

Gauss's law

Gauss showed that an important relationship exists between the total electric flux over a closed surface and the total charge enclosed by the surface. This relationship is known as *Gauss's law*. Using SI units the law may be stated as follows:

In an arbitrary electrostatic field (in vacuum) the total electric flux over any closed surface is equal to $1/\epsilon_0$ times the total charge enclosed by the surface, where ϵ_0 is the free space permittivity. For a closed surface S enclosing N number of point charges q_1, q_2, \dots, q_N the law may be expressed mathematically as

$$\oint_S \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{S} = \frac{1}{\epsilon_0} \sum_{i=1}^N q_i.$$

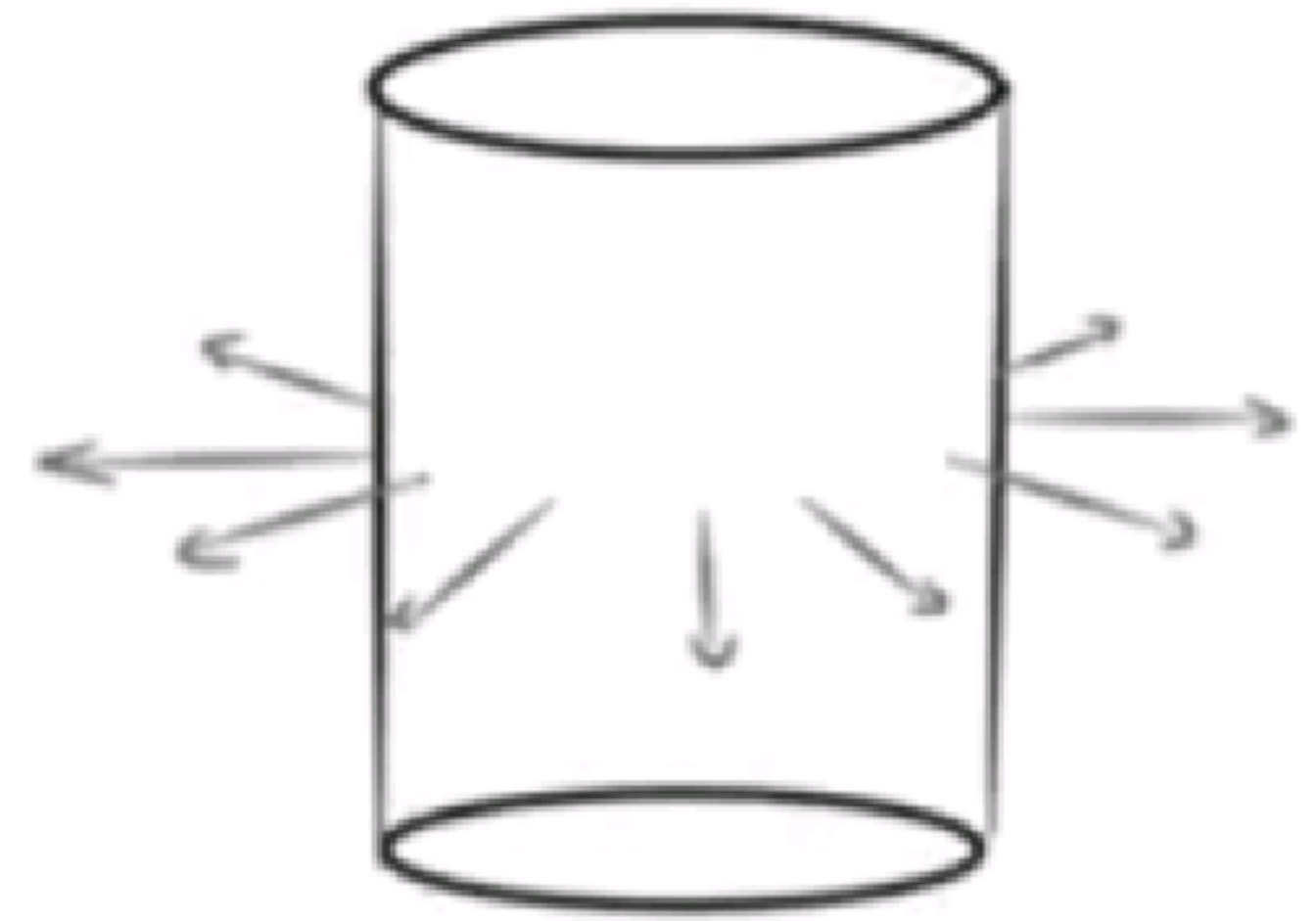
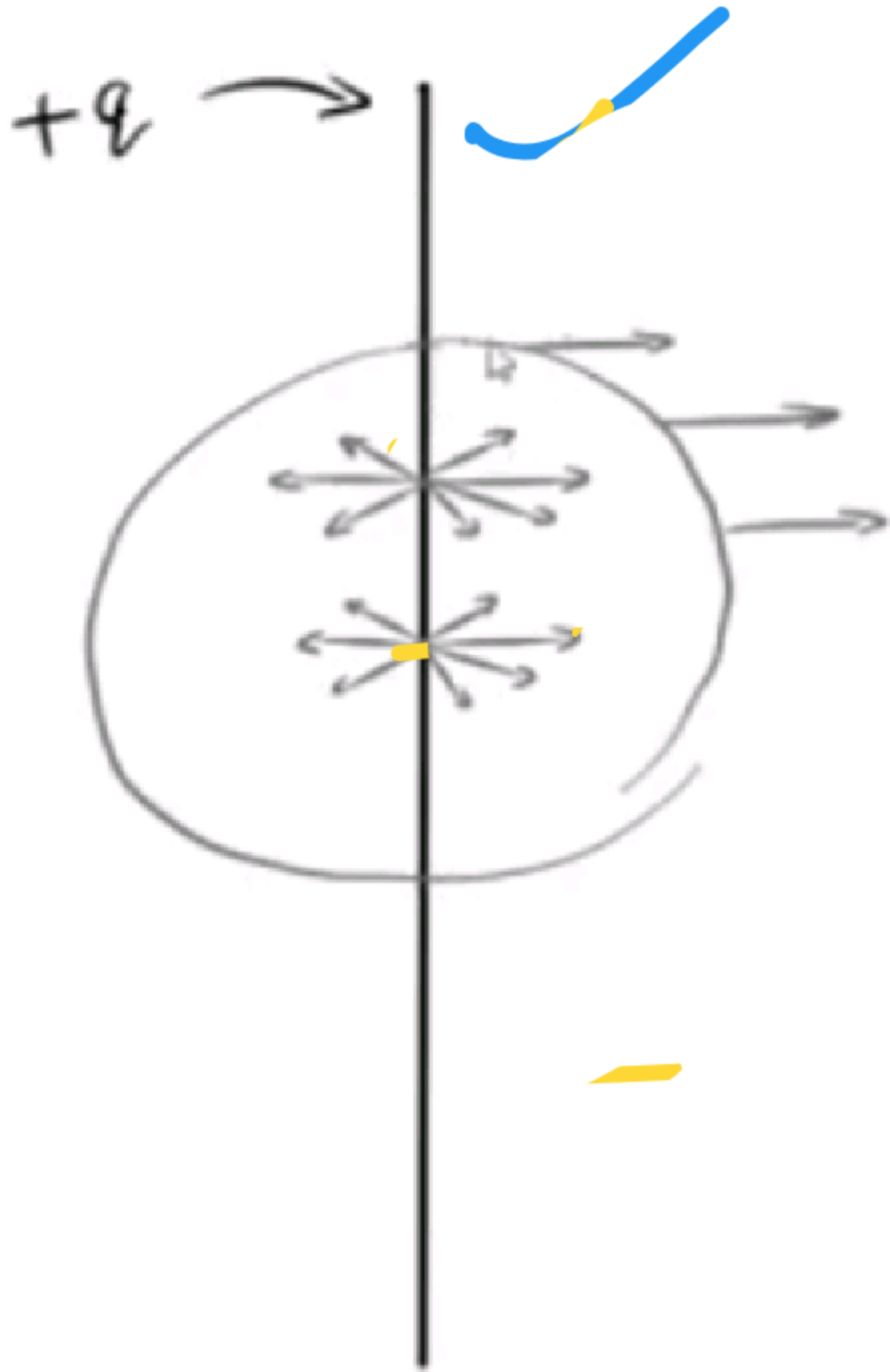
(1.7-2)



