

CHAPTER 8

②

Variational Solution

1. take a lucky guess

$$\phi = \phi_0 \sin \frac{\pi x}{d} \quad \phi_0 \text{ unknown}$$

satisfies BC has one free parameter

$$I[\psi] = \int_0^d dx \left(\frac{1}{2} \frac{\pi^2}{d^2} \phi_0^2 \sin^2 \frac{\pi x}{d} - \frac{\rho_0}{\epsilon_0} \phi_0 \sin^2 \frac{\pi x}{d} \right)$$

$$= \frac{d}{2} \left[\frac{1}{2} \phi_0^2 \frac{\pi^2}{d^2} - \frac{\rho_0 \phi_0}{\epsilon_0} \right]$$

$$\int_0^d dx \sin^2 \frac{\pi x}{d} = \frac{d}{2}$$

MINIMIZE $I(\psi)$ w.r.t ϕ_0 set

$$\frac{dI}{d\phi_0} = \frac{d}{2} \left[\cancel{2} \phi_0 \frac{\pi^2}{d^2} - \frac{\rho_0}{\epsilon_0} \right] = 0$$

$$W = \int d^3x \frac{\epsilon_0 |E|^2}{8\pi}$$

$$W = \frac{\epsilon_0 |E|^2}{8\pi}$$

we can identify this as ^{potential} energy stored in the form of ~~electric~~ the electric field. One immediately runs into trouble here if one reverts to point charges. Why?

~~$$\int d^3x \frac{|E|^2}{8\pi} \rightarrow \infty$$~~

The electric field energy associated with a point charge is ∞

self energy is included

can compare difference of two states

for continuous charge density

$$W = \frac{1}{2} \int d^3x \int d^3x' \frac{\rho(x) \rho(x')}{4\pi\epsilon_0 |\underline{x} - \underline{x}'|}$$

(note no longer
worry about
 $\underline{x} = \underline{x}'$)

also can be written

$$W = \frac{1}{2} \int d^3x \frac{\rho(\underline{x}) \phi(\underline{x})}{2}$$

BUT $\rho(x) = -\epsilon_0 \nabla^2 \phi(x)$

so

$$W = -\frac{1}{2} \int d^3x \phi(x) \nabla^2 \phi(x) \frac{\epsilon_0}{2}$$

$$= \int d^3x \frac{|\nabla \phi|^2}{8\pi} \frac{\epsilon_0}{2}$$

assuming

$\phi \rightarrow 0$ as $x \rightarrow \infty$

Electrostatic potential Energy

consider $i = 1, \dots, j-1$ charges q_i at points \underline{x}_i

now bring in the j^{th} charge to point \underline{x}_j this takes

an amount of work $W_j = q_j \phi(\underline{x}_j)$

$$W_j = q_j \sum_{i=1}^{j-1} \frac{q_i q_j}{|\underline{x}_j - \underline{x}_i|} \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}$$

THIS was the work required to bring the j^{th} charge

The work required to assemble all ~~charges~~ n is

$$W = \sum_{j=1}^n W_j = \sum_{j=1}^n \sum_{i=1}^{j-1} \frac{q_i q_j}{|\underline{x}_j - \underline{x}_i|} 4\pi\epsilon_0$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j=1}^n \sum_{\substack{i=1 \\ i \neq j}}^n \frac{q_i q_j}{|\underline{x}_j - \underline{x}_i|} 4\pi\epsilon_0$$

double counting

$$= \sum_i \int_{S_i} ds \frac{\epsilon_0}{4\pi} \phi_0 \underbrace{(n \cdot \nabla \phi_{t,out} - n \cdot \nabla \phi_{t,in})}$$

$$= \sum_i \int_{S_i} ds \phi_{0i} \delta_{it} = 0$$

$$\int \delta_{i0} ds = Q_i \quad \int \delta_{it} ds = 0$$

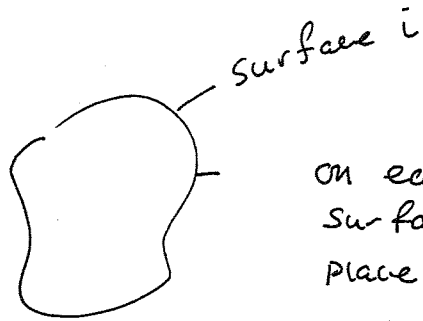
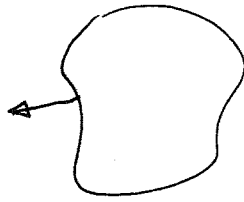
only way integral can be zero is if

$\phi_{0i} = \text{const}$

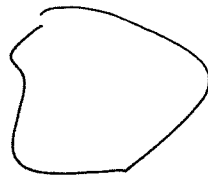
①

h.13

Thomson's



on each surface
place Q_i
Coulombs
of charge
distributed
according to
surface charge
density σ_i



Form of σ_i is unknown

$$\int_{S_i} dS \sigma_i = Q$$

Minimize

$$W = \int d^3x \frac{\epsilon_0 |\nabla\phi|^2}{2}$$

where $\nabla^2\phi = 0$
except at surfaces
where

$$\sigma_i = \epsilon_0 [n \cdot \nabla(\phi_{out}) - n \cdot \nabla\phi_{in}]$$

let

$$\sigma_i = \sigma_{i0} + \epsilon \sigma_{it} \quad \leftarrow \text{test}$$

\swarrow
actual minimizing charge

2

$$W = \int_{\substack{V \\ \text{outside} \\ \text{all}}} d^3x \epsilon_0 \frac{|\nabla\phi|^2}{2} + \sum_i \int_{V_i} d^3x \epsilon_0 \frac{|\nabla\phi|^2}{2}$$

$$\stackrel{**}{=} \int_V d^3x \frac{\epsilon_0}{2} \nabla\phi \cdot \nabla\phi$$

$$= \int_S ds \frac{\epsilon_0}{2} \phi \overset{\text{outward normal}}{n} \cdot \nabla\phi - \int_V d^3x \frac{\epsilon_0}{2} \phi \nabla^2\phi$$

