



JOINT INSTITUTE
交大密西根学院



上海交通大学

Physics (PHYS2500J), Unit 1 Electrostatics: 4. Dielectric Material

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Contents



1. Capacitance

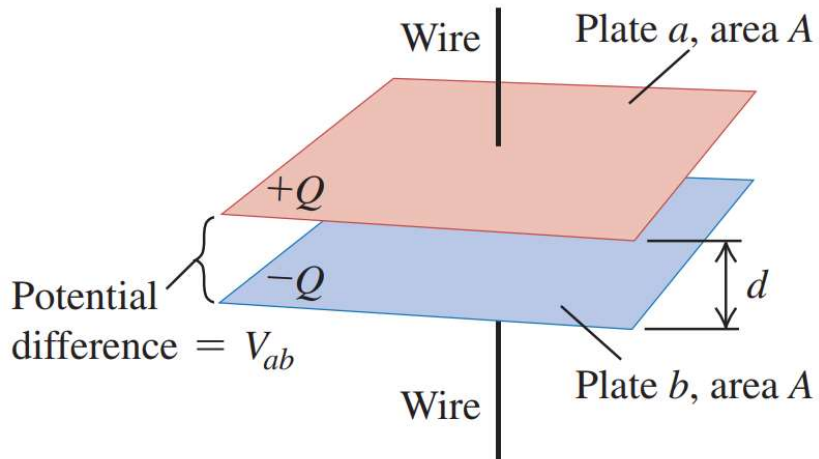
2. Capacitors

3. Polarization vector \mathbf{P}

4. Displacement vector \mathbf{D}

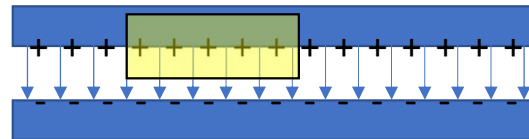
5. boundary conditions*

Capacitance: parallel conducting plate



What is the relation between the potential difference and the charge in the plates, if the charge on both plate is of the same quantity but opposite sign?

Using Gauss's law



$$E = \frac{\sigma_e}{\epsilon_0}$$

$$V = Ed = \frac{\sigma_e d}{\epsilon_0} = \frac{d}{\epsilon_0 S} Q$$

The definition of capacitance:

$$Q = CV$$

Capacitance of a parallel plate capacitor (no medium):

$$C = \frac{\epsilon_0 S}{d}$$

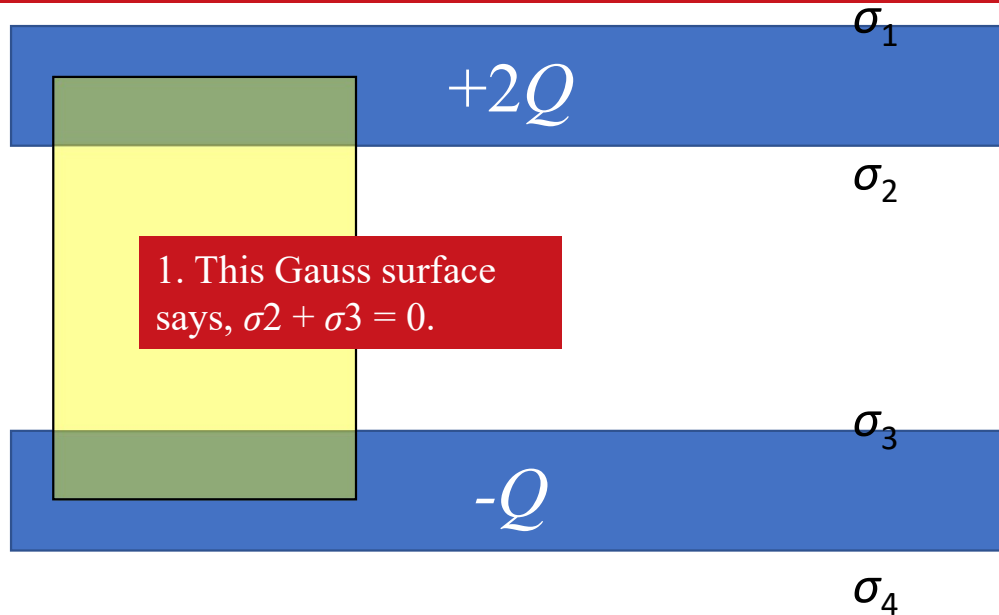
What if the two plates have different charge?

Symbol in circuit diagram



Reason 1: in a circuit, you will mostly see the charge on one side of the capacitor is from the other side, moving in the form of current.

Capacitance: parallel conducting plate



2. Field in the metal is the field generated by the 4 surface charges. Now it can be separated into group 1: $\sigma_2 \sigma_3$ and group 2: $\sigma_1 \sigma_4$.

3. $\sigma_1 = \sigma_4$, so the field generated by the outer surface cancels each other inside the metal, too.

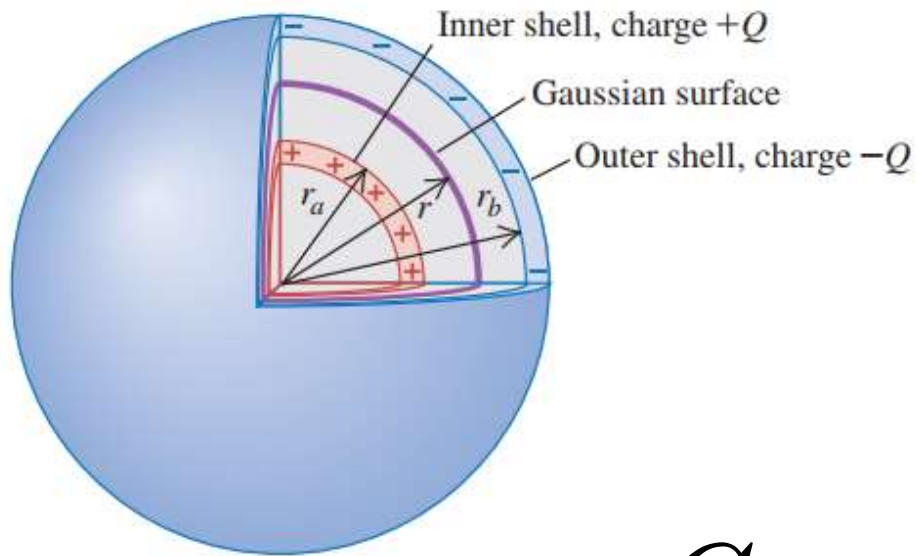
$$\sigma_2 = -\sigma_3 = \frac{3Q}{2S}$$

$$\sigma_1 = \sigma_4 = \frac{Q}{2S}$$

For capacitance, now we have actually 3 conductors involved, upper and lower plates, and ground. It is called partial capacitance.

The charge in the inner surface can still be considered a normal parallel plate capacitor and the rest is the charge in the capacitor made of the plates and the ground.

