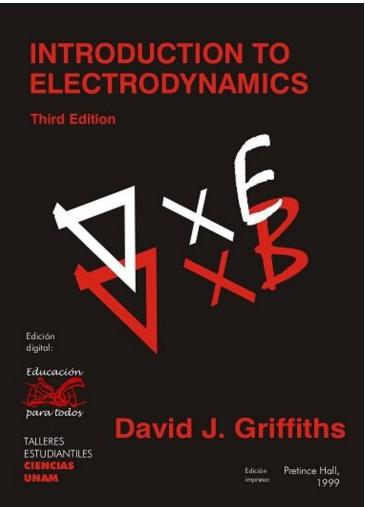
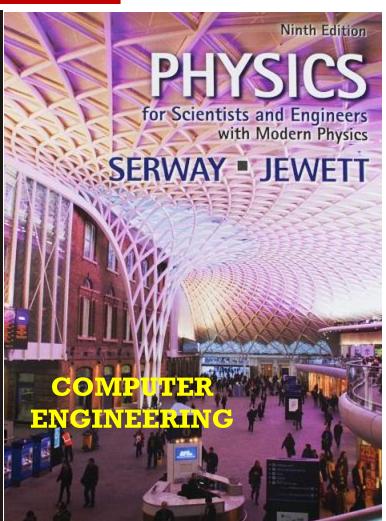
# **PHYSICS**







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# **Course Outline**





- Poisson's Equation and Laplace's Equation
- Potential of a Uniformly charged spherical Shell
- Work Done to Move a Charge & Electric Potential Energy
- Problems
- Conductors & Insulators

# **Electric Potential**



#### **Electric Potential:**

The potential energy per unit charge at a point in an electric field is called the electric potential V (or simply the potential) at that point.

$$V = \frac{U}{q}$$

- Electric potential is a scalar quantity.
- The SI unit of potential is the joules per coulomb which is defined as volt (V): 1 V = 1 J/C
- The electric potential at an arbitrary point P in an electric field equals the work required per unit charge to bring a positive test charge from infinity to that point.

$$V(\vec{r}) = V_{P} = W_{\text{(unit)}}$$

$$0 \to P$$

$$= -\int_{\infty}^{P} \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{l}$$

• Potential obeys the superposition principle:  $V = V_1 + V_2 + ...$ 

The potential at any given point is the sum of the potentials due to all the source charges separately.

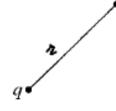
#### **Expression for Electric Potential:**

The electric potential of a point charge at a point P:

$$V(\vec{\mathbf{r}}) = \frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_0} \frac{q}{t}$$

The potential of collection of charges:

$$V(\vec{\mathbf{r}}) = \frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_0} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{q_i}{\chi_i}$$



The potential for a continuous distribution of charges

$$V(\vec{\mathbf{r}}) = \frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_0} \int \frac{dq}{t}$$

In particular, the potential for a surface charge is

$$V(\vec{\mathbf{r}}) = \frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_0} \int \frac{\sigma(\mathbf{r}')}{\hbar} da'$$

#### **Potential Difference:**

The potential difference between points a and b is equal to the work per unit charge required to carry a charged particle from a and b:

$$V(b) - V(a) = W_{\text{(unit)}} = -\int_{a}^{b} \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{l}$$

# **Electric Potential**



# The Electric Field is the Gradient of a Scalar Potential

The potential difference between two points *a* and *b*:

$$V(b) - V(a) = -\int_{a}^{b} \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{l}$$
 .....(1)

The fundamental theorem for gradients states that:

$$V(b) - V(a) = \int_{a}^{b} (\nabla V) \cdot d\vec{l} \qquad \dots (2)$$

So, 
$$-\int_a^b \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{l} = \int_a^b (\nabla V) \cdot d\vec{l}$$

Since this is true for any points a and b, the integrands must be equal:

$$\therefore \vec{E} = -\nabla V$$

# The expression for electric field in a region where potential: V = -kxy

$$\vec{E} = -\nabla V = -\left[\hat{i}\frac{\partial V}{\partial x} + \hat{j}\frac{\partial V}{\partial y} + \hat{k}\frac{\partial V}{\partial z}\right]$$

$$= -\left[\hat{i}\frac{\partial (-kxy)}{\partial x} + \hat{j}\frac{\partial (-kxy)}{\partial y} + \hat{k}\frac{\partial (-kxy)}{\partial z}\right]$$

$$= ky \hat{i} + kx \hat{j}$$

# Poisson's Equation and

### **Laplace's Equation:**

Gauss's law in differential form:

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{E} = \frac{1}{\varepsilon_0} \rho$$

The electric field can be written as the gradient of a scalar potential

i.e. 
$$\vec{E} = -\nabla V$$

$$\therefore \qquad \nabla \cdot \vec{E} = \frac{1}{\varepsilon_0} \rho$$

$$\Rightarrow \nabla \cdot (-\nabla V) = \frac{1}{\varepsilon_0} \rho$$

$$\therefore \left[ \nabla^2 V = -\frac{\rho}{\varepsilon_0} \right]$$

This is known as **Poisson's Equation.** 

In regions where there is no charge, so that  $\rho=0$  , Poisson's equation reduces to Laplace's Equation

$$\nabla^2 V = 0$$

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# **Electric Potential**



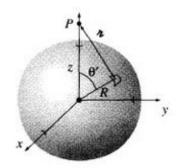
Find the potential of a uniformly charged spherical shell of radius.

#### **Solution:**

• The potential for a surface charge is  $V(\vec{r}) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_{t}^{\sigma} da'$ .

$$V(\vec{\mathbf{r}}) = \frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_0} \int \frac{\sigma}{\ell} da' \cdot$$

From the law of cosines, 
$$t^2 = R^2 + z^2 - 2Rz\cos\theta'$$



An element of surface area on this sphere is  $(R^2 \sin \theta' d\theta' d\phi')$ 

So,  

$$V(z) = \frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_0} \left[ \int \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{R^2 + z^2 - 2Rz\cos\theta'}} (R^2 \sin\theta' d\theta' d\phi') \right]$$

$$= \frac{\sigma R^2}{4\pi\varepsilon_0} \left[ \left\{ \int_0^{\pi} \frac{\sin\theta' d\theta'}{\sqrt{R^2 + z^2 - 2Rz\cos\theta'}} \right\} \left\{ \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi' \right\} \right]$$

$$= \frac{\sigma R^2}{4\pi\varepsilon_0} \left[ \left\{ \frac{1}{Rz} \left( \sqrt{(R+z)^2} - \sqrt{(R-z)^2} \right) \right\} \left\{ 2\pi \right\} \right]$$

$$= \frac{\sigma R^2}{2\varepsilon_0} \left[ \frac{1}{Rz} \left( \sqrt{(R+z)^2} - \sqrt{(R-z)^2} \right) \right]$$

$$\therefore V(z) = \frac{\sigma R}{2\varepsilon_0 z} \left[ \sqrt{(R+z)^2} - \sqrt{(R-z)^2} \right]$$

Put 
$$R^2 + z^2 - 2Rz\cos\theta' = t^2$$
  

$$\Rightarrow \sin\theta'd\theta' = \frac{1}{Rz}(t \ dt)$$
when  $\theta'=0$ , then  $t = \sqrt{R^2 - z^2}$   
when  $\theta'=\pi$ , then  $t = \sqrt{R^2 + z^2}$   

$$\Rightarrow \int_0^{\pi} \frac{\sin\theta'd\theta'}{\sqrt{R^2 + z^2 - 2Rz\cos\theta'}} = \frac{1}{Rz} \int_{\sqrt{R^2 + z^2}}^{\sqrt{R^2 + z^2}} \frac{(t \ dt)}{t}$$

$$= \frac{1}{Rz} \int_{\sqrt{R^2 - z^2}}^{\sqrt{R^2 + z^2}} dt$$

$$= \frac{1}{Rz} \left( \sqrt{(R+z)^2} - \sqrt{(R-z)^2} \right)$$

For points outside the sphere, z > R, and hence  $\sqrt{(R-z)^2} = z - R$  $\therefore V_{out}(z) = \frac{R\sigma}{2\varepsilon_0 z} \Big[ (R+z) - (z-R) \Big] = \frac{\sigma R^2}{\varepsilon_0 z}$  $= \frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_0} \frac{\sigma(4\pi R^2)}{z} = \frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_0} \frac{q}{z}$ 

and hence  $\sqrt{(R-Z)^2} = R-z$  $\therefore V_{in}(z) = \frac{R\sigma}{2\varepsilon z} \Big[ (R+z) - (R-z) \Big] = \frac{\sigma R}{\varepsilon}$  $= \frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_0} \frac{\sigma(4\pi R^2)}{R} = \frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_0} \frac{q}{R}$ 

