#### Electrostatics – Set 4 Name: \_\_\_\_\_

The figure below shows a thin, uniformly charged disk of radius R. Imagine the disk divided into rings of varying radii r, as suggested in the figure.

- (a) Show that the area of such a ring is very nearly  $2 \pi r dr$ .
- (b) If the surface charge density on the disk is  $\sigma C/m^2$ , use the result of part (a) to write an expression for the charge dq on an infinitesimal ring.
- (c) Use the result of part (b) along with the electric field of a charged ring of radius *r* at a distance *x* along the axis:  $E = \frac{kQx}{(x^2+r^2)^{3/2}}$  to write the infinitesimal electric field *dE* of this ring at a point on the disk axis, taken to be the positive *x* axis.
- (d) Integrate over all such rings (from r = 0 to r = R) to show that the net electric field on the disk axis has magnitude  $E = 2\pi k\sigma \left(1 \frac{x}{\sqrt{x^2 + R^2}}\right)$



Suppose that you design an apparatus in which a uniformly charged disk of radius R is to produce an electric field. The field magnitude is most important along the central perpendicular axis of the disk, at a point P a distance 2R from the disk. Cost analysis suggests that you use a ring with the same outer radius but an inner radius of R/2. Assume that the ring will have the same surface charge density as the original disk. By what percentage will the field be decreased with the new disk?



- a) Calculate the field a distance *a* away from an infinitely long wire with linear charge density  $\lambda$ .
- b) Show that the field next to a line of charge of length *L* becomes the field of an infinite line as *a* approaches zero.

The field of a line of length L and charge Q is:  $\vec{E} = \frac{kQ}{a\sqrt{a^2 + L^2/4}}$ 



Imagine that a particle with charge -q and mass *m* follows a circular orbit around an infinitely long wire (the wire is perpendicular to the orbial plane). Find a formula for the particle's orbital speed in terms of q, m, the wire's charge density  $\lambda$ , and the constant k.

A total charge +Q is uniformly distributed over the shape shown in the figure (an arc connected to a straight rod).

- (a) Write an expression for the linear charge density  $\lambda$  of the entire object in terms of *Q* and *R*. Simplify your expression.
- (b) Find the electric field <u>vector</u> at the origin in terms of given quantities and appropriate constants. Show all steps; don't just use previously derived answers. Simplify your expression and write it in terms of *k*, *Q*, and *R*.

Hint: Think of the rod and arc separately, then combine the field vectors from each. (You've seen each of those problems by themselves.)



#### Page 5

Two uniformly charged disks of radius *R* are parallel to each other and have opposite charges  $\pm Q$  and surface charge densities  $\pm \sigma$ . (a) Calculate the electric field vector at the midpoint of their central axis, a distance *a* from each disk. Show all work (but you may use symmetry to simplify it, and you may use your previous result for a *ring* without deriving it again). Write your answer in terms of *k*, *a*, *R*, and  $\sigma$ .



## Page 6

A charged ball of mass *m* and charge *q* is hanging motionless from a silk thread of length *L* on a very long charged wire with charge density  $\lambda$ . Assuming that the wire is perpendicular to the floor, find an expression for the distance, *a*, that the ball will hover from the wire.

