



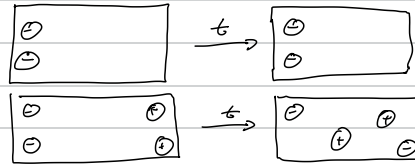
Need to write the Maxwell equations on the first exam!

# Electric Charges & Fields, Coulomb's Law, Superposition

## Electric Charge

- charge is a fundamental prop of matter
  - ↳ two types:  $\oplus$  &  $\ominus$  matter (atoms) are normally neutral
- Triboelectricity: Friction transfers charge
- Metal Rod in demo?

- Plastic & crystal are **insulators**
  - charge "stays where put"
- Metals are **conductors**
  - charge "flow freely"

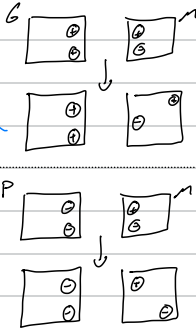


## Demo - Rods

$\ominus P P \ominus \leftarrow \rightarrow$   
 $\oplus G G \ominus \leftarrow \rightarrow$   
 $\ominus P G \oplus \leftarrow \leftarrow$

Note: the metal is still neutral

## Demo w/ Metal



- Charge is conserved
  - Rubbing transfers charges, but does not create nor destroy it
- Charge is quantized
  - Charge is always a multiple of  $e = 1.6 \times 10^{-19}$  Coulombs (C) → electron =  $-e$ , proton =  $e$
- why the rods are moving!
  - Attraction or Repulsion  $\Rightarrow$  There is a force between the charges
    - ↳ Force is known as **Coulomb's force**

$$F = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \cdot \frac{qQ}{r^2} \quad \text{where } \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} = 9 \times 10^9 \frac{\text{N} \cdot \text{m}^2}{\text{C}^2}$$

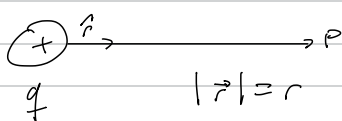
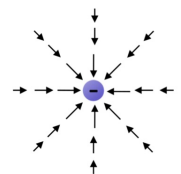
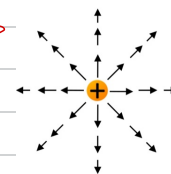
- When two charges  $q$  and  $Q$  are same signed  $\rightarrow F$  is positive = Repulsive
- When they have opposite sign  $\rightarrow F$  is negative = Attraction

## Electric Field and Coulomb's Law

### Laws of Electrostatics

- Electrostatics  $\equiv$  charges @ rest
- charges produce electric fields
- electric fields push charges

$$|\vec{E}| = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \cdot \frac{q}{r^2}$$



$$\vec{E} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q}{r^2} \hat{r}$$

Note:  $r = |\vec{r}|$

$\hat{r}$  is a unit vector that points away from charge  $q$   
 or alternatively so  $\hat{r} = \frac{\vec{r}}{|\vec{r}|}$  and  $\vec{E} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q}{r^2} \hat{r}$   
 (also  $\vec{r} = |\vec{r}| \hat{r}$ )  
 Equivalent!

## Superposition Principle

### In words:

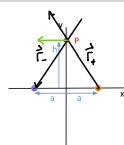
Electric field produced = Sum of the electric field produced by every point charges by each point charge independently

In Math:  $\vec{E}(q_1, q_2) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q_1}{r_1^3} \hat{r}_1 + \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q_2}{r_2^3} \hat{r}_2$

## Second Law of Electrostatics

Fields push/pull charges:  $\vec{F} = Q\vec{E} \Rightarrow \vec{F} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{qQ}{r^2} \hat{r}$   
 $\{N\} \quad \{C\} \quad \{N/C\}$

## Example: Pollev



Calculate the Electric field at point P.

