

# Four Fundamental Forces of Nature:

Strong Nuclear Force

**Electro**magnetic Force

Weak Nuclear Force

Gravity

In order of decreasing  
strength

**Electrostatic Forces**  
Forces between charges

**Magnetic Forces**  
Forces from moving charges on  
other moving charges

# ELECTRIC CHARGE

- Two types of charge (vs. one kind of mass)
- Only a single mobile kind of charge -- the negative electron.
- Things become charged due to an excess or a deficit of electrons.
- Neutral objects have no charge because they have equal numbers of negative electrons and positive protons.
- The charge of an electron =  $-1.6 \times 10^{-19}$  Coulombs (C)
- The charge of a proton =  $+1.6 \times 10^{-19}$  C
- For the purposes of this class, this is the smallest unit of charge that we normally consider.

## Parallels Between Gravity & the Electrostatic Force

### GRAVITY

A very weak attractive force

Effective between large masses over large distances

Described by Newton's Law of Universal Gravitation:

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

$$G = 6.67 \times 10^{-11} \text{ N} \frac{\text{m}^2}{\text{kg}^2}$$

### ELECTROSTATIC FORCE

Stronger force - can attract or repel

Acts over smaller distances

Described by Coulomb's Law:

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

$$k = 9.0 \times 10^9 \frac{\text{N} \cdot \text{m}^2}{\text{C}^2}$$

$k$  = COULOMB'S CONSTANT

$Q_1$  = CHARGE 1 (COULOMBS)

$Q_2$  = CHARGE 2 (COULOMBS)

$r$  = DISTANCE BETWEEN CHARGES (METERS)

Coulomb's Law describes the force between charges **IN A VACUUM**.

If charges are within other materials, the equation must be modified:

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

$K$  = THE DIELECTRIC CONSTANT OF THE MATERIAL THE CHARGES ARE IN

$$\begin{aligned} K &= 1.0 && \text{FOR A VACUUM} \\ &\approx 1.0 && \text{FOR AIR} \\ &= 7.0 && \text{FOR MICA} \\ &= 80 && \text{FOR WATER} \end{aligned}$$

WHEN  $Q_1$  &  $Q_2$  ARE IN A MATERIAL OTHER THAN AIR,  
USE THE APPROPRIATE VALUE FOR  $K$

Coulomb's Constant "k" is often written as:

$$k = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}$$

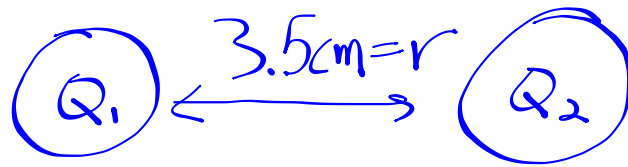
$$\begin{aligned}\epsilon_0 &= \text{THE PERMITTIVITY OF } \underline{\text{FREE SPACE}} \\ &= 8.85 \times 10^{-12} \frac{\text{C}^2}{\text{N} \cdot \text{m}^2}\end{aligned}$$

WHEN NOT IN A VACUUM, OR **FREE SPACE**,  $\epsilon_0$  MUST BE MODIFIED TO THE VALUE FOR THAT MATERIAL.

$$\epsilon_{\text{MATERIAL}} = \textcolor{violet}{K} \epsilon_0$$

This is a second way of thinking about the purpose of the dielectric constant introduced on the previous slide.

EXAMPLE 1: What is the force between a  $1.6 \times 10^{-7}$  C charge and a  $1.3 \times 10^{-6}$  C charge separated by 3.5 cm?



$$Q_1 = +1.6 \times 10^{-7} \text{ C}$$

$$Q_2 = +1.3 \times 10^{-6} \text{ C}$$

$$r = 3.5 \text{ cm} = 0.035 \text{ m}$$

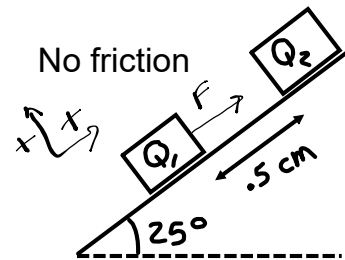
$$F = k \frac{Q_1 Q_2}{r^2} = 1.53 \text{ N}$$

(repulsive)

EXAMPLE 1: What is the force between a  $1.6 \times 10^{-7}$  C charge and a  $1.3 \times 10^{-6}$  C charge separated by 3.5 cm?

