

Electricity and Magnetism

- Physics 259 – L02
- Lecture 30



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

Chapter 25: Capacitance



Last time

- Chapter 25-1 and 25-2

This time

- Cylindrical capacitors
- Capacitors in parallel and series
- Energy in Capacitors



25-2 Calculating the Capacitance



TopHat Question

If we double the amount of charge on a capacitor, how does the capacitance change?

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

- a. Capacitance increases.
- b. Capacitance decreases.
- c. Capacitance remains the same.
- d. More information is needed.

Review: Calculating electric field and potential difference

1. To relate the electric field E between the plates of a capacitor to the charge q on either plate → use Gauss' law:

$$\epsilon_0 \oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A} = q.$$

2. the potential difference between the plates of a capacitor is related to the field E by

$$V_f - V_i = - \int_i^f \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s},$$

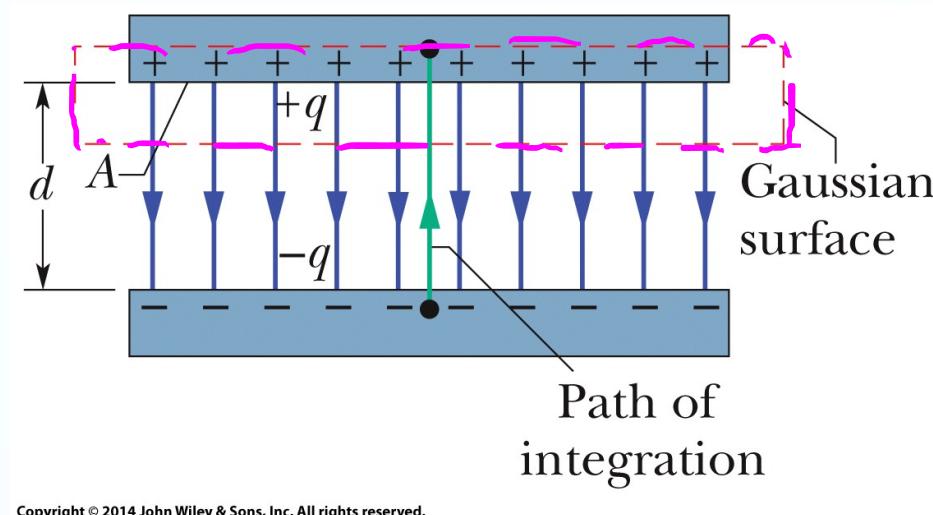
Letting V represent the difference $V_f - V_i$, we can then recast the above equation as:

$$V = \int_{-}^{+} E ds$$

3. Find Capacitance

$$q = CV.$$

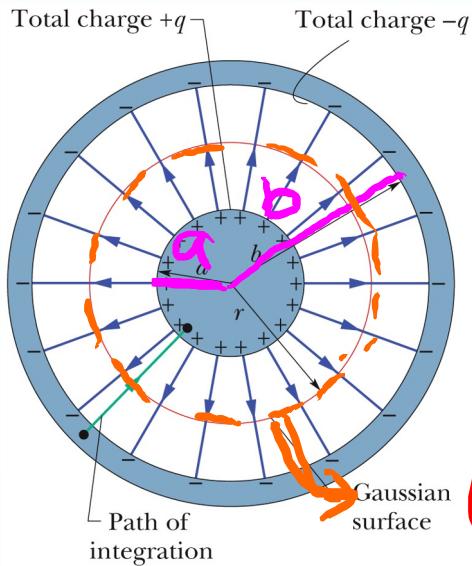
Review: 25-2 Calculating the Capacitance: Parallel-Plate Capacitor



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$$C = \frac{\epsilon_0 A}{d} \quad (\text{parallel-plate capacitor}).$$

25-2 Calculating the Capacitance: Cylindrical Capacitor



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Gaussian Surface

- ✓ cylindrical capacitor of length L formed by two coaxial cylinders of radii a and b .
- ✓ $L \gg b \rightarrow$ neglect fringing of electric field that occurs at ends of the cylinders.
- ✓ Each plate contains a charge of magnitude q .

