

Wednesday Feb 15, 2017

# Last time:

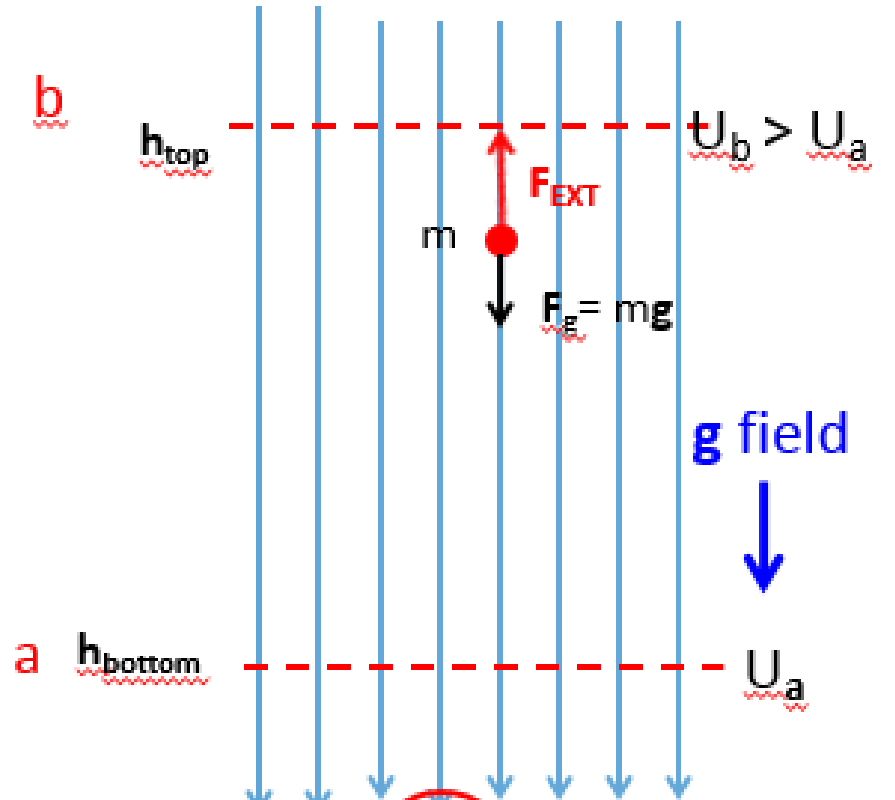
- Midterm review

# Today:

- Electric potential energy: uniform E-field
- Electric potential energy: 2 point charges
- Electric potential energy of a collection of charges
- Electric potential (very important concept)

# Gravitational & Electric Fields

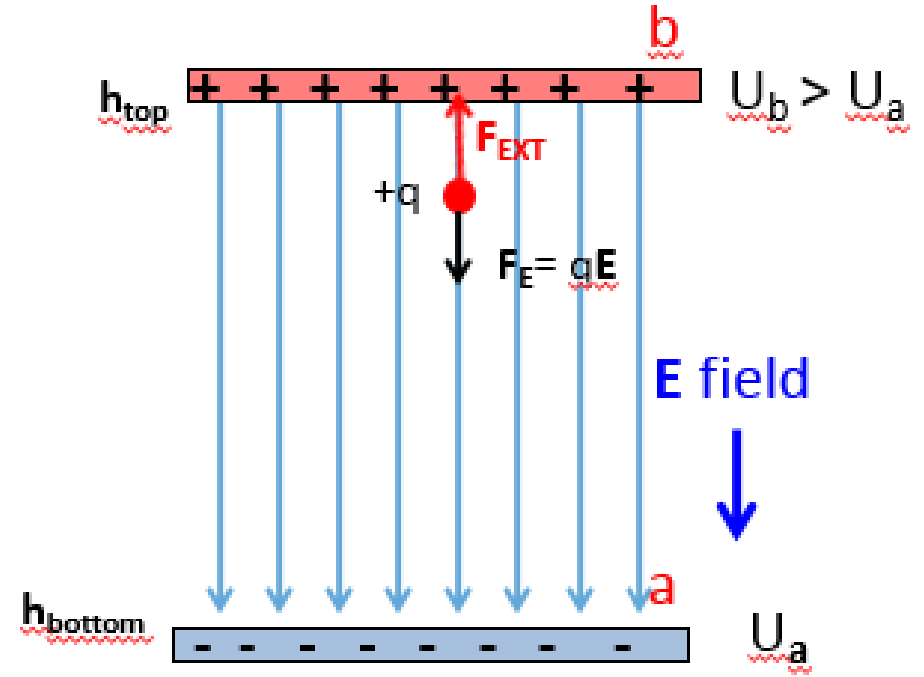
(Simple case: uniform fields)



