

PHY 712 Electrodynamics
10-10:50 AM MWF Online

Plan for Lecture 1:

Reading: Appendix 1 and Chapters I&1

- 1. Course structure and expectations**
- 2. Units – SI vs Gaussian**
- 3. Electrostatics – Poisson equation**

1/27/2021

PHY 712 Spring 2021 -- Lecture 1

1

Welcome to Electrodynamics. In this lecture we will discuss the course structure and jump right in to Chapters I (introduction) and 1 (electrostatics).

Physics Colloquium series – Thursdays 4-5 PM online

SEMINARS-2021-SPRING

WFU Physics Colloquium Schedule – Spring 2021

Previous and future colloquia

All colloquia will be held at 4 PM online (unless noted otherwise).

Thurs. Jan. 28, 2021 – Professor George C. Schatz, Northwestern University – “[Plasmonic Lattices](#)” (host: J. Macosko)

Thurs. Feb. 04, 2021 – Professor Lalit Deshmukh, University of California, San Diego – “[ALIX in Wonderland: Multivalency, Phosphorylation-mediated Amyloids, Autoinhibition, and Endosomal Membrane Interactions](#)” (host: S. Cho)

Thurs. Feb. 11, 2021 – Professor Carolyn Bertozzi, Stanford University – “[Therapeutic Opportunities in Glycoscience](#)” (host: J. Macosko)

1/27/2021

PHY 712 Spring 2021 -- Lecture 1

2

First – an advertisement for Physics Colloquia at 4 PM on Thursdays. You should get mailings from Kittyae McBride each week.

<http://users.wfu.edu/natalie/s21phy712/>

PHY 712 Electrodynamics

MWF 10-10:50 PM Online <http://www.wfu.edu/~natalie/s21phy712/>

Instructor: [Natalie Holzwarth](#) Office: 300 OPL e-mail: natalie@wfu.edu

- [General information](#)
- [Syllabus and homework assignments](#)
- [Lecture notes](#)
- [Some presentation ideas](#)

Last modified: Saturday, 23-Jan-2021 15:36:00 EST

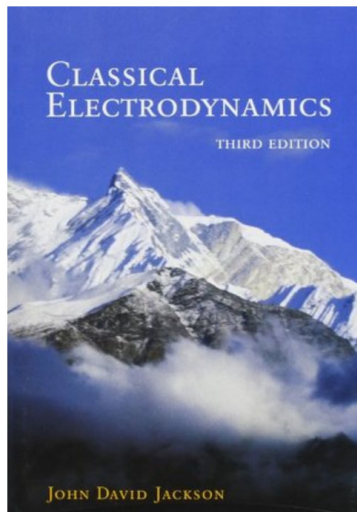
1/27/2021

PHY 712 Spring 2021 -- Lecture 1

3

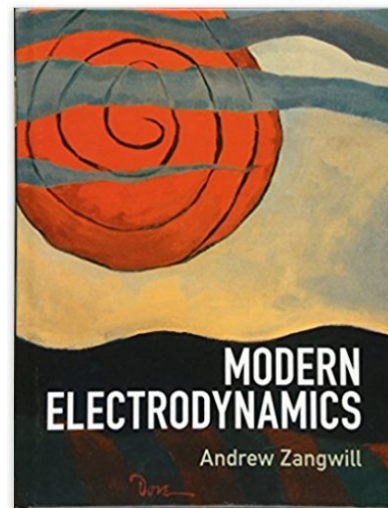
Back to our regularly scheduled program. Our webpage is set up and is the source of all information about the course.

Textbook



Third edition

Optional supplement



1/27/2021

PHY 712 Spring 2021 -- Lecture 1

4

The text book is the 3rd addition of the classic textbook by John David Jackson. (Please note that you will need the 3rd edition in order to follow the lectures.) Some of you may want another (perhaps less mathematically focused) and will find that the textbook by Andrew Zangwill to be helpful. Personally, I find that Jackson's text has served me well to understand the basics of electrodynamics.

