

I-Electrostatics

I.1 Coulomb's law

I.1.a. Definition of electric charge

The notion of electric charge is linked to the phenomenon of electrification. A body is said to be electrified if it has the property of attracting light bodies regardless of their nature. Experience shows that there are two types of charges, a positive (+) and a negative (-). Charges with the same signs repel each other and those with opposite charges attract each other.

According to modern physics, the carriers of elementary negative charges are electrons (e-) denoted e ($e = -1.602\ 189\ 2\ 10^{-19}\ \text{C}$), its mass is $m_e = 0.910\ 954\ 4\ 10^{-30}\ \text{Kg}$. The proton has a positive charge ($q_p = 1.602\ 189\ 2\ 10^{-19}\ \text{C}$), its mass is $m_p = 1.672\ 648\ 5\ 10^{-27}\ \text{Kg}$. The mass of a neutron is $m_n = 1.674\ 954\ 3\ 10^{-27}\ \text{Kg}$.

An atom that loses an electron will be a positive ion, and An atom that gains an electron will be a negative ion. The unit of electric charge is the Coulomb [C]. According to the formula for electric current: $I = q/t$, $q = It$ [q] = [I][t]=1A.1s=1 C

I.1.b. Statement of Coulomb's law

Two static point electric charges q_1 and q_2 exert on each other a force \vec{F} directly proportional to the two electric charges and inversely proportional to the square of their distance r:

$$\vec{F} = K \frac{q_1 q_2}{r^2} \vec{u}$$

Such that k is a constant of proportionality $K = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}$, où $\epsilon_0 = 8,854\ 187\ 82\ 10^{-12}\ \text{Fm}^{-1}$ is the permittivity in a vacuum.

From where K is almost equal to $9 \cdot 10^9$ we can write the force in this form: $\vec{F} = 9 \cdot 10^9 \frac{q_1 q_2}{r^2} \vec{u}$

The unit of force is the Newton; $[F] = \frac{[c][c]}{[m^2]} = [N]$

If q_1 and q_2 are >0 or q_1 and q_2 are <0 , ($F > 0$), then we have a repulsive force (figure 1)

If $q_1 > 0$ and $q_2 < 0$, ($F < 0$), then we have an attractive force (figure 2)

As the force is a vector we are obliged to draw a diagram.

Example: At the tops of the angles of a right triangle A, B, C, where the distance $r_1 = AC = 1.2$ m and $r_2 = CB = 0.5$ m, we place three charges $q_1 = 1.5 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{C}$, $q_2 = -0.5 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{C}$ and $q_3 = 0.2 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{C}$. (figure3).

Calculate the resulting electric force acting on the charge q_3 .

$$\vec{F}_R = \vec{F}_1 + \vec{F}_2$$

$$F_R = \sqrt{F_1^2 + F_2^2}$$

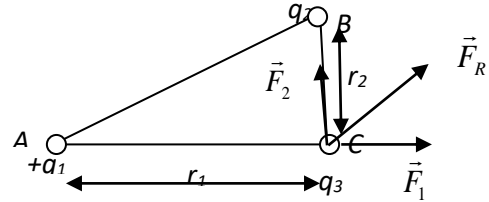


Figure3

$$F_1 = K \frac{q_1 q_3}{r^2} = 9 \cdot 10^9 \frac{1,5 \cdot 10^{-3} \cdot 0,2 \cdot 10^{-3}}{(1,2)^2} = 1,875 \text{N}$$

$$F_2 = K \frac{q_2 q_3}{b^2} = 9 \cdot 10^9 \frac{0,2 \cdot 10^{-3} \cdot 0,5 \cdot 10^{-3}}{(0,5)^2} = 3,6 \text{N}$$

$$F_R = \sqrt{(1,875)^2 + (3,6)^2} = 4,061 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{N}$$

I.2. The electric field E

Definition: Suppose that the charge q_1 is small enough not to significantly disturb the electric field by the charge q . We then define the electric field created by the charge q , as the force exerted on the unit of charge q_1 . The electric field is a vector

$$\vec{E} = \frac{\vec{F}}{q_1} = \frac{Kq}{r^2} \vec{u} = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2} \vec{u}$$

