

Capstones in Physics: Electromagnetism

2. ELECTRIC FIELDS IN MATTER

2.1. Multipole Expansion

- A. Multipole expansion of potential
- B. Dipole moment
- C. Electric field of dipole
- D. Dipole in an electric field

2.2. Charges in Materials

- A. Polarization
- B. Displacement field
- C. Dielectric boundaries

(References to) "Introduction to Electrodynamics" by David J. Griffiths
3rd ed., Prentice-Hall, 1999. ISBN 0-13-805326-X

2.1 MULTIPOLE EXPANSION

2.1.A. MULTIPOLE EXPANSION OF POTENTIAL

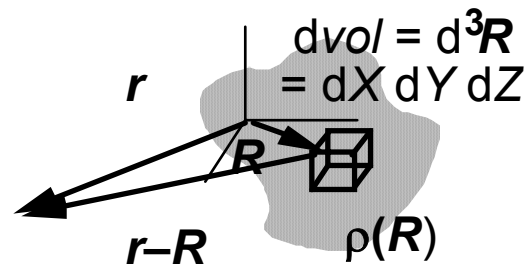
start from

$$V(\mathbf{r}) = \int d^3\mathbf{R} \frac{\rho(\mathbf{R})}{4\pi\epsilon_0|\mathbf{r}-\mathbf{R}|}$$

$$\frac{1}{|\mathbf{r}-\mathbf{R}|} = [(\mathbf{r}-\mathbf{R})^2]^{-1/2}$$

$$= [r^2 - 2\mathbf{r}\cdot\mathbf{R} + R^2]^{-1/2}$$

$$= \frac{1}{r} \left[1 - 2\frac{\mathbf{r}\cdot\mathbf{R}}{r^2} + \left(\frac{R}{r}\right)^2 \right]^{-1/2}$$



expand for $r \gg R$: Taylor series in $\frac{R}{r} \ll 1$

to first order: $\frac{1}{|\mathbf{r}-\mathbf{R}|} \approx \frac{1}{r} \left[1 + \frac{\mathbf{r}\cdot\mathbf{R}}{r^2} + O\left(\frac{R}{r}\right)^2 \right]$

each term of the integrand factors

into a product of a function of \mathbf{r} times a function of \mathbf{R} :

$$V(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r} \int d^3\mathbf{R} \rho(\mathbf{R}) + \frac{\hat{\mathbf{r}}}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2} \cdot \int d^3\mathbf{R} \rho(\mathbf{R}) \mathbf{R}$$

total charge Q

dipole moment \mathbf{p}

to all orders: let $\alpha = \angle \mathbf{r}, \mathbf{R}$, the angle between \mathbf{r} and \mathbf{R} . Then $\cos \alpha = \hat{\mathbf{r}} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{R}}$,

$$\text{and } \frac{1}{|\mathbf{r}-\mathbf{R}|} = \frac{1}{r} \left[1 - 2\frac{R}{r} \cos \alpha + \left(\frac{R}{r}\right)^2 \right]^{-1/2} = \frac{1}{r} \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{R}{r}\right)^l P_l(\cos \alpha)$$

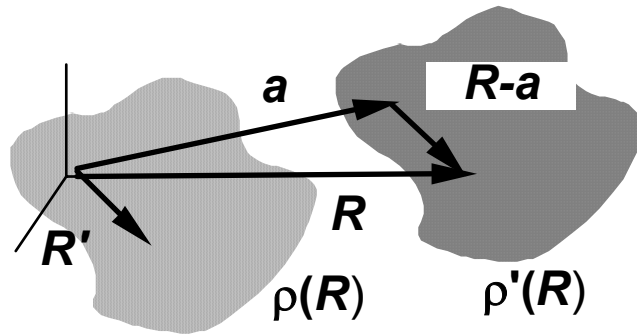
$$\text{where } P_l(\cos \alpha) = \lim_{u \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{l!} \frac{\partial^l}{\partial u^l} [1 - 2u \cos \alpha + u^2]^{-1/2}$$

