

PHYS 158 Study Notes

Electricity and

Magnetism

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1. DC Circuits

1.1. Basic Components

Power Supplies (DC/AC) Direct Current and Alternating Current.

Resistors (R) Resists current, consumes power. Light bulbs, lamps are also resistors.

Capacitors (C) Stores electric charge and energy. Not to be confused with batteries:

Batteries release energy in a slow manner; capacitors can discharge energy in a short burst.

Inductors/Stabilizers (L) Generates induced current, opposing passing current.

1.2. Current, Voltage, Capacitance, and Resistance

Charge (Q) The amount of electric charge, measured in Coulombs (C).

Current (I) The flow of electric charge, $I = \frac{dQ}{dt}$, measured in Amperes (A). It is generated by a voltage difference.

Voltage (V) The potential difference between two points, measured in Volts (V).

Capacitance (C) The ability to store electric charge, measured in Farads (F).

Resistance (R) The opposition to the flow of electric current, measured in Ohms (Ω).

$$V = IR \quad (1)$$

Resistance of a resistor depends on its material, length L , and cross-sectional area A .

$$R = \rho \frac{L}{A} \quad (2)$$

where ρ is the resistivity of the material.

For multiple resistors,

$$R_{\text{series}} = R_1 + R_2 + \dots \quad (3)$$

$$\frac{1}{R_{\text{parallel}}} = \frac{1}{R_1} + \frac{1}{R_2} + \dots \quad (4)$$

1.3. Voltage Drops

Electromotive Force (EMF) The voltage difference between the positive and negative terminals of a DC power supply (battery) is V or ε , specified on the battery.

Resistance The voltage drop across a resistor is

$$\Delta V_R = IR \quad (5)$$

Capacitance The voltage drop across a capacitor is

$$\Delta V_C = \frac{Q}{C} \quad (6)$$

where C is the capacitance.

Inductance The voltage drop across an inductor is

$$\Delta V_L = -L \frac{dI}{dt} \quad (7)$$

where L is the inductance.

1.4. Reading Resistors

There will be maximum 5 color bands on a resistor. From the left to the right:

- 1-3: The first three digits of the resistance value.
- 4: The number of zeros following the first three digits (multiplier).
- 5: The tolerance of the resistance value.

Sometimes, there will be 4 bands only, where there are only 2 digits represented, followed by the number of zeros.



Figure 1: Resistor digit colors

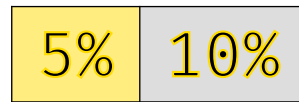


Figure 2: Resistor tolerance colors

1.5. Kirchhoff's Laws

When traveling in the direction of the current, the voltage change through a resistor is negative, $\Delta V = -IR$, and positive through a battery, $\Delta V = +\varepsilon$. When traveling against the direction of the current, invert the signs.

Kirchhoff's Current Law (KCL) The sum of currents entering a node is equal to the sum of currents leaving the node.

$$\Sigma I_{\text{in}} = \Sigma I_{\text{out}} \quad (8)$$

Kirchhoff's Voltage Law (KVL) The sum of voltage drops in a closed loop is equal to the sum of voltage rises.

$$\Sigma V_{\text{drop}} = \Sigma V_{\text{rise}} \quad (9)$$

A 'closed loop' is a path that starts and ends at the same point, no matter the direction of current.

These two laws are crucial in analyzing circuits (solving problems), especially when appliances are not clearly connected in series or parallel.

1.6. Short, Open Circuits and Proportionality

Short Circuit A circuit with no resistance, causing a large current to flow. The voltage drop across a short circuit is zero.

Open Circuit A circuit with infinite resistance, causing no current to flow.

In case of a parallel circuit, the voltage across each component is the same, while the current is inversely proportional to the resistance. While in a series circuit, the current across each component is the same, while the voltage is inversely proportional to the resistance.

For instance, 3 A of current flows through a $2\ \Omega$ and a $1\ \Omega$ resistors, the current through each will be 1 A and 2 A.

Combining this knowledge with Kirchhoff's laws, we can solve even more complex circuits.

1.7. Real Batteries

Internal Resistance (r) The resistance within a battery, causing a voltage drop.

$$\begin{aligned} V_{\text{battery}} &= \varepsilon - Ir \\ I &= \frac{\varepsilon}{r + R}. \end{aligned} \tag{10}$$

Hence, the terminal voltage of a battery is

$$\begin{aligned} V_{\text{terminal}} &= \varepsilon - \frac{\varepsilon}{r + R}r \\ &= \varepsilon \frac{R}{r + R}. \end{aligned} \tag{11}$$

1.8. Power

Power The rate at which energy is consumed or produced, measured in Watts (W).

$$P = IV = I^2R = \frac{V^2}{R} \tag{12}$$

1.9. Grounding

Ground A reference point in a circuit, usually at zero voltage. It is used to measure the voltage of other points in the circuit.

Grounding Connecting a circuit to the ground or other big conductors to send away excess energy, usually to prevent electric shock. It is also used to stabilize the voltage of a circuit.

Addition of a ground symbol in a circuit diagram does not affect the circuit itself, our calculations stay the same. However, our **zero reference point changes**, and we must measure the voltage of other points in the circuit with respect to the ground!

