

**Start with a Simpler Case:** The electrostatic potential due to a particle with charge  $q$  is:

$$V(r) = \frac{kq}{r}$$

where  $k$  is the electrostatic constant and  $r$  is the distance from the particle.

On your whiteboard, identify all the points with the same value of potential around a single point charge. Repeat for several different values of potential.

- What shapes have you drawn?
- If you wanted the difference in potential represented by the shapes to be equal, how are they spaced?

**Add Complexity:** Draw equipotential surfaces for the potential due to 4 particles with equal, positive charge arranged in a square.

**Examine a New Case:** Repeat for a quadrupole: 2 positively charged particles and 2 negatively charged particles arranged in a square, with “like” charged particles on opposite corners.

**Extend to New Surfaces:** The red surface represents the potential of a quadrupole in the plane of the charges (at  $z = 0$  cm). What would the potential look like in the  $z = 1$  cm plane? What would be different? What about the  $z = -1$  cm?