Phet Electric Fields	

Name:	
Period:	Date:

# PhET ELECTRIC FIELDS (1/2 point each, 15 points total)

Introduction (1pt): It can by rationalized that the most important concept in physical science is like things \_\_\_\_\_ while opposite things \_\_\_\_\_\_. When working with static electric charges, like charges \_\_\_\_\_ while opposite charges . These charges can be as large as clouds of ionized gas in a nebula one million times the size of the earth, or as small as protons and electrons. The rule remains the same. In this lab, you will investigate how a charge creates a field around itself and how test charges behave when placed in that field.

### Important Formulas:

 $k = 9.00 \text{ x } 10^9 \text{ Nm}^2/\text{C}^2$ 

#### **Procedure Part I:**

Go to <u>http://phet.colorado.edu/en/simulation/charges-and-fields</u> and select Run Now!

E = V

- Place a 1 nC (nanoCoulomb) positive charge and E-Field sensor in the test area. Click Show E-field to observe the field lines in the E-field. Observe the sensor's arrow as you drag it around the in the field.
- The sensor's arrow illustrates the **force** of attraction or repulsion at a point in an electric field.
- (1pt) Replace the positive charge with a negative point charge. To remove charges, drag them back into their box. By convention, field arrows point \_\_\_\_\_\_ a positive charge and \_\_\_\_\_\_ a negative charge. As the sensor gets closer to a point charge, the field strength created by that field \_\_\_\_
- Click on show numbers and tape measure to measure the distances from a field-creating charge to a test charge. The tape measure can be dragged to a specific distance and placed anywhere on the field.
- When measuring field strength, click **plot** to show **lines of equipotential**.

 $F = Eq \quad F = k \frac{q_1 q_2}{d^2}$ 

(4pts) Complete the table below using a single positive or negative charge:

Test charge distance, m	Field strength, V/m	Potential at location, V
1.0 m		
2.5 m		
	1.1 V/m	
4.0 m		

- Add at least three charges, using both positive and negative charges. Move the voltage meter around and *plot* the lines of equipotential. Plot at least ten lines. Show the value of the potential on each line of equipotential.
- (4pts) Sketch the multi-charge system in the box to the right or paste a screenshot of your field.





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### Procedure Part II: <u>http://phet.colorado.edu/en/simulation/electric-hockey</u> Run Now!

- (1pt) So, using that wonderful principle that opposite charges \_\_\_\_\_\_ while like charges \_\_\_\_\_\_ play a little *Electric Field Hockey*.
- Setup your charges and go for the goal.
- Turning on the *Field* and *Trace* may make things a little easier.
- *Reset* the simulation to try again, with your charges in place.
- Challenge the other members of your lab group to duels.
- Challenge other lab groups. (no hockey fights please.)
- Try to use less than 12 charges total. (how few can you use?)
- (4pts avg) Paste a picture of your goal-scoring configuration in place of the box to the right. Scoring is as follows:
  - Level:
    - Level 1 1 point
    - Level 2 2 points
    - Level 3 3 points
  - Charges:
    - > 12 1 point
    - 7-12 2 points
    - 0-6 3 points

#### **Conclusion Questions and Calculations:**

Electric Field Hockey

Paste a screen shot of your goal-scoring configuration using the least number of charges here.

2. (1pt) Placed exactly between two oppositely charged point charges, a test charge (the sensor) will show zero /

1. (1pt) Closer to a point charge, the electrostatic field created is *stronger / weaker*.

*minimum / maximum* force (N) or field strength (N/C).

- 3. (1pt) Placed exactly on a point charge, the sensor will show zero / minimum / maximum field strength.
- 4. (2pts) The point charges used in the simulation are  $\pm 1.0 \times 10^{-9}$  C (nanoCoulomb). If two such positive charges are placed 2.0 m away from each other, the force between them would

be... (use formula)

SHOW WORK HERE:

5. (2pts) What is the magnitude of the electric field produced 2.0m away from one of the charges?

WORK HERE:

6. (2pts) A test charge of 4.5 C in a field of strength 2.2 N/C would feel what force?

WORK:

7. (2pts) What is the value of the electric field when a -9.6 V potential is found 1.4 m from its center?

WORK:

- (2pts) What is the electrostatic potential found .68 m from the center of a 2.3 V/m field?
  WORK:
- (2pts) A balloon is electrostatically charged with 3.4 μC (microcoulombs) of charge. A second balloon 23 cm away is charged with -5.1 μC of charge. The force of *attraction / repulsion* between the two charges will be:

WORK:

10. (2pts) If one of the balloons has a mass of 0.084 kg, with what acceleration does it move toward or away from the

other balloon?

WORK:

The answers on this lab are a product of my own work and effort. Though I may have received some help in understanding the concepts and/or requirements, I did the work myself.

Student Signature

(for electronic submission, type student number in lieu of signature)

## **ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT**

**APPLICABILITY**: This lab is best suited for (check all that apply):

Deprivation Physics I Honors/ Pre-IB Physics	$\square$ IB Physics 2	□ IB Physics 3	$\Box$ None of These
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Comments:

### **IMPROVEMENT**: This lab can be improved by:

Comments:

When complete, either print a hardcopy and turn in or upload to ManageBac. Ensure your filename is "LastNameFirstinitialPerXLabName"