

PHYS102 - Gauss's Law.

Dr. Suess

January 31, 2007

Question #1

PRS Questions

● Question #1

● Answer to Question #1

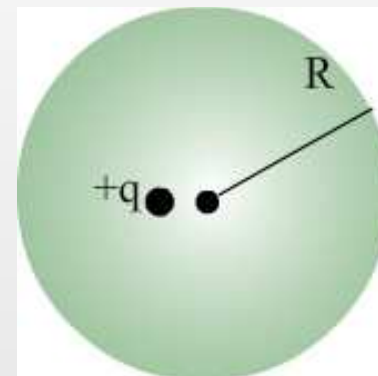
Gauss's Law

Useful Geometries and Gauss's Law

Worked Examples

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.

Answer to Question #1

PRS Questions

- Question #1
- Answer to Question #1

Gauss's Law

Useful Geometries and Gauss's Law

Worked Examples

- The electric flux is given by $\Phi = \frac{Q_{enclosed}}{\epsilon_0}$.

Answer to Question #1

PRS Questions

- Question #1
- Answer to Question #1

Gauss's Law

Useful Geometries and
Gauss's Law

Worked Examples

- The electric flux is given by $\Phi = \frac{Q_{enclosed}}{\epsilon_0}$.
- Q is the amount of charge contained inside the closed surface (in this case $Q_{enclosed} = +q$).

Answer to Question #1

PRS Questions

- Question #1
- Answer to Question #1

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- The electric flux is given by $\Phi = \frac{Q_{enclosed}}{\epsilon_0}$.
- Q is the amount of charge contained inside the closed surface (in this case $Q_{enclosed} = +q$).
- Electric flux is constant.

Answer to Question #1

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- The electric flux is given by $\Phi = \frac{Q_{enclosed}}{\epsilon_0}$.
- 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.

Answer to Question #1

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Gauss's Law

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Worked Examples

- The electric flux is given by $\Phi = \frac{Q_{enclosed}}{\epsilon_0}$.
- 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.

Answer to Question #1

PRS Questions

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Gauss's Law

Useful Geometries and Gauss's Law

Worked Examples

- The electric flux is given by $\Phi = \frac{Q_{enclosed}}{\epsilon_0}$.
- 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**.

Gauss's Law - General

PRS Questions

Gauss's Law

● Gauss's Law -
General

● Applying Gauss's Law

Useful Geometries and
Gauss's Law

Worked Examples

$$\Phi = \oint_S \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A} = \frac{Q_{\text{enclosed}}}{\epsilon_0}$$

Gauss's Law - General

$$\Phi = \oint_S \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A} = \frac{Q_{\text{enclosed}}}{\epsilon_0} \quad (\text{GAUSS'S LAW})$$

PRS Questions

Gauss's Law

● Gauss's Law -
General

● Applying Gauss's Law

Useful Geometries and
Gauss's Law

Worked Examples

Gauss's Law - General

$$\Phi = \oint_S \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A} = \frac{Q_{enclosed}}{\epsilon_0} \quad (\text{GAUSS'S LAW})$$

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

PRS Questions

Gauss's Law

• Gauss's Law -
General

• Applying Gauss's Law

Useful Geometries and
Gauss's Law

Worked Examples

Gauss's Law - General

$$\Phi = \oint_S \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A} = \frac{Q_{enclosed}}{\epsilon_0} \quad \text{(GAUSS'S LAW)}$$

- 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

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General

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Useful Geometries and
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Worked Examples

Gauss's Law - General

$$\Phi = \oint_S \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A} = \frac{Q_{enclosed}}{\epsilon_0} \quad \text{(GAUSS'S LAW)}$$

- 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

Gauss's Law

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General

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Useful Geometries and
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Worked Examples

Gauss's Law - General

$$\Phi = \oint_S \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A} = \frac{Q_{\text{enclosed}}}{\epsilon_0} \quad \text{(GAUSS'S LAW)}$$

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

PRS Questions

Gauss's Law

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General

● Applying Gauss's Law

Useful Geometries and
Gauss's Law

Worked Examples

Gauss's Law - General

$$\Phi = \oint_S \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A} = \frac{Q_{\text{enclosed}}}{\epsilon_0} \quad \text{(GAUSS'S LAW)}$$

- 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**.
 - 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

Worked Examples

Applying Gauss's Law

Consider the figure on the right:

PRS Questions

Gauss's Law

● Gauss's Law -
General

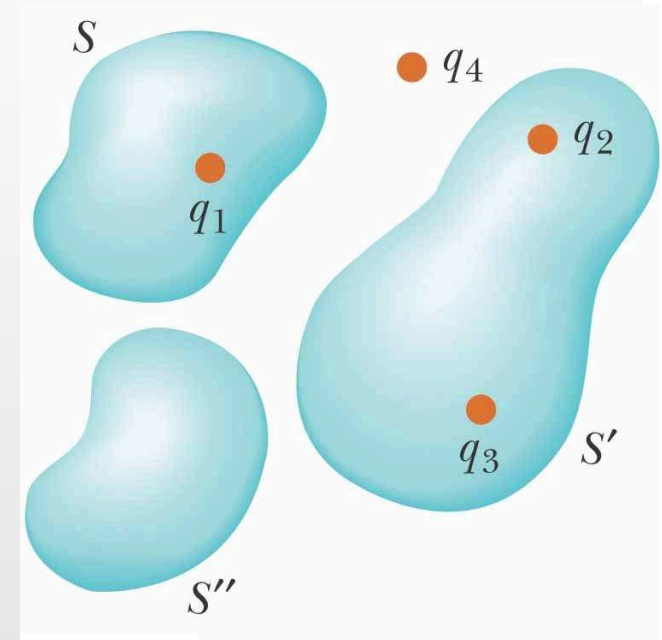
● **Applying Gauss's Law**

Useful Geometries and
Gauss's Law

Worked Examples

Applying Gauss's Law

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PRS Questions

Gauss's Law

● Gauss's Law -
General

● **Applying Gauss's Law**

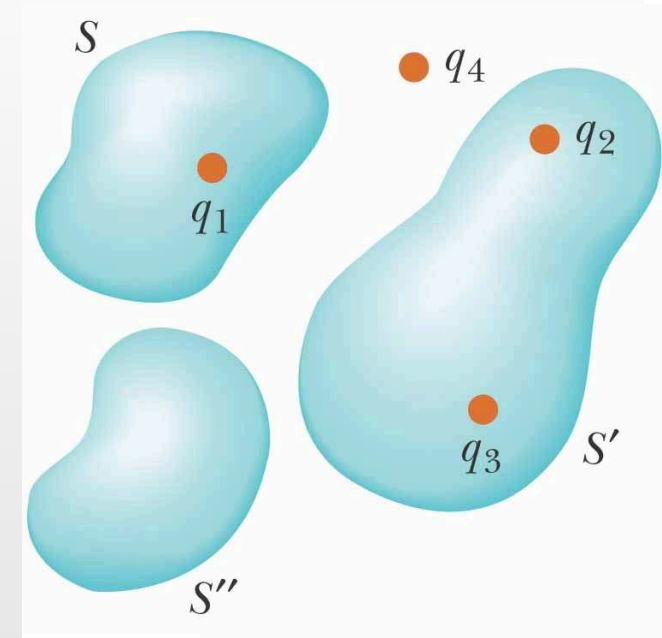
Useful Geometries and
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Worked Examples

Applying Gauss's Law

Consider the figure on the right:

- For the arbitrarily shaped surfaces:



PRS Questions

Gauss's Law

• Gauss's Law -
General

• **Applying Gauss's Law**

Useful Geometries and
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Worked Examples

Applying Gauss's Law

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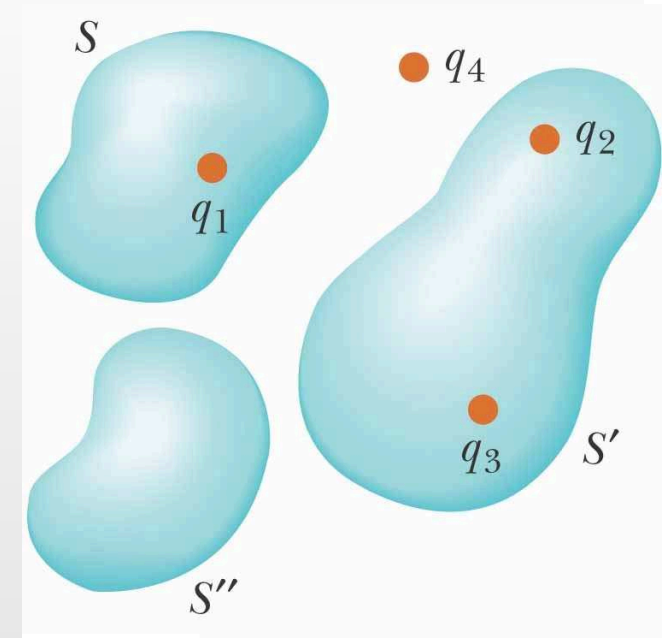
Useful Geometries and
Gauss's Law

Worked Examples

Consider the figure on the right:

- For the arbitrarily shaped sur-
faces:

$$\Phi_S = \frac{Q_{\text{enclosed}}}{\epsilon_0} = \frac{q_1}{\epsilon_0}$$



Applying Gauss's Law

PRS Questions

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● Gauss's Law -
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● **Applying Gauss's Law**

Useful Geometries and
Gauss's Law

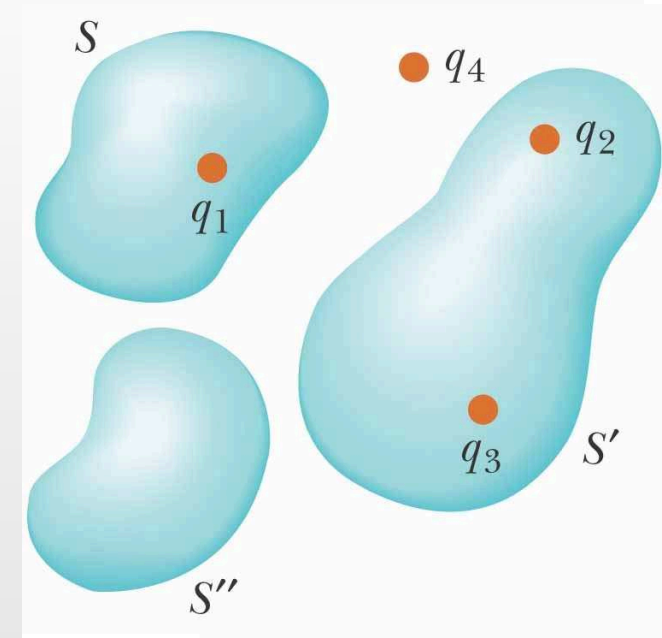
Worked Examples

Consider the figure on the right:

- For the arbitrarily shaped surfaces:

$$\Phi_S = \frac{Q_{\text{enclosed}}}{\epsilon_0} = \frac{q_1}{\epsilon_0}$$

$$\Phi_{S'} = \frac{q_2 + q_3}{\epsilon_0}$$



Applying Gauss's Law

PRS Questions

Gauss's Law

• Gauss's Law -
General

• **Applying Gauss's Law**

Useful Geometries and
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Worked Examples

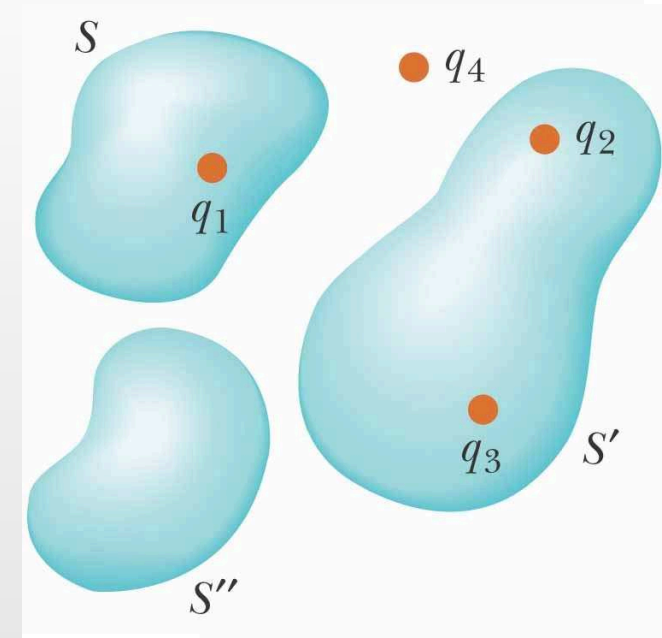
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$$\Phi_{S'} = \frac{q_2 + q_3}{\epsilon_0}$$

$$\Phi_{S''} = 0$$



Applying Gauss's Law

PRS Questions

Gauss's Law

- Gauss's Law - General

- **Applying Gauss's Law**

Useful Geometries and Gauss's Law

Worked Examples

Consider the figure on the right:

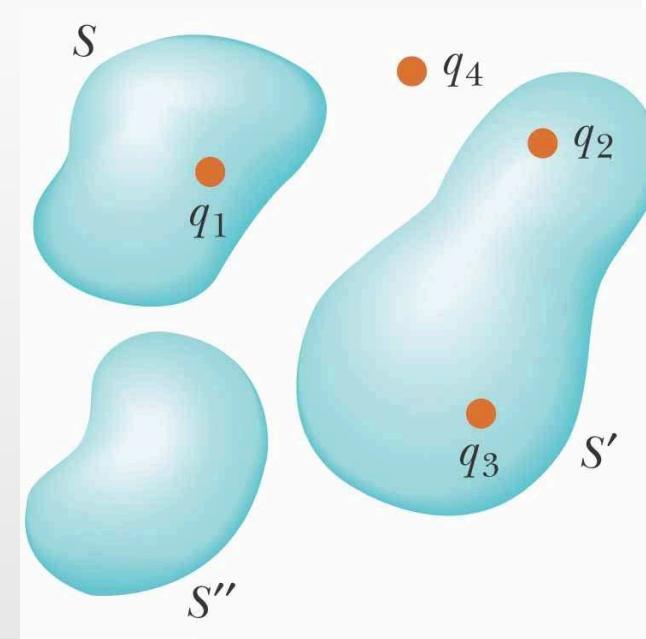
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$$\Phi_{S''} = 0$$

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



Spherical Symmetry

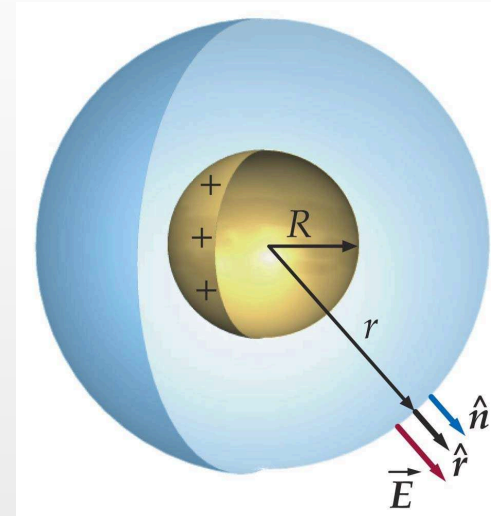
PRS Questions

Gauss's Law

Useful Geometries and
Gauss's Law

- **Spherical Symmetry**
- Spherical Symmetry
- Plane Symmetry
- Plane Symmetry
- Cylindrical Symmetry
- Cylindrical Symmetry

Worked Examples



1. Spherical Symmetry.

Spherical Symmetry

PRS Questions

Gauss's Law

Useful Geometries and
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● Spherical Symmetry

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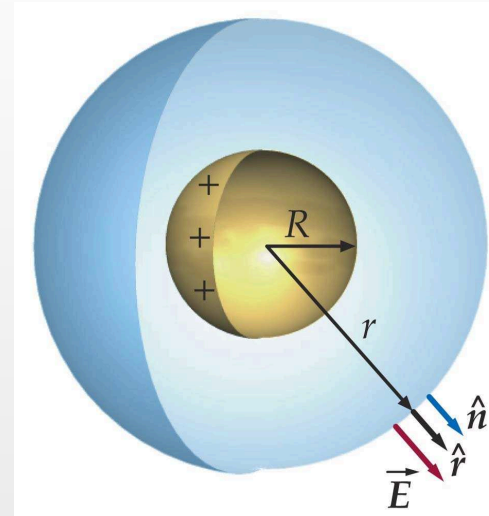
● Plane Symmetry

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Worked Examples



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

PRS Questions

Gauss's Law

Useful Geometries and
Gauss's Law

● Spherical Symmetry

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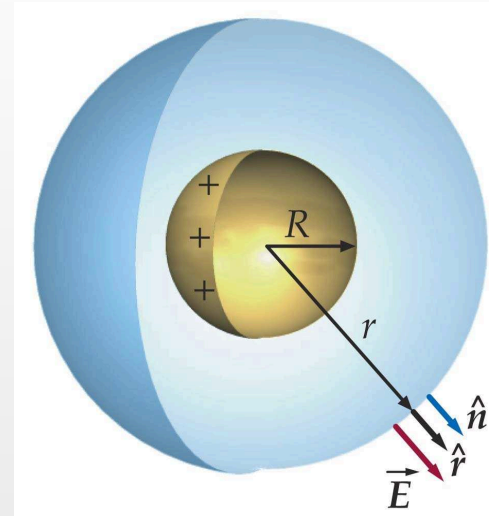
● Plane Symmetry

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● Cylindrical Symmetry

Worked Examples



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

PRS Questions

Gauss's Law

Useful Geometries and
Gauss's Law

● Spherical Symmetry

● Spherical Symmetry

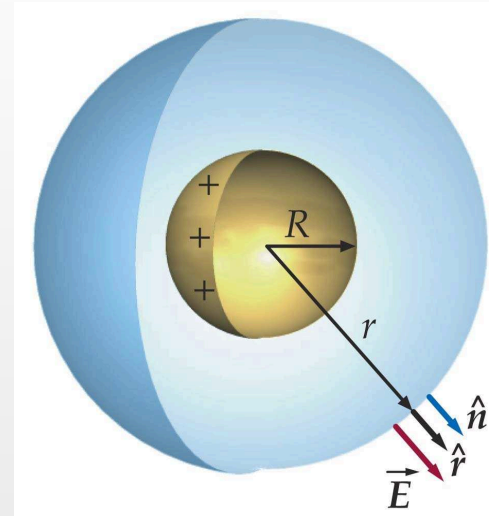
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Spherical Symmetry

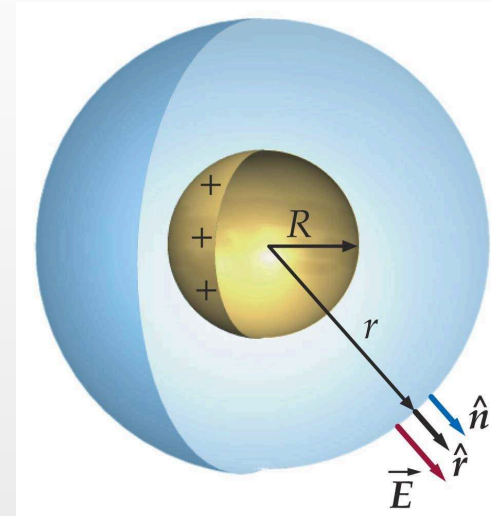
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Worked Examples



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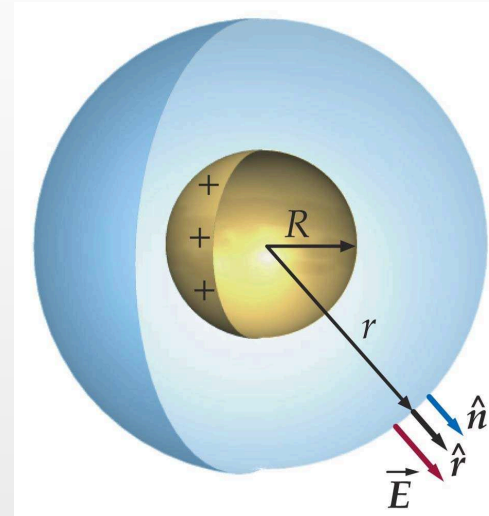
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Worked Examples



