

# Ch. 23 Electric Charge, Force, and Field



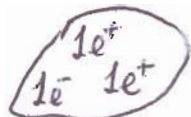
Interaction b/w these 2 distributions of **charges**: via the electric field: to calculate the electric **force** of  $Q_1$  on  $Q_2$  we calculate the electric **field** created by  $Q_1$ :  $\vec{E}_1$ , then the force on  $Q_2$  is  $\vec{F}_{12} = Q_2 \vec{E}_1$   
(by  $Q_1$  on  $Q_2$ )

Charges: • types: 2  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} + \text{ (a proton has } 1e^+) \\ - \text{ (elementary charge: that of electron } e^- \\ \quad 1e^- = -1.6 \times 10^{-19} \text{ C} \end{array} \right.$   
Coulomb SI unit of charge

• superposition of charges:

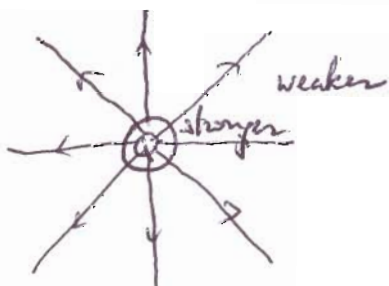


$$Q_{\text{total}} = 0 \text{ C}$$



$$Q_{\text{total}} = 1e^+ = +1.6 \times 10^{-19} \text{ C}$$

• Electric field:  $\vec{E} = k \frac{Q}{r^2} \hat{r}$



$$k = \text{electric constant} = 9 \times 10^9 \frac{\text{Nm}^2}{\text{C}^2}$$

$Q$ : total charge

$r$ : separation from the charge

$\hat{r}$ : unit radial vector, pointing away from the charge.

$$q_e = 1e^- = -1.6 \times 10^{-19} \text{ C}$$

$$m_e = 9.11 \times 10^{-31} \text{ kg}$$

$$\vec{E} = k \frac{Q}{r^2} \hat{r}$$

$$k = 9 \times 10^9 \frac{\text{Nm}^2}{\text{C}^2}$$

$$\vec{g} = -G \frac{M}{r^2} \hat{r}$$

$$G = 6.67 \times 10^{-11} \frac{\text{Nm}^2}{\text{kg}^2}$$

huge strength compared to gravitational field  
(can't learn as we learn to walk).

$$\frac{\text{Electric force}}{\text{Grav. force}} = \frac{q_p k q_e}{m_p G m_e} \approx 2.27 \times 10^{39}$$

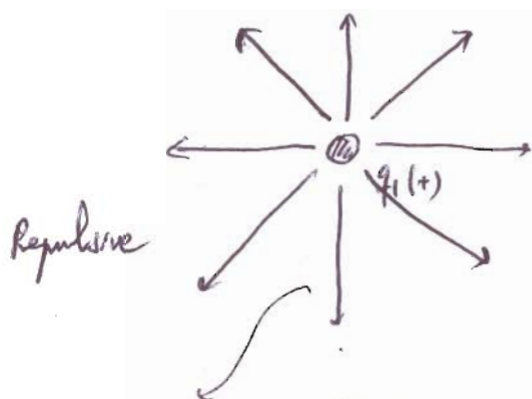
b/w a proton of mass  $m_p$   
charge  $1e^+$  and an electron  
of mass  $m_e$  and charge  $1e^-$

$$q_e = 1e^- ; q_p = 1e^+$$

$$m_p \approx 2000 m_e = 1.67 \times 10^{-27} \text{ kg}$$

Why at the macroscopic level, under normal conditions we feel the grav. force but not the electric force? b/c of superposition & balance of + and - charges.

