
PHY481: Electromagnetism

HW3a problems
Potential $V(x)$

Problem 3.3

In an electric field E_0 in the z direction, a proton travels with an initial velocity v_0 in the x direction. What is its trajectory?

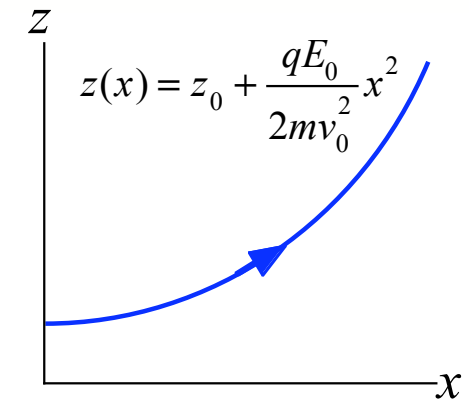
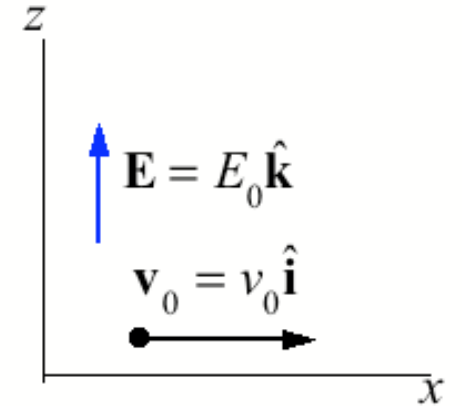
Acceleration: $\mathbf{a} = \frac{\mathbf{F}}{m} = \frac{q\mathbf{E}}{m} = \frac{qE_0}{m} \hat{\mathbf{k}}$

Displacement: $\mathbf{s}(t) = \mathbf{v}_0 t + \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{a} t^2$

Position: $\mathbf{x}(t) = (x_0 + v_0 t) \hat{\mathbf{i}} + \left(z_0 + \frac{qE_0 t^2}{2m} \right) \hat{\mathbf{k}}$

Trajectory:
$$z(x) = z_0 + \frac{qE_0}{2mv_0^2} (x - x_0)^2$$

(Parabola)



Problem 3.5

Vertical line of charge. Find electric field on z-axis above the charge.

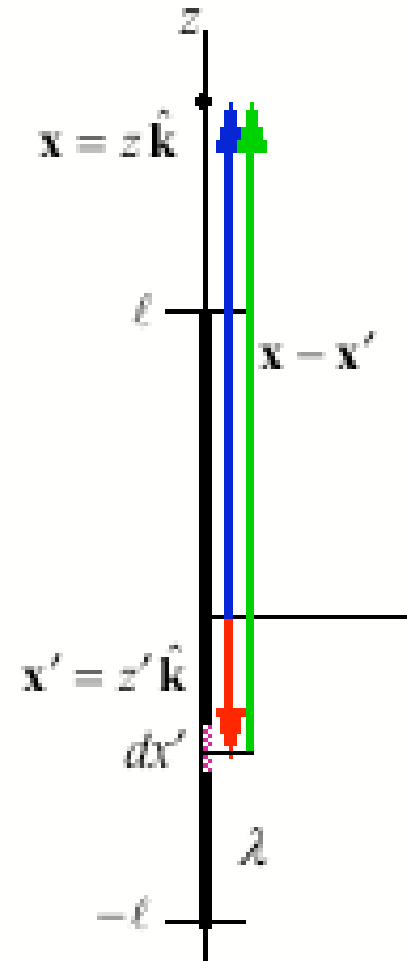
$$\mathbf{E} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int \frac{\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|^3} \rho(\mathbf{x}') d^3x'$$

$$= \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_{-\ell}^{\ell} \frac{(z - z')\hat{\mathbf{k}}}{(z - z')^3} \lambda dz'$$

$$\mathbf{E} = \frac{\lambda\ell}{2\pi\epsilon_0(z^2 - \ell^2)} \hat{\mathbf{k}}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{x} &= z\hat{\mathbf{k}} \\ \mathbf{x}' &= z'\hat{\mathbf{k}} \\ \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}' &= (z - z')\hat{\mathbf{k}}\end{aligned}$$

$$\rho(\mathbf{x}') d^3x' = \lambda dz'$$



For large z :

$$\mathbf{E} = \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0(z^2 - \ell^2)} \hat{\mathbf{k}} \rightarrow \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 z^2} \hat{\mathbf{k}}, z \gg \ell$$

E-field of a point charge $Q = 2\ell\lambda$

Problem 3.6

Disk of charge. Find electric field on z-axis.

$$\mathbf{E} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int \frac{\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|^3} \rho(\mathbf{x}') d^3x'$$

$$= \frac{\sigma}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_0^R r' dr' \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{z\hat{\mathbf{k}} - r'\hat{\mathbf{r}}}{(z^2 + r'^2)^{3/2}} d\phi' \quad (\hat{\mathbf{r}} = \hat{\mathbf{i}}\cos\phi' + \hat{\mathbf{j}}\sin\phi')$$

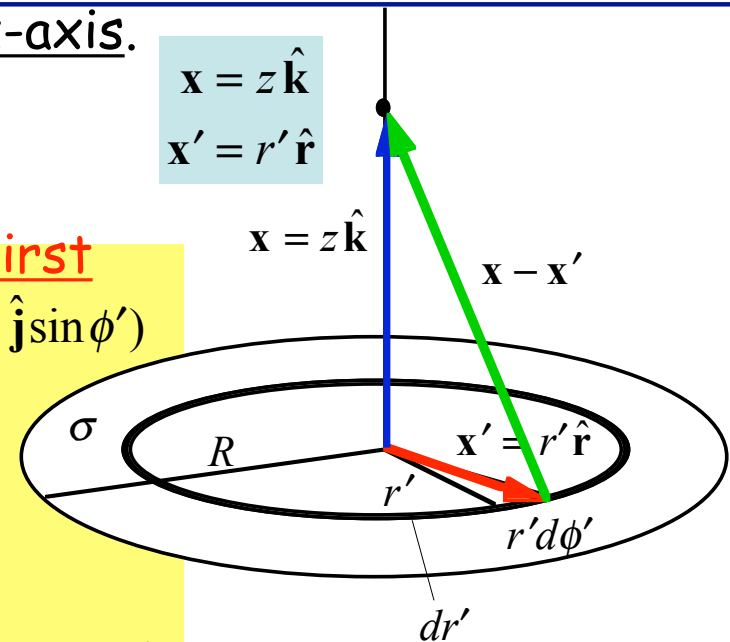
ϕ' integration first

$$E_z = \frac{\sigma z}{2\epsilon_0} \int_0^R \frac{r' dr'}{(z^2 + r'^2)^{3/2}} = \frac{\sigma z}{2\epsilon_0} \left[-\frac{1}{(z^2 + r'^2)^{1/2}} \right]_0^R$$

$$E_z = \frac{\sigma}{2\epsilon_0} \left[\frac{z}{|z|} - \frac{z}{(z^2 + R^2)^{1/2}} \right] \approx \frac{\sigma}{2\epsilon_0} \text{ (infinite sheet); } R \gg z > 0$$

$$= \frac{2\pi\sigma}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left[1 - \frac{1}{\left(1 + \frac{R^2}{z^2}\right)^{1/2}} \right] \approx \frac{2\pi\sigma}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left(\frac{R^2}{2z^2} \right), \quad z > 0$$

$$E_z = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 z^2} \text{ (point charge); } z \gg R$$



$$\mathbf{x} = z\hat{\mathbf{k}}$$

$$\mathbf{x}' = r'\hat{\mathbf{r}}$$

$$\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}' = z\hat{\mathbf{k}} - r'\hat{\mathbf{r}}$$

$$|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'| = (z^2 + r'^2)^{1/2}$$

$$\rho(\mathbf{x}') d^3x' = \sigma r' dr' d\phi'$$

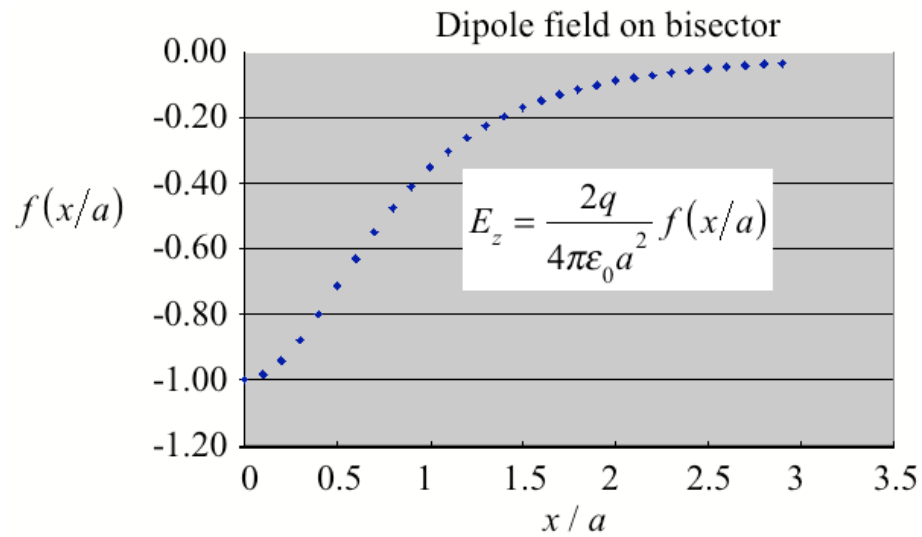
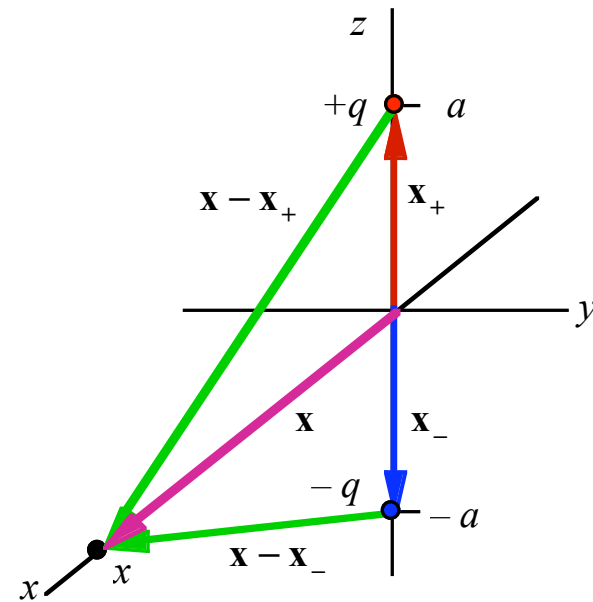
Problem 3.7

