

# Some points about Electrostatics

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## 1. Deriving Colomb's Law of electrostatic field from Maxwell's Equation

Using Integral Form of Gauss's Law

$$\iint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{S} = \frac{Q_{encl.}}{\epsilon}$$

For spherical surface with radius  $r$ , it is symmetric, so integrand  $\vec{E}$  can be taken out

$$\iint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{S} = \vec{E} \cdot \iint d\vec{S} = \vec{E} \cdot 4\pi r^2 \hat{r}$$

Thus

$$\vec{E}(r) = \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon r^2} \hat{r}$$

Using relation  $\vec{F} = q\vec{E}$ , the Coulomb's Force Law

$$\vec{F}_{12} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon} \frac{Q_1 Q_2}{r_{12}^2} \hat{r}_{12} = \frac{Q_1 Q_2}{4\pi\epsilon} \frac{\vec{r}_1 - \vec{r}_2}{|\vec{r}_1 - \vec{r}_2|^3}$$

## 2. Derivation of Electrostatic Field is conservative

Consider work done of E-field on a charge in a close loop

$$work\ done = -Q \oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{l} = \frac{-QQ}{4\pi\epsilon} \oint \frac{\hat{r}}{r^2} \cdot \hat{n} dl = \frac{-QQ}{4\pi\epsilon} \oint \frac{dl}{r^2} = \frac{-QQ}{4\pi\epsilon} \int_P^P \left( -\frac{dr}{r} \right) = 0$$

i.e.

- Electrostatic Field is conservative field
- Electrostatic force is conservative force

## 2. Electrostatic Field is divergent field

Consider the previous result  $\oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{l} = 0$ , apply Stoke's Theorem  $\oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{l} = \iint_S \nabla \times \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{S} = 0$ , thus

$$\nabla \times \vec{E} = 0$$

- This equation is true since there is no dynamic B-field. For electro-"static" problem, all term with  $\frac{\partial}{\partial t} = 0$ .
- Note that the general Faraday's Law in Maxwell's Equation is  $\nabla \times \vec{E} = -\frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial t}$ , with the dynamic time-varying B-field.

### 3. Potential

In simple case  $V_B - V_A = \Delta V = -\int_A^B \bar{E} \cdot d\bar{l}$  or equivalently  $\bar{E} = -\frac{dV}{dl}\hat{l}$ . And generally  $\bar{E} = -\nabla V$

### 4. Potential - Poisson Integral

For the discrete charge distribution

$$V = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon} \sum_{n=1}^N \frac{q_n}{r_n}$$

For continuous charge distribution

$$V = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon} \int_C \frac{\rho_l(\bar{r}')}{|\bar{r} - \bar{r}'|} dl = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon} \iint_S \frac{\rho_s(\bar{r}')}{|\bar{r} - \bar{r}'|} dS = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon} \iiint_V \frac{\rho_l(\bar{r}')}{|\bar{r} - \bar{r}'|} dV$$

### 5. Deriving Gauss's Law from Coulomb's Law

Consider the Poisson Integral

$$\bar{E} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon} \iiint_V \rho(\bar{r}') \frac{\bar{r} - \bar{r}'}{|\bar{r} - \bar{r}'|^3} dV$$

Consider a vector identity

$$\nabla \cdot \left( \frac{\hat{r}}{|\bar{r}|^3} \right) = 4\pi\delta(\bar{r})$$

Then

$$\nabla \cdot \bar{E} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon} \iiint_V \rho(\bar{r}') 4\pi\delta(\bar{r}) dV = \frac{1}{\epsilon} \iiint_V \rho(\bar{r}') \delta(\bar{r}) dV = \frac{\rho(\bar{r}')}{\epsilon} \iiint_V \delta(\bar{r}) dV = \frac{\rho(\bar{r}')}{\epsilon}$$

### 6. Gauss's Law

$$\Phi_E = \bar{E} \cdot \overline{Total Area}_{\perp} = \oiint_S \bar{E} \cdot d\bar{S}$$

### 7. Gauss's Law + spherical coordinate

$$\Phi_E = \oiint_S \bar{E} \cdot d\bar{S} = \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^{\pi} \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q}{r^2} \hat{r} \cdot (\hat{r} r^2 \sin\theta d\theta d\phi) = \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi \int_0^{\pi} \sin\theta d\theta \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} = \frac{q}{\epsilon}$$

### 8. Coulomb's Law

$$\bar{F}_{12} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q_1 q_2}{r_{12}^2} \hat{r}_{12} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q_1 q_2}{|\bar{r}_1 - \bar{r}_2|^3} (\bar{r}_{01} - \bar{r}_{02})$$

### 9. Explicit Coulomb's Law in rectangular coordinate

$$\bar{F}_{12} = \frac{q_1 q_2}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{\langle x_1 - x_2, y_1 - y_2, z_1 - z_2 \rangle}{|(x_1 - x_2)^2 + (y_1 - y_2)^2 + (z_1 - z_2)^2|^{\frac{3}{2}}}$$

## 10. Principle of Superposition for many discrete charges

$$\vec{F}_{all} = \sum \vec{F}_i = \frac{q_a}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \sum \frac{q_i}{r_{ai}^2} \hat{r}_{ai} = \frac{q_a}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \sum \frac{q_i}{|\vec{r}_a - \vec{r}_i|^3} (\vec{r}_a - \vec{r}_i)$$

## 11. Electric field for many discrete charges

$$\vec{E}_{all} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \sum \frac{q_i}{r_{ai}^2} \hat{r}_{ai} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \sum \frac{q_i}{|\vec{r}_a - \vec{r}_i|^3} (\vec{r}_a - \vec{r}_i)$$

## 12. Continuous charge distribution : linear, area, volume $dq = \rho_l dl = \rho_s dS = \rho_v dV$

## 13. Total charge and charge density

$$Q = \int dq = \int_C \rho_l dl = \iint_S \rho_s dS = \iiint_V \rho_v dV$$

## 14. E-field for continuous charge distribution

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

## 15. Explicit equation of E-field for volume charge distribution

$$\vec{E}(\vec{r}) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \iiint_V \frac{\langle x_1 - x_2, y_1 - y_2, z_1 - z_2 \rangle}{|(x_1 - x_2)^2 + (y_1 - y_2)^2 + (z_1 - z_2)^2|^{\frac{3}{2}}} \rho(x', y', z') dx' dy' dz'$$