

電磁學 (一) Electromagnetics (I)

5. 靜電場與電位

Static Electric Field and Electric Potential

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In this lecture, we are to learn the concept and theory of static electric field and electric potential subject to isolated charges.

- 5.1 Postulates of electrostatics 靜電學基本假設
- 5.2 Electric potential 電位
- 5.3 Electric dipole 電偶極
- 5.4 Gaussian surface 高斯面
- 5.5 Integration of charges 電荷積分
- 5.6 Review 單元回顧

靜電場與電位

Static Electric Field and Electric Potential

5.1 靜電學基本假設

Postulates of electrostatics

Postulates for Electrostatics

At a point in space, the electric field \vec{E} and the electric flux density \vec{D} are governed by the two laws:

$$\nabla \times \vec{E} = 0, \quad (\text{Faraday's law of electrostatics})$$

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{D} = \rho, \quad (\text{Gauss law})$$

where ρ is the **volume** charge density.

In vacuum $\vec{D} = \varepsilon_0 \vec{E}$, where ε_0 is the **vacuum permittivity**

$$\varepsilon_0 \cong \frac{1}{36\pi} \times 10^{-9} \cong 8.854 \times 10^{-12} \quad \text{F/m}$$

Faraday's Law of Electrostatics

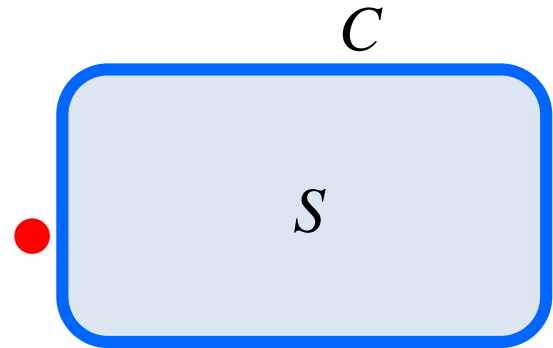
$\nabla \times \vec{E} = 0 \quad \longrightarrow$ A static electric field is irrotational

Apply Stokes' theorem to $\nabla \times \vec{E} = 0$

$$\int \nabla \times \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s} = \oint_C \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{l} = \oint_C \underbrace{\frac{\vec{F}}{q}} \cdot d\vec{l} = 0$$

force acting on a
unit positive charge

dW : work



Physical meaning: the **work** done by an electric field on a unit positive charge around a **closed path** is **zero**

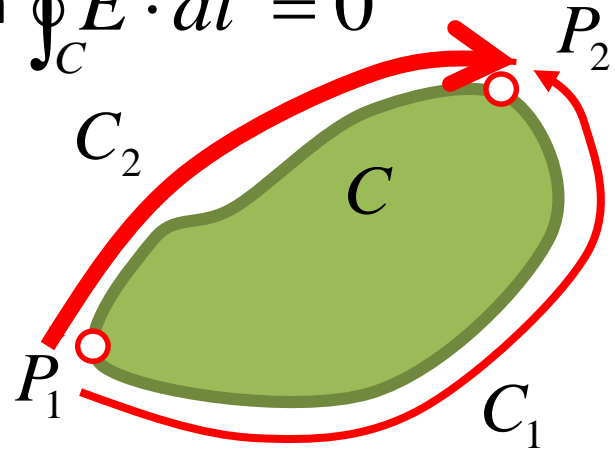
Conservative Force

Consider the close-loop integration $\oint_C \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{l} = 0$
Divide the path into two sections

$$\int_{P_1}^{P_2} \vec{E}_{C_1} \cdot d\vec{l} + \int_{P_2}^{P_1} \vec{E}_{C_2} \cdot d\vec{l} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \int_{P_1}^{P_2} \vec{E}_{C_1} \cdot d\vec{l} - \int_{P_1}^{P_2} \vec{E}_{C_2} \cdot d\vec{l} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \int_{P_1}^{P_2} \vec{E}_{C_1} \cdot d\vec{l} = \int_{P_1}^{P_2} \vec{E}_{C_2} \cdot d\vec{l}$$



The **work** done by moving a test charge between two arbitrary points in space is **independent of the path**.

Gauss Law

In vacuum, $\vec{D} = \epsilon_0 \vec{E}$, where ϵ_0 is a constant

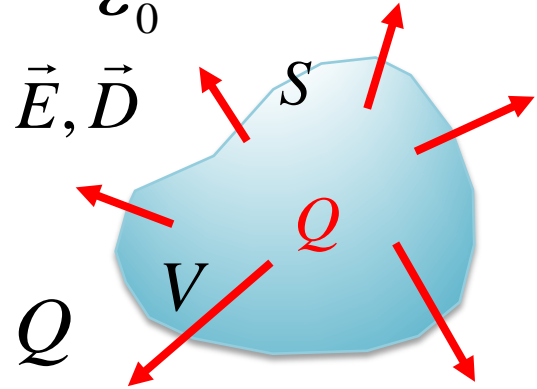
$$\nabla \cdot \vec{D} = \rho \quad \Rightarrow \quad \nabla \cdot \vec{E} = \frac{\rho}{\epsilon_0}$$

in vacuum

Apply the divergence theorem

$$\int_V \nabla \cdot \vec{D} dv = \epsilon_0 \oint_S \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s}$$

$$\& \int_V \rho dv = Q \Rightarrow \epsilon_0 \oint_S \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s} = Q$$



The **total outward electric flux** of a volume equals the **total charge** in the volume, Q .

