

Modeling of the Deformation of  
Single-walled Carbon Nanotubes:  
Mechanical Deformation and  
Surface Charge Distribution:  
LECTURE 4

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# Charge Distribution on Thin Conducting Nanotubes----Reduced 3-D Model

# BEM Formulation for Potential Theory

Governing equation (in 2-D or in 3-D):

$$\nabla^2 u(\mathbf{x}) = 0, \quad \forall \mathbf{x} \in B \quad (1)$$

with given boundary conditions on  $u$  or  $q = \partial u / \partial n$  on the boundary  $\partial B$ .

Green's identity:

$$\int_B [u \nabla^2 v - v \nabla^2 u] dV = \int_{\partial B} \left[ u \frac{\partial v}{\partial n} - v \frac{\partial u}{\partial n} \right] dS \quad (2)$$

Choose  $v$  to be the (infinite domain) Green's function  $G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})$  that satisfies the equation:

$$\nabla^2 G(\boldsymbol{\xi}, \mathbf{y}) = -\Delta(\boldsymbol{\xi}, \mathbf{y}) \quad (3)$$

where  $\Delta$  is the Dirac delta function.

Green's functions that satisfy (3) are:

$$G(\xi, y) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \ln \left[ \frac{1}{r(\xi, y)} \right] \quad \text{in } 2D$$

$$G(\xi, y) = \frac{1}{4\pi r(\xi, y)} \quad \text{in } 3D \quad (4)$$

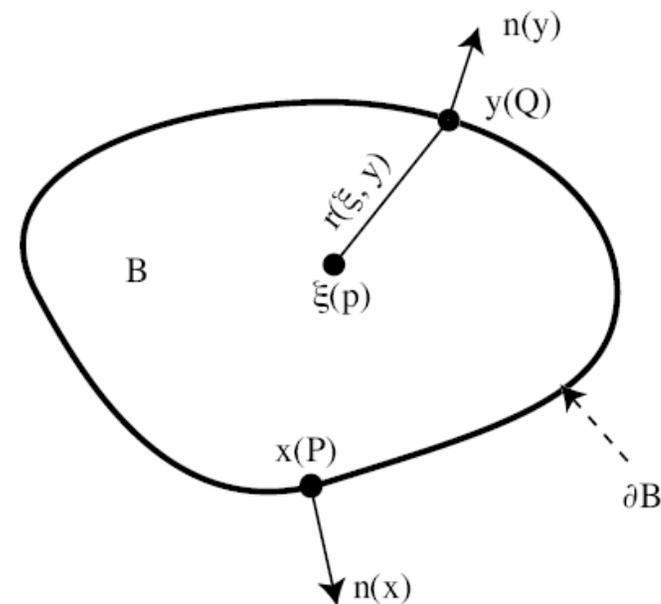


Figure 1:

Substitute (4) into (2) and use (3) to get:

$$u(\boldsymbol{\xi}) = \int_{\partial B} [G(\boldsymbol{\xi}, \mathbf{y})q(\mathbf{y}) - F(\boldsymbol{\xi}, \mathbf{y})u(\mathbf{y})]dS(\mathbf{y}) \quad (5)$$

where 
$$F(\boldsymbol{\xi}, \mathbf{y}) = \frac{\partial G(\boldsymbol{\xi}, \mathbf{y})}{\partial n(\mathbf{y})} \quad (6)$$

Now let  $\boldsymbol{\xi} \in B \rightarrow \mathbf{x} \in \partial B$  to get the BIE:

$$C(\mathbf{x})u(\mathbf{x}) = \int_{\partial B} [G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})q(\mathbf{y}) - F(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})u(\mathbf{y})]dS(\mathbf{y}) \quad (7)$$

where  $C(\mathbf{x}) = \alpha(\mathbf{x})/2\pi$ , with  $\alpha(\mathbf{x})$  the included angle at  $\mathbf{x} \in \partial B$ , and  $\int$  the CPV of the integral.

Discretization of the BIE (7) - A simple case :  
 straight constant boundary elements.

$$\alpha u(P^{(i)}) = \sum_{j=1}^{N_E} \int_{\partial B_j} \left[ \frac{\partial \ln r(P^{(i)}, Q)}{\partial n(Q)} u(Q) - \ln r(P^{(i)}, Q) q(Q) \right] dS(Q) \quad (8)$$

$$\alpha u(P^{(i)}) = \sum_{j=1}^{N_E} u(Q^{(j)}) \int_{\partial B_j} \frac{\partial \ln r(P^{(i)}, Q)}{\partial n(Q)} dS(Q) - q(Q^{(j)}) \int_{\partial B_j} \ln r(P^{(i)}, Q) dS(Q)$$

$$\alpha u_i = A_{ij} u_j - B_{ij} q_j \quad (10)$$

$$\alpha I \{u\} = [A] \{u\} - [B] \{q\} \quad (11)$$

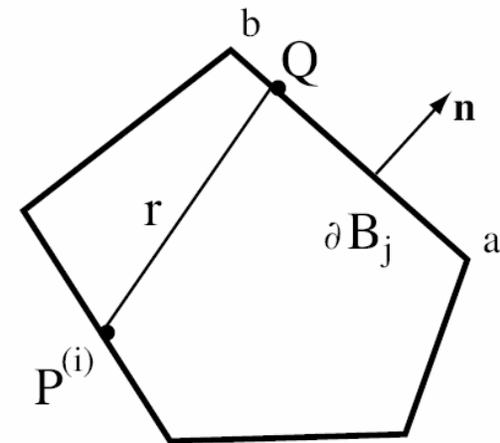


Figure 2:

