

Applications on Maxwell's 1st Equation

Find the electric flux through the surface of a sphere containing 15 protons and 10 electrons.

$$\Phi_E = \oint_S \vec{E} \circ \hat{n} \, da = q_{enc} / \epsilon_0$$

$$q_{enc} = \sum_i q_i = 15(1.6 \times 10^{-19} C) + 10(-1.6 \times 10^{-19} C)$$
$$= (2.4 \times 10^{-18} - 1.6 \times 10^{-18}) C$$

$$= 8 \times 10^{-19} C$$

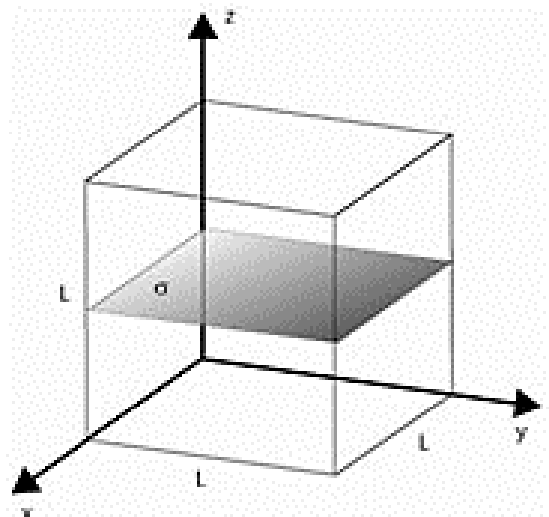
$$\Phi_E = q_{enc} / \epsilon_0 = \frac{8 \times 10^{-19} C}{8.85 \times 10^{-12} C/Vm}$$
$$= 9.04 \times 10^{-8} Vm$$

A cube of side L contains a flat plate with variable surface charge density of $\sigma = -3xy$. If the plate extends from $x = 0$ to $x = L$ and from $y = 0$ to $y = L$, what is the total electric flux through the walls of the cube?

$$\Phi_E = \oint_S \vec{E} \circ \hat{n} \, da = q_{enc} / \epsilon_0 \quad q_{enc} = \int_S \sigma \, da \quad \sigma = -3xy,$$

$$q_{enc} = \int_{y=0}^L \int_{x=0}^L (-3xy) \, dx \, dy$$
$$= -3 \int_{y=0}^L y \left(\frac{1}{2} x^2 \Big|_0^L \right) dy$$
$$= -\frac{3}{2} \int_{y=0}^L L^2 y \, dy$$
$$= -\frac{3L^2}{2} \left(\frac{1}{2} y^2 \Big|_0^L \right)$$
$$= -\frac{3}{4} L^4 \, C$$

$$\Phi_E = q_{enc} / \epsilon_0 = -3L^4 / 4\epsilon_0$$



Find the total electric flux through a closed cylinder containing a line charge along its axis with linear charge density $\lambda = \lambda_0(1-x/h)$ C/m if the cylinder and the line charge extend from $x = 0$ to $x = h$.

$$\Phi_E = \oint_S \vec{E} \circ \hat{n} \, da = q_{enc} / \epsilon_0 \quad q_{enc} = \int_L \lambda \, dl$$

$$\begin{aligned} q_{enc} &= \int_{x=0}^h \lambda_0 \left(1 - \frac{x}{h}\right) dx \\ &= \int_{x=0}^h \lambda_0 \, dx - \int_{x=0}^h \lambda_0 \frac{x}{h} \, dx \\ &= \lambda_0 x \Big|_0^h - \frac{\lambda_0}{h} \left(\frac{1}{2} x^2 \Big|_0^h \right) \\ &= \lambda_0 h - \frac{\lambda_0}{h} \left(\frac{1}{2} h^2 \right) = \lambda_0 h - \frac{\lambda_0}{2} h = \frac{\lambda_0}{2} h \end{aligned}$$

$$\Phi_E = \frac{q_{enc}}{\epsilon_0} = \frac{\lambda_0 h}{2\epsilon_0}$$

What is the flux through any closed surface surrounding a charged sphere of radius a_0 with volume charge density of $\rho = \rho_0(r/a_0)$, where r is the distance from the center of the sphere?