<http://users.wfu.edu/natalie/s21phy712/info>

General Information

This course is a one semester survey of Electrodynamics at the graduate level, using the textbook: **Classical Electrodynamics**, 3rd edition, by John David Jackson (John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1999) -- "JDJ". ([link to errata for early printings](#)) Note that it is necessary to get the **third** edition in order to synchronize with the class lectures and homework. The more recent textbook: **Modern Electrodynamics**, by Andrew Zangwill (Cambridge University Press, 2013) will be used as a supplement.

Adapting to the challenges of these unprecedented times, this course is designed as "online", adjusting to the best recommendations for healthy practices. The course will consist of the following components:

- Synchronous online meetings MWF 10-10:50 AM. (local time in Winston-Salem, NC, USA) Starting with the second meeting, the sessions will focus on discussion of the material, particularly answering your prepared and spontaneous questions.
- Asynchronous review of annotated lecture notes and corresponding textbook sections. Starting with Lecture 2, the annotated lecture notes will be available one day before the corresponding synchronous online discussion. For each class meeting, students will be expected to submit (by email) at least one question for class discussion at least 3 hours before the synchronous online meeting.
- Homework sets. Typically there will be one homework problem associated with each synchronous meeting.
- There will be two take-home exams, one at mid-term and the other during finals week.
- There will be one project on a chosen topic related to electrodynamics.
- There will be weekly one-on-one meetings of each student with the instructor to discuss the course material, homework, and/or projects. These may be face-to-face or online as appropriate.

1/27/2021

PHY 712 Spring 2021 -- Lecture 1

5

Information about the course structure is on our web page. The structure of the course is very much like the structure we used last semester for PHY 711. We want to focus class time on discussing your questions. Please prepare at least one question 3 hours before (preferably the night before) each class. We will use your questions as well as spontaneous questions to form the basis of the class discussions. Again, there will typically be one homework per class, nominally due the day of the next class meeting.

Links to WFU pandemic policies – Since this class is online, however, it is possible that some of the one-on-one meetings can be face-to-face.

[Wake Forest University's Standard Operating Procedure for Class Sessions Following Public Health Guidance](#) (Policy 2.A.02). This is an updated version of our policies and procedures. Please note the clarification on our masking requirement for classes regardless of location (indoors or outdoors), a revision that makes this policy consistent with our current University masking policy.

Spring 2021 College COVID-19 Classrooms FAQs and Syllabus Statement. As in the fall, the Office of the Dean of the College expects [the Spring 2021 COVID-19 Syllabus Statement](#) to be on syllabi for any classes taught in-person (face to face or blended) to communicate clear expectations around masking, physical distancing, and illness from the very first day of class. Our [COVID-19 Classroom FAQs](#) includes classroom cleaning protocols; guidance on how to reserve space for out-of-class academic activities like masked and physically distanced office hours, small group workshops, film screenings, and language conversation hours through DeaconSpace; and assistance for anyone teaching in a less familiar space this semester.

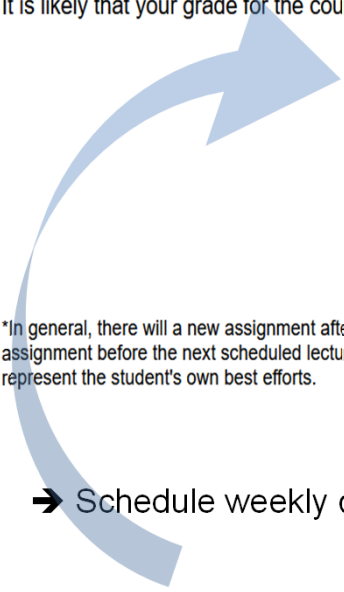
1/27/2021

PHY 712 Spring 2021 -- Lecture 1

6

This content is required by the Dean's office to help the university keep our physical environment safe. Please visit the links as needed.

