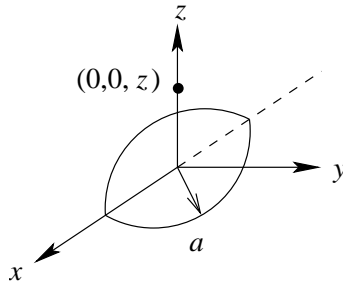


EE331—EXAMPLE #19: ELECTRIC POTENTIAL

A circular ring of charge of radius = a m lies in the $z = 0$ plane and is centered at the origin. Assume ρ_L has a constant value ρ_0 and $\varepsilon = \varepsilon_0$. Find V at $(0, 0, z)$.

First make a sketch and choose the appropriate coordinate system.



Next write down the appropriate form of the equation for the electric potential. In this case we have a line charge density so we choose

$$V(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_0} \int \frac{\rho_L dl'}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|} = \frac{\rho_0}{4\pi\varepsilon_0} \int \frac{dl'}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|}$$

Next we identify \mathbf{r} , \mathbf{r}' , dl' , $|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|$, and the limits of integration:

$$\mathbf{r} = z\hat{\mathbf{a}}_z \text{ [m]}$$

$$\mathbf{r}' = a\hat{\mathbf{a}}_\rho \text{ [m]}$$

$$dl' = a d\phi' \text{ [m]}$$

$$|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'| = \sqrt{z^2 + a^2} \text{ [m]}$$

and the limits of integration are $0 \rightarrow 2\pi$. Thus,

$$V(0, 0, z) = \frac{\rho_0}{4\pi\varepsilon_0} \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{a d\phi'}{\sqrt{z^2 + a^2}} = \frac{\rho_0 a}{4\pi\varepsilon_0 \sqrt{z^2 + a^2}} \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi' = \frac{\rho_0 a}{2\varepsilon_0 \sqrt{z^2 + a^2}} \text{ [V]}$$