

COULOMB'S LAW, E FIELDS

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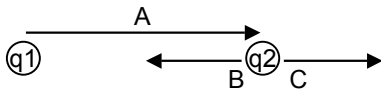
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Coulomb's law:  $\vec{F}$ (by 1 on 2) =  $\frac{kq_1q_2}{r_{12}^2} \hat{r}_{12}$

In the fig, q1 and q2 are 2 m apart.  
Which arrow can represent  $\hat{r}_{12}$  ?



- D) More than one (or NONE) of the above
- E) You can't decide until you know if q1 and q2 are the same or opposite signed charges

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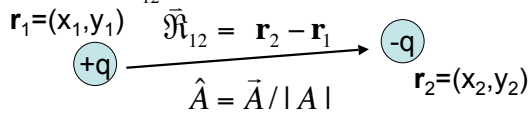
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What is  $\hat{r}_{12}$  ("from 1 to 2") here?



- A)  $(x_2 - x_1, y_2 - y_1)$       B)  $(x_1 - x_2, y_1 - y_2)$
- C)  $(x_2 - x_1, y_2 - y_1) / \sqrt{(x_2 - x_1)^2 + (y_2 - y_1)^2}$
- D)  $(x_1 - x_2, y_1 - y_2) / \sqrt{(x_2 - x_1)^2 + (y_2 - y_1)^2}$
- E) None of these/it depends/not sure...

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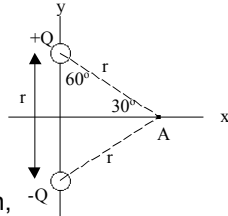
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Two charges  $+Q$  and  $-Q$  are fixed a distance  $r$  apart. The direction of the E field at A is...

- A.Up
- B.Down
- C.Left
- D.Right
- E.Some other direction, or  $E = 0$ , or it's ambig. (depends on sign of  $q$  you put at A!)




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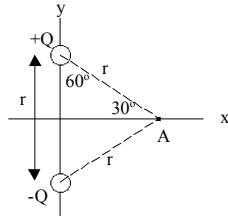
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Two charges  $+Q$  and  $-Q$  are fixed a distance  $r$  apart. The direction of the force on a test charge  $-q$  at A is...

- A.Up
- B.Down
- C.Left
- D.Right
- E.Some other direction, or  $F = 0$




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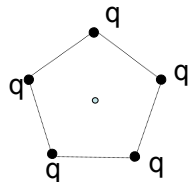
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5 charges,  $q$ , are arranged in a regular pentagon, as shown. What is the E field at the center?



- A) Zero
- B) Non-zero
- C) Really need trig and a calculator to decide

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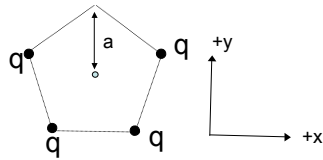
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1 of the 5 charges has been removed, as shown. What's the E field at the center?



- A)  $+(kq/a^2) \mathbf{j}$
- B)  $-(kq/a^2) \mathbf{j}$
- C) 0
- D) Something entirely different!
- E) This is a nasty problem which I need more time to solve

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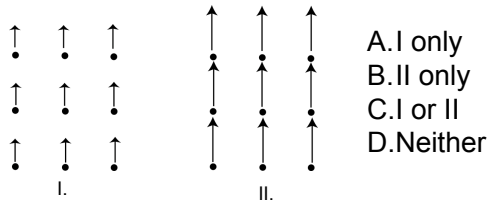
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There is a uniform electric field in a region of empty space (shown at evenly spaced points) Which of the following *could* be a depiction of the electric field in this region of space?



- A. I only
- B. II only
- C. I or II
- D. Neither

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There is a uniform electric field in a region of empty space. What distribution of charges could create such a field?

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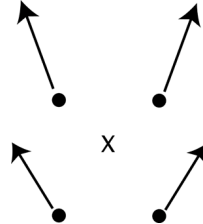
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There is an electric field in a region of empty space (shown below at selected points).

What is the electric field at point x?

- A. Up
- B. Zero
- C. Something else!?




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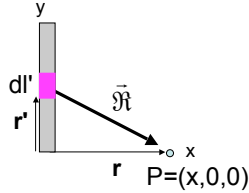
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To find the E- field at P from a thin line (uniform linear charge density  $\lambda$ ):

$$\vec{E} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int \frac{1}{r^2} \hat{r} \lambda dl'$$

what is  $\hat{r}$  ?

