

Classical Field theory

Thomas Brosnan

Notes taken in Professor Andrei Parnachev's class, Michaelmas Term 2023

”If you make an even number of mistakes you get the right answer.”

- Andrei Parnachev

Contents

1	Electrostatics	4
1.1	Coulombs Law:	4
1.2	Continuous distribution	4
1.3	Gauss' Law	4
1.4	Scalar potential	5
1.5	Work to move a charge	6
1.6	Charged plate	6
1.7	Poisson's equation	6
1.8	Greens theorems	7
1.9	Uniqueness of solution with boundary conditions	8
1.10	Greens functions	8
1.11	Energy Density	9
1.12	Mirror image problem	10
1.13	Separation of variables	10
1.14	Spherical coordinates	12
1.15	Azimuthal symmetry	13
1.15.1	Legendre Polynomials	14
1.15.2	Solutions for the potential	14
1.16	Point charge with spherical co-ords	15
1.17	No Azimuthal symmetry	15
1.18	Completeness relation	17
1.19	Addition theorem for spherical harmonics	17
1.20	Expansion of Greens functions in spherical co-ords	18
1.21	Delta functions in spherical co-ords	18
1.22	Alternate definition of spherical harmonics	18
1.23	Greens function between two spherical shells	19
1.24	Cylindrical co-ords	21
2	Magneto-statics	24
2.1	Conservation of charge	24

1 Electrostatics

1.1 Coulombs Law:

- Coulombs Law in SI units for two point charges q_1 and q_2 is given by:

$$\mathbf{F} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q_1 q_2}{r^2} \hat{\mathbf{n}} \quad (1.1)$$

This leads to the defining of the electric field \mathbf{E} generated by a single point charge, through the fact that the force a particle of charge q_2 experiences due to the presence of another charge q_1 is $\mathbf{F} = q_2 \mathbf{E}_1$. In vector notation the electric field of the charge q_1 is :

$$\mathbf{E}_1(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{q_1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_1}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_1|^3} \quad (1.2)$$

This then generalises for many point charges to:

$$\mathbf{E}_1(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \sum_i q_i \frac{\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_i}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_i|^3} \quad (1.3)$$

1.2 Continuous distribution

- For a continuous distribution of charges we need to change to a charge density $\rho(\mathbf{x})$. The charge of a small element is then given by $\Delta q = \rho(\mathbf{x})\Delta x\Delta y\Delta z$. Putting this into our equation for many charges and taking the limit as $\Delta V = \Delta x\Delta y\Delta z \rightarrow 0$ results in:

$$\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int \rho(\mathbf{x}') \frac{\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|^3} d^3x' \quad (1.4)$$

1.3 Gauss' Law

- The above equation is not always the most suitable form to calculate $\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{x})$. Another way is to consider a point q and a closed surface S . If r is the distance from the particle to a given point on the surface and $\hat{\mathbf{n}}$ is a unit vector normal to the surface at this point. The vector E dotted with $\hat{\mathbf{n}}$, according to equation 1.2 is:

$$\mathbf{E} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{n}} = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{\cos\theta}{r^2} \quad (1.5)$$

Here θ is just the angle between \mathbf{E} and $\hat{\mathbf{n}}$.

We can then multiply both sides by the infinitesimal surface area at this point da and notice that since the RHS can be simplified with the solid angle $d\Omega = \frac{da \cos \theta}{r^2}$. Then integrating over the whole surface results in:

$$\oint_S \mathbf{E} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{n}} da = \begin{cases} \frac{q}{\epsilon_0} & \text{if } q \text{ lies inside } S \\ 0 & \text{if } q \text{ lies outside } S \end{cases} \quad (1.6)$$

The full form of Gauss' law generalizes this to a continuous distribution of charge with charge density ρ :

$$\oint_S \mathbf{E} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{n}} da = \frac{1}{\epsilon_0} \int_V \rho(\mathbf{x}) d^3x \quad (1.7)$$

1.4 Scalar potential

- To solve equation 1.4 it helps us to notice the following derivative:

$$\nabla \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|} = - \frac{\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|^3} \quad (1.8)$$

Where ∇ is wrt to x . This allows us to sub into equation 1.4 and pull out the nabla as it is wrt x and not x' . This leads to the new definition of the electric field as the derivative of a scalar potential:

$$\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{x}) = -\nabla \Phi \quad (1.9)$$

Where:

$$\Phi = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int \frac{\rho(\mathbf{x}')}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|} d^3x' \quad (1.10)$$

For example if we consider a point charge $\rho(\mathbf{x}) = q\delta(\mathbf{x})$ and thus the integral is trivial and $\Phi = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x}|}$, the electric field can also be simply recovered from this Φ through equation 1.9

The equation 1.9 also tells us that $\nabla \times \mathbf{E} = 0$ as $\nabla \times (\nabla \Phi) = 0$

1.5 Work to move a charge

- The work done moving a charge from point a to point b is defined as:

$$W = - \int_a^b \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{l} = -q \int_a^b \mathbf{E} d\mathbf{l} \quad (1.11)$$

Then subbing in 1.9 we get:

$$q [\Phi(b) - \Phi(a)] \quad (1.12)$$

So the work to go from $r = \infty$ to $r = r$ for a point charge is $q\Phi(r)$.

