

In spherical coordinates  $dA$  for the surface of a sphere of radius  $R$  is

$$dA = (R d\theta)(R \sin\theta d\phi) \quad \hat{n} = \hat{r} = \frac{\vec{r}}{r}$$



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

$$\vec{E} \cdot \hat{n} dA = kq \frac{\hat{r}}{R^2} \cdot \hat{r} \cdot R^2 \sin\theta d\theta d\phi$$

note the factors of  $R^2$  cancel;  $\hat{r} \cdot \hat{r} = 1$  because they are unit vectors.

$$\vec{E} \cdot \hat{n} dA = kq \sin\theta d\theta d\phi$$

\* note this is independent of  $R$

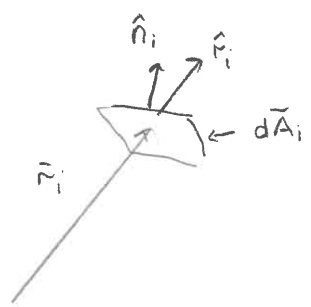
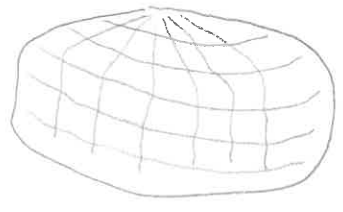
\* any surface that has the same number of field lines going through has the same value of  $\vec{E} \cdot \hat{n} dA = d\Phi$

# Lecture 7

## Gauss' Law

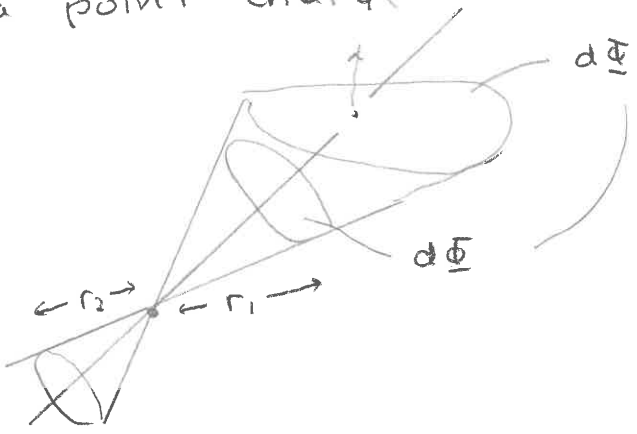
### electric flux

$$\Phi = \lim \sum dA_i \hat{n}_i \cdot \vec{E}(\vec{r}_i)$$



It is useful to think of flux like the amount of rain that goes through a surface. In the same way the electric flux is like the number of flux lines through a surface.

Consider a point charge

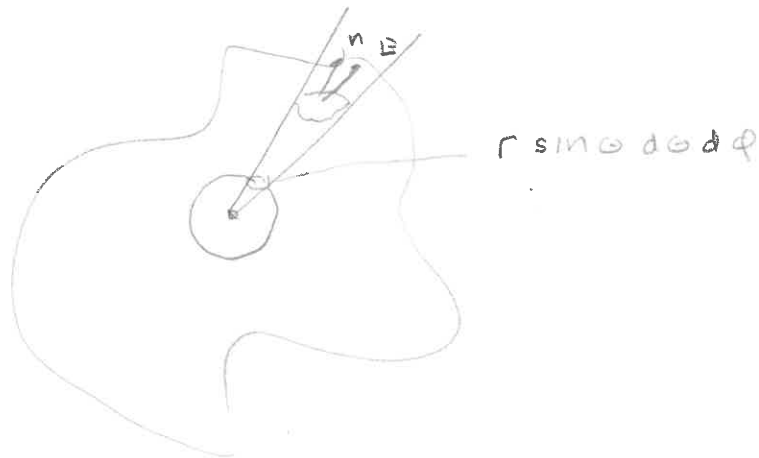


both are the same

$$\vec{E}_1 = kq \frac{\hat{r}_1}{r_1^2}$$

$$\vec{E}_2 = kq \frac{\hat{r}_2}{r_2^2}$$

For a point charge at the origin



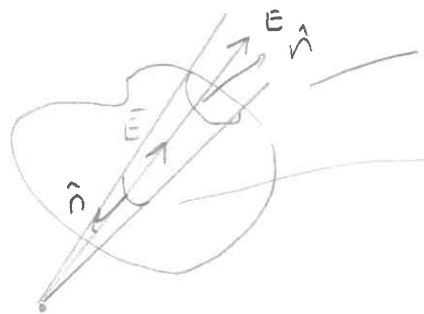
From this picture

$\oint \vec{E} \cdot \hat{n} dA$  around an arbitrary closed surface containing a charge  $q$

is the same as

$$\oint \vec{E} \cdot \hat{n} dA = \text{sphere of radius } R = kq \cdot 4\pi R^2 = \frac{q}{\epsilon_0}$$

also note



$$d\Phi = \sin \theta d\theta d\phi kq \hat{r} \cdot \hat{n}$$

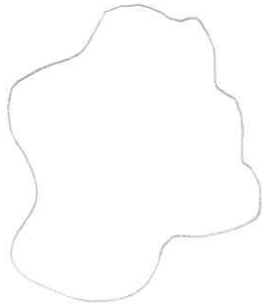
$$d\Phi = \sin \theta d\theta d\phi kq \hat{r} \cdot (-\hat{r})$$

here normal is into sphere

If there is no charge enclosed by the surface

$$d\Phi_{in} + d\Phi_{out} = 0$$

Putting these things together  
for a single point charge



$$\oint \vec{E} \cdot \hat{n} dA = \begin{cases} q/\epsilon_0 & q \text{ in volume} \\ 0 & q \text{ not in volume} \end{cases}$$

Next we use the superposition principle

$$\vec{E} = \sum_{i=1}^N k q_i \frac{\vec{r} - \vec{r}_i}{|\vec{r} - \vec{r}_i|^3}$$

$$\oint \vec{E} \cdot \hat{n} dA = \sum_{i=1}^N \oint \vec{E}_i \cdot \hat{n}_i dA_i = 4\pi k Q_s = \frac{Q_s}{\epsilon_0}$$

where  $Q_s =$  is the sum of the charges enclosed by the surface. This result is called Gauss Law

$$\boxed{\oint_S \vec{E} \cdot \hat{n} dA = \frac{Q_s}{\epsilon_0}}$$

where  $S$  is a closed surface, the convention is that the normal points outside of the closed surface.

example 1

consider an electric field of the form  $\vec{E} = E\hat{r}$  that is constant on a surface of radius  $r$

$$\oint \vec{E} \cdot \hat{n} dA = E \cdot \int_0^\pi r d\theta \int_0^{2\pi} r \sin\theta d\phi = \frac{q}{\epsilon_0} = 4\pi kq$$

$$= E r^2 4\pi$$

this gives

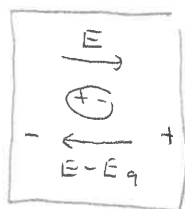
$$\boxed{E = k \frac{q}{r^2} \hat{r}}$$

which is Coulomb's law for a point charge.

This shows that Gauss' law is just a different way of expressing Coulomb's law.

## Applications

### Electric field inside of a conductor



If there is an electric field in a conductor there will be a force on the charges - since

they are free to move in a conductor they will move to the surface and reduce the field in the conductor.

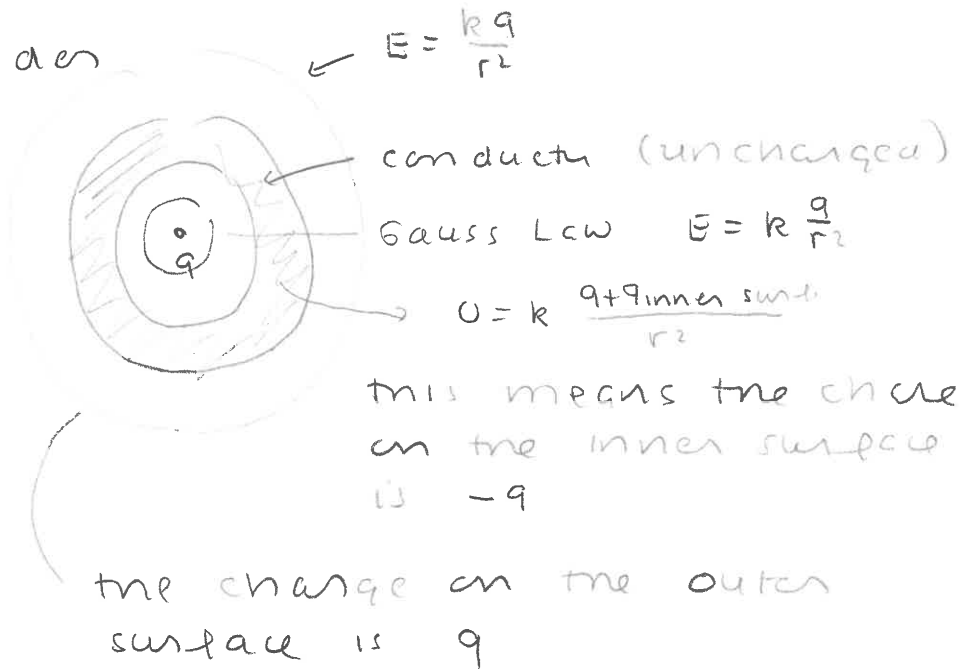
This will continue until there are no more forces on the charges in the interior.

∴ There is no electric field in the interior of an electric conductor

\*\* In general it will take a small amount of time for the charges to move to the surface

The excess charge on a conductor resides on the surface of the conductor

consider



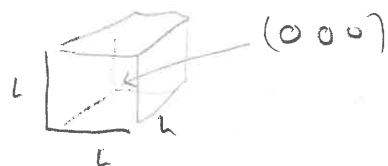
If the conductor is also charged gauss law tells us

- (1) the charge on the inner surface of the conductor is  $-q$   
(otherwise there will be a field inside of the conductor)
  - (2) the charge on the outer surface is  $q + q_c$  - again by gauss law
- ∴ all of the excess charge is on the outer surface of the conductor.

example 2

consider an electric field of the form  $\vec{E} = u \hat{x} = (u, 0, 0)$

compute the charge in a cube with



$$\frac{q}{\epsilon_0} = \Phi_{\text{out}} = \sum \Phi \text{ on each plane}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi_{\text{out}} = & \int_0^L dx \int_0^L dy \vec{E}(x, y, 0) \cdot (-\hat{z}) + \\ & \int_0^L dx \int_0^L dy \vec{E}(x, y, L) \cdot (\hat{z}) + \\ & \int_0^L dy \int_0^L dz \vec{E}(0, y, z) \cdot (-\hat{x}) + \\ & \int_0^L dy \int_0^L dz \vec{E}(L, y, z) \cdot (\hat{x}) + \\ & \int_0^L dz \int_0^L dx \vec{E}(x, 0, z) \cdot (-\hat{y}) + \\ & \int_0^L dz \int_0^L dx \vec{E}(x, L, z) \cdot (\hat{y}) \end{aligned}$$

since  $\vec{E}$  is in the  $\hat{x}$  direction  $\hat{x} \cdot \hat{y} = \hat{x} \cdot \hat{z} = 0$



the flux through the first 2 and last 2 surfaces vanish.

$$\vec{E}(0, y, z) = (0, 0, 0)$$

$$\vec{E}(L, y, z) = (uL, 0, 0)$$

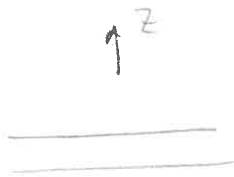
$$\therefore \oint \vec{E} \cdot \hat{n} dA = uL \int_0^L dy \int_0^L dz = uL^3 = \frac{q}{\epsilon_0}$$

$$\boxed{q = \epsilon_0 uL^3}$$

This gives the total excess charge in the cube with the field

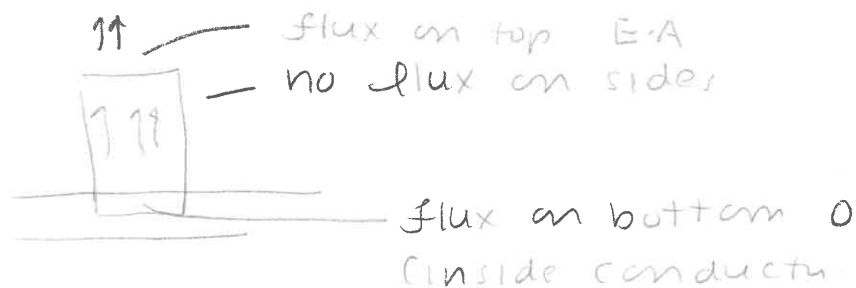
$$\vec{E} = (ux, 0, 0)$$

example charged conducting plane (infinite)



by symmetry the field is independent of  $x, y$

If the surface charge density is  $\sigma$  - then half of the charge will be on the upper surface, and half will be on the lower surface

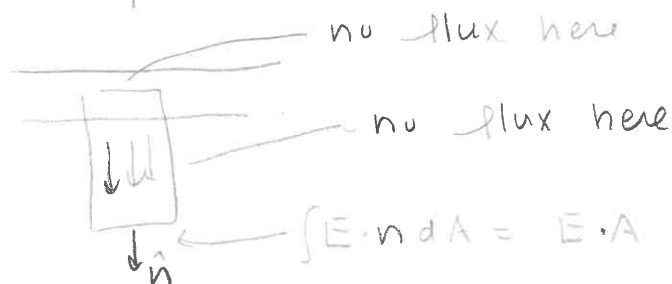


normal parallel to field on top

$$E \cdot A = \frac{q_{\text{enc}}}{\epsilon_0} = \frac{\sigma}{2\epsilon_0} A$$


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

below the plane



$$E \cdot A = \frac{q_{\text{enc}}}{\epsilon_0} = \frac{\sigma}{2\epsilon_0} A \rightarrow$$

$$E = \frac{\sigma}{2\epsilon_0} (-\hat{z})$$



$$\vec{E} \cdot \hat{n} dA = EA$$

$$\vec{E} \cdot \hat{n} dA = EA$$

$$2EA = \frac{Q_s}{\epsilon_0} = \frac{\sigma A}{\epsilon_0} \Rightarrow E = \frac{\sigma}{2\epsilon_0}$$

so we see everything is consistent.

return to cylinder - infinite line charge.



by symmetry - field is radial - independent of  $z$

$$\oint \vec{E} \cdot \hat{n} dA = h \cdot 2\pi R \cdot E = \lambda h / \epsilon_0$$

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

This is completely consistent with our calculations based on Coulomb's law, but much simpler.

consider  $\rho = \rho(\sqrt{x^2 + y^2})$  (indep of  $z$ )  
 this is an infinite cylindrically  
 symmetric charge distributi

By symmetry  $\vec{E}$  is radial  $\left(\frac{x, y, 0}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2}}\right)$

$$E 2\pi r h = \int_0^h dz \int_0^r r' dr' \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi \rho(r')$$



$$\cancel{2\pi r h} E = \cancel{2\pi h} \int_0^r r' \rho(r') dr' / \epsilon_0$$

$$E = \frac{1}{r \epsilon_0} \int_0^r r' \rho(r') dr' \hat{r}$$

for  $\rho(r') = \rho_0 r'$

$$E = \frac{\rho_0}{r \epsilon_0} \int_0^r r'^2 dr' = \frac{\rho_0}{r \epsilon_0} \frac{r^3}{3} = \frac{r^2 \rho_0}{3 \epsilon_0}$$

Field inside a uniformly charged sphere with charge density  $\rho$

by symmetry the field is radial

$$\Phi = \int \vec{E} \cdot \hat{n} dA = 4\pi r^2 E = \frac{q_{\text{enc}}}{\epsilon_0} =$$

$$\int_0^r \rho r'^2 dr' \int_0^\pi \sin\theta d\theta \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi / \epsilon_0 =$$

$$\frac{4\pi \rho}{\epsilon_0} \frac{r^3}{3}$$

$$\boxed{E = \frac{\rho r}{3\epsilon_0} \hat{r}}$$

In this case the field increases with  $r$

consider the case  $\rho(r) = \rho_0 / r^2$

$$\Phi = 4\pi r^2 E = 4\pi \int_0^r \rho r'^2 dr' = 4\pi \rho_0 \int_0^r \frac{r'^2}{r'^2} dr' / \epsilon_0$$

$$= 4\pi \rho_0 r / \epsilon_0$$

$$\boxed{E = \frac{\rho_0}{\epsilon_0} \cdot r \hat{r}}$$

Flux - point charge at center  
of cube with edges of length  $2L$

$$x: -L \rightarrow L$$

$$y: -L \rightarrow L$$

$$z: -L \rightarrow L$$

Gauss law

$$\oint \vec{E} \cdot \hat{n} dA = q/\epsilon_0$$

The integral is the sum of the  
flux over 6 sides. By symmetry  
the flux through each side  
is the same

$$q/\epsilon_0 = 6 \times \Phi_{\text{side}}$$

consider the top - coordinate

$$(x, y, L)$$

normal  $\hat{z}$

$$\vec{E} = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{(x, y, L)}{(x^2 + y^2 + L^2)^{3/2}}$$

$$\vec{E} \cdot \hat{n} dA = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \cdot \frac{L}{(x^2 + y^2 + L^2)^{3/2}}$$

$$\int \vec{E} \cdot \hat{n} dA = \int_0^L dx \int_0^L dy \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{L}{(x^2 + y^2 + L^2)^{3/2}} = \frac{q}{6\epsilon_0}$$

$$\frac{4\pi}{6L} = \left( \int_0^L dx \int_0^L dy \frac{1}{(x^2 + y^2 + L^2)^{3/2}} = \frac{2\pi}{3L} \right)$$

here we used Gauss law to evaluate the integral

$$\int_0^L dx \int_0^L dy \frac{1}{(x^2+y^2+L^2)^{3/2}} = \frac{2}{3} \frac{\pi}{L}$$

we can also calculate the flux through each side

$$\frac{\Phi}{6} = \frac{1}{6} \Phi_{+} = \frac{1}{6} \frac{q}{\epsilon_0}$$