

# Modern Approaches to Hückel Molecular Orbital Method in Chemistry

### Ernesto Estrada

ernesto.estrada@strath.ac.uk www.estradalab.org

# Organisation of this talk

✓ Historic introduction

- ✓ HMO in a nutshell
- ✓ HMO and molecular stability
- ✓ HMO, bipartivity and stability
- ✓ What is the HMO energy after all?
- ✓ HMO and Spintronics
- ✓ HMO and molecular electronics

# Historic background: 'Influencers'

#### Fritz Walter H. Heitler



**1927**. W. Heitler and F. London, "Wechselwirkung neutraler Atome und homöopolare Bindung nach der Quantenmechanik", Zeitschrift für Physik, 44, 455–472 (1927).



•3 H. Hartmann and H. C. Longuet-Higgins, Biogr. Mems Fell. R. Soc. 28 (1982) 153-162.

# Historic background: 'Influencers'

**1928**. Obtains Ph.D. from University of Leipzig. Publishes thesis Uber die Quantenmechanik der Elektronen in Kristallgittern, (On the quantum mechanics of electrons in crystal lattices).

### **Bloch Theorem**

"When I started to think about it, I felt that the main problem was to explain how the electrons could sneak by all the ions in a metal .... By straight Fourier analysis, I found to my delight that the wave differed from the plane wave of free electron only by a periodic modulation."

#### **Felix Bloch**



--Felix Bloch, Physics Today (1976)

H. Hartmann and H. C. Longuet-Higgins, Biogr. Mems Fell. R. Soc. 28 (1982) 153-162.

# Historic background: 'Influencers'

Fiedrich Hund



Mulliken

Gerhard Herzberg



John

1928-1929: Developed the method of molecular one-electron states.



• 5 H. Hartmann and H. C. Longuet-Higgins, Biogr. Mems Fell. R. Soc. 28 (1982) 153-162.

# Historic background: Erich Hückel



9 August 1896 16 February 1980

Hückel, E. (1930). "Zur Quantentheorie der Doppelbindung" [Quantum theory of double linkings]. *Zeitschrift für Physik*. **60** (7–8): 423–456.

Hückel, E. (1931). "Quantentheoretische Beiträge zum Benzolproblem". *Zeitschrift für Physik*. **70** (3–4): 204–286.

Hückel, E. (1931). "Quantum-theoretical contributions to the benzene problem. I. The electron configuration of benzene and related compounds". *Z. Phys.* **70**: 204–86.

Hückel, E. (1932). "Quantum theoretical contributions to the problem of aromatic and non-saturated compounds". *Z. Phys.* **76**: 628.

Hückel, E. (1937). "The theory of unsaturated and aromatic compounds". *Z. Elektrochem. Angew. Physik. Chem.* **42**: 752 and 827.

Hückel, E. (1936). "Theory of the magnetism of so-called biradicals". *Z. Phys. Chem.* **B34**: 339.

H. Hartmann and H. C. Longuet-Higgins, Biogr. Mems Fell. R. Soc. 28 (1982) 153-162.

### Historic background: Erich Hückel

#### Documents by year

Documents



E. Hückel

Quantentheoretische Beiträge zum Benzolproblem - I. Die Elektronenkonfiguration des Benzols und verwandter Verbindungen. *Zeitschrift für Physik*, **1931**, (3-4) 204-286



#### Documents by subject area



# Historic background: Erich Hückel

New kids on the block







**Carbon nanotubes** 



Graphene





**Carbon nanocones** 



Graphdiyne

### HMO in a nutshell

Let us consider a molecule and assume equivalence of all the atoms as well as of their pair-interactions. A molecular orbital is represented as



E. Hückel

$$\psi = \mathbf{C}_1 \phi_1 + \mathbf{C}_2 \phi_2 + \cdots + \mathbf{C}_n \phi_n,$$

then its one-electron energy *E* and the values of the coefficients are jointly given by the eigenvalue equation

$$\sum_{j} H_{ij} c_j = E c_i \qquad i = 1, \dots, n$$

where

$$H_{ij} = \begin{cases} \tilde{\alpha} & i = j \\ \tilde{\beta} & i \sim j \\ 0 & otherwise. \end{cases}$$

Kutzelnigg W. J. Comput. Chem. 28 (2007) 25-34.

### HMO in a nutshell

#### **Example: 1,3-butadiene**







Kutzelnigg W. J. Comput. Chem. 28 (2007) 25-34.

# HMO in a nutshell *Further assume that* $\tilde{\alpha} = 0$ *and* $\tilde{\beta} = -1$ *.*

**Example: 1,3-butadiene** 



Kutzelnigg W. J. Comput. Chem. 28 (2007) 25-34.



