

PHYS 5C: Potential

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I. Gauss Law

- Solid sphere, radius R , uniform uniform p $Q = \frac{4}{3}\pi R^3 p$
- E for $r < R$ $\int E dA = \frac{Q_{\text{encl}}}{\epsilon_0}$
- $E = \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{r}{R^3}$
- for $r > R$
- $\int E dA = E 4\pi r^2$
 $Q_{\text{encl}} = Q = \frac{4}{3}\pi R^3 p$ $p = \frac{4}{3}\pi R^3$
 $E = \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2}$ when $r > R$
- A conductor has a Field of 0 in the inside. Electric field must be normal to field inside

II. Electric Potential (V)

- Electric force is conservative.
 Can define potential energy. $U_b - U_a = -\int_a^b F dL$
- $E = \frac{F}{q}$ Define potential energy as: $V_b - V_a = -\int_a^b E dL$
- V is a scalar field not vector
- Units: Volts $\frac{J}{C}$ for E : $\frac{V}{m}$
- Potential differences are what really matter
 Often try to set $V=0$, at reference $\rightarrow \infty$
- $V_b - V_a$ is path independent
- V for a point charge $+Q$
 $V_b - V_a = \int_{r_a}^{r_b} E dL \Rightarrow E = \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2} \Rightarrow \frac{-Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_{r_a}^{r_b} \frac{1}{r^2} dr$
 $= V_b - V_a = \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left(\frac{1}{r_b} - \frac{1}{r_a} \right)$ If we put reference position at ∞ : set $V_b \rightarrow 0$ at $r_b \rightarrow \infty$
 $V_a = \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r_a}$ and drop subscript a
 $V = \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r}$
- Parallel plates $L \times L$ separated by $d \ll L$
 $E = \frac{\sigma}{\epsilon_0}$ $V_b - V_a = -\int_a^b E dL$ $\sigma = \frac{Q}{L^2}$
 $-\int E dL = -E \int dL = -Ed$