

# Quiz 3 (Chap. 4)

For the EM Course Lectured by Prof. Tsun-Hsu Chang Teaching Assistants: Hung-Chun Hsu, Yi-Wen Lin, and Tien-Fu Yang 2022 Fall at National Tsing Hua University

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Conductors vs. dielectrics (or insulators)



The atom or molecule now has a tiny dipole moment  $\mathbf{p}$ , which points in the same direction as  $\mathbf{E}$  and is proportional to the field.

 $\mathbf{p} \equiv \alpha_{ij} \mathbf{E}$ ,  $\alpha \equiv$  atomic polarizability

Rule of Thumb! Not a fundamental Law!  $\alpha_{ij}$ : polarizability tensor for the molecule

Always possible to choose "principal" axes such that the off-diagonal terms vanish, leaving just three nonzero polarizabilities.

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**Example 4.1** A primitive model for an atom consists of a point nucleus (+q) surrounded by a uniformly charged spherical cloud (-q) of radius a.







$$E_e = \frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_0} \frac{qd}{a^3} \qquad p = qd = (4\pi\varepsilon_0 a^3)E$$

 $\alpha = 4\pi\varepsilon_0 a^3$  the atomic polarizability

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 $= \alpha E$ 

**Prob.4.2** According to **quantum mechanics**, the electron cloud for a hydrogen atom in ground state has a charge density q = -2r/a

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\alpha_{qm}}{4\pi\varepsilon_0} \sim \frac{3}{4}a^3 \sim 0.09 \times 10^{-30}m^3 & \text{Experiment} \\ \frac{\alpha_{cl}}{4\pi\varepsilon_0} \sim a^3 \sim 0.12 \times 10^{-30}m^3 & \text{Hydrogen atom} \sim 0.667\text{e-}30 \end{cases}$$



**Example 4.3** If we have two spheres of charge: a positive sphere and a negative sphere. When the material is uniformly polarized, all the plus charges move slightly upward (the *z*-direction), all the minus charges move slightly downward. The two sphere no longer overlap perfectly. Find the polarizability.

Sol. The electric field inside a uniform charged sphere of radius *a* 

$$\mathbf{E}_{e}(r) = \frac{1}{4\pi r^{2}} \frac{\frac{4}{3}\pi r^{3}\rho}{\varepsilon_{0}} \hat{\mathbf{r}} = \frac{\rho r}{3\varepsilon_{0}} \hat{\mathbf{r}} = \frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_{0}} \frac{qr}{a^{3}} \hat{\mathbf{r}}, \text{ where } q = \frac{4}{3}\pi a^{3}\rho$$

Two uniformly charged spheres separated by **d** produce the electric field:



 $V(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_0} \frac{\hat{\boldsymbol{\nu}} \cdot \mathbf{p}}{\boldsymbol{\nu}^2}$ 

$$\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}) = \mathbf{E}_{q+}(\mathbf{r}_{+}) + \mathbf{E}_{q-}(\mathbf{r}_{-}) = \frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_{0}} \frac{q}{a^{3}}(\mathbf{r}_{+} - \mathbf{r}_{-}) = \frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_{0}} \frac{q}{a^{3}}((\mathbf{r} - \frac{1}{2}\mathbf{d}) - (\mathbf{r} + \frac{1}{2}\mathbf{d})) = -\frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_{0}} \frac{q\mathbf{d}}{a^{3}} = \frac{-1}{4\pi\varepsilon_{0}} \frac{$$

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**Example 3.10** An electric dipole consists of two equal and opposite charges separated by a distance d. Find the approximate potential V at points far from the dipole.



$$V(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_0} \frac{qd\cos\theta}{r^2} = \frac{p}{4\pi\varepsilon_0} \frac{\cos\theta}{r^2} = \frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_0} \frac{\mathbf{\hat{r}} \cdot \mathbf{p}}{r^2}$$
  
where  $\mathbf{p} = q\mathbf{d}$  pointing from negative charge to positive charge.

