



# *Part III Symmetry and Bonding*

## *Chapter 1 Symmetry and Point Groups*

### **第一章 对称性与点群**

Prof. Dr. Xin Lu (吕鑫)

Email: [xinlu@xmu.edu.cn](mailto:xinlu@xmu.edu.cn)

<http://pcoss.xmu.edu.cn/xlv/index.html>

<http://pcoss.xmu.edu.cn/xlv/courses/theochem/index.html>



# Recommended books



- Vincent A., *Molecular Symmetry and Group Theory*, 2nd edition, Wiley, 2001.
- Barrett J., *Structure and Bonding*, RSC, 2001
- Cotton F. A., *Chemical Applications of Group Theory*, 3rd edition, Wiley, 1990.
- Atkins P. W. & Friedman R. S., *Molecular Quantum Mechanics*, 4th edition, OUP, 2005
- *Physical Chemistry*, Donald A McQuarrie and John D. Simon  
University Science Books

*Good for other parts of the course too*



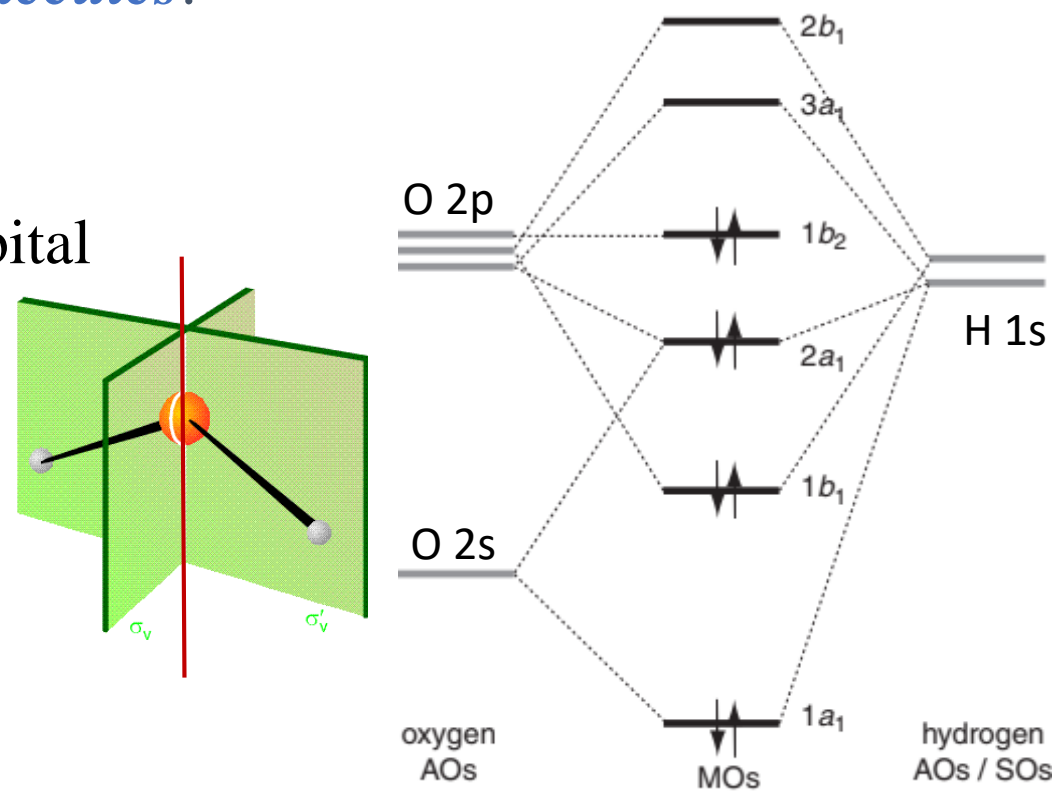
# 1.1 Introduction



• In this course we will explore how *the symmetry of molecules* can be described precisely using *Group Theory* and how, armed with the concepts from this theory, we can go on to *predict and understand important properties of molecules*.

• In particular we shall focus on

- i) how symmetry helps us to construct molecular orbital diagrams;
- ii) how it helps in the calculation of the energies and precise form of the orbitals.
- iii) how to use symmetry to predict and describe the properties of the vibrational normal modes of molecules and their activity in *IR and Raman spectra*.

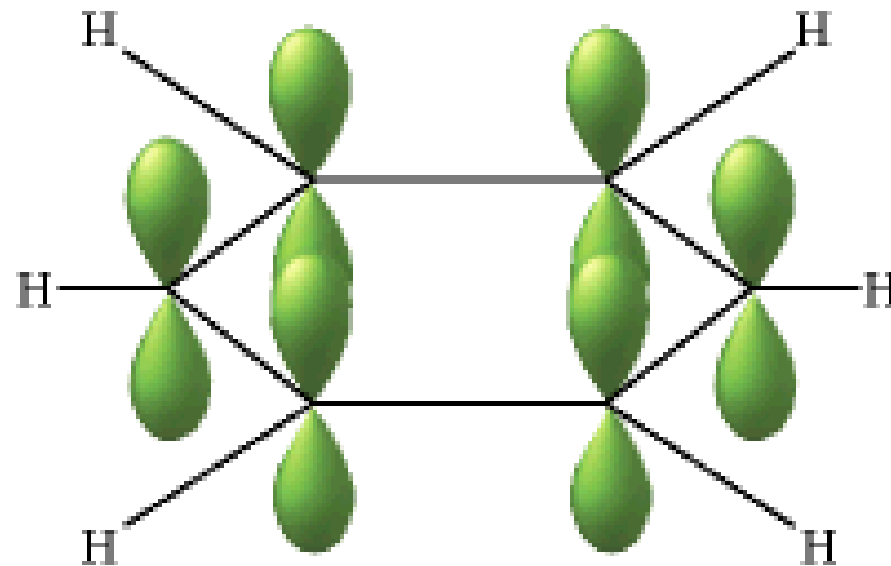


*Molecular orbital diagram for H<sub>2</sub>O*



## 1.1.1 The Simple Powerfulness of Symmetry

- The symmetry possessed by a molecule has a powerful influence on its properties.
- For example, *benzene* ~ high symmetry!
  - All of the carbon atoms are equivalent, thus having the same properties, such as chemical shift.
  - Likewise, the electron density on each hydrogen is the same.
  - If a calculation predicted that this was not so, we would immediately know that the calculation must be wrong.



