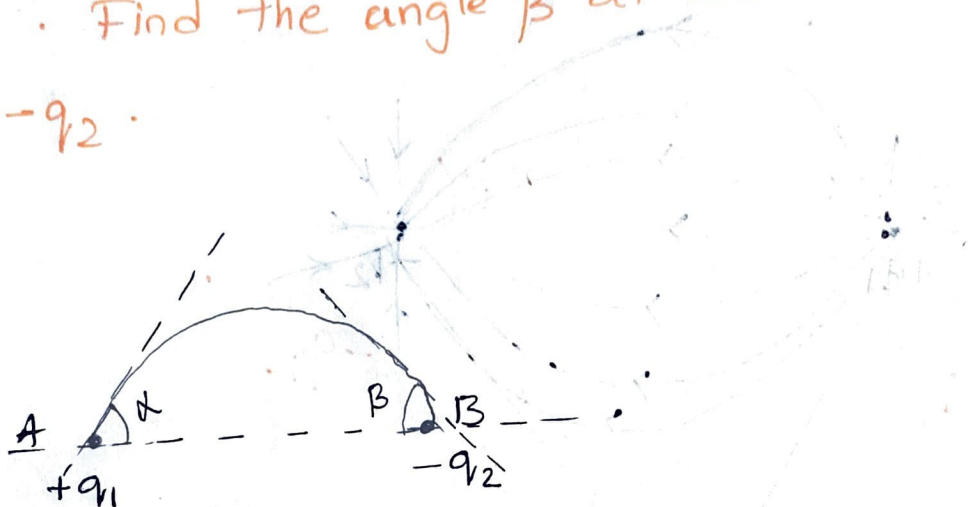


Q. Two charges $+q_1$ and $-q_2$ are placed at points A & B as shown. A line of force emerges out from q_1 at angle α with line AB. Find the angle β at which it terminates on $-q_2$.



Sol. For Given α & β

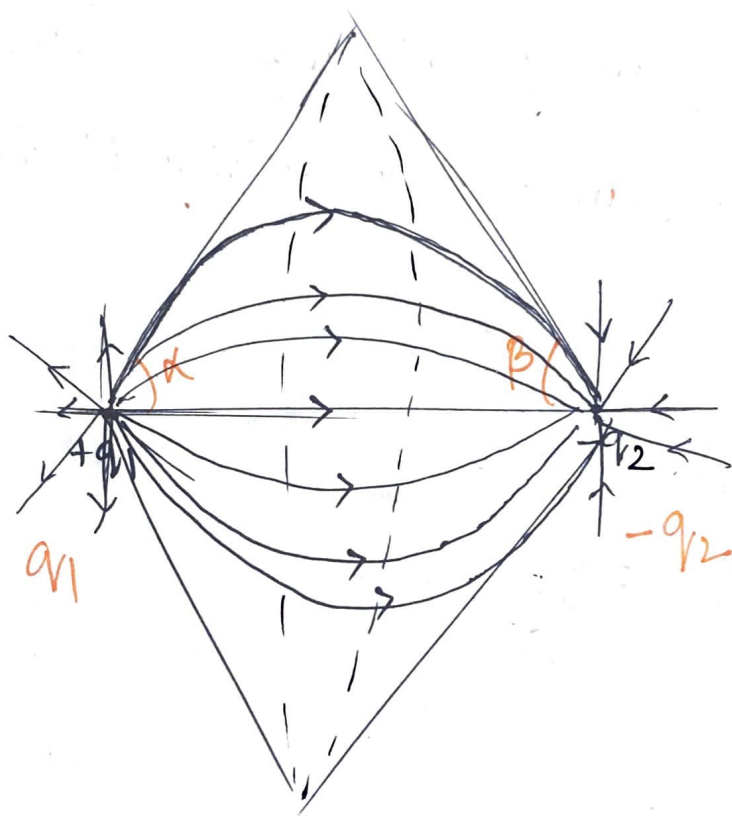
If the charges were Equal in magnitude then the system would be Symmetrical and the angles would be Equal

$$\therefore \alpha = \beta$$

But here $|q_1| \neq |q_2|$ they are not Equal

⇒

we will consider a cone in which all fields originating with half angle of the cone as α . Then all field lines will terminate at cone with half angle β .



we know from Gauss law that total flux originating at

$$q_1 \Rightarrow$$

$$\phi_{q_1} = \frac{q_1}{\epsilon_0}$$

$$q_2 \Rightarrow$$

$$\phi_{q_2} = \frac{q_2}{\epsilon_0}$$

Now the amount of flux coming through half angle is given by \hookrightarrow within the cone.

$$\phi_1 = \frac{\phi_{q1}}{4\pi} (2\pi(1-\cos\alpha)) \rightarrow \textcircled{1}$$

\rightarrow solid angle of cone with half angle α .

\hookrightarrow solid angle of sphere ($\theta = \pi$)

$$\phi_2 = \frac{\phi_{q2}}{4\pi} (2\pi(1-\cos\beta)) \rightarrow \textcircled{2}$$

Equating $\textcircled{1}$ & $\textcircled{2}$

$$\frac{\phi_{q1}}{4\pi} (1-\cos\alpha) 2\pi = \frac{\phi_{q2}}{4\pi} (1-\cos\beta) 2\pi$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{q_1}{\epsilon_0} (1-\cos\alpha) = \frac{q_2}{\epsilon_0} (1-\cos\beta)$$

$$1-\cos\beta = \frac{q_1}{q_2} (1-\cos\alpha)$$

$$\Rightarrow \beta = \cos^{-1} \left[1 - \frac{q_1}{q_2} (1-\cos\alpha) \right]$$

\therefore The angle β is determined.

Bonus .

If $q_1 = q_2$.

$$\beta = \cos^{-1} \left(1 - \frac{q_1}{q_1} (1 - \cos \alpha) \right)$$

$$\beta = \cos^{-1} (1 - 1 + \cos \alpha)$$

$$\beta = \cos^{-1} (\cos \alpha)$$

$$\boxed{\alpha = \beta}$$

which is expected due
to symmetry