

# Chapter 24 Gauss's law

24-1

## 24.1 Electric flux

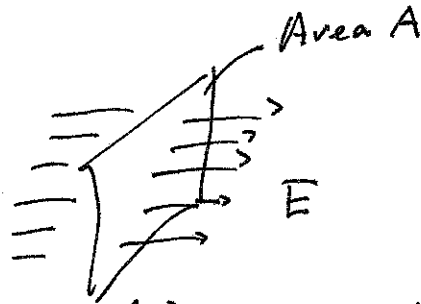
Electric field line: qualitatively

Electric flux: quantitatively

$$\Phi_E \equiv EA$$

= Electric flux

= proportional to the number of electric field lines penetrating some surface.



if the field lines do not perpendicular to the surface

$$\Phi_E = EA' = EA \cos \theta$$

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

(note:  $\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} = AB \cos \theta$ )

$$= E_i \Delta A_i \cos \theta_i = E_i \cdot \Delta A_i$$

in general

$$\Phi_E = \lim_{\Delta A_i \rightarrow 0} \sum_i \vec{E}_i \cdot \Delta \vec{A}_i = \oint_{\text{Surface}} \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A} = \oint E_n dA$$

Surface

$E_n \equiv$  Normal to the surface

The sign of flux depends on the dot product of this integral.

## 24.2 Gauss's law -

- The relation between the net electric flux through a closed surface (called Gaussian surface) and the charges enclosed by the surface.

$$\vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A}_i = E dA_i$$

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

$$\text{But } E = k_e \frac{q}{r^2}$$

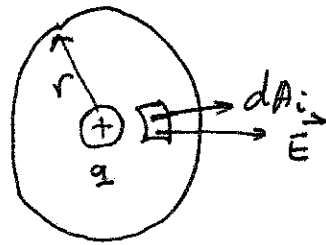
$$\Phi_E = k_e \frac{q}{r^2} (4\pi r^2) = 4\pi k_e q$$

$$\text{But } k_e = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}$$

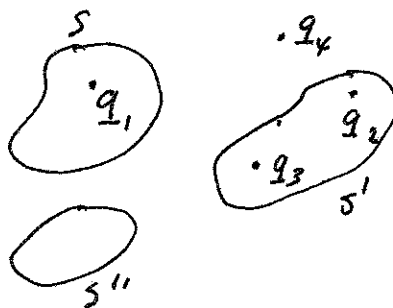
$$\boxed{\Phi_E = \frac{q}{\epsilon_0}}$$

We can choose a Gaussian surface that covers the charge.

The net flux through any closed surface surrounding a point charge  $q$  is  $\frac{q}{\epsilon_0}$  independent of the surface.



many charges



$$\Phi_{\text{total}} = \oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A} = \oint (\vec{E}_1 + \vec{E}_2 + \dots) \cdot d\vec{A}$$

Gauss's law

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

$$\text{or } \epsilon_0 \Phi_E = \epsilon_0 \oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A} = q_{\text{in}}$$

Note: Zero flux is not zero field.

— Gauss's law states that the electric flux is proportional to the enclosed charge, not the electric field.

## 24.3 Applications of Gauss's Law

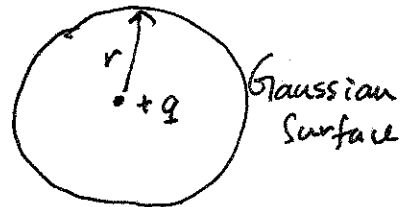
### ① Point charge

$$\Phi_E = \oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A} = \oint E dA = \frac{q}{\epsilon_0}$$

By symmetry  $\vec{E}$  is constant on the surface

$$\therefore \Phi_E = E \oint dA = E \cdot 4\pi r^2 = \frac{q}{\epsilon_0}$$

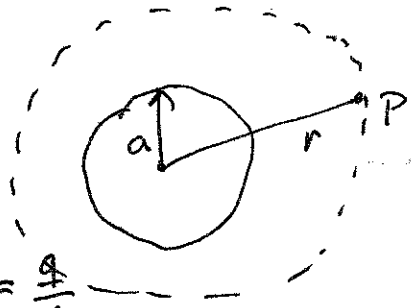
$$E = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q}{r^2} = k_e \frac{q}{r^2}$$



### ② A spherically symmetric charge distribution

②-1: A point outside the sphere

Pick a Gaussian surface bigger than the sphere



$$\Phi_E = \oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A} = E \oint dA = E \cdot 4\pi r^2 = \frac{q}{\epsilon_0}$$

$$E = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q}{r^2} = k_e \frac{q}{r^2} \quad (r > a)$$

②-2: A point ~~and~~ inside the sphere.

