

**1<sup>st</sup> Recitation: Electric Charges and Electric fields****Exercise #1:**

Two identical conducting small spheres are placed with their centers 0.300 m apart. One is given a charge of 12.0 nC, and the other is given a charge of -18.0 nC.

1. Find the electric force exerted on one sphere by the other.
2. The spheres are connected by a conducting wire. Find the electric force between the two after equilibrium has occurred.

**Exercise #2:**

Three charges, each of value  $q$ , are placed at the corners of an equilateral triangle. A fourth charge  $Q$  is placed at the centre of the triangle.

1. If  $Q = -q$ , will the charges at the corners move towards the centre or fly away from it?
2. For what value of  $Q$  will the charges remain stationary?

**Exercise #3:**

In the Bohr theory of the hydrogen atom, an electron moves in a circular orbit about a proton, where the radius of the orbit is  $0.529 \times 10^{-10}$  m.

1. Find the electric force between the two
2. If this force causes the centripetal acceleration of the electron, what is the speed of the electron?

**Exercise #4:**

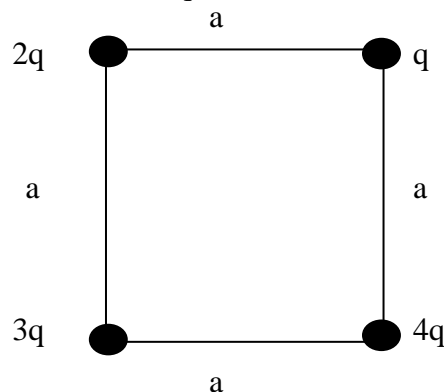
An airplane is flying through a thundercloud at a height of 2000 m. (This is a very dangerous thing to do because of updrafts, turbulence, and the possibility of electric discharge).

If there are charge concentrations of +40.0 C at a height of 3000 m within the cloud and of -40.0 C at height of 1000 m, what is the electric field at the aircraft?

**Exercise #5:**

Four point charges are at the corners of a square of side  $a$ , as shown in figure 1.

1. Determine the magnitude and direction of the electric field at the location of charge  $q$
2. What is the resultant force on  $q$ ?



**Figure 1**

**Exercise #6:**

Consider an infinite number of identical charges (each of charge  $q$ ) placed along the  $x$  axis at distances  $a, 2a, 3a, 4a, \dots$  from the origin.

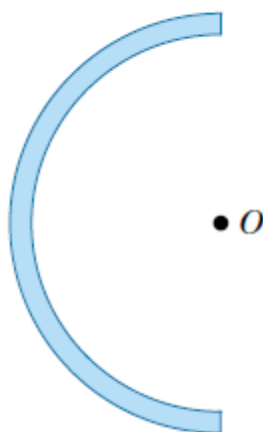
What is the electric field at the origin due to this distribution?

Hint: Use the fact that

$$1 + \frac{1}{2^2} + \frac{1}{3^2} + \frac{1}{4^2} + \dots = +\frac{\pi^2}{6}$$

**Exercise #7:**

A uniformly charged insulating rod of length 14.0 cm is bent into the shape of a semicircle, as shown in figure 2. The rod has a total charge of  $-7.50 \mu\text{C}$ . Find the magnitude and direction of the electric field at  $O$ , the center of the semicircle.



**Figure 2**

**Exercise #8:**

A uniformly charged disk of radius 35.0 cm carries a charge density of  $7.90 \times 10^{-3} \text{ C/m}^2$ .

Calculate the electric field on the axis of the disk at (a) 5.00 cm, (b) 10.0 cm, (c) 50.0 cm, and (d) 200 cm from the center of the disk.

**Exercise #9:**

A thin rod of length  $L$  and uniform charge per unit length  $\lambda$  lies along the  $x$ -axis, as shown in figure 3.

1. Show that the electric field at  $P$ , a distance  $y$  from the rod, along the perpendicular bisector has no  $x$  component and is given by  $E = 2 k_e \lambda \sin\theta_0 / y$ .
2. Using your result to part 1., show that the field of a rod of infinite length is:  
 $E = 2 k_e \lambda / y$ .  
( Hint: First calculate the field at  $P$  due to an element of length  $dx$ , which has a charge of  $\lambda dx$ . Then change variables from  $x$  to  $\theta$  using the fact that  $x = y \tan \theta$  and integrate over  $\theta$ ).

