

Solved selected problems of Classical Electrodynamics - Hans Ohanian

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Chapter 3 - The Boundary-Value Problem

Exercises

Solution. Exercise 1. Let's take a metal like copper then the electric field due to equation (17) is given by

$$\begin{aligned} E &= \frac{Mg}{Ze} \\ &= \frac{1.0552 \times 10^{-22} \text{ g} \cdot 981 \text{ cm/s}^2}{29 \cdot 4.803 \times 10^{-10} \text{ esu}} \\ &= 0.743 \times 10^{-11} \text{ statvolt/cm} \end{aligned}$$

Where we used the following units conversion

$$\frac{\text{statvolt}}{\text{cm}} = \frac{\text{erg}}{\text{esu} \cdot \text{cm}} = \frac{\text{dyn}}{\text{esu}} = \frac{\text{g} \cdot \text{cm/s}^2}{\text{esu}}$$

Therefore the field is about 10^{-11} statvolt/cm

□

Solution. Exercise 2. We know that the potential for the system of two charges is

$$\Phi(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{q}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + (z - b)^2}} - \frac{q}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + (z + b)^2}}$$

then if we take $z = 0$ as it is for the x - y plane we get that

$$\Phi(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{q}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + (-b)^2}} - \frac{q}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + b^2}} = 0$$

Therefore regardless of the point $\mathbf{x} = (x, y, 0)$ we take the potential is always the same (zero) i.e. the x - y plane is an equipotential surface.

□

Solution. Exercise 3. Equations (22)-(24) state that

$$\frac{1}{X} \frac{d^2 X}{dx^2} = \alpha^2 \quad \frac{1}{Y} \frac{d^2 Y}{dy^2} = \beta^2 \quad \frac{1}{Z} \frac{d^2 Z}{dz^2} = \gamma^2$$

Since they are of the same form we solve only the first differential equation but the solution applies to all of them.

Let us take $X(x) = e^{\pm\alpha x}$ we will show it's a solution to the first equation. We see that

$$\frac{d^2 X(x)}{dx^2} = \alpha^2 e^{\pm\alpha x} = \alpha X(x)$$

Therefore the $X(x)$ we took satisfies the equation. The same can be shown for Y and Z . \square

Solution. Exercise 4. Let $m \neq n$ then

$$\begin{aligned}
 \int_0^b e^{2\pi i(n-m)y/b} dy &= \left[-\frac{ibe^{2\pi i(n-m)y/b}}{2\pi(n-m)} \right]_0^b \\
 &= \left[-\frac{ibe^{2\pi i(n-m)}}{2\pi(n-m)} + \frac{ibe^0}{2\pi(n-m)} \right] \\
 &= \frac{ib}{2\pi(n-m)} [1 - e^{2\pi i(n-m)}] \\
 &= \frac{ib}{2\pi(n-m)} [1 - (\cos(2\pi(n-m)) + i \sin(2\pi(n-m)))] \\
 &= \frac{ib}{2\pi(n-m)} [1 - (1 + 0)] \\
 &= 0
 \end{aligned}$$

Where we used that $\sin(2\pi(n-m)) = 0$ and $\cos(2\pi(n-m)) = 1$ no matter the values of n or m .

If $n = m$ then we have that

$$\int_0^b e^{2\pi i(n-m)y/b} dy = \int_0^b e^0 dy = \int_0^b dy = [y]_0^b = b$$

Therefore

$$\int_0^b e^{2\pi i(n-m)y/b} dy = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } n \neq m \\ b & \text{if } n = m \end{cases}$$

□

Solution. Exercise 5. Equation (36) states that

$$A_m = \frac{1}{b} \int_0^b \Phi(y, 0) e^{-2\pi i m y/b} dy$$

Where $\Phi(y, 0)$ is

$$\Phi(y, 0) = \begin{cases} V_0 & \text{if } 0 \leq y \leq b/2 \\ -V_0 & \text{if } b/2 < y \leq b \end{cases}$$

Then the integral becomes

$$\begin{aligned} A_m &= \frac{V_0}{b} \left[\int_0^{b/2} e^{-2\pi i m y/b} dy - \int_{b/2}^b e^{-2\pi i m y/b} dy \right] \\ &= \frac{V_0}{b} \left[-\frac{b e^{-2\pi i m y/b}}{2\pi i m} \right]_0^{b/2} - \left[-\frac{b e^{-2\pi i m y/b}}{2\pi i m} \right]_{b/2}^b \\ &= -\frac{V_0}{2\pi i m} \left[e^{-2\pi i m y/b} \right]_0^{b/2} - \left[e^{-2\pi i m y/b} \right]_{b/2}^b \\ &= -\frac{V_0}{2\pi i m} \left[e^{-\pi i m} - 1 \right] - \left[e^{-2\pi i m} - e^{-\pi i m} \right] \\ &= -\frac{V_0}{2\pi i m} \left[2e^{-\pi i m} - 1 - e^{-2\pi i m} \right] \\ &= -\frac{V_0}{2\pi i m} \left[2e^{-\pi i m} - 2 \right] \\ &= -\frac{V_0}{\pi i m} \left[e^{-\pi i m} - 1 \right] \end{aligned}$$

□

Solution. Exercise 6. Let us consider the i -th term of equation (38)

$$-\frac{V_0}{\pi i n} (e^{-\pi i n} - 1) e^{2\pi i n y/b} \frac{e^{-2\pi n h/b} e^{2\pi n z/b} - e^{2\pi n h/b} e^{-2\pi n z/b}}{e^{-2\pi n h/b} - e^{2\pi n h/b}}$$

