

Answer on Question # 74237, Physics -Electric Circuits:

Question: Two spheres with equal but opposite charges experience a force of 7.5×10^6 N when they are placed 4 cm apart in a medium of relative permittivity 6. Determine the charge on each sphere.

Solution: Let, charge of one sphere = $Q_1 = q$ Coulomb

And another sphere of charge = $Q_2 = -q$ Coulomb

Distance between two sphere = $r = 4$ cm = 0.04 m

Relative permittivity of medium is $\epsilon_r = 6$

Force = $F = 7.5 \times 10^6$ N

Now we know force, $F = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_r\epsilon_0} \frac{(q)\times(-q)}{r^2}$ (1)

Put the value of F, r and ϵ_r in equation (1), we get,

$$q^2 = - \frac{[7.5 \times 10^6 \times (0.04)^2 \times 6]}{9 \times 10^9} \quad \left(\text{Consider, } \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} = 9 \times 10^9 \right)$$

$$\text{Or, } q^2 = -8 \times 10^{-6}$$

$$\text{Or, } q = \pm 2.83 \times 10^{-3} \text{ C}$$

So, $Q_1 = + 2.83 \times 10^{-3} \text{ C}$ and $Q_2 = - 2.83 \times 10^{-3} \text{ C}$.

Answer: Charge on each sphere = $\pm 2.83 \times 10^{-3} \text{ C}$.

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