

# 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”  
 $k = 9 \times 10^9 \text{ N} \cdot \text{m}^2 / \text{C}^2$

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

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

Direction

Opposite charges attract, like charges repel

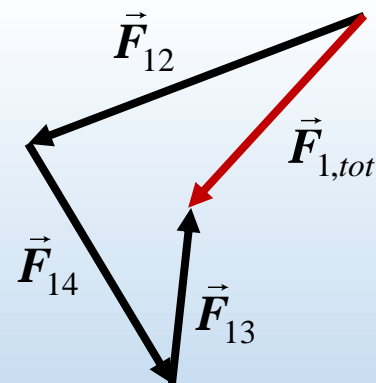
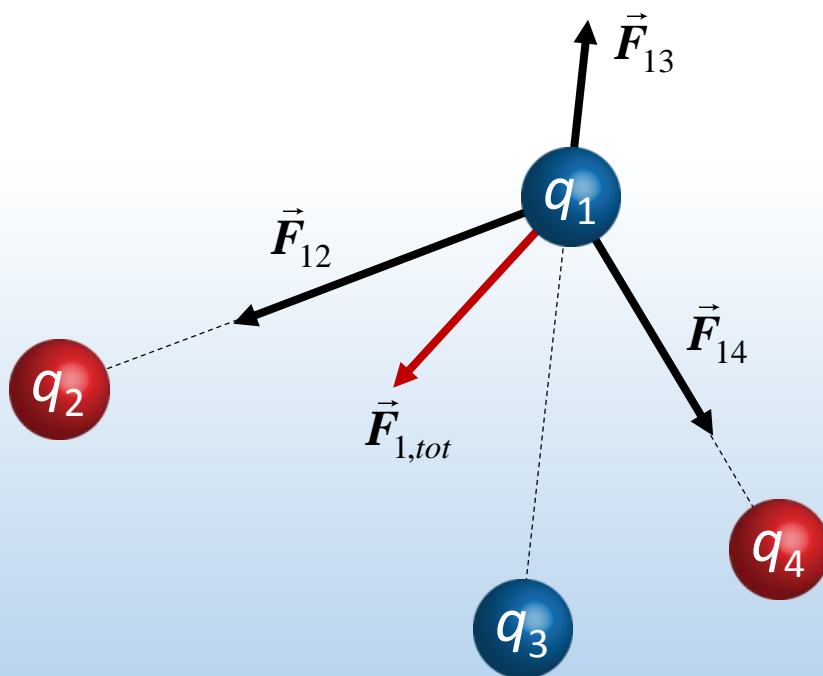
$$\vec{F}_{12} = -\vec{F}_{21}$$

# 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!

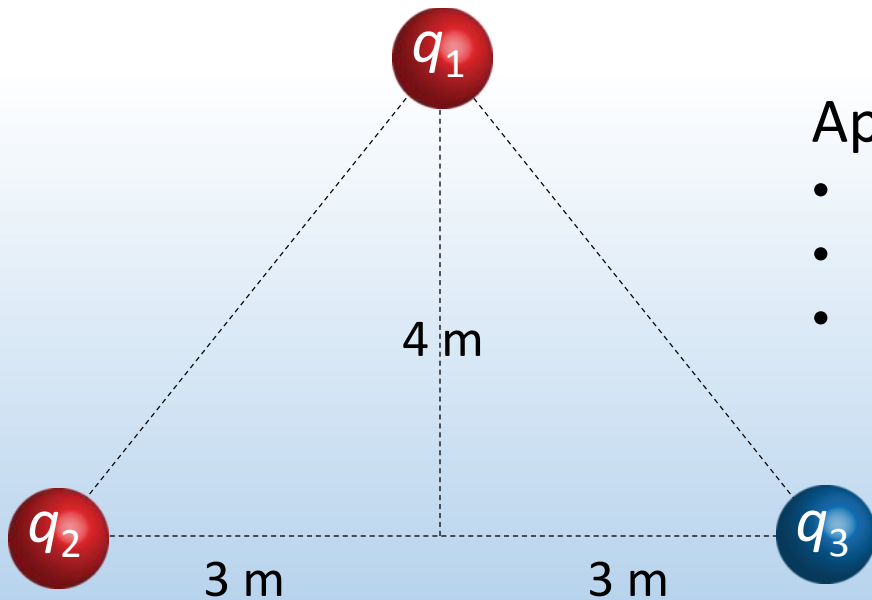
$$\vec{F}_{1,tot} = \vec{F}_{12} + \vec{F}_{13} + \vec{F}_{14}$$