We see that

$$\frac{e^{-2\pi n h/b} e^{2\pi n z/b} - e^{2\pi n h/b} e^{-2\pi n z/b}}{e^{-2\pi n h/b} - e^{2\pi n h/b}}$$

is real so we want to prove the first part is real. Also, we see that $e^{-\pi i n} - 1 = 0$ for even n and $e^{\pm \pi i n} - 1 = -2$ for odd n . So let us consider the sum

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{n=-\infty}^{n=\infty} -\frac{V_0}{\pi i n} (e^{-\pi i n} - 1) e^{2\pi i n y/b} \\ &= \sum_{\substack{n=1 \\ n \text{ is odd}}}^{\infty} -\frac{V_0}{\pi i n} (e^{-\pi i n} - 1) e^{2\pi i n y/b} + \frac{V_0}{\pi i n} (e^{\pi i n} - 1) e^{-2\pi i n y/b} \\ &= \sum_{\substack{n=1 \\ n \text{ is odd}}}^{\infty} \frac{V_0}{\pi i n} 2e^{2\pi i n y/b} - \frac{V_0}{\pi i n} 2e^{-2\pi i n y/b} \\ &= \sum_{\substack{n=1 \\ n \text{ is odd}}}^{\infty} \frac{2V_0}{\pi i n} (e^{2\pi i n y/b} - e^{-2\pi i n y/b}) \\ &= \sum_{\substack{n=1 \\ n \text{ is odd}}}^{\infty} \frac{4V_0}{\pi n} \sin(2\pi n y/b) \end{aligned}$$

Where we used that $\sin(x) = (e^{ix} - e^{-ix})/2i$. Therefore the equation (38) is a real function.

On the other hand, we can write that

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{e^{-2\pi n h/b} e^{2\pi n z/b} - e^{2\pi n h/b} e^{-2\pi n z/b}}{e^{-2\pi n h/b} - e^{2\pi n h/b}} = \\ &= \frac{e^{2\pi n(z-h)/b} - e^{-2\pi n(z-h)/b}}{e^{-2\pi n h/b} - e^{2\pi n h/b}} \\ &= \frac{\frac{e^{2\pi n(z-h)/b} - e^{-2\pi n(z-h)/b}}{2} i}{-\frac{e^{2\pi n h/b} - e^{-2\pi n h/b}}{2} i} \\ &= -\frac{\sin(i2\pi n(z-h)/b)}{\sin(i2\pi n h/b)} \\ &= -\frac{\sinh(2\pi n(z-h)/b)}{\sinh(2\pi n h/b)} \end{aligned}$$

Therefore we can write equation (38) in terms of sines as follows

$$\Phi(y, z) = \sum_{\substack{n=1 \\ n \text{ is odd}}}^{\infty} -\frac{V_0}{\pi n} \sin(2\pi n y/b) \frac{\sinh(2\pi n(z-h)/b)}{\sinh(2\pi n h/b)}$$

□

Solution. Exercise 7. Let us multiply both numerator and denominator of the expression

$$\frac{e^{-2\pi nh/b} e^{2\pi nz/b} - e^{2\pi nh/b} e^{-2\pi nz/b}}{e^{-2\pi nh/b} - e^{2\pi nh/b}}$$

By $e^{-2\pi nh/b}$ then

$$\frac{e^{-2\pi nh/b} e^{2\pi nz/b} - e^{2\pi nh/b} e^{-2\pi nz/b}}{e^{-2\pi nh/b} - e^{2\pi nh/b}} = \frac{e^{-4\pi nh/b} e^{2\pi nz/b} - e^{-2\pi nz/b}}{e^{-4\pi nh/b} - 1}$$

So applying the limit as $h/b \rightarrow \infty$ gives us

$$\lim_{h/b \rightarrow \infty} \frac{e^{-4\pi nh/b} e^{2\pi nz/b} - e^{-2\pi nz/b}}{e^{-4\pi nh/b} - 1} = \frac{0 - e^{-2\pi nz/b}}{0 - 1} = e^{-2\pi nz/b}$$

Therefore the potential as $h/b \rightarrow \infty$ becomes

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{h/b \rightarrow \infty} \Phi(y, z) &= \lim_{h/b \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{n=-\infty}^{n=\infty} -\frac{V_0}{\pi i n} (e^{-\pi i n} - 1) e^{2\pi i n y/b} \frac{e^{-2\pi nh/b} e^{2\pi nz/b} - e^{2\pi nh/b} e^{-2\pi nz/b}}{e^{-2\pi nh/b} - e^{2\pi nh/b}} \\ &= \sum_{n=-\infty}^{n=\infty} -\frac{V_0}{\pi i n} (e^{-\pi i n} - 1) e^{2\pi i n y/b} e^{-2\pi n z/b} \end{aligned}$$

□

Solution. Exercise 8. Let

$$\Phi(y, z) = \frac{4V_0}{\pi} \sin \frac{2\pi y}{b} e^{-2\pi z/b}$$

Then we compute E_y and E_z as follows

$$\begin{aligned} E_y &= -\frac{\partial \Phi(y, z)}{\partial y} = -\frac{8V_0}{b} \cos \frac{2\pi y}{b} e^{-2\pi z/b} \\ E_z &= -\frac{\partial \Phi(y, z)}{\partial z} = \frac{8V_0}{b} \sin \frac{2\pi y}{b} e^{-2\pi z/b} \end{aligned}$$

Therefore both components fall off exponentially with z .