For convex region B:

$$A_{ij} = \begin{cases} \theta_b - \theta_a & \text{for } D \neq 0 \\ 0 & \text{for } D = 0 \end{cases} \quad (12)$$

$$B_{ij} = \begin{cases} D [\tan(\theta)(\ln(r) - 1) + \theta]_a^b & \text{for } D \neq 0 \\ \beta [r(\ln(r) - 1)]_a^b & \text{for } D = 0, P^{(i)} \notin \partial B_j \\ r_b(\ln(r_b) - 1) + r_a(\ln(r_a) - 1) & \text{for } D = 0, \\ & P^{(i)} \in \partial B_j \end{cases} \quad (13)$$

$$\beta = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{for } r_b > r_a \\ -1 & \text{for } r_b < r_a \end{cases} \quad (14)$$

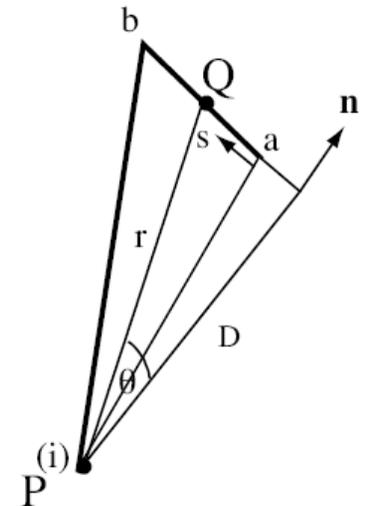


Figure 3:

$$\alpha I\{u\} = [A]\{u\} - [B]\{q\} \quad (15)$$

Switching columns:

$$[C]\{x\} = [D]\{y\} \equiv \{b\} \quad (16)$$

where  $\{x\}$  contains the unknown and  $\{y\}$  the prescribed boundary values.

It is noted that the above procedure requires each node/element to interact with all other nodes/elements directly. Therefore,  $\mathcal{O}(N_E)^2$  operations are required to compute the matrices  $[C]$  and  $[D]$ . Storage requirement is also  $\mathcal{O}(N_E)^2$ .

# BEM Formulation for 3-D Potential Theory Outside a Doubly-connected Body

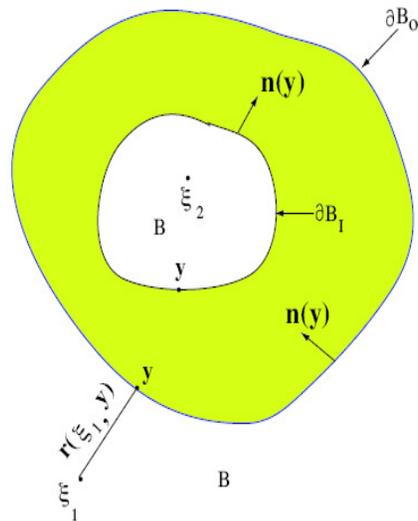
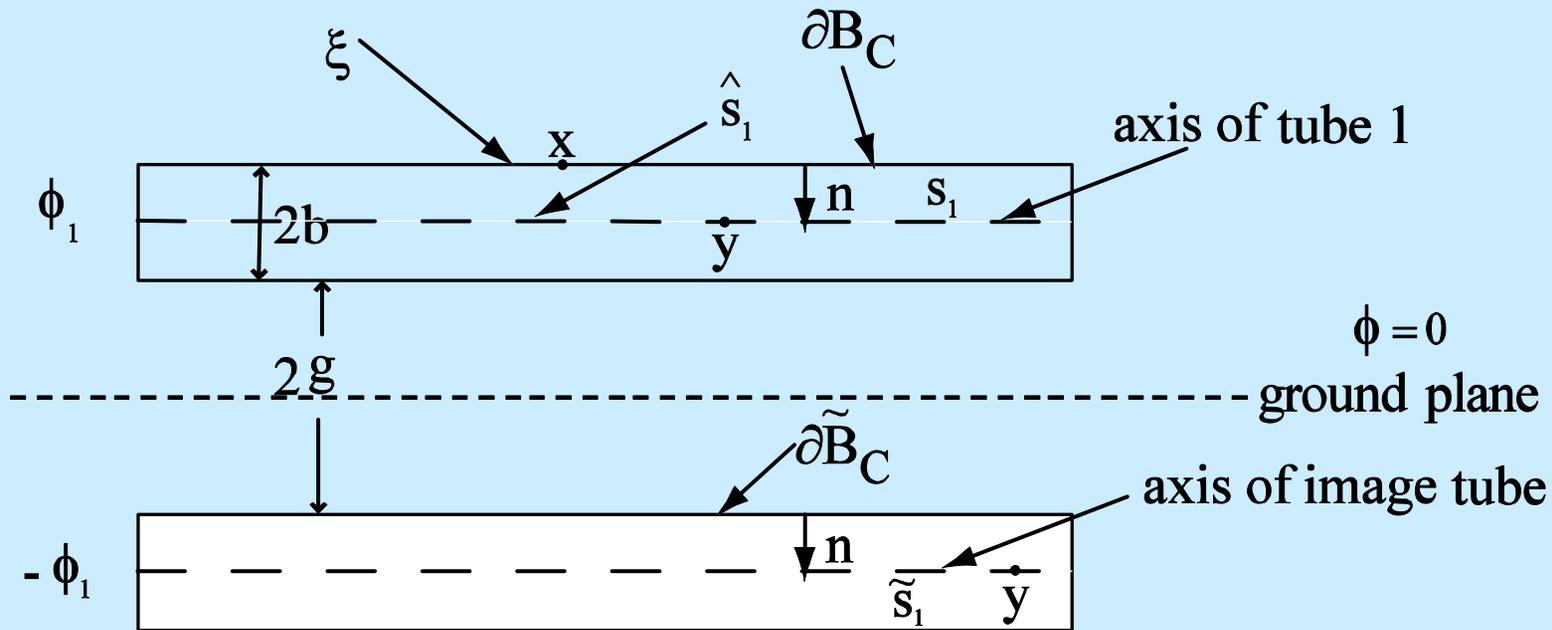


