

# Key words

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Electric Potential

Electric potential energy

Equipotential surface

Electron-volts

Isolated conductor

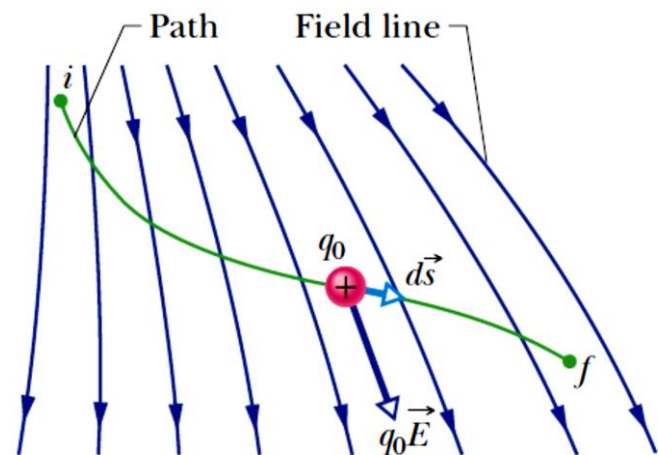
Non-conductor

Insulator

# Electric Potential

$$\Delta U = U_f - U_i = -W = -q_0 \int_i^f \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s}$$

Define  $V = \frac{U}{q_0} \Rightarrow V_f - V_i = - \int_i^f \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s}$



无穷大平面无穷远处不可当  $V=0$   
 无穷远处就不是无穷大还是为残角  
 拿一段E积分

If  $i$  is at  $\infty$  where  $U$  is 0,  $V_i$  is 0.

$$V = - \int_{\infty}^f \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s}$$

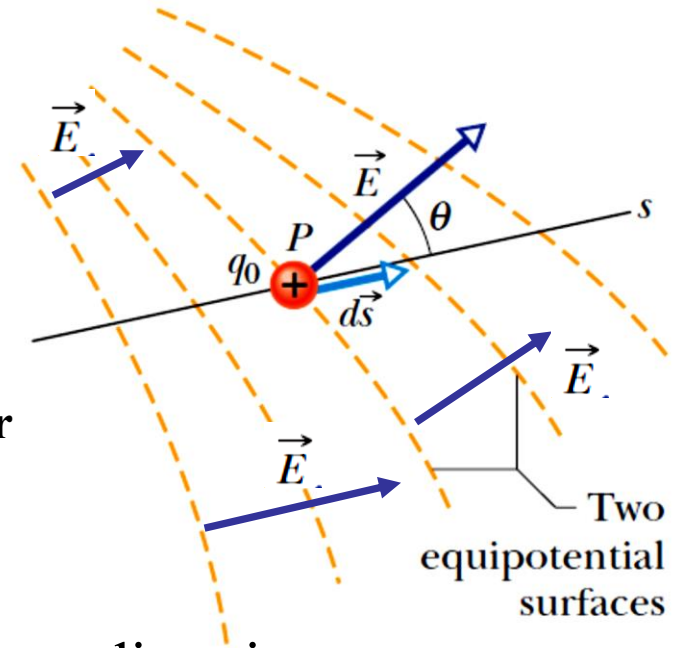
For point charge:  $V = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q}{r}$

# Calculating E from V

$$\Delta V = -\int_i^f \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s}$$

