

Phys 102 – Lecture 2

Coulomb's Law & Electric Dipoles

Today we will...

- Get practice using Coulomb's law & vector addition
- Learn about electric dipoles
- Apply these concepts!

Molecular interactions

Polar vs. nonpolar molecules

Hydrophilic vs. hydrophobic

Permanent vs. induced dipole

} Chemistry!

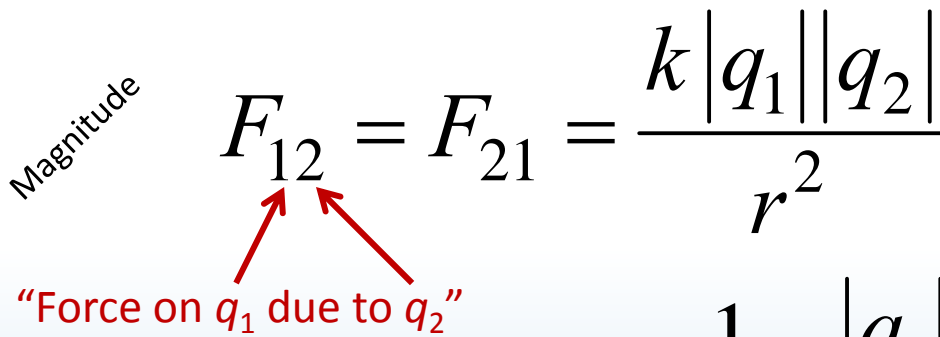
Recall: Coulomb's Law

Force between charges q_1 and q_2 separated a distance r :

Magnitude

$$F_{12} = F_{21} = \frac{k |q_1| |q_2|}{r^2}$$

“Force on q_1 due to q_2 ”



“Coulomb constant”
 $k = 9 \times 10^9 \text{ Nm}^2/\text{C}^2$

$$= \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{|q_1| |q_2|}{r^2}$$

“Permittivity of free space”
 $\epsilon_0 = 8.85 \times 10^{-12} \text{ C}^2/\text{Nm}^2$

Direction

Opposite charges attract, like charges repel

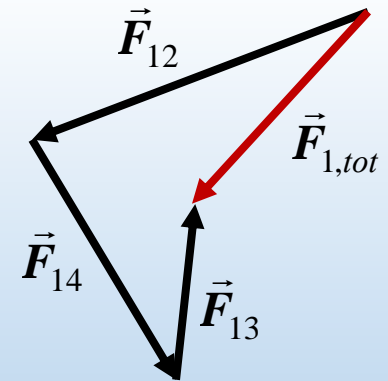
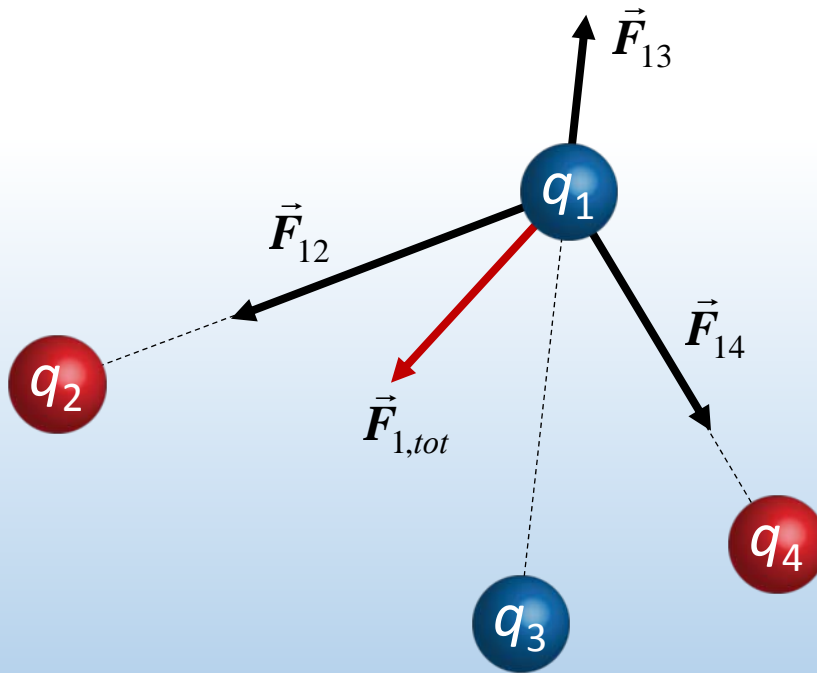
$$\vec{F}_{12} = -\vec{F}_{21}$$

Superposition principle

Total force on charge due to other charges = sum of individual forces

$$\vec{F}_{tot} = \sum \vec{F}$$

Ex: what is the force on q_1 due to q_2 , q_3 , and q_4 ?



Order does not matter!