- A) x
- B) y'
- C)  $\sqrt{dl'^2 + x^2}$
- D)  $\sqrt{x^2 + y'^2}$
- E) Something *completely* different!!




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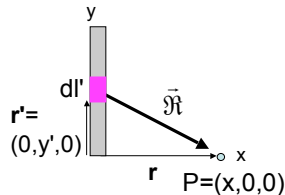
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$$\vec{E}(\vec{r}) = \int \frac{\lambda dl'}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^3} \vec{r}, \text{ so } E_x(x,0,0) = \frac{\lambda}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int \dots$$

- A)  $\int \frac{dy' x}{x^3}$
- B)  $\int \frac{dy' x}{(x^2 + y'^2)^{3/2}}$
- C)  $\int \frac{dy' y'}{x^3}$
- D)  $\int \frac{dy' y'}{(x^2 + y'^2)^{3/2}}$
- E) Something *else*...




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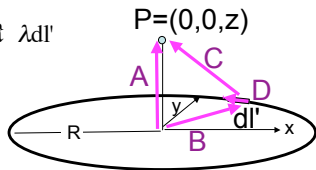
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To find the E- field at P from a thin ring (radius R, uniform linear charge density  $\lambda$ ):

$$\mathbf{E} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int \frac{1}{\mathfrak{R}^2} \hat{\mathfrak{R}} \lambda dl'$$

what is  $\hat{\mathfrak{R}}$  ?



E) NONE of the arrows shown correctly represents  $\hat{\mathfrak{R}}$

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To find the E- field at P from a thin ring (radius R, uniform linear charge density  $\lambda$ ):

$$\mathbf{E} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int \frac{1}{\mathfrak{R}^2} \hat{\mathfrak{R}} \lambda dl'$$

what is  $\mathfrak{R}$  ?

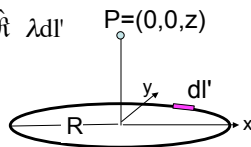
A)  $\sqrt{R^2 + z^2}$

B) R

C)  $\sqrt{dl'^2 + z^2}$

D) z

E) Something *completely* different!!




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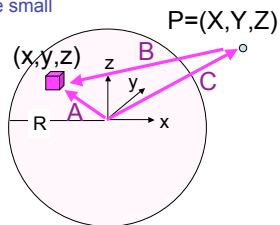
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To find  $\mathbf{E}$  at P from a sphere (radius R, uniform volume charge density  $\rho$ ) using

$$\mathbf{E} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int \frac{1}{\mathfrak{R}^2} \hat{\mathfrak{R}} \rho d\tau'$$

what is  $\hat{\mathfrak{R}}$  (given the small volume element shown)?

D) None of these!!




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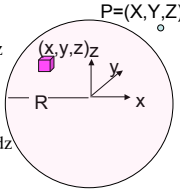
$$\vec{E} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int \frac{1}{r^2} \hat{r} \rho \, d\tau = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \cdot (\dots?)$$

A)  $\int \frac{(X,Y,Z)}{\left((X-x)^2 + (Y-y)^2 + (Z-z)^2\right)^{3/2}} \rho \, dx \, dy \, dz$

B)  $\int \frac{(X,Y,Z)}{\left((X-x)^2 + (Y-y)^2 + (Z-z)^2\right)^{3/2}} \rho \, dx \, dy \, dz$

C)  $\int \frac{(X-x, Y-y, Z-z)}{\left((X-x)^2 + (Y-y)^2 + (Z-z)^2\right)^{3/2}} \rho \, dx \, dy \, dz$

D)  $\int \frac{(X-x, Y-y, Z-z)}{\left((X-x)^2 + (Y-y)^2 + (Z-z)^2\right)^{3/2}} \rho \, dx \, dy \, dz$  E) None of these!!!




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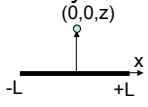
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Griffiths p. 63 finds  $E$  a distance  $z$  from a line segment with charge density  $\lambda$ :

$$\vec{E} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{2\lambda L}{z\sqrt{z^2 + L^2}} \hat{k}$$



What is the approx. form for  $E$ , if  $z \ll L$ ?

$$E = \frac{2\lambda}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \cdot (\dots)$$

A) 0    B) 1    C)  $1/z$     D)  $1/z^2$   
 E) None of these is remotely correct.

