

## Chapter 3: Boundary-Value Problems in Electrostatics: II

We first cover some special functions commonly used in physics, with an emphasis on their properties.

See Secs. 3.2, 3.5, & 3.6 or M&W (Ch. 7) for their derivations.

Highly recommended handbooks :

1. Gradshteyn & Ryzhik, "Table of Integrals, Series, and Products".
2. Abramowitz & Stegun, "Handbook of Mathematical Functions".

### 3.2 Legendre Equation and Legendre Polynomials

**Legendre Equation :** range for most phys. problems

$$\frac{d}{dx}[(1-x^2)\frac{du}{dx}] + \nu(\nu+1)u = 0, \quad \overbrace{-1 \leq x \leq 1} \quad (3.10)$$

The Legendre eq. often appears in physics problems in spherical coordinates. It has the solution:  $u(x) = AP_\nu(x) + BQ_\nu(x)$ ,  
where  $\begin{cases} P_\nu(x) \text{ is the Legendre function of the 1st kind.} \\ Q_\nu(x) \text{ is the Legendre function of the 2nd kind.} \end{cases}$  (3.11)-(3.14)

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#### 3.2 Legendre Equation and Legendre Polynomials (continued)

$$\text{Rewrite } \begin{cases} \frac{d}{dx}[(1-x^2)\frac{du}{dx}] + \nu(\nu+1)u = 0 & -1 \leq x \leq 1 \\ u(x) = AP_\nu(x) + BQ_\nu(x) & [P_\nu, Q_\nu: \text{linearly indep.}] \end{cases} \quad (3.10)$$

$Q_\nu(x)$  diverges as  $x \rightarrow \pm 1$  (p. 97, bottom). Hence,  $Q_\nu$  appears in physics problems only when  $x = \pm 1$  are outside the region of interest.

$$P_\nu(x) \begin{cases} \text{is finite for } |x| < 1 \text{ and } x = 1 \\ \text{diverges at } x = -1 \text{ unless } \nu \text{ is an integer} \end{cases} \quad (\text{see p. 105})$$

$\Rightarrow$  If the region of interest includes  $x = -1$ , the condition that  $P_\nu(x)$  be finite at  $x = -1$  requires  $\nu$  to be an integer (denoted by  $l$ ).

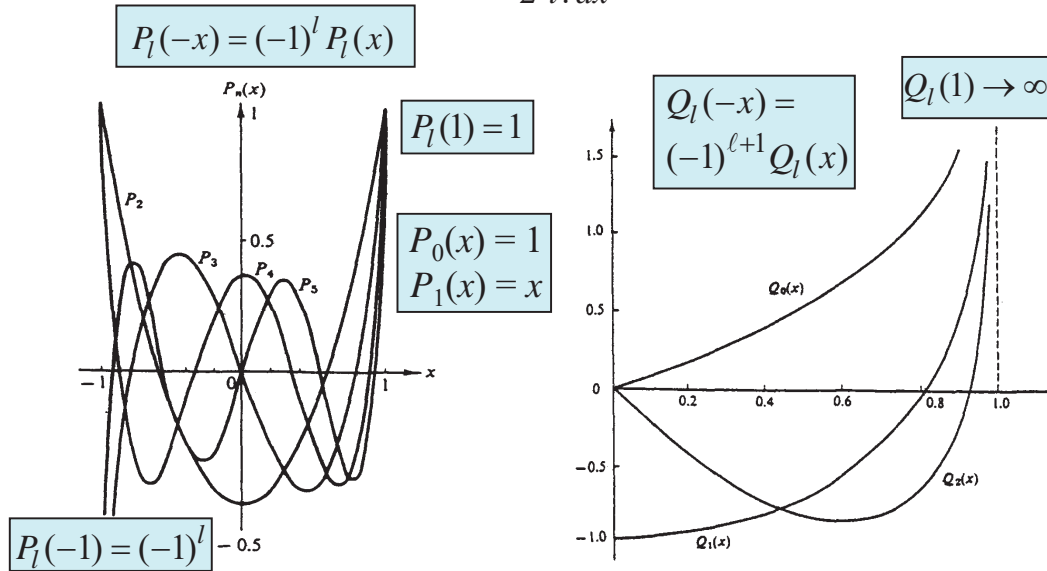
The form of the Legendre eq. is unchanged if  $\nu \rightarrow -\nu - 1$ . Hence,  $P_{-\nu-1}(x) = P_\nu(x) \Rightarrow$  When  $\nu = l$  (an integer), negative  $l$  is redundant. Thus,  $l = 0, 1, 2, \dots$  for which  $P_l(x)$  becomes a polynomial (next page).

*Note:* In physics, the argument  $x$  of  $P_\nu(x)$  and  $Q_\nu(x)$  is usually real and in the range  $-1 \leq x \leq 1$ . In mathematics, the argument  $z$  of  $P_\nu(z)$  and  $Q_\nu(z)$  is in general complex ( $z = x + iy$ ).  $\nu$  is also in general a complex number (See Gradshteyn & Ryzhik, Secs. 8.7-8.9).

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### 3.2 Legendre Equation and Legendre Polynomials (continued)

**Legendre Polynomial :**  $P_l(x) = \frac{1}{2^l l!} \frac{d^l}{dx^l} (x^2 - 1)^l, \quad l = 0, 1, 2, \dots \quad (3.16)$



Legendre polynomials  $P_2(x) - P_5(x)$   
Abramowitz & Stegun, p. 780

Second Legendre functions  
 $Q_0(x)$ ,  $Q_1(x)$ , and  $Q_2(x)$   
Abramowitz & Stegun, p. 339

### 3.2 Legendre Equation and Legendre Polynomials (continued)

The set  $P_l(x)$  is orthogonal:  $\int_{-1}^1 P_l(x) P_l(x) dx = \frac{2}{2l+1} \delta_{ll}$  (3.21)

It is complete in index  $l \Rightarrow$  Any function  $f(x)$  can be expanded as

$$f(x) = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} A_l P_l(x) \quad [-1 \leq x \leq 1] \quad (3.23)$$

See (A.13-17) for general rules on "orthogonality" & "completeness".

## 3.5 Associated Legendre Functions and the Spherical Harmonics

**Associated Legendre Equation :**

$$\frac{d}{dx}[(1-x^2) \frac{du}{dx}] + [\nu(\nu+1) - \frac{m^2}{1-x^2}] u = 0, \quad \text{for } -1 \leq x \leq 1 \quad (3.9)$$

It has the solution:  $u(x) = A P_\nu^m(x) + B Q_\nu^m(x)$ , where

$$\begin{cases} P_\nu^m \text{ is the associated Legendre function of the 1st kind.} \\ Q_\nu^m \text{ is the associated Legendre function of the 2nd kind.} \end{cases} \quad (3.50)$$

Properties of  $P_\nu$ ,  $Q_\nu$ ,  $P_\nu^m$ , and  $Q_\nu^m$  can be found in Gradshteyn & Ryzhik (Secs. 8.7-8.9) and Abramowitz & Stegun (Ch. 8).

### 3.5 Associated Legendre Functions and the Spherical Harmonics (continued)

Rewrite  $u(x) = AP_v^m(x) + BQ_v^m(x)$

$Q_v^m(x = \pm 1)$  diverges.  $Q_v^m$  appears in physics problems only when  $x = \pm 1$  is outside the region of interest ( $Q_v$ ,  $Q_v^m$  not used in Jackson).

$P_v^m(x)$  is finite on the interval  $-1 \leq x \leq 1$  only when

$$\begin{cases} \nu \text{ is zero or a positive integer } (\nu = l = 0, 1, 2, \dots) \text{ and} \\ m = -l, -(l-1), \dots, -1, 0, 1, \dots, (l-1), l \end{cases} \quad [\text{p. 107}]$$

i.e.  $u(x) = P_l^m(x)$  with  $l = |m|, |m|+1, \dots$  [Assume  $m$  is a fixed integer]

Under these conditions, we have

$$P_l^m(x) = \frac{(-1)^m}{2^l l!} (1-x^2)^{\frac{m}{2}} \left( \frac{d}{dx} \right)^{l+m} (x^2-1)^l \quad (3.50)$$

$$\text{with the properties: } \begin{cases} P_l^0(x) = P_l(x) \\ P_l^m(-x) = (-1)^{l+m} P_l^m(x) \\ P_l^{-m}(x) = (-1)^m \frac{(l-m)!}{(l+m)!} P_l^m(x) \end{cases} \quad (3.51)$$

$$\int_{-1}^1 P_{l'}^m(x) P_l^m(x) dx = \frac{2}{2l+1} \frac{(l+m)!}{(l-m)!} \delta_{ll'} \quad (3.52)_5$$

### 3.5 Associated Legendre Functions and the Spherical Harmonics (continued)

The set  $P_l^m(x)$  is complete in index  $l$ , i.e. any function  $f(x)$  can

$$\text{be expanded as } f(x) = \sum_{l=|m|}^{\infty} C_l P_l^m(x) \quad \begin{cases} -1 \leq x \leq 1 \\ m: \text{ a fixed integer} \end{cases}$$

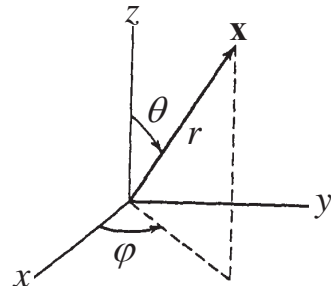
**Question:** Why is  $P_l^m(x)$  complete in index  $l$  (not  $m$ )? See (A.20).

**Spherical Harmonics**  $Y_{lm}(\theta, \varphi)$ :

$$Y_{lm}(\theta, \varphi) \equiv \sqrt{\frac{2l+1}{4\pi} \frac{(l-m)!}{(l+m)!}} P_l^m(\cos \theta) e^{im\varphi}, \quad (3.53)$$

where  $l = 0$  or a positive integer;  $m = -l, -(l-1), \dots, 0, \dots, (l-1), l$

$$\text{Examples: } \begin{cases} Y_{0,0}(\theta, \varphi) = \sqrt{\frac{1}{4\pi}} \\ Y_{1,-1}(\theta, \varphi) = \sqrt{\frac{3}{8\pi}} \sin \theta e^{-i\varphi} \\ Y_{1,0}(\theta, \varphi) = \sqrt{\frac{3}{4\pi}} \cos \theta \\ Y_{1,1}(\theta, \varphi) = -\sqrt{\frac{3}{8\pi}} \sin \theta e^{i\varphi} \end{cases}$$



### 3.5 Associated Legendre Functions and the Spherical Harmonics (continued)

Properties of spherical harmonics:

Rewrite the spherical harmonics:

$$Y_{lm}(\theta, \varphi) \equiv \sqrt{\frac{2l+1}{4\pi} \frac{(l-m)!}{(l+m)!}} P_l^m(\cos \theta) e^{im\varphi} \quad [(3.53)]$$

(i) Using the orthogonality relation,

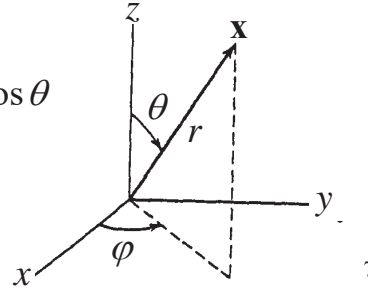
$$\int_{-1}^1 P_{l'}^m(x) P_l^m(x) dx = \frac{2}{2l+1} \frac{(l+m)!}{(l-m)!} \delta_{ll'} \quad (3.52)$$

we can show that the spherical harmonics are orthonormal, i.e

$$\int d\Omega Y_{l'm'}^*(\theta, \varphi) Y_{lm}(\theta, \varphi) = \delta_{ll'} \delta_{mm'}, \quad (3.55)$$

where

$$\int d\Omega = \int_0^{2\pi} d\varphi \int_0^\pi \sin \theta d\theta = \int_0^{2\pi} d\varphi \int_{-1}^1 d \cos \theta$$



### 3.5 Associated Legendre Functions and the Spherical Harmonics (continued)

(ii) The set  $Y_{lm}(\theta, \varphi)$  is complete, i.e. any function  $g(\theta, \varphi)$  can be

$$\text{expanded as} \quad g(\theta, \varphi) = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-l}^l A_{lm} Y_{lm}(\theta, \varphi) \quad (3.58)$$

Multiply both sides by  $Y_{lm}^*(\theta, \varphi)$ , integrate over  $\theta, \varphi$ , and make use of  $\int d\Omega Y_{l'm'}^*(\theta, \varphi) Y_{lm}(\theta, \varphi) = \delta_{ll'} \delta_{mm'}$  [(3.55)].

$$\Rightarrow A_{lm} = \int d\Omega Y_{lm}^*(\theta, \varphi) g(\theta, \varphi)$$

Sub.  $A_{lm}$  into (3.58) gives the following expression for  $g(\theta, \varphi)$ :

$$\begin{aligned} g(\theta, \varphi) &= \int d\Omega' \left[ \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-l}^l Y_{lm}^*(\theta', \varphi') Y_{lm}(\theta, \varphi) \right] g(\theta', \varphi') \\ \Rightarrow \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-l}^l Y_{lm}^*(\theta', \varphi') Y_{lm}(\theta, \varphi) &= \delta(\varphi - \varphi') \delta(\cos \theta - \cos \theta') \end{aligned} \quad (3.56)$$

Note: 1. This is a 2-D example of the general relation in (2.35).

2. (3.56) [as (2.35)] shows that an infinite sum of smooth functions  $Y_{lm}^*(\theta', \varphi') Y_{lm}(\theta, \varphi)$  can add up to a singularity as  $\theta, \varphi \rightarrow \theta', \varphi'$ .

(iii) Other properties of  $Y_{lm}(\theta, \varphi)$ :

$$\begin{cases} Y_{l,-m}(\theta, \varphi) = (-1)^m Y_{lm}^*(\theta, \varphi) \\ Y_{l,0}(\theta, \varphi) = \sqrt{\frac{2l+1}{4\pi}} P_l(\cos \theta) \end{cases}$$

This can be seen from the definition of  $Y_{lm}(\theta, \varphi)$ :

$$Y_{lm}(\theta, \varphi) = \sqrt{\frac{2l+1}{4\pi} \frac{(l-m)!}{(l+m)!}} P_l^m(\cos \theta) e^{im\varphi} \quad (3.53)$$

and the relations:

$$P_l^{-m}(x) = (-1)^m \frac{(l-m)!}{(l+m)!} P_l^m(x) \quad (3.51)$$

$$P_l^0(x) = P_l(x)$$

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### 3.6 Addition Theorem for Spherical Harmonics

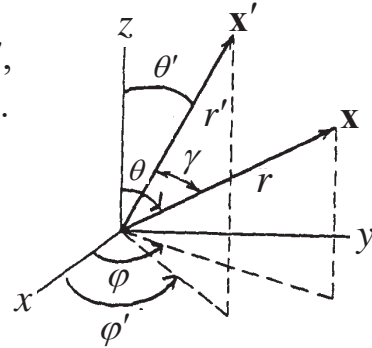
The addition theorem for spherical harmonics is derived on pp. 110-111. Here we write the theorem without derivation:

$$P_l(\cos \gamma) = \frac{4\pi}{2l+1} \sum_{m=-l}^l Y_{lm}^*(\theta', \varphi') Y_{lm}(\theta, \varphi), \quad (3.62)$$

where  $(\theta, \varphi)$ ,  $(\theta', \varphi')$  are directions of  $\mathbf{x}$ ,  $\mathbf{x}'$ , respectively.  $\gamma$  is the angle between  $\mathbf{x}$  &  $\mathbf{x}'$ .