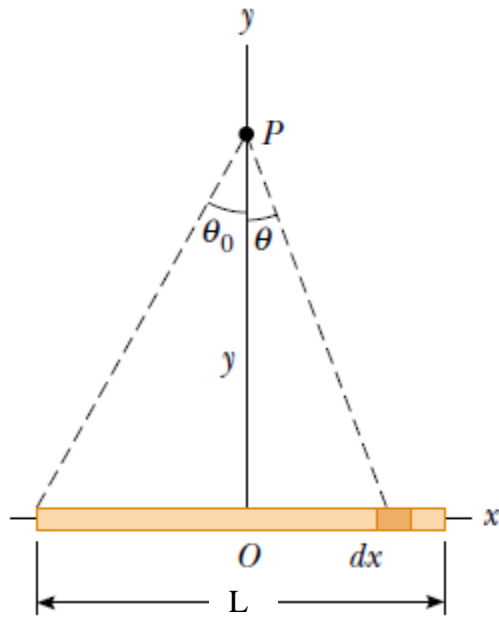


Figure 3

**Exercise #10:**

A line of charge starts at  $x = +x_0$  and extends to positive infinity. If the linear charge density is  $\lambda = \lambda_0 x_0/x$ , determine the electric field at the origin.

**Exercise #11:**

Identical thin rods of length  $2a$  carry equal charges,  $+Q$ , uniformly distributed along their lengths. The rods lie along the  $x$  axis with their centers separated by a distance of  $b > 2a$  (Figure 4). Show that the magnitude of the force exerted by the left rod on the right one is given by:

$$F = \left( \frac{k_e Q^2}{4a^2} \right) \ln \left( \frac{b^2}{b^2 - 4a^2} \right)$$

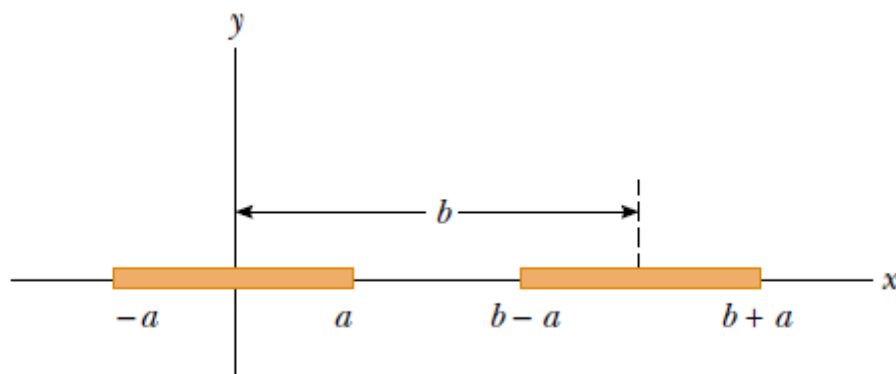


Figure 4

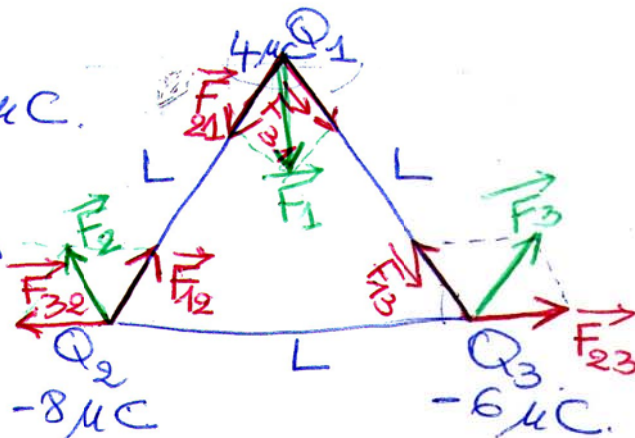
## Solution of Recitation 1

### Exercise 1:

$$Q_1 = 4 \mu\text{C}, Q_2 = -8 \mu\text{C}, Q_3 = -6 \mu\text{C}.$$

$$L = 1.2 \text{ m}$$

Equilateral triangle: Angles in the triangle  $60^\circ$ .



$$F_{12} = F_{21} = k \frac{Q_1 Q_2}{L^2}$$

$$= 9 \times 10^9 \cdot \frac{4 \times 10^{-6} \times 8 \times 10^{-6}}{(1.2)^2} = 0.20 \text{ N}.$$

$$F_{13} = F_{31} = k \frac{Q_1 Q_3}{L^2} = 9 \times 10^9 \cdot \frac{4 \times 10^{-6} \times 6 \times 10^{-6}}{(1.2)^2} = 0.15 \text{ N}.$$

$$F_{23} = F_{32} = k \frac{Q_2 Q_3}{L^2} = 9 \times 10^9 \cdot \frac{8 \times 10^{-6} \times 6 \times 10^{-6}}{(1.2)^2} = 0.30 \text{ N}$$