Capacitance of two concentric spheres



$$V = \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left(\frac{1}{r_a} - \frac{1}{r_b} \right)$$

$$C = \frac{Q}{V} = \frac{4\pi\epsilon_0 r_a r_b}{r_b - r_a}$$

Contents



1. Capacitance

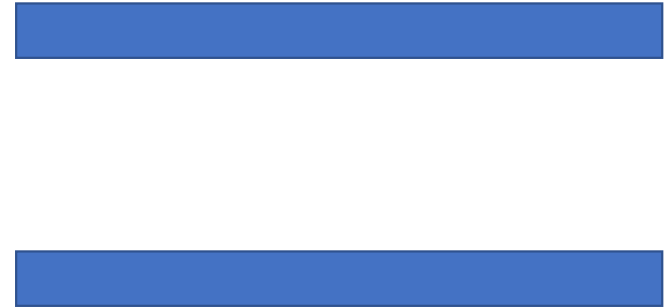
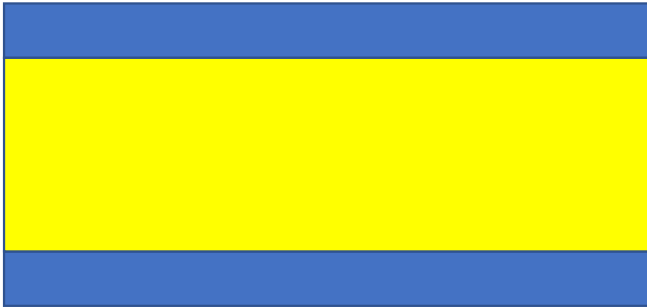
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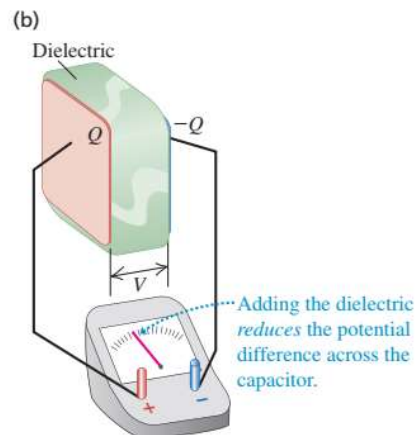
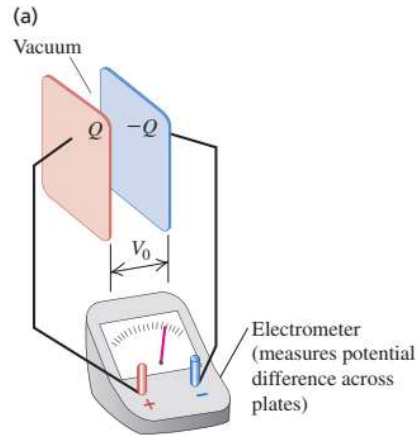
Experimental fact: capacitance increases with inserting dielectric



$$C_1 > C_0$$

Discovery of dielectric materials

24.14 Effect of a dielectric between the plates of a parallel-plate capacitor. (a) With a given charge, the potential difference is V_0 . (b) With the same charge but with a dielectric between the plates, the potential difference V is smaller than V_0 .



$$K = \frac{C}{C_0} \quad (\text{definition of dielectric constant})$$

TABLE 24.1 Values of Dielectric Constant K at 20°C

Material	K	Material	K
Vacuum	1	Polyvinyl chloride	3.18
Air (1 atm)	1.00059	Plexiglas [®]	3.40
Air (100 atm)	1.0548	Glass	5–10
Teflon	2.1	Neoprene	6.70
Polyethylene	2.25	Germanium	16
Benzene	2.28	Glycerin	42.5
Mica	3–6	Water	80.4
Mylar	3.1	Strontium titanate	310

A basic component of circuit: capacitors



$$C = \frac{\epsilon_0 S}{d} \quad \text{Higher } \epsilon$$

Ceramic capacitor: The ceramic capacitor is a type of capacitor that is used in many applications from audio to RF. Values range from a few picofarads to around 0.1 microfarads. Ceramic capacitor types are by far the most commonly used type of capacitor.

cheap and reliable, loss factor is particularly low

One very typically used signal filter.

Mica and Ceramics

Low ESL and ESR

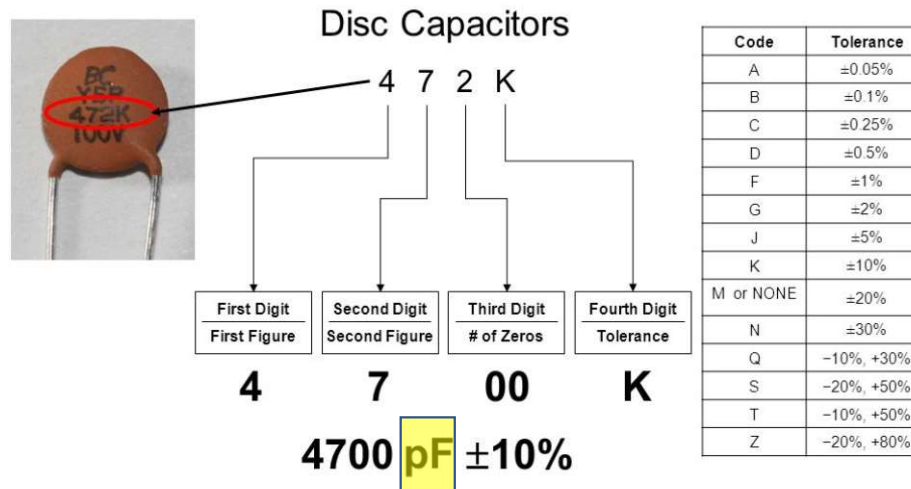
Keep leads short

Uses

High frequency filtering

Bypassing

decoupling



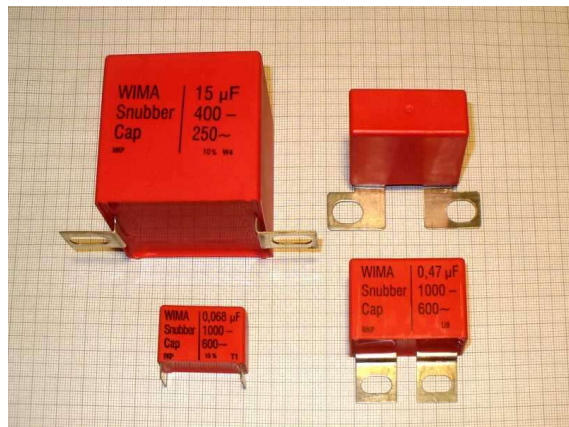
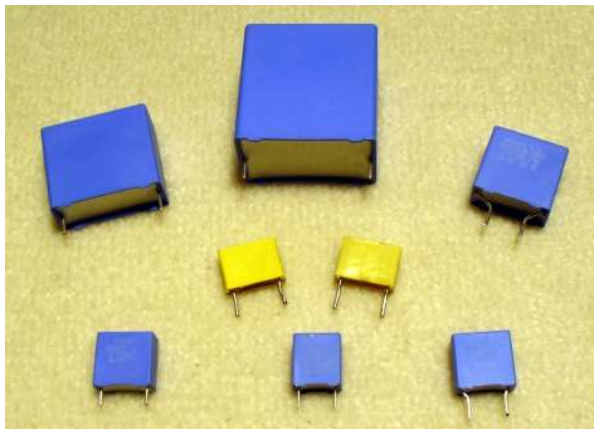
A basic component of circuit: capacitors

Polystyrene and Polypropylene (Metal film Caps.)

