



**Electrical & Magnetic Fields
Electromagnetic Fields / Fundamentals
(ELE222)(ELE242)(CCE302)**

Lecture (05)

Electric Field Intensity (Line and Surface Charge Density)

Assoc. Prof. Dr/ Moataz M. Elsherbini

motaz.ali@feng.bu.edu.eg

Electric Field Due to Continuous Charge Distributions

- So far, we have only considered Forces and Fields due to point charges. It is also possible to have continuous charge distribution along a line or a surface or in a volume.
- It is customary to denote the line charge density, ρ_L [C/m], surface charge density, ρ_S [C/m²], and volume charge density, ρ_V [C/m³] as shown in Fig. 2.9.
- The electric field due to each of the charge distributions ρ_L , ρ_S and ρ_V may be regarded as the summation of field contributed by the numerous point charges making up charge distributions.
- Thus the electric field intensity for these continuous charge distribution systems can be found by modifying the eqn. (2.9) to become:

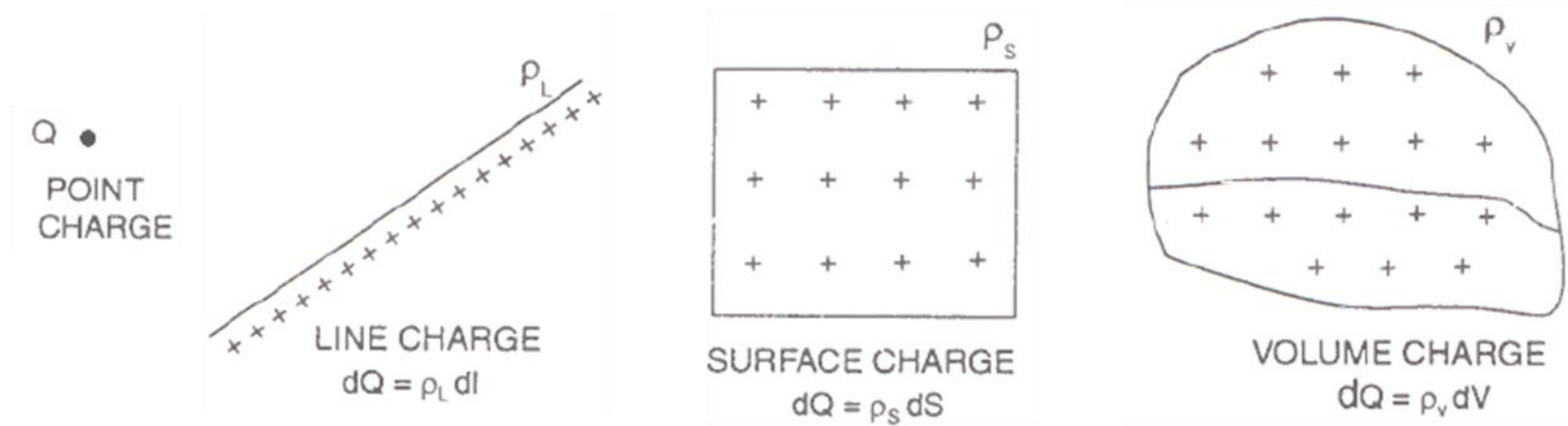


Fig. 2.9 Different types of charge distributions.

Electric Field Due to Continuous Charge Distributions

$$\vec{E} = \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2} \hat{a}_r = \int \frac{dQ}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2} \hat{a}_r \text{ V / m}$$

- Electric field intensity, \vec{E} can be found by replacing dQ in (2.12) with differential charge element as: $[\rho_L dl]$ for line charge density, $[\rho_S ds]$ for surface charge density and $\rho_V dv$ for volume charge density, and then integrating.
- For line charge distributions, the electric field intensity \vec{E} is given by:

$$\vec{E} = \int_L \frac{\rho_L dl}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2} \hat{a}_r \text{ V / m}$$

- For surface charge distribution, the electric field intensity \vec{E} is given by:

$$\vec{E} = \int_S \frac{\rho_s dS}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2} \hat{a}_r \text{ V / m}$$

- For volume charge distribution, the electric field intensity \vec{E} is given by:

$$\vec{E} = \int_v \frac{\rho_v dv}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2} \hat{a}_r \text{ V / m}$$

1 - Line Charge (Finite – infinite length)

Case (1) Find the components of the electric field intensity at point $P(r, 0, 0)$ for a finite line charge along the z axis from z_1 to z_2 and charged uniformly with a charge density of ρ_l C/m.