1.10. Capacitor

Any collection of conductors that can store electric charge & energy.

1.11. Capacitance (C)

The ability to store electric charge, measured in Farads (F).

$$C = \frac{Q}{V}. \quad (13)$$

Capacitance of a capacitor depends on its material, area A , and distance d between plates.

$$C = \varepsilon \frac{A}{d} \quad (14)$$

where ε is the electric permittivity of the material.

$$Q = CV \quad (15)$$

$$I = \frac{dQ}{dt} = C \frac{dV}{dt} \quad (16)$$

For multiple capacitors,

$$C_{\text{series}} = \frac{1}{\frac{1}{C_1} + \frac{1}{C_2} + \dots} \quad (17)$$

$$C_{\text{parallel}} = C_1 + C_2 + \dots \quad (18)$$

1.11.1. Capacitors in Parallel

As they are in parallel, the voltage drop across them should be the same, regardless of the capacitance.

$$\begin{aligned} V &= V_1 = V_2 = \dots \\ Q &= C_1 V_1 + C_2 V_2 + \dots \\ &= C_1 V + C_2 V + \dots \\ &= (C_1 + C_2 + \dots) V \\ \frac{Q}{V} &= C_1 + C_2 + \dots \end{aligned} \quad (19)$$

which leads to Equation 18.

Imagine all the parallel capacitors as one big capacitor with the sum of capacitances. Now the formula makes sense.

1.11.2. Capacitors in Series

When connected in series, the capacitors can be viewed as one beginning plate with positive charges and one ending plate with negative charges, plus all the plates in between, with charges but adding up to zero.

In this case, charges across the capacitors are the same.

$$\begin{aligned}
Q &= Q_1 = Q_2 = \dots \\
V &= V_1 + V_2 + \dots \\
&= \frac{Q}{C_1} + \frac{Q}{C_2} + \dots \\
&= Q \left(\frac{1}{C_1} + \frac{1}{C_2} + \dots \right) \\
\frac{V}{Q} &= \frac{1}{C_1} + \frac{1}{C_2} + \dots
\end{aligned} \tag{20}$$

which leads to Equation 17.

1.11.3. Work and Energy in Capacitors

Batteries charge capacitors bit by bit, by dq . Thus, we can say the work done is

$$\begin{aligned}
dW &= \Delta V dq \\
&= \frac{q}{C} dq
\end{aligned} \tag{21}$$

And energy is

$$\begin{aligned}
U &= \frac{1}{C} \int_0^Q q dq = \frac{Q^2}{2C} \\
&= \frac{CV^2}{2}.
\end{aligned} \tag{22}$$

1.11.4. Energy in C-only Circuits

It seems curious that, in a circuit with only capacitors, when charge is transferred between capacitors, the energy is *not* conserved, in other word, lost.

That is because capacitor behaviors cannot be examined without resistors, so even if not shown, the circuit should contain some resistance, probably in the wires.

1.11.5. R-C Circuits

R-C Circuits Circuits with resistors and capacitors. They are used in timing circuits, filters, and oscillators.

Imagine a circuit with a battery, a switch, a resistor and a capacitor. The capacitor initially has no charge, and the switch is closed at $t = 0$.

1. At $t = 0 -$, the capacitor has no charge, and the voltage across it is zero.
2. At $t = 0 +$, the switch is *just* closed, and the capacitor starts charging. The voltage across the capacitor is still zero since it has no charge, and hence act as an ideal wire.
3. As time goes by, the capacitor charges, and the voltage across it increases, while the current decreases.
4. At $t \rightarrow \infty$, the capacitor is fully charged, and it act as an open circuit, and the current is zero.

By Kirchhoff's Voltage Law, the voltage across the resistor and the capacitor should sum up to the battery voltage.

$$\begin{aligned} V_{\text{battery}} &= V_{\text{resistor}} + V_{\text{capacitor}} \\ &= i(t)R + \frac{q(t)}{C}. \end{aligned} \quad (23)$$

As $i(t) = \frac{dq}{dt}$, we can rewrite the equation as

$$\varepsilon = R \frac{dq}{dt} + \frac{q}{C}. \quad (24)$$

Derive the Equation 24 in respect to time, we get

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d\varepsilon}{dt} &= R \frac{d^2q(t)}{dt^2} + \frac{\frac{dq(t)}{dt}}{C} \\ 0 &= R \frac{di(t)}{dt} + \frac{i(t)}{C}. \end{aligned} \quad (25)$$

1.11.6. Charging and Discharging Capacitors

When a capacitor is charging, the current flows from the battery to the capacitor, and the voltage across the capacitor increases. When a capacitor is discharging, the current flows from the capacitor to the circuit, and the voltage across the capacitor decreases.

