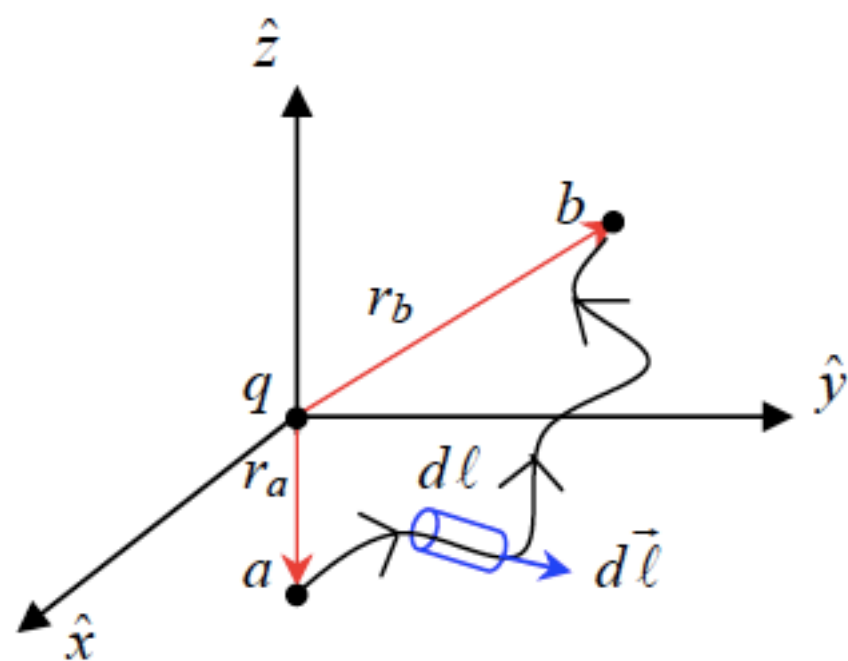


Lecture - 15



In spherical coordinates: $d\vec{\ell} = dr\hat{r} + r d\theta\hat{\theta} + r \sin\theta d\phi\hat{\phi}$

$$\vec{E}(\vec{r}) \cdot d\vec{\ell} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_o} \left(\frac{q}{r^2} \right) \hat{r} \cdot \left\{ dr\hat{r} + r d\theta\hat{\theta} + r \sin\theta d\phi\hat{\phi} \right\}$$

$$\vec{E}(\vec{r}) \cdot d\vec{\ell} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_o} \left(\frac{q}{r^2} \right) dr$$

$$\int_a^b \vec{E}(\vec{r}) \cdot d\vec{\ell} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_o} \int_a^b \frac{q}{r^2} dr = \frac{-1}{4\pi\epsilon_o} \left(\frac{q}{r} \right) \Big|_{r_a}^{r_b} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_o} \left(\frac{q}{r_a} - \frac{q}{r_b} \right) = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_o} \left(\frac{1}{r_a} - \frac{1}{r_b} \right)$$

r_a = distance from origin O to point \underline{a} . r_b = distance from origin O to point \underline{b} .

The line integral $\int \vec{E}(\vec{r}) \cdot d\vec{\ell}$ around a closed contour C is zero!

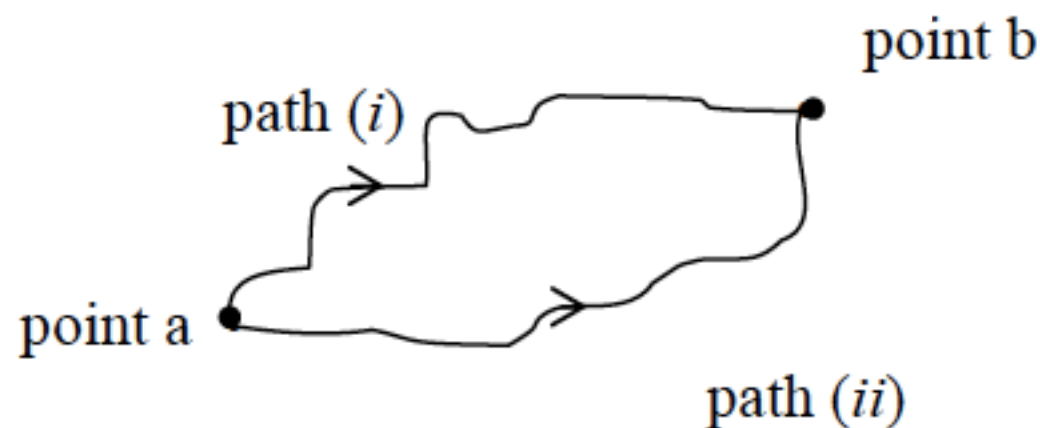
$$\int_S (\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{E}(\vec{r})) \cdot d\vec{A} = \oint_C \vec{E}(\vec{r}) \cdot d\vec{\ell} = 0$$