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

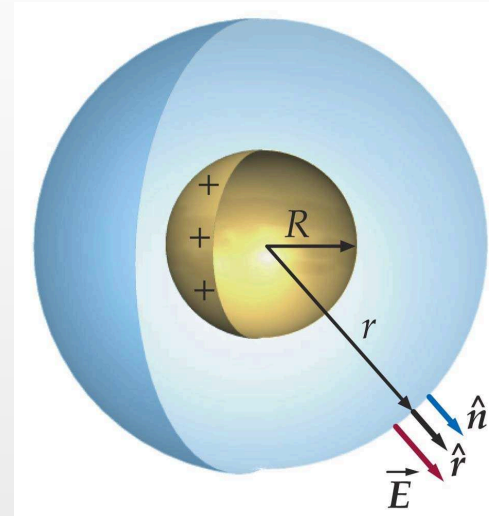
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Worked Examples



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

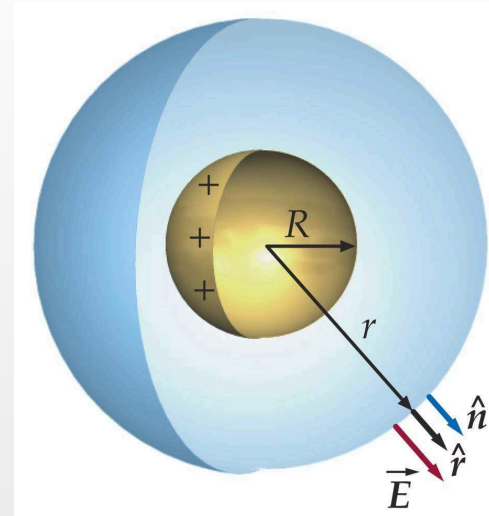
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Worked Examples



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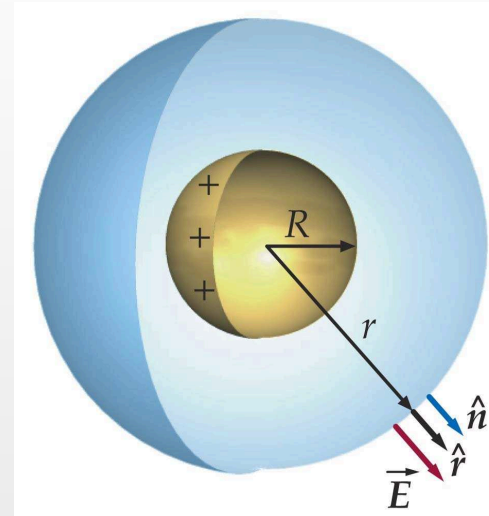
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Worked Examples



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

Plane Symmetry

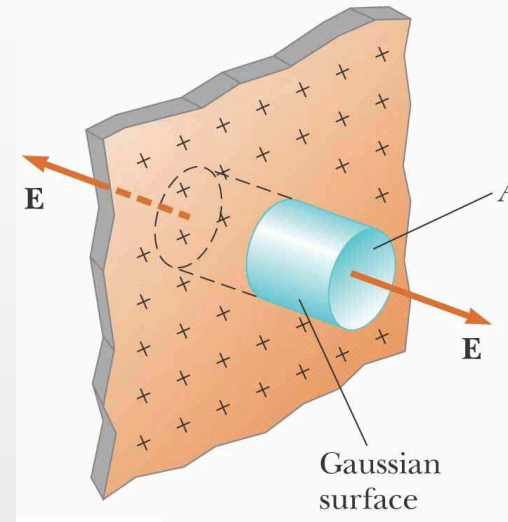
PRS Questions

Gauss's Law

Useful Geometries and Gauss's Law

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- Spherical Symmetry
- **Plane Symmetry**
- Plane Symmetry
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- Cylindrical Symmetry

Worked Examples



2. Plane Symmetry.

Plane Symmetry

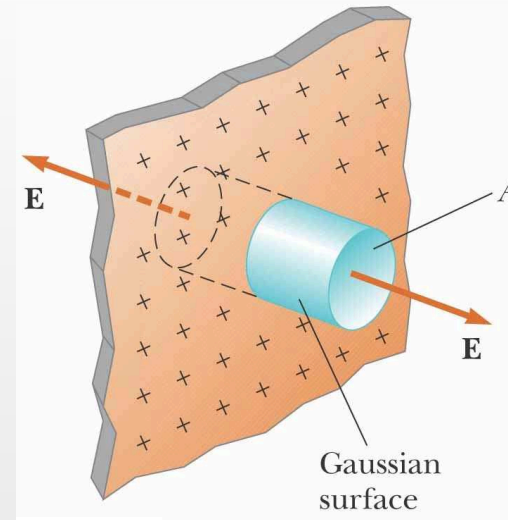
PRS Questions

Gauss's Law

Useful Geometries and Gauss's Law

- Spherical Symmetry
- Spherical Symmetry
- **Plane Symmetry**
- Plane Symmetry
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- Cylindrical Symmetry

Worked Examples



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

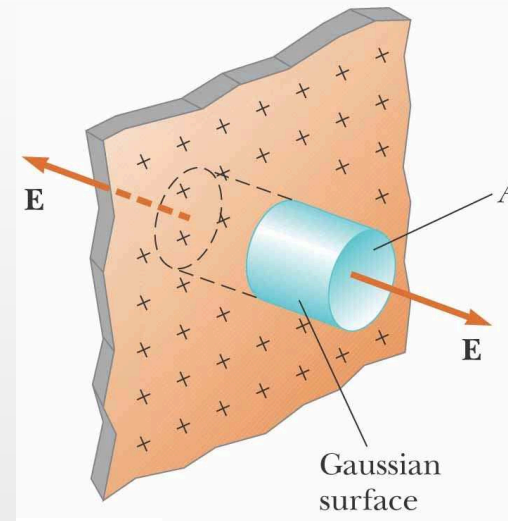
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Gauss's Law

Useful Geometries and Gauss's Law

- Spherical Symmetry
- Spherical Symmetry
- **Plane Symmetry**
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Worked Examples



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

Plane Symmetry

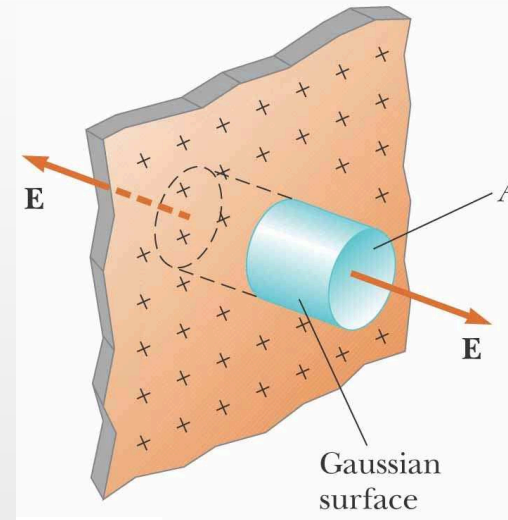
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Gauss's Law

Useful Geometries and Gauss's Law

- Spherical Symmetry
- Spherical Symmetry
- **Plane Symmetry**
- Plane Symmetry
- Cylindrical Symmetry
- Cylindrical Symmetry

Worked Examples



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.
 - 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

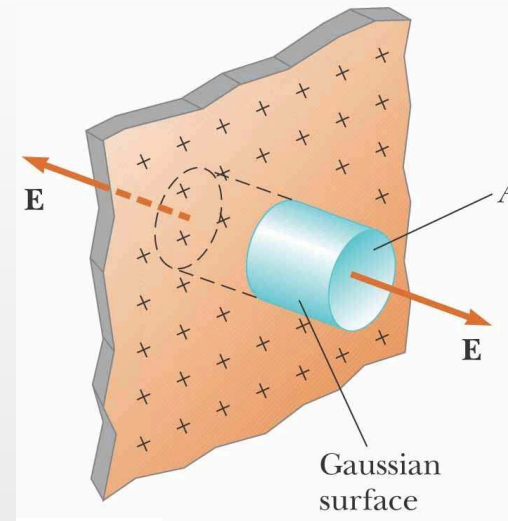
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Useful Geometries and Gauss's Law

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Worked Examples



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Plane Symmetry

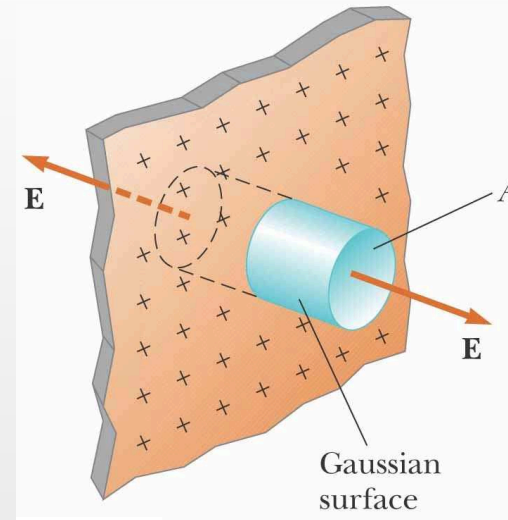
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Useful Geometries and Gauss's Law

