

# **Electricity and Magnetism**





# **Interaction of Two Charges**



# **Negatively Charged Rod and Metal Rod**



Attraction !

#### Metal PVC



Attraction or repulsion?



Attraction!

# What if we use wood instead of metal?



# **Charge on Balloon Simulation**



# Summary of observations

- Positive repels positive
- Negative repels negative
- Positive attracts negative
- Neutral bodies tend to be attracted to charged bodies because of charge separation ("polarization")
- Forces are larger when charges are closer

A positively charged rod and a negatively charged rod are in close proximity, without touching. What happens?

- A. The positive rod is attracted to the negative rod, and the negative rod is repelled from the positive rod.
- B. The positive rod is repelled from the negative rod, and the negative rod is attracted to the positive rod.
- C. The two rods attract to each other.
- D. The two rods repel each other.
- E. There will be no electric force between the rods because the positive and negative forces cancel.

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# Van de Graaff generator



A girl's hair is standing up because she is touching a Van de Graaff generator. What can we conclude about the girl's net charge?

- A. Her charge must be positive. Negative charge would cause the hairs to clump together.
- B. Her charge must be negative. Positive charge would cause the hairs to clump together.
- C. Her charge could be positive, negative, or zero.
- D. Her charge could be positive or negative, but not zero.
- E. Some hairs are clearly positively charged, others are negatively charged, so they repel each other.

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#### Charles Augustin de Coulomb (1783)



#### Coulomb's law:

- Force is proportional to product of charges
- Force is inversely proportional to square of distance
- Unit of *charge* is named after him: <u>Coulomb</u> (C)

### Newton's law of gravitation



 $G = 6.7 \times 10^{-11}$  (metric units)

## Coulomb's law



 $k = 9.0 \times 10^9$  (metric units)

## Gravitation law vs. Coulomb's law

$$F = G \frac{m_1 m_2}{R^2}$$

$$F = k \frac{Q_1 Q_2}{R^2}$$

 $G = 6.7 \times 10^{-11}$  (metric units)

#### $k = 9.0 \times 10^9$ (metric units)

#### Similarities:

- Mathematical form
- Distance law

#### Differences:

- Electric forces can be repulsive or attractive!
- Electric forces are much stronger!

A positive charge of 1 C exerts an electrostatic force of F1 on a positive charge of 50 C. The 50 C charge exerts a force of F2 on the 1 C charge. How do the forces compare?

A. |F1| > |F2|
B. |F1| < |F2|</li>
C. F1 = F2
D. F1 = - F2

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Two electric charges repel each other with a force of 2 N. If the distance between the charges is halved, the repulsive force

- A. quadruples.
- B. doubles.
- C. remains the same.
- D. is reduced by half.
- E. is reduced by one quarter.

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- A. Electrostatic forces can be repulsive or attractive, just like gravitational forces.
- B. Electrostatic forces can be repulsive or attractive, whereas gravitational forces are always repulsive.
- C. Positive charges attract negative charges, and positive masses repel negative masses.
- D. Positive charges attract positive charges, and positive masses attract positive masses.
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# Planetary model of the atom



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#### Forces between proton and electron in H atom

- Gravitational attraction of 4.2x10<sup>-47</sup> N
- Electrical attraction of 9x10<sup>-8</sup> N
- Recall Cavendish experiment, vs. charged rods!

#### Electrical neutrality of ordinary matter



 $N_{e} / N_{p} = 0.9999$ 

(Neutrality at level of 1 part in 10<sup>4</sup>)

Then: 
$$F_{elec} / F_{grav} = 10^{28}$$

Need neutrality at level of 1 part in 10<sup>18</sup> to get comparable forces ! Earth is neutral to about 1 part in 10<sup>26</sup> !

# Electric Field

- When a charged body experiences an electric force, we consider there to be an "electric field".
- In particular, since the force is proportional to the charge on the body, what characterizes the field is the force per unit charge.
- In other words, the electric field is just the force at any given point in space that a unit charge (1 Coulomb) would experience if placed at that point.
- It is a vector.













## Are electric fields "real" ?









