

# Electricity and Magnetism

## Tufts University

### Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

#### Long Assignment 2



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#### Statement of the problem.

Consider a spherical conductor of radius  $R$  centered on the origin of a coordinate system. A point charge  $q$  (i.e. a spherical charge distribution of radius  $a \ll R$ ) is placed at a distance  $r > R$  from the center of the conducting sphere.

1. Show that the total electrostatic energy of the conducting sphere is given by:

$$U = \frac{1}{\epsilon_0} \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \frac{\sigma_l}{2l+1} \left[ \frac{R^3 \sigma_l}{2} \frac{4\pi}{2l+1} + \frac{qR^{l+2}}{r^{l+1}} \right]$$

where the  $\sigma_l$  are the Legendre's expansion coefficient of the charge distribution  $\sigma(\theta)$ . Justify your assumptions.

2. Use Thomson's theorem and the above formula for  $U(\sigma_l)$  to find  $\sigma(\theta)$  in terms of Legendre's polynomials. Interpret your result.
3. A net charge  $Q$  is produced on the conducting sphere if it is grounded before the point charge  $q$  is removed. This procedure will generate an inflow of particles from Earth that will cancel the induced charges on one side of the sphere, producing a net charge  $Q$  on the conductor. Find  $Q$  using Green's reciprocity relation
4. What would be the total charge  $Q_1$  induced on the grounded conductor if, rather than a point charge  $q$ , a pure dipole  $\vec{p}$  was placed at a point  $\vec{r}$  outside the conductor?.

#### Solutions.

1. We know that the electrostatic energy of a charge distribution  $\sigma(\mathbf{r})$  immersed in an external potential is given by the following expression

$$U_E = U_S + U_I,$$

or, more explicitly

$$U_E = \frac{1}{8\pi\epsilon_0} \int dS \int dS' \frac{\rho(\mathbf{r})\rho(\mathbf{r}')}{|\mathbf{r}-\mathbf{r}'|} + \int dS' \sigma(\mathbf{r}') \phi_{ext}(\mathbf{r}'),$$

and in the above expression, the first integral is the term called self-energy, whereas the second is called the interaction energy between the external field and the charge distribution  $\sigma(\mathbf{r})$ , which we know is given by the following expression

$$\phi_{ext}(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q}{r}.$$



Figure 0.1: Configuration of the problem.

Now, let's focus on the interaction energy, but before, let's plot a figure of the problem at hand. Going back to the interaction energy, we have that

$$U_I = \int dS' \sigma(\mathbf{r}') \phi_{ext}(\mathbf{r}') = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int dS' \frac{\sigma(\mathbf{r}')}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|},$$

but  $dS = R^2 \sin\theta d\theta d\phi$ , and even more, because of the symmetry of the problem, we're going to assume that  $\sigma(\mathbf{r}') = \sigma(\theta)$ , thus

$$U_I = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int R^2 \sin\theta d\theta d\phi \frac{\sigma(\theta)}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|},$$

$$\Rightarrow U_I = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int R^2 \sin\theta d\theta d\phi \frac{\sigma(\theta)}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|}$$

on the other hand, we can expand

$$\frac{1}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|} = \frac{1}{r} \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{r'}{r}\right)^l P_l(\hat{\mathbf{r}} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{r}}'),$$

where  $\hat{\mathbf{r}} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{r}}' = \cos\theta$ , in which  $\theta$  is the usual polar angle, and, in addition, we have  $\mathbf{r}' = R$ , thus

$$\frac{1}{|\mathbf{r} - R|} = \frac{1}{r} \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{R}{r}\right)^l P_l(\cos\theta),$$

then we have that the integral for the interaction energy is

$$U_I = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_S R^2 \sin\theta d\theta d\phi \left[ \sigma(\theta) \left( \frac{1}{r} \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{R}{r}\right)^l P_l(\cos\theta) \right) \right],$$

but

$$\int_S \rightarrow \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi \int_0^{\pi} d\theta,$$

