

# Lecture 12

Polarization.

Displacement (if time permits).

Q: How do you feel about the midterm?

- A. Please don't remind
- B. Unreasonable. It tested the material which we never practiced.
- C. Not bad, but not enough time
- D. Challenging, but doable.
- E. It was quite easy.

# Polarization in materials

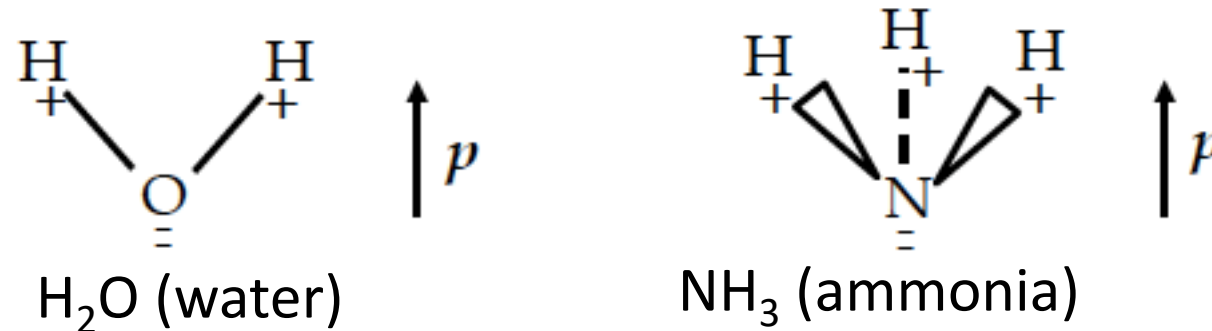
(Ch 4.1-2)

- Permanent polarization
- Induced polarization
- Bound charges (surface and volume)



## Polar Molecules & Polarization

Many naturally-occurring molecules have permanent, built-in dipole moments, **p**, due to the segregation of positive and negative charge:

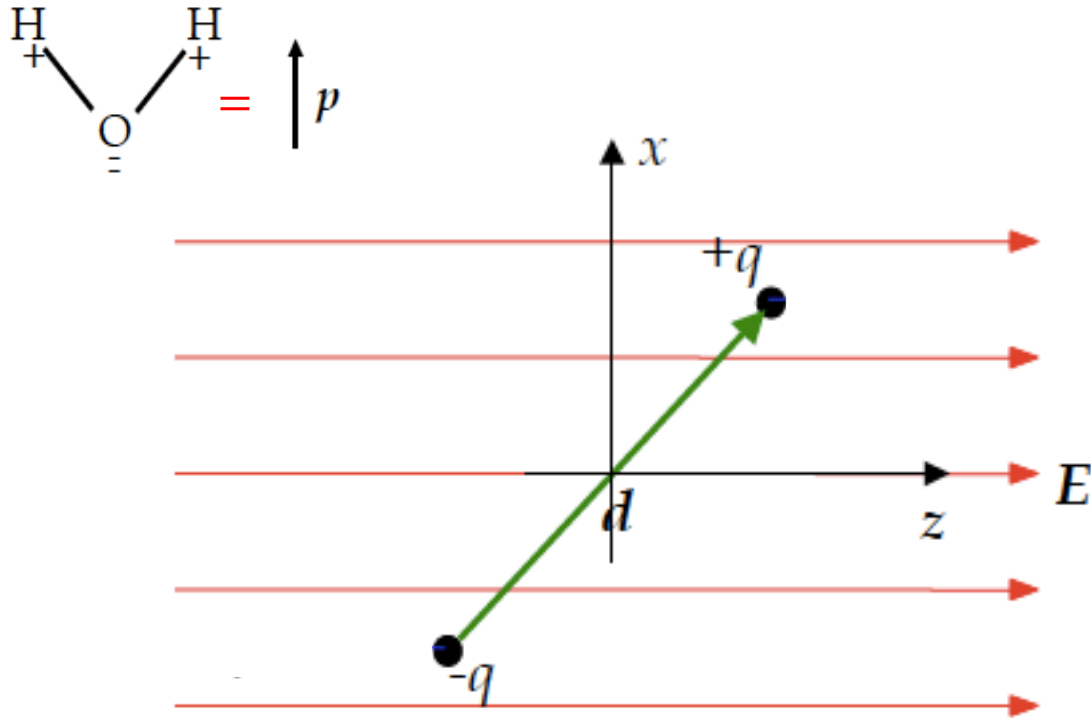


In general, the dipole moments of each molecule will be randomly oriented in a material, so that the net dipole moment is zero.

However, if an external electric field is applied, the dipole moments can orient themselves along the field direction, creating a macroscopic effect, called *polarization*.

## Dipoles in External Field: Review

Suppose we place a neutral, dipolar molecule in an external uniform electric field,  $\mathbf{E}$ . The charge separation,  $d$ , is fixed by chemistry, so the magnitude of the dipole will not change in the field.

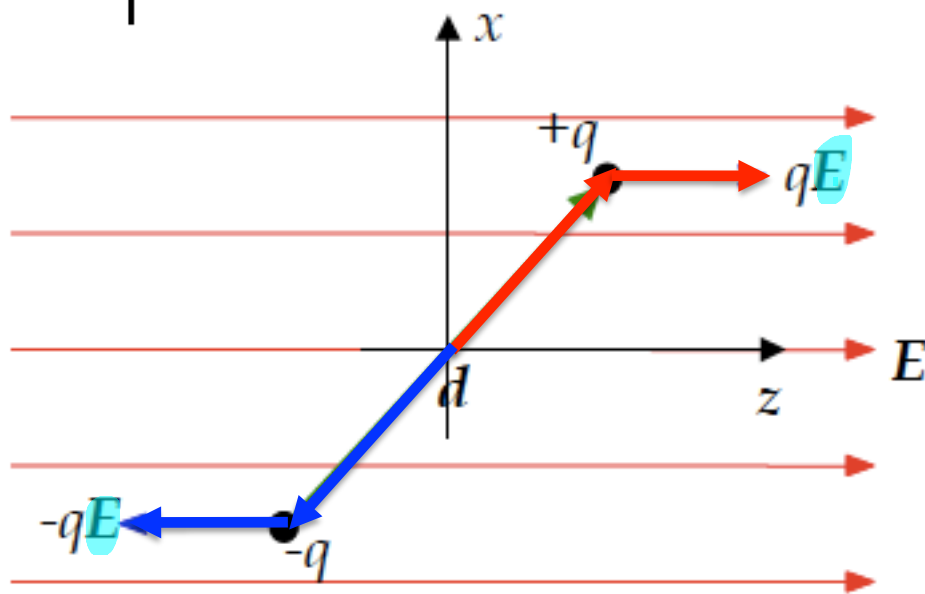
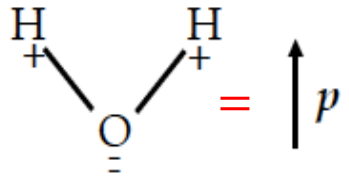


Q: What will this molecule experience?

- A. Only net force
- B. Only torque
- C. Both net force and torque
- D. Neither force nor torque

## Dipoles in External Field: Review

Suppose we place a neutral, dipolar molecule in an external **uniform** electric field,  $\mathbf{E}$ . The charge separation,  $d$ , is fixed by chemistry, so the magnitude of the dipole will not change in the field.



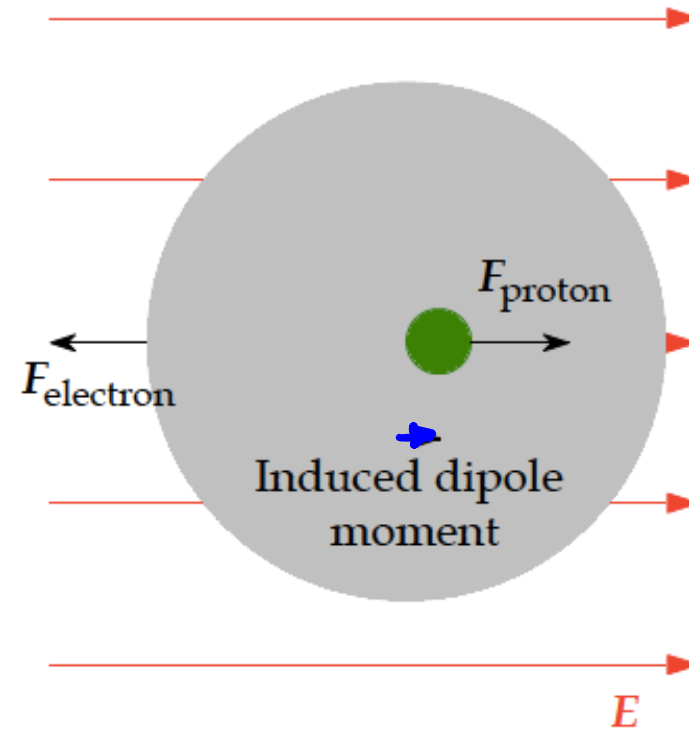
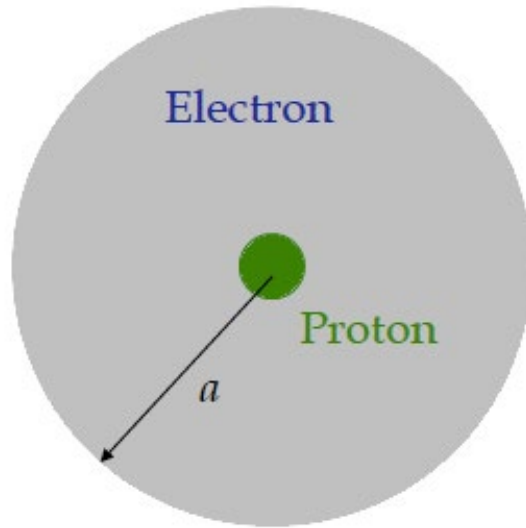
- Since the two forces have the same magnitude and opposite directions, they add up to zero
- Torque,  $\mathbf{N}$ , is non-zero:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{N} &= \mathbf{r}_+ \times \mathbf{F}_+ + \mathbf{r}_- \times \mathbf{F}_- \\ &= \frac{\mathbf{d}}{2} \times q\mathbf{E} - \frac{\mathbf{d}}{2} \times (-q\mathbf{E}) \\ &= q\mathbf{d} \times \mathbf{E}\end{aligned}$$

$\mathbf{N}$  points into the page

$$\rightarrow \mathbf{N} = \mathbf{p} \times \mathbf{E}$$

## Non-polar Molecules / Atoms: Induced Polarization



- Suppose we apply an external field  $\mathbf{E}$  to an **atom** (no built-in dipole moment).
- The electron cloud and proton move in opposite directions until the force on the proton by the displaced electron balances the force on the proton by the external field. This **induces a dipole moment** in the atom. This dipole will experience a torque, too...

