

Fri.	3.2 Images T4 Relaxation Method	
Mon.	3.4.1-.4.2 Multipole Expansion	HW4
Wed.	3.4.3-.4.4 Multipole Expansion	
Thurs		

Poisson's & Laplace's Equations

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

$$\vec{E} = -\vec{\nabla} V$$

Poisson's $\nabla^2 V = -\rho / \epsilon_0$

Laplace's $\nabla^2 V = 0$ In "free space" where no charges are

In Cartesian

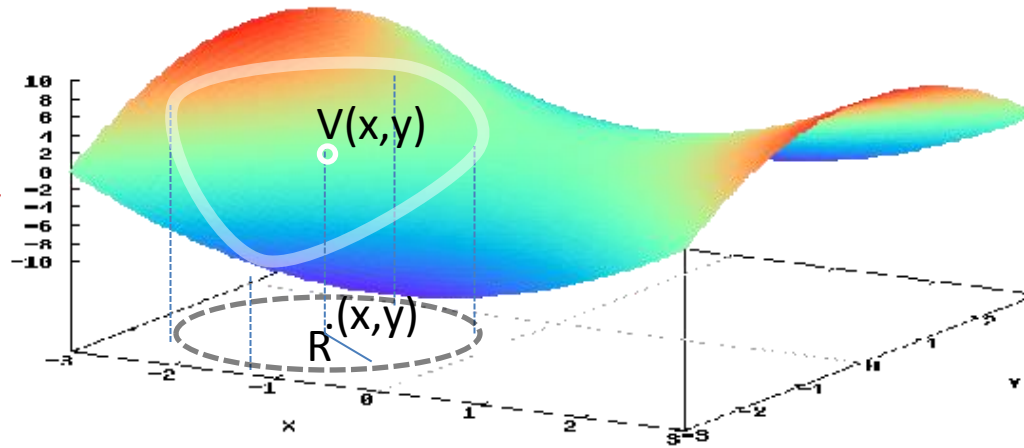
$$\nabla^2 V = \vec{\nabla} \cdot (\vec{\nabla} V) = \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial z^2} = 0$$

Properties of Laplace's

$$\nabla^2 V = \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial z^2} = 0$$

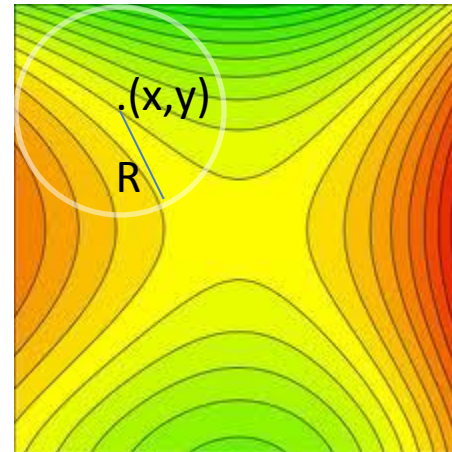
- V at mid point of range is average of V around edges (proof forthcoming)

- No local min or max; either flat (possible tipped plane) or saddle points



- In 2D $V(x, y) = \frac{\oint V dl_{circle}}{2\pi R}$

- In 3D $V(x, y, z) = \frac{\oint V da_{sphere}}{4\pi R^2}$



Uniqueness Theorems (by hook or crook)

Voltages: (as with any differential equation) Regardless of *how* you've found it, if you've found one solution to Laplace / Poisson's equation that satisfies the boundary conditions, you've found the *only* solution.

Fields: Given a charge density in a cavity within a charged conductor, the field within the conductor is uniquely determined by the *inner* charge distribution and the conductor's charge amount.

Hooks and Crook: Interesting ways of finding V and E

Images: replace a problem with a simpler equivalent one (based on corollary of the first uniqueness theorem)

Relaxation: a computational method based on the potential at a point being the average of the values at the same distance (more about Next Time).

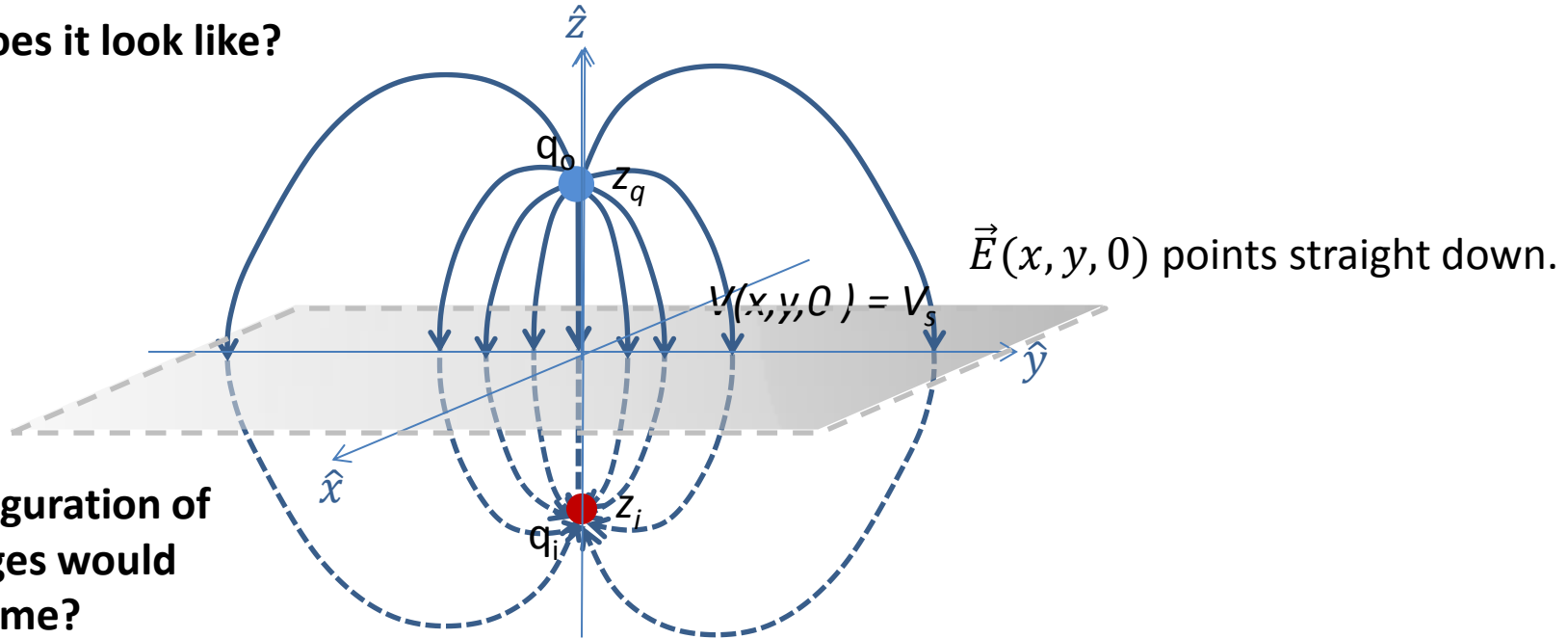
Multipole Expansion: a method for getting approximate answers for V far from a charge distribution (section 3.4)

Charge Images Reflected in Conductors

Images: replace a problem with a simpler equivalent one (based on corollary of the first uniqueness theorem – if your solution works on the boundary, it works everywhere)

Example: a charge q_o suspended distance z_o above a flat conducting surface that's held at voltage V_s . Find expression for V anywhere above the conducting surface.

What does it look like?

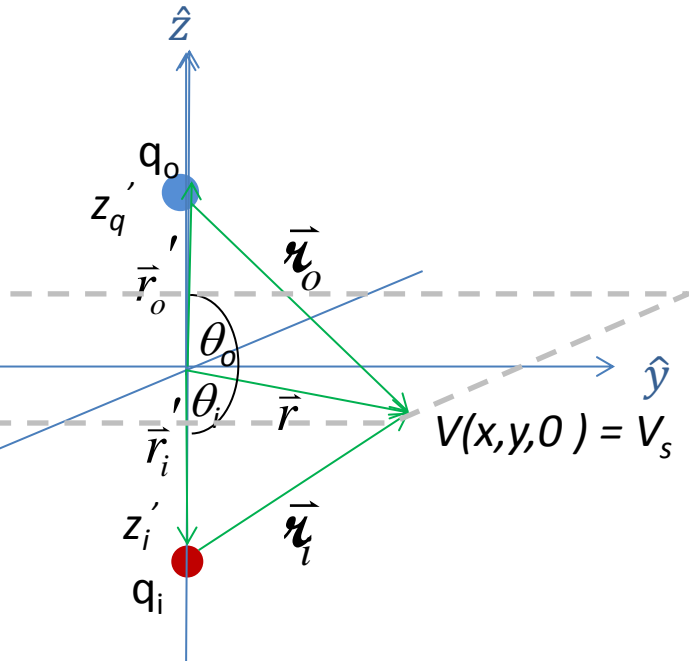


What configuration of point charges would look the same?

Charge Images Reflected in Conductors

Example: a charge q_o suspended distance z_o above a flat conducting surface that's held at voltage V_s . Find expression for V anywhere above the conducting surface.

In gory detail (for the experience), determine image's charge and location



For observation location in plane of the conductor

$$\theta_o = \theta_i = 90^\circ$$

$$\cos \theta_o = \cos \theta_i = 0$$

$$\frac{q_o}{\sqrt{r^2 + z_o'^2}} + \frac{q_i}{\sqrt{r^2 + z_i'^2}} = 4\pi\epsilon_o V_s$$

Must be true for *all* location in plane, so can choose easy-to-evaluate locations to determine values of q_i and z_i .

$$r \rightarrow \infty \quad \frac{q_o}{\sqrt{\infty^2 + z_o'^2}} + \frac{q_i}{\sqrt{\infty^2 + z_i'^2}} = 4\pi\epsilon_o V_s$$

$$0 + 0 = 4\pi\epsilon_o V_s$$

Apparently works at all only if $V_s = 0$.

