

## Answer on Question #46023 – Physics – Electromagnetism

### Question.

Which of the following is not true about the electric field intensity  $E$  of a uniformly charged solid sphere?

- E is maximum at the surface of the sphere
- E is directly proportional to the distance from the centre of the sphere
- E decreases as a square of the distance from the surface of the sphere
- E decreases as a square of the distance from the centre of the sphere.

### Solution.

It's a classic problem of electrostatics and the solutions of this problem are well known. Electric field of uniformly charged solid sphere with radius  $R$  depends on the distance from the center the following:

$$\text{For } r \leq R: E(r) \sim r$$

$$\text{For } r \geq R: E(r) \sim \frac{1}{r^2}$$

So, we can draw the graph  $E(r)$ . See Fig.1.

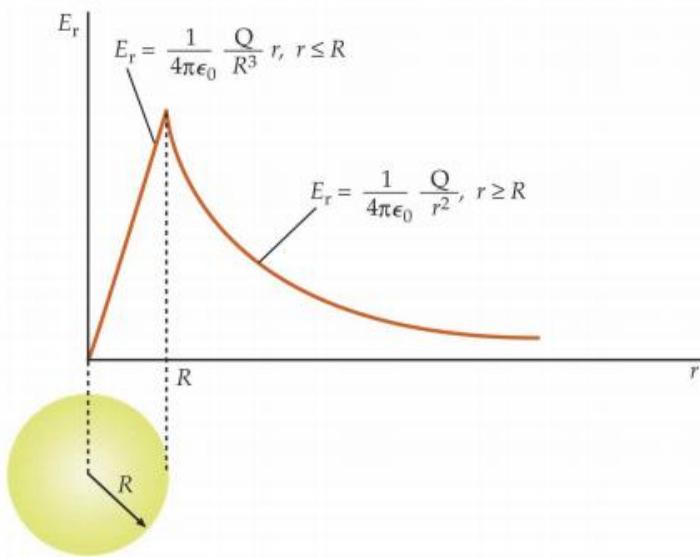


Fig.1. Electric field of uniformly charged solid sphere.

As you can see from this graph  $E(r)$  is maximum at the surface of the sphere and decreases as a square of the distance from the surface of the sphere.

But  $E(r)$  is directly proportional to the distance from the centre of the sphere only before  $r = R$  and decreases as a square of the distance not from the centre of the sphere, but from the surface of the sphere.

So, statements 1, 3 are true and statements 2, 4 are not true.

**Answer.**

E is directly proportional to the distance from the centre of the sphere

E decreases as a square of the distance from the centre of the sphere