

# **Energy and Potential**

# 4.1 Energy to move a point charge through a Field

- Force on  $Q$  due to an electric field

$$F_E = QE$$

- Differential work done by an external source moving  $Q$

$$dW = -QE \cdot dL$$

- Work required to move a charge a finite distance

$$W = -Q \int_{\text{init}}^{\text{final}} \mathbf{E} \cdot d\mathbf{L}$$

## 4.2 Line Integral

- Work expression without using vectors

$$W = -Q \cdot \int_{\text{initial}}^{\text{final}} E_L dL$$

$E_L$  is the component of  $E$  in the  $dL$  direction

$$d\mathbf{L} = dx \mathbf{a}_x + dy \mathbf{a}_y + dz \mathbf{a}_z \quad (\text{cartesian})$$

$$d\mathbf{L} = d\rho \mathbf{a}_\rho + \rho d\phi \mathbf{a}_\phi + dz \mathbf{a}_z \quad (\text{cylindrical})$$

$$d\mathbf{L} = dr \mathbf{a}_r + r d\theta \mathbf{a}_\theta + r \sin \theta d\phi \mathbf{a}_\phi \quad (\text{spherical})$$

- Uniform electric field density

$$W = -QE \cdot L_{BA}$$

# Example

$$E(x, y) := \begin{pmatrix} y \\ x \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} \quad Q := 2 \quad A := \begin{pmatrix} .8 \\ .6 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad B := \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{Path: } x^2 + y^2 = 1 \quad z = 1$$

Calculate the work to carry the charge from point B to point A.

$$W = -Q \cdot \int_{B_0}^{A_0} E(x, y)_0 dx - Q \cdot \int_{B_1}^{A_1} E(x, y)_1 dy - Q \cdot \int_{B_2}^{A_2} E(x, y)_2 dz$$

Plug path in for x and y in E(x,y)

$$W := -Q \cdot \int_{B_0}^{A_0} E(0, \sqrt{1-x^2})_0 dx - Q \cdot \int_{B_1}^{A_1} E(\sqrt{1-y^2}, 0)_1 dy - Q \cdot \int_{B_2}^{A_2} E(0, 0)_2 dz \quad W = -0.96$$

# Example

$$E(x,y) := \begin{pmatrix} y \\ x \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} \quad Q := 2 \quad A := \begin{pmatrix} .8 \\ .6 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad B := \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{Path: } y = -3(x-1) \quad z = 1 \\ \text{(straight line)}$$

Calculate the work to carry the charge from point B to point A.

$$W = -Q \cdot \int_{B_0}^{A_0} E(x,y)_0 dx - Q \cdot \int_{B_1}^{A_1} E(x,y)_1 dy - Q \cdot \int_{B_2}^{A_2} E(x,y)_2 dz$$

Plug path in for x and y in E(x,y)

$$W := -Q \cdot \int_{B_0}^{A_0} E[0, -3(x-1)]_0 dx - Q \cdot \int_{B_1}^{A_1} E\left(\frac{-y}{3} + 1, 0\right)_1 dy - Q \cdot \int_{B_2}^{A_2} E(0,0)_2 dz \quad W = -0.96$$

