

31 Aug 95

$$\Phi(\vec{r}) = \frac{kq}{r} \left[ \frac{d}{r} \cos\theta + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{d^2}{r^2}\right) \right]$$

↑  
dipole term

no monopole term this time

Suppose we want all but the dipole term to vanish. This will be a "point dipole."

Take the limits;  $q \rightarrow \infty$  such that  $d \rightarrow 0$

$qd \equiv p$  remains fixed.

$$\underset{\text{dipole}}{\Phi(\vec{r})} = \frac{kqd \cos\theta}{r^2} = \frac{k\vec{p} \cdot \vec{r}}{r^3}$$

The next term is proportional to

$$\frac{kq}{r} \frac{d^3}{r^3} = \frac{k(qd)d^2}{r^4} = \frac{kpd^2}{r^4} \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } d \rightarrow 0$$

$\vec{p}$  is the dipole moment vector **RESERVE**

$\vec{p}$  points from (-) to (+) charge.

Other multipoles:

monopole, dipole, quadrupole, octupole, ...  $2^n$ -pole  
 $n=0$        $n=1$        $n=2$        $n=3$

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You can now solve problem #3.

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Mechanical Analogues:

Monopole - total charge  $\leftrightarrow$  total Mass of system

Dipole  $\leftrightarrow$  Center of Mass vector

Quadrupole  $\leftrightarrow$  Moment of Inertia Tensor

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If you knew all of the multipole moments, you could reconstruct the charge distribution exactly.

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Let's generalize the results for our specific examples. We seek a multipole expansion for the potential  $\Phi(\vec{r})$ .

Each term is composed of two factors:

① "Field Factor" - depends only on the coordinates of the point at which the potential is calculated, the unprimed field coordinates.

(e.g.  $\frac{\vec{r}}{r^3}$  is the field factor in the point dipole potential.)

② "Source Factor" - depends only on the distribution of charge in the source.

(e.g.  $\vec{\mu}$  is the source factor in the point dipole potential.)

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For the general analysis, consider a charge distribution that is localized

$$\rho(\vec{r}') = 0 \quad \text{for } |\vec{r}'| > R$$

We will calculate  $\Phi(\vec{r})$  only for points outside a sphere of radius  $R$ .

$$\begin{array}{ccc} |\vec{r}| > R > |\vec{r}'| \\ \uparrow & & \uparrow \\ \text{Field} & & \text{source} \end{array}$$

We will expand  $\frac{1}{|\vec{r}-\vec{r}'|}$ , which occurs in the expression for the potential  $\Phi(\vec{r})$ , in a 3-dimensional Taylor series.

Reminder: In 1-dimension, if  $f$  is differentiable to all orders (analytic), then

$$f(x) = f(a) + (x-a)f'(a) + \frac{1}{2!}(x-a)^2 f''(a) + \dots$$

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But this is not the Taylor series we will use. We want the "increment" form:

$$f(x+a) = f(x) + a f'(x) + \frac{1}{2!} a^2 f''(x) + \dots$$

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Now consider a scalar function of 3-d coordinates:

$$f(\vec{r} + \vec{a}) = f(\vec{r}) + \vec{a} \cdot \vec{\nabla} f(\vec{r}) + \frac{1}{2!} (\vec{a} \cdot \vec{\nabla})^2 f(\vec{r}) + \dots$$

$$= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n!} \sum_{i_1, \dots, i_n=1}^3 a_{i_1} \dots a_{i_n} \frac{\partial^n (f(\vec{r}))}{\partial x_{i_1} \dots \partial x_{i_n}}$$

where  $\vec{a} \cdot \vec{\nabla} = \sum_{i=1}^3 a_{i1} \frac{\partial}{\partial x_{i1}}$

and  $(\vec{a} \cdot \vec{\nabla})^2 = \sum_{i_1, i_2=1}^3 a_{i_1} a_{i_2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x_{i_1} \partial x_{i_2}}$ , etc.

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for the multipole expansion:

$$\vec{a} = -\vec{r}' \quad \text{and} \quad f(\vec{r} - \vec{r}') = \frac{1}{|\vec{r} - \vec{r}'|}$$

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The Taylor series converges for  $|\vec{r}| > |\vec{r}'|$

$$\frac{1}{|\vec{r}-\vec{r}'|} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{n!} \sum_{i_1, \dots, i_n=1}^3 x'_{i_1} \dots x'_{i_n} \frac{\partial^n}{\partial x_{i_1} \dots \partial x_{i_n}} \left( \frac{1}{r} \right)$$

So

$$\Phi(\vec{r}) = \int_V dV' \frac{k \rho(\vec{r}')}{|\vec{r}-\vec{r}'|}$$

$$= k \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{n!} \sum_{i_1, \dots, i_n=1}^3 \bar{Q}_{i_1, \dots, i_n} \frac{\partial^n}{\partial x_{i_1} \dots \partial x_{i_n}} \left( \frac{1}{r} \right)$$

where  $\bar{Q}_{i_1, \dots, i_n} = \int_V dV' \rho(\vec{r}') x'_{i_1} \dots x'_{i_n}$

This is the  $2^n$ -pole moment tensor

It is a tensor of rank  $n$  and by its definition can be seen to be symmetric under the interchange of any two indices.

Some examples to clarify the notation!

