

ULTIMATE KCET



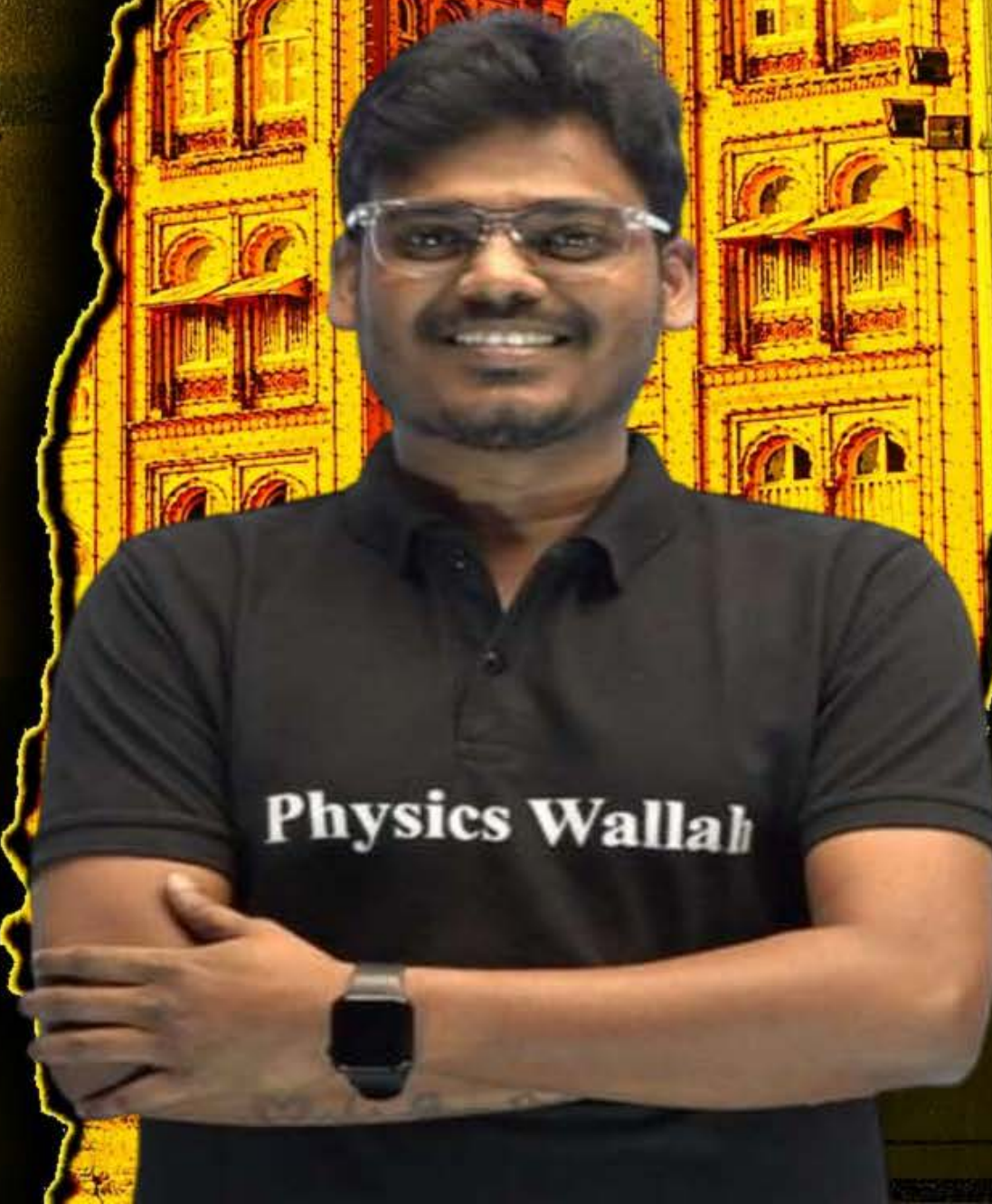
CRASH COURSE 2026

PHYSICS

Lecture - 02

ELECTROSTATIC POTENTIAL AND CAPACITANCE

By - AK SIR



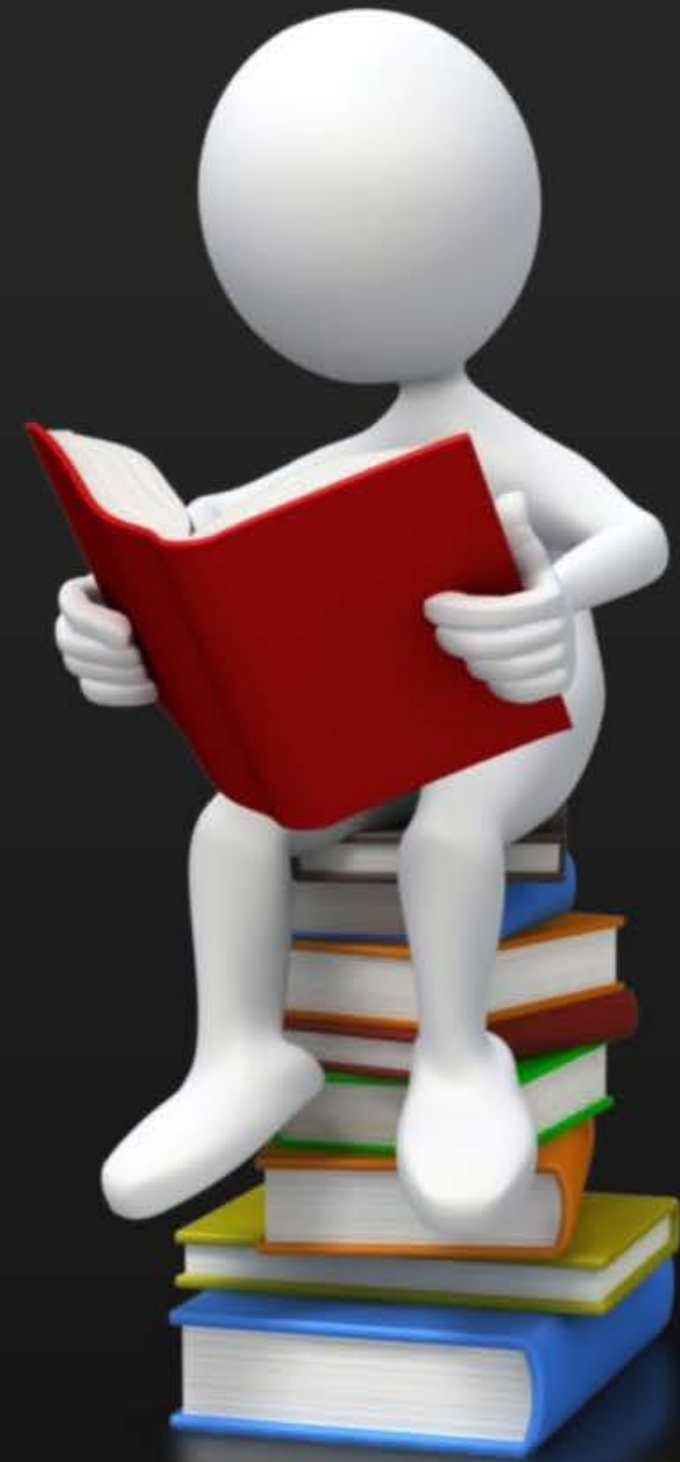
Recap *of previous lecture*

- 1 ELECTRIC POTENTIAL AND POTENTIAL DIFFERENCE
- 2 ELECTRIC POTENTIAL DUE TO A POINT CHARGE
- 3 ELECTRIC POTENTIAL DUE TO A SYSTEM OF CHARGES
- 4 ELECTRIC POTENTIAL DUE TO A ELECTRIC DIPOLE



