

# 1. Electrostatics

1.

1.1 Electric charges, particle and anti-particle

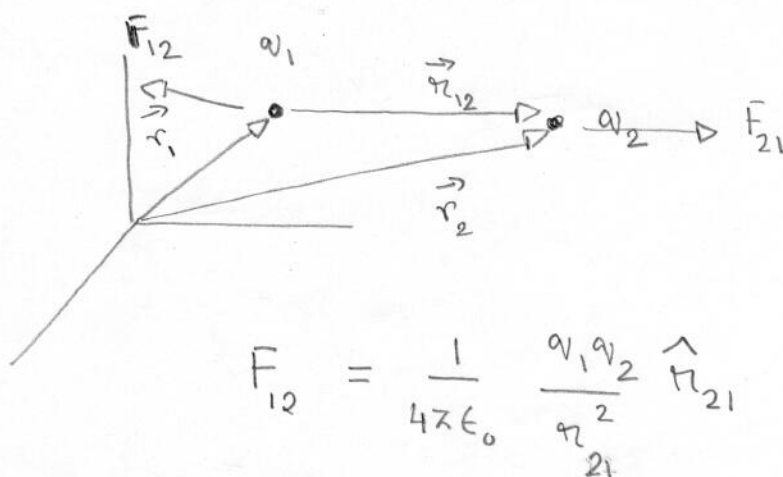
1.2 charge is conserved

1.3 charge is quantized

There are no free quarks (charge  $\frac{1}{3} e$ )

In condensed matter physics certain experiments show that charge can be carried in units of fractional  $e$  but such particles are not "elementary particles" but "effective particles."

1.4 Coulomb's law



comment: correct only for static charges.

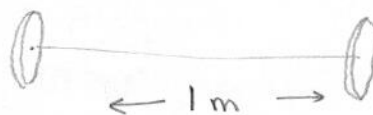
(2)

$$\frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} = 8.85 \times 10^{-12} \frac{\text{coul}^2}{\text{N m}^2}$$

↓  
permittivity of free space

$$\frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \approx 8.988 \times 10^9 \text{ SI units}$$

Example 1.1



A 10 Kr coin weighs 6.6 gm

They are placed 1 m apart.

Normally they are charge neutral. But assume that somehow each has acquired a charge of 1 coulomb. The electrostatic force will be:

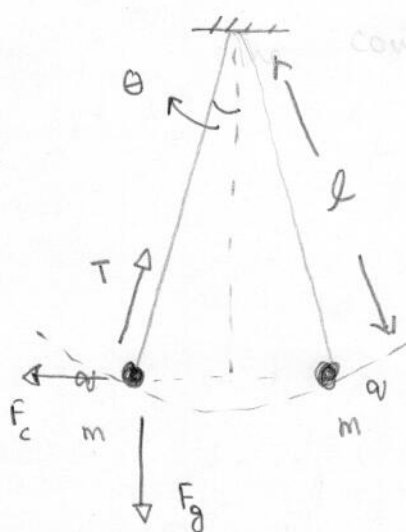
$$F_{\text{coulomb}} \approx 9 \times 10^9 \text{ Newton !}$$

The gravitational force between them will be

$$\begin{aligned} F &= G \frac{(6.6 \text{ gm})^2}{(1 \text{ m})^2} = (6.6)^2 \times 10^{-6} \frac{G \text{ kg}^2}{\text{m}^2} \\ &\approx 42 \times 10^{-6} \times 6.6 \times 10^{-11} \text{ N} \\ &\approx 10^{-14} \text{ N} \end{aligned}$$

# Example 1.2

(3)



Coulomb force between two protons

$$F_c = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q^2}{(2l \sin\theta)^2}$$

$$F_g = mg$$

$$T \sin\theta = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q^2}{(2l \sin\theta)^2}$$

$$T \cos\theta = mg$$

$$\tan\theta = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q^2}{4l^2 \sin^2\theta} \frac{1}{mg}$$

$$l \sim m, m$$

$$m \sim 1 \text{ gm} = 10^{-3} \text{ kg}$$

$$\tan\theta \sin^2\theta = 9 \times 10^9 \frac{q^2}{4 \cdot 1}$$

Assume  $\theta$  is small

$$\Rightarrow \tan\theta \sim \theta, \sin\theta \sim \theta$$

$$\Rightarrow \theta^3 \sim 9 \times 10^9 \frac{q^2}{4}$$

$\Rightarrow$  To make the small  $\theta$  approximation  $\theta \sim 0.1$

$$10^{-3} \sim 9 \times 10^9 \frac{q^2}{4} \Rightarrow \boxed{q \sim \frac{2}{3} 10^{-6} \text{ C}}$$

