



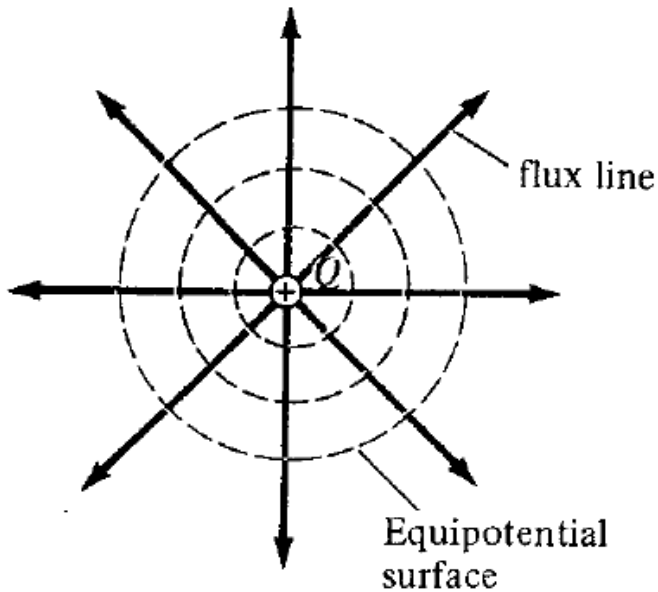
Dr. Gregory J. Mazzaro
Spring 2015

ELEC 318 – *Electromagnetic Fields*

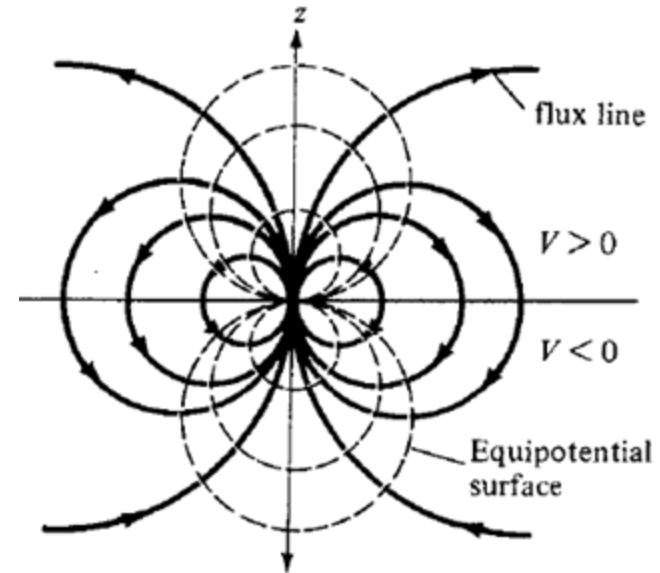
Lecture 4(f)

The Image Method

Equipotential Surfaces



(point charge)



(dipole, charges very close together, along z axis)

equipotential surfaces

- contours that trace out constant V (equal potential everywhere along the surface)
- always run *perpendicular to electric flux lines*
(because \mathbf{E} is always in the direction of a voltage *change*)