□

Solution. Exercise 9. Let $\Phi(\rho, \phi) = R(\rho)Q(\phi)$ then Laplace's equation becomes

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial}{\partial \rho} \left(\rho \frac{\partial R(\rho)Q(\phi)}{\partial \rho} \right) + \frac{1}{\rho^2} \frac{\partial^2 R(\rho)Q(\phi)}{\partial \phi^2} &= 0 \\ Q(\phi) \frac{\partial}{\partial \rho} \left(\rho \frac{\partial R(\rho)}{\partial \rho} \right) + \frac{R(\rho)}{\rho} \frac{\partial^2 Q(\phi)}{\partial \phi^2} &= 0 \\ \frac{\rho}{R(\rho)} \frac{\partial}{\partial \rho} \left(\rho \frac{\partial R(\rho)}{\partial \rho} \right) + \frac{1}{Q(\phi)} \frac{\partial^2 Q(\phi)}{\partial \phi^2} &= 0\end{aligned}$$

Each of these terms must be equal to a constant since the sum must remain equal to 0, then we have that

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\rho}{R(\rho)} \frac{\partial}{\partial \rho} \left(\rho \frac{\partial R(\rho)}{\partial \rho} \right) &= k^2 \\ \frac{1}{Q(\phi)} \frac{\partial^2 Q(\phi)}{\partial \phi^2} &= m^2\end{aligned}$$

But since $k^2 + m^2 = 0$ then must be that $m^2 = -k^2$ hence

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\rho}{R(\rho)} \frac{\partial}{\partial \rho} \left(\rho \frac{\partial R(\rho)}{\partial \rho} \right) &= k^2 \\ \frac{1}{Q(\phi)} \frac{\partial^2 Q(\phi)}{\partial \phi^2} &= -k^2\end{aligned}$$

□

Solution. Exercise 10. Let $k \neq 0$ then we can write equation (45) as

$$\frac{d^2 Q}{d\phi^2} = -k^2 Q$$

This is the equation of a Simple Harmonic Oscillator for which we know the solution is

$$Q(\phi) = \cos(k\phi) \quad \text{or} \quad \sin(k\phi)$$

If we let $k = 0$ then equation (45) becomes

$$\frac{d^2 Q}{d\phi^2} = 0$$

Hence the first derivative of Q must be a constant i.e.

$$\frac{dQ}{d\phi} = a_1$$

But for this to happen Q must be a linear function, then

$$Q = a_0 + a_1 \phi$$

□

Solution. Exercise 11. Let $n \neq 0$ and let us define $s = \log \rho$. Also, note that for any function $f(\rho)$ we have that

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{df}{d\rho} &= \frac{df}{ds} \frac{ds}{d\rho} \\ \frac{df}{d\rho} &= \frac{df}{ds} \frac{1}{\rho} \\ \rho \frac{df}{d\rho} &= \frac{df}{ds}\end{aligned}$$

Then equation (48) becomes

$$\begin{aligned}\rho \frac{d}{d\rho} \left(\rho \frac{dR}{d\rho} \right) &= n^2 R \\ \frac{d}{ds} \left(\frac{dR}{ds} \right) &= n^2 R \\ \frac{d^2 R}{ds^2} &= n^2 R\end{aligned}$$

The solution to this differential equation is of the form $R(s) = e^{\pm ns}$ but replacing s again we get that

$$R(\rho) = e^{\pm n \log \rho} = (e^{\log \rho})^{\pm n} = \rho^{\pm n}$$

Now, if $n = 0$ and we replace again $s = \log \rho$, equation (48) becomes

$$\begin{aligned}\rho \frac{d}{d\rho} \left(\rho \frac{dR}{d\rho} \right) &= 0 \\ \frac{d^2 R}{ds^2} &= 0\end{aligned}$$

for which we know the solution is $b_0 + b_1 s$ where b_0 and b_1 are constants, then replacing again s we get that

$$R(\rho) = b_0 + b_1 \log \rho$$

□

Solution. Exercise 12. Let us compute the electric field components as follows

$$E_\rho = -\frac{\partial\Phi}{\partial\rho} = E_0 \cos \phi + E_0 \frac{R^2}{\rho^2} \cos \phi$$

And

$$E_\phi = -\frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial\Phi}{\partial\phi} = -\frac{1}{\rho} \left(E_0 \rho \sin \phi - E_0 \frac{R^2}{\rho} \sin \phi \right) = -E_0 \sin \phi + E_0 \frac{R^2}{\rho^2} \sin \phi$$

□

Solution. Exercise 13. Expression (64) states that

$$J_n(\xi) = \left(\frac{\xi}{2}\right)^n \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^j}{j!(j+n)!} \left(\frac{\xi}{2}\right)^{2j} = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^j}{j!(j+n)!} \left(\frac{\xi}{2}\right)^{2j+n}$$

And equation (63) states that

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{\xi} \frac{d}{d\xi} \left(\xi \frac{dR}{d\xi} \right) + \left(1 - \frac{n^2}{\xi^2} \right) R &= 0 \\ \frac{1}{\xi} \frac{d}{d\xi} \left(\xi \frac{dR}{d\xi} \right) + R &= \frac{n^2}{\xi^2} R \end{aligned}$$

