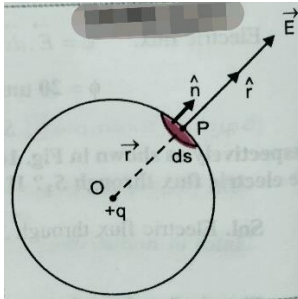


Gauss's law in electrostatics –

According to Gauss for a closed surface total flux in the free surface is $1/\epsilon_0$ times the total charge inside the closed surface.

Proof of Gauss's law -



Suppose a charge q is placed at the centre of the spherical shell of radius r ,

Then electric flux linked with the sphere is $\phi = \oint E \, ds$ (here E and ds is parallel to each other as shown in figure)

But here , $E = q/4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2$

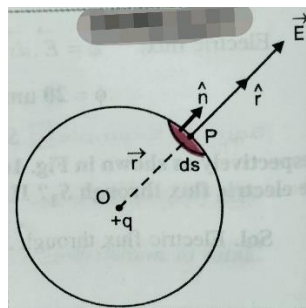
So, $\phi = \oint E \, ds = \oint \left(\frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2} \right) ds = \left(\frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2} \right) \oint ds = \left(\frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2} \right) 4\pi r^2 = q/\epsilon_0$

i.e. $\phi = \oint E \, ds = q/\epsilon_0$ Hence prove .

If the medium surrounding the charge has a dielectric constant 'K' then the flux

$$\phi = q/K\epsilon_0$$

Deduction of Coulomb's law on the basis of Gauss's law – Suppose a positive point charge is at O . We imagine a sphere of radius r with centre O . The magnitude of electric field intensity at that any point the surface of the sphere is E ,and it directed radially outward . The direction of the small area ds at the point p is along the direction of electric field E . i.e. electric field and area vector are parallel to each other



According to Gauss's theorem ,

$$\phi = \oint E \, ds = q/\epsilon_0$$

$$\text{or, } \oint E \, ds \cos 0^\circ = q/\epsilon_0 ,$$

$$\text{or, } E \oint ds = q/\epsilon_0 \quad \text{or, } E (4\pi r^2) = q/\epsilon_0$$

or, $E = q/4\pi r^2 \epsilon_0 = q/4\pi \epsilon_0 r^2$; This is the electric field intensity due to charge q at distance r , if we put a charge q_0 at point p then the force $F = q q_0 /4\pi \epsilon_0 r^2$ which is coulomb's law .