

## Électrostatique

### Warm-Up questions

#### Chapitre 8.1

i. L'électroscope est l'un des premiers instruments permettant de mesurer une grandeur électrique, à savoir des charges. Il en existe plusieurs modèles, mais on va s'intéresser à celui représenté ci-dessous.

Deux très fines feuilles d'or sont parallèles dans une cloche en verre. Elles sont fixées à une tige métallique, qui se prolonge par un plateau métallique en dehors de la cloche. La cloche permet de protéger les feuilles des courants d'air, en outre.

Pour effectuer une mesure, on approche du plateau l'objet à mesurer.

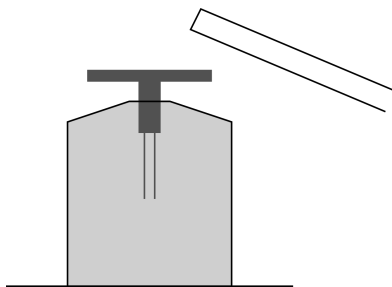


Figure 1: Électroscope

- a) Que se passe-t-il quand on approche un objet chargé positivement ? Décrire le type de charges qui apparaît à chaque endroit.
  - b) Cet instrument permet-il de déterminer le type de charge ?
  - c) Et de déterminer la quantité de charge ?
- a) When a positively charged object is placed close to the metallic plate, it will induce negative charges on the plate. Since the metallic part is not connected to the ground, it must globally stay neutral. So, the increase of negative charges in one end induces an increase of positive charges in the other end, on the gold leaves. Since both leaves will be positively charged, they will repel each other under the mutual action of the Coulomb force.

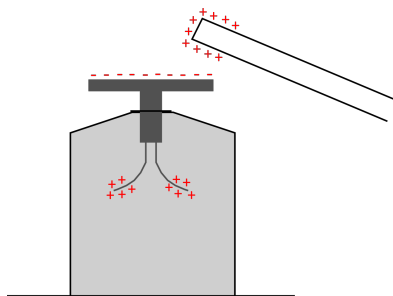


Figure 2:

- b) If the object is negatively charged, we get the same final visual result. It is not possible to determine whether the leaves repel because they are both positively or both negatively charged.
- c) If the object is not charged, then nothing will happen. We can also imagine, that the more the leaves repel each other, the bigger is the charge on the object.

## Chapitre 8.2

ii.

- a) Calculer la charge sur une sphère conductrice de rayon  $r$ , sachant qu'elle est à un potentiel  $U$ .
- b) Une charge positive  $q_1$  se trouve en  $(0, 0, 1)$ . Calculer la charge  $q_2$  à placer en  $(0, 0, -3)$  de façon à ce que le potentiel soit nul à l'origine.
- c) Considérer que le plan  $x, y$  et que le plan  $x, z$  sont des conducteurs parfaits. La densité de charge par unité de surface sur le plan  $x, y$  vaut  $1 \text{ C} \cdot \text{m}^{-2}$  et elle vaut  $-2 \text{ C} \cdot \text{m}^{-2}$  sur le plan  $x, z$ . Dessiner les lignes d'équipotentiel.
- d) Montrer qu'un champ électrique de cette forme ne peut pas exister en électrostatique.

$$\vec{E}(x, y, z) = \begin{pmatrix} y \\ -x \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

- e) (*Plus difficile*) Deux boules identiques de rayon  $R$  sont à une distance  $d$  l'une de l'autre. Après avoir chargé l'une des sphères avec  $4 \text{ C}$  et l'autre avec  $2 \text{ C}$ , nous les connectons à l'aide d'un fil électrique. Calculer l'énergie dissipée dans le fil pendant que le système s'équilibre. On suppose que  $R \ll d$ .

- a) The sphere is conducting, so the charge is uniformly spread on its surface and all points on the surface will have the same potential.

Consider spherical surfaces around the conducting sphere and with the same centre. The Gaussian law tells us that the charged sphere acts like a point charge. Indeed, in both cases the same electric field are seen on the surface, thus the surface potential is also the same.