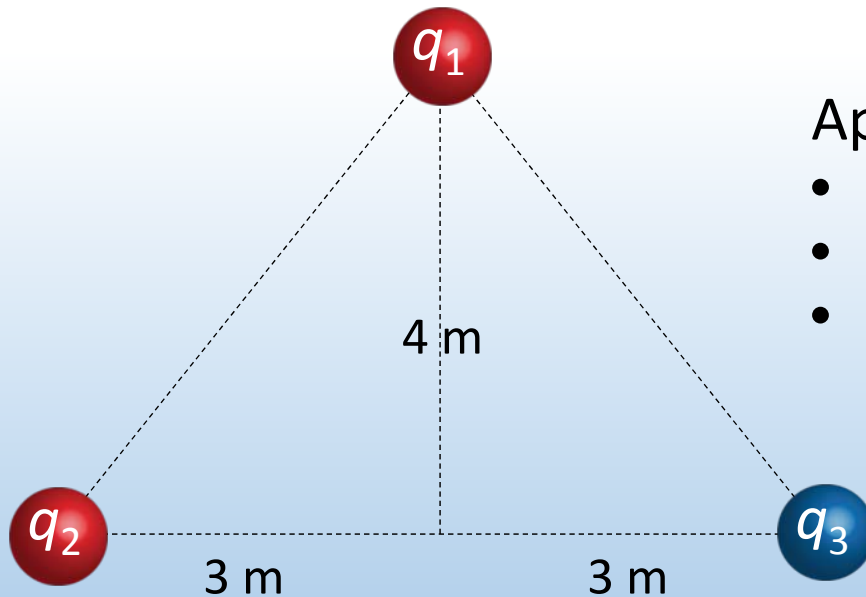
$$\vec{F}_{1,tot} = \vec{F}_{12} + \vec{F}_{13} + \vec{F}_{14}$$

Calculation: four charges

Calculate the total force on charge $q_1 = +2 \mu\text{C}$ due to charges $q_2 = +7 \mu\text{C}$, $q_3 = -3.5 \mu\text{C}$

Fundamental concept: Superposition

$$\vec{F}_{1tot} = \vec{F}_{12} + \vec{F}_{13}$$



Approach:

- Draw forces
- Calculate magnitudes of forces
- Add vectors

Decompose into x-, y-components

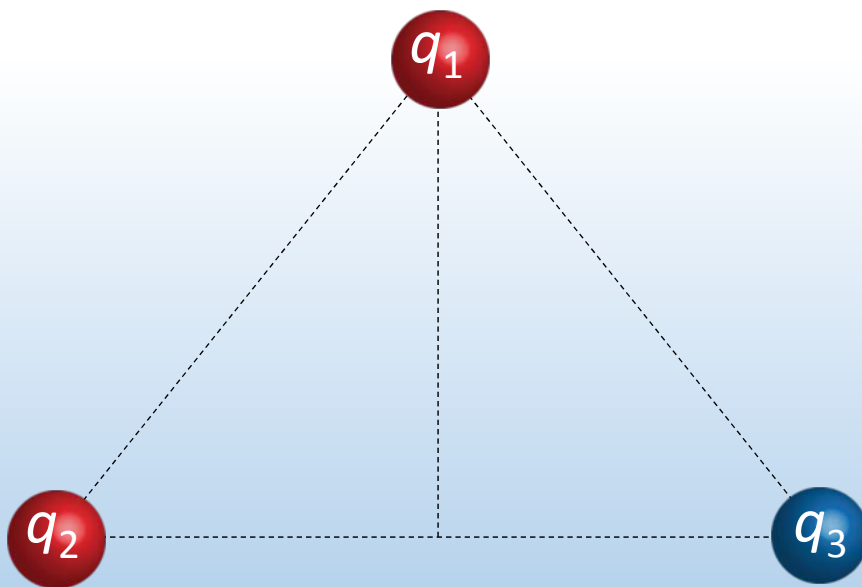
Add like components



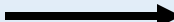
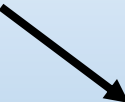

May need geometry, trigonometry



ACT: four charges

Which vector best represents the total force on charge $q_1 = +2 \mu\text{C}$ due to charges $q_2 = +7 \mu\text{C}$ and $q_3 = -3.5 \mu\text{C}$?

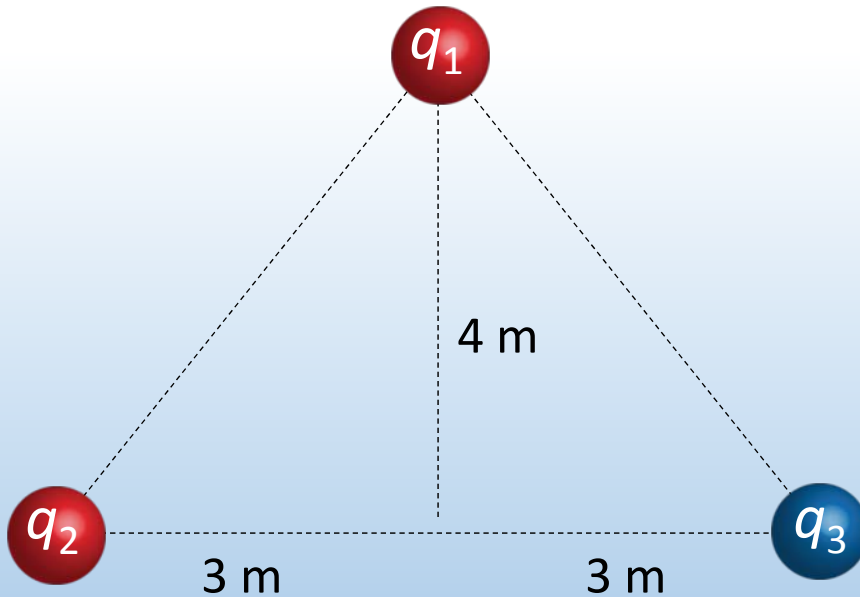


- A. 
- B. 
- C. 
- D. 
- E. 

