

# RC5: Electronic Solutions and Steady Electric Currents

by Mo Yang

$$\nabla^2 V = 0 \rightarrow \text{different coordinates}$$

## Boundary Value Problem in Cartesian Coordinates

We have Laplace's equation:

$$\frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial z^2} = 0 \quad (1)$$

If we assume  $V(x, y, z) = X(x)Y(y)Z(z)$ , then we have not rigid . just assumption.

$$\frac{1}{X(x)} \frac{d^2 X(x)}{dx^2} + \frac{1}{Y(y)} \frac{d^2 Y(y)}{dy^2} + \frac{1}{Z(z)} \frac{d^2 Z(z)}{dz^2} = 0 \quad (1)$$

Let  $f(x) = \frac{1}{X(x)} \frac{d^2 X(x)}{dx^2}$ ,  $f(y) = \frac{1}{Y(y)} \frac{d^2 Y(y)}{dy^2}$ ,  $f(z) = \frac{1}{Z(z)} \frac{d^2 Z(z)}{dz^2}$ , since  $f(x)$ ,  $f(y)$ , and  $f(z)$  are independent of each other, to make Eq.(1) always exist,  $f(x)$ ,  $f(y)$ , and  $f(z)$  must all be constants. Therefore,

$$\frac{df(x)}{dx} = 0, \quad \frac{df(y)}{dy} = 0, \quad \frac{df(z)}{dz} = 0 \quad (2)$$

Then after simplifying, we know that

$$\underbrace{\frac{d^2 X(x)}{dx^2} + k_x^2 X(x)}_0 = 0, \quad \underbrace{\frac{d^2 Y(y)}{dy^2} + k_y^2 Y(y)}_0 = 0, \quad \underbrace{\frac{d^2 Z(z)}{dz^2} + k_z^2 Z(z)}_0 = 0 \quad (3)$$

where  $k_x^2$ ,  $k_y^2$ , and  $k_z^2$  are constants and

$$\text{the same as mass-spring} \quad k_x^2 + k_y^2 + k_z^2 = 0 \quad (4)$$

Possible solutions of  $X''(x) + k_x^2 X(x) = 0$ :



$k_x^2$	$k_x$	$X(x)$
0	0	$A_0 x + B_0$
$+k$	$A_1 \sin kx + B_1 \cos kx$	$C_1 e^{jkx} + D_1 e^{-jkx}$
$-jk$	$A_2 \sinh kx + B_2 \cosh kx$	$C_2 e^{kx} + D_2 e^{-kx}$

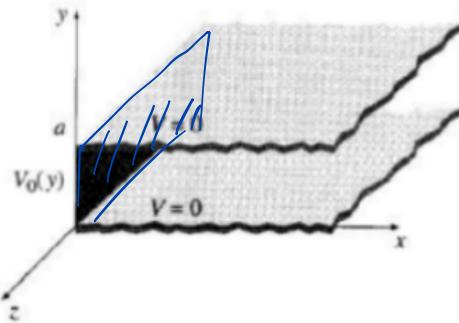
Where  $k$  is real. And constant  $A$  and  $B$  should be determined by boundary conditions.

## Exercise 1

Boundary - value ODE problem.

Two infinite grounded metal plates lie parallel to the  $xz$  plane, one at  $y = 0$ , the other at  $y = a$ . The left end, at  $x = 0$ , is closed off with an infinite strip insulated from the two plates and maintained at a specific potential  $V_0(y)$ . Find the potential inside this "slot".

