

James F. Harrison

Quantum Chemistry

PROFESSOR

(b. 1940) B.S., 1962, Drexel Institute of Technology; M.A., 1964, Princeton Univ.; Ph.D., 1966, Princeton Univ.; NSF Postdoctoral Fellow, 1966-67. Research Associate, 1967-68, Indiana Univ.; Scientist in Residence, 1980-81 Argonne National Laboratory.

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SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

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Ab Initio Investigation of Titanium Hydroxide Isomers and their Cations, (H-Ti-O)⁺⁰ and (Ti-O-H)⁺⁰, Milordos E, Harrison J. F. and Hunt K. L. C, *J. Chem.* Phys. 2011, 135, 144111.

A Hirshfeld interpretation of the local moment composition of the quadrupole moments of the halogenated acetylenes FCCF, CICCCI, BrCCBr, and ICCI, J. F. Harrison, Computational and Theoretical Chemistry 2012, 999, 83-88.

The ground and excited states of vanadium hydroxide isomers and their anions and cations, (V-OH)0+- and (H-V-O)0+-, Milordos E, Harrison J. F. and Hunt K. L. C., *J. Chem. Phys.* **2013**, *138*, 114305.

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ADVANCES IN FUNDAMENTAL TH

and computer technology enable us to construct wavefunctions for atoms and molecules which are of unprecedented accuracy. We use these functions to assist in the interpretation of spectroscopic experiments and to develop and refine the qualitative notions of chemical bonding. Our current focus is to understand:

The electronic structure of the ground and low-lying states of small molecules containing a transition metal atom. Diatomics of interest include MX where

M is a transition metal (Sc to Zn) and X is a main group element (H to Cl). These molecules are of great interest as models for the nature of the transition meta-main group element chemical bond. Triatomics include the metal hydroxides MOH & HMO and the carbynes MCH, the understanding of which is fundamental to the reactions of transition metals with hydrocarbons. We are also interested in the structure of the monoand dipositive ions of these systems.



The nature of molecular multipole moments and the information contained in While we all have an instinctive feeling about the vqz basis set.

Electron density map of the ¹⁺ state of HCl these moments about the chemical bond. calculated using a CASSCF wavefunction and

the meaning of a molecular dipole moment and how it reflects the charge distribution in a molecule the same instincts often fail when considering for example, the quadrupole moment. Some of this problem is that the quadrupole moment is a second rank tensor while the dipole moment is a tensor of the first rank. However even for homonuclear diatomics



where the quadrupole tensor has only one unique component the relationship between this component and the molecular charge density is not well understood. We have recently shown that the molecular quadrupole moment can be written as the sum of the quadrupole moments of the constituent atoms plus a term that depends on the shift in the electron density upon bond formation. In the course of this work we have defined the quadrupole moment density that shows where in the molecule the molecular contribution to the quadrupole moment comes from. We are extending these ideas to other one electron properties like the electric field gradient at a particular nucleus and the dipole moment (still more to learn!).

Molecular quadrupole moments as a function of bond length.

The spatial distribution of electron spin in open shell molecules. We have recently shown in the open shell nitrogen halides, NF, NCI and NBr that α and β spins flow in opposite directions as the chemical bond forms. We are exploring this observation and the role that electronegativity (chemical potential) plays.

www.chemistry.msu.edu/harrison

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