is a Legendre Polynomial of order l

2.1.B. DIPOLE MOMENT $\mathbf{p} = \int d^3R \rho(\mathbf{R}) \mathbf{R}$

consider another
charge distribution

$$\rho'(\mathbf{R}) = \rho(\mathbf{R} - \mathbf{a})$$



Then its dipole moment is

$$\mathbf{p}' = \int d^3R \rho'(\mathbf{R}) \mathbf{R} = \int d^3R \rho(\mathbf{R} - \mathbf{a}) \mathbf{R}$$

change variables: $\mathbf{R}' = \mathbf{R} - \mathbf{a}$, $\mathbf{R} = \mathbf{R}' + \mathbf{a}$, $d\mathbf{R} = d\mathbf{R}'$

$$\mathbf{p}' = \int d^3R' \rho(\mathbf{R}') (\mathbf{R}' + \mathbf{a}) = \int d^3R' \rho(\mathbf{R}') \mathbf{R}' + \mathbf{a} \int d^3R' \rho(\mathbf{R}')$$

$$\mathbf{p}' = \mathbf{p} + \mathbf{a} Q_{\text{total}}$$

this is similar to the rule for the moment of inertia,

$$I' = I + \mathbf{a} M_{\text{total}}$$

2.1.C. ELECTRIC FIELD OF DIPOLE

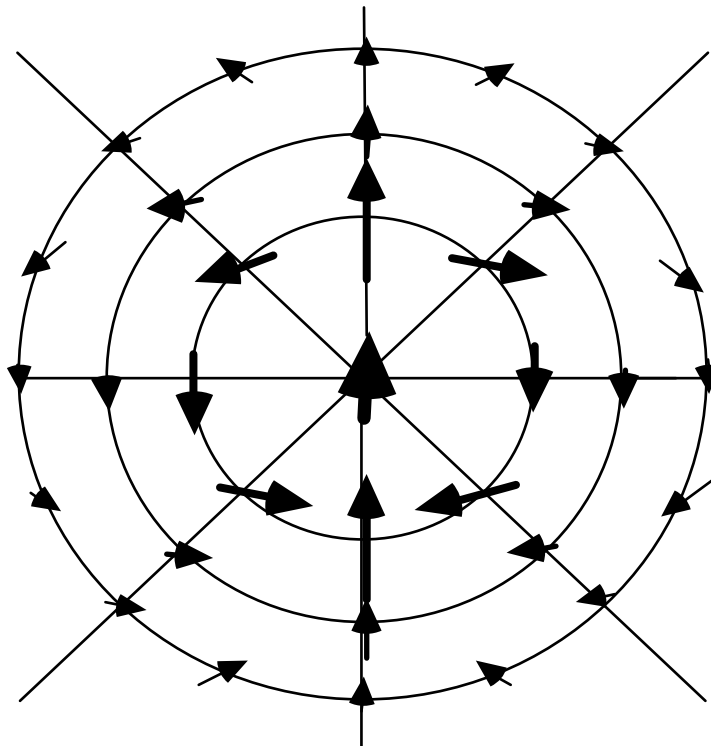
Far from the distribution

$$\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}) \rightarrow$$

$$\frac{q_{\text{total}} \hat{\mathbf{r}}}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2} \quad \text{monopole}$$

$$+ \frac{3(\mathbf{p} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{r}}) \hat{\mathbf{r}} - \mathbf{p}}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^3} \quad \text{dipole}$$

