

# Electric Charges and fields

**Electric Charge:** Electric charge is an intrinsic property of elementary particles of matter which gives rise to electric force between various objects.

It is represented by  $q$ . The SI unit of electric charge is Coulomb (C). A proton has positive charge ( $+e$ ) and an electron has negative charge ( $-e$ ). where  $e = 1.6 \times 10^{-19} C$ .

- Like charges repel each other and unlike charges attract each other.
- The property which differentiates the two kinds of charge is called the "Polarity" of charge.
- Charge is a scalar quantity. When some electrons are removed from the atom, it acquires a positive charge and when some electrons are added to the atom, it acquires a negative charge.
- Charge does not depend on the velocity of the particle.

## Properties of electric Charge

(1). **Additivity of Charges:** Charges are additive in nature. Total charge of a system is obtained simply by adding algebraically.

Question: What is the total charge of a system containing five charges  $+1, +2, -3, +4$  and  $-5$  in some arbitrary unit?

Answer: Total Charge =  $+1+2-3+4-5 = -1$  in the same unit

(2). Charge is conserved

The total charge of an isolated system remain conserved (constant). Charge can neither be created nor be destroyed. It can only transferred from one body to another body.

(3). Quantization of Charge

- The charge on any body will be some integral multiple of  $e$ : i.e  $q = \pm ne$   $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$   $e$  = quantum of charge.
- Charge on any body can never be  $(\frac{1}{3}e), 1.5$  etc.

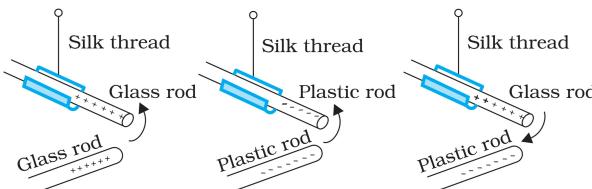
**CONDUCTORS:** The substances through which electric charges can flow easily are called conductors.

e.g. Metal, human body and animal bodies, graphite acids etc. are conductor.

**Insulators:** The substances through which electric charges cannot flow easily are called insulators.  
e.g. Non-metal like glass, diamond, porcelain, plastic, nylon, wood, mica etc are insulators.

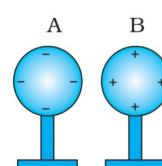
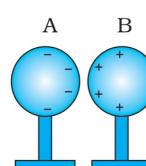
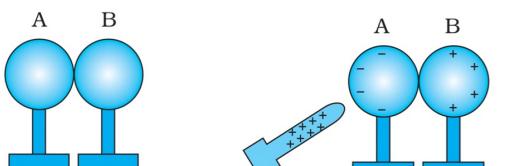
## Methods of Charging

(1). **Charging by rubbing:** When two bodies rubbed together, due to friction some electrons from one body pass on to the other body. The body that donates the electrons become positively charged and body which gains electrons becomes negatively charged.

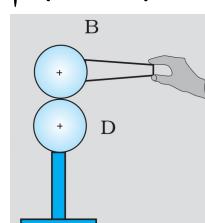


(2). **Charging by induction**

The process of giving one object a net electric charge without touching the object to a second charged object is called "Charging by induction".



(3). **Charging by Contact or conduction:** When a charged body is made to touch an uncharged body, some of the charge from the charged body is transferred to the other body. This is called Charging by Touch.



Q= Does in charging the mass of a body change?

Ans = Yes, as charging a body means addition and removal of electrons and electrons has a mass.

### Difference between Charge and Mass

#### CHARGE

- (1). Electric charge can be +ve, -ve or zero.
- (2). Charge on a body does not depend upon velocity of the body.
- (3). Charge is quantized.
- (4). Electric charge is always conserved.
- (5). Force b/w two point charges can be attractive, or repulsive.

#### MASS

- (1). Always a positive quantity.
- (2). Mass of a body increases with its velocity as  $m = \frac{m_0}{\sqrt{1-v^2/c^2}}$   $C$  = Velocity of light in vacuum  $m$  = mass of the body moving with velocity  $v$  and  $m_0$  rest mass of the body.
- (3). The quantization of mass is yet to be established.
- (4). Mass is not conserved and it can be changed into energy and vice-versa.
- (5). The gravitational force between two masses is always attractive.