$$\mathbf{E}(x) = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left[\frac{x\hat{\mathbf{i}} - a\hat{\mathbf{k}}}{(x^2 + a^2)^{3/2}} - \frac{x\hat{\mathbf{i}} + a\hat{\mathbf{k}}}{(x^2 + a^2)^{3/2}} \right]$$

$$E_x(x, 0, 0) = 0$$

$$E_z(x, 0, 0) = -\frac{q}{2\pi\epsilon_0 a^2} \frac{1}{\left(1 + x^2/a^2\right)^{3/2}}$$

$$\approx -\frac{2q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 a^2} |x| \ll a; \quad -\frac{2qa}{4\pi\epsilon_0 x^3} |x| \gg a$$



Problem 3.8

Infinite line charge on negative part of z axis. Find electric field on positive part of the z-axis, and x-axis

$$\mathbf{E} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int \frac{\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|^3} \rho(\mathbf{x}') d^3x'$$

z-axis

$$E_z(0,0,z) = \frac{\lambda}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_{-\infty}^0 \frac{dz'}{(z - z')^2} = \frac{\lambda}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left[\frac{1}{z - z'} \right]_{-\infty}^z = \frac{\lambda}{4\pi\epsilon_0 z}$$

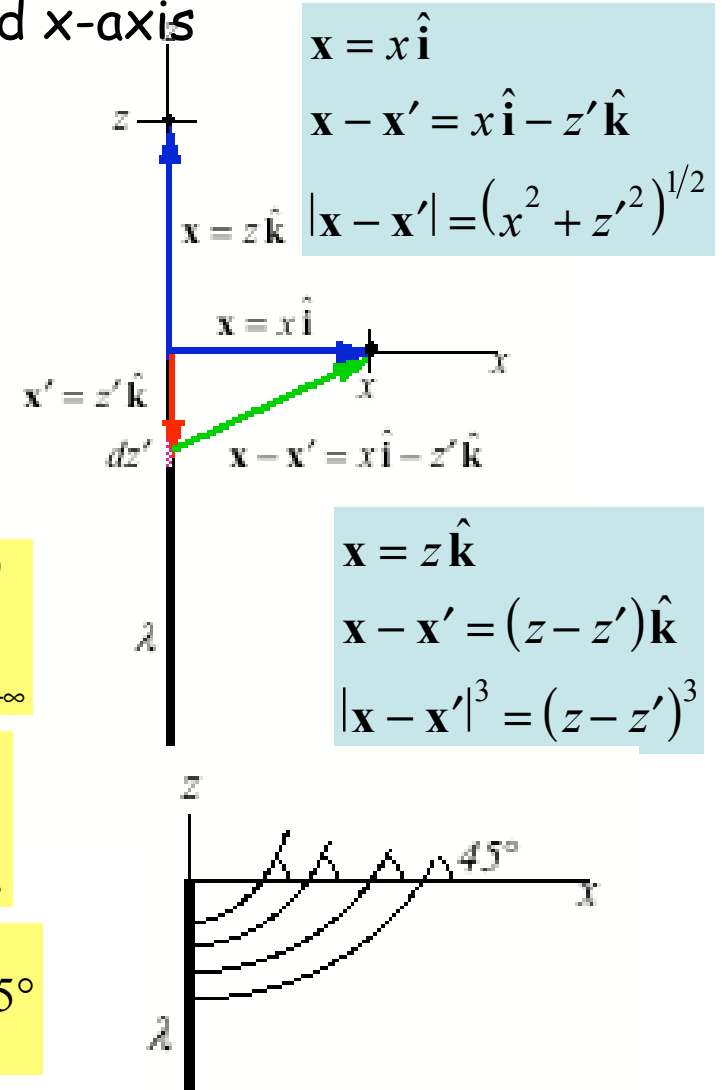
x-axis

$$E_x(x,0,0) = \frac{\lambda x}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_{-\infty}^0 \frac{dz'}{(x^2 + z'^2)^{3/2}} = \frac{\lambda}{4\pi\epsilon_0 x} \left[\frac{z'}{(x^2 + z'^2)^{1/2}} \right]_{-\infty}^0 = 0$$