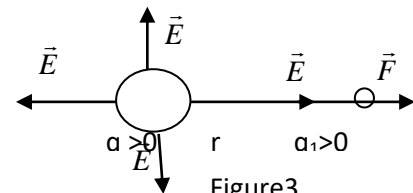


Figure3

The unit of electric field is volt per meter; $[E] = \frac{[V]}{[m]}$

(Like the Joule $J = N \cdot m = e \cdot V \Rightarrow N = \frac{CV}{m}$ Comme $[E] = \frac{[F]}{[q]} = \frac{N}{C} = \frac{CV}{mC} = \frac{V}{m}$)

I.3. The electric potential V

The electric potential is a scalar, which is directly linked to electrostatic energy.

$$V = \frac{Kq}{r} = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r}$$

The unit of electric potential is the volt $[V] = [V]$

Electrostatic Energy

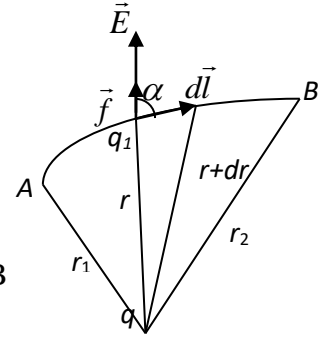
a- Let a point charge $q_1 > 0$ be sufficiently small, located in an electric field created by the charge $q > 0$, which is subject to the action of a force \vec{f} .

- b- Let a displacement element, $d\vec{l}$ small so that the force \vec{f} is constant in module and direction.

Elementary work $dW = \vec{f} \cdot d\vec{l} = f dl \cos \alpha$

$$W = \int_A^B \vec{f} \cdot d\vec{l} = \int_A^B q_1 \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{l} = \int_A^B q_1 E dl \cos \alpha = q_1 \int_A^B E dl \cos \alpha$$

We call $W = \int_A^B \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{l}$ the circulation of the vector \vec{E} between A and B



Knowing that the electric field E, created by the electric charge q, is:

$$E = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2} \Rightarrow W = q_1 \int_{r_1}^{r_2} \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2} dl \cos \alpha \Rightarrow W = \frac{q_1 q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_{r_1}^{r_2} \frac{dr}{r^2} = \frac{q_1 q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left[\frac{1}{r_1} - \frac{1}{r_2} \right]$$

The electric potential V

By definition the work is equal to the reduction in electrostatic energy, that is to say $dW = -dE_p$, which can also be written $dE_p = -dW$,

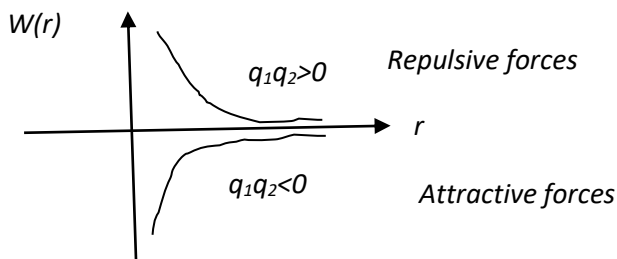
$$\Rightarrow dE_p = -\frac{q_1 q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int \frac{dr}{r^2} \Rightarrow E_p = \frac{q_1 q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r} + C$$

$$\text{When } r \rightarrow \infty \Rightarrow E_p \rightarrow 0 \Rightarrow C = 0 \Rightarrow E_p = \frac{q_1 q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r}$$

We define the electric potential V as follows: $V = \frac{E_p}{q_1} = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r}$, is the electric potential V

created by the electric charge q. The unit of electric potential is the Volt ($[V] = \frac{[E_p]}{[q]} = \frac{J}{C} = V$)

$E_p = q_1 V$, the unit of energy is the Joule ($1eV = 1.6 \cdot 10^{-19} J$)



I.4. Principle of superposition

Distribution of point electrical charges

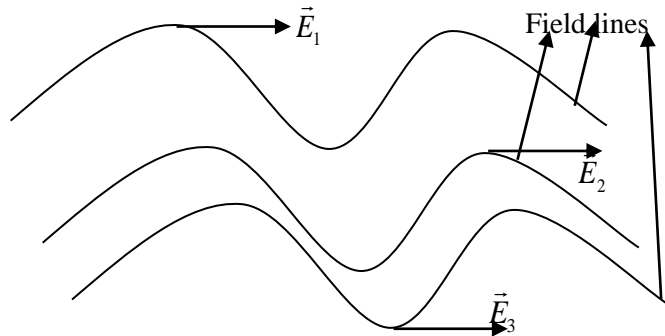
If we have $q_1, q_2, q_3, \dots, q_n$

The resulting electric force $\vec{F}_R = \vec{F}_1 + \vec{F}_2 + \vec{F}_3 + \dots + \vec{F}_n \Rightarrow \vec{F}_R = \sum_{i=1}^n \vec{F}_i$