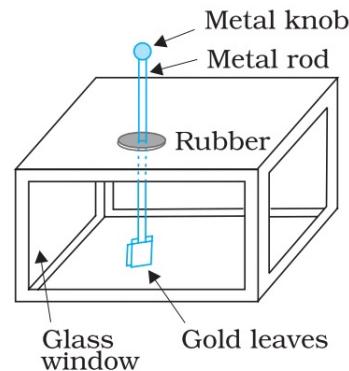
### Objects acquiring two kinds of charge on rubbing

Positive Charge	Negative Charge
1. Glass rod	1. Silk Cloth
2. Fur or woolen cloth	2. Ebonite, Amber, Rubber rod
3. Woolen Coat	3. Plastic Seat
4. Woolen Carpet	4. Rubber Shoes
5. Nylon or Acetate	5. Cloth
6. Dry hair.	6. Comb.

Gold leaf Electroscope

A simple apparatus to detect charge on a body and its polarity is the Gold leaf Electroscope. It consists of a vertical metal rod housed in a box, with two thin gold leaves attached to its bottom end. When a charged object touches the metal knob at the top of the rod, charge flows onto the leaves and they diverge. The degree of divergence is an indicator of the amount of charge.

Note: Charges were named as positive and negative by the American scientist Benjamin Franklin.



Coulomb's law: → It states that "the force of interaction between any two point charges is directly proportional to the product of the magnitude of the charges and inversely proportional to the square of the distance between them."

$$q_1 \bullet \quad \bullet q_2$$

$$\text{i.e. } F = k \frac{q_1 q_2}{r^2} \quad \text{where } k = \text{constant of proportionality}$$

$$\text{i.e. } k = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0 K}$$

for vacuum  $k = 1$   
 $K$  = dielectric constant.  
 also known as permittivity.

$$\epsilon_0 = \text{absolute permittivity} = 8.85 \times 10^{-12} \text{ C}^2 \text{ N}^{-1} \text{ m}^{-2}$$

$$k = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} = 9 \times 10^9 \text{ N m}^2 \text{ C}^{-2}$$

$$\text{for medium } F_m = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0 K} \frac{q_1 q_2}{r^2} \rightarrow \text{for medium}$$

$$\frac{F_m}{F} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0 K} \frac{q_1 q_2}{r^2} \frac{1}{q_1 q_2} \quad \text{i.e. } \frac{F_m}{F} = \frac{1}{K}$$

$$\text{or } F_m = \frac{F}{K}$$

so we can say that force decreases  $\frac{1}{K}$  times on introducing medium b/w the charges.

$F_m$  = force when any medium is introduced between the charges

$F$  = " when vacuum / air between the charges.

## Dielectric Constant or Relative Permittivity

$$K = \frac{\epsilon}{\epsilon_0}$$

or

$$\epsilon_r = \frac{\epsilon}{\epsilon_0}$$

= Permittivity of any medium  
Permittivity of free Space.

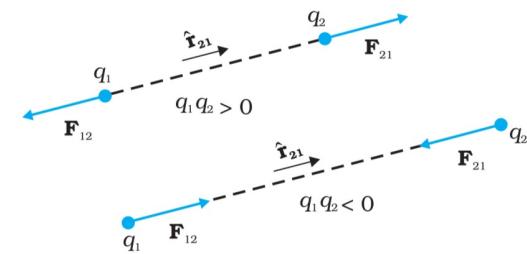
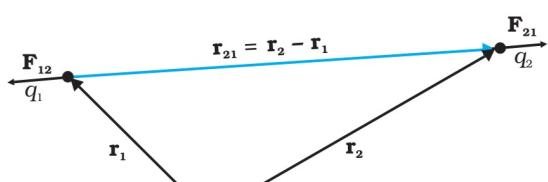
## Coulomb's Law in Vector form:

$\vec{F}_{12}$  = force on  $q_1$  due to  $q_2$   
 $\vec{F}_{21}$  = force on  $q_2$  due to  $q_1$

Acc to Coulomb's Law

$$\vec{F}_{12} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q_1 q_2}{r_{12}^2} \hat{r}_{12}$$

Similarly  $\vec{F}_{21} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q_1 q_2}{r_{21}^2} \hat{r}_{21}$



Newton's third law.

