

LEC 06: ELECTRIC FIELD AND ELECTRIC POTENTIAL

LEC 07: RELATING ELECTRIC FIELD AND ELECTRIC POTENTIAL

LEC 08: FORCES, FIELDS, ENERGY, AND POTENTIAL

## CHAPTER 18 & 17

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**18.1: A MODEL OF THE MECHANISM FOR ELECTROSTATIC INTERACTIONS**

**18.2: SKILLS OF ANALYZING PROCESSES INVOLVING E-FIELDS**

**18.3: THE V-FIELD: ELECTRIC POTENTIAL**

**18.4: RELATING THE E-FIELD AND THE V-FIELD**

**17.4: COULOMB'S FORCE LAW**

**17.5: ELECTRIC POTENTIAL ENERGY**

# REVIEW

Electric force between two charges:

$$F_e = \frac{k_e |q_1| |q_2|}{r^2}$$

Potential energy of two-charge system:

$$W = \Delta E$$

Work done by **electric force**:

$$W_{F_e} = -\Delta U_q$$

$$U_q = \frac{k_e q_1 q_2}{r}$$

# THE FIELD MODEL

Faraday's idea from looking at magnets:

Space itself around charges is filled with *some kind of electric influence*.

Mathematically, *a field* is a function that assigns a vector to every point in space.

In Physics, it conveys the idea that a physical entity exists in every point in space.

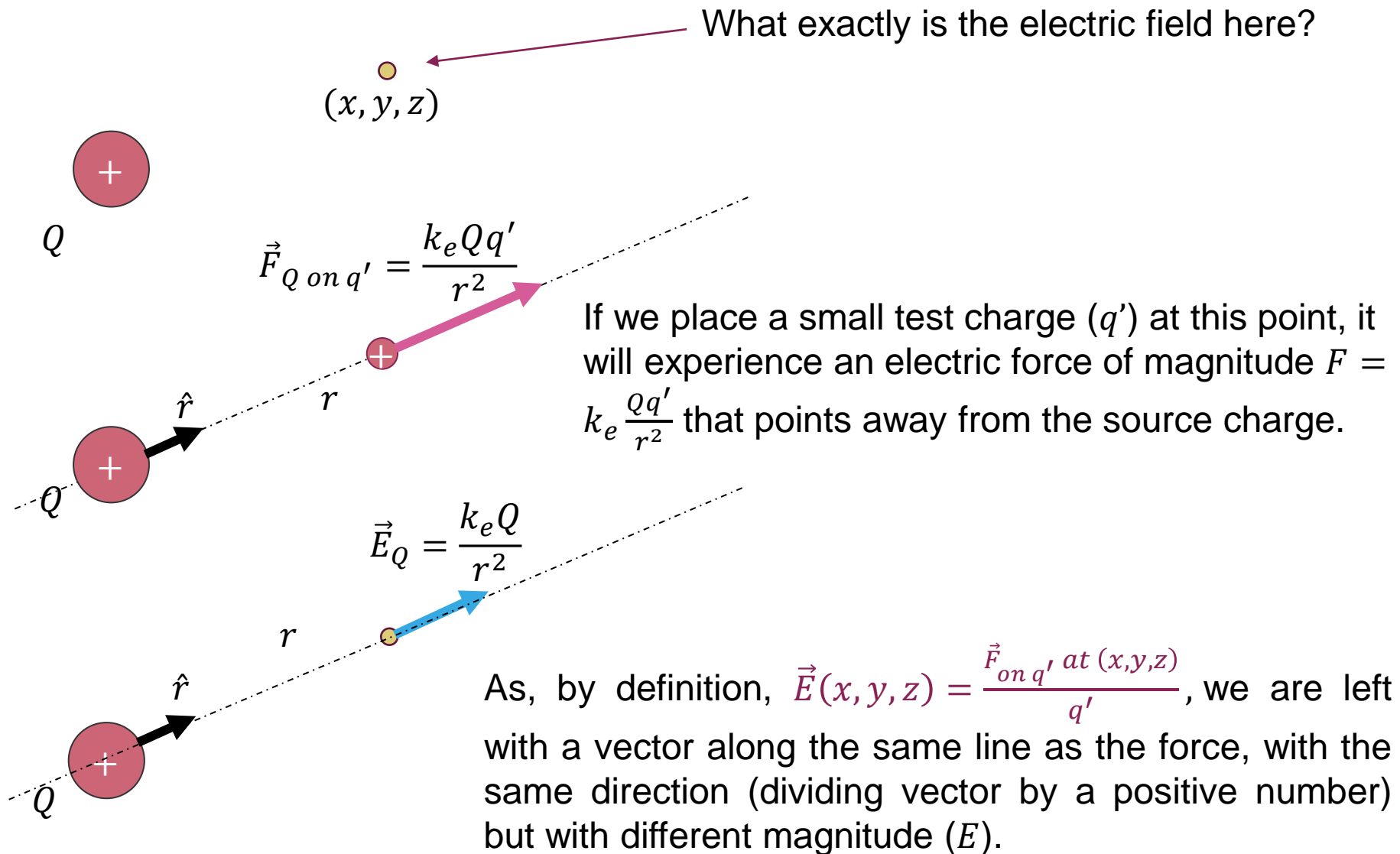
$$F_{Earth\ on\ Mario} = \left( G \frac{M_E}{r^2} \right) m_{Mario}$$



$$F_{Earth\ on\ Luigi} = \left( G \frac{M_E}{r^2} \right) m_{Luigi}$$

$$\vec{F}_{agent\ on\ object} = m_{object}(\text{some vectorial quantity created by the agent})$$

# THE ELECTRIC FIELD OF A POINT CHARGE



# THE ELECTRIC FIELD

- Source charges alter the space around them, creating *electric field*  $\vec{E}$ .
- A separate charge  $q$  in the electric field  $\vec{E}$  experiences force  $\vec{F}$  exerted by the field.