The forces applied on each charge:

$$\vec{F}_1 = \vec{F}_{21} + \vec{F}_{31} \Leftrightarrow F_1 = \sqrt{F_{21}^2 + F_{31}^2 + 2 \cdot F_{21} \cdot F_{31} \cdot \cos(\vec{F}_{21}, \vec{F}_{31})}$$

$$F_1 = \sqrt{0.20^2 + 0.15^2 + 2 \times 0.20 \times 0.15 \times \cos 60^\circ}$$

$$\boxed{F_1 = 0.304 \text{ N}}$$

$$F_{1x} = -F_{21} \cos 60^\circ \vec{x} + F_{31} \cos 60^\circ \vec{x} = (-0.20 \cos 60^\circ + 0.15 \cos 60^\circ) \vec{x} = -0.025 \vec{x}$$

$$F_{1y} = -F_{21} \sin 60^\circ \vec{y} - F_{31} \sin 60^\circ \vec{y} = (-0.20 \times \sin 60^\circ - 0.15 \sin 60^\circ) \vec{y} = -0.303 \vec{y}$$

$$\tan \theta_1 = \frac{F_{1y}}{F_{1x}} = \frac{-0.303}{-0.025} = 12.12 \rightarrow \theta_1 = 85.28^\circ \text{ or}$$

$$\theta_1 = \pi + 85.28^\circ = 180 + 85.28^\circ$$

$$\boxed{F_1 = 0.304 \text{ N}}$$

$$\boxed{\theta_1 = 265.28^\circ}$$



2

2/ The forces applied on charge  $Q_2$ :

$$\vec{F}_2 = \vec{F}_{12} + \vec{F}_{32} \rightarrow F_2 = \sqrt{F_{12}^2 + F_{32}^2 + 2 F_{12} F_{32} \cos(\vec{F}_{12}, \vec{F}_{32})}$$

$$F_2 = \sqrt{0.20^2 + 0.30^2 + 2 \times 0.20 \times 0.30 \times \cos 120^\circ}$$

$$F_2 = 0.264 \text{ N}$$

$$F_{2x} = F_{12} \cos 60^\circ \vec{x} - F_{32} \vec{x} = (0.20 \cdot \cos 60^\circ - 0.30) \vec{x} = -0.20 \vec{x}$$

$$F_{2y} = F_{12} \sin 60^\circ \vec{y} = 0.20 \sin 60^\circ \vec{y} = 0.173 \vec{y}$$

$$\tan \theta_2 = \frac{0.173}{-0.20} = -0.865 \rightarrow \theta_2 = -40.85^\circ \text{ or } \underline{\underline{139.14^\circ}}$$

Choose this value

$$F_2 = 0.264 \text{ N}, \theta_2 = 139.14^\circ$$

The forces applied on charge  $Q_3$ :

$$\vec{F}_3 = \vec{F}_{13} + \vec{F}_{23} \rightarrow F_3 = \sqrt{F_{13}^2 + F_{23}^2 + 2 F_{13} F_{23} \cos 120^\circ}$$

$$F_3 = \sqrt{0.15^2 + 0.30^2 + 2 \times 0.15 \times 0.30 \times \cos 120^\circ}$$

$$F_3 = 0.259 \text{ N}$$

$$F_{3x} = F_{23} - F_{13} \cos 60^\circ = 0.30 - 0.15 \cos 60^\circ = 0.225$$

$$F_{3y} = F_{13} \sin 60^\circ = 0.15 \times \sin 60^\circ = 0.129$$

$$\tan \theta_3 = \frac{0.129}{0.225} = 0.573 \rightarrow \theta_3 = 29.82^\circ$$

$$F_3 = 0.259 \text{ N}, \theta_3 = 29.82^\circ$$

## Exercise 2

### Recitation 1 Physics II

Let  $a$  be the side of the equilateral triangle. The forces on the charge  $q$  placed at  $C$  due to the charges at  $A$  and  $B$  are repulsive and represented by  $CE$  and  $CD$ , respectively, each given by  $q^2/4\pi\epsilon_0 a^2$ . The resultant of these two forces is given by  $CP$ , the diagonal of the parallelogram  $CDPE$ , Fig. 11.20

$$CP = 2CD \cos 30^\circ = \frac{2q^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 a^2} \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} = \frac{\sqrt{3}q^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 a^2}$$

