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# PHY481: Electrostatics

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## Introductory E&M review (2)

Course web site: [www.pa.msu.edu/courses/phy481](http://www.pa.msu.edu/courses/phy481)

All homework is due AT 12:30 pm (no later)  
HW1 due one week from today

# Field of a charged spherical shell - Gauss's Law

- Consider a radius  $R$  spherical shell with surface charge density  $\sigma$ .
  - A spherical Gaussian surface with radius  $r < R$ , is inside the charge surface, and encloses no charge  $\rightarrow E_{\text{inside}} = 0$ .
  - A spherical Gaussian surface with radius  $r > R$ , has the electric field normal to its surface.

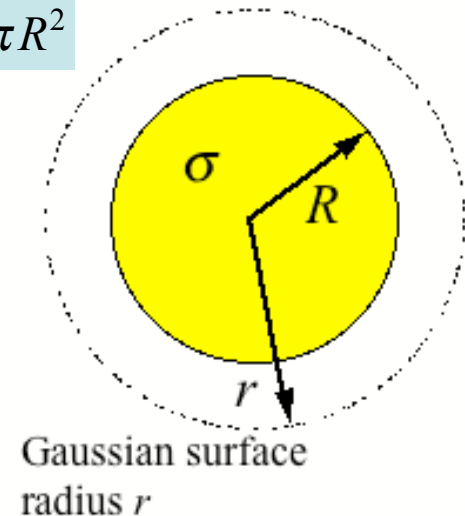
$$\int_S \mathbf{E} \cdot d\mathbf{A} = E \int_0^\pi r^2 \sin\theta d\theta \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi$$

$$E 4\pi r^2 = \frac{q}{\epsilon_0}$$

$$E = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2} ; \quad \mathbf{E} = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2} \hat{\mathbf{r}}$$

Same electric field as  
charge  $q$  at the origin

$$q = \sigma 4\pi R^2$$



# Uniform charge density sphere - Gauss's Law

- Find the electric field inside of a sphere, radius  $R$ , with a uniform charge density  $\rho$  throughout the volume.
  - Pick a spherical **Gaussian surface**, radius  $r$ , **inside** the charged sphere

$$\int_S \mathbf{E} \cdot d\mathbf{A} = Er^2 \int_0^\pi \sin\theta d\theta \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi$$

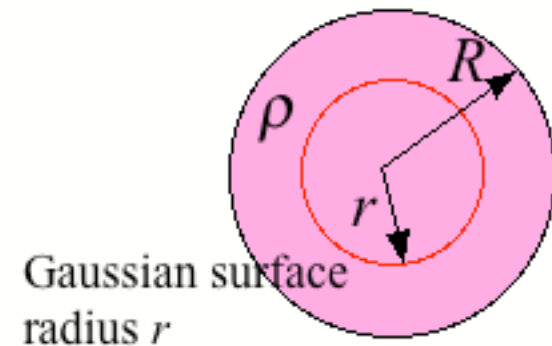
$$E4\pi r^2 = \frac{q_{encl}}{\epsilon_0} = \frac{Qr^3}{\epsilon_0 R^3}$$

$$E = \frac{Qr}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R^3} ; \quad \mathbf{E} = \frac{Qr}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R^3} \hat{\mathbf{r}}$$

- Electric field **outside** of a sphere

$$\mathbf{E} = \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2} \hat{\mathbf{r}}$$

