

Corrections to Jackson's Sec. 1.10, p.38

Jackson writes his GF equation as $\nabla'^2 G(\vec{x}, \vec{x}') = -4\pi \delta(\vec{x} - \vec{x}')$

WRONG

Why is this wrong and inconsistent with his equations 1.42 - 1.46?

We said that $G(\vec{x}, \vec{x}')$ is the potential at $\vec{x}$ due to a point charge of magnitude " $q = 4\pi\epsilon_0$ " at $\vec{x}'$ and Jackson's later equations 1.42 - 1.46 are consistent with this interpretation. Therefore, cross out his INCORRECT (1.39), (1.41) and replace them with my revised versions:

$$\nabla^2 G(\vec{x}, \vec{x}') = -4\pi \delta(\vec{x} - \vec{x}') \quad \text{CG 1.39}$$

$$\nabla^2 F(\vec{x}, \vec{x}') = 0 \quad \text{CG 1.41}$$

where $G(\vec{x}, \vec{x}') = \frac{1}{|\vec{x} - \vec{x}'|} + F(\vec{x}, \vec{x}')$ okay in J. 1.40

Now, for instance, if Neumann boundary conditions are given on one or more surfaces ($\frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial n} \Big|_S = \text{specified}$) then the appropriate ^{Neumann} Green's function obeys ^{almost} as in J. 1.45,

$$\frac{\partial G_N(\vec{x}, \vec{x}')}{\partial n} = -\frac{4\pi}{S} \quad \text{for } \vec{x} \text{ on } S$$

area of surface $\rightarrow S$

Why demand this?

because $-\int \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial n} da = \frac{q}{\epsilon_0}$

by Gauss's Law
and in our G_N , " $q = 4\pi\epsilon_0$ "

Consistent with Gauss's Law!

Here J has another error and writes instead:

$$\frac{\partial G_N(\vec{x}, \vec{x}')}{\partial n} = -\frac{4\pi}{S} \quad \text{WRONG}$$

Moreover, in J 3.26(b) you should interchange $r \leftrightarrow r'$ everywhere!