

(1) Find the capacitance of two concentric spheres of radii r and R respectively. Discuss the limits of (a) finite r , $R \rightarrow \infty$ and (b) $(R - r) \ll r$.

Solution: Potential due to the large sphere is $V_R = \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R}$ and for the small sphere is

$V_r = \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r}$. Therefore

$$V_r - V_R = \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left[\frac{1}{r} - \frac{1}{R} \right] = \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left[\frac{rR}{(R-r)} \right]^{-1}$$

Therefore capacitance $C = \frac{Q}{V} = \frac{4\pi\epsilon_0 rR}{(R-r)}$ For $R \rightarrow \infty$; $C = 4\pi\epsilon_0 rR$

For $(R-r) \ll r$; $r \simeq R$ and $(R-r) = d$ and $C = \frac{Q}{V} = \frac{4\pi\epsilon_0 R^2}{d} = \frac{\epsilon_0 A}{d}$