

# Molecular and Supramolecular Photochemistry

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Department of Chemistry

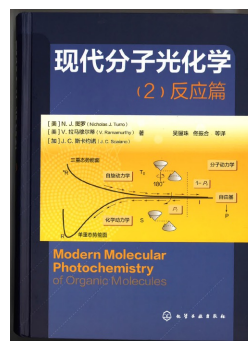
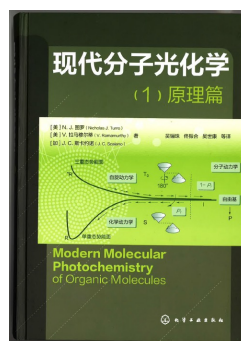
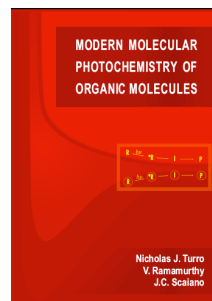
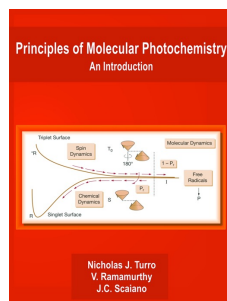
University of Miami

Email: murthy1@miami.edu

## Fundamental Research:

The presentations/reports are **not “subject”** to the EAR – Fundamental Research as per EAR Part 734.8 (a) and (c).

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## Molecular and Supramolecular Photochemistry

Videos of all lectures are posted in my website. You should watch them if you have problems in following the lectures:

<https://chemistry.as.miami.edu/research-groups/ramamurthy-group/video-lectures/video-lectures-miami/index.html>

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## This Course

Deals with interaction of Light with Materials, Molecules, Electrons

What is light?

What is a material?

What is a molecule?

What is an electron?

How do light and an electron interact?

What are the consequences of interaction?

How to control the interaction and its consequences?

What are the uses of light in our everyday life?

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# Photo(n)chemistry

Chapters 1 & 2

TRS, Principles of Molecular Photochemistry:  
An Introduction

- *Organic Photochemistry*
- *Inorganic Photochemistry*
- *Photobiology*

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## What is matter or material?

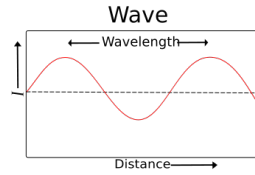
- Matter is a collection of molecules
- Molecule is a collection of atoms
- Atom is a collection of nuclei and electrons
- The fundamental components of matter and molecules are nuclei and electrons
- To understand matter and molecule one needs to know the location and energies of nuclei and electrons.

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## Photon?

**Photon (Light) has dual characteristics: a particle and a wave**

<b>Wavelength</b>	$\lambda$	$c/\nu$	
<b>Wavenumber:</b>	$\nu$	$1/\lambda$	
<b>Frequency:</b>	$\nu$	$c/\lambda$	
<b>Energy</b>	$h\nu$	$hc/\lambda$	
<b>Einstein:</b>	$Nh\nu$	Mole of photons (one Avagadro number of photons)	
<b>Velocity:</b>	186,281 miles/sec; $2.9979 \times 10^{10}$ cm/sec		
<b>Momentum:</b>	$p = \frac{h}{\lambda}$		
<b>Mass ((relativistic mass):</b>	$m = \frac{E}{c^2} = \frac{h/\lambda}{c}$	Momentum/c	
<b>Charge:</b>	0 (no charge)		
<b>Spin:</b>	$1\hbar$		



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## Electron

- It has dual wave and particle properties, just like photon
- **Negatively charged, does not change with energy**
- Electric charge oscillates with time
- **It has spin of  $1/2 \hbar$**
- **Because it is spinning and charged, it can be considered to be a small magnet**
- **Coupled with protons and neutrons it holds atoms, molecules and everything in the world**
- **It is small, radius of 0.00028 nm.**

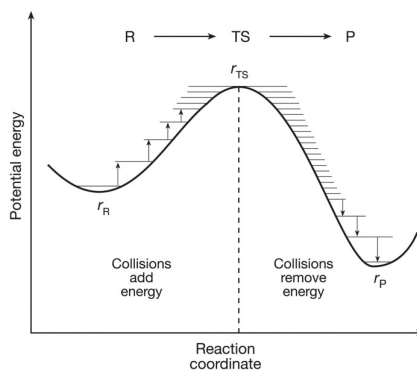
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## What is the difference between thermochemistry and photochemistry?

- **Mode of activation**
  - Activated by collisions (thermo)
  - Activated by light (photo)
- **Selectivity in activation**
  - Entire molecule gets activated
  - Only the chromophore that absorbs the light gets activated
- **Energy distribution**
  - Energy used for vibrational/rotational transition
  - Energy used for electronic transition only

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## Visualization of Thermal Reactions



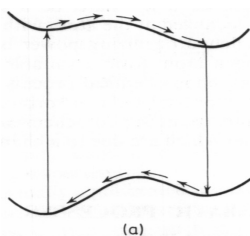
- Transition state connects a **single** reactant to a **single** product (intermediate) and it is a **saddle point** along the reaction course.
- Collisions are a reservoir of continuous energy ( $\sim 0.6$  kcal/mol per impact).
- Collisions can add or remove energy from a system.
- Concerned with a single surface.

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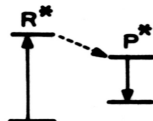
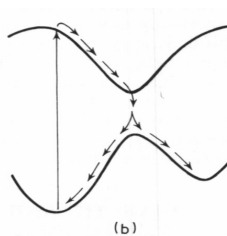
## Visualization of Photochemical Reactions

We need to deal with two surfaces (ground and excited state).

Adiabatic



Diabatic



Pathways of photochemical reactions: (a) adiabatic, (b) diabatic.



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## The Basic Laws of Photochemistry

### Grotthuss-Draper law

The First Law of Photochemistry: light must be absorbed for photochemistry to occur.



*Theodor Grotthuss*

Grotthuss

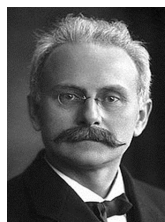


John William Drapper (1811-1882)

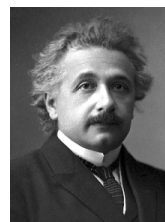
Drapper

### Stark-Einstein law

The Second Law of Photochemistry: for each photon of light absorbed by a chemical system, only one molecule is activated for a photochemical reaction.



Stark



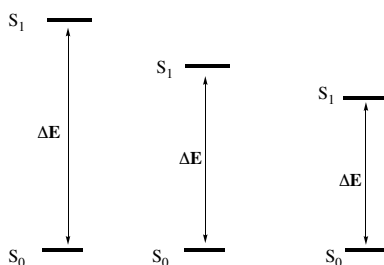
Einstein

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## Third law of photochemistry

**Probability of light absorption is related to the energy gap and wavelength of light**

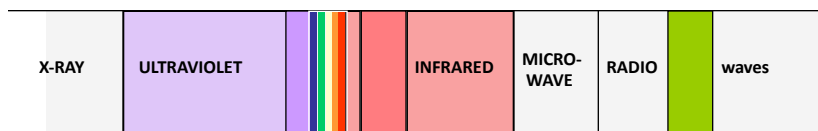
The *energy conservation rule* (Eq. 4.8): There must be an exact matching of the energy difference that corresponds to the energy required for the transition ( $\Delta E$ ) between orbitals and the energy of the photon ( $h\nu$ ); that is,  $\Delta E$  must exactly equal  $h\nu$  (Eq. 4.8).



$$\Delta E \text{ (kcal mol}^{-1}\text{)} = [2.86 \times 10^4 \text{ kcal mol}^{-1} \text{ nm}] / \lambda \text{ nm}$$

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## The Range of Electromagnetic Radiation (Light)



REGION	ENERGY TRANSITIONS
X-ray	Ionization
UV/Visible	Electronic <span style="float: right;">←</span>
Infrared	Vibrational
Microwave	Rotational
Radio Frequency (NMR)	Nuclear and Electronic Spin

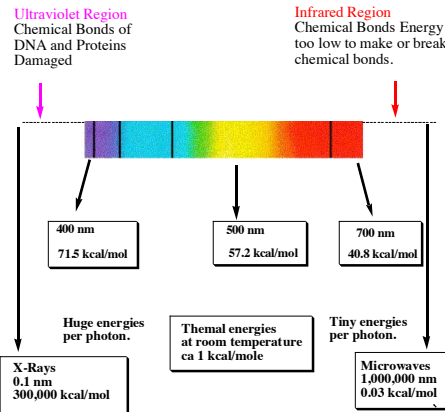
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## Light and Energy Scales

$$E \text{ (kcal mol}^{-1}\text{)} = [2.86 \times 10^4 \text{ kcal mol}^{-1} \text{ nm}] / \lambda \text{ nm}$$

$$E \text{ (kcal mol}^{-1}\text{ nm)} = 2.86 \times 10^4 / 700 \text{ nm} = 40.8 \text{ kcal mol}^{-1}$$

$$E \text{ (kcal mol}^{-1}\text{ nm)} = 2.86 \times 10^4 / 200 \text{ nm} = 143 \text{ kcal mol}^{-1}$$



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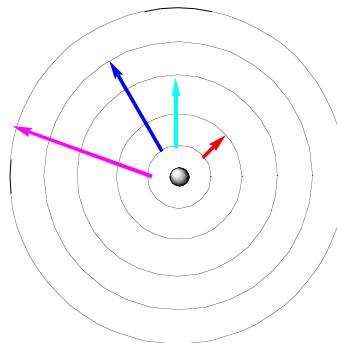
## Where are the electrons in atoms and molecules?