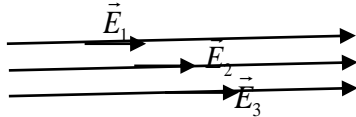
The resulting electric field $\vec{E}_R = \vec{E}_1 + \vec{E}_2 + \vec{E}_3 + \dots + \vec{E}_n \Rightarrow E_R = \sum_{i=1}^n \vec{E}_i$

The resulting electric potential $V_R = V_1 + V_2 + V_3 + \dots + V_n \Rightarrow V_R = \sum_{i=1}^n V_i$

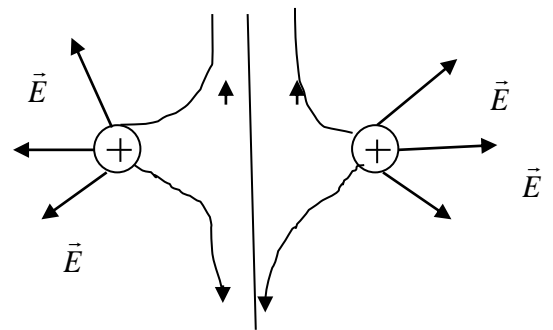
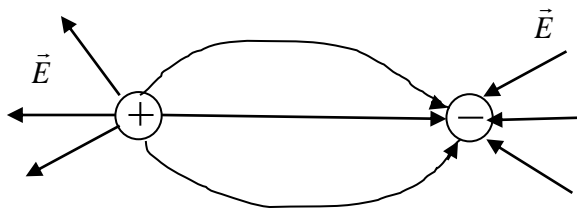
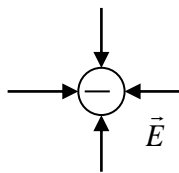
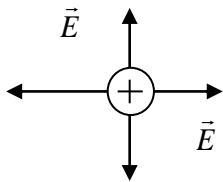
I.5 Electric field topography \vec{E}



In the case of a uniform field



The electric field always leaves the positive (+) electric charge and enters the negative (-) electric charge.

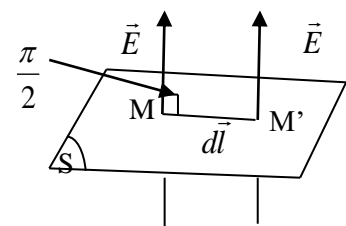


I.6. Equipotential surfaces

The electric field E is perpendicular to the surface S

$$\Rightarrow dE_p = dW = qEdl \cos \alpha = 0 \Rightarrow E_p = q(V_M - V_{M'}) = 0 \text{ si } dE_p = 0$$

$$q \neq 0, E \neq 0 \text{ et } dl \neq 0 \Rightarrow \cos \alpha = 0 \Rightarrow \alpha = \frac{\pi}{2}$$



Examples :a-Let us a sphere with center 0 and radius r charged on the surface by an electric charge +q. the potential

electric V at the surface of the sphere is $V = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r}$

It is equal to a constant, because the radius r constant. the electric potential V₁,

on the surface of the sphere of radius r₁, is $V_1 = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r_1}$

is equal to a constant, so the radius r₁ is equal to a constant. the electric potential V₂, on the surface of the sphere, is $V_2 = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r_2}$ is equal to a constant, so the radius r₂ is equal to a

constant. So the equipotential surfaces are concentric spheres.

b-If the electric fields are uniform and continuous, the equipotential surfaces are parallel planes perpendicular to the electric fields.