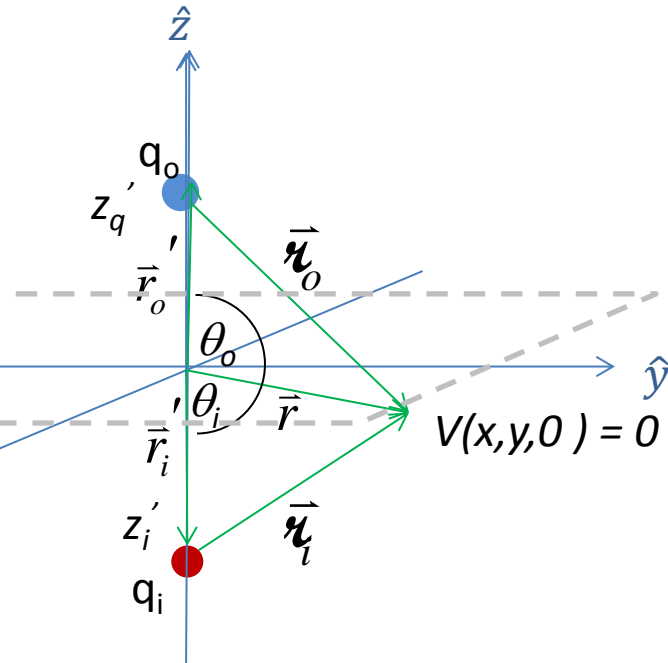
$$r \rightarrow 0 \quad \frac{q_o}{\sqrt{z_o'^2}} + \frac{q_i}{\sqrt{z_i'^2}} = 0$$

$$\frac{q_i}{|z_i'|} = -\frac{q_o}{|z_o'|}$$

Charge Images Reflected in Conductors

Example: a charge q_o suspended distance z_o above a flat conducting surface that's held at voltage V_s . Find expression for V anywhere above the conducting surface.

In gory detail (for the experience), determine image's charge and location



Return to
$$\frac{q_o}{\sqrt{r^2 + z_o'^2}} + \frac{q_i}{\sqrt{r^2 + z_i'^2}} = 4\pi\epsilon_o V_s$$

Plug in what we've learned: $V_s = 0$ $q_i = -q_o \left| \frac{z'_i}{z'_o} \right|$

$$\frac{q_o}{\sqrt{r^2 + z_o'^2}} + \frac{-q_o \left| \frac{z'_i}{z'_o} \right|}{\sqrt{r^2 + z_i'^2}} = 0$$

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{r^2 + z_o'^2}} = \left| \frac{z'_i}{z'_o} \right| \frac{1}{\sqrt{r^2 + z_i'^2}}$$

$$\frac{1}{|z'_o| \sqrt{\left(\frac{r}{z'_o}\right)^2 + 1}} = \left| \frac{z'_i}{z'_o} \right| \frac{1}{|z'_i| \sqrt{\left(\frac{r}{z'_i}\right)^2 + 1}}$$

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{\left(\frac{r}{z'_o}\right)^2 + 1}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\left(\frac{r}{z'_i}\right)^2 + 1}}$$

$$|z'_o| = |z'_i|$$

$$z'_i = -z'_o$$

$$q_i = -q_o \left| \frac{z'_i}{z'_o} \right|$$

Charge Images Reflected in Conductors

Example: a charge q_o suspended distance z_o above a flat conducting surface that's held at voltage V_s . Find expression for V anywhere above the conducting surface.

Digression: Force between q_o and Surface

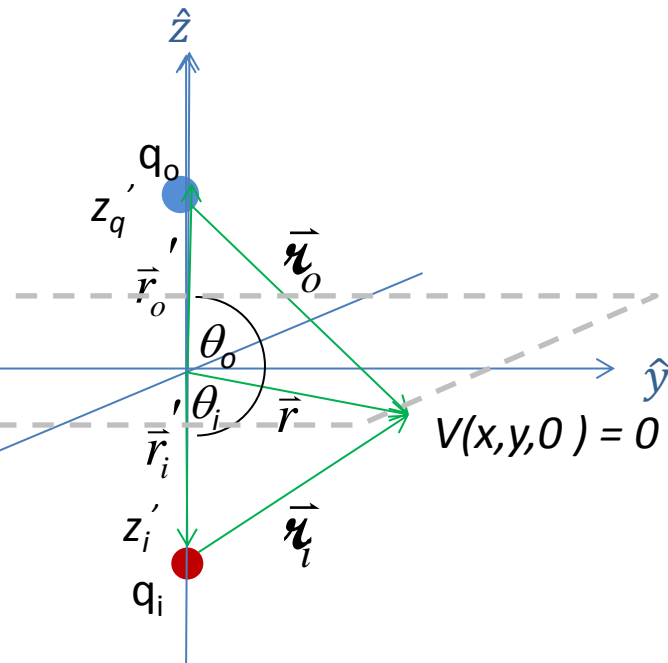


Image charge distance and magnitude

$$z'_i = -z'_o \quad q_i = -q_o$$

Field everywhere above the plane is as if there were these two charges

$$\vec{F}_{i \rightarrow o} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_o} \frac{q_i q_o}{(z_o - z_i)^2} \hat{z}$$

$$\vec{F}_{i \rightarrow o} = -\frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_o} \frac{q_o^2}{(2z_o)^2} \hat{z}$$

So,

$$\vec{F}_{o \rightarrow surface} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_o} \frac{q_o^2}{(2z_o)^2} \hat{z}$$

Charge Images Reflected in Conductors

Example: a charge q_o suspended distance z_o above a flat conducting surface that's held at voltage V_s . Find expression for V anywhere above the conducting surface.

Digression: Work of moving q_o into place (and arranging surface charge)

Image charge distance and magnitude

$$z'_i = -z'_o \quad q_i = -q_o$$

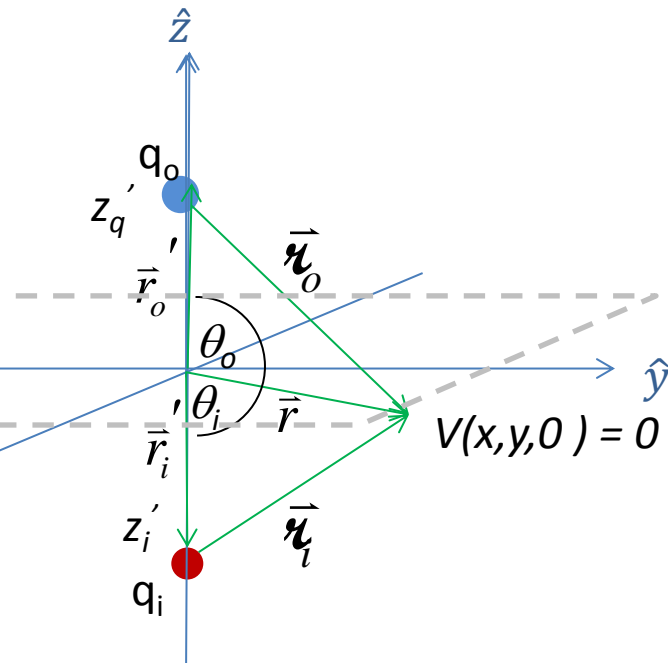
Field everywhere above the plane is as if there were these two charges

$$\vec{F}_{\text{surface} \rightarrow o} = -\frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_o} \frac{q_o^2}{(2z_o)^2} \hat{z}$$

$$W = \int_{\infty}^{z_o} \vec{F}_{\text{you} \rightarrow o} \cdot d\vec{l} = -\int_{\infty}^{z_o} \vec{F}_{\text{surface} \rightarrow o} \cdot d\vec{l} = \int_{z_o}^{\infty} \vec{F}_{\text{surface} \rightarrow o} \cdot d\vec{l}$$

$$W = \int_{z_o}^{\infty} -\frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_o} \frac{q_o^2}{(2z)^2} \hat{z} \cdot d\vec{l} = \int_{z_o}^{\infty} -\frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_o} \frac{q_o^2}{(2z)^2} dz$$

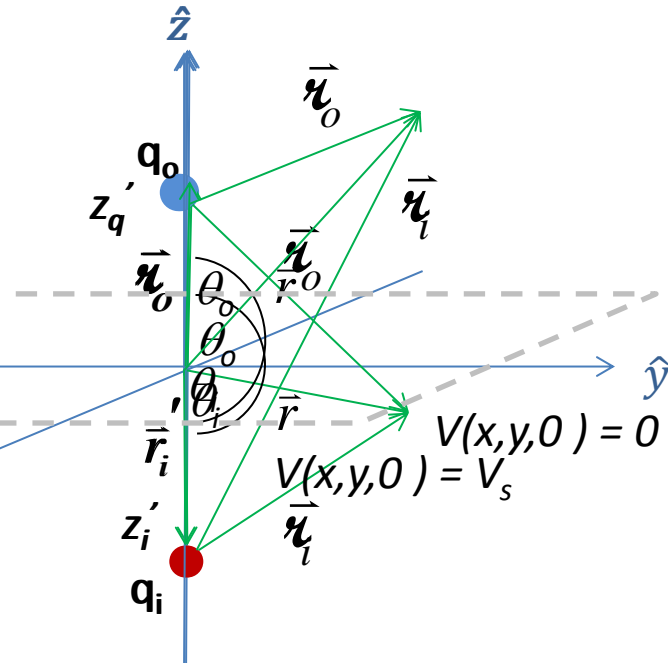
$$W = -\frac{q_o^2}{16\pi\epsilon_o} \int_{z_o}^{\infty} \frac{1}{z^2} dz = \frac{q_o^2}{16\pi\epsilon_o} \frac{1}{z} \Big|_{z_o}^{\infty} = -\frac{q_o^2}{16\pi\epsilon_o} \frac{1}{z_o}$$



Charge Images Reflected in Conductors

Example: a charge q_o suspended distance z_o above a flat conducting surface that's held at voltage V_s . Find expression for V anywhere above the conducting surface.