1.6 Charged plate

- If we have a charged conducting plate, the component of the electric field that lies tangent to the plate will all ways be 0, other wise the charge would flow to make it so this was true.
- However for the component that is normal to the plate there is a discontinuity as one moves from one side of the plate to the other. We can apply Gauss' law to see that:

$$\oint_S \mathbf{E} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{n}} da = \frac{1}{\epsilon_0} \int \sigma da$$

$$\implies (E_{out} - E_{in}) = \frac{\sigma}{\epsilon_0} \quad (1.13)$$

1.7 Poisson's equation

- We can apply the Divergence theorem to Gauss' law, meaning:

$$\frac{1}{\epsilon_0} \int_V \rho(\mathbf{x}) d^3x = \oint_S \mathbf{E} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{n}} da = \int_V \nabla \cdot \mathbf{E} d^3x \quad (1.14)$$

And then since we know $E = -\nabla\Phi$:

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{E} = \frac{\rho(\mathbf{x})}{\epsilon_0}$$

$$\implies \nabla^2 \Phi = -\frac{\rho}{\epsilon_0} \quad (1.15)$$

In empty space $\rho = 0$ so $\nabla^2 \Phi = 0$, this is known as the Laplace equation.

- Applying this to the above potential for a point charge, $\Phi = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x}|}$, we see that:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \nabla^2 \left(\frac{1}{|\mathbf{x}|} \right) &= -\frac{q}{\epsilon_0} \delta(\mathbf{x}) \\ \nabla^2 \left(\frac{1}{|\mathbf{x}|} \right) &= -4\pi \delta(\mathbf{x})\end{aligned}\tag{1.16}$$

A known result that will be use full later.

1.8 Greens theorems

- If we start with the divergence theorem:

$$\int_V \nabla \cdot \mathbf{A} d^3x = \oint_{\partial V} \mathbf{A} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{n}} da\tag{1.17}$$

Then letting $A = \phi \nabla \psi$, we get Greens first identity:

$$\int_V (\nabla \phi \nabla \psi + \phi \nabla^2 \psi) dV = \oint_{\partial V} \phi \nabla \psi \cdot \hat{\mathbf{n}} da = \oint_{\partial V} \psi \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial \hat{\mathbf{n}}} da\tag{1.18}$$

- Greens second theorem is then found by interchanging ϕ for ψ and then taking that quantity away from the original unchanged version, this takes the form:

$$\int_V (\phi \nabla^2 \psi - \psi \nabla^2 \phi) dV = \int_{\partial V} \left(\phi \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial \hat{\mathbf{n}}} - \psi \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial \hat{\mathbf{n}}} \right) da\tag{1.19}$$

- This can then be used to find a formula for Φ . Letting $\phi = \Phi$ and $\psi = \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|}$, Then plugging in a using relations 1.15 and 1.16, results in:

$$-4\pi\Phi(\mathbf{x}) + \frac{1}{\epsilon_0} \int \frac{\rho(\mathbf{x}')}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|} d^3x' = \oint \left(\frac{1}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|} \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial \hat{\mathbf{n}}} - \Phi \frac{\partial}{\partial \hat{\mathbf{n}}} \left(\frac{1}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|} \right) \right) da'\tag{1.20}$$

And thus Φ is restrained by the master formula!:

$$\Phi(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int \frac{\rho(\mathbf{x}')}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|} d^3x' + \frac{1}{4\pi} \oint \left(\frac{1}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|} \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial \hat{\mathbf{n}}} - \Phi \frac{\partial}{\partial \hat{\mathbf{n}}} \left(\frac{1}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|} \right) \right) da'\tag{1.21}$$

The only assumption made here is that the Volume we integrate over includes the charge otherwise the integral of the delta function would have been 0.

1.9 Uniqueness of solution with boundary conditions

- Suppose there are two solutions to the potential Φ_1 and Φ_2 . We then set $U = \Phi_2 - \Phi_1$. Then looking at Green's first identity 1.18 we see that for $\phi = \psi = U$:

$$\int_V (|\nabla U|^2 - U \nabla^2 U) d^3x = \oint_S U \frac{\partial U}{\partial n} da \quad (1.22)$$

- It is here that we consider the boundary conditions. There are two types of boundary conditions that will lead to unique solution for ϕ .
- The first is Dirichlet boundary conditions (DBC), this is essentially idea that anything connected by a conductor should have the same potential so $U = 0$ on the closed surface S .
- The second is the Neumann boundary condition (NBC), which is the idea that the perpendicular component of the electric field should be the same everywhere on a surface (perhaps due to some charge density) should be the same. Then seeing as this component of the electric field is just the normal derivative of the potential; we have that $\frac{\partial U}{\partial n} = 0$.

One can easily see that plugging either of these conditions into the above equation, along with realising that $\nabla^2 U = \frac{\rho - \rho}{\epsilon_0}$, results in:

$$\int_V (|\nabla U|^2) d^3x = 0 \quad (1.23)$$

This then implies that U is a constant everywhere. Thus the two solutions may differ by a constant. Usually we set the constant such that $\Phi(\mathbf{x} = \infty) = 0$, but this is not all ways the case.

1.10 Greens functions

- The green function for the Poisson equation is such that:

$$\nabla'^2 G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = -4\pi\delta(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}') \quad (1.24)$$

We saw already that a function that satisfies this is $G = \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|}$, so any Green function for the Poisson equation should take the form:

$$G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|} + F(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') \quad (1.25)$$

Where F satisfies $\nabla'^2 F = 0$.