## Polarization Field

- Rather than tracking the microscopic properties of each dipole in the material (whether permanent or induced), we define a macroscopic “polarization” field,  $\mathbf{P}$ , with units of dipole moment per unit volume:

$$\mathbf{P} \equiv N\mathbf{p}$$

where  $N$  is the number of microscopic dipoles,  $\mathbf{p}$ , per unit volume.

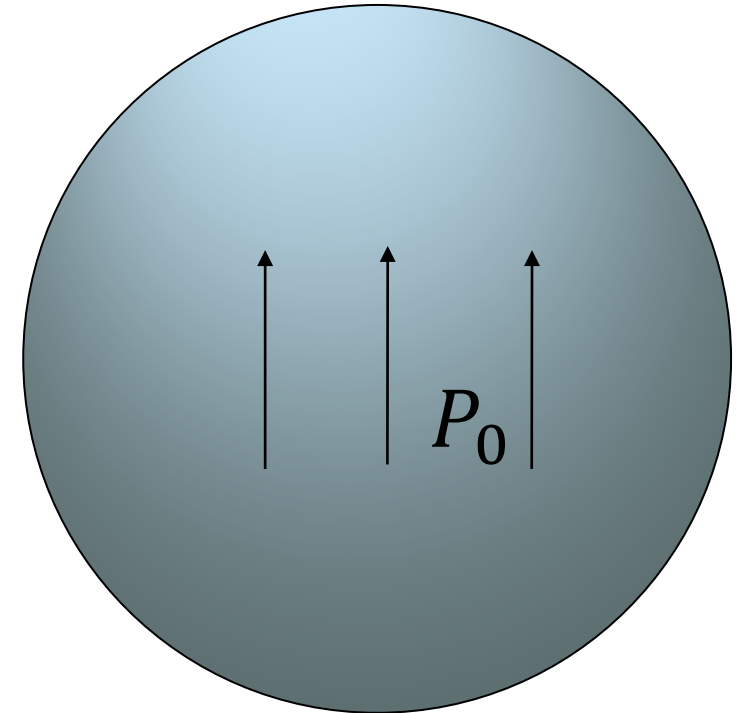
Note: units of polarization are  $[\mathbf{P}] = (\text{charge} \times \text{length})/\text{length}^3 = \text{charge}/\text{area}$ .



## Polarization Field

Q: A sphere of radius  $a$  has uniform polarization field  $\mathbf{P}_0$  which points in the  $z$  direction. What is the total dipole moment of this sphere?

- A. 0
- B.  $a^3 P_0 \hat{\mathbf{z}}$
- C.  $(4\pi a^3/3)P_0 \hat{\mathbf{z}}$
- D.  $P_0 \hat{\mathbf{z}}$
- E. None of the above

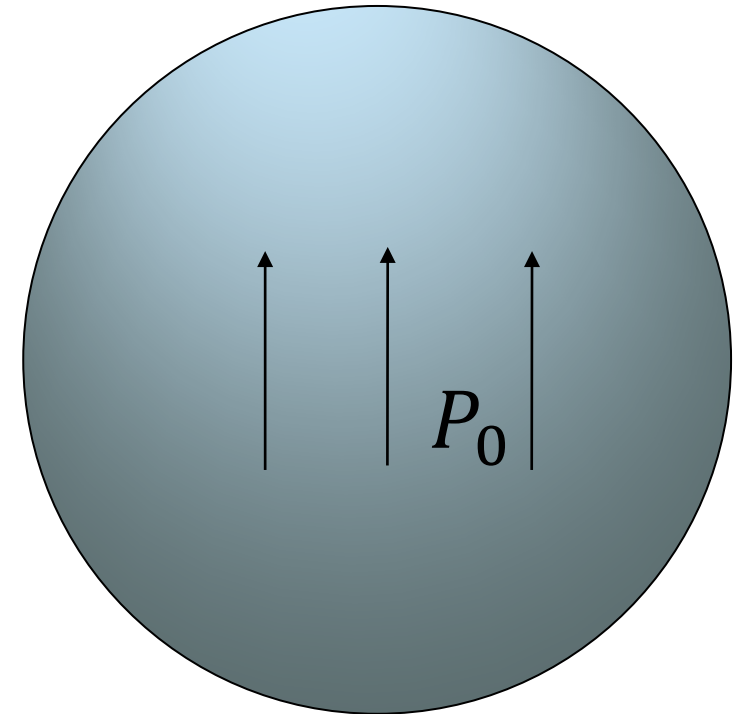


## Polarization Field

Q: A sphere of radius  $a$  has uniform polarization field  $\mathbf{P}_0$  which points in the  $z$  direction. What is the total dipole moment of this sphere?

• Polarization = dipole moment per unit volume

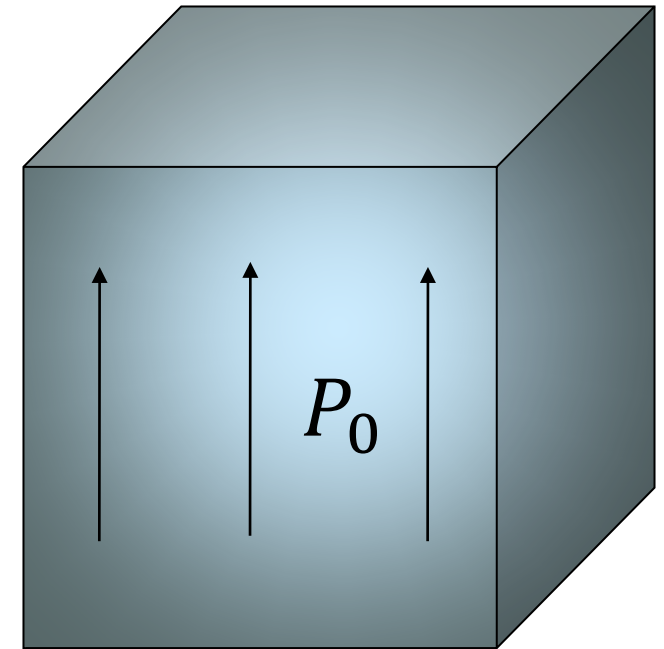
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- B.  $a^3 P_0 \hat{\mathbf{z}}$
- ☒ C.  $(4\pi a^3/3)P_0 \hat{\mathbf{z}}$
- D.  $P_0 \hat{\mathbf{z}}$
- E. None of the above



## Polarization Field

Q: A cube of side  $a$  has uniform polarization field  $\mathbf{P}_0$  which points in the  $z$  direction. What is the total dipole moment of this cube?

- A. 0
- B.  $a^3 P_0 \hat{\mathbf{z}}$
- C.  $P_0/a^3 \hat{\mathbf{z}}$
- D.  $P_0 \hat{\mathbf{z}}$
- E. None of the above