Let us replace expression (64) into the LHS as follows

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{\xi} \frac{d}{d\xi} \left(\xi \frac{dJ_n}{d\xi} \right) + J_n &= \\ &= \frac{1}{\xi} \frac{d}{d\xi} \left(\xi \frac{d}{d\xi} \left(\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^j}{j!(j+n)!} \left(\frac{\xi}{2}\right)^{2j+n} \right) \right) + \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^j}{j!(j+n)!} \left(\frac{\xi}{2}\right)^{2j+n} \\ &= \frac{1}{\xi} \frac{d}{d\xi} \left(\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^j (2j+n)}{j!(j+n)!} \left(\frac{\xi}{2}\right)^{2j+n} \right) + \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^j}{j!(j+n)!} \left(\frac{\xi}{2}\right)^{2j+n} \\ &= \frac{1}{\xi} \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^j (2j+n)^2}{j!(j+n)! 2^{2j+n}} \xi^{2j+n-1} + \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^j}{j!(j+n)!} \left(\frac{\xi}{2}\right)^{2j+n} \\ &= \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^j (2j+n)^2}{j!(j+n)! 2^{2j+n}} \xi^{2j+n-2} + \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{j-1}}{(j-1)!(j+n-1)! 2^{2j+n-2}} \xi^{2j+n-2} \\ &= \frac{n^2}{n! \xi^2} \frac{\xi^n}{2^n} + \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^j (2j+n)^2}{j!(j+n)! 2^{2j+n}} \xi^{2j+n-2} - \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^j}{(j-1)!(j+n-1)! 2^{2j+n-2}} \xi^{2j+n-2} \\ &= \frac{n^2}{n! \xi^2} \frac{\xi^n}{2^n} + \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{(2j+n)^2}{\xi^2} - \frac{4j!(j+n)!}{(j-1)!(j+n-1)! \xi^2} \right) \frac{(-1)^j}{j!(j+n)!} \left(\frac{\xi}{2}\right)^{2j+n} \\ &= \frac{n^2}{n! \xi^2} \frac{\xi^n}{2^n} + \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{(2j+n)^2}{\xi^2} - \frac{4j(j+n)}{\xi^2} \right) \frac{(-1)^j}{j!(j+n)!} \left(\frac{\xi}{2}\right)^{2j+n} \\ &= \frac{n^2}{n! \xi^2} \frac{\xi^n}{2^n} + \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \frac{n^2}{\xi^2} \frac{(-1)^j}{j!(j+n)!} \left(\frac{\xi}{2}\right)^{2j+n} \\ &= \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{n^2}{\xi^2} \frac{(-1)^j}{j!(j+n)!} \left(\frac{\xi}{2}\right)^{2j+n} \\ &= \frac{n^2}{\xi^2} J_n \end{aligned}$$

Therefore equation (64) satisfies equation (63). □

Solution. Exercise 14. Let $\mu = \cos \theta$ and let us note that

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial f}{\partial \mu} \frac{\partial \mu}{\partial \theta} &= \frac{\partial f}{\partial \theta} \\ -\frac{\partial f}{\partial \mu} \sin \theta &= \frac{\partial f}{\partial \theta} \\ \frac{\partial f}{\partial \mu} &= -\frac{1}{\sin \theta} \frac{\partial f}{\partial \theta}\end{aligned}$$

Also, we have that $\sin^2 \theta = 1 - \cos^2 \theta = 1 - \mu^2$.

Then replacing in equation (67) we get that

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial r^2}(r\Phi) + \frac{1}{r^2 \sin \theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \left(\sin \theta \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial \theta} \right) + \frac{1}{r^2 \sin^2 \theta} \frac{\partial^2 \Phi}{\partial \phi^2} &= 0 \\ \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial r^2}(r\Phi) - \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial \mu} \left(-\sin^2 \theta \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial \mu} \right) + \frac{1}{r^2 \sin^2 \theta} \frac{\partial^2 \Phi}{\partial \phi^2} &= 0 \\ \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial r^2}(r\Phi) + \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial \mu} \left((1 - \mu^2) \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial \mu} \right) + \frac{1}{r^2 (1 - \mu^2)} \frac{\partial^2 \Phi}{\partial \phi^2} &= 0\end{aligned}$$

□

Solution. Exercise 15. Let us define $\Phi(r, \mu) = F(r)P(\mu)$ then Laplace's equation becomes

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial r^2}(r\Phi) + \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial \mu} \left[(1 - \mu^2) \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial \mu} \right] &= 0 \\ \frac{P}{r} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial r^2}(rF) + \frac{F}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial \mu} \left[(1 - \mu^2) \frac{\partial P}{\partial \mu} \right] &= 0 \\ \frac{r}{F} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial r^2}(rF) + \frac{1}{P} \frac{\partial}{\partial \mu} \left[(1 - \mu^2) \frac{\partial P}{\partial \mu} \right] &= 0\end{aligned}$$

Where in the last step we multiplied the equation by r^2/FP . Then we see that each term must be equal to a constant since the first term only depends on r and the second term only depends on μ .

Setting the constant to $l(l+1)$ for some l then must be that

$$\frac{r}{F} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial r^2}(rF) = l(l+1) \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{1}{P} \frac{\partial}{\partial \mu} \left[(1 - \mu^2) \frac{\partial P}{\partial \mu} \right] = -l(l+1)$$

□

Solution. Exercise 16. Let $F(r) = r^l, r^{-l-1}$ then equation (72) for the first case gives us

$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{r}{F} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial r^2}(rF) &= \frac{r}{r^l} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial r^2}(r^{l+1}) \\
 &= \frac{(l+1)}{r^{l-1}} \frac{\partial}{\partial r}(r^l) \\
 &= \frac{l(l+1)}{r^{l-1}} r^{l-1} \\
 &= l(l+1)
 \end{aligned}$$