- The physical meaning of G is the potential Φ which a unit point charge \mathbf{x}' creates subject to boundary conditions.

This function G can be put instead of $\frac{1}{|\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{x}'|}$ in equation 1.21. Then if we impose *DBC* the equation shortens as G must be 0 on S :

$$\Phi(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int \rho(\mathbf{x}')G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}')d^3x' - \frac{1}{4\pi} \oint \Phi \frac{\partial}{\partial \hat{\mathbf{n}}'} G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}')da' \quad (1.26)$$

Naively if we try to say the boundary condition NBC implies $\frac{\partial G}{\partial \mathbf{n}'} = 0$ on S . However this is not going to work as:

$$\oint \frac{\partial G}{\partial \mathbf{n}'} da' = \oint \nabla' G d\mathbf{A}' \quad (1.27)$$

Which by divergence theorem is:

$$\int \nabla'^2 G dV' = -4\pi \quad (1.28)$$

It can also be noted that $G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = G(\mathbf{x}', \mathbf{x})$.

1.11 Energy Density

- For a multi charge system the energy (work) is given by:

$$W = \sum_i W_i = \frac{1}{8\pi\epsilon_0} \sum_{i \neq j}^n \frac{q_i q_j}{|\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_j|} \quad (1.29)$$

- Then for a continuous distribution:

$$W = \frac{1}{8\pi\epsilon_0} \int \int \frac{\rho(\mathbf{x})\rho(\mathbf{x}')}{|\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{x}_j|} = \frac{1}{2} \int \rho(\mathbf{x})\Phi(\mathbf{x})d^3x = -\frac{\epsilon_0}{2} \int (\nabla^2 \Phi)\Phi(\mathbf{x})d^3x \quad (1.30)$$

Integrating by parts we get:

$$W = \frac{\epsilon_0}{2} \int |\nabla \Phi|^2 d^3x = \frac{\epsilon_0}{2} \int \mathbf{E}^2 d^3x \quad (1.31)$$

1.12 Mirror image problem

- Due to how powerful the uniqueness theorem is, it does not matter how we come across our solution for the electric potential. As long as it satisfies the Poisson equation and has the correct values at the boundaries, that's it, it must be correct.

This usefulness is clear in the method of images. Here we are usually dealing with the problem of a point charge and some boundary conducting surface that is in some way grounded. The problem then with finding the electric field is that the charge also induces a bit of opposite charge on this surface.

To solve for the potential one introduces another so called mirror charge on the other side of the boundary. This then makes the problem much easier to solve and if the charge is placed in such a way that the boundary conditions on the surface are still met then the solution of Φ must be correct (and unique!) on the side of the boundary that has the original charge.

- If we have a charge q at a distance d from the origin, inside a conducting sphere of radius a then the image charge needed to be placed outside this sphere as an image charge must have a charge q' at a distance d' from the origin. The case when these charges are swapped results in the same equations.

$$q' = -q \frac{a}{d}, \quad d' = \frac{a^2}{d} \quad (1.32)$$

1.13 Separation of variables

- The Laplace equation in rectangular coordinates is:

$$\frac{\partial^2 \Phi}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 \Phi}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 \Phi}{\partial z^2} = 0 \quad (1.33)$$

A solution can be found by assuming the solution is separable, that is:

$$\Phi(x, y, z) = X(x)Y(y)Z(z) \quad (1.34)$$

Thus subbing in and dividing across by Φ :

$$\frac{1}{X} \frac{\partial^2 X}{\partial x^2} + \frac{1}{Y} \frac{\partial^2 Y}{\partial y^2} + \frac{1}{Z} \frac{\partial^2 Z}{\partial z^2} = 0 \quad (1.35)$$

We can vary any of x, y or z and this equation should still be 0 so each of these terms must be constants, so we write:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{1}{X} \frac{\partial^2 X}{\partial x^2} &= -\alpha^2 \\ \frac{1}{Y} \frac{\partial^2 Y}{\partial y^2} &= -\beta^2 \\ \frac{1}{Z} \frac{\partial^2 Z}{\partial z^2} &= \gamma^2\end{aligned}\tag{1.36}$$

So $\alpha^2 + \alpha^2 = \gamma^2$. From these equations the general solution is:

$$\Phi = (A_1 e^{i\alpha x} + A_2 e^{-i\alpha x})(B_1 e^{i\beta y} + B_2 e^{-i\beta y})(C_1 e^{\gamma z} + C_2 e^{-\gamma z})\tag{1.37}$$

Boundary terms are need to refine this large class of solutions any further. For example consider a conducting cuboid if we have boundary conditions such as $\Phi = 0$ when $x, y, z = 0$, as well as $x = a$ and $y = b$, then the constants can take many values depending on $n, m \in \mathbb{N}$:

$$\begin{aligned}\alpha_n &= \frac{n\pi}{a} \\ \beta_m &= \frac{m\pi}{b} \\ \gamma_{n,m} &= \pi \sqrt{\frac{n^2}{a^2} + \frac{m^2}{b^2}}\end{aligned}\tag{1.38}$$

