

3.5 A hollow sphere of inner radius  $a$  has the potential specified on its surface to be  $\Phi = V(\theta, \phi)$ . Prove the equivalence of the following two expressions for the potential:

$$a) \Phi(\bar{x}) = \frac{a(a^2 - r^2)}{4\pi} \int \frac{V(\theta', \phi')}{(r^2 + a^2 - 2ar \cos \gamma)^{3/2}} d\Omega'$$

$$\text{where } \cos \gamma = \cos \theta \cos \theta' + \sin \theta \sin \theta' \cos(\phi - \phi')$$

$$b) \Phi(\bar{x}) = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-l}^l A_{lm} \left(\frac{r}{a}\right)^l Y_{lm}(\theta, \phi)$$

$$\text{where } A_{lm} = \int d\Omega' Y_{lm}^*(\theta', \phi') V(\theta', \phi')$$

Expression (a) was derived in § 2.6 from the Green f'n

$$G(\bar{x}, \bar{x}') = \frac{1}{|\bar{x} - \bar{x}'|} - \frac{a}{x' |\bar{x} - \frac{a^2}{x'^2} \bar{x}'|}$$

for the potential inside a sphere of radius  $a$ .

Expanding in spherical harmonics, from (3.70),

$$\frac{1}{|\bar{x} - \bar{x}'|} = 4\pi \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-l}^l \frac{1}{2l+1} \frac{r_<^l}{r_>^{l+1}} Y_{lm}^*(\theta', \phi') Y_{lm}(\theta, \phi)$$

In our application,  $\bar{x}'$  will lie on the sphere, so  $r < r' = a$ ,  
so  $r_< = r$ ,  $r_> = r'$ .

$$\frac{a}{x' |\bar{x} - \frac{a^2}{x'^2} \bar{x}'|} = \frac{4\pi a}{r'} \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-l}^l \frac{1}{2l+1} \frac{r_<^l}{r_>^{l+1}} Y_{lm}^*(\theta', \phi') Y_{lm}(\theta, \phi)$$

In our application,  $r_< = r$ ,  $r_> = \frac{a^2}{r'^2} r' = a^2/r'$

3.5, cont'd

Given that there is no exterior charge distribution,  $\rho = 0$ , we have

$$\Phi(\bar{x}) = -\frac{1}{4\pi} \int_S \Phi(\bar{x}') \frac{\partial G(\bar{x}, \bar{x}')}{\partial n'} da'$$

Here, for  $\bar{x}'$  on the ~~interior~~<sup>boundary</sup> sphere  $S$ ,

$$G(\bar{x}, \bar{x}') = 4\pi \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-l}^l \frac{1}{2l+1} \left[ \frac{r^l}{r^{l+1}} - \frac{a}{r} \frac{r^l}{(a^2/r')^{l+1}} \right] Y_{lm}^*(\theta', \varphi')$$

$$= 4\pi \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-l}^l \frac{1}{2l+1} \left[ \frac{r^l}{r^{l+1}} - \frac{1}{a} \left( \frac{r r'}{a^2} \right)^l \right] Y_{lm}^*(\theta', \varphi') Y_{lm}(\theta, \varphi)$$

$$\frac{\partial G}{\partial n'} = + \frac{\partial G}{\partial r'} \quad (\text{since normal points outward})$$

$$= 4\pi \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-l}^l \frac{1}{2l+1} \left[ -\frac{(l+1)r^l}{r^{l+2}} - \frac{l}{a} \left( \frac{r}{a^2} \right)^l r^{l-1} \right]$$

$$\cdot Y_{lm}^*(\theta', \varphi') Y_{lm}(\theta, \varphi)$$

$$\frac{\partial G}{\partial n'} \Big|_{r'=a} = 4\pi \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-l}^l \frac{1}{2l+1} \left[ -\frac{(l+1)r^l}{a^{l+2}} - l \frac{r^l}{a^{l+2}} \right] Y_{lm}^*(\theta', \varphi') Y_{lm}(\theta, \varphi)$$

