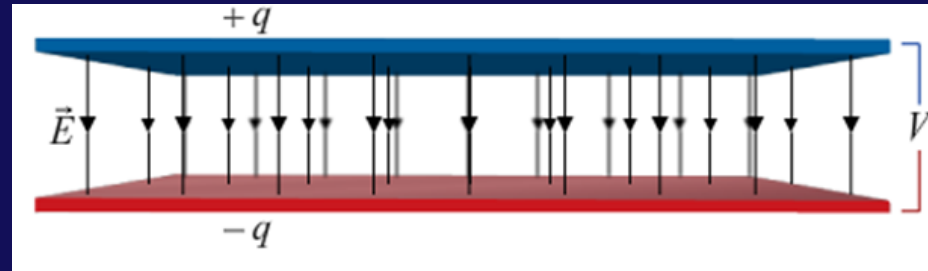


# Conductors & Capacitance



- **PICK UP YOUR EXAM;** Average of the three classes is ***approximately 51***. Standard deviation is 18. It may go up (or down) by a point or two once all grading is finished.
- Exam KEY is posted on the home page
- **REGRADE** requests are **DUE Friday at 4 PM** in Alexis Olsho's office
  - Put your name on paper explaining your request reason.
  - Take it to Alexis Olsho's office yourself (1<sup>st</sup> floor of PAB, near h bar)
  - Same office as Susan Miller

# Your thoughts

**I am really confused by capacitance, especially with how/why it relates to potential.**

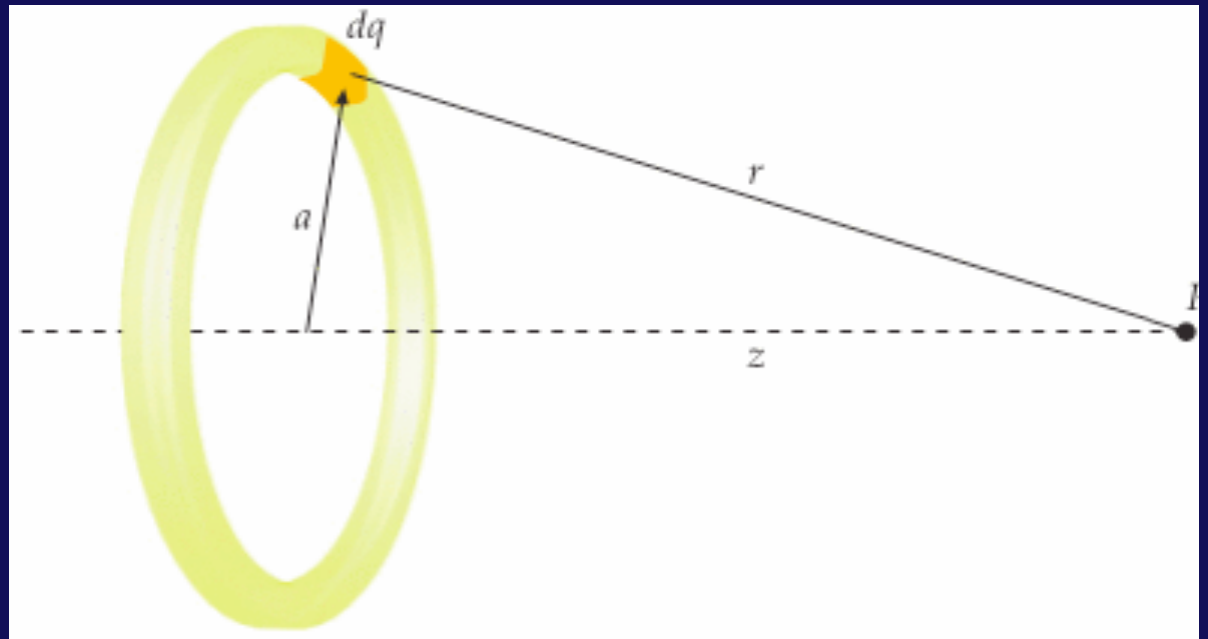
**what are some practical applications of capacitors? What is the benefit of having a capacitor?**

**This is a little confusing to me mostly because of residual confusion from Electric potential, which I still don't understand that well conceptually. If you could talk thoroughly about the link between voltage and capacitance that would be nice.**

# We left off with Potential from a ring of charge

- Consider a uniformly charged ring with total charge of  $Q$

$$\begin{aligned} V &= \int \frac{k dq}{r} \\ &= \frac{k}{\sqrt{a^2 + z^2}} \int dq \\ &= \frac{kQ}{\sqrt{a^2 + z^2}} \end{aligned}$$