Since Laplace's equation is linear any linear combination these solutions is also a solution. Exploiting this fact we can patch together these solution's to fit any potential $\Phi(z = c) = V(x, y)$ on the final boundary. The solution then looks like:

$$\Phi(x, y, z) = \sum_{n,m=1}^{\infty} A_{nm} \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{a}x\right) \sin\left(\frac{m\pi}{b}y\right) \sinh\left(\pi \sqrt{\frac{n^2}{a^2} + \frac{m^2}{b^2}}z\right)\tag{1.39}$$

The coefficients A_{nm} can be solved for using the orthogonality of sin. Multiplying both sides of the above equation by $\sin(\frac{n'\pi}{a}x) \sin(\frac{m'\pi}{b}y) dx dy$ and then integrating from 0 to a and from 0 to b across the surface $z = c$. The LHS is:

$$\begin{aligned}&\int_0^a \int_0^b \Phi(x, y, c) \sin\left(\frac{n'\pi}{a}x\right) \sin\left(\frac{m'\pi}{b}y\right) dx dy \\ &= \int_0^a \int_0^b V(x, y) \sin\left(\frac{n'\pi}{a}x\right) \sin\left(\frac{m'\pi}{b}y\right) dx dy\end{aligned}\tag{1.40}$$

And the RHS is:

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_0^a \int_0^b \sum_{n,m=1}^{\infty} A_{nm} \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{a}x\right) \sin\left(\frac{m\pi}{b}y\right) \sinh\left(\pi\sqrt{\frac{n^2}{a^2} + \frac{m^2}{b^2}}c\right) \sin\left(\frac{n'\pi}{a}x\right) \sin\left(\frac{m'\pi}{b}y\right) dx dy \\ &= A_{n'm'} \frac{ab}{4} \sinh\left(\pi\sqrt{\frac{n'^2}{a^2} + \frac{m'^2}{b^2}}\right) \end{aligned} \quad (1.41)$$

- Where here we have used the fact that:

$$\int_0^a \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{a}x\right) \sin\left(\frac{n'\pi}{a}x\right) dx = \frac{a}{2} \delta_{nn'} \quad (1.42)$$

Thus we can say to solve for the coefficients we simply need to compute:

$$A_{nm} = \frac{4}{ab \sinh\left(\pi\sqrt{\frac{n^2}{a^2} + \frac{m^2}{b^2}}\right)} \int_0^a \int_0^b V(x,y) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{a}x\right) \sin\left(\frac{m\pi}{b}y\right) dx dy \quad (1.43)$$

1.14 Spherical coordinates

- The Laplacian in spherical coordinates can be written as follows:

$$\nabla^2 \Phi = \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial r^2} (r\Phi) + \frac{1}{r^2 \sin(\theta)} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \left(\sin \theta \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial \theta} \right) + \frac{1}{r^2 \sin^2(\theta)} \frac{\partial^2 \Phi}{\partial \phi^2} = 0 \quad (1.44)$$

So we can once again assume the coordinates are separable that is:

$$\Phi = \frac{U(r)}{r} P(\theta) Q(\phi) \quad (1.45)$$

The $\frac{U(r)}{r}$ is simply so that this subs into the Laplacian nicely. Subbing in a multiplying across by $\frac{r^2 \sin^2 \theta}{\Phi}$:

$$r^2 \sin^2 \theta \left[\frac{1}{U} \frac{d^2 U}{dr^2} + \frac{1}{P r^2 \sin \theta} \frac{d}{d\theta} \left(\sin \theta \frac{dP}{d\theta} \right) \right] + \frac{1}{Q} \frac{d^2 Q}{d\phi^2} = 0 \quad (1.46)$$

Having separated the ϕ terms we can set $\frac{1}{Q} \frac{d^2 Q}{d\phi^2} = -m^2$ a constant. Thus Q has the solutions $Q = e^{\pm im\phi}$, with $m \in \mathbb{Z}$ as we want Q to be single valued, so $\Phi(\phi + 2\pi) = \Phi(\phi)$. Similarly we can write:

$$r^2 \frac{1}{U} \frac{d^2 U}{dr^2} + \frac{1}{P \sin \theta} \frac{d}{d\theta} \left(\sin \theta \frac{dP}{d\theta} \right) + \frac{1}{Q \sin^2 \theta} \frac{d^2 Q}{d\phi^2} = 0 \quad (1.47)$$

So we can set $r^2 \frac{1}{U} \frac{d^2 U}{dr^2} = l(l+1)$, a constant. This weird choice of $l(l+1) \in \mathbb{R}$ is just so that the solution to this differential has nice powers, as it can easily be seen that the solution to this differential is just:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d^2 U}{dr^2} &= \frac{l(l+1)U}{r^2}, \\ \Rightarrow U &= Ar^{l+1} + Br^{-l} \\ \Rightarrow \frac{U}{r} &= Ar^l + B \frac{1}{r^{l+1}} \end{aligned} \quad (1.48)$$

Finally for θ we can write the Laplacian as:

$$\frac{1}{\sin \theta} \frac{d}{d\theta} \left(\sin \theta \frac{dP}{d\theta} \right) + \left[l(l+1) - \frac{m^2}{\sin^2 \theta} \right] P = 0 \quad (1.49)$$

Which if we let $x = \cos \theta$ takes the following form:

$$\frac{d}{dx} \left[(1-x^2) \frac{dP}{dx} \right] + \left[l(l+1) - \frac{m^2}{1-x^2} \right] P = 0 \quad (1.50)$$

This equation is called the generalised Legendre equation.