1. Use Gauss's law E

2. Find potential V

3. Find Capacitance $C = \frac{q}{V}$

25-2 Calculating the Capacitance: Cylindrical Capacitor

1. Use Gauss's law

$$\oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A} = \frac{q_{enc}}{\epsilon_0} = \frac{q}{\epsilon_0}$$

$$\rightarrow EA = \frac{q}{\epsilon_0} \Rightarrow q = \epsilon_0 EA = \epsilon_0 E(2\pi r L)$$

2. Find potential

$$\rightarrow V = \frac{q}{\epsilon_0 2\pi r L}$$

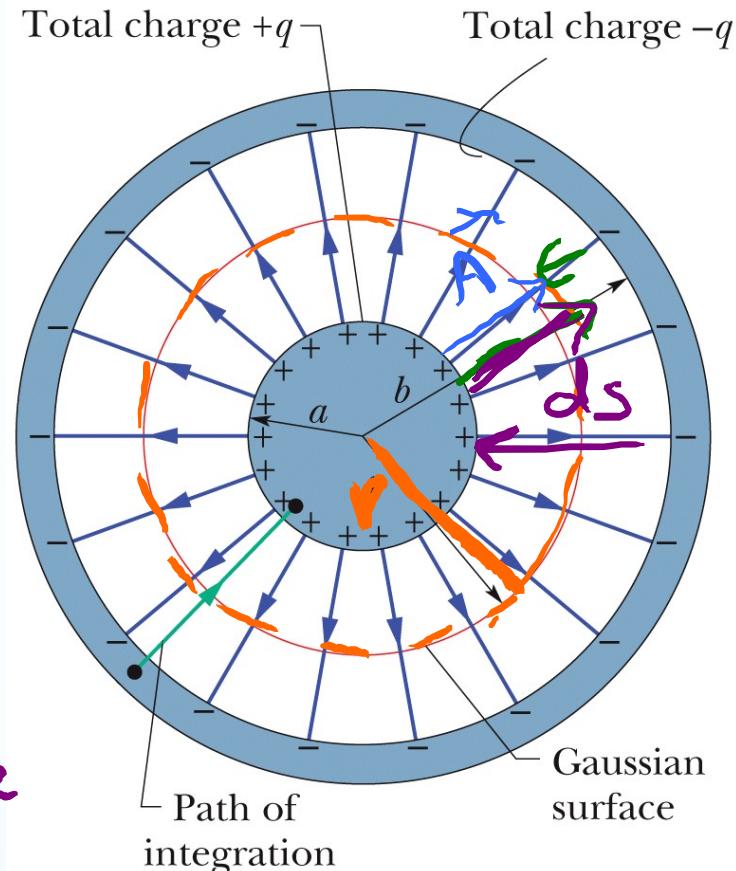
$$V = \int_{-}^{+} E ds = -\frac{q}{2\pi\epsilon_0 L} \int_b^a \frac{dr}{r} = \frac{q}{2\pi\epsilon_0 L} \ln\left(\frac{b}{a}\right) \rightarrow *$$

next page

3. Find Capacitance

$$C = \frac{q}{V} = \frac{q}{\frac{q}{2\pi\epsilon_0 L} \ln(b/a)} = \frac{2\pi\epsilon_0 L}{\ln(b/a)}$$

$$\rightarrow C = 2\pi\epsilon_0 L \frac{1}{\ln(b/a)} \Rightarrow$$



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$$C = 2\pi\epsilon_0 \frac{L}{\ln(b/a)} \quad (\text{cylindrical capacitor}).$$

* explanation of $V = \int_{-}^{+} \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s}$

