$z \equiv e^{i\frac{\pi}{a}(y+ix)}$ gives us

Not so important ≥ 1

$$V(x,y) = \frac{4V_0}{\pi} \text{Im} \sum_{n=1,3,5,\dots} \frac{z^n}{n}$$

Using $\ln(1+z) = z - \frac{1}{2}z^2 + \frac{1}{3}z^3 - \frac{1}{4}z^4 + \dots$

$$\sum_{n=1,3,5,\dots} \frac{z^n}{n} = \frac{1}{2} [\ln(1+z) - \ln(1-z)] = \frac{1}{2} \ln\left(\frac{1+z}{1-z}\right)$$

$$\therefore V(x,y) = \frac{2V_0}{\pi} \text{Im} \left[\ln\left(\frac{1+z}{1-z}\right) \right]$$

$$\frac{1+z}{1-z} = \frac{(1+z)(1-z)^*}{|1-z|^2} = \frac{1-|z|^2 + 2z \text{Im} z}{|1-z|^2}$$

Now, in general, $\text{Im}[\ln(re^{i\theta})] = \theta = \tan^{-1} \frac{\text{Im}}{\text{Re}}$

So, $\text{Im} \left[\ln\left(\frac{1+z}{1-z}\right) \right] = \tan^{-1} \left(\frac{2\text{Im} z}{1-|z|^2} \right)$ is satisfied.

$$2\text{Im} z = 2 \text{Im} e^{i\frac{\pi}{a}(y+ix)} = 2 \cdot \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{a}y\right) e^{-\frac{\pi}{a}x}$$

$$1-|z|^2 = 1 - e^{-2\frac{\pi}{a}x}$$

$$\therefore \frac{2\text{Im} z}{1-|z|^2} = \frac{2 \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{a}y\right) e^{-\frac{\pi}{a}x}}{1 - e^{-2\frac{\pi}{a}x}} = \frac{2 \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{a}y\right)}{e^{\frac{\pi}{a}x} - e^{-\frac{\pi}{a}x}}$$

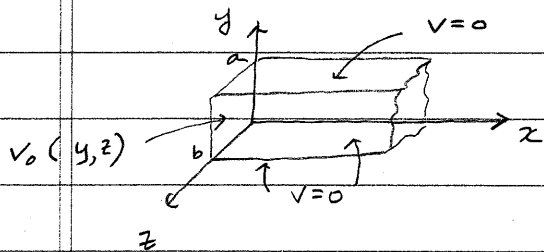
$$= \frac{\sin\left(\frac{\pi y}{a}\right)}{\sinh\left(\frac{\pi x}{a}\right)} \quad \therefore V(x,y) = \frac{2V_0}{\pi} \tan^{-1} \left(\frac{\sin\left(\frac{\pi y}{a}\right)}{\sinh\left(\frac{\pi x}{a}\right)} \right)$$

Ex 3.5

An infinitely long rectangular metal pipe. At $x=0$, $V_0(y, z)$

other metal pipe plane all grounded.

Potential inside the pipe?



Now, this is a 3-dim. Problem.

$$\frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial z^2} = 0 \quad \text{w/ boundaries conditions}$$

Let's begin with

$$V(x, y, z) = X(x) Y(y) Z(z)$$

then, the above Laplace's eq becomes

$$\frac{1}{X} \frac{d^2 X}{dx^2} + \frac{1}{Y} \frac{d^2 Y}{dy^2} + \frac{1}{Z} \frac{d^2 Z}{dz^2} = 0$$

$$\frac{1}{X} \frac{d^2 X}{dx^2} = C_1 \quad \frac{1}{Y} \frac{d^2 Y}{dy^2} = C_2 \quad \frac{1}{Z} \frac{d^2 Z}{dz^2} = C_3, \quad C_1 + C_2 + C_3 = 0$$

We choose $C_1 > 0$, $C_2 < 0$, $C_3 < 0$. (why?)Let's set $C_2 = -k^2$, $C_3 = -l^2$ and $C_1 = k^2 + l^2$. 3 diff. eqns

$$\text{becomes } \frac{d^2 X}{dx^2} = (k^2 + l^2) X \quad \frac{d^2 Y}{dy^2} = -k^2 Y \quad \frac{d^2 Z}{dz^2} = -l^2 Z$$

$$\text{The solutions are } X(x) = A e^{\sqrt{k^2 + l^2} x} + B e^{-\sqrt{k^2 + l^2} x}$$

$$Y(y) = C \sin ky + D \cos ky$$

$$Z(z) = E \sin lz + F \cos lz$$

$$v) : A = 0 \quad i) D = 0 \quad iii) F = 0$$

$$ii) ka = n\pi \quad iv) lb = m\pi \quad : n, m \text{ are positive integers}$$

$$\text{So, } V(x, y, z) = C e^{-\pi \sqrt{(n/a)^2 + (m/b)^2} x} \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{a} y\right) \sin\left(\frac{m\pi}{b} z\right)$$