The force on  $q$  at  $C$  due to  $Q$  at the centre of the triangle is

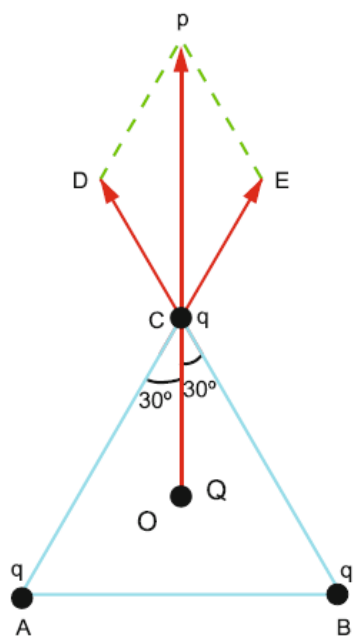
$$\frac{Qq}{4\pi\epsilon_0(OC)^2} = \frac{3Qq}{4\pi\epsilon_0 a^2}$$

- i. If  $Q = -q$ , this force will be attractive and will be directed along  $CO$ . As the attractive force due to  $-q$  is greater than the combined repulsive force due to charges  $+q$  at  $A$  and  $B$ , the charge at  $C$  will be attracted towards  $O$ . Same is true for the charges placed at  $A$  and  $B$ .

ii. For equilibrium, the attractive force must balance the repulsive force:

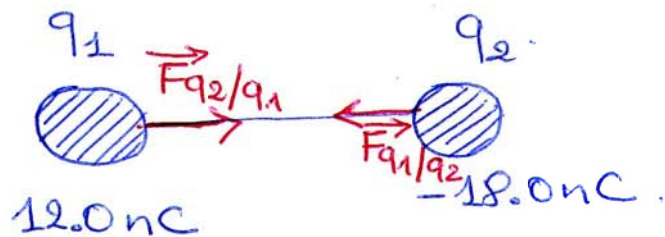
$$\frac{\sqrt{3}q^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 a^2} - \frac{3Qq}{4\pi\epsilon_0 a^2} = 0 \rightarrow Q = -q/\sqrt{3}$$

Fig. 11.20



### Exercise 3:

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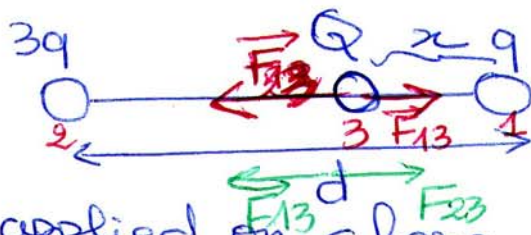
1/ Find the electric force exerted by one sphere on the other.

$$F_{q_1/q_2} = F_{q_2/q_1} = k \frac{q_1 q_2}{r^2} = 9 \times 10^9 \times \frac{18 \times 10^{-9} \times 12 \times 10^{-9}}{(0.3)^2}$$

$$F = 2.16 \times 10^{-5} \text{ N}$$

2/ After the spheres come to equilibrium. The charge will be equitably distributed.  $-18 \text{ nC} + 12 \text{ nC} = -6 \text{ nC}$ .  
So  $-6 \text{ nC}$  on each sphere.

### Exercise 2:



The forces applied on charge  $Q$  are:

$$\vec{F}_Q = \vec{F}_{qQ} + \vec{F}_{3qQ}$$

if the charge  $Q$  is negative:  $\vec{F}_3 = \vec{F}_{13} + \vec{F}_{12}$

$$F_3 = F_{13} - F_{12} = k \cdot \frac{3qQ}{(d-x)^2} - k \frac{qQ}{x^2} = 0$$

$$k \frac{3qQ}{(d-x)^2} = k \frac{qQ}{x^2} \Leftrightarrow \frac{3}{(d-x)^2} = \frac{1}{x^2}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow 3x^2 = (d-x)^2 \Leftrightarrow 3x^2 - (d-x)^2 = 0$$

$$[(\sqrt{3}x - (d-x))][(\sqrt{3}x + (d-x))] = 0$$

$$[x(1+\sqrt{3}) - d][(\sqrt{3}-1)x + d] = 0 \Leftrightarrow$$

$$x = \frac{d}{1+\sqrt{3}} = 0.36d$$

$$x = \frac{d}{1-\sqrt{3}} = -1.36d$$



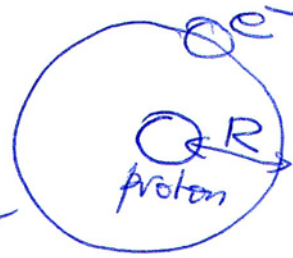
The third bead is at equilibrium at  $x = 0.56$  d.  
Stable equilibrium:

4

#### Exercise 4:

radius of the orbit  $0.529 \times 10^{-10} \text{ m}$ .