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In a uniform field, the force on the positive end,  $\mathbf{F} = q\mathbf{E}$ , exactly cancels the force on the negative end. However, there will be a torque:

$$\mathbf{N} = (\mathbf{r}_{+} \times \mathbf{F}_{+}) + (\mathbf{r}_{-} \times \mathbf{F}_{-}) = q\mathbf{d} \times \mathbf{E} = \mathbf{p} \times \mathbf{E}$$

in such a direction as to line  $\mathbf{p}$  up parallel to  $\mathbf{E}$ 



The force on a dipole in a nonuniform field

$$\mathbf{F} = \mathbf{q}(\mathbf{E}_{+} - \mathbf{E}_{-}) \cong \mathbf{q}((\mathbf{d} \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{E}) \cong (\mathbf{p} \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{E}$$

What happens to a piece of dielectric material when it is placed in an electric field?

A lot of little dipoles point along the direction of the field and the material becomes polarized.

A convenient measure of this effect is  $\mathbf{P} \equiv$  dipole moment per unit volume, which is called the Polarization.

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What did we learn in Chap. 4?  

$$V(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_0} \int_{\nu} \frac{\hat{\boldsymbol{\nu}} \cdot d\mathbf{p}}{\nu^2} = \frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_0} \int_{\nu} \frac{\hat{\boldsymbol{\nu}} \cdot \mathbf{P}(\mathbf{r}')}{\nu^2} d\tau' = \frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_0} \int_{\nu} \mathbf{P} \cdot \nabla'(\frac{1}{\nu}) d\tau'$$

$$V = \frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_0} [\int_{\nu} \nabla' \cdot (\frac{\mathbf{P}}{\nu}) d\tau' - \int_{\nu} \frac{1}{\nu} (\nabla' \cdot \mathbf{P}) d\tau']$$

$$= \frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_0} \oint_{s} \frac{\mathbf{P}}{\nu} \cdot d\mathbf{a}' + \frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_0} \int_{\nu} \frac{1}{\nu} (-\nabla' \cdot \mathbf{P}) d\tau'$$

$$\begin{cases} \boldsymbol{\sigma}_{b} = \mathbf{P} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{n}} \\ \boldsymbol{\rho}_{b} = -\mathbf{\nabla'} \cdot \mathbf{P} \end{cases} \quad V = \frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_{0}} \oint_{S} \frac{\boldsymbol{\sigma}_{b}}{\boldsymbol{\nu}} da' + \frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_{0}} \int_{v} \frac{\boldsymbol{\rho}_{b}}{\boldsymbol{\nu}} d\tau' \\ \frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_{0}} \int_{v} \frac{\boldsymbol{\rho}_{b}}{\boldsymbol{\nu}} d\tau' \end{cases}$$

The potential of a polarized object =produced by a surface charge density + a volume charge density

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Ex. 4.2 Find the electric field produced by a uniformly polarized sphere of radius R.

$$\begin{cases} \sigma_b = \mathbf{P} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{n}} = P \cos \theta \\ \rho_b = -\nabla' \cdot \mathbf{P} = 0 \end{cases}$$



$$V(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_0} \int_0^{\pi} \frac{P\cos\theta'}{\nu} 2\pi R^2 \sin\theta' d\theta'$$
  

$$V(r, \theta, 0) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{3\varepsilon_0} \frac{PR^3}{r^2} \cos\theta & (r \ge R) \\ \frac{P}{3\varepsilon_0} r\cos\theta & (r \le R) \end{cases} \quad \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{\nu} = \frac{1}{r} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (\frac{R}{r})^n P_n(\cos\theta') & r \ge R \\ = \frac{1}{R} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (\frac{R}{r})^n P_n(\cos\theta') & r \le R \\ \vdots \text{ orthogonality } \therefore \text{ only } n = 1 \text{ survive} \end{cases}$$

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 $\mathbf{E} = -\nabla V = -\frac{P}{3\varepsilon_0} \hat{\mathbf{z}} \quad \text{uniformly}$ 



The electric field inside matter

**Microscopic** level  $\rightarrow$  Too Complicated to calculate **Macroscopic** field  $\rightarrow$  Defined as the average field over regions large enough

For many substances, the polarization is proportional to the field, provided  ${\bf E}$  is not too strong.

 $\mathbf{P} = \varepsilon_0 \chi_e \mathbf{E}$   $\chi_e$ : the electric susceptibility

The total field  $\mathbf{E}$  may be due in part to free charges and in part to the polarization itself.

