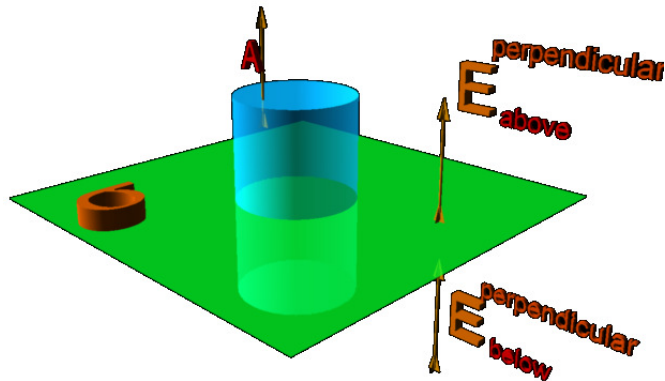


Boundary Conditions when crossing a surface charge σ (2.3.5)
 For a surface:



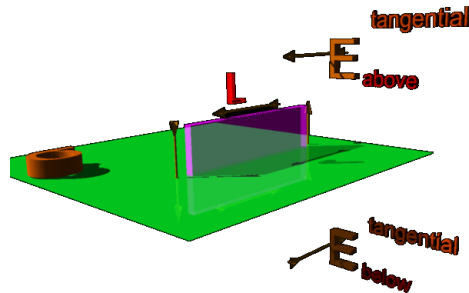
Per Gauss's law:

$$\oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A} = \frac{Q_{enc}}{\epsilon_0} = \frac{\sigma A}{\epsilon_0} \Rightarrow E_{above}^\perp - E_{below}^\perp = \frac{\sigma}{\epsilon_0}$$

(the normal component of E is discontinuous)

Now to get the tangential component, consider Stokes' Theorem:

$$\int_{\text{surface}} (\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{V}) \cdot d\vec{A} = \oint_{\text{path}} \vec{V} \cdot d\vec{l}$$



The contribution due to the endpieces vanishes leaving only the top and the bottom.

Since the curl of E vanishes, we only can conclude:

$$E_{above}^\parallel = E_{below}^\parallel$$

(the tangential component of E is continuous)

We can combine these conditions to read:

$$\vec{E}_{above} - \vec{E}_{below} = \frac{\sigma}{\epsilon_0} \hat{n}$$

We can show that the potential is continuous across the boundary by considering a path that we let shrink to zero:

$$\vec{E}_{above} \cdot \delta\vec{L}_{above} - \vec{E}_{below} \cdot \delta\vec{L}_{below} = \frac{\sigma}{\epsilon_0} \delta L$$

$$\Delta V = \lim_{\delta L \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sigma}{\epsilon_0} \delta L = 0$$

(the potential is continuous across the surface charge density)

The gradient in V however does reflect the discontinuity:

$$\vec{\nabla}[\Delta V] = \vec{\nabla}V_{above} - \vec{\nabla}V_{below} = -\frac{\sigma}{\epsilon_0} \hat{n}$$

This is also written as:

$$\frac{\partial V_{\text{above}}}{\partial n} - \frac{\partial V_{\text{below}}}{\partial n} = -\frac{\sigma}{\epsilon_0} : \frac{\partial V}{\partial n} \equiv \vec{\nabla} V \bullet \hat{n}$$

(this is called the normal derivative)

You can write the tangential derivative as:

$$\vec{\nabla} V \times \hat{n}$$