PHYS102 - Gauss's Law.

Dr. Suess

January 31, 2007

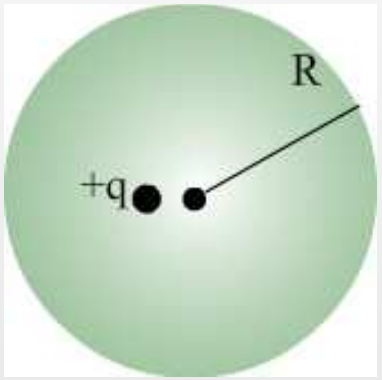
Question #1

PRS Questions
- Question #1
- Answer to Question #1

Gauss's Law

Useful Geometries and Gauss's Law

A charge +q is located inside a sphere of radius R. The charge is NOT at the center of the sphere. According to Gauss's Law, which of the following statement(s) is (are) true



I. The magnitude of the electric field is constant over the surface of the sphere.
II. The electric flux varies over the surface of the sphere.
III. The electric flux is constant.
IV. The electric flux is directly proportional to +q.

1. Only I is correct.
2. Only II is correct.
3. Only III is correct.
4. Only II and IV are correct.
5. Only III and IV are correct.

PRS Questions
- Question #1
- Answer to Question #1

Gauss's Law

Useful Geometries and Gauss's Law

Answer to Question #1

- The electric flux is given by $\Phi = \frac{Q_{enclosed}}{\varepsilon_0}$.

PRS Questions
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Gauss's Law

Useful Geometries and Gauss's Law

Answer to Question #1

- The electric flux is given by $\Phi = \frac{Q_{enclosed}}{\varepsilon_0}$.
- Q is the amount of charge contained inside the closed surface (in this case $Q_{enclosed} = +q$).

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- The answer is 5.

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Answer to Question #1

- The electric flux is given by $\Phi = \frac{Q_{enclosed}}{\varepsilon_0}$.
- Q is the amount of charge contained inside the closed surface (in this case $Q_{enclosed} = +q$).
- Electric flux is constant.
- The answer is 5.
  Note: The magnitude of the electric field over the spherical surface is not constant since the charge is NOT centered with the sphere.

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Gauss's Law - General

PRS Questions

Gauss's Law

- Gauss's Law - General
- Applying Gauss's Law

Useful Geometries and Gauss's Law

$$\Phi = \oint_S \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A} = \frac{Q_{enclosed}}{\varepsilon_0}$$

PRS Questions
Gauss's Law
● Gauss's Law - General
● Applying Gauss's Law
Useful Geometries and Gauss's Law

Gauss's Law - General

$$\Phi = \oint_S \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A} = \frac{Q_{enclosed}}{\varepsilon_0}$$ (GAUSS'S LAW)

PRS Questions
Gauss's Law
● Gauss's Law - General
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Useful Geometries and Gauss's Law

Gauss's Law - General

$$\Phi = \oint_S \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A} = \frac{Q_{enclosed}}{\varepsilon_0}$$ (GAUSS'S LAW)

- The above equation is a very general equation and holds true for any surface.

PRS Questions
Gauss's Law
● Gauss's Law - General
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Gauss's Law - General

$$\Phi = \oint_S \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A} = \frac{Q_{enclosed}}{\varepsilon_0}$$ (GAUSS'S LAW)

- The above equation is a very general equation and holds true for any surface.
- This is an electric flux law

PRS Questions
Gauss's Law
● Gauss's Law - General
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Gauss's Law - General

$$\Phi = \oint_S \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A} = \frac{Q_{enclosed}}{\varepsilon_0}$$ (GAUSS'S LAW)

- The above equation is a very general equation and holds true for any surface.
- This is an electric flux law - NOT AN ELECTRIC FIELD LAW.

PRS Questions
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Gauss's Law - General

$$\Phi = \oint_S \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A} = \frac{Q_{enclosed}}{\varepsilon_0} \qquad \text{(GAUSS'S LAW)}$$

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  - Gauss's Law is always true, but the law is NOT always useful in determining electric fields from charge distributions.

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- The above equation is a very general equation and holds true for any surface.
- This is an electric flux law - NOT AN ELECTRIC FIELD LAW.
  - Gauss's Law is always true, but the law is NOT always useful in determining electric fields from charge distributions.
  - We will examine the only THREE cases where the law is useful in determining the electric field.