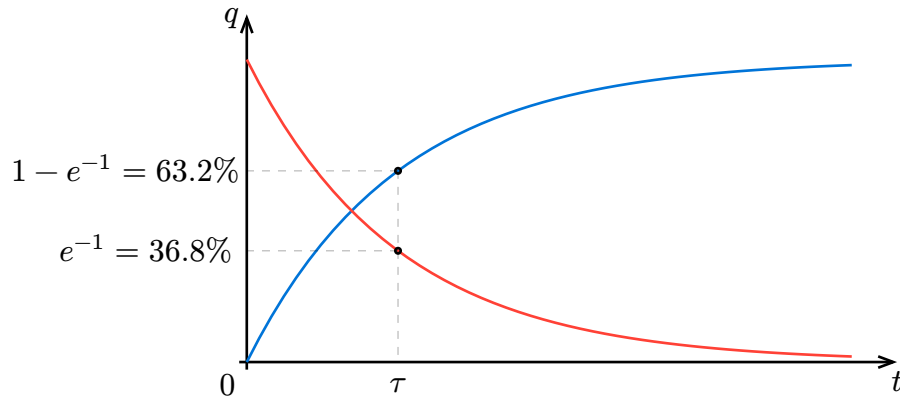
In an R-C circuit, the energy stored in the capacitor increases and decreases exponentially, respectively.

$$\begin{aligned} q(t)_{\text{charging}} &= CV(1 - e^{-t/RC}) \\ i(t)_{\text{charging}} &= \frac{dq(t)}{dt} = \frac{V}{R}e^{-t/RC}, \end{aligned} \quad (26)$$

CV is the final charge that would be stored in the capacitor.

$$\begin{aligned} q(t)_{\text{discharging}} &= Q_0 e^{-t/RC} \\ i(t)_{\text{discharging}} &= \frac{dq(t)}{dt} = I_0 e^{-t/RC}. \end{aligned} \quad (27)$$

where Q is the maximum charge stored in the capacitor, R is the resistance in series, and C is the capacitance in parallel.



At times, RC is written as τ , the time constant of the RC circuit. Think: at $t = \tau$, how much charge is in the capacitor?

Notice the similarity between these equations and the exponential decay equation for damped oscillations, it will be useful.

1.12. Inductors

Inductors A coil of wire that generates an induced current, opposing the passing current.

They are used in transformers, motors, and generators.

Inductance (L) The ability to generate an induced current, measured in Henrys (H).

$$V = L \frac{dI}{dt} \quad (28)$$

Inductors act quite as an opposite to capacitors, consider the prior switch-closed capacitor example:

1. At $t = 0 -$, the current is zero, and the voltage across the inductor is zero.
2. At $t = 0 +$, the switch is *just* closed, the voltage across the inductor is ε as there is still no current so potential drop across other components (resistor) is zero.
3. As time goes by, the current increases, and the voltage across the inductor decreases.
4. At $t \rightarrow \infty$, the current is at maximum and constant, and the voltage across the inductor is zero.

$$\begin{aligned} i(t)_{\text{charging}} &= I_{\text{max}} (1 - e^{-Rt/L}) \\ i(t)_{\text{discharging}} &= I_{\text{max}} e^{-Rt/L}. \end{aligned} \quad (29)$$

It is more important to know the shape of the graphs: exponential growth and decay, rather than the steps seen in R-only circuits.

Given the current and inductance, the energy stored in the inductor is

$$U = \frac{1}{2} LI^2. \quad (30)$$

1.12.1. R-L-C Circuits

In an R-L-C circuit, the function for current reminds us of the damped oscillations equation. So recall the damped oscillations equation:

$$x(t) = Ae^{-\frac{t}{\tau}} \cos(\omega' t + \varphi) \quad (31)$$

where A is the amplitude, τ is the time constant, ω' is the angular frequency, and φ is the phase angle. (On formula sheet.)



2. AC Circuits

You should still read the DC Circuits section before this one.

Root Mean Square (RMS) The square root of the mean of the squares of a set of values. For example, the RMS current is the current that would produce the same amount of heat in a resistor as the alternating current which is being derived from.

2.1. Voltage and Current in AC

$$V(t) = V_{\max} \sin(\omega t). \quad (32)$$

$$\begin{aligned} V_{\text{rms}} &= \frac{V_{\max}}{\sqrt{2}} \\ I_{\text{rms}} &= \frac{I_{\max}}{\sqrt{2}}. \end{aligned} \quad (33)$$

This can be deduced from $\sin(\omega t) = \frac{1}{2}(1 - \cos(2\omega t))$.

On an oscilloscope, the “Amplitude” will be double the RMS value, since it is measuring the peak-to-trough value.

2.2. R Circuit

$$\begin{aligned} i(t) &= \frac{V(t)}{R} \\ &= \frac{V_{\max}}{R} \sin(\omega t), \end{aligned} \quad (34)$$

in phase with the voltage. At times, R is written as X_R , the resistance.

2.3. L Circuit

$$\begin{aligned} V(t) &= L \frac{di}{dt} \\ \frac{di}{dt} &= \frac{V(t)}{L} \\ &= \frac{V_{\max}}{L} \sin(\omega t), \\ i(t) &= -\frac{V_{\max}}{\omega L} \cos(\omega t) \\ &= \frac{V_{\max}}{\omega L} \cos\left(\omega t - \frac{\pi}{2}\right) \\ &= I_{\max} \sin\left(\omega t - \frac{\pi}{2}\right), \end{aligned} \quad (35)$$

out of phase with the voltage. At times, ωL is written as X_L , the inductive reactance.

