

ELEN E3401: Electromagnetics

Spring 2025

Prof. Keren Bergman

Lecture #12



COLUMBIA | ENGINEERING
The Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science



Maxwell's Equations: statics

Electrostatics:

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{D} = \rho_V$$

$$\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{E} = 0$$

Magnetostatics:

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{B} = 0$$

$$\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{H} = \vec{J}$$

Conductors

Free electrons loosely attached to atoms.

With applied \vec{E} external field, electrons migrate in opposite to field direction

Conduction current: $\vec{J} = \sigma \vec{E}$ (A/m²) Ohm's Law

Silver:	6.2×10^7	[S/m]	[σ increases with decreasing temperature]	
Gold:	4.1×10^7			
Germanium:	2.2	}	Semiconductors → need to dope	
Silicon:	4.4×10^{-4}			
Glass:	10^{-12}	→	dielectric	

Conductors

Perfect dielectric $\sigma = 0$

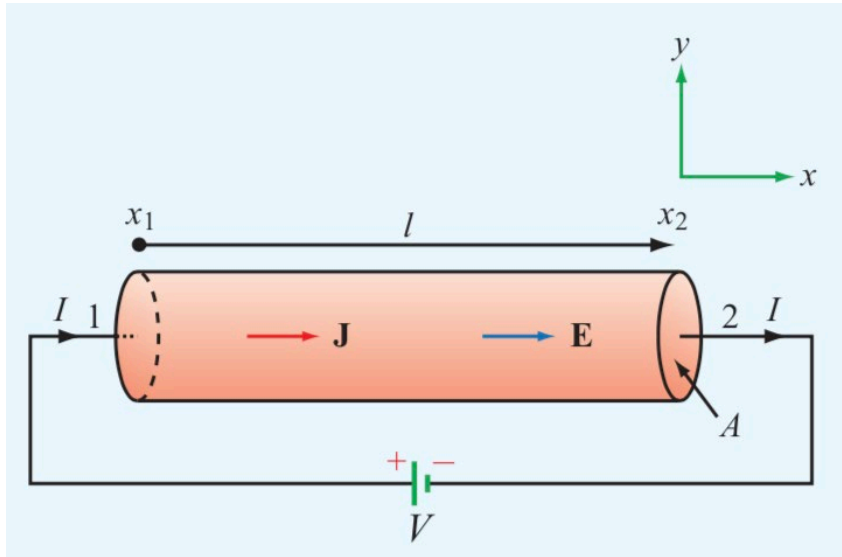
Perfect conductor $\sigma = \infty$

$$\vec{J} = \sigma \vec{E} \text{ (A/m}^2\text{) Ohm's Law} \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{With } \sigma = 0 \text{ (dielectric), } \vec{J} = 0 \text{ (independent of } \vec{E}\text{)} \\ \text{With } \sigma = \infty, \vec{E} = \frac{\vec{J}}{\sigma} = 0 \end{array} \right.$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Perfect dielectric} & \longrightarrow & \vec{J} = 0 \\ & & \text{Perfect conductor} \longrightarrow \vec{E} = 0 \\ & & \text{(Equipotential)} \end{array}$$

$$V_{21} = - \int_{P_1}^{P_2} \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{l} = V_2 - V_1 = 0$$

Resistance



Conductor length: $l = x_2 - x_1$

Cross section area: A

$$\vec{E} = \hat{x}E_x$$

Higher potential point 1

Lower potential point 2

$$V = V_1 - V_2 = - \int_{x_2}^{x_1} \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{l} = - \int_{x_2}^{x_1} \hat{x}E_x \cdot \hat{x}dl = E_x l$$

$$I = \int_A \vec{J} \cdot d\vec{s} = \int_A \sigma \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s} = \sigma E_x A$$

$$R = \frac{V}{I} = \frac{E_x l}{\sigma E_x A} = \frac{l}{\sigma A} [\Omega]$$

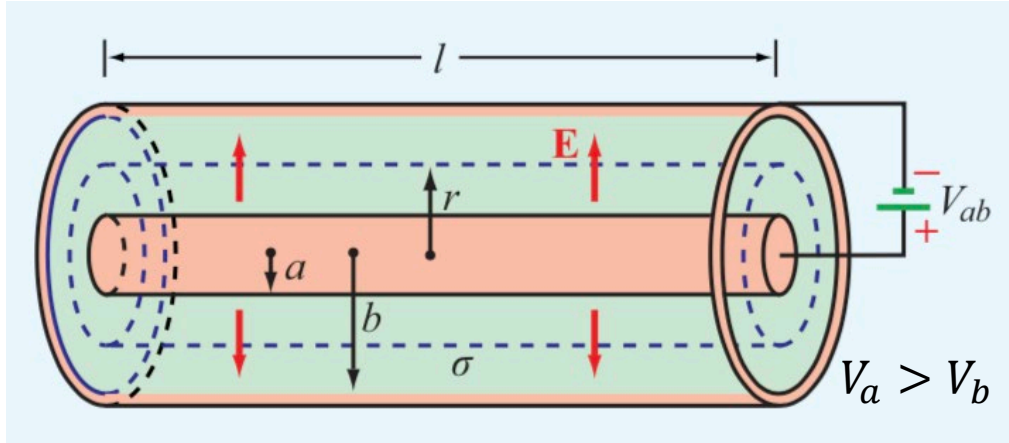
Can generalize result for resistance

$$R = \frac{V}{I} = \frac{- \int_l \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{l}}{\int_S \vec{J} \cdot d\vec{s}} = \frac{- \int_l \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{l}}{\int_S \sigma \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s}}$$

$$R = \frac{l}{\sigma A} [\Omega]$$

$$G = \frac{1}{R} = \frac{\sigma A}{l} [S]$$

Example - coax cable



Conductance of coax

Voltage inner conductor $>$ outer

Coax cable length, l

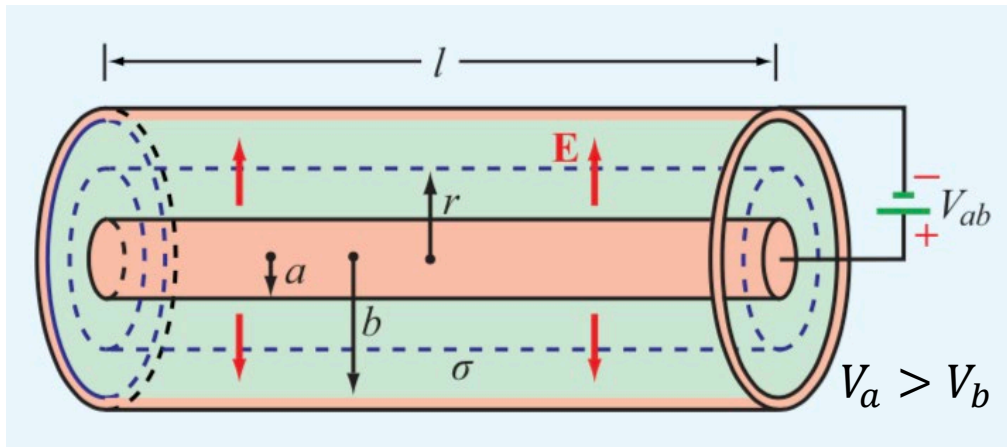
Inner radius = a

Outer radius = b

Insulation material has
conductivity, σ

Obtain G' / unit length of insulation layer

Example - coax cable



Conductance of coax

Voltage inner conductor $>$ outer

Coax cable length, l

Inner radius = a

Outer radius = b

Insulation conductivity, σ

Obtain G' / unit length of insulation layer

I = current flowing from inner conductor to outer conductor through insulation $\rightarrow \hat{r}$

Area through which current flows: $A = \underbrace{2\pi r l}_{\text{cylindrical}}$

$$\vec{J} = \hat{r} \frac{I}{A} = \hat{r} \frac{I}{2\pi r l} \quad \vec{J} = \sigma \vec{E} \quad \vec{E} = \hat{r} \frac{I}{2\pi \sigma r l} \text{ from inner to outer}$$

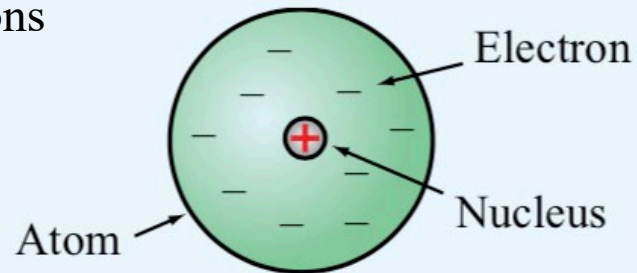
$$V_{ab} = - \int_b^a \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{l} = - \int_b^a \hat{r} \frac{I}{2\pi \sigma r l} \cdot \hat{r} dr = \frac{I}{2\pi \sigma l} \ln \left(\frac{b}{a} \right)$$

$$G' = \frac{G}{l} = \frac{1}{Rl} = \frac{I}{V_{ab} l} = \frac{2\pi \sigma}{\ln(b/a)} [S/m]$$

