

Physics II

Electric Charge

Problem 1.- A helicopter accumulates $-340\mu\text{C}$ of electric charge due to friction with air.

Calculate:

- The number of excess electrons
- The mass of these electrons

Solution: To find the number of electrons we divide the total charge by the charge of one electron:

$$N = \frac{-340 \times 10^{-6} \text{ C}}{-1.6 \times 10^{-19} \text{ C}} = \mathbf{2.1 \times 10^{15} \text{ electrons}}$$

To find the mass of the electrons we multiply the number of electrons times the mass of one of them:

$$\text{mass} = Nm = (2.1 \times 10^{15})(9.1 \times 10^{-31}) = \mathbf{1.9 \times 10^{-15} \text{ kg}}$$

Problem 2.- Calculate the total charge in space if the density were $\rho = 1 \frac{\mu\text{C}}{\text{m}^3}$ at the origin and dropped $\frac{1}{2}$ for each meter away from it.

Solution: First, we write the equation of the density as a function of the distance to the origin.

$$\rho = \rho_0 2^{-r} = \rho_0 e^{-r \ln 2}$$

We find the total charge integrating over all the space.

$$Q = \int_0^{\infty} \rho_0 e^{-r \ln 2} 4\pi r^2 dr$$

$$Q = \frac{4\pi\rho_0}{(\ln 2)^3} \int_0^{\infty} e^{-r} r^2 dr = \frac{8\pi\rho_0}{(\ln 2)^3} = \mathbf{75.5 \mu\text{C}}$$