Return to determine image's charge and location



Return to
$$\frac{q_o}{\sqrt{r^2 + z_o'^2}} + \frac{q_i}{\sqrt{r^2 + z_i'^2}} = 4\pi\epsilon_o V_s$$

Plug in what we've learned: $z_i' = -z_o'$ $q_i = -q_o$

$$\frac{q_o}{\sqrt{r^2 + z_o'^2}} + \frac{-q_o}{\sqrt{r^2 + z_o'^2}} = 4\pi\epsilon_o V_s$$

Works on the surface:

$$\frac{q_o}{\sqrt{r^2 + z_o'^2}} + \frac{-q_o}{\sqrt{r^2 + z_o'^2}} = 0$$

Must work everywhere above the plane:

$$\frac{q_o}{\sqrt{r^2 + z_o'^2 - 2rz_o' \cos \theta_o}} + \frac{q_i}{\sqrt{r^2 + z_i'^2 - 2rz_i' \cos \theta_i}} = 4\pi\epsilon_o V(\vec{r})$$

becomes:

$$\frac{q_o}{\sqrt{r^2 + z_o'^2 - 2rz_o' \cos \theta_o}} + \frac{-q_o}{\sqrt{r^2 + z_o'^2 - 2rz_o' \cos(\pi - \theta_o)}} = 4\pi\epsilon_o V(\vec{r})$$

$$\frac{q_o}{\sqrt{r^2 + z_o'^2 - 2rz_o' \cos \theta_o}} + \frac{-q_o}{\sqrt{r^2 + z_o'^2 + 2rz_o' \cos(\theta_o)}} = 4\pi\epsilon_o V(\vec{r})$$

Charge Images Reflected in Conductors

Example: a charge q_o suspended distance z_o above a flat conducting surface that's held at voltage V_s . Find expression for V anywhere above the conducting surface.

Return to determine image's charge and location

Must work *everywhere* above the plane:

$$\frac{q_o}{\sqrt{r^2 + z_o'^2 - 2rz_o' \cos \theta_o}} + \frac{-q_o}{\sqrt{r^2 + z_o'^2 + 2rz_o' \cos(\theta_o)}} = 4\pi\epsilon_o V(\vec{r})$$

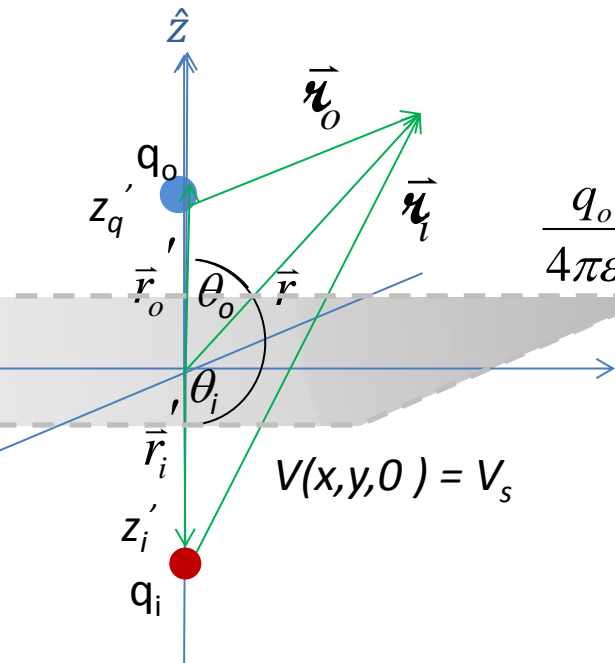
If $V(x, y, 0) = V_s \neq 0$ simply add the constant offset.

$$\frac{q_o}{4\pi\epsilon_o} \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{r^2 + z_o'^2 - 2rz_o' \cos \theta_o}} - \frac{1}{\sqrt{r^2 + z_o'^2 + 2rz_o' \cos(\theta_o)}} \right) + V_s = V(\vec{r})$$

or

$$\frac{q_o}{4\pi\epsilon_o} \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + (z - z_o')^2}} - \frac{1}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + (z + z_o')^2}} \right) + V_s = V(\vec{r})$$

Even for the *real* system



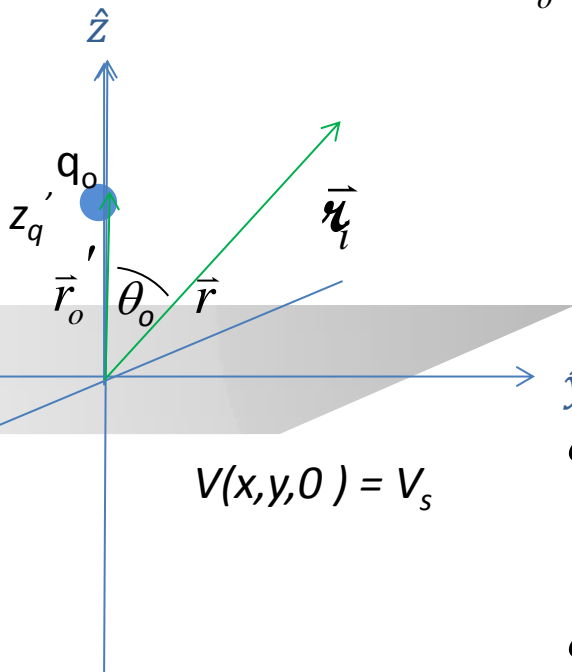
Surface Charge Density

$$\frac{q_o}{4\pi\epsilon_o} \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + (z - z'_o)^2}} - \frac{1}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + (z + z'_o)^2}} \right) + V_s = V(\vec{r})$$

From a Gaussian pill-box: $E_n = \frac{\sigma}{\epsilon_o}$ n denotes component perpendicular to surface

In terms of V: $-\frac{\partial V}{\partial n} = E_n = \frac{\sigma}{\epsilon_o}$ So, $\sigma = -\epsilon_o \frac{\partial V}{\partial n} \Big|_{\text{surface}}$

In this case, $\sigma = -\epsilon_o \frac{\partial V}{\partial z} \Big|_{z=0} = -\frac{q_o}{4\pi} \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + (z - z'_o)^2}} - \frac{1}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + (z + z'_o)^2}} \right) \Big|_{z=0}$



$$\sigma = -\frac{q_o}{4\pi} \left(\frac{-\frac{1}{2} \cdot 2(z - z'_o)}{(x^2 + y^2 + (z - z'_o)^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}} - \frac{-\frac{1}{2} \cdot 2(z + z'_o)}{(x^2 + y^2 + (z + z'_o)^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}} \right) \Big|_{z=0}$$

$$\sigma = -\frac{q_o}{4\pi} \left(\frac{(z'_o)}{(x^2 + y^2 + (z'_o)^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}} + \frac{(z'_o)}{(x^2 + y^2 + (z'_o)^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}} \right)$$

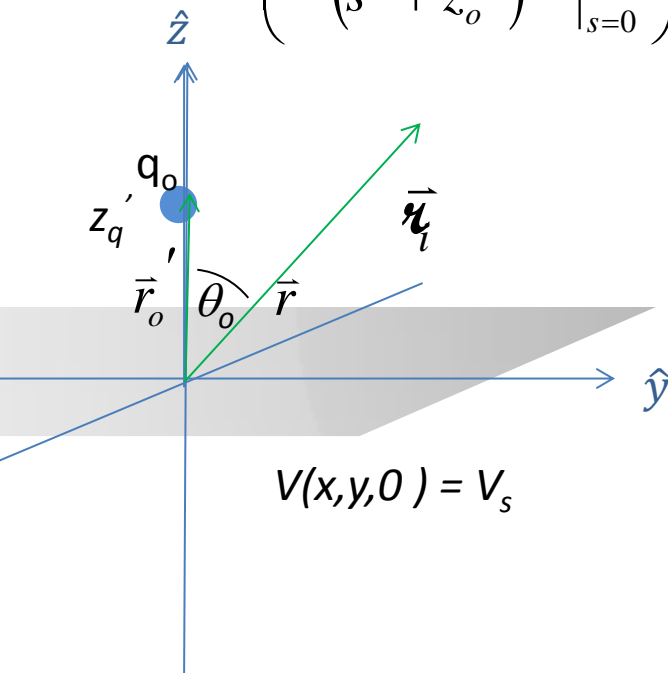
$$\sigma = -\frac{q_o}{2\pi} \frac{z'_o}{(x^2 + y^2 + z'^2_o)^{\frac{3}{2}}}$$

Surface Charge

$$q_{surf} = \int \sigma da$$

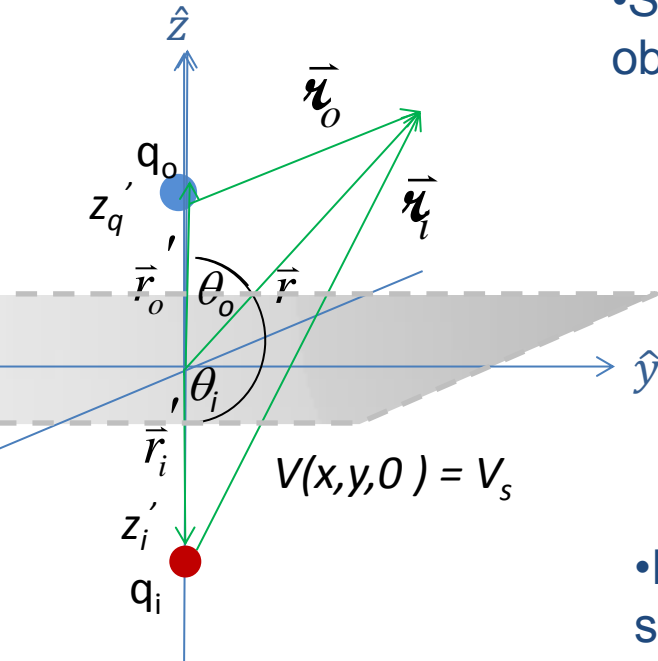
$$q_{surf} = \int -\frac{q_o}{4\pi} \frac{2z'_o}{(x^2 + y^2 + z'_o{}^2)^{3/2}} dx dy = -\frac{q_o}{4\pi} \int \frac{2z'_o}{(s^2 + z'_o{}^2)^{3/2}} s d\phi ds = -q_o \int \frac{z'_o}{(s^2 + z'_o{}^2)^{3/2}} \frac{1}{2} ds^2$$

$$q_{surf} = -q_o \left(-\frac{z'_o}{(s^2 + z'_o{}^2)^{1/2}} \Big|_{s=0}^{s=\infty} \right) = q_o \left(0 - \frac{z'_o}{(z'_o{}^2)^{1/2}} \right) = -q_o$$



General Approach

- Draw picture
- Appeal to symmetry (and intuition about mirrors)
- Apply the condition $\sum \frac{q_o}{r_o} + \sum \frac{q_i}{r_i} = \text{const}$ on conductor
- See what you've got to do to remove dependence on the observation location on conductor.