And for the second case we get that

$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{r}{F} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial r^2}(rF) &= \frac{r}{r^{-l-1}} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial r^2}(r^{-l}) \\
 &= \frac{-l}{r^{-l-2}} \frac{\partial}{\partial r}(r^{-l-1}) \\
 &= \frac{-l(-l-1)}{r^{-l-2}} r^{-l-2} \\
 &= l(l+1)
 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore both r^l and r^{-l-1} are solutions to the equation (72). □

Solution. Exercise 17. Let us apply the product rule to $[(\mu^2 - 1)u']^{(4)}$ as follows

$$\begin{aligned}
[(\mu^2 - 1)u']^{(4)} &= [2\mu u' + (\mu^2 - 1)u'']''' \\
&= [2u' + 2\mu u'' + 2\mu u'' + (\mu^2 - 1)u''']'' \\
&= [2u'' + 2u'' + 2\mu u''' + 2u'' + 2\mu u''' + 2\mu u''' + (\mu^2 - 1)u''''']' \\
&= [6u'' + 6\mu u''' + (\mu^2 - 1)u^{(4)}]' \\
&= 6u''' + 6u''' + 6\mu u^{(4)} + 2\mu u^{(4)} + (\mu^2 - 1)u^{(5)} \\
&= 12u''' + 8\mu u^{(4)} + (\mu^2 - 1)u^{(5)}
\end{aligned}$$

Then we see that if we apply it l -times to $[(\mu^2 - 1)u']^{(l)}$ we get that

$$\begin{aligned}
[(\mu^2 - 1)u']^{(l)} &= [2\mu u' + (\mu^2 - 1)u'']^{(l-1)} \\
&= [2u' + 2\mu u'' + 2\mu u'' + (\mu^2 - 1)u''']^{(l-2)} \\
&= [2u' + 4\mu u'' + (\mu^2 - 1)u''']^{(l-2)} \\
&= [2u'' + 4u'' + 4\mu u''' + 2\mu u''' + (\mu^2 - 1)u^{(4)}]^{(l-3)} \\
&= [6u'' + 6\mu u''' + (\mu^2 - 1)u^{(4)}]^{(l-3)} \\
&\dots \\
&= l(l-1)u^{(l-1)} + 2l\mu u^{(l)} + (\mu^2 - 1)u^{(l+1)}
\end{aligned}$$

In the same way, let us compute the l -derivative of $2l\mu u$ as follows

$$\begin{aligned}
[2l\mu u]^{(l)} &= [2lu + 2l\mu u']^{(l-1)} \\
&= [2lu' + 2lu' + 2l\mu u'']^{(l-2)} \\
&= [4lu' + 2l\mu u'']^{(l-2)} \\
&= [4lu'' + 2lu'' + 2l\mu u''']^{(l-3)} \\
&= [6lu'' + 2l\mu u''']^{(l-3)} \\
&\dots \\
&= 2l^2u^{(l-1)} + 2l\mu u^{(l)}
\end{aligned}$$

□

Solution. Exercise 18. Let $v(\mu) = (\mu + 1)^l$ and $w(\mu) = (\mu - 1)^l$ then using the general Leibniz rule we have that

$$\frac{d^l}{d\mu^l} v(\mu)w(\mu) = \frac{d^l}{d\mu^l} (\mu + 1)^l (\mu - 1)^l = \sum_{k=0}^l \binom{l}{k} v(\mu)^{(l-k)} w(\mu)^{(k)}$$

We see that the only non-zero derivative of $w(\mu)$ valued at $\mu = 1$ is when $k = l$ so above equation for $\mu = 1$ becomes

$$\sum_{k=0}^l \binom{l}{k} v(\mu)^{(l-k)} w(\mu)^{(k)} \Big|_{\mu=1} = 2^l l!$$

Where we used that $\binom{l}{l} = 1$ and that $w(\mu)^{(l)}|_{\mu=1} = l!$.

Therefore

$$P_l(1) = \frac{1}{2^l l!} \frac{d^l}{d\mu^l} (\mu + 1)^l (\mu - 1)^l \Big|_{\mu=1} = 1$$

In the same way, the only non-zero derivative of $v(\mu)$ valued at $\mu = -1$ is when $k = 0$ so the equation for $\mu = -1$ becomes

$$\sum_{k=0}^l \binom{l}{k} v(\mu)^{(l-k)} w(\mu)^{(k)} \Big|_{\mu=-1} = l! (-2)^l$$

Therefore

$$P_l(-1) = \frac{1}{2^l l!} \frac{d^l}{d\mu^l} (\mu + 1)^l (\mu - 1)^l \Big|_{\mu=-1} = (-1)^l$$

□

Solution. Exercise 19. We want to prove by induction on l that

$$P_l(-\mu) = (-1)^l P_l(\mu)$$

Then for $l = 1$ we see that

$$P_1(-\mu) = \frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{d\nu} (\nu + 1)(\nu - 1) \Big|_{\nu=-\mu} = -\mu$$

And that

$$P_1(\mu) = \frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{d\nu} (\nu + 1)(\nu - 1) \Big|_{\nu=\mu} = \mu$$

Then $P_1(-\mu) = -\mu = (-1)^1 P_1(\mu)$ so the base case holds.

