



JOINT INSTITUTE  
交大密西根学院



上海交通大学

# Physics (PHYS2500J): 1. Introduction

**Xiao-Fen Li**  
**Associate Professor, SJTU**

Fall 2023

# Contents



1. What do we learn in this semester

2. Why do we learn electromagnetism

3. How are we graded in this class

Xiao-Fen Li (李小汾, [xf\\_li@sjtu.edu.cn](mailto:xf_li@sjtu.edu.cn))

Office: room 304, Building D, 930 JianChuan Rd. (零号湾930, D栋304)

Office hours: Tuesday 16:00-18:00, and by appointment.

TA: Mr. Leyan Zhang  
Miss Xiruo Wang

Any questions are welcome at any time during the class!  
Any critical opinions are welcome!

# Contents

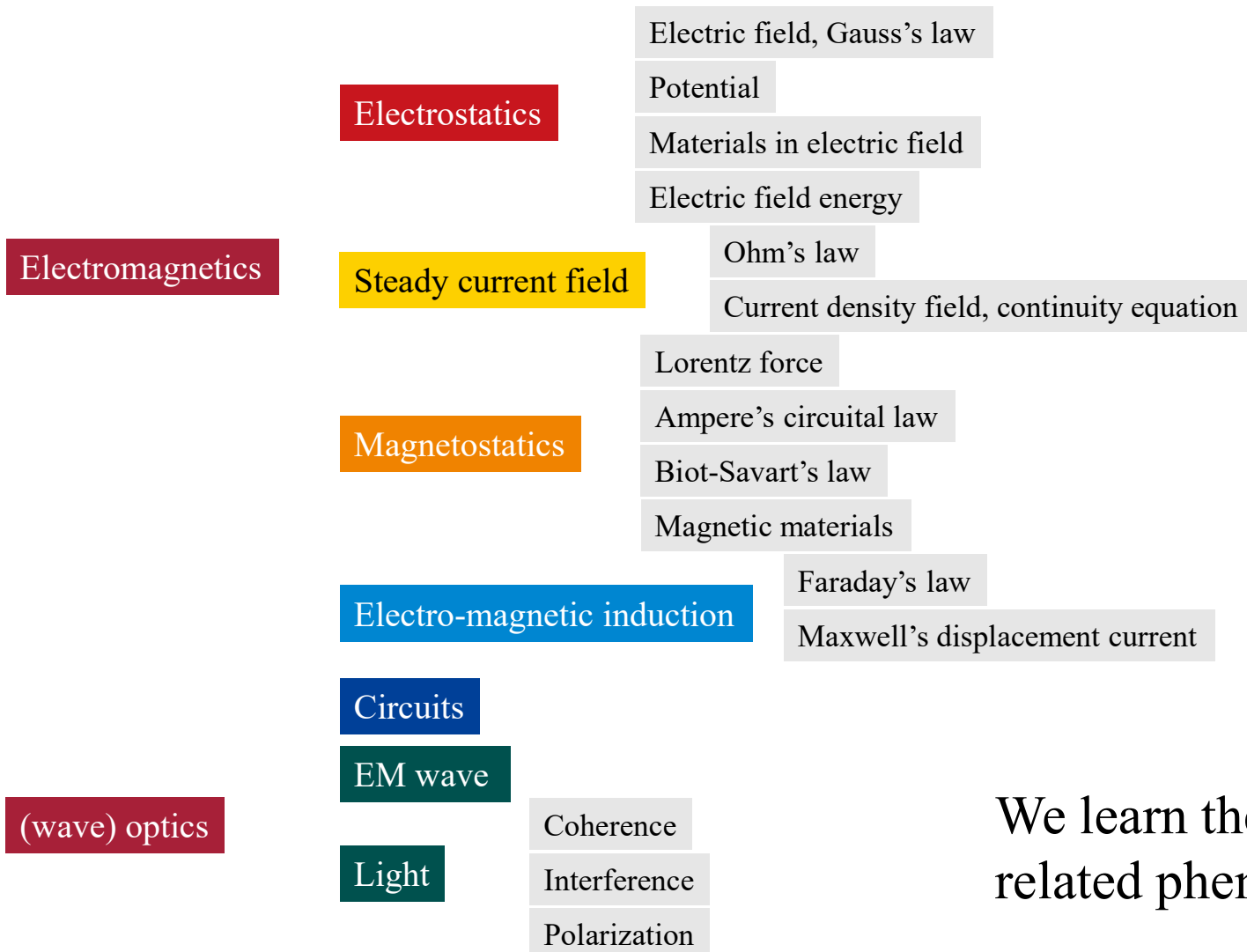


1. What do we learn in this semester

2. Why do we learn electromagnetism

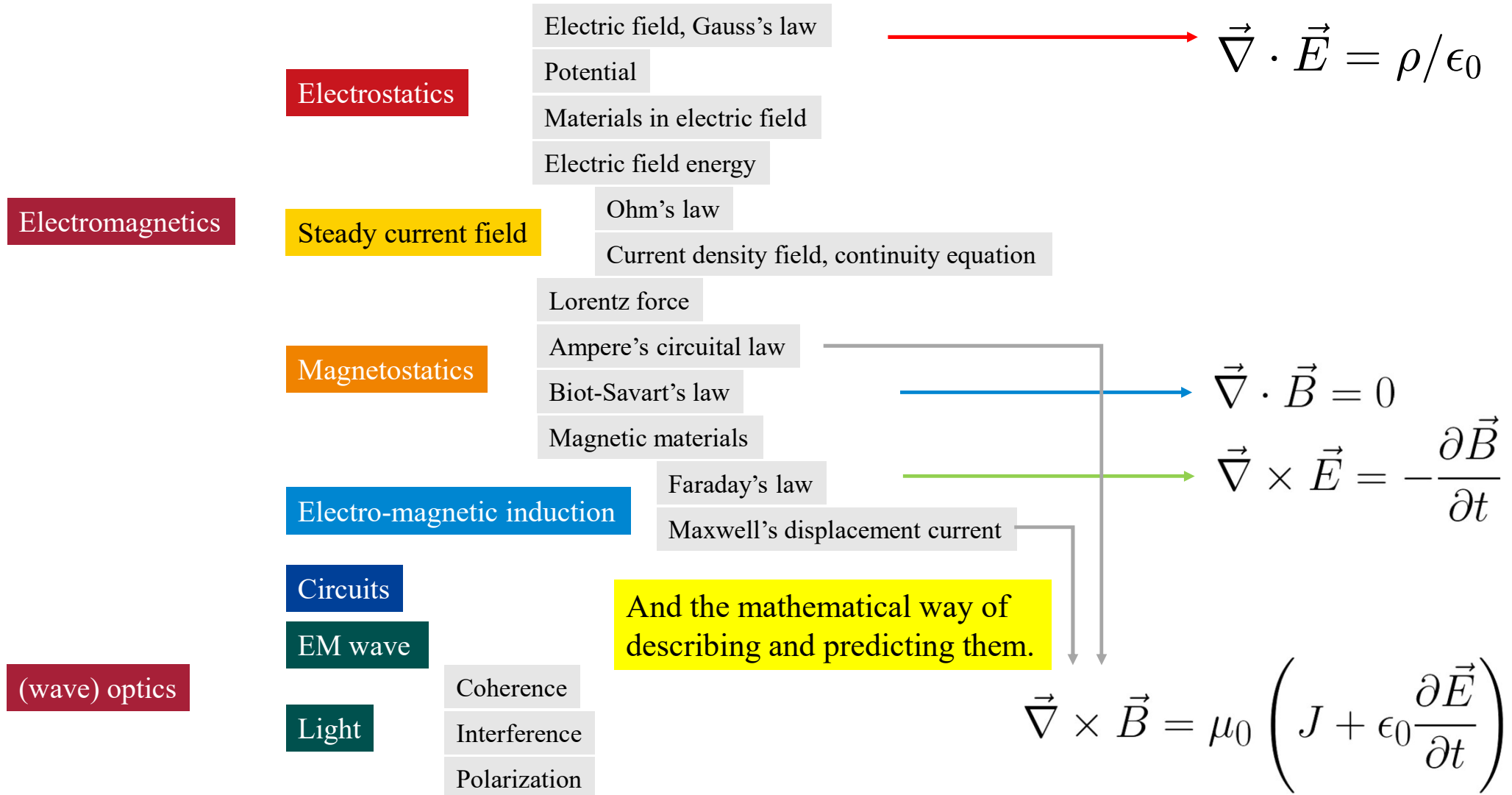
3. How are we graded in this class

# What we learn during the semester



We learn the electromagnetic field related phenomena.

# What we learn during the semester



# What we do not learn in this class



Next step engineering classes

Electromagnetic field

Electrical engineering

Electronics

Next step physics classes

Electrodynamics

Plasma physics

Magnetics

Fundamental class

Electromagnetics

Next step knowledge

Dielectric material

Magnetic material

# What we do not learn in this class



Optics is such a useful engineering class and a beautiful physics class!

## Geometrical optics

Short wavelength, propagating in lines.

## Wave optics / physical optics

Interference, diffraction, polarization...

## Quantum optics / molecular optics

Interactions with matter: absorption, scattering, spectrum...

## Optics

## Fourier optics

Based on the convolution nature of light propagation, combining optics, mathematics and information theory.

## Non-linear optics

Refraction index (polarization of dielectric) as a function of intensity.

## Laser brought us many new aspects of optics:

Monochromatic:

scanning spectrums;

Coherent:

OCT;

Parallel:

pointing, (together with high Coherency)  
possible to focus to high intensity for fine/fast  
machining



# What we do not learn in this class



Optics is such a useful engineering class and a beautiful physics class!

## Geometrical optics

Short wavelength, propagating in lines.

## Wave optics / physical optics

Discussing the EM wave nature of light,  
fundamental to all but geometrical optics