1.15 Azimuthal symmetry

- If there is azimuthal symmetry (i.e. the solution Φ is independent of ϕ) then $m = 0$ and the Legendre equation reduces to:

$$\frac{d}{dx} \left[(1-x^2) \frac{dP}{dx} \right] + l(l+1)P = 0 \quad (1.51)$$

This equation can be solved by method of series solution (particularly method of Frobenius) with the only convergent solution being valid in the range $-1 < x < 1$. This can be extended to $-1 \leq x \leq 1$ if the series solution terminates after some point. From the recursion relation for the series solution this can be shown to be the case only if $l \in \mathbb{N}^*$. The solutions found that satisfy these conditions are the Legendre polynomials.

1.15.1 Legendre Polynomials

- These polynomials can be found from Rodrigues' formula:

$$P_l(x) = \frac{1}{2^l l!} \frac{d^l}{dx^l} (x^2 - 1)^l \quad (1.52)$$

They also have the useful properties :

$$\begin{aligned} P_l(x) &= \frac{1}{2l+1} \frac{d}{dx} (P_{l+1}(x) - P_{l-1}(x)) \\ P_l(-x) &= (-1)^l P_l(x) \\ P_l(1) &= 1 \end{aligned} \quad (1.53)$$

- The Legendre polynomials are also orthogonal allowing us to expand Φ over these polynomials and solve for the coefficients by integrating just like we did for Cartesian co-ords. The polynomials are orthogonal so:

$$\int_{-1}^1 P_l(x) P_{l'}(x) dx = \frac{2}{2l+1} \delta_{ll'} \quad (1.54)$$

We can also write regular polynomials in terms of the Legendre polynomials. This fact becomes particularly use full when dealing with problems where the potential on a sphere is held to be in terms of powers of $\cos \theta$ as then the substitution $x = \cos \theta$ leads to powers of x which can be turned into Legendre polynomials and make the integrals found below in 1.56 and 1.57 easy to solve.

- A list of the Legendre polynomials and other polynomials in terms of them are shown below

n	$P_n(x)$	$Q(x)$	$Q(P_n)$
0	1	1	P_0
1	x	x	P_1
2	$\frac{1}{2}(3x^2 - 1)$	x^2	$\frac{1}{3}(P_0 + 2P_2)$
3	$\frac{1}{2}(5x^3 - 3x)$	x^3	$\frac{1}{5}(3P_1 + 2P_3)$
4	$\frac{1}{8}(35x^4 - 30x^2 + 3)$	x^4	$\frac{1}{35}(7P_0 + 20P_2 + 8P_4)$

Table 1: Legendre polynomials

1.15.2 Solutions for the potential

- The full form of the solution in spherical co-ords can be written as:

$$\Phi(r, \theta) = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} [A_l r^l + B_l \frac{1}{r^{l+1}}] P_l(\cos \theta) \quad (1.55)$$

If we have conducting hollow sphere of radius R , with a potential $V(\theta)$, we can solve for the coefficients. Inside the sphere in order for the solution to not blow up at $r = 0$, $B_l = 0$, $\forall l$. So by similar method to above we multiply by $P_l \sin \theta d\theta$ and integrate from 0 to π , from which we find:

$$A_l = \frac{2l+1}{2R^l} \int_0^\pi V(\theta) P_l(\cos \theta) \sin \theta d\theta \quad (1.56)$$

Similarly outside the sphere $A_l = 0$, $\forall l$ so that the solution does not blow up as $r \rightarrow \infty$. Then the coefficients are:

$$B_l = R^{l+1} \frac{2l+1}{2} \int_0^\pi V(\theta) P_l(\cos \theta) \sin \theta d\theta \quad (1.57)$$

1.16 Point charge with spherical co-ords

- If we have a unit point charge at \mathbf{x}' then the potential at \mathbf{x} is $\Phi(\mathbf{x})$, where:

$$4\pi\epsilon_0\Phi = \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|} = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} [A_l r^l + B_l \frac{1}{r^{l+1}}] P_l(\cos \gamma) \quad (1.58)$$

Where here γ is the angle between the two vectors \mathbf{x} and \mathbf{x}' . Then denoting $r_> \equiv \max(r, r')$ and $r_< \equiv \min(r, r')$, where $r = |\mathbf{x}|$ and $r' = |\mathbf{x}'|$. If we then rotate the z axis so that \mathbf{x}' lies along it, then $\cos \gamma = 1$ and:

$$\frac{1}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|} = \frac{1}{|r - r'|} = \frac{1}{r_> - r_<} = \frac{1}{r_>} \frac{1}{1 - \frac{r_<}{r_>}} = \frac{1}{r_>} \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{r_<}{r_>}\right)^l \quad (1.59)$$

Then by our ansatz of separability of co-ords, to put back in the dependence on γ we can just multiply each term by $P_l(\cos \gamma)$. Thus the full solution is:

$$\Phi = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{1}{r_>} \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{r_<}{r_>}\right)^l P_l(\cos \gamma) \quad (1.60)$$