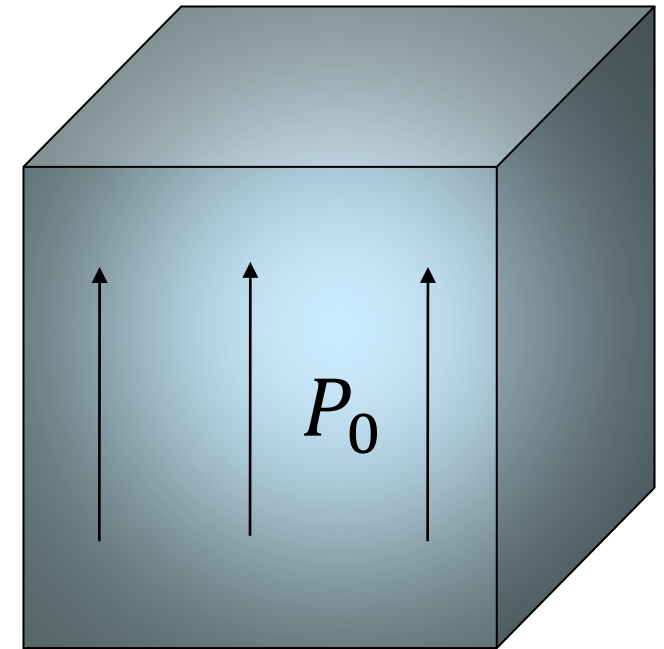


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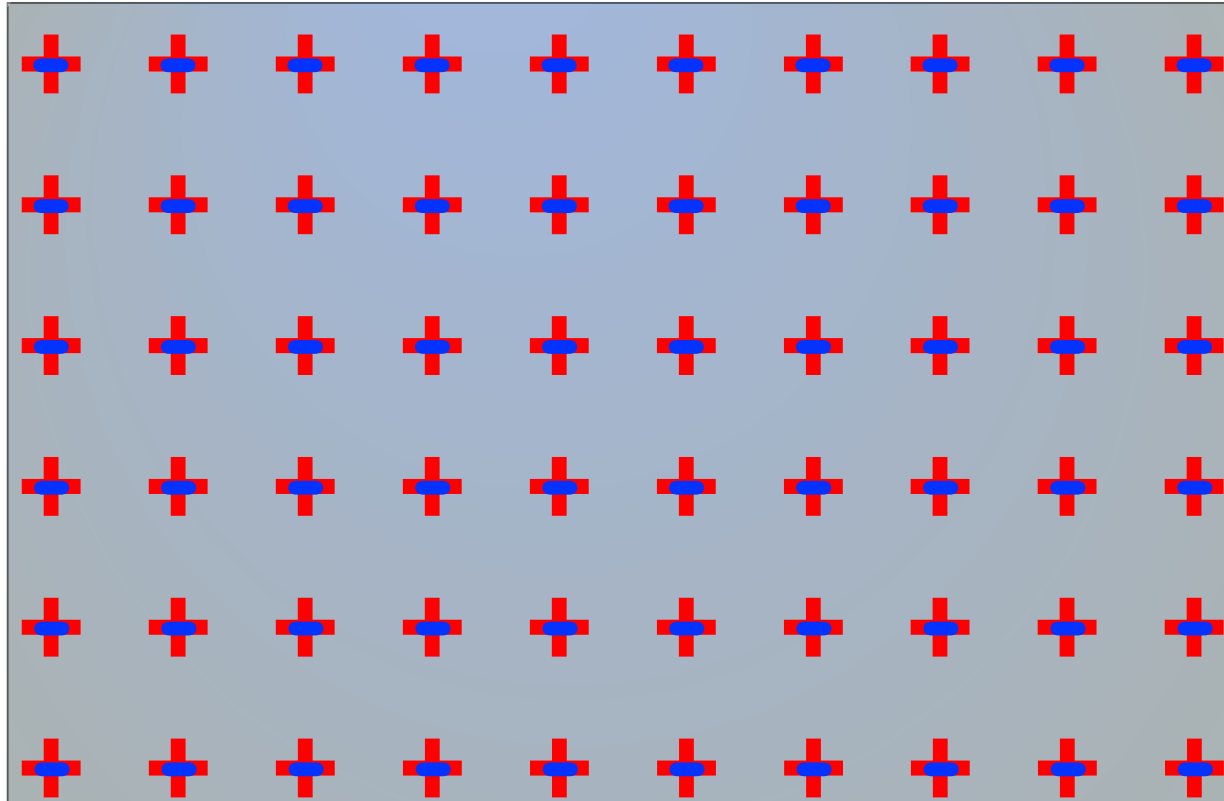
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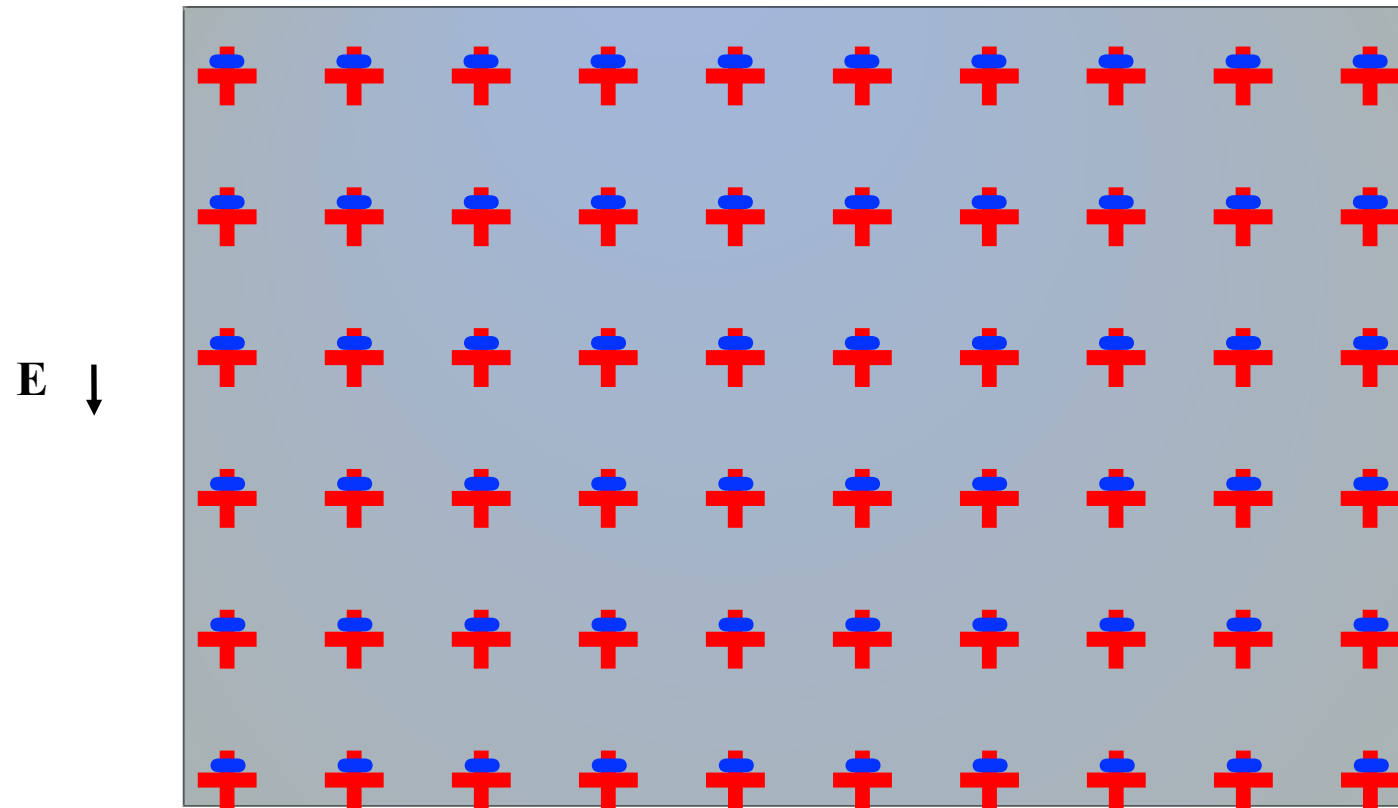
# Induced Polarization & Surface Charge