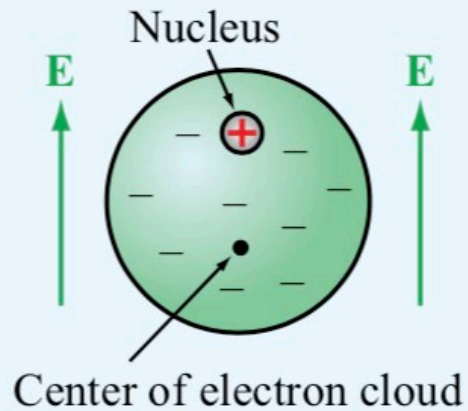
Same as table 2.1

Dielectrics – dipole model

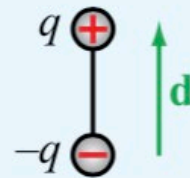
Electrons
tightly
bound



(a) External $\mathbf{E}_{\text{ext}} = 0$

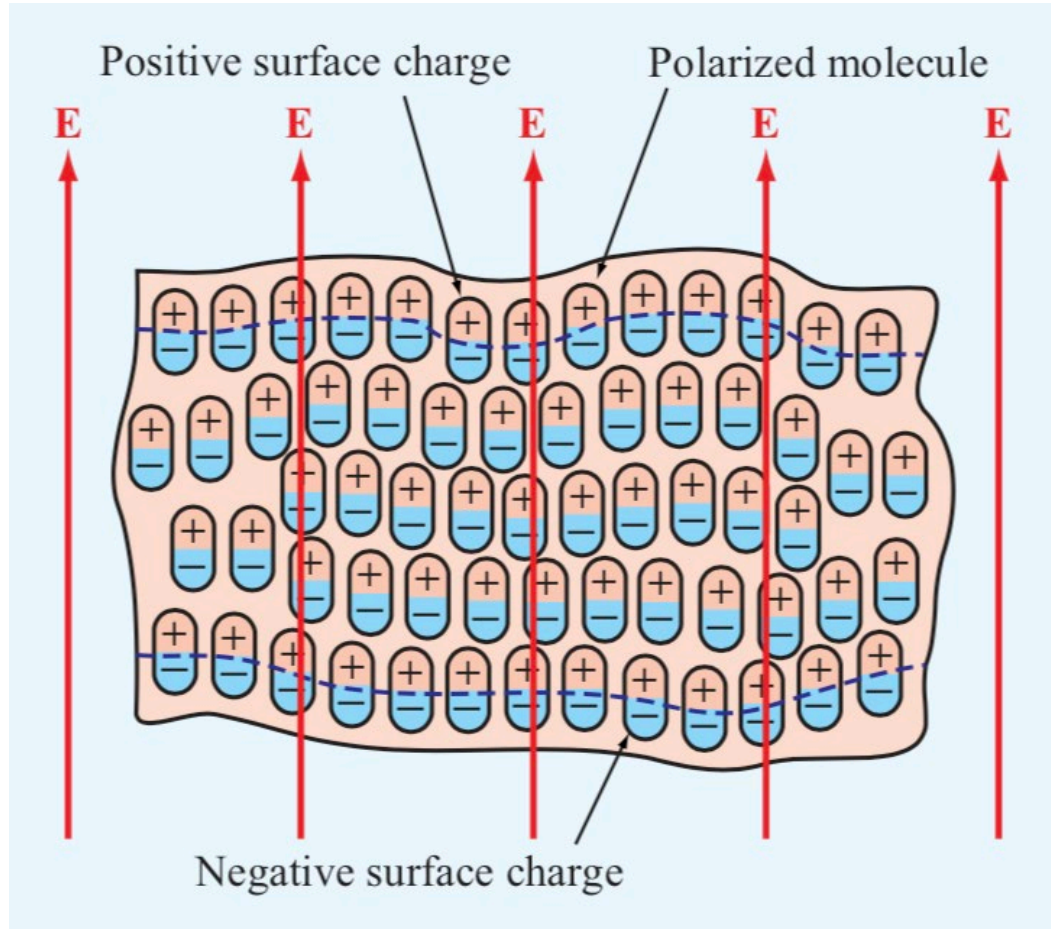


(b) External $\mathbf{E}_{\text{ext}} \neq 0$



(c) Electric dipole

Dielectrics



→ Can have polar materials with permanent dipole moments that are either random or aligned with \vec{E} (liquid crystals)

Electric Breakdown

The dielectric strength E_{ds} is the largest magnitude of \mathbf{E} that the material can sustain without breakdown.

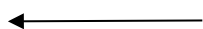
Table 4-2: Relative permittivity (dielectric constant) and dielectric strength of common materials.

Material	Relative Permittivity, ϵ_r	Dielectric Strength, E_{ds} (MV/m)
Air (at sea level)	1.0006	3
Petroleum oil	2.1	12
Polystyrene	2.6	20
Glass	4.5–10	25–40
Quartz	3.8–5	30
Bakelite	5	20
Mica	5.4–6	200

$$\epsilon = \epsilon_r \epsilon_0 \text{ and } \epsilon_0 = 8.854 \times 10^{-12} \text{ F/m.}$$

Polarization field

Free space $\vec{D} = \epsilon_0 \vec{E}$

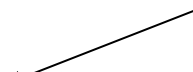
In a dielectric we define: $\vec{D} = \epsilon_0 \vec{E} + \vec{P}$  Electric polarization field

Linear – \vec{P} is linear with \vec{E}

Isotropic – \vec{P} and \vec{E} in same direction

Anisotropic – \vec{P} and \vec{E} may have different directions

Homogeneous - ϵ, μ, σ are uniform constant

$$\vec{P} = \epsilon_0 \chi_e \vec{E}$$


Electric susceptibility

$$\vec{D} = \epsilon_0 \vec{E} + \epsilon_0 \chi_e \vec{E} = \epsilon_0 (1 + \chi_e) \vec{E} = \epsilon \vec{E}$$

$$\epsilon = \epsilon_0 (1 + \chi_e) \quad \epsilon_r = \frac{\epsilon}{\epsilon_0}$$

Electric boundary conditions

$$\text{Gauss } \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{D} = \rho_V \rightarrow \oint_S \vec{D} \cdot d\vec{s} = Q$$

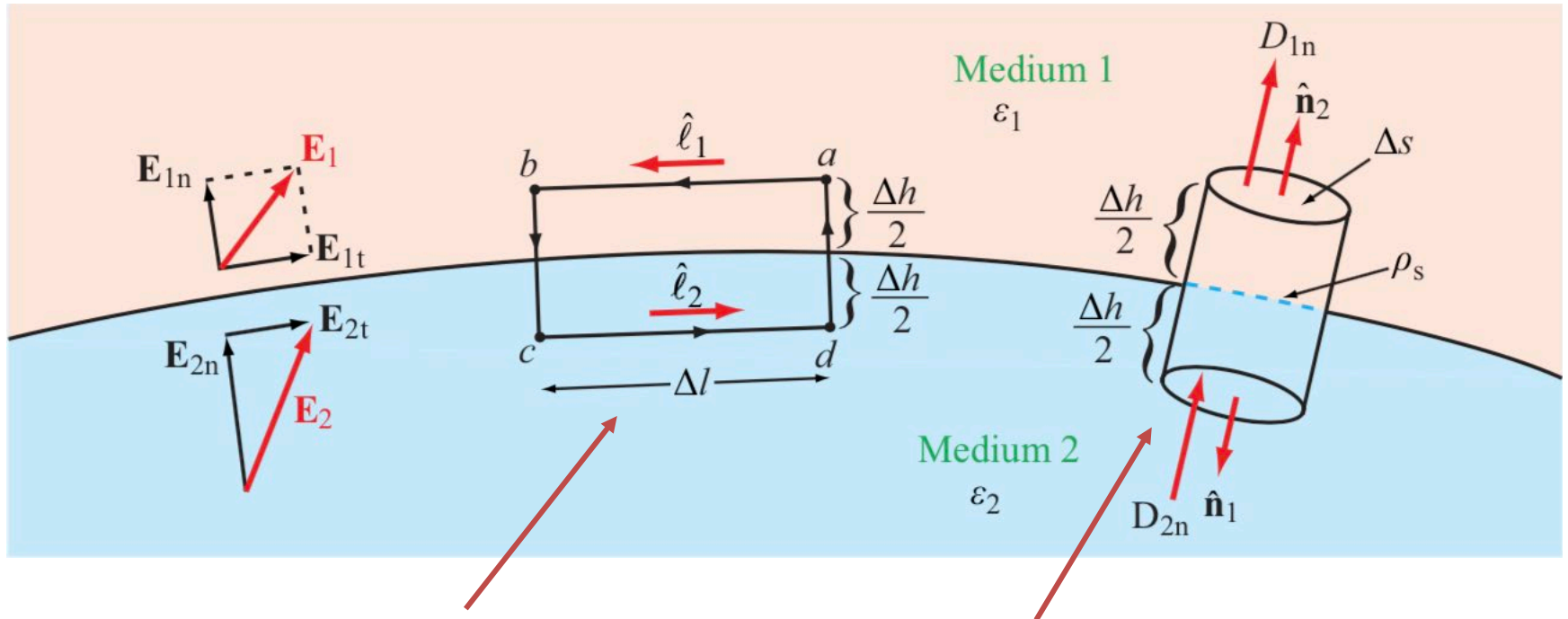
$$\text{Kirchoff (Faraday): } \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{E} = 0 \rightarrow \oint_C \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{l} = 0$$

