

## COULOMB'S LAW AND ELECTRIC FIELD INTENSITY

### قانون كولوم وشدة المجال الكهربائي

#### 1. The Experimental Law of Coulomb

Coulomb stated that *"The force between two very small objects separated in a vacuum or free space by a distance which is large compared to their size is proportional to the charge on each and inversely proportional to the square of the distance between them"*.

قانون كولوم: " القوة بين جسمين صغيرين جدا يفصلهما في الفراغ أو الفضاء الحر مسافة كبيرة بالنسبة لمقاييسها تتناسب طرديا مع الشحنة على كل منهما وتتناسب عكسيا مع مربع المسافة بينهما".

$$F = \frac{Q_1 Q_2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R^2}$$

Where:

F: Force in newton (N),

$Q_1$  and  $Q_2$  are the positive or negative quantities of charge in Coulomb(C),

R: is the separation in meters (m)

$\epsilon_0$  is called the *permittivity of free space* and has the magnitude, measured in farads per meter (F/m)

$$\epsilon_0 = \frac{1}{36\pi} 10^{-9} = 8.854 \times 10^{-12} \quad \text{F/m}$$

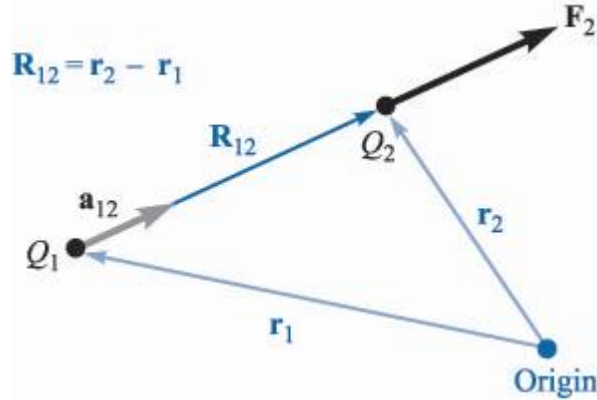
The coulomb is an extremely large unit of charge, for the smallest known quantity of charge is that of the electron (negative) or proton (positive), given in mks units as  $1.602 \times 10^{-19}$  C; hence a negative charge of one coulomb represents about  $6 \times 10^{18}$  electrons.

If point charges  $Q_1$  and  $Q_2$  are located at points having position vector  $\mathbf{r}_1$  and  $\mathbf{r}_2$ , then the vector force  $\mathbf{F}_{12}$  on  $Q_2$  due to  $Q_1$ , shown in Figure 2.1, is given by

$$F = \frac{Q_1 Q_2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 |R|^2} \mathbf{a}_{R_{12}}$$

$$\vec{R}_{12} = \mathbf{r}_2 - \mathbf{r}_1$$

$$\mathbf{a}_{R_{12}} = \frac{\vec{R}_{12}}{|\vec{R}_{12}|}$$



If  $Q_1$  located at  $(x_0, y_0, z_0)$  and  $Q_2$  at  $(x_1, y_1, z_1)$ , then

$$\vec{R}_{12} = (x_1 - x_0)\mathbf{a}_x + (y_1 - y_0)\mathbf{a}_y + (z_1 - z_0)\mathbf{a}_z$$

$$|\vec{R}_{12}| = \sqrt{(x_1 - x_0)^2 + (y_1 - y_0)^2 + (z_1 - z_0)^2}$$

$$\mathbf{a}_{R_{12}} = \frac{\vec{R}_{12}}{|\vec{R}_{12}|} = \frac{(x_1 - x_0)\mathbf{a}_x + (y_1 - y_0)\mathbf{a}_y + (z_1 - z_0)\mathbf{a}_z}{\sqrt{(x_1 - x_0)^2 + (y_1 - y_0)^2 + (z_1 - z_0)^2}}$$

$$F_2 = \frac{Q_1 Q_2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 |R_{12}|^2} \mathbf{a}_{R_{12}}$$

$$= \frac{Q_1 Q_2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 [(x_1 - x_0)^2 + (y_1 - y_0)^2 + (z_1 - z_0)^2]} \frac{(x_1 - x_0)\mathbf{a}_x + (y_1 - y_0)\mathbf{a}_y + (z_1 - z_0)\mathbf{a}_z}{\sqrt{(x_1 - x_0)^2 + (y_1 - y_0)^2 + (z_1 - z_0)^2}}$$

$$F_2 = \frac{Q_1 Q_2 [(x_1 - x_0)\mathbf{a}_x + (y_1 - y_0)\mathbf{a}_y + (z_1 - z_0)\mathbf{a}_z]}{4\pi\epsilon_0 [(x_1 - x_0)^2 + (y_1 - y_0)^2 + (z_1 - z_0)^2]^{\frac{3}{2}}}$$

**Example:** Find the force on  $Q_1$  ( $20\mu\text{C}$ ) due to charge  $Q_2$  ( $-300\mu\text{C}$ ), where  $Q_1$  located at  $(0, 1, 2)$  and  $Q_2$  at  $(2, 0, 0)$ ?

**Solution:**

$$\mathbf{R}_{21} = (0 - 2)\mathbf{a}_x + (1 - 0)\mathbf{a}_y + (2 - 0)\mathbf{a}_z$$

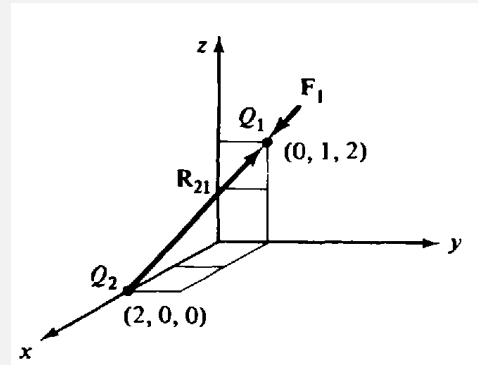
$$\mathbf{R}_{21} = -2\mathbf{a}_x + \mathbf{a}_y + 2\mathbf{a}_z$$

$$|\vec{R}_{21}| = \sqrt{2^2 + 1^2 + 2^2} = 3$$

$$\mathbf{F} = \frac{Q_1 Q_2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 |\mathbf{R}_{21}|^2} \mathbf{a}_{R_{21}} = \frac{20 \times 10^{-6} \times (-300) \times 10^{-6}}{4\pi \times 8.85 \times 10^{-12} |3|^2} \times \frac{-2\mathbf{a}_x + \mathbf{a}_y + 2\mathbf{a}_z}{3}$$

$$\mathbf{F} = 4\mathbf{a}_x - 2\mathbf{a}_y - 4\mathbf{a}_z$$

$$|\mathbf{F}| = \sqrt{4^2 + 2^2 + 4^2} = 6 \text{ N}$$



## 2. The Electric Field Intensity (E) (شدة المجال الكهربائي)

If we now consider one charge fixed in position, say  $Q_1$ , and move a second charge slowly around, we note that there exists everywhere a force on this second charge; in other words, this second charge is displaying the existence of a force field. Call this second charge a test charge  $Q_t$ . The force on it is given by Coulomb's law,

$$\mathbf{F}_t = \frac{Q_1 Q_t}{4\pi\epsilon_0 |\mathbf{R}_{1t}|^2} \mathbf{a}_{R_{1t}}$$

Writing this force as a force per unit charge gives

$$\frac{\mathbf{F}_t}{Q_t} = \frac{Q_1}{4\pi\epsilon_0 |\mathbf{R}_{1t}|^2} \mathbf{a}_{R_{1t}} \quad (*)$$

The quantity on the right side of (\*) is a function only of  $Q_2$  and the directed line segment from  $Q_2$  to the position of the test charge. This describes a vector field and is called the **electric field intensity**.

Using a capital letter E for electric field intensity, we have finally

$$E = \frac{F_t}{Q_t}$$

$$\vec{E} = \frac{Q_1}{4\pi\epsilon_0|R|^2} \mathbf{a}_R$$

Where  $\vec{E}$  is electric field intensity measured in v/m

Let us arbitrarily locate  $Q_1$  at the center of a spherical coordinate system. The unit vector  $\mathbf{a}_R$  then becomes the radial unit vector  $\mathbf{a}_r$ , and R is r. Hence

$$\vec{E} = \frac{Q_1}{4\pi\epsilon_0|r|^2} \mathbf{a}_r$$

**Example:** Find the electric field intensity (E) at (0, 2, 3) due to a point charge Q (0.4μC) located at (2, 0, 4)?

**Solution:**

$$R = (0 - 2)\mathbf{a}_x + (2 - 0)\mathbf{a}_y + (3 - 4)\mathbf{a}_z$$

$$R = -2\mathbf{a}_x + 2\mathbf{a}_y - \mathbf{a}_z$$

$$|R| = \sqrt{2^2 + 2^2 + 1^2} = 3$$

$$E = \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0|R|^2} \mathbf{a}_R = \frac{0.4 \times 10^{-6}}{4\pi \times 8.85 \times 10^{-12}|3|^2} \times \frac{-2\mathbf{a}_x + 2\mathbf{a}_y - \mathbf{a}_z}{3}$$

$$E = -266.4 \mathbf{a}_x + 266.4 \mathbf{a}_y - 133.2 \mathbf{a}_z$$

$$|E| = \sqrt{266.4^2 + 266.4^2 + 133.2^2} = 399.6 \text{ V/m}$$

### 3. Field of n Point Charge

Since the coulomb forces are linear, the electric field intensity due to n point charges,  $Q_1$  at  $r_1$ ,  $Q_2$  at  $r_2$ , and  $Q_n$  at  $r_n$  is the sum of the forces on  $Q_t$  caused by  $Q_1$  and  $Q_2$  acting alone, or

$$\vec{E} = \vec{E}_1 + \vec{E}_2 + \cdots + \vec{E}_n$$

$$= \frac{Q_1}{4\pi\epsilon_0|R_1|^2} \mathbf{a}_{R_1} + \frac{Q_2}{4\pi\epsilon_0|R_2|^2} \mathbf{a}_{R_2} + \cdots + \frac{Q_n}{4\pi\epsilon_0|R_n|^2} \mathbf{a}_{R_n}$$

**Example:** A charge of  $-0.3\mu\text{C}$  is located at  $(25, -30, 15)$  (in cm), and a second charge of  $0.5\mu\text{C}$  is at  $(-10, 8, 12)$  cm. Find  $E$  at: (a) the origin; (b)  $(15, 20, 50)$  cm

**Solution:**

$$(a) \quad E = E_1 + E_2$$

$$E_1 = \frac{Q_1}{4\pi\epsilon_0|R_1|^2} \mathbf{a}_{R_1}$$

the point must be in meter  $(25, -30, 15)\text{in Cm} = (0.25, -0.3, 0.15)\text{in m}$

$$(-10, 8, 12)\text{in Cm} = (-0.1, 0.08, 0.12)\text{in m}$$

$$R_1 = -0.25 \mathbf{a}_x + 0.3 \mathbf{a}_y - 0.15 \mathbf{a}_z$$

$$R_1 = \sqrt{0.25^2 + 0.3^2 + 0.15^2} = 0.418$$

$$E_1 = \frac{-0.3 \times 10^{-6}}{4\pi \times 8.85 \times 10^{-12} \times (0.418)^2} * \frac{-0.25 \mathbf{a}_x + 0.3 \mathbf{a}_y - 0.15 \mathbf{a}_z}{0.418}$$

$$E_1 = 9233.77 \mathbf{a}_x - 11080.52 \mathbf{a}_y + 5540.26 \mathbf{a}_z$$

$$E_2 = \frac{Q_2}{4\pi\epsilon_0|R_2|^2} \mathbf{a}_{R_2}$$

$$R_2 = 0.1 \mathbf{a}_x - 0.08 \mathbf{a}_y - 0.12 \mathbf{a}_z$$

$$|R_2| = 0.175$$

$$E_2 = \frac{0.5 \times 10^{-6}}{4\pi \times 8.85 \times 10^{-12} \times (0.175)^2} \times \frac{0.1a_x - 0.08a_y - 0.12a_z}{0.175}$$

$$E_2 = 83888.55 a_x - 67110.8 a_y - 100666.26 a_z$$

$$E = E_1 + E_2 = 93122.3 a_x - 78190.52 a_y - 95126 a_z$$

$$\therefore E = (39.12a_x - 78.19a_y - 95.12a_z) \text{ KV/m}$$

(b)

$$E \text{ at } (15, 20, 50) \text{ Cm?} \rightarrow (0.15, 0.2, 0.5) \text{ m}$$

$$R_1 = (0.15 - 0.25)a_x + (0.2 - (-0.3))a_y + (0.5 - 0.15)a_z$$

$$\therefore R_1 = -0.1a_x + 0.5a_y + 0.35a_z$$

$$|R_1| = 0.618$$

$$R_2 = (0.15 - (-0.1))a_x + (0.2 - 0.08)a_y + (0.5 - 0.12)a_z$$

$$R_2 = 0.25a_x + 0.12a_y + 0.38a_z$$

$$|R_2| = 0.47$$

$$E = E_1 + E_2 = \frac{Q_1}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R_1^2} a_{R_1} + \frac{Q_2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R_2^2} a_{R_2}$$

$$E = \frac{10^{-6}}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left[ \frac{-0.3}{(0.618)^2} * \frac{-0.1a_x + 0.5a_y + 0.35a_z}{0.618} + \frac{0.5}{(0.47)^2} \times \frac{0.25a_x + 0.12a_y + 0.38a_z}{0.47} \right]$$

$$\therefore E = \frac{10^{-6}}{4\pi\epsilon_0} [0.127a_x - 0.635a_y - 0.44a_z + 1.2a_x + 0.577a_y + 1.83a_z]$$

$$E = 11.9a_x - 0.52a_y + 12.4a_z \text{ KV/m}$$

#### 4. Field Due to a Continuous Volume Charge Distribution

If we now visualize a region of space filled with a great number of charges separated by minute distances, we see that we can replace this distribution of very small particles with a smooth continuous distribution described by a **volume charge density** ( $\rho_v$ )  $C/m^3$ .

إذا تصورنا منطقة من الفراغ مملوءة بعدد هائل من الشحنات المنفصلة عن بعضها بمسافات صغيرة جداً ، فإننا نستطيع احلال هذا التوزيع لجسيمات صغيرة جداً بتوزيع أملس يوصف بكثافة شحنة حجمية

The total charge within some finite volume is obtained by integrating throughout that volume,

$$Q = \int_{vol} \rho_v dv$$

$$\vec{E} = \int_{vol} \frac{\rho_v dv}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R^2} \mathbf{a}_R$$

**Example:** Calculate the total charge within each of the indicate volumes:

- (a)  $0.1 \leq x, y, z \leq 0.2$  ;  $\rho_v = \frac{1}{x^3 y^3}$
- (b)  $0 \leq \rho \leq 0.1$  ,  $0 \leq \phi \leq \pi$  ,  $2 \leq z \leq 4$  ;  $\rho_v = \rho^2 z^2 \sin 0.6\phi$
- (c) Universe ;  $\rho_v = e^{-2r}/r^2$

**Solution:**

(a)

$$Q = \int_{vol} \rho_v dv = \iiint \frac{1}{x^3 y^3} dx dy dz$$

$$Q = \iint \frac{1}{y^3} dy dz * \left[ \int_{0.1}^{0.2} x^{-3} dx \right] = \iint \frac{1}{y^3} dy dz * \left[ \int_{0.1}^{0.2} x^{-3} dx \right]$$

$$Q = \left[ \frac{-1}{2x^2} \right]_{0.1}^{0.2} \left[ \frac{-1}{2y^2} \right]_{0.1}^{0.2} [z]_{0.1}^{0.2} = \left[ \frac{-1}{2(0.2)^2} + \frac{1}{2(0.1)^2} \right] \left[ \frac{-1}{2(0.2)^2} + \frac{1}{2(0.1)^2} \right] (0.2 - 0.1)$$

$$Q = 140.6 \text{ C}$$

(b)

$$Q = \int \rho_v dv = \int_0^\pi \int_2^4 \int_0^{0.1} \rho^2 z^2 \sin(0.6\phi) \rho d\rho dz d\phi$$

$$Q = \int_0^\pi \int_2^4 \int_0^{0.1} \rho^3 z^2 \sin(0.6\phi) d\rho dz d\phi = \int_0^\pi \int_2^4 \left[ \frac{\rho^4}{4} \right]_0^{0.1} z^2 \sin(0.6\phi) dz d\phi$$

$$Q = 25 \times 10^{-6} \int_0^\pi \int_2^4 z^2 \sin(0.6\phi) dz d\phi = 25 \times 10^{-6} \int_0^\pi \left[ \frac{z^3}{3} \right]_2^4 \sin(0.6\phi) d\phi$$

$$= 25 \times 10^{-6} \left[ \frac{4^3}{3} - \frac{2^3}{3} \right] \int_0^\pi \sin(0.6\phi) d\phi = 466.66 \left[ \frac{-1}{0.6} \cos(0.6\phi) \right]_0^\pi = 466.66 \times 10^{-6} [2.1816]$$

$$\therefore Q = 1.018 \text{ mC}$$

(c)

$$Q = \int \rho_v dv = \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^\pi \int_0^\infty \frac{e^{-2r}}{r^2} \cdot r^2 \sin \theta dr d\theta d\phi$$

$$= \left[ \frac{-1}{2} e^{-2r} \right]_0^\infty [-\cos \theta]_0^\pi [\phi]_0^{2\pi} = \left[ \frac{-1}{2} e^{-\infty} + \frac{1}{2} e^0 \right] [1 + 1] [2\pi]$$

$$Q = \left[ 0 + \frac{1}{2} \right] [2] [2\pi] = 6.28 \text{ C}$$



### 5. Field of a Line Charge

If we now consider a filament like distribution of volume charge density, such as a very fine, sharp beam in a cathode-ray tube or a charged conductor of very small radius, we find it convenient to treat the charge as a line charge of density  $\rho_L$  C/m.

إذا اعتبرنا كثافة شحنة حجمية على هيئة توزيع فتيلي، مثل حزمة دقيقة جدا ومركزة في انبونة اشعة الكاثود ، أو موصلا مشحونا اذا كان نصف قطره شديد الصغر، فاننا نجد انه لمن المناسب معاملة الشحنة **كخط شحنة** ذي كثافة  $\rho_L$  C/m.

Let us assume a straight line charge extending along the z axis from  $-\infty$  to  $\infty$ , as shown in Figure. We desire the electric field intensity  $E$  at any and every point resulting from a *uniform* line charge density  $\rho_L$

$$Q = \int \rho_L dL$$

$$\vec{E} = \int \frac{\rho_L dL}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R^2} \mathbf{a}_R$$

$$dL = dz$$

$$R = (\rho - 0)\mathbf{a}_\rho + (k - z)\mathbf{a}_z = \rho\mathbf{a}_\rho + (k - z)\mathbf{a}_z$$

$$R = \sqrt{\rho^2 + (k - z)^2}$$

$$E = \int \frac{\rho_L dL}{4\pi\epsilon_0 |R|^2} \mathbf{a}_R = \int \frac{\rho_L dz}{4\pi\epsilon_0 (\sqrt{\rho^2 + (k - z)^2})^2} * \frac{\rho\mathbf{a}_\rho + (k - z)\mathbf{a}_z}{\rho^2 + (k - z)^2}$$

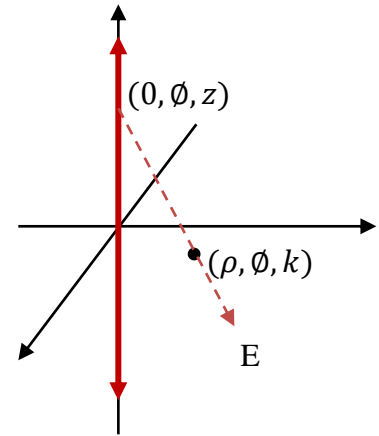
$$= \frac{\rho_L}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left[ \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{\rho}{[\rho^2 + (k - z)^2]^{3/2}} dz \mathbf{a}_\rho + \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{z_0 - z}{[\rho^2 + (z_0 - z)^2]^{3/2}} dz \mathbf{a}_z \right]$$

$$\text{Let } u = k - z \quad \therefore du = -dz$$

$$u_2 = k - \infty = -\infty$$

$$u_1 = k + \infty = \infty$$

$$E = \frac{-\rho_L}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left[ \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{\rho}{(\rho^2 + u^2)^{3/2}} du \mathbf{a}_\rho + \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{\rho}{(\rho^2 + u^2)^{3/2}} du \mathbf{a}_z \right]$$



$$* \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{\rho}{(\rho^2 + u^2)^{3/2}} du \mathbf{a}_\rho$$

$$\text{Let } u = \rho \tan x, \quad du = \rho \sec^2 x \, dx \quad x = \tan^{-1} \frac{u}{\rho}$$

$$x_1 = \tan^{-1} \infty = \frac{\pi}{2}, \quad x_2 = \tan^{-1}(-\infty) = -\frac{\pi}{2}$$

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{\rho}{(\rho^2 + u^2)^{3/2}} du = \int_{-\frac{\pi}{2}}^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \frac{\rho}{(\rho^2 + \rho^2 \tan^2 x)^{3/2}} \rho \sec^2 x \, dx = \int_{-\frac{\pi}{2}}^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \frac{\rho}{(\rho^2 (1 + \tan^2 x))^{3/2}} \sec^2 x \, dx$$

$$= \int_{-\frac{\pi}{2}}^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \frac{\rho}{(\rho^2 \sec^2 x)^{3/2}} \sec^2 x \, dx = \int_{-\frac{\pi}{2}}^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \frac{\rho^2}{\rho^3 \sec^3 x} \sec^2 x \, dx = \int_{-\frac{\pi}{2}}^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \frac{dx}{\rho \sec x}$$

$$= \frac{1}{\rho} \int_{-\frac{\pi}{2}}^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \cos x \, dx = \frac{1}{\rho} [\sin x]_{-\frac{\pi}{2}}^{\frac{\pi}{2}} = \frac{1}{\rho} (-1 - 1) = \frac{-2}{\rho} \mathbf{a}_\rho$$

$$* \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{u}{(\rho^2 + u^2)^{3/2}} du = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (\rho^2 + u^2)^{-3/2} u \, du = \frac{1}{2} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (\rho^2 + u^2)^{-3/2} 2u \, du$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \left[ \frac{(\rho^2 + u^2)^{-1/2}}{-1/2} \right]_{-\infty}^{\infty} = \frac{1}{2} \times 2 \left[ \frac{-1}{\sqrt{\rho^2 + u^2}} \right]_{-\infty}^{\infty} = \frac{-1}{\sqrt{\infty}} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{\infty}} = 0 + 0 = 0$$

$$E = \frac{-\rho_L}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left[ \frac{-2}{\rho} \mathbf{a}_\rho + 0 \right] = \frac{\rho_L}{4\pi\epsilon_0 \rho} \mathbf{a}_\rho$$

$$\vec{E} = \frac{\rho_L}{2\pi\epsilon_0 \rho} \mathbf{a}_\rho \quad \text{in cylindrical} \quad \text{or} \quad \vec{E} = \frac{\rho_L}{2\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{x\mathbf{a}_x + y\mathbf{a}_y}{(x^2 + y^2)} \quad \text{in Cartesian}$$

$$\text{if a line charge is located at } (x_0, y_0) \quad E = \frac{\rho_L}{2\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{(x - x_0)\mathbf{a}_x + (y - y_0)\mathbf{a}_y}{((x - x_0)^2 + (y - y_0)^2)}$$

**Example:** A uniform line charge of  $16\text{nC/m}$  is located along the  $z$ -axis: (a) find  $E$  at  $P(1, 2, 3)$   
(b)  $Q(1, 2, 7)$  ?

**Solution:**

(a)

$$E = \frac{\rho_L}{4\pi\epsilon_0\rho} a_\rho$$

$$\rho = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2} = \sqrt{1^2 + 2^2} = \sqrt{5}$$

$$E = \frac{16 \times 10^{-9}}{4\pi \times 8.85 \times 10^{-12} \times \sqrt{5}} a_\rho = 128.62 a_\rho \text{ V/m}$$

$$\text{in Cartesian } E = \frac{\rho_L}{2\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{xa_x + ya_y}{(x^2 + y^2)} = \frac{16 \times 10^{-9}}{2\pi \times 8.85 \times 10^{-12}} \frac{a_x + 2a_y}{(1^2 + 2^2)} = 57.54a_x + 115a_y$$

(b)  $\rho = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2} = \sqrt{1^2 + 2^2} = \sqrt{5}$

$$E = \frac{16 \times 10^{-9}}{4\pi \times 8.85 \times 10^{-12} \times \sqrt{5}} a_\rho = 128.62 a_\rho \text{ V/m}$$

**Example:** Two uniform line charges of  $\rho_L = 5\text{nC/m}$  each are parallel to the  $x$  axis, one at  $z = 0$ ,  $y = -2\text{ m}$  and the other at  $z = 0$ ,  $y = 4\text{ m}$ . Find  $E$  at  $(4, 1, 3)\text{ m}$ ?

**Solution:**

$$E = E_1 + E_2$$

$$E_1 = \frac{\rho_L}{2\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{(y - y_0)a_y + (z - z_0)a_z}{((y - y_0)^2 + (z - z_0)^2)}$$

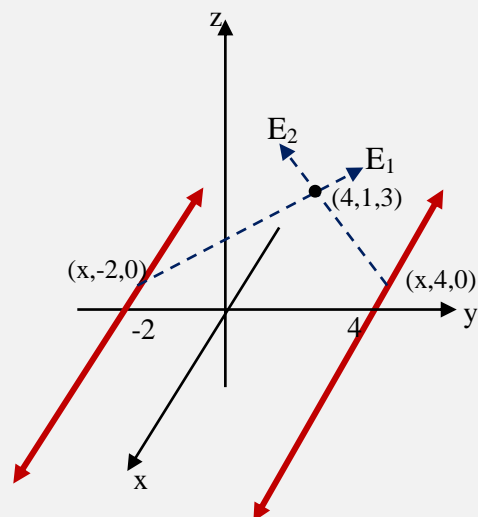
$$E_1 = \frac{5 \times 10^{-9}}{2\pi \times 8.85 \times 10^{-12}} \frac{(1 - (-2))a_y + (3 - 0)a_z}{(1 - (-2))^2 + (3 - 0)^2}$$

$$E_1 = \frac{5 \times 10^{-9}}{2\pi \times 8.85 \times 10^{-12}} \frac{3a_y + 3a_z}{18}$$

$$E_2 = \frac{5 \times 10^{-9}}{2\pi \times 8.85 \times 10^{-12}} \frac{(1 - 4)a_y + (3 - 0)a_z}{((1 - 4)^2 + (3 - 0)^2)}$$

$$E_1 = \frac{5 \times 10^{-9}}{2\pi \times 8.85 \times 10^{-12}} \frac{-3a_y + 3a_z}{18}$$

$$E = E_1 + E_2 = 2 * \frac{5 \times 10^{-9}}{2\pi \times 8.85 \times 10^{-12}} \frac{3a_z}{18} = 30a_z$$