The electric field  $\vec{E}$  at a point in space is defined as the electric force  $\vec{F}$  acting on a test particle divided by a charge  $q$  of the test particle.

$$\vec{E}(x, y, z) = \frac{\vec{F}_{on\ q\ at(x, y, z)}}{q}$$

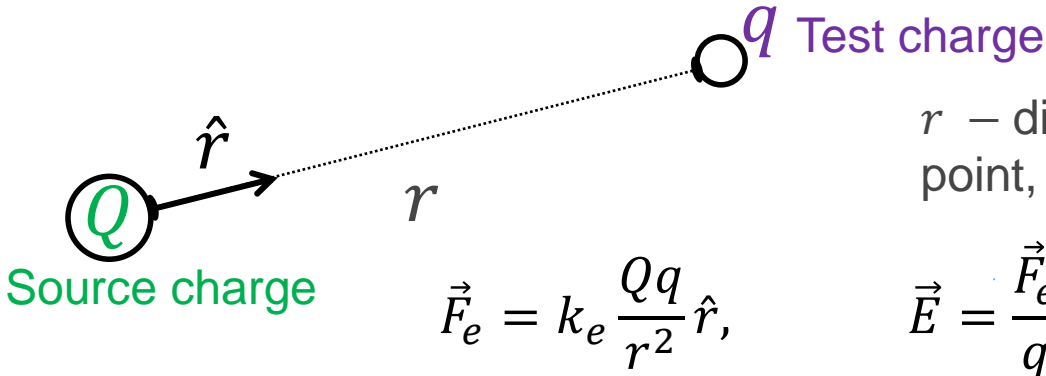
Units:  $[E] = \frac{N}{C}$

NOTE:

1. Force and electric field **are both vectors**, *therefore they have magnitude **and** direction*
2. Electric charge  $q$  creates electric field  $\vec{E}$  in all points in space.

*We have to think about it 3D even if we only draw a 2D representation of the idea*

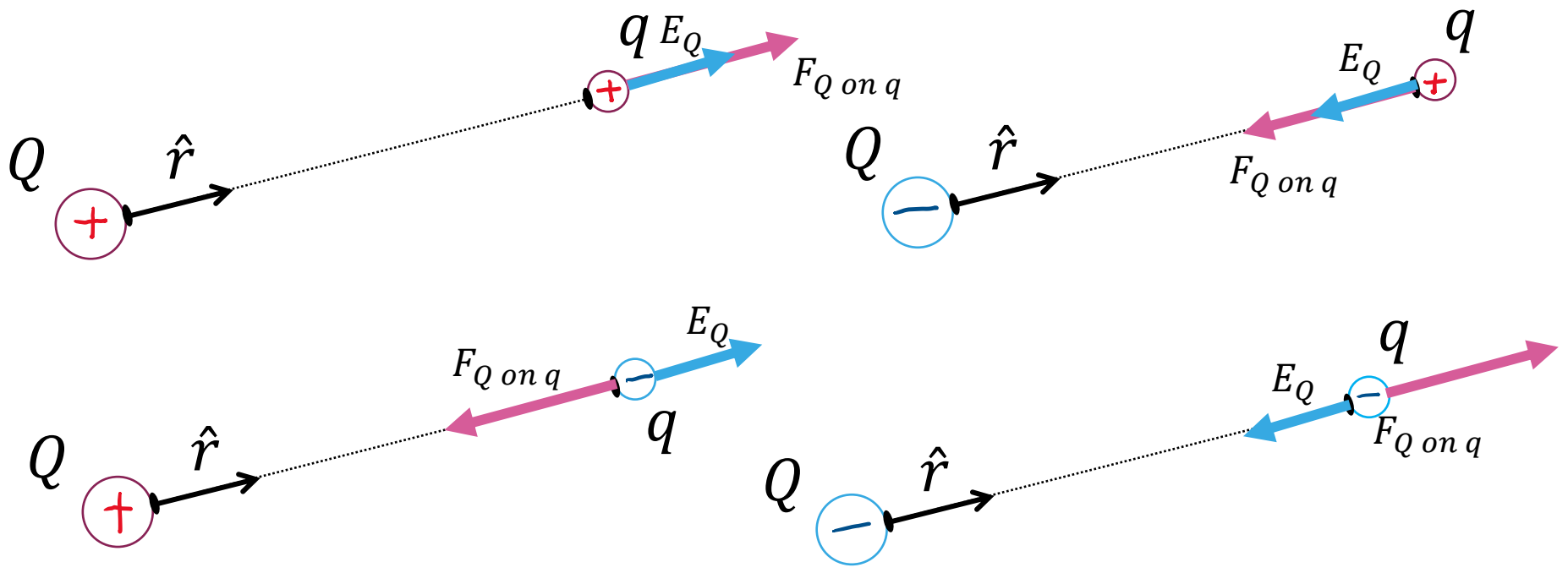
Consider a source charge  $Q$  and test charge  $q$



