

# Electric potential

# Electric potential :- It is defined as amount of work done in bringing a unit positive test charge from infinity to a point in the electric field

i.e.  $V_A = \frac{W_{\infty A}}{q_0}$  Its S.I unit is  $\text{Joule/C}$

Its dimension is  $\frac{[MLT^{-2}][L]}{[AT]}$

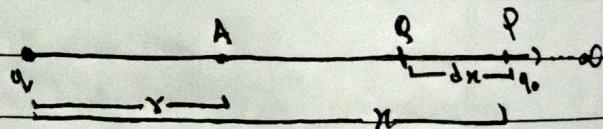
$= [ML^2 T^{-2} A^{-1}]$

# Electric potential due to a point charge

Consider a source charge  $q$  at a point 'O'. To find electric potential at point 'A' which is at distance of  $r$  from the source charge in region of electric field, let,

An instant of time 't', the charge is at (Q) point P at distance  $x$  from the source charge as shown in figure.

If  $V$  be electric potential at point A then it determined as  $V = \frac{W_{\infty A}}{q_0}$  --- (1)



If the test charge  $q_0$  is moved from P to Q with a small displacement  $dx$  then work done is calculated as

$dw = -F dx$  --- (2) (negative sign indicates that work done is against electric field)

The electrostatic force of repulsion between source charge & test charge is given by :-

$F = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \times \frac{qq_0}{r^2}$



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$$\textcircled{1} \int n^n dx = \frac{n^{n+1}}{n+1} + C$$

$$\textcircled{ii} \int_a^b x^n dx = \left[ \frac{x^{n+1}}{n+1} \right]_a^b = \frac{b^{n+1}}{n+1} - \frac{a^{n+1}}{n+1}$$

Then eqn  $\textcircled{1}$  becomes

$$dw = \frac{-1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \times \frac{qq_0}{r^2} \dots \textcircled{iii}$$

The total work done is given by integrating above eqn  $\textcircled{iii}$

$$\int_0^w dw = \int_{\infty}^r -F dx$$

$$w = \int_{\infty}^r -\frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \times \frac{qq_0}{x^2} dx$$

$$w = -\frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} qq_0 \int_{\infty}^r \frac{1}{x^2} dx$$

$$w = -\frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} qq_0 \int_{\infty}^r x^{-2} dx$$

$$w = -\frac{qq_0}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left[ \frac{x^{-2+1}}{-2+1} \right]_{\infty}^r = -\frac{qq_0}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left[ \frac{x^{-1}}{-1} \right]_{\infty}^r$$

$$w = \frac{qq_0}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left[ \frac{1}{x} \right]_{\infty}^r$$

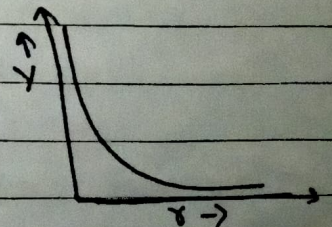
$$w = \frac{qq_0}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left[ \frac{1}{r} - \frac{1}{\infty} \right]$$

$$w = \frac{qq_0}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r} //$$

there, eqn  $\textcircled{1}$  becomes,  $V = \frac{qq_0}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r} \times \frac{1}{q_0}$

$$= \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r} //$$

This is required eqn for electric potential due a point charge at point A.



Relation bet<sup>n</sup> V & r

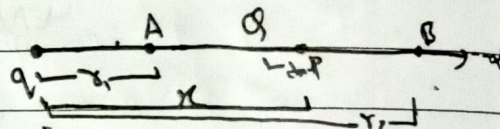


# The potential difference <sup>bet</sup> two point is defined as amount of work done in bringing a unit positive test charge from one point to another

=> Potential difference between two point.