Topics *to be covered*

- 1 EQUIPOTENTIAL SURFACES
- 2 CAPACITANCE OF A CAPACITOR
- 3 PARALLEL PLATE CAPACITOR
- 4 COMBINATION OF CAPACITOR





Equipotential Surfaces

same

potential

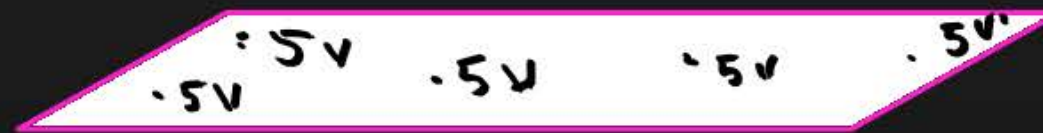
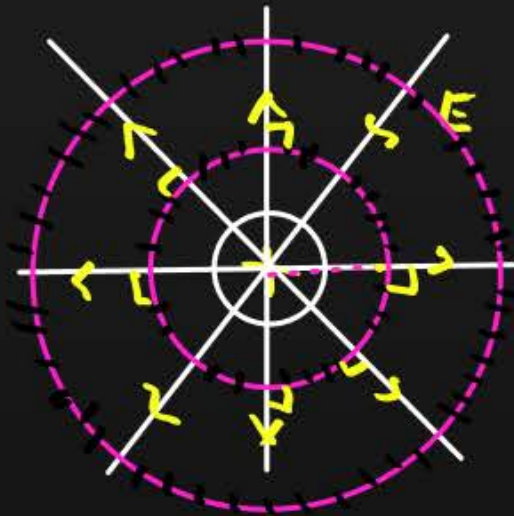
Any surface over which the electric potential is same everywhere is called an equipotential surface.

Ex: Surface of charged conductor.

$$W = q \Delta V$$

$$W = q (V_f - V_i)$$

$$W = q (V_B - V_A)$$



$V = \text{constant} = \text{same}$

$$\Delta V = V_f - V_i = 0$$



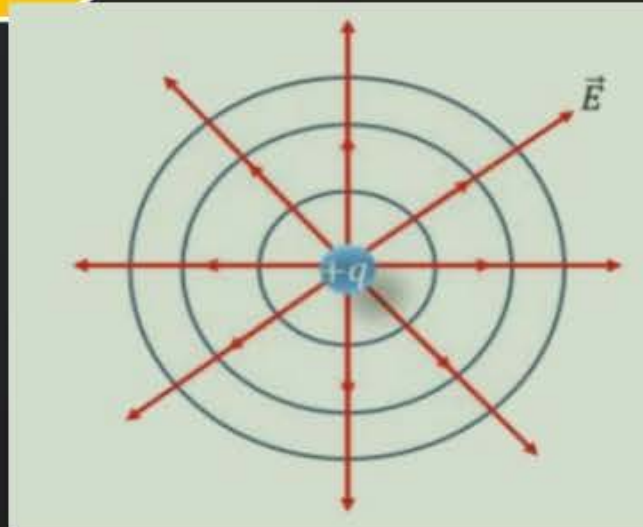
$$W = q (5 - 5)$$

$$W = 0$$

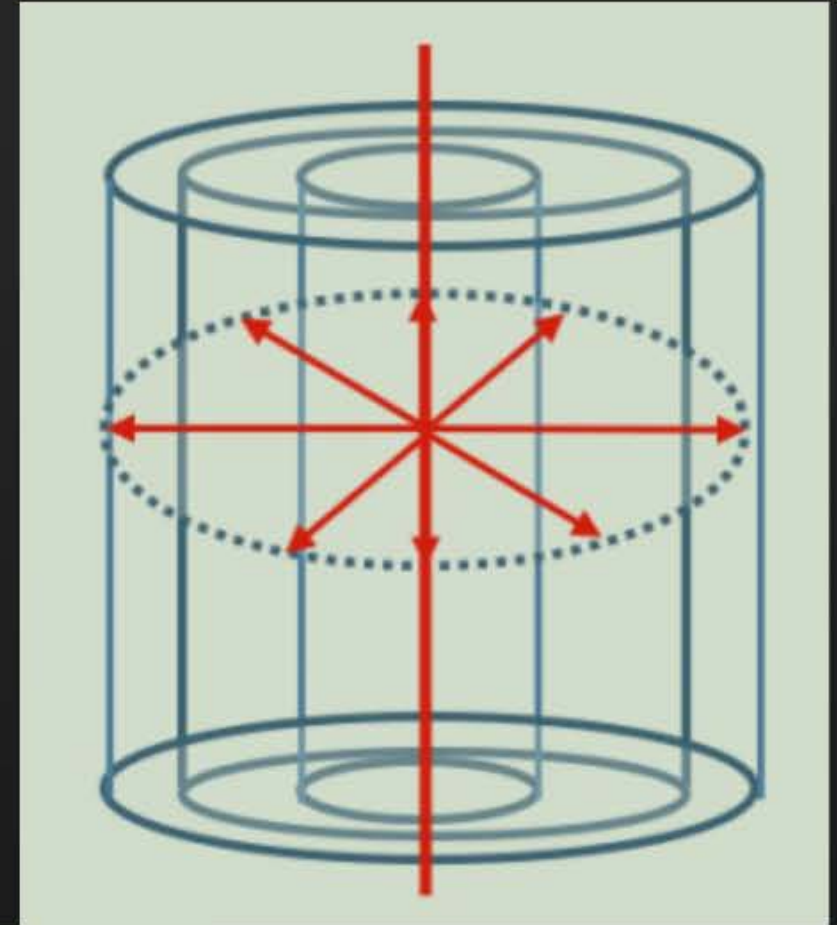


Equipotential Surfaces

✓ EPS of point charge is spherical in shape.