Figure 3: Cross-section of a prismatic doubly-connected conductor

$$\begin{aligned}
 \phi(\xi) = & \int_{\partial B_0} \frac{\sigma(\mathbf{y})}{4\pi\epsilon r(\xi, \mathbf{y})} ds(\mathbf{y}) + \int_{\partial B_1} \frac{\sigma(\mathbf{y})}{4\pi\epsilon r(\xi, \mathbf{y})} ds(\mathbf{y}) \\
 & + \int_{\partial B_0} \frac{\mathbf{r}(\xi, \mathbf{y}) \cdot \mathbf{n}(\mathbf{y}) \phi(\mathbf{y})}{4\pi r^3(\xi, \mathbf{y})} ds(\mathbf{y}) \\
 & + \int_{\partial B_1} \frac{\mathbf{r}(\xi, \mathbf{y}) \cdot \mathbf{n}(\mathbf{y}) \phi(\mathbf{y})}{4\pi r^3(\xi, \mathbf{y})} ds(\mathbf{y}) + C \\
 & + \int_{\partial B_E} \frac{\sigma(\mathbf{y})}{4\pi\epsilon r(\xi, \mathbf{y})} ds(\mathbf{y}) \\
 & + \int_{\partial B_E} \frac{\mathbf{r}(\xi, \mathbf{y}) \cdot \mathbf{n}(\mathbf{y}) \phi(\mathbf{y})}{4\pi r^3(\xi, \mathbf{y})} ds(\mathbf{y}), \quad \xi \in B \quad (17)
 \end{aligned}$$

Only the first integral survives for a thin conductor with  $\phi = A$ .