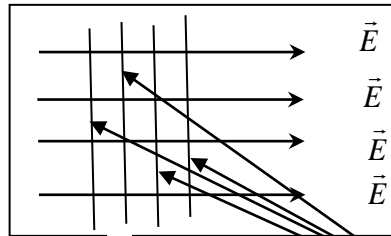
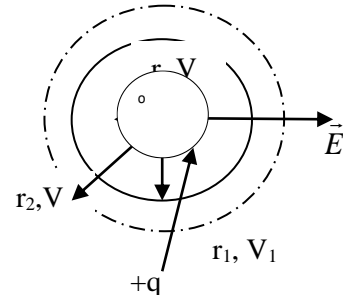


Figure 6

parallel planes

1.7. Distribution of electric charges

Distribution of linear electric charges

Let λ be the linear electric charge density

$$\lambda = \frac{dq}{dl} \Rightarrow [\lambda] = \frac{C}{m}$$

Distribution of surface electric charges

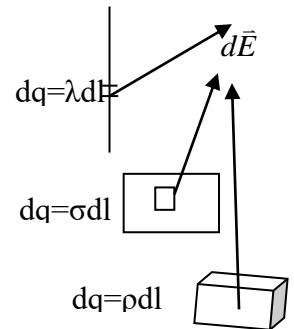
Let σ be the surface electric charge density

$$\sigma = \frac{dq}{dS} \Rightarrow [\sigma] = \frac{C}{m^2}$$

Distribution of volumetric electric charges

Let ρ be the volumetric electric charge density

$$\rho = \frac{dq}{dV} \Rightarrow [\rho] = \frac{C}{m^3}$$



Application of the superposition principle for the calculation of an electric field

Consider a system of charges: a uniformly long wire, positively charged with a linear charge density λ . Find the electric field E, created by this distribution, at a distance a from the wire.

-Direct method

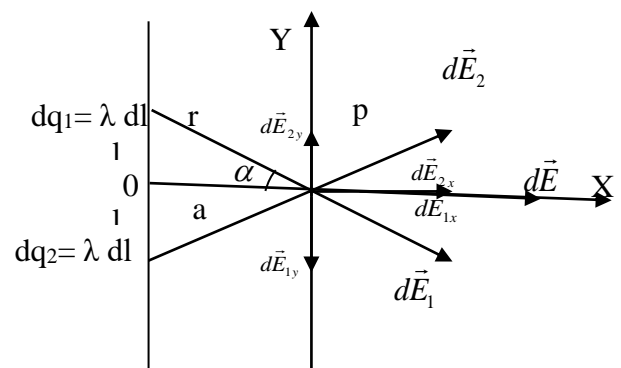
As $dq_1 = dq_2 = dq$

$$\Rightarrow dE_1 = dE_2 = K \frac{dq}{r^2} = K\lambda \frac{dl}{r^2}$$

According to the principle of superposition

$$\vec{E} = \int d\vec{E}_i$$

The projection of $d\vec{E}_1$ et $d\vec{E}_2$ along the axis P_Y



give dE_{1y} and dE_{2y} As $|\vec{dE}_1| = |\vec{dE}_2|$ and their directions are opposite which gives the resultant is zero on the Y axis. On the other hand, the projection along the P_x axis exists $dE = dE_{1x} =$

$$dE_{2x} = dE_1 \cos \alpha + dE_2 \cos \alpha = 2 dE_1 \cos \alpha \Rightarrow E = 2K \int \frac{\lambda dl}{r^2} \cos \alpha$$

We notice that dE is perpendicular to the wire due to the symmetry and as the wire is infinitely long. The law of superposition gives after a change of variable dl to $d\alpha$, therefore the sum of E_i perpendicular to the wire can be swept between 0 and $\pi/2$.

According to the figure we draw:

$$tg \alpha = \frac{l}{r} \Rightarrow l = atg \alpha \Rightarrow dl = a \frac{d\alpha}{\cos^2 \alpha} \text{ and as } \cos \alpha = \frac{a}{r} \Rightarrow r = \frac{a}{\cos \alpha} \Rightarrow r^2 = \frac{a^2}{\cos^2 \alpha}$$

$$\text{So we have: } E = 2K\lambda \int_0^{\pi/2} \frac{a \cos \alpha d\alpha}{\cos^2 \alpha \frac{a^2}{\cos^2 \alpha}} = \frac{2K\lambda}{a} \int_0^{\pi/2} \cos \alpha d\alpha = \frac{2K\lambda}{a} [\sin 1 - \sin 0]$$

$$E = \frac{\lambda}{2\pi\epsilon_0 a}$$

I.8. Electric dipole

A dipole is composed of two equal electric charges of opposite sign, separated by a small distance a . We call dipole moment $\vec{\mu} = q\vec{a}$, which is always directed from the charge $-q$ to the charge $+q$.

