

### Electric Potential – practice problems

$E_e$  = electric potential energy - Joules

$V$  = electric potential - Joules / Coulomb (Volt) - energy it has compared to infinity

$\Delta V$  = electric potential difference - Joules /Coulomb (Volt)

1. Calculate the electric potential a distance of 0.40 m from a spherical point charge of  $+6.4 \times 10^{-6}$  C.

$$V = ? \quad r = 0.40 \text{ m} \quad q = +6.4 \times 10^{-6} \text{ C}$$

$$V = kqm/r \quad V = 1.4 \times 10^5 \text{ J/C} \quad \text{or} \quad \underline{1.4 \times 10^5 \text{ V}}$$

2. How much work must be done to increase the potential of a charge of  $3.0 \times 10^{-7}$  C by 120 V?

$$W = ?? = \Delta E_e \quad q = 3.0 \times 10^{-7} \text{ C} \quad \Delta V = 120 \text{ V}$$

$$W = \Delta E_e = q\Delta V = \underline{3.6 \times 10^{-5} \text{ J}}$$

3. In a uniform electric field, the potential difference between 2 points 10 cm apart is 80 V. Calculate the magnitude of the electric field intensity.

$$r = 0.10 \text{ m} \quad \Delta V = 80 \text{ V} \quad \epsilon = ?$$

$$\epsilon = \Delta V/d \quad \underline{\text{field intensity is } 8.0 \times 10^2 \text{ N/C}}$$

4. The electric field intensity in the region between 2 parallel plates is 400 N/C. If the plates are connected to a battery with a potential difference of 90 V, what is the separate of the plates?

$$E = 400 \text{ N/C} \text{ parallel plates} \quad \Delta V = 90 \text{ V} \quad d = ? \quad \epsilon = \Delta V/d \quad \underline{d = 0.23 \text{ m}}$$

### Try these:

1. The potential at a distance of 25 cm from a point charge is  $-6.4 \times 10^4$  V. What is the sign and magnitude of the point charge? [ $-1.8 \times 10^{-6}$  C]  $V = kqm/r$

2. It takes  $4.2 \times 10^{-3}$  J of work to move  $1.2 \times 10^{-6}$  C of charge from point X to point Y in an electric field. What is the potential difference between X and Y? [ $3.5 \times 10^3$  V]  $\Delta E_e = q\Delta V$

3. Calculate the magnitude of the electric field in a parallel plate apparatus whose plates are 5.00 mm apart and have a potential difference of 300 V between them. [ $6.0 \times 10^4$  N/C]  $\epsilon = \Delta V/d$

4. What potential difference would have to be maintained across the plates of a parallel plate apparatus, if they are 1.2 cm apart, to create an electric field of intensity  $1.5 \times 10^4$  N/C? [ $1.8 \times 10^2$  V]  $\epsilon = \Delta V/d$