

1 Find  $V(\vec{r})$  by integrating  $d\vec{l} \cdot \vec{E}(\vec{r})$  for a sphere w/ radius  $R$  and constant charge density  $\rho(\vec{r}) = \rho_0$ .

- We used Gauss's Law to find  $\vec{E}(\vec{r})$  for this distribution of charge. Since it is spherically symmetric we put the origin @ the center of the sphere, and  $\vec{E}(\vec{r})$  is:

$$\vec{E}(\vec{r}) = \begin{cases} \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{\hat{r}}{r^2}, & r \geq R \\ \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{r}{R^3} \hat{r}, & r \leq R \end{cases} \quad \text{w/ } Q = \frac{4}{3}\pi R^3 \rho_0$$

- To find  $V(\vec{r})$  we need to pick a reference point  $\vec{r}_{RP}$ ; then integrate

$$V(\vec{r}) = - \int_{\vec{r}_{RP}}^{\vec{r}} d\vec{l}' \cdot \vec{E}(\vec{r}')$$

along any path from  $\vec{r}_{RP}$  to  $\vec{r}$ .

- Where do we put the reference point? The further we get from the sphere the less we notice its electric field. If we were  $\infty$ -far away we wouldn't notice it @ all. So let's say  $\vec{r}_{RP}$  is any point very, very far away - so much larger than  $R$  that we treat  $r_{RP} \sim \infty$ .
- Now what path do we follow?

- Moving along a path from  $\vec{r}_{RP}$  to  $\vec{r}$  involves infinitesimal displacements

$$d\vec{l}' = dr' \hat{r} + r' d\theta' \hat{\theta} + r' \sin\theta' d\phi' \hat{\phi}$$

- The details (how  $dr'$ ,  $d\theta'$ , &  $d\phi'$  change relative to each other to keep you on the path) depends on which path you follow. But since  $\vec{E} \propto \hat{r}$ , all this integral cares about is the  $dr'$  part:

$$d\vec{l}' \cdot \vec{E}(r') = E(r') dr'$$

- Since  $\vec{E}$  depends only on  $r$  (dist. from  $r=0$ ) and the integral of  $d\vec{l}' \cdot \vec{E}(r')$  doesn't care about  $\theta'$  or  $\phi'$ , the potential @  $\vec{r}$  depends only on  $|\vec{r}| = r$ :

$$V(r) = - \int_{r_{RP}}^r dr' E(r') \quad \text{w/ } E(r') = \begin{cases} \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{1}{r'^2} & , r' \geq R \\ \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{r'}{R^3} & , r' \leq R \end{cases}$$

- So @ a point outside the sphere

$$V(r > R) = - \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_{r_{RP}}^r dr' \frac{1}{r'^2} = - \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left( -\frac{1}{r'} \Big|_{r_{RP}}^r \right) = \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left( \frac{1}{r} - \frac{1}{r_{RP}} \right)$$

We decided to put  $\vec{r}_{RP}$  very far away,  $r_{RP} \sim \infty$ , so:

$$V(r > R) = \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{1}{r}$$

↖ ↗ Same as for pt. charge  $Q$  @ the origin.  
Of course!  $\vec{E}(\vec{r})$  looks like pt. charge for  $r \geq R$ , so potential does as well.

- For points inside the sphere,  $r < R$ :

$$\begin{aligned}
 V(r < R) &= - \int_{r_{RP}}^r dr' E(r') = - \int_R^r dr' E(r' < R) - \int_{r_{RP}}^R dr' E(r' > R) \\
 &= - \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_R^r \frac{r'}{R^3} - \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_{r_{RP}}^R \frac{1}{r'^2} \\
 &= - \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{1}{R^3} \left( \frac{1}{2} r'^2 \Big|_R^r \right) - \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left( -\frac{1}{r'} \Big|_{r_{RP}}^R \right) \\
 &= - \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{1}{R^3} \left( \frac{1}{2} r^2 - \frac{1}{2} R^2 \right) + \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left( \frac{1}{R} - \frac{1}{r_{RP}} \right) \sim 0 \\
 \Rightarrow V(r < R) &= \frac{Q}{8\pi\epsilon_0} \times \left( \frac{3}{R} - \frac{r^2}{R^3} \right)
 \end{aligned}$$

