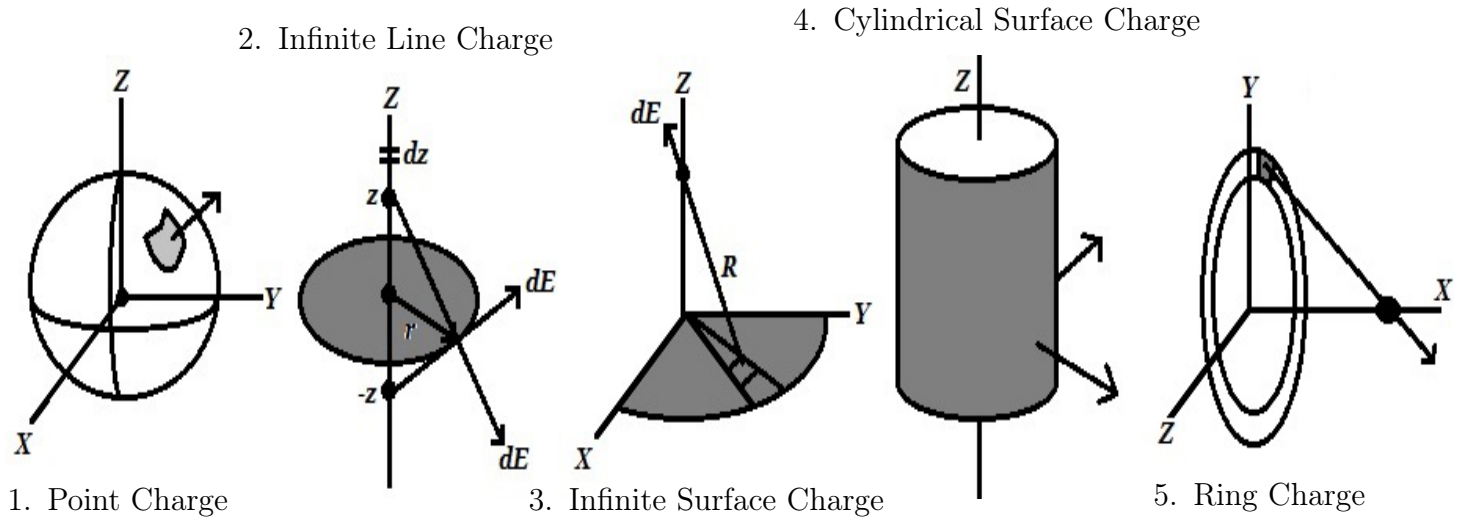


Standard Charge Configurations

May 23, 2013



1. Point Charge (Left most)

Using the Integral form Gauss's Law

$$\oiint \vec{D} \cdot d\vec{S} = Q_{encl}$$

Thus

$$\epsilon \bar{E} \left(\int_{\theta=0}^{\theta=\pi} \int_{\phi=0}^{\phi=2\pi} r^2 \sin \theta d\theta d\phi \right) = Q$$

$$\bar{E} = \frac{Q}{\epsilon r^2 \int_{\theta=0}^{\theta=\pi} \sin \theta d\theta \int_{\phi=0}^{\phi=2\pi} d\phi}$$

$$\bar{E} = \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon r^2} \hat{r}$$

2. Line Charge

Since $\bar{E} = \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon R^2}\hat{R}$, thus $d\bar{E} = \frac{dQ}{4\pi\epsilon R^2}\hat{R}$

Where

$$R = \sqrt{r^2 + z^2} \quad \hat{R} = \frac{r\hat{r} - z\hat{z}}{\sqrt{r^2 + z^2}}$$

Thus

$$d\bar{E} = \frac{dQ}{4\pi\epsilon (r^2 + z^2)} \frac{r\hat{r} - z\hat{z}}{\sqrt{r^2 + z^2}}$$

Since charge distributed evenly along the line, so

$$dQ = \rho dz$$

Therefore

$$d\bar{E} = \frac{\rho (r\hat{r} - z\hat{z})}{4\pi\epsilon (r^2 + z^2)^{3/2}} dz$$