Same electric field as charge  $Q$  at the origin



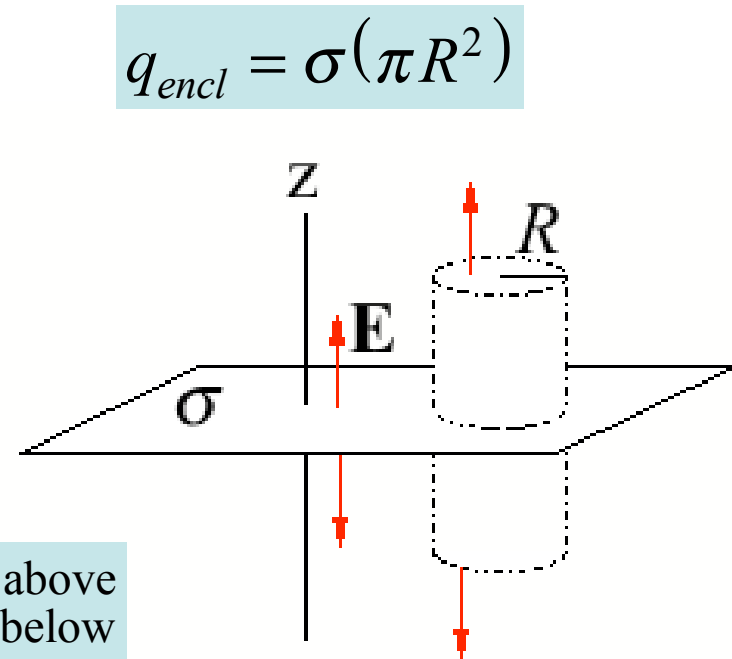
$$\rho = Q / \left( \frac{4}{3} \pi R^3 \right)$$

$$q_{encl} = \rho \left( \frac{4}{3} \pi r^3 \right) = Q \frac{r^3}{R^3}$$

## Infinite sheet (again) - Gauss's Law

- Infinite sheet of charge with surface density  $\sigma$ .
  - Pick a cylindrical **Gaussian surface**, radius  $r$ , passing through the sheet.
  - The dot product  $\mathbf{E} \cdot d\mathbf{A}$  is non zero only on **TWO** the ends.

$$\int_S \mathbf{E} \cdot d\mathbf{A} = 2E \int_0^R r dr \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi$$
$$2(E\pi R^2) = \frac{q_{encl}}{\epsilon_0} = \frac{\sigma(\pi R^2)}{\epsilon_0}$$
$$E = \frac{\sigma}{2\epsilon_0}; \quad \mathbf{E} = \pm \frac{\sigma}{2\epsilon_0} \hat{\mathbf{k}}$$



# Electric Potential Energy $U(x)$

- Potential energy change  $\Delta U$  of charge  $q'$  in known E-field.
  - Calculate the (negative) of the work done by the field along a path

$$\Delta U = - \int_{r_1}^{r_2} \mathbf{F}_{elec} \cdot d\mathbf{s} = -q' \int_{r_1}^{r_2} \mathbf{E} \cdot d\mathbf{s}$$

$U$  is a scalar !

- Example: parallel plate capacitor

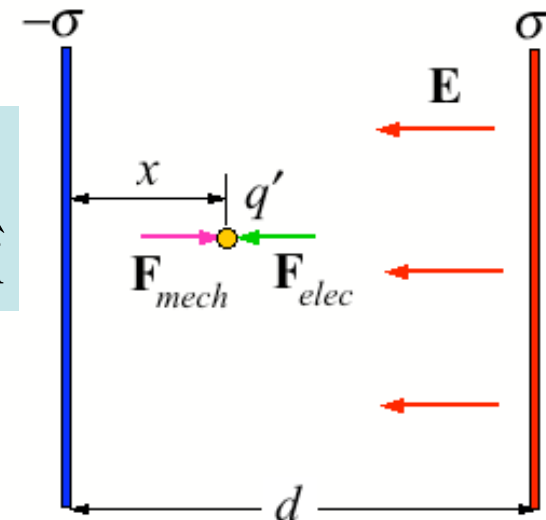
$$\Delta U = q'E \int_0^x dx' = q'Ex$$

$$\mathbf{E} = -E \hat{\mathbf{i}}$$

$$d\mathbf{s} = dx' \hat{\mathbf{i}}$$

- Move  $q'$  across entire capacitor

$$\Delta U = U(d) - U(0) = q'Ed$$



$U = 0$  at negative plate.