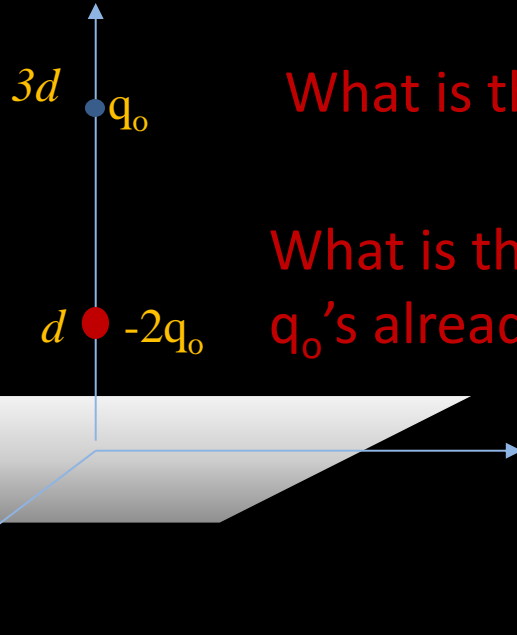


1) Mathematically, you've got 3 free parameters: the constant, the image charge's value, and the image charge's location.

2) Since the relation should be true for *all* observation locations on the conducting surface, choose easy ones to help you determine the three parameter's values.

- If you've got a solution that works for the boundary and satisfies Poisson's equation, then you've got *the* solution.

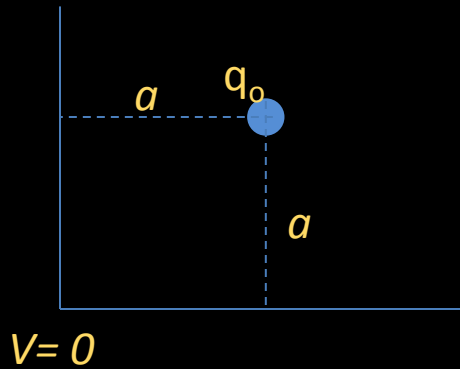
Exercise: where and what are the image charges?



What is the force on charge $-2q_0$?

What is the work of bringing it into position, once q_0 's already there?

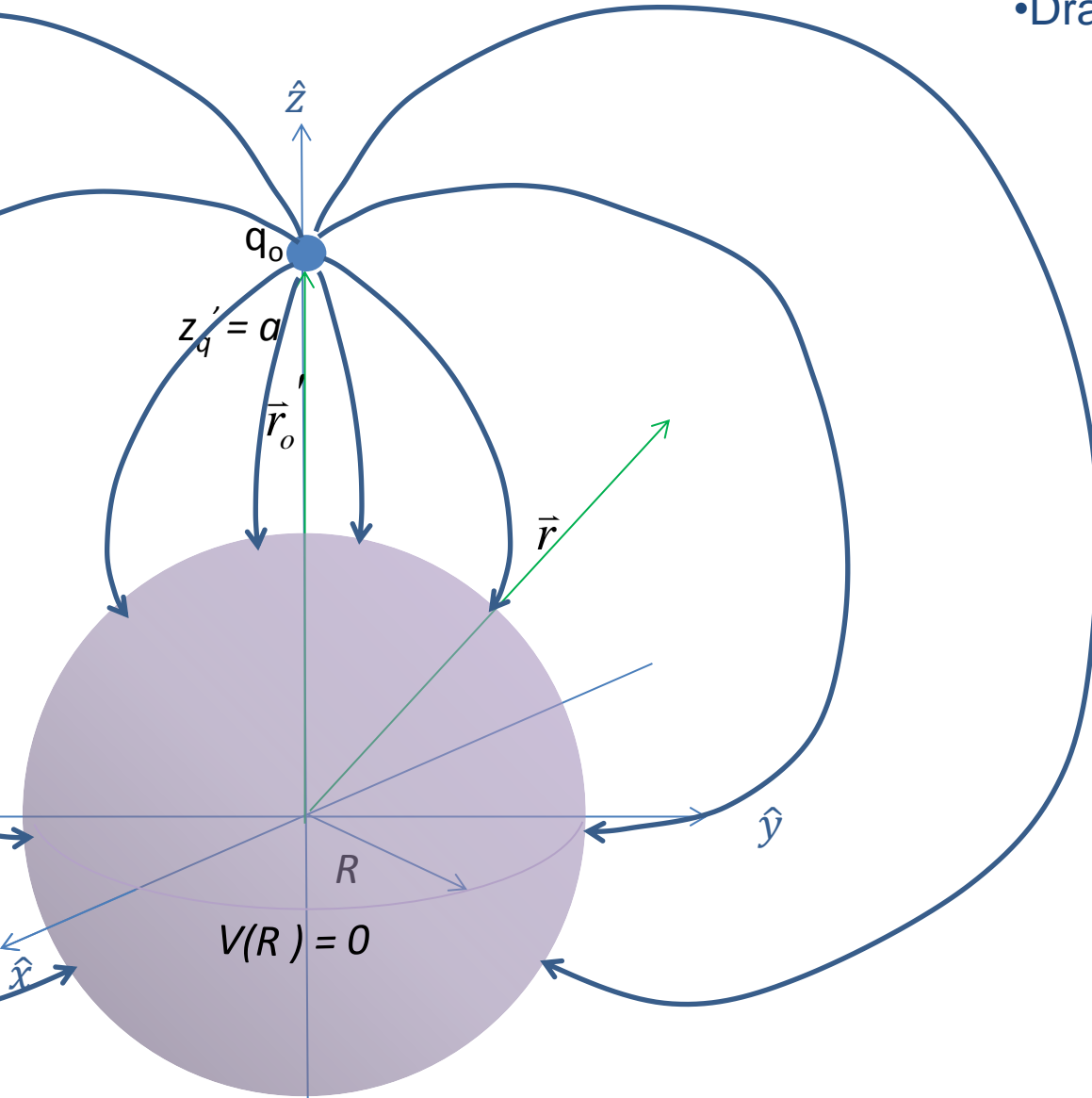
Exercise: charge and bent conductor, what's the equivalent charge distribution?



- What's the potential expression in front of the conductor?
- What's the charge density on each face of the conductor?

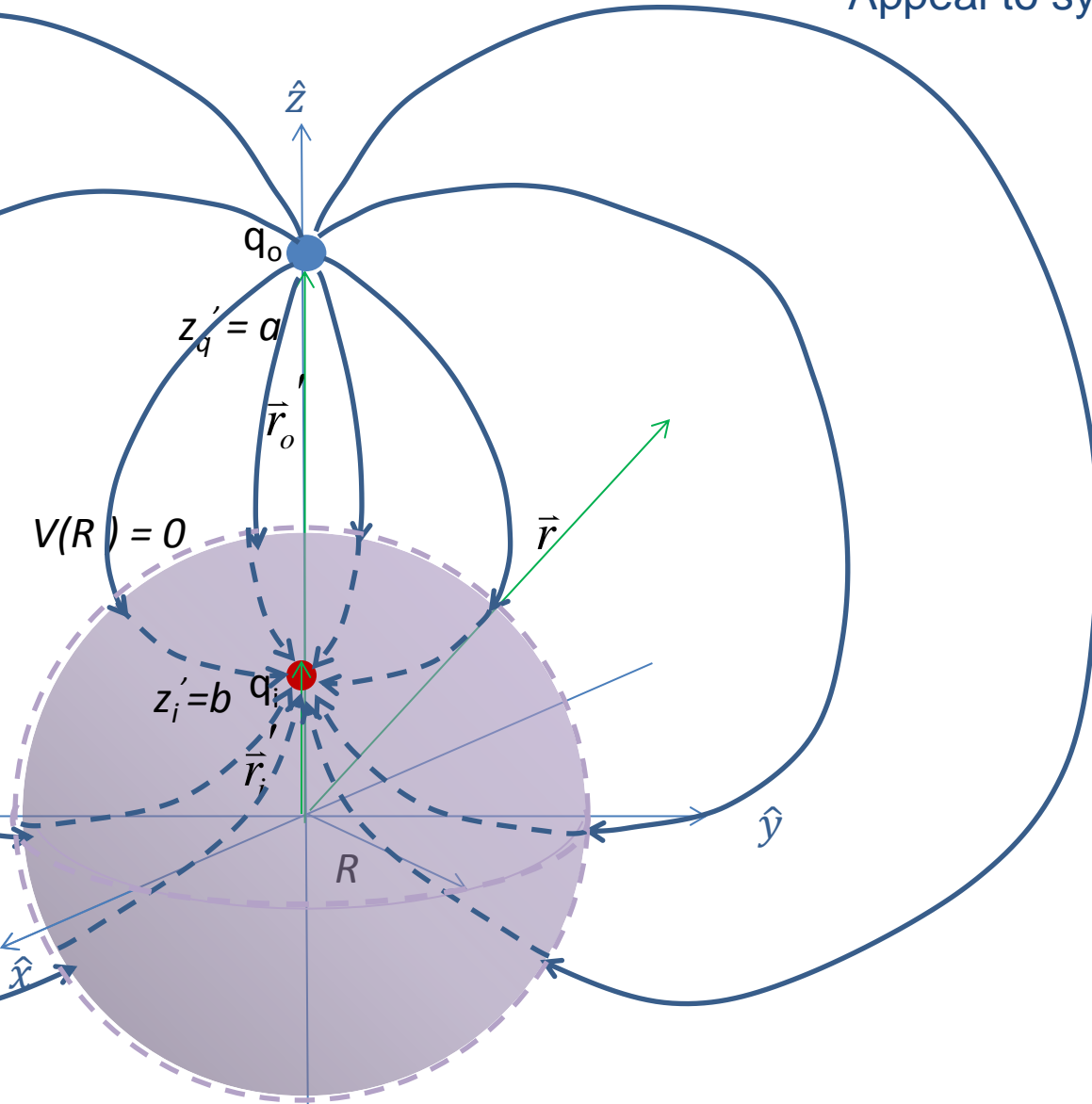
Abbreviated Example: Charge outside grounded sphere