# 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

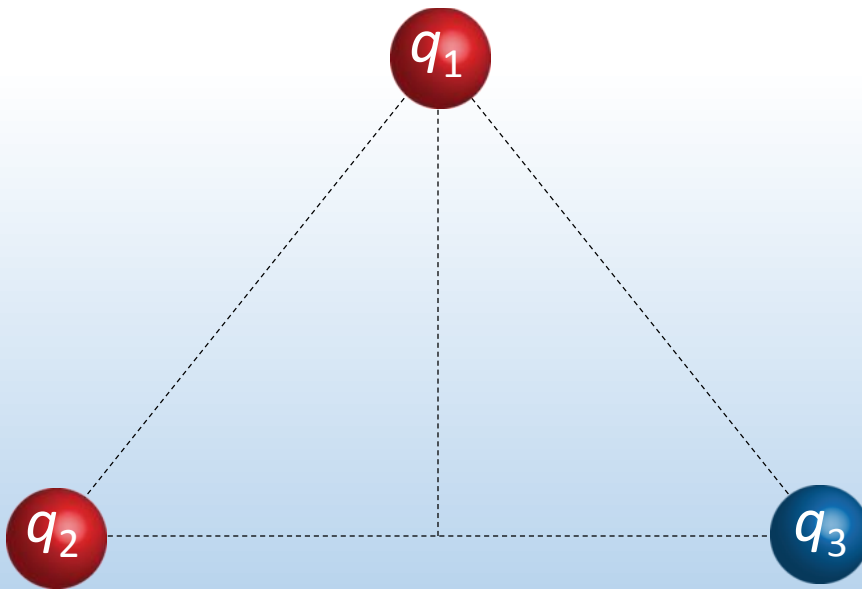
Add like components



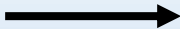


May need geometry, trigonometry



# 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  $q_3 = -3.5 \mu\text{C}$ ?

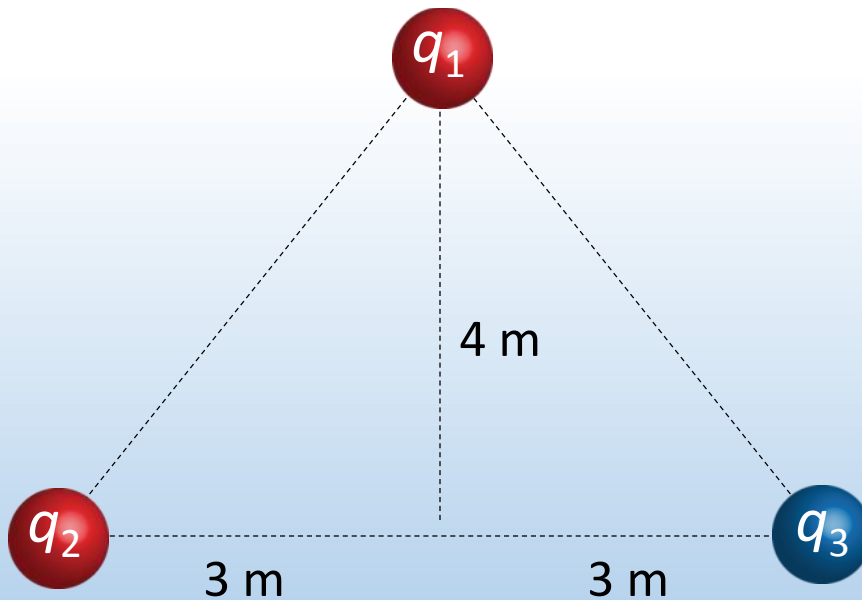


- A. 
- B. 
- C. 
- D. 
- E. 

