# **Intermolecular Forces**

#### Additional resource visit: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S8QsLUO\_tgQ



# Intermolecular forces (IMF)

- forces of attraction between molecules
  - dictated by attraction between positive and negative ends of adjacent molecules
- · degree of strength determines physical properties:
  - state of matter
  - melting/boiling point
  - hardness solubility
  - viscosity

  - surface tension

#### 1. Dipole-Dipole Forces (DDF)

- relatively strong force
- attraction between polar molecules
- positive and negative dipoles of adjacent molecules line up with one another
- spontaneous arrangement:
  - maximize number of attractive interactions; minimize number of repulsive interactions



nitrogen (N)

oxygen (O) fluorine (F)

# 2. Hydrogen "bonds" (H-bonds)

- special case of dipole-dipole force stronger than regular dipole-dipole
- occurs in molecules where H is bonded to highly electronegative atom •
  - very large  $\triangle EN \rightarrow$  significant positive and negative dipoles
  - strengthens the effects of dipole-dipole attraction



#### The more polar the molecule, the stronger the forces that exist between them. • higher ∆EN





Only between molecules containing the following bonds:

- N-H
- **O**-H
- F-H

What's so special about these three atoms?
high electronegativity → very polar bond

small size → allows close approach



- 3. London Dispersion Forces (LDF)
  - weak attractive force
  - experienced by <u>all</u> molecules (polar AND **non-polar**)
  - temporary imbalance in distribution of electrons causes a transient, fluctuating dipole
    - temporary dipoles of adjacent molecules attract each other
      - blue cloud = electron density Even in a non-polar molecule, electrons can be momentarily concentrated at one end  $\rightarrow \partial$ -





- For non-polar molecules, the molecule's  $\ensuremath{\textit{size}}$  influences the strength of LDF:
  - the larger the molecule, the more electrons it has
  - more electrons = larger number of LDF  $\rightarrow$  stronger forces
  - more electrons = larger electron cloud → more polarizable → stronger forces



Hydrocarbons are all non-polar.

Even these molecules experience LDF.



opposite dipoles attract



Mole





## An important feature of polarity:

### "Like Dissolves Like":

- polar substances only dissolve in polar solvents
- non-polar substances only dissolve in non-polar solvents
- · lack of attraction between polar and non-polar molecules
  - e.g., salt (NaCl) dissolves in water - oil and water don't mix



# The number of intermolecular forces between molecules dictates the physical properties of a substance.

#### Substances with lots of strong intermolecular forces:

- solid at room temperature (next highest = liquid; weakest = gas)
- hard to break/crush
- high melting and boiling pointshigh surface tension
- high viscosity
- Melting point: 0°C Boiling point: 100°C Viscosity of Water and Honey

Both of these hydrocarbons are non-polar:

- C-H bond is non-polar
- tetrahedral arrangement of H around carbon centres





Which is more likely to be a gas at room temperature?









all non-polar

Trend in boiling point?



# Water has many unique properties due to its ability to hydrogen bond.

- unusually high melting and boiling points
- less dense when solid (ice)
- high surface tension the ability to resist an increase in its surface area
- high specific heat capacity the energy required to raise its temperature by 1°C