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- Cylindrical Symmetry

Worked Examples



2. Plane Symmetry.

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

Cylindrical Symmetry

PRS Questions

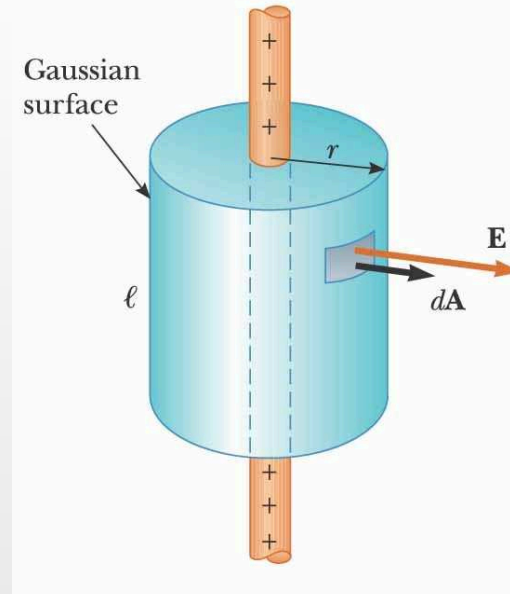
Gauss's Law

Useful Geometries and Gauss's Law

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Worked Examples

3. Cylindrical Symmetry.



Cylindrical Symmetry

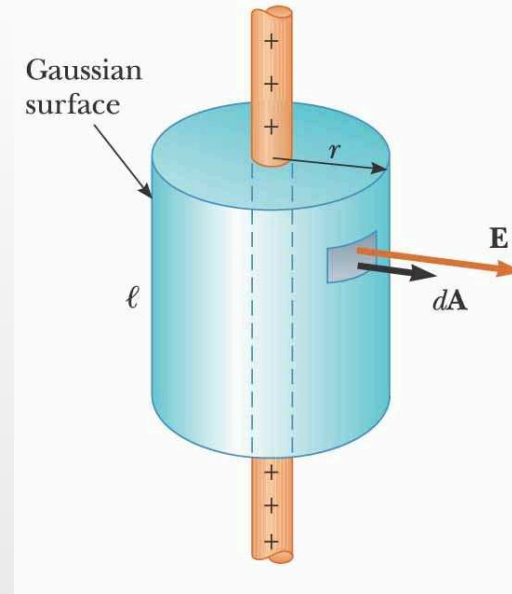
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Useful Geometries and
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- Spherical Symmetry
- Spherical Symmetry
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- Plane Symmetry
- **Cylindrical Symmetry**
- Cylindrical Symmetry

Worked Examples



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

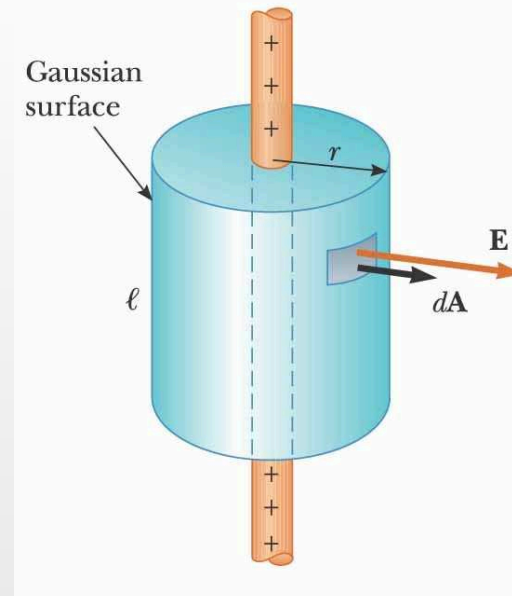
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Useful Geometries and Gauss's Law

- Spherical Symmetry
- Spherical Symmetry
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- Plane Symmetry
- **Cylindrical Symmetry**
- Cylindrical Symmetry

Worked Examples



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.
 - Choose a cylindrical Gaussian surface with the center of the Gaussian cylinder coincident with the cylindrical charge distribution.

Cylindrical Symmetry

PRS Questions

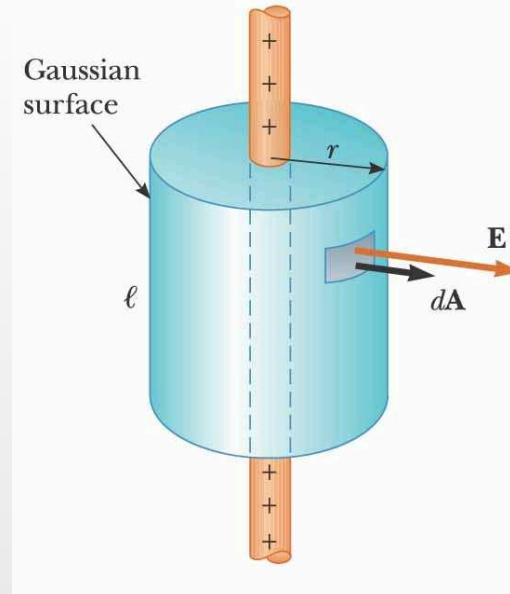
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Worked Examples

3. Cylindrical Symmetry.



Cylindrical Symmetry

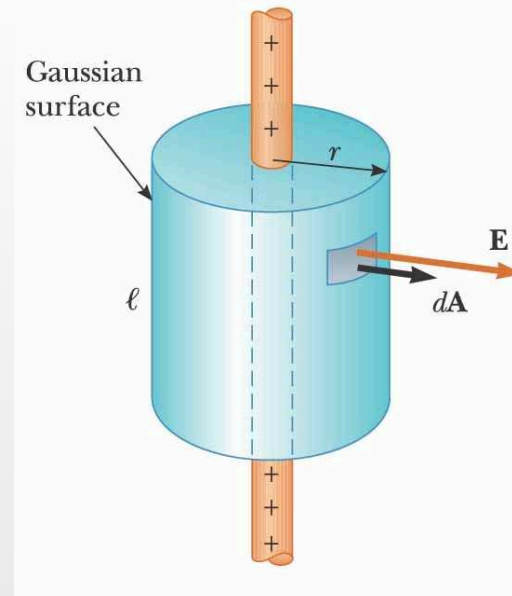
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- **Cylindrical Symmetry**

Worked Examples



3. Cylindrical Symmetry.

- The only contributing flux is along the curved piece of the cylinder.

Cylindrical Symmetry

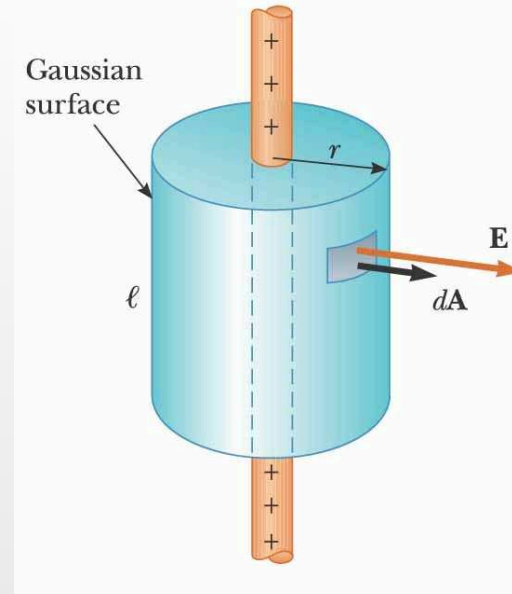
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- Spherical Symmetry
- Spherical Symmetry
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- **Cylindrical Symmetry**

Worked Examples



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

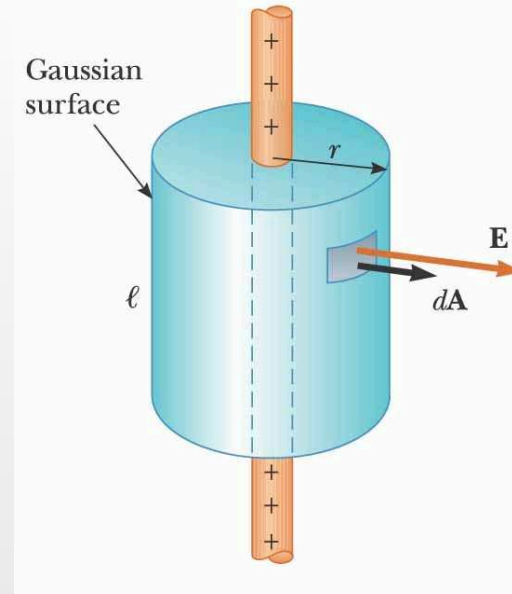
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- Cylindrical Symmetry

Worked Examples



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.

Spherical Symmetry - Problem

PRS Questions

Gauss's Law

Useful Geometries and
Gauss's Law

Worked Examples

● Spherical Symmetry -
Problem

● Spherical Symmetry -
Problem II

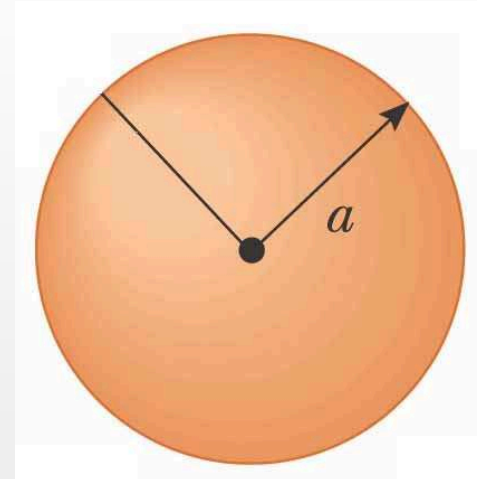
● Spherical Symmetry -
Problem III

● Spherical Symmetry -
Problem IV

● Cylindrical Symmetry
- Problem

● Cylindrical Symmetry
- Problem II

● Conductors



Problem: The volume charge density inside a solid sphere of radius a is given by $\rho = \rho_0 r / a$, where ρ_0 is a constant. Find

Spherical Symmetry - Problem

PRS Questions

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Useful Geometries and
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Worked Examples

● Spherical Symmetry -
Problem

● Spherical Symmetry -
Problem II

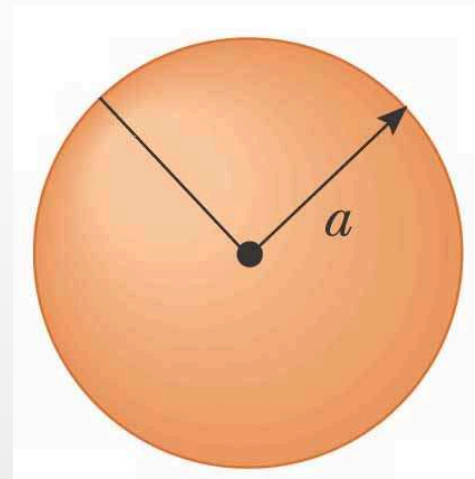
● Spherical Symmetry -
Problem III

● Spherical Symmetry -
Problem IV

● Cylindrical Symmetry
- Problem

● Cylindrical Symmetry
- Problem II

● Conductors



Problem: The volume charge density inside a solid sphere of radius a is given by $\rho = \rho_0 r / a$, where ρ_0 is a constant. Find

(a). the total charge.