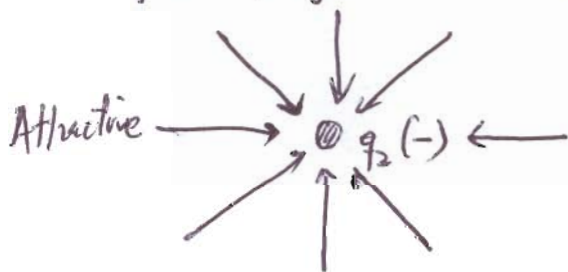
## Electric field due to one charge:



$$\vec{E}_1 = k \frac{q_1}{r^2} \hat{r}$$

→ Radial unit vector  $\hat{r}$  is pointing away from the charge (regardless of the type of charge)

Electric field lines = indicate the directions & strengths of the electric field (higher density of lines = stronger field)



$$\vec{E}_2 = -\frac{k|q_2|}{r^2} \hat{r}$$

→  $q_2$  is "test charge" in the field created by  $q_1$ : force by  $q_1$  on  $q_2$ :

$$\vec{F}_{12} = \underbrace{q_2}_{\substack{\ominus \\ \text{attractive}}} \vec{E}_1$$

( $q_1$  on  $q_2$ )

→  $q_1$  is "test charge" in the field created by  $q_2$ : force by  $q_2$  on  $q_1$  is

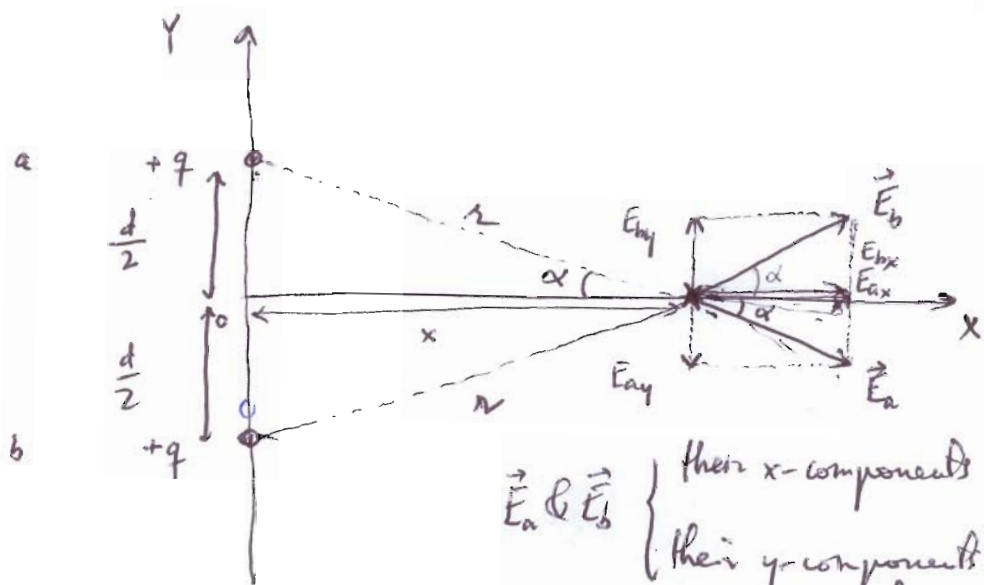
$$\vec{F}_{21} = \underbrace{q_1}_{\oplus} \vec{E}_2$$

( $q_2$  on  $q_1$ ) attractive.

Electric forces b/w a + & a - are attractive; likewise, two two +'s or two -'s are repulsive.

# Electric field by two positive charges:

by superposition of fields created by one charge



$\vec{E}_a$  &  $\vec{E}_b$

- their x-components are <sup>equal</sup> parallel
- their y-components are equal and opposite

$\rightarrow \vec{E} = 2E_{ax} \hat{x}$   
repulsive

What is  $E$ ?

$\rightarrow$  We know  $E_a = E_b = \frac{kq}{r^2}$  ;  $r = \left(x^2 + \frac{d^2}{4}\right)^{1/2}$   
 $= \frac{kq}{x^2 + \frac{d^2}{4}}$

