

## charge and electric potential

introduction to electrostatics + potential with solved examples

lecturing notes of chapter 12 notes not covered

① Coulomb's law

② Electric field

③ Electric field intensity

④ Electric potential

⑤ Potential due to a point charge

⑥ Dipole

⑦ Dipole in an external electric field

⑧ Electric field due to dipole at a point along perpendicular bisector.

⑨ Electric field for point charge ring at a distance from the center of the ring

⑩ Gauss's law - Definition

⑪ Coulomb's law from Gauss's law

⑫ Coulomb's law application

notes that depends on boundary surface of a charged conductor

notes that depends on boundary surface of a conductor at infinity

notes that depends on boundary surface of a conductor with finite size

notes that depends on boundary surface of a conductor with finite size

notes that depends on boundary surface of a conductor with finite size

notes that depends on boundary surface of a conductor with finite size

Coulomb's law: The force of attraction or repulsion between two electric charges is directly proportional to the product of the charges and inversely proportional to the square of the distance between them.

Or,

The force between two point charges is directly proportional to the product of the charges, and inversely proportional to the square of the distance between them.

$$F \propto q_1 q_2$$

$$F \propto \frac{1}{r^2}$$

$$F = k \frac{q_1 q_2}{r^2}; \text{ Hence, } k = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}$$

$$\epsilon_0 = 8.854 \times 10^{-12} \text{ Nm}^2\text{C}^{-2}$$

$$\text{So, } F = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \cdot \frac{q_1 q_2}{r^2}$$

Electric field: The space around a charged body where its influence is experienced is called electric field of that charged body.

**Electric field intensity:** It measures of the force exerted by one charged body on another. Imaginary lines of force or electric field lines originate on positive charges and terminate on negative charges.

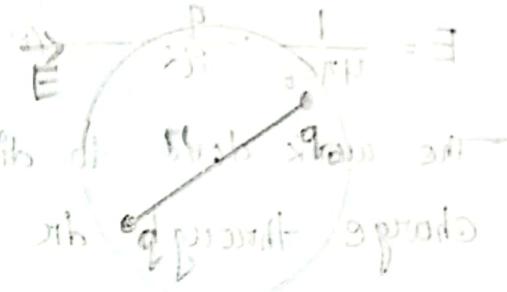
It is denoted by  $\vec{E}$ .

$$\vec{E} = \frac{\vec{F}}{q}$$

$$= \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \cdot \frac{q q_0}{r^2}$$

$$= \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \cdot \frac{q}{r^2}$$

$$\text{Vector form, } \vec{E} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \cdot \frac{q}{r^2} \cdot \hat{r}$$



**Electric potential:** The amount of work done in bringing a unit positive charge from infinity to a point in an electric field is called electric potential at that point. It is denoted by  $V$ . The unit of electric potential is  $J C^{-1}$ .

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

**Electric potential difference:** The amount of work done in transforming a unit charge from one point to another point in an electric field is called a potential difference of two points.

Electric potential difference is also defined as the work done in bringing a unit charge from one point to another point in an electric field.

Potential due to a point charge:

Let  $p$  be a point at a distance

$r$  from a point charge  $q$  placed at  $O$ .

Let the permittivity constant of the medium

be  $\epsilon_0$ . The intensity at  $p$  is given by

$$E = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \cdot \frac{q}{r^2} \quad \text{--- (1)}$$



The work done to displace a unit charge through  $dr$

$$-dV = -\frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \cdot \frac{q}{r^2} dr \quad \text{--- (2)}$$

The negative sign indicates decrease of potential

$$V = \int_{\infty}^r \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \cdot \frac{q}{r^2} dr$$

$$= -\frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left[ \frac{1}{r} \right]_{\infty}^r$$

$$= \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q}{r}$$

$$E = -\frac{dV}{dr} = -\frac{d}{dr} \left[ -\frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \cdot \frac{q}{r} \right]$$

$$= -\frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \cdot \frac{d}{dr} \left( \frac{1}{r} \right)$$

$$= \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q}{r^2}$$

i.e. intensity at a point in an electric field is equal to the negative gradient of potential at the same point.