PRS Questions

Gauss's Law
- Gauss's Law - General
- Applying Gauss's Law

Useful Geometries and Gauss's Law

Applying Gauss's Law

Consider the figure on the right:

PRS Questions

Gauss's Law

- Gauss's Law - General
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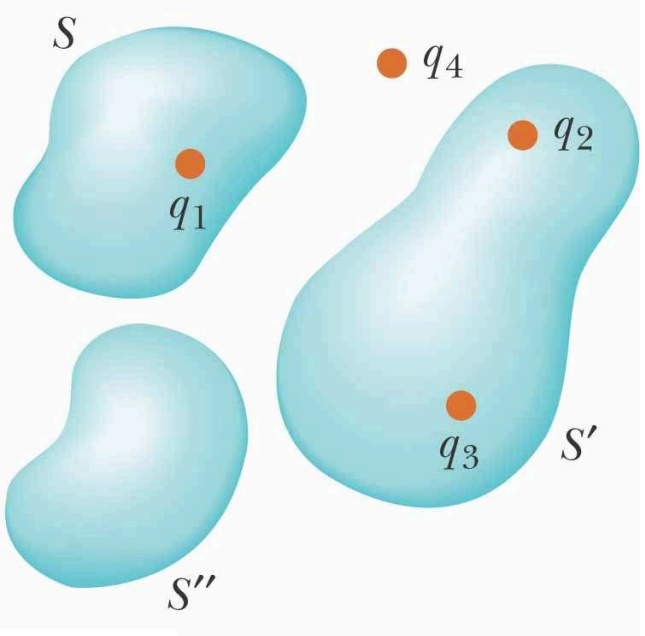
Useful Geometries and Gauss's Law

Applying Gauss's Law

Consider the figure on the right:



PRS Questions

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- Gauss's Law - General
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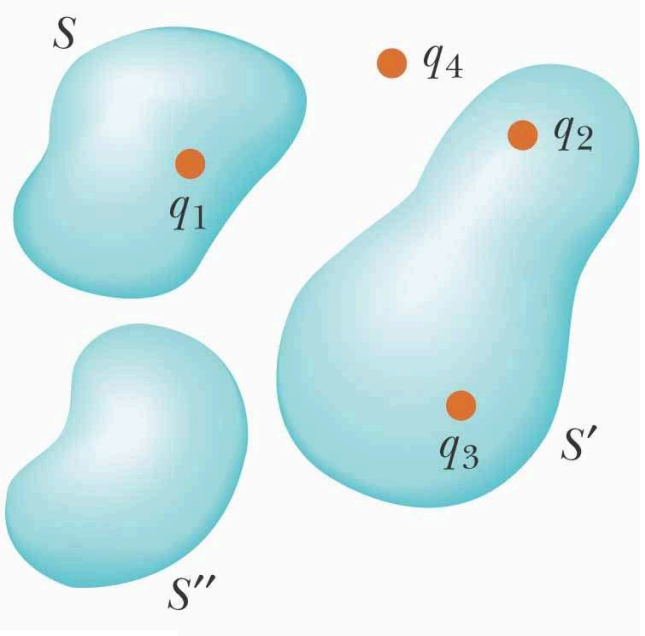
Useful Geometries and Gauss's Law

Applying Gauss's Law

Consider the figure on the right:

- For the arbitrarily shaped surfaces:



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Consider the figure on the right:

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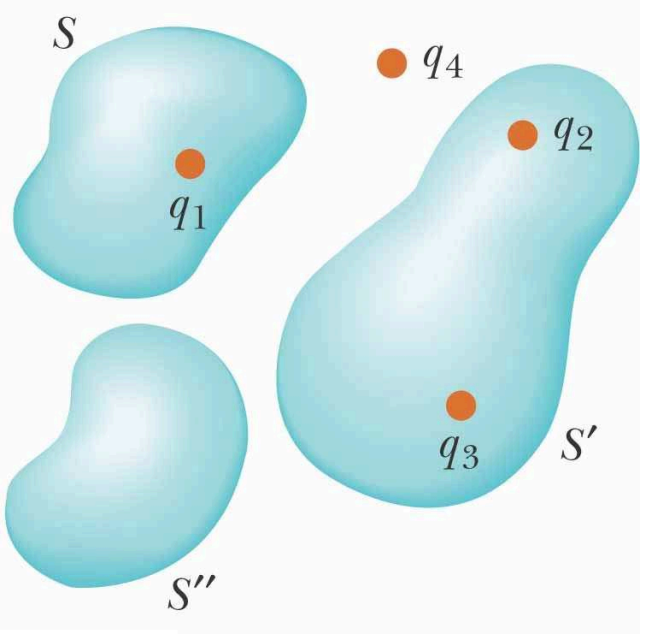