⇒ Solution :

In cylindrical co. (r, ϕ, z) :

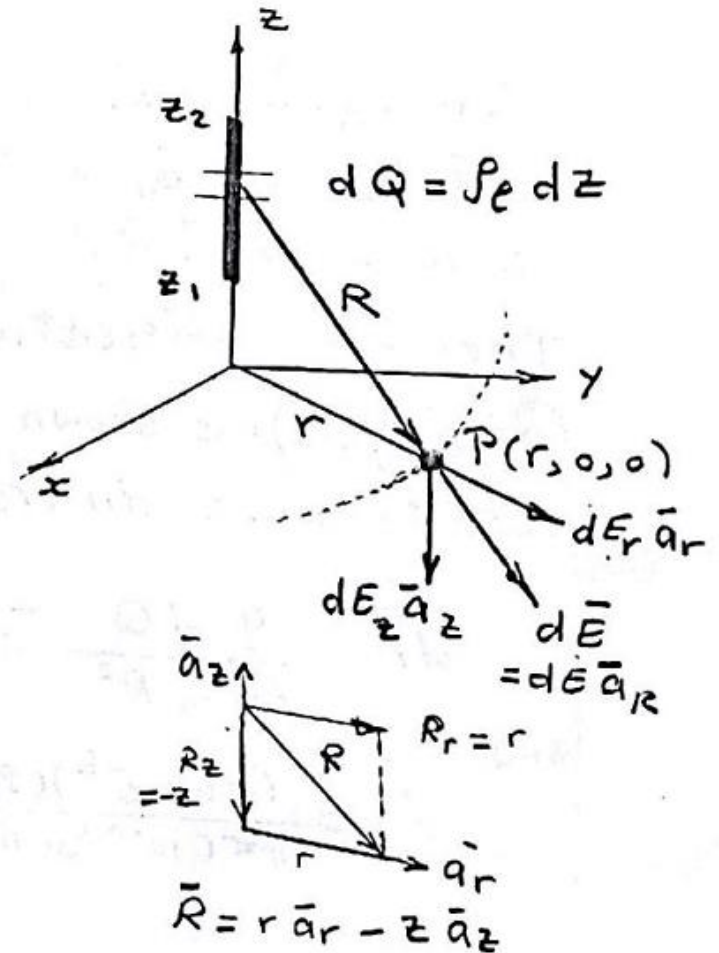
$$\vec{R} = r \vec{a}_r - z \vec{a}_z \quad \text{as shown in Fig. 3-7}$$

$$\therefore R = \sqrt{r^2 + z^2}$$

Then the differential charge ($dQ = \rho_l dl$) results in a differential electric field E :

$$d\vec{E} = \frac{dQ}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R^2} \vec{a}_R$$

$$= \frac{\rho_l dz}{4\pi\epsilon_0 (r^2 + z^2)} \frac{r \vec{a}_r - z \vec{a}_z}{\sqrt{r^2 + z^2}}$$



Case (1)

$$\vec{E} = \frac{\rho_l}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_{z_1}^{z_2} \frac{r dz}{(r^2 + z^2)^{3/2}} \vec{a}_r - \int_{z_1}^{z_2} \frac{z dz}{(r^2 + z^2)^{3/2}} \vec{a}_z \quad \vec{E} = \vec{E}_r \vec{a}_r + \vec{E}_z \vec{a}_z$$

$$= \frac{\rho_l r}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left[\frac{z}{r^2 \sqrt{r^2 + z^2}} \right]_{z_1}^{z_2} \vec{a}_r - \frac{\rho_l}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left[\frac{-1}{\sqrt{r^2 + z^2}} \right]_{z_1}^{z_2} \vec{a}_z$$

$$\vec{E}_r = \frac{\rho_l}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r} \left[\frac{z_2}{\sqrt{r^2 + z_2^2}} - \frac{z_1}{\sqrt{r^2 + z_1^2}} \right] \vec{a}_r$$

$$\vec{E}_z = \frac{\rho_l}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left[\frac{1}{\sqrt{r^2 + z_2^2}} - \frac{1}{\sqrt{r^2 + z_1^2}} \right] \vec{a}_z$$

$$\vec{E} = E \vec{a}_R = E_r \vec{a}_r + E_z \vec{a}_z$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{E} = \vec{E}_r + \vec{E}_z$$

Case (2) Infinite Line Charge

$$d\vec{E} = \frac{dQ}{4\pi\epsilon R^2} \vec{a}_R = \frac{\rho_l dl}{4\pi\epsilon R^2} \vec{a}_R$$