1.17 No Azimuthal symmetry

- If we add back in ϕ dependence, it can be shown in a similar manner to the case when m was 0, that in the range $-1 \leq x \leq 1$, l must be a non-negative integer and m must take only the

values $-l, -(l-1), \dots, 0, \dots, l-1, l$. The solutions to the generalised Legendre equation are called the associated Legendre functions $P_l^m(x)$. For positive m they are defined by the formula:

$$P_l^m(x) = (-1)^m (1-x^2)^{\frac{m}{2}} \frac{d^m}{dx^m} P_l(x) \quad (1.61)$$

Thus Rodrigues' formula for these functions is:

$$P_l^m(x) = \frac{(-1)^m}{2^l l!} (1-x^2)^{\frac{m}{2}} \frac{d^{m+l}}{dx^{m+l}} P_l(x) \quad (1.62)$$

From this we can then see that we can get the negative m functions from the relation:

$$P_l^{-m}(x) = (-1)^m \frac{(l-m)!}{(l+m)!} P_l^m(x) \quad (1.63)$$

These functions are also orthogonal:

$$\int_{-1}^1 P_l^m(x) P_{l'}^m(x) dx = \frac{2}{2l+1} \frac{(l+m)!}{(l-m)!} \delta_{ll'} \quad (1.64)$$

It is then convenient to combine both of the angular factors and construct orthonormal functions over the unit sphere. These functions are spherical harmonics. Since both $e^{im\phi}$ for $0 \leq \phi \leq 2\pi$ and $P_l(x)$ for $-1 \leq x \leq 1$ are orthogonal then so is their product. So we define the orthonormal spherical harmonics $Y_{lm}(\theta, \phi)$ by:

$$Y_{lm}(\theta, \phi) = \sqrt{\frac{2l+1}{4\pi} \frac{(l-m)!}{(l+m)!}} P_l^m(\cos \theta) e^{im\phi} \quad (1.65)$$

We can also see from this that:

$$Y_{l,-m}(\theta, \phi) = (-1)^m Y_{lm}^*(\theta, \phi) \quad (1.66)$$

- The full solution to the potential in spherical co-ords can then be written as:

$$\Phi(r, \theta, \phi) = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-l}^l [A_l r^l + \frac{B_l}{r^{l+1}}] Y_{lm}(\theta, \phi) \quad (1.67)$$

The coefficients of this expansion can be found the same way it has been done above. It should be noted that since the spherical harmonics are complex functions so in order to exploit orthogonality we need to multiply by $Y_{lm}^*(\theta, \phi)$. These functions are also orthonormal meaning there is no factor once you exploit orthogonality.

1.18 Completeness relation

- For the expansion of any function $f(x)$ on the interval (a, b) over any set of orthonormal function $U_n(x)$, $f(x)$ is written as:

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n U_n(x), \text{ with} \\ a_n &= \int_a^b U_n^*(x) f(x) dx \end{aligned} \quad (1.68)$$

To have this work we should then have that:

$$f(x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\int_a^b U_n^*(x') f(x') dx' \right) U_n(x) = \int_a^b \left(\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} U_n^*(x') U_n(x) \right) f(x') dx' \quad (1.69)$$

Thus:

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} U_n^*(x') U_n(x) = \delta(x - x') \quad (1.70)$$

This is the completeness relation.

1.19 Addition theorem for spherical harmonics

- This is essentially just the expansion of $\frac{1}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|}$ in spherical harmonics. The result is:

$$\frac{1}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|} = 4\pi \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-l}^l \frac{1}{2l+1} \frac{1}{r_{>}} \left(\frac{r_{<}}{r_{>}} \right)^l Y_{lm}(\theta, \phi) Y_{lm}^*(\theta', \phi') \quad (1.71)$$

1.20 Expansion of Greens functions in spherical co-ords

- If we introduce a conducting sphere of radius a , then we know from the method of images that the Greens function for this scenario is:

$$G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|} - \frac{a}{r' |\mathbf{x} - \frac{a^2}{r'^2} \mathbf{x}'|} \quad (1.72)$$

We now wish to find out how this greens function expands on the exterior of the sphere, that is $r, r' > a$. To do this we expand the above greens functions using 1.71:

$$G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = 4\pi \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-l}^l \frac{1}{2l+1} \left[\frac{r_{<}^l}{r_{>}^{l+1}} - \frac{1}{a} \left(\frac{a^2}{rr'} \right)^{l+1} \right] Y_{lm}(\theta, \phi) Y_{lm}^*(\theta', \phi') \quad (1.73)$$

- One can note that for either r or r' equal to a , the radial factor vanishes, same case for either $r, r' \rightarrow \infty$.

1.21 Delta functions in spherical co-ords

- To do this we can simply by change the co-ords of the delta function while it is inside an integral picks up the factors of the Jacobin. Thus the delta function in spherical co-ords is:

$$\delta(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}') = \frac{1}{r^2} \delta(r - r') \delta(\phi - \phi') \delta(\cos \theta - \cos \theta') \quad (1.74)$$

1.22 Alternate definition of spherical harmonics

- First we need to look at the Laplacian in spherical co-ords in terms of spherical harmonics, we can rewrite the Laplacian as:

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla^2 \Phi &= \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial r^2} (r\Phi) + \frac{1}{r^2} \left[\frac{1}{\sin(\theta)} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} (\sin \theta \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial \theta}) + \frac{1}{\sin^2(\theta)} \frac{\partial^2 \Phi}{\partial \phi^2} \right] \\ &\equiv \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial r^2} (r\Phi) + \frac{1}{r^2} \nabla_{\theta, \phi}^2 \Phi = 0 \end{aligned} \quad (1.75)$$