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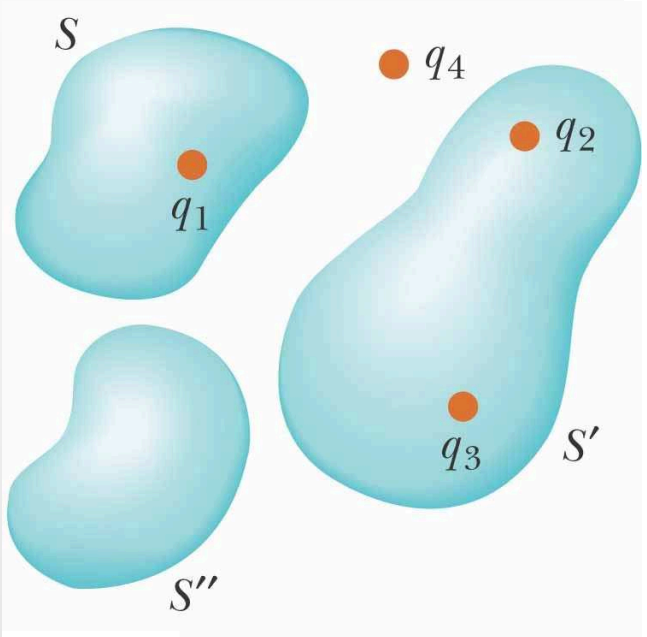
$$\Phi_{S'} = \frac{q_2 + q_3}{\varepsilon_0}$$



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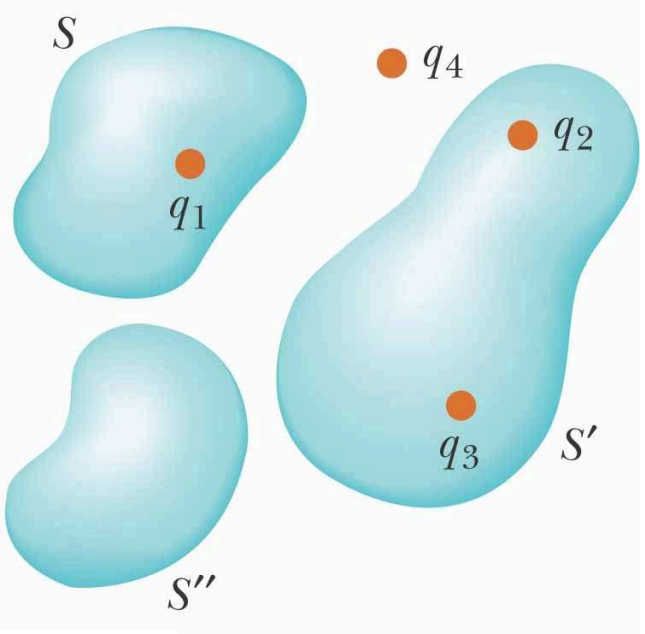

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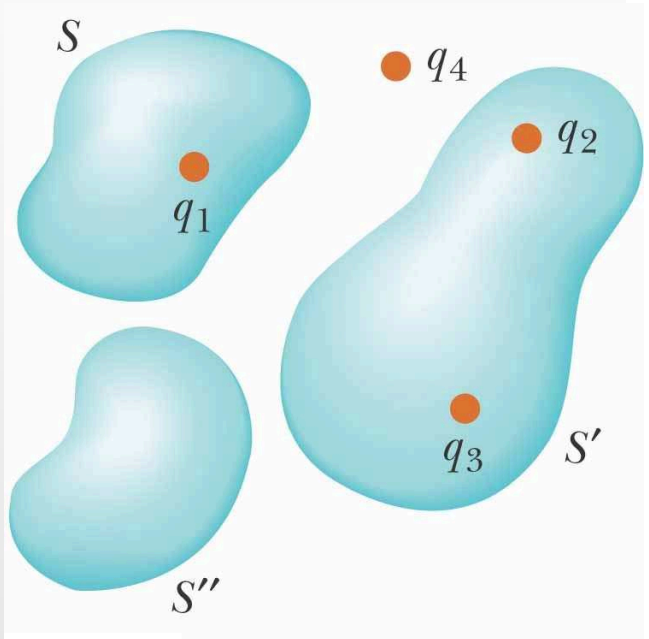

- One CANNOT use Gauss's Law to find the electric field due to the charge configuration.