Note that $X_L \rightarrow 0$ as $\omega \rightarrow 0$, $X_L \rightarrow \infty$ as $\omega \rightarrow \infty$.

2.4. C Circuit

$$\begin{aligned}
 q(t) &= CV(t) \\
 i(t) &= \frac{dq}{dt} \\
 &= (\omega C)V_{\max} \cos(\omega t) \\
 &= (V_{\max} \omega C) \sin\left(\omega t + \frac{\pi}{2}\right) \\
 &= I_{\max} \sin\left(\omega t + \frac{\pi}{2}\right),
 \end{aligned} \tag{36}$$

out of phase with the voltage. At times, $1/(\omega C)$ is written as X_C , the capacitive reactance.

Note that $X_C \rightarrow \infty$ as $\omega \rightarrow 0$, $X_C \rightarrow 0$ as $\omega \rightarrow \infty$.

2.5. Phasors

Phasors are vectors that represent the amplitude and phase of a sinusoidal function.

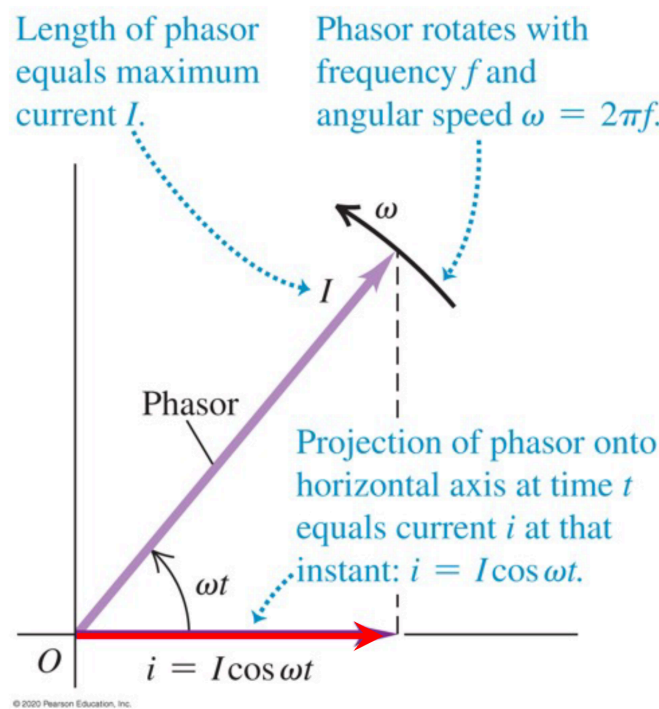


Figure 5: Phasor diagram

Using projection,

$$\begin{aligned}
 i(t) &= I_{\max} \cos(\omega t) \\
 v(t) &= V_{\max} \cos(\omega t + \varphi).
 \end{aligned} \tag{37}$$

$$\tan(\varphi) = \frac{X_L - X_C}{X_R} \tag{38}$$

is the phase angle between the current and the *source* voltage.

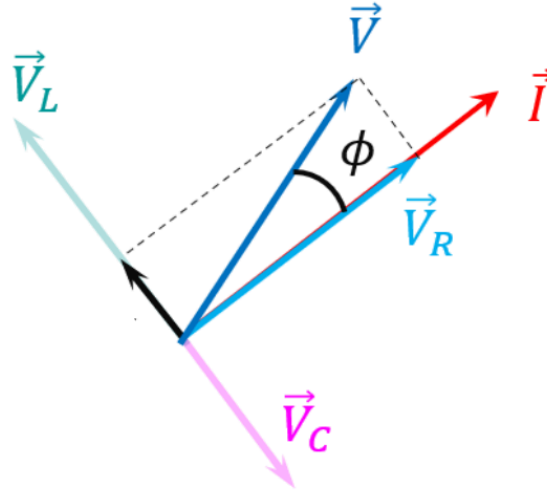


Figure 6: Phasor diagram for R-L-C circuits

2.6. Impedance

Impedance (Z) The total opposition to the flow of current in an AC circuit, measured in Ohms (Ω).

It is the combination of resistance, inductive reactance, and capacitive reactance.

From the phasor diagram it is clear that, using Pythagoras' theorem,

$$\begin{aligned} Z &= \sqrt{X_R^2 + (X_L - X_C)^2} \\ &= \sqrt{R^2 + \left(\omega L - \frac{1}{\omega C}\right)^2}. \end{aligned} \quad (39)$$

Like Ohm's Law, we can write

$$V_{\max} = I_{\max} Z. \quad (40)$$

2.7. R-L-C Circuits in Series

If $X_L > X_C$, the current phasor is behind the voltage phasor, and the circuit is inductive.

$$\begin{aligned} i(t) &= I_{\max} \cos(\omega t) \\ v(t) &= V_{\max} \cos(\omega t + \varphi). \end{aligned} \quad (41)$$

If $X_L < X_C$, the current phasor is ahead of the voltage phasor, and the circuit is capacitive.

$$\begin{aligned} i(t) &= I_{\max} \cos(\omega t) \\ v(t) &= V_{\max} \cos(\omega t - |\varphi|). \end{aligned} \quad (42)$$