$\vec{E} = \frac{\vec{F}_e}{q} \rightarrow \vec{E} = k_e \frac{Q}{r^2} \hat{r}$

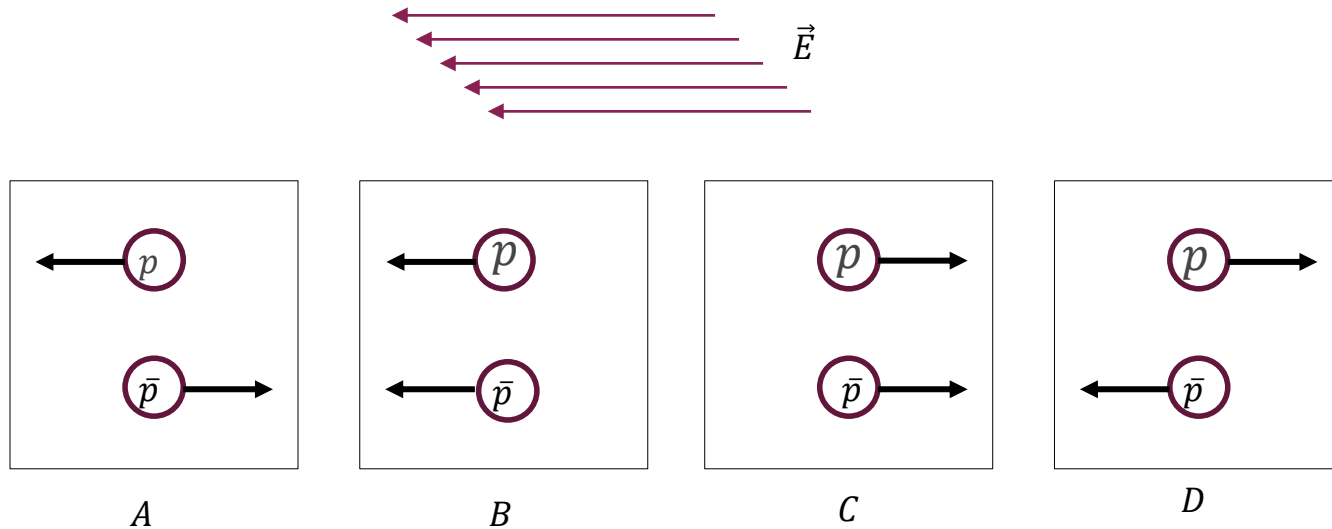
$\vec{E}$  vector points away from a positive charge & toward a negative charge

MAGNITUDE  $\rightarrow E = k_e \frac{|Q|}{r^2}$



A proton ( $+e, m_p$ ) and antiproton ( $-e, m_p$ ) are placed in the electric field shown in the figure.

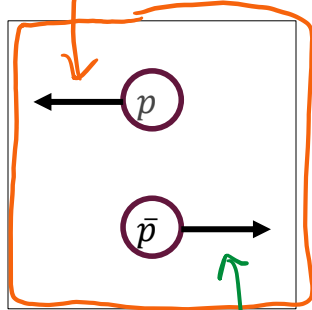
Which picture correctly represents direction of the acceleration on each charge?



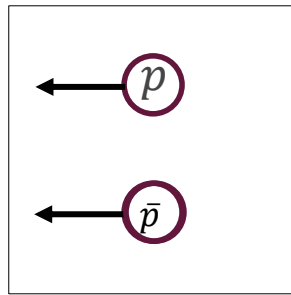
A proton ( $+e, m_p$ ) and antiproton ( $-e, m_p$ ) are placed in the electric field shown in the figure.

Which picture correctly represents direction of the acceleration on each charge?

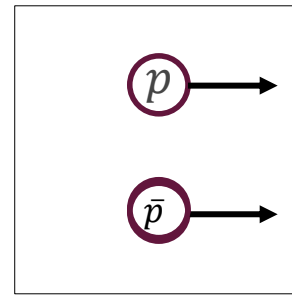
positive charge  
accelerates in the  
direction of  $\vec{E}$



