## **L2 - Quantum Mechanics 2**

**Quantum chemistry**

#### Previously on...

### **Computational simulations of nanosystems**



A **quantum particle**  delocalizes over space

#### **Schrödinger Equation**

$$
i\hbar \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial t} = \hat{H} \Psi
$$

*is the wave function*

*H* is the Hamiltonian operator

 $\hbar = 6.582 \times 10^{-16}$  eV.s is the Planck constant

If the Hamiltonian does not depend on time

Eigenvector

\n
$$
\hat{H}(\mathbf{r})\psi(\mathbf{r}) = E\psi(\mathbf{r})
$$
\nEigenvalue

If we have more than one particle, we still write a single wave function.  $\begin{aligned} \text{article, we still write a sing} \\\\ \text{now depends on the coc} \\\\ \Psi(\mathbf{r_{\text{l}}}, \mathbf{r_{\text{2}}}, t) \\\\ \Psi(\mathbf{r_{\text{l}}}, \mathbf{r_{\text{2}}}, \cdots, \mathbf{r_{\text{N}}}, t) \end{aligned}$ 

However, the wave function now depends on the coordinates of all particles.

For two particles:

$$
\Psi\big(\mathbf{r}_{1},\mathbf{r}_{2},t\big)
$$

For *N* particles:

 $\Psi(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2, t)$ <br> $(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2, \cdots, \mathbf{r}_N, t)$ 

Time-independent BO adiabatic formulation

Nuclear Schrödinger equation

$$
\left(\hat{T}_{nuc}(\mathbf{R})+E_n(\mathbf{R})\right)\chi_n(\mathbf{R})=\varepsilon\chi_n(\mathbf{R})
$$

Electronic Schrödinger equation

$$
\left(\hat{T}_{elec}\left(\mathbf{r}\right)+\hat{V}\left(\mathbf{r},\mathbf{R}\right)\right)\varphi_{n}\left(\mathbf{r};\mathbf{R}\right)=E_{n}\left(\mathbf{R}\right)\varphi_{n}\left(\mathbf{r};\mathbf{R}\right)
$$

BO molecular wave function

 $\mathcal{L}_n^{BO}(\mathbf{R}, \mathbf{r}) = \varphi_n(\mathbf{r}; \mathbf{R}) \chi_n(\mathbf{R})$ 

 $\left(\hat{T}_{elec}(\mathbf{r})+\hat{V}(\mathbf{r},\mathbf{R})\right)\varphi_{n}(\mathbf{r};\mathbf{R})=E_{n}(\mathbf{R})\varphi_{n}(\mathbf{r};\mathbf{R})$ 



# Riding the molecular roller coaster

#### Laying down the ground rules

- 1. Each valley corresponds to a different set of molecules.
- 2. We can only move between two valleys by rearranging the nuclear positions. We cannot add or remove nuclei after the ride starts.
- 3. We can only move between valleys if the *E*(**R**) remains smaller than the total energy.





- Nuclear quantum delocalization (Tunneling)
- EM fields (photoabsorption, stimulated emission)
- Diabatic mixing (internal conversion, intersystem crossing)
- Vac uum fluctuations (fluorescence, phosphorescence)

#### Setting the quantum patches

- 4. A proton can tunnel to the other valley even if the total energy is slightly lower than the barrier maximum. We know the tunneling probability.
- 5. If the track bifurcates during the reaction, the molecule can follow either, releasing or absorbing heat, with known probabilities.
- 6. If the molecule is in a lower track, it can be promoted to an upper track by absorbing light. We know the probability of populating each higher track.
- 7. If the molecule is in an upper track, it can spontaneously go to the lower track by emitting light. We know the probability of this emission happening.



youtube.com/user/mbarbatti

# BO approximation: Time-dependent perspective

Time-independent

 $\hat{H}(\mathbf{R}, \mathbf{r}) \Psi(\mathbf{R}, \mathbf{r}) = \varepsilon \Psi(\mathbf{R}, \mathbf{r})$  $H(\mathbf{R}, \mathbf{r}) \Psi(\mathbf{R}, \mathbf{r}) = \varepsilon \Psi(\mathbf{R}, \mathbf{r})$ 

Time-dependent

 $\hat{H}(\mathbf{R}, \mathbf{r}) \Psi(\mathbf{R}, \mathbf{r}, t) = i \hbar \partial_t \Psi(\mathbf{R}, \mathbf{r}, t)$ 