Spherical Symmetry

PRS Questions

Gauss's Law

Useful Geometries and Gauss's Law

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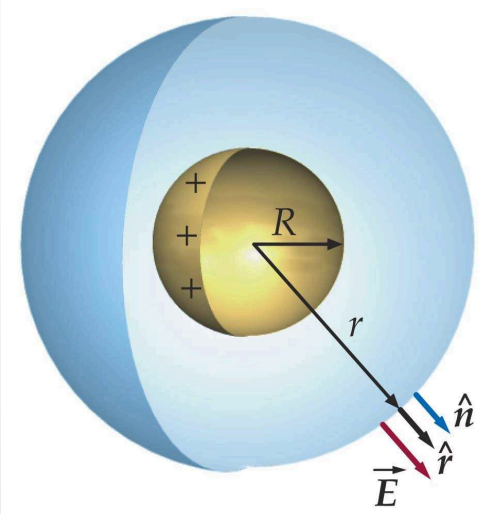

1. Spherical Symmetry.

Spherical Symmetry

PRS Questions

Gauss's Law

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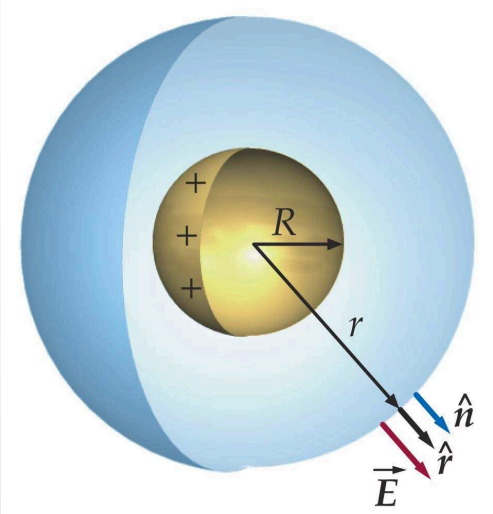

1. Spherical Symmetry.

   - A charge distribution has *spherical symmetry* if the views of it from all points on the spherical surface are the same.

Spherical Symmetry

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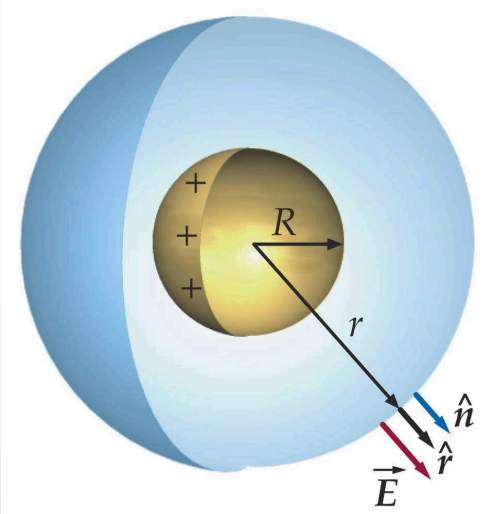

1. Spherical Symmetry.

   - A charge distribution has *spherical symmetry* if the views of it from all points on the spherical surface are the same.
     - Choose a spherical surface of radius r, centered at the charge distribution - such surfaces are called "Gaussian surfaces"

Spherical Symmetry

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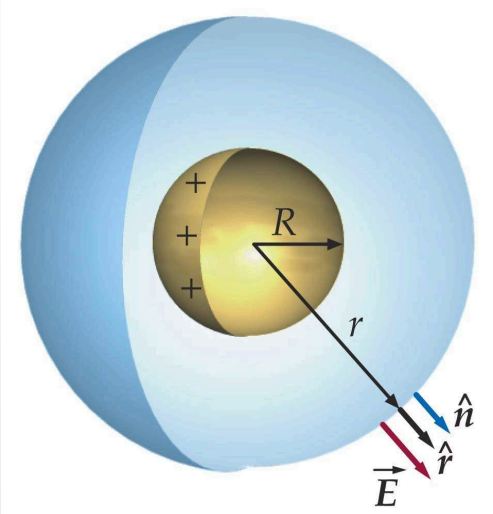

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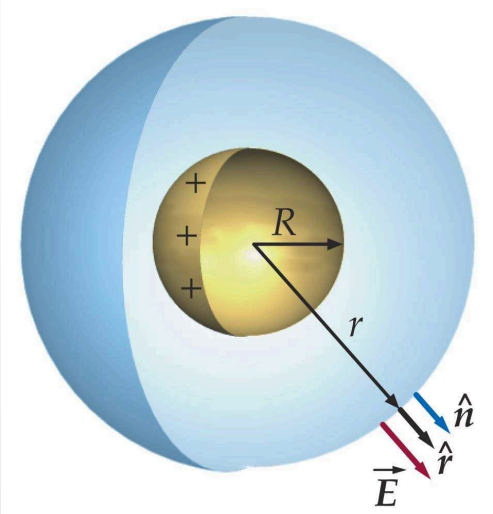

