

13) a) There is no dependence on ϕ , thus ψ is a function of ρ and θ only.

Moreover, there is symmetry between points above and below the xy -plane, having the same x and y coordinates, but differing signs for the z -coordinate, namely, $\pm z$. Thus $\psi(\rho, \theta) = \psi(\rho, \pi - \theta)$.

$$b) \vec{E} = -\vec{\nabla}\psi \Rightarrow \vec{E}(\rho, \theta, \phi) = -\frac{\partial\psi}{\partial\rho} \hat{\rho} - \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial\psi}{\partial\theta} \hat{\theta} - \frac{1}{\rho \sin\theta} \frac{\partial\psi}{\partial\phi} \hat{\phi}.$$

Since ψ is not dependent on ϕ , we conclude that $E_\phi = 0$. Thus,

$$E_\rho(\rho, \theta) = -\frac{\partial}{\partial\rho} \psi(\rho, \theta) \text{ and } E_\theta(\rho, \theta) = -\frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial}{\partial\theta} \psi(\rho, \theta). \text{ Symmetry with respect to the } xy\text{-plane shows that } E_\rho(\rho, \theta) = E_\rho(\rho, \pi - \theta) \text{ and } E_\theta(\rho, \theta) = -E_\theta(\rho, \pi - \theta).$$

c) In general, we have already seen that $E_\phi = 0$ everywhere. As for E_θ , the odd symmetry obtained in part (b), namely, $E_\theta(\rho, \theta) = -E_\theta(\rho, \pi - \theta)$, dictates that at $\theta = \pi/2$ we must have $E_\theta(\rho, \pi/2) = -E_\theta(\rho, \pi/2)$. This is possible only if $E_\theta(\rho, \pi/2) = 0$. We conclude, therefore, that at $(\rho > R, \theta = \pi/2, \phi)$ $E_\theta = E_\phi = 0$.

d) Using Gauss' law, $\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{E} = \rho/\epsilon_0$, applied to a small pillbox at the surface of the disk, and the symmetry condition that $E_\theta^{\text{above}} = -E_\theta^{\text{below}}$. We find $E_\theta^{(A)} = -E_\theta^{(B)} = -\frac{1}{2} \sigma_s / \epsilon_0$.

e) We can only say that $E_\rho^{(A)} = E_\rho^{(B)}$, either from symmetry discussed in part (b), or from the boundary condition derived from $\vec{\nabla}_x \vec{E} = -\frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial t}$ that asserts that the tangential component of \vec{E} is always continuous.

Note that the discontinuity of $E_\theta(\rho < R, \theta = \pi/2, \phi)$ at the disk surface does not imply a discontinuity for $\psi(\rho, \theta)$ at the disk surface, but only for its first derivative.