## Forces between Multiple Charges / Superposition Principle

Acc to the principle of superposition

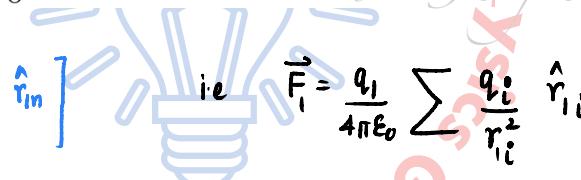
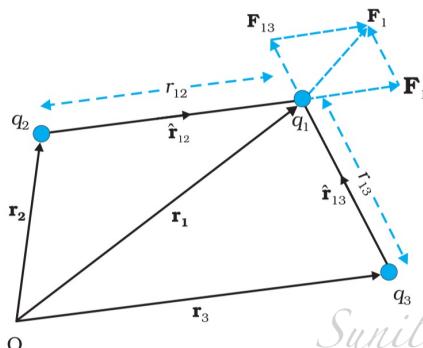
"total force on a given charge due to number of charges is the vector sum of individual forces acting on that charge due to the presence of other charges."

$$\text{i.e. } \vec{F}_1 = \vec{F}_{12} + \vec{F}_{13}$$

or

$$\vec{F}_1 = \vec{F}_{12} + \vec{F}_{13} + \dots + \vec{F}_{1n}$$

$$\vec{F}_1 = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left[ \frac{q_1 q_2}{r_{12}^2} \hat{r}_{12} + \frac{q_1 q_3}{r_{13}^2} \hat{r}_{13} + \dots + \frac{q_1 q_n}{r_{1n}^2} \hat{r}_{1n} \right]$$



Note: → The Vector Sum is obtained as usual by the Parallelogram law of addition of vectors

Unit of Charge: from Coulomb's Law  $F = k \frac{q_1 q_2}{r^2}$  if  $q_1 = q_2 = 1C$  and  $r = 1m$

$$\text{then } F = 9 \times 10^9 N$$

## Continuous Charge Distribution

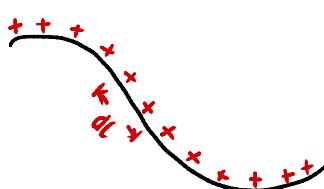
The region in which charges are closely spaced is said to have continuous distribution of charge. It is of three types.

### 1). Linear Charge distribution

The distribution in which charge is distributed along the length of a body or object.

Linear charge density is defined as the charge per unit length. It is denoted by  $\lambda$ .

$$\lambda = \frac{dq}{dl} \quad \text{SI unit} = \frac{C}{m} = C m^{-1}$$

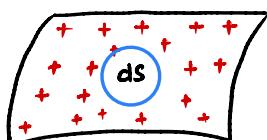


### 2). Surface Charge distribution

when the charge is distributed or spread over a two dimensional surface S is called Surface Charge distribution.

Surface Charge density is defined as the charge per unit area. It is denoted by  $\sigma$ .

$$\sigma = \frac{dq}{ds} \quad \text{SI unit} = \frac{C}{m^2} \Rightarrow C m^{-2}$$

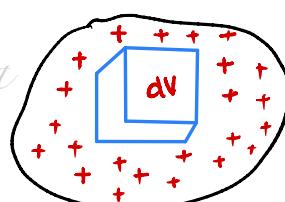


### 3). Volume Charge Distribution

when the charge is distributed over a three dimensional volume or region V, is called as Volume Charge distribution.

Volume Charge distribution is defined as the charge per unit volume. It is denoted by  $\rho$ .

$$\rho = \frac{dq}{dv} \quad \text{SI unit} = C m^{-3}$$



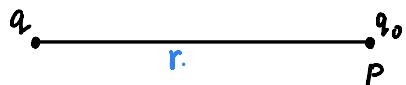
**Electric field:** → The space in the surrounding of any charge in which its influence can be experienced by other charges is called electric field. It is denoted by  $\vec{E}$ .

**Electric Field Intensity:** The electrostatic force acting per unit positive (test) charge in electric field is called electric field intensity at that point. It is denoted by  $\vec{E}$ .

i.e.  $\vec{E} = \frac{\vec{F}}{q_0}$  force experienced by test charge  $q_0$ . So unit of  $\vec{E}$  is N/C (Newton/Coulomb)

it is a vector quantity and its direction is in the direction of electrostatic force acting on positive charge.

### Electric Field due to a Point Charge



The force between two charges is given by coulomb's law.

$$F = k \frac{q q_0}{r^2} \quad \text{where } q = \text{Source charge and } q_0 = \text{Test charge.}$$

Electric field intensity due to  $q$  at point P is  $\vec{E} = \frac{\vec{F}}{q_0}$  or  $E = \frac{F}{q_0} \Rightarrow E = k \frac{q q_0}{r^2} \times \frac{1}{q_0}$

$$E = \frac{kq}{r^2} \quad \text{if } q > 0 \text{ i.e. positive charge}$$

$\vec{E}$  is directed away from source.

