

- 6 (a) A capacitor consists of two parallel metal plates, separated by air, at a variable distance  $x$  apart, as shown in Fig. 6.1. The capacitance  $C$  is inversely proportional to  $x$ .

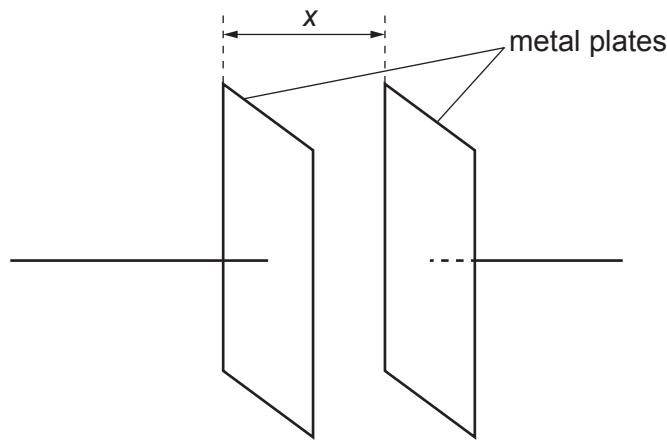


Fig. 6.1

The capacitor is charged by a supply so that there is a potential difference (p.d.)  $V$  between the plates.

State expressions, in terms of  $C$  and  $V$ , for the charge  $Q$  on one of the plates and for the energy  $E$  stored in the capacitor.

$$Q = \dots \quad E = \dots \quad [1]$$

- (b) The charged capacitor in (a) is now disconnected from the supply. The plates of the capacitor are initially separated by distance  $L$ . They are then moved closer together by a distance  $D$ , as shown in Fig. 6.2.

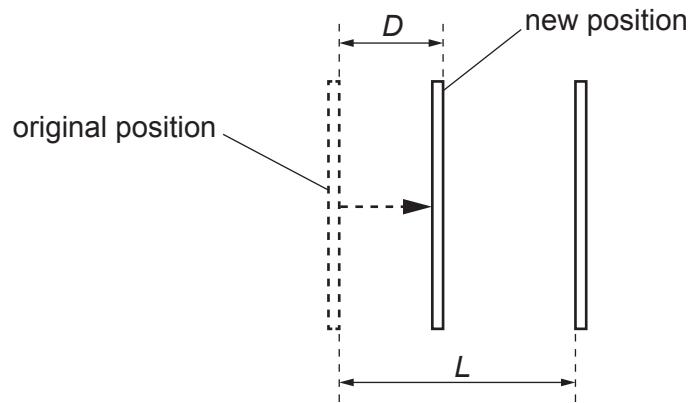


Fig. 6.2

State expressions, in terms of  $C$ ,  $V$ ,  $L$  and  $D$ , for:

- (i) the new capacitance  $C_N$

$$C_N = \dots \quad [1]$$

- (ii) the new charge  $Q_N$  on one of the plates

$$Q_N = \dots \quad [1]$$

- (iii) the new p.d.  $V_N$  between the plates.

$$V_N = \dots \quad [1]$$

- (c) Explain whether reducing the separation of the plates in (b) results in an increase or decrease in the energy stored in the capacitor.

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