

## Re: How do clouds get electric charge?

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Pavel Pokorny <Pavel.Pokorny@vscht.REMOVEME.cz> wrote in message news:<cim35r\$ur3\$1@ns.felk.cvut.cz>...

> *Dear physics friends*

>

> *can you tell me, please, how atmospheric clouds get electric charge?*

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> *Thanks*

Seems that there is no officially accepted answer to this question. So at this point, it is all theories and guesses. My own opinion is that charges get separated in thunderclouds due to all the different particles in motion. The real question is why all the negative charges collect at the bottom and all the positive charges collect at top. There appears to be no reason why they should separate or why it couldn't be arranged the other way around. It is often shown that the ground is positively charged. If this were the case, then all the negative charges would be attracted to the bottom of the cloud and all positive charges repelled to the top. This causes a huge charge differential to build up until it eventually discharges through a lightning strike. That's a simple explanation in my opinion.