

(10 points, suggested time 20 minutes)

Particles A and B each have positive charge $+Q$ and are held fixed at two vertices of an equilateral triangle of side length d , as shown. Point P is located equidistant from each vertex of the triangle.

Students Y and Z discuss the electric field and the electric potential at Point P after a third charged particle is placed at the bottom-right vertex. The students make the following statements.

Student Y: "If a particle with positive charge $+2Q$ is placed at the bottom-right vertex, the magnitude of the electric field will be zero at Point P."

Student Z: "To make the value of the electric potential zero at Point P, a particle with negative charge $-Q$ should be placed at the bottom-right vertex."

(a) In a coherent, paragraph-length response, evaluate the accuracy of each student's statement. If any aspect of either student's statement is inaccurate, explain how to correct the student's statement. Support your evaluations using appropriate physics principles.

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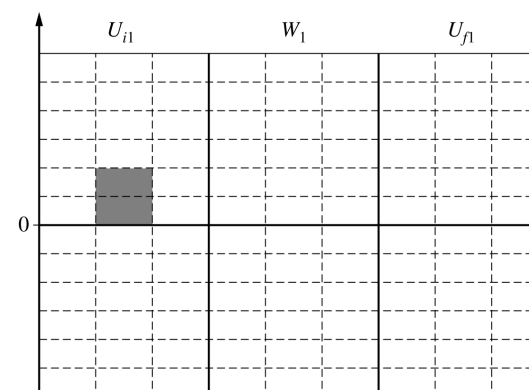
(b) Particles A and B are once again held in place at two vertices of the equilateral triangle. The students want to represent the electric potential energy of a system of particles when a third charged particle is brought from very far away to the bottom-right vertex. Scenarios 1 and 2 are considered.

i. In Scenario 1, a third particle with positive charge $+Q$ is moved from very far away to the bottom-right vertex and then held in place. A bar is shown on the following chart that represents the electric potential energy U_{i1} of the system consisting of all three particles when the third particle with positive charge is very far away from the other particles.

In the grid provided, complete the bar chart.

- Draw a bar to represent the work W_1 required to move the third particle with positive charge from very far away to the bottom-right vertex.
- Draw another bar to represent the electric potential energy U_{f1} of the system consisting of all three particles when the third particle with positive charge is held in place at the bottom-right vertex.

The height of each bar should be proportional to the energy represented. If the quantity is zero, write a "0" in that column.



Scenario 1

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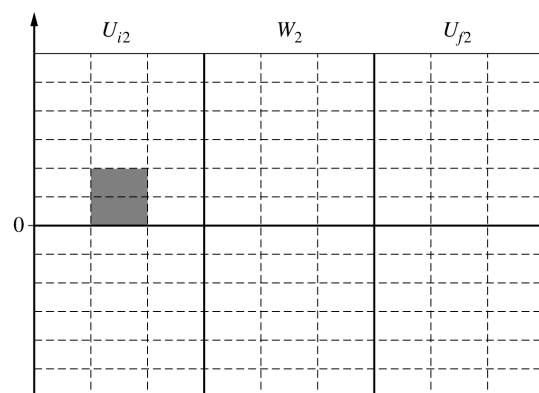
Continue your response to **QUESTION 4** on this page.

ii. In Scenario 2, a particle with negative charge $-Q$ is moved from very far away to the bottom-right vertex and then held in place. A bar is shown on the following chart that represents the electric potential energy U_{i2} of the system consisting of all three particles when the particle with negative charge is very far away from the other particles.

In the grid provided, complete the bar chart.

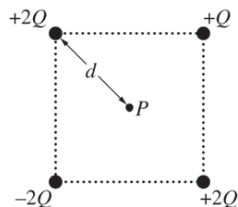
- Draw a bar to represent the work W_2 required to move the particle with negative charge from very far away to the bottom-right vertex.
- Draw another bar to represent the electric potential energy U_{f2} of the system consisting of all three particles when the particle with negative charge is held in place at the bottom-right vertex.

The height of each bar should be proportional to the energy represented. If the quantity is zero, write a “0” in that column.