# Electric potential $V(x)$

- Potential  $V(x)$  is potential energy/unit test charge  $q'$ 
  - The potential  $V$  is defined without the test charge  $q'$

$U$  &  $V$   
are scalars !

$$\Delta V = \frac{\Delta U}{q'} = - \int_{r_1}^{r_2} \mathbf{E} \cdot d\mathbf{s}$$

PE of test charge

$$V(x) = \frac{U(x)}{q'}$$

+ arbitrary constant

- Example: parallel plate capacitor

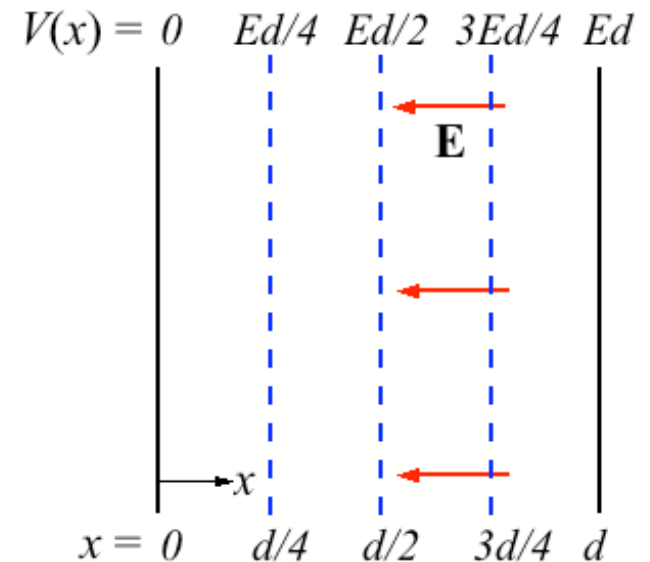
Set  $V(0) = 0$   
constant = 0

$$V(x) = \frac{U(x)}{q'} = Ex$$

$$V(d) = Ed$$

- Equipotential surfaces

- Electric field lines always cross equipotential surfaces at  $90^\circ$ .
- In parallel plate capacitors equipotential surfaces are planes parallel to plates



# Batteries, capacitors, and energy storage

- A battery moves charge  $Q$  between plates of area  $A$ 
  - Battery moves electrons to create charge densities  $\sigma$ .
  - We have two expressions for electric field  $E$  !

$$E = \frac{V_B}{d} \quad E = \frac{\sigma}{\epsilon_0}$$

- Find expression relating  $Q$  and  $V$

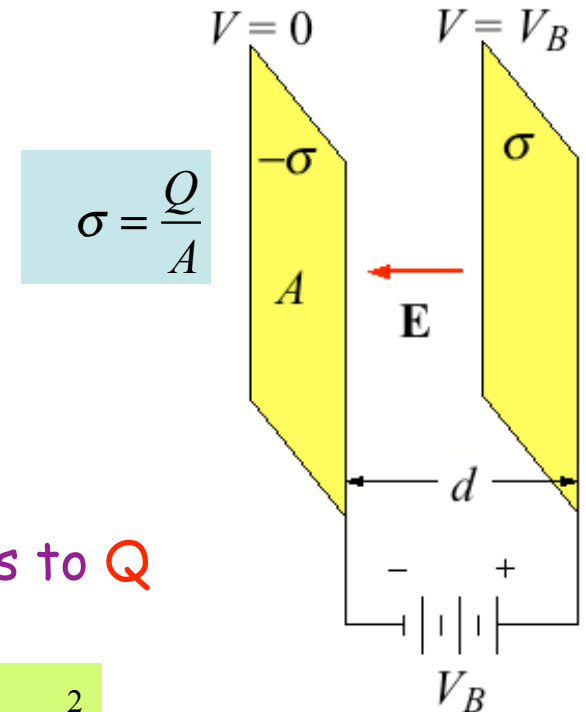
$$Q = \frac{\epsilon_0 A}{d} V_B = C V_B \quad C = \frac{\epsilon_0 A}{d}$$

