### الفيزياء العامة

### المحاضرة الناسعة : Coulomb's Law

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### Force among two electric charges

- Experiments on charged objects show that
  - Charged objects with same sign repel each other

 Charged objects with different sign attract each other



# Atom

- In 18<sup>th</sup> century, it was assumed that electric charge is some type of weightless continuous fluid.
- Later on 20<sup>th</sup> century, Ernest Rutherford investigated structure of atom and revealed its constituents.



- Atom consists of electron and nuclei (proton and neutron).
  - Electron (e) is negatively charged.
  - Proton (p) is positively charged.
  - Neutron (n) is neutral (zero charge).

# **Charge quantization**

- The electric charge , q, is quantized : it exists as a discrete packets. (i.e. q=±Ne)
- The unit of charge is Coulomb (C).
- Neutron (n): Mass  $m = 1.675 \times 10^{-27} \text{ kg}$ ; Charge q = 0
- Proton (p) : Mass  $m = 1.673 \times 10^{-27} \text{ kg}$  ; Charge  $q = +1.602 \times 10^{-19} \text{ C}$
- Electron (e): Mass  $m = 9.11 \times 10^{-31}$  kg ; Charge  $q = -1.602 \times 10^{-19}$  C
- Note : We use the symbol "-e" and "+e" for the electron and proton charge, respectively. This is known as the elementary charge

### Example of charge quantization

• The net charge, *Q*, of any object is quantized (integral number of elementary charge)

 $Q_{net}$  of an object that contains  $N_e$  electrons,  $N_p$  protons, and  $N_n$  neutrons is given by:



## **Conservation of charge**

- Electric charge is always conserved in an isolated system
  - For example, charge is not created in the process of rubbing two objects together, it is just a transfer of charge.

Net charge before = Net charge after

$$Q_i = Q_f$$





# **Conductors, insulators, and semiconductors**

- Electrical conductors are materials that have free electrons (electrons that can move freely in material), i.e. copper, iron.
- Electrical insulators are materials that most or all of there are bound electrons (electrons that are bound to atom and cannot move freely in material). i.e. glass, rubber
- Semiconductor are materials contain bound electrons that, under certain conditions, can turn into free electrons. i.e. silicon, germanium .

### **Charging a conductor by induction**

- Can be done as follow:
  - Bring charged object close to a conductor.
  - Charged object will either repel or attract electrons of a conductor to the opposite end.
  - Connect a ground wire to the opposite end of a conductor causing electrons to go to ground(earth).
  - Disconnect ground wire.



### **Coulomb's Law**

- Charles Coulomb measured the magnitudes of electric forces between two small charged spheres
- He found the force depended on the charges and the distance between them
- The force has proportional correlation with the charges of the spheres
- The force has indirect correlation with the spacing of the sphere

## **Coulomb's Law**

- Consider two point charges and placed at distance apart.
- The two charges exert force on each other along the line between them.
- The force is repulsion if the two charges are the same sign, the force is attraction if the two charges are the opposite sign.



### **Coulomb's Law**

• The magnitude of the force is given by:

$$F_e = k_e \frac{|q_1||q_2|}{r^2}$$

- *k<sub>e</sub>* is called the **Coulomb constant** 
  - $k_e = 8.9876 \times 10^9 \text{ N} \cdot \text{m}^2/\text{C}^2 = 1/(4\pi\varepsilon_0)$
  - $\mathcal{E}_0$  is the **permittivity of free space**
  - $\mathcal{E}_{o} = 8.8542 \text{ x } 10^{-12} \text{ C}^2 / \text{N} \cdot \text{m}^2$

### Gravitational and Electric Forces in the Hydrogen Atom



m = 9.1  $10^{-31}$  kg M = 1.7  $10^{-27}$  kg r<sub>12</sub> = 5.3  $10^{-11}$  m

