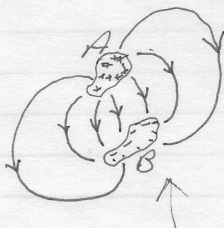


L10 p1

### Capacitance

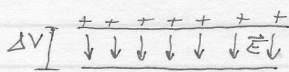
Consider 2 conductors separated by an insulator.



→ if attach to opposite terminals of a battery → become charged

- all  $\vec{E}$  field lines originating on A terminate on B

2 charged // plates



→ uniform  $\vec{E}$

→ for plates, a potential difference due to charges

observation:  $Q \propto \Delta V$   
 $= \text{const.} \Delta V$

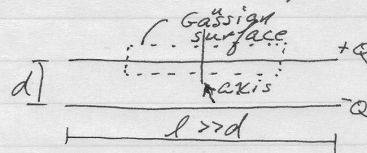
↳ depends on shape + separation of plates, + intervening material

$C \equiv Q/\Delta V \Rightarrow$  capacitance (units 'farad')

- amount of charge a capacitor can store per unit potential difference

L10 p2

Use Gauss's Law to calculate  $E$ -field



→ a cylinder surface with axis  $\perp$  to plates

$$\Phi_E = \Phi_E^{\text{TOP}} + \Phi_E^{\text{SIDE}} + \Phi_E^{\text{BOTTOM}}$$

→ top surface inside conductor

∴ no field flux

→ side (cylinder) has  $\vec{A} \perp \vec{E}$  so

$$\vec{E} \cdot \vec{A} = 0 \Rightarrow \text{no field flux}$$

→ bottom surface  $\vec{E} \parallel \vec{A}$

$$\Phi_E = \vec{E} \cdot \vec{A} = EA = q_{\text{in}}/\epsilon_0$$

$$\Rightarrow \underline{E} = \frac{q_{\text{in}}}{\epsilon_0 A} = \boxed{\frac{Q}{\epsilon_0}} \quad (q_{\text{in}} \leq Q)$$

By substitution,

$$\Delta V = Ed \text{ (uniform } E\text{-field)}$$

↳ total charge on plate (not only inside Gaussian surface)

Therefore

$$\underline{C} = Q/\Delta V = \frac{Q}{d/\epsilon_0} = \boxed{\frac{\epsilon_0 A}{d}}$$

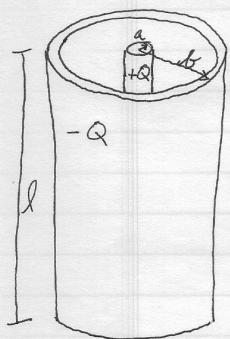
↳ only geometry of plates involved

→ bigger plates: more  $Q \propto C$

→ larger separation: less  $C$

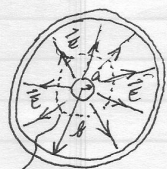
L10 p3

### Cylindrical Capacitor



Two coaxial cylinders of radii  $a$  &  $b$  such that  $b > a$ . The cylinder length  $l > 2b$  so can ignore end or fringe effects.

Gauss's Law says outer cylinder doesn't contribute to  $E$ .



Gaussian surface

$\vec{E} \perp$  axis  
and  
 $\parallel$  to  $\vec{r}$

From inner line (Ch. 24)

$$|\vec{E}| = 2k\lambda/r$$

$$\begin{aligned} V_b - V_a &= - \int_a^b \vec{E}_r \cdot d\vec{r} = -2k\lambda \int_a^b \frac{dr}{r} \\ &= \frac{-2k\lambda \ln(b/a)}{\text{varies w/ } \Delta V} \end{aligned}$$

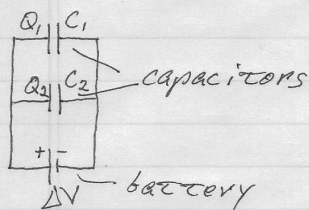
By substitution in  $C = Q/|\Delta V|$

$$\begin{aligned} \underline{C} &= \frac{Q}{2k\lambda \ln(b/a)} = \frac{Q}{2k \frac{Q}{l} \ln(b/a)} \\ &= \underline{\underline{l / (2k \ln(b/a))}} \end{aligned}$$

$\rightarrow$  no  $l, Q \rightarrow$  only geometry

L10 p4

### Combinations: Capacitors in Parallel



In parallel configuration,  
 $\rightarrow \Delta V$  across  $C_1$  same as  $\Delta V_2$   
 $\rightarrow$  charge flows when switch is closed  
 $\rightarrow$  stops when capacitors fully charged

$$Q_{TOTAL} = Q_1 + Q_2$$

$$\text{Since } \Delta V = \Delta V_1 = \Delta V_2,$$

$$Q_1 = C_1 \Delta V$$

$$Q_2 = C_2 \Delta V$$

$$Q_{TOT} = \text{Effective } \Delta V$$

can think of an equivalent capacitor to  $C_1 + C_2$  in parallel.

Thus,

$$C_{eff} \Delta V = C_1 \Delta V + C_2 \Delta V$$

$$\underline{\underline{C_{eff} = C_1 + C_2}}$$

Capacitors' capacitances sum when in parallel.