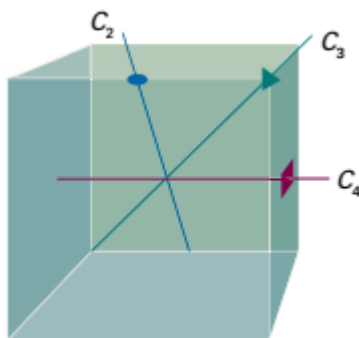
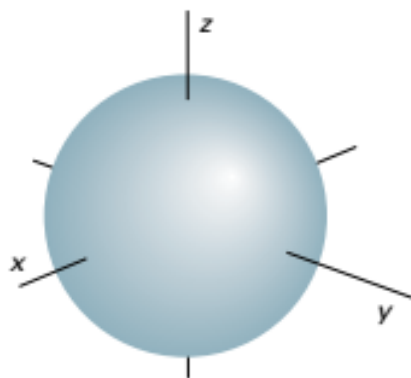


# 1.1.2 分子形状与对称性简介

## ◆ 对称与视觉美感

对称物体 -- 由完全等同部件组成

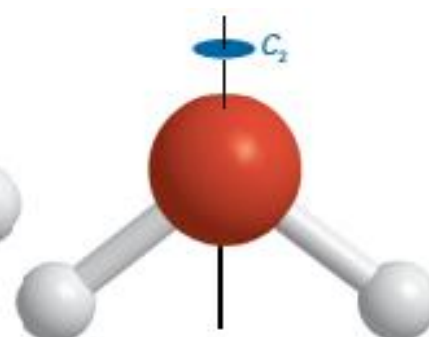
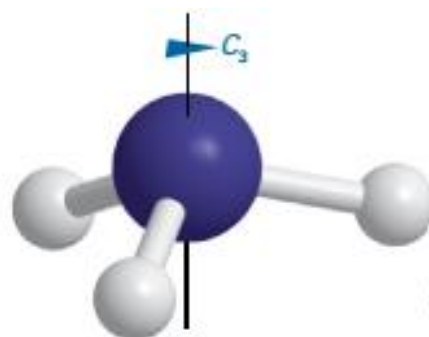
对称之美 -- 日常生活中随处可见



## ◆ “更对称” -- ?

球形 > 立方体

$\text{NH}_3$  >  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$



## ◆ 分子对称性 – 因原子几何排列而具有一定的外形和对称性，可根据对称性特征对分子进行分类；

正四面体型： $\text{CH}_4$  vs  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$

三角锥型： $\text{NH}_3$  vs  $\text{SO}_3^{2-}$

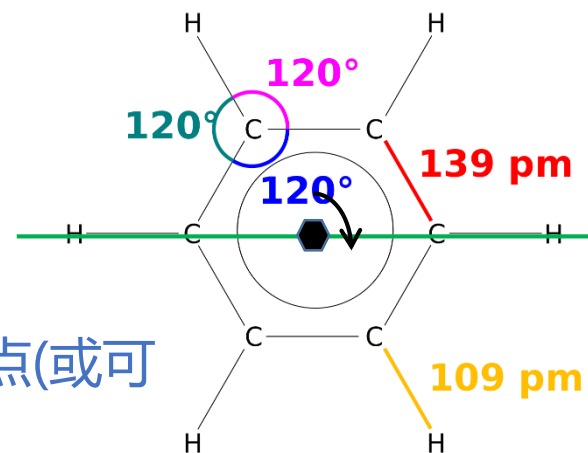


# 1.2 对称元素与对称操作

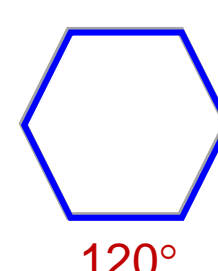
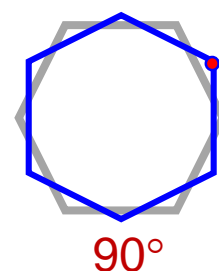
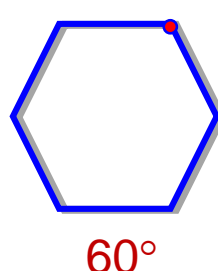
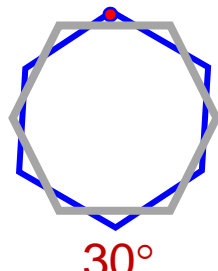
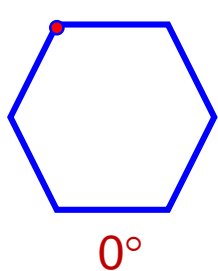


## ◆ 对称操作(symmetry operation)

对物体做一个动作(操作)后, 物体的每一点都与原始物体的等价点(或可能是相同的点)相重合! 简言之, 就是完成动作后物体看似不动!



例1: 以通过苯环心且垂直分子平面的直线为轴, 顺时针旋转30°、60°、90°、120°, 哪个为对称操作?



例2: 苯分子, 以1,4位碳原子连线为轴, 旋转 90° 或 180°, 哪个为对称操作? 后一动作

例3: 苯分子, 以分子平面为镜面, 做照镜子动作? ✓

例4: 苯分子, 以环心为原点, 所有原子坐标均做  $(x,y,z) \rightarrow (-x,-y,-z)$  的反演变换 ✓



## 1.2 对称元素与对称操作



### • 对称元素(symmetry element):

对称操作所据以进行的 点(对称中心或反演中心)、线(对称轴或旋转轴)、面(对称面或镜面)等几何元素。

共有五类对称元素

对称元素产生对称操作!

