

5. The electric field produced by an infinite sheet of charge has magnitude $E = \sigma/2\epsilon_0$, where σ is the surface charge density. The field is normal to the sheet and is uniform. Place the origin of a coordinate system at the sheet and take the x axis to be parallel to the field and positive in the direction of the field. Then the electric potential is

$$V = V_s - \int_0^x E \, dx = V_s - Ex \, ,$$

where V_s is the potential at the sheet. The equipotential surfaces are surfaces of constant x ; that is, they are planes that are parallel to the plane of charge. If two surfaces are separated by Δx then their potentials differ in magnitude by $\Delta V = E\Delta x = (\sigma/2\epsilon_0)\Delta x$. Thus,

$$\Delta x = \frac{2\epsilon_0 \Delta V}{\sigma} = \frac{2 (8.85 \times 10^{-12} \text{ C}^2/\text{N} \cdot \text{m}^2) (50 \text{ V})}{0.10 \times 10^{-6} \text{ C}/\text{m}^2} = 8.8 \times 10^{-3} \text{ m} \, .$$