Spherical Symmetry - Problem

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● Spherical Symmetry -
Problem

● Spherical Symmetry -
Problem II

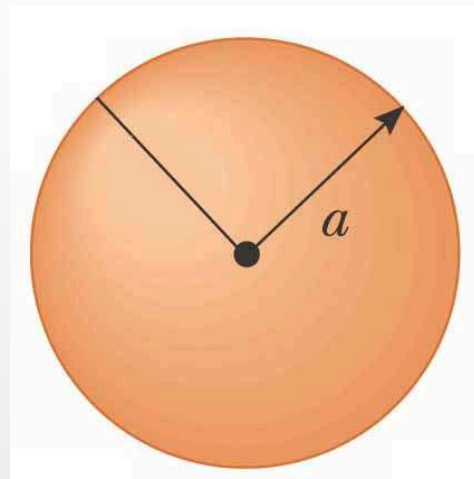
● Spherical Symmetry -
Problem III

● Spherical Symmetry -
Problem IV

● Cylindrical Symmetry
- Problem

● Cylindrical Symmetry
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● Conductors



Problem: The volume charge density inside a solid sphere of radius a is given by $\rho = \rho_0 r/a$, where ρ_0 is a constant. Find

(a). the total charge.

(b). the electric field strength for $r > a$ and $r < a$.

Spherical Symmetry - Problem II

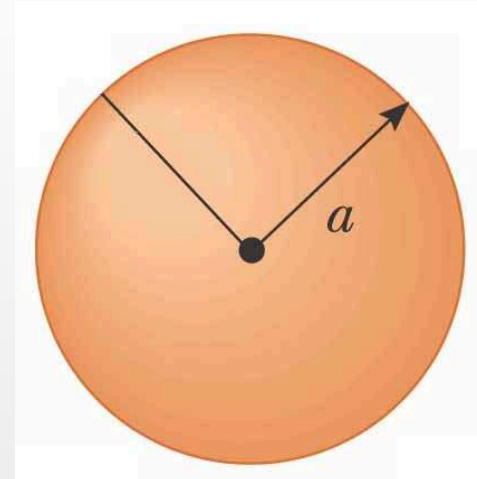
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Worked Examples

- Spherical Symmetry - Problem
- **Spherical Symmetry - Problem II**
- Spherical Symmetry - Problem III
- Spherical Symmetry - Problem IV
- Cylindrical Symmetry - Problem
- Cylindrical Symmetry - Problem II
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(a). to find the total charge:

Spherical Symmetry - Problem II

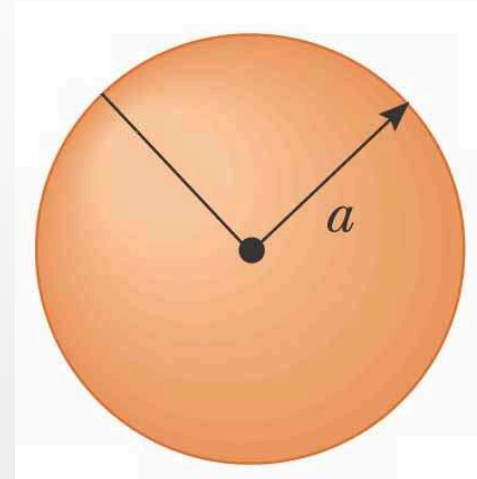
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- Spherical Symmetry - Problem
- **Spherical Symmetry - Problem II**
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- Cylindrical Symmetry - Problem
- Cylindrical Symmetry - Problem II
- Conductors



(a). to find the total charge:

$$dq = \rho dV$$

Spherical Symmetry - Problem II

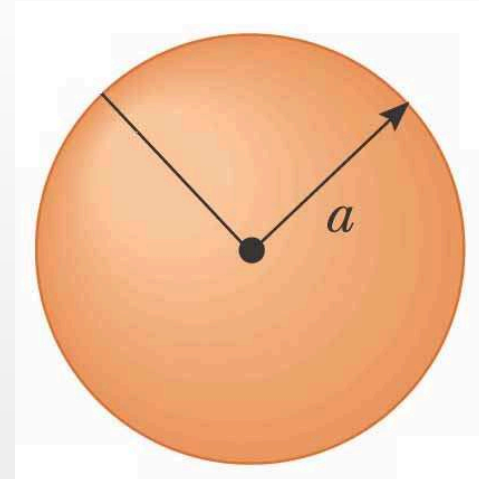
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- Spherical Symmetry - Problem
- **Spherical Symmetry - Problem II**
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- Cylindrical Symmetry - Problem
- Cylindrical Symmetry - Problem II
- Conductors



(a). to find the total charge:

$$dq = \rho dV$$

$$Q = \int_0^a \rho dV = \int_0^a \frac{\rho_0 r}{a} 4\pi r^2 dr$$

Spherical Symmetry - Problem II

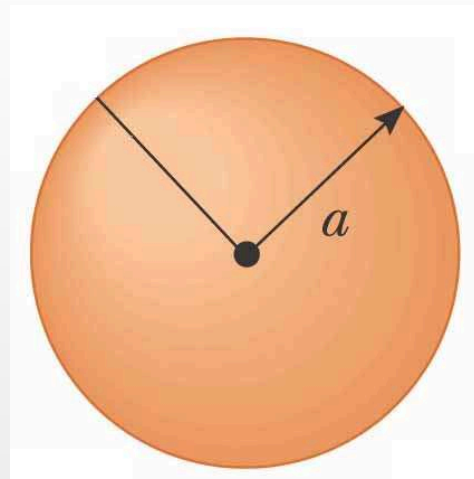
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- Spherical Symmetry - Problem
- **Spherical Symmetry - Problem II**
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- Cylindrical Symmetry - Problem II
- Conductors



(a). to find the total charge:

$$dq = \rho dV$$

$$Q = \int_0^a \rho dV = \int_0^a \frac{\rho_0 r}{a} 4\pi r^2 dr$$

$$Q = \rho_0 \pi a^3$$

Spherical Symmetry - Problem III

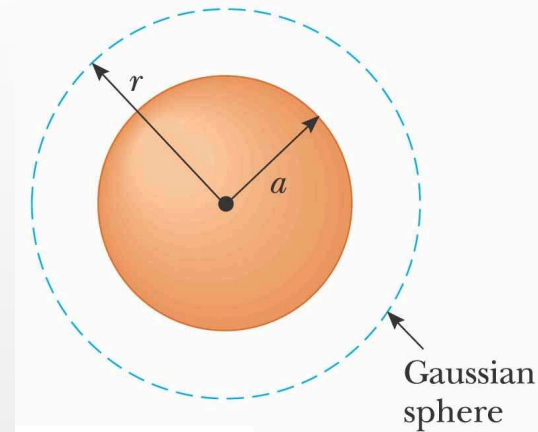
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- Spherical Symmetry - Problem
- Spherical Symmetry - Problem II
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- Spherical Symmetry - Problem IV
- Cylindrical Symmetry - Problem
- Cylindrical Symmetry - Problem II
- Conductors



(b). To find the electric field ($r > a$) first construct a Gaussian surface as shown above and note that the magnitude of the electric field is constant over the sphere.

Spherical Symmetry - Problem III

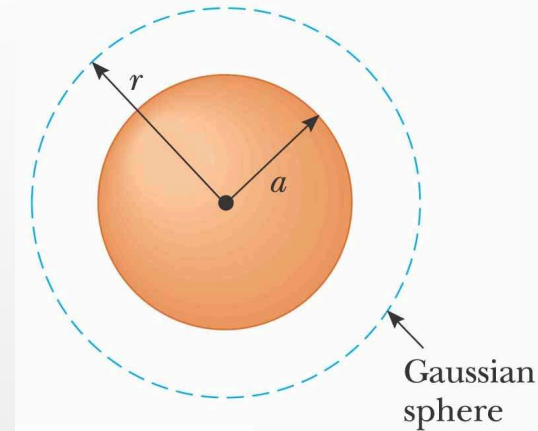
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$$\Phi = \oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A}$$

Spherical Symmetry - Problem III

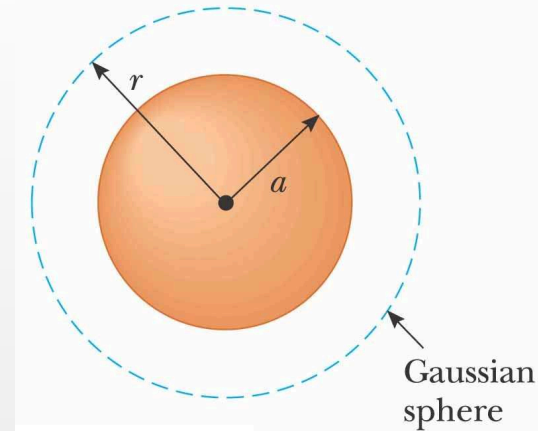
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$$\Phi = \oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A} = E \oint dA$$

Spherical Symmetry - Problem III

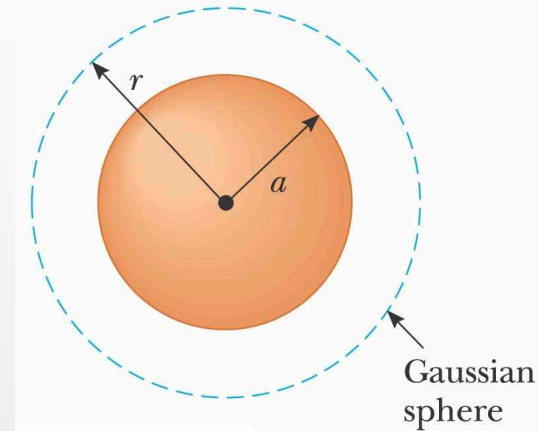
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$$\Phi = \oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A} = E \oint dA = \frac{Q_{\text{enclosed}}}{\epsilon_0}$$