$$E_z(x,0,0) = \frac{\lambda}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_{-\infty}^0 \frac{-z' dz'}{(x^2 + z'^2)^{3/2}} = \frac{\lambda}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left[\frac{1}{(x^2 + z'^2)^{1/2}} \right]_{-\infty}^0 = \frac{\lambda}{4\pi\epsilon_0 x}$$

$$E_z(x,0,0) = E_x(x,0,0) = \frac{\lambda}{4\pi\epsilon_0 x}$$

$$\tan \theta = \frac{E_z}{E_x} = 1 ; \theta = 45^\circ$$



Problem 3.10

Charge q at the center of a box edge = $2a$. Check Gauss's law.

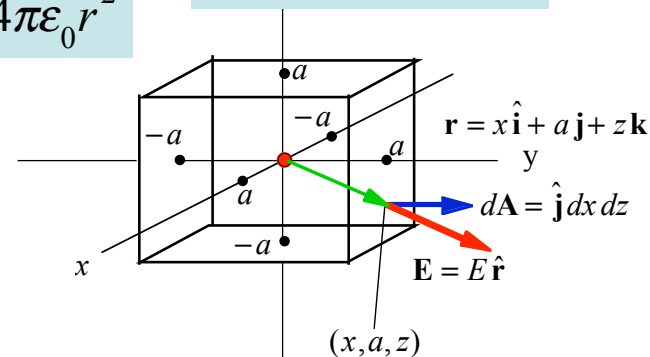
Gauss's law: $\oint_S \mathbf{E} \cdot d\mathbf{A} = \frac{q_{encl}}{\epsilon_0}$

Flux through right face ($y = a$)

$$\mathbf{E} = E \hat{\mathbf{r}}$$

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

$$\hat{\mathbf{r}} = \frac{x\hat{\mathbf{i}} + a\hat{\mathbf{j}} + z\hat{\mathbf{k}}}{\sqrt{x^2 + a^2 + z^2}}$$

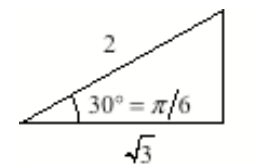


$$\oint_R \mathbf{E} \cdot d\mathbf{A} = \oint_R E \hat{\mathbf{r}} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{j}} = \frac{qa}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_{-a}^{+a} dx \int_{-a}^{+a} dz \frac{1}{(x^2 + a^2 + z^2)^{3/2}}$$

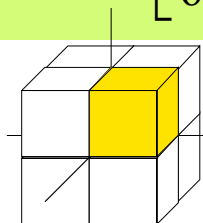
$$= \frac{qa}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_{-a}^{+a} dx \left[\frac{za}{(a^2 + x^2)(a^2 + x^2 + z^2)^{1/2}} \right]_{-a}^{+a}$$

$$= \frac{qa^2}{2\pi\epsilon_0} \int_{-a}^{+a} dx \left[\frac{1}{(a^2 + x^2)(2a^2 + x^2)^{1/2}} \right] = \frac{q}{2\pi\epsilon_0} \tan^{-1} \left[\frac{x}{(2a^2 + x^2)^{1/2}} \right]_{-a}^{+a} = \frac{q}{\pi\epsilon_0} \tan^{-1} [1/\sqrt{3}]$$

$$= \frac{q}{\pi\epsilon_0} (\pi/6) = \frac{q}{6\epsilon_0} \quad \text{and} \quad 6 \left[\frac{q}{6\epsilon_0} \right] = \frac{q}{\epsilon_0} \quad \text{through 6 faces}$$



