

Which location is at a higher potential?

$$PE = q \bar{V}$$

⊕ charge moves from A to B and loses PE (what it "wants" to do)

$$\Delta PE = q \Delta \bar{V}$$

negative ↑ positive negative

moving to a lower potential

$$\therefore V_A > V_B$$

For



charge

$$\Delta PE = q \Delta \bar{V}$$

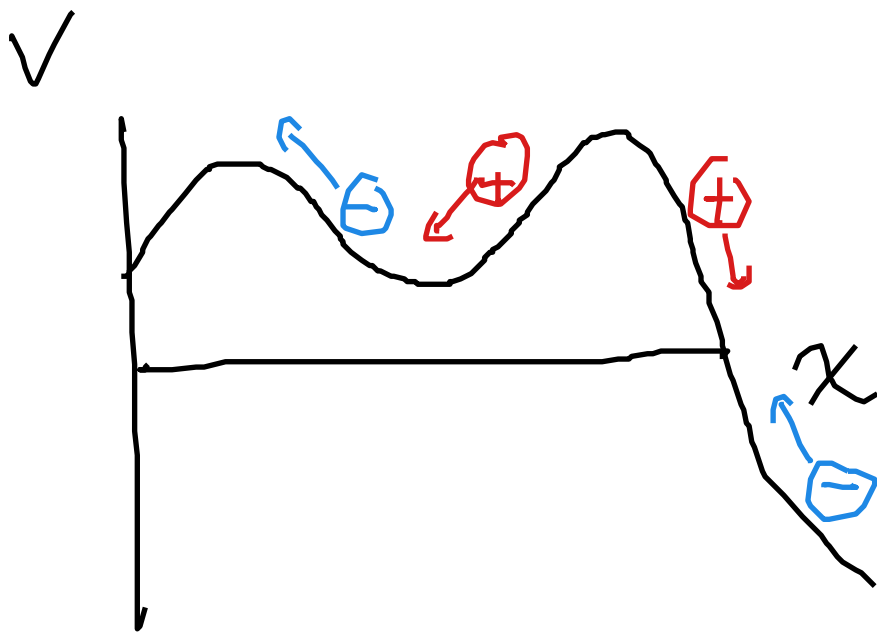
↑ ↑ negative

positive negative

Metaphor: potential as "height"

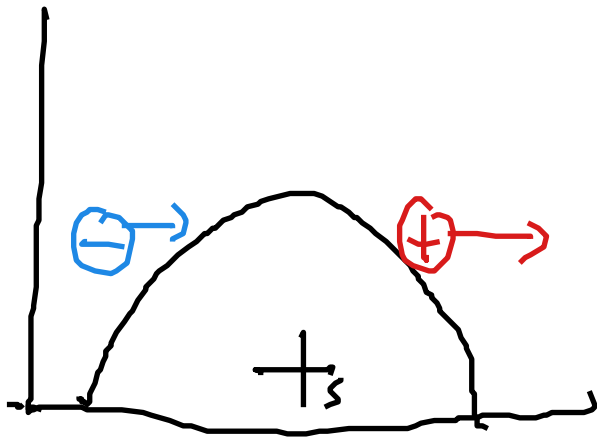
⊕ target wants to decrease PE
and so it moves to lower V
(unless forced) "downhill"

⊖ target wants to decrease PE too
and so it moves to higher V
and so more "uphill"