For our problem $\nabla^2\phi = 0$

$$W = \sum_i \int_{S_i} ds \frac{\epsilon_0}{2} \phi (n \cdot \nabla\phi_{\text{out}} - n \cdot \nabla\phi_{\text{in}})$$

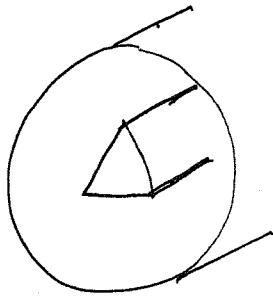
$$\phi = \phi_0 + \epsilon\phi_\epsilon$$

$$W(\epsilon) = \int_{\substack{V \\ \text{ALL-V}}} d^3x \frac{\epsilon_0}{2} \left[|\nabla\phi_0|^2 + 2\epsilon \nabla\phi_0 \cdot \nabla\phi_\epsilon + \epsilon^2 |\nabla\phi_\epsilon|^2 \right]$$

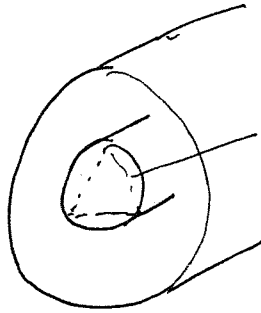
$$\left. \frac{\partial W}{\partial \epsilon} \right|_{\epsilon=0} = \int_{\text{ALL-V}} d^3x \epsilon_0 \nabla\phi_0 \cdot \nabla\phi_\epsilon$$

Examples of Applications

~~Maxwell's theorem~~



A



B

triangle inscribed in circle

~~Which~~ which one has a bigger Capacitance?

~~total~~

$$W = \frac{\epsilon_0}{2} \int d^3x |\nabla \phi|^2$$

$$\nabla^2 \phi = 0$$

$$\phi = 0 \text{ on outer } B$$

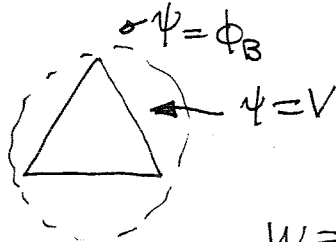
on outer B

$$\phi = V \text{ inner } B$$

$$W = \frac{1}{2} CV^2$$

At fixed V bigger $W \rightarrow$ bigger C

For problem A let ψ be solution to problem B outside inner circle and $\psi = V$



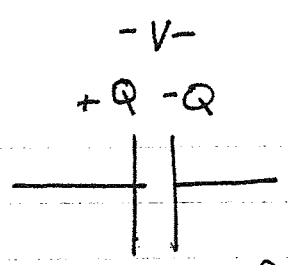
ψ is continuous

ψ is V on inner B

ψ is 0 on outer B

$$W = \frac{\epsilon_0}{2} \int d^3x |\nabla \psi|^2 > \frac{\epsilon_0}{2} \int d^3x |\nabla \phi_A|^2 = \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_0 \int d^3x |\nabla \phi_A|^2$$

$$C_{AB} > C_A$$



$Q = VC$

~~Force on a~~

Capacitance: Consider a System of n conductors



on each conductor there is a surface charge density $\sigma_i(x)$ $i=1, n$ and a total charge $Q_i = \int da \sigma_i(x)$

Assuming the conductors are $\phi(\infty) = 0$

perfect conductors we have

$$\phi(\underline{x}) = V_i \text{ a constant on each conductor}$$

THUS

$$W = \frac{1}{2} \int d^3x \rho(x) \phi(x) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n \int da \delta_i(x) \phi(x) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n V_i Q_i$$

~~$$V_i = \phi(\underline{x}) = \sum_{j=1}^n \int da \delta_j(x)$$~~
~~$$\text{at } i\text{th conductor}$$~~

in general inverse is C_{ij}

V_i is proportional to each of the Q_j { vice versa }
capacitance matrix

$$V_i = \sum_j M_{ij} Q_j \quad \text{Reciprocals } M_{ij} = M_{ji}$$

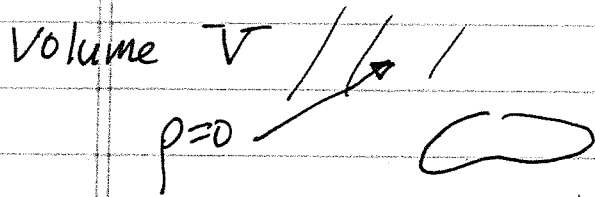
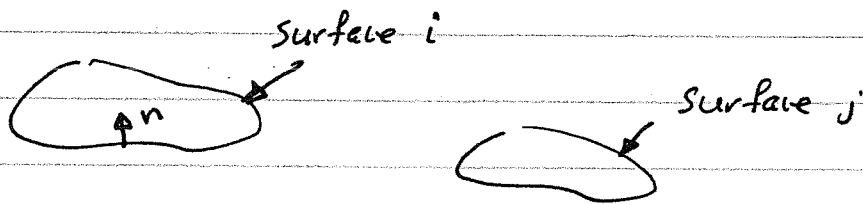
$$Q_i = \sum_j C_{ij} V_j$$

C_{ij} capacitance matrix

Follows from Green's theorem

$$\phi(\underline{x}') = \int \frac{d^3 \underline{x}}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \rho(\underline{x}) G_0(\underline{x}, \underline{x}') - \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_S dA \phi(\underline{x}) \underline{n} \cdot \nabla G_0(\underline{x}, \underline{x}')$$

↙ outward normal



$$Q_i = \int_{S_i} \epsilon_0 \underline{E}(\underline{x}') \cdot (-\underline{n}) dA' = \int_{S_i} \epsilon_0 \underline{n} \cdot \nabla' \phi(\underline{x}') dA'$$

$$\underline{n} \cdot \nabla' \phi(\underline{x}') = -\frac{1}{4\pi} \sum_j V_j \int_{S_j} dA \underline{n} \cdot \nabla' (\underline{n} \cdot \nabla' G_0(\underline{x}', \underline{x}'))$$

$$Q_i = \sum_j V_j \left(- \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_{S_i} dA' \int_{S_j} dA \underline{n} \cdot \nabla (\underline{n} \cdot \nabla G_0(\underline{x}, \underline{x}')) \right)$$

