

Physics 131- Fundamentals of Physics for Biologists I



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Electrical forces

Outline

- Electric Fields
- Momentum

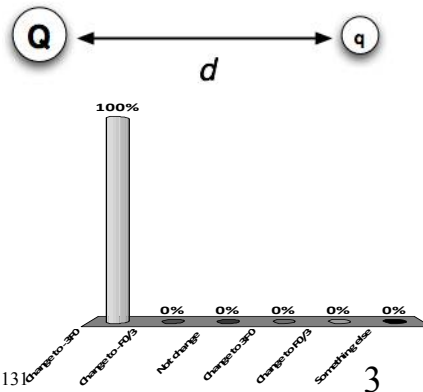
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A test charge, q , is a distance d from a charge Q as shown. It feels an electric force, F_0 . If q were replaced by a charge $-3q$, **the electric force** on it would

1. Change to $-3F_0$
2. Change to $-F_0/3$
3. Not change
4. Change to $3F_0$
5. Change to $F_0/3$
6. Something else



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Foothold idea: Electric Forces and Fields

When we focus our attention on the electric force on a particular object with charge q_0 (a “test charge”) we see the force it feels depends on q_0 .

Define quantity that does not depend on charge of test object
“test” charge \rightarrow **Electric Field E**

$$\vec{F}_{q_0}^{E_{net}} = \frac{k_C q_0 q_1}{r_{01}^2} \hat{r}_{1 \rightarrow 0} + \frac{k_C q_0 q_2}{r_{02}^2} \hat{r}_{2 \rightarrow 0} + \frac{k_C q_0 q_3}{r_{03}^2} \hat{r}_{3 \rightarrow 0} + \dots + \frac{k_C q_0 q_N}{r_{0N}^2} \hat{r}_{N \rightarrow 0}$$

$$\vec{F}_{q_0}^{E_{net}} = q_0 \vec{E}(\vec{r}_0)$$

$$\vec{E}(\vec{r}_0) = \frac{k_C q_1}{r_{01}^2} \hat{r}_{1 \rightarrow 0} + \frac{k_C q_2}{r_{02}^2} \hat{r}_{2 \rightarrow 0} + \frac{k_C q_3}{r_{03}^2} \hat{r}_{3 \rightarrow 0} + \dots + \frac{k_C q_N}{r_{0N}^2} \hat{r}_{N \rightarrow 0}$$

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Foothold ideas: Fields



- A *field* is a concept we use to describe anything that exists at all points in space, even if no object is present.
- A *field* can have a different in magnitude at different points in space. (and if it's a vector field, direction).
Examples: temperature, wind speed, wind direction
- A *gravitational, electric, or magnetic field* is a force field. Fields allow us to predict the force that a test object would experience. The field does not depend on what test object is used.

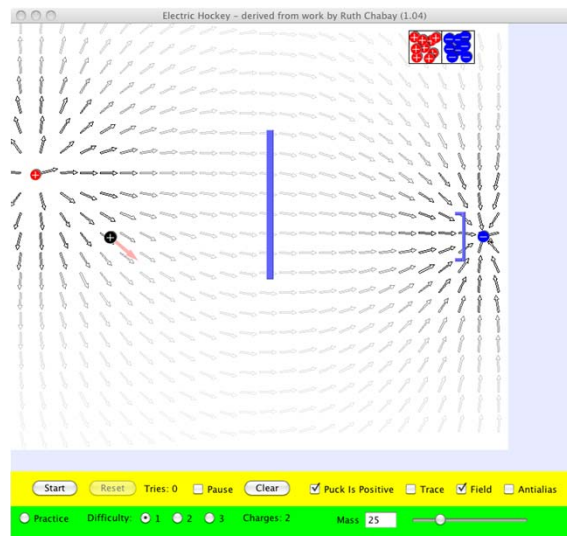
$$\vec{g}(\vec{r}) = \frac{\vec{F}_{\text{acting on } m}(\vec{r})}{m}$$

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$$\vec{E}(\vec{r}) = \frac{\vec{F}_{\text{acting on } q}(\vec{r})}{q}$$

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Field is the value at a position in space " r " assuming that the force is measured by placing the object at r .



