

# Electricity & Magnetism.

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## Constants.

Elementary charge  $e = 1.6 \cdot 10^{-19}$  C  
Coulomb constant  $k = 9.0 \times 10^9$  N m<sup>2</sup> C<sup>-2</sup>  
Vacuum permittivity  $\epsilon_0 = 8.85 \times 10^{-12}$  C<sup>2</sup> N<sup>-1</sup> m<sup>-2</sup>  
Vacuum permeability  $\mu_0 = 4\pi \times 10^{-7}$  N A<sup>-2</sup>  
Speed of light  $c = 3.0 \times 10^8$  m s<sup>-1</sup>  
Electronvolt 1 eV =  $1.6 \times 10^{-19}$  J

$$\epsilon_0 = \frac{1}{4\pi k} = \frac{1}{\mu_0 c^2}$$

## Units.

[Q] = C = A s  
[F] = N = kg m s<sup>-2</sup>  
[E] = N C<sup>-1</sup> = V m<sup>-1</sup> = kg m s<sup>-3</sup> A<sup>-1</sup>  
[p] = C m = m A s  
[τ] = N m = kg m<sup>2</sup> s<sup>-2</sup>  
[Φ<sub>E</sub>] = V m = N m<sup>2</sup> C<sup>-1</sup> = kg m<sup>3</sup> s<sup>-3</sup> A<sup>-1</sup>  
[V] = V = J C<sup>-1</sup> = A Ω = kg m<sup>2</sup> s<sup>-3</sup> A<sup>-1</sup>  
[I] = A = C s<sup>-1</sup> = V Ω<sup>-1</sup> = W V<sup>-1</sup> = A  
[R] = Ω = V A<sup>-1</sup> = W A<sup>-2</sup> = V<sup>2</sup> W<sup>-1</sup> = kg m<sup>2</sup> s<sup>-3</sup> A<sup>-2</sup>  
[P] = W = V A = V<sup>2</sup> Ω<sup>-1</sup> = A<sup>2</sup> Ω = J s<sup>-1</sup> = H A<sup>2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> = kg m<sup>2</sup> s<sup>-3</sup>  
[C] = F = C V<sup>-1</sup> = A<sup>2</sup> s<sup>4</sup> kg<sup>-1</sup> m<sup>-2</sup>  
[U<sub>E</sub>] = J = F V<sup>2</sup> = kg m<sup>2</sup> s<sup>-2</sup>  
[J] = A m<sup>-2</sup>  
[ρ] = Ω m = kg m<sup>3</sup> s<sup>-3</sup> A<sup>-2</sup>  
[B] = T = Wb m<sup>-2</sup> = kg s<sup>-2</sup> A<sup>-1</sup>  
[Φ<sub>B</sub>] = Wb = V s = kg m<sup>2</sup> s<sup>-2</sup> A<sup>-1</sup>  
[E] = V = J C<sup>-1</sup> = A Ω = kg m<sup>2</sup> s<sup>-3</sup> A<sup>-1</sup>  
[L] = H = T m<sup>2</sup> A<sup>-1</sup> = kg m<sup>2</sup> s<sup>-2</sup> A<sup>-2</sup>  
[S] = W m<sup>-2</sup> = kg s<sup>-3</sup>  
[P<sub>rad</sub>] = Pa = kg m<sup>-1</sup> s<sup>-2</sup>

## Coulomb's law.

The electric force is described by

$$\vec{F}_{12} = k \frac{q_1 q_2}{r^2} \hat{r},$$

where  $\vec{F}_{12}$  is the force  $q_1$  exerts on  $q_2$  and  $\hat{r}$  is a unit vector pointing from  $q_1$  towards  $q_2$ .

