

Oxford Classic Texts
IN THE PHYSICAL SCIENCES

A Treatise on Electricity
and Magnetism

VOLUME ONE

James Clerk Maxwell

$$\begin{aligned}
 & + a^8 b^{11} [9 a^{14} + 36 a^{12} b^2 + 280 a^{11} b^3 + 84 a^{10} b^4 + 1107 a^9 b^5 + 318 a^8 b^6 \\
 & + 1668 a^7 b^7 + 318 a^6 b^8 + 1107 a^5 b^9 + 84 a^4 b^{10} + 280 a^3 b^{11} \\
 & + 36 a^2 b^{12} + 9 b^{14}] c^{-21} + \dots \quad (42) \\
 & - b^{11} [a^3 c^{-4} - a^5 c^{-6} - a^7 c^{-8} - (a^3 + 4b^3) a^6 c^{-10} \\
 & (a^6 + 12 a^2 b^3 + 9 b^5) a^9 c^{-12} - (a^7 + 25 a^4 b^3 + 36 a^2 b^5 + 16 b^7) a^6 c^{-14} \\
 & (a^{10} + 44 a^6 b^3 + 96 a^4 b^5 + 16 a^3 b^6 + 80 a^2 b^7 + 25 b^9) a^6 c^{-16} \\
 & (a^{11} + 70 a^8 b^3 + 210 a^6 b^5 + 84 a^5 b^6 + 260 a^4 b^7 \\
 & + 72 a^3 b^8 + 150 a^2 b^9 + 36 b^{11}) a^6 c^{-18} \\
 & (a^{11} + 104 a^{10} b^3 + 406 a^8 b^5 + 272 a^7 b^6 + 680 a^6 b^7 + 468 a^5 b^8 \\
 & + 575 a^4 b^9 + 209 a^3 b^{10} + 252 a^2 b^{11} + 49 b^{13}) a^6 c^{-20} \\
 & (a^{16} + 147 a^{12} b^3 + 720 a^{10} b^5 + 693 a^8 b^6 + 1548 a^8 b^7 + 1836 a^7 b^8 \\
 & + 1814 a^6 b^9 + 1640 a^5 b^{10} + 1113 a^4 b^{11} + 488 a^3 b^{12} \\
 & + 392 a^2 b^{13} + 64 b^{15}) a^6 c^{-22} + \dots \quad (43)
 \end{aligned}$$

The value of l can be obtained from that of n by interchanging a and b .

The potential energy of the system is, by Art. 87, $W = \frac{1}{2} l A^2 + m A B + \frac{1}{2} n B^2$, (44)

and the repulsion between the two spheres is, by Art. 93 a, $-\frac{dW}{dc} = \frac{1}{2} A^2 \frac{dl}{dc} + AB \frac{dm}{dc} + \frac{1}{2} B^2 \frac{dn}{dc}$. (45)

The surface density at any point of either sphere is given by equations (1) and (4) in terms of the coefficients A_n and B_n .

$$\begin{aligned}
 p_4 & = 5 a^5 b^3 c^{-8} + 15 a^6 b^5 c^{-10} + 35 a^8 b^7 c^{-12} + (30 a^8 b^9 + 70 a^6 b^9) c^{-14} \quad (100) \\
 & + (45 a^{10} b^6 + 120 a^8 b^8 + 126 a^6 b^{11}) c^{-16} + \dots \quad (101) \\
 q_4 & = a^5 c^{-6} + 10 a^8 b^3 c^{-11} + (15 a^{10} b^3 + 45 a^8 b^6) c^{-13} \\
 & + (20 a^{12} b^3 + 90 a^{10} b^5 + 140 a^8 b^7) c^{-15} \\
 & + (25 a^{14} b^3 + 150 a^{12} b^5 + 40 a^{11} b^6 + 350 a^{10} b^7 + 350 a^8 b^9) c^{-17} \\
 p_5 & = 6 a^6 b^3 c^{-9} + 21 a^6 b^5 c^{-11} + 56 a^6 b^7 c^{-13} \\
 & + (24 a^9 b^6 + 126 a^6 b^9) c^{-15} + \dots \quad (102) \\
 q_5 & = a^6 c^{-8} + 12 a^9 b^3 c^{-12} + (18 a^{11} b^3 + 63 a^9 b^5) c^{-14} \\
 & + (24 a^{13} b^3 + 126 a^{11} b^5 + 224 a^9 b^7) c^{-16} + \dots \quad (103) \\
 p_6 & = 7 a^7 b^3 c^{-10} + 28 a^7 b^5 c^{-12} + 84 a^7 b^7 c^{-14} + \dots \quad (104) \\
 q_6 & = a^7 c^{-7} + 14 a^{10} b^3 c^{-13} + (21 a^{12} b^3 + 84 a^{10} b^5) c^{-15} + \dots \quad (105) \\
 p_7 & = 8 a^8 b^3 c^{-11} + 36 a^8 b^5 c^{-13} + \dots \quad (106) \\
 q_7 & = a^8 c^{-8} + 16 a^{11} b^3 c^{-14} + \dots \quad (107) \\
 p_8 & = 9 a^9 b^3 c^{-12} + \dots \quad (108) \\
 q_8 & = a^9 c^{-9} + \dots \quad (109)
 \end{aligned}$$

The values of the r 's and s 's may be written down by interchanging a and b in the q 's and p 's respectively.

If we now calculate the potentials of the two spheres in terms of these coefficients in the form

$$\begin{aligned}
 a & = lA + mB, \\
 \beta & = mA + nB,
 \end{aligned}$$

then l, m, n are the coefficients of potential (Art. 87), and of the

$$\begin{aligned}
 m & = c^{-1} + p_1 a c^{-2} + p_2 a^2 c^{-3} + \dots, \\
 n & = b^{-1} - q_1 a c^{-2} - q_2 a^2 c^{-3} - \dots,
 \end{aligned}$$

or, expanding in terms of a, b, c ,

$$\begin{aligned}
 m & = c^{-1} + 2 a^3 b^3 c^{-7} + 3 a^3 b^3 (a^2 + b^2) c^{-9} + a^3 b^3 (4 a^4 + 6 a^2 b^2 + 4 b^4) c^{-11} \\
 & + a^3 b^3 [5 a^6 + 10 a^4 b^2 + 8 a^3 b^3 + 10 a^2 b^4 + 5 b^6] c^{-13} \\
 & + a^3 b^3 [6 a^8 + 15 a^6 b^2 + 30 a^5 b^3 + 20 a^4 b^4 \\
 & + 30 a^3 b^5 + 15 a^2 b^6 + 6 b^8] \\
 & + a^3 b^3 [7 a^{10} + 21 a^8 b^2 + 75 a^7 b^3 + 35 a^6 b^4 + 144 a^6 b^5 \\
 & + 35 a^4 b^6 + 75 a^3 b^7 + 21 a^2 b^8 + 7 b^{10}] \\
 & + a^3 b^3 [8 a^{12} + 28 a^{10} b^2 + 164 a^9 b^3 + 56 a^8 b^4 + 446 a^7 b^5 + 102 a^6 b^6
 \end{aligned}$$