Nuclear equation

$$
\Psi(\mathbf{R}, \mathbf{r}) = \sum_{n} \varphi_{n}(\mathbf{r}; \mathbf{R}) \chi_{n}(\mathbf{R}) \qquad \qquad \Psi(1)
$$

Time-dependent  
\n
$$
\hat{H}(\mathbf{R}, \mathbf{r}) \Psi(\mathbf{R}, \mathbf{r}, t) = i\hbar \partial_t \Psi(\mathbf{R}, \mathbf{r}, t)
$$
\n
$$
\Psi(\mathbf{R}, \mathbf{r}, t) = \sum_n \varphi_n(\mathbf{r}; \mathbf{R}) \chi_n(\mathbf{R}, t)
$$
\n
$$
\text{Lip}(\mathbf{r})
$$
\n
$$
= E_n(\mathbf{R}) \varphi_n(\mathbf{r}; \mathbf{R})
$$

Electronic equation

dent Time-dependent  
\n
$$
= \varepsilon \Psi(\mathbf{R}, \mathbf{r}) \qquad \hat{H}(\mathbf{R}, \mathbf{r}) \Psi(\mathbf{R}, \mathbf{r}, t) = i\hbar \partial_t \Psi(\mathbf{R}, \mathbf{r}, t)
$$
\n
$$
(\mathbf{r}; \mathbf{R}) \chi_n(\mathbf{R}) \qquad \Psi(\mathbf{R}, \mathbf{r}, t) = \sum_n \varphi_n(\mathbf{r}; \mathbf{R}) \chi_n(\mathbf{R}, t)
$$
\nElectronic equation  
\n
$$
(\hat{T}_{elec}(\mathbf{r}) + \hat{V}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{R})) \varphi_n(\mathbf{r}; \mathbf{R}) = E_n(\mathbf{R}) \varphi_n(\mathbf{r}; \mathbf{R})
$$

Time-dependent Born-Huang formulation

$$
\hat{H}_{n'}\chi_{n'} - i\hbar \partial_{t}\chi_{n'} + \sum_{n} \hat{N}_{n'n}\chi_{n'} = 0
$$
\n
$$
\hat{H}_{n'} = \hat{T}_{nuc} + E_{n'}
$$
\n
$$
\hat{N}_{n'n} = -\frac{\hbar^{2}}{2M} \left[ \langle \varphi_{n'} | \nabla_{\mathbf{R}}^{2} \varphi_{n} \rangle_{\mathbf{r}} + 2 \langle \varphi_{n'} | \nabla_{\mathbf{R}} \varphi_{n} \rangle_{\mathbf{r}} \cdot \nabla_{\mathbf{R}} \right]
$$

$$
\begin{pmatrix}\n\hat{H}_1 - i\hbar \partial_t & \hat{N}_{12} & \hat{N}_{13} & \cdots \\
\hat{N}_{21} & \hat{H}_2 - i\hbar \partial_t & \hat{N}_{23} & \cdots \\
\vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \cdots\n\end{pmatrix}\n\begin{pmatrix}\n\chi_1 \\
\chi_2 \\
\chi_3 \\
\vdots\n\end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix}\n0 \\
0 \\
0 \\
\vdots\n\end{pmatrix}
$$

Adiabatic approximation

$$
\hat{N}_{n'n}\chi_n = 0
$$
\n
$$
\hat{H}_1 - i\hbar \partial_t \qquad 0 \qquad 0 \qquad \cdots \qquad \begin{bmatrix} \chi_1 \\ \chi_2 \\ \chi_3 \\ \vdots \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \end{bmatrix}
$$
\n
$$
\vdots \qquad \vdots
$$

$$
\hat{H}_n \chi_n - i\hbar \partial_t \chi_n = 0
$$

$$
\hat{T}_{nuc}\chi_n+E_n\chi_n=i\hbar\partial_t\chi_n
$$

Time-dependent BO adiabatic formulation

BO molecular wave function

$$
\Psi_n^{BO}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{R}, t) = \varphi_n(\mathbf{r}; \mathbf{R}) \chi_n(\mathbf{R}, t)
$$

Nuclear Schrödinger equation

$$
\hat{T}_{nuc}\chi_n + E_n\chi_n - i\hbar \partial_t \chi_n = 0
$$

Electronic Schrödinger equation

$$
\Big(\hat{T}_{elec}+\hat{V}\Big)\rho_{n}=E_{n}\rho_{n}
$$

# A note about molecular time



There's no time dependency.