Low ESR

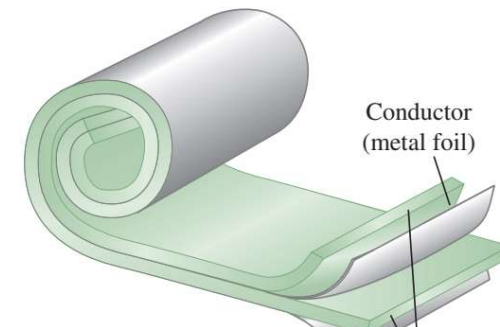
Very stable C – f characteristic

Suitable for power bank



Polyester film capacitor

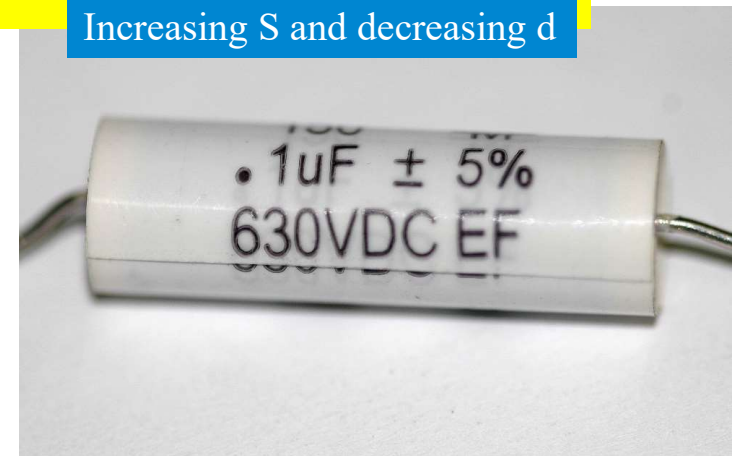
24.13 A common type of capacitor uses dielectric sheets to separate the conductors.



$$C = \frac{\epsilon_0 S}{d}$$

What is the key logic here?

Increasing S and decreasing d



A basic component of circuit: capacitors



Electrolytic capacitor: Electrolytic capacitors are a type capacitor that is **polarized**.

They are able to offer high capacitance values – typically above 1μF and are most widely used for low-frequency applications – power supplies, decoupling and audio coupling applications as they have a frequency limit of around 100 kHz.

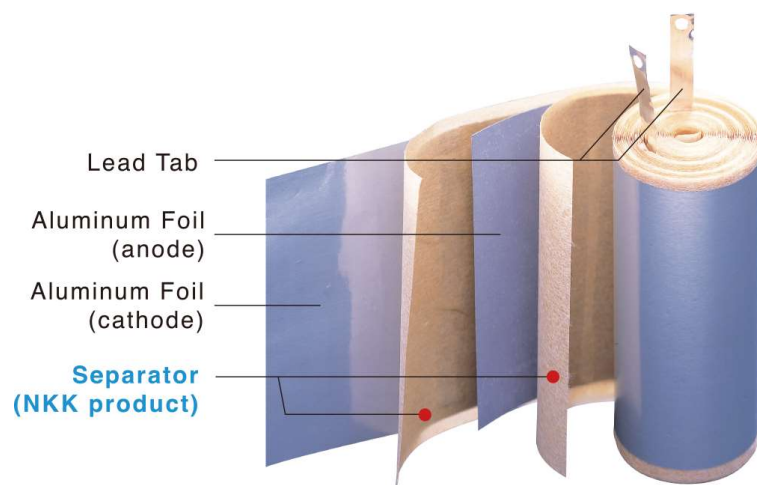
high capacitance values

$$C = \frac{\epsilon_0 S}{d}$$

What is the key logic here?

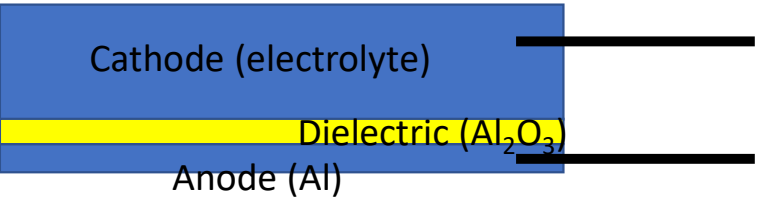
Also increasing S and decreasing d

Al₂O₃ thin coating
Cathode forms with liquid (immersed surface area amplification)

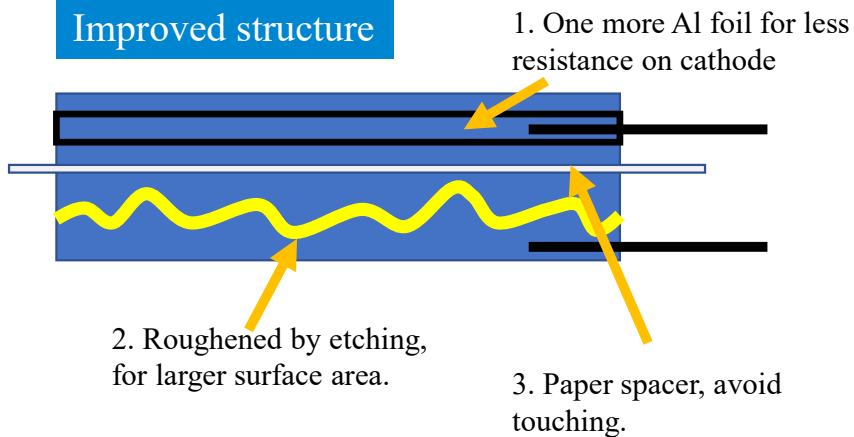


https://www.kodoshi.co.jp/english/product/capacitor_separator.html

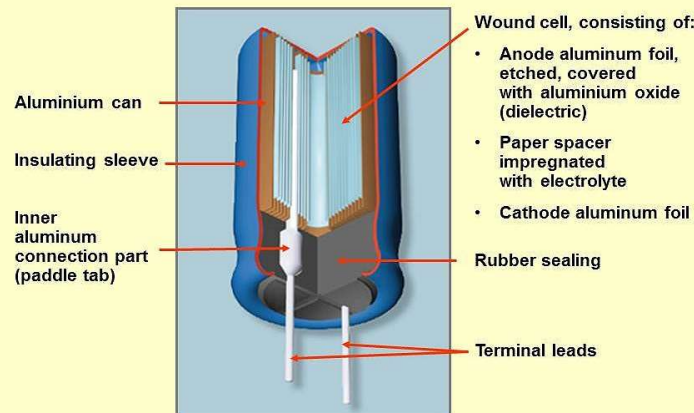
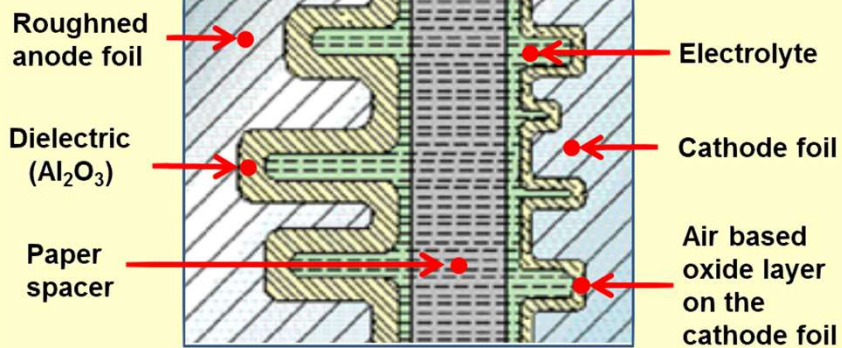
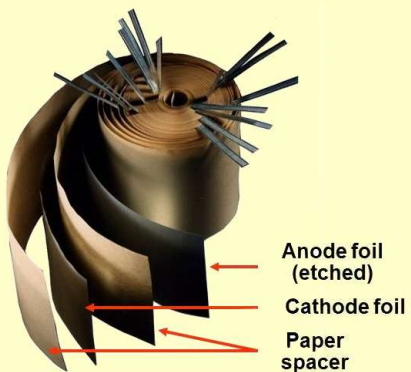
A minimum structure



