

Now let's look at a Van der Graaff generator.

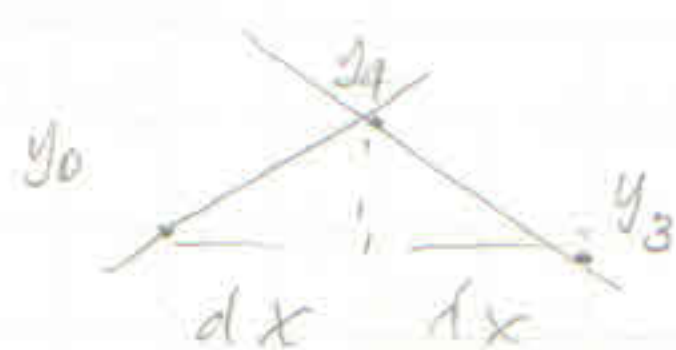


$$V = V_0$$

So for $\theta > \theta_0$ $\sum P_\ell(\cos\theta) = V_0$ if $R=r=1$
 similarly we can always normalise r/R and get
 $P_\ell(\cos\theta) (r/R)^{\ell+1}$ or $P_\ell(\cos\theta) (r/R)^\ell$ these imply

$$\vec{E} = 1/R (P_\ell(\cos\theta) (-\ell+1)) \dots$$

Say we have V and we want to find ℓ . How can we compute $\nabla^2 V$?



slope 1: $\frac{y_1 - y_0}{dx}$, slope 2: $\frac{y_2 - y_1}{dx}$ then $\frac{\Delta \text{slope}}{\Delta x}$ is what we want
 $\frac{\Delta \text{slope}}{\Delta x} = \frac{y_1 - y_0 - y_2 + y_1}{dx^2} = 0 = y_1 = \frac{y_0 + y_2}{2}$

which is the mean of points around it.

This generalises fairly easily to \mathbb{R}^2

Then with repeated averages will actually get us to where we need to be and will give us V given the boundary conditions.

Then one can take the second derivative approximation to get ℓ .

Let's head back to the spherical solution of separation of variables. We remember that

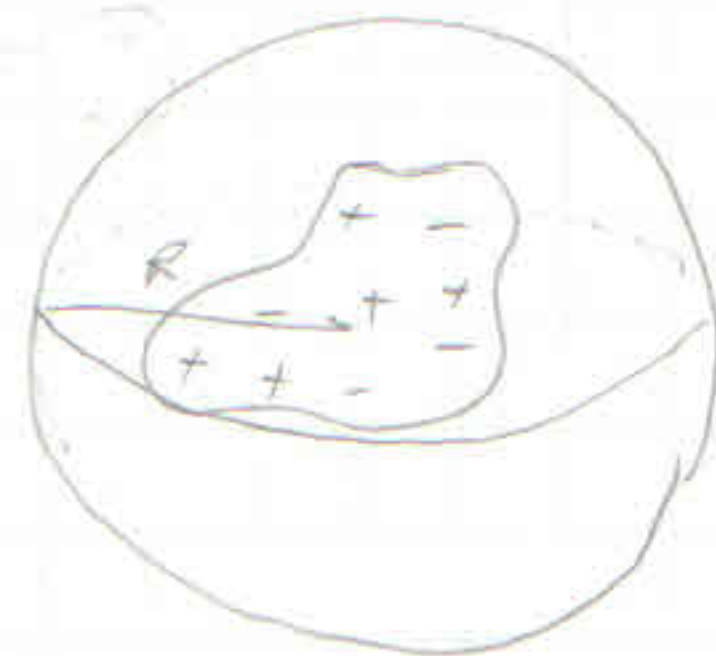
$$V(r, \theta) = \sum_{\ell} P_\ell(\cos\theta) r^{\ell+1} e^{\ell\phi} C_\ell e^{im\phi} \quad \ell \geq 0, |m| \leq \ell$$

m describes the ripples on the azimuth and ℓ is the total amount of ripples. Usually $P_\ell(\cos\theta) e^{im\phi}$ is denoted Y_ℓ^m . I suggest seeing the powerpoints to see some figures. How can we find C_ℓ ?

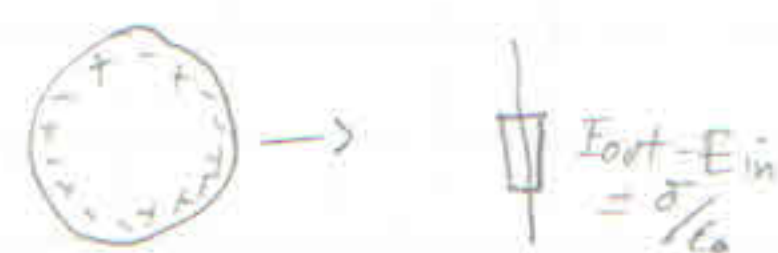
$$\int Y_\ell^m Y_{\ell'}^{m'} = \delta_{\ell\ell'} \delta_{mm'} \quad \text{and} \quad \int Y_\ell^m V = \int \sum Y_\ell^m C_\ell$$

$$\Rightarrow \int Y_\ell^m V = C_\ell m \quad \text{if we rescale so } \delta_{\ell\ell'} = 1 \quad = \delta_{\ell\ell'} \delta_{mm'}$$