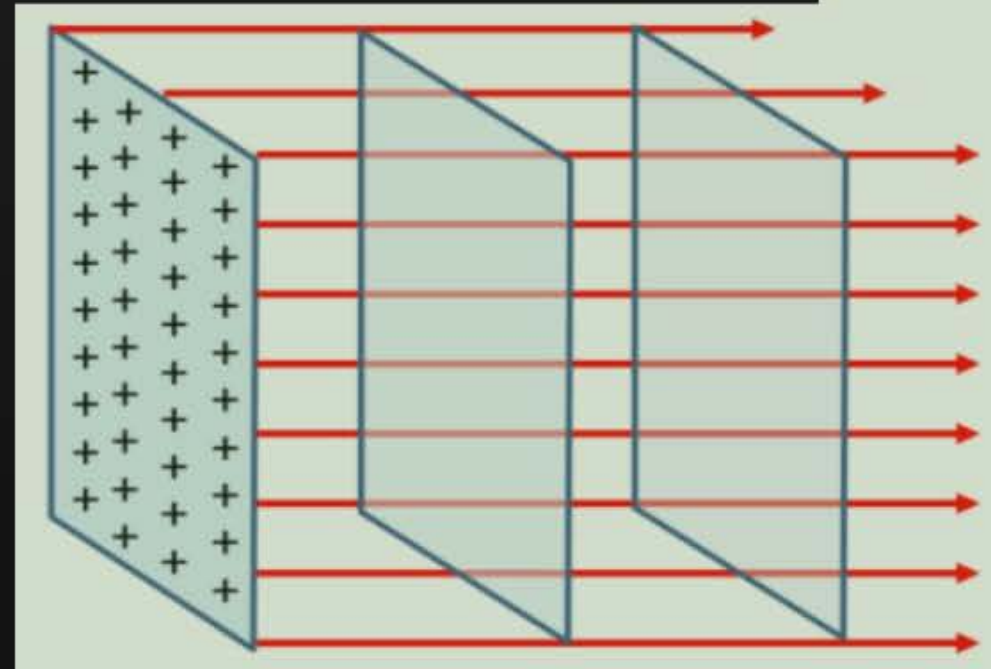


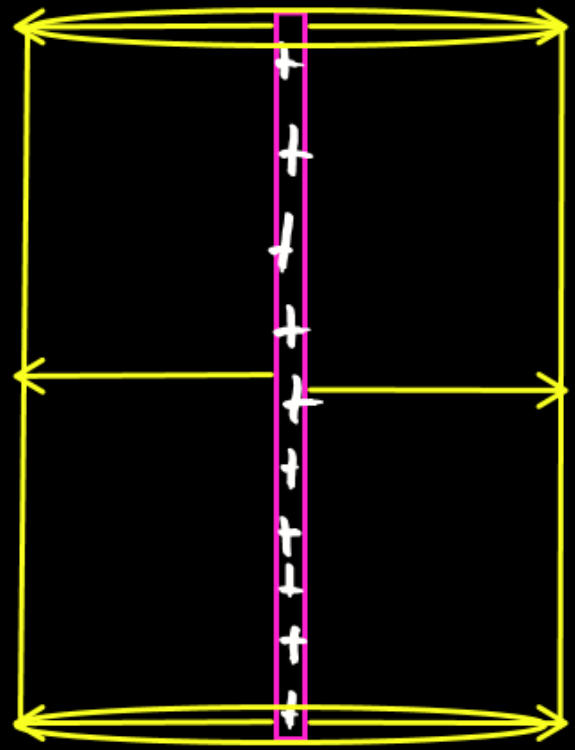
✓ EPS of line charge is cylindrical in shape.



✓ EPS of large plane sheet is plane in shape.

Uniform Electric } plane
Field







Properties of EPS

- ✓ Work done in moving a charge from one point of EPS to other point of same EPS is always zero.

$$W = 0$$

- ✓ Electric field intensity is always perpendicular to *EPS*.

$$W = FS \cos \theta$$

$$\cos \theta = 0 = \cos 90^\circ$$

$$W = qEx \cos \theta$$

$$0 = qEx \cos \theta$$

$$\theta = 90^\circ = \frac{\pi}{2}$$

- ✓ Two EPS can never intersect each other.



Question



The work done to move a charge on an equipotential surface is

$$\rightarrow V = \text{const} \quad \Delta V = 0$$

$$W = q \Delta V$$
$$W = 0$$

- A** Infinity
- B** Less than 1
- C** Greater than 1
- D** Zero

Which of the following statements is **not true**?

- A** Equipotential surfaces for a uniform electric field are **parallel** and equidistant from each other. ✓
- B** Electric field is always **perpendicular** to an equipotential surface. ✓
- C** Work done to move a charge on an equipotential surface is **not zero**. ✗
- D** Equipotential surfaces are the surfaces where the potential is **constant**.

Question



The angle between the electric lines of force and the equipotential surface is:

- A** 180°
- B** 0°
- C** 45°
- D** 90°

Question



Nature of equipotential surface for a point charge is

- A** Ellipsoid with charge at foci ✗
- B** Sphere with charge at the centre of the sphere ✓
- C** Sphere with charge on the surface of the sphere ✗
- D** Plane with charge on the surface ✗

Question



A thin spherical shell is charged by some source. The potential difference between the two points C and P (in V) shown in the given is: (. Take $\frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} = 9 \times 10^9$ SI units)

- A** 0.5×10^5
- B** zero
- C** 3×10^5
- D** 4×10^5

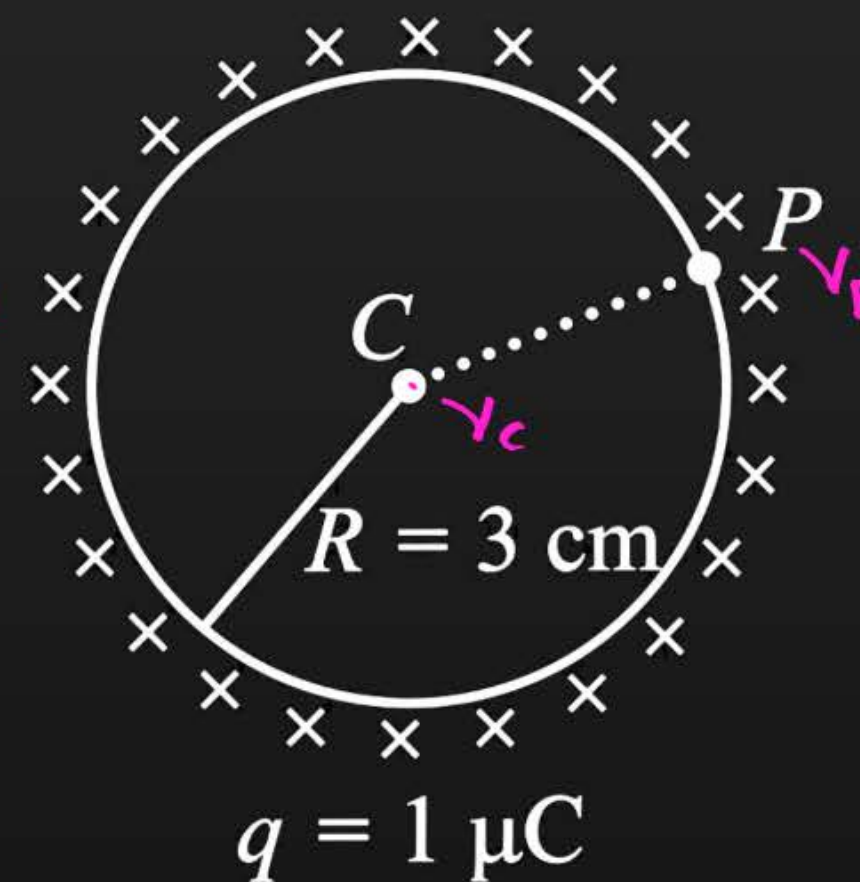
$$r > R, \quad V = \frac{kq}{r}$$

$$r = R, \quad V_P = \frac{kq}{R}$$

$$r < R, \quad V_C = V_P = \frac{kq}{R}$$

$$r < R \\ \underline{\underline{V_{int} = V_{surf}}}$$

$$V_C - V_P = \frac{kq}{R} - \frac{kq}{R} = 0$$



Question



Charge q_2 is at the centre of a circular path with radius r . Work done in carrying charge q_1 , once around this equipotential path, would be

