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Edward M. Purcell and David J. Morin
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Electricity and Magnetism

For 50 years, Edward M. Purcell's classic textbook has introduced students to the world of electricity and magnetism. This third edition has been brought up to date and is now in SI units. It features hundreds of new examples, problems, and figures, and contains discussions of real-life applications.

The textbook covers all the standard introductory topics, such as electrostatics, magnetism, circuits, electromagnetic waves, and electric and magnetic fields in matter. Taking a nontraditional approach, magnetism is derived as a relativistic effect. Mathematical concepts are introduced in parallel with the physical topics at hand, making the motivations clear. Macroscopic phenomena are derived rigorously from the underlying microscopic physics.

With worked examples, hundreds of illustrations, and nearly 600 end-of-chapter problems and exercises, this textbook is ideal for electricity and magnetism courses. Solutions to the exercises are available for instructors at www.cambridge.org/Purcell-Morin.

EDWARD M. PURCELL (1912–1997) was the recipient of many awards for his scientific, educational, and civic work. In 1952 he shared the Nobel Prize for Physics for the discovery of nuclear magnetic resonance in liquids and solids, an elegant and precise method of determining the chemical structure of materials that serves as the basis for numerous applications, including magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). During his career he served as science adviser to Presidents Dwight D. Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, and Lyndon B. Johnson.

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THIRD EDITION

ELECTRICITY AND MAGNETISM

**EDWARD M. PURCELL
DAVID J. MORIN**

Harvard University, Massachusetts



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Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Preface to the third edition of Volume 2	xiii	CONTENTS
Preface to the second edition of Volume 2	xvii	
Preface to the first edition of Volume 2	xxi	
CHAPTER 1		
ELECTROSTATICS: CHARGES AND FIELDS	1	
1.1 Electric charge	1	
1.2 Conservation of charge	4	
1.3 Quantization of charge	5	
1.4 Coulomb's law	7	
1.5 Energy of a system of charges	11	
1.6 Electrical energy in a crystal lattice	14	
1.7 The electric field	16	
1.8 Charge distributions	20	
1.9 Flux	22	
1.10 Gauss's law	23	
1.11 Field of a spherical charge distribution	26	
1.12 Field of a line charge	28	
1.13 Field of an infinite flat sheet of charge	29	
1.14 The force on a layer of charge	30	
1.15 Energy associated with the electric field	33	
1.16 Applications	35	

Chapter summary	38
Problems	39
Exercises	47
CHAPTER 2	
THE ELECTRIC POTENTIAL	58
2.1 Line integral of the electric field	59
2.2 Potential difference and the potential function	61
2.3 Gradient of a scalar function	63
2.4 Derivation of the field from the potential	65
2.5 Potential of a charge distribution	65
2.6 Uniformly charged disk	68
2.7 Dipoles	73
2.8 Divergence of a vector function	78
2.9 Gauss's theorem and the differential form of Gauss's law	79
2.10 The divergence in Cartesian coordinates	81
2.11 The Laplacian	85
2.12 Laplace's equation	86
2.13 Distinguishing the physics from the mathematics	88
2.14 The curl of a vector function	90
2.15 Stokes' theorem	92
2.16 The curl in Cartesian coordinates	93
2.17 The physical meaning of the curl	95
2.18 Applications	100
Chapter summary	103
Problems	105
Exercises	112
CHAPTER 3	
ELECTRIC FIELDS AROUND CONDUCTORS	124
3.1 Conductors and insulators	125
3.2 Conductors in the electrostatic field	126
3.3 The general electrostatic problem and the uniqueness theorem	132
3.4 Image charges	136
3.5 Capacitance and capacitors	141
3.6 Potentials and charges on several conductors	147
3.7 Energy stored in a capacitor	149
3.8 Other views of the boundary-value problem	151
3.9 Applications	153
Chapter summary	155

CONTENTS

vii

Problems	155
Exercises	163
CHAPTER 4	
ELECTRIC CURRENTS	177
4.1 Electric current and current density	177
4.2 Steady currents and charge conservation	180
4.3 Electrical conductivity and Ohm's law	181
4.4 The physics of electrical conduction	189
4.5 Conduction in metals	198
4.6 Semiconductors	200
4.7 Circuits and circuit elements	204
4.8 Energy dissipation in current flow	207
4.9 Electromotive force and the voltaic cell	209
4.10 Networks with voltage sources	212
4.11 Variable currents in capacitors and resistors	215
4.12 Applications	217
Chapter summary	221
Problems	222
Exercises	226
CHAPTER 5	
THE FIELDS OF MOVING CHARGES	235
5.1 From Oersted to Einstein	236
5.2 Magnetic forces	237
5.3 Measurement of charge in motion	239
5.4 Invariance of charge	241
5.5 Electric field measured in different frames of reference	243
5.6 Field of a point charge moving with constant velocity	247
5.7 Field of a charge that starts or stops	251
5.8 Force on a moving charge	255
5.9 Interaction between a moving charge and other moving charges	259
Chapter summary	267
Problems	268
Exercises	270
CHAPTER 6	
THE MAGNETIC FIELD	277
6.1 Definition of the magnetic field	278
6.2 Some properties of the magnetic field	286