Symmetric on  $z$



Laplace equation  $\frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial y^2} = 0$  Suppose  $V(x, y) = X(x) Y(y)$

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

$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} \frac{1}{X} \frac{d^2 X}{dx^2} = k^2 \\ \frac{1}{Y} \frac{d^2 Y}{dy^2} = -k^2 \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} X = A e^{kx} + B e^{-kx} \\ Y = C \sin ky + D \cos ky. \end{cases}$$

$$\textcircled{1} \quad y=0 \rightarrow V=0. \quad \rightarrow D=0. \quad \textcircled{2} \quad y=a \rightarrow V=0 \quad k = \frac{n\pi}{a}$$

$$\textcircled{3} \quad x \rightarrow \infty \rightarrow V=0. \quad A=0 \quad V(x, y) = C e^{kx} \cdot \sin ky$$

$$\textcircled{4} \quad x=0. \quad V(0, y) = V_0(y) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n \sin\left(\frac{n\pi y}{a}\right) \Rightarrow c_n = \frac{2}{a} \int_0^a V_0(y) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi y}{a}\right) dy$$

## Boundary Value Problem in Spherical Coordinates

We have Laplace's equation:

$$\nabla^2 V = \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left( r^2 \frac{\partial V}{\partial r} \right) + \frac{1}{r^2 \sin \theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \left( \sin \theta \frac{\partial V}{\partial \theta} \right) + \frac{1}{r^2 \sin^2 \theta} \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial \phi^2} = 0 \quad (5)$$

We assume that the solution is independent of  $\phi$ , then we have

$$\nabla^2 V = \underbrace{\frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left( r^2 \frac{\partial V}{\partial r} \right)}_{\text{1st term}} + \underbrace{\frac{1}{r^2 \sin \theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \left( \sin \theta \frac{\partial V}{\partial \theta} \right)}_{\text{2nd term}} = 0 \quad (6)$$

Assume  $V(r, \theta) = R(r)\Theta(\theta)$ . Putting this into the above equation, and dividing by  $V$ ,

$$\underbrace{\frac{1}{R} \frac{d}{dr} \left( r^2 \frac{dR}{dr} \right)}_{l(l+1)} + \underbrace{\frac{1}{\Theta \sin \theta} \frac{d}{d\theta} \left( \sin \theta \frac{d\Theta}{d\theta} \right)}_{-l(l+1)} = 0 \quad (7)$$

$$l(l+1) - l(l+1) = 0$$

Since the first term depends only on  $r$ , and the second only on  $\theta$ , it follows that each must be a constant:

$$\frac{1}{R} \frac{d}{dr} \left( r^2 \frac{dR}{dr} \right) = l(l+1), \quad \underbrace{\frac{1}{\Theta \sin \theta} \frac{d}{d\theta} \left( \sin \theta \frac{d\Theta}{d\theta} \right)}_{l(l+1)} = -l(l+1) \quad (8)$$

Here  $l(l+1)$  is just a fancy way of writing the separation constant—you'll see in a minute why this is convenient.

As always, separation of variables has converted a partial differential equation into ordinary differential equations. The radial equation,

$$\underbrace{\frac{d}{dr} \left( r^2 \frac{dR}{dr} \right)}_{l(l+1)} = l(l+1)R \quad (9)$$

has the general solution

$$R(r) = Ar^l + \frac{B}{r^{l+1}} \quad \text{why choose } l, l+1 \quad (10)$$

$A$  and  $B$  are the two arbitrary constants to be determined by boundary conditions. The angular equation is:

$$\underbrace{\frac{d}{d\theta} \left( \sin \theta \frac{d\Theta}{d\theta} \right)}_{-l(l+1)} = -l(l+1) \sin \theta \Theta \quad (11)$$

Its solutions are Legendre polynomials in the variable  $\cos \theta$ :

$$\Theta(\theta) = P_l(\cos \theta) \quad (12)$$

$P_l(x)$  is most conveniently defined by the Rodrigues formula:

$$P_l(x) \equiv \frac{1}{2^l l!} \left( \frac{d}{dx} \right)^l (x^2 - 1)^l \quad (13)$$