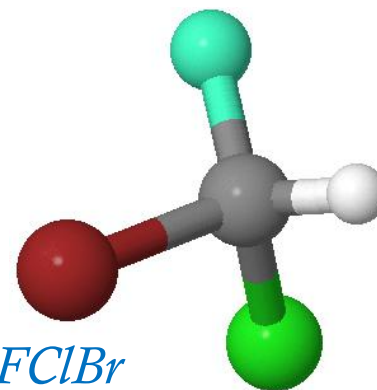
对称元素	符号	对称操作(其符号为算符! )
对称心	$i$	$i$ , 反演 (inversion) – 所有原子通过中心的反演
对称面	$\sigma$	$\sigma$ , 反映(reflection) – 从镜面的一侧反映到另一侧
对称轴	$C_n$	$C_n$ , 旋转(rotation) – 绕轴转动 ( $360^\circ/n$ ) 或其倍数角度
映转轴	$S_n$	$S_n$ , 旋转反映 (rotation-reflection) – 绕轴转动 $360^\circ/n$ , 再在垂直轴的平面中反映
恒等	$E$	$E$ , 恒等操作(identity) – 不动





## 1.2.1 恒等 (identity, E)

- 恒等元素 $E$ 生成的对称操作为恒等操作 $E$  – 不动
- 所有物体均具恒等元素



*CHFCIBr*

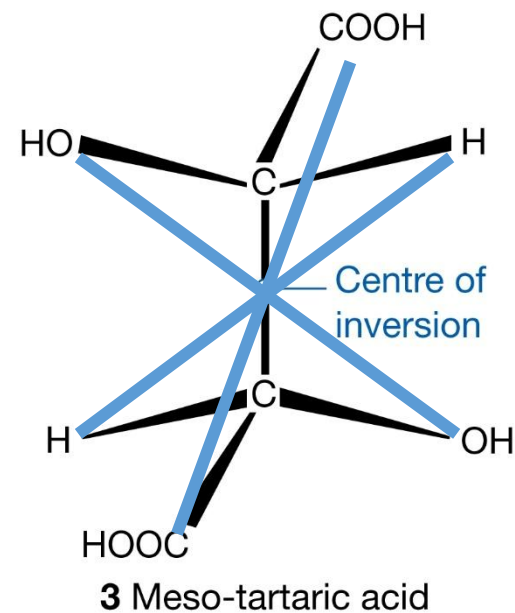
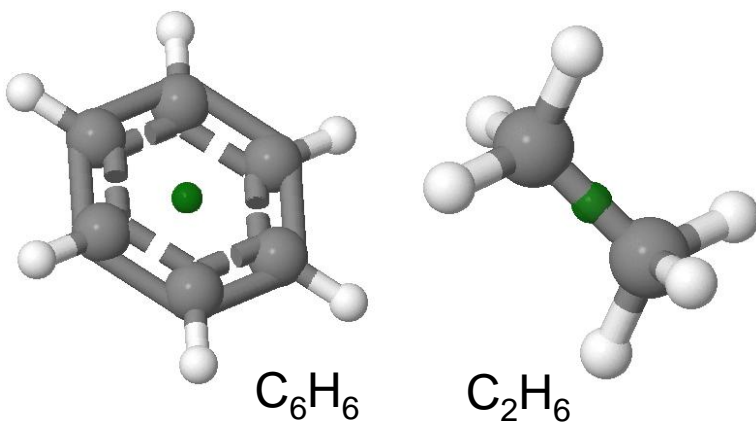
*(An asymmetric molecule)*





## 1.2.2 对称中心(center of symmetry)/反演中心(center of inversion)

- 将坐标原点位于分子中的某一点时，若把分子中每个原子的坐标 $(x,y,z)$ 变为 $(-x,-y,-z)$ 可使分子进入等价构型(看似不动!)，则原点所在点为对称中心或反演中心，符号为*i*。
- 反演中心只生成一个操作—反演*i*:  $(x,y,z) \rightarrow (-x,-y,-z)$



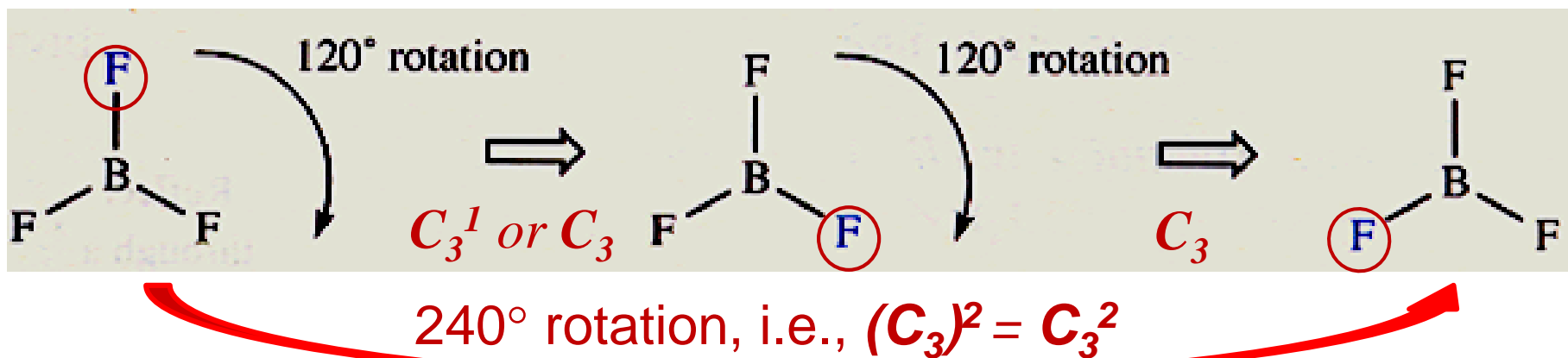


## 1.2.3 对称轴(axis of symmetry, 或旋转轴) 与 转动(rotation)

- 将物体围绕一根直线旋转 $360^\circ/n$ 后, 看似未动, 物体具有 $C_n$ 轴 ( $n$ 次轴,  $n$ -fold axis of rotation)。

例:  $\text{BF}_3$ 中的 $C_3$

$$(C_3)^3 = E$$

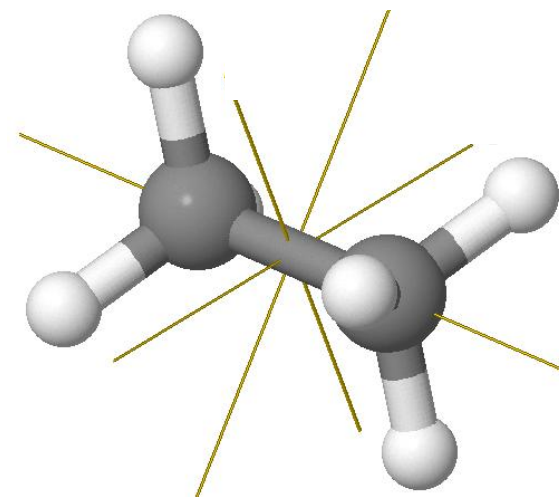


- $C_n$ 轴 生成 $n$ 个相互独立的旋转操作 $C_n^m$  (转动 $m \times 360^\circ/n$ ,  $m=1,2,\dots,n$ ),  $C_n^n = E$ 。

Q:  $\text{BF}_3$ 中是否还有其它对称轴?