#### Materials that obey above equation are called linear dielectrics.

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We cannot compute **P** directly from this equation.

 $\mathbf{E}_0 \rightarrow \mathbf{P}_0$ 

 $\mathbf{P}_0 \rightarrow \mathbf{E}_0 + \Delta \mathbf{E}'_P$ 

 $\mathbf{E}_0 + \Delta \mathbf{E}'_P \longrightarrow \mathbf{P}_0 + \Delta \mathbf{P}'_0$ 



Now we are going to treat the field caused by both bound charge and free charge.

$$\rho = \rho_f + \rho_b$$
$$= \rho_f - \nabla \cdot \mathbf{P} = \varepsilon_0 \nabla \cdot \mathbf{E}$$

where E is now the total field, not just that portion generated by polarization.

$$\varepsilon_{0} \nabla \cdot \mathbf{E} + \nabla \cdot \mathbf{P} = \rho_{f}$$

$$\nabla \cdot (\varepsilon_{0} \mathbf{E} + \mathbf{P}) \equiv \nabla \cdot \mathbf{D} = \rho_{f}$$
Electric displacement
$$\mathbf{E} = \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \mathbf{D} = \frac{1}{\varepsilon_{r}} \mathbf{E}_{vac}$$

$$\mathbf{D} = \varepsilon_{0} \mathbf{E} + \mathbf{P} = \varepsilon_{0} \chi_{e} \mathbf{E} = \varepsilon_{0} (1 + \chi_{e}) \mathbf{E} = \varepsilon \mathbf{E}$$

$$\varepsilon_{r} = \frac{\varepsilon}{\varepsilon_{0}} = 1 + \chi_{e}$$
Relative permittivity
$$\mathbf{E} = \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \mathbf{D} = \frac{1}{\varepsilon_{r}} \mathbf{E}_{vac}$$

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**Problem 4.18** The space between the plates of a parallel-plate capacitor (Fig. 4.24) is filled with two slabs of linear dielectric material. Each slab has thickness a, so the total distance between the plates is 2a. Slab 1 has a dielectric constant of 2, and slab 2 has a dielectric constant of 1.5. The free charge density on the top plate is  $\sigma$  and on the bottom plate  $-\sigma$ .



 $\oint_{S} \mathbf{D} \cdot d\mathbf{a} = Q_{f_{enc}} \Longrightarrow 2DA = \sigma A \Longrightarrow \mathbf{D} = \frac{\sigma}{2} \hat{\mathbf{n}}$  $\therefore \mathbf{D} = \begin{cases} \mathbf{0}, \text{ outside the plates} \\ \frac{-\sigma}{2}\hat{\mathbf{z}} + \frac{-\sigma}{2}\hat{\mathbf{z}} = -\sigma\hat{\mathbf{z}} \end{cases}$  $\mathbf{E} = \frac{\mathbf{D}}{\varepsilon} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} \mathbf{E}_1 = -\frac{\sigma}{2\varepsilon_0} \hat{\mathbf{z}}, \text{ for slab 1} \\ \mathbf{E}_2 = -\frac{2\sigma}{3\varepsilon_0} \hat{\mathbf{z}}, \text{ for slab 2} \end{cases} \Rightarrow \Delta V = -\int_{-}^{+} \mathbf{E} \cdot d\bar{\ell} = \frac{7\sigma a}{6\varepsilon_0} \end{cases}$ Slab 2  $\mathbf{P} = \varepsilon_0 \chi_e \mathbf{E} = \varepsilon_0 \left(\varepsilon_r - 1\right) \mathbf{E} = \varepsilon_0 \left(\varepsilon_r - 1\right) \frac{-\sigma}{\varepsilon_0 \varepsilon_r} \hat{\mathbf{z}} = -\sigma \left(1 - \frac{1}{\varepsilon_r}\right) \hat{\mathbf{z}}$  $\therefore \mathbf{P}_1 = -\frac{\sigma}{2}\hat{\mathbf{z}}, \ \mathbf{P}_2 = -\frac{\sigma}{3}\hat{\mathbf{z}} \Rightarrow \nabla \cdot \mathbf{P} = 0 \Rightarrow \rho_b = 0 \text{ everywhere}$ 

