

Chapter 24 Electric Potential

24-2 Electric Potential Energy

Learning Objectives

- **24.01** Identify that the electric force is conservative and thus has an associated potential energy.
- **24.02** Identify that at every point in a charged object's electric field, the object sets up an electric potential *V*, which is a scalar quantity that can be positive or negative depending on the sign of the object's charge.
- **24.03** For a charged particle placed at a point in an object's electric field, apply the

relationship between the object's electric potential *V* at that point, the particle's charge *q*, and the potential energy *U* of the particle– object system.

- **24.04** Convert energies between units of joules and electron-volts.
- **24.05** If a charged particle moves from an initial point to a final point in an electric field, apply the relationships between the change *ΔV* in the potential, the particle's charge *q*, the change *ΔU* in the potential energy, and the work *W* done by the electric force.

24-3 Electric Potential

- **24.06** If a charged particle moves between two given points in the electric field of a charged object, identify that the amount of work done by the electric force is path independent.
- **24.07** If a charged particle moves through a change *ΔV* in electric potential without an applied force acting on it, relate *ΔV* and the change *ΔK* in the particle's kinetic energy.
- **24.08** If a charged particle moves through a change *ΔV* in electric potential while an applied force acts on it, relate *ΔV*, the change *ΔK* in the particle's kinetic energy, and the work $W_{\alpha_{DD}}$ done by the applied force.

24-4 Equipotential Surfaces and the Electric Field

- **24.09** Identify an equipotential surface and describe how it is related to the direction of the associated electric field.
- **24.10** Given an electric field as a function of position, calculate the change in potential *ΔV* from an initial point to a final point by choosing a path between the points and integrating the dot product of the field *E* and a length element *ds* along the path.
- **24.11** For a uniform electric field, relate the field magnitude E and the separation *Δx* and potential difference *ΔV* between adjacent equipotential lines.
- **24.12** Given a graph of electric field *E* versus position along an axis, calculate the change in potential *ΔV* from an initial point to a final point by graphical integration.
- **24.13** Explain the use of a zeropotential location.

24-6 Potential due to a Charged Particle

Learning Objectives

- **24.14** For a given point in the electric field of a charged particle, apply the relationship between the electric potential *V*, the charge of the particle *q*, and the distance *r* from the particle.
- **24.15** Identify the correlation between the algebraic signs of the potential set up by a particle and the charge of the particle.
- **24.16** For points outside or on the surface of a spherically

symmetric charge distribution, calculate the electric potential as if all the charge is concentrated as a particle at the center of the sphere.

- **24.17** Calculate the net potential at any given point due to several charged particles, identifying that algebraic addition is used, not vector addition.
- **24.18** Draw equipotential lines for a charged particle.

24-8 Potential due to a Electric Dipole

Learning Objectives

24.19 Calculate the potential *V* at any given point due to an electric dipole, in terms of the magnitude *p* of the dipole moment or the product of the charge separation *d* and the magnitude *q* of either charge. **24.20** For an electric dipole, identify the locations of positive potential, negative potential, and zero potential.

24.21 Compare the decrease in potential with increasing distance for a single charged particle and an electric dipole.

24-9 Potential due to a Continuous Charge Distribution

Learning Objectives

24.22 For charge that is distributed uniformly along a line or over a surface, find the net potential at a given point by splitting the distribution up into charge elements and summing (by integration) the potential due to each one.

24-10 Calculating the Field from the Potential

- **24.23** Given an electric potential as a function of position along an axis, find the electric field along that axis.
- **24.24** Given a graph of electric potential versus position along an axis, determine the electric field along the axis.
- **24.25** For a uniform electric field, relate the field magnitude *E*. and the separation *Δx* and potential difference *ΔV* between adjacent equipotential lines.
- **24.26** Relate the direction of the electric field and the directions in which the potential decreases and increases.

24-11 Electric Potential Energy of a System of Charged Particles

Learning Objectives

- **24.27** Identify that the total potential energy of a system of charged particles is equal to the work an applied force must do to assemble the system, starting with the particles infinitely far apart.
- **24.28** Calculate the potential energy of a pair of charged particles.
- **24.29** Identify that if a system has more than two charged particles, then the system's

total potential energy is equal to the sum of the potential energies of every pair of the particles.

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- **24.30** Apply the principle of the conservation of mechanical energy to a system of charged particles.
- **24.31** Calculate the escape speed of a charged particle from a system of charged particles (the minimum initial speed required to move infinitely far from the system).

24-12 Potential of a Charged Isolated Conductor

- **24.32** Identify that an excess charge placed on an isolated conductor (or connected isolated conductors) will distribute itself on the surface of the conductor so that all points of the conductor come to the same potential.
- **24.33** For an isolated spherical conducting shell, sketch graphs of the potential and the electric field magnitude versus distance from the center, both inside and outside the shell.
- **24.34** For an isolated spherical conducting shell, identify that internally the electric field is zero and the electric potential has the same value as the surface and that externally the electric field and the electric potential have values as though all of the shell's charge is concentrated as a particle at its center.

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24-12 Potential of a Charged Isolated Conductor

Learning Objectives (Contd.)

24.35 For an isolated cylindrical conducting shell, identify that internally the electric field is zero and the electric potential has the same value as the surface and that externally the electric field and the electric potential have values as though all of the cylinder's charge is concentrated as a line of charge on the central axis.