## Quantum optics / molecular optics

Interactions with matter: absorption,  
scattering, spectrum...

## Optics

## Fourier optics

Based on the convolution nature of light propagation,  
combining optics, mathematics and information theory.

## Non-linear optics

Refraction index (polarization of dielectric)  
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## Laser brought us many new aspects of optics:

Monochromatic:

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1. What do we learn in this semester

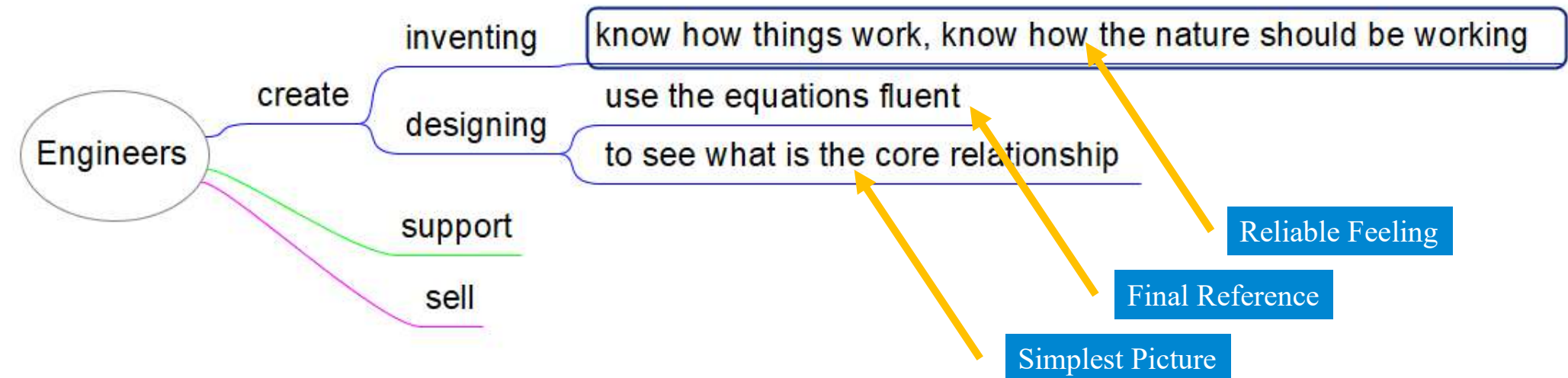
2. Why do we learn electromagnetism (as a physics class)

3. How are we graded in this class

# Why do we learn it AS PHYSICS?

Engineers create, support, and sell machines.

**Barry Harvey**



# How do we learn it AS PHYSICS?



## Reliable Feeling

Reliable: we have to doubt, to discuss (NOT DEBATE)

Feeling: we have to pay attention to 1. dimensions; 2. symmetries

## Final Reference

Final: we have to pay attention to the assumptions

Reference: we have to remember where to find it rather than every equation

## Simplest Picture

Simplest: we have to 1. remove the negligible; 2. pay attention to degrees of freedom

Picture: we have to see the physical meaning behind the letters in the equations

# How do we learn it AS PHYSICS?



## Reliable Feeling

Reliable: we have to doubt, to discuss (NOT DEBATE)

Discuss

Feeling: we have to pay attention to 1. dimensions; 2. symmetries

Dimensions

## Final Reference

Final: we have to pay attention to the assumptions

Assumptions

Reference: we have to remember where to find it rather than every equation

## Simplest Picture

Simplest: we have to 1. remove the negligible; 2. pay attention to degrees of freedom

DOF

Picture: we have to see the physical meaning behind the letters in the equations

Picture

# The target of this course



- To establish a solid foundation for engineering applications;
- To get a feel of how things should be working, for future innovation. (And to know how to prove it);
- To learn how to ask, instead of answering questions (And provide a way to answer the questions);
- To learn how to discuss things with your fellow students;
- To enjoy the wisdom of human;
- To learn some useful tricks on the way, such as making plots with Matlab.

