

# CALCULUS-BASED PHYSICS-2: ELECTRICITY, MAGNETISM, AND THERMODYNAMICS (PHYS180-02): UNIT 4

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## UNIT 3 REVIEW

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### Reading: Chapters 5-7

1. Charge, Conductors and Insulators
2. Coulomb's Law and Electric Fields
3. E-fields of Charge Distributions
4. Gauss's Law

## UNIT 3 REVIEW PROBLEMS

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## UNIT 3 REVIEW PROBLEMS

Suppose a charge  $q$  is located at the origin. Use Gauss' law to find the electric field. What is the electric field?

- A:  $\vec{E} = \frac{kq}{r} \hat{r}$
- B:  $\vec{E} = \frac{kq}{r^2} \hat{r}$
- C:  $\vec{E} = \frac{kq}{r^3} \hat{r}$
- D:  $\vec{E} = \frac{kq^2}{r^2} \hat{r}$

## UNIT 3 REVIEW PROBLEMS

Suppose a line of charge runs up the z-axis. The charge per unit length is  $\lambda$ . Use Gauss' law to find the electric field. What is the electric field at a point  $P = (x, 0, 0)$ ?

- A:  $\vec{E} = \frac{2k\lambda}{r^2}$
- B:  $\vec{E} = \frac{2k\lambda^2}{r^2}$
- C:  $\vec{E} = \frac{2k\lambda}{r}$
- D:  $\vec{E} = 0$

## SUMMARY

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Reading: Chapters 7, 9, and 10

1. Voltage and Capacitance
2. Ohm's Law
3. DC circuits



## JITT 1.7

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1. Suppose we have two charged plates, one with  $+Q$  and one with  $-Q$ , with a uniform electric field  $E$  in between them. If the distance between the plates is  $d$ , what is the voltage difference between the plates?
2. Form an analogy between voltage and potential energy from kinematics. In this analogy, what kinematic quantity is analogous to electric field?
3. Explain in your own words how the **gradient** of a **scalar field** is calculated, and how it relates to voltage and E-fields.

Suppose we have two charged plates, one with  $+Q$  and one with  $-Q$ , with a uniform electric field  $E$  in between them. If the distance between the plates is  $d$ , what is the voltage difference between the plates?

“you would use the equation  $Q=CV$  to find the voltage difference between the plates.”

“ $\Delta V = \Delta U / Q$ ”

“The voltage difference would be  $+Q-Q$ .”

Form an analogy between voltage and potential energy from kinematics. In this analogy, what kinematic quantity is analogous to electric field?

“Voltage is similar to potential energy in that voltage is the potential change in charge and potential energy is the potential change in velocity. The electric field of a voltage would be similar to the gravity of a potential energy.”

“voltage is the electric potential difference, or the possible difference between two charges. This is similar to potential energy because potential energy is the possible amount of energy of an object. Gravity would be the kinematic equivalent to electric fields.”

Explain in your own words how the **gradient** of a **scalar field** is calculated, and how it relates to voltage and E-fields.

“you differentiate the relationship between  $(\Delta)V$  (this is Voltage) and  $(\Delta)s$  (this is distance).  $\Delta V / \Delta s = \text{Electric field}.$ ”

Let a scalar field be  $U(x, y, z)$ . The *gradient* of the scalar field is

$$\vec{\nabla} U = \frac{\partial U}{\partial x} \hat{i} + \frac{\partial U}{\partial y} \hat{j} + \frac{\partial U}{\partial z} \hat{k} \quad (1)$$

## VOLTAGE

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Voltage is analogous to potential energy in electrostatics. The negative derivative of potential energy  $U$  is the force  $F$ :

$$F = -\frac{dU}{dx} \quad (2)$$

For example, if the force is  $F = -mg$ , and the potential energy is  $U = mgy$ , then

$$\frac{dU}{dy} = -mg \quad (3)$$

Voltage is analogous to potential energy in electrostatics. The derivative of voltage  $V$  is the field  $E$ :

$$E = -\frac{dV}{dx} \quad (4)$$

For example, if the field is  $E = \sigma/\epsilon_0$ , and the potential energy is  $V = \sigma/\epsilon_0 x + C$ , then

$$\frac{dV}{dx} = \sigma/\epsilon_0 \quad (5)$$



Voltage is analogous to potential energy in electrostatics.

Potential energy is just an energy. A *potential* in mechanics is the potential energy per unit mass. *Voltage*, or *electrostatic potential* is **potential energy per unit charge**.

The Volt (V) is the unit of voltage, and it has units of  $1 \text{ V} = 1 \text{ J/C}$ .

**Group board exercise:** Show that the units of electric field (normally Newtons per Coulomb) are also Volts per meter.

If the potential energy is a function of displacement,  $U = U(\vec{x})$ , it may be called a potential energy *surface*.

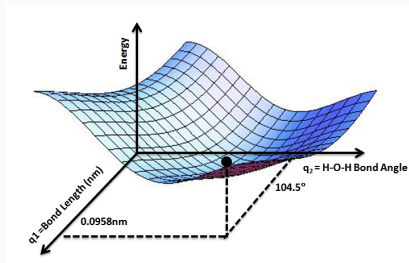
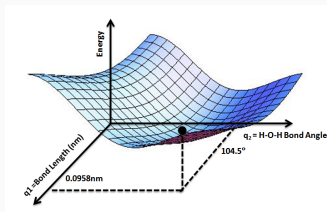


Figure 1: An example of a potential energy surface.