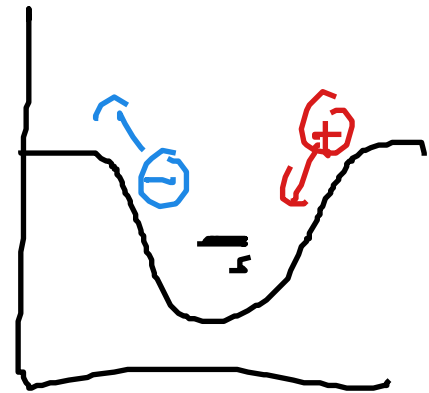


Targets move along a potential
landscape

Source charges create the landscape

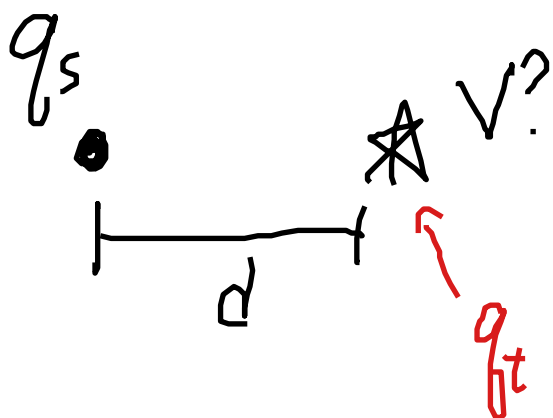


Positive sources
are "peaks"



Negative sources
are "pits"

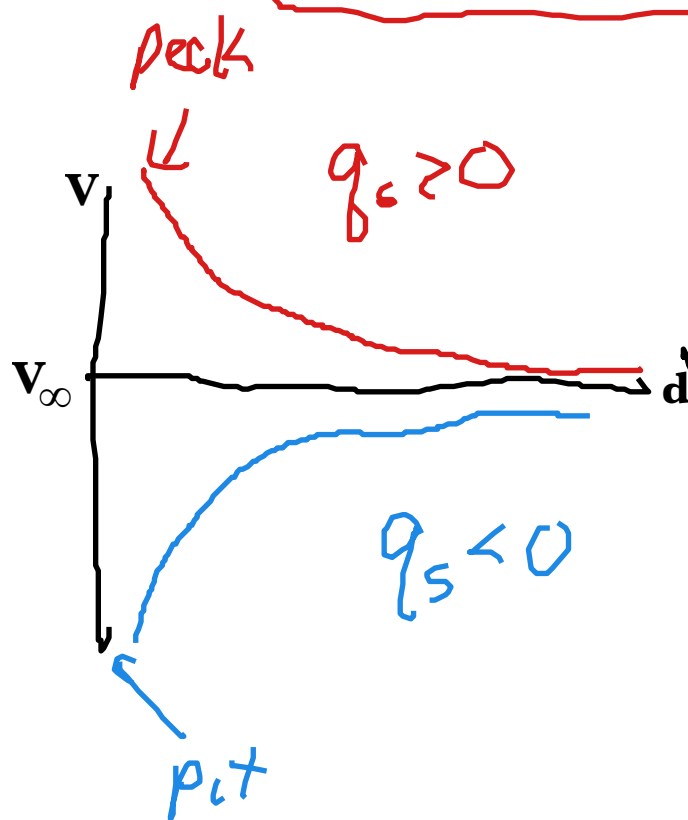
"Uphill" $\rightarrow$ "towards higher potential"



$$PE = k \frac{q_s q_t}{d} + PE_\infty$$

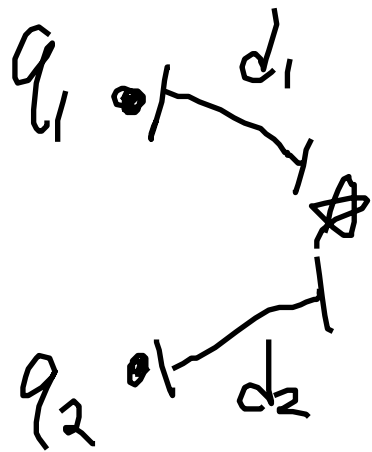
$$V = \frac{PE}{q_t} = k \frac{q_s}{d} + V_\infty$$