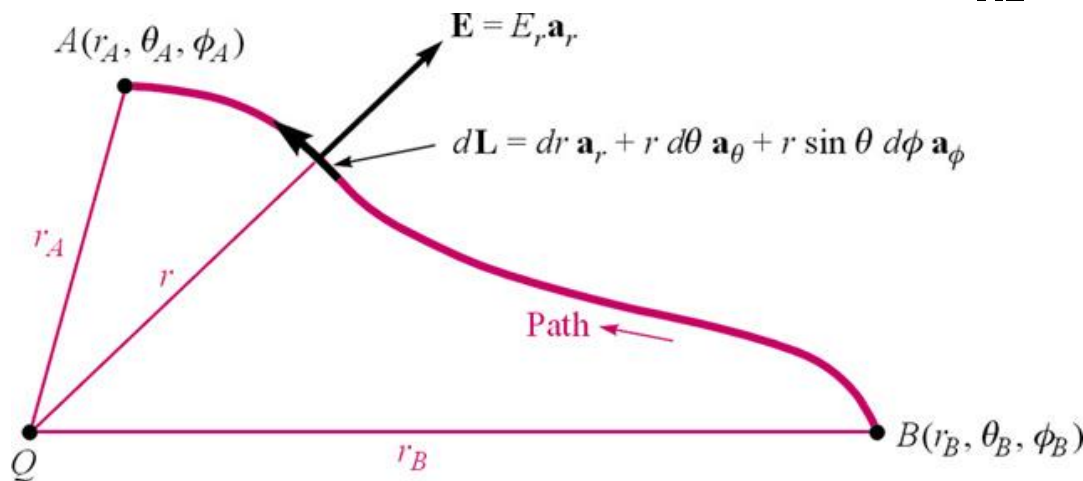
- Same amount of work with a different path
- Line integrals are path independent

# 4.3 Potential Difference

- Potential Difference

$$V = - \int_{\text{init}}^{\text{final}} \mathbf{E} \cdot d\mathbf{L} \qquad V_{AB} = - \int_B^A \mathbf{E} \cdot d\mathbf{L}$$

- Using radial distances from the point charge



$$V_{AB} = - \int_{r_B}^{r_A} \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2} dr = \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left( \frac{1}{r_A} - \frac{1}{r_B} \right)$$

## 4.3 Potential

- Measure potential difference between a point and something which has zero potential “ground”

$$V_{AB} = V_A - V_B$$

# Example – D4.4

$$E(x, y, z) := \begin{pmatrix} 6x^2 \\ 6y \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}$$

a) Find  $V_{MN}$

$$M := \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 6 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \quad N := \begin{pmatrix} -3 \\ -3 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} \quad V_{MN} := -\int_{N_0}^{M_0} 6x^2 dx - \int_{N_1}^{M_1} 6y dy - \int_{N_2}^{M_2} 4 dz \quad V_{MN} = -139$$

b) Find  $V_M$  if  $V=0$  at  $Q(4, -2, -35)$

$$Q := \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ -2 \\ -35 \end{pmatrix} \quad V_M := -\int_{Q_0}^{M_0} 6x^2 dx - \int_{Q_1}^{M_1} 6y dy - \int_{Q_2}^{M_2} 4 dz \quad V_M = -120$$

c) Find  $V_N$  if  $V=2$  at  $P(1, 2, -4)$

$$P := \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ -4 \end{pmatrix} \quad V_N := -\int_{P_0}^{N_0} 6x^2 dx - \int_{P_1}^{N_1} 6y dy - \int_{P_2}^{N_2} 4 dz + 2 \quad V_N = 19$$



# 4.4 Potential Field of a Point Charge

- Let  $V=0$  at infinity

$$V = \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r}$$

- Equipotential surface:
  - A surface composed of all points having the same potential

## Example – D4.5

$$Q := 15 \cdot 10^{-9} \quad P_1 := \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 3 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \epsilon_0 := 8.85 \cdot 10^{-12}$$

Q is located at the origin

a) Find  $V_1$  if  $V=0$  at (6,5,4)

$$P_0 := \begin{pmatrix} 6 \\ 5 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} \quad V_1 := \frac{Q}{4\pi \epsilon_0} \left( \frac{1}{|P_1|} - \frac{1}{|P_0|} \right) \quad V_1 = 20.677$$

b) Find  $V_1$  if  $V=0$  at infinity

$$V_1 := \frac{Q}{4\pi \epsilon_0} \frac{1}{|P_1|} \quad V_1 = 36.047$$

c) Find  $V_1$  if  $V=5$  at (2,0,4)

$$P_5 := \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} \quad V_1 := \frac{Q}{4\pi \epsilon_0} \left( \frac{1}{|P_1|} - \frac{1}{|P_5|} \right) + 5 \quad V_1 = 10.888$$