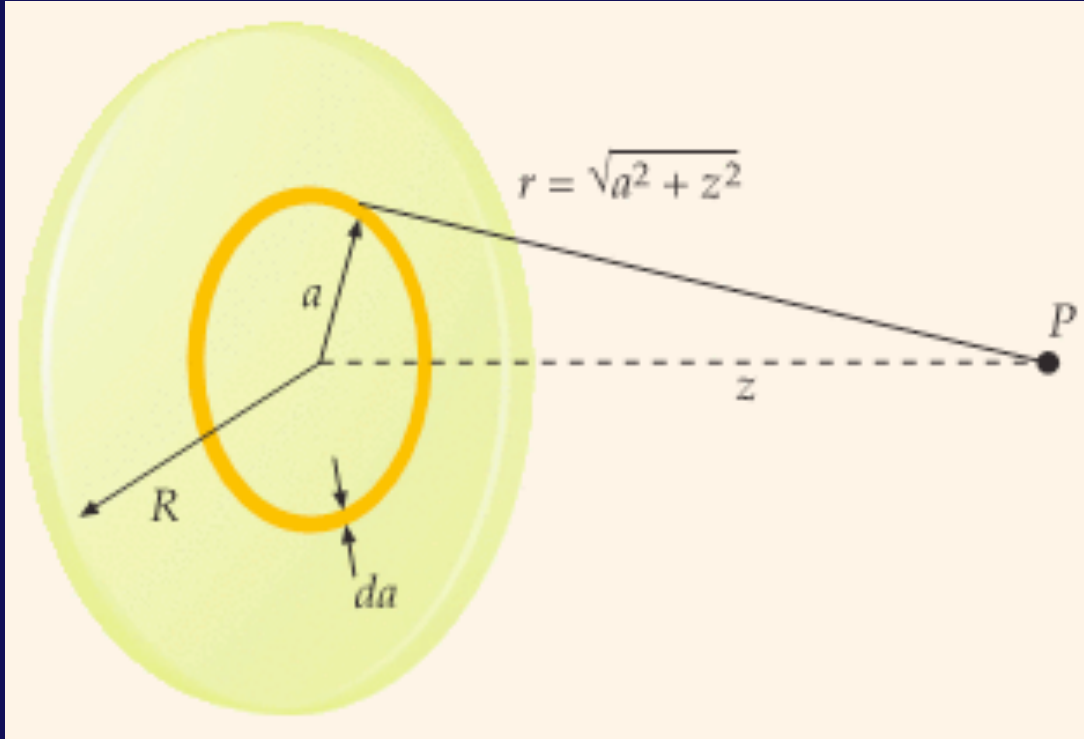


This can be defined anywhere with  $V = 0$  assumed at infinity

# Potential from a disk of charge

Uniformly charged disk with area charge density  $\sigma$

Can we solve it as a series of charged rings?



$$\begin{aligned} V &= \int_0^R \frac{k\sigma 2\pi a da}{\sqrt{a^2 + z^2}} \\ &= k\sigma 2\pi \int_0^R \frac{a da}{\sqrt{a^2 + z^2}} \\ &= 2\pi k\sigma \left[ \sqrt{a^2 + z^2} \right]_0^R \\ &= 2\pi k\sigma \left[ \sqrt{R^2 + z^2} - |z| \right] \end{aligned}$$

# A short aside: Energy Units

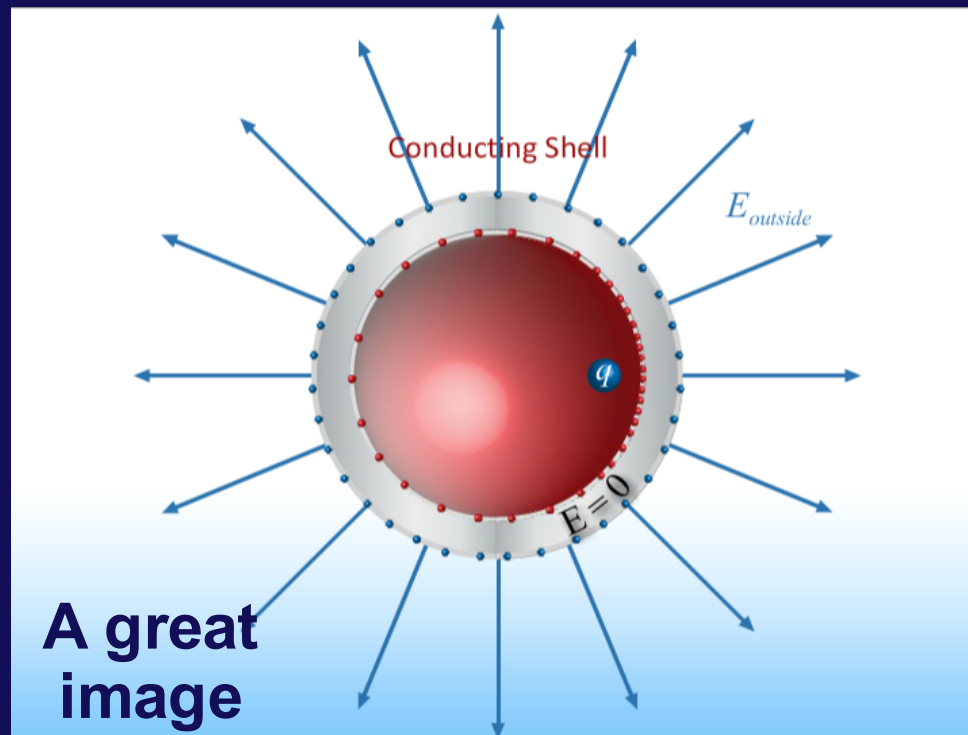
**MKS:**  $U = QV$     1 coul-volt    = 1 joule  
for particles (e, p, ...)    1 eV    =  $1.6 \times 10^{-19}$  joules

## Accelerators

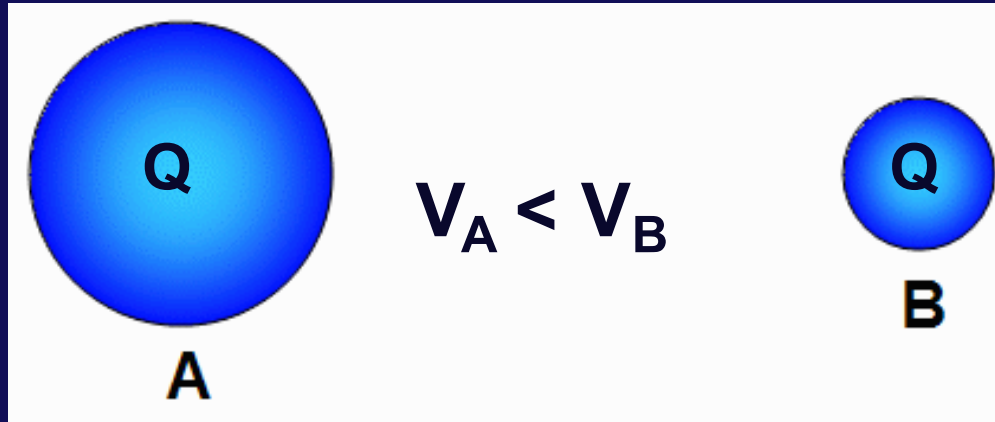
- **Electrostatic:** VandeGraaff  
electrons  $\rightarrow$  100 keV ( $10^5$  eV)
- **Electromagnetic:** Large Hadron Collider  
protons  $\rightarrow$  7 TeV ( $7 \times 10^{12}$  eV)

