

Classical Field Theory

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Definition 1.1. Gauss' Law: for any vector field \vec{E} ,

$$\oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{S} = \iiint_V \nabla \cdot \vec{E} dV \quad (1)$$

Definition 1.2. Dirac Delta Function $\delta(x)$

$$\delta(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & , x \neq 0 \\ 1 & , x = 0 \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) \delta(x) dx = f(0) \quad (3)$$

1.1 Point-like Electric Charges

Consider charged point particle with charge q_i at position \vec{x}_i . This particle generates a field \vec{E} ,

$$\vec{E} = \frac{q_i}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{\vec{x} - \vec{x}_i}{|\vec{x} - \vec{x}_i|^3} \quad (4)$$

The force acting on another charge q_j at \vec{x} is $\vec{F} = q_j \vec{E}$.

The electric field is **linear**

$$\vec{E} = \sum_i \vec{E}_i \quad (5)$$

Suppose continuous distribution of charge density $\rho(x)$. We can imagine a many infinitesimal volume elements dV at position \vec{x}_i with charge $dq_i \approx \rho(\vec{x}_i) dV$.

$$\vec{E} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \sum_i \frac{\vec{x} - \vec{x}_i}{|\vec{x} - \vec{x}_i|^3} dq_i \quad (6)$$

We then take the limit as dV becomes infinitesimal, turning the sum into an integral

$$\vec{E} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int \frac{\vec{x} - \vec{x}'}{|\vec{x} - \vec{x}'|^3} \rho(\vec{x}') d^3x' \quad (7)$$

Next we will show that the divergence of the electric field of a point charge is zero $\forall \vec{x} \neq \vec{x}_i$. First w.l.o.g. we let $\vec{x}_i = 0$. Then

$$\vec{E} = \frac{q_i}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{\vec{x}}{|\vec{x}|^3}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla \cdot \vec{E} &= \partial_i E_i \\ &= \frac{q_i}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left[\frac{x}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}^3} \right] + x \leftrightarrow y + x \leftrightarrow z \right) \\ &= \frac{q_i}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left(\left[\frac{1}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}^3} - 3 \frac{x^2}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}^5} \right] + x \leftrightarrow y + x \leftrightarrow z \right) \\ &= \frac{q_i}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left(\frac{3}{|\vec{x}|^3} - 3 \frac{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}{(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{5/2}} \right) \\ &= 0 \quad \forall \vec{x} \neq 0 \text{ Undefined for } \vec{x} = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Now construct some surface \mathfrak{S} with some charge q_i not contained within it. Then,