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$n=0$   $\bar{Q} = \int dV \rho(\vec{r}') =$  monopole moment  
(total charge) scalar

$n=1$   $\bar{Q}_i = \int_V dV \rho(\vec{r}') x'_i =$  dipole moment  
vector

(this is what we called  $\vec{p}$  previously)

$n=2$   $\bar{Q}_{ij} = \int_V dV \rho(\vec{r}') x'_i x'_j =$  quadrupole moment  
tensor

$n=3$   $\bar{Q}_{ijk} = \int_V dV \rho(\vec{r}') x'_i x'_j x'_k =$  octupole  
moment  
tensor

Notice that only the primed source  
coordinates  $(\vec{r}')$  appear in  $\bar{Q}$ .

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$\gamma_{9a}$  are ready for problem #4

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Warning: The definition of multipole tensors varies from author to author. The definition of  $\bar{Q}_{i_1 \dots i_n}$  arises in a natural way - through a Taylor series expansion in Cartesian coordinates. Later, we will expand in spherical coordinates and these are the multipole moments used by Jackson.

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Why the bar over the  $\bar{Q}_{i_1 \dots i_n}$ ?

It is customary (but not necessary) to redefine the Cartesian multipole moment tensors.

Right now, we have

$$\Phi(\vec{r}) = k \left( \frac{\bar{Q}}{r} - \vec{Q} \cdot \vec{\nabla} \left( \frac{1}{r} \right) + \frac{1}{2!} \sum_{i,j} \bar{Q}_{ij} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x_i \partial x_j} \left( \frac{1}{r} \right) + \dots \right)$$

Note: the  $2^n$ -pole term falls off as  $\frac{1}{r^{n+1}}$ . This is what makes the expansion useful, especially at large  $r$ .

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In problem #2 we saw that

$$\vec{\nabla}\left(\frac{1}{r}\right) = -\frac{\vec{r}}{r^3}$$

We can similarly show that

$$\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x_i \partial x_j} \left(\frac{1}{r}\right) = \frac{1}{r^5} (3x_i x_j - r^2 \delta_{ij})$$

So we can write the potential as

$$\Phi(\vec{r}) = k\frac{\bar{Q}}{r} + k\frac{\vec{Q} \cdot \vec{r}}{r^3} + \frac{1}{2!} \sum_{ij} \bar{Q}_{ij} \frac{1}{r^5} (3x_i x_j - r^2 \delta_{ij})$$

Consider the tensor:  $3x_i x_j - r^2 \delta_{ij}$

Its trace is  $\sum_{ij} (3x_i x_j - r^2 \delta_{ij}) \delta_{ij}$

$$\text{or } \sum_i (3x_i x_i - r^2 \delta_{ii}) = (3r^2 - 3r^2) = 0$$

Therefore, we may add to  $\bar{Q}_{ij}$  any multiple of the unit tensor  $\delta_{ij}$  without changing the electrostatic potential!

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Define:  $Q_{ij} = \bar{Q}_{ij} + A \delta_{ij}$

where  $A$  is arbitrary.

The new quadrupole piece of  $\Phi(\vec{r})$  is

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{2} \sum_{ij} (3x_i x_j - r^2 \delta_{ij}) Q_{ij} &= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{ij} (3x_i x_j - r^2 \delta_{ij}) (\bar{Q}_{ij} + A \delta_{ij}) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{ij} (3x_i x_j - r^2 \delta_{ij}) \bar{Q}_{ij} + A(0) \end{aligned}$$

same as the old quadrupole piece.

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It is customary to choose  $A = -\frac{1}{3} \sum_K \bar{Q}_{KK}$

that is  $(-\frac{1}{3})$  times the trace of the old tensor.

$$Q_{ij} = \bar{Q}_{ij} - \frac{1}{3} \left( \sum_K \bar{Q}_{KK} \right) \delta_{ij}$$


Why do this?

Because  $Q_{ij}$  is now traceless.

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$$\begin{aligned} \text{Tr}[Q_{ij}] &= \sum_i Q_{ii} = \sum_i \left( \bar{Q}_{ii} - \frac{1}{3} \sum_k \bar{Q}_{kk} \delta_{ii} \right) \\ &= \sum_i \bar{Q}_{ii} - \frac{1}{3}(3) \sum_k \bar{Q}_{kk} = 0 \end{aligned}$$


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In 3 dimensions, a 2nd rank tensor (matrix) has 9 components 

general - 9 independent elements

symmetric - 6 independent elements



symmetric + traceless - 5 independent elements

$$\text{since } Q_{11} + Q_{22} + Q_{33} = 0$$


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A traceless, symmetric rank  $n$  tensor has  $\frac{n(n+1)}{2}$  independent components.

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$Q_{ij \dots in}$  are called "irreducible" tensors because all of their elements are **RESERVE** independent.

## Translation Dictionary:

$Q = \bar{Q}$  no change in the total charge,

$Q_i = \bar{Q}_i$  no change in the dipole moment vector.

$$Q_{ij} = \bar{Q}_{ij} - \frac{1}{3} \left( \sum_k Q_{kk} \right) \delta_{ij}$$

the connection between  $Q_{i_1 \dots i_n}$  and  $\bar{Q}_{i_1 \dots i_n}$  is more complicated for  $n > 2$ .

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$$\Phi(\vec{r}) = k \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{n!} \sum_{i_1 \dots i_n=1}^3 Q_{i_1 \dots i_n} \frac{\partial^n}{\partial x_{i_1} \dots \partial x_{i_n}} \left( \frac{1}{r} \right)$$

is the same potential as before.

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The spherical tensors used by Jackson which we will meet later are automatically irreducible. These are also used extensively in Quantum Mechanics.

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End Lecture #2

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