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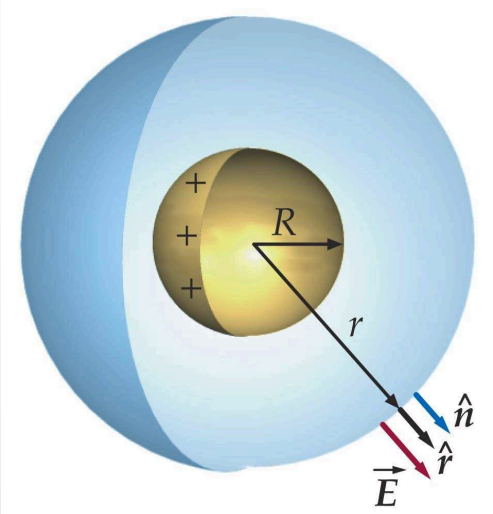

1. Spherical Symmetry.

   - By symmetry, the electric field is directed radially (inward if charge distribution is negative or outward if charge distribution is positive).

Spherical Symmetry

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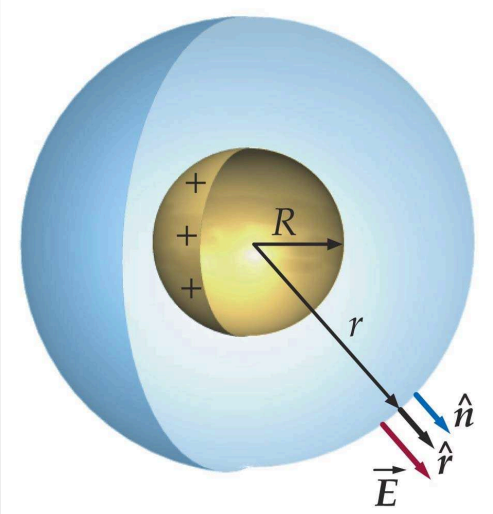

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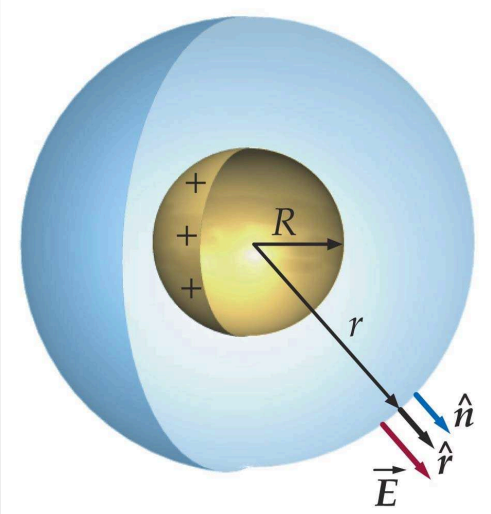

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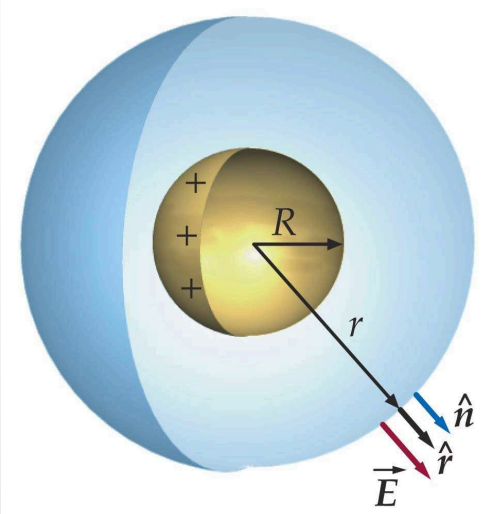

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Plane Symmetry

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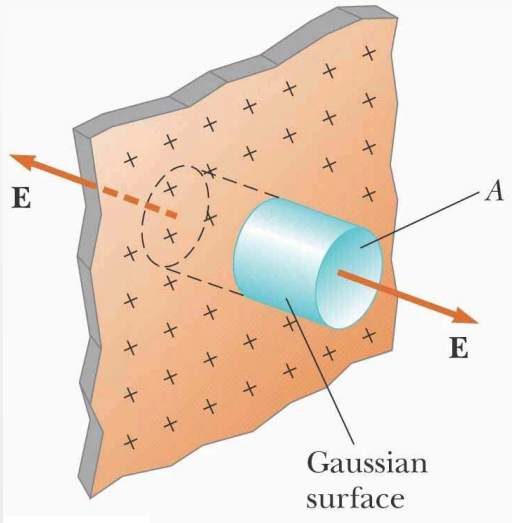

