

Electrostatic Potential

Chapter 2: Electrostatic Potential and Capacitance

1. Introduction

- Concept of potential energy and conservative forces
- Work done in moving a charge in electrostatic field

2. Electrostatic Potential

- Definition and significance
- Potential at a point from infinity

3. Potential Due to a Point Charge

- Derivation using work-energy principle
- Sign of potential based on charge sign

4. Potential Due to an Electric Dipole

- Superposition principle
- Potential expressions in axial and equatorial positions
- Dipole potential vs point charge potential

5. Potential Due to a System of Charges

- Superposition of individual potentials
- Continuous charge distribution
- Spherical shell potentials (inside & outside)

6. Equipotential Surfaces

- Definition and examples (point charge, dipole, uniform field)
- Properties and relation to electric field
- Equipotential maps

7. Potential Energy of a System of Charges

- Two-charge system
- Three-charge system and generalization
- Work done by external forces

8. Potential Energy in an External Field

- Single charge in external potential
- Two charges in external field
- Dipole in uniform field and energy expression

9. Electrostatics of Conductors

- Properties of conductors
- Shielding and surface field expressions
- Electrostatic field inside cavities

10. Dielectrics and Polarisation

- Polar and non-polar molecules
- Induced dipole and alignment in field
- Polarisation vector and susceptibility

11. Capacitors and Capacitance

- Definition and types
- Capacitance expression and units
- Physical significance

12. Parallel Plate Capacitor

- Derivation of capacitance
- Fringing effects
- Dependence on geometry

13. Effect of Dielectric on Capacitance

- Field reduction and potential change
- Dielectric constant (K)
- Permittivity and capacitance relation

14. Combination of Capacitors

- **Series combination:** formula and logic
- **Parallel combination:** formula and logic

15. Energy Stored in a Capacitor

- Energy expressions ($\frac{1}{2} CV^2$, $\frac{1}{2} QV$, $Q^2/2C$)
- Energy density in electric field