arbitrary closed
surface S

$$\oint_C \vec{E}(\vec{r}) \cdot d\vec{\ell} = 0$$

arbitrary closed
contour C (on S)

$$\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{E}(\vec{r}) = 0$$



$$\int_a^b \vec{E}(\vec{r}) \cdot d\vec{\ell} = \int_a^b \vec{E}(\vec{r}) \cdot d\vec{\ell} = \int_a^b \vec{E}(\vec{r}) \cdot d\vec{\ell}$$

path (i) path (ii) any path

because $\int_a^b \vec{E}(\vec{r}) \cdot d\vec{\ell}$ is independent of the path taken from point $a \rightarrow b$.

We now define a scalar point function, $V(\vec{r})$ known as the electric potential,

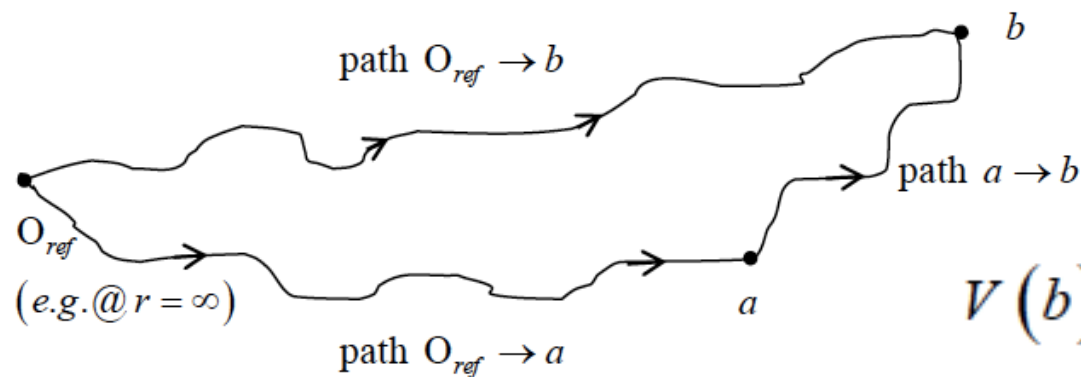
$$V(\vec{r}) \equiv -\int_{O_{ref}}^r \vec{E}(\vec{r}) \cdot d\vec{\ell}$$

Electric Potential
(integral version)

$$V(\vec{r}) \equiv -\int_{O_{ref}}^r \vec{E}(\vec{r}) \cdot d\vec{\ell}$$

By convention, the point $r = O_{ref}$ is taken to be a standard reference point of electric potential, $V(\vec{r})$ where $V(\vec{r} = O_{ref}) = 0$ (usually $r = \infty$).

$V(\vec{r})$ depends only on point \vec{r} .



$$\begin{aligned} V(b) - V(a) &= \left(-\int_{O_{ref}}^b \vec{E}(\vec{r}) \cdot d\vec{\ell} \right) - \left(-\int_{O_{ref}}^a \vec{E}(\vec{r}) \cdot d\vec{\ell} \right) \\ &= -\int_{O_{ref}}^b \vec{E}(\vec{r}) \cdot d\vec{\ell} + \int_{O_{ref}}^a \vec{E}(\vec{r}) \cdot d\vec{\ell} \\ &= -\int_{O_{ref}}^b \vec{E}(\vec{r}) \cdot d\vec{\ell} - \int_a^{O_{ref}} \vec{E}(\vec{r}) \cdot d\vec{\ell} \\ &= -\int_a^{O_{ref}} \vec{E}(\vec{r}) \cdot d\vec{\ell} - \int_{O_{ref}}^b \vec{E}(\vec{r}) \cdot d\vec{\ell} \end{aligned}$$

$$\Delta V_{ab} \equiv V(\vec{r} = b) - V(\vec{r} = a) = -\int_a^b \vec{E}(\vec{r}) \cdot d\vec{\ell}$$

The fundamental theorem for gradients states that:

$$\text{Potential difference: } \Delta V_{ab} \equiv V(r=b) - V(r=a) = \int_a^b \vec{\nabla} V(\vec{r}) \cdot d\vec{\ell} = - \int_a^b \vec{E}(\vec{r}) \cdot d\vec{\ell}$$

