


Mon	3.4.1-.4.2 Multipole Expansion	
Wed	3.4.3-.4.4 Multipole Expansion	
Thurs		
Fri	Review	HW4

# Hooks and Crook: Interesting ways of finding $V$ and $E$

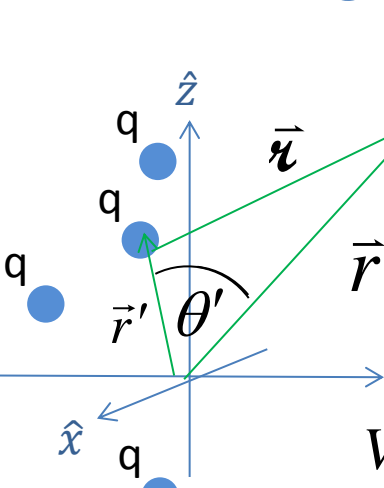
**Images:** replace a problem with a simpler equivalent one (based on corollary of the first uniqueness theorem)

**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)

# Multi-pole Expansion

## Discrete charge distribution



$$V(r) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \sum_i^{\text{charges}} \frac{q_i}{r_i} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \sum_i^{\text{charges}} \frac{q_i}{\sqrt{r^2 + r'^2 - 2rr' \cos \theta_{r \rightarrow r'}}$$

$$\frac{1}{r_i} = \frac{1}{r} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left( \frac{r'_i}{r} \right)^n P_n(\cos \theta'_i)$$

$P_n(\cos \theta')$   
 $n^{\text{th}}$  Legendre polynomial

$$P_0 = 1$$

$$P_1(u) = u$$

$$P_2(u) = (3u^2 - 1)/2$$

$$V(r) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \sum_i^{\text{charges}} \left( \frac{q_i}{r} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left( \left( \frac{r'_i}{r} \right)^n P_n(\cos \theta'_i) \right) \right)$$

For each charge... sum terms in expansion

### Flip order of summation

$$V(r) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left( r^{-(n+1)} \sum_i^{\text{charges}} \left( r_i'^n P_n(\cos \theta'_i) q_i \right) \right)$$

For each term in expansion... sum contribution of charges

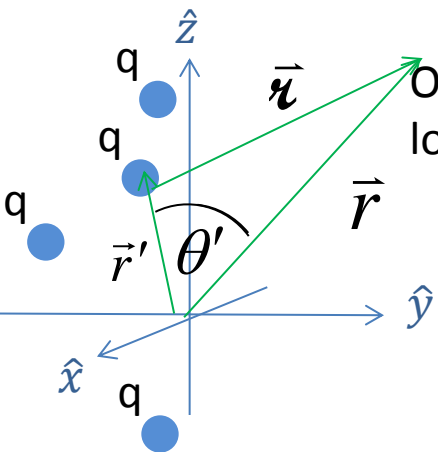
$$V(r) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{\sum_i^{\text{charges}} q_i}{r} + \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{\sum_i^{\text{charges}} r'_i q_i \cos \theta'_i}{r^2} + \dots$$

monopole

dipole

# Multi-pole Expansion

Discrete charge distribution



$$V(r) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{\sum_i^{\text{charges}} q_i}{r} + \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{\sum_i^{\text{charges}} r'_i q_i \cos \theta'_i}{r^2} + \dots$$

$$\sum_i^{\text{charges}} q_i$$

$$\sum_i^{\text{charges}} r'_i q_i \cos \theta'_i$$

monopole

dipole

$$Q_{net} = \sum_i^{\text{charges}} q_i$$

Observe that

$$\vec{r}'_i \cdot \vec{r} = r'_i r \cos \theta'_i$$

or

$$\vec{r}'_i \cdot \hat{r} = \vec{r}'_i \cdot \frac{\vec{r}}{r} = r'_i \frac{r}{r} \cos \theta' = r'_i \cos \theta'_i$$

so

$$\sum_i^{\text{charges}} r'_i q_i \cos \theta'_i = \sum_i^{\text{charges}} q_i \vec{r}'_i \cdot \hat{r} = \left( \sum_i^{\text{charges}} q_i \vec{r}'_i \right) \cdot \hat{r}$$

$$= \vec{p} \cdot \hat{r}$$

Electric Dipole Moment

$$V(r) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{Q_{net}}{r} + \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{\vec{p} \cdot \hat{r}}{r^2} + \dots$$

monopole

dipole

**Example:** Find the first two terms in the multipole expansion for the figure shown below.

$$V(r)_{mono} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{Q}{r}$$

$$Q = 2q$$

$$V(r)_{mono} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{2q}{r}$$

$$V(r)_{dipole} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{\vec{p} \cdot \hat{r}}{r^2}$$

$$\vec{p} \equiv \int \vec{r}' \rho(\vec{r}') d\tau'$$

$$\vec{p} = \vec{r}'_1 q_1 + \vec{r}'_2 q_2$$

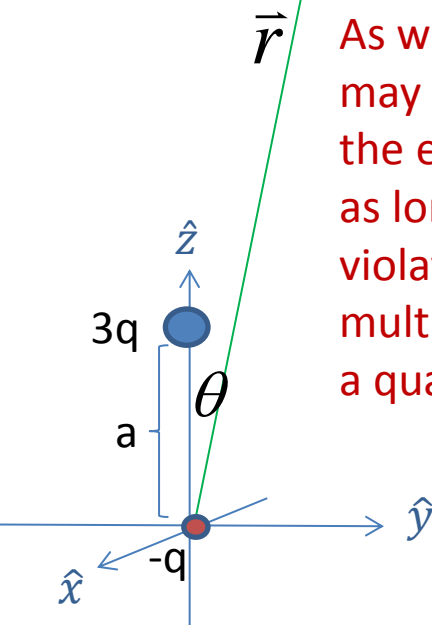
$$\vec{p} = 0(-q) + a3q\hat{z}$$

$$\vec{p} = 3aq\hat{z}$$

$$V(r)_{dipole} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{3qa\hat{z} \cdot \hat{r}}{r^2}$$

$$V(r)_{dipole} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{3qa \cos \theta}{r^2}$$