- If  $q < 0$  i.e. negative charge  $\vec{E}$  is directed towards the source charge.

### Electric Field due to System of Charges

The electric field at point P due to the system of n charges is  $\vec{E} = \vec{E}_1 + \vec{E}_2 + \vec{E}_3 + \dots + \vec{E}_n$

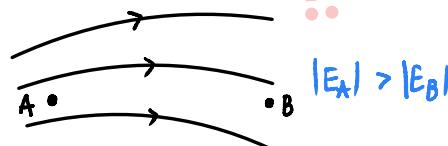
$$\vec{E} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q_1}{r_{1P}^2} \hat{r}_{1P} + \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q_2}{r_{2P}^2} \hat{r}_{2P} + \dots + \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q_n}{r_{nP}^2} \hat{r}_{nP}$$

$$\vec{E} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{q_i}{r_{iP}^2} \hat{r}_{iP}$$

$\vec{E}$  is a vector quantity that varies from one point to another point in space and is determined from the positions of the source charges.

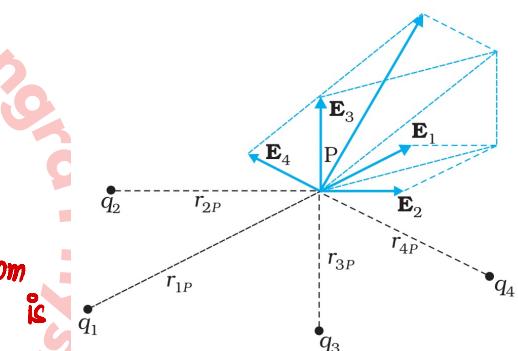
### Electric Field Lines

An electric field line is an imaginary line or curve drawn through a region of space so that its tangent at any point is in the direction of the electric field vector at that point.



$$|E_A| > |E_B|$$

, The relative closeness of the lines at some place give an idea about the intensity of electric field at that point.

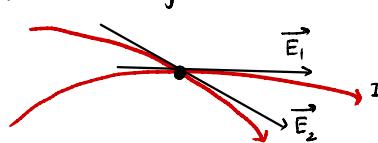


### Properties of Electric field lines

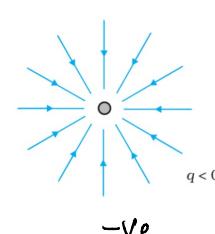
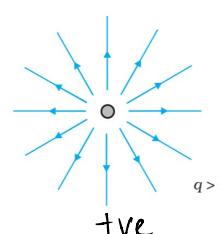
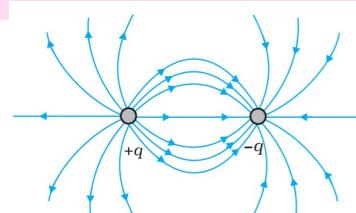
1). Electric field lines start from positive charge and end at negative charges. if there is a single charge, they may start or end at infinity.

2). In a charge free region, electric field lines can be taken to be continuous curves without any breaks.

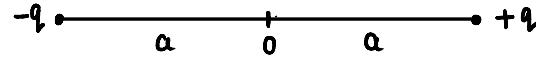
3). Two field lines can never cross each other because at the point of intersection the electric field intensity will have two directions which is not possible.



4) Electric field lines do not form any closed loops, due to conservative nature of electric field.



**Electric Dipole:** It is a system of two equal and opposite charges separated by a certain distance (dipole length  $2a$ ).



**Electric dipole moment:** Electric dipole moment is a vector  $\vec{P}$  directed from negative to positive charge. The magnitude of dipole moment is  $P = q(2a)$  and vector form  $\vec{P} = q2a\hat{P}$ .

## THE FIELD OF AN ELECTRIC DIPOLE

### i) For points on the axis

Let the point P be at distance  $r$  from the centre of dipole on the side of the charge  $q$ , as shown in fig.

Then  $\vec{E}_{-q} = \frac{-q}{4\pi\epsilon_0(r+a)^2} \hat{P}$  -① ( $\hat{P}$  is the unit vector along the dipole axis (from  $-q$  to  $q$ ).