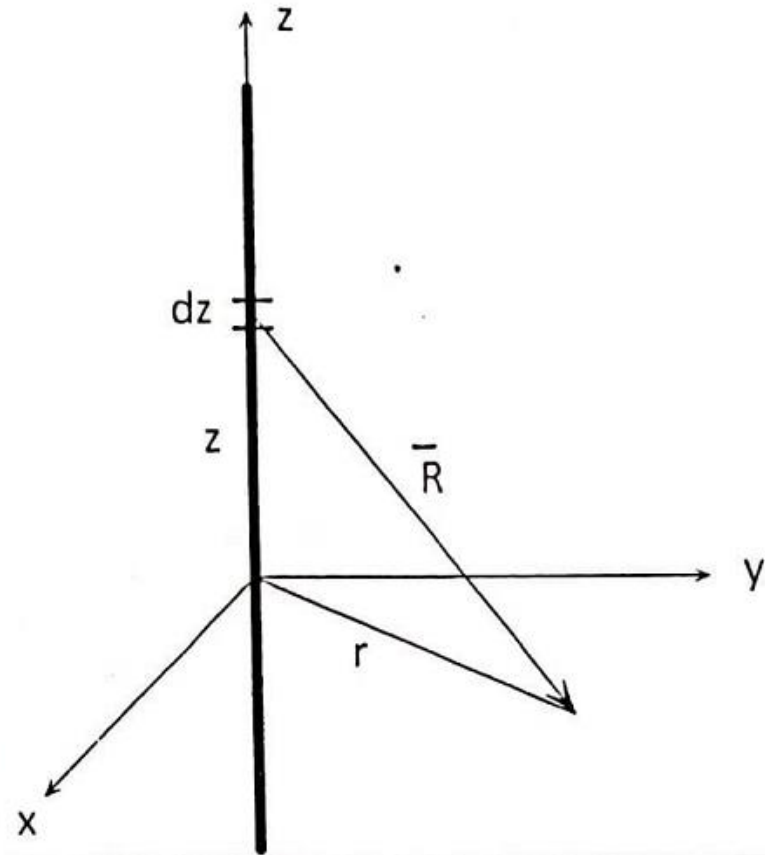
The total field at P is

$$\vec{E} = \int d\vec{E} = \int_L \frac{\rho_l dl}{4\pi\epsilon R^2} \vec{a}_R = \frac{\rho_l}{4\pi\epsilon} \int_L \frac{dl}{R^2} \vec{a}_R$$

$$\vec{R} = z(-\vec{a}_z) + r(\vec{a}_r)$$

$$R = |\vec{R}| = \sqrt{z^2 + r^2}$$

$$\vec{a}_R = \frac{z(-\vec{a}_z) + r(\vec{a}_r)}{\sqrt{z^2 + r^2}}$$



Case (2) Infinite Line Charge

$$\bar{E} = \frac{\rho_l}{4\pi\epsilon} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{dz}{(z^2 + r^2)} \left[\frac{r \bar{a}_r + z (-\bar{a}_z)}{\sqrt{z^2 + r^2}} \right]$$

Due to line symmetry , There is a radial component only

$$\bar{E} = \frac{\rho_l}{4\pi\epsilon} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{r dz \bar{a}_r}{(z^2 + r^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}}$$

$$\bar{E} = \frac{\rho_l r}{4\pi\epsilon} \left[\frac{z}{r^2 \sqrt{z^2 + r^2}} \right]_{-\infty}^{\infty} \bar{a}_r$$

$$\bar{E} = \frac{\rho_l}{4\pi\epsilon r} [1 - (-1)] \bar{a}_r$$

$$\boxed{\bar{E} = \frac{\rho_l}{2\pi\epsilon r} \bar{a}_r}$$

\bar{E} : المجال الكهربى عند نقطة بسبب خط طوله ∞ مشحون بـ ρ_l

r : البعد العمودى بين الخط و النقطة

\bar{a}_r : متجه وحدة من الخط للنقطة

Ex (1)

A uniform line charge, infinite in extent, with $\rho_l = 20 \text{ nC/m}$, lies along the z axis. Find the electric field intensity at $(6, 8, 3) \text{ m}$.

⇒ Solution :

It is required to find \vec{E} at $P =$

$(x, y, z) = (6, 8, 3) \text{ m}$.

In cylindrical coordinates :

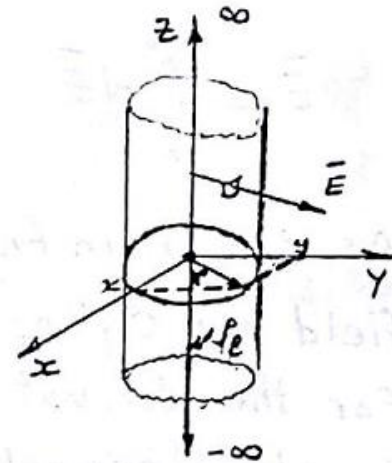
$$r = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2} \quad (\text{see chapter 1})$$

$$\therefore r = \sqrt{6^2 + 8^2} = 10 \text{ m}.$$

The field is constant with z . Thus from the above derivation we have :

$$\vec{E} = \frac{\rho_l}{2\pi\epsilon_0 r} \bar{a}_r$$

$$= \frac{20 \times 10^{-9}}{2\pi(10^{-9}/36\pi)10} \bar{a}_r = 36 \bar{a}_r \text{ V/m}$$



2 – Surface Charge

Case2. Electric Field Intensity for Surface Charge Distribution

the contribution to E_x at P from this differential-width strip is then:

$$\vec{E} = \frac{\rho_L}{2\pi\epsilon_0\rho} \hat{a}_\rho = \frac{\rho_L \vec{R}_P}{2\pi\epsilon_0 |\vec{R}_P|^2} \text{ V/m} \Rightarrow dE_x = \frac{\rho_s dy}{2\pi\epsilon_0 \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}} \cos\theta = \frac{\rho_s}{2\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{xdy}{x^2 + y^2}$$