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Ref: AJP 73, 52 (2005)

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 $\rho_{b} = -\nabla \cdot \mathbf{P} = -\nabla \cdot \left( \varepsilon_{0} \chi_{e} \frac{\mathbf{D}}{\varepsilon} \right) = -\frac{\chi_{e}}{1 + \chi_{e}} \rho_{f} \quad \leftarrow \text{ in a homogenous linear dielectric}$  $\varepsilon = \varepsilon_{0} \left( 1 + \chi_{e} \right) \quad \text{shielding effect}$ 

$$D_{above}^{\perp} - D_{below}^{\perp} = \sigma_f \implies \varepsilon_{above} E_{above}^{\perp} - \varepsilon_{below} E_{below}^{\perp} = \sigma_f$$

$$(\varepsilon_{\text{above}} \nabla V_{\text{above}} - \varepsilon_{\text{below}} \nabla V_{\text{below}}) = -\sigma_f \hat{\mathbf{n}}$$

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Remark:1. Consistent with the previous result 2. This method formally requires  $\chi_e < 3$ 

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Partial Image Charge

#### Energy in Dielectric systems

Force on Dielectric Fringing Field Effect

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Further Reading: *Optik* **124**, 16 (2013)

 $\mathbf{E}_{macro} = \mathbf{E}_{self} + \mathbf{E}_{else}$ 



### What did we learn in Chap. 4?

In a linear dielectric, the polarization is said to be proportional to the filed  $\mathbf{P} = \varepsilon_0 \chi_e \mathbf{E}_{macro}$  Macroscopic If the material consists of atoms (or nonpolar molecules), the induced dipole moment  $\mathbf{p} = \alpha \mathbf{E}_{else}$  Microscopic  $\mathbf{P} = N\mathbf{p} = N\alpha \mathbf{E} \stackrel{?}{\Rightarrow} \chi_e = \frac{N\alpha}{\varepsilon_0}$ 

If the density of atoms is low, it's not far off. However, the fields used are from different viewpoints!

$$\mathbf{E}_{self} = \frac{-\mathbf{p}}{4\pi\varepsilon_0 R^3} \Rightarrow \mathbf{E}_{macro} = \frac{-\alpha}{4\pi\varepsilon_0 R^3} \mathbf{E}_{else} + \mathbf{E}_{else} = \left(1 - \frac{N\alpha}{3\varepsilon_0}\right) \mathbf{E}_{else} = \frac{\mathbf{P}}{\varepsilon_0 \chi_e} = \frac{N\alpha}{\varepsilon_0 \chi_e} \mathbf{E}_{else}$$
$$\therefore \chi_e = \frac{N\alpha/\varepsilon_0}{1 - N\alpha/3\varepsilon_0} \Rightarrow \alpha = \frac{3\varepsilon_0}{N} \frac{\chi_e}{3 + \chi_e} = \frac{3\varepsilon_0}{N} \frac{\varepsilon_r - 1}{\varepsilon_r + 2} \approx \frac{3\varepsilon_0}{N} \frac{n^2 - 1}{n^2 + 2}$$
$$\text{Lorentz-Lorenz relation}$$

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What

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Energy of a dipole in an external field

 $u = -\mathbf{p} \cdot \mathbf{E} = -pE\cos\theta$ 

 $\exp(-u/kT)$ 

Statistical mechanics says that for a material in equilibrium at absolute temperature, the probability of a given molecule having energy is proportional to the Boltzmann factor

The average energy of the dipoles is therefore



#### **Remarks on Dielectrics**

Anisotropic Materials:

i-th component of the polarization is related to the j-th component of the electric field.

$$P_i = \sum_j \varepsilon_0 \chi_{ij} E_j$$

Polarize in the x direction by applying a field in the z direction  $\rightarrow$  Crystal Optics.

How to choose "unit volume" in reality? e.g., Plasma in microscopic scale is regarded as a gas of free charges (P = 0). However, in macroscopic scale, it serves as a continuous medium, exhibiting non-zero permittivity. Polarization Ambiguity



Non-uniqueness of P is not problematic, because every measurable consequence of P is in fact a consequence of a continuous change in P.

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