ECE 106 - Physics of Electrical Engineering 2

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Contents

Chapter 1

Electric Fields

1.1 Properties of an Electric Charge

- Two types of charge: **Positive** and **Negative**
- Charges of the same sign repel one another and charges with opposite signs attract one another.
- Electric charge is always conserved.

1.2 Charging Objects by Induction and Conduction

1.2.1 Insulators and Conductors

- Conductors are a material where electrons not bound to atoms and are free to move through the material.
- Insulators are materials in which all electrons are bound to atoms and cannot move freely through the material.

1.2.2 Charging by Induction

Using a charged object, charges in a conductor can be repulsed out of an object through ground. The objects do not have to touch for this to happen.

1.2.3 Charging by Conduction

Rub two objects so that charges on one rub off to the other.

1.3 Coulomb's Law

To generalize the properties of the electric force, we find that the magnitude of the electric force between two point charges is given by Coulomb's Law:

$$F_e = k_e \frac{|q_1||q_2|}{r^2}$$

where k_e is known as Coulomb's constant and has the value:

$$k_e = 8.9876 \times 10^9 N \cdot m^2/C^2 = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}$$

Note that the force is a vector and with multiple charges, the force is equal to the sum of the vector forces. As mentioned previously, the direction depends on the two charges.

1.4 Particle in an Electric Field

An electric field is said to exist in the region of space around a charged object, the source charge. We define the electric field vector $\vec{E}$ at a point to be:

$$\vec{E} \equiv \frac{\vec{F}_e}{q_0} = k_e \frac{q}{r^2} \hat{r}$$

Like the force, an electric field at a certain point is the sum of all electric fields due to multiple point charges.

1.5 Electric Field of a Continuous Charge Distribution

When calculating the electric field at a point due to a continuous distribution of charge such as a surface, we can divide the charge distribution into many small charge Δq.
We then take the sum of all of these charges:

$$\vec{E} = k_e \int \frac{dq}{r^2}\hat{r}$$

Popular examples would include a uniform ring of charge where many of the forces would cancel out due to symmetry and you'd calculate the formula with a $\cos\theta$ to only get 1 component. This approach would be the same for a disk of uniform charge.

1.6 Electric Field Lines

The electric field vector $\vec{E}$ is tangent to the electric field line at each point. The denser the number of electric field lines, the stronger the field and vice versa.
For **positive charges** the field lines are directed radially outward.
For **negative charges** the field lines are directed radially inward.
The number of lines drawn leaving a charge is proportional to the **magnitude** of the charge.

1.7 Motion of a Charged Particle in a Uniform Field

Since the force is denoted as $\vec{F}_e = q\vec{E} = m\vec{a}$, then we can isolate $\vec{a}$ and determine the motion of the particle based on the acceleration. If the electric field is uniform, then we know the particle is under constant acceleration.

Chapter 2

Gauss's Law

2.1 Electric Flux

The electric flux is defined as the number of total electric field lines multiplied by the area of the surface penetrated. We generalize the electric flux as:

$$\Phi_E = EA\cos\theta$$

This formula can be generalized as

$$\Phi_E = \int \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A}$$

The direction of the area vector is chosen so that the vector points outward from the surface. If the electric field line points the same side as the area vector, then the electric flux through that area is positive, otherwise, it's negative.

2.2 Gauss's Law

The net flux through *any* closed surface surrounding a point charge q is given by q/ϵ_0 and is independent of the shape of that surface. We define the net flux as:

$$\Phi_E = \frac{q_{in}}{\epsilon_0}$$

This implies that the net electric flux is the same through all closed surfaces. If the charge was outside the surface, the net flux due to that charge would be 0.

2.3 Application of Gauss's Law to Various Charge Distribution

Example: When calculating the electric field inside an **insulating** sphere, we define the internal charge by its density times its charge. We then replace it in $E = \frac{q_{in}}{\epsilon_0}$ to obtain

$$E = k_e \frac{Q}{a^3} r \text{ for } r < a$$

Example: When calculating the electric field from an infinite line of uniform charge, we define $q_{in} = \lambda l$ where λ is the linear charge density. By then measuring the flux of a closed cylinder around the line, we define its area as $2\pi rl$ and we can then isolate the electric field as:

$$E = 2k_e \frac{\lambda}{r}$$

This would not be the case if the line was not infinitely long.

Example: When finding the electric field due to an infinite plane of charge, we define $q_{in} = \sigma A$. By then using Gauss's Law, we find that

$$E = \frac{\sigma}{2\epsilon_0}$$