Exam 4 Solutions

## 1. 40 points.

(a) In the space below, sketch the curve for the effective potential energy  $U_{\text{eff}}$  seen by the nuclei in a diatomic molecule as a function of R.



(b) What single symmetry operation would accomplish each of the transformations shown below?



(c) List all the symmetry elements and find the point group of the molecule coronene, sketched below. Label your axes and planes as needed.



**Solution:** The molecule has a principal  $\hat{C}_6$  axis perpendicular to the page, a horizontal mirror reflection  $\hat{\sigma}_h$ , 6 vertical mirror plane reflections  $\hat{\sigma}_v$ , 6  $\hat{C}_2$  axes perpendicular to the principal axis, inversion, and the  $\hat{S}_6$  improper rotations about the principal axis. The point group is  $D_{6h}$ .

- 2. Two functions f(x) and g(x) are orthogonal if  $\int f(x)g(x) dx = 0$  over all space.
  - (a) Show whether or not the  $\psi_+$  and  $\psi_-$  orbitals of H<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> are orthogonal. Solution: We can ignore the normalization constant. If the integral vanishes, it will do so whether

or not we multiply it by the right constant. But let's assume that the 1s orbitals are already normalized.

$$\int (1s_{\rm A} + 1s_{\rm B}) (1s_{\rm A} - 1s_{\rm B}) d\tau = \int 1s_{\rm A}^2 d\tau + \int 1s_{\rm A} 1s_{\rm B} d\tau - \int 1s_{\rm A} 1s_{\rm B} d\tau - \int 1s_{\rm B}^2 d\tau = 1 - 1 = 0$$

They are orthogonal.

(b) Show whether or not the  $\psi_+$  molecular orbital of  $H_2^+$  and the  $1s_A$  atomic orbital of hydrogen are orthogonal. Solution:

$$\int (1s_{\rm A} + 1s_{\rm B}) \, 1s_{\rm A} \, d\tau = \int 1s_{\rm A}^2 \, d\tau + \int 1s_{\rm A} \, 1s_{\rm B} \, d\tau = 1 - \int 1s_{\rm A} \, 1s_{\rm B} \, d\tau > 0$$

We know that  $0 < \int 1s_{\rm A} 1s_{\rm B} d\tau < 1$  because the 1s orbitals are positive everywhere (so the integral cannot be negative) and the integral reaches its maximum value of one only in the limit that nuclei A and B are on top of one another (so that  $1s_{\rm A} = 1s_{\rm B}$ ).

3. (a) What point group contains the operators listed below? ( $\hat{\sigma}_d$  is a kind of  $\hat{\sigma}_v$ .)

**Solution:** There is a principal axis with n = 4 plus n additional  $\hat{C}_2$  axes, so this is one of the D groups. There is no  $\hat{\sigma}_h$ , so it is not  $D_{4h}$ . There are vertical mirror planes, so that makes this  $D_{4d}$ .

(b) The orbital sketched below belongs to this point group. Write the characters for this representation under each operator listed above.



**Solution:** Shown above. The orbital has all the same phase each side of the xy plane, and opposite phases on opposite sides of the xy plane. Only the  $\hat{C}'_2$  and  $\hat{S}_8$  operators will reflect through the xy plane, so only those characters are negative. This is the representation  $b_2$  in  $D_{4d}$ .

4. The following shielding parameters are calculated for the nitrogen nuclei in the nitropyridine shown and for the ammonia reference:



N1: -51.05 N2: -134.63 N3: -125.14 NH<sub>3</sub>: 269.06 (The negative values indicate that there is some paramagnetic character.)

(a) Predict the frequency in MHz of the highest energy transition in the <sup>14</sup>N NMR spectrum of nitropyridine at B = 14.0 T. Solution: The highest frequency transition will be the one with the least shielding (here the most negative value of  $\sigma$ , N2), but to the tenth of a MHz it doesn't matter which one you use:

$$\Delta E_{\text{mag},I} = |g_I \mu_N B_0(1 - \sigma)|$$
  
= |(0.404)(5.05 \cdot 10^{-27} J T^{-1})^{-1} (14.0T)(6.626 \cdot 10^{-28} J/MHz) [1 - (-125.14 \cdot 10^{-6})] |  
= 43.1 MHz.

(b) Briefly state one or two advantages of each N-atom isotope in NMR spectroscopy.

$^{14}$ N	$^{15}\mathbf{N}$
much more abundant	spin $1/2$ spectrum easier to analyze than spin 1
greater magnitude $g_I$ means better resolution	

(c) In the area below, sketch the <sup>15</sup>N NMR spectrum as a function of  $\delta$ . Give approximate numerical values for the horizontal axis. **Solution:** The chemical shift  $\delta \approx \sigma_0 - \sigma$ , a so:  $\delta = 320.1$  for N1, 403.69 for N2, 394.19 for N3, and 0 for NH<sub>3</sub>:

