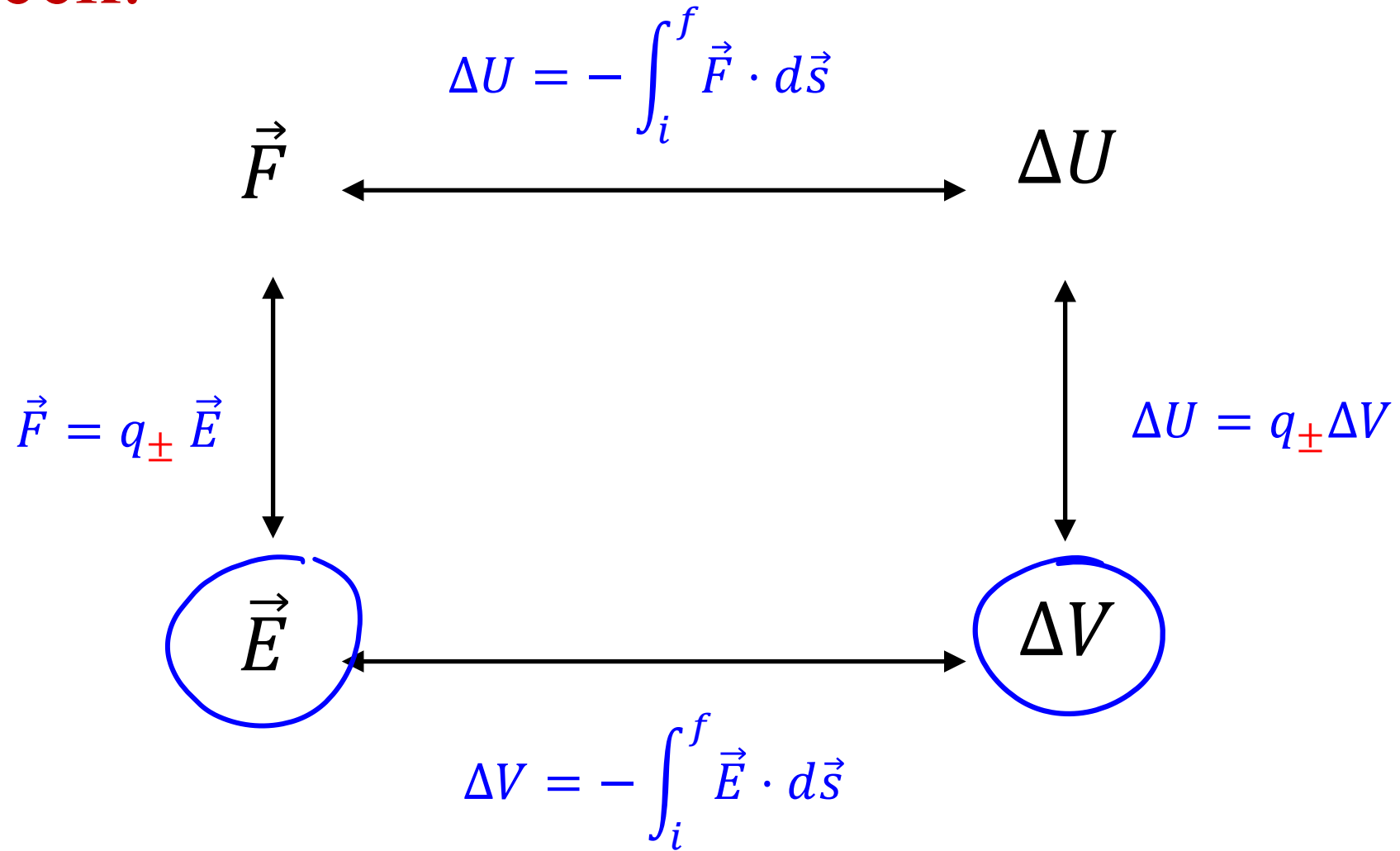


## Lecture 22.

Finding  $V$  from known  $\vec{E}$  (continued).

Last Week:



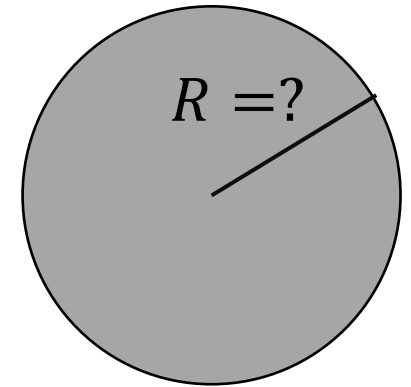
Q: A metal sphere carries a charge of  $5 \times 10^{-9}$  C. Its surface is at a potential of 400 V, relative to the potential far away. What is the radius of the sphere ?

- Potential – field connection:

$$\Delta V = V_f - V_i = - \int_{r=r_i}^{r=r_f} \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s}$$

Last Time:

$$V_s = 400 \text{ V}$$



- From Gauss's law we know that the electric field outside the sphere is the same as for a point charge =>

$$V_{\text{sphere}}(r > R) = \frac{kQ}{r}$$

$$V_{\text{sphere}}(r < R) = 400 \text{ V} \equiv \frac{kQ}{R}$$

...and we know that potential is continuous!

$$V_{\text{sphere}}(r = R) = \frac{kQ}{R} = 400 \text{ V} \Rightarrow R = 0.11 \text{ m}$$

