

Let us define  $\Phi_1$  to be the potential in the dielectric, and  $\Phi_2$  to be the potential outside the dielectric. We know that the expansion for potential in [spherical coordinates](#) is given by:

$$\Phi_1 = \sum_l \left( A_l r^l + B_l r^{-(l+1)} \right) P_l(\cos \theta)$$

$$\Phi_2 = \sum_l \left( C_l r^l + D_l r^{-(l+1)} \right) P_l(\cos \theta)$$

In order for  $\Phi_2$  to provide to  $r \rightarrow \infty$ . Therefore, we must have  $C_1 = -E_0$ , and all other  $C_l = 0$ .

Because at  $r=a$  there is a chargeless conducting sphere, we must have:

$$\left. \frac{1}{a} \frac{\partial \Phi_1}{\partial \theta} \right|_{r=a} = 0$$

And so (the charge free condition keeps this true for  $l=0$ ):

$$A_l = -B_l a^{-(2l+1)}$$

We lastly have the continuity equations for the dielectric sphere boundary. Continuity of  $E_{\parallel}$ :

$$-\left. \frac{1}{b} \frac{\partial \Phi_1}{\partial \theta} \right|_{r=b} = -\left. \frac{1}{b} \frac{\partial \Phi_2}{\partial \theta} \right|_{r=b}$$

$$A_l b^l + B_l b^{-(l+1)} = C_l b^l + D_l b^{-(l+1)}$$

And continuity of  $D_{\perp}$ :

$$-\epsilon \left. \frac{\partial \Phi_1}{\partial r} \right|_{r=b} = -\epsilon_0 \left. \frac{\partial \Phi_2}{\partial r} \right|_{r=b}$$

$$\epsilon \left( l A_l b^{l-1} - (l+1) B_l b^{-(l+2)} \right) = \epsilon_0 \left( l C_l b^{l-1} - (l+1) D_l b^{-(l+2)} \right)$$

Plugging previous conditions into the  $E_{\parallel}$  condition:

$$-B_1 \frac{b}{a^3} + B_1 \frac{1}{b^2} = -E_0 b + D_1 \frac{1}{b^2}$$

$$-B_l a^{-(2l+1)} b^l + B_l b^{-(l+1)} = D_l b^{-(l+1)}; \quad l \neq 1$$

Solving for  $D_l$ :

$$D_1 = E_0 b^3 - B_1 \left( \frac{b^3}{a^3} - 1 \right)$$

$$D_l = -B_l \left( \left( \frac{b}{a} \right)^{2l+1} - 1 \right); \quad l \neq 1$$

Plugging all of these into the condition for  $D_{\perp}$ , first for  $l=1$ :

$$\epsilon \left( -B_1 \frac{1}{a^3} - B_1 \frac{2}{b^3} \right) = \epsilon_0 \left( -E_0 - 2 \left( E_0 b^3 - B_1 \left( \frac{b^3}{a^3} - 1 \right) \right) \right) \frac{1}{b^3}$$

$$\frac{\epsilon}{\epsilon_0} \left( -B_1 \frac{1}{a^3} - B_1 \frac{2}{b^3} \right) = -3E_0 + 2B_1 \left( \frac{1}{a^3} - \frac{1}{b^3} \right)$$

Define  $n = \sqrt{\epsilon/\epsilon_0}$ :

$$B_1 \left( \frac{n^2 + 2}{a^3} + 2 \frac{n^2 - 1}{b^3} \right) = 3E_0$$

$$B_1 = \frac{3E_0 b^3 a^3}{b^3 (n^2 + 2) + 2a^3 (n^2 - 1)}$$

Define  $\beta = b^3 (n^2 + 2) + 2a^3 (n^2 - 1)$ . Plugging in for the others:

$$A_1 = -\frac{3E_0 b^3 a^3}{\beta} \frac{1}{a^3} = -\frac{3E_0 b^3}{\beta}$$

$$D_1 = E_0 b^3 - \frac{3E_0 b^3 a^3}{\beta} \left( \frac{b^3}{a^3} - 1 \right) = E_0 b^3 \left( 1 - \frac{3(b^3 - a^3)}{\beta} \right)$$

Now solving  $l \neq 1$  case:

$$\epsilon \left( -l B_l a^{-(2l+l)} b^{l-1} - (l+1) B_l b^{-(l+2)} \right) = -\epsilon_0 \left( (l+1) \left( -B_l \left( \left( \frac{b}{a} \right)^{2l+1} - 1 \right) \right) b^{-(l+2)} \right)$$

It can be seen that these sides will never be equal unless  $B_l = 0$ , which means:

$$A_l = -0 a^{-(2l+1)} = 0$$

$$D_l = -0 \left( \left( \frac{b}{a} \right)^{2l+1} - 1 \right) = 0$$

So that, in the dielectric:

$$\Phi = \frac{3E_0 b^3}{\beta} (a^3 r^{-2} - r) \cos \theta$$

Giving the electric field:

$$\vec{E} = \hat{r} \frac{3E_0 b^3}{\beta} \left( 2 \left( \frac{a}{r} \right)^3 + 1 \right) \cos \theta + \hat{\theta} \frac{3E_0 b^3}{\beta} \left( \left( \frac{a}{r} \right)^3 - 1 \right) \sin \theta$$

where  $\beta = b^3 (n^2 + 2) + 2a^3 (n^2 - 1)$ .