Setting  $l = 1$  in (3.62) gives

$$\begin{aligned} P_1(\cos \gamma) = \frac{4\pi}{3} [ & Y_{1,-1}^*(\theta', \varphi') Y_{1,-1}(\theta, \varphi) \\ & + Y_{1,0}^*(\theta', \varphi') Y_{1,0}(\theta, \varphi) \\ & + Y_{1,1}^*(\theta', \varphi') Y_{1,1}(\theta, \varphi) ] \end{aligned}$$



Using  $P_1(\cos \gamma) = \cos \gamma$ ,  $Y_{1,-1} = \sqrt{\frac{3}{8\pi}} \sin \theta e^{-i\varphi}$ ,  $Y_{1,0} = \sqrt{\frac{3}{4\pi}} \cos \theta$ ,

and  $Y_{1,1} = -\sqrt{\frac{3}{8\pi}} \sin \theta e^{i\varphi}$ , we obtain a useful expression:

$$\cos \gamma = \cos \theta \cos \theta' + \sin \theta \sin \theta' \cos(\varphi - \varphi'). \quad (1)_{10}$$

## Bessel Functions (see Sec. 3.7)

The Bessel eq. often appears in physics problems in cylindric coordinates. It has the form  $\frac{d^2u}{dx^2} + \frac{1}{x} \frac{du}{dx} + (1 - \frac{\nu^2}{x^2})u = 0$  (3.77)

with the solutions  $\begin{cases} J_\nu(x): \text{Bessel function of the 1st kind} \\ N_\nu(x): \text{Bessel function of the 2nd kind} \end{cases}$  (3.82) (3.85)

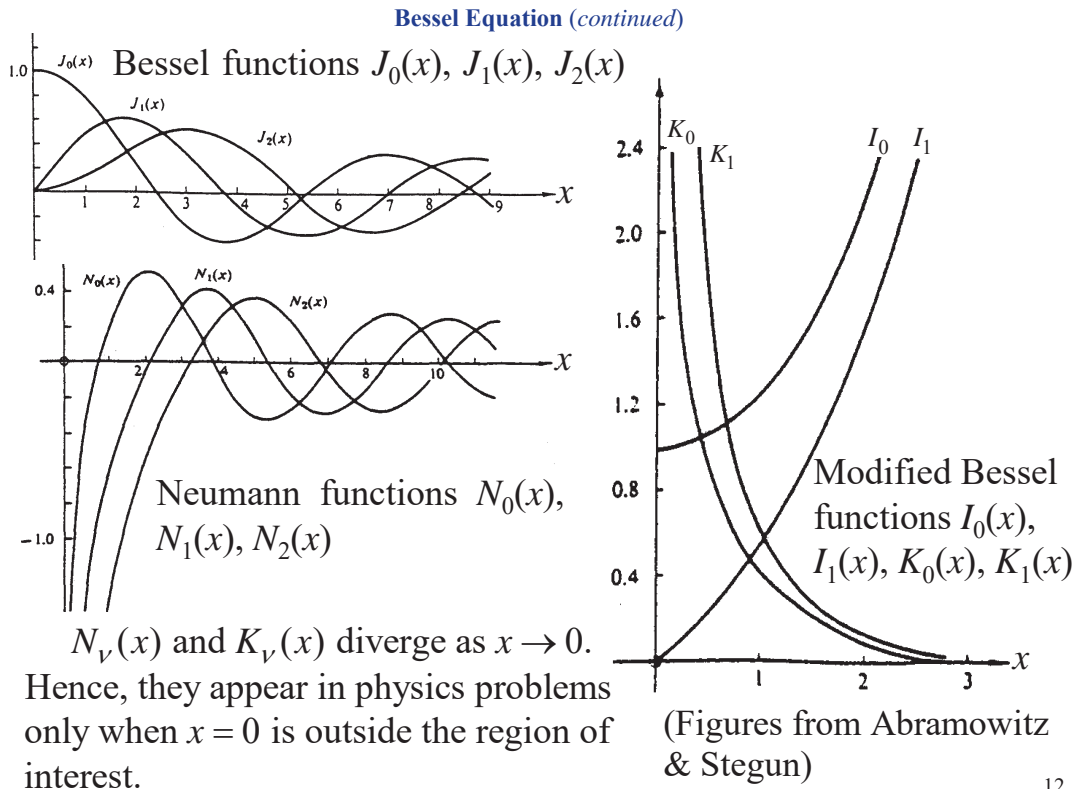
From  $J_\nu(x)$  and  $N_\nu(x)$ , we may define the Hankel functions:

$$\begin{cases} H_\nu^{(1)}(x) = J_\nu(x) + iN_\nu(x) \\ H_\nu^{(2)}(x) = J_\nu(x) - iN_\nu(x) \end{cases} \quad (3.86)$$

and the modified Bessel functions of the 1st kind ( $I_\nu$ ) and 2nd kind ( $K_\nu$ ).  $I_\nu$  and  $K_\nu$  are Bessel functions of imaginary argument.

$$\begin{cases} I_\nu(x) = i^{-\nu} J_\nu(ix) \\ K_\nu(x) = \frac{\pi}{2} i^{\nu+1} H_\nu^{(1)}(ix) \end{cases} \quad \begin{matrix} I_\nu(x) \text{ \& } K_\nu(x) \text{ are solus. of (3.77) } \\ \text{with } x \rightarrow ix \text{ (used in Sec. 3.11)} \end{matrix} \quad (3.100) \quad (3.101)$$

Properties of these funcs. can be found on pp. 112-116, Gradshteyn & Ryzhik (Secs. 8.4-8.5), and Abramowitz & Stegun (Ch. 9). 11



### Bessel Equation (continued)

In  $\frac{d^2u}{dx^2} + \frac{1}{x} \frac{du}{dx} + (1 - \frac{\nu^2}{x^2})u = 0$  [(3.77)], replacing  $x$  with  $k\rho$  gives a 2nd form of the Bessel eq.:  $\frac{d^2u}{d\rho^2} + \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{du}{d\rho} + (k^2 - \frac{\nu^2}{\rho^2})u = 0$  (3.75)

with the solution:  $u(\rho) = AJ_\nu(k\rho) + BN_\nu(k\rho)$ . Assume the following

$$\text{b.c.'s: } \begin{cases} 1: u(0) = \text{finite} \Rightarrow B = 0; \\ 2: u(a) = 0 \Rightarrow J_\nu(ka) = 0 \Rightarrow ka = x_{\nu n}, n = 1, 2, 3, \dots, \text{ where} \\ \quad x_{\nu n} \text{ is the } n\text{-th root of } J_\nu(x) = 0 \text{ (see p. 114).} \\ \quad \Rightarrow J_\nu(k\rho) = J_\nu(k_{\nu n}\rho), \text{ where } k_{\nu n} \equiv x_{\nu n} / a, n = 1, 2, 3, \dots \end{cases}$$

The  $J_\nu(k_{\nu n}\rho)$  set are

Why the factor  $\rho$  here? See (A.22)

$$\begin{cases} \text{orthogonal: } \int_0^a J_\nu(k_{\nu n'}\rho) J_\nu(k_{\nu n}\rho) \rho d\rho = \frac{a^2}{2} [J_{\nu+1}(\underbrace{k_{\nu n}a}_{x_{\nu n}})]^2 \delta_{n'n} & (3.95) \\ \text{complete: } f(\rho) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} C_n J_\nu(k_{\nu n}\rho) \text{ for any } f(\rho) & (3.96) \end{cases}$$

**Questions:** 1. (3.96) regards  $J_\nu(k_{\nu n}\rho)$  as a complete set, but p.114 says " $\sqrt{\rho} J_\nu(k_{\nu n}\rho)$  form an orthogonal set". Any inconsistency? See (A.22).  
2. Why are  $J_\nu(k_{\nu n}\rho)$  orthogonal/complete in index  $n$  (not  $\nu$ )? See (A.23).

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## 3.1 Laplace Equation in Spherical Coordinates

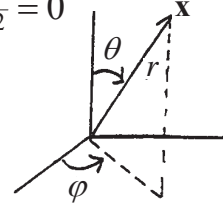
(We will first cover Appendix A before going into this section)

Laplace eq. in spherical coordinates (see Jackson, back cover):

$$\nabla^2 \phi(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial r^2} (r\phi) + \frac{1}{r^2 \sin \theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \left( \sin \theta \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial \theta} \right) + \frac{1}{r^2 \sin^2 \theta} \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial \varphi^2} = 0$$

$$\text{Let } \phi(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{U(r)}{r} P(\theta) Q(\varphi)$$

$$\Rightarrow PQ \frac{d^2U}{dr^2} + \frac{UQ}{r^2 \sin \theta} \frac{d}{d\theta} \left( \sin \theta \frac{dP}{d\theta} \right) + \frac{UP}{r^2 \sin^2 \theta} \frac{d^2Q}{d\varphi^2} = 0$$



$$\text{Multiply by } \frac{r^2 \sin^2 \theta}{UPQ}$$

The  $\varphi$ -dependence is isolated within this term, so this term must be a constant. Let it be  $-m^2$ .

$$\Rightarrow \sin^2 \theta \left[ \underbrace{\frac{1}{U} r^2 \frac{d^2U}{dr^2}}_{= \nu(\nu+1)} + \frac{1}{P \sin \theta} \frac{d}{d\theta} \left( \sin \theta \frac{dP}{d\theta} \right) \right] + \underbrace{\frac{1}{Q} \frac{d^2Q}{d\varphi^2}}_{=-m^2} = 0 \quad (3.3)$$

Dividing all terms by  $\sin^2 \theta$ , we see that the  $r$ -dependence is isolated within this term. So this term must be a constant. Let it be  $\nu(\nu+1)$ .

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### 3.1 Laplace Equation in Spherical Coordinates (continued)

$$\text{Rewrite } \sin^2 \theta \left[ \frac{1}{U} r^2 \frac{d^2 U}{dr^2} + \frac{1}{P \sin \theta} \frac{d}{d\theta} \left( \sin \theta \frac{dP}{d\theta} \right) \right] + \frac{1}{Q} \frac{d^2 Q}{d\varphi^2} = 0 \quad [(3.3)]$$

$$\text{The equation for } Q(\varphi) \text{ is: } \frac{d^2 Q}{d\varphi^2} + m^2 Q = 0 \quad \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{an eigenvalue} \\ \text{problem} \end{array} \right] \quad (3.4)$$

$$\Rightarrow Q = e^{im\varphi}, e^{-im\varphi} \quad \boxed{m \text{ is to be determined from the b.c.}} \quad (3.5)$$

The equation for  $P(\theta)$  is

$$\frac{1}{\sin \theta} \frac{d}{d\theta} \left( \sin \theta \frac{dP}{d\theta} \right) + \left[ \nu(\nu+1) - \frac{m^2}{\sin^2 \theta} \right] P = 0 \quad (3.6)$$

Let  $x = \cos \theta$ , then the equation takes the form of the associated Legendre equation:

$$\frac{d}{dx} (1-x^2) \frac{dP}{dx} + \left[ \nu(\nu+1) - \frac{m^2}{1-x^2} \right] P = 0 \quad \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{an eigenvalue} \\ \text{problem} \end{array} \right] \quad (3.9)$$

$$\Rightarrow P = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} P_\nu^m(x) \\ Q_\nu^m(x) \end{array} \right\} = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} P_\nu^m(\cos \theta) \\ Q_\nu^m(\cos \theta) \end{array} \right\} \quad \boxed{\nu \text{ is to be determined from the b.c.}}$$

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### 3.1 Laplace Eq. in Spherical Coordinates (continued)

$$\text{Rewrite } \sin^2 \theta \left[ \frac{1}{U} r^2 \frac{d^2 U}{dr^2} + \frac{1}{P \sin \theta} \frac{d}{d\theta} \left( \sin \theta \frac{dP}{d\theta} \right) \right] + \frac{1}{Q} \frac{d^2 Q}{d\varphi^2} = 0 \quad [(3.3)]$$

$$\text{The equation for } U(r) \text{ is: } \frac{d^2 U}{dr^2} - \frac{\nu(\nu+1)}{r^2} U = 0 \quad (3.7)$$

$$\Rightarrow U = r^{\nu+1}, r^{-\nu} \Rightarrow \frac{U}{r} = r^\nu, r^{-\nu-1}$$

Since  $\nu$  is determined from the b.c. for (3.6), this is not an eigenvalue problem.

Thus,  $\nabla^2 \phi(\mathbf{x}) = 0$

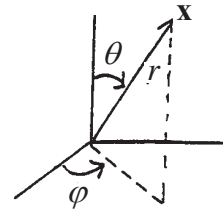
$$\Rightarrow \phi = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} r^\nu \\ r^{-\nu-1} \end{array} \right\} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} P_\nu^m(\cos \theta) \\ Q_\nu^m(\cos \theta) \end{array} \right\} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} e^{im\varphi} \\ e^{-im\varphi} \end{array} \right\}, \quad (2)$$

where each bracket represents a linear combination of the two functions inside

[because  $\nabla^2 \phi(\mathbf{x}) = 0$  is linear and homogeneous].

*Note:* (2) is the solution of  $\nabla^2 \phi(\mathbf{x}) = 0$  without consideration of b.c.'s.  $\nu$  and  $m$  in (2) are arbitrary constants until we apply the b.c.'s.

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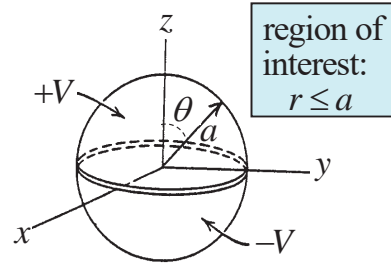


### 3.3 Boundary-Value Problems with Azimuthal Symmetry

*Problem 1:* Find  $\phi$  inside 2 hemispheres held at opposite potentials  
(This will result in  $E = \infty$  at  $r = a$  and  $\theta = \pi/2$ , hence unrealistic.)

$$\nabla^2 \phi = 0, \quad \phi(a, \theta) = \begin{cases} +V, & 0 \leq \theta < \frac{\pi}{2} \\ -V, & \frac{\pi}{2} < \theta \leq \pi \end{cases}$$

$$\phi = \left\{ \begin{matrix} r^\nu \\ r^{-\nu-1} \end{matrix} \right\} \left\{ \begin{matrix} P_\nu^m(\cos \theta) \\ Q_\nu^m(\cos \theta) \end{matrix} \right\} \left\{ \begin{matrix} e^{im\phi} \\ e^{-im\phi} \end{matrix} \right\}$$



- (i)  $\phi$  is indep. of  $\phi$ .  $\Rightarrow m = 0$   
(ii)  $\phi$  is finite at  $\theta = 0$  and  $\pi$ .  
 $\Rightarrow$  Eigenvalue prob. in  $\theta$  [see (A.18)]  
 $\Rightarrow \nu = l = 0, 1, 2, \dots$  and drop  $Q_\nu^m$   
(iii)  $\phi$  is finite at  $r = 0$ .  $\Rightarrow$  drop  $r^{-\nu-1}$   
 $\Rightarrow \phi(r, \theta) = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} A_l r^l P_l(\cos \theta)$

*Note:*

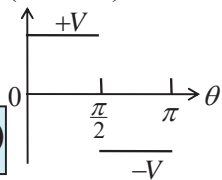
1.  $P_\nu(-1) \rightarrow \infty$  unless  $\nu$  is an integer (p.105.)
2. There is no negative  $l$  because  $P_{-l-1}(x) = P_l(x)$ .
3.  $Q_\nu(x) \rightarrow \infty$  as  $x \rightarrow \pm 1$ .

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#### 3.3 Boundary-Value Problems with Azimuthal Symmetry (continued)

$$\text{b.c. } \phi(r = a, \theta) = \sum_l A_l a^l P_l(\cos \theta) = \begin{cases} +V, & 0 \leq \theta < \frac{\pi}{2} \\ -V, & \frac{\pi}{2} < \theta \leq \pi \end{cases} \quad \phi(r = a, \theta)$$

$$\int_{-1}^1 P_l(x) P_{l'}(x) dx = \frac{2}{2l+1} \delta_{ll'} \quad (3.21)$$



$$\Rightarrow \int_{-1}^1 P_l(\cos \theta) \phi(r = a, \theta) d \cos \theta = A_l a^l \int_{-1}^1 P_l^2(\cos \theta) d \cos \theta = A_l a^l \frac{2}{2l+1}$$

$$\Rightarrow A_l = \frac{V}{a^l} \frac{2l+1}{2} \left[ \int_0^1 P_l(\cos \theta) d \cos \theta - \int_{-1}^0 P_l(\cos \theta) d \cos \theta \right]$$

$$= \begin{cases} \frac{V \left(-\frac{1}{2}\right)^{\frac{l-1}{2}} (2l+1)(l-2)!!}{a^l 2\left(\frac{l+1}{2}\right)!}, & \text{for odd } l \\ 0, & \text{for even } l \end{cases}$$

pp. 99-100

for even  $l$

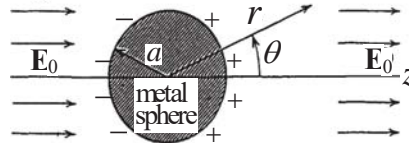
$$\Rightarrow \phi(r, \theta) = V \left[ \frac{3}{2} \frac{r}{a} P_1(\cos \theta) - \frac{7}{8} \left(\frac{r}{a}\right)^3 P_3(\cos \theta) + \dots \right], \quad r \leq a \quad (3.36)$$

To find  $\phi$  for  $r > a$ , replace  $\left(\frac{r}{a}\right)^l$  in (3.36) by  $\left(\frac{a}{r}\right)^{l+1}$  [see (2.27)]

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### 3.3 Boundary-Value Problems with Azimuthal Symmetry (continued)

**Problem 2:** A conducting sphere of radius  $a$  with net charge  $Q$  is in a uniform  $\mathbf{E}_0 (= E_0 \mathbf{e}_z)$ . Find  $\phi$  ( $r \geq a$ ) and  $\sigma$  on the surface.

$$\rho = 0 \Rightarrow \phi = \left\{ \begin{matrix} r^\nu \\ r^{-\nu-1} \end{matrix} \right\} \left\{ \begin{matrix} P_\nu^m(\cos \theta) \\ Q_\nu^m(\cos \theta) \end{matrix} \right\} \left\{ \begin{matrix} e^{im\varphi} \\ e^{-im\varphi} \end{matrix} \right\}$$


(i)  $\phi$  is indep. of  $\varphi \Rightarrow m = 0$

(ii)  $\phi$  is finite at  $\theta = 0$  and  $\pi \Rightarrow$  Eigenvalue prob. in  $\theta$  [see (A.18)]

$\Rightarrow \nu = l = 0, 1, 2, \dots$  and drop  $Q_\nu^m$

$$\Rightarrow \phi(r, \theta) = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} [A_l r^l + B_l r^{-(l+1)}] P_l(\cos \theta)$$

This term gives  $\mathbf{E}_0$  (external field)

b.c.: As  $r \rightarrow \infty$ ,  $\phi = \underbrace{-E_0 r \cos \theta}_{\text{external field}} + \underbrace{\frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r}}_{\text{far field of net charge } Q} = -E_0 z + \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r}$