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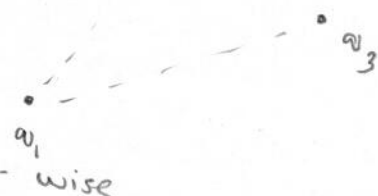
$\Rightarrow$  To get forces of the same order as terrestrial gravity we need to deal with charges of order  $\mu\text{Coulomb}$

### 1.5 Principle of superposition

Force on  $q_1$  due to  $q_2$ , and  $q_3$  is the sum of their individual forces

$$\vec{F}_1 = \vec{F}_{12} + \vec{F}_{13}$$

$\Rightarrow$  All interactions are pair-wise



### 1.6 Electric field

For a certain distribution of source charges ( $q_i$ ) calculate the force on a test charge  $Q$  at  $\vec{R}$ . Then the electric field at  $\vec{R}$  is

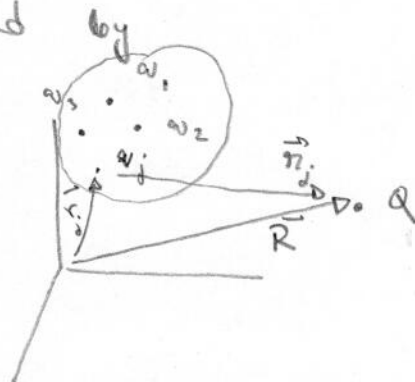
$$\vec{E}(\vec{R}) = \lim_{Q \rightarrow 0} \frac{\vec{F}(Q)}{Q}$$

comment

1. The rigor implied by the limit is false because we know that in practice charge is quantized.

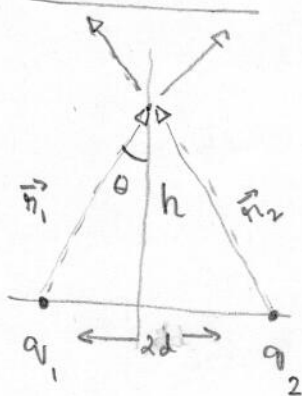
Better to define electric field

$$\vec{E}(\mathbf{R}) = \sum_j \frac{q_j}{r_{j,d}^2} \hat{r}_{j,d} \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}$$



2. Electric field is a local concept.

3. Is electric field real?

Example 1.3

$$\vec{E} = \left( \hat{r}_1 \frac{q_1}{r_1^2} + \hat{r}_2 \frac{q_2}{r_2^2} \right) \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}$$

$$r_1 = (h^2 + d^2)^{1/2}$$

$$\hat{r}_1 = (-\hat{x}d + \hat{z}h) \frac{1}{(h^2 + d^2)^{1/2}}$$

$$r_2 = r_1$$

$$\hat{r}_2 = (\hat{x}d + \hat{z}h) \frac{1}{(h^2 + d^2)^{1/2}}$$

$$\vec{E} = \frac{2q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{h \hat{z}}{(h^2 + d^2)^{3/2}}$$

$$, q_1 = q_2$$

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For large  $h$  
$$\vec{E} \approx \hat{x} \frac{2q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{h}{h^3} \sim \hat{x} \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{2q}{h^2}$$

At large distance <sup>where</sup> from a collection of

point charges 
$$\vec{E} \sim \frac{1}{r^2} \sum \frac{q_j}{r^2} + \dots$$



monopole.