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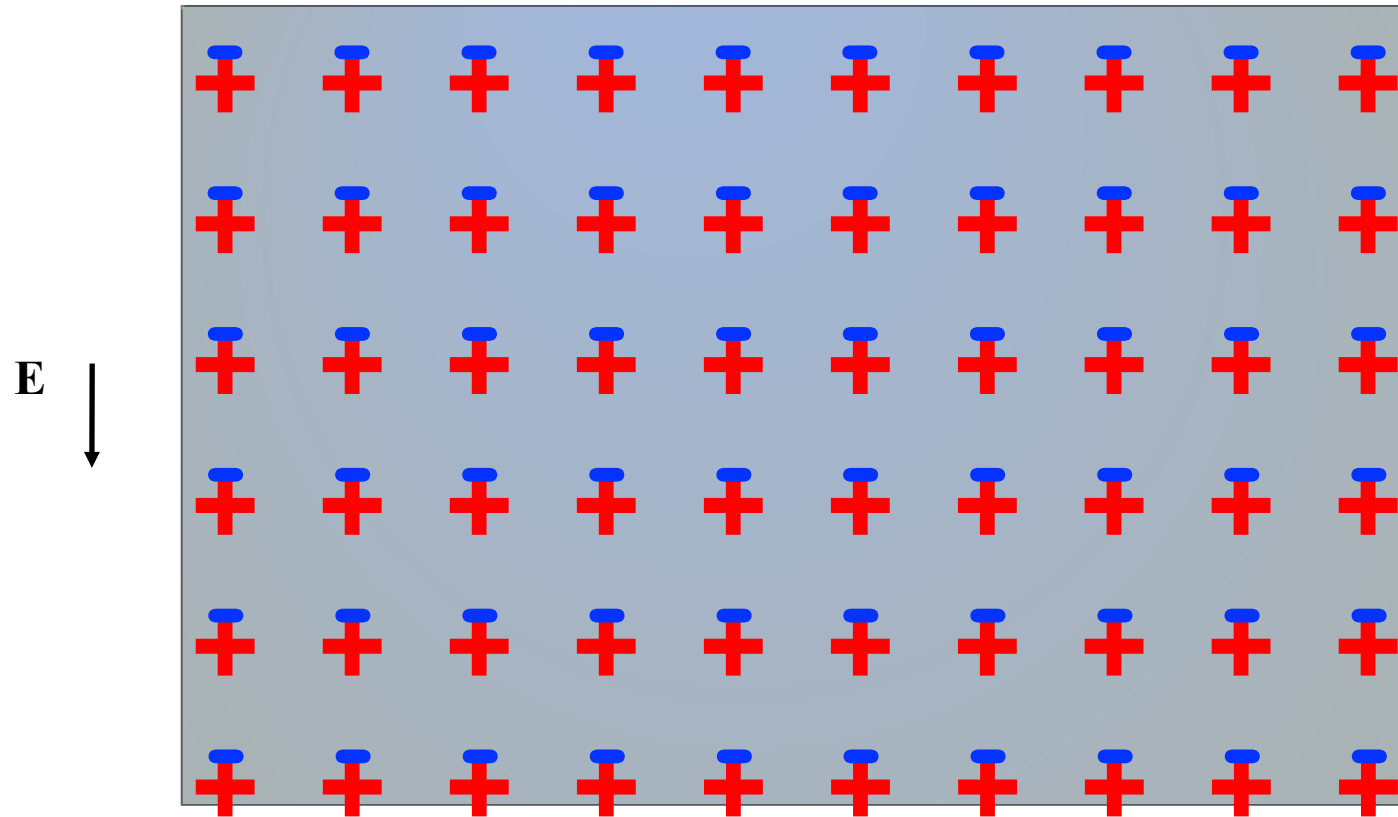
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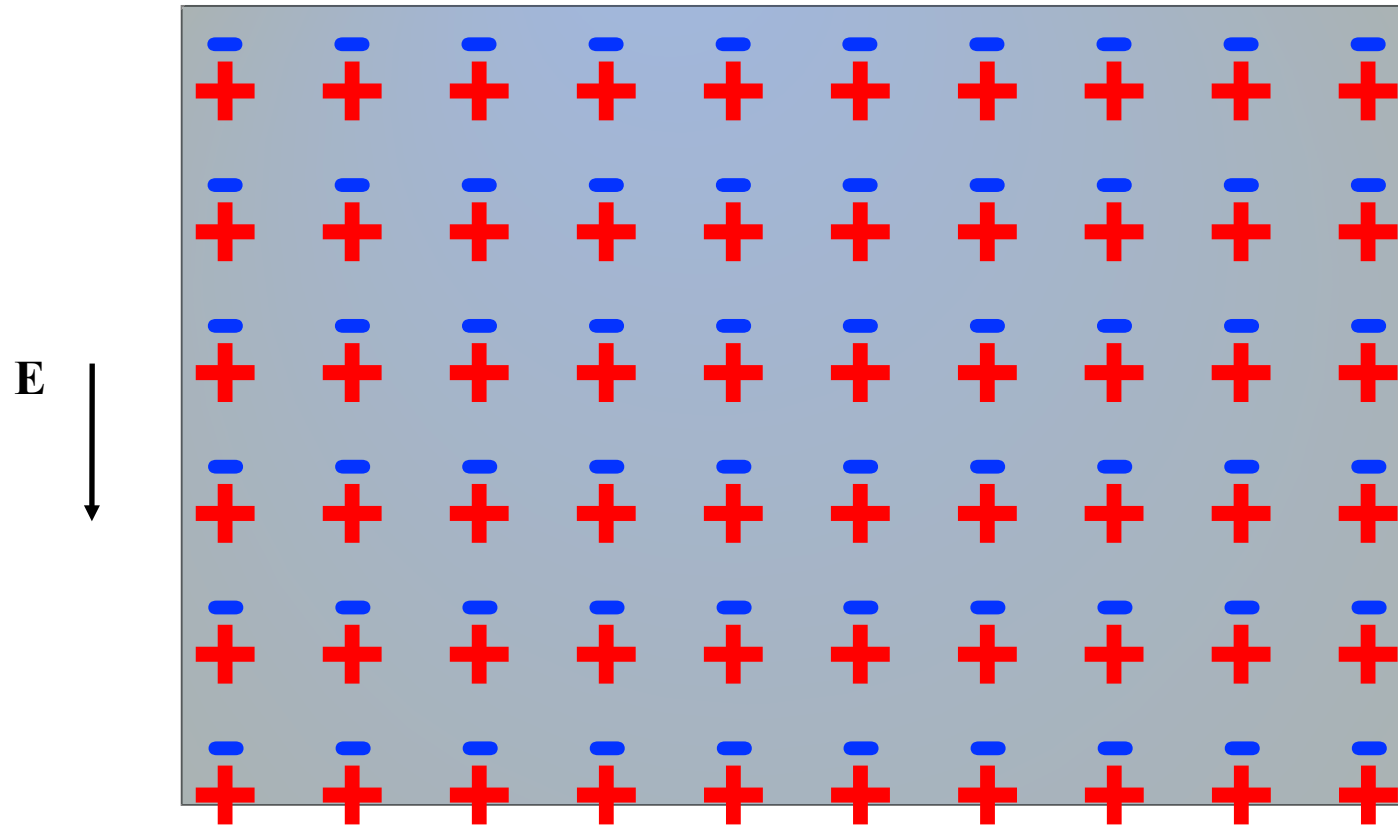
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# Induced Polarization & Surface Charge

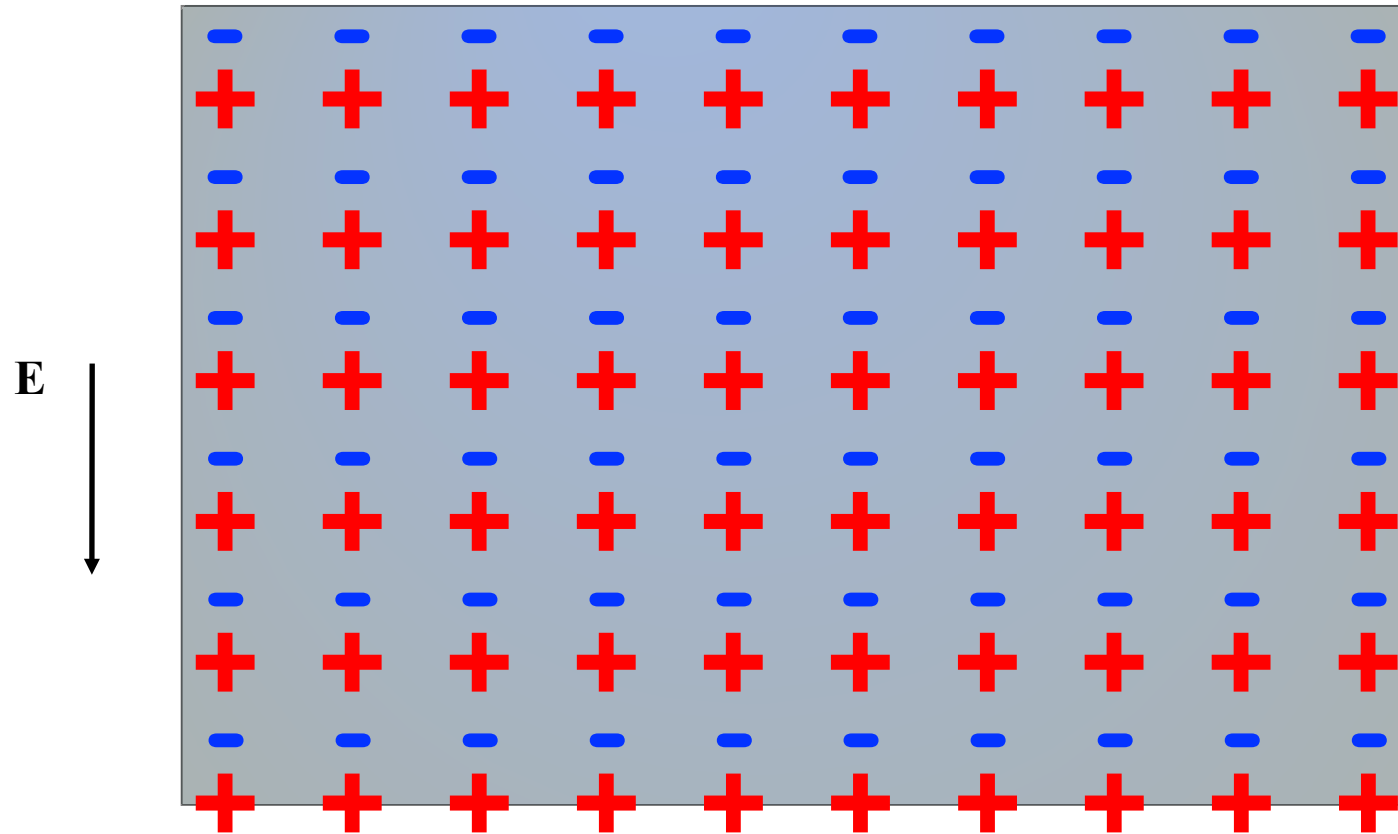
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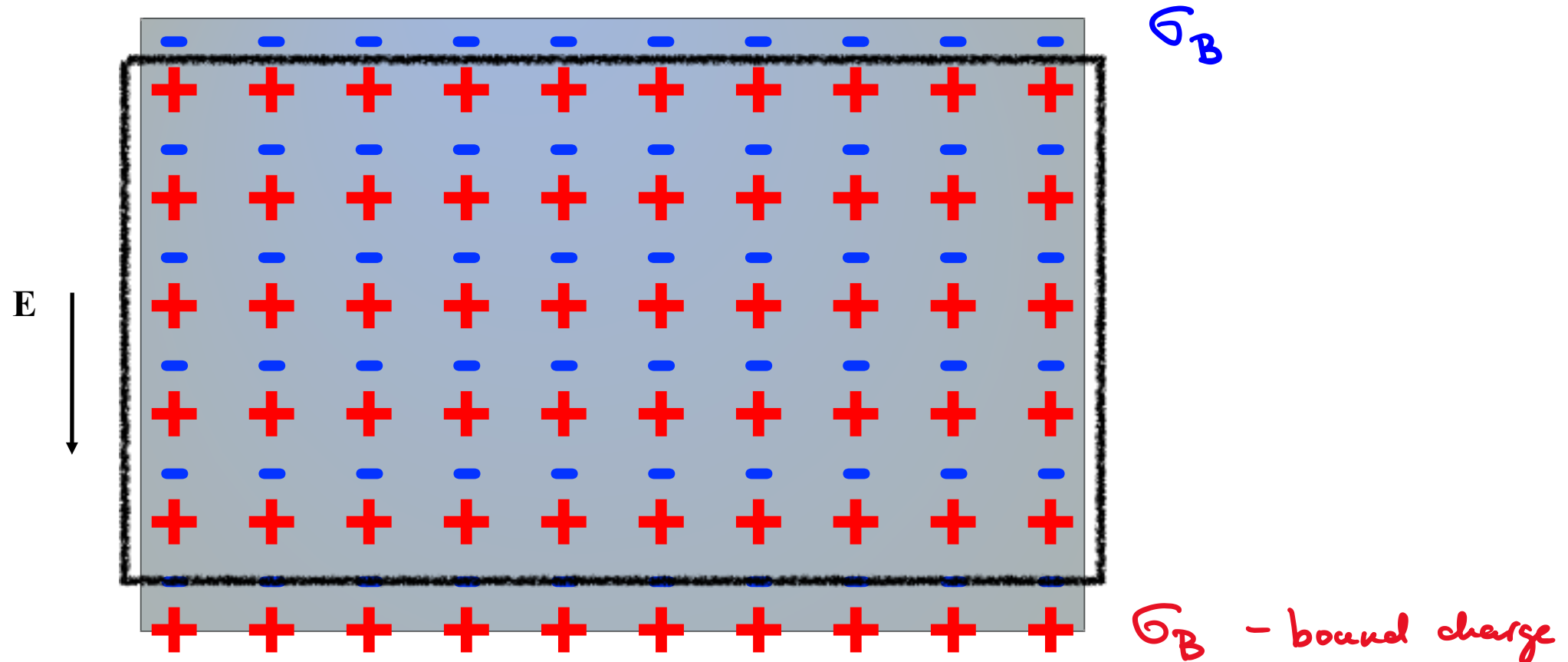


# Induced Polarization & Surface Charge

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# Induced Polarization & Surface Charge



There will be a **net surface charge** induced along the surface elements that are not parallel to  $E$  (top & bottom, here). The bulk material (inside the outlined region) will remain neutral if the polarization is uniform.