Calculation: four charges

Calculate the total force on charge $q_1 = +2 \mu\text{C}$ due to charges $q_2 = +7 \mu\text{C}$ and $q_3 = -3.5 \mu\text{C}$

- Calculate magnitudes of forces





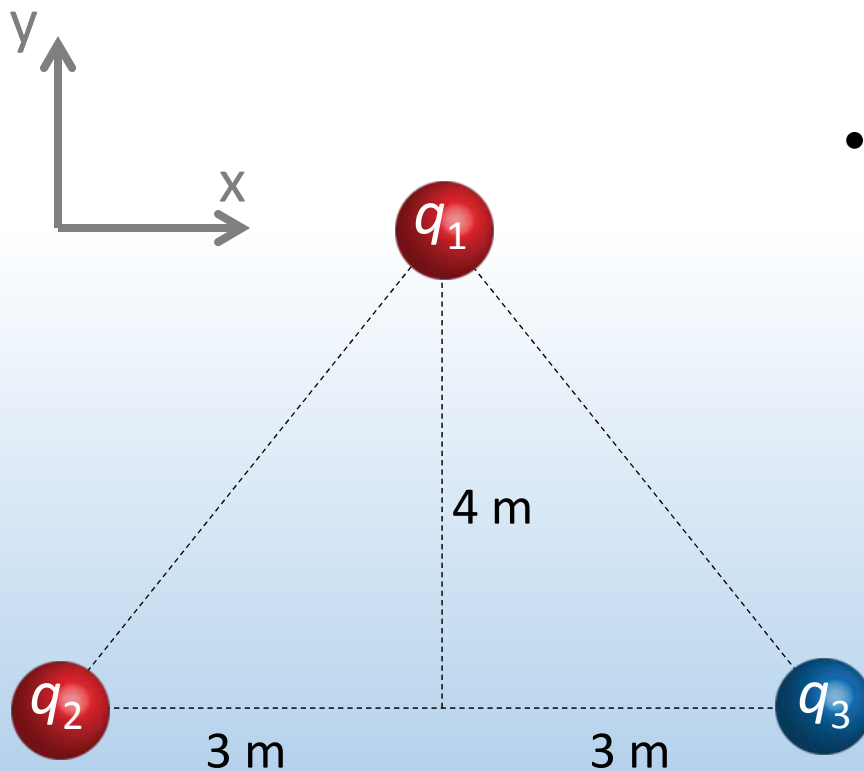
ACT: components

What is the x-component of \vec{F}_{12} , $F_{12,x}$?

A. $3/4 F_{12}$

B. $3/5 F_{12}$

C. $-4/5 F_{12}$



- Decompose vectors into components



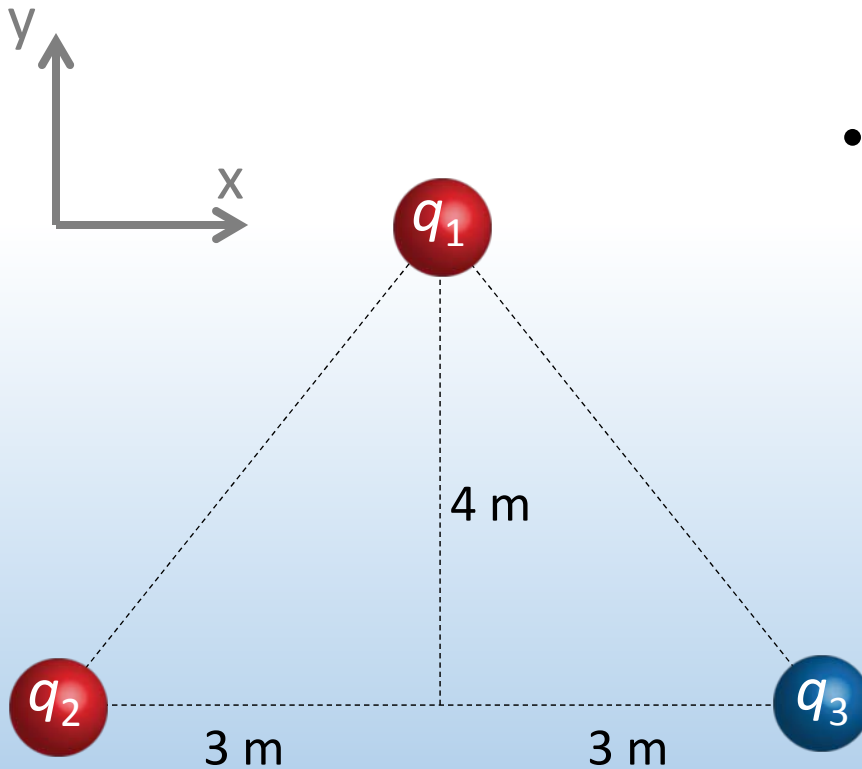
ACT: components

What is the y-component of \vec{F}_{13} , $F_{13,y}$?

