

PHYS 1320 - Calculus-based Physics II

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Chapter 1

Module 1: Chapter 5 - Electric Charges and Fields

From Newton's Second Laws of Mechanics:

$$F = ma \quad (1.1)$$

A force can be recognized by the effect it has on an object. When studying gravitation, we examined the force of gravity that acts on all objects with mass. Similarly, the electric force acts on all objects with a property called charge. While gravity is an attractive force, the electric force can be either attractive or repulsive.

1.1 Section 5.1 Electric Charge

The ancient Greek philosopher Thales of Miletus (624-546 BCE) recorded that when amber was vigorously rubbed with a piece of fur, it created a force that attracted them to each other. They also attracted other non-metallic objects even when not touched.

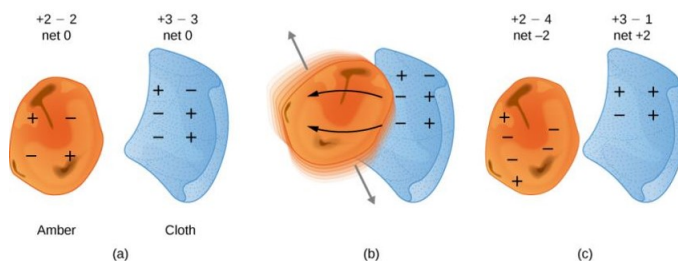


Figure 1.1: Materials rubbed together

The English physicist William Gilbert (1544-1603) also studied attractive forces. He worked with a variety of substances. His findings included:

- Metals never exhibited this force, whereas minerals did
- Two "electrified" amber rods would repel each other.

This suggested that there were two types of electric properties: attractive and repulsive. This property came to be known as Electric Charge. The force is repulsive between the same type of charge and attractive between the charges are of opposite types. Named after French physicist Charles Augustine de Coulomb (1736-1806), the unit of electric charge is the coulomb (C).

The American statesman and scientist Benjamin Franklin found that he could concentrate charge in Leyden jar ¹ (a glass jar with two metal sheets one on the inside and one on the outside (essentially what we now call a capacitor). Franklin pointed out that the behavior could be explained by one type of charge remaining motionless and the other charge flowing from one piece of foil to the other. He had no way of determining which type of charge was moving, and unfortunately he guessed wrong: it was since learned that the charges that flow are the ones that Franklin named "negative" and the "positive" charges remain motionless.

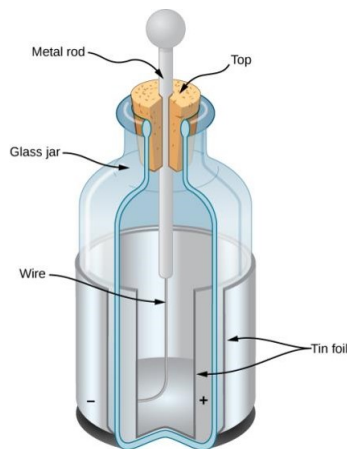


Figure 1.2: Leyden Jar

Observations about the Electric Force:

¹Its invention was a discovery made independently by German cleric Ewald Georg von Kleist on 11 October 1745 and by Dutch scientist Pieter van Musschenbroek of Leiden (Leyden), Netherlands in 1745–1746. The invention was named after the city.

- The force acts without physical contact between objects
- The force is attractive or repulsive
- Not all objects are affected by this force
- The magnitude of the force decreases rapidly with distance between objects

Properties of Electric Charge

- Charge is quantized - The smallest amount of charge an object can have is $e = 1.602 * 10^{-19}C$. The charge on any object must be an integer multiple of e .
- The magnitude of a charge is independent of the type. The smallest positive charge is $1.602 * 10^{-19}C$ and the smallest negative charge is $-1.602 * 10^{-19}C$; these values are exactly equal in magnitude.
- Charge is conserved. Charge can not be created or destroyed. It can only be transferred. The net charge of the universe is constant.
- Charge is conserved in a closed system. Total charge in a closed system remains constant.

These last two items are referred to as the Law of Conservation of Charge.

The Sources of Charge: The Structure of the Atom

Atomic structure terminology

- Electron
- Proton
- Neutron
- Ion

This simplified model of a hydrogen atom shows a positively charged nucleus (consisting, in the case of hydrogen, of a single proton), surrounded by an electron “cloud.” The charge of the electron cloud is equal (and opposite in sign) to the charge of the nucleus, but the electron does not have a definite location in space; hence, its representation here is as a cloud. Normal macroscopic amounts of matter contain immense numbers of atoms and molecules, and, hence, even greater numbers of individual negative and positive charges.

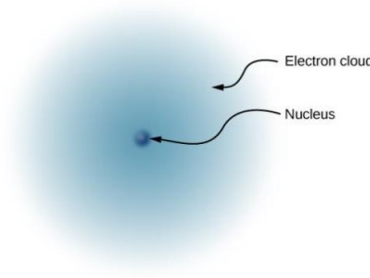


Figure 1.3: Simplified model of a hydrogen atom

The nucleus of a carbon atom is composed of six protons and six neutrons. As in hydrogen, the surrounding six electrons do not have definite locations and so can be considered to be a sort of cloud surrounding the nucleus.

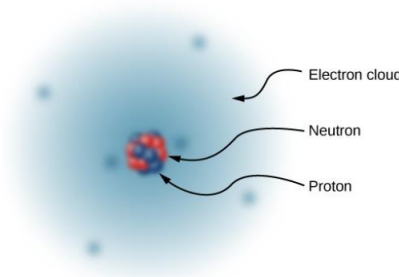


Figure 1.4: Carbon atom

1.2 Conductors, Insulators, and Charging by Induction

Conductors

Electrons surround the tiny nucleus in the form of a (comparatively) vast cloud of negative charge. However, this cloud does have a definite structure to it. If we consider an atom of copper, there is an outermost electron that is only loosely bound

to the atom's nucleus. It can be easily dislodged; it then moves to a neighboring atom. In a large mass of copper atoms (such as a copper wire or a sheet of copper), these vast numbers of outermost electrons (one per atom) wander from atom to atom, and are the electrons that do the moving when electricity flows. These wandering, or “free,” electrons are called conduction electrons, and copper is therefore an excellent conductor (of electric charge). All conducting elements have a similar arrangement of their electrons, with one or two conduction electrons. This includes most metals.

Insulators

Insulators, in contrast, are made from materials that lack conduction electrons; charge flows only with great difficulty, if at all. Even if excess charge is added to an insulating material, it cannot move, remaining indefinitely in place. This is why insulating materials exhibit the electrical attraction and repulsion forces described earlier, whereas conductors do not; any excess charge placed on a conductor would instantly flow away (due to mutual repulsion from existing charges), leaving no excess charge around to create forces. Charge cannot flow along or through an insulator, so its electric forces remain for long periods of time. (Charge will dissipate from an insulator, given enough time.) As it happens, amber, fur, and most semi-precious gems are insulators, as are materials like wood, glass, and plastic.

Charging by Induction

Induced polarization: A positively charged glass rod is brought near the left side of the conducting sphere, attracting negative charge and leaving the other side of the sphere positively charged. Although the sphere is overall still electrically neutral, it now has a charge distribution, so it can exert an electric force on other nearby charges. Furthermore, the distribution is such that it will be attracted to the glass rod.

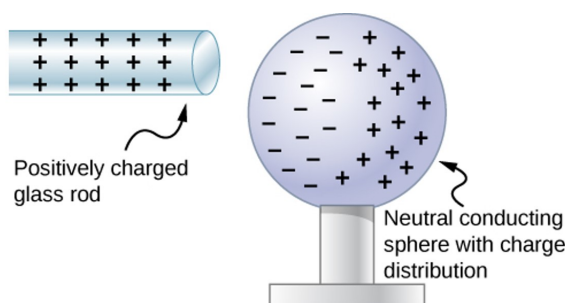


Figure 1.5: Induced Polarization

Both positive and negative objects attract a neutral object by polarizing its molecules.

- A positive object brought near a neutral insulator polarizes its molecules. There is a slight shift in the distribution of the electrons orbiting the molecule, with unlike charges being brought nearer and like charges moved away. Since the electrostatic force decreases with distance, there is a net attraction.
- A negative object produces the opposite polarization, but again attracts the neutral object.
- The same effect occurs for a conductor; since the unlike charges are closer, there is a net attraction.

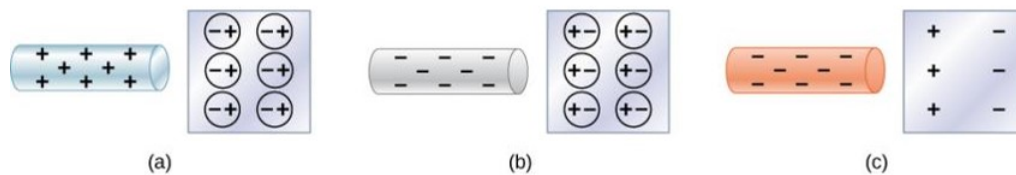


Figure 1.6: Attraction to neutral objects

Charging by induction.

- Two uncharged or neutral metal spheres are in contact with each other but insulated from the rest of the world.
- A positively charged glass rod is brought near the sphere on the left, attracting negative charge and leaving the other sphere positively charged.
- The spheres are separated before the rod is removed, thus separating negative and positive charges.
- The spheres retain net charges after the inducing rod is removed—without ever having been touched by a charged object.

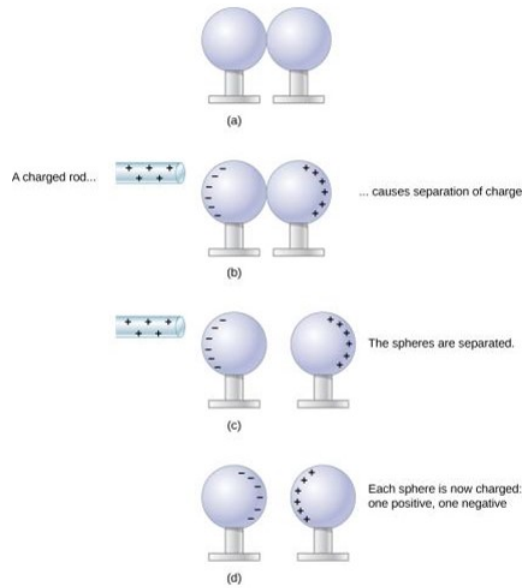


Figure 1.7: Charge by Induction

Similarly using a ground connection

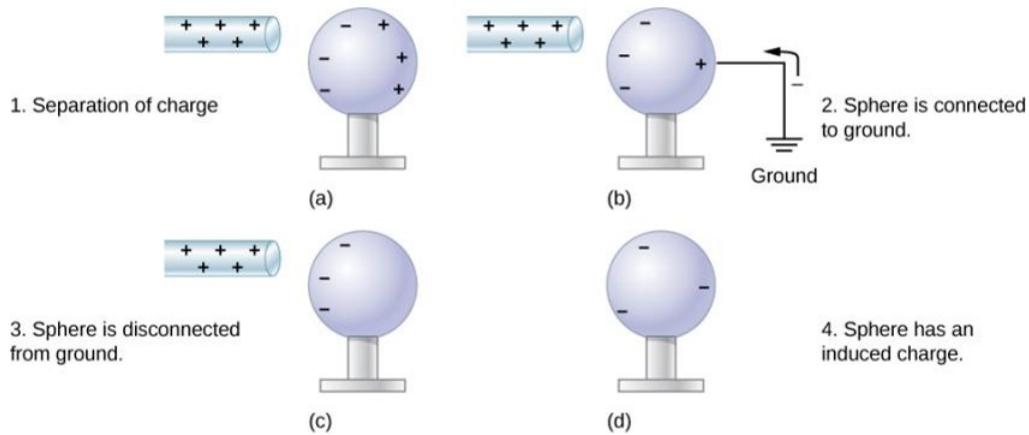


Figure 1.8: Charge by Induction with Ground Connection

1.3 Coulombs Law

Recall from Physics I the gravitational force equation

$$F_G = G \frac{m_1 m_2}{r^2} \quad (1.2)$$

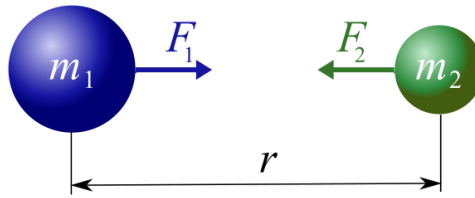


Figure 1.9: Newtons Law Gravitation

For the electric force, let

- q_1, q_2 = the net electric charges of two objects
- \vec{r}_{12} = the vector displacement from q_1 to q_2 .