The first few Legendre polynomials are listed below:

$$\boxed{\begin{aligned} P_0(x) &= 1 \\ P_1(x) &= x \\ P_2(x) &= \frac{3x^2 - 1}{2} \\ P_3(x) &= \frac{5x^3 - 3x}{2} \\ P_4(x) &= \frac{35x^4 - 30x^2 + 3}{8} \\ P_5(x) &= \frac{63x^5 - 70x^3 + 15x}{8} \end{aligned}} \quad (14)$$

In the case of azimuthal symmetry, then, the most general separable solution to Laplace's equation, consistent with minimal physical requirements, is

$$\boxed{V(r, \theta) = \left( A_l r^l + \frac{B_l}{r^{l+1}} \right) P_l(\cos \theta)} \quad (15)$$

As before, separation of variables yields an infinite set of solutions, one for each  $l$ . The general solution is the linear combination of separable solutions:

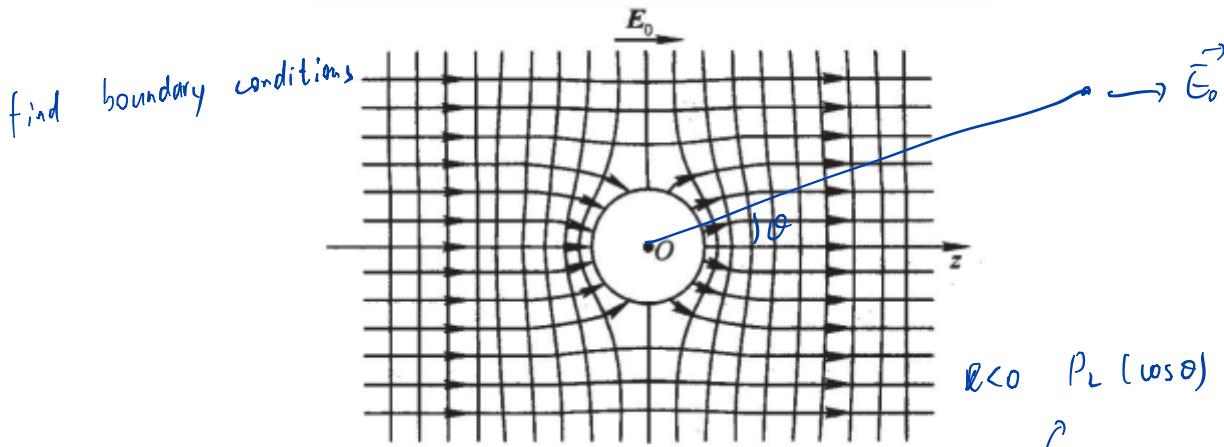
$$V(r, \theta) = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \left( A_l r^l + \frac{B_l}{r^{l+1}} \right) P_l(\cos \theta) \quad (16)$$

$P_l$ 's are orthogonal to each other

$$\int \rho_k \rho_j = 0.$$

## Exercise 2

A grounded conductor ball of radius  $R$  is placed in a uniform outer field  $\vec{E}_0$ , find the score of the space field. ~~Cloth~~ find  $\vec{E}$ .



General solution is  $\Psi = \sum_{\ell=0}^{\infty} [A_\ell r^\ell + B_\ell r^{-\ell-1}] P_\ell(\cos\theta) = \sum_{\ell=0}^{\infty} A_\ell r^\ell P_\ell(\cos\theta)$

① When  $r \rightarrow \infty$ .  $E = -\vec{E}_0 r \cos\theta$ .  $\sum A_\ell r^\ell P_\ell(\cos\theta)$

$$A_0 = -E_0. \quad A_1 = 0. \quad \left( -E_0 R + \frac{B_1}{R^2} \right) \cos\theta + \sum_{\ell=1}^{\infty} \frac{B_\ell}{R^{\ell+1}} P_\ell(\cos\theta) = 0$$

②  $r = R$ .  $E = 0$ .

$$\Psi = \underbrace{-E_0 r \cos\theta}_{\text{cancels } r^k |k>1} + \underbrace{\frac{E_0 R^3}{r^2} \cos\theta}_{\text{---}}$$

$r = R$ ,  $E = 0$ .