- Find energy stored while charging plates to  $Q$

$$U = \int dU = \int_0^Q V dq = \int_0^Q \frac{q}{C} dq = \frac{Q^2}{2C}$$

$$U = \frac{1}{2} C V_B^2$$

Show !  $u = \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_0 E^2$



Energy density

# Potential of a point charge

- Move test charge  $q'$  toward charge  $q$ .
  - $\Delta U$  is negative of work done by field in this motion

$$\Delta U = - \int_{r_1}^{r_2} \mathbf{F}_{elec} \cdot d\mathbf{s} = - \frac{qq'}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_{r_1}^{r_2} \frac{dr}{r^2}$$

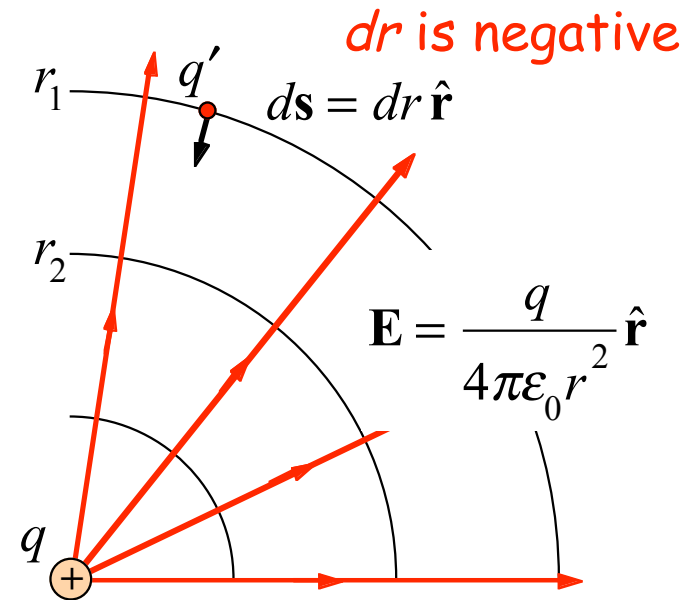
$$= \frac{qq'}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left[ \frac{1}{r_2} - \frac{1}{r_1} \right] (> 0)$$

$$\Delta V = \frac{\Delta U}{q'} = V(r_2) - V(r_1)$$

- Potential of a point charge

$V$  is a scalar !

$$V(r) = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r} \quad V(\infty) = 0$$



$$\mathbf{E} = - \frac{dV}{dr} \hat{\mathbf{r}} = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2} \hat{\mathbf{r}}$$

becomes -Grad ( $V$ )



# Potential due to a charge distribution

- Two ways to get potential of a charge distribution

- Line integral of a known electric field
- Integration of point charge potentials

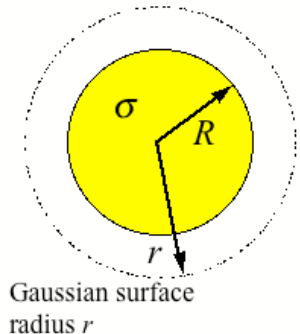
$$\Delta V = -\int \mathbf{E} \cdot d\mathbf{s}$$
$$V(r) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int \frac{dq}{r}$$

- Example: spherical shell with charge density  $\sigma$

- Electric field known from Gauss's Law  
(same as point charge  $r > R$ , and zero  $r < R$ )
- Potential obtained from line integral along  $\mathbf{E}$

$$\mathbf{E} = \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2} \hat{\mathbf{r}}$$

$$\Delta V = -\frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_R^r \frac{dr}{r^2} = \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left[ \frac{1}{r} - \frac{1}{R} \right]$$



outside  
point charge  
potential

$$V(r) = \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r} \quad r \geq R$$