$$E \cdot \left(\frac{1}{r} \right) \approx \frac{1}{r}$$

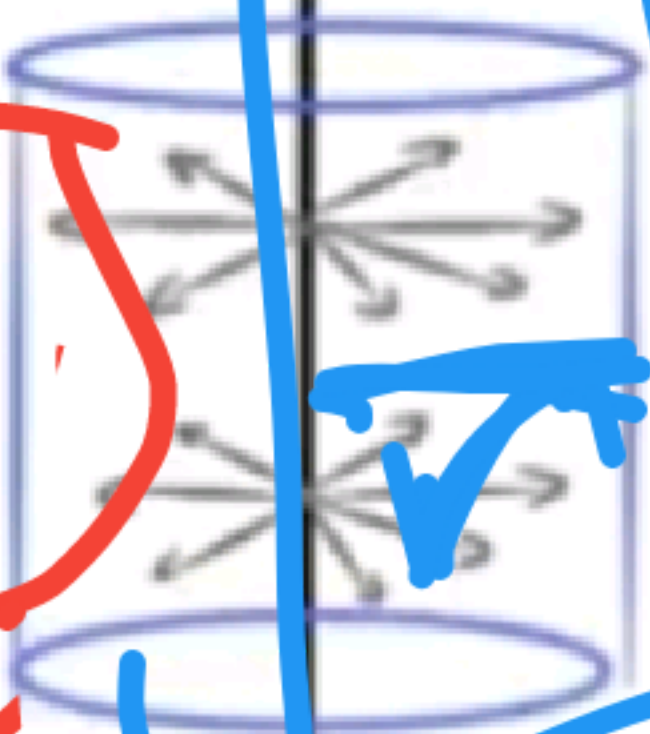
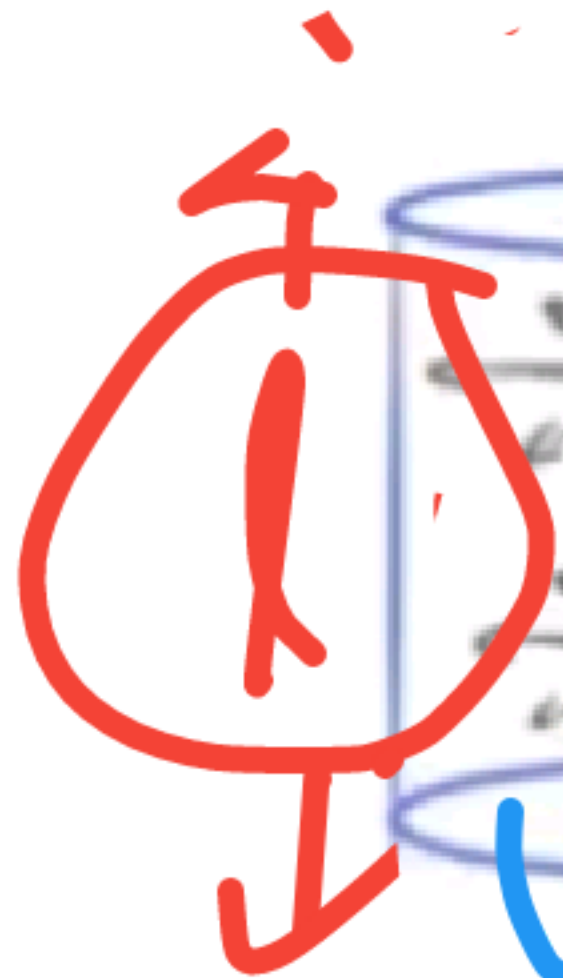
$$E \approx \pi r = \frac{1}{\epsilon}$$