# BIEs for CNT

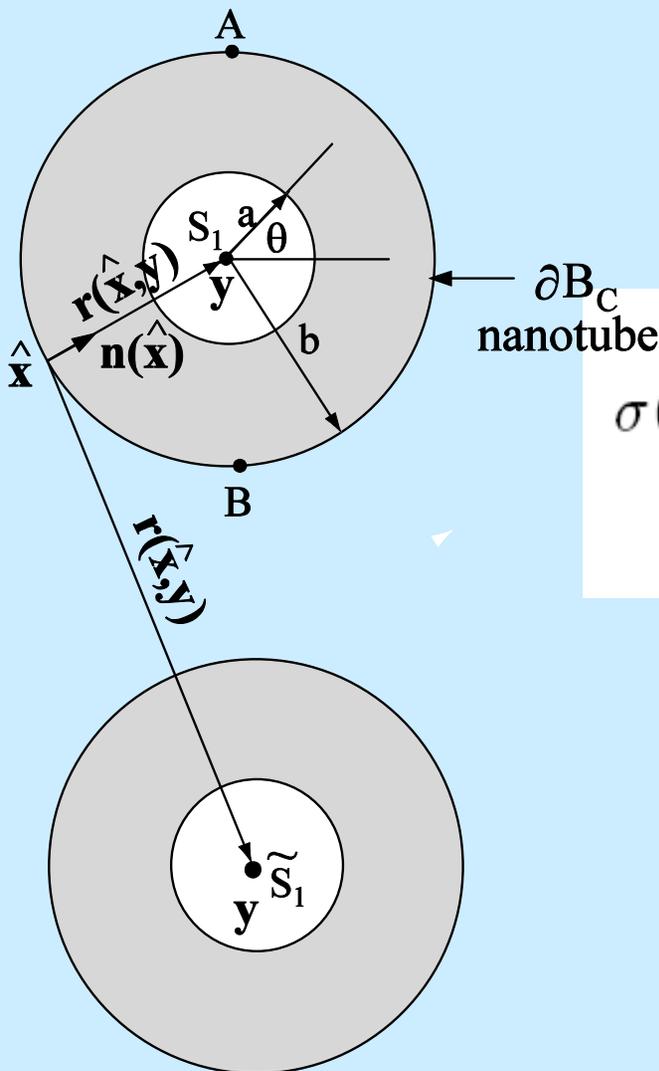


For  $\mathbf{x} \in \partial B_C$ :

$$\phi(x) = \int_{s_1} \frac{q(y)}{4\pi\epsilon r(x, y)} dl(y) + \int_{\tilde{s}_1} \frac{q(y)}{4\pi\epsilon r(x, y)} dl(y) + C \quad (18)$$

$$q(y) = \int_0^{2\pi} \sigma(y_3, b, \theta) b d\theta \quad y_3 \in s_1 \text{ or } \tilde{s}_1 \quad (19)$$

# Gradient BIE - Source Point Approaching the Nanotube Surface



$$\sigma(\mathbf{x}) = \epsilon \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial n}(\mathbf{x}) = \epsilon \mathbf{n}(\mathbf{x}) \cdot [\nabla_{\xi} \phi(\xi)]_{\xi=\mathbf{x}} \quad (20)$$

$$\sigma(\hat{\mathbf{x}}) = \int_{s_1 \cup \tilde{s}_1} \frac{\mathbf{r}(\hat{\mathbf{x}}, \mathbf{y}) \cdot \mathbf{n}(\hat{\mathbf{x}}) q(\mathbf{y})}{4\pi r^3(\hat{\mathbf{x}}, \mathbf{y})} dl(\mathbf{y}), \quad \hat{\mathbf{x}} \in \partial B_C \quad (21)$$

This is a post-processing step.

# Charge density $q$ as a function of length

$l_N$ (nm)	$q_0$ (pC/m) computed	$q_0 = \frac{2\pi\epsilon\phi}{\operatorname{arccosh}(1+g/b)}$ (pC/m) exact for $l_N \rightarrow \infty$	difference(%)
1000	8.59	8.051	6.65
1500	8.35		3.71
2000	8.24		2.34
3000	8.15		1.23

table 1 varying length of nanotube

Two nanotube models with  $\phi_1 = 1$  volt,  $\tilde{\phi}_1 = -1$  volt  $\epsilon = 8.854 \times 10^{-12}$ F/m.  
 $b = 1$  nm and  $g = 500$  nm.

# Charge density $q$ as a function of outer radius

$b(\text{nm})$	$q_0(\text{pC}/\text{m})$ computed	$q_0 = \frac{2\pi\epsilon\phi}{\arccos h(1+g/b)}(\text{pC}/\text{m})$ exact for $l_N \rightarrow \infty$	difference(%)
20	14.37	14.08	2.06
7.5	11.53	11.34	1.68
3	9.70	9.57	1.36
1	8.15	8.051	1.23

table 2 varying outer radius of nanotube

Two nanotube models with  $\phi_1 = 1$  volt,  $\tilde{\phi}_1 = -1$  volt  $l_N = 3000$  nm and  $g = 500$  nm.  
 $\epsilon = 8.854 \times 10^{-12}$  F/m.