thus

$$U_I = \frac{qR^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi \int_0^{\pi} d\theta \sin\theta \left[ \sigma(\theta) \left( \frac{1}{r} \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{R}{r}\right)^l P_l(\cos\theta) \right) \right],$$

$$\Rightarrow U_I = \frac{2\pi qR^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_0^{\pi} d\theta \sin\theta \left[ \sigma(\theta) \left( \frac{1}{r} \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{R}{r}\right)^l P_l(\cos\theta) \right) \right],$$

but  $d\theta \sin \theta = d(\cos \theta)$ , then

$$U_I = \frac{qR^2}{2\epsilon_0} \int_{-1}^1 d(\cos \theta) \sigma(\theta) \left( \frac{1}{r} \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \left( \frac{R}{r} \right)^l P_l(\cos \theta) \right),$$

$$\implies U_I = \frac{q}{2\epsilon_0} \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \frac{R^{l+2}}{r^{l+1}} \int_{-1}^1 d(\cos \theta) \sigma(\theta) (P_l(\cos \theta)),$$

now, if we assume that we can expand the surface charge density  $\sigma(\theta)$  in the following way

$$\sigma(\theta) = \sum_m \sigma_m P_m(\cos \theta),$$

i.e, as an expansion in terms of Legendre polynomials, then the expression for the energy becomes

$$U_I = \frac{q}{2\epsilon_0} \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \frac{R^{l+2}}{r^{l+1}} \left( \sum_m \sigma_m \int_{-1}^1 d(\cos \theta) P_m(\cos \theta) (P_l(\cos \theta)) \right),$$

but, one property of this set of complete set of functions is the orthogonality, which reads

$$\int_{-1}^1 d(\cos \theta) P_m(\cos \theta) (P_l(\cos \theta)) = \frac{2}{2l+1} \delta_{lm},$$

thus

$$U_I = \frac{q}{2\epsilon_0} \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \frac{R^{l+2}}{r^{l+1}} \left( \sum_m \sigma_m \frac{2}{2l+1} \delta_{lm} \right),$$

therefore, the interaction energy becomes

$$U_I = \frac{q}{\epsilon_0} \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \frac{\sigma_l}{2l+1} \frac{R^{l+2}}{r^{l+1}}. \quad (0.1)$$

Now, let's move to the self-energy part, and in this case the energy is given by

$$U_S = \frac{1}{8\pi\epsilon_0} \int dS \int dS' \frac{\sigma(\mathbf{r}) \sigma(\mathbf{r}')}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|},$$

in which

$$\sigma(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_{m_1} \sigma_{m_1} P_{m_1}(\cos \theta_1), \quad \sigma(\mathbf{r}') = \sum_{m_2} \sigma_{m_2} P_{m_2}(\cos \theta_2),$$

then we have that

$$U_S = \frac{1}{8\pi\epsilon_0} \int dS \int dS' \frac{1}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|} \left( \sum_{m_1} \sum_{m_2} \sigma_{m_1} P_{m_1}(\cos \theta_1) \sigma_{m_2} P_{m_2}(\cos \theta_2) \right),$$

and on the other hand, let's expand the inverse of the distance in terms of the spherical harmonics, i.e.

$$\frac{1}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|} = \frac{1}{r} \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \frac{4\pi}{2l+1} \left( \frac{r'}{r} \right)^l \sum_{m=-l}^l Y_{lm}^*(\theta_1, \phi_1) Y_{lm}(\theta_2, \phi_2),$$

but in this case we're considering the case in which  $\mathbf{r} \rightarrow \mathbf{r}'$ , and even more, in our notation,  $\mathbf{r}' = \mathbf{R}$ , thus

$$\frac{1}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{R}|} = \frac{1}{R} \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-l}^l \frac{4\pi}{2l+1} Y_{lm}^*(\theta_1, \phi_1) Y_{lm}(\theta_2, \phi_2),$$