6.3	Vector potential	293
6.4	Field of any current-carrying wire	296
6.5	Fields of rings and coils	299
6.6	Change in \mathbf{B} at a current sheet	303
6.7	How the fields transform	306
6.8	Rowland's experiment	314
6.9	Electrical conduction in a magnetic field: the Hall effect	314
6.10	Applications	317
	Chapter summary	322
	Problems	323
	Exercises	331
 CHAPTER 7		
ELECTROMAGNETIC INDUCTION		342
7.1	Faraday's discovery	343
7.2	Conducting rod moving through a uniform magnetic field	345
7.3	Loop moving through a nonuniform magnetic field	346
7.4	Stationary loop with the field source moving	352
7.5	Universal law of induction	355
7.6	Mutual inductance	359
7.7	A reciprocity theorem	362
7.8	Self-inductance	364
7.9	Circuit containing self-inductance	366
7.10	Energy stored in the magnetic field	368
7.11	Applications	369
	Chapter summary	373
	Problems	374
	Exercises	380
 CHAPTER 8		
ALTERNATING-CURRENT CIRCUITS		388
8.1	A resonant circuit	388
8.2	Alternating current	394
8.3	Complex exponential solutions	402
8.4	Alternating-current networks	405
8.5	Admittance and impedance	408
8.6	Power and energy in alternating-current circuits	415
8.7	Applications	418
	Chapter summary	420
	Problems	421
	Exercises	424

CONTENTS

ix

CHAPTER 9	
MAXWELL'S EQUATIONS AND ELECTROMAGNETIC WAVES	430
9.1 "Something is missing"	430
9.2 The displacement current	433
9.3 Maxwell's equations	436
9.4 An electromagnetic wave	438
9.5 Other waveforms; superposition of waves	441
9.6 Energy transport by electromagnetic waves	446
9.7 How a wave looks in a different frame	452
9.8 Applications	454
Chapter summary	455
Problems	457
Exercises	461
CHAPTER 10	
ELECTRIC FIELDS IN MATTER	466
10.1 Dielectrics	467
10.2 The moments of a charge distribution	471
10.3 The potential and field of a dipole	474
10.4 The torque and the force on a dipole in an external field	477
10.5 Atomic and molecular dipoles; induced dipole moments	479
10.6 Permanent dipole moments	482
10.7 The electric field caused by polarized matter	483
10.8 Another look at the capacitor	489
10.9 The field of a polarized sphere	492
10.10 A dielectric sphere in a uniform field	495
10.11 The field of a charge in a dielectric medium, and Gauss's law	497
10.12 A microscopic view of the dielectric	500
10.13 Polarization in changing fields	504
10.14 The bound-charge current	505
10.15 An electromagnetic wave in a dielectric	507
10.16 Applications	509
Chapter summary	511
Problems	513
Exercises	516
CHAPTER 11	
MAGNETIC FIELDS IN MATTER	523
11.1 How various substances respond to a magnetic field	524

11.2	The absence of magnetic “charge”	529
11.3	The field of a current loop	531
11.4	The force on a dipole in an external field	535
11.5	Electric currents in atoms	540
11.6	Electron spin and magnetic moment	546
11.7	Magnetic susceptibility	549
11.8	The magnetic field caused by magnetized matter	551
11.9	The field of a permanent magnet	557
11.10	Free currents, and the field H	559
11.11	Ferromagnetism	565
11.12	Applications	570
	Chapter summary	573
	Problems	575
	Exercises	577
CHAPTER 12		
SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS		586
12.1	Chapter 1	586
12.2	Chapter 2	611
12.3	Chapter 3	636
12.4	Chapter 4	660
12.5	Chapter 5	678
12.6	Chapter 6	684
12.7	Chapter 7	707
12.8	Chapter 8	722
12.9	Chapter 9	734
12.10	Chapter 10	744
12.11	Chapter 11	755
Appendix A:		
Differences between SI and Gaussian units		762
Appendix B:		
SI units of common quantities		769
Appendix C:		
Unit conversions		774
Appendix D:		
SI and Gaussian formulas		778
Appendix E:		
Exact relations among SI and Gaussian units		789