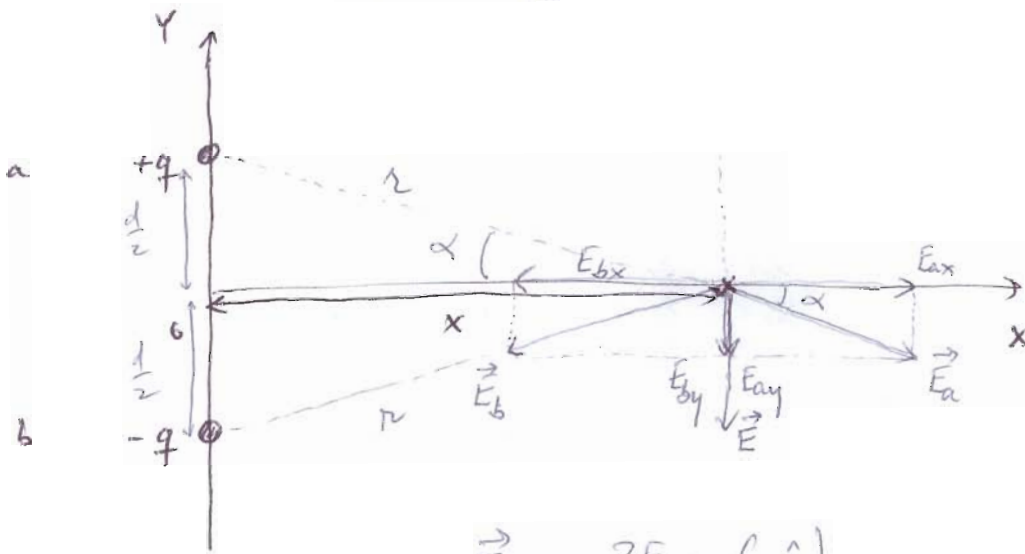
$\rightarrow E_{ax} = E_a \cos \alpha = E_a \cdot \frac{x}{r} = \frac{kq}{\left(x^2 + \frac{d^2}{4}\right)} \cdot \frac{x}{\left(x^2 + \frac{d^2}{4}\right)^{1/2}} = \frac{kqx}{\left(x^2 + \frac{d^2}{4}\right)^{3/2}}$

$\rightarrow E = 2E_{ax} = \frac{2kqx}{\left(x^2 + \frac{d^2}{4}\right)^{3/2}} \Rightarrow \vec{E} = \frac{2kqx}{\left(x^2 + \frac{d^2}{4}\right)^{3/2}} \hat{x}$

unit:  $\frac{N}{C}$  (Newtons / Coulombs)

# Electric field by one positive and one negative charge:

Dipole configuration (faraway field satisfies inverse cube law)



$$\vec{E} = 2E_{ay} (-\hat{j})$$

$\propto (-\hat{j})$  unit vector along negative  $Y$  direction.

$$= 2E_a \sin \alpha (-\hat{j})$$

$$= 2 \frac{kq}{r^2} \frac{\frac{d}{2}}{r} (-\hat{j}) = \frac{kq d}{r^3} (-\hat{j})$$

$$\vec{E} = \frac{kq d}{\left(x^2 + \frac{d^2}{4}\right)^{3/2}} (-\hat{j})$$

→ Far away from the dipole:  $x \gg \frac{d}{2}$

$$\rightarrow x^2 + \left(\frac{d}{2}\right)^2 \approx x^2$$

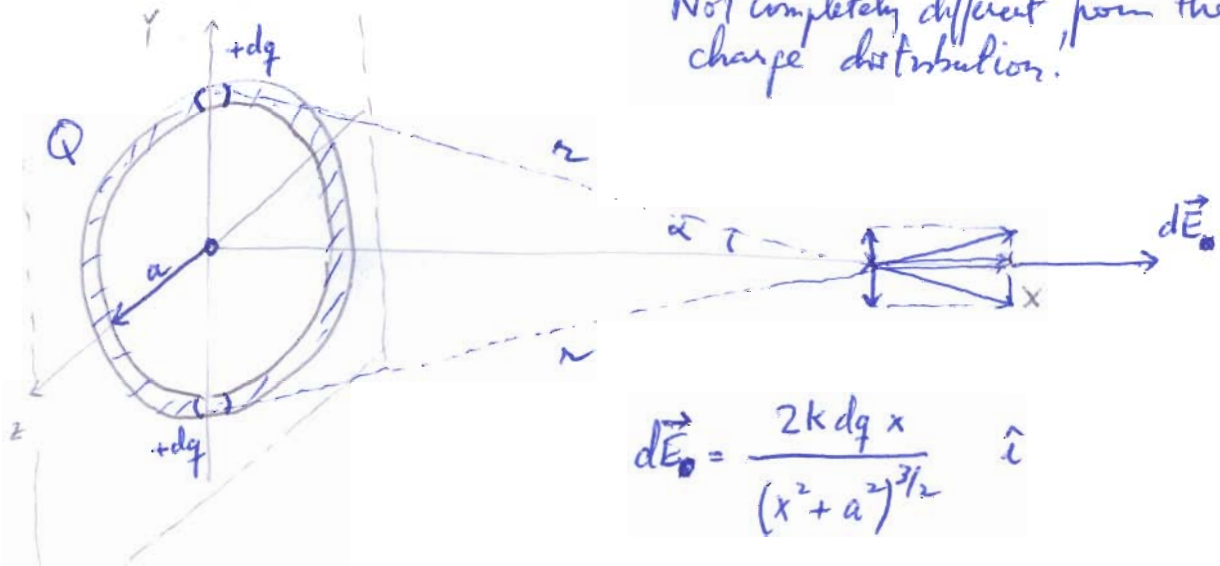
$$\propto \left(x^2 + \left(\frac{d}{2}\right)^2\right)^{3/2} \approx x^3 = x^3$$