From Maxwell's equations – obtains set of boundary conditions on:
 \vec{E} , \vec{D} , and \vec{J} at interface of any 2 media

(later will do \vec{H} , \vec{B})

Derived from electrostatics \rightarrow apply when $\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \neq 0$

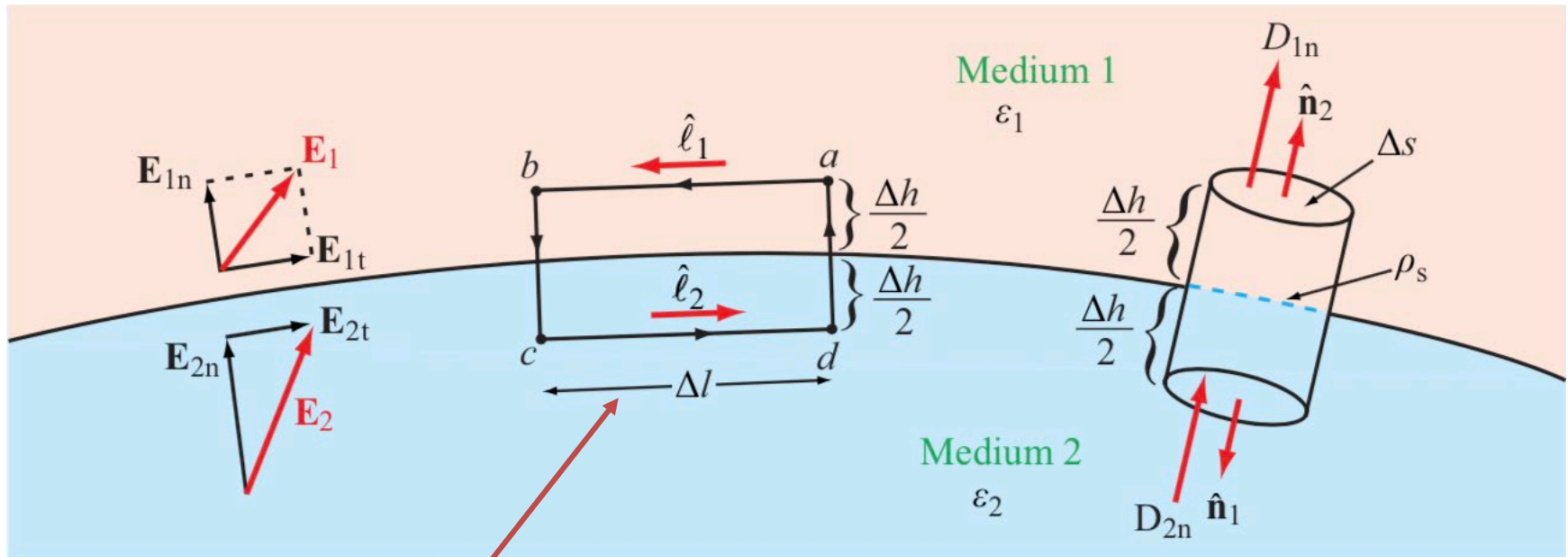
Tangential/normal components of \vec{E} and \vec{D}



Faraday: $\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{E} = 0 \rightarrow \oint_C \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{\ell} = 0$

Gauss: $\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{D} = \rho_V \rightarrow \oint_S \vec{D} \cdot d\vec{s} = Q$

Tangential components of \vec{E} and \vec{D}



Consider closed rectangular loop **a-b-c-d-a**

Conservative field: $\oint_C \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{l} = 0$ Line integral around closed path is zero

Let $\Delta h \rightarrow 0$ then \overline{bc} and $\overline{da} \rightarrow 0$

$$\oint_C \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{l} = \int_a^b \underset{\substack{\uparrow \\ \text{Medium 1}}}{\vec{E}_1 \cdot \hat{l}_1} dl + \int_c^d \underset{\substack{\uparrow \\ \text{Medium 2}}}{\vec{E}_2 \cdot \hat{l}_2} dl = 0$$

Tangential components of \vec{E} and \vec{D}

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \vec{E}_1 &= \vec{E}_{1t} + \vec{E}_{1n} \\ \vec{E}_2 &= \vec{E}_{2t} + \vec{E}_{2n} \end{aligned} \right\} \begin{array}{l} \text{Tangential and normal} \\ \text{components to the boundary} \end{array}$$

$$\hat{l}_1 = -\hat{l}_2 \quad (\vec{E}_1 - \vec{E}_2) \cdot \hat{l}_1 = 0$$

To satisfy Faraday's law (closed contour, conservative field):

Component of \vec{E}_1 along \hat{l}_1 must equal component of \vec{E}_2 along \hat{l}_1 for all \hat{l}_1 tangential to the boundary

$$\boxed{\vec{E}_{1t} = \vec{E}_{2t}} \quad [\text{V/m}]$$

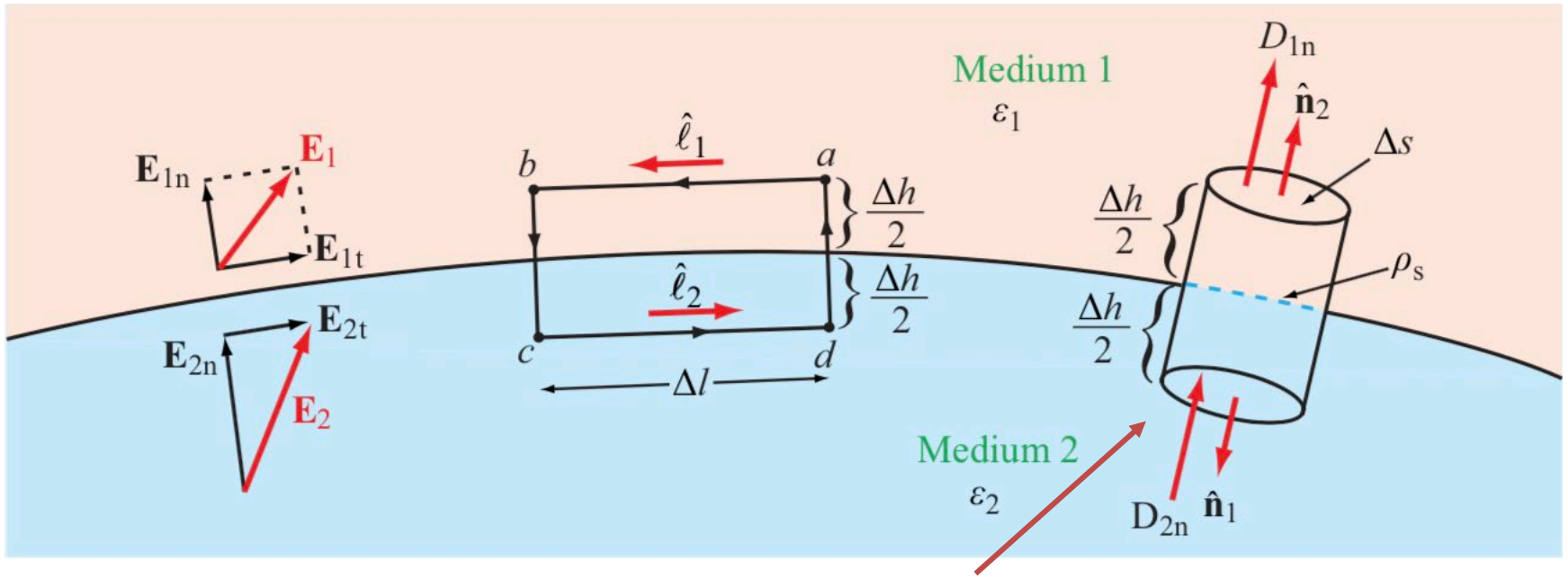
Tangential components of \vec{E} and \vec{D}

Tangential component of the \vec{E} field is continuous across boundary for any 2 media

$$\begin{array}{l} \vec{D}_1 = \epsilon_1 \vec{E}_{1t} + \epsilon_1 \vec{E}_{1n} \\ \vec{D}_2 = \epsilon_2 \vec{E}_{2t} + \epsilon_2 \vec{E}_{2n} \end{array} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \begin{array}{l} \vec{D}_{1t} = \epsilon_1 \vec{E}_{1t} \\ \vec{D}_{2t} = \epsilon_2 \vec{E}_{2t} \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} \vec{D}_{2t} = \epsilon_2 \vec{E}_{1t} \\ (\text{since } \vec{E}_{1t} = \vec{E}_{2t}) \end{array}$$

$$\frac{\vec{D}_{1t}}{\epsilon_1} = \frac{\vec{D}_{2t}}{\epsilon_2} \quad \frac{\vec{D}_{1t}}{\vec{D}_{2t}} = \frac{\epsilon_1}{\epsilon_2}$$

Normal components of \vec{E} and \vec{D}



Apply Gauss's Law: total outward flux through cylinder must equal total charge inside.