Thus,  $\begin{cases} P_1(\cos \theta) = \cos \theta \Rightarrow A_1 = -E_0, A_{l \neq 1} = 0 \\ P_0(\cos \theta) = 1 \Rightarrow B_0 = \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \text{ (} B_{l \neq 0} \text{ yet to be determined)} \end{cases}$

**Question:** The b.c. shows  $\phi \rightarrow \infty$  as  $z \rightarrow \infty$ . What's the reason?

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### 3.3 Boundary-Value Problems with Azimuthal Symmetry (continued)

$$\Rightarrow \phi(r, \theta) = -E_0 r \cos \theta + \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r} + \sum_{l=1}^{\infty} B_l r^{-(l+1)} P_l(\cos \theta)$$

b.c.:  $\phi(r = a) = \text{const.}$

Combine the  $P_1(\cos \theta) = \cos \theta$  term here with  $-E_0 r \cos \theta$ .

$$\Rightarrow \phi(r = a) = \underbrace{\left(-E_0 a + \frac{B_1}{a^2}\right)}_0 \underbrace{\cos \theta}_{\text{vary with } \theta} + \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 a} + \sum_{l=2}^{\infty} \underbrace{B_l a^{-(l+1)}}_0 \underbrace{P_l(\cos \theta)}_{\text{vary with } \theta}$$

For  $\phi(r = a) = \text{const.}$  (i.e. indep. of  $\theta$ ), we must have

$$B_1 = E_0 a^3 \text{ and } B_{l \geq 2} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \phi(r, \theta) = -E_0 r \cos \theta + \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r} + \underbrace{E_0 \frac{a^3}{r^2} \cos \theta}_{\text{due to induced } \sigma \text{ on the sphere}} \quad (3)$$

$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{E}(\text{inside}) = 0 \\ \& \text{Gauss's law} \end{cases} \Rightarrow \sigma = -\epsilon_0 \left. \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial r} \right|_{r=a} = 3\epsilon_0 E_0 \cos \theta + \frac{Q}{4\pi a^2} \text{ [see (1.22)]}$$

**Questions:** 1. The field inside the sphere due to  $\sigma$  is  $-\mathbf{E}_0$ . Why?

2. Why is  $Q$  uniformly distributed? (See the prob. in Sec. 2.3).

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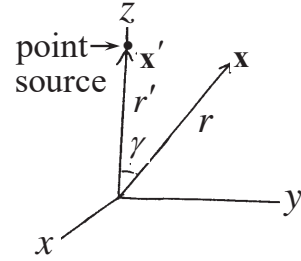
### 3.3 Boundary-Value Problems with Azimuthal Symmetry (continued)

**Problem 3:** Find  $\phi$  of  $\nabla^2 \phi = -4\pi\delta(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}')$  in infinite space.

First, assume the point source lies on the  $z$ -axis at a distance  $r'$  from the origin and divide the space into 2 regions:  $r < r'$  and  $r > r'$ .

Since the source is on the boundary ( $r = r'$ ), we have  $\nabla^2 \phi = 0$  in each region, both having

$$\text{the solution: } \phi = \begin{Bmatrix} r^\nu \\ r^{-\nu-1} \end{Bmatrix} \begin{Bmatrix} P_\nu^m(\cos \gamma) \\ Q_\nu^m(\cos \gamma) \end{Bmatrix} \begin{Bmatrix} e^{im\varphi} \\ e^{-im\varphi} \end{Bmatrix}$$



(i)  $\phi$  is indep. of  $\varphi \Rightarrow m = 0$

(ii)  $\phi$  is finite at  $\gamma = 0$  and  $\pi \Rightarrow \nu = l = 0, 1, 2, \dots$  and drop  $Q_\nu^m$

(iii)  $\phi$  is finite  $\begin{cases} \text{at } r = 0. \Rightarrow \text{drop } r^{-l-1} \text{ in region } r < r' \\ \text{as } r \rightarrow \infty. \Rightarrow \text{drop } r^l \text{ in region } r > r' \end{cases}$

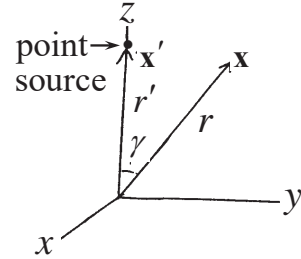
$$\Rightarrow \phi = \begin{cases} \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} A_l r^l P_l(\cos \gamma), & r < r' \\ \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} B_l \frac{1}{r^{l+1}} P_l(\cos \gamma), & r > r' \end{cases}$$

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### 3.3 Boundary-Value Problems with Azimuthal Symmetry (continued)

The formal method to solve for  $A_l$  and  $B_l$  (hence obtain the solution for all  $\mathbf{x}$ ) is to match the b.c. at  $r = r'$  (as will be done in Sec. 3.9). Here we obtain  $A_l$  and  $B_l$  by exploiting the fact that we already know the solution is  $\phi = 1/|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|$  [(1.31)]. So, by the uniqueness theorem, we have

$$\phi = \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|} = \begin{cases} \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} A_l r^l P_l(\cos \gamma) & , \quad r < r' \\ \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} B_l \frac{1}{r^{l+1}} P_l(\cos \gamma) & , \quad r > r' \end{cases}$$



For  $\gamma = 0$ , we have  $P_l(1) = 1$  and  $|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'| = |r - r'|$ . Hence,

$$\frac{1}{|r - r'|} = \begin{cases} \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} A_l r^l & , \quad r < r' \\ \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} B_l \frac{1}{r^{l+1}} & , \quad r > r' \end{cases}$$

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### 3.3 Boundary-Value Problems with Azimuthal Symmetry (continued)

$$(x+y)^n = x^n + nx^{n-1}y + \frac{n(n-1)}{2!}x^{n-2}y^2 + \frac{n(n-1)(n-2)}{3!}x^{n-3}y^3 + \dots$$

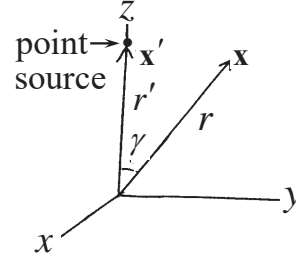
Let  $n = -1$ ,  $x = 1$ , and  $y = r/r'$  or  $r'/r$ .

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{|r-r'|} = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{r'-r} = \frac{1}{r'} \frac{1}{1-\frac{r}{r'}} = \frac{1}{r'} \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{r}{r'}\right)^l = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \frac{r^l}{r'^{l+1}} = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} A_l r^l, & r < r' \\ \frac{1}{r-r'} = \frac{1}{r} \frac{1}{1-\frac{r'}{r}} = \frac{1}{r} \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{r'}{r}\right)^l = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \frac{r'^l}{r^{l+1}} = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} B_l \frac{1}{r^{l+1}}, & r > r' \end{cases}$$

from last page

$$\Rightarrow A_l = \frac{1}{r'^{l+1}}; B_l = r'^l$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{x}'|} = \begin{cases} \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \frac{r^l}{r'^{l+1}} P_l(\cos \gamma), & r < r' \\ \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \frac{r'^l}{r^{l+1}} P_l(\cos \gamma), & r > r' \end{cases}$$



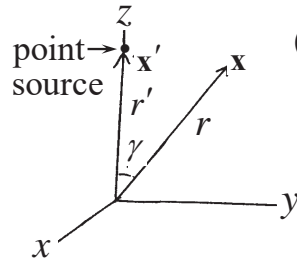
$$\text{or } \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{x}'|} = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \frac{r_{<}^l}{r_{>}^{l+1}} P_l(\cos \gamma), \quad [\text{two equations in one}] \quad (3.38)$$

where  $r_{<}$  ( $r_{>}$ ) is the smaller (larger) of  $r$  and  $r'$ .

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### 3.3 Boundary-Value Problems with Azimuthal Symmetry (continued)

$$\text{Rewrite } \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{x}'|} = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \frac{r_{<}^l}{r_{>}^{l+1}} P_l(\cos \gamma), \quad (3.38)$$



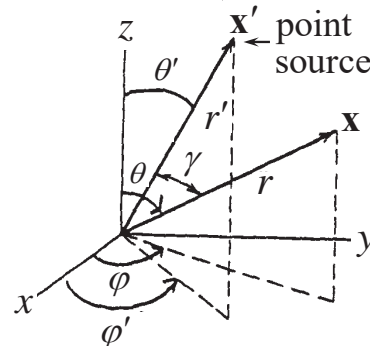
which is derived with the point source located on the  $z$ -axis (upper figure). Note that each term on the RHS of (3.38) is a smooth function of  $\mathbf{x}$  satisfying  $\nabla^2 \phi(\mathbf{x}) = 0$  in regions  $r > r'$  and  $r < r'$ , but they add up to a singularity as  $\mathbf{x}$  approaches  $\mathbf{x}'$  from any direction.

The RHS of (3.38) depends only on

- (1) the magnitudes ( $r$ ,  $r'$ ) of  $\mathbf{x}$  and  $\mathbf{x}'$
- (2) the angle ( $\gamma$ ) between  $\mathbf{x}$  and  $\mathbf{x}'$ ,

which suggests that we may convert (3.38) into a general form which holds for the point source at an arbitrary point (lower figure).

The general form may be readily obtained by way of the addition theorem (next page).



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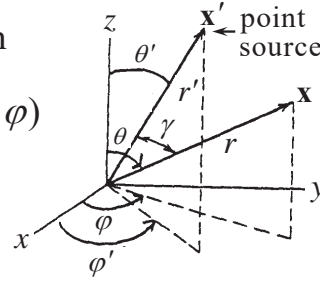
### 3.3 Boundary-Value Problems with Azimuthal Symmetry (continued)

Sub. the RHS of the addition theorem

$$P_l(\cos \gamma) = \frac{4\pi}{2l+1} \sum_{m=-l}^l Y_{lm}^*(\theta', \varphi') Y_{lm}(\theta, \varphi) \quad (3.62)$$

for  $P_l(\cos \gamma)$  in  $\frac{1}{|\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{x}'|} = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \frac{r_{<}^l}{r_{>}^{l+1}} P_l(\cos \gamma)$ ,

we get  $\frac{1}{|\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{x}'|} = 4\pi \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-l}^l \frac{1}{2l+1} \frac{r_{<}^l}{r_{>}^{l+1}} Y_{lm}^*(\theta', \varphi') Y_{lm}(\theta, \varphi) \quad (3.70)$



So, we started with a physics problem (the potential of a point source in infinite space), but ended up with a mathematical relation in (3.70).

**Question:** Why write a simple function  $\phi = \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{x}'|}$  in such a complicated form? (See next problem.)

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### 3.3 Boundary-Value Problems with Azimuthal Symmetry (continued)

**Problem 4:** Find the potential due to total charge  $q$ , which is uniformly distributed on a circular ring of radius  $a$ .

Let  $\rho(\mathbf{x}) = K \delta(\theta - \alpha) \delta(r - c)$  in spherical coordinates

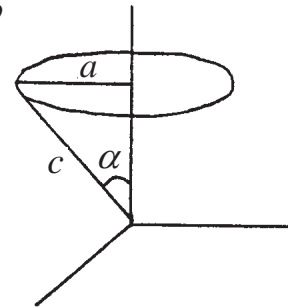
$$\begin{aligned} q &= \int \rho(\mathbf{x}) d^3x \\ &= K \int \delta(\theta - \alpha) \delta(r - c) \overbrace{r^2 \sin \theta dr d\theta d\varphi}^{d^3x} \\ &= 2\pi K c^2 \sin \alpha \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow K = \frac{q}{2\pi c^2 \sin \alpha}$$

$$\Rightarrow \rho(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{q}{2\pi c^2 \sin \alpha} \delta(\theta - \alpha) \delta(r - c)$$

$$= \frac{q}{2\pi c^2} \delta(\cos \theta - \cos \alpha) \delta(r - c)$$

$$\delta[f(x)] = \frac{\delta(x-a)}{|f'(a)|}$$



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$$\phi(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_V \frac{\rho(\mathbf{x}')}{|\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{x}'|} d^3x'$$

$$\rho(\mathbf{x}') = \frac{q}{2\pi c^2} \delta(\cos\theta' - \cos\alpha) \delta(r' - c)$$

$$\frac{1}{|\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{x}'|} = 4\pi \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-l}^l \frac{1}{2l+1} \frac{r_{<}^l}{r_{>}^{l+1}} Y_{lm}^*(\theta', \varphi') Y_{lm}(\theta, \varphi)$$

$$= \frac{q}{2\pi\epsilon_0 c^2} \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-l}^l \frac{1}{2l+1} \int_V r'^2 dr' d\cos\theta' d\varphi' \left[ \frac{r_{<}^l}{r_{>}^{l+1}} Y_{lm}^*(\theta', \varphi') Y_{lm}(\theta, \varphi) \cdot \delta(\cos\theta' - \cos\alpha) \delta(r' - c) \right],$$

where  $Y_{lm}(\theta', \varphi') = \sqrt{\frac{2l+1}{4\pi} \frac{(l-m)!}{(l+m)!}} P_l^m(\cos\theta') e^{im\varphi'}$  [(3.53)]

Use  $\int_0^{2\pi} e^{im\varphi'} d\varphi' = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } m \neq 0 \\ 2\pi, & \text{if } m = 0 \end{cases}$  and  $P_l^{m=0}(\cos\theta') = P_l(\cos\theta')$

$$\Rightarrow \phi(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 c^2} \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \int_0^{\infty} r'^2 dr' \int_{-1}^1 d\cos\theta' \left[ \frac{r_{<}^l}{r_{>}^{l+1}} P_l(\cos\theta') P_l(\cos\theta) \cdot \delta(\cos\theta' - \cos\alpha) \delta(r' - c) \right]$$

$$= \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \frac{r_{<}^l}{r_{>}^{l+1}} P_l(\cos\alpha) P_l(\cos\theta)$$

Jackson uses a slightly different method to derive this. See p.103. 27

### 3.4 Behavior of Fields in a Conical Hole or Near a Sharp Point

Consider a "conical hole" or "sharp point" with a conducting boundary ( $\phi = 0$ ). Assume the region of interest is source-free.

$$\nabla^2 \phi = 0 \Rightarrow \phi = \begin{Bmatrix} r^{\nu} \\ r^{-\nu-1} \end{Bmatrix} \begin{Bmatrix} P_{\nu}^m(\cos\theta) \\ Q_{\nu}^m(\cos\theta) \end{Bmatrix} \begin{Bmatrix} e^{im\varphi} \\ e^{-im\varphi} \end{Bmatrix}$$

(i) Geometry and b.c. indep. of  $\varphi$  (by assumption).

$$\Rightarrow m = 0$$

(ii)  $Q_{\nu}^m(\cos\theta)$  diverges at  $\theta = 0$  ( $\cos\theta = 1$ ).

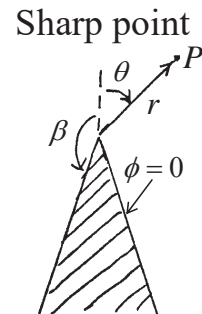
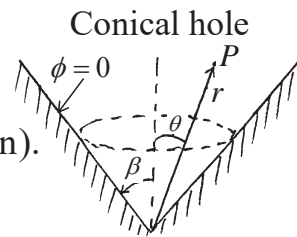
$$\Rightarrow \text{drop } Q_{\nu}^m(\cos\theta) \Rightarrow \phi = \begin{Bmatrix} r^{\nu} \\ r^{-\nu-1} \end{Bmatrix} P_{\nu}(\cos\theta)$$

Note:  $P_{\nu}(x)$  diverges at  $x = -1$  unless  $\nu$  = integer.

However, our region of interest is  $0 \leq \theta < \pi$ .

$\Rightarrow \cos\theta = -1$  is outside the region of interest.

$\Rightarrow \nu$  is not required to be an integer.



### 3.4 Behavior of Fields in a Conical Hole or Near a Sharp Point (continued)

Rewrite:  $\phi = \begin{cases} r^\nu \\ r^{-\nu-1} \end{cases} P_\nu(\cos \theta)$

(iii)  $\phi$  is finite at  $r = 0$ .