Scenario 2

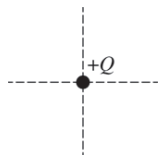
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4. (10 points, suggested time 20 minutes)

The figure above represents four objects, with charges as shown, that are held in place at the corners of a square. Point P is at the center of the square, a distance d from each of the objects. Express all algebraic answers to the following in terms of Q , d , and physical constants.

- (a) On the dot below, draw an arrow that represents the direction of the net electric force exerted on the object with charge $+Q$ by the other three objects.

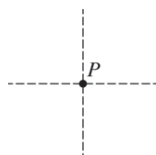


(b)

- i. Calculate the magnitude of the electric field at point P due to all four objects. On the dot below, draw an arrow to indicate the direction of the net field at point P .

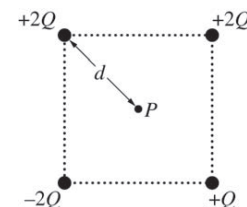
Draw Arrow

Calculate Electric Field



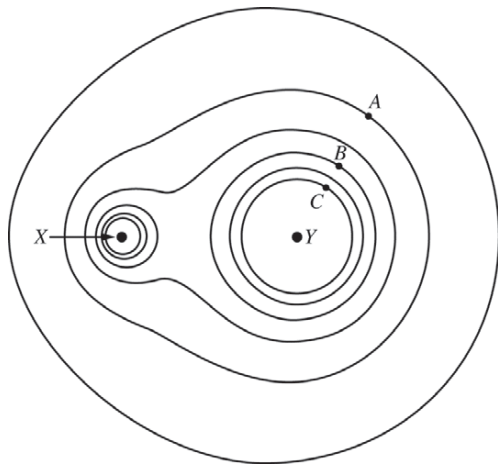
- ii. Calculate the electric potential at point P due to all four objects.

- (c) In a coherent, paragraph-length response, briefly describe the meaning of electric potential energy and explain qualitatively how electric potential energy can be related to work. Also explain qualitatively how the electric potential energy of the four-object system would change if the $+Q$ and $+2Q$ objects on the right side of the square now switch positions as shown in the figure below. Support your explanation using appropriate physics principles.



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END OF EXAM



3. (12 points, suggested time 25 minutes)

The dots in the figure above represent two identical spheres, X and Y , that are fixed in place with their centers in the plane of the page. Both spheres are charged, and the charge on sphere Y is positive. The lines are isolines of electric potential, also in the plane of the page, with a potential difference of 10 V between each set of adjacent lines. The absolute value of the electric potential of the outermost line is 50 V.

(a) Indicate the values of the potentials, including the signs, at the labeled points A and B .

Potential at point A _____ Potential at point B _____

(b)

- How do the magnitudes and the signs of the charges of the spheres compare? Explain your answer in terms of the isolines of electric potential shown.
- The spheres at points X and Y have masses in the same ratio as the magnitudes of their charges. The isolines of gravitational potential for the spheres have shapes similar to those of the isolines shown. Explain why the two sets of isolines have similar shapes.

Let the potentials at the three labeled points be V_A , V_B , and V_C . A proton with charge $+q$ and mass m is released from rest at point B .

(c) Based on your answer to part (b)(ii), briefly describe one similarity and one difference between the electric and gravitational forces exerted on the proton by the system of the two spheres. The similarity and difference you describe must not be ones that generally apply to all forces.

(d) At some time after being released from rest at point B , the proton has moved through a potential difference of magnitude 20 V.

- Determine the change in electric potential energy of the proton-spheres system when the proton has moved through the 20 V potential difference. Express your answer symbolically in terms of q , V_A , V_B , V_C , and physical constants, as appropriate.
- As it moved through the 20 V potential difference, the proton was displaced a distance d by the electric force. Determine a symbolic expression for the total work done on the proton by the electric field in terms of the average magnitude E_{avg} of the electric field over that distance.
- Two students are discussing how and why the kinetic energy of the proton would change after it is released.
 - Student 1 says that if the system is defined as the proton and the spheres, the increase in the proton's kinetic energy is due to a change in the system's potential energy as the proton moves through the 20 V potential difference.
 - Student 2 says that if the system is defined as only the proton, the kinetic energy of the proton increases because positive work is done on the proton by the electric field as the proton moves through the 20 V potential difference.

Discuss each student's claims, explaining why each is correct or incorrect.