Adding the effects of all the strips, we get:

$$E_x = \frac{\rho_s}{2\pi\epsilon_0} \int \frac{xdy}{x^2 + y^2} = \frac{\rho_s}{2\pi\epsilon_0} \tan^{-1} \frac{y}{x}$$

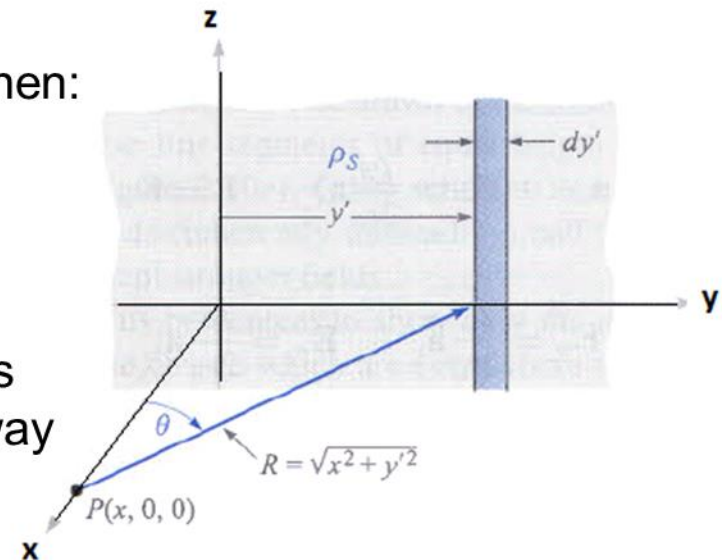
For infinite sheet $y \rightarrow \infty$ and E_x is given by:

$$E_x = \frac{\rho_s}{2\pi\epsilon_0} \tan^{-1} \frac{y}{x} \Big|_{-\infty}^{\infty} = \frac{\rho_s}{2\epsilon_0}$$

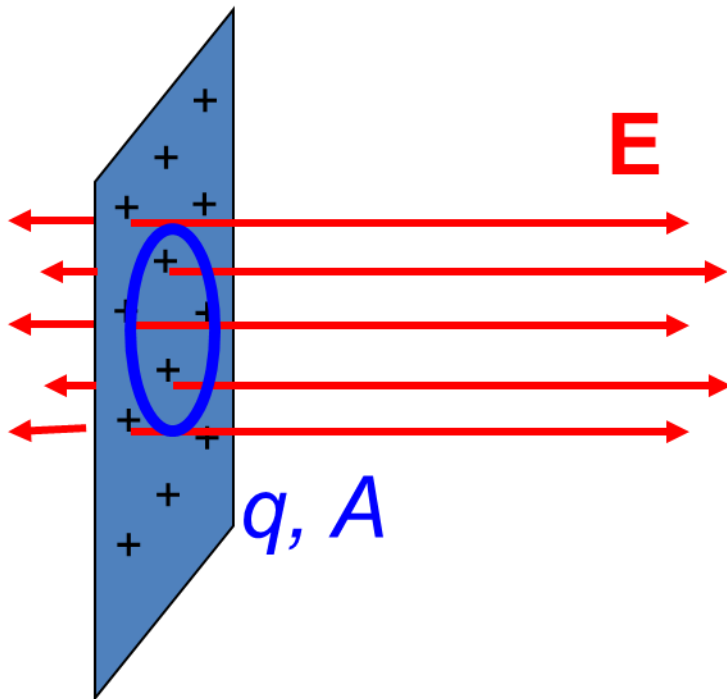
If the point P were chosen on the negative x axis, then:

$$E_x = -\frac{\rho_s}{2\epsilon_0} \quad (2.25c)$$

- For the field is always directed away from the positive charge. This difficulty in sign is usually overcome by specifying a unit vector \vec{a}_n , which is normal to the sheet and directed outward, or away from it. Then:
$$\vec{E} = \frac{\rho_s}{2\epsilon_0} \hat{a}_n \quad (2.25d)$$