# Why do we need a teacher?

~~He is clever~~

~~He is always right~~

Just because he is old!

He can tell you what (probably) happens in the future when you need the knowledge.

He can show you the (wrong) way to get to the correct understandings.

Most importantly, he makes a lot of mistakes so that you know you can do better.

**TEXT BOOKS:**

Hugh D. YOUNG, Roger A. FREEDMAN, *University Physics* (14th edition)

selected topics: David J. GRIFFITHS, *Introduction to Electrodynamics* (3rd edition)

**Extended Readings (Necessary terms in Chinese)**

电动力学, 郭硕鸿, 第三版, 高等教育出版社

p3-p109, simple and clearly summarized useful information of electromagnetics

新概念物理: 电磁学, 赵凯华, 陈熙谋, 第二版, 高等教育出版社

Deep thinking, good questions asked and answered



# Contents



1. What do we learn in this semester

2. Why do we learn electromagnetism

3. How are we graded in this class

## Grading Policy:

### Coursework (including problems and quiz) (15%)

homework should be submitted on time (usually before the class next week, Monday's homework before Monday class, Thursday's work before Thursday class)

### Participation (5%)

Take part in Class, as well as the discussion, ask or answer questions (asking questions is highly appreciated);

### Mid-term Exam (40%)

### Final Exam (40%)

### extra (1%)

For those who is taking part in the Physics competition, and on a necessary base.

Did you learn the following contents?



1. Mechanical wave.
2. Differential vector calculus.



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# Physics (PHYS2500J), Unit 1 Electrostatics: 1. Coulomb's law

**Xiao-Fen Li**  
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# Contents



1. From early to modern times: knowledge of electricity

2. Coulomb's law

# William Gilbert: The father of electrostatics



William Gilbert (1544-1603)

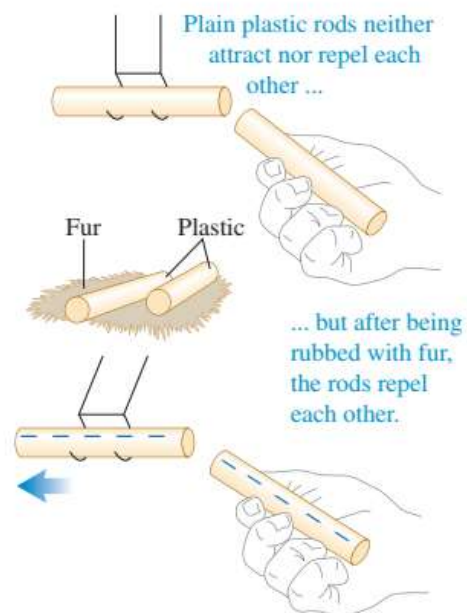
Royal (medical) doctor for  
Queen Elisabeth I

Started the word electricus, from Greek word  $\eta\lambda\epsilon\kappa\tau\rho\nu$  (**Elektron**).

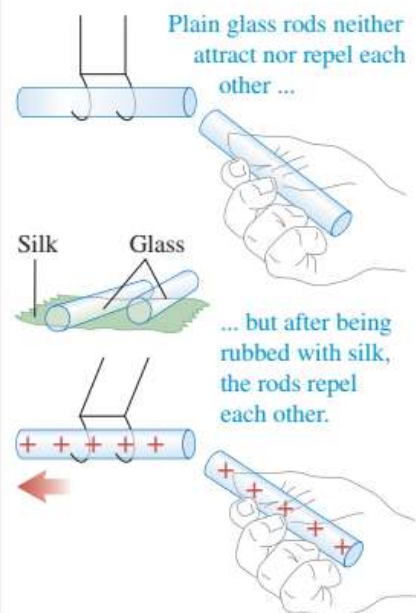
Sir Gilbert was first to make the case for differentiating between magnetic attraction and electrical attraction—static electricity—which later proved the foundation for future discoveries about electricity.

Sir Gilbert's used the word "electricus", meaning "like amber".

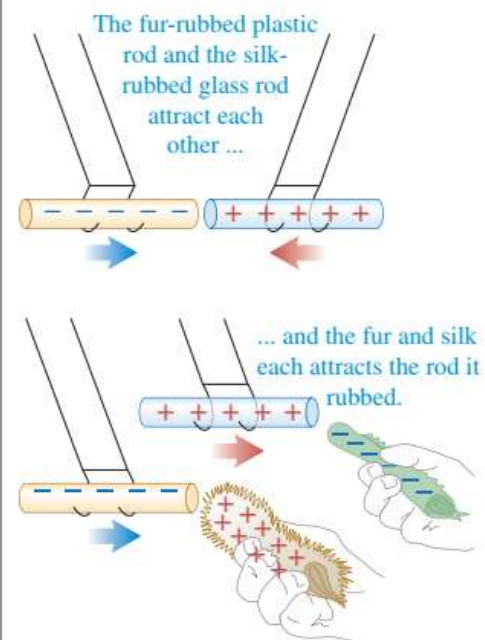
(a) Interaction between plastic rods rubbed on fur



(b) Interaction between glass rods rubbed on silk



(c) Interaction between objects with opposite charges



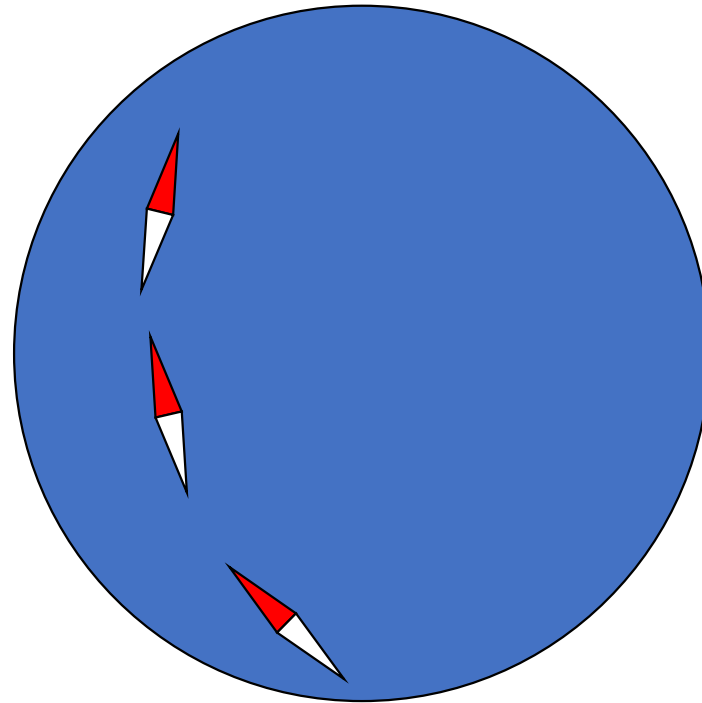
# William Gilbert: The father of electrostatics



William Gilbert (1544-1603)

Royal (medical) doctor for  
Queen Elisabeth I

Also pointed out that the earth is a magnetic sphere, by an experiment with small magnetic needles and a magnetized sphere.