# Conductors: Main Points

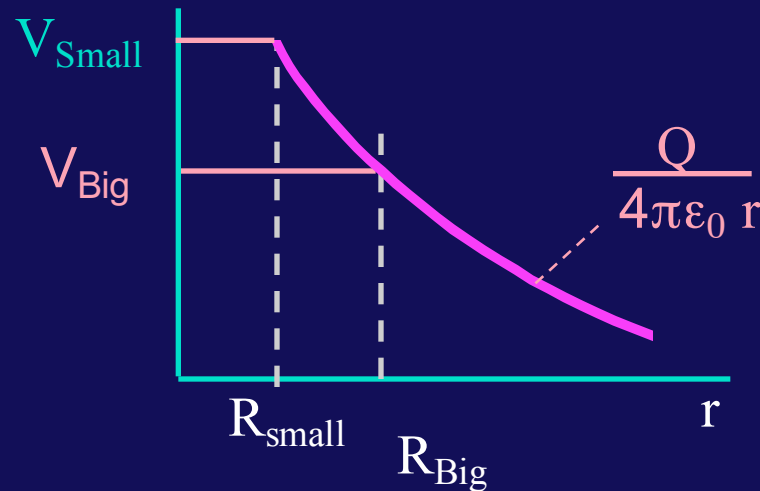
- Charges free to move
- $E = 0$  in a conductor
- Surface = Equipotential
- $E$  at surface perpendicular to surface



# A few minutes on Conductors

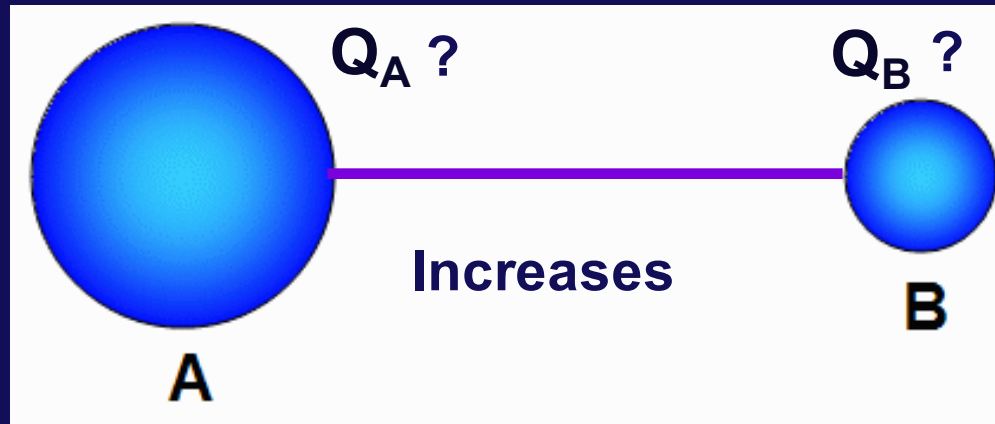


- Same total Q
- Different radii
- V at edge different



Checkpoints 1, 3, 5 ... pretty good job here overall

# A few minutes on Conductors



- Now the entire thing is a single conductor
  - $E = 0$  in a conductor (implies  $\Delta V = 0$  between any 2 points in a conductor)
- If there was a potential difference, charges would move

What happens to the charge on conductor A after it is connected to conductor B by the wire?

The charges do move initially ... enough to make  $V_A = V_B$

$$\text{Potentials: } \frac{kQ_A}{R_A} = \frac{kQ_B}{R_B} \Rightarrow Q_A = \frac{R_A}{R_B} Q_B > 1$$

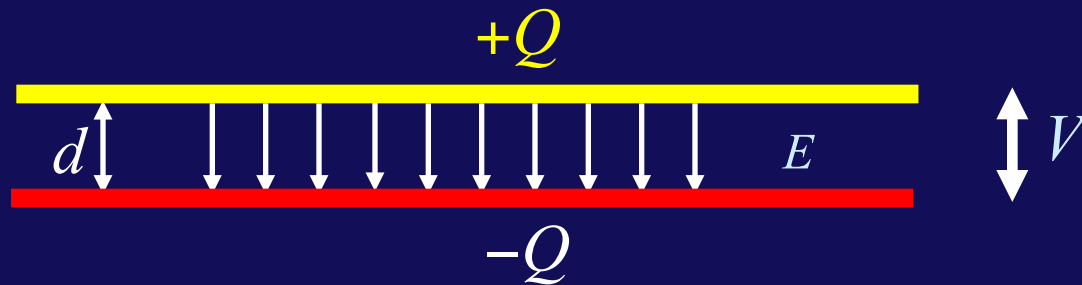


# Toward Capacitance

Capacitance is **defined** for any pair of spatially separated conductors.

$$C \equiv \frac{Q}{V}$$

Two conductors: one with excess charge =  $+Q$   
the other with excess charge =  $-Q$



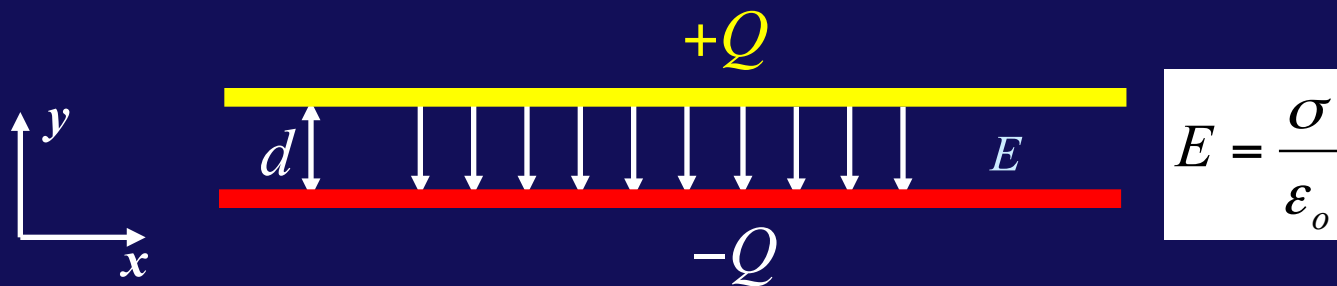
Charges create an electric field in the space between

We can integrate the electric field between them to find the potential difference between the conductor

This potential difference **WILL be proportional to  $Q$**  !