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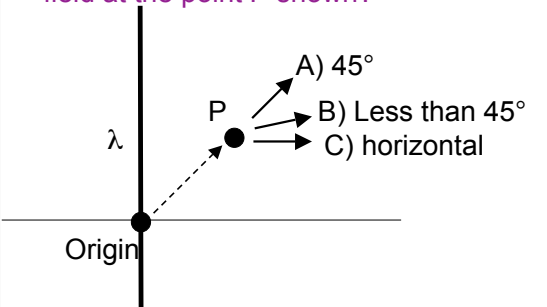
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An infinite rod has uniform charge density  $\lambda$ . What is the direction of the  $E$  field at the point  $P$  shown?



A)  $45^\circ$   
 B) Less than  $45^\circ$   
 C) horizontal

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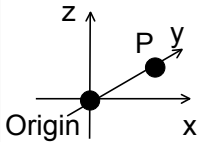
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In spherical coordinates, what would be the correct description of the position vector "r" of the point P shown at (x,y,z) = (0, 2 m, 0)

- A)  $\vec{r} = 2m \hat{r} + \pi \hat{\theta} + \pi/2 \hat{\phi}$
- B)  $\vec{r} = 2m \hat{r} + \pi \hat{\theta} + \pi \hat{\phi}$
- C)  $\vec{r} = 2m \hat{r} + \pi \hat{\theta}$
- D)  $\vec{r} = 2m \hat{r}$
- E) None of these




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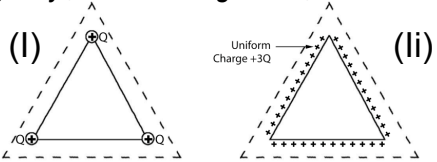
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Which is true about  $|\mathbf{E}|$  at points on the imaginary dashed triangle?



- A.  $|\mathbf{E}|$  is the same everywhere (uniform) in (I) ONLY
- B.  $|\mathbf{E}|$  is uniform in (II) ONLY
- C. Uniform in both, but *different* for cases I and II
- D. Uniform in both, and same for cases I and II.
- E.  $|\mathbf{E}|$  varies from point to point in both cases

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GAUSS' LAW

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Which of the following are vectors?

- (I) Electric field
- (II) Electric flux
- (III) Electric charge

- A) (I) only            B) (I) and (II) only
- C) (I) and (III) only
- D) (II) and (III) only
- E) (I), (II), and (III)

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You have an E field given by  
 $\mathbf{E} = c \mathbf{r}$ , (Here  $c = \text{constant}$ ,  
 $\mathbf{r} = \text{spherical radius vector}$ )

What is the charge density  $\rho(r)$ ?

- A)  $c$     B)  $c r$     C)  $3 c$     D)  $3 c r^2$
- E) None of these is correct

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Given  $\mathbf{E} = c \mathbf{r}$ ,  
( $c = \text{constant}$ ,  $\mathbf{r} = \text{spherical radius vector}$ )  
We just found  $\rho(r) = 3c$ .

What is the total charge  $Q$  enclosed by an  
imaginary sphere centered on the origin,  
of radius  $R$ ?

Hint: Can you find it two DIFFERENT ways?

- A)  $(4/3) \pi c$                       B)  $4 \pi c$
- C)  $(4/3) \pi c R^3$                 D)  $4 \pi c R^3$
- E) None of these is correct

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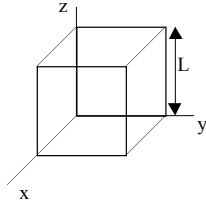
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The space in and around a cubical box (edge length  $L$ ) is filled with a constant uniform electric field,  $\vec{E} = E\hat{y}$ . What is the TOTAL electric flux  $\oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{a}$  through this closed surface?

- A. Zero
- B.  $EL^2$
- C.  $2EL^2$
- D.  $6EL^2$
- E. We don't know  $\rho(r)$ , so can't answer.




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A Gaussian surface which is *not* a sphere has a single charge ( $q$ ) inside it, *not* at the center. There are more charges outside. What can we say about total electric flux through this surface  $\oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{a}$  ?

- A) It is  $q/\epsilon_0$
- B) We know what it is, but it is NOT  $q/\epsilon_0$
- C) Need more info/details to figure it out.

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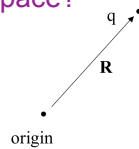
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A point charge ( $q$ ) is located at position  $\mathbf{R}$ , as shown. What is  $\rho(r)$ , the charge density in all space?