The most general sol. is the linear comb. of all possible

$$\text{solutions: } V(x, y, z) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} C_{n,m} e^{-\pi \sqrt{(n/a)^2 + (m/b)^2} x} \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{a} y\right) \sin\left(\frac{m\pi}{b} z\right)$$

To obtain $C_{n,m}$, $\times \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{a}y\right) \sin\left(\frac{m\pi}{b}z\right)$ and integrate
on $V(x_0, y, z) = V_0(y, z)$ (vi)

$$\int_0^a \int_0^b V_0(y, z) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{a}y\right) \sin\left(\frac{m\pi}{b}z\right) dy dz$$

$$= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} C_{n,m} \int_0^a \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{a}y\right) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{a}y\right) dy \int_0^b \sin\left(\frac{m\pi}{b}z\right) \sin\left(\frac{m\pi}{b}z\right) dz$$

$$\therefore C_{n,m} = \frac{4}{ab} \int_0^a \int_0^b V_0(y, z) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{a}y\right) \sin\left(\frac{m\pi}{b}z\right) dy dz$$

Now, if $V_0(y, z) = V_0$ (complete constant)

$$C_{n,m} = \frac{4V_0}{ab} \int_0^a \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{a}y\right) \sin\left(\frac{m\pi}{b}z\right) dy dz$$

$$= \frac{16V_0}{\pi^2 nm}$$

$$\therefore V(x, y, z) = \frac{16V_0}{\pi^2} \sum_{n,m=1,3,5}^{\infty} \frac{1}{nm} e^{-\pi \sqrt{\left(\frac{n}{a}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{m}{b}\right)^2} x} \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{a}y\right) \sin\left(\frac{m\pi}{b}z\right)$$

Spherical Coordinates

Laplace eq. in spherical coord. ? (Can or should you remember this?)

$$\frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left(r^2 \frac{\partial V}{\partial r} \right) + \frac{1}{r^2 \sin \theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \left(\sin \theta \frac{\partial V}{\partial \theta} \right) + \frac{1}{r^2 \sin^2 \theta} \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial \phi^2} = 0$$

Suppose our problem has azimuthal symmetry.

$\rightarrow V = V(r, \theta)$ not $V(r, \theta, \phi)$

$$\text{So } \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left(r^2 \frac{\partial V}{\partial r} \right) + \frac{1}{\sin \theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \left(\sin \theta \frac{\partial V}{\partial \theta} \right) = 0.$$

Again, separation of variables:

$$V(r, \theta) = R(r) \Theta(\theta)$$

$$\frac{1}{V} \times \underbrace{\frac{1}{R} \frac{d}{dr} \left(r^2 \frac{dR}{dr} \right)}_{\text{depends only on } r} + \underbrace{\frac{1}{\Theta \sin \theta} \frac{d}{d\theta} \left(\sin \theta \frac{d\Theta}{d\theta} \right)}_{\text{depends only on } \theta} = 0$$

So each term must be a constant.

Let's take a look at the angular part first.

$$\frac{1}{\sin\theta} \frac{d}{d\theta} \left(\sin\theta \frac{d\Theta}{d\theta} \right) + C\Theta = 0$$

Mathematically, this is known as Legendre eq. when

$$C = \ell(\ell+1) \text{ and } \ell = 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

$$\text{so } \frac{d}{d\theta} \left(\sin\theta \frac{d\Theta}{d\theta} \right) + \ell(\ell+1) \sin\theta \Theta = 0$$

and sol. to this diff. eq. are Legendre polynomials

$$\Theta(\theta) = P_\ell(\cos\theta)$$

$$\text{with the definition } P_\ell(x) \equiv \frac{1}{2^\ell \ell!} \left(\frac{d}{dz} \right)^\ell (x^2-1)^\ell$$

\therefore Radial part becomes

$$\frac{1}{R} \frac{d}{dr} \left(r^2 \frac{dR}{dr} \right) = \ell(\ell+1) \text{ or } \frac{d}{dr} \left(r^2 \frac{dR}{dr} \right) = \ell(\ell+1) R$$

