

Lecture 5

Electric field at a point \vec{r} due to a distribution of charges

$$\vec{E}(\vec{r}) = k \sum_{n=1}^N q_n \frac{\vec{r} - \vec{r}_n}{|\vec{r} - \vec{r}_n|^3}$$

\vec{r}_n = position of charge q_n

For continuous charge distributions

$$\vec{E}(\vec{r}) = k \int \lambda(\vec{r}') d\vec{s}' \frac{\vec{r} - \vec{r}'}{|\vec{r} - \vec{r}'|^3}$$

or

$$= k \int \sigma(\vec{r}') dA' \frac{\vec{r} - \vec{r}'}{|\vec{r} - \vec{r}'|^3}$$

$$= k \int \rho(\vec{r}') dV' \frac{\vec{r} - \vec{r}'}{|\vec{r} - \vec{r}'|^3}$$

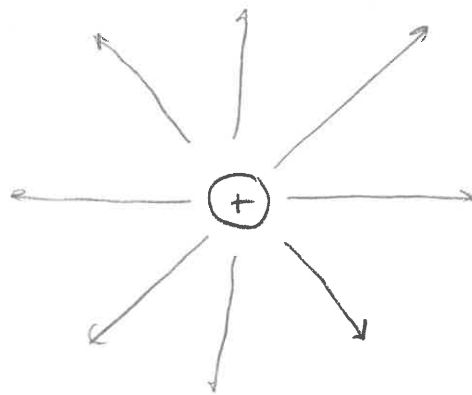
If a charge q at position \vec{r} is placed in an electric field $\vec{E}(\vec{r})$ it will experience a force

$$\vec{F} = q \vec{E}(\vec{r})$$

The field can be expressed graphically by drawing an arrow at \vec{r} pointing in the same direction as $\vec{E}(\vec{r})$

with length proportional to the magnitude of \vec{E} , the units of the field are Newtons/Coulomb.

Electric field lines are lines coming in or out of charges with the tangent vector to the curve at (\vec{r}) pointing in the same direction as the field at \vec{r} .



$$\vec{E}(\vec{r}) = kq \frac{\hat{r}}{r^2}$$

for a charge q at the origin

Field due to a dipole with dipole moment \vec{p}

$$\vec{F} = kq(-\vec{\nabla})\left(\frac{\vec{p}\cdot\vec{r}}{r^3}\right)$$

$$\vec{E}(\vec{r}) = \lim_{q \rightarrow 0} \frac{\vec{F}(\vec{r})}{q} = -k\vec{\nabla}\left(\frac{\vec{p}\cdot\vec{r}}{r^3}\right)$$

where

$$\vec{\nabla} = \hat{x}\frac{\partial}{\partial x} + \hat{y}\frac{\partial}{\partial y} + \hat{z}\frac{\partial}{\partial z}$$

the chain rule gives

$$\vec{E}(\vec{r}) = -k\vec{\nabla}(\vec{p}\cdot\vec{r})\frac{1}{r^3} - k(\vec{p}\cdot\vec{r})\vec{\nabla}\frac{1}{r^3}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{\nabla}(\vec{p}\cdot\vec{r}) &= \left(\hat{x}\frac{\partial}{\partial x} + \hat{y}\frac{\partial}{\partial y} + \hat{z}\frac{\partial}{\partial z}\right)(p_x x + p_y y + p_z z) \\ &= \hat{x}p_x + \hat{y}p_y + \hat{z}p_z \\ &= \vec{p}\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{\nabla}\frac{1}{r^3} &= \left(\hat{x}\frac{\partial}{\partial x} + \hat{y}\frac{\partial}{\partial y} + \hat{z}\frac{\partial}{\partial z}\right)(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{-3/2} \\ &= -\frac{3}{2}(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{-5/2}(2x\hat{x} + 2y\hat{y} + 2z\hat{z}) \\ &= -3\frac{\vec{r}}{r^5}\end{aligned}$$

combining these give the formula for the field due

a dipole with dipole moment \vec{p}

$$\begin{aligned} E(\vec{r}) &= -k \frac{\vec{p}}{r^3} + -k(-3 \vec{p} \cdot \vec{r}) \frac{\vec{r}}{r^5} \\ &= -k \frac{\vec{p} r^2}{r^5} + k \frac{3 \vec{r} (\vec{p} \cdot \vec{r})}{r^5} \end{aligned}$$

$$\boxed{\vec{E}(r) = k \frac{3 \vec{r} (\vec{r} \cdot \vec{p}) - r^2 \vec{p}}{r^5}}$$

Electric field due to a point dipole with dipole moment \vec{p} .

If \vec{p} is in the \hat{z} direction $\vec{p} = p \hat{z}$

$$\boxed{\vec{E} = kp \left(\frac{3 \vec{r} z}{r^5} - \frac{r^2 \hat{z}}{r^5} \right)}$$

A characteristic property of a dipole field is that it falls off like $1/r^3$

Electric field due to an infinite line charge

Choose coordinates so the line charge, with charge/length λ is along the z axis. We assume λ is constant

$$\vec{E}(\vec{r}) = k\lambda \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dz' \frac{\vec{r} - (00z')}{|\vec{r} - (00z')|^3}$$

note

$$\vec{r} - (00z') = (x, y, z - z')$$

$$|\vec{r} - (00z')| = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + (z - z')^2}$$

$$\vec{E}(\vec{r}) = k\lambda \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{(x, y, (z - z'))}{(\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + (z - z')^2})^3} dz'$$

let $z'' = z - z'$ $dz'' = -dz'$ $z'': \infty \rightarrow -\infty$

$$= k\lambda \int_{\infty}^{-\infty} \frac{(x, y, z'')}{(\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z''^2})^3} (-dz'')$$

$$= k\lambda \left(-\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \right) \frac{(x, y, z'')}{(\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z''^2})^3} (-dz'')$$

Note

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{z'' dz''}{(x^2 + y^2 + z''^2)^{3/2}} =$$

$$\int_{-\infty}^0 \frac{dz'' z''}{(x^2 + y^2 + z''^2)^{3/2}} + \int_0^{\infty} \frac{dz'' z''}{(x^2 + y^2 + z''^2)^{3/2}}$$

let $z''' = -z''$ in the first integral

$$dz'' = -dz''' \quad z'' dz'' = (-z''')(-dz''') = z''' dz'''$$

$$\left(\int_{\infty}^0 + \int_0^{\infty} \right) \frac{dz''' z'''}{(x^2 + y^2 + z'''^2)^{3/2}} = 0$$

this is because we are integrating an odd function

For the x and y components

$$\begin{aligned} E_x(\vec{r}) &= k\lambda x \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{dz'}{(x^2 + y^2 + (z-z')^2)^{3/2}} && \text{let } z'' = (z'-z) \\ &= k\lambda x \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{dz''}{(\rho^2 + z''^2)^{3/2}} && \rho^2 \equiv x^2 + y^2 \end{aligned}$$

we do this integral using hyperbolic substitution:

$$\cosh \eta = \frac{1}{2}(e^{\eta} + e^{-\eta})$$

$$\sinh \eta = \frac{1}{2}(e^{\eta} - e^{-\eta})$$

$$\frac{d \cosh \eta}{d\eta} = \frac{1}{2}(e^{\eta} - e^{-\eta}) = \sinh \eta$$

$$\frac{d \sinh \eta}{d\eta} = \frac{1}{2}(e^{\eta} + e^{-\eta}) = \cosh \eta$$

$$\cosh^2 \eta - \sinh^2 \eta =$$

$$\frac{1}{4}(e^{2\eta} + 2 + e^{-2\eta}) - \frac{1}{4}(e^{2\eta} - 2 + e^{-2\eta}) = 1$$

$$\tanh \eta = \frac{\sinh \eta}{\cosh \eta}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d \tanh \eta}{d\eta} &= \frac{\cosh \eta}{\cosh^2 \eta} - \frac{\sinh \eta \sinh \eta}{\cosh^2 \eta} \\ &= 1 - \frac{\sinh^2 \eta}{\cosh^2 \eta} = \frac{\cosh^2 \eta - \sinh^2 \eta}{\cosh^2 \eta} \\ &= \frac{1}{\cosh^2 \eta} \end{aligned}$$

In the integral let $z = \rho \sinh \eta$

as $z: -\infty \rightarrow \infty$ $\eta: -\infty \rightarrow \infty$

$$z = \rho \sinh \eta$$

$$dz = \rho \cosh \eta d\eta$$

$$\frac{1}{(\rho^2 + z^2)^{3/2}} = \frac{1}{(\rho^2 (1 + \sinh^2 \eta))^{3/2}} = \frac{1}{(\rho^2 \cosh^2 \eta)^{3/2}} =$$

$$\frac{1}{\rho^3 \cosh^3 \eta}$$

$$E_x(\vec{r}) = k\lambda x \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{\rho \cosh \eta d\eta}{\rho^3 \cosh^3 \eta} =$$

$$= k\lambda x \frac{1}{\rho^2} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d\eta}{\cosh^2 \eta}$$

$$= k\lambda \frac{x}{\rho^2} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d}{d\eta} (\tanh \eta)$$

Note $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{z'' dz''}{(x^2 + y^2 + z''^2)^{3/2}} =$

$$\int_{-\infty}^0 \frac{dz'' z''}{(x^2 + y^2 + z''^2)^{3/2}} + \int_0^{\infty} \frac{dz'' z''}{(x^2 + y^2 + z''^2)^{3/2}} =$$

$$z'' = -z''' \quad dz'' = -dz'''$$

$$- \int_0^{\infty} \frac{dz''' z'''}{(x^2 + y^2 + z'''^2)^{3/2}} + \int_0^{\infty} \frac{dz''' z'''}{(x^2 + y^2 + z'''^2)^{3/2}} = 0$$

This means that $\vec{E}(\vec{r})$ has no
z component.

For the x or y component

$$E_x(\vec{r}) = k\lambda x \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{dz'}{(x^2 + y^2 + (z - z')^2)^{3/2}} \quad z'' = z - z'$$

$$= k\lambda x \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{dz''}{(x^2 + y^2 + z''^2)^{3/2}} \quad \rho^2 = x^2 + y^2$$

$$= -k\lambda x \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial}{\partial \rho} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{dz}{(\rho^2 + z^2)^{1/2}} \quad z = \rho \sinh \eta$$

$$dz = \rho \cosh \eta d\eta$$

$$\frac{1}{(\rho^2 + z^2)^{1/2}} = \frac{1}{\rho \cosh \eta}$$

$$\rho^2 + z^2 =$$

$$\rho^2 + \rho^2 \sinh^2 \eta =$$

$$\rho^2 (1 + \sinh^2 \eta)$$

$$\rho^2 \cosh^2 \eta$$

$$= -k\lambda x \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial}{\partial \rho} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty}$$

$$k\lambda \frac{x}{\rho^2} \left(\frac{e^{\eta} - e^{-\eta}}{e^{\eta} + e^{-\eta}} \right) \Big|_{-\infty}^{\infty} = k\lambda \frac{x}{\rho} (1 - (-1)) = 2k\lambda \frac{x}{\rho}$$

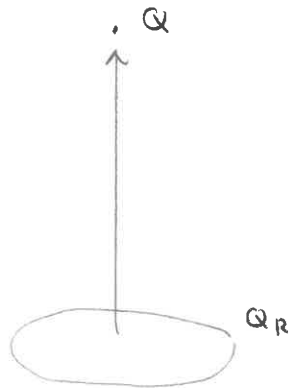
The calculation for $E_y(\vec{r})$ is the same

$$\vec{E}(\vec{r}) = 2k\lambda \left(\frac{x, y, 0}{\rho^2} \right) = 2R\lambda \frac{\hat{\rho}}{\rho}$$

where $\hat{\rho} = \frac{(x, y)}{\rho} = \frac{(x, y)}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2}}$ is the unit vector in the radial direction

Field due to a ring and disk

Friday



$$\vec{F}(0, 0, z) = Q \cdot Q_R k \frac{z}{(R^2 + z^2)^{3/2}} \hat{z}$$

$$\vec{E}(0, 0, z) = \frac{\vec{F}(0, 0, z)}{Q} = kQ_R \frac{z}{(R^2 + z^2)^{3/2}} \hat{z}$$

$$= R \frac{Q_R}{2\pi R} \cdot \frac{2\pi R z}{(R^2 + z^2)^{3/2}} = 2\pi R\lambda R \frac{z}{(R^2 + z^2)^{3/2}}$$

We can replace the ring by a disk of radius R by summing up the contributions from