- A)  $\rho(\vec{r}) = q\delta^3(\vec{R})$
- B)  $\rho(\vec{r}) = q\delta^3(\vec{r})$
- C)  $\rho(\vec{r}) = q\delta^3(\vec{r} - \vec{R})$
- D)  $\rho(\vec{r}) = q\delta^3(\vec{R} - \vec{r})$
- E) None of these




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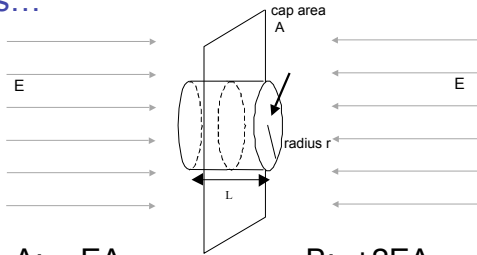
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The flux through the pillbox surface is...



- A:  $-EA$
- B:  $+2EA$
- C:  $(-2A + L\pi r^2)E$
- D:  $L\pi r^2 E$
- E: None of these

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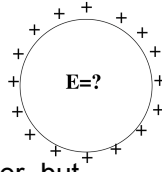
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A spherical *shell* has a uniform positive charge density on its surface. (There are no other charges around)

What is the electric field *inside* the sphere?

- A:  $E=0$  everywhere inside
- B:  $E$  is non-zero everywhere in the sphere
- C:  $E=0$  only at the very center, but non-zero elsewhere inside the sphere.
- D: Not enough info given




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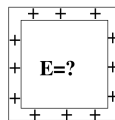
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A cubical non-conducting *shell* has a uniform positive charge density on its surface. (There are no other charges around) What does Gauss' law tell us about the  $E$  field *inside* the cube?

- A:  $E=0$  everywhere inside
- B:  $E$  is non-zero everywhere in the cube
- C:  $E=0$  only at the very center, but non-zero elsewhere inside the cube.
- D: Not enough info given




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The surface of a thin-walled insulating cubical box is given a uniform surface charge. What can be inferred about the  $\mathbf{E}$  field everywhere **INSIDE** the box, using Gauss' Law?

- A)  $|E|$  everywhere is zero
- B)  $|E|$  everywhere must be uniform but non-zero
- C) Direction of  $\mathbf{E}$  everywhere must be radially out from the center of the box
- D) Direction of  $\mathbf{E}$  everywhere must be perpendicular to one of the sides
- E) None of the above

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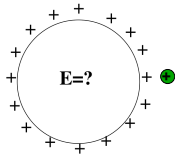
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Now we add a single extra charge  $Q$  just outside the sphere (fixing all the other charges exactly as they were)

What is the electric field *inside* the sphere?

- A: 0 everywhere inside
- B: non-zero everywhere in the sphere
- C: Not enough info given




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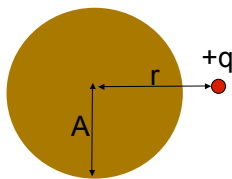
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A point charge  $+q$  sits outside a solid *neutral* copper sphere of radius  $A$ . What is the magnitude of the  $\mathbf{E}$ -field at the center of the sphere?



- A)  $|E| = kq/r^2$
- B)  $|E| = kq/A^2$
- C)  $|E| = kq/(r-A)^2$
- D)  $|E| = 0$
- E) None of these

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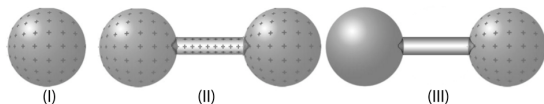
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In which of the following can E (anywhere) be calculated easily from Gauss' Law?



- A. (I) only
- B. (II) only
- C. (I) and (II) only
- D. (I) and (III) only
- E. (I), (II) and (III)

- I. insulating sphere w/ uniform volume charge
- II. insulating dumbbell w/ uniform volume charge
- III. same as (II) but only one sphere charged

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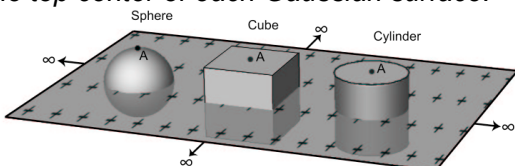
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For which of these Gaussian surfaces will Gauss' law help us to calculate E at point A due to the sheet of charge? Point A is at the top center of each Gaussian surface.



