

1 Vectors and Distance

Vector Addition

$$u = a\hat{i} + b\hat{j}, v = c\hat{i} + d\hat{j}$$

$$u + v = (a + c)\hat{i} + (b + d)\hat{j}$$

$$\tan \theta = \frac{u_y}{u_x} = \frac{b}{a}$$

Distance

$$r_{ab} = \sqrt{(a_x - b_x)^2 + (a_y - b_y)^2}$$

2 Coulomb's Law

$$F_{12}(\hat{r}) = k \frac{q_1 q_2}{r^2} \hat{r}$$

$$\mathbf{F}_{\text{net}} = \sum_{j=1}^N \mathbf{F}_{ij}$$

3 Electric Field

$$\mathbf{F} = q\mathbf{E} \implies \mathbf{E} = \frac{\mathbf{F}}{q}$$

For a point charge

$$\mathbf{E} = k \frac{q}{r^2}$$

$$\mathbf{E}_{\text{net}} = \sum_{i=1}^N \mathbf{E}_i$$

Electric field points towards negative charges, away from positive charges

4 Continuous Charge Distributions

	Line	Area	Volume
Density	$Q = \lambda L$	$Q = \eta A$	$Q = \rho V$
Units	Cm^{-1}	Cm^{-2}	Cm^{-3}
Cont.	$dq = \lambda dL$	$dq = \eta dA$	$dq = \rho dV$

5 Common Electric Fields

Unif. inf. charged wire: $\frac{\lambda}{2r\pi\epsilon_0}$

Unif. inf. charged plane: $\frac{\eta}{2\epsilon_0}$

Unif. charged sphere ($r \geq R$): $k \frac{Q}{r^2}$

Unif. charged sphere ($r \leq R$): $k \frac{Qr}{R^3}$

6 Flux

"A measure of the number of field lines which pass through a surface"

Uniform field and plane:

$$\Phi = \mathbf{E} \cdot \mathbf{A} = EA \cos \theta$$

Flux depends on the strength E of the field, the area A of the surface, and the angle θ between them.

Variable field/surface:

$$d\phi = \mathbf{E} \cdot d\mathbf{A} \implies \phi = \int \mathbf{E} \cdot d\mathbf{A}$$

7 Gauss' Law

The flux through a *closed* surface only depends on the charge *inside* the surface, it doesn't depend on the size or shape of the surface.

Flux doesn't depend on charge *distribution* inside a gaussian surface, it depends only on the *total enclosed charge*.

The flux of external field through a closed surface is always 0.

$$\oint \mathbf{E} \cdot d\mathbf{A} = \frac{Q_{\text{enc}}}{\epsilon_0}$$

Example: Consider an infinite wire with linear charge density $\lambda \text{C} \cdot \text{m}^{-1}$. What is the electric field r meters away from the wire?

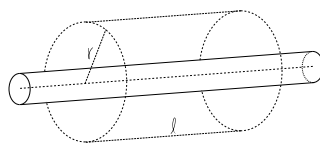


Figure 1: Gaussian surface around wire

$$\oint \mathbf{E} \cdot d\mathbf{A} = \frac{\lambda \cdot \ell}{\epsilon_0}$$

$$E \cdot 2r\pi\ell = \frac{\lambda \cdot \ell}{\epsilon_0} \implies E = \frac{\lambda}{2r\pi\epsilon_0}$$

8 Conductors

Electric field inside a conductor is 0 as it has reached equilibrium.

Charge inside a conductor is always zero, otherwise a field would be inside.

If a conductor is charged, all of its charges are on its surface.

Electric field right outside a conductor is perpendicular to its surface and has magnitude $\frac{\eta}{\epsilon_0}$.

8.1 Cavities

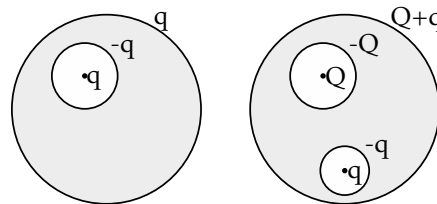


Figure 2: Charge results from spherical charged cavities inside conducting sphere

9 Electric Potential Energy

Electric fields store *potential energy*.