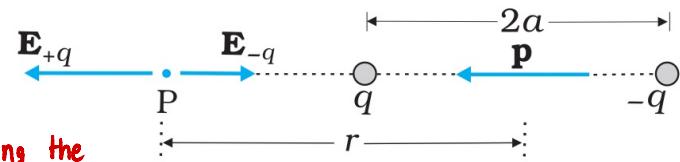
also  $\vec{E}_{+q} = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0(r-a)^2} \hat{P}$  -②

The total electric field at point P is  $\vec{E} = \vec{E}_{+q} + \vec{E}_{-q}$  we get  $\vec{E} = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0(r^2a^2)} \hat{P}$  and magnitude  $E = \frac{P}{4\pi\epsilon_0(r^2a^2)}$  ( $P = q2a$ )

For  $r \gg a$  (for short dipole)

$$E = \frac{2Kp}{r^3} \quad \text{where } K = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}$$

NOTE: Total Electric Field & Dipole moment both are in same direction.



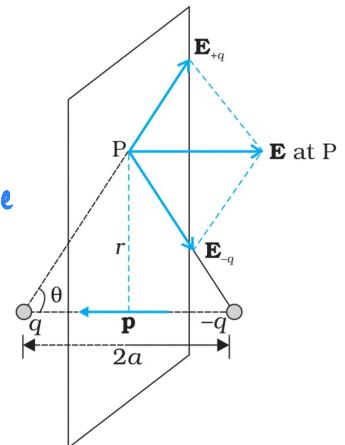
### ii) For Points on the equatorial plane $\Rightarrow$ The magnitudes of the electric fields due to the two charges $+q$ and $-q$ are given by.

$$E_{+q} = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{1}{r^2+a^2} \hat{P} \quad \text{--- (1)} \quad \text{&} \quad E_{-q} = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{1}{r^2+a^2} \hat{P} \quad \text{--- (2)}$$

The direction of  $\vec{E}_{+q}$  and  $\vec{E}_{-q}$  are shown in figure. Clearly the components along the dipole axis cancel away. The components along the dipole axis add up. The total electric field is opposite to  $\hat{P}$ .  $\vec{E} = -(E_{+q} + E_{-q}) \cos\theta \hat{P}$

$$\vec{E} = -\frac{2qa}{4\pi\epsilon_0(r^2+a^2)^{3/2}} \hat{P} \quad \text{for short dipole i.e. } r \gg a$$

$$\vec{E} = -\frac{2qa}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^3} \hat{P} \quad \text{and Magnitude } E = \frac{Kp}{r^3}$$



Electric field due to dipole at any point from centre of Dipole is

$$E = \frac{Kp}{r^3} \sqrt{3\cos^2\theta + 1}$$

## Dipole in a Uniform External Field

Consider a permanent dipole of dipole moment  $\vec{P}$  in a uniform external field  $\vec{E}$ , as shown in fig. There a force  $q\vec{E}$  on  $q$  and  $-q\vec{E}$  on  $-q$ . The net force on dipole is zero, since  $\vec{E}$  is uniform.

When the net force is zero, the torque is independent of the origin.

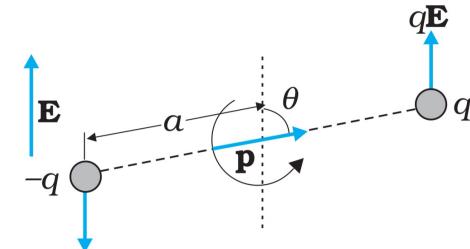
Torque = Magnitude of either force  $\times$  perpendicular distance between the two antiparallel forces.

$$\tau = qE \times 2a \sin\theta \Rightarrow \tau = PE \sin\theta \quad \text{i.e. } \vec{\tau} = \vec{P} \times \vec{E}$$

$\tau$  is a vector quantity and its direction is normal to the paper, coming out of it.

This torque will tend to align the dipole with the field  $\vec{E}$ .

when  $\vec{P}$  is aligned to  $\vec{E}$ , the torque is zero i.e.  $\tau = PE \sin 0^\circ = 0$



## Dipole in a Non-Uniform External field

In that case net force on dipole is non-zero

Hence dipole will experience both force and torque when placed in non-uniform electric field.

$$\vec{E}$$

Force on  $-q$

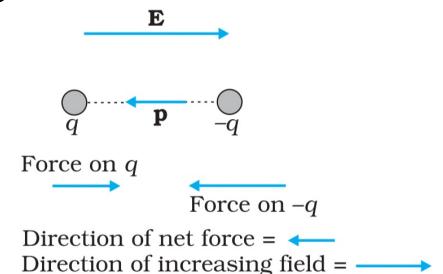
Force on  $q$

$-q$

$q$

Direction of net force =  $\rightarrow$

Direction of increasing field =  $\rightarrow$



## Potential Energy of Dipole

When an electric dipole is placed in an electric field  $\vec{E}$ , a torque  $\vec{\tau} = \vec{P} \times \vec{E}$  acts on it. If we rotate the dipole through a small angle  $d\theta$  opposite to the torque is