- 分子中有多根对称轴时, 轴次 $n$ 最大的为主轴 (principal axis)。

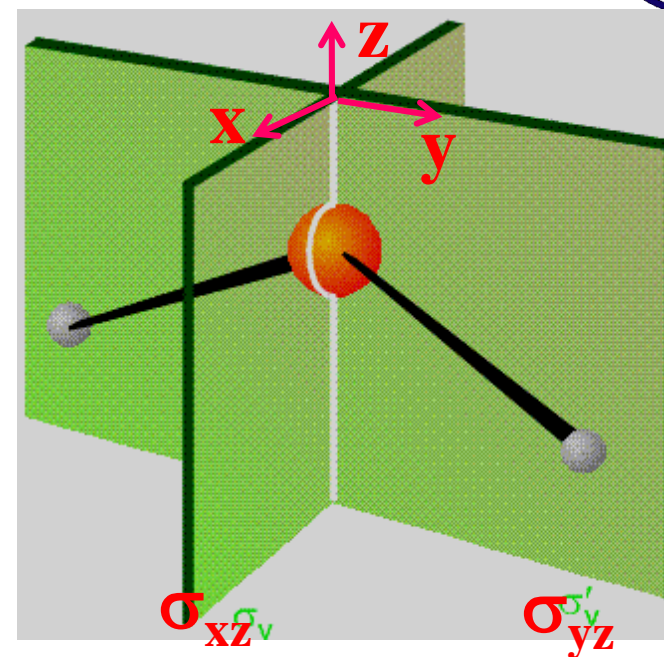
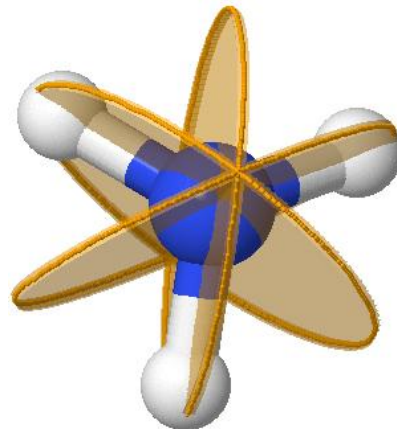
Q: 乙烷(交叉式构象)中有哪些 $C_n$ 轴? 哪个为主轴?





## 1.2.4 对称面(a plane of symmetry)/镜面(mirror plane), $\sigma$

- 将分子相对于一个平面做**反映(reflection)**操作, 分子看似不动, 这个平面就是**对称面 (镜面)**。例:  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$
- 一个对称面  $\sigma$ 只生成一个**反映**操作。
- 一个分子中可存在多个对称面, 例:  $\text{NH}_3$
- 一个分子中还可能存在多种**对称面**, 例: 苯

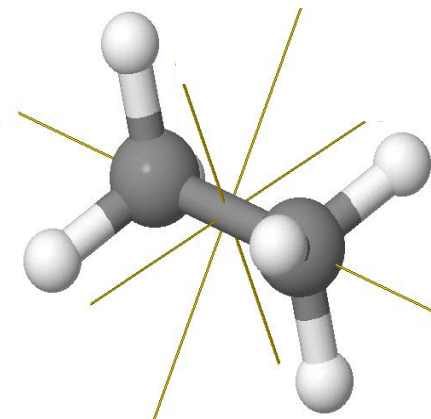
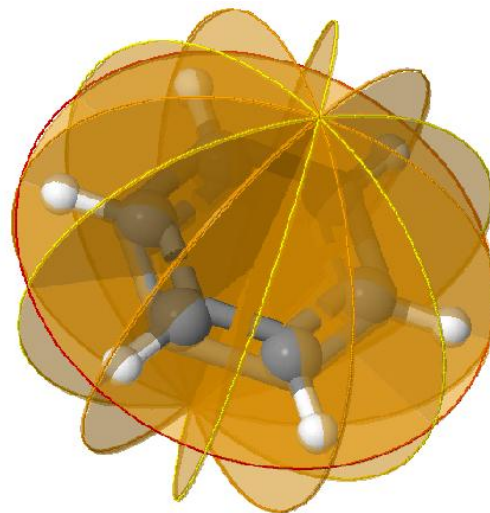


i) 垂直镜面  $\sigma_v$ : 包含主轴的镜面. (v ~ vertical)

ii) 水平镜面  $\sigma_h$ : 垂直主轴的镜面. (h ~ horizontal)

iii) 二面镜面  $\sigma_d$ : 特殊  $\sigma_v$ , 将垂直主轴的两个  $\text{C}_2$  轴夹角平分!

Q: 乙烷(交叉式构象)中有哪些镜面, 属哪类镜面?

