

Killing an Electric Field with a Needle (VdG)



Purpose: To demonstrate that the presence of a sharp point can dramatically reduce the buildup of electric field strength in the atmosphere (i.e. the principle of the lightning rod).

Location: room 146, needle in suction cup, shelf L3 (VdG on shelf L1)

After demonstrating that the electric field around the dome of a Van de Graaff generator can light a fluorescent bulb, discharge it and place the needle with the suction cup on top of the dome and show that the VdG no longer can buildup an electric field strong enough to light the bulb.