A. $3/4 F_{13}$

B. $3/5 F_{13}$

C. $-4/5 F_{13}$

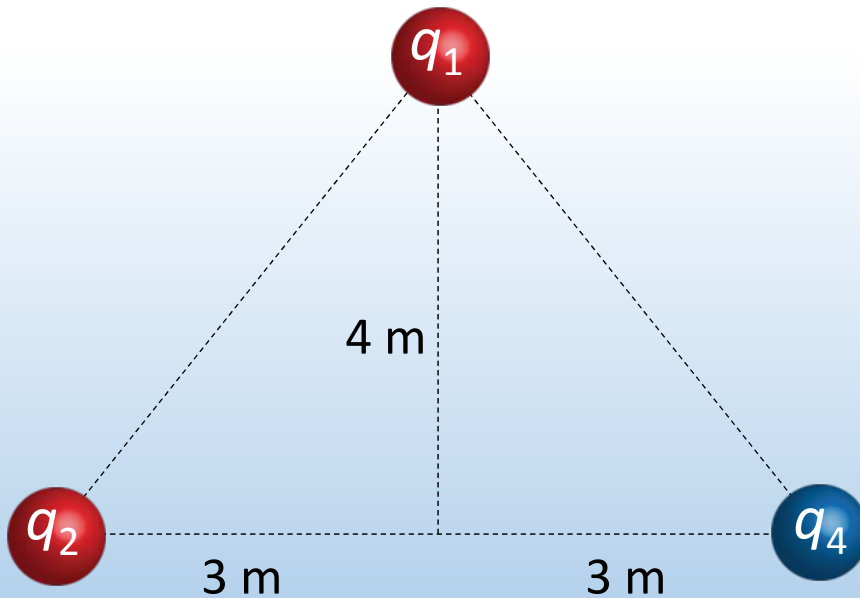


- Decompose vectors into components

Calculation: four charges

Calculate the total force on charge $q_1 = +2 \mu\text{C}$ due to charges $q_2 = +7 \mu\text{C}$ and $q_3 = -3.5 \mu\text{C}$

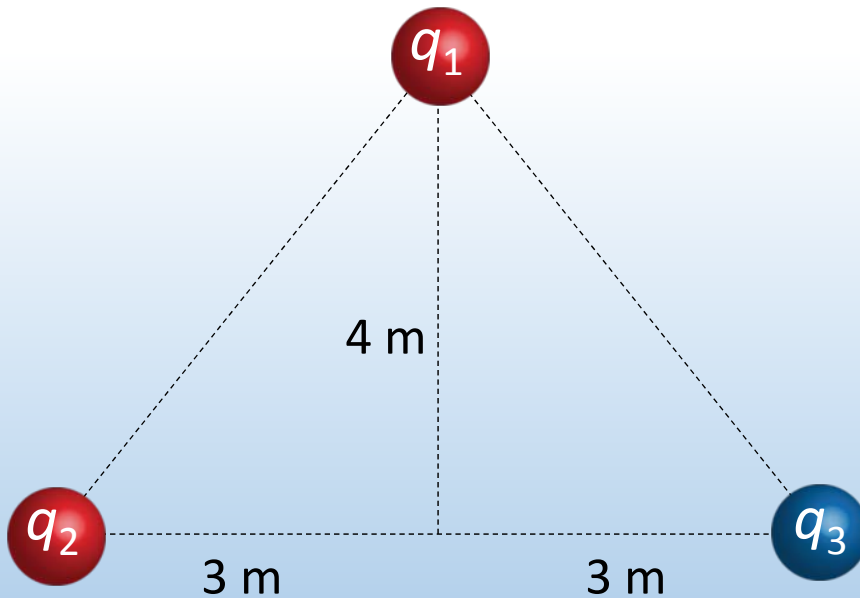
- Add like components



Calculation: four charges

Calculate the total force on charge $q_1 = +2 \mu\text{C}$ due to charges $q_2 = +7 \mu\text{C}$ and $q_3 = -3.5 \mu\text{C}$

