

Summary on Chapter 20 and 21:

1. **Coulomb's law:**

- (Force) = (field) * (charge): $\mathbf{F} = \mathbf{E}q$

Thus, when the charge q is positive, the force on it and the electric field on it are in the same direction, and when q is negative, the force and the electric field are in opposite directions.

- For point charge:

$$F = \frac{kQq}{r^2}, \quad E = \frac{kQ}{r^2}$$

In components:

$$E = \frac{kQ}{r^2} (\cos \theta \hat{x} + \sin \theta \hat{y})$$

- For a charge configuration:

--- if the configuration is a group of point charges, find E due to each point charge, then add the E vectors (by adding components)

--- if the configuration has a continuous distribution of charge, use:

$$E = k \int \frac{dq}{r^2} \hat{r}$$

----- Things to do when solving a problem with a charge configuration:

----- determine the direction of E (which component of E would be cancelled?) by looking at the picture, if the x-component survives, multiply the integral by $\cos \theta$, if the y-component survives, multiply the integral by $\sin \theta$.

----- how does E vary (with respect to angle, length, etc.)?

----- rewrite dq in terms of density and the variable on which E is dependent if possible, a few examples are as follows:

| | Density | Example | |
|----|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1D | $\lambda = Q/L$ | Straight wire | $dq = \lambda dr$ |
| | | Wire bent into a section of a circle with fixed radius | $dq = \lambda r d\theta$ |
| 2D | $\sigma = Q/A$ | Disc | $dq = 2\pi\sigma r dr$ |
| 3D | $\rho = Q/V$ | Ball of charge | $dq = 4\pi\rho r^2 dr$ |

----- rewrite $\sin \theta$ and $\cos \theta$ in terms of r if possible

----- integrate

2. **Electric dipole:**

---- dipole moment: $p = qd$, where $\pm q$ is the charge at each end of the dipole, d is the length of the dipole

---- net force on dipole: find the force on each end, sum them up. In a uniform electric field, the net force is 0.

---- torque: $\tau = p \times E = pE \sin \theta$

---- energy: $W = \int \tau d\theta = -pE \cos \theta$, evaluate from initial angle to final angle

3. Gauss's Law:

Flux through a surface:

$$\Phi = \int E \cdot dA = \int E dA \cos \theta$$

where θ is the angle between the electric field vector and the normal vector of the surface

When the magnitude of E is the same at every point on the surface,

$$\Phi = EA$$

Flux through a closed surface:

$$\Phi_{net} = \oint E \cdot dA = \frac{Q_{enclosed}}{\epsilon_0}$$

A closed surface means a surface containing a 3D volume, such as a sphere or a rectangular box.

The integral above is over the Gaussian surface, which is an imaginary closed surface that we use to find the flux and the electric field at a certain point in space.

--- $Q_{enclosed}$ is the charge sitting inside that Gaussian surface.

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

For symmetric configuration, i.e. the electric field is the same at every point on the surface, we have

$$E = \frac{Q_{enclosed}}{\epsilon_0 A}$$

| | | |
|----|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| 1D | Straight wire, cylinder | $E = \frac{\lambda}{2\pi\epsilon_0 r}$ |
| 2D | Plane | $E = \sigma/\epsilon_0$ |
| 3D | Inside a sphere with uniform charge density | $E = \frac{\rho r}{3\epsilon_0}$ |
| | Outside a sphere | $E = \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2}$ |

$E = 0$ inside a conductor (in electrostatic equilibrium). This means the space between two surfaces of a closed conductor does not have any electric field. All the charges in a conductor reside on its surfaces.

Examples 21.1, 21.3, 21.5, 21.6 in the textbook are useful.