For points inside the sphere, z < R,

For points on the sphere, z = R,

$$\therefore V_{on}(R) = \frac{\sigma R}{\varepsilon_0} = \frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_0} \frac{\sigma(4\pi R^2)}{R}$$
$$= \frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_0} \frac{q}{R} = V_{in}(z)$$

# **Work and Energy in Electrostatics**



#### The Work Done to Move a Charge

- Suppose we have a stationary configuration of source charges, and we want to move a test charge from a point a to point b [Figure  $W_{W}$ -I].
- At any point along the path, the electric force on Q is  $\vec{F} = Q\vec{E}$  the force we exert, in opposition to this electrical force is  $-Q\vec{E}$ .
- The work done to move a test charge Q from a point a to point b is

$$W = \int_{a}^{b} \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{l} = \int_{a}^{b} \left( -Q\vec{E} \right) \cdot d\vec{l} = Q \left[ -\int_{a}^{b} \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{l} \right]$$
$$= Q \left[ V(b) - V(a) \right]$$
$$\therefore V(b) - V(a) = V(\vec{r}_{b}) - V(\vec{r}_{a}) = \frac{W}{Q}$$

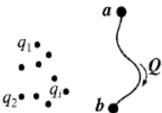


Figure Ww-3

- The potential difference between points a and b is equal to the work per unit charge required to carry a charged particle from a and b.
- The work done to bring the charge Q from infinity to the point  $\vec{r}$  is

$$W = Q[V(\vec{r}) - V(\infty)]$$
$$\therefore W = QV(\vec{r})$$

The potential energy per unit charge at a point in an electric field is called the *Electric potential* at that point.

# **Work and Energy in Electrostatics**



### **Electric Potential Energy**

- Consider that three point charges  $q_1, q_2$  and  $q_3$  are lying at locations  $\vec{r}_1, \vec{r}_2$  and  $\vec{r}_3$  respectively.
- First of all, let us remove all the three charges to infinite distance from each other.
  - (i) Let us move the charge  $q_1$  from infinity to its location  $\vec{r}_1$ . The work done to move the charge  $q_1$  from infinity to its location  $\vec{r}_1$  is  $W_1=0$ .
  - (ii) Let us move the charge  $q_2$  from infinity to its location  $\vec{r}_2$ . The work done to move the charge  $q_2$  from infinity to its location  $\vec{r}_2$  is

$$W_2 = q_2 [V_1(\vec{r}_2)]$$
 where  $V_1(\vec{r}_2)$  is the potential due to  $q_1$ .

$$=q_2\left[\frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_0}\frac{q_1}{\iota_{12}}\right] \qquad \qquad =\frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_0}\frac{q_1q_2}{\iota_{12}}$$

(iii) Let us move the charge  $q_3$  from infinity to its location  $\vec{r}_3$ . The work done to move the charge  $q_3$  from infinity to its location  $\vec{r}_3$  is

$$W_3 = q_3 \left[ V_{1,2}(\vec{r_3}) \right]$$
 where  $V_{1,2}(\vec{r_3})$  is the potential due to carges  $q_1$  and  $q_2$ .

$$= q_3 \left[ \frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_0} \frac{q_1}{\iota_{13}} + \frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_0} \frac{q_2}{\iota_{23}} \right] = \frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_0} \frac{q_1q_3}{\iota_{13}} + \frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_0} \frac{q_2q_3}{\iota_{23}}$$

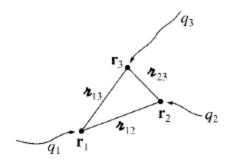


Figure Ww-3

# **Electric Potential Energy**



### **Electric Potential Energy**

• Therefore, the total work necessary to assemble the first three charges is  $W = W_1 + W_2 + W_3$  and is equal to the potential energy U.