Now we must find the value of a point charge, such that it creates a potential  $U$  at a distance  $r$ .

$$U = \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r} \quad \Rightarrow \quad Q = 4\pi\epsilon_0 r U$$

- b) The potential created by each point charge add. In the origin we have:

$$U = \frac{q_1}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r_1} + \frac{q_2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r_2}$$

where  $U = 0$ ,  $r_1 = 1$ ,  $r_2 = 3$  and  $q_1$  is known. Solving this equation gives us  $q_2 = -3q_1$ .

- c) An infinite plate generates an uniform electric field, which is perpendicular to the plate and whose value is  $\frac{Q/A}{2\epsilon_0}$ , where  $Q/A$  is the charge per area.

The two infinite plates split the space in four volumes. In each of them there is a uniform electric field, as we can find between both plates of a capacitor.

Since the potential difference is defined as the integral of the electric field along a path, the equipotential lines will be perpendicular to the electric field.

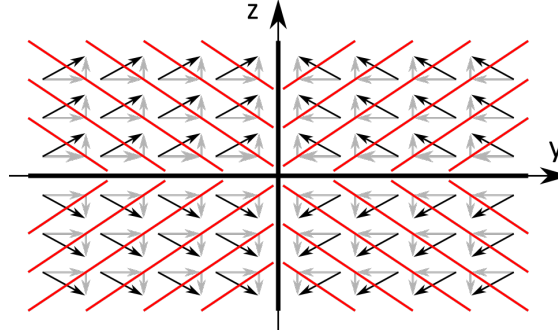


Figure 3: The electric field is represented by the black arrows. The grey arrows show the contribution of each plane. The red diagonal are the equipotential lines.

- d) This electric field rotates around the  $z$ -axis. *Try to draw it on the  $x, y$ -plane, to convince you.*

In electrostatic only charges can generate an electric field. Such electric field either spreads away in all directions or comes towards the charge from all directions. Clearly our cylindrical electric field cannot be created with charges.

To convince ourselves further, we can consider a cylinder around the  $z$ -axis. Remark that its surface is parallel to the electric field, the Gauss Law tells us that there is no charges inside the cylinder. Since we can take a cylinder as big as we want, charges cannot be responsible for this electric field.

- e) To dissipated energy is the initial energy of the system minus its final energy. The only energy we have to consider is the electrical potential energy due to the charges. Each sphere is subject to its own charges and to the other sphere.

Let compute the potential energy of a single charged sphere, assuming the potential is zero far away. This is the work needed to assemble all the charges in the sphere.

The work needed to add a charge  $dq$  to a sphere of radius  $r$  and of charge  $q(r)$  is:

$$dW = \frac{q(r) \cdot dq}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r}$$

Since the spheres we are interested in are homogeneously charged,  $q(r)$  can simply be expressed as the final charge times the sphere's volume ratio (current one divided by final one):

$$q(r) = Q \frac{V(r)}{V(R)} = Q \frac{r^3}{R^3} \quad \text{so} \quad dq = \frac{3Q}{R^3} r^2 dr$$

We can now find the total work needed to assemble one sphere, from radius  $r = 0$  m to radius  $r = R$ :

$$W = \int dW \cdot r = \int \frac{Q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{r^2}{R^3} dq = \int_0^R \frac{3Q^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{r^4}{R^6} dr = \frac{3}{5} \frac{Q^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R}$$

To this energy, we must add the potential due to the other sphere. Since  $R \ll d$ , we can approximate both sphere as point-charge. So the additional potential each sphere felt is  $E_{1-2} = E_{2-1} = \frac{Q_1 Q_2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 d}$ .

Putting everything together, the total energy of the system is:

$$E_{tot} = E_{1-1} + E_{2-2} + 2E_{1-2} = \frac{3}{5} \frac{Q_1^2 + Q_2^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R} + 2 \frac{Q_1 Q_2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 d}$$

At the beginning  $Q_1 = 4C$  and  $Q_2 = 2C$ , after equilibrium both spheres have the same charge  $Q_1 = Q_2 = 3C$ . And we get for the loss:

$$E_{loss} = E_{sys,1} - E_{sys,2} = \frac{3}{5} \frac{(20 - 18)C^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R} + 2 \frac{(8 - 9)C^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 d} = \frac{3}{5} \frac{2C^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R} - \frac{2C^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 d}$$

### Chapitre 8.3

iii.