# 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



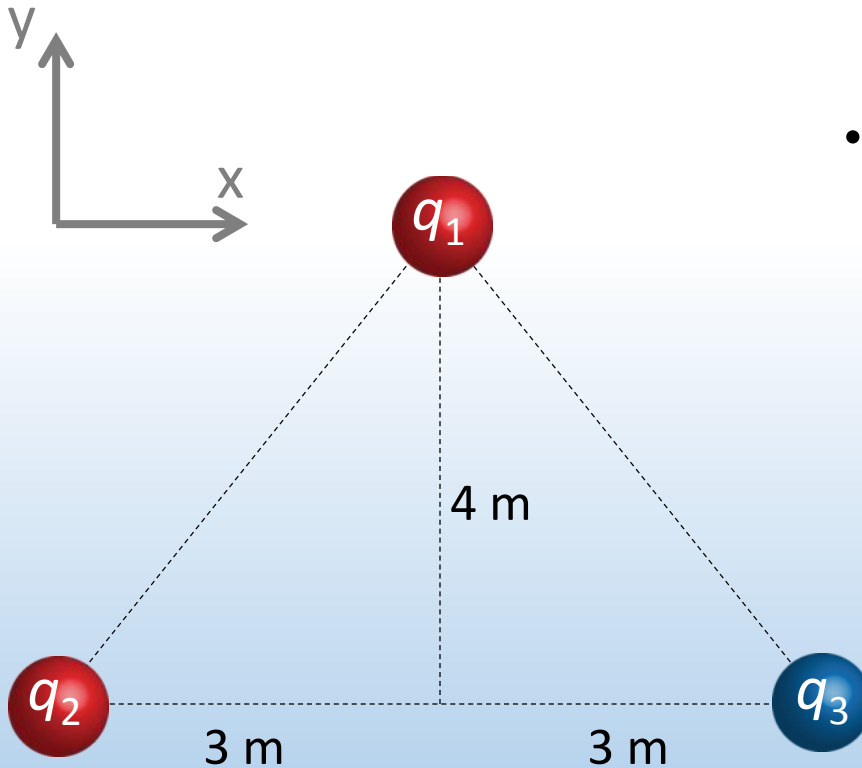
# ACT: components

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



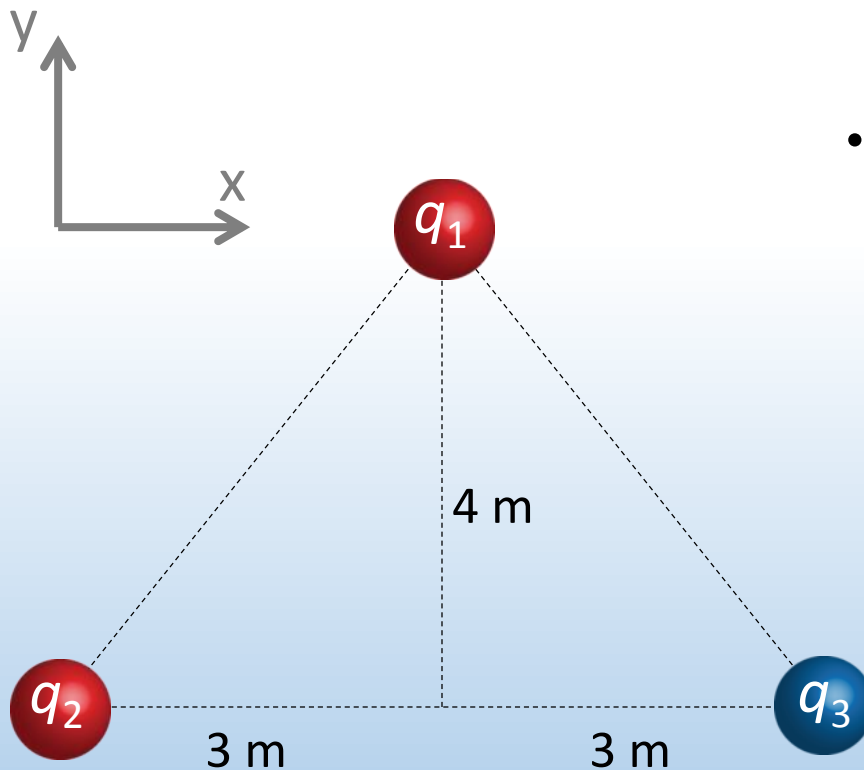
# ACT: components

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

A.  $3/4 F_{13}$

B.  $3/5 F_{13}$

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

