

Most common coding Q's I have been getting:

- 1) For *non-uniform* distributions (for example $= cx^9$) we use the following process to figure out a good number for the numerical constant in the density function (in this case c).

$$Q_{tot} = \int_i^f dq$$

$$Q_{tot} = \int_i^f \lambda dx$$

$$Q_{tot} = \int_i^f cx^9 dx$$

$$Q_{tot} = \frac{c}{10} [x^{10}]_i^f$$

Rearrange to solve this for the constant!

$$c = Q_{tot} \times (\text{some #'s})$$

At the top of your code, you probably have a constant something like $Q = 1e-12$.

You also have the other constants which appear in your formula for the density's numerical density (i.e c). Make the code compute your numerical constant using the formula you derive.

- 2) For non-uniform density with total charge zero (i.e. half the rod is positive and half is negative) the above process needs a slight modification. Do the above process for the positive half of the rod only. This means do the exact same thing but use $\frac{Q_{tot}}{2}$ and change your limits of integration to include only the positive half of the rod.

- 3) If using an arc instead of a rod use ds instead of dx to derive your formula for the numerical constant.

THINK: for an arc $ds = R d\theta$.

$$Q_{tot} = \int_i^f \lambda ds = \int_i^f \lambda R d\theta$$

- 4) If you wish to verify your rod has the correct charge (to verify you did the above steps correctly) do the following:

- Before the FOR loop which draws the balls, initialize a constant: `Q_check = 0`.
- Inside the FOR loop drawing the balls, AFTER you wrote `ball.dq = lambda * dx`, put in a line of code that says `Q_check += ball.dq`.
- After the FOR loop, put in a print statement for `Q_check`.
- Hopefully you discover `Q_check` is approximately equal to the total amount of charge we expect from a paper & pencil calculation.
- For non-uniform cases with total charge zero, you could modify the above work with an absolute value function (`Q_check += abs(ball.dq)`).

- 5) People get confused on **22.24** (non-uni arc) due to the coordinate system. I am not offended if you use the standard coordinates and use angles radians(-45°) to radians($+45^\circ$). This essentially does the problem.

If you really want to rotate the system, modify the ball positions in the for loop as follows:

```
ball.pos = -1 * R * vec( cos(pi/2-theta), sin(pi/2-theta), 0 )
```

You will also need to play around with `theta_min` and `theta_max`.

I think you might try angles like `radians(135)`, `radians(225)`, etc.

May need to play around with minus signs as well (possibly adding a minus sign to the density constant).