

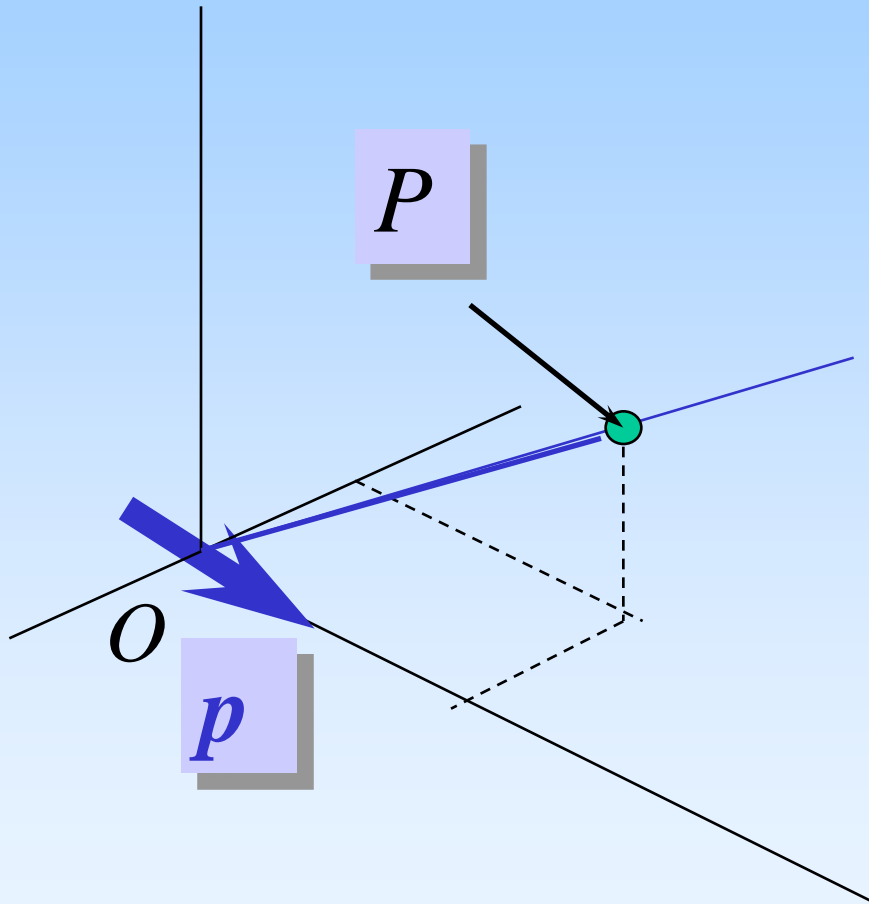
# The Electric Field of a Dipole

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# Presentations:

- Electromagnetism: History
- Electromagnetism: Electr. topics
- Electromagnetism: Magn. topics
- Electromagnetism: Waves topics
- Capacitor filling (complete)
- Capacitor filling (partial)
- Divergence Theorem
- E-field of a thin long charged wire
- E-field of a charged disk
- E-field of a dipole
- E-field of a line of dipoles
- E-field of a charged sphere
- E-field of a polarized object
- E-field: field energy
- Electromagnetism: integrations
- Electromagnetism: integration elements
- Gauss' Law for a cylindrical charge
- Gauss' Law for a charged plane
- Laplace's and Poisson's Law
- B-field of a thin long wire carrying a current
- B-field of a conducting charged sphere
- B-field of a homogeneously charged sphere

# The Electric Field of a Dipole



Given:

Electric Dipole, situated in  $O$ ,  
with dipole moment  $p$  [Cm]

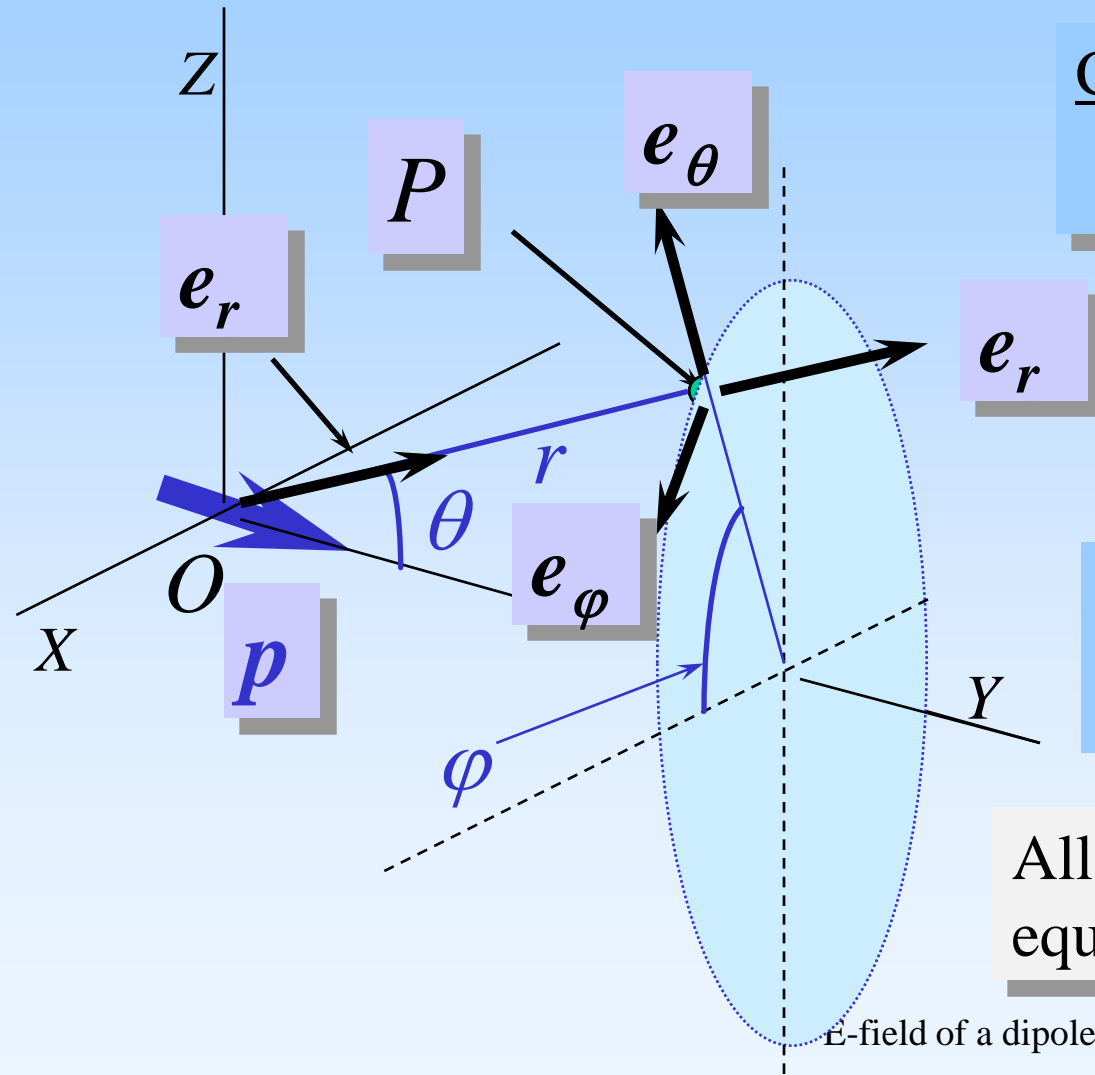
Question:

Calculate  $E$ -field in arbitrary  
points  $P$  around the dipole

# The Electric Field of a Dipole

- Analysis and symmetry
- Approach to solution
- Calculations
- Conclusions
- Field lines in  $XY$ -plane

