

Electromagnetism

Richard Robinson

September 9, 2018

Chapter 1

Electricity

1.1 Electric Forces

IN ELECTRODYNAMICS, there is typically a *source point* \mathbf{r}' where a charge is located and a *field point* \mathbf{r} where a field is calculated at. The *separation vector* is defined as

$$\mathbf{r} \equiv \mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}' \quad \hat{\mathbf{r}} = \mathbf{r}/r \quad (1.1)$$

upon definition of a coordinate system. Coulomb's law expresses the force of charges q_i on another charge q_0 , given by

$$\mathbf{F} \equiv K \sum \frac{q_0 q_i}{r^2} \hat{\mathbf{r}} = q_0 \mathbf{E} \quad (1.2)$$

When calculating the force via E , the charge density must be replaced by the respective equation. The charge differential is defined as

$$dq \mapsto \lambda dx \sim \sigma dA \sim \rho dV \quad (1.3)$$

When evaluating the results of the integration, the limiting cases such as $a \gg b$ can be found by evaluating the expression for $b = 0$.

1.2 Electric Field

The electric field at a point P which acts like a positive test charge of a set of source charges is defined as

$$\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}) \equiv K \sum \frac{q_i}{r_i^2} \hat{\mathbf{r}}_i = K \int \frac{1}{r^2} \hat{\mathbf{r}} dq \quad (1.4)$$

For most cases, symmetry can be utilized such that

$$\mathbf{E} = E_x \rightarrow \hat{\mathbf{z}} = \cos \theta \quad (1.5)$$

An electric dipole describes the configuration of two opposite charges q a distance d apart. The electric dipole moment is defined as $p = qd$, which means the rate of the field for $x \gg d$ is $1/x^3$.

1.3 Energy

The torque of an electric dipole is defined to be

$$\tau = pE \sin \theta = \mathbf{p} \times \mathbf{E} \quad (1.6)$$

assuming its direction is perpendicular to and into the page. The work done by the external field in turning a dipole is thus

$$W = - \int_{\theta} \tau d\theta = pE(\Delta \cos \theta) \quad (1.7)$$

which is related to the change in potential energy via

$$U = -W = -\mathbf{p} \cdot \mathbf{E} \quad (1.8)$$

1.4 Gauss' Law

Gauss' Law states the flux is the rate of change of an electric field of a Gaussian surface; that is,

$$\Phi_E = \oint \mathbf{E} \cdot d\mathbf{A} = q/\epsilon_0 \quad (1.9)$$

meaning for each infinitesimal point for a given surface, \mathbf{E} is in the direction of the field lines, and \mathbf{A} is normal to the surface.

This results in $\Phi_E = 0$ if such closed surface does not enclose any charges and/or $\sum q = 0$. Because of this, E can be calculated via

$$\sum EA = q/\epsilon_0 \quad q \mapsto \lambda x \sim \sigma A \quad (1.10)$$

For a conductor, the field $E = \sigma/\epsilon_0$.