$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} \text{(a) demand } \nu > 0 \text{ and drop } r^{-\nu-1} \Rightarrow \phi = r^\nu P_\nu(\cos \theta) \\ \text{or (b) demand } -\nu-1 > 0 \text{ and drop } r^\nu \Rightarrow \phi = r^{-\nu-1} P_\nu(\cos \theta) \\ \Rightarrow \phi = r^{-\nu-1} P_{-\nu-1}(\cos \theta) \end{cases} = \underbrace{P_{-\nu-1}(\cos \theta)}$$

$\Rightarrow$  Either option (a) or option (b) gives  $\phi = r^\nu P_\nu(\cos \theta)$ ,  $\nu > 0$

(iv)  $\phi = 0$  at  $\theta = \beta \Rightarrow P_\nu(\cos \beta) = 0 \Rightarrow \nu = \nu_1, \nu_2, \nu_3, \dots$  ( $\nu > 0$ )

$$\Rightarrow \phi(r, \theta) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} A_k r^{\nu_k} P_{\nu_k}(\cos \theta) \underset{r \rightarrow 0}{\approx} A_1 r^{\nu_1} P_{\nu_1}(\cos \theta), \quad (3.44)$$

$\nu_1$ : smallest eigenvalue

**Question:** Is  $P_{\nu_k}(\cos \theta)$  a complete set in the region  $0 \leq \theta \leq \beta$ ? Yes.

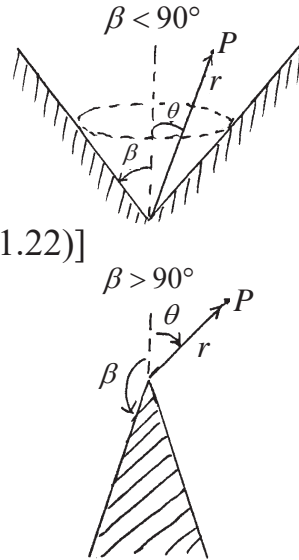
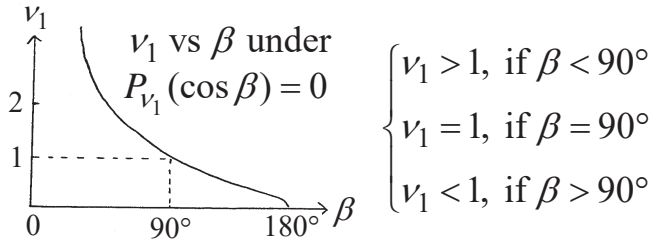
$\therefore$  b.c.  $P_\nu(\cos \beta) = 0$  makes the operator in (3.9) Hermitian [see (A.12)].

*Note:*  $P_{\nu_k}(\cos \theta)$  is a set specific to and most useful for this problem.

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### 3.4 Behavior of Fields in a Conical Hole or Near a Sharp Point (continued)

$$r \rightarrow 0 \Rightarrow \begin{cases} E_r = -\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial r} \approx -\frac{\partial}{\partial r} A_1 r^{\nu_1} P_{\nu_1}(\cos \theta) \\ \quad = -\nu_1 A_1 r^{\nu_1-1} P_{\nu_1}(\cos \theta) \propto r^{\nu_1-1} \\ E_\theta = -\frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial \theta} \approx -\frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} A_1 r^{\nu_1} P_{\nu_1}(\cos \theta) \\ \quad = A_1 r^{\nu_1-1} \sin \theta P'_{\nu_1}(\cos \theta) \propto r^{\nu_1-1} \\ \sigma = -\epsilon_0 E_\theta(\theta = \beta) \quad [\mathbf{E}(\theta > \beta) = 0, \text{ see (1.22)}] \\ \quad \approx -A_1 \epsilon_0 r^{\nu_1-1} \sin \beta P'_{\nu_1}(\cos \beta) \propto r^{\nu_1-1} \end{cases}$$



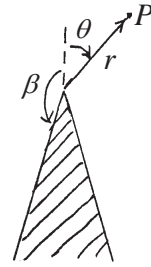
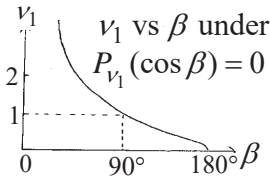
**Discussion:**

1. If  $\beta < 90^\circ$  (conical hole,  $\nu_1 > 1$ ),  $E$  &  $\sigma \rightarrow 0$  as  $r \rightarrow 0$ .

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### 3.4 Behavior of Fields in a Conical Hole or Near a Sharp Point (continued)

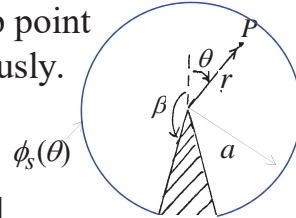
Rewrite 
$$\begin{cases} E_r \propto A_1 r^{\nu_1-1} \\ E_\theta \propto A_1 r^{\nu_1-1} \\ \sigma \propto A_1 r^{\nu_1-1} \end{cases} \text{ as } r \rightarrow 0$$



2. If  $\beta > 90^\circ$  (sharp point,  $\nu_1 < 1$ ),  $E$  &  $\sigma \rightarrow \infty$  as  $r \rightarrow 0$ .

Large E-field ( $> 3 \times 10^4$  V/cm) can cause the air to break down to form a conducting path for the sharp point (e.g. lightning rod) to discharge slowly & continuously.

3. Rewrite 
$$\phi(r, \theta) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} A_k r^{\nu_k} P_{\nu_k}(\cos \theta) \quad [(3.44)]$$



To draw conclusions 1 & 2 above, we only need  $A_1 \neq 0$ , which requires the b.c.  $\phi(r = a, \theta) \neq 0$ . So,

$$\phi(r = a, \theta) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} A_k a^{\nu_k} P_{\nu_k}(\cos \theta),$$

$\because P_{\nu_k}(\cos \theta)$  are linearly indep. See Ch. 2, Eqs. (3a,b).

which can be used to determine all  $A_k$  in (3.44).

**Question:** If  $\phi(r = a, \theta) = 0$  for all  $\theta$ , then  $A_k = 0$  for all  $k$ . Why?

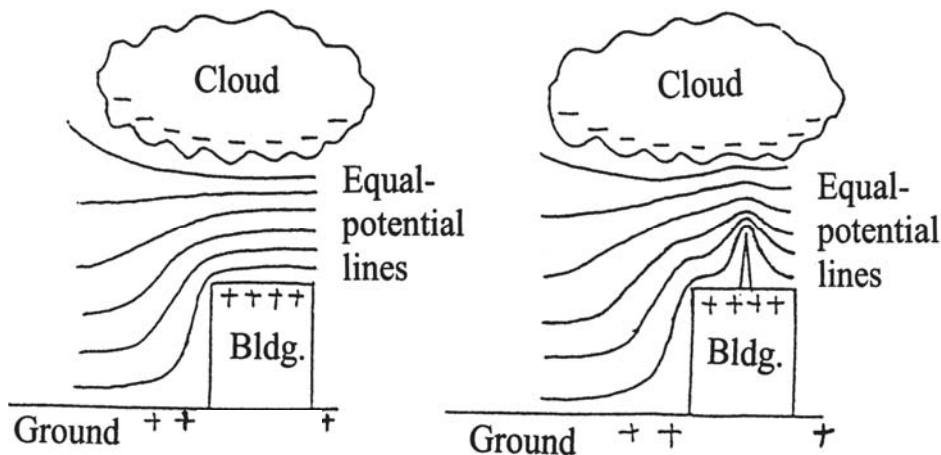
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### 3.4 Behavior of Fields in a Conical Hole or Near a Sharp Point (continued)

**Question:** At the sharp point ( $r \rightarrow 0$ ),  $E \rightarrow \infty$ . Is this physical?

Since atoms are finite in size, the lightning rod can't be perfectly sharp. Hence,  $\phi$  is finite at the tip. On a clear day with a small  $\Delta\phi$  between the ground the clouds, the lightning rod will not discharge.

*A physical picture of the lightning rod*



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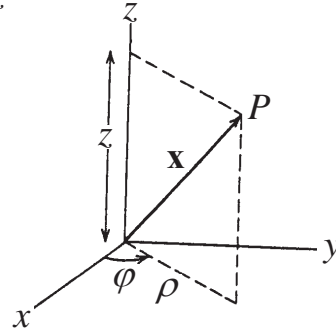
### 3.7 Laplace Equation in Cylindrical Coordinates

Laplace eq. in cylindrical coordinates (see Jackson, back cover):

$$\nabla^2 \phi(\mathbf{x}) = 0 \Rightarrow \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial \rho^2} + \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial \rho} + \frac{1}{\rho^2} \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial \varphi^2} + \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial z^2} = 0$$

Let  $\phi(\mathbf{x}) = R(\rho)Q(\varphi)Z(z)$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} \frac{\partial^2 Z}{\partial z^2} - k^2 Z = 0 \Rightarrow Z = e^{\pm kz} \\ \frac{\partial^2 Q}{\partial \varphi^2} + \nu^2 Q = 0 \Rightarrow Q = e^{\pm i\nu\varphi} \\ \frac{\partial^2 R}{\partial \rho^2} + \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial R}{\partial \rho} + (k^2 - \frac{\nu^2}{\rho^2}) R = 0 \\ \Rightarrow R = J_\nu(k\rho) + N_\nu(k\rho) \text{ (see pp. 112-116 or lecture notes p. 13).} \end{cases}$$



$$\Rightarrow \phi = \begin{Bmatrix} J_\nu(k\rho) \\ N_\nu(k\rho) \end{Bmatrix} \begin{Bmatrix} e^{i\nu\varphi} \\ e^{-i\nu\varphi} \end{Bmatrix} \begin{Bmatrix} e^{kz} \\ e^{-kz} \end{Bmatrix}$$

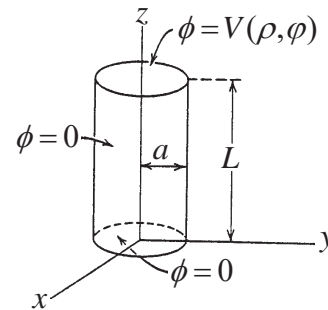
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### 3.8 Boundary-Value Problems in Cylindrical Coordinates

*Example 1:* Potential inside a charge-free cylinder (see figure)

with b.c.'s:  $\phi(z=L) = V(\rho, \varphi)$  and  $\phi = 0$  on other surfaces.

$$\nabla^2 \phi(\mathbf{x}) = 0 \Rightarrow \phi = \begin{Bmatrix} J_\nu(k\rho) \\ N_\nu(k\rho) \end{Bmatrix} \begin{Bmatrix} e^{i\nu\varphi} \\ e^{-i\nu\varphi} \end{Bmatrix} \begin{Bmatrix} e^{kz} \\ e^{-kz} \end{Bmatrix}$$



(i)  $Z(z) = Ae^{kz} + Be^{-kz}$

$\phi = 0$  at  $z = 0 \Rightarrow Z(0) = 0 \Rightarrow B = -A$

$\Rightarrow Z(z) = A(e^{kz} - e^{-kz}) = A' \sinh kz$

(ii)  $\phi(\varphi) = \phi(\varphi + 2\pi)$

$\Rightarrow \nu = m = \text{integer}$

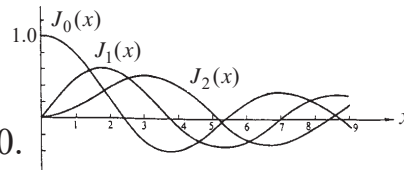
(iii)  $\phi$  is finite at  $\rho = 0$ .  $\Rightarrow$  drop  $N_m(k\rho) \Rightarrow R = J_m(k\rho)$

(iv)  $\phi = 0$  at  $\rho = a \Rightarrow J_m(ka) = 0$

$\Rightarrow k = k_{mn} = \frac{x_{mn}}{a}, n = 1, 2, 3 \dots$

where  $x_{mn}$  is the  $n$ -th root of  $J_m(x) = 0$ .

This is an eigenvalue problem in  $\varphi$  and  $\rho$ , but not in  $z$ . **Why?**



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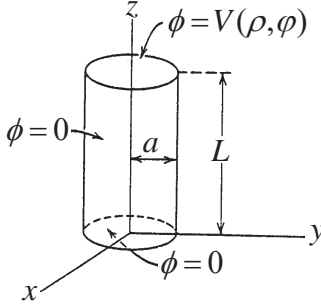
### 3.8 Boundary-Value Problems in Cylindrical Coordinates (continued)

Thus, we expand the solution as follows

$$\phi(\rho, \varphi, z) = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} J_m(k_{mn}\rho) \sinh(k_{mn}z) \cdot (A_{mn} \sin m\varphi + B_{mn} \cos m\varphi)$$

$$(v) \phi(\rho, \varphi, z = L) = V(\rho, \varphi)$$

$$\Rightarrow V(\rho, \varphi) = \sum_{m,n} J_m(k_{mn}\rho) \sinh(k_{mn}L) \cdot (A_{mn} \sin m\varphi + B_{mn} \cos m\varphi)$$



Operate both sides with  $\int_0^{2\pi} d\varphi \int_0^a \rho d\rho J_m(k_{mn}\rho) \begin{Bmatrix} \sin m\varphi \\ \cos m\varphi \end{Bmatrix}$  and

make use of the orthogonal properties of  $\sin m\varphi$  and  $\cos m\varphi$ , and

$$\text{the relation: } \int_0^a J_m(k_{mn'}\rho) J_m(k_{mn}\rho) \rho d\rho = \frac{a^2}{2} [J_{m+1}(k_{mn}a)]^2 \delta_{n'n} \quad (3.95)$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{Bmatrix} A_{mn} \\ B_{mn} \end{Bmatrix} = \frac{2 \operatorname{cosech}(k_{mn}L)}{\pi a^2 J_{m+1}^2(k_{mn}a)} \int_0^{2\pi} d\varphi \int_0^a \rho d\rho V(\rho, \varphi) J_m(k_{mn}\rho) \begin{Bmatrix} \sin m\varphi \\ \cos m\varphi \end{Bmatrix}$$

Note: Use  $\frac{1}{2} B_{0n}$  for the  $m = 0$  term in the  $\phi(\rho, \varphi, z)$  series .

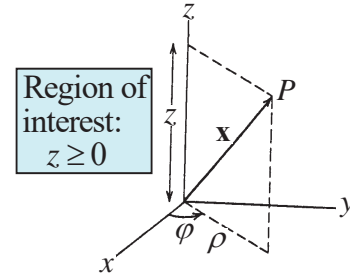
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### 3.8 Boundary-Value Problems in Cylindrical Coordinates (continued)

Example 2: Potential in the charge-free semi-infinite space  $z \geq 0$

$$\text{subject to the b.c. } \begin{cases} \phi(\rho, \varphi, z = 0) = V(\rho, \varphi) \\ \phi(\rho \rightarrow \infty, \varphi, z \rightarrow \infty) = 0 \end{cases}$$

$$\nabla^2 \phi(\mathbf{x}) = 0 \Rightarrow \phi = \begin{Bmatrix} J_\nu(k\rho) \\ N_\nu(k\rho) \end{Bmatrix} \begin{Bmatrix} e^{i\nu\varphi} \\ e^{-i\nu\varphi} \end{Bmatrix} \begin{Bmatrix} e^{kz} \\ e^{-kz} \end{Bmatrix}$$



$$(i) \phi \text{ remains finite as } z \rightarrow \infty. \Rightarrow \text{drop } e^{kz} \Rightarrow Z(z) = A e^{-kz}$$

$$(ii) \phi(\varphi) = \phi(\varphi + 2\pi) \Rightarrow \nu = m = \text{integer}$$

$$(iii) \phi \text{ is finite at } \rho = 0. \Rightarrow \text{drop } N_m(k\rho) \Rightarrow R = J_m(k\rho)$$

$$(iv) \phi = 0 \text{ at } \rho \rightarrow \infty \Rightarrow J_m(k \cdot \infty) = 0 \Rightarrow \begin{cases} \text{Continuous eigenvalue } k; \\ k \text{ series} \rightarrow k \text{ integral} \end{cases}$$

$$\Rightarrow \phi(\rho, \varphi, z) = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \int_0^{\infty} dk e^{-kz} J_m(k\rho) [A_m(k) \sin m\varphi + B_m(k) \cos m\varphi] \quad (3.106)$$

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### 3.8 Boundary-Value Problems in Cylindrical Coordinates (continued)

Rewrite (3.106) with variable  $k$  changed to  $k'$ :

$$\phi(\rho, \varphi, z) = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \int_0^{\infty} dk' e^{-k'z} J_m(k'\rho) \cdot [A_m(k') \sin m\varphi + B_m(k') \cos m\varphi]$$

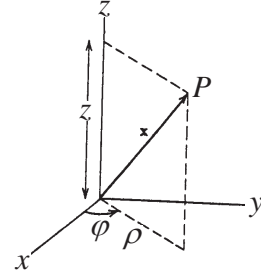
$$(v) \quad \phi(\rho, \varphi, z=0) = V(\rho, \varphi)$$

$$\Rightarrow V(\rho, \varphi) = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \int_0^{\infty} dk' J_m(k'\rho) [A_m(k') \sin m\varphi + B_m(k') \cos m\varphi]$$

Operating both sides with  $\int_0^{2\pi} d\varphi \int_0^{\infty} \rho d\rho J_m(k\rho) \begin{Bmatrix} \sin m\varphi \\ \cos m\varphi \end{Bmatrix}$  and making use of the orthogonal properties of  $\sin m\varphi$  and  $\cos m\varphi$ , and the relation:  $\int_0^{\infty} x J_m(kx) J_m(k'x) dx = \frac{1}{k} \delta(k - k')$  (3.108)

$$\Rightarrow \begin{Bmatrix} A_m(k) \\ B_m(k) \end{Bmatrix} = \frac{k}{\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} d\varphi \int_0^{\infty} \rho d\rho V(\rho, \varphi) J_m(k\rho) \begin{Bmatrix} \sin m\varphi \\ \cos m\varphi \end{Bmatrix} \quad (3.109)$$

For  $m = 0$ , use  $\frac{1}{2} B_0(k)$  in series (3.106).



### 3.9 Expansion of Green Functions in Spherical Coordinates

The Green function for an electrostatic potential problem with Dirichlet b.c.'s satisfies

$$\nabla^2 G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = -4\pi \delta(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}')$$

with  $G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = 0$  for  $\mathbf{x}$  on the boundary surface.