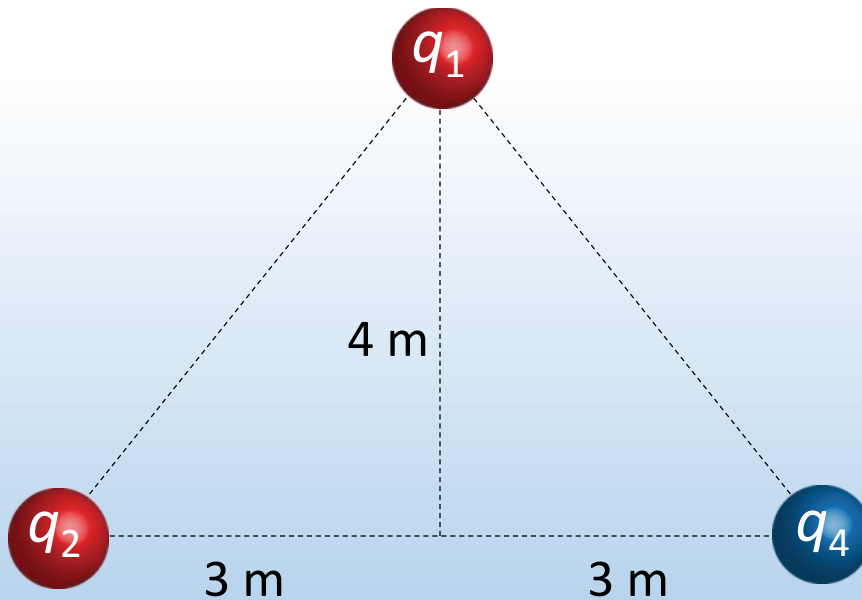


- Decompose vectors into components

# 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  $q_3 = -3.5 \mu\text{C}$

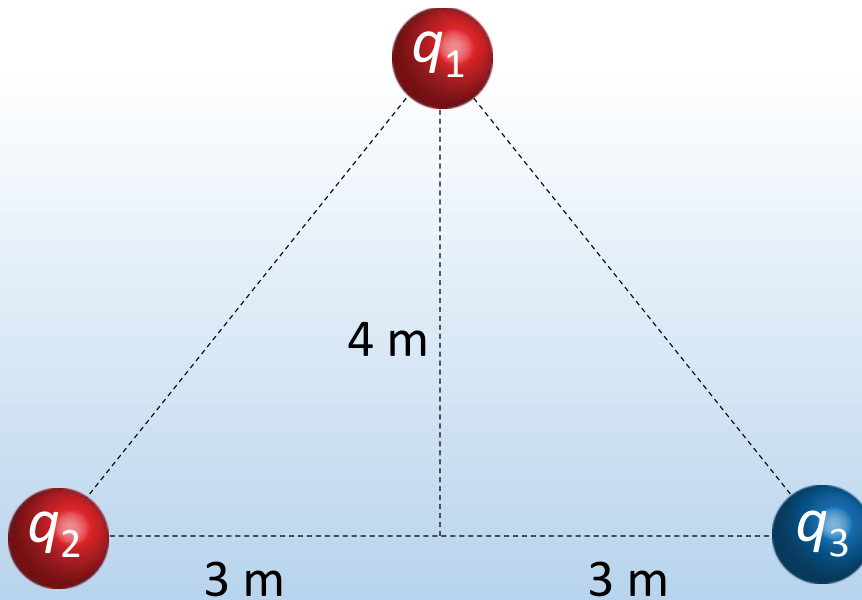
- Add like components



# 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



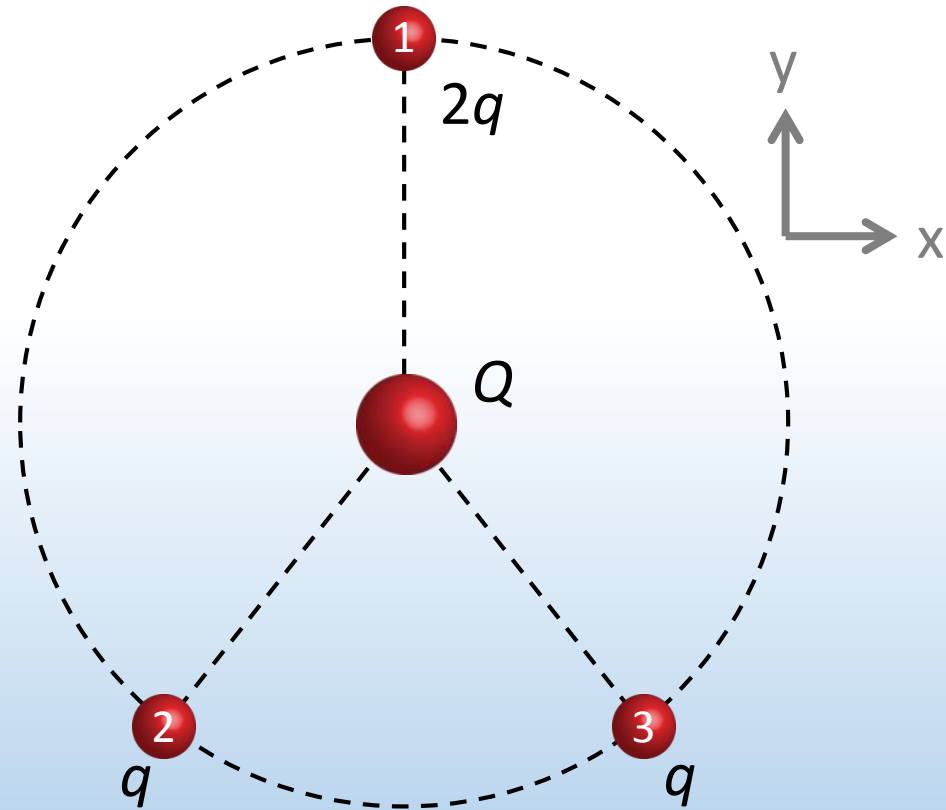


# ACT: CheckPoint 1.1

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.  $F_x < 0$



