

11. (a) For  $r > r_2$  the field is like that of a point charge and

$$V = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{Q}{r} ,$$

where the zero of potential was taken to be at infinity.

- (b) To find the potential in the region  $r_1 < r < r_2$ , first use Gauss's law to find an expression for the electric field, then integrate along a radial path from  $r_2$  to  $r$ . The Gaussian surface is a sphere of radius  $r$ , concentric with the shell. The field is radial and therefore normal to the surface. Its magnitude is uniform over the surface, so the flux through the surface is  $\Phi = 4\pi r^2 E$ . The volume of the shell is  $(4\pi/3)(r_2^3 - r_1^3)$ , so the charge density is

$$\rho = \frac{3Q}{4\pi(r_2^3 - r_1^3)} ,$$

and the charge enclosed by the Gaussian surface is

$$q = \left(\frac{4\pi}{3}\right)(r^3 - r_1^3)\rho = Q \left(\frac{r^3 - r_1^3}{r_2^3 - r_1^3}\right) .$$

Gauss' law yields

$$4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2 E = Q \left(\frac{r^3 - r_1^3}{r_2^3 - r_1^3}\right) \implies E = \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{r^3 - r_1^3}{r^2(r_2^3 - r_1^3)} .$$

If  $V_s$  is the electric potential at the outer surface of the shell ( $r = r_2$ ) then the potential a distance  $r$  from the center is given by

$$\begin{aligned} V &= V_s - \int_{r_2}^r E dr = V_s - \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{1}{r_2^3 - r_1^3} \int_{r_2}^r \left(r - \frac{r_1^3}{r^2}\right) dr \\ &= V_s - \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{1}{r_2^3 - r_1^3} \left(\frac{r^2}{2} - \frac{r_2^2}{2} + \frac{r_1^3}{r} - \frac{r_1^3}{r_2}\right) . \end{aligned}$$

The potential at the outer surface is found by placing  $r = r_2$  in the expression found in part (a). It is  $V_s = Q/4\pi\epsilon_0 r_2$ . We make this substitution and collect terms to find

$$V = \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{1}{r_2^3 - r_1^3} \left(\frac{3r_2^2}{2} - \frac{r^2}{2} - \frac{r_1^3}{r}\right) .$$

Since  $\rho = 3Q/4\pi(r_2^3 - r_1^3)$  this can also be written

$$V = \frac{\rho}{3\epsilon_0} \left(\frac{3r_2^2}{2} - \frac{r^2}{2} - \frac{r_1^3}{r}\right) .$$

- (c) The electric field vanishes in the cavity, so the potential is everywhere the same inside and has the same value as at a point on the inside surface of the shell. We put  $r = r_1$  in the result of part (b). After collecting terms the result is

$$V = \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{3(r_2^2 - r_1^2)}{2(r_2^3 - r_1^3)} ,$$

or in terms of the charge density

$$V = \frac{\rho}{2\epsilon_0} (r_2^2 - r_1^2) .$$

- (d) The solutions agree at  $r = r_1$  and at  $r = r_2$ .