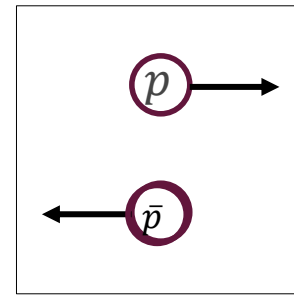
A



B



C



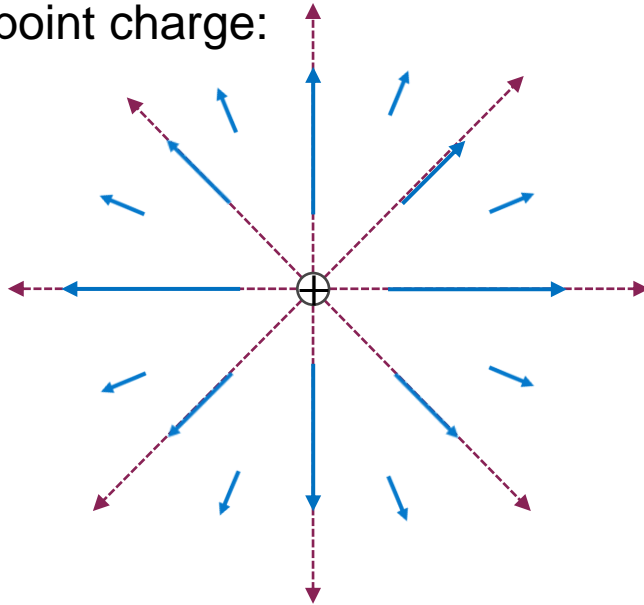
D

negative charge  
accelerates against  
the direction of  $\vec{E}$



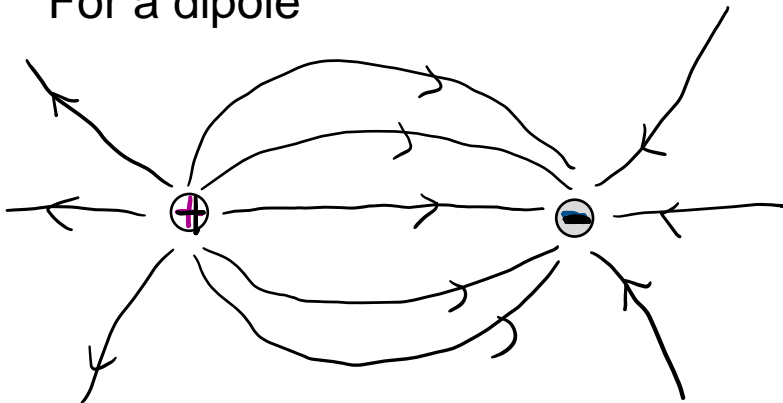
# PICTURING THE ELECTRIC FIELD

Recall a point charge:

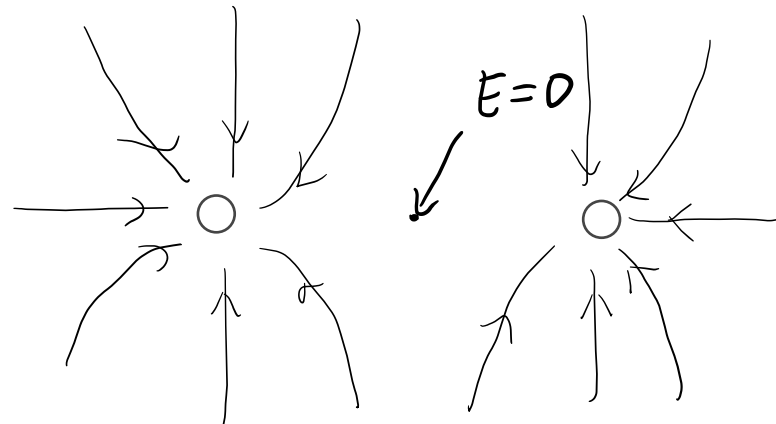


Electric field lines are drawn so they point away from positive charges and towards the negative charges. Electric field **vectors** at a given point are tangential to the electric field lines.

For a dipole



For two identical (negative) charges:



# EXAMPLE 18A

Charge  $Q = -1.00 \mu\text{C}$  is placed at the origin. Determine the electric field at points

- a)  $A = (0, 3.0) \text{ m}$
- b)  $B = (3.0, 3.0) \text{ m}$
- c)  $C = (-3.0, 3.0) \text{ m}$

$$E_A = \frac{k_e Q}{r_A^2} = \frac{8.99 \times 10^9 \cdot |1.0 \times 10^{-6}|}{3.0^2}$$

$$\hat{=} 1000 \frac{\text{N}}{\text{C}}$$

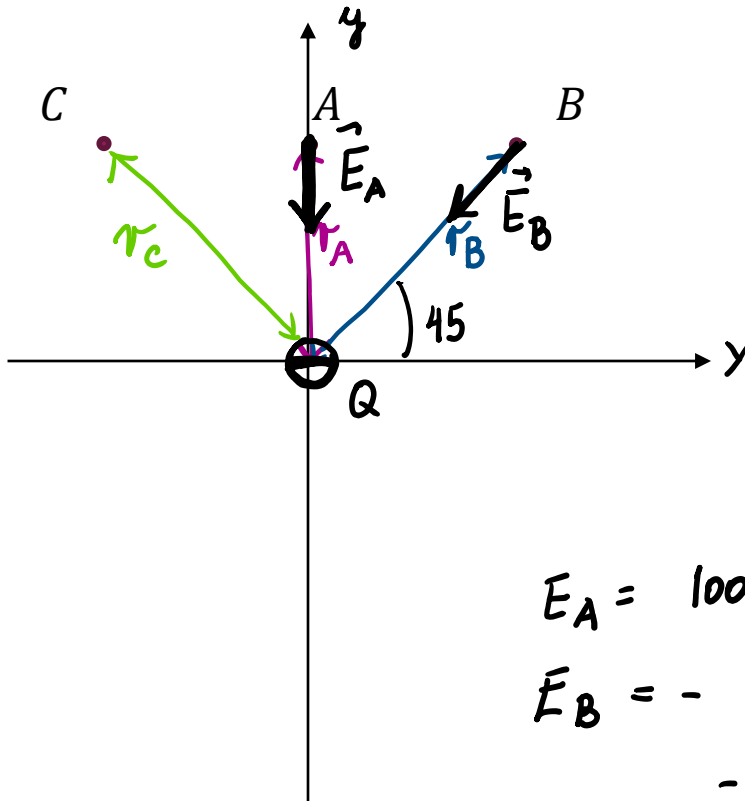
$$E_B = \frac{k_e Q}{r_B^2} = \frac{(8.99 \times 10^9) \cdot |1.0 \times 10^{-6}|}{18.0}$$

$$\hat{=} 500 \frac{\text{N}}{\text{C}}$$

$$E_A = 1000 \frac{\text{N}}{\text{C}} \text{ } -y \text{ dir}$$

$$E_B = - 500 \frac{\text{N}}{\text{C}} \cos 45^\circ \text{ } x \text{ dir}$$

$$- 500 \frac{\text{N}}{\text{C}} \sin 45^\circ \text{ } y \text{ dir}$$



# ELECTRIC FIELD OF MULTIPLE POINT CHARGES

If the source of electric field is a set up of positive charges, the net electric field is the vector sum (superposition) of the electric fields due to each charge.

