

Formulae for Solutions to Laplace's equation,  $\nabla^2 V = 0$

Cartesian Coordinates (no  $z$  dependence):

$$V(x, y) = (Ae^{kx} + Be^{-kx})(C \sin ky + D \cos ky)$$

If  $f(y) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \{A_n \cos(\frac{n\pi y}{a}) + B_n \sin(\frac{n\pi y}{a})\}$ , then

$$A_n = \frac{2}{a} \int_0^a f(y) \cos(\frac{n\pi y}{a}) dy \quad \text{and} \quad B_n = \frac{2}{a} \int_0^a f(y) \sin(\frac{n\pi y}{a}) dy .$$

Cylindrical Coordinates (no  $z$  dependence):

$$V(s, \phi) = A_0 + B_0 \ln s + \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} s^m (A_m \cos m\phi + B_m \sin m\phi) + \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{s^m} (C_m \cos m\phi + D_m \sin m\phi)$$

If  $f(\phi) = \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \{A_m \cos(m\phi) + B_m \sin(m\phi)\}$ , then

$$A_m = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} f(\phi) \cos(m\phi) d\phi \quad \text{and} \quad B_m = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} f(\phi) \sin(m\phi) d\phi .$$

Spherical coordinates (no  $\phi$  dependence):  $V(r, \theta) = \sum_{\ell=0}^{\infty} \left( A_{\ell} r^{\ell} + \frac{B_{\ell}}{r^{\ell+1}} \right) P_{\ell}(\cos \theta)$

If  $f(\theta) = \sum_{\ell=0}^{\infty} C_{\ell} P_{\ell}(\cos(\theta))$ , then  $C_{\ell} = \frac{2\ell+1}{2} \int_0^{\pi} f(\theta) P_{\ell}(\cos(\theta)) \sin(\theta) d\theta .$

Legendre polynomials:

$$P_0 = 1$$

$$P_1 = \cos \theta$$

$$P_2 = \frac{1}{2} (3 \cos^2 \theta - 1)$$

$$P_3 = \frac{1}{2} (5 \cos^3 \theta - 3 \cos \theta)$$

$$P_{\ell}(1) = 1 \quad P_{\ell}(-1) = (-1)^{\ell}$$

$$\int_0^{\pi} P_{\ell}(\cos \theta) P_{\ell'}(\cos \theta) \sin \theta d\theta = \frac{2}{2\ell+1} \delta_{\ell\ell'}$$