Gauss' theorem - Application - 2



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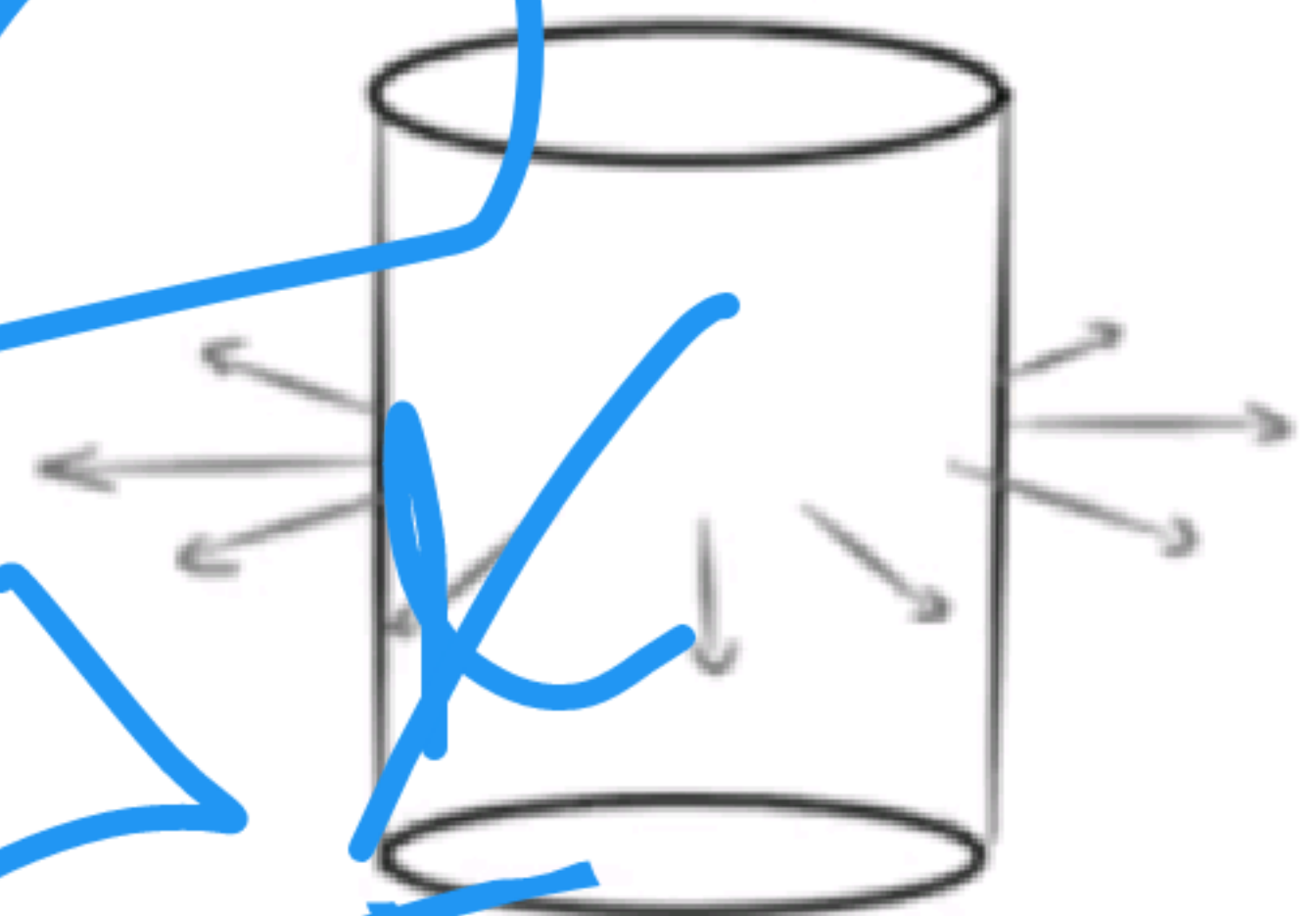
+q \rightarrow