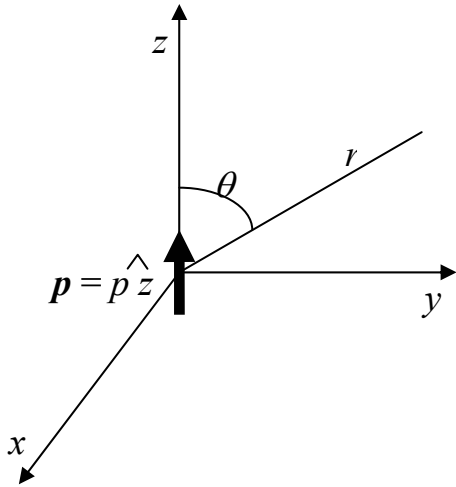
+ ... higher
multipoles



If \mathbf{p} lies at the origin and points in the z direction, the potential is

$$V(r, \theta) = \frac{1}{4\pi \epsilon_0} \frac{\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{p}}{r^3} = \frac{1}{4\pi \epsilon_0} \frac{p \cos \theta}{r^2}.$$

The electric field of the dipole is $\mathbf{E} = -\nabla V$:



$$E_r = -\frac{\partial V}{\partial r} = \frac{2p \cos \theta}{4\pi \epsilon_0 r^3}$$

$$E_\theta = -\frac{\partial V}{r \partial \theta} = \frac{p \sin \theta}{4\pi \epsilon_0 r^3}$$

$$E_\phi = -\frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial V}{\partial \phi} = 0$$

Thus

$$\mathbf{E}(r, \theta) = \frac{p}{4\pi \epsilon_0 r^3} (2 \cos \theta \hat{r} + \sin \theta \hat{\theta}).$$

Using $\hat{z} = \cos \theta \hat{r} - \sin \theta \hat{\theta}$,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{E}(r, \theta) &= \frac{p}{4\pi \epsilon_0 r^3} (3 \cos \theta \hat{r} - \hat{z}) \\ &= \frac{1}{4\pi \epsilon_0 r^3} (3p \cos \theta \hat{r} - p \hat{z}) \\ &= \frac{3(\mathbf{p} \cdot \hat{r})\hat{r} - \mathbf{p}}{4\pi \epsilon_0 r^3} \end{aligned}$$

2.1.D. DIPOLE IN AN ELECTRIC FIELD

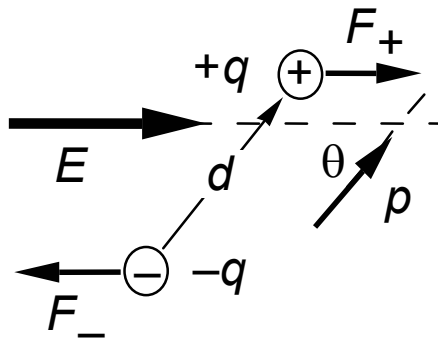
dipole moment

$$\mathbf{p} = q\mathbf{d}$$

in uniform field \mathbf{E}

picture plane of \mathbf{E}, \mathbf{p}

NO NET FORCE



total force

$$= \mathbf{F}_+ + \mathbf{F}_-$$

both directed

along $\mathbf{E} \Rightarrow$

total force

$$= q\mathbf{E} - q\mathbf{E} = 0$$

Instead of a net force, there is a torque on the dipole

$$\boldsymbol{\tau} = \sum_i \mathbf{r}_i \times \mathbf{F}_i$$

let \mathbf{r} = vector distance from center of dipole, $\mathbf{r}_{\pm} = \pm \mathbf{d}/2$, then

$$\boldsymbol{\tau} = \frac{\mathbf{d}}{2} \times (q\mathbf{E}) - \frac{\mathbf{d}}{2} \times (-q\mathbf{E}) = q(\mathbf{d} \times \mathbf{E}) = \mathbf{p} \times \mathbf{E}$$

torque on dipole = $\boldsymbol{\tau} = \mathbf{p} \times \mathbf{E}$,
 direction \perp to both \mathbf{E} and \mathbf{p} , magnitude = $E p \sin \theta$

the torque tends to make the dipole line up with the field

work done by field to align dipole

$$dW = \tau d\theta = pE \sin \theta d\theta$$

start from $\mathbf{p} \perp \mathbf{E} \Rightarrow$ energy = $\int_{\pi/2}^{\theta} pE \sin \theta d\theta = -pE \cos \theta$

Alignment energy $U = -\mathbf{p} \cdot \mathbf{E}$, minimum energy when $\mathbf{p} \parallel \mathbf{E}$

In non-uniform field \mathbf{E}

$$\mathbf{F} = -\nabla U = \nabla(\mathbf{p} \cdot \mathbf{E}) = \mathbf{p} \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{E}) + (\mathbf{p} \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{E} = (\mathbf{p} \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{E}$$

2.2. CHARGES IN MATERIALS

Materials are made up of atoms and/or molecules.