- a) On considère un champs magnétique uniforme  $B$  dirigé selon l'axe  $z$ . Calculer la différence de rayon entre les trajectoires d'une particule  $^{14}\text{C}^+$  et  $^{13}\text{C}^+$ , sachant qu'elles ont la même vitesse initiale de  $1000 \text{ m} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$  le long de l'axe  $x$ .
- b) On considère un champs magnétique uniforme  $B$  dirigé selon l'axe  $z$ . Un électron se trouve dans le plan  $z = d$ , avec une vitesse initiale  $(0, v_0, 1)$ . Calculer la longueur de la trajectoire jusqu'à ce que l'électron touche le plan  $z = 0$ .

- a) A charge moving in a magnetic field is subject to the Lorenz force. This force is perpendicular to its motion and makes the charge rotate. Because the speed and the magnetic field are perpendicular, the Newton's law gives  $ma = qvB$ .

The acceleration of a circular motion only modifies the direction of the particle and can be expressed as  $a = \frac{v^2}{r}$ , with  $r$  the radius of the motion. Combining these two expressions we get  $r = \frac{mv}{qB}$ .

The two particles  $^{14}\text{C}^+$  and  $^{13}\text{C}^+$  are in the same magnetic field  $B$ , with the same velocity  $v$  and with the same charge  $q = +e$  ( $e$  is the elementary charge). Their only difference is their mass. Indeed  $^{14}\text{C}^+$  contains one neutron more than  $^{13}\text{C}^+$ . Thus, the difference in radius is  $\Delta r = \Delta m \frac{v}{qB}$ , with  $\Delta m$  the mass of one neutron.

- b) Again, the magnetic field acts on the moving particle. In order to easily find the direction of the Lorenz force, we can split the speed in two contribution: one in the  $xy$ -plane and the other along the  $z$ -axis. Thus  $\vec{v} = \vec{v}_{xy} + \vec{v}_z$  and  $\vec{F} = q\vec{v}_{xy} \times \vec{B} + q\vec{v}_z \times \vec{B}$ . The second term cancels because  $\vec{v}_z$  is parallel to  $\vec{B}$  and the first term stays in the  $xy$ -plane. Hence the electron will never leave the  $z = d$ -plane.

### Chapitre 9.2

- iv. Calculer la résistance équivalente et le courant qui sort de la batterie.

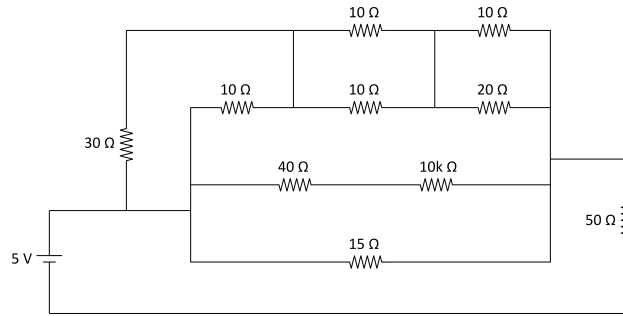


Figure 4:

First we remark that in the middle wire the resistors  $40\Omega$  and  $10\text{k}\Omega$  are in series. Additionally, the two top wires consist of a series of three group of two resistors in parallel. Using the rules for equivalent series and parallel resistors, we get the following circuit.

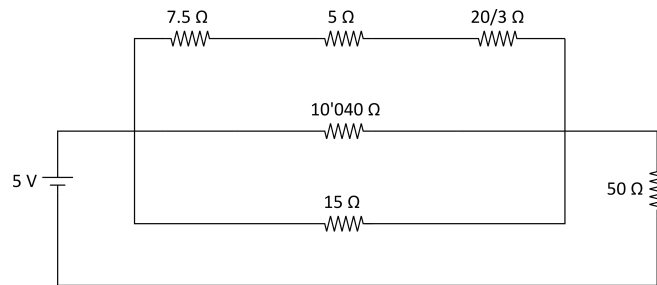


Figure 5:

Now, the three parallel wires have an equivalent resistor of  $R$ , where  $\frac{1}{R} = \frac{1}{20/3+12.5\Omega} + \frac{1}{10'040\Omega} + \frac{1}{15\Omega}$ . So  $R = 8.41\Omega$  and the equivalent resistor is  $R_{eq} = 58.41\Omega$ .