# Analysis and Symmetry



Coordinate axes: X, Y, Z

Y-axis = dipolar axis

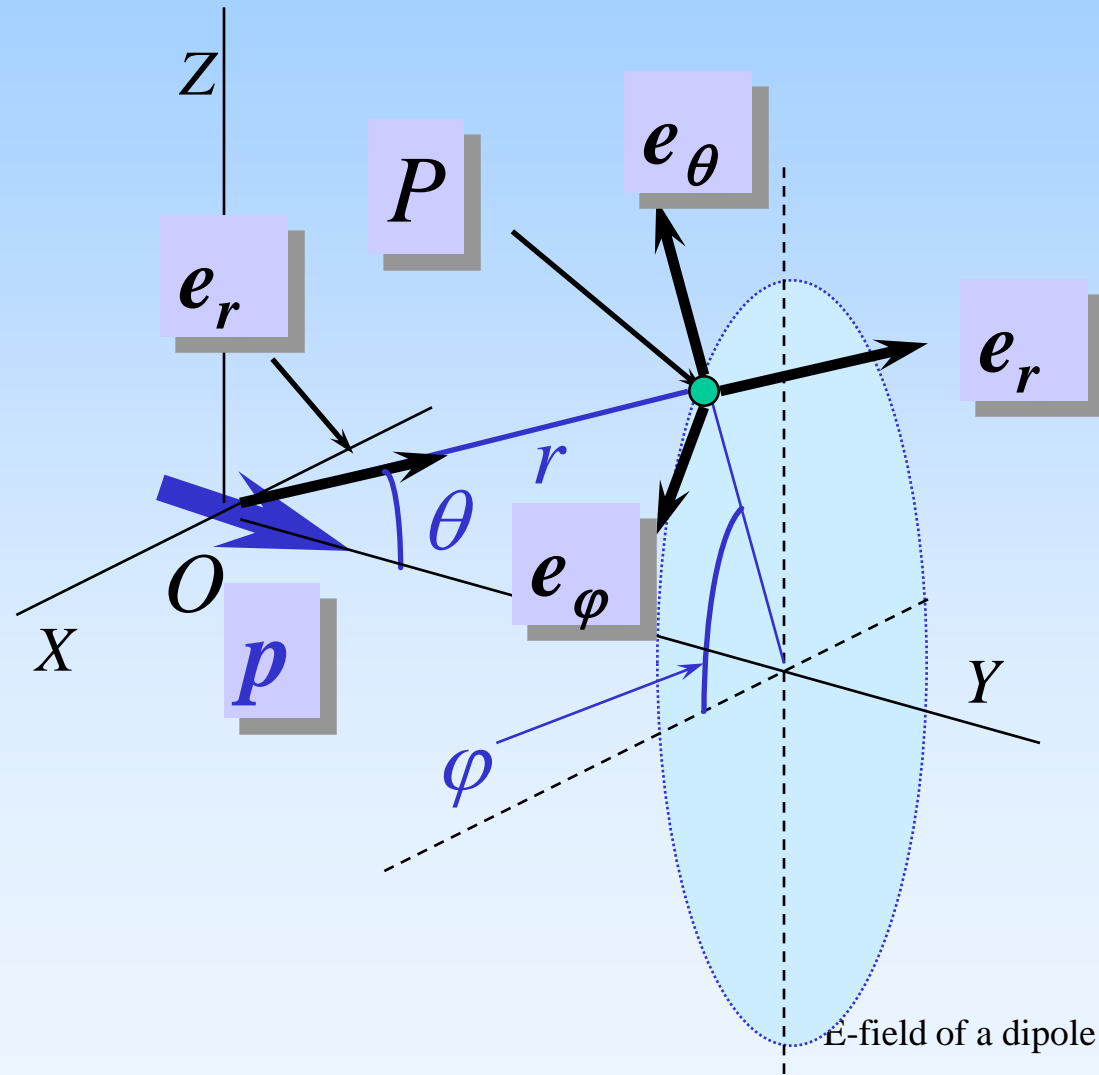
Symmetry: cylindrical  
around Y-axis

Cylindrical coordinates:  
 $r$ ,  $\theta$  and  $\varphi$  (perpendicular)

All points at equal  $r$  and  $\theta$  are  
equivalent, even if at different  $\varphi$

E-field of a dipole

# Approach to solution



Several approaches possible:

1.  $\mathbf{E}$  with “Coulomb”;
2.  $\mathbf{E}$  from  $V$  with:  
$$\mathbf{E} = - \text{grad } V$$

Choose option 2.

Necessary: calculate  $V(r, \theta, \varphi)$  first !

# Intermezzo: $V(r, \theta, \phi)$ - calculation

Calculate: Potential in  $P$  : (reference in inf.)

Contributions to  $V$   
from  $+Q$  and  $-Q$  :

$$V(P) = \frac{+Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r_+} + \frac{-Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r_-}$$

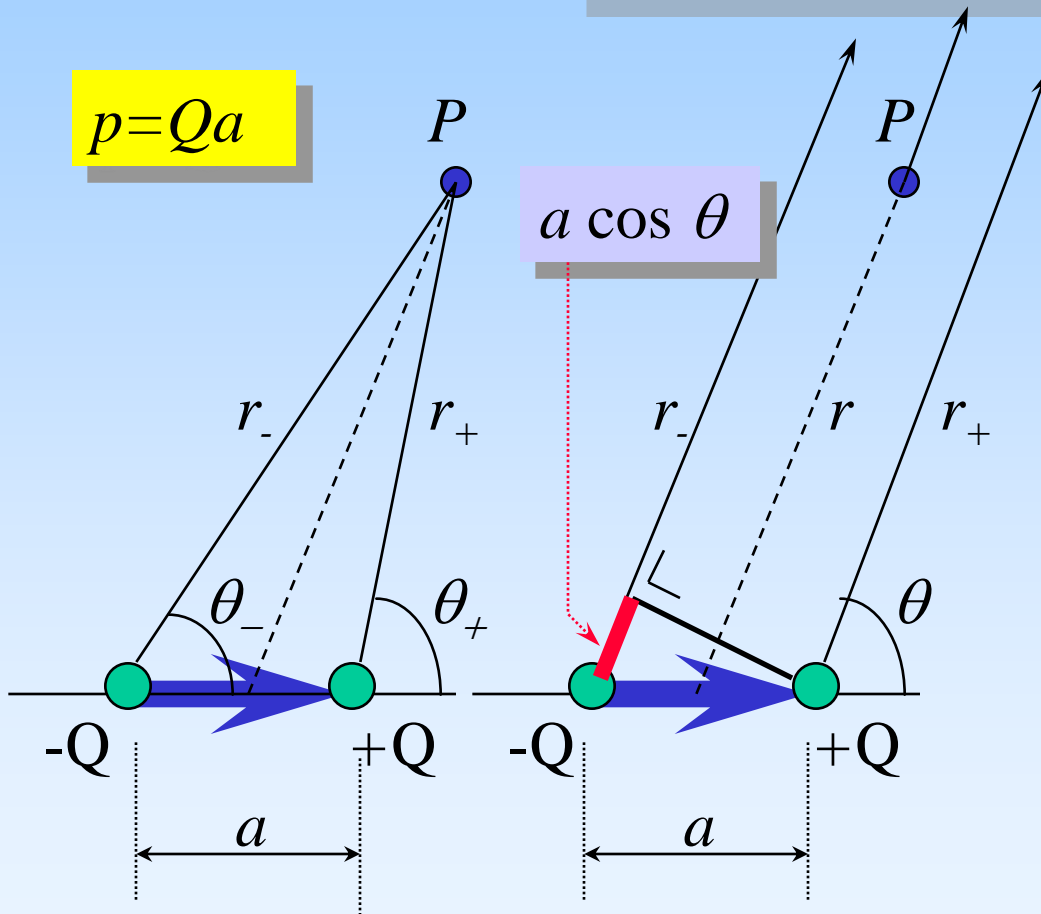
$$= \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{r_+ - r_-}{r_+ r_-}$$

If  $a \ll r_+, r_-$  , then

$$V(r, \theta) = \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{a \cos \theta}{r^2}$$

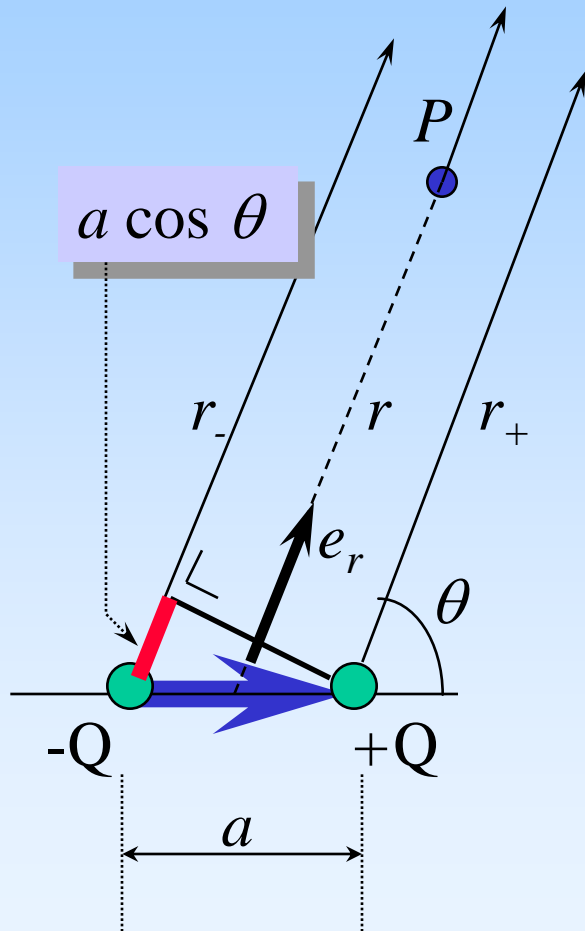
$$p = Qa$$

$$a \cos \theta$$



E-field of a dipole

# Intermezzo: $V(r, \theta, \varphi)$ -calculation



$$V(r, \theta) = \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{a \cos \theta}{r^2} = \frac{p \cos \theta}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2}$$