Atoms and molecules are made up of electrons and nuclei.

The nuclei have: more than 99.9% of the mass
 positive charges $+Ze$ (Z = atomic number)

The electrons have: negative charges $-e$
 most of the material's ability to respond to fields

Charges divide into free charges and bound charges

Conductors have free charges, **insulators** don't.

Most solid conductors are crystalline (often microcrystals).

Solid insulators: may be crystalline, or polymers (long molecules).

Fluids are insulators unless they contain charged **ions**.

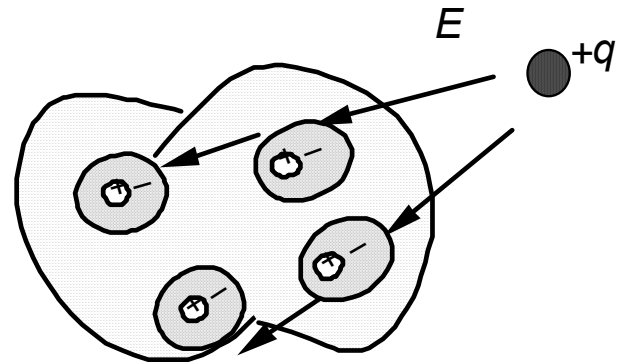
All materials, even the vacuum, are **dielectrics**:

 they have bound charges which move in electric fields.

2.2.A. POLARIZATION

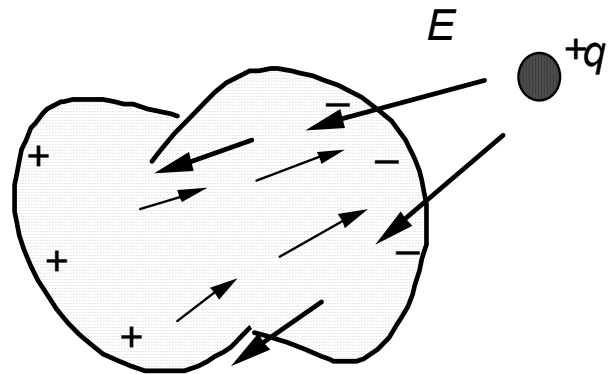
A dielectric is an insulator
 \Rightarrow charges can't move far

But they can move a little way
 in response to a field
 see "Oscillator Model"



the charges accumulate
 on the surface \Rightarrow

the induced charges
 cause an attractive force!



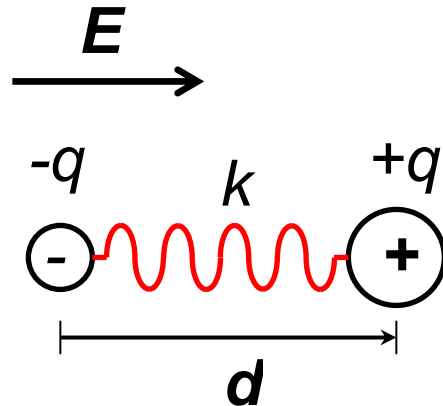
the induced charges cause an induced field
 which reduces the internal field

$$\text{in a linear dielectric, } \mathbf{E}_{\text{internal}} = \frac{1}{\kappa} \mathbf{E}_{\text{applied}}$$

handy rule of thumb: $\epsilon_0 \rightarrow \kappa \epsilon_0$

The polarization affects the potential energy

OSCILLATOR MODEL OF DIELECTRIC POLARIZATION

static charges $\pm q$ separation = d dipole moment = qd reduced mass m , spring constant k vibration frequency $\Omega_0 = \sqrt{k/m}$ electric field = E balance of forces on negative charge:

$$\text{electric force} = -qE = -\text{restoring force} = -k d$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{DIPOLE MOMENT } \mathbf{p} = qd = q (qE/k)$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{polarization density } \mathbf{P} = n\mathbf{p} = \chi(\text{static})\epsilon_0\mathbf{E}$$

where n = density of oscillators per unit volume(Griffiths: N)

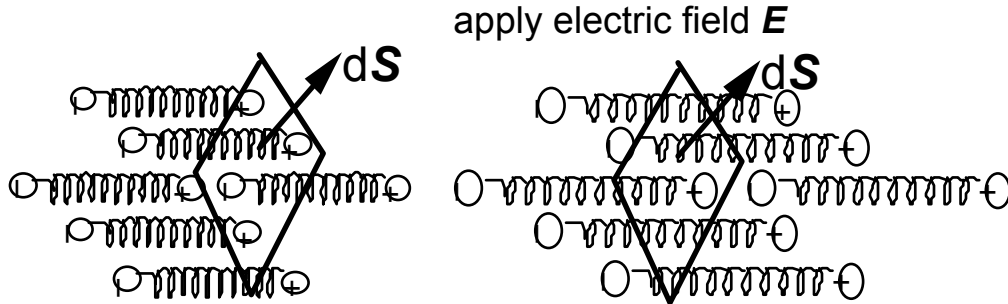
$$\chi(\text{static}) = \text{electric susceptibility} = \frac{nq^2}{\epsilon_0 k} = \frac{nq^2}{\epsilon_0 m \Omega_0^2}$$

NOTE: the description has to be modifiedwhen E changes on a time scale of $1/\Omega_0$

BOUND CHARGES

consider a surface $d\mathbf{S}$ in a dielectric

(Griffiths: da)



charges move distance $d-d_0$ see "Oscillator Model"

\Rightarrow charges within $d-d_0$ cross surface

\Rightarrow volume of charges crossing surface = $(d-d_0) \cdot d\mathbf{S}$

n = density of bound charges per unit volume

(Griffiths: N)

\Rightarrow charge moving through surface =

$$dq = n q (d-d_0) \cdot d\mathbf{S} = \mathbf{P} \cdot d\mathbf{S}$$

conclusions:

1. at surface of dielectric, charges accumulate see "Surface Conditions"

\Rightarrow surface charge density $\sigma_{\text{bound}} = \mathbf{P} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{n}} = P_{\perp}$

where $\hat{\mathbf{n}}$ = unit normal to surface

2. inside dielectric,

$$-\nabla \cdot \mathbf{P}(\mathbf{r}) = \rho_{\text{bound}} = nq$$

proof: consider any closed volume, then

$$\text{charge moving out of volume} = \oint d\mathbf{S} \cdot \mathbf{P} = \int d\text{vol} \nabla \cdot \mathbf{P}$$

but conservation of charge \Rightarrow

charge moving out of volume = - charge in volume

$$= - \int d\text{vol} \rho_{\text{bound}} = \int d\text{vol} \nabla \cdot \mathbf{P}$$

true for any volume \Rightarrow integrands equal \checkmark

2.2.B. DISPLACEMENT FIELD

Aim: to find electric field \mathbf{E} in terms of free charges ρ_{free}

Problem: \mathbf{E} comes from all charges, bound and free

$$\epsilon_0 \nabla \cdot \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}) = \rho(\mathbf{r}) \quad \text{see "Gauss' Law"}$$