$$\Delta V = 0$$
$$V = \text{const}$$

$$W = q \Delta V$$

$$W = 0$$

A $\frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \times \frac{q_1 q_2}{r^2}$

B $\frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \times \frac{q_1 q_2}{r}$

C Zero

D Infinite

Question



Six charges $+q, -q, +q, -q, +q$ and $-q$ are fixed at the corners of a hexagon of side d as shown in the figure. The work done in bringing a charge q_0 to the centre of the hexagon from infinity is: (ϵ_0 -permittivity of free space)

A $\frac{-q^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 d} \left(6 - \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right)$

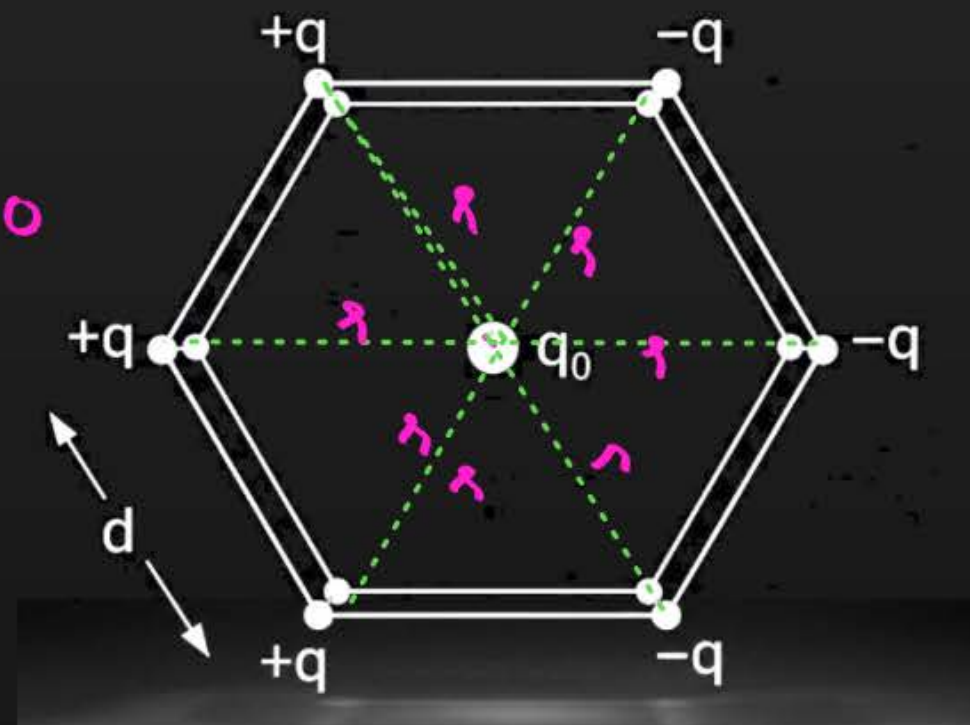
B Zero

C $\frac{-q^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 d}$

D $\frac{-q^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 d} \left(3 - \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right)$

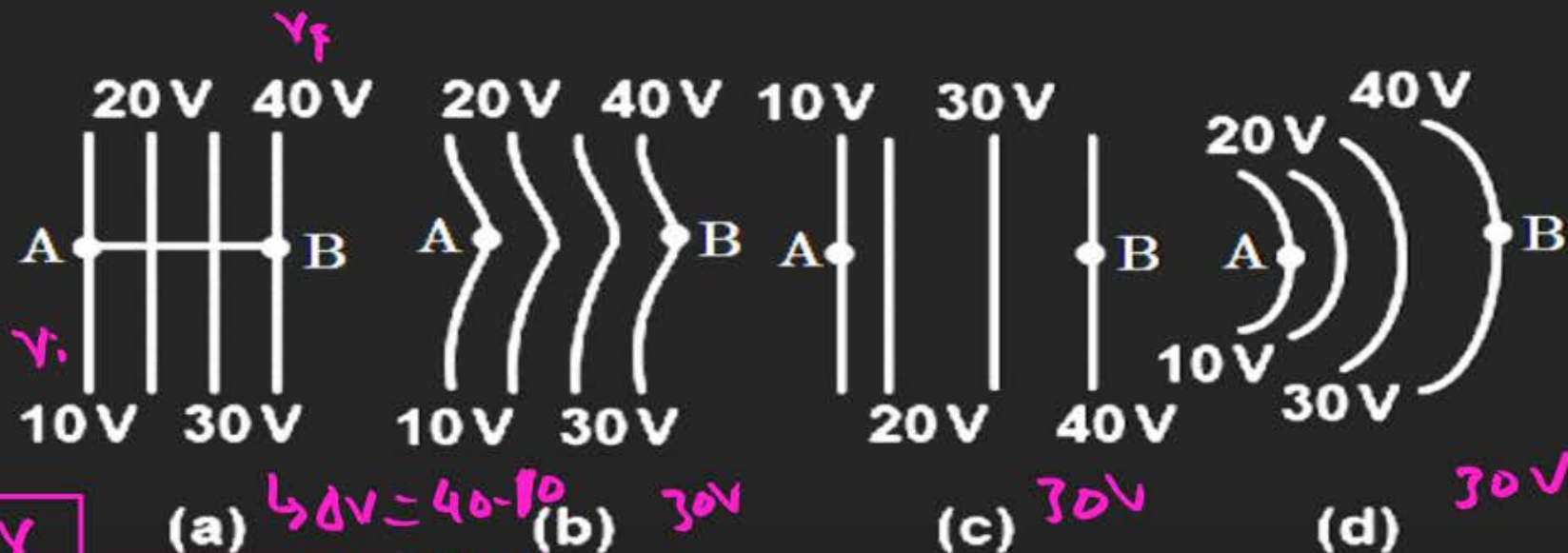
$W = q_0 \Delta V$ $\Delta V = V_f - V_i$
 $\Delta V = V_f - V_i \rightarrow \Delta V = 0$
 $\Delta V = V_f$
 $V_f = \frac{3kq}{r} - \frac{3kq}{r} = 0, \Delta V = 0$

$W = 0$



Question

The diagrams below show regions of equipotential



A

In all the four cases the work done is the same.