$$dV = -\vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s} = -E_s ds$$

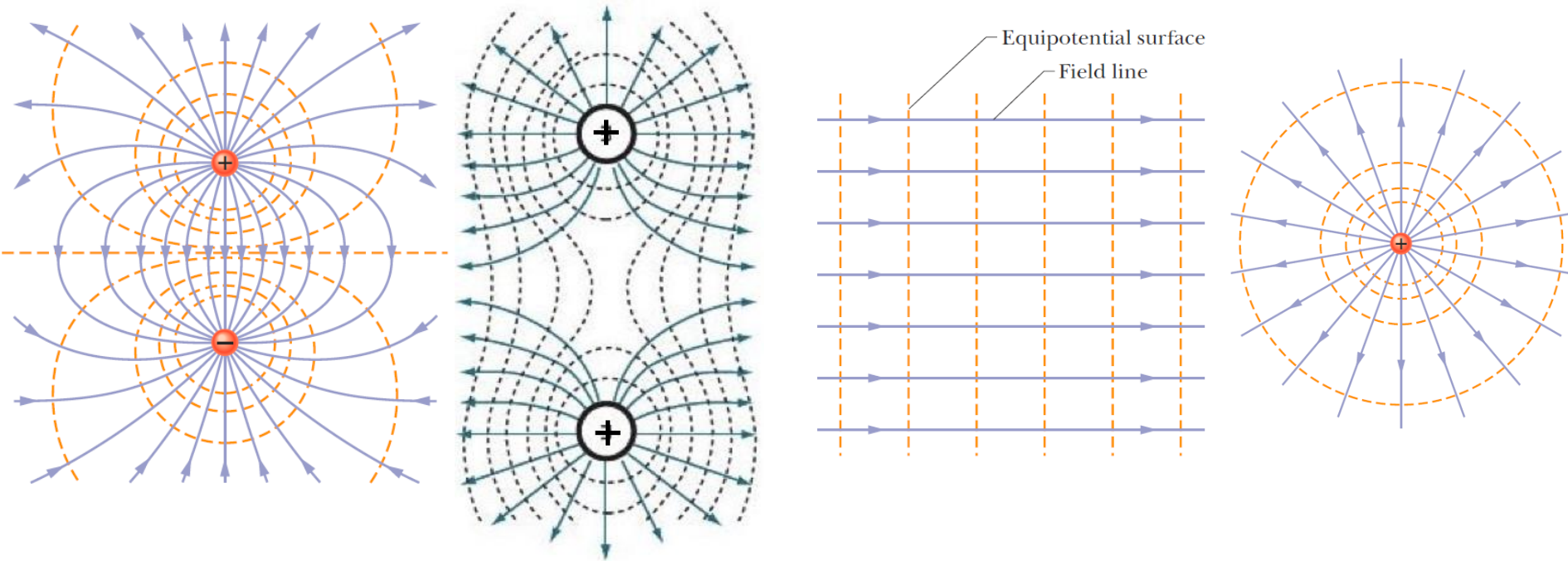
$$E_s = -\frac{\partial V}{\partial s} \quad \text{The } s \text{ component of } \vec{E} \text{ vector}$$



$E_s$  is the negative rate of potential along  $s$  direction

$$E_x = -\frac{\partial V}{\partial x} \quad E_y = -\frac{\partial V}{\partial y} \quad E_z = -\frac{\partial V}{\partial z} \quad \text{(components of } \vec{E} \text{ in terms of } V)$$

# Equipotential Surfaces and the Electron Field



E field lines must be always along the normal direction of the Equipotential surfaces, pointing from higher potential to lower potential

# Methods to calculate $V$ due to given charge distribution

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## Method 1: Using the principle of superposition:

Net potential for discrete charged particles is the **scalar sum** of individual potential

$$V_{\text{net}} = \sum_i V_i = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \sum_i \frac{q_i}{r_i}$$

When charges are distributed continuously, the sum changes to an integral.  
Usually, for charge with regular shape:

$$V = \int dV = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int \frac{dq}{r}$$