2.8. R-L-C Circuits in Parallel

In parallel R-L-C circuits, the voltage across each component is the same, while the current is inversely proportional to the impedance.

$$\begin{aligned}
V &= V_1 = V_2 = \dots \\
I &= I_1 + I_2 + \dots \\
&= \frac{V}{Z}.
\end{aligned} \tag{43}$$

Here, using the phasor diagram ($\because X_C > X_L, \therefore \frac{1}{X_C} < \frac{1}{X_L}$), we can find the current and the phase angle. Divide each phasor by V_{\max} , we get

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{1}{Z} &= \sqrt{\left(\frac{1}{R}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{1}{X_L} - \frac{1}{X_C}\right)^2} \\
&= \sqrt{\left(\frac{1}{R}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{1}{\omega L} - \omega C\right)^2}, \\
\tan(\varphi) &= \frac{1/X_L - 1/X_C}{1/R}.
\end{aligned} \tag{44}$$

2.9. Power Dissipation

In DC circuits, power is $P = IV$ as we all know it. Similarly, P is kind of the same in AC circuits, but we need to consider the phase difference between the current and voltage.

$$\langle P \rangle = \langle i(t)v(t) \rangle \tag{45}$$

In R-L-C circuits,

$$\begin{aligned}
\langle P \rangle &= \frac{V_{\text{peak}} I_{\text{peak}}}{2} \cos(\varphi) \\
&= (V_{\text{rms}} I_{\text{rms}}) \cos(\varphi)
\end{aligned} \tag{46}$$

with $V_{\text{peak}} I_{\text{peak}}$ replaceable with anything equivalent. $\cos(\varphi)$ is called the power factor, and it is the ratio of real power to apparent power.

Only the resistor contributes to power dissipation, so in idealized L/C circuits, the power is zero.

2.10. Resonance

Resonance The frequency at which the impedance of a circuit is at a minimum. It is the frequency at which the inductive and capacitive reactances cancel each other out.

Knowing impedance and the oscillation frequency, the current in AC circuits can be expressed as a function of ω .

$$\begin{aligned}
I(\omega) &= \frac{V_{\max}}{Z} \\
&= \frac{V_{\max}}{\sqrt{R^2 + \left(\omega L - \frac{1}{\omega C}\right)^2}}.
\end{aligned} \tag{47}$$

Hence,

$$I_{\max} = \frac{V_{\max}}{R} \quad (48)$$

when

$$\begin{aligned} \omega L &= \frac{1}{\omega C} \\ \omega &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{LC}}. \end{aligned} \quad (49)$$

3. Electric Force and Field

Rules of electric charges:

- Like charges repel, and opposite charges attract.
- Charges are conserved, they cannot be created or destroyed.
- When conductors touch, charges redistribute to reach equilibrium.

Electric charge The fundamental property of matter, measured in Coulombs (C).

$$q = ne \quad (50)$$

where n is the number of charges and $e = 1.6 \times 10^{-19} \text{ C}$ is the elementary charge.

Coulomb's Law The force between two charges is directly proportional to the product of the charges and inversely proportional to the square of the distance between them, this force is *equal in magnitude* on both charges.

$$F = k \frac{|q_1||q_2|}{r^2} \quad (51)$$

where $k = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} = 8.99 \times 10^9 \text{ N m}^2 \text{ C}^{-2}$ is the Coulomb constant.

We use $k = 9 \times 10^9 \text{ N m}^2 \text{ C}^{-2}$ in this course.

3.1. Electrostatic Attraction and Repulsion

Two charges are simple enough: the forces are equal in magnitude and opposite in direction. How about more charges?

Principle of Superposition The force on a charge due to multiple charges is the vector sum of the forces due to each charge individually.

Here again we introduce vectors, the force is a vector, and the direction of the force is along the line connecting the two charges. More vectors in MATH 152.

For example, given two point charges with the same charge Q and the same mass m suspended from a point on strings of equal length L , the angle between the strings is θ and the distance between the two charges is r . In this case, Q can be expressed as

$$\begin{aligned} F_e &= mg \tan\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right) \\ &= k \frac{Q^2}{r^2} \\ &= k \frac{Q^2}{(2L)^2 \sin^2\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right)}, \\ Q &= \sqrt{\frac{4L^2}{k} mg \tan\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right) \sin^2\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right)}. \end{aligned} \quad (52)$$

3.2. Electric Field

Electric Field The force per unit charge at a point in space, measured in Newtons per Coulomb (N C^{-1}).

$$\vec{E} = \frac{\vec{F}}{q_t} = k \frac{q_s}{r^2} \vec{u}_r \quad (53)$$

where F is the force on the test charge q_t , and q_s is the source of the field.

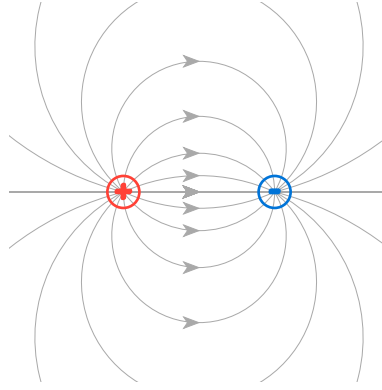


Figure 7: Electric fields

3.2.1. Superposition of Electric Fields

The field at any point is the *vector* sum of all individual fields passing through that point.

$$\vec{E} = \vec{E}_1 + \vec{E}_2. \quad (54)$$

Thus, the fields can be separated into their x, y, z components for computation.

