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1. From the TZ, 6-311G, 6-31+G and 4-31G\* Gaussian basis sets, explain which you would expect to produce the most accurate results in Hartree-Fock calculations of:

- a) Deprotonation energies of sulphuric acid.
  - b) Structure of chloroethane.
  - c) Nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) chemical shifts of molecules.
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- a) 6-31+G – diffuse functions allow for calculation of electrons far from the center of electron density, such as in anionic molecules.
  - b) 4-31G\* – Molecular orbitals constructed from just split valence basis sets are not sufficiently flexible to accurately calculate geometries. Addition of CGs with higher angular momenta provides this flexibility.
  - c) TZ – NMR requires description of both core and valence electrons as both affect chemical shifts so need a basis set that treats both sets of electrons equally.

2. For the basis sets STO-2G, 3-21G, DZP and 4-31+G, determine:

- a) How many contracted Gaussians they contain for each core and valence atomic orbital.
  - b) How many primitive Gaussians are contained in each contracted Gaussian.
  - c) How many and what type (e.g. s, p or d) of contracted Gaussians they involve for the H and C atoms.
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- a) STO-2G – 1 valence CG and 1 core CG; 3-21G – 2 valence CG and 1 core CG; DZP – 2 valence CG and 2 core CG; 4-31+G – 2 valence CG and 1 core CG.
  - b) STO-2G – 2 pG in valence CG and 2 pG in core CG; 3-21G – 2 pG in first valence CG, 1 pG in second valence CG and 3 pG in core CG; DZP – not specified; 4-31+G – 3 pG in first valence CG, 1 pG in second CG and 4 pG in core CG.
  - c) STO-2G –  $1 \times 1s$  in H,  $1 \times 1s + 1 \times 2s + 3 \times 1 \times 2p$  in C; 3-21G –  $2 \times 1s$  in H,  $1 \times 1s + 2 \times 2s + 3 \times 2 \times 2p$  in C; DZP –  $2 \times 1s$  in H;  $2 \times 1s + 2 \times 2s + 3 \times 2 \times 2p$  in C; 4-31+G –  $2 \times 1s$  in H;  $1 \times 1s + 2 \times 2s + 3 \times 2 \times 2p + 1 \times 3s + 3 \times 1 \times 3p$ .

3. For a H atom whose nucleus is centered at point **R**, described by the STO-2G basis set with exponents 1.31 and 0.23 and with corresponding contraction coefficients 0.43 and 0.67 respectively, write down the form of the contracted Gaussian function.

$$G(\mathbf{r}) = 0.43e^{-1.31(\mathbf{r}-\mathbf{R})^2} + 0.67e^{-0.23(\mathbf{r}-\mathbf{R})^2}$$

4. A Hartree-Fock calculation on a nitrogen molecule gives energies of -108.7 Hartree and -107.4 Hartree when run with two different basis sets. The two basis sets are STO-3G and 4-31G. Which basis set leads to which energy and why?

N<sub>2</sub> contains 10 CGs in STO-3G and 18 CGs in 4-31G so there is more variational flexibility in 4-31G than STO-3G. As Hartree-Fock is a variational method, greater variational flexibility leads to a lower energy that better approximates the exact solution. Therefore 4-31G gives -108.7 Hartree and STO-3G gives -107.4 Hartree.