The expression for potential \rightarrow

$$V = - \int_a^b \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s} = - \int_a^b E ds \cos \theta$$

because we consider \int_{-}^{+} $\Rightarrow \theta$ is always $\theta = 180^\circ$

$$\Rightarrow V = - \int_{-}^{+} E ds \cos(180) \Rightarrow V = \int_{-}^{+} E ds$$

$$\Rightarrow V = \int_{-}^{+} E ds = \int_{-}^{+} \frac{q}{2\pi\epsilon_0 L} \frac{ds}{r} \quad \& \quad ds = -dr$$

$$\Rightarrow V = \frac{-q}{2\pi\epsilon_0 L} \int_{-}^{+} \frac{dr}{r} = \frac{-q}{2\pi\epsilon_0 L} \int_b^a \frac{dr}{r} = \frac{-q}{2\pi\epsilon_0 L} \ln\left(\frac{a}{b}\right)$$

25-2 Calculating the Capacitance

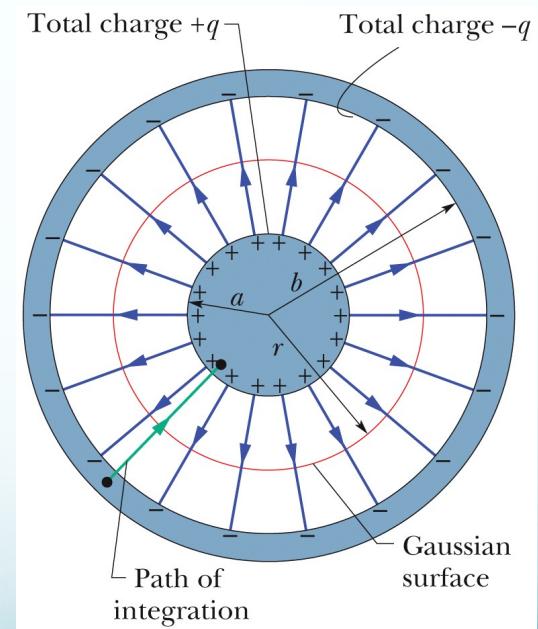
Others...

For **spherical capacitor** the capacitance is:

$$C = 4\pi\epsilon_0 \frac{ab}{b-a} \quad (\text{spherical capacitor}).$$

Capacitance of an **isolated sphere**:

$$C = 4\pi\epsilon_0 R \quad (\text{isolated sphere}).$$



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TopHat Question

How big does the radius of an isolated sphere have to be in order for it to have a capacitance of 1 F? Choose the closest answer.

A. 10^9 km

C. 10^7 km

B. 10^8 km

D. 10^6 km

$$C = 4\pi\epsilon_0 R \quad (\text{isolated sphere}).$$

$$\epsilon_0 = 8.85 \times 10^{-12}$$

$$R = \frac{C}{4\pi\epsilon_0} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} = 8.99 \times 10^6$$

$\simeq 10 \times 10^6 = 10^7$

TopHat Question

How big does the radius of an isolated sphere have to be in order for it to have a capacitance of 1 F? Choose the closest answer.

A. 10^9 km

C. 10^7 km

B. 10^8 km

D. 10^6 km

For comparison, the orbit of Mercury around the sun is 5×10^7 km! *Veryyyy large*

Spheres make bad capacitors; a 1 F capacitor

used in circuits can fit in your hand. \rightarrow with new technology

\rightarrow because their construction is hard



Capacitors

General relationship:

$$Q = C\Delta V_C$$

Parallel plate capacitor:

$$Q = \left(\frac{\epsilon_0 A}{d} \right) \Delta V_C$$

Spherical capacitor:

$$Q = \left(\frac{4\pi\epsilon_0 r_b r_a}{r_b - r_a} \right) \Delta V_C$$

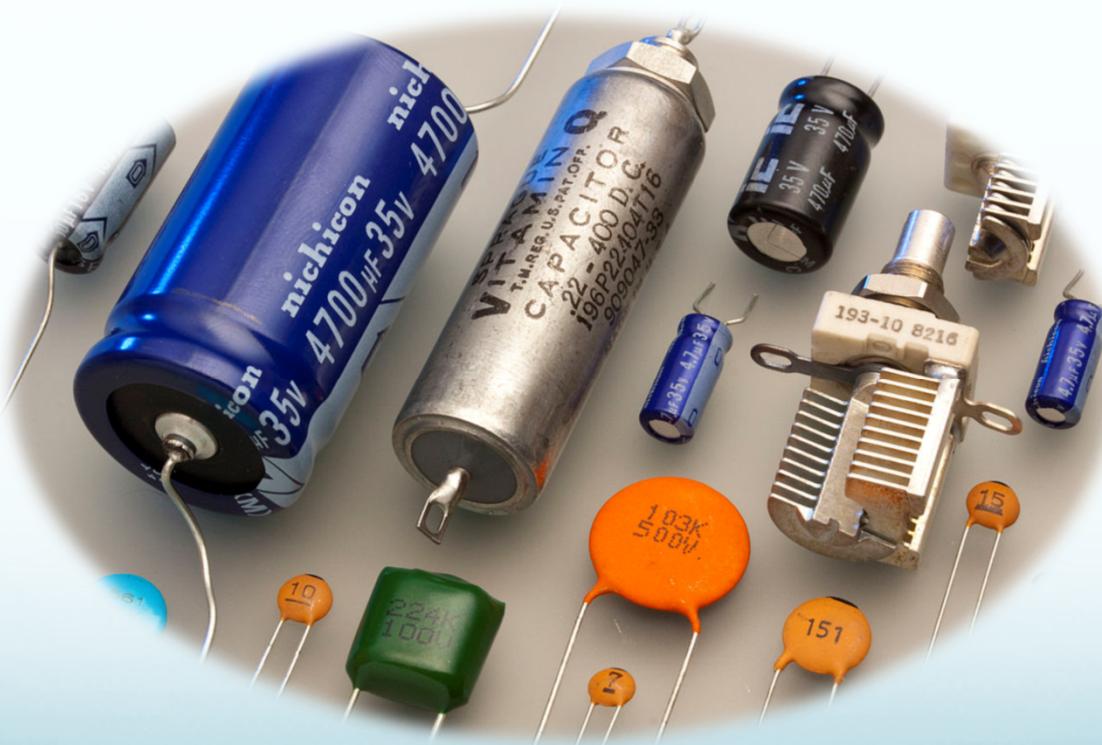
Isolated sphere:

$$Q = (4\pi\epsilon_0 R) \Delta V_C$$

Cylindrical capacitor:

$$Q = \left(\frac{2\pi\epsilon_0 L}{\ln\left(\frac{r_B}{r_A}\right)} \right) \Delta V_C$$

25-3 Capacitors in parallel and series



Capacitors in Series



<https://tinyurl.com/j6cb8sr>

$$\frac{1}{C} = \frac{1}{C_1} + \frac{1}{C_2}$$

& q is the same

Capacitors in Series



When a potential difference V is applied across several capacitors connected in series, the capacitors have identical charge q . The sum of the potential differences across all the capacitors is equal to the applied potential difference V .

$$V_1 = \frac{q}{C_1}, \quad V_2 = \frac{q}{C_2}, \quad \text{and} \quad V_3 = \frac{q}{C_3}.$$

The total potential difference V due to the battery is the sum

$$V = V_1 + V_2 + V_3 = q \left(\frac{1}{C_1} + \frac{1}{C_2} + \frac{1}{C_3} \right).$$

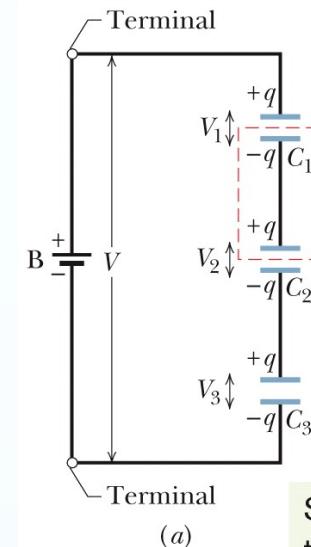
The equivalent capacitance is then

$$C_{\text{eq}} = \frac{q}{V} = \frac{1}{1/C_1 + 1/C_2 + 1/C_3},$$

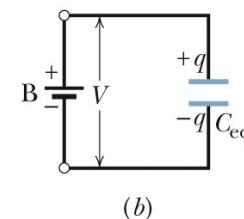
or

$$\frac{1}{C_{\text{eq}}} = \frac{1}{C_1} + \frac{1}{C_2} + \frac{1}{C_3}.$$

$$\frac{1}{C_{\text{eq}}} = \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{1}{C_j} \quad (n \text{ capacitors in series}).$$



(a)



(b)

Series capacitors and their equivalent have the same q ("seri-q").