For example, in 2D space, given two charges—a dipole, the combined electric field on a test charge is

$$\vec{E} = (\vec{E}_{1x} + \vec{E}_{2x})\vec{i} + (\vec{E}_{1y} + \vec{E}_{2y})\vec{j}. \quad (55)$$

If given a charge q , the angle between the field line and, say, the x -axis, θ , and the test charge is (x, y) away from a charge, then the field on the test charge is

$$\vec{E} = \frac{kq}{x^2 + y^2}, \quad (56)$$

and the x component of that is

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{E}_x &= \frac{kq}{x^2 + y^2} \cos(\theta) \\ &= \frac{kq}{x^2 + y^2} \frac{x}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2}} \\ &= \frac{kqx}{(x^2 + y^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}} \end{aligned} \quad (57)$$

3.2.2. Electric Field of a Finite Line of Charge

Considering a finite line (line segment) of charge, and a test charge on the center perpendicular line of the line charge.

By symmetry, the x components of each $d\vec{E}$ would cancel out, we are left with the y component. Let the horizontal distant be x and vertical distance be h , the total length of the line charge is $2a$, then

$$\begin{aligned}dE_y &= +dE \sin(\theta) \\&= \frac{kQ}{2a} \frac{dx}{x^2 + h^2} \frac{h}{\sqrt{x^2 + h^2}} \\E_y &= \frac{kQh}{2a} \int_{-a}^{+a} \frac{dx}{(x^2 + h^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}} \\&= \frac{kQh}{2a} \frac{a - (-a)}{h^2 \sqrt{a^2 + h^2}} \\&= \frac{kQ}{h \sqrt{a^2 + h^2}}.\end{aligned}\tag{58}$$

3.3. Electric Dipole

Dipole Two charges of the same magnitude but opposite charge at a small distance, d .

Dipole moment (\vec{p}) Naturally, the opposite charges attract each other. The dipole moment is defined as the moment pointing from the negative charge to the positive charge,

$$\|\vec{p}\| = qd.\tag{59}$$

In an uniform electric field, the net force on a dipole is zero. In a non-uniform electric field, the net force on a dipole is not zero.

And, they experience a torque when not aligned to the fields.

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{\tau} &= \vec{p} \times \vec{E} \\U_e &= -\vec{p} \cdot \vec{E}.\end{aligned}\tag{60}$$

3.4. Electric Flux

Flux (Φ_e) The amount of electric field passing through a surface.

Electric flux for a uniform field on a flat surface is

$$\begin{aligned}\Phi_e &= \vec{E} \cdot \vec{A} \\&= EA \cos(\theta)\end{aligned}\tag{61}$$

where \vec{A} is the area vector of the surface (normal to the surface) and θ is the angle between \vec{E} and \vec{A} (not the surface!).

For a curved surface,

$$\Phi_e = \oiint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A}. \quad (62)$$

3.5. Gauss's Law

Gauss's Law The flux of the electric field out of an arbitrary closed surface is proportional to the electric charge enclosed by the surface, irrespective of how that charge is distributed.

$$\Phi_e = \frac{Q_{\text{enclosed}}}{\epsilon_0} = \oiint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A} \quad (63)$$

where \vec{E} is the electric field, $d\vec{A}$ is the vector of an infinitesimal surface and ϵ_0 is the electric constant.

In most cases, the integral above is not easy to evaluate, there do exist two special cases which we can apply Gauss's law at ease:

- When \vec{E} is tangent to the surface, $\vec{E} \cdot \vec{A} = 0$, then $\Phi_e = 0$.
- When \vec{E} is normal to the surface and *constant at every point* of that surface, then $\Phi_e = E \oiint d\vec{A} = E\vec{A}$.

Such ideal cases only occur when

1. The charge distribution has high symmetry.
2. It is possible to construct a Gaussian surface that would match the symmetry.

By this token, the electric field created by the following special objects can be determined:

- An infinitely long straight wire with charge density λ and length l .

$$\begin{aligned} EA &= \frac{Q}{\epsilon_0} \\ E(2\pi rl) &= \lambda \frac{l}{\epsilon_0} \\ E &= \frac{\lambda}{2\pi r \epsilon_0} \\ &= \frac{2k\lambda}{r}. \end{aligned} \quad (64)$$

- An infinitely large plane with charge density σ .

$$\begin{aligned} EA &= \frac{Q}{\epsilon_0} \\ &= \frac{\sigma 2A}{\epsilon_0} \text{ (I have 2 sides)} \\ E &= \frac{2\sigma}{\epsilon_0}. \end{aligned} \quad (65)$$

3.6. Conductors in Electrostatic Equilibrium

Since charges can freely move around in a conductor, there can be no electric field inside when in equilibrium (no current).

Excess charge will only sit on its surface, not inside. The electric fields created are all perpendicular to the conducting surface.