If  $V_{AB}$  be the potential difference between two points then it is written as  $V_{AB} = V_A - V_B = \frac{W_{AB}}{q_0}$  --- (1)

At any instant of time, let the test charge  $q_0$  is at point P which is at distance of 'x' from the source charge, as shown in figure :-



The force of repulsion between point charge and source charge is given by  $F = \frac{q \cdot q_0}{4\pi\epsilon_0 x^2}$  --- (2)

If the test charge  $q_0$  is displaced to Q with small displacement of  $dx$  then the small work done is given by

$$dw = -f dx$$

$$= -\frac{q \cdot q_0}{4\pi\epsilon_0 x^2} \times dx \quad \text{--- (3)}$$

The total work done is given by integrating the eq<sup>n</sup> (3) as

$$W_{AB} = \int_B^A -\frac{q \cdot q_0}{4\pi\epsilon_0 x^2} \times dx$$

$$W_{AB} = -\frac{q \cdot q_0}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_{x_2}^{x_1} x^{-2} \times dx$$

$$= -\frac{q \cdot q_0}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left[ \frac{x^{-2+1}}{-2+1} \right]_{x_2}^{x_1}$$

$$= \frac{q \cdot q_0}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \times \left[ \frac{1}{x} \right]_{x_2}^{x_1}$$



$$= \frac{q \cdot q_0}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \times \left[ \frac{1}{r_1} - \frac{1}{r_2} \right]$$

$$W_{AB} = \frac{q \cdot q_0}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \times \frac{r_1 - r_2}{r_1 r_2} \quad \text{--- (12)}$$

now value of  $q_0$  eq<sup>n</sup> (1) becomes using (12)

$$\begin{aligned} V_{AB} &= \frac{q \cdot q_0}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \times \frac{r_1 - r_2}{r_1 r_2} \times \frac{1}{q_0} \\ &= \frac{q (r_1 - r_2)}{4\pi\epsilon_0 (r_1 r_2)} \end{aligned}$$

which is required eq<sup>n</sup> for potential difference bet<sup>n</sup> two points

### # Electrical potential energy.

Electrical potential energy is the amount of work done in bringing a charge from infinity to a point. ~~is~~ ~~is~~

Suppose a charge  $q'$  is brought from infinity to a point then electric potential is calculated as

$$V = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r}$$

now

The work done in bringing a charge  $q'$  from infinity to point is given by

$$W = q' V$$

$$= q' \times \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r}$$

$$= \frac{q q'}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r}$$

now The work done is stored in the form of electric potential energy. So  $U = \frac{q q'}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r}$  //



Equipotential surface:-

It is surface that has equal potential energy all over the surface & same at every point on the surface.

⇒ Work done Equipotential surface is always Zero.

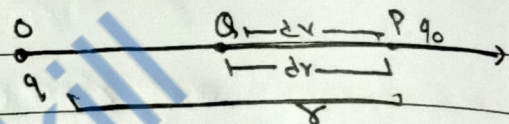
Relationship bet<sup>n</sup>

# ∴ Potential Gradient

Work done

P → Q

$$W = -\int \vec{f} \cdot d\vec{r}$$



Let us consider a charge  $q$  at point O & at any instant of time the test charge  $q_0$  is at P. When the test charge is displaced with small displacement  $dr$  then work done is given by

$$W_{PQ} = -\int \vec{f} \cdot d\vec{r} \quad \text{--- (i)}$$

Again, we know that the force experienced by a test charge is given by  $\vec{f} = q_0 \vec{E}$  the eq<sup>n</sup> (i) becomes,

$$W_{PQ} = -q_0 \int \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{r} \quad \text{--- (ii)}$$

Again, The electric potential difference between P & Q is given by

$$V_P - V_Q = \Delta V = \frac{W_{PQ}}{q_0}$$

$$\therefore W_{PQ} = \Delta V \times q_0 \quad \text{--- (iii)}$$

From (i) & (ii)

$$-q_0 \int \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{r} = \Delta V \times q_0$$

$$\therefore \vec{E} = -\frac{dV}{dr} \times \frac{q_0}{-q_0}$$

$$\therefore \vec{E} = -\frac{dV}{dr} \quad \checkmark$$

# Electron Volt: The electron volt is the amount of work done or kinetic energy gained by the electron which has been accelerated through potential difference of 1 volt.