A molecule is not rotating or vibrating! Electrons are not orbiting!

$$
\left(\hat{T}_{nuc}(\mathbf{R})+E_n(\mathbf{R})\right)\chi_n(\mathbf{R})=\varepsilon_n\chi_n(\mathbf{R})
$$
\n
$$
\left(\hat{T}_{elec}(\mathbf{r})+\hat{V}(\mathbf{r},\mathbf{R})\right)\varphi_n(\mathbf{r};\mathbf{R})=E_n(\mathbf{R})\varphi_n(\mathbf{r};\mathbf{R})
$$

Barbatti, Aeon Magazine **2023**, [tinyurl.com/emptyatom](https://tinyurl.com/emptyatom)

For a stationary state

- Momentum = wave function steepness  $\left[-i\hbar\nabla\psi\right]$
- Kinetic energy = field stress (how much the wave function differs from the mean)

2

2 |

 $-\frac{V^2}{2 M}\nabla^2 \psi$ 

 $\left[\begin{array}{cc} \hbar^2 & \n\end{array}\right]$ 

2*M*

 $\mathcal{W}$  |

For a stationary state  
\n• Momentum = wave function steepness 
$$
\left[-i\hbar\nabla\psi\right]
$$
  
\n• Kinetic energy = field stress (how much the wave function differs from the mean)  $\left[-\frac{\hbar^2}{2M}\nabla^2\psi\right]$   
\n• Spin = curl of the electron density \*  $\left[\frac{\hbar}{4}\nabla\times(\tilde{\psi}^\dagger\sigma\tilde{\psi})\right]$ 

• Angular momentum = wave function blobs and nodes



"**Electronic correlation** is the interaction between electrons in the electronic structure of a quantum system. The correlation energy is a measure of how much the **movement** of one electron is influenced by the presence of all other electrons."

- Wikipedia

"**Electron correlation** is the adjustment of electron **motion** to the instantaneous (as opposed to timeaveraged) positions of all the electrons in a molecular entity."

- IUPAC Gold Book

Which motion are they talking about?

#### Do orbitals exist?

$$
\varphi(\mathbf{r}; \mathbf{R}) = f(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \dots, \mathbf{x}_N; \mathbf{R}) \quad \mathbf{x}_i = \mathbf{r}_i \omega_i
$$

$$
\varphi(\mathbf{r}; \mathbf{R}) = f(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, ..., \mathbf{x}_N; \mathbf{R}) \quad \mathbf{x}_i = \mathbf{r}_i \omega_i
$$
  

$$
\varphi(\mathbf{r}; \mathbf{R}) = A\{\phi_1(\mathbf{x}_1; \mathbf{R})\phi_2(\mathbf{x}_2; \mathbf{R})...\phi_N(\mathbf{x}_N; \mathbf{R})\}
$$





Time becomes important again during chemical reactions or field interactions



Crespo-Otero *et al. PCCP* **2014,** *16*, 18877

#### https://youtu.be/W2Xb2GFK2yc



# Quantum Chemistry

Time-independent BO adiabatic formulation

Nuclear Schrödinger equation

$$
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$$

Electronic Schrödinger equation

$$
\left(\hat{T}_{elec}\left(\mathbf{r}\right)+\hat{V}\left(\mathbf{r},\mathbf{R}\right)\right)\varphi_{n}\left(\mathbf{r};\mathbf{R}\right)=E_{n}\left(\mathbf{R}\right)\varphi_{n}\left(\mathbf{r};\mathbf{R}\right)
$$

BO molecular wave function

 $\mathcal{L}_n^{BO}(\mathbf{R}, \mathbf{r}) = \varphi_n(\mathbf{r}; \mathbf{R}) \chi_n(\mathbf{R})$ 

#### Quantum chemistry's primary goal

Given a nuclear geometry **R**, solve the electronic Schrödinger equation in the adiabatic approximation

$$
\left(\hat{T}_{elec}\left(\mathbf{r}\right)+\hat{V}\left(\mathbf{r},\mathbf{R}\right)\right)\!\varphi_{_{n}}\!\left(\mathbf{r};\mathbf{R}\right)\!=\!E_{_{n}}\!\left(\mathbf{R}\right)\!\varphi_{_{n}}\!\left(\mathbf{r};\mathbf{R}\right)
$$

to get electronic energies  $E_n$  and electronic wave function  $\varphi_n$  for state  $n.$ 

