
An infinite sheet of surface charge density ρ_s on the xy -plane has a hole of radius a on it, centered at the origin of the coordinate system. Find the electric field intensity at an arbitrary point on the positive z -axis.

Solution: We can find the total electric field by integrating the electric field due to each differential area on the infinite sheet, and recognizing that due to symmetry only the E_z component of the electric field will exist. Denoting r as the distance from the origin to a point on the xy -plane,

$$\begin{aligned} d\mathbf{E}_z &= d\mathbf{E} \frac{z}{\sqrt{r^2 + z^2}} \\ &= \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{\rho_s ds}{r^2 + z^2} \frac{z}{\sqrt{r^2 + z^2}} \end{aligned}$$

The total electric field can then be found by integrating this expression over the location where the charge exists

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{E}_z &= \frac{z}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_0^{2\pi} \int_a^\infty \frac{\rho_s r dr d\phi}{(r^2 + z^2)^{3/2}} \mathbf{a}_z \\ &= \frac{z\rho_s}{2\epsilon_0} \int_a^\infty \frac{r dr}{(r^2 + z^2)^{3/2}} \mathbf{a}_z \\ &= \frac{\rho_s}{2\epsilon_0} \frac{z}{\sqrt{a^2 + z^2}} \mathbf{a}_z \end{aligned}$$

Alternatively, the total electric field can be found using superposition of the electric field due to a positively charged infinite sheet plus a negatively charged disk. The result will be the same.

Answer:

$$\mathbf{E}_z = \frac{\rho_s}{2\epsilon_0} \frac{z}{\sqrt{a^2 + z^2}} \mathbf{a}_z$$