

good morning to all of you we continue with our discussion on electrostatics so today we will start a very important topic in electrostatics that is electrostatic potential energy you have all learnt about gravitational field and when you have an object in the gravitational field to move the object you need to exert an extra force

so imagine we have we have the ground surface here and i need to move an object from a certain height to another height

so there is a gravitational force which is trying to pull the object below and i need to apply a force against the gravitational field to move the object up and

so i have to do work to move the object from a certain height to a larger height which means that work which i am doing actually gets stored in the form of a potential energy of the object

so the potential energy i can define a potential energy which means that i the object has some energy here i move the object from one height to another height i am moving the object against the gravitational field and i am doing work on the object and

so when the external force does work on the system the energy of the system increases and

so the potential energy of the object increases here

so this is a example in gravitational field which you must have studied earlier on in fact if i leave the object here the object falls down on its own accord the field pulls the object down and the potential energy of the object gets converted to kinetic energy we have a similar situation in electrostatics where we can define an electrostatic potential energy

so suppose let me assume that there is an electric field pointing down uniform electric field pointing downwards ah let me call this as the x axis this is some axis which called z axis

so i have a uniform electric field pointing downwards

so if i have a charge here say let me take a charge q

so the charge q will be acted upon by an electrostatic force depending on the sign of the charge the electrostatic force is either downwards or upwards so to move the charge from this point another point i have to apply an external force and in that process the external force does work on the system

so let me assume that i have a an object at this point

so let me call this position as x_i and this position as x_f i stands for initial f stands for final

so my electric field is pointing downwards

so as you can see from here electric field is some constant times ϵ_0 with the minus sign the electric field is pointing in the minus x direction x direction is pointing upwards

so what is the force electrostatic force on the on the charge is $-q \epsilon_0$ that is electrostatic force to move the object to move the charge from x_i to x_f i need to apply an external force which is negative of this which is $-q \epsilon_0$ which is equal to $q \epsilon_0$

so i have to apply a force in the upward direction here to move the to move the charge

so that is the force that i have to apply externally and what is the distance i must move the distance i must move is h

so let me call this l vector is $x_f - x_i$ into ϵ_0

so i start from x_i and move to x_f and the i am moving like this from here to here

so the length which i am moving the the distance by which i am moving is $x_f - x_i$ into ϵ_0

so the work done by the external force on the charge is equal to $f_{\text{external}} \cdot l$ which is equal to $q_e \cdot \Delta x$

so if i call this height h this is equal to $q_e \cdot h$

so this is the work done by the external force to move the charge from x_i to x_f and this work gets stored in the form of potential energy of the charge please note that this is the work done by the external force on the charge

so this equation is true for all kinds of charges

so let me try to draw a figure here which which sees what happens with various charges

so i have the electric field pointing down

so suppose my charge was positive and i move from here to here

so the work done the work done is equal to $q_e \cdot h$ and q is positive

so w is greater than zero that means i need to do work on this charge in taking it from this point to this point x_i to x_f

so if i call the initial energy of the charge as u_i and final energy as u_f you see here in this case u_f is greater than u_i the potential energy at this point is more than potential energy at this point

so i have to do work on the charge in taking the positive charge from here to here now what will happen if the charge was negative

so if the charge was minus q again x_i to x_f now in this case the work done is equal to $q_e \cdot h$ is less than zero because q is negative q is negative here

so if the initial energy is again u_i and final energy is u_f in this case u_f is less than u_i

so i am moving like this

so in moving a positive charge from x_i to x_f i have increased the potential energy of the charge in moving the charge from x_i to x_f with the negative charge the potential energy has got decreased what is happening what is the difference between these two cases in this case the positive charge there was an electrostatic force on the positive charge which was downwards and i am moving the charge against the electrostatic force here for the negative charge the electric field is pointing down and i am trying to move up the force on the negative charge is upwards and

so my movement is along the direction of the electrostatic force and in which case actually the field does work on the charge and

so the charge comes out to be negative the work done comes out to be negative which means that the final energy of the charge is less than the initial energy

so you can do similar plots for example if the electric field was pointing downwards and my charge was going from here to here this is x_i this is x_f if this is a positive charge then i am moving in the direction of electric field

so you can show that u_f is less than u_i in the other case where e is like this and if i have a negative charge and going from x_i to x_f by moving like this the electrostatic force on the charge is upwards and i am moving against