Solution: exploit relation between bound charges and \mathbf{P} ,

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{P}(\mathbf{r}) = -\rho_{\text{bound}} \quad \text{see "Surface Polarization"}$$

add to Gauss' law: $\nabla \cdot (\epsilon_0 \mathbf{E} + \mathbf{P}) = \rho - \rho_{\text{bound}} = \rho_{\text{free}}$

define <u>displacement field</u> $\mathbf{D} \equiv \epsilon_0 \mathbf{E} + \mathbf{P} \Rightarrow$	$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{D} = \rho_{\text{free}}$
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once we know \mathbf{D} , can find \mathbf{E} from relation between \mathbf{E} and polarization \mathbf{P} ,

$$\mathbf{P} = \eta \mathbf{p} = \mathbf{P}_0 + \chi(\text{static}) \epsilon_0 \mathbf{E} \quad \text{see "Oscillator Model"}$$

substitute, setting $\mathbf{P}_0 = 0$ as is almost always true

$$\mathbf{D} = \epsilon_0 \mathbf{E} + \mathbf{P} = \epsilon_0 \mathbf{E} + \chi(\text{static}) \epsilon_0 \mathbf{E}$$

$\mathbf{D} = \epsilon \mathbf{E} = \kappa \epsilon_0 \mathbf{E}$	where $\epsilon = \kappa \epsilon_0$ and $\kappa = 1 + \chi(\text{static})$
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ϵ = permittivity, χ = polarizability, κ = dielectric constant

so the method is:

1. Find \mathbf{D} from free charges
2. Find \mathbf{E} from \mathbf{D}

see "Surface Conditions"

see "Method of Images"

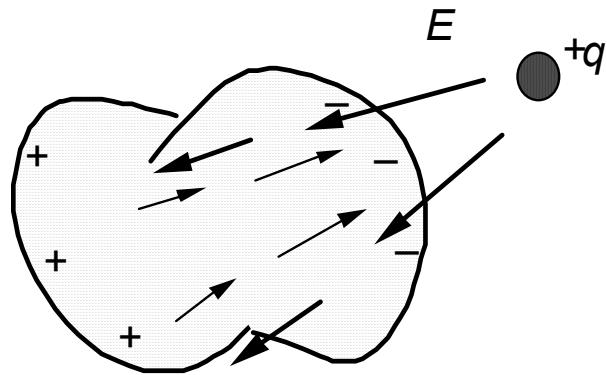
see "Capacitors"

Griffiths notation $\kappa \rightarrow K$, $\chi(\text{static}) \rightarrow \chi_{\text{electric}}$

2.2.C. DIELECTRIC BOUNDARIES

the polarization charge
accumulates at the surface
of a dielectric \Rightarrow
surface charge density
 $\sigma_{\text{bound}} = \mathbf{P} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{n}} = P_{\perp}$

where $\hat{\mathbf{n}}$ = unit normal
to the surface



see "Surface Polarization"

This implies that the electric field is discontinuous:

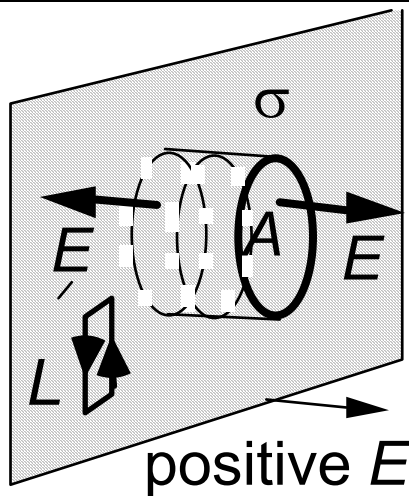
recall flat sheet of charge

choose "Gaussian pillbox"

$$\oint \mathbf{E} \cdot d\mathbf{A} = \frac{q_{\text{enclosed}}}{\epsilon_0}$$

$$-E_{\text{left}} A + E_{\text{right}} A = \frac{\sigma A}{\epsilon_0}$$

$$E_{\text{right}} - E_{\text{left}} = \frac{\sigma}{\epsilon_0} \quad \perp \text{ to surface}$$



positive E

Apply same reasoning to the integral form of $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{D} = \rho_{\text{free}}$

\Rightarrow Perpendicular component of \mathbf{D} is continuous:

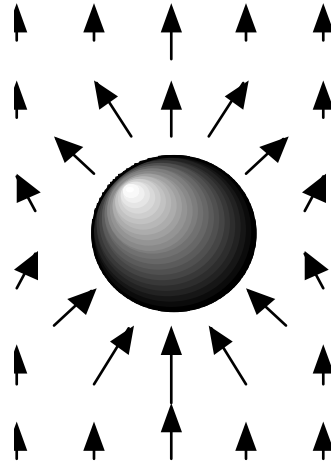
$$\mathbf{D}_{\perp} \equiv \mathbf{D} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{n}} = \text{same on both sides}, \quad \mathbf{E}_{\parallel} = \text{same on both sides}$$

alternate argument for \mathbf{E}_{\parallel} :

apply $\oint \mathbf{E} \cdot d\mathbf{L} = 0$ to path near surface $\Rightarrow \mathbf{L} \cdot (\mathbf{E}_{\text{left}} - \mathbf{E}_{\text{right}}) = 0$

DIELECTRIC SPHERE

dielectric sphere, charge 0
 radius R , center at $r = 0$
 external electric field $\mathbf{E} = E \hat{z}$
 \Rightarrow potential $V(\mathbf{r}) \rightarrow V_0 - E z$
 far from the sphere



Axially-symmetric solutions to Laplace's equation, $\nabla^2 V = 0$:

$$V(r, \theta) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (A_n r^n + B_n / r^{n+1}) P_n(\cos \theta) \text{ outside}$$

$$\text{and } V(r, \theta) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (C_n r^n + D_n / r^{n+1}) P_n(\cos \theta) \text{ inside}$$

(i.e. different coefficients)

To get the coefficients, use orthogonality condition,

$$\int_{-1}^1 d(\cos \theta) P_m(\cos \theta) P_n(\cos \theta) = \frac{2}{2n+1} \delta_{mn} \quad \text{for fixed } r.$$

•Condition at $r \rightarrow 0$

Inside the sphere the potential is finite $\Rightarrow D_n = 0$ for all n .

•Condition at $r \rightarrow \infty$

Outside sphere $V(r \rightarrow \infty) \rightarrow -E z + V_0$ where $V_0 = \text{constant}$.

$$P_0 = 1, P_1 = \cos \theta \Rightarrow V(r \rightarrow \infty) = V_0 P_0(\cos \theta) - E r P_1(\cos \theta)$$

$$\Rightarrow A_0 = V_0, A_1 = -E; \text{ All the other } A_n \text{ have to be zero.}$$

The B_n are not constrained by these boundary conditions,

but we can find them from the continuity conditions. *continued*

DIELECTRIC SPHERE

*continued***•Continuity of V at interface**Coefficients inside, outside related by continuity conditions at surface $r = R$: V same just inside and just outside,

$$V(R, \theta) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} C_n R^n P_n(\cos \theta) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left(A_n R^n + \frac{B_n}{R^{n+1}} \right) P_n(\cos \theta)$$

$$V(R, \theta)_{\text{in}} - V(R, \theta)_{\text{out}} = 0 = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left[(C_n R^n) - \left(A_n R^n + \frac{B_n}{R^{n+1}} \right) \right] P_n(\cos \theta)$$

multiply by $P_m(\cos \theta) d(\cos \theta)$ and integrate \Rightarrow

$$\text{coefficient of each } P_n(\cos \theta) = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad C_n = A_n + \frac{B_n}{R^{2n+1}}$$

•Continuity of D_{\perp} at interfaceSimilarly, the perpendicular *i.e.* radial component of $\mathbf{D} = \epsilon \mathbf{E} = -\epsilon_0 \epsilon_r \nabla V$

has to be continuous at the surface,

$$\text{giving } D_{\perp \text{out}} - D_{\perp \text{in}} = \epsilon_0 \frac{\partial}{\partial r} (\epsilon_r V(r, \theta)_{\text{in}} - V(r, \theta)_{\text{out}})_{r=R} = 0.$$

multipole expansions \rightarrow

$$0 = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} [\epsilon_r (C_n r^n) - (A_n r^n + B_n / r^{n+1})]_{r=R} P_n(\cos \theta)$$

$$\text{coeff. of each } P_n = \text{zero} \Rightarrow \quad \epsilon_r C_n = A_n - \frac{n+1}{n} \frac{B_n}{R^{2n+1}} \quad \text{for } n > 0$$