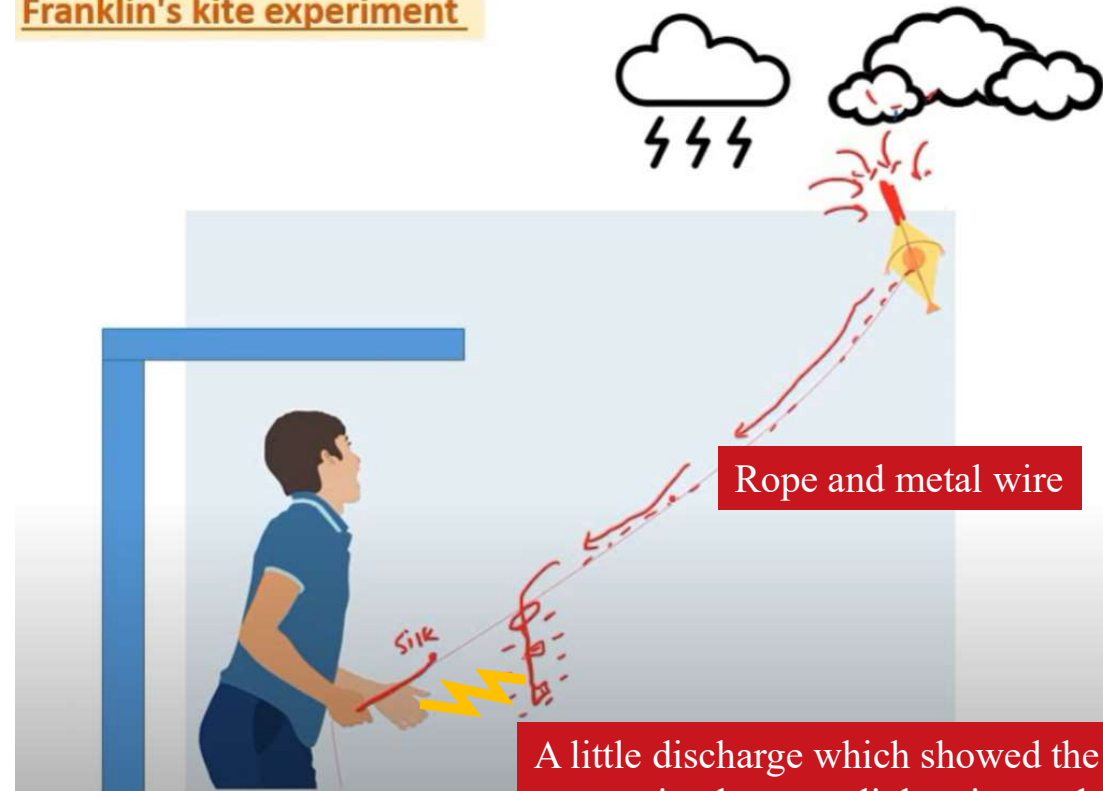
# Benjamin Franklin



Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790)

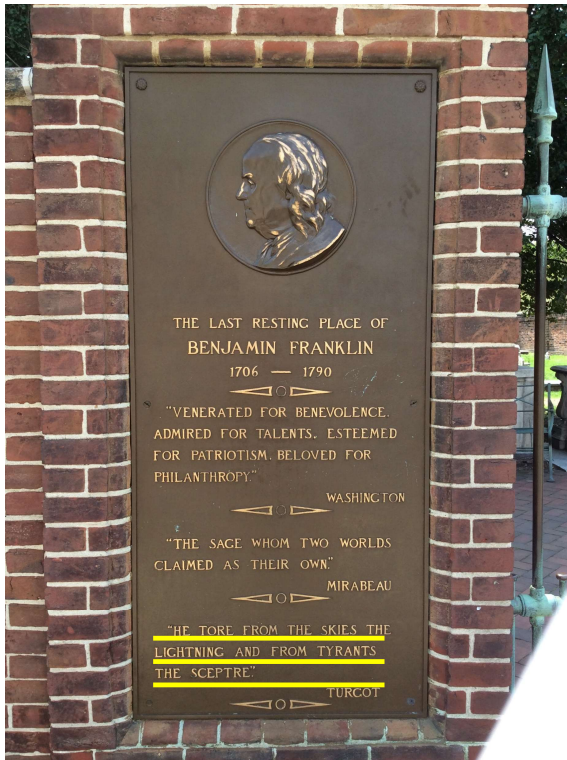
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SbpA7gATcLo>

## Franklin's kite experiment



1. Established the relationship between lightening and electricity;
2. Invented the lightening conductor;
3. Established terms such as conductor, cation, anion, charge, discharge.

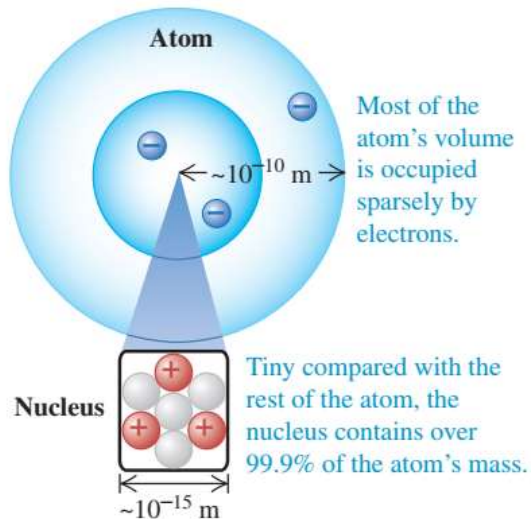
Not Everyone is as lucky as Franklin. The first scientist died when studying lightening ia a Russian scientist named Richmann.