- Magnitude of total force
- Direction of total force



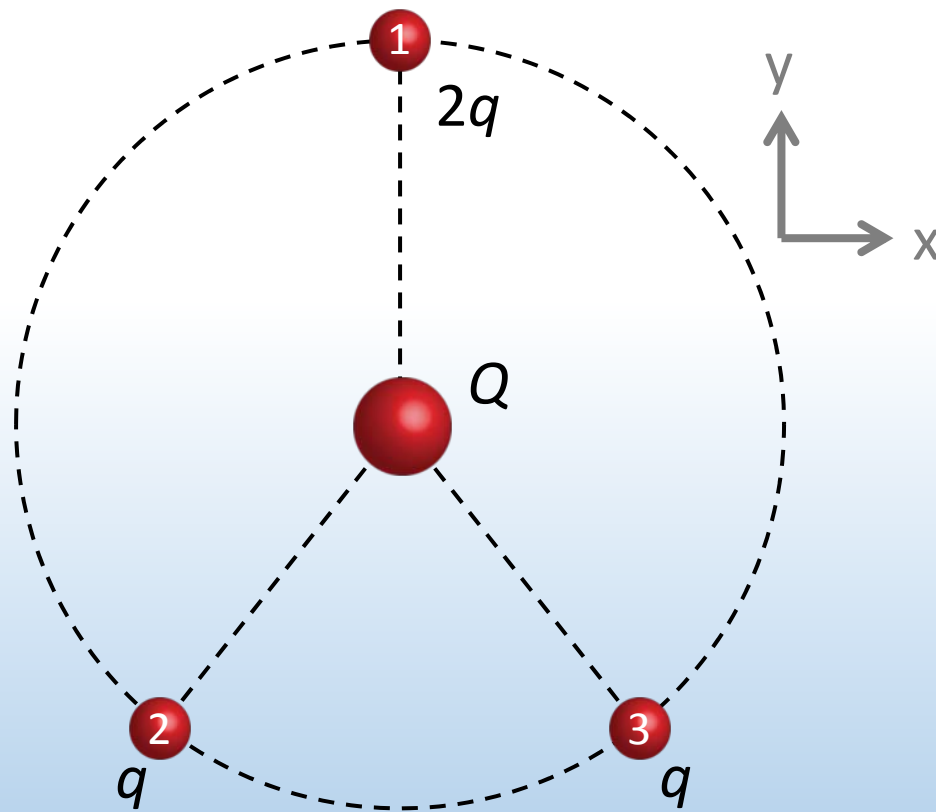


ACT: CheckPoint 1.1

Consider three charges on a circular ring, $q_1 = +2q$, $q_2 = q_3 = +q$.
A charge $+Q$ is placed at the center of the circle.

What is the x -component of the total force on Q ?

- A. $F_x > 0$
- B. $F_x = 0$
- C. $F_x < 0$



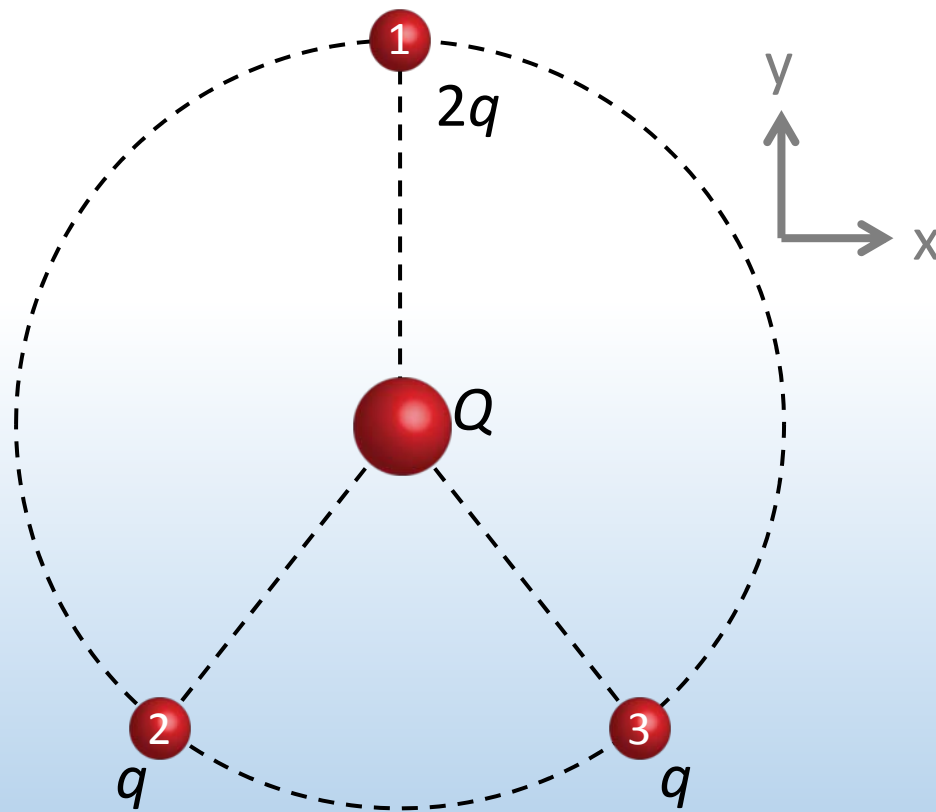


ACT: CheckPoint 1.2

Consider three charges on a circular ring, $q_1 = +2q$, $q_2 = q_3 = +q$. A charge $+Q$ is placed at the center of the circle.

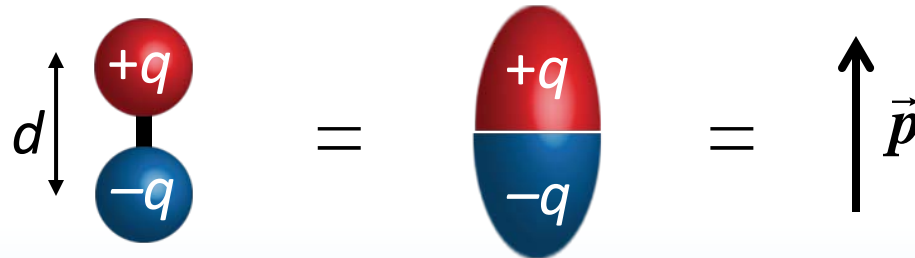
What is the y-component of the total force on Q ?

