# Gauss Law applied

Lecture 6.

Gauss Law for Cylinder W/ Surface charge б Gaussian Surface 1R  $\frac{\sigma L^{2\pi R}}{\epsilon_{o}} r = R$ I end caps ± − = P<sup>O</sup> 2TT . L ΑE since since n. E = E  $\hat{n} \cdot \vec{E} = 0$  $\frac{2\operatorname{TOR}\cdot 1}{2\operatorname{TE}_{0}r\cdot 1} = \mathcal{P}\vec{E} = \hat{r} \frac{\sigma}{\varepsilon_{0}} \left(\frac{R}{r}\right) \cdot \left(\frac{1}{\sigma}\right),$ = r. lylindrical radial Umit ĨË =

 $\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{R} \rightarrow 0 \\ \sigma \rightarrow \frac{\lambda}{2\pi R} \end{array}$ 

vector

For a line charge,

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



$$\frac{Q_{\text{inside}}}{e_{0}} = \frac{A \sigma}{e_{0}}$$

 $\vec{E} = \frac{\sigma}{2\epsilon_0} \hat{z} \begin{cases} 1, z > 0 \\ -1, z < 0 \end{cases}$ 

### (1) Infinite plane/plate

- 1. Identify symmetry
- 2. Draw E field/field lines
- 3. Choose a gaussian surface
- 4. Compute E



### (2) Infinite line

- 1. Identify symmetry
- 2. Draw E field/field lines
- 3. Choose a gaussian surface
- 4. Compute E



### (3) Point (or sphere)

- 1. Identify symmetry
- 2. Draw E field/field lines
- 3. Choose a gaussian surface
- 4. Compute E

### (3B) Charged sphere

- 1. Identify symmetry
- 2. Draw E field/field lines
- 3. Choose a gaussian surface
- 4. Compute E



#### FlipIt Physics: Where do I draw the surface?



#### **Conductor: Where do charges want to go?**



#### Conductors vs insulators

- Conductor (Insulator): Charge is free (not free) to move to establish electrostatic equilibrium
- Conductor have free charge: A sufficient and equal number of + and - charges can be "created" to cancel any E field in the conductor



### All free charge is at the surface of conductors

• Use Gauss Law...

#### Demo...

• Trash can of science (a.k.a. Faraday Pail)

### E field from a multi-layer Sphere/Coax cable



...approximations...

### Clicker questions

### All free charge is at the surface of conductors

• Use Gauss Law...

• Charge at the surface:



$$E_{\perp} = \frac{\sigma}{\epsilon_0}$$

 $\vec{E}_{\parallel} = 0$  (Prove this soon!)

### Induced surface charge density is typically non-uniform in conductors.



Draw field lines...

### Clicker questions

- Electric forces is **conservative**:
- The **work** performed by the electric field on a charge is **path independent.**
- Proof:
  - Show for a point charge.
  - Use superposition of point charges to represent arbitrary charge distribution.

- Show for a point charge...
- Work done by field on charge:  $dW = \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{\ell}$
- (... on board ...)
- Result:

$$\Delta W = W_{1\to 2} \equiv W_2 - W_1 = -\frac{q_1 q_2}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left[ \frac{1}{r_2} - \frac{1}{r_1} \right]$$



• Define the change is Electric Potential Energy as

$$\Delta U = U_{1 \to 2} \equiv U_2 - U_1 = -W_{1 \to 2}$$

• Electric Potential Energy difference:

$$U_{1\to 2} \equiv U_2 - U_1 = \frac{q_1 q_2}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left[ \frac{1}{r_2} - \frac{1}{r_1} \right]$$

• Define Electric Potential as follows:

$$U_1 \equiv U_1 - U_{\infty} = \frac{q_1 q_2}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left[ \frac{1}{r_1} - \frac{1}{\infty} \right] = \frac{q_1 q_2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r_1}$$

relative to a point at  $\infty$ .

- Superposition applies
- Potential energy of a charge distribution
  = energy required to assemble from ∞.

- Plot potential  $U(\vec{r}) = \frac{q_1 q_2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r}$
- (... on board ...)



 Heuristic for remembering signs: "Physics is always going down hill."



#### Question from smartPhysics:

Is there a connection between field lines and electric potential?

(Soon!)

## Electric Potential Energy of a charge distribution



$$U_{\text{Tot}} = \sum_{\text{pairs}} \frac{q_i q_j}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r_{ij}} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i \neq j} \frac{q_i q_j}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r_{ij}}$$

### From the checkpoint...

Two point charges are separated by some distance as shown. The charge of the first is positive. The charge of the second is negative and its magnitude is twice as large as the first.

Is it possible find a place to bring a third charge in from infinity without changing the total potential energy of the system?

(A) YES, as long as the third charge is positive(B) YES, as long as the third charge is negative(C) YES, no matter what the sign of the third charge(D) NO



Electric Potential Energy of a System of Point