

Suppose the plates of a parallel plate capacitor move closer together by a small distance δ as a result of their mutual attraction.

Plates have area A .



② Eqn (2.52) Pressure on surface $P = \frac{\epsilon_0}{2} E^2 = \frac{\text{Energy}}{\text{volume}} = \frac{\text{Force}}{\text{area}}$

③ Energy lost by field = energy density \times volume (2.46)

2.45

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A sphere of radius R carries charge density
 $\rho(r) = kr$ where $k = \text{constant}$.
 Find the energy of the configuration.

First find the charge enclosed by any radius.

$$\rho = \frac{dq}{\text{volume}} \Rightarrow dq = \rho dV = kr \cdot 4\pi r^2 dr$$

$$\text{INSIDE } q(r < R) =$$

$$\text{Total charge enclosed } Q =$$

Now use Gauss's law to find the field everywhere

(this is easier than finding $V(q)$ or $V(p)$), thanks to
 (the symmetry)

$$\oint E \cdot dA = \frac{q(r)}{\epsilon_0} = E \cdot 4\pi r^2 \xrightarrow{\text{INSIDE}} E(r < R) =$$

$$E(R) =$$

$$\text{outside } E(r > R)$$

Sketch $q(r)$ & $E(r)$

(2.45) continued... One way to find energy: $W = \frac{1}{2} \int \rho V d\tau$

Now, Starting from the outside, find $V(r)$ everywhere

$$\text{OUTSIDE: } V(r > R) = - \int_{\infty}^r E_{\text{out}} dr =$$

$$\text{At the surface: } V(R) =$$

$$\text{INSIDE: } V(r < R) = - \int_{\infty}^R E(r \geq R) dr - \int_R^r E_m dr =$$

$$\text{Finally, } W = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^R \rho V d\tau \text{ where } \rho = kr \text{ and } d\tau = 4\pi r^2 dr$$

This is the energy stored in the charge distribution

Alternative: find the energy stored in the field:

$$W = \frac{\epsilon_0}{2} \int E^2 d\tau = \frac{\epsilon_0}{2} \int_0^R E_{in}^2 d\tau + \frac{\epsilon_0}{2} \int_R^\infty E_{out}^2 d\tau$$