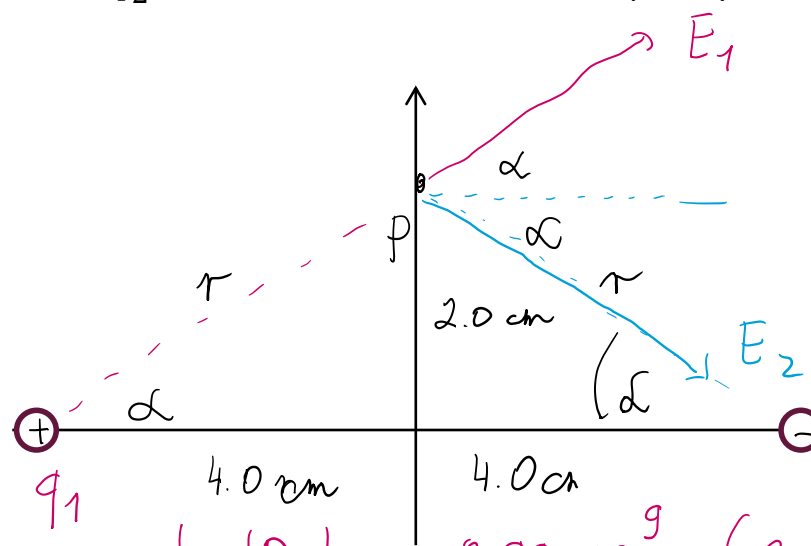
$$E_{net_x} = E_{1x} + E_{2x} + \cdots = \sum E_{ix}$$

$$E_{net_y} = E_{1y} + E_{2y} + \cdots = \sum E_{iy}$$

$$E_{net_z} = E_{1z} + E_{2z} + \cdots = \sum E_{iz}$$

## EXAMPLE 18B

Find the electric field at point located at (0,2) cm due to two charges  $q_1 = 2.0 \text{ mC}$  and  $q_2 = -3.0 \text{ mC}$  located at (-4,0) cm and (4,0) cm, respectively



$$r = \sqrt{0.02^2 + 0.04^2}$$

$$r = 0.0447 \text{ m}$$

$$\sin \alpha = \frac{2.0 \text{ cm}}{4.47 \text{ cm}} = \frac{2}{4.47}$$

$$\cos \alpha = \frac{4.0 \text{ cm}}{4.47 \text{ cm}} = \frac{4}{4.47}$$

$$E_1 = \frac{k_e |q_1|}{r^2} = \frac{8.99 \times 10^9 \cdot (2.0 \times 10^{-3})}{(0.0447)^2} = 9.0 \times 10^9 \frac{\text{N}}{\text{C}}$$

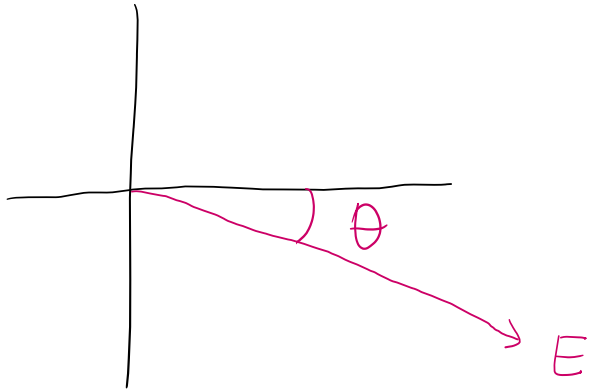
$$E_{1x} = E_1 \cos \alpha = 8.05 \times 10^9 \frac{\text{N}}{\text{C}} \quad E_{1y} = E_1 \sin \alpha = 4.02 \times 10^9$$

$$E_2 = \frac{k_e |q_2|}{r^2} = \frac{8.99 \times 10^9 \cdot (3.0 \times 10^{-3})}{(0.0447)^2} = 13.5 \times 10^9 \frac{\text{N}}{\text{C}}$$

$$E_{2x} = E_2 \cos \alpha = 12.1 \times 10^9 \frac{\text{N}}{\text{C}} \quad E_{2y} = -E_2 \sin \alpha = -6.04 \times 10^9 \frac{\text{N}}{\text{C}}$$