This is true for any end-points a & b (and any contour from $a \rightarrow b$). Thus the two *integrands* must be equal

$$\vec{E}(\vec{r}) = -\vec{\nabla} V(\vec{r})$$

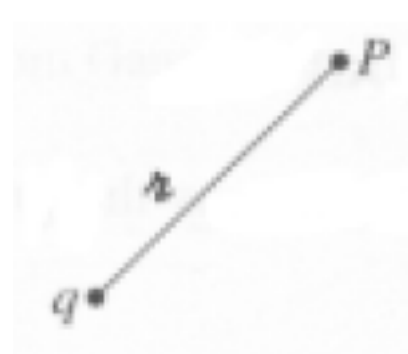
Differential Version

It is often easier to analyze a physical situation in terms of ***potential***, which is a ***scalar***, rather than the ***electric field strength***, which is a ***vector***.

\Rightarrow Knowing $V(\vec{r})$ enables you to specify/calculate $\vec{E}(\vec{r})$!!

Setting the reference point at infinity, the potential of a point charge q at the origin is

$$V(r) = \frac{-1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_{\infty}^r \frac{q}{r'^2} dr' = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q}{r}$$



$$V(\vec{r}) \equiv \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_V \frac{\rho(\vec{r}')}{r} d\tau'$$

A nonconducting disk of radius a has a uniform surface charge density σ C/m². What is the potential at a point on the axis of the disk at a distance from its center.

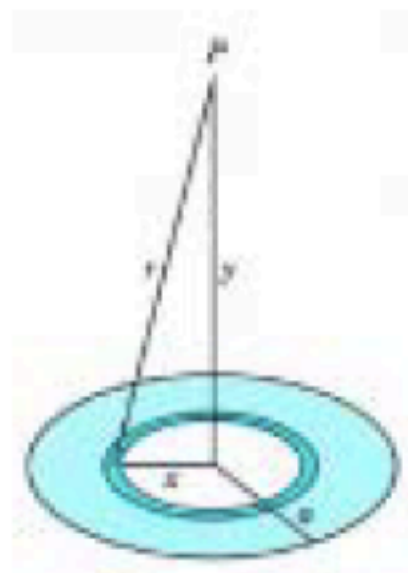
Solution:

$$dV = \frac{dq}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r}, \quad dq = \sigma(2\pi x dx)$$

$$dV = \frac{\sigma\pi}{4\pi\epsilon_0 \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}} dx^2$$

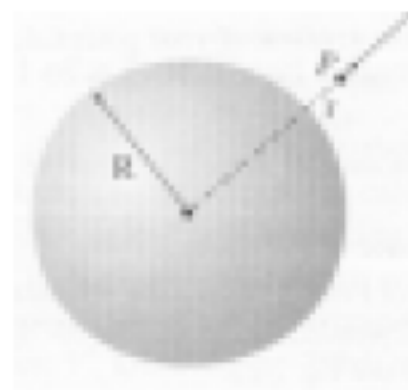
$$V = \int_0^a \frac{\sigma\pi}{4\pi\epsilon_0 \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}} dx^2$$

$$= \frac{\sigma}{2\epsilon_0} \left[(x^2 + y^2)^{0.5} - y \right]_0^a = \frac{\sigma}{2\epsilon_0} \left[(a^2 + y^2)^{0.5} - y \right]$$



Example 2.6 Find the potential inside and outside a spherical shell of radius R , which carries a uniform surface charge. Set the reference point at infinity.

$$\begin{cases} \text{Inside } (r < R) & E = 0 \\ \text{outside } (r > R) & E = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2} \end{cases}$$



$$V(r) = -\int_{\infty}^r \mathbf{E} \cdot d\ell = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r} \quad (r > R)$$

$$\text{and } V(r) = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R} \quad (r < R)$$

The electric field can be written as the gradient of a scalar potential.

$$\mathbf{E} = -\nabla V$$

What do the fundamental equations for E look like, in terms of V ?

Gauss's law $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{E} = -(\nabla \cdot \nabla V) = -\nabla^2 V = \frac{\rho}{\epsilon_0}$

Curl law $\nabla \times \mathbf{E} = -(\nabla \times \nabla V) = 0$

$\nabla \times \mathbf{E} = 0$ permits $\mathbf{E} = -\nabla V$;

in turn, $\mathbf{E} = -\nabla V$ guarantees $\nabla \times \mathbf{E} = 0$

$$\nabla^2 V(\vec{r}) = -\frac{\rho_{encl}(\vec{r})}{\epsilon_0} \Leftarrow \text{Poisson's Equation}$$

In regions of space where the volume charge density, $\rho(\vec{r}) = 0$, then Poisson's equation \Rightarrow Laplace's Equation $\nabla^2 V(\vec{r}) = 0 \Leftarrow$ linear homogenous 2nd order differential equation.

