

# Chap 25 Electric potential

25-1

## 25.1 Potential difference and electric potential

for a small displacement  $ds$   
work done by the electric force

$$F \cdot ds = q_0 E \cdot ds$$

$$dU = -dw$$

$$\rightarrow dU = -q_0 E \cdot ds$$

$$\Delta U = U_B - U_A \quad (\text{Charge moves from Point A to point B})$$

$$= -q_0 \int_A^B E \cdot ds$$

- Because the force  $q_0 E$  is conservative  
the line integral does not depend on  
the path of from A to B

define potential energy  $U = 0$  at one point  
also  $V \equiv \frac{U}{q_0} =$  electric potential (potential)

$$\text{Potential difference } \Delta V = V_B - V_A$$

$$\Delta V \equiv \frac{\Delta U}{q_0} = - \int_A^B \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s}$$

- Scalar product  
- independent of the charge placed  
in the field.

When an external agent moves a test charge from A to B  
 $W =$  done by this external agent

$$= q \Delta V$$

$$1V \equiv 1 \frac{J}{C}$$

## 25.2 Potential Difference in a Uniform Electric field.

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- How to create  
a uniform  
E field.

$$V_B - V_A = \Delta V = - \int_A^B \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s} = - \int_A^B E \cos 0^\circ ds$$

$$= - \int_A^B E ds$$

$$= - Ed \quad \text{if } \int_A^B ds = d, \text{ E is uniform}$$

Potential energy change

$$\Delta U = q_0 \Delta V = - q_0 Ed$$

Equipotential surface  $\equiv$  any surface consisting of a continuous distribution of points having the same electric potential

## 25.3 Electric potential and potential energy due to point charges

$$V_B - V_A = - \int_A^B \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s} \quad , \quad \vec{E} = k_e \frac{q}{r^2} \hat{r}$$

$$\vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s} = k_e \frac{q}{r^2} \hat{r} \cdot d\vec{s}$$

$$= k_e \frac{q}{r^2} ds \cos \theta \quad . \quad \theta = \text{the angle between } d\vec{s} \text{ and unit vector } \hat{r}$$

$$\therefore V_B - V_A = - k_e q \int_{r_A}^{r_B} \frac{dr}{r^2} = \left. \frac{k_e q}{r} \right|_{r_A}^{r_B}$$

$$= k_e q \left[ \frac{1}{r_B} - \frac{1}{r_A} \right]$$

- Usually we choose  
 $V = 0$  @  $r \rightarrow \infty$

$$\rightarrow \boxed{V \equiv k_e \frac{q}{r}}$$

$$V = k_e \sum_i \frac{q_i}{r_i}$$

for several point charges

Check Fig 25.8, 25.9 page 769

potential energy due to two charges  $q_1$  and  $q_2$   
at a distance  $r_{12}$

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$$U = k_e \frac{q_1 q_2}{r_{12}}$$

three charges  $U = k_e \left( \frac{q_1 q_2}{r_{12}} + \frac{q_1 q_3}{r_{13}} + \frac{q_2 q_3}{r_{23}} \right)$

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$$dV = -E \cdot ds$$

$$\therefore E = -\frac{dV}{dx}$$

similar to  $F = -\frac{dV}{dx}$

$$U = q_0 V \text{ electric}$$

When a test charge is moving  $ds$  along an equipotential surface, then  $dV = 0$ , since  $V$  is constant

$$dV = -\vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s} = 0 \quad d\vec{s} \perp \vec{E}$$

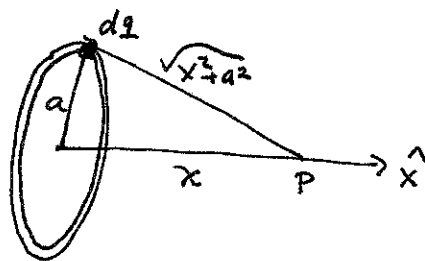
$\therefore$  the equipotential surface must be perpendicular to the electric field line.

$$\vec{E}_r = -\frac{dV}{dr}$$

$$\vec{E}_x = -\frac{\partial V}{\partial x}, \quad \vec{E}_y = -\frac{\partial V}{\partial y}, \quad \vec{E}_z = -\frac{\partial V}{\partial z}$$

25.5 Electric potential due to continuous charge distribution.

D) Charged ring



$$V = k_e \int \frac{dq}{r} = k_e \int \frac{dq}{\sqrt{x^2 + a^2}}$$

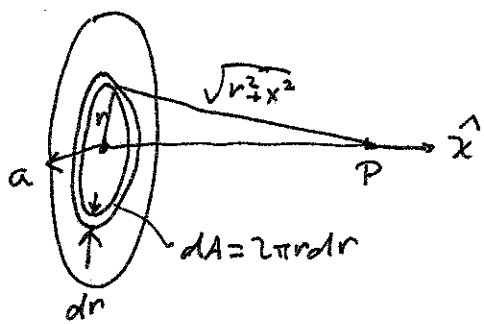
$$= k_e \frac{1}{\sqrt{x^2 + a^2}} \int dq$$

$$= k_e \frac{Q}{\sqrt{x^2 + a^2}}$$

$$\vec{E}_x = -\frac{dV}{dx} = -k_e Q \frac{d}{dx} \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{x^2 + a^2}} \right)$$

$$= \frac{k_e Q x}{(x^2 + a^2)^{3/2}}$$

② Uniform charged disk



$$dV = \frac{k_e dq}{\sqrt{r^2 + x^2}} = \frac{k_e \sigma 2\pi r dr}{\sqrt{r^2 + x^2}}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore V &= \pi k_e \sigma \int_0^a \frac{2r dr}{\sqrt{r^2 + x^2}} \\ &= 2\pi k_e \sigma \left[ (x^2 + a^2)^{\frac{1}{2}} - x \right] \end{aligned}$$

$$E_x = -\frac{dV}{dx} = 2\pi k_e \sigma \left( 1 - \frac{x}{\sqrt{x^2 + a^2}} \right)$$