$$F = k \frac{Q_1 Q_2}{r^2}$$
$$= \left( 9.0 \times 10^9 \frac{\text{N} \cdot \cancel{\text{m}^2}}{\cancel{\text{C}^2}} \right) \frac{(1.6 \times 10^{-7} \cancel{\text{C}})(1.3 \times 10^{-6} \cancel{\text{C}})}{(.035 \cancel{\text{m}})^2}$$
$$= \boxed{1.53 \text{ N REPULSIVE}}$$

EXAMPLE 2: What is the charge on  $Q_2$  to keep  $Q_1$  ( $1.7 \times 10^{-5}$  C) from sliding down the incline? Assume  $Q_2$  is held in place and cannot move, and that  $Q_1$  has a mass of 1.6 grams.

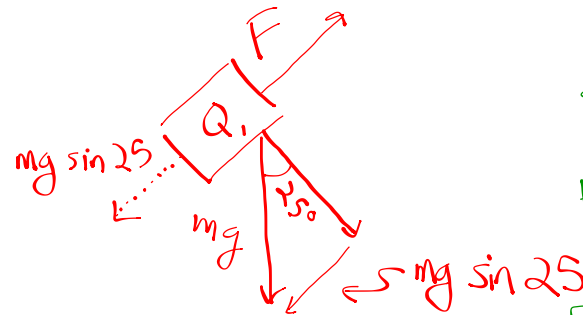


$$Q_1 = 1.7 \times 10^{-5} \text{ C}$$

$$Q_2 = ? \text{ (must be negative)}$$

$$r = 0.5 \text{ cm} = 0.005 \text{ m}$$

$$M = 1.6 \text{ g} = 0.0016 \text{ kg}$$



$$\Sigma F = 0$$

$$\Sigma F = 0$$

$$F + mg \sin 25 = 0$$

$$mg \sin 25 = \frac{k Q_1 Q_2}{r^2}$$

$$Q_2 = \frac{(mg \sin 25) r^2}{k Q_1}$$

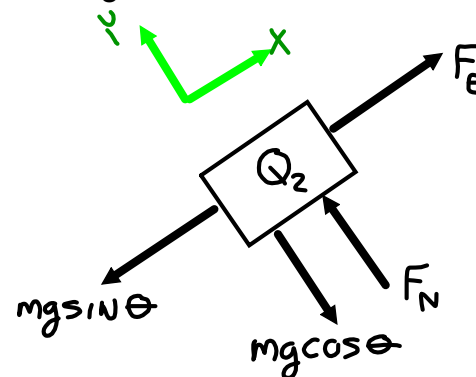
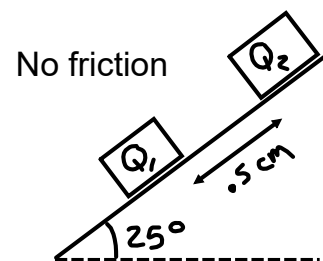
make it negative  
(create an attractive  
force between  $Q_1/Q_2$ )

$$F + mg \sin 25 = 0$$

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



EXAMPLE 2: What is the charge on  $Q_2$  to keep  $Q_1$  ( $1.7 \times 10^{-5}$  C) from sliding down the incline? Assume  $Q_2$  is held in place and cannot move, and that  $Q_1$  has a mass of 1.6 grams.



$$\sum F_x = m a_x$$

$$F_E - mg \sin \theta = 0$$

$$k \frac{Q_1 Q_2}{r^2} - mg \sin \theta = 0$$

$$k \frac{Q_1 Q_2}{r^2} = mg \sin \theta$$

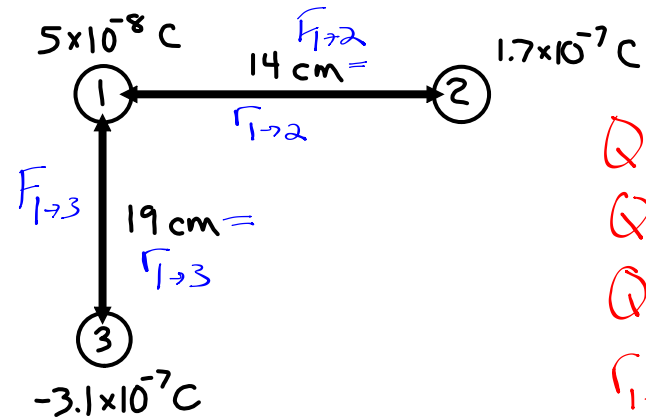
$$Q_2 = \frac{r^2 mg \sin \theta}{k Q_1} = \frac{(.005)^2 (.0016)(9.8) \sin 25}{(9 \times 10^9)(1.7 \times 10^{-5})}$$