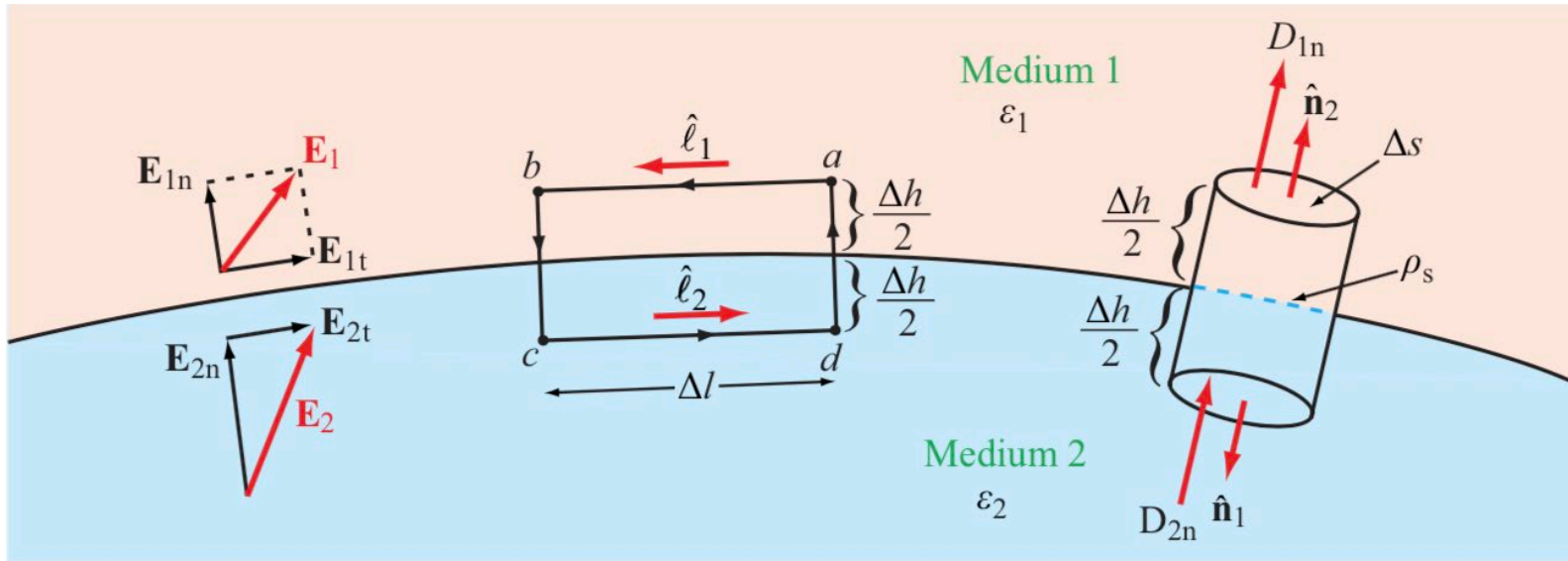
$$\oint_S \vec{D} \cdot d\vec{s} = Q \quad \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{D} = \rho_V$$

Let cylinder height $\Delta h \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow$ only flux is from top/bottom surfaces.

$$Q = \rho_s \Delta s \quad \text{Surface charge density} \times \text{surface differential}$$

$$\oint_S \vec{D} \cdot d\vec{s} = \int_{top} \vec{D}_1 \cdot \hat{n}_2 ds + \int_{bottom} \vec{D}_2 \cdot \hat{n}_1 ds = \rho_s \Delta s$$

Normal components of \vec{E} and \vec{D}



\hat{n}_1 and \hat{n}_2 are outward normal unit vectors from the surface

$$\hat{n}_1 = -\hat{n}_2$$

$$\hat{n}_2 \cdot (\vec{D}_1 - \vec{D}_2) = \rho_s \quad [\text{C/m}^2]$$

$$\boxed{D_{1n} - D_{2n} = \rho_s} \quad [\text{C/m}^2]$$

Normal components of \vec{D} change by surface charge density

$$\hat{n}_2 \cdot (\epsilon_1 \vec{E}_1 - \epsilon_2 \vec{E}_2) = \rho_s \quad \boxed{\epsilon_1 E_{1n} - \epsilon_2 E_{2n} = \rho_s}$$

Summary

Conservative property of \vec{E} :

$$\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{E} = 0 \longrightarrow \oint_C \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{l} = 0$$

$$\vec{E}_{1t} = \vec{E}_{2t}$$

Divergence of \vec{D} :

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{D} = \rho_V \longrightarrow \oint_S \vec{D} \cdot d\vec{s} = Q$$

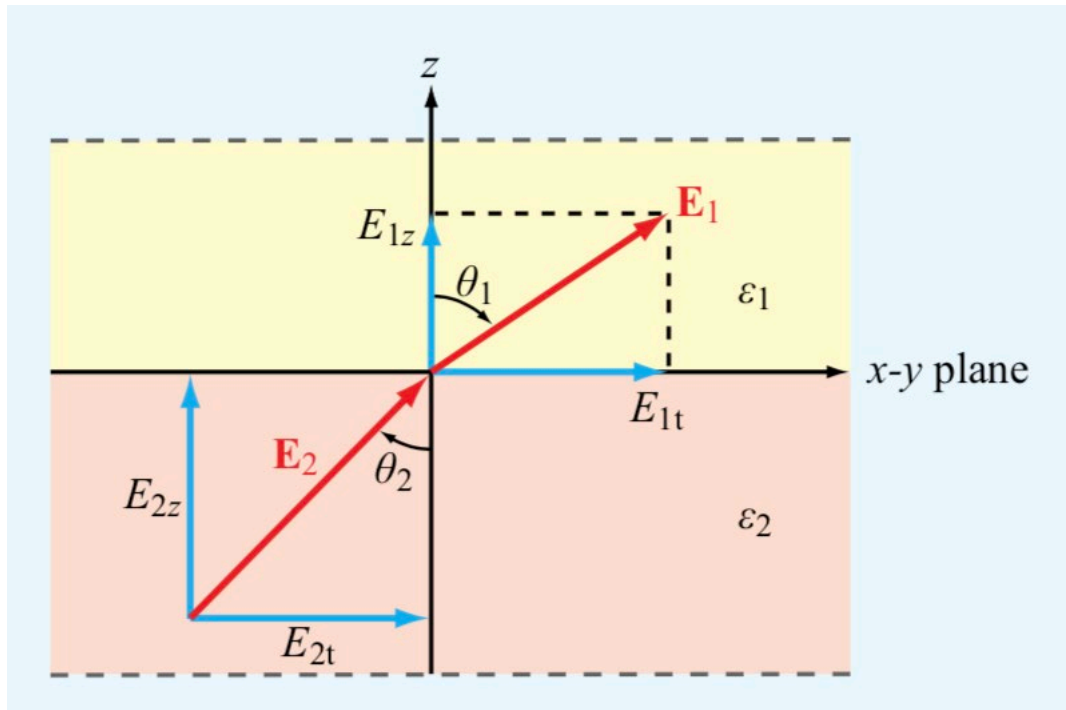
$$\epsilon_1 E_{1n} - \epsilon_2 E_{2n} = \rho_s$$

Summary of Boundary Conditions

Table 4-3: Boundary conditions for the electric fields.

Field Component	Any Two Media	Medium 1 Dielectric ϵ_1	Medium 2 Conductor
Tangential E	$\mathbf{E}_{1t} = \mathbf{E}_{2t}$	$\mathbf{E}_{1t} = \mathbf{E}_{2t} = 0$	
Tangential D	$\mathbf{D}_{1t}/\epsilon_1 = \mathbf{D}_{2t}/\epsilon_2$	$\mathbf{D}_{1t} = \mathbf{D}_{2t} = 0$	
Normal E	$\epsilon_1 E_{1n} - \epsilon_2 E_{2n} = \rho_s$	$E_{1n} = \rho_s/\epsilon_1$	$E_{2n} = 0$
Normal D	$D_{1n} - D_{2n} = \rho_s$	$D_{1n} = \rho_s$	$D_{2n} = 0$
Notes: (1) ρ_s is the surface charge density at the boundary; (2) normal components of \mathbf{E}_1 , \mathbf{D}_1 , \mathbf{E}_2 , and \mathbf{D}_2 are along $\hat{\mathbf{n}}_2$, the outward normal unit vector of medium 2.			