$$WORK_{EXT} = F_{EXT} \times \Delta h = mg\Delta h$$

$$WORK_{EXT}^{a \rightarrow b} = U_b^g - U_a^g > 0$$

$$WORK_g^{a \rightarrow b} = -(U_b^g - U_a^g)$$



$$WORK_{EXT} = F_{EXT} \times \Delta h = qE\Delta h$$

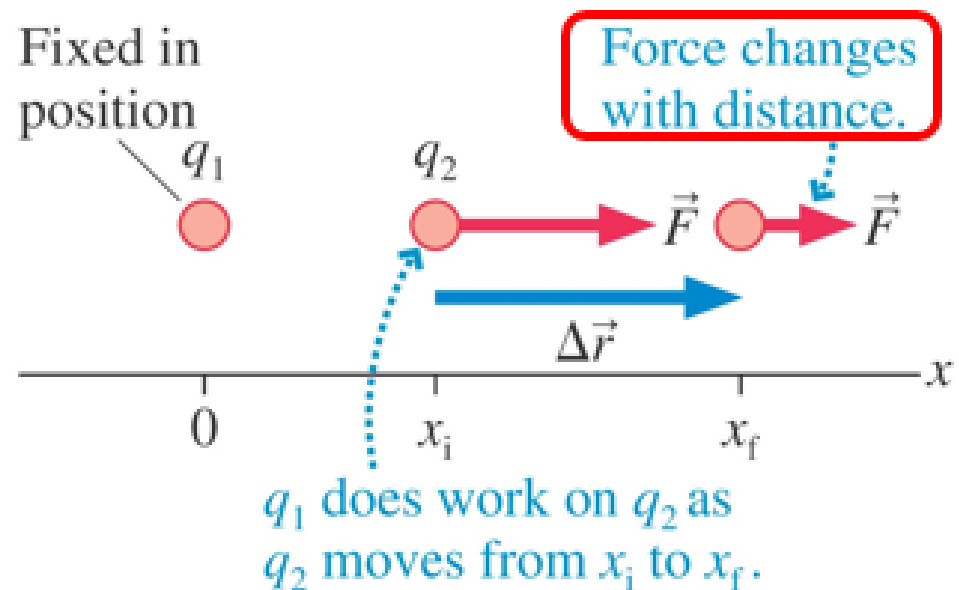
$$WORK_{EXT}^{a \rightarrow b} = U_b^E - U_a^E > 0$$

$$WORK_E^{a \rightarrow b} = -(U_b^E - U_a^E)$$

# Finding Potential Energy of two point charges (more building blocks)

$$W_{i \rightarrow f}^{ELEC} = -\Delta U$$

$$F = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q_1 q_2}{r^2}$$

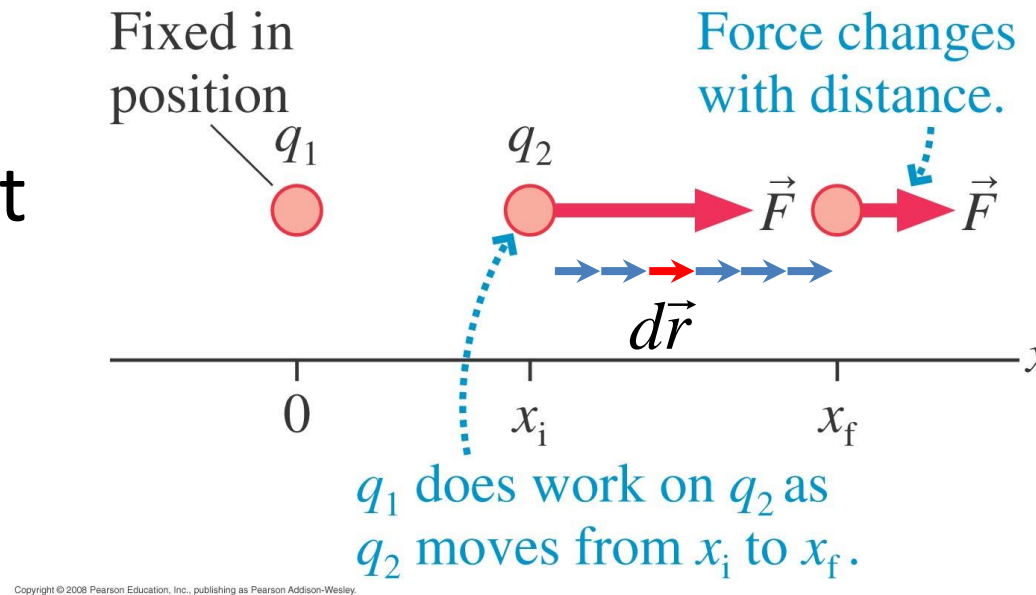


The field is **not** uniform so  $\vec{F}$  is **not** constant over the displacement  $\Delta r$  and we **cannot** use