① The electric force between the two:



$$F = k \frac{e^2}{R^2} = 9 \times 10^9 \times \frac{(1.6 \times 10^{-19})^2}{(0.529 \times 10^{-10})^2}$$

$$F = 8.23 \times 10^{-8} \text{ N}$$

② If this force causes the centripetal acceleration of the electron, what is the speed of the electron

$$a = \frac{v^2}{R}, \quad F = m_e a = m_e \frac{v^2}{R}$$

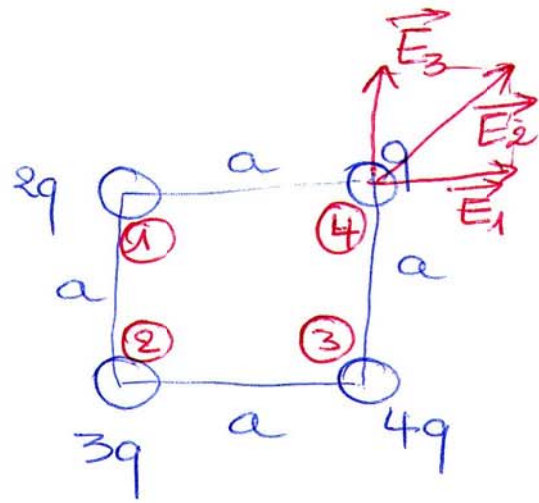
$$v^2 = \frac{F \cdot R}{m_e} \Rightarrow v = \sqrt{\frac{F \cdot R}{m_e}}$$

$$v = \sqrt{\frac{8.23 \times 10^{-8} \times 0.529 \times 10^{-10}}{9.11 \times 10^{-31}}} = 2.18 \times 10^6 \text{ m/s.}$$

$$v = 2.18 \times 10^6 \text{ m/s.}$$

### Exercise 5.

$\vec{E}_4$  = Electric field at charge 4.



$$\vec{E}_4 = E_1 \vec{x} + E_2 \cos 45^\circ \vec{x} + E_2 \sin 45^\circ \vec{y} + E_3 \vec{y}$$

$$\vec{E}_4 = (E_1 + E_2 \cos 45^\circ) \vec{x} + (E_2 \sin 45^\circ + E_3) \vec{y}$$

$$E_1 = k \frac{2q}{a^2}, \quad E_2 = k \frac{3q}{(a\sqrt{2})^2}, \quad E_3 = k \frac{4q}{a^2}$$

$$\vec{E}_4 = \frac{kq}{a^2} \left\{ \left( 2 + \frac{3}{2} \cos 45^\circ \right) \vec{x} + \left( \frac{3}{2} \cos 45^\circ + 4 \right) \vec{y} \right\}$$

$$\vec{E}_4 = \frac{kq}{a^2} (3.06) \vec{x} + \frac{kq}{a^2} (5.06) \vec{y}$$

Its magnitude:

$$E_4 = \frac{kq}{a^2} (5.91)$$

Its direction:

$$\tan \theta = \frac{E_y}{E_x} = \frac{5.06}{3.06} = 1.65$$

$$\theta = 58.83^\circ$$

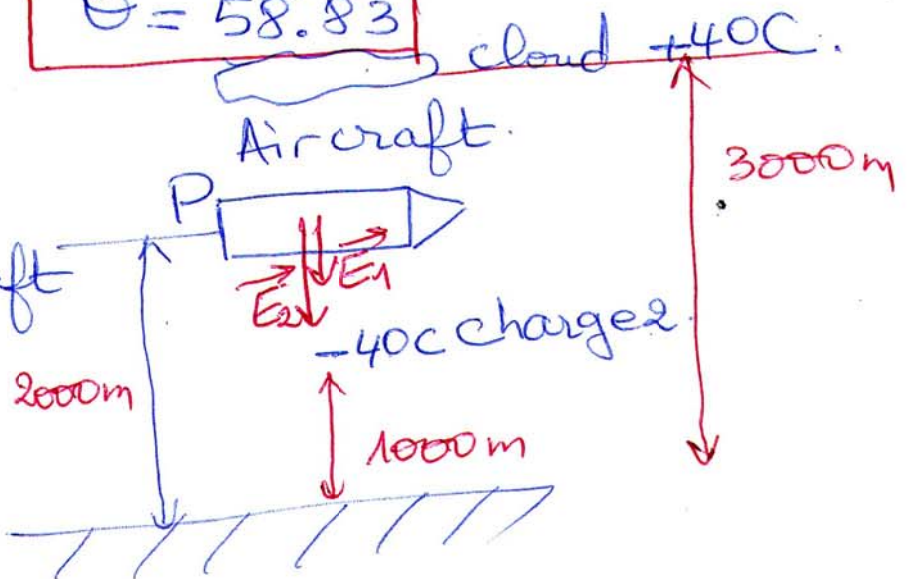
### Exercise 6.