## Bound Surface Charge – 1

- The induced surface charge in a dielectric is similar to that in a conductor. The difference is one of degree: in a conductor, electrons are free to move in response to an applied field, until they reach a surface. This redistribution proceeds until the electric field within the conductor is zero.
- In a dielectric, electrons are bound to their atoms, so they're only free to move a little bit. As with a conductor, there will be un-cancelled surface charge, **but the electric field within the material will *not*, in general, be zero**. We call the un-cancelled surface charge in a dielectric **bound surface charge**,  $\sigma_B$ .

## Bound Surface Charge – 2

- Let the induced dipole in each atom be  $\mathbf{p} = q\mathbf{d}$ . Find surface charge density.
- Thickness of the surface charge layer:

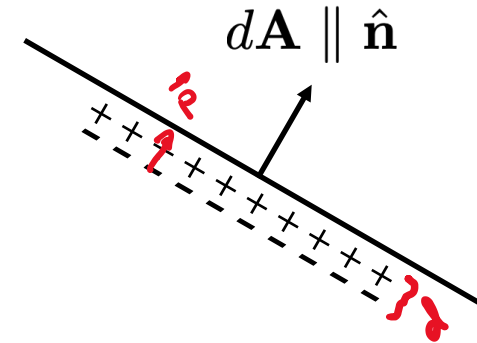
$t = \mathbf{d} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{n}}$ , where  $\hat{\mathbf{n}}$  is the unit vector normal to the surface.

- Amount of charge in the surface layer  $t$ :

$$\begin{aligned} dq &= qNdV = qN(dA t) = q N dA \mathbf{d} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{n}} \\ &= dA N(q\mathbf{d}) \cdot \hat{\mathbf{n}} = dA N\mathbf{p} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{n}} = dA \mathbf{P} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{n}} \end{aligned}$$

- Hence, the surface charge density is given by:

$$\rightarrow \sigma_B = dq/dA = \mathbf{P} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{n}}$$



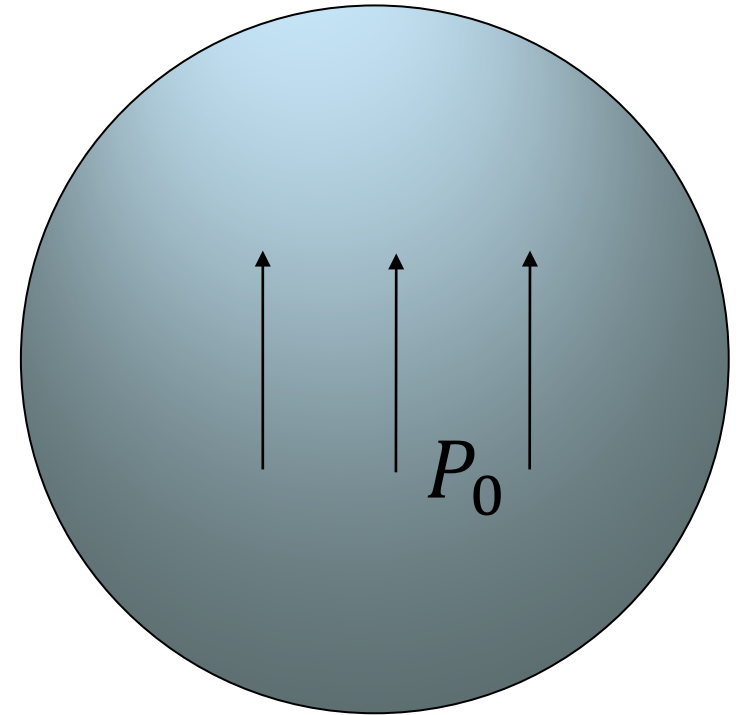
## Bound Surface Charge – 3

Q: A sphere of radius  $a$  has uniform polarization field  $\mathbf{P}_0$  which points in the  $z$  direction.

What is the bound surface charge density on the surface of this sphere? Here  $\theta$  is the usual polar angle off the  $z$  axis.

$$\sigma_B(\vec{r}) = \sigma_B(r, \theta, \varphi) = ?$$

- A. 0
- B.  $P_0$
- C.  $P_0 \sin \theta$
- D.  $P_0 \cos \theta$
- E. None of the above



## Bound Surface Charge – 3

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What is the bound surface charge density on the surface of this sphere? Here  $\theta$  is the usual polar angle off the  $z$  axis.

$$\sigma_B = \mathbf{P} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{n}} = \mathbf{P} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{r}}$$

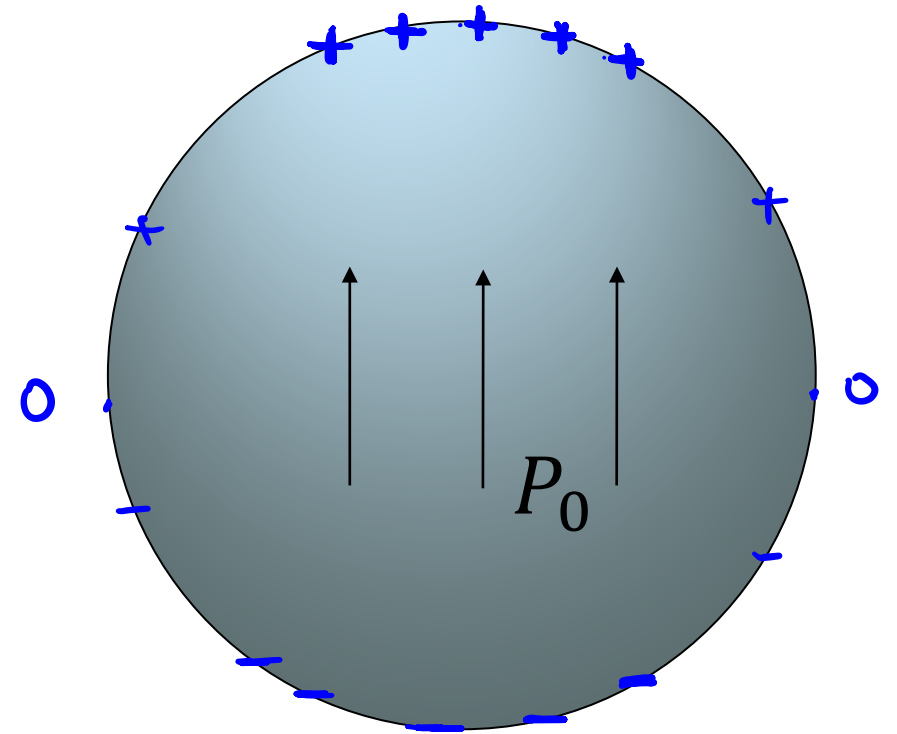
A. 0

B.  $P_0$

C.  $P_0 \sin \theta$

☒ D.  $P_0 \cos \theta$

E. None of the above



## Bound Volume Charge – 1

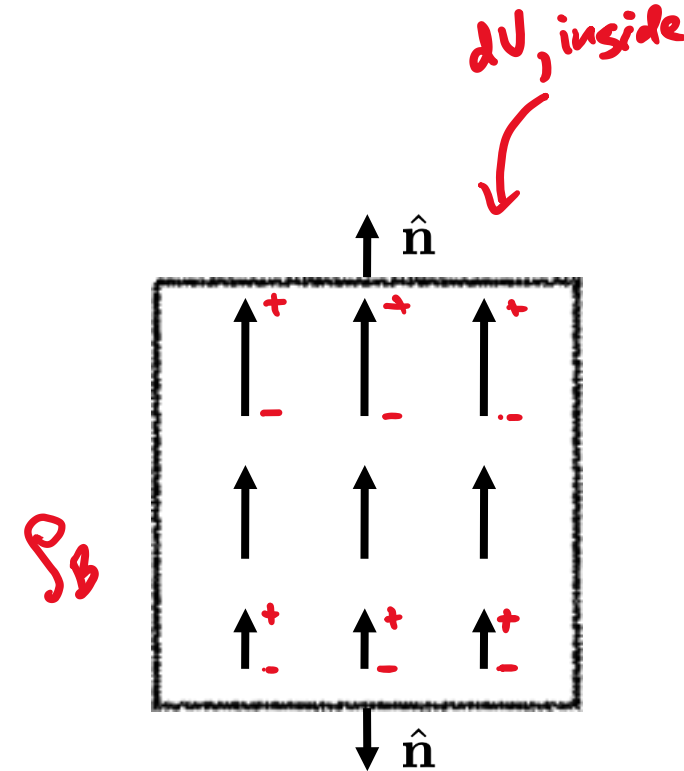
If the induced dipole moment per unit volume,  $\mathbf{P}$ , is **not uniform** within the material, there will also be a “bound volume charge”,  $\rho_B$ . For now, let's not worry about how non-uniform  $\mathbf{P}$  comes about.