It is likely that your grade for the course will depend upon the following factors:



Class participation	15%
Problem sets*	35%
Project	15%
Exams	35%

*In general, there will be a new assignment after each lecture, so that for optimal learning, it would be best to complete each assignment before the next scheduled lecture. According to the honor system, all work submitted for grading purposes should represent the student's own best efforts.

→ Schedule weekly one-on-one meetings

1/27/2021

PHY 712 Spring 2021 – Lecture 1

7

This is the expected grade distribution. Last semester the weekly one-on-one meetings seemed to be mostly productive, particularly for improving the completely online format. We will try to continue this during the spring semester. I need information from you to set up the appropriate timing.

Some Ideas for Computational Project

The purpose of the "Computational Project" is to provide an opportunity for you to study a topic of your choice in greater depth. The general guideline for your choice of project is that it should have something to do with electrodynamics, and there should be some degree of computation or analysis with the project. The completed project will include a short write-up and a ~20min presentation to the class. You may design your own project or use one of the following list (which will be updated throughout the term).

- Evaluate the Ewald sum of various ionic crystals using Maple or a programming language. (Template available in Fortran code.)
- Work out the details of the finite difference or finite element methods.
- Work out the details of the hyperfine Hamiltonian as discussed in Chapter 5 of Jackson.
- Work out the details of Jackson problem 7.2 and related problems.
- Work out the details of reflection and refraction from birefringent materials.
- Analyze the Kramers-Kronig transform of some optical data or calculations.
- Determine the classical electrodynamics associated with an infrared or optical laser.
- Analyze the radiation intensity and spectrum from an interesting source such as an atomic or molecular transition, a free electron laser, etc.
- Work out the details of Jackson problem 14.15.

This semester we will also have individual projects due at the end of the semester. Here is a list from last year. During the course, please keep your eye out for topics that interest you worthy of your extra attention.

<http://users.wfu.edu/natalie/s21phy712/homework/>

PHY 712 Electrodynamics

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Instructor: [Natalie Holzwarth](#) Office: 300 OPL e-mail: natalie@wfu.edu

Course schedule for Spring 2021

(Preliminary schedule -- subject to frequent adjustment.)

	Lecture date	JDJ Reading	Topic	HW	Due date
1	Wed: 01/27/2021	Chap. 1 & Appen.	Introduction, units and Poisson equation	#1	02/01/2021
2	Fri: 01/29/2021	Chap. 1	Electrostatic energy calculations		
3	Mon: 02/01/2021	Chap. 1	Electrostatic potentials and fields		
4	Wed: 02/03/2021	Chap. 1 - 3	Poisson's equation in 2 and 3 dimensions		
5	Fri: 02/05/2021	Chap. 1 - 3	Brief introduction to numerical methods		
6	Mon: 02/08/2021	Chap. 2 & 3	Image charge constructions		

1/27/2021

PHY 712 Spring 2021 -- Lecture 1

9

The class schedule is available on the webpage and except for today's lecture topic, subject to change. (The schedule is based on the topics we covered last year.)

Comment about HW #1: (Jackson problem 1.5)

The time-averaged potential of a neutral hydrogen atom is given by:

$$\Phi(r) = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{e^{-2r/a_0}}{r} \left(1 + \frac{r}{a_0} \right)$$

where q denotes the magnitude of the elementary charge of an electron or proton and where a_0 denotes the Bohr radius. Find the distribution of charge (both continuous and discrete) that will give this potential and interpret your results physically.

Be careful to take into account the behavior of the potential for $r \rightarrow 0$.

1/27/2021

PHY 712 Spring 2021 -- Lecture 1

10

The homework for today's lecture is from the textbook and the content is listed here. It is an interesting problem relating the electrostatic potential of a neutral hydrogen atom. The result should be consistent with things you learned in Quantum Mechanics class.

