RC5: Electronic Solutions and Steady Electric Currents

Separation of Variables in Different Coordinates 1

Recall: For boundary value problems, we have the following ways:

- (1) Methods of Images: useful for the case with isolated free charges.
- (2) Laplace's equation: can be used to solve the case without isolated free charges. (with boundary conditions)

1.1 Boundary Value problem in Cartesian Coordinates

We have Laplace's equation:

$$\frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial z^2} = 0$$
 Sandary curtions

If we assume V(x, y, z) = X(x)Y(y)Z(z), then we have

Let
$$f(x) = \frac{1}{X(x)} \frac{d^2X(x)}{dx^2}$$
, $f(y) = \frac{1}{Y(y)} \frac{d^2Y(y)}{dy^2}$, $f(z) = \frac{1}{Z(z)} \frac{d^2Z(z)}{dz^2} = 0$ (1)

Let $f(x) = \frac{1}{X(x)} \frac{d^2X(x)}{dx^2}$, $f(y) = \frac{1}{Y(y)} \frac{d^2Y(y)}{dy^2}$, $f(z) = \frac{1}{Z(z)} \frac{d^2Z(z)}{dz^2}$, since $f(x)$, $f(y)$, $f(z)$ is independent of each other, to make Eq. (1) always exists, $f(x)$, $f(y)$, $f(z)$ must all be a constant. Therefore,
$$\frac{df(x)}{dx} = 0, \frac{df(y)}{dy} = 0, \frac{df(z)}{dz} = 0,$$

Then after simplifying, we know that

$$\frac{d^2X(x)}{dx^2} + \underline{k}_x^2X(x) = 0, \frac{d^2Y(y)}{dy^2} + \underline{k}_y^2Y(y) = 0, \frac{d^2Z(z)}{dz^2} + k_z^2Z(z) = 0$$

where k_x^2, k_y^2 and k_z^2 is constant and

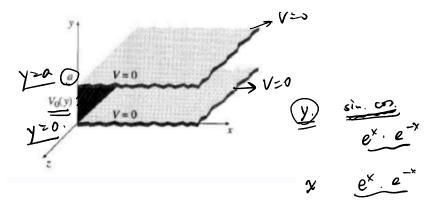
$$\underbrace{k_x^2 + k_y^2 + k_z^2}_{2} = 0 \quad \checkmark$$

Possible Solutions of $X''(x) + k_x^2 X(x) = 0$

Where k is real. And constant A and B should be determined by boundary conditions.

Ex5.1

Two infinite grounded metal plates lie parallel to the xz plane, one at y = 0, the other at y = a. The left end, at x = 0, is closed off with an infinite strip insulated form the two plates and maintained at a specific potential $V_0(y)$. Find the potential inside this "slot".



Since the configuration is independent of z, the Laplace's equation can be simplified as

$$\frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial y^2} = 0$$

The boundary conditions are (i) V=0 when y=0 (ii) V=0 when y=a (iii) $V=V_0(y)$ when x=0 (iv) $V\to 0$ as $x\to \infty$

$$V(x,y) = X(x)Y(y)$$

Substitute it into the 2-dimensional Laplace's equation.

 $Y\frac{d^2X}{dx^2} + X\frac{d^2Y}{dy^2} = 0$

Then,

 $\frac{\mathbf{C}_{1}}{X} \frac{d^{2}X}{dx^{2}} \underbrace{\left(\frac{1}{Y} \frac{d^{2}Y}{dy^{2}}\right)}_{\mathbf{C}_{1}} = 0$

Hence the first term only depends on x and the second term only depends on y. The only way the above equation can be true is by requiring

$$\frac{1}{X}\frac{d^2X}{dx^2} = C_1 \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{1}{Y}\frac{d^2Y}{dy^2} = C_2, \quad \text{with} \quad C_1 + C_2 = 0$$

One of these constants is positive, the other negative (or perhaps both are zero). In general, one must investigate all the possibilities; however, in our particular problem we need C_1 positive and C_2 negative, for reasons that will appear in a moment. Thus

$$\frac{d^2X}{dx^2} = k^2X, \quad \frac{d^2Y}{dy^2} = -k^2Y$$

We then have

$$X(x) = Ae^{kx} + Be^{-kx}, \quad Y(y) = C\sin ky + D\cos ky$$

Therefore

$$V(x,y) = \left(Ae^{kx} + Be^{-kx}\right)\left(C\sin ky + D\cos ky\right)$$

This is the appropriate separable solution to Laplace's equation; it remains to impose the boundary conditions, and see what they tell us about the constants. To begin at the end, condition (iv) requires that A equals to zero. Absorbing B into C and D, we are left with

$$V(x,y) = e^{-kx}(C\sin ky + D\cos ky)$$

Condition (i) demands that D=0. Therefore,

$$V(x,y) = Ce^{-kx}\sin ky$$

Meanwhile (ii) yields $\sin(ka) = 0$, from which it follows that $k = \frac{n\pi}{a}$, (n = 1, 2, 3, ...)