Example: 2 dielectrics



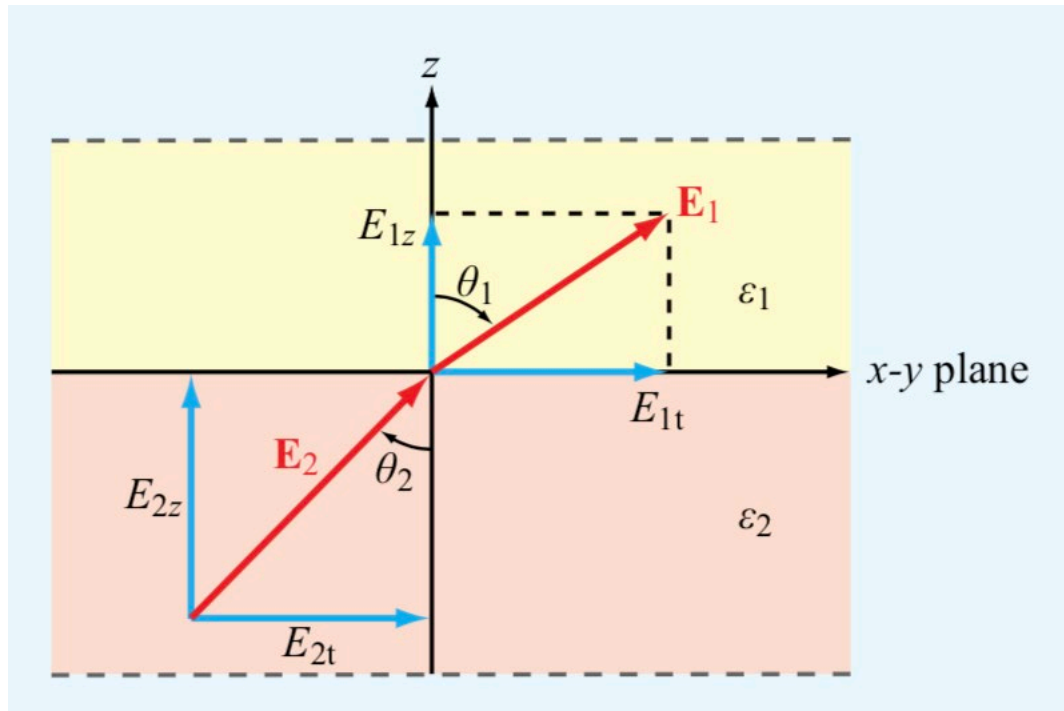
x-y plane boundary
charge-free between 2
dielectrics, ϵ_1 and ϵ_2

$$\vec{E}_1 = \hat{x}E_{1x} + \hat{y}E_{1y} + \hat{z}E_{1z}$$

in dielectric ϵ_1

Find \vec{E}_2 , θ_1 , θ_2

Example: 2 dielectrics



x-y plane boundary
charge-free between 2
dielectrics, ϵ_1 and ϵ_2

$$\vec{E}_1 = \hat{x}E_{1x} + \hat{y}E_{1y} + \hat{z}E_{1z}$$

in dielectric ϵ_1

Find \vec{E}_2 , θ_1 , θ_2

Let $\vec{E}_2 = \hat{x}E_{2x} + \hat{y}E_{2y} + \hat{z}E_{2z}$ Normal to interface is \hat{z} , x-y are tangential

$E_{2x} = E_{1x}$ and $E_{2y} = E_{1y}$ tangential

$D_{2z} = D_{1z} \rightarrow \epsilon_2 E_{2z} = \epsilon_1 E_{1z}$ normal (charge free)

$$\vec{E}_2 = \hat{x}E_{1x} + \hat{y}E_{1y} + \hat{z}\frac{\epsilon_1}{\epsilon_2}E_{1z}$$

Example: 2 dielectrics

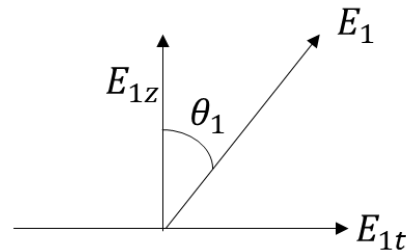
To obtain angles:

$$E_{1t} = \sqrt{E_{1x}^2 + E_{1y}^2}$$

$$E_{2t} = \sqrt{E_{2x}^2 + E_{2y}^2}$$

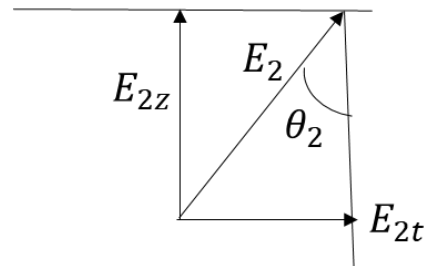
$$\tan\theta_1 = \frac{E_{1t}}{E_{1z}} = \frac{\sqrt{E_{1x}^2 + E_{1y}^2}}{E_{1z}}$$

$$\tan\theta_1 = \frac{E_{1t}}{E_{1z}} = \frac{\sqrt{E_{1x}^2 + E_{1y}^2}}{E_{1z}}$$



$$\frac{\tan\theta_2}{\tan\theta_1} = \frac{\epsilon_2}{\epsilon_1}$$

$$\tan\theta_2 = \frac{E_{2t}}{E_{2z}} = \frac{\sqrt{E_{2x}^2 + E_{2y}^2}}{E_{2z}}$$



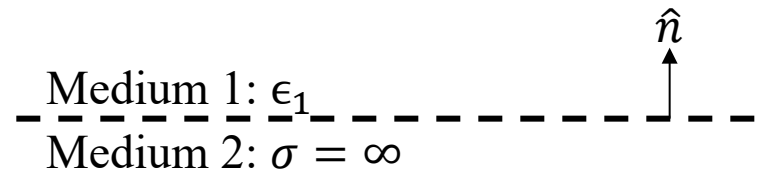
Dielectric – conductor boundary

Perfect conductor medium 2:

$$\vec{E}_2 = \vec{D}_2 = 0$$

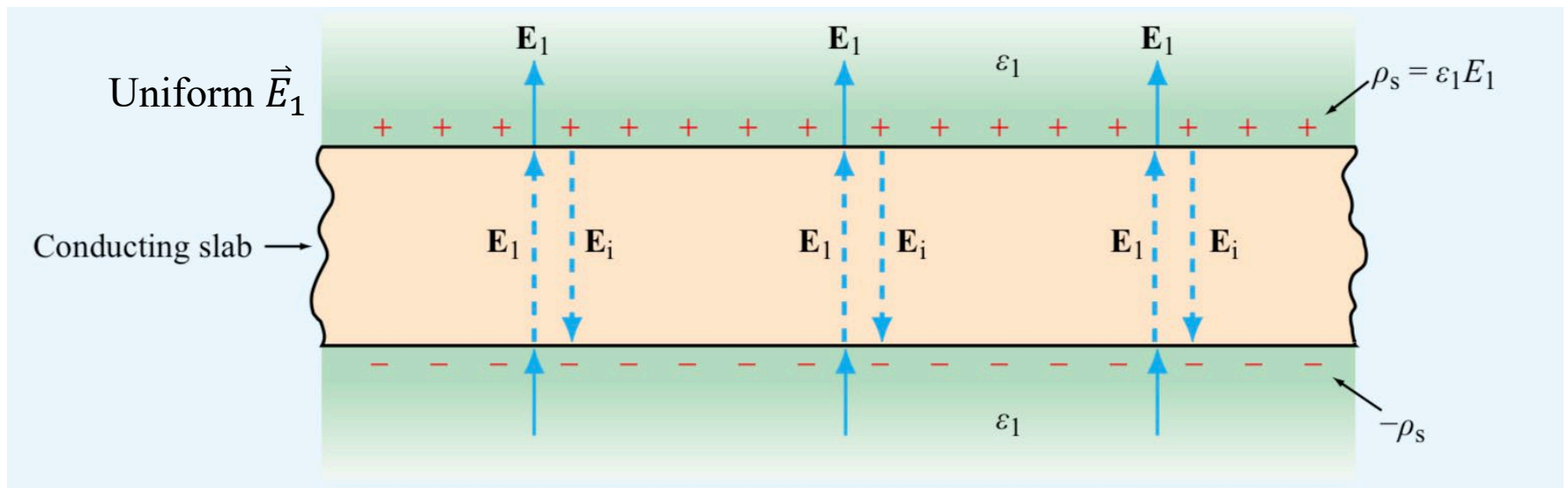
$$E_{1t} = D_{1t} = 0$$

$$D_{1n} = \epsilon_1 E_{1n} = \rho_s$$



\hat{n} from conductor

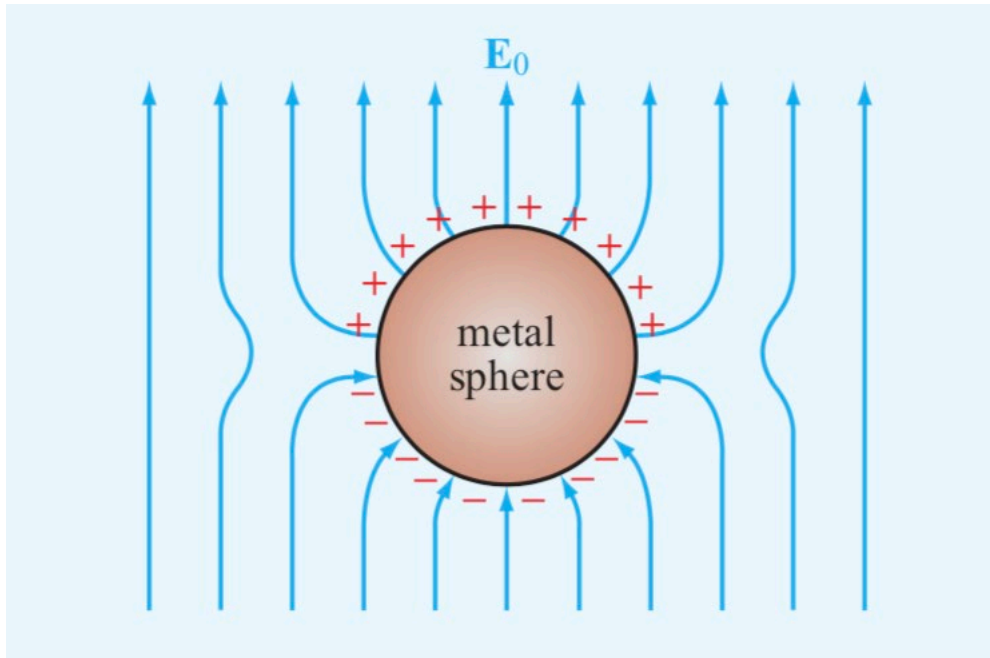
$$\boxed{\vec{D}_1 = \epsilon_1 \vec{E}_1 = \hat{n} \rho_s} \quad \text{At conductor surface}$$