The **ratio of  $Q$  to the potential difference** is the capacitance and it only depends on the geometry of the conductors

# Example from Prelecture



$$E = \frac{\sigma}{\epsilon_0}$$

What is  $\sigma$  ?

$$\sigma = \frac{Q}{A}$$

$A$  = area of plate

Second, integrate  $E$  to find the potential difference  $V$

$$V = -\int_0^d \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{y} \quad \longrightarrow \quad V = -\int_0^d (-Edy) = E \int_0^d dy = \frac{Q}{\epsilon_0 A} d$$

As promised,  $V$  is proportional to  $Q$  !

$$C \equiv \frac{Q}{V} = \frac{\cancel{Q}}{\cancel{Q}d / \epsilon_0 A} \quad \longrightarrow \quad C = \frac{\epsilon_0 A}{d}$$

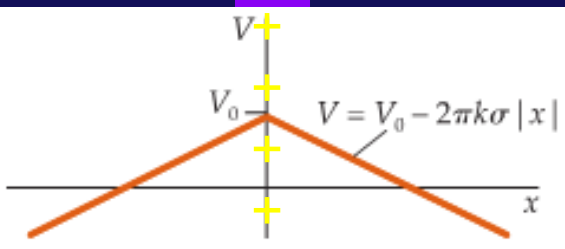
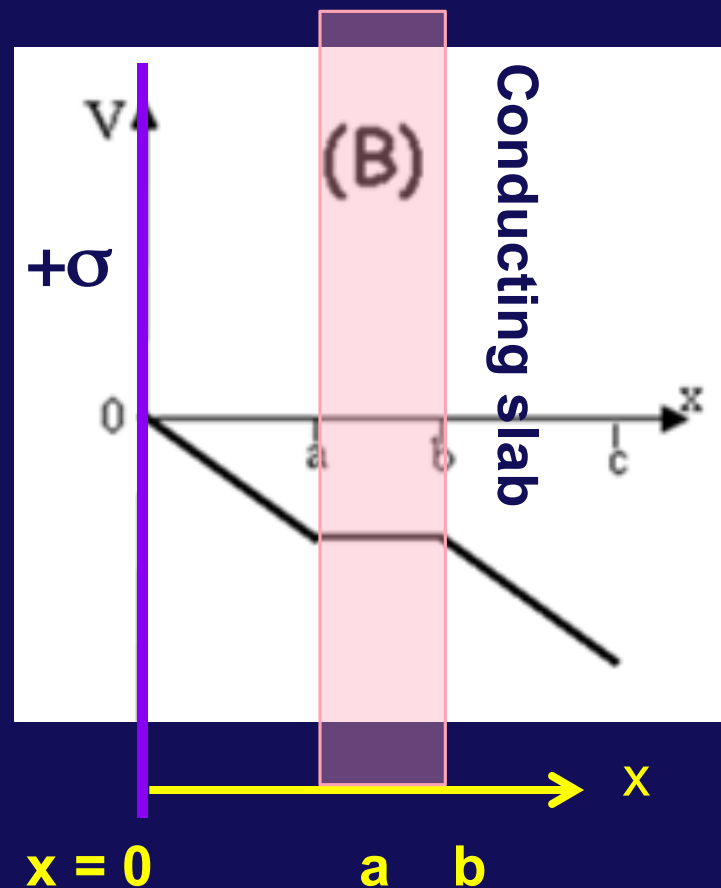
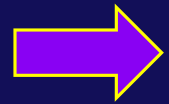
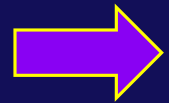
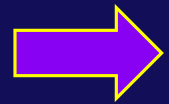
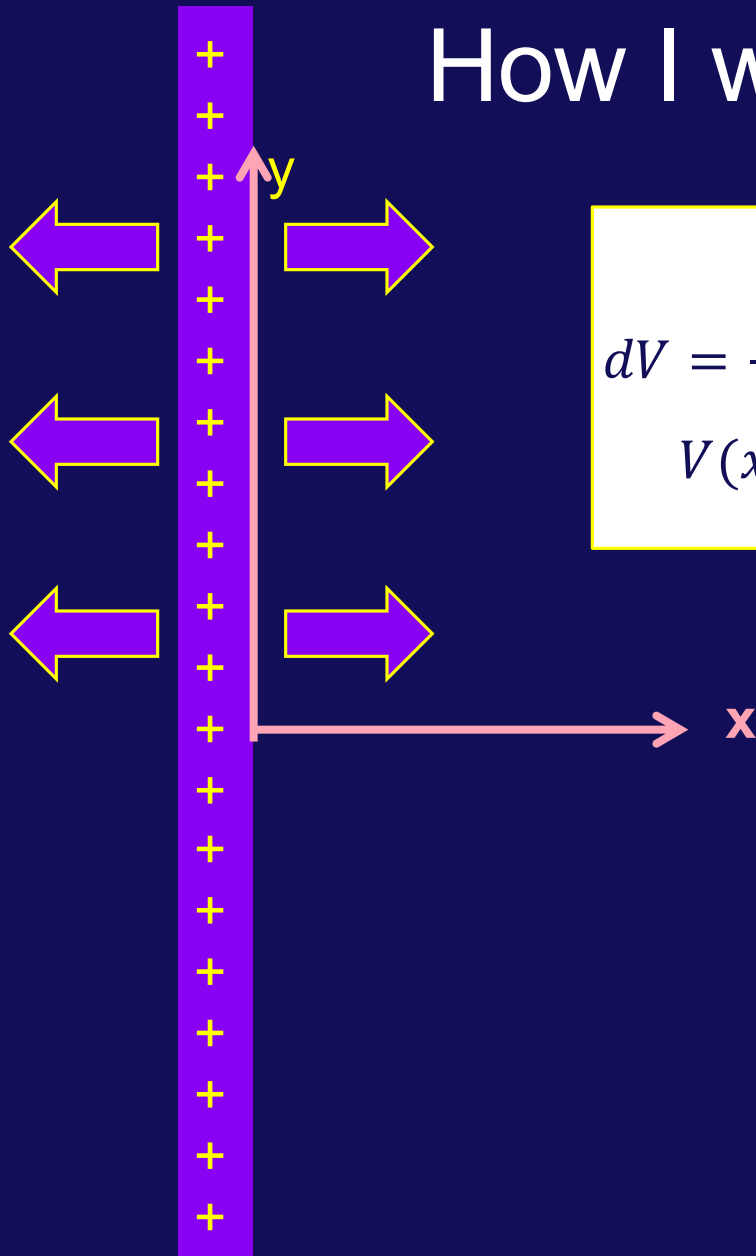
$C$  determined by geometry! Not  $Q$