- A. $F_y > 0$
- B. $F_y = 0$
- C. $F_y < 0$



Electric dipole & dipole moment

A positive and negative charge of equal magnitude q separated by a (usually small) distance d



Dipole moment is measure of separated + and - charges

Magnitude

$$p \equiv qd$$

↑
definition

Direction

From - to + charge (by convention)

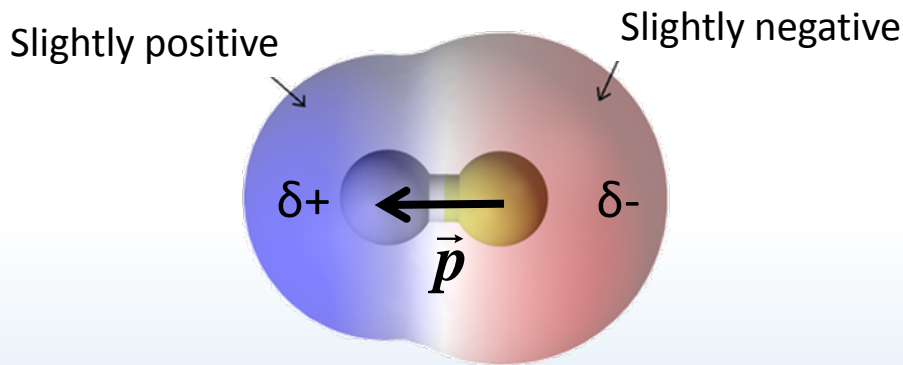
Note: opposite from Lewis notation (Chemistry)

What are examples of electric dipoles?

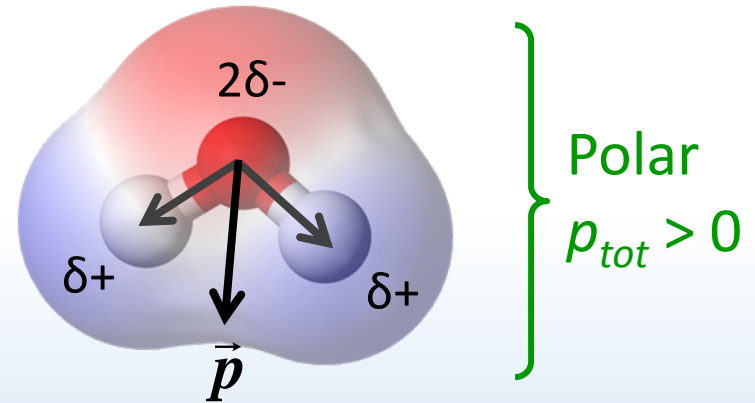
Molecular dipole

Electrons are not shared equally between chemically bonded atoms
Charge imbalance creates a bond dipole

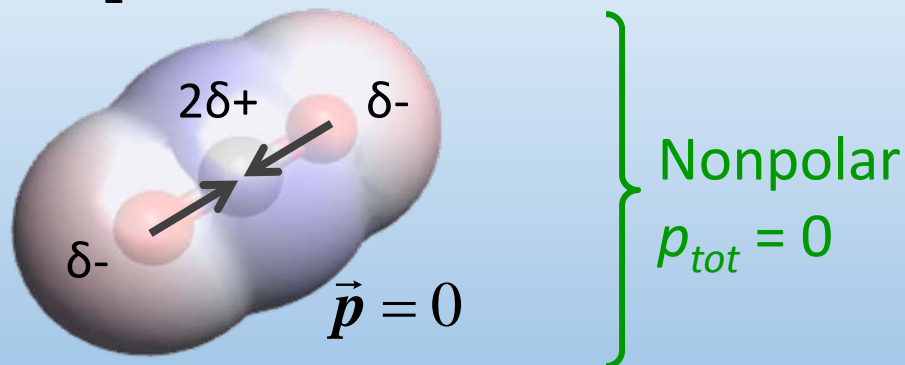
Ex: HF (hydrofluoric acid)



Ex: H₂O (water)



Ex: CO₂ (carbon dioxide)





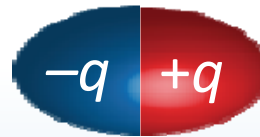
ACT: CheckPoint 2.1

An electric dipole is placed near a large positive charge $+Q$.
In what direction is the net force on the dipole?

A. Left

B. Zero

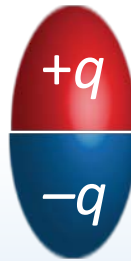
C. Right





ACT: Dipole & 2 charges

Consider an electric dipole placed an equal distance from a $+Q$ and a $-Q$ charge. Does the dipole move?