Pick a Gaussian surface as shown

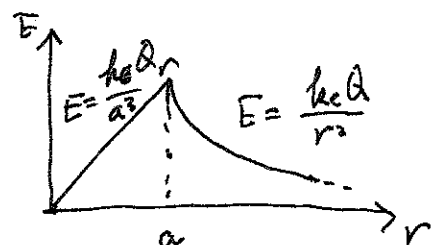
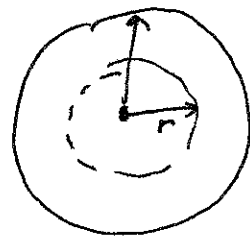
$$q_{in} = \rho V' = \rho \cdot \frac{4}{3}\pi r^3$$

$$\Phi_E = \oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A} = E \oint dA = E(4\pi r^2) = \frac{q_{in}}{\epsilon_0}$$

$$E = \frac{q_{in}}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2} = \frac{\rho(\frac{4}{3}\pi r^3)}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2} = \frac{\rho}{3\epsilon_0} r$$

$$\rho = \frac{Q}{\frac{4}{3}\pi a^3}$$

$$\therefore E = \frac{Qr}{4\pi\epsilon_0 a^3} = k_e \frac{Q}{a^3} r \quad (r < a)$$



(3) Electric field due to a thin spherical ~~sphere~~ shell

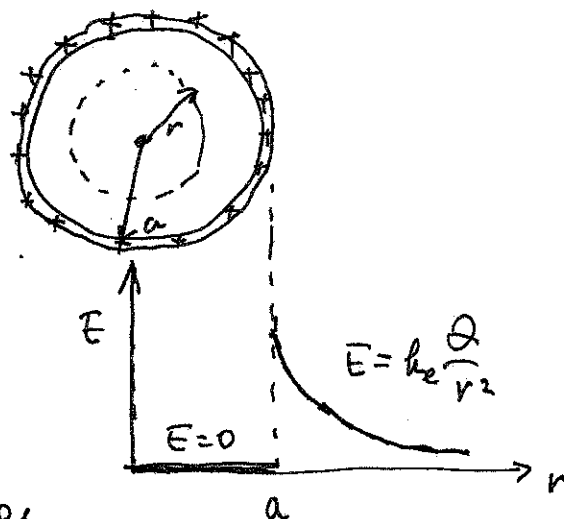
(3)-1: Outside the shell,  $r > a$

$$E = k_e \frac{Q}{r^2}$$

(3)-2: Inside the shell,  $r < a$

The Gaussian Surface doesn't include any charge inside it

$$\therefore \vec{E} = 0$$



(4) A cylindrically symmetric charge distribution.

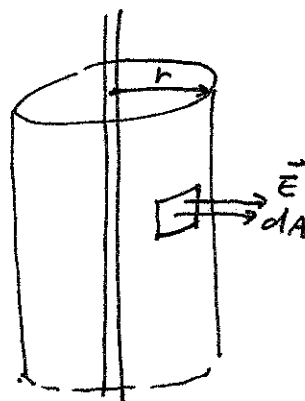
$$\Phi_E = \oint E \cdot dA = E \oint dA$$

$$= EA = \frac{q_{in}}{\epsilon_0} = \frac{\lambda l}{\epsilon_0}$$

$$A = 2\pi r l$$

$$\therefore E \cdot 2\pi r l = \frac{\lambda l}{\epsilon_0}$$

$$E = \frac{\lambda}{2\pi \epsilon_0 r} = 2k_e \frac{\lambda}{r}$$



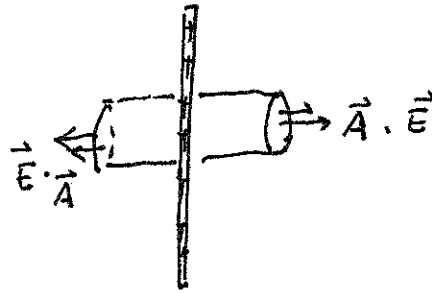
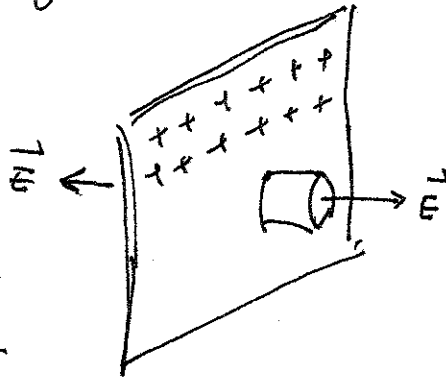
Note: The electric field is symmetric  
But  $E \sim \frac{1}{r}$

(5) A plane of charge (thin)

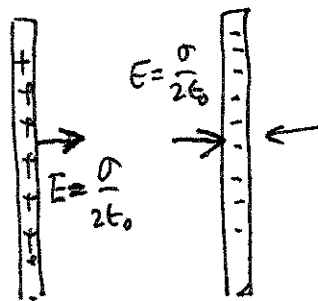
Both side. The flux are positive

$$\Phi_E = 2EA = \frac{q_{in}}{\epsilon_0} = \frac{\sigma A}{\epsilon_0}$$

$$E = \frac{\sigma}{2\epsilon_0}$$



if



Therefore inside this two infinite planes the total  $\vec{E}$  field

$$E = \frac{\sigma}{2\epsilon_0} + \frac{\sigma}{2\epsilon_0} = \frac{\sigma}{\epsilon_0}$$

→ A practical way to obtain a Uniform field.

