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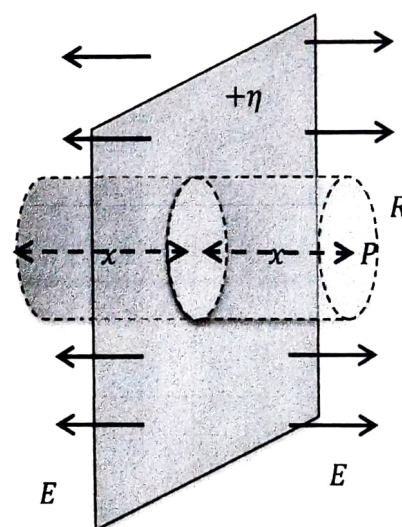
After this activity, you should know: • Use Gauss's Law in situations with planar symmetry.

1. A very large flat insulating sheet with uniform charge per area  $\eta$  (SI units:  $C/m^2$ ) sits in the  $y$ - $z$  plane at  $x = 0$ . We want to find the electric field at a point P a distance  $x$  from the sheet. Assume P is far from the edges and  $x$  is small compared to the size of the sheet.

Assume that  $\eta$  is positive. From symmetry, the electric field must point directly away from the sheet. We choose to draw the Gaussian surface as a cylinder of radius  $R$  that extends a distance  $x$  on both sides of the sheet.

- a. Which statement is true regarding the flux through the Gaussian surface? Choose one answer below!

- The electric flux through all the surfaces is zero.
- The flux through the endcaps is zero and the flux through the curved section is positive.
- The flux through the endcaps is zero and the flux through the curved section is negative.
- The flux through the curved section is zero. The flux through the right endcap is positive and through the left endcap is negative.
- The flux through the curved section is zero. The flux through the endcaps are both positive.



- b. Write the flux through the Gaussian surface in terms the unknown  $E$  and  $R$  and/or  $x$ . Check units.

$$EA = E \cdot 2\pi R^2$$

- c. Write the charge enclosed and the electric flux in terms of the charge per area  $\eta$  and  $R$  and/or  $x$ .

$$q_{enc} = \eta \cdot \pi R^2$$

$$\Phi_E = \frac{\eta \pi R^2}{\epsilon_0}$$

- d. Determine electric field in terms of  $\eta$  and/or  $x$ .

$$2E\pi R^2 = \frac{\eta \pi R^2}{\epsilon_0}$$

$$E = \frac{\eta}{2\epsilon_0}$$

- e. Does the electric field depend on the distance from the sheet?

no

2. Two large flat sheets with uniform charge per area  $+3\eta$  and  $-\eta$  are arranged as shown. We want to find the electric field at point  $P$  a distance  $d$  from both sheets. Assume that  $d$  is small so that we can treat the sheets as infinite.

- a. What is the magnitude of the electric field at point  $P$ ?

$$\frac{-\eta}{\epsilon_0} \hat{i} + \frac{3\eta}{\epsilon_0} \hat{j}$$

- b. What is the direction of the electric field at point  $P$ ? Give angle relative to the  $+x$  axis.

$$\theta + \phi = 180$$

$$\theta + 71.56 = 180$$

$$\theta = 108.43^\circ$$

3. Two very large flat sheets are oriented parallel to each other and are oppositely charged. The sheets are separated by a distance  $d$ .

- a. Draw a vector showing the electric field at point  $A$  due to the negative sheet. Draw a second vector showing  $E$  at point  $A$  due to the positive sheet.
- b. What is the net electric field at point  $A$ ? *Hint: does the electric field of a sheet depend on distance?*

$$\frac{-\eta}{\epsilon_0}$$

- c. Draw two vectors showing  $E$  at point  $B$  due to the negative sheet and  $E$  due to the positive sheet.
- d. What is the  $x$  component of the net electric field at point  $B$ ?



- e. Make a graph of the  $x$  component of the electric field versus  $x$ .