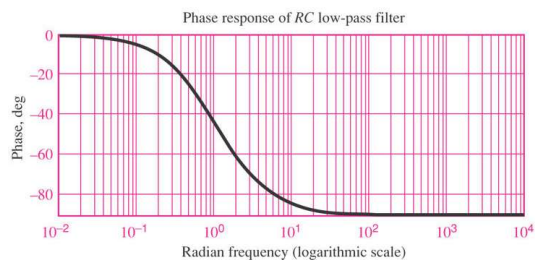
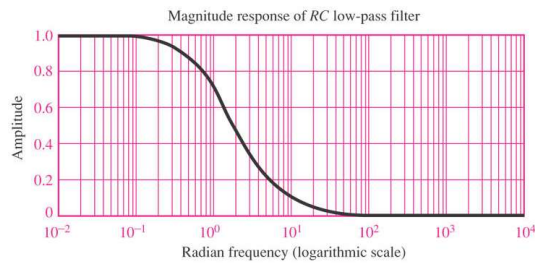
Improved structure



Winding with multiple contacts



What can we do with capacitors

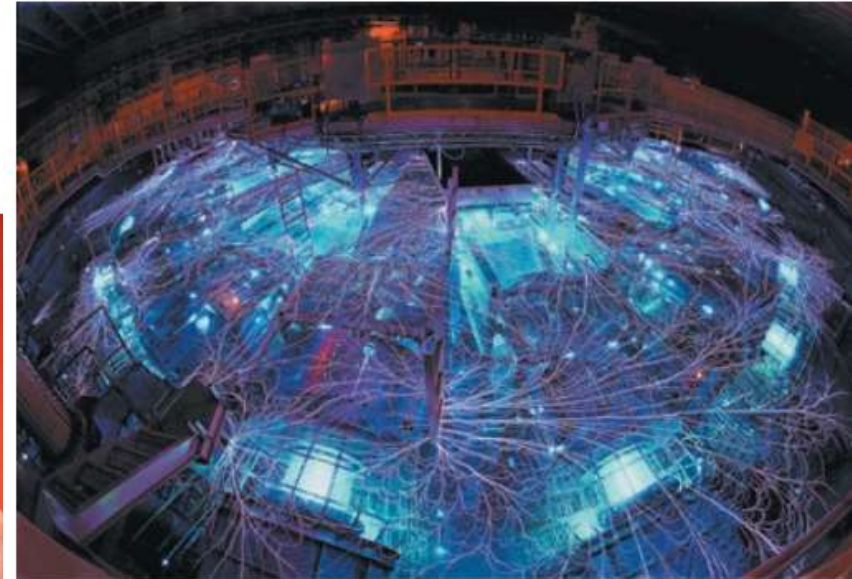


Low pass filters

sensors



Discharge for high power



Motor capacitor: create a phase lag so the induction motor knows which direction to go.

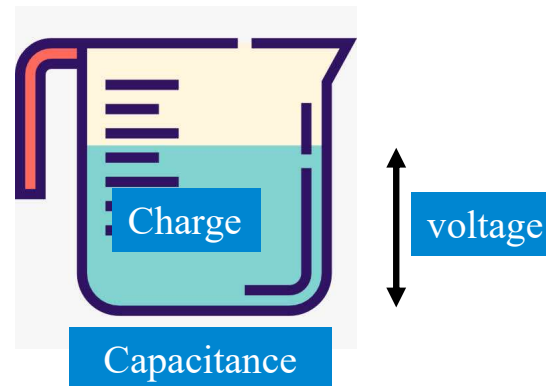
Limit for a capacitor

Is capacitance the amount of charge a capacitor can hold?

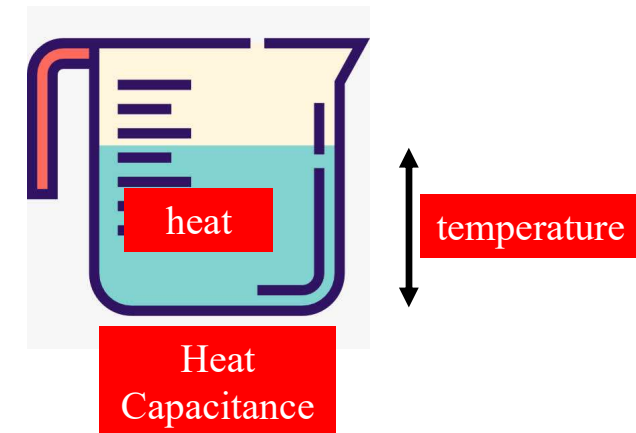
Capacitance is the amount of charge a capacitor holds at unit voltage.

$$Q = CV$$

It is more like the bottom area instead of the volume of a beaker



Similar to heat capacitance



Dielectric strength: the maximum field a material can withstand

TABLE 24.2

Dielectric Constant and Dielectric Strength of Some Insulating Materials

Material	Dielectric Constant, K	Dielectric Strength, E_m (V/m)
Polycarbonate	2.8	3×10^7
Polyester	3.3	6×10^7
Polypropylene	2.2	7×10^7
Polystyrene	2.6	2×10^7
Pyrex glass	4.7	1×10^7

Connection of capacitors

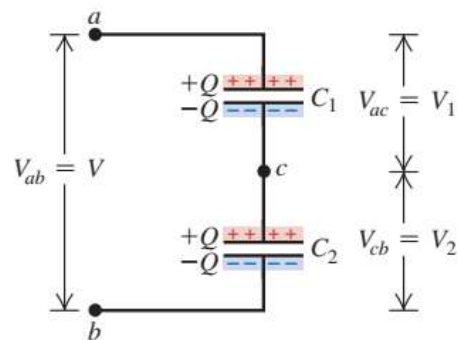
24.8 A series connection of two capacitors.

(a) Two capacitors in series

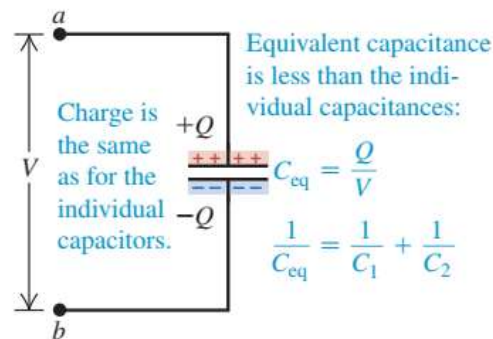
Capacitors in series:

- The capacitors have the same charge Q .
- Their potential differences add:

$$V_{ac} + V_{cb} = V_{ab}.$$



(b) The equivalent single capacitor

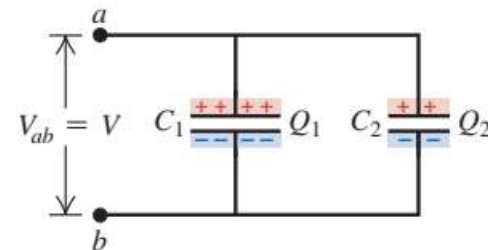


24.9 A parallel connection of two capacitors.

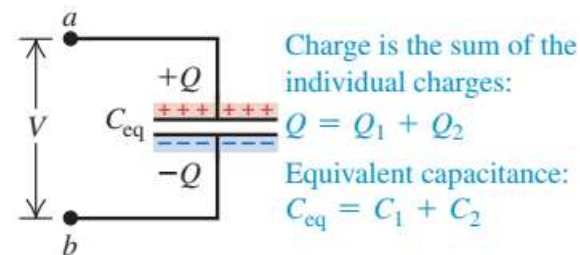
(a) Two capacitors in parallel

Capacitors in parallel:

- The capacitors have the same potential V .
- The charge on each capacitor depends on its capacitance: $Q_1 = C_1 V$, $Q_2 = C_2 V$.



