



SNS COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

Coimbatore-35
An Autonomous Institution



Accredited by NBA – AICTE and Accredited by NAAC – UGC with 'A+' Grade
Approved by AICTE, New Delhi & Affiliated to Anna University, Chennai

DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS & COMMUNICATION ENGINEERING

19ECT211 – ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELDS

II YEAR/ IV SEMESTER

UNIT 2 – DIELECTRICS & STEADY ELECTRIC CURRENT

TOPIC 4 – CAPACITANCE: ISOLATED SPHERE, SPHERICAL SHELLS & ENERGY

AND ENERGY DENSITY IN A CAPACITOR



CAPACITANCE – SPHERICAL CAPACITOR



Consider a spherical capacitor formed of two concentric spherical conducting shells of radius a and b . The capacitor is shown in the Fig. 5.18.

The radius of outer sphere is 'b' while that of inner sphere is 'a'. Thus $b > a$. The region between the two spheres is filled with a dielectric of permittivity ϵ . The inner sphere is given a positive charge $+Q$ while for the outer sphere it is $-Q$.

Considering Gaussian surface as a sphere of radius r , it can be obtained that \vec{E} is in radial direction and given by,

$$\vec{E} = \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon r^2} \vec{a}_r, \text{ V/m}$$

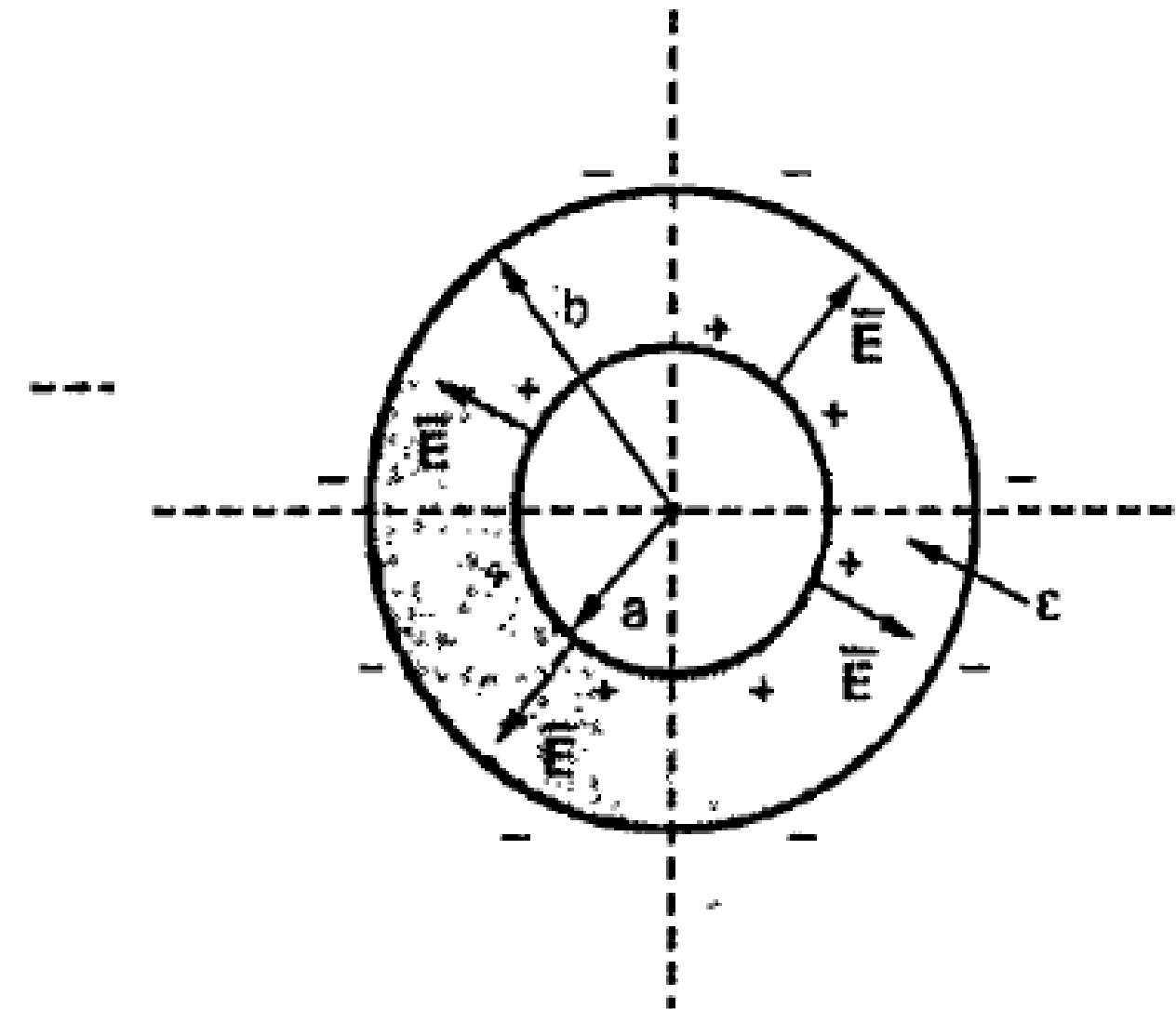


Fig. 5.18 Spherical capacitor



CAPACITANCE – SPHERICAL CAPACITOR



The potential difference is work done in moving unit positive charge against the direction of \vec{E} i.e. from $r = b$ to $r = a$.

$$\therefore V = -\int_{-}^{+} \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{L} = -\int_{r=b}^{r=a} \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon r^2} \bar{a}_r \cdot d\vec{L} \quad \dots (2)$$



CAPACITANCE – SPHERICAL CAPACITOR



Now

$$d\vec{L} = dr \vec{a}_r$$

... In radial direction

