

Electrostatic field along the symmetry axis of a charged pipe

On the pipe: (radius  $a$ , extends from  $-h$  to  $+h$ , surface charge  $\sigma$ )

$$dq_i = \sigma a d\varphi dz_i$$

$$\vec{r}_i = x_i \hat{x} + y_i \hat{y} + z_i \hat{z} \rightarrow \vec{r}_i = a \cos \varphi \hat{x} + a \sin \varphi \hat{y} + z_i \hat{z}$$

$$\vec{r}_p = z_p \hat{z} \Rightarrow \vec{r}_{ip} = -a \cos \varphi \hat{x} - a \sin \varphi \hat{y} + (z_p - z_i) \hat{z}$$

$$\vec{E} = k a \sigma \int_{\varphi=0}^{2\pi} \int_{z_i=-h}^{z_i=h} \frac{-a \cos \varphi \hat{x} - a \sin \varphi \hat{y} + (z_p - z_i) \hat{z}}{[a^2 + (z_p - z_i)^2]^{\frac{3}{2}}} d\varphi dz_i = 2\pi k a \sigma \int_{z_i=-h}^{z_i=h} \frac{(z_p - z_i) \hat{z}}{[a^2 + (z_p - z_i)^2]^{\frac{3}{2}}} dz_i$$

$$\vec{E} = 2\pi k a \sigma \left[ \frac{\hat{z}}{\sqrt{a^2 + (z_p - z_i)^2}} \right]_{z_i=-h}^{z_i=h} = 2\pi k a \sigma \hat{z} \left[ \frac{1}{\sqrt{a^2 + (z_p - h)^2}} - \frac{1}{\sqrt{a^2 + (z_p + h)^2}} \right]$$

This vanishes in the very center of the pipe.

What happens as  $h$  becomes big? Then  $z_p$  is insignificant and again  $E$  approaches zero.