Cube with charge q in the corner



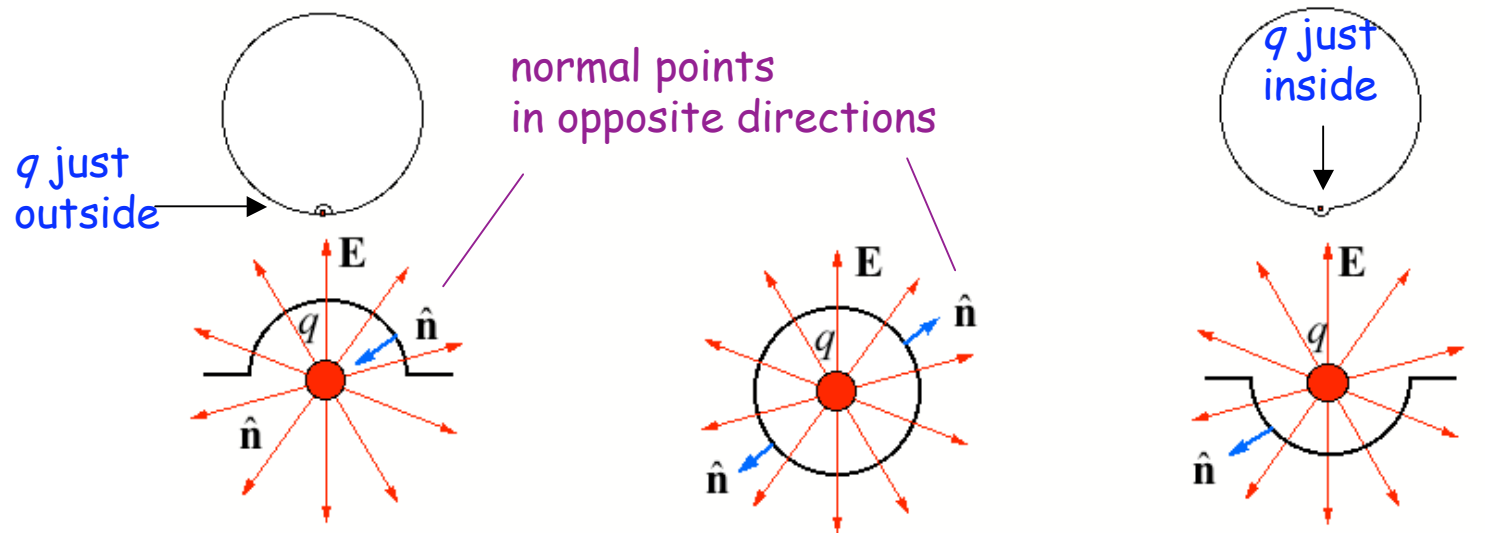
Flux through box is

$$\oint_{\text{Corner}} \mathbf{E} \cdot d\mathbf{A} = \frac{1}{8} \frac{q}{\epsilon_0}$$

Gauss's law problem (similar to Prob. 3.12)

Charge q , just inside or just outside a spherical surface.

Show that the flux through the surface is discontinuous by q/ϵ_0



$$\oint \mathbf{E} \cdot d\mathbf{A} = X$$

$$\oint \mathbf{E} \cdot d\mathbf{A} = q/\epsilon_0$$

$$\oint \mathbf{E} \cdot d\mathbf{A} = Y$$

$$X + q/\epsilon_0 = Y$$

3.15

Cylinder with uniform surface charge density. Use Gauss's law to determine the radial dependence of the field.

Gauss's law

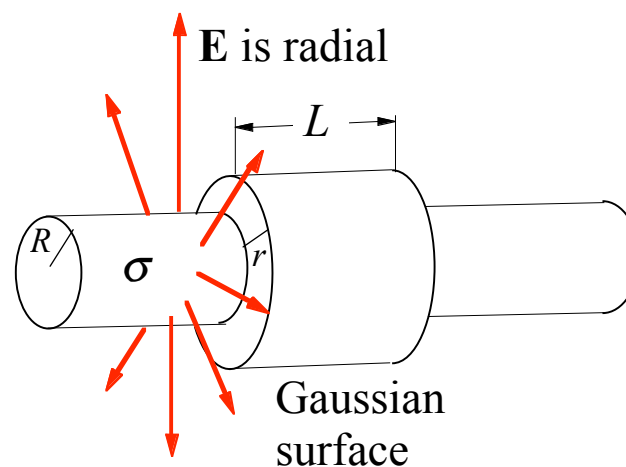
$$\oint_S \mathbf{E} \cdot d\mathbf{A} = \frac{q_{\text{encl}}}{\epsilon_0}$$

$$E_r A_r = \frac{A_R \sigma}{\epsilon_0}$$

$$E_r 2\pi r L = \frac{2\pi R L \sigma}{\epsilon_0}$$

$$\underline{E_r = \frac{\sigma R}{\epsilon_0 r}, r > R; \quad E_r = 0, r < R}$$

$$\mathbf{E} = E \hat{\mathbf{r}} \quad d\mathbf{A} = 2\pi r L \hat{\mathbf{r}}$$



Disks of Gaussian surface do not contribute to integral

Problem 3.16

Concentric spherical shells charged Q and $-Q$ with radii a and b .
What is the field between the shells? What if $-Q \rightarrow 0$?

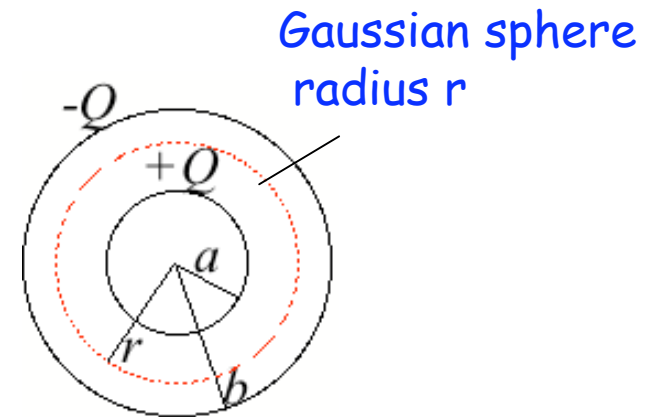
Gauss's law

$$\oint_S \mathbf{E} \cdot d\mathbf{A} = \frac{q_{\text{encl}}}{\epsilon_0}$$

$$E_r 4\pi r^2 = \frac{Q}{\epsilon_0}$$

$$E_r = \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2} \text{ and } \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2} \hat{\mathbf{r}} \quad a < r < b$$

