A quaternary (4°) ammonium ion is an ammonium ion that has the following general structural formula.

\[
\begin{array}{c}
R^2 \\
\downarrow \\
R^1 \quad N^+ \quad R^3 \\
\downarrow \\
R^4 
\end{array}
\]

\(R^1, R^2, R^3, \text{ and } R^4\) could be alkyl groups, aryl groups, or any combination thereof.

eg:

- see also quaternary ammonium salt, primary ammonium ion, secondary ammonium ion, tertiary ammonium ion

Contributors

- Gamini Gunawardena from the OChemPal site (Utah Valley University)