Additional information –

Mid-term exam March 15-19

Presentations for E&M will be in late April and early May

1/27/2021

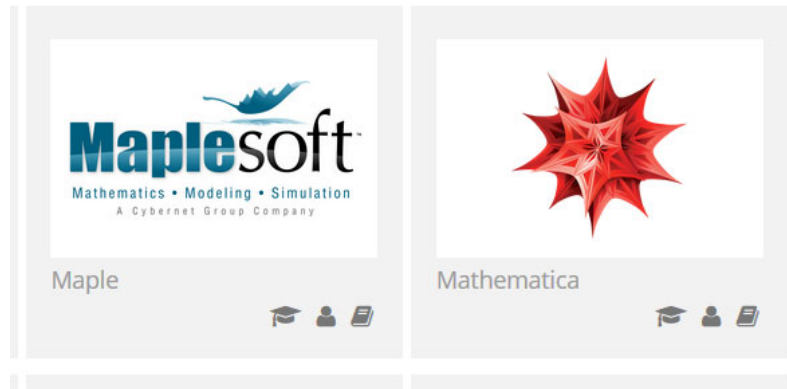
PHY 712 Spring 2021 -- Lecture 1

11

This semester, we are starting the course late and there will be no spring break. The plan is to have a week where you will work on the mid term take home exam and there will be no lecture. (This happens to be the week when I plan to attend the March Meeting of the American Physical Society (virtually)).

Remember to check your algebraic manipulation software --

<https://software.wfu.edu/audience/students/>



1/27/2021

PHY 712 Spring 2021 -- Lecture 1

12

It is expected that some of your homework will need to use algebraic manipulation software such as Maple or Mathematica which are available at the website mentioned above.

Material discussed in Appendix of textbook --

Units - SI vs Gaussian

Coulomb's Law

$$F = K_C \frac{q_1 q_2}{r_{12}^2}. \quad \text{Rectangular Snip} \quad (1)$$

Ampere's Law

$$F = K_A \frac{i_1 i_2}{r_{12}^2} d\mathbf{s}_1 \times d\mathbf{s}_2 \times \hat{\mathbf{r}}_{12}, \quad (2)$$

In the equations above, the current and charge are related by $i_1 = dq_1/dt$ for all unit systems. The two constants K_C and K_A are related so that their ratio K_C/K_A has the units of $(m/s)^2$ and it is *experimentally* known that the ratio has the value $K_C/K_A = c^2$, where c is the speed of light.

1/27/2021

PHY 712 Spring 2021 -- Lecture 1

13

Now for some discussion of our favorite topic. First we need to be clear about units. In general, the standard unit system is "SI". The appendix discusses alternative unit systems found in the literature and IN THE SECOND HALF OF THIS TEXTBOOK!!!! While for mechanics this is not such a big deal, for E & M it causes great pain and suffering.

Units - SI vs Gaussian – continued

The choices for these constants in the SI and Gaussian units are given below:

	CGS (Gaussian)	SI
K_C	1	$\frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}$
K_A	$\frac{1}{c^2}$	$\frac{\mu_0}{4\pi}$

Rectangular Snip

Here, $\frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \equiv 10^{-7} N/A^2$ and $\frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} = c^2 \cdot 10^{-7} N/A^2 = 8.98755 \times 10^9 N \cdot m^2/C^2$.

1/27/2021

PHY 712 Spring 2021 -- Lecture 1

14

Here are some relationships between the two unit systems used in this text.

Units - SI vs Gaussian – continued

Below is a table comparing SI and Gaussian unit systems. The fundamental units for each system are so labeled and are used to define the derived units.

Variable	SI		Gaussian		SI/Gaussian
	Unit	Relation	Unit	Relation	
length	m	fundamental	cm	fundamental	100
mass	kg	fundamental	gm	fundamental	1000
time	s	fundamental	s	fundamental	1
force	N	$kg \cdot m^2/s$	$dyne$	$gm \cdot cm^2/s$	10^5
current	A	fundamental	$statampere$	$statcoulomb/s$	$\frac{1}{10c}$
charge	C	$A \cdot s$	$statcoulomb$	$\sqrt{dyne \cdot cm^2}$	$\frac{1}{10c}$

1/27/2021

PHYS 712 Spring 2021 -- Lecture 1

15

More about units

Units - SI vs Gaussian – continued

One advantage of the Gaussian system is that the field vectors: \mathbf{E} , \mathbf{D} , \mathbf{B} , \mathbf{H} , \mathbf{P} , \mathbf{M} all have the same physical dimensions. In vacuum, the following equalities hold: $\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{H}$ and $\mathbf{E} = \mathbf{D}$. Also, in the Gaussian system, the dielectric and permittivity constants ϵ and μ are dimensionless.