$$= 1.08 \times 10^{-12} \text{ C}$$

$$\therefore \boxed{Q_2 = -1.08 \times 10^{-12} \text{ C}}$$

MUST BE  
NEGATIVE SO  
 $Q_1$  &  $Q_2$  REPEL

EXAMPLE 3: Determine the net force on Charge 1.



$$Q_1 = 5 \times 10^{-8} \text{ C}$$

$$Q_2 = 1.7 \times 10^{-7} \text{ C}$$

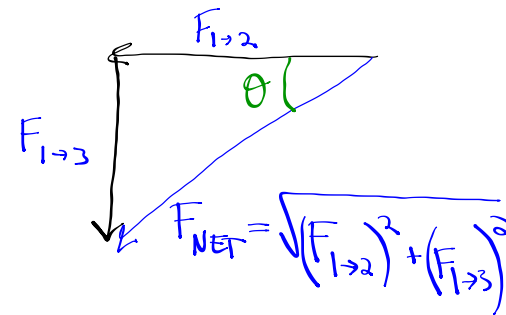
$$Q_3 = -3.1 \times 10^{-7} \text{ C}$$

$$r_{1 \rightarrow 2} = 14 \text{ cm} = 0.14 \text{ m}$$

$$r_{1 \rightarrow 3} = 19 \text{ cm} = 0.19 \text{ m}$$

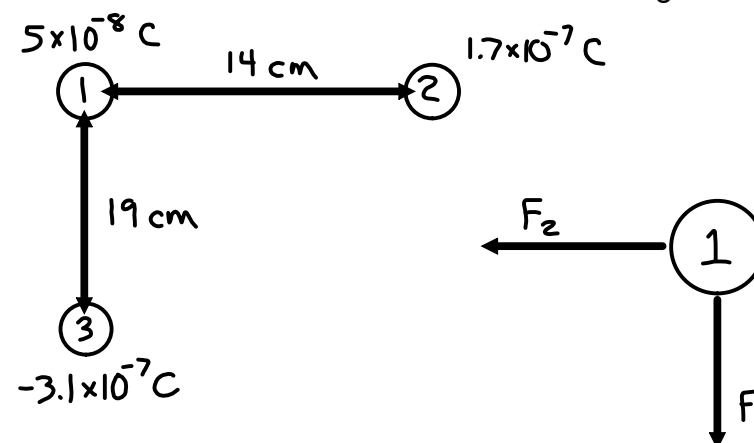
$$F_{1 \rightarrow 2} = k \frac{Q_1 Q_2}{(r_{1 \rightarrow 2})^2}$$

$$F_{1 \rightarrow 3} = k \frac{Q_1 Q_3}{(r_{1 \rightarrow 3})^2}$$



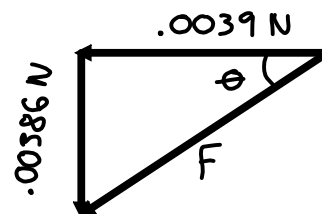
$$\theta = \tan^{-1} \frac{F_{1 \rightarrow 3}}{F_{1 \rightarrow 2}}$$

EXAMPLE 3: Determine the net force on Charge 1.



$$F_2 = (9 \times 10^9) \frac{(5 \times 10^{-8})(1.7 \times 10^{-7})}{(.14)^2} = .0039 \text{ N}$$

$$F_3 = (9 \times 10^9) \frac{(5 \times 10^{-8})(3.1 \times 10^{-7})}{(.19)^2} = .00386 \text{ N}$$



$$F = \sqrt{(.0039)^2 + (.00386)^2} = \boxed{.00549 \text{ N}}$$

$$\theta = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{.00386}{.0039}\right) = \boxed{44.7^\circ \text{ As Shown}}$$

Note that the negative sign for Q3 WAS NOT inserted into the equation. Instead, it was accounted for in the FBD. When dealing with forces, this is generally the best approach.

Later in the unit, there will be cases where we have to insert negative signs, but let's wait until we get there. At that time, we'll be dealing with something other than forces.