**Niels Bohr**  
Nobel Prize 1922

“the structure of atoms  
and the radiation  
emanating from them”

## Atomic orbitals: s, p, d, f



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## The Four Quantum Numbers Define an Electron in an Atom

- Principal quantum number ( $n$ ) - describes the SIZE of the orbital or **ENERGY LEVEL** of the atom.
- Angular quantum number ( $l$ ) or sublevels - describes the SHAPE of the orbital.
- Magnetic quantum number ( $m$ ) - describes an orbital's ORIENTATION in space.
- Spin quantum number ( $s$ ) - describes the **SPIN** or direction (clockwise or counter-clockwise) in which an electron spins.

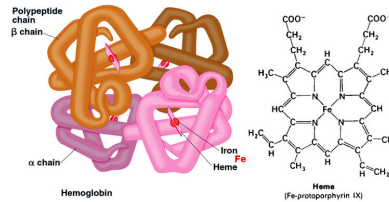
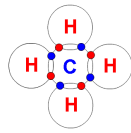
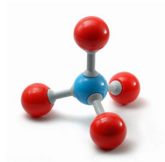
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## Born - Oppenheimer Approximation

- Electronic motion and nuclear motion can be separated (Born-Oppenheimer approximation)
- To understand molecules, first focus on the location and energies of electrons
- Understand:  $\Psi_0$ (electronic) independent of  $\chi$  and  $S$

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## Molecule, a collection of atoms is defined by $\Psi$



Nobel Prize in Physics (1933)

$$H\Psi = E\Psi$$

Operator  Eigenvalue

**Schrödinger equation**

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## What is $\Psi$ ?

$\Psi$  defines a molecule in terms of nuclei and electrons

$\Psi$  is made of three parts

$$\Psi = \Psi_o \quad \chi \quad S$$

Electronic    Nuclear    Spin

The three parts are interconnected. So, it is hard to define a molecule precisely in terms of  $\Psi$

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## Born - Oppenheimer Approximation

Max Born  
(1882-1970)  
Nobel Prize, 1954



J. R. Oppenheimer  
1904-1967  
Director, Manhattan Project

- Electronic motion faster than nuclear motion (vibration).
- Weak magnetic-electronic interactions separate spin motion from electronic and nuclear motion.

$$\Psi = \Psi_0 \chi S$$

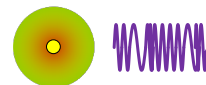
Electronic
Nuclear
Spin

Time scale matter

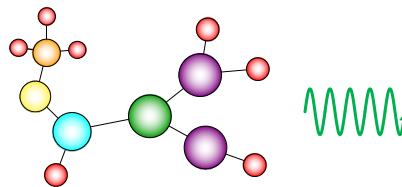
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## Natural Oscillation Frequencies of Atoms and Molecules

Electrons vibrate in their motion around nuclei  
High frequency:  $\sim 10^{14} - 10^{17}$  cycles per second.



Nuclei in molecules vibrate with respect to each other  
Intermediate frequency:  $\sim 10^{11} - 10^{13}$  cycles per second.



Nuclei in molecules rotate  
Low frequency:  $\sim 10^9 - 10^{10}$  cycles per second.



**Accelerating charges (positive or negative) emit light.**

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## Atomic to Molecular Orbitals

### Books

- Valence, C. A. Coulson, 1952
- Molecular Orbital Theory for Organic Chemists, [Andrew Streitwieser](#), 1961
- Notes on molecular orbital calculations, [John D Roberts](#), 1962
- The Molecular Orbital Theory of Conjugated Systems, [Lionel Salem](#), 1966
- The importance of antibonding orbitals, [Milton Orchin](#), 1967
- Hückel Molecular Orbital Theory, [Keith Yates](#), 1978

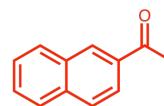
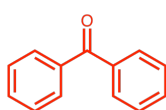
### A classic book on chemical bonds

- The Nature of the Chemical Bond, L. Pauling, 1939

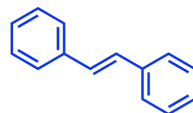
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## Examples of Common Organic Chromophores

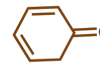
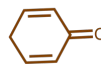
### Carbonyls



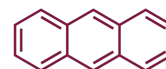
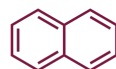
### Olefins



### Enones



### Aromatics

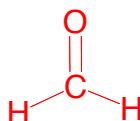


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## Viewing electrons in atoms and molecules

**Atoms:** Electrons are present in atomic orbitals (Bohr)

**Molecules:** Electrons are present in molecular orbitals (Mulliken)



Inner orbitals

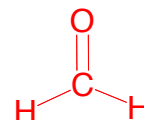
Bonding orbitals

Frontier orbitals

$$\Psi_0(\text{H}_2\text{C}=\text{O}) = (1s_{\text{O}})^2 (1s_{\text{C}})^2 (2s_{\text{O}})^2 \underbrace{(\sigma_{\text{CH}})^2 (\sigma'_{\text{CH}})^2}_{\text{Bonding orbitals}} (\sigma_{\text{CO}})^2 (\pi_{\text{CO}})^2 (n_{\text{O}})^2 (n_{\text{C}})^2$$

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## Types of transitions in formaldehyde