Performs well for  $l_N / (2b) \geq 500$

$$L/b \geq 500$$

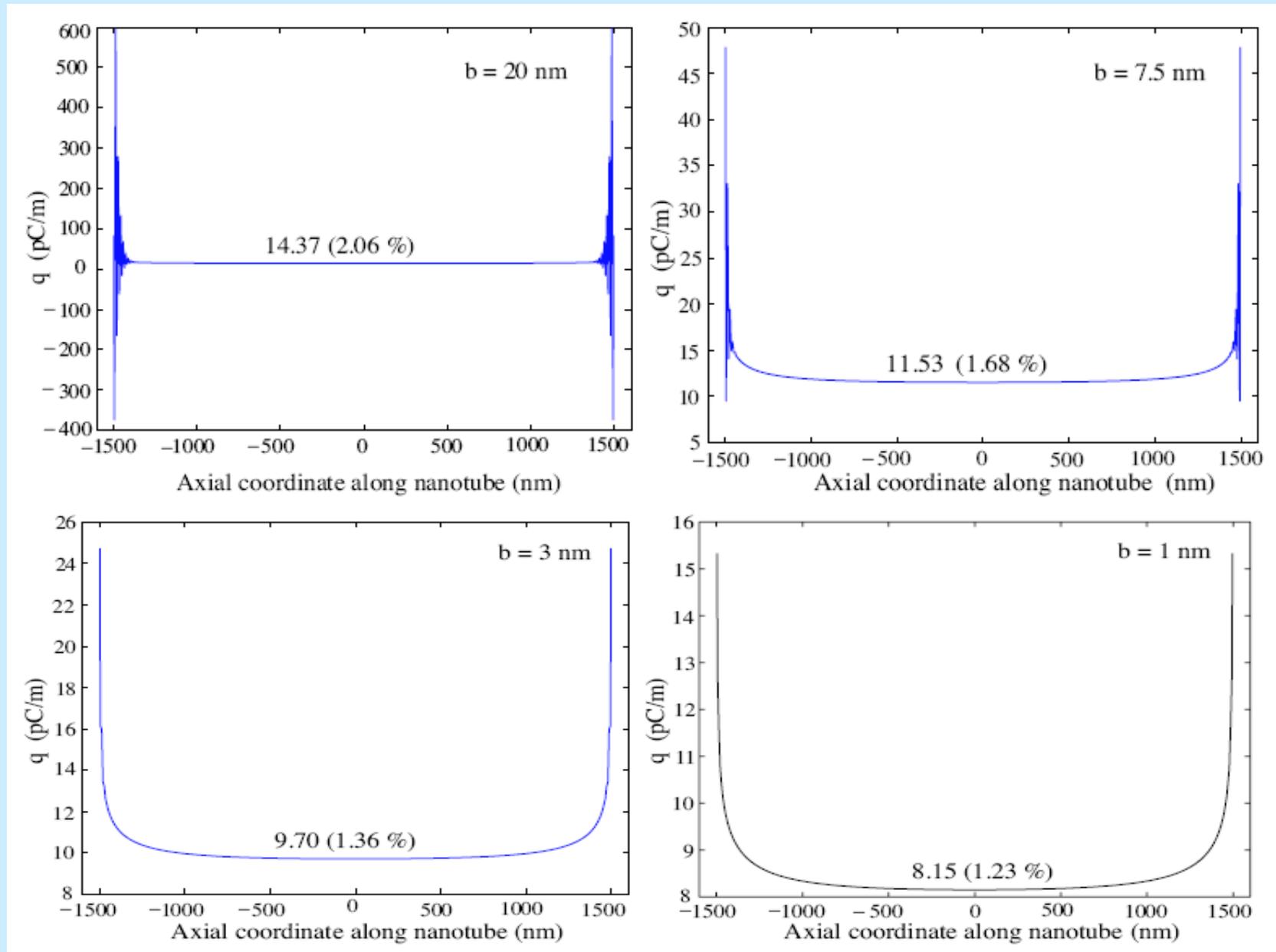


Figure 9 Charge density  $q$  along nanotube for different values of  $b$

# Charge density $q$ as a function of gap

$g$ (nm)	$q_0$ (pC/m) computed	$q_0 = \frac{2\pi\epsilon\phi}{\arccos h(1+g/b)}$ (pC/m) exact for $l_N \rightarrow \infty$	difference(%)
500	8.15	8.051	1.23
100	10.49	10.48	0.1
25	14.08	14.08	0
5	22.38	22.45	0.31

table 3 varying gap between nanotube and ground

Two nanotube models with  $\phi_1 = 1$  volt,  $\tilde{\phi}_1 = -1$  volt  $l_N = 3000$  nm and  $g = 500$  nm.  
 $\epsilon = 8.854 \times 10^{-12}$  F/m  $b=1$ nm.

Performs well for  $g/(2b) \geq 2.5$

## *Charge density $q$ as a function of number of elements*

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number of elements	$q_0$ at center (pC/m)
11	8.1526
25	8.1523
51	8.1521
101	8.1520
201	8.1519

table 4 convergence test—varying number of elements (8.051)

Two nanotube models with  $\phi_1 = 1$  volt,  $\tilde{\phi}_1 = -1$  volt  $\ell_N = 3000$  nm and  $g = 500$  nm  
 $\varepsilon = 8.854 \times 10^{-12}$  F/m.

# Gradient BIEs for a CNT with image

$$\sigma(x) = \varepsilon \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial n}(x) = \varepsilon n(x) \cdot [\nabla_{\xi} \phi(\xi)]_{\xi=x}$$

$$\sigma(x_3, b, \pi/2) = \int_{s_1^+ \cup s_2^+} \frac{q(y) r(x^+, y) \cdot n(x^+)}{4\pi r^3(x^+, y)} dl(y)$$