**Question:** Jackson p.120 states the b.c. as " $G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = 0$  for either  $\mathbf{x}$  or  $\mathbf{x}'$  on the boundary surface." Why?

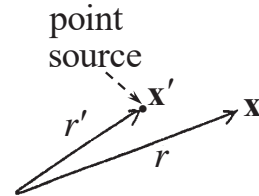
*Case I:* Green function in infinite space

In Sec. 1.10, we have the solution:

$$G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|},$$

which can be expanded in spherical coordinates as (Sec. 3.3)

$$G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|} = 4\pi \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-l}^l \frac{1}{2l+1} \frac{r_{<}^l}{r_{>}^{l+1}} Y_{lm}^*(\theta', \varphi') Y_{lm}(\theta, \varphi) \quad [(3.70)]$$

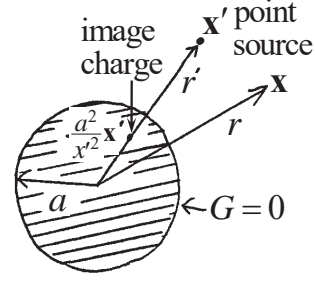


### 3.9 Expansion of Green Functions in Spherical Coordinates (continued)

#### Case 2: Green function outside a conducting sphere

By the method of images, we have obtained the Green function in Sec. 2.6,

$$G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|} - \frac{a}{x' |\mathbf{x} - \frac{a^2}{x'^2} \mathbf{x}'|} \quad [(2.16)]$$



The first term in (2.16) is expanded in (3.70).

The second term can be expanded using (3.70). Since  $|\mathbf{x}| > \left| \frac{a^2}{x'^2} \mathbf{x}' \right|$ , we substitute  $r_> = |\mathbf{x}| = r$  and  $r_< = \left| \frac{a^2}{x'^2} \mathbf{x}' \right| = \frac{a^2}{r'}$  into (3.70) to obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{a}{x' |\mathbf{x} - \frac{a^2}{x'^2} \mathbf{x}'|} &= 4\pi \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-l}^l \frac{1}{2l+1} \frac{a \left(\frac{a^2}{r'}\right)^l}{r' r^{l+1}} Y_{lm}^*(\theta', \varphi') Y_{lm}(\theta, \varphi) \\ \Rightarrow G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') &= 4\pi \sum_{l,m} \frac{1}{2l+1} \left[ \frac{r_<^l}{r_>^{l+1}} - \frac{1}{a} \left(\frac{a^2}{r r'}\right)^{l+1} \right] Y_{lm}^*(\theta', \varphi') Y_{lm}(\theta, \varphi) \quad (3.114) \end{aligned}$$

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### 3.9 Expansion of Green Functions in Spherical Coordinates (continued)

#### Case 3: Green function inside a spherical shell

$\nabla^2 G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = -4\pi\delta(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}')$  [inhomogeneous D.E. by (A.3)]  $G = 0$   
with homogeneous b.c.'s  $G(r = a \text{ \& \; } b) = 0$  [by (A.4)]

We will now solve the problem by a systematic method: method of expansion.

Write  $\delta(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}')$  in spherical coordinates,

$$\delta(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}') = \frac{1}{r^2} \delta(r - r') \delta(\varphi - \varphi') \delta(\cos \theta - \cos \theta'),$$

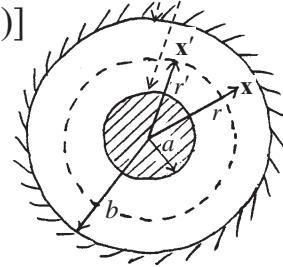
where  $r', \theta', \varphi'$  (arbitrary constants) are coordinates of the source ( $\mathbf{x}'$ ).

$$\text{Apply } \delta(\varphi - \varphi') \delta(\cos \theta - \cos \theta') = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-l}^l Y_{lm}^*(\theta', \varphi') Y_{lm}(\theta, \varphi) \quad [(3.56)]$$

$$\Rightarrow \delta(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}') = \frac{1}{r^2} \delta(r - r') \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-l}^l Y_{lm}^*(\theta', \varphi') Y_{lm}(\theta, \varphi) \quad (3.117)$$

*Note:* In (3.117), we have decomposed a "unit point charge" into an infinite number of spherical "charge layers", all of which have smooth charge distributions [with  $Y_{lm}(\theta, \varphi)$  dependence] on the  $r = r'$  surface.

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### 3.9 Expansion of Green Functions in Spherical Coordinates (continued)

$$\Rightarrow \nabla^2 G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = -4\pi\delta(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}') \\ = -4\pi \frac{1}{r^2} \delta(r - r') \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-l}^l Y_{lm}^*(\theta', \phi') Y_{lm}(\theta, \phi) \quad (4)$$

variable

constant

constants

variables

The RHS of (4) suggests that we try the following form for  $G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}')$ :

$$G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-l}^l g_l(r, r') \underbrace{Y_{lm}^*(\theta', \phi') Y_{lm}(\theta, \phi)}_{\text{same as RHS of (4)}} \quad \text{Why not } g_{lm}(r, r')? \quad (5)$$

See (3.120).

Sub. (5) into LHS of (4). Note  $Y_{lm}(\theta, \phi) \propto P_l^m(\cos \theta) e^{im\phi}$  and use

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \frac{d^2}{d\phi^2} e^{im\phi} = -m^2 e^{im\phi} \\ \left[ \frac{1}{\sin \theta} \frac{d}{d\theta} \left( \sin \theta \frac{d}{d\theta} \right) - \frac{m^2}{\sin^2 \theta} \right] P_l^m(\cos \theta) = -\ell(\ell+1) P_l^m(\cos \theta) \quad [(3.6)] \end{array} \right.$$

$Y_{lm}$  is complex, but  $\sum_{m=-l}^l Y_{lm}$  is real.

$$\Rightarrow \nabla^2 G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial r^2} (rG) + \frac{1}{r^2 \sin \theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \left( \sin \theta \frac{\partial G}{\partial \theta} \right) + \frac{1}{r^2 \sin^2 \theta} \frac{\partial^2 G}{\partial \phi^2} \quad \boxed{-m^2 G}$$

$$= \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-l}^l \left[ \frac{1}{r} \frac{d^2}{dr^2} [r g_l(r, r')] - \frac{l(l+1)}{r^2} g_l(r, r') \right] Y_{lm}^*(\theta', \phi') Y_{lm}(\theta, \phi) \quad (6)$$

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### 3.9 Expansion of Green Functions in Spherical Coordinates (continued)

Equate the RHS of (4) and (6).  $Y_{lm}(\theta, \phi)$ 's are orthogonal, hence linearly indep. [lectures notes, Ch. 2, Eqs. (3a,b)]. Thus, the coefficients of each  $Y_{lm}(\theta, \phi)$  term on the RHS of (4) and (6) are equal.

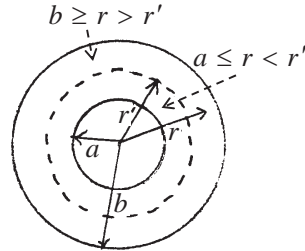
$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{r} \frac{d^2}{dr^2} [r g_l(r, r')] - \frac{l(l+1)}{r^2} g_l(r, r') = -\frac{4\pi}{r^2} \delta(r - r'), \quad (3.120)$$

which turns out to be an equation indep. of the index  $m$ .

To solve (3.120), divide the space into  $a \leq r < r'$  and  $b \geq r > r'$ . In each region, (3.120) reduces to

$$\frac{1}{r} \frac{d^2}{dr^2} [r g_l(r, r')] - \frac{l(l+1)}{r^2} g_l(r, r') = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow g_l(r, r') = \begin{cases} A r^l + B r^{-l-1}, & a \leq r < r' \\ A' r^l + B' r^{-l-1}, & b \geq r > r' \end{cases}$$



We will use 4 b.c.'s to determine  $A$ ,  $B$ ,  $A'$ , and  $B'$ . But first note:

If  $a = 0$ ,  $B$  must be set to 0 for  $g_l(r, r')$  to be finite at  $r = 0$ . (7)

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### 3.9 Expansion of Green Functions in Spherical Coordinates (continued)

b.c. (i):  $g_l(r=a, r')=0 \Rightarrow g_l(r, r') = A \underbrace{\left(r^l - \frac{a^{2l+1}}{r^{l+1}}\right)}_{\text{If } a=0, \text{ this term does not exist [see (7)]}}, \quad a \leq r < r'$

If  $a=0$ , this term does not exist [see (7)].

b.c. (ii):  $g_l(r=b, r')=0 \Rightarrow g_l(r, r') = B' \left( \frac{1}{r^{l+1}} - \frac{r^l}{b^{2l+1}} \right), \quad b \geq r > r'$

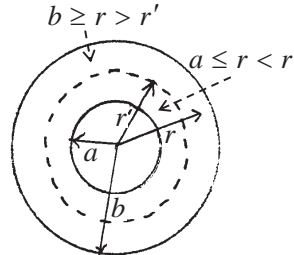
b.c. (iii):  $g_l(r, r')$  is continuous at  $r=r'$ . Physical reason:  $E$  is finite at  $r=r' \Rightarrow \phi$  [or  $g_l(r, r')$ ] is continuous.

Thus,  $A \left( r'^l - \frac{a^{2l+1}}{r'^{l+1}} \right) = B' \left( \frac{1}{r'^{l+1}} - \frac{r'^l}{b^{2l+1}} \right)$

$\Rightarrow \frac{A}{B'} = \frac{\frac{1}{r'^{l+1}} - \frac{r'^l}{b^{2l+1}}}{r'^l - \frac{a^{2l+1}}{r'^{l+1}}} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} A = C \left( \frac{1}{r'^{l+1}} - \frac{r'^l}{b^{2l+1}} \right) \\ B' = C \left( r'^l - \frac{a^{2l+1}}{r'^{l+1}} \right) \end{cases}$

$\Rightarrow g_l(r, r') = \begin{cases} C \left( \frac{1}{r'^{l+1}} - \frac{r'^l}{b^{2l+1}} \right) \left( r^l - \frac{a^{2l+1}}{r^{l+1}} \right), & a \leq r < r' \\ C \left( r'^l - \frac{a^{2l+1}}{r'^{l+1}} \right) \left( \frac{1}{r^{l+1}} - \frac{r^l}{b^{2l+1}} \right), & b \geq r > r' \end{cases}$

$= C \left( r_{<}^l - \frac{a^{2l+1}}{r_{<}^{l+1}} \right) \left( \frac{1}{r_{>}^{l+1}} - \frac{r_{>}^l}{b^{2l+1}} \right) \quad \boxed{r_{<} (r_{>}): \text{smaller (larger) of } r \text{ \& } r'} \quad (3.122)$



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### 3.9 Expansion of Green Functions in Spherical Coordinates (continued)

We need one more condition to get the remaining constant  $C$  in

$$g_l(r, r') = C \left( r_{<}^l - \frac{a^{2l+1}}{r_{<}^{l+1}} \right) \left( \frac{1}{r_{>}^{l+1}} - \frac{r_{>}^l}{b^{2l+1}} \right) \quad [(3.122)]$$

Rewrite  $\frac{1}{r} \frac{d^2}{dr^2} [r g_l(r, r')] - \frac{l(l+1)}{r^2} g_l(r, r') = -\frac{4\pi}{r^2} \delta(r-r') \quad [(3.120)]$

b.c. (iv): Physically,  $E_r (\propto \frac{d}{dr} g_l)$  is discontinuous across the charge layer at  $r=r'$ . Mathematically, we integrate (3.120) from  $r'-\varepsilon$  to  $r'+\varepsilon$  ( $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ ) to bring out the meaning of  $\delta(r-r')$ , hence the  $E_r$  discontinuity.

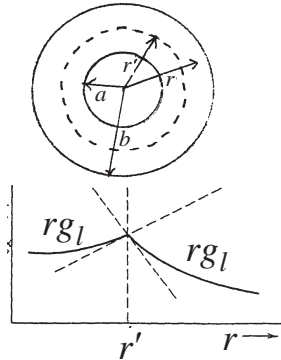
Multiply (3.120) by  $r$  and integrate across  $r'$

$\Rightarrow \frac{d}{dr} [r g_l(r, r')]_{r'+\varepsilon} - \frac{d}{dr} [r g_l(r, r')]_{r'-\varepsilon} = -\frac{4\pi}{r'}$

$\Rightarrow -\frac{C}{r'} \left[ 1 - \left( \frac{a}{r'} \right)^{2l+1} \right] [l + (l+1) \left( \frac{r'}{b} \right)^{2l+1}]$

use (3.122)  $-\frac{C}{r'} [(l+1) + l \left( \frac{a}{r'} \right)^{2l+1}] \left[ 1 - \left( \frac{r'}{b} \right)^{2l+1} \right] = -\frac{4\pi}{r'}$

$\Rightarrow C = \frac{4\pi}{(2l+1) \left[ 1 - \left( \frac{a}{b} \right)^{2l+1} \right]}$



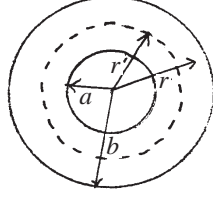
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### 3.9 Expansion of Green Functions in Spherical Coordinates (continued)

Sub.  $C$  into  $g_l(r, r') = C(r_{<}^l - \frac{a^{2l+1}}{r_{<}^{l+1}})(\frac{1}{r_{>}^{l+1}} - \frac{r_{>}^l}{b^{2l+1}})$  [(3.122)]

$$\Rightarrow g_l(r, r') = \frac{4\pi}{(2l+1)[1-(\frac{a}{b})^{2l+1}]} (r_{<}^l - \frac{a^{2l+1}}{r_{<}^{l+1}})(\frac{1}{r_{>}^{l+1}} - \frac{r_{>}^l}{b^{2l+1}})$$

$$\Rightarrow G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-l}^l g_l(r, r') Y_{lm}^*(\theta', \varphi') Y_{lm}(\theta, \varphi) \quad [(5)]$$

$$= 4\pi \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-l}^l \frac{Y_{lm}^*(\theta', \varphi') Y_{lm}(\theta, \varphi)}{(2l+1)[1-(\frac{a}{b})^{2l+1}]} (\underbrace{r_{<}^l - \frac{a^{2l+1}}{r_{<}^{l+1}}}_{\text{If } a=0, \text{ this term does not exist [see (7)]}})(\frac{1}{r_{>}^{l+1}} - \frac{r_{>}^l}{b^{2l+1}}) \quad (3.125)$$


If  $a = 0$ , this term does not exist [see (7)].

Limiting case 1:  $a = 0$  &  $b \rightarrow \infty$ , (3.125)  $\Rightarrow$  (3.70)

$$G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|} = 4\pi \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-l}^l \frac{1}{2l+1} \frac{r_{<}^l}{r_{>}^{l+1}} Y_{lm}^*(\theta', \varphi') Y_{lm}(\theta, \varphi) \quad [(3.70)]$$

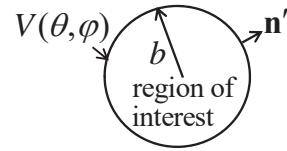
Limiting case 2:  $a \neq 0$  &  $b \rightarrow \infty$ , (3.125)  $\Rightarrow$  (3.114)

$$G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = 4\pi \sum_{l,m} \frac{1}{2l+1} [\frac{r_{<}^l}{r_{>}^{l+1}} - \frac{1}{a} (\frac{a^2}{rr'})^{l+1}] Y_{lm}^*(\theta', \varphi') Y_{lm}(\theta, \varphi) \quad [(3.114)]$$

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## 3.10 Solution of Potential Problems with the Spherical Green Function Expansion

*Example 1:* Potential inside a charge-free sphere of radius  $b$  subject to the b.c.  $\phi(r = b) = V(\theta, \varphi)$



Since we already have the Green function [(3.125)] for this problem (inhomogeneous due to the b.c.), it is convenient to use the formal solution derived in Sec. 1.10:

$$\phi(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_V \underbrace{\rho(\mathbf{x}')}_{=0} G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') d^3x' - \epsilon_0 \oint_S \phi(\mathbf{x}') \frac{\partial}{\partial n'} G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') da' \quad [(1.44)]$$

There is no charge inside.

$$\Rightarrow \phi(\mathbf{x}) = -\frac{1}{4\pi} \oint_S \phi(\mathbf{x}') \frac{\partial}{\partial n'} G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') da' \quad (8)$$

*Note:*  $\frac{\partial}{\partial n'}$  is a derivative along  $\mathbf{n}'$ . In deriving (1.44),  $\mathbf{n}'$  is required to be  $\perp$  to the boundary surface and pointing outward from the region of interest. So we have  $\frac{\partial}{\partial n'} = \frac{\partial}{\partial r'}$  for this example.