Now, for the induction step, suppose the following is true

$$P_l(-\mu) = (-1)^l P_l(\mu)$$

We know that the recurrence relation for Legendre polynomials is

$$P_{l+1}(\mu) = \frac{(2l+1)\mu P_l(\mu) - lP_{l-1}(\mu)}{l+1}$$

Then replacing $-\mu$ we get that

$$\begin{aligned} P_{l+1}(-\mu) &= \frac{(2l+1)\mu P_l(-\mu) - lP_{l-1}(-\mu)}{l+1} \\ &= \frac{-(2l+1)\mu(-1)^l P_l(\mu) - l(-1)^{l-1} P_{l-1}(\mu)}{l+1} \\ &= \frac{(-1)^l}{l+1} \left[-(2l+1)\mu P_l(\mu) - l(-1)^{-1} P_{l-1}(\mu) \right] \\ &= (-1)^{l+1} \frac{(2l+1)\mu P_l(\mu) - lP_{l-1}(\mu)}{l+1} \\ &= (-1)^{l+1} P_{l+1}(\mu) \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, the induction holds as well, and we have proven by induction that

$$P_l(-\mu) = (-1)^l P_l(\mu)$$

□

Solution. Exercise 20. Let us compute $P_0(\mu)$, $P_1(\mu)$, $P_2(\mu)$, and $P_3(\mu)$ as follows

$$\begin{aligned} P_0(\mu) &= \frac{1}{2^0 \cdot 0!} \frac{d^0}{d\mu^0} (\mu^2 - 1)^0 = \frac{1}{1 \cdot 1} \cdot 1 = 1 \\ P_1(\mu) &= \frac{1}{2^1 \cdot 1!} \frac{d}{d\mu} (\mu^2 - 1)^1 = \frac{1}{2} \cdot 2\mu = \mu \\ P_2(\mu) &= \frac{1}{2^2 \cdot 2!} \frac{d^2}{d\mu^2} (\mu^2 - 1)^2 = \frac{1}{8} \cdot 12\mu^2 - 4 = \frac{3\mu^2 - 1}{2} \\ P_3(\mu) &= \frac{1}{2^3 \cdot 3!} \frac{d^3}{d\mu^3} (\mu^2 - 1)^3 = \frac{1}{48} \cdot 120\mu^3 - 72\mu = \frac{24(5\mu^3 - 3\mu)}{48} = \frac{5\mu^3 - 3\mu}{2} \end{aligned}$$

□

Solution. Exercise 21. Let $l > n$ then

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{-1}^1 P_l(\mu) P_n(\mu) d\mu &= \frac{1}{2^l l!} \frac{1}{2^n n!} \int_{-1}^1 \frac{d^l}{d\mu^l} (\mu^2 - 1)^l \frac{d^n}{d\mu^n} (\mu^2 - 1)^n d\mu \\ &= \frac{(-1)^l}{2^{l+n} l! n!} \int_{-1}^1 (\mu^2 - 1)^l \frac{d^{l+n}}{d\mu^{l+n}} (\mu^2 - 1)^n d\mu \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Where we used that this expression is zero because, for $l > n$, the $(l+n)$ th derivative of a polynomial of order $2n$ vanishes.

In the same way, if $n > l$ we have that

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{-1}^1 P_n(\mu) P_l(\mu) d\mu &= \frac{1}{2^n n!} \frac{1}{2^l l!} \int_{-1}^1 \frac{d^n}{d\mu^n} (\mu^2 - 1)^n \frac{d^l}{d\mu^l} (\mu^2 - 1)^l d\mu \\ &= \frac{(-1)^n}{2^{l+n} l! n!} \int_{-1}^1 (\mu^2 - 1)^n \frac{d^{l+n}}{d\mu^{l+n}} (\mu^2 - 1)^l d\mu \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Where we integrated by parts repeated n times and we used that the $(l+n)$ th derivative of a polynomial of order $2l$ vanishes.

Therefore

$$\int_{-1}^1 P_l(\mu) P_n(\mu) d\mu = 0 \quad \text{for } l \neq n$$

□

Solution. Exercise 22. We want to prove that

$$\int_{-1}^1 P_l(\mu) P_l(\mu) d\mu = \frac{2}{2l+1}$$

Applying integration by parts l times we get that

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{-1}^1 P_l(\mu) P_l(\mu) d\mu &= \frac{1}{2^{2l}(l!)^2} \int_{-1}^1 \frac{d^l}{d\mu^l} (\mu^2 - 1)^l \frac{d^l}{d\mu^l} (\mu^2 - 1)^l d\mu \\ &= \frac{(-1)^l}{2^{2l}(l!)^2} \int_{-1}^1 (\mu^2 - 1)^l \frac{d^{2l}}{d\mu^{2l}} (\mu^2 - 1)^l d\mu \\ &= \frac{(-1)^l (2l)!}{2^{2l}(l!)^2} \int_{-1}^1 (\mu^2 - 1)^l d\mu \end{aligned}$$

Where we used that the $2l$ derivative of a polynomial of grade $2l$ is $(2l)!$.
Let us now define $\mu = \cos \theta$ then $d\mu = -\sin \theta d\theta$ hence

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{-1}^1 P_l(\mu) P_l(\mu) d\mu &= \frac{(-1)^l (2l)!}{2^{2l}(l!)^2} \int_{\pi}^0 -(\cos^2 \theta - 1)^l \sin \theta d\theta \\ &= \frac{(-1)^l (2l)!}{2^{2l}(l!)^2} \int_{\pi}^0 -(-1)^l (1 - \cos^2 \theta)^l \sin \theta d\theta \\ &= \frac{(2l)!}{2^{2l}(l!)^2} \int_0^{\pi} \sin^{2l} \theta \sin \theta d\theta \\ &= \frac{(2l)!}{2^{2l}(l!)^2} \int_0^{\pi} \sin^{2l+1} \theta d\theta \end{aligned}$$