CONTENTS

xi

Appendix F: Curvilinear coordinates	791
Appendix G: A short review of special relativity	804
Appendix H: Radiation by an accelerated charge	812
Appendix I: Superconductivity	817
Appendix J: Magnetic resonance	821
Appendix K: Helpful formulas/facts	825
References	831
Index	833

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[More information](#)

For 50 years, physics students have enjoyed learning about electricity and magnetism through the first two editions of this book. The purpose of the present edition is to bring certain things up to date and to add new material, in the hopes that the trend will continue. The main changes from the second edition are (1) the conversion from Gaussian units to SI units, and (2) the addition of many solved problems and examples.

The first of these changes is due to the fact that the vast majority of courses on electricity and magnetism are now taught in SI units. The second edition fell out of print at one point, and it was hard to watch such a wonderful book fade away because it wasn't compatible with the way the subject is presently taught. Of course, there are differing opinions as to which system of units is "better" for an introductory course. But this issue is moot, given the reality of these courses.

For students interested in working with Gaussian units, or for instructors who want their students to gain exposure to both systems, I have created a number of appendices that should be helpful. Appendix A discusses the differences between the SI and Gaussian systems. Appendix C derives the conversion factors between the corresponding units in the two systems. Appendix D explains how to convert formulas from SI to Gaussian; it then lists, side by side, the SI and Gaussian expressions for every important result in the book. A little time spent looking at this appendix will make it clear how to convert formulas from one system to the other.

The second main change in the book is the addition of many solved problems, and also many new examples in the text. Each chapter ends with "problems" and "exercises." The solutions to the "problems" are located in Chapter 12. The only official difference between the problems

Preface to the third edition of Volume 2

and exercises is that the problems have solutions included, whereas the exercises do not. (A separate solutions manual for the exercises is available to instructors.) In practice, however, one difference is that some of the more theorem-ish results are presented in the problems, so that students can use these results in other problems/exercises.

Some advice on using the solutions to the problems: problems (and exercises) are given a (very subjective) difficulty rating from 1 star to 4 stars. If you are having trouble solving a problem, it is critical that you don't look at the solution too soon. Brood over it for a while. If you do finally look at the solution, don't just read it through. Instead, cover it up with a piece of paper and read one line at a time until you reach a hint to get you started. Then set the book aside and work things out for real. That's the only way it will sink in. It's quite astonishing how unhelpful it is simply to read a solution. You'd *think* it would do some good, but in fact it is completely ineffective in raising your understanding to the next level. Of course, a careful reading of the text, including perhaps a few problem solutions, is necessary to get the basics down. But if Level 1 is understanding the basic concepts, and Level 2 is being able to *apply* those concepts, then you can read and read until the cows come home, and you'll never get past Level 1.

The overall structure of the text is essentially the same as in the second edition, although a few new sections have been added. Section 2.7 introduces dipoles. The more formal treatment of dipoles, along with their applications, remains in place in Chapter 10. But because the fundamentals of dipoles can be understood using only the concepts developed in Chapters 1 and 2, it seems appropriate to cover this subject earlier in the book. Section 8.3 introduces the important technique of solving differential equations by forming complex solutions and then taking the real part. Section 9.6.2 deals with the Poynting vector, which opens up the door to some very cool problems.

Each chapter concludes with a list of “everyday” applications of electricity and magnetism. The discussions are brief. The main purpose of these sections is to present a list of fun topics that deserve further investigation. You can carry onward with some combination of books/internet/people/pondering. There is effectively an infinite amount of information out there (see the references at the beginning of Section 1.16 for some starting points), so my goal in these sections is simply to provide a springboard for further study.

The intertwined nature of electricity, magnetism, and relativity is discussed in detail in Chapter 5. Many students find this material highly illuminating, although some find it a bit difficult. (However, these two groups are by no means mutually exclusive!) For instructors who wish to take a less theoretical route, it is possible to skip directly from Chapter 4 to Chapter 6, with only a brief mention of the main result from Chapter 5, namely the magnetic field due to a straight current-carrying wire.

Preface to the third edition of Volume 2

xv

The use of non-Cartesian coordinates (cylindrical, spherical) is more prominent in the present edition. For setups possessing certain symmetries, a wisely chosen system of coordinates can greatly simplify the calculations. Appendix F gives a review of the various vector operators in the different systems.