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### 3.10 Solution of Potential Problems with the Spherical Green Function Expansion (continued)

Rewrite  $\phi(\mathbf{x}) = -\frac{1}{4\pi} \oint_S \phi(\mathbf{x}') \frac{\partial}{\partial n'} G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') da'$  [(8)], where

$$G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = 4\pi \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-l}^l \frac{Y_{lm}^*(\theta', \varphi') Y_{lm}(\theta, \varphi)}{(2l+1)[1-(\frac{a}{b})^{2l+1}]} (r_{<}^l - \frac{a^{2l+1}}{r_{<}^{l+1}}) (\frac{1}{r_{>}^{l+1}} - \frac{r_{>}^l}{b^{2l+1}})$$

In (8),  $r'$  is on  $S$

For this example,  $a = 0$ ,  $r_{>} = r' (= b)$ , and  $r_{<} = r (\leq b)$ , hence

$$G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = 4\pi \sum_{l,m} \frac{1}{2l+1} Y_{lm}^*(\theta', \varphi') Y_{lm}(\theta, \varphi) r^l (\frac{1}{r^{l+1}} - \frac{r'^l}{b^{2l+1}})$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\partial G}{\partial r'} = 4\pi \sum_{l,m} \frac{1}{2l+1} Y_{lm}^*(\theta', \varphi') Y_{lm}(\theta, \varphi) r^l (-\frac{l+1}{r'^{l+2}} - \frac{lr'^{l-1}}{b^{2l+1}})$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\partial G}{\partial n'} \Big|_{r'=b} = \frac{\partial G}{\partial r'} \Big|_{r'=b} = -\frac{4\pi}{b^2} \sum_{l,m} (\frac{r}{b})^l Y_{lm}^*(\theta', \varphi') Y_{lm}(\theta, \varphi) \quad (9a)$$

$$\phi(\mathbf{x}') \Big|_S = \phi(r' = b) = V(\theta', \varphi') \quad (9b)$$

$$da' = b^2 d\Omega' \quad (9c)$$

Sub. (9a-c) into  $\phi(\mathbf{x}) = -\frac{1}{4\pi} \oint_S \phi(\mathbf{x}') \frac{\partial}{\partial n'} G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') da'$  [(8)], we get

$$\phi(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{l,m} [\int V(\theta', \varphi') Y_{lm}^*(\theta', \varphi') d\Omega'] (\frac{r}{b})^l Y_{lm}(\theta, \varphi) \quad (3.128)$$

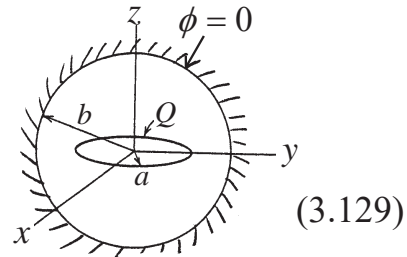
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### 3.10 Solution of Potential Problems with the Spherical Green Function Expansion (continued)

**Example 2:** Potential due to a uniformly charged ring of radius  $a$  and total charge  $Q$  located on the  $x$ - $y$  plane inside a grounded conducting sphere of radius  $b$

In spherical coordinates, the  $x$ - $y$  plane is the  $\theta = \pi/2$  (or  $\cos \theta = 0$ ) plane. The charge exists only at  $r = a$  on the  $\cos \theta = 0$  plane. Hence,  $\rho(\mathbf{x})$  can be written as

$$\rho(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{Q}{2\pi a^2} \delta(r - a) \delta(\cos \theta)$$



$$(3.129)$$

The potential is given by

$$\phi(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_V \rho(\mathbf{x}') G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') d^3x' - \underbrace{\frac{1}{4\pi} \oint_S \phi(\mathbf{x}') \frac{\partial}{\partial n'} G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') da'}_{=0} \quad [(1.44)]$$

No inner conductor in this problem  $\Rightarrow$  (3.125) reduces to

$$G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = 4\pi \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-l}^l \frac{1}{2l+1} Y_{lm}^*(\theta', \varphi') Y_{lm}(\theta, \varphi) r_{<}^l \left( \frac{1}{r_{>}^{l+1}} - \frac{r_{>}^l}{b^{2l+1}} \right) \quad (10)$$

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### 3.10 Solution of Potential Problems with the Spherical Green Function Expansion (continued)

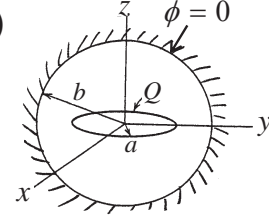
Symmetry in  $\varphi \Rightarrow m = 0$ . Hence,

$$Y_{lm}(\theta, \varphi) \rightarrow Y_{l0}(\theta, \varphi) = \sqrt{\frac{2l+1}{4\pi}} P_l(\cos \theta)$$

$$\Rightarrow G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} P_l(\cos \theta') P_l(\cos \theta) r_{<}^l \left( \frac{1}{r_{>}^{l+1}} - \frac{r_{>}^l}{b^{2l+1}} \right) \quad (11)$$

Sub. (11) and  $\rho(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{Q}{2\pi a^2} \delta(r-a) \delta(\cos \theta)$

into  $\phi(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int d^3x' \rho(\mathbf{x}') G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}')$ , we obtain



$$\begin{aligned} \phi(\mathbf{x}) &= \frac{Q}{8\pi^2 \epsilon_0 a^2} \int r'^2 dr' d\cos \theta' d\varphi' \left[ \delta(r'-a) \delta(\cos \theta') \cdot \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} P_l(\cos \theta') P_l(\cos \theta) r_{<}^l \left( \frac{1}{r_{>}^{l+1}} - \frac{r_{>}^l}{b^{2l+1}} \right) \right] \\ &= \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} P_l(0) P_l(\cos \theta) r_{<}^l \left( \frac{1}{r_{>}^{l+1}} - \frac{r_{>}^l}{b^{2l+1}} \right) \end{aligned} \quad (3.130)$$

where  $r_{<}$  ( $r_{>}$ ) is the smaller (larger) of  $r$  and  $a$ .

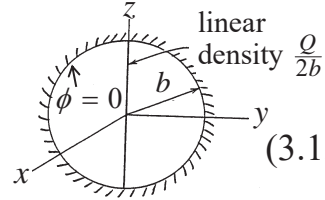
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### 3.10 Solution of Potential Problems with the Spherical Green Function Expansion (continued)

**Example 3:** Potential due to a uniformly charged line of length  $2b$  and total charge  $Q$  located on the  $z$ -axis inside a grounded conducting sphere of radius  $b$ .

In spherical coordinates, the charge exists only at  $\theta = 0$  and  $\pi$  (or  $\cos \theta = \pm 1$ ). Hence,

$$\rho(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{Q}{2b} \frac{1}{2\pi r^2} [\delta(\cos \theta - 1) + \delta(\cos \theta + 1)] \quad (3.132)$$



**Question:** Is this a uniformly charged line? (Yes. See Prob. 1 below)

The potential is given by

$$\phi(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_V \rho(\mathbf{x}') G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') d^3x' - \frac{1}{4\pi} \oint_S \underbrace{\phi(\mathbf{x}')}_{=0} \frac{\partial}{\partial n'} G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') da' \quad [(1.44)]$$

No inner conductor + symmetry in  $\varphi \Rightarrow G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}')$  is the same as (11):

$$G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} P_l(\cos \theta') P_l(\cos \theta) r_{<}^l \left( \frac{1}{r_{>}^{l+1}} - \frac{r_{>}^l}{b^{2l+1}} \right) \quad (11)$$

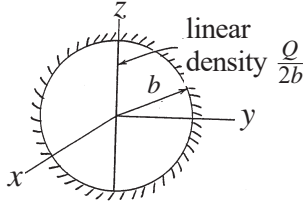
Sub. (3.132) and (11) into  $\phi(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_V \rho(\mathbf{x}') G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') d^3x'$ ,

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### 3.10 Solution of Potential Problems with the Spherical Green Function Expansion (continued)

we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}\phi(\mathbf{x}) &= \frac{Q}{8\pi\epsilon_0 b} \int r'^2 dr' d\cos\theta' d\varphi' \left[ \frac{\delta(\cos\theta'-1) + \delta(\cos\theta'+1)}{2\pi r'^2} \right. \\ &\quad \left. \cdot \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} P_l(\cos\theta') P_l(\cos\theta) r_{<}^l \left( \frac{1}{r_{>}^{l+1}} - \frac{r_{>}^l}{b^{2l+1}} \right) \right] \\ &= \frac{Q}{8\pi\epsilon_0 b} \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} [P_l(1) + P_l(-1)] P_l(\cos\theta) \underbrace{\int_0^b r_{<}^l \left( \frac{1}{r_{>}^{l+1}} - \frac{r_{>}^l}{b^{2l+1}} \right) dr'}_{\text{}} \quad (3.133)\end{aligned}$$



$$\begin{aligned}&= \left( \frac{1}{r^{l+1}} - \frac{r^l}{b^{2l+1}} \right) \int_0^r r'^l dr' + r^l \int_r^b \left( \frac{1}{r'^{l+1}} - \frac{r'^l}{b^{2l+1}} \right) dr' \\ &= \frac{2l+1}{l(l+1)} \left[ 1 - \left( \frac{r}{b} \right)^l \right] \quad \text{Note: This gives } \frac{0}{0} \text{ for } l=0.\end{aligned}$$

By L'Hospital's rule, the  $l=0$  term is given by  $\ln(b/r)$  (see p. 124).

$P_l(-1) = (-1)^l$  and  $P_l(1) = 1 \Rightarrow$  Odd  $l$  terms cancel.  $\Rightarrow$  Let  $l = 2j$ .

$$\Rightarrow \phi(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 b} \left\{ \ln\left(\frac{b}{r}\right) + \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \frac{4j+1}{2j(2j+1)} \left[ 1 - \left( \frac{r}{b} \right)^{2j} \right] P_{2j}(\cos\theta) \right\} \quad (3.136)$$

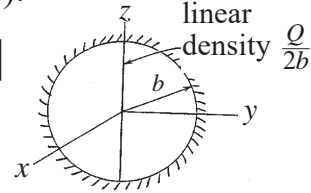
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### 3.10 Solution of Potential Problems with the Spherical Green Function Expansion (continued)

**Problem 1:** Show the charge density in (3.132):

$$\rho(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{Q}{2b} \frac{1}{2\pi r^2} [\delta(\cos\theta - 1) + \delta(\cos\theta + 1)]$$

represents a uniformly charged line along  $z$ .



**Solution:** The total charge is

$$\begin{aligned}\int \rho(\mathbf{x}) d^3x &= \frac{Q}{2b} \int_0^b r^2 dr \int_{-1}^1 d\cos\theta \int_0^{2\pi} d\varphi \frac{\delta(\cos\theta-1) + \delta(\cos\theta+1)}{2\pi r^2} \\ &= \frac{Q}{2b} \left[ \int_0^b dr \int_{-1}^1 d\cos\theta \underbrace{\delta(\cos\theta-1)}_{\theta=0, +z\text{-axis}} + \int_0^b dr \int_{-1}^1 d\cos\theta \underbrace{\delta(\cos\theta+1)}_{\theta=\pi, -z\text{-axis}} \right] \\ &= \frac{Q}{2b} \int_{-b}^b dz \Rightarrow \text{Each } dz \text{ contributes equally} \Rightarrow \text{uniform distribution}\end{aligned}$$

**Question:** We have let  $\int_{-1}^1 d\cos\theta \delta(\cos\theta \pm 1) = 1$ . But  $\cos\theta$  does not cross  $-1$  or  $1$ . Why is the integral equal to 1?

**Answer:** This issue can be resolved by a limiting procedure, i.e. letting

$$\rho(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{Q}{2b} \frac{1}{2\pi r^2} \cdot \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \{ \delta[\cos\theta - (1-\epsilon)] + \delta[\cos\theta + (1-\epsilon)] \}$$

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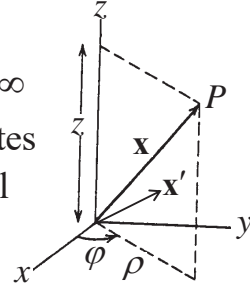
### 3.11 Expansion of Green Functions in Cylindrical Coordinates

Consider the Green equation in infinite space:

$$\nabla^2 G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = -4\pi\delta(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'), \text{ with } G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = 0 \text{ as } |\mathbf{x}| \rightarrow \infty$$

We just obtained the solution in spherical coordinates [(3.125),  $a \rightarrow 0$ ,  $b \rightarrow \infty$ ]. We now solve it in cylindrical coordinates in the same way, but in *infinite* space.

$$\text{Write } \delta(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}') = \frac{1}{\rho} \delta(\rho - \rho') \delta(\varphi - \varphi') \delta(z - z')$$



$$\text{with } \begin{cases} \delta(\varphi - \varphi') = \frac{1}{2\pi} \sum_{m=-\infty}^{\infty} e^{im(\varphi - \varphi')} & \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{A special case of (2.35):} \\ \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} U_n^*(\xi') U_n(\xi) = \delta(\xi - \xi') \end{array} \right] \\ \delta(z - z') = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dk e^{ik(z - z')} & \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{An extension of (2.35)} \\ \text{to continuous index } k. \\ \text{Also, see (6) of Ch. 2.} \end{array} \right] \\ \quad = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{\infty} dk \cos[k(z - z')] \end{cases}$$

$$\Rightarrow \nabla^2 G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = -\frac{2}{\pi} \frac{\delta(\rho - \rho')}{\rho} \sum_{m=-\infty}^{\infty} \int_0^{\infty} dk e^{im(\varphi - \varphi')} \cos[k(z - z')] \quad (12)$$

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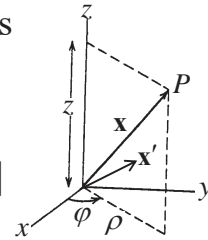
#### 3.11 Expansion of Green Functions in Cylindrical Coordinates (continued)

Since  $e^{im\varphi}$  and  $e^{ikz}$  are complete sets, we may expand  $G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}')$  in variables  $\varphi$  and  $z$  (Note: Eigenvalue  $k$  is continuous)

$$G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = \frac{1}{2\pi} \frac{1}{\pi} \sum_{m=-\infty}^{\infty} \int_0^{\infty} dk g_m(k, \rho, \rho') e^{im(\varphi - \varphi')} \cos[k(z - z')] \quad (3.140)$$

where the coefficient  $g_m(k, \rho, \rho')$  depends on  $m$ ,  $k$ ,  $\rho$  and  $\rho'$ , but only  $\rho$  is treated as a variable. Sub. (3.140) into (12) gives

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{2\pi^2} \sum_{m=-\infty}^{\infty} \int_0^{\infty} dk \left( \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \rho^2} + \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial}{\partial \rho} + \frac{1}{\rho^2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \varphi^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z^2} \right) \\ & \quad \cdot g_m(k, \rho, \rho') e^{im(\varphi - \varphi')} \cos[k(z - z')] \\ & = -\frac{2}{\pi} \frac{\delta(\rho - \rho')}{\rho} \sum_{m=-\infty}^{\infty} \int_0^{\infty} dk e^{im(\varphi - \varphi')} \cos[k(z - z')] \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$



$$\text{On the LHS, } \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \varphi^2} \rightarrow -m^2, \quad \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z^2} \rightarrow -k^2, \quad \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \rho^2} + \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial}{\partial \rho} = \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial}{\partial \rho} \rho \frac{\partial}{\partial \rho}$$

$$\Rightarrow \left[ \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{d}{d\rho} \rho \frac{d}{d\rho} - (k^2 + \frac{m^2}{\rho^2}) \right] g_m(k, \rho, \rho') = -\frac{4\pi}{\rho} \delta(\rho - \rho') \quad (3.141)$$

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### 3.11 Expansion of Green Functions in Cylindrical Coordinates (continued)

In regions  $\rho < \rho'$  &  $\rho > \rho'$ :  $[\frac{1}{\rho} \frac{d}{d\rho} \rho \frac{d}{d\rho} - (k^2 + \frac{m^2}{\rho^2})]g_m(k, \rho, \rho') = 0$

$$\Rightarrow g_m(k, \rho, \rho') = \begin{cases} AI_m(k\rho) + BK_m(k\rho), & \rho < \rho' \\ A'I_m(k\rho) + B'K_m(k\rho), & \rho > \rho' \end{cases} \quad \begin{matrix} \text{[See Jackson,} \\ (3.98)-(3.101)] \end{matrix}$$

(i)  $g_m$  is finite at  $\rho = 0 \Rightarrow B = 0$

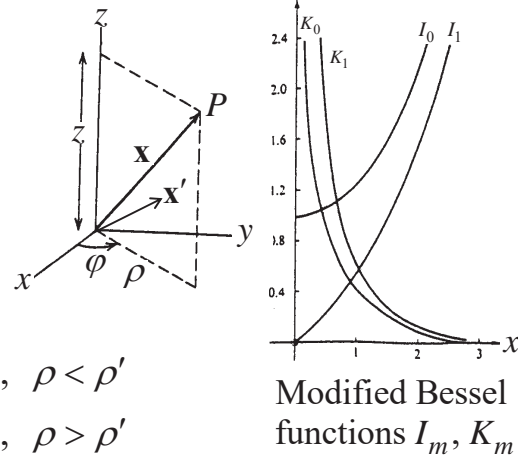
(ii)  $g_m$  is finite as  $\rho \rightarrow \infty \Rightarrow A' = 0$

(iii)  $g_m$  is continuous at  $\rho = \rho'$ .

$$\Rightarrow AI_m(k\rho') = B'K_m(k\rho')$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{A}{B'} = \frac{K_m(k\rho')}{I_m(k\rho')} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} A = CK_m(k\rho') \\ B' = CI_m(k\rho') \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow g_m(k, \rho, \rho') &= \begin{cases} CK_m(k\rho')I_m(k\rho), & \rho < \rho' \\ CI_m(k\rho')K_m(k\rho), & \rho > \rho' \end{cases} \\ &= CI_m(k\rho_<)K_m(k\rho_>) \end{aligned}$$