C_{ij}

$$C_{ij} = C_{ji} \quad \text{because } G_0(\underline{x}, \underline{x}') = G_0(\underline{x}', \underline{x})$$

OPTIONAL

CONSIDER GREEN'S THEOREM FOR
PROBLEM WITH CONDUCTORS

$$\phi(\underline{x}) = \int d^3x' G_D(\underline{x}, \underline{x}') \rho(\underline{x}') / 4\pi\epsilon_0$$

$$- \frac{1}{4\pi} \sum_i \frac{q_i}{\epsilon_0} \int_{S_i} da' \phi(\underline{x}') \underline{n} \cdot \nabla' G_D(\underline{x}, \underline{x}')$$

on S_i $\phi(\underline{x}') = V_i$

ϵ_0 ∇ points out of V

$$Q_j = \frac{\epsilon_0}{4\pi} \int_{S_j} da \underline{n} \cdot \nabla \phi(\underline{x})$$

$$Q_j = - \frac{\epsilon_0}{4\pi} \sum_i \int_{S_i} da' \int_{S_j} da \underline{n} \cdot \nabla \underline{n}' \cdot G_D(\underline{x}, \underline{x}') V_i$$

C_{ji}

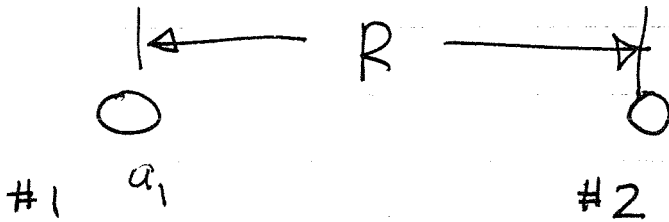
Symmetric

$$Q_j = \sum_i M_{ji} V_i$$

implies $V_i = \sum_j C_{ij} Q_j$

capacitance matrix

Example, calculate the capacitance matrix
~~due to~~ for two small spheres
 of radii^us a_1, a_2 ~~and~~ separated
 by a distance R with $R \gg a_1, a_2$



$R \gg a$ allows us to neglect the rearrangement of charge on spheres due to presence of other spheres.

Calculate potential due to point charge

$$V_{\phi_1} = \frac{Q_1}{4\pi\epsilon_0 a_1} + \frac{Q_2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R} \quad V_{\phi_2} = \left(\frac{Q_1}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R} + \frac{Q_2}{a_2} \right)$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} V_1 \\ V_2 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \begin{bmatrix} 1/a_1 & 1/R \\ 1/R & 1/a_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} Q_1 \\ Q_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Invert

$$\begin{pmatrix} Q_1 \\ Q_2 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{4\pi\epsilon_0}{\frac{1}{a_1 a_2} - \frac{1}{R^2}} \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{a_2} & -\frac{1}{R} \\ -\frac{1}{R} & \frac{1}{a_1} \end{bmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} V_1 \\ V_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

neglect

$$\begin{pmatrix} Q_1 \\ Q_2 \end{pmatrix} = 4\pi\epsilon_0 \begin{bmatrix} C_{11} & -C_{12} \\ -C_{12} & C_{22} \end{bmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} V_1 \\ V_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

C_{11}
 a_1
 $-a_1^2/R$

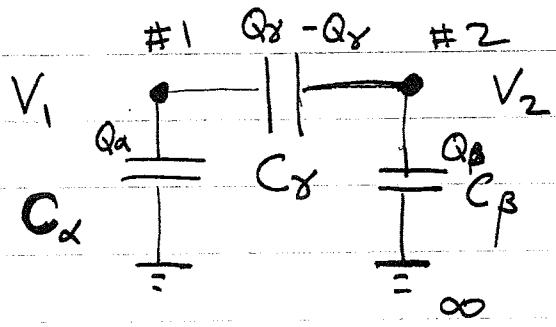
C_{12}
 a_1^2/R
 a_2
 C_{22}

diag

Symmetric

SKIP

~~what is the capacitance~~



Equivalent circuit

$$Q_\gamma = C_\gamma (V_1 - V_2)$$

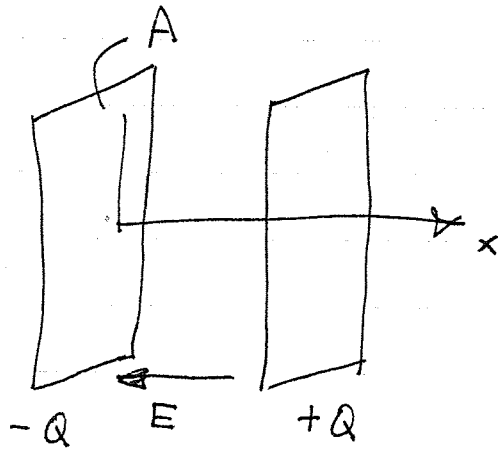
$$Q_\alpha = C_\alpha V_1$$

$$Q_\beta = C_\beta V_2$$

$$Q_1 = (Q_\alpha + Q_\gamma) = C_\alpha V_1 + C_\gamma (V_1 - V_2)$$
$$= (C_\alpha + C_\gamma) V_1 - C_\gamma V_2$$

$$Q_2 = (Q_\beta + Q_\gamma) = C_\beta V_2 + C_\gamma (V_1 - V_2)$$
$$= C_\gamma V_1 + (C_\beta - C_\gamma) V_2$$

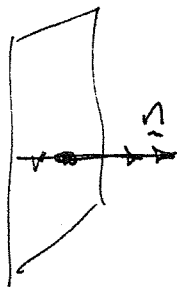
FORCE on a parallel plates



$\vec{E} = -4\pi \left(\frac{Q}{A}\right) \hat{a}_x$ surface charge density

Force on plate

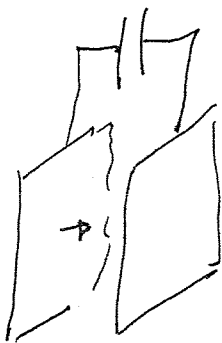
$$\vec{F} = \int da \hat{n} \frac{|E_n|^2}{8\pi}$$



attraction to other plate

Check out Problem

1.9 use virtual work



$$\delta W = \vec{F} \cdot \delta \vec{x} = \delta \left[\frac{1}{2} C V^2 \text{ or } \frac{Q^2}{2C} \right]$$