Spherical Symmetry - Problem III

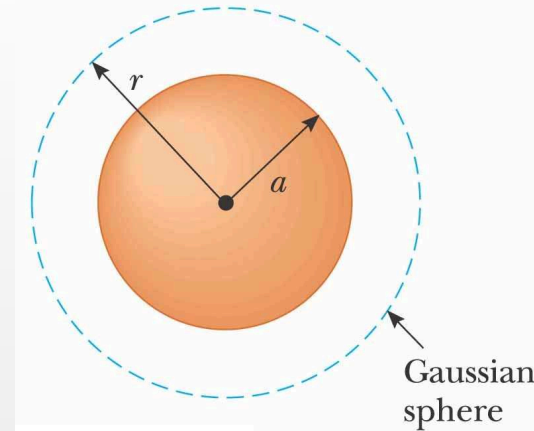
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$$\Phi = \oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A} = E \oint dA = \frac{Q_{\text{enclosed}}}{\epsilon_0} = \frac{\rho_0 \pi a^3}{\epsilon_0}$$

Spherical Symmetry - Problem III

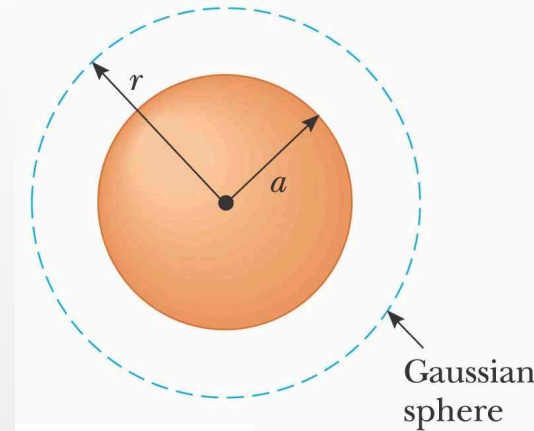
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$$\Phi = \oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A} = E \oint dA = \frac{Q_{\text{enclosed}}}{\epsilon_0} = \frac{\rho_0 \pi a^3}{\epsilon_0}$$
$$\Rightarrow E 4 \pi r^2$$

Spherical Symmetry - Problem III

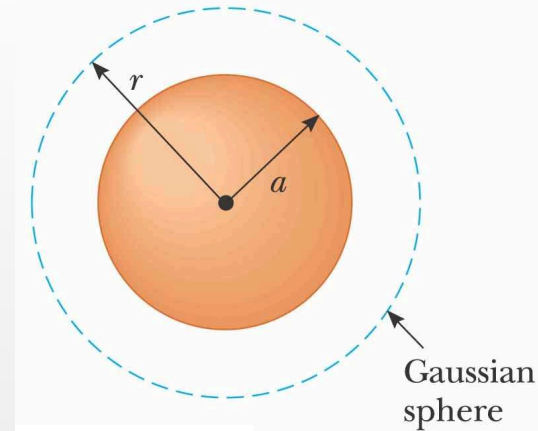
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$$\Phi = \oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A} = E \oint dA = \frac{Q_{\text{enclosed}}}{\epsilon_0} = \frac{\rho_0 \pi a^3}{\epsilon_0}$$
$$\Rightarrow E \oint dA = \frac{\rho_0 \pi a^3}{\epsilon_0}$$
$$\Rightarrow E (4\pi r^2) = \frac{\rho_0 \pi a^3}{\epsilon_0}$$

Spherical Symmetry - Problem III

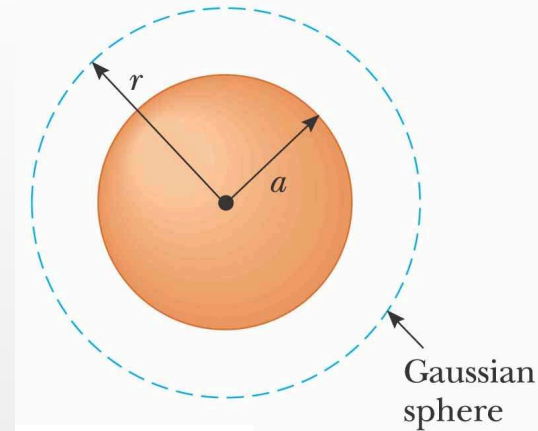
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$$\Rightarrow E \cdot 4\pi r^2 = \frac{\rho_0 \pi a^3}{\epsilon_0}$$

Spherical Symmetry - Problem III

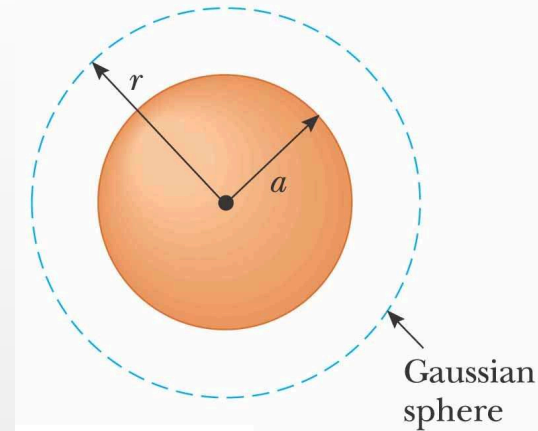
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$$\Rightarrow E \oint dA = \frac{\rho_0 \pi a^3}{\epsilon_0} \Rightarrow E = \frac{\rho_0 a^3}{4 \epsilon_0 r^2}$$

Spherical Symmetry - Problem III

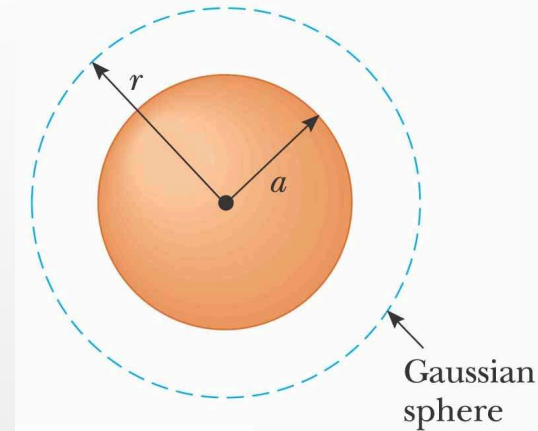
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$$\Rightarrow E \cdot 4\pi r^2 = \frac{\rho_0 \pi a^3}{\epsilon_0} \Rightarrow E = \frac{\rho_0 a^3}{4\epsilon_0 r^2} \quad (\text{Note: the } 1/r^2 \text{ dependence})$$

Spherical Symmetry - Problem IV

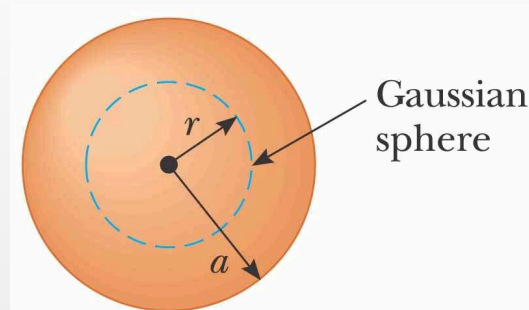
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- Spherical Symmetry - Problem
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- **Spherical Symmetry - Problem IV**
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- Cylindrical Symmetry - Problem II
- Conductors



(b). To find the electric field ($r < a$) first construct a Gaussian surface as shown above and note that the magnitude of the electric field is constant over the sphere.

Spherical Symmetry - Problem IV

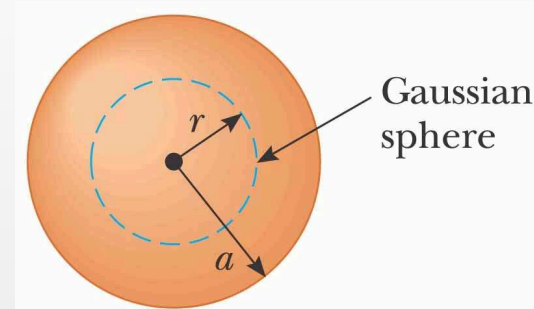
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- Spherical Symmetry - Problem
- Spherical Symmetry - Problem II
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- Cylindrical Symmetry - Problem
- Cylindrical Symmetry - Problem II
- Conductors



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$$\Phi = \oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A}$$

Spherical Symmetry - Problem IV

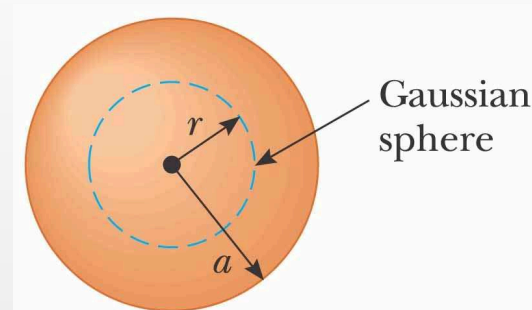
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- **Spherical Symmetry - Problem IV**
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- Conductors



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$$\Phi = \oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A} = E \oint dA = \frac{Q_{\text{enclosed}}}{\epsilon_0}$$

Spherical Symmetry - Problem IV

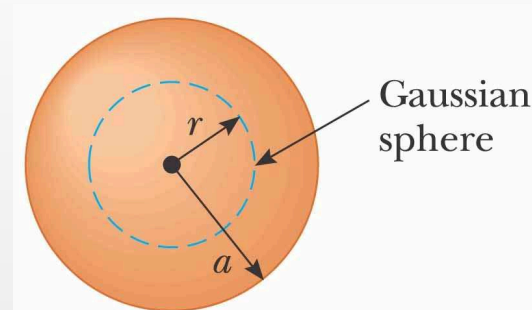
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$$\Phi = \oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A} = E \oint dA = \frac{Q_{\text{enclosed}}}{\epsilon_0} = \frac{\rho_0 \pi r^4}{a \epsilon_0}$$

Spherical Symmetry - Problem IV

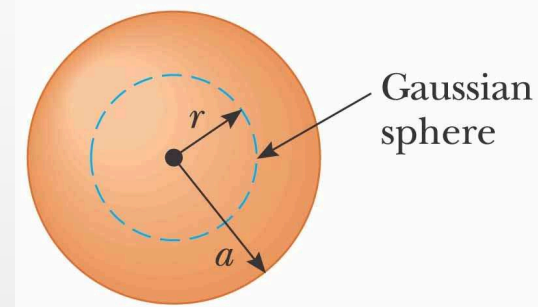
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$$E 4 \pi r^2$$

