

Physics 2

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1 Lecturer Information

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2 Textbooks

1. D. Halliday, R. Resnick, and K. S. Krane: *Physics*, 5th edition, vol. 2 (Wiley)
2. D.J. Griffiths: *Introduction to Electrodynamics*

Part I

Electrostatics

1 Coulomb's Law

Law 1 (Coulomb's Law). *The force between two charged particles is directly proportional to the product of the charges of the particles, and inversely proportional to the square of the distance between them.*

$$\begin{aligned} F &\propto \frac{q_1 q_2}{r^2} \\ F &= k \frac{q_1 q_2}{r^2} \\ &= \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \cdot \frac{q_1 q_2}{r^2} \end{aligned}$$

*The constant of proportionality is $k = 8.99 \times 10^9 \text{ N m}^2 \text{ C}^{-2}$.
 $\epsilon_0 = 8.8541878162 \times 10^{-12} \text{ C}^2 \text{ N}^{-1} \text{ m}^{-2}$ is called the permittivity of free space.
In vector notation,*

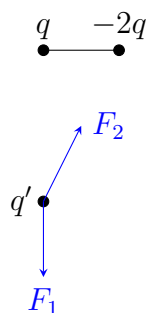
$$\vec{F}_{21} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q_1 q_2}{r_{12}^2} \hat{r}_{12}$$

Charge is defined according to this law.

Exercise 1.

A charge q is placed at the origin. A charge $-2q$ is placed at 1 m from it, in the x direction. Find a point on the y -axis where the total force acting on a charge q' will be parallel to the x -axis.

Solution 1.



For the net force to be in the x direction, the components of F_1 and F_2 in the y direction must cancel each other out.

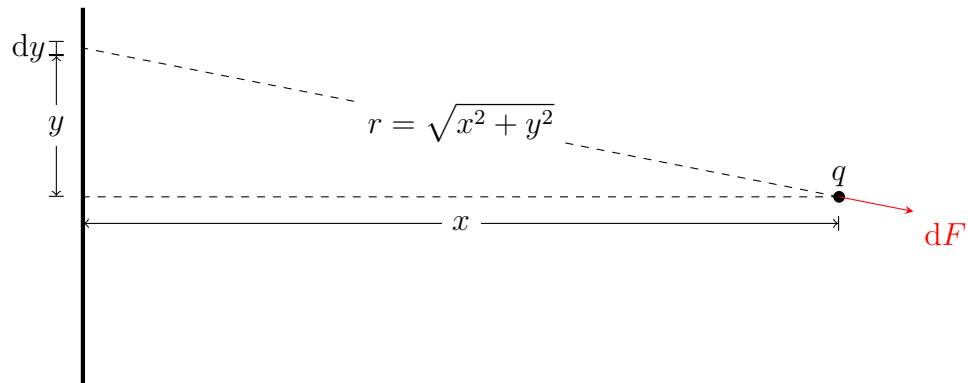
$$\begin{aligned}
 F_1 &= F_2 \sin \theta \\
 \therefore k \cdot \frac{(q')(-2q)}{y^2 + 1} \cdot \frac{y}{\sqrt{y^2 + 1}} &= k \cdot \frac{(q)(q')}{y^2} \\
 \therefore \frac{-2y}{(y^2 + 1)^{3/2}} &= \frac{1}{y^2} \\
 \therefore y &= \pm \sqrt{\frac{1}{2^{2/3} - 1}}
 \end{aligned}$$

Exercise 2.

A rod of length L has a uniformly distributed charge Q , with line charge density $\lambda = \frac{Q}{L}$. A point charge q is kept at a distance x as shown.



Solution 2.