The electric potential at point M is

$$V = V_A + V_B \Rightarrow V_M = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r_1} - \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r_2} \Rightarrow V_M = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left(\frac{r_2 - r_1}{r_2 r_1} \right)$$

As $a \ll r \Rightarrow r_1 = r_2 = r$ et $r_2 - r_1 = a \cos \theta$

$$V_M = \frac{qa \cos \theta}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2}, \text{ knowing that the dipole moment } \vec{\mu} = qA\vec{B}, V_M = \frac{K\mu \cos \theta}{r^2} = \frac{\mu \cos \theta}{4\pi\epsilon_0}$$

The unit of dipole moment $[\mu] = [C][m]$ (1Debye [D]) = $\frac{1}{3} 10^{-29} \approx 3,3310^{-30} Cm$.

Electric Field

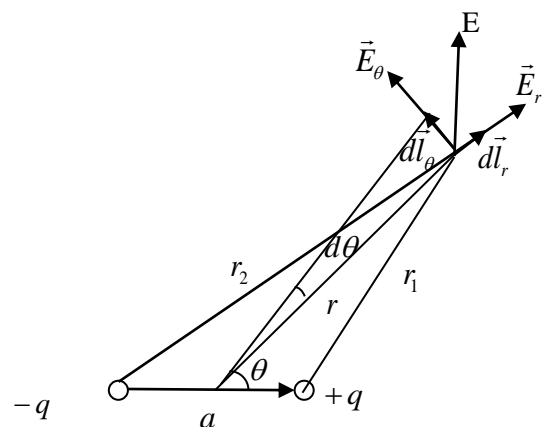
Components E_r et E_θ

According $\vec{E} = -gradV$ we can write

$$dV = -\vec{E}d\vec{l} \Rightarrow \frac{\partial V}{\partial r} dr + \frac{\partial V}{\partial \theta} d\theta = -(E_r dl_r + E_\theta dl_\theta)$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\partial V}{\partial r} dr + \frac{\partial V}{\partial \theta} d\theta = -(E_r dr + E_\theta r d\theta)$$

$$\Rightarrow E_r = -\frac{dV}{dr} \text{ et } E_\theta = -\frac{1}{r} \frac{dV}{d\theta}$$



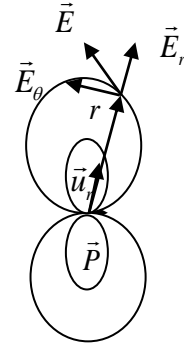
$$E_r = \frac{p \cos \theta}{2\pi\epsilon_0 r^3} \text{ et } E_\theta = \frac{p \sin \theta}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^3}$$

Calculation of the modulus of E

$$E = \sqrt{E_r^2 + E_\theta^2} \Rightarrow E = \frac{p}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^3} \sqrt{1 + 3 \cos^2 \theta}$$

$$\text{Si } \theta = 0 \Rightarrow E = \frac{2Kp}{r^3} = E_r \Rightarrow E_\theta = 0 \Rightarrow V = \frac{Kp}{r^2}$$

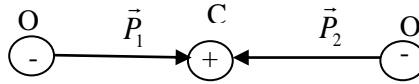
$$\text{Si } \theta = \frac{\pi}{2} \Rightarrow E = \frac{Kp}{r^3} = E_\theta \Rightarrow E_r = 0 \Rightarrow V = 0$$



Examples :

1- Case of CO₂

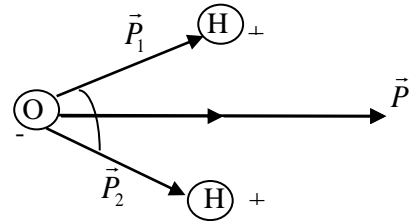
$$\Rightarrow \vec{P} = \vec{P}_1 + \vec{P}_2 = 0$$



The dipole moment of CO₂ est nul.

