

43. (a) For the net force to be in the  $+x$  direction, the  $y$  components of the individual forces must cancel. The angle of the force exerted by the  $q_1 = 40 \mu\text{C}$  charge on  $q = 20 \mu\text{C}$  is  $45^\circ$ , and the angle of force exerted on  $q$  by  $Q$  is at  $-\theta$  where

$$\theta = \tan^{-1} \left( \frac{2.0}{3.0} \right) = 33.7^\circ .$$

Therefore, cancellation of  $y$  components requires

$$k \frac{q_1 q}{(0.02\sqrt{2})^2} \sin 45^\circ = k \frac{|Q| q}{(\sqrt{0.03^2 + 0.02^2})^2} \sin \theta$$

from which we obtain  $|Q| = 82.9 \mu\text{C}$ . Charge  $Q$  is “pulling” on  $q$ , so (since  $q > 0$ ) we conclude  $Q = -82.9 \mu\text{C}$ .

- (b) Now, we require that the  $x$  components cancel, and we note that in this case, the angle of force on  $q$  exerted by  $Q$  is  $+\theta$  (it is repulsive, and  $Q$  is positive-valued). Therefore,

$$k \frac{q_1 q}{(0.02\sqrt{2})^2} \cos 45^\circ = k \frac{Q q}{(\sqrt{0.03^2 + 0.02^2})^2} \cos \theta$$

from which we obtain  $Q = 55.2 \mu\text{C}$ .