$$\vec{E}_i = -\vec{E}_1 \text{ since field inside conductor must } = 0$$

Net electric field inside a conductor is zero

Dielectric – conductor boundary



Metal in external field, \vec{E}_0

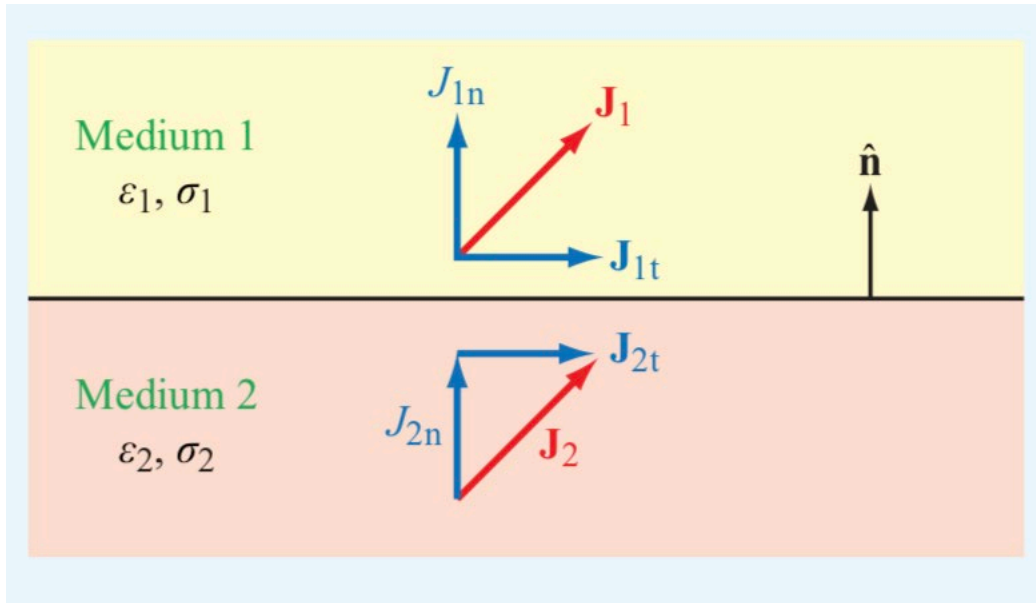
\vec{E} points in = neg charge

\vec{E} points out = pos charge

\vec{E} always normal to conductor

Conductor – conductor boundary

General, not perfect dielectric or perfect conductor



$$\vec{E}_{1t} = \vec{E}_{2t}$$

$$\epsilon_1 E_{1n} - \epsilon_2 E_{2n} = \rho_s$$

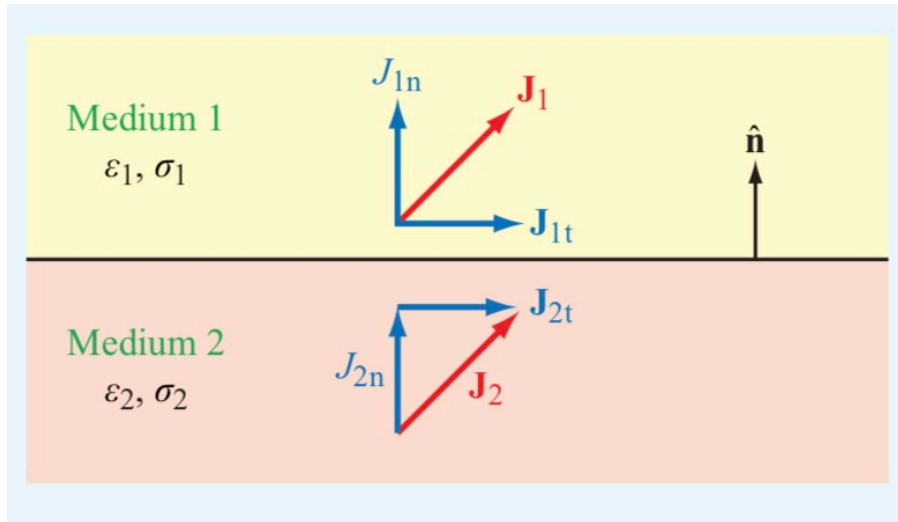
Electric field \rightarrow gives rise to \vec{J}_s

$$\vec{J}_1 = \sigma_1 \vec{E}_1 \quad \vec{J}_2 = \sigma_2 \vec{E}_2$$

$$E_{1n} = \frac{J_{1n}}{\sigma_1} \quad E_{2n} = \frac{J_{2n}}{\sigma_2}$$

Conductor – conductor boundary

General, not perfect dielectric or perfect conductor



$$\vec{E}_{1t} = \vec{E}_{2t}$$

$$\epsilon_1 E_{1n} - \epsilon_2 E_{2n} = \rho_s$$

Electric field \rightarrow gives rise to \vec{J}_s

$$\vec{J}_1 = \sigma_1 \vec{E}_1 \quad \vec{J}_2 = \sigma_2 \vec{E}_2$$

$$E_{1n} = \frac{J_{1n}}{\sigma_1} \quad E_{2n} = \frac{J_{2n}}{\sigma_2}$$

$$\frac{\vec{J}_{1t}}{\sigma_1} = \frac{\vec{J}_{2t}}{\sigma_2} \quad \epsilon_1 \left(\frac{J_{1n}}{\sigma_1} \right) - \epsilon_2 \left(\frac{J_{2n}}{\sigma_2} \right) = \rho_s$$

$\vec{J}_{1t}, \vec{J}_{2t} \rightarrow$ current densities flowing in the 2 media parallel to boundary

If $J_{1n} \neq J_{2n} \rightarrow$ then we have varying ρ_s at boundary and no longer electrostatics

For electrostatics, $J_{1n} = J_{2n}$ $J_{1n} \left(\frac{\epsilon_1}{\sigma_1} - \frac{\epsilon_2}{\sigma_2} \right) = \rho_s$

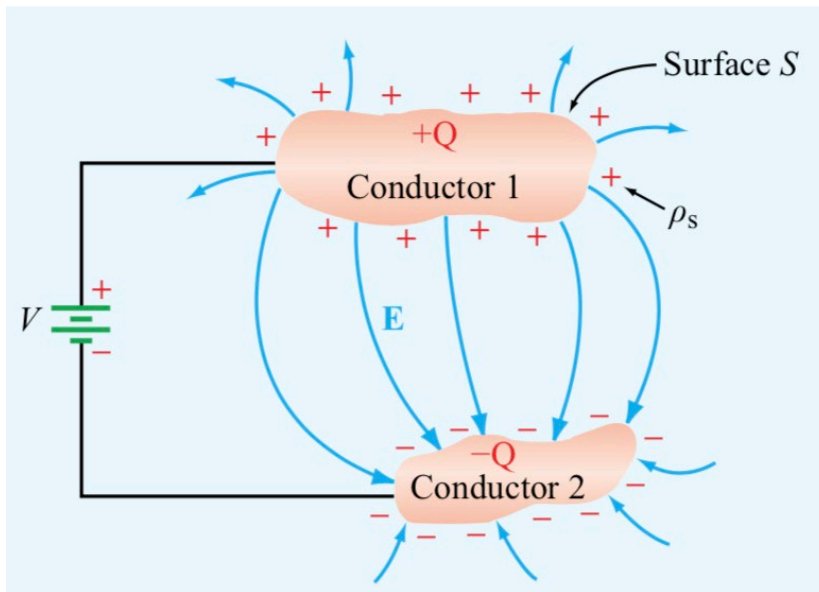
Capacitance

Separate 2 conductors by dielectric \rightarrow forms a capacitor

Conductor excess charge always at surface distributed to maintain $\vec{E} = 0$ (equipotential) everywhere inside conductor

$$\text{Capacitance} = C = \frac{Q}{V} \quad [\text{C/V or F}]$$

V: potential / voltage difference between conductors



$\vec{E} \rightarrow$ always E_n ($E_t = 0$ for conductors)

$$E_n = \hat{n} \cdot \vec{E} = \frac{\rho_s}{\epsilon}$$

Insulator
between
conductors

At conductor surface

Capacitance

$$Q = \int_S \rho_s ds = \int_S \epsilon \hat{n} \cdot \vec{E} ds = \int_S \epsilon \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s}$$

$$V = V_{12} = - \int_{P_2}^{P_1} \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{l} \quad P_1, P_2 \text{ any points on conductors 1 and 2}$$

$$C = \frac{Q}{V} = \frac{\int_S \epsilon \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s}}{- \int_l \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{l}}$$