• Draw picture



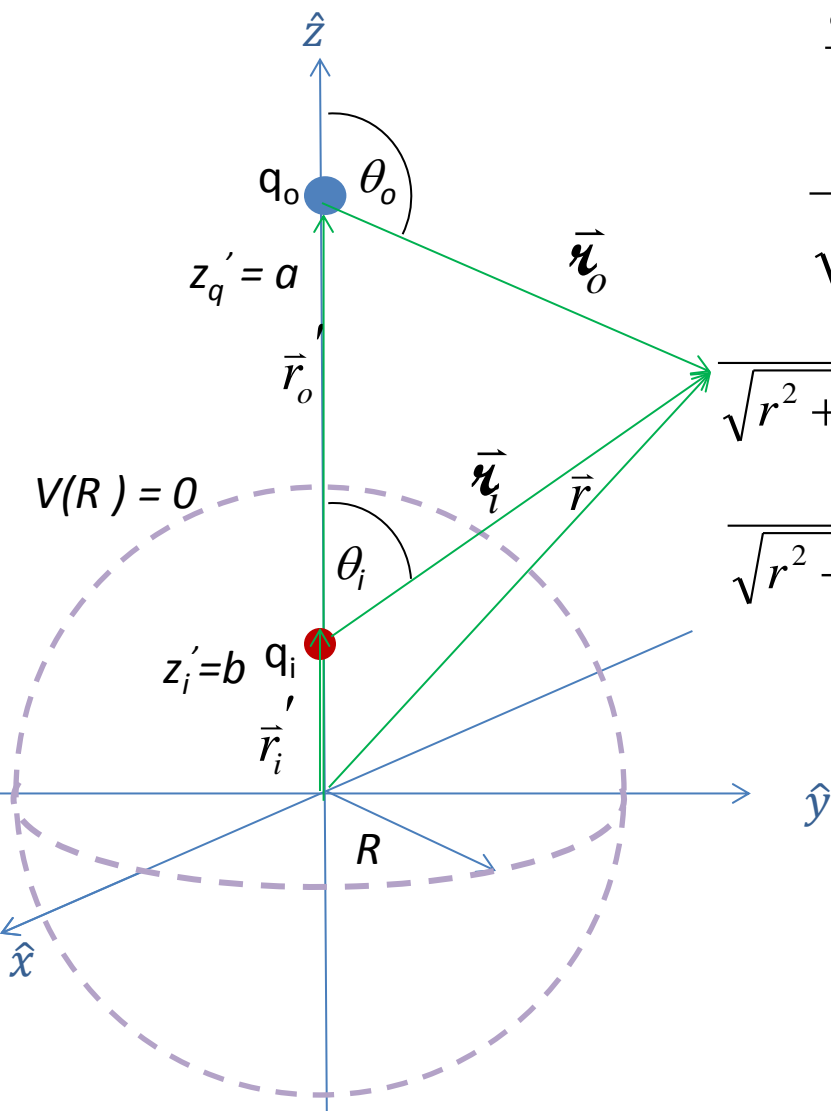
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•Appeal to symmetry (and intuition about mirrors)



Abbreviated Example: Charge outside grounded sphere

- Appeal to symmetry (and intuition about mirrors)



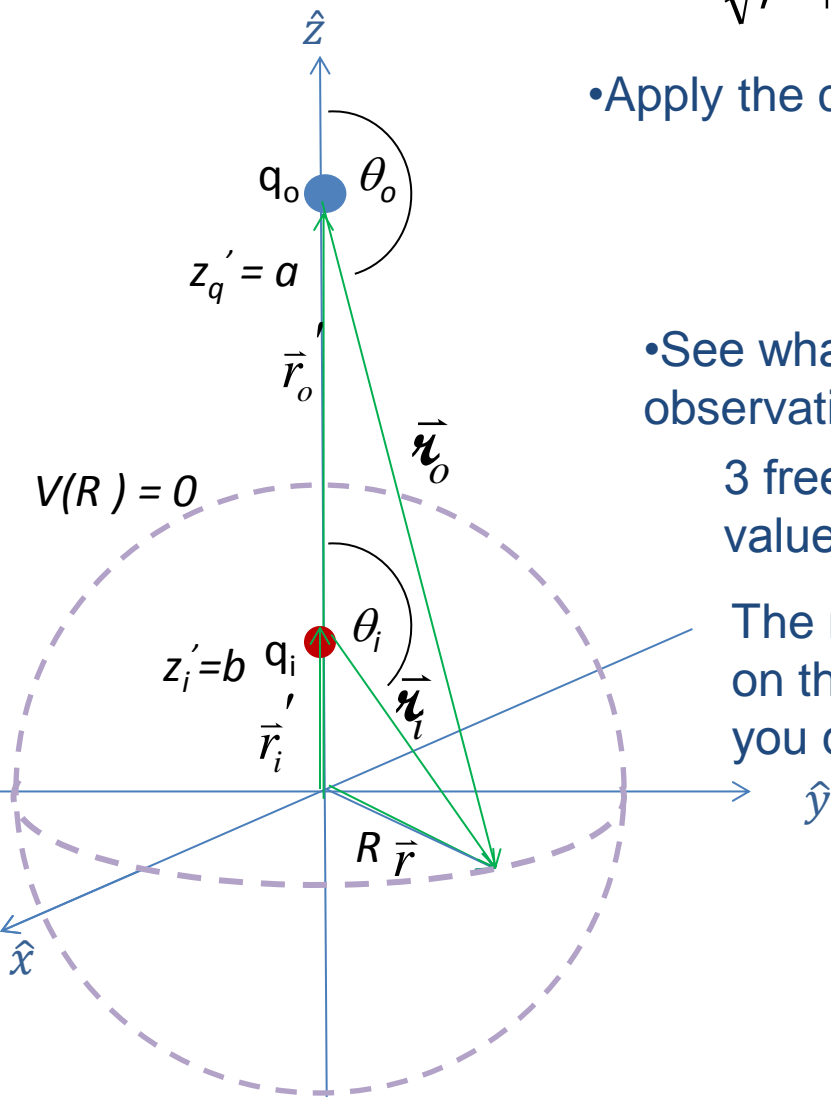
$$\frac{q_o}{r_o} + \frac{q_i}{r_i} = 4\pi\epsilon_o V(\vec{r})$$

$$\frac{q_o}{\sqrt{(\vec{r} - \vec{r}'_o)^2}} + \frac{q_i}{\sqrt{(\vec{r} - \vec{r}'_i)^2}} = 4\pi\epsilon_o V(\vec{r})$$

$$\frac{q_o}{\sqrt{r^2 + r_o'^2 - 2rr_o' \cos \theta_o}} + \frac{q_i}{\sqrt{r^2 + r_i'^2 - 2rr_i' \cos \theta_i}} = 4\pi\epsilon_o V(\vec{r})$$

$$\frac{q_o}{\sqrt{r^2 + a^2 - 2ra \cos \theta_o}} + \frac{q_i}{\sqrt{r^2 + b^2 - 2rb \cos \theta_i}} = 4\pi\epsilon_o V(\vec{r})$$

Abbreviated Example: Charge outside grounded sphere



$$\frac{q_o}{\sqrt{r^2 + a^2 - 2ra \cos \theta_o}} + \frac{q_i}{\sqrt{r^2 + b^2 - 2rb \cos \theta_i}} = 4\pi\epsilon_o V(\vec{r})$$

- Apply the condition $\sum \frac{q_o}{r_o} + \sum \frac{q_i}{r_i} = \text{const}$ on conductor