Here we can once again apply separability so $\Phi = \frac{U(r)}{r} Y(\theta, \phi)$. We all ready know the solution for $U(r)$, via 1.48 So by imposing that both above terms must be constants, and the r dependant term

is equal to $l(l+1)$:

$$\begin{aligned} r^2 \frac{1}{U} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial r^2}(U) + \frac{1}{Y} \nabla_{\theta, \phi}^2 Y &= l(l+1) + \frac{1}{Y} \nabla_{\theta, \phi}^2 Y = 0 \\ \implies \nabla_{\theta, \phi}^2 Y_{lm} &= -l(l+1)Y_{lm} \end{aligned} \quad (1.76)$$

Where in the last line we can identify the $Y(\theta, \phi)$ as the spherical harmonics, as they are the only terms containing θ and ϕ , so they must be the same as the Y_{lm} 's in equation 1.67.

1.23 Greens function between two spherical shells

- Returning to Greens functions, if we have a Greens function subject to a Dirichlet boundary condition then:

$$\nabla_{\mathbf{x}}^2 G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = -4\pi\delta(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}') \quad (1.77)$$

With $G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = 0$ for either \mathbf{x} or \mathbf{x}' on the boundary surface. We may now expand $G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}')$ in terms of the spherical harmonics:

$$G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-l}^l A_{lm}(r; r', \theta', \phi') Y_{lm}(\theta, \phi) \quad (1.78)$$

Then applying the Laplacian we must have that:

$$\sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-l}^l \left[\frac{1}{r} \frac{d^2(r A_{lm})}{dr^2} - \frac{l(l+1)}{r^2} A_{lm} \right] Y_{lm}(\theta, \phi) = -4\pi\delta(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}') \quad (1.79)$$

Where here we have used $\nabla_{\theta, \phi}^2 Y_{lm} = -l(l+1)Y_{lm}$. The completeness relation for Y_{lm} allow us to write:

$$\delta(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}') = \frac{1}{r^2} \delta(r - r') \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-l}^l Y_{lm}^*(\theta', \phi') Y_{lm}(\theta, \phi) \quad (1.80)$$

So we may infer that:

$$\frac{1}{r} \frac{d^2(r A_{lm})}{dr^2} - \frac{l(l+1)}{r^2} A_{lm} = -\frac{4\pi}{r^2} \delta(r - r') Y_{lm}^*(\theta', \phi') \quad (1.81)$$

So we may use the Ansatz $A_{lm} = g_l(r, r') Y_{lm}^*(\theta', \phi')$. This leaves the following restriction on $g_l(r, r')$:

$$\frac{d^2(r g_l)}{dr^2} = \frac{l(l+1)}{r} g_l \quad (1.82)$$

This is just the same equation we had for $U(r)/r$ so:

$$\begin{aligned} g_l(r, r') &= A r^l + B r^{-(l+1)}, & r < r' \\ g_l(r, r') &= C r^l + D r^{-(l+1)}, & r > r' \end{aligned} \quad (1.83)$$

Now we can consider the case of two concentric spheres of radius a and b with $a < b$. With these conditions g_l must vanish for $r = a$ or $r = b$, so it becomes:

$$\begin{aligned} g_l(r, r') &= A \left(r^l - \frac{a^{2l+1}}{r^{l+1}} \right), & r < r' \\ g_l(r, r') &= B \left(\frac{1}{r^{l+1}} - \frac{r^l}{b^{2l+1}} \right), & r > r' \end{aligned} \quad (1.84)$$

Then if we require that r and r' can be interchanged:

$$g_l(r, r') = C \left(r_{<}^l - \frac{a^{2l+1}}{r_{<}^{l+1}} \right) \left(\frac{1}{r_{>}^{l+1}} - \frac{r_{>}^l}{b^{2l+1}} \right) \quad (1.85)$$

The last constant can be solved by normalising the above equation to the delta function. So if we multiply 1.81 by r and then integrate from $r' - \epsilon$ to $r' + \epsilon$, this will result in us losing the second term in 1.81 as it is continuous so should vanish when we take the limit $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$. The first term will not vanish as for $r' - \epsilon$, then $r_{>} = r$, where as $r' + \epsilon$ then $r_{>} = r$. So:

$$\lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \left[\frac{d}{dr}(r g_l) \right]_{r' - \epsilon}^{r' + \epsilon} = -\frac{4\pi}{r'} \quad (1.86)$$

This results in:

$$C = \frac{4\pi}{(2l+1) \left[1 - \left(\frac{a}{b} \right)^{2l+1} \right]} \quad (1.87)$$

Thus the full greens function expansion is:

$$G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = 4\pi \sum_{l,m=0}^{\infty} \frac{Y_{lm}^*(\theta', \phi') Y_{lm}(\theta, \phi)}{(2l+1) \left[1 - \left(\frac{a}{b}\right)^{2l+1}\right]} \left(r_{<}^l - \frac{a^{2l+1}}{r_{<}^{l+1}}\right) \left(\frac{1}{r_{>}^{l+1}} - \frac{r_{>}^l}{b^{2l+1}}\right) \quad (1.88)$$

- It should be noted that while the above method is sure to give the right answer, the process is very tedious and if possible one should try to use an ansatz instead. For example if we have a system of two concentric spheres that are held at potentials containing powers of $\cos \theta$ lets say $\cos^2 \theta$ and $\cos \theta$, then as discussed before we can use the expression of powers of x in terms of the polynomials in table 1 to know the solution expressed in terms of Legendre polynomials will only have $l = 0, 1, 2$. From here the full solution can be obtained from applying the boundary conditions and solving for the coefficients.