$$W_{i \rightarrow f}^{ELEC} = F \Delta r$$

# Finding Potential Energy of two point charges (more building blocks)

Break the displacement  $\Delta \vec{r}$  into many tiny displacements  $d\vec{r}$ .

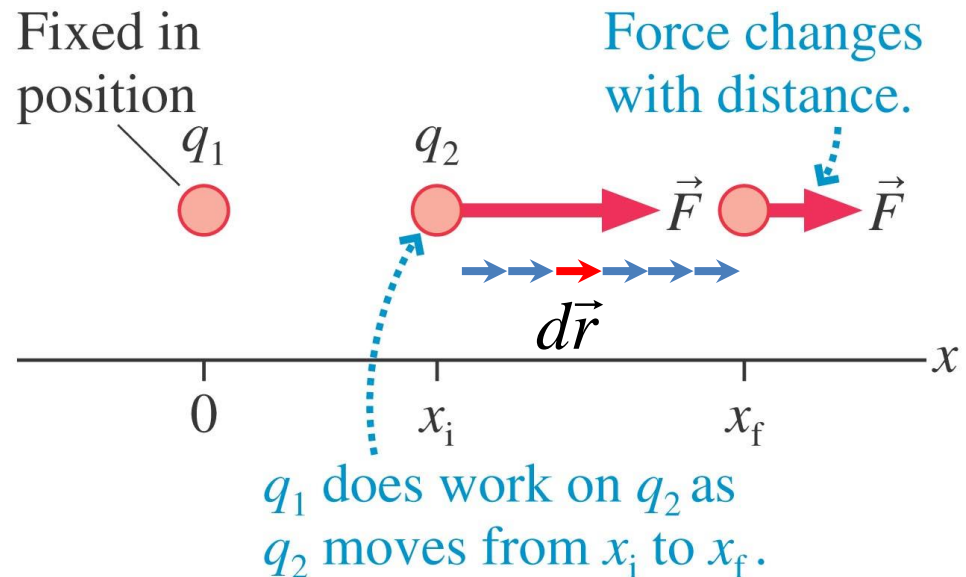


$\vec{F}$  is essentially constant over such a small displacement, so the work done on  $q_2$  in **each** displacement is  $Fdr$ .

# Finding Potential Energy of two point charges (more building blocks)

The total work is the sum of all the little bits of work:

$$W_{i \rightarrow f}^{ELEC} = \int_{r_i}^{r_f} F dr$$



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$$W_{i \rightarrow f}^{ELEC} = \int_{r_i}^{r_f} \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q_1 q_2}{r^2} dr$$

# Finding Potential Energy of two point charges (more building blocks)

Work done **by electric force**:

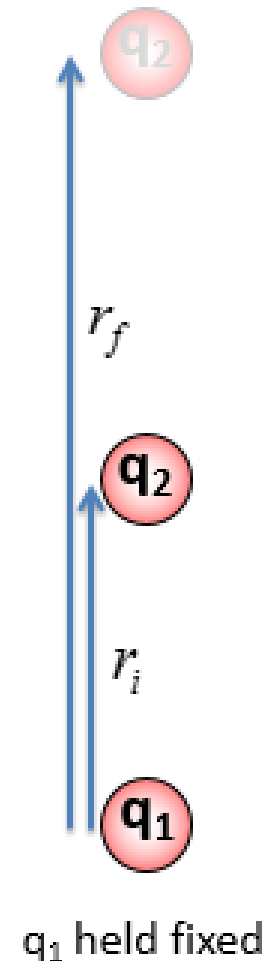
$$W_{i \rightarrow f}^{ELEC} = \int_{r_i}^{r_f} \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q_1 q_2}{r^2} dr = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} q_1 q_2 \int_{r_i}^{r_f} r^{-2} dr$$