The current is simply computed with the Ohm's law:  $I = U/R_{eq} = 85.6\text{ mA}$ .

### Chapitre 9.5

**v. Dans le circuit ci-dessous, un courant de  $2.0\text{ A}$  traverse la résistance de  $30\Omega$ . Quelle est la valeur la résistance  $R_1$  ?**

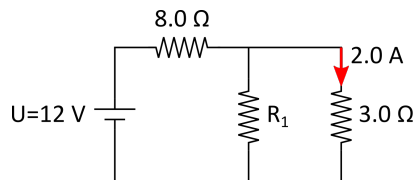
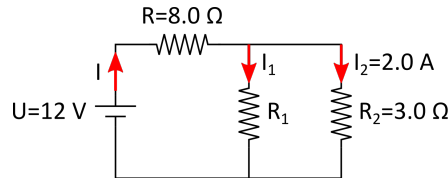


Figure 6:

Since  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are in parallel, the voltage drop across them is the same:  $I_1 R_1 = I_2 R_2 = 6 \text{ V}$ . Using that, the battery voltage is  $U = I \cdot 8.0 \Omega + 6 \text{ V} = 12 \text{ V}$ . So the total current is  $I = 0.75 \text{ A} = I_1 + I_2$  and  $I_1 = -1.25 \text{ A}$ , the negative sign means that the current flows in the opposite direction.

Finally the resistor  $R_1$  is  $R_1 = \frac{6 \text{ V}}{1.25 \text{ A}} = 4.8 \Omega$ .



vi. Etant donné le circuit suivant, déterminer...

- Le courant passant dans chaque résistance.
- La tension de la batterie de gauche.
- La puissance que la batterie de droite fournit au circuit.

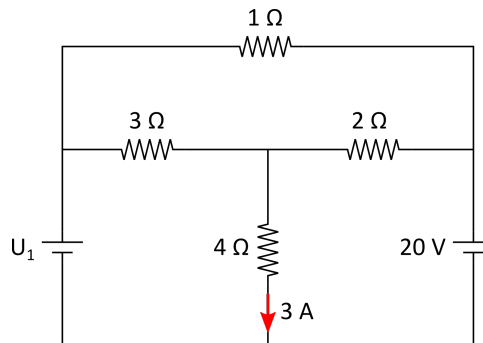
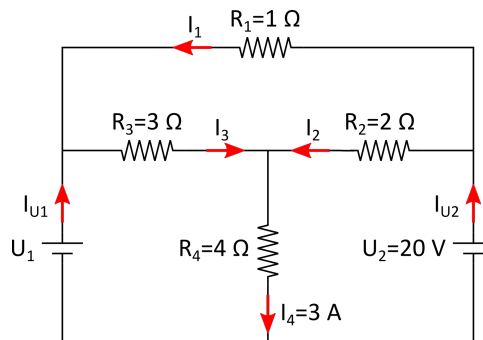


Figure 7:

Before applying Kirchhoff's rules to solve this circuit, we must draw and name all the current on the circuit. We don't have to worry about their direction, because if we make a mistake, we will just get a negative value for the current.



- a) Then use the loop rule in the bottom right loop:  $U_2 = R_2 I_2 + R_4 I_4 \Rightarrow I_2 = \frac{U_2 - R_4 I_4}{R_2} = 4 \text{ A}$ .

The node rule applied on the centre node gives  $I_3 = I_4 - I_2 = -1 \text{ A}$ , so this current flows in the opposite direction than drawn.

The loop rule on the top loop is  $R_1 I_1 + R_3 I_3 = R_2 I_2 \Rightarrow I_1 = \frac{R_2 I_2 - R_3 I_3}{R_1} = 11 \text{ A}$ .

- b) The loop rule applied on the bottom left loop gives  $U_1 = R_3 I_3 + R_4 U_4 = 9 \text{ V}$ .
- c) The current driven by the battery on the right is given by  $I_{U2} = I_1 + I_2 = 15 \text{ A}$ . So the power delivered by this battery is  $P_2 = U_2 I_{U2} = 300 \text{ W}$ .