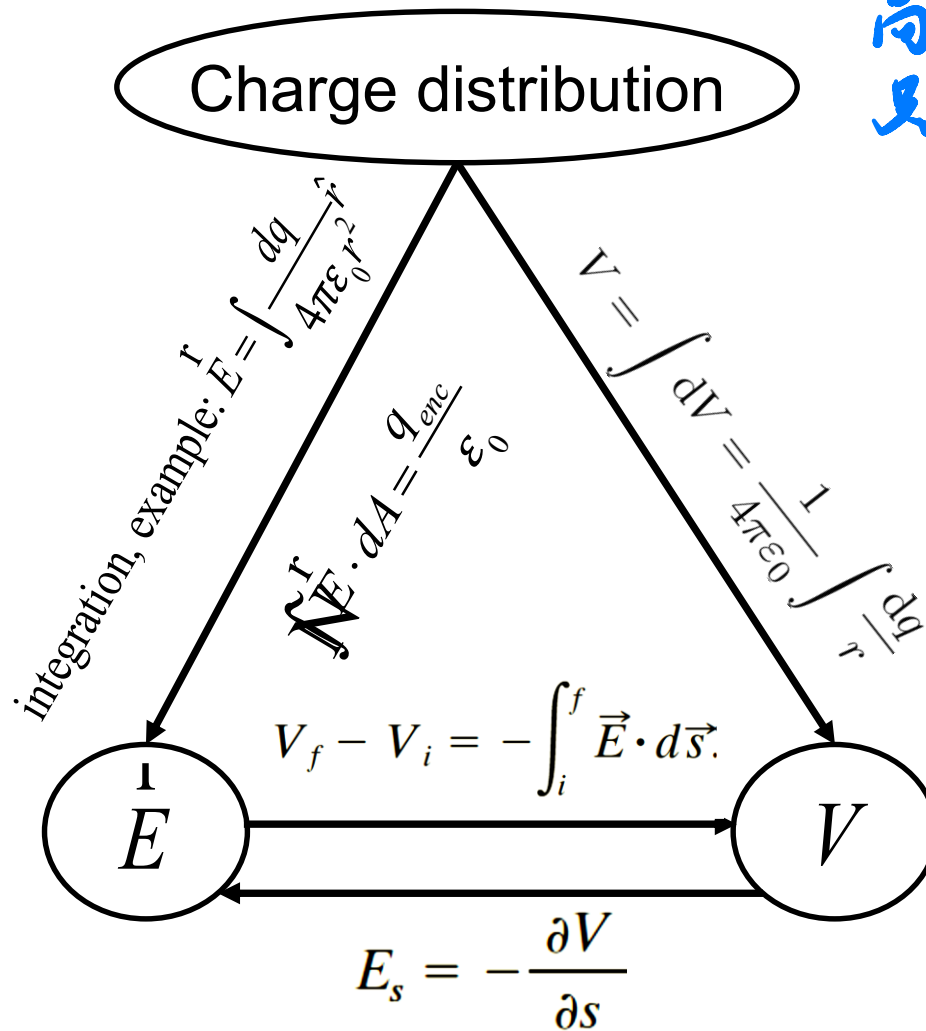
## Method 2: Calculate $V$ from $E$ field:

Usually for the charge with special symmetry such that it's easy to use gauss's law to calculate the  $E$  field

有时E可高斯定律

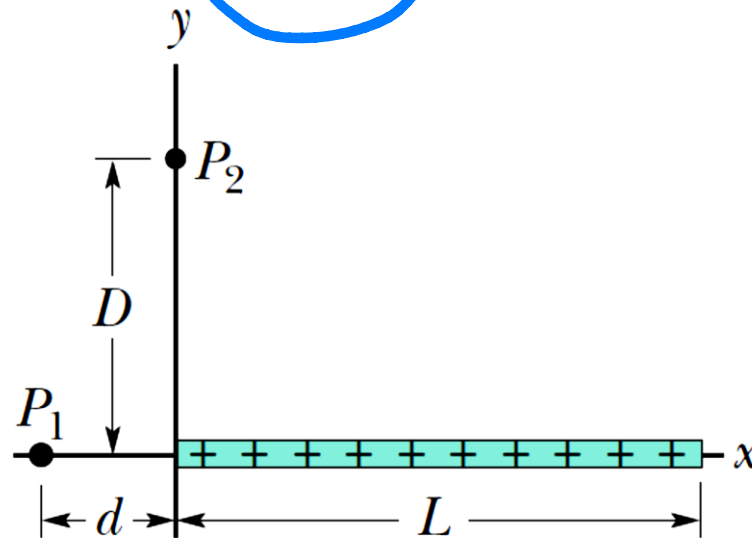
$$V_f - V_i = - \int_i^f \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s} \quad V = - \int_{\infty}^f \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s}$$