The y components of the forces of the elemental charges at y and $-y$ on q are cancelled out. Therefore, the net force is in the x direction only.

$$\begin{aligned}
 dF &= k \frac{(dQ)(q)}{r^2} \\
 dF_x &= dF \cos \theta \\
 &= k \frac{(dQ)(q)}{r^2} \cos \theta \\
 &= k \frac{(\lambda dy)(q)}{x^2 + y^2} \frac{x}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2}} \\
 &= k \lambda q x \frac{dy}{(x^2 + y^2)^{3/2}} \\
 \therefore \vec{F} &= \hat{x} \int dF_x \\
 &= \hat{x} \lambda q x \int_{-L/2}^{L/2} \frac{dy}{(x^2 + y^2)^{3/2}}
 \end{aligned}$$

Substituting $y = x \tan \theta$ and $dy = x \sec^2 \theta d\theta$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \vec{F} &= \hat{x} \lambda q k x \int_{-\theta_0}^{\theta_0} \frac{1}{x^2} \cos \theta d\theta \\
 &= \hat{x} \frac{\lambda q k}{x} \int_{-\theta_0}^{\theta_0} \cos \theta d\theta
 \end{aligned}$$

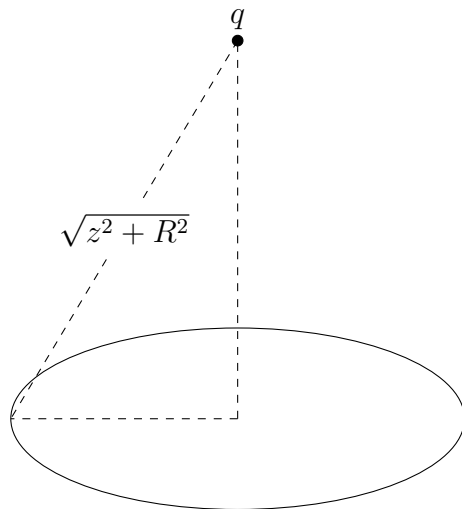
Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned}
 \vec{F} &= \hat{x} \frac{2\lambda q k}{x} \sin \theta_0 \\
 &= \hat{x} \frac{2\lambda q k}{x} \frac{\frac{L}{2}}{\left(\left(\frac{L}{2} \right)^2 + x^2 \right)^{1/2}} \\
 &= \hat{x} \frac{2 \left(\frac{Q}{L} \right) q k}{x} \cdot \frac{\frac{L}{2}}{\left(\left(\frac{L}{2} \right)^2 + x^2 \right)^{1/2}} \\
 &= k \frac{Qq}{x \left(\left(\frac{L}{2} \right)^2 + x^2 \right)^{1/2}} \hat{x}
 \end{aligned}$$

Exercise 3.

A point charge q is kept at a distance z above a ring of radius R charged with $Q = 2\pi R\lambda$, where λ is the linear charge density. Find the force acting on q .

Solution 3.



Due to the symmetry of the ring, the net force acting on q is in the z direction only.

$$\begin{aligned}
 dF_z &= dF \cos \theta \\
 &= k \frac{(dQ)(q)}{z^2 + R^2} \cos \theta \\
 &= k \frac{(dQ)(q)}{z^2 + R^2} \frac{z}{\sqrt{z^2 + R^2}} \\
 &= kqz \frac{dQ}{(z^2 + R^2)^{3/2}} \\
 \therefore \vec{F} &= \hat{z} \int dF_z \\
 &= \hat{z} kqz \frac{1}{(z^2 + R^2)^{3/2}} \int_0^Q dQ \\
 &= k \frac{Qqz}{(z^2 + R^2)^{3/2}} \vec{z}
 \end{aligned}$$

Exercise 4.

A point charge q is kept at a distance z above a disk of radius R charged with $Q = \pi R^2 \sigma$, where σ is the surface charge density. Find the force acting on q .

Solution 4.

The disk can be considered to be made up of elemental rings, with radii varying from 0 to R .