## Electric field.

The electric field at a point in space is the force per unit charge that a charge  $q$  placed at that point would experience:

$$\vec{E} = \frac{\vec{F}}{q}$$

The force on a charge  $q$  in an electric field is

$$\vec{F} = q\vec{E}$$

## Field of a point charge.

The field of a point charge is radial:

$$\vec{E}_{\text{pointcharge}} = \frac{\vec{F}}{Q} = \frac{kqQ}{Qr^2} \hat{r} = \frac{kq}{r^2} \hat{r}$$

## Field of a charge distribution.

From the superposition principle:

$$\vec{E} = \sum \vec{E}_i = \sum \frac{kq_i}{r_i^2} \hat{r}_i$$

## Dipole moment.

Product of charge and separation:

$$p = qd$$

## Dipoles in electric fields.

For  $q$  in  $\vec{E}$ ,

$$\vec{a} = \frac{q\vec{E}}{m}$$

A dipole in an electric field experiences a torque that tends to along the dipole moment with the field:

$$\vec{\tau} = \vec{r} \times \vec{F} = \vec{p} \times \vec{E}$$

## Electric flux.

$$\Phi_E = EA \cos \theta = \vec{E} \cdot \vec{A},$$

where  $\vec{A}$  is a vector whose magnitude is the surface area  $A$  and whose orientation is normal to the surface.

$$d\Phi_E = \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A}$$

$$\Phi_E = \int \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A}$$

## Gauss's law.

$$\oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A} = \frac{q_{\text{enclosed}}}{\epsilon_0}$$

## Electric potential difference.

Describes the energy per unit charge involved in moving charge between two points:

$$\Delta V_{AB} = \frac{\Delta U_{AB}}{q} = - \int_A^B \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{r}$$

In a uniform field:

$$\Delta V_{AB} = -\vec{E} \cdot \Delta \vec{r}$$

## Electric potential of a point charge.

$$\Delta V_{AB} = kq \left( \frac{1}{r_A} - \frac{1}{r_B} \right)$$

Taking the zero of potential at infinity gives

$$V_{\text{inf } r} = V(r) = \frac{kq}{r}$$

## Potential difference of a charge distribution.

For discrete point charges:

$$V(P) = \sum_i \frac{kq_i}{r_i}$$

For a continuous charge distribution:

$$V(P) = \int \frac{k dq}{r}$$

## Potential difference and the electric field.

The potential difference involves an integral over the electric field, so the field involves derivatives of the potential:

$$\vec{E} = - \left( \frac{\partial V}{\partial x} \hat{i} + \frac{\partial V}{\partial y} \hat{j} + \frac{\partial V}{\partial z} \hat{k} \right)$$

## Electrostatic energy.

Each charge pair  $q_i, q_j$  contributes energy

$$U_{ij} = k \frac{q_i q_j}{r_{ij}},$$

where  $r_{ij}$  is the distance between the charges in the final contribution.

## Capacitance.

Charge stored per unit potential difference:

$$C = \frac{Q}{V}$$

The capacitance of a parallel-plate capacitor is

$$C = \epsilon_0 \frac{A}{d}$$

## Energy stored in a capacitor.

Work involved in moving charge is

$$dW = V dq = CV dV$$

Work involved in building up a potential difference  $V$  is

$$W = \int dW = \int_0^V CV dV = \frac{1}{2} CV^2 = U$$

## Dielectric constant $\kappa$ .

A property of the dielectric material. For a parallel-plate capacitor:

$$C = \kappa \frac{\epsilon_0 A}{d} = \kappa C_0, \quad C_0 = \frac{\epsilon_0 A}{d}$$

## Energy in the electric field.

The electric energy density is

$$u_E = \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_0 E^2$$

## Electric current.

$$I = \frac{dQ}{dt}$$

## Drift velocity.

The current through a cross-sectional area  $A$  is

$$I = nqAv_d$$

The drift velocity is

$$v_d = \frac{I}{nqA} = \frac{JA}{nqA} = \frac{J}{nq}$$

Current density.

Current density is the current per unit area

J = nqvd = σE = E/ρ

Current through an area is the flux of J over that area:

I = ∫area J · dA

Ohm’s law.

Microscopic version:

J = E/ρ

Macroscopic version:

I = V/R

Electric power.