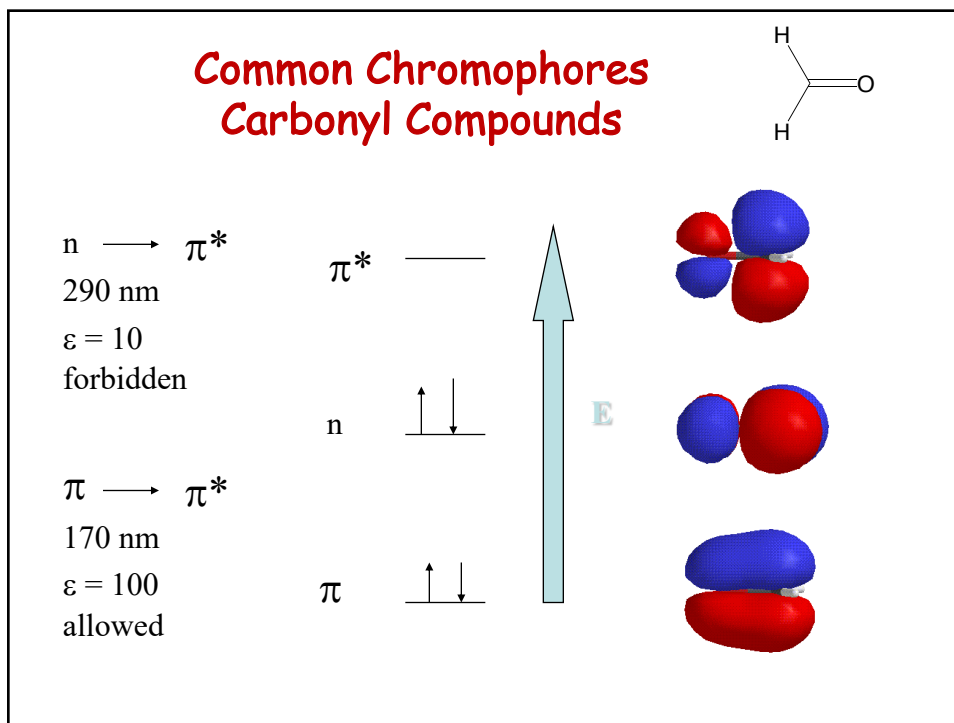


$\pi^*$  ———  
 $n$  —○—  
 $\pi$  —○—  
 ground  
 state

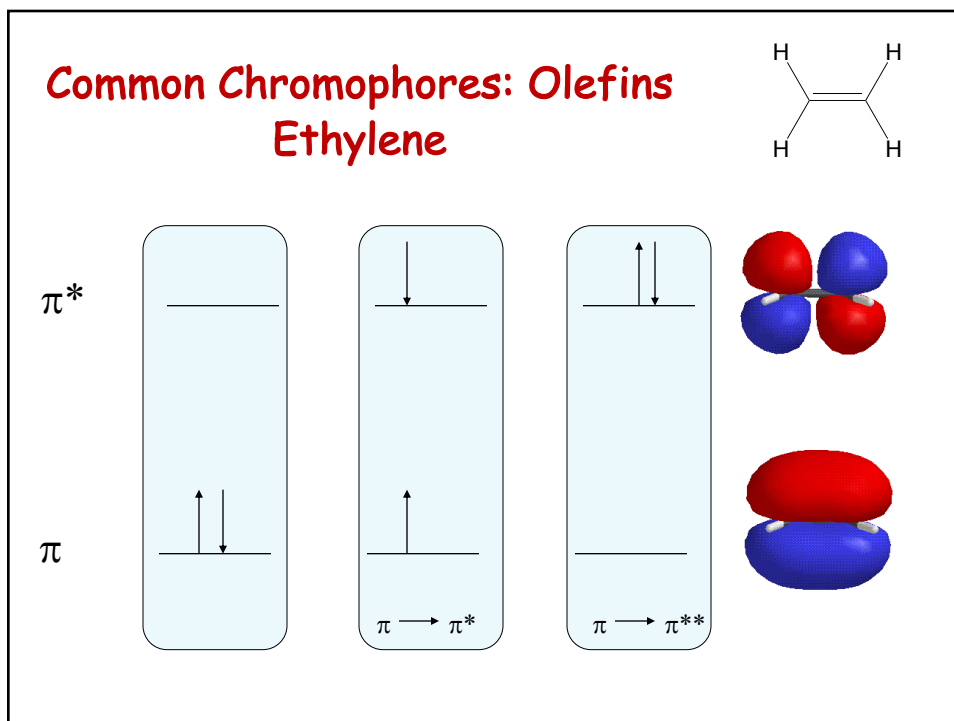


Orbital diagram

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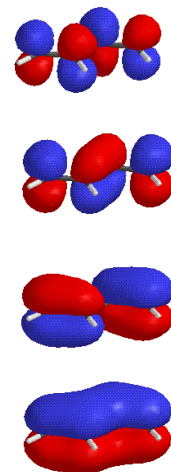
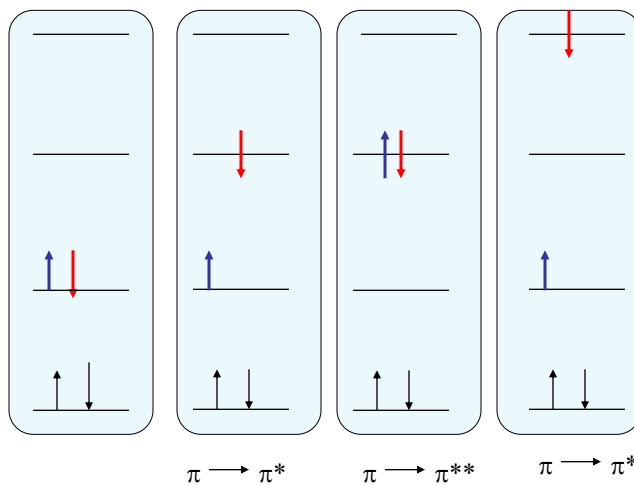
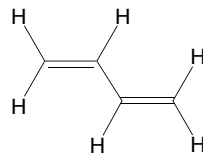


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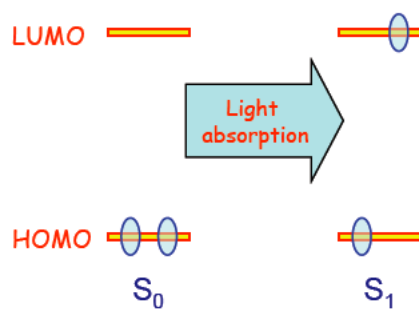
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## Common Chromophores: Olefins 1,3-Butadiene



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## Light absorption and electron movement

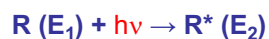


State diagram

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## Excited state energies

The energy required to produce an electronically excited state



is obtained by inspecting the absorption spectrum of the molecule.

$$\Delta E = |E_2 - E_1| = |E_2(*R) - E_1(R)| = h\nu = hc/\lambda$$

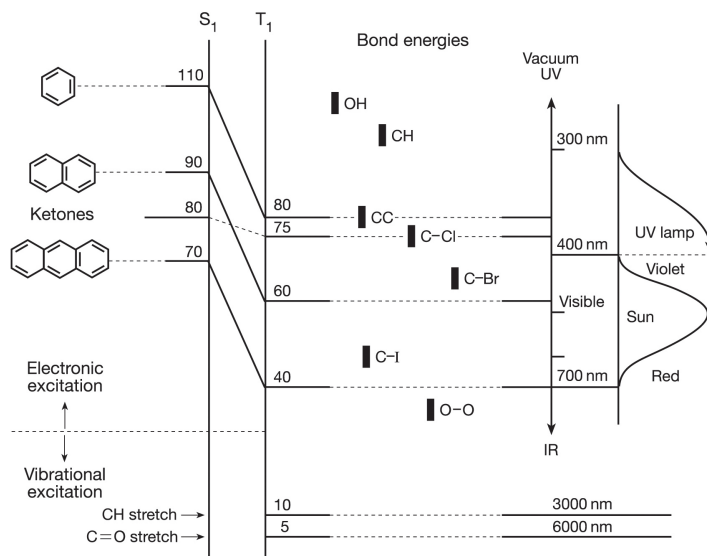
$h$  is Planck's constant ( $1.58 \times 10^{-34}$  cal s)

$\lambda$  is the wavelength at which absorption occurs (commonly given in units of nanometers, nm),

$c$  is the speed of light ( $3 \times 10^8$  cm s<sup>-1</sup>)

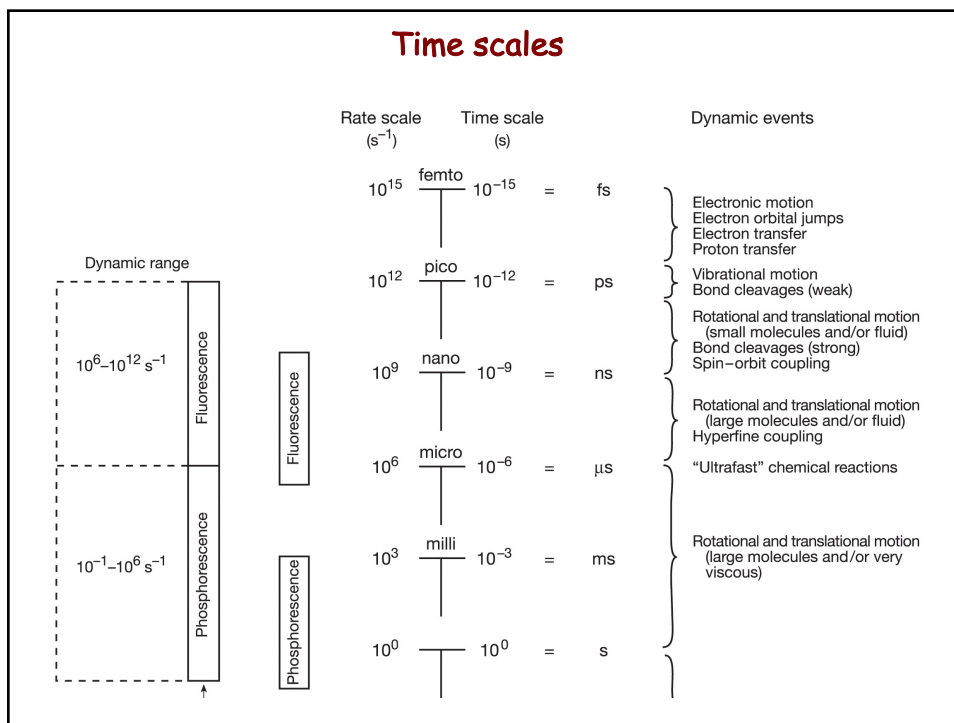
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## Excitation energy, bond energy and radiation wavelength



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### Nobels in Photochemistry


*Development of Flash Photolysis and Femtosecond Chemistry*



Norrish

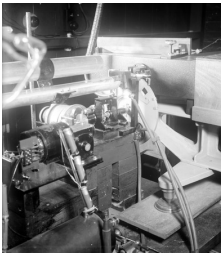


Porter

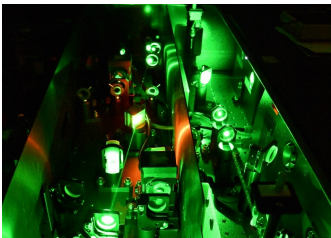


Zewail

The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 1967



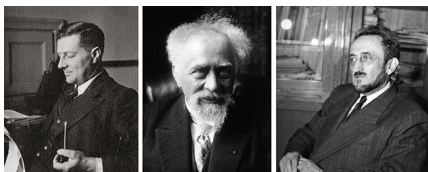
The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 1999



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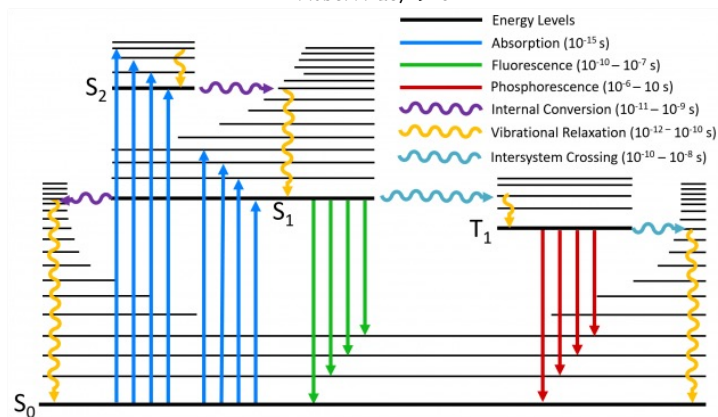
## Perrin-Jablonski Diagram

A. Jablonski (1898-1980)



F. Perrin (1901-1992)

J. Perrin 1870-1942  
Nobel Prize, 1926



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## Born-Oppenheimer Approximation

Motions of electrons in orbitals are much more rapid than nuclear vibrational motions

$$\Psi \sim \Psi_0 \chi \mathbf{S}$$

"true" (electronic) (nuclei) (spin)  
molecular wavefunction

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The top diagram shows a mass  $m$  attached to a spring fixed to a wall. A graph shows the displacement  $\Delta r$  over time, with a sinusoidal wave. The bottom diagram shows two masses  $m_1$  and  $m_2$  connected by a spring.

$$F = -k \Delta r = -k |r - r_e|$$

$k$  is the force constant,  $\Delta r$  is the distance of displacement from equilibrium,  $F$  is the restoring force

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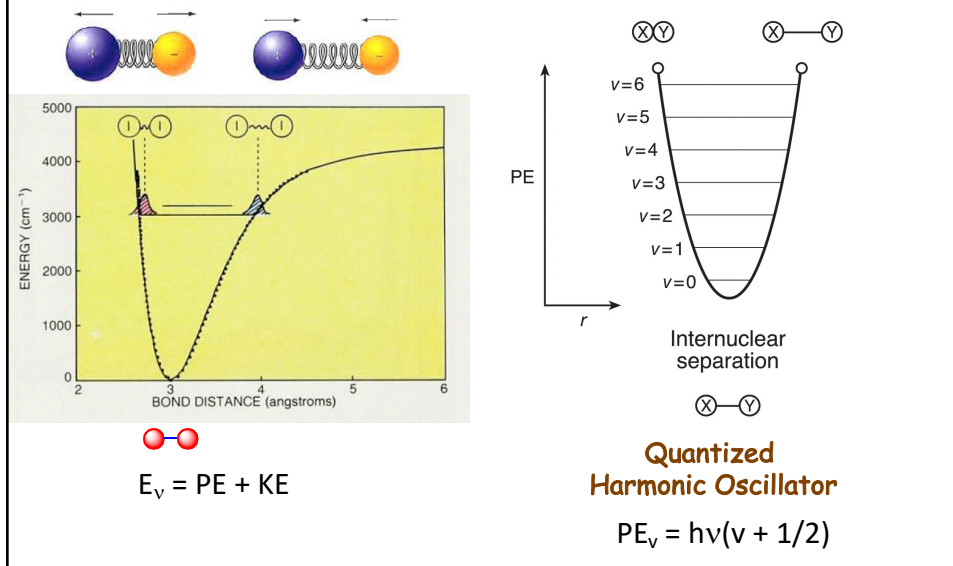
### A Model for Vibrational Wavefunctions The Classical Harmonic Oscillator

The diagrams show the stretching and contracting of a diatomic molecule (X and Y) and a potential energy curve. The potential energy curve is a parabola with a minimum at the equilibrium bond length. The stretching and contracting diagrams show the displacement of the atoms from equilibrium and the resulting forces.

Stretching                      Contracting

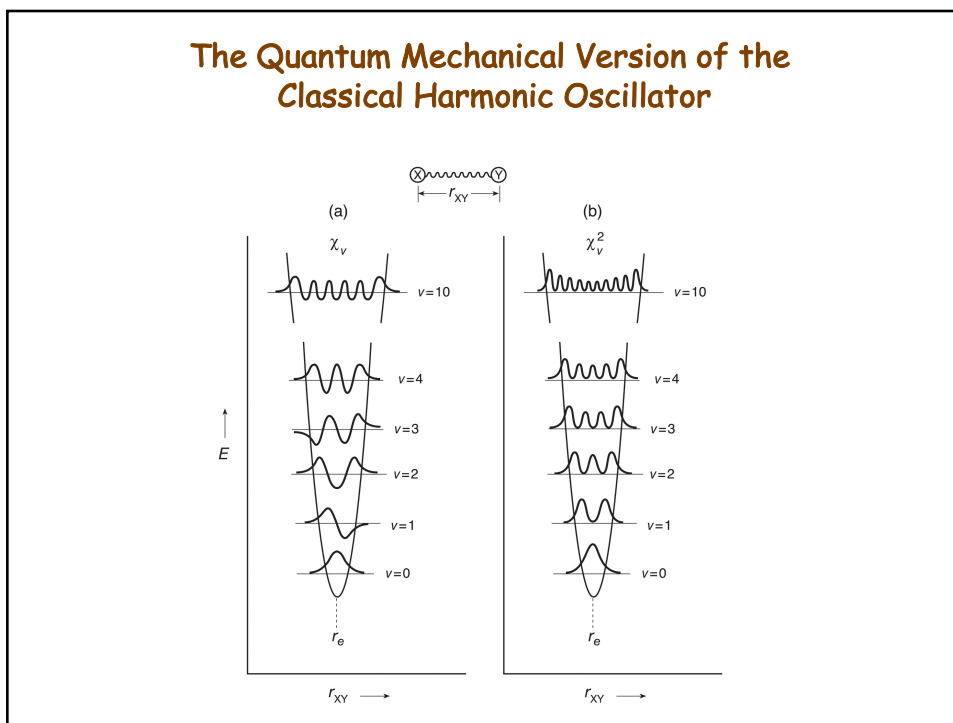
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## A Model for Vibrational Wavefunctions The Classical Harmonic Oscillator



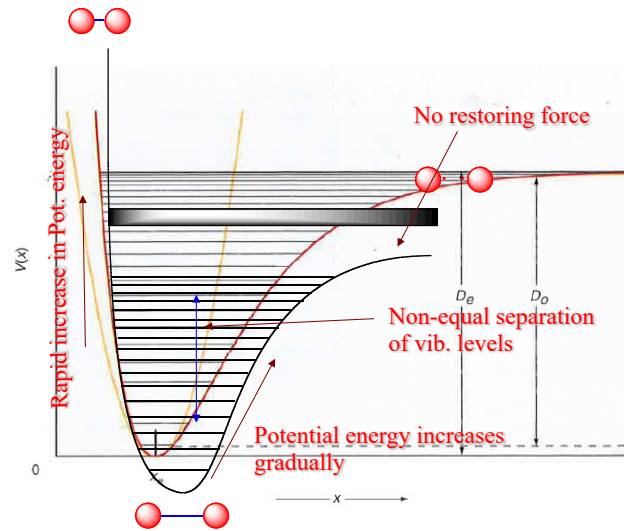
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## The Quantum Mechanical Version of the Classical Harmonic Oscillator



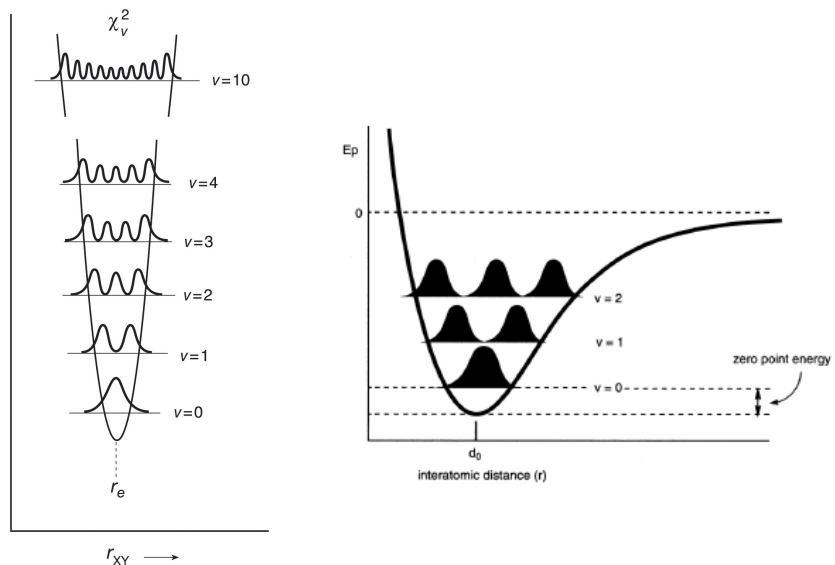
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## The Anharmonic Quantum Mechanical Oscillator



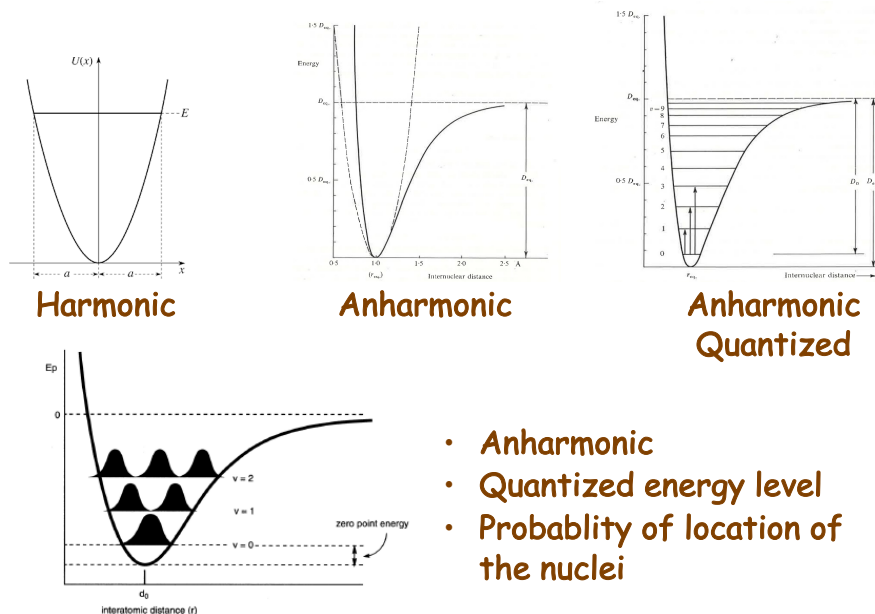
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## Anharmonic Oscillator-Probability Density



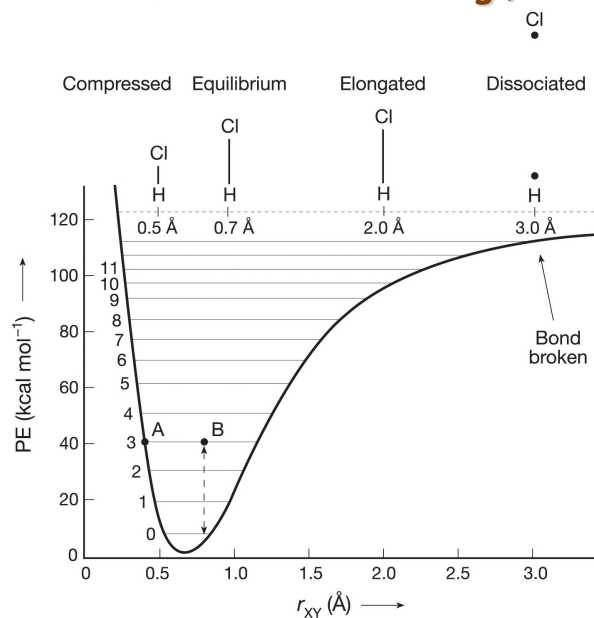
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## Harmonic and Anharmonic Oscillator