Now, let $u = \sin^{2l} \theta$ and $v' = \sin \theta$ then integrating by parts we get that

$$\begin{aligned} I &= \int_0^{\pi} \sin^{2l+1} \theta d\theta \\ &= \left[-\sin^{2l} \theta \cos \theta \right]_0^{\pi} + \int_0^{\pi} 2l \cos^2 \theta \sin^{2l-1} \theta d\theta \\ &= 2l \int_0^{\pi} \cos^2 \theta \sin^{2l-1} \theta d\theta \\ &= 2l \int_0^{\pi} (1 - \sin^2 \theta) \sin^{2l-1} \theta d\theta \\ &= 2l \left[\int_0^{\pi} \sin^{2l-1} \theta d\theta - \int_0^{\pi} \sin^{2l+1} \theta d\theta \right] \\ &= 2l \left[\int_0^{\pi} \sin^{2l-1} \theta d\theta - I \right] \end{aligned}$$

So

$$I(2l+1) = 2l \int_0^{\pi} \sin^{2l-1} \theta d\theta$$

We get then the following recursive equation

$$I_{2l+1} = \frac{2l}{2l+1} I_{2l-1}$$

Then if we apply it l times we get that

$$I_{2l+1} = \frac{2l}{2l+1} \frac{2(l-1)}{2l-1} \frac{2(l-2)}{2l-3} \cdots \frac{2}{3} I_1 = \frac{2^l l!}{(2l+1) \frac{(2l)!}{2^l l!}} I_1 = \frac{2 \cdot 2^{2l} (l!)^2}{(2l+1)(2l)!}$$

Where we used that $I_1 = \int_0^\pi \sin \theta \, d\theta = 2$. Joining the results we get that

$$\int_{-1}^1 P_l(\mu) P_l(\mu) \, d\mu = \frac{(2l)!}{2^{2l} (l!)^2} \frac{2 \cdot 2^{2l} (l!)^2}{(2l+1)(2l)!} = \frac{2}{2l+1}$$

□

Solution. Exercise 23. We want to compute

$$\frac{1}{2^m m!} \left[\frac{d^{m-1}}{d\mu^{m-1}} (\mu^2 - 1)^m \right]_{-1}^0$$

First, let us note that

$$(\mu^2 - 1)^m = \sum_{k=0}^m \frac{m!}{(m-k)!k!} (-1)^k \mu^{2(m-k)}$$

After we derivate $m - 1$ times the only terms that survive are the terms above $m - 1$ but, when we replace $\mu = 0$ the term that survives is the term that involves μ^{m-1} before the derivation, and upon derivations leaves us the following coefficient

$$\frac{m!}{(m-k)!k!} (-1)^k (m-1)!$$

Where must be that $2(m-k) = m-1$ then we get that $k = m/2 + 1/2$, so replacing we have that

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{2^m m!} \left[\frac{d^{m-1}}{d\mu^{m-1}} (\mu^2 - 1)^m \right]_{-1}^0 &= \frac{1}{2^m m!} \left[\frac{d^{m-1}}{d\mu^{m-1}} (\mu^2 - 1)^m \Big|_{\mu=0} - 0 \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{2^m m!} \cdot \frac{(-1)^{m/2+1/2} (m-1)! m!}{(m/2 - 1/2)! (m/2 + 1/2)!} \\ &= \frac{1}{2^m} \cdot \frac{(-1)^{m/2+1/2} (m-1)!}{(m/2 - 1/2)! (m/2 + 1/2)!} \cdot \frac{m(m+1)}{m(m+1)} \\ &= \frac{1}{2^m} \frac{(-1)^{m/2+1/2}}{(m/2 - 1/2)! (m/2 + 1/2)!} \frac{(m+1)!}{m \cdot 2(m/2 + 1/2)} \\ &= \frac{1}{2^{m+1}} \frac{(-1)^{m/2+1/2}}{[(m/2 + 1/2)!]^2} \frac{(m+1)!}{m} \end{aligned}$$

Where we multiplied numerator and denominator by $m(m+1)$ and we used that $(m/2 - 1/2)! \cdot (m/2 + 1/2) = (m/2 + 1/2)!$ \square

Solution. Exercise 24. Equation (107) states that

$$\frac{q}{\sqrt{r^2 + r'^2 - 2rr' \cos \theta}} = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} (A_l r^l + B_l r^{-l-1}) P_l(\cos \theta)$$

Let $r < r'$, when $r = 0$ the LHS becomes q/r' , which doesn't blow up. Then B_l in this case must be 0, otherwise the RHS blow up at $r = 0$. Let us consider the special case $\cos \theta = 1$, since $P_l(1) = 1$ we get that

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{r^2 + r'^2 - 2rr'}} = \frac{1}{|r - r'|} = \frac{1}{r' - r} = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} A_l r^l$$

On the other hand, the series expansion for $1/r' - r$ when $r < r'$ gives us

$$\frac{1}{r' - r} = \frac{1}{r'} \frac{1}{1 - \frac{r}{r'}} = \frac{1}{r'} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{r}{r'} \right)^n$$

Comparing with the previous equation must be that $A_l = 1/(r')^{l+1}$. Therefore replacing in the general equation we get that

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{r^2 + r'^2 - 2rr' \cos \theta}} = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \frac{r^l}{(r')^{l+1}} P_l(\cos \theta)$$

□

Solution. Exercise 25. In this case, the quadrupole-moment tensor is given by

$$\begin{aligned}
 Q^{ij} &= \int (3x'^i x'^j - \delta^{ij} r'^2) \rho dV' \\
 &= q \left(3 \frac{b}{2} \frac{b}{2} - \left(\frac{b}{2} \right)^2 \right) + (-q) \left(3 \frac{(-b)}{2} \frac{(-b)}{2} - \left(\frac{(-b)}{2} \right)^2 \right) \\
 &= 2q \left(\frac{b}{2} \right)^2 - 2q \left(\frac{b}{2} \right)^2 \\
 &= 0
 \end{aligned}$$

