

Charge

Facts & Laws

Experimental Facts

- Electric Charge comes in two types, which we call (+) and (-)
 - Unlike charges attract, and like charges repel according to Coulomb's Law, which says:
$$F = k \frac{|q_1 q_2|}{r^2}$$
- Electric Charge is conserved. The net charge of an isolated system never changes.
- The charge e is the fundamental unit of charge: you never find a free particle in nature with charge \neq fraction of e .

Conserved in the system

- Energy
- Linear Momentum (\Rightarrow cons)
- Angular momentum (spin : \hbar : D)
- Charge : main concept in Electric Field

Coulomb's Law

- Definition
 - Coulomb's Law states that the magnitude F of the force between two charges separated by distance r is given by:
$$F = k \frac{|q_1 q_2|}{r^2}$$
- Direction
 - We need to use the unit vectors since Coulomb's Law only gives us how strong the force is.

$k = \text{constant} = 9.0 \times 10^9 \frac{\text{N m}^2}{\text{C}^2}$
 $e = -1.602 \times 10^{-19} \text{ C}$

Charge Distributions

- Point Charge (3D) : $Q = q$
- Line Charge (1D) : $\lambda = \frac{Q}{L}$; $Q = \int \lambda dx$; $Q = \lambda L$
- Surface Charge (2D) : $\sigma = \frac{Q}{A}$; $Q = \int \sigma da$; $Q = \sigma A$
- Volume Charge (3D) : $\rho = \frac{Q}{V}$; $Q = \int \rho dV$; $Q = \rho V$

Electric Field

- Surrounding every charge (or group of charges) is a thing, called electric "field" \vec{E} (it is a vector thing):
$$\vec{E} = \frac{\vec{F}}{q} = k \frac{Q}{r^2} \hat{r}$$

Definition

- Positive Charge : Field Point away
- Negative Charge : Field Point towards
- Superposition Principle : $\vec{E}_{\text{total}} = \vec{E}_1 + \vec{E}_2 + \dots$

Gauss's Law

- Gauss's Law is one of the four fundamental laws of electricity and magnetism called Maxwell's equations
- Before diving to Gauss's Law we need to understand a new concept called the electric "flux" Φ_E through a surface
 - we consider an imaginary surface which cuts across some \vec{E} -field lines. We say that there is some electric "flux" through this surface.
 - But we need understand something called Surface vector
- A surface vector \vec{A} is an area with direction: $A = |\vec{A}|$
 - Magnitude of vector $\vec{A} =$ area a of a surface
 - Direction of vector $\vec{A} =$ direction perpendicular to normal to a surface while, is the direction of the area normal \hat{n}
- We have an ambiguity in the direction \hat{n} . Every "at" surface has two perpendicular directions.
- The "flux" Φ_E has the following geometrical interpretation " $\int \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A}$ " (the number of electric "field lines crossing the surface")
- Think of the \vec{E} -field as rain flowing through an open window of area A .
- The flux is a measure of the amount of rain flowing through the window
 - To get a big "flux", you need a large \vec{E} : a bigger A , and you need the area perpendicular to the \vec{E} -field vector
 - Which means the area vector \vec{A} is parallel to \vec{E} .
- But this formula only works if the surface is flat and the \vec{E} -field is constant.

$\Phi_E = \int \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A} =$ "surface integral of \vec{E} "

if the \vec{E} -field varies with position and/or the surface is not "flat", we need more general $d\vec{A}$ vector of "yes", we need to integrate how this is that

In words: the electric "flux" through any closed surface S is a constant ($\frac{1}{\epsilon_0}$) times the total charge inside S .

A surface is closed if it has no edges: like a sphere. For a closed surface, the direction of $d\vec{A}$ always the outside surface.

$\epsilon_0 = 8.85 \times 10^{-12}$

The constant epsilon constant is related to k by $k = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}$

Definition

$\vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A} = \frac{\text{Normal}}{\epsilon_0}$

- Notice : If a closed surface S encloses no charge, then the number of lines entering must equal the number of lines exiting
- So only charge inside the surface can contribute to the "flux" through the surface. Positive charges inside produce positive "flux", negative charges produce negative "flux"
- When the field lines exit a closed surface, the "flux" there is positive. When the field lines enter a closed surface, the "flux" is negative.

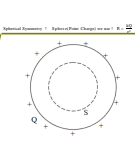
Gauss's Law is always true (it's a LAW), but it is not always useful.

Only in situations with very high symmetry it is easy to compute the "flux integral" $\vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A}$

In those few (rare) of high symmetry, we can use Gauss's Law to compute the \vec{E} -field

Electric Field

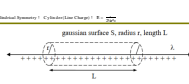
Gauss's Law



- Spherical Symmetry : Spherical Point Charge we use $r = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}$
- By symmetry: \vec{E} must be radial (along a radius), and it can only depend on the distance r from the center, so $\vec{E} = E(r)\hat{r}$
- $E = 0$ everywhere inside a hollow uniform sphere of charge

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

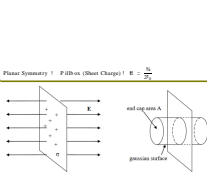
Gaussian surfaces & Symmetry



- Cylindrical Symmetry : Cylindrical Line Charge : $E = \frac{\lambda}{2\pi\epsilon_0 r}$
- By symmetry: \vec{E} is in the cylindrically radial direction and $E = E(r)$
- Through the end caps we can see that the "flux" is zero since the \vec{E} -field \perp to the caps
- So the "flux" depends on only the sides, which gives us
- The charge inside the Gaussian surface is (charge/length \times length) $= \lambda L$, so the equation becomes

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

Using Gauss's Law to solve for the \vec{E} -Field



- Planar Symmetry : Field of a Sheet Charge : $E = \frac{\sigma}{2\epsilon_0}$
- By symmetry: the \vec{E} -field must be perpendicular to the plane (either away or towards)
- On end caps: $\vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A} = E dA$
- On curved side: $\vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A} = 0$ since the curved side \perp to the plane
- $E \cdot dA = \frac{\sigma dA}{2\epsilon_0}$, where $\sigma_{\text{enclosed}} = \sigma A$
- Since we have two ends our integral becomes: $2EA = \frac{\sigma A}{\epsilon_0}$
- So we get that $E = \frac{\sigma}{2\epsilon_0}$ constant, regardless of Position?

$E = \frac{\sigma}{2\epsilon_0}$

Conductors & Electric Fields

- Inside a Conductor : $E = 0$
- Charge moves to the surface