**Dipole:** When two equal and opposite charge are placed in such way that distance between them is very small then both charges are altogether called Electric dipole.

Dipole moment,  $p = \text{charge} \times \text{distance}$

$$= q \times 2d$$

\* Dipole in an external electric field:

Let us consider when two equal and opposite charge  $+q$  and  $-q$  are placed in such way that distance between them is very small  $2a$ . then they form a dipole.

Dipole moment,  $p = 2aq$  —①

The arrangement is placed in an external electric field  $\vec{E}$  and the dipole moment  $\vec{p}$  has created  $\theta$  angle with the  $\vec{E}$ . Here also for external electric field, two equal and opposite forces are constructive couple.

Torque,  $\vec{\tau} = \vec{F} \times 2a\vec{r}$

$$= 2aF \sin \theta$$

$$= 2aqE \sin \theta [F = qE]$$

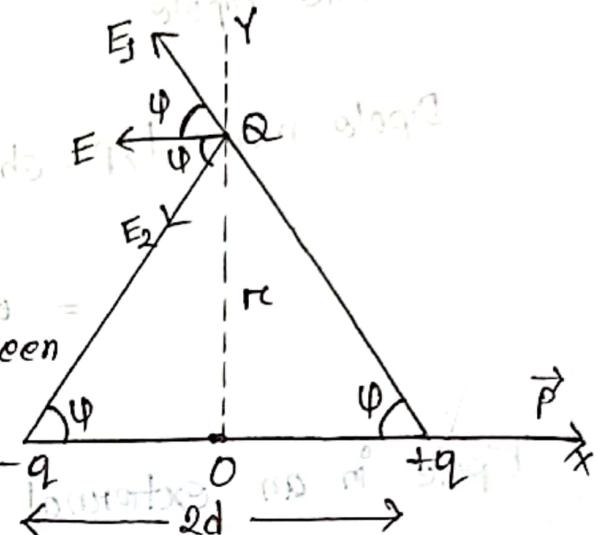
$$= pE \sin \theta \quad \vec{\tau} = \vec{p} \times \vec{E}$$

$$\boxed{\vec{\tau} = \vec{p} \times \vec{E}}$$

Electric field due to dipole at a point along perpendicular bisector: Consider two charges  $+q$  and  $-q$  placed on opposite sides of a vertical line  $OY$ .

At a point  $P$ , distance  $r$  along with angle  $\theta$  from the dipole, electric field  $E$  is given by

Perpendicular bisector.



When two equal and opposite charge  $+q$  and  $-q$  are placed in such way that distance between them is very small and then they form a dipole.

Dipole moment,  $p = 2qd$

For  $+q$  charge electric field  $= E_1$

$-q$  charge electric field  $= E_2$

Resultant electric field,  $E = E_1 + E_2$

$$E_1 = E_2 = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \cdot \frac{q}{(r^2 + d^2)^{3/2}}$$

$$= \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \cdot \frac{q}{q^2 + d^2}$$

From the figure, angle  $\theta$  between  $E_1$  and  $E$  is  $2\theta$ .