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### 3.11 Expansion of Green Functions in Cylindrical Coordinates (continued)

$$(iv) \text{ Rewrite } [\frac{1}{\rho} \frac{d}{d\rho} \rho \frac{d}{d\rho} - (k^2 + \frac{m^2}{\rho^2})]g_m(k, \rho, \rho') = -\frac{4\pi}{\rho} \delta(\rho - \rho') \quad (3.141)$$

Multiply (3.141) by  $\rho$  and integrate from  $\rho' - \varepsilon$  to  $\rho' + \varepsilon$  ( $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ ).

$$\Rightarrow \frac{dg_m}{d\rho} \Big|_{\rho'+\varepsilon} - \frac{dg_m}{d\rho} \Big|_{\rho'-\varepsilon} = -\frac{4\pi}{\rho'} \quad [g_m = CI_m(k\rho_<)K_m(k\rho_>)] \quad (3.143)$$

$$\Rightarrow Ck[I_m(k\rho')K_m'(k\rho') - K_m(k\rho')I_m'(k\rho')] = -\frac{4\pi}{\rho'}$$

Wronskian

Gradshteyn & Ryzhik, Sec. 8.474

$$\text{Use } W[I_m(x), K_m(x)] \equiv I_m(x)K_m'(x) - I_m'(x)K_m(x) = -\frac{1}{x} \quad (3.147)$$

$$\Rightarrow Ck\left(\frac{-1}{k\rho'}\right) = -\frac{4\pi}{\rho'} \Rightarrow C = 4\pi \Rightarrow g_m(k, \rho, \rho') = 4\pi I_m(k\rho_<)K_m(k\rho_>)$$

Sub.  $g_m(k, \rho, \rho')$  into (3.140), we obtain the solution for  $G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}')$ :

$$\Rightarrow G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = \frac{2}{\pi} \sum_{m=-\infty}^{\infty} \int_0^{\infty} dk e^{im(\varphi-\varphi')} \cos[k(z-z')] I_m(k\rho_<)K_m(k\rho_>)$$

Since  $G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{x}'|}$ , by the uniqueness theorem, we have

$$\frac{1}{|\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{x}'|} = \frac{2}{\pi} \sum_{m=-\infty}^{\infty} \int_0^{\infty} dk e^{im(\varphi-\varphi')} \cos[k(z-z')] I_m(k\rho_<)K_m(k\rho_>) \quad (3.148)$$

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### 3.12 Eigenfunction Expansion for Green Functions

#### Eigenfunction Expansion of Green Function in 3 Dimensions :

We have obtained the Green function for the Poisson eq. by the method of eigenfunction expansion in 2 dim. [e.g. (3.118), in  $\theta, \varphi$ ]. Here, we develop a general technique to obtain the Green function by eigenfunction expansion in 3 dim. Consider the Green function for a general inhomogeneous D.E. with homogeneous b.c.'s:

$$\nabla^2 G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') + [f(\mathbf{x}) + \lambda] G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = -4\pi\delta(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}') \quad (3.156)$$

a given real function

a given constant

We shall solve (3.156) by expanding  $G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}')$  and  $\delta(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}')$  in eigenfunctions of a related problem formulated as follows.

same  $f(\mathbf{x})$  as in (3.156)

an eigenvalue to be determined by the b.c., not the same  $\lambda$  as in (3.156)

$$\nabla^2 \psi(\mathbf{x}) + [f(\mathbf{x}) + \lambda] \psi(\mathbf{x}) = 0 \quad (3.153)$$

with the same boundary surface and homogeneous b.c. as for (3.156).

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#### 3.12 Eigenfunction Expansion for Green Functions (continued)

Rewrite  $\nabla^2 \psi(\mathbf{x}) + [f(\mathbf{x}) + \lambda] \psi(\mathbf{x}) = 0$  [(3.153)]

Assume b.c.'c make  $[\nabla^2 + f(\mathbf{x})]$  a *Hermitian* operator [see (A.11), (A.12)], and  $\psi_n(\mathbf{x})$  are the 3-D (normalized) eigenfunctions, we have

$$\int_V \psi_m^*(\mathbf{x}) \psi_n(\mathbf{x}) d^3x = \delta_{mn} \quad [\text{see (A.13)}] \quad (3.155)$$

and  $\psi_n$  form a *complete* set [see (A.17)] with *real* eigenvalues  $\lambda_n$ .

Write  $G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = \sum_n a_n(\mathbf{x}') \psi_n(\mathbf{x})$  (3.157)

Sub. (3.157) and  $\delta(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}') = \sum_n \psi_n^*(\mathbf{x}') \psi_n(\mathbf{x})$  [see (2.35)] into

$\nabla^2 G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') + [f(\mathbf{x}) + \lambda] G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = -4\pi\delta(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}')$  [(3.156)], we obtain

$$\sum_n a_n(\mathbf{x}') \{ \nabla^2 \psi_n(\mathbf{x}) + [f(\mathbf{x}) + \lambda] \psi_n(\mathbf{x}) \} = -4\pi \sum_n \psi_n^*(\mathbf{x}') \psi_n(\mathbf{x})$$

$\psi_n$  satisfies  $\nabla^2 \psi_n(\mathbf{x}) + [f(\mathbf{x}) + \lambda_n] \psi_n(\mathbf{x}) = 0$ ,

$$\Rightarrow \sum_n a_n(\mathbf{x}') (\lambda - \lambda_n) \psi_n(\mathbf{x}) = -4\pi \sum_n \psi_n^*(\mathbf{x}') \psi_n(\mathbf{x})$$

$$\Rightarrow a_n(\mathbf{x}') = 4\pi \frac{\psi_n^*(\mathbf{x}')}{\lambda_n - \lambda} \Rightarrow G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = 4\pi \sum_n \frac{\psi_n^*(\mathbf{x}') \psi_n(\mathbf{x})}{\lambda_n - \lambda} \quad (3.160)$$

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**Question:** Have we made use of  $\int \delta(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}') d^3x = 1$ ?

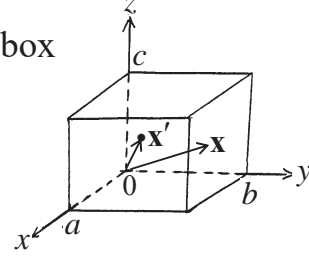
### 3.12 Eigenfunction Expansion for Green Functions (continued)

We now specialize (3.156) to the Green function for the Poisson eq., i.e.  $\nabla^2 G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') + \underbrace{[f(\mathbf{x})]}_0 + \underbrace{\lambda}_0 G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = -4\pi\delta(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}')$

*Example 1:* Green function for a rectangular box

$$\nabla^2 G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = -4\pi\delta(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}')$$

with  $G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = 0$  at  $\begin{cases} x = 0 \text{ and } a \\ y = 0 \text{ and } b \\ z = 0 \text{ and } c \end{cases}$



Consider the corresponding eigenvalue problem [(3.153) with  $f(\mathbf{x}) = 0$  and  $\lambda \rightarrow k^2$ ]:  $\nabla^2 \psi(\mathbf{x}) + k^2 \psi(\mathbf{x}) = 0$  with the same b.c.'s

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Let } \psi(\mathbf{x}) = X(x)Y(y)Z(z) &\Rightarrow \underbrace{\frac{1}{X} \frac{d^2 X}{dx^2}}_{-k_l^2} + \underbrace{\frac{1}{Y} \frac{d^2 Y}{dy^2}}_{-k_m^2} + \underbrace{\frac{1}{Z} \frac{d^2 Z}{dz^2}}_{-k_n^2} + k^2 = 0 \\ &\Rightarrow \begin{cases} X(x) = Ae^{ik_l x} + Be^{-ik_l x} \\ Y(y) = Ce^{ik_m y} + De^{-ik_m y} \\ Z(z) = Ee^{ik_n z} + Fe^{-ik_n z} \end{cases} \text{ with } k^2 = k_l^2 + k_m^2 + k_n^2 \end{aligned}$$

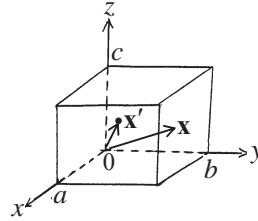
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### 3.12 Eigenfunction Expansion for Green Functions (continued)

$$\text{b.c. } \begin{cases} X(x) = 0 \text{ at } x = 0 \text{ \& } a \\ Y(y) = 0 \text{ at } y = 0 \text{ \& } b \\ Z(z) = 0 \text{ at } z = 0 \text{ \& } c \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} k_l = \frac{l\pi}{a}, l = 1, 2, \dots \\ k_m = \frac{m\pi}{b}, m = 1, 2, \dots \\ k_n = \frac{n\pi}{c}, n = 1, 2, \dots \end{cases} \& \begin{cases} X = \sin \frac{l\pi x}{a} \\ Y = \sin \frac{m\pi y}{b} \\ Z = \sin \frac{n\pi z}{c} \end{cases}$$

$$\Rightarrow k^2 = k_{lmn}^2 = \pi^2 \left( \frac{l^2}{a^2} + \frac{m^2}{b^2} + \frac{n^2}{c^2} \right)$$

$$\Rightarrow \psi(\mathbf{x}) = \sqrt{\frac{8}{abc}} \sin \frac{l\pi x}{a} \sin \frac{m\pi y}{b} \sin \frac{n\pi z}{c}$$



(3.166)

Sub.  $\psi(\mathbf{x})$  into  $G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = 4\pi \sum_j \frac{\psi_j^*(\mathbf{x}') \psi_j(\mathbf{x})}{\lambda_j - \lambda}$  [(3.160)], we obtain

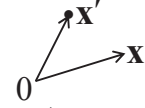
$$\begin{aligned} G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') &= \boxed{\sum_j \rightarrow \sum_{l,m,n} ; \lambda_j \rightarrow k_{lmn}^2 ; \lambda = 0} \\ &= \frac{32}{\pi abc} \sum_{l,m,n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\sin \frac{l\pi x'}{a} \sin \frac{l\pi x}{a} \sin \frac{m\pi y'}{b} \sin \frac{m\pi y}{b} \sin \frac{n\pi z'}{c} \sin \frac{n\pi z}{c}}{\frac{l^2}{a^2} + \frac{m^2}{b^2} + \frac{n^2}{c^2}} \quad (3.167) \end{aligned}$$

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### 3.12 Eigenfunction Expansion for Green Functions (continued)

Example 2: Green function for infinite space

$$\nabla^2 G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = -4\pi\delta(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}') \text{ with } G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = 0 \text{ as } |\mathbf{x}| \rightarrow \infty$$



Instead of treating it as an eigenvalue problem (as in Jackson), we use the Fourier transform. Let the Fourier transform of  $G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}')$  be

$$G(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{x}') = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{3/2}} \int G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') e^{-i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x}} d^3x \quad \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{3-D extension of (2.45)} \\ \mathbf{x}' \text{ is treated as a const.} \end{array} \right]$$

Then, the Fourier transform of  $\nabla G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}')$  is

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{3/2}} \int \nabla G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') e^{-i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x}} d^3x \\ &= \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{3/2}} \int \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \mathbf{e}_x + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \mathbf{e}_y + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \mathbf{e}_z \right) G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') e^{-i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x}} d^3x \\ & \quad [\text{integrate by parts and use } G(\pm\infty, \mathbf{x}') = 0] \\ &= \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{3/2}} \int i\mathbf{k} G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') e^{-i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x}} d^3x = i\mathbf{k} G(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{x}') \end{aligned} \quad (14a)$$

Similarly, the Fourier transform of  $\nabla^2 G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}')$  is

$$\frac{1}{(2\pi)^{3/2}} \int \nabla^2 G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') e^{-i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x}} d^3x = -k^2 G(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{x}') \quad (14b)$$

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### 3.12 Eigenfunction Expansion for Green Functions (continued)

The Fourier transform of  $\delta(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}')$  is

$$\frac{1}{(2\pi)^{3/2}} \int \delta(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}') e^{-i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x}} d^3x = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{3/2}} e^{-i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x}'}$$

Thus, Fourier transforming both sides of  $\nabla^2 G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = -4\pi\delta(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}')$  gives  $-k^2 G(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{x}') = -4\pi \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{3/2}} e^{-i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x}'}$

$$\Rightarrow G(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{x}') = \frac{2}{(2\pi)^{1/2}} \frac{e^{-i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x}'}}{k^2} \quad [\text{solution in } \mathbf{k}\text{-space}]$$

A Fourier inverse transform [(2.44)] gives the solution in  $\mathbf{x}$ -space:

$$G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{3/2}} \int G(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{x}') e^{i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x}} d^3k = \frac{1}{2\pi^2} \int \frac{e^{i\mathbf{k} \cdot (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}')}}{k^2} d^3k$$

**Question:** Does  $G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}')$  contain any more or less information than  $G(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{x}')$ ?

Since  $G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = 1/|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|$ , by the uniqueness theorem, we get another mathematical identity for  $1/|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|$  in infinite space [in addition to

$$(3.70) \text{ \& } (3.148)]: \quad \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|} = \frac{1}{2\pi^2} \int d^3k \frac{e^{i\mathbf{k} \cdot (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}')}}{k^2} \quad (3.164)$$

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### Solution of Inhomogeneous D. E. by the Green Function Method :

To show the usefulness of the 3-D Green function just obtained, we consider an inhomogeneous linear D.E. [see (A.2) & (A.6)]:

$$\nabla^2 u(\mathbf{x}) + [f(\mathbf{x}) + \lambda]u(\mathbf{x}) = -4\pi S(\mathbf{x}) \leftarrow \text{distributed source} \quad (15)$$

with homogeneous b.c.'s We have shown that the solution for

$$\nabla^2 G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') + [f(\mathbf{x}) + \lambda]G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = -4\pi\delta(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}') \quad (3.156)$$

$$\text{is} \quad G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = 4\pi \sum_n \frac{\psi_n^*(\mathbf{x}')\psi_n(\mathbf{x})}{\lambda_n - \lambda}, \quad (3.160)$$

where  $\psi_n(\mathbf{x})$  is the eigenfunction of  $\nabla^2 \psi_n(\mathbf{x}) + [f(\mathbf{x}) + \lambda_n]\psi_n(\mathbf{x}) = 0$ .

By the principle of linear superposition [cf. (1.3) & (1.5), Ch. 1],

$$\text{we get the solution:} \quad u(\mathbf{x}) = \int_V G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') S(\mathbf{x}') d^3 x' \quad (16)$$

We may verify (16) to be the solution if we operate both sides of (16) with  $\nabla^2 + f(\mathbf{x}) + \lambda$  and apply (3.156) to the RHS.

*Note:* If  $\lambda = \lambda_n$ , there is no solution unless  $\int_V \psi_n^*(\mathbf{x}) S(\mathbf{x}) d^3 x = 0$ .

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## Appendix A. Eigenvalue Problem

(Ref.: Mathews and Walker, "Math. Meth. of Phys.," 2nd Ed., Ch. 9)

### Terminology and Definitions :

(i) Linear differential operator:  $L$  is a linear differential operator if

$$L(au_1 + bu_2) = aLu_1 + bLu_2 \quad (A.1)$$

( $u_1$  and  $u_2$ : arbitrary functions;  $a$  and  $b$ : arbitrary constants.)

Examples of linear  $L$ :  $\frac{d^n}{dx^n}$ ,  $\frac{d}{dx} p(x) \frac{d}{dx} - q(x)$

(ii) Linear D.E.: The D.E. is linear if it can be put in the form:

$$\sum_{n=0}^N f_n(x) \frac{d^n u}{dx^n} = g(x) \quad [f_n(x), g(x): \text{given functions}], \quad (A.2)$$

in which the dependent variable  $u$  in all terms is of the 1st or 0 degree (only  $u^0$  &  $u$ ; no  $u^2$ ,  $u^3$ , etc). 3-D example:  $\nabla^2 \phi = -\rho/\epsilon_0$

(iii) Homogeneous linear D.E.: The above equation with  $g(x) = 0$ , i.e.

$$\sum_{n=0}^N f_n(x) \frac{d^n u}{dx^n} = 0 \quad [\text{All terms 1st degree in } u] \quad \text{3-D example: } \nabla^2 \phi = 0$$

$\Rightarrow$  If each  $u_n$  ( $n = 1, 2, \dots$ ) satisfies the D. E., so does  $\sum_n a_n u_n$ . (A.3)<sub>64</sub>



(iv) Homogeneous b.c.:

If  $u$  satisfies the b.c., so does  $au$  (examples on next page). (A.4)

(v) Homogeneous linear boundary-value problem:

Here, the word "problem" refers to a D.E. with a "region of interest" and "b.c.'s".

A homogeneous linear boundary-value problem is a problem governed by a *homog.* and *linear* D.E. with *homog.* b.c.'s.

$$\Rightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{l} 1. \text{ If } u \text{ is a solution (i.e. it satisfies the "homog. linear D.E." and "homog. b.c.'s"), so is } au. \\ 2. \text{ If there are multiple solutions } u_n \text{ (} n = 1, 2, \dots \text{), any linear combination of } u_n \text{ (i.e. } \sum_n a_n u_n \text{) is also a solution.} \end{array} \right. \quad (\text{A.5})$$

*Note* : A problem can be inhomogeneous because either the b.c. or the D.E. is inhomogeneous (M&W, p. 218 and p. 268). (A.6)

*Example* : The prob. in Sec. 2.9 is inhomogeneous due to the b.c.