For  $q_2 = -q_1$

$$\vec{E} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \hat{x} \frac{2qd}{(h^2 + d^2)^{3/2}}$$

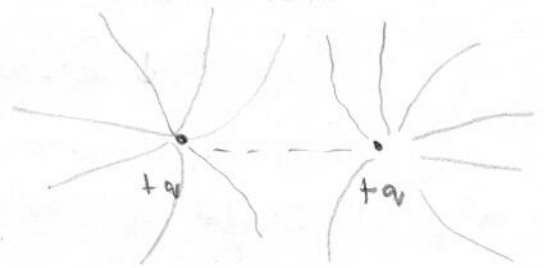
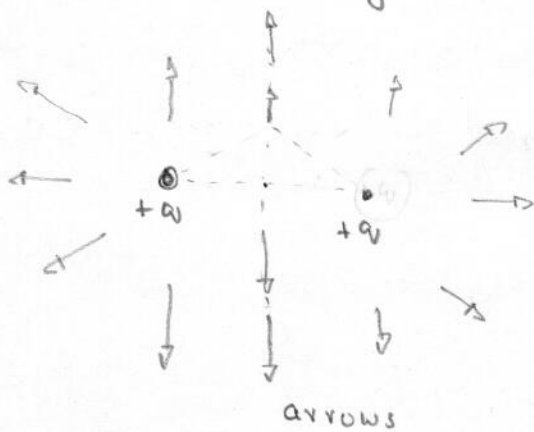
For large  $h$

$$\vec{E} \approx \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \hat{x} \frac{\vec{p}}{h^3} \sim \frac{1}{h^3} \quad (\text{not inverse - square!})$$

$$\vec{p} = q(2d\hat{x}) \quad \text{dipole moment}$$

The monopole contribution is zero because the net charge at source is zero.

## 1.7 visualization of electric field.



lines of force.

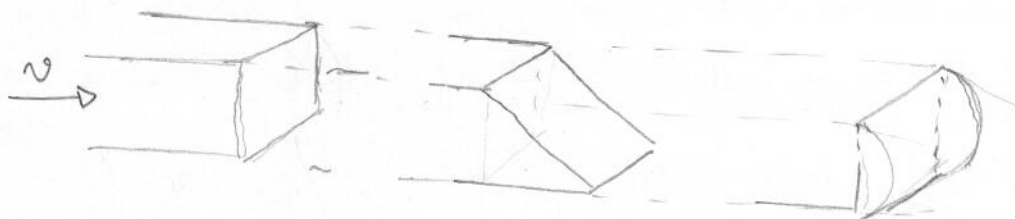
For 3d, rotate about the axis of symmetry.

comment lines of forces are not the trajectory of unit test charge.

## 1.8 Flux

1.8 Flux

- How much water flows through the following areas?

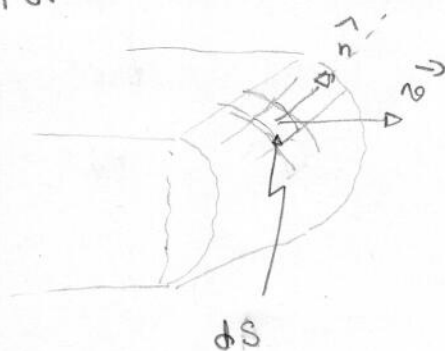


$$\text{flux } \underline{\Phi} = \vec{v} \cdot \vec{A}$$

$$= v A \cos \theta$$

remains constant over the first two surfaces.

For the last one, consider:



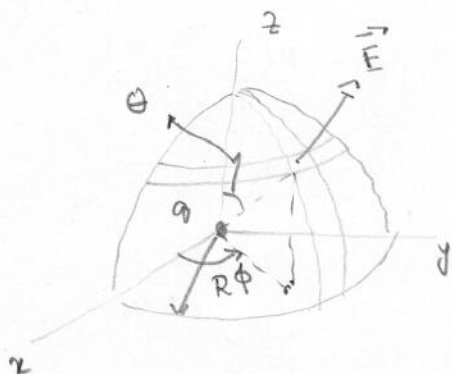
$$\underline{\Phi} = \int_S \vec{v} \cdot \hat{n} \, ds$$



(9)

Example 1.3

Flux of the electric field due to a point charge on the surface of a sphere.



$$dS = R^2 \sin\theta d\theta d\phi$$

$$\hat{n} = \hat{r}$$

$$\vec{E} = \frac{q}{R^2} \hat{r} \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}$$