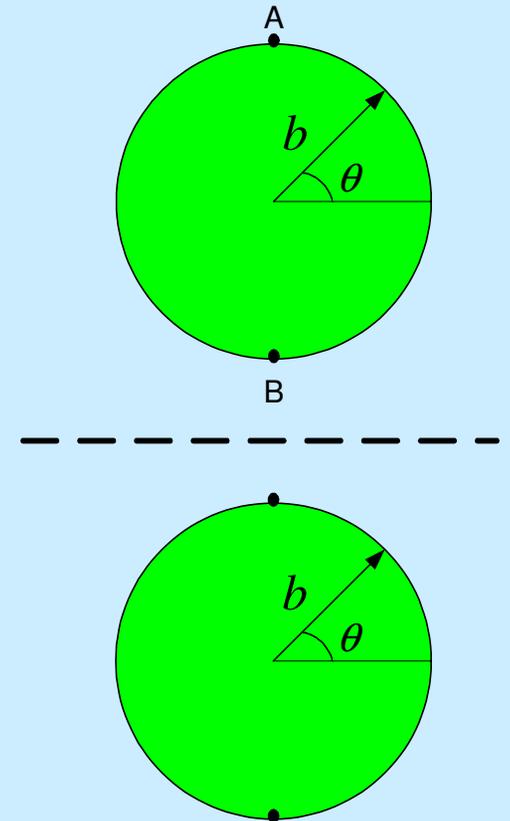


Figure 10 2 Cross section model

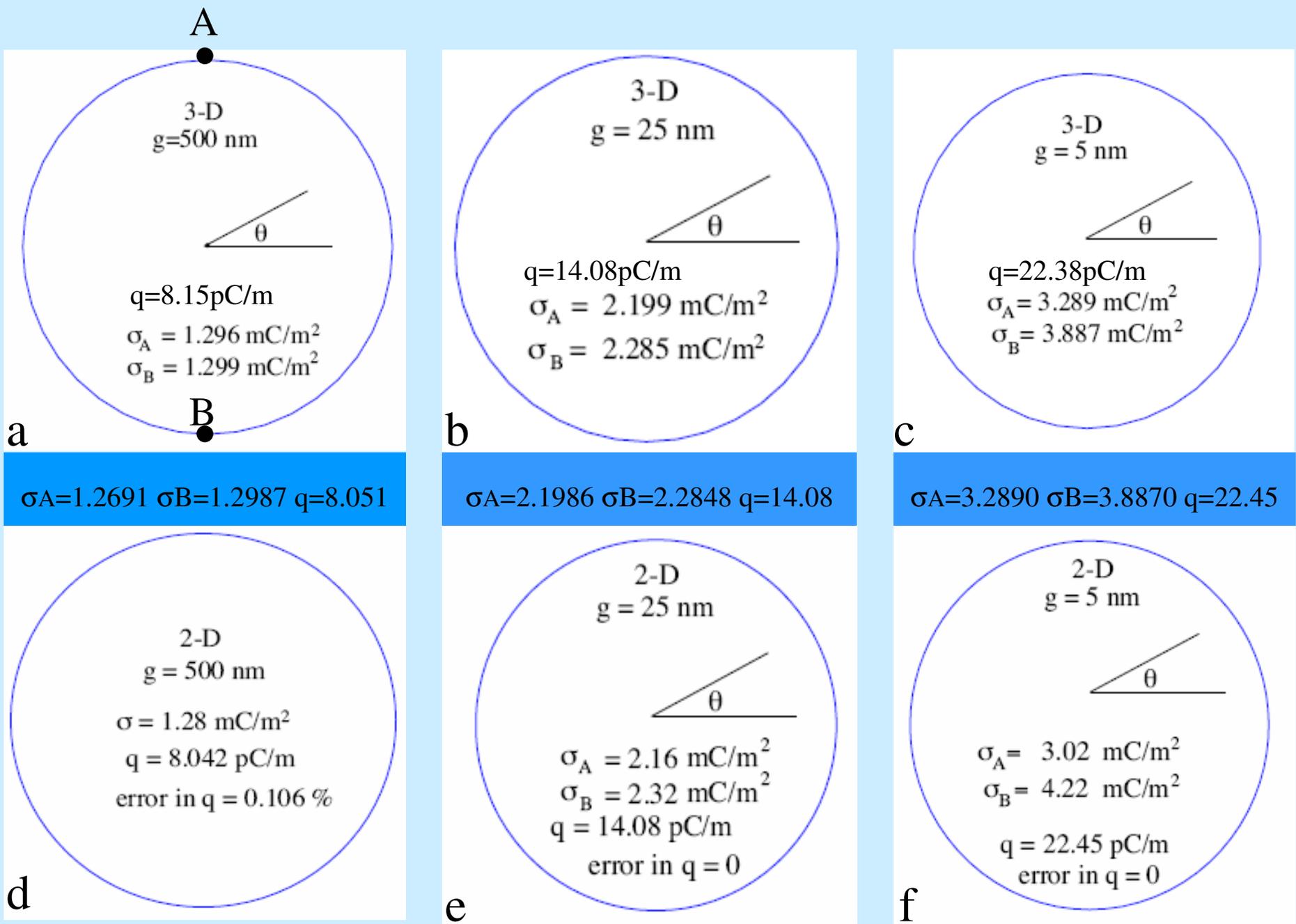
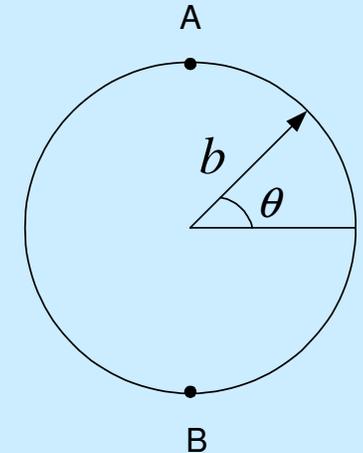