Coulomb's Law

Eg. Apply the integral form of the Gauss law to a point charge in a spherical space

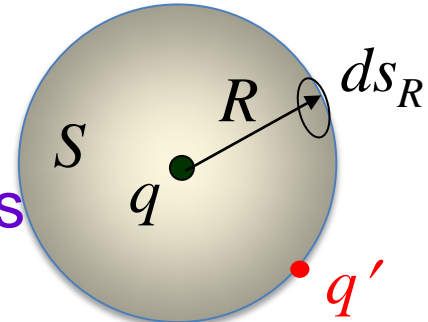
$$\varepsilon_0 \oint_S \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s} = q$$

Due to **spherical symmetry**, only E_R exists and is a **constant** at a **constant** R . The

differential surface is $d\vec{s} = d\vec{s}_R = \hat{a}_R R^2 \sin \theta d\theta d\phi$

$$q = \varepsilon_0 \oint_S \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s} = \varepsilon_0 \oint_S E_R ds_R = \varepsilon_0 E_R \oint_S ds_R = \varepsilon_0 E_R \underline{4\pi R^2}$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{E} = E_R \hat{a}_R = \frac{q}{4\pi\varepsilon_0 R^2} \hat{a}_R \Rightarrow \vec{F}_{q'} = \underline{q' E_R \hat{a}_R} = \frac{q' q}{4\pi\varepsilon_0 R^2} \hat{a}_R$$



5.1 靜電學基本假設

Postulates of electrostatics

- Two postulates for electrostatics – Faraday's law of electrostatics and Gauss' law.
- Faraday's law of electrostatics – work done on a charge by an electric field is independent of the moving path of the charge.
- Gauss' law – total outward electric flux of a volume is equal to the amount of the charges in the volume.

靜電場與電位

Static Electric Field and Electric Potential

5.2 電位

Electric potential

Electric Potential V

Given the first postulate of electrostatics, $\nabla \times \vec{E} = 0$

For a scalar V in space, the null identity applies

$$\nabla \times (\nabla V) = 0$$

By comparison, one has $\vec{E} = \pm \nabla V$

The \pm signs before the del operator, ∇ , have different physical meanings. We will choose the sign from a correct physical definition.

What is V ?

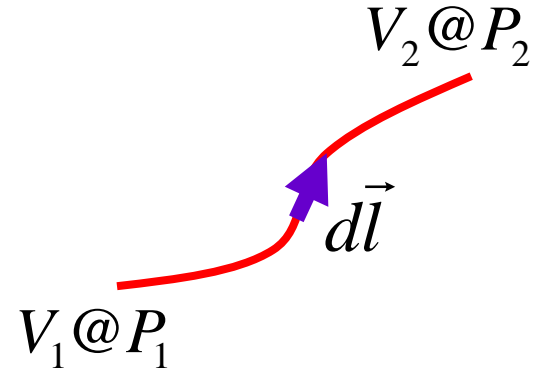
Recall the useful expression from **4.2**, $dV = (\nabla V) \cdot d\vec{l}$

Consider an integration path between P_1 and P_2

$$V_{21} = V_2 - V_1 = \int_{P_1}^{P_2} dV = \int_{P_1}^{P_2} \nabla V \cdot (\hat{a}_l dl)$$

But $\vec{E} = \pm \nabla V$

$$\Rightarrow V_{21} = \pm \underbrace{\int_{P_1}^{P_2} \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{l}}_{\text{work done (+) on or lost by (-) a unit positive charge.}} = \pm \int_{P_1}^{P_2} \frac{\vec{F}}{q} \cdot d\vec{l}$$



work done (+) on or lost by (-) a **unit positive charge**.

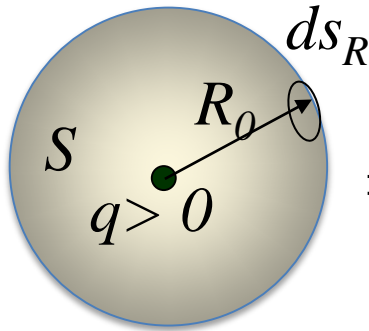
+ or -

• $q' = +1$

Define V as “**Work** done **externally** by moving a unit **positive** (negative) charge q' from infinity to a **positive** (negative) charge q is **positive**. (common sense!)”

$$V(R_0) - V(\infty) = \int_{\infty}^{R_0} \nabla V \cdot d\vec{l} = \pm \int_{\infty}^{R_0} \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{l}$$

$d\vec{l}$ was defined in the **Lecture 3** and has nothing to do with the moving direction of the test charge.



$$\Rightarrow \pm \int_{\infty}^{R_0} \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{l} = \pm \int_{\infty}^{R_0} \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R^2} dR = \mp \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R_0} > 0$$

for $q > 0$

Apparently, $V(R_0) = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R_0}$ and $\boxed{\vec{E} \equiv -\nabla V}$