Suppose we have a volume element of material with a **non-uniform** field  $\mathbf{P}$ , as shown in the diagram at right.

Within this volume, there is more positive charge leaving the top surface than there is entering the bottom surface, so there is a **net negative charge density** within this volume.

We call this **bound volume charge**,  $\rho_B$ , and relate it to the divergence of  $\mathbf{P}$  as follows:

$$\rightarrow \rho_B = -\nabla \cdot \mathbf{P}$$



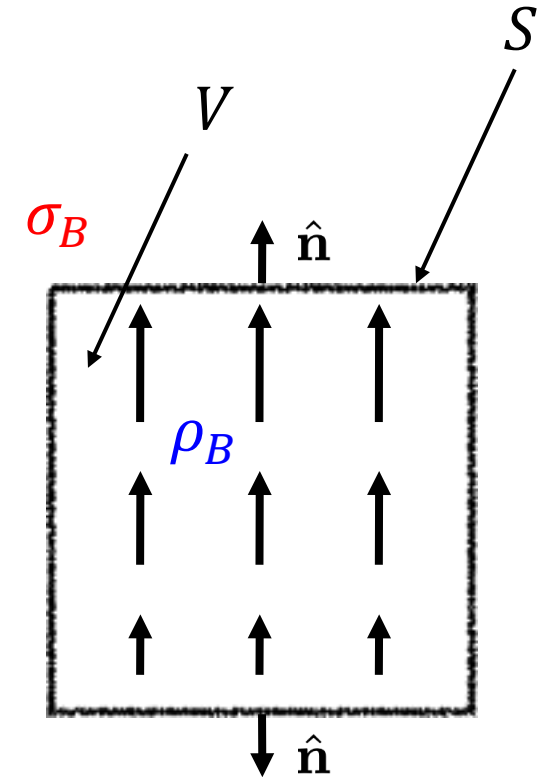
## Bound Volume Charge – 2

- Charge conservation:  $q_V + q_S = 0$

$$q_V = \int_V \rho_B d\tau$$

$$q_S = \int_S \sigma_B dA = \int_S (\mathbf{P} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{n}}) dA = \int_S \mathbf{P} \cdot d\mathbf{A} = \int_V \nabla \cdot \mathbf{P} d\tau$$

- For arbitrary volume:  $\int_V (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{P} + \rho_B) d\tau = 0 \quad \rightarrow \quad \rho_B = -\nabla \cdot \mathbf{P}$



- Check alternative derivation in Griffiths. He starts with potential of a collection of dipoles and shows that it naturally reduces to a sum of two terms:

$$V(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_S \frac{(\mathbf{P} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{n}})}{d} dA + \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int_V \frac{(-\nabla \cdot \mathbf{P})}{d} d\tau$$

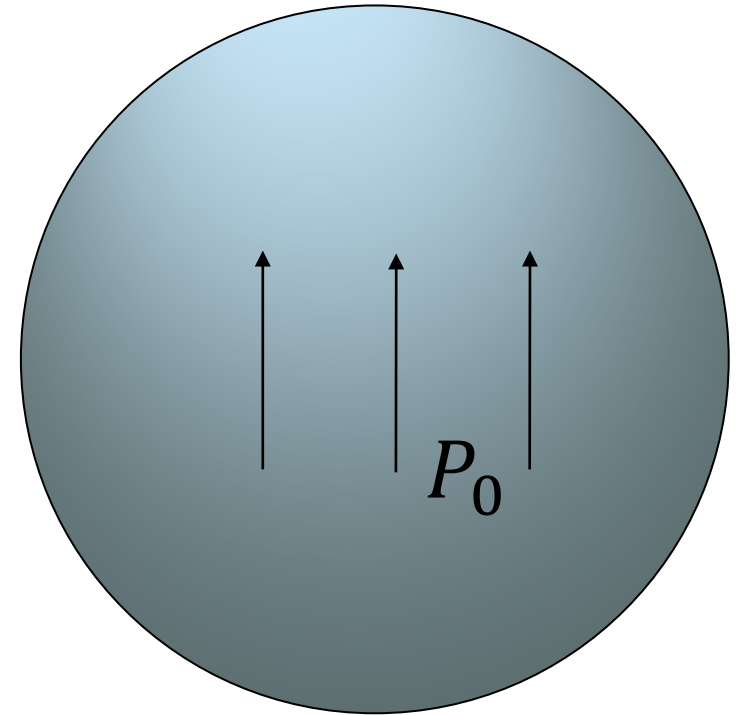


## Bound Volume Charge – 3

Q: A sphere of radius  $a$  has uniform polarization field  $\mathbf{P}_0$  which points in the  $z$  direction.

What is the bound **volume** charge density within this sphere? Here  $\theta$  is the usual polar angle off the  $z$  axis.

- A. 0
- B. None-zero constant
- C. Depends on  $r$ , but not on  $\theta$
- D. Depends on  $\theta$ , but not on  $r$
- E. None of the above



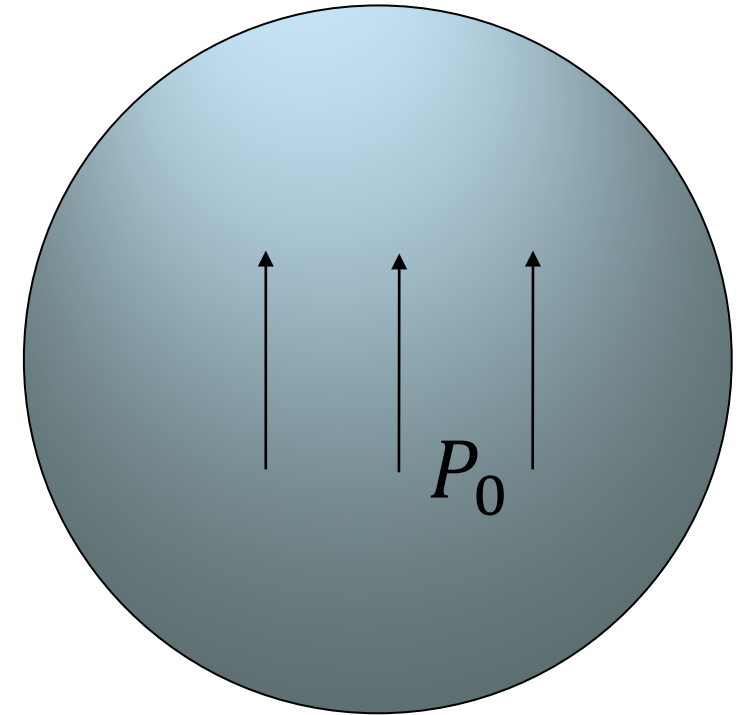
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What is the bound **volume** charge density within this sphere? Here  $\theta$  is the usual polar angle off the  $z$  axis.

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{P} = 0$$

- ☒ A. 0
- ☐ B. None-zero constant
- ☐ C. Depends on  $r$ , but not on  $\theta$
- ☐ D. Depends on  $\theta$ , but not on  $r$
- ☐ E. None of the above



## Example: Bound Charge

A sphere of radius  $R$  has a polarization field  $\mathbf{P}(\mathbf{r}) = k\mathbf{r}$  where  $k$  is a constant, and  $\mathbf{r}$  is the position vector from the centre of the sphere.

- a) Find the bound charge  $\sigma_B$  and  $\rho_B$  in the sphere. **A.**
- b) Find the electric field outside the sphere. **B.**

**TL :**

- A. zero**
- B.  $\sim 1/r^2$**
- C.  $\sim 1/r$**
- D. Smith else**

**C. ☹**

Reminder: for a spherically symmetric field,  $\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{r}) = A_r \hat{\mathbf{r}}$ , we have:  $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{A} = \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} (r^2 A_r)$

## Example: Bound Charge

a) The polarization field is:  $\mathbf{P}(\mathbf{r}) = k \mathbf{r} = kr \hat{\mathbf{r}}$

$$\rightarrow \sigma_B = \mathbf{P}(R) \cdot \hat{\mathbf{n}} = kR \hat{\mathbf{r}} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{r}} = kR$$

$$\rightarrow \nabla \cdot \mathbf{P}(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} (kr^3) = \frac{1}{r^2} 3kr^2 = 3k$$

$$\rightarrow \rho_B = -\nabla \cdot \mathbf{P} = -3k$$

b) By Gauss's law, the field outside the sphere is:  $\mathbf{E}(r) = \frac{q_B}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{\hat{\mathbf{r}}}{r^2}$

$$q_B = 4\pi R^2 \sigma_B + \frac{4\pi R^3}{3} \rho_B = 4\pi R^2 (kR) + \frac{4\pi R^3}{3} (-3k) = 0$$

$$\rightarrow \mathbf{E}(r) = 0$$

Q: Would the field inside the sphere be zero?

A: No, since  $\rho_B \neq 0$  inside the sphere.

## Bound Charges

Q: Are  $\sigma_B$  and  $\rho_B$  due to real charges?

- A. No. They are as fictitious as ghosts at Halloween.
- B. Yes. They are just as real as  $\sigma$  and  $\rho$  in Chapter 2.
- C. I have no idea.