高斯定律特殊：  
具有3种对称性及叠加



# Problem 1

The thin plastic rod of length  $L = 12.0$  cm has a nonuniform linear charge density  $\lambda = cx$ , where  $c = 49.9$  pC/m<sup>2</sup>.



$$dq = \lambda dx$$

(a) With  $V = 0$  at infinity, find the electric potential at point  $P_2$  on the  $y$  axis at  $y = D = 3.56$  cm.

(b) Find the electric field component  $E_y$  at  $P_2$ .

$E$  可求偏导

$$E_y = -\frac{\partial V}{\partial y}$$

# Problem 1

(a) Consider an charge element of the rod from  $x$  to  $x + dx$ . Its contribution to the potential at point  $P_2$  is

$$dV = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{\lambda(x)dx}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2}} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{cx}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2}} dx.$$

$$\begin{aligned} V &= \int_{\text{rod}} dV_P = \frac{c}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_0^L \frac{x}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2}} dx = \frac{c}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left( \sqrt{L^2 + y^2} - y \right) \\ &= (8.99 \times 10^9 \text{ N} \cdot \text{m}^2/\text{C}^2)(49.9 \times 10^{-12} \text{ C/m}^2) \left( \sqrt{(0.120 \text{ m})^2 + (0.0356 \text{ m})^2} - 0.0356 \text{ m} \right) \\ &= 4.02 \times 10^{-2} \text{ V}. \end{aligned}$$

(b) The  $y$  component of the field is 公式仍适用

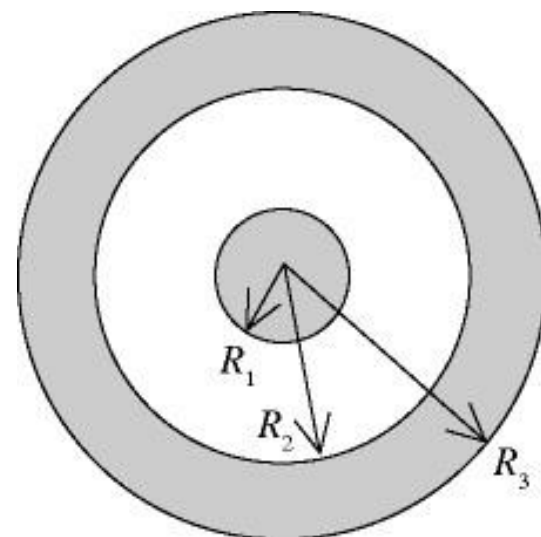
$$\begin{aligned} E_y &= -\frac{\partial V_P}{\partial y} = -\frac{c}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{d}{dy} \left( \sqrt{L^2 + y^2} - y \right) = \frac{c}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left( 1 - \frac{y}{\sqrt{L^2 + y^2}} \right) \\ &= (8.99 \times 10^9 \text{ N} \cdot \text{m}^2/\text{C}^2)(49.9 \times 10^{-12} \text{ C/m}^2) \left( 1 - \frac{0.0356 \text{ m}}{\sqrt{(0.120 \text{ m})^2 + (0.0356 \text{ m})^2}} \right) \\ &= 0.321 \text{ N/C}. \end{aligned}$$