# Quantum chemistry's methods  $\begin{array}{lll} \text{chemistry's methods} \ \text{ction based} & \text{Density based} \ \text{\tiny $\varphi_n$} & \quad \text{\tiny $\varphi_n=\ket{\varphi_n}\bra{\varphi_n}$} \ \text{\tiny \tiny \color{blue}\text{-Fock} & \quad \text{\tiny \tiny \color{blue}\text{DFT}} & \ \text{\tiny \tiny \color{blue}\text{DTB}} & \ \text{\tiny \tiny \color{blue}\text{TDDFT}} \end{array}$

# Wave-function based **Density** based

- Hartree-Fock
- MP
- CC
- CASSCF
- CASPT2
- CI
- ADC
- $\bullet$  ...

 $\rho_n = |\varphi_n\rangle \langle \varphi_n|$ 

- DFT
- DFTB
- TDDFT
- TDA
- DFT-CI
- REKS
- BSE
- $\bullet$  ...

#### Quantum chemistry's bottom-up approach



AOs are hydrogen-like orbitals



#### 1. Define AO basis

#### Gaussian basis sets



Example: 1s AO for hydrogen using STO-3G basis set:

$$
\phi_{1s}(r) = \sum_{j=1}^{3} d_j G_{100}(r; \alpha_j)
$$





[www.basissetexchange.org](http://www.basissetexchange.org/)

#### 2. Use AOs to build MOs



#### LCAO: linear combination of atomic orbitals

Given a basis of AOs { $\phi_{\mu}$ }, the MOs  $\psi_{\text{i}}$  are written as

$$
\psi_i(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_{\mu} c_{\mu i} \phi_{\mu}(\mathbf{r})
$$

For example



To take the electron spin into account, we define spin orbitals

$$
\eta_i(\mathbf{x}) = \psi_i(\mathbf{r}) \sigma_i(\omega) \quad \mathbf{x} = (r, \omega)
$$

 $\omega$  is spin up or down.

#### $\psi_i(\mathbf{r})$  can hold **two** electrons (up and down)

 $\eta_i(\mathbf{x})$  can hold **one** electron (up or down)



#### 3. Use MOs to build WF guess

**Pauli Exclusion Principle** 

$$
\boldsymbol{\varphi}\Big(\mathbf{x}_{1},\mathbf{x}_{2},\cdots,\mathbf{x}_{k},\mathbf{x}_{l},\cdots,\mathbf{x}_{N_{el}}\Big) \!=\! -\boldsymbol{\varphi}\Big(\mathbf{x}_{1},\mathbf{x}_{2},\cdots,\mathbf{x}_{l},\mathbf{x}_{k},\cdots,\mathbf{x}_{N_{el}}\Big)
$$

#### Wave function guess for two electrons

Consider two electrons, one up in spin-orbital  $\eta_a$  and one down in  $\eta_b$ 



First wave function guess:

$$
\varphi_{\text{guess1}}(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2) = \eta_a(\mathbf{x}_1)\eta_b(\mathbf{x}_2)
$$

Switch the electrons:

$$
\varphi_{\text{guess1}}(\mathbf{x}_2, \mathbf{x}_1) = \eta_a(\mathbf{x}_2) \eta_b(\mathbf{x}_1)
$$

 $\varphi_{\text{guess1}} (\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2) = \varphi_{\text{guess1}} (\mathbf{x}_2, \mathbf{x}_1)$ *guess1* **does not satisfy** Pauli exclusion principle:

#### Wave function guess for two electrons

Consider two electrons, one up in spin-orbital  $\eta_a$  and one down in  $\eta_b$ 



Second wave function guess:

$$
\varphi_{\text{guess2}}\left(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2\right) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \Big[ \eta_a\left(\mathbf{x}_1\right) \eta_b\left(\mathbf{x}_2\right) - \eta_b\left(\mathbf{x}_1\right) \eta_a\left(\mathbf{x}_2\right) \Big]
$$