Compared with the second edition, the level of difficulty of the present edition is slightly higher, due to a number of hefty problems that have been added. If you are looking for an extra challenge, these problems should keep you on your toes. However, if these are ignored (which they certainly can be, in any standard course using this book), then the level of difficulty is roughly the same.

I am grateful to all the students who used a draft version of this book and provided feedback. Their input has been invaluable. I would also like to thank Jacob Barandes for many illuminating discussions of the more subtle topics in the book. Paul Horowitz helped get the project off the ground and has been an endless supplier of cool facts. It was a pleasure brainstorming with Andrew Milewski, who offered many ideas for clever new problems. Howard Georgi and Wolfgang Rueckner provided much-appreciated sounding boards and sanity checks. Takuya Kitagawa carefully read through a draft version and offered many helpful suggestions. I thank Ali Woollatt and Irene Pizzie for their professional work in producing the layout of the book and copy editing the manuscript. Other friends and colleagues whose input I am grateful for are: Lindsay Barnes, Simon Capelin, Allen Crockett, David Derbes, John Doyle, Gary Feldman, Melissa Franklin, Jerome Fung, Jene Golovchenko, Doug Goodale, Robert Hart, Tom Hayes, Peter Hedman, Jennifer Hoffman, Charlie Holbrow, Gareth Kafka, Alan Levine, Aneesh Manohar, Kirk McDonald, Masahiro Morii, Lev Okun, Joon Pahk, Dave Patterson, Mara Prentiss, Dennis Purcell, Frank Purcell, Daniel Rosenberg, Emily Russell, Roy Schwitters, Nils Sorensen, Charlotte Thomas, Josh Winn, and Amir Yacoby.

Despite careful editing, there is zero probability that this book is error free. A great deal of new material has been added, and errors have undoubtedly crept in. If anything looks amiss, please check the webpage www.cambridge.org/Purcell-Morin for a list of typos, updates, etc. And please let me know if you discover something that isn't already posted. Suggestions are always welcome.

David Morin

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This revision of “Electricity and Magnetism,” Volume 2 of the Berkeley Physics Course, has been made with three broad aims in mind. First, I have tried to make the text clearer at many points. In years of use teachers and students have found innumerable places where a simplification or reorganization of an explanation could make it easier to follow. Doubtless some opportunities for such improvements have still been missed; not too many, I hope.

A second aim was to make the book practically independent of its companion volumes in the Berkeley Physics Course. As originally conceived it was bracketed between Volume I, which provided the needed special relativity, and Volume 3, “Waves and Oscillations,” to which was allocated the topic of electromagnetic waves. As it has turned out, Volume 2 has been rather widely used alone. In recognition of that I have made certain changes and additions. A concise review of the relations of special relativity is included as Appendix A. Some previous introduction to relativity is still assumed. The review provides a handy reference and summary for the ideas and formulas we need to understand the fields of moving charges and their transformation from one frame to another. The development of Maxwell’s equations for the vacuum has been transferred from the heavily loaded Chapter 7 (on induction) to a new Chapter 9, where it leads naturally into an elementary treatment of plane electromagnetic waves, both running and standing. The propagation of a wave in a dielectric medium can then be treated in Chapter 10 on Electric Fields in Matter.

A third need, to modernize the treatment of certain topics, was most urgent in the chapter on electrical conduction. A substantially rewritten

Preface to the second edition of Volume 2

Chapter 4 now includes a section on the physics of homogeneous semiconductors, including doped semiconductors. Devices are not included, not even a rectifying junction, but what is said about bands, and donors and acceptors, could serve as starting point for development of such topics by the instructor. Thanks to solid-state electronics the physics of the voltaic cell has become even more relevant to daily life as the number of batteries in use approaches in order of magnitude the world's population. In the first edition of this book I unwisely chose as the example of an electrolytic cell the one cell—the Weston standard cell—which advances in physics were soon to render utterly obsolete. That section has been replaced by an analysis, with new diagrams, of the lead-acid storage battery—ancient, ubiquitous, and far from obsolete.

One would hardly have expected that, in the revision of an elementary text in classical electromagnetism, attention would have to be paid to new developments in particle physics. But that is the case for two questions that were discussed in the first edition, the significance of charge quantization, and the apparent absence of magnetic monopoles. Observation of proton decay would profoundly affect our view of the first question. Assiduous searches for that, and also for magnetic monopoles, have at this writing yielded no confirmed events, but the possibility of such fundamental discoveries remains open.

Three special topics, optional extensions of the text, are introduced in short appendixes: Appendix B: Radiation by an Accelerated Charge; Appendix C: Superconductivity; and Appendix D: Magnetic Resonance.