$$\therefore V = - \int_{r=b}^{r=a} \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon r^2} \vec{a}_r \cdot dr \vec{a}_r = - \int_{r=b}^{r=a} \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon r^2} dr$$

$$= -\frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon} \left[-\frac{1}{r} \right]_{r=b}^{r=a} = \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon} \left[\frac{1}{r} \right]_{r=b}^{r=a}$$

$$\therefore V = \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon} \left[\frac{1}{a} - \frac{1}{b} \right] \quad \dots (3)$$

Now

$$C = \frac{Q}{V} = \frac{Q}{\frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon} \left[\frac{1}{a} - \frac{1}{b} \right]}$$

$$\therefore C = \frac{4\pi\epsilon}{\left[\frac{1}{a} - \frac{1}{b} \right]} \text{ F} \quad \dots (4)$$



CAPACITANCE – SINGLE ISOLATED SPHERE

Consider a single isolated sphere of radius 'a', given a charge + Q. It forms a capacitance with an outer plate which is infinitely large hence $b = \infty$.

The capacitance of such a single isolated spherical conductor can be obtained by substituting $b = \infty$ in the equation (4).

$$\therefore C = \frac{4\pi\epsilon}{\left[\frac{1}{a} - \frac{1}{\infty}\right]} \quad \text{but } \frac{1}{\infty} = 0$$

$$\therefore \boxed{C = 4\pi\epsilon a \text{ F}} \quad \dots (5)$$

This is the case of a spherical conductor at a large distance from other conductors. Practically this fact is important in obtaining the stray capacitance of an isolated body.



CAPACITANCE – SINGLE ISOLATED SPHERE COATED WITH DIELECTRIC



Consider a single isolated sphere coated with a dielectric having permittivity ϵ_1 , upto radius r_1 . The radius of inner sphere is 'a' as shown in the Fig. 5.19. It is placed in a free space so outside sphere $\epsilon = \epsilon_0$. It carries a charge + Q.

So for $a < r < r_1, \epsilon = \epsilon_1$

and for $r > r_1, \epsilon = \epsilon_0$.