General solution? Let's try

$$\text{i) } R \propto r^\ell$$

$$\frac{d}{dr} (r^2 \cdot \ell r^{\ell-1}) = \frac{d}{dr} (\ell r^{\ell+1}) = \ell(\ell+1) r^\ell = \ell(\ell+1) R!$$

$$\text{ii) } R \propto r^{-(\ell+1)}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dr} (r^2 (-)(\ell+1) r^{-(\ell+2)}) &= -\frac{d}{dr} ((\ell+1) r^{-\ell}) \\ &= (\ell+1) \ell r^{-(\ell+1)} = \ell(\ell+1) R \end{aligned}$$

So the general sol. becomes

$$R = A r^\ell + \frac{B}{r^{\ell+1}}$$

\therefore With azimuthal symmetry, the most general sol. to Laplace's eq. is

$$V(r, \theta) = \sum_{\ell=0}^{\infty} \left(A_\ell r^\ell + \frac{B_\ell}{r^{\ell+1}} \right) P_\ell(\cos\theta)$$

Ex 3.6

The potential $V_0(\theta)$ is specified on the surface of a hollow sphere, radius R . Potential inside?

In this case, $B_\ell = 0 \quad \forall \ell$ (otherwise V blows up @ origin)

$$\therefore V(r, \theta) = \sum_{\ell=0}^{\infty} A_\ell r^\ell P_\ell(\cos\theta)$$

$$\text{At } r=R, \quad V(R, \theta) = \sum_{\ell=0}^{\infty} A_\ell R^\ell P_\ell(\cos\theta) = V_0(\theta)$$

Legendre polynomials have following orthonormalities:

$$\int_{-1}^1 P_\ell(x) P_{\ell'}(x) dx = \int_0^\pi P_\ell(\cos\theta) P_{\ell'}(\cos\theta) \sin\theta d\theta$$

$$x = \cos\theta \quad [-1, 1] \rightarrow [\pi, 0]$$

$$dx = -\sin\theta d\theta$$

$$= \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } \ell' \neq \ell \\ \frac{2}{2\ell+1} & \text{if } \ell' = \ell \end{cases}$$

Therefore

$$A_\ell R^\ell \frac{2}{2\ell+1} = \int_0^\pi V_0(\theta) P_\ell(\cos\theta) \sin\theta d\theta$$

and in principle this gives the all A_ℓ 's \rightarrow sol. to Laplace's eq

For instance,

$$V_0(\theta) = R \sin^2\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right), \quad R = \text{constant}$$

$$\int_0^\pi R \sin^2\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right) P_\ell(\cos\theta) \sin\theta d\theta? \quad \text{How do we solve it?}$$

$$\text{The trick is: } P_0(x) = 1, \quad P_1(x) = x \quad \sin^2\frac{\theta}{2} = 1 - \cos\theta$$

$$\therefore V_0(\theta) = \frac{R}{2} (1 - \cos\theta)$$

$$= \frac{R}{2} (P_0(\cos\theta) - P_1(\cos\theta))$$

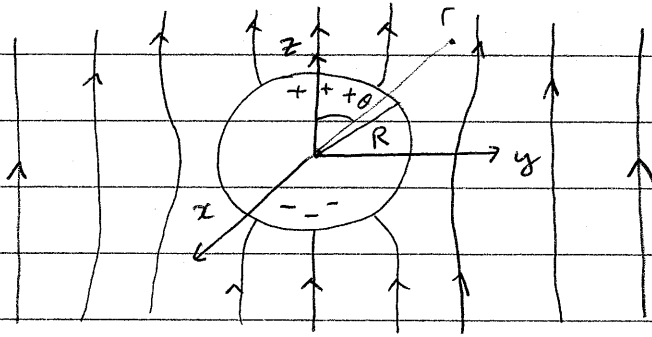
$$\therefore A_0 = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{R}{2} \underbrace{\int_0^\pi P_0^2(\cos\theta) \sin\theta d\theta}_{=2} = \frac{R}{2}$$

$$A_1 = \frac{2+1}{2R} \cdot \frac{R}{2} \underbrace{\int_0^\pi P_1^2(\cos\theta) \sin\theta d\theta}_{=2} = -\frac{R}{2R}$$

$$\therefore V(r, \theta) = \frac{R}{2} \left[r^0 P_0(\cos\theta) - \frac{r^1}{R} P_1(\cos\theta) \right] = \frac{R}{2} \left(1 - \frac{r}{R} \cos\theta \right)$$

Ex 3.8

An uncharged metal sphere (radius = R) in uniform electric field $\vec{E} = E_0 \hat{z}$. V at the outside sphere?