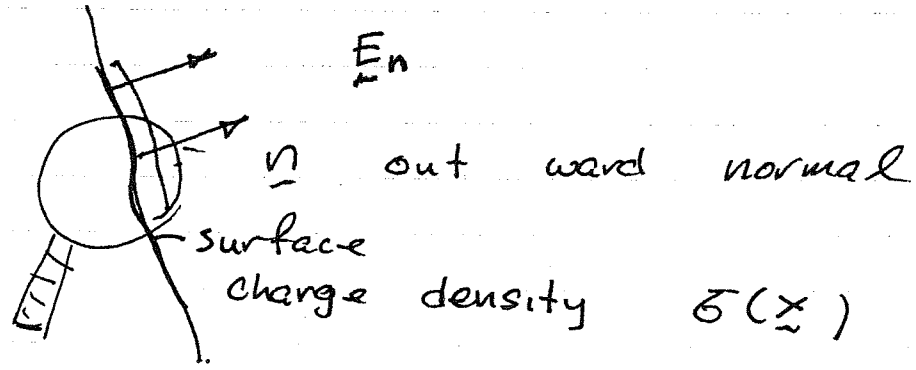
must include $V \delta Q$

constant V

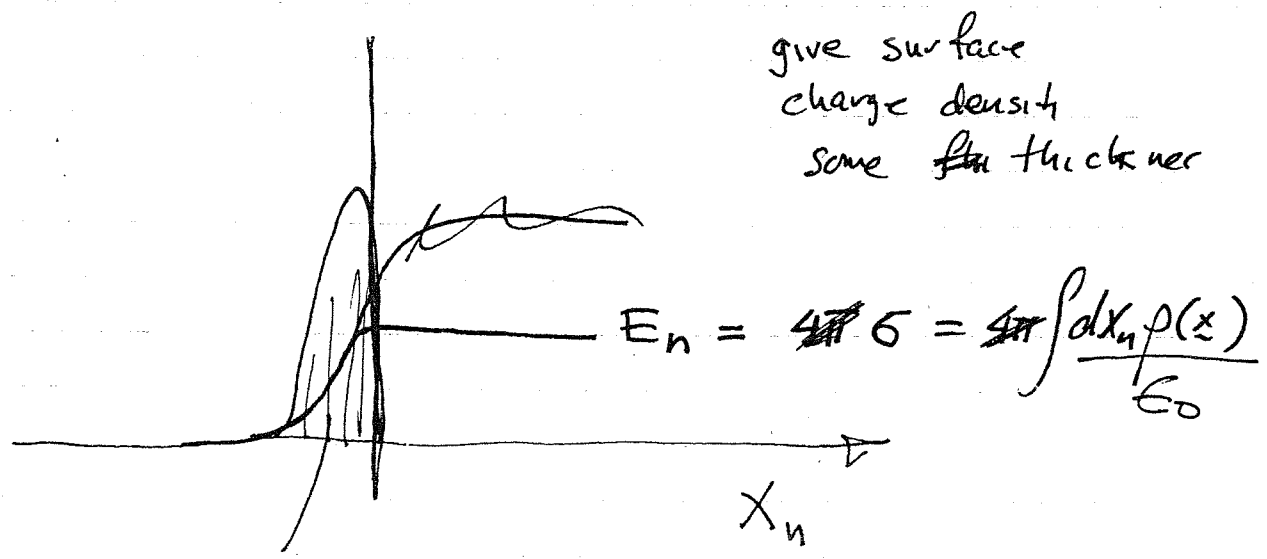
constant C

Force on the surface of a conductor

conductor



Blow up of surface



$$E_n = \frac{4\pi}{\epsilon_0} \sigma = \frac{4\pi}{\epsilon_0} \int dx_n \rho(x)$$

$$\frac{\partial E_n}{\partial x_n} = \frac{4\pi}{\epsilon_0} \rho(x_n) \quad \sigma = \int dx_n \rho(x)$$

small force act

$$\vec{dF}_x =$$

$$\vec{F} = \int d^3x \rho(\underline{x}) \underline{E}$$

$$= \int da_n \int dx_n \rho E_n$$

normal direction

$$\frac{\partial E_n}{\partial x_n} = 4\pi\rho/\epsilon_0$$

$$= \int da_n \int \frac{\epsilon_0 E_n}{4\pi} \frac{\partial E_n}{\partial x_n}(x_n)$$

$$= \int da_n \frac{\epsilon_0}{8\pi} \frac{|E_n|^2}{2}$$

out.