Spherical Symmetry - Problem IV

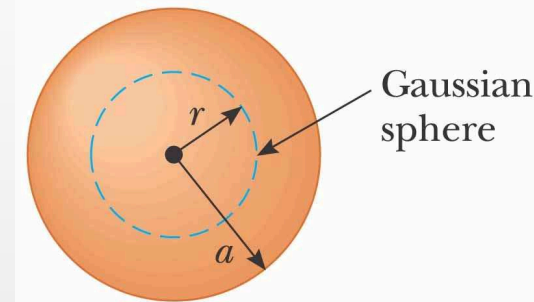
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$$E 4 \pi r^2 = \frac{\rho_0 \pi r^4}{a \epsilon_0}$$

Spherical Symmetry - Problem IV

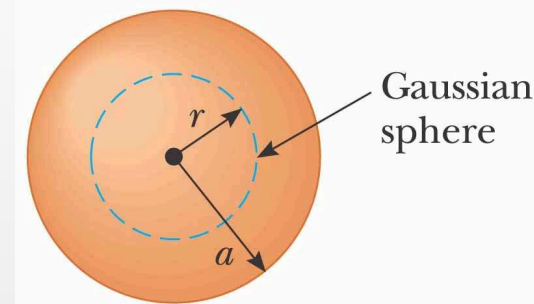
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$$E 4 \pi r^2 = \frac{\rho_0 \pi r^4}{a \epsilon_0} \Rightarrow E = \frac{\rho_0 r^2}{4 \epsilon_0 a}$$

Spherical Symmetry - Problem IV

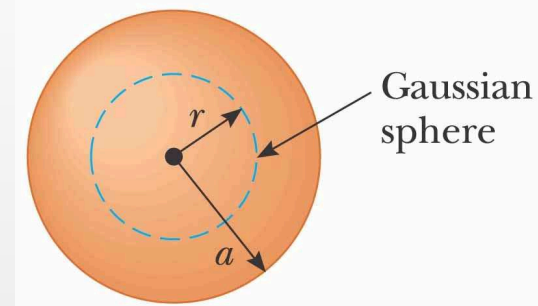
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Cylindrical Symmetry - Problem

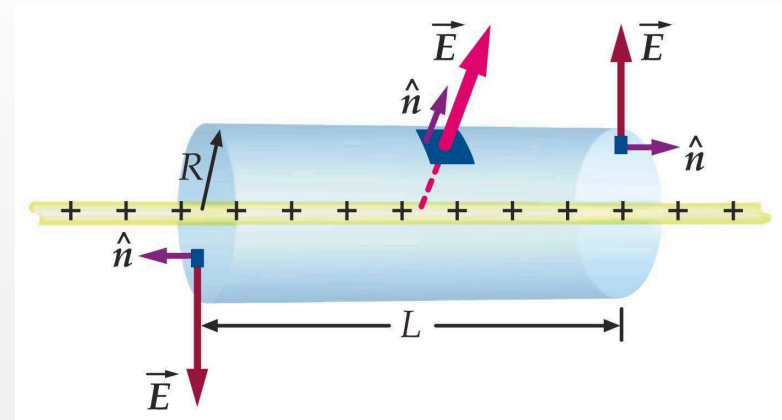
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Problem: Find the electric field strength for a very long wire carrying uniform charge density $(+\lambda)$ as a function of the distance away from wire.

Cylindrical Symmetry - Problem

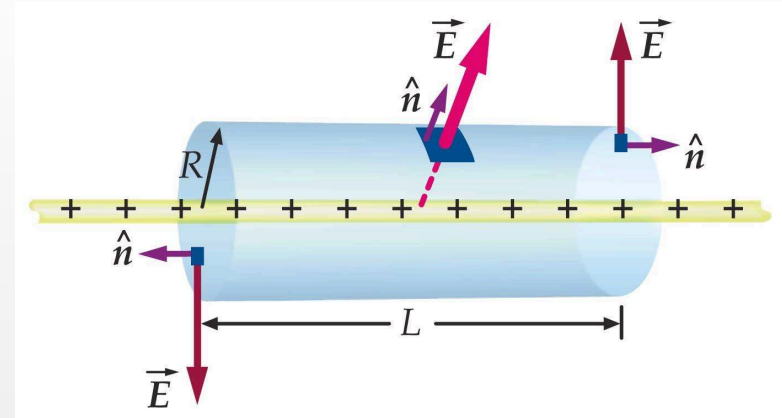
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Problem: Find the electric field strength for a very long wire carrying uniform charge density ($+\lambda$) as a function of the distance away from wire.

To find the electric field first construct a Gaussian surface as shown above (in blue) and note that the magnitude of the electric field is constant over the cylinder. The electric flux through the Gaussian surface is

Cylindrical Symmetry - Problem

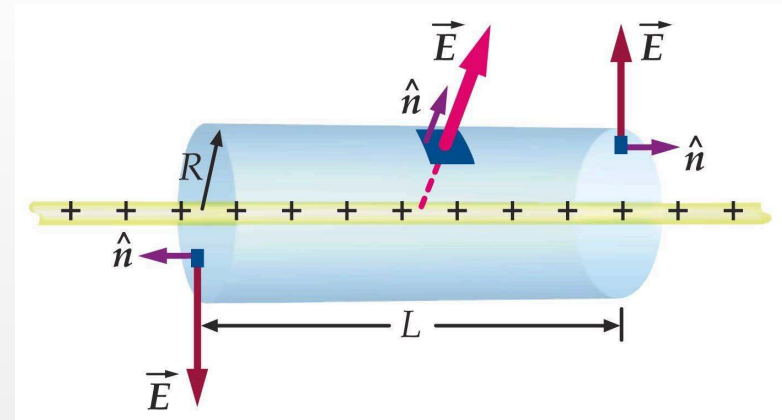
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Cylindrical Symmetry - Problem

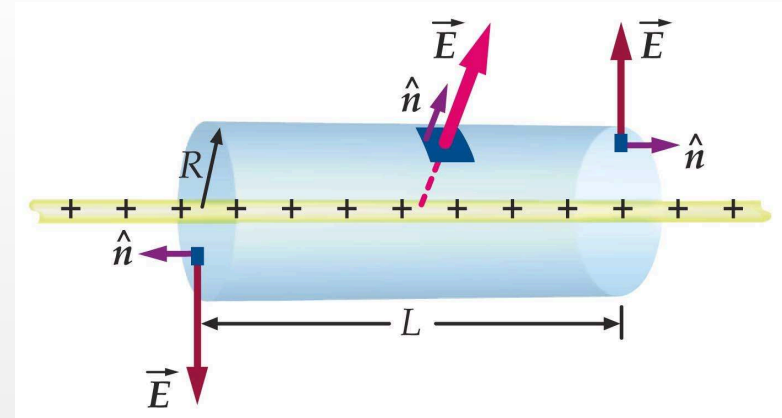
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Cylindrical Symmetry - Problem

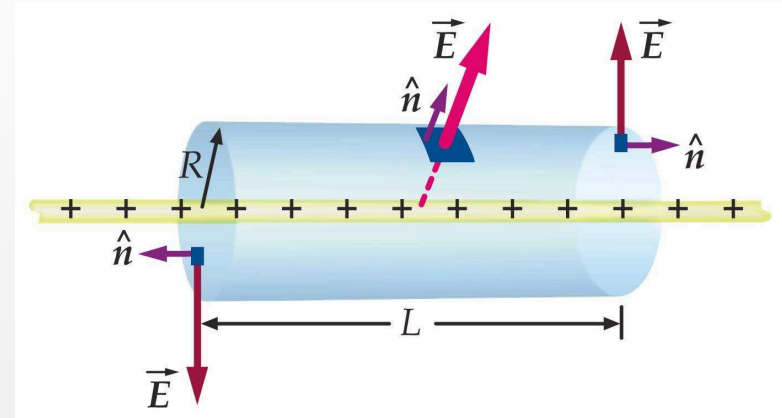
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Cylindrical Symmetry - Problem

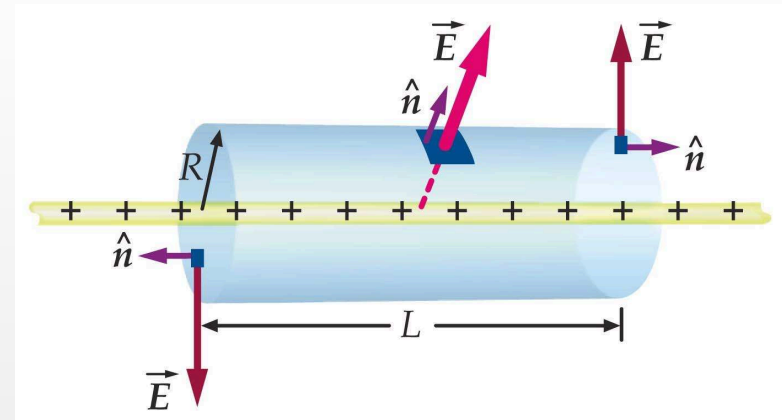
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Problem: Find the electric field strength for a very long wire carrying uniform charge density ($+\lambda$) as a function of the distance away from wire.