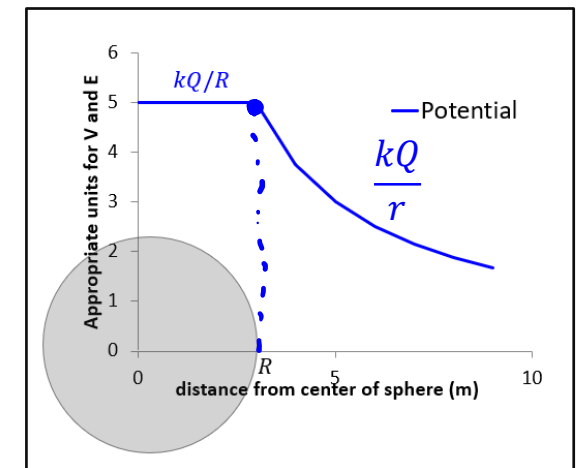
A. 1.5 m

B. 0.9 m

C. 0.23 m

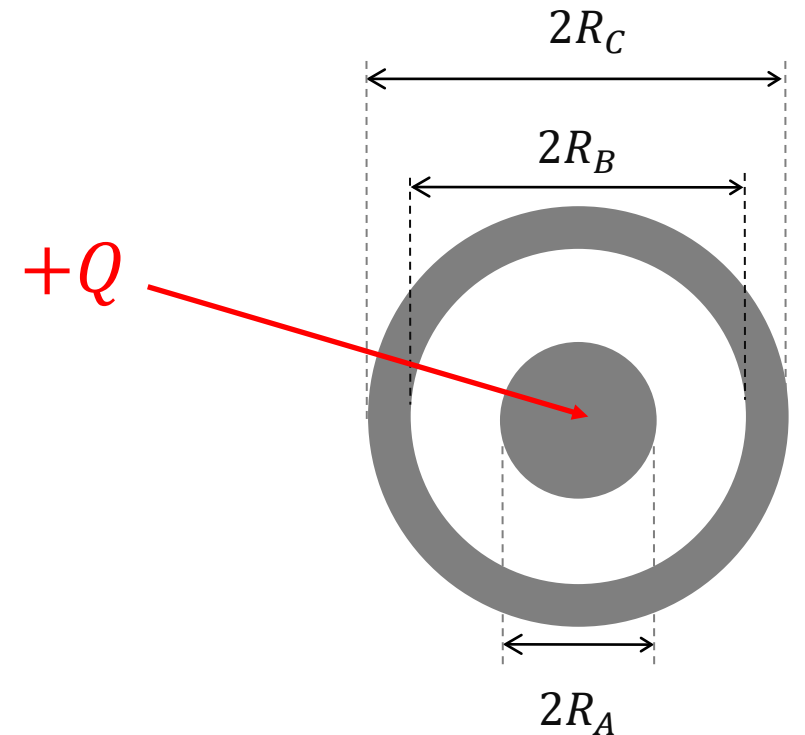
**D. 0.11 m**

E. 0.05 m



Q: A conducting sphere of radius  $R_A$  carrying charge  $+Q$  is placed at the centre of an uncharged conducting spherical shell of inner radius  $R_B$  and outer radius  $R_C$ .

- a) Find the electric field everywhere in space.
- b) Find the electric potential everywhere in space. Calculate  $V(R_A)$ ,  $V(R_B)$ ,  $V(R_C)$ . Assume  $V$  is zero at infinity.

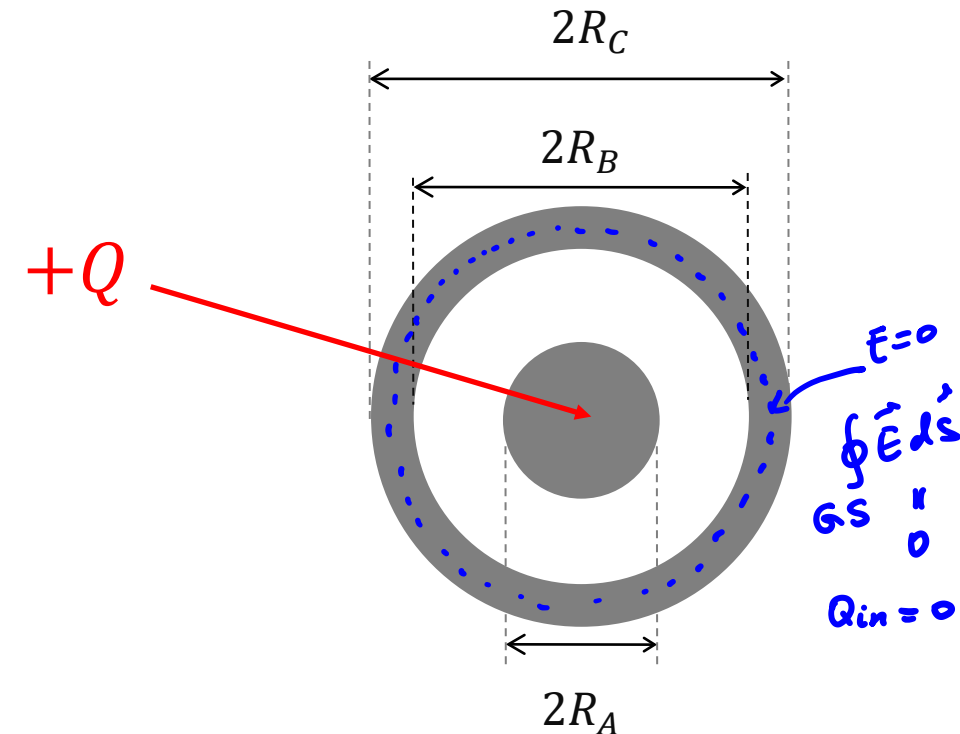
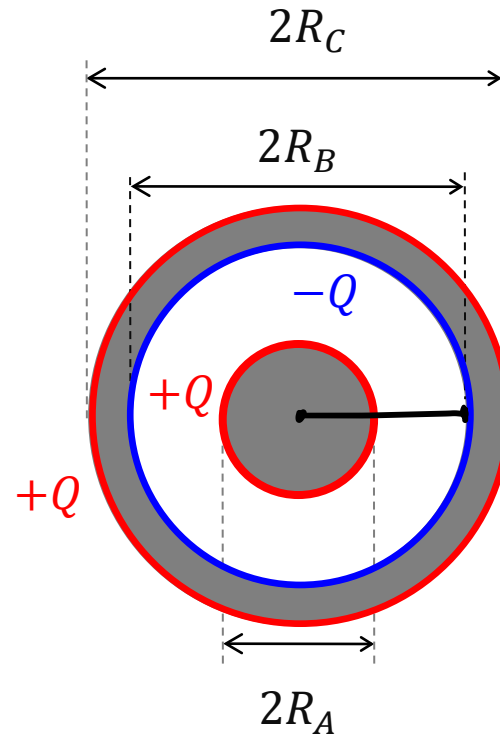


Q: A conducting sphere of radius  $R_A$  carrying charge  $+Q$  is placed at the centre of an uncharged conducting spherical shell of inner radius  $R_B$  and outer radius  $R_C$ .

