

Flipping Physics Lecture Notes: Gauss's Law Charged Sphere Electric Field http://www.flippingphysics.com/gauss-law-sphere.html

Outside the surface of a uniformly charged sphere, the electric field is the same as if the charged sphere were a point particle.

- Example: Solid, uniformly charged sphere with charge Q and radius, a.
- Create a Gaussian surface which is a concentric sphere with radius r > a.

$$\Phi_{E} = \oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A} = \frac{q_{\text{enclosed}}}{\epsilon_{0}}$$

$$\Rightarrow \Phi_{E} = \int_{\text{sphere}} E \cos \theta \, dA = \int_{\text{sphere}} E \cos (0^{\circ}) \, dA = \frac{q_{\text{enclosed}}}{\epsilon_{0}}$$

$$\Rightarrow E \int_{\text{sphere}} dA = EA_{\text{sphere}} = E \left(4\pi r^{2}\right) = \frac{Q}{\epsilon_{0}}$$

$$\Rightarrow E = \left(\frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_{\emptyset}}\right)\frac{Q}{r^{2}} \Rightarrow E = \frac{kQ}{r^{2}}$$



• This is true of a conductor or an insulator, however, the electric field inside a conductor will be zero, and inside an insulator the electric field depends on the radius and charge distribution, and can be derived in a similar manner.