As with a Taylor series; though the sum of all terms may be insensitive to where your reference point, the exact contribution of each term *is* sensitive. But as long as you don't change your choice of origin to violate the condition ( $r \gg r'$ ) for using a multipole approximation, you won't get a quantitatively *significantly* different solution



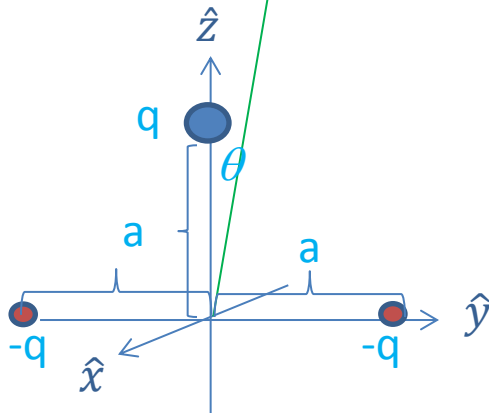
**Q:** What if we move the origin up, half-way between the charges?

**Exercise:** Find the first two terms in the multipole expansion for the figure shown below.

$$V(\mathbf{r})_{mono} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{Q}{r}$$

$$V(\mathbf{r})_{dipole} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{\vec{p} \cdot \hat{r}}{r^2}$$

$$\vec{p} = \int \vec{r}' \rho(\vec{r}') d\tau' = \vec{r}'_1 q_1 + \vec{r}'_2 q_2$$

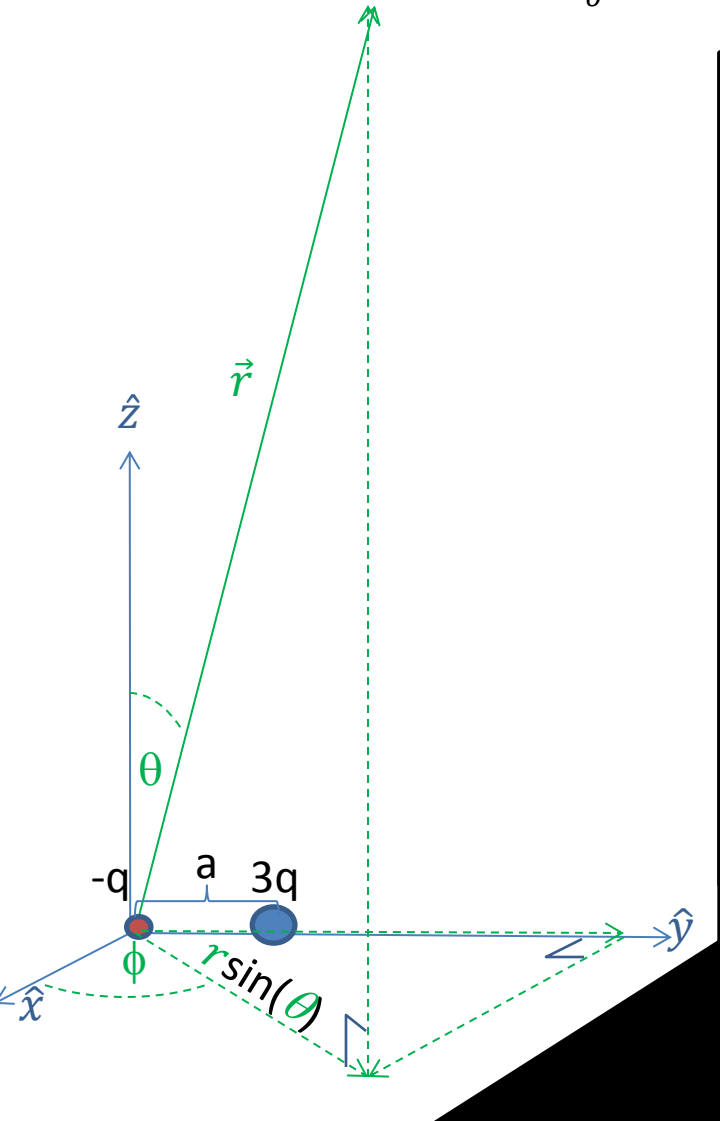


**Exercise:** Find the first two terms in the multipole expansion for the figure shown below.

$$V(\mathbf{r})_{mono} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{Q}{r}$$

$$V(\mathbf{r})_{dipole} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{\vec{p} \cdot \hat{r}}{r^2}$$

$$\vec{p} = \int \vec{r}' \rho(\vec{r}') d\tau' = \vec{r}'_1 q_1 + \vec{r}'_2 q_2$$



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