

① Phys 1402 2015-09-08 Lec 4

## Roles of electric field (so far)

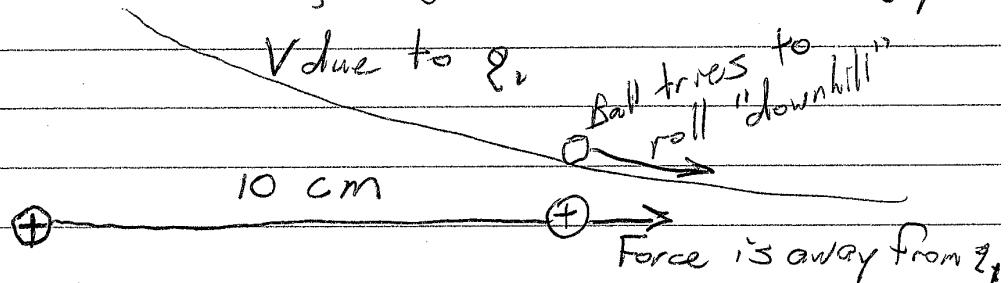
- Force per unit charge
- Flow of electric flux
- Slope of electric potential "landscape"

## What is electric potential? ( $V$ )

- Energy per unit charge
- High energy = unfavorable
- Charge at high energy is like a ball high on a hill.

For a  $\oplus$  charge, high  $\oplus V$  is high energy.

For a  $\ominus$  charge, high  $\oplus V$  is low energy.



Source charge

$$q_1 = 50 \text{ nC}$$

Test charge

$$q_2$$

$q_2$  wants to go toward right  
that is "downhill"

$$\text{Slope in general} = \frac{\text{Rise}}{\text{Run}} = \frac{\Delta V}{\Delta X}$$

(2)

$$V = \frac{kq_1}{r}$$

Potential due to  
a point

Distance

$$0.1 \text{ m}$$

Potential

$$V = \frac{k(50 \times 10^{-9} \text{ C})}{(0.1 \text{ m})} = 4500 \text{ V}$$

$$0.101 \text{ m}$$

$$V_2 = 4455 \text{ V}$$

$$\Delta x = 0.001 \text{ m} \quad \Delta V = -44.6 \text{ V}$$

$$\frac{\Delta V}{\Delta x} = \frac{-44.6}{0.001} = -44600 \text{ V/m}$$

What is  $E$ ?

$$E = \frac{kq_1}{r^2} = \frac{k(50 \times 10^{-9} \text{ C})}{(0.1 \text{ m})^2} = 45000 \text{ N/C}$$

$$E = -\frac{\Delta V}{\Delta x}$$

Point Charges

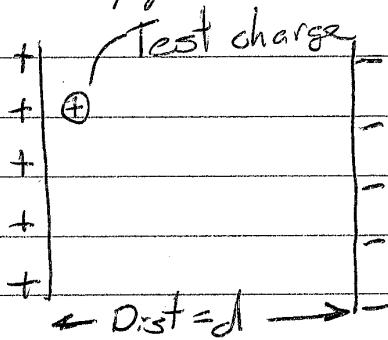
- $V$  is easy to calculate
- Add values as normal numbers
- $E$  is not "uniform"

(3)

## Recall Surface Charge

$$E = 2\pi k\sigma \quad (\text{pointing away from } +)$$

Consider two opposite  $\sigma$ 's:



$$\sigma_1 = 250 \frac{nC}{m^2} \quad \sigma_2 = -250 \frac{nC}{m^2}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{In Between: } E &= E_1 + E_2 \\ &= 2\pi k\sigma_1 + 2\pi k\sigma_2 \\ &= 4\pi k\sigma \\ &= 28270 \frac{N/C}{m^2} \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Outside } E = 0$$

Test charge feels force of  $F = q_0 E$

In gravity, drop from rest gains

$$KE \text{ of } \underbrace{mgh}_{F \cdot dist}$$

Release test charge, its energy is

$$\begin{aligned} k &= 9 \times 10^9 \frac{Nm^2/C^2}{12 \frac{C^2}{m^2}} \\ &= 8.85 \times 10^{-12} \frac{Nm^2}{C^2} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} KE &= F \cdot d = q_0 Ed = q_0 4\pi k \sigma d \\ \frac{KE}{q_0} &= 4\pi k \sigma d = \frac{\sigma d}{\epsilon_0} = \frac{Qd}{\epsilon_0 A} \end{aligned}$$

(4)

$$V = \frac{Qd}{\epsilon_0 A}$$

Parallel Plate Capacitor

Voltage      Charge

$$Q = V \left( \frac{\epsilon_0 A}{d} \right)$$

$$Q = V \text{ (geometry factor)}$$

$$Q = C V$$

C capacitance

$V$  acts like a "pressure".

It acts on  $q_1$  and on  $Q$ .

Start with uncharged metal plates:

- $V = Q/C = 0$
- Move some charge from one to the other
- $Q_1 = +\text{small}$      $Q_2 = -Q_1$
- $Q = Q_1$  is "the charge of the capacitor"  
Note  $Q_1 + Q_2 = 0$ , always
- It's still easy to move charge  
because  $V$  is small.
- Keep going,  $Q$  gets large
- $V = Q/C$  hits its limit.
  - External  $V$  limited = ok
  - Max  $V$  of cap exceeded = bad

$$\text{Energy} = V_{avg} Q = \frac{1}{2} V_{max} Q$$