$$E_{xT} = E_{1x} + E_{2x} = 20.2 \times 10^9 \frac{N}{C}$$

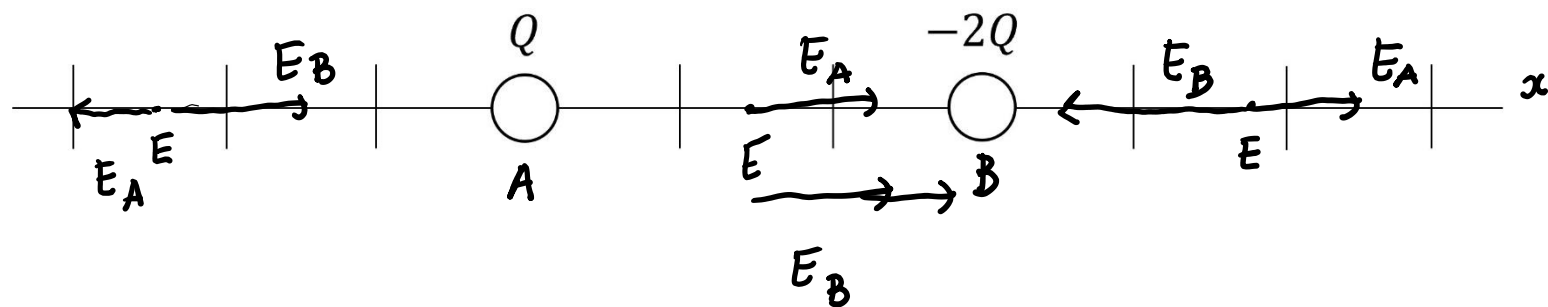
$$E_{yT} = E_{1y} + E_{2y} = -2.02 \times 10^9 \frac{N}{C}$$



$$\tan \theta = \frac{E_{yT}}{E_{xT}} = 0.1$$

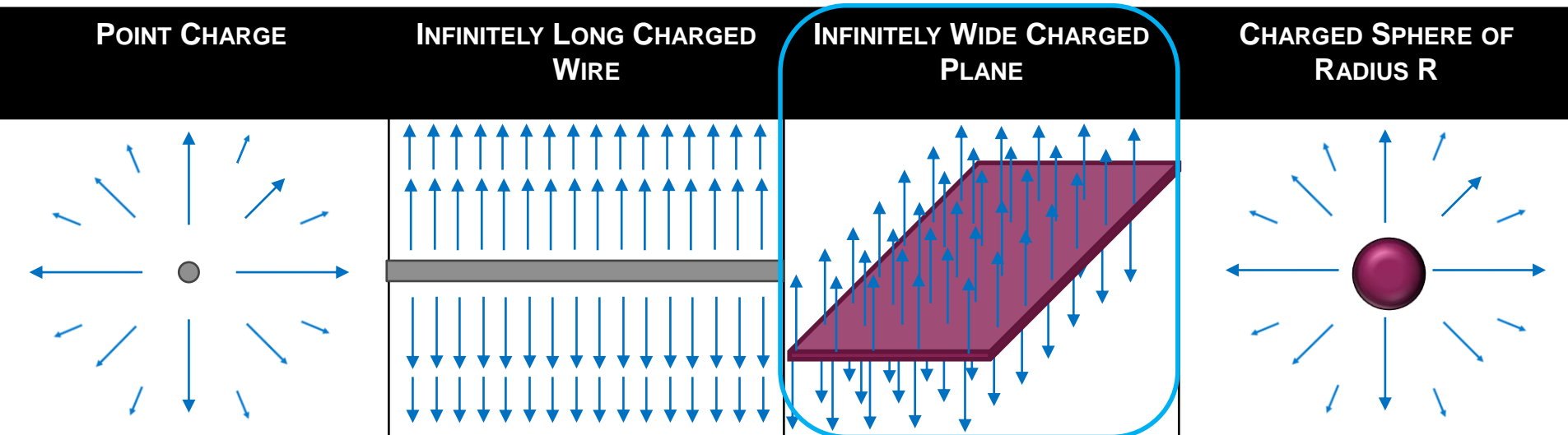
$$\theta = 5.7^\circ$$

(below +x axis)

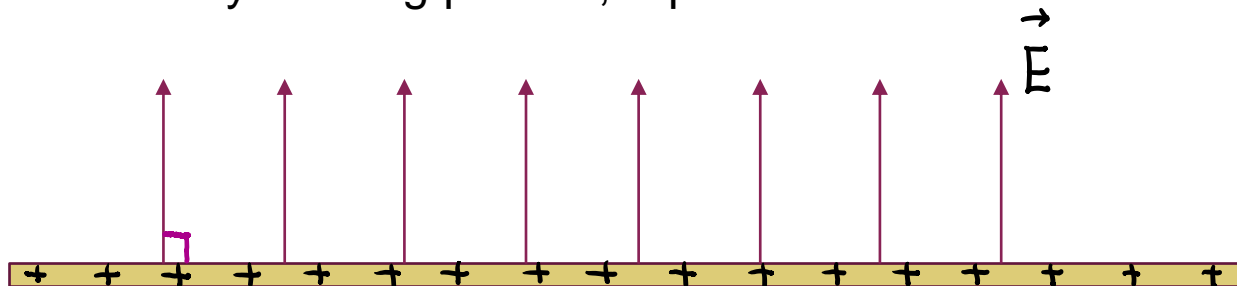


# UNIFORM ELECTRIC FIELD

There are four basic electric field models



Uniform electric field is a field that is constant throughout the entire space. We would visualize it by drawing parallel, equidistant lines.



# ELECTRIC POTENTIAL OF A POINT CHARGE

We derived the idea of the field, by taking a force on a charge exerted by some source charge.