## Bound Charges

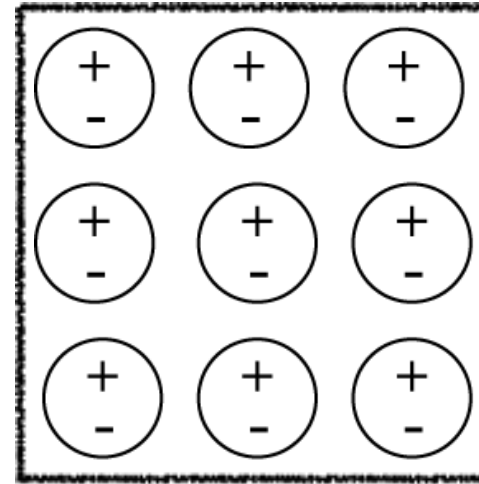
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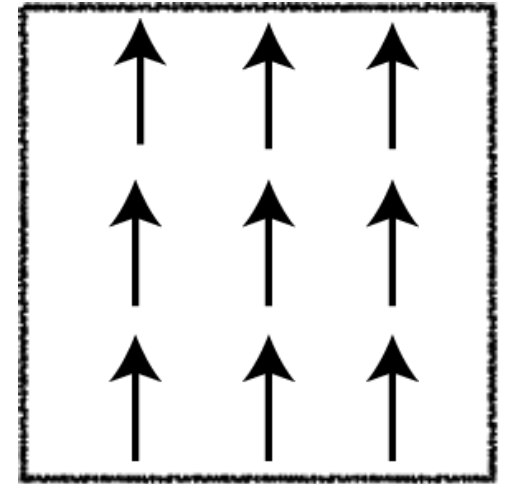
## Induced Polarization – 1

Q: In the system shown below, what can you say about the bound charge?

Assume uniform polarization within the material.



physical dipoles



ideal dipoles

- A.  $\sigma_B = 0, \rho_B \neq 0$
- B.  $\sigma_B \neq 0, \rho_B \neq 0$
- C.  $\sigma_B = 0, \rho_B = 0$
- D.  $\sigma_B \neq 0, \rho_B = 0$

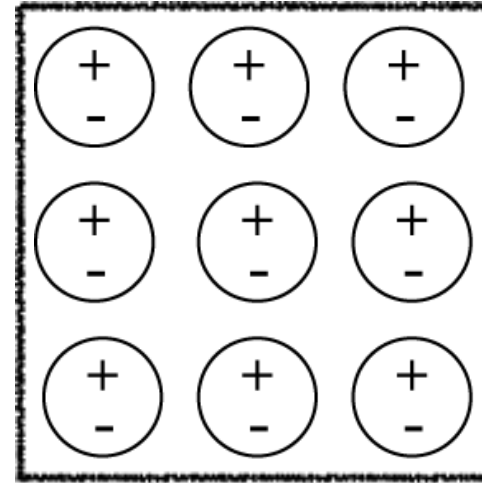
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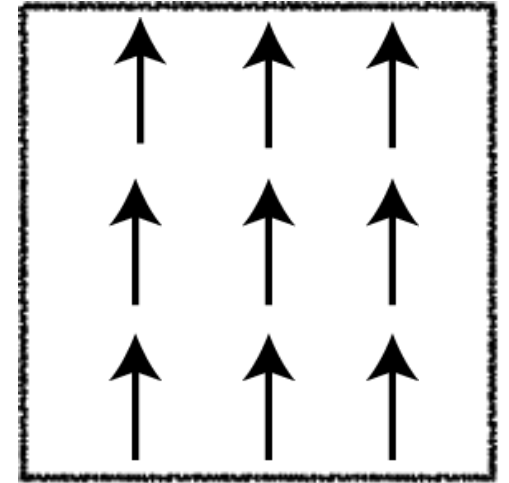
Assume uniform polarization within the material.

$$\mathbf{P} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{n}} \neq 0 \text{ along the top and bottom}$$

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{P} = 0$$



physical dipoles



ideal dipoles

A.  $\sigma_B = 0, \rho_B \neq 0$

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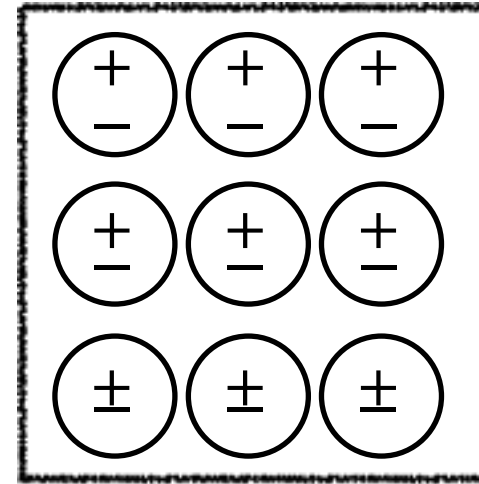
**D.  $\sigma_B \neq 0, \rho_B = 0$**

Uniform  $\mathbf{P} \Rightarrow$  no bound volume charge

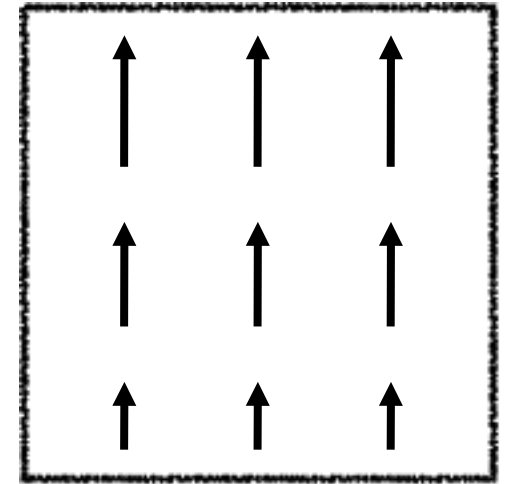


## Induced Polarization – 2

Q: In the system shown below, what can you say about the bound charge?



physical dipoles



ideal dipoles

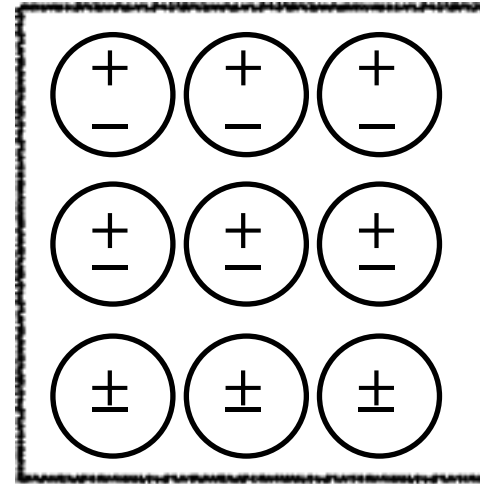
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## Induced Polarization – 2

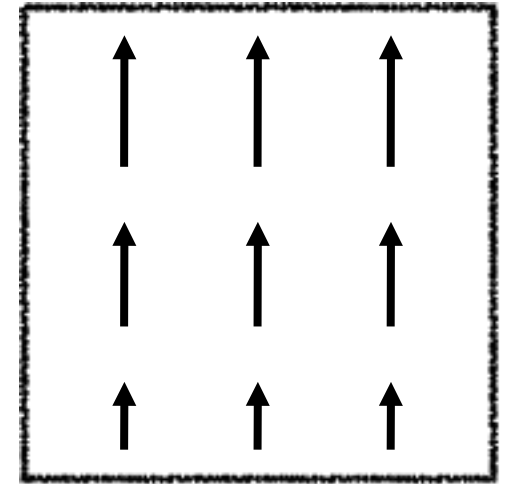
Q: In the system shown below, what can you say about the bound charge?

$\mathbf{P} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{n}} \neq 0$  along the top and bottom

$$\frac{\partial P_z}{\partial z} > 0 \rightarrow \nabla \cdot \mathbf{P} > 0$$



physical dipoles



ideal dipoles

A.  $\sigma_B = 0, \rho_B \neq 0$

**B.  $\sigma_B \neq 0, \rho_B \neq 0$**

C.  $\sigma_B = 0, \rho_B = 0$

D.  $\sigma_B \neq 0, \rho_B = 0$

Non-uniform  $\mathbf{P} \Rightarrow$  expect bound volume charge

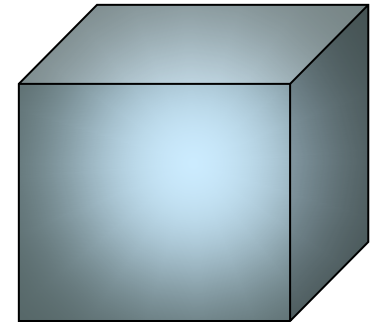
## Induced Polarization – 3

Q: An external point charge  $+Q$  is placed near a block of polarizable material. Assume the polarization in the block is proportional to the external electric field ( $\mathbf{P} \sim \mathbf{E}_{\text{ext}}$ , a so-called **linear dielectric**; more on this later). The net electrostatic force on the block due to the point charge will be:

Hint: think about the bound charge induced in the block.

What's  $\sigma_B$ ? What's  $\rho_B$ ?

$+Q$   

 A.  $\rho_B = 0$

B.  $\rho_B \neq 0$

 A. Attractive (to the left)

B. Repulsive (to the right)

C. Zero

## Induced Polarization – 3

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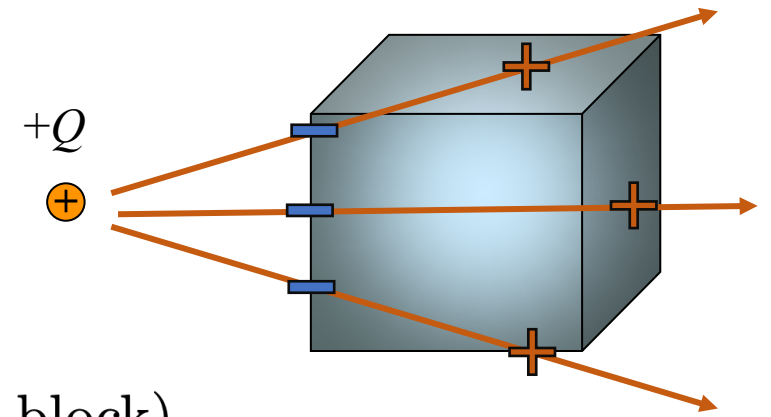
What's  $\sigma_B$ ? What's  $\rho_B$ ?