$$E = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q}{r^2}$$

$$E \cdot 2\pi r L = \frac{q}{\epsilon_0}$$

$$E = \frac{q}{2\pi\epsilon_0 r L}$$



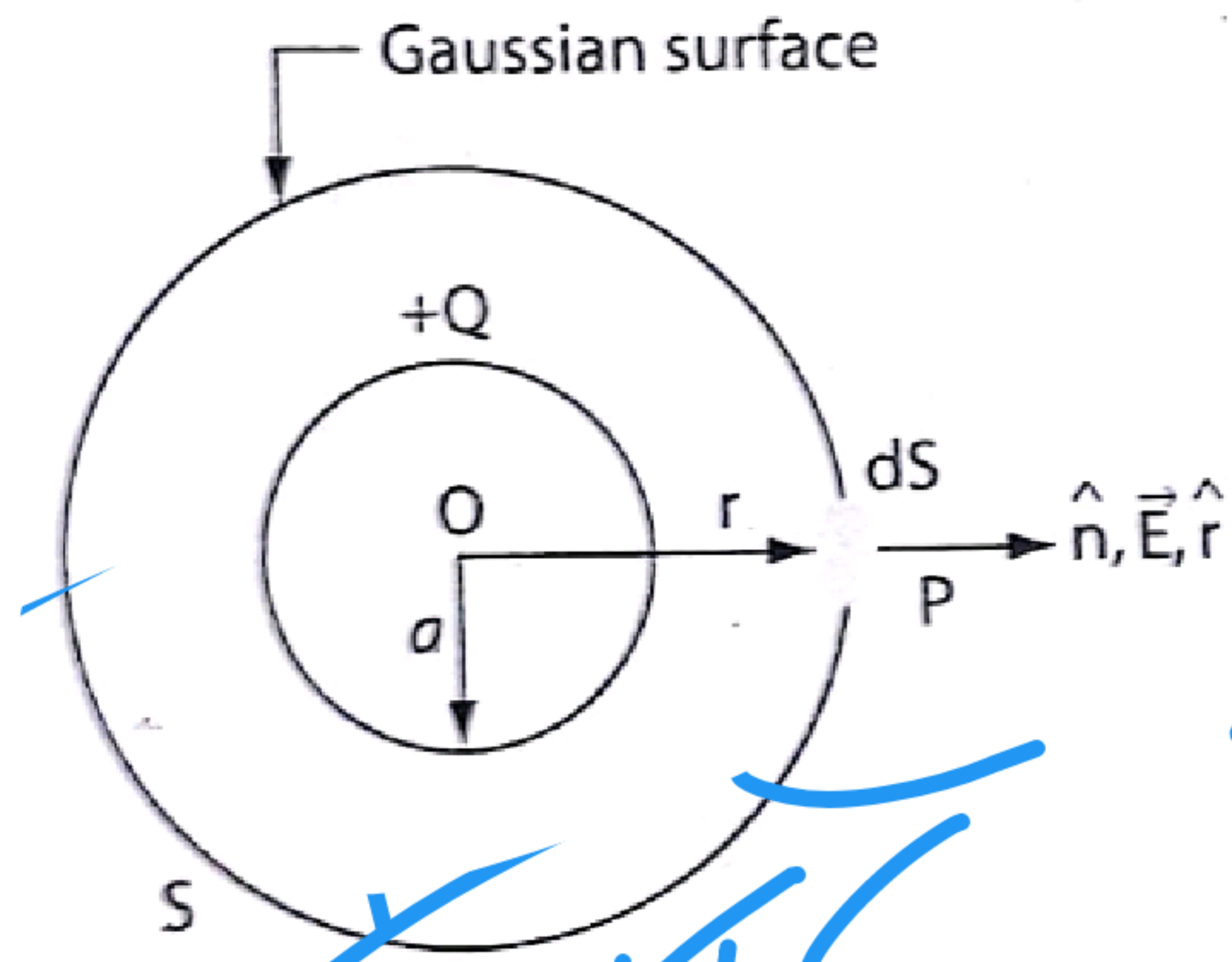


Fig 1.8-1