# How I was getting you ready ...

$$E = \sigma/2\epsilon_0 \text{ for } x > 0$$

$$dV = -\vec{E} \cdot d\vec{l} = -2\pi k\sigma dx \quad x > 0$$

$$V(x) = -2\pi k\sigma x + V_0 \quad x > 0$$

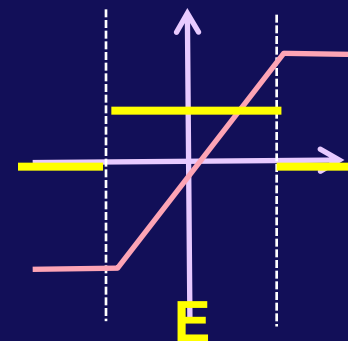
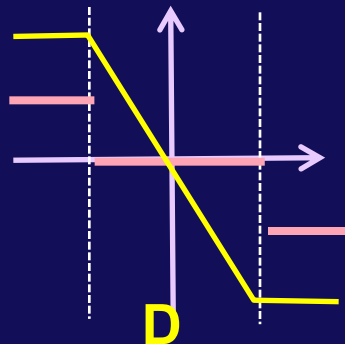
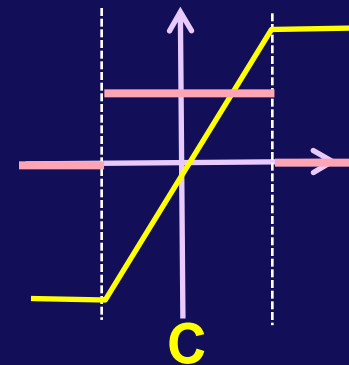
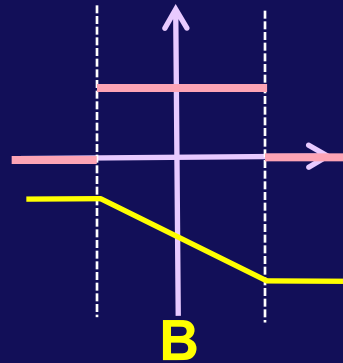
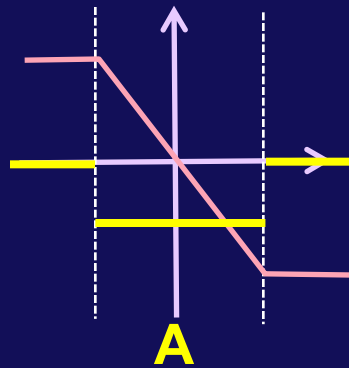


$+\sigma$

# Clicker: 2 planes

$-\sigma$

Two “infinite” oppositely charged parallel plates are located at  $-d$  and  $+d$  on the  $x$  axis. Which graphs best represent the Electric Field and the Potential Difference vs  $x$  ?

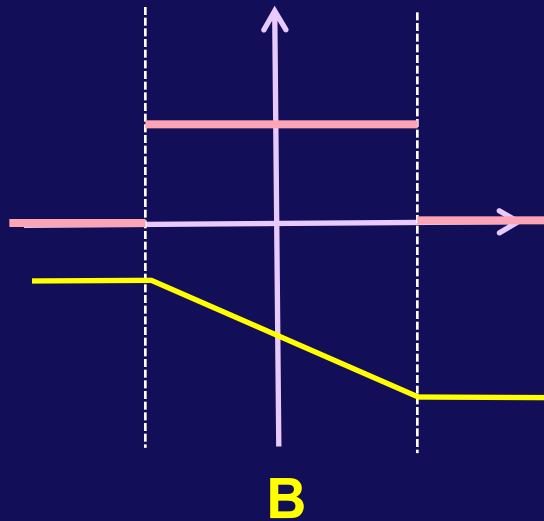


# Clicker

Two “infinite” oppositely charged parallel plates are located at  $-d$  and  $+d$  on the  $x$  axis. Which graphs best represent the Electric Field and the Potential Difference vs  $x$  ?

**E constant** 

$$V(x) = -2\pi k\sigma x + V_0$$



**B**

# Going green ...

*Please explain the **green thing** and why it does the things it does. :/*

The charged plate questions were the most difficult, especially with the green conductor plates in the middle, I don't know how to account for that.

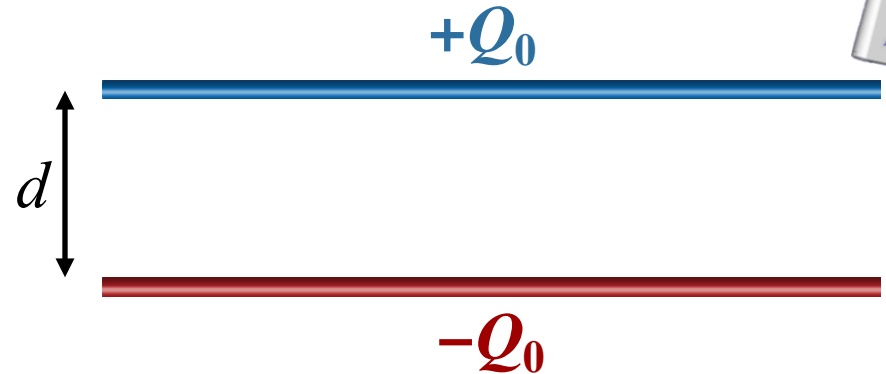
Can we discuss the second part of the second checkpoint question?  $C=Q/\Delta V$  but  $C= \epsilon_0 \cdot \text{Area}/\text{distance}$ . So what actually happens if you increase  $Q$  in such a way that keeps  $\Delta V$  the same?? These formulas seem to contradict.