- A) Only the sphere
- B) Only the cylinder
- C) Only the cylinder and the cube
- D) Only the sphere and the cylinder
- E) All surfaces will work

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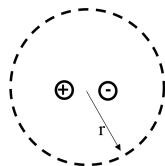
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A dipole sits near the origin. We draw an imaginary Gaussian sphere (radius r) around it.

Gauss' law says:  $\oint_{surf} \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{a} = \frac{Q_{inside}}{\epsilon_0}$

Do we conclude that E=0 everywhere around that sphere?

- A) Yes, E=0 everywhere
- B) No, E is not 0 at all points on that sphere.




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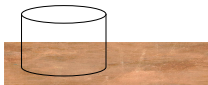
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We have a large copper plate with uniform surface charge density  $\sigma$ . Imagine the Gaussian surface drawn below. Calculate the E-field a distance  $s$  above the conductor surface.



- A)  $|E| = \sigma/\epsilon_0$
- B)  $|E| = \sigma/2\epsilon_0$
- C)  $|E| = \sigma/4\epsilon_0$
- D)  $|E| = (1/4\pi\epsilon_0)(\sigma/s^2)$
- E)  $|E| = 0$

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You have two hollow insulating spheres:  
 (I)  $+6Q$  distributed uniformly on its surface  
 (II) 6 point charges  $+Q$  arranged equidistant from one another on the sphere.

What is true about  $|E|$  INSIDE the spheres?

- A.  $|E|=0$  everywhere in both
- B. non-zero everywhere in both
- C. 0 in (II), but varies in (I)
- D. 0 in (II), but uniform and non-zero in (I)
- E. None of the above

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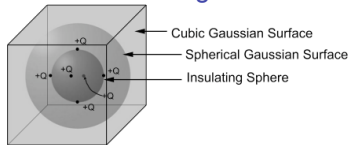
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6 point charges  $+Q$  are put on a hollow insulating sphere. Shown are a spherical and cubic Gaussian surface concentric with the sphere. Which of the following are true?



- (I)  $E$  constant on the cubic Gaussian surface
  - (II)  $E$  constant on the spherical Gaussian surface
  - (III)  $E$  radially outward on spherical Gaussian surface
- A) I only   B) II only   C) III only   D) II+ III only   E) other

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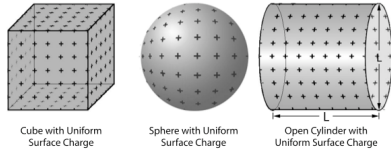
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Three thin-walled insulating objects have net charge  $+Q$  uniformly distributed on their surfaces. We can use Gauss' law to find  $E$  at a point outside due to:



- A) cube only      B) sphere only  
 C) Sphere and cylinder only  
 D) Sphere and cube only  
 E) All three objects

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Which of the following are true?

- (I) If  $\mathbf{E}=\mathbf{0}$  at every point on a Gaussian surface,  $\Phi_E$  through the surface must be zero  
 (II) If there is no charge enclosed inside a Gaussian surface,  $\mathbf{E}$  everywhere on the surface must be zero  
 (III) If  $\Phi_E=0$  through a Gaussian surface,  $\mathbf{E}$  everywhere on the surface must be zero

- A) I only      B) II only      C) I and II only  
 D) I and III only      E) II and III only

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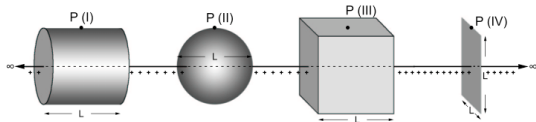
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4 Gaussian surfaces are coaxial with an infinitely long line of charge with uniform  $\lambda$ . Choose all surfaces through which  $\Phi_E = \lambda L / \epsilon_0$



- A) I only      B) I and II only      C) I and III only  
 D) I, II, and III only      E) All four.

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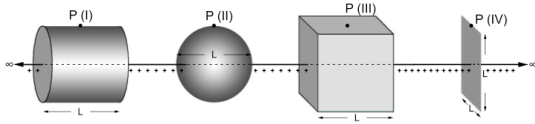
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4 Gaussian surfaces are coaxial with an infinitely long line of charge with uniform  $\lambda$ .  
 Choose all surfaces which can be used to find  $E$  at point P using Gauss' law



- A) I only    B) I and II only    C) I and III only  
 D) I, II, and III only    E) All four.