Note: the sphere is equipotential.

Let's set V on the surface

is zero $V(r=R) = 0$

Far from sphere, the field is $E_0 \hat{z}$, $\therefore V \rightarrow -E_0 z + C$

at far from sphere.

Boundary conditions for this problem:

i) $V = 0$ when $r = R$

ii) $V \rightarrow -E_0 r \cos\theta$ for $r \gg R$ (we can always neglect constant consistently)

We can start from

$$V(r, \theta) = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \left(A_l r^l + \frac{B_l}{r^{l+1}} \right) P_l(\cos\theta)$$

Applying i) gives

$$0 = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \left(A_l R^l + \frac{B_l}{R^{l+1}} \right) P_l(\cos\theta)$$

$$\therefore A_l R^l + \frac{B_l}{R^{l+1}} = 0 \text{ for all } l$$

$$B_l = -A_l R^{2l+1} \text{ must be satisfied } \forall l$$

$$\hookrightarrow V(r, \theta) = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} A_l \left(r^l - \frac{R^{2l+1}}{r^{l+1}} \right) P_l(\cos\theta)$$

For $r \gg R$, $\left| \frac{R^{2l+1}}{r^{l+1}} \right| \ll r^l$. So ii) requires that

$$\sum_{l=0}^{\infty} A_l r^l P_l(\cos\theta) = -E_0 r \cos\theta = -E_0 r P_1(\cos\theta)$$

$\therefore A_1 = -E_0$ and all other A_l 's zero!

$$V(r, \theta) = (-E_0) \left(r - \frac{R^3}{r^2} \right) \cos \theta$$

→ 1st term: $-E_0 r \cos \theta$ nothing but ^{from} the external field
 → 2nd term: $E_0 \frac{R^3}{r^2} \cos \theta$: contribution from the induced charge.

Induced charge density?

$$\sigma(\theta) = -\epsilon_0 \left. \frac{\partial V}{\partial r} \right|_{r=R} = -\epsilon_0 (-E_0) \left(1 + 2 \frac{R^3}{r^3} \right) \cos \theta \Big|_{r=R}$$

$$= \epsilon_0 E_0 (3) \cos \theta \quad \therefore \sigma > 0, \theta \in [0, \pi/2]$$

$$\sigma < 0 \quad \theta \in [\pi/2, \pi]$$

(*)

Visualizing \vec{E} ?

$$V(x, y, z) = -E_0 \left(r - \frac{R^3}{r^2} \right) \cos \theta$$

$$\left. \frac{\partial V}{\partial y} \right|_{x=0} = E_0 R^3 \left(-\frac{3}{2} \right) (y^2 + z^2)^{-5/2} \cdot 2y = -E_0 \left(r - \frac{R^3}{r^2} \right) \frac{z}{r}$$

$$= -E_0 z + E_0 R^3 \frac{1}{(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{3/2}}$$

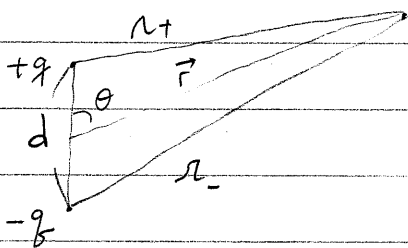
$$= -E_0 R^3 3zy (y^2 + z^2)^{-5/2}$$

$$\left. \frac{\partial V}{\partial z} \right|_{x=0} = -E_0 + E_0 R^3 \left[\frac{(y^2 + z^2)^{3/2} - z \cdot \frac{3}{2} (y^2 + z^2)^{1/2} \cdot 2z}{(y^2 + z^2)^3} \right]$$

3.4 Multipole Expansion

• Approximate Potentials at large distances

Ex: electric dipole



$$V(\vec{r}) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left(\frac{q}{r_+} - \frac{q}{r_-} \right)$$

$$r_{\pm}^2 = r^2 + \left(\frac{d}{2} \right)^2 \mp r d \cos \theta$$

$$= r^2 \left(1 \mp \frac{d}{r} \cos \theta + \frac{d^2}{4r^2} \right)$$

When $r \gg d$, $\frac{1}{r_{\pm}} \approx \frac{1}{r} \left(1 \mp \frac{d}{r} \cos \theta \right)^{-1/2}$

$$\therefore \frac{1}{r_+} - \frac{1}{r_-} \approx \frac{d}{r^2} \cos \theta \quad \text{is obtained.}$$



$$c^2 = a^2 + b^2 - 2ab \cos \theta$$

$$\therefore V(\vec{r}) \approx \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q d \cos\theta}{r^2} \quad : \text{dipole potential.}$$

cf) +.