**Warning: Lots of Green Thing Questions are next**  
(these Checkpoint issues were more of a struggle)

# Clicker: (*not* the Checkpoint)

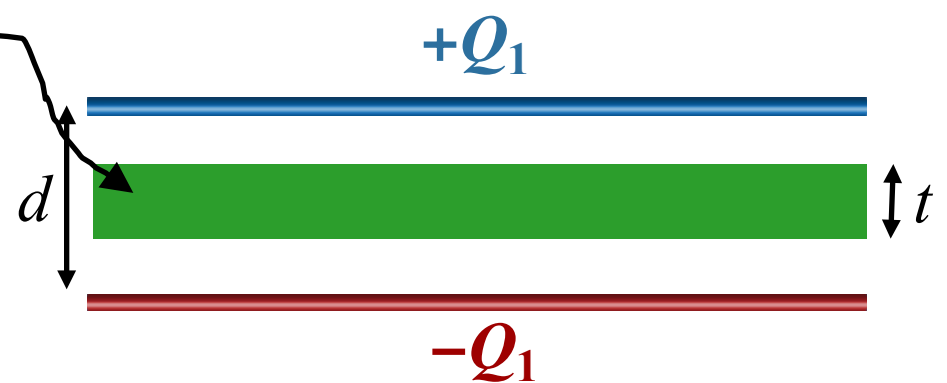


Initial charge on capacitor =  $Q_0$



Insert an **uncharged conductor**

Charge on capacitor now called  $Q_1$



How is  $Q_1$  related to  $Q_0$  ?

A)  $Q_1 < Q_0$

B)  $Q_1 = Q_0$

C)  $Q_1 > Q_0$

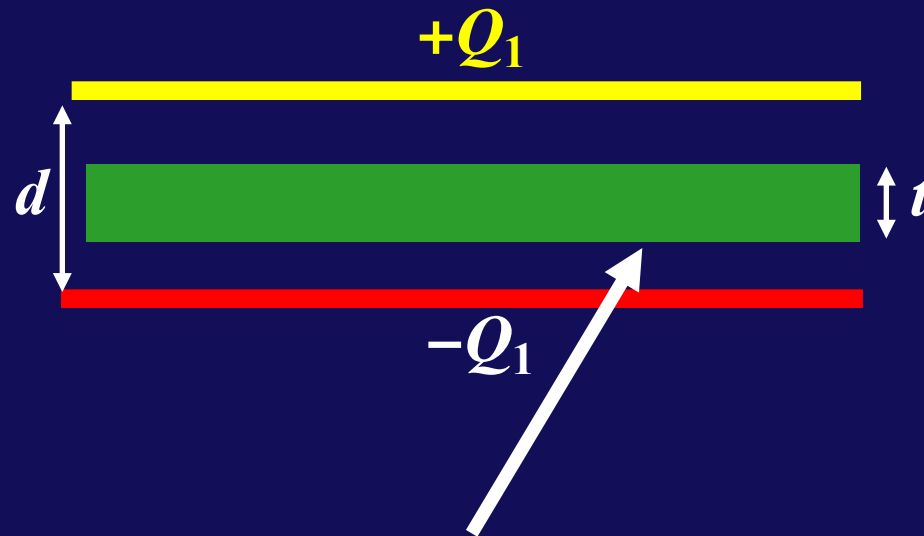
Plates not connected to anything



**CHARGE CANNOT CHANGE !**

Clicker to reinforce ...

Initial charge on capacitor =  $Q_0$



What is the total charge induced on the bottom surface of the conductor?