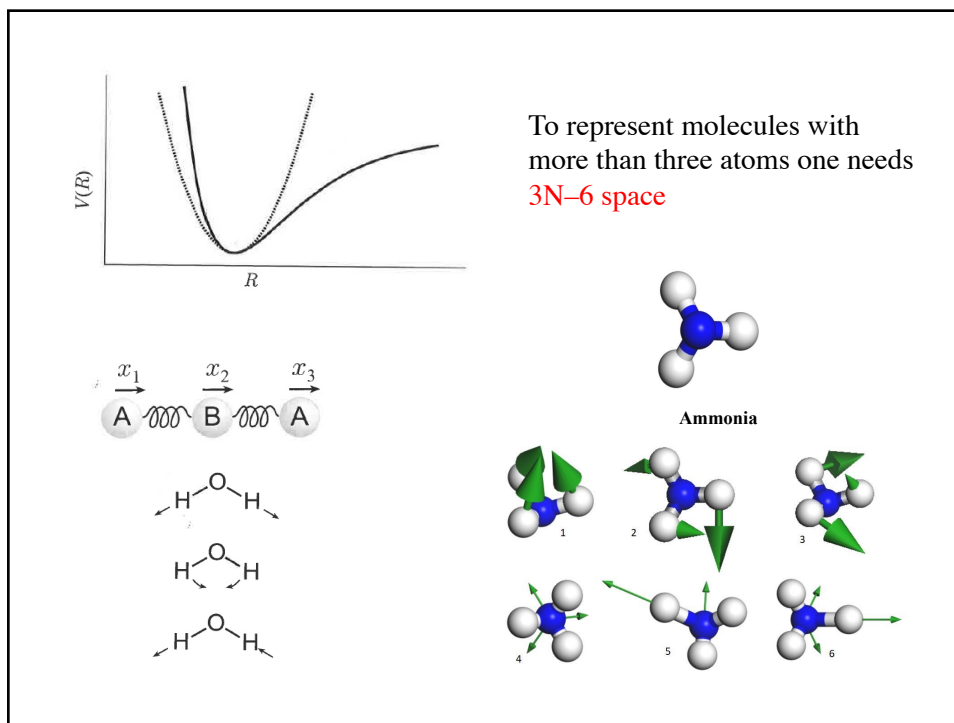


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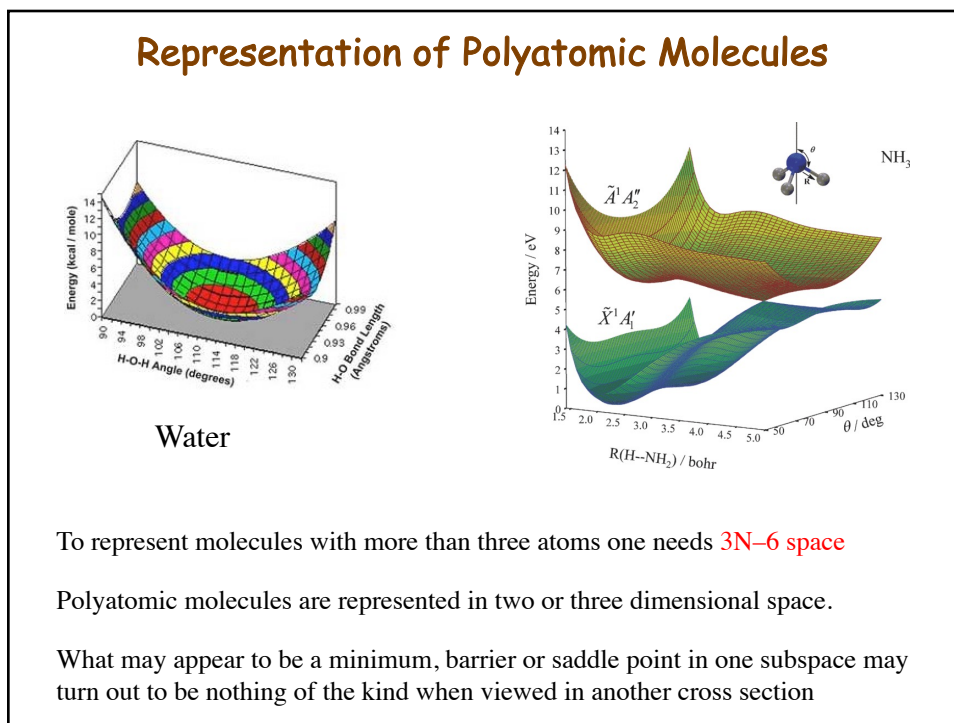
## The Anharmonic Oscillator: e.g., HCl



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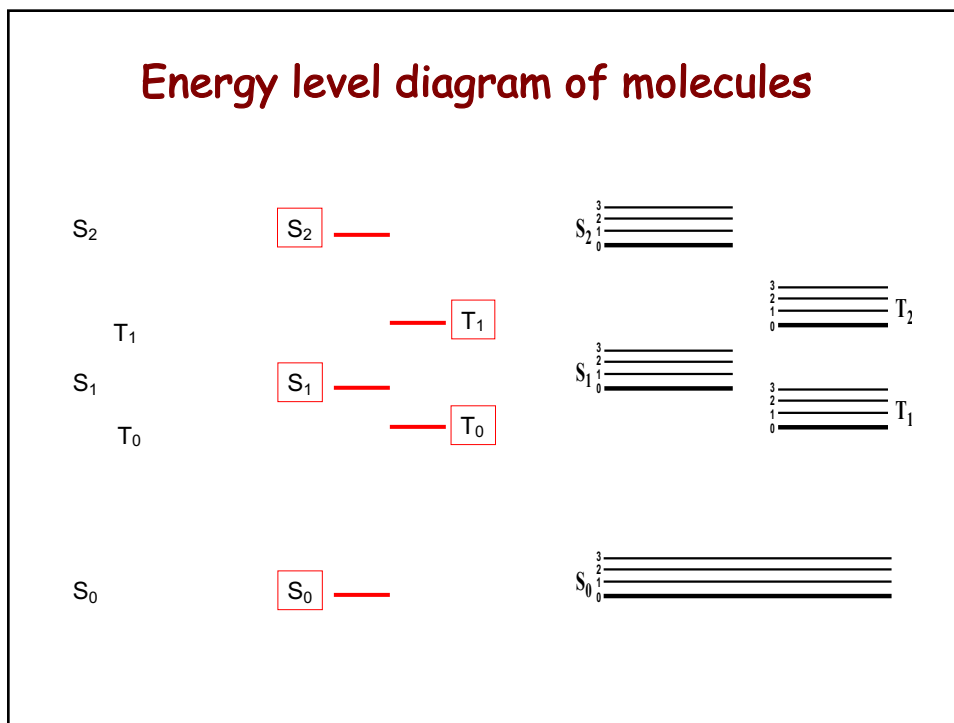


45



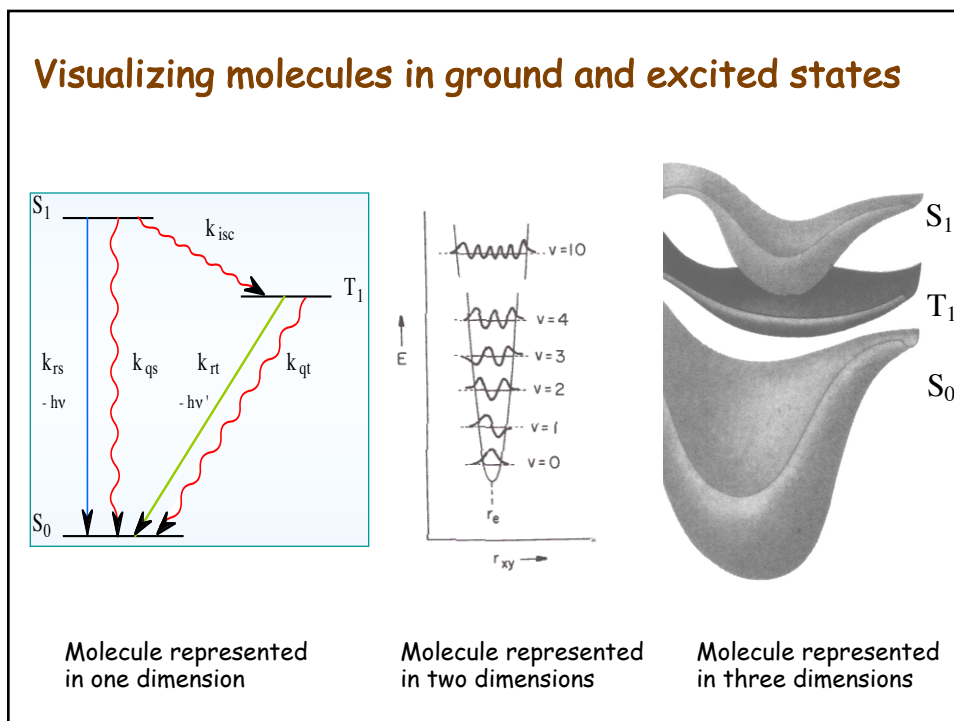
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## Energy level diagram of molecules



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## Visualizing molecules in ground and excited states



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# Spin

## Chapters 1 & 2

### Principles of Molecular Photochemistry: An Introduction

NJT, VR and JCS

p.56 - 69 (sec. 2.9 - 2.15)

p.82 - 108 (sec. 2.21 - 2.39)

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## Born - Oppenheimer Approximation

Max Born (1882-1970)  
Nobel Prize, 1954



J. R. Oppenheimer  
1904-1967  
Director, Manhattan Project

- Electronic motion faster than nuclear motion (vibration).
- Weak magnetic-electronic interactions separate spin motion from electronic and nuclear motion.

$$\Psi = \Psi_0 \chi S$$

Electronic      Nuclear      Spin

Time scale matter

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## The Four Quantum Numbers

- Principal quantum number ( $n$ ) - describes the SIZE of the orbital or **ENERGY LEVEL** of the atom.
- Angular quantum number ( $l$ ) or sublevels - describes the SHAPE of the orbital.
- Magnetic quantum number ( $m$ ) - describes an orbital's ORIENTATION in space.
- Spin quantum number ( $s$ ) - describes the **SPIN** or direction (clockwise or counter-clockwise) in which an electron spins.