$$\Phi_E = \oint_S \vec{E} \circ \hat{n} \, da = q_{enc} / \epsilon_0 \quad q_{enc} = \int_V \rho \, dV$$

$$\begin{aligned} q_{enc} &= \int_{r=0}^{a_0} \int_{\theta=0}^{\pi} \int_{\phi=0}^{2\pi} \rho_0 \left(\frac{r}{a_0} \right) r^2 \sin \theta \, dr \, d\theta \, d\phi \\ &= \frac{\rho_0}{a_0} \int_{\theta=0}^{\pi} \int_{\phi=0}^{2\pi} \int_{r=0}^{a_0} r^3 \, dr \, \sin \theta \, d\theta \, d\phi \\ &= \frac{\rho_0}{a_0} \int_{\theta=0}^{\pi} \int_{\phi=0}^{2\pi} \left(\frac{r^4}{4} \right) \Big|_0^{a_0} \sin \theta \, d\theta \, d\phi \\ &= \frac{\rho_0}{a_0} \left(\frac{1}{4} a_0^4 \right) \int_{\theta=0}^{\pi} \sin \theta \, d\theta \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi \\ &= \frac{\rho_0 a_0^3}{4} \left(-\cos \theta \Big|_0^{\pi} \right) \left(\phi \Big|_0^{2\pi} \right) \\ &= \rho_0 a_0^3 \pi \end{aligned}$$

$$\Phi_E = \frac{q_{enc}}{\epsilon_0} = \frac{\rho_0 a_0^3 \pi}{\epsilon_0}$$

A circular disk with surface charge density $2 \times 10^{-10} \text{ C/m}^2$ is surrounded by a sphere with radius of one meter. If the flux through the sphere is $5.2 \times 10^{-2} \text{ Vm}$, what is the diameter of the disk

$$\Phi_E = \oint_S \vec{E} \circ \hat{n} \, da = q_{enc} / \epsilon_0$$

$$q_{enc} = \epsilon_0 \Phi_E = (8.85 \times 10^{-12} \text{ C/Vm})(5.2 \times 10^{-2} \text{ Vm}) = 4.6 \times 10^{-13} \text{ C}$$

$$q_{enc} = \sigma A$$

$$q_{enc} = \sigma \pi r^2 = (2 \times 10^{-10} \text{ C/m}^2) \pi r^2$$

$$r = \left[\frac{4.6 \times 10^{-13} \text{ C}}{(2 \times 10^{-10} \text{ C/m}^2) \pi} \right]^{1/2} = 0.027 \text{ m}$$

$$d = 2r = 0.054 \text{ m}$$

Use a special Gaussian surface around an infinite line charge to find the electric field of the line charge as a function of distance.

The top and bottom surfaces of the cylinder $E=0$?

$$\oint_S \vec{E} \circ \hat{n} \, da = \oint_S |\vec{E}| \, da = |\vec{E}| \oint_S da = |\vec{E}| (2\pi rL)$$

$$|\vec{E}| (2\pi rL) = q_{enc} / \epsilon_0$$

$$|\vec{E}| (2\pi rL) = \lambda L / \epsilon_0$$

$$|\vec{E}| = \frac{\lambda}{2\pi \epsilon_0 r}$$

Find the divergence of the field given by $\vec{A} = (1/r)\vec{r}$ in spherical coordinates

$$\vec{\nabla} \circ \vec{A} = \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} (r^2 A_r) + \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} (A_\theta \sin \theta) + \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial A_\phi}{\partial \phi}$$

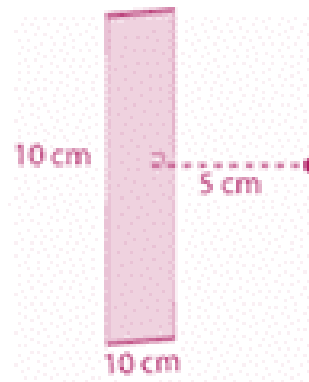
$$\vec{\nabla} \circ \vec{A} = \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left[r^2 \left(\frac{1}{r} \right) \right] = \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} (r) = \frac{1}{r^2}$$

