Electrostatics

$$\vec{F} = q\vec{E} \qquad \text{(electric force on a particle with charge } q\text{)}$$

The electric field at point P due to a small element of charge dq is

$$\mathrm{d}\vec{E} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{\mathrm{d}q}{r^2}\hat{r}$$

where $\vec{r}$ ($= r\hat{r}$) is the displacement vector that points from dq to P.

For any closed surface S,

$$\oint_{\mathrm{S}} \vec{E}\cdot \mathrm{d}\vec{A} = \frac{1}{\epsilon_0}Q_{\text{enclosed by S}} \qquad \text{(Gauss's Law)}$$

Known Electric Field Strengths

$$E = \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2} \qquad \text{(point charge } Q\text{)}$$

$$E = \frac{\lambda}{2\pi\epsilon_0 r} \qquad \text{(infinite line of uniform charge density } \lambda \text{ C/m)}$$

$$E = \frac{\sigma}{2\epsilon_0} \qquad \text{(infinite sheet of uniform charge density } \sigma \text{ C/m}^2\text{)}$$

Electric Potential

$$U = qV \qquad \text{(electrostatic potential energy of a particle with charge } q\text{)}$$

$$V_b - V_a = -\int_{\vec{r}_a}^{\vec{r}_b} \vec{E}\cdot \mathrm{d}\vec{l} \qquad \text{(finding electric potential from electric field)}$$

$$\vec{E} = -\vec{\nabla}V \qquad \text{(finding electric field from electric potential)}$$

The electrostatic potential at point P due to a small element of charge dq, relative to $V(r=\infty)=0$, is

$$\mathrm{d}V = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{\mathrm{d}q}{r}$$

where r is the distance from dq to P.

Capacitance

$$Q = CV \qquad \text{(definition of capacitance)}$$

$$C = \epsilon_0\frac{A}{d} \qquad \text{(for a vacuum- or air-filled parallel-plate capacitor with area } A \text{ and separation } d\text{)}$$

$$U = \frac{1}{2}CV^2 \qquad \text{(energy stored in a capacitor)}$$

Electric Field Energy

Electric fields store energy with a density (J/m^3) of

$$u = \frac{1}{2}\epsilon_0 E^2$$

Dielectrics

$$E = \frac{E_0}{K} \qquad \text{(electric field inside a dielectric material placed in an external field } E_0\text{)}$$

$$C = \epsilon\frac{A}{d} = K\epsilon_0\frac{A}{d} \qquad \text{(for a parallel-plate capacitor filled with a dielectric material)}$$

Current

$$I = \frac{\mathrm{d}q}{\mathrm{d}t} = \int \vec{J}\cdot \mathrm{d}\vec{A} \qquad \text{(definition of current and current density)}$$

For any closed surface S,

$$I_{\text{leaving S}} = \oint_{\text{S}} \vec{J}\cdot \mathrm{d}\vec{A} = -\frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}t}Q_{\text{enclosed by S}} \qquad \text{(continuity equation)}$$

In a non-ideal conductor with conductivity σ (resistivity $\rho = \frac{1}{\sigma}$),

$$\vec{J} = \sigma\vec{E} = \frac{1}{\rho}\vec{E}$$

Resistance

$$V = IR \qquad \text{(definition of resistance)}$$

$$R = \rho\frac{l}{A} \qquad \text{(for a wire with length } l \text{ and cross-sectional area } A\text{)}$$

Circuit Elements

Type	Relationship	Series Combination	Parallel Combination
Resistor	$V = IR$	$R_{\text{eq}} = R_1 + R_2$	$\frac{1}{R_{\text{eq}}} = \frac{1}{R_1} + \frac{1}{R_2}$
Capacitor	$I = C\frac{\mathrm{d}V}{\mathrm{d}t}$	$\frac{1}{C_{\text{eq}}} = \frac{1}{C_1} + \frac{1}{C_2}$	$C_{\text{eq}} = C_1 + C_2$

Math Corner

Vector Calculus

$$\vec{\nabla} = \hat{\imath}\frac{\partial}{\partial x} + \hat{\jmath}\frac{\partial}{\partial y} + \hat{k}\frac{\partial}{\partial z} \qquad \text{(the “del” operator)}$$

$$\vec{\nabla} f = \hat{\imath}\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} + \hat{\jmath}\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} + \hat{k}\frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \qquad \text{(gradient)}$$

Vector Multiplication

$$\vec{A}\cdot\vec{B} = \left|\vec{A}\right|\left|\vec{B}\right|\cos\theta_{A,B} = AB_{\parallel \text{ to A}} = A_{\parallel \text{ to B}}B$$

$$\left|\vec{A}\times\vec{B}\right| = \left|\vec{A}\right|\left|\vec{B}\right|\sin\theta_{A,B} = AB_{\perp \text{ to A}} = A_{\perp \text{ to B}}B$$

Geometry

A sphere of radius R has volume $\frac{4}{3}\pi R^3$ and surface area $4\pi R^2$.

A cylinder of radius R and height h has volume $\pi R^2 h$ and surface area $2\pi Rh + 2\pi R^2$ (the first term is the area around the side, the second term is the area of the top and bottom).

Trigonometry

$\sin^2\theta + \cos^2\theta = 1$ $\qquad$ $\sin^2\theta = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}\cos(2\theta)$ $\qquad$ $\sin 45^\circ = \cos 45^\circ = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$

$\sin(\theta+\phi) = \sin\theta\cos\phi + \cos\theta\sin\phi$ $\qquad$ $\cos^2\theta = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2}\cos(2\theta)$ $\qquad$ $\sin 30^\circ = \cos 60^\circ = \frac{1}{2}$

$\cos(\theta+\phi) = \cos\theta\cos\phi - \sin\theta\sin\phi$ $\qquad$ $\sin(2\theta) = 2\sin\theta\cos\theta$ $\qquad$ $\sin 60^\circ = \cos 30^\circ = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$

Quadratic Formula

If $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$ then $x = \dfrac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$.