$$F \propto \frac{q_1 q_2}{r_{12}^2} \quad (1.3)$$

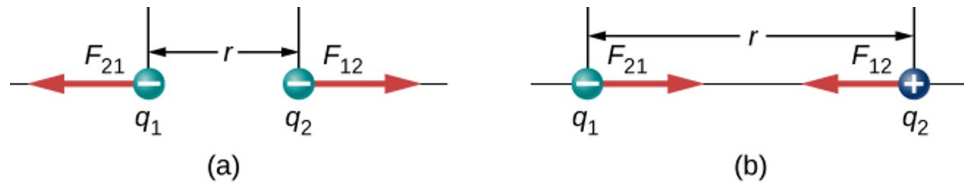


Figure 1.10: Electrostatic Force

Coulomb's Law: the electric force between two electrically charged particles is given by

$$\vec{F} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q_1 q_2}{r_{12}^2} \hat{r}_{12} \quad (1.4)$$

where \hat{r}_{12} is the unit vector from particle 1 to particle 2, and where ϵ_0 is the permittivity of free space

$$\epsilon_0 = 8.85 * 10^{-12} \frac{C^2}{N \cdot m^2} \quad (1.5)$$

Which leads to Coulomb's constant (k):

$$k = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} = 8.99 * 10^9 \frac{N \cdot m^2}{C^2} \quad (1.6)$$

Example: Force on the Electron in a Hydrogen Atom

Proton has a positive charge of $+e$, and an electron has a negative charge of $-e$. In the "ground state" of the atom, the electron orbits the proton at a probably distance of $5.29 * 10^{-11}m$.

$$q_1 = +e = +1.602 * 10^{-19}C \quad (1.7)$$

$$q_2 = -e = -1.602 * 10^{-19}C \quad (1.8)$$

$$r = 5.29 * 10^{-11}m \quad (1.9)$$

The magnitude of the force

$$F = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{|e|^2}{r^2} = 8.99 * 10^9 \frac{N \cdot m^2}{C^2} * \frac{(1.602 * 10^{-19}C)^2}{(5.29 * 10^{-11}m)^2} = 8.25 * 10^{-8}N \quad (1.10)$$

The force is thus expressed as

$$\vec{F} = (8.25 * 10^{-8}N)\hat{r} \quad (1.11)$$

Multiple Sources of Charge

As with the forces encountered in Physics I, the net electric force is the vector sum of the individual forces.

$$\vec{F}(r) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} Q \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{q_i}{r_i^2} \hat{r}_i \quad (1.12)$$

where Q represents the charge of a particle that experiences the force \vec{F} and is located at \vec{r} from the origin; q_i are the N source charges, and the vectors $\vec{r}_i = r_i \hat{r}_i$ are the displacements from the position of the i th charge to the position of Q . All of this is with the simplifying assumption that the source charges are all fixed in place somehow. This is referred to as the electrostatic force.

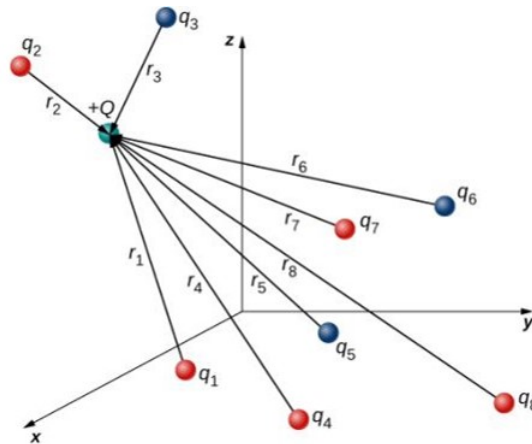


Figure 1.11: Multiple Source Charges

insert example 5.2

1.4 Electric Field

Next we define the Electric Field, which is independent of the test charge Q , and only depends on the configuration of the source charges.

$$\vec{F} = Q \cdot \vec{E} \quad (1.13)$$

where

$$\vec{E}(P) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{q_i}{r_i^2} \hat{r}_i \quad (1.14)$$

expresses the Electric Field at position $P = P(x, y, z)$ of the N source charges.

This is analogous to the gravitational field \vec{g} of the Earth

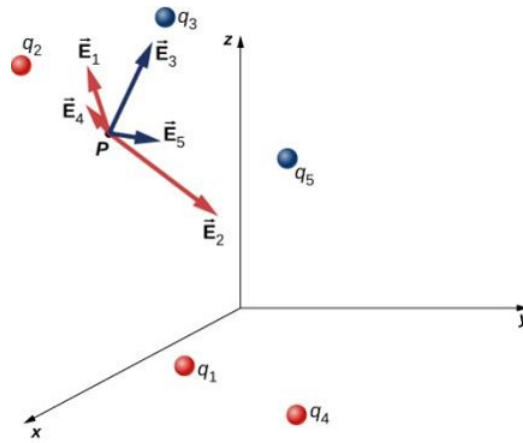


Figure 1.12: Electric Field - Multiple Source Charges

$$\vec{g} = G \frac{M}{r^2} \hat{r} \quad (1.15)$$

which gives us $9.81 \frac{m}{s^2}$ near the Earth's surface.

The Electric Field is

- A vector field
- Obeys superposition
- By convention, the Electric Field points away from the positive charge.

1.5 Calculating Electric Field Charge Distributions

Definitions of charge density

- $\lambda \equiv$ charge per unit length (linear charge density) in $\frac{C}{m}$
- $\sigma \equiv$ charge per unit area (surface charge density) in $\frac{C}{m^2}$
- $\rho \equiv$ charge per unit volume (volume charge density) in $\frac{C}{m^3}$

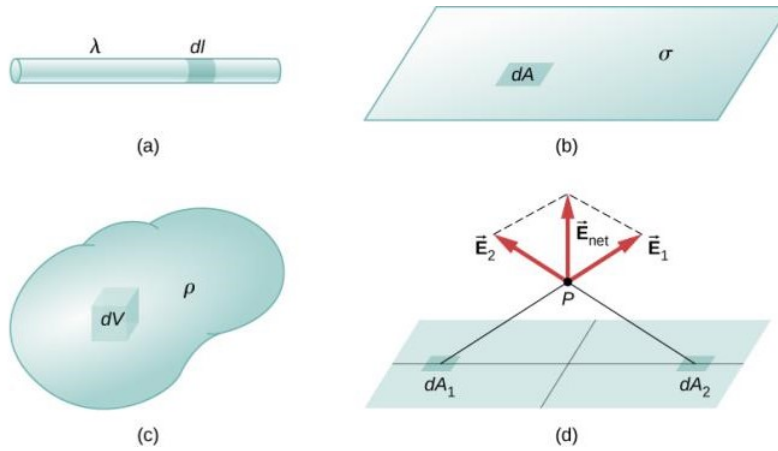


Figure 1.13: Configuration of Charge

Given these densities, the differential charge (dq) becomes λdl , σdA , and ρdV , respectively.

For these distributions, the summation becomes an integral

- Point Charge

$$\vec{E}(P) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{q_i}{r^2} \hat{r} \quad (1.16)$$

- Line Charge

$$\vec{E}(P) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_{line} \left(\frac{\lambda dl}{r^2} \right) \hat{r} \quad (1.17)$$

- Surface Charge

$$\vec{E}(P) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_{surface} \left(\frac{\sigma dA}{r^2} \right) \hat{r} \quad (1.18)$$

- Volume Charge

$$\vec{E}(P) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_{volume} \left(\frac{\rho dV}{r^2} \right) \hat{r} \quad (1.19)$$

As $P = P(x, y, z)$, the integral is shorthand for three integrals (one in each direction)

$$\vec{E}_x(P) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_{line} \left(\frac{\lambda dl}{r^2} \right)_x, \vec{E}_y(P) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_{line} \left(\frac{\lambda dl}{r^2} \right)_y, \vec{E}_z(P) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_{line} \left(\frac{\lambda dl}{r^2} \right)_z \quad (1.20)$$

Electric Field of a Line Segment

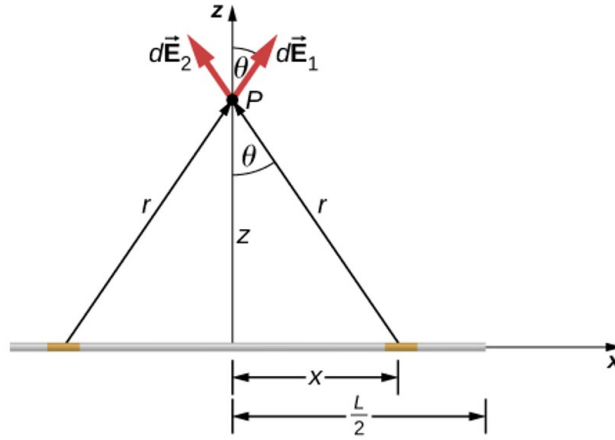


Figure 1.14: A uniformly charged segment of wire. The electric field at point P can be found by applying the superposition principle to symmetrically placed charge elements and integrating.

Start with

$$\vec{E}(P) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_{line} \left(\frac{\lambda dl}{r^2} \right) \hat{r} \quad (1.21)$$

The symmetry of the arrangement implies the horizontal components cancel.

$$\vec{E}(P) = \vec{E}_1 + \vec{E}_2 = E_{1,x}\hat{i} + E_{1,z}\hat{k} + E_{2,x}(-\hat{i}) + E_{2,z}\hat{k} \quad (1.22)$$

Due to symmetry, $E_{1,x} = E_{2,x}$, and as their directions are opposite, they cancel. So,

$$\vec{E}(P) = E_{1,z}\hat{k} + E_{2,z}\hat{k} = E_1 \cos \theta \hat{k} + E_2 \cos \theta \hat{k} \quad (1.23)$$

As these components are also equal, substituting into Equation 1.21 yields:

$$\vec{E}(P) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_0^{\frac{L}{2}} \left(\frac{2\lambda dx}{r^2} \cos \theta \right) \hat{k} \quad (1.24)$$

To calculate the integral, we note that

$$r = \sqrt{(x^2 + z^2)} \quad (1.25)$$

and

$$\cos \theta = \frac{z}{r} = \frac{z}{\sqrt{(x^2 + z^2)}} = \frac{z}{(x^2 + z^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}} \quad (1.26)$$

Substituting for $\cos \theta$:

$$\vec{E}(P) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_0^{\frac{L}{2}} \left(\frac{2\lambda dx}{(x^2 + z^2)} \frac{z}{(x^2 + z^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}} \right) \hat{k} \quad (1.27)$$

$$\vec{E}(P) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_0^{\frac{L}{2}} \left(\frac{2\lambda z}{(x^2 + z^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}} \right) dx \hat{k} \quad (1.28)$$

Integrating utilizing Trig Substitution (See Appendix A):

$$\vec{E}(P) = \frac{2\lambda z}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left[\frac{x}{z^2 \sqrt{(x^2 + z^2)}} \right] \Big|_0^{\frac{L}{2}} \hat{k} \quad (1.29)$$

or

$$\vec{E}(z) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{\lambda L}{z \sqrt{(\frac{L}{4} + z^2)}} \hat{k} \quad (1.30)$$

For an infinite line: $L = \infty$

$$\vec{E}(z) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{2\lambda}{z} \hat{k} \quad (1.31)$$

noting that we lost the $\frac{1}{r^2}$ dependence

For a finite line of charge with $z \gg L$

$$\vec{E}(z) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{\lambda L}{z^2} \hat{k} \quad (1.32)$$

Recalling that $q = \lambda L$, then we get the expression of the field of a point charge.

