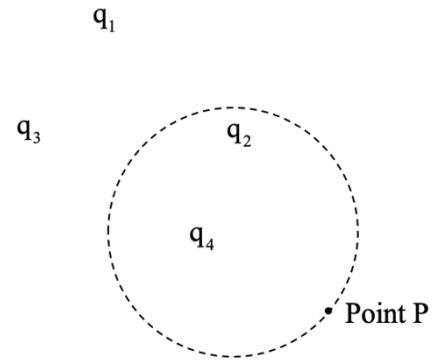


Note: This question came from (or was inspired by) the “Frenley Physics” YouTube site:

Four charges lie in the plane of the page. The cross-section of a spherical Gaussian circle is shown by the dotted line. On that line is (which is to say, on that surface) is a single Point P.



- a.) Which of the charges contributes to the electric field at Point P? Justify your response.

--all of the charges will contribute to the electric field at Point P;
--any charge in the region will have a Coulomb-like effect;

- b.) Which of the charges contributes to the electric flux through the surface? Justify your response.

--according to Gauss's Law, the electric flux will be proportional to the charge enclosed by the Gaussian surface (the sphere), so q_2 and q_4 will answer the question.

- c.) If the radius of the sphere were made slightly larger, must that increase the net electric flux through the sphere? Justify your response.

--the surface area of the sphere would increase, but the density of electric field lines through the surface would decrease so the flux would remain the same;
--OR, the net charge inside the Gaussian surface would not have changed, so the net flux would not have changed.

- d.) If the radius of the sphere were made much bigger, must that increase the net electric flux through the sphere? Justify your response.

--again, if the sphere were made big enough, additional charges might be included and that would change the electric flux;
--the change wouldn't necessarily increase—if the additional charges happen to be opposite q_2 and q_4 , then the net charge inside the Gaussian surface would go down and so would the net electric flux.