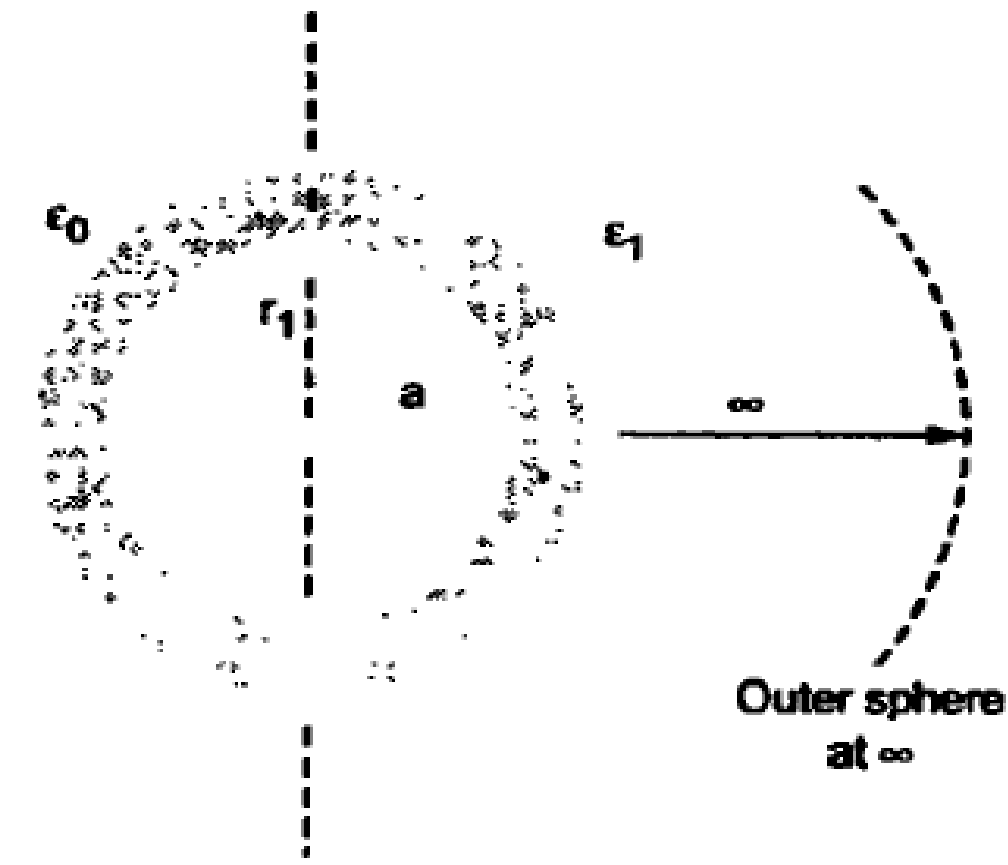


Fig. 5.19



CAPACITANCE – SINGLE ISOLATED SPHERE COATED WITH DIELECTRIC



The potential difference is work done in bringing unit positive charge from outer sphere $r = \infty$ to inner sphere $r = a$ against \vec{E} . This is to be splitted in two as,

$$V = - \int_{\infty}^a \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{L} = - \int_{\infty}^a \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{L}$$

$$\therefore V = - \int_{\infty}^{r_1} \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{L} - \int_{r_1}^a \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{L} \quad \dots (6)$$

Now for $a < r < r_1$,

$$\vec{E}_1 = \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_1 r^2} \vec{a}_r \quad \dots (7)$$

Now for $r_1 < r < \infty$,

$$\vec{E}_2 = \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2} \vec{a}_r \quad \dots (8)$$

while $d\vec{L} = dr \vec{a}_r$ as \vec{E}_1 and E_2 are in radial direction.



CAPACITANCE – SINGLE ISOLATED SPHERE COATED WITH DIELECTRIC



$$C = \frac{4\pi}{\left[\frac{1}{\epsilon_1} \left(\frac{1}{a} - \frac{1}{r_1} \right) + \frac{1}{\epsilon_0 r_1} \right]} F$$



ENERGY STORED IN A CAPACITOR



It is seen that capacitor can store the energy. Let us find the expression for the energy stored in a capacitor.

Consider a parallel plate capacitor as shown in the Fig. 5.25. It is supplied with the voltage V .