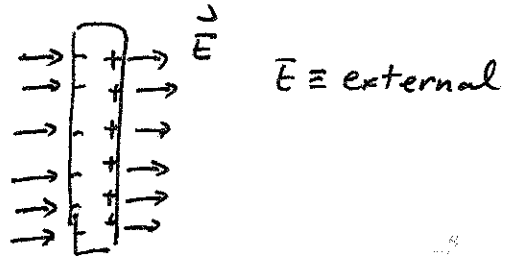
To Apply Gauss's law

1. The value can be argued by symmetry to be constant over the surface
2. The dot product  $\vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A}$  can be expressed as simple algebraic product
3. The dot product  $\Phi_E = \oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A} = \frac{q_{in}}{\epsilon_0}$  can be zero if  $E \perp d\vec{A}$
4. The field can be argued to be zero over the surface.

24.4 Conductor in Electrostatic Equilibrium (read page 750 carefully)

- 1) The electric field is zero everywhere inside the conductor
- 2) If an isolated conductor carries a charge, the charge resides on its surface
- 3) The electric field just outside its surface  $E = \frac{\sigma}{\epsilon_0}$
- 4) On an irregularly shaped conductor,

the surface charge density is greatest at location where the radius of curvature of the surface is smallest.  $E \sim \sigma \sim \frac{q}{r^2}$



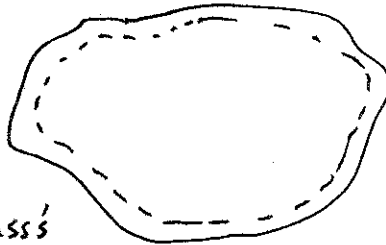
- 1) Place in an external field as in fig 24.16 (page 750) for electrostatic equilibrium.

If not, free electrons in the conductor will experience an acceleration due to the external field.

- 2) The external field causes the separation of electrons and positive to create an electric field inside to oppose the external field ( $\sim 10^{-16}$  second)

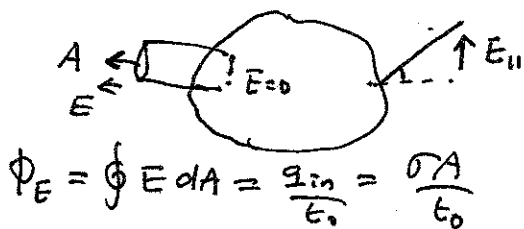
2)

due to 1)  
The field inside the conductor is zero, from Gauss's



law, the charge inside the dashed Gaussian surface is zero  $\rightarrow$  All the net charge must be on the surface.

- 3) If the  $E$  field is not perpendicular to the surface



A  $E_{||}$  component will drive the charge. Then it will not be in electrostatic equilibrium.

$$\Phi_E = \oint E \cdot dA = \frac{q_{in}}{\epsilon_0} = \frac{\sigma A}{\epsilon_0}$$

$$\rightarrow E = \frac{\sigma}{\epsilon_0}$$

on the surface

Check Fig 24.19 page 751

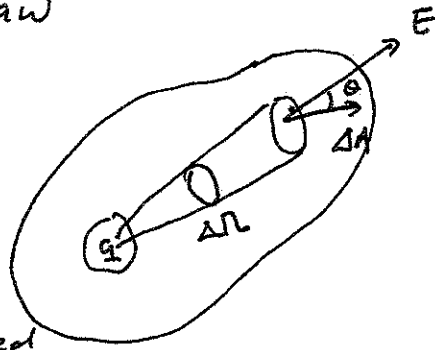
Do Example 24.10 page 752 (A sphere inside a spherical shell)

## 24.5 Derivation of Gauss's law

24-7

$$\text{Solid angle } \Delta\Omega \equiv \frac{\Delta A}{r^2}$$

[Steradian]  
dimensionless



The total solid angle subtended  
by a sphere =  $\Omega = \frac{4\pi r^2}{r^2} = 4\pi$  steradians.

for a charge particle  $q$

$$\Delta\Phi_E = E \cdot \Delta A = E \cos\theta \Delta A = k_e \frac{q}{r^2} \Delta A \cos\theta$$

$$\begin{aligned}\Phi_E &= \oint k_e \frac{q}{r^2} \Delta A \cos\theta = k_e q \oint \frac{\Delta A \cos\theta}{r^2} = k_e q \oint d\Omega = 4\pi k_e q \\ &= \frac{q}{\epsilon_0}\end{aligned}$$