B

Minimum work is required to move q in figure (a)

C

Maximum work is required to move q in figure (b)

D

Maximum Work is required to move q in figure (c)



Relation between electrostatic field (E) and potential (V)

$$\vec{E} = -\frac{dV}{ds}$$

$$\vec{r} = x\hat{i} + y\hat{j} + z\hat{k}$$

$$\frac{d\vec{r}}{ds} = \frac{dx}{ds}\hat{i} + \frac{dy}{ds}\hat{j} + \frac{dz}{ds}\hat{k}$$

$$E = -\frac{dV}{ds}$$

$$\vec{E} = E_x\hat{i} + E_y\hat{j} + E_z\hat{k}$$

$$E_x = -\frac{\partial V}{\partial x} \quad E_y = -\frac{\partial V}{\partial y} \quad E_z = -\frac{\partial V}{\partial z}$$

i.e. Negative gradient of electric potential is equal to electric field. Since electric field is negative gradient of potential, thus potential decreases in the direction of E

Question



Figure shows three points A, B and C in a region of uniform electric field E . The line AB is perpendicular and BC is parallel to the field lines. Then, which of the following holds good? (V_A, V_B and V_C represent the electric potential at points A, B and C, respectively)

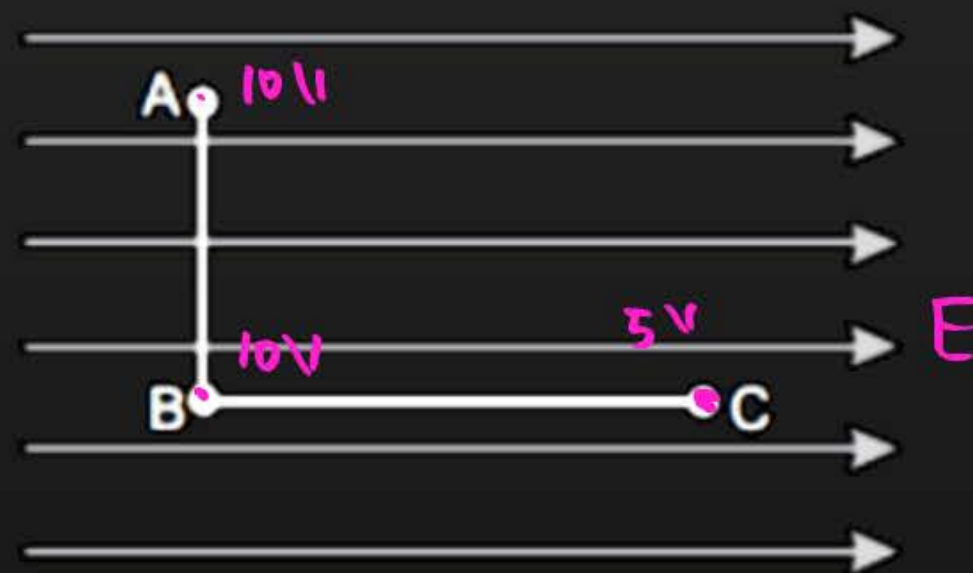
A $V_A = V_B = V_C$

B $V_A = V_B > V_C$

C $V_A = V_B < V_C$

D $V_A > V_B = V_C$

$V_A = V_B > V_C$





Finding V when E is given

As we know : $\vec{E} = -\frac{dV}{dx}$

$$dV = -\vec{E} \cdot d\lambda$$

on integration

$$V = \int_{x_1}^{x_2} -\vec{E} \cdot d\lambda$$

$$V_x = -\int_{x_1}^{x_2} \vec{E}(x) \cdot dx$$

$$V_y = -\int_{y_1}^{y_2} \vec{E}(y) \cdot dy$$

$$V_z = -\int_{z_1}^{z_2} \vec{E}(z) \cdot dz$$

Question



If $V = x^2y + y^2xz + 5$, find the electric field at $(1, 1, 0)$

(x, y, z)

$$\vec{E} = -\frac{dV}{dz}$$

$$\vec{E} = E_x \hat{i} + E_y \hat{j} + E_z \hat{k}$$

$$V = x^2y + y^2xz + 5$$

$$(i) E_x = -\frac{\partial V}{\partial x} = -(2xy + y^2z + 0)$$

$$E_x = -[(2 \times 1 \times 1 + (1)^2(1)(0))]$$

$$E_x = -2$$

$$(ii) E_y = -\frac{\partial V}{\partial y}$$

$$E_y = -[x^2(1) + 2yxz + 0]$$

$$E_y = -[1^2(1) + 2(1)(1)(0) + 0]$$

$$E_y = -1$$

$$(iii) E_z = -\frac{\partial V}{\partial z} = -[0 + y^2x(1) + 0]$$

$$E_z = -[1^2 \times 1(1)] = -1$$

$$E_z = -1$$

$$\vec{E} = -2\hat{i} - \hat{j} - \hat{k}$$

Question



If $\vec{E} = \frac{40}{x^2} \hat{i}$, Then find the potential difference between the points $x=2$ m and $x=4$ m.

$$V = - \int_{x_1}^{x_2} \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{x}$$

$$V = - \int_2^4 40 \cdot x^{-2} \cdot dx$$

$$V = -40 \int_2^4 x^{-2} \cdot dx$$

$$V = -40 \left[\frac{x^{-2+1}}{-2+1} \right]_2^4$$

$$V = -40 \times \left[\frac{x^{-1}}{-1} \right]_2^4$$

$$V = 40 \times \left[\frac{1}{x} \right]_2^4$$

$$V = 40 \left[\frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{2} \right]$$

$$V = 40 \times \left[\frac{1}{4} - \frac{2}{4} \right]$$

$$V = 40 \times \left(-\frac{1}{4} \right)$$

$$V = -10V$$

Question



In a certain region of space with volume 0.2 m^3 , the electric potential is found to be 5 V throughout. The magnitude of electric field in this region is :

$$E = -\frac{dv}{ds} \quad V = 5 \text{ V} = \text{const}$$
$$\frac{dv}{ds} = 0$$

$$E = 0$$

- A** 0.5 N/C
- B** 1 N/C
- C** 5 N/C
- D** Zero

Question



If potential (in volts) in a region is expressed as $V(x, y, z) = 6xy - y + 2yz$, the electric field (in N/C) at point $(1, 1, 0)$ is: [H.W]

- A** $-(6\hat{i} + 9\hat{j} + \hat{k})$
- B** $-(3\hat{i} + 5\hat{j} + 3\hat{k})$
- C** $-(6\hat{i} + 5\hat{j} + 2\hat{k})$
- D** $-(2\hat{i} + 3\hat{j} + \hat{k})$