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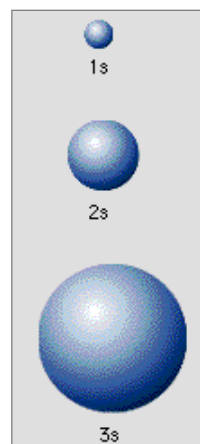
### 1. Principal Quantum Number ( $n$ )

Energy level

Size of the orbital

The energy levels corresponding to  $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$  are called shells and each can hold  $2n^2$  electrons.

The shells are labeled K, L, M, ... for  $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$



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## 2. Angular Momentum Quantum # ( $l$ )

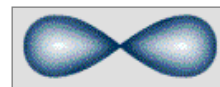
Energy sublevel

Shape of the orbital

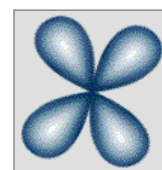


s

- determines the *shape of the orbital*
- they are numbered but are also given letters referring to the orbital type
  - $l=0$  refers to the **s-orbitals**
  - $l=1$  refers to the **p-orbitals**
  - $l=2$  refers to the **d-orbitals**
  - $l=3$  refers to the **f-orbitals**



p



d

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## 3. Magnetic Quantum Number ( $m_l$ )

Orientation of orbital

Specifies the number and shape of orbitals within each sublevel

- the third of a set of quantum numbers
- tells us *how many* orbitals there are of a particular type and *their orientation in space of a particular orbital*
- only *two electrons* can fit in an orbital

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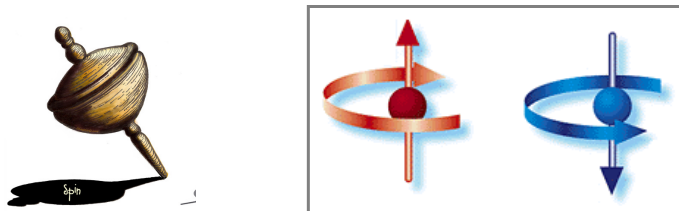
## Visualization of Spin Chemistry

- Quantum mechanics requires **mathematics** for a **quantitative** treatment
- Much of the mathematics of quantum mechanics can be visualized in terms of **pictures** that capture the **qualitative** aspects of the phenomena under consideration
- Visualizations are **incomplete**, but it is important to note “**correct**” mathematical representations fail for complex systems as molecules

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## Visualization of Spin Chemistry

Visualize spin by resorting to a classical analogy of a spherical object executing a spinning motion about an axis, *i.e.*, a top or a gyroscope.



Develop a model which associates specific magnetic properties, *i.e.*, a magnetic moment, with the electron's spin angular momentum

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## A bit of History

<http://www.lorentz.leidenuniv.nl/history/spin/goudsmit.html>

Stern and Gerlach: How a Bad Cigar Helped Reorient Atomic Physics, B. Friedrich and D. Herschbach, *Physics Today*, December, 53-59, **2003**

George Uhlenbeck and Discovery of Electron Spin, A. Pias, *Physics Today*, December, 34-40, **1989**

Fifty years of spin: It might as well be spin  
[Samuel A. Goudsmit](#), *Physics Today* **29**, 6, 40, **1976**

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## What is "intrinsic spin"?

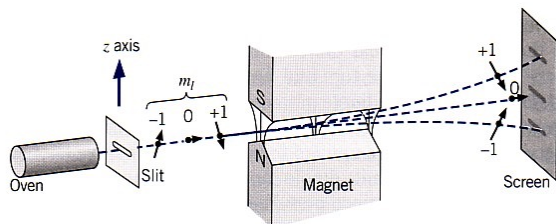
- Also called "spin", or spin angular momentum, or S
- It's a "degree of freedom", or quantum number: a "state" the particle has
- Does interact with magnetic fields like L
- NOT a physical rotation
- INTRINSIC property – like charge and mass! We have no model for what "makes it up/causes it" for fundamental particles
- Shows up most simply in Pauli exclusion principle

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**Otto Stern**  
Nobel Prize, 1943

## Expectation and Observation Stern & Gerlach ~1922



<sup>1</sup>It is because an atom's behavior in a magnetic field depends on  $m_l$  that it is known as the "magnetic quantum number."

<sup>2</sup>In the original Stern-Gerlach experiment of 1922, two lines were seen, but neutral *silver* atoms were used. Although the silver atoms, having one 5s electron beyond a closed  $n = 4$  shell, should behave as atoms of  $\ell = 0$ , the Stern-Gerlach apparatus was later used with hydrogen (1925, Phipps and Taylor), to rule out any complication multiple electrons might introduce.

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## The Stern-Gerlach experiment

- Experiment was confirmed using:

*Element*    *Electronic Configuration*

H             $1s^1$

Na           $\{1s^2 2s^2 2p^6\} 3s^1$

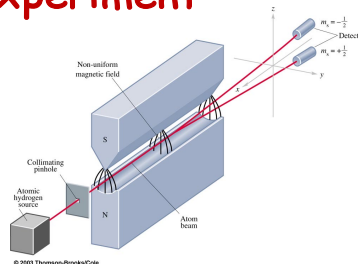
K             $\{1s^2 2s^2 2p^6 3s^2 3p^6\} 4s^1$

Cu           $\{1s^2 2s^2 2p^6 3s^2 3p^6 3d^{10}\} 4s^1$

Ag           $\{1s^2 2s^2 2p^6 3s^2 3p^6 3d^{10} 4s^2 4p^6 4d^{10}\} 5s^1$

Cs           $\{[Ag] 5s^2 5p^6\} 6s^1$

Au           $\{[Cs] 5d^{10} 4f^{14}\} 6s^1$



- In all cases,  $l = 0$  and  $s = 1/2$ .

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## Stern-Gerlach and spin

O. Stern and W. Gerlach saw a beam of silver atoms split into two beams!

G. Uhlenbeck and S. Goudsmit suggested that each electron has its own intrinsic angular momentum – “spin” – with only two eigenvalues.

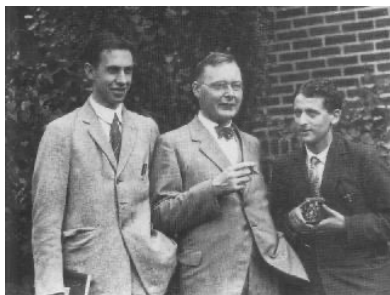
But electron spin has odd features. For example, its magnitude never changes, just its direction – and it has only two directions.

Thus far every eigenstate of an atom was associated with three quantum numbers  $n$ ,  $l$  and  $m$ . But now we have to introduce a fourth quantum number, the spin:  $m_s = \pm \frac{1}{2}$ .

Note: The nucleus, too, has spin angular momentum. But its magnetic moment is relatively tiny because the mass of a proton is about 2000 times the electron mass.

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## Some history titbits Uhlenbeck & Goudsmit ~ 1925



The discovery note in *Naturwissenschaften* is dated 17 October 1925. One day earlier **Ehrenfest** had written to Lorentz to make an appointment and discuss a "very witty idea" of two of his graduate students. When Lorentz pointed out that the idea of a spinning electron would be incompatible with classical electrodynamics, Uhlenbeck asked Ehrenfest not to submit the paper. Ehrenfest replied that he had already sent off their note, and he added: "You are both young enough to be able to afford a stupidity!"

<http://www.lorentz.leidenuniv.nl/history/spin/spin.html>

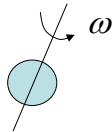
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## Across the continent: Ralph Kronig & Spinning Electron



Ehrenfest's encouraging response to his students ideas contrasted sharply with that of Wolfgang Pauli.

At the same time, Ralph Kronig, a young Columbia University PhD who had spent two years studying in Europe, had come up with the idea of electron spin several months before Uhlenbeck and Goudsmit. He had put it before Pauli for his reactions, who had ridiculed it, saying that "it is indeed very clever but of course has nothing to do with reality. **No, it's quite impossible.**" Pauli completely crushed Kronig. He did not publish his ideas on spin.



<http://www.lorentz.leidenuniv.nl/history/spin/spin.html>

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## Letter from Thomas to Goudsmit

I think you and Uhlenbeck have been very lucky to get your spinning electron published and talked about before Pauli heard of it. It appears that more than a year ago Kronig believed in the spinning electron and worked out something the first person he showed it to was Pauli. Pauli ridiculed the whole thing so much that the first person became also the last and no one else heard anything of it. Which all goes to show that the infallibility of the Deity does not extend to his well-styled vicar on earth.

Part of a letter by L.H. Thomas to Goudsmit (25 March 1926). Reproduced from a transparency shown by Goudsmit during his 1971 lecture. The original is presumably in the [Goudsmit archive](#) kept by the AIP Center for History of Physics.

<http://www.lorentz.leidenuniv.nl/history/spin/goudsmit.html>

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## The Pauli Exclusion Principle

No two electrons can have identical quantum numbers. With three quantum numbers  $n$ ,  $l$ ,  $m$  two electrons in an orbital will have identical quantum numbers.