$dW = \tau d\theta \Rightarrow dW = -PE$  The change in electric Potential energy of the dipole is there  $dU = -dW$

$$\text{so } dU = PE \sin\theta d\theta$$

$$\text{Integrating } \int_0^\theta dU = \int_0^\theta PE \sin\theta d\theta \Rightarrow U = PE [-\cos\theta]_{90^\circ}^\theta \Rightarrow U = -PE \cos\theta \Rightarrow U = -\vec{P} \cdot \vec{E}$$

## Equilibrium of Dipole

$$U = -PE \cos\theta$$

$$(i) \text{ if } \theta = 0^\circ$$

$U = -PE$  (minimum)

$$\vec{F}_{\text{Net}} = 0 \quad \vec{\tau} = 0$$

Stable equilibrium position.

$$(ii) \text{ if } \theta = 180^\circ$$

$U = +PE$

$$\vec{F}_{\text{Net}} = 0 \quad \vec{\tau} = 0$$

Unstable equilibrium position.

## Electric Flux Sunil

Electric flux over an area is equal to the total number of electric field lines crossing this area

Electric flux  $\Delta\phi$  through an area element  $\Delta S$  is given by

$$\Delta\phi = \vec{E} \cdot \vec{\Delta S} = E \Delta S \cos\theta$$

SI unit =  $N \cdot m^2/C$

$$\text{if } \theta = 0^\circ$$

$$\text{then } \Delta\phi = E \Delta S \cos 0^\circ$$

$$\Delta\phi = E \Delta S$$

Maximum flux.

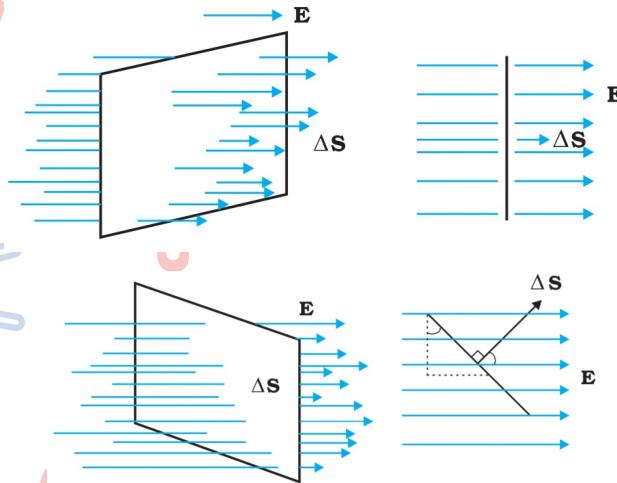
$\Delta S$  area vector  
 $\vec{E}$  Electric field intensity.

$$\text{if } \theta = 90^\circ$$

$$\text{then } \Delta\phi = E \Delta S \cos 90^\circ$$

$$\Delta\phi = 0$$

$$\because \cos 90^\circ = 0$$



## Gauss' Theorem

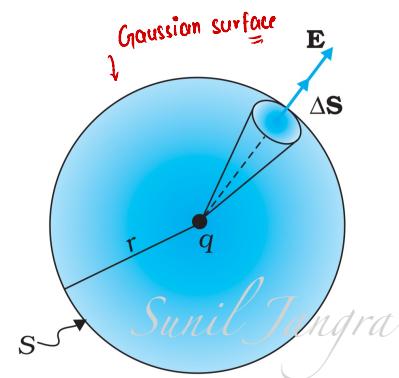
The electric flux over any closed surface is  $\frac{1}{\epsilon_0}$  times the total charge enclosed by that surface. i.e.

$$\Phi_E = \oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{S} = \frac{1}{\epsilon_0} \sum q$$

$q$  = enclosed charge.

If a charge  $q$  is placed at the centre of a cube then total electric flux linked with the whole cube =  $\frac{q}{\epsilon_0}$

Electric flux with one face of the cube =  $\frac{q}{6\epsilon_0}$



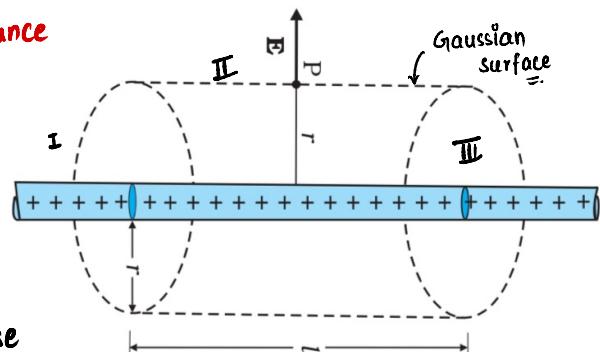
Application-I : Field due to an infinitely long straight uniformly charged wire.

