

In ≥ 1 dimension:

$$\delta(\vec{x} - \vec{x}') = \delta(x - x') \delta(y - y') \delta(z - z')$$

$$\int_V \delta(\vec{x} - \vec{x}') d^3x = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } V \text{ contains } \vec{x} = \vec{x}' \\ 0 & \text{if not} \end{cases}$$

Note: delta function has dimensions of an inverse volume in whatever dimension the space has

Next Time: start electrostatics, Chapter 1

Lecture #2 Electrostatics: time-independent distributions of charge and fields

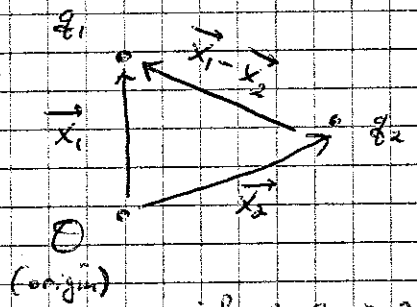
Recall from undergraduate E&M:

Coulomb's Law: The force \vec{F} on a point charge q_1 located at \vec{x}_1 , due to another point charge q_2 located at \vec{x}_2 is

$$\vec{F} = k q_1 q_2 \frac{\vec{x}_1 - \vec{x}_2}{|\vec{x}_1 - \vec{x}_2|^3} \quad (\text{inverse square law})$$

In SI units, $k = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}$

$\epsilon_0 = 8.854187817... \times 10^{-12} \frac{F}{m}$
 "permittivity of free space"



if $q_1, q_2 > 0$ (same sign) \rightarrow repulsive!
 if $q_1, q_2 < 0$ (opposite sign) \rightarrow attractive!

q_1, q_2 : in Coulombs (C), $|\vec{x}_i|$: m, $|\vec{F}|$: N

[Note: 1 C is huge charge, charge magnitude of electron = 1.602×10^{-19} C]

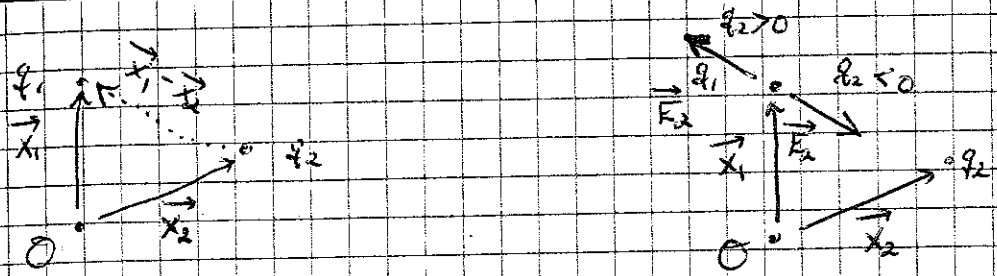
Now, the electric field \vec{E} can be defined as the force per unit charge acting at a given point.

$$\vec{F} = q \vec{E}$$

by comparing to Coulomb's Law at \vec{x}_2 is:

Electric field at point \vec{x} due to point charge q_2

$$\vec{E}_2(\vec{x}) = k q_2 \frac{\vec{x} - \vec{x}_2}{|\vec{x} - \vec{x}_2|^3}$$



At $\vec{x} = \vec{x}_1$, $\vec{E}_2 = k q_2 \frac{\vec{x}_1 - \vec{x}_2}{|\vec{x}_1 - \vec{x}_2|^3}$
 ↑
 due to q_2

Units of electric field: SI: $\frac{\text{Volts}}{\text{m}}$

To get the scale:
 electron produces field of
 magnitude $1.44 \times 10^{-9} \frac{\text{V}}{\text{m}}$ at
 distance of 1 m

← see supplement page

So far, considered only one point charge. Generalizing to a system of N point charges q_1, q_2, \dots, q_N , located at $\vec{x}_1, \vec{x}_2, \dots, \vec{x}_N$, by the principle of superposition:

$$\vec{E}(\vec{x}) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \sum_{i=1}^N q_i \frac{\vec{x} - \vec{x}_i}{|\vec{x} - \vec{x}_i|^3}$$

3-D:

If, instead, of point charges, we have a charge density $\rho(\vec{x}')$, [SI: $\frac{\text{C}}{\text{m}^3}$]
 discrete sum \rightarrow integral, $dq = \rho(\vec{x}') d^3x'$

$$\vec{E}(\vec{x}) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int \frac{\rho(\vec{x}')(\vec{x} - \vec{x}')}{|\vec{x} - \vec{x}'|^3} d^3x'$$

