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DIRECT CONSEQUENCES OF THE BOND INDEX STATISTICAL
INTERPRETATION

by

Paulo Pitanga¹, Mario Giambiagi and
Myriam S. de Giambiagi

Centro Brasileiro de Pesquisas Físicas - CBPF/CNPq
Rua Dr. Xavier Sigaud, 150
22290 - Rio de Janeiro, RJ - Brasil

¹Instituto de Física
Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro
Cidade Universitária, Ilha do Fundão
21910 - Rio de Janeiro, Brasil

ABSTRACT

The statistical interpretation of bond index, valence and charge fluctuation is connected with the hardness-softness concept developed by Pearson, Parr and co-workers. It is shown that the MO self-charge of an atom is its softness in the molecule. For all pairs (A,B) of atoms in a molecule, a reciprocal relation is obtained for the rate of change of the electronic charge in A with respect to the chemical potential of B.

Key-words: Bond index; Charge fluctuation; Valence; Hardness-softness.

In non-orthogonal bases, the first-order reduced density matrix is a mixed second order tensor [1]

$$2 \Pi_{\underline{a}}^{\underline{c}} = 2 \sum_{\underline{i}} x_{\underline{i}\underline{a}} x_{\underline{i}\underline{c}} \quad (1)$$

where $x_{\underline{i}\underline{a}}$ are the contravariant coefficients and $x_{\underline{i}\underline{a}}$ the covariant ones of orbital \underline{a} in the \underline{i} -th molecular orbital of a doubly occupied level (restricting to the closed-shell case).

The atomic charge q_A of atom A in an N-electron system

($\sum_A q_A = N$) is

$$q_A = (1/2) I_{AA} + (1/2) \sum_{B \neq A} I_{AB} \quad (I_{AB} = 4 \sum_{\substack{\underline{a} \in A \\ \underline{b} \in B}} \Pi_{\underline{a}}^{\underline{b}} \Pi_{\underline{b}}^{\underline{a}}) \quad (2)$$

where the first term is the self-charge and the second one the active charge [1,2]. This is the Mulliken atomic population, with a quite different partition among self and active charges; q_A is the invariant associated with the first-order density matrix [3].

Eq. (2) may be also stated as

$$q_A = \langle \hat{q}_A \rangle = (1/2) (I_{AA} + V_A) \quad (3)$$

where \hat{q} is the electronic density operator and V_A , the valence of atom A, is [3]

$$V_A = \sum_{B \neq A} I_{AB} \quad (4)$$

We have shown that the bond index I_{AB} between atoms A and B is the scalar associated with the spinless second-order density matrix d [4]:

$$I_{AB} = q_A q_B - \sum_{\substack{a \in A \\ b \in B}} d_{ba}^{ab} = \langle \hat{q}_A \rangle \langle \hat{q}_B \rangle - \langle \hat{q}_A \hat{q}_B \rangle \quad (5)$$

which may be written as [4]

$$- I_{AB} = \langle (\hat{q}_A - \langle \hat{q}_A \rangle) (\hat{q}_B - \langle \hat{q}_B \rangle) \rangle \quad (6)$$

Therefore, V_A is the sum of the correlations between the fluctuation in A and those of all the other atoms.

If in (6) A is made equal to B, we have [4]

$$\langle \hat{q}_A^2 \rangle - \langle \hat{q}_A \rangle^2 = - I_{AA} \quad (7)$$

The kind of fluctuations we have described have different sense from those which have been obtained in a work partitioning the Mulliken electronic density in orbital regions [5]. In this one, chemical bonds correspond to weak relative charge fluctuations. Instead, we infer a bond when, in addition to a large fluctuation, we have a large correlation between the charge fluctuations in a pair of atoms; our bond indices belong to the atomic population through its active charge.