Cartesian Coordinates:

$$\nabla^2 = \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z^2}$$

Cylindrical Coordinates:

$$\nabla^2 = \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left(r \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \right) + \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \phi^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z^2}$$

Spherical Coordinates:

$$\nabla^2 = \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left(r^2 \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \right) + \frac{1}{r^2 \sin \theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \left(\sin \theta \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \right) + \frac{1}{r^2 \sin^2 \theta} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \phi^2}$$

$$V(\vec{r}) = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_o} \frac{q}{r}, \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_o} \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{q_i}{r_i}, \text{ or} \\ \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_o} \int_C \frac{\lambda(r') d\ell'}{r}, \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_o} \int_S \frac{\sigma(r') dA'}{r} \\ \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_o} \int_V \frac{\rho(r') d\mathbf{r}'}{r} \end{array} \right\} \Rightarrow \vec{E}(\vec{r}) = -\vec{\nabla} V(\vec{r})$$

$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{charge distribution} \\ q, \sum_{i=1}^N q_i, \lambda, \sigma, \rho \end{array} \right\}$

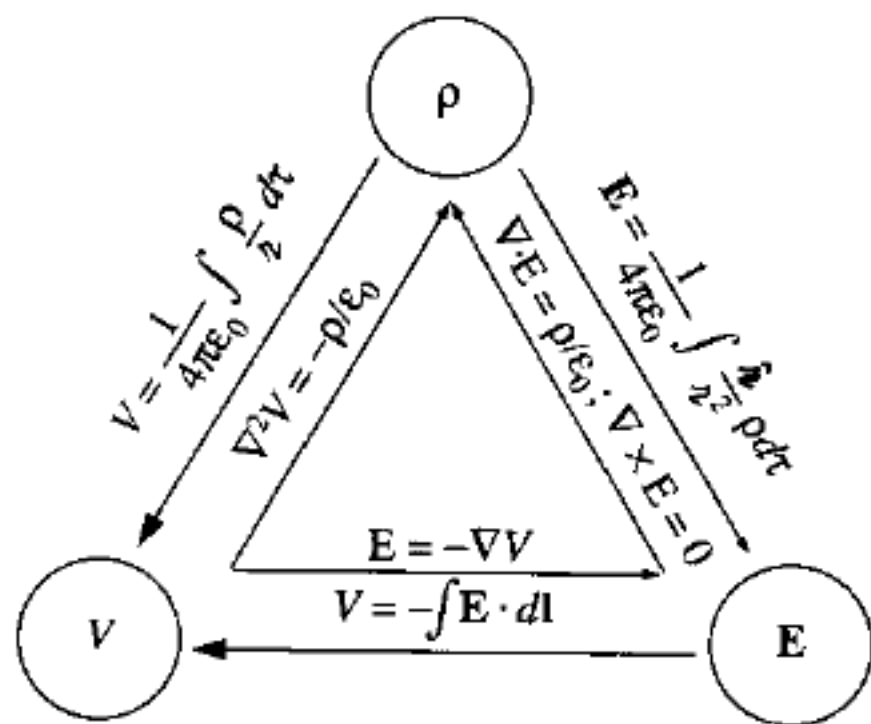
$$\nabla^2 V(\vec{r}) = -\frac{\rho(\vec{r})}{\epsilon_o} \text{ to find } \rho(\vec{r}).$$

$$\vec{E}(\vec{r}) = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_o} \frac{q}{r^2}, \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_o} \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{q_i}{r_i^2} \hat{\mathbf{r}} \text{ or} \\ \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_o} \int_C \frac{\lambda(r') \hat{\mathbf{r}} d\ell'}{r^2}, \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_o} \int_S \frac{\sigma(r') \hat{\mathbf{r}} dA'}{r^2} \\ \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_o} \int_V \frac{\rho(r') \hat{\mathbf{r}} d\tau'}{r^2} \end{array} \right\}$$

$$V(\vec{r}) = -\int_C \vec{E}(\vec{r}) \cdot d\vec{\ell}' \text{ to find } V(\vec{r})$$

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{E}(\vec{r}) = \rho(\vec{r})/\epsilon_o \text{ to find } \rho(\vec{r}).$$

We have derived six formulas interrelating three fundamental quantities: ρ , \mathbf{E} and V .



These equations are obtained from two observations:

- Coulomb's law: the fundamental law of electrostatics
- The principle of superposition: a general rule applying to all electromagnetic forces.