P = dW/dt = dQV/dt = VdQ/dt = VI

For materials that obey Ohm’s law:

P = I²R = V²/R

Magnetic force.

The magnetic field B exerts a force on moving electric charges:

F = qv × B  
|F| = qvB sin θ

Charged particles in magnetic fields.

For a particle moving perpendicular to B:

F = qvB = mv²/r    r = mv/qB

Cyclotron frequency is

f = 1/T = v/2πr = v/(2π(mv/qB)) = qB/2πm

Magnetic force on a current.

A current-carrying conductor experiences a magnetic force.

F = qtotv × B  
qtot = nqAl  
F = nqAlv × B = Il × B

Origin of the magnetic field.

The Biot-Savart law gives the magnetic field arising from an infinitesimal current element:

dB = μ0/4π IdL × r/r²  
B = ∫ dB = ∫ μ0/4π IdL × r/r²

Magnetic dipoles.

A current loop constitutes a magnetic dipole. Its dipole moment is μ = IA.

For a N-turn loop, μ = NIA.

B = μ0 μ / 2π x³

Gauss’s law for magnetism.

∮B · dA = 0

Torque on a current loop.

Fside = IaB  
τside = 1/2 bFside sin θ = 1/2 IabB sin θ = 1/2 IAB sin θ  
τ = 2τside = IAB sin θ = μB sin θ  
τ = μ × B

Ampere’s law.

For steady currents,

∮B · d r = μ0Iencircled

Faraday’s law.

Describes induction by relating the emf induced in a circuit to the rate of change of magnetic flux through the circuit:

ε = ∮E · d r = -dΦB/dt,

where the magnetic flux is given by

ΦB = ∫ B · dA

Self-inductance.

Ratio of the magnetic flux through the circuit to the current in the circuit:

L = ΦB/I  
dΦB/dt = L dI/dt

The emf across an inductor is

ε = -L dI/dt

Self-inductance of a solenoid.

B = μ0nI  
ΦB = n l B A = n l (μnI) A = μ0n² I A l  
L = ΦB/I = μ0n² A l

Inductive time constant.

The inductor current starts at zero and builds up with time constant L/R.

ε0 - IR + εL = 0  
I = ε0/R (1 - e⁻Rt/L)

Magnetic energy.

The inductor absorbs energy from the circuit, which is stored in the inductor’s magnetic field.

P = LI dI/dt  
UB = ∫ P dt = ∫₀¹ LI dI = 1/2 LI²  
uB = B²/2μ0

Maxwell’s equations.

Law	Mathematical statement
Gauss for E	∮E · dA = q/ε0
Gauss for B	∮B · dA = 0
Faraday	∮E · d r = -dΦB/dt
Ampère	∮B · d r = μ0I + μ0ε0 dΦE/dt

Maxwell’s equations in vacuum.

Law	Mathematical statement
Gauss for E	∮E · dA = 0
Gauss for B	∮B · dA = 0
Faraday	∮E · d r = -dΦB/dt
Ampère	∮B · d r = μ0ε0 dΦE/dt

Plane electromagnetic waves.

The direction of the electric field defines the direction of the wave’s polarisation.

E(x, t) = Ep sin(kx - ωt)j

B(x, t) = Bp sin(kx - ωt)k

E = cB    B = E/c

Law of malus.

A wave of intensity S0 emerges from a polariser with intensity given by:

S = S0 cos² θ

Energy in EM waves.

dU = (uE + uB)Adx = 1/2 (ε0E² + B²/μ0)Adx

S = 1/A dU/dt = 1/2 (ε0E² + B²/ε0)c

S = 1/2 (ε0cEB + EB/cε0) = EB/2μ0 (ε0μ0c² + 1) = EB/μ0

Poynting vector describes rate of energy flow per unit area:

S = E × B/μ0

S = EpBp/2μ0 = cBp²/2μ0 = Ep²/2cμ0

Momentum in EM waves.

W = dU = Fdr = dp/dt dr = cd p    p = U/c

Prad = F/A = 1/A dp/dt = 1/cA dU/dt = S/c