

10. We place the origin of our coordinate system at point P and orient our y axis in the direction of the $q_4 = -12q$ charge (passing through the $q_3 = +3q$ charge). The x axis is perpendicular to the y axis, and thus passes through the identical $q_1 = q_2 = +5q$ charges. The individual magnitudes $|\vec{E}_1|$, $|\vec{E}_2|$, $|\vec{E}_3|$, and $|\vec{E}_4|$ are figured from Eq. 22-3, where the absolute value signs for q_1 , q_2 , and q_3 are unnecessary since those charges are positive (assuming $q > 0$). We note that the contribution from q_1 cancels that of q_2 (that is, $|\vec{E}_1| = |\vec{E}_2|$), and the net field (if there is any) should be along the y axis, with magnitude equal to

$$\vec{E}_{\text{net}} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left(\frac{|q_4|}{(2d)^2} - \frac{q_3}{d^2} \right) \hat{j} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \left(\frac{12q}{4d^2} - \frac{3q}{d^2} \right) \hat{j}$$

which is seen to be zero. A rough sketch of the field lines is shown below:

