

# Electricity

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## Static Electricity

### Introduction

Coulomb's law

## The Electric Field

The Electric Field

Electric Fields and Conductors

# Electric charge and its conservation

- ▶ - electricity:  
comes from the Greek word "elektron"  
which means "amber";
- ▶ - if one rubs an amber rod with a piece of cloth,  
the amber attracts small pieces of leaves or dust;
- ▶ - the same is true for a plastic ruler etc.;
- ▶ - this is called static electricity;  
- an object becomes "charged" due to a rubbing  
process;
- ▶ - it is said to possess electric charge;

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- ▶ - if one rubs two rulers
  - or two glass rods
  - and tries to bring them close,
- ▶ - the same kind of rubbed materials will repel each- other;
- ▶ - two different (the glass and the ruler for ex.)
  - will attract each-other;
- ▶ - Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790) argued that
- ▶ - there has to be two type of charges
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- ▶ - during any such process,
  - the net change in the amount of charge is zero;
- ▶ - the law of conservation of electric charge says that:
- ▶ - *the net amount of electric charge produced in any process is zero;*
- ▶ - the atom has a heavy positively charged nucleus
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- ▶ - than becomes positively or negatively charged;
- ▶ - when objects are charged by rubbing, they hold their charge only for a limited time;
- ▶ - or they are neutralized by charged ions in the air,
- ▶ - or they can leak off onto water molecules in the air;

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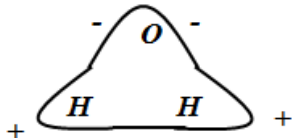
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- ▶ - the water molecules are polar;
- ▶ - that is, even though they are neutral, their charge is not distributed uniformly;
- ▶ - so electrons can be attracted by the positive end of water molecules;





# Electric charge and its conservation

- ▶ - **metals, are good conductors;**
- ▶ - if a positively charged metal is brought close to a neutral one:
- ▶ - then the electrons in the neutral one will move toward the positively charged one;
- ▶ - this leaves a positive charge at the opposite end;
- ▶ - this charge is said to be induced at the two ends of the metal;

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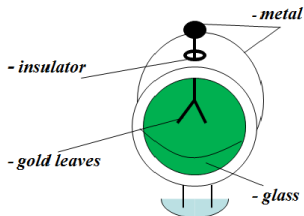
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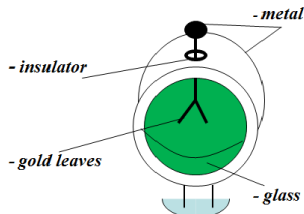
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- ▶ - another way to induce a net charge on a metal is:
- ▶ - to connect it with a conducting wire to the ground;  
(it is said to be grounded or earthed;)
- ▶ - an electroscope, is a device  
that can be used for detecting charge;
- ▶ - if a charged object is brought close to the knob  
- a separation of charge is induced, and



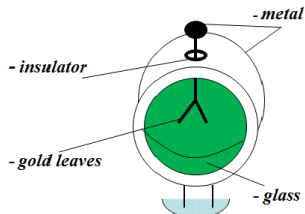
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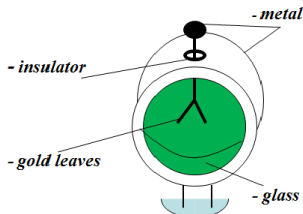
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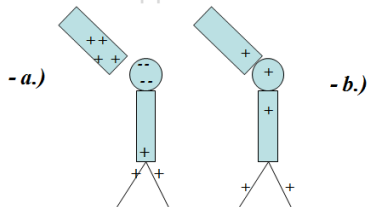
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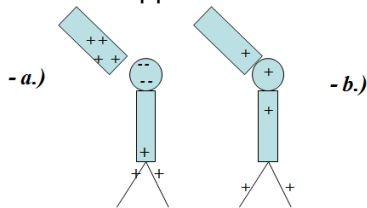
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- ▶ - important:  
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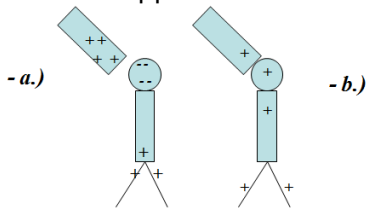
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- ▶ - if a charged conducting sphere is placed in contact with an identical uncharged one
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- ▶ - Coulomb's law:

$$\vec{F} = k \frac{q_1 q_2 \vec{r}}{r^2 r} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q_1 q_2 \vec{r}}{r^2 r}; \quad (1)$$