Tyrant: 专制者  
Sceptre: 权杖

# Electrical charge and the structure of matter

**21.3** The structure of an atom. The particular atom depicted here is lithium (see Fig. 21.4a).

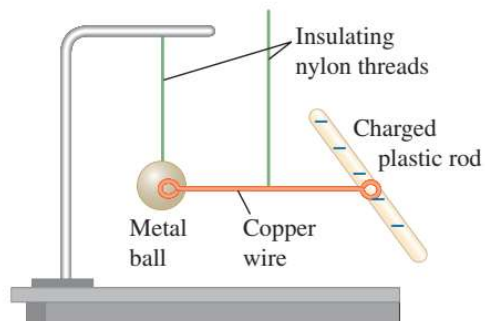


-  **Proton:** Positive charge  
Mass =  $1.673 \times 10^{-27}$  kg
-  **Neutron:** No charge  
Mass =  $1.675 \times 10^{-27}$  kg
-  **Electron:** Negative charge  
Mass =  $9.109 \times 10^{-31}$  kg

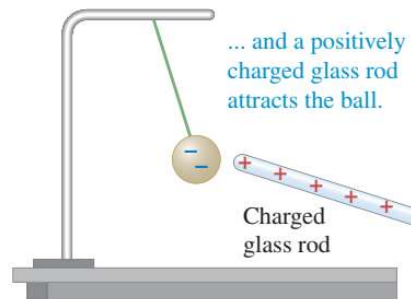
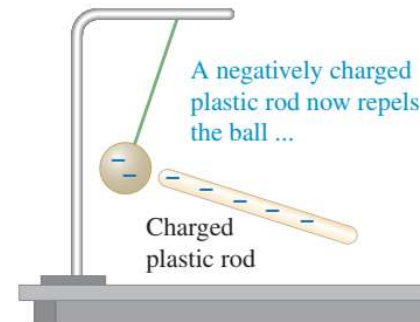
The charges of the electron and proton are equal in magnitude.

## Ways to get material charged:

1. Rub
2. conduction



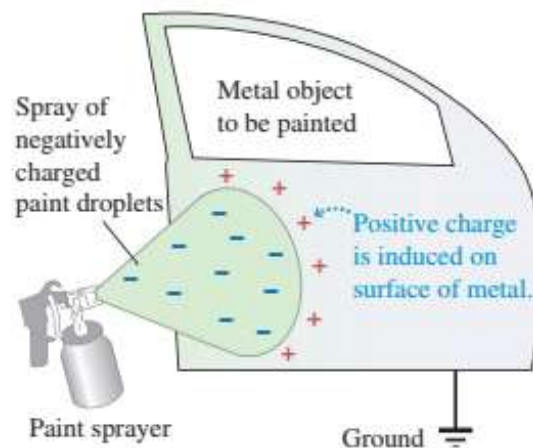
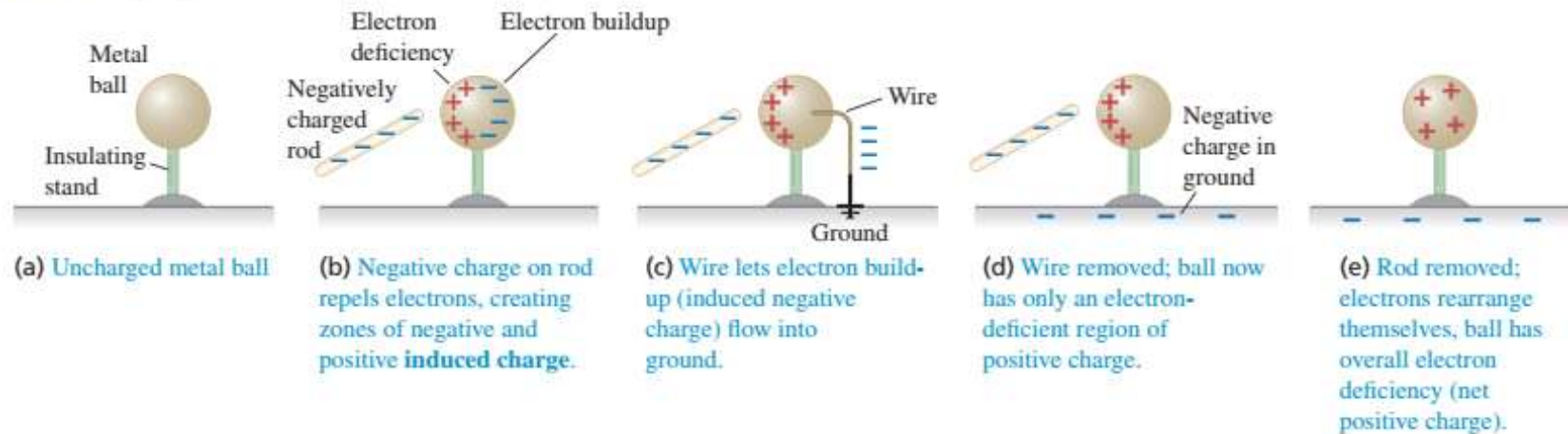
The wire conducts charge from the negatively charged plastic rod to the metal ball.



Charged glass rod

# Another way to get object charged: induced charge in conductors

## 21.7 Charging a metal ball by induction.



**21.9** The electrostatic painting process (compare Figs. 21.7b and 21.7c). A metal object to be painted is connected to the earth ("ground"), and the paint droplets are given an electric charge as they exit the sprayer nozzle. Induced charges of the opposite sign appear in the object as the droplets approach, just as in Fig. 21.7b, and they attract the droplets to the surface. This process minimizes overspray from clouds of stray paint particles and gives a particularly smooth finish.



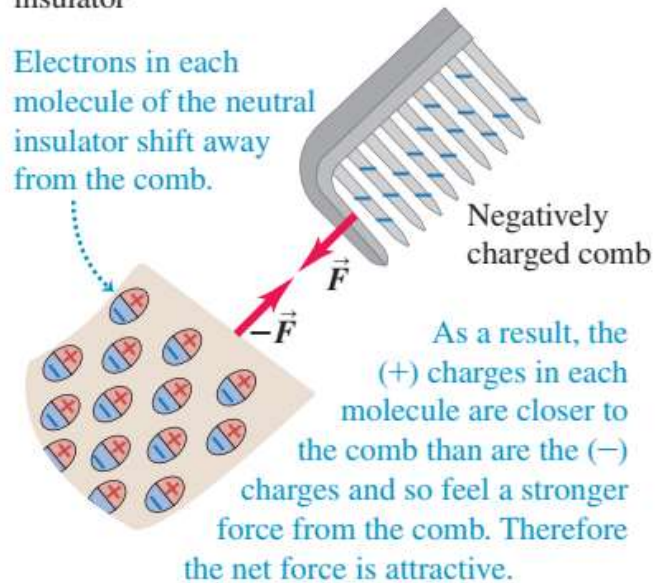
# Induced charge in insulators

**21.8** The charges within the molecules of an insulating material can shift slightly. As a result, a comb with either sign of charge attracts a neutral insulator. By Newton's third law the neutral insulator exerts an equal-magnitude attractive force on the comb.