The Image Method

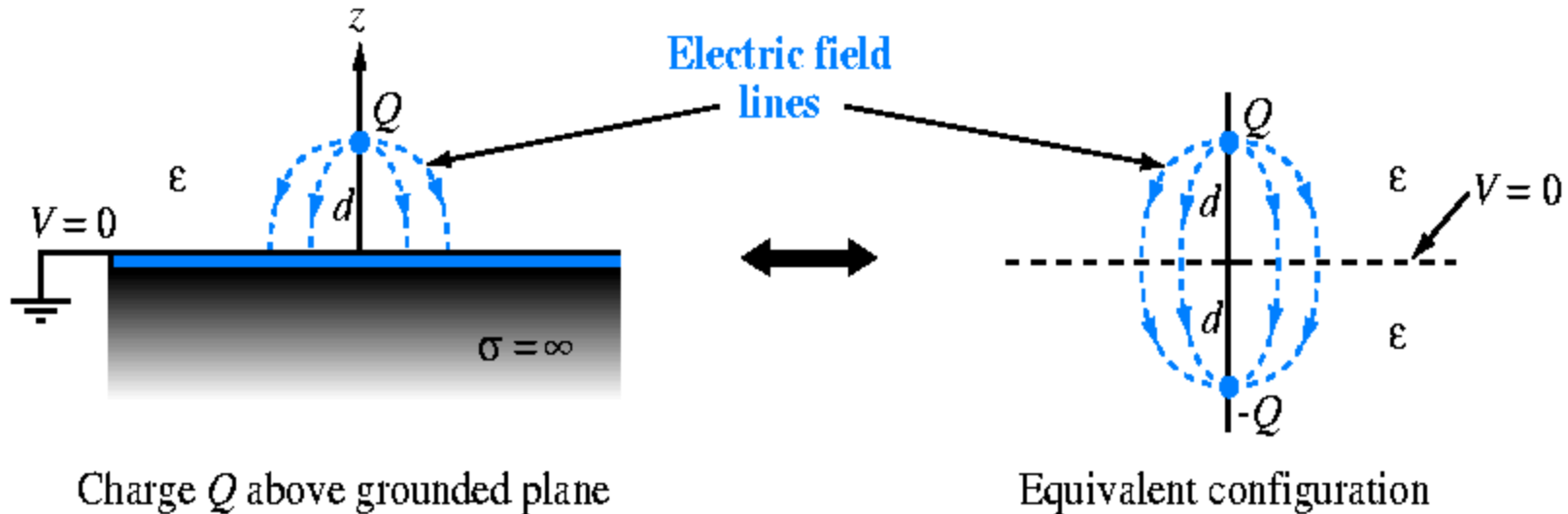


image theory

- method of an analysis for charges near infinite ground planes
- How-To:
 - (1) replace the ground plane by *image charges* that produce the same equipotential surfaces outside the ground plane
 - (2) perform Coulomb's Law, etc. using the new configuration
- a very accurate approximation for common conductor/circuit geometries:
 - e.g. printed circuit boards, power lines, antennas near ground

The Image Method

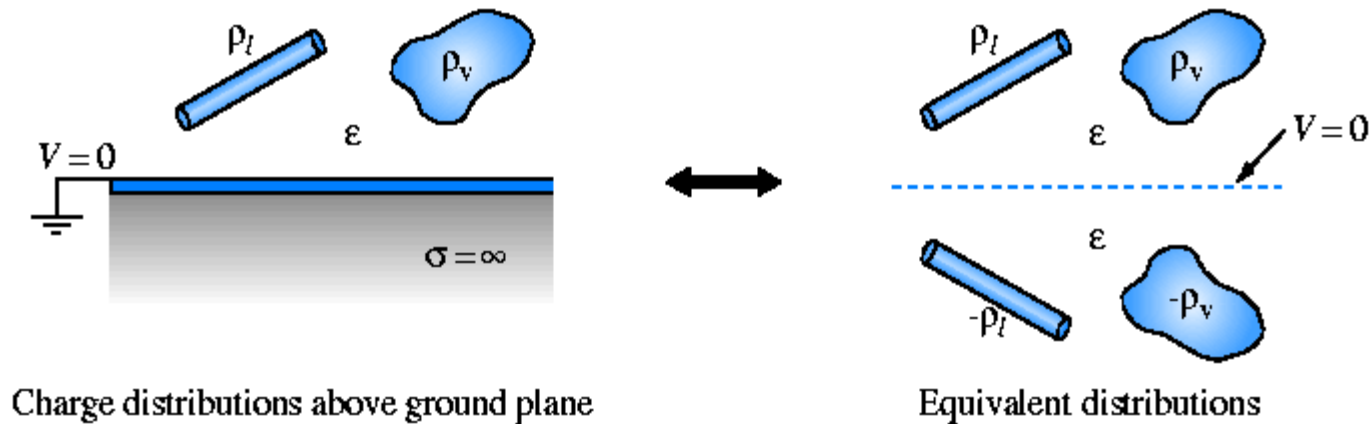
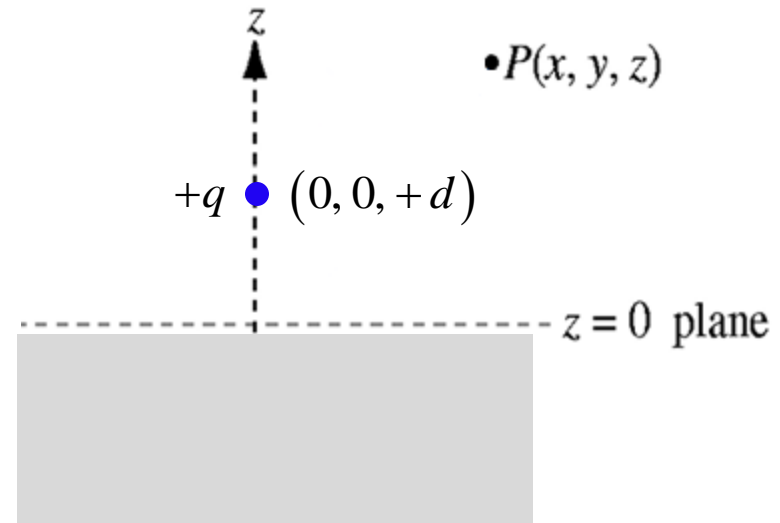