To find the electric field first construct a Gaussian surface as shown above (in blue) and note that the magnitude of the electric field is constant over the cylinder. The electric flux through the Gaussian surface is

$$\Phi = \oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A} = E \oint dA = \frac{Q_{\text{enclosed}}}{\epsilon_0} = \frac{\lambda L}{\epsilon_0}$$

Cylindrical Symmetry - Problem

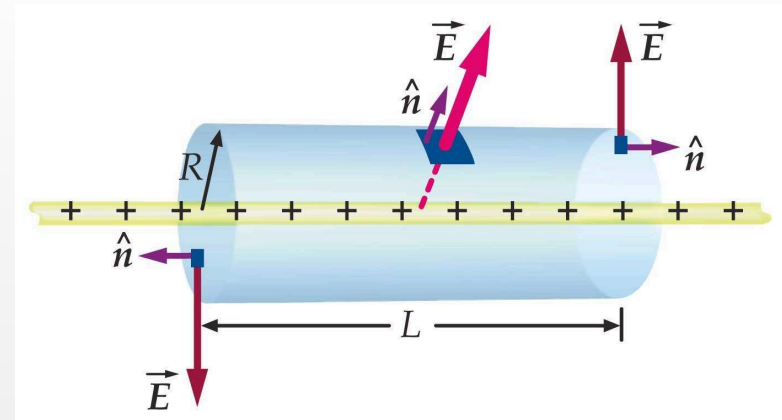
PRS Questions

Gauss's Law

Useful Geometries and
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Worked Examples

- Spherical Symmetry - Problem
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- Spherical Symmetry - Problem III
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Cylindrical Symmetry - Problem II

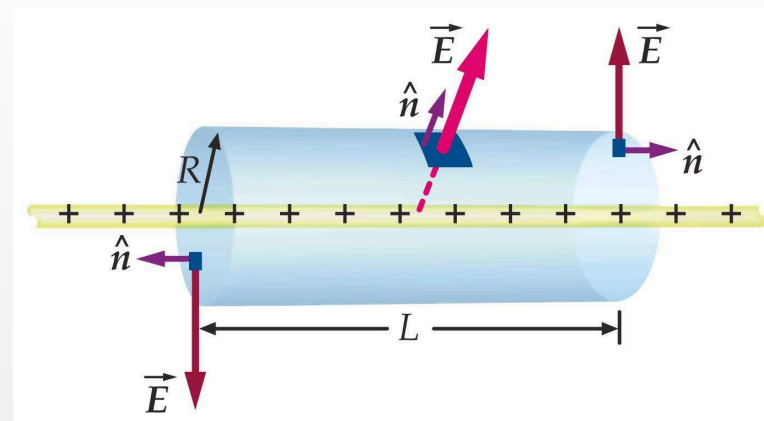
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Cylindrical Symmetry - Problem II

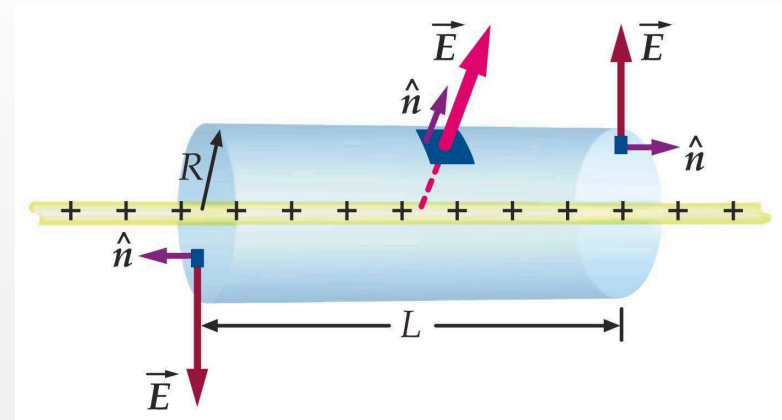
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Cylindrical Symmetry - Problem II

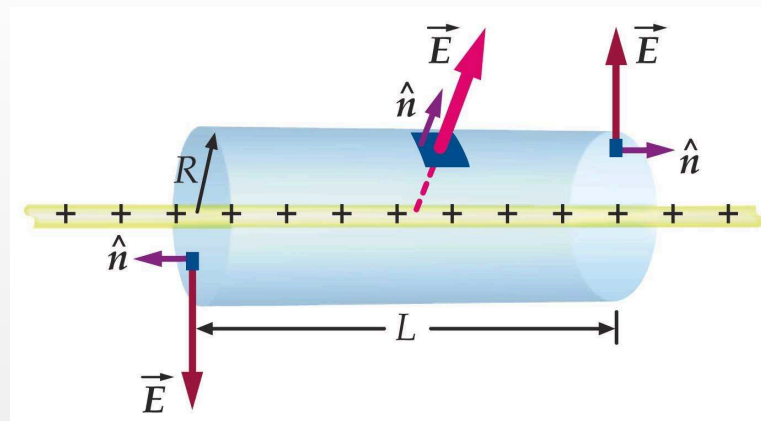
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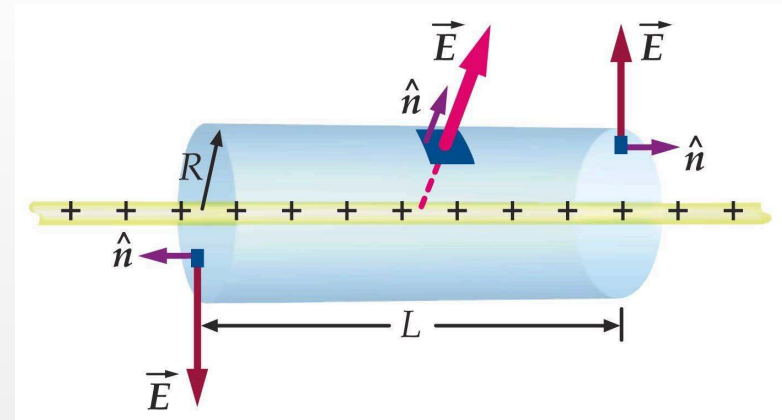
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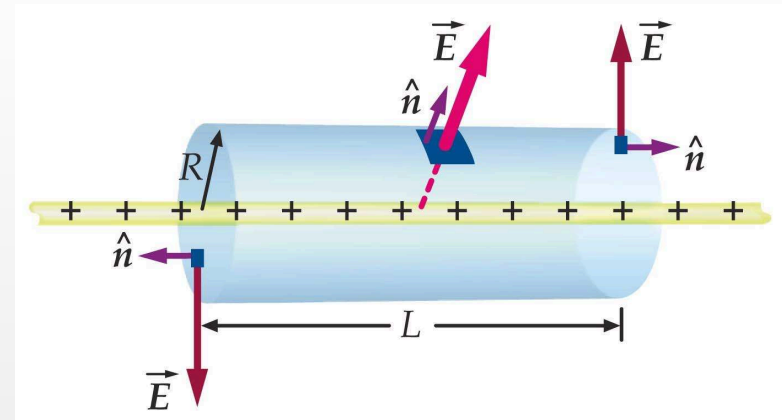
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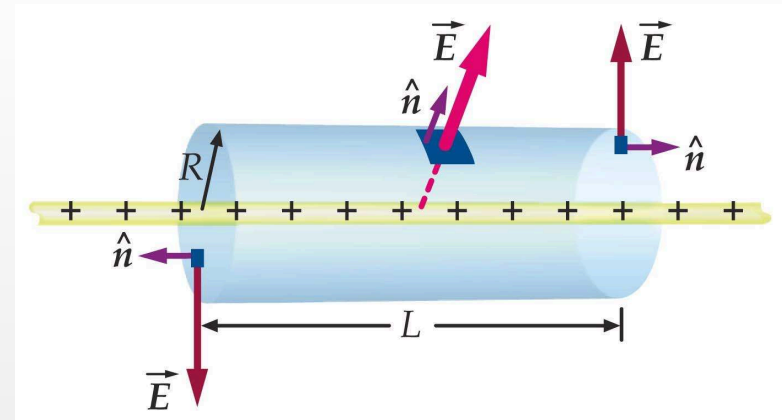
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$$\Rightarrow E 2 \pi R L$$

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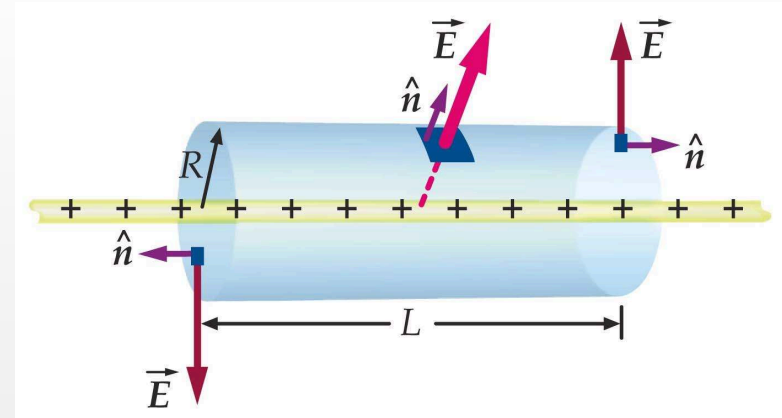
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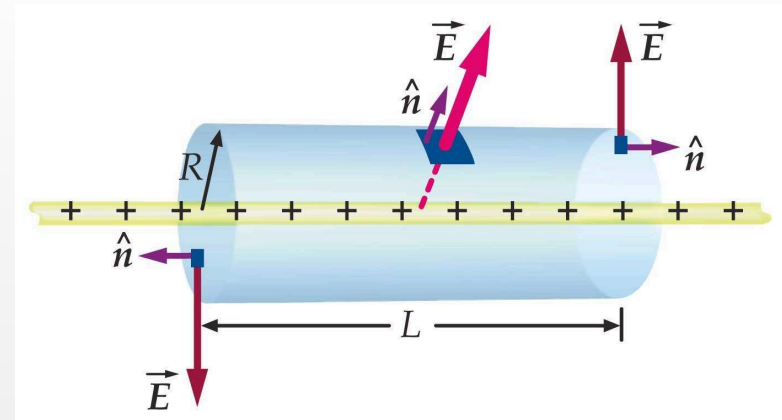
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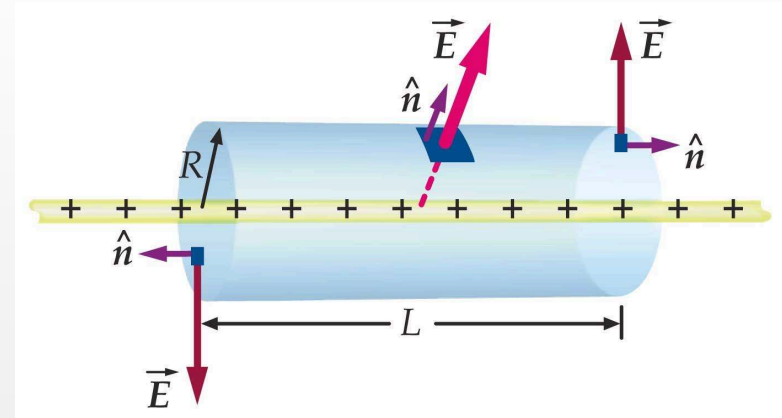
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$$\Rightarrow E \cdot 2\pi R L = \frac{\lambda L}{\epsilon_0} \Rightarrow E = \frac{\lambda}{2\pi R \epsilon_0}$$

Conductors

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Let's move to the chalkboard.