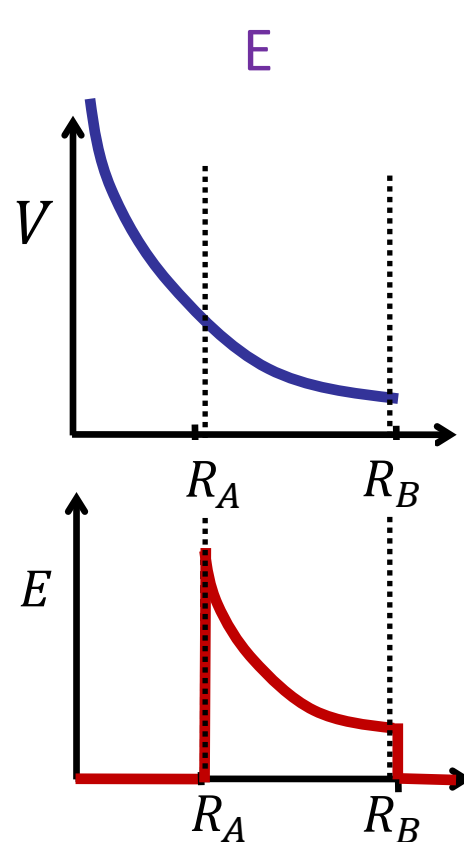
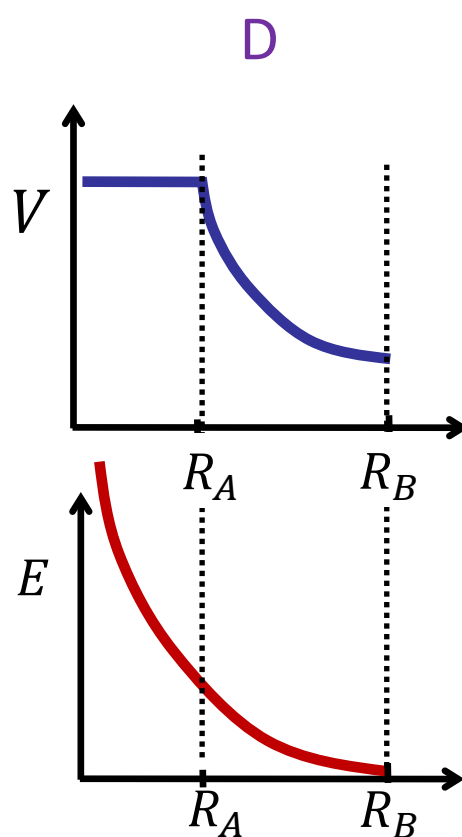
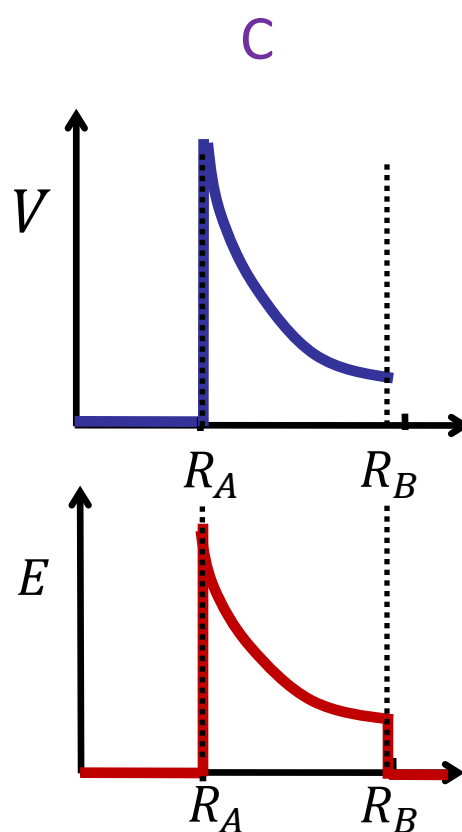
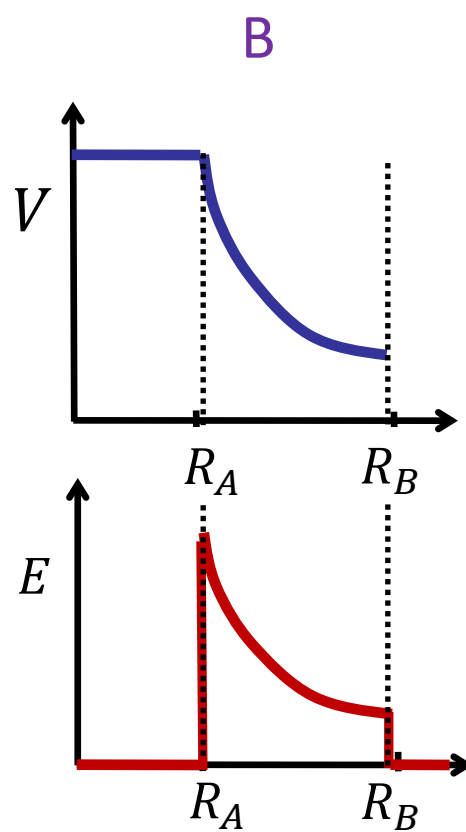
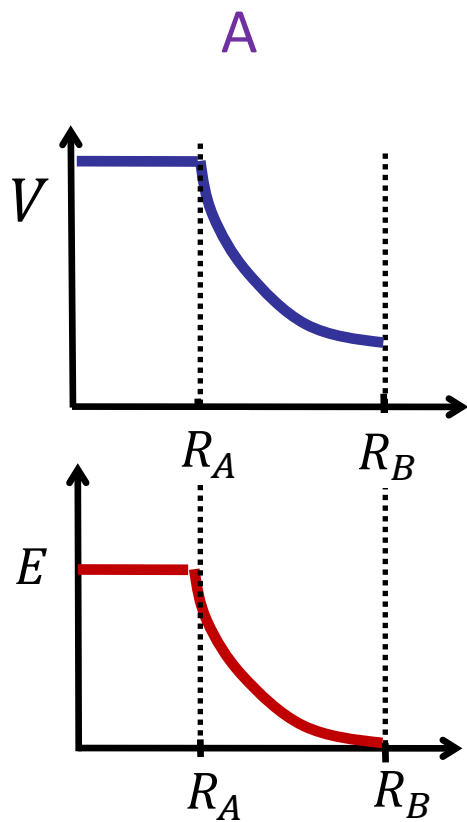
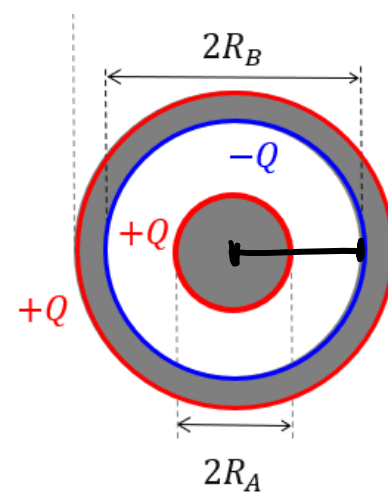
- Find the electric field everywhere in space.
- Find the electric potential everywhere in space. Calculate  $V(R_A)$ ,  $V(R_B)$ ,  $V(R_C)$ . Assume  $V$  is zero at infinity.