## Problem 2

Two concentric spheres are shown in the figure. The inner sphere is a solid **nonconductor** and has a positive uniform volume charge density  $15/2\pi \mu\text{C}/\text{m}^3$ . The outer sphere is a **conducting shell** that carries a net charge of  $Q = -5.00 \text{ nC}$ . No other charges are present. The radii shown in the figure have the values  $R_1 = 10.0 \text{ cm}$ ,  $R_2 = 20.0 \text{ cm}$ , and  $R_3 = 30.0 \text{ cm}$ . ( $k = 1/4\pi\epsilon_0 = 8.99 \times 10^9 \text{ N} \cdot \text{m}^2/\text{C}^2$ )

- (a) Find the total excess charge on the inner nonconductor, inner and outer surfaces of the conducting sphere.
- (b) Find electric field magnitude and direction (pointing outward or inward) of the electric field  $E$  and the potential  $V$  (With  $V = 0$  at infinity) at the following distances  $r$  from the center of the inner sphere: (i)  $r = 60\text{cm}$ , (ii)  $r = 15\text{cm}$ , (iii)  $r = 5\text{cm}$ .
- (c) Sketch  $E(r)$  and  $V(r)$ .



## Problem 2

**Solution:** a) Inner nonconducting sphere:  $q = \rho V = 10nC$

Inner conducting surface:  $q_{in} = -q = -10nC$

Outer conducting surface:  $q_{out} = Q - q_{in} = Q + q = 5nC$

b) According to Gauss' law:

$$\epsilon_0 \oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A} = q_{enc} \quad (\text{Gauss' law})$$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} r > R_3 & E = \frac{q + q_{in} + q_{out}}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2} = \frac{q_{out}}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2} \\ R_2 < r < R_3 & E = \frac{q + q_{in}}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2} = 0 \\ R_1 < r < R_2 & E = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2} \\ r < R_1 & E 4\pi r^2 = \frac{\rho 4\pi r^3}{3\epsilon_0} \Rightarrow E = \frac{\rho r}{3\epsilon_0} \end{array} \right.$$

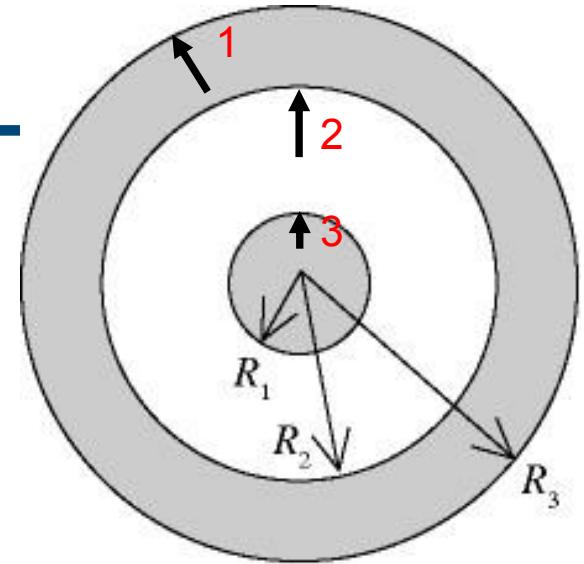
## Problem 2

$$V_r = -\int_{\infty}^r E \cdot dr = -\int_{\infty}^r E \cdot dr$$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} r > R_3 & V_r = -\int_{\infty}^r \frac{q + q_{in} + q_{out}}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2} dr = \frac{q + q_{in} + q_{out}}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r} = \frac{q_{out}}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r} \\ R_2 < r < R_3 & V_r = -\left(\int_{\infty}^{R_3} \frac{q + q_{in} + q_{out}}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2} dr + \int_{R_3}^r (0) dr\right) = \frac{q_{out}}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R_3} \\ R_1 < r < R_2 & V_r = -\left(\int_{\infty}^{R_3} \frac{q_{out}}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2} dr + \int_{R_3}^{R_2} (0) dr + \int_{R_2}^r \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2} dr\right) \\ & = \frac{q_{out}}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R_3} + \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r} - \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R_2} \quad \text{分层} \\ r < R_1 & V_r = -\left(\int_{\infty}^{R_3} \frac{q_{out}}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2} dr + \int_{R_3}^{R_2} (0) dr + \int_{R_2}^{R_1} \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2} dr + \int_{R_1}^r \frac{\rho r'}{3\epsilon_0} dr'\right) \\ & = \frac{q_{out}}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R_3} + \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R_1} - \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R_2} - \int_{R_1}^r \frac{\rho r'}{3\epsilon_0} dr' \\ & = \frac{q_{out}}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R_3} + \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R_1} - \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R_2} + \frac{1}{6\epsilon_0} \rho (R_1^2 - r^2) \end{array} \right.$$