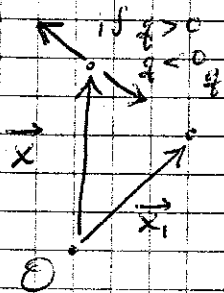
\vec{x}' : dummy variable of integration

pointing question $[d^3x' = dx' dy' dz']$
 or other forms for discrete cylindrical/spherical

This is the most general form. If we have a system of point charges, we can write the charge density at some point \vec{x}' as:

$$\rho(\vec{x}') = \sum_{i=1}^N q_i \delta(\vec{x}' - \vec{x}_i)$$

For a single point charge q at position \vec{x}_1 :



At arbitrary \vec{x} , \vec{E} is directed
along $\pm(\vec{x} - \vec{x}_1)$, depending on the sign
of q (\pm).

\Rightarrow the \vec{E} field from a point charge
points radially outward/inward.

if: $\vec{r} = \vec{x} - \vec{x}_1$

$$\vec{E}(\vec{r}) = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{\vec{r}}{r^2}$$

\vec{r} : vector from charge to point
in question

Inserting into integral expression for \vec{E} we find:

(9)

$$\vec{E}(\vec{x}) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int \sum_{i=1}^N q_i \frac{\delta(\vec{x} - \vec{x}_i) (\vec{x} - \vec{x}_i)}{|\vec{x} - \vec{x}_i|^3} d^3x'$$

\vec{x}' : just dummy variable of integration

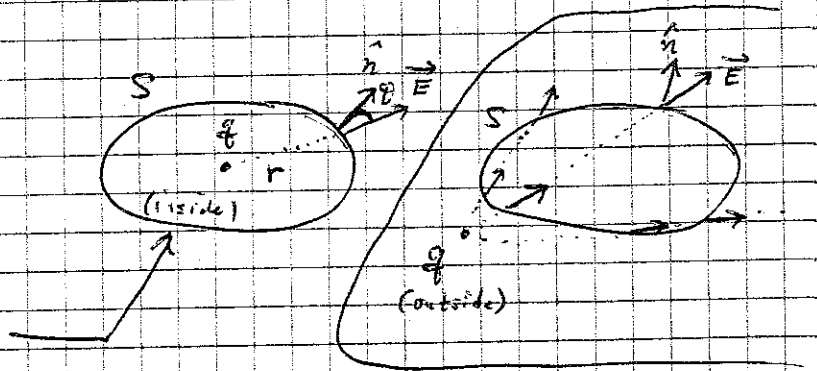
$$= \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \sum_{i=1}^N \left[q_i \int \frac{\delta(\vec{x} - \vec{x}_i) (\vec{x} - \vec{x}_i)}{|\vec{x} - \vec{x}_i|^3} d^3x' \right]$$

[δ -function forces $\vec{x}' = \vec{x}_i$]

$$= \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \sum_{i=1}^N q_i \frac{\vec{x} - \vec{x}_i}{|\vec{x} - \vec{x}_i|^3} \quad \checkmark$$

As no doubt recall from undergrad E&M, calculating \vec{E} from general integral expression can be very difficult. Instead, Gauss's law is sometimes more useful!

(3-D)
Suppose we have some surface S ,



Consider charge inside the surface:

r : distance from q to surface

\hat{n} : outwardly directed unit normal (\perp to S)

θ : angle between \vec{E} and \hat{n}

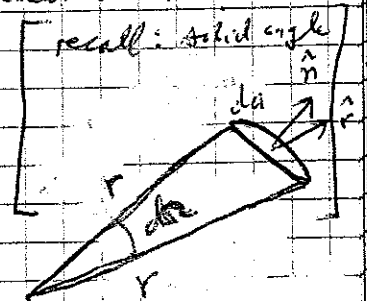
We can immediately write down for an infinitesimal surface area element da :

$$\vec{E} \cdot \hat{n} da = \left(\frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{\hat{r}}{r^2} \right) \cdot \hat{n} da$$

$$= \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2} \hat{r} \cdot \hat{n} da$$

$$= r^2 d\Omega$$

$$= \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} d\Omega$$

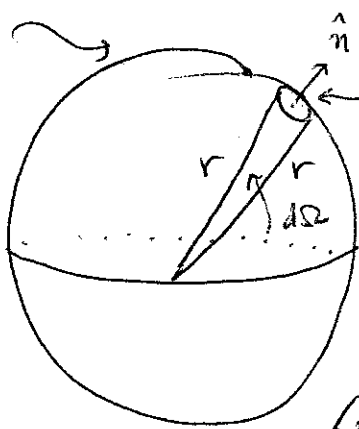


$$d\Omega = \frac{\hat{r} \cdot \hat{n} da}{r^2}$$

(sphere)
if $\hat{r} \cdot \hat{n} = 1 \Rightarrow d\Omega = \frac{da}{r^2}$

Solid Angle subtended by Infinitesimal Surface Area:

Surface S

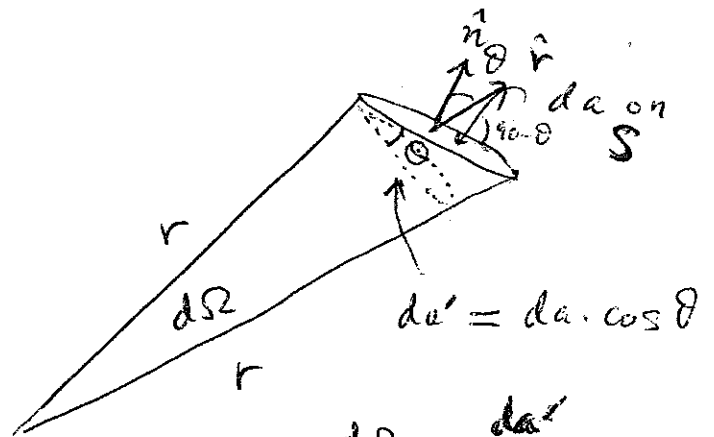


da on S
Sphere:

$$d\Omega = \frac{da}{r^2}$$

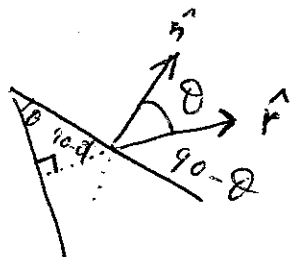
(\hat{n} not parallel to)

What if $\hat{n} \neq \hat{r}$?



$$da' = da \cdot \cos \theta$$

$$\begin{aligned} d\Omega &= \frac{da'}{r^2} \\ &= \frac{da \cos \theta}{r^2} \\ &= \frac{da \cdot \hat{n} \cdot \hat{r}}{r^2} \quad \checkmark \end{aligned}$$



Integrate over the ^{closed} surface:

total solid angle subtended by closed surface = 4π !!

(10)

$$\Rightarrow \oint_S \vec{E} \cdot \vec{n} \, da = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_S d\Omega = \frac{q}{\epsilon_0} \quad \checkmark$$

net flux through closed surface

$$= 4\pi$$

(if q inside the closed surface)

If q is not inside the closed surface:

$$\oint_S \vec{E} \cdot \vec{n} \, da = 0$$

[Every field line that enters the surface must later exit the surface \Rightarrow net flux = 0!]

Generalizing:

$$\oint_S \vec{E} \cdot \vec{n} \, da = \frac{1}{\epsilon_0} \sum_i q_i$$

for discrete set of point charges

(\sum over only those charges inside)

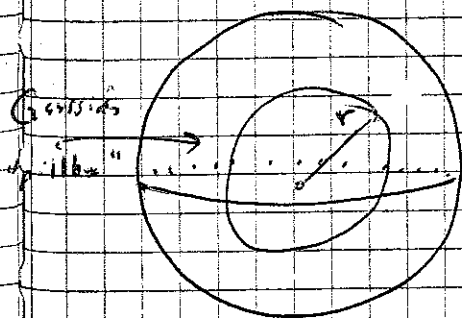
for continuous charge density $\rho(\vec{x})$:

$$\oint_S \vec{E} \cdot \vec{n} \, da = \frac{1}{\epsilon_0} \int_V \rho(\vec{x}) \, d^3x$$

[Integral Form of Gauss's Law]

(Volume enclosed by S)

Example: sphere of radius a has a spherically symmetric charge density that varies as Jackson 1.4 r^{-2} , with total charge Q . Find \vec{E} inside and outside the sphere.



radius = a

total charge Q

$$\rho(r) \propto \frac{1}{r^2} = \frac{N}{r^2}$$

N : normalization factor

Use Gauss's Law: $\oint_S \vec{E} \cdot \vec{n} \, da = \frac{1}{\epsilon_0} \int_V \rho(\vec{x}) \, d^3x$