2. Plane Symmetry.

Plane Symmetry

PRS Questions

Gauss's Law

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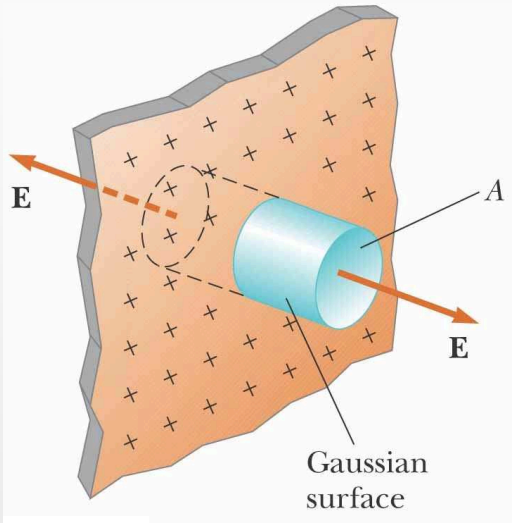

2. Plane Symmetry.

- A charge distribution has *plane symmetry* if the views of it from all points on an infinite (or very long) plain surface are the same.

Plane Symmetry

PRS Questions

Gauss's Law

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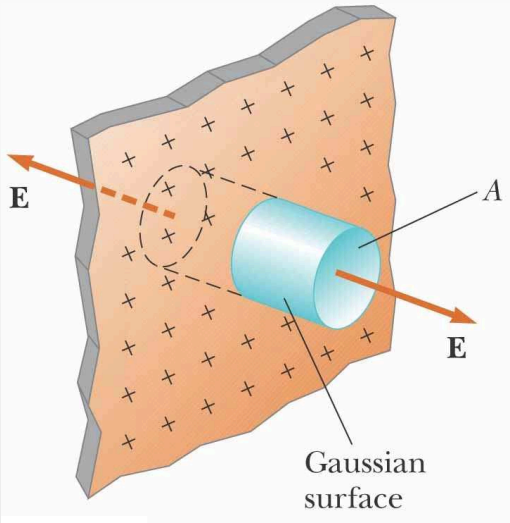

2. Plane Symmetry.

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  - Choose a soup-can shaped cylinder, with the charged plane bisecting the cylinder.

Plane Symmetry

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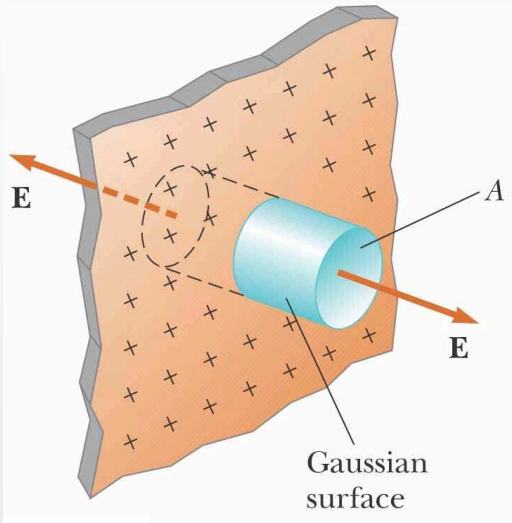

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  - Choose a soup-can shaped cylinder, with the charged plane bisecting the cylinder.
  - The only contributing flux is that due to the flat ends.

Plane Symmetry

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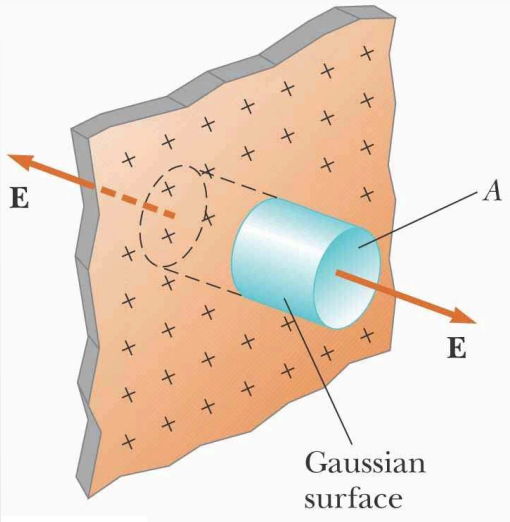

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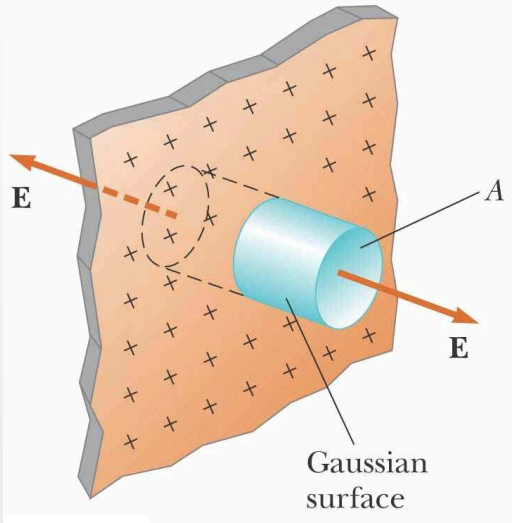

2. Plane Symmetry.

   - By symmetry, the electric field is directed perpendicular (away for positive and toward for negative) to the plane.

