

A 3-d laplace problem:
This is example 3.5 in your text.
we need to solve:

$$\vec{\nabla}^2 V = 0 \Rightarrow \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial z^2} = 0$$

we separate as before, assuming a solution of the form

$$V = XYZ$$

We then can obtain:

$$\frac{1}{X} \frac{\partial^2 X}{\partial x^2} + \frac{1}{Y} \frac{\partial^2 Y}{\partial y^2} + \frac{1}{Z} \frac{\partial^2 Z}{\partial z^2} = 0$$

We have three separation constants here:

$$\frac{1}{X} \frac{\partial^2 X}{\partial x^2} = C_1$$

$$\frac{1}{Y} \frac{\partial^2 Y}{\partial y^2} = C_2$$

$$\frac{1}{Z} \frac{\partial^2 Z}{\partial z^2} = C_3$$

$$\text{with } C_1 + C_2 + C_3 = 0$$

Here are the bc:

$V=0@y=0, V=0@y=a, V=0@z=0, V=0@z=b, V=0@x=\text{infinity}, V=V_0(x,y)@x=0$
we therefore want oscillatory solutions in the y and z direction. We'll thus choose these separation constants to be negative. Thus:

$$C_2 = -k^2; C_3 = -p^2; C_1 = k^2 + p^2$$

In the x-direction, we have exponentially damped, increasing solutions. We thus have:

$$V(x, y, z) = \left(A e^{+\sqrt{k^2+p^2}x} + B e^{-\sqrt{k^2+p^2}x} \right) \left(C \sin(ky) + D \cos(ky) \right) \left(E \sin(pz) + F \cos(pz) \right)$$

I can pick out constants that need to vanish pretty easily. They are:

A, D and F. Combining the remaining constants gives:

$$V(x, y, z) = C e^{-\sqrt{k^2+p^2}x} \sin(ky) \sin(pz)$$

We use two of the other boundary conditions to evaluate k and p:

$$ka = n\pi \Rightarrow k = \frac{n\pi}{a}$$

$$pb = m\pi \Rightarrow p = \frac{m\pi}{b}$$

The general solution is a double sum:

$$V_{nm}(x, y, z) = C_{nm} e^{-\pi\sqrt{\left(\frac{n}{a}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{m}{b}\right)^2}x} \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{a}y\right) \sin\left(\frac{m\pi}{b}z\right)$$

We thus have:

$$V(x, y, z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} C_{nm} e^{-\pi\sqrt{\left(\frac{n}{a}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{m}{b}\right)^2}x} \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{a}y\right) \sin\left(\frac{m\pi}{b}z\right)$$

Let me show you how to fit the remaining boundary condition. At $x=0$, we have:

$$V_0(y, z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} C_{nm} \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{a}y\right) \sin\left(\frac{m\pi}{b}z\right)$$

You will evaluate this with an expanded version of Fourier's trick:

$$\int_{y=0}^{y=a} \int_{z=0}^{z=b} V_0(y, z) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{a} y\right) \sin\left(\frac{m\pi}{b} z\right) dy dz = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} C_{nm} \int_{y=0}^{y=a} \int_{z=0}^{z=b} \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{a} y\right) \sin\left(\frac{m\pi}{b} z\right) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{a} y\right) \sin\left(\frac{m\pi}{b} z\right) dy dz$$

We know how to evaluate this on the right hand side. This gives:

$$\int_{y=0}^{y=a} \int_{z=0}^{z=b} V_0(y, z) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{a} y\right) \sin\left(\frac{m\pi}{b} z\right) dy dz = C_{n,m} \frac{a}{2} \frac{b}{2}$$

Let's eliminate the primes to write:

$$C_{nm} = \frac{4}{ab} \int_{y=0}^{y=a} \int_{z=0}^{z=b} V_0(y, z) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{a} y\right) \sin\left(\frac{m\pi}{b} z\right) dy dz$$

This is still quite general at this point. Let's work now the specific problem of the potential being constant on that face. We then have:

$$C_{nm} = \frac{4V_0}{ab} \int_{y=0}^{y=a} \int_{z=0}^{z=b} \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{a} y\right) \sin\left(\frac{m\pi}{b} z\right) dy dz$$

We know how to evaluate each of these integrals also. The result is:

$$C_{nm} = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } n \text{ or } m \text{ is even} \\ \frac{16V_0}{\pi nm} & \text{if } n \text{ and } m \text{ are odd} \end{cases}$$

It is now possible to write the general solution:

$$V_0(y, z) = \frac{16V_0}{\pi} \sum_{n=1,3,5,\dots}^{\infty} \sum_{m=1,3,5,\dots}^{\infty} e^{-\pi\sqrt{\left(\frac{n}{a}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{m}{b}\right)^2} x} \frac{\sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{a} y\right)}{n} \frac{\sin\left(\frac{m\pi}{b} z\right)}{m}$$

Your author suggests that a reasonable approximation would involve keeping only the first few terms, however for more precise numerical calculations, you will want to formulate some more extended method, I believe.

Let's go on now to solutions in symmetries other than rectangular.