Sharp-tip Discharge

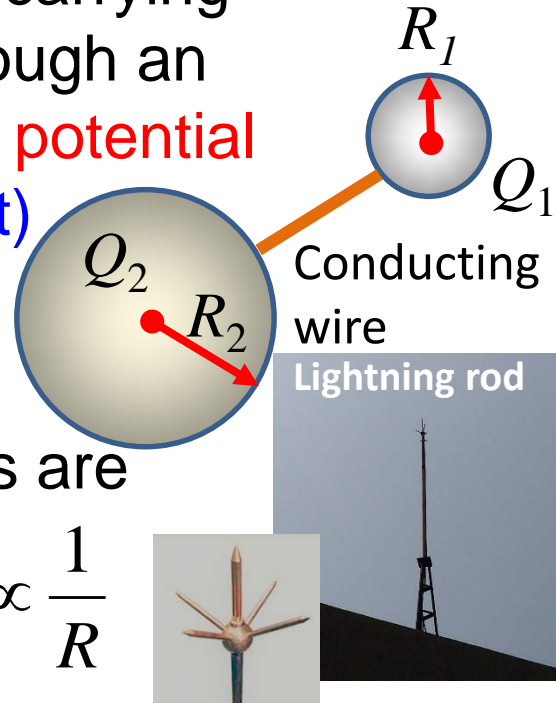
Two conducting balls of different radii carrying charges Q_1 and Q_2 are connected through an electric wire, having the **same electric potential** (a conductor is an equipotential object)

$$V_1 = V_2 \Rightarrow \frac{Q_1}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R_1} = \frac{Q_2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R_2}$$

The electric fields on the ball surfaces are

$$E_{1,2} = \frac{Q_{1,2}}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R_{1,2}^2} \Rightarrow \frac{E_1}{E_2} = \frac{R_2}{R_1} \Rightarrow E \propto \frac{1}{R}$$

\Rightarrow The **smaller** the ball, the **higher** the electric field



5.2 電位

Electric potential

- Mathematically, the electric field is the negative gradient of the electrical potential.
- Physically, the work done by moving a unit positive charge between two places is the difference of the electric potentials at the two places.
- A sharp metal tip with charges tends to have a strong electric field.

靜電場與電位

Static Electric Field and Electric Potential

5.3 電偶極

Electric dipole

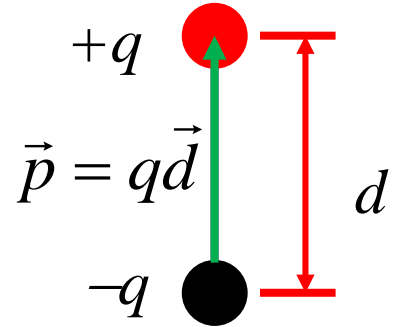
Electric Dipole Moment

An **electric dipole** consists of **two opposite charges** separated by a **distance d** , which is commonly found in a **neutral** dielectric.

The **electric dipole moment** is defined as

$$\vec{p} = q\vec{d}.$$

The direction of $\vec{p} = q\vec{d}$ is **from the negative** charge to the **positive** charge.



Electric-dipole Potential

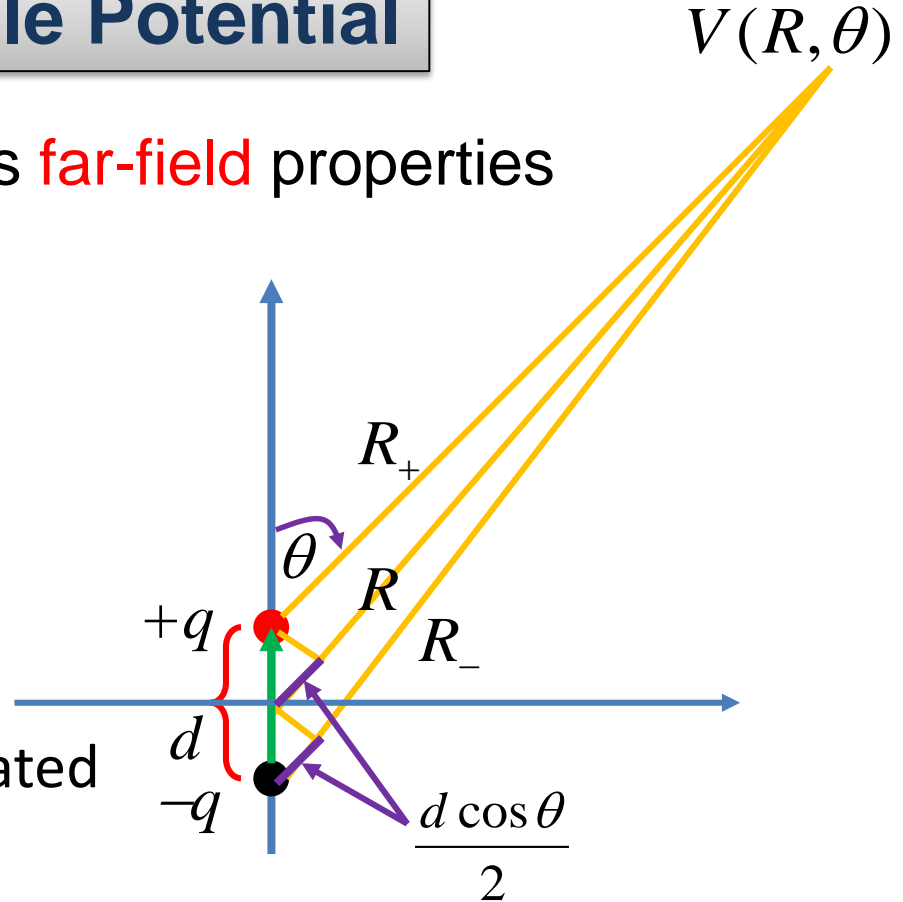
We are only interested in its **far-field** properties

$$R \gg d \Rightarrow R_{\pm} \approx R \mp \frac{d \cos \theta}{2}$$

$$V(R, \theta) = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R_+} - \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R_-}$$

$$= \frac{qd \cos \theta}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R^2} = \frac{\vec{p} \cdot \hat{a}_R}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R^2} \propto \frac{1}{R^2}$$

*Note that $V \propto \frac{1}{R}$ for an isolated charge .