so u_f is greater than u_i here

so depending on the direction of electrostatic force if i have to move the charge against the electrostatic force the work done by the external agent on the charge is positive and

so the potential energy increases if the movement is along the direction of the charge of the of the electrostatic force the work done is negative and the potential energy decreases this is also consistent with gravitational a

situation where if i have to move against the gravitational field the potential energy increases if i move to along the direction of gravitational force the potential energy decreases the difference between gravitational and

electrostatics is in gravitation there is only one force of attraction there is no poles of repulsion while in the case of electrostatics you can have either

attraction or repulsive forces and

so you can have combinations of positive and negative charges moving against the electric field or along the directional electric field

so i leave it as a exercise to you to draw similar figures for \mathbf{E} pointing upwards

so you may practice electric field is pointing upwards you find out what are the initial and final energies whether they increase or decrease depending on the charge plus q or minus q and whether you are moving upwards or downwards

so i leave this as a small exercise to you and that will help you to understand whether the potential energy increases or decreases in the various situations now in the example which i looked at i just took the charge vertically up from one point another point now it means

so happen that my movement may not be vertical

so let me consider the following problem this is my x this is z axis

so electric field is again pointing downwards uniform electric field everywhere

so my objective is to move from one point to another point here

so ah let me call the coordinates of this point $x_i z_i$ and this is $x_f z_f$

so i start from $x_i z_i$ and i have to move to this point

so let me call this a and let me call this b

so i have to move a charge let me take a positive charge i have to charge plus q from a to b now obviously i can have different paths to take the charge from a to b i can move for example first horizontally and then go vertically let me call this path one i can go vertically first and then go horizontally let me call this path two or i can go straight straight like this path three

so i can either take the charge first horizontally here and then take it up or i can take it first up to the same height and then horizontal or i can take it at an angle from a to b straight lets

so let us try to calculate what is the work done in moving the charge from a to b along these three paths

so let me look at path one now

so path one

so let me call this c and let me call this d

so path one first i go from a to c and then from c to d

so in going from a to c let me calculate the work done

so ah the electric field as we as before is minus $E_0 \hat{z}$ which i am moving from a to c is is equal to $\int_a^c \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{l}$ remember that c the coordinates of c are actually $x_i z_f$

so i am not change the x coordinate i only change the z coordinate and

so this vector connecting a to c is nothing but z of minus z_i into \hat{k} cap

so the work done in moving charge from a to c is equal to $\int_a^c \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{l}$

so $\mathbf{F}_{\text{external}} \cdot d\mathbf{l}$ sorry $\mathbf{F}_{\text{external}}$ is minus $q \mathbf{E}_{\text{electrostatics}}$ dot $d\mathbf{l}$ vector which is equal to plus $E_0 \hat{z}$ into q the charge which i am having

so the force q times electric field dot z_f minus z_i into \hat{k} cap which is equal to zero because $\hat{z} \cdot \hat{k}$ is equal to zero

so i am actually moving from a to c i do not have to do any work which becomes a little obvious because now the electrostatic force is vertical and i am moving horizontally

so the displacement is perpendicular to the electric field

so this displacement is perpendicular to the force that i am applying then i have to apply and

so i do not have to do any work in taking the charge from a to c now from c to b i have to calculate the work done and this we have already done before calculating the work done to move vertically we have just calculated and that

happens to be

so work done is equal to $q \int_{x_i}^{x_f} E \, dx$

so the total work done in moving from a to b via c that means a to c and this c to b total work done is actually equal to $q \int_{x_i}^{x_f} E \, dx$ now let me try to calculate for this other path path two which is going from a to d and then from d to b

so first is a to d

so a to d is essentially going from this point vertically up

so the z coordinate of these two are equal x coordinate has changed

so just like before what we did the charge is taken vertically up

so from going from a to d the work done is equal to $q \int_{x_i}^{x_f} E \, dx$ i in going from d to b just like in going from a to c i have to move perpendicular to the electrostatic field and

so no work is being done

so d to b work done is equal to zero

so total work done by the external force in moving from a to b by r d is equal to $q \int_{x_i}^{x_f} E \, dx$ which is the same as the work done in moving the charge from a to b via c these two terms are equal

so now let me calculate what is the work done in going from a to b along path three the path three is now not straight at an angle

so path three

so path three i have essentially i am moving along an oblique direction from a to b

