

PHYS1022 Summary Sheet 2

Gauss's Law

Chapter 21

Review

- Integration (see Wolfson 9.1 on continuous distribution of matter, and Appendix A)
- Scalar (or dot) product

21.1 Electric field lines

Two ways of visualising electric fields

Point charge, radial to infinity

Distribution of charges, net field

Associate a fixed number of field lines with charge of given magnitude

21.2 Electric flux and field

Closed surfaces

Number of field lines emerging from any closed surface is proportional to net charge enclosed

Outside charges may alter shape of field but have no effect on number of field lines emerging through surface

Calculating electric flux $\Phi_{net} = \oint_s \underline{E} \cdot d\underline{A}$

21.3 Gauss' Law and the concept of imaginary closed surfaces (Gaussian surfaces)

$$\oint_s \underline{E} \cdot d\underline{A} = \frac{Q_{enclosed}}{\epsilon_0}$$

Comparing Gauss and Coulomb

21.4 Calculating \underline{E} from Gauss's Law

Choosing Gaussian surfaces and the need for symmetry

Charged sphere

Spherical shell

Line symmetry and cylindrical symmetry

Sheet of charge

21.5 Fields of arbitrary charge distributions

Using simple approximations from fields we have already found

21.6 Charges on conductors

Electrostatic equilibrium

\underline{E} just outside the surface of a conductor (use Gauss to derive)

Why \underline{E} is zero inside a conductor

Applications