Let \bar{a}_N is the direction normal to the plates.

$$\therefore \bar{E} = \frac{V}{d} \bar{a}_N \quad \dots (1)$$

The energy stored is given by,

$$W_E = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\text{vol}} \bar{D} \cdot \bar{E} \, dv$$

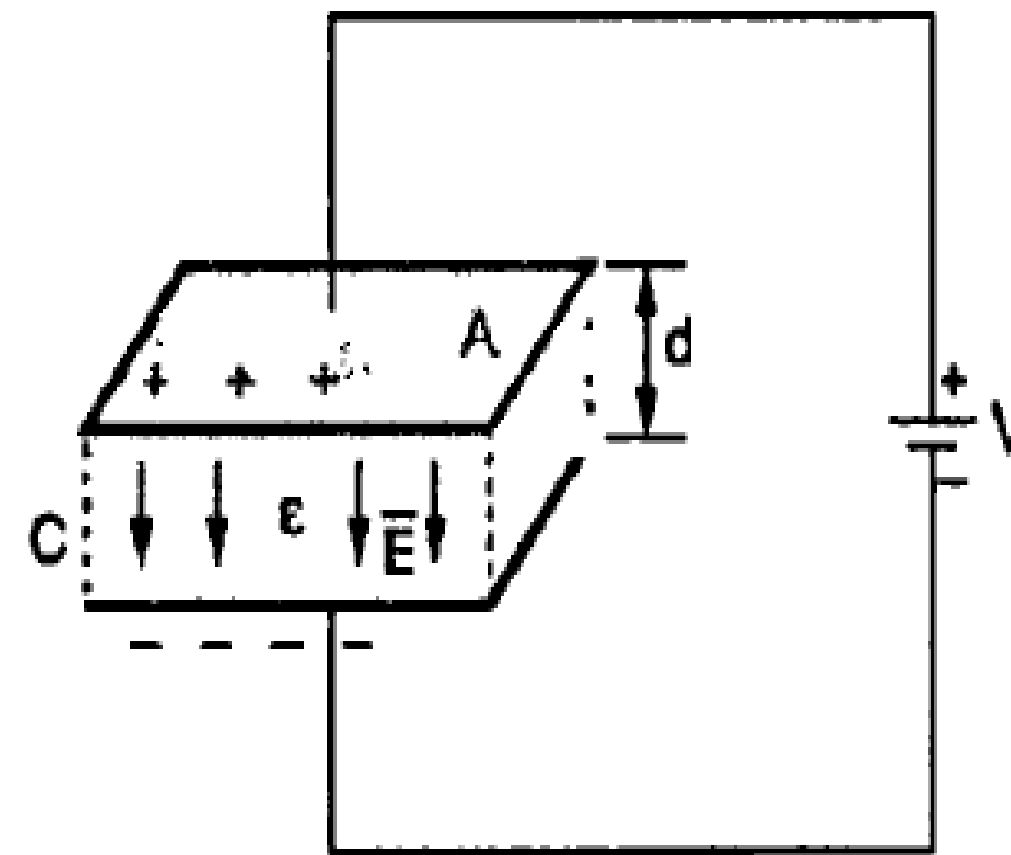


Fig. 5.25 Parallel plate capacitor



ENERGY STORED IN A CAPACITOR

$$\begin{aligned} &= \frac{1}{2} \int_{\text{vol}} \epsilon \bar{\mathbf{E}} \cdot \bar{\mathbf{E}} \, dv && \text{but } \bar{\mathbf{E}} \cdot \bar{\mathbf{E}} = |\bar{\mathbf{E}}|^2 \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \int_{\text{vol}} \epsilon |\bar{\mathbf{E}}|^2 \, dv && \text{but } |\bar{\mathbf{E}}| = \frac{V}{d} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \epsilon \frac{V^2}{d^2} \int_{\text{vol}} dv && \text{but } \int_{\text{vol}} dv = \text{Volume} = A \times d \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \epsilon \frac{V^2 A d}{d^2} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\epsilon A}{d} V^2 \end{aligned}$$

$$W_E = \frac{1}{2} C V^2 \text{ J}$$



ENERGY DENSITY

As seen in earlier chapter, energy density is the energy stored per unit volume as volume tends to zero.

$$\therefore W_E = \frac{1}{2} \epsilon \int_{Vol} |\bar{E}|^2 dv$$

$$\therefore W_E = \frac{1}{2} \epsilon |\bar{E}|^2 \text{ J/m}^3 = \text{Energy density}$$

Using $|\bar{D}| = \epsilon |\bar{E}|$ we can write,

$$W_E = \frac{1}{2} \frac{|\bar{D}|^2}{\epsilon} = \frac{1}{2} |\bar{D}| |\bar{E}| \text{ J/m}^3$$



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THANK YOU