so let me calculate this vector l vector

so for path 3 l vector is equal to $x_f - x_i$ into $i \hat{c} + z_f - z_i$ into $k \hat{c}$ look at this point this point has coordinates x_i, z_i this point has coordinates x_f, z_f

so this vector joining x_i, z_i to x_f, z_f is $x_f - x_i$ $i \hat{c} + z_f - z_i$ $k \hat{c}$ and the external force again is equal to $q \int_{x_i}^{x_f} E \, dx$ which is equal to $q \int_{x_i}^{x_f} E \, dx$

so work done is equal to $\int_{x_i}^{x_f} F_{\text{external}} \cdot dl$ which is equal to $q \int_{x_i}^{x_f} E \, dx$ $i \hat{c} + z_f - z_i$ $k \hat{c}$ which is nothing but $q \int_{x_i}^{x_f} E \, dx$ because $i \hat{c} \cdot k \hat{c}$ is equal to zero which is the same as the work done in taking the charge from a to b via c

so what we have seen for the electrostatic case is the work done in going from a to b is the same whether i go from a to b by a c or via d or straight from a to b in fact you can take any arbitrary path connecting a and b and you will find that the work done in moving from a to b is exactly the same as before $q \int_{x_i}^{x_f} E \, dx$

so what this shows is shows us is that the work done is independent of path followed thats a very very important concept these such forces are called conservative forces gravitational force is also conservative force the work done in moving a mass from one position to another position is independent of the path taken and it is a an example of conservative force

so if you have to take a charge from one initial point another final point it does not matter what is the path you follow let me take as another example the because in this case what we had taken was an electrostatic force which was uniform now let me take a case in which the electrostatic field is not uniform and that is a point charge

so let me take a point charge q

so here is my charge

so i want to move from an initial point this distance r_i to a final position r_f ok that is my

so i want to move from a charge from here to here

so let me assume the charge is cap small q

so i want to move a charge along the radial direction from point r i to a distance r f

so let me call this a and let me call this b

so i want to move a point charge with ah with magnitude q from a point a to a point b

so again

so what is the electrostatic force is q times e which is equal to $q q$ by four pi epsilon zero r square into r cap that is the electrostatic force on the charge

so my external force which i have to apply is minus of electrostatic force which is equal to minus $q q$ by four pi epsilon zero r square r cap and my vector which i am moving is along the radial direction

so you know that the work done if the force is non uniform integral f external dot d l from the initial point of r i to r f from the initial point to the final point the dot product of force external force that i am applying dot d l vector and in this case as you can see d l vector is nothing but d r vector which is actually equal to r d r k r cap d r because the vector is along the r cap direction this is the r cap direction remember we have discussed in coulomb's law that is r cap direction

so the work done now becomes by external force is equal to integral f external dot d l from ah r i to r f which is actually equal to now this is ah the external the force is minus $q q$ by four pi epsilon zero r square ah r cap dot d r r cap from r i to r f which is equal to minus $q q$ by four pi epsilon zero integral r i to r f d r by r square which is equal to minus $q q$ by four pi epsilon zero integral of one by r square is minus one by r r i to r f which is nothing but $q q$ by four pi epsilon zero into one by r f minus one by r

so this this minus signs cancel off and i get $q q$ by 4 pi epsilon 0 into 1 by r f minus 1 by r i that is the work done by the external force in moving the charge small q from this point a to point b where r is the initial distance and r f is the final distance now this equation is valid irrespective of the sign of the charges

so you can see that for example if the charges were both positive

so if the charge capital q is positive and the charge which i am moving is also positive and i move from here to here

so this is a and this is b you see with the positive the force is repulsive the force is in the in this direction the electrostatic force and i am moving in the same direction

so the the initial the final potential energy will be less than the initial potential energy as you can see here the work done because work done was equal to $q q$ by four pi epsilon zero one by r f minus one by r i

so here q and q are both positive r f is greater than r i

so work done is negative

so the field is doing work already the the force is repulsive and i am moving along the direction of the force and

so actually the field does work on the system and i have to do negative work similarly you can calculate suppose i had a plus q here and i had a minus q charge here in going from a to b now ah q times q becomes negative

so work done is equal to

so this is minus q capital q by four pi epsilon zero one by r f minus one by r i this is negative this is negative sign

so this is greater than zero

so u b is greater than u a again this is obvious because this negative charge the electrostatic force is attractive and i have to move the charge against the