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Capacitors that are connected in series can be replaced with an equivalent capacitor that has the same charge q and the same *total* potential difference V as the actual series capacitors.

Capacitors in Parallel



$C = C_1 + C_2$
& V is the same



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Capacitors in Parallel



When a potential difference V is applied across several capacitors connected in parallel, that potential difference V is applied across each capacitor. The total charge q stored on the capacitors is the sum of the charges stored on all the capacitors.

$$q_1 = C_1 V, \quad q_2 = C_2 V, \quad \text{and} \quad q_3 = C_3 V.$$

The total charge on the parallel combination of Fig. 25-8a is then

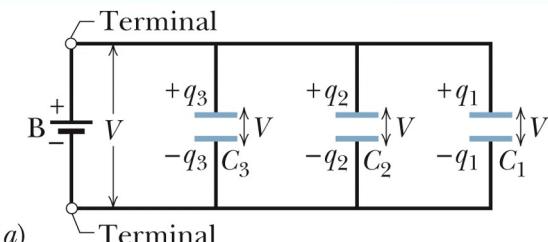
$$q = q_1 + q_2 + q_3 = (C_1 + C_2 + C_3)V.$$

The equivalent capacitance, with the same total charge q and applied potential difference V as the combination, is then

$$C_{\text{eq}} = \frac{q}{V} = C_1 + C_2 + C_3,$$

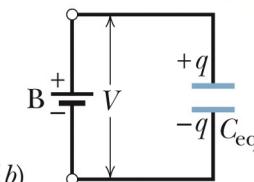
a result that we can easily extend to any number n of capacitors, as

$$C_{\text{eq}} = \sum_{j=1}^n C_j \quad (\text{\(n\) capacitors in parallel}).$$



(a)

Parallel capacitors and their equivalent have the same V ("par-V").



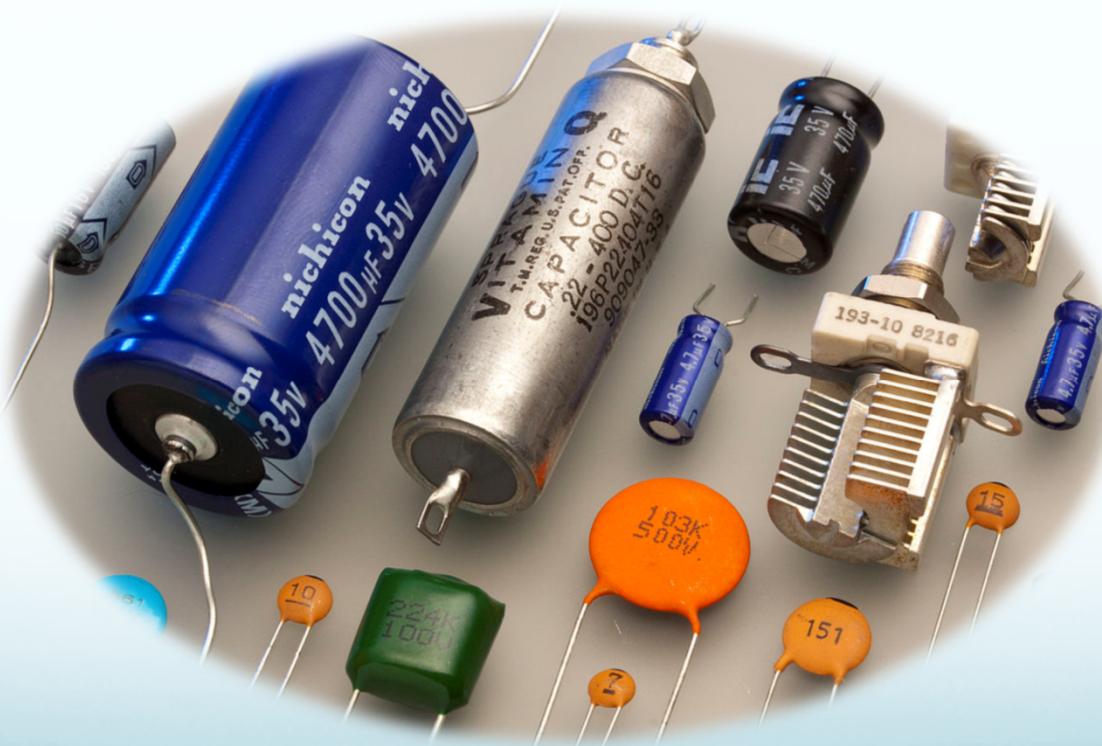
(b)

