

1. By Green's theorem (1.35)

$$\int_V (\phi \nabla^2 \psi - \psi \nabla^2 \phi) d^3x = \oint_S \left[\phi \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial n} - \psi \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial n} \right] da \quad (1)$$

Substituting with $\phi = G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})$ and $\psi = G(\mathbf{x}', \mathbf{y})$ yields

$$\int_V \left[G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \nabla_{\mathbf{y}}^2 G(\mathbf{x}', \mathbf{y}) - G(\mathbf{x}', \mathbf{y}) \nabla_{\mathbf{y}}^2 G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \right] d^3y = \oint_S \left[G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \frac{\partial G(\mathbf{x}', \mathbf{y})}{\partial n} - G(\mathbf{x}', \mathbf{y}) \frac{\partial G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})}{\partial n} \right] da_y \quad (2)$$

The LHS of (2) is

$$-4\pi \int_V \left[G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \delta(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}') - G(\mathbf{x}', \mathbf{y}) \delta(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}) \right] d^3y = -4\pi \left[G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') - G(\mathbf{x}', \mathbf{x}) \right] \quad (3)$$

Therefore

$$G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') - G(\mathbf{x}', \mathbf{x}) = -\frac{1}{4\pi} \oint_S \left[G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \frac{\partial G(\mathbf{x}', \mathbf{y})}{\partial n} - G(\mathbf{x}', \mathbf{y}) \frac{\partial G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})}{\partial n} \right] da_y \quad (4)$$

It's clear when G satisfies Dirichlet boundary condition, i.e., $G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = G(\mathbf{x}', \mathbf{y}) = 0$ for \mathbf{y} on S , we have $G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = G(\mathbf{x}', \mathbf{x})$, i.e., G is symmetric in \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}' .

2. With Neumann boundary condition, where

$$\frac{\partial G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})}{\partial n} = \frac{\partial G(\mathbf{x}', \mathbf{y})}{\partial n} = -\frac{4\pi}{S} \quad \text{for } \mathbf{y} \in S \quad (5)$$

(4) is turned into

$$G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') - G(\mathbf{x}', \mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{S} \oint_S \left[G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) - G(\mathbf{x}', \mathbf{y}) \right] da_y \quad (6)$$

which in general does not vanish.

But if we define

$$H(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') \equiv G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') - \overbrace{\frac{1}{S} \oint_S G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) da_y}^{F(\mathbf{x})} \quad (7)$$

we see that by (6)

$$H(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') - H(\mathbf{x}', \mathbf{x}) = \left[G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') - \frac{1}{S} \oint_S G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) da_y \right] - \left[G(\mathbf{x}', \mathbf{x}) - \frac{1}{S} \oint_S G(\mathbf{x}', \mathbf{y}) da_y \right] = 0 \quad (8)$$

i.e., H is symmetric in \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}' .

3. Recall given the Green function G , the potential satisfies the integral equation (1.42)

$$\Phi(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_V \rho(\mathbf{x}') G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') d^3x' + \frac{1}{4\pi} \oint_S \left[G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial n'} - \Phi(\mathbf{x}') \frac{\partial G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}')}{\partial n'} \right] da' \quad (9)$$

If we were to replace $G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}')$ with $H(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') - F(\mathbf{x})$ in (9), we end up with the following extra term on the RHS of (9):

$$-F(\mathbf{x}) \cdot \left[\frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_V \rho(\mathbf{x}') d^3x' + \frac{1}{4\pi} \oint_S \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial n'} da' \right] = -\frac{F(\mathbf{x})}{4\pi} \left[\int_V \rho(\mathbf{x}') d^3x + \oint_S \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial n'} da' \right] \quad (10)$$

which equals zero by Gauss's Theorem.