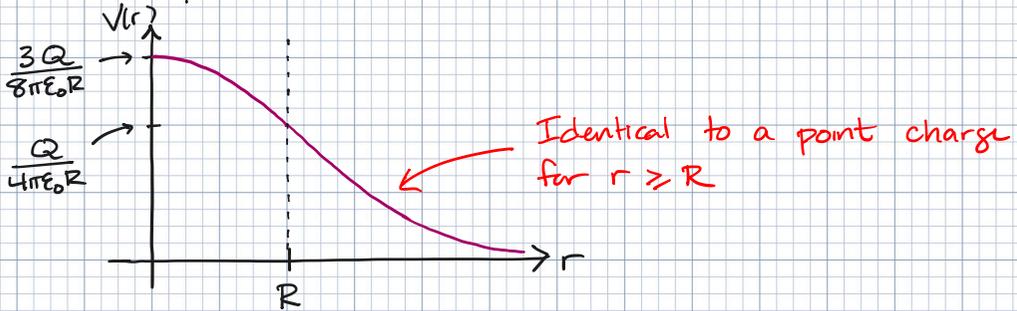
↑ ↑  
 Check for yourself that  $-\vec{\nabla}V = -\frac{\partial V}{\partial r} \hat{r}$  gives  $\vec{E}$  inside the sphere.

- And that's it. Because of spherical symmetry the electrostatic potential @ a point  $\vec{r}$  only depends on that point's distance from the center of the charge distribution. It behaves differently for  $r > R$  &  $r < R$  because  $\vec{E}$  behaves differently in those regions.

$$V(\vec{r}) = \begin{cases} \frac{Q}{8\pi\epsilon_0} \times \left( \frac{3}{R} - \frac{r^2}{R^3} \right) \hat{r}, & r \leq R \\ \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{1}{r}, & r \geq R \end{cases}$$

← Notice that both expressions agree @  $r = R$ . Later on we'll see that  $\vec{E}$  can have 'jumps', but  $V$  is always continuous.

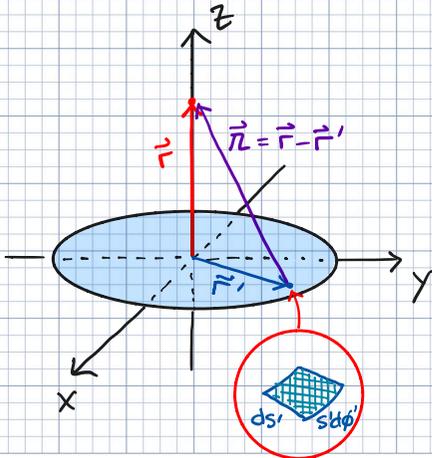
- If we plot this it looks like:



[2] Our first example of a Coulomb integral was finding  $\vec{E}$  @ a point directly above the center of a disk w/ constant surface charge density  $\sigma_0$ . Find  $V$  @ that point by evaluating:

$$V(\vec{r}) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_S da' \frac{\sigma(\vec{r}')}{|\vec{r}-\vec{r}'|}$$

- As before, use Cylindrical Polar Coords w/ the origin @ the center of the disk:



DISK:  $0 \leq s' \leq R, 0 \leq \phi' < 2\pi, z'=0$   
 $\rightarrow \vec{r}' = s' \hat{s} + 0 \hat{z}$

Pt. Above Center:  $\vec{r} = z \hat{z}$

$$\vec{r} - \vec{r}' = -s' \hat{s} + z \hat{z}$$

$$\rightarrow |\vec{r} - \vec{r}'| = \sqrt{s'^2 + z^2}$$

CHARGE @  $\vec{r}'$ :  $dq(\vec{r}') = \sigma_0 da'$   
 $= \sigma_0 s' d\phi' ds'$

- So we visit every point on the disk  $\epsilon'$ ; add up all the contributions to  $V(0,0,z)$ :

$$V(0,0,z) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi' \int_0^R ds' s' \frac{\sigma_0}{\sqrt{s'^2+z^2}}$$

$$= \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} 2\pi \sigma_0 \int_0^R ds' \frac{s'}{\sqrt{s'^2+z^2}}$$