Our primary system of units remains the Gaussian CGS system. The SI units, ampere, coulomb, volt, ohm, and tesla are also introduced in the text and used in many of the problems. Major formulas are repeated in their SI formulation with explicit directions about units and conversion factors. The charts inside the back cover summarize the basic relations in both systems of units. A special chart in Chapter 11 reviews, in both systems, the relations involving magnetic polarization. The student is not expected, or encouraged, to memorize conversion factors, though some may become more or less familiar through use, but to look them up whenever needed. There is no objection to a “mixed” unit like the ohm-cm, still often used for resistivity, providing its meaning is perfectly clear.

The definition of the meter in terms of an assigned value for the speed of light, which has just become official, simplifies the exact relations among the units, as briefly explained in Appendix E.

There are some 300 problems, more than half of them new.

It is not possible to thank individually all the teachers and students who have made good suggestions for changes and corrections. I fear that some will be disappointed to find that their suggestions have not been followed quite as they intended. That the net result is a substantial improvement I hope most readers familiar with the first edition will agree.

Preface to the second edition of Volume 2

xix

Mistakes both old and new will surely be found. Communications pointing them out will be gratefully received.

It is a pleasure to thank Olive S. Rand for her patient and skillful assistance in the production of the manuscript.

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The subject of this volume of the Berkeley Physics Course is electricity and magnetism. The sequence of topics, in rough outline, is not unusual: electrostatics; steady currents; magnetic field; electromagnetic induction; electric and magnetic polarization in matter. However, our approach is different from the traditional one. The difference is most conspicuous in Chaps. 5 and 6 where, building on the work of Vol. I, we treat the electric and magnetic fields of moving charges as manifestations of relativity and the invariance of electric charge. This approach focuses attention on some fundamental questions, such as: charge conservation, charge invariance, the meaning of field. The only formal apparatus of special relativity that is really necessary is the Lorentz transformation of coordinates and the velocity-addition formula. It is essential, though, that the student bring to this part of the course some of the ideas and attitudes Vol. I sought to develop—among them a readiness to look at things from different frames of reference, an appreciation of invariance, and a respect for symmetry arguments. We make much use also, in Vol. II, of arguments based on superposition.

Our approach to electric and magnetic phenomena in matter is primarily “microscopic,” with emphasis on the nature of atomic and molecular dipoles, both electric and magnetic. Electric conduction, also, is described microscopically in the terms of a Drude-Lorentz model. Naturally some questions have to be left open until the student takes up quantum physics in Vol. IV. But we freely talk in a matter-of-fact way about molecules and atoms as electrical structures with size, shape, and stiffness, about electron orbits, and spin. We try to treat carefully a question that is sometimes avoided and sometimes beclouded in introductory texts, the meaning of the macroscopic fields \mathbf{E} and \mathbf{B} inside a material.

Preface to the first edition of Volume 2

In Vol. II, the student's mathematical equipment is extended by adding some tools of the vector calculus—gradient, divergence, curl, and the Laplacian. These concepts are developed as needed in the early chapters.

In its preliminary versions, Vol. II has been used in several classes at the University of California. It has benefited from criticism by many people connected with the Berkeley Course, especially from contributions by E. D. Commins and F. S. Crawford, Jr., who taught the first classes to use the text. They and their students discovered numerous places where clarification, or something more drastic, was needed; many of the revisions were based on their suggestions. Students' criticisms of the last preliminary version were collected by Robert Goren, who also helped to organize the problems. Valuable criticism has come also from J. D. Gavenda, who used the preliminary version at the University of Texas, and from E. F. Taylor, of Wesleyan University. Ideas were contributed by Allan Kaufman at an early stage of the writing. A. Felzer worked through most of the first draft as our first "test student."

The development of this approach to electricity and magnetism was encouraged, not only by our original Course Committee, but by colleagues active in a rather parallel development of new course material at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Among the latter, J. R. Tessman, of the MIT Science Teaching Center and Tufts University, was especially helpful and influential in the early formulation of the strategy. He has used the preliminary version in class, at MIT, and his critical reading of the entire text has resulted in many further changes and corrections.

Publication of the preliminary version, with its successive revisions, was supervised by Mrs. Mary R. Maloney. Mrs. Lila Lowell typed most of the manuscript. The illustrations were put into final form by Felix Cooper.

The author of this volume remains deeply grateful to his friends in Berkeley, and most of all to Charles Kittel, for the stimulation and constant encouragement that have made the long task enjoyable.

Edward M. Purcell