A. Yes

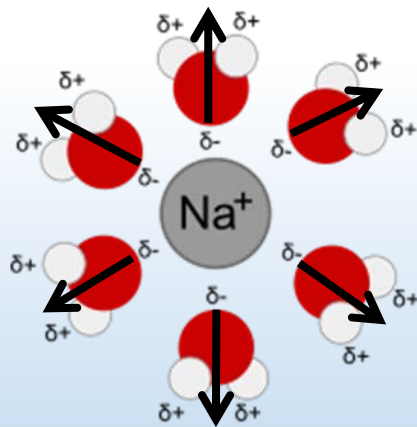
B. No

Ion-dipole interactions

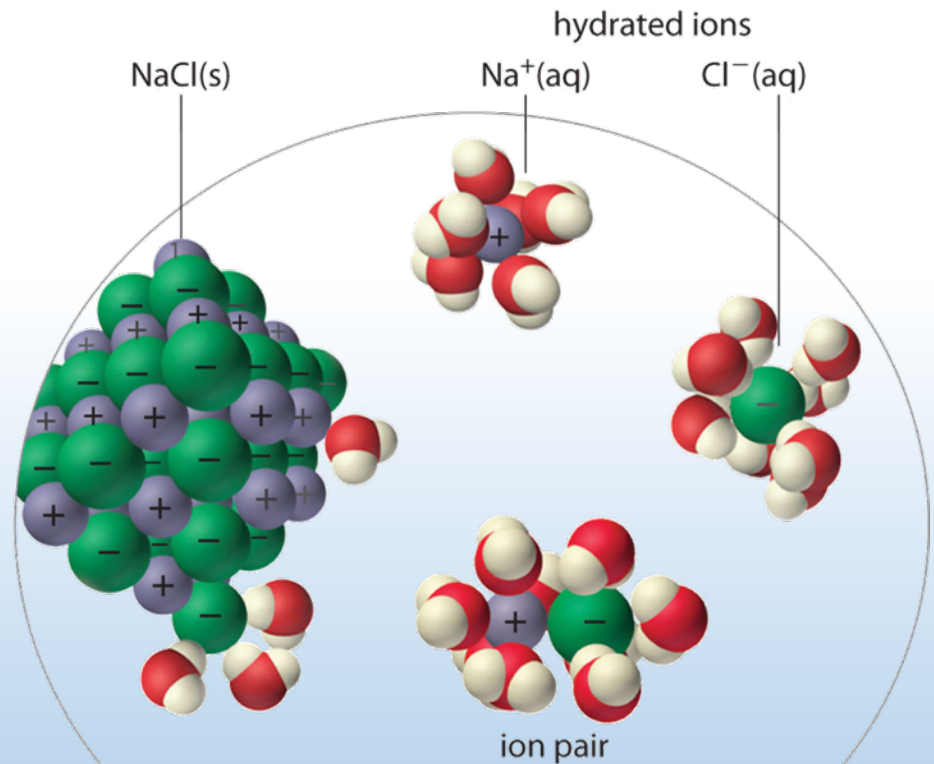
Polar molecules are attracted to ions

Dipole moment aligns away from + charge, toward – charge

Ex: ions in water & solubility



“Hydration shell”



Ionic compounds (ex: salts) dissolve in water

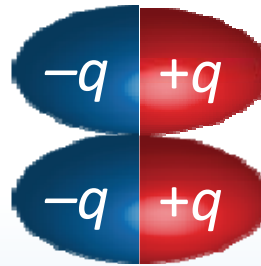


ACT: Two dipoles

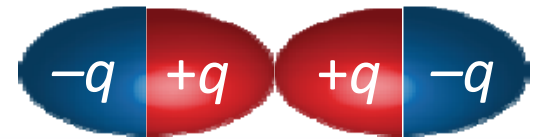
Which of the following arrangement of two dipoles leads to a net attractive force between the two?



A.



B.



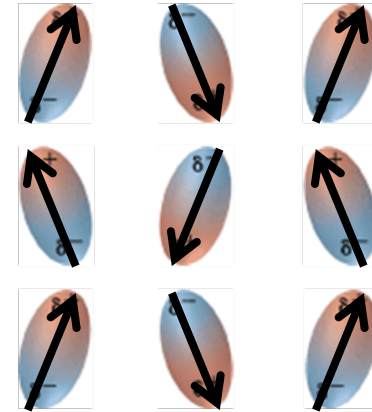
C.

D. Dipoles are neutral, they cannot attract or repel

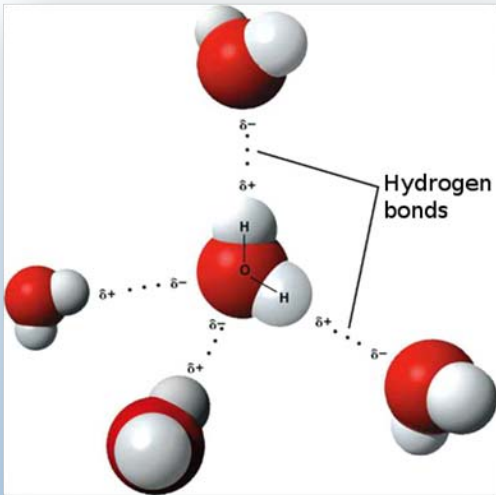
Dipole-dipole interactions

Polar molecules interact together

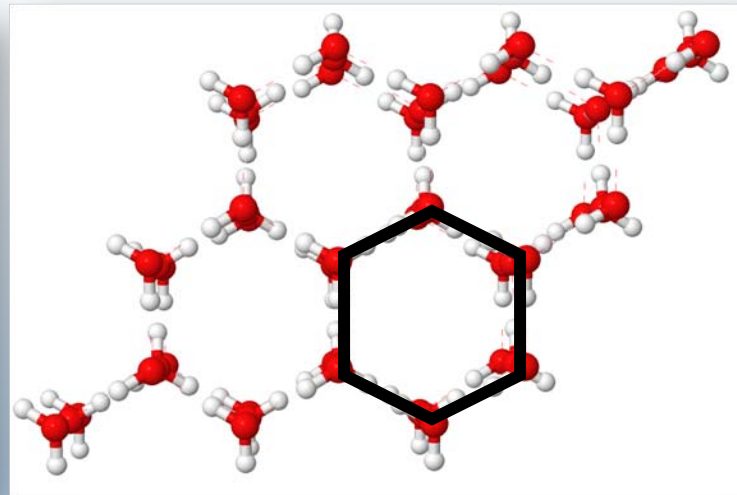
Dipole moments align end-to-end + to -
Like magnets!