2- Case of H₂O

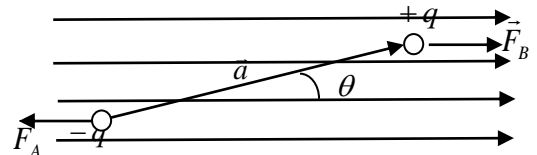
$$\Rightarrow \vec{P} = \vec{P}_1 + \vec{P}_2 \Rightarrow P = P_1 \cos \frac{105}{2} + P_2 \cos \frac{105}{2} = 2P_1 \cos \frac{105}{2}$$



Electric dipole in a uniform electric field

we have $\vec{F}_A = -q\vec{E}_0$ et $\vec{F}_B = +q\vec{E}_0$ the resulting force

$$\vec{F} = \vec{F}_A + \vec{F}_B \Rightarrow F = F_A - F_B = 0$$



The forces \vec{F}_A et \vec{F}_B cause a moment force couple

$$M = qE_0 a \sin \theta = PE_0 \sin \theta \Rightarrow \vec{M} = \vec{P} \wedge \vec{E}_0$$

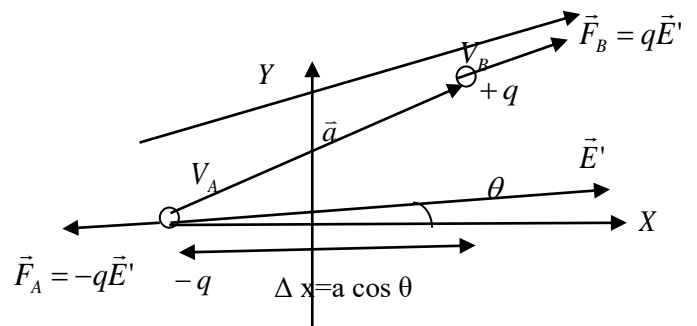
This moment tends to rotate the electric dipole following the direction of the electric field lines.

Electric dipole in a non-uniform electric field

On a $dW = -dE_p$ le travail élémentaire

$$\int_A^B \vec{F} d\vec{l} = -q \int_A^B dV = \int_A^B q \vec{E} d\vec{l} = -q(V_B - V_A)$$

$$\vec{E} \cdot \vec{AB} = -(\Delta V)$$



$$E_p = E_{PA} - E_{PB} = q(\Delta V) = -q\vec{E} \cdot \vec{AB}$$

The forces \vec{F}_A et \vec{F}_B cause a moment force couple

$$\Rightarrow E_p = -\vec{P} \cdot \vec{E} = PE \cos \theta$$

If $\theta = 0 \Rightarrow E_p = -PE$ (mini) at the equilibrium position, the dipole aligns with field E

If $\theta = \pi/2 \Rightarrow E_p = PE$ (maxi)

1.9. Gauss's theorem

Flow of an electric field through a closed surface.

$$d\phi = \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{S} \Rightarrow \phi = \oint_S \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{S} \text{ Where } d\vec{S} \text{ is directed from the inside to the outside.}$$

Flow of an electric field \vec{E} through a closed surface (S) is equal to the sum of the electric charges found inside this closed surface (S) divided by ϵ_0

$$\phi = \oint_S \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{S} = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{q_i}{\epsilon_0} = \int \frac{dq_i}{\epsilon_0}$$

Conditions for applying Gauss' theorem:

a-It is necessary to choose a surface containing semmetry the electric field \vec{E} is constant on this surface.

b-We must choose a closed surface that is easy to calculate.

Calculation of an electric field E

1-Case of a uniformly long, positively charged wire with a linear charge density λ . Find the electric field E , created by this distribution, at a distance a from the wire.

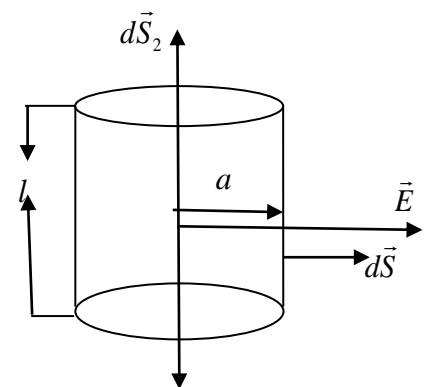
$$\text{- Gauss' theorem: } \Phi = \oint_S \vec{E} d\vec{S} = \int \frac{dq}{\epsilon_0}$$

$$\Phi = \oint_S \vec{E} d\vec{S} = \oint_S \vec{E} d\vec{S}_1 + \oint_S \vec{E} d\vec{S}_2 = \int \frac{dq}{\epsilon_0}$$

$$\Phi = \oint_S \vec{E} d\vec{S} = \int \frac{dq}{\epsilon_0} = \oint_S \vec{E} d\vec{S} = \oint_S E dS \cos \theta = \int \frac{dq}{\epsilon_0}$$

$$\Phi = E \oint_S dS = \int \frac{dq}{\epsilon_0} = \int_0^l \frac{\lambda dl}{\epsilon_0} = \frac{\lambda l}{\epsilon_0}$$

