I have seen Separation of Variables before.

A. Yes, and I'm comfortable with it.
B. Yes, but I don't quite remember.
C. Nope
D. I'm triggered.

PS. Hi from San Antonio -DC

Our example problem has the following boundary conditions:

- $V(0, y > 0) = 0; V(a, y > 0) = 0$
- $V(x_{0 \to a}, y = 0) = V_0; V(x, y \to \infty) = 0$

If $X'' = c_1 X$ and $Y'' = c_2 Y$ with $c_1 + c_2 = 0$, which is constant is positive?

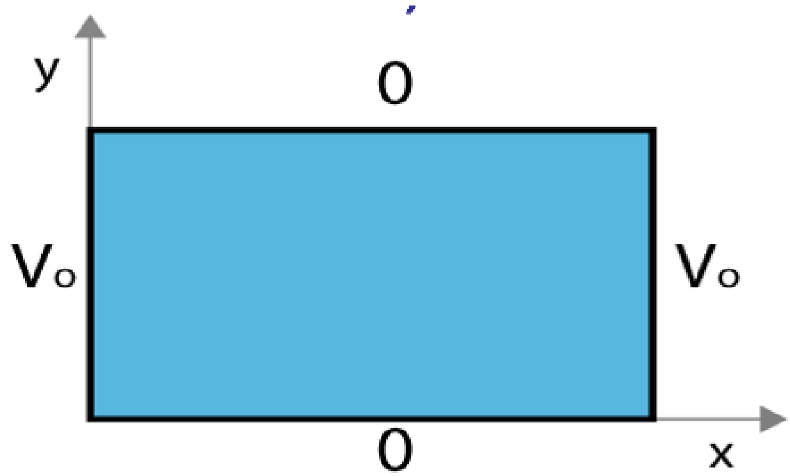
A. c_1
B. c_2
C. It doesn't matter either can be

Given the two diff. eq's :

$$\frac{1}{X}\frac{d^2X}{dx^2} = C_1 \qquad \frac{1}{Y}\frac{d^2Y}{dy^2} = C_2$$

where $C_1 + C_2 = 0$. Given the boundary conditions in the figure, which coordinate should be assigned to the negative constant (and thus the sinusoidal solutions)?

A. x
B. y
C. $C_1 = C_2 = 0$ here
D. It doesn't matter.



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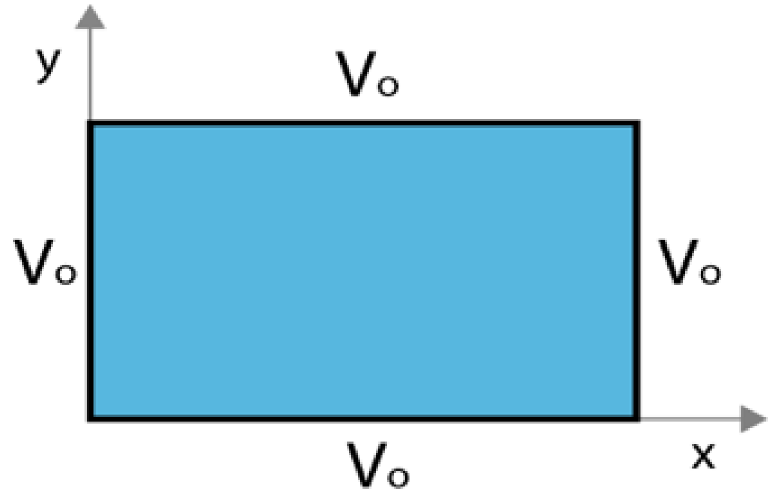


When does $\sin(ka)e^{-ky}$ vanish?

A. $k = 0$

B. $k = \pi/(2a)$

C. $k = \pi/a$

D. A and C

E. A, B, C

Suppose $V_1(r)$ and $V_2(r)$ are linearly independent functions which both solve Laplace's equation, $\nabla^2 V = 0$.

Does $aV_1(r) + bV_2(r)$ also solve it (with a and b constants)?

A. Yes. The Laplacian is a linear operator
B. No. The uniqueness theorem says this scenario is impossible, there are never two independent solutions!
C. It is a definite yes or no, but the reasons given above just aren't right!
D. It depends...

What is the value of $\int_0^{2\pi} \sin(2x)\sin(3x)\ dx$?