Consider a long line charge with a linear charge density  $\lambda$ .

We have to calculate the electric field at a point, a distance  $r$  from the line charge.

Acc. to Gauss' Theorem

$$\Phi = \frac{q}{\epsilon_0} \Rightarrow \int \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{S} = \frac{q}{\epsilon_0} \Rightarrow \int_I \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{S} + \int_{II} \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{S} + \int_{III} \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{S} = \frac{q}{\epsilon_0}$$



for I & III faces  $\vec{E}$  and  $d\vec{S}$  perpendicular to each other

i.e.  $\theta = 90^\circ$  &  $\cos 90^\circ = 0$ . So we will consider only II phase because  $\vec{E}$  &  $d\vec{S}$  are parallel i.e.  $\theta = 0^\circ$ .

$$\oint \vec{E} d\vec{s} \cos 0^\circ = \frac{q}{\epsilon_0} \Rightarrow \oint E ds = \frac{q}{\epsilon_0} \Rightarrow E \oint ds = \frac{q}{\epsilon_0} \Rightarrow E \cdot 2\pi r l = \frac{q}{\epsilon_0} \Rightarrow E = \frac{q}{2\pi r l \epsilon_0} \Rightarrow E = \frac{\lambda}{2\pi \epsilon_0 r} \text{ ie } E \propto \frac{1}{r}$$

(Note  $\int ds = \text{curved surface area } (2\pi r l)$  &  $\lambda = q/l$ )

### Application-2 → Field due to a uniformly charged infinite plane sheet

let  $\sigma$  be the uniform surface charge density of an infinite plane sheet

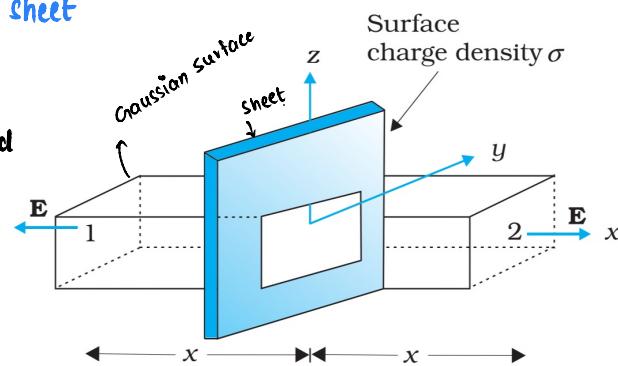
Plane of the sheet is Normal to the  $x$ -axis.

$A$  = cross-sectional area of gaussian surface.

From figure we can say that only face 1 & 2 will be considered here. Acc. to Gauss's Theorem

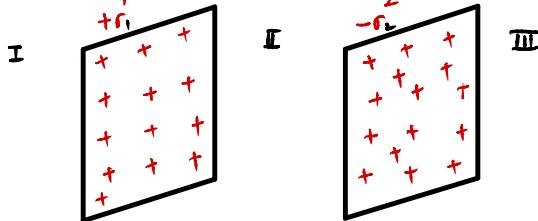
$$\oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s} + \oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s} = \frac{q}{\epsilon_0} \Rightarrow EA + EA = \frac{q}{\epsilon_0} \Rightarrow 2EA = \frac{q}{\epsilon_0}$$

$$E = \frac{q}{2AE_0} \text{ and } \sigma = \frac{q}{A} \quad E = \frac{\sigma}{2\epsilon_0} \quad (\text{Note } \int ds = A)$$



for two parallel charged sheet

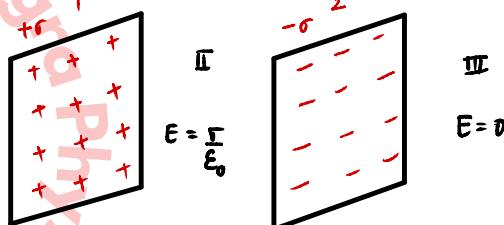
when both sheet are positively charged



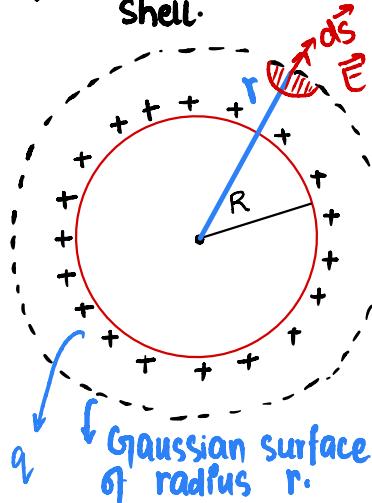
$$\text{For region I } E = \frac{\sigma_1}{2\epsilon_0} + \frac{\sigma_2}{2\epsilon_0}$$