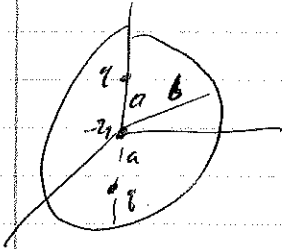
$$= -4\pi \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-l}^l \frac{r^l}{a^{l+2}} Y_{lm}^*(\theta', \varphi') Y_{lm}(\theta, \varphi)$$

$$\Rightarrow \Phi(\bar{x}) = -\frac{1}{4\pi} (-4\pi) \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-l}^l \int V(\theta', \varphi') \frac{r^l}{a^{l+2}} Y_{lm}^*(\theta', \varphi') Y_{lm}(\theta, \varphi) d\Omega'$$

$$= + \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-l}^l \left[ \int V(\theta', \varphi') Y_{lm}^*(\theta', \varphi') d\Omega' \right] \left( \frac{r}{a} \right)^l Y_{lm}(\theta, \varphi)$$

matching (b)

3.7 Three point charges  $(q, -2q, q)$  are located in a straight line with ~~separation~~ separation  $a$  and with the middle charge  $(-2q)$  at the origin of a grounded conducting spherical shell of radius  $b$ .



a) Write down the potential of the three charges in the absence of the grounded sphere. Find the limiting form of the potential as  $a \rightarrow 0$ , but the product  $qa^2 = Q$  remains finite. Write this latter answer in spherical coordinates.

$$\Phi(\vec{x}) = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left[ \frac{1}{|\vec{x} - a\hat{z}|} - \frac{2}{|\vec{x}|} + \frac{1}{|\vec{x} + a\hat{z}|} \right]$$

For small  $a$ ,

$$\frac{1}{|\vec{x} - a\hat{z}|} = \frac{1}{|\vec{x}|} - a\hat{z} \cdot \nabla \frac{1}{|\vec{x}|} + \frac{1}{2!} (a\hat{z})_i (a\hat{z})_j \partial_i \partial_j \frac{1}{|\vec{x}|} + \mathcal{O}(a^3)$$

$$= \frac{1}{|\vec{x}|} - a \frac{z}{|\vec{x}|^3} + \frac{a^2}{2!} \left( -\frac{1}{|\vec{x}|^3} + \frac{3z^2}{|\vec{x}|^5} \right) + \mathcal{O}(a^3)$$

$$\frac{1}{|\vec{x} - a\hat{z}|} + \frac{1}{|\vec{x} + a\hat{z}|} = \frac{2}{|\vec{x}|} + a^2 \left( -\frac{1}{|\vec{x}|^3} + \frac{3z^2}{|\vec{x}|^5} \right) + \mathcal{O}(a^4)$$

$$\Rightarrow \Phi(\vec{x}) = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left[ a^2 \left( -\frac{1}{|\vec{x}|^3} + \frac{3z^2}{|\vec{x}|^5} \right) + \mathcal{O}(a^4) \right]$$

$$\rightarrow \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left[ -\frac{1}{|\vec{x}|^3} + \frac{3z^2}{|\vec{x}|^5} \right]$$

$$= \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left[ -\frac{1}{r^3} + \frac{3\cos^2\theta}{r^3} \right]$$

$$= \frac{Q}{2\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{1}{r^3} P_2(\cos\theta)$$

3.7, cont'd

b) The presence of the grounded sphere of radius  $b$  alters the potential for  $r < b$ . The added potential can be viewed as caused by the surface-charge density induced on the inner surface at  $r = b$  or by image charges located at  $r > b$ . Use linear superposition to satisfy the boundary conditions and find the potential everywhere inside the sphere for  $r < a$  and  $r > a$ . Show that in the limit  $a \rightarrow 0$ ,

$$\Phi(r, \theta, \phi) \rightarrow \frac{Q}{2\pi\epsilon_0 r^3} \left[ 1 - \frac{r^5}{b^5} \right] P_2(\cos \theta)$$

Recall for a sphere of radius  $b$ , from § 2.6,

$$G(\bar{x}, \bar{x}') = \frac{1}{|\bar{x} - \bar{x}'|} - \frac{b}{x' |\bar{x} - \frac{b^2}{x'^2} \bar{x}'|}$$

and the expression (3.38)

$$\frac{1}{|\bar{x} - \bar{x}'|} = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \frac{r^l}{r'^{l+1}} P_l(\cos \gamma)$$