$$V(r) = \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R} \quad r < R$$

inside potential  
is constant

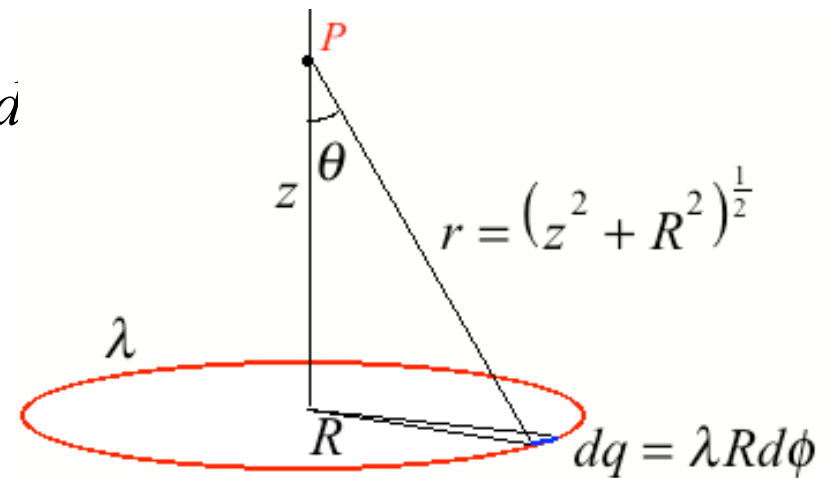
## Potential by integration over point charges $dq$

- Potential **on axis** from ring with charge density  $\lambda$

$$V(r) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int \frac{dq}{r} = \frac{\lambda R}{4\pi\epsilon_0 (z^2 + R^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}} \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi$$

$$= \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} (z^2 + R^2)^{-\frac{1}{2}}$$

$$\lambda = \frac{Q}{2\pi R}$$



- Obtain **E** on axis from (-)Gradient of  $V$

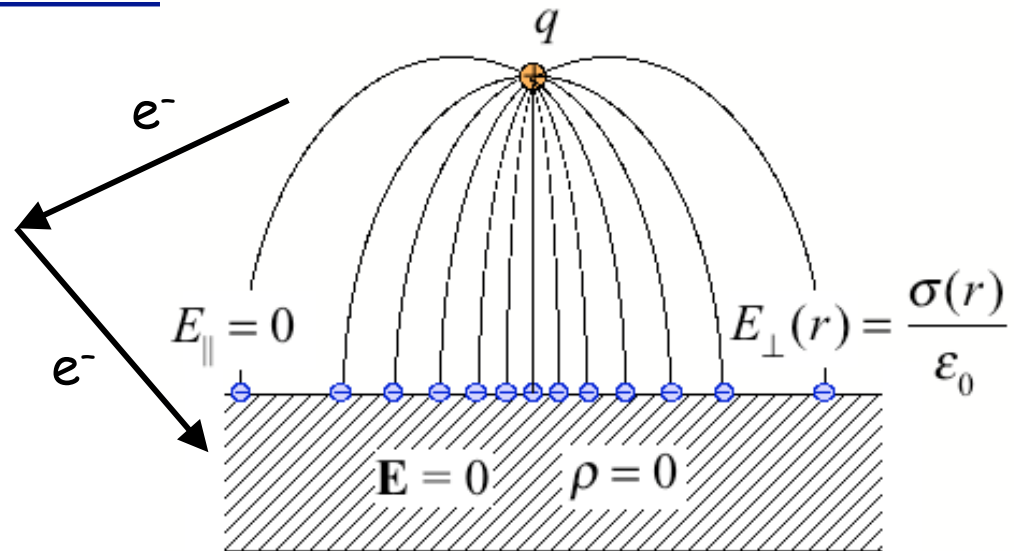
$$\mathbf{E} = -\frac{dV}{dz} \hat{\mathbf{k}} = \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} z (z^2 + R^2)^{-\frac{3}{2}} \hat{\mathbf{k}}$$

**Note:**  $z (z^2 + R^2)^{-\frac{1}{2}} = \cos \theta$

- Why  $V$ ? More tools available to determine  $V$  than **E**

# Conductors and static electric fields

Move electrons **from** pebble **to** a metal surface. Pebble becomes charged  $+q$ .



