

# Coulomb's Law (Two charges)

A proton and an electron are  $2.0 \times 10^{-10}$  m apart. Calculate the magnitude of the electrostatic force between them.

The charge of a proton is  $q_1 = 1.6 \times 10^{-19}$  C.

The charge of an electron is  $q_2 = -1.6 \times 10^{\square}$  C.

The Coulomb constant is approximately  $k = \square.0 \times 10^9$  N · m<sup>2</sup>/C<sup>2</sup>.

By Coulomb's law, the electrostatic force is:

$$F = k \frac{|q_1 q_2|}{\square^2}$$

Plugging in values, the magnitude of the force is:

$$F = 5.\square \times 10^{-} \text{ N}$$