Warming-up:

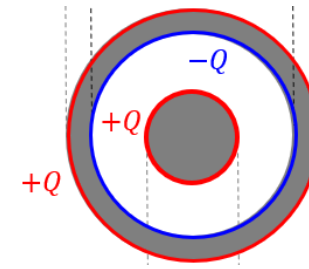
- What is the charge distribution?



Q: Which of these graphs is closest to  $V$  and  $E$  in the range  $0 < r < R_B$ ?



Q: Which of these graphs is closest to  $V$  and  $E$  in the range  $0 < r < R_B$ ?

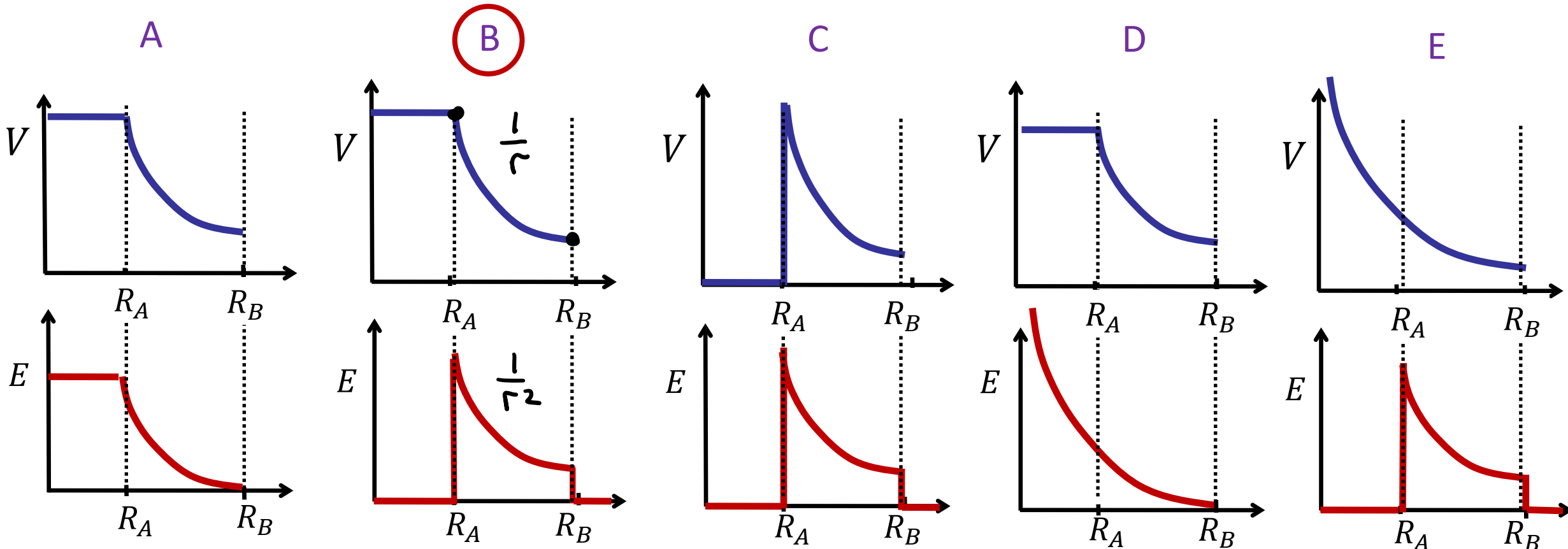


$E = 0$  inside a conductor!!

$V$  is always continuous!!

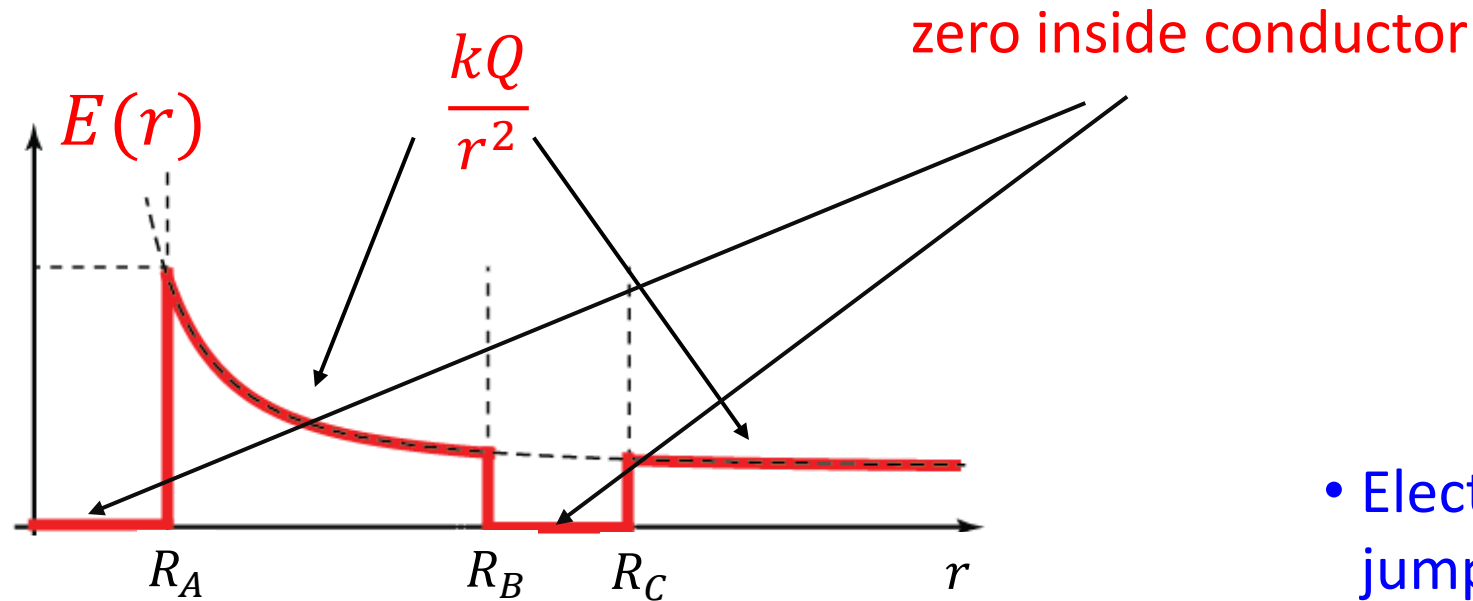
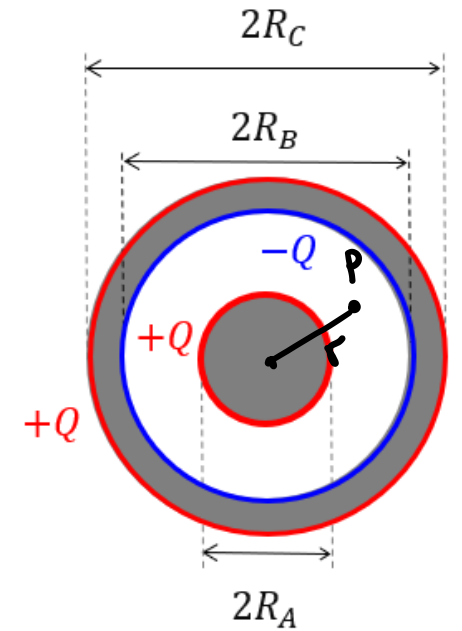
$E = 0$  inside a conductor!!