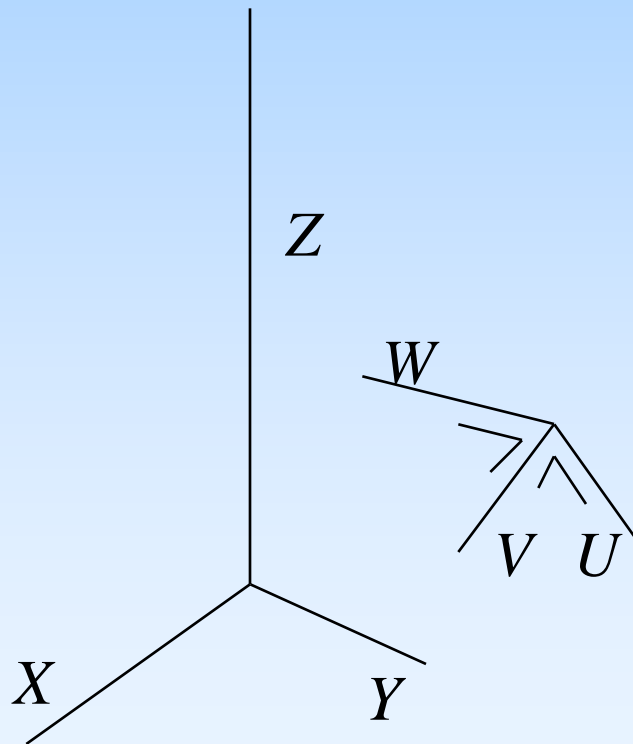
$$V(r, \theta) = \frac{\mathbf{p} \cdot \mathbf{e}_r}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2}$$

This approximation is called:

Far-field approximation



# Calculation of $\mathbf{E}$ (1)



Calculate  $\mathbf{E}$  from  $V$  using :

$$\mathbf{E} = - \text{grad } V$$

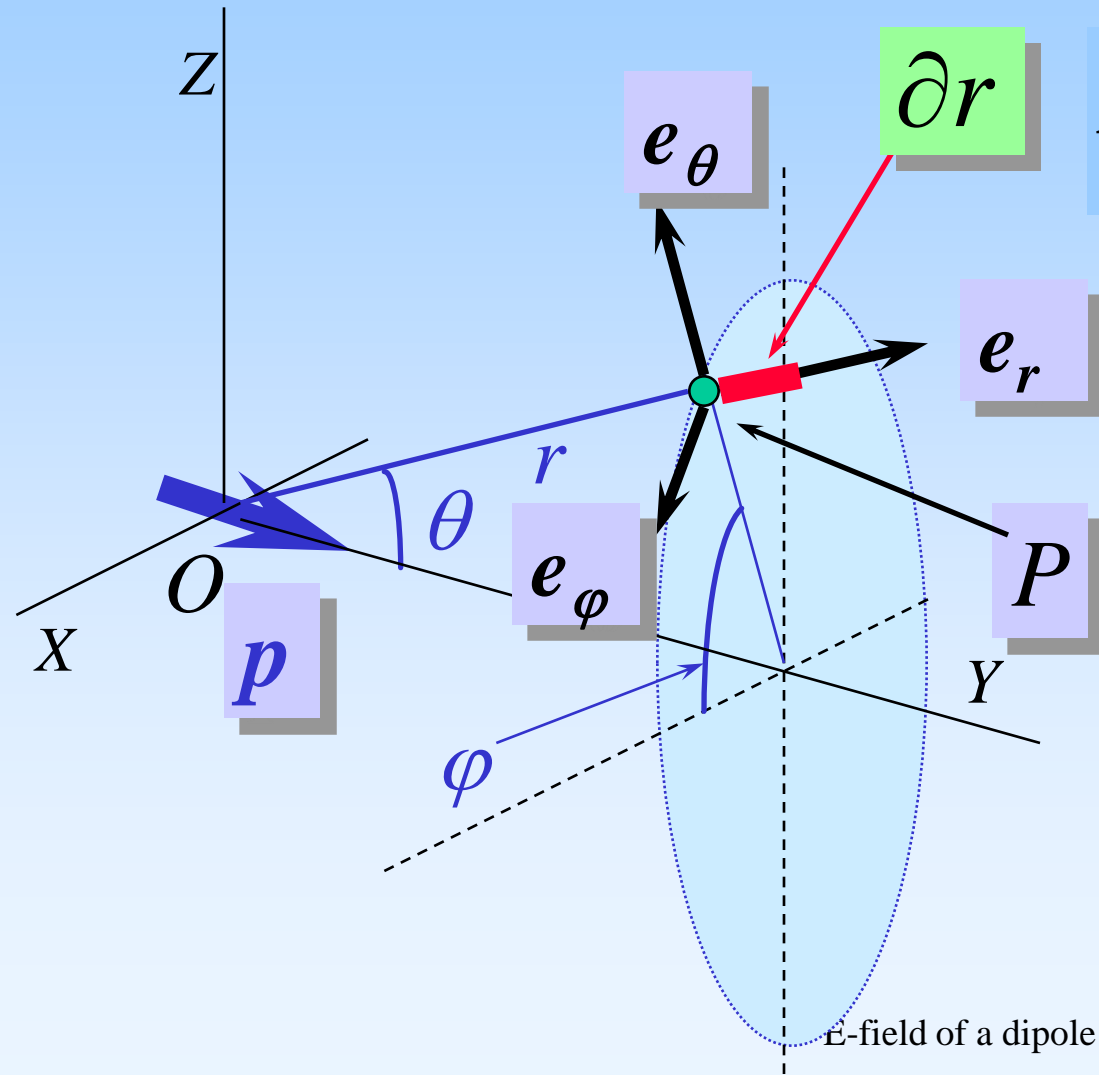
$$\mathbf{E} = -\frac{\partial V}{\partial x} \mathbf{e}_x - \frac{\partial V}{\partial y} \mathbf{e}_y - \frac{\partial V}{\partial z} \mathbf{e}_z$$

In general :

$$\mathbf{E} = -\frac{\partial V}{\partial s_u} \mathbf{e}_u - \frac{\partial V}{\partial s_v} \mathbf{e}_v - \frac{\partial V}{\partial s_w} \mathbf{e}_w$$

with  $s_u$ ,  $s_v$  and  $s_w$  line elements

# Calculation of $E$ (2)



$$\mathbf{E} = -\frac{\partial V}{\partial s_u} \mathbf{e}_u - \frac{\partial V}{\partial s_v} \mathbf{e}_v - \frac{\partial V}{\partial s_w} \mathbf{e}_w$$

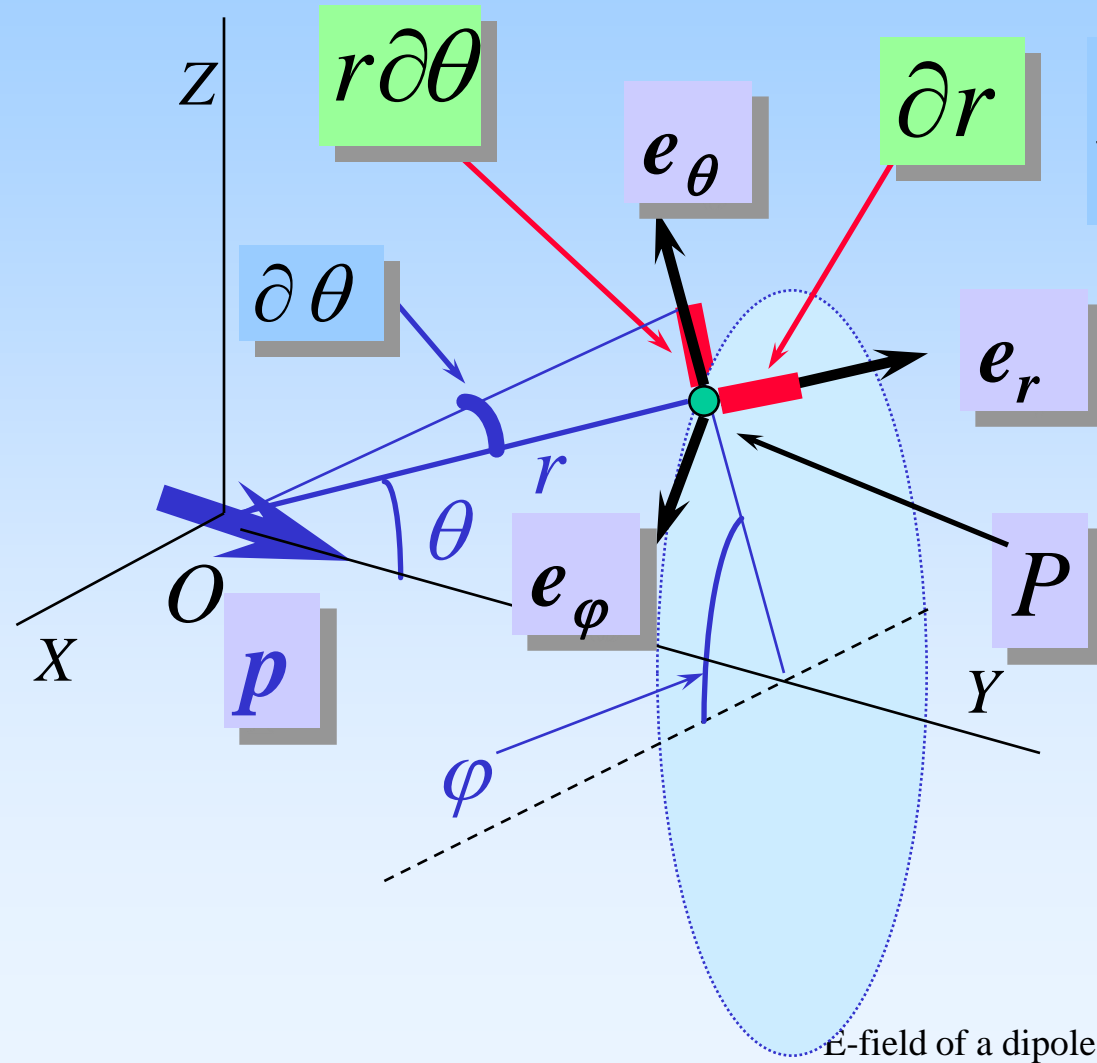
here  $u=r, v=\theta, w=\varphi$

$$\partial s_u = \partial r$$

with  $V(r, \theta) = \frac{p \cos \theta}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2}$

$$\mathbf{E}_r = -\frac{\partial V}{\partial r} \mathbf{e}_r = \frac{2p \cos \theta}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^3} \mathbf{e}_r$$