A. Zero

B. π

C. 2π

D. other

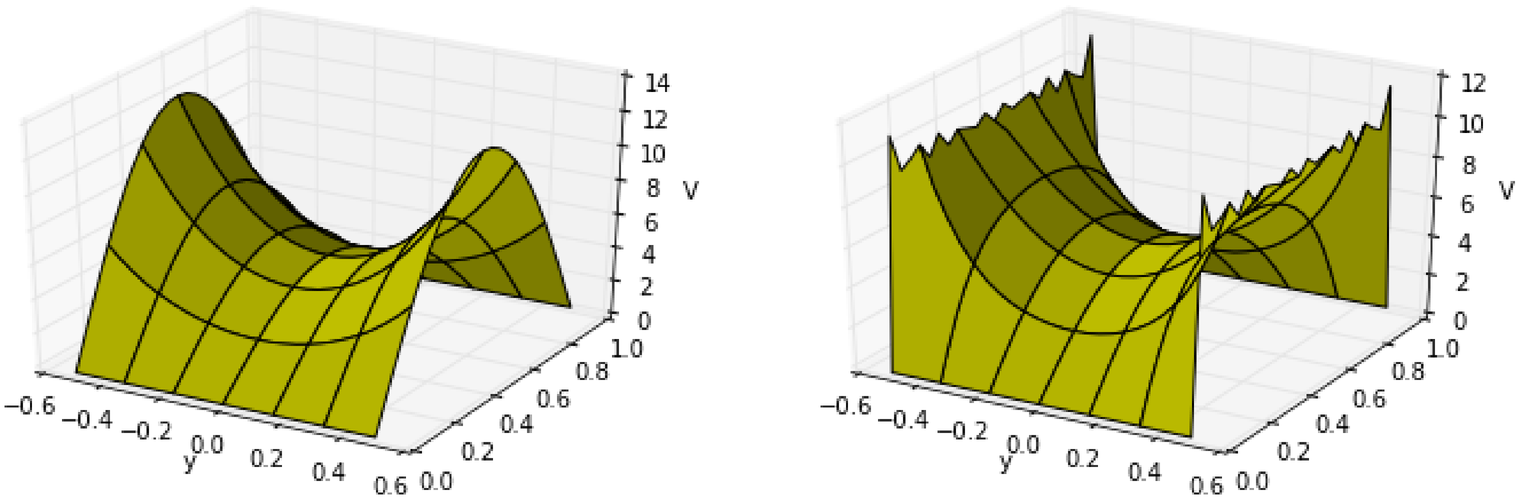
E. I need resources to do an integral like this!

EXACT SOLUTIONS:

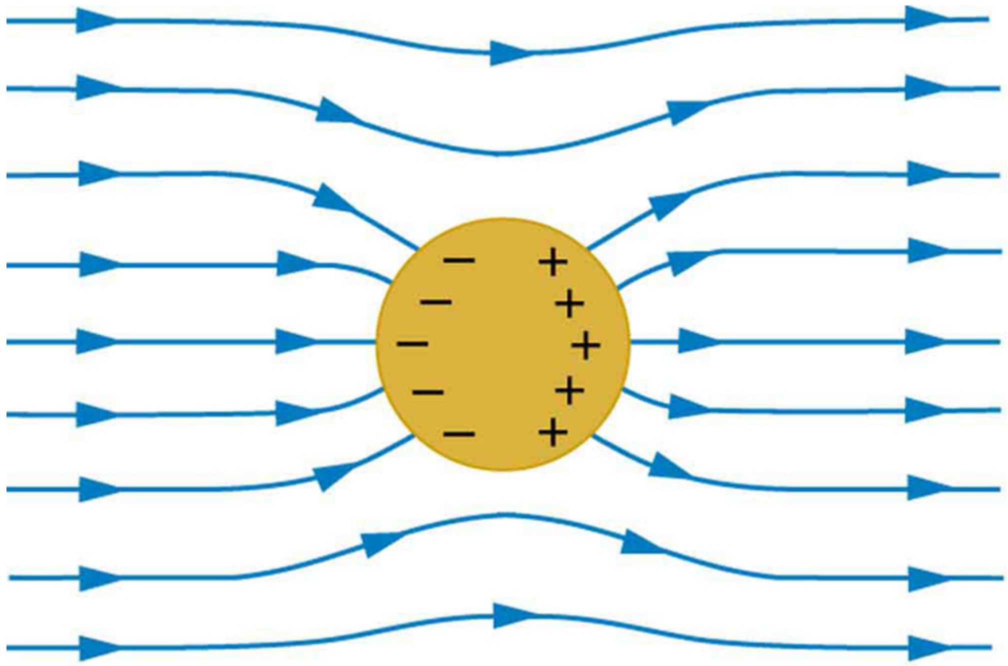
$$V(x,y) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{4V_0}{n\pi} \frac{1}{\cosh\left(\frac{n\pi}{2}\right)} \cosh\left(\frac{n\pi x}{a}\right) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi y}{a}\right)$$

APPROXIMATE SOLUTIONS:

(1 TERM; 20 TERMS)



SEPARATION OF VARIABLES (SPHERICAL)



Given $\nabla^2 V = 0$ in Cartesian coords, we separated $V(x, y, z) = X(x)Y(y)Z(z)$. Will this approach work in spherical coordinates, i.e. can we separate $V(r, \theta, \phi) = R(r)\Theta(\theta)\Phi(\phi)$?

A. Sure.
B. Not quite - the angular components cannot be isolated, e.g., $f(r, \theta, \phi) = R(r)Y(\theta, \phi)$
C. It won't work at all because the spherical form of Laplace's Equation has cross terms in it (see the front cover of Griffiths)