

13. The magnitude of the force of either of the charges on the other is given by

$$F = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q(Q-q)}{r^2}$$

where  $r$  is the distance between the charges. We want the value of  $q$  that maximizes the function  $f(q) = q(Q-q)$ . Setting the derivative  $df/dq$  equal to zero leads to  $Q - 2q = 0$ , or  $q = Q/2$ .