$$\vec{E}_{\text{dipole}} \approx \frac{kq d}{x^3} (-\hat{j})$$

↑ inverse-cube law.

Electric field for a continuous ring of charge: for a point on its axis

Not completely different from the two charge distribution!



$$\vec{dE} = \frac{2k dq x}{(x^2 + a^2)^{3/2}} \hat{i}$$

ring on  $YZ$  plane

$$\vec{E} = \int_{\text{half ring (I am doing parts)}} \vec{dE} = \hat{i} \int_{\text{half ring within } YZ \text{ plane}} dE = \hat{i} \frac{2kx}{(x^2 + a^2)^{3/2}} \int_{\text{half ring}} dq$$

separation  $r$  to point  $x$  is the same for all points along the ring.

$$\boxed{\vec{E} = \hat{i} \frac{2kQx}{(x^2 + a^2)^{3/2}} = \frac{kQx}{(x^2 + a^2)^{3/2}} \hat{i}}$$

Observation: far away  $x \gg a \rightarrow \vec{E} = \frac{kQx}{x^2} \hat{i}$

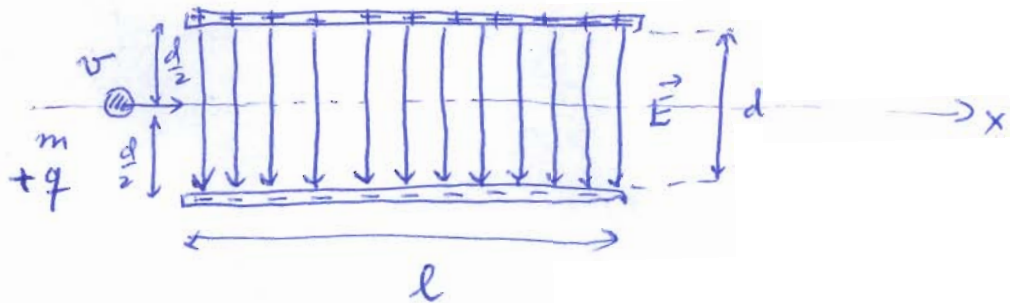
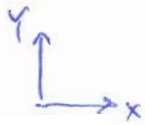
$$\boxed{\vec{E} = \frac{kQ}{x^2} \hat{i}}$$

# Electric field in matter :

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ink-jet printers.

initial velocity :  $\vec{v}_0 = v\hat{i}$



What is  $v_{min}$  so drop would not hit a plate

$$\vec{F}_{on\ drop} = +q\vec{E} = +qE(-\hat{j}) \quad (\text{pointing down; would be pointing up for a negatively charged drop})$$

Need to make sure drop would not hit the bottom plate.

By 2<sup>nd</sup> Newton's law, drop will be accelerating downward due to the electric force:

$$\vec{F}_{on\ drop} = m\vec{a} \rightarrow \vec{a} = \frac{qE}{m}(-\hat{j})$$

Trajectory should be such that by the time  $x=l$ ,

$$y < \frac{d}{2}$$

↓ const. acceleration ( $y = y_0 + v_{y0}t + \frac{1}{2}at^2$ )

$$y = \frac{1}{2}at^2 = \frac{1}{2} \frac{qE}{m} \frac{l^2}{v^2} < \frac{d}{2}$$

(const. speed along x-direction)

$$\frac{qEl^2}{md} < v^2 \quad \text{or} \quad v > \sqrt{\frac{qEl^2}{md}} = v_{min}$$