Now let's look at the potential energy of a system of two charges – a source charge  $Q$  and a test charge  $q$ :

$$U = \frac{kQq}{r}$$

The source charge modifies space around it by creating a **potential** for the energy of interactions with other charges.

That characteristic of the source charge (any charge)

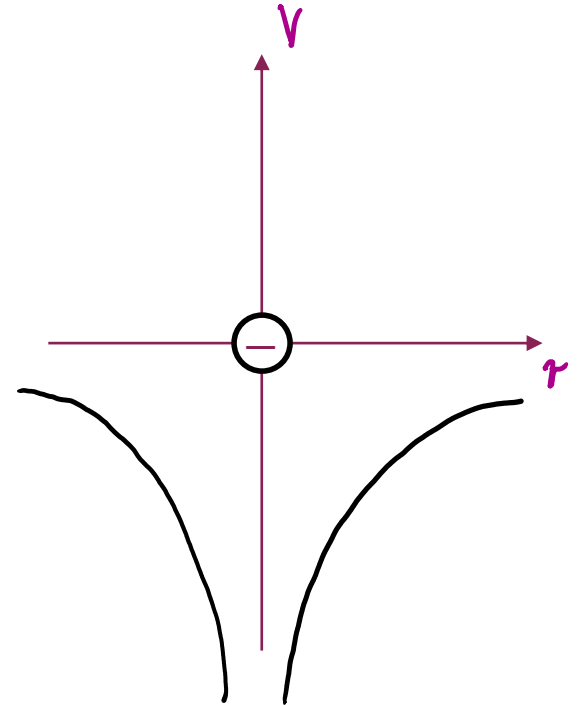
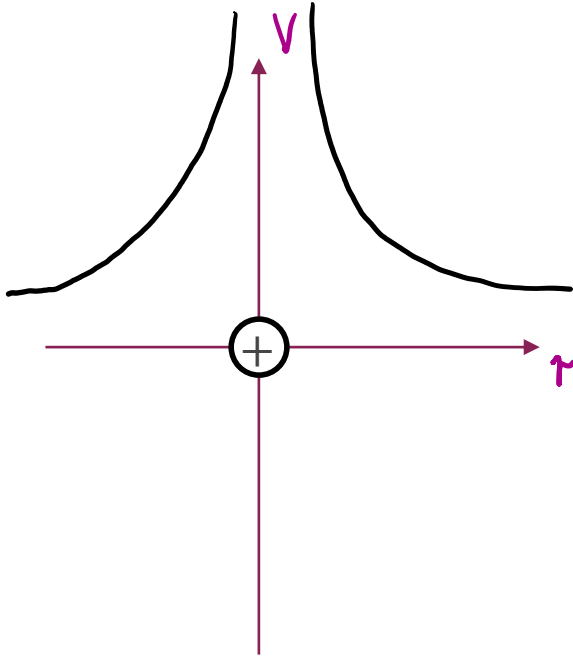
$$V = \frac{U}{q} = \frac{kQ}{r}$$

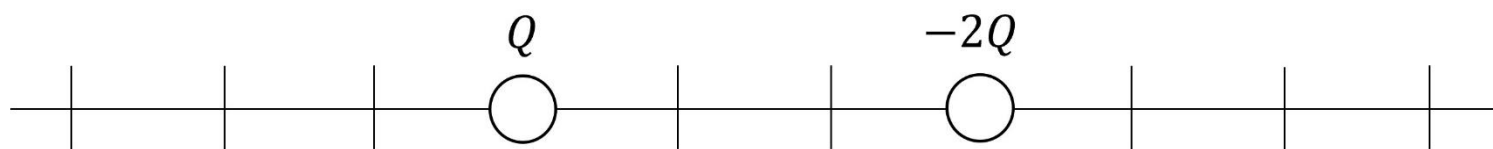
The unit of electric potential is joule/coulomb (J/C) and it is called the **volt** (V)



# ELECTRIC POTENTIAL OF A POINT CHARGE - VISUALIZE

$$V = \frac{kq}{r}$$

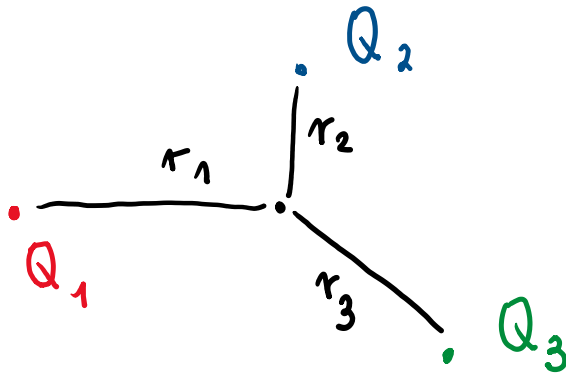




# ELECTRIC POTENTIAL FROM MULTIPLE POINT CHARGES

While potential can be positive or negative, it is a scalar, therefore to find electric potential due to many charges, we simply add potentials due to each charge in the space:

$$V = V_1 + V_2 + V_3 + \dots = \frac{k_e Q_1}{r_1} + \frac{k_e Q_2}{r_2} + \frac{k_e Q_3}{r_3} + \dots$$