Recall from integral calculus

$$\int_{x_i}^{x_f} x^n dx = \frac{1}{n+1} x^{n+1} \Big|_{x_i}^{x_f} = \frac{1}{n+1} (x_f^{n+1} - x_i^{n+1})$$

In our case, let  $x \rightarrow r$ , then we have


$$W_{i \rightarrow f}^{ELEC} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} q_1 q_2 \int_{r_i}^{r_f} r^{-2} dr = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} q_1 q_2 \left( \frac{1}{-2+1} r^{-2+1} \right) \Big|_{r_i}^{r_f}$$



# Finding Potential Energy of two point charges (more building blocks)

$$W_{i \rightarrow f}^{ELEC} = - \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q_1 q_2}{r} \bigg|_{r_i}^{r_f}$$

$$W_{i \rightarrow f}^{ELEC} = - \left( \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q_1 q_2}{r_f} - \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q_1 q_2}{r_i} \right)$$


$$W_{i \rightarrow f}^{ELEC} = -\Delta U = -(U_f - U_i) = U_i - U_f$$



Then the potential energy of two point charges a distance  $r$  apart is

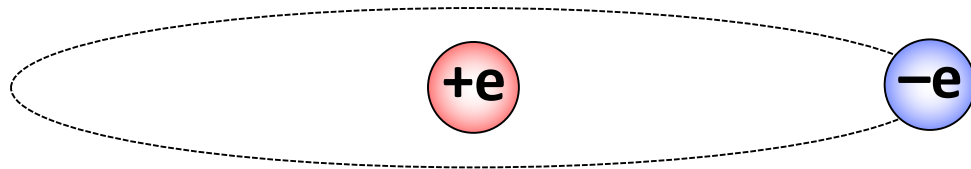
$$U_e = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q_1 q_2}{r} + U_0$$

(1) There is a  $U_0$ , but we normally set it to zero.

(2) The potential energy of two charges an infinite distance apart ( $r = \infty$ ) is zero.

# TopHat Question

The Bohr model of the hydrogen atom consists of an electron orbiting a proton with a radius of  $r_B = 0.529 \times 10^{-10} \text{ m}$ . What is the electric potential energy of a hydrogen atom in this model **in units of eV**?



$$\epsilon_0 = 8.85 \times 10^{-12} \text{ C}^2 / \text{N m}^2$$

$$e = 1.60 \times 10^{-19} \text{ C}$$

$$1 \text{ eV} = 1.60 \times 10^{-19} \text{ J}$$

A.  $-13.6 \text{ eV}$

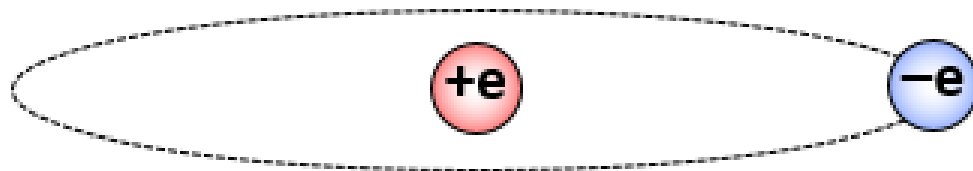
C.  $-5.75 \times 10^{11} \text{ eV}$

B.  $-27.2 \text{ eV}$

D.  $-9.21 \times 10^{-8} \text{ eV}$

# TopHat Question

The Bohr model of the hydrogen atom consists of an electron orbiting a proton with a radius of  $r_B = 0.529 \times 10^{-10} \text{ m}$ . What is the electric potential energy of a hydrogen atom in this model **in units of eV**?



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$$e = 1.60 \times 10^{-19} \text{ C}$$

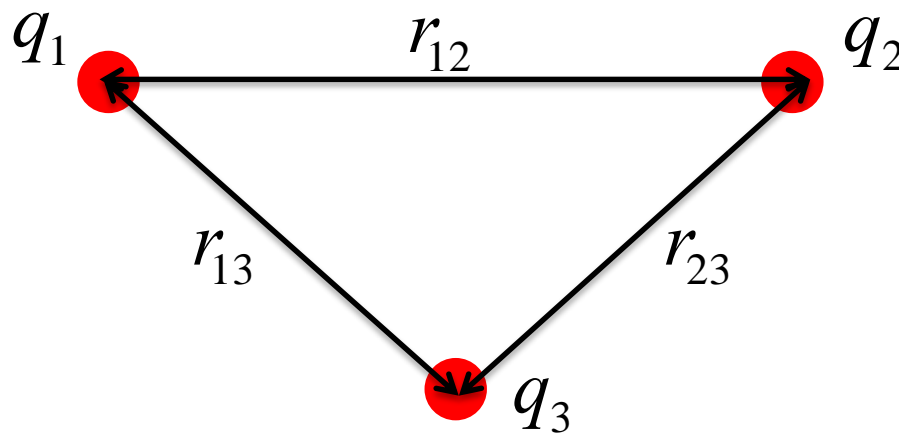
$$1 \text{ eV} = 1.60 \times 10^{-19} \text{ J}$$

