

B.Sc Part II Physics (Hons)
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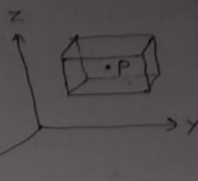
Q. (a) What is Poisson's equation? Establish Poisson's equation for a space distribution of charge.

(b) Establish Laplace's equation for free space starting from Gauss's law and discuss about its significance.

Ans (a) Poisson's equation →

Poisson's equation is a differential equation which is obtained for a space distribution of charge on the basis of Gauss's theorem.

Let Ox, Oy and Oz are the Cartesian axes and P is a point whose co-ordinates are x, y, z . A parallel and equal-angle octagonal is drawn around the point P . The parallel arms of x, y & z axes are $\Delta x, \Delta y$ & Δz respectively. σ is the surface charge density. Again suppose that electric displacement or induction of P point is D and K is permittivity of medium. The component of electric induction D is Ox, Oy and Oz direction is D_x, D_y & D_z . Electric intensity is E and its components are E_x, E_y & E_z respectively.



Due to x -component the total normal electric intensity D is on the in-front face which is parallel to the surface yz , whose area = $\Delta y \Delta z$.

In the position of centre of orthogonal parallel to point P , the co-ordinate of centre = $(x + \frac{\Delta x}{2}, y, z)$

Therefore rate of change with respect to x of $D_x = \frac{\partial D_x}{\partial x}$

∴ The amount of x component of electric induction

$$D \text{ is on centre} = \left[D_x + \frac{\partial D_x}{\partial x} \cdot \frac{\Delta x}{2} \right]$$

So the total normal electric induction on the face

$$= \left[D_x + \frac{\partial D_x}{\partial x} \cdot \frac{\Delta x}{2} \right] \Delta y \Delta z$$

Therefore, the total electric induction in the parallel direction of Ox

$$= \left[D_x + \frac{\partial D_x}{\partial x} \cdot \frac{\Delta x}{2} \right] \Delta y \Delta z - \left[D_x - \frac{\partial D_x \cdot \Delta x}{\partial x \cdot 2} \right] \Delta y \Delta z$$

$$= \frac{\partial D_x}{\partial x} \Delta x \Delta y \Delta z$$

Similarly, the total normal electric induction on the \perp faces of $OY + OZ$ axis are (2)

$$\frac{\partial D_y}{\partial y} \Delta x \Delta y \Delta z \text{ and } \frac{\partial D_z}{\partial z} \Delta x \Delta y \Delta z$$

Therefore, total normal electric induction on the surface of parallel octagonal

$$= \left(\frac{\partial D_x}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial D_y}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial D_z}{\partial z} \right) \Delta x \Delta y \Delta z$$

According to Gauss's theorem, we know that total normal electric induction is equal to 4π times of its total charge.

$$\therefore \left(\frac{\partial D_x}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial D_y}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial D_z}{\partial z} \right) \Delta x \Delta y \Delta z = 4\pi \sigma \Delta x \Delta y \Delta z$$

Here σ = Surface charged density

$$\text{or } \left(\frac{\partial D_x}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial D_y}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial D_z}{\partial z} \right) = 4\pi \sigma \quad \text{--- (I)}$$

$$\therefore D = KE$$

$$\therefore \left(\frac{\partial E_x}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial E_y}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial E_z}{\partial z} \right) = \frac{4\pi \sigma}{K} \quad \text{--- (II)}$$

When eqⁿ (I) and (II) is in vector form, we get (III)

$$\text{div } \vec{D} = \nabla \cdot \vec{D} = 4\pi \sigma \quad \text{--- (IV)}$$

$$\text{div } \vec{E} = \nabla \cdot \vec{E} = \frac{4\pi \sigma}{K} + \frac{\sigma}{\epsilon_0} \quad \text{--- (V)}$$

Suppose that potential on point P in parallel octagonal

= $V(x, y, z)$, then

$$E_x = -\frac{\partial V}{\partial x}, E_y = \frac{\partial V}{\partial y} \text{ and } E_z = -\frac{\partial V}{\partial z}$$

Therefore the eqⁿ (II) may be written in following form

$$\frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial z^2} = -\frac{4\pi \sigma}{K} = -\frac{\sigma}{\epsilon_0} \quad \text{--- (VI)}$$

which is in the form of vector,

$$\nabla^2 V = -\frac{4\pi \sigma}{K} = -\frac{\sigma}{\epsilon_0} \quad \text{--- (VII)}$$

$$\text{or } \text{div grad } V = -\frac{\sigma}{\epsilon_0}$$

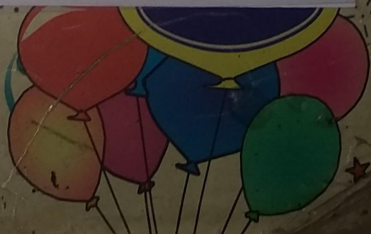
The eqⁿ (VI) and (VII) are called Poisson's equations

Again let $\sigma = 0$

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Thank You

Then $\frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial z^2} = 0$ (vii) (3)

or $\nabla^2 V = 0$ (viii)

or $\text{div grad } V = 0$

Eqⁿ (vii) and (viii) are called Laplace's eqⁿ for free space.

(b) It has the following aspects:-

- ① If $V(x, y, z)$ is a solution of Laplace's eqⁿ, then the average value of V over the surface of any system of sphere is equal to the value of V at centre of sphere.
- ② If V_1, V_2, \dots, V_k are solution of Laplace's equation then $V = A_1 V_1 + A_2 V_2 + \dots + A_k V_k$ is also a solution where A_i 's are arbitrary constants.
- ③ If V is a solution of Laplace's equation, then all partial derivatives of V w.r. to one or more of the co-ordinates x, y, z such as $\frac{\partial V}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial x^2}, \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial x \partial y}$ etc are solⁿ.
- ④ A definite solution of Laplace's eqⁿ can be obtained only where some boundary conditions are given.
- ⑤ With given boundary conditions Laplace's equation has one and only one solution.