

**6.04 Electric Potential**

**Electric potential** is the amount of electric potential energy used to move one unit of positive charge from one point inside an \_\_\_\_\_ to another (assuming it doesn't increase other forms of energy like kinetic energy).

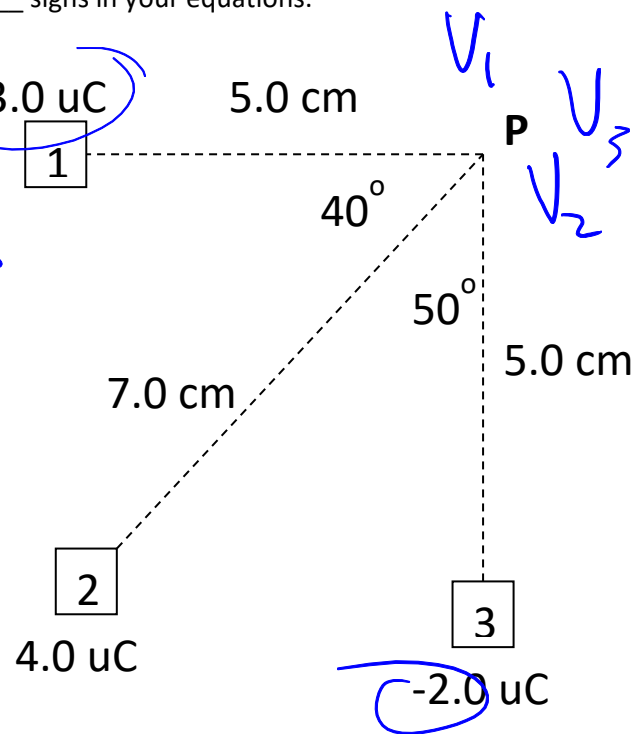
$$V = \frac{E_p}{q} = \frac{Kq_1q_2}{r} = \frac{Kq}{r} \quad (\text{volts, V})$$

Electric potential is also a scalar quantity, so it will be important to use positive and negative signs in your equations.

Ex. 1: Calculate the potential at P as shown in the diagram:

(690 000 V)

$$V_{\text{total}} = V_1 + V_2 + V_3$$



From your calculations, positive charges will move towards low potential, and negative charges will move towards positive potential.

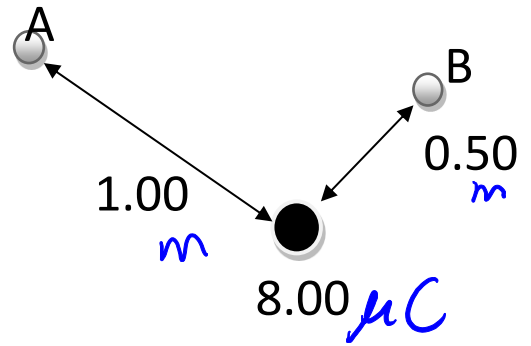
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Previously, we've compared the potential difference relative to infinity (0 V). If we want to compare it to another point in an electric field, we can find the potential difference instead.

The **potential difference** between A and B/The potential difference from A to B is:

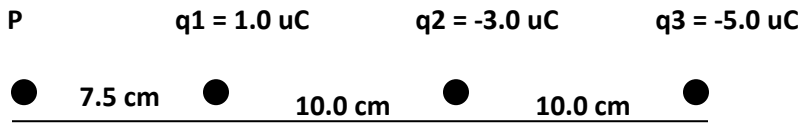
$$\Delta V_{A \rightarrow B} = V_B - V_A$$

Ex. 2: What is the potential difference between points A and B as shown below? (72 000 V)

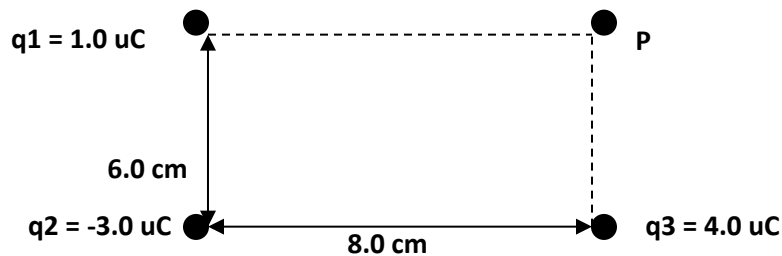


### Worksheet 6.04 Electric Potential

- 1) What is the potential at a distance of 6.0 cm from a 2.5  $\mu\text{C}$  charge? ( $3.8 \times 10^5 \text{ V}$ )
- 2) What is the potential at a distance of 25 cm from a -2.5  $\mu\text{C}$  charge? ( $-9.0 \times 10^4 \text{ V}$ )
- 3) Three charges are located in a line as shown. Find the potential at point P. ( $-2.0 \times 10^5 \text{ V}$ )



- 4) Three charges are located at the corners of a rectangle as shown below. Find the potential at point P.



- 5)  $4.4 \times 10^{-5} \text{ J}$  of work is done moving a 3.00  $\mu\text{C}$  charge at a constant speed from point A to point B. If A and B are 2.4 cm apart, what is the potential difference between A and B? ( $14.7 \text{ V}$ )
- 6) The hydrogen atom has a single proton and a single electron.
  - a) Find the electric potential a distance of  $0.50 \times 10^{-10} \text{ m}$  from the proton of the hydrogen atom. ( $29 \text{ V}$ )
  - b) Use your answer to a to calculate the electric potential energy between the proton in a hydrogen atom and an electron orbiting the proton at a radius of  $0.50 \times 10^{-10} \text{ m}$ . ( $4.6 \times 10^{-18} \text{ J}$ )

Bonus) A charge of  $-3.00 \mu\text{C}$  is fixed in place. From a horizontal distance of 0.0450 m, a particle of mass  $7.20 \times 10^{-3} \text{ kg}$  and a charge of  $-8.00 \mu\text{C}$  is fired with an initial speed of 65.0 m/s directly toward the fixed charge. How far does the particle travel before its speed is zero? (0.011 m from  $-3.00 \mu\text{C}$  or traveling a distance of 0.034 m)

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