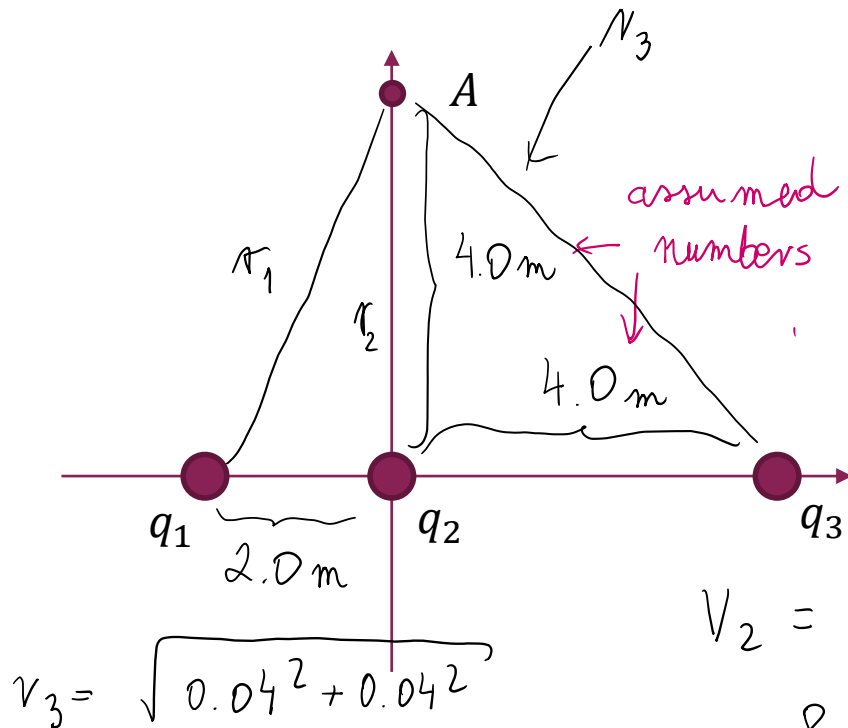
↑  
It's really  
that simple,  
you just  
add them!

# EXAMPLE 18 C

Note: I doubled the distances (just to not have 1.0 m)

Three point charges,  $q_1 = 10 \text{ nC}$ ,  $q_2 = -20 \text{ nC}$  and  $q_3 = 5.0 \text{ nC}$  are placed as shown in the figure below.

Determine total electric potential at point A.



$$V_A = V_1 + V_2 + V_3$$

$$V_1 = \frac{k_e q_1}{r_1}$$

$$r_1 = \sqrt{0.02^2 + 0.04^2}$$

$$r_1 = 0.0447 \text{ m}$$

$$V_1 = \frac{8.99 \times 10^9 \cdot 10 \times 10^{-9}}{0.0447} = 2010 \text{ V}$$

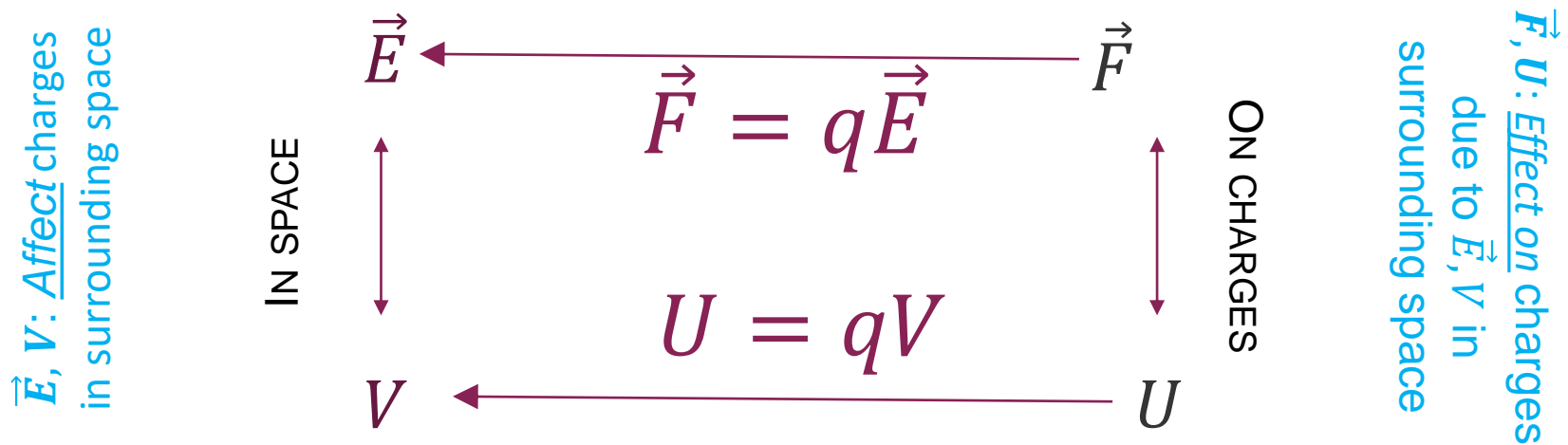
$$V_2 = \frac{8.99 \times 10^9 \cdot (-20 \times 10^{-9})}{0.04} = -4495 \text{ V}$$

$$V_3 = \frac{8.99 \times 10^9 \cdot (5.0 \times 10^{-9})}{0.0566} = 794 \text{ V}$$

$$V_T = 1691 \text{ V}$$

# LOOKING AHEAD: CONNECTING POTENTIAL AND FIELD

The four key ideas:



Electric potential and electric field are not the same but they are both related to **how charges ALTER the SPACE AROUND THEM**

Electric force and electric potential energy are related to **what a charge EXPERIENCES** in an electric field/potential created by other (source) charges.