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# 2 Many-electron Wave Functions and Operators

## 2.1 The Electronic Problem

- 2.1.1 Atomic Units
- 2.1.2 The B-O Approximation
- 2.1.3 The Antisymmetry or Pauli Exclusion Principle

# 2.2 Orbitals, Slater Determinants, and Basis Functions

### 2.2.1 Spin Orbitals and Spatial Orbitals

Ex 2.1 Consider  $\langle \chi_k | \chi_m \rangle$ . If k = m,

$$\langle \chi_{2i-1} | \chi_{2i-1} \rangle = \langle \psi_i^{\alpha} | \psi_i^{\alpha} \rangle \langle \alpha | \alpha \rangle = 1$$
 (2.2.1)

$$\langle \chi_{2i} | \chi_{2i} \rangle = \left\langle \psi_i^{\beta} | \psi_i^{\beta} \right\rangle \langle \alpha | \alpha \rangle = 1$$
 (2.2.2)

thus

$$\langle \chi_k \, | \, \chi_k \rangle = 1 \tag{2.2.3}$$

If  $k \neq m$ , three cases may occur as below

$$\langle \chi_{2i-1} | \chi_{2j-1} \rangle = \langle \psi_i^{\alpha} | \psi_j^{\alpha} \rangle \langle \alpha | \alpha \rangle = 0 \cdot 1 = 0 \qquad (i \neq j)$$
(2.2.4)

$$\langle \chi_{2i-1} | \chi_{2j} \rangle = \langle \psi_i^{\alpha} | \psi_j^{\beta} \rangle \langle \alpha | \beta \rangle = S_{ij} \cdot 0 = 0$$
 (2.2.5)

$$\langle \chi_{2i} | \chi_{2j} \rangle = \langle \psi_i^{\beta} | \psi_j^{\beta} \rangle \langle \beta | \beta \rangle = 0 \cdot 1 = 0 \qquad (i \neq j)$$
 (2.2.6)

thus

$$\langle \chi_k | \chi_m \rangle = 0 \qquad (k \neq m)$$
 (2.2.7)

Overall,

$$\langle \chi_k \, | \, \chi_m \rangle = \delta_{km} \tag{2.2.8}$$

## 2.2.2 Hartree Products

#### Ex 2.2

$$\mathcal{H}\Psi^{HP} = \sum_{i=1}^{N} h(i)\chi_{i}(\mathbf{x}_{1})\chi_{j}(\mathbf{x}_{2})\cdots\chi_{k}(\mathbf{x}_{N})$$

$$= \varepsilon_{i}\chi_{i}(\mathbf{x}_{1})\chi_{j}(\mathbf{x}_{2})\cdots\chi_{k}(\mathbf{x}_{N}) + \chi_{i}(\mathbf{x}_{1})[\varepsilon_{j}\chi_{j}(\mathbf{x}_{2})]\cdots\chi_{k}(\mathbf{x}_{N}) + \cdots + \chi_{i}(\mathbf{x}_{1})\chi_{j}(\mathbf{x}_{2})\cdots[\varepsilon_{k}\chi_{k}(\mathbf{x}_{N})]$$

$$= (\varepsilon_{i} + \varepsilon_{j} + \cdots + \varepsilon_{k})\Psi^{HP}$$
(2.2.9)

#### 2.2.3 Slater Determinants

### Ex 2.3

$$\langle \Psi | \Psi \rangle = \frac{1}{2} (\langle \chi_i | \chi_i \rangle \langle \chi_j | \chi_j \rangle - \langle \chi_i | \chi_j \rangle \langle \chi_j | \chi_i \rangle - \langle \chi_j | \chi_i \rangle \langle \chi_i | \chi_j \rangle + \langle \chi_j | \chi_j \rangle \langle \chi_i | \chi_i \rangle)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} (1 + 0 + 0 + 1) = 1$$
(2.2.10)

Ex 2.4 According to Ex. 2.2, we know that  $\chi_i(\mathbf{x}_1)\chi_j(\mathbf{x}_2)$  are an eigenfunction of  $\mathcal{H}$  and has the eigenvalue  $\varepsilon_i\varepsilon_j$ . Similarly, we have the same conclusion for  $\chi_i(\mathbf{x}_2)\chi_j(\mathbf{x}_1)$ . For the antisymmetrized wave function,

$$\langle \Psi | \mathcal{H} | \Psi \rangle = \frac{1}{2} \left( \langle \chi_{i}(\mathbf{x}_{1}) \chi_{j}(\mathbf{x}_{2}) | \mathcal{H} | \chi_{i}(\mathbf{x}_{1}) \chi_{j}(\mathbf{x}_{2}) \rangle - \langle \chi_{i}(\mathbf{x}_{1}) \chi_{j}(\mathbf{x}_{2}) | \mathcal{H} | \chi_{j}(\mathbf{x}_{1}) \chi_{i}(\mathbf{x}_{2}) \rangle - \langle \chi_{i}(\mathbf{x}_{1}) \chi_{j}(\mathbf{x}_{2}) | \mathcal{H} | \chi_{j}(\mathbf{x}_{1}) \chi_{i}(\mathbf{x}_{2}) \rangle + \langle \chi_{j}(\mathbf{x}_{1}) \chi_{i}(\mathbf{x}_{2}) | \mathcal{H} | \chi_{j}(\mathbf{x}_{1}) \chi_{i}(\mathbf{x}_{2}) \rangle \right)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} (\varepsilon_{i} + \varepsilon_{j} - 0 - 0 + \varepsilon_{i} + \varepsilon_{j})$$

$$= \varepsilon_{i} + \varepsilon_{j}$$

$$(2.2.11)$$