$V$  is the same inside a conductor!!



We can find **electric field** in all intervals using the Gauss's law:

- $E(r) \cdot A_{\text{sphere}} = E(r) \cdot 4\pi r^2 = \frac{Q}{\epsilon_0} \Rightarrow E(r) = \frac{kQ_{\text{in}}}{r^2}$
- $E = 0$  inside a conductor



- Electric field can have jumps at the boundaries.



Now we can find electric potential:  $\Delta V(r) = V_f - V_i = - \int_i^f \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s}$

Remember: integrate "outwards"  
so  $ds$  is positive

• Our choice:  $V(\infty) = 0$

1. With  $i = R_C$ ,  $f = \infty$ :

$$V_{\infty} - V_C = - \int_{R_C}^{\infty} \frac{kQ}{r^2} \cdot dr = \left. \frac{k \cdot Q}{r} \right|_{R_C}^{\infty} = - \frac{kQ}{R_C}$$

$V(R_C) = \frac{kQ}{R_C}$

2. With  $i = R_B$ ,  $f = R_C$ :

$$V(R_B) = V(R_C)$$

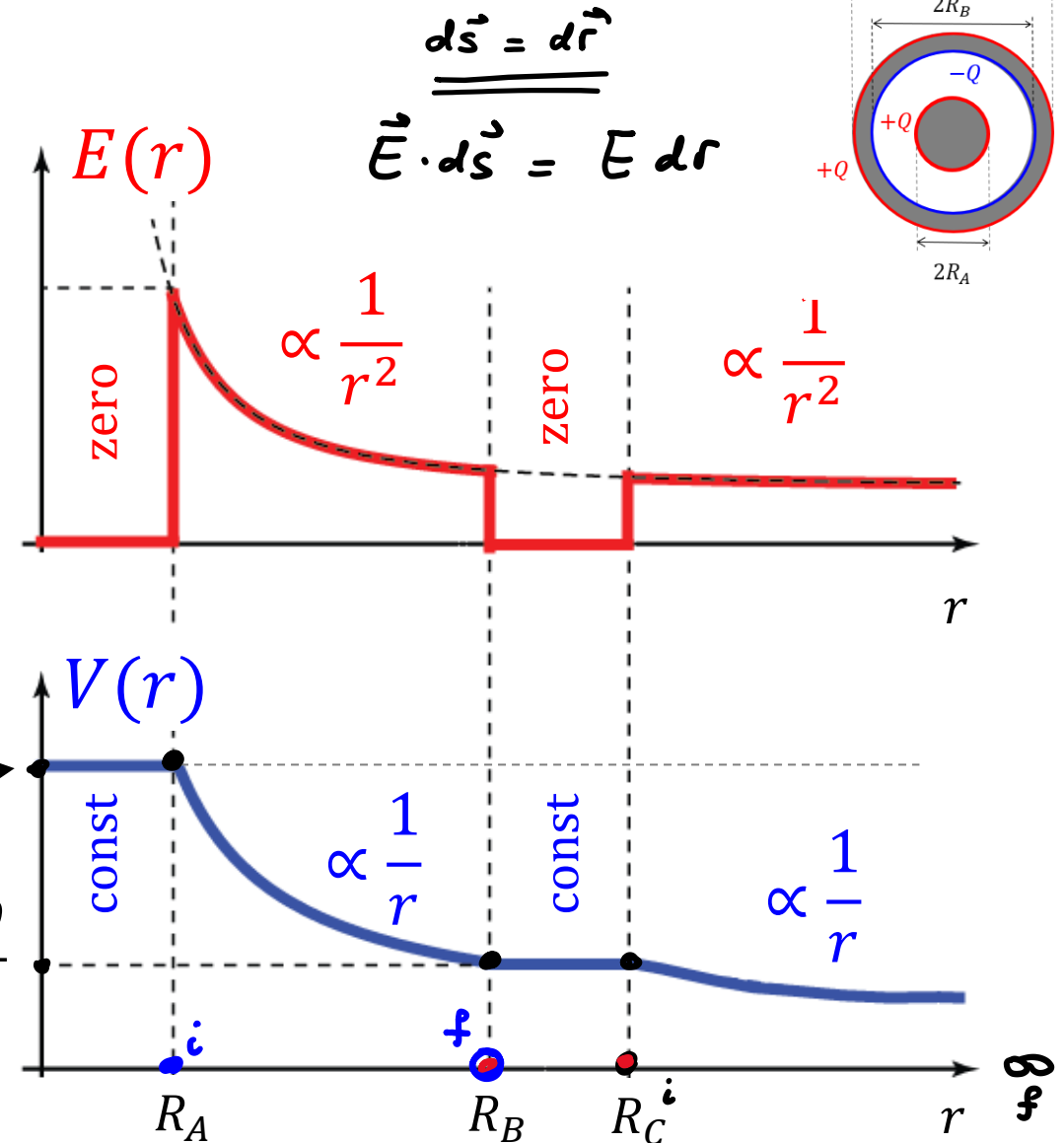
$$V_C - V_B = - \int_{R_B}^{R_C} E dr \equiv 0$$

3. With  $i = R_A$ ,  $f = R_B$ :

$$V(R_A) = \frac{kQ}{R_C} - \frac{kQ}{R_B} + \frac{kQ}{R_A}$$

$$V_B - V_A = - \int_{R_A}^{R_B} \frac{kQ}{r^2} dr = \left. \frac{kQ}{r} \right|_{R_A}^{R_B} = \frac{kQ}{R_B} - \frac{kQ}{R_A}$$

• Potential is always continuous, but it can have cusps.