# Calculation of $E$ (3)



$$\mathbf{E} = -\frac{\partial V}{\partial s_u} \mathbf{e}_u - \frac{\partial V}{\partial s_v} \mathbf{e}_v - \frac{\partial V}{\partial s_w} \mathbf{e}_w$$

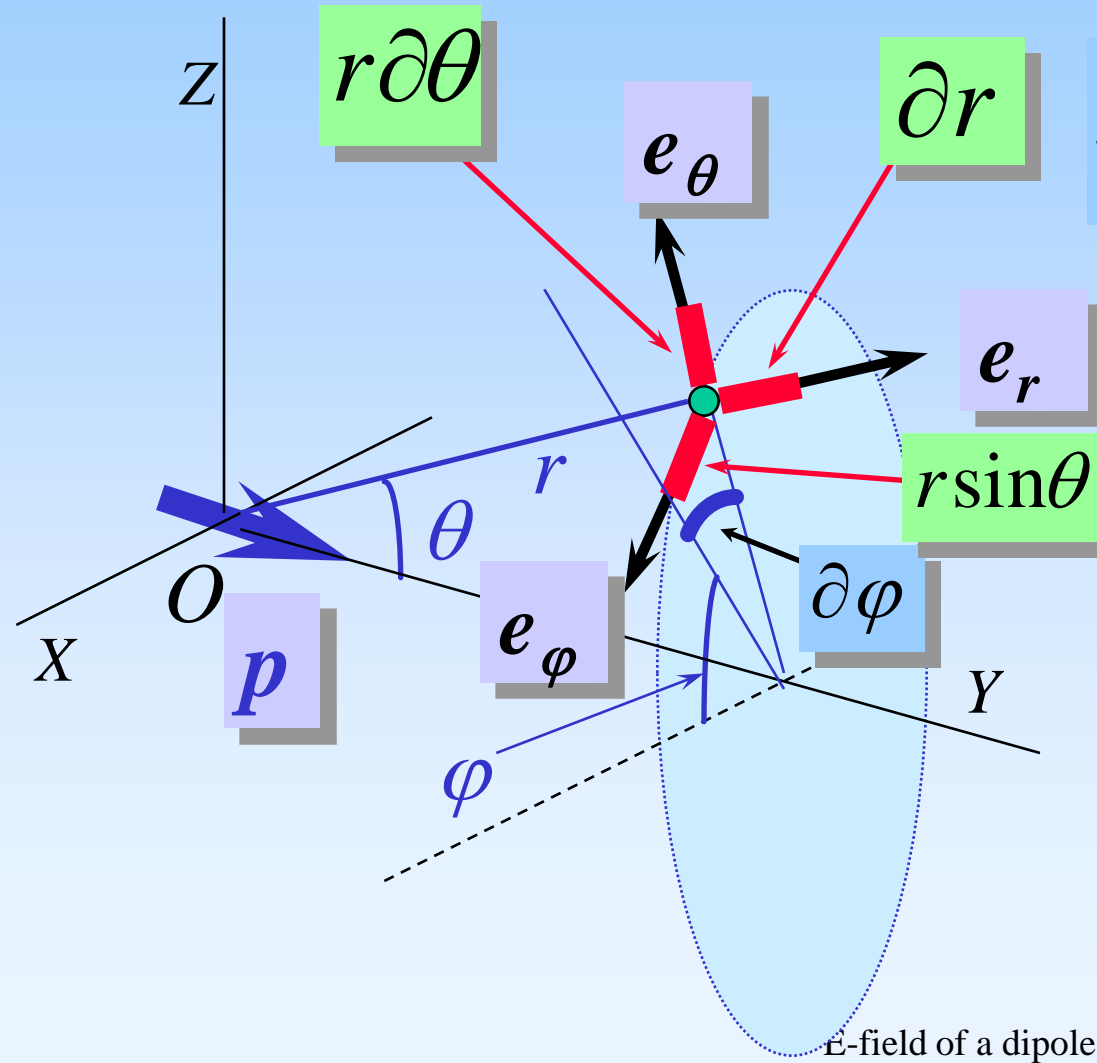
here  $u=r, v=\theta, w=\phi$

$$\partial s_v = r \partial \theta$$

with  $V(r, \theta) = \frac{p \cos \theta}{4\pi \epsilon_0 r^2}$

$$\mathbf{E}_\theta = -\frac{\partial V}{r \partial \theta} \mathbf{e}_\theta = \frac{p \sin \theta}{4\pi \epsilon_0 r^3} \mathbf{e}_\theta$$

# Calculation of $E$ (4)



$$\mathbf{E} = -\frac{\partial V}{\partial s_u} \mathbf{e}_u - \frac{\partial V}{\partial s_v} \mathbf{e}_v - \frac{\partial V}{\partial s_w} \mathbf{e}_w$$

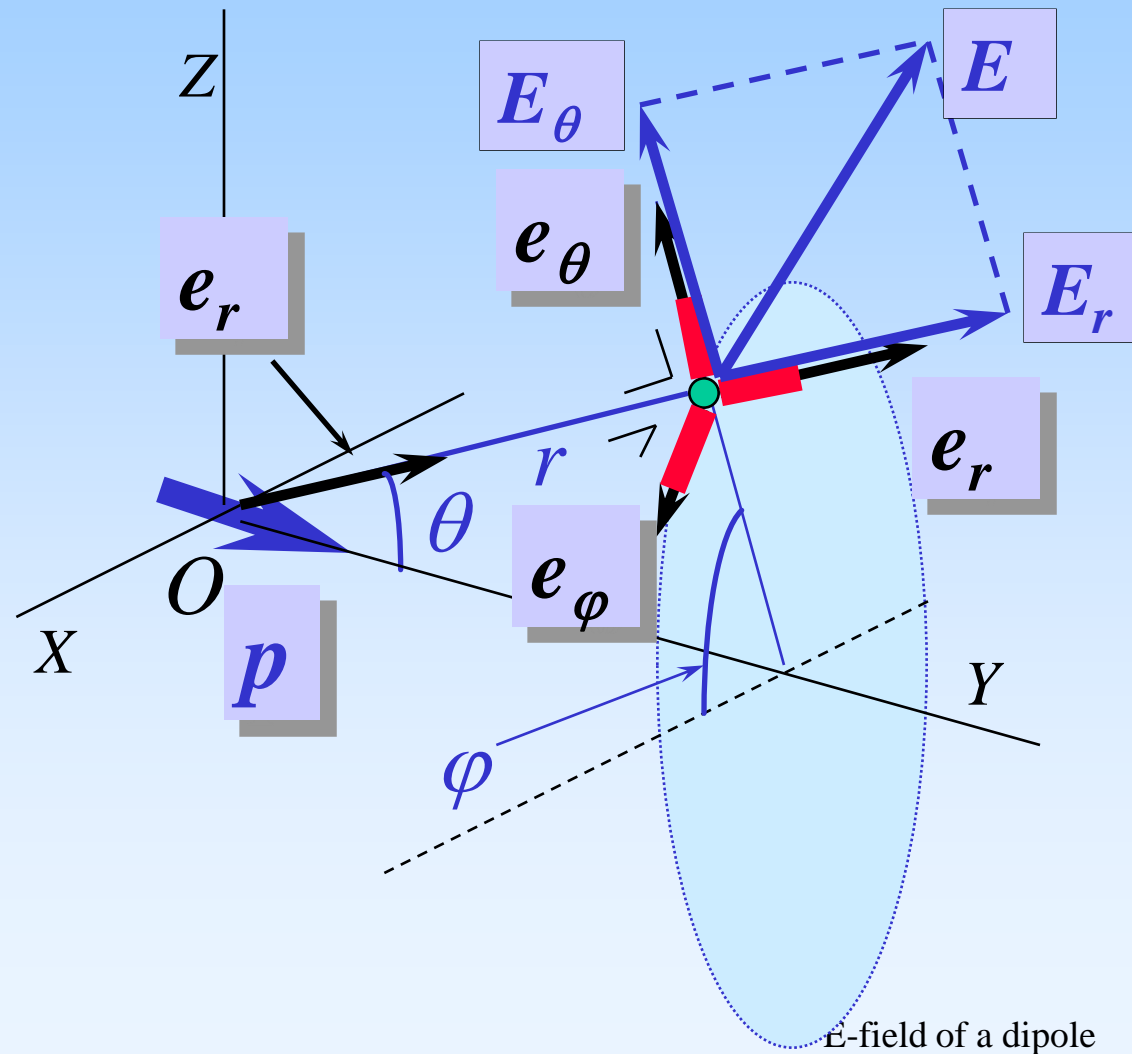
here  $u=r, v=\theta, w=\phi$

$$\partial s_v = r \sin \theta \partial \phi$$

with  $V(r, \theta) = \frac{p \cos \theta}{4\pi \epsilon_0 r^2}$

$$\mathbf{E}_\phi = -\frac{\partial V}{r \sin \theta \partial \phi} \mathbf{e}_\phi = 0 \mathbf{e}_\phi$$