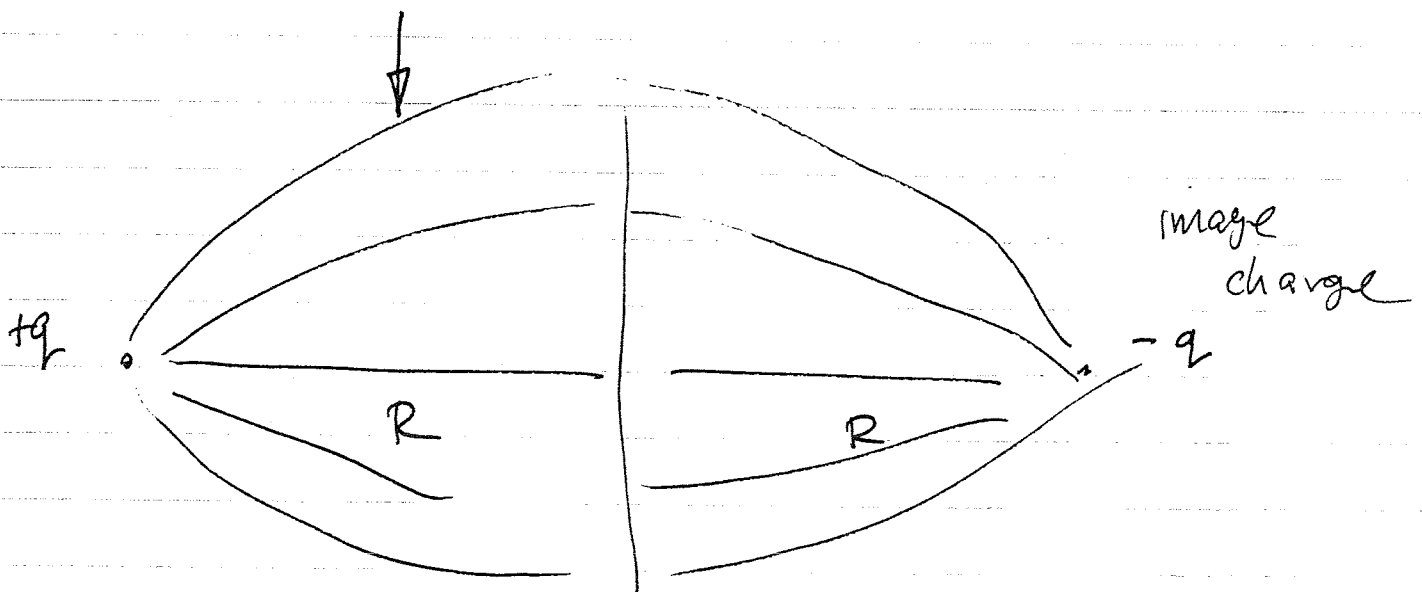
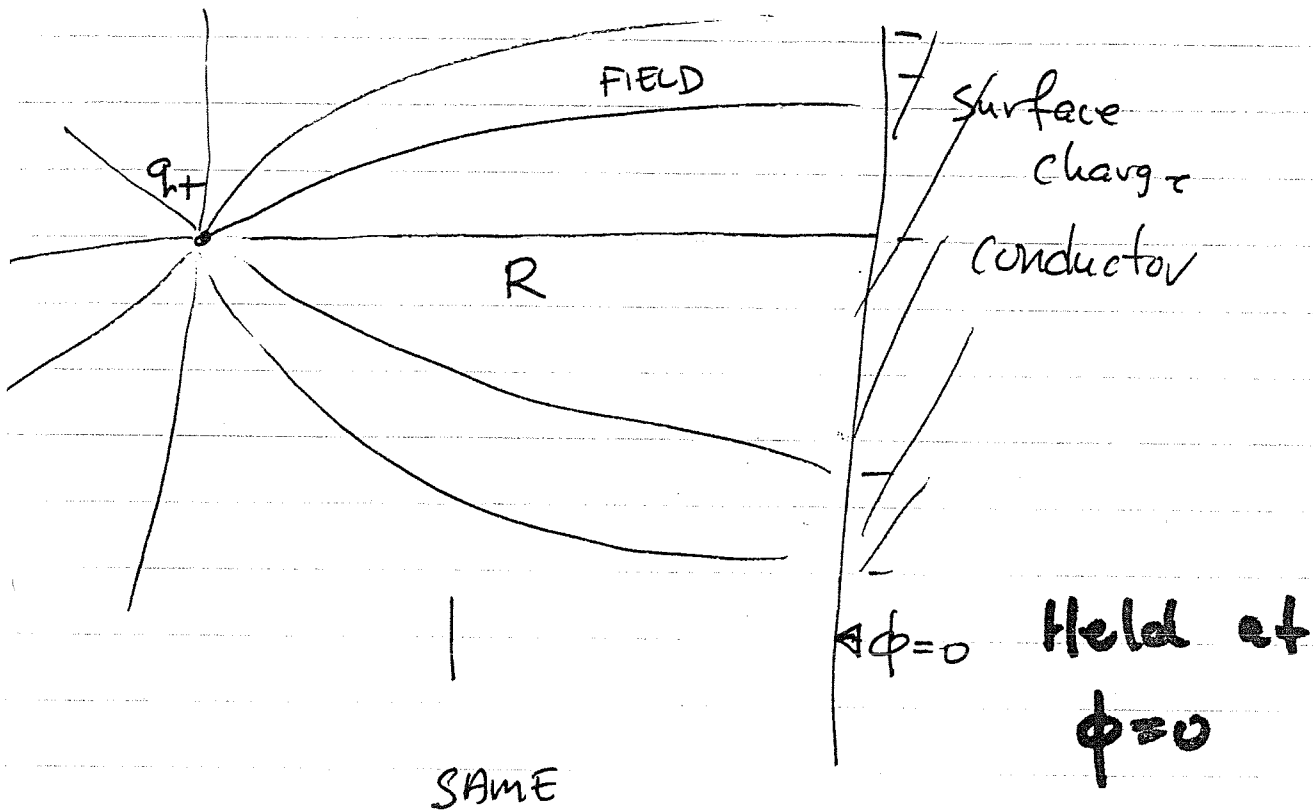
electric pressure = $-\frac{\epsilon_0}{8\pi} \frac{|E_n|^2}{2}$

CHAPTER 9

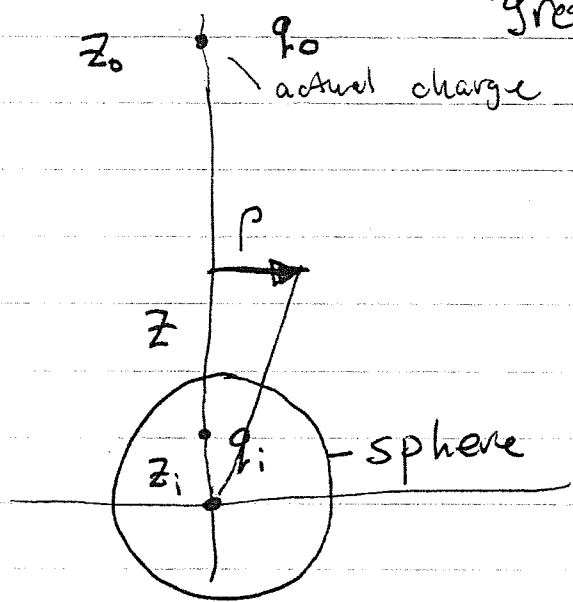
2.1

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If Method of images works with sufficient symmetry



suppose we wish to find image charge for a grounded conducting sphere ($\phi = 0$)



can I find a q_i & z_i such that $\phi = 0$ on surface of sphere of radius a

Use polar coordinates

$$\phi(\rho, z) = \frac{q_0}{\sqrt{\rho^2 + (z - z_0)^2}} + \frac{q_i}{\sqrt{\rho^2 + (z - z_i)^2}}$$