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Capacitors connected in parallel can be replaced with an equivalent capacitor that has the same *total* charge q and the same potential difference V as the actual capacitors.

25-4 Energy Stored in an Electric Field



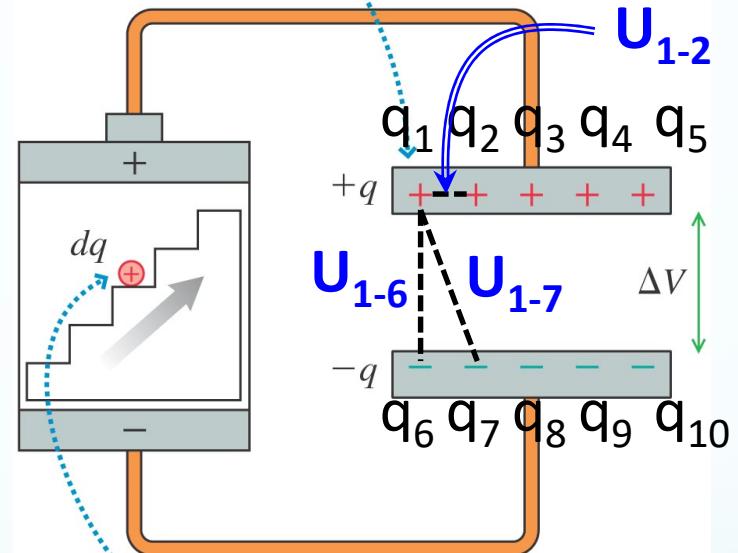
Energy Storage in Capacitors

We want to calculate **potential energy stored in the capacitor**



VERYYYYYY hard

The instantaneous charge
on the plates is $\pm q$.



The charge escalator does work
 $dq \Delta V$ to move charge dq from the
negative plate to the positive plate.

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$$U = U_{1-2} + U_{1-3} + \dots + U_{1-10} + U_{2-1} + U_{i-j} \text{ of every other pair}$$

Easier way!



Move a tiny charge, dq , from negative plate to positive plate →

It moves through a potential difference ΔV → its potential energy increases by an amount