$$\therefore U = W = 0 + \frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_0} \frac{q_1 q_2}{t_{12}} + \frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_0} \frac{q_1 q_3}{t_{13}} + \frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_0} \frac{q_2 q_3}{t_{23}} = \frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_0} \left[ \frac{q_1 q_2}{t_{12}} + \frac{q_1 q_3}{t_{13}} + \frac{q_2 q_3}{t_{23}} \right]$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_0} \sum_{i=1}^3 \sum_{\substack{j=1\\j\neq i}}^3 \frac{q_i q_j}{t_{ij}}$$

• For a system of *n* - point charges, we have

$$U = \frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_0} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{\substack{j=1 \ j\neq i}}^{n} \frac{q_i q_j}{t_{ij}}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{n} q_i \left( \frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_0} \sum_{\substack{j=1 \ j\neq i}}^{n} \frac{q_j}{t_{ij}} \right)$$

$$\therefore U = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{n} q_i V(\vec{\mathbf{r}}_i)$$
where  $V(\vec{\mathbf{r}}_i) = \frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_0} \sum_{\substack{j=1 \ j\neq i}}^{n} \frac{q_j}{t_{ij}}$  is the potential at point  $\vec{\mathbf{r}}_i$  (the postion of  $\mathbf{q}_i$ ) due to all other charges.

# **Electric Potential Energy**



### The Energy of Continuous Charge Distribution

• The total work necessary to assemble the n - point charges is given by

where  $V(\vec{\mathbf{r}}_i)$  is the potential at point  $\vec{\mathbf{r}}_i$  (the postion of  $\mathbf{q}_i$ ) due to all other charges.

• For a volume charge density  $\rho$ , Eq. (1) becomes

$$W = \frac{1}{2} \int \rho \ V d\tau$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \int \left( \varepsilon_0 \nabla \cdot \vec{E} \right) \ V d\tau$$

$$= \frac{\varepsilon_0}{2} \int V (\nabla \cdot \vec{E}) \ d\tau$$

$$= \frac{\varepsilon_0}{2} \left[ -\int (\nabla V) \cdot \vec{E} \ d\tau + \int \nabla \cdot (V \vec{E}) \ d\tau \right]$$

$$= \frac{\varepsilon_0}{2} \left[ \int \vec{E} \cdot \vec{E} \ d\tau + \oint_S (V \vec{E}) \cdot d\vec{a} \right]$$

$$= \frac{\varepsilon_0}{2} \left[ \int E^2 d\tau + \oint_S (V \vec{E}) \cdot d\vec{a} \right]$$

$$= \frac{\varepsilon_0}{2} \left[ \int E^2 d\tau + \oint_S (V \vec{E}) \cdot d\vec{a} \right]$$

$$= \frac{\varepsilon_0}{2} \left[ \int E^2 d\tau + \oint_S (V \vec{E}) \cdot d\vec{a} \right]$$

$$= \frac{\varepsilon_0}{2} \left[ \int E^2 d\tau + \oint_S (V \vec{E}) \cdot d\vec{a} \right]$$

When the integration is taken over all space, the surface integral goes to zero.

$$W = \frac{\varepsilon_0}{2} \int_{\text{all space}} E^2 d\tau = \int_{\text{all space}} u_E \ d\tau$$

where 
$$u_E = \frac{\mathcal{E}_0}{2} E^2$$

Energy Density

# **Work and Energy in Electrostatics**



#### **Notes:**

• The work done to move a charge Q from point a to point b: W = Q[V(b) - V(a)]

- The work done to move a charge Q from  $\infty$  to point b: W = Q[V(a)]
- The energy of a continuous charge distribution:

$$W = \frac{\mathcal{E}_0}{2} \int_{all \text{ space}} E^2 d\tau = \int_{all \text{ space}} u_E \ d\tau$$

Energy density,  $u_E = \frac{\varepsilon_0}{2} E^2 \rightarrow \text{energy per unit volume} \left[ \text{Unit of } u_E \rightarrow Jm^{-3} \right]$ 