# Calculation of $\mathbf{E}$ (5)



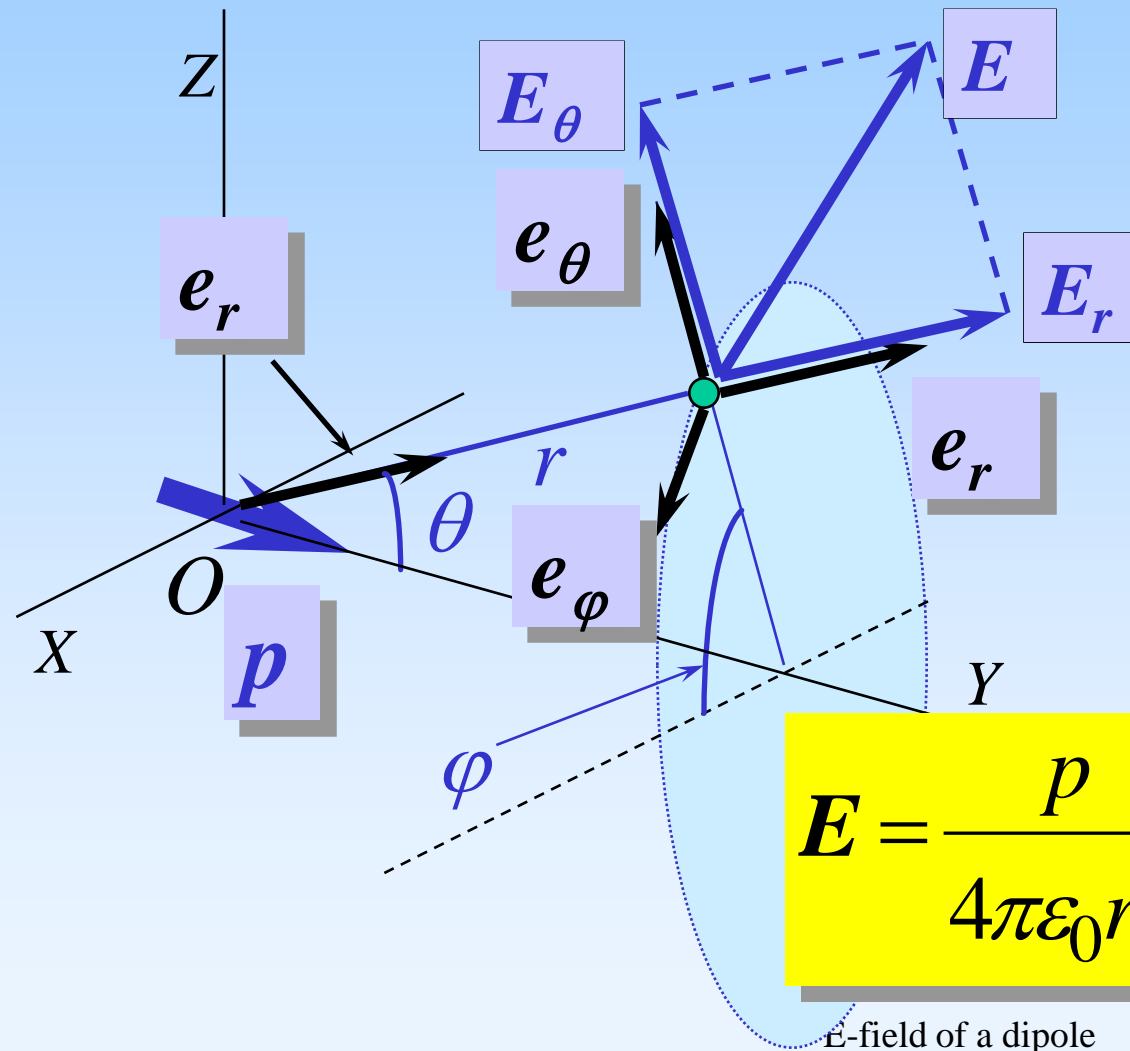
$$\mathbf{E}_r = \frac{2p \cos \theta}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^3} \mathbf{e}_r$$

$$\mathbf{E}_\theta = \frac{p \sin \theta}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^3} \mathbf{e}_\theta$$

$$\mathbf{E}_\phi = 0 \mathbf{e}_\phi$$

E-field of a dipole

# Conclusions (1)



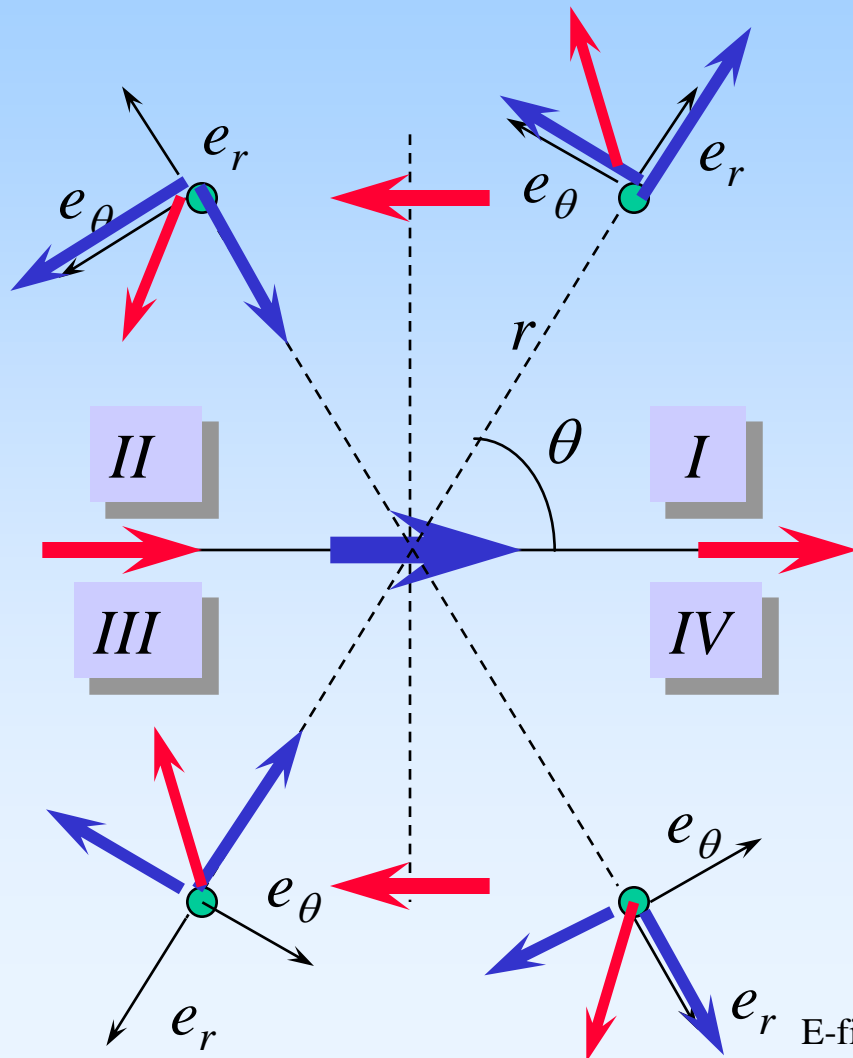
$$V(r, \theta) = \frac{p \cos \theta}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2}$$

$$V(r, \theta) = \frac{p \cdot e_r}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^2}$$

$$\mathbf{E} = \frac{p}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^3} (2\cos\theta \mathbf{e}_r + \sin\theta \mathbf{e}_\theta)$$

E-field of a dipole

# Conclusions (2)



$E$  -directions in the 4 quadrants:

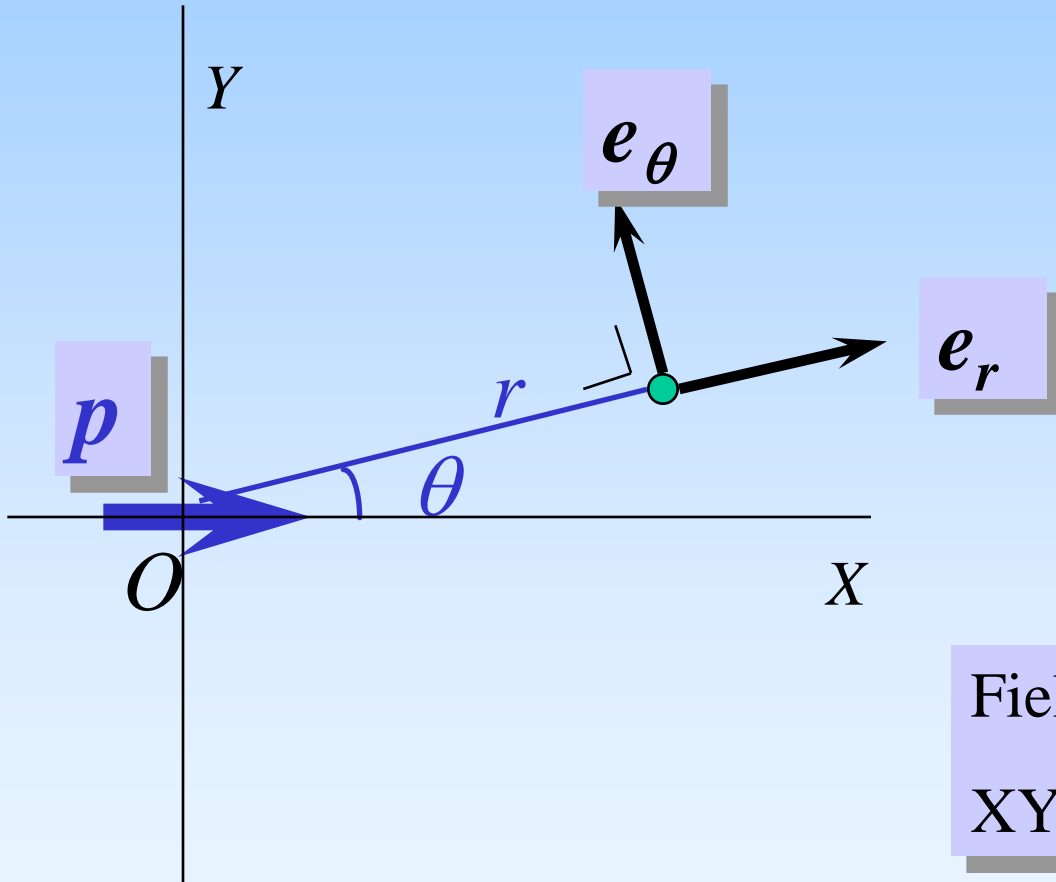
$$\mathbf{E} = \frac{p}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^3} (2\cos\theta \mathbf{e}_r + \sin\theta \mathbf{e}_\theta)$$

	I	II	III	IV
cos	+	-	-	+
sin	+	+	-	-

→  $E_r$  and  $E_\theta$  -comp.

→  $E$

# Field lines in XY-plane (1)



$$\mathbf{E}_r = \frac{2p \cos \theta}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^3} \mathbf{e}_r$$

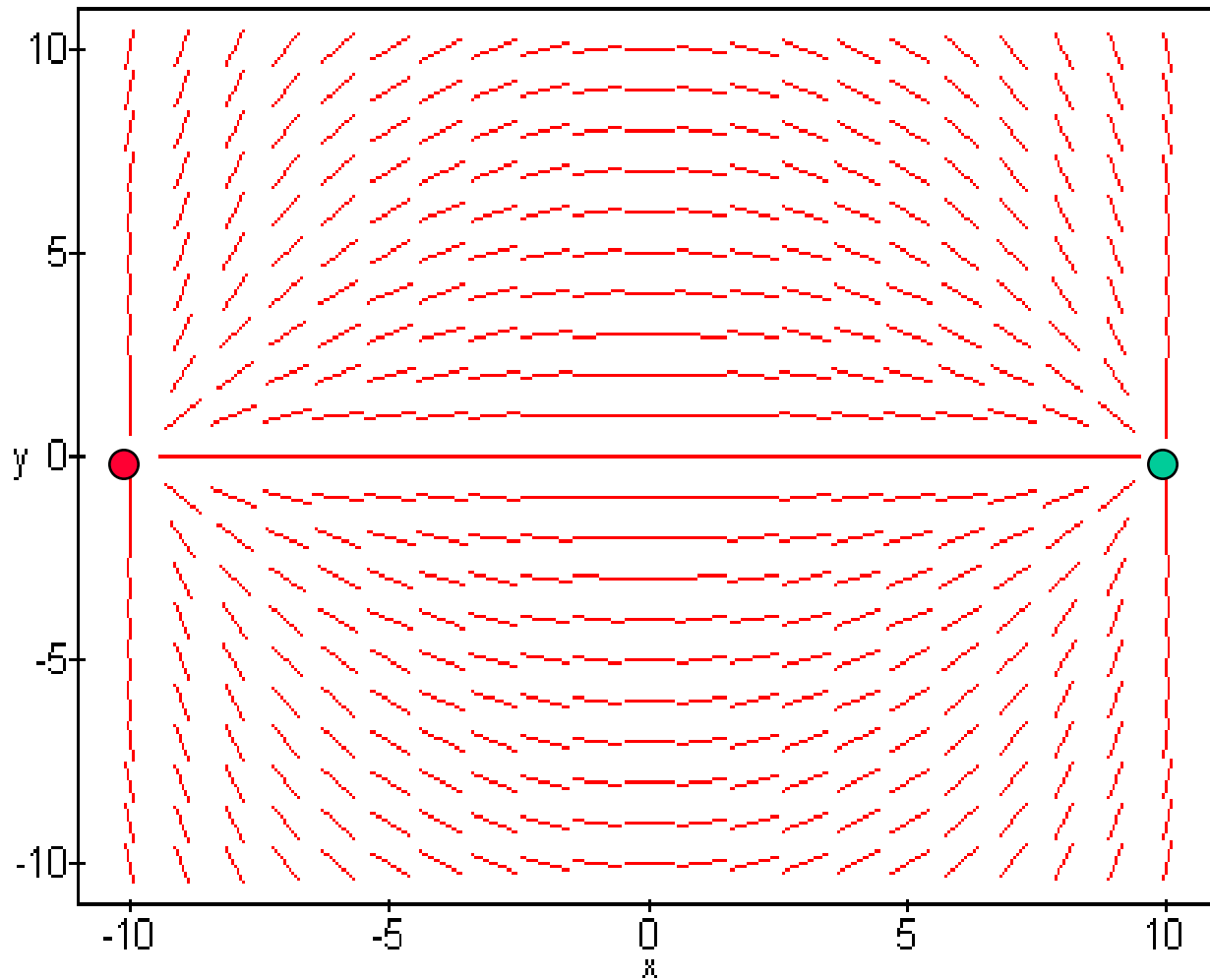
$$\mathbf{E}_\theta = \frac{p \sin \theta}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^3} \mathbf{e}_\theta$$

Field lines in  
XY-plane :