## Problem 2

$$V_r = -\int_{\infty}^r E \cdot dr = -\int_{\infty}^r E \cdot dr$$



$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} r > R_3 \\ R_2 < r < R_3 \\ R_1 < r < R_2 \\ r < R_1 \end{array} \right. \quad V_r = -\int_{\infty}^r \frac{q + q_{in} + q_{out}}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2} dr = \frac{q_{out}}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r}$$

$$\text{for path 1: } V_f - V_i = -\int_i^f \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s} \Rightarrow V_{R_3} - V_r = -\int_r^{R_3} 0 \cdot ds \Rightarrow V_r = V_{R_3} = \frac{q_{out}}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R_3}$$

$$\text{for path 2: } V_{R_2} - V_r = -\int_r^{R_2} \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2} dr \Rightarrow V_r = V_{R_2} + \int_r^{R_2} \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2} dr \Rightarrow V_r = \frac{q_{out}}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R_3} + \frac{q_{in}}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R_2} + \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r}$$

$$\text{for path 3: } V_{R_1} - V_r = -\int_r^{R_1} \frac{\rho r}{3\epsilon_0} dr \Rightarrow V_r = V_{R_1} + \int_r^{R_1} \frac{\rho r}{3\epsilon_0} dr = \frac{q_{out}}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R_3} + \frac{q_{in}}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R_2} + \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R_1} + \frac{\rho r^2}{6\epsilon_0} (R_1^2 - r^2)$$

## Problem 2

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$$r=60\text{cm} \quad E=\frac{q+Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2}=45\frac{1}{r^2}=125(\text{N/C}), \quad V=\frac{q+Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r}=45\frac{1}{r}=75(\text{V})$$

$$r=15\text{cm} \quad E=\frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2}=90\frac{1}{r^2}=4000 (\text{N/C}),$$