Say we have some blob of charge. Let us wrap it in a sphere, then getting the potential on the surface provides a boundary. So long as all the charge is inside. If the sphere is on the origin we can use spherical harmonics. Now let's think of a shell of charge, we can get a measure of the charge density with Gauss' law. Also recall σ is continuous.



$$\text{let } V_{\text{out}} = \sum Y_\ell^m (r/R)^{\ell+1} a_\ell, \quad V_{\text{in}} = \sum Y_\ell^m (r/R)^\ell b_\ell, \quad a_\ell = b_\ell \text{ for continuity}$$



$$\text{and } \vec{E} = -\nabla V_{\text{out}} = -\sum Y_\ell^m a_\ell \frac{1}{R} (\ell+1) (r/R)^{\ell+2} \quad \text{since } \vec{E} \text{ is radial}$$

$$-\nabla V_{\text{in}} = -\sum Y_\ell^m a_\ell \frac{1}{R} \ell (r/R)^{\ell-1} \quad \text{then}$$

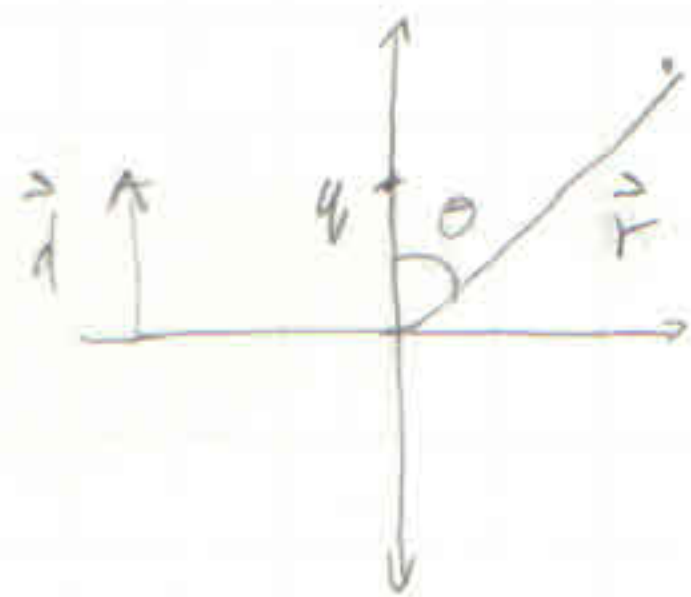
$$\Delta E = \sum Y_\ell^m a_\ell \frac{1}{R} (\ell+1) (r/R)^{\ell+2} + \ell (r/R)^{\ell-1} \quad \text{let } r=R \text{ we get}$$

$\Delta E = \sum Y_{lm} a_{lm} (2l+1) / R = \sigma / \epsilon_0$, we examine the R independent V

$$\sum b_{lm} Y_{lm} r^{-(l+1)} = \sum a_{lm} Y_{lm} (1/R)^{(l+1)}$$

what is the relationship between a_{lm} and b_{lm} .

Ok! I guess not, we will move to dipoles. Imagine the following situation with a charge and a point in 3-D defining a plane.



Then $V = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 |\vec{r} - \vec{d}|}$ $r \gg d$.

$$V = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{1}{\sqrt{r^2 + d^2 - 2rd\cos\theta}} = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r} \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + d^2/r^2 - 2d/r\cos\theta}}$$

\uparrow small

$$\approx \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r} \frac{1}{1 - d/r\cos\theta} \approx \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r} (1 + d/r\cos\theta + \dots)$$

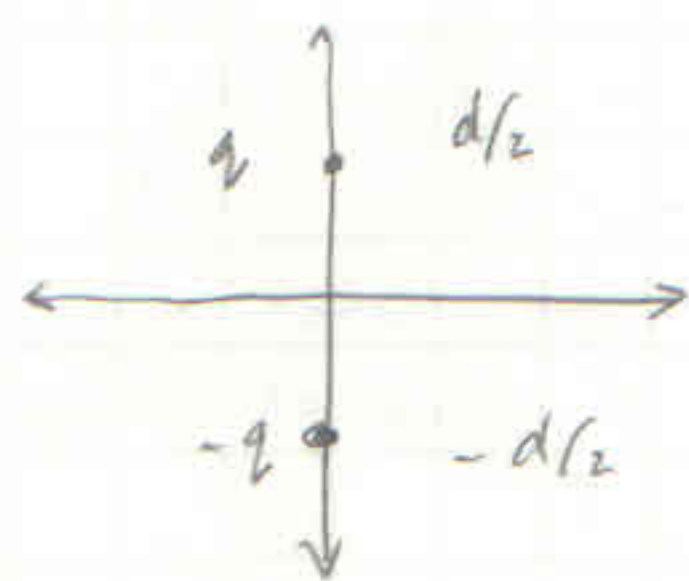
We cut off the rest. What if I have a charge density ρ then I can rewrite

$$V \approx \int \frac{\rho d^3v}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r} (1 + d/r\cos\theta) = \int \frac{\rho d^3v}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r} + \int \frac{\rho d\cos\theta d^3v}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2}$$

$$= \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r} + \int \frac{\rho \vec{r} \cdot \vec{d}}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2} d^3v = \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} + \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int \rho \vec{d} \cdot \vec{r} d^3v$$

\uparrow This is the dipole moment.