Cylindrical Symmetry

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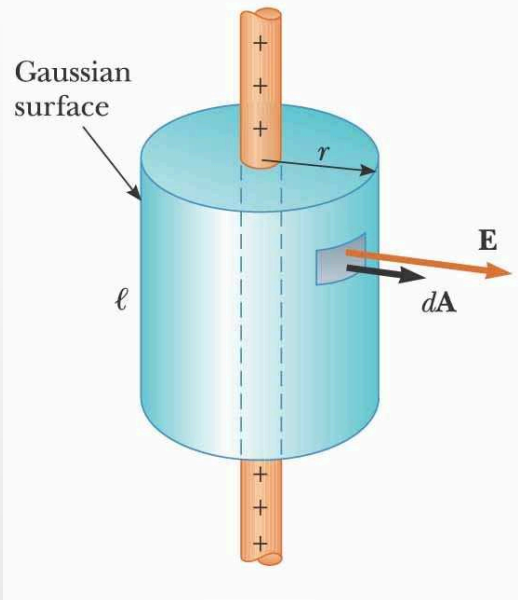

3. Cylindrical Symmetry.

Cylindrical Symmetry

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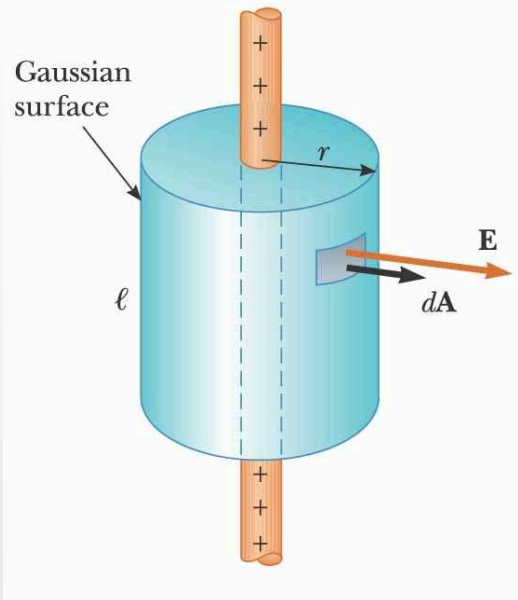

3. Cylindrical Symmetry.

   - A charge distribution has *cylindrical symmetry* if the views of it from all points on a cylindrical surface of infinite (or very long) length are the same.

Cylindrical Symmetry

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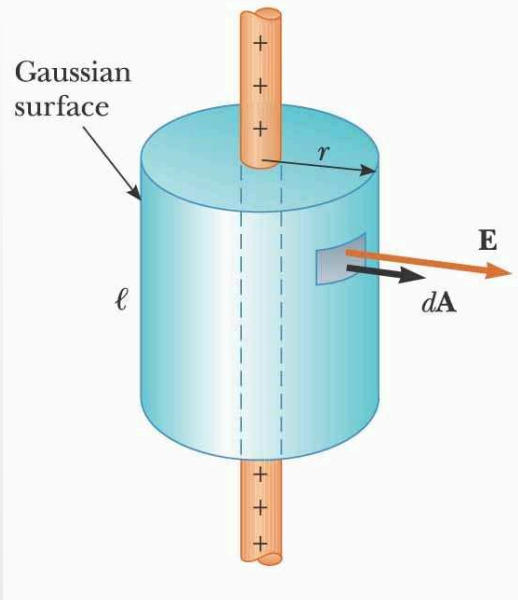

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- A charge distribution has *cylindrical symmetry* if the views of it from all points on a cylindrical surface of infinite (or very long) length are the same.
  - Choose a cylindrical Gaussian surface with the center of the Gaussian cylinder coincident with the cylindrical charge distribution.