1.6 Electric Field Lines

Electric Field Lines allow us to visualize the electric field in space

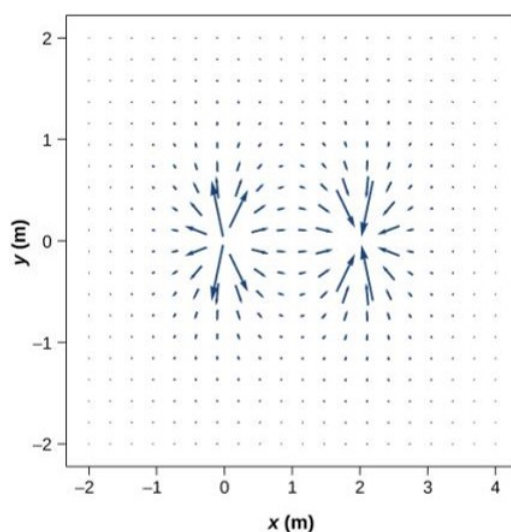


Figure 1.15: Vector field of dipole

Electric Field Line "Rules"

- Either begin at a positive charge or come in from infinity
- Either end at a negative charge or extend out to infinity
- The number of lines originating or terminating is proportional to the amount of charge.
- The density at any point in space is proportional to (and therefore is representative of) the magnitude of the field at that point in space

- The field lines never cross

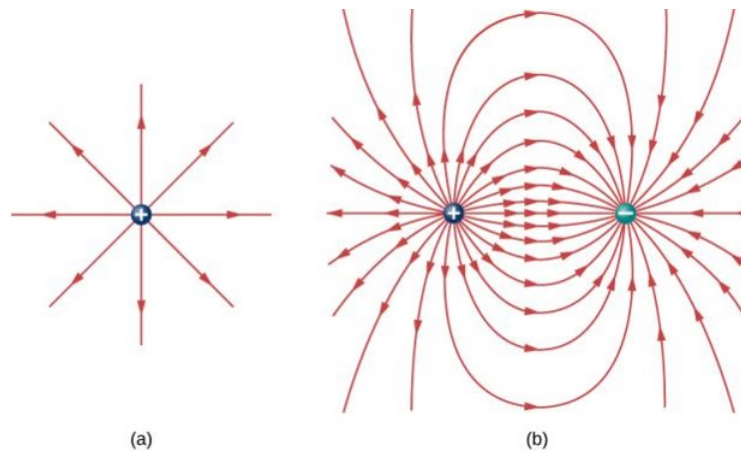


Figure 1.16: Electric Field of a dipole

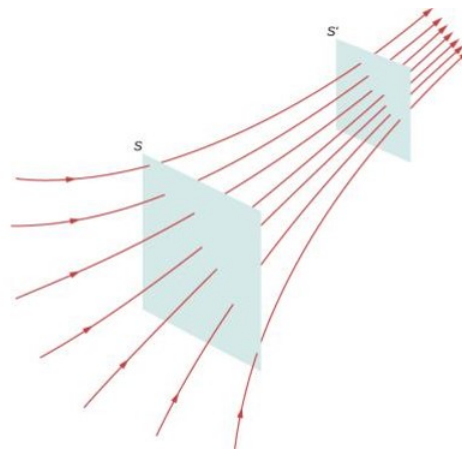


Figure 1.17: Field Line Density

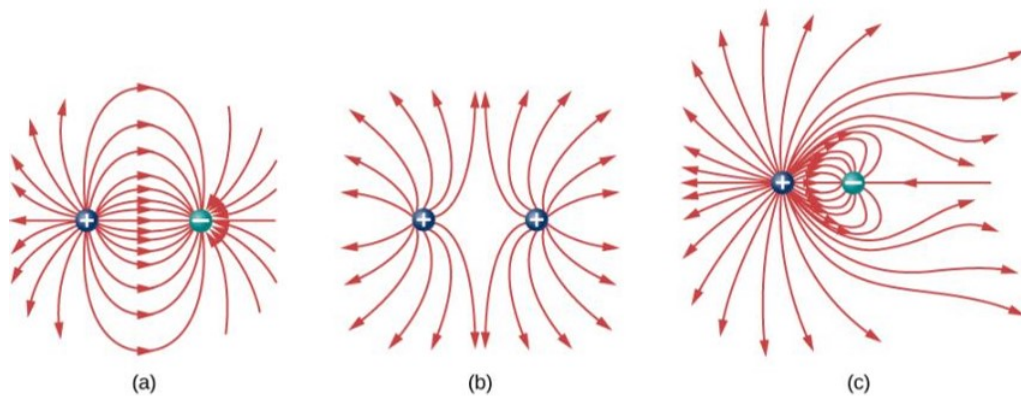


Figure 1.18: Typical Diagrams

Chapter 2

Module 2: Chapter 6 - Gauss's Law

Four main topics:

- Electric Flux
- Gauss's Law
- Calculating Electric Field with Gauss's Law
- Electric Field inside Conductors

2.1 Electric Flux

Flux describes how much of something goes through a given area. More formally, flux is the dot-product of a vector field (in our case, the electric field) with an area.

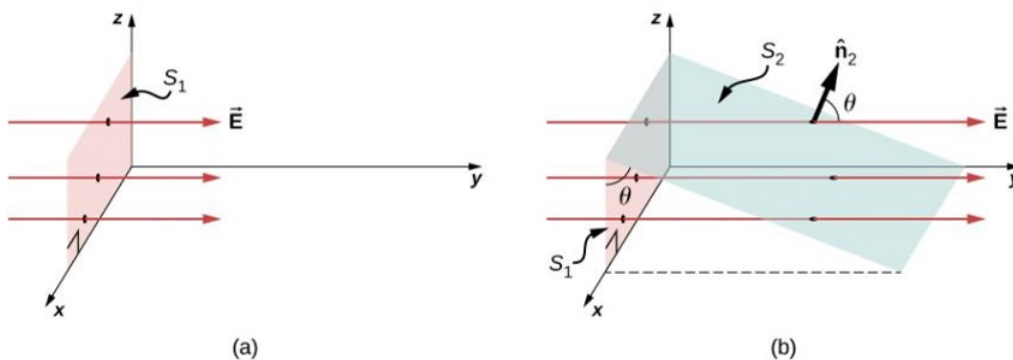


Figure 2.1: Flux through a plane

Electric Flux

For uniform field \vec{E} and a flat surface:

$$\Phi = \vec{E} \cdot \vec{A} \quad (2.1)$$

$$\Phi = EA \cos \theta \quad (2.2)$$

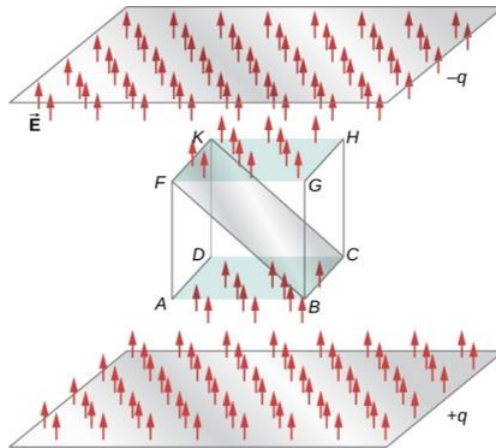


Figure 2.2: Flux through a cube

- Source and termination of electric field lines are outside the cube
- There is no charge inside the cube
- All electric field lines that enter the cube exit it, so the net flux through the cube is zero.
- By convention: if field lines are leaving a closed surface then Φ is positive.
- For field lines entering a closed surface, Φ is negative.

For a non-flat surface, we can take small patches that approximate a flat surface

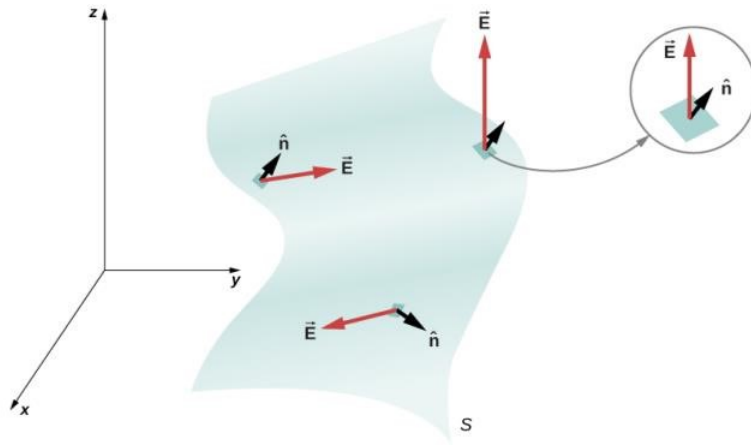


Figure 2.3: Surface divided into patches to find flux

Consider \vec{E}_i to be the electric field over the i^{th} patch (δA_i), then

$$\Phi_i = \vec{E}_i \cdot \delta \vec{A}_i \quad (2.3)$$

then

$$\Phi = \sum_{i=1}^N \Phi_i = \sum_{i=1}^N \vec{E}_i \cdot \delta \vec{A}_i \quad (2.4)$$

As the patch gets infinitesimally small,

$$\delta \vec{A} \rightarrow \hat{n} dA \quad (2.5)$$

and the \sum become an \int_s over the entire surface

For an Open Surface:

$$\Phi = \int_s \vec{E} \cdot \hat{n} dA = \int_s \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A} \quad (2.6)$$

For an Closed Surface:

$$\Phi = \oint_s \vec{E} \cdot \hat{n} dA = \oint_s \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A} \quad (2.7)$$

2.2 Gauss's Law

Let's calculate the electric flux through a sphere that surrounds a point charge q .

Recall at Point P

$$\vec{E}_P = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q}{r^2} \hat{r} \quad (2.8)$$

where \hat{r} is the radial unit vector charge at the center to Point P .

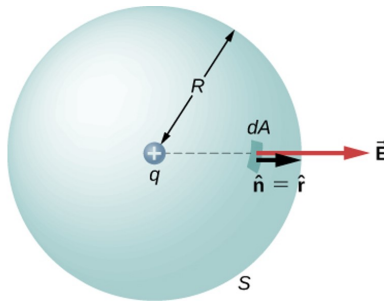


Figure 2.4: Closed sphere around point charge P

Applying the flux equation 2.7, where $\hat{n} = \hat{r}$ and $r = R$, for infinitesimal area dA :

$$d\Phi = \vec{E} \cdot \hat{n} dA = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q}{R^2} \hat{r} \cdot \hat{r} dA = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q}{R^2} dA \quad (2.9)$$

Integrating

$$\Phi = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q}{R^2} \oint_s dA = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q}{R^2} (4\pi R^2) = \frac{q}{\epsilon_0} \quad (2.10)$$

As r increases, there is a $\frac{1}{r^2}$ decrease in electric field counteracts the r^2 increase in the surface of the sphere and we find that $\Phi = \frac{q}{\epsilon_0}$ is independent of the size of the sphere.

