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## Laplace's equation in polar coordinates examples

In electroquasistatic field problems where the boundary conditions are indicated on circular cylinders or on planes of constant  $r$ , it is convenient to match these conditions with solutions to Laplace's equation in polar coordinates (cylindrical coordinates without  $z$  dependency). The procedure chosen is completely similar to that used in harness 5.4 for Cartesian coordinates. Figure 5.7.1 Polar coordinate system. As a reminder, the polar coordinates are defined in Figure 5.7.1. In these coordinates and with the understanding that there is no  $z$  dependency, Laplace's equation, Table I, (8), a difference between this equation and the Laplace equation written in Cartesian coordinates is immediately obvious: In polar coordinates, the equation contains coefficients that not only depend on the independent variable  $r$  but become singular by the origin. This unique behavior of differential equation will affect the type of solutions we are now achieving. To reduce the solution of partial differential equation to the simpler problem of solving total differential equations, we are looking for solutions that can be written as products of functions of  $r$  alone and  $\theta$  alone. When this assumed form is introduced in (1) and the result divided by and multiplied by  $r$ , we get We find on the left side of (3) a function of  $r$  alone and on the right side a function of  $\theta$  alone. The two sides of the equation can balance if and only if the function of  $r$  and function of  $\theta$  are both equal to the same constant. For this separation constantly we introduce the symbol  $-m^2$ . For  $m^2 \geq 0$ , the solutions for differential equation for  $F$  are conveniently written as Due to the room-axing coefficients, the resolutions to (5) are not exponential or linear combinations of exponential, as has been the case to date. Fortunately, the solutions are nonetheless simple. Substitution of a solution with form  $m$  in (5) shows that the equation is met, provided that  $n = m$ . Thus, in the specific case of a zero-pairing constant, the limiting solutions and the product solutions shown in the first two columns of Table 5.7.1 are constructed by taking all possible combinations of these solutions, those most commonly used in polar coordinates. But what are the solutions if  $m^2 < 0$ ? In Cartesian coordinates, changing the character of the separation constant  $k^2$  is similar to switching roles  $x$  and  $y$  coordinates. Solutions that are periodic in the  $x$  direction become exponential, while the exponential decay and growth of the  $y$ -direction becomes intermittent. Here the geometry is such that  $r$  and coordinates are not interchangeable, but the new solutions resulting from the replacement  $m^2$  of  $-p^2$ , where  $p$  is a real number, mainly make oscillating dependency radial instead of azimuthal, and exponential dependence azimuthal rather Radial. To see this, let  $m^2 = -p^2$ , or  $m = jp$ , and the solutions that (7) become These take a more familiar look, if it is recognized that  $r$  can be written alike as Introducing this identity in (10) then provides the more familiar complex exponentials, which can be divided into its real and imaginary parts using Euler's formula. Two independent solutions for  $R(r)$  are thus due to  $\ln r$ 's cosine and sine functions. The dependency is now either represented by  $\exp p r$  or hyperbolic functions that are linear combinations of these exponential. These solutions are summarized in the right column of Table 5.7.1. In principle, the solution to a given problem can be addressed by methodically removing solutions from the catalogue in Table 5.7.1. In fact, most problems are best addressed by attributing some physical importance to each solution. This makes it possible to define coordinates so that field representation is kept as simple as possible. To this end, first consider the solutions found in the first column of Table 5.7.1. The constant potential is an obvious solution and does not need to be considered further. We have a solution in row two where the potential is proportional to the angle. The equation lines and field lines are illustrated in figure 5.7.2a. Evaluating the field by taking the gradient of the potential of polar coordinates (the gradient operator in Table I) shows that it becomes infinitely large as the origin is reached. The potential increases from zero to  $2\pi$  as the angle increases from zero to  $2\pi$ . If the potential is to be valued simply, we cannot allow this increase to increase further without leaving the region for the validity of the solution. This observation identifies the solution with a physical field observed when two semi-infinite conductive plates are held at different potentials, and the distance between the conductive plates at the junction is assumed to be negligible. In this case, shown in figure 5.7.2, the outside between the plates is correctly represented by a potential proportional to  $\theta$ . With the plates separated by an angle of 90 degrees instead of 360 degrees, the potential proportional to the corners of the configuration shown in Figure 5.5.3 is shown. The  $m^2 = 0$  resolution in the third row is well known from sec. The fourth  $m^2 = 0$  resolution is outlined in figure 5.7.3. To outline the potentials corresponding to the solutions in the second column of Table 5.7.1, the separation constant must be specified. Let us assume at the moment that  $m$  is an integer. For  $m = 1$ , the solutions  $r \cos \theta$  and  $r \sin \theta$  represent familiar potentials. Please note that the polar coordinates are related to the Cartesian coordinates defined in Figure 5.7.1 in Figure 5.7.2. The fields that go with these potentials are best found by taking gradient in Cartesian coordinates. This makes it clear that they can be used to represent consistent fields with  $x$  and  $y$  directions respectively. In order to emphasise the simplicity of these solutions, which are complicated by polar representation, the second function (13) is shown in Figure 5.7.4a. Figure 5.7.4 Equivalency well edge and field lines for a)  $r \sin \theta$ , b)  $r \cos \theta$ . Figure 5.7.4b shows the potential  $r \cos \theta$ . To stay at a contour of constant potential in the first quadrant of this figure, which is increased mod  $2\pi$ , it is necessary first to increase  $r$ , and then as the sinus function falls in the second quadrant, to decrease  $r$ . The potential is singular by the origin of  $r$ ; whereas, since the origin is approached from above, it is large and positive; whereas from below it is large and negative. Thus, the field lines emerge from the origin within  $0 < \theta < \pi/2$  and converge toward the origin in the lower half-plane. There must be a source of origin that consists of equal and opposite charges on the two sides of the planet  $r \sin \theta = 0$ . The source, which is uniform and of infinite scope in  $z$  direction, is a line dipole. This conclusion is confirmed by a direct assessment of the potential generated by two line taxes, the tax  $-1$  situated at the origin, the tax  $+1$  at a very small distance from the origin at  $r = d, \theta = \pi/2$ . The potential arises from steps parallel to those used for the three-dimensional dipole in sec. The spatial dependence on potential is actually  $\sin^2 \theta$ . In an analogy with the three-dimensional dipole of sec. 4.4,  $\text{pequiv} / d$  is defined as line-dipole-moment. Example 4.6.3 demonstrates that parallel line charges equine the equine are circular cylinders. As this result is independent of the distance between the line charges, it is no surprise that equinepotentials of fig. 5.7.4b are circular. In summary,  $m = 1$  solutions can be perceived as the areas of dipoles by infinity and by origin. For its dependencies, the dipoles  $y$  are fixed, while for  $\cos \theta$  dependencies they are  $x$  fixed. The solution of fig. 5.7.5a,  $\text{propto} r^2 \cos^2 \theta$ , has previously been met in Cartesian coordinates. Either from a comparison of the equivalency parcels or by direct conversion of the Cartesian coordinates into polar coordinates, the potential is recognized as  $xy$ . Figure 5.7.5 Equino good edge and field lines for a)  $r^2 \sin^2 \theta$ , b)  $r^2 \cos^2 \theta$ .  $M = 2$  solution singular at the time of origin is shown in Figure 5.7.5b. Field lines come out of origin and return to the double as range from 0 to  $2\pi$ . This observation identifies four line charges of the same order of magnitude that are alternately drawn as the source of the field. Thus,  $m = 2$  solutions can be regarded as quadruple by infinity and origin. It is perhaps a little surprising that we have gotten from Laplace's equation solutions that are singular on origin and thus associated with sources of origin. The singularity of one of the two independent solutions for (5) can be traced back to the singularity of the coefficients of this differential equation. It is apparent from the above that an increasing  $m$  introduces a faster variation of the field in terms of angle coordinate. In trouble where the area of interest includes all values of  $\theta$ ,  $m$  must be an integer to make the field back to the same value after a revolution. But  $M$  doesn't have to be an integer. If the area of interest is pie shaped,  $m$  can be selected so that the potential passes through a cycle over any interval of  $\theta$ . For example, the periodicity angle can be made  $2\pi/n$  by making  $m = n$  or  $m = n/\theta$ , where  $n$  can have an integer value. Figure 5.7.6 Equine burns and field lines representative of solutions in the right column of Table 5.7.1. The potential is given by (15). The solutions for  $m^2 < 0$ , the right column in Table 5.7.1, are illustrated in figure 5.7.6, which mainly uses the fourth resolution as an example. Note that the radial phase has been switched by subtracting  $\theta$  in (b) from the sinus argument. Thus, the potential shown and it passes automatically through zero at radius  $r = b$ . The distances between radii with zero potential are not the same. Nevertheless, the potential allocation is qualitatively equivalent to that indicated in Figure 5.4.2. The exponential addition is azimuthal; this direction thus corresponds to  $y$  in Figure 5.4.2. In essence, the potentials for  $m^2 < 0$  are similar to those in Cartesian coordinates, but wrapped around the  $z$  axis. Page 2 An approach to solving Poisson's equation in a region bounded by surfaces with known potential was outlined in sec. The potential was divided into a specific part if the laplacian balances  $-f$  throughout the region of interest and a homogeneous part that causes the sum of the two potentials to meet the boundary conditions. In short, and on the enveloping surfaces, the following examples illustrate this approach. At the same time, they demonstrate the use of the Cartesian coordinate solutions for Laplace's equation and the idea that the fields described can be time-typical. The cross-section of a two-dimensional system that extends to infinity in the  $x$  and  $z$  direction is shown in Figure 5.6.1. Leaders in aircraft  $y = a$  and  $y = -a$  bound region of interest. Between these planes, the charging density is periodically in the  $x$  direction and evenly distributed in the  $y$  direction. Figure 5.6.1 Cross-section of layers of charge that are periodically in  $x$  direction and bounded from above and below by zero potential plates. With this charge to the right, an isolated electrode inserted into the lower equitonic is used to detect the movement. The parameters  $\theta$  and  $a$  are given constants. For now, the segment connected to the ground through the