For each ring

$$dE = k dq \frac{z}{(r^2+z^2)^{3/2}} \quad r = \text{radius of ring}$$

$$= k \frac{dq}{dr} \frac{z}{(r^2+z^2)^{3/2}} dr$$

$$dq = \sigma dA = 2\pi r \sigma dr$$

$$\vec{E}(z) = \int_0^R k 2\pi r \sigma \frac{z}{(z^2+r^2)^{3/2}} dr$$

$$= 2\pi k z \sigma \int_0^R \frac{r}{(z^2+r^2)^{3/2}} dr$$

Let $u = z^2+r^2 \quad du = 2r dr$

$$= 2\pi k z \sigma \int_{z^2}^{z^2+R^2} \frac{1}{2} u^{-3/2} du$$

$$= 2\pi k z \sigma \cdot \frac{1}{2} \cdot (-2) \left(u^{-1/2} \right) \Big|_{z^2}^{z^2+R^2}$$

$$= 2\pi k z \sigma \cdot (-) \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{z^2+R^2}} - \frac{1}{z} \right)$$

$\vec{E}(z) = 2\pi k \sigma \left(1 - \frac{z}{\sqrt{z^2+R^2}} \right) \hat{z}$
$(0, 0, z)$

Field due to disk along z axis

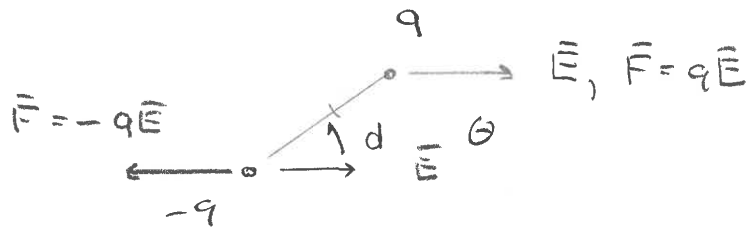
From this expression we can calculate the field due to an ∞ plane with charge / area = σ by letting $R \rightarrow \infty$

$$\vec{E} = \lim_{R \rightarrow \infty} 2\pi k \sigma \left(1 - \frac{z}{\sqrt{z^2 + R^2}}\right) \hat{z} =$$

$$\boxed{\vec{E} = 2\pi k \sigma \hat{z}}$$

In this case the electric field is constant, independent of distance from the plane

Force on an electric dipole in a uniform electric field



In this case we find that the net force on the dipole is 0 because it is electrically neutral; but it will experience a torque about its center.

$$\begin{aligned} T &= qE \frac{d}{2} \sin\theta - qE \left(-\frac{d}{2}\right) \sin\theta \\ &= qEd \sin\theta = pE \sin\theta \end{aligned}$$

The direction of the torque is into the plane of the paper

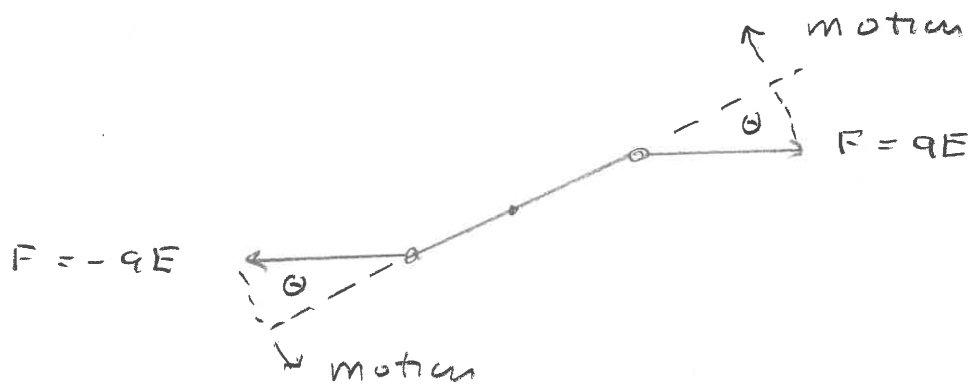
$$\vec{p} \times \vec{E}$$

since $|\vec{p} \times \vec{E}| = pE \sin\theta$

$$\boxed{\vec{T} = \vec{p} \times \vec{E}}$$

This torque will vanish when the dipole points parallel to the field.

Work done by field on a dipole



$$dW_+ = qE \cdot \left(-\frac{d}{2} \sin \theta\right) d\theta$$

$$dW_- = (-qE) \left(\frac{d}{2} \sin \theta\right) d\theta$$

$$dW_T = dW_+ + dW_- = -qEd \sin \theta d\theta$$

$$W = qEd \cos \theta = EP \cos \theta = \vec{E} \cdot \vec{p}$$

$$W = -U = \text{potential}$$

$$U = -\vec{E} \cdot \vec{p}$$