Estrada & Knight: A First Course on Network Theory, Oxford Univ. Press, 2015

Graph connection

#### **Example: 1,3-butadiene**



 $A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ 

Thus, we have that

$$\hat{\mathcal{H}} = \widetilde{\alpha}I + \widetilde{\beta}A, \qquad \widetilde{\beta} < 0$$

and for  $\tilde{\alpha} = 0$  and  $\tilde{\beta} = -1$ .

 $\hat{\mathcal{H}} = -A.$ 

Estrada & Knight: A First Course in Network Theory. Oxford Univ. Press (2015)

Let us consider that the molecule under study is submerged into a thermal bath of inverse temperature  $\beta$ .



Estrada & Knight: A First Course in Network Theory. Oxford Univ. Press (2015)

14

At equilibrium we have



And at extremes we get



Estrada & Hatano: Chem. Phys. Lett. 439 (2007) 247-251.

The probability of finding the molecule in a state of energy  $E_j$  at the inverse temperature  $\beta$  is  $1 \leq 1 \leq 1$ 

 $p_j = \frac{1}{Z} \exp\left(-\beta E_j\right)$ 



L. Bolztmann

where

$$Z = \sum_{j=1}^{n} \exp\left(-\beta E_{j}\right),$$

such that

$$\sum_{j=1}^{n} p_{j} = \frac{1}{Z} \sum_{j=1}^{n} \exp\left(-\beta E_{j}\right) = 1$$

Estrada & Knight: A First Course in Network Theory. Oxford Univ. Press (2015)

*Thus, in the context of the HMO method, the partition function is* 

$$Z = \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \exp(\beta \lambda_j) = Tr \exp(\beta A) = EE(G, \beta)$$

which is know as the Estrada index of the graph (typically for  $\beta = 1$ ).

The matrix

$$G = I + A + \frac{A^2}{2!} + \dots = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{A^k}{k!} = \exp(A)$$

*is a matrix function* of the adjacency matrix of the graph. Estrada & Higham: *SIAM Rev.* 52 (**2010**) 696-714.

• 17

HMO partition function (Estrada index)

$$Z = EE(G, \beta) = \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \exp(\beta \lambda_j) = Tr \exp(\beta A)$$

HMO electronic entropy

$$S = -\frac{1}{T} \sum_{j=1}^{n} \lambda_j \frac{\exp(\beta \lambda_j)}{EE} + k_B \ln EE$$

HMO electronic enthalpy

$$H = -\sum_{j=1}^{n} \lambda_j \frac{\exp(\beta \lambda_j)}{EE}$$

HMO electronic free energy

$$F = -\beta^{-1} \ln EE$$

Estrada & Hatano: Chem. Phys. Lett. 439 (2007) 247-251.

### Thermodynamic properties of PAHs



Data: Roux et al: J. Phys. Chem. Ref. Data, 37, (2008) 1855-1996

# A diversion: Matrix Functions

**Definition.** For  $M \in C^{n \times n}$ 





A.-L. Cauchy

where f is analytic on and inside a closed contour  $\Gamma$  that encloses  $\Lambda(M)$ .

**Remark.** There are two other definitions of a matrix function, using either Hermite polynomials and Jordan canonical forms. All three definitions are equivalent if f is analytic.

Higham: Functions of Matrices. Theory and Computations. SIAM (2008)<sup>•20</sup>

### A diversion: Matrix Functions

*Let f*(*A*) *be a function of the adjacency matrix with Taylor series expansion:* 

$$f(A) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} C_k A^k.$$

**Definition:** A *walk* of length *k* is any sequence of (not necessarily different) nodes  $v_1, \ldots, v_l$  such as for each  $i = 1, \ldots, l$  there is a link from  $v_l$  to  $v_{l+1}$ .

**Theorem** (Cvetković). The number of walks of length k between the nodes p and q in a network is equal to:  $(A^k)_{pq}$ .



$$\exp(A) = I + A + \frac{1}{2}A^2 + \frac{1}{6}A^3 + \cdots$$

and the Estrada index can be written as

$$tr \exp(A) = trI + trA + \frac{1}{2}trA^{2} + \frac{1}{6}trA^{3} + \cdots$$

which means that the Estrada index is a weighted sum of subgraphs in the graph:



Estrada & Knight: A First Course in Network Theory. Oxford Univ. Press (2015)







Ising meets Hückel





**Ernst Ising** 

E. Ising. Beitrag zur Theorie des Ferro- und Paramagnetismus. Dissertation zur Erlangung der Doktorwürde der Mathematisch Naturwissenschaftlichen Fakultät der Hamburgischen Universität vorgelegt von Ernst Ising aus Bochum. Hamburg 1924



•25



Estrada & Rodriguez-Velazquez: *Phys. Rev. E* **72** (2005) 046105. Estrada & Gomez-Gardenes: *Physica D*, *Nonlinearity* **323-324** (2016) 57-63.