Gauss's Law

$$\boxed{\Phi_{closed surface} = \frac{q_{enc}}{\epsilon_0}} \quad (2.11)$$

where q_{enc} is the net charge enclosed by the surface

2.3 Applying Gauss's Law

Charge Distribution with Spherical Symmetry

Charge distribution is considered spherically symmetric if the density of charge depends only on the distance from a point in space and not direction. A spherically symmetric charge distribution does not change if you rotate the sphere.

$$\rho(r, \theta, \phi) = \rho(r) \quad (2.12)$$

For spherically symmetric:

$$\vec{E}_P = E_P(r)\hat{r} \quad (2.13)$$

The magnitude of the electric field \vec{E} is the same everywhere on a spherical Gaussian surface concentric with the distribution. For a sphere of radius r :

$$\Phi = E_P 4\pi r^2 \quad (2.14)$$

From Gauss's Law

$$4\pi r^2 E = \frac{q_{enc}}{\epsilon_0} \quad (2.15)$$

Combining, the magnitude $E(r)$ is given by

$$E(r) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q_{enc}}{r^2} \quad (2.16)$$

For a sphere of radius R

$$q_{enc} = \begin{cases} q_{tot}, & \text{if } r \geq R. \\ q_{(r < R)}, & \text{if } r < R. \end{cases} \quad (2.17)$$

Which leads to an Electric Field at point P (E_{out} for P outside the sphere, and E_{in} for P inside the sphere)

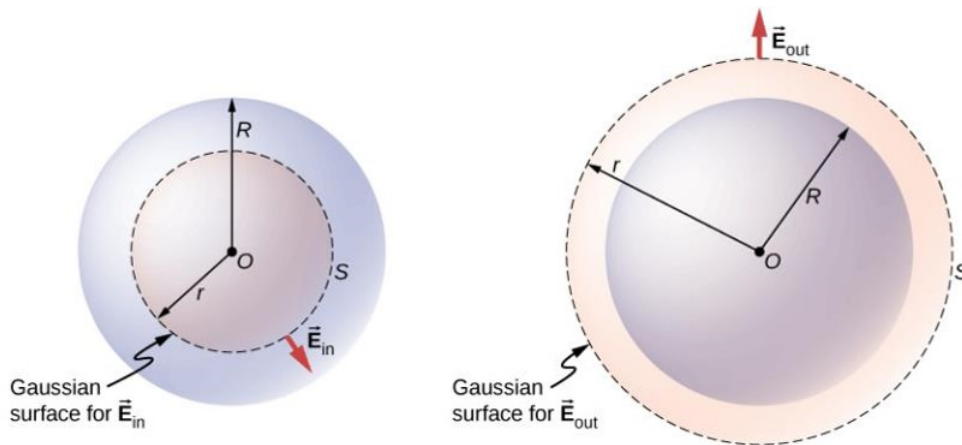


Figure 2.5: Outside and inside the sphere

$$E_{out} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q_{tot}}{r^2} \quad (2.18)$$

$$E_{in} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q_{(r < R)}}{r^2} \quad (2.19)$$

So, what is q_{enc} inside the sphere. Let's assume uniform distribution of charge ρ_o

$$q_{enc} = \int \rho_0 dV = \int_0^r \rho_0 4\pi r' dr' = \rho_0 \left(\frac{4}{3} \pi r^3 \right) \quad (2.20)$$

Therefore

$$E_{out} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q_{tot}}{r^2}, \text{ with: } q_{tot} = \frac{4}{3} \pi R^3 \rho_0 \quad (2.21)$$

$$E_{in} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q(r < R)}{r^2} = \frac{\rho_0 r}{3\epsilon_0}, \text{ since: } q(r < R) = \frac{4}{3}\pi r^3 \rho_0 \quad (2.22)$$

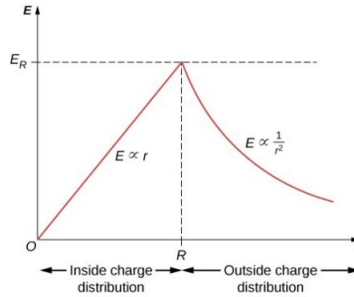


Figure 2.6: Electric Field of uniformly charged non-conducting sphere

Charge Distribution with Symmetric Cylinder

Charge distribution is considered cylindrical symmetric if the density of charge depends only on the distance r from the axis, and does not vary along or with direction of axis.

Consider an "infinitely¹ long" cylinder with cylindrical symmetric charge distribution.

$$\rho(r, \theta, z) = \rho(r) \quad (2.23)$$

$$\vec{E}_P = E_P(r) \hat{r} \quad (2.24)$$

¹In the real world, cylinders are not finite, but if the length $L \gg r$ then it can be approximated as infinitely long

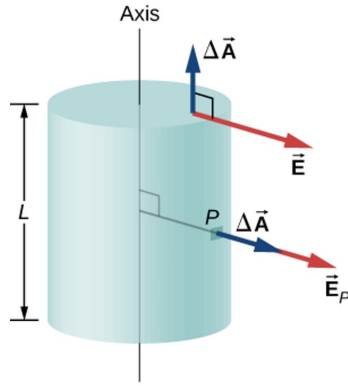


Figure 2.7: Cylindrically symmetric of length L

The electric field is perpendicular to the sides and parallel to the end caps.

The flux through the cylinder part is

$$\int_s \vec{E} \cdot \hat{n} dA = E \int_s dA = E(2\pi r L) \quad (2.25)$$

and the flux through the caps is zero, because

$$\vec{E} \cdot \hat{n} = 0 \quad (2.26)$$

The total flux is then

$$\int_s \vec{E} \cdot \hat{n} dA = 2\pi r L E + 0 + 0 = 2\pi r L E \quad (2.27)$$

Using Gauss's law and taking λ_{enc} to be the charge per unit length

$$q_{enc} = \lambda_{enc} L \quad (2.28)$$

$$\Phi = 2\pi r L E = \frac{q_{enc}}{\epsilon_0} \quad (2.29)$$

The magnitude of \vec{E}

$$E(r) = \frac{\lambda_{enc}}{2\pi\epsilon_0 r} \quad (2.30)$$

$$\lambda_{enc}L = \begin{cases} q_{tot}, & \text{if } r \geq R. \\ q_{(r < R)}, & \text{if } r < R. \end{cases} \quad (2.31)$$

What happens if it is a cylindrical shell vs a solid cylinder?

Consider surface charge density of σ .

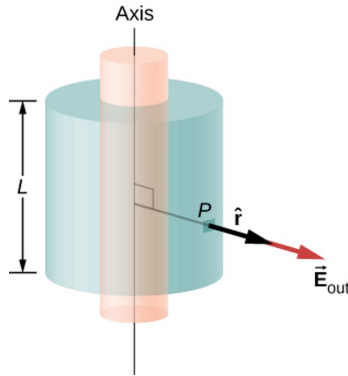


Figure 2.8: Gaussian surface around a cylindrical shell

$$\lambda_{enc} = \frac{\sigma 2\pi R L}{L} = 2\pi R \sigma \quad (2.32)$$

For point P outside of the shell $r \geq R$:

$$\vec{E} = \frac{2\pi R \sigma}{2\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{1}{r} \hat{r} = \frac{R\sigma}{\epsilon_0} \frac{1}{r} \hat{r} \quad (2.33)$$

For point P inside of the shell $r < R$:

$$\lambda_{enc} = 0 \quad (2.34)$$

so

$$\vec{E} = 0 \quad (2.35)$$

Planar Symmetry

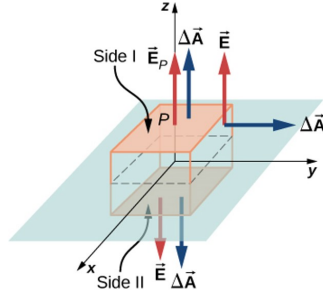


Figure 2.9: Thin Charged Sheet

Consider a large flat surface with uniform charge density. The charge density is the same at all points (x,y), so the electric field \vec{E} at point P only depends on the z-coordinate.

$$\vec{E} = E(z)\hat{z} \quad (2.36)$$

Note that $E(z) = E(-z)$ though the direction is opposite.

Let the electric field at point P be $E_P = E(z)$. If the charge is positive, the field lines point away from the sheet, so

$$\Phi = \oint_S \vec{E}_P \cdot \hat{n} dA = E_P A + E_P A + 0 + 0 + 0 + 0 = 2E_P A \quad (2.37)$$

The charge inside the gaussian box on the plane is

$$q_{enc} = \sigma A \quad (2.38)$$

Given Gauss's law ($\Phi = \frac{q_{enc}}{\epsilon_0}$) :

$$\frac{q_{enc}}{\epsilon_0} = \frac{\sigma A}{\epsilon_0} \quad (2.39)$$

$$E_P = \frac{\Phi}{2A} = \frac{\sigma}{2\epsilon_0} \quad (2.40)$$

$$\vec{E}_P = \frac{\sigma}{2\epsilon_0} \hat{n} \quad (2.41)$$

with $\hat{n} = +\hat{z}$ above the plane and $\hat{n} = -\hat{z}$ below the plane, and E_P doesn't depend on the distance above the plane for an infinite plane. Practically, this is a useful approximation for a finite plate near the center.

2.4 Conductors in Electrostatic Equilibrium

Moving from insulators to conductors. The electric field in conductors exerts a force on the free electrons (conduction electrons). As these electrons are not bound to an atom, they accelerate. However, moving charges are not static, so when electrostatic equilibrium is reached the charges are distributed in such a way that the electric field inside the conductor vanishes.

Electric Field inside a Conductor vanishes

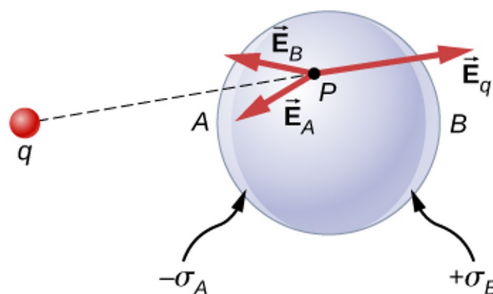


Figure 2.10: Metallic Sphere in presence of point charge

The redistribution of charges is such that

$$\vec{E}_P = \vec{E}_q + \vec{E}_A + \vec{E}_B = \vec{0} \quad (2.42)$$

for induced charge $-\sigma_A$ and $+\sigma_B$

There is no net charge enclosed by a Gaussian surface that is solely within the volume of a conductor at equilibrium. This gives us $q_{enc} = 0$ and

The redistribution of charges is such that

$$\vec{E}_{net} = \vec{0} \text{ at points inside a conductor} \quad (2.43)$$

Charge on a conductor

A consequence of a conductor in static equilibrium is that excess charge will end up on the outer surface of the conductor regardless of its origin.

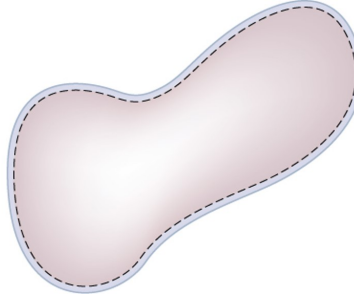


Figure 2.11: Gaussian surface just below conductor surface

Since $E = 0$ everywhere inside the conductor,

$$\oint_s \vec{E} \cdot \hat{n} dA = 0 \quad (2.44)$$

As the Gaussian surface lies infinitesimally below the actual surface, and there is no charge within the Gaussian surface, then all the excess charge must be on the surface.

Electric Field at the Surface of a Conductor

If the electric field had a component parallel to the surface of the conductor, then the charges would move, which violates the electrostatic equilibrium assumption. Therefore the field must be normal to the surface.

Just above the surface the magnitude of the electric field (E) and the surface charge density (σ) are related by

$$E = \frac{\sigma}{\epsilon_0} \quad (2.45)$$

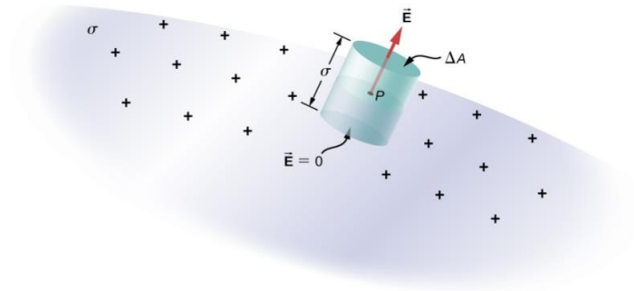


Figure 2.12: Field over the surface of a conductor

Consider an infinitesimally small cylinder on the surface of a conductor with one face inside the conductor and one face outside. The height is δ and the cross section ΔA .