More about units. Note that while SI units are the current “standard”, many papers in the literature and older textbooks use other unit systems.

Basic equations of electrodynamics

CGS (Gaussian)	SI
$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{D} = 4\pi\rho$	$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{D} = \rho$
$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} = 0$	$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} = 0$
$\nabla \times \mathbf{E} = -\frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t}$	$\nabla \times \mathbf{E} = -\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t}$
$\nabla \times \mathbf{H} = \frac{4\pi}{c} \mathbf{J} + \frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \mathbf{D}}{\partial t}$	$\nabla \times \mathbf{H} = \mathbf{J} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{D}}{\partial t}$
$\mathbf{F} = q(\mathbf{E} + \frac{\mathbf{v}}{c} \times \mathbf{B})$	$\mathbf{F} = q(\mathbf{E} + \mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B})$
$u = \frac{1}{8\pi} (\mathbf{E} \cdot \mathbf{D} + \mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbf{H})$	$u = \frac{1}{2} (\mathbf{E} \cdot \mathbf{D} + \mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbf{H})$
$\mathbf{S} = \frac{c}{4\pi} (\mathbf{E} \times \mathbf{H})$	$\mathbf{S} = (\mathbf{E} \times \mathbf{H})$

1/27/2021

PHY 712 Spring 2021 -- Lecture 1

17

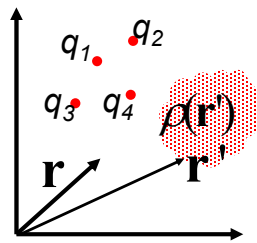
Maxwell's equations and other relationships that we will see during this course in the two unit systems.

Units choice for this course:

SI units for Jackson in Chapters 1-10

Gaussian units for Jackson in Chapters 11-16

Electrostatics



$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}) &= \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \sum_i q_i \frac{\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_i}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_i|^3} \\ &= \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int d^3r' \rho(\mathbf{r}') \frac{\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|^3}\end{aligned}$$

1/27/2021

PHY 712 Spring 2021 -- Lecture 1

18

Starting review of electrostatics both for a discrete collection of charges and for a continuous distribution of charge.

Electrostatics

Discrete versus continuous charge distributions

In terms of Dirac delta function:

$$\rho(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_i q_i \delta(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_i)$$

Digression: Note that in cartesian coordinates --

$$\delta(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_i) = \delta(x - x_i)\delta(y - y_i)\delta(z - z_i)$$

in spherical polar coordinates --

$$\delta(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_i) = \frac{1}{r^2} \delta(r - r_i) \delta(\cos \theta - \cos \theta_i) \delta(\phi - \phi_i)$$

1/27/2021

PHY 712 Spring 2021 -- Lecture 1

19

Note that we can use a Dirac delta function to express discrete charges in terms of a distribution. The digression lists some useful relationships for various coordinate systems.

Differential equations --

Electrostatics

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{E} = \rho/\epsilon_0$$

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{E} = 0$$

Electrostatic potential

$$\mathbf{E} = -\nabla\Phi(r).$$

$$\nabla^2\Phi(r) = -\rho(r)/\epsilon_0.$$

In addition to the integral relationships, electrostatics can also be expressed in terms of differential forms. Mathematically, the electrostatic potential is a convenient form in which to analyze electrostatic systems.

**Relationship between integral and differential
forms of electrostatics --**

Differential form

$$\nabla^2 \Phi(\mathbf{r}) = -\rho(\mathbf{r}) / \epsilon_0$$

Integral form

$$\Phi(\mathbf{r}) =$$

$$\frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int d^3r' \frac{\rho(\mathbf{r}')}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|}$$

Comparison of differential and integral relationships.