Figure 11 Polar plots of  $\sigma$  for different values of  $g$  3-D deduced model (a) $g=500\text{nm}$  (b) $g=25\text{nm}$  (c) $g=5\text{nm}$   
 2-D cross section model (d) $g=500\text{nm}$  (e) $g=25\text{nm}$  (f) $g=5\text{nm}$

		3D	2D	Analytical soln
g=500	$\sigma_A$	1.2963	1.28	1.2961
	$\sigma_B$	1.2985	1.28	1.2987
g=25	$\sigma_A$	2.1987	2.16	2.1986
	$\sigma_B$	2.2849	2.32	2.2848
g=5	$\sigma_A$	3.2890	3.02	3.2890
	$\sigma_B$	3.8870	4.22	3.8870



$$\sigma(A) = \frac{q}{\pi b} \left[ \frac{g+b}{2g+3b} \right]$$

$$\sigma(B) = \frac{q}{\pi b} \left[ \frac{g+b}{2g+b} \right]$$

table 5 charge density on two points A & B

Two nanotube models with  $\phi_1 = 1$  volt,  $\tilde{\phi}_1 = -1$  volt  $\ell_N = 3000$  nm and  $g = 500$  nm.  
 $\epsilon = 8.854 \times 10^{-12}$  F/m  $b=1$ nm