A 10 cm x 10 cm flat plate is located 5 cm from a point charge of 10^{-8} C. What is the electric flux through the plate due to the point charge

$$\Phi_E = \oint_S \vec{E} \cdot \hat{n} \, da = q_{enc} / \epsilon_0$$

$$\Phi_E = \frac{1 \times 10^{-8} \text{ C}}{8.85 \times 10^{-12} \text{ C/Vm}} = 1.13 \times 10^3 \text{ Vm}$$

$$\Phi_{E, \text{each side}} = \frac{1}{6} \Phi_E = 188.3 \text{ Vm}$$



Find the electric flux through a half-cylinder of height h due to an infinitely long line charge with charge density λ running along the axis of the cylinder.

$$\Phi_E = \oint_S \vec{E} \cdot \hat{n} \, da = q_{enc} / \epsilon_0$$

$$q_{enc} = \lambda h$$

$$\Phi_E = \lambda h / \epsilon_0$$

$$\Phi_{E, \text{half-cylinder}} = \Phi_E / 2 = \lambda h / 2\epsilon_0$$

A proton rests at the center of the rim of a hemispherical bowl of radius R . What is the electric flux through the surface of the bowl.

$$\Phi_{E, \text{half-sphere}} = \frac{1}{2} \Phi_{E, \text{full-sphere}} = \frac{1}{2} q_{enc} / \epsilon_0$$

$$\Phi_{E, \text{half-sphere}} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1.6 \times 10^{-19} \text{ C}}{8.85 \times 10^{-12} \text{ C/Vm}} \right) = 9.04 \times 10^{-9} \text{ Vm}$$



Another Method

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi_E &= \oint_S \vec{E} \cdot \hat{n} \, da = \int_{\theta=\pi/2}^{\pi} \int_{\phi=0}^{2\pi} \frac{q_{proton}}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R^2} R^2 \sin\theta \, d\theta \, d\phi \\ &= \frac{q_{proton}}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left[-\cos\theta \right]_{\pi/2}^{\pi} (2\pi) = \frac{q_{proton}}{2\epsilon_0} = 9.04 \times 10^{-9} \text{ Vm} \end{aligned}$$

Use a special Gaussian surface to prove that the magnitude of the electric field of an infinite flat plane with surface charge density σ is: $E = \sigma/2\epsilon_0$.

$$\oint_S \vec{E} \cdot \hat{n} \, da = |\vec{E}| \int_{Top \& Bottom} da = q_{enc} / \epsilon_0$$

$$|\vec{E}|(s^2 + s^2) = \sigma s^2 / \epsilon_0 \quad \rightarrow \quad |\vec{E}| = \sigma / (2\epsilon_0)$$

Find the charge density in a region for which the electric field in cylindrical coordinates is given by: $\vec{E} = \frac{az}{r} \hat{r} + br \hat{\phi} + cr^2 z^2 \hat{z}$

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{E} = \rho / \epsilon_0$$

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{E} = \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} (r E_r) + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial E_\phi}{\partial \phi} + \frac{\partial E_z}{\partial z}$$

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{E} = \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left[r \left(\frac{az}{r} \right) \right] + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} (br) + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} (cr^2 z^2) = \rho / \epsilon_0$$

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{E} = \frac{1}{r} (0) + \frac{1}{r} (0) + 2zcr^2 = \rho / \epsilon_0 \quad \rightarrow \quad \rho = 2zcr^2 \epsilon_0$$

Find the charge density in a region for which the electric field in spherical coordinates is given by:

$$\vec{E} = ar^2 \hat{r} + \frac{b \cos(\theta)}{r} \hat{\theta} + c \hat{\phi}$$

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{E} = \rho / \epsilon_0$$

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{E} = \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} (r^2 E_r) + \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} (E_\theta \sin \theta) + \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial E_\phi}{\partial \phi}$$

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{E} = \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} (r^2 ar^2) + \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \left(\frac{b \cos(\theta) \sin(\theta)}{r} \right) + \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} (c)$$

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{E} = 4ar + \frac{b}{r^2 \sin \theta} (-\sin^2 \theta + \cos^2 \theta) + 0$$

$$\cos^2 \theta = 1 - \sin^2 \theta,$$

$$4ar + \frac{b}{r^2} \left(\frac{1 - 2\sin^2 \theta}{\sin \theta} \right) = \rho / \epsilon_0$$

$$\rho = 4ar\epsilon_0 + \frac{b\epsilon_0}{r^2} \left(\frac{1}{\sin \theta} - 2\sin \theta \right)$$

1. What is Maxwell's 1st equation?

- a. $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{E} = 0$
- b. $\nabla \times \mathbf{E} = -\partial \mathbf{B} / \partial t$
- c. $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} = 0$
- d. $\nabla \times \mathbf{B} = \mu_0 \mathbf{j}$
- e. None.