Point charge field



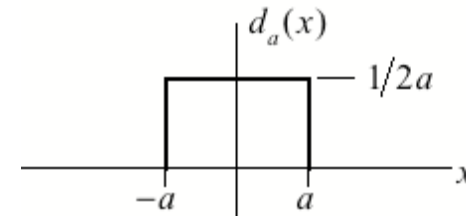
$-Q \rightarrow 0$ means $-Q$ placed at infinity! Electric field between radii does not change, however, field now extends to infinite radius.

$$E_r = \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2} \text{ and } \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2} \hat{\mathbf{r}} \quad a < r$$

Problem 3.19

Dirac δ function:

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \delta(x) f(x) dx = f(0)$$



a) $d_a(x)$ given by function in the figure. Let $f(x) = 1$

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d_a(x) f(x) dx = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d_a(x) dx = \frac{1}{2a} 2a = 1, \text{ and } \lim_{a \rightarrow 0} [d_a(x)] = \infty \Rightarrow d_a(x) = \delta(x)$$

b) $d_a(\mathbf{x}) = 1/V$ for $r \leq a$, and 0 for $r > a$.

$$\int d_a(\mathbf{x}) d^3x = \frac{1}{V_a} \int_0^a d^3x = \frac{V_a}{V_a} = 1, \text{ and } \lim_{a \rightarrow 0} [d_a(\mathbf{x})] = \infty \Rightarrow d_a(\mathbf{x}) = \delta(\mathbf{x})$$

c) Potential function V for uniformly charged sphere

$$\oint_S \mathbf{E} \cdot d\mathbf{A} = \oint_V \rho(\mathbf{x}') d^3x': \quad E_{r>a} = \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2}; \quad E_{r<a} 4\pi r^2 = \frac{Q}{\epsilon_0} \frac{r^3}{a^3}, \quad E_{r<a} = \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{r}{a^3}$$

$$V_{r>a} = -\frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_{\infty}^r \frac{dr}{r^2} = \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r}; \quad V_{r<a} = -\frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_{\infty}^a \frac{dr}{r^2} - \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 a^3} \int_a^r r dr = \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left[-\frac{r^2}{2a^3} + \frac{3}{2a} \right]$$

boundary
term

Problem 3.19 (cont)

d) V satisfies Laplace's equation for $r > a$, and Poisson's equation for $r < a$

$$-\nabla^2 V_{r>a} = \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left[\nabla^2 \frac{1}{r} = \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left(-r^2 \frac{1}{r^2} \right) \right] = 0$$

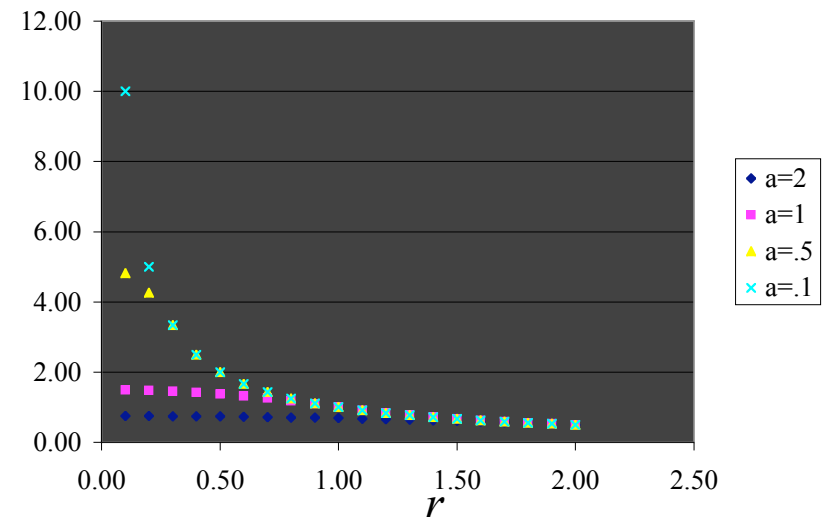
$$-\nabla^2 V_{r<a} = \frac{-Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 a^3} \left[\nabla^2 \left(-\frac{r^2}{2} \right) = \frac{\partial}{\partial r} (-r^2 r) \right] = \frac{Q}{\frac{4}{3}\pi a^3 \epsilon_0} = \frac{\rho}{\epsilon_0}$$

e) Show $V(\mathbf{x})$ approaches $Q / 4\pi\epsilon_0 r$ as $a \rightarrow 0$

$$V(r, a) = \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} f(r, a)$$

$$f(r, a) = \frac{1}{r} \left[-\frac{r^3}{2a^3} + \frac{3r}{2a} \right]$$

$V(r, a)$ for $a = 2.0, 1.0, 0.5, 0.1$



Problem 3.24

Is this field irrotational? What is potential function, and Divergence?