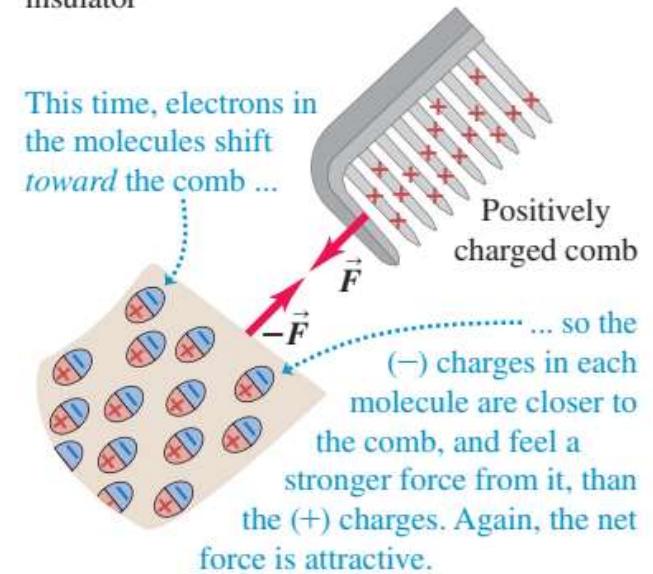
(a) A charged comb picking up uncharged pieces of plastic



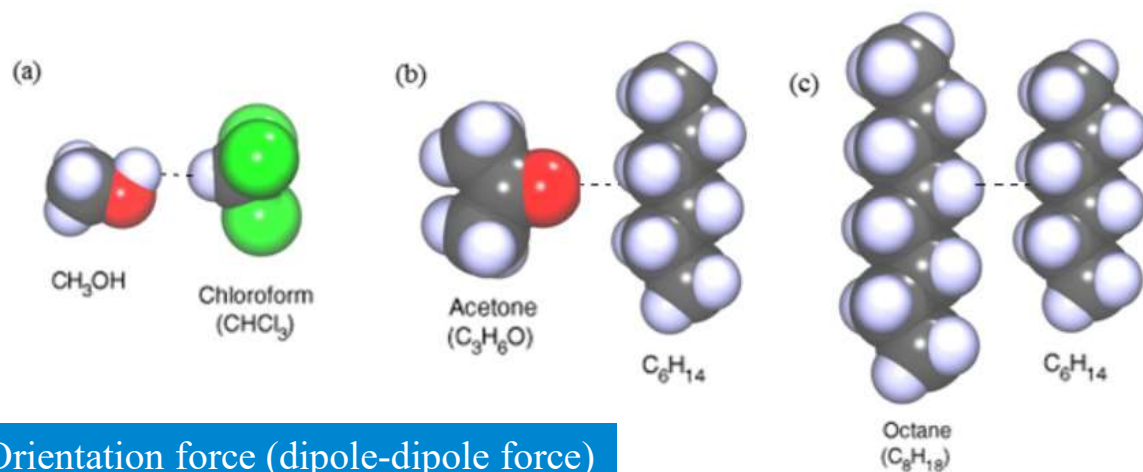
(b) How a negatively charged comb attracts an insulator



(c) How a positively charged comb attracts an insulator



# Microscopic analogy: molecular forces



*Int. J. Mol. Sci.* **2012**, *13*, 12773–12856; doi:10.3390/ijms131012773

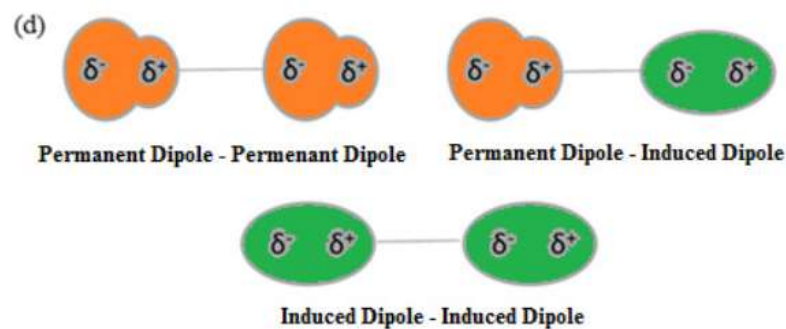
OPEN ACCESS  
International Journal of  
**Molecular Sciences**  
ISSN 1422-0067  
www.mdpi.com/journal/ijms

Review

## Theoretical Models for Surface Forces and Adhesion and Their Measurement Using Atomic Force Microscopy

Fabio L. Leite <sup>1,\*</sup>, Carolina C. Bueno <sup>1</sup>, Alessandra L. Da Róz <sup>1</sup>, Ervino C. Ziemath <sup>2</sup> and Osvaldo N. Oliveira Jr. <sup>3</sup>

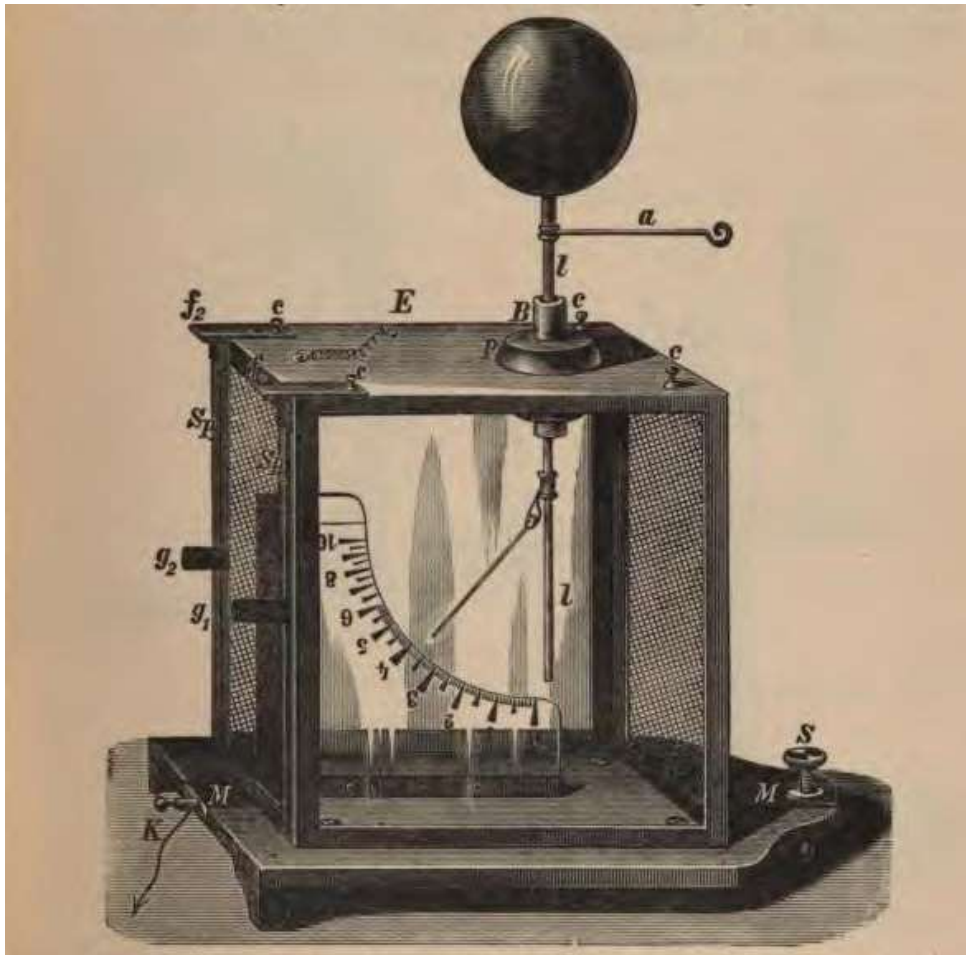
Orientation force (dipole-dipole force)