Question

$$F = qE = 2 \times 2\sqrt{35} = 4\sqrt{35} \text{ N}$$



In a region, the potential is represented by $V(x, y, z) = 6x - 8xy - 8y + 6yz$, where V is in volts and x, y, z are in meters. The electric force experienced by a charge of 2 coulomb situated at point (1, 1, 1) is:

A $6\sqrt{5} \text{ N}$

B 30 N

C 24 N

D $4\sqrt{35} \text{ N}$

x, y, z

$$V = 6x - 8xy - 8y + 6yz$$

$$E_x = -\frac{\partial V}{\partial x} = -(6(1) - 8(1)y - 0 + 0)$$

$$E_x = -\frac{\partial V}{\partial x} = -(6 - 8(1)) = +2$$

$$E_x = 2$$

$$\vec{E} = E_x \hat{i} + E_y \hat{j} + E_z \hat{k}$$

$$\vec{E} = 2\hat{i} + 10\hat{j} - 6\hat{k}$$

$$|\vec{E}| = E = \sqrt{2^2 + 10^2 + (-6)^2} = \sqrt{4 + 100 + 36} = \sqrt{140} = \sqrt{35 \times 4} = 2\sqrt{35}$$

$$E_y = -\frac{\partial V}{\partial y} = [0 - 8x(1) - 8(1) + 6(1)z]$$

$$E_y = -[-8 - 8 + 6z]$$

$$= -[-16 + 6]$$

$$E_y = +10$$

$$E_z = -\frac{\partial V}{\partial z} = [0 - 0 - 0 + 6(1)] = -6$$

Question



The electric potential at any point x, y, z in metres is given by $V = 3x^2$. The electric field at a point $(2, 0, 1)$ is [H.W]

- A** 12 Vm^{-1}
- B** -6 Vm^{-1}
- C** 6 Vm^{-1}
- D** -12 Vm^{-1}

Question

An electric dipole of moment 'p' is placed in an electric field of intensity 'E'. The dipole acquires a position such that axis of the dipole makes an angle θ with the direction of E. Assuming that the potential energy of the dipole to zero when $\theta = 90^\circ$, the torque and the potential energy of B, dipole will respectively be:

- A** $pE \sin \theta, -pE \cos \theta$
- B** $pE \sin \theta, -2pE \cos \theta$
- C** $pE \sin \theta, 2pE \cos \theta$
- D** $pE \cos \theta, -pE \cos \theta$

$$\tau = pE \sin \theta$$

$$U = -pE \cos \theta$$

$$\theta = 90^\circ$$



Capacitance of capacitor

→ conductor
→ capacity to store charge

The capacitance of a capacitor is defined as the ratio of the charge given to a plate of the capacitor to the potential difference produced between the plates.

$$Q \propto V$$

$$Q = CV$$

↳ capacitance

$$C = \frac{Q}{V}$$

Formula :

Unit :

$$\Rightarrow \frac{C}{V} \Rightarrow 1F = 1CV^{-1}$$

Dimensional formula :

$$1mF = 10^{-3} F$$

$$1\mu F = 10^{-6} F$$

$$1nF = 10^{-9} F$$

$$1pF = 10^{-12} F$$

① Dimensional formula of capacitance

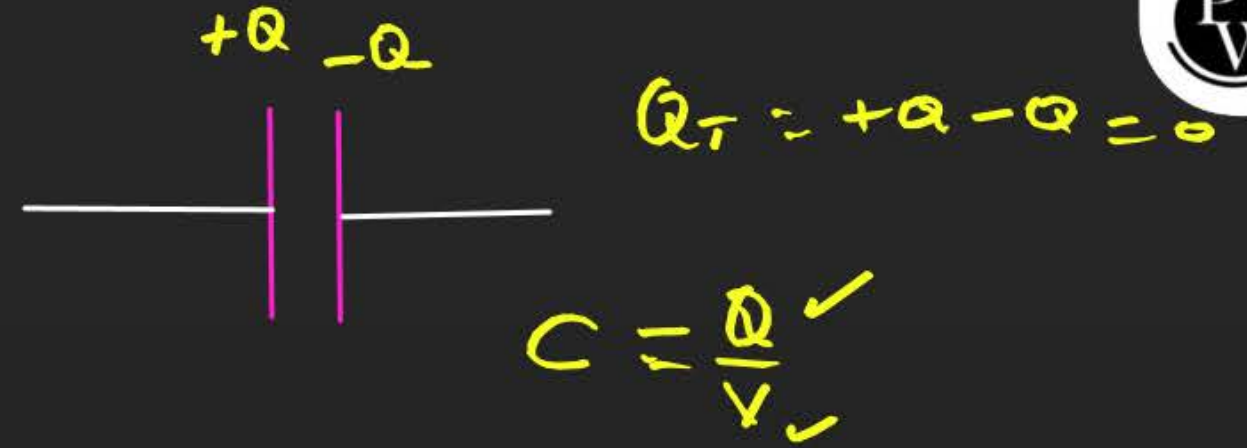
$$C = \frac{Q}{V} = \frac{Q}{\frac{W}{Q}} = \frac{Q^2}{W}$$

$$C = \frac{[A^1 T^1]^2}{[M^1 L^2 T^{-2}]} = \frac{[A^2 T^2]}{[M^1 L^2 T^{-2}]}$$

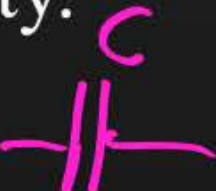
$$C = [M^{-1} L^{-2} T^4 A^2]$$



Capacitance of capacitor



Note :

- ✓ The net charge on any capacitor is always zero.
- ✓ The capacitance of a capacitor does not depend on charge (Q) and on the PD (V). \rightarrow Geometry.
- ✓ Each conductor is like a capacitor whose other plate lies at infinity.
- ✓ A capacitor in an electrical circuit is represented by the symbols  C



Type of capacitors

1. Spherical capacitor
2. Parallel plate capacitor
3. Cylindrical capacitor

Question



Find out the capacitance of the earth? (Radius of the earth = 6400 km)

$$C = \frac{Q}{V} = \frac{Q}{\frac{kQ}{R}} \quad V = \frac{kQ}{R}$$

$$C = \frac{R}{k} = 4\pi\epsilon_0 R$$

$$C = \frac{6400 \times 10^3}{9 \times 10^7} = 711.11 \times 10^{-5}$$

$$C = 711.11 \mu\text{F}$$



Parallel plate capacitor

Parallel plate capacitor is a capacitor with two identical plane parallel plates separated by a small distance and the space between them is filled by an air or vacuum.