Here, the potential due to the three point charges inside the sphere is

$$\Phi(\bar{x}) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left[ q G(\bar{x}, a\hat{z}) - 2q G(\bar{x}, 0) + q G(\bar{x}, -a\hat{z}) \right]$$

3.7 b), cont'd

Since the point charges all lie along the  $z$  axis,  $\gamma = \theta$  or  $\pi - \theta$ , so we expand

$$G(\bar{x}, a\hat{z}) = \frac{1}{|\bar{x} - a\hat{z}|} - \frac{b}{a|\bar{x} - \frac{b^2}{a^2}a\hat{z}|}$$

$$= \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \frac{r_l^l}{r_l^{l+1}} P_l(\cos \theta) - \frac{b}{a} \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \frac{r_l^l}{r_l^{l+1}} P_l(\cos \theta)$$

$$\hookrightarrow r_l = \max(r, a)$$

$$\hookrightarrow r_l = \max(r, b^2/a)$$

Since  $b > r$  &  $b/a > 1$ ,  
 $b(b/a) > r$

$$= \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \frac{r_l^l}{r_l^{l+1}} P_l(\cos \theta) - \frac{b}{a} \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \frac{r_l^l}{(b^2/a)^{l+1}} P_l(\cos \theta)$$

$$G(\bar{x}, -a\hat{z}) = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \frac{r_l^l}{r_l^{l+1}} P_l(\underbrace{\cos(\pi - \theta)}_{= -\cos \theta}) - \frac{b}{a} \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \frac{r_l^l}{(b^2/a)^{l+1}} P_l(\underbrace{\cos(\pi - \theta)}_{= -\cos \theta})$$

3.7 b), cont'd

Computing  $G(x, 0)$  can be slightly more subtle, since  $x' = 0$ ,

*think this through.*

Let's quickly return to ~~the method of images~~.

For a point charge at  $y$ ,

$$G(x, y) = \frac{1}{|x - y|} - \frac{b/y}{|x - \frac{b^2}{y}|}$$

$$= \frac{1}{|x - y|} - \frac{b}{|yx - b^2|}$$

so as  $y = |y| \rightarrow 0$ ,

$$G(x, y) \rightarrow \frac{1}{|x|} - \frac{b}{|-b^2|} = \frac{1}{|x|} - \frac{1}{b}$$

so if our charge is at the origin, then to get  $\Phi = 0$  on the sphere, we just shift  $\Phi$  by a constant.

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3.7 b), cont'd

$$\Phi(\bar{x}) = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left[ G(\bar{x}, a\hat{z}) - 2G(\bar{x}, 0) + G(\bar{x}, -a\hat{z}) \right]$$

$$= \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left[ \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \frac{r_{<}^l}{r_{>}^{l+1}} (1+(-)^l) P_l(\cos\theta) - \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \frac{(ra)^l}{b^{2l+1}} (1+(-)^l) P_l(\cos\theta) - 2\left(\frac{1}{r} - \frac{1}{b}\right) \right]$$

$$= \frac{q}{2\pi\epsilon_0} \left[ \sum_{l \text{ even}} \frac{r_{<}^l}{r_{>}^{l+1}} P_l(\cos\theta) - \sum_{l \text{ even}} \frac{(ra)^l}{b^{2l+1}} P_l(\cos\theta) - \frac{1}{r} + \frac{1}{b} \right]$$

$$r_{>} = \max(a, r)$$

$$r_{<} = \min(a, r)$$

3.7 b), cont'd

Now, expand for small  $a$ :