electrostatic force

so i have to do work on the charge in moving from a to b in which case that work which i do get stored as potential energy of the charge

so you can work out the other combinations here to find out what is the work done by the external agent in moving the charge from an initial point to final point you can take different cases where r_i is less than r_f r_f is more than r_i etcetera etcetera and i leave the discussion to you now just like in the earlier case what we will find is

so let me take for example this the charge plus for exam q and i want to move from this point to another point here

so in earlier example which we started discussing the two lines the two initial and final points were along the same radial line now i am taking two points which are not along the same radial line a b like this

so i have to move like this now i want to move from a to b

so i can do different kind of combinations for example first i can move like this along a circular arc along q and then move from here to here i can move from here to here and then move along the circular arc or i can have any combination of position paths for example i can do like this i can move along radial then go like this then move along radial then go like this then move along radial go like this now for example if you look at this path around this path which is a circular arc the movement of this part is exactly perpendicular to the neutral static force at every point at this point electrostatic force is if there is a positive charge electrostatic force is like this and i am moving perpendicular at this point there are static forces like this i am moving perpendicular at this point there are static forces like this i am moving perpendicular till i reach this point and then i move in the same direction as the electrostatic force

so here i do not do any work and here i do the work which i have already calculated as $q q$ by four π ϵ_0 one by r_f minus one by r_a similarly if you look at this path i go from the distance r_i to distance r_f along the radial direction and then i move along the circular arc connecting this point to this point along this direction i do the same work as this along the arc i do not work because i am moving perpendicular to the electrostatic force similarly you can calculate for any path what you will find is path independence of work done

so any electrostatic force that you have the work done to move a charge from one initial point to a final point is independent of the path and as i mentioned before this is a characteristic of conservative forces

so what does this imply for example

so let me take ah let me take a following example

so i have a charge and then i am moving i i want to move between path a to b like this and i want to come back

so let me call this c one and c two

so i do a circular path

so i start from a go to b and come back to a from another path along another path

so let me calculate the total work done

so total work done is $\oint f_{\text{external}} \cdot d\mathbf{l}$ and this as i mentioned before this circle on the integral sign means its a closed path

so this is equal to a to b along c one $\int_a^b f_{\text{external}} \cdot d\mathbf{l}$ plus b to a along c two $\int_b^a f_{\text{external}} \cdot d\mathbf{l}$ now i know that as we have discussed integral a to b along c one $\int_a^b f_{\text{external}} \cdot d\mathbf{l}$ is equal to integral a to b along c two the second curve $\int_b^a f_{\text{external}} \cdot d\mathbf{l}$ which is actually minus of b to a along c two $\int_b^a f_{\text{external}} \cdot d\mathbf{l}$ external total

so the work done in going from here to here is the same as the work done in going from here to here along this path the work done going from here to here is negative of the work done in going from b to a that's what this says

so you see that these two are equal and of opposite sign which means that I get the following very important expression that $\int \mathbf{f}_{\text{external}} \cdot d\mathbf{l}$ is equal to zero that means in a closed path net work done in a closed path is equal to zero and this is again a characteristic of conservative forces the net work done in carrying a charge from a to b back to a through any two different paths any path is actually zero

so you may be doing some work in taking a to a to b along c one and then the field does an equal amount of work in bringing the force bringing the charge from b to a along another curve

so the net work done becomes zero

so this is again a part of conservative forces and

so what we can do is with this we can define we can define a potential energy we can now define a potential energy electrostatic potential energy

so let me again take a point charge remember we had calculated the

so work done per external force is equal to $q \int \frac{1}{r^2} dr$ from r_1 to r_2 ok

so remember in gravitational fields we define the potential energy with respect to some reference

so normally we say the ground has zero potential energy

so when I take an object to a certain height I do work on the object and

so there is a potential energy stored in the object similarly we will define the electrostatic potential energy at any point with respect to a reference potential which is

so the reference point is usually chosen reference point is usually chosen at infinity and this is zero of potential energy

so I will assume that if I have a positive charge q here if the other charge is at infinity then there is no energy in the system this potential energy is zero and then when I bring the second charge close to this first charge I will do work on the charge and I will change the potential energy

so in this equation if I substitute r_1 is equal to infinity and r_2 is equal to r that means this will give me the work done in bringing a charge from infinity to this point this distance r from here

