

Chapter 17 Electrical Energy and Current

ELECTRICAL POTENTIAL ENERGY

The displacement, d , is from the reference point and is parallel to the field. This equation is valid only for a uniform electric field.

$$PE_{\text{electric}} = -qEd$$

POTENTIAL DIFFERENCE

The second half of this equation is valid only for a uniform electric field, and Δd is parallel to the field.

$$\Delta V = \frac{\Delta PE_{\text{electric}}}{q} = -E\Delta d$$

POTENTIAL DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A POINT AT INFINITY AND A POINT NEAR A POINT CHARGE

$$\Delta V = k_C \frac{q}{r}$$

CAPACITANCE

$$C = \frac{Q}{\Delta V}$$

CAPACITANCE FOR A PARALLEL-PLATE CAPACITOR IN A VACUUM

The permittivity in a vacuum (ϵ_0) equals $8.85 \times 10^{-12} \text{ C}^2/(\text{N} \cdot \text{m}^2)$.

$$C = \epsilon_0 \frac{A}{d}$$

ELECTRICAL POTENTIAL ENERGY STORED IN A CHARGED CAPACITOR

There is a limit to the maximum energy (or charge) that can be stored in a capacitor because electrical breakdown ultimately occurs between the plates of the capacitor for a sufficiently large potential difference.

$$PE_{\text{electric}} = \frac{1}{2}Q\Delta V = \frac{1}{2}C(\Delta V)^2 = \frac{Q^2}{2C}$$

ELECTRIC CURRENT

$$I = \frac{\Delta Q}{\Delta t}$$

RESISTANCE

$$R = \frac{\Delta V}{I}$$

OHM'S LAW

Ohm's law is not universal, but it does apply to many materials over a wide range of applied potential differences.

$$\frac{\Delta V}{I} = \text{constant}$$

ELECTRIC POWER

$$P = I\Delta V = I^2 R = \frac{(\Delta V)^2}{R}$$