(b) The equivalent single capacitor



Contents



1. Capacitance

2. Capacitors

3. Polarization vector \mathbf{P}

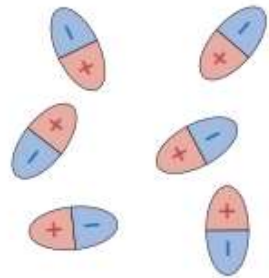
4. Displacement vector \mathbf{D}

5. boundary conditions*

Dielectric materials

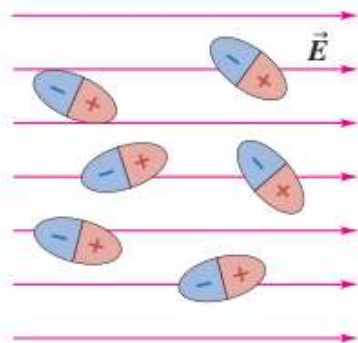
Orientational polarization

(a)



In the absence of an electric field, polar molecules orient randomly.

(b)



When an electric field is applied, the molecules tend to align with it.

Electronic displacement polarization

Atomic (ionic) displacement polarization

New concept: Polarization

$$\vec{P} = \frac{\sum p_i}{V} = \underbrace{\frac{n}{V} p}_{= Np}$$

If every dipole has the same moment.

Polarization is the density of dipole moment

Linear, isotropic, and homogeneous material

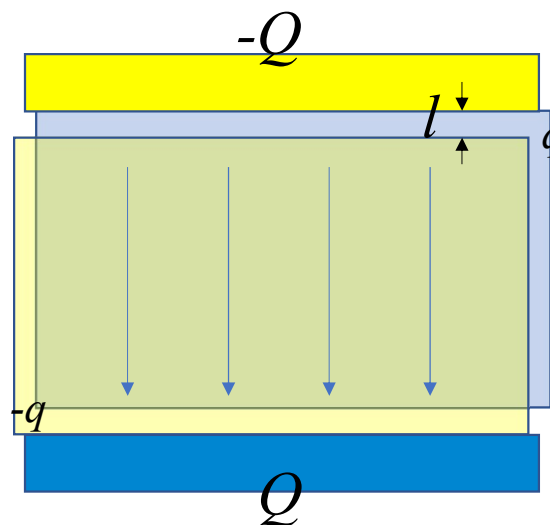
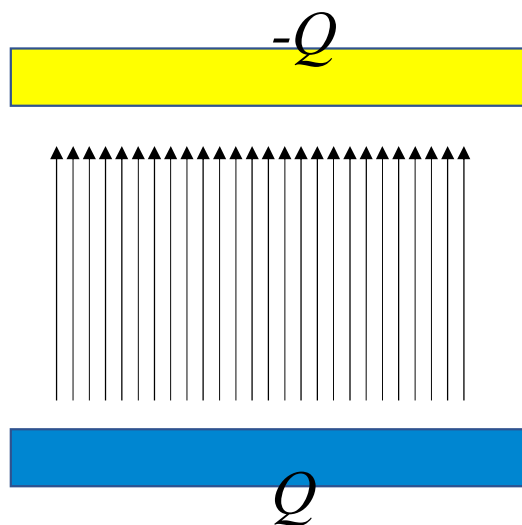
$$\vec{P} \propto \vec{E}$$

Dipole tends to align along the externally applied field.

$$\vec{P} = \chi_e \epsilon_0 \vec{E}$$

χ_e Electric susceptibility 极化率

How does dielectric material affect voltage



Vertical displacement of positive and negative charges (lateral just to make the figure clear)

$$q = nq_0 = NAlq_0 = PA$$

n number of dipoles, N volumetric density of dipoles

Surface charge density

$$\sigma_p = \vec{P} \cdot \hat{n}$$

Dot product just in case the two are not in-line.

Capacitance changed



Induced field

$$E_p = -\frac{\sigma_p}{\epsilon_0} = -\frac{P}{\epsilon_0} = -\chi E$$

If the amount of FREE charge is not changed:

$$E = E_f + E_p = E_f - \chi E$$

$$E_f \rightarrow E = \frac{1}{1+\chi} E_f$$

$$V_f \rightarrow \frac{1}{1+\chi} V_f$$

capacitance

$$\frac{Q}{V_f} \rightarrow (1 + \chi) \frac{Q}{V_f}$$

E_f : the field by free charge (charge on the metal, which can be conducted in the circuit), E_p : field by bounded charge, or polarization charge; E : total field

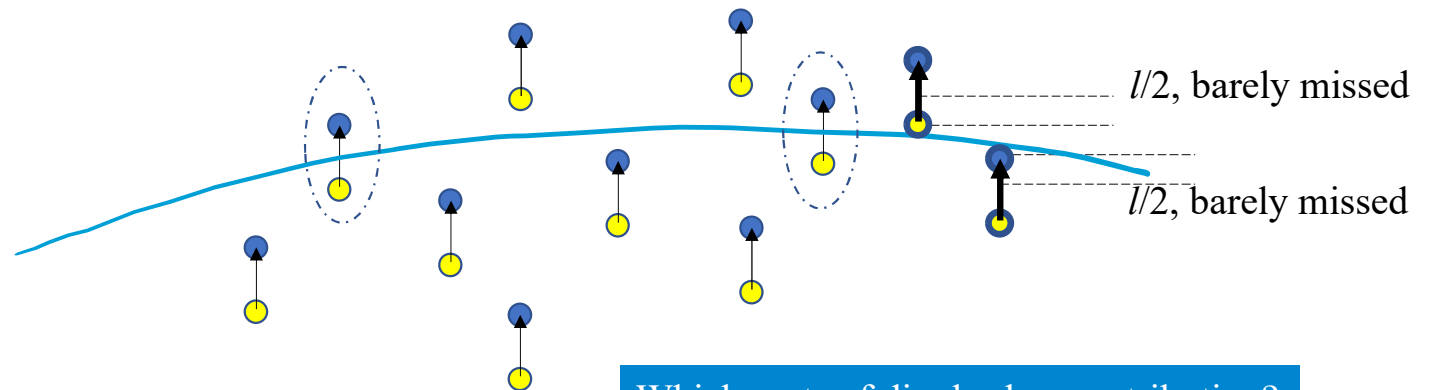
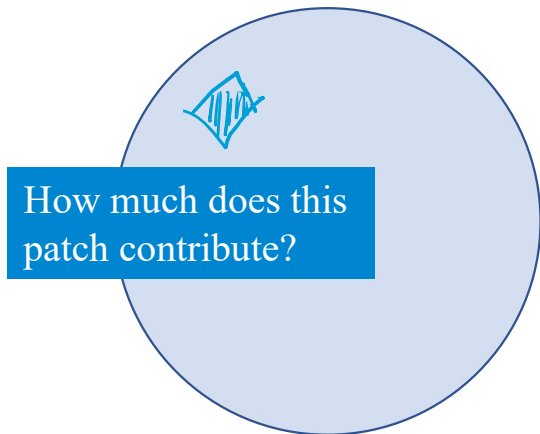
$$\epsilon_r \equiv 1 + \chi_e$$

Relative permittivity (dielectric constant)

Polarization charge

A macroscopically small, microscopically large volume, which contains a lot of dipoles.
Vectors such as electric field, polarization can continuously vary in the volume.

How much polarization charge is contained in the volume then?