We shall now relate the above mentioned concepts to what is tempting to call a thermodynamical formalism. The grand partition function Γ for quantum statistics is, in our notation,

$$\Gamma = \text{Tr} \exp [-\beta(F - \sum_L \mu_L \hat{q}_L)]; \quad G = -(1/\beta) \ln \Gamma \quad (8)$$

where G is the Gibbs function, F the Helmholtz free energy, $\beta = 1/kT$ and μ_L the chemical potential of atom L . It is then straightforward to show that

$$\langle \hat{q}_A \rangle = - \partial G / \partial \mu_A \quad (9)$$

and that [6]

$$-\partial^2 G / \partial \mu_A^2 = \beta (\langle \hat{q}_A^2 \rangle - \langle \hat{q}_A \rangle^2) \quad (10)$$

Similarly, we can easily show that

$$-\partial^2 G / \partial \mu_A \partial \mu_B = \beta (\langle \hat{q}_A \hat{q}_B \rangle - \langle \hat{q}_A \rangle \langle \hat{q}_B \rangle) \quad (11)$$

or, by (5)

$$\partial^2 G / \partial \mu_A \partial \mu_B = \beta I_{AB} \quad (12)$$

and also

$$V_A = (1/\beta) \sum_{B \neq A} \partial^2 G / \partial \mu_A \partial \mu_B \quad (13)$$

As I_{AB} and V_A are numbers, the derivatives in eqs. (12) and (13) must be the values of the corresponding functions at a certain point; this is most naturally defined as the equilibrium point where all atomic chemical potentials (electronegativities) are equal, for they must be so in the molecule [7]: $\mu_A = \mu_B = \mu$. Expression (13) opens a new thermodynamical outlook for the valence concept.

By (9) and (10) we have that

$$\partial \langle \hat{q}_A \rangle / \partial \mu_A \Big|_{\mu_A = \mu} = \beta (\langle \hat{q}_A^2 \rangle - \langle \hat{q}_A \rangle^2) \quad (14)$$

that is, by (7)

$$\partial \langle \hat{q}_A \rangle / \partial \mu_A \Big|_{\mu_A = \mu} = -\beta I_{AA} \quad (15)$$

In turn, this is related to hardness η or softness \underline{s} , such as defined by Parr et al. in the density functional formulation [8,9].

$$\underline{s}_A = 1/\eta_A = \partial \langle \hat{q}_A \rangle / \partial \mu_A \Big|_{\mu_A = \mu} \quad (16)$$

Eq. (16) may then give a quantitative meaning to the statement that "each atom has its own effective hardness in a molecule (whereas electronegativities of all atoms are the same)" [9]. Let us underline that even hydrogen, from this point of view, exhibits varying hardnesses; its self-charge covers a surprisingly large range in compounds such as hydrocarbons, azines and borazarobenzenes [2]. We conclude that, as regards the reactivity aspect of hardness [9], the significant quantity is the self-charge rather than the total charge.

In actual calculations, we must remember to get rid of isolated pairs and core electrons in order to estimate hardness through I_{AA} , for they contribute in an additive constant to q_A and are hence independent of μ_A . For doubtful cases, they are easily identified by calculating the $2\pi \frac{a}{a'}$ eigenvalues.

The ensemble molecular formulation may be found in Ref. [10]. However, the "thermodynamical" treatment must be dealt with some caution, keeping aware of the recent developments in local thermodynamics [9,11]. Our formulation seems to involve an intermediate level, neither local (functions of the space coordinates) nor global (numbers referred to the molecule as a whole) in the sense used in density functional theory [9]. Quantities such as q_A and I_{AB} are associated with zones within a molecule, so that they could be better named zonal quantities.

As a corollary, either of eq. (9) or of eq. (12), we arrive at the inciting equilibrium condition

$$\partial \langle \bar{q}_A \rangle / \partial \mu_B \Big|_{\mu_A = \mu_B = \mu} = \partial \langle \bar{q}_B \rangle / \partial \mu_A \Big|_{\mu_A = \mu_B = \mu} \quad (17)$$

Thus, for all pairs (A,B) of atoms in a molecule, we have a reciprocal relation for the rate of change of the electronic charge in A with respect to the chemical potential of B.

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