

# phys. midterm

## Electric Charge and Electric Fields

### 1. Scaling Problem

- a) some point charge produces an E-field  $E_c = 2.00 \times 10^{-3} \text{ V/m}$  at a distance of 1 mm. What is the value of  $E_c$  at 5 mm produced by the same charge?

$$E = k$$

- b) A 1 MC charge produces an E-field  $E = 3.00 \times 10^{-3} \text{ V/m}$  at some distance. What is the value of  $E_c$  at the same distance if the charge is 3 MC

2. The classic Millikan oil drop experiment was the first to measure electron charge. Oil drops were suspended against the gravitational force by an electric field. Suppose the drops have a mass of  $4 \times 10^{-16} \text{ kg}$  and the E field is oriented downward, and has a value of 6131.25 N/C. With this exact value, the drops remain suspended in air.

- a) How many electrons are on the drops?

$$\frac{4 \times 10^{-16} \cdot 9.8}{6131.25} = \text{electrons}$$

- b) Suppose a cosmic ray comes along and removes an electron from a drop. What will the acceleration of the drop be?

$$\frac{4 \times 10^{-16}}{9.1 \times 10^{-31}} = 4.39 \times 10^{14}$$



## Potential Energy and Voltage, Capacitors

1. A mass spectrometer is a device used to accelerate ions to determine atomic mass of chemicals. Suppose two conducting plates with potential difference  $\Delta V = 4 \text{ kV}$  are used to accelerate both hydrogen ions and helium ions. Hydrogen have charge  $+1e$ , and helium have charge  $+2e$ .

a) What is the total kinetic energy (in electron volts) gained by the hydrogen and helium ions?

$$KE_{\text{Hydrogen}} = 1.6 \times 10^{-19} \cdot 4 \times 10^3 = 6.4 \times 10^{-16} \text{ J}$$

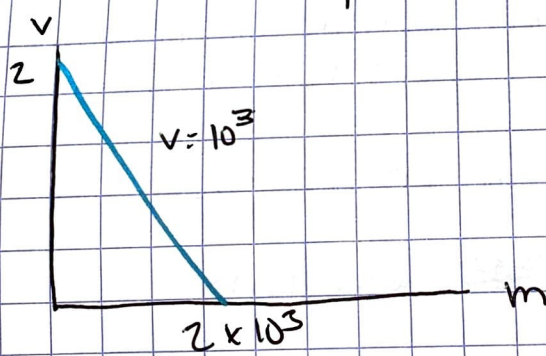
$$KE_{\text{Helium}} = 2(1.6 \times 10^{-19}) \cdot 4 \times 10^3 = 12.8 \times 10^{-16} \text{ J}$$

b) If plate separation is  $\Delta x = 5 \text{ cm}$ , what is the electric field

$$\frac{\Delta V}{\Delta x} = \frac{4 \times 10^3}{5 \times 10^{-2}} = 8 \times 10^4 \text{ V/m}$$

$\uparrow$   
2 bc cm  $\rightarrow$  m

2. Suppose a parallel plate capacitor has an internal E-field of  $1 \text{ kV/m}$  and a plate separation of  $2 \text{ mm}$ . Draw the voltage as a function of distance between the negative and the positive plates. Make sure to label the axes with proper units, and mark the X-value of each plate



3. Suppose a parallel plates in the previous problem have an area of  $1 \text{ cm}^2$ .

a) What is the capacitance of the system

$$\text{Capacitance} = (C) \frac{\epsilon_0 A}{d}$$

$$C = \frac{8.85 \times 10^{-12} (1 \times 10^{-4})}{2 \times 10^{-3}} = 4.425 \times 10^{-13}$$

b) How much energy in joules is stored in this capacitor if the voltage is  $5 \text{ V}$

$$\frac{1}{2} (4.425 \times 10^{-13}) (5) = 1.106 \times 10^{-12}$$



4. Suppose we need a system that can store more energy for the same voltage (in other words, more capacitance)

a) Should we connect an identical capacitor to the first series or in parallel

• An identical capacitor should be connected in parallel as it will store more energy

Current, Resistance, and DC Circuits

1. When dealing with AA batteries, we can connect them "end to end" or in parallel. Suppose that the internal resistances of the batteries  $r_1 = r_2 = 2\Omega$  and that the emfs of the two batteries are both  $\mathcal{E}_1 = \mathcal{E}_2 = 1.5V$ . Finally, let  $R = 50\Omega$ . Suppose  $R$  represents a small device that will work at  $1.5V$  or  $3V$ .

a) Using Kirchhoff's rules, find the current through  $R$  for the series case.

$$I = \frac{3V}{r_1 + r_2 + R} = \frac{3}{54} = 55.56 \text{ mA}$$

$$I = \frac{1.5V}{r_1 + r_2 + R} = \frac{1.5}{54} = 27.77 \text{ mA}$$

b) What is the power consumption

$$\begin{aligned} & [(55.56)^2 \cdot 2] + [(55.56)^2 \cdot 2] + [(55.56)^2 \cdot 50] / 1000 \\ & 6.17 \text{ W} \quad 6.17 \text{ W} \quad 154.34 \text{ W} \end{aligned}$$

3V  $\rightarrow$  Power consumption = 166.7 W

$$[(27.77)^2 \cdot 2] + [(27.77)^2 \cdot 2] + [(27.77)^2 \cdot 50] / 1000$$