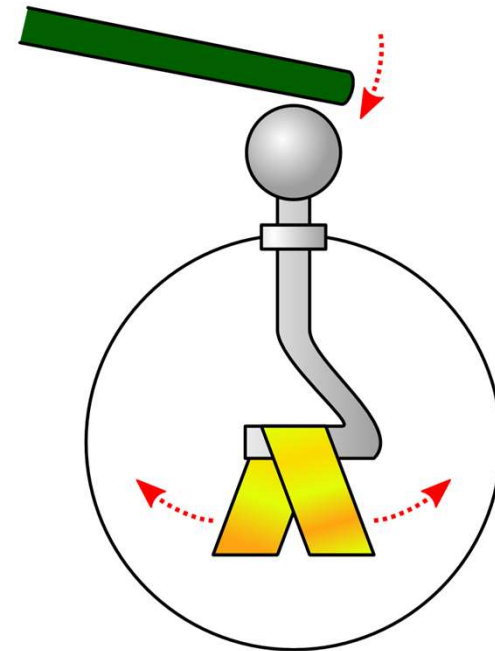
Induction force

Dispersion force

# Early instrument to (quantitatively) study electrostatics



An electrometer, to measure charge (seems the scale is linear to the force, not equally divided).



The more charge the stick carries, the more does the two thin foil separates.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electrometer>

# Contents



1. From early to modern times: knowledge of electricity

2. Coulomb's law



# Coulomb's work

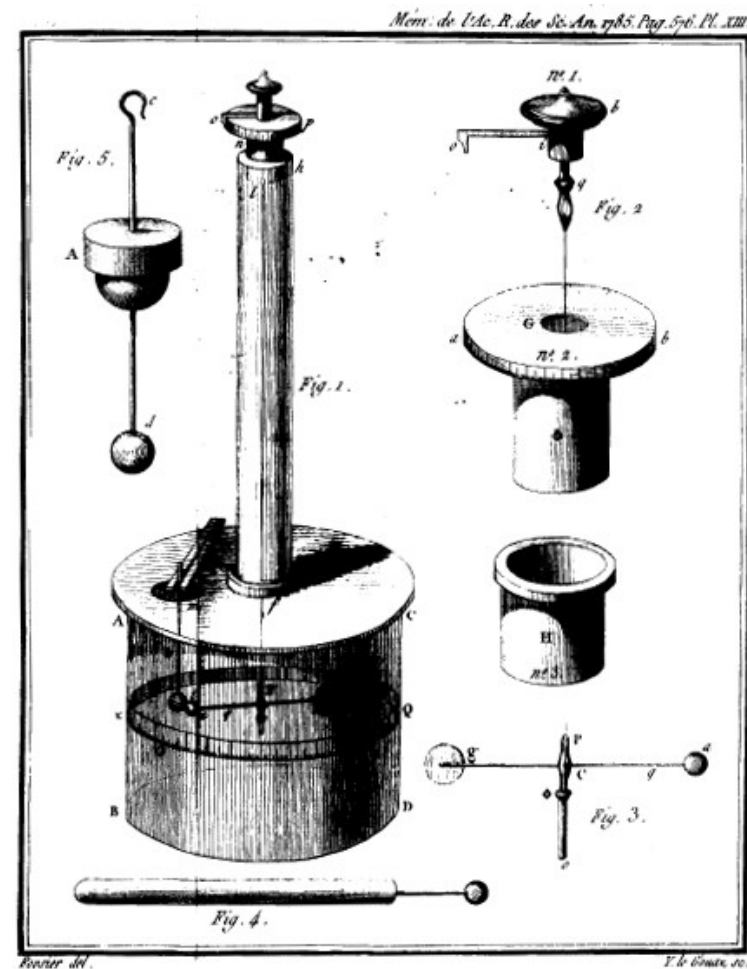


Charles-Augustin de Coulomb  
(1736-1806)

French officer, engineer, and physicist

Answered to the rewarded research topic to improve the compass for navigation when he was young, where he used a method similar to the Chinese “缕悬法”

Later, the torsion balance was used for his establishment of Coulomb's law.



# Now assume you are Coulomb, what question do you want to ask?



If you want to quantitatively describe the interaction (force) between charged objects.

How to measure the force?

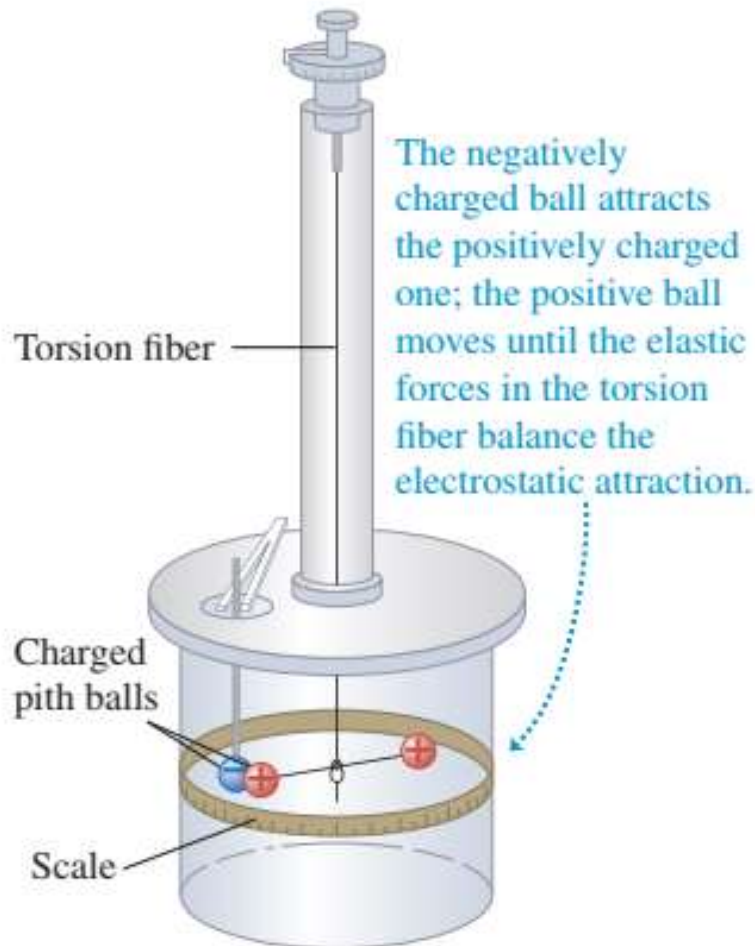
What may influence the force, namely what are  $x$  and  $y$  for  $f=f(x, y)$ ?