Given that ΔA is infinitesimally small, the total charge in the cylinder is $\sigma \Delta A$.

The field is perpendicular to the surface, and thus the flux

$$\Phi = E \Delta A = \frac{\sigma \Delta A}{\epsilon_0} \quad (2.46)$$

yielding that charge right above the surface being given by:

$$E = \frac{\sigma}{\epsilon_0} \quad (2.47)$$

Electric Field of a Conducting Plate

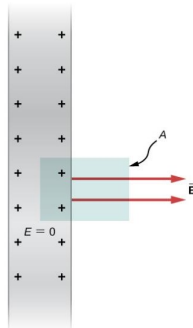


Figure 2.13: Conducting Plate

A conducting plate is similar to the thin conducting plate, however, with $E = 0$ inside the conductor,

$$\Phi = \oint_S \vec{E}_P \cdot \hat{n} dA = E_P A + 0 + 0 + 0 + 0 + 0 = E_P A \quad (2.48)$$

and thus

$$E = \frac{\sigma}{\epsilon_0} \quad (2.49)$$

Example: Parallel Plates

Now consider the electric field between two oppositely charged parallel plates.

If the surface charge density is $\sigma = 6.81 * 10^{-7} \frac{C}{m^2}$ and the distance between the plates is $l = 6.50mm$, what is the electric field?

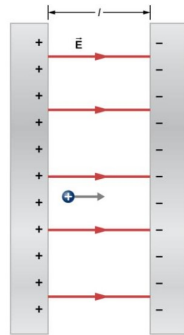


Figure 2.14: Between Conducting Plates

$$E = \frac{\sigma}{\epsilon_0} = \frac{6.81 * 10^{-7} \frac{C}{m^2}}{8.85 * 10^{-12} \frac{C^2}{N \cdot m^2}} = 7.69 * 10^4 \frac{N}{C} \quad (2.50)$$

Chapter 3

Module 3: Chapter 7 - Electric Potential

3.1 Electric Potential Energy

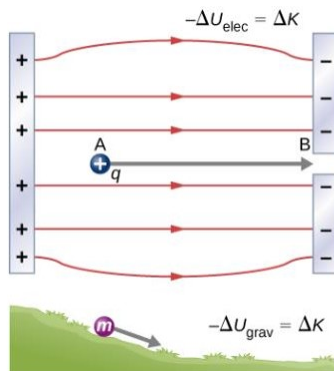


Figure 3.1: Charge and Mass in Gravity analogy

A charge accelerated by an electric field is analogous to a mass going down a hill. Thus, when a free charge is accelerated by an electric field it is also given kinetic energy. This kinetic energy exactly equals the decrease in potential energy.

The electrostatic (or Coulomb) force is conservative. This means the work done on charge q is independent of the path taken.

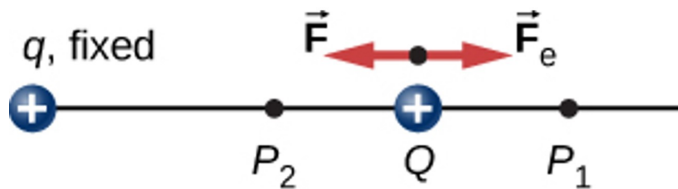


Figure 3.2: Displacement of "test" charge Q

Consider fixed charge $+q$ located at the origin. Push test charge $+Q$ towards $+q$ in such a way that the applied force \vec{F} exactly balances out the electric force \vec{F}_e .

In mechanics, $W = \text{mass} * \text{displacement}$; similarly, for the electric field, the work done moving charge $+Q$ from P1 to P2 is found by

$$W_{12} = \int_{P1}^{P2} \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{l} \quad (3.1)$$

Because \vec{F} balances out \vec{F}_e :

$$\vec{F} = -\vec{F}_e = -k \frac{qQ}{r^2} \hat{r} \quad (3.2)$$

Recalling Coulomb's constant: $k = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} = 8.99 * 10^9 \frac{N \cdot m^2}{C^2}$

Finally, let U denote Potential Energy in Joules ($J = N \cdot m$). Negative work mean gain in potential energy

$$\Delta U = -W \quad (3.3)$$

Because the electrostatic force is conservative, the work W is independent of the path taken. Consider

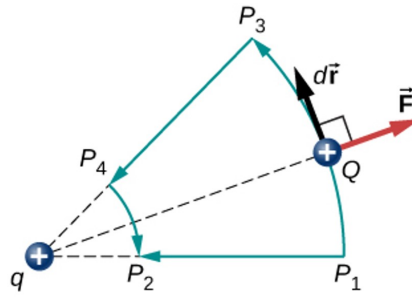


Figure 3.3: Work independent of path taken

The work on path P_1P_2 is equal to the work along path $P_1P_3P_4P_2$. And, in fact, the work on paths P_1P_3 and P_4P_2 are both zero as the $d\vec{r}$ is perpendicular to the electric field along these segments.

Example

How much work is required to assemble this charge configuration:

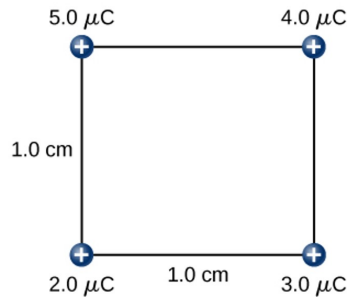


Figure 3.4: Work independent of path taken

1. Lower left: first bring this $2\mu C$ charge to the origin. This requires no work as there are no yet any other charges, and thus no electric field.
2. Lower right: bring $3\mu C$ charge to (x,y,z) coordinates (1 cm, 0, 0)

$$W_2 = k \frac{q_1 q_2}{r_{12}} = (9.0 \times 10^9 \frac{N \cdot m^2}{C^2}) \frac{(2 \times 10^{-6} C)(3 \times 10^{-6} C)}{1.0 \times 10^{-2} m} = 5.4 J \quad (3.4)$$

3. Upper right: $r_{23} = 1.0 cm$ and $r_{13} = \sqrt{2.0} cm$

$$W_3 = 15.9 J \quad (3.5)$$

4. Upper left: Similarly, $r_{14} = 1.0\text{cm}$, $r_{34} = 1.0\text{cm}$ and $r_{23} = \sqrt{2}\text{cm}$

$$W_4 = 36.5J \quad (3.6)$$

$$W_{total} = W_1 + W_2 + W_3 + W_4 = 0 + 5.4J + 15.9J + 36.5J = 57.8J \quad (3.7)$$

In general

$$W_{123\dots N} = \frac{1}{2}k \sum_i^N \sum_j^N \frac{q_i q_j}{r_{ij}} \text{ for } i \neq j \quad (3.8)$$

The $\frac{1}{2}$ accounts for each pairing being counted twice.

3.2 Electric Potential and Potential Difference

The electric field is independent of the test charge. Calculating W directly can be difficult as direction and magnitude of \vec{F} since $W = \vec{F} \cdot \vec{d}$ can be complex for multiple charges, odd shapes, and arbitrary paths. However, because we know $\vec{F} = q\vec{E}$ that the work and hence ΔU is proportional to the test charge q .

To have a physical quantity independent of the test charge, we define electric potential (V):

$$V = \frac{U}{q} \quad (3.9)$$

Since $U \propto q$, then V is independent of q . And, we have

$$\Delta V = V_A - V_B = \frac{\Delta U}{q} \quad (3.10)$$

or

$$\Delta U = q\Delta V \quad (3.11)$$

The units for potential difference ΔV are Joules per Coulomb, which is referred to as a Volt¹. Whenever voltage is noted, it is understood to be the potential difference between two points.

Another fundamental constant is that over the electron volt (eV) which is the energy given to the fundamental charge accelerated through a potential difference of 1 volt.

$$1eV = (1.60 * 10^{-19}C)(1V) = (1.60 * 10^{-19}C)(1\frac{J}{C}) = 1.60 * 10^{-19}J \quad (3.12)$$

Due to conservation of energy

$$K + U = \text{constant} \quad (3.13)$$

where K is the Kinetic Energy and U is the Potential Energy

or

$$K_i + U_i = K_f + U_f \quad (3.14)$$

Example

Calculate the speed of an electron accelerated through 100V

$$K_i = 0, U_i = qV \quad (3.15)$$

$$K_f = \frac{1}{2}mv^2, U_f = 0 \quad (3.16)$$

Thus

$$qV = \frac{1}{2}mv^2 \quad (3.17)$$

¹The volt was named after Alessandro Volta

$$v = \sqrt{\frac{2qV}{m}} \quad (3.18)$$

$$v = \sqrt{\frac{2(-1.6 * 10^{-19}C)(-100 \frac{J}{C})}{9.11 * 10^{-31}kg}} \quad (3.19)$$

$$v = 5.93 * 10^6 \frac{m}{s} \quad (3.20)$$

Voltage and the Electric Field

Returning to the general formula for the potential energy of a point charge q at Point P relative to a reference Point R.

$$U_P = - \int_R^P \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{I} \quad (3.21)$$

given that $\vec{F} = q\vec{E}$:

$$U_P = -q \int_R^P \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{I} \quad (3.22)$$

as we defined $V = \frac{U}{q}$:

$$V_P = - \int_R^P \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{I} \quad (3.23)$$

From conservation of energy, the result is independent of the path chosen, so we can pick the path that is most convenient.

Special Case

Consider the special case with a positive charge at the origin. To calculate the potential at a point r relative to a potential of 0 at infinity. Let $P = r$, $R = \infty$, $d\vec{I} = d\vec{r} = \hat{r}dr$.

Using $\vec{E} = k\frac{q}{r^2}\hat{r}$:

$$V_r = - \int_{\infty}^r k\frac{q}{r^2}\hat{r} \cdot \hat{r} dr \quad (3.24)$$

$$V_r = - \int_{\infty}^r k\frac{q}{r^2} dr \quad (3.25)$$

$$V_r = k\frac{q}{r} \Big|_{\infty}^r = k\left(\frac{q}{r} - \frac{q}{\infty}\right) \quad (3.26)$$

$$V_r = k\frac{q}{r} \quad (3.27)$$

Let's calculate the potential difference between two points equidistant for the reference point.

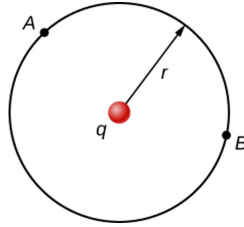


Figure 3.5: Potential difference between two equidistant points

$$\Delta V_{AB} = V_B - V_A = - \int_A^B \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{I} \quad (3.28)$$

$$\Delta V_{AB} = - \int_A^B \frac{kq}{r^2} \hat{r} \cdot r \hat{\phi} d\phi \quad (3.29)$$

as $\hat{r} \cdot \hat{\phi} = 0$:

$$\Delta V_{AB} = 0 \quad (3.30)$$

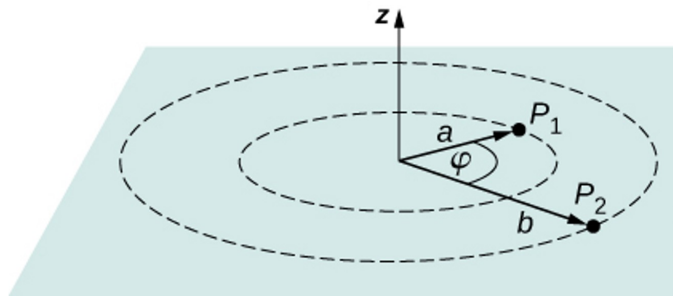


Figure 3.6: Potential difference between two points

3.3 Calculations of Electric Potential

- From a Point Charge

$$V = \frac{kq}{r} \quad (3.31)$$

- From multiple Point Charges

$$V = k \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{q_i}{r_i} \quad (3.32)$$

- From a continuous charge

$$V = k \int \frac{dq}{r} \quad (3.33)$$

where

$$dq = \begin{cases} \lambda dl & (\text{in one dimension}) \\ \sigma dA & (\text{in two dimensions}) \\ \rho dV & (\text{in three dimensions}) \end{cases} \quad (3.34)$$

Potential due to a ring

Consider a disk with uniform charge density λ (Coulombs per meter arc length). Let's find the electric potential at a point on the axis passing through the center of the ring.