Gravitational force

$$\vec{F}_g = G \frac{Mm}{r_{12}^2} \hat{r}$$

Electric Force

$$\vec{F}_e = \left(\frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_0}\right) \frac{Qq}{r_{12}^2} \hat{r}$$

$$F_g = 3.6 \ 10^{-47} \ N$$

# **Electrostatic force**

- The electrostatic force is a vector, written  $\vec{F}$
- Vectors have a magnitude and a direction. This may be indicated by components  $\vec{F} = (F_{\chi}, F_{\gamma}, F_{z})$
- The magnitude is sometimes written as  $|\vec{F}|$ . It can be evaluated as  $|\vec{F}| = \sqrt{F_x^2 + F_y^2 + F_z^2}$
- The direction can be indicated by a unit vector

### **Electrostatic force**

#### <u>Example</u>

Two 0.5 kg spheres are placed 25 cm apart. Each sphere has a charge of 100  $\mu$ C, one of them positive and the other negative. Calculate the electrostatic force between them, and compare it to their weight.

Coulomb's Law: 
$$|F| = \frac{k |q_1| |q_2|}{r^2}$$
  $k = 9 \times 10^9 N m^2 C^{-2}$   
 $|q_1| = |q_2| = 100 \ \mu C = 100 \times 10^{-6} C = 10^{-4} C$   
 $r = 25 \ cm = 0.25 \ m$   
 $F_{electrostatic} = \frac{9 \times 10^9 \times 10^{-4} \times 10^{-4}}{0.25^2} = 1440 \ N$   
 $F_{weight} = mg = 0.5 \times 9.8 = 4.9 \ N$ 

### **Electrostatic force**

#### **Example**

Two protons are 3.6 nm apart. What is the total force on an electron located on the line between them, 1.2 nm from one of the protons? (elementary charge  $e=1.6 \times 10^{-19} \text{ C}$ )



## **Superposition principle**

- The resultant force on any one charge equals the vector sum of the forces exerted by the other individual charges that are present
  - Remember to add the forces *as vectors*
- The resultant force on q<sub>1</sub> is the vector sum of all the forces exerted on it by other charges:

$$\vec{F}_1 = \vec{F}_{21} + \vec{F}_{31} + \vec{F}_{41}$$

# **Superposition principle**

• Where multiple charges are present, the forces sum as vectors ("principle of superposition")



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# Solving Problems Involving Coulomb's Law and Vectors

**Example:** Calculate the net electrostatic force on charge  $Q_3$  due to the charges  $Q_1$  and  $Q_2$ .



This is a Coulomb's Law problem (all we have to work with, so far).

We only want the forces on  $Q_3$ .

Forces are additive, so we can calculate  $\vec{F}_{32}$  and  $\vec{F}_{31}$  and add the two.

If we do our vector addition using components, we must resolve our forces into their x- and y-components.

### Step 1: Diagram



Draw and label forces (only those  $\underline{on} Q_3$ ).

Draw components of forces which are not along axes.

### **Step 2: Starting Equation**



"Do I have to put in the absolute value signs?"

### **Step 3: Replace Generic Quantities by Specifics**



 $F_{32, x} = 0$  (from diagram)

$$F_{32,y} = 330 \text{ N} \text{ and } F_{32,x} = 0 \text{ N}.$$

### Step 3 (continued)



 $F_{31, y} = -k \frac{|Q_3 Q_1|}{r_{31}^2} \sin \theta$  (- sign comes from diagram)

You would get  $F_{31,x} = +120$  N and  $F_{31,y} = -70$  N.

### **Step 3: Complete the Math**

The net force is the vector sum of all the forces on  $Q_3$ .



 $F_{3x} = F_{31,x} + F_{32,x} = 120 \text{ N} + 0 \text{ N} = 120 \text{ N}$ 

 $F_{3y} = F_{31,y} + F_{32,y} = -70 \text{ N} + 330 \text{ N} = 260 \text{ N}$ 

You know how to calculate the magnitude  $F_3$  and the angle between  $\vec{F}_3$  and the x-axis.

## Homework

Find the position of  $q_3$  so that it has net force equal to zero acting on it.



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