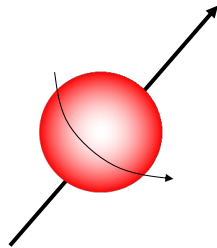
Wolfgang Pauli  
Nobel Prize, 1945

An **empty orbital** is fully described by the three quantum numbers:  $n$ ,  $l$  and  $m_l$

An **electron in an orbital** is fully described by the four quantum numbers:  $n$ ,  $l$ ,  $m_l$  and  $m_s$

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## Spin



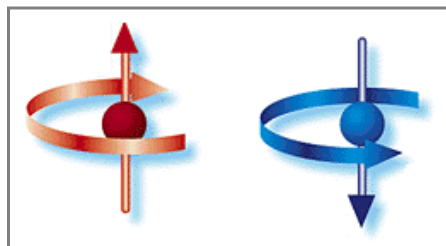
- Quantum particles possess an intrinsic angular momentum called **spin** which is not associated to a rotation about an axis, although we can visualize it as if it was generated by a rotation of the particle about its own axis
- Classically **angular momentum** is a property of a macroscopic object which is in rotation about an axis

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## 4. Spin Quantum Number ( $m_s$ )

Electron spin  $\Rightarrow +\frac{1}{2}$  or  $-\frac{1}{2}$

An orbital can hold 2 electrons that spin in opposite directions.



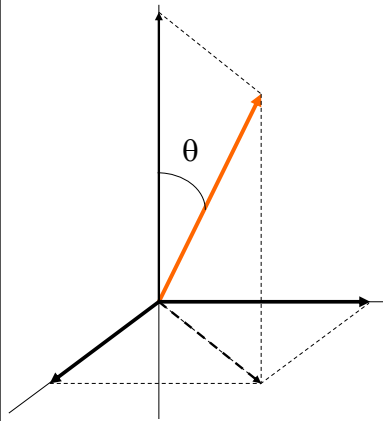
67

## Scalars and Vectors

- Some physical quantities are completely described by a **magnitude** (a single number): they are termed **scalar**
- Some other quantities have a **directional** property, and their description requires both a **magnitude** and a direction: they are termed **vectors**

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## Angular momenta and vectors



- Angular momenta are **vector quantities** since they are determined by their **magnitude** and **direction**.
- A vector quantity is graphically represented by an arrow.
- For angular momenta:
  - the **magnitude** of the momentum is represented by the length of the arrow
  - the **direction** of the momentum is represented by the direction of the arrow (tip)
  - A vector can always be thought as the sum of three vectors oriented along each of the three cartesian axes x, y and z.

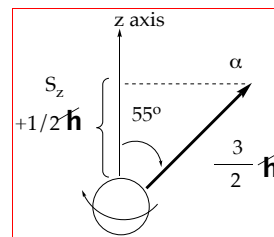
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## Spin angular momentum

- Electron possesses a fixed and characteristic spin angular momentum of  $\frac{1}{2} \hbar$

$$\hbar : \text{Planck's constant}/2\pi$$

$$\hbar = h/2\pi = 1.0545717 \times 10^{-34} \text{ J}\cdot\text{s eV}\cdot\text{s}$$



This is fixed value  $\frac{1}{2} \hbar$  independent of whether it is free or associated with a nucleus, regardless the orbital that it occupies, e.g., **s, p, d, nπ\*, ππ\***; always the same.

If the electron spin were a **classical** quantity, the magnitude and direction of the vector representing the spin could assume any length and any orientation.

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## Quantum rules of electron spin angular momentum

- **S**, the **spin quantum number**, related to the length of the spin vector for an electron can assume only value  $\frac{1}{2}$

examples

S=0	1	singlet
S=1/2	2	doublet
S=1	3	triplet

- **M<sub>s</sub>** (**spin multiplicity**) related to the orientation of the spin vector

Spin multiplicity =  $2S+1$

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$s=1/2$

$\alpha$

$\theta$

$|S| = (3^{1/2})/2$

Spin multiplicity =  $2S+1 = 2$

In particular for  
 $S=1/2 \rightarrow |S| = (3^{1/2})/2$

$\theta = 55^\circ$  for  $M_s = 1/2$

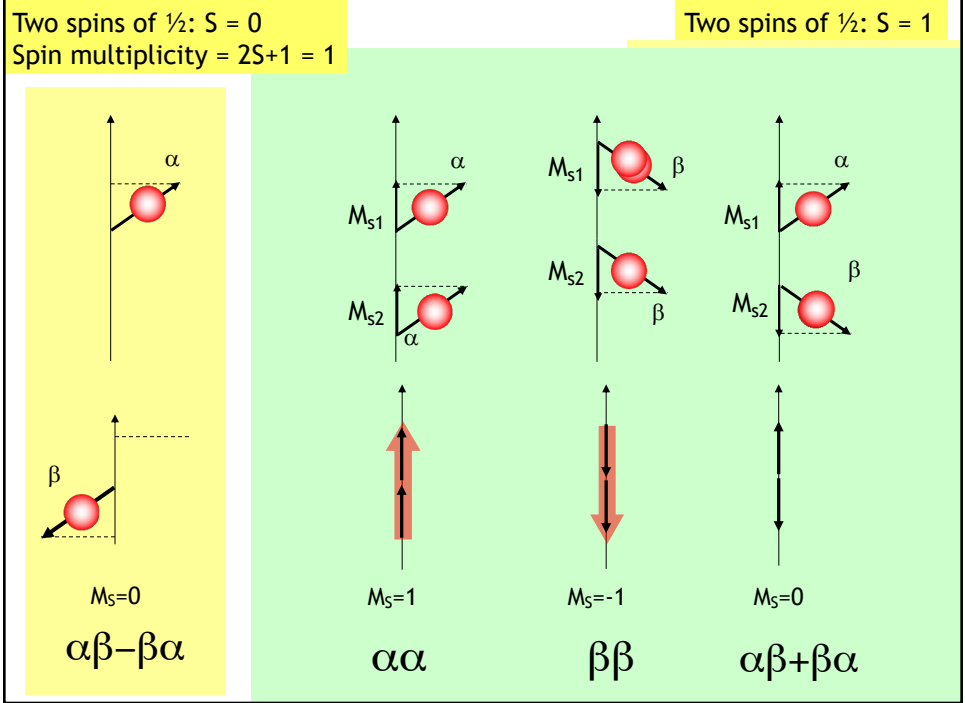
$\beta$

$\theta$

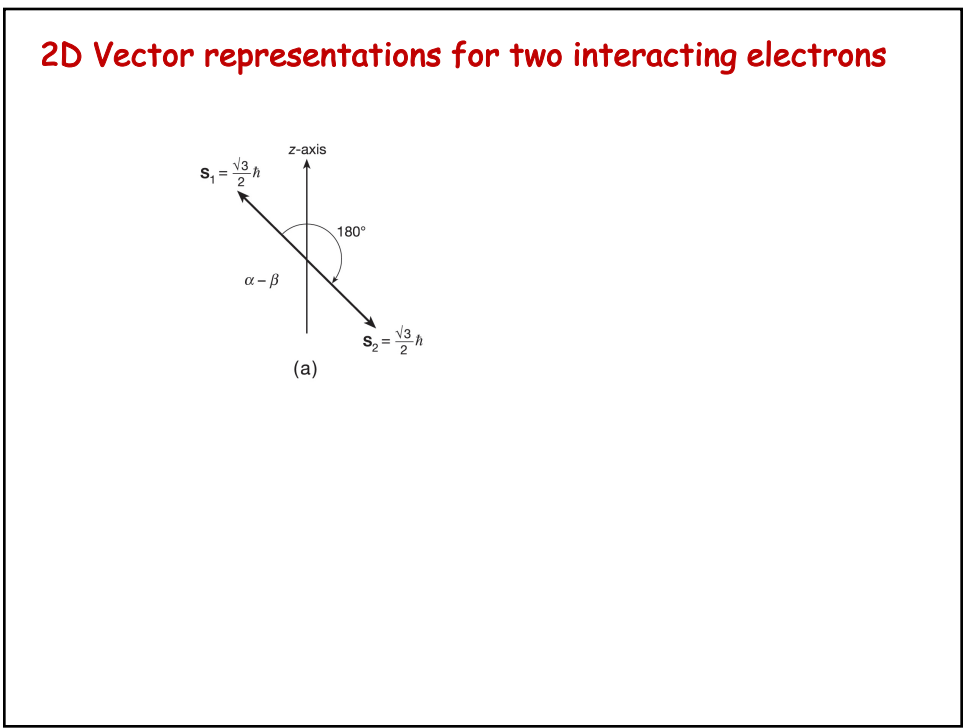
$|S| = (3^{1/2})/2$

$\theta = 125^\circ$  for  $M_s = -1/2$

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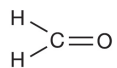


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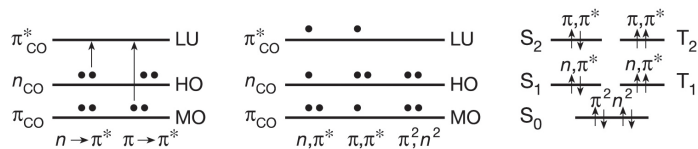


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## Electronic and Spin Configuration of States