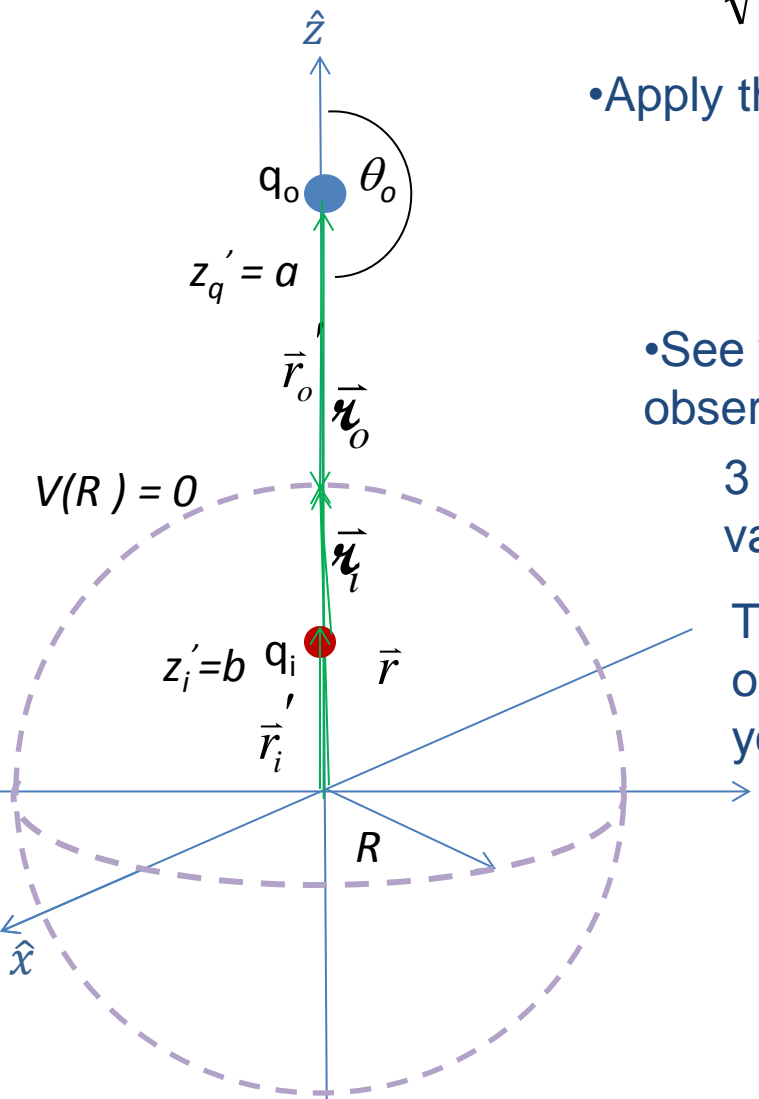
$$\frac{q_o}{\sqrt{R^2 + a^2 - 2Ra \cos \theta_o}} + \frac{q_i}{\sqrt{R^2 + b^2 - 2Rb \cos \theta_i}} = 0$$

- See what you've got to do to remove dependence on the observation location on conductor.

3 free parameters: the constant, the image charge's value, and the image charge's location.

The relation should be true for *all* observation locations on the conducting surface, so choose easy ones to help you determine the three parameter's values.

Abbreviated Example: Charge outside grounded sphere



$$\frac{q_o}{\sqrt{r^2 + a^2 - 2ra \cos \theta_o}} + \frac{q_i}{\sqrt{r^2 + b^2 - 2rb \cos \theta_i}} = 4\pi\epsilon_o V(\vec{r})$$

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$$\frac{q_o}{\sqrt{R^2 + a^2 - 2Ra \cos \theta_o}} + \frac{q_i}{\sqrt{R^2 + b^2 - 2Rb \cos \theta_i}} = 0$$

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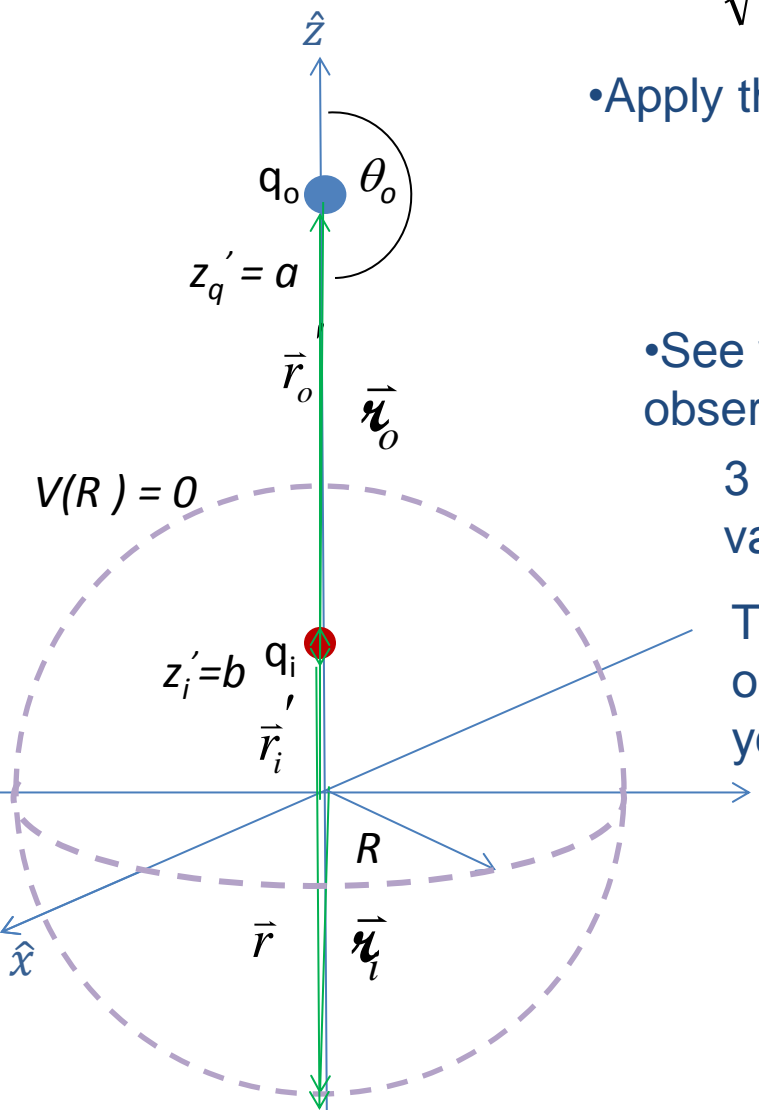
3 free parameters: the constant, the image charge's value, and the image charge's location.

The relation should be true for *all* observation locations on the conducting surface, so choose easy ones to help you determine the three parameter's values.

Top of sphere:

$$\frac{q_o}{(a - R)} + \frac{q_i}{(R - b)} = 0$$

Abbreviated Example: Charge outside grounded sphere



$$\frac{q_o}{\sqrt{r^2 + a^2 - 2ra \cos \theta_o}} + \frac{q_i}{\sqrt{r^2 + b^2 - 2rb \cos \theta_i}} = 4\pi\epsilon_o V(\vec{r})$$

- Apply the condition $\sum \frac{q_o}{r_o} + \sum \frac{q_i}{r_i} = \text{const}$ on conductor

$$\frac{q_o}{\sqrt{R^2 + a^2 - 2Ra \cos \theta_o}} + \frac{q_i}{\sqrt{R^2 + b^2 - 2Rb \cos \theta_i}} = 0$$

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The relation should be true for *all* observation locations on the conducting surface, so choose easy ones to help you determine the three parameter's values.

Top of sphere: $\frac{q_o}{(a - R)} + \frac{q_i}{(R - b)} = 0$

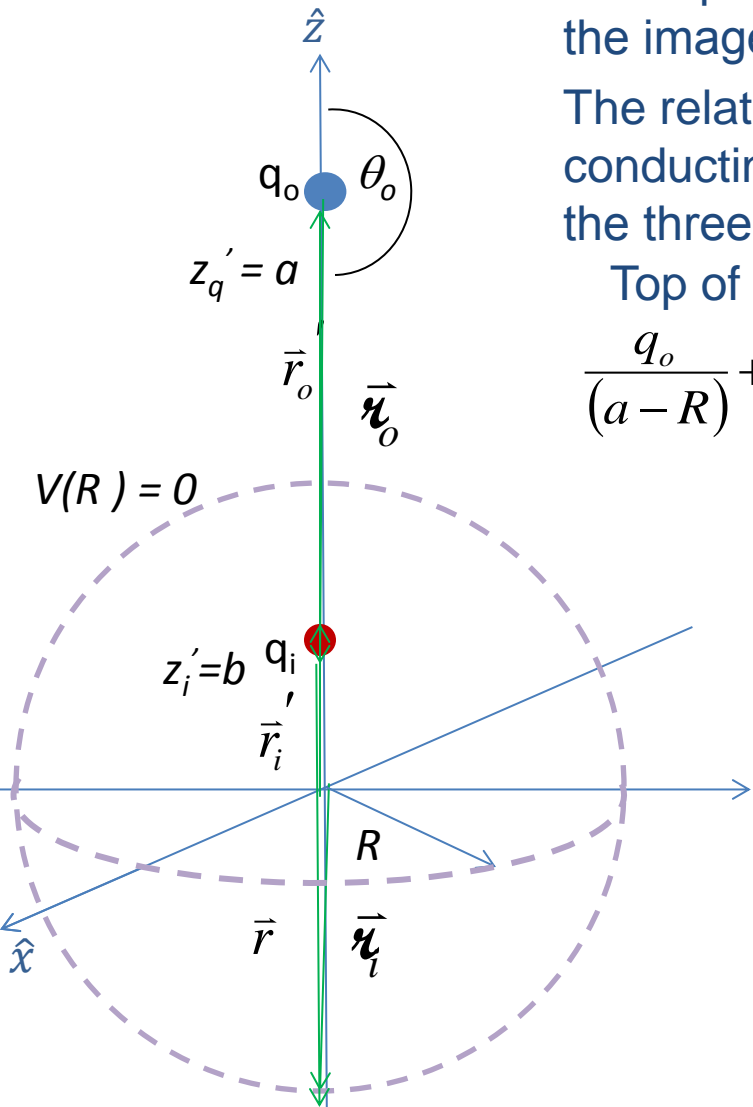
Bottom of sphere: $\frac{q_o}{(a + R)} + \frac{q_i}{(R + b)} = 0$

Abbreviated Example: Charge outside grounded sphere

• See what you've got to do to remove dependence on the observation location on conductor.