• The electrostatic potential energy of configurations of three charges  $q_1, q_2$  and  $q_3$  at locations  $\vec{r_1}$ ,  $\vec{r_2}$  and  $\vec{r_3}$  respectively:

$$U = \frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_0} \left[ \frac{q_1 q_2}{t_{12}} + \frac{q_1 q_3}{t_{13}} + \frac{q_2 q_3}{t_{23}} \right]$$

### **Problem**



#### **Notes:**

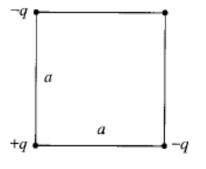
- (a) Three charges are situated at the corners of a square (side ), as shown in Figure  $P_p$ -1. How much work does it take to bring in another charge, +q, from far away and place it in the fourth corner?
- (b) How much work does it take to assemble the whole configuration of four charges?

Hint:

(a) 
$$W_4 = qV$$

$$= (+q) \left[ \frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_0} \left\{ \frac{-q}{a} + \frac{q}{a\sqrt{2}} + \frac{-q}{a} \right\} \right]$$

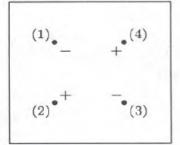
$$= \frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_0} \frac{q^2}{a} \left[ -2 + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \right]$$



$$V = \frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_0} \left( \frac{q_1}{r_{14}} + \frac{q_2}{r_{24}} + \frac{q_3}{r_{34}} \right)$$

$$W = U = \frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_0} \left[ \frac{q_1q_2}{r_{12}} + \frac{q_1q_3}{r_{13}} + \frac{q_1q_4}{r_{14}} + \frac{q_2q_3}{r_{23}} + \frac{q_2q_4}{r_{24}} + \frac{q_3q_4}{r_{34}} \right]$$

**(b)** 
$$W = \frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_0} \left[ \frac{-q^2}{a} + \frac{q^2}{a\sqrt{2}} + \frac{-q^2}{a} + \frac{-q^2}{a} + \frac{q^2}{a\sqrt{2}} + \frac{-q^2}{a} \right]$$
$$= 2\frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_0} \frac{q^2}{a} \left[ -2 + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \right]$$



## **Problem**



#### **Notes:**

(a) Find the energy of a uniformly charged spherical shell of total charge q and radius R.

#### **Solution:**

For a uniformly charged spherical shell

Inside

$$E = 0$$

Outside

$$E = \frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_0} \frac{\mathbf{q}}{r^2}$$

Therefore

$$W_{tot} = \frac{\varepsilon_0}{2} \int_{all \text{ space}} E^2 d\tau = \frac{\varepsilon_0}{2} \int_{outside} \left[ \frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_0} \frac{q}{r^2} \right]^2 \left( r^2 \sin\theta dr d\theta d\phi \right)$$

$$= \frac{\varepsilon_0}{2} \frac{1}{\left( 4\pi\varepsilon_0 \right)^2} q^2 \left[ \left\{ \int_R^{\infty} \frac{1}{r^2} dr \right\} \left\{ \int_0^{\pi} \sin\theta d\theta \right\} \left\{ \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi \right\} \right]$$

$$= \frac{\varepsilon_0}{2} \frac{1}{\left( 4\pi\varepsilon_0 \right)^2} q^2 (2) (2\pi) \left[ \int_R^{\infty} \frac{1}{r^2} dr \right]$$

$$\therefore W_{tot} = \frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_0} \frac{q^2}{2R}$$

## **Problem**



#### **Notes:**

(a) Find the energy stored in a uniformly charged solid sphere of radius R and charge q.

For a uniformly charged solid sphere of radius R:

Inside 
$$E_{\rm in} = \frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_0} \frac{qr}{R^3}$$

