

EvaluAlde Beta Bonus Assignment – College Physics

II: Electrostatics

Instructions:

- Answer all questions in detail. Show your work and reasoning for each part.
- Your submission must be a single PDF file. You may type your solutions or handwrite and scan them.
- This assignment is for bonus credit and will help improve our grading tools—thank you for participating!
- Submit your PDF via the usual course submission portal by the posted deadline.

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Questions

1. Coulomb's Law:

Two point charges, $q_1 = +2.0 \mu\text{C}$ and $q_2 = -3.0 \mu\text{C}$, are placed 0.50 m apart in vacuum.

$$F = k(|q_1 q_2| / r^2), k = 8.99 \times 10^9$$

$$q_1 = 2.0 \times 10^{-6}, q_2 = -3.0 \times 10^{-6}$$

$$r = (0.50)^2 = 0.25$$

$$(2.0 \times 10^{-6} \times 3.0 \times 10^{-6}) = 6.0 \times 10^{-12} \rightarrow (6.0 \times 10^{-12} \times 8.99 \times 10^9) = 5.39 \times 10^{-2}$$

$$5.39 \times 10^{-2} / 0.25 = .2156 \text{ N}$$

a) Calculate the magnitude and direction of the electrostatic force on each charge.

$$F = 0.22 \text{ N}$$

b) Is the force attractive or repulsive?

Attractive

2. Electric Field of a Point Charge:

What is the magnitude and direction of the electric field at a point 0.30 m away from a $+5.0 \mu\text{C}$ point charge?

$$E = k(q/r^2), k = 8.99 \times 10^9$$

$$r = (.30^2) = .09$$

$$E = 8.99 \times 10^9 \times 5.0 \times 10^{-6} = 44950$$

$$44950 / .09 = 499444 \rightarrow 4.99 \times 10^5 \text{ N/C}$$

$E = 5.0 \times 10^5 \text{ N/C}$, outward (away from charge)

3. Electric Field from Multiple Charges:

Two charges, $+1.0 \mu\text{C}$ and $-2.0 \mu\text{C}$, are fixed 0.40 m apart.

$$r = .40 / 2 \rightarrow \text{midpoint} = .20$$

$$E = k(q/r^2), k = 8.99 \times 10^9$$

$$E = 8.99 \times 10^9 (1.0 \times 10^{-6} / .2^2) = 224750 \text{ N/C}$$

$$E = 8.99 \times 10^9 (|-2.0 \times 10^{-6}| / .2^2) = 449500 \text{ N/C}$$

$$224750 + 449500 = 674250 \text{ N/C}$$

a) Find the electric field at the midpoint between them (magnitude and direction).

$E = 674250 \text{ N/C}$, toward negative ($q_2 = -2.0 \times 10^{-6}$)

b) If a $+1.0 \text{ nC}$ test charge is placed at the midpoint, what force does it experience (magnitude and direction)?

$$F = qE, q = 1.0 \times 10^{-9}, E = 674250 \rightarrow F = (1.0 \times 10^{-9})(674250)$$

$F = 6.7 \times 10^{-4} \text{ N}$, toward negative ($q_2 = -2.0 \times 10^{-6}$)

4. Electric Potential (Point Charges):

What is the electric potential at a point 0.25 m from a $-4.0 \mu\text{C}$ point charge? (Assume zero potential at infinity.)

$$V = kq/r, k = 8.99 \times 10^9, q = -4.0 \times 10^{-6}, r = .25 \text{ m}$$

$$V = 8.99 \times 10^9 (-4.0 \times 10^{-6} / .25) = 143840 \text{ V}$$

$V = 143840 \text{ V}$, negative electric potential

5. Potential Difference and Work:

An electron moves from point A (potential = $+100 \text{ V}$) to point B (potential = -50 V).

6. a) What is the potential difference $V_B - V_A$?

$$(-50) - (+100) = -150 \text{ V}$$

b) How much work is done by the electric field on the electron during this move?

$$W = q(\Delta V)$$

$$\text{Electron } (q) = 1.60 \times 10^{-19}$$

$$W = (1.60 \times 10^{-19} \times -150)$$

$$W = -2.4 \times 10^{-17} \text{ J}$$