$$\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{x}) = \hat{\mathbf{i}}(2x^2 - 2xy - 2y^2) + \hat{\mathbf{j}}(-x^2 - 4xy + y^2)$$

$$(\nabla \times \mathbf{E})_i = \varepsilon_{ijk} \frac{\partial E_k}{\partial x_j} \quad \text{no } j=3 \text{ or } k=3 \text{ terms}$$

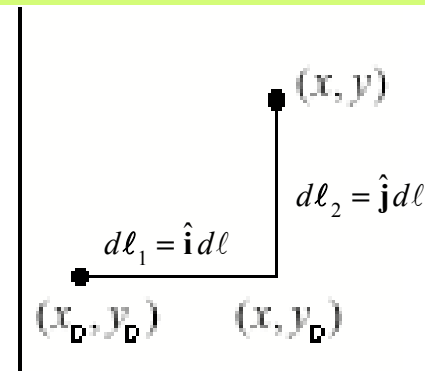
$$(\nabla \times \mathbf{E})_3 = \frac{\partial E_2}{\partial x_1} - \frac{\partial E_1}{\partial x_2} = (-2x - 4y) - (-2x - 4y) = 0$$

irrotational

$$\begin{aligned} V(\mathbf{x}) &= - \int_{x_0}^x (2x^2 - 2xy_0 - 2y_0^2) dx - \int_{y_0}^y (-x^2 - 4xy + y^2) dy \\ &= - \left(\frac{2x^3}{3} - x^2 y_0 - 2xy_0^2 \right) + \left(\frac{2x_0^3}{3} - x_0^2 y_0 - 2x_0 y_0^2 \right) \\ &\quad - \left(-x^2 y - 2xy^2 + \frac{y^3}{3} \right) + \left(-x^2 y_0 - 2xy_0^2 + \frac{y_0^3}{3} \right) \end{aligned}$$

$$= -\frac{2x^3}{3} + x^2 y + 2xy^2 - \frac{y^3}{3} + C$$

$$V(\mathbf{x}) - V(\mathbf{x}_0) = - \int_{\mathbf{x}_0}^{\mathbf{x}} \mathbf{E} \cdot d\boldsymbol{\ell}$$



$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{x}) = 4x - 2y - 4x + 2y = 0$$

Problem 3.40

Concentric spherical shells, radius R , $2R$, $3R$, charges $+Q$, $-Q$, $+Q$ resp. Determine the electric field at all radii.

Gauss's law

$$\oint_S \mathbf{E} \cdot d\mathbf{A} = \frac{q_{\text{encl}}}{\epsilon_0}$$

$$(r < R): E = 0$$

$$(R < r < 2R): E 4\pi r^2 = +Q / \epsilon_0; \quad E = \underline{Q / 4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2}$$

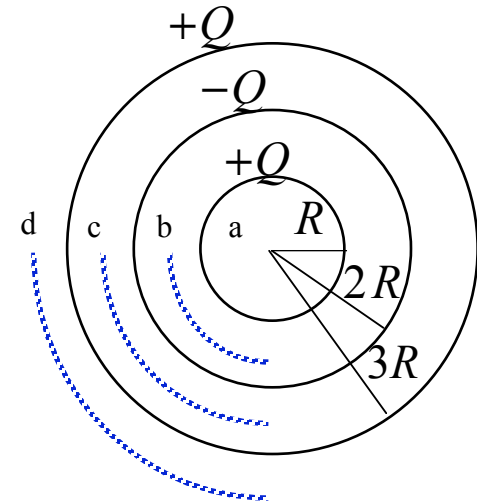
$$(2R < r < 3R): E = 0$$

$$(3R < r): E 4\pi r^2 = +Q / \epsilon_0; \quad E = \underline{Q / 4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2}$$

$$(r_b = 1.5R): E_b = Q / 4\pi\epsilon_0 r_b^2$$

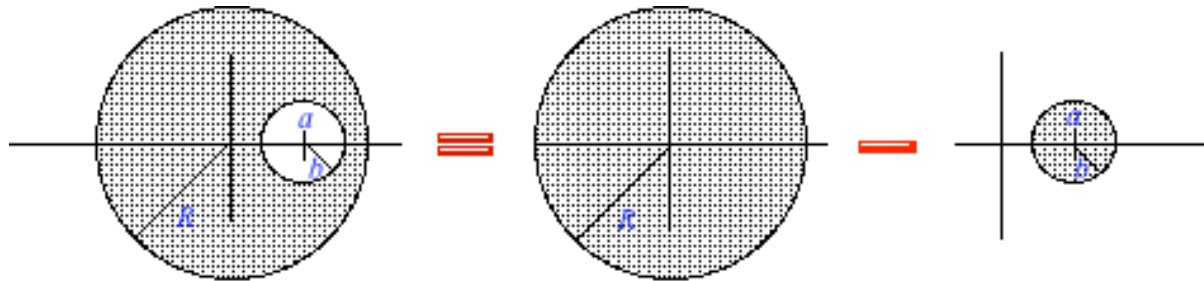
$$(r_d = 3.5R): E_d = Q / 4\pi\epsilon_0 r_d^2$$

$$\frac{E_d}{E_b} = \left(\frac{r_b}{r_d} \right)^2 = \left(\frac{3}{7} \right)^2 = \frac{9}{49}$$



Problem 3.42

Solid sphere with uniform charge density has a smaller sphere hollowed out. Find field in the cavity.