# Potential field of single point charge

$$V(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{Q_1}{4 \cdot \pi \cdot \epsilon_0 \cdot |\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_1|}$$

$Q_1$

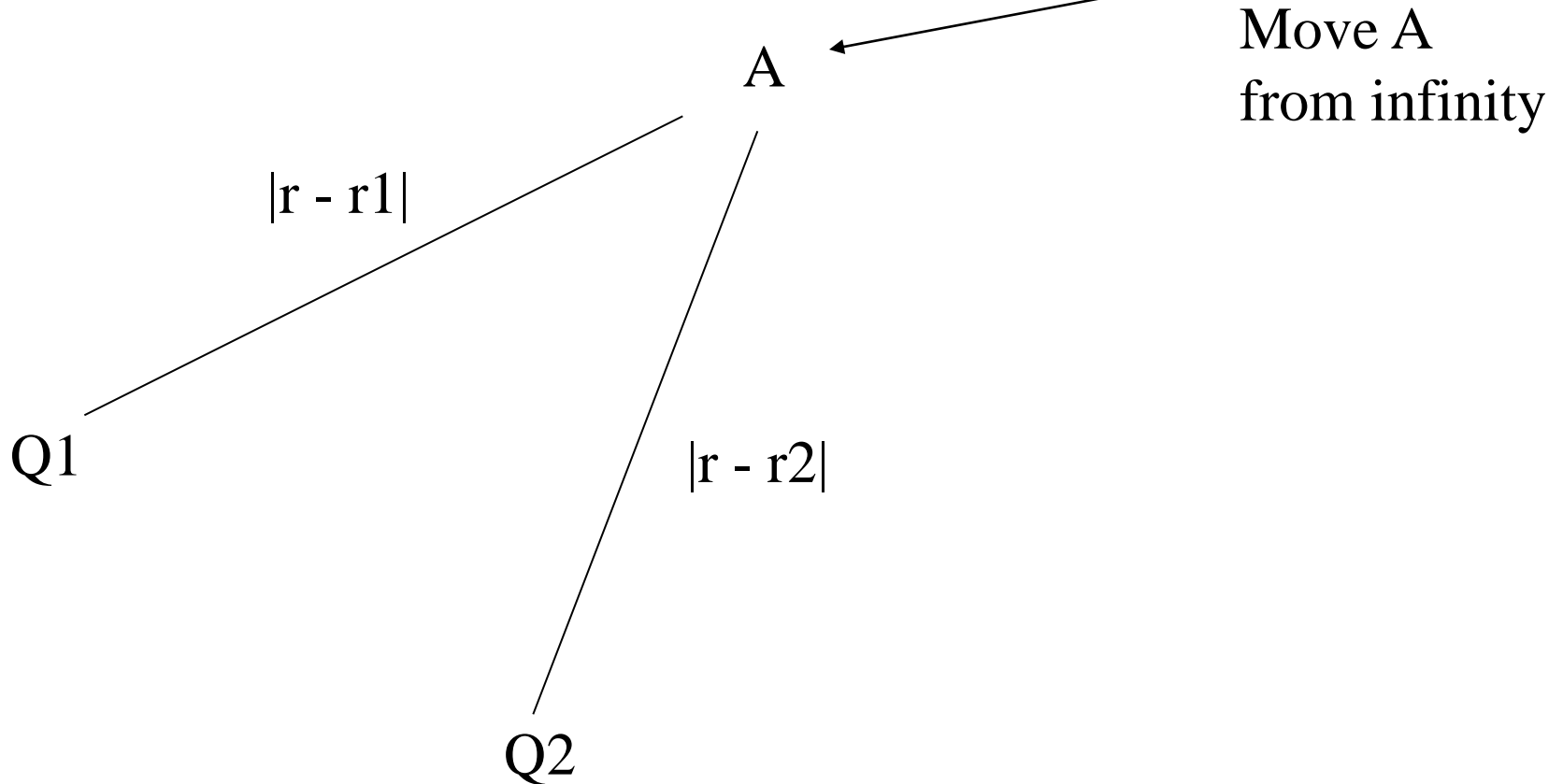
$|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_1|$

