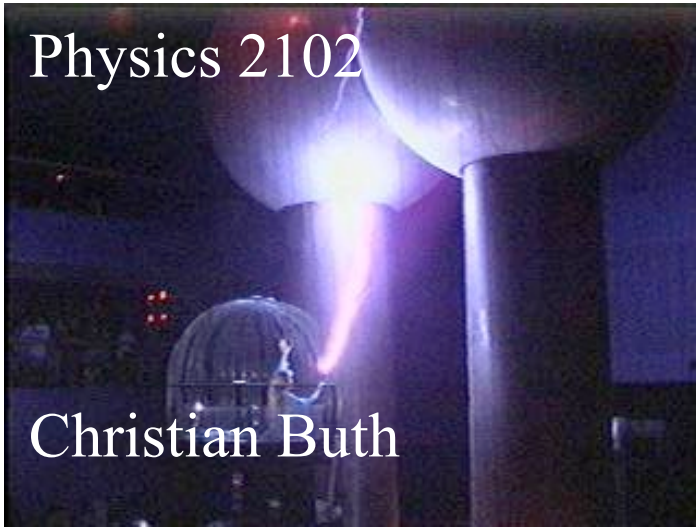


Physics 2102

Christian Buth



Flux Capacitor (Schematic)

# Physics 2102

## Lecture 5

### Electric Flux

Version: 01/23/2009



Michael Faraday  
1791-1867

# Review

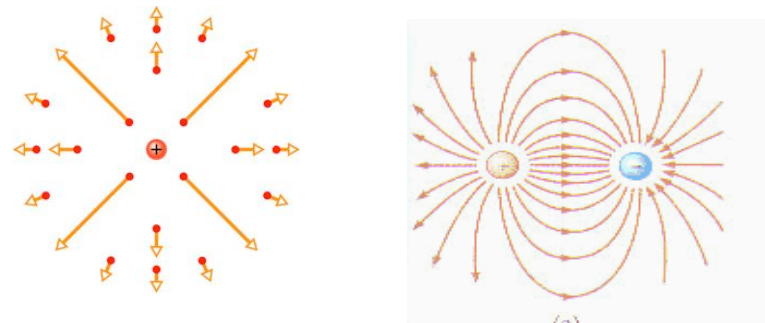
- **Continuous charge distributions** instead of discrete point charges
- Use **calculus** to find electric field from a continuous charge distribution
- For a **known** electric field, determine **force** on a charged particle via  $\vec{F} = q \vec{E}$
- Electric dipole **aligns along lines** of a uniform electric field
- **Milliken experiment** proves that charge is quantized; yields the magnitude of the **elementary charge**

# Electric charges and fields

We work with two different kinds of problems, easily confused:

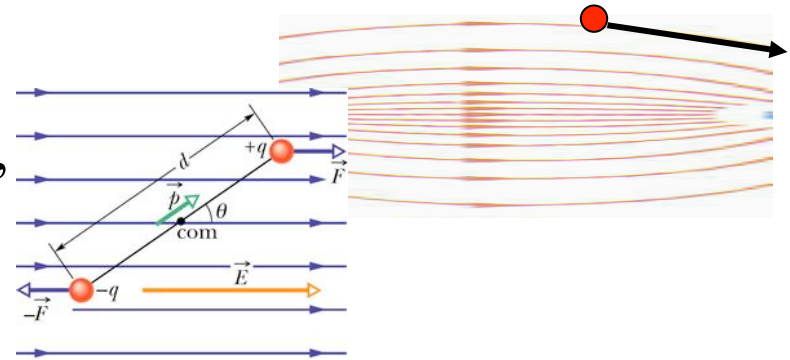
- **Given certain electric charges**, we calculate the **electric field** produced by those charges (using  $\mathbf{E} = kq\mathbf{r}/r^3$  for each charge)