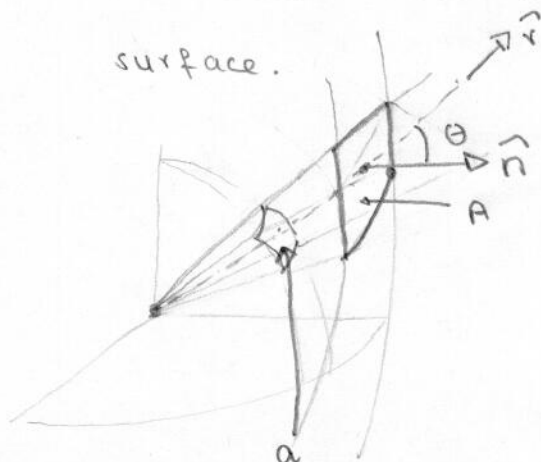
$$\begin{aligned} \Phi &= \oint_S \vec{E} \cdot \hat{n} dS = \frac{q}{R^2} R^2 \oint \sin\theta d\theta d\phi \left( \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \right) \\ &= q \int_0^\pi \sin\theta d\theta \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \end{aligned}$$

closed surface

$$\boxed{\Phi = \frac{q}{\epsilon_0}}$$

### Example 1.4

same as 1.3  
surface.



but over an arbitrary (smooth)

The outer area can be thought of as surface element of a bigger sphere (radius  $R$ ) projected by  $\theta$ .

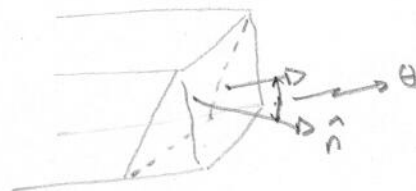
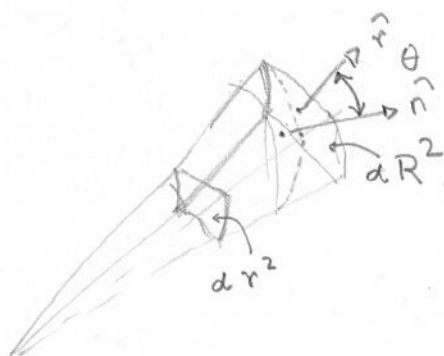
Flux through outer patch :  $\vec{E}_{(R)} \cdot \hat{n} A$

$$\Phi_{\text{outer}} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left( \frac{Q}{R^2} \right) A \cos\theta$$

Flux through inner patch

$$\Phi_{\text{inner}} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left( \frac{Q}{r^2} \right) a$$

$$\left( \frac{A}{a} \right) = \left( \frac{R}{r} \right)^2 \frac{1}{\cos\theta}$$



Ratio of the fluxes

$$\frac{\Phi_{\text{outer}}}{\Phi_{\text{inner}}} = \frac{\frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left( \frac{Q}{R^2} \right) A \cos\theta}{\frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left( \frac{Q}{r^2} \right) a} = \frac{A \cos\theta}{R^2} \cdot \frac{r^2}{a} = 1$$

(11)

$$\oint \vec{E} \cdot \hat{n} ds = \frac{1}{\epsilon_0} Q_{\text{enc}}$$

Gauss's law

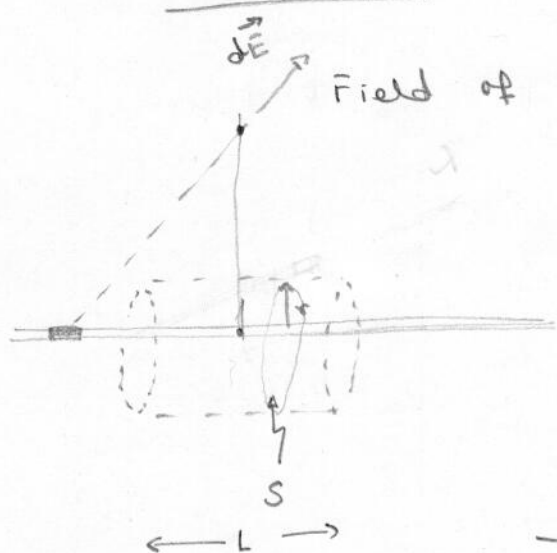
what happens if Coulomb's law is replaced by inverse cube law?

### 1.9 Application of Gauss's law and symmetry

#### Example 1.5

Field of a spherical charge distribution.