Estrada & Rodriguez-Velazquez: *Phys. Rev. E* **72** (2005) 046105. Estrada & Gomez-Gardenes: *Physica D*, *Nonlinearity* **323-324** (2016) 57-63.



### HMO, bipartivity & stability

*Bipartivity*  $\Leftrightarrow$  *No odd cycles* 

No odd cycles  $\Leftrightarrow$  No odd closed walks

No odd closed walks  $\Leftrightarrow \left[\sinh(A)\right]_{ii} = 0$ 

Bipartivity  $\Leftrightarrow K(G,\beta) = 1$ 



Estrada & Gomez-Gardenes: Physica D, Nonlinearity 323-324 (2016) 57-63.

### HMO, bipartivity & stability



T. Došlić / Chemical Physics Letters 412 (2005) 336–340

•30

### Much ado about: Graph Energy

*Let:* 

$$E_{j} = \widetilde{\alpha} + \widetilde{\beta}\lambda_{j}$$

be the energy of the jth level and let us set

$$\widetilde{\alpha} = 0$$
. Then,  $E_j = \lambda_j$  expressed in

units of  $\widetilde{oldsymbol{eta}}$  .

*The total HMO energy of an alternant conjugated molecule is* 

$$E = 2\sum_{j=1}^{occ} \lambda_j = \sum_{j=1}^{n} \left| \lambda_j \right|$$

Xueliang Li Yongtang Shi Ivan Gutman

Graph Energy

D Springer





### What is the HMO energy after all?

*We can then write the energy as the trace of another matrix function, the absolute matrix function*:

$$E = tr |A|$$

where

$$|A| = \sqrt{A^2} \quad for \quad ||A|| \le 1.$$

In general:

$$\sqrt{M} = \frac{2\sin(\pi/2)}{\pi} \int_{0}^{\infty} (t^{2}I + M)^{-1} dt$$

### What is the HMO energy after all?

*Let us make the following transformation:* 

$$|A| = \sqrt{A^2} = \lambda_1 \sqrt{\left(\frac{A}{\lambda_1}\right)^2}$$

Then, we have the following result.

**Theorem.** *The HMO energy of an alternant conjugated molecule is given by:* 

$$E = \lambda_1 \operatorname{tr} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \binom{1/2}{k} \sum_{l=0}^{k} (-1)^{k-l} \binom{k}{l} \left(\frac{A}{\lambda_1}\right)^{2l}$$



### Example.

$$E = \lambda_{1} \operatorname{tr} \left[ I + \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{A^{2}}{\lambda_{1}^{2}} - I \right) - \frac{1}{8} \left( \frac{A^{2}}{\lambda_{1}^{2}} - I \right)^{2} + \frac{1}{16} \left( \frac{A^{2}}{\lambda_{1}^{2}} - I \right)^{3} - \cdots \right].$$



### (1) $E \leq \sqrt{2mn}$

B. McClelland, Properties of the latent roots of a matrix: The estimation of pi-electron energies. *J. Chem. Phys.* 54, 640-643 (**1971**)

(2) 
$$E \leq \frac{2m}{n} + \sqrt{(n-1)(2m-4m^2)/n^2}$$

J.H. <mark>K</mark>oolen, V. <mark>M</mark>oulton, I. <mark>G</mark>utman, Improving the McClelland inequality for total -electron energy. *Chem. Phys. Lett.* 320, 213-216 (**2000**)

### What is the HMO energy after all?

$$E \leq \left(\frac{\lambda_1}{2}\right)n + \left(\frac{1}{\lambda_1}\right)m \qquad (1^{st} Order)$$

$$E \leq \left(\frac{3\lambda_1}{8}\right)n + \left(\frac{6\lambda_1^2 - 1}{4\lambda_1^3}\right)m - \left(\frac{1}{2\lambda_1^3}\right)P_3 - \left(\frac{1}{\lambda_1^3}\right)C_4 \qquad (2^{nd} Order)$$