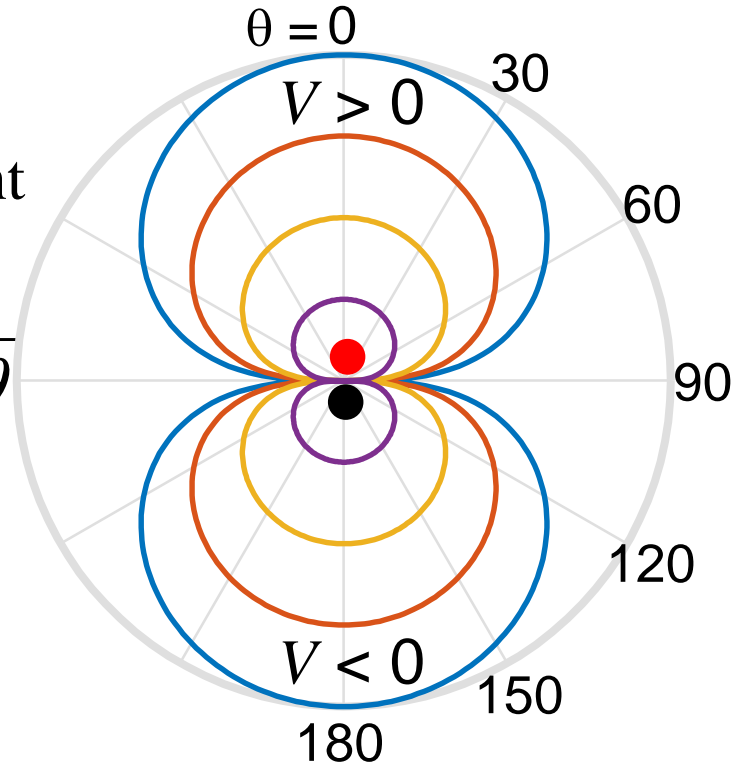


Equipotential Lines/Surfaces

set $V(R) = \frac{qd \cos \theta}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R^2} = \text{constant}$

to obtain $R = \text{constant} \times \sqrt{\cos \theta}$

for equipotential lines/surfaces



Electric dipole field

Use $\vec{E} \equiv -\nabla V$ to obtain the **far-zone** dipole field

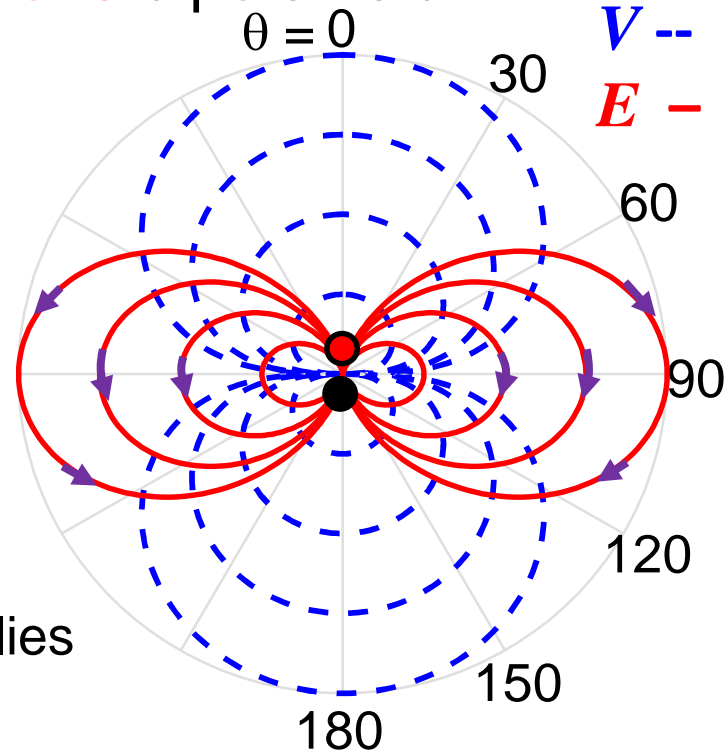
$$\vec{E} = -\nabla V = -\hat{a}_R \frac{\partial \mathcal{V}}{\partial R} - \hat{a}_\theta \frac{\partial \mathcal{V}}{R \partial \theta}$$

$$= \frac{p}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R^3} (\hat{a}_R 2 \cos \theta + \hat{a}_\theta \sin \theta)$$

Set $d\vec{l} = k\vec{E}$ (recall the definition of the E field line)

to obtain $R = \text{constant} \times \sin^2 \theta$

*note the **orthogonality** of the two families of curves due to $\vec{E} = -\nabla V$



5.3 電偶極

Electric dipole

- An electric dipole contains two opposite charges separated by a distance.
- Electric dipoles are the basic building blocks of a dielectric.
- In the far zone, the electric field and electric potential of an electric dipole are inversely proportional to R^3 and R^2 , respectively.

