

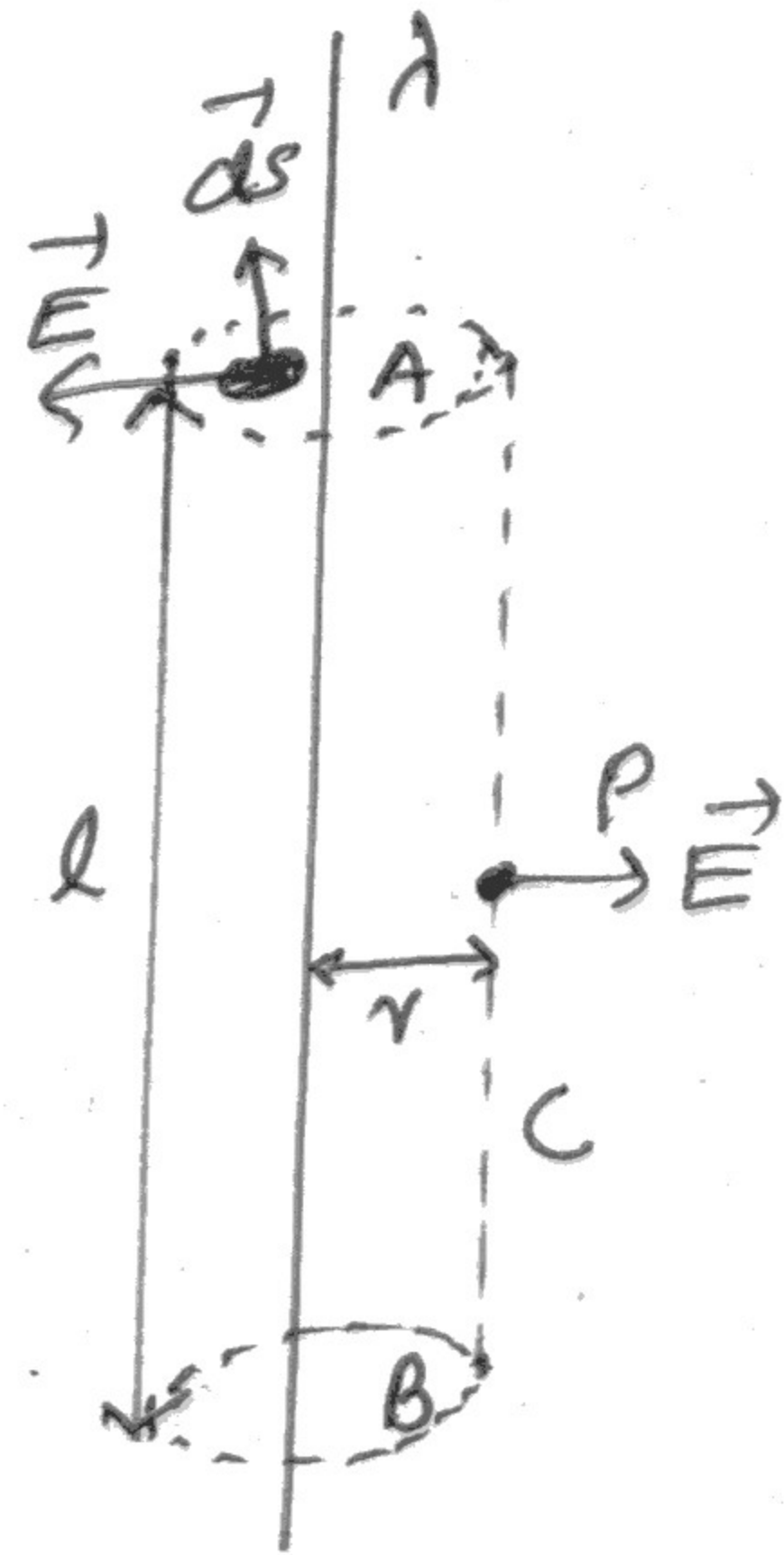
Electric field due to an infinite line of charge :- let there

be a wire of infinite length having a constant line charge density λ .
let P be a point at a distance r from the straight line charge.

The direction of the electric field due to this electric charge will be radially outward due to symmetry.

Draw a cylinder of height l and radius r coaxial with the line charge and closed at both ends by plain caps A and B normal to the axis to represent the Gaussian surface. The closed surface consists of three parts A, B and C.

Now we consider a very small area $d\vec{s}$ on the surface A, then area vector $d\vec{s}$ acts along the outward drawn normal and is at right angles to the electric field vector \vec{E} .



$$\therefore \text{For the surface A; } \iint_A \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s} = 0$$

$$\text{Similarly for the surface B; } \iint_B \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s} = 0$$

For the surface C the area vector $d\vec{s}$ and the electric field vector \vec{E} are parallel and act in the same direction.

$$\iint_C \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s} = \iint_C E, ds$$

where E and ds are the magnitude of vector \vec{E} and $d\vec{s}$ respectively. As all points on the curved surface of the cylinder C are equidistant from the axis, the electric field is the same at every point. Hence.

$$E = \text{a constant}$$

The area of curved surface is $2\pi r l$.

Hence the electric flux through the curved surface of Gaussian surface is

$$\phi = \iint_C \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s} = \iint_C E ds = E \iint_C ds = E 2\pi r l$$

According to Gauss's law, the electric flux through the Gaussian surface

$$\phi = \frac{1}{\epsilon_0} \lambda l$$

the Gaussian surface = charge on length l of the

$$\therefore E \cdot 2\pi r l = \frac{1}{\epsilon_0} \lambda l$$

$$\text{or } \boxed{E = \frac{1}{2\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{\lambda}{r}}$$

The direction of \vec{E} is perpendicular to the charged wire at every point and inversely proportional to the distance 'r' from the wire.

Electric potential at point P is

$$V = -\int E dr + \text{constant}$$

$$\text{or } V = -\int \frac{1}{2\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{\lambda}{r} dr + \text{constant}$$

$$\boxed{V = -\frac{\lambda}{2\pi\epsilon_0} \log_e r + \text{Constant}}$$