$$\text{For III region } E = \frac{\sigma_1}{2\epsilon_0} - \frac{\sigma_2}{2\epsilon_0}$$

when both sheet are oppositely charged



### Application-III field due to Uniformly charged thin spherical shell



Let  $\sigma$  be the uniform surface charge density of an uniformly charged thin spherical shell.

Case I when  $r > R$  {outside the sphere}

Acc. to Gauss Law

$$\oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s} = \frac{q}{\epsilon_0} \Rightarrow \int E ds \cos 0^\circ = \frac{q}{\epsilon_0}$$

Here  $\theta = 0^\circ$   $\vec{E}$  &  $d\vec{s}$  are in same direction.

$$\cos 0^\circ = 1 \text{ ie } \oint E ds = \frac{q}{\epsilon_0} \quad \text{and } q = \sigma 4\pi R^2$$

$$E \int ds = \frac{\sigma 4\pi R^2}{\epsilon_0} \quad \text{and } \int ds = 4\pi r^2$$

$$E \cancel{4\pi r^2} = \frac{\sigma \cancel{4\pi R^2}}{\epsilon_0}$$

$$E = \frac{\sigma R^2}{\epsilon_0 r^2}$$

### Case-II ( $r = R$ ) on the sphere

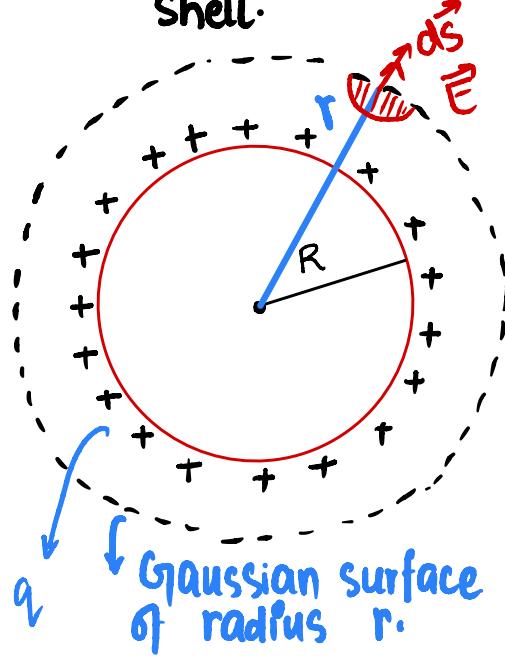
$$E = \frac{\sigma R^2}{\epsilon_0 R^2}$$

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

### Case-III ( $r < R$ ) Inside the Sphere

$$E = 0$$

### Application - III field due to Uniformly charged thin Spherical Shell.



Let  $\sigma$  be the uniform surface charge density of an uniformly charged thin spherical shell.

**Case I** when  $r > R$  {outside the sphere}

Acc. to Gauss law

$$\oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s} = \frac{q}{\epsilon_0} \Rightarrow \int E dS \cos\theta = \frac{q}{\epsilon_0}$$

Here  $\theta=0^\circ$   $\vec{E}$  &  $d\vec{s}$  are in same direction.  
 $\cos 0^\circ = 1$

i.e.  $\oint E dS = \frac{q}{\epsilon_0}$  &  $q = \sigma 4\pi R^2$

$$E \oint dS = \frac{\sigma 4\pi R^2}{\epsilon_0} \quad \text{&} \quad \oint dS = 4\pi r^2$$

$$Ex 4\pi r^2 = \frac{\sigma 4\pi R^2}{\epsilon_0}$$

$$E = \frac{\sigma R^2}{\epsilon_0 r^2}$$

**Case-II** ( $r=R$ ) On the sphere

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

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

**Case-III** ( $r < R$ ) Inside the Sphere.

$$E = 0$$

### IMPORTANT TOPIC OF THE CHAPTER

- Gauss's Theorem
- it's Application
- Electric flux

- Electric Field due to Dipole
- ↓ Axial line      → Equatorial line

- Torque on a dipole
- Equilibrium of Dipole
- Coulomb's Law
- Vector form of Coulomb's Law.