image theory

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Example: E-Field, Image Charge

- (a) Determine the electric field intensity at a point $P(x, y, z)$ in the presence of a charge q at $(0, 0, d)$ and above an infinitely-long perfectly-conducting ground plane in the x - y plane.
- (b) What is the direction of \mathbf{E} as P approaches $z = 0$?
- (c) What is the direction of \mathbf{E} if P is on the $+z$ axis?

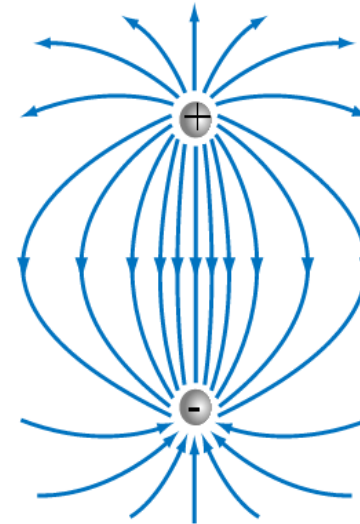
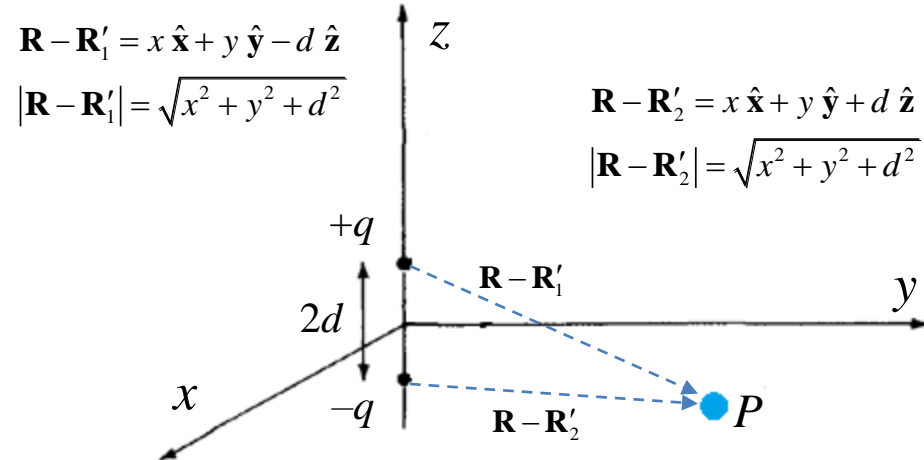


Example: Electric Dipole, x - y plane

For the dipole depicted, determine \mathbf{E} at any point P in the x - y plane.