For point source charge



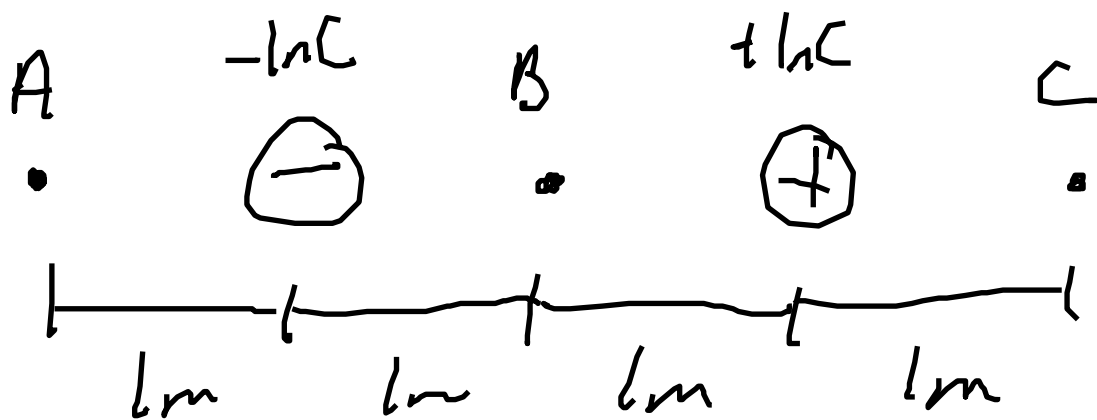
"sea level"
or "ground level"

For multiple sources,



$$V = k \frac{q_1}{d_1} + k \frac{q_2}{d_2} + V_{\infty}$$

not vectors!



Where is V highest?

$$V_A = k \frac{(-\ln C)}{1m} + k \frac{(+\ln C)}{3m} \quad V_\infty = 0$$

$$= (9 \times 10^9) \left[\frac{-10^{-9}}{1} + \frac{10^{-9}}{3} \right]$$

$$= 9 \left[-1 + \frac{1}{3} \right]$$

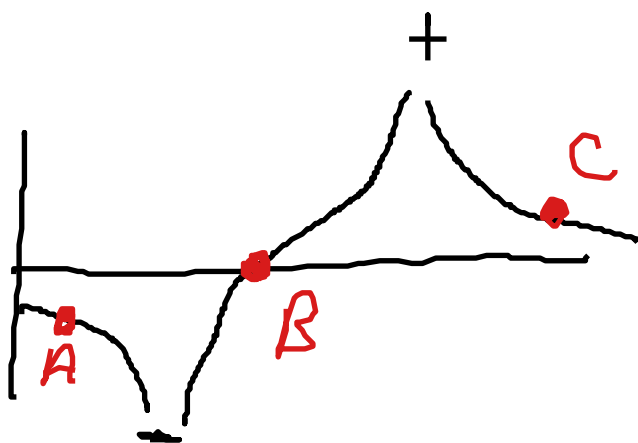
$$= 9 \left[-\frac{2}{3} \right] = -6V$$

$$V_C = k \frac{(-\ln C)}{3m} + k \frac{(+\ln C)}{1m}$$

$$= 9 \left[-\frac{1}{3} + 1 \right]$$

$$= +6V$$

$$V_B = k \left[\frac{(-\ln C)}{1m} + \frac{(\ln C)}{1m} \right] = 0V$$



A



B

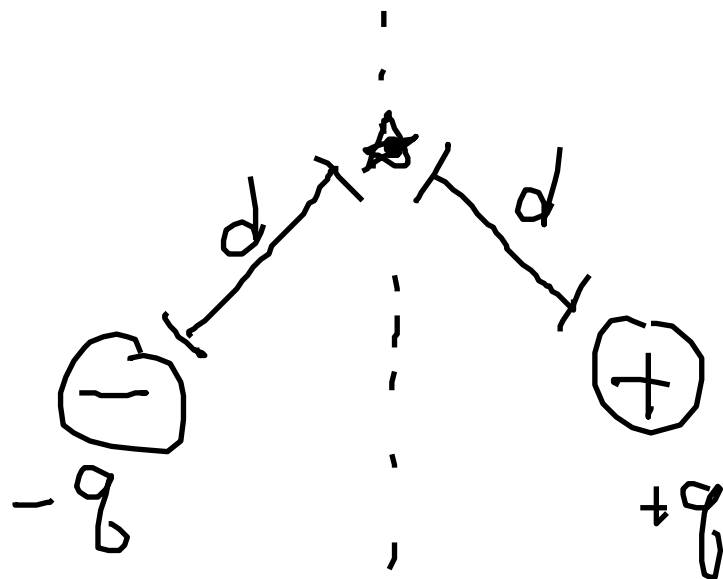


C

 $-6V$ $0V$ $+6V$ $0V$ $6V$ $+12V$ $-12V$ $-6V$ $0V$

All correct depending on
choice of V_{ref}

The differences in potential are
all the same.