Field accelerates charge \equiv Field does work on charge

Recall $W = \int_A^B \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{s}$. For conservative forces $W = K_f - K_i = U_i - U_f$.

The change in potential energy is $\Delta U = U_f - U_i = -W$

Constant force:

$$W = \int_A^B \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{s} = \mathbf{F} \cdot \int_A^B d\mathbf{s} = F \Delta r \cos \theta$$

9.1 Uniform Electric Field

A positive charge will speed up as it "falls" to the negative side in the field.

There is a constant force $F = qE$ in the direction of displacement. The work done is

$$W_{\text{elec}} = qEs_i - qEs_f$$

The change in *electric potential energy* is

$$\Delta U_{\text{elec}} = -W_{\text{elec}}$$

A *negatively charged* particle in the same field has negative potential energy.

9.2 Electric Energy of Point Charges

Consider two like charges q_1 and q_2 . The electric field of q_1 pushes q_2 . The work done is

$$W_{\text{elec}} = \int_{x_i}^{x_f} F_{12} dx = \int_{x_i}^{x_f} k \frac{q_1 q_2}{x^2} dx$$

$$\frac{-kq_1 q_2}{x} \Big|_{x_i}^{x_f} = -kq_1 q_2 \left(\frac{1}{x_f} - \frac{1}{x_i} \right)$$

The change in electric potential energy is

$$\Delta U_{\text{elec}} = -W_{\text{elec}} = kq_1 q_2 \left(\frac{1}{x_f} - \frac{1}{x_i} \right)$$

Now assume $x_i = \infty$. Then the electric potential energy of two point charges becomes

$$U_{\text{elec}} = \frac{kq_1 q_2}{x}$$

Electric field forces are conservative; their work done doesn't depend on path. For a set of charges, potential energy is

$$U = k \sum_{i < j} \frac{q_i q_j}{r_{ij}}$$

10 Electric Potential Difference

Electric potential difference: Change in potential energy upon displacement a unit charge in an electric field

$$\Delta V_{AB} = \frac{\Delta U_{AB}}{q}, \text{ measured in volts: } V = \frac{J}{C}$$

$$\Delta V_{AB} = - \int_A^B \mathbf{E} \cdot d\mathbf{s}$$

Electrical potential in constant field:

$$\Delta V_{AB} = V_B - V_A = - \frac{W_{AB}}{q}$$

$$= - \int_A^B \mathbf{E} \cdot d\mathbf{s} = -Es \cos \theta$$

Electric potential inside capacitor:

$$\Delta V_C = V_+ - V_- = Ed$$

Electric potential for point charges: The potential of a point charge q at a distance r is

$$V(r) = - \int_{\infty}^r \mathbf{E} \cdot d\mathbf{r} = - \int_{\infty}^r \frac{kq}{r^2} dr = \frac{kq}{r}$$

Superposition applies:

$$V_{\text{net}} = k \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{q_i}{r_i}$$

Electric potential for a continuous charge distribution:

$$dV = k \frac{dq}{r} \implies V = k \int \frac{dq}{r}$$

10.1 Potential from Electric Field

$$V(b) - V(a) = - \int_a^b \mathbf{E} \cdot d\mathbf{l}$$

Example: Consider a capacitor

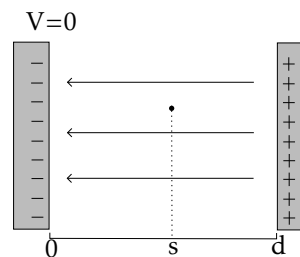


Figure 3: Capacitor

Let $V(0)$ be at the negative plate, so $V(0) = 0$. Then

$$V(s) - V(0) = V(s) = - \int_0^s \mathbf{E} \cdot d\mathbf{x}$$

$$E = - \frac{Q}{\epsilon_0 A}, \mathbf{E} \cdot d\mathbf{x} = -Edx$$

$$\therefore V(s) = - \left(- \frac{Q}{\epsilon_0 A} \right) \int_0^s dx = Es$$

10.2 Electric Field from Potential

$$E_x = - \frac{dV}{dx}, E_y = - \frac{dV}{dy}, \dots$$

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