① Find Q :

$$Q = \int_V \frac{N}{r^2} \, d^3x$$

use spherical coordinates: $d^3x = r^2 \sin\theta \, dr \, d\theta \, d\phi$

$$Q = \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi \int_0^\pi \sin\theta \, d\theta \int_0^a N \, dr$$

$$= (2\pi)(2)(Na) = 4\pi Na \Rightarrow N = \frac{Q}{4\pi a}$$

$$\rho(r) = \frac{Q}{4\pi a r^2}$$

② Find \vec{E} : by symmetry, $\vec{E} = E(r)\hat{r}$, $\hat{n} = \hat{r}$ for sphere (11)

$r < a$: define an "pillbox"

$$\oint_S \vec{E} \cdot \hat{n} da = \oint_S E(r) da = \frac{1}{\epsilon_0} \int_V \rho(\vec{x}) d^3x, \quad d^3x = r^2 \sin\theta dr d\theta d\phi$$

$$da = r^2 \sin\theta d\theta d\phi$$

$$\int_0^{2\pi} d\phi \int_0^\pi r^2 \sin\theta \cdot E(r) \cdot d\theta = \frac{1}{\epsilon_0} \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi \int_0^\pi \sin\theta d\theta \int_0^r \frac{Q}{4\pi a r^2} r^2 dr'$$

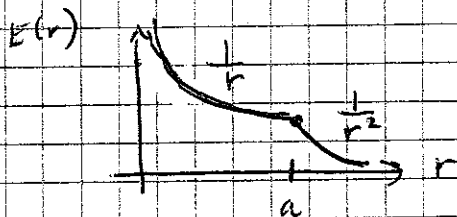
$$r^2 \cdot E(r) \cdot 2\pi \cdot 2 = (2\pi)(2) \cdot \frac{Q}{4\pi a \epsilon_0} r$$

$$E(r) = \frac{Q}{4\pi a r \epsilon_0} \Rightarrow \boxed{\vec{E} = \frac{Q}{4\pi \epsilon_0 a r} \hat{r}} \quad \checkmark$$

$r > a$:

$$E(r) \cdot 4\pi r^2 = \frac{Q}{\epsilon_0} \Rightarrow \boxed{\vec{E} = \frac{Q}{4\pi \epsilon_0 r^2} \hat{r}}$$

radius a is not relevant



Differential Form of Gauss's Law:

$$\oint_S \vec{E} \cdot \hat{n} da = \frac{1}{\epsilon_0} \int_V \rho(\vec{x}) d^3x$$

Recall Gauss's Theorem:
Divergence

$$\oint_S \vec{v} \cdot d\vec{a} = \int_V (\nabla \cdot \vec{v}) d^3x$$

$$\Rightarrow \oint_S \vec{E} \cdot \hat{n} da = \int_V (\nabla \cdot \vec{E}) d^3x = \frac{1}{\epsilon_0} \int_V \rho(\vec{x}) d^3x$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{\nabla \cdot \vec{E} = \frac{\rho(\vec{x})}{\epsilon_0}}$$

Consider point charge at origin, $\vec{E} = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{1}{r^2} \hat{r}$

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla \cdot \vec{E} &= \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left(\nabla \cdot \left(\frac{\hat{r}}{r^2} \right) \right) = \frac{q}{\epsilon_0} \delta(\vec{r}) \Rightarrow \rho(\vec{x}) = q \delta(\vec{r}) \quad \checkmark \\ &= 4\pi q \delta(\vec{r}) \rightarrow \text{see Supplement page} \end{aligned}$$

Divergence of $\frac{\vec{r}}{r^2}$: $\nabla \cdot \left(\frac{\vec{r}}{r^2} \right)$

$$\nabla \cdot \left(\frac{\vec{r}}{r^2} \right) = \frac{1}{r^2} \partial_r \left(r^2 \cdot \frac{1}{r^2} \right) = \frac{1}{r^2} \partial_r (1) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{for } r > 0 \\ \frac{0}{0} & \text{at } r=0 \text{ !?} \\ & \text{(not defined)} \end{cases}$$

By Gauss's Theorem: Consider sphere

$$\int_V (\nabla \cdot \frac{\vec{r}}{r^2}) d^3x = \oint_S \frac{\vec{r}}{r^2} \cdot d\vec{a} = \oint_S \sin\theta \, d\theta \, d\phi = 4\pi$$

$d\vec{a} = r^2 \sin\theta \, d\theta \, d\phi \hat{r}$

\Rightarrow must have $\nabla \cdot \frac{\vec{r}}{r^2} = 4\pi \delta(\vec{r})$!!
for Divergence Thm to be satisfied