How to quantitatively determine the distance?

What other effects may be involved?

How to quantitatively determine the charge?

Does it really work?



How to measure the force?

Torsion balance

What may influence the force, namely what are  $x$  and  $y$  for  $f=f(x, y)$ ?

Charge and distance

How to quantitatively determine the distance?

Mark the circumference

What other effects may be involved?

Air flow, balance of the arm, charge bleeding

How to quantitatively determine the charge?

Half / half

Does it really work?

A mistake has been made on the photo from the book.  
(The sign of the charge, it can only be done for repulsion.)

Then, how to do it for attraction?



# Coulomb's results

For distance,

He found that the torsion rotates when the distance between the two charged sphere is.

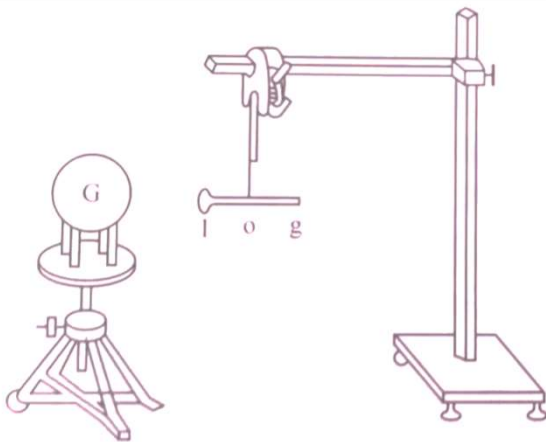
36°	144°	575.5°
36°	18°	8.5°

$$F \propto r^{-2}$$

For effect of charge, he used two identical **conducting** sphere to divide the charge by half and so on, and found

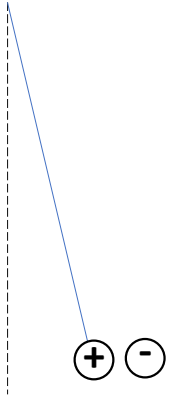
$$F \propto Q_1 Q_2$$

For attraction of opposite charge, he used an electric pendulum for the experiment.



$$T = 2\pi \sqrt{\frac{L}{g}} = 2\pi r \sqrt{\frac{L}{MG}}$$
$$T \propto r$$

# My (wrong) imagination



## How to write down Coulomb's law in equation?



$$F \propto r^{-2}$$

$$F \propto Q_1 Q_2$$

How about

$$F = \frac{Q_1 Q_2}{r^2}$$

$$\dim Q = (\text{force} \cdot \text{distance}^2)^{1/2} = \left( \frac{\text{kg} \cdot \text{m}^3}{\text{s}^2} \right)^{1/2} = \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}} \sqrt{\text{kg} \cdot \text{m}}$$

In real SI units system,  $\dim Q = \text{As}$

$$F = k \frac{|q_1 q_2|}{r^2}$$

$$k = 8.987551787 \times 10^9 \text{ N} \cdot \text{m}^2/\text{C}^2 \cong 8.988 \times 10^9 \text{ N} \cdot \text{m}^2/\text{C}^2$$

**Coulomb's law:**

Magnitude of electric  
force between two  
point charges

$$F = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{|q_1 q_2|}{r^2}$$

Electric constant

Values of the  
two charges

Distance between the  
two charges

(21.2)

$$\epsilon_0 = 8.854 \times 10^{-12} \text{ C}^2/\text{N} \cdot \text{m}^2 \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} = k = 8.988 \times 10^9 \text{ N} \cdot \text{m}^2/\text{C}^2$$

# Dimension is not unchangeable!



Dimensional analysis (量纲分析) is a very important method to study physics, however, dimension is not invariant. It depends on the unit system.

$$F = \frac{Q_1 Q_2}{r^2}$$

Nothing is wrong with this way of writing. It is actually a real unit system: CGS-ESU (cm-g-s electrostatic units.)

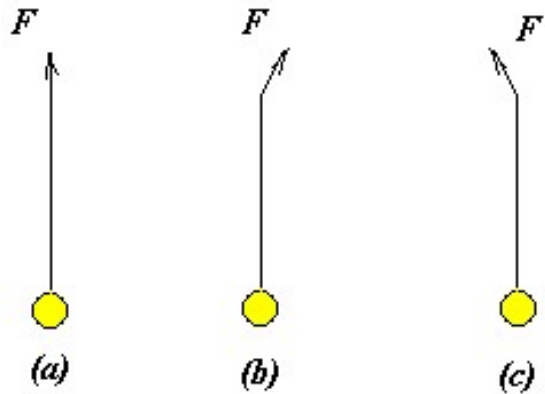
$$\dim Q = (\text{force} \cdot \text{distance}^2)^{1/2} = \left( \frac{\text{g} \cdot \text{cm}^3}{\text{s}^2} \right)^{1/2} = \frac{\text{cm}}{\text{s}} \sqrt{\text{g} \cdot \text{cm}}$$

An independent quantity such as current (Ampere) comes together with a physical constant ( $\epsilon_0$  in this case).



# Direction of Coulomb's Force

Can only be along the line connecting the two point charges.



If other component  
is allowed.

Asymmetric force  
will be resulted  
from symmetric  
rotation.

$$\vec{F} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q_1 q_2}{r^2} \hat{r}$$

$r$ , pointing from the source charge to the test charge.

## Conservation of charge

**The algebraic sum of all the electric charges in any closed system is constant.**

## Superposition of electric force

Which is the same as saying: the electric force exerted by one charge to another is not affected by a third charge, given that force itself satisfies the vector sum rules.

# When is Coulomb's law valid?



In vacuum

Static

Point charges

# Read



Book 21.1 to 21.3