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{E_y}{E_x}$$



# Field lines in XY-plane (2)



Parameter:  
distance  $a$   
between  
 $-Q$  and  $+Q$

$a = 20$

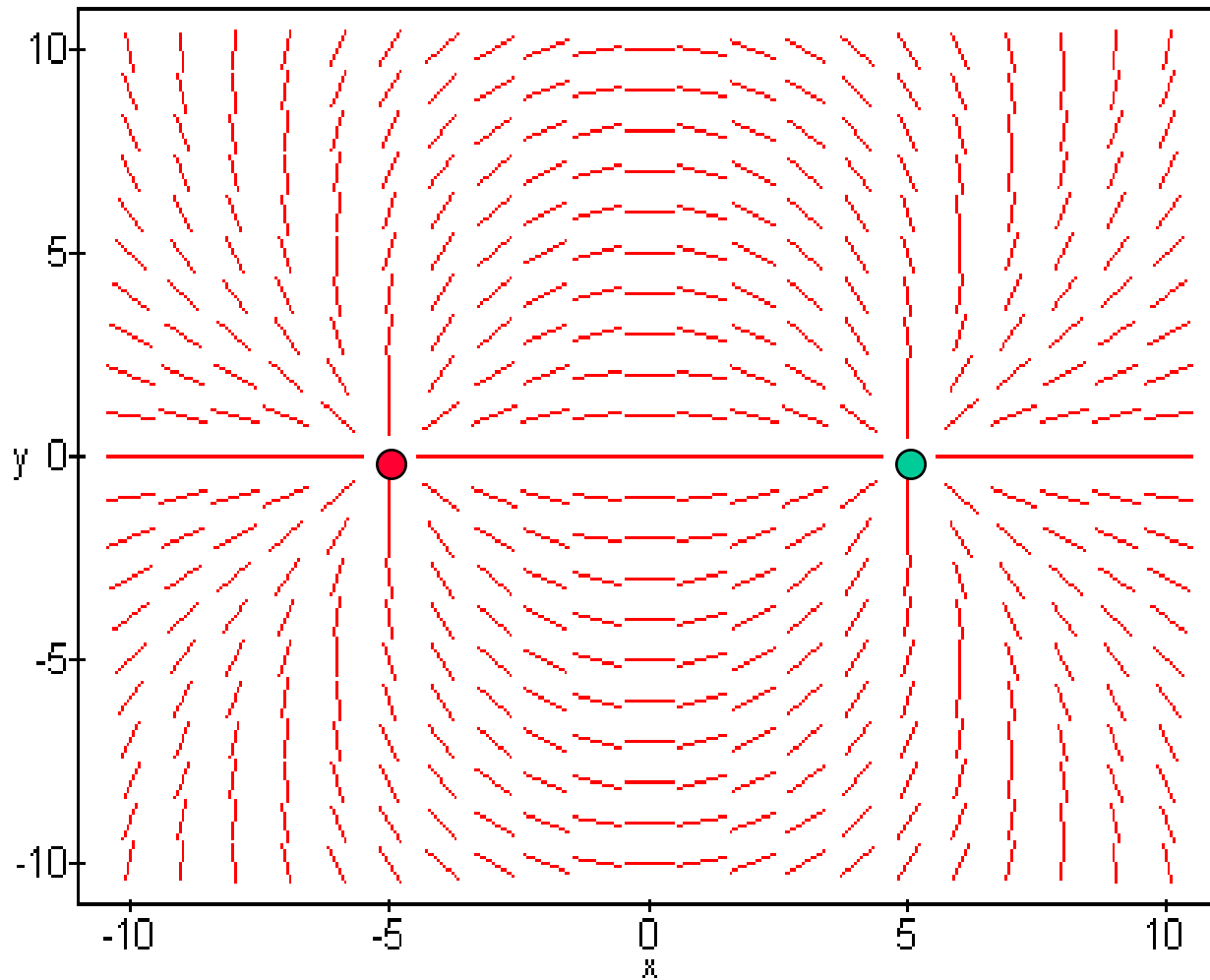
$a = 10$

$a = 1$

$a = 0.1$

far field

# Field lines in XY-plane (3)



Parameter:  
distance  $a$   
between  
 $-Q$  and  $+Q$

$a = 20$

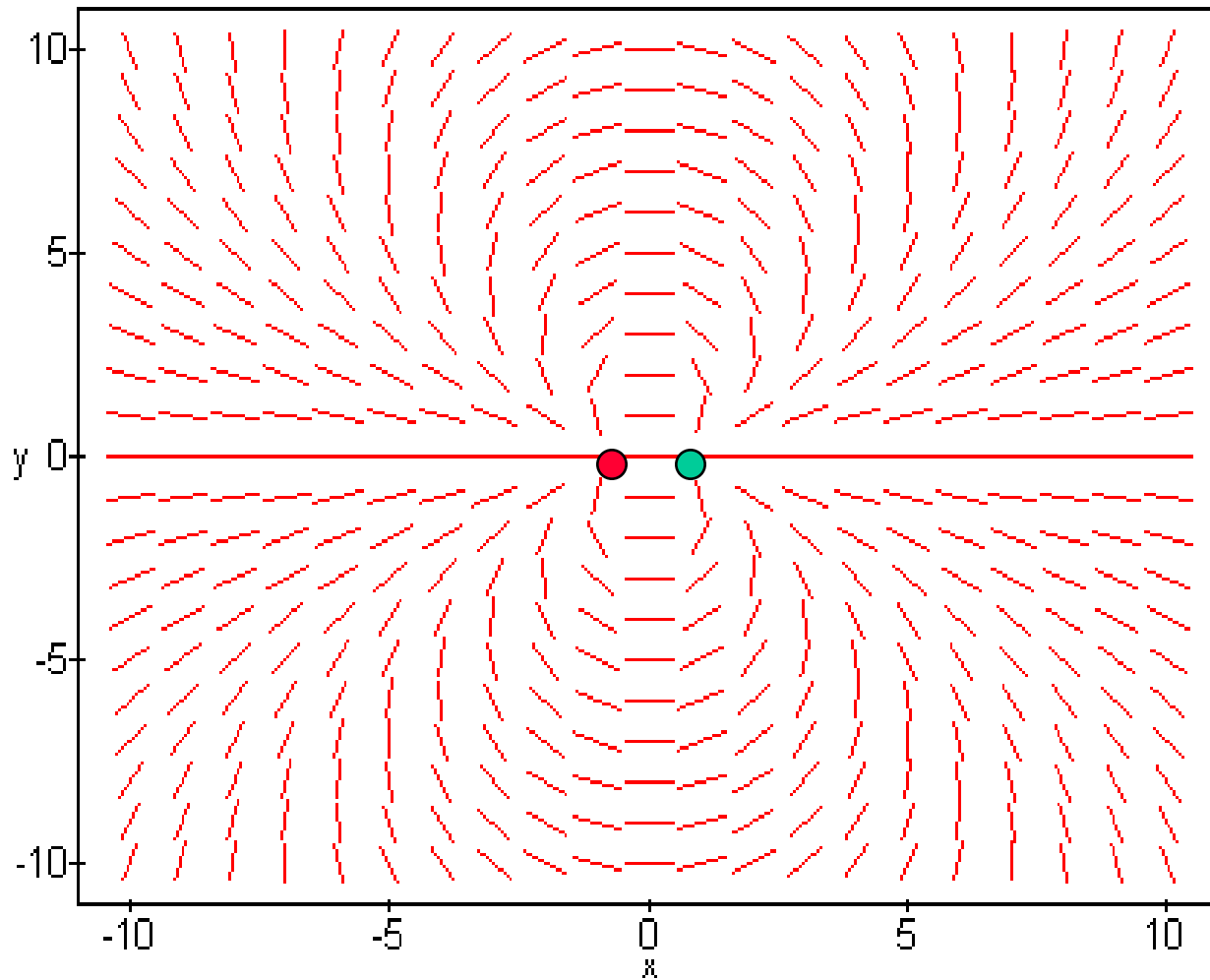
$a = 10$

$a = 1$

$a = 0.1$

far field

# Field lines in XY-plane (4)



Parameter:  
distance  $a$   
between  
 $-Q$  and  $+Q$

$a = 20$

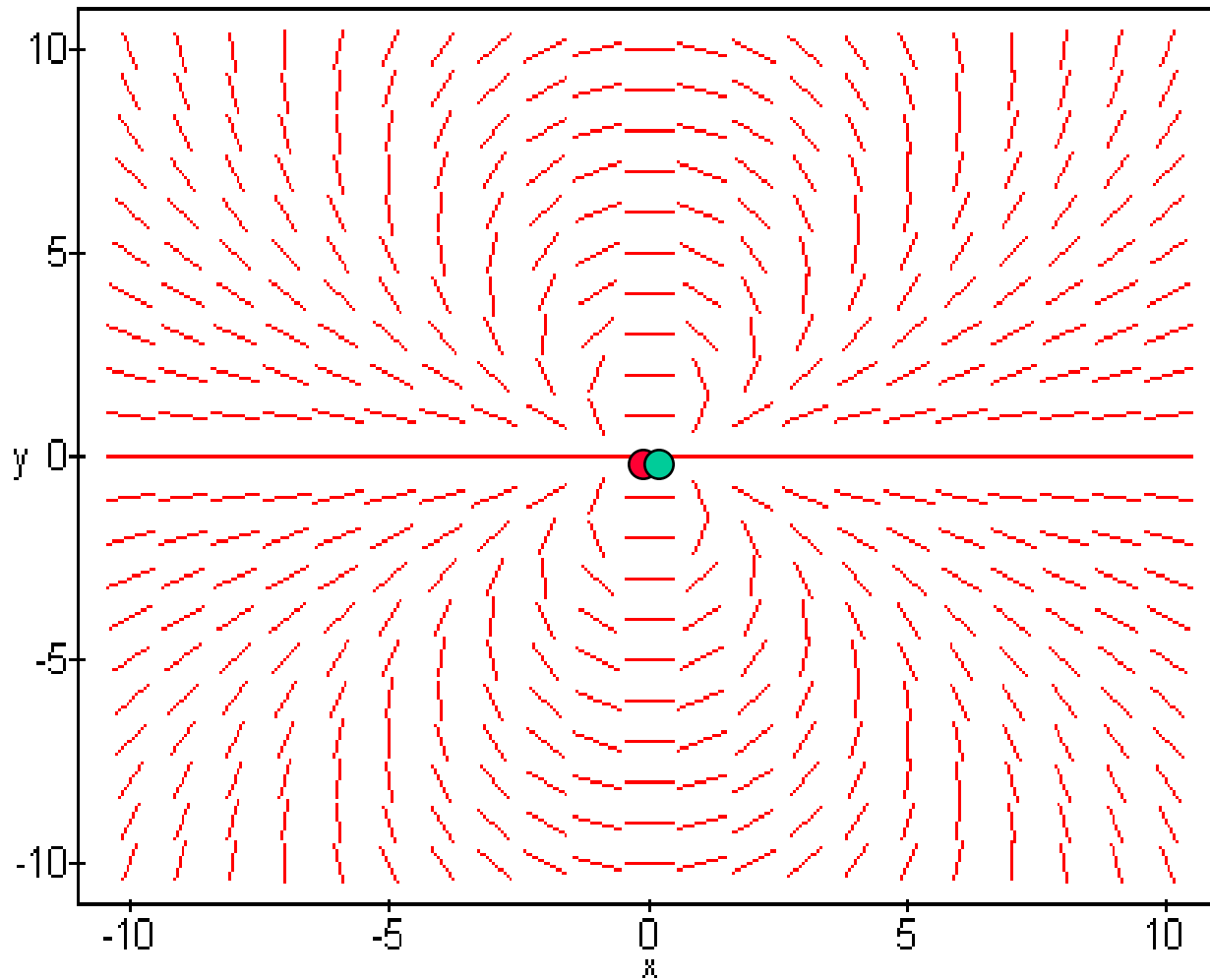
$a = 10$

$a = 1$

$a = 0.1$

far field

# Field lines in XY-plane (5)



Parameter:  
