

PHYS 5C: Gauss's Law

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Gauss's Law

$$\text{flux } \int E \, dA = \frac{Q_{\text{encl}}}{\epsilon_0}$$

dA points normal to surface outward

I. Gauss Law

- Example 1: positive Q in sphere with radius r

$$Q_{\text{encl}} = Q$$

$$\int E \, dA = E 4\pi r^2 \quad E \text{ same over surface by symmetry } E \parallel dA \text{ over surface}$$

$$\frac{Q_{\text{encl}}}{\epsilon_0} = E 4\pi r^2 \Rightarrow E = \frac{Q}{4\pi r^2 \epsilon_0}$$

- Thin sheet of uniform charged density σ .

By symmetry, $E \perp$ to sheet $\Rightarrow E \perp dA$ over the label surface of can (cylinder)

$E \parallel dA$ at ends

$$\int E \, dA = A E_{\text{top face}} + A E_{\text{bottom face}} + 0_{\text{label face}}$$

$$= 2AE \equiv \frac{Q_{\text{enclav}}}{\epsilon_0} = \frac{\sigma A}{\epsilon_0} \Rightarrow E = \frac{\sigma}{2\epsilon_0}$$

- ∞ line charge density λ

$E \perp$ to line of charge

on curved (label) side $E \parallel dA$ and constant.

$$\int E \, dA = E 2\pi r l = \frac{Q_{\text{encl}}}{\epsilon_0} = \lambda l \Rightarrow E = \frac{\lambda}{2\pi \epsilon_0 r}$$