

83. (Fourth problem in **Cluster**)

It is clear by symmetry that  $x_{\text{com}} = B/2$  for the system. The value of  $y_{\text{com}}$  is found as follows. If the thickness is  $\Delta z$  and the density is  $\rho$ , then the relation between the mass element  $dm$  and a height element  $dy$  is

$$dm = \rho \Delta z \ell_y dy = \frac{M}{A} \ell_y dy$$

where the area of the semicircle is  $A = \frac{1}{2}\pi R^2$  and the length of each horizontal “strip” at height  $y$  is  $\ell_y = 2\sqrt{R^2 - y^2}$ . Therefore, using Eq. 9-9, we find

$$\begin{aligned} y_{\text{com}} &= \frac{1}{M} \int_0^R y \frac{M}{A} 2\sqrt{R^2 - y^2} dy \\ &= \frac{2}{\frac{1}{2}\pi R^2} \int_0^R y \sqrt{R^2 - y^2} dy \\ &= \frac{4}{\pi R^2} \left[ -\frac{1}{3} (R^2 - y^2)^{3/2} \right]_0^R \\ &= \frac{4R}{3\pi} . \end{aligned}$$