**A)  $+Q_0$**

B)  $-Q_0$

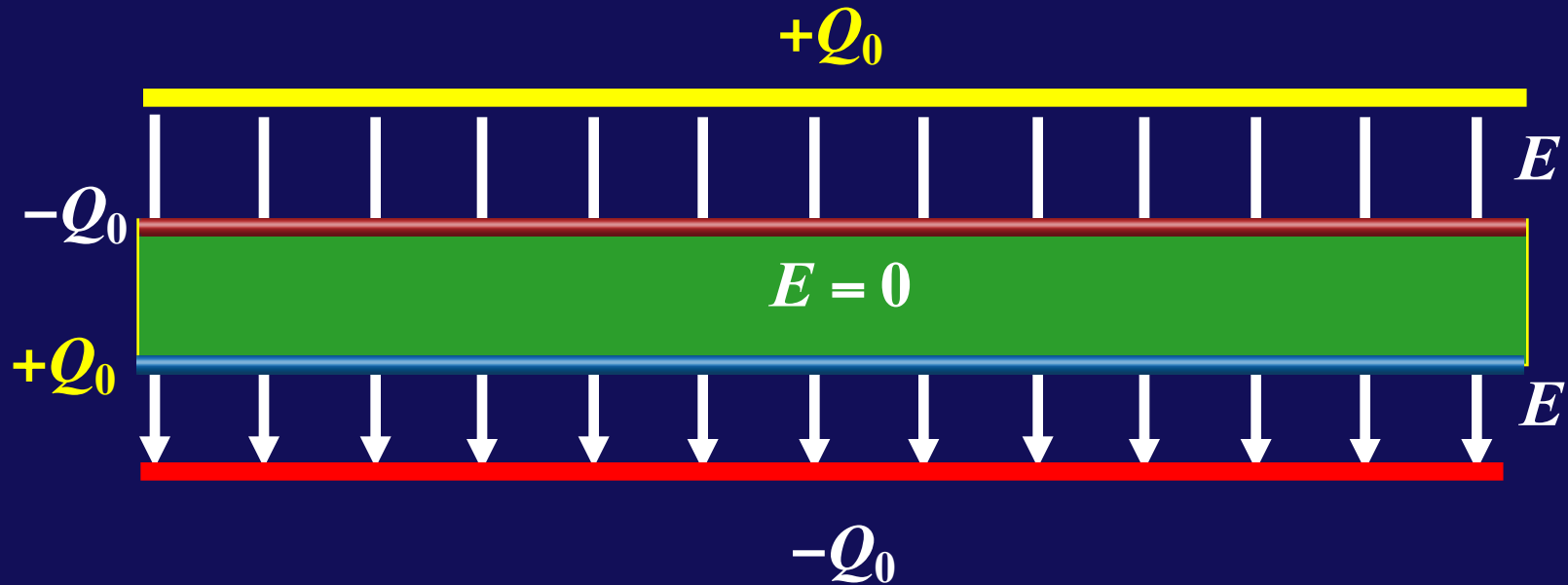
C) 0

D) Positive but the magnitude unknown

E) Negative but the magnitude unknown



# Why ?



**$E$  must be = 0 in conductor !**

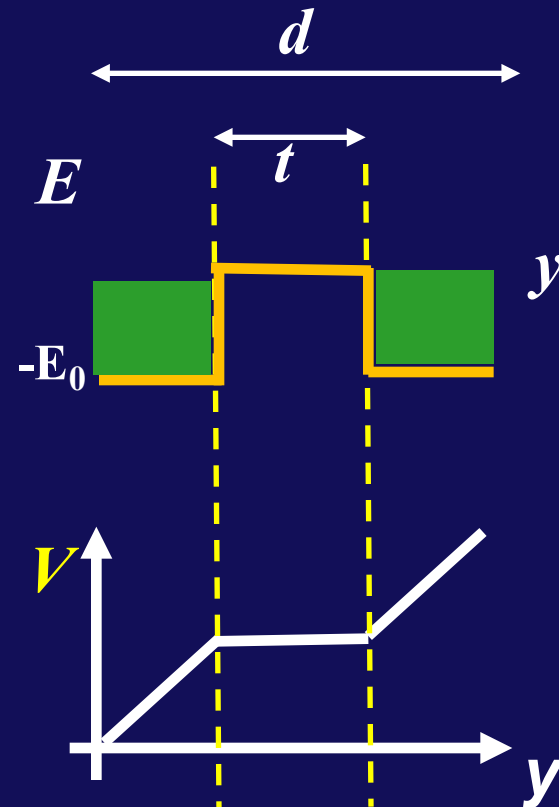
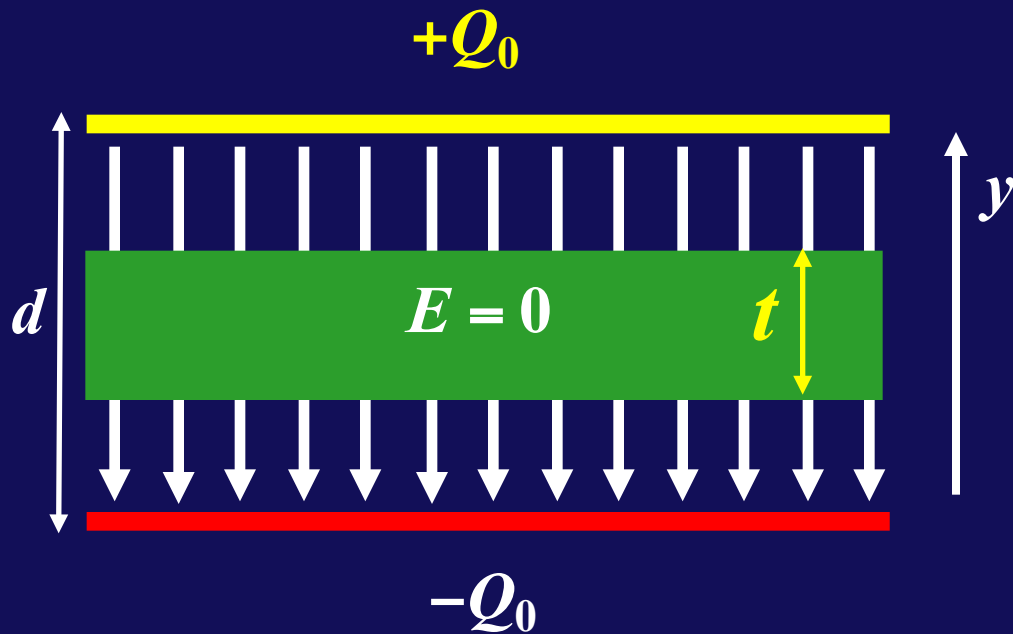


Charges inside conductor move to cancel  $E$  field from top & bottom plates.

# Calculate V

Now calculate  $V$  as a function of distance from the bottom conductor (define  $V=0$  there).

$$V(y) = -\int_0^y \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{y}$$



What is  $\Delta V = V(d)$ ?