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**Formulation of an Eigenvalue Problem :**

An eigenvalue problem involving the differential operator\* consists of [see M&W, Eq. (9.9)]

a linear homog. D.E. of the form + homog. b.c.'s of the form (A.7)

$Lu(x) = \lambda h(x)u(x), a \leq x \leq b$	$u(a) = 0 \text{ \& } u(b) = 0$
$L$ : linear differential operator	or $u'(a) = 0 \text{ \& } u'(b) = 0$
$\lambda$ : eigenvalue	or $u(a) = u(b) \text{ \& } u'(a) = u'(b)$
$u$ : eigenfunction	or $u(a) \text{ \& } u(b)$ are finite (i.e. any finite number, not a single fixed number)
$h(x)$ : density function, a given real function with $h(x) \geq 0$	

\*There are also eigenvalue problems which involve the matrix or integral operator (see M&W, pp. 261-262).

### Definition of Hermitian Operator :

$L$  is a Hermitian operator if

$$\int_a^b u_1^*(x) L u_2(x) dx = \left[ \int_a^b u_2^*(x) L u_1(x) dx \right]^*, \quad (\text{A.8})$$

where  $u_1$  and  $u_2$  are arbitrary functions obeying the homog. b.c.'s.

Example 1:  $L = \frac{d^2}{dx^2}$  (A.9)

is Hermitian if  $u_1^* \frac{du_2}{dx} \Big|_a^b = 0$  &  $u_2 \frac{du_1^*}{dx} \Big|_a^b = 0$  (A.10)

e.g.  $u_{1,2}(a) = 0$  or  $\frac{du_{1,2}}{dx} \Big|_a = 0$  plus  $u_{1,2}(b) = 0$  or  $\frac{du_{1,2}}{dx} \Big|_b = 0$ .

*Proof:*  $\int_a^b u_1^*(x) \frac{d^2}{dx^2} u_2(x) dx = \int_a^b u_1^* \frac{du_2}{dx} \Big|_a^b - \int_a^b \frac{du_1^*}{dx} \frac{du_2}{dx} dx$

integration by parts      integration by parts

$= -u_2 \frac{du_1^*}{dx} \Big|_a^b + \int_a^b u_2 \frac{d^2}{dx^2} u_1^* dx = \left[ \int_a^b u_2^* \frac{d^2}{dx^2} u_1 dx \right]^* \Rightarrow \text{Satisfy (A.8)}$

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Example 2:  $L = \frac{d}{dx} p(x) \frac{d}{dx} - q(x)$  (A.11)

real functions

[ Sturm-Liouville differential operator ]

is Hermitian if the b.c.'s on  $u(x)$  &  $u'(x)$  or boundary values of  $p(x)$

result in  $u_1^* p \frac{du_2}{dx} \Big|_a^b = 0$  &  $u_2 p \frac{du_1^*}{dx} \Big|_a^b = 0$  (A.12)

*Proof:*  $\int_a^b u_1^* L u_2 dx = \int_a^b u_1^* \frac{d}{dx} (p \frac{d}{dx} u_2) dx - \int_a^b q u_1^* u_2 dx$

integration by parts  $\xrightarrow{(A.12)}$   $= u_1^* p \frac{du_2}{dx} \Big|_a^b - \int_a^b \frac{du_1^*}{dx} p \frac{du_2}{dx} dx - \int_a^b q u_1^* u_2 dx$

integration by parts  $\xrightarrow{(A.12)}$   $= -u_2 p \frac{du_1^*}{dx} \Big|_a^b + \int_a^b u_2 \frac{d}{dx} (p \frac{d}{dx} u_1^*) dx - \int_a^b q u_1^* u_2 dx$

$= \left[ \int_a^b u_2^* L u_1 dx \right]^* \Rightarrow \text{Satisfy (A.9)}$

Note : (A.11) is a differential operator commonly found in physics.

**Properties of Eigenvalue Problem with Hermitian Operator :**

1.  $L$  is Hermitian  $\Rightarrow \lambda_n$ 's are real and  $u_n$ 's are orthogonal (A.13)

*Proof :* Let  $u_i, u_j$  be eigenfunctions belonging to eigenvalues

$$\lambda_i, \lambda_j, \text{ respectively, i.e. } \begin{cases} Lu_i = \lambda_i hu_i \\ Lu_j = \lambda_j hu_j \end{cases}$$

$$\text{Then, } Lu_i = \lambda_i hu_i \Rightarrow \int_a^b u_j^* Lu_i dx = \lambda_i \int_a^b u_j^* u_i h dx$$

Use the Hermitian property of  $L$

real

$$\begin{aligned} \text{LHS} &= \int_a^b u_j^* Lu_i dx = \left[ \int_a^b u_i^* Lu_j dx \right]^* = \left[ \lambda_j \int_a^b u_i^* u_j h dx \right]^* = \lambda_j^* \int_a^b u_i u_j^* h dx \\ \Rightarrow (\lambda_i - \lambda_j^*) \int_a^b u_i u_j^* h dx &= 0 \quad [h \geq 0] \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A.14})$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} i = j \Rightarrow \lambda_i - \lambda_i^* = 0 \text{ \& } \lambda_j - \lambda_j^* = 0 \Rightarrow \lambda_i \text{ \& } \lambda_j \text{ are real.} \\ i \neq j \Rightarrow u_i \text{ \& } u_j \text{ are orthogonal in the sense } \int_a^b u_i u_j^* h dx = 0 \end{cases} \quad (\text{A.15})$$

Note the presence of the density function  $h(x)$

$\Rightarrow$  With (A.13-15), no need to prove (3.19) on p.98 & (3.94) on p.115.

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2. The eigenvalue problem is a *linear* and *homog.* boundary-value problem.  $\Rightarrow$  If  $u_n$ 's are solutions,  $\sum_n a_n u_n$  is also a solution. (A.16)

3. If  $L$  is Hermitian,  $u_n$  form a complete set. (A.17)

The following quotes, though not proofs, make this very clear.

Jackson, p.68: "All orthonormal sets of functions normally occurring in mathematical physics have been proved to be complete."

M&W, p.265: "It is possible to expand any function, obeying the appropriate conditions, in a series of eigenfunctions. That is, the eigenfunctions of a Hermitian operator form a complete set under very general conditions. We shall not prove this property here but it is in fact true for all the commonly encountered differential eqs. in physics."

See M&W p.173 for the meaning of "appropriate conditions", which principally apply to functions in mathematics. In physics, we may simply say that a complete set of eigenfunctions can represent any function. They are thus powerful building blocks of physical quantities.

**Appendix A. Eigenvalue Problem (continued)**

**Examples :** Here we examine some previous problems in the context of an eigenvalue problem.

*Example 1:*  $\frac{d^2 X}{dx^2} = -\alpha^2 X$ , b.c.'s:  $X(0) = X(a) = 0$

$$\Rightarrow X(x) = Ae^{i\alpha x} + Be^{-i\alpha x}$$

These 2 b.c.'s make  $d^2/dx^2$  Hermitian [see (A.9), (A.10)].

$$\text{b.c.'s } \begin{cases} X(0) = 0 \Rightarrow B = -A \Rightarrow X(x) = A(e^{i\alpha x} - e^{-i\alpha x}) = A' \sin \alpha x \\ X(a) = 0 \Rightarrow \alpha = \alpha_n = \frac{\pi n}{a}, n = 1, 2, \dots \quad [\alpha_n: \text{eigenvalues}] \end{cases}$$

$\Rightarrow \sin \alpha_n x$  ( $n = 1, 2, \dots$ ) form a set of eigenfunctions.

Note the following general properties of an eigenvalue problem:

- The D.E. & b.c.'s are both homogeneous.  $\Rightarrow$  Each eigenfunction ( $\sin \alpha_n x$ ) multiplied by any constant  $A_n$  is still a solution.
- Eigenvalues ( $\alpha_n = n\pi / a$ ) are determined by the b.c.'s.
- $d^2/dx^2$  is Hermitian  $\Rightarrow$  All eigenvalues  $\alpha_n$  are real.
- $d^2/dx^2$  is Hermitian  $\Rightarrow$  The set of  $\sin \alpha_n x$  are orthogonal.
- $d^2/dx^2$  is Hermitian  $\Rightarrow$  The set of  $\sin \alpha_n x$  are complete, i.e. any function  $f(x)$  can be expanded as  $f(x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n \sin \alpha_n x$

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**Appendix A. Eigenvalue Problem (continued)**

*Example 2:* Eigenvalue problem involving the Legendre equation (Jackson Sec. 3.2 and 3.4, M&W Sec. 7.1)

$$\frac{d}{dx}[(1-x^2) \frac{du}{dx}] + \nu(\nu+1)u = 0 \quad [(3.10)], \quad -1 \leq x \leq 1, \quad \begin{cases} u(-1) = \text{finite} \\ u(1) = \text{finite} \end{cases} \quad (\text{A.18})$$

This is an eigenvalue problem of the form:

$$\overbrace{\left[ \frac{d}{dx} p(x) \frac{d}{dx} - q(x) \right]}^L u(x) = \lambda \overbrace{h(x)}^1 u(x)$$

$\uparrow$   
 $1-x^2$

$\uparrow$   
 $0$

$\uparrow$   
 $-\nu(\nu+1)$

Whether  $L$  is Hermitian depends on the form of  $L$  and the b.c.'s.

**Question:** 1. Is  $L$  Hermitian?

For  $L$  to be Hermitian, we need  $u_i^*(x) p(x) \frac{du_j(x)}{dx} \Big|_{-1}^1 = 0$  [(A.12)].

(A.12) is satisfied here because  $p = 1 - x^2 = 0$  at  $x = \pm 1$  although  $u_{i,j}(\pm 1) = \text{finite} (\neq 0)$ .

2. What is the eigenvalue? Strictly,  $-\nu(\nu+1)$  is the eigenvalue. But we shall loosely call  $\nu$  an eigenvalue (see M&W, p.262).

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Appendix A. Eigenvalue Problem (continued)

Rewrite

$$\frac{d}{dx} \left[ (1-x^2) \frac{du}{dx} \right] + \nu(\nu+1)u = 0, \quad -1 \leq x \leq 1, \quad \begin{cases} u(-1) = \text{finite} \\ u(1) = \text{finite} \end{cases} \quad (\text{A.18})$$

(A.18) has the solution (lecture notes, p. 1):

$$u(x) = AP_\nu(x) + BQ_\nu(x)$$

b.c.'s " $u(x = \pm 1) = \text{finite}$ " require  $B = 0$  and  $\nu = l = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ .

Thus, the solution is  $u(x) = P_l(x)$  with  $l = 0, 1, 2, \dots$

Since  $L$  is Hermitian, the set  $u(x)$  are orthogonal in the sense:

$$\int_a^b u_i(x) u_j^*(x) h(x) dx = 0, \quad \text{if } i \neq j \quad [(\text{A.15})]$$

$$\text{So, with } h(x) = 1, \text{ we have } \int_{-1}^1 P_l(x) P_l(x) dx = \frac{2}{2l+1} \delta_{ll} \quad (3.21)$$

Eigenfunctions of a Hermitian operator form a complete set.

$\Rightarrow P_l(x)$  is complete in index  $\ell$ , i.e. any function  $f(x)$  can be expanded

$$\text{as } f(x) = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} A_l P_l(x) \quad [-1 \leq x \leq 1] \quad (\text{A.19})$$

$$(3.23)$$

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Appendix A. Eigenvalue Problem (continued)

Example 3: Eigenvalue problem involving the associated Legendre equation (Jackson Sec. 3.5, M&W Sec. 7.1)

$$\frac{d}{dx} \left[ (1-x^2) \frac{du}{dx} \right] + \left[ \nu(\nu+1) - \frac{m^2}{1-x^2} \right] u = 0 \quad [(3.9)], \quad -1 \leq x \leq 1, \quad \begin{cases} u(-1) = \text{finite} \\ u(1) = \text{finite} \end{cases}$$

A question arises as to whether  $\nu$  or  $m$  is the eigenvalue. This can be resolved by putting the equation in the eigenvalue problem format:

$$\overbrace{\left[ \frac{d}{dx} p(x) \frac{d}{dx} - q(x) \right]}^L u(x) = \lambda \overbrace{h(x)}^1 u(x)$$

$\uparrow$   
 $1-x^2$

$\uparrow$   
 $m^2/(1-x^2)$

$\uparrow$   
 $-\nu(\nu+1)$

For the same reason as in Example 2,  $L$  here is a Hermitian operator.

Thus,  $\nu$  is the eigenvalue, which is to be determined from b.c.'s.

The associated Legendre eq. has the solution (lecture notes, p. 4):

$u(x) = AP_\nu^m(x) + BQ_\nu^m(x)$ . For  $u(x = \pm 1) = \text{finite}$ , we require  $B = 0$ ,  $\nu = l = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ , and  $m = -l, -(l-1), \dots, -1, 0, 1, \dots, (l-1), l$ . Thus,

$$u(x) = P_l^m(x) \text{ with } l = |m|, |m|+1, |m|+2, \dots$$

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Appendix A. Eigenvalue Problem (continued)

Rewrite  $u(x) = P_l^m(x)$  with  $l = |m|, |m|+1, |m|+2, \dots$

Since the operator  $L$  is Hermitian,  $l$  is the eigenvalue, and  $P_l^m(x)$  is the eigenfunction,  $P_l^m(x)$  is orthogonal in index  $\ell$  (not  $m$ ). Thus, with the density function  $h(x) = 1$ , we have

$$\int_{-1}^1 P_{l'}^m(x) P_l^m(x) dx = \frac{2}{2l+1} \frac{(l+m)!}{(l-m)!} \delta_{ll'} \quad (3.52)$$

Also, because of the Hermitian property of the operator  $L$ ,  $P_l^m(x)$  is complete in eigenvalue index  $\ell$ , i.e. any function  $f(x)$  can be expanded as

$$f(x) = \sum_{l=|m|}^{\infty} C_l P_l^m(x) \quad [\text{see M\&W, p.175.}] \quad (A.20)$$

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Appendix A. Eigenvalue Problem (continued)

*Example 4:* Eigenvalue problem involving the Bessel equation  
(Jackson Secs. 3.7 and 3.8; M\&W Sec. 7.2)

$$\frac{d^2 u}{d\rho^2} + \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{du}{d\rho} + (k^2 - \frac{\nu^2}{\rho^2})u = 0 \quad [(3.75)], \quad 0 \leq \rho \leq a, \quad \text{b.c.} \quad \begin{cases} u(0) = \text{finite} \\ u(a) = 0 \end{cases}$$

$$\text{This equation can be written: } \frac{d}{d\rho} \rho \frac{du}{d\rho} + (k^2 \rho - \frac{\nu^2}{\rho})u = 0 \quad (A.21)$$

Again, we have the question as to whether  $k$  or  $\nu$  is the eigenvalue. Putting (A.21) in the format:

$$\overbrace{\left[ \frac{d}{d\rho} \overbrace{p(\rho)}^{\rho} \frac{d}{d\rho} - \overbrace{q(\rho)}^{\nu^2 / \rho} \right]}^L u(\rho) = \lambda \overbrace{h(\rho)}^{\rho \text{ (density function)}} u(\rho) = 0,$$

$\rho$

$\nu^2 / \rho$

$-k^2, \text{ eigenvalue}$

we see that  $k$  is the eigenvalue.

As shown on. p. 13 of lecture notes,  $\frac{d^2 u}{d\rho^2} + \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{du}{d\rho} + (k^2 - \frac{\nu^2}{\rho^2})u = 0$  has the solution  $u(\rho) = AJ_\nu(k\rho) + BN_\nu(k\rho)$ .

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Appendix A. Eigenvalue Problem (continued)

$$\text{Rewrite } \begin{cases} \frac{d^2 u}{d\rho^2} + \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{du}{d\rho} + (k^2 - \frac{\nu^2}{\rho^2})u = 0, & 0 \leq \rho \leq a, \\ u(\rho) = AJ_\nu(k\rho) + BN_\nu(k\rho) \end{cases} \begin{cases} u(0) = \text{finite} \\ u(a) = 0 \end{cases}$$

$$u(0) = \text{finite} \Rightarrow B = 0.$$

$$u(a) = 0 \Rightarrow J_\nu(ka) = 0,$$

which yields an infinite number of eigenvalues (and eigenfunctions):

$$k = k_{\nu n}, \quad n = 1, 2, 3, \dots,$$

where  $k_{\nu n}a = x_{\nu n}$  and  $x_{\nu n}$  is the  $n$ -th root of  $J_\nu(x) = 0$  (see p. 114).

$L$  is Hermitian.  $\Rightarrow J_\nu(k_{\nu n}\rho)$  are orthogonal in index  $n$ :

$$\int_0^a J_\nu(k_{\nu n'}\rho) J_\nu(k_{\nu n}\rho) \rho d\rho = \frac{a^2}{2} [J_{\nu+1}(\underbrace{k_{\nu n}a}_{x_{\nu n}})]^2 \delta_{n'n} \quad (\text{A.22})$$

density function, see (A.15)

$$\text{and complete in eigenvalue index } n: \quad f(\rho) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} C_n J_\nu(k_{\nu n}\rho) \quad (\text{A.23})$$

$$(3.96)$$