1.24 Cylindrical co-ords

- The Laplacian in cylindrical co-ords (ρ, ϕ, z) is:

$$\nabla^2 \Phi = \frac{\partial^2 \Phi}{\partial \rho^2} + \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial \rho} + \frac{1}{\rho^2} \frac{\partial^2 \Phi}{\partial \phi^2} + \frac{\partial^2 \Phi}{\partial z^2} = 0 \quad (1.89)$$

To solve this we apply the usual separation of variables $\Phi(\rho, \phi, z) = R(\rho)Q(\phi)Z(z)$. Subbing this in and dividing across by Φ we see:

$$\frac{1}{R} \frac{\partial^2 R}{\partial \rho^2} + \frac{1}{\rho R} \frac{\partial R}{\partial \rho} + \frac{1}{\rho^2 Q} \frac{\partial^2 Q}{\partial \phi^2} + \frac{1}{Z} \frac{\partial^2 Z}{\partial z^2} = 0 \quad (1.90)$$

We must have that this is true for all ρ, ϕ and z . This leads to the following equations:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial^2 Z}{\partial z^2} &= k^2 Z \\ \frac{\partial^2 Q}{\partial \phi^2} &= -\nu^2 Q \\ \frac{\partial^2 R}{\partial \rho^2} + \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial R}{\partial \rho} + \left(k^2 - \frac{\nu^2}{\rho^2}\right) R &= 0 \end{aligned} \quad (1.91)$$

Here k and ν are constants. The first two equations are as Jackson lightly puts it "elementary":

$$\begin{aligned} Z(z) &= e^{\pm kz} \\ Q(\phi) &= e^{\pm i\nu\phi} \end{aligned} \quad (1.92)$$

As argued for the spherical co-ordinate case for the potential to be single valued ν must be an integer, but k is, barring boundary conditions is arbitrary. The radial equation can be expressed with $x = k\rho$:

$$\frac{d^2 R}{dx^2} + \frac{1}{R} \frac{dR}{dx} + \left(1 - \frac{\nu^2}{x^2}\right) R = 0 \quad (1.93)$$

This is solved again via method of Frobenius and the solutions are called the Bessel functions of order ν :

$$\begin{aligned} J_\nu(x) &= \left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^\nu \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^j}{j! \Gamma(j + \nu + 1)} \left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^{2j} \\ J_{-\nu}(x) &= \left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^{-\nu} \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^j}{j! \Gamma(j - \nu + 1)} \left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^{2j} \end{aligned} \quad (1.94)$$

These two are linear independent for $\nu \notin \mathbb{Z}$, hence the two seemingly same equations. If $\nu = m$ is an integer then it can be shown from the series solution obtained from the above differential equation, that $J_{-m}(x) = (-1)^m J_m(x)$, So customarily the functions $J_\nu(x)$ and $N_\nu(x)$ are used where $N_\nu(x)$ is defined as:

$$N_\nu(x) = \frac{J_\nu(x) \cos \nu\pi - J_{-\nu}(x)}{\sin \nu\pi} \quad (1.95)$$

This $N_\nu(x)$ is called the Neumann function or the Bessel function of the second kind and linear independent of $J_\nu(x)$ for non-integer ν and in the limit as $\nu \rightarrow$ integer. There are also the Bessel functions of the third kind called the Hankel functions, which are just a linear combination of $J_\nu(x)$ and $N_\nu(x)$:

$$\begin{aligned} H_\nu^{(1)}(x) &= J_\nu(x) + iN_\nu(x) \\ H_\nu^{(2)}(x) &= J_\nu(x) - iN_\nu(x) \end{aligned} \quad (1.96)$$

Which also form a fundamental set of solutions.

- The next step would be to proceed how we did with spherical and find a set of orthogonal functions so that Φ can be expanded over them. This is rather tedious process but the result is as follows. Assuming the Bessel functions are complete, we can expand any arbitrary function of ρ on the interval $0 \leq \rho \leq a$ in a Fourier-Bessel series:

$$f(\rho) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_{\nu n} J_\nu \left(x_{\nu n} \frac{\rho}{a} \right) \quad (1.97)$$

Here $\nu \geq 0$ is fixed and $x_{\nu n}$ are the roots of this Bessel function, $J_\nu(x_{\nu n}) = 0$ for $n = 1, 2, \dots$, of which there are infinitely many. The coefficients $A_{\nu n}$ can be found from:

$$A_{\nu n} = \frac{2}{a^2 J_{\nu+1}^2(x_{\nu n})} \int_0^a \rho f(\rho) J_\nu \left(x_{\nu n} \frac{\rho}{a} \right) d\rho \quad (1.98)$$

The ρ in the integral here means that $\sqrt{\rho} J_\nu \left(x_{\nu n} \frac{\rho}{a} \right)$ for fixed $\nu \geq 0$ are the orthogonal functions.

2 Magneto-statics

2.1 Conservation of charge

- If we have a