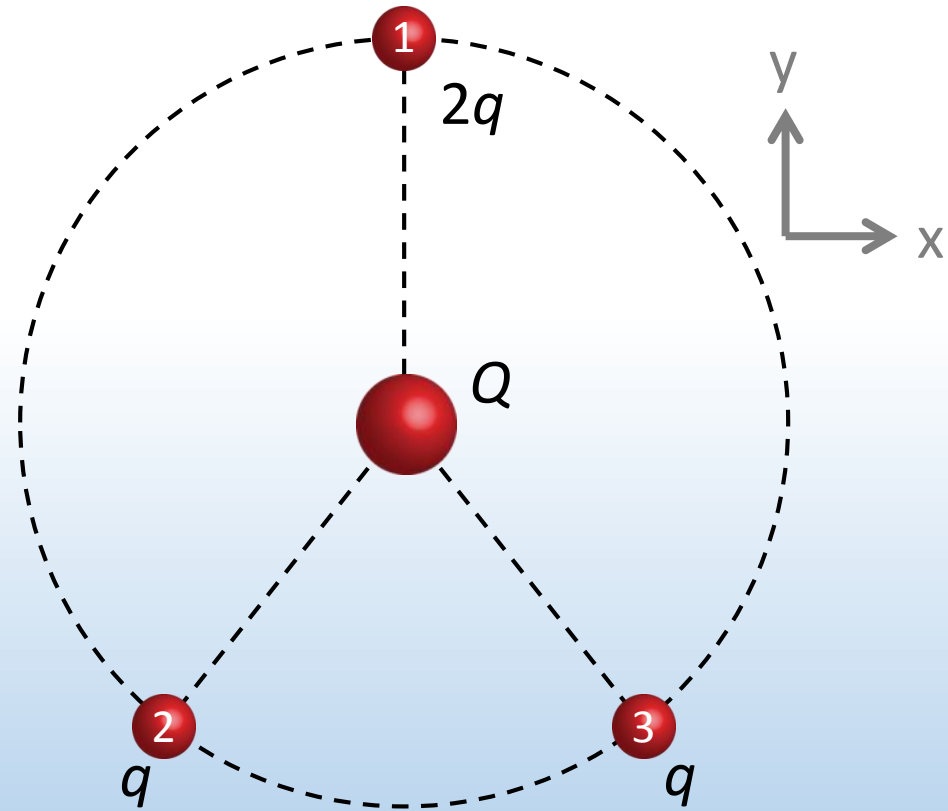


# ACT: CheckPoint 1.2

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.

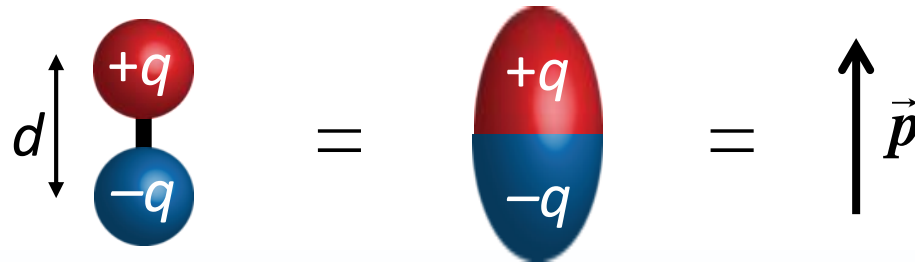
What is the y-component of the total force on  $Q$ ?

- 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)

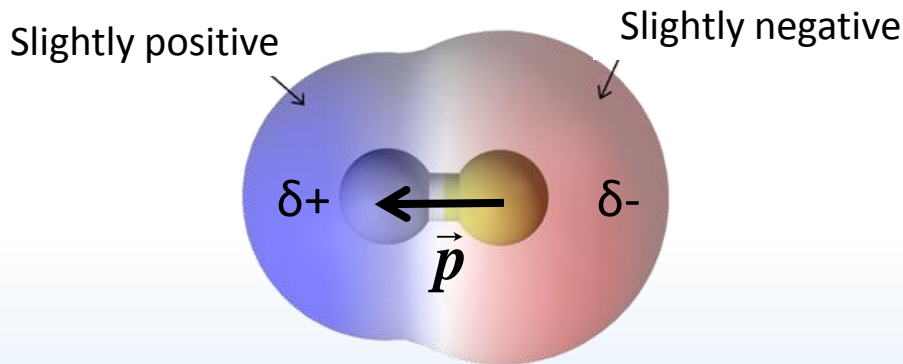
Note: opposite from Lewis notation (Chemistry)

What are examples of electric dipoles?