Which parts of dipoles has contribution?
Positive or negative charge?

$$dQ = -nq = -N(ldA)q = -PdA$$

Total charge

If there is an angle?

$$dQ = -nq = -N(ldA \cos \theta)q = -\vec{P} \cdot d\vec{A}$$

$$- \oint \vec{P} \cdot d\vec{A}$$

Using Gauss's theorem



Compare with Gauss's law for E field

$$Q = - \oint \vec{P} \cdot d\vec{A}$$

$$\frac{Q}{V} = - \frac{\oint \vec{P} \cdot d\vec{A}}{V}$$

Gauss's theorem: the volumetric density of flux is divergence

$$\rho_p = -\nabla \cdot \vec{P}$$

$$\frac{Q}{\epsilon_0} = \oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A}$$

$$\frac{\rho_e}{\epsilon_0} = \nabla \cdot \vec{E}$$

The dimension of E and P is different
A negative sign

$$\sigma = \vec{P} \cdot \vec{n}$$

volume charge density

$$\rho = -\nabla \cdot \vec{P}$$

What is the difference between charge in metal (called free charge) and polarization charge?

1. Free charge moves globally, polarization charge is bounded.
2. Free charge enters into the circuits.

Contents



1. Capacitance

2. Capacitors

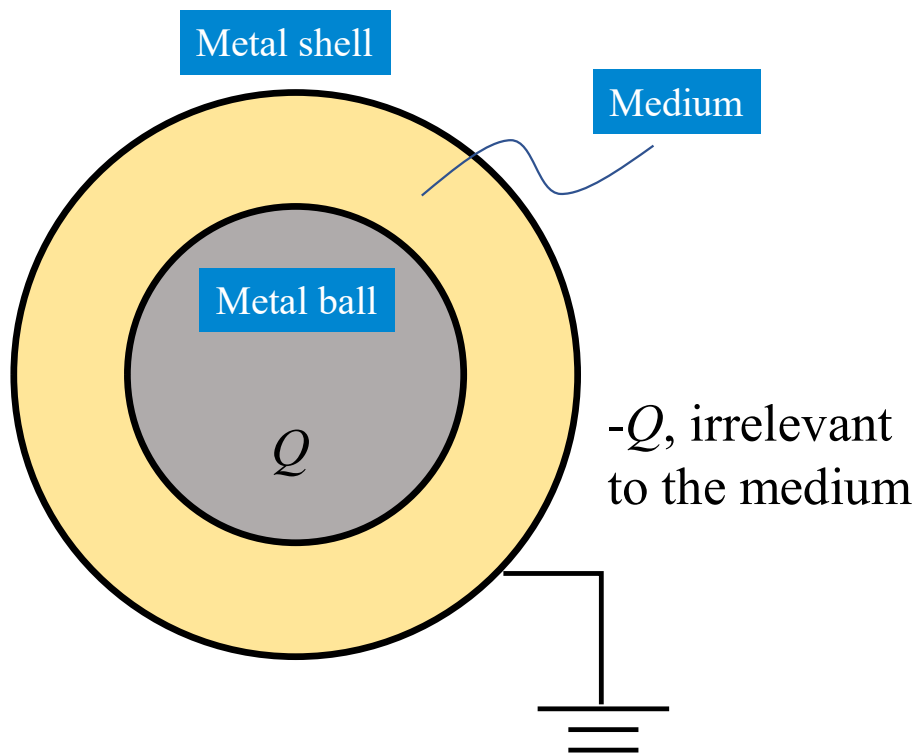
3. Polarization vector P

4. Displacement vector D

5. boundary conditions*

An easy way to describe free charge

Can any field describes free charge rather than total charge?



$$\nabla \cdot \vec{E} = \frac{\rho}{\epsilon_0} = \frac{\rho_f + \rho_p}{\epsilon_0}$$

$$\rho_p = -\nabla \cdot \vec{P}$$



$$\nabla \cdot \vec{E} = \frac{\rho_f}{\epsilon_0} - \frac{\nabla \cdot \vec{P}}{\epsilon_0}$$

Electric displacement vector



$$\nabla \cdot \vec{E} = \frac{\rho_f}{\epsilon_0} - \frac{\nabla \cdot \vec{P}}{\epsilon_0}$$

A new value

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{D} = \nabla \cdot (\epsilon_0 \vec{E} + \vec{P}) = \rho_f$$

\vec{D} has the same dimension as \vec{P}

Is this the contribution of free charge or the total charge?

$$\vec{D} = \epsilon_0 \vec{E} + \vec{P}$$

Displacement vector

Total field

polarization

Although \vec{D} is written as a sum of \vec{E} and \vec{P} , it is **NOT** the contribution of both electric field and the polarization charge. It is a vector for simplicity in terms of “free charge”.
 \vec{E} is the real field, as combination of both free and polarization charges.

The new physical variables



Polarization \mathbf{P}

What is the dimension of \mathbf{P} ?

$$\dim P = \frac{\text{dipole moment}}{\text{volume}} = \frac{\text{A}\cdot\text{s}\cdot\text{m}}{\text{m}^3} = \frac{\text{A}\cdot\text{s}}{\text{m}^2}$$

Electric displacement vector \mathbf{D}

What is the dimension of \mathbf{D} ?

$$\dim D = \dim \epsilon_0 \cdot \dim E$$

Coulomb's law

$$\dim \epsilon_0 = \frac{\text{charge}^2}{\text{distance}^2} \frac{1}{\text{force}} = \frac{\text{A}^2\cdot\text{s}^2}{\text{m}^2} \frac{\text{s}^2}{\text{kg}\cdot\text{m}} = \frac{\text{A}^2\cdot\text{s}^4}{\text{kg}\cdot\text{m}^3}$$

or,

Capacitance equation

$$\frac{\epsilon_0 S}{d} = \frac{Q}{V} \quad \dim \epsilon_0 = \frac{\text{charge}\cdot\text{distance}}{\text{voltage}\cdot\text{distance}^2} = \frac{\text{charge}^2\cdot\text{distance}}{\text{energy}\cdot\text{distance}^2} = \frac{\text{A}^2\cdot\text{s}^2\cdot\text{m}}{\text{m}^2\cdot\text{kg}\cdot\text{m}^2/\text{s}^2} = \frac{\text{A}^2\cdot\text{s}^4}{\text{kg}\cdot\text{m}^3}$$

$$\text{so, } \dim D = \dim \epsilon_0 \cdot \dim E = \frac{\text{A}^2\cdot\text{s}^4}{\text{kg}\cdot\text{m}^4} \frac{\text{kg}\cdot\text{m}}{\text{A}\cdot\text{s}^3} = \frac{\text{A}\cdot\text{s}}{\text{m}^3}$$

Material properties



Linear, homogeneous, isotropic material

$$\vec{P} = \chi_e \epsilon_0 \vec{E}$$

The electric susceptibility χ_e is a dimensionless number directly describes the material response to electric field.

Some other forms of the same property

$$\vec{D} = \epsilon \vec{E} = \epsilon_r \epsilon_0 \vec{E}$$

Dielectric constant
(permittivity)

Relative permittivity

Dielectric constant of free space

Relation between χ_e and ϵ_r

$$\vec{D} = \epsilon_0 \vec{E} + \vec{P} = \epsilon_0 \vec{E} + \chi_e \epsilon_0 \vec{E} = (1 + \chi_e) \epsilon_0 \vec{E}$$

$$\epsilon_r = 1 + \chi_e$$

Both are dimensionless.

$$\oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{S} = \frac{Q}{\epsilon_0}$$

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

$$\oint \vec{D} \cdot d\vec{S} = Q_f$$

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

$$\oint \vec{P} \cdot d\vec{S} = -Q_p$$

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{P} = -\rho_p$$

More complicated dielectric materials

Susceptibility may be

1. Non-homogeneous media: χ is a function of position;
2. Non-linear: χ is a function of E field intensity;
3. Anisotropic media: χ is a tensor instead of scalar, \mathbf{P} is not parallel with \mathbf{E} ;
4. Ferro-electric material: χ depends on E but not a single valued function, depending on the history.