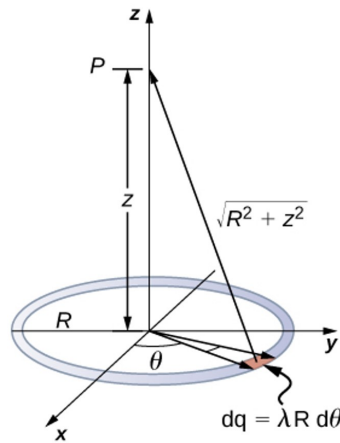


Figure 3.7: Ring of charge

The strategy is to divide the ring into infinitesimal elements shaped as arcs on the circle and to utility cylindrical coordinate system.

The element between angles θ and $\theta + d\theta$ is of length $Rd\theta$. It therefore contains charge $\lambda Rd\theta$. The element is at distance $\sqrt{z^2 + R^2}$ from point P. Therefore:

$$V_P = k \int \frac{dq}{r} = k \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{\lambda R d\theta}{\sqrt{z^2 + R^2}} = \frac{k\lambda R}{\sqrt{z^2 + R^2}} \int_0^{2\pi} d\theta \quad (3.35)$$

$$= \frac{k\lambda R}{\sqrt{z^2 + R^2}} \theta \Big|_0^{2\pi} = \frac{2\pi k\lambda R}{\sqrt{z^2 + R^2}} = k \frac{q_{tot}}{\sqrt{z^2 + R^2}} \quad (3.36)$$

Potential due to a disk

Consider a disk with uniform charge density σ (Coulombs per meter squared). Let's find the electric potential at a point on the axis passing through the center of the disk.

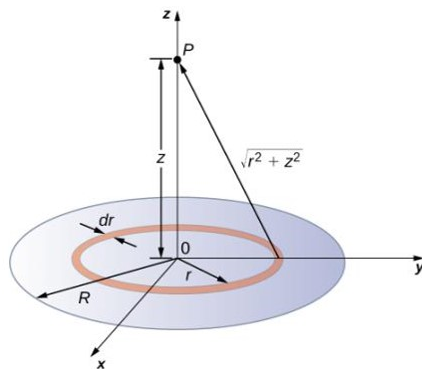


Figure 3.8: Disk of charge

The strategy is to divide the disk into ring-shaped elements, then taking the previous result integrate over r as well as θ .

The infinitesimal width ring elements between cylinder r and $r + dr$ will be a ring of charges whose electric potential dV_P at the field point is that is

$$dV_P = k \frac{dq}{\sqrt{z^2 + R^2}} \quad (3.37)$$

where

$$dq = \sigma 2\pi r dr \quad (3.38)$$

Integrating from $r = 0$ to $r = R$

$$V_P = \int dV_P = k2\pi\sigma \int_0^R \frac{r dr}{\sqrt{z^2 + r^2}} \quad (3.39)$$

$$= k2\pi\sigma \sqrt{z^2 + r^2} \Big|_0^R = k2\pi\sigma (\sqrt{z^2 + R^2} - \sqrt{z^2}) \quad (3.40)$$

3.4 Determining Field From Potential

Recall that

$$U = V_B - V_A = \int_A^B \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s} \quad (3.41)$$

The electric field can be calculated by taking the derivative of U

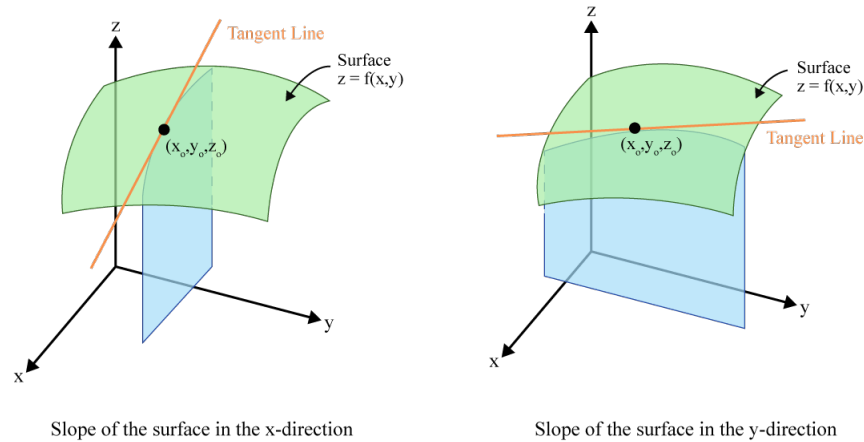
For a uniform electric field

$$E = -\frac{\Delta V}{\Delta s} \quad (3.42)$$

where Δs is the distance over which the change in potential ΔV takes place.

For a continuously changing field, ΔV and Δs become infinitesimally small giving

$$E_s = -\frac{dV}{ds} \quad (3.43)$$



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Figure 3.9: Partial Derivatives

Using Partial Derivatives, the electric field components in the Cartesian directions are given by

$$E_x = -\frac{\delta V}{\delta x}, E_y = -\frac{\delta V}{\delta y}, E_z = -\frac{\delta V}{\delta z} \quad (3.44)$$

Introducing the Gradient (grad) or Delta (del) vector operator:

$$\vec{\nabla} = \hat{i} \frac{\delta}{\delta x} + \hat{j} \frac{\delta}{\delta y} + \hat{k} \frac{\delta}{\delta z} \quad (3.45)$$

and thus

$$\vec{E} = -\vec{\nabla}V \quad (3.46)$$

For symmetric systems

- Cylindrical:

$$\vec{\nabla} = \hat{r} \frac{\delta}{\delta r} + \hat{\phi} \frac{1}{r} \frac{\delta}{\delta \phi} + \hat{z} \frac{\delta}{\delta z} \quad (3.47)$$

- Spherical:

$$\vec{\nabla} = \hat{r} \frac{\delta}{\delta r} + \hat{\theta} \frac{1}{r} \frac{\delta}{\delta \theta} + \hat{\phi} \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\delta}{\delta \phi} \quad (3.48)$$

Example

Electric Field of a point charge

$$V = k \frac{q}{r} \text{ (spherically symmetric)} \quad (3.49)$$

$$\vec{E} = -\vec{\nabla}V \quad (3.50)$$

$$\vec{E} = -\left(\hat{r} \frac{\delta}{\delta r} + \hat{\theta} \frac{1}{r} \frac{\delta}{\delta \theta} + \hat{\phi} \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\delta}{\delta \phi}\right) k \frac{q}{r} \quad (3.51)$$

$$\vec{E} = -kq \left(\hat{r} \frac{\delta}{\delta r} \left(\frac{1}{r} \right) + \hat{\theta} \frac{1}{r} \frac{\delta}{\delta \theta} \left(\frac{1}{r} \right) + \hat{\phi} \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\delta}{\delta \phi} \left(\frac{1}{r} \right) \right) \quad (3.52)$$

$$\vec{E} = -kq \left(\hat{r} \left(\frac{-1}{r^2} \right) + \hat{\theta}(0) + \hat{\phi}(0) \right) \quad (3.53)$$

$$\vec{E} = +\frac{kq}{r^2}\hat{r} \quad (3.54)$$

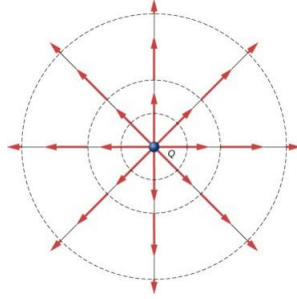


Figure 3.10: Electric Field from Point Charge

Electric Field from Ring of Charge

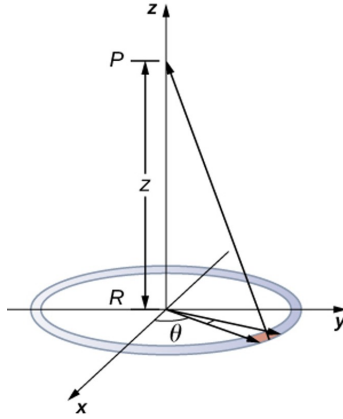


Figure 3.11: Electric Field from Ring Of Charge

$$E_z = -\frac{\delta V}{\delta z} \text{ with } V = k\frac{kq_{tot}}{\sqrt{z^2 + R^2}} \quad (3.55)$$

$$E_z = -\frac{\delta}{\delta z}\left(k\frac{kq_{tot}}{\sqrt{z^2 + R^2}}\right) \quad (3.56)$$

Given that

$$\frac{\delta}{\delta z}\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{z^2 + R^2}}\right) = \frac{\delta}{\delta z}(z^2 + R^2)^{-\frac{1}{2}} = -\frac{1}{2}(z^2 + R^2)^{-\frac{3}{2}}(2z) \quad (3.57)$$

We get

$$E_z = +k \frac{kq_{tot}z}{(z^2 + R^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}} \quad (3.58)$$

3.5 Electropotential Surfaces and Conductors

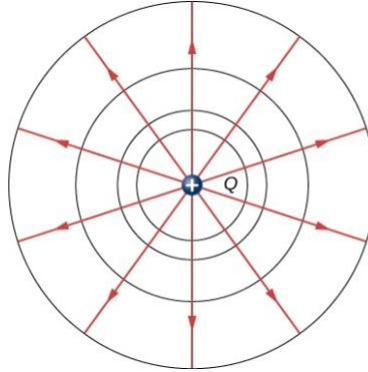


Figure 3.12: Red: Field Lines, Blue: Equipotential Lines

Equipotential Lines are always perpendicular to the electric field lines since along them $\Delta V = 0$.

$$W = -\Delta U = -q\Delta V = 0 \quad (3.59)$$

Work is zero when the direction of the force is perpendicular to displacement.

$$W = \vec{F} \cdot \vec{d} = q\vec{E} \cdot \vec{d} = qEd \cos \theta \text{ for } \theta = 90^\circ \text{ or } 270^\circ \quad (3.60)$$

Conductors

- One of the rules for static electric fields and conductors is that the \vec{E} is perpendicular (\perp) to the surface.
- This implies that a conductor is an equipotential surface in static situations. There can be no voltage difference across the surface of a conductor, or charges will flow.

- One of the uses of this fact is that a conductor can be fixed at what we consider zero volts by connecting it to the earth with a good conductor — a process called grounding.

Because a conductor is an equipotential, it can replace any equipotential surface. For example, a charged spherical conductor can replace the point charge, and the electric field and potential surfaces outside of it will be unchanged, confirming the contention that a spherical charge distribution is equivalent to a point charge at its center.