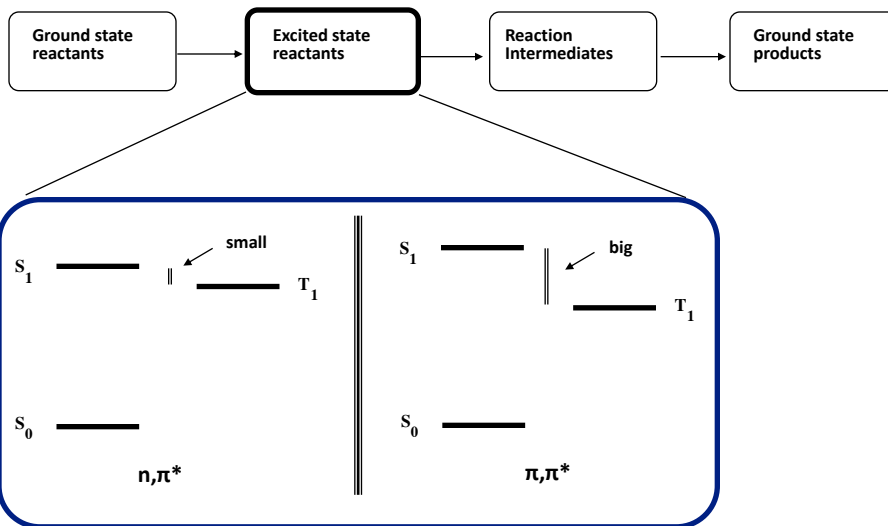


Formaldehyde



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## $S_1$ - $T_1$ energy gap



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**Singlet-Triplet separation in molecules and diradical intermediates and Intersystem crossing**

**Role of exchange integral (J)**

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**Why triplets are lower in energy than singlets?**

**What controls the singlet-triplet energy gap?**

$$E_S = E_0(n, \pi^*)$$

$$E_T = E_0(n, \pi^*)$$

$$E_S = E_0(n, \pi^*) + K(n, \pi^*)$$

$$E_T = E_0(n, \pi^*) + K(n, \pi^*)$$

$$E_S = E_0(n, \pi^*) + K(n, \pi^*) + J(n, \pi^*)$$

$$E_T = E_0(n, \pi^*) + K(n, \pi^*) - J(n, \pi^*)$$

$$\Delta E_{ST} = E_S - E_T = E_0(n, \pi^*) + K(n, \pi^*) + J(n, \pi^*) - [E_0(n, \pi^*) + K(n, \pi^*) - J(n, \pi^*)]$$

$$\Delta E_{ST} = E_S - E_T = 2J(n, \pi^*)$$

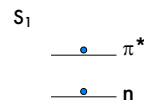
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## The Electron-Exchange Interaction in Molecules

The Singlet and the Triplet states are split apart in energy by the *electron-exchange interaction*.

Electron-exchange interaction has the form of repulsive coulombic interaction between the two charged particles (electrons).

$$J(n, \pi^*) = \langle n(1)\pi^*(2) | e^2/r_{12} | n(2)\pi^*(1) \rangle$$



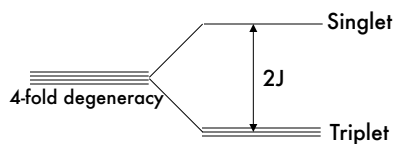
Factorizing out from the integral the coulombic term, the intensity of interaction is proportional to the overlap integral between the two states.

$$J(n, \pi^*) \sim e^2/r_{12} \langle n(1)\pi^*(2) | n(2)\pi^*(1) \rangle$$

**overlap integral controls the gap**

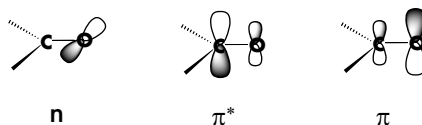
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The repulsive interaction lowers the energy of the Triplet state, since the electrons are farther apart.



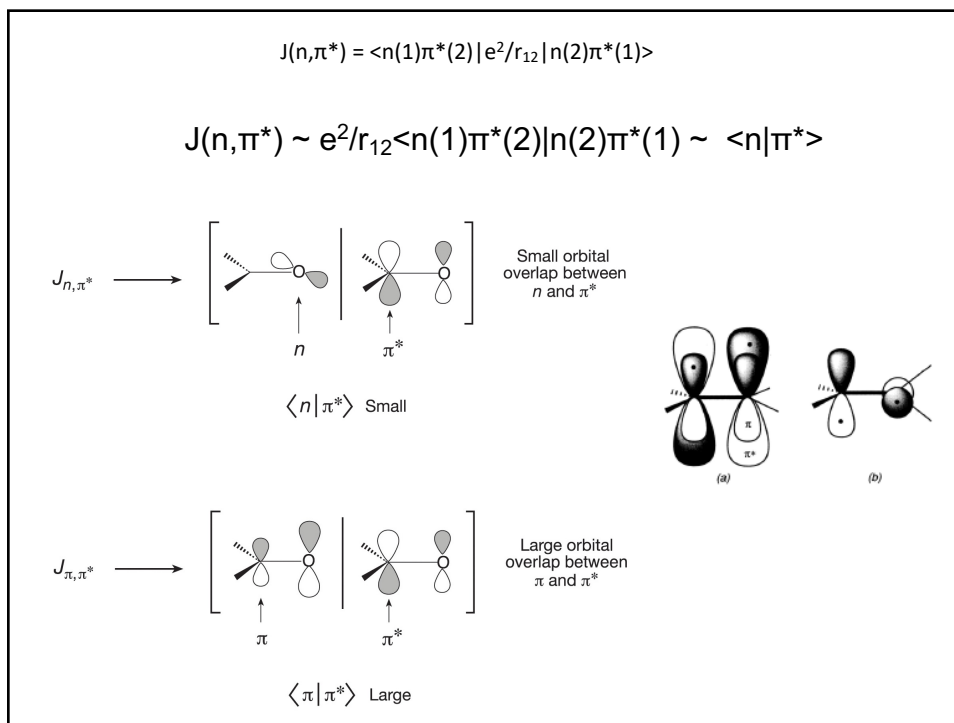
Large exchange splitting ( $J$ ) reflects the fact that the unpaired electrons can approach quite closely.

The Singlet-Triplet energy spacing depends on the overlap between the molecular orbital wavefunctions involved:  $J(n, \pi^*) < J(\pi, \pi^*)$

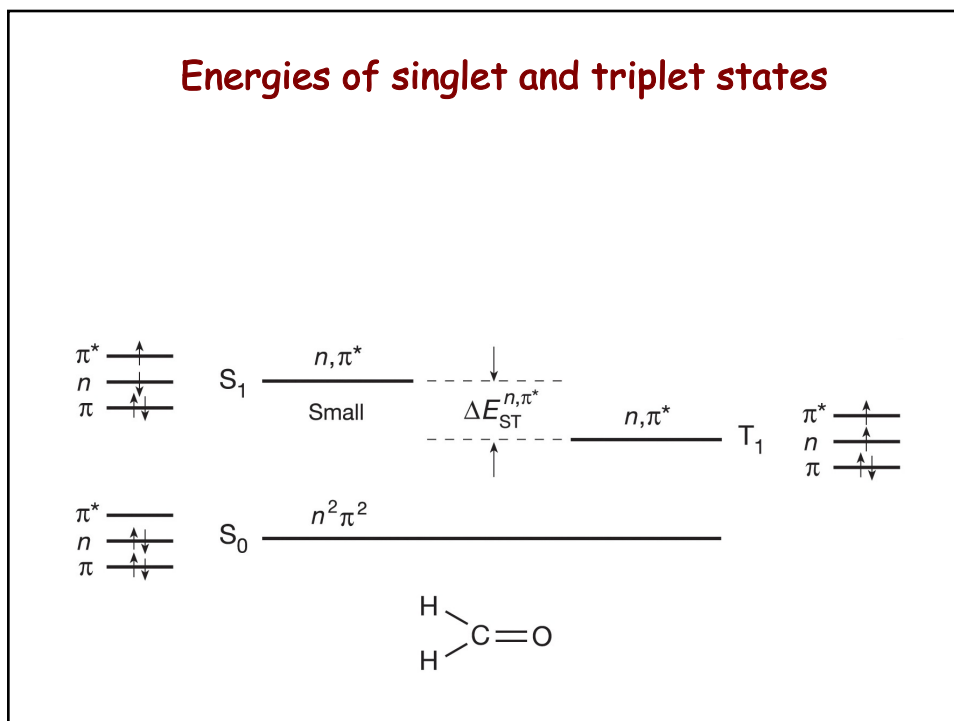


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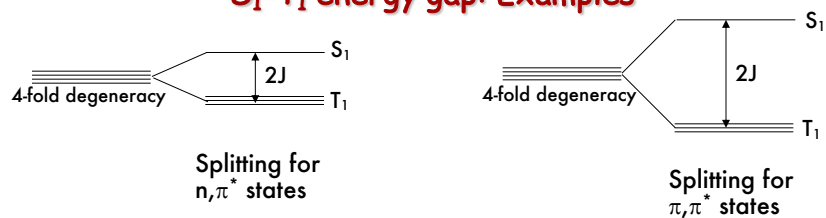






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## S<sub>1</sub>-T<sub>1</sub> energy gap: Examples



Molecule	Configuration of S <sub>1</sub> and T <sub>1</sub>	$\Delta E_{S_1 T_1}$ (kcal mol <sup>-1</sup> )
CH <sub>2</sub> =CH <sub>2</sub>	$\pi, \pi^*$	~ 70
CH <sub>2</sub> =CH-CH=CH <sub>2</sub>	$\pi, \pi^*$	~ 60
CH <sub>2</sub> =CH-CH=CH-CH=CH <sub>2</sub>	$\pi, \pi^*$	~ 48
	$\pi, \pi^*$	25 <sup>a</sup> (52) <sup>b</sup>
	$\pi, \pi^*$	31 <sup>a</sup> (38) <sup>b</sup>
	$\pi, \pi^*$	~ 34
	$\pi, \pi^*$	30
CH <sub>2</sub> =O	$n, \pi^*$	10
(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> C=O	$n, \pi^*$	7
(C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> C=O	$n, \pi^*$	5

a.  $\Delta E_{S_1 T_1}$  between states of different orbital symmetry.  
 b.  $\Delta E_{S_1 T_1}$  between states of the same orbital symmetry.