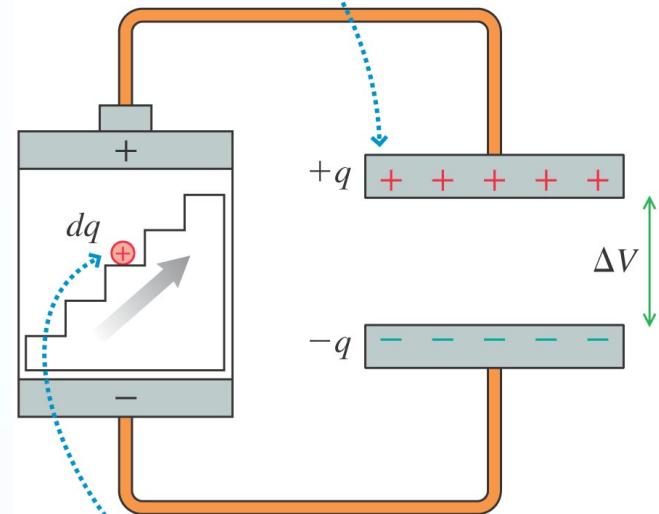
$$dU = dq\Delta V_C$$

$$\& \Delta V_C = \frac{q}{C}$$

$$dU = \frac{qdq}{C}$$

$$U = \frac{1}{C} \int_0^Q q dq = \frac{1}{2} \frac{Q^2}{C}$$

The instantaneous charge on the plates is $\pm q$.



The charge escalator does work $dq \Delta V$ to move charge dq from the negative plate to the positive plate.

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✓ Energy storage in terms of the charge on the plates:

$$U = \frac{1}{2} \frac{Q^2}{C}$$

✓ Energy storage in terms of the voltage across the plates:

$$Q = CV$$

$$U = \frac{1}{2} CV^2$$

✓ Energy density:



The potential energy of a charged capacitor may be viewed as being stored in the electric field between its plates.

Energy density → Potential energy per unit volume between the plates

For parallel-plate capacitor →

$$U = \frac{1}{2} CV^2, C = \epsilon_0 \frac{A}{d}$$

$$u = \frac{U}{Ad} =$$

$$\rightarrow u = \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_0 \left(\frac{V}{d} \right)^2 = \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_0 E^2$$

The following two slides you do **NOT** need to know how to reproduce for this course. They simply illustrate that the result from the previous slide applies more generally than for just a parallel plate capacitor.

Spherical Capacitor

Start with integrating $dU = udV$ over the volume between the plates

$$U = \iiint_{Vol} u dV = \iiint_{Vol} \frac{\epsilon_0}{2} E^2 dV \quad \text{where} \quad \vec{E} = \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2} \hat{r}$$

In spherical coordinates, $dV = r^2 \sin\theta dr d\theta d\phi$.
Integrals over angles give.

$$\int_0^\pi \sin\theta d\theta \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi = 4\pi$$

Then U becomes

$$U = \frac{\epsilon_0}{2} \int_{r_a}^r \frac{Q^2}{16\pi^2 \epsilon_0^2 r^4} 4\pi r^2 dr = \frac{1}{2} \frac{Q^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_{r_a}^r \frac{dr}{r^2}$$

Performing the integral and rewriting, we

indeed get U

$$U = \frac{1}{2} \frac{Q^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left(\frac{1}{r_a} - \frac{1}{r_b} \right) = \frac{1}{2} \frac{Q^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 \left(\frac{r_b r_a}{r_b - r_a} \right)} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{Q^2}{24}$$

Cylindrical Capacitor

Start with integrating $dU = udV$ over the volume between the plates

$$U = \iiint_{Vol} u dV = \iiint_{Vol} \frac{\epsilon_0}{2} E^2 dV \quad \text{where} \quad \vec{E} = \frac{\lambda}{2\pi\epsilon_0 r} \hat{r}$$

In cylindrical coordinates, $dV = r dr d\theta dl$.

Integrals over angle and l give

$$\int_0^{2\pi} d\theta \int_0^L dl = 2\pi L$$

Then U becomes

$$U = \frac{\epsilon_0}{2} \int_{r_a}^{r_b} \frac{\lambda^2}{4\pi^2 \epsilon_0^2 r^2} 2\pi L r dr = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\lambda^2 L}{2\pi\epsilon_0} \int_{r_a}^{r_b} \frac{dr}{r}$$

Performing the integral and rewriting, we

indeed get U

$$U = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\lambda^2 L}{2\pi\epsilon_0} \ln\left(\frac{r_b}{r_a}\right) = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\ln\left(\frac{r_b}{r_a}\right)}{2\pi\epsilon_0 L} Q^2 = \frac{1}{2} \frac{Q^2}{C}$$

This section we talked about:

Chapter 25

See you on next Thursday