# Three Nanotubes with three imaginary tubes

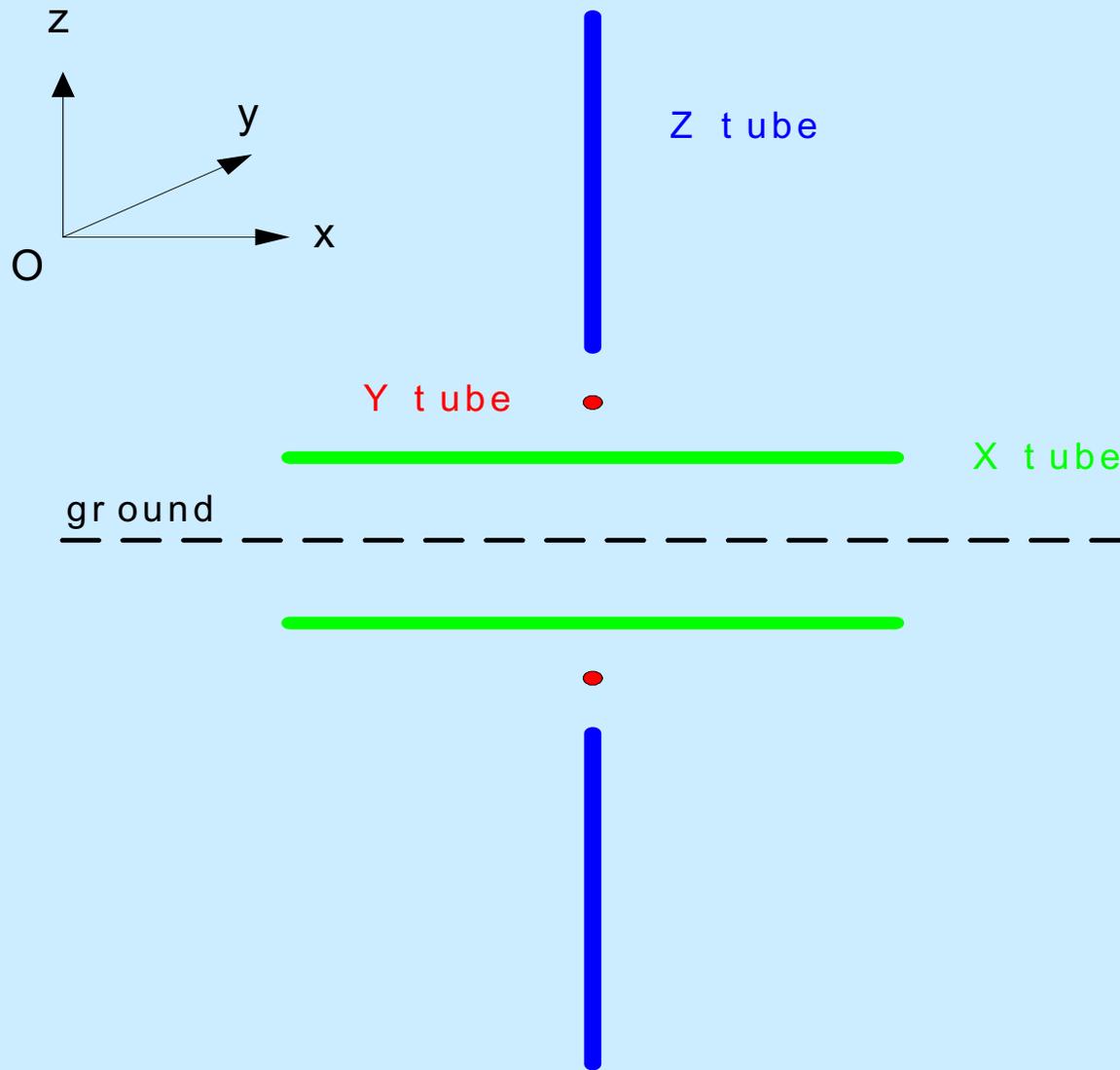
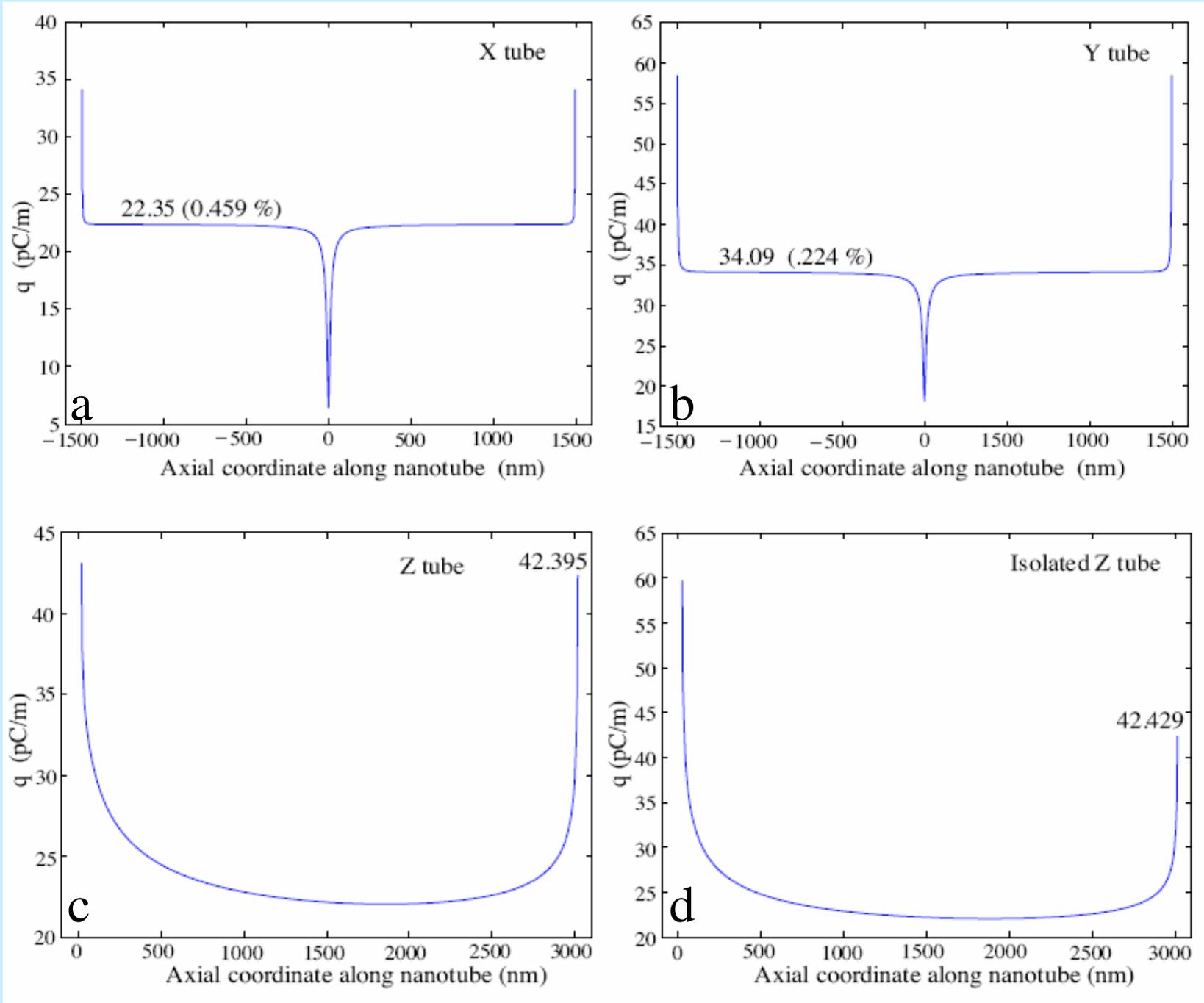


Figure 12 Configuration with three tubes



$$l_{N1} = l_{N2} = l_{N3} = 3000\text{nm}, g_1 = g_2 = g_3 = 5\text{nm} \quad \phi_1 = 1, \phi_2 = 2, \phi_3 = 3 \quad b = 1\text{nm} \quad \epsilon = 8.854 \times 10^{-12} \text{F/m}$$

Figure 13      q along (a) tube X   (b) tube Y   (c) tube Z   (d) isolated Z tube

**H. Chen and S. Mukherjee, Charge distribution on thin conducting nanotubes. International Journal for Numerical Methods in Engineering. 2006. In press.**

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