

AP Physics C Review

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Part I

Vectors

1 Basics

The Unit Vectors

$$\hat{i} + \hat{j} + \hat{k}$$

Alternate notation:

$$\vec{v} = \langle x, y, z \rangle$$

\hat{i} = positive x direction

\hat{j} = positive y direction

\hat{k} = positive z direction

2 Vector Operations

2.1 Adding Vectors

To add 2 or more vectors together, simply add the separate components of each vector.

ex:

$$\text{let } \vec{A} = 4.2\hat{i} - 1.5\hat{j}$$

$$\text{let } \vec{B} = -1.6\hat{i} + 2.9\hat{k}$$

$$\vec{A} + \vec{B} = 4.2\hat{i} - 1.6\hat{i} - 1.5\hat{j} + 2.9\hat{k} = 3.6\hat{i} - 1.5\hat{j} + 2.9\hat{k}$$

2.2 Vector Multiplication

There are two ways to multiply vectors, one of which produces a scalar and the other another vector:

- Dot Product: $\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} = \text{Scalar}$
- Cross Product: $\vec{a} \times \vec{b} = \text{Vector}$

2.2.1 Dot Product

The dot product takes two vectors as arguments and returns a scalar. It is defined in two ways:

- $\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} = \|a\| \|b\| \cos(\theta)$
Where $\|v\|$ is the length of a vector v ($\sqrt{v_x^2 + v_y^2 + v_z^2}$), and θ is the angle between the two vectors.
- $\hat{a} \cdot \hat{b} = (a_x b_x + a_y b_y + a_z b_z)$

Properties Some basic properties of the dot product are as follows

- $\hat{i} \cdot \hat{i} = \hat{j} \cdot \hat{j} = \hat{k} \cdot \hat{k} = 1$
- $\hat{i} \cdot \hat{j} = \hat{k} \cdot \hat{j} = \hat{k} \cdot \hat{i} = 0$

2.2.2 Cross Product

The cross product takes two vectors and produces a third that is perpendicular to both initial vectors, thus it must be performed in 3d space. This is the basis of the right hand rule, which will be expanded upon later:

- $\hat{i} \times \hat{j} = \hat{k}$
- $\hat{j} \times \hat{k} = \hat{i}$
- $\hat{k} \times \hat{i} = \hat{j}$

In general, the cross product is defined as

$$\vec{a} \times \vec{b} = \|a\| \|b\| \sin \theta \vec{c}$$

Where $\|v\|$ is the length of a vector \vec{v} ($\sqrt{v_x^2 + v_y^2 + v_z^2}$), θ is the angle between the two vectors, and \vec{c} is a unit vector perpendicular to both a and b . This is not easily implemented though. Thus, the formula is also given by:

$$\vec{a} \times \vec{b} = \langle a_y b_z - a_z b_y, a_z b_x - a_x b_z, a_x b_y - a_y b_x \rangle$$

This isn't much better, but there is another way to determine the cross product:

$$\vec{a} \times \vec{b} = \begin{bmatrix} a_y & a_z \\ b_y & b_z \end{bmatrix} \hat{i} - \begin{bmatrix} a_x & a_z \\ b_x & b_z \end{bmatrix} \hat{j} + \begin{bmatrix} a_x & a_y \\ b_x & b_y \end{bmatrix} \hat{k}$$

Where,

$$\begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix} = ad - bc$$

Part II

Electrostatics and Magnetism

1 Field & Voltage Basics

1.1 Coulomb's Law

1.1.1 Force

The force that two charge particles exert on each other is defined as:

$$\vec{F} = k \frac{q_1 q_2}{r^2}$$

where q_1 and q_2 are the charge values of each particle, r is the distance between them, and $k = 9e^9 \frac{Nm^2}{C^2} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}$ where ϵ_0 is the vacuum permittivity ($\epsilon_0 = 8.854e^{-12} \frac{C^2}{Nm^2}$)

1.1.2 Field

The electric field generated by a point charge of Q is given by

$$\vec{E} = \frac{\vec{F}}{q} = \frac{kQ}{r^2} = \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2}$$

1.1.3 Properties of Field

- Electric field may be defined as change in electric potential

1.2 Electric Potential

Electric Potential is defined as the work required to bring a positive unit charge (q) from a reference point to a specific point within an electric field. The reference point is often infinity, where there is effectively no influence from the field on a charge. The electric potential created by a point charge Q at distance r is given by:

$$V = \frac{kQ}{r} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{Q}{r}$$

For constant fields (e.g. parallel plates), the electric potential at distance d from the positive plate in an electric field E is given by

$$V = Ed$$

1.2.1 Electric Potential and Work

The change in electric potential is simply the work W_F done by an external force divided by the charge q of the particle that has moved. This can also be seen as a simple change in electrostatic potential energy U_e . Thus, it is also the opposite of the work W_E done by Coulomb force.

$$\Delta V = \frac{W_F}{q} = \frac{-W_E}{q} = \frac{\Delta U_e}{q}$$

1.2.2 Equipotential Surfaces

The collection of all point within an electric field that have equal potential is called an equipotential surface. The surfaces always form on a plane perpendicular to electric field lines, and no work is done in moving along an equipotential surface, only between them.

2 Field and Potential Using Calculus

2.1 Ring Charge

[image goes here]

2.1.1 Setting Up The Integral

Since

$$E = \frac{kQ}{r^2}$$

thus,

$$dE = \frac{k dq}{r^2}$$

Since the horizontal components of the field cancel out, the only remaining parts are the vertical components. Thus, the effective field integral is:

$$dE = \frac{k \cos \theta dq}{r^2}$$

Since $\cos \theta = \frac{Z}{r}$,

$$dE = \frac{k Z dq}{r^3}$$

We want E , not dE , so we apply the integral:

$$\int dE = \int \frac{kZdq}{r^3}$$

2.1.2 Integrating

$$E = \int \frac{kZdq}{r^3} = \frac{kZQ}{r^3}$$

Since $r = \sqrt{Z^2 + R^2}$,

$$E = \frac{kZQ}{(Z^2 + R^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}}$$

2.2 Part of a Ring

image goes here

2.2.1 Setting Up the Integral

$$\int dE = \int k dq r^2$$

Assuming the linear charge density λ is uniform, $\lambda = \frac{Q}{s} = \frac{dq}{ds}$ where s is the arc length of the segment of the ring. Thus, $dq = \lambda ds$ Therefore:

$$E = \int \frac{k\lambda ds}{r^2}$$

Since the components not parallel with the line drawn from the center of the arc cancel each other out, the actual field that is given by

$$E = \int \frac{k\lambda \cos \theta ds}{r^2}$$

We then need to put the equation in terms of θ so that it can be integrated. Since $s = r\theta$, $ds = r d\theta$ Thus:

$$E = \int_a^b \frac{k\lambda \cos \theta d\theta}{r}$$

Where a and b are the angle bounds of the arc relative to the normal

2.2.2 Integration

$$E = \frac{k\lambda}{r} \int_a^b \cos\theta \, d\theta$$

$$E = \frac{k\lambda}{r} (\sin b - \sin a)$$

Part III

Mechanics

1 Kinematics Review

Some quick identities

- $v = \frac{dx}{dt}$
- $a = \frac{d^2x}{dt^2} = \frac{dv}{dt}$