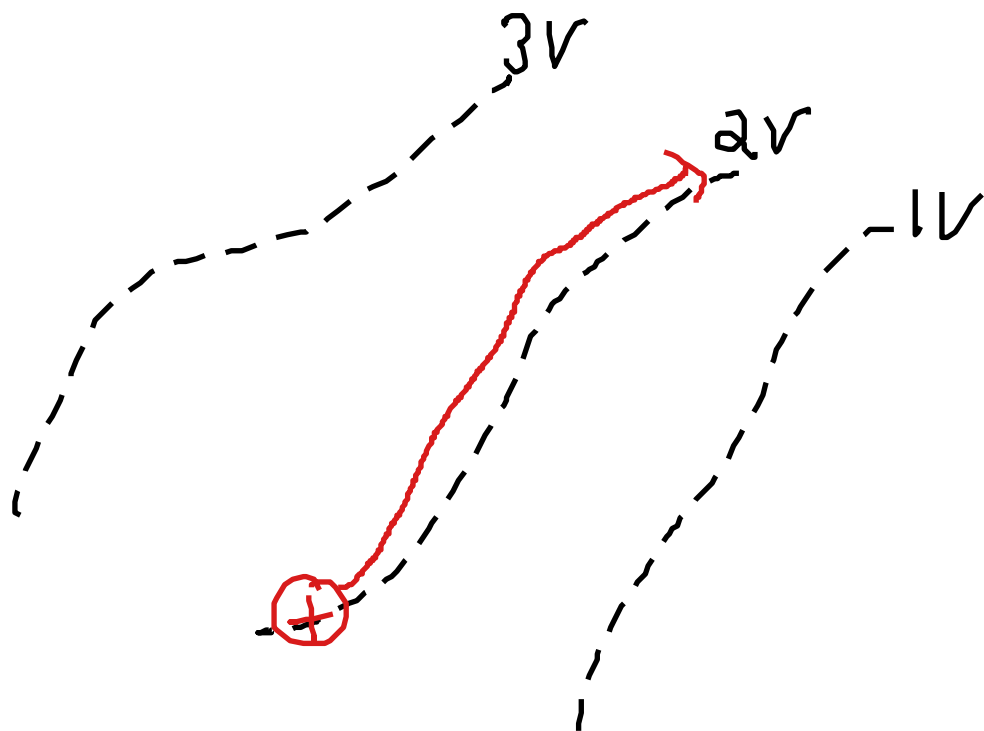


$$V_* = k \frac{-q}{d} + k \frac{+q}{d} + V_\infty$$

$$= V_\infty$$

Equipotential Surface
or equipotential Line

Every point on this surface
has same potential.