**Example:** the electric field produced by a single charge, or by a dipole:



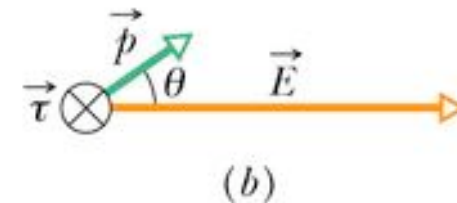
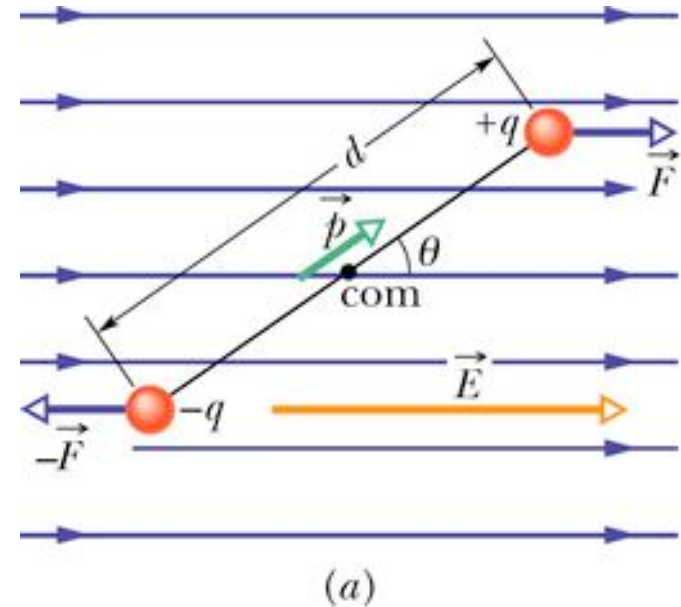
- **Given an electric field**, we calculate the **forces** applied by this electric field **on charges** that come into the field, using  $\mathbf{F} = q\mathbf{E}$

**Examples:** forces on a single charge when immersed in the field of a dipole, torque on a dipole when immersed in an uniform electric field



# Electric Dipole in a Uniform Field

- **No net force** on dipole; center of mass stays where it is
- Net **torque**  $\tau$ : into page
- Dipole **rotates** to line up in direction of  $E$
- $|\tau| = 2 (QE) (d/2) (\sin \theta)$   
 $= (Qd) (E) \sin \theta$   
 $= |\mathbf{p}| E \sin \theta$   
 $= |\mathbf{p} \times \mathbf{E}|$
- The dipole tends to “align” itself with the field lines
- What happens if the field is **not uniform**?



# Potential Energy

- The work  $W$  done by the **electric field** is

$$\Delta U = U_f - U_i = \int_i^f \mathbf{F} \cdot d\vec{s} = -W$$

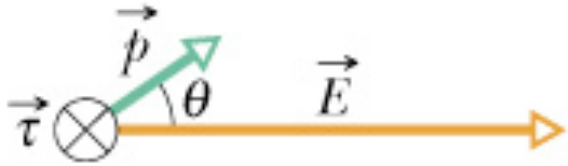
equals the negative potential energy difference  $\Delta U$

- The work done by an **external agent** equals the potential energy difference

$$W_a = \Delta U = -W$$

- The **minus sign** comes from Newton's third law (action equals reaction): the force due to the electric field is of the **same** magnitude but of **opposite** direction than the force exerted by the external agent