Contents



1. Capacitance

2. Capacitors

3. Polarization vector \mathbf{P}

4. Displacement vector \mathbf{D}

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Interface between two dielectric media

Which of the equations are valid all the time?

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

$$-\nabla \phi = \vec{E}$$

And which works in uniform medium but have problem across the boundary.

$$\vec{P} = \chi \epsilon_0 \vec{E}$$

$$\vec{D} = \epsilon \vec{E}$$

$$\vec{D} = \epsilon_0 \vec{E} + \vec{P}$$

Boundary conditions

A boundary condition usually describes the normal or tangential component of the vector field.

What is the relationship between the tangential component of E ?

$$\hat{n} \times \vec{E}_2 = \hat{n} \times \vec{E}_1$$

Can be proved with path integral in closed loop, or with potential on the boundary.



Boundary conditions

A boundary condition usually describes the normal or tangential component of the vector field.

What about the normal component?

$$\hat{n} \cdot (\vec{E}_1 - \vec{E}_2) = \sigma / \epsilon_0$$

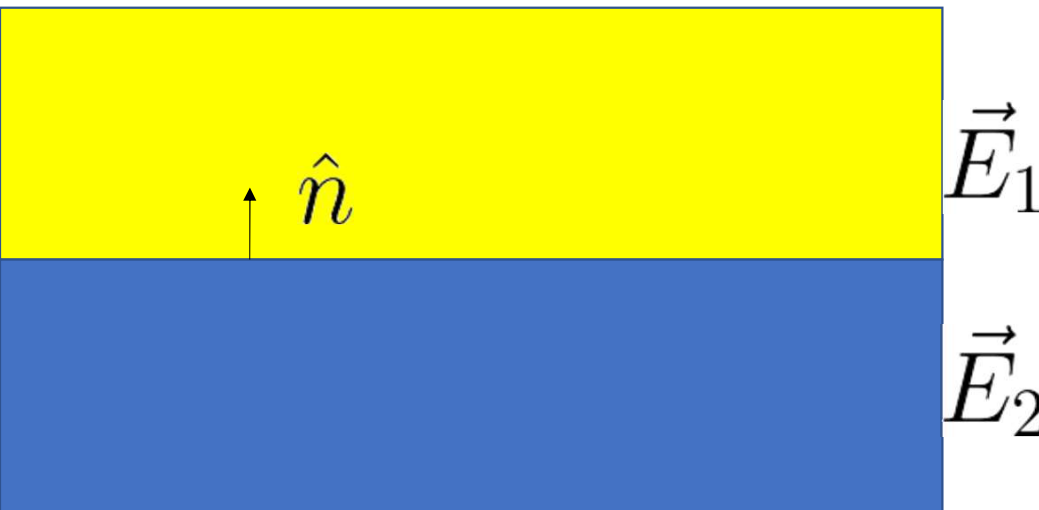
A better description?

Surface polarization
charge

$$\sigma = \vec{P}_2 \cdot \hat{n} - \vec{P}_1 \cdot \hat{n}$$

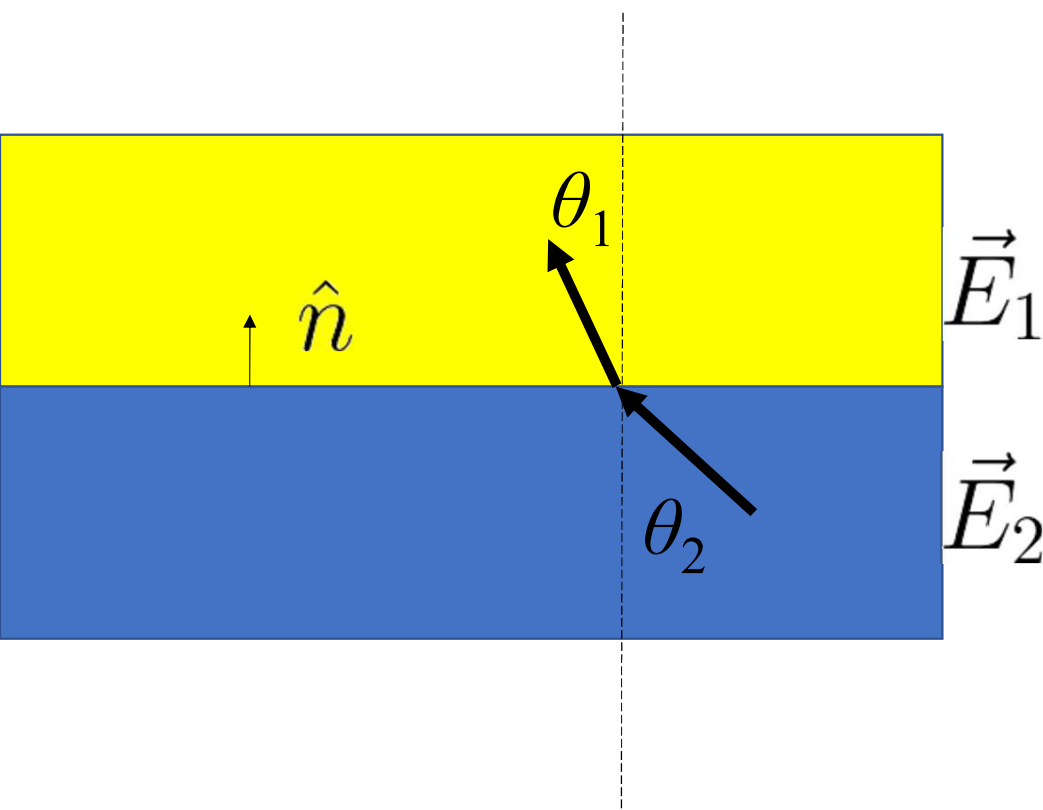
$$\hat{n} \cdot [(\epsilon_0 \vec{E}_1 + \vec{P}_1) - (\epsilon_0 \vec{E}_2 + \vec{P}_2)] = 0$$

$$\hat{n} \cdot \vec{D}_1 = \hat{n} \cdot \vec{D}_2$$



Boundary conditions

A boundary condition usually describes the normal or tangential component of the vector field.

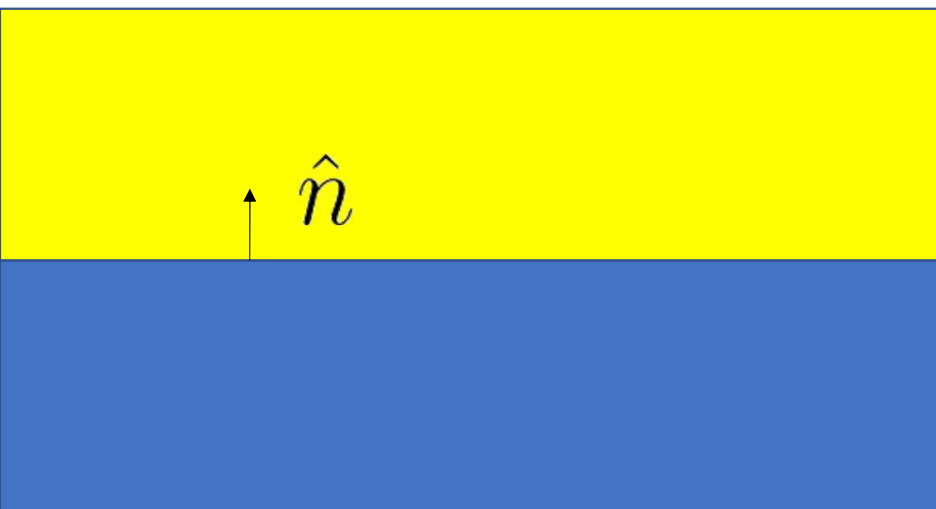


$$E_1 \sin \theta_1 = E_2 \sin \theta_2$$
$$\epsilon_1 E_1 \cos \theta_1 = \epsilon_2 E_2 \cos \theta_2$$

$$\tan \theta_1 = \frac{\epsilon_1}{\epsilon_2} \tan \theta_2$$

Boundary conditions

A boundary condition usually describes the normal or tangential component of the vector field.