$$U_e = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q_1 q_2}{r} = -\frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{e^2}{r_B} \quad \longrightarrow \quad U_e = -4.60 \times 10^{-18} \text{ J}$$

$$U_e = (-4.60 \times 10^{-18} \cancel{\text{J}}) \left( \frac{1 \text{ eV}}{1.60 \times 10^{-19} \cancel{\text{J}}} \right) = -27.2 \text{ eV}$$

The kinetic energy of the electron is +13.6 eV, so the binding energy of H is -13.6 eV.

# Superposition: Potential Energy due to Multiple Charges



$$U_{total} = U_{12} + U_{23} + U_{13}$$

$$U_{12} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q_1 q_2}{r_{12}}$$

$$U_{23} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q_2 q_3}{r_{23}}$$

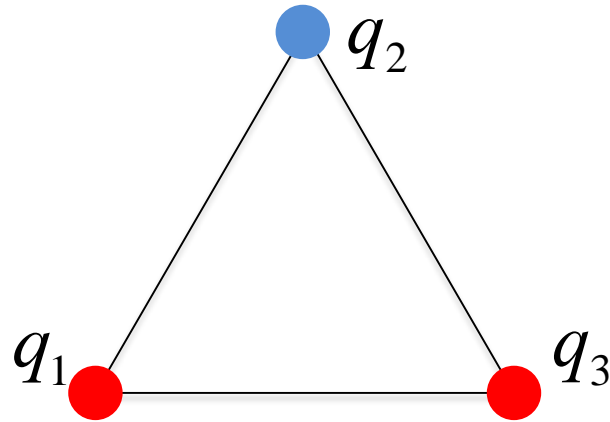
$$U_{13} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q_1 q_3}{r_{13}}$$

In general, the total potential energy is just the sum of the pairwise potential energies of all the charges present. Calculate  $U$  between each pair, then sum all of them up.

# TopHat Question

Three charges  $q_1 = 1.0 \text{ nC}$ ,  $q_2 = -2.0 \text{ nC}$ , and  $q_3 = 3.0 \text{ nC}$  are fixed in an equilateral triangle of side length  $d = 5.0 \text{ cm}$ . What is the electric potential energy of this configuration?

$$U_{ij} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q_i q_j}{r_{ij}}$$



$$\epsilon_0 = 8.85 \times 10^{-12} \text{ C}^2 / \text{N m}^2$$

$$U_{12} = -3.596 \times 10^{-7} \text{ J}$$

$$U_{23} = -1.079 \times 10^{-6} \text{ J}$$

$$U_{13} = +5.394 \times 10^{-7} \text{ J}$$

A.  $2.0 \times 10^{-6} \text{ J}$

C.  $-9.0 \times 10^{-7} \text{ J}$

B.  $1.3 \times 10^{-6} \text{ J}$

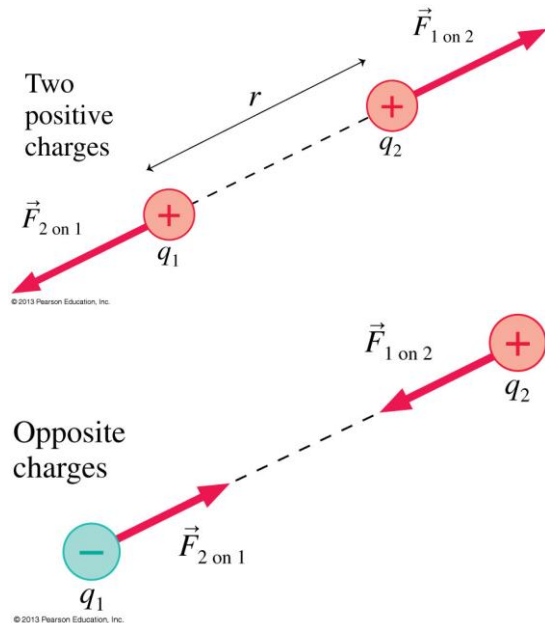
D.  $-1.8 \times 10^{-7} \text{ J}$

# Electric Force vs Electric Field

Electric Force  $\vec{F}$

$$\vec{F} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{Qq}{r^2} = q\vec{E}$$