$$k = \frac{n\pi}{a}, \quad (n = 1, 2, 3, \ldots)$$

(At this point you can see why I chose C_1 positive and C_2 negative: If X were sinusoidal, we could never arrange for it to go to zero at infinity, and if Y were exponential we could not make it vanish at both 0 and a. Incidentally, n=0 is no good, for in that case the potential vanishes everywhere. And we have already excluded negative n's.) We cannot fit boundary condition (iii) for arbitrary $V_0(y)$. What to do next? Since Laplace's equation is linear,

$$V(x,y) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} C_n e^{-n\pi x/a} \sin(n\pi y/a)$$

Then we can fit (iii) by requiring

$$V(0,y) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} C_n \sin(n\pi y/a) = V_0(y)$$
 [S.C. $x = 0$. $y = V_0$]

Recall that those eigen-functions are orthogonal to each other. We use the Fourier's trick.

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} C_n \int_0^a \sin(n\pi y/a) \sin(n'\pi y/a) \, dy = \int_0^a V_0(y) \sin(n'\pi y/a) \, dy$$
$$\int_0^a \sin(n\pi y/a) \sin(n'\pi y/a) \, dy = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } n' \neq n \\ \frac{a}{2}, & \text{if } n' = n. \end{cases}$$
Then, $C_n = \frac{2}{a} \int_0^a V_0(y) \sin(n\pi y/a) \, dy$

Boundary Value problem in Spherical Coordinates 1.2

We have Laplace's equation:

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

We assume that the solution is independent of ϕ , then we have

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

Assume $V(r,\theta) = R(r)\Theta(\theta)$ Putting this into this above equation, and dividing by V,

$$\frac{1}{R}\frac{d}{dr}\left(r^2\frac{dR}{dr}\right) + \frac{1}{\Theta\sin\theta}\frac{d}{d\theta}\left(\sin\theta\frac{d\Theta}{d\theta}\right) = 0$$

Since the first term depends only on r, and the second only on θ , it follows that each must be a constant:

$$\frac{1}{R}\frac{d}{dr}\left(r^2\frac{dR}{dr}\right) = \underline{l(l+1)}, \quad \frac{1}{\Theta\sin\theta}\frac{d}{d\theta}\left(\sin\theta\frac{d\Theta}{d\theta}\right) = \underline{-l(l+1)}$$
 Here $l(l+1)$ is just a fancy way of writing the separation constant-you'll see in a minute

why this is convenient.

As always, separation of variables has converted a partial differential equation into ordinary differential equations. The radial equation,

$$\frac{d}{dr}\left(r^2\frac{dR}{dr}\right) = l(l+1)R$$

has the general solution

$$\checkmark R(r) = Ar^l + \frac{B}{r^{l+1}}$$

A and B are the two arbitrary constants to be expected in the solution of a second-order differential equation by boundary conditions. The angular equation is:

$$\frac{d}{d\theta} \left(\sin \theta \frac{d\theta}{d\theta} \right) = -l(l+1) \sin \theta \Theta$$

Its solutions are Legendre polynomials in the variable $\cos \theta$:

 $P_l(x)$ is most conveniently defined by the Rodrigues formula:

$$P_l(x) \equiv \frac{1}{2^l l!} \left(\frac{d}{dx}\right)^l \left(x^2 - 1\right)^l$$

The first few Legendre polynomials are listed below:

$$P_0(x) = 1$$

$$P_1(x) = x$$

$$P_2(x) = (3x^2 - 1)/2$$

$$P_3(x) = (5x^3 - 3x)/2$$

$$P_4(x) = (35x^4 - 30x^2 + 3)/8$$

$$P_5(x) = (63x^5 - 70x^3 + 15x)/8$$

In the case of azimuthal symmetry, then, the most general separable solution to Laplace's equation, consistent with minimal physical requirements, is

$$V(r,\theta) = \left(A_l r^l + \frac{B_l}{r^{l+1}}\right) P_l(\cos \theta)$$
 B.C. \Rightarrow Al. B.