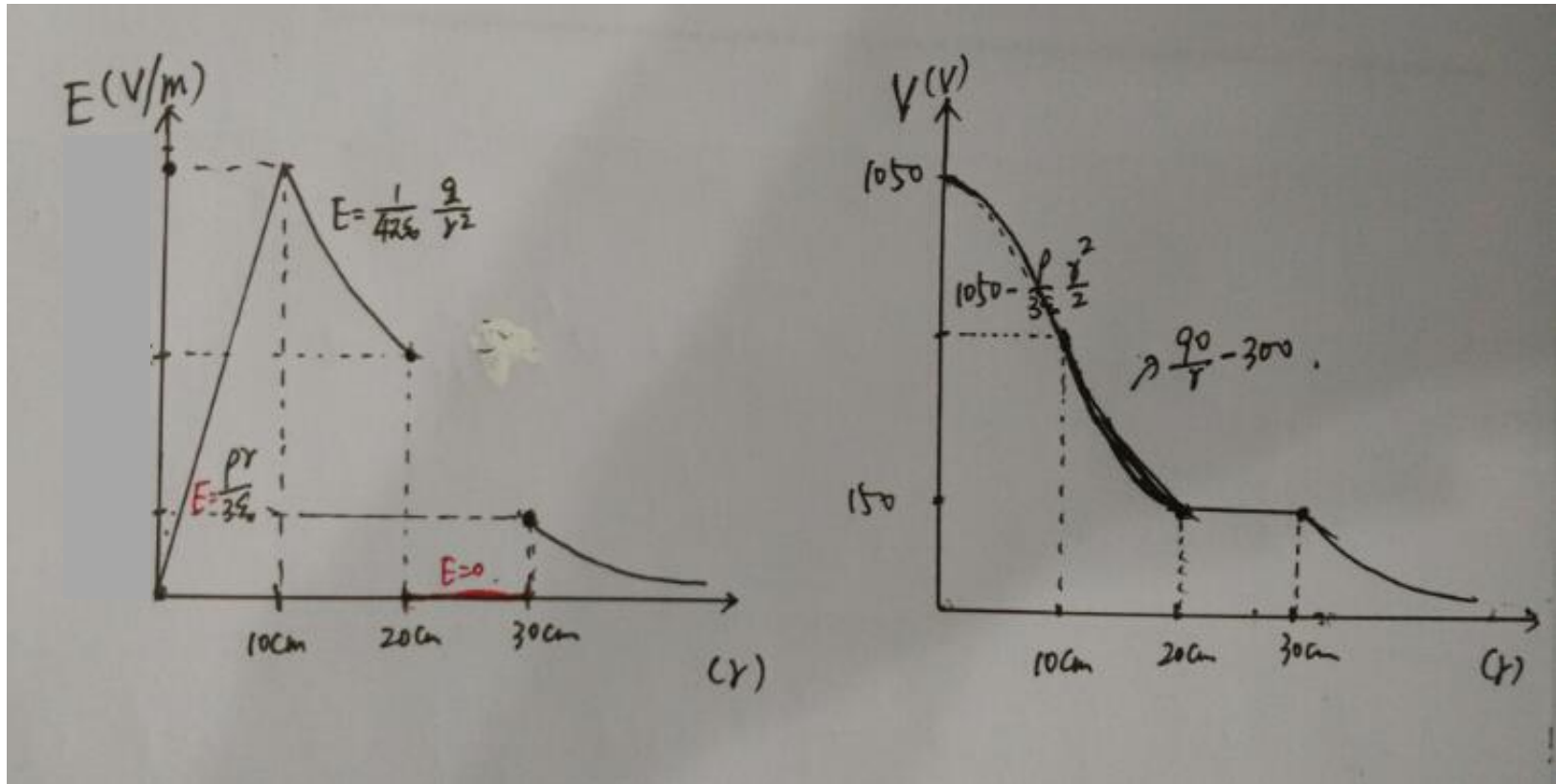
$$V=\frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r}-\frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R_2}+\frac{q_{out}}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R_3}=90\frac{1}{r}-90\frac{1}{R_2}+45\frac{1}{R_3}=300\text{V}$$

$$r=5\text{cm} \quad 4\pi r^2 E=\frac{\rho 4\pi r^3}{3\epsilon_0} \Rightarrow E=\frac{\rho r}{3\epsilon_0}=8.99\times 10^4 r=4495(\text{N/C})$$

$$V=90\frac{1}{R_1}-90\frac{1}{R_2}+45\frac{1}{R_3}+4.45\times 10^4 (R_1^2 - r^2)=930\text{V}$$

## Problem 2

c)



## Problem 2

- d) As shown in figure, a particle of elementary charge  $+e$  is initially at a distance  $r = 2R_3$  from the center of the spheres. The particle is then moved to a point  $B$ , at a distance  $r = 4R_3$ . What is the work done by the force moving the particle from point  $A$  to point  $B$ ?

The electric field is a conservative field, so the work done by the field on the charge particle does not depend on the path, so does the external force, we apply the work-energy theorem, we have:

$$W_{ext} = U_f - U_i = eV_f - eV_i = e\left(\frac{q_{out}}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R_B} - \frac{q_{out}}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R_B}\right)$$

$$W_{ext} = \frac{eq_{out}}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left( \frac{1}{4R_3} - \frac{1}{2R_3} \right) = -\frac{eq_{out}}{16\pi\epsilon_0 R_3}$$