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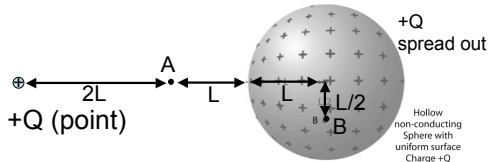
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A point charge  $+Q$  is near a thin hollow insulating sphere (radius  $L$ ) with charge  $+Q$  uniformly distributed on its surface.  
 What is true of  $E$ (point A) and  $E$ (B)?



- A)  $E(A)=0$ ,  $E(B) \neq 0$     B)  $E(A) \neq 0$ ,  $E(B) = 0$   
 C) Both nonzero    D) Both 0    E) ??

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Griffiths

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Griffiths

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POTENTIAL

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The formula for E field is  $\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \iiint \frac{\rho(\mathbf{r}') \hat{\mathfrak{R}}}{\mathfrak{R}^2} d\tau'$   
(with  $\hat{\mathfrak{R}} = \mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}' = (x - x', y - y', z - z')$ )

However, it turns out (check!) that  $\frac{\hat{\mathfrak{R}}}{\mathfrak{R}^2} = -\nabla \frac{1}{|\mathfrak{R}|}$

where  $\nabla = \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \right)$

Question: is the following mathematically ok?

$$\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \iiint \rho(\mathbf{r}') \left( -\nabla \frac{1}{|\mathfrak{R}|} \right) d\tau' = -\nabla \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \iiint \frac{\rho(\mathbf{r}')}{|\mathfrak{R}|} d\tau'$$

A) Yes      B) No      C) ???

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Which of the following electric fields could exist in a finite region of space that contains no charges?

(a)  $Axyz(\hat{i} + \hat{j})$

(b)  $A(2xy\hat{i} - xz\hat{k})$

(c)  $A(xz\hat{i} - xz\hat{j})$

(d)  $A(-xy\hat{j} + xz\hat{k})$

(e)  $A(+xy\hat{j} + xz\hat{k})$

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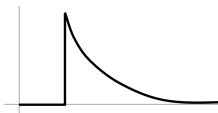
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Could this be a plot of  $|E|(r)$ ? Or  $V(r)$ ?  
(for SOME physical situation?)

A) Could be  $E(r)$ , or  $V(r)$

B) Could be  $E(r)$ , but can't be  $V(r)$

C) Can't be  $E(r)$ , could be  $V(r)$

D) Can't be either      E) ???

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Given a sphere with uniform surface charge density  $\sigma$  what can you say about the potential  $V$  *inside* this sphere? (Assume as usual,  $V(\infty)=0$ )

- A)  $V=0$  everywhere inside
- B)  $V =$  non-zero constant everywhere inside
- C)  $V$  must vary with position, but is zero at the center.
- D) None of these.

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Why is  $\int \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{l} = 0$  in electrostatics?

- a) Because  $\nabla \times \vec{E} = 0$
- b) Because  $E$  is a conservative field
- c) Because the potential between two points is independent of the path
- d) All of the above
- e) NONE of the above - it's not true!

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WORK & ENERGY

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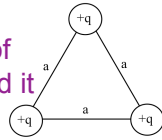
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Three identical charges +q sit on an equilateral triangle.

What would be the final KE of the *top* charge if you released it (keeping the other two fixed)



- A)  $\frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q^2}{a}$       B)  $\frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{2q^2}{3a}$   
 C)  $\frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{2q^2}{a}$       D)  $\frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{3q^2}{a}$   
 E) other/not sure

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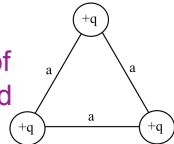
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Three identical charges +q sit on an equilateral triangle.

What would be the final KE of the *top* charge if you released *all three?*



- A)  $\frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q^2}{a}$       B)  $\frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{2q^2}{3a}$   
 C)  $\frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{2q^2}{a}$       D)  $\frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{3q^2}{a}$   
 E) other/not sure

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CONDUCTORS

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CAPACITORS

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Given a pair of very large, flat, conducting capacitor plates (with surface charge densities  $\pm \sigma$ ) what is the E field in the region between the plates?

- A)  $\sigma/2\epsilon_0$
- B)  $\sigma/\epsilon_0$
- C)  $2\sigma/\epsilon_0$
- D)  $4\sigma/\epsilon_0$
- E) Something else/ not determined

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