#### Example 1.6



Field of a line charge

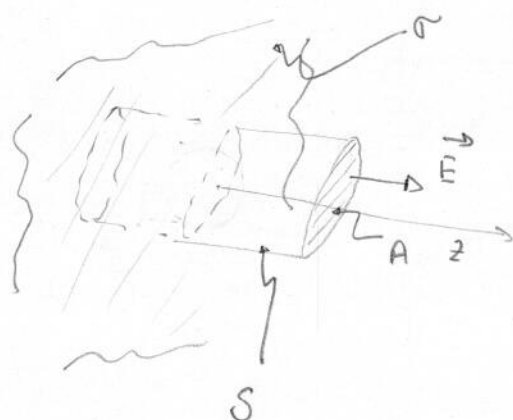
$$\oint \vec{E} \cdot \hat{n} ds$$

$$= (2\pi r L) E(r)$$

$$= Q_{\text{enc}} = \lambda L \frac{1}{\epsilon_0}$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{\vec{E}(r) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{2\lambda}{r} \hat{r}}$$

does not fall off as  $\frac{1}{r^2}$  at large  $r$ !

Example 1.7

Infinite plane with  
surface charge density  $\sigma$ .

$$\oint \vec{E} \cdot \hat{n} ds$$

$$= 2 E(z) A$$

$$= \phi_{enc} \frac{1}{\epsilon_0} = \frac{\sigma A}{\epsilon_0}$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{\begin{aligned} E(z) &= \frac{1}{2\epsilon_0} \sigma \\ &= \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} 2\pi\sigma \end{aligned}}$$

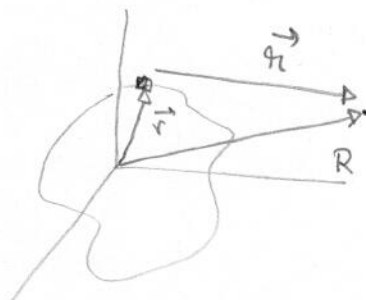
Does not depend on  $z$  at all!

1.10 From discrete to continuous charge distribution.

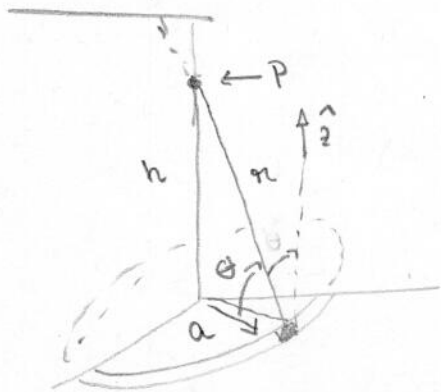
$$\vec{E}(\vec{R}) = \int \frac{\rho(\vec{r}) dV}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2} \hat{n}$$

Source.

$$\vec{n} = \vec{R} - \vec{r}$$



Example 1.8



$$\vec{E}(P) = \int_{\text{source}} \frac{\lambda a d\phi}{r^2} \hat{r} \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}$$

$$r^2 = a^2 + h^2$$

$$\hat{r} = \sin\theta \hat{z} - \cos\theta \hat{a}$$

$$\cos\theta = \frac{a}{r} = \left( \frac{a^2}{a^2 + h^2} \right)^{1/2}$$

$$\vec{E}(P) = \lambda a \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left[ \int_0^{2\pi} \hat{z} \frac{\sin\theta d\phi}{r^2} - \int_0^{2\pi} \hat{a} \frac{\cos\theta d\phi}{r^2} \right]$$

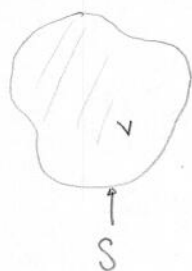
$$= \frac{\lambda a}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left[ \left( \frac{h}{(a^2 + h^2)^{3/2}} \right) \hat{z} \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi - \frac{\cos\theta}{r^2} \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi \hat{a} \right]$$

$$= \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{h}{(a^2 + h^2)^{3/2}}$$

$$\sim \frac{1}{h^2} \quad \text{for large } h$$

$$= 0 \quad \text{for } h = 0$$

## 1.11 local conservation laws:



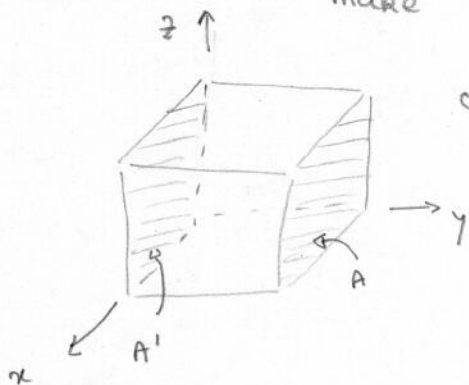
charge inside this volume is

$$Q = \int_V \rho dv$$

 $Q$  is a conserved quantity. $\Rightarrow$   $Q$  does not change with time.