$$\Delta PE = q_t \Delta V = q_t (0) = 0$$

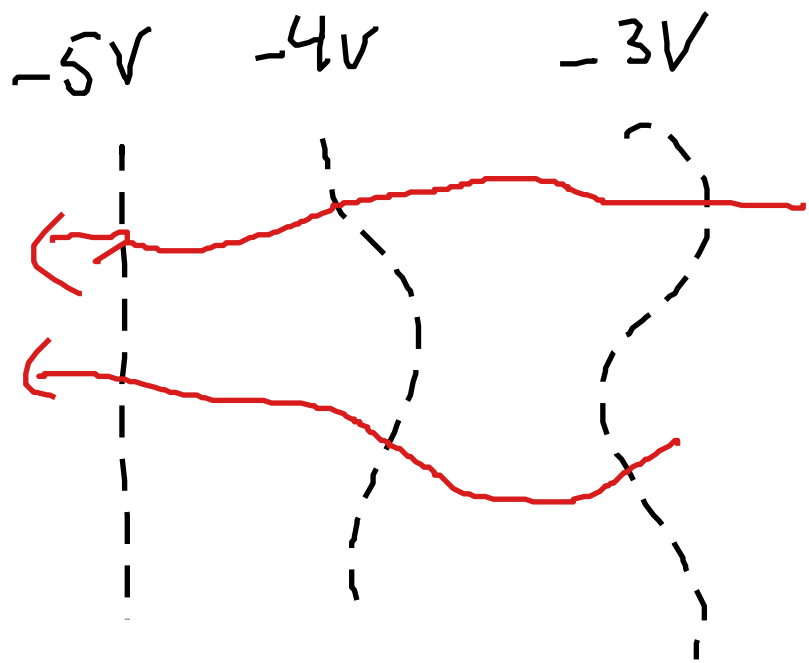
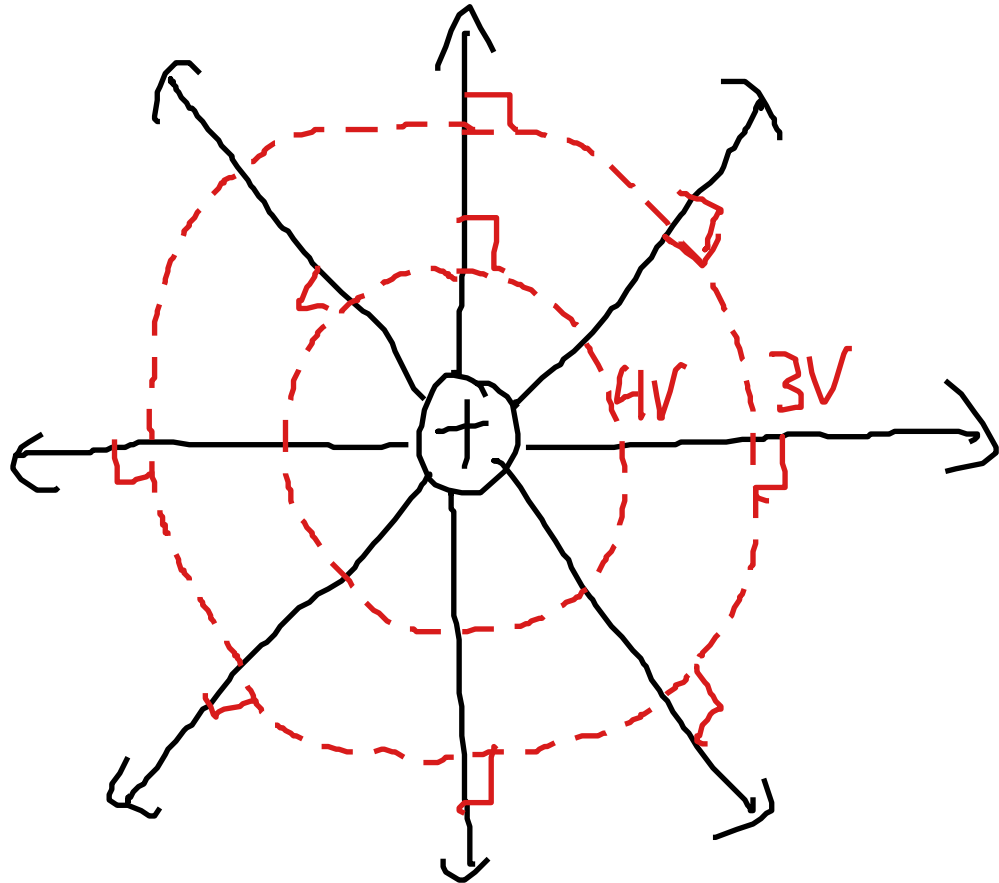
No work being done on charge

$$W = \vec{F} \cdot \Delta \vec{r} = 0$$

Force $\perp$ Motion

$$\vec{F} = q_t \vec{E} \rightarrow \vec{E} \perp \text{Motion}$$

Electric field $\perp$ Equipotential Surfaces



Field lines point
left or right?
(WWPD)

Electric fields point downhill