✓ Electric field between plates

$$\vec{E}_1 = \frac{\sigma}{2\epsilon_0} \hat{i} \quad \vec{E}_2 = \frac{\sigma}{2\epsilon_0} \hat{i}$$

$$\vec{E} = \vec{E}_1 + \vec{E}_2 = \frac{\sigma}{\epsilon_0} \hat{i} \quad \boxed{E = \frac{\sigma}{\epsilon_0} = \frac{Q}{A\epsilon_0}}$$

✓ P.D in terms E.F,

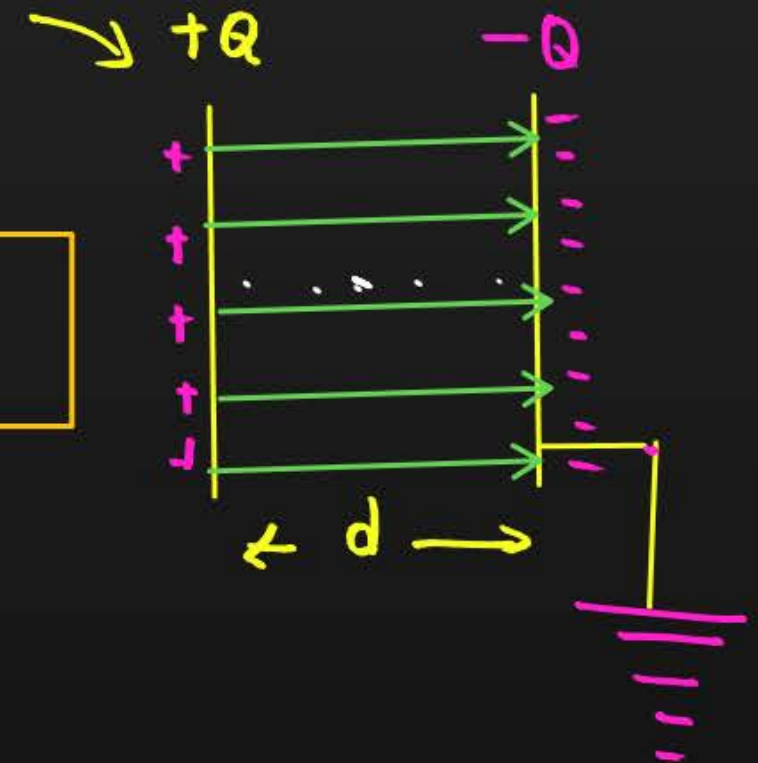
$$\boxed{V = E \cdot d}$$

✓ Capacitance

$$* \quad \boxed{C = \frac{A\epsilon_0}{d}} \Rightarrow A \text{ in } \lambda$$

Force, $F = QE = Q \times \frac{Q}{2A\epsilon_0}$

$$\boxed{F = \frac{Q^2}{2A\epsilon_0}}$$



$$C = \frac{A\epsilon_0}{d} \rightarrow \text{Air}$$

$$C_m = \frac{A\epsilon_m}{d} \rightarrow \text{Dielectric medium.}$$

$$K = \frac{\epsilon_m}{\epsilon_0} \Rightarrow \epsilon_m = K\epsilon_0$$

$$C_m = \frac{AK\epsilon_0}{d}$$

$$C_m = K \frac{A\epsilon_0}{d} \Rightarrow C_m = KC_0$$

$$K = \frac{C_m}{C_0} = \frac{\epsilon_m}{\epsilon_0}$$



Parallel plate capacitor

Parallel plate capacitor with dielectric slab

$$C = \frac{A\epsilon_0}{d} \rightarrow \text{Air.}$$

$$C_m = K \frac{A\epsilon_0}{d} = K C_0 \rightarrow \text{completely filled}$$

$$E_0 = \frac{\sigma}{\epsilon_0} = \frac{Q}{A\epsilon_0}$$

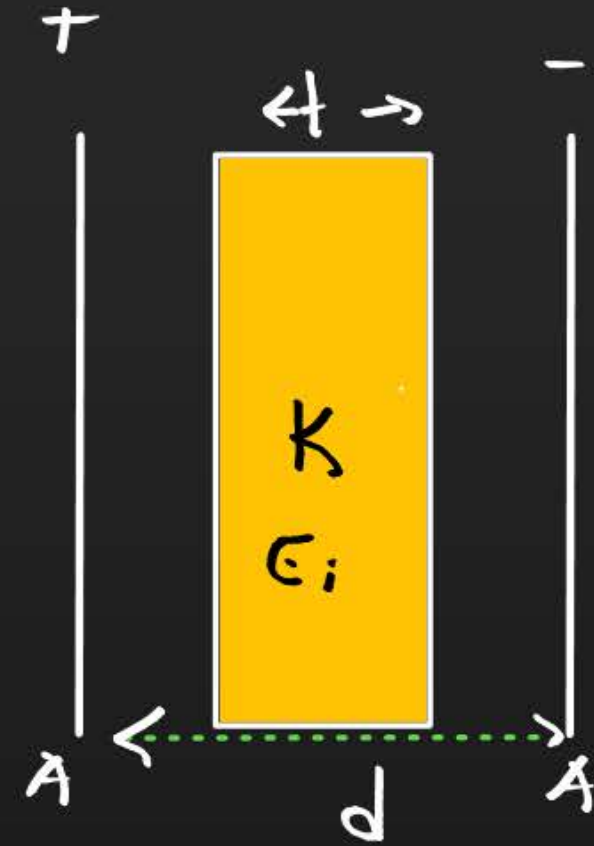
$$E_i = \frac{\sigma}{K}$$

$$V = E \cdot d \Rightarrow V_0 = E_0 d$$

$$V_m = V_0 + V_{im}$$

$$V = E_0(d-t) + E_i t$$

$$V_m = E_0(d-t) + \frac{E_0 t}{K}$$



partially filled

$$C_{no} = \frac{A\epsilon_0}{d-t + \frac{t}{K}}$$

Question



The electrostatic force between the metal plates of an isolated parallel plate capacitor C having a charge Q and area A is:

$$F = \frac{Q^2}{2A\epsilon_0}$$

- A** Independent of the distance between the plates.
- B** Linearly proportional to the distance between the plates.
- C** Proportional to the square root of the distance between the plates.
- D** Inversely proportional to the distance between the plates

Question



The capacitance of a capacitor with charge q and a potential difference V depends on

A both q and V

B the geometry of the capacitor

C q Only

D V only

$$C = \frac{A \epsilon_0}{d}$$

Question



The distance between the two plates of a parallel plate capacitor is doubled, and the area of each plate is halved. If C is its initial capacitance, its final capacitance is equal to