$S = +Q$ surface
 P_1 is on S

Integration path from conductor 2 to 1

* Value of C is independent of E . It depends on geometry and materials

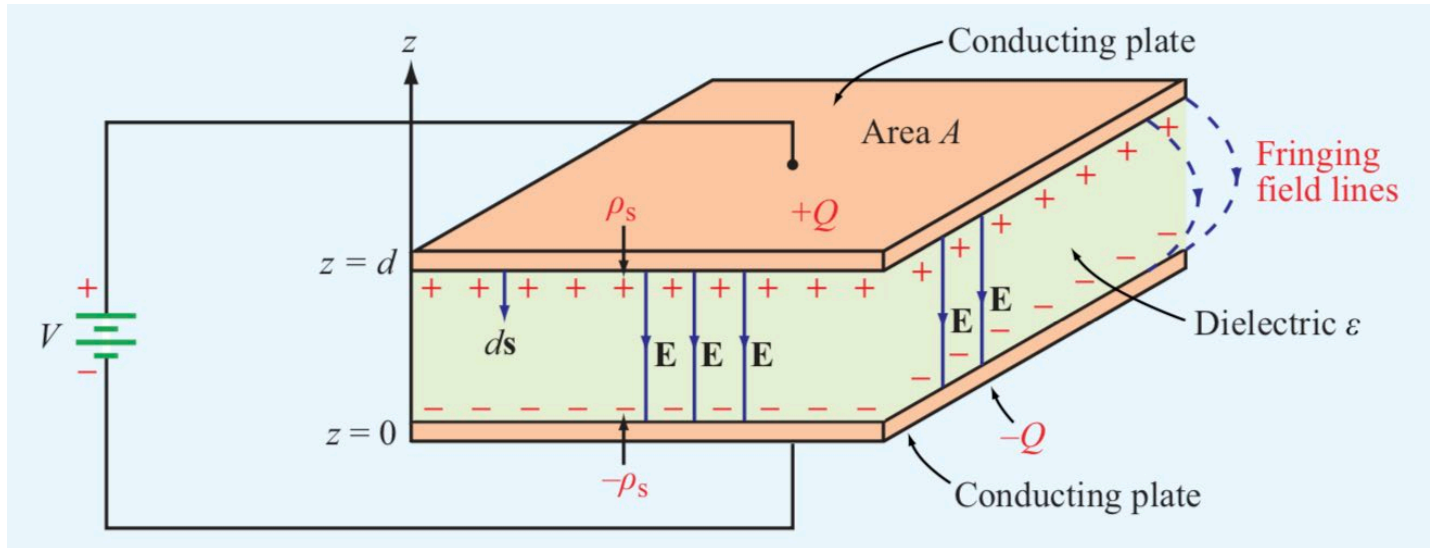
If dielectric is not perfect, can have some conductivity, resistance = R

$$R = \frac{V}{I} = \frac{- \int_l \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{l}}{\int_S \sigma \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s}}$$

For medium with uniform σ, ϵ : $RC = \epsilon/\sigma$

Parallel plate capacitor

2 parallel plates, surface area A separated by d filled with dielectric, ϵ .



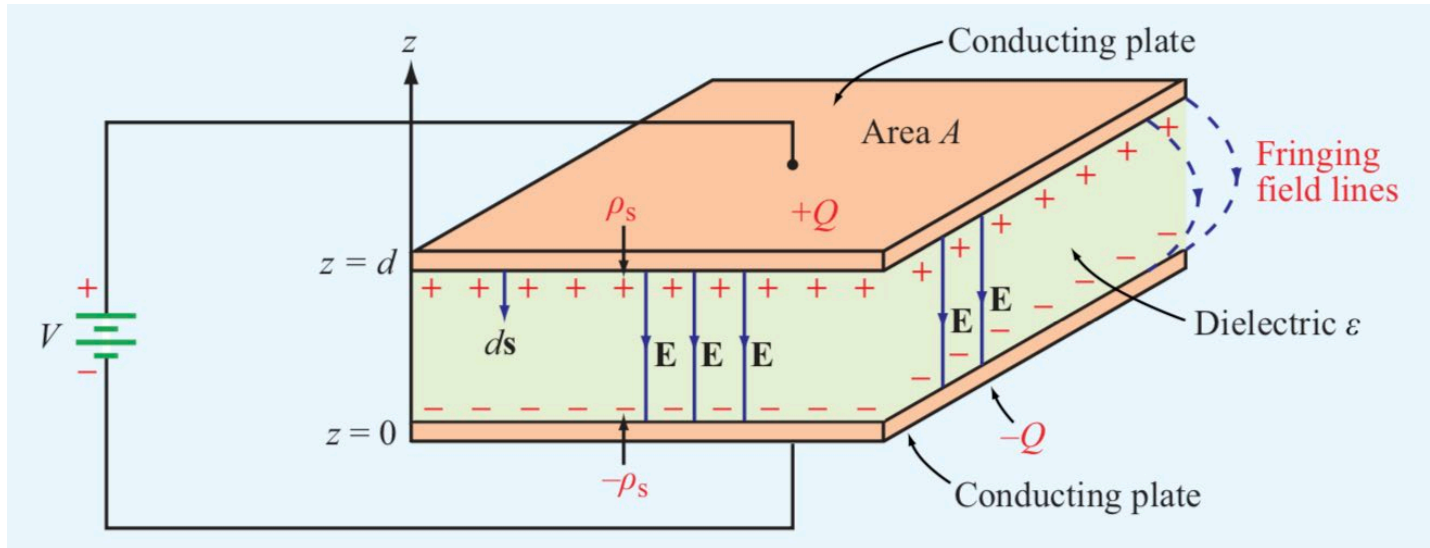
$$\rho_s = \frac{Q}{A} \text{ upper plate}$$

$$\vec{E} = -\hat{z}E \text{ (assume uniform)}$$

$$E_n = \hat{n} \cdot \vec{E} = \frac{\rho_s}{\epsilon} \quad \longrightarrow \quad E_n = \frac{\rho_s}{\epsilon} = \frac{Q}{\epsilon A}$$

Parallel plate capacitor

2 parallel plates, surface area A separated by d filled with dielectric, ϵ .



Ignore
fringing
fields

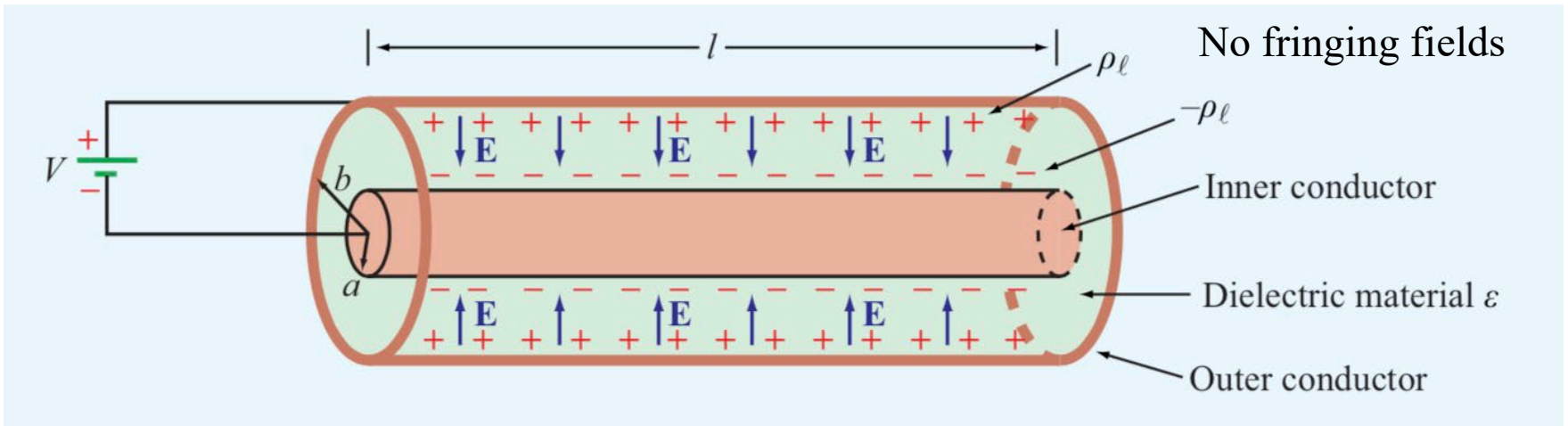
$$\rho_s = \frac{Q}{A} \text{ upper plate} \quad \vec{E} = -\hat{z}E \text{ (assume uniform)} \quad E_n = \frac{\rho_s}{\epsilon} = \frac{Q}{\epsilon A}$$

$$V = - \int_0^d \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{l} = - \int_0^d (-\hat{z}E) \cdot \hat{z}dz = Ed \quad E = \frac{Q}{\epsilon A}$$

