

10 Electric charge, force, and field – Part 1

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Vocabulary 词汇

Write each word three times. 把每个单词抄写三遍。

English	中文	Write it 3 times (English)		
Electric charge	电荷	_____	_____	_____
Coulomb's law	库仑定律	_____	_____	_____
conductor	导体	_____	_____	_____
insulator	绝缘体	_____	_____	_____
conduction	接触起电	_____	_____	_____
induction	感应起电	_____	_____	_____
electric field	电场	_____	_____	_____

Recall

You have already seen electric charge in action:

- Rub a balloon on your hair and it sticks to the wall – that is static electricity.
- Like charges push apart; opposite charges pull together.
- A metal wire lets charge flow; plastic does not.

This sheet makes the force between charges exact. Each idea has a worked example.

New ideas

■ 1 Electric charge

Electric charge 电荷 comes in two kinds, positive and negative. Like charges **repel**, opposite charges **attract**. Charge is carried by electrons moving from one object to another.

■ 2 Coulomb's law

The force between two point charges is **Coulomb's law** 库仑定律:

$$F = \frac{kq_1q_2}{r^2},$$

with $k = 9.0 \times 10^9$. Like gravity it is an inverse-square law, but it can push **or** pull.

Worked example. Two charges of $3.0 \mu\text{C}$ and $2.0 \mu\text{C}$ sit 0.10 m apart: $F = \frac{9.0 \times 10^9 \times (3.0 \times 10^{-6})(2.0 \times 10^{-6})}{(0.10)^2} = 5.4 \text{ N}$.

■ 3 Conductors, insulators, and charging

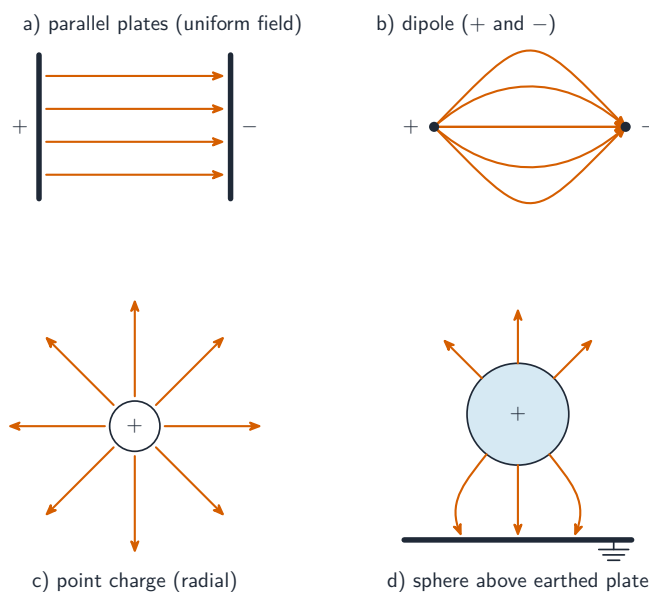
A **conductor** 导体 lets charge move freely (metals); an **insulator** 绝缘体 holds it in place (plastic, rubber). Objects charge up by **friction** (rubbing), by **conduction** 接触起电 (touching), or by **induction** 感应起电 (a nearby charge pushes charge around inside a neutral object).

■ 4 The electric field

An **electric field** 电场 E is the force felt per unit of charge:

$$E = \frac{F}{q}, \quad \text{so a charge in a field feels} \quad F = qE.$$

Field lines point away from positive charges and toward negative ones.



Worked example. A field of 2000 N/C acts on a $3.0 \times 10^{-6} \text{ C}$ charge: $F = qE = 3.0 \times 10^{-6} \times 2000 = 6.0 \times 10^{-3} \text{ N}$.

Watch out: Coulomb's law is inverse-square – **doubling** the distance makes the force **four times smaller**, not two times. Always square the distance.

Practice

Try these in order. The methods are all above.

2.1 State whether the force is a push or a pull between (a) two positive charges, (b) a positive and a negative charge. [2]

2.2 Two charges of $4.0\ \mu\text{C}$ and $1.0\ \mu\text{C}$ are $0.20\ \text{m}$ apart. Find the force between them ($k = 9.0 \times 10^9$). [3]

2.3 Give one example each of a good conductor and a good insulator. [2]

2.4 A field of $500\ \text{N/C}$ acts on a $2.0 \times 10^{-6}\ \text{C}$ charge. Find the force on it. [2]

2.5 Two charges are moved from $0.10\ \text{m}$ apart to $0.20\ \text{m}$ apart. State what happens to the force between them, and by what factor. [2]
