

Warm-Up for March 7th, 2022

Dr. Jordan Hanson - Whittier College Dept. of Physics and Astronomy

March 7, 2022

1 Memory Bank

1. In two dimensions, solutions to the Laplacian at coordinates (x, y) are equal to the average value on a circle of radius R centered around (x, y) :

$$V_{\text{ave}} = V(x, y) = \frac{1}{2\pi R} \oint_{\text{circle}} V dl \quad (1)$$

2. Obtaining voltage from field: $V(\mathbf{r}) = - \int_{\mathcal{O}}^{\mathbf{r}} \mathbf{E} \cdot d\mathbf{l}$

2 Solutions to the Laplacian for Potential

1. Consider the following function of s in cylindrical coordinates:

$$V(s) = V_0 \left(\frac{\sin(s)}{s} \right) \quad (2)$$

Note that $V(0) = V_0$. Using Eq. 1, calculate the average value of $V(s)$ on a circle of radius $R = \pi$, centered on $s = 0$. Remark on the viability of Eq. 2 as a solution to Laplace's equation.

2. Recall the example of the neutral coaxial cable from the homework (Fig. 1). (a) Use Gauss' law to find the field \mathbf{E} for $a < s < b$ in cylindrical coordinates. (b) Integrate the field to find the potential for $a < s < b$. (c) Following Eq. 1, compute the average potential over a circle of radius $s = a$. Does Eq. 1 hold? Why or why not?

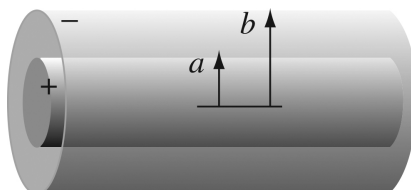


Figure 1: Figure 2.26 from the text, depicting a model for a neutral coaxial cable with static charge.