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Static Electric Field and Electric Potential

5.4 高斯面

Gaussian surface

Gaussian Surface

Consider the Gauss's Law $\epsilon_0 \oint_S \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s} = q$

Suppose

- all the field vectors of **equal magnitude** are along the **surface normal** of a volume, and
- this volume has **symmetry** in one of the three coordinate systems.

$$\epsilon_0 \oint_S \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s} = \epsilon_0 \underbrace{E_i}_{\text{constant}} \underbrace{\oint_S ds_i}_{\text{Gaussian surface}} = q \Rightarrow E_i = \frac{q}{\epsilon_0 \oint_S ds_i}, \vec{E} = E_i \hat{a}_i$$

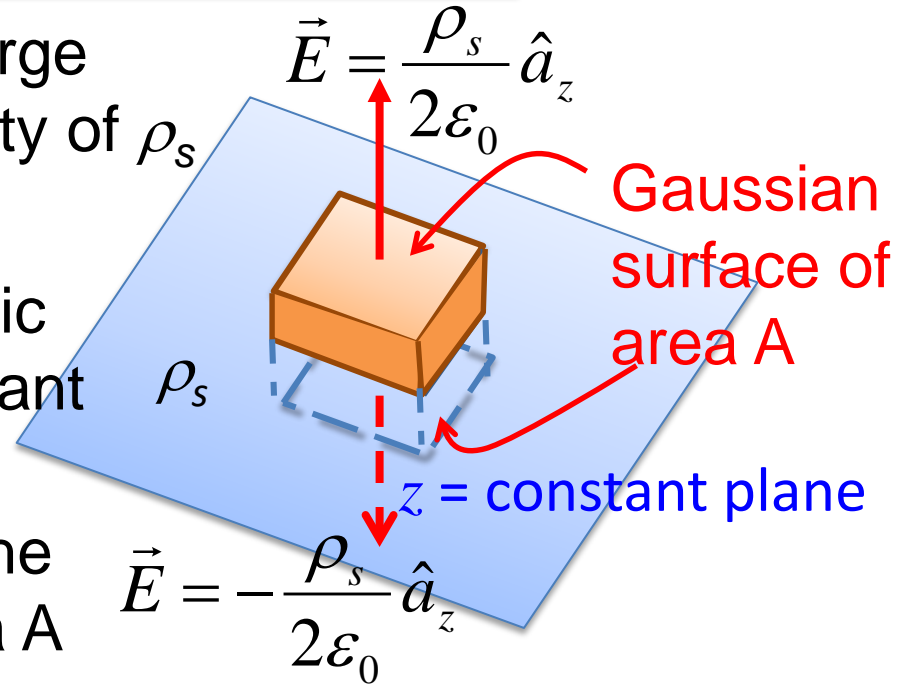
Infinite Planar Charge

Given an infinite planar charge with a surface charge density of ρ_s

- Due to **symmetry**, only **normal-component** electric fields exist and are constant at a constant z .

- Apply the **Gauss law** to the Gaussian surface of area A

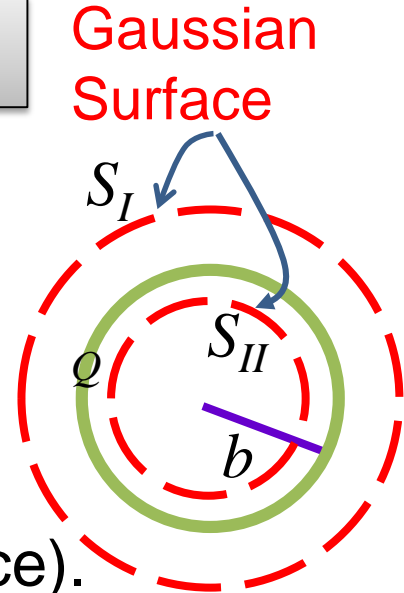
$$\varepsilon_0 \oint_S \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s} = \varepsilon_0 E_z A + \varepsilon_0 (-E_z)(-A) = A\rho_s \Rightarrow E_z = \frac{\rho_s}{2\varepsilon_0}$$



Spherical Charges

Given a spherical shell of uniform charges Q at radius b . Find E and V everywhere.

- Due to **spherical symmetry**, only **R -component** electric fields exist and are constant at a constant R (Gaussian surface).
- Apply the **Gauss law** to the Gaussian surfaces S_I and S_{II}
 - * Charges enclosed in S_I is Q and that in S_{II} is 0.