3 free parameters: the constant, the image charge's value, and the image charge's location.

The relation should be true for *all* observation locations on the conducting surface, so choose easy ones to help you determine the three parameter's values.



Top of sphere:

$$\frac{q_o}{(a - R)} + \frac{q_i}{(R - b)} = 0$$

Bottom of sphere:

$$\frac{q_o}{(a + R)} + \frac{q_i}{(R + b)} = 0$$

Two equations, two unknowns (q_i , b)

$$-q_o \frac{(R - b)}{(a - R)} = q_i = -q_o \frac{(R + b)}{(a + R)}$$

$$(R - b)(a + R) = (R + b)(a - R)$$

$$(Ra - ab - Rb + R^2) = (Ra - R^2 + ab - Rb)$$

$$(Ra - ab - Rb + R^2) = (Ra - R^2 + ab - Rb)$$

$$(-ab + R^2) = (-R^2 + ab)$$

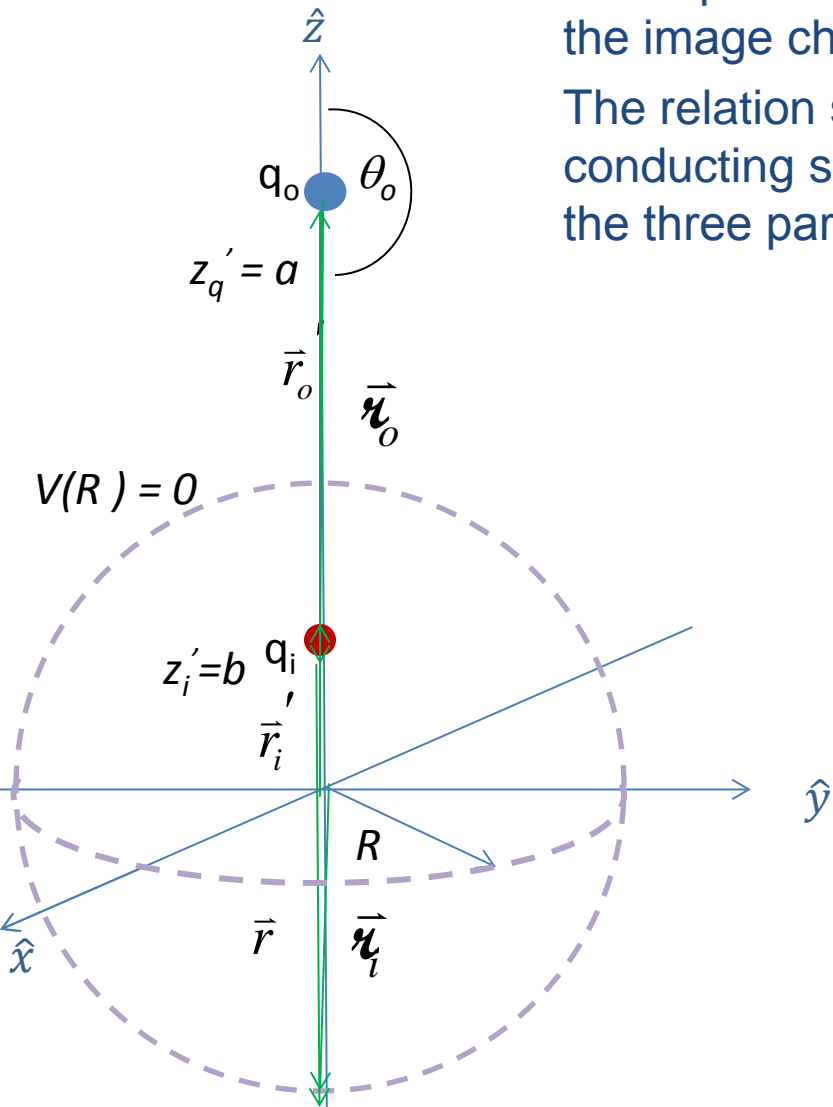
$$b = R^2 / a$$

Abbreviated Example: Charge outside grounded sphere

• See what you've got to do to remove dependence on the observation location on conductor.

3 free parameters: the constant, the image charge's value, and the image charge's location.

The relation should be true for *all* observation locations on the conducting surface, so choose easy ones to help you determine the three parameter's values.



$$b = R^2 / a$$

$$-q_o \frac{(R-b)}{(a-R)} = q_i = -q_o \frac{(R+b)}{(a+R)}$$

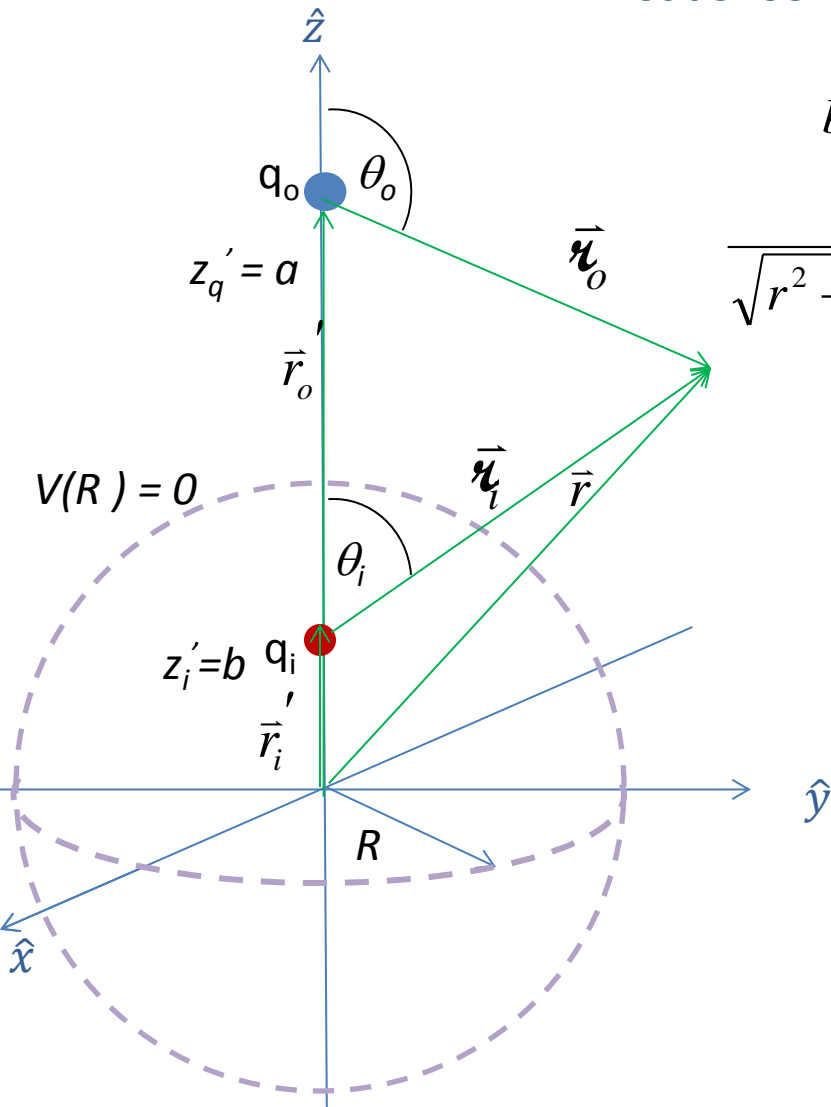
$$q_i = -q_o \frac{(R + R^2 / a)}{(a + R)}$$

$$q_i = -q_o \frac{R(1+R)}{a(1+R)}$$

$$q_i = -q_o \frac{R}{a}$$

Abbreviated Example: Charge outside grounded sphere

• If you've got a solution that works for the boundary and satisfies Poisson's equation, then you've got *the* solution.



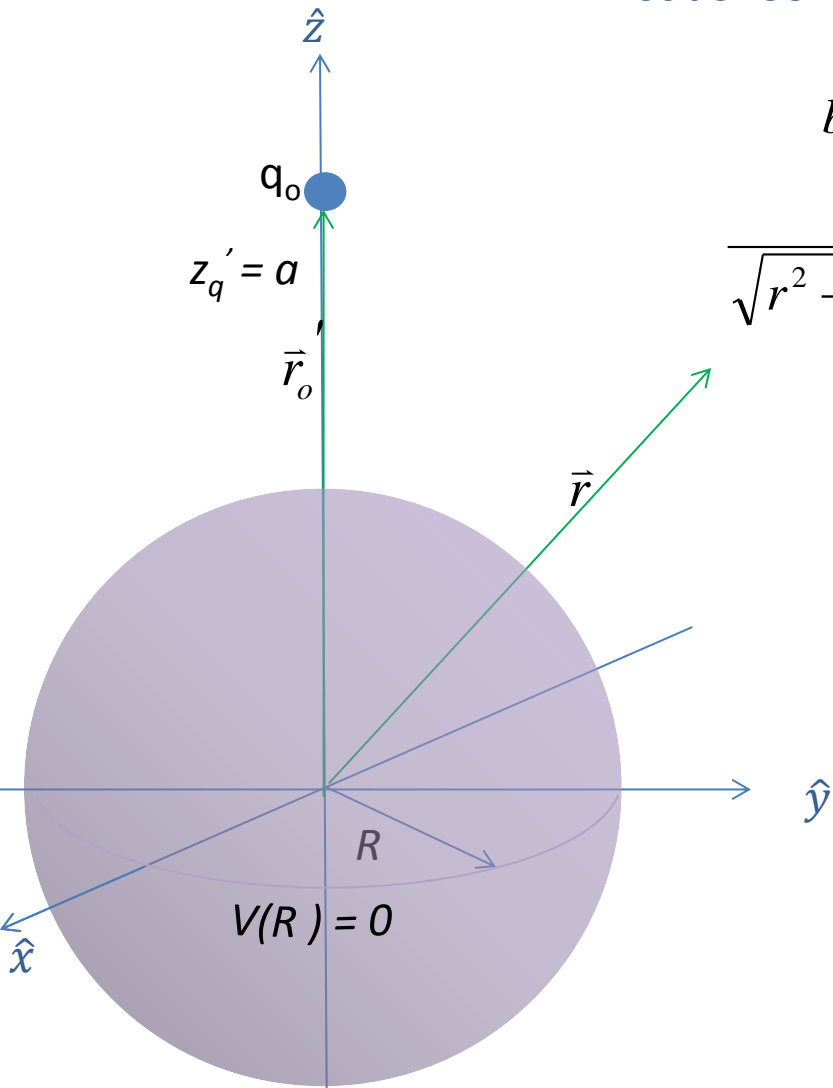
$$b = R^2 / a$$

$$q_i = -q_o \frac{R}{a}$$

$$\frac{q_o}{\sqrt{r^2 + a^2 - 2ra \cos \theta_o}} + \frac{q_i}{\sqrt{r^2 + b^2 - 2rb \cos \theta_i}} = 4\pi\epsilon_o V(\vec{r})$$

Abbreviated Example: Charge outside grounded sphere

- If you've got a solution that works for the boundary and satisfies Poisson's equation, then you've got *the* solution.