A

Move A  
from infinity

# Potential due to two charges

$$V(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{Q_1}{4 \cdot \pi \cdot \epsilon_0 \cdot |\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_1|} + \frac{Q_2}{4 \cdot \pi \cdot \epsilon_0 \cdot |\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_2|}$$



# Potential due to $n$ point charges

Continue adding charges

$$V(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{Q_1}{4 \cdot \pi \cdot \epsilon_0 \cdot |\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_1|} + \frac{Q_2}{4 \cdot \pi \cdot \epsilon_0 \cdot |\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_2|} + \dots + \frac{Q_n}{4 \cdot \pi \cdot \epsilon_0 \cdot |\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_n|}$$

$$V(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_{m=1}^n \frac{Q_m}{4 \cdot \pi \cdot \epsilon_0 \cdot |\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_m|}$$

# Potential as point charges become infinite

Volume of charge

$$V(r) = \int \frac{\rho_v(r_{\text{prime}})}{4 \cdot \pi \cdot \epsilon_0 \cdot |r - r_{\text{prime}}|} dv_{\text{prime}}$$

Line of charge

$$V(r) = \int \frac{\rho_L(r_{\text{prime}})}{4 \cdot \pi \cdot \epsilon_0 \cdot |r - r_{\text{prime}}|} dL_{\text{prime}}$$