$E = \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2}$

Field inside the sphere

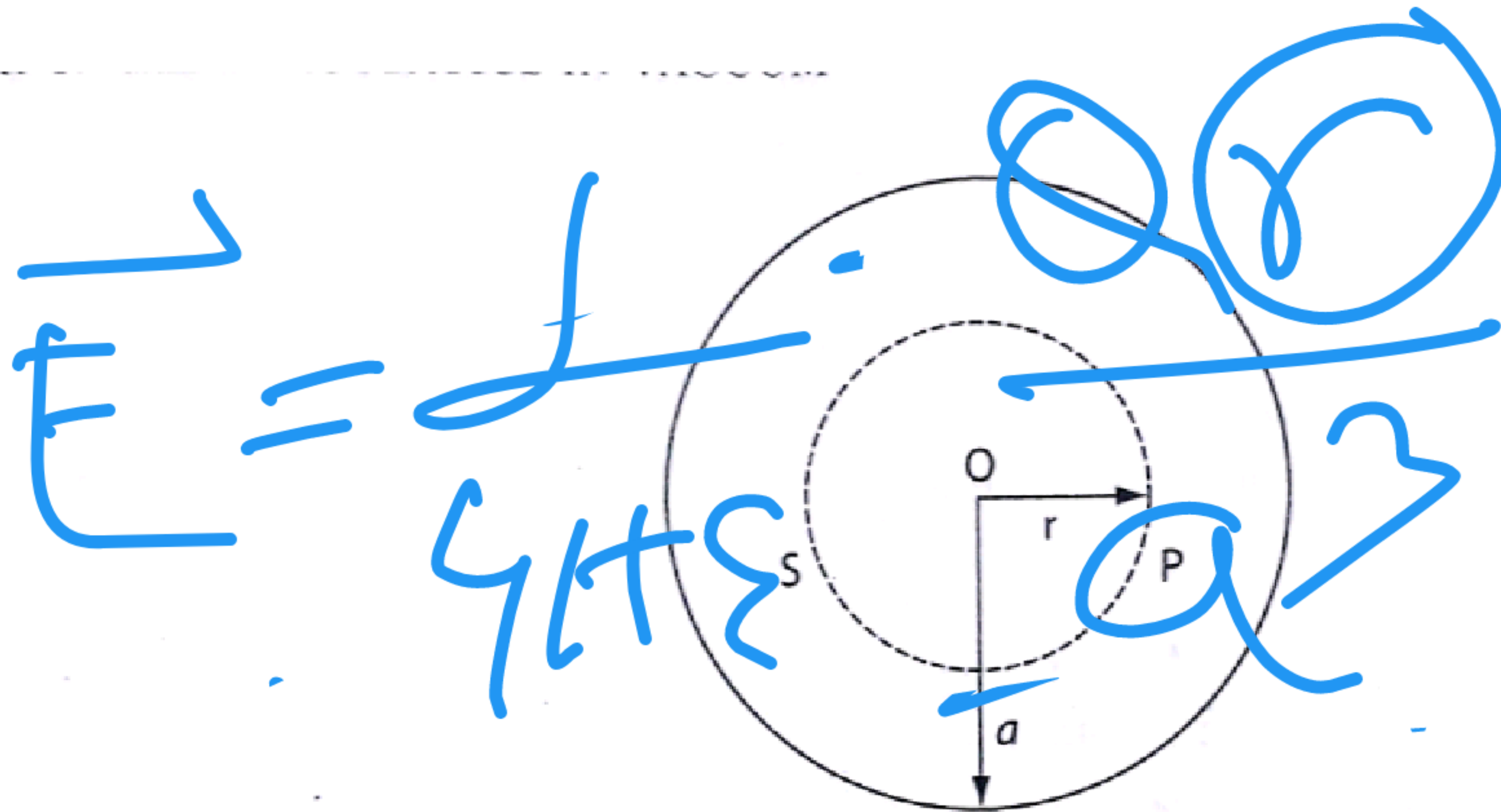
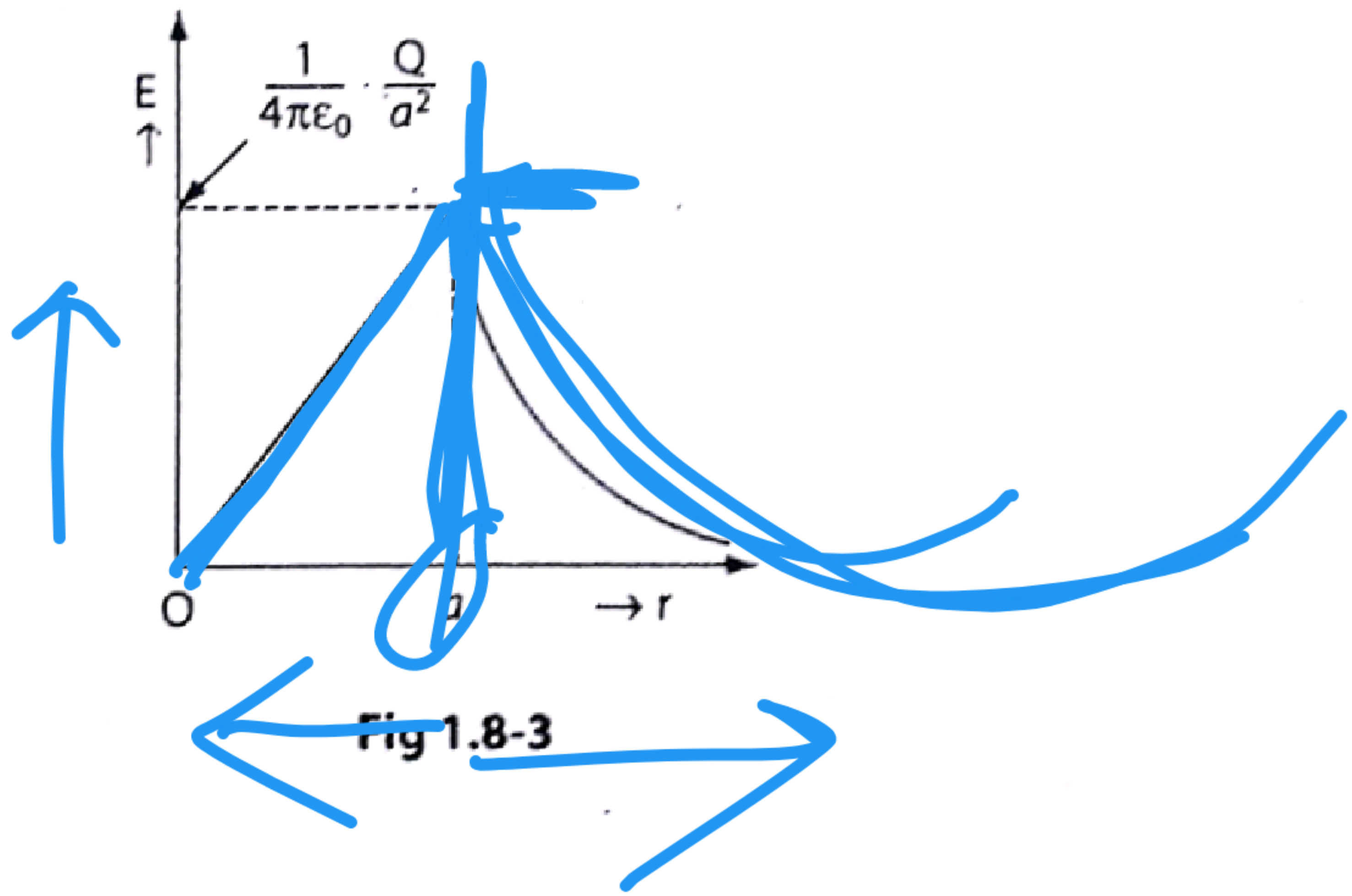


Fig 1.8-2

E



$$\int \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{S} = \sigma \Delta S$$

Gaussian
surface (S)

\vec{E}, \hat{n}

P

Part of an
infinite plane

$\vec{E} \cdot d\vec{S}$

$\vec{E} \cdot d\vec{S}$

$\sigma \Delta S$

$E \Delta S$