## Potential Energy of an Electric Dipole in a Uniform Electric Field

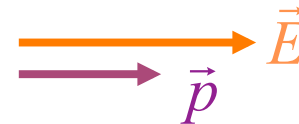


$$U = -pE \cos \theta$$

$$U = -\vec{p} \cdot \vec{E}$$

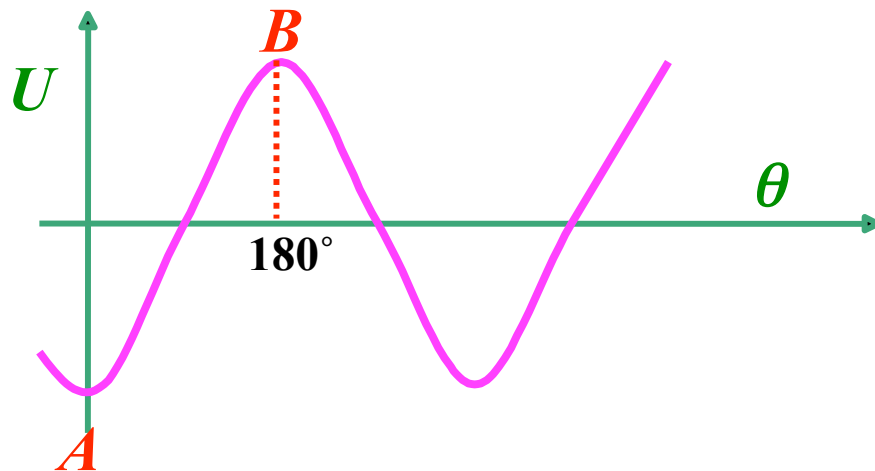
$$U = -\int_{90^\circ}^{\theta} \tau d\theta' = -\int_{90^\circ}^{\theta} pE \sin \theta d\theta'$$

$$U = -pE \int_{90^\circ}^{\theta} \sin \theta d\theta' = -pE \cos \theta = -\vec{p} \cdot \vec{E}$$



At point **A** ( $\theta = 0$ ),  $U$  has a minimum value  $U_{\min} = -pE$ .

It is a position of **stable** equilibrium.



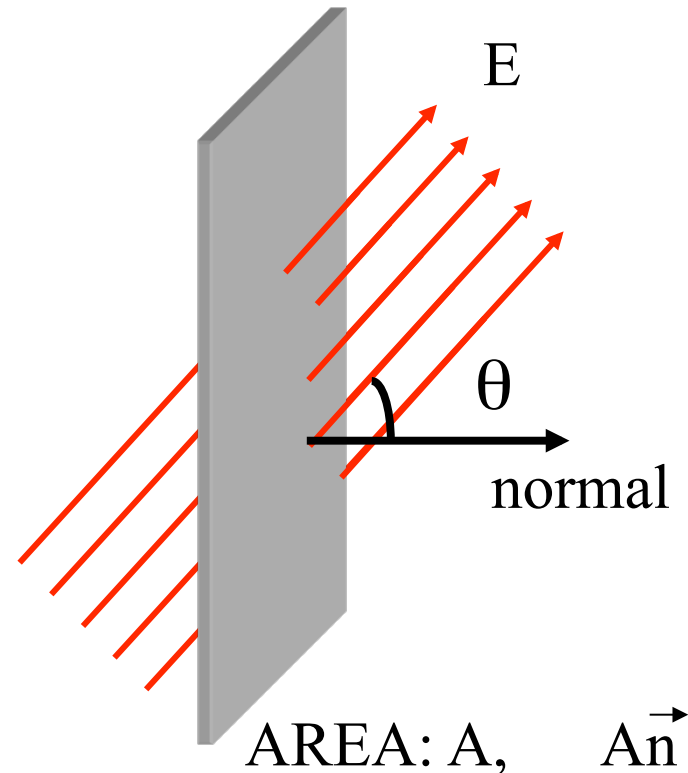
At point **B** ( $\theta = 180^\circ$ ),  $U$  has a maximum value  $U_{\max} = +pE$ .

It is a position of **unstable** equilibrium.