A)  $\Delta V = E_0 d$

B)  $\Delta V = E_0(d - t)$

C)  $\Delta V = E_0(d + t)$

The integral = area under the curve

# Now, Click on CheckPoint 8 again

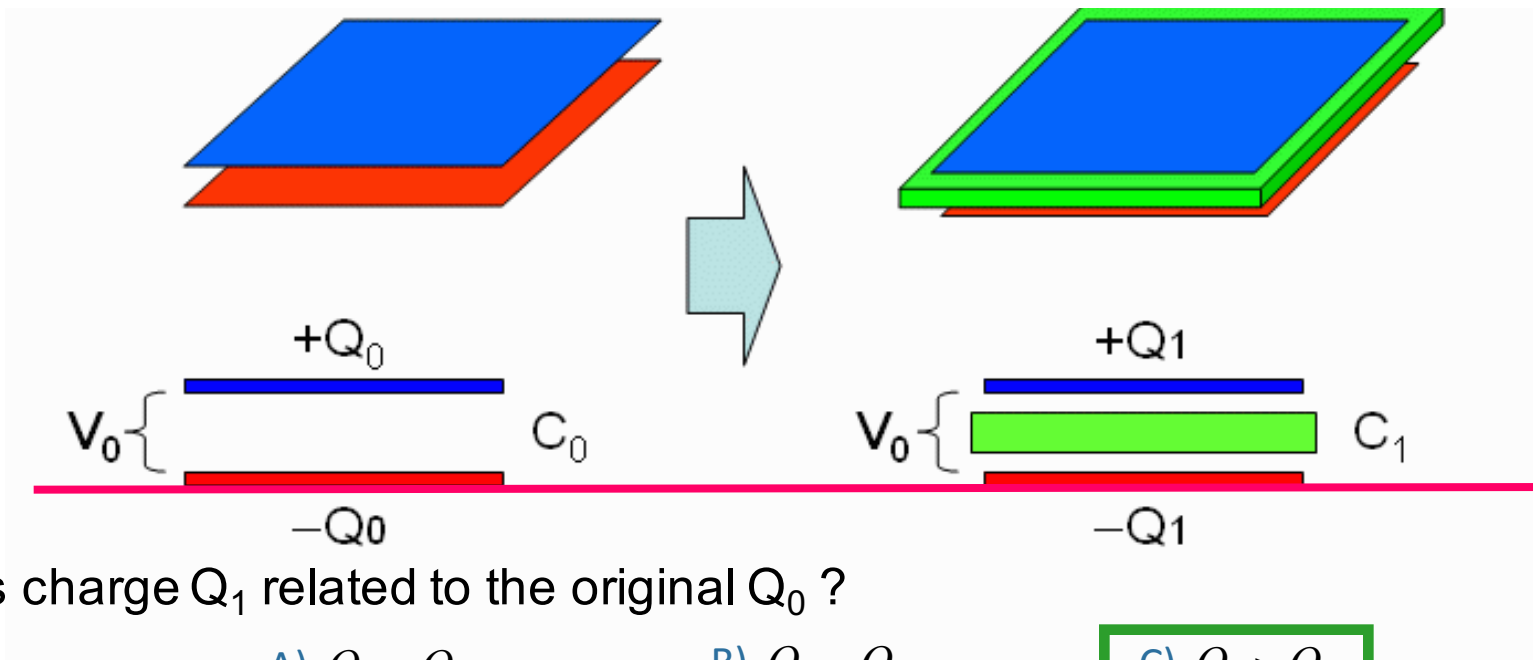


Two parallel plates with charge  $Q_0$  on each plate.

Potential difference is  $V_0$ .

Put in uncharged conductor (green)

**ADJUST** the potential difference to be the **SAME** as before: i.e,  $V_0$ .



How is charge  $Q_1$  related to the original  $Q_0$  ?

A)  $Q_1 < Q_0$

B)  $Q_1 = Q_0$

C)  $Q_1 > Q_0$

We just found  $\Delta V = E_2(d - t)$

In the 1<sup>st</sup> case  $\Delta V = E_1(d)$

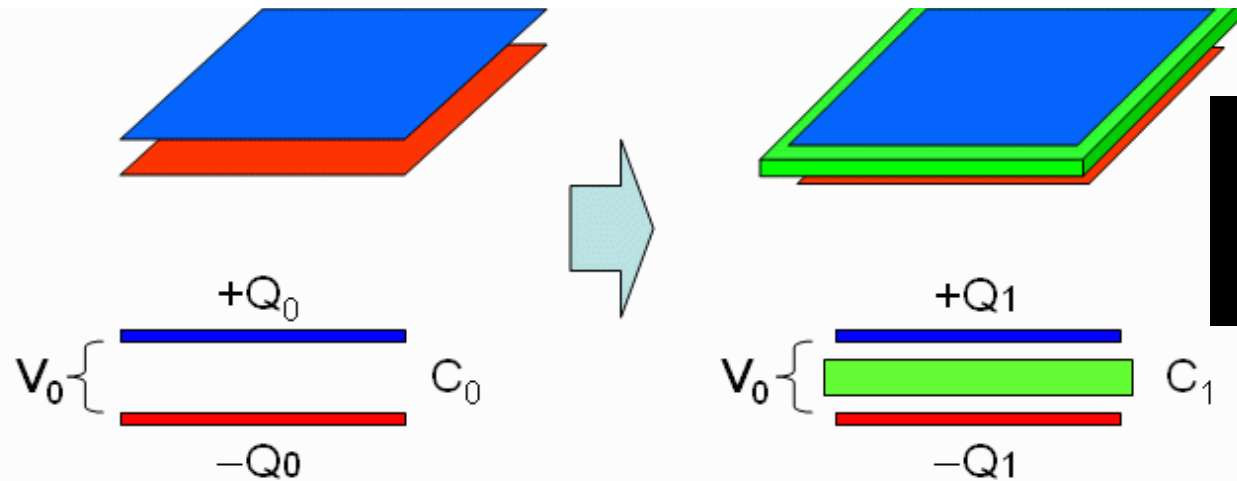
For **same**  $\Delta V$  we need  $E_2 > E_1$  implies  $Q_1 > Q_0$

This charge came from some connected circuit that made  $V_0$  the same

# Let's *click* this one too ...



Same setup. Potential difference is  $V_0$ . Insert conductor (green)  
**CHARGE  $Q_1$  is ADJUSTED** to make Potential Difference equal to  $V_0$ .  
 (see previous Clicker question where  $Q_1$  had to increase)



How does the **Capacitance** of the object change?

**A)  $C_1 > C_0$**

B)  $C_1 = C_0$

C)  $C_1 < C_0$

Same  $V_0$   
 Therefore, since

$\rightarrow C_0 = Q_0 / V_0$   
 $Q_1 > Q_0$

*and*  
*it means*

$C_1 = Q_1 / V_0$   
 $C_1 > C_0$

Alternate explanation using Previous situation

Same  $Q_0$



$V_0 = E_0 d$   
 $C_0 = Q_0 / E_0 d$

*and*  
*and*

$V_1 = E_0 (d - t)$   
 $C_1 = Q_0 / (E_0 (d - t))$



$C_0 = \epsilon_0 A / d$       *and*       $C_1 = \epsilon_0 A / (d - t)$