Solve together with equation for continuity of $V \Rightarrow$

$$(\epsilon_r - 1) C_n = -\frac{2n+1}{n} \frac{B_n}{R^{2n+1}}, \quad \frac{B_n}{R^{2n+1}} = (1 - \epsilon_r) \frac{n}{2n+1} C_n,$$

$$C_n = A_n + (1 - \epsilon_r) \frac{n}{2n+1} C_n = A_n \left(1 - \frac{n}{2n+1} (\epsilon_r - 1) \right)^{-1},$$

so both B_n and C_n are proportional to A_n for $n > 0$.*continued*

DIELECTRIC SPHERE

continued

for $n = 0$ $A_0 = C_0 = V_0 =$ uniform constant voltage

$$\text{Continuity of } \mathbf{D}_{\text{perp}} \Rightarrow \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left[\epsilon_r (C_0 r^0) - \left(A_0 r^0 + \frac{B_0}{r^{0+1}} \right) \right]_{r=R} = \frac{B_0}{R^2} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow D_0 = B_0 = 0, A_0 = C_0 = V_0 = \text{uniform constant voltage}$$

for $n = 1$

$$A_1 = -E, \quad D_1 = 0$$

$$C_1 = A_1 \frac{3}{\epsilon_r + 2} = -E \frac{3}{\epsilon_r + 2}, \quad B_1 = \frac{1 - \epsilon_r}{3} R^3 C_1 = \frac{\epsilon_r - 1}{2 + \epsilon_r} R^3 E,$$

for $n = 2, 3, \dots$ $A_n = B_n = C_n = D_n = 0$

Consequently,

$$V(r, \theta) = \begin{cases} V_0 - \frac{3E}{\epsilon_r + 2} r \cos \theta & \text{inside} \\ V_0 - E \left(r - \frac{\epsilon_r - 1}{\epsilon_r + 2} \frac{R^3}{r^2} \right) \cos \theta & \text{outside} \end{cases}$$

$$\text{and } \mathbf{E} = \begin{cases} \frac{3E}{\epsilon_r + 2} \hat{z} & \text{inside} \\ E \hat{z} + \left(\frac{\epsilon_r - 1}{\epsilon_r + 2} \frac{R^3}{r^3} \right) (2 \cos \theta \hat{r} + \sin \theta \hat{\theta}) & \text{outside} \end{cases}$$

Polarization

$$\mathbf{P} = (\epsilon - \epsilon_0) \mathbf{E}_{in} = \epsilon_0 (\epsilon_r - 1) \frac{3E}{\epsilon_r + 2} \hat{z} = \frac{3\epsilon_0 (\epsilon_r - 1)}{\epsilon_r + 2} E \hat{z}$$

Induced electric potential when $r \rightarrow \infty$

$$V = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{\hat{r} \cdot \mathbf{p}}{r^2}, \text{ where } \mathbf{p} = \left(\frac{4\pi}{3} R^3 \right) \mathbf{P}$$

$$\begin{aligned} V(r, \theta) &= \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left(\frac{4\pi}{3} R^3 \right) 3\epsilon_0 \left(\frac{\epsilon_r - 1}{\epsilon_r + 2} \right) \frac{E \cos \theta}{r^2} \\ &= \left(\frac{\epsilon_r - 1}{\epsilon_r + 2} \right) \frac{R^3}{r^2} E \cos \theta \end{aligned}$$

Induced surface charge density

$$\sigma = \mathbf{P} \cdot \hat{r} = 3\epsilon_0 \left(\frac{\epsilon_r - 1}{\epsilon_r + 2} \right) E \cos \theta$$