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned}
 d\vec{F} &= k \frac{qQ_{\text{ring}}}{(z^2 + R^2)^{3/2}} \hat{z} \\
 &= k \frac{q(\sigma \cdot 2\pi r \cdot dr)}{(z^2 + R^2)^{3/2}} z \hat{z}
 \end{aligned}$$

Hence,

$$\begin{aligned}
 \vec{F} &= \int d\vec{F} \\
 &= \hat{z} \int_0^R k \frac{q\sigma \cdot 2\pi r z \cdot dr}{(z^2 + R^2)^{3/2}} \\
 &= 2kzq\sigma\pi \left(\frac{1}{|z|} - \frac{1}{\sqrt{z^2 + R^2}} \right) \hat{z}
 \end{aligned}$$

If $z \ll R$, i.e. for an infinite sheet,

$$F = 2q\sigma\pi k$$

2 Electric Field

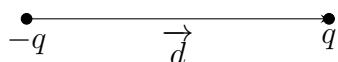
Definition 1 (Electric field). The electric field at a point in space is the electric force felt by a charge of 1 C had it been kept there.

2.1 Standard Electric Fields

Line of charge	$\frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{\lambda L}{r\sqrt{r^2 + \frac{L^2}{4}}}$
Infinite line of charge	$\frac{\lambda}{2\pi\epsilon_0 r}$
Ring of charge	$\frac{\lambda R z}{2\epsilon_0 (z^2 + R^2)^{3/2}}$
Infinite plane of charge	$\frac{\sigma}{2\epsilon_0}$

3 Electric Dipoles

Definition 2 (Electric dipole). Two charges, q and $-q$, separated by a distance d is called an electric dipole.



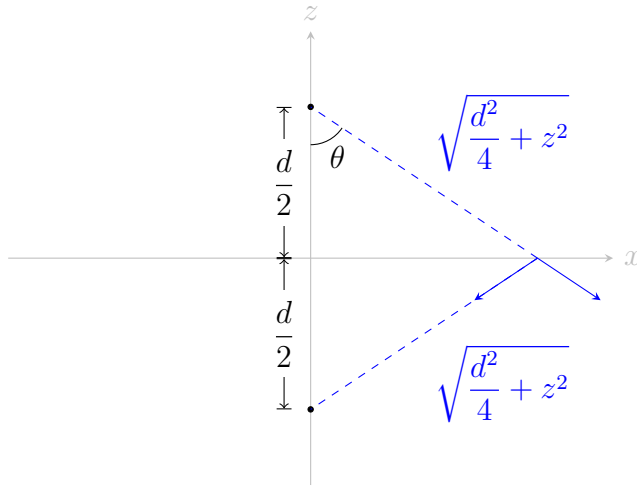
Definition 3 (Dipole moment). If two charges q and $-q$ are separated by a distance d , the dipole moment is defined as

$$\vec{P} \doteq q \cdot \vec{d}$$

where \vec{d} is the vector of length d pointing from $-q$ to q .

3.1 Electric Field Due to Electric Dipoles

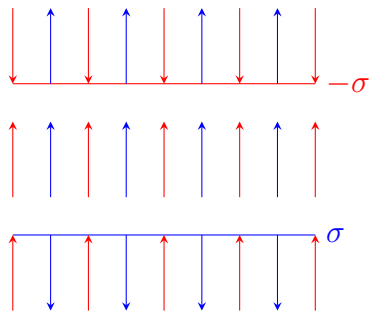
3.1.1 Electric Field



$$\begin{aligned} \vec{F} &= 2E_+ \cos \theta (-\hat{z}) \\ &= 2 \cdot \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q}{\left(\left(\frac{d}{2}\right)^2 + x^2\right)} \cdot \frac{\frac{d}{2}}{\left(\left(\frac{d}{2}\right)^2 + x^2\right)^{1/2}} (-\hat{z}) \\ &= -\frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{\vec{P}}{\left(\left(\frac{d}{2}\right)^2 + x^2\right)^{3/2}} \end{aligned}$$

4 Capacitors

A parallel plate capacitor is constructed by arranging two infinite plates with surface charge density σ and $-\sigma$ respectively.