so work done in bringing a charge q from infinity to this point at a distance r will be given by this equation which I will define as the potential energy here which is potential energy is a potential energy at a position r between these two pair of charges is $q \int \frac{1}{r^2} dr$ please remember because the work done is independent of path followed no matter how I bring the small charge q from infinity to this point I will have to do exactly the same amount of work

so I can define a potential energy which only depends on this point which is the energy to bring a charge q from infinity to this point no matter along which path

so this becomes a potential energy at this point

so this is the potential energy of a pair of charges separated by a small distance r

so if I have a charge Q and a small q separated by distance r the potential energy

so this is the potential energy of this pair of charges please remember that if I had calculated the following suppose I say I have a small q and I bring Q charge into this point at a distance r from this point charge I will get the same potential energy the energy is stored as a in the entire

electrostatic system of charges itself and it only depends on the separation between these two charges through this equation $q_1 q_2$ by four five epsilon zero r and this is the potential energy of this system of charges although i brought in small q from infinity to this point i could have brought capital q from infinity to this point i could have moved both charges from infinity together to bring it to a certain distance small r whenever finally they land up with the separation of small r this pair of charges now has a potential energy which is $q_1 q_2$ by four pi epsilon zero r

so this is for a pair of charges i can similarly calculate for more charges so for example suppose my final system has three charges

so i have suppose i have to bring i have to bring three charges q_1 q_2 and q_3 my question is what is the potential energy of this system of three charges

so i do the following ah procedure first i have nothing here

so i bring charge q_1 and place at this point because there is no other charge present i have to do no work in bringing q_1 and placing it here once having placed q_1 here i bring q_2 from infinity to this point

so let me call this distance r_{12}

so what is the ah potential energy between q_1 and q_2

so let me call this U_{12} is equal to $q_1 q_2$ by four pi epsilon zero r_{12} product of the two charges divided by four pi epsilon zero into separation between them that's the potential energy of $q_1 q_2$ pair of charges now with these two charges present here i now bring q_3 from infinity and place it at this point

so let me call this distance as r_{13} and this distance as r_{23} now you see when i bring in q_3 from infinity i have to do work against the electric field of both q_1 and q_2 simultaneously

so what will happen is the work done by me to bring in charge q_3 will be essentially

so let me let me calculate sorry charge q_3 let me calculate the work done in bringing q_3 to this point

so this will be w will be integral $f_{\text{external}} \cdot d\mathbf{l}$ which is ah from infinity to this point infinity to this point

so let me call this point c a b c

so this is equal to minus of $f_{\text{electric field}} \cdot d\mathbf{l}$ from infinity to c and $f_{\text{electric field}}$ is actually the charge both the charges now produce electric field at this point as a function of distance and we know that we electrostatic satisfies principle conservation

so i have q_1 by four pi epsilon zero r^2 r cap plus q_2 let me let me write like this ok

so if electrostatic is equal to ah q_1 times e_1 electric field because of charge q_1 sorry q_3 the force on this charge q_3 is q_3 times e_1 plus q_3 times e_2 e_1 is electric field produced by charge q_1 e_2 is electric field produced by charge q_2 this is the force of force on the charge q_3 because of electric field of q_1 this is the force on the ah charge q_3 because the electric field produced by q_2 and

so this is the total electric field that the charge q_3 has to move against

so the work done will be equal to minus q_3 times $e_1 \cdot d\mathbf{l}$ infinity to c minus q_3 infinity to c e_2 total now what is this this is the work done in bringing a charge q_3 this is the work done in bringing a charge q_3 because of the electric field produced by q_1 there is no dependent on q_2 here and that must be as we as we have discussed before $q_1 q_3$ by four pi epsilon zero r_{13} because e_1 is electric field produced by q_1 and this is the work done in bringing q_3 from infinity to this point at a

distance r one three from here

so the work done is exactly the same as this equation except that q two gets replaced by q three and this distance r one two gets replaced by r one three

so i get a four work done which is q one q three by four pi epsilon zero r one three and this is nothing but the work done in bringing charge q three from infinity to this point because of the electric field generated by q two

so this must be equal to plus q one q two q three by four pi epsilon zero r two three

so this is the work done in bringing q three to this point

so the total work done in assembling this charge distribution is the sum of the work done in bringing charge q 2 to this point and the work done in bringing charge q 3 to this point

so the total work done or total potential energy is equal to q one q two by four pi epsilon zero r one two plus q one q three by four pi sine n zero r one three plus q two q three divided by four pi epsilon zero r two three