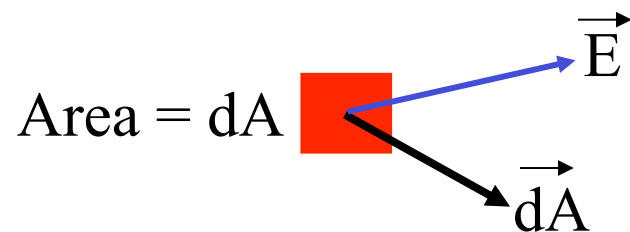
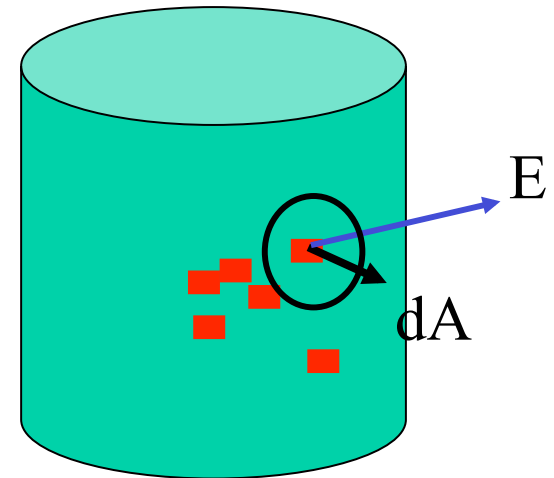
# Electric Flux: Planar Surface

- Given:
  - planar surface, area  $A$
  - uniform field  $E$
  - $E$  makes angle  $\theta$  with NORMAL to plane
- Electric Flux:  
$$\Phi = \vec{E} \cdot \vec{A} = E A \cos\theta$$
- Units:  $\text{Nm}^2/\text{C}$
- Visualize: “Flow of Wind”  
Through “Window”



# Electric Flux: General Surface

- For any general surface: break up into infinitesimal planar patches
- Electric Flux  $\Phi = \int \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A}$
- Surface integral
- $d\vec{A}$  is a vector normal to each patch and has a magnitude  $= |\vec{dA}| = dA$
- **CLOSED** surfaces:
  - define the vector  $dA$  as pointing **OUTWARDS**
  - Inward  $E$  gives negative flux  $\Phi$
  - Outward  $E$  gives positive flux  $\Phi$






# Electric Flux: Example

- Closed cylinder of length  $L$ , radius  $R$
- Uniform  $E$  parallel to cylinder axis
- What is the total electric flux through surface of cylinder?

(a)  $(2\pi RL)E$

(b)  $2(\pi R^2)E$

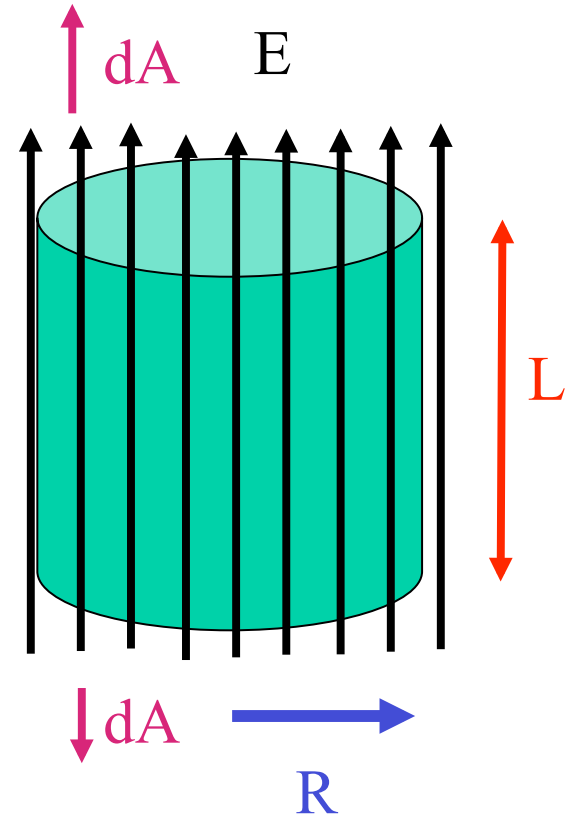
(c) Zero   $(\pi R^2)E - (\pi R^2)E = 0$

What goes in —  
MUST come out!

Hint!