$$V \sim \frac{1}{r}$$

(monopoles)

.+

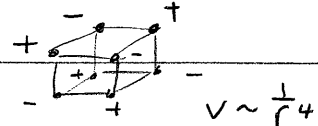
$$V \sim \frac{1}{r^2}$$

dipole

+ -

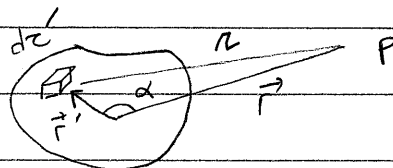
$$V \sim \frac{1}{r^3}$$

quadrupole



octupole

• Now, let's develop a systematic expansion



The potential at \vec{r} is given by

$$V(\vec{r}) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int \frac{1}{r} \rho(\vec{r}') d\tau'$$

Using the law of cosines,

$$r^2 = r'^2 + r^2 - 2rr' \cos\alpha = r^2 \left[1 + \left(\frac{r'}{r}\right)^2 - 2\left(\frac{r'}{r}\right) \cos\alpha \right]$$

If we define $\epsilon \equiv \left(\frac{r'}{r}\right) (1 - 2\cos\alpha)$, r becomes

$$r = r \sqrt{1 + \epsilon} \quad \text{When } P \text{ is well outside, } (r \gg r')$$

$$\epsilon \ll 1, \text{ and } \frac{1}{r} = \frac{1}{r} (1 + \epsilon)^{-1/2} = \frac{1}{r} \left(1 - \frac{1}{2}\epsilon + \frac{3}{8}\epsilon^2 - \dots \right)$$

$$\text{or, } \frac{1}{r} = \frac{1}{r} \left[1 - \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{r'}{r}\right) (1 - 2\cos\alpha) + \frac{3}{8} \left(\frac{r'}{r}\right)^2 (1 - 2\cos\alpha)^2 - \dots \right]$$

$$= \frac{1}{r} \left[1 + \left(\frac{r'}{r}\right) \cos\alpha + \left(\frac{r'}{r}\right)^2 \left(\frac{3\cos^2\alpha - 1}{2} \right) + \dots \right]$$

$$= \frac{1}{r} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{r'}{r}\right)^n P_n(\cos\alpha)$$

Legendre polynomials

$$\therefore V(\vec{r}) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{r^{(n+1)}} \int (r')^n P_n(\cos\alpha) \rho(\vec{r}') d\tau'$$

• The Monopole and Dipole Terms.

When $n=0$,

$$V(r) \text{ has } \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{1}{r} \int P_0 \rho(\vec{r}') dz' = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q}{r}$$

and is called the monopole term. This is zero if $\int \rho dz'$

The next term is ($n=1$)

$$\frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{1}{r^2} \int r' P_1(\cos\alpha) \rho(\vec{r}') dz'$$

$$r' \cos\alpha = \hat{r} \cdot \vec{r}' \cos\alpha$$

$$V_{\text{dip}}(\vec{r}) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{1}{r^2} \hat{r} \cdot \int \vec{r}' \rho(\vec{r}') dz' \equiv \hat{r} \cdot \vec{p} \quad \text{dipole moment}$$

$$V_{\text{dip}}(\vec{r}) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{\vec{p} \cdot \hat{r}}{r^2}$$

• \vec{E} of a dipole

$$V_{\text{dip}}(\vec{r}) = \frac{\hat{r} \cdot \vec{p}}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2} = \frac{p \cos\theta}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2}$$

$$E_r = - \frac{\partial V}{\partial r} = (-) \frac{p \cos\theta}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \cdot (-2) r^{-3} = \frac{2p \cos\theta}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^3}$$

$$E_\theta = - \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial V}{\partial \theta} = \frac{p \sin\theta}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^3}$$

$$E_\phi = - \frac{1}{r \sin\theta} \frac{\partial V}{\partial \phi} = 0$$

$$\therefore \vec{E}_{\text{dip}}(r, \theta) = \frac{p}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^3} (2 \cos\theta \hat{r} + \sin\theta \hat{\theta})$$