Let's consider the position of the aircraft as P.

The electric field at the aircraft.

$$\vec{E}_P = \vec{E}_1 + \vec{E}_2$$

Because they are at the same axis y.





(6)

$$E_P = E_1 + E_2 = k \frac{Q_1}{R_1} + k \frac{Q_2}{R_2} = 9 \times 10^9 \times \frac{40}{(3000-2000)}$$

$$+ 9 \times 10^9 \times \frac{40}{(2000-1000)}$$

$$E_P = 7.2 \times 10^5 \text{ N/C}$$

Exercise 7:

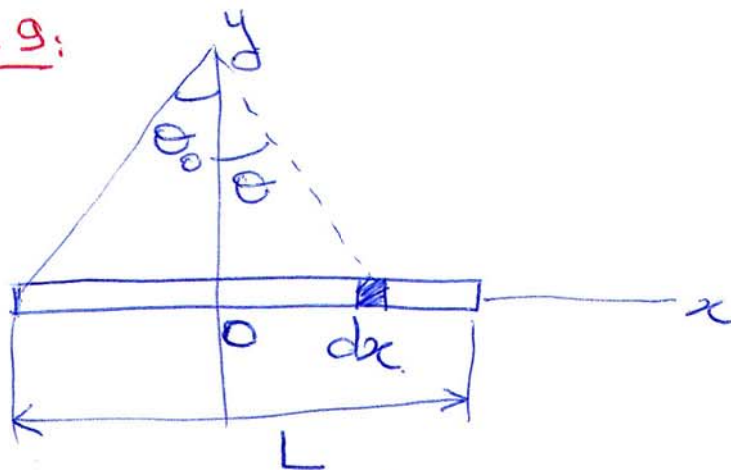
$$P = q \cdot a = (6000 \text{ m})(45 \text{ C}) = 2.7 \times 10^4 \text{ C.m.}$$

Exercise 8:

$$\tau = |\vec{p} \wedge \vec{E}| = p E \sin \theta = (3.4 \times 10^{30} \text{ C.m.})(4 \times 10^6 \text{ N/C}) \sin 30^\circ$$

$$\tau = 6.8 \times 10^{-24} \text{ N.m}$$

Exercise 9:



$$d\vec{E} = k \frac{dq}{r^2} \vec{U}_r = k \frac{\lambda dx}{x^2 + y^2} \vec{U}_r$$

The \$x\$ component of \$E\$ cancel each other. Only the \$y\$ component stay.

$$dE_y = dE \cdot \cos \theta = dE \frac{y}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2}}$$

\$\theta\$ varies from \$-\theta\_0\$ to \$\theta\_0\$ with \$\sin \theta = \frac{L/2}{y}\$

$$\tan \theta = \frac{\sin \theta}{\cos \theta} = \frac{x}{y} \Leftrightarrow \frac{1}{\cos^2 \theta} d\theta = \frac{dx}{y}$$

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

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$$dE_y = k \frac{\lambda dx}{(x^2 + y^2)^{3/2}} y$$

$$dE_y = k \frac{\lambda dx}{\frac{y^3}{\cos^3 \theta}} y = k \lambda \frac{\frac{y}{\cos^2 \theta}}{\frac{y^2}{\cos^3 \theta}} y d\theta$$

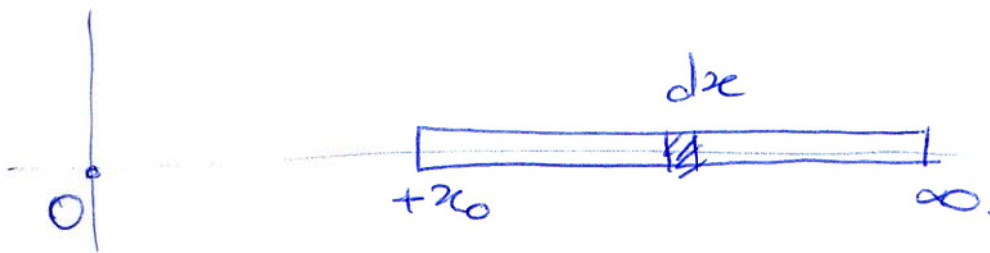
$$dE_y = k \lambda \frac{\cos \theta}{\lambda} d\theta$$

$$E = E_y = \int dE_y = \frac{k\lambda}{y} \int_{-\theta_0}^{\theta_0} \cos \theta d\theta = \frac{2k\lambda \sin \theta_0}{y}$$

② For infinite length:  $\theta_0$  tends to  $\pi/2$  So.

$$E = \frac{2k\lambda}{y} \sin \pi/2 = \frac{2k\lambda}{y}$$

Exercise 11:



Determine the electric field at the origin.

$$dE = k \frac{dq}{r^2} = k \frac{\lambda dx}{x^2} = k \frac{\lambda_0 x_0}{x} \frac{dx}{x^2}$$

$$dE = k \lambda_0 x_0 \frac{dx}{x^3} \rightarrow E = \int_{x_0}^{\infty} k \lambda_0 x_0 \frac{dx}{x^3}$$

$$E = k \lambda_0 x_0 \int_{x_0}^{\infty} x^{-3} dx = k \lambda_0 x_0 \left. \frac{x^{-2}}{-2} \right|_{x_0}^{\infty}$$

(9)

$$\begin{aligned}
 2/ E_{\text{Tot}} \bigg|_{5.00 \text{ cm}} &= \int_0^5 dE_y = \int_0^5 \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} 2\pi\sigma y \frac{r dr}{(y^2+r^2)^{3/2}} \\
 &= \frac{1}{2\epsilon_0} \sigma y \int_0^5 \frac{r dr}{(y^2+r^2)^{3/2}} = \frac{\sigma y}{4\epsilon_0} \int_0^5 \frac{d(r^2+y^2)}{(r^2+y^2)^{3/2}} \\
 &= \frac{\sigma y}{4\epsilon_0} \frac{u^{-1/2}}{-1/2} = -\frac{\sigma y}{2\epsilon_0} (r^2+y^2)^{-1/2} \bigg|_0^5 \\
 E_{\text{Tot}} \bigg|_5 &= -\frac{\sigma y}{2\epsilon_0} \left[ (y^2+5^2)^{-1/2} - y^{-1} \right] = \frac{\sigma}{2\epsilon_0} \left[ 1 - \frac{y}{\sqrt{y^2+5^2}} \right]
 \end{aligned}$$

$$E_{\text{Tot}} \bigg|_5 = \frac{\sigma}{2\epsilon_0} \left( 1 - \frac{y}{\sqrt{y^2+5^2}} \right)$$

### Exercise 10:

By symmetry the y components of the field due to each dq cancel. So:  $E = E_x$ .

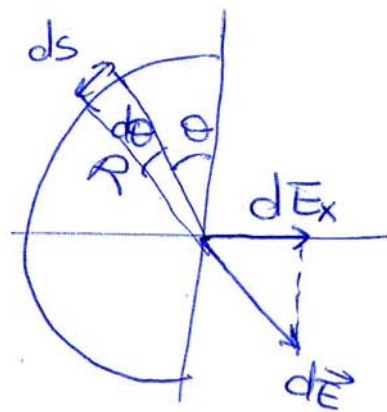
$$dq = \lambda ds = \lambda R d\theta$$

$$\text{where } \lambda = \frac{Q}{\pi R}$$

$$\text{Thus } E_x = \int k \frac{dq}{R^2} \sin\theta = \frac{k\lambda R}{R^2} \int_0^\pi \sin\theta d\theta = \frac{k\lambda}{R} (-\cos\theta) \bigg|_0^\pi$$

$$E = E_x = \frac{kQ}{\pi R^2} (1+1) = \frac{2kQ}{\pi R^2}$$

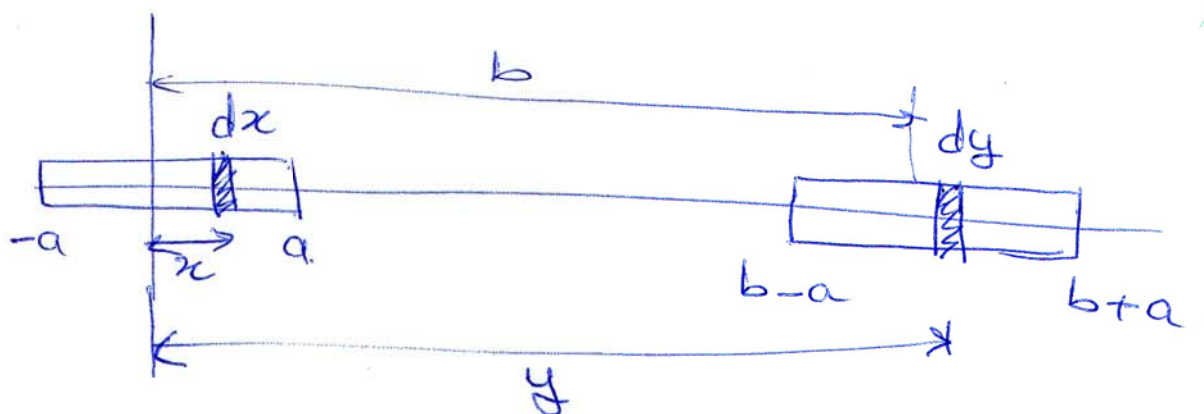
$$E = \frac{2kQ}{\pi R^2}$$





Exercise 13:

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$$F = k \frac{dq dq'}{(y-x)^2} = k \lambda^2 \frac{dx dy}{(y-x)^2}$$

$$F = k \lambda^2 \int_{-a}^a \int_{b-a}^{b+a} \frac{dx dy}{(y-x)^2} = k \lambda^2 \int_{-a}^a \left. \frac{(y-x)^{-1}}{-1} \right|_{b-a}^{b+a} dx$$

$$F = k \lambda^2 \int_{-a}^a \left\{ \frac{-1}{y-x} \right|_{b-a}^{b+a} \right\} dx = k \lambda^2 \int_{-a}^a \left\{ \frac{-1}{b+a-x} + \frac{1}{b-a-x} \right\} dx$$

$$F = k \lambda^2 \left\{ \int_{-a}^a \frac{-1}{b+a-x} dx + \int_{-a}^a \frac{1}{b-a-x} dx \right\}$$

$$= k \lambda^2 \left[ \ln(b+a-x) \right]_{-a}^a - \left[ \ln(b-a-x) \right]_{-a}^a$$

$$= k \lambda^2 \{ \ln b - \ln(b+2a) - \ln(b-2a) + \ln b \}$$

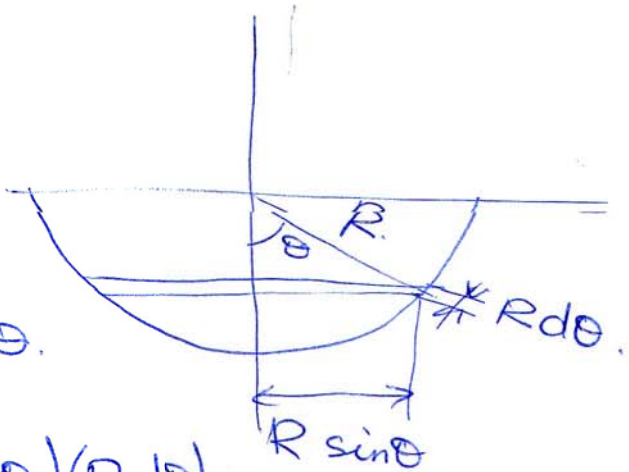
$$= k \lambda^2 \ln \frac{b^2}{b^2 - 4a^2} = k \frac{Q^2}{4a^2} \ln \frac{b^2}{b^2 - 4a^2}$$

$$F = k \frac{Q^2}{4a^2} \ln \frac{b^2}{b^2 - 4a^2}$$

Exercise 14:

If we break the surface into small rings of radius

$2\pi R \sin \theta$  and width  $R d\theta$ .



$$dq = \sigma dA = \sigma (2\pi R \sin \theta) (R d\theta)$$

$E = E_x$  by symmetry.

$$= \int \frac{k dq \cos \theta}{R^2} = \frac{k}{R^2} \int \sigma dA \cos \theta$$

$$= \frac{k \sigma}{R^2} \int_0^{\pi/2} 2\pi R^2 \sin \theta \cos \theta d\theta$$

$$= 2\pi k \sigma \left( \frac{1}{2} \sin^2 \theta \right)_0^{\pi/2} = \pi k \sigma$$

$$\boxed{E = \pi k \sigma}$$