- potential due to act
- image

$= 0$ on sphere $q_0 q_i < 0$ opposite

FIND LOCUS OF POINTS FOR $\phi = 0$

$$q_0^2 (p^2 + z^2 + z_i^2 - 2zz_i) - q_i^2 (p^2 + z^2 + z_0^2 - 2zz_0) = 0$$

We want this to describe a sphere of radius a

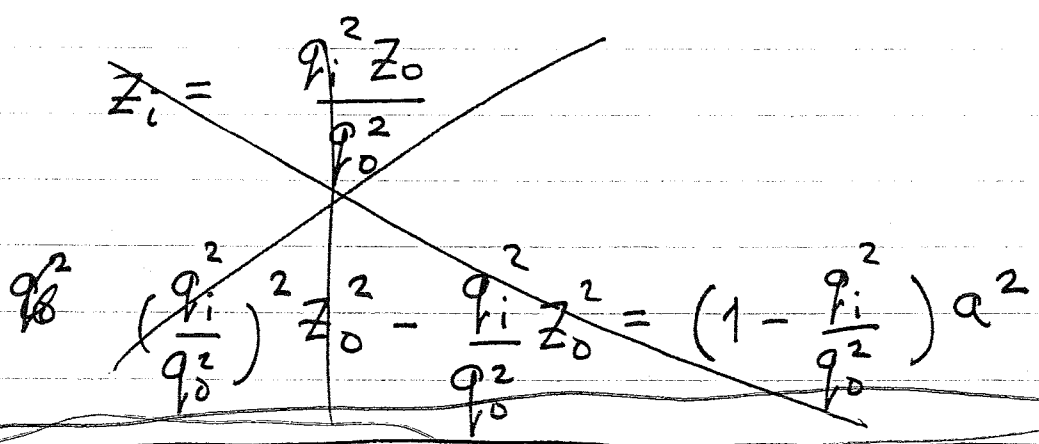
vis $p^2 + z^2 - a^2 = 0$

THIS REQUIRES

$$q_0^2 z_i - q_i^2 z_0 = 0$$

TERMS LINEAR IN z VANISH

$$q_0^2 z_i^2 - q_i^2 z_0^2 = -(q_0^2 - q_i^2) a^2$$



Solution $z_i z_0 = a^2$ geometric mean
 $q_i = -q_0 a / z_0$

note as $z_0 \rightarrow a$

$$z_i \rightarrow a$$

$$q_i \rightarrow -q_0$$

let $z_0 = a + \epsilon$

$$\epsilon \ll a$$

then $z_i \approx a - \epsilon$

$$q_i \approx -q_0$$

images close to plane

calculate surface charge density

$$\phi = \frac{q_0}{|\vec{r} - e_z z_0|} + \frac{q_i}{|\vec{r} - e_z z_i|}$$

normal electric field

$$E_r = - \left. \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial r} \right|_{r=a} = \frac{q_0}{\epsilon_0}$$

$$= + e_r \cdot \left[\frac{q_0 (\vec{r} - e_z z_0)}{|\vec{r} - e_z z_0|^3} + \frac{q_i (\vec{r} - e_z z_i)}{|\vec{r} - e_z z_i|^3} \right]$$

note, on sphere

$$\vec{r} = a e_r$$

$$\frac{q_0}{|\vec{r} - e_z z_0|} + \frac{q_i}{|\vec{r} - e_z z_i|} = 0$$

$$\frac{1}{|\vec{r} - e_z z_i|^3} = - \frac{q_0}{q_i |\vec{r} - e_z z_0|^3}$$

$$|\vec{r} - e_z z_i| = - |\vec{r} - e_z z_0| \frac{q_0}{q_i}$$

calculate force of attraction between charge ~~due~~ and to sphere

Force on q_0 same as produced by image charge

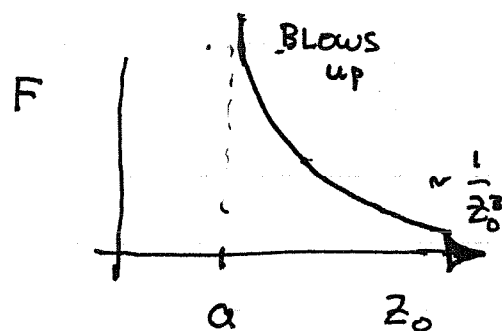
force on q_0

$$\vec{F} = \frac{q_0 q_i \hat{e}_z (z_0 - z_i)}{|z_0 - z_i|^3}$$

where:

$$z_i = \frac{a^2}{z_0}$$

$$q_i = -q_0 \frac{a}{z_0}$$



$$\vec{F} = -e_z \left(\frac{q_0^2}{z_0^2} \right) \frac{a}{z_0 (1 - a^2/z_0^2)^2}$$

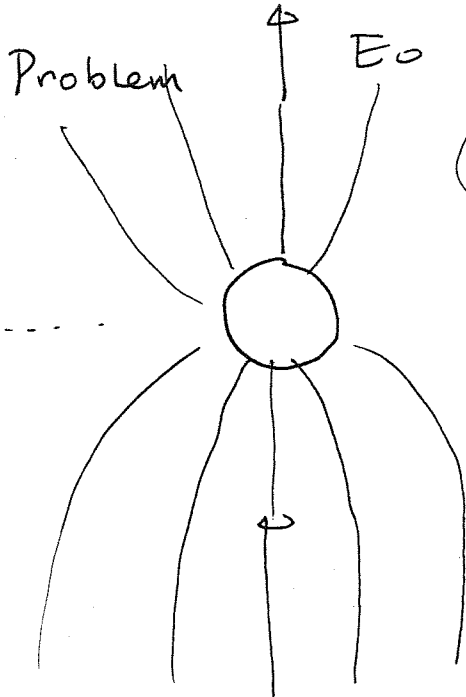
can also show that it is

the same as

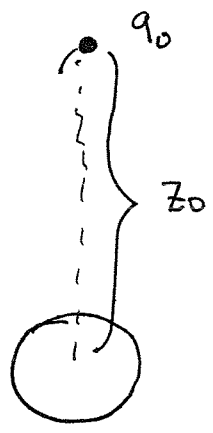
~~Eqn~~

$$F_{\text{sphere}} = \frac{1}{2} \int da' \sigma \frac{q_0 (\vec{r} - z_0 \hat{e}_z)}{|\vec{r} - z_0 \hat{e}_z|^3} = -$$