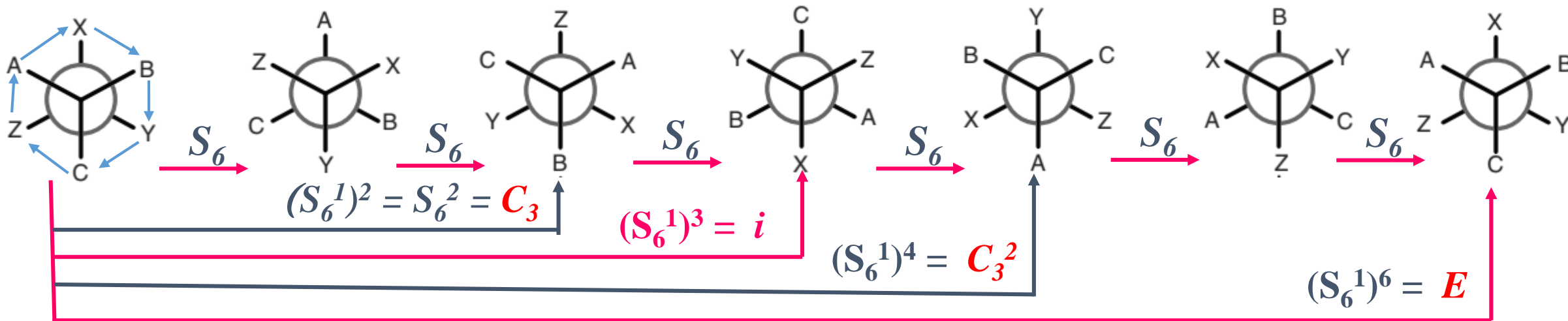
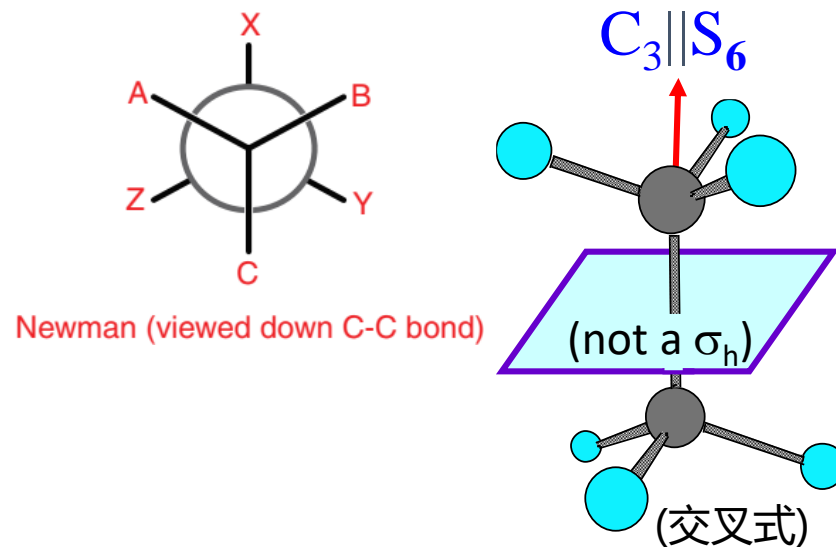




# 1.2.5 映转轴(rotation-reflection axis)/非真转动轴(improper rotation axis)



- $S_n$ : 将分子绕一根直线旋转 $360^\circ/n$ , 再做垂直该直线的镜面反映后, 分子看似不动, 则分子具有映转轴 $S_n$ 。
- 分子中有 $S_n$ 轴时, 并不必要有 $C_n$ 轴和 $\sigma_h$ 。例: 乙烷。
- $S_n$ 轴生成多个相互独立的映转操作 $S_n^m [= (S_n)^m = (\sigma_h)^m C_n^m]$  ( $n$ 为偶数时,  $m = 1, 2, \dots, n$ ;  $n$ 为奇数时,  $m = 1, 2, \dots, 2n$ )



Q1: 映转轴 $S_6$ 必然与哪些对称元素共存?  $i, C_3$

Q2: 上述哪些操作是仅由 $S_6$ 映转轴生成的独特映转操作?  $S_6, S_6^5$



## 1.2.5 映转轴(rotation-reflection axis)/非真轴(improper axis)

$$S_n^m = (S_n)^m = (\sigma_h)^m C_n^m$$

注:  $(\sigma_h)^m = E$  ( $m$ =偶数) /  $= \sigma_h$  ( $m$ =奇数)

• 几种特殊情况:

i)  $n = 1, m = 1 \rightarrow S_1 = \sigma_h E = \sigma_h$  对称操作  $S_1$  就是反映操作  $\sigma$

ii)  $n = 2, m = 1 \rightarrow S_2 = \sigma_h C_2 = i$  对称操作  $S_2$  就是反演操作  $i$

◆ 所有对称操作, 要么是转动( $C_n$ ), 要么是映转( $S_n$ )操作!

◆ 两个对称元素 (E除外) 共存时, 会有其它对称元素共存!

例如, 拥有  $C_{2n}$  轴和反演中心  $i$  的分子必然拥有  $\sigma_h$ !

拥有与  $C_n$  主轴垂直的1根  $C_2$  轴, 必然还有  $(n-1)$  根垂直主轴的  $C_2$  轴! .....

思考题:

1) 试判断  $S_{2n}$  轴是否同时也是  $C_n$  轴? 试简要证明。

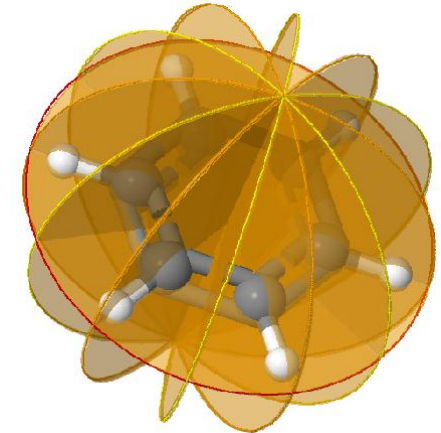
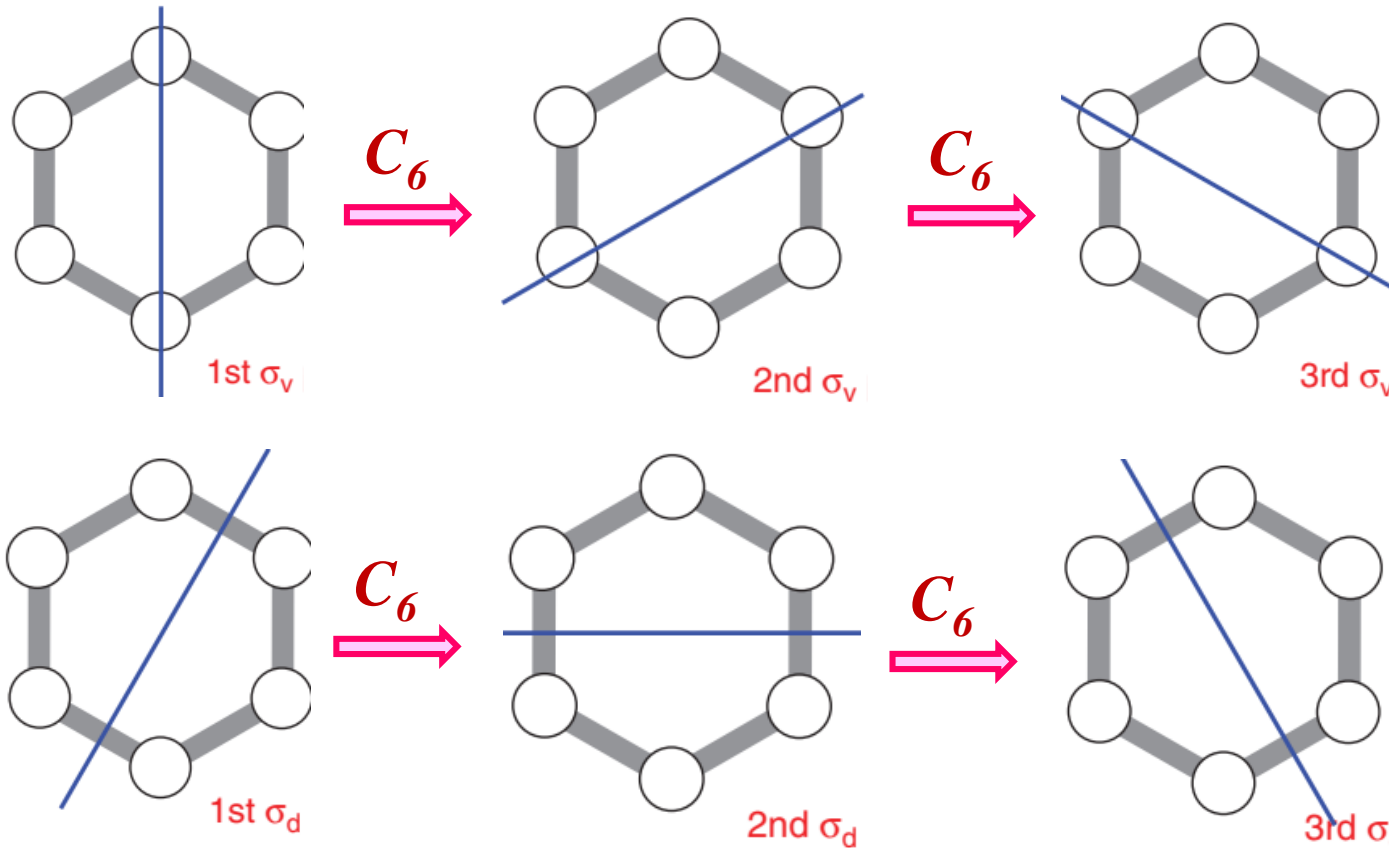
2) 试判断具有  $S_{2n}$  轴 ( $n$  为奇数) 的分子是否具有反演中心? 试简要证明。



## 1.2.6 Classes of operations (对称操作的分类)

In Group Theory two symmetry operations are said to be in the same *class* if they are related by another symmetry operation which the molecule possesses.

*e.g., Benzene,  $\sigma_v$  planes*



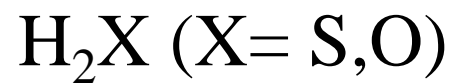
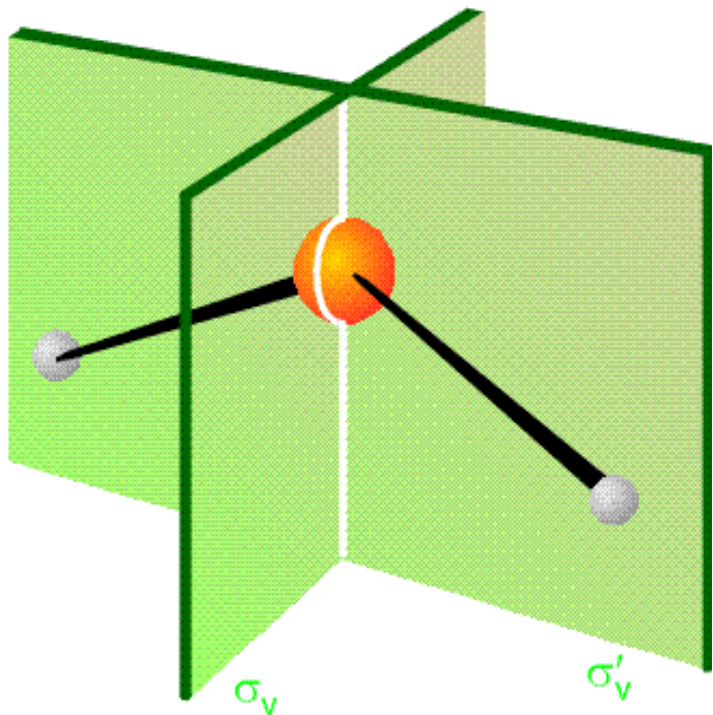
These three planes related by the  $C_6$  rotation are in the same class.

These six mirror planes are not in the same class!

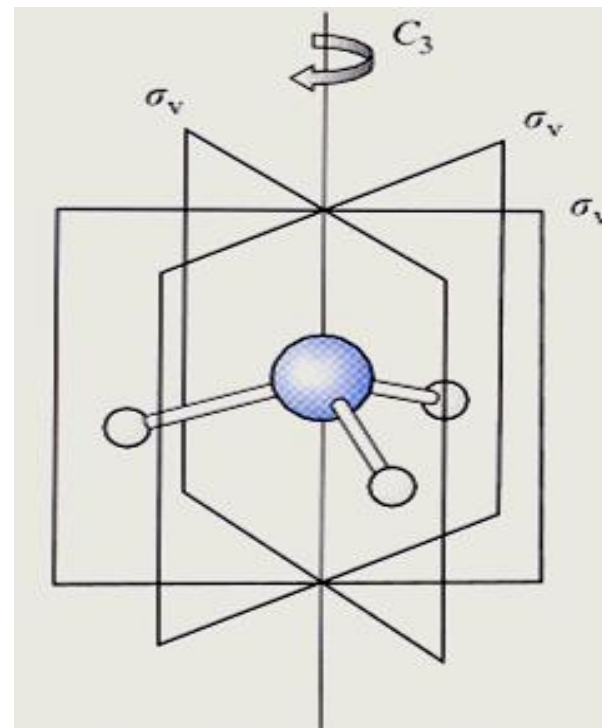
These three planes related by the  $C_6$  rotation are in the same class.