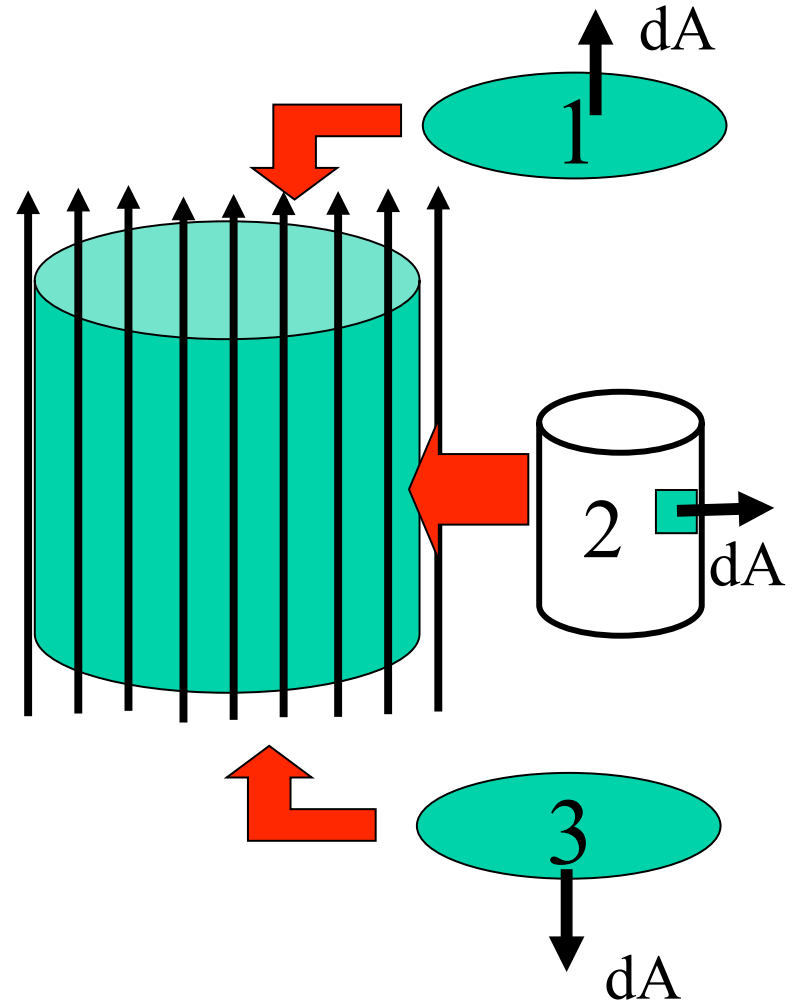
Surface area of sides of cylinder:  $2\pi RL$

