

# Continuous Charge distribution

## • two methods

### 1) Superposition

- will reduce problem to an integral
- the integral may be unsolvable

### 2) Gauss's law method

- generally quicker than superposition
- require a system of high degree ( $\vec{E}$  to be constant)

## • the exact form of $dQ$ depends on what sort of charge distribution we have

- For 1D continuous distribution (line of charge)

$$\lambda = \frac{dQ}{dx} \Rightarrow dQ = \lambda(x) dx$$

- For 2D continuous distributions (surface of charge)

$$\sigma = \frac{dQ}{dA} \Rightarrow dQ = \sigma(A) dA$$

- For 3D continuous distributions

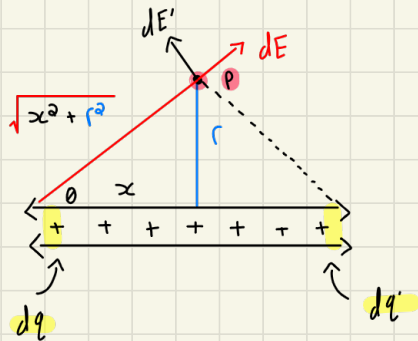
$$\rho = \frac{dQ}{dV} \Rightarrow dQ = \rho(V) dV$$

## • What is Superposition

In Physics Superposition means total effect is the sum of individual effects

$$E_{\text{total}} = E_1 + E_2 + E_3 \dots$$

For example, consider an infinite long line of charge density  $\lambda$



Zoom into Point P



• they cancel in the  $x$  direction but add in the  $y$  direction

$$dE_{\text{net}} = dE_y \sin\theta$$

$$dE_y = \frac{dq}{4\pi\epsilon_0(x^2+r^2)}$$

$$\sin\theta = \frac{r}{\sqrt{x^2+r^2}}$$

• Plug into  $dE_{\text{net}}$

$$dE_{\text{net}} = \frac{r dq}{4\pi\epsilon_0(x^2+r^2)^{3/2}}$$

this is a line of charge so  $dq = \lambda(x) dx$

$$dE_{\text{net}} = \frac{r \lambda dx}{4\pi\epsilon_0(x^2+r^2)^{3/2}}$$

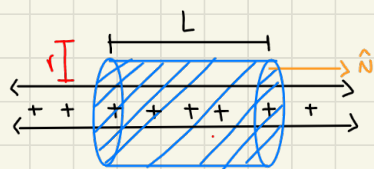
• this line of charge goes from  $-\infty$  to  $+\infty$

$$\int dE_{\text{net}} = \frac{r \lambda}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{dx}{(x^2+r^2)^{3/2}}$$

★ You cannot solve this integral we would need complex analysis but if we look at an integral table we see that

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{dx}{(x^2+r^2)^{3/2}} = \frac{2}{r^2} \Rightarrow \boxed{E = \frac{\lambda}{2\pi\epsilon_0 r} \hat{r}}$$

We can also use Gauss's law to get the same answer also notice this system has cylindrical symmetry hence the field can only depend on  $r$



$$Q_{\text{enclosed}} = \lambda L$$

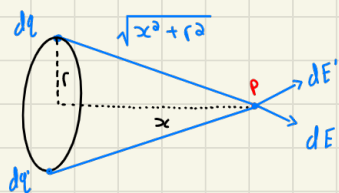
$$\frac{Q_{\text{enclosed}}}{\epsilon_0} = \oint E(r) dA$$

Charge density  $\frac{\lambda L}{\epsilon_0} = EA \Rightarrow \frac{\lambda L}{\epsilon_0} = E(2\pi r L)$

$$E = \frac{\lambda}{2\pi r \epsilon_0}$$

• the  $\hat{n}$  is perpendicular to the surface so the angle it makes is  $90^\circ$  the flux equation is  $\Phi = EA \cos \theta \Rightarrow EA \cos(90^\circ) = 0$  So no field lines are passing through there

• Now consider a slender ring of total charge  $Q$  and radius  $r$



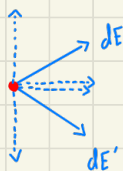
$$\lambda = \frac{dQ}{dx} \Rightarrow dQ = \lambda dx$$

$$dE_x = \frac{\lambda dx}{4\pi(x^2 + r^2)\epsilon_0}$$

↑  
Square root squared

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

Zoom in to Point P



• the y-component cancel

$$dE_{\text{net}} = dE_x \cos \theta$$

• We do not have to add the  $E_x \cos \theta$  because we are already integrating

$$dE_{\text{net}} = \frac{\lambda dx}{4\pi\epsilon_0(x^2 + r^2)} \cdot \left(\frac{x}{\sqrt{x^2 + r^2}}\right)$$

$$dE_{\text{net}} = \frac{x \lambda dx}{4\pi\epsilon_0(x^2 + r^2)^{3/2}}$$

\* but keep in mind that this is a ring and we only want the circumference



You need to use a Jacobian Factor. What is a Jacobian Factor? a Jacobian gives you curvature if you look at the circle it has curvature



this has curvature  
so you need  
a Jacobian Factor

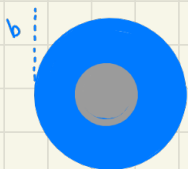
so you need  $r d\theta$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\lambda r d\theta}{4\pi\epsilon_0 (x^2 + r^2)^{3/2}}$$

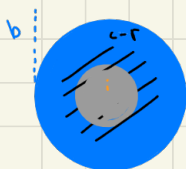
• an because we are going around a circle we will be integrating from 0 to  $2\pi$

$$E = \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{\lambda r d\theta}{4\pi\epsilon_0 (x^2 + r^2)^{3/2}} = \boxed{\frac{\lambda Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 (x^2 + r^2)^{3/2}}}$$

Consider a hollow sphere of inner radius  $a$  and outer radius  $b$



• in the gray area the  $\vec{E}$  is zero



• we will be integrating from

$$\frac{dQ}{\epsilon_0} = \oint E dA$$

$$P = \frac{dQ}{dA} = dQ = P dA$$

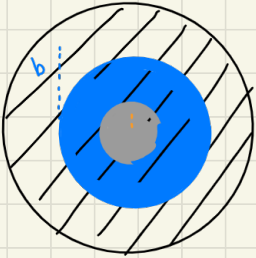
$$\int_{x=a}^{x=r} \frac{P dA}{\epsilon_0} dx = \oint E dA$$

• we are integrating over area keep in mind this is a hollow sphere

$$\frac{4\pi P}{3\epsilon_0} [x^3]_{x=a}^{x=r} = E (4\pi r^2)$$

$$\frac{4\pi P}{3\epsilon_0} [r^3 - a^3] = E(4\pi r^2)$$

$$E = \frac{P}{3\epsilon_0 r^2} (r^3 - a^3)$$



$$\oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A} = \frac{dq}{\epsilon_0}$$

$$dq = P dA$$

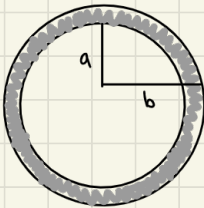
$$\oint \vec{E} d\vec{A} = \int_{x=a}^{x=b} \frac{P dA}{\epsilon_0}$$

$$E(4\pi r^2) = \frac{P}{\epsilon_0} \int_{x=a}^{x=b} 4\pi x^2 dx$$

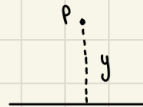
$$E(4\pi r^2) = \frac{4\pi P}{3\epsilon_0} [(b)^3 - (a)^3]$$

$$E = \frac{P}{3\epsilon_0 r^2} (b^3 - a^3)$$

More examples

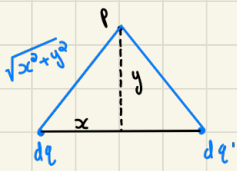


Top View



Side view

Find the electric field  $\vec{E}$



Zoom into Point P



• Notice the  $x$  components cancel out

$$dE_{net} = dE_y \sin \theta$$

$$dE_y = \frac{dq}{4\pi \epsilon_0 r^2} = \frac{dq}{4\pi \epsilon_0 (x^2 + y^2)}$$

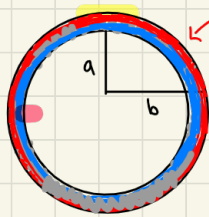
$$\sin \theta = \frac{y}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2}}$$

the square root goes away because it gets squared

$$dE_{net} = \left( \frac{dq}{4\pi \epsilon_0 (x^2 + y^2)} \right) \left( \frac{y}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2}} \right)$$

$$dE_{net} = \frac{y dq}{4\pi \epsilon_0 (x^2 + y^2)^{3/2}}$$

$$\sigma = \frac{dq}{dA} \Rightarrow dq = \sigma dA$$



the red can be  $2\pi x$  as circumference

the blue is change in  $dx$  as we can all agree that here and here are not the same because the  $x$  is changing in length

✗ because here we are dealing with a ring with circumference we want the charge along that circumference so for our Jacobian factor we use  $2\pi x dx$

$$dq = 2\pi x dx$$

$$dE_{net} = \frac{y 2\pi x dx}{4\pi \epsilon_0 (x^2 + y^2)^{3/2}} \Rightarrow \int_a^b \frac{y \sigma 2\pi x}{4\pi \epsilon_0 (x^2 + y^2)^{3/2}} dx$$

$$\frac{\sigma y}{2 \epsilon_0} \int_a^b \frac{x}{(x^2 + y^2)^{3/2}} dx$$

$$\frac{\sigma y}{4 \epsilon_0} \int_a^b \frac{\cancel{x}}{(u)^{3/2}} \frac{du}{\cancel{x}}$$

$$-\frac{\sigma y}{2 \epsilon_0} \left[ (u)^{-1/2} \right]_a^b$$

✗ use u-substitution

$$u = x^2 + y^2 \quad - y \text{ is constant}$$

$$du = 2x \cdot dx$$

$$\frac{du}{2x} = dx$$

$$-\frac{\sigma y}{2\epsilon_0} \left[ (u)^{-1/2} \right]_a^b$$

$$E = -\frac{\sigma y}{2\epsilon_0} \left[ \frac{1}{\sqrt{b^2+y^2}} - \frac{1}{\sqrt{a^2+y^2}} \right]$$

We can now use the equation we got to modify and get other equation for other shapes

Consider a disk charge of radius  $R$  and uniform charge density  $\sigma$  and a distance  $d$  above the center of the disk what is the electric field

★ Notice this only has one radius so from the last problem we know that we had two radii ending at the end (b) and one ends a bit more earlier (a) in this we can assume we have a regular radius  $R$  like b so  $a=0$  and  $b=R$  you can also replace  $y=d$

$$E = -\frac{\sigma d}{2\epsilon_0} \left[ \frac{1}{\sqrt{R^2+d^2}} - \frac{1}{d} \right]$$

$$\vec{E} = \frac{-\sigma d}{2\epsilon_0 \sqrt{R^2+d^2}} + \frac{\sigma}{2\epsilon_0}$$

Consider the case of an infinite plane of charge of constant surface charge density  $\sigma$  find the electric field a distance  $z$  above the plane you can also use Gauss's law



• goes on for infinite

$$E = -\frac{\sigma y}{2\epsilon_0} \left[ \frac{1}{\sqrt{b^2+y^2}} - \frac{1}{\sqrt{a^2+y^2}} \right]$$

b will go to infinite

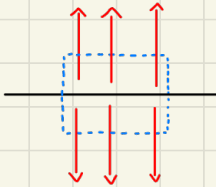
$$\vec{E} = -\frac{\sigma y}{2\epsilon_0} \left[ -\frac{1}{y} \right]$$

$$\boxed{\vec{E} = \frac{\sigma}{2\epsilon_0} \hat{z}}$$

• anything that's divided by infinite is 0

• b goes to infinite because if you look back b is the longer radius we treat b as if it's  $\infty$  but a was the shorter radius a infinite sheet has no radius so  $a=0$

★ you can also use gauss law to get the same answer



$$\sigma = \frac{dq}{dA} = dq = \sigma dA$$

$$\oint \vec{E} d\vec{A} = \frac{q_{\text{enclosed}}}{\epsilon_0}$$

$$\oint E dA = \int \frac{\sigma dA}{\epsilon_0}$$

We have two dA or areas that the electric field line is passing through

$$E 2A = \frac{\sigma A}{\epsilon_0} \Rightarrow \boxed{E = \frac{\sigma}{2\epsilon_0}}$$

the black is the infinitely charged surface

Gaussian surface

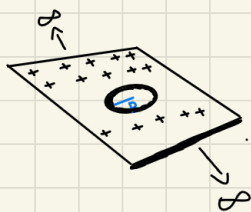
• electric field lines they can only go in a straight line due to symmetry if they move in a curved path they break that symmetry



Using the previous answer find the electric potential  $V$  a distance  $z$  above an infinite sheet of uniform charge density  $\sigma$  assume the potential on the plane is  $V_0$ .

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{E} &= -\nabla V \\ \int \frac{\sigma}{2\epsilon_0} \hat{z} &= - \int \frac{\partial V}{\partial z} \hat{z} \\ \frac{\sigma}{2\epsilon_0} z &= -V \\ V &= V_0 - \frac{\sigma}{2\epsilon_0} z\end{aligned}$$

Now consider an infinite sheet of charge with uniform surface density  $\sigma$  and has a circular hole of radius  $R$ . What is the  $\vec{E}$  at height  $h$ .



- the sheet is going to infinite
- The blue line in the hole of the paper is  $R$  (radius) while  $b$  is going to infinite because  $b$  was the bigger radius and  $a$  was the smaller radius

$$E = -\frac{\sigma y}{2\epsilon_0} \left[ \frac{1}{\sqrt{b^2+y^2}} - \frac{1}{\sqrt{a^2+y^2}} \right]$$

$$b = \infty \quad a = R \quad y = h$$

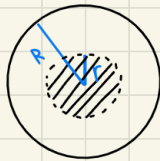
$$\vec{E} = \frac{\sigma h}{2\epsilon_0} \cdot \left[ \frac{1}{\sqrt{R^2+h^2}} \right]$$

Find the Force using Consider a  $-q$  the Previous question.

$$F = qE \Rightarrow$$

$$\vec{E} = \frac{-\sigma h q}{2\epsilon_0} \cdot \left[ \frac{1}{\sqrt{R^2+h^2}} \right]$$

Consider a Spherical Gaussian Surface of radius  $r < R$  centered within the Sphere



\* this answer is for the inside surface that shaded

$$P = \frac{dq}{dv} \Rightarrow da = P dv$$

$$\oint \vec{E} dA = \frac{dQ_{\text{enclosed}}}{\epsilon_0}$$

$$\oint \vec{E} dA = \int \frac{P dv}{\epsilon_0}$$

$$E A = \frac{P V}{\epsilon_0}$$

$$E (4\pi r^2) = \frac{P (4\pi r^3)}{3\epsilon_0}$$

$$E = \frac{Pr}{3\epsilon_0}$$

Now consider a spherical gaussian surface of radius  $r > R$



$$\rho = \frac{dq}{dV} \Rightarrow dq = \rho dV$$

$$\oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A} = \frac{dq}{\epsilon_0}$$

$$\oint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A} = \int \frac{\rho dV}{\epsilon_0}$$

$$E A = \frac{\rho V}{\epsilon_0}$$

$$E (4\pi r^2) = \frac{\rho (4\pi R^3)}{3\epsilon_0}$$

$$\boxed{E = \frac{\rho R^3}{3\epsilon_0 r^2}}$$

★ here we take the surface area of the gaussian surface but the volume of R

Now find  $V$ , the electric potential, at all points in space assuming  $V \rightarrow 0$  in a region very far from the charged sphere. hint: start in the region outside the sphere and work inward. also notice that  $V$  must be continuous on the boundary between solution  $r = R$

$$E = -\nabla V$$

$$\int \frac{\rho R^3}{3\epsilon_0 r^2} dr = - \int \frac{\partial V}{\partial r} dr$$

$r > R$

$$\boxed{\frac{\rho R^3}{3\epsilon_0 r} + C = V}$$

• this is for  $r > R$

$V \rightarrow 0$  as  $r \rightarrow \infty$ , we conclude  $C = 0$  for the region  $r < R$

$$\frac{\rho r}{3\epsilon_0} = - \frac{\partial V}{\partial r} \Rightarrow V = \frac{-\rho}{3\epsilon_0} \int r dr = \frac{-\rho r^2}{6\epsilon_0} + C$$

We said it must be continuous on  $r = R$

$$\frac{-\rho R^2}{6\epsilon_0} + C = \frac{\rho R^2}{3\epsilon_0 R} \Rightarrow C = \frac{\rho R^2}{3\epsilon_0} + \frac{\rho R^2}{6\epsilon_0} = \frac{\rho R^2}{2\epsilon_0}$$

• we said  $r = R$  so we can replace  $r$  with  $R$

$$V = \frac{PR^2}{2\epsilon_0} - \frac{Pr^2}{6\epsilon_0}$$

• this is for  $r < R$

Finding the electric Field of the hole?



$$E_{\text{tot}} = \frac{P\vec{r}}{3\epsilon_0} - \frac{P\vec{r}'}{3\epsilon_0} = \frac{P}{3\epsilon_0} (\vec{r} - \vec{r}')$$

$$E_{\text{tot}} = \frac{P}{3\epsilon_0} \vec{b} \Rightarrow |\vec{E}| = \frac{Pb}{3\epsilon_0}$$

• this points in the direction given by vector  $\hat{b}$