

1. Let  $z+$  direction be pointing from the center of the sphere to the charge  $q$ . Let  $\Phi_{\text{int}}$  and  $\Phi_{\text{ext}}$  be the interior and exterior potential of the sphere. Since there are no charge in the interior region,  $\Phi_{\text{int}}$  must be solution to the Laplace equation. Moreover, given the cylindrical symmetry and the fact that the point  $r = 0$  is in the interior region,  $\Phi_{\text{int}}$  must have the form

$$\Phi_{\text{int}} = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} A_l r^l P_l(\cos \theta) \quad (1)$$

For the exterior, by linear superposition, we can write  $\Phi_{\text{ext}}$  as the sum of point charge potential from  $q$ , plus a solution of Laplace equation that doesn't involve singularity, i.e.,

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi_{\text{ext}} &= \left[ \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} B_l r^{-(l+1)} P_l(\cos \theta) \right] + \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x} - d\hat{\mathbf{z}}|} \\ &= \left[ \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} B_l r^{-(l+1)} P_l(\cos \theta) \right] + \left[ \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \frac{r_{<}^l}{r_{>}^{l+1}} P_l(\cos \theta) \right] \\ &= \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \left[ B_l r^{-(l+1)} + \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{r_{<}^l}{r_{>}^{l+1}} \right] P_l(\cos \theta) \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

where  $r_{<}$  and  $r_{>}$  represent the smaller and greater between  $r$  and  $d$ .

Now we impose the boundary conditions

$$\text{tangential } E : \quad \left. \frac{\partial \Phi_{\text{int}}}{\partial \theta} \right|_{r=a} = \left. \frac{\partial \Phi_{\text{ext}}}{\partial \theta} \right|_{r=a} \quad (3)$$

$$\text{normal } D : \quad \epsilon \left. \frac{\partial \Phi_{\text{int}}}{\partial r} \right|_{r=a} = \epsilon_0 \left. \frac{\partial \Phi_{\text{ext}}}{\partial r} \right|_{r=a} \quad (4)$$

(3) indicates

$$\sum_{l=0}^{\infty} A_l a^l P'_l(\cos \theta) (-\sin \theta) = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \left[ B_l a^{-(l+1)} + \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{a^l}{d^{l+1}} \right] P'_l(\cos \theta) (-\sin \theta) \quad (5)$$

which, by the orthogonality of  $P_l^m(x)$  (here  $m = 1$ ), requires for all  $l$ :

$$A_l a^l = B_l a^{-(l+1)} + \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{a^l}{d^{l+1}} \quad (6)$$

(4) indicates (letting  $\lambda \equiv \epsilon/\epsilon_0$ )

$$\lambda \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} A_l l a^{l-1} P_l(\cos \theta) = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \left[ -B_l (l+1) a^{-(l+2)} + \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{l a^{l-1}}{d^{l+1}} \right] P_l(\cos \theta) \quad (7)$$

which requires for all  $l$ :

$$\lambda A_l l a^{l-1} = -B_l (l+1) a^{-(l+2)} + \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{l a^{l-1}}{d^{l+1}} \quad (8)$$

From (6) and (8), we have

$$A_l = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{2l+1}{(\lambda+1)l+1} \frac{1}{d^{l+1}} \quad (9)$$

$$B_l = -\frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{(\lambda-1)l}{(\lambda+1)l+1} \frac{a^{2l+1}}{d^{l+1}} \quad (10)$$

Inserting (9) and (10) back into (1) and (2) yields

$$\Phi_{\text{int}} = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \frac{2l+1}{\left(\frac{\epsilon}{\epsilon_0} + 1\right)l+1} \frac{r^l}{d^{l+1}} P_l(\cos \theta) \quad (11)$$

$$\Phi_{\text{ext}} = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \left[ \frac{r_{<}^l}{r_{>}^{l+1}} - \frac{(\epsilon - \epsilon_0)l}{(\epsilon + \epsilon_0)l + \epsilon_0} \frac{a^{2l+1}}{d^{l+1}} \frac{1}{r^{l+1}} \right] P_l(\cos \theta) \quad (12)$$

2. Near the origin, (11) is dominated by the low- $l$  terms:

$$\Phi_{\text{int}} \approx \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left[ \frac{1}{d} + \left( \frac{3}{2 + \epsilon/\epsilon_0} \right) \frac{z}{d^2} \right] \quad (13)$$

hence

$$\mathbf{E} = -\nabla\Phi_{\text{int}} \approx -\frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 d^2} \left( \frac{3}{2 + \epsilon/\epsilon_0} \right) \hat{\mathbf{z}} \quad (14)$$

3. When  $\epsilon \rightarrow \infty$ , it's clear that

$$A_l \rightarrow \begin{cases} \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 d} & \text{for } l = 0 \\ 0 & \text{for } l > 0 \end{cases} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \Phi_{\text{int}} \rightarrow \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 d} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left[ \frac{0 - (-qa/d)}{a} \right] \quad (15)$$

which agrees with the interior potential of the uncharged insulated conducting sphere in the presence of point charge (see page 61 with  $Q = 0, q' = -qa/d$ ).

Similarly, as  $\epsilon \rightarrow \infty$ ,

$$B_l \rightarrow \begin{cases} 0 & \text{for } l = 0 \\ -\frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{a^{2l+1}}{d^{l+1}} & \text{for } l > 0 \end{cases} \quad (16)$$

which, by (2) gives

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi_{\text{ext}} &= \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x} - d\hat{\mathbf{z}}|} - \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \frac{a^{2l+1}}{d^{l+1} r^{l+1}} P_l(\cos\theta) + \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{a}{dr} \\ &= \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x} - d\hat{\mathbf{z}}|} + \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left( -\frac{qa}{d} \right) \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \frac{\left( \frac{a^2}{d} \right)^l}{r^{l+1}} P_l(\cos\theta) + \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{qa/d}{r} \quad (\text{denote } q' = -qa/d) \\ &= \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x} - d\hat{\mathbf{z}}|} + \frac{q'}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{1}{\left| \mathbf{x} - \left( \frac{a^2}{d} \right) \hat{\mathbf{z}} \right|} + \frac{0 - q'}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r} \end{aligned} \quad (17)$$

which again agrees with the the example on page 61 (equation 2.8) as the sphere becomes conducting.