

Coulomb's law: The potential energy (V) of two stationary charged particles is given by the equation above, where q_1 and q_2 are the charges on the particles (for example, -1 for an electron), d is the separation of the particles in pm (1 pm = 10^{-12} m), and k is a positive proportionality constant.

Key Questions.

- 1. If q_1 and q_2 remain constant, what happens to the magnitude of V if the separation, d, is increased?
- 2. If the two particles are separated by an infinite distance, i.e., $d = \infty$, what is the value of V?
- 3. If d is finite, and the particles have the same charge, i.e., $q_1 = q_2$, is V > 0 or V < 0?

Exercises.

- 4. If q for an electron is -1,
 - what is q for a proton?
 - what is q for a neutron?
- what is q for the nucleus of a carbon atom?
- what is q for the nucleus of a fluorine atom?



5. So far, we've only been discussing protons, electrons, and nuclei. Remember ionic compounds, as well as polar and nonpolar covalently bonded compounds? How do the charges on a polar molecule compare to the charges within an ionic compound (e.g. HBr versus NaCl)?



- 7. What is the sign of V when there is a force of attraction between particles?
- 8. What is the sign of V when there is a force of repulsion between particles?

Problems:

- 9. (READ ME, UNDERSTAND ME, REMEMBER ME): One scientific definition of stability is that a more stable system has a lower energy than a less stable system.
 - With respect to potential energy, which is more stable, a 1s or a 2s electron (assume nuclear charge stays the same)? Why?
 - With respect to potential energy, which is more stable, a 1s electron in a fluorine atom or a 1s electron in an iodine atom? Why?
- 10. State the relationship between potential energy, charges, distance between charges, and stability in grammatically correct English.

COULOMB'S LAW:

In the activity we did in class, we used the formula for electrostatic **<u>potential energy</u>**, we are going to slightly modify that formula to solve for electrostatic <u>**force**</u>. (Energy = force x distance) Use the following formula for the homework problems:

 $F_e = \underline{q}$

 $\begin{array}{l} \underline{q_1 q_2} \\ d^2 \end{array} \quad \mbox{where } q_1 \mbox{ and } q_2 \mbox{ are charges, } d \mbox{ is the distance between their centers, and} \\ F_e \mbox{ is the electrostatic force (of attraction or repulsion)} \end{array}$

A larger magnitude (larger absolute value) = stronger force

- 1. A quick review: What is the sign of F_e when the force is attractive? When the force is repulsive?
- 2. What type of force has a lower potential energy—attractive or repulsive force?
- 3. What factors alter the magnitude of the force (i.e. how big the absolute value is)?
- 4. Let's assume that we are looking at the **attractive** force between +1 charge and a -1 charge at a certain distance d from each other. Compare this original force with the force that results when:
 - the charges are moved twice as far apart?
 - the charges are moved toward each other to a distance which equals 1/3 of their original separation?
 - each charge is halved in magnitude (e.g. +1/2 and -1/2)?
 - each charge is doubled in magnitude (e.g. +2 and -2)?
 - each charge is doubled in magnitude AND moved to a distance double the original distance?
- Summarize: WRITE ANSWERS IN FULL SENTENCES THAT DO <u>NOT</u> BEGIN WITH A PRONOUN: What happens to the magnitude strength of the attractive force between two oppositely charged particles when:
 - the charges' magnitude increases?
 - the charges move closer together?