$$\frac{dQ}{dt} = 0$$

except if charges enter or exit this volume.

The entry or exit is given by the flux of charged matter through the surface  $S$ .To make it simple, consider  $V$  to be a box.consider the two faces,  $A$  and  $A'$ The rate of flow of charge through  $A$  is

$$- A v_y(A) \rho(A)$$

flowing out of the box

For a general volume  $V$ 

$$\frac{dQ}{dt} = - \oint_S \rho \vec{v} \cdot \hat{n} dS$$

Hence charge conservation implies that-

$$\int_V (\partial_t \rho) dV = - \oint_S \rho \vec{v} \cdot \hat{n} dS$$

Identify the current density

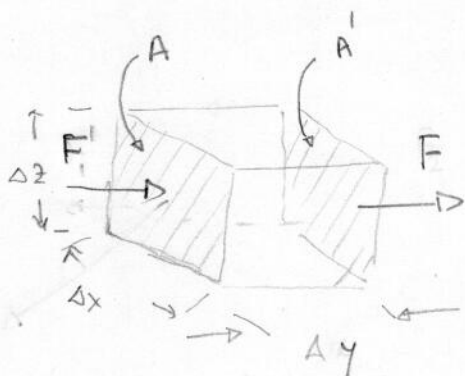
$$\vec{J} = \rho \vec{v}$$

$$\Rightarrow \int_V (\partial_t \rho) dV = - \oint_S \vec{J} \cdot \hat{n} dS$$

1.12 Flux over infinitesimal volume.

Consider a general vector field  $\vec{F}$

Let us calculate its flux on a very small box



First along the y direction.

Flux through A

$$\vec{F}(A) \cdot (-\hat{y}) \Delta x \Delta z$$

$$= -F_y(A) \Delta x \Delta z$$

$$\text{Flux through } A' = F_y(A') \Delta x \Delta z$$

Net flux in the y direction through this box

$$\Phi_y = [F_y(A') - F_y(A)] \Delta x \Delta z$$

(16)

$$A \rightarrow (x, y, z)$$

$$A' \rightarrow (x, y + \Delta y, z)$$

$$F_y(A') = F_y(A) + \frac{\partial F_y}{\partial y} \Delta y + \text{h.o.t.}$$

— Taylor expansion.

$$\Rightarrow \bar{\Phi}_y = \left( \frac{\partial F_y}{\partial y} \right) \Delta x \Delta y \Delta z$$

$$= \left( \frac{\partial F_y}{\partial y} \right) \Delta V$$

similarly the other two directions.

Hence the net flux

$$\bar{\Phi} = \left( \frac{\partial F_x}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial F_y}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial F_z}{\partial z} \right) \Delta V$$

↑  
surface

↑  
volume

over an infinitesimal cartesian volume

$$\sum_{\text{all sides}} \vec{F} \cdot \hat{n} \, \Delta S = (\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{F}) \Delta V$$



An arbitrarily shaped balloon can always be decomposed into infinitesimal volume.



Summing up over such a volume

$$\oint_S \vec{F} \cdot \hat{n} \, dS = \int_V (\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{F}) \, dV \quad \text{Gauss's Theorem.}$$

because the flux through all the internal surfaces cancel each other on the left.

$$\vec{\nabla} \equiv \left( \hat{i} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + \hat{j} \frac{\partial}{\partial y} + \hat{k} \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \right)$$

comment:

- (i) although we used cartesian boxes the end result is coordinate system independent.
- (ii)  $\vec{F}(x, y, z)$  need to be smooth enough that its first derivative exists.