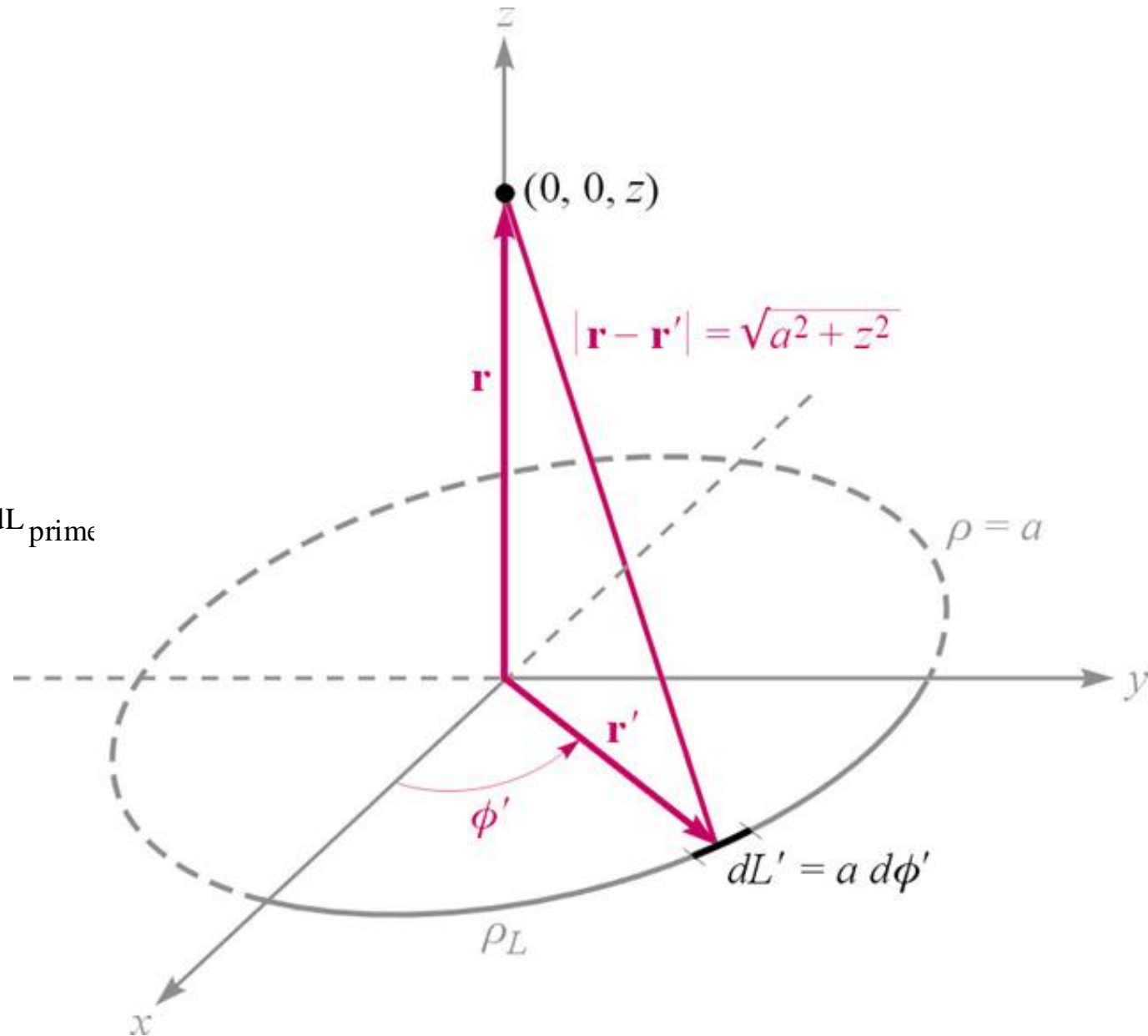
Surface of charge

$$V(r) = \int \frac{\rho_S(r_{\text{prime}})}{4 \cdot \pi \cdot \epsilon_0 \cdot |r - r_{\text{prime}}|} dS_{\text{prime}}$$

# Example

Find  $V$  on the  $z$  axis for a uniform line charge  $\rho_L$  in the form of a ring

$$V(\mathbf{r}) = \int \frac{\rho_L(\mathbf{r}_{\text{prime}})}{4\pi\epsilon_0 |\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_{\text{prime}}|} dL_{\text{prime}}$$



# Conservative field

No work is done (energy is conserved) around a closed path

KVL is an application of this



## 4.6

# Potential gradient Relationship between potential and electric field intensity

$$V = - \int \mathbf{E} \cdot d\mathbf{L}$$

Two characteristics of relationship:

1. The magnitude of the electric field intensity is given by the maximum value of the rate of change of potential with distance
2. This maximum value is obtained when the direction of  $\mathbf{E}$  is opposite to the direction in which the potential is increasing the most rapidly

# Gradient

- The gradient of a scalar is a vector
- The gradient shows the maximum space rate of change of a scalar quantity and the *direction* in which the maximum occurs
- The operation on  $V$  by which  $-\mathbf{E}$  is obtained

$$\mathbf{E} = - \text{grad } V = - \nabla V$$

# Gradients in different coordinate systems

The following equations are found on page 104 and inside the back cover of the text:

$$\text{grad}V = \frac{\delta V}{\delta x} \cdot \mathbf{a}_x + \frac{\delta V}{\delta y} \cdot \mathbf{a}_y + \frac{\delta V}{\delta z} \cdot \mathbf{a}_z$$

Cartesian

$$\text{grad}V = \frac{\delta V}{\delta \rho} \cdot \mathbf{a}_\rho + \frac{1}{\rho} \cdot \frac{\delta V}{\delta \phi} \cdot \mathbf{a}_\phi + \frac{\delta V}{\delta z} \cdot \mathbf{a}_z$$

Cylindrical

$$\text{grad}V = \frac{\delta V}{\delta r} \cdot \mathbf{a}_r + \frac{1}{r} \cdot \frac{\delta V}{\delta \theta} \cdot \mathbf{a}_\theta + \frac{1}{r \cdot \sin(\theta)} \cdot \frac{\delta V}{\delta \phi} \cdot \mathbf{a}_\phi$$