A.  $\rho_B = 0$

B.  $\rho_B \neq 0$

$\mathbf{P}(\mathbf{r}) \propto \mathbf{E}_{\text{ext}}(\mathbf{r}) \rightarrow \rho_B = 0$  (since  $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{E}_{\text{ext}} = 0$  in block)

$\nabla \cdot \vec{E} = \frac{\rho(r)}{\epsilon_0}$   $\leftarrow Q \delta(\vec{r}_{\text{charge}})$



A. Attractive (to the left)

B. Repulsive (to the right)

C. Zero

Negative charges are closer to  $+Q$  than positive charges  
 $\rightarrow$  net force to the left

## Polarization: Summary

- Solids are generally composed of neutral atoms and molecules; some have built-in, permanent dipole moments and some are simply polarizable.
- For non-conducting solids, the orientation of permanent dipoles is generally random, giving  $\mathbf{P} = 0$ .
- In **dielectric** materials, application of an external electric field polarizes atoms and molecules, and aligns their permanent dipole moments in the direction of the applied field.
- This **polarization** is characterized by a dipole moment per unit volume and leads to bound charges:

$$\sigma_B = \mathbf{P} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{n}} \quad \rho_B = -\nabla \cdot \mathbf{P}$$

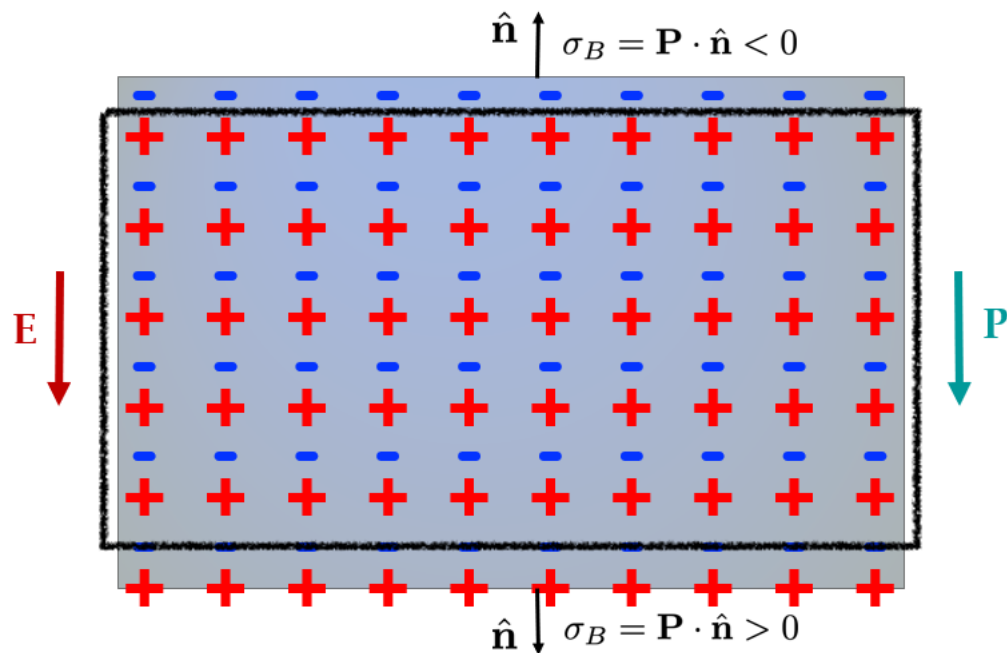
$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{P} = \frac{\partial P_x}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial P_y}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial P_z}{\partial z}.$$

$$\sigma_B = \mathbf{P} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{n}}$$

## Polarization: Summary

$$\rho_B = -\nabla \cdot \mathbf{P}$$

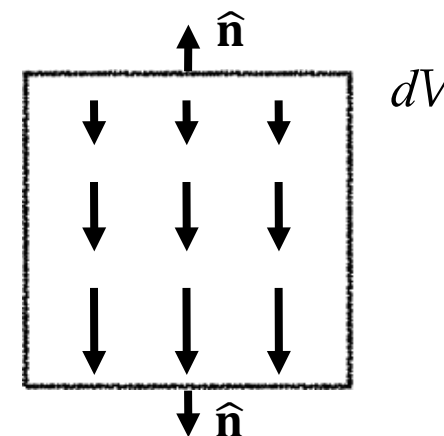
- Bound surface charge:



External electric field  
creates polarization

- Bound volume charge:

Here the spatially varying polarization pushes more positive charge *out* of  $dV$  at the bottom than it pushes positive charge *into  $dV$  at the top, hence  $\rho_B < 0$ .*



In a volume element,  $dV$ , within a dielectric, there will be bound charge associated with a divergence of  $\mathbf{P}$

# Electric Displacement

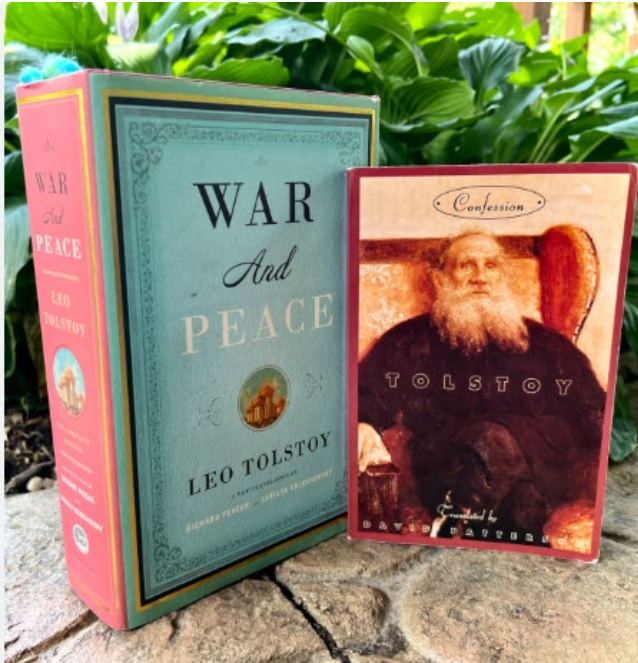
(Ch 4.3)

...or the art of bookkeeping  
fields and charges in dielectrics

- **D, P, E**
- Induced field, external field, total field
- Using Gauss's law in dielectrics
- **$\nabla \times \mathbf{D}$ ,  $\nabla \times \mathbf{P}$ ,  $\nabla \times \mathbf{E}$**







*Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812*



*Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812* (or simply *The Great Comet*) is a [sung-through musical](#) adaptation of a 70-page segment from [Leo Tolstoy](#)'s 1869 novel [War and Peace](#). The show was written by composer, lyricist, playwright, orchestrator [Dave Malloy](#) and originally directed by [Rachel Chavkin](#). It is based on Volume II, Part V of Tolstoy's novel, focusing on Natasha's romance with Anatole and Pierre's search for meaning in his life. [\[1\]\[2\]](#)

**[ALL]**

*Marya is old-school  
Sonya is good  
Natasha is young  
And Andrey isn't here*

**[ALL]**

*And this is all in your program  
You are at the opera  
Gonna have to study up a little bit  
If you wanna keep with the plot  
'Cause it's a complicated Russian novel  
Everyone's got nine different names  
So look it up in your program  
We'd appreciate it, thanks a lot*

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pEuttWI\\_J8M](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pEuttWI_J8M)



## Displacement Field

In a material, we might have both free and bound charges:  $\rho(\mathbf{r}) = \rho_F(\mathbf{r}) + \rho_B(\mathbf{r})$

Hence, 
$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{E} = \frac{\rho}{\epsilon_0} = \frac{\rho_F + \rho_B}{\epsilon_0} = \frac{\rho_F - \nabla \cdot \mathbf{P}}{\epsilon_0} \rightarrow \nabla \cdot (\underbrace{\epsilon_0 \mathbf{E} + \mathbf{P}}_{\text{Let's call this } \mathbf{D}}) = \rho_F$$

Let's call this **D**

$$\mathbf{D} \equiv \epsilon_0 \mathbf{E} + \mathbf{P} \rightarrow \nabla \cdot \mathbf{D} = \rho_F$$

(Maxwell's equation)

**D**, aka **displacement field**, has a physical meaning of the field due *only* to the free charges:

$$\int_V \nabla \cdot \mathbf{D} d\tau = \int_V \rho_F d\tau = Q_F \quad (\text{Gauss' law})$$

## Linear Dielectrics

In many insulating (dielectric) materials, there is a linear relation between the polarization of the material,  $\mathbf{P}$ , and the electric field,  $\mathbf{E}$ , in the material. (We will try to be very clear about what  $\mathbf{E}$  actually means here, see the following pages.) We write:

$$\mathbf{P} = \epsilon_0 \chi_e \mathbf{E}$$

where  $\chi_e$  is the **electric susceptibility** of the dielectric. It is a measure of how polarizable the material is. Then:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{D} &= \epsilon_0 \mathbf{E} + \mathbf{P} && \text{(always)} \\ &= \epsilon_0 \mathbf{E} + \epsilon_0 \chi_e \mathbf{E} && \text{(linear)} \\ &= \epsilon_0 (1 + \chi_e) \mathbf{E} \equiv \epsilon_0 \epsilon_r \mathbf{E} \end{aligned}$$

$\epsilon_r = (1 + \chi_e)$  is the **dielectric constant** or **relative permittivity**,  $\epsilon_0 \epsilon_r$  is the **permittivity**.