

$$a) \begin{aligned} q_1 &= 12 \times 10^{-9} \text{ C} \\ q_2 &= -18 \times 10^{-9} \text{ C} \\ r &= .30 \text{ m} \end{aligned}$$

$$F_e = \frac{k_e \cdot |q_1| \cdot |q_2|}{r^2}$$

$$= \frac{(9.0 \times 10^9 \text{ N} \cdot \text{m}^2/\text{C}^2)(12 \times 10^{-9} \text{ C})(-18 \times 10^{-9} \text{ C})}{(.30 \text{ m})^2}$$

$$F_e = 2.2 \times 10^{-5} \text{ N} \\ (\text{attract})$$

$$b) \quad q_1 = +12 \times 10^{-9} \text{ C} \quad \text{and} \quad q_2 = -18 \times 10^{-9} \text{ C}$$

$$q_{\text{total}} = q_1 + q_2 = (+12 \times 10^{-9} \text{ C}) + (-18 \times 10^{-9} \text{ C}) = -6 \times 10^{-9} \text{ C}$$

If the 2 charges are in equilibrium, q_1 and q_2 are equal and add to be $-6 \times 10^{-9} \text{ C}$.

$$q_1 = q_2 = (-6 \times 10^{-9} \text{ C}) \div 2$$

$$q_1 = q_2 = -3 \times 10^{-9} \text{ C} \\ r = .30 \text{ m}$$

$$F_e = \frac{k_e \cdot |q_1| \cdot |q_2|}{r^2}$$

$$= \frac{(9.0 \times 10^9 \text{ N} \cdot \text{m}^2/\text{C}^2)(-3 \times 10^{-9} \text{ C})^2}{(.30 \text{ m})^2}$$

$$F_e = 9.0 \times 10^{-7} \text{ N} \\ (\text{repulsive})$$