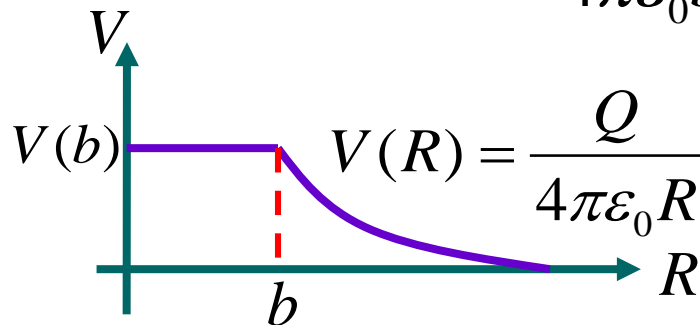
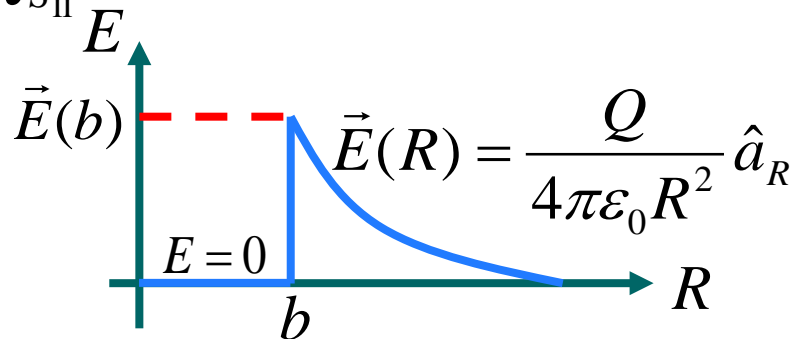
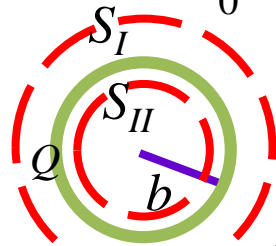
Region I: $R > b$

$$\varepsilon_0 \oint_{S_I} \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s} = Q \Rightarrow \varepsilon_0 4\pi R^2 E_R = Q \Rightarrow \vec{E} = E_R \hat{a}_R = \frac{Q}{4\pi\varepsilon_0 R^2} \hat{a}_R$$

$$V(R) = V_{R\infty} = -\int_{\infty}^R \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{R} = \frac{Q}{4\pi\varepsilon_0 R}$$

Region II: $0 \leq R < b$

$$\varepsilon_0 \oint_{S_{II}} \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s} = 0 \Rightarrow \vec{E} = 0 \quad V(R) = V(b) + V_{Rb} (=0) = \frac{Q}{4\pi\varepsilon_0 b}$$



5.4 高斯面

Gaussian Surface

- On a Gaussian surface, the electric field along the surface normal is a constant.
- A Gaussian surface is convenient for calculating the electric field by using the integral form of the Gauss Law:

$$\varepsilon_0 \oint_S \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s} = \varepsilon_0 E_i \oint_S ds_i = q$$

$$\Rightarrow E_i = \frac{q}{\varepsilon_0 \oint_S ds_i}, \vec{E} = E_i \hat{a}_i$$

靜電場與電位

Static Electric Field and Electric Potential

5.5 電荷積分

Integration of Charges

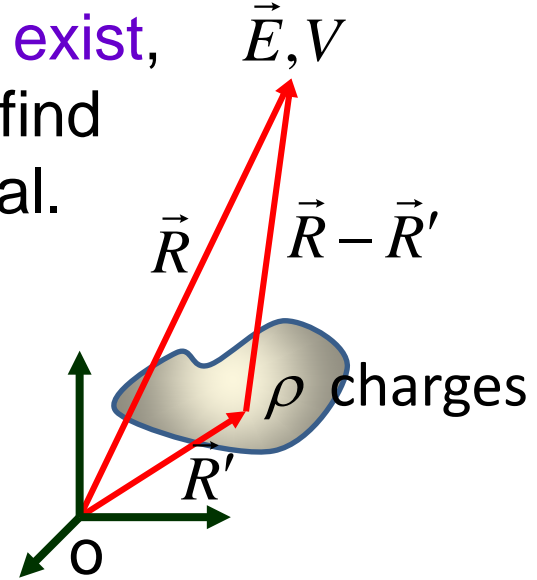
Distributive Integration of Charges

When a Gaussian surface does not **exist**, \vec{E}, V
integrate the distributed charges to find
the electric field and electric potential.

$$\vec{E} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_{V', S', L'} \hat{a}_{\vec{R}-\vec{R}'} \frac{\rho_{v,s,l}}{|\vec{R}-\vec{R}'|^2} dv', s', l'$$

One can calculate V first and then E

$$V = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_{V', S', L'} \frac{\rho_{v,s,l}}{|\vec{R}-\vec{R}'|} dv', s', l' \Rightarrow \vec{E} = -\nabla V$$



* note: a prime ' is used to denote the source coordinates.

Line Charge

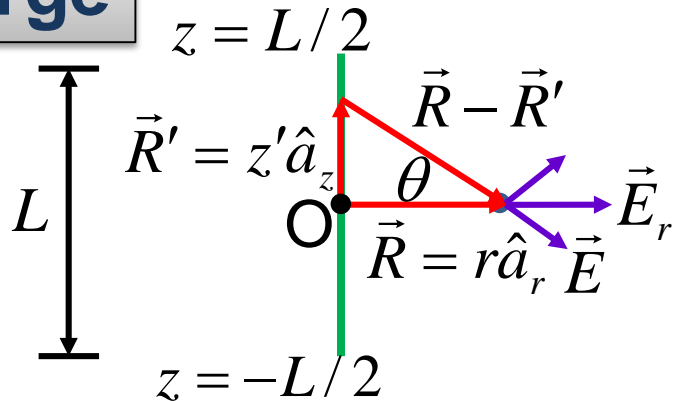
Given a line charge with a finite length L and charge density ρ_l , find E at r and $z = 0$.