2. What does Maxwell's 1st equation describe?

- a. The relationship between the curl of electric field and magnetic field.
- b. The relationship between the divergence of electric field and magnetic field.
- c. The relationship between the curl of magnetic field and electric field.
- d. The relationship between the divergence of magnetic field and electric field.
- e. None.

3. Which of the following is true for a region with no charges or currents?

- a. $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{E} = 0$ and $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} = 0$
- b. $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{E} = 0$ and $\nabla \times \mathbf{B} = 0$
- c. $\nabla \times \mathbf{E} = 0$ and $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} = 0$
- d. $\nabla \times \mathbf{E} = 0$ and $\nabla \times \mathbf{B} = 0$
- e. None.

4. Which of the following is a consequence of Maxwell's 1st equation?

- a. Electric charges always move in closed loops.
- b. Magnetic monopoles exist.
- c. Electromagnetic waves can propagate in vacuum.
- d. Electric fields always point toward negative charges.
- e. None.

5. How does the divergence of the electric field affect the behavior of the electric field near charges?

- a. It causes the electric field to point towards charges.
- b. It causes the electric field to point away from charges.
- c. It causes the electric field to circulate around charges.
- d. It does not affect the behavior of the electric field near charges.
- e. None.

6. What is the relationship between the divergence of the electric field and the presence of electric charges?

- a. The divergence of the electric field is proportional to the density of electric charges.
- b. The divergence of the electric field is proportional to the magnitude of electric charges.
- c. The divergence of the electric field is zero in the absence of electric charges.
- d. The divergence of the electric field is infinite in the presence of electric charges.
- e. None.

7. How does Maxwell's 1st equation relate to the continuity equation for electric charge?

- a. It is equivalent to the continuity equation for electric charge.
- b. It is a consequence of the continuity equation for electric charge.
- c. It is independent of the continuity equation for electric charge.
- d. It contradicts the continuity equation for electric charge.
- e. None.

8. How does the electric potential relate to the divergence of the electric field in the solution to Maxwell's 1st equation?

- a. The electric potential is proportional to the divergence of the electric field.
- b. The electric potential is equal to the divergence of the electric field.
- c. The electric potential is related to the gradient of the electric field.
- d. The electric potential is not related to the divergence of the electric field.
- e. None.

Unsolved Applications on Maxwell's 1st Equation

A point charge of $+4\text{ }\mu\text{C}$ is located at the center of a spherical surface with a radius of 0.2 m . Calculate the electric flux through the surface.

Answer : the electric flux through the surface of the sphere is $4.52 \times 10^4\text{ N}\cdot\text{m}^2/\text{C}$.

A long straight wire carries a uniform charge density of $2\text{ }\mu\text{C}/\text{m}$. Find the electric field at a distance of 5 cm from the wire.

Answer : the electric field at a distance of 5 cm from the wire is $3.6 \times 10^5\text{ N/C}$.

A closed surface encloses a total charge of $4\text{ }\mu\text{C}$. The surface consists of two concentric spheres of radii 5 cm and 10 cm , respectively. Find the electric flux through each sphere.

Answer : the electric flux through both spheres is the same, and it is $4.514 \times 10^5\text{ Nm}^2/\text{C}$.

A charged non-conducting sphere of radius R has a charge density $\rho = k/r$, where k is a constant and r is the distance from the center of the sphere. Find the total charge enclosed within a sphere of radius $2R$ centered at the origin.

Answer : the total charge enclosed within the sphere of radius $2R$ is 16 times the charge enclosed within the sphere of radius R .

A charge q is located at the origin, and another charge Q is located on the x -axis at a distance d from the origin. Find the electric flux through a sphere of radius r centered at the origin, where $r > d$.

***Answer :** the electric flux through the sphere of radius r is given by:*

$$\Phi = q/\epsilon_0 \text{ for } r > d \quad \Phi = (q+Q)/\epsilon_0 \text{ for } r < d$$

Note that the electric flux is discontinuous at $r = d$, where the charge Q is located. This is because the electric field changes abruptly at this point due to the presence of the charge Q .