then the integral for the self-energy becomes

$$U_S = \frac{1}{8\pi\epsilon_0 R} \sum_{m_1, m_2} \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-l}^l \frac{4\pi}{2l+1} \int dS \int dS' \left( \frac{4\pi}{2l+1} Y_{lm}^*(\theta_1, \phi_1) Y_{lm}(\theta_2, \phi_2) \right) (\sigma_{m_1} P_{m_1}(\cos \theta_1) \sigma_{m_2} P_{m_2}(\cos \theta_2)),$$

where we're using this notation,  $\sum_{m_1, m_2} = \sum_{m_1} \sum_{m_2}$ , and moreover, we also know that

$$dS = R^2 \sin \theta_1 d\theta_1 d\phi_1, \quad dS' = R^2 \sin \theta_2 d\theta_2 d\phi_2,$$

then, the integral becomes

$$U_S = \frac{1}{8\pi\epsilon_0 R} \sum_{m_1, m_2} \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-l}^l \frac{4\pi}{2l+1} \int_1 \int_2 R^4 (\sin \theta_1 d\theta_1 d\phi_1) (\sin \theta_2 d\theta_2 d\phi_2) (Y_{lm}^* (\theta_1, \phi_1) Y_{lm} (\theta_2, \phi_2)) \times \\ \times (\sigma_{m_1} P_{m_1} (\cos \theta_1) \sigma_{m_2} P_{m_2} (\cos \theta_2)),$$

in which  $\int_1$  and  $\int_2$  refers to the variables in which the integration must be performed, and more explicitly

$$\int_1 \rightarrow \int d\theta_1 \int d\phi_1, \quad \int_2 \rightarrow \int d\theta_2 \int d\phi_2,$$

and the intervals in which we're performing the integrals are  $\theta \in (0, \pi)$  and  $\phi \in (0, 2\pi)$ . Now, it's important to notice the following: inside the integration sign, the only dependence on  $\phi_1$  or  $\phi_2$  is in the spherical harmonics, therefore, in the integral for the self-energy we can do

$$U_S = \frac{R^3}{8\pi\epsilon_0} \sum_{m_1, m_2} \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-l}^l \frac{4\pi}{2l+1} \int \int (\sin \theta_1 d\theta_1) (\sin \theta_2 d\theta_2) (\sigma_{m_1} P_{m_1} (\cos \theta_1) \sigma_{m_2} P_{m_2} (\cos \theta_2)) \times \\ \times \left( \int d\phi_1 Y_{lm}^* (\theta_1, \phi_1) \int d\phi_2 Y_{lm} (\theta_2, \phi_2) \right),$$

but there's the following relationship for the spherical harmonics

$$Y_{l-m} (\theta_1, \phi_1) = (-1)^m Y_{lm}^* (\theta_1, \phi_1),$$

therefore, we have the following integrals

$$\frac{1}{(-1)^m} \int d\phi_1 Y_{l-m} (\theta_1, \phi_1), \quad \int d\phi_2 Y_{lm} (\theta_2, \phi_2),$$

and even more, the spherical harmonics also have the following property

$$\frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi Y_{lm} (\theta, \phi) = \sqrt{\frac{2l+1}{4\pi}} p_l (\cos \theta) \delta_{m0},$$

and with this information at hand, the integrals become

$$\frac{1}{(-1)^m} \int d\phi_1 Y_{l-m} (\theta_1, \phi_1) = \frac{2\pi}{(-1)^m} \sqrt{\frac{2l+1}{4\pi}} p_l (\cos \theta) \delta_{m0} = 2\pi \sqrt{\frac{2l+1}{4\pi}} p_l (\cos \theta_1) \delta_{m0}, \\ \Rightarrow \int d\phi_1 Y_{lm}^* (\theta_1, \phi_1) = 2\pi \sqrt{\frac{2l+1}{4\pi}} p_l (\cos \theta_1) \delta_{m0}$$