Recall

$$\vec{E} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_{V', S', L'} \hat{a}_{\vec{R}-\vec{R}'} \frac{\rho_{v,s,l}}{|\vec{R}-\vec{R}'|^2} dv', s', l'$$

where $|\vec{R}-\vec{R}'|^2 = r^2 + z'^2$

$$E_r(z=0, r) = \frac{2}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_0^{L/2} \frac{\rho_l}{r^2 + z'^2} \cos \theta dz' = \frac{\rho_l}{2\pi\epsilon_0 r} \frac{L/2}{\sqrt{(L/2)^2 + r^2}}$$



Due to symmetry, only E_r exists. $\vec{E}_r = \cos \theta \times \vec{E}$
($\cos \theta = r / \sqrt{r^2 + z'^2}$)

Scalar integration is often easier.

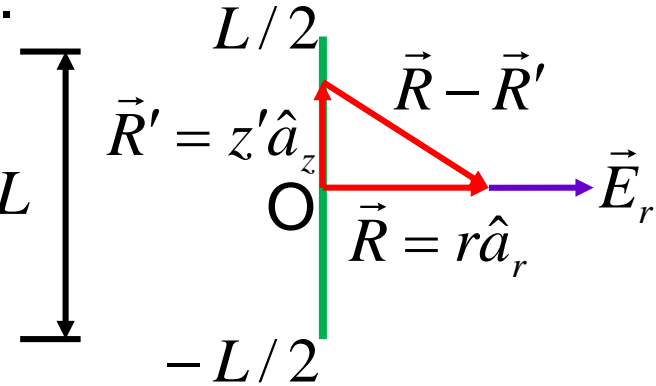
Alternatively, use

$$V = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_{V', S', L'} \frac{\rho_{v,s,l}}{|\vec{R} - \vec{R}'|} dv', s', l'$$

to obtain

$$V(z=0, r) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_{-L/2}^{L/2} \frac{\rho_l}{\sqrt{r^2 + z'^2}} dz' = \frac{\rho_l}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \ln(z' + \sqrt{r^2 + z'^2}) \Big|_{-L/2}^{L/2}$$

Then, use $\vec{E} = -\nabla V$ to obtain \vec{E}



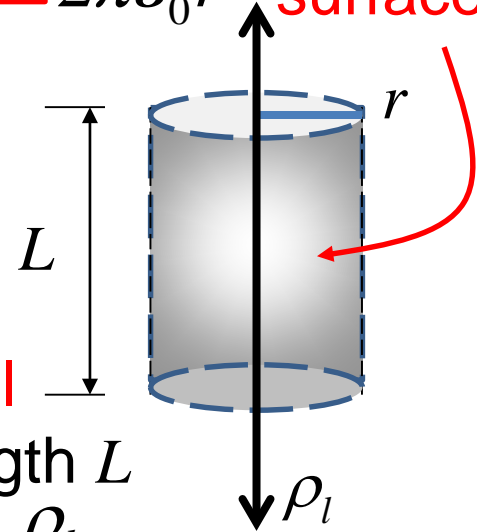
Infinite Line Charge

$$E_r(z=0, r) = \frac{\rho_l}{2\pi\epsilon_0 r} \frac{L/2}{\sqrt{(L/2)^2 + r^2}} \xrightarrow{L \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\rho_l}{2\pi\epsilon_0 r}$$

Gaussian surface

- Due to **symmetry**, only the **radial components** of E exist and are constant at a constant r .
- Apply the Gauss law to the **cylindrical Gaussian surface** of radius r and length L

$$\epsilon_0 \oint_S \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s} = \epsilon_0 E_r 2\pi r L = L \rho_l \Rightarrow \vec{E} = \frac{\rho_l}{2\pi\epsilon_0 r} \hat{a}_r$$



5.5 電荷積分

Integration of charges

- When a Gaussian surface cannot be found, use distributive integration to calculate the electric field from a detailed charge distribution.
- It is often easier to first calculate the scalar integration for V and then take the gradient of V to get E .

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Static Electric Field and Electric Potential

5.6 單元回顧 Review

單元回顧

1. Two postulates for electrostatics

Faraday's law of electrostatics

$$\nabla \times \vec{E} = 0$$



$$\oint_L \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{l} = 0$$

An electrostatic field is irrotational

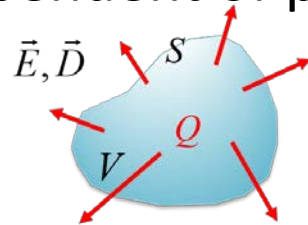
Work done on a charge is independent of path

Gauss law

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{D} = \rho$$



$$\epsilon_0 \oint_S \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s} = Q$$