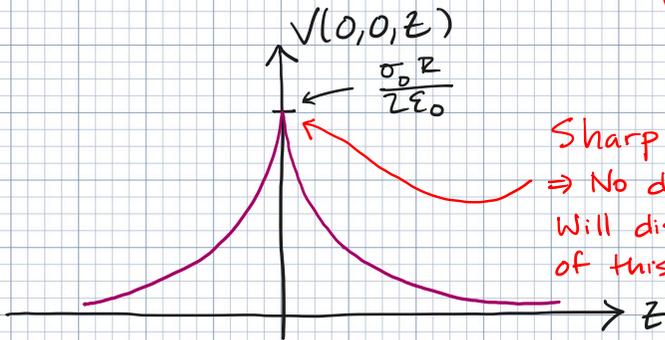
$$u = s'^2 + z^2 \quad s' = 0 \rightarrow u = z^2$$

$$du = 2s' ds' \quad s' = R \rightarrow u = R^2 + z^2$$

$$= \frac{\sigma_0}{2\epsilon_0} \int_{z^2}^{R^2+z^2} du \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{\sqrt{u}} = \frac{\sigma_0}{2\epsilon_0} \sqrt{u} \Big|_{z^2}^{R^2+z^2}$$

$$\rightarrow V(0,0,z) = \frac{\sigma_0}{2\epsilon_0} \times \left( \sqrt{R^2+z^2} - \sqrt{z^2} \right)$$

**CAREFUL!** This is  $\sqrt{z^2} = |z|$ , not  $\sqrt{z^2} = z$ .



Sharp point @  $z=0$   
 $\Rightarrow$  No derivative there.  
 Will discuss meaning of this next class.

- Remember: We set up the integral to find  $V$  @ the point directly above the center of the disk. We're free to change  $z$   $\epsilon$ : move up/down the axis, but the potential changes if we move off the  $z$ -axis.

- Does this agree w/ our result for  $\vec{E}(0,0,z)$  from class?

$$\begin{aligned}
 E_z(0,0,z) &= -\frac{d}{dz} V(0,0,z) \\
 &= -\frac{\sigma}{2\epsilon_0} \times \left( \frac{z}{\sqrt{R^2+z^2}} - \frac{z}{\sqrt{z^2}} \right) \\
 &= \frac{\sigma}{2\epsilon_0} \times \left( \frac{z}{\sqrt{z^2}} - \frac{z}{\sqrt{R^2+z^2}} \right) \quad \checkmark
 \end{aligned}$$

- What if  $z \ll R$ ? In that case we found  $\vec{E} = \pm \frac{\sigma_0}{2\epsilon_0} \hat{z}$ , depending on whether  $z > 0$  or  $z < 0$ .

$$\begin{aligned}
 V(0,0,z \ll R) &= \frac{\sigma_0}{2\epsilon_0} \left( R \sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{z^2}{R^2}\right)} - \sqrt{z^2} \right) \\
 &\quad \underbrace{1 + \frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{z}{R}\right)^2 - \frac{1}{8}\left(\frac{z}{R}\right)^4 + \dots}_{\text{Very small if } z \ll R} \\
 &\approx \frac{\sigma_0}{2\epsilon_0} \times \left( R - \sqrt{z^2} + \dots \right)
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\rightarrow V(0,0,z \ll R) \approx \frac{\sigma_0}{2\epsilon_0} R - \frac{\sigma_0}{2\epsilon_0} \sqrt{z^2}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 E_z(0,0,z \ll R) &= -\frac{d}{dz} V(0,0,z \ll R) \\
 &\approx -\frac{d}{dz} \left( \frac{\sigma_0}{2\epsilon_0} R \right) + \frac{d}{dz} \left( \frac{\sigma_0}{2\epsilon_0} \sqrt{z^2} \right) \\
 &\approx \frac{\sigma_0}{2\epsilon_0} \frac{z}{\sqrt{z^2}} \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} 1 \text{ if } z > 0, \\ -1 \text{ if } z < 0 \end{array} \right.
 \end{aligned}$$