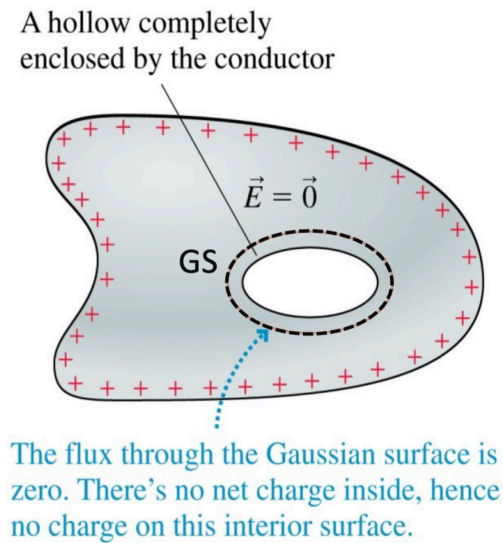


Figure 8: A conductor in equilibrium

Gauss's Law still holds true, even for inside cavity. Faraday cage proves this.

Now, if the conductor is neutral and there are charges in the cavity, in order to fulfill Gauss's Law, the total charge enclosed by the inner surface must be 0, so charges on the inner surface should cancel out with the charges in the cavity.

This is called "screening".

For example, consider a neutral spherical conductor with an also spherical cavity inside with radius R . Some charge q is placed at $r = \frac{R}{2}$.

The distribution of charges on the inner shell would be nonuniform, but the outer shell would have *uniform* charge distribution! This is because the total charge inside is 0, the charges on the outer shell do not care about it—as long as it is in equilibrium.

3.6.1. Application: Coaxial Cable

Coaxial cable is a type of electrical cable consisting of an inner conductor surrounded by a concentric conducting shield, with the two separated by a dielectric (insulating material); many coaxial cables also have a protective outer sheath or jacket.

Define the radius of the inner conductor as R_1 and the outer conductor's as R_2 . A point P_1 between the inner and the outer conductors at r_1 has

$$\begin{aligned}
\Phi_e &= \oiint \vec{E} \, d\vec{A} \\
&= E(r_1) A_{\text{side}} \\
&= E(r_1) L(2\pi r_1) \\
Q_{\text{in}} &= \lambda_1 L \\
E(r_1) L(2\pi r_1) &= \frac{\lambda_1 L}{\epsilon_0}.
\end{aligned} \tag{66}$$

The situation at point P_2 at r_2 outside of the outer conductor would be pretty much the same, except

$$E(r_2) L(2\pi r_2) = \frac{(\lambda_1 - \lambda_2) L}{\epsilon_0} \tag{67}$$

since the charge density would be negative to neutralize the system.

Bonus: The surface charge density is the greatest at the place where the radius of curvature is the smallest, explained later.

3.7. Electric Potential Energy

The stored ability to do work is potential. For a force \vec{F} moving an object along path \vec{s} with angle θ to the path, the work done is

$$\begin{aligned}
W &= \vec{F} \cdot \vec{s} \\
&= F \Delta s \cos(\theta).
\end{aligned} \tag{68}$$

The change in potential energy of the object, in turn, is the negative of work done by the force.

$$W_{i \rightarrow f} = -\Delta U. \tag{69}$$

The work done by a source charge onto a test charge is

$$\begin{aligned}
W &= \int_{x_i}^{x_f} \vec{F}_{q_s \rightarrow q_t} \, dx \\
&= \int_{x_i}^{x_f} F_{q_s \rightarrow q_t} \, dx \\
&= \int_{x_i}^{x_f} k \frac{q_s q_t}{x^2} \, dx \\
&= -k \frac{q_s q_t}{x_f} + k \frac{q_s q_t}{x_i} \\
&= -\Delta U \\
&= -(U_f - U_i) \\
U_{q_s q_t} &= k \frac{q_s q_t}{r_{q_s q_t}}.
\end{aligned} \tag{70}$$

For a system of $n \geq 2$ charges,

$$U = k \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \frac{q_i q_{i+1}}{r_{(i)(i+1)}}. \quad (71)$$

3.8. Electric Potential

Electric potential (V) potential energy per unit charge.

We can think of electric potential to electric potential energy as electric field to electric force... but a scalar version.

$$V = k \frac{q_s}{r_{q_s q_t}}. \quad (72)$$

Because the test charge is used as the unit charge, unlike electric forces, this is not mutual.

For a positive charge q , it moves along a electric field and loses potential energy. For negative charge, it gains potential energy instead.

Definitions

Power Supplies (DC/AC)° Direct Current and Alternating Current.

Resistors (R)° Resists current, consumes power. Light bulbs, lamps are also resistors.

Capacitors (C)° Stores electric charge and energy. Not to be confused with batteries:

Batteries release energy in a slow manner; capacitors can discharge energy in a short burst.

Inductors/Stabilizers (L)° Generates induced current, opposing passing current.

Charge (Q)° The amount of electric charge, measured in Coulombs (C).

Current (I)° The flow of electric charge, $I = \frac{dQ}{dt}$, measured in Amperes (A). It is generated by a voltage difference.