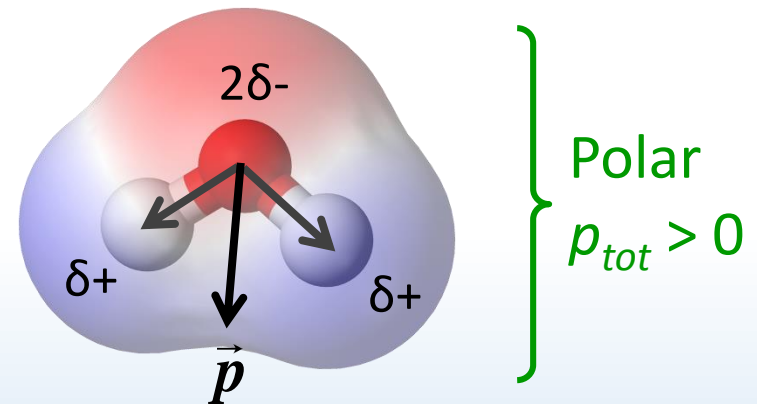
# Molecular dipole

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

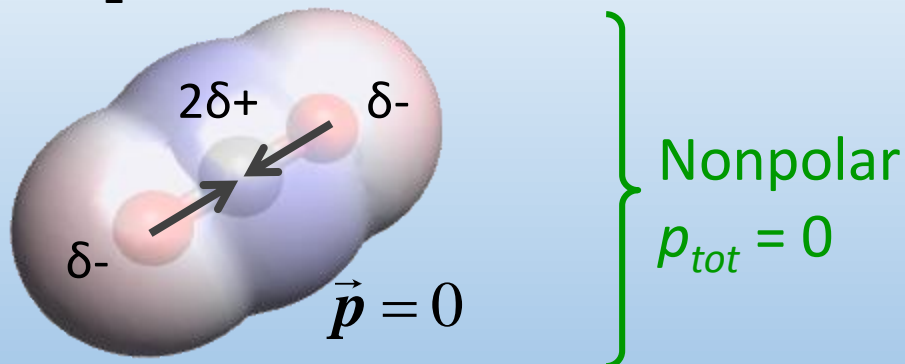
Ex: HF (hydrofluoric acid)



Ex: H<sub>2</sub>O (water)



Ex: CO<sub>2</sub> (carbon dioxide)