Spherical

# Example 4.3

Given the potential field,  $V = 2x^2y - 5z$ , and a point  $P(-4, 3, 6)$ , find the following: potential  $V$ , electric field intensity  $\mathbf{E}$

potential

$$V_P = 2(-4)^2(3) - 5(6) = 66 \text{ V}$$

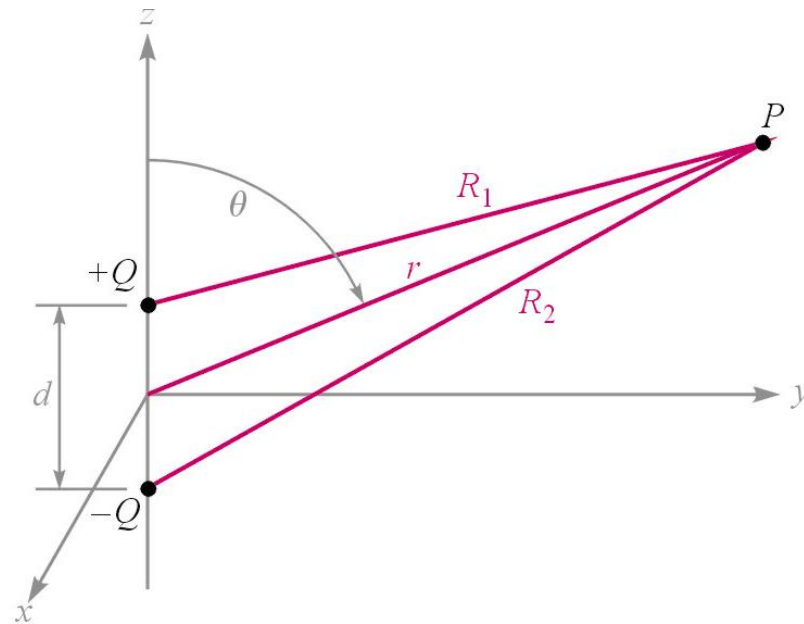
electric field intensity - use gradient operation

$$\mathbf{E} = -4xy\mathbf{a}_x - 2x^2\mathbf{a}_y + 5\mathbf{a}_z$$

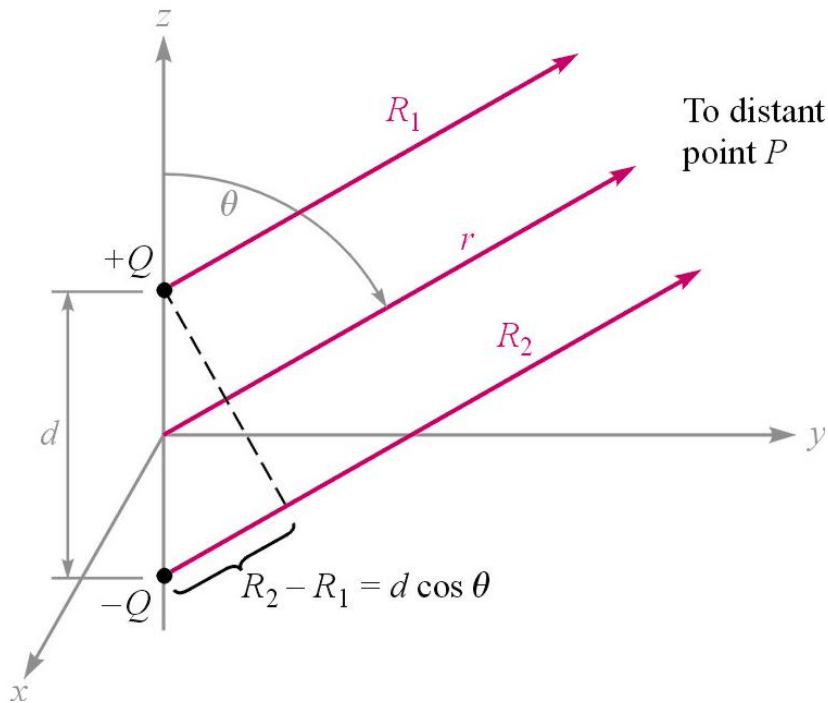
$$\mathbf{E}_P = 48\mathbf{a}_x - 32\mathbf{a}_y + 5\mathbf{a}_z$$