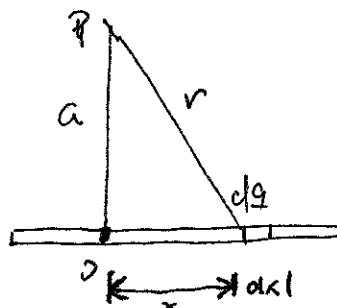
③ finite lin of charge

$$dV = k_e \frac{dq}{r} = k_e \frac{\lambda dx}{\sqrt{x^2 + a^2}}$$

$$V = k_e \lambda \int_0^l \frac{dx}{\sqrt{x^2 + a^2}}$$

$$= k_e \frac{Q}{l} \int_0^l \frac{dx}{\sqrt{x^2 + a^2}} \quad (\text{see Appendix B})$$

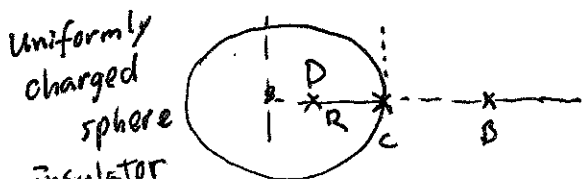
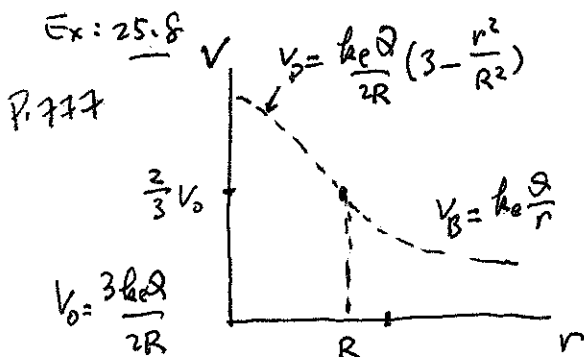
$$= k_e \frac{Q}{l} \ln \left( \frac{l + \sqrt{l^2 + a^2}}{a} \right)$$



Note:  $\int \frac{dx}{\sqrt{x^2 + a^2}} = \ln(x + \sqrt{x^2 + a^2})$

④ Uniform Charged Sphere. Check page 777

25.6 Electric potential due to a Charged Conductor



$$E_r = \frac{kQ}{R^3} r \quad (r < R)$$

$$\begin{aligned} V_D - V_C &= -\int_R^r E_r dr = -\frac{kQ}{R^3} \int_R^r r dr \\ &= \frac{kQ}{2R^3} (R^2 - r^2) \end{aligned}$$

$$V_C = \frac{kQ}{R}$$

$$\therefore V_D = \frac{kQ}{2R} \left( 3 - \frac{r^2}{R^2} \right)$$

Conductor

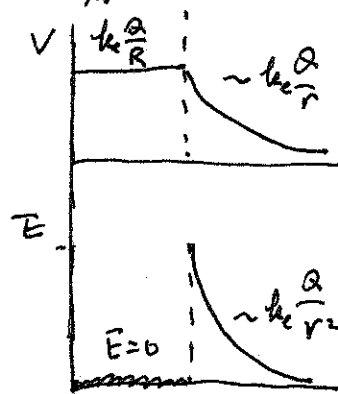
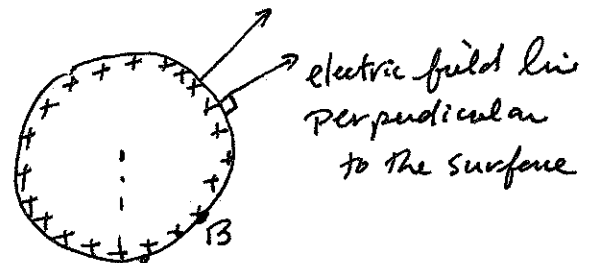
Charged sphere has all their charge on the surface

$$V_B - V_A = - \int_A^B \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s} = 0$$

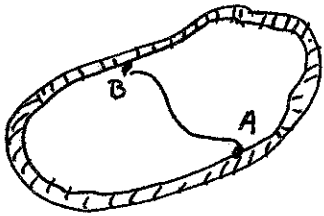
— The surface is at equipotential

$$V_{\text{on surface}} = k_e \frac{Q}{R}$$

But inside the sphere  $\vec{E} = 0$



A cavity within a conductor



$$V_B - V_A = - \int_A^B \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s} = 0$$

$\vec{E} = 0$ .  $\vec{E}$  is zero everywhere inside the cavity.