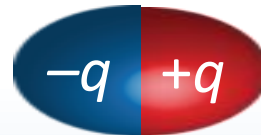
# ***ACT: CheckPoint 2.1***

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

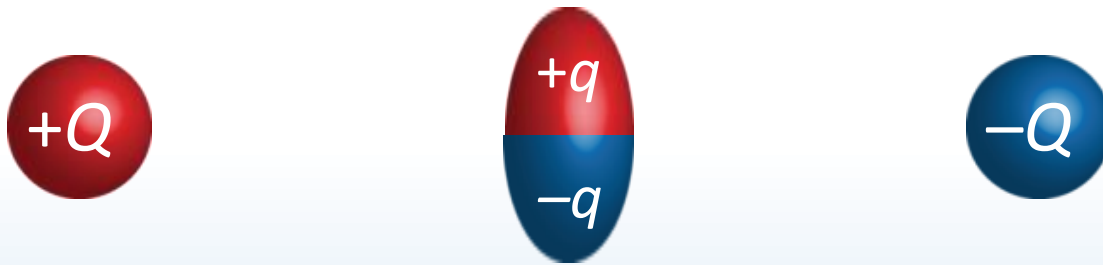






# ***ACT: Dipole & 2 charges***

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



A. Yes

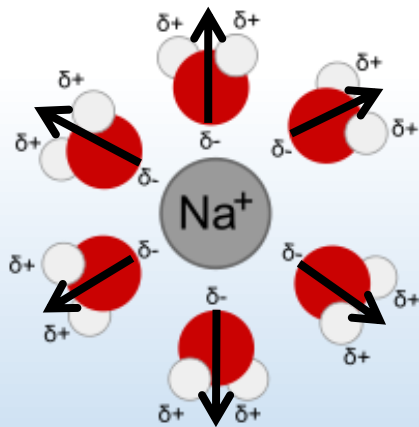
B. No

# ***Ion-dipole interactions***

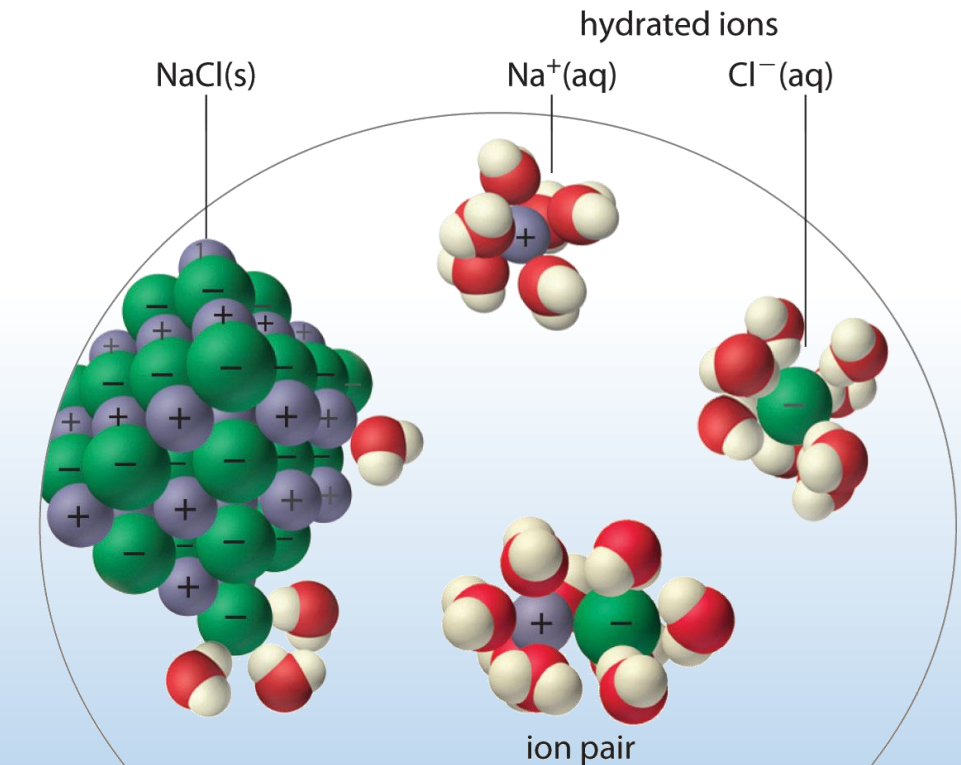
Polar molecules are attracted to ions

Dipole moment aligns away from + charge, toward – charge

Ex: ions in water & solubility



“Hydration shell”

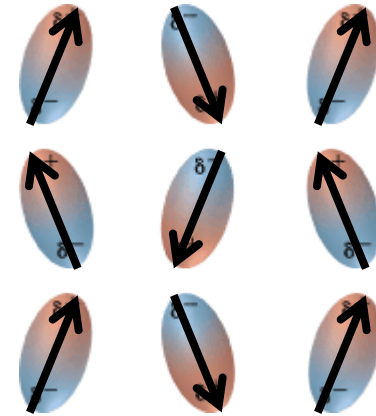


Ionic compounds (ex: salts) dissolve in water

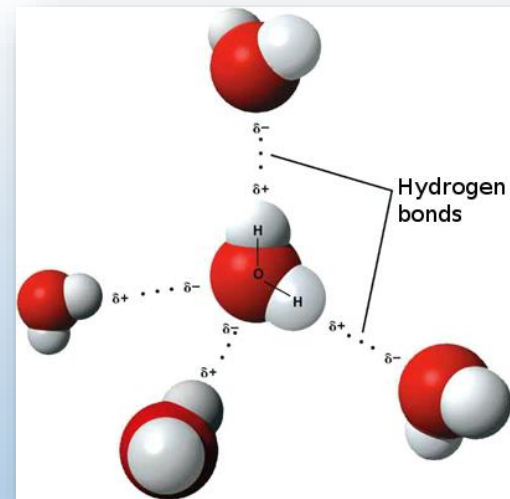
# Dipole-dipole interactions

Polar molecules interact together

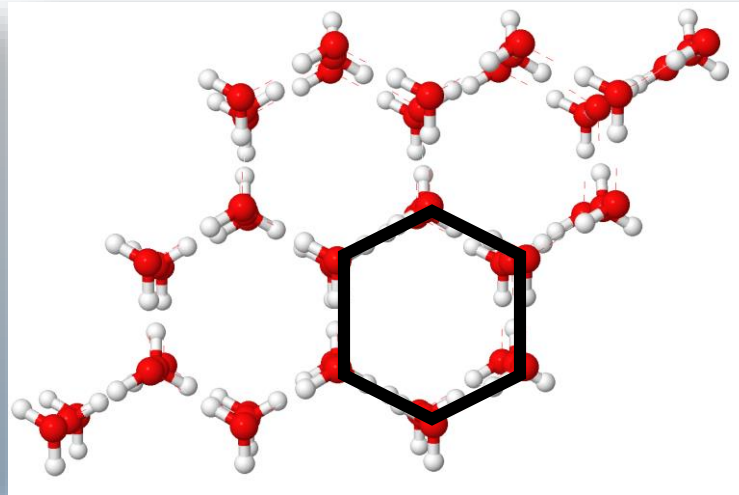
Dipole moments align end-to-end + to –  
Like magnets!



