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# Chapter 23

# Gauss' Law

## Gauss's Law to Coulomb's Law

Electric Flux  $\Phi_E = \oint E \cdot dA = \oint E dA = E \oint dA = \frac{q_{in}}{\epsilon_0}$

*E is constant everywhere on the surface*

*E and dA are parallel everywhere on the surface*

$E(4\pi r^2) = \frac{q_{in}}{\epsilon_0}$

*surface area of a sphere*

$E = \frac{q_{in}}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2}$

$k = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}$

Coulomb's Law  $E = \frac{kq_{in}}{r^2}$

*the net flux through any closed surface surrounding a point charge q is given by q/epsilon\_0 and its independent of the shape of that surface*

Spherical Gaussian Surface

Spherical Charge Distribution

$q$

$r$

$dA$

$E$



## 23-2 Electric Flux

### Learning Objectives

**23.01** Identify that Gauss' law relates the electric field at points on a closed surface (real or imaginary, said to be a Gaussian surface) to the net charge enclosed by that surface.

**23.02** Identify that the amount of electric field piercing a surface (not skimming along parallel to the surface) is the electric flux  $\Phi$  through the surface.

**23.03** Identify that an area vector for a flat surface is a vector that is perpendicular to the surface and that has a magnitude equal to the area of the surface.

**23.04** Identify that any surface can be divided into area elements (patch elements) that are each small enough and flat enough for an area vector  $d\mathbf{A}$  to be assigned to it, with the vector perpendicular to the element and having a magnitude equal to the area of the element.

## 23-2 Electric Flux

### Learning Objectives (Contd.)

**23.05** Calculate the flux  $\Phi$  through a surface by integrating the dot product of the electric field vector  $\mathbf{E}$  and the area vector  $d\mathbf{A}$  (for patch elements) over the surface, in magnitude- angle notation and unit-vector notation.

**23.06** For a closed surface, explain the algebraic signs associated with inward flux and outward flux.

**23.07** Calculate the net flux  $\phi$  through a closed surface, algebraic sign included, by integrating the dot product of the electric field vector  $\mathbf{E}$  and the area vector  $d\mathbf{A}$  (for patch elements) over the full surface.

**23.08** Determine whether a closed surface can be broken up into parts (such as the sides of a cube) to simplify the integration that yields the net flux through the surface.

## 23-4 Gauss' Law

### Learning Objectives

- 23.09** Apply Gauss' law to relate the net flux  $\phi$  through a closed surface to the net enclosed charge  $q_{enc}$ .
- 23.10** Identify how the algebraic sign of the net enclosed charge corresponds to the direction (inward or outward) of the net flux through a Gaussian surface.
- 23.11** Identify that charge outside a Gaussian surface makes no contribution to the net flux through the closed surface.
- 23.12** Derive the expression for the magnitude of the electric field of a charged particle by using Gauss' law.
- 23.13** Identify that for a charged particle or uniformly charged sphere, Gauss' law is applied with a Gaussian surface that is a concentric sphere.

## 23-6 A Charged Isolated Conductor

### Learning Objectives

**23.14** Apply the relationship between surface charge density  $\sigma$  and the area over which the charge is uniformly spread.

**23.15** Identify that if excess charge (positive or negative) is placed on an isolated conductor, that charge moves to the surface and none is in the interior.

**23.16** Identify the value of the electric field inside an isolated conductor.

**23.17** For a conductor with a cavity that contains a charged object, determine the charge on the cavity wall and on the external surface.

**23.18** Explain how Gauss' law is used to find the electric field magnitude  $E$  near an isolated conducting surface with a uniform surface charge density  $\sigma$ .

**23.19** For a uniformly charged conducting surface, apply the relationship between the charge density  $\sigma$  and the electric field magnitude  $E$  at points near the conductor, and identify the direction of the field vectors.



## 23-7 Applying Gauss' Law: Cylindrical Symmetry

### Learning Objectives

**23.20** Explain how Gauss' law is used to derive the electric field magnitude outside a line of charge or a cylindrical surface (such as a plastic rod) with a uniform linear charge density  $\lambda$ .

**23.21** Apply the relationship between linear charge density  $\lambda$  on a cylindrical surface and the electric field magnitude  $E$  at radial distance  $r$  from the central axis.

**23.22** Explain how Gauss' law can be used to find the electric field magnitude inside a cylindrical non-conducting surface (such as a plastic rod) with a uniform volume charge density  $\rho$ .

## 23-8 Applying Gauss' Law: Planar Symmetry

### Learning Objectives

**23.23** Apply Gauss' law to derive the electric field magnitude  $E$  near a large, flat, non-conducting surface with a uniform surface charge density  $\sigma$ .

**23.24** For points near a large, flat non-conducting surface with a uniform charge density  $\sigma$ , apply the relationship between the charge density and the electric field magnitude  $E$  and also specify the direction of the field.

**23.25** For points near two large, flat, parallel, conducting surfaces with a uniform charge density  $\sigma$ , apply the relationship between the charge density and the electric field magnitude  $E$  and also specify the direction of the field.

## 23-9 Applying Gauss' Law: Spherical Symmetry

### Learning Objectives

- 23.26** Identify that a shell of uniform charge attracts or repels a charged particle that is outside the shell as if all the shell's charge is concentrated at the center of the shell.
- 23.27** Identify that if a charged particle is enclosed by a shell of uniform charge, there is no electrostatic force on the particle from the shell.
- 23.28** For a point outside a spherical shell with uniform charge, apply the relationship between the electric field magnitude  $E$ , the charge  $q$  on the shell, and the distance  $r$  from the shell's center.
- 23.29** Identify the magnitude of the electric field for points enclosed by a spherical shell with uniform charge.
- 23.30** For a uniform spherical charge distribution (a uniform ball of charge), determine the magnitude and direction of the electric field at interior and exterior points.