$$E = \sqrt{E_1^2 + E_2^2 + 2E_1 E_2 \cos 2\theta}$$
$$= \sqrt{2E_1^2 + 2E_1^2 \cos 2\theta} = \sqrt{4E_1^2 (1 + \cos 2\theta)}$$

$$= \sqrt{2E_1^2 (1 + \cos 2\theta)}$$

$$= \sqrt{2E_1^2 \cdot 2 \cos^2 \theta} = 2E_1 \cos \theta$$

$$= \sqrt{2E_1 E_2}$$

$$= \sqrt{4E_1^2 \cos^2 \theta}$$

$$= 2E_1 \cos \theta$$

$$\text{Magnitude} = \frac{2q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \times \frac{1}{a^2 + r^2} \times \frac{a}{\sqrt{a^2 + r^2}} \quad [\cos \theta = \frac{a}{\sqrt{a^2 + r^2}}]$$
$$= \frac{2aq}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \cdot \frac{1}{(a^2 + r^2)^{3/2}}$$
$$= \frac{P}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \times \frac{1}{r^3} \quad [\text{For } a \text{ is very small we can ignore it}]$$

$$\therefore E = \frac{P}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \times \frac{1}{r^3} \left( \frac{1}{(x^2 + r^2)} + \frac{1}{(y^2 + r^2)} + \frac{1}{(z^2 + r^2)} \right)$$

Electric field for point charge on a wire of a charge ring at a distance from the center of the ring:

Let us consider a differential element of the ring of length  $ds$  located at the top of the ring. Suppose it contains an element of charge  $dq$ . The electric field  $dE$  which is the charge produced at the point  $p$  and its magnitude is;

$$dE = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \cdot \frac{dq}{r^2}$$

$$= \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \cdot \frac{dq}{(a^2 + x^2)}$$

$$= \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \cdot \frac{4ds}{2\pi a} \cdot \frac{1}{(a^2 + x^2)}$$

$dE$  can be resolved into two components one along the axis the other perpendicular to it. The perpendicular components are found on another differential element.

The resulting field intensity,

$$\text{Formation } E = \int dE \cos\theta$$

$$= \int \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \cdot \frac{q ds}{2\pi a} \cdot \frac{1}{(a^2+x^2)} \cos\theta \cdot \frac{q}{2\pi a}$$

$$= \int \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \cdot \frac{q ds}{2\pi a} \cdot \frac{1}{(a^2+x^2)} \cdot \frac{x}{\sqrt{a^2+x^2}}$$

$$= \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \cdot \frac{1}{2\pi a} \cdot \frac{1}{(a^2+x^2)^{3/2}} + \int ds \text{ which is the periphery of the circle}$$

$$= \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \cdot \frac{qx}{2\pi a} \cdot \frac{1}{(a^2+x^2)^{3/2}} \times 2\pi a \text{ is reducing to}$$

$$= \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \cdot \frac{qx}{(a^2+x^2)^{3/2}} \text{ reducing to balance abt point 2}$$

$$= \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \cdot \frac{qx}{x^3} \text{ blst distance will be pb of point}$$

$$= \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \cdot \frac{q}{x^2} \text{ add to balancing equation abt pt 1}$$

$$= \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \cdot \frac{1}{x^2} \text{ = E}$$

$$= \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \cdot \frac{1}{x^2} \text{ = E}$$

$$= \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \cdot \frac{1}{x^2} \text{ = E}$$

Gauss's law: Gauss's law states that the flux of electric field through any closed surface is equal to  $\frac{1}{\epsilon_0}$  times the total charge enclosed by the surface.

If the surface does not enclose any charge, the flux of  $\vec{E}$  is zero.

Let us consider,

The flux of electric field  $\vec{E}$  on a small area of surface =  $dS$

Amount of surface charge =  $q$

When  $q$  charge is inside the surface that means,

$$\oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s} = \frac{q}{\epsilon_0}$$

when  $q$  charge is outside the surface that means surface that means surface does not close.

$$\oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s} = 0$$

Coulomb's law from gauss's law:

$$\frac{P}{S} = \epsilon_0 E$$

$$\frac{P}{4\pi r^2} = E$$

$$\frac{E}{P}$$

$$\frac{EP}{4\pi r^2} = EP = F$$

Columb's law from Gauss's law:

Let us consider a sphere of radius  $r$  and  $q$  amount of charge is enclosed by the surface area of the surface,  $S = 4\pi r^2$ . Again, let small area  $dS$  and flux of electric field  $\vec{E}$  passing parallelly with  $dS$  through the enclosed surface that means the angle between  $dS$  and  $\vec{E}$  is zero.

$$\vec{E} \cdot d\vec{S} = E dS \cos 0^\circ = E dS$$

According to Gauss's law:

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

$$\Rightarrow E \oint dS = \frac{q}{\epsilon_0}$$

$$\Rightarrow E S = \frac{q}{\epsilon_0}$$

$$\Rightarrow E \times 4\pi r^2 = \frac{q}{\epsilon_0}$$

$$\Rightarrow E = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \cdot \frac{q}{r^2}$$

Let us consider a test charge  $q_0$  in the enclosed surface and force between  $q$  and  $q_0$  is,

$$F = \frac{F}{q_0}$$

$$\therefore F = qE = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \cdot \frac{q q_0}{r^2}$$

∴ This is the form of Columb's law.

## Electric Energy:

Again let when the dipole placed in external field initially with angle  $90^\circ$  after a short time the angle become  $\theta$  from the change of angle and it stores a potential energy.

$$\text{Energy} = \text{Work done} = U = \int_{90^\circ}^{\theta} \tau d\theta$$

$$U = \int_{90^\circ}^{\theta} PE \sin \theta d\theta$$

$$= PE \int_{90^\circ}^{\theta} \sin \theta d\theta$$

$$= - PE [\cos \theta]_{90^\circ}^{\theta}$$

$$= - PE (\cos \theta - \cos 90^\circ)$$

$$= - PE \cos \theta$$

This is the stored energy.

$$EP = F$$

$$(F \cdot d) \times (\sin \theta \cdot d) = P$$

$$F \cdot d \cdot \sin \theta \cdot d =$$

$$F \cdot d \cdot d \cdot \sin \theta = F \cdot d^2 \cdot \sin \theta$$

When a  $5 \times 10^{-9}$  test charge is placed at a point, it experiences a force of  $2 \times 10^{-4} N$  in the  $x$ -direction. That is electric field at that point.

Hence,  $F = 2 \times 10^{-4} N$

$$q = 5 \times 10^{-9} C$$

We know that,  $F = qE$

$$\Rightarrow E = \frac{F}{q}$$

$$= \frac{2 \times 10^{-4}}{5 \times 10^{-9}}$$

$$= 4 \times 10^4 NC^{-1}$$

(Ans)

What is the force on an electron placed at the point where the electric field intensity is  $4 \times 10^{-4} NC^{-1}$ .

Hence,  $E = 4 \times 10^{-4} NC^{-1}$

$$q = 1.6 \times 10^{-19} C \text{ (electron)}$$

We know that,

$$F = qE$$

$$= (1.6 \times 10^{-19}) \times (4 \times 10^{-4})$$

$$= 6.4 \times 10^{-23} N$$

For electron,  $F = -6.4 \times 10^{-23} N$ .

(Ans)

③ Calculate the field  $E$  due to a dipole moment  $4.5 \times 10^{-10} \text{ Cm}$  at a distance  $1\text{m}$  from it on the perpendicular bisector.

Given that,

$$\text{dipole moment, } p = 4.5 \times 10^{-10} \text{ Cm} \quad (3 \times 8) = \\ r = 1\text{m.}$$

We know that,

$$E = \frac{p}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \cdot \frac{1}{r^3} \\ = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \cdot \frac{p}{r^3}$$

$$\text{Using } \epsilon_0 = 8.85 \times 10^{-12} \text{ C/Vm} \\ E = (9 \times 10^9) \times \frac{(4.5 \times 10^{-10})}{1^3} \quad (4.5 \times 10^{-10})$$

$$= 4.05 \text{ V/m} \quad (\text{Ans})$$

~~Answer~~ ~~to obtain~~ ~~the~~ ~~final~~

$$Ex - \frac{p}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^3} = E$$

Q4 - What is the potential at the surface of an aluminium nucleus  $r = 4.5 \times 10^{-15}$  cm and it's charge  $q = 13e$ .