The electric field due to the plates are as shown. Therefore, the fields between the plates add up and the fields outside the plates cancel out. Therefore, the net field inside the capacitor is

$$\frac{\sigma}{2\varepsilon_0} + \frac{\sigma}{2\varepsilon_0} = \frac{\sigma}{\varepsilon_0}$$

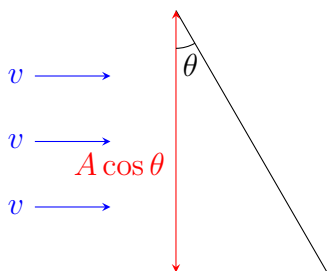
5 Gauss' Law

Definition 4 (Electric flux). Electric flux is defined as the dot product of the electric field passing through a surface, and the area vector of the surface.

$$\Phi = \vec{E} \cdot \vec{A}$$

where the magnitude of the area vector is proportional to the area of the surface and the direction is perpendicular to the surface.

This can be modelled as water passing through a surface.



The flux of the water passing through the area A is $Av \cos \theta$.

Theorem 1 (Gauss' Law).

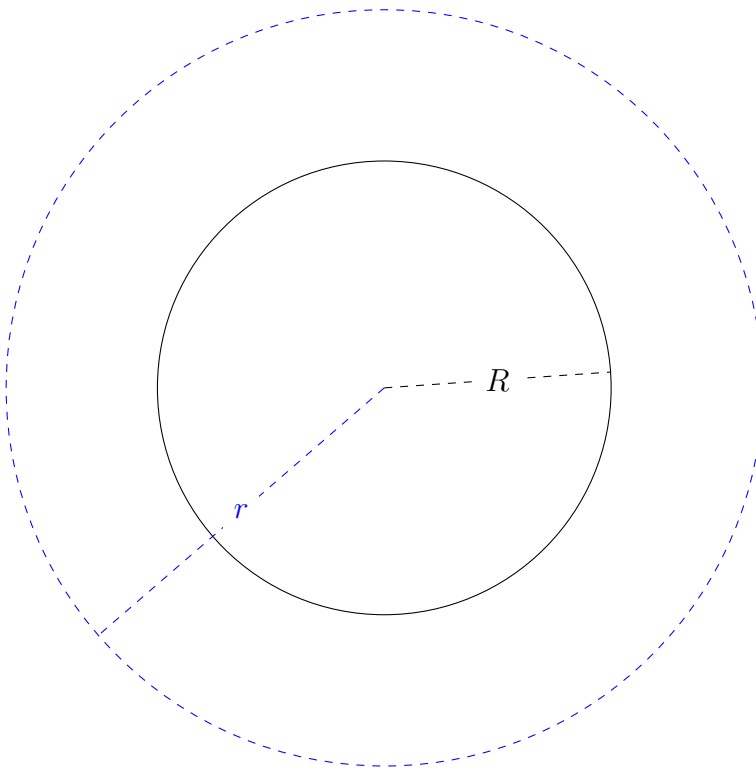
$$\oiint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A} = \frac{Q_{\text{inside}}}{\varepsilon_0}$$

Exercise 5.

A hollow sphere of radius R has surface charge density σ . Find the field at a point at distance r from the centre of the sphere.

Solution 5.

Consider the imaginary Gaussian surface as a sphere with radius r .



Using Gauss' Law over the Gaussian surface,

$$\begin{aligned}\oiint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A} &= \frac{Q_{\text{total}}}{\varepsilon_0} \\ \therefore \oiint E \, dA &= \frac{Q_{\text{total}}}{\varepsilon_0} \\ \therefore E \oiint dA &= \frac{Q_{\text{total}}}{\varepsilon_0} \\ \therefore E \cdot 4\pi r^2 &= \frac{Q_{\text{total}}}{\varepsilon_0} \\ \therefore \vec{E} &= \frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_0} \frac{Q_{\text{total}}}{r^2} \hat{r}\end{aligned}$$

Similarly for $r < R$, $E = 0$.