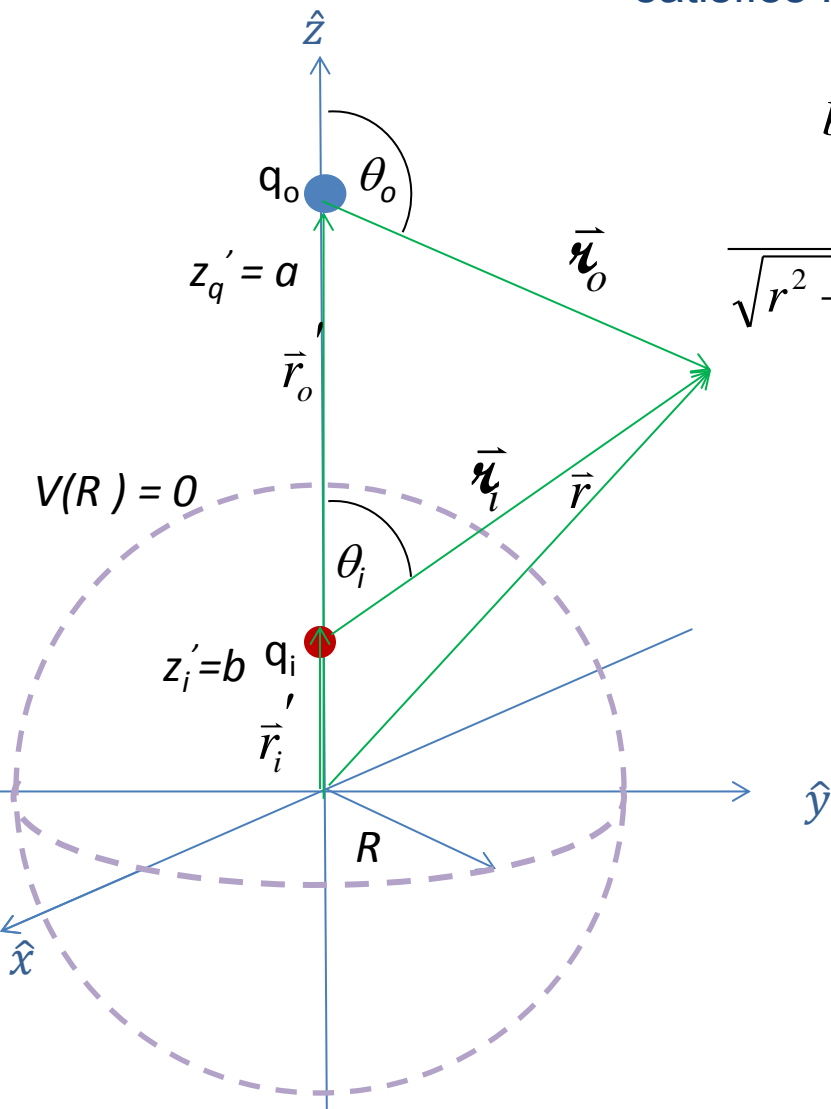
$$b = R^2/a \qquad q_i = -q_o \frac{R}{a}$$

$$\frac{q_o}{\sqrt{r^2 + a^2 - 2ra \cos \theta_o}} + \frac{q_i}{\sqrt{r^2 + b^2 - 2rb \cos \theta_i}} = 4\pi\epsilon_o V(\vec{r})$$

Even for the *real* system

Abbreviated Example: Charge outside grounded sphere

• If you've got a solution that works for the boundary and satisfies Poisson's equation, then you've got *the* solution.



$$b = R^2 / a$$

$$q_i = -q_o \frac{R}{a}$$

$$\frac{q_o}{\sqrt{r^2 + a^2 - 2ra \cos \theta_o}} + \frac{q_i}{\sqrt{r^2 + b^2 - 2rb \cos \theta_i}} = 4\pi\epsilon_o V(\vec{r})$$

Abbreviated Example: Charge outside grounded sphere

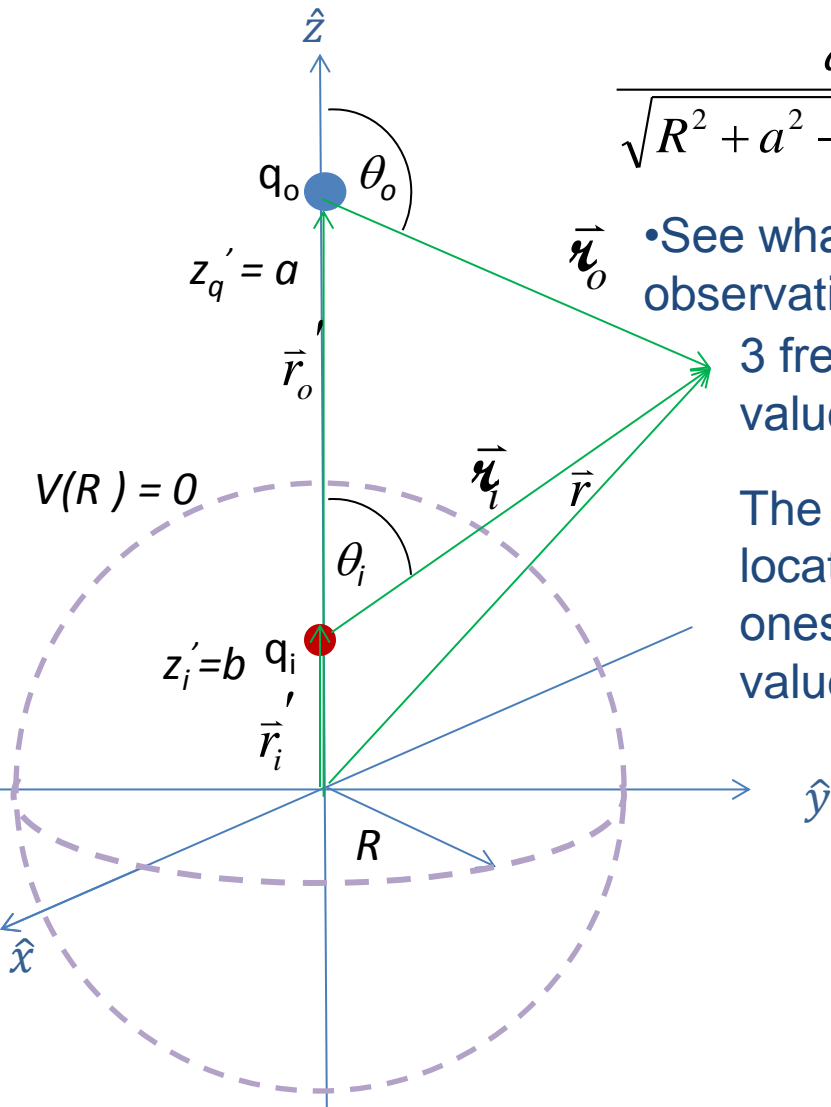
• Apply the condition $\sum \frac{q_o}{r_o} + \sum \frac{q_i}{r_i} = \text{const}$ on conductor

$$\frac{q_o}{\sqrt{R^2 + a^2 - 2Ra \cos \theta_o}} + \frac{q_i}{\sqrt{R^2 + b^2 - 2Rb \cos \theta_i}} = 4\pi\epsilon_o V(R) = 0$$

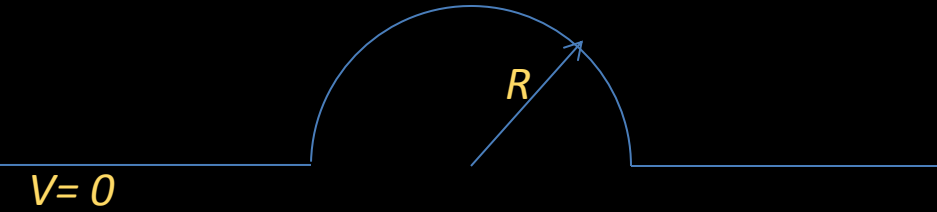
• See what you've got to do to remove dependence on the observation location on conductor.

3 free parameters: the constant, the image charge's value, and the image charge's location.

The relation should be true for *all* observation locations on the conducting surface, so choose easy ones to help you determine the three parameter's values.



Exercise: charge and flat/curved conductor, what's the equivalent charge distribution?



Fri.	3.2 Images T4 Relaxation Method	
Mon.	3.4.1-.4.2 Multipole Expansion	HW4
Wed.	3.4.3-.4.4 Multipole Expansion	
Thurs		