Given that,

$$r = 4.5 \times 10^{-15} \text{ cm}$$

$$\text{charge, } q = 13 \times (-1.6 \times 10^{-19})$$

$$= -2.08 \times 10^{-18} \text{ C}$$

Potential,  $V = ?$

$$\text{charge density, } \sigma = \frac{\phi}{A}$$

$$= \frac{\phi}{4\pi r^2}$$

We know that,

$$E = \frac{V}{r} \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

$$E = \frac{\sigma}{\epsilon_0} \quad \text{--- (2)}$$

Equating (1) and (2)  $\Rightarrow$

$$\frac{V}{r} = \frac{\sigma}{\epsilon_0}$$

$$\text{or, } \frac{V}{r} = \frac{\phi}{\epsilon_0 4\pi r^2}$$

$$\text{or, } V = \frac{1}{4\pi \epsilon_0} \cdot \frac{\phi}{r}$$

$$\text{or, } V = (9 \times 10^9) \times \frac{-2.08 \times 10^{-18}}{4.5 \times 10^{-15}}$$

$$\therefore V = 4.16 \times 10^6 \text{ V}$$

(Ans)

⑤ Two equal charges of magnitude  $2 \times 10^{-6} \text{ C}$  are placed at a distance 8 cm from each other. Find the magnitude of electric intensity at point 3 cm from the midpoint of the line to the two charges along the perpendicular bisector of the line.

Given that,  $q = 2 \times 10^{-6} \text{ C}$

$$2a = 8 \text{ cm} = 0.8 \text{ m}$$

$$a = 4 \text{ cm} = 0.04 \text{ m}$$

$$\sqrt{r^2 - a^2} = \sqrt{0.3^2 - 0.04^2} =$$

$$= 0.3 \text{ m}$$

$$\frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} = 9 \times 10^9$$

$$E = ?$$

We know that,

$$\begin{aligned} E &= \frac{2aq}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \times \frac{1}{(a^2+b^2)^{3/2}} \\ &= \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \times \frac{2aq}{(a^2+b^2)^{3/2}} \\ &= (9 \times 10^9) \times \frac{0.8 \times (2 \times 10^{-6})}{\{(0.4)^2 + (0.3)^2\}^{3/2}} \\ &= 9 \times 10^9 \times 1.28 \times 10^{-5} \\ &= 1.152 \times 10^5 \text{ N/C} \end{aligned}$$

(Ans)

⑥ An electric dipole consists of two opposite charges of magnitude  $q = 2 \times 10^{-6} \text{ C}$  separated by 1 cm. The dipole is placed in an external field  $2 \times 10^5 \text{ N/C}$ . Calculate (1)

The maximum torque on the dipole (2) Work done to turn the dipole through  $180^\circ$  starting from a position of  $\theta = 0^\circ$

Given that,

$$\begin{aligned} P &= qr = 2 \times 10^{-6} \times 0.01 \\ &= 2 \times 10^{-8} \text{ m} \end{aligned}$$

$$E = 2 \times 10^5 \text{ N/C}$$

Again,  $P = 2 \times 10^{-8}$

$$E = 2 \times 10^5 \text{ N/C}$$

$$W = ?$$

(ii) We know that,

$$n = PE \sin \theta$$

$$= 2 \times 10^{-12} \times 2 \times 10^5 \times \sin 90^\circ$$

$$= 4 \times 10^{-4} \text{ Nm}$$

(iii) We know that,

$$W = \int_0^{180} PE \sin \theta \cdot d\theta$$

$$= -PE [\cos \theta]_0^{180}$$

$$= -PE (\cos 180 - \cos 0)$$

$$= -PE (-2)$$

$$= 2PE$$

$$= 2 \times 2 \times 10^{-7} \times 2 \times 10^5$$

$$> 8 \times 10^{-2} \text{ J}$$

(Ans)

$$10.0 \times 8.7 \times 10^{-2} = \text{np} \\ m 8.7 \times 10^{-2}$$

⑦ A 5 coulombs charge is placed on the circumference of a circle of radius 0.5 m. Find the potential and intensity at a distance 25 cm from the centre.

① We know that,

$$V = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \times \frac{q}{r}$$

$$= (9 \times 10^9) \times \frac{5}{0.5}$$

$$= 9 \times 10^9 V$$

Given that,

$$q = 5 C$$

$$r = 0.5 m$$

$$\text{Potential } V = ?$$

② Electric field intensity

$$E = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \times \frac{q}{r^2}$$

$$= (9 \times 10^9) \times \frac{5}{(25 \times 10^{-2})^2}$$

$$= 7.2 \times 10^{11} N/C$$

$$q = 5 C$$

$$r = 25 \times 10^{-2}$$

$$E = ?$$

$$\frac{q}{r^2} = \frac{V}{k}$$

$$\frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2} = \frac{V}{k}$$

$$\frac{\Phi}{4\pi} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \times V$$

$$\frac{5 \times 3.14 \times 0.5^2}{4\pi \times 8.85 \times 10^{-12}} \times (9 \times 10^9) = V$$

$$V = 10 \times 10^9 = V$$

⑧ What is the electric potential at the surface of a told nucleus? The radius is  $6.6 \times 10^{-15} \text{ m}$  and the atomic number is 79.

We know that,

$$\text{of form } V = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \times \frac{q}{r}$$

$$= (9 \times 10^9) \times \frac{1.264 \times 10^{-17}}{6.6 \times 10^{-15}}$$

$$= 1.723 \times 10^{-3} \text{ V}$$

Given that,  
 $r = 6.6 \times 10^{-15} \text{ m}$   
Atomic number  $Z = 79$   
 $V = ?$

charge,  $q = 2e$   
 $= 79 \times 1.6 \times 10^{-19}$   
 $= 1.264 \times 10^{-17} \text{ C}$

⑨ At one time the positive charge in the atom was thought to be distributed uniformly throughout a sphere with a radius of about  $1 \times 10^{-10} \text{ m}$ . That is throughout the entire atom. Calculate the electric field strength at the surface of a told atom ( $Z = 79$ ) in this supposition.

$$E = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \cdot \frac{q}{r^2}$$

$$= (9 \times 10^9) \times \frac{(1.264 \times 10^{-17})}{(1 \times 10^{-10})^2}$$

$$= 1.1376 \times 10^{13} \text{ N/C}$$

Given that,  
 $r = 1 \times 10^{-10} \text{ m}$   
 $Z = 79$   
 $q = 2e = 1.264 \times 10^{-17} \text{ C}$   
 $E = ?$

10. A negative point charge of  $10^{-6} \text{ C}$  is distributed in air of the origin of a rectangular coordinate system. A second negative point charge of  $10^{-4} \text{ C}$  is situated on the positive x-axis at a distance of 50 cm from the origin. What is the force on the second charge?

$$\vec{F}_2 = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \times \frac{q_1 q_2}{r^2} \times \vec{r}$$

$$= (9 \times 10^9) \times \frac{(-10^{-6})(-10^{-4})}{(50 \times 10^{-2})^2}$$

Given that  $F_2 = 3.6 \text{ N}$  of opposite sign to  $\vec{r}$

$$\therefore \vec{F}_2 = 3.6 \text{ N} (\hat{i})$$

Given that,

$$q_1 = -10^{-6} \text{ C}$$

$$q_2 = -10^{-4} \text{ C}$$

$$r = 50 \times 10^{-2} \text{ m}$$

$$F = ?$$

Opposite to  $q_1$  and  $q_2$  exhibits a repulsive