□

Solution. Exercise 26. Suppose the center of the dipole with charges $\pm q$ is at (x_0, y_0, z_0) in a coordinate system x, y, z . Then the charge $+q$ is at $(x_0, y_0, z_0 + b/2)$ and the charge $-q$ is at $(x_0, y_0, z_0 - b/2)$ then the dipole moment components are given by

$$\begin{aligned} p_z &= q\left(z_0 + \frac{b}{2}\right) + (-q)\left(z_0 - \frac{b}{2}\right) = qb \\ p_x &= qx_0 + (-q)x_0 = 0 \\ p_y &= qy_0 + (-q)y_0 = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore we see that the dipole moment is independent of the position of the center of the dipole.

For the general case of a charge distribution with zero net charge, suppose $\mathbf{x}_0 = (x_0, y_0, z_0)$ is a point inside the charge distribution in a coordinate system x, y, z .

Then the coordinates of a point \mathbf{x} in the charge distribution can be written as $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{x}_0 + \mathbf{x}'$ where \mathbf{x}' are the coordinates of the point in a coordinate system x', y', z' centered at \mathbf{x}_0 .

In the coordinate system x', y', z' the dipole moment is

$$\mathbf{p} = \int \mathbf{x}' \rho(\mathbf{x}') dV'$$

And in the coordinate system x, y, z the dipole moment is

$$\mathbf{p} = \int \mathbf{x} \rho(\mathbf{x}) dV$$

But we can also write

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{p} &= \int (\mathbf{x}_0 + \mathbf{x}') \rho(\mathbf{x}_0 + \mathbf{x}') dV \\ &= \mathbf{x}_0 \int \rho(\mathbf{x}_0 + \mathbf{x}') dV + \int \mathbf{x}' \rho(\mathbf{x}_0 + \mathbf{x}') dV \\ &= 0 + \int \mathbf{x}' \rho(\mathbf{x}_0 + \mathbf{x}') dV \\ &= \int \mathbf{x}' \rho(\mathbf{x}') dV' \end{aligned}$$

Where we used in the second step that \mathbf{x}_0 is a fixed coordinate so we can take it out of the integral and hence the integral over the charge distribution is 0 because it has zero net charge. Finally in the last step we integrate over V' instead of V and hence numerically $\rho(\mathbf{x}_0 + \mathbf{x}')$ is equal to $\rho(\mathbf{x}')$.

Therefore the dipole moment is independent of the coordinate system taken.

□

Solution. Exercise 27. The potential of an ideal dipole was derived in equation (121) and it states the following

$$\Phi(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{r^3} \mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{p}$$

This equation was derived assuming the center of the dipole was at the origin and hence it computes the potential at a point \mathbf{x} at a distance r from the origin.

So, to compute the potential of a dipole centered at the point \mathbf{x}' we need to compute first, the vector from the center of the dipole to the point where we want to compute the potential, this vector is $\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'$.

Then, replacing the vector in the equation gives us

$$\Phi(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|^3} (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}') \cdot \mathbf{p}$$

Where we used that now the length of the vector from the center of the dipole to \mathbf{x} is $|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|$ instead of r .

On the other hand, let us compute $\nabla(1/|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|)$ as follows

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|} &= \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \frac{1}{\sqrt{(x-x')^2 + (y-y')^2 + (z-z')^2}} \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \frac{1}{\sqrt{(x-x')^2 + (y-y')^2 + (z-z')^2}} \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \frac{1}{\sqrt{(x-x')^2 + (y-y')^2 + (z-z')^2}} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{x-x'}{(\sqrt{(x-x')^2 + (y-y')^2 + (z-z')^2})^3} \\ -\frac{y-y'}{(\sqrt{(x-x')^2 + (y-y')^2 + (z-z')^2})^3} \\ -\frac{z-z'}{(\sqrt{(x-x')^2 + (y-y')^2 + (z-z')^2})^3} \end{bmatrix} = \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{x-x'}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|^3} \\ -\frac{y-y'}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|^3} \\ -\frac{z-z'}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|^3} \end{bmatrix} = -\frac{\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|^3} \end{aligned}$$

Therefore

$$\Phi(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{p} \cdot \frac{\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|^3} = -\mathbf{p} \cdot \nabla \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|}$$

Also, we have that

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla' \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|} &= \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial}{\partial x'} \frac{1}{\sqrt{(x-x')^2 + (y-y')^2 + (z-z')^2}} \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial y'} \frac{1}{\sqrt{(x-x')^2 + (y-y')^2 + (z-z')^2}} \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial z'} \frac{1}{\sqrt{(x-x')^2 + (y-y')^2 + (z-z')^2}} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{x-x'}{(\sqrt{(x-x')^2 + (y-y')^2 + (z-z')^2})^3} \\ \frac{y-y'}{(\sqrt{(x-x')^2 + (y-y')^2 + (z-z')^2})^3} \\ \frac{z-z'}{(\sqrt{(x-x')^2 + (y-y')^2 + (z-z')^2})^3} \end{bmatrix} = \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} \frac{x-x'}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|^3} \\ \frac{y-y'}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|^3} \\ \frac{z-z'}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|^3} \end{bmatrix} = \frac{\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|^3} \end{aligned}$$

Therefore we also have

$$\Phi(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{p} \cdot \frac{\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|^3} = \mathbf{p} \cdot \nabla' \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|}$$

□