

The coulomb's law equation gives the magnitude of the force that QA exerts on a QB, and also the magnitude of the force that QB exerts on a QA. These magnitudes are equal. You can observe this example of Newton's third law of motion when you bring two strips of tape with like charges together, each exerts a force on the other, if you bring charged objects near, either strip the strip with its small mass moves readily. The acceleration of the is less because of its much greater mass the electrostatic force like all force is a vector quantity force vectors have both magnitude and direction. The coulomb's law equation gives only the magnitude of the force to determine direction you can draw a diagram, using force vectors