Q: Are the six  $C_2$  operations (each generated by a  $C_2$  axis) in the same class?

a) Are the two  $\sigma_v$  planes in the same class? Why?



b) Are the three  $\sigma_v$  planes in the same class? Why?



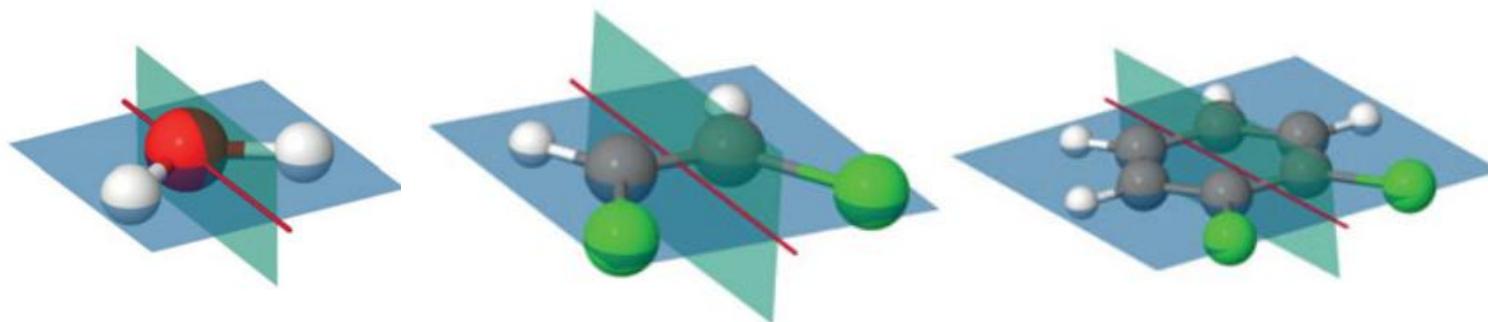
*Ex.3*





## 1.3 点群(point group) – 分子对称性的分类描述

- ◆ 准确描述某分子对称性 – 列出其所有对称元素 (或所有可及对称操作) ! 繁琐! 简便方法?
- ◆ 一些分子 (或离子) 拥有同一套特征对称元素。 e.g.,  $\text{CH}_4$  &  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ ,  $\text{BF}_3$  &  $\text{SO}_3$  &  $\text{CO}_3^{2-}$
- ◆ 点群(point group): 一个分子所拥有的全部特征对称元素即定义了其所归属的点群。
  - 点群名称与所包含的特征对称元素有关。 e.g.,  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ,  $E, C_2, 2\sigma_v \rightarrow C_{2v}$



- 拥有相同特征对称元素的分子都属于同一点群。 e.g., 以上三个分子均属于 $C_{2v}$
- 使用点群的名称符号快捷表示分子的对称性。



# 1.3 点群(point group) – 分子对称性的分类描述

◆ 何为点群 or 为何称为点群?

In Geometry, a **point group** is a mathematic group of symmetry operations that have a common fixed point.

1) 分子(或物体)中所有对称元素所生成的全部独特对称操作之集合;

e.g., H<sub>2</sub>O中共有四个独特对称操作 {*E*, *C*<sub>2</sub>, *σ*<sub>v</sub>, *σ*<sub>v</sub>'}, 为*C*<sub>2v</sub>点群。

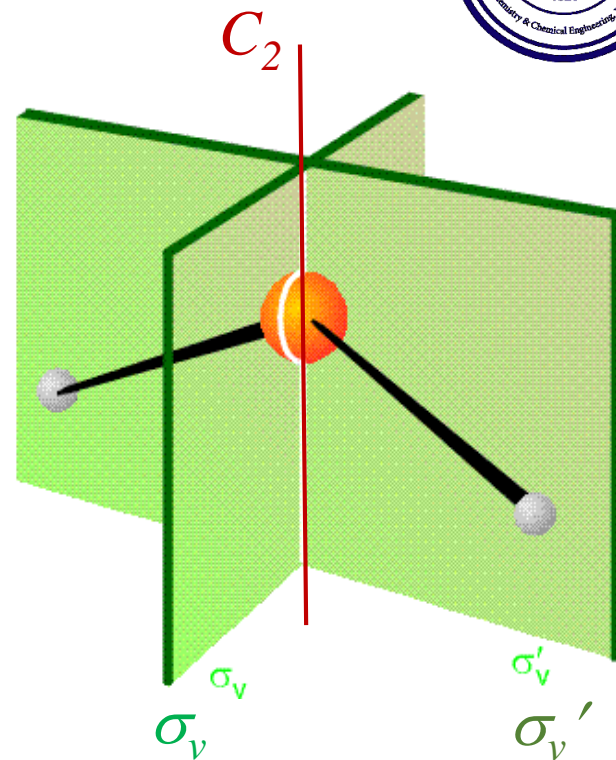
2) 该对称操作集合 {*R*<sub>1</sub>, *R*<sub>2</sub>, ..., *R*<sub>i</sub>, ..., *R*<sub>n</sub>} 满足代数中群的定义。即必有恒等操作*E*, 每个群元素有其逆元素(操作)且亦为群元素, 任意两个群元(操作)相乘仍是该群的一个元素(操作)...

e.g., *C*<sub>2v</sub>, *C*<sub>2</sub>操作即为其自身的逆, *C*<sub>2</sub>·*C*<sub>2</sub>=*E*;

$$C_2 \cdot \sigma_v(x,y,z) = \sigma_v'(x,y,z); \quad \sigma_v \cdot \sigma_v'(x,y,z) = C_2(x,y,z), \dots$$

3) 分子中所有对称元素至少有一个公共点, 这个公共点在所有可及对称操作下不动。

◆ 群元数(即对称操作总数)即为群阶*h* (order)。 e.g., *C*<sub>2v</sub>点群的群阶为4。





## 1.3 点群(point group) – 分子对称性的分类描述

◆ 使用点群 -- 对分子对称性进行分类:

- 无轴点群:  $C_1$   $C_s$   $C_i$
- 单轴群(仅拥有单根 $C_n$ 旋转轴的点群):  $C_n$   $C_{nh}$   $C_{nv}$   $S_{2n}$
- 二面体群 (拥有一个 $C_n$ 轴及 $n$ 根与之垂直的 $C_2$ 轴的点群):

$$D_n \quad D_{nd} \quad D_{nh}$$

- 多面体群或立方体群 (拥有多根  $C_n$  ( $n > 2$ ) 轴的点群):

$$T_d \quad T \quad T_h \text{ (四面体群);}$$

$$O_h \quad O \quad \text{(八面体群);}$$

$$I_h \quad I \quad \text{(二十面体群);}$$

$$(K_h \text{ -球对称})$$

◆ **子群**: A群的所有元素是B群的部分元素, 则A为B的**子群**。

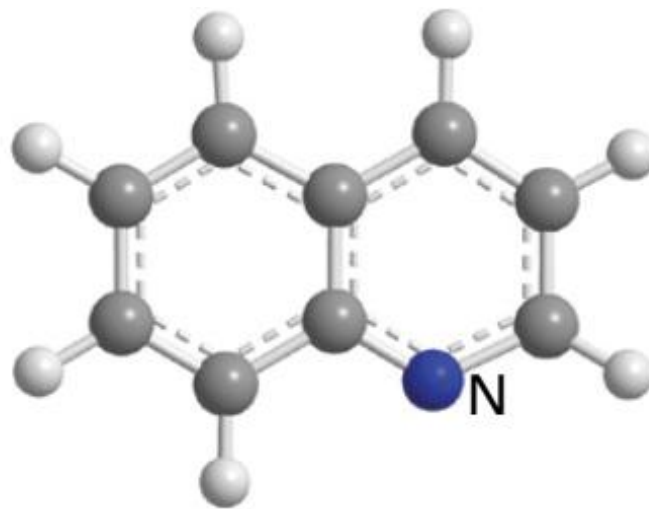
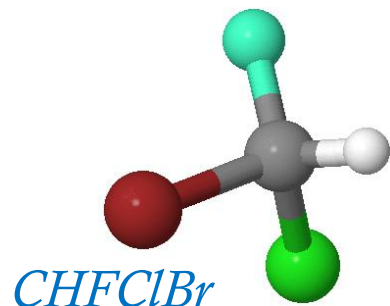
◆ 判断点群要点:

找出**特征对称轴、面、心等**

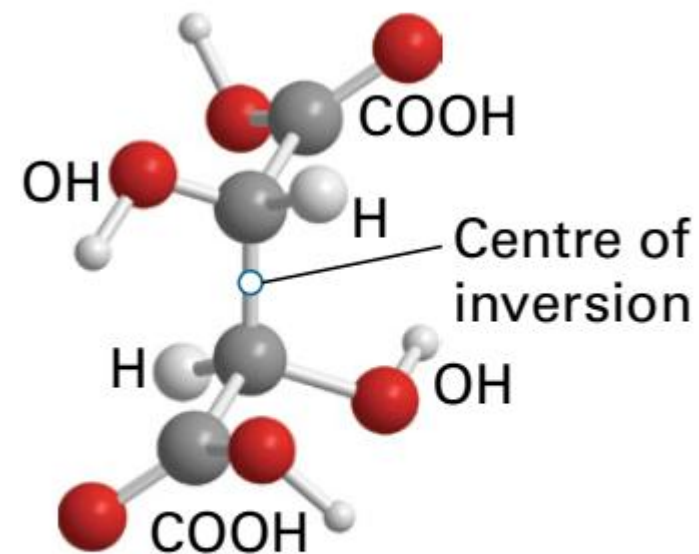


### 1.3.1 无轴点群: $C_1$ , $C_s$ , $C_i$

- $C_1$ : 只有恒等元素  $E$ ,  $h = 1$
- $C_i$ : 只有一个对称心  $i$ ,  $h = 2$   
(plz always count  $E$ !)
- $C_s$ : 只有一个对称面  $\sigma$ ,  $h = 2$



Quinoline,  $C_9H_7N$   
喹啉



$i$  Meso-tartaric acid,  
 $HOOCH(OH)CH(OH)COOH$   
内消旋酒石酸



# 厦大长汀时期化学系系主任刘椽先生

## 1946年刘椽与妹妹刘惠的全家福



前排左起：

刘芳萃、刘芳蕙、刘芳桂、俞小梅、俞晓松、刘芳萁；

后排左起：

刘椽、刘椽夫人高佩兰、刘光夏、刘惠、俞浩鸣(刘椽妹夫)

刘惠和俞浩鸣都是厦门大学老师，刘惠教英文，俞浩鸣教土木建筑；

刘芳萁供图

**“南方之强”由来：1940-41两次全国大学生学业竞赛蝉联冠军！！！！！！**

忆恩师刘椽先生，张永巽，大学化学，2021，36(4): 2102049-0  
<http://www.dxhx.pku.edu.cn/article/2021/1000-8438/20210403.shtml>  
<https://chem.xmu.edu.cn/info/1141/2644.htm> (卢嘉锡先生回忆笔录)



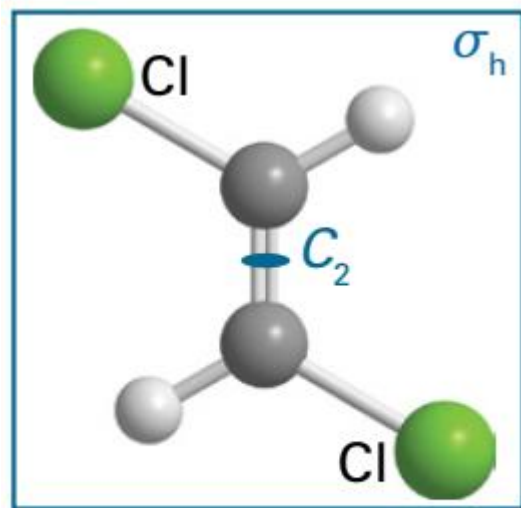