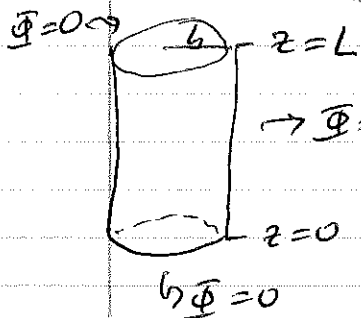
$$\Phi(\bar{x}) = \frac{q}{2\pi\epsilon_0} \left[ \cancel{\frac{1}{r}} P_0(\cos\theta) + \frac{a^2}{r^3} P_2(\cos\theta) - \cancel{\frac{1}{5}} P_0(\cos\theta) - \frac{(ra)^2}{5^5} P_2(\cos\theta) - \cancel{\frac{1}{r}} + \cancel{\frac{1}{5}} + O(a^4) \right]$$

$$= \frac{qa^2}{2\pi\epsilon_0} \left[ \frac{1}{r^3} \cancel{1} - \frac{r^2}{5^5} \right] P_2(\cos\theta) + O(a^4)$$

$$= \frac{Q}{2\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{1}{r^3} \left( 1 - \frac{r^5}{5^5} \right) P_2(\cos\theta) + \dots$$



3.9 A hollow right circular cylinder of radius  $b$  has its axis coincident with the  $z$  axis and its ends at  $z=0, L$ . The potential on the ends is zero, while the potential on the side is  $V(\phi, z)$ . Using the appropriate separation of variables in cylindrical ~~coord~~ coordinates, find a series solution for the potential anywhere inside the cylinder.



$\Phi = 0$  on ends

$\rightarrow \Phi = V(\phi, z)$

$$\nabla^2 \Phi = \frac{\partial^2 \Phi}{\partial \rho^2} + \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial \rho} + \frac{1}{\rho^2} \frac{\partial^2 \Phi}{\partial \phi^2} + \frac{\partial^2 \Phi}{\partial z^2}$$

$$\Phi = R(\rho) Q(\phi) Z(z)$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{Z} \frac{d^2 Z}{dz^2} = \text{constant}$$

$\eta = +k^2$ , then sol's  $\propto e^{\pm kz}$ ,  
but cannot vanish at both  $z=0$  &  $z=L$ ,  
or, instead, take  
 $= -k^2$ , so sol's  $\propto e^{\pm ikz}$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{Q} \frac{d^2 Q}{d\phi^2} = -m^2 \Rightarrow Q(\phi) \propto e^{\pm im\phi}$$

Require  $Q(\phi + 2\pi) = Q(\phi) \Rightarrow m$  an integer

$$\frac{d^2 R}{d\rho^2} + \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{dR}{d\rho} - \left(k^2 + \frac{m^2}{\rho^2}\right) R = 0$$

$\Rightarrow R(\rho) \propto I_m(k\rho), K_m(k\rho)$  (modified Bessel f's)

Since we need the sol's to be well-behaved at  $\rho=0$ , only  $I_m(k\rho)$  can contribute.

3.9, cont'd

Also note that  $\Phi(z=0) = \Phi(z=L) = 0$  forces

$$z \propto \sin\left(\frac{n\pi z}{L}\right) \text{ for some integer } n, \text{ i.e., } k = \frac{n\pi}{L}$$

Thus, the general solution satisfying  $\Phi(z=0) = \Phi(z=L) = 0$  for the potential inside the cylinder is of the form

$$\Phi(\rho, \phi, z) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} (A_{mn} \sin m\phi + B_{mn} \cos m\phi) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi z}{L}\right) I_m\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\rho\right)$$

Next, require

$$V(\phi, z) = \Phi(\rho, \phi, z)|_{\rho=b}$$

$$= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} (A_{mn} \sin m\phi + B_{mn} \cos m\phi) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi z}{L}\right) I_m\left(\frac{n\pi b}{L}\right)$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{aligned} A_{mn} &= \frac{1}{\pi} \frac{2}{L} \frac{1}{I_m\left(\frac{n\pi b}{L}\right)} \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi \int_0^L dz V(\phi, z) \sin m\phi \sin \frac{n\pi z}{L} \\ B_{mn} &= \frac{1}{\pi} \frac{2}{L} \frac{1}{I_m\left(\frac{n\pi b}{L}\right)} \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi \int_0^L dz V(\phi, z) \cos m\phi \sin \frac{n\pi z}{L} \end{aligned}$$