Outside 
$$E_{\text{out}} = \frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_0} \frac{q}{r^2}$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{split} W_{tot} &= \frac{\mathcal{E}_0}{2} \int_{\text{all space}} E^2 d\tau &= \frac{\mathcal{E}_0}{2} \int_{\text{all space}} E^2 \left( r^2 \sin \theta dr d\theta d\phi \right) \\ &= \frac{\mathcal{E}_0}{2} \left[ \left\{ \int_0^\infty E^2 r^2 dr \right\} \left\{ \int_0^\pi \sin \theta d\theta \right\} \left\{ \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi \right\} \right] \\ &= \frac{\mathcal{E}_0}{2} \left( 4\pi \right) \left[ \int_0^R (E_{\text{in}})^2 r^2 dr + \int_R^\infty (E_{\text{out}})^2 r^2 dr \right] \\ &= 2\pi \mathcal{E}_0 \left[ \int_0^R \left( \frac{1}{4\pi \mathcal{E}_0} \frac{qr}{R^3} \right)^2 r^2 dr + \int_R^\infty \left( \frac{1}{4\pi \mathcal{E}_0} \frac{q}{r^2} \right)^2 r^2 dr \right] \\ &= 2\pi \mathcal{E}_0 \left( \frac{1}{4\pi \mathcal{E}_0} q \right)^2 \left[ \frac{1}{R^6} \int_0^R r^4 dr + \int_R^\infty \frac{1}{r^2} dr \right] = \frac{1}{4\pi \mathcal{E}_0} \frac{q^2}{2} \left[ \frac{1}{R^6} \frac{R^5}{5} + \frac{1}{R} \right] \end{split}$$

$$\therefore W_{tot} = \frac{6}{5} \left[ \frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_0} \frac{q^2}{2R} \right]$$

## **Conductors and Insulators**



#### **Conductors**

- **Conductors** are substances, which contain large numbers of essentially free charge carriers.
- The charge carriers are free to wander throughout the conducting material; they respond to almost infinitesimal electric fields, and they continue to move as long as they experience a field.

#### **Insulators**

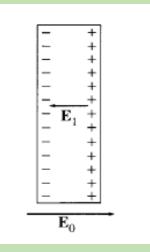
- **Insulators** (Dielectrics) are substances in which all charged particles are bound rather strongly to constituent molecules.
- The charged particles may shift their positions slightly in response to an electric field, but they do not leave the vicinity of their molecules.

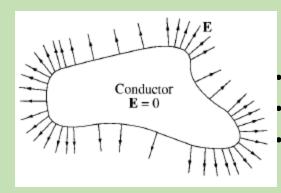
#### **Perfect Conductor**

- A **Perfect** conductor is a material containing an *unlimited* supply of completely free charges.
- In real life there are no perfect conductors, but many substances come amazingly close.

#### **Basic Electrostatic Properties**

• Electric field E = 0, inside a conductor





• Volume charge density  $\rho = 0$  inside a conductor

From Gauss's law: 
$$\nabla \cdot \vec{E} = \frac{\rho}{\varepsilon_0}$$

 $\vec{E} = 0$  inside a conductor  $\Rightarrow \rho = 0$  inside a conductor.

- Any net charge resides on the surface.
- $ec{E}$  is perpendicular to the surface, just outside a conductor.
- A conductor is an equipotential.

For any two points within (or at the surface of) a given conductor,  $V(a)-V(b)=-\int_{a}^{b} \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{l} = 0$ 

$$\Rightarrow V(a) = V(b)$$

## **Questions**



#### **Notes:**

• If E and V are electric field and electric potential at the midpoint of two equal and opposite point charges, then  $E \neq 0$ , V = 0.

• A thin spherical conducting shell of radius R has a charge q.Another charge Q is placed at the centre of the shell. The electrostatic potential at a point p at a distance from the centre of the shell is

$$V = V_1 + V_2 = \frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_0} \frac{Q}{R/2} + \frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_0} \frac{q}{R}$$

• The work done in displacing a charge 2C through 0.5m on an equipotential surface is zero.

• The electrostatic potential energy of configuration of four charges +q,-2q,-q and +2q placed at four corners A, B, C and D of a square of side a is -1  $5a^2$ 

 $U = -\frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_0} \left[ \frac{5q^2}{a\sqrt{2}} \right].$ 

• The electrostatic potential energy of configuration of three charges +2e,-e and -2e placed at three corners A, B and C of a equilateral triangle of side ' I' is

$$U = -\frac{e^2}{\pi \varepsilon_0 l}$$

# **Text Books & References**



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- 2. R.A. Serway and J.W. Jewett, Physics for Scientist and Engineers with Modern Physics
- 3. Halliday and Resnick, Fundamental of Physics
- 4. D. Halliday, R. Resnick, and K. Krane, Physics, Volume 2, Fourth Edition