- ▶ - where  $k$  is a proportionality constant;
- in SI has the value:  
 $k = 8.988 \cdot 10^9 \text{ N}\cdot\text{m}^2/\text{C}^2$ ;

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# The Electric Field

- ▶ - according to Michael Faraday (1791-1867)
  - an electric field extends outward from every charge and permeates all space;
- ▶ - when a second charge is placed near the first one,
  - it feels a force because of the electric field;
- ▶ - this field is interacting directly with the second charge,
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- ▶ - the direction of the electric field is defined as:
  - the direction of the force on a positive test charge at that point;
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- ▶ - the electric field of a charge  $Q$ , at a given point in space at a distance  $\vec{r}$  is:

$$\vec{E} = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{Q\vec{r}}{r^2 r}; \quad (3)$$

- ▶ - if the field is due to more than one charge,  
- then the total field is the vector sum of the field of each of the charges:

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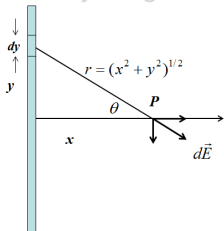
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- ▶ - the validity of this superposition principle derives from experiment, and
  - no exceptions have ever been observed;
- ▶ - the electric field of an infinitesimal charge  $dq$  at a distance  $r$  is:

$$dE = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{dq}{r^2}; \quad (5)$$

- ▶ - another example:
  - a very long wire, of uniformly distributed charges;

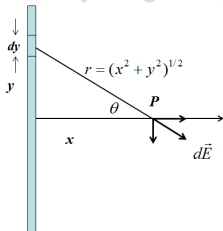


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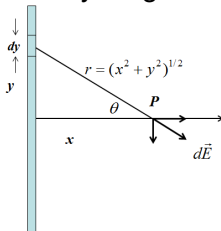


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- ▶ - the magnitude of the electric field at any point P at a distance x from a very long wire of uniformly distributed charges is:

$$\begin{aligned}dE &= \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{e dy}{(x^2 + y^2)^{3/2}} = \\ &= \frac{e}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{1}{x} \int_{-\pi/2}^{\pi/2} \cos\theta d\theta = \frac{1}{2\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{e}{x}; \quad (6)\end{aligned}$$

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- ▶ - the electric field inside a good conductor is zero;
- ▶ - any net charge on a good conductor distributes itself on the outer surface;
- ▶ - the electric field is always perpendicular to the surface of the conductor;
- ▶ - if there were a component of  $\vec{E}$  parallel to the surface

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- ▶ - until they reached positions, where no force was exerted on them;
- ▶ - two equal charges of opposite signs are referred to as
- ▶ - *electric dipole*;

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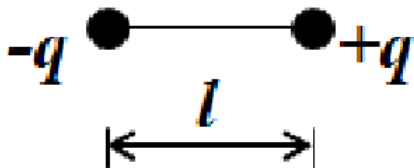






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- ▶ - many molecules have a dipole moment:  $\vec{p} = q\vec{l}$ ;



- ▶ - that points from the negative to the positive charge;
- ▶ - if a dipole is placed in a uniform electric field
- ▶ - then the force acting on the positive charge

# Electric Dipoles -

- ▶ - will be opposite to the force which is exerted on the negative charge;
- ▶ - as a result, a torque will be exerted on the dipole
- ▶ - which tries to turn the dipole  $p$  so that  $\vec{p}$  is parallel to  $\vec{E}$ ;

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