As before, separation of variables yields an infinite set of solutions, one for each l. The general solution is the linear combination of separable solutions: $\frac{1}{b^2} = \frac{1}{b} \frac{at}{b}$

$$V(r,\theta) = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \left(A_l r^l + \frac{B_l}{r^{l+1}} \right) P_l(\cos \theta)$$

Ex5.2

An uncharged grounded conducting sphere of radius b is placed in an initially <u>uniform</u> electric field $\mathbf{E}_0 = \mathbf{a}_z E_0$. Determine the potential distribution $V(R,\theta)$ outside the sphere. $\mathbf{V}(R,\theta)$ To determine the potential distribution $V(R,\theta)$ for $R \geq b$, we note the following boundary conditions:

$$V(b, \theta) = 0$$

 $V(R, \theta) = -E_0 z = -E_0 R \cos \theta$, for $R \gg b$.

And the interpretation of the second boundary condition is that the original E_0 is not disturbed at points very far away from the sphere. And we assume the general form of $V(R,\theta)$ is

$$V(R,\theta) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left[A_n R^n + B_n R^{-(n+1)} \right] P_n(\cos \theta), \quad R \ge b.$$

However, in view of second boundary condition at $R \gg b$, all A_n except A_1 must vanish, and $A_1 = -E_0$. We have An(n=1)=0

$$V(R,\theta) = -E_0 R P_1(\cos \theta) + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} B_n R^{-(n+1)} P_n(\cos \theta)$$
$$= B_0 R^{-1} + (B_1 R^{-2} - E_0 R) \cos \theta + \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} B_n R^{-(n+1)} P_n(\cos \theta), \quad R \ge b.$$

Now applying the first boundary condition at R = b, we require for arbitrary θ

$$0 = \frac{B_0}{b} + \left(\frac{B_1}{b^2} - E_0 b\right) \cos \theta + \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} B_n b^{-(n+1)} P_n(\cos \theta),$$

from which we obtain

$$B_1 = E_0 b^3$$
, $B_n = 0$ for $n \ge 2$ or $n = 0$

We have, finally

$$V(R,\theta) = -E_0 \left[1 - \left(\frac{b}{R} \right)^3 \right] R \cos \theta, \quad R \ge b$$

1.3 Boundary Value problem in Cylindrical Coordinates Laplace's equation in Cylindrical Coordinates

$$\frac{1}{r}\frac{\partial}{\partial r}\left(r\frac{\partial V}{\partial r}\right) + \frac{1}{r^2}\frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial \phi^2} + \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial z^2} = 0$$

Assuming V has no z dependence,

$$\frac{1}{r}\frac{\partial}{\partial r}\left(r\frac{\partial V}{\partial r}\right) + \frac{1}{r^2}\frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial \phi^2} = 0$$

Assume

$$V(r,\phi) = R(r)\Phi(\phi)$$

$$\frac{r}{R(r)}\frac{d}{dr}\left[r\frac{dR(r)}{dr}\right] + \frac{1}{\Phi(\phi)}\frac{d^2\Phi(\phi)}{d\phi^2} = 0$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{cases} \frac{r}{R(r)} \frac{d}{dr} \left[r \frac{dR(r)}{dr} \right] = k^2 \\ \frac{d^2 \Phi(\phi)}{d\phi^2} + k^2 \Phi(\phi) = 0 \end{cases}$$

has solution

$$R(r) = A_r r^n + B_r r^{-n}$$

$$\Phi(\phi) = A_{\phi} \sin n\phi + B_{\phi} \cos n\phi$$

Therefore,

$$V_n(r,\phi) = r^n \left(A_n \sin n\phi + B_n \cos n\phi \right) + r^{-n} \left(A'_n \sin n\phi + B'_n \cos n\phi \right), \quad n \neq 0$$

In the special case where k = 0,

$$\frac{d^2\Phi(\phi)}{d\phi^2}=0 \qquad \qquad \text{B.C.} \Rightarrow \text{Ar.Br}$$

$$\Phi(\phi)=A_0\phi+B_0, \quad k=0 \qquad \qquad \text{Af.Br}$$

and $A_0 = 0$ if there is no circumferential variations. Meanwhile,

$$\frac{d}{dr} \left[r \frac{dR(r)}{dr} \right] = 0$$

$$R(r) = C_0 \ln r + D_0, \quad k = 0$$

Therefore,

$$V(r) = C_1 \ln r + C_2$$

Thus, the general solution is

$$V(r,\phi) = a_0 + b_0 \ln r + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \left[r^k \left(a_k \cos k\phi + b_k \sin k\phi \right) + r^{-k} \left(c_k \cos k\phi + d_k \sin k\phi \right) \right]$$