distance  $a$   
between  
 $-Q$  and  $+Q$

$a = 20$

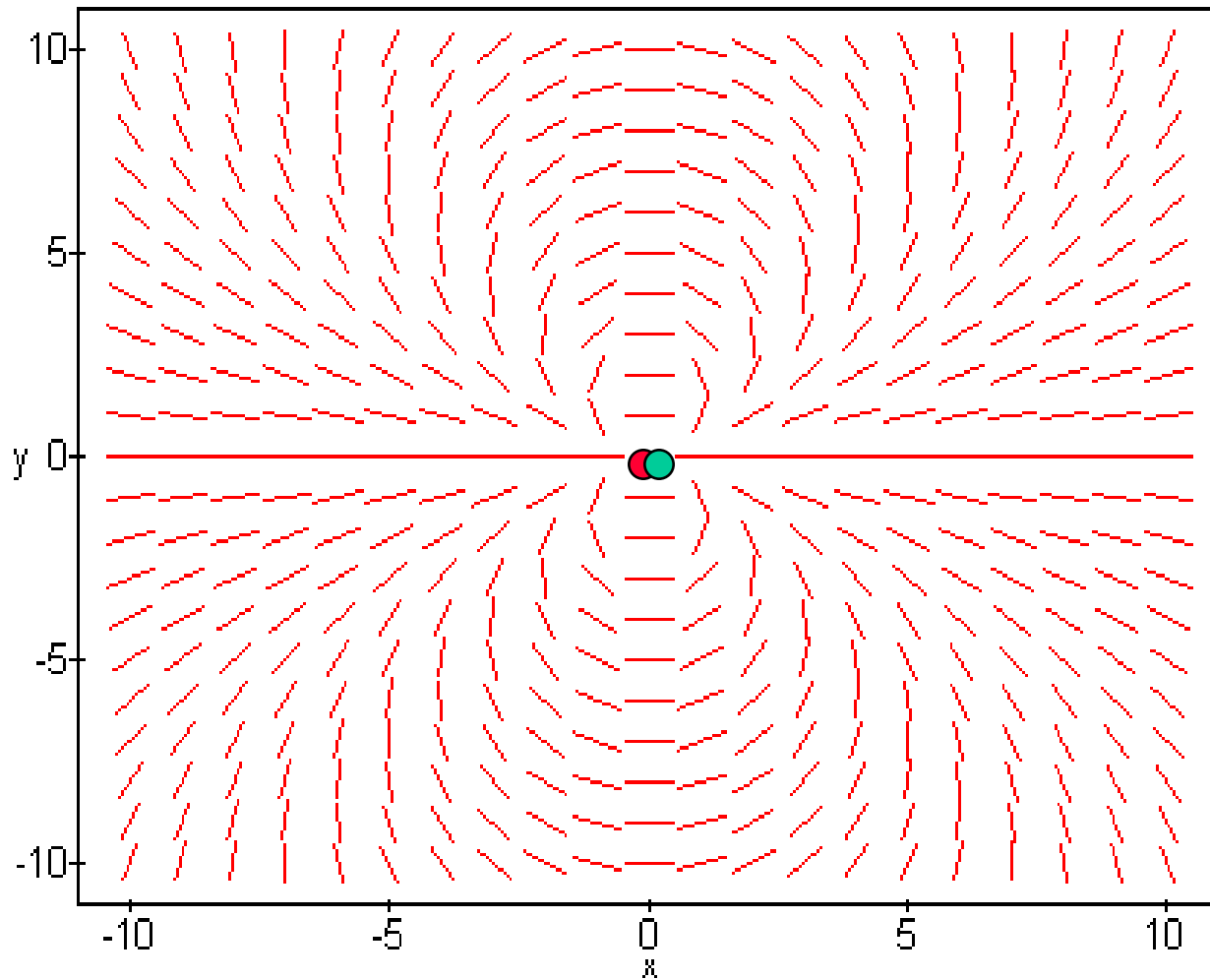
$a = 10$

$a = 1$

$a = 0.1$

far field

# Field lines in XY-plane (6)



Parameter:  
distance  $a$   
between  
 $-Q$  and  $+Q$

$a = 20$

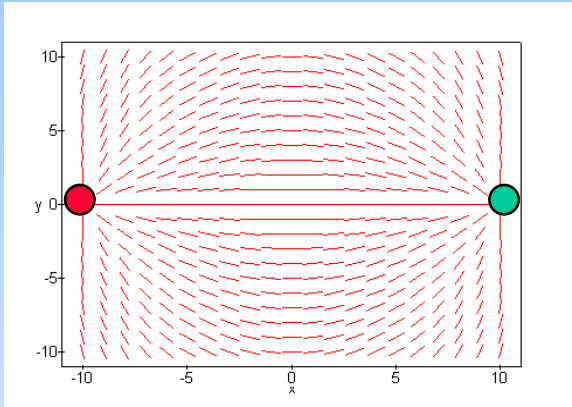
$a = 10$

$a = 1$

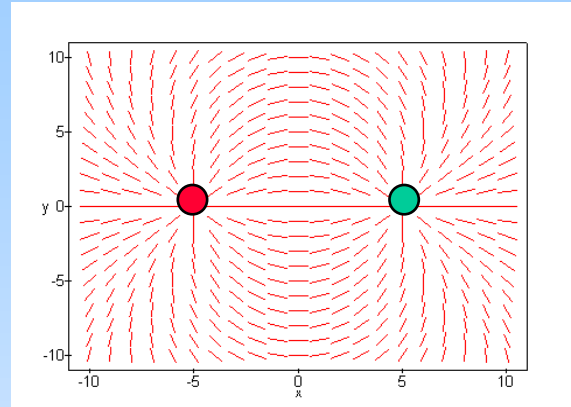
$a = 0.1$

far field

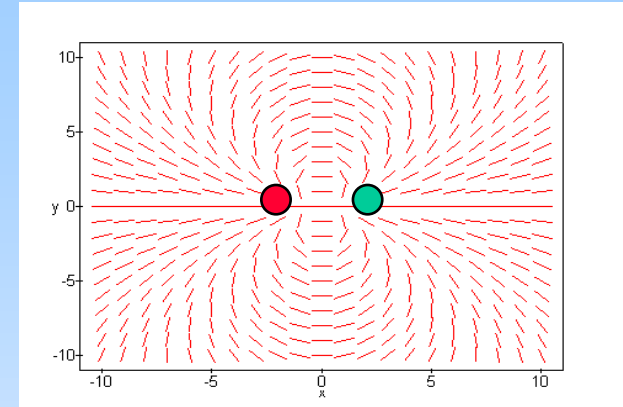
# Field lines in XY-plane (7)



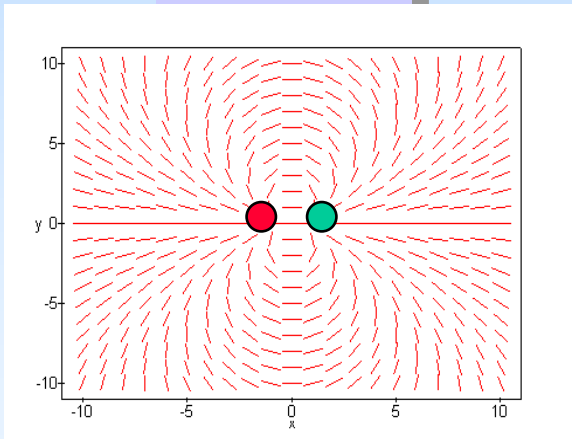
$a = 20$



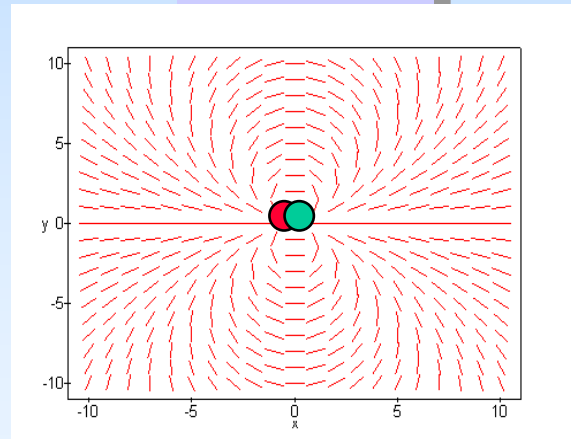
$a = 10$



$a = 1$



$a = 0.1$



far field

E-field of a dipole

Parameter:  
distance  $a$   
between  
 $-Q$  and  $+Q$

*the end*