➤ ***So The Electric field of infinite plane of charge:***

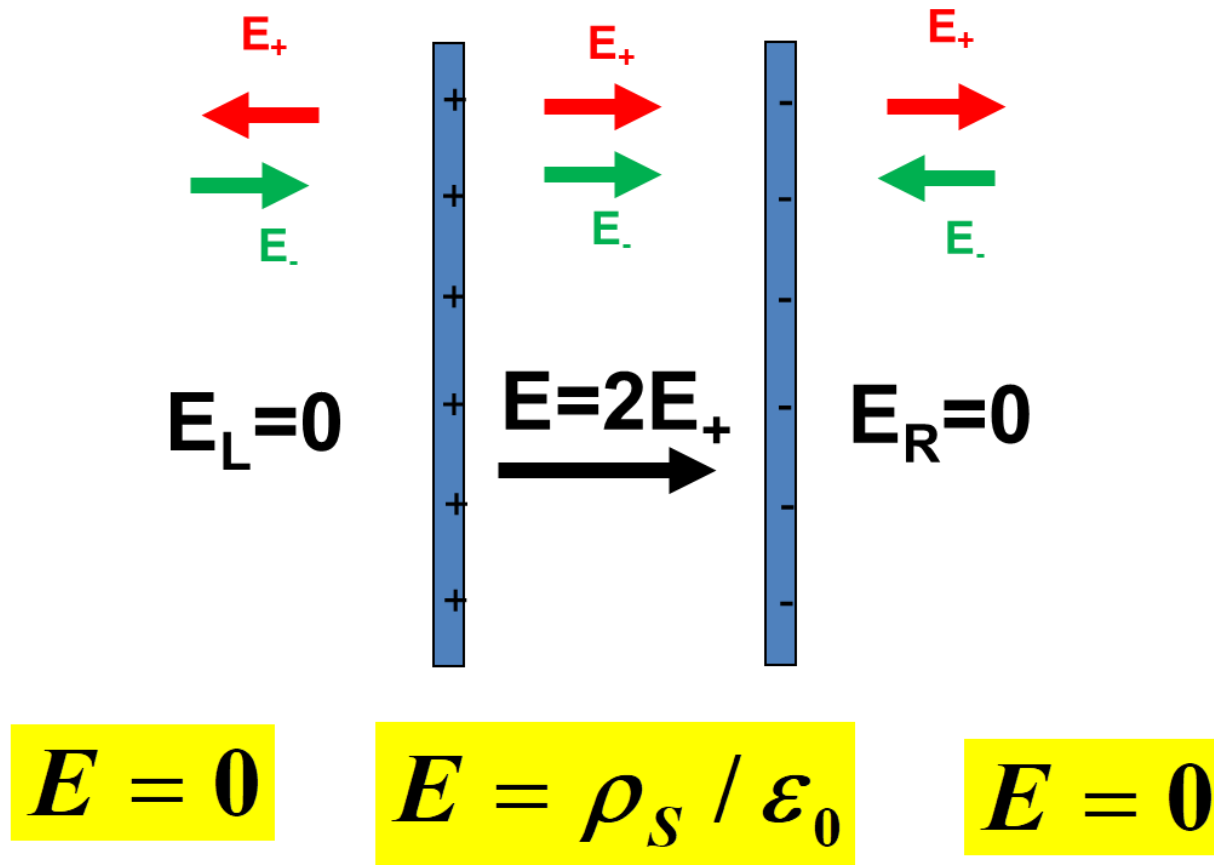


Field is uniform and constant to ∞ , in both directions

Electric field is proportional to the line density, and therefore to the charge density, $\rho_s = q/A$

$$\vec{E} = \frac{\rho_s}{2\epsilon_0} \hat{a}_N$$

Ex (3) ➤ *If a second infinite sheet of charge, having a negative charge density $-\rho_s$ is located in the plane $x = a$, we may find the total field by adding the contribution of each sheet (Parallel plate capacitor)
(assume separation small compared to the size)*



➤ In the region $x > a$:

$$E_+ = \frac{\rho_s}{2\epsilon_0} a_x \quad E_- = -\frac{\rho_s}{2\epsilon_0} a_x \quad E = E_+ + E_- = 0$$

➤ For $x < 0$:

$$E_+ = -\frac{\rho_s}{2\epsilon_0} a_x \quad E_- = \frac{\rho_s}{2\epsilon_0} a_x \quad E = E_+ + E_- = 0$$

➤ For $0 < x < a$:

$$E_+ = \frac{\rho_s}{2\epsilon_0} a_x \quad E_- = \frac{\rho_s}{2\epsilon_0} a_x \quad E = E_+ + E_- = \frac{\rho_s}{\epsilon_0} a_x$$

Case (4) Electric Field Intensity for A circular disk Charge Distribution

where
$$d\vec{E} = \frac{dQ}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R^2} \hat{a}_R = \frac{\rho_s r dr d\phi}{4\pi\epsilon_0 (r^2 + h^2)} \hat{a}_R$$

The vertical component of \vec{E} along (or) parallel to Z-axis is given by :