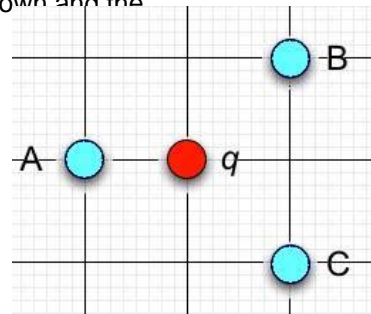
<http://phet.colorado.edu/en/simulation/electric-hockey>

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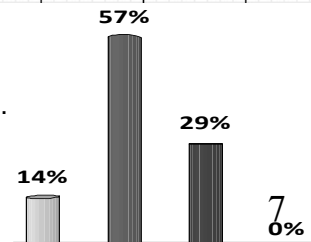
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A test charge (labeled q) is placed in a situation in which it feels the electrical force from three other charges (of opposite sign to it) labeled A, B, and C. (The charges are on a uniform grid as shown and the positions are to scale.) Which of the following combinations of forces has the greatest magnitude?



1. $\vec{F}_{A \rightarrow q}$
2. $\vec{F}_{B \rightarrow q} + \vec{F}_{C \rightarrow q}$
3. $\vec{F}_{A \rightarrow q} + \vec{F}_{B \rightarrow q} + \vec{F}_{C \rightarrow q}$
4. There is not enough information to tell.



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Momentum

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Momentum: Definition

- We define momentum:

$$\vec{p} = m\vec{v}$$

- This is a way of defining “the amount of motion” an object has.
- Our “delta” form of N2 becomes

which we can rewrite as

$$\vec{F}^{net} = m \frac{\Delta \vec{v}}{\Delta t} = m \vec{a}$$

$$\vec{F}^{net} = \frac{\Delta(m\vec{v})}{\Delta t} = \frac{\Delta \vec{p}}{\Delta t}$$

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The Impulse-Momentum Theorem

- Newton 2

$$\vec{a} = \vec{F}^{net} / m$$

- Put in definition of a

$$\frac{d\vec{v}}{dt} = \frac{\vec{F}^{net}}{m}$$

- Multiply up by Δt

$$m\Delta \vec{v} = \vec{F}^{net} \Delta t$$

- Define Impulse

$$\vec{\mathcal{J}}^{net} = \vec{F}^{net} \Delta t$$

- Combine to get Impulse-Momentum Theorem

$$\Delta \vec{p} = \vec{\mathcal{J}}^{net}$$

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Momentum Conservation: 1

- If two objects, A and B, interact with each other and with other (“external”) objects,

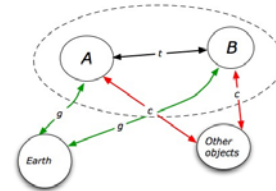
$$m_A \Delta \vec{v}_A = (\vec{F}_A^{ext} + \vec{F}_{B \rightarrow A}) \Delta t$$

$$m_B \Delta \vec{v}_B = (\vec{F}_B^{ext} + \vec{F}_{A \rightarrow B}) \Delta t$$

- Adding:

$$m_A \Delta \vec{v}_A + m_B \Delta \vec{v}_B = [\vec{F}_A^{ext} + \vec{F}_B^{ext} + (\vec{F}_{A \rightarrow B} + \vec{F}_{B \rightarrow A})] \Delta t$$

$$\Delta(m_A \vec{v}_A + m_B \vec{v}_B) = \vec{F}_{AB}^{ext} \Delta t$$



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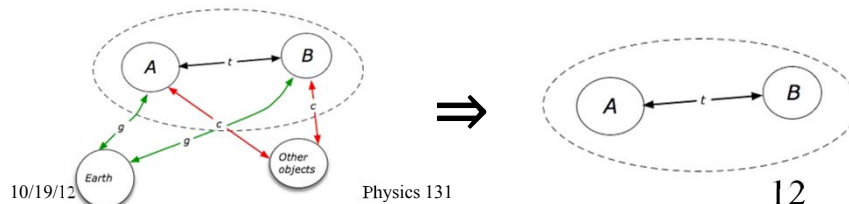
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Momentum Conservation: 2

- If the external forces on the “system of interest” cancel, then momentum is conserved.

$$\Delta(m_A \vec{v}_A + m_B \vec{v}_B) = 0$$

$$m_A \vec{v}_A^i + m_B \vec{v}_B^i = m_A \vec{v}_A^f + m_B \vec{v}_B^f$$



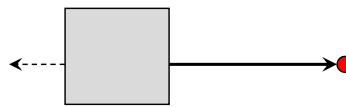
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Example: Recoil

- When an object at rest emits a part of itself, in order to conserve momentum, it must go back in the opposite direction.
- What forces are responsible for this motion?



(object goes backwards)

Do it!

- Practice with equations

<http://www.physics.umd.edu/perg/abp/TPProbs/Problems/P&E/P&E26.htm>