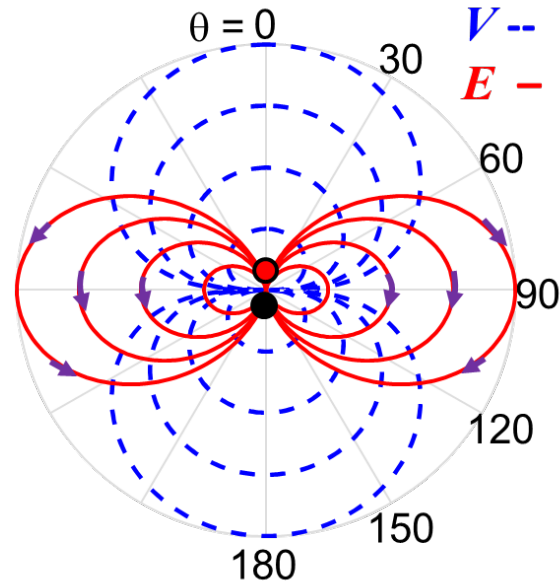
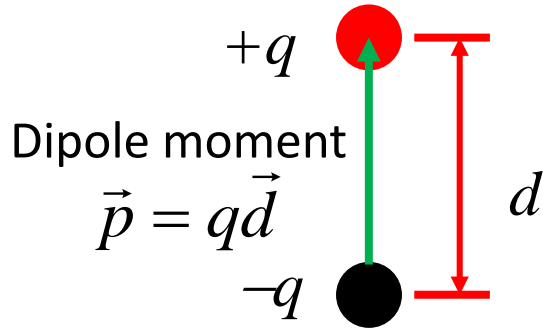
The total outward electric flux of V equals total enclosed charge in V .

單元回顧

2. The electric potential V is defined in $\vec{E} = -\nabla V$
3. The total work done by moving a charge q from Point 1 to 2 in space is therefore $q(V_2 - V_1)$
4. A sharp metal tip tends to have a high electric field, which could induce electric discharge to air.

單元回顧

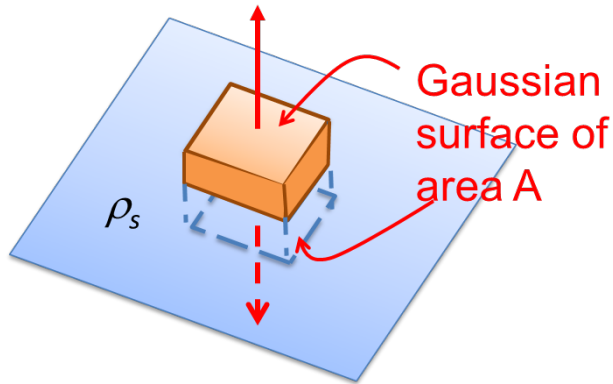
5. An **electric dipole** consists of **two opposite charges** separated by a **distance d** , which is the basic electromagnetic element in a neutral dielectric.



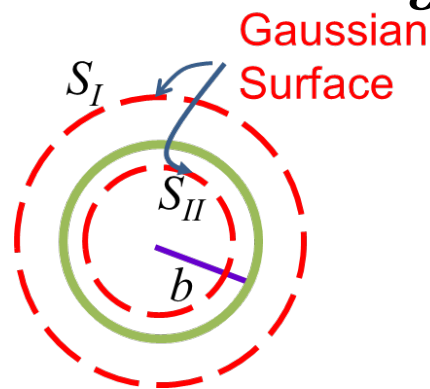
單元回顧

7. A Gaussian surface is convenient for calculating the electric field by using the integral form of the Gauss law.

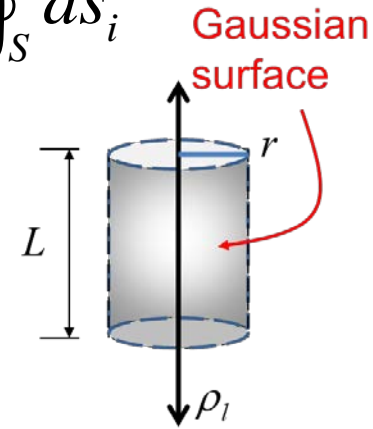
$$\varepsilon_0 \oint_S \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s} = \varepsilon_0 E_i \oint_S ds_i = q \Rightarrow E_i = \frac{q}{\varepsilon_0 \oint_S ds_i}, \vec{E} = E_i \hat{a}_i$$



Infinite sheet charges



Ball charges



Infinite line charges

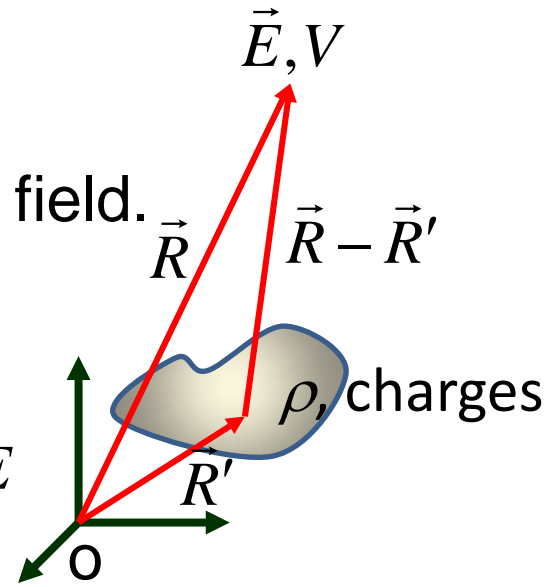
單元回顧

8. When a Gaussian surface does not exist, integrate the point-charge field over the distributed charges to find the total electric field.

$$\vec{E} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_{V', S', L'} \hat{a}_{\vec{R}-\vec{R}'} \frac{\rho_{v,s,l}}{|\vec{R}-\vec{R}'|^2} dv', s', l'$$

It is often easier to calculate V first and then E

$$V = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_{V', S', L'} \frac{\rho_{v,s,l}}{|\vec{R}-\vec{R}'|} dv', s', l' \quad \Rightarrow \quad \vec{E} = -\nabla V$$



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION