

# Chapter three: Electrostatic Field

## 3-1: The Electromagnetic Force:

The electromagnetic force consist of an electric force ( $F_e$ ) and a magnetic force ( $F_m$ ). The electric force is similar to gravitational force, but with a major difference:

- (1). The source of gravitational force is mass, while the source of electric force is electric charge
- (2). Both type of forces vary inversely as the square of the distance from the respective sources.
- (3). Electric charge may have positive or negative polarity, whereas mass does not exhibit such a polarity.

## Electric charge exhibits two important properties:

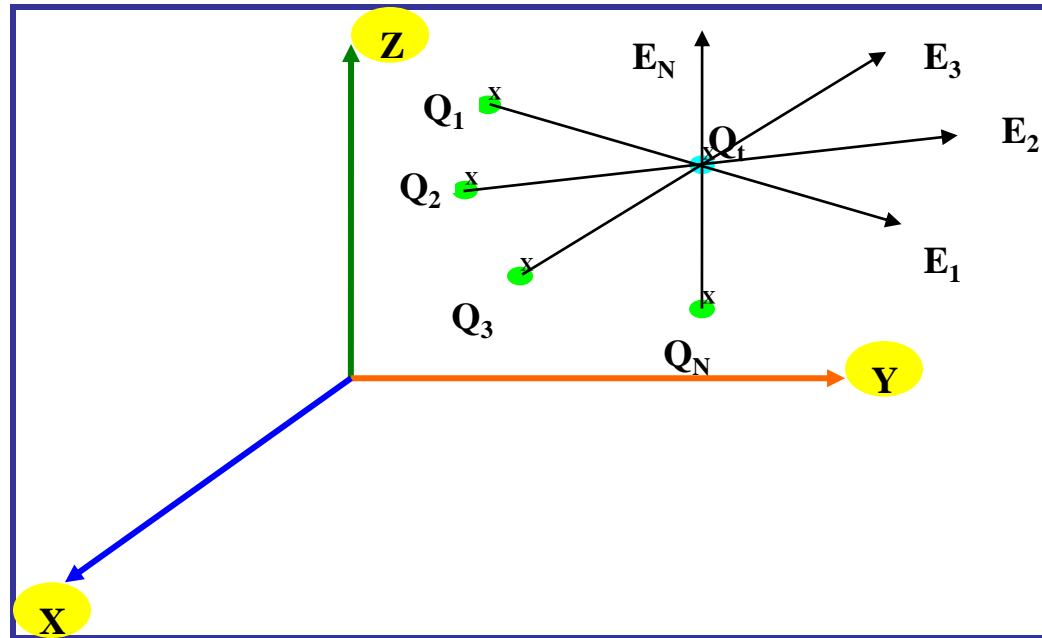
- (1). The law of conservation of electric charge; which states that [ the net electric charge can neither be created nor destroyed]. If a volume contains ( $n_p$ ) protons and ( $n_e$ ) electrons, then the total charge is:

$$q = n_p e - n_e e = (n_p - n_e) e$$

(2). The principle of linear superposition, which states that, [ the total vector electric field at a point in space due to a system of point charges is equal to the vector sum of the electric fields at that point due to the individual charges]

$$\vec{E}_t = \vec{E}_1 + \vec{E}_2 + \vec{E}_3 + \vec{E}_4 + \text{-----} + \vec{E}_N$$

$$\vec{E}_t = \frac{q_1}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R_1^2} \hat{a}_{R1} + \frac{q_2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R_2^2} \hat{a}_{R2} + \frac{q_3}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R_3^2} \hat{a}_{R3} + \frac{q_4}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R_4^2} \hat{a}_{R4} + \text{-----}$$



## 3-2: Charge and Current Densities:

In electromagnetic, we encounter various forms of electric charge distributions and if the charges are in motion they constitute current distributions. Charge may be distributed over a volume of space, across a surface or along a line.

### 3-2-1: Charge Densities:

(1) **Group of point charge:** which is defined as the sum of the total point charges distributed non-uniformly over a given space :

$$Q_t = Q_1 + Q_2 + Q_3 + \dots + Q_N = \sum_{k=1}^N Q_k$$

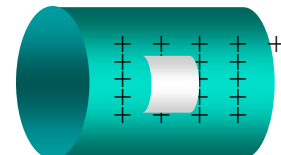
(2) **Line Charge Density:** is defined as the total charges per unit length, which is distributed uniformly over a segment of line which need not be straight :

$$\rho_L = \frac{dq}{dl} \quad \text{or} \quad Q = \int \rho_L dl$$



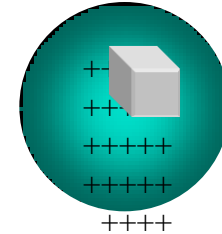
(3). **Surface Charge Density:** is defined as the total charge per unit area, which is distributed uniformly across the surface of a material:

$$\rho_s = \frac{dq}{ds} \quad \text{or} \quad Q = \int \rho_s ds$$



**(4). Volume Charge Density:** is defined as the total charge per unit volume, which is distributed uniformly over a volume of a given space:

$$\rho_v = \frac{dq}{dv} \quad \text{or} \quad Q = \int \rho_v \, dv$$



**Example:** Find the total charge contained in a cylindrical volume defined by :

$$\rho \leq 2 \, \text{m} \quad \text{and} \quad 0 \leq z \leq 3 \, \text{m} \quad , \quad \text{if} \quad \rho_v = 10 \, z \, \rho \quad (\text{mC}/\text{m}^3) \quad ?$$

**Solution:**

$$Q = \int_v \rho_v \, dv = \int_0^2 \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^3 (10 \, z \, \rho) \, \rho \, d\rho \, d\phi \, dz = 10 \int_0^3 z \, dz \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi \int_0^2 \rho^2 \, d\rho$$

$$Q = 10 \left( \frac{z^2}{2} \right) \Big|_0^3 \left( \phi \right) \Big|_0^{2\pi} \left( \frac{\rho^3}{3} \right) \Big|_0^2 = \frac{20\pi}{6} (9 - 0) \times (8 - 0)$$

$$Q = 240\pi \, (\text{C}/\text{m}^3)$$

## Home Work:

**Q1 /Find the total charge contained in a cone defined by**

$$r \leq 2 \text{ m and } 0 \leq \theta \leq 45^\circ \quad \text{given that : } \rho_v = 20 r^2 \cos^2 \theta \quad (\text{mC/m}^3)$$

**Q2 /If the line charge density is given by  $\rho_l = 12 y^2$  (mC/m)**

**Find the total charge distributed on the y-axis from  $y = -5$  to  $y = 5$ ?**

**Q3 /Find the total charge on a circular disk defined by:  $\rho \leq a$  and  $z = 0$  if :**

**a.**  $\rho_s = \rho_o \sin \phi \quad (\text{C/m}^2)$

**b.**  $\rho_s = \rho_o \sin^2 \phi \quad (\text{C/m}^2)$

**c.**  $\rho_s = \rho_o e^{-r} \quad (\text{C/m}^2)$

**d.**  $\rho_s = \rho_o e^{-r} \sin^2 \phi \quad (\text{C/m}^2)$

### 3-2-2: Current Densities:

Consider a tube of charge with volume charge density ( $\rho_v$ ), as shown in figure below. The charge are moving with a mean velocity ( $\vec{u}$ ) along the axis of the tube. Over a period ( $\Delta t$ ), the charges move a distance ( $\Delta l = \vec{u} \Delta t$ ), then the amount of charge that crosses the cross-sectional ( $\Delta s$ ) is:

$$\Delta q = \rho_v \Delta v = \rho_v \Delta l \Delta s = \rho_v \vec{u} \Delta t \Delta s \text{ -----(1)}$$

However, when the surface direction is not in parallel with ( $\vec{u}$ ) then:  $\vec{\Delta s} = \hat{a}_n \Delta s$

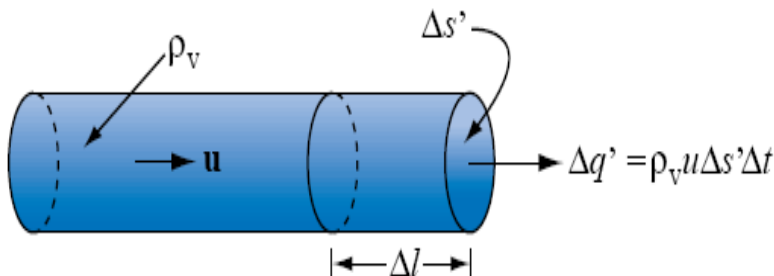
$$\Delta q = \rho_v \vec{u} \cdot \hat{a}_n \Delta s \Delta t \text{ -----(2)}$$

Then the corresponding current is :

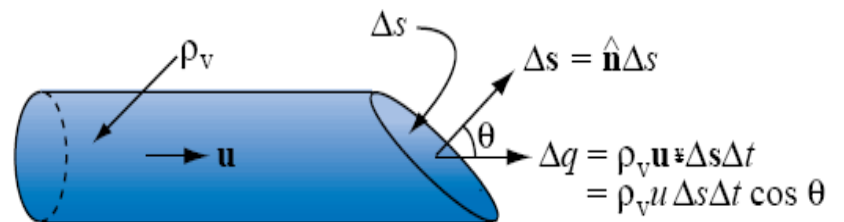
$$\Delta I = \frac{\Delta q}{\Delta t} = \rho_v \vec{u} \cdot \hat{a}_n \Delta s = \vec{J} \cdot \vec{\Delta s} \text{ -----(3)}$$

Where, ( $\vec{J} = \rho_v \vec{u}$ ), is defined as the current density in ( $A/m^2$ ), for arbitrary surface (S), the total current flowing through it is then given by:

$$I = \int \vec{J} \cdot \vec{ds}$$



(a)



(b)

There are three types of current densities named convection, conduction and displacement currents).

(1). **Convection Current Density** (  $\vec{J}_v = \rho_v \vec{u}$  ) : is defined as a current which produced due to a movement of charged particle through a vacuum, air, or non-conductive media such as ( beam of electron in a cathode ray tube or TV-screen).

(2). **Conduction Current Density** (  $\vec{J}_c = \sigma \vec{E}$  ) : is defined as a current which produced due to a movement of electrons through conductive media in response to an applied electric field such as ( the flow of current in Copper wires). It is given by the point form of Ohm's law as:

(3). **Displacement Current Density** (  $\vec{J}_d = \frac{\partial \vec{D}}{\partial t}$  ) : is defined as the time varying electric field phenomenon that allows current to flow between the plates of a capacitance.

### 3-3: Force Between point Charges:

The electrostatic study begins with the first reported experiment of Coulomb's law in 1785 [French Colonel]. It deals with the force of point charge exerts on another point charge. The results of the experiments are expressed in Coulomb's law which states that: The force between two stationary point charges  $Q_1$  and  $Q_2$  is:

(1). along the line joining them,

(2). directly proportional to the product of charges  $Q_1 Q_2$ ,

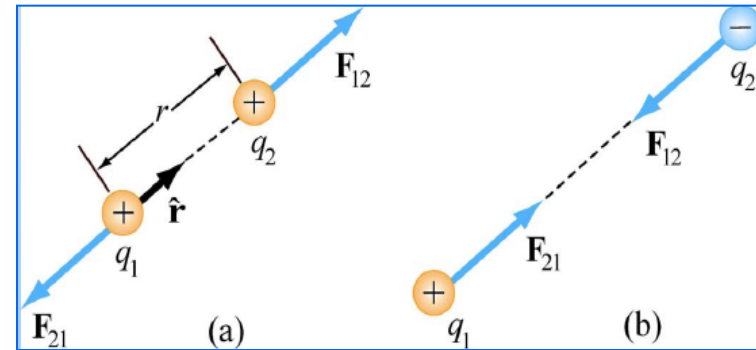
(3). inversely proportional to the square of the distance ( $R$ ) between them.

Where mathematically is expressed as :

$$\vec{F} = \frac{Q_1 Q_2}{4 \pi \epsilon_0 R^2} \hat{a}_R \quad \text{----- (1)}$$

$$\vec{F} = k \frac{Q_1 Q_2}{R^2} \hat{a}_R, \quad \text{where } k = \frac{1}{4 \pi \epsilon_0} = 9 \times 10^9 \text{ (N.m}^2 / \text{C}^2)$$

$$\epsilon_0 = \frac{10^{-9}}{36 \pi} \text{ (F / m)} = 8.85 \times 10^{-12} \text{ (F / m)}$$



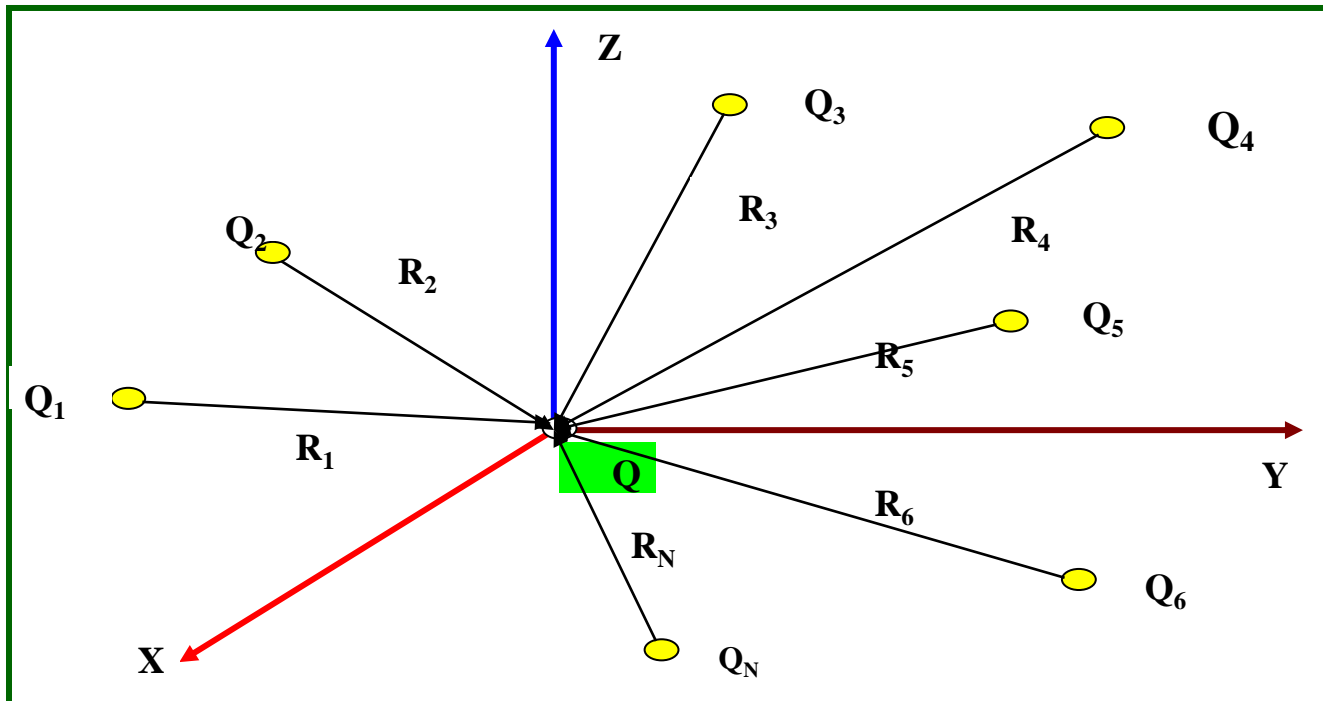


If point charges  $Q_1$  and  $Q_2$  are located at points having position vectors  $\vec{r}_1$  and  $\vec{r}_2$ , then the force ( $\vec{F}_{12}$ ) on  $Q_2$  due to  $Q_1$  is given by:

$$\vec{F}_{12} = k \frac{Q_1 Q_2}{R_{12}^2} \hat{a}_{R_{12}} \text{ ----- (2)}$$

$$\vec{R}_{12} = \vec{r}_2 - \vec{r}_1 \quad \left| \vec{R}_{12} \right| = R_{12}$$

$$\hat{a}_{R_{12}} = \frac{\vec{R}_{12}}{\left| \vec{R}_{12} \right|} \quad \vec{F}_{12} = -\vec{F}_{21}$$



$$\vec{F}_t = \vec{F}_1 + \vec{F}_2 + \vec{F}_3 + \text{-----} + \vec{F}_N = \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon} \left( \frac{Q_1}{R_1^2} \hat{a}_{R1} + \frac{Q_2}{R_2^2} \hat{a}_{R2} + \frac{Q_3}{R_3^2} \hat{a}_{R3} + \text{-----} + \frac{Q_N}{R_N^2} \hat{a}_{RN} \right)$$

**Example(2):** Two point charges,  $Q_1 = 50 \mu\text{C}$  and  $Q_2 = 10 \mu\text{C}$ , are located at  $(-1, 1, -3)\text{m}$  and  $(3, 1, 0)\text{m}$  respectively, find the force on ( $Q_1$ )?

**Solution:**

$$\vec{\mathbf{F}}_{21} = \frac{Q_1 Q_2}{4\pi\epsilon R_{21}^2} \hat{a}_{R21}$$

**Where,**  $\vec{R}_{21} = (-1-3)\hat{a}_x + (1-1)\hat{a}_y + (-3-0)\hat{a}_z$  and  $|R_{21}| = \sqrt{(-4)^2 + (0)^2 + (-3)^2} = 5\text{m}$

$$\hat{a}_{R21} = \frac{\vec{R}_{21}}{|R_{21}|} = \frac{-4\hat{a}_x - 3\hat{a}_z}{5}$$

$$\vec{\mathbf{F}}_{21} = 9 \times 10^9 \frac{50 \times 10 \times 10^{-12}}{25} \left( \frac{-4\hat{a}_x - 3\hat{a}_z}{5} \right)$$

$$\vec{\mathbf{F}}_{21} = 0.18(-0.8\hat{a}_x - 0.6\hat{a}_z) \text{ N}$$

## Home Work:

**Q<sub>1</sub>/** Two point charges,  $Q_1 = 250 \mu\text{C}$  and  $Q_2 = -300 \mu\text{C}$  are located at  $(5,0,0)\text{m}$  and  $(0,0,-5)\text{m}$ , respectively. Find the force on  $Q_2$  ?

**Q<sub>2</sub>/** Determine the force on a point charge  $Q = 50 \mu\text{C}$  located at  $(0,0,5)\text{m}$  due to a point charge  $Q = 500\pi \mu\text{C}$  located at the origin ?

**Q<sub>3</sub>/** Three point charges, each with  $Q = 3 \text{ nC}$  are located at the corners of a triangle in the Z-plane with one corner at  $(2,0,0)\text{m}$  the origin, another at  $(0,2,0)\text{m}$ , and the third at  $(0,0,0)\text{m}$ . Find the force acting on the charge located at the origin ?

**Q4 /** Four point charges, each with  $Q = 20 \mu\text{C}$  are on the x and y axes at  $\pm 4$ . Find the force exerted by these charges on a  $100 \mu\text{C}$  point charge located at  $(0,0,3)\text{m}$

**Q5 /** Ten identical charges of  $(\rho \cdot \cdot) \mu\text{C}$  each are spaced equally around a circle of radius  $(\gamma)\text{m}$ . Find the force on a charge of  $(\gamma \cdot -) \mu\text{C}$  located on the axis  $(\gamma \cdot)$  from the plane of the circle ?

**Q6/** Identical charges of  $Q(\text{C})$  are located at the eight corner of a cube with a side  $l(\text{m})$ . Show that the coulomb force on each charge has a magnitude of

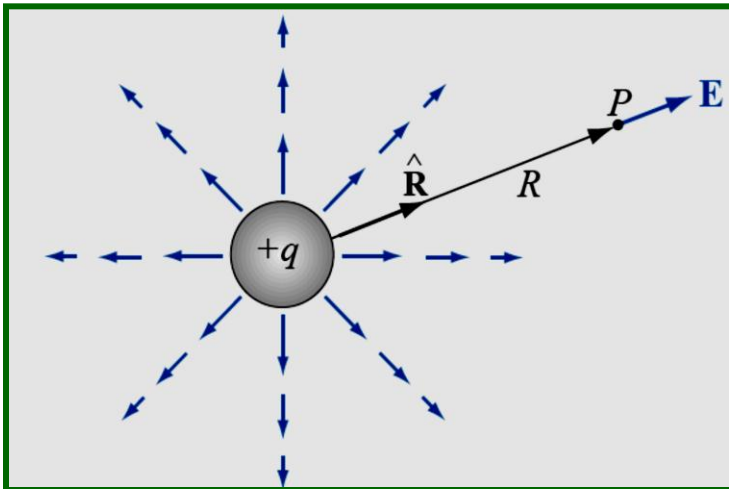
$$\left( \frac{3.29 Q^2}{4\pi \epsilon_0 l^2} N \right)$$

### 3-4: Electric Field Intensity:

In the case of the gravitational field of a material body, we define the gravitational field intensity as the force per unit mass experienced by a small test mass placed in that field. In a similar manner the force per unit charge experienced by a small test charge placed in an electric field is known as electric field intensity ( $\vec{E}$ )

Alternatively, if in a region of space, a test charge ( $q$ ) experiences a force ( $\vec{F}$ ), then the region is said to be characterized by an electric field ( $\vec{E}$ ) of intensity given by:

$$\vec{E} = \frac{\vec{F}}{q} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q}{R^2} \hat{a}_R$$



$$d\vec{E} = \frac{\vec{F}}{q} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{dq}{R^2} \hat{a}_R \quad \text{----- point charge}$$

$$d\vec{E} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \sum_{k=1}^N \frac{q_k}{R_k^2} \hat{a}_{Rk} \quad \text{----- Group of charge}$$

$$d\vec{E} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int \frac{\rho_L dl}{R^2} \hat{a}_R \quad \text{----- Line charge dist.}$$

$$d\vec{E} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int \frac{\rho_S ds}{R^2} \hat{a}_R \quad \text{----- surface charge dist.}$$

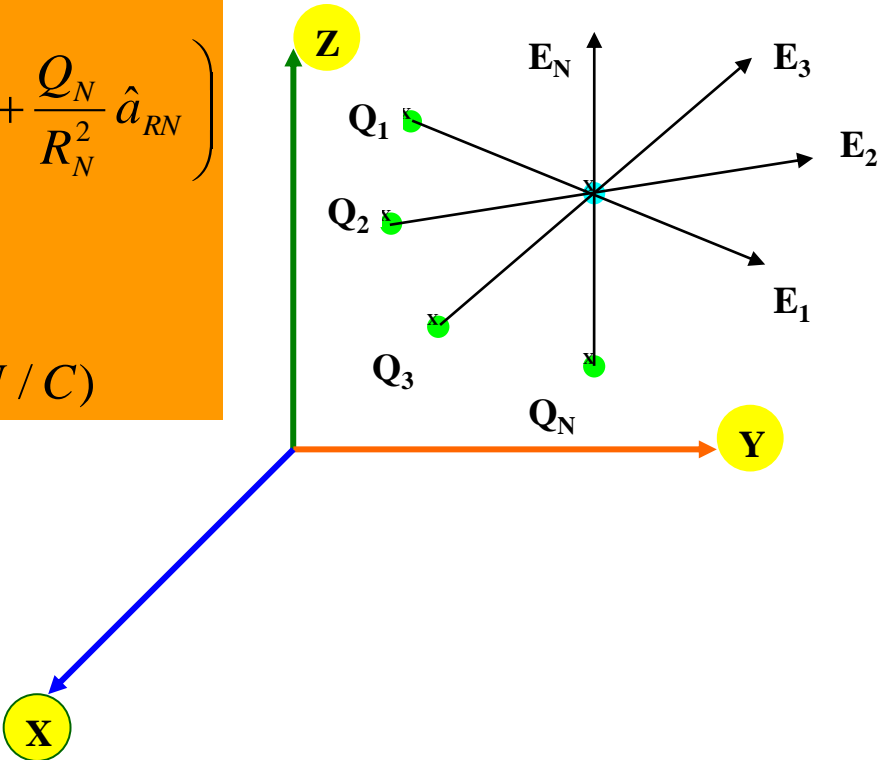
$$d\vec{E} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int \frac{\rho_v dv}{R^2} \hat{a}_R \quad \text{----- Volume charge dist.}$$

### 3-4-1: Electric Field due to a Group of Charges:

The electric field intensity of (N) point charges at a given point in space is equal to the vector sum of the electric field intensities ( $\vec{E}$ ) due to each charge acting alone, and is given by:

$$\vec{E}_t = \vec{E}_1 + \vec{E}_2 + \vec{E}_3 + \dots + \vec{E}_N = \sum_{k=1}^N \vec{E}_k$$
$$\vec{E}_t = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon} \left( \frac{Q_1}{R_1^2} \hat{a}_{R1} + \frac{Q_2}{R_2^2} \hat{a}_{R2} + \frac{Q_3}{R_3^2} \hat{a}_{R3} + \dots + \frac{Q_N}{R_N^2} \hat{a}_{RN} \right)$$
$$\vec{E}_t = \sum_{k=1}^N \frac{Q_k}{4\pi\epsilon R_k^2} \hat{a}_{Rk}$$

and it measure in unit of (V/m) or (N/C)



**Example(3):** A positive charge ( $Q_1=10^{-9}\text{C}$ ) is located on the y-axis at ( $y=2$ ) and a charge ( $Q_2= - 10^{-9}\text{C}$ ) is located on the y-axis at ( $y=-2$ ). Find the total force and electric field intensity on a small positive test charge ( $Q_t$ ) located at point  $(10,0,0)$ .

$$\vec{F}_t = \vec{F}_1 + \vec{F}_2$$

$$\vec{F}_1 = \frac{Q_1 Q_t}{4\pi\epsilon R_1^2} \hat{a}_{R1} \quad \text{and} \quad \vec{F}_2 = \frac{Q_2 Q_t}{4\pi\epsilon R_2^2} \hat{a}_{R2}$$

$$\vec{R}_1 = (10-0)\hat{a}_x + (0-2)\hat{a}_y + (0-0)\hat{a}_z = 10\hat{a}_x - 2\hat{a}_y$$

$$\vec{R}_2 = (10-0)\hat{a}_x + (0+2)\hat{a}_y + (0-0)\hat{a}_z = 10\hat{a}_x + 2\hat{a}_y$$

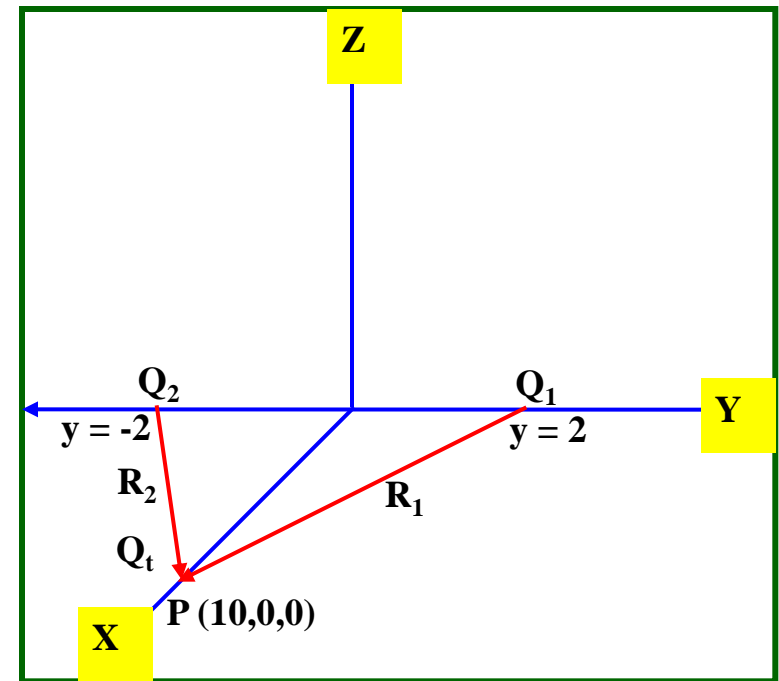
$$\hat{a}_{R1} = \frac{\vec{R}_1}{|\vec{R}_1|} = \frac{10\hat{a}_x - 2\hat{a}_y}{\sqrt{104}} \quad \hat{a}_{R2} = \frac{\vec{R}_2}{|\vec{R}_2|} = \frac{10\hat{a}_x + 2\hat{a}_y}{\sqrt{104}}$$

$$\vec{F}_t = \frac{Q_t}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left( \frac{Q_1}{R_1^3} (10\hat{a}_x - 2\hat{a}_y) + \frac{Q_2}{R_2^3} (10\hat{a}_x + 2\hat{a}_y) \right)$$

$$\vec{F}_t = \frac{9 \times 10^9 \times 10^{-9}}{104\sqrt{104}} Q_t (-4\hat{a}_y)$$

$$\therefore \vec{F}_t = -\frac{36Q_t}{104\sqrt{104}} \hat{a}_y \quad \text{and} \quad \vec{E} = \frac{\vec{F}}{Q_t}$$

$$\text{Then : } \vec{E} = -\frac{36}{104\sqrt{104}} \hat{a}_y$$



**Example(4):** Find the total electric field intensity at the origin due to a  $(10^{-8}\text{C})$  charge located at the point  $(0,4,4)$  and a  $(-0.5 \cdot 10^{-8})\text{C}$  charge located at point  $(4,0,4)$ .

$$\vec{F}_t = \vec{F}_1 + \vec{F}_2$$

$$\vec{F}_1 = \frac{Q_1 Q_t}{4\pi\epsilon R_1^2} \hat{a}_{R1} \quad \text{and} \quad \vec{F}_2 = \frac{Q_2 Q_t}{4\pi\epsilon R_2^2} \hat{a}_{R2}$$

$$\vec{R}_1 = (0-0)\hat{a}_x + (0-4)\hat{a}_y + (0-4)\hat{a}_z = -4\hat{a}_y - 4\hat{a}_z$$

$$\vec{R}_2 = (0-4)\hat{a}_x + (0-0)\hat{a}_y + (0-4)\hat{a}_z = -4\hat{a}_x - 4\hat{a}_z$$

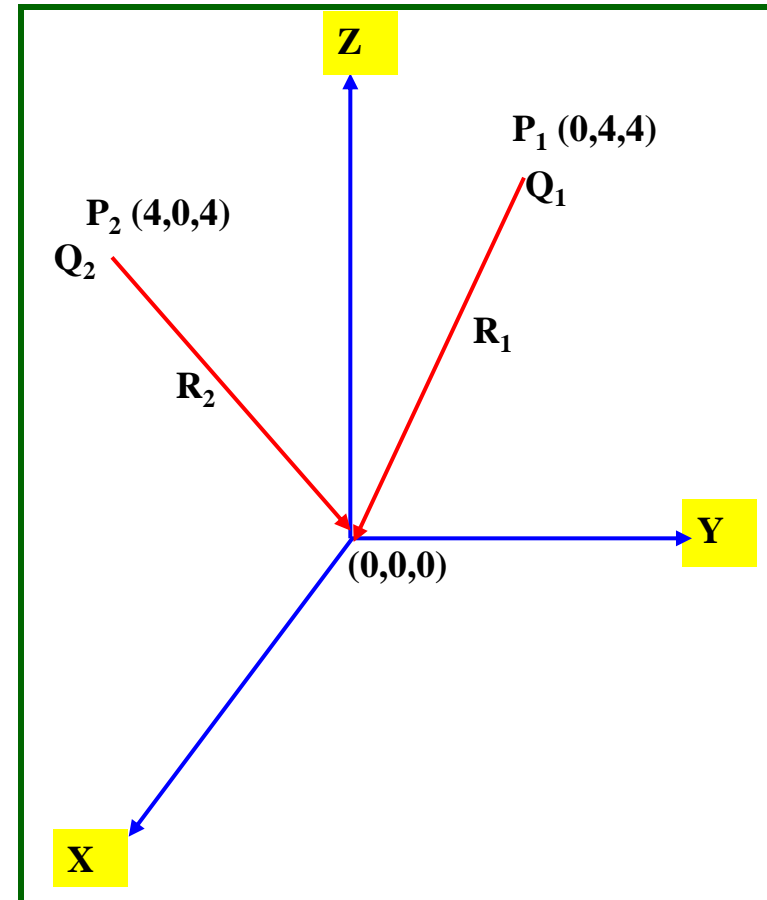
$$\hat{a}_{R1} = \frac{\vec{R}_1}{|\vec{R}_1|} = \frac{-4\hat{a}_y - 4\hat{a}_z}{\sqrt{32}} \quad \hat{a}_{R2} = \frac{\vec{R}_2}{|\vec{R}_2|} = \frac{-4\hat{a}_x - 4\hat{a}_z}{\sqrt{32}}$$

$$\vec{F}_t = \frac{Q_t}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left( \frac{Q_1}{R_1^3} (-4\hat{a}_y - 4\hat{a}_z) + \frac{Q_2}{R_2^3} (-4\hat{a}_x - 4\hat{a}_z) \right)$$

$$\vec{F}_t = \frac{9 \times 10^9 \times 10^{-8}}{32\sqrt{32}} Q_t (-4\hat{a}_y - 4\hat{a}_z + 2\hat{a}_x + 2\hat{a}_z)$$

$$\therefore \vec{F}_t = \frac{90 Q_t}{32\sqrt{32}} (2\hat{a}_x - 4\hat{a}_y - 2\hat{a}_z) \text{ N} \quad \text{and} \quad \vec{E} = \frac{\vec{F}}{Q_t}$$

$$\text{Then: } \vec{E} = \frac{90 Q_t}{32\sqrt{32}} (2\hat{a}_x - 4\hat{a}_y - 2\hat{a}_z) \text{ (N/C)}$$



### 3-4-2: Electric Field Intensity of a Uniform Line Charge Distribution:

The uniform line charge distributions may exist as straight line or curves. In the following the electric field intensity of a straight and circular (or ring) line charge distribution are determined with the help of vector calculus:

The uniform

(1). Find the electric field intensity at the  $z = 0$  - plane due to a straight line charge distributions ( $\rho_L$ ) located on the  $z$  - axis

**Solution:**

$$d\vec{E}_t = d\vec{E}_1 + d\vec{E}_2 \text{ -----(1)} \quad dq = \rho_L dl = \rho_L dz$$

$$d\vec{E}_t = \frac{dq}{4\pi\epsilon R_1^2} \hat{a}_{R1} + \frac{dq}{4\pi\epsilon R_2^2} \hat{a}_{R2} \text{ -----(2)}$$

$$\vec{R}_1 = \rho \hat{a}_\rho - h \hat{a}_z \quad |\vec{R}_1| = \sqrt{\rho^2 + h^2} \quad \hat{a}_{R1} = \frac{\vec{R}_1}{|\vec{R}_1|} = \frac{\rho \hat{a}_\rho - h \hat{a}_z}{\sqrt{\rho^2 + h^2}}$$

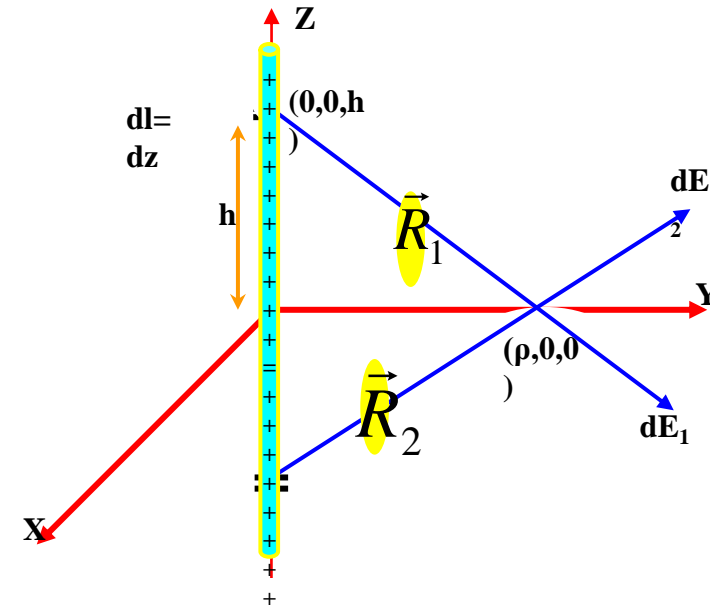
$$\vec{R}_2 = \rho \hat{a}_\rho + h \hat{a}_z \quad |\vec{R}_2| = \sqrt{\rho^2 + h^2} \quad \hat{a}_{R2} = \frac{\vec{R}_2}{|\vec{R}_2|} = \frac{\rho \hat{a}_\rho + h \hat{a}_z}{\sqrt{\rho^2 + h^2}}$$

$$d\vec{E}_t = \frac{\rho_L}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left[ \int_{-\infty}^0 \frac{dz (\rho \hat{a}_\rho + h \hat{a}_z)}{(\rho^2 + z^2)^{3/2}} + \int_0^{\infty} \frac{dz (\rho \hat{a}_\rho - h \hat{a}_z)}{(\rho^2 + z^2)^{3/2}} \right] \text{ -----(3)}$$

let :  $z = \rho \tan \theta$  ,  $dz = \rho \sec^2 \theta d\theta$

$$\vec{E} = \frac{\rho_L}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_{-\pi/2}^{\pi/2} \frac{\rho^2 \sec^2 \theta d\theta}{\rho^3 \sec^3 \theta} \hat{a}_\rho = \frac{\rho_L}{4\pi\epsilon_0 \rho} (\sin \theta) \Big|_{-\pi/2}^{\pi/2} \hat{a}_\rho$$

$$\vec{E} = \frac{\rho_L}{2\pi\epsilon_0 \rho} \hat{a}_\rho \quad \text{or in general} \quad \vec{E} = \frac{\rho_L}{2\pi\epsilon_0 r} \hat{a}_r$$





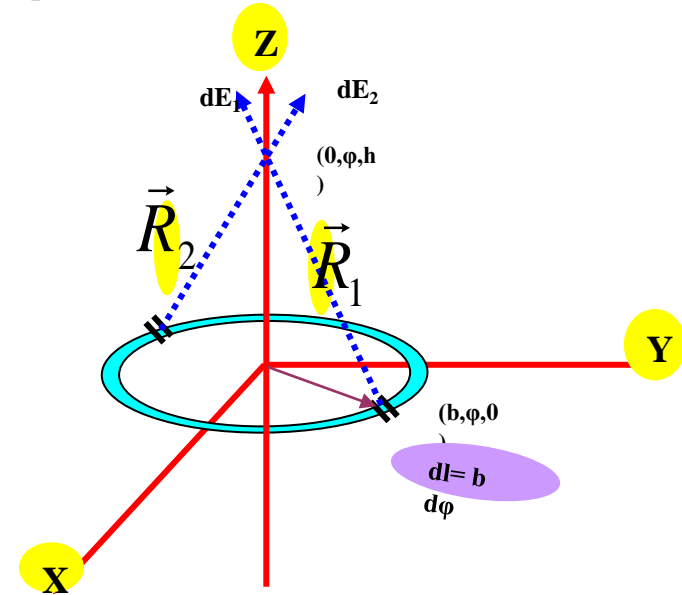
**(2.) Find the electric field intensity on the  $z$ -axis due to a line charge which is uniformly distributed over a ring with radius  $(b)$  located on the  $z = 0$ -plane**

$$d\vec{E}_t = d\vec{E}_1 + d\vec{E}_2 \text{ -----(1)} \quad dq = \rho_L dl = \rho_L b d\phi$$

$$d\vec{E}_t = \frac{dq}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R_1^2} \hat{a}_{R1} + \frac{dq}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R_2^2} \hat{a}_{R2} \text{ -----(3)}$$

$$\vec{R}_1 = -b\hat{a}_\rho + h\hat{a}_z \quad |\vec{R}_1| = \sqrt{b^2 + h^2} \quad \hat{a}_{R1} = \frac{\vec{R}_1}{|\vec{R}_1|} = \frac{-b\hat{a}_\rho + h\hat{a}_z}{\sqrt{b^2 + h^2}}$$

$$\vec{R}_2 = b\hat{a}_\rho + h\hat{a}_z \quad |\vec{R}_2| = \sqrt{b^2 + h^2} \quad \hat{a}_{R2} = \frac{\vec{R}_2}{|\vec{R}_2|} = \frac{b\hat{a}_\rho + h\hat{a}_z}{\sqrt{b^2 + h^2}}$$



$$d\vec{E}_t = \frac{\rho_L}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left[ \int_0^\pi \frac{b d\phi (-b\hat{a}_\rho + h\hat{a}_z)}{(b^2 + z^2)^{3/2}} + \int_\pi^{2\pi} \frac{b d\phi (b\hat{a}_\rho + h\hat{a}_z)}{(b^2 + z^2)^{3/2}} \right] \text{ -----(3)}$$

$$\vec{E} = \frac{\rho_L}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{bh d\phi}{(b^2 + h^2)^{3/2}} \hat{a}_z = \frac{\rho_L}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{bh}{(b^2 + h^2)^{3/2}} (2\pi) \hat{a}_z = \frac{\rho_L}{2\epsilon_0} \frac{bh}{(b^2 + h^2)^{3/2}} \hat{a}_z$$

$$Q = 2\pi\rho_L b \quad , \quad \text{then} \quad \vec{E} = \frac{Qh}{4\pi\epsilon_0 (b^2 + h^2)^{3/2}} \hat{a}_z$$

$$\text{and at the center of the ring } (h = 0) \quad \vec{E} = \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 b^3} \hat{a}_z$$

$$\text{while at } (b = 0) \quad \vec{E} = \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 h^2} \hat{a}_z \text{ as of point charge } e$$

### 3-4-3: Electric Field Intensity of a Uniform surface Charge Distribution:

Find the electric field intensity at point  $P(o, o, h)$  in free space at a height (h) on the  $z$ -axis due to a circular charge disk of radius (a) placed in the  $(xy - plane)$  or  $z = o$  plane

with uniform charge density  $\rho_s$  and then evaluate  $(\vec{E})$  for the infinite sheet case by letting  $a \rightarrow \infty$

$$d\vec{E} = \frac{dq}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R^2} \hat{a}_R = \frac{\rho_s ds}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R^2} \hat{a}_R \quad \text{and} \quad ds = \rho d\rho d\phi$$

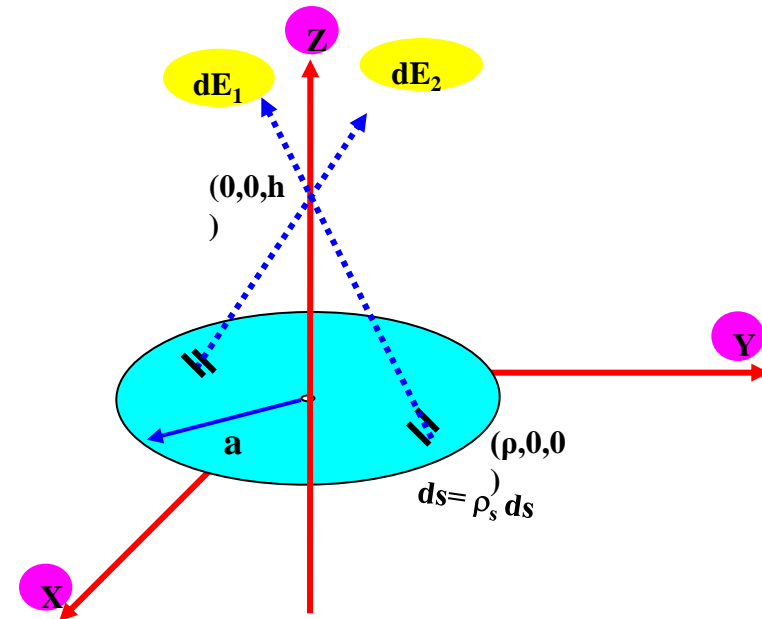
$$\vec{R} = -\rho \hat{a}_\rho + h \hat{a}_z \quad |\vec{R}| = \sqrt{\rho^2 + z^2} \quad \hat{a}_R = \frac{-\rho \hat{a}_\rho + h \hat{a}_z}{\sqrt{\rho^2 + z^2}}$$

Due to symmetry the component of electric field intensity along  $\rho$ -axis) or  $(\hat{a}_\rho)$ -component cancel each other, and then:

$$\vec{E} = \frac{\rho_s}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^a \frac{\rho h d\rho d\phi}{(\rho^2 + h^2)^{3/2}} \hat{a}_z = \frac{\rho_s h}{2\epsilon_0} \int_0^a \rho (\rho^2 + h^2)^{-3/2} d\rho \hat{a}_z$$

$$\vec{E} = \frac{\rho_s h}{2\epsilon_0} \times \frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{-1/2} \frac{1}{(\rho^2 + h^2)^{1/2}} \Big|_0^a = \frac{\rho_s h}{2\epsilon_0} \left[ \frac{1}{h} - \frac{1}{\sqrt{a^2 + h^2}} \right] \hat{a}_z$$

at  $(a \rightarrow \infty) \quad \vec{E} = \frac{\rho_s}{2\epsilon_0} \hat{a}_z$



Therefore, for any infinite sheet charges we can write the electric field intensity as:

$$\vec{E} = \frac{\rho_s}{2\epsilon_0} \hat{a}_n$$

**Example(5):** In free space, there is a point charge ( $Q = 8 \text{ nC}$ ) at  $(-2,0,0)$ , a line charge ( $\rho_l = 10 \text{ nC/m}$ ) at  $(y = -9 \text{ m})$ ,  $(x = 0)$  and a sheet of charges with ( $\rho_s = 10 \text{ nC/m}^2$ ) located at  $(z = -2 \text{ m})$ . Determine the electric field intensity at the origin due to these charge configurations.

**Solution:**

**The electric field intensity due to the point charge is given by:**

$$\vec{E}_Q = \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R_Q^2} \hat{a}_{RQ} \quad \vec{R}_Q = (0+2)\hat{a}_x + (0-0)\hat{a}_y + (0-0)\hat{a}_z = 2\hat{a}_x \quad \hat{a}_{RQ} = \frac{\vec{R}_Q}{|\vec{R}_Q|} = \frac{2\hat{a}_x}{2} = \hat{a}_x$$

$$\vec{E}_Q = 9 \times 10^9 \times 8 \times 10^{-9} \left( \frac{\hat{a}_x}{4} \right) \Rightarrow \vec{E}_Q = 18 \hat{a}_x \text{ (N/C)} \text{-----(1)}$$

**The electric field intensity due to the uniform line charge is given by:**

$$\vec{E}_l = \frac{\rho_l}{2\pi\epsilon_0 R_l} \hat{a}_{Rl} \quad \vec{R}_l = (0-0)\hat{a}_x + (0+9)\hat{a}_y + (0-0)\hat{a}_z = 9\hat{a}_y \quad \hat{a}_{Rl} = \frac{\vec{R}_l}{|\vec{R}_l|} = \frac{9\hat{a}_y}{9} = \hat{a}_y$$

$$\vec{E}_l = 2 \times 9 \times 10^9 \times 10 \times 10^{-9} \left( \frac{\hat{a}_y}{9} \right) \Rightarrow \vec{E}_l = 20 \hat{a}_y \text{ (N/C)} \text{-----(2)}$$

**The electric field intensity due to the uniform surface charge is given by:**

$$\vec{E}_s = \frac{\rho_s}{2\epsilon_0} \hat{a}_n \quad \text{since } \hat{a}_n = \hat{a}_z \Rightarrow \text{therefore : } \vec{E}_s = \frac{\rho_s}{2\epsilon_0} \hat{a}_z$$

$$\vec{E}_s = \frac{10 \times 10^{-9}}{2\pi \frac{10^{-9}}{36\pi}} \hat{a}_z \Rightarrow \vec{E}_s = 180 \hat{a}_z \text{ (N/C)} \text{-----(3)}$$

**Therefore, the total electric field intensity at the origin is the sum of the equations (1), (2) and (3) as given :**

$$\vec{E}_t = \vec{E}_Q + \vec{E}_l + \vec{E}_s = [18\hat{a}_x + 20\hat{a}_y + 180\hat{a}_z] \text{ (N/C)}$$

**Example(6):** Two uniform charge distributions are as follows: a sheet of uniform charge density ( $\rho_s = -50 \text{ nC/m}^2$ ) at ( $y = 2 \text{ m}$ ) and a uniform line charge density of ( $\rho_l = 0.2 \text{ micro Coulomb/m}$ ) at ( $z = 2 \text{ m}$ ) ( $y = -1 \text{ m}$ ). At what point in the region will the electric field intensity be zero?

### Solution:

The total electric field intensity due to these charge configurations is the sum of the electric field intensity due to line charge and surface charges which mathematically represented as:

$$\vec{E}_t = \vec{E}_l + \vec{E}_s \text{ ----- (1)}$$

when the total electric field intensity is equal to zero means that:  $0 = \vec{E}_l + \vec{E}_s \Rightarrow \Rightarrow -\vec{E}_s = \vec{E}_l \text{ ----- (2)}$