Now we can find electric potential:  $\Delta V(r) = V_f - V_i = -\int_i^f \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s}$  Remember: integrate “outwards” so  $ds$  is positive

• Our choice:  $V(\infty) = 0$

1. With  $i = R_C$ ,  $f = \infty$ :  $V(R_C) = \frac{kQ}{R_C}$

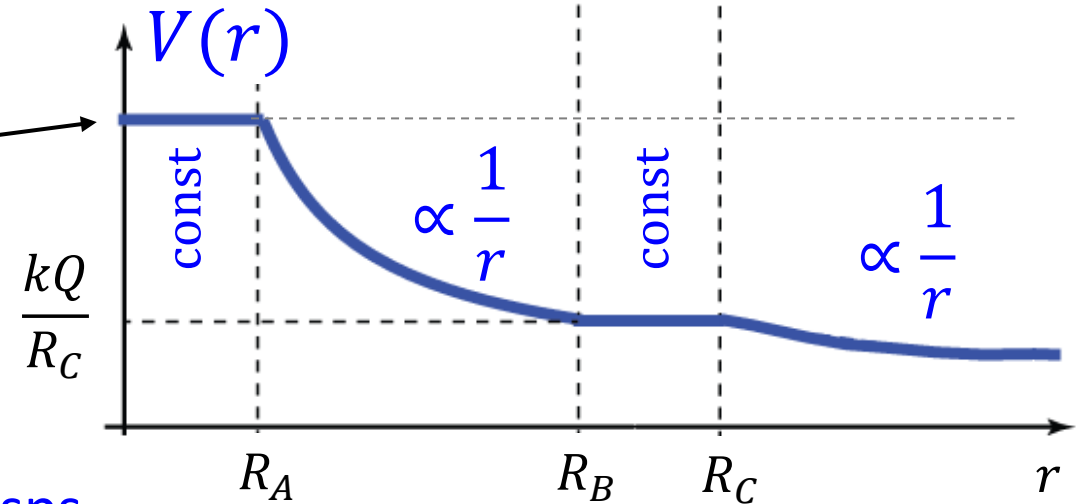
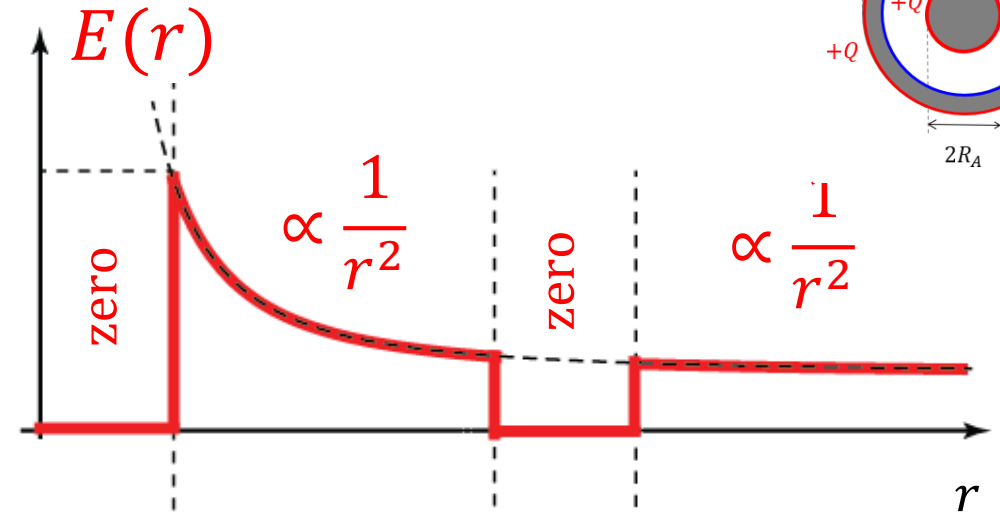
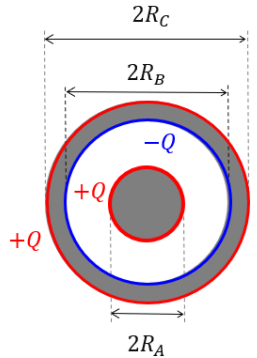
$$0 - V(R_C) = -\int_{R_C}^{\infty} \frac{kQ}{r^2} dr = \frac{kQ}{r} \Big|_{R_C}^{\infty}$$

2. With  $i = R_B$ ,  $f = R_C$ :  $V(R_B) = V(R_C)$

$$V(R_C) - V(R_B) = 0$$

3. With  $i = R_A$ ,  $f = R_B$ :  $V(R_A) = \frac{kQ}{R_C} - \frac{kQ}{R_B} + \frac{kQ}{R_A}$

$$V(R_B) - V(R_A) = -\int_{R_A}^{R_B} \frac{kQ}{r^2} dr = \frac{kQ}{r} \Big|_{R_A}^{R_B}$$