ϕ_1

$$\phi_1 = \phi_2$$

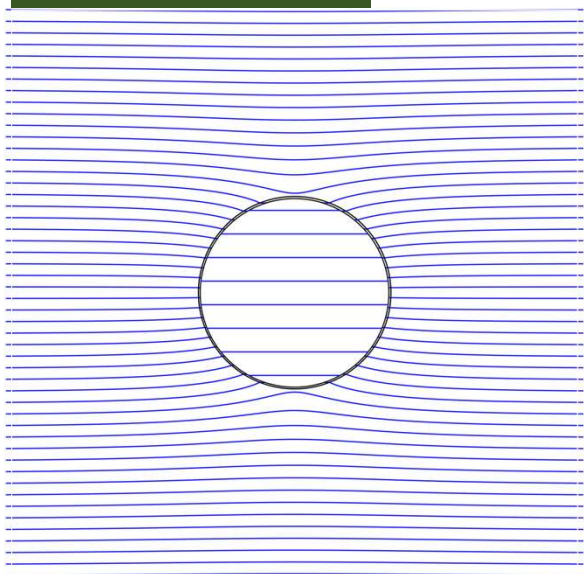
ϕ_2

$$\epsilon_1 \frac{\partial \phi_1}{\partial n} = \epsilon_2 \frac{\partial \phi_2}{\partial n}$$

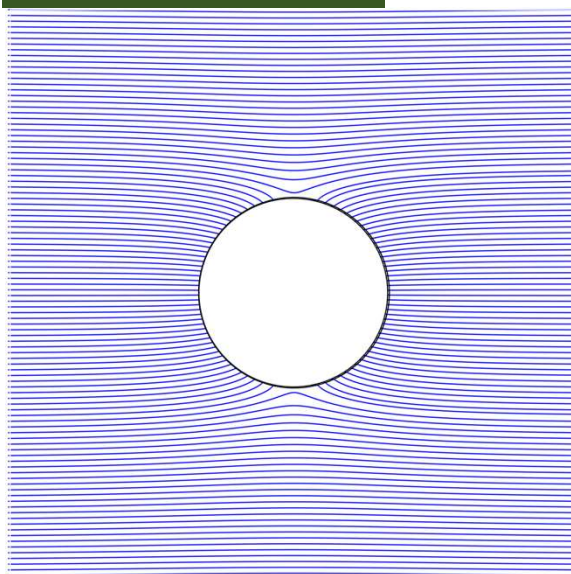
Unless there is free charge on the surface

$$\hat{n} \cdot (\vec{D}_1 - \vec{D}_2) = \rho_f$$

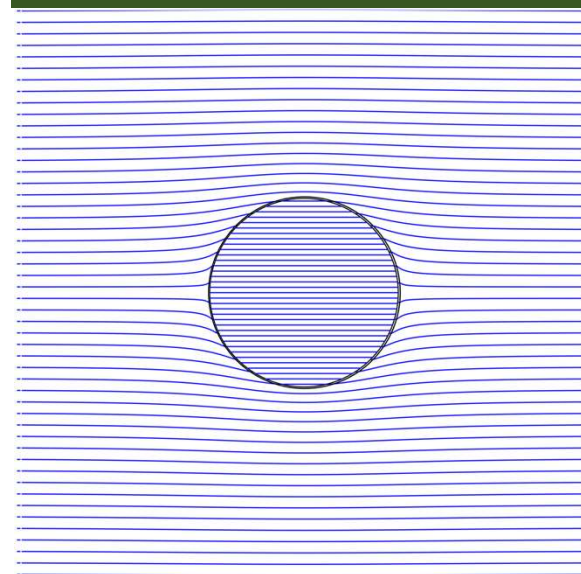
Dielectric ball



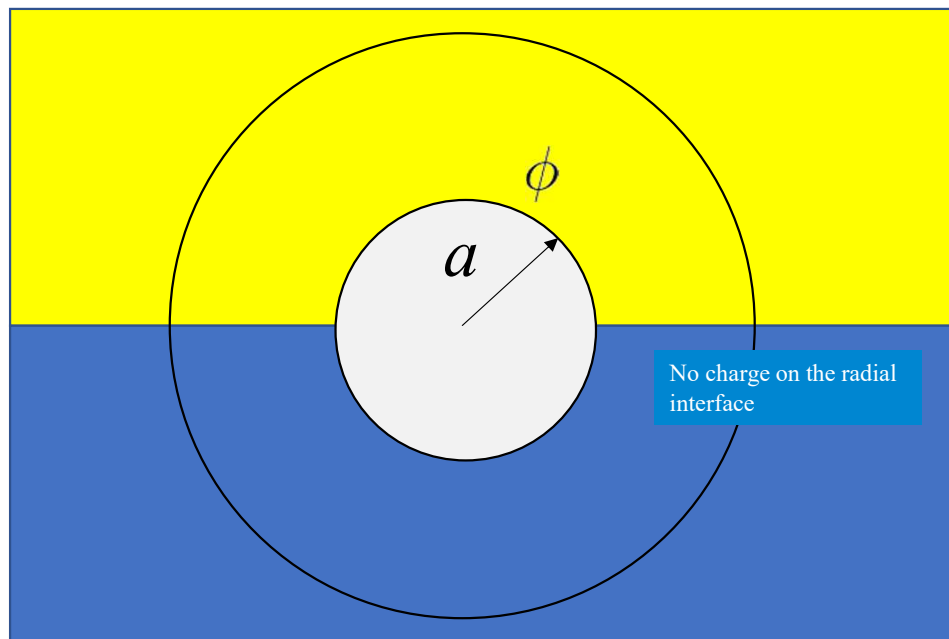
Conducting ball



Dielectric material with a hole



Example



If the potential of the ball is known to be ϕ , what is the field like?

Symmetry of the problem?

Volumetric charge?

Surface charge?

Starting with the simplest case.

Field

$$\vec{E} = \frac{Q_f + Q_p}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2} \hat{r}$$

$$\phi = \frac{Q_f + Q_p}{4\pi\epsilon_0 a}$$

$$\vec{E} = \frac{\phi a}{r^2} \hat{r}$$

Charge

$$\sigma = \vec{P} \cdot (-\hat{r}) = -\chi_e \epsilon_0 \phi / a$$

$$Q_p = -2\pi a (\chi_1 + \chi_2) \epsilon_0 \phi$$

$$Q_f = 4\pi a \epsilon_0 \phi + 2\pi a (\chi_1 + \chi_2) \epsilon_0 \phi$$

$$\epsilon_0 \oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{S} = Q_f + Q_p$$