Switch the electrons:

ion guess for two electrons  
\nlectrons, one up in spin-orbital 
$$
\eta_a
$$
 and one down in  $\eta_b$   
\n
$$
\eta_b
$$
\n
$$
\eta_b
$$
\n
$$
\eta_a
$$
\nfunction guess:  
\n
$$
\varphi_{guess2}(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} [\eta_a(\mathbf{x}_1)\eta_b(\mathbf{x}_2) - \eta_b(\mathbf{x}_1)\eta_a(\mathbf{x}_2)]
$$
\n
$$
\text{trons:\n
$$
\varphi_{guess2}(\mathbf{x}_2, \mathbf{x}_1) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} [\eta_a(\mathbf{x}_2)\eta_b(\mathbf{x}_1) - \eta_b(\mathbf{x}_2)\eta_a(\mathbf{x}_1)]
$$
\n
$$
\text{Pauli exclusion principle:\n
$$
\varphi_{guess2}(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2) = -\varphi_{guess2}(\mathbf{x}_2, \mathbf{x}_1)
$$
$$
$$

*guess2* **satisfies** Pauli exclusion principle:

$$
\varphi_{\text{guess2}}\left(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2\right) = -\varphi_{\text{guess2}}\left(\mathbf{x}_2, \mathbf{x}_1\right)
$$

$$
\varphi_{\text{guess2}}(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \Big[ \eta_a(\mathbf{x}_1) \eta_b(\mathbf{x}_2) - \eta_b(\mathbf{x}_1) \eta_a(\mathbf{x}_2) \Big]
$$

can be written as the determinant of the matrix

$$
\varphi_{\text{guess2}}(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \det \begin{bmatrix} \eta_a(\mathbf{x}_1) & \eta_b(\mathbf{x}_1) \\ \eta_a(\mathbf{x}_2) & \eta_b(\mathbf{x}_2) \end{bmatrix}
$$

Such an antisymmetric wave function guess is called a **Slater determinant**.

#### Multiple electron Slater determinant

$$
\Phi(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \cdots, \mathbf{x}_N) = (N!)^{-1/2} \det \begin{bmatrix} \eta_a(\mathbf{x}_1) & \eta_b(\mathbf{x}_1) & \cdots & \eta_K(\mathbf{x}_1) \\ \eta_a(\mathbf{x}_2) & \eta_b(\mathbf{x}_2) & \cdots & \eta_K(\mathbf{x}_2) \\ \vdots & \vdots & \cdots & \vdots \\ \eta_a(\mathbf{x}_N) & \eta_b(\mathbf{x}_N) & \cdots & \eta_K(\mathbf{x}_N) \end{bmatrix}
$$

Factorial:  $4! = 4 \times 3 \times 2 \times 1 = 24$  $0! = 1$ 

Methods like HF and DFT use a single Slater determinant to guess the electronic wave function.

$$
\boldsymbol{\varphi}_{\text{guess}}\left(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \cdots, \mathbf{x}_N\right) = \boldsymbol{\Phi}\left(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \cdots, \mathbf{x}_N\right)
$$

The unknowns are  $c_{\scriptscriptstyle\mu i}^{}$  from MOs.

Methods like CASSCF and CI use multiple Slater determinants to guess the electronic wave function.

$$
\varphi_{\text{guess}}\left(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \cdots, \mathbf{x}_N\right) = \sum_{L} C_L \Phi_L\left(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \cdots, \mathbf{x}_N\right)
$$

The unknowns are  $c_{\mu i}$  and  $C_{L}$ .

#### 4. Use WF guess to get final WF or density



Solving the time-independent Schrödinger equation

me-independent Schrödinger equation  
\n
$$
\hat{H}|\psi\rangle = E|\psi\rangle
$$
\nexpand  
\n $|\psi\rangle = \sum_{i} C_{i} |\phi_{i}\rangle$   $\longleftarrow$  known  
\nunknown  
\nreplace  
\n $\hat{H} \sum_{i} C_{i} |\phi_{i}\rangle = E \sum_{i} C_{i} |\phi_{i}\rangle$   
\nproject &  
\nproject &  
\nintegerate  
\n $\sum_{i} C_{i} \langle \phi_{j} | \hat{H} | \phi_{i} \rangle = E C_{j}$ 

$$
\sum_{i=1}^{N} C_i H_{ji} = EC_j \qquad \text{where } H_{ji} = \langle \phi_j | H | \phi_i \rangle
$$

 $C_1H_{11} + C_2H_{12} = EC_1$  $C_1H_{21} + C_2H_{22} = EC_2$ Suppose *N* = 2:

Rewrite as a matrix multiplication:

$$
\begin{pmatrix} H_{11} & H_{12} \\ H_{21} & H_{22} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} C_1 \\ C_2 \end{pmatrix} = E \begin{pmatrix} C_1 \\ C_2 \end{pmatrix}
$$