Surface area of top and bottom caps (each):  $\pi R^2$

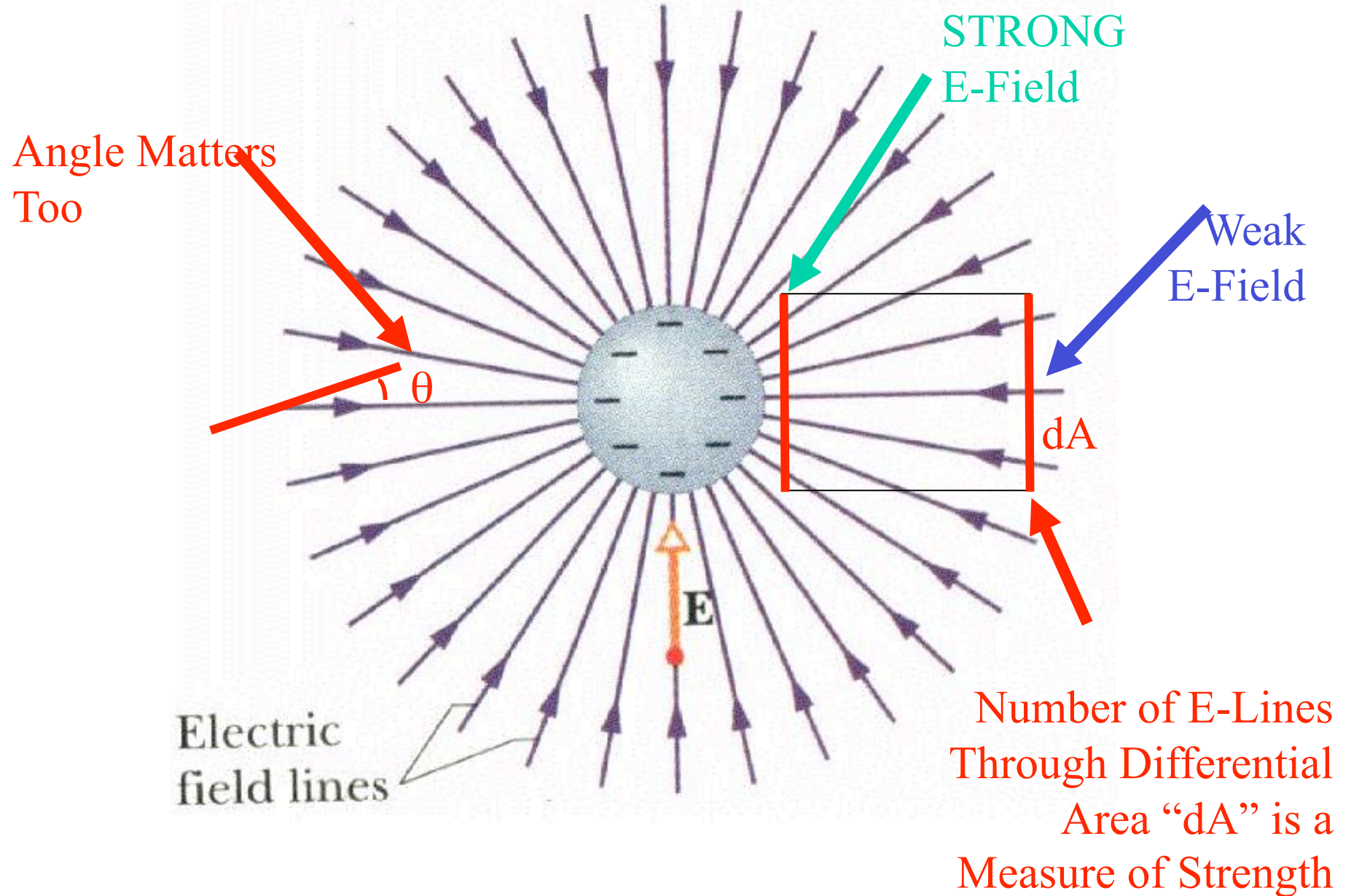


# Electric Flux: Example

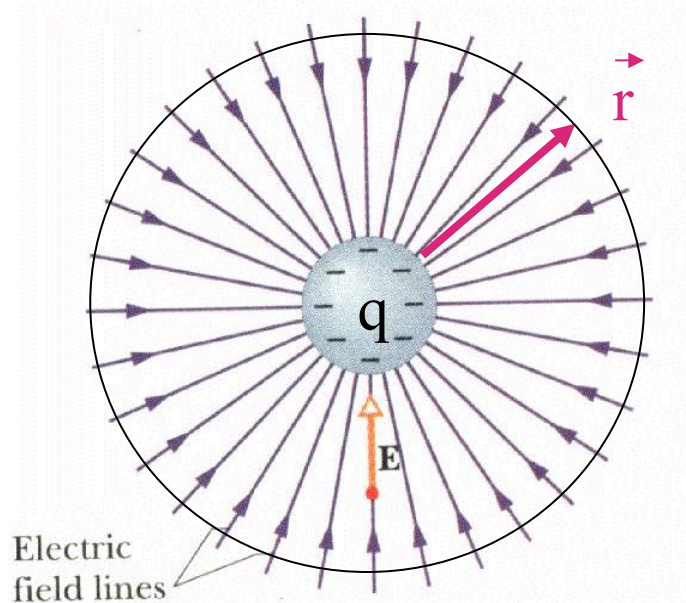
- Note that  $E$  is **normal** to both bottom and top cap
- $E$  is **parallel** to curved surface everywhere
- So:  $\Phi = \Phi_1 + \Phi_2 + \Phi_3$   
 $= \pi R^2 E + 0 - \pi R^2 E$   
 $= 0!$
- Physical interpretation:  
total “inflow” = total  
“outflow”!