## Boundary Value Problem in Cylindrical Coordinates

## Laplace's Equation in Cylindrical Coordinates

$$\frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left( r \frac{\partial V}{\partial r} \right) + \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial \phi^2} + \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial z^2} = 0 \quad (17)$$

Assuming  $V$  has no  $z$  dependence,

$$\frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left( r \frac{\partial V}{\partial r} \right) + \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial \phi^2} = 0 \quad (18)$$

Assume

$$V(r, \phi) = R(r)\Phi(\phi) \quad (19)$$

$$\frac{r}{R(r)} \frac{d}{dr} \left( r \frac{dR(r)}{dr} \right) + \frac{1}{\Phi(\phi)} \frac{d^2 \Phi(\phi)}{d\phi^2} = 0 \quad (20)$$

Therefore,

$$\frac{r}{R(r)} \frac{d}{dr} \left( r \frac{dR(r)}{dr} \right) = k^2 \quad (21)$$

$$\frac{d^2 \Phi(\phi)}{d\phi^2} + k^2 \Phi(\phi) = 0 \quad (22)$$

has solution

$$R(r) = A_r r^n + B_r r^{-n} \quad [\text{current expansions}] \quad (23)$$

$$\Phi(\phi) = A_\phi \sin n\phi + B_\phi \cos n\phi \quad (24)$$

Therefore,

$$V_n(r, \phi) = r^n (A_n \sin n\phi + B_n \cos n\phi) + r^{-n} (A'_n \sin n\phi + B'_n \cos n\phi), \quad n \neq 0 \quad (25)$$

In the special case where  $k = 0$ ,

$$\frac{d^2 \Phi(\phi)}{d\phi^2} = 0 \quad (26)$$

$$\Phi(\phi) = A_0 \phi + B_0, \quad k = 0 \quad (27)$$

and  $A_0 = 0$  if there is no circumferential variations. Meanwhile,

$$\frac{d}{dr} \left( r \frac{dR(r)}{dr} \right) = 0 \quad (28)$$

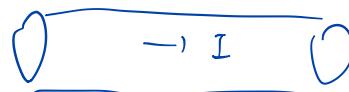
$$R(r) = C_0 \ln r + D_0, \quad k = 0 \quad (29)$$

Therefore,

$$V(r) = C_1 \ln r + C_2 \quad (30)$$

Thus, the general solution is

$$V(r, \phi) = a_0 + b_0 \ln r + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} (r^k (a_k \cos k\phi + b_k \sin k\phi) + r^{-k} (c_k \cos k\phi + d_k \sin k\phi)) \quad (31)$$



I: electrons are moving.

## Steady Electric Currents

### Current Density and Ohm's Law

$$I = \int_S \mathbf{J} \cdot d\mathbf{s} \quad (\text{A}) \quad \mathbf{J}: \text{current density} \quad (32)$$

where  $\mathbf{J}$  is the volume current density or current density, defined by

$$\mathbf{J} = Nqu \quad (\text{A/m}^2) \quad (33)$$

where  $N$  is the number of charge carriers per unit volume, each of charge  $q$  moves with a velocity  $u$ .

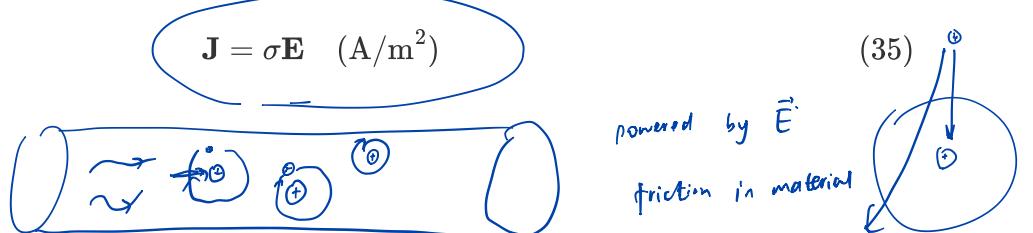
Since  $Nq$  is the free charge per unit volume, by  $\rho = Nq$ , we have:

$$\mathbf{J} = \rho u \quad (\text{A/m}^2) \quad (34)$$

For conduction currents,

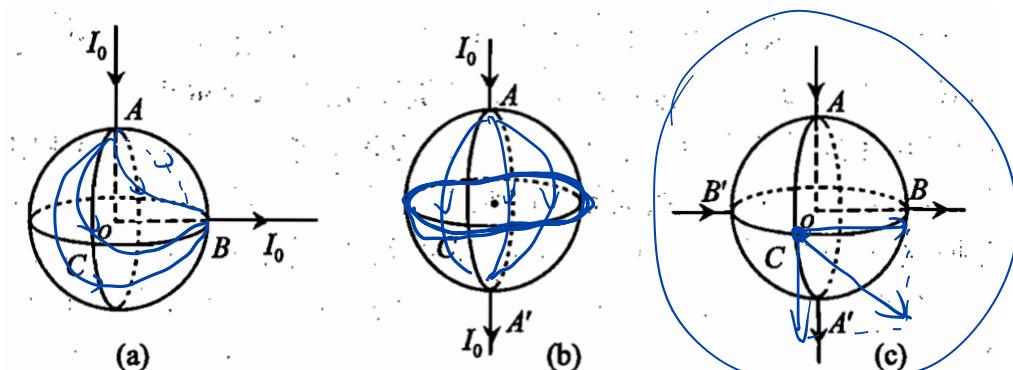
$$\mathbf{J} = \sigma \mathbf{E} \quad (\text{A/m}^2) \quad (35)$$

### Exercise 3



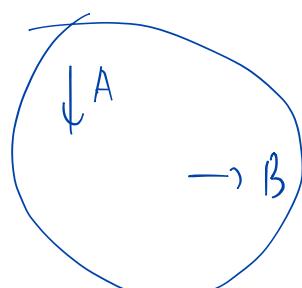
A thin spherical conductor with radius  $R$  is centered at point  $O$ . On the surface of the sphere, there are three points  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  with semi-diameters  $OA$ ,  $OB$ , and  $OC$  being mutually perpendicular. There are thin conductive wires connected at points  $A$  and  $B$  on the sphere's surface, and these two thin conductive wires are connected to a power source. It is known that an electric current  $I_0$  flows into the sphere at point  $A$  and flows out of the sphere at point  $B$ , as shown in Figure 2-5(a). Determine the current density at point  $C$  (i.e., the current per unit length flowing through the direction of the electric current at point  $C$ ).

Dude's Model

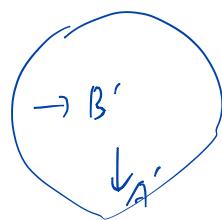


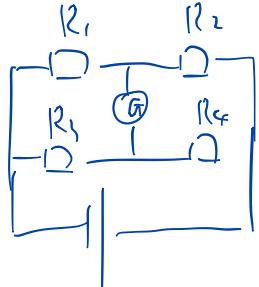
$$j = \frac{I}{2\pi R}$$

$$j_C' = \frac{\sqrt{2} I}{2\pi R}$$



the same as





$$\text{if } \frac{R_1}{R_3} = \frac{R_2}{R_4} \quad G = 0.$$

in (a)

$$j_c = \frac{\sqrt{L} I}{4\pi R}$$

## Reference

- Fan Hu, RC Slides, VE230.
- Prof. Nana Liu, Slides, VE230.
- Jiafu Cheng, Electromagnetics.
- Lei Zhou, Electrodynamics.

Thanks for Attending!