...from Lecture 4(a)...

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathbf{E} &= \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \sum_{k=1}^N q_k \frac{\mathbf{R} - \mathbf{R}'_k}{|\mathbf{R} - \mathbf{R}'_k|^3} \\
 &= \frac{+q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{\mathbf{R} - \mathbf{R}'_1}{|\mathbf{R} - \mathbf{R}'_1|^3} + \frac{-q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{\mathbf{R} - \mathbf{R}'_2}{|\mathbf{R} - \mathbf{R}'_2|^3} \\
 &= \frac{+q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left\{ \frac{x \hat{\mathbf{x}} + y \hat{\mathbf{y}} - d \hat{\mathbf{z}}}{(x^2 + y^2 + d^2)^{3/2}} - \frac{x \hat{\mathbf{x}} + y \hat{\mathbf{y}} + d \hat{\mathbf{z}}}{(x^2 + y^2 + d^2)^{3/2}} \right\} \\
 &= \frac{-q d}{2\pi\epsilon_0 (x^2 + y^2 + d^2)^{3/2}} \hat{\mathbf{z}}
 \end{aligned}$$





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Lecture 4(x)

More Examples
from Chapter 4

Example: E-Field Energy Storage



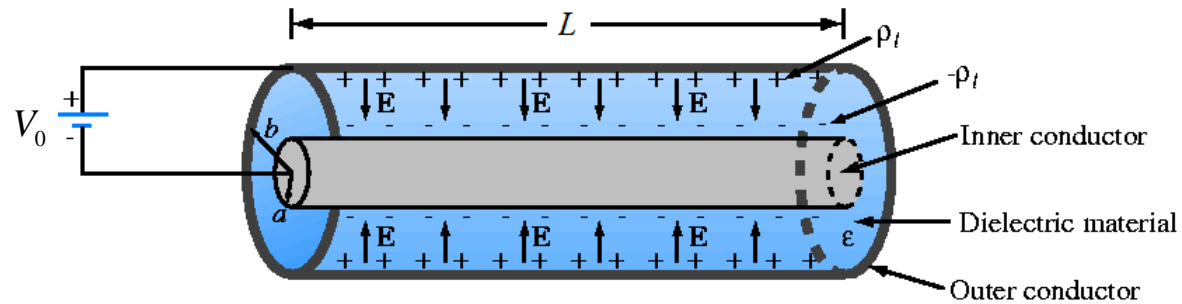
A spherical shell extending from inner radius a to outer radius b surrounds a charge-free cavity. The shell contains a constant volume charge density ρ_v .

Determine the total electrostatic energy stored *outside* the shell for $a = 12$ cm, $b = 36$ cm, $\rho_v = 44.27$ nC/m³, and $\epsilon = \epsilon_0$.

$$\mathbf{E} = 0 \quad \text{for} \quad R < a$$
$$\mathbf{E} = \frac{\rho_v}{3\epsilon_0} \frac{R^3 - a^3}{R^2} \hat{\mathbf{R}} \quad \text{for} \quad a < R < b$$
$$\mathbf{E} = \frac{\rho_v}{3\epsilon_0} \frac{b^3 - a^3}{R^2} \hat{\mathbf{R}} \quad \text{for} \quad R > b$$

Example: Capacitance, Coaxial

Determine the capacitance of this coaxial structure (in terms of a , b , L , and ϵ).



$$\nabla^2 V = \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left(r \frac{\partial V}{\partial r} \right) + \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial \phi^2} + \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial z^2}$$

$$\nabla V = \frac{\partial V}{\partial r} \hat{\mathbf{r}} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial V}{\partial \phi} \hat{\boldsymbol{\phi}} + \frac{\partial V}{\partial z} \hat{\mathbf{z}}$$