Voltage (V)° The potential difference between two points, measured in Volts (V).

Capacitance (C)° The ability to store electric charge, measured in Farads (F).

Resistance (R)° The opposition to the flow of electric current, measured in Ohms (Ω).

$$V = IR \quad (73)$$

Resistance of a resistor depends on its material, length L , and cross-sectional area A .

$$R = \rho \frac{L}{A} \quad (74)$$

where ρ is the resistivity of the material.

For multiple resistors,

$$R_{\text{series}} = R_1 + R_2 + \dots \quad (75)$$

$$\frac{1}{R_{\text{parallel}}} = \frac{1}{R_1} + \frac{1}{R_2} + \dots \quad (76)$$

Electromotive Force (EMF)° The voltage difference between the positive and negative terminals of a DC power supply (battery) is V or ε , specified on the battery.

Resistance° The voltage drop across a resistor is

$$\Delta V_R = IR \quad (77)$$

Capacitance° The voltage drop across a capacitor is

$$\Delta V_C = \frac{Q}{C} \quad (78)$$

where C is the capacitance.

Inductance° The voltage drop across an inductor is

$$\Delta V_L = -L \frac{dI}{dt} \quad (79)$$

where L is the inductance.

Kirchhoff's Current Law (KCL)° The sum of currents entering a node is equal to the sum of currents leaving the node.

$$\Sigma I_{\text{in}} = \Sigma I_{\text{out}} \quad (80)$$

Kirchhoff's Voltage Law (KVL)° The sum of voltage drops in a closed loop is equal to the sum of voltage rises.

$$\Sigma V_{\text{drop}} = \Sigma V_{\text{rise}} \quad (81)$$

A 'closed loop' is a path that starts and ends at the same point, no matter the direction of current.

Short Circuit° A circuit with no resistance, causing a large current to flow. The voltage drop across a short circuit is zero.

Open Circuit° A circuit with infinite resistance, causing no current to flow.

Internal Resistance (r)° The resistance within a battery, causing a voltage drop.

$$\begin{aligned} V_{\text{battery}} &= \varepsilon - Ir \\ I &= \frac{\varepsilon}{r + R}. \end{aligned} \quad (82)$$

Power° The rate at which energy is consumed or produced, measured in Watts (W).

$$P = IV = I^2 R = \frac{V^2}{R} \quad (83)$$

Ground° A reference point in a circuit, usually at zero voltage. It is used to measure the voltage of other points in the circuit.

Grounding° Connecting a circuit to the ground or other big conductors to send away excess energy, usually to prevent electric shock. It is also used to stabilize the voltage of a circuit.

R-C Circuits° Circuits with resistors and capacitors. They are used in timing circuits, filters, and oscillators.

Inductors° A coil of wire that generates an induced current, opposing the passing current. They are used in transformers, motors, and generators.

Inductance (L)° The ability to generate an induced current, measured in Henrys (H).

$$V = L \frac{dI}{dt} \quad (84)$$

Root Mean Square (RMS)° The square root of the mean of the squares of a set of values. For example, the RMS current is the current that would produce the same amount of heat in a resistor as the alternating current which is being derived from.

Impedance (Z)° The total opposition to the flow of current in an AC circuit, measured in Ohms (Ω).

Resonance° The frequency at which the impedance of a circuit is at a minimum. It is the frequency at which the inductive and capacitive reactances cancel each other out.

Electric charge° The fundamental property of matter, measured in Coulombs (C).

$$q = ne \quad (85)$$

where n is the number of charges and $e = 1.6 \times 10^{-19} \text{ C}$ is the elementary charge.

Coulomb's Law° The force between two charges is directly proportional to the product of the charges and inversely proportional to the square of the distance between them, this force is *equal in magnitude* on both charges.

$$F = k \frac{|q_1||q_2|}{r^2} \quad (86)$$

where $k = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} = 8.99 \times 10^9 \text{ N m}^2 \text{ C}^{-2}$ is the Coulomb constant.

Principle of Superposition° The force on a charge due to multiple charges is the vector sum of the forces due to each charge individually.

Electric Field° The force per unit charge at a point in space, measured in Newtons per Coulomb (N C^{-1}).

$$\vec{E} = \frac{\vec{F}}{q_t} = k \frac{q_s}{r^2} \vec{u}_r \quad (87)$$

where F is the force on the test charge q_t , and q_s is the source of the field.

Dipole° Two charges of the same magnitude but opposite charge at a small distance, d .

Dipole moment (\vec{p})° Naturally, the opposite charges attract each other. The dipole moment is defined as the moment pointing from the negative charge to the positive charge,

$$\|\vec{p}\| = qd. \quad (88)$$

Flux (Φ_e)° The amount of electric field passing through a surface.

Gauss's Law° The flux of the electric field out of an arbitrary closed surface is proportional to the electric charge enclosed by the surface, irrespective of how that charge is distributed.

$$\Phi_e = \frac{Q_{\text{enclosed}}}{\epsilon_0} = \oiint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A} \quad (89)$$

where \vec{E} is the electric field, $d\vec{A}$ is the vector of an infinitesimal surface and ϵ_0 is the electric constant.

Electric potential (V)° potential energy per unit charge.