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



Hydrogen bond



Structure of ice



Snowflake

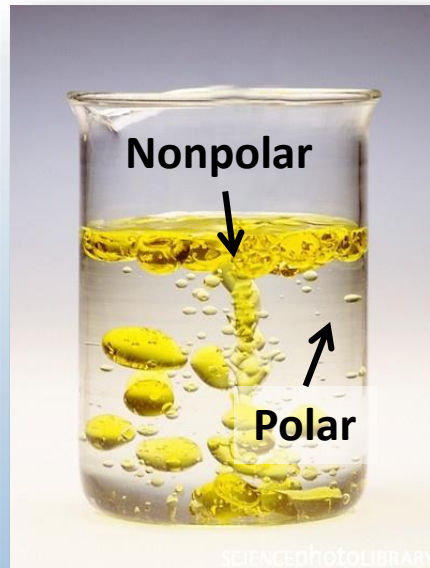
# Hydrophilic vs. hydrophobic

Polar molecules interact with charged & polar molecules

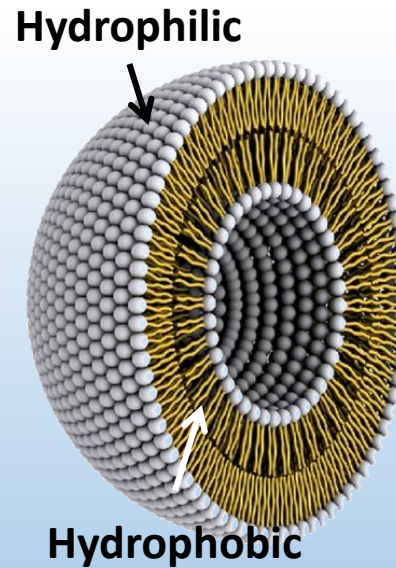
Ex: charged & polar molecules attract water, nonpolar molecules do not

Hydrophilic

“attract water”



Oil and water



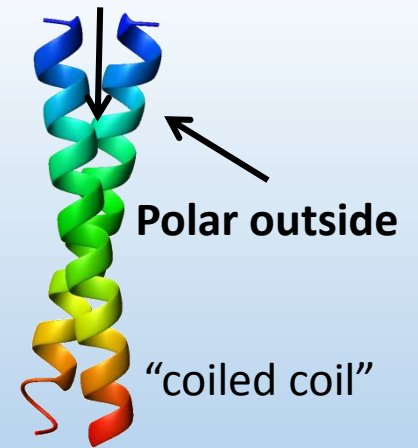
Hydrophobic

Cell membranes

Hydrophobic

“repel water”

Nonpolar inside



Protein structure



# ***ACT: Charge & conductor***

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



DEMO

A. Nothing

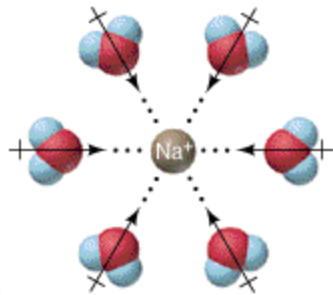
B. Attracted to + sphere

C. Repelled from + sphere

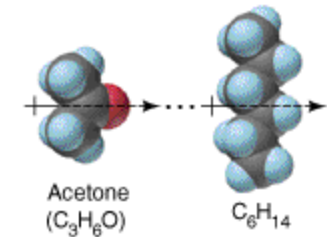
# Molecular interactions

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

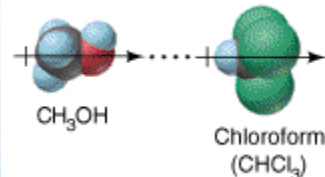
Ion-dipole



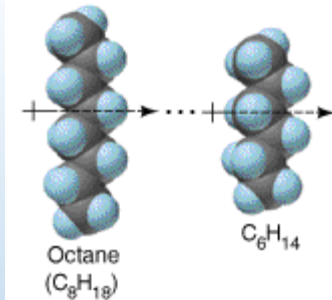
Dipole-induced dipole



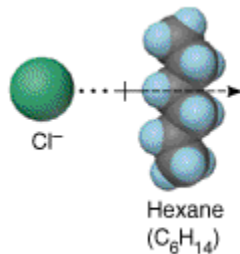
Dipole-dipole



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