Relationship between integral and differential forms of electrostatics --

Need to show: $\nabla^2 \left(\frac{1}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|} \right) = -4\pi \delta^3(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}').$

Noting that

$$\int_{\text{small sphere about } \mathbf{r}'} d^3r \delta^3(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}') f(\mathbf{r}) = f(\mathbf{r}'),$$

we see that we must show that

$$\int_{\text{small sphere about } \mathbf{r}'} d^3r \nabla^2 \left(\frac{1}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|} \right) f(\mathbf{r}) = -4\pi f(\mathbf{r}').$$

The identity of the differential and integral forms follows from the singular behavior of the Coulomb kernel expressed on the top line. We need to “prove” this identity.

We introduce a small radius a such that:

$$\frac{1}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|} = \lim_{a \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\sqrt{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|^2 + a^2}}.$$

For a fixed value of a ,

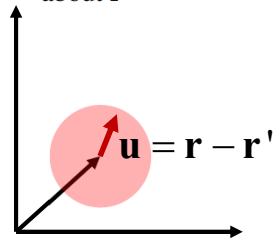
$$\nabla^2 \frac{1}{\sqrt{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|^2 + a^2}} = \frac{-3a^2}{(|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|^2 + a^2)^{5/2}}.$$

Proof using the limit of an expression for $a \rightarrow 0$.

If the function $f(\mathbf{r})$ is continuous, we can make a Taylor expansion of it about the point $\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{r}'$, keeping only the first term. The integral over the small sphere about \mathbf{r}' can be carried out analytically, by changing to a coordinate system centered at \mathbf{r}' ;

so that

$$\int_{\text{small sphere about } \mathbf{r}'} d^3r \nabla^2 \left(\frac{1}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|} \right) f(\mathbf{r}) \approx f(\mathbf{r}') \lim_{a \rightarrow 0} \int_{u < R} d^3u \frac{-3a^2}{(u^2 + a^2)^{5/2}}.$$



$$\int_{u < R} d^3u \frac{-3a^2}{(u^2 + a^2)^{5/2}} = 4\pi \int_0^R du \frac{-3a^2 u^2}{(u^2 + a^2)^{5/2}} = 4\pi \frac{-R^3}{(R^2 + a^2)^{3/2}}.$$

1/27/2021

PHY 712 Spring 2021 – Lecture 1

24

Analytic results for finite a .

$$\int_{u < R} d^3u \frac{-3a^2}{(u^2 + a^2)^{5/2}} = 4\pi \int_0^R du \frac{-3a^2 u^2}{(u^2 + a^2)^{5/2}} = 4\pi \frac{-R^3}{(R^2 + a^2)^{3/2}}.$$

$$\text{For } a \ll R, \quad 4\pi \frac{-R^3}{(R^2 + a^2)^{3/2}} \approx -4\pi$$

$$\rightarrow \int_{\text{small sphere about } \mathbf{r}'} d^3r \nabla^2 \left(\frac{1}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|} \right) f(\mathbf{r}) \approx f(\mathbf{r}')(-4\pi),$$

$$\rightarrow \nabla^2 \left(\frac{1}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|} \right) = -4\pi \delta^3(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}')$$

1/27/2021

PHY 712 Spring 2021 -- Lecture 1

25

From analytic result, evaluate for fixed R and $a \rightarrow 0$. Find that the result is independent of R and the identity is found to be justified.

Example in HW1

The electrostatic potential of a neutral H atom is given by:

$$\Phi(r) = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{e^{-\alpha r}}{r} \left(1 + \frac{\alpha r}{2} \right).$$

Find the charge density (both continuous and discrete) for this potential.

Hint #1: For continuous contribution you can use

the identity:
$$\nabla^2 \Phi(r) = \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial^2 (r\Phi(r))}{\partial r^2}$$

Hint #2: Don't forget to consider possible discrete contributions.

Comment about homework problem.