$$C = \frac{Q}{V} = \frac{Q}{Ed} = \frac{\epsilon A}{d}$$

C is independent of E . It depends on geometry and materials

Coax capacitance

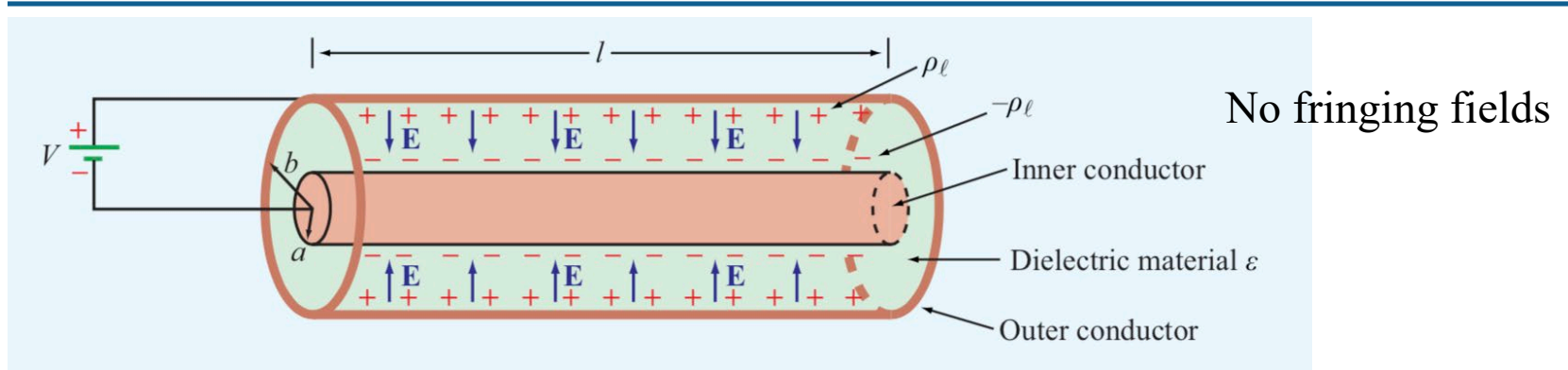


Given voltage, V

$+Q$ accumulates on outer conductor $-Q$ accumulates on inner conductor

Assume uniform charge distributions: (outer) $\rho'_s = \frac{Q}{2\pi b l}$ (inner) $\rho''_s = \frac{-Q}{2\pi a l}$

Coax capacitance



Cylindrical Gaussian surface: $a < r < b$

$$\oint_S \vec{D} \cdot d\vec{s} = Q \quad \oint_S \epsilon \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s} = Q$$

\uparrow E_r \uparrow $2\pi r l$

\vec{E} in \hat{r} direction, points inward: $\vec{E} = -\hat{r} \frac{Q}{2\pi\epsilon r l}$

Potential between outer and inner:

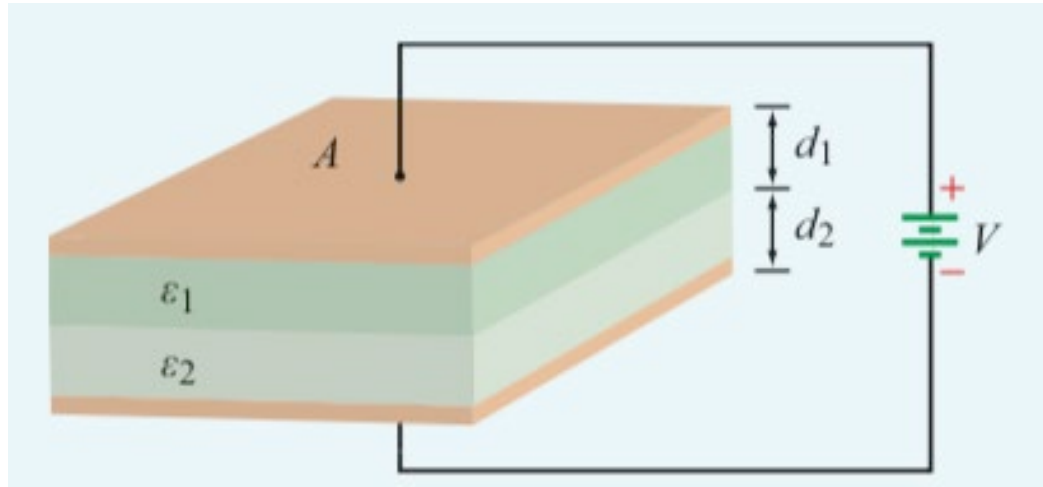
$$V = - \int_a^b \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{l} = - \int_a^b \left(-\hat{r} \frac{Q}{2\pi\epsilon r l} \right) \cdot (\hat{r} dr) = \frac{Q}{2\pi\epsilon l} \ln \left(\frac{b}{a} \right)$$

$$C = \frac{Q}{V} = \frac{2\pi\epsilon l}{\ln \left(\frac{b}{a} \right)}$$

Table 2.1 $\rightarrow C' = \frac{C}{l} = \frac{2\pi\epsilon}{\ln \left(\frac{b}{a} \right)}$

Parallel plate capacitor

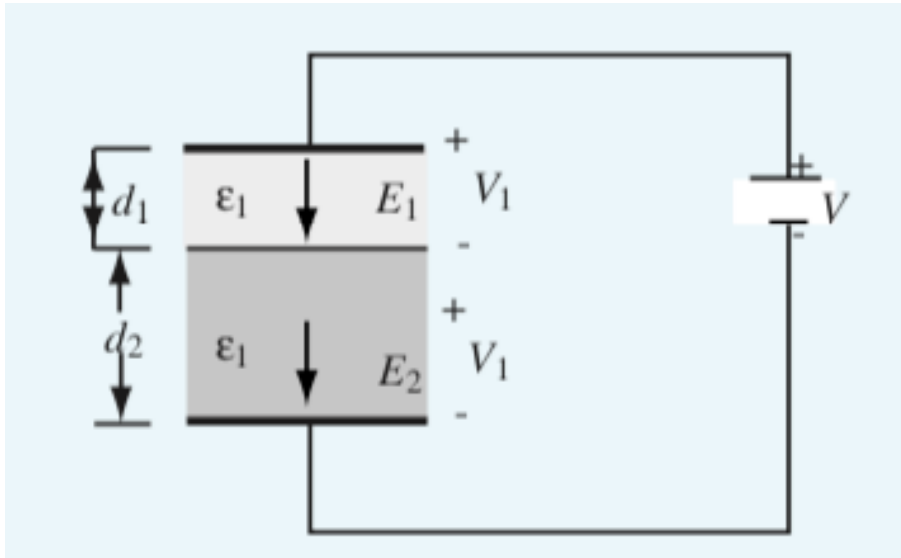
The capacitor shown in the following figure consists of two parallel dielectric layers.



V_1 and V_2 are the electric potentials across the upper and lower dielectrics, respectively.

Obtain: expressions for E_1 and E_2 in terms of ϵ_1 , ϵ_2 , V , and the indicated dimensions of the capacitor.

Parallel plate capacitor



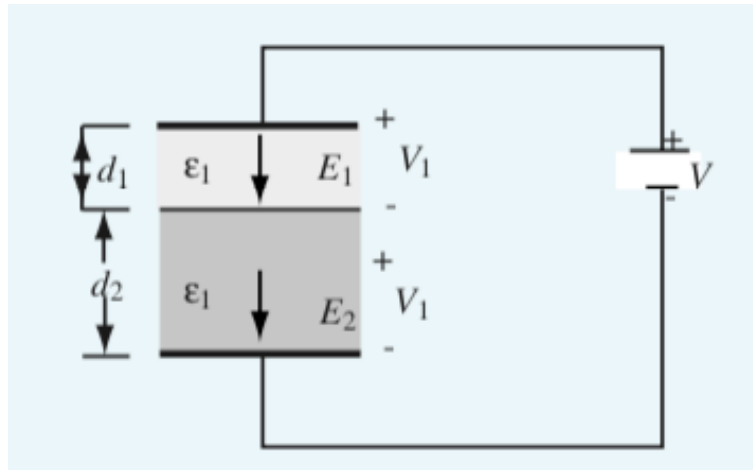
If V_1 is the voltage across the top layer and V_2 across the bottom layer, then:

$$V = V_1 + V_2$$

$$E_1 = \frac{V_1}{d_1} \quad E_2 = \frac{V_2}{d_2}$$

Boundary conditions \rightarrow the normal component of \vec{D} is continuous across the boundary (in the absence of surface charge).

Parallel plate capacitor



$$E_1 = \frac{V_1}{d_1}$$

$$E_2 = \frac{V_2}{d_2}$$

Boundary conditions \rightarrow the normal component of \vec{D} is continuous

Electric fields inside of capacitor:

$$D_{1n} = D_{2n} \rightarrow \epsilon_1 E_1 = \epsilon_2 E_2$$

$$V = V_1 + V_2 = E_1 d_1 + E_2 d_2 = E_1 d_1 + \frac{\epsilon_1 E_1}{\epsilon_2} d_2$$

Solve for E_1 and E_2 :

$$E_1 = \frac{V}{d_1 + \frac{\epsilon_1}{\epsilon_2} d_2} \qquad E_2 = \frac{V}{d_2 + \frac{\epsilon_2}{\epsilon_1} d_1}$$