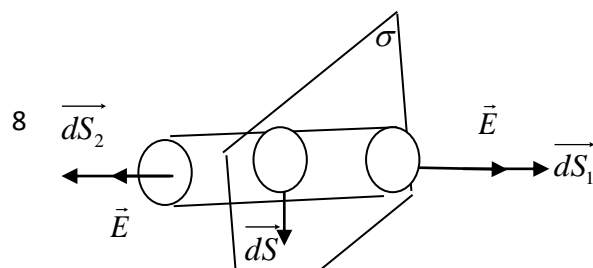
$$E \cdot S_3 = \frac{\lambda l}{\epsilon_0} \Rightarrow E \cdot 2\pi a l = \frac{\lambda l}{\epsilon_0} \Rightarrow \frac{\lambda}{2\pi \epsilon_0 a}$$



2- Case of a uniformly infinite plane, positively charged with a surface charge density σ . Find the electric field E , created by this distribution, near the plane.

$$\text{Gauss' theorem: } \Phi = \oint_S \vec{E} d\vec{S} = \int \frac{dq}{\epsilon_0}$$

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$$\phi = \oint_S \vec{E} d\vec{S} + \oint_S \vec{E} d\vec{S}_1 + \oint_S \vec{E} d\vec{S}_2 = \int \frac{dq}{\epsilon_0}$$

As E is perpendicular to dS

$$\phi = \int EdS_1 \cos 0 + \int EdS_2 \cos 0 = \int \frac{dq}{\epsilon_0}$$

As $dS_1 = dS_2 = dS$

$$\phi = 2 \int EdS = \int \frac{dq}{\epsilon_0} = \int \frac{\sigma dS}{\epsilon_0} = \frac{\sigma S}{\epsilon_0} \quad 2E.S = \frac{\sigma S}{\epsilon_0} \Rightarrow \frac{\sigma}{2\epsilon_0}$$

Application exercise

We consider in a vacuum a charge distribution of volumetric and uniform charge density ρ in a spherical volume (S) of radius R.

- Calculate the electric field E at a point M at the distance $OM < R$ from the center O.
- The charges of the previous distribution are removed in a spherical space (s), with center O', with radius r, entirely inside (S).

Determine the electric field E at a point M in the volume (s) devoid of charges.

The system being of spherical symmetry, the electric field E is radial, depends only on the distance OM from the center, it is directed along OM.

Then by applying Gauss's Theorem

to a spherical surface with center O, of radius $OM = r$, of surface $4\pi r^2$ which contains

The charge $\frac{4}{3} \pi r^3 \rho$, we obtain for the electric field E,

$$\text{in size and direction } \vec{E} = \frac{\rho OM}{3\epsilon_0}$$

- The charge distribution described results from the addition to the previous charges of the charges Charge density $-\rho$ produced in volume (s),

To which the electric field they produce is added vectorially to the electric field which has just been determined, since the general expression of the field electrical is linear as a function of the acting charges. The charge density $-\rho$ produced in the volume (s), $O'M < r$, the electric field E 'given by the expression

$$\text{Previous applied to the charge density } -\rho \text{ and to the center } O'. \text{ Let be: } \vec{E}' = -\frac{\rho O'M}{3\epsilon_0}$$

The total electric field in space (s), produced by the distribution of charge density ρ in the volume (S) - (s), and of charge density $\rho - \rho = 0$ in (s), is therefore

$$\vec{E}_t = \vec{E} + \vec{E}' = \frac{\rho}{3\epsilon_0} (OM - O'M),$$

$$\text{Let be, } \vec{E}_t = \frac{\rho OO'}{3\epsilon_0},$$

$$\text{Uniform, intensity } \frac{\rho OO'}{3\epsilon_0} \text{ and direction } OO'.$$