2 Steady Electric Currents

2.1 Current Density and Ohm's Law

$$I = \int_{S} \boldsymbol{J} \cdot d\boldsymbol{s} \quad (A)$$

where J is the volume current density or current density, defined by

$$J = Nqu \left(\frac{A/m^2}{M^2} \right)$$
 $T = nevs$ $S = nevs$

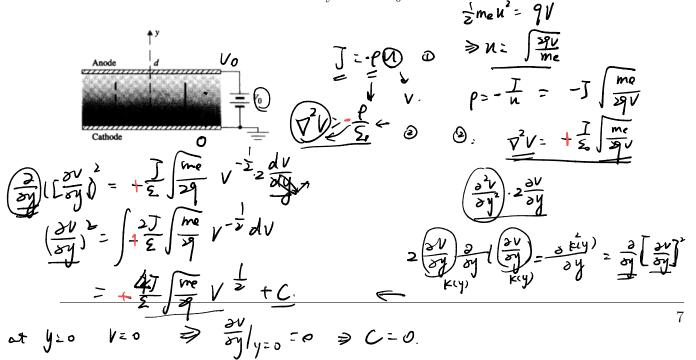
where N is the number of charge carriers per unit volume, each of charges q moves with a velocity $\boldsymbol{u}.$

Since Nq is the free charge per unit volume, by $\rho = Nq$, we have:

$$\mathbf{J} = \rho \mathbf{u} \quad (A/m^2)$$

Ex5.3

In vaccum-tube diodes, electrons are emitted from a hot cathode at zero potential and collected by an anode maintained at a potential V_0 , resulting in a convection current flow. Assuming that the cathode and the anode are parallel conducting plates and that the electrons leave the cathode with a zero initial velocity (space-charge limited condition), find the relation between the current density J and V_0 .



$$\frac{3V}{3y} = \frac{2\sqrt{2}}{2\sqrt{2}} \frac{\sqrt{4}}{\sqrt{4}}$$

$$\int_{0}^{\sqrt{4}} \frac{dV}{dV} = C_{0} \frac{y}{\sqrt{4}}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{4}{3} \frac{\sqrt{4}}{\sqrt{4}} = 2\sqrt{\frac{1}{2}} \frac{me}{2\sqrt{2}}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{4}{3} \frac{\sqrt{4}}{\sqrt{2}} = 2\sqrt{\frac{1}{2}} \frac{me}{2\sqrt{2}}$$

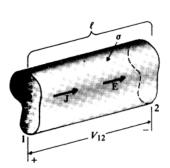
For conduction currents,

where $\sigma = \rho_e \mu_e$ is conductivity, a macroscopic constitutive parameter of the medium.

 $\rho_e = -Ne$ is the charge density of the drifting electrons and is negative. $\boldsymbol{u} = -\mu_e \boldsymbol{E}$ where μ_e is the electron mobility measured in $(m^2/V \cdot s)$.

Materials where $J = \sigma E$ (A/m²) holds are called ohmic media. The form can be referred as the point form of Ohm's law.

Derivation of voltage-current relationship of a piece of homogeneous material by the point form of Ohm's law.



Homogeneous conductor with a constant cross section. $\mathcal{U} = -\mathcal{U} \overline{\mathcal{E}}$ resistivity

Thus, the resistance is defined as

$$R = \frac{l}{\sigma S} \quad (\Omega) = \frac{Pl}{S}$$

where l is the length of the homogeneous conductor, S is the area of the uniform cross section.

The conductance G (reciprocal of resistance), is defined by

$$G = \frac{1}{R} = \sigma \frac{S}{l} \quad (S)$$

1. Resistance in series:

$$R_{sr} = R_1 + R_2$$

2. Resistance in parallel:

$$\frac{1}{R_{||}} = \frac{1}{R_1} + \frac{1}{R_2}$$

, or

$$G_{||} = G_1 + G_2$$

Electromotive Force and Kirchhoff's Voltage Law 2.2

A steady current cannot be maintained in the same direction in a closed circuit by an electrostatic field, which is:

$$\oint_C \frac{1}{\sigma} \boldsymbol{J} \cdot d\boldsymbol{l} = 0$$

Kirchhoff's voltage law: around a closed path in an electric circuit, the algebraic sum of the emf's (voltage rises) is equal to the algebraic sum of the voltage drops across the resistance, which is:

$\sum_{j} V_{j} = \sum_{k} R_{k} I_{k} \quad (V)$

2.3 Equation of Continuity and Kirchhoff's Current Law

Equation of continuity:

$$abla \cdot J = -rac{\partial
ho}{\partial t} \quad (A/m^3)$$
 steely currents: $abla \cdot \overline{J} = 0$

where ρ is the volume charge density.

