

PHY 712 Electrodynamics
9-9:50 AM MWF Olin 103

Plan for Lecture 1:

Reading: Appendix 1 and Chapters I&1

- 1. Course structure and expectations**
- 2. Units – SI vs Gaussian**
- 3. Electrostatics – Poisson equation**

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<http://users.wfu.edu/natalie/s15phy712/>

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- [General information](#)
- [Syllabus and homework assignments](#)
- [Lecture notes](#)
- [Computer codes](#)
- [Some presentation ideas](#)

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General Information

This course is a one semester survey of Electrodynamics at the graduate level, using the textbook: **Classical Electrodynamics**, 3rd edition, by John David Jackson (John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1999) -- "JDJ". [link to errata](#) The more recent textbook: **Modern Electrodynamics**, by Andrew Zangwill (Cambridge University Press, 2013) will be used as a supplement.

It is likely that your grade for the course will depend upon the following factors:

Problem sets*	45%
Presentation	10%
Exams	45%

*The schedule notes the "due" date for each assignment. Homeworks may be turned in 1 lecture past their due date without grade penalty. After that, the homework grade will be reduced by 10% for each succeeding late date. According to the honor system, all work submitted for grading purposes should represent the student's own best efforts. This means that students who work together on homework assignments should all contribute roughly equally and independently verify all derivations and results.

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Units - SI vs Gaussian – continued

The choices for these constants in the SI and Gaussian units are given below:

	CGS (Gaussian)	SI
K_C	1	$\frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}$
K_A	$\frac{1}{c^2}$	$\frac{\mu_0}{4\pi}$

Here, $\frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \equiv 10^{-7} N/A^2$ and $\frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} = c^2 \cdot 10^{-7} N/A^2 = 8.98755 \times 10^9 N \cdot m^2/C^2$.

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Units - SI vs Gaussian – continued

Below is a table comparing SI and Gaussian unit systems. The fundamental units for each system are so labeled and are used to define the derived units.

Variable	SI		Gaussian		SI/Gaussian
	Unit	Relation	Unit	Relation	
length	<i>m</i>	fundamental	<i>cm</i>	fundamental	100
mass	<i>kg</i>	fundamental	<i>gm</i>	fundamental	1000
time	<i>s</i>	fundamental	<i>s</i>	fundamental	1
force	<i>N</i>	$kg \cdot m^2/s$	<i>dyne</i>	$gm \cdot cm^2/s$	10^5
current	<i>A</i>	fundamental	<i>statampere</i>	<i>statcoulomb/s</i>	$\frac{1}{10c}$
charge	<i>C</i>	$A \cdot s$	<i>statcoulomb</i>	$\sqrt{dyne \cdot cm^2}$	$\frac{1}{10c}$

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Units - SI vs Gaussian – continued

One advantage of the Gaussian system is that the field vectors: **E**, **D**, **B**, **H**, **P**, **M** all have the same physical dimensions. In vacuum, the following equalities hold: **B = H** and **E = D**. Also, in the Gaussian system, the dielectric and permittivity constants ϵ and μ are dimensionless.

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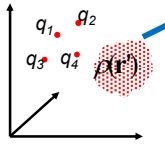
Basic equations of electrodynamics

CGS (Gaussian)	SI
$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{D} = 4\pi\rho$	$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{D} = \rho$
$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} = 0$	$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} = 0$
$\nabla \times \mathbf{E} = -\frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t}$	$\nabla \times \mathbf{E} = -\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t}$
$\nabla \times \mathbf{H} = \frac{4\pi}{c} \mathbf{J} + \frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \mathbf{D}}{\partial t}$	$\nabla \times \mathbf{H} = \mathbf{J} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{D}}{\partial t}$
$\mathbf{F} = q(\mathbf{E} + \frac{\mathbf{v}}{c} \times \mathbf{B})$	$\mathbf{F} = q(\mathbf{E} + \mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B})$
$u = \frac{1}{8\pi} (\mathbf{E} \cdot \mathbf{D} + \mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbf{H})$	$u = \frac{1}{2} (\mathbf{E} \cdot \mathbf{D} + \mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbf{H})$
$\mathbf{S} = \frac{c}{4\pi} (\mathbf{E} \times \mathbf{H})$	$\mathbf{S} = (\mathbf{E} \times \mathbf{H})$