(3<sup>rd</sup> Order)

$$E \leq \left(\frac{5\lambda_{1}}{16}\right)n + \left(\frac{15\lambda_{1}^{4} - 5\lambda_{1}^{2} + 1}{8\lambda_{1}^{5}}\right)m - \left(\frac{5\lambda_{1}^{2} - 3}{4\lambda_{1}^{5}}\right)P_{3} \right)^{(3m)}$$

$$- \left(\frac{5\lambda_{1}^{2} - 6}{2\lambda_{1}^{5}}\right)C_{4} + \left(\frac{3}{2\lambda_{1}^{5}}\right)C_{3} + \left(\frac{3}{8\lambda_{1}^{5}}\right)P_{4} + \left(\frac{3}{4\lambda_{1}^{5}}\right)S_{1,3} + \left(\frac{9}{4\lambda_{1}^{5}}\right)F + \left(\frac{3}{2\lambda_{1}^{5}}\right)H + \left(\frac{3}{4\lambda_{1}^{5}}\right)C_{6}$$

### What is the HMO energy after all?



Estrada & Benzi: Discr. Appl. Math. 230 (2017) 307-334.

### HMO charge density matrix

The entries of the HMO density matrix are defined by:

$$\rho_{rs} = 2 \sum_{i}^{occ} \psi_{i}(r) \psi_{i}(s)$$

We have proved that the charge density matrix is expressible as:

$$\rho = I + \frac{A}{\lambda_1} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(2k-1)!!}{(2k)!!} (-B)^k,$$

such that

$$\rho = I + \frac{A}{\lambda_1} \left( I - \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{A^2}{\lambda_1^2} - I \right) + \frac{3}{8} \left( \frac{A^2}{\lambda_1^2} - I \right)^2 - \cdots \right)^2$$

**Example:** 

$$\rho = I + a_1 \frac{A}{\lambda_1} - a_3 \frac{A^3}{\lambda_1^3} + a_5 \frac{A^5}{\lambda_1^5} - a_7 \frac{A^7}{\lambda_1^7} + \cdots$$

Estrada: Proc. Royal Soc. A 474 (2018) 20170721.

### **SPIN AND ITS USES**



#### WHAT IS SPIN?

In addition to their mass and electric charge, electrons have an intrinsic quantity of angular momentum called spin, almost as if they were tiny spinning balls.

Scientists represent spin with a vector. For a sphere spinning "west to east," the vector points "north," or "up." It points "down" for the opposite spin.



#### Magnetic tunnel junction



Awschalom, Epstein & Hanson, Scientific American 297, 84 - 91 (2007)<sup>•39</sup>



#### Applications

#### HDD (Hard Disc Drive) Read head



**MRAM** (Magnetic Random Access Memory)



Huge TMR

### Spin-FET (Spin-Field Effect Transistor) Gate electrode

High spin injection

efficiency into semiconductor

Spin injection



GMR

Large TMR + Low R Large CPP-GMR

TMR: Tunnel Magnetoresistance CPP-GMR: Current Perpendicular to Plane-Giant Magnetoresistance

#### HOMO-LUMO, and nullity





Barrios-Vargas & Naumis: J. Phys.: Condens. Matter 23 (2011) 375501 •42

Lattice renormalization and a Gaussian matrix function



Spin density of PAHs



### $LC - (U)BLYP / 6 - 31G^*$



(Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys., 2011, 13, 20575–20583)

### Spin density distribution of triangulenes





*UB3LYP / 6 – 31G \** (*Nature Chemistry, 3, 2011, 197-204*)

# Elusive triangulene created by moving atoms one at a time Researchers used microscope tip to make unstable hydrocarbon with 'molecular surgery'.

have tried hard, and failed, to make already,"

firm's laboratories in Zurich, Switzerland.

says Leo Gross, who led the IBM team at the

#### BY PHILIP BALL

esearchers at IBM have created an elusive molecule by knocking around atoms using a needle-like microscope tip. The flat, triangular fragment of a mesh of carbon atoms, called triangulene<sup>1</sup>, is too unstable to be made by conventional chemical synthesis, and could find use in electronics. This isn't the first time that atomic manipula-

tion has been used to create unstable molecules that couldn't be made conventionally — but this one is especially desirable. "Triangulene is the first molecule that we've made that chemists

RADICAL TRIANGLE Triangulene is a flat molecule made up of a hexagonal mesh of carbon and hydrogen atoms (left). IBM researchers made the molecule by manipulating atoms with a scanning probe microscope, and then imaged it (right).