and

$$\int d\phi_2 Y_{lm} (\theta_2, \phi_2) = 2\pi \sqrt{\frac{2l+1}{4\pi}} p_l (\cos \theta_2) \delta_{m0} = 2\pi \sqrt{\frac{2l+1}{4\pi}} p_l (\cos \theta_2), \\ \Rightarrow \int d\phi_2 Y_{lm} (\theta_2, \phi_2) = 2\pi \sqrt{\frac{2l+1}{4\pi}} p_l (\cos \theta_2) \delta_{m0},$$

then the integral for the self energy becomes

$$U_S = \frac{R^3}{8\pi\epsilon_0} \sum_{m_1, m_2} \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \frac{4\pi}{2l+1} \int \int (\sin \theta_1 d\theta_1) (\sin \theta_2 d\theta_2) \left( \sum_{m_1, m_2} \sigma_{m_1} P_{m_1} (\cos \theta_1) \sigma_{m_2} P_{m_2} (\cos \theta_2) \right) \times \\ \left( 2\pi \sqrt{\frac{2l+1}{4\pi}} p_l (\cos \theta_1) \right) \left( 2\pi \sqrt{\frac{2l+1}{4\pi}} p_l (\cos \theta_2) \right),$$

it's important to notice that with the previous manipulation, we've killed the summation for the  $m$  index. Now, moving on with the calculations, we have that  $\sin \theta_1 d\theta_1 = d(\cos \theta_1)$  and  $\sin \theta_2 d\theta_2 = d(\cos \theta_2)$ , then

$$U_S = \frac{R^3}{8\pi\epsilon_0} \sum_{m_1, m_2} \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \frac{4\pi}{2l+1} \left[ 4\pi^2 \left( \frac{2l+1}{4\pi} \right) \right] \sigma_{m_1} \sigma_{m_2} \int d(\cos \theta_1) P_{m_1}(\cos \theta_1) p_l(\cos \theta_1) \times \\ \times \int d(\cos \theta_2) P_{m_2}(\cos \theta_2) p_l(\cos \theta_2),$$

but remember, the interval of integration for this variable is  $\phi \in (0, 2\pi)$ , and with the change of variable, the interval of integration changes to  $(-1, 1)$ , and even more, we know the following property of the Legendre polynomials

$$\int_{-1}^1 d(\cos \theta) P_l(\cos \theta) p_m(\cos \theta) = \frac{2}{2l+1} \delta_{lm},$$

then for the two integrals we have

$$\int_{-1}^1 d(\cos \theta_1) P_{m_1}(\cos \theta_1) p_l(\cos \theta_1) = \frac{2}{2m_1+1} \delta_{m_1 l}, \\ \int_{-1}^1 d(\cos \theta_2) P_{m_2}(\cos \theta_2) p_l(\cos \theta_2) = \frac{2}{2m_2+1} \delta_{m_2 l},$$

then the self energy becomes

$$U_S = \frac{R^3}{8\pi\epsilon_0} \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \frac{4\pi}{2l+1} \sum_{m_1, m_2} \left[ 4\pi^2 \left( \frac{2m+1}{4\pi} \right) \right] \sigma_{m_1} \sigma_{m_2} \left( \frac{2}{2m_1+1} \delta_{m_1 l} \right) \left( \frac{2}{2m_2+1} \delta_{m_2 l} \right),$$

and for the summation over  $m_1$  and  $m_2$ , we have

$$\sum_{m_1, m_2} \sigma_{m_1} \sigma_{m_2} \left( \frac{2}{2m_1+1} \delta_{m_1 l} \right) \left( \frac{2}{2m_2+1} \delta_{m_2 l} \right) = \frac{4\sigma_l^2}{(2l+1)^2},$$

