

As we know in physics, potential energy is stored energy of an object. Similar, in electrostatic, a charge displays against electric field from one position to another position then the charge will store some energy i.e., **Electric Potential** and the maximum capacity to store energy in the form of charge is referred as **Capacitance**.

Formulae:

Electric Potential:

- If a point charge is brought from position A to B against electric field **E**, then potential energy would be:

$$\Delta U = U_B - U_A = W_{AB} = - \int_A^B F_{ext} \cdot dr$$

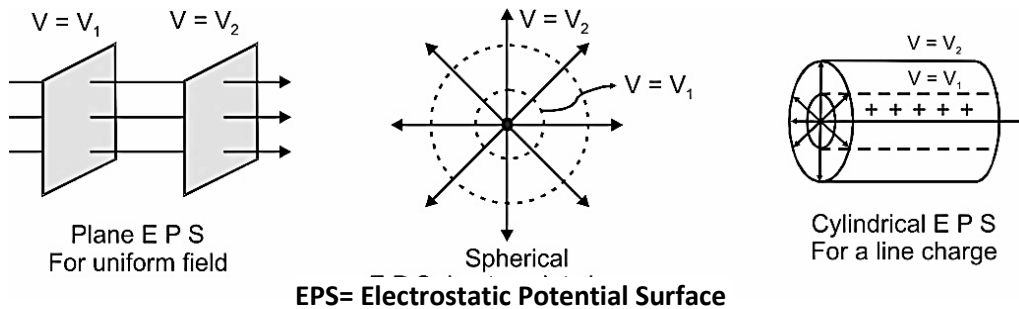
- Work done by external force to bring a positive point charge **q** from point A to point B:

$$W = V_B - V_A = \frac{U_B - U_A}{q}, \quad V_B \text{ and } V_A \text{ are electric potential.}$$

- Potential due to point charge: $V = \frac{kq}{r}$
- Potential Energy between two charges: $U = k \frac{q_1 q_2}{r_{12}}$
- Potential due to system of charges: $V = k \left(\frac{q_1}{r_{1p}} + \frac{q_2}{r_{2p}} + \dots + \frac{q_n}{r_{np}} \right)$
- Potential Energy due the system of three charge particles:

$$U = k \left(\frac{q_1 q_2}{r_{12}} + \frac{q_1 q_3}{r_{13}} + \frac{q_2 q_3}{r_{23}} \right)$$
- Equipotential Surfaces: It is the surface where potential is constant at all points on the surface. For a single charge the potential will be $V = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{Q}{R}$

Electric Potential and Capacitance



Relation between electric field and potential: $E = - \frac{dV}{dr}$

Potential due to dipole: $V = \frac{kP \cos \theta}{r^2}$

- In vector form: $V = k \frac{\vec{P} \cdot \hat{r}}{r^2}$ when $r \gg a$
- Potential on the dipole axis is given by (which means $\theta=0$ or π): $V = \pm \frac{kp}{r^2}$
- Potential energy of dipole in external electric field: $U = - \vec{p} \cdot \vec{E} = - pE \cos \theta$

Dielectrics and Polarization: Dielectrics are non-conducting substances, the dipole moment per unit volume is called **polarization** and is denoted by P. Hence, $P = \epsilon_0 \chi_e E$. where χ_e is a constant dielectric property and is known as the dielectric medium's electric susceptibility.

Capacitance: When V is proportional to charge Q in the region between charged surfaces.

$$Q \propto V$$

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

Where, C= constant of proportionality and it's called as **capacitance**.

- Parallel plate capacitance:

$$C = \epsilon_0 \frac{A}{d}, A = \text{Area of plate and } d = \text{distance between plates}$$

For $A=1 \text{ m}^2$ and $d=1\text{m}$, $C = 8.85 \times 10^{-12} \text{ F}$

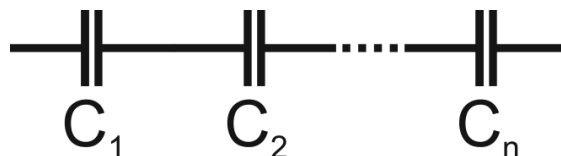
- In case of thickness t of **dielectric** : $C = \epsilon_0 \frac{A}{d - t + \frac{t}{k}}$, and
K= dielectric constant

- Energy density in Electric Field: $U = \frac{\epsilon_0 E^2}{2}$

- Energy of capacitor: $U = \frac{1}{2} CV^2$

Combination of capacitor:

- Capacitor in series: $\frac{1}{C_{eq}} = \frac{1}{C_1} + \frac{1}{C_2} + \frac{1}{C_3} + \dots + \frac{1}{C_n}$



Electric Potential and Capacitance

- Combination in parallel: $C_{eq} = C_1 + C_2 + C_3 + C_4 + \dots + C_n$