Cylindrical Symmetry

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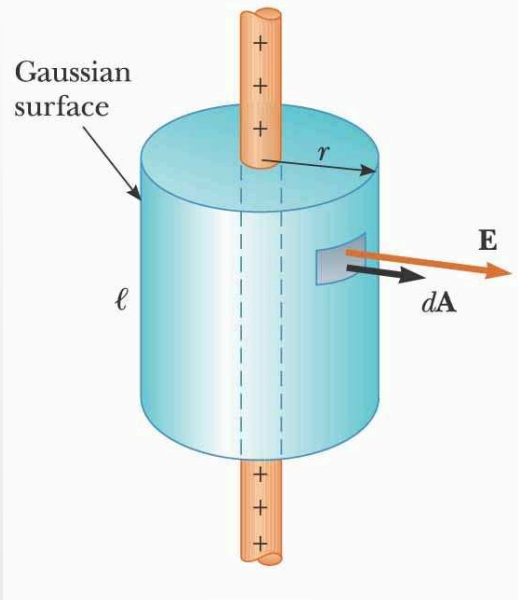

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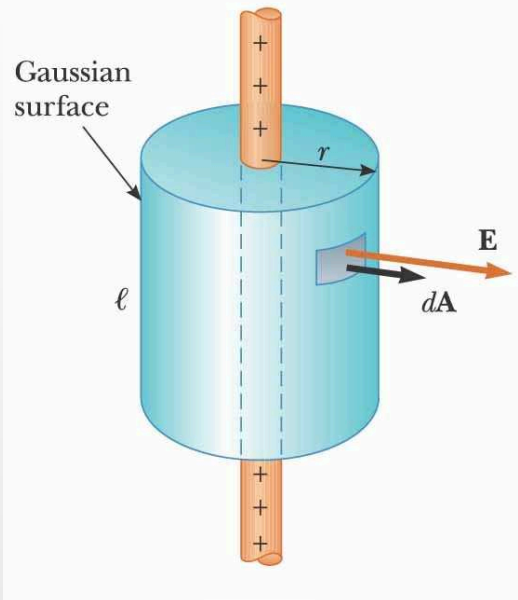

3. Cylindrical Symmetry.

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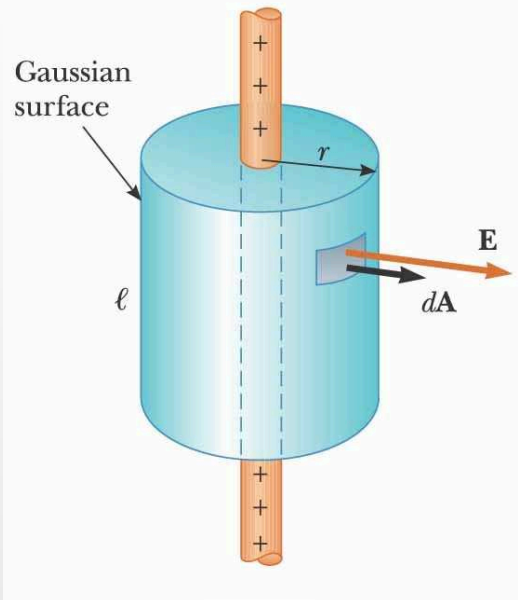
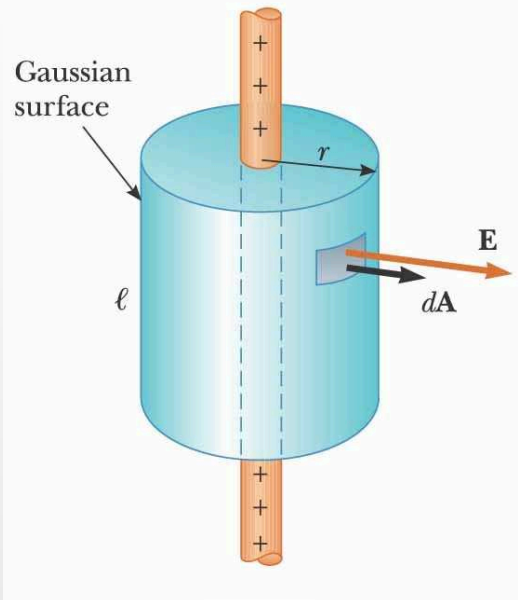


3. Cylindrical Symmetry.

- The only contributing flux is along the curved piece of the cylinder.
- By symmetry, the electric field is directed (away for positive or toward for negative) from the line charge.

Cylindrical Symmetry

PRS Questions
Gauss's Law
Useful Geometries and Gauss's Law
- Spherical Symmetry
- Spherical Symmetry
- Plane Symmetry
- Plane Symmetry
- Cylindrical Symmetry
- Cylindrical Symmetry



3. Cylindrical Symmetry.

- The only contributing flux is along the curved piece of the cylinder.
- By symmetry, the electric field is directed (away for positive or toward for negative) from the line charge.
- The magnitude of E depends only on the radial distance from the line charge.