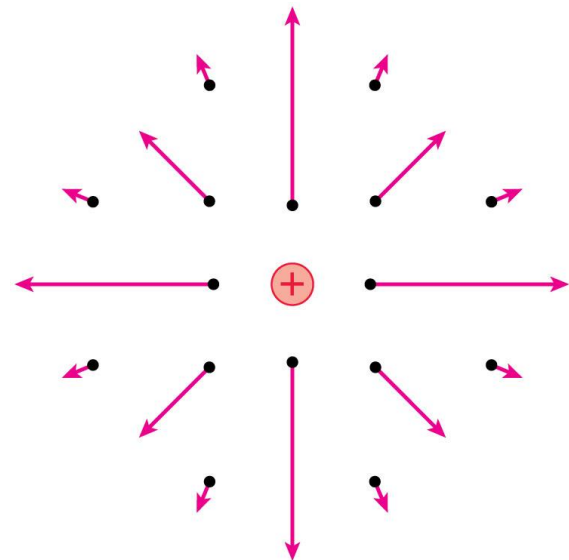
A physical property between two point charges



Electric Field  $\vec{E}$

$$\vec{E} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{Q}{r^2}$$

A physical property around a single point charge



# Electric Force vs Electric Field

Electric Force  $\vec{F}$

Electric Field  $\vec{E}$

$$\vec{F} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{Qq}{r^2} = q\vec{E}$$

A point  
two

Potential energy is a physical property that exists because of the force between two charges.

Is there some similar notion of "potential energy" that exists only because of the electric field?

Two  
positive  
charges

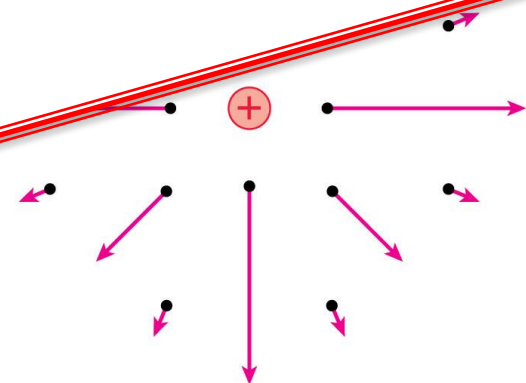
$\vec{F}_{2 \text{ on } 1}$

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Opposite  
charges

$q_1$

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# Electric Potential



Here are some source charges and a point P.

If we place a charge  $q$  at point P, then  $q$  and the source charges interact with each other.

The interaction energy is the potential energy of  $q$  and the source charges,

$$U_{q+sources}$$

How does this interaction happen?



# Electric Potential



## Model:

The source charges create a **potential for interaction** everywhere, including at point P.

This potential for interaction is a **property of space**. Charge  $q$  does not need to be there.

We call this potential for interaction the **electric potential,  $V$** . (Often just called “the potential”)