Hence, the electric field intensity produced by this line charge at a given point  $P(x_p, y_p, z_p)$  is calculated as:

$$\vec{E}_l = \frac{\rho_l}{2\pi\epsilon_0 R_l} \hat{a}_{R_l} \quad \vec{R}_l = (x_p - x)\hat{a}_x + (y_p + 1)\hat{a}_y + (z_p - 2)\hat{a}_z$$

$$|\vec{R}_l| = R_l = \sqrt{(x_p - x)^2 + (y_p + 1)^2 + (z_p - 2)^2} \quad \hat{a}_{R_l} = \frac{\vec{R}_l}{|\vec{R}_l|} = \frac{x_p \hat{a}_x + (y_p + 1)\hat{a}_y + (z_p - 2)\hat{a}_z}{\sqrt{(x_p - x)^2 + (y_p + 1)^2 + (z_p - 2)^2}}$$

$$\vec{E}_l = \frac{\rho_l}{2\pi\epsilon_0 \sqrt{(x_p - x)^2 + (y_p + 1)^2 + (z_p - 2)^2}} \frac{(x_p - x)\hat{a}_x + (y_p + 1)\hat{a}_y + (z_p - 2)\hat{a}_z}{\sqrt{(x_p - x)^2 + (y_p + 1)^2 + (z_p - 2)^2}}$$

$$\vec{E}_l = \frac{\rho_l}{2\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{(x_p - x)\hat{a}_x + (y_p + 1)\hat{a}_y + (z_p - 2)\hat{a}_z}{\left((x_p - x)^2 + (y_p + 1)^2 + (z_p - 2)^2\right)} = \frac{0.2 \times 10^{-6}}{2\pi \frac{10^{-9}}{36\pi}} \frac{(x_p - x)\hat{a}_x + (y_p + 1)\hat{a}_y + (z_p - 2)\hat{a}_z}{\left((x_p - x)^2 + (y_p + 1)^2 + (z_p - 2)^2\right)}$$

$$\vec{E}_l = 3.6 \times 10^3 \frac{(x_p - x)\hat{a}_x + (y_p + 1)\hat{a}_y + (z_p - 2)\hat{a}_z}{((x_p - x)^2 + (y_p + 1)^2 + (z_p - 2)^2)} \text{----- (3)}$$

Hence, the electric field intensity produced by this sheet charge at a given point  $P(x_p, y_p, z_p)$  is calculated as:

$$\vec{E}_s = \frac{\rho_s}{2\epsilon_0} \hat{a}_n \quad \text{since } \hat{a}_n = -\hat{a}_y \quad \text{hence: } \vec{E}_s = \frac{\rho_s}{2\epsilon_0} (-\hat{a}_y) = \frac{-50 \times 10^{-9}}{2 \frac{10^{-9}}{36\pi}} (-\hat{a}_y)$$

$$\vec{E}_s = 900\pi \hat{a}_y \text{----- (4)}$$

Substituting eqs.(3) and (4) into eq.(2) we get:

$$\vec{E}_l = -\vec{E}_s \Rightarrow -900\pi \hat{a}_y = 3.6 \times 10^3 \frac{(x_p - x)\hat{a}_x + (y_p + 1)\hat{a}_y + (z_p - 2)\hat{a}_z}{((x_p - x)^2 + (y_p + 1)^2 + (z_p - 2)^2)} \text{----- (5)}$$

Equating the component of (x) (y) and (z) from both side of the equation (5) we obtain:

$$0 \hat{a}_x = 3.6 \times 10^3 \frac{(x_p - x)\hat{a}_x}{((x_p - x)^2 + (y_p + 1)^2 + (z_p - 2)^2)} \Rightarrow x_p - x = 0 \Rightarrow x_p = x$$

$$0 \hat{a}_z = 3.6 \times 10^3 \frac{(z_p - 2)\hat{a}_z}{((x_p - x)^2 + (y_p + 1)^2 + (z_p - 2)^2)} \Rightarrow z_p - 2 = 0 \Rightarrow z_p = 2$$

$$-900\pi \hat{a}_y = 3.6 \times 10^3 \frac{(y_p + 1)\hat{a}_y}{((x - x)^2 + (y_p + 1)^2 + (2 - 2)^2)} \Rightarrow \frac{-900}{3.6 \times 10^3} = \frac{(y_p + 1)}{(y_p + 1)^2}$$

$$(y_p + 1) = \frac{3.6 \times 10^3}{-900\pi} = -1.273$$

$$y_p = -2.273$$

Therefore, the coordinate of the point at which the electric field intensity is zero due to these charge density configurations is :

$$(x_p, y_p, z_p) = (x, -2.273, 2)m$$

## Home Work

**Q<sub>1</sub>**/ An infinitely long line charge  $\rho_L = 21\pi \frac{nC}{m}$  lies along the z-axis. An infinite area sheet charge  $\rho_S = 3 \frac{nC}{m^2}$  lies in the xz-plane ( $y=0$ ). Find a point on the y-axis where the electric field intensity is zero ?

**Q<sub>2</sub>**/ Plane  $z = 10m$  carries charge  $\rho_S = 20 \frac{nC}{m^2}$ . The electric field intensity at the origin is :

**a-**  $-10\hat{a}_z \frac{v}{m}$

**b-**  $-72\pi\hat{a}_z \frac{v}{m}$

**c-**  $-18\pi\hat{a}_z \frac{v}{m}$

**c-**  $360\pi\hat{a}_z \frac{v}{m}$

**Q<sub>3</sub>**/ A point charge (100)pC is located at (4,1,-3), while the x-axis carries line charge  $\rho_L = 2 \frac{nC}{m}$ . If the plane  $z = 3m$  also carries surface charge of  $\rho_S = 5 \frac{nC}{m^2}$ , then find the electric field intensity  $\vec{E}$  due to these charges at point (1,1,1) ?

**Q<sub>4</sub>**/ Line  $x = 3, z = -1$  carries line charge  $\rho_L = 20 \frac{nC}{m}$ , while plane  $x = -2$  carries surface charge of  $\rho_S = 4 \frac{nC}{m^2}$ . Find the force on a point charge  $Q = -5mC$  located at the origin due these two charge distributions ?

**Q<sub>5</sub>**/ Charge  $Q_1 = 4 \mu C$  is located at (1,1,0)cm and charge  $Q_2$  is located at (0,0,4)cm. What should  $Q_2$  be so that  $\vec{E}$  at (0,2,0)cm has no y-component?

**Q<sub>6</sub>/** A uniform charge distribution, infinite in extent, lies along the z-axis with  $\rho_L = 20 \frac{nC}{m}$

. Find the electric field  $\vec{E}$  at (6,8,3)m, expressing it in both Cartesian and cylindrical coordinates.

**Q<sub>7</sub>/** Two identical uniform line charges of  $\rho_L = 4 \frac{nC}{m}$ , are parallel to the z-axis at  $x = 0$ ,  $y = \mp 4 m$

. Determine the electric field  $\vec{E}$  at  $(\pm 4, 0, z)$ . Ans.  $(\pm 18 \hat{a}_x V/m)$ .

**Q<sub>8</sub>/** Two identical uniform line charges of  $\rho_L = 5 \frac{nC}{m}$  are parallel to the x-axis, one at  $z = 0$ ,  $y = -2m$

and the other at  $z = 0$ ,  $y = 4m$ . Find the  $\vec{E}$  at (4,1,3) ? Ans.  $(30 \hat{a}_z V/m)$ .

**Q<sub>9</sub>/** Determine  $\vec{E}$  at the origin due to a uniform line charge distribution with  $\rho_L = 3.3 \frac{nC}{m}$  located at

$x = 3m$ ,  $y = 4m$  ? Ans.  $(-7.13 \hat{a}_x - 9.5 \hat{a}_y V/m)$ .

**Q<sub>10</sub>/** Two meters from the z-axis, the value of electric field intensity due to a uniform line charge along the z-axis is known to be  $(1.8 \times 10^4 V/m)$ . Find the value of this line charge density  $\rho_L$ ?  $(2) \mu C$ .