



Lecture 2: Potential Energy Surfaces

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \Phi(\{\vec{r}_i\}, \{\vec{R}_I\}, t) = \hat{H} \Phi(\{\vec{r}_i\}, \{\vec{R}_I\}, t) \quad (1)$$

electron nuclei
↓ ↓

$\Phi \rightarrow$ T.D. wavefunction of the entire system of N atoms & their electrons.

$$\hat{H} = \sum_I \frac{\hat{p}_I^2}{2M_I} + \sum_i \frac{\hat{p}_i^2}{2m_e} + \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \sum_{i < j} \frac{e^2}{r_{ij}} - \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \sum_{i, I} \frac{Z_I e^2}{|\vec{r}_i - \vec{R}_I|} + \sum_{I < J} \frac{Z_I Z_J}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R_{IJ}} \quad (2)$$

$$\hat{H} \equiv \sum_I \frac{\hat{P}_I^2}{2M_I} + \hat{H}_{el}(\{\vec{r}_i\}; \{\vec{R}_I\}) + \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \sum_{I < J} \frac{Z_I Z_J}{|\vec{R}_I - \vec{R}_J|} \quad (3)$$

$$\hat{H}_{el}(\underbrace{\{\vec{r}_i\}}_{\vec{r}}; \underbrace{\{\vec{R}_I\}}_{\vec{R}}) = \sum_i \frac{\hat{p}_i^2}{2m_e} + \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \sum_{i < j} \frac{e^2}{|\vec{r}_i - \vec{r}_j|} - \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \sum_{i, I} \frac{Z_I e^2}{|\vec{r}_i - \vec{R}_I|} \quad (4)$$

$$\hat{H}_{el}(\vec{r}; \vec{R}) \hat{\Psi}_n(\vec{r}; \vec{R}) = E_n(\vec{R}) \hat{\Psi}_n(\vec{r}; \vec{R}) \quad (5)$$

Clamped nuclear Schrödinger eqn.

$$\underline{\Phi}(\underline{r}, \underline{R}, t) = \sum_n \chi_n(\underline{R}, t) \underline{\Psi}_n(\underline{r}; \underline{R}) \quad \text{--- (6)}$$

expansion in adiabatic basis or also

Born-Huang representation. ($\{\underline{\Psi}_n\}$ form a complete set)

Substitute (6) in (1):

$$i\hbar \sum_n \frac{\partial \chi_n(\underline{R}, t)}{\partial t} \underline{\Psi}_n(\underline{r}; \underline{R}) = \sum_n \sum_I \frac{\hat{P}_I^2}{2M_I} \left(\chi_n(\underline{R}, t) \underline{\Psi}_n(\underline{r}; \underline{R}) \right) + \sum_n \chi_n(\underline{R}, t) \hat{V}(\underline{R}_I) \underline{\Psi}_n(\underline{r}; \underline{R}) \quad \text{--- (7)}$$

$$\hat{U}(\vec{R}) = \hat{H}_{el}(\vec{R}) + \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \sum_{I < J} \frac{z_I z_J e^2}{|\vec{R}_I - \vec{R}_J|} \quad (8)$$

Given that $\hat{p}_I = \frac{\hbar}{i} \vec{\nabla}_I$ (in position representation)

$$\frac{\hat{p}_I^2}{2M_I} (\chi_n(\vec{R}) \bar{\Psi}_n(\vec{R}_j; \vec{R})) = \frac{-\hbar^2}{2M_I} \vec{\nabla}_I \cdot \vec{\nabla}_I (\chi_n \bar{\Psi}_n)$$

$$= \frac{-\hbar^2}{2M_I} \left[\underbrace{(\nabla_I^2 \bar{\Psi}_n)}_{\cdot} \chi_n + \underbrace{2 (\nabla_I \bar{\Psi}_n) \cdot \nabla_I \chi_n}_{\cdot} + \underbrace{\bar{\Psi}_n \nabla_I^2 \chi_n}_{\cdot} \right] \quad (9)$$

Multiply (7) by $\Psi_m^*(\vec{r}; \vec{R})$ from the left
and integrate over all $\vec{r} \equiv (r_1, r_2, \dots)$

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial \chi_m(\vec{R}, t)}{\partial t} = \sum_n \left\{ \hat{C}_{mn} + \hat{D}_{mn} \right\} \chi_n(\vec{R}, t) - \frac{\hat{I}}{\sqrt{I}} \\ + \left\{ \sum_I \frac{\hat{P}_I^2}{2M_I} + U_m(\vec{R}) \right\} \chi_m(\vec{R}, t) \quad \text{--- (10)}$$

$$U_m(\vec{R}) = E_m(\vec{R}) + \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \sum_{I < J} \frac{z_I z_J e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 R_{IJ}} \quad \text{--- (11)}$$

$$\hat{C}_{mn}(\vec{R}) = \sum_I \langle \bar{\Psi}_m | \frac{\hat{P}_I^2}{2M_I} | \bar{\Psi}_n \rangle \Rightarrow \int d^3r, \int d^3r_i \dots \quad - (12)$$

$$\hat{D}_{mn}(\vec{R}) = \sum_I \langle \bar{\Psi}_m | \frac{-\hbar^2}{M_I} \vec{\nabla}_I | \bar{\Psi}_n \rangle \cdot \vec{\nabla}_I \quad - (13)$$

If C & D were zero then there is no mixing between electronic eigenstates during dynamics. If not then the system evolves by causing transitions among $\{\bar{\Psi}_n\}$

$C \& D = 0 \Rightarrow$ Adiabatic dynamics and constitute the adiabatic approximation

Actually for eqns to be decoupled we only need that C_{mn} & D_{mn} go to zero for $m \neq n$. In this case the eqn for χ_m becomes:

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial \chi_m(\vec{R}, t)}{\partial t} = \left\{ \sum_{\vec{I}} \frac{P_{\vec{I}}^2}{2M_{\vec{I}}} + \underbrace{U_m(\vec{R}) + C_{mm}(\vec{R}) + D_{mm}(\vec{R})}_{\tilde{U}_m(\vec{R})} \right\} \chi_m(\vec{R}, t)$$

To be precise this is the adiabatic approx (14)

If C_{mm} & D_{mm} are also taken to be zero then we get the Born-Oppenheimer approx.

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial \chi_m(\vec{R}, t)}{\partial t} = \underbrace{\left\{ \sum_I \frac{\hat{p}_I^2}{2M_I} + U_m(\vec{R}) \right\}}_{\hat{H}_N} \chi_m(\vec{R}, t) \quad (15)$$

$U_m(\vec{R}) \rightarrow$ Potential energy surface of the m^{th} electronic eigenstate

$$\vec{R} \equiv \{ \vec{R}_1, \vec{R}_2, \dots, \vec{R}_N \}$$