Rewrite as a matrix equation:

$$
HC = EC
$$

# al methods can be rewritten as<br>**HC** = *E***C** Most quantum chemical methods can be rewritten as

Toy example: 
$$
\mathbf{H} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}
$$

Looking for  $C$  that satisfies  $HC = EC$ 

$$
\text{Trial 1: } \mathbf{C}_{\text{guess}} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}
$$

$$
\mathbf{HC}_{guess} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \times 3 + 1 \times 1 \\ 1 \times 3 + 2 \times 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 7 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} \neq EC_{guess}
$$

$$
\mathbf{C}_{\text{guess}} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}
$$
 is not an eigenvector

Toy example: 
$$
\mathbf{H} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}
$$

Looking for  $C$  that satisfies  $HC = EC$ 

$$
\text{Trial 2: } \mathbf{C}_{\text{guess}} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}
$$

$$
\mathbf{HC}_{guess} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \times 1 + 1 \times 1 \\ 1 \times 1 + 2 \times 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} = 3 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = E\mathbf{C}_{guess}
$$

$$
\mathbf{C}_{\text{guess}} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}
$$
 is an eigenvector with eigenvalue  $E = 3$ 

In real quantum chemical problems

 $HC = EC$ 

is solved in two steps:

1. Form matrix **H**. It means to compute each integral  $H_{ji} = \left\langle \phi_j \left| \hat{H} \right| \phi_i \right\rangle$ 

2. Diagonalize **H**-**I***E* to get *C* (wave function) and *E* (energy).

Both steps take time because the matrices have millions of elements.



Such a problem is solved with a self-consistent approach (SFC):

- $\mathbf{H}\left( E^{(0)}, \mathbf{C}^{(0)} \right) \mathbf{C}^{(1)} = E^{(1)} \mathbf{C}^{(1)}$ 1. Guess an approximated *E* (0) and **C**(0) and solve
- 2. Use *E* (1) and **C**(1) to solve

$$
\mathbf{H}\left(E^{(1)},\mathbf{C}^{(1)}\right)\mathbf{C}^{(2)} = E^{(2)}\mathbf{C}^{(2)}
$$

3. Continue the iterations until

$$
E^{(N)}=E^{(N-1)}
$$

#### Gradients and Hessian matrices

In addition to electronic energies  $E_{n}$ , wave functions  $\varphi_{n}$ , and densities  $\rho_{n}$ , quantum chemistry also aims to get:

- Electronic energy gradient **g***<sup>n</sup>*
- Electronic energy Hessian **H**<sub>n</sub>

Electronic energy gradient

$$
\begin{aligned}\n\text{ergy gradient} \\
\mathbf{g}_n &= \nabla E_n = \begin{pmatrix}\n\frac{\partial E_n}{\partial X_1} & \frac{\partial E_n}{\partial Y_1} & \frac{\partial E_n}{\partial Z_1} \\
\vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\
\frac{\partial E_n}{\partial X_{N_{\alpha}}} & \frac{\partial E_n}{\partial Y_{N_{\alpha}}} & \frac{\partial E_n}{\partial Z_{N_{\alpha}}}\n\end{pmatrix}\n\end{aligned}
$$
\n
$$
\text{string on the nuclei} \\
\mathbf{F}_n = -\nabla E_n
$$
\n
$$
\text{minimum or maximum energy,} \\
\mathbf{F}_n = 0
$$

Electronic force acting on the nuclei

$$
\mathbf{F}_n = -\nabla E_n
$$

At a geometry of minimum or maximum energy,

$$
\mathbf{F}_n = 0
$$

Electronic energy Hessian



Used to find the vibrational normal modes

 $\overline{0}$ At a geometry of minimum  $H_n > 0$ 

#### To know more:

Introduction to quantum chemistry:

- Szabo; Ostlund, *Modern quantum chemistry.* **1989**. Ch 2
- DFT: Baerends; Gritsenko; van Meer. *PCCP* **2013**, *15*, 16408
- TDDFT: Huix-Rotllant; Ferré; Barbatti, *In Quantum chemistry and dynamics of excited states*, **2020**

The BO approximation

• Eric J Heller, *The semiclassical way*, **2018**. Ch 16

About molecular time

• Barbatti, Aeon Magazine **2023**, [tinyurl.com/emptyatom](https://tinyurl.com/emptyatom) 

Available for download at: [amubox.univ-amu.fr/s/xXAiMZrDPb9RMRX](https://amubox.univ-amu.fr/s/xXAiMZrDPb9RMRX) Ask me for the password.