# Dipole

The name given to two point charges of equal magnitude and opposite sign, separated by a distance which is small compared to the distance to the point P, at which we want to know the electric and potential fields



# Potential



To approximate the potential of a dipole, assume  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are parallel since the point  $P$  is very distant

$$V = \frac{Q}{4 \cdot \pi \cdot \epsilon_0} \cdot \left( \frac{1}{R_1} - \frac{1}{R_2} \right)$$

$$V = \frac{Q \cdot d \cdot \cos(\theta)}{4 \cdot \pi \cdot \epsilon_0 \cdot r^2}$$

# Dipole moment

The dipole moment is assigned the symbol  $p$  and is equal to the product of charge and separation

$$p = Q * d$$

The dipole moment expression simplifies the potential field equation

# Example

An electric dipole located at the origin in free space has a moment  $\mathbf{p} = 3\mathbf{a}_x - 2\mathbf{a}_y + \mathbf{a}_z$  nC\*m. Find  $V$  at the points  $(2, 3, 4)$  and  $(2.5, 30^\circ, 40^\circ)$ .



$$p := \begin{pmatrix} 3 \cdot 10^{-9} \\ -2 \cdot 10^{-9} \\ 1 \cdot 10^{-9} \end{pmatrix} \quad \epsilon_0 := 8.85410^{-12}$$

$$P := \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} \quad V := \frac{p}{4 \cdot \pi \cdot \epsilon_0 \cdot (|P|)^2} \cdot \frac{P}{|P|} \quad V = 0.23$$

$$P_{\text{spherical}} := \begin{pmatrix} 2.5 \\ 30 \frac{\pi}{180} \\ 40 \frac{\pi}{180} \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{Transform this into rectangular coordinates}$$

$$P_{\text{rectangular}} := \begin{pmatrix} 2.5 \sin\left(30 \frac{\pi}{180}\right) \cdot \cos\left(40 \frac{\pi}{180}\right) \\ 2.5 \sin\left(30 \frac{\pi}{180}\right) \cdot \sin\left(40 \frac{\pi}{180}\right) \\ 2.5 \cos\left(30 \frac{\pi}{180}\right) \end{pmatrix} \quad P_{\text{rectangular}} = \begin{pmatrix} 0.958 \\ 0.803 \\ 2.165 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$V := \frac{p}{4 \cdot \pi \cdot \epsilon_0 \cdot (|P_{\text{rectangular}}|)^2} \cdot \frac{P_{\text{rectangular}}}{|P_{\text{rectangular}}|} \quad V = 1.973$$

# Potential energy

Bringing a positive charge from infinity into the field of another positive charge requires work. The work is done by the external source that moves the charge into position. If the source released its hold on the charge, the charge would accelerate, turning its potential energy into kinetic energy.

The potential energy of a system is found by finding the work done by an external source in positioning the charge.

# Empty universe

Positioning the first charge,  $Q_1$ , requires no work (no field present)

Positioning more charges does take work

Total positioning work = potential energy of field =  $W_E =$   
 $Q_2 V_{2,1} + Q_3 V_{3,1} + Q_3 V_{3,2} + Q_4 V_{4,1} + Q_4 V_{4,2} + Q_4 V_{4,3} + \dots$

Manipulate this expression to get

$$W_E = 0.5(Q_1 V_1 + Q_2 V_2 + Q_3 V_3 + \dots)$$

# Where is energy stored?

The location of potential energy cannot be precisely pinned down in terms of physical location - in the molecules of the pencil, the gravitational field, etc?

So where is the energy in a capacitor stored?

Electromagnetic theory makes it easy to believe that the energy is stored in the field itself