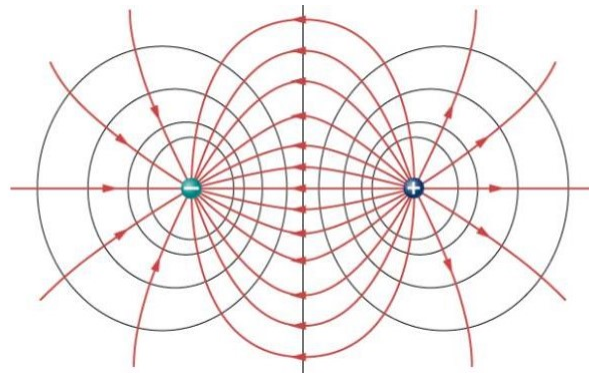


Figure 3.13: Potential lines, two opposite charges

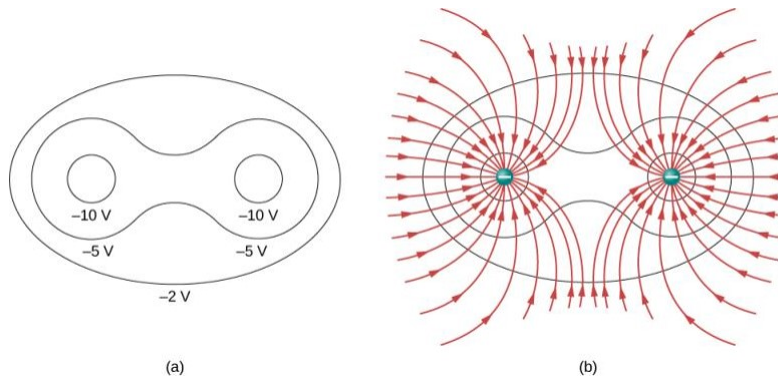


Figure 3.14: Equipotential lines (as might be measured by a voltmeter) and corresponding electric field

One of the most important cases is that of the familiar parallel conducting plates. Between the plates, the equipotentials are evenly spaced and parallel. The same field could be maintained by placing conducting plates at the equipotential lines at the potentials shown.

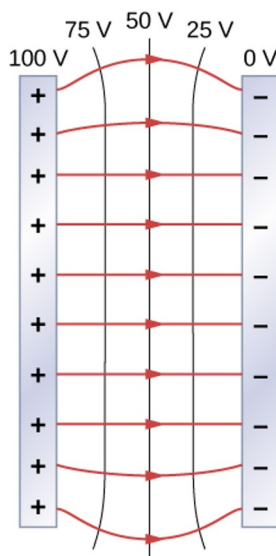


Figure 3.15: Two parallel plates - \vec{E} and equipotential lines

Examples

Consider Figure 3.12 with $Q = +10nC$ at the Origin. What are the equipotential surfaces at which the potential is:

- (a) 100V
- (b) 50V
- (c) 20V
- (d) 10V

For $V = k\frac{q}{r}$, V is a constant. Thus, $r = k\frac{q}{V}$.

- (a) 100V: $r = k\frac{q}{V} = (8.99 * 10^9 \frac{Nm^2}{C^2}) \frac{10*10^{-9}C}{100V} = 0.90m$
- (b) 50V $r = 1.8m$
- (c) 20V $r = 4.5m$
- (d) 10V $r = 9.0m$

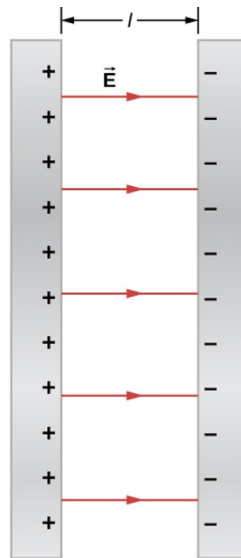


Figure 3.16: Oppositely charged parallel plates

Two large conducting plates carry equal and opposite charges, with a surface charge density $\sigma = 6.81 * 10^{-7} \frac{C}{m^2}$ of magnitude as shown in Figure 3.16. The separation between the plates is $l = 6.5mm$

- What is the electric field between the plates?
- What is the potential difference between the plates?
- What is the distance between equipotential planes which differ by 100 V?

Assume the size of the plates (L) is much larger than the distance l .

$$\Delta V_{AB} = - \int_A^B \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{l} \quad (3.61)$$

- Electric Field is directed from +plate to the -plate with magnitude

$$E = \frac{\sigma}{\epsilon_0} = \frac{6.81 * 10^{-7} \frac{C}{m^2}}{8.85 * 10^{-12} \frac{C^2}{Nm^2}} = 7.69 * 10^4 \frac{V}{m} \quad (3.62)$$

- The path from -plate to +plate is directed against \vec{E}

$$\vec{E} = d\vec{l} = -E \cdot dl \quad (3.63)$$

$$\Delta V = \int E \cdot dl = E \int dl = El = (7.69 * 10^4 \frac{V}{m})(6.5 * 10^{-3}m) = 500V \quad (3.64)$$

(c) Uniform electric field

$$\frac{500V}{6.5 * 10^{-3}m} = \frac{100V}{x} \quad (3.65)$$

$$x = 1.3 * 10^{-3}m \quad (3.66)$$

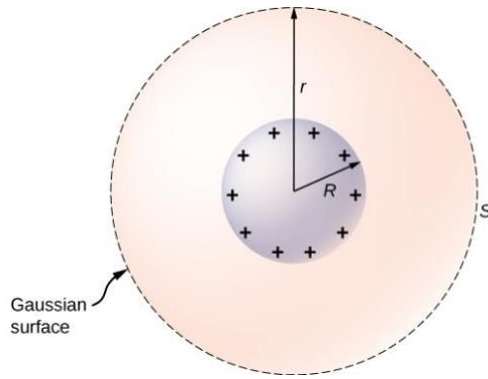


Figure 3.17: An isolated conducting sphere

$$\vec{E} = E(r)\hat{r} \quad (3.67)$$

Applying Gauss's Law over a closed surface s of radius r . As $r = \text{a constant}$, $\hat{r} = \hat{n}$ on the surface of the sphere.

$$\oint_s \vec{E} \cdot \hat{n} = E(r) \oint_s da = E(r)4\pi r^2 \quad (3.68)$$

For $r < R$: s is inside the conductor.

Magnitude

$$E(r) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q_{enc}}{r^2} \quad (3.69)$$

$$q_{enc} = 0 \Rightarrow E(r) = 0 \quad (3.70)$$

For $r \geq R$: s encloses the conductor so $q_{enc} = q$

$$E(r) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q}{r^2} \quad (3.71)$$

Electric Field

$$\vec{E} = \begin{cases} 0 & (r < R) \\ \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q}{r^2} \hat{r} & (r \geq R) \end{cases} \quad (3.72)$$

Potential

- For $r < R$, $E = 0 \Rightarrow V(r)$ is constant, since $V(R) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q}{R}$
- For $r \geq R$, potential is the same as a point charge: $V(R) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q}{r}$

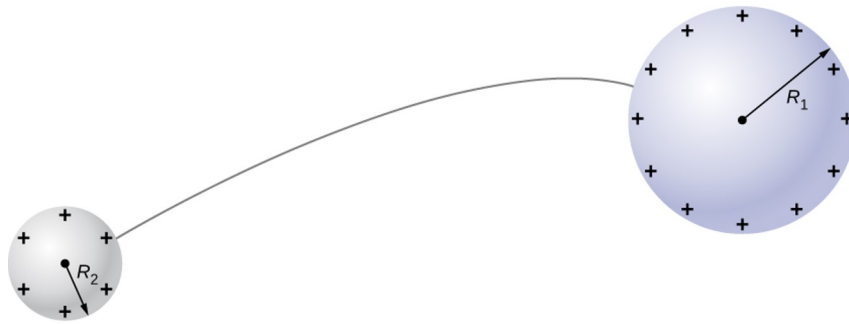


Figure 3.18: Two different radii

Now consider two conducting spheres of radii R_1 and R_2 connected by a thin conducting wire as shown in Figure 3.18

$$V = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q}{R} \quad (3.73)$$

Given that because of the conducting wire $V_1 = V_2$

$$\frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q_1}{R_1} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q_2}{R_2} \quad (3.74)$$

$$\frac{q_1}{R_1} = \frac{q_2}{R_2} \quad (3.75)$$

Charge surface density σ :

$$q = \sigma(4\pi R^2) \quad (3.76)$$

Substituting in for q_1 and q_2 and simplifying

$$\sigma_1 R_1 = \sigma_2 R_2 \quad (3.77)$$

Different Radii of Curvature on the same object

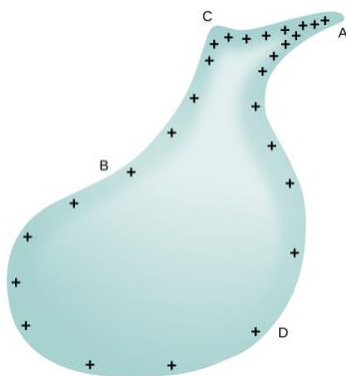


Figure 3.19: Radius of Curvature

Different Radii of Curvature on the same object

- Large Radius of Curvature $\Rightarrow \sigma$ and E are small
- Point $\Rightarrow \sigma$ and E are extremely large

Lightning Rod

On a very sharply curved surface, such as shown in 3.20, the charges are so concentrated at the point that the resulting electric field can be great enough to remove them from the surface. This can be useful.

Lightning rods work best when they are most pointed. The large charges created in storm clouds induce an opposite charge on a building that can result in a lightning

bolt hitting the building. The induced charge is bled away continually by a lightning rod, preventing the more dramatic lightning strike.

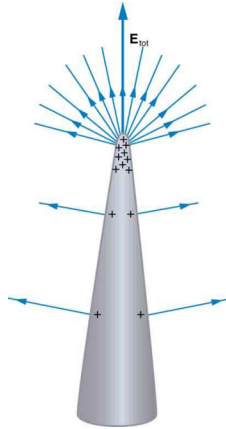


Figure 3.20: Lightning Rod

Chapter 4

Module 4 - Chapter 8 Capacitance

4.1 Capacitors and Capacitance

A capacitor is a device used to store electrical charge and electrical energy. Capacitors are generally with two electrical conductors separated by a distance. The space is usually filled with an insulating material known as a dielectric. The amount of storage in a capacitor is referred to as its capacitance.

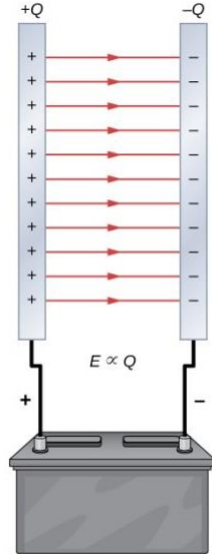


Figure 4.1: Parallel Plate Capacitor

$$C = \frac{Q}{V} \tag{4.1}$$

Capacitance is measured in the Farad¹ (F). One farad is one coulomb per volt:
 $1F = \frac{1C}{1V}$.

Calculation of Capacitance

1. Assume that the capacitor has charge Q
2. Determine the electric field \vec{E}
3. Find the potential between the conductors from

$$V_B - V_A = - \int_A^B \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{l} \quad (4.2)$$

which leads to magnitude of the potential difference being $V = |V_B - V_A|$.

4. Find C from Equation 4.1

Parallel Plate Capacitor

Consider a parallel plate capacitor with each plate of area A separated by distance d . Assume when voltage V is applied, it stores charge Q .

Define the surface charge density σ as

$$\sigma = \frac{Q}{A} \quad (4.3)$$

When d is small compared to the size of the plates, the electric field between the plates is fairly uniform, with a magnitude give by:

$$E = \frac{\sigma}{\epsilon_0} \quad (4.4)$$

Since the electric field \vec{E} between the plates is uniform

$$V = Ed = \frac{\sigma d}{\epsilon_0} = \frac{Qd}{\epsilon_0 A} \quad (4.5)$$

From Equation 4.1:

$$C = \frac{Q}{V} = \frac{Q}{\frac{Qd}{\epsilon_0 A}} = \epsilon_0 \frac{A}{d} \quad (4.6)$$

¹Named after Michael Faraday

Cylindrical Capacitor

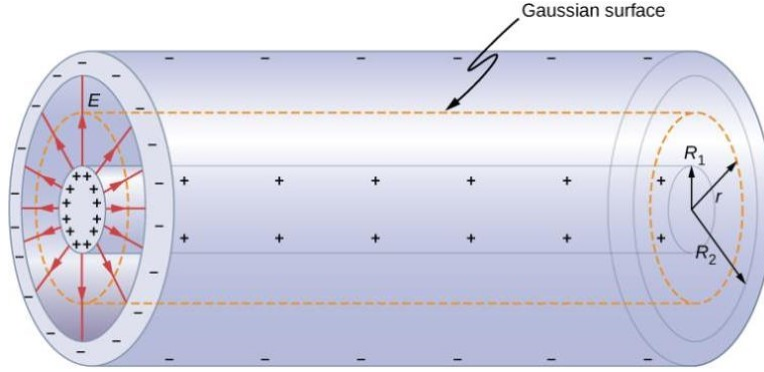


Figure 4.2: Cylindrical Capacitor

Consider the cylindrical capacitor with the inner cylinder (either solid or shell) of outer radius r_1 and out cylinder of inner radius r_2 . Assume the length is l and the excess charges $+Q$ and $-Q$ are on the inner and outer cylinders, respectively.