1



uniform electric field E_0
metal sphere of radius a



without sphere

$$\vec{E}(0) = -\frac{q_0}{4\pi\epsilon_0 z_0^2} \hat{z}$$

let $q_0 = -4\pi\epsilon_0 E_0 z_0^2$
 and $z_0 \rightarrow \infty$

dipole moment of sphere

$$P = \hat{z} q_i z_i = \hat{z} \left(-\frac{q_0 a}{z_0}\right) \frac{a^2}{z_0}$$

induced dipole moment

$$P = -a^3 \hat{z} \frac{q_0}{z_0^2} = 4\pi\epsilon_0 E_0 a^3 \hat{z}$$

Remember the role of $G_0(\underline{x}, \underline{x}')$

$$\phi(\underline{x}) = \frac{\int d^3x' G_0(\underline{x}, \underline{x}') \rho(\underline{x}')}{4\pi\epsilon_0}$$

specified charge density outside sphere

$$-\frac{1}{4\pi} \int_S da' \hat{n} \cdot \nabla' G_0(\underline{x}, \underline{x}') \phi(\underline{x}')$$

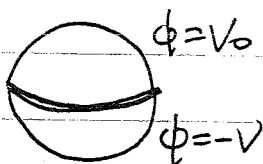
\hat{n} is normal pointing out of V (into sphere)
potential on sphere

We are now in a position to solve a host of problems

Example: $\rho(x) = 0$ ϕ specified on boundary of sphere

$$\phi(\underline{x}) = -\frac{1}{4\pi} \int_S da' \phi(\underline{x}') \hat{n} \cdot \nabla' G_0(\underline{x}, \underline{x}')$$

See book



CHAPTER 10

$q_0 - q_i$

$$E_r = + \underline{e}_r \cdot \left[\frac{q_0 (r - e_z z_0) - q_i (r - e_z z_i)}{4\pi\epsilon_0 |r - e_z z_0|^3} \right] \frac{q_0^3}{q_i^3}$$

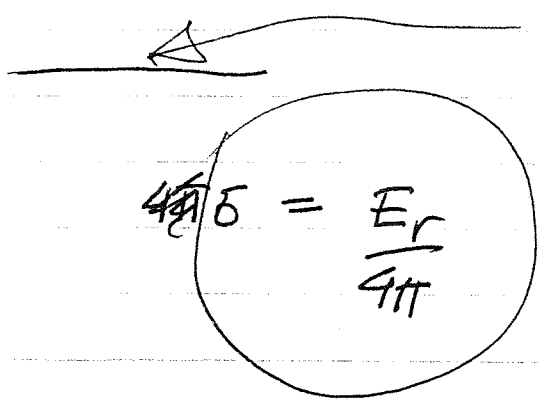
$|r| = a$

~~$= + \frac{q_0}{4\pi\epsilon_0 |r - e_z z_0|^3} - \frac{q_0^3}{q_i^3} \frac{1}{|r - e_z z_i|^3}$~~

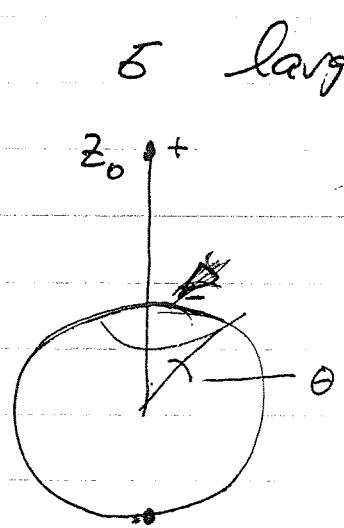
substitute $q_i^2 = q_0^2 a^2 / z_0^2$

$$= + \frac{q_0}{4\pi\epsilon_0 |r - e_z z_0|^3} \left\{ a \left(1 - \frac{q_0^2}{q_i^2} \right) - \underline{e}_r \cdot \underline{e}_z \left(q_0 z_0 - \frac{q_0^3}{q_i^2} z_i \right) \right\}$$

$r = a \underline{e}_r$



$$|r - e_z z_0| = \sqrt{a^2 + z_0^2 - 2z_0 a \cos\theta}$$



δ largest when

$$z_i = \frac{a^2}{z_0}$$

smallest

~~$\delta = - \frac{q_0 a}{4\pi}$~~

$$\underline{E}_r = - \frac{q_0}{|r|}$$

$$E_r = \frac{q_0}{4\pi\epsilon_0 |\underline{r} - e_z z_0|^3} \left\{ a \left(1 - \frac{q_0^2}{q_i^2} \right) - \underline{e}_r \cdot \underline{e}_z \left(q_0 z_0 - \frac{q_0^3}{q_i^3} z_i \right) \right\}$$

SUBSTITUTE $q_i = -q_0 \left(\frac{a}{z_0} \right)$


$$z_i = \frac{a^2}{z_0}$$

$$1 - \frac{q_0^2}{q_i^2} = 1 - \frac{z_0^2}{a^2}$$

$$q_0 z_0 - \frac{q_0^3}{q_i^3} z_i = q_0 z_0 - \frac{q_0^3 a^3}{z_0 q_0^3 a^2} z_0^2 = 0$$

$$E_r = \frac{q_0}{4\pi\epsilon_0 |\underline{r} - e_z z_0|^3} a \left(1 - \frac{z_0^2}{a^2} \right)$$

