

25-2 Capacitance

Learning Objectives

- **25.01** Sketch a schematic diagram of a circuit with a parallel-plate capacitor, a battery, and an open or closed switch.
- **25.02** In a circuit with a battery, an open switch, and an uncharged capacitor, explain what happens to the conduction electrons when the switch is closed.

25.03 For a capacitor, apply the relationship between the magnitude of charge *q* on either plate ("the charge on the capacitor"), the potential difference V between the plates ("the potential across the capacitor"), and the capacitance C of the capacitor.



25-3 Calculating the Capacitance

Learning Objectives

25.04 Explain how Gauss' law is used to find the capacitance of a parallel-plate capacitor.

25.05 For a parallel-plate capacitor, a cylindrical capacitor, a spherical capacitor, and an isolated sphere, calculate the capacitance.

25-4 Capacitors in Parallel and in Series

Learning Objectives

25.06 Sketch schematic diagrams for a battery and (a) three capacitors in parallel and (b) three capacitors in series.

- **25.07** Identify that capacitors in parallel have the same potential difference, which is the same value that their equivalent capacitor has.
- **25.08** Calculate the equivalent of parallel capacitors.
- **25.09** Identify that the total charge stored on parallel

capacitors the sum of the charges stored on the individual capacitors.

- **25.10** Identify that capacitors in series have the same charge, which is the same value that their equivalent capacitor has.
- **25.11** Calculate the equivalent of series capacitors.
- **25.12** Identify that the potential applied to capacitors in series is equal to the sum of the potentials across the individual capacitors.

25-4 Capacitors in Parallel and in Series

Learning Objectives (Cont'd.)

25.13 For a circuit with a battery and some capacitors in parallel and some in series, simplify the circuit in steps by finding equivalent capacitors, until the charge and potential on the final equivalent capacitor can be determined, and then reverse the steps to find the charge and potential on the individual capacitors.

25.14 For a circuit with a battery, an open switch, and one or more uncharged capacitors, determine the amount of charge that moves through a point in the circuit when the switch is closed.

25.15 When a charged capacitor is connected in parallel to one or more uncharged capacitors, determine the charge and potential difference on each capacitor when equilibrium is reached.

25-5 Energy Stored in an Electric Field

Learning Objectives

- **25.16** Explain how the work required to charge a capacitor results in the potential energy of the capacitor.
- **25.17** For a capacitor, apply the relationship between the potential energy *U*, the capacitance *C*, and the potential difference *V*.
- **25.18** For a capacitor, apply the relationship between the potential energy, the internal volume, and the internal energy density.

25.19 For any electric field, apply the relationship between the potential energy density *u* in the field and the field's magnitude *E*.

25.20 Explain the danger of sparks in airborne dust.

25-6 Capacitor with a Dielectric

Learning Objectives

- **25.21** Identify that capacitance is increased if the space between the plates is filled with a dielectric material.
- **25.22** For a capacitor, calculate the capacitance with and without a dielectric.
- **25.23** For a region filled with a dielectric material with a given dielectric constant *k*, identify that all electrostatic equations containing the permittivity constant ε_0 are modified by multiplying that constant by the dielectric constant to get k ε_0 .

25.24 Name some of the common dielectrics.

- **25.25** In adding a dielectric to a charged capacitor, distinguish the results for a capacitor (a) connected to a battery and (b) not connected to a battery.
- **25.26** Distinguish polar dielectrics from non-polar dielectrics.
- **25.27** In adding a dielectric to a charged capacitor, explain what happens to the electric field between the plates in terms of what happens to the atoms in the dielectric.



25-7 Dielectrics and Gauss' Law

Learning Objectives

25.28 In a capacitor with a dielectric, distinguish free charge from induced charge.

25.29 When a dielectric partially or fully fills the space in a capacitor, find the free charge, the induced charge, the electric field between the plates (if there is a gap, there is more than one field value), and the potential between the plates.