Looking at the diagram, the for every charge dQ at $+z$, there is always another charge dQ at $-z$, and the z-component is cancelled, thus

$$\begin{aligned} d\bar{E} &= \frac{\rho r\hat{r}}{4\pi\epsilon (r^2 + z^2)^{3/2}} dz \\ E &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dE \\ E &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{\rho r\hat{r}}{4\pi\epsilon (r^2 + z^2)^{3/2}} dz \\ \bar{E} &= \frac{\rho}{4\pi\epsilon} \left[\frac{z}{r^2\sqrt{r^2 + z^2}} \right]_{-\infty}^{\infty} \hat{r} \\ \bar{E} &= \frac{\rho}{2\pi\epsilon r} \hat{r} \end{aligned}$$

3. Surface Charge

Same as before, since $\bar{E} = \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon R^2}\hat{R}$, thus $d\bar{E} = \frac{dQ}{4\pi\epsilon R^2}\hat{R}$

Where

$$R = \sqrt{r^2 + z^2} \quad \hat{R} = \frac{-r\hat{r} + z\hat{z}}{\sqrt{r^2 + z^2}}$$

And the charge is distributed evenly over infinite plane

$$\begin{aligned} dQ &= \rho r dr d\phi \\ d\bar{E} &= \frac{\rho r dr d\phi}{4\pi\epsilon (r^2 + z^2)^{3/2}} (-r\hat{r} + z\hat{z}) \end{aligned}$$

Symmetry : For any charge at $(r, \phi, 0)$, there are 3 other charges in $(r, \phi + \frac{\pi}{2}, 0)$, $(r, \phi + \pi, 0)$, $(r, \phi - \frac{\pi}{2}, 0)$ that the \hat{r} direction field is cancelled.

$$d\bar{E} = \frac{\rho r z dr d\phi}{4\pi\epsilon (r^2 + z^2)^{3/2}} \hat{z}$$

Therefore

$$E = \int_{\phi=0}^{\phi=2\pi} \int_0^{\infty} \frac{\rho r z dr d\phi}{4\pi\epsilon (r^2 + z^2)^{3/2}} \hat{z} = \frac{\rho}{2\epsilon} \hat{z}$$

4. Cylindrical Surface Charge

Apply Gauss's Law

$$Q_{encl} = \oiint_S \bar{D} \cdot d\bar{S}$$

$$\rho L = Q_{encl} = \bar{D} \oiint_S d\bar{S} = \bar{D} 2\pi r L$$

Thus

$$\bar{D} = \frac{\rho}{2\pi r} \hat{r} \quad \bar{E} = \frac{\rho}{2\pi\epsilon r} \hat{r}$$

5. Ring Charge

$$d\bar{E} = \frac{dQ}{4\pi\epsilon R^2} \hat{R}, \text{ where}$$

$$dQ = \rho ds = \left(\frac{Q}{2\pi r} \right) (r d\theta) = \frac{Q}{2\pi} d\theta$$

$$R = \sqrt{r^2 + x^2} \quad \hat{R} = \frac{-r\hat{r} + x\hat{x}}{\sqrt{r^2 + x^2}}$$

Because of symmetry, r -term cancelled

$$d\bar{E} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon (r^2 + x^2)} \frac{Q}{2\pi} d\theta \frac{x\hat{x}}{\sqrt{r^2 + x^2}} = \frac{Qx\hat{x}d\theta}{8\pi^2\epsilon (r^2 + x^2)^{3/2}}$$

Therefore

$$E = \int_{\theta=0}^{\theta=2\pi} \frac{Qx\hat{x}d\theta}{8\pi^2\epsilon (r^2 + x^2)^{3/2}}$$

$$E = \frac{Qx\hat{x}}{8\pi^2\epsilon (r^2 + x^2)^{3/2}} \int_{\theta=0}^{\theta=2\pi} d\theta = \frac{Qx}{4\pi\epsilon (r^2 + x^2)^{3/2}} \hat{x}$$

Approximation : When $x \gg r$ (a point much much far away from the origin)

$$(r^2 + x^2)^{3/2} \approx x^3$$

$$E \approx \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon x} \hat{x} \quad (\text{Appear like a point charge !})$$

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