- When charges stop moving, **the electric field within the conductor is zero**, charge is “pulled” to the surface. Also, Gauss’s Law requires that the **charge density within this conductor is zero**.
- When charges stop moving, the components of the electric field parallel to the surface,  **$E_{\parallel} = \text{zero}$** . Also, Gauss’s Law requires that at the surface the electric field normal component,  **$E_{\perp} = \sigma / \epsilon_0$** .
- The **electric potential is a constant** throughout the conductor.
- Later we will learn “method of images” to determine fields & charges

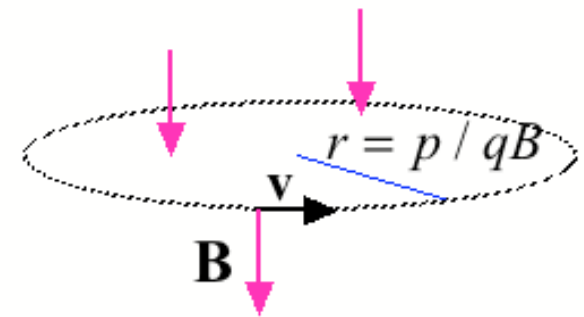
# Magnetic fields

- A charge  $q$  moves at a velocity  $\mathbf{v}$  in magnetic field  $\mathbf{B}$ .
  - Force on the charge (use right hand rule for + charges)

$$\mathbf{F} = q\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B}$$

- Circular motion for  $\mathbf{v}$  perpendicular to  $\mathbf{B}$

$$F = mv^2/r = qvB$$



- A current  $I$  flows in a thin wire
  - Force on small segment or on length  $l$

$$d\mathbf{F} = I d\boldsymbol{\ell} \times \mathbf{B}$$

$$\mathbf{F} = I\mathbf{L} \times \mathbf{B}$$

- Force between parallel straight wires

$$F = \frac{\mu_0 I_1 I_2 L}{4\pi d}; \quad \mu_0 = 4\pi \times 10^{-7} \text{ T} \cdot \text{m/A}$$

Attractive for same  $I$ 's

straight wire  $\mathbf{B}$

$$\mathbf{B} = \frac{\mu_0 I}{2\pi r} \hat{\phi}$$

right hand rule

# Magnetic fields from currents

- Ampere's Law

- Closed path integral around current  $I$

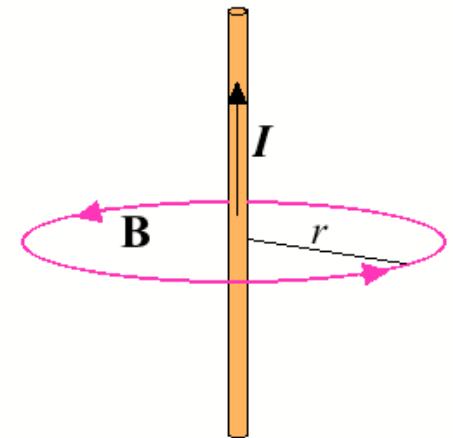
$$\oint \mathbf{B} \cdot d\mathbf{s} = \mu_0 I$$

- Example: long straight wire carrying current  $I$

$$\oint \mathbf{B} \cdot d\mathbf{s} = 2\pi r B = \mu_0 I$$

$$B = \frac{\mu_0 I}{2\pi r} \quad \mathbf{B} = \frac{\mu_0 I}{2\pi r} \hat{\phi}$$

Choose a  
circular path!



- Biot-Savart Law

- Magnetic field from small current element  $d\mathbf{I}$

$$d\mathbf{B} = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \frac{I d\ell \times \hat{\mathbf{r}}}{r^2}$$