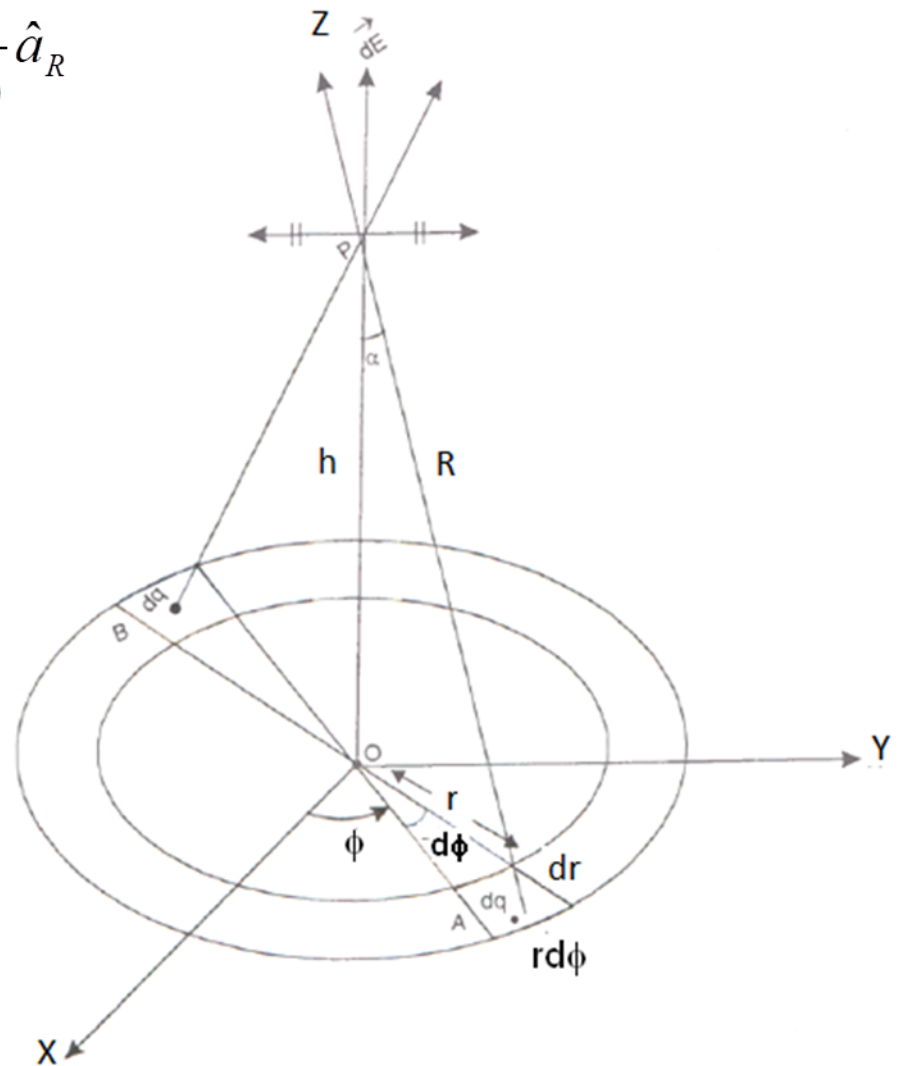
$$d\vec{E} = \frac{\rho_s r dr d\phi}{4\pi\epsilon_0 (r^2 + h^2)} \cos \alpha \hat{a}_z$$

so

$$\vec{E} = \int_{r=0}^{r=a} \int_{\phi=0}^{\phi=2\pi} \frac{\rho_s r dr d\phi}{4\pi\epsilon_0 (r^2 + h^2)} \cdot \cos \alpha \hat{a}_z$$

$$\vec{E} = \frac{\rho_s}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_{r=0}^{r=a} \frac{\cos \alpha}{(r^2 + h^2)} r dr \int_{\phi=0}^{\phi=2\pi} d\phi \hat{a}_z$$

$$\vec{E} = \frac{\rho_s}{2\epsilon_0} \int_{r=0}^{r=a} \frac{\cos \alpha}{(r^2 + h^2)} r dr \hat{a}_z$$



Electric Field Due to Continuous Charge Distributions

Electric Field Intensity for A circular disk Charge Distribution

From Fig. 2.13, we get: $r = h \tan \alpha \Rightarrow dr = h \sec^2 \alpha$ and $r^2 + h^2 = h^2 \sec^2 \alpha$
Substitute these vales in the above equation, electric field intensity \vec{E} is:

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{E} &= \frac{\rho_s}{2\epsilon_o} \int_{\alpha=0}^{\alpha} \frac{(h \tan \alpha)(h \sec^2 \alpha)}{h^2 \sec^2 \alpha} \cos \alpha d\alpha \hat{a}_z = \frac{\rho_s}{2\epsilon_o} \int_{\alpha=0}^{\alpha} \sin \alpha d\alpha \hat{a}_z \\ &= \frac{\rho_s}{2\epsilon_o} [-\cos \alpha]_0^{\alpha} \hat{a}_z = \frac{\rho_s}{2\epsilon_o} (1 - \cos \alpha) \hat{a}_z\end{aligned}$$

If the radius, a becomes infinite the $\alpha \rightarrow 90^\circ$, we get:

$$\vec{E} = \frac{\rho_s}{2\epsilon_o} \hat{a}_z$$

EX(4) E-Field due to circular disk of radius 'a' charged uniformly with surface charge density ' ρ_s '