A $2C$

B C

C $4C$

D $C/4$

$$C = \frac{A\epsilon_0}{d}$$

$$d' = 2d$$

$$A' = \frac{A}{2}$$

$$C' = \frac{A'\epsilon_0}{d'} = \frac{A}{2} \times \frac{\epsilon_0}{2d} = \frac{1}{4} \left(\frac{A\epsilon_0}{d} \right)$$

$$C' = \frac{C}{4}$$

Question



$$C = C_0$$

The capacitance of a parallel plate capacitor with air as a medium is $6 \mu\text{F}$. With the introduction of a dielectric medium, the capacitance becomes $30 \mu\text{F}$. The permittivity of the medium is ($\epsilon_0 = 8.85 \times 10^{-12} \text{ C}^2 \text{ N}^{-1} \text{ m}^{-2}$)

$$\epsilon_m = ? \quad C_m$$

A $1.77 \times 10^{-12} \text{ C}^2 \text{ N}^{-1} \text{ m}^{-2}$

B $0.44 \times 10^{-10} \text{ C}^2 \text{ N}^{-1} \text{ m}^{-2}$

C $5.00 \text{ C}^2 \text{ N}^{-2} \text{ m}^{-2}$

D $0.44 \times 10^{-13} \text{ C}^2 \text{ N}^{-1} \text{ m}^{-2}$

$$K = \frac{C}{C_0} = \frac{30}{6} = 5$$

$$K = 5$$

$$K = \epsilon_r = \frac{\epsilon_m}{\epsilon_0}$$

$$\epsilon_m = K \epsilon_0 = 5 \times 8.85 \times 10^{-12}$$

$$\epsilon_m = 44.25 \times 10^{-12} = 0.4425 \times 10^{-10}$$

Question



A parallel plate capacitor with cross-sectional area A and separation d has air between the plates. An insulating slab of the same area but the thickness of $\underline{d/2}$ is inserted between the plates as shown in the figure, having a dielectric constant, $\underline{K = 4}$. The ratio of the new capacitance to its original capacitance will be

A 2 : 1

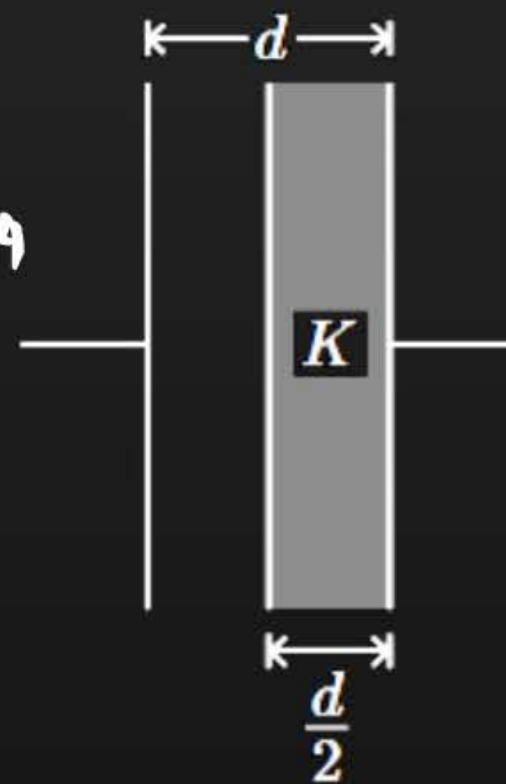
B 8 : 5

C 6 : 5

D 4 : 1

$$C_0 = \frac{A\epsilon_0}{d} \quad C_m = \frac{A\epsilon_0}{d - t + \frac{t}{K}} = \frac{A\epsilon_0}{d - \frac{d}{2} + \frac{d}{2 \times 4}}$$

$$C_m = \frac{A\epsilon_0}{d - \frac{d}{2} + \frac{d}{8}} = \frac{A\epsilon_0}{\frac{8d - 4d + d}{8}} = \frac{8A\epsilon_0}{5d}$$



$$\frac{C_m}{C_0} = \frac{8K\epsilon_0}{5d} \times \frac{d}{\epsilon_0} = \frac{8}{5}$$

Question



If a slab of insulating material (conceptual). 4×10^{-3} m thick is introduced between the plates of a parallel plate capacitor, the separation between the plates has to be increased by 3.5×10^{-3} m to restore the capacity to original value. The dielectric constant of the material will be

A 6

B 8

C 10

D 12

$$C = \frac{A \epsilon_0}{d}$$

$$C_{\text{new}} = \frac{A \epsilon_0}{d - t + \frac{t}{K}}$$

$$C_{\text{new}} = \frac{A \epsilon_0}{d + 3.5 - 4 + \frac{4}{K}}$$

$$= \frac{A \epsilon_0}{d - 0.5 + \frac{4}{K}}$$

$$C_{\text{new}} = C_0$$

$$\frac{A \epsilon_0}{d - 0.5 + \frac{4}{K}} = \frac{A \epsilon_0}{d}$$

$$d - 0.5 + \frac{4}{K} = d$$

$$-0.5 + \frac{4}{K} = d - d = 0$$

$$\frac{4}{K} = 0.5$$

$$K = \frac{4}{0.5} = 8$$

Question



A dielectric slab of dielectric constant 3 having the same area of cross-section as that of a parallel plate capacitor but of thickness $\frac{3t}{4}$ of the separation of the plates is inserted into the capacitor. The ratio of potential difference across the plates without dielectric to that with dielectric is:

A 1:2

$$V = E_0 d \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

B 2:3

$$V_m = E_0 (d - t) + \frac{E_0 t}{K}$$

C 3:2

$$V_m = E_0 \left(d - \frac{3d}{4} \right) + \frac{E_0 \times \frac{3d}{4}}{4 \times 3}$$

D 2:1

$$V_m = E_0 \times \frac{d}{4} + \frac{E_0 d}{4}$$

$$V_m = 2 \frac{E_0 d}{4} = \frac{E_0 d}{2}$$

$$\frac{V}{V_m} = \frac{E_0 d}{\frac{E_0 d}{2}} = \frac{2}{1}$$

Question



A parallel plate capacitor having area A and separated by distance d is filled by copper plate of thickness b . The new capacity is

A $\frac{\epsilon_0 A}{d + \frac{b}{2}}$

B $\frac{\epsilon_0 A}{2d}$

C $\frac{\epsilon_0 A}{d - b}$

D $\frac{2\epsilon_0 A}{d + \frac{b}{2}}$

$$C = \frac{A\epsilon_0}{d - t + \frac{t}{K}} = \frac{A\epsilon_0}{d - b + \frac{b}{\infty}}$$

$$C = \frac{A\epsilon_0}{d - b}$$

$K = \infty$

WATER $K \approx 80-82$

AIR $K = 1$

Question



A parallel plate air capacitor has capacitance C , the distance of separation between plates is d and potential difference V is applied between the plates. The force of attraction between the plates of the parallel plate air capacitor is:

A $\frac{C^2 V^2}{2d}$

B $\frac{CV^2}{2d}$

C $\frac{CV^2}{d}$

D $\frac{C^2 V^2}{2d^2}$

$$F = \frac{Q^2}{2\epsilon_0 A d} = \frac{Q^2}{2Cd}$$

$$F = \frac{(CV)^2}{2Cd} = \frac{C^2 V^2}{2Cd} = \frac{CV^2}{2d}$$

Question



A parallel plate capacitor has a capacitance $50 \mu F$ in air and $110 \mu F$ when immersed in an oil. The dielectric constant 'K' of the oil is

A 0.45

B 0.55

C 1.10

D 2.20

$$K = \frac{C_m}{C_0} \quad K = \frac{\epsilon_m}{\epsilon_0}$$

$$K = \frac{110}{50}$$

$$K = 2.20$$

Thank

You