Ignoring the edge effect, the electric field \vec{E} radiates out radially from the common axis of the two cylinders. Using the Gaussian Surface shown in Figure 4.2, yields

$$\oint_S \vec{E} \cdot \vec{n} dA = E(2\pi r l) = \frac{Q}{\epsilon_0} \quad (4.7)$$

Therefore, the field between the two cylinders is

$$\vec{E} = \frac{1}{2\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{Q}{r l} \hat{r} \quad (4.8)$$

Substituting into Equation 4.2:

$$V = \int_{R_1}^{R_2} \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{l} = \frac{Q}{2\pi\epsilon_0 l} \int_{R_1}^{R_2} \frac{1}{r} \hat{r} \cdot (\hat{r} dr) = \frac{Q}{2\pi\epsilon_0 l} \int_{R_1}^{R_2} \frac{dr}{r} \quad (4.9)$$

$$= \frac{Q}{2\pi\epsilon_0 l} \ln(r) \Big|_{R_1}^{R_2} = \frac{Q}{2\pi\epsilon_0 l} \ln\left(\frac{R_2}{R_1}\right) \quad (4.10)$$

Thus

$$C = \frac{Q}{V} = \frac{2\pi\epsilon_0 l}{\ln\left(\frac{R_2}{R_1}\right)} \quad (4.11)$$

This is sometimes expressed at capacitance per unit length

$$\frac{C}{l} = \frac{2\pi\epsilon_0}{\ln\left(\frac{R_2}{R_1}\right)} \quad (4.12)$$

4.2 Capacitors in Series and Parallel

Capacitors in Series

When a series of capacitors are hooked up to a direct current voltage source (e.g., a battery) each acquires an identical charge Q .

- The plate connected to the positive terminal acquires a charge Q . And, the plate connected to the negative terminal acquires a charge $-Q$.
- A charge is then induced on each of the other plates so that the sum of the charge on all plates or on any pair of plates is zero.
- However, the potential drop on one pair of plates ($V_1 = \frac{Q}{C_1}$) may be different from a the drop across another pair of plates ($V_2 = \frac{Q}{C_2}$)

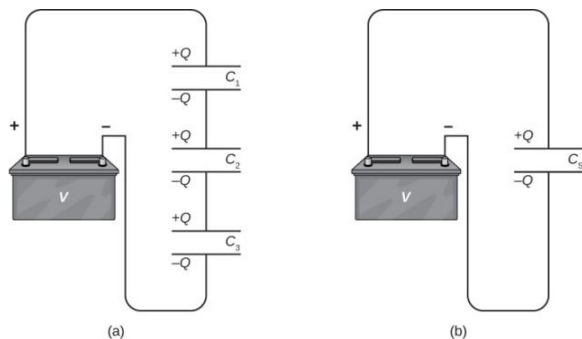


Figure 4.3: Capacitors in Series

The potentials must sum to the potential of the battery:

$$V = V_1 + V_2 + V_3 \quad (4.13)$$

The potential V is measured across a equivalent capacity holding charge Q , which is said to have an equivalent capacitance C_{EQ} . Leading to:

$$\frac{Q}{C_{EQ}} = \frac{Q}{C_1} + \frac{Q}{C_2} + \frac{Q}{C_3} \quad (4.14)$$

Thus:

$$\frac{1}{C_{EQ}} = \frac{1}{C_1} + \frac{1}{C_2} + \frac{1}{C_3} \quad (4.15)$$

Capacitors in Parallel

If, instead, the three capacitors are connected in parallel, they will have the same voltage across each pair of plates

$$V = V_1 = V_2 = V_3 \quad (4.16)$$

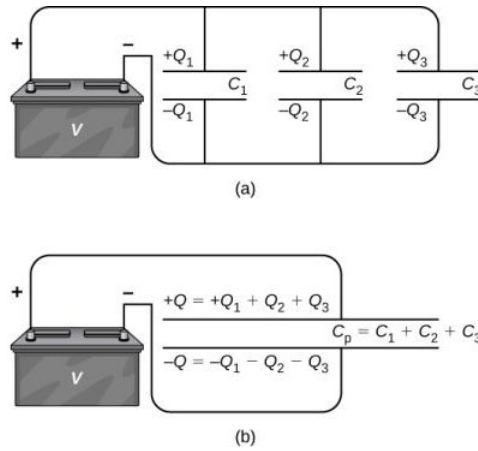


Figure 4.4: Capacitors in Parallel

The total charge stored across the plates Q is the equivalent of the sum of the charges on each plate

$$Q = Q_1 + Q_2 + Q_3 \quad (4.17)$$

Given that $Q = C * V$:

$$C_{EQ}V = C_1V + C_2V + C_3V \quad (4.18)$$

And, thus:

$$C_{EQ} = C_1 + C_2 + C_3 \quad (4.19)$$

Capacitors in Series and Parallel

Consider the below with $C_1 = 1.0pF$, $C_2 = 2.0pF$, $C_3 = 4.0pF$, and $C_4 = 5.0pF$. Assume the voltage potential across each circuit is $12.0V$:

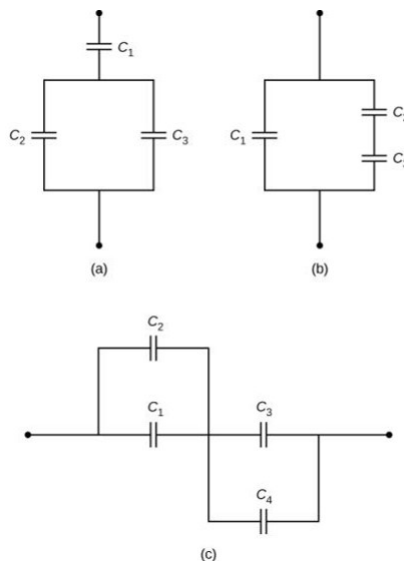


Figure 4.5: Capacitors in Series and Parallel

Energy Stored in a Capacitor

The energy U_C stored in a capacitor is electrostatic potential energy and is therefore related to the charge Q and the voltage V . The charged capacity stores energy in the electric field between the two plates.

The space between the plates has a volume Ad , where A is the area of the plates, and d is the distance between them. The energy density u_E is simply the total energy divided by the volume

$$U_C = u_E(Ad) \quad (4.20)$$

We will learn later (when we complete Maxwell's equations) that the energy density of free-space occupied by an electric field E only depends on the magnitude of the field

$$u_E = \frac{1}{2}\epsilon_0 E^2 \quad (4.21)$$

Thus

$$U_C = \frac{1}{2}\epsilon_0 E^2 Ad = \frac{1}{2}\epsilon_0 \frac{V^2}{d^2} Ad = \frac{1}{2}V^2\epsilon_0 \frac{A}{d} = \frac{1}{2}V^2C \quad (4.22)$$

Because $C = \frac{Q}{V}$:

$$U_C = \frac{1}{2}V^2C = \frac{1}{2}\frac{Q^2}{C} = \frac{1}{2}QV \quad (4.23)$$

This expression for a parallel plate capacitor is generally valid for all types of capacitors. Consider an uncharged capacitor. At the instance that it is connected to the battery, the potential difference is between the the plates is $V = q/C$.

Initially

$$q = 0 \quad (4.24)$$

Gradually charge builds up on the plates. And, after some time it reaches the value $Q = CV$.

To move an infinitesimal charge dQ from the negative plate to the positive plate (from lower to higher potential) the amount of work dW that must be done on dq is

$$dW = VdQ = \frac{q}{C}dq \quad (4.25)$$

The work becomes the energy stored in the capacitor

$$W = \int_0^{W(Q)} dW = \int_0^Q \frac{q}{C}dq = \frac{1}{2}\frac{Q^2}{C} \quad (4.26)$$

As the geometry has not be specified, this is applicable to any type of capacitor. The total work W needed to charge a capacitor is the electrical potential energy, thus

$$U_E = W = \frac{1}{2}\frac{Q^2}{C} \quad (4.27)$$

which matches Equation 4.23.

Capacitor with a Dielectric

Appendix A

Integration by Trig Substitution

Find the integral of

$$\int \frac{1}{(a^2 + x^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}} \quad (\text{A.1})$$

Integrate by trig substitution by setting $x = a \tan u$ which leads to

$$\frac{dx}{du} = \frac{a \tan u}{du} = \frac{a}{\cos^2 u} \quad (\text{A.2})$$

Which leads to

$$dx = \left(\frac{a}{\cos^2 u}\right) du \quad (\text{A.3})$$

Thus

$$\int \frac{1}{(a^2 + x^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}} = \int \frac{1}{(a^2 + (a \tan(u))^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}} \left(\frac{a}{\cos^2(u)}\right) du \quad (\text{A.4})$$

$$= \int \frac{1}{(a^2)^{\frac{3}{2}} (1 + \tan^2(u))^{\frac{3}{2}}} \left(\frac{a}{\cos^2(u)}\right) du \quad (\text{A.5})$$

$$= \int \frac{1}{(a^3) \left(\frac{1}{\cos^2(u)}\right)^{\frac{3}{2}}} \left(\frac{a}{\cos^2(u)}\right) du \quad (\text{A.6})$$

$$= \frac{1}{a^2} \int \frac{1}{\left(\frac{1}{\cos^2(u)}\right)^{\frac{3}{2}}} \left(\frac{1}{\cos^2(u)}\right) du \quad (\text{A.7})$$

$$= \frac{1}{a^2} \int \frac{1}{\left(\frac{1}{\cos^3(u)}\right)} \left(\frac{1}{\cos^2(u)}\right) du \quad (\text{A.8})$$

$$= \frac{1}{a^2} \int \cos(u) du \quad (\text{A.9})$$

$$= \frac{1}{a^2} \sin(u) + C \quad (\text{A.10})$$

From the above $\arctan\left(\frac{x}{a}\right) = u$ so

$$= \frac{1}{a^2} \sin\left(\arctan\left(\frac{x}{a}\right)\right) + C \quad (\text{A.11})$$

$$= \frac{1}{a^2} \left[\frac{\frac{x}{a}}{\sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{x}{a}\right)^2}} \right] + C \quad (\text{A.12})$$

$$= \frac{x}{a^3} \left[\frac{1}{\frac{1}{a} \sqrt{a^2 + x^2}} \right] + C \quad (\text{A.13})$$

Which finally leads to

$$\int \frac{1}{(a^2 + x^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}} = \frac{x}{a^2} \left[\frac{1}{\sqrt{a^2 + x^2}} \right] + C \quad (\text{A.14})$$

Appendix B

Chain Rule

$$\frac{d}{dx}\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{x^2 + R^2}}\right) = \frac{d}{dx}(x^2 + R^2)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \quad (\text{B.1})$$

The chain rule $f(g(x))' = f'(g(x)) \cdot g'(x)$. In this case $g(x) = x^2 + R^2$. From this

$$f(g(x)) = g(x)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \quad (\text{B.2})$$

thus

$$f'(g(x)) = -\frac{1}{2}g(x)^{-\frac{3}{2}} \quad (\text{B.3})$$

and

$$g'(x) = 2x \quad (\text{B.4})$$

Thus

$$f(g(x))' = -\frac{1}{2}g(x)^{-\frac{3}{2}} \cdot 2x \quad (\text{B.5})$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{x^2 + R^2}}\right) = \frac{-x}{(x^2 + R^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}} \quad (\text{B.6})$$