

Lab 2

PHYS 2502

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In[53]:= Remove["Global`*"]
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In[54]:= $Assumptions = {L > 0, z > 0, Q > 0}
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Out[54]= {L > 0, z > 0, Q > 0}
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The goal is to find the electric potential of a uniformly charged flat square plate, with side length L and total charge Q , which lies in xy plane centered at origin. We must find $V(z)$ along the z -axis.

Electric potential at a point p from some charge q is given by $V(r) = kq/r$, where r is the distance between p and q and k is Coulomb's constant.

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In[55]:= Vr = k * q / r
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Out[55]= 
$$\frac{k q}{r}$$

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In[56]:= r = Sqrt[x^2 + y^2 + z^2]
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Out[56]= 
$$\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}$$

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To integrate over the surface of the plate, we must assume continuous charge distribution and define surface charge density s which is the distribution of charge over the surface area of the square plate. Since the charges are uniformly distributed, we can write s as

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In[57]:= s = Q / (L^2)
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Out[57]= 
$$\frac{Q}{L^2}$$

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Where Q is the total charge and L^2 is the area.

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In[58]:= dA = dx * dy
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dq = s * dA
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Out[58]= dx dy
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Out[59]= 
$$\frac{dx dy Q}{L^2}$$

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In[60]:= dV = (k * dq) / r
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Out[60]= 
$$\frac{dx dy k Q}{L^2 \sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}}$$

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Since we're integrating with respect to x and y , we can rewrite dV to take out $dx dy$.

In[61]:= **dV = dV /. {dq → s}**

$$\text{Out[61]} = \frac{k Q}{L^2 \sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}}$$

In[62]:= **V = Integrate[dV, {x, -L/2, L/2}, {y, -L/2, L/2}]**

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Out[62]} = & \frac{1}{L^2} 2 k Q \left(-L \operatorname{Log}\left[L^2 + 4 z^2\right] + 2 L \operatorname{Log}\left[L + \sqrt{2} \sqrt{L^2 + 2 z^2}\right] + \right. \\ & z \left(3 \pi - 2 i \operatorname{Log}\left[-L^2 - (1 + i) z \left(2 z + \sqrt{2} \sqrt{L^2 + 2 z^2}\right)\right] + \right. \\ & \left. \left. 2 i \operatorname{Log}\left[-L^2 - (1 - i) z \left(2 z + \sqrt{2} \sqrt{L^2 + 2 z^2}\right)\right]\right) \right) \end{aligned}$$


In[63]:= **Ez = -D[V, z]**

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Out[63]} = & -\frac{1}{L^2} 2 k Q \left(3 \pi - \frac{8 L z}{L^2 + 4 z^2} + \frac{4 \sqrt{2} L z}{\sqrt{L^2 + 2 z^2} \left(L + \sqrt{2} \sqrt{L^2 + 2 z^2}\right)} + \right. \\ & z \left(-\left(2 i \left((-1 - i) z \left(2 + \frac{2 \sqrt{2} z}{\sqrt{L^2 + 2 z^2}}\right) - (1 + i) \times \left(2 z + \sqrt{2} \sqrt{L^2 + 2 z^2}\right)\right) \right) / \right. \\ & \left. \left(-L^2 - (1 + i) z \left(2 z + \sqrt{2} \sqrt{L^2 + 2 z^2}\right)\right) \right) + \\ & \left(2 i \left((-1 + i) z \left(2 + \frac{2 \sqrt{2} z}{\sqrt{L^2 + 2 z^2}}\right) - (1 - i) \times \left(2 z + \sqrt{2} \sqrt{L^2 + 2 z^2}\right)\right) \right) / \\ & \left(-L^2 - (1 - i) z \left(2 z + \sqrt{2} \sqrt{L^2 + 2 z^2}\right)\right) \right) - \\ & \left. 2 i \operatorname{Log}\left[-L^2 - (1 + i) z \left(2 z + \sqrt{2} \sqrt{L^2 + 2 z^2}\right)\right] + 2 i \operatorname{Log}\left[-L^2 - (1 - i) z \left(2 z + \sqrt{2} \sqrt{L^2 + 2 z^2}\right)\right] \right) \end{aligned}$$

In[64]:= **Es = Simplify[Ez]**

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Out[64]} = & -\frac{1}{L^2} 2 k Q \left(-2 i \operatorname{Log}\left[-L^2 - (1 + i) z \left(2 z + \sqrt{2} \sqrt{L^2 + 2 z^2}\right)\right] + \right. \\ & \left(i \left(L^2 + 4 z^2 \right) \left(\sqrt{2} L^4 + 4 L z^2 \left(\sqrt{2} z + \sqrt{L^2 + 2 z^2} \right) + 8 z^3 \left(\sqrt{2} z + \sqrt{L^2 + 2 z^2} \right) + \right. \right. \\ & \left. L^3 \left(2 \sqrt{2} z + \sqrt{L^2 + 2 z^2} \right) + 2 L^2 z \left(3 \sqrt{2} z + 2 \sqrt{L^2 + 2 z^2} \right) \right) \\ & \left(3 \pi + 2 i \operatorname{Log}\left[-L^2 - (1 - i) z \left(2 z + \sqrt{2} \sqrt{L^2 + 2 z^2}\right)\right] \right) / \left(\sqrt{L^2 + 2 z^2} \left(L + \sqrt{2} \sqrt{L^2 + 2 z^2}\right) \right. \\ & \left. \left(i L^2 + (1 + i) z \left(2 z + \sqrt{2} \sqrt{L^2 + 2 z^2}\right) \right) \left(L^2 + (1 + i) z \left(2 z + \sqrt{2} \sqrt{L^2 + 2 z^2}\right) \right) \right) \end{aligned}$$

In[65]:= **(Limit[Es z^2, z → Infinity]) / z^2**

 **Limit:** Warning: Assumptions that involve the limit variable are ignored.

Out[65]=
$$\frac{k Q}{z^2}$$

In[66]:= **Series[Es, z → 0]**

Out[66]=
$$\frac{2 k \pi Q}{L^2} + O[z]^1$$

In[67]:= **Normal[%]**

Out[67]=
$$\frac{2 k \pi Q}{L^2}$$