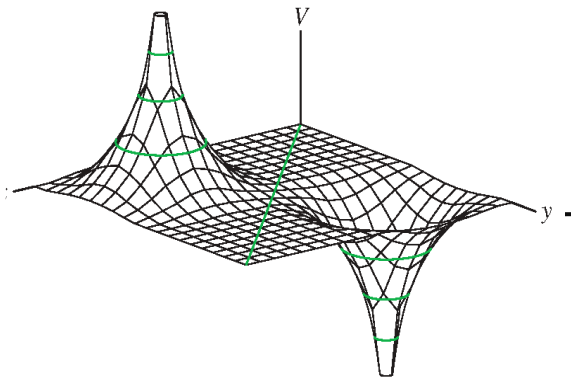
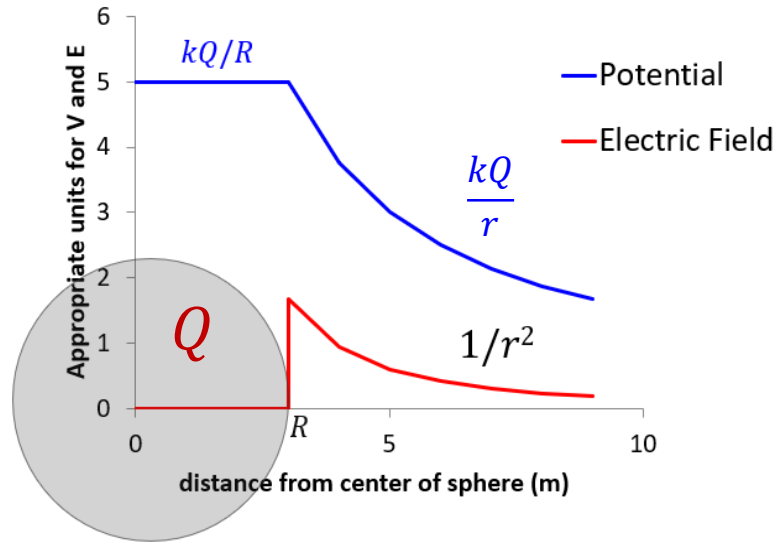


• Potential is always continuous, but it can have cusps.

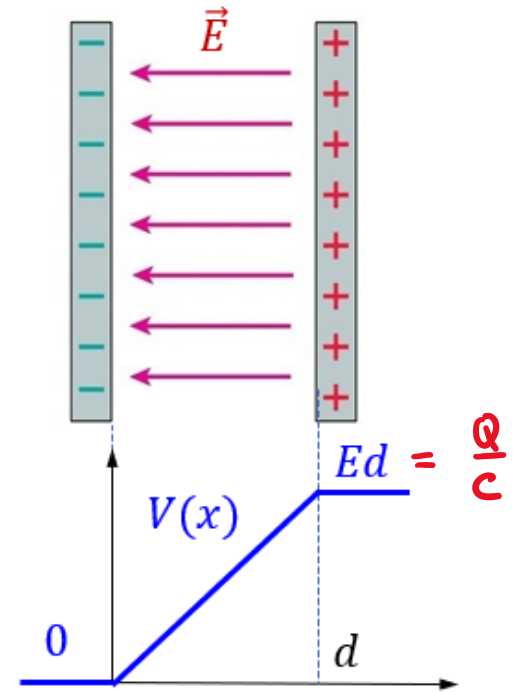
# Potential of various charged objects: Summary

Using  $\Delta V(r) = V_f - V_i = -\int_i^f \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s}$  and expressions for electric field that we have derived before, we can show that:

$$\bullet V_{\text{sphere}}(r) = \begin{cases} \frac{kQ}{R} & \text{for } r < R \\ \frac{kQ}{r} & \text{for } r > R \end{cases}$$



$$\bullet V_{\text{point charge}}(r) = \frac{kQ}{r}$$



•  $V_{\text{capacitor}}(r)$ :  
grows linearly  
across the plates

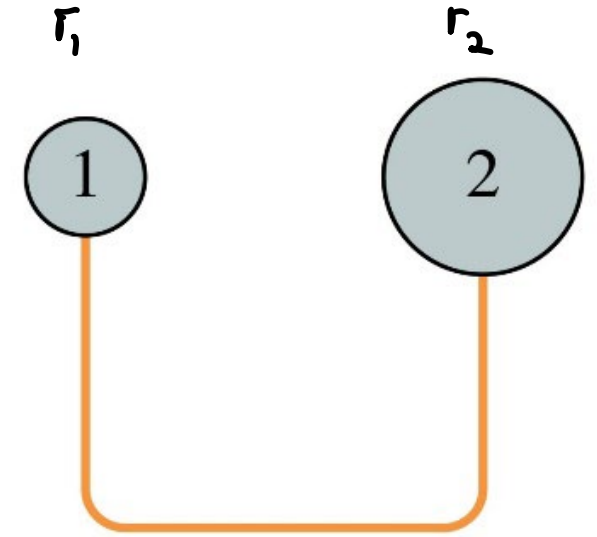
A charged conductor in equilibrium is all under the same potential ( $\vec{E} = 0$  inside)

Q: Metal spheres 1 and 2 are connected by a metal wire.

a) Which is true about their charges?

$V_R = \frac{kQ}{R}$  - potential of a sphere  
with charge  $Q$  and radius  $R$

$V_{R_1} = V_{R_2}$  (conductor is  
under the same potential !)



A.  $Q_1 = Q_2$

B.  $\frac{Q_1}{Q_2} = \frac{r_1}{r_2}$

C.  $\frac{Q_1}{Q_2} = \frac{A_1}{A_2} = \frac{r_1^2}{r_2^2}$

D.  $\frac{Q_1}{Q_2} = \frac{V_1}{V_2} = \frac{r_1^3}{r_2^3}$

$$\frac{kQ_1}{r_1} = \frac{kQ_2}{r_2}$$

1) These two spheres + wire are  
"the same conductor"  $\rightarrow$  the  
whole thing is under the same  
potential.

2) Due to the wire, the spheres are far enough  
from each other  $\rightarrow$  we can approximate the  
potential of each by  $V_R = kQ/R$ .

Q: Metal spheres 1 and 2 are connected by a metal wire.

b) Which is true about the electric fields at their surfaces?

A.  $E_1 = E_2$

B.  $\frac{E_1}{E_2} = \frac{r_1}{r_2}$

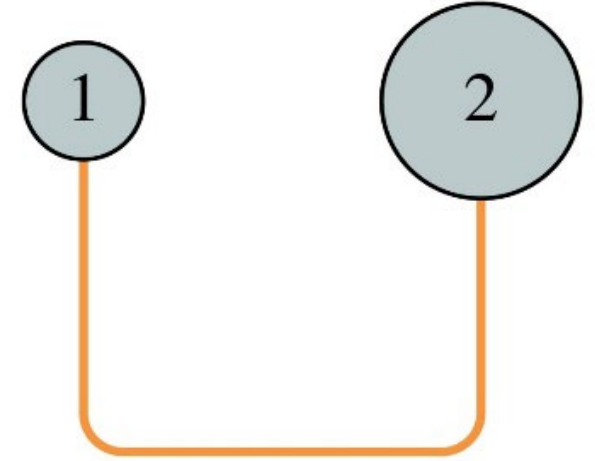
C.  $\frac{E_1}{E_2} = \frac{A_1}{A_2} = \frac{r_1^2}{r_2^2}$