Ex: hydrogen bond is a dipole-dipole interaction between water molecules



Hydrogen bond



Structure of ice



Snowflake

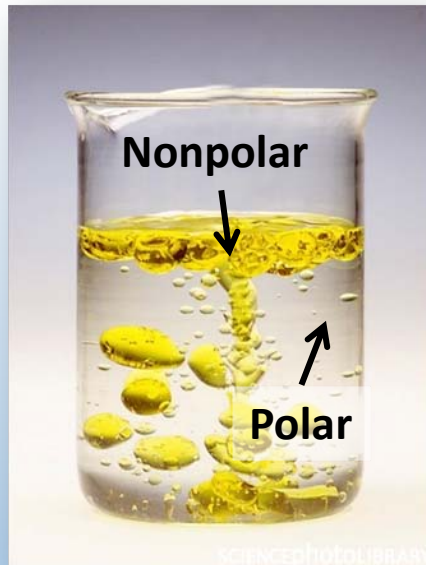
Hydrophilic vs. hydrophobic

Polar molecules interact with charged & polar molecules

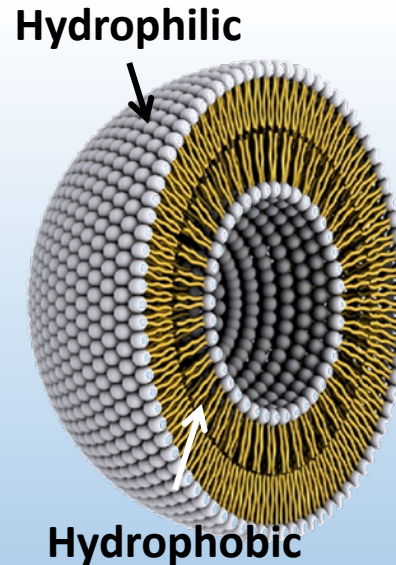
Ex: charged & polar molecules attract water, nonpolar molecules do not

Hydrophilic

“attract water”



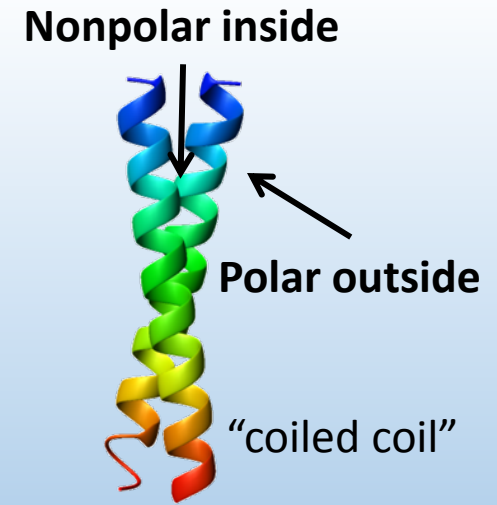
Oil and water



Cell membranes

Hydrophobic

“repel water”



Protein structure



ACT: Charge & conductor

An uncharged conducting sphere is placed next to a fixed + charge. What happens when the uncharged sphere is released?



A. Nothing

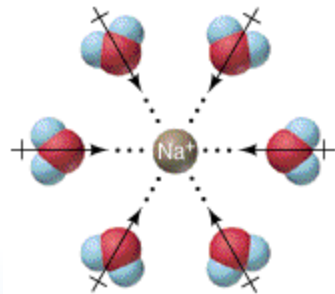
B. Attracted to + sphere

C. Repelled from + sphere

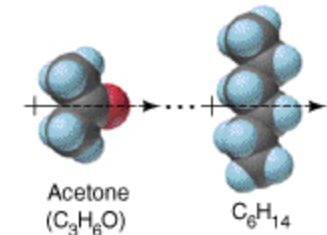
Molecular interactions

Interactions between molecules are understood in terms of charges and electric dipoles interacting by Coulomb's law

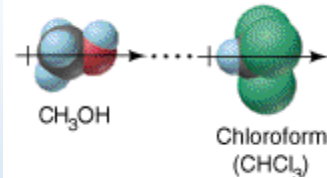
Ion-dipole



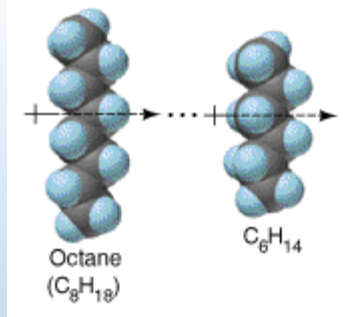
Dipole-induced dipole



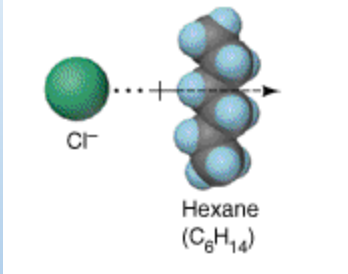
Dipole-dipole



Induced dipole-induced dipole?



Ion-induced dipole



Yes! Two nonpolar molecules can induce dipoles in each other and interact!
London dispersion or van der Waals force

Summary of today's lecture

- Coulomb's law
- Superposition principle $\vec{F}_{tot} = \sum \vec{F}$
- Electric dipole & dipole moment

Permanent vs. induced dipole