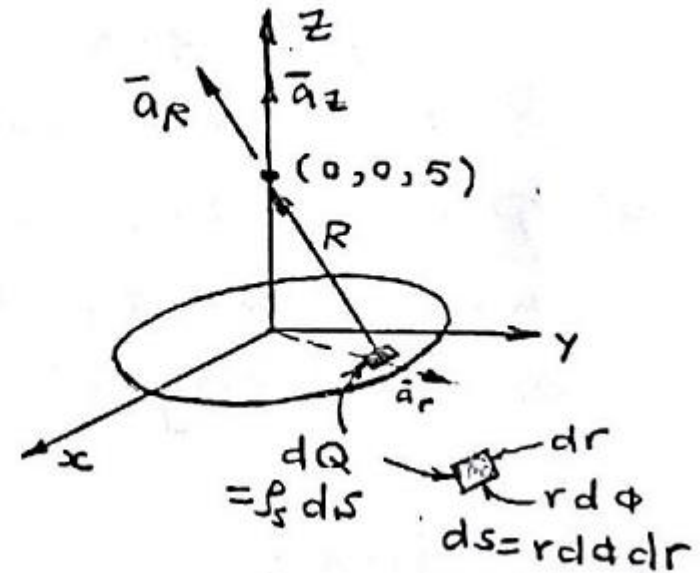
Find the force on a point charge of $50 \mu\text{C}$ at $(0, 0, 5) \text{ m}$ due to a charge of $500\pi \mu\text{C}$ that is uniformly distributed over the circular disk $r \leq 5 \text{ m}$, $z = 0 \text{ m}$.

⇒ Solution :

As shown in fig.

we have :

$$\begin{aligned}\rho_s &= \frac{Q}{A} = \frac{Q}{\pi r^2} = \frac{500\pi \times 10^{-6}}{\pi (5)^2} \\ &= 0.2 \times 10^{-4} \text{ C/m}^2\end{aligned}$$

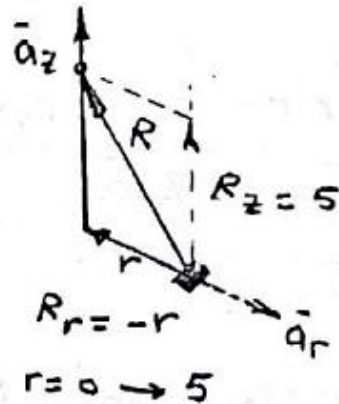


In cylindrical coordinates (r, ϕ, z) :

$$\vec{R} = -r \vec{a}_r + 5 \vec{a}_z$$

$$\therefore R = \sqrt{r^2 + (5)^2}$$

Then each differential charge $(dQ = \rho_s ds)$ (as shown in fig 3-6) results in a differential force:



$$R = R_r \vec{a}_r + R_z \vec{a}_z$$

$$d\vec{F} = \frac{q dQ}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R^2} \vec{a}_R$$

$$= \frac{(50 \times 10^{-6})(\rho_s r d\phi dr)}{4\pi(10^{-9}/36\pi)(r^2 + 25)} \frac{(-r \vec{a}_r + 5 \vec{a}_z)}{\sqrt{r^2 + 25}}$$

$$\vec{F} = \int_{\phi=0}^{2\pi} \int_{r=0}^5 \frac{(50 \times 10^{-6})(0.2 \times 10^{-4}) 5 r dr d\phi}{4\pi(10^{-9}/36\pi)(r^2 + 25)^{3/2}} \vec{a}_z$$

$$= 45 \times 2\pi \int_0^5 \frac{r dr}{(r^2 + 25)^{3/2}} = 90\pi \left[\frac{-1}{\sqrt{r^2 + 25}} \right]_0^5 \vec{a}_z$$

$$= 16.56 \vec{a}_z \quad N$$

Note that

$$\Rightarrow \int \frac{x dx}{(ax^2 + c)^{3/2}} = \frac{-1}{a\sqrt{ax^2 + c}}$$

Ex (5)

A circular disk of radius $r = \infty$ m is located at \Rightarrow the plane $x = 10$ cm with a uniform charge density $\rho_s = (1/3\pi)$ nC/m². Determine the electric field intensity \bar{E} at all points.

\Rightarrow Solution :

(Note: the disk is considered an infinite sheet because $r = \infty$ m). Then from the above derivation of \bar{E} , we

have that $\bar{E} = E_x \bar{a}_x + \underbrace{E_r}_{=0} \bar{a}_r$ ($\bar{E}_r = 0$ as seen before)

then:

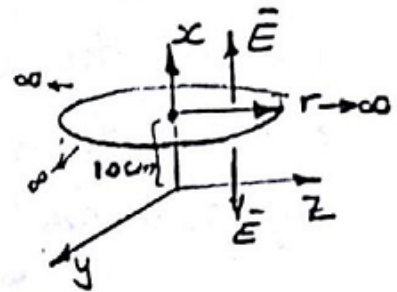
$$|\bar{E}| = \frac{\rho_s}{2\epsilon_0} = \frac{(1/3\pi) 10^{-9}}{2(10^{-9}/36\pi)} = 6 \text{ V/m}$$