then

$$U_S = \frac{R^3}{8\pi\epsilon_0} \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \frac{4\pi}{2l+1} \left[ 4\pi^2 \left( \frac{2m+1}{4\pi} \right) \frac{4\sigma_l^2}{(2l+1)^2} \right], \\ \Rightarrow U_S = \frac{R^3}{8\pi\epsilon_0} \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \left( \frac{16\pi^2}{2l+1} \right) \left( \frac{\sigma_l^2}{(2l+1)} \right), \\ \therefore U_S = \frac{1}{\epsilon_0} \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \frac{2\pi R^3 \sigma_l^2}{(2l+1)^2}, \quad (0.2)$$

then, the total energy will be

$$U_E = U_S + U_I = \frac{1}{\epsilon_0} \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \frac{\sigma_l}{2l+1} \frac{R^{l+2}}{r^{l+1}} + \frac{q}{\epsilon_0} \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \frac{2\pi R^3 \sigma_l^2}{(2l+1)^2}, \\ \Rightarrow U_E = \frac{1}{\epsilon_0} \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \frac{\sigma_l}{2l+1} \left( \frac{2\pi R^3 \sigma_l}{2l+1} + q \frac{R^{l+2}}{r^{l+1}} \right),$$

or

$$U_E = \frac{1}{\epsilon_0} \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \frac{\sigma_l}{2l+1} \left( \frac{R^3 \sigma_l}{2} \frac{4\pi}{2l+1} + q \frac{R^{l+2}}{r^{l+1}} \right), \quad (0.3)$$

just as we wanted.

**2.** Now, for this part we're going to make use of the Thompson's Theorem, which states that "the electrostatic energy of a body of fixed shape and size is minimized when its charge  $Q$  distributes itself to make the electrostatic

potential constant throughout the body". Therefore, we need to minimize the previous expression with respect to  $\sigma_l$  which is the only variable unknown, then the minimization condition reads

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial U_E}{\partial \sigma_l} &= 0, \\ \Leftrightarrow \frac{\partial}{\partial \sigma_l} \left[ \frac{1}{\epsilon_0} \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \frac{\sigma_l}{2l+1} \left( \frac{R^3 \sigma_l}{2} \frac{4\pi}{2l+1} + q \frac{R^{l+2}}{r^{l+1}} \right) \right] &= 0, \\ \Leftrightarrow \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2l+1} \left( R^3 \sigma_l \frac{4\pi}{2l+1} + q \frac{R^{l+2}}{r^{l+1}} \right) &= 0,\end{aligned}$$

but let's remember that the  $\sigma_l$  comes from the Legendre expansion of the surface charge density, and we know that those polynomials are a complete set, which in other things, mean that they form a basis, which implies that the  $\sigma_l$  must be independent of each other, then, the previous condition translates into

$$\begin{aligned}R^3 \sigma_l \frac{4\pi}{2l+1} + q \frac{R^{l+2}}{r^{l+1}} &= 0, \\ \Leftrightarrow \sigma_l &= -q \frac{2l+1}{4\pi R^3} \frac{R^{l+2}}{r^{l+1}} = -q \frac{2l+1}{4\pi} \frac{R^{l-1}}{r^{l+1}}, \\ \therefore \sigma_l &= -q \frac{2l+1}{4\pi} \frac{R^{l-1}}{r^{l+1}}.\end{aligned}$$

Now, if we go back to the original expansion for the surface charge density, we have

$$\sigma(\theta) = \sum_l \sigma_l P_l(\cos \theta),$$

then, with the previous result, we have

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma(\theta) &= \sum_l \left( -q \frac{2l+1}{4\pi} \frac{R^{l-1}}{r^{l+1}} \right) P_l(\cos \theta), \\ \Rightarrow \sigma(\theta) &= \frac{-q}{4\pi} \sum_l \left( \frac{R^{l-1}}{r^{l+1}} \right) P_l(\cos \theta),\end{aligned}$$

but in order to make the expression more symmetrical let's write

$$\sigma(\theta) = \frac{-q}{4\pi R^2} \sum_l \left( \frac{R}{r} \right)^{l+1} P_l(\cos \theta).$$