Considering *Newton's Second Law*, however, if  $F = ma$  then  $ma = -\frac{\Delta U}{\Delta x}$ , and

$$a = -\frac{1}{m} \frac{\Delta U}{\Delta x} \quad (6)$$



**Figure 2:** If we divide by the mass we have acceleration.

The derivative, or *gradient*, of  $a$  in Eq. 6 is analogous to the electric field. But the electric field is a *vector field*...

The gradient is like a derivative, but gives you the proper direction wherever you are.

$$\vec{\nabla}V = \vec{E} = -\frac{\partial V}{\partial x}\hat{i} - \frac{\partial V}{\partial y}\hat{j} - \frac{\partial V}{\partial z}\hat{k} \quad (7)$$

Suppose the voltage due to some charge distribution is  $V(x, y, z) = ax + b$ . What is the field?

- A:  $\vec{E} = a\hat{j}$
- B:  $\vec{E} = a\hat{k}$
- C:  $\vec{E} = b\hat{i}$
- D:  $\vec{E} = a\hat{i}$

Suppose the voltage due to some charge distribution is  $V(x, y, z) = ax + by$ . What is the field?

- A:  $\vec{E} = -a\hat{j} - b\hat{j}$
- B:  $\vec{E} = a\hat{k} + b\hat{k}$
- C:  $\vec{E} = -b\hat{i} - a\hat{j}$
- D:  $\vec{E} = -a\hat{i} - b\hat{j}$

Suppose a charge distribution is made of two infinite plates of charge with charge per unit area  $\pm\sigma$ . We know that the field is  $\sigma/\epsilon_0 \hat{k}$  between them. **Group board exercise:** Draw the charge distribution, define a coordinate system, and write the function for the voltage.



**Voltage** is like a potential energy surface → *potential energy per unit charge*.

<https://phet.colorado.edu/en/simulation/charges-and-fields>

Using the PhET simulation about charges and fields:

1. Explore the voltage associated with fields generated by charges using the voltage button.
2. Add a single point charge, and use the ruler and voltmeter (potentiometer) to measure voltage versus distance, and plot it.
3. What function describes the relationship between voltage and distance?

<https://phet.colorado.edu/en/simulation/charges-and-fields>

Using the PhET simulation about charges and fields:

1. Note that the units of  $\epsilon_0$  are  $\text{N m}^2 \text{C}^{-2}$ , and the value is  $8.854 \times 10^{-12}$
2. We know from prior equations that the units of voltage are  $\text{J C}^{-1}$
3. Using your measurements, show that the voltage due to a point charge is

$$V = \pm \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q}{r} \quad (8)$$

(Where the sign depends on the charge, just like E-fields)

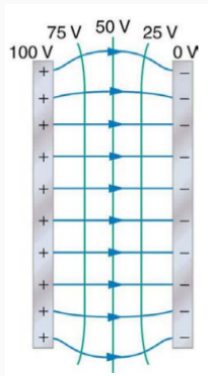
Voltage due to a point charge:

$$V = \pm \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q}{r} \quad (9)$$

Voltage is an example of a **scalar field**, whereas the electric field is an example of a **vector field**. Create two lines of charge, one positive and one negative in the PHeT simulator, and pretend they represent planes of charge coming out of the screen. The field should be constant and uniform like

$$\vec{E} = \frac{\sigma}{\epsilon_0} \hat{k} \quad (10)$$

1. Plot the voltage versus distance between the plates.
2. Calculate the slope in V/m, and the y-intercept in V.
3. Does the electric field depend on the y-intercept? Does the charge distribution?



**Figure 3:** Parallel plates of charge, electric field, and potential. Notice the linear decrease in voltage.

How we define the y-intercept in voltage is analogous to the zero-point freedom of potential energy.

*Two parallel plates, opposite charge:*

$$V = -\frac{\sigma}{\epsilon_0}z + C \quad (11)$$

With the boundary condition that  $V = V_0$  when  $z = 0$ , we have

$$V(z) - V_0 = -\frac{\sigma}{\epsilon_0}z \quad (12)$$

Let  $\Delta V(z) = V(z) - V_0$ , and  $\Delta z = z$ :

$$-\frac{\Delta V}{\Delta z} = \frac{\sigma}{\epsilon_0} = E \quad (13)$$

Now that we know that only voltage *differences* matter:

$$\Delta V = - \int \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{l} \quad (14)$$

What else is analogous to potential energy?

## UNIT 3 REVIEW PROBLEMS

Suppose the voltage due to some charge distribution is  $V$ .  
What is the voltage difference if when we try to integrate like:

$$\Delta V = - \oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{l} \quad (15)$$

- A:  $\Delta V = E \cdot L$
- B:  $\Delta V = 0$
- C:  $\Delta V = Edl$
- D:  $\Delta V = L$



The previous question reminds us that electric fields are **conservative**.

## CONCLUSION

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## ANSWERS

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- $\vec{E} = \frac{kq}{r^2} \hat{r}$

- $\vec{E} = \frac{2k\lambda}{r}$

- $\vec{E} = -a\hat{i}$

- $\vec{E} = -a\hat{i} - b\hat{j}$

- $\Delta V = 0$