Then: $\bar{E} = E \bar{a}_x$ (where the radial $\bar{E}_r = 0$)

\Rightarrow Above the sheet ($x > 10$ cm), $\bar{E} = 6 \bar{a}_x$ V/m

and:

\Rightarrow For the sheet when ($x < 10$ cm), $\bar{E} = -6 \bar{a}_x$ V/m



Case (5)

For a uniform ring of charge Q and radius a , calculate the electric field at Point P on the axis of the ring at distance x from the Centre?

$$\therefore dE = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{dq}{r^2}$$

$$\therefore r = \sqrt{x^2 + a^2}$$

$$\therefore dE = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{dq}{(x^2 + a^2)} \rightarrow \textcircled{1}$$

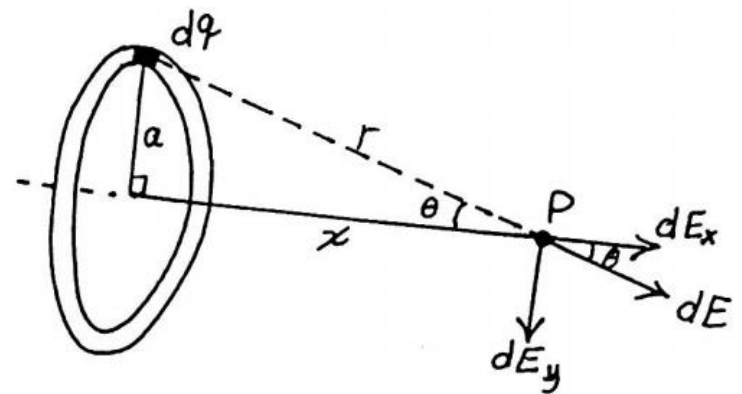
جس dE کے اجزائے x و y

$$dE_x = dE \cos \theta$$

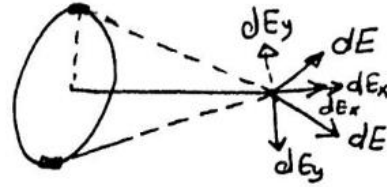
$$\cos \theta = \frac{x}{\sqrt{x^2 + a^2}}$$

$$= \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{dq}{(x^2 + a^2)} \frac{x}{(x^2 + a^2)^{1/2}}$$

$$= \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{dq x}{(x^2 + a^2)^{3/2}}$$



$$dE_y = dE \sin \theta$$



$$\therefore E_x = \int dE_x = \int \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{dQ x}{(x^2 + a^2)^{3/2}}$$

$$E_x = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q x}{(x^2 + a^2)^{3/2}}$$

$$\therefore E = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q x}{(x^2 + a^2)^{3/2}}$$

في اتجاه x

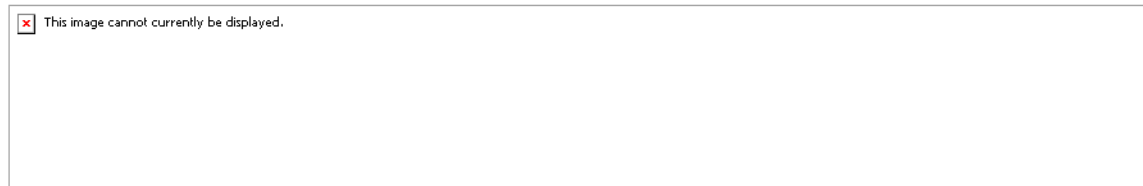
* At the centre of the ring $x = 0$

$$\therefore E = 0$$

* If $x \gg a$ $\therefore E = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q}{x^2}$

EX (6) : Find E at the origin if the following charge distributions are present in free space: point charge, 12 nC at $P(2, 0, 6)$; uniform line charge density, 3nC/m at $x = -2, y = 3$; uniform surface charge density, 0.2nC/m^2 at $x = 2$.

Solution:



$$\therefore \mathbf{E}_{origin}^{\rightarrow} = \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R^2} \hat{a}_R + \frac{\rho_L}{2\pi\epsilon_0 \rho} \hat{a}_\rho + \frac{\rho_S}{2\epsilon_0} \hat{a}_N$$

$$\mathbf{E} = \left[\frac{12 \times 10^{-9}}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{(-2\mathbf{a}_x - 6\mathbf{a}_z)}{(4 + 36)^{1.5}} \right] + \left[\frac{3 \times 10^{-9}}{2\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{(2\mathbf{a}_x - 3\mathbf{a}_y)}{(4 + 9)} \right] + \left[\frac{0.2 \times 10^{-9}}{2\epsilon_0} (-\mathbf{a}_x) \right]$$

$$= -3.9\mathbf{a}_x - 12.4\mathbf{a}_y - 2.5\mathbf{a}_z \quad \text{V/m}$$

Thank you for your attention

Dr. Moataz Elsherbini