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Electric field due to a dipole at any given point

$P \cos \theta \rightarrow$ component of dipole moment \vec{P} along OP

$P \sin \theta \rightarrow$ component of dipole moment \vec{P} in \perp direction of OP

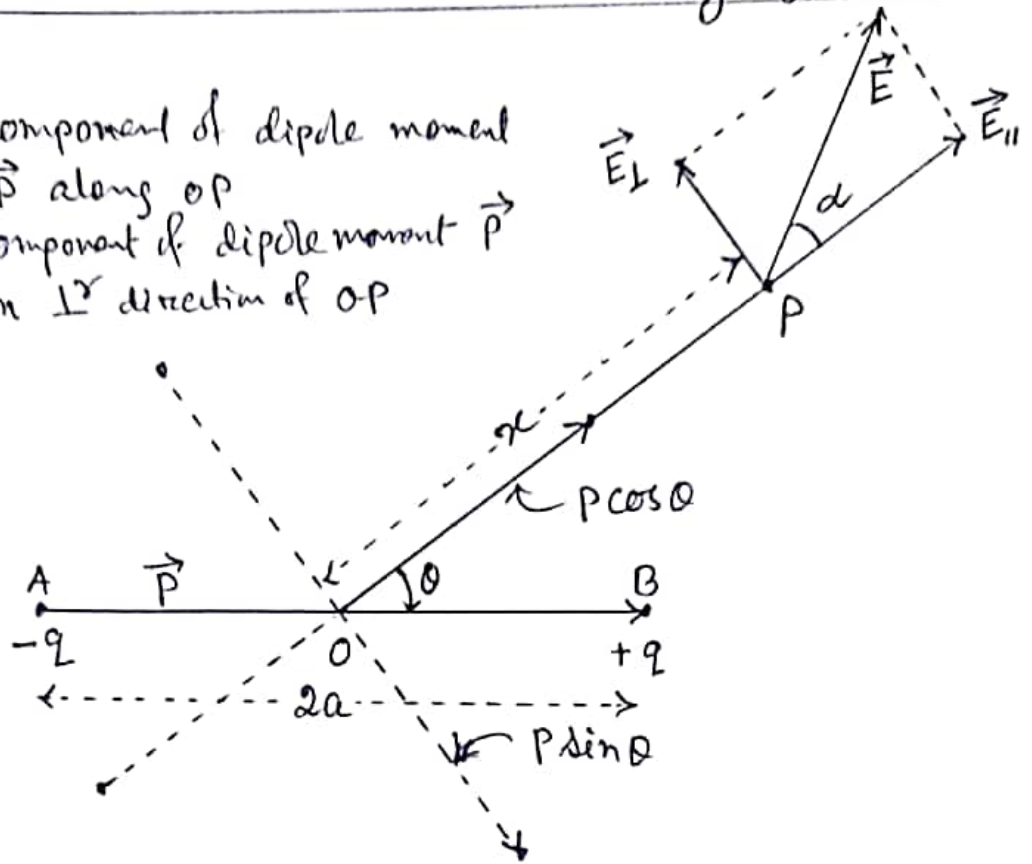


Fig. 1: Electric field at pt. P

Electric field at P due to $P \cos \theta$ is

$$E_{||} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{2P \cos \theta}{r^3}, \text{ along } OP$$

and due to $P \sin \theta$ is

$$E_{\perp} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{P \sin \theta}{r^3}, \text{ along } PE_{\perp}$$

\therefore Net field at P is

$$\vec{E} = \vec{E}_{||} + \vec{E}_{\perp}$$

$$\Rightarrow E = \sqrt{E_{||}^2 + E_{\perp}^2 + 2E_{||}E_{\perp}\cos 90^\circ} = \sqrt{E_{||}^2 + E_{\perp}^2}$$

$$= \sqrt{\left(\frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{P}{r^3}\right)^2 4\cos^2 \theta + \left(\frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{P}{r^3}\right)^2 \sin^2 \theta}$$

$$= \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{P}{r^3} \sqrt{4\cos^2 \theta + \sin^2 \theta}$$

$$= \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{P}{r^3} \sqrt{3\cos^2\theta + 1} \quad \left(\because \sin^2\theta = 1 - \cos^2\theta \right)$$

$$\Rightarrow E = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{P \sqrt{3\cos^2\theta + 1}}{r^3} \rightarrow \text{magnitude}$$

$$\text{Again, } \tan \alpha = \frac{E_{\perp}}{E_{\parallel}} = \frac{\frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{P \sin\theta}{r^3}}{\frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{2P \cos\theta}{r^3}}$$

$$\Rightarrow \tan \alpha = \frac{1}{2} \tan \theta$$

$$\therefore \alpha = \tan^{-1} \left(\frac{1}{2} \tan \theta \right) \rightarrow \text{direction}$$

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