Find field inside a large (L) sphere radius R with a uniform charge density, Use Gauss's law in spherical coordinates $\rightarrow$ Convert to Cartesian coordinates.

$$\oint_S \mathbf{E} \cdot d\mathbf{A} = \frac{q_{encl}}{\epsilon_0}$$

$$E_r 4\pi r^2 = \frac{\rho V_r}{\epsilon_0} = \frac{Q}{V_R} \frac{V_r}{\epsilon_0} = \frac{Q}{\epsilon_0} \frac{r^3}{R^3}$$

$$\mathbf{E}_{Large} = \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{r}{R^3} \hat{\mathbf{r}} = \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{(x\hat{\mathbf{i}} + y\hat{\mathbf{j}} + z\hat{\mathbf{k}})}{R^3}$$

Find field inside a small sphere, radius b , with a uniform charge density, offset in the x direction by a distance $a < R-b$. Use Cartesian coordinates

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{E}_{Large} - \mathbf{E}_{Small} &= \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{(x\hat{\mathbf{i}} + y\hat{\mathbf{j}} + z\hat{\mathbf{k}})}{R^3} - \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left[\frac{(x-a)\hat{\mathbf{i}} + y\hat{\mathbf{j}} + z\hat{\mathbf{k}}}{b^3} \right] \\ &= \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{(x\hat{\mathbf{i}} + y\hat{\mathbf{j}} + z\hat{\mathbf{k}})}{R^3} - \frac{Qb^3}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R^3} \left[\frac{(x-a)\hat{\mathbf{i}} + y\hat{\mathbf{j}} + z\hat{\mathbf{k}}}{b^3} \right] \end{aligned}$$

$$q = \rho V_b = \frac{Q V_b}{V_R} = \frac{Q b^3}{R^3}$$

$$= \frac{Qa}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R^3} \hat{\mathbf{i}} = \frac{\rho a}{3\epsilon_0} \hat{\mathbf{i}}$$

Electric potential differences

Stokes's theorem: $\oint_C \mathbf{E} \cdot d\ell = \oint_S (\nabla \times \mathbf{E}) \cdot \hat{\mathbf{n}} dA$ but $\nabla \times \mathbf{E} = 0$

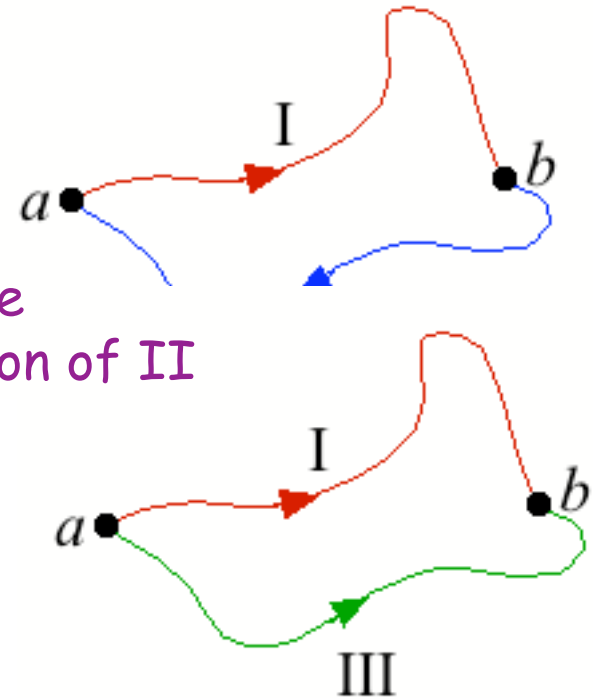
Integral over closed path: $\oint_C \mathbf{E} \cdot d\ell = 0$

Integral around loop

$$\int_a^b \mathbf{E} \cdot d\ell_I + \int_b^a \mathbf{E} \cdot d\ell_{II} = 0$$

$$\int_a^b \mathbf{E} \cdot d\ell_I = -\int_b^a \mathbf{E} \cdot d\ell_{II} = \int_a^b \mathbf{E} \cdot d\ell_{III}$$

Reverse direction of II



Integral is independent of path

Integral depends only on end points

Let $V(x)$ be "potential" at x

$$V(\mathbf{x}_b) - V(\mathbf{x}_a) = -\int_a^b \mathbf{E} \cdot d\ell$$

Integral is work done (by an external agent) in moving a unit charge from a to b .