# What? — The Flux!



# Electric Flux: Example



$$\vec{E} = -\frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q}{r^2} \hat{r} \quad (\text{Inward!})$$

$$d\vec{A} = +(dA)\hat{r} \quad (\text{Outward!})$$

$$\vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A} = EdA \cos(180^\circ) = -EdA$$

Since  $r$  is Constant on the Sphere — Remove  $E$  Outside the Integral!

$$\Phi = \oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A} = -E \oint dA = \left( -\frac{kq}{r^2} \right) (\underline{4\pi r^2}) \quad \underline{\text{Surface Area Sphere}}$$

$$= -\frac{q}{\underline{4\pi}\epsilon_0} (\underline{4\pi}) = -q/\epsilon_0 \quad \text{Gauss' Law: Special Case!}$$

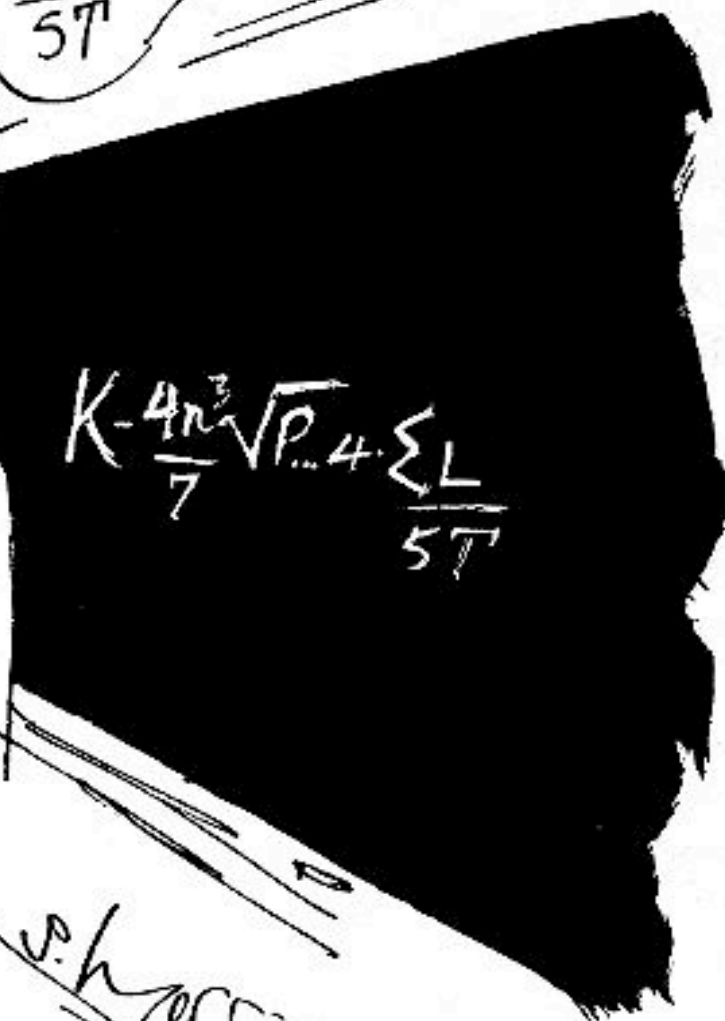
# Summary

- An **electric dipole** in an electric field rotates to align itself with the field
- **Torque:**  $\tau = \mathbf{p} \times \mathbf{E}$
- Work done by electric field is negative of work by an **external agent:**  $W_a = \Delta U = -W$
- **Electric flux** is  $\Phi = \int \mathbf{E} \cdot d\mathbf{A}$
- The area vector always points outward

TELL US, IN LAYMAN'S  
TERMS, WHAT YOUR  
BREAKTHROUGH MEANS.



CERTAINLY.  
 $K - \frac{4n^3}{7} \sqrt{P} \dots 4 \cdot \frac{\Sigma L}{5T}$



v. h. artis