**D.  $\frac{E_1}{E_2} = \frac{r_2}{r_1}$**

E.  $\frac{E_1}{E_2} = \frac{A_2}{A_1} = \frac{r_2^2}{r_1^2}$

$$\frac{E_1}{E_2} = \frac{\cancel{k} Q_1}{r_1^2} \cdot \frac{r_2^2}{\cancel{k} Q_2} = \frac{\cancel{r_1}^2}{r_2} \cdot \frac{r_2^2}{\cancel{r_1}^2} = r_2$$

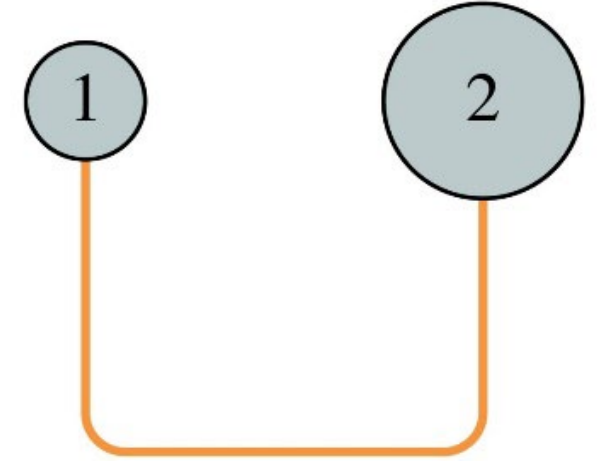
$Q_1/Q_2$   
↓



Q: Metal spheres 1 and 2 are connected by a metal wire.

c) Which is true about the charge density at their surfaces?

$$\sigma = \frac{Q}{A}$$



A.  $\sigma_1 = \sigma_2$

B.  $\frac{\sigma_1}{\sigma_2} = \frac{r_1}{r_2}$

C.  $\frac{\sigma_1}{\sigma_2} = \frac{A_1}{A_2} = \frac{r_1^2}{r_2^2}$

**D.  $\frac{\sigma_1}{\sigma_2} = \frac{r_2}{r_1}$**

E.  $\frac{\sigma_1}{\sigma_2} = \frac{A_2}{A_1} = \frac{r_2^2}{r_1^2}$

$$\frac{\sigma_1}{\sigma_2} = \frac{Q_1}{\cancel{4\pi r_1^2}} \cdot \frac{\cancel{4\pi r_2^2}}{Q_2} =$$

$$= \frac{Q_1}{Q_2} \frac{r_2^2}{r_1^2} = \frac{r_1}{r_2} \frac{r_2^2}{r_1^2}$$

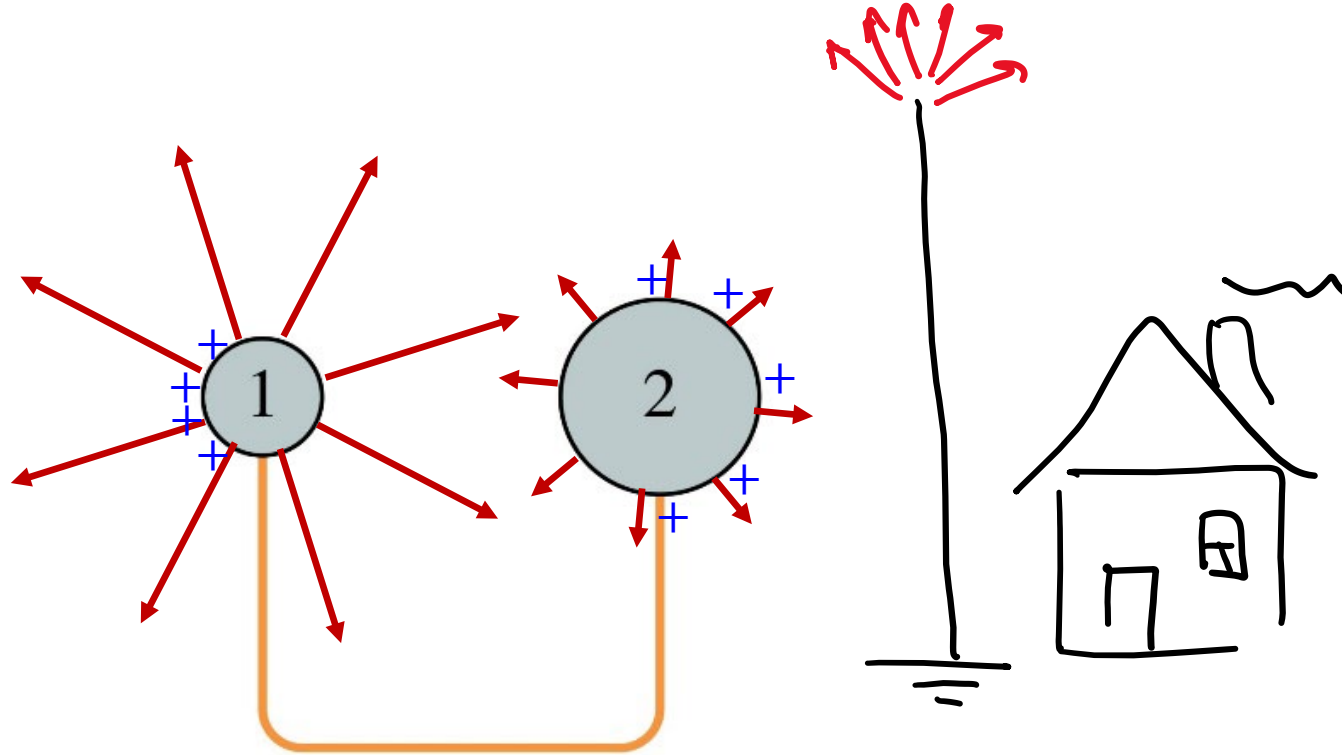
Q: Metal spheres 1 and 2 are connected by a metal wire.

c) Which is true about the charge density at their surfaces?

$$\frac{Q_1}{Q_2} = \frac{r_1}{r_2}$$

$$\frac{E_1}{E_2} = \frac{r_2}{r_1}$$

$$\frac{\sigma_1}{\sigma_2} = \frac{r_2}{r_1}$$



**Note:** Using these two spheres as a model of a conductor, we can get a qualitative idea why the surface charge density in conductors is larger at sharp corners.