Let's test this and see what it gives!

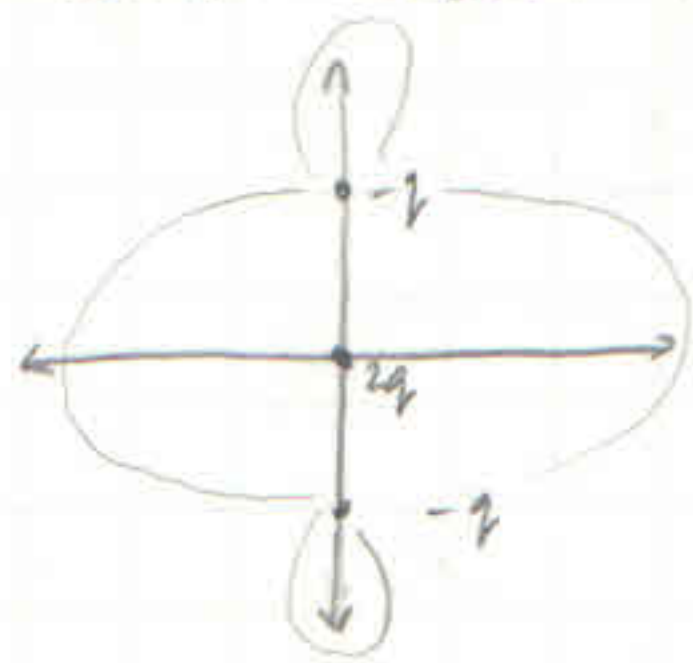


$$V \approx \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r} \left(1 + \frac{d}{2r} \cos\theta\right) - \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r} \left(1 - \frac{d}{2r} \cos\theta\right)$$

$$= \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r} \left(\frac{d}{r} \cos\theta\right) \text{ so where } r \text{ is very far this looks like a dipole.}$$

Very cool.

What about this?



Well $V \approx 0$ since each component cancels in the dipole moment, however looking more at the field lines we see there is clearly a field. The dipole is not high enough order to capture this effect.

Now let's look at the force between particles

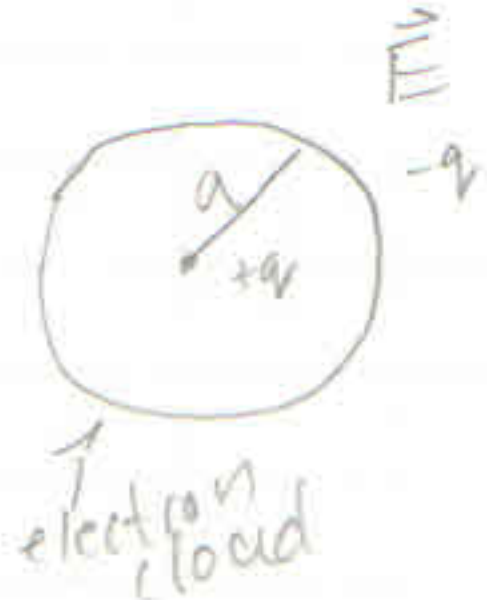
$\vec{E}(\vec{r})$ in back



$$F_{+q} = q \vec{E}(\vec{r} + \vec{d}) \approx q (\vec{E}(\vec{r}) + \vec{d} \cdot \nabla \vec{E})$$

\leftarrow tensor

$$F_{-q} \approx -q (\vec{E}(\vec{r}) +$$



This is an atom in an electric field. We will assume that \vec{E} is constant in the electric field. The electrons will move with the field and the nucleus against.

The force between the nucleus and the electrons is

$$\vec{E} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \cdot \frac{q}{r^2} \quad \left(\frac{q}{r^2} \right)^3 \leftarrow \text{from shell geometry} \quad \frac{q}{r^2} = \frac{q}{\frac{4\pi}{3} r^3} \quad \text{so since } V = \frac{4}{3}\pi r^3$$

dipole moment $\Rightarrow \vec{p} = \vec{E} \cdot 4\pi\epsilon_0 a^3 = 3V\epsilon_0$ where V is volume!

Then can we rip an atom apart? $E_{\max} = 3 \text{ kV/m} = 3 \times 10^6 \text{ V/m}$

$$\Rightarrow r = E_{\max} \cdot 4\pi\epsilon_0 a^3 / q = 3 \cdot 10^{-16} \text{ m} \quad \text{but an atom is } \sim 10^{-11} \text{ m}$$

So there is no field strong enough.

What actually happens? Well what is air compared to water?

It has $\sim 1/1000$ the density \Rightarrow the mean free path in air is roughly $\sim 1000\times$ more. If in water the mean free path is 1 atom diameter, then for air it is $1000 \cdot 1 \text{ atom} \approx 2 \cdot 10^{-7} \text{ m}$