## 6. Field of a Sheet Charge

Another basic charge configuration is the infinite sheet of charge having a uniform density of  $\rho_S \text{ C/m}^2$ . Such a charge distribution may often be used to approximate that found on the conductors of a strip transmission line or a parallel-plate capacitor. Where static charge resides on conductor surfaces and not in their interiors; for this reason,  $\rho_S$  is commonly known as *surface charge density*.

اللوحة الانهائي للشحنة، ذو الكثافة المنتظمة  $\rho_S \text{ C/m}^2$ ، هو شكل اساسي اخر للشحنات. ومثل هذا التوزيع للشحنة قد يستخم كثيرا لتقريب ذلك الموجود على المكثف ذي اللوحين المتوازيين. حيث ان الشحنة الاستاتيكية تستوطن اسطح الموصلات وليس في داخلها ولهذا السبب فان  $\rho_S$  تعرف عامة بكثافة الشحنة السطحية.

Consider an *infinite sheet charge* in the xy-plane with uniform density  $\rho_S$ . The charge associated with elemental area  $dS$  is

$$Q = \int \rho_S dS$$

$$\vec{E} = \int \frac{\rho_S dS}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R^2} \mathbf{a}_R$$

$$dS = \rho d\rho d\phi$$

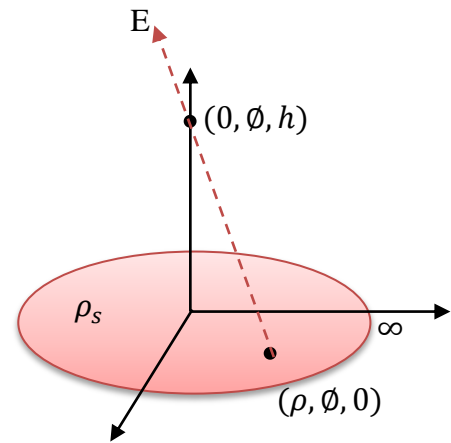
$$R = -\rho \mathbf{a}_\rho + h \mathbf{a}_z, \quad |R| = \sqrt{\rho^2 + h^2}$$

$$E = \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^\infty \frac{\rho_S \rho d\rho d\phi}{4\pi\epsilon_0 (\sqrt{\rho^2 + h^2})^2} \frac{-\rho \mathbf{a}_\rho + h \mathbf{a}_z}{\sqrt{\rho^2 + h^2}}$$

$$E = \frac{h\rho_S}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^\infty \frac{\rho d\rho d\phi}{(\rho^2 + h^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}} \mathbf{a}_z$$

$$= 2\pi * \frac{h\rho_S}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_0^\infty \frac{\rho d\rho}{(\rho^2 + h^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}} \mathbf{a}_z$$

$$= \frac{h\rho_S}{2\epsilon_0} \int_0^\infty \rho (\rho^2 + h^2)^{-\frac{3}{2}} d\rho \mathbf{a}_z$$



$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{h\rho_s}{2\varepsilon_0} \frac{1}{2} \left[ \frac{-2}{\sqrt{\rho^2 + h^2}} \right]_0^\infty a_z \\ &= \frac{h\rho_s}{4\varepsilon_0} \left[ \frac{-2}{\infty} + \frac{2}{\sqrt{0 + h^2}} \right] a_z \\ &= \frac{h\rho_s}{4\varepsilon_0} \frac{2}{h} a_z = \frac{\rho_s}{2\varepsilon_0} a_z \end{aligned}$$

$$\vec{E} = \frac{\rho_s}{2\varepsilon_0} \mathbf{a}_N$$

Where  $\mathbf{a}_N$  is a unit vector normal to the sheet

**Example:** Three infinite uniform sheets of charge are located in free space as follows:  $3\text{nC/m}^2$  at  $z = -4$ ,  $6\text{nC/m}^2$  at  $z = 1$ , and  $-8\text{nC/m}^2$  at  $z = 4$ . Find  $E$  at the point: (a)  $P_A(2, 5, -5)$ ; (b)  $P_B(4, 2, -3)$ ; (c)  $P_C(-1, -5, 2)$ ; (d)  $P_D(-2, 4, 5)$ ?

**Solution:**

a – at  $p_A$

Because the infinite sheet charge the  $E = \vec{E} = \frac{\rho_s}{2\varepsilon_0} \mathbf{a}_N$

$$E_T = \left[ \frac{-3n}{2\varepsilon_0} - \frac{6n}{2\varepsilon_0} + \frac{8n}{2\varepsilon_0} \right] a_z = -56.5 a_z \text{ V/m}$$

b- at  $p_B$

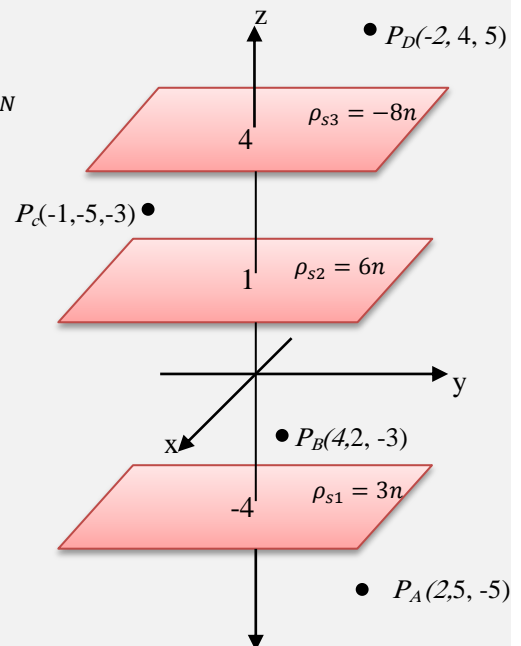
$$E = \left[ \frac{3n}{2\varepsilon_0} - \frac{6n}{2\varepsilon_0} + \frac{8n}{2\varepsilon_0} \right] a_z = 282.3 a_z \text{ V/m}$$

c- at  $p_C$

$$E = \left[ \frac{3n}{2\varepsilon_0} + \frac{6n}{2\varepsilon_0} + \frac{8n}{2\varepsilon_0} \right] a_z = 960.45 a_z \text{ V/m}$$

d – at  $p_d$

$$E = \left[ \frac{3n}{2\varepsilon_0} + \frac{6n}{2\varepsilon_0} - \frac{8n}{2\varepsilon_0} \right] a_z = 56.5 a_z \text{ V/m}$$



**Example:** The finite sheet  $0 \leq x \leq 1, 0 \leq y \leq 1$  on the  $z=0$  plane has a charge density

$$\rho_s = xy(x^2 + y^2 + 25)^{\frac{3}{2}} \text{ nC/m}^2. \text{ Find:}$$

**a-** The electric field ( $E$ ) at  $(0, 0, 5)$ ?

**b-** The force experienced by a  $-1 \text{ mC}$  charge located at  $(0, 0, 5)$ ?

**Solution:**

$$\vec{E} = \int \frac{\rho_s ds}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R^2} \mathbf{a}_R$$

$$ds = dxdy$$

$$\mathbf{R} = -x\mathbf{a}_x - y\mathbf{a}_y + 5\mathbf{a}_z$$

$$|\mathbf{R}| = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + 25}$$

$$\mathbf{E} = \int_0^1 \int_0^1 \frac{xy(x^2 + y^2 + 25)^{\frac{3}{2}} dxdy}{4\pi\epsilon_0 (\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + 25})^2} \frac{-x\mathbf{a}_x - y\mathbf{a}_y + 5\mathbf{a}_z}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + 25}}$$

$$\mathbf{E} = \frac{1 \times 10^{-9}}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_0^1 \int_0^1 \frac{xy(x^2 + y^2 + 25)^{\frac{3}{2}} dxdy}{(x^2 + y^2 + 25)^{\frac{3}{2}}} (-x\mathbf{a}_x - y\mathbf{a}_y + 5\mathbf{a}_z)$$

$$\mathbf{E} = \frac{1 \times 10^{-9}}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_0^1 \int_0^1 xy dxdy (-x\mathbf{a}_x - y\mathbf{a}_y + 5\mathbf{a}_z)$$

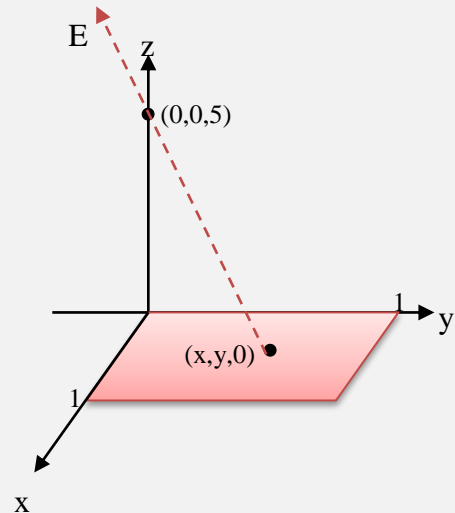
$$\mathbf{E} = \frac{1 \times 10^{-9}}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left[ - \int_0^1 \int_0^1 x^2 y dxdy \mathbf{a}_x - \int_0^1 \int_0^1 xy^2 dxdy \mathbf{a}_y + 5 \int_0^1 \int_0^1 xy dxdy \mathbf{a}_z \right]$$

$$\mathbf{E} = \frac{1 \times 10^{-9}}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left[ - \left[ \frac{x^3}{3} \right]_0^1 \left[ \frac{y^2}{2} \right]_0^1 \mathbf{a}_x - \left[ \frac{x^2}{2} \right]_0^1 \left[ \frac{y^3}{3} \right]_0^1 \mathbf{a}_y + 5 \left[ \frac{x^2}{2} \right]_0^1 \left[ \frac{y^2}{2} \right]_0^1 \mathbf{a}_z \right]$$

$$\mathbf{E} = \frac{1 \times 10^{-9}}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left[ -\frac{11}{32} \mathbf{a}_x - \frac{11}{23} \mathbf{a}_y + 5 \frac{11}{22} \mathbf{a}_z \right] = \frac{1 \times 10^{-9}}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left[ -\frac{1}{6} \mathbf{a}_x - \frac{1}{6} \mathbf{a}_y + \frac{5}{4} \mathbf{a}_z \right]$$

$$\mathbf{E} = -1.5\mathbf{a}_x - 1.5\mathbf{a}_y + 11.23\mathbf{a}_z$$

$$(b) \mathbf{F} = Q\mathbf{E} = -1 \times 10^{-9}(-1.5\mathbf{a}_x - 1.5\mathbf{a}_y + 11.23\mathbf{a}_z)$$



**Example:** A uniform sheet charge with  $\rho_s = 1/3\pi \text{ nC/m}^2$  is located at  $z = 5 \text{ m}$  and a uniform line charge with  $\rho_L = -25/9 \text{ nC/m}$  at  $z = -3 \text{ m}$ ,  $y = 3 \text{ m}$ . Find  $E$  at  $(x, -1, 0) \text{ m}$ ?

**Solution:**

$$E = E_1 + E_2$$

$E_1$  due to a surface charge

$E_2$  due to a line charge

$$E_1 = \frac{\rho_s}{2\epsilon_0} \mathbf{a}_N$$

$$E_1 = \frac{(1/3\pi) \times 10^{-9}}{2\epsilon_0} (-\mathbf{a}_z) = -6\mathbf{a}_z$$

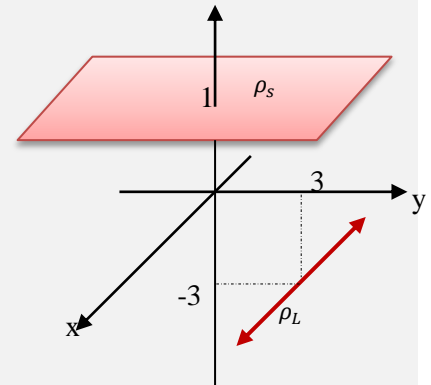
$$E_2 = \frac{\rho_L}{2\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{(y - y_0)\mathbf{a}_y + (z - z_0)\mathbf{a}_z}{((y - y_0)^2 + (z - z_0)^2)}$$

$$E_2 = \frac{(-25/9) \times 10^{-9}}{2\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{(-1 - 3)\mathbf{a}_y + (0 - (-3))\mathbf{a}_z}{((-1 - 3)^2 + (0 - (-3))^2)}$$

$$E_2 = \frac{(-25/9) \times 10^{-9}}{2\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{-4\mathbf{a}_y + 3\mathbf{a}_z}{16 + 9}$$

$$E_2 = 8\mathbf{a}_y - 6\mathbf{a}_z$$

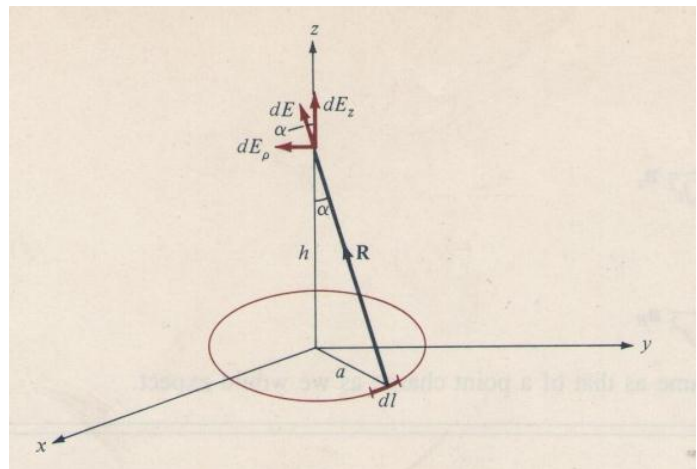
$$E_T = -6\mathbf{a}_z + 8\mathbf{a}_y - 6\mathbf{a}_z = 8\mathbf{a}_y - 12\mathbf{a}_z$$



**Home work**

**$Q_1$ :** Let a point charge  $Q_1 = 25 \text{ nC}$  be located at  $P_1(4, -2, 7)$  and a charge  $Q_2 = 60 \text{ nC}$  be at  $P_2(-3, 4, -2)$ . (a) Find  $E$  at  $P(1, 2, 3)$ . (b) At what point on the  $y$ -axis is  $E_x = 0$ ?

**$Q_2$ :** A circular ring of radius  $a$  carries a charge  $Q \text{ C}$  and is placed on the  $xy$ -plane, find electric field  $E$  at  $(0, 0, h)$



**$Q_3$ :** The circular disk  $r \leq 2 \text{ m}$  in the  $z = 0$  plane has a charge density  $\rho_s = \frac{10^{-8}}{r}$ . Determine the electric field  $E$  at the point  $(0, 0, h)$ ?

**$Q_4$ :** Two infinite sheets of uniform charge density  $\rho_s = 10^{-9}/6\pi \text{ C/m}^2$  are located at  $z = -5 \text{ m}$  and  $y = -5 \text{ m}$ . Determine the uniform line charge density  $p_L$  necessary to produce the same value of  $E$  at  $(4, 2, 2) \text{ m}$ , if the line charge is located at  $z = 0, y = 0$ .

**Ans.  $0.667 \text{ nC/m}$**

**$Q_5$ :** A uniform line charge of  $\rho_L = \sqrt{2} \times \frac{10^{-8}}{6} \text{ C/m}$  lies along the  $x$  axis and a uniform sheet of charge is located at  $y = 5 \text{ m}$ . Along the line  $y = 3 \text{ m}, z = 3 \text{ m}$  the electric field  $E$  has only  $\mathbf{a}_z$  component. What is  $\rho_s$  for the sheet?

**Ans.  $125 \text{ pC/m}^2$**