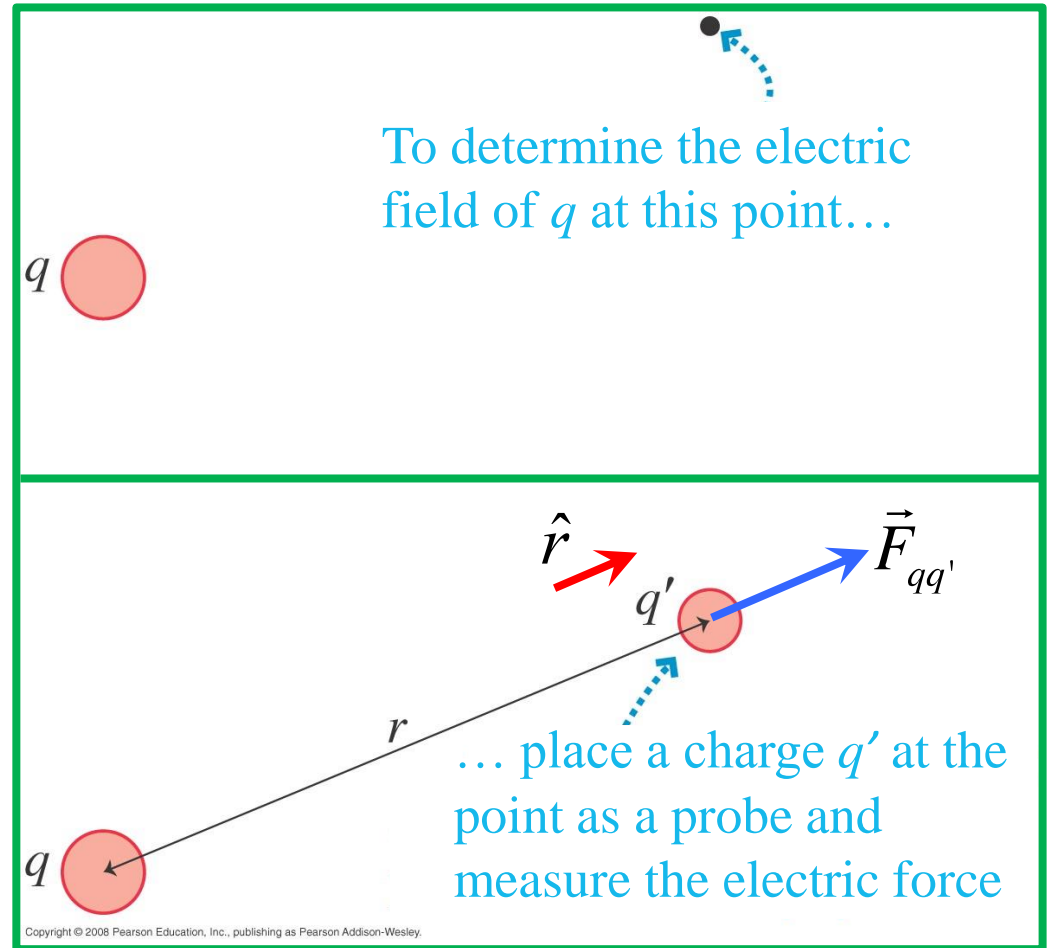
# Electric Field of a point charge

Electric force on  $q'$   
from  $q$

$$\vec{F}_{qq'} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{qq'}{r^2} \hat{r}$$

Then the electric  
field of  $q$  is

$$\vec{E} = \frac{\vec{F}_{qq'}}{q'} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q}{r^2} \hat{r}$$