1.13 Back to charge conservation:

$$\int_V (\partial_t \rho) dV = \oint_S \vec{J} \cdot \vec{n} dS$$

$$= \int_V (\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{J}) dV$$

where  $V$  can be any volume.

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{\partial_t \rho + \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{J} = 0}$$

comment

(a) General form of all conservation laws.

1.14

Electric field

$$\oint_S \vec{E} \cdot \hat{n} \, ds = \frac{1}{\epsilon_0} Q_{\text{enc}} = \frac{1}{\epsilon_0} \int_V \rho \, dV$$

Flux theorem

continuum description

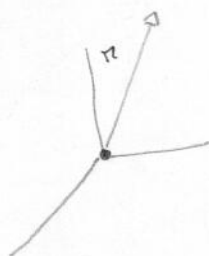
$$\int_V (\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{E}) \, dV = \frac{1}{\epsilon_0} \int_V \rho \, dV$$

$\Rightarrow$

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

1.15

"Point charge"

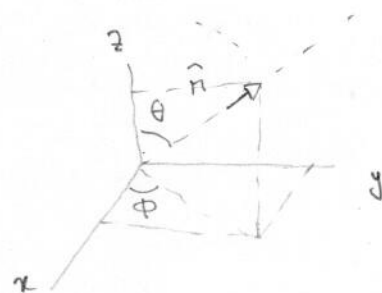


$$\vec{E} = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{\hat{n}}{r^2}$$

$$= \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{\vec{r}}{r^3}$$

$$= \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{\hat{i}x + \hat{j}y + \hat{k}z}{(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{3/2}}$$

$$\vec{n} = \hat{i}x + \hat{j}y + \hat{k}z$$



$$\hat{n} = \hat{z} \cos \theta + \hat{x} \sin \theta \cos \phi + \hat{y} \sin \theta \sin \phi$$

(20)

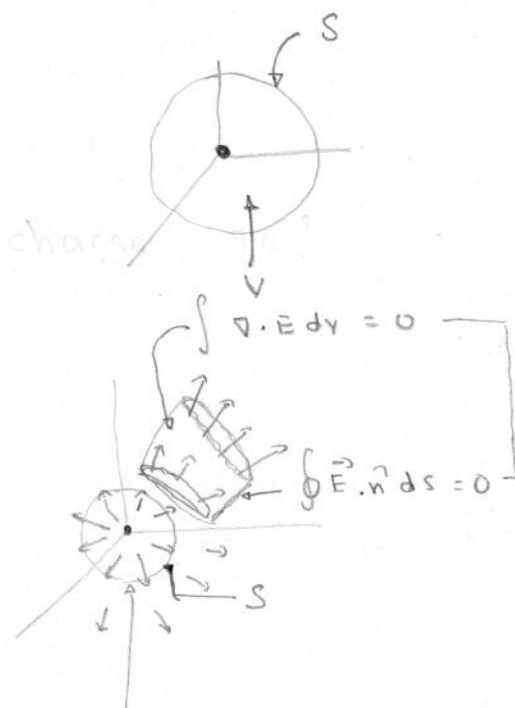
$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{E} = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left[ \frac{1}{(x^2+y^2+z^2)^{3/2}} - \frac{x(2x)}{(x^2+y^2+z^2)^{5/2}} \frac{3}{2} \right. \\ + \frac{1}{(x^2+y^2+z^2)^{3/2}} - \frac{y(2y)}{(x^2+y^2+z^2)^{5/2}} \frac{3}{2} \\ \left. + \frac{1}{(x^2+y^2+z^2)^{3/2}} - \frac{z(2z)}{(x^2+y^2+z^2)^{5/2}} \frac{3}{2} \right]$$

$$= \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left[ \frac{3}{(x^2+y^2+z^2)^{3/2}} - \frac{3(x^2+y^2+z^2)}{(x^2+y^2+z^2)^{5/2}} \right]$$

$$= 0$$

where did the point charge

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \oint_S \vec{E} \cdot \vec{n} \, ds &= \frac{q}{\epsilon_0} \\ \int_V (\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{E}) \, dV &= 0 \end{aligned} \right\} ?$$



$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{E} = \frac{1}{\epsilon_0} \delta^3(\vec{r})$$

But not for a \$S\$ that encloses origin

such that

$$\int_V \delta^3(\vec{r}) \, dV = 4\pi$$