The creation of triangulene demonstrates a new type of chemical synthesis, says Philip Moriarty, a nanoscientist who specializes in

molecular manipulation at the University of Nottingham, UK. In conventional synthesis, chemists react molecules together to build up larger structures. Here, by contrast, atoms on individual molecules were physically manipu-

lated using a microscope. But making molecules one at a time will be useful only in particular situations. And



1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 -

the method is unlikely to work for those wit Triangulene is similar to a fragment c

graphene, the atom-thick material in whic carbon atoms are joined in a hexagonal mesl The new molecule is made up of six hexagor of carbon joined along their edges to form triangle, with hydrogen atoms around th sides (see 'Radical triangle'). Two of the oute carbon atoms contain unpaired electrons that

can't pair up to make a stable bond. Such a molecule is highly unstable becaus

the unpaired electrons tend to react with any thing around them. "As soon as you synthesiz it, it will oxidize," says Niko Pavliček, a membe of the IBM team. So far, the closest conven tional synthesis has come to making molecule of this sort involves buffering the reactiv edges with bulky hydrocarbon appendages2. The IBM team turned to a scanning prob

microscope, which has a needle-sharp tip that 'feels' a material's shape. The technique is usuall used to image molecules, by measuring attract tive forces between the tip and sample, or th electric currents that pass between them. Th IBM team has shown<sup>3</sup> that, if the tip has a sma molecule such as carbon monoxide attached t it, force microscopy can provide images of suc high resolution that they resemble the ball-and stick diagrams of chemistry textbooks. Gross's team has already demonstrated

### Spin density distribution of bow-tie PAHs



Bond dissociation enthalpies (kcal/mol at 298K) for the cleavage of the C-H bond





Guédon, et al. Nature Nanotech 7 (2012) 305-309.

### HMO & molecular electronics Molecular switches Control currents in molecular electronics V<sub>b</sub>



**Molecular diodes** 

~~~~

Tetraphenyl: Symmetric

Effect transistors



٧q

Ratner M. Nature Nanotech. 8 (2013) 378-381.

### HMO & molecular electronics Rules for predicting QI

**Rule 1:** Continuous path between electrodes without remaining atoms, or all of them are paired





**Rule 2**: Continuous path between electrodes where not all the remaining atoms can be paired





Markusen et al: Nano Letters 10 (2010) 4260-4265

No QI

QI



#### **Predicted No QI**

**Observed Transmission** 





Xia et al: Nano Letters 14 (2014) 2941-2945

#### **Predicted QI**

**Observed Transmission** 



Xia et al: Nano Letters 14 (2014) 2941-2945

The transmission probability of an electron entering a molecular junction with an energy E is given by

$$T(E) = \gamma(E)^2 |G(E)|^2$$

where

$$\gamma(\boldsymbol{E}) = \left[\Gamma_{L}(\boldsymbol{E})\right]_{11} = \left[\Gamma_{R}(\boldsymbol{E})\right]_{11}$$

*is given by the self-energy matrix due to the left/right lead, and G*(*E*) *is the Green function matrix of the contacted molecule.* 

> Datta, S. Lessons from Nanoelectronics: A New Perspective on Transport (World Scientific, 2012).

• 54

*In the HMO framework we have that* 

$$G(E)=(EI-A)^{-1},$$

and for the Fermi energy

$$G(E_{F})=-A^{-1}.$$







We have proved that:

$$G\left(E_{F}\right) = \frac{\left(-1\right)^{n/2}}{\prod_{i}^{n/2} \varepsilon_{i}^{2}} \left[A^{n-1} - \left(\sum_{i}^{n/2} \varepsilon_{i}^{2}\right)A^{n-3} + \left(\sum_{i\neq j}^{n/2} \varepsilon_{i}^{2} \varepsilon_{j}^{2}\right)A^{n-5} - \cdots\right]$$

Tsuji et al.: Chemical Rev. (2018) in press.

Alternant hydrocarbons



*Tsuji et al.: Chemical Rev.* (2018) in press.

Non-alternant hydrocarbons



Tsuji et al.: Chemical Rev. (2018) in press.

Electron transmission rules

• There is transmission between two atoms if and only if there is at least one path of odd length connecting them.



• There is QI between two atoms if and only if there is no path of odd length connecting them.



Estrada, In *Quantum Chemistry at the Dawn of the 21st Century;* Chakraborty, T., Carbo-Dorca, R., Eds.; Apple Academic Press: Oakville, ON, **2018**; pp 445–468.

QI in meta position of benzene





Electron transmission in azulene



Estrada, In *Quantum Chemistry at the Dawn of the 21st Century*; Chakraborty, T., Carbo-Dorca, R., Eds.; Apple Academic Press: Oakville, ON, **2018**; pp 445–468.

### PAPERS MENTIONING "HÜCKEL MOLECULAR ORBITAL"



Not that bad for an 87 years old method!

# Thank you! Hvala!