

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.

Questions

1. **Coulomb's Law:** $k \cdot \frac{q_1 q_2}{r^2}$

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.

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

$$K = 8.99 \cdot 10^9 \text{ N} \cdot \text{m}^2 / \text{C}^2$$

q_1

$$= +2.0 \mu\text{C} = 2.0 \cdot 10^{-6} \text{C}$$

$$Q_2 = -3 \mu\text{C} = -3.0 \cdot 10^{-6} \text{C}$$

$$R = 0.5 \text{m}$$

$$F = \frac{(8.99 \cdot 10^9) \cdot ((2 \cdot 10^{-6})(-3 \cdot 10^{-6}))}{0.5^2} = F = \frac{(53.94 \cdot 10^{-3})}{0.25} = 0.216 \text{N}$$

b) Is the force attractive or repulsive?

Attractive because on the line that connects the charges, the charges are pulled towards each other.

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?

$$K = 8.99 \cdot 10^9 \text{ N}\cdot\text{m}^2/\text{C}^2$$

$$Q = 5 \mu\text{C} = 5 \cdot 10^{-6} \text{C}$$

$$R = 0.3 \text{m}$$

$$E = \frac{((8.99 \cdot 10^9)(5 \cdot 10^{-6}))}{0.3^2} = 5 \cdot 10^5 \frac{\text{N}}{\text{C}}$$

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.

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

$$Q_1 = 1 \mu\text{C} = 1 \cdot 10^{-6} \text{C}$$

$$Q_2 = -2 \mu\text{C} = -2 \cdot 10^{-6} \text{C}$$

Between charges $= d = 0.4 \text{m}$

Midpoint $= r = 0.2 \text{m}$

$$E_1 = \frac{((8.99 \cdot 10^9)(1 \cdot 10^{-6}))}{0.2^2} = 224,750 \frac{\text{N}}{\text{C}}$$

$$E_2 = \frac{((8.99 \cdot 10^9)(2 \cdot 10^{-6}))}{0.2^2} = 449,500 \frac{\text{N}}{\text{C}}$$

$$\text{Magnitude} = 449,500 + 224,750 = 674,250 \text{ N/C}$$

Direction = toward the $-2 \mu\text{C}$ charge

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

$$\text{Magnitude} = F = q \cdot E = (1 \cdot 10^{-9})(674,250) = 6.74 \cdot 10^{-4} \text{N}$$

Direction = toward the -2C charge

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.)

$$Q = -4 \mu\text{C} = -4 \cdot 10^{-6} \text{C}$$

$$R = 0.25 \text{m}$$

$$V = \frac{(8.99 \cdot 10^9)(-4 \cdot 10^{-6})}{0.25} = -143,840 \text{V}$$

Since the answer is negative, the potential at the point we are talking about is more negative because of the negative charge and it doesn't have a direction either

5. Potential Difference and Work:

An electron moves from point A (potential = +100 V) to point B (potential = -50 V).

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

$$V_A = 100 \text{V}$$

$$V_B = -50 \text{V}$$

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

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

$$W = -q (V_B - V_A)$$

$$Q = 1.6 \cdot 10^{-19} \text{C}$$

$$V_A - V_B = -150 \text{V}$$

$$W = -(1.6 \cdot 10^{-19}) (-150) = 2.4 \cdot 10^{-17} \text{J}$$