$e_z z_0$



$$|\underline{r} - e_z z_0| = \sqrt{r^2 + z_0^2 - 2r z_0 \cos \theta}$$

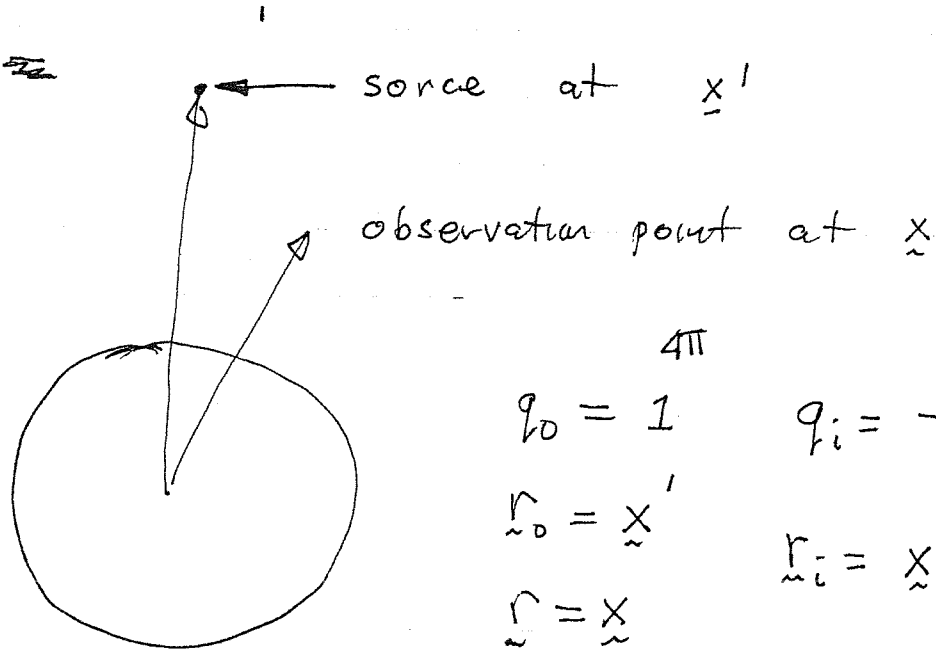
$$\nabla^2 G_0 = -4\pi \delta(\underline{x} - \underline{x}')$$

$\phi = 0$
on sphere

DIRICHLET Green's FUNCTION = POTENTIAL
due to ~~point~~ unit charge

$$q_0 = 1$$

$$G_0(\underline{x}, \underline{x}')$$



$$q_0 = 1 \quad q_i = -\frac{a}{|\underline{x}'|} 4\pi$$

$$\underline{r}_0 = \underline{x}' \quad \underline{r}_i = \underline{x}' \frac{a^2}{|\underline{x}'|^2}$$

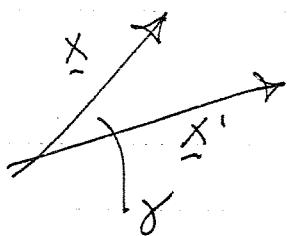
$$\underline{r} = \underline{x}$$

$$G_0(\underline{x}, \underline{x}') = \frac{1}{|\underline{x} - \underline{x}'|} - \frac{a}{|\underline{x}'|} \frac{1}{\left| \underline{x} - \underline{x}' \frac{a^2}{|\underline{x}'|^2} \right|}$$

G_0

Symmetric? yes

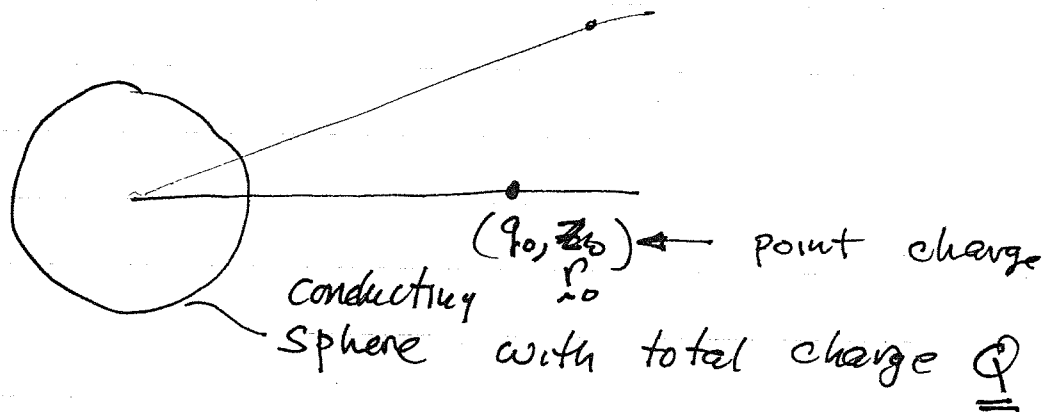
$$\left| \underline{x} - \underline{x}' \frac{a^2}{|\underline{x}'|^2} \right| = \sqrt{x^2 + x'^2 \left(\frac{a^2}{x'^2}\right)^2 - 2xx' \frac{a^2}{x'^2} \cos \gamma}$$



$$= \frac{a}{x'} \sqrt{\frac{x^2 x'^2}{a^2} + a^2 - 2xx' \cos \gamma}$$

$$G_0 = \frac{1}{|\underline{x} - \underline{x}'|} - \frac{1}{\dots}$$

Method of images used to find field surrounding a ~~sphere~~ sphere



Let $\phi_0(\underline{r})$ be the solution we have obtained previously corresponding to a grounded sphere
note generalization

$$\phi_0(\underline{r}) = \frac{q_0}{4\pi\epsilon_0 |\underline{r} - \underline{r}_0|} + \frac{q_i}{4\pi\epsilon_0 |\underline{r} - \underline{r}_i|}$$

$$q_i = -q_0 \frac{a}{|\underline{r}_0|} \quad \underline{r}_i = \underline{r}_0 \frac{a^2}{|\underline{r}_0|^2}$$

This satisfies

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$$\phi_0(r=a) = 0$$

the total charge on the sphere
is q_i .

To obtain a solution for an arbitrary amount of charge add to this the solution corresponding to a uniform charge distribution, (same as a point charge on surface

$$\phi(r) = \phi_0(r) + \frac{(Q - q_i)}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r}$$

The sum corresponds to a total charge Q

satisfies Poisson equation outside sphere

$$\nabla^2 \phi = -4\pi \delta(r - r_0) q_0$$

$\phi = \text{const}$ on surface of sphere.

• unique solution