

(10 points, suggested time 20 minutes)

Particles A and B each have positive charge $+Q$ and are held fixed at two vertices of an equilateral triangle of side length d , as shown. Point P is located equidistant from each vertex of the triangle.

Students Y and Z discuss the electric field and the electric potential at Point P after a third charged particle is placed at the bottom-right vertex. The students make the following statements.

Student Y: “If a particle with positive charge $+2Q$ is placed at the bottom-right vertex, the magnitude of the electric field will be zero at Point P.”

Student Z: “To make the value of the electric potential zero at Point P, a particle with negative charge $-Q$ should be placed at the bottom-right vertex.”

(a) In a coherent, paragraph-length response, evaluate the accuracy of each student’s statement. If any aspect of either student’s statement is inaccurate, explain how to correct the student’s statement. Support your evaluations using appropriate physics principles.

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Continue your response to QUESTION 4 on this page.

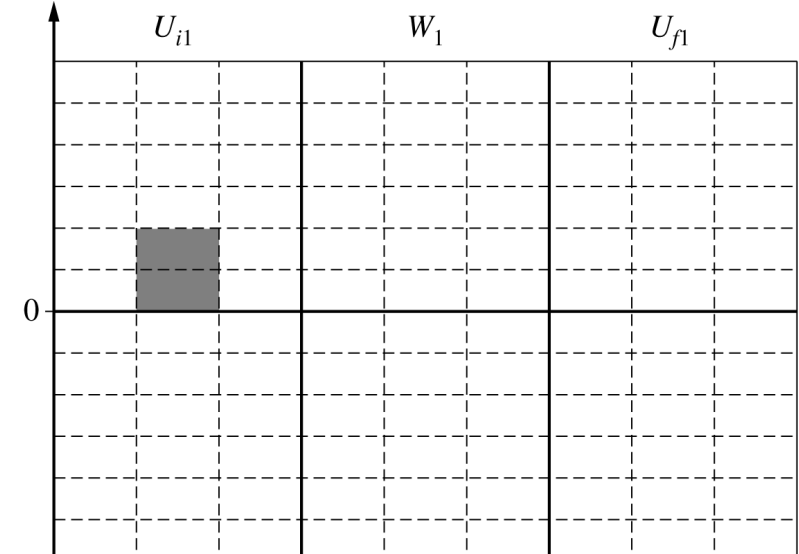
(b) Particles A and B are once again held in place at two vertices of the equilateral triangle. The students want to represent the electric potential energy of a system of particles when a third charged particle is brought from very far away to the bottom-right vertex. Scenarios 1 and 2 are considered.

i. In Scenario 1, a third particle with positive charge $+Q$ is moved from very far away to the bottom-right vertex and then held in place. A bar is shown on the following chart that represents the electric potential energy U_{i1} of the system consisting of all three particles when the third particle with positive charge is very far away from the other particles.

In the grid provided, complete the bar chart.

- Draw a bar to represent the work W_1 required to move the third particle with positive charge from very far away to the bottom-right vertex.
- Draw another bar to represent the electric potential energy U_{f1} of the system consisting of all three particles when the third particle with positive charge is held in place at the bottom-right vertex.

The height of each bar should be proportional to the energy represented. If the quantity is zero, write a “0” in that column.



Scenario 1

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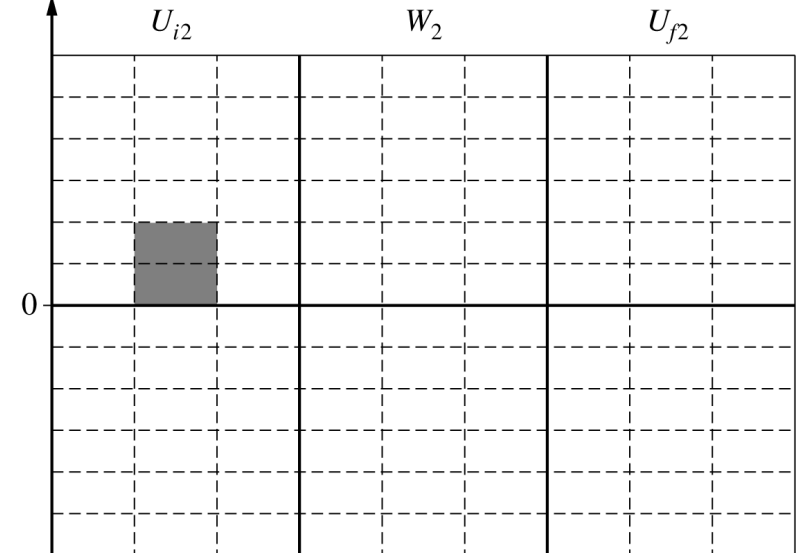
Continue your response to QUESTION 4 on this page.

ii. In Scenario 2, a particle with negative charge $-Q$ is moved from very far away to the bottom-right vertex and then held in place. A bar is shown on the following chart that represents the electric potential energy U_{i2} of the system consisting of all three particles when the particle with negative charge is very far away from the other particles.

In the grid provided, complete the bar chart.

- Draw a bar to represent the work W_2 required to move the particle with negative charge from very far away to the bottom-right vertex.
- Draw another bar to represent the electric potential energy U_{f2} of the system consisting of all three particles when the particle with negative charge is held in place at the bottom-right vertex.

The height of each bar should be proportional to the energy represented. If the quantity is zero, write a “0” in that column.



Scenario 2

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END OF EXAM