Name: ______________________

E-Fields PhET Online Lab

Introduction: 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 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: $F = Eq$ $F = k\frac{q_1 q_2}{d^2}$ $E = V/d$

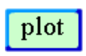
k = 9.00 x 10^9 Nm^2/C^2

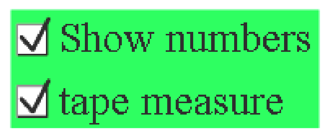
Procedure Part I: http://phet.colorado.edu/simulations/sims.php?sim=Charges_and_Fields

- Place a 1 nC (nanoCoulomb) positive charge and E-Field sensor in the test area. Click  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.
- 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 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  to show **lines of equipotential**.
- Complete the table below using a single positive or negative charge:

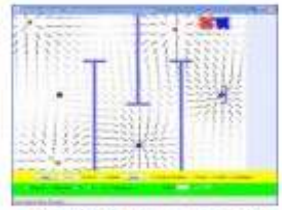


Test charge distance, m	Field strength, V/m	Potential at location, V
1.0 m		
2.5 m		
	1.1 V/m	
4.0 m		

- Add three charges, using both positive and negative charges. Move the voltage meter around and *plot* the lines of equipotential. Plot at least ten lines.
- Sketch the three-charge system here:
- Show the value of the potential on each line of equipotential.

Procedure Part II: http://phet.colorado.edu/simulations/sims.php?sim=Electric_Field_Hockey

- 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?)



Electric Field Hockey

Conclusion Questions and Calculations: (½ pt each)

1. Closer to a point charge, the electrostatic field created is *stronger / weaker*.
2. Placed exactly between two **oppositely** charged point charges, a test charge (the sensor) will show *zero / minimum / maximum* force.
3. Placed exactly on a point charge, the sensor will show *zero / minimum / maximum* field strength.
4. The point charges used in the simulation are ± 1.0 Coulomb. If two such positive charges are placed 1.0 m away from each other, the force between them would be *attractive / repulsive*.
5. What is the magnitude of the force between the two charges above? (use formula) __________________
6. A test charge of 4.5 C in a field of strength 2.2 N/C would feel what force? __________________
7. What is the value of the electric field when a -9.6 V potential is found 1.4 m from its center? __________________
8. What is the electrostatic potential found **.**68 m from the center of a 2.3 V/m field? __________________
9. 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: __________________
10. 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? __________________