so this is the energy because of q 1 q 2 this is the energy because of q 1 q 3 and this energy because of q 2 q 3 that's the total energy of the system of charges and as i mentioned we associate this potential energy with the entire system of charges i have now brought first i brought q one then i brought q two then i brought q three you can calculate and show that this is independent of whether i bring q one first or q three first as long as finally the charge distribution sits in this particular pattern the work done it will be equal to this and

so the total potential energy stored in the system is the sum of these three

so it is independent of the sequence of bringing the of these charges

so in general you can write you can actually generalize this to any number of point charges and you get the total potential energy

so having looked at potential energy we now dis we now introduce a very very important concept in electrostatics again which is the electrostatic potential

so electrostatic potential is the work done by an external force in bringing a unit positive charge work done by an external force in bringing a unit positive charge from infinity to the point is the electrostatic potential at that point

so it is essentially the work done in bringing a unit positive charge from infinity to that point

so remember we had discussed if i had a charge capital q and if i have a ah if i bring a small charge q here at a distance r from here the potential energy was u was capital q small q by four pi epsilon zero into one by r f minus one by r i

so this is the potential energy at this point or change in energy in bringing a charge from r i to r f

so the potential energy was when i when i put r i is equal to infinity

so potential energy u becomes q q by four pi epsilon zero r at this point

so if i take a small charge capital q as unit charge then i will define the potential at the point r as v of r is equal to q by four pi epsilon zero r this is for a point charge the potential of a point charge is essentially given by q by four pi seven zero r

so if you have a positive charge here as you move along the direction r increases and the potential potential keeps on decreasing

so this is decreasing like this for a negative charge the potential will be if i move along the same direction for a for a negative charge the potential will be increasing

so depends on the sign of the charges whether the potential increases or decreases ah as you move away from the charge

so this is the potential at any point is defined for this is the potential for a point charge

so for any general electric field distribution you can define an electrostatic potential as the work done in bringing a unit positive charge from infinity to that point

so if you have to for example if I had a positive if I have a point charge q so if I am if this point is say r_i and another point is r_f what is the work done in bringing in taking a charge from r_i to r_f

so work done by the external force will be equal to the potential at the r_f minus potential at r_i for to bring to take a unit charge unit positive charge so difference in potential gives me actually the work done in taking a unit positive charge from one point another point

so potential is a very very important concept in electrostatics and as you can see here the electric field decreased as one by r square the potential decreases as one by r and there is a unit which is used for potential unit of potential is volt this is after an Italian scientist Alessandro Volta who was who worked in the years 1745 to 1827.

he was he was a great scientist who did a lot of work in electrostatics and this name is this potential unit potential is named after him

so you can also then find another unit for electric field because as you can see here potential is q by four pi epsilon zero r the electric field of the charge would have been q by four pi epsilon zero r square

so you define electric field as volt per meter this is SI unit of an electric field volt per meter we have seen earlier other units for electric field this is another standard unit which is used for electric field now let me calculate let me do an example to calculate some numerical values of potential

so here is an example

so I have plus 10 nano coulomb I have another charge here minus 10 nano coulomb separated by distance 6 centimeters in the equatorial plane I consider a point here A this is four centimeter let me call this point A I consider another point here B this is at a distance of four centimeter from here and a third point C which is at a distance of four centimeter from here ok

so I have plus ten coulomb minus ten nano coulomb and these two charges generate an electric field I want to calculate the potential at different points so first let me start calculating potential calculation

so V at a now potentials also satisfy principle of superposition

so the potential at a total potential at A is a potential at A because of plus 10 nano coulomb plus the potential at A because of minus 10 nano coulomb

so if what is this distance if this is r because I am taking a on the equatorial plane this distance is also r

so potential at A is

so let me call this q_1 and q_2 q_1 by four pi epsilon zero r ah

so plus q_2 by four pi epsilon zero r the distances are equal and q_2 is equal to minus q_1

so this is equal to zero

so the potential at this point is zero because that is an equatorial plane just put this as a positive potential here that would be the negative potential here and

so the total potential at this point A is zero let me try to calculate the potential at the point B

so B at B q_1 by four pi epsilon zero ah

so this I must calculate these distances now

so let me ah call this ah r_1 and the other distance r_2 r_1 minus q_2 is minus q_1

so four pi epsilon zero r_2

so let me substitute this numbers