3. Let's start by writing the Green's Reciprocity, which is given by

$$\int d^3 r' \rho_2(\mathbf{r}') \phi_1(\mathbf{r}') = \int d^3 r \rho_1(\mathbf{r}) \phi_2(\mathbf{r}),$$

which says that the potential energy of the charge distribution  $\rho_2$  in the field produced by  $\phi_1$  is equal to the potential energy of the charge distribution  $\rho_1$  in the field produced by  $\phi_2$ . It is important to make clear that when we say field produced by  $\phi_1$  we refer to the field produced by the charge distribution  $\rho_1$  and the same thing for the  $\phi_2$  field. Then we have that

$$\rho_1 = q\delta(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}') + \sigma\delta(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{R}), \phi_1 = 0,$$

and

$$\rho_2 = \sigma\delta(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{R}), \phi_2 = \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r},$$

then, we have that

$$0 = \int d^3 r \rho_1(\mathbf{r}) \phi_2(\mathbf{r}),$$

$$\begin{aligned}\Rightarrow 0 &= \int d^3r \left[ (q\delta(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}') + \sigma\delta(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{R})) \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r} \right], \\ \Rightarrow q \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r'} + \sigma \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R} 4\pi R^2 &= 0,\end{aligned}$$

where the  $4\pi R^2$  comes from the integration of the solid angle, and moreover, we know that for point outside the sphere, we have  $\sigma = \frac{Q}{4\pi}$ , then we have that

$$q \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r'} + \frac{Q^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R} = 0,$$

which implies that

$$Q = -\frac{Rq}{r},$$

in which I've renamed the variable  $r'$  for  $r$ .

4. Now, for this part, we're still using Green's reciprocity relation, but in this case we're going to consider  $\rho(r') = -\mathbf{p} \cdot \nabla \delta(\mathbf{r}' - \mathbf{r}_0)$ , and in this case, we're going to make the comparison with a system with zero volume charge density. Then, using Green's reciprocity we have that,

$$Q\phi'_c + \int d^3r \rho(\mathbf{r}) \phi'(\mathbf{r}) = Q'\phi_c + \int d^3r \rho'(\mathbf{r}) \phi(\mathbf{r}),$$

but, in this case, we have that  $\phi_c = 0$ ,  $\rho' = 0$ ,  $\phi'_c = \frac{Q'}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R}$  and  $\phi_c = \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r}$

$$\begin{aligned}\Rightarrow Q\phi'_c + \int d^3r \rho(\mathbf{r}) \phi'(\mathbf{r}) &= 0, \\ \Rightarrow Q \frac{Q'}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R} + \int d^3r \rho(\mathbf{r}) \frac{Q'}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r} &= 0, \\ \Rightarrow \frac{Q}{R} + \int d^3r \frac{\rho(\mathbf{r})}{r} &= 0,\end{aligned}$$

but in this case we have that

$$\begin{aligned}\rho(\mathbf{r}) &= -\mathbf{p} \cdot \nabla \delta(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_0), \\ \Rightarrow \frac{Q}{R} - \int d^3r \frac{\mathbf{p}}{r} \cdot \nabla \delta(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_0) &= 0\end{aligned}$$

but one property of the delta is this

$$\int dx f(x) \frac{d}{dx} \delta(x - x') = -f'(x'),$$

then, we have that

$$\frac{Q}{R} = -\nabla \cdot \left( \frac{\mathbf{p}}{r} \right),$$

but

$$\nabla \cdot \left( \frac{\mathbf{p}}{r} \right) = \frac{1}{r} \nabla \cdot \mathbf{p} + \mathbf{p} \cdot \nabla \frac{1}{r},$$

and we know that

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{p} = 0, \quad \nabla \frac{1}{r} = -\frac{\hat{\mathbf{r}}}{r^2},$$

then, we have that

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{Q}{R} &= \frac{\hat{\mathbf{r}} \cdot \mathbf{p}}{r_0^2}, \\ \therefore Q &= \frac{R \hat{\mathbf{r}} \cdot \mathbf{p}}{r_0^2}.\end{aligned}$$