

**University of Kentucky, Physics 416G**  
**Formula Sheet**

The following formulas will be provided if necessary on the exam.

Solutions of Laplace equation  $\nabla^2 V = 0$ :

- Separation of variables in cartesian coordinates:  
 $V(x, y, z) = \exp(k_x x) \exp(k_y y) \exp(k_z z)$  where  $k_x^2 + k_y^2 + k_z^2 = 0$ ,  
i.e.  $V(x, y) = (A_n \exp(k_n x) + B_n \exp(-k_n x))(C_n \cos(k_n y) + D_n \sin(k_n y))$   
or  $V(x, y) = (A_n \sin(k_n x) + B_n \cos(-k_n x))(C_n \exp(k_n y) + D_n \exp(-k_n y))$
- Separation of variables in cylindrical coordinates with  $z$ -symmetry and appropriate azimuthal boundary conditions:  
 $V(s, \phi) = A_0 + B_0 \ln(s) + \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} (A_m s^m + B_m s^{-m})(C_m \cos(m\phi) + D_m \sin(m\phi))$ .
- Separation of variables in spherical coordinates with  $\phi$ -symmetry and appropriate polar boundary conditions:  
 $V(r, \theta) = \sum_{\ell=0}^{\infty} (A_{\ell} r^{\ell} + B_{\ell} r^{-\ell-1}) P_{\ell}(\cos \theta)$   
where  $P_0(x) = 1$ ,  $P_1(x) = x$ ,  $P_2(x) = \frac{1}{2}(3x^2 - 1)$ , etc.

Continuity boundary conditions:  $V_1 = V_2$  and  $\frac{\partial V_1}{\partial n} - \frac{\partial V_2}{\partial n} = \frac{\sigma}{\epsilon_0}$  evaluated on the boundary.

Multipole moments for charge distribution:

- General:  $Q_{\ell} = \int \vec{d}q' r'^{\ell} P_{\ell}(\cos \theta)$ .
- Monopole:  $q = \int \vec{d}q'$ .
- Dipole:  $\vec{p} = \int \vec{d}q' \vec{r}'$ .
- Quadrupole:  $Q_{ij} = \int \vec{d}q' (3r'_i r'_j - \delta_{ij} r'^2)$   
i.e.  $Q_{xx} = \int \vec{d}q' (3x' x' - r'^2)$   
 $Q_{xy} = \int \vec{d}q' (3x' y')$ , etc.