For steady currents, as $\partial \rho/\partial t = 0$, $\nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{J} = 0$. By integral, we have Kirchhoff's current law, stating that the algebraic sum of all the currents flowing out of a junction in an electric circuit is zero:

$$\sum_{j} I_{j} = 0$$

For a simple medium conductor, the volume charge density ρ can be expressed as:

$$\rho = \rho_0 e^{-C} \qquad (C/m^3)$$

where ρ_0 is the initial charge density at t = 0. The equation implies that the charge density at a given location will decrease with time exponentially.

Relaxation time: an initial charge density ρ_0 will decay to 1/e or 36.8% of its original value: $\tau = \frac{\epsilon}{\sigma} \quad (s)$

2.4 Power Dissipation and Joule's Law

For a given volume V that the total electric power converted to heat is:

$$P = \int_{V} \mathbf{E} \cdot \mathbf{J} dv$$

$$P = \int_{L} E d\ell \int_{S} J ds = VI = I^{2}R$$

2.5 **Boundary Conditions**

2.5.1Governing Equations for Steady Current Density

Differential form:

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{J} = 0$$

$$\nabla \times \left(\frac{\mathbf{J}}{\sigma}\right) = 0$$

Integral form:

$$\oint_{S} \mathbf{J} \cdot d\mathbf{s} = 0$$

$$\oint_{C} \frac{1}{\sigma} \mathbf{J} \cdot d\ell = 0$$

2.6 **Boundary conditions**

Normal Component:

$$J_{1n}=J_{2n}$$

Tangential Component:

$$\frac{J_{1t}}{J_{2t}} = \frac{\sigma_1}{\sigma_2} \qquad \checkmark$$

Combining with boundary conditions of electric field:

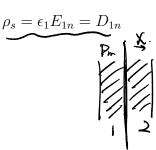
$$\rightarrow$$

$$\frac{J_{1t}}{J_{2t}} = \frac{\sigma_1}{\sigma_2} \quad V \qquad \qquad J = \sigma_0$$

$$\text{Fig. 5. of electric field:} \qquad \qquad J = \sigma_0$$

$$\left\{\begin{array}{l} \underbrace{J_{1n}=J_{2n}}_{D_{1n}-D_{2n}}\rightarrow\underbrace{\sigma_{1}E_{1n}=\sigma_{2}E_{2n}}_{\rightarrow\epsilon_{1}E_{1n}=\epsilon_{2}E_{2n}=\epsilon_{2}E_{2n}=\epsilon_{2}E_{2n}}_{\text{3}}\right\}$$
Surface charge density on the interface:
$$\rho_{s}=\left(\epsilon_{1}\frac{\sigma_{2}}{\sigma_{1}}-\epsilon_{2}\right)E_{2n}=\left(\epsilon_{1}-\epsilon_{2}\frac{\sigma_{1}}{\sigma_{2}}\right)E_{1n}$$

If medium 2 is a much better conductor than medium 1:



11

Ex5.4

Lightning strikes a lossy dielectric sphere $\epsilon = 1.2\epsilon_0$, $\underline{\sigma} = 10 \quad (S/m)$ of radius 0.1 $\quad (m)$ at time t = 0, depositing uniformly in the sphere a total charge 1 $\quad (mC)$. For all t,

- a) Determine the electric field intensity both inside and outside the sphere,
- b) Determine the current density in the sphere.
- c) Calculate the time it takes for the charge density in the sphere to diminish to 1% of its initial value.
- d) Calculate the change in the <u>electrostatic energy</u> stored in the <u>sphere</u> as the charge density diminishes from the initial value to 1% of its value. What happens to this energy.
- e) Determine the eletrostatic energy stored in the space outside the sphere. Does this energy change with time?

(a)
$$R = ImC$$

$$R = \frac{Q_0}{32b} = 0.239 (V/m^3)$$

$$P = P, e^{-\frac{1}{5}t}$$

$$Q = \frac{4}{5}R^3P^2Q^2Q^2Q^2 = \frac{P^3R}{2E}e^{-\frac{1}{5}t} = \frac{1}{2R^75\times 10^9}Re^{-\frac{1}{5}.4\times 10^9}Re^{-\frac{1}{$$