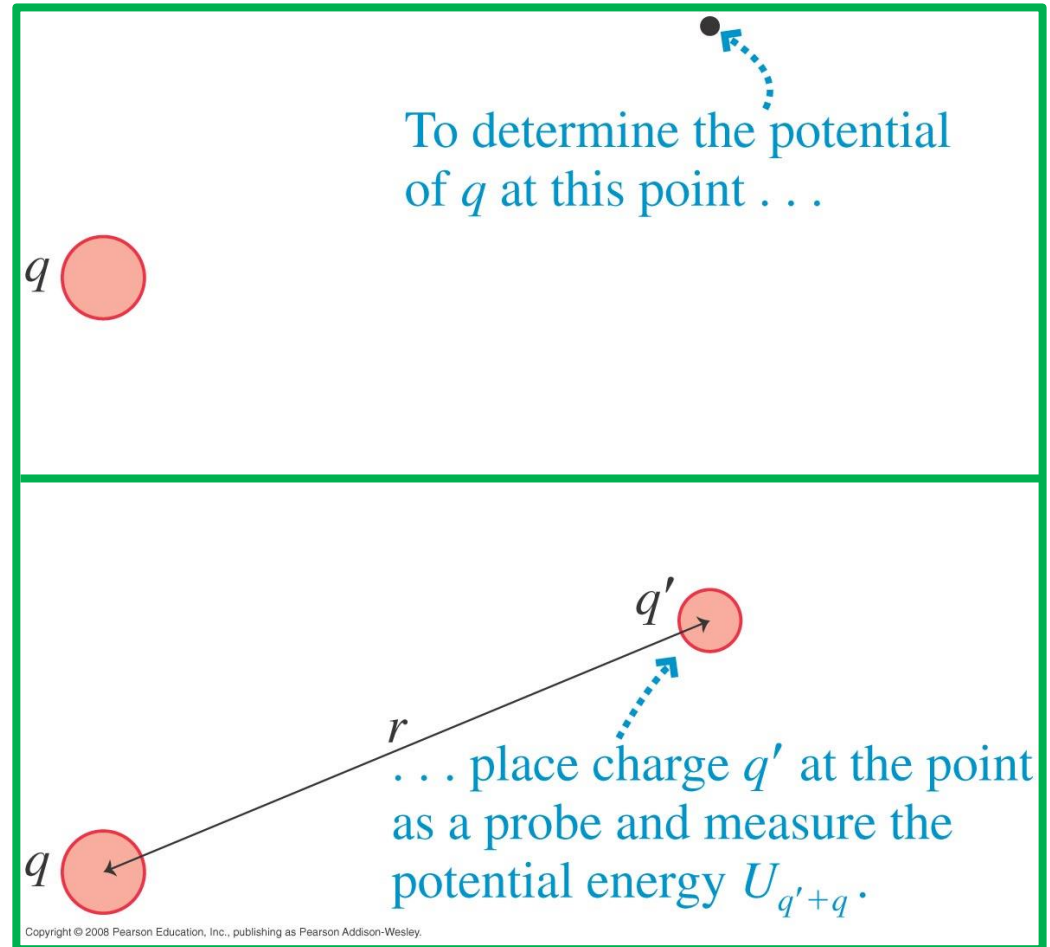
# Electric Potential of a point charge

Potential energy of  $q$  and  $q'$

$$U_{q'+q} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{qq'}{r}$$

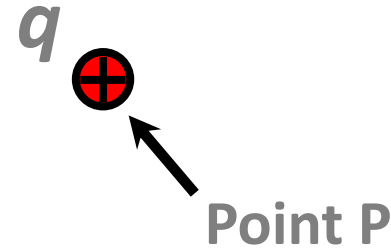
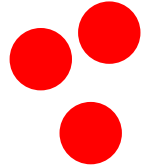
Then the potential of  $q$  is

$$V = \frac{U_{q'+q}}{q'} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q}{r}$$



# Electric Potential

source  
charges



**Definition of V:** Place charge  $q$  at point P and measure its potential energy. Then

$$V \equiv \frac{U_{q+sources}}{q}$$

**Unit:**  $1 \text{ volt} = 1 \text{ V} = 1 \frac{\text{J}}{\text{C}}$

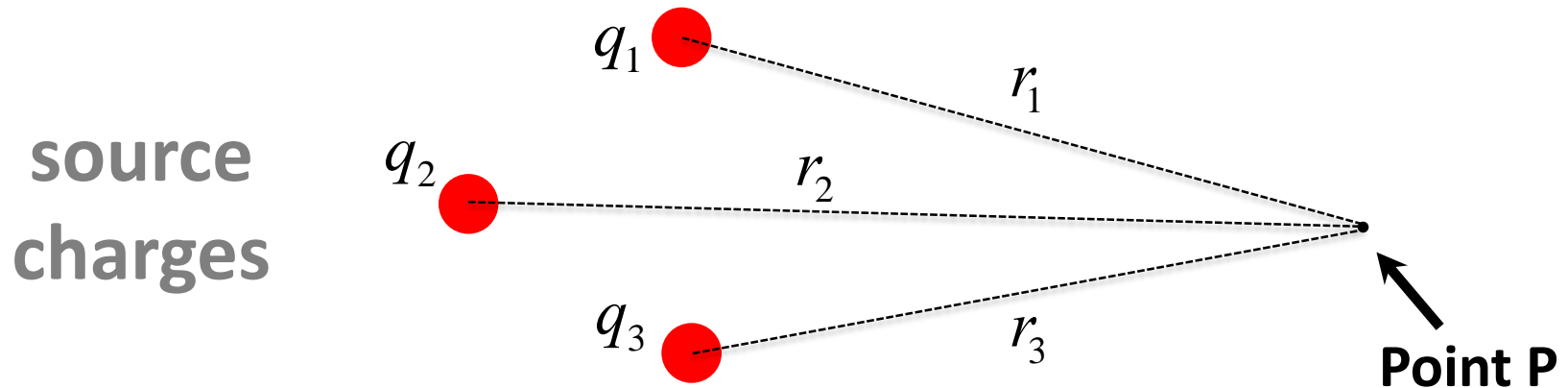
# Electric Potential



Or, if we know the potential,  $V$ , at point P, then if we place a charge,  $q$ , at point P, the potential energy of  $q$  and the source charges is

$$U_{q+sources} = qV$$

# Advantage of Electric Potential



V is a SCALAR! There is no direction associated with it.  
This makes it much easier to calculate!

$$V_1 = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q_1}{r_1} \quad V_2 = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q_2}{r_2} \quad V_3 = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q_3}{r_3}$$

$$V = V_1 + V_2 + V_3$$