

67. The distance from Q to P is $5a$, and the distance from q to P is $3a$. Therefore, the magnitudes of the individual electric fields are, using Eq. 23-3 (writing $1/4\pi\epsilon_0 = k$),

$$|\vec{E}_Q| = \frac{k|Q|}{25a^2}, \quad |\vec{E}_q| = \frac{k|q|}{9a^2}.$$

We note that \vec{E}_q is along the y axis (directed towards $\pm y$ in accordance with the sign of q), and \vec{E}_Q has x and y components, with $\vec{E}_{Qx} = \pm \frac{4}{5}|\vec{E}_Q|$ and $\vec{E}_{Qy} = \pm \frac{3}{5}|\vec{E}_Q|$ (signs corresponding to the sign of Q). Consequently, we can write the addition of components in a simple way (basically, by dropping the absolute values):

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{E}_{\text{net } x} &= \frac{4kQ}{125a^2} \\ \vec{E}_{\text{net } y} &= \frac{3kQ}{125a^2} + \frac{kq}{9a^2} \end{aligned}$$

- (a) Equating $\vec{E}_{\text{net } x}$ and $\vec{E}_{\text{net } y}$, it is straightforward to solve for the relation between Q and q . We obtain $Q = \frac{125}{9}q \approx 14q$.
- (b) We set $\vec{E}_{\text{net } y} = 0$ and find the necessary relation between Q and q . We obtain $Q = -\frac{125}{27}q \approx -4.6q$.