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Units choice for this course:
 SI units for Jackson in Chapters 1-10
 Gaussian units for Jackson in Chapters 11-16

Electrostatics



$$\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \sum_i q_i \frac{\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_i}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_i|^3}$$

$$= \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int d^3r' \rho(\mathbf{r}') \frac{\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|^3}$$

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Electrostatics

Discrete versus continuous charge distributions

In terms of Dirac delta function:

$$\rho(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_i q_i \delta(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_i)$$

Digression: Note that in cartesian coordinates --

$$\delta(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_i) = \delta(x - x_i)\delta(y - y_i)\delta(z - z_i)$$

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Differential equations --

Electrostatics

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{E} = \rho / \epsilon_0$$

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{E} = 0$$

Electrostatic potential

$$\mathbf{E} = -\nabla\Phi(\mathbf{r}).$$

$$\nabla^2\Phi(\mathbf{r}) = -\rho(\mathbf{r})/\epsilon_0.$$

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Relationship between integral and differential forms of electrostatics --

Need to show: $\nabla^2 \left(\frac{1}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|} \right) = -4\pi\delta^3(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}')$.

Noting that

$$\int_{\text{small sphere about } \mathbf{r}'} d^3r \delta^3(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}') f(\mathbf{r}) = f(\mathbf{r}'),$$

we see that we must show that

$$\int_{\text{small sphere about } \mathbf{r}'} d^3r \nabla^2 \left(\frac{1}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|} \right) f(\mathbf{r}) = -4\pi f(\mathbf{r}').$$

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We introduce a small radius a such that:

$$\frac{1}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|} = \lim_{a \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\sqrt{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|^2 + a^2}}$$

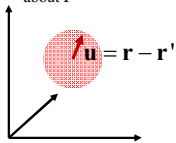
For a fixed value of a ,

$$\nabla^2 \frac{1}{\sqrt{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|^2 + a^2}} = \frac{-3a^2}{(|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|^2 + a^2)^{5/2}}.$$

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If the function $f(\mathbf{r})$ is continuous, we can make a Taylor expansion of it about the point $\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{r}'$, keeping only the first term. The integral over the small sphere about \mathbf{r}' can be carried out analytically, by changing to a coordinate system centered at \mathbf{r}' ;

so that

$$\int_{\text{small sphere about } \mathbf{r}'} d^3r \nabla^2 \left(\frac{1}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|} \right) f(\mathbf{r}) \approx f(\mathbf{r}') \lim_{a \rightarrow 0} \int_{u < R} d^3u \frac{-3a^2}{(u^2 + a^2)^{5/2}}.$$


$$\int_{u < R} d^3u \frac{-3a^2}{(u^2 + a^2)^{5/2}} = 4\pi \int_0^R du \frac{-3a^2 u^2}{(u^2 + a^2)^{5/2}} = 4\pi \frac{-R^3}{(R^2 + a^2)^{3/2}}.$$

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$$\int_{u < R} d^3u \frac{-3a^2}{(u^2 + a^2)^{5/2}} = 4\pi \int_0^R du \frac{-3a^2 u^2}{(u^2 + a^2)^{5/2}} = 4\pi \frac{-R^3}{(R^2 + a^2)^{3/2}}.$$

For $a \ll R$, $4\pi \frac{-R^3}{(R^2 + a^2)^{3/2}} \approx -4\pi$

$\rightarrow \int_{\text{small sphere about } \mathbf{r}'} d^3r \nabla^2 \left(\frac{1}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|} \right) f(\mathbf{r}) \approx f(\mathbf{r}')(-4\pi),$

$\rightarrow \nabla^2 \left(\frac{1}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|} \right) = -4\pi \delta^3(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}')$

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Example in HW1

The electrostatic potential of a neutral H atom is given by:

$$\Phi(r) = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{e^{-\alpha r}}{r} \left(1 + \frac{\alpha r}{2} \right).$$

Find the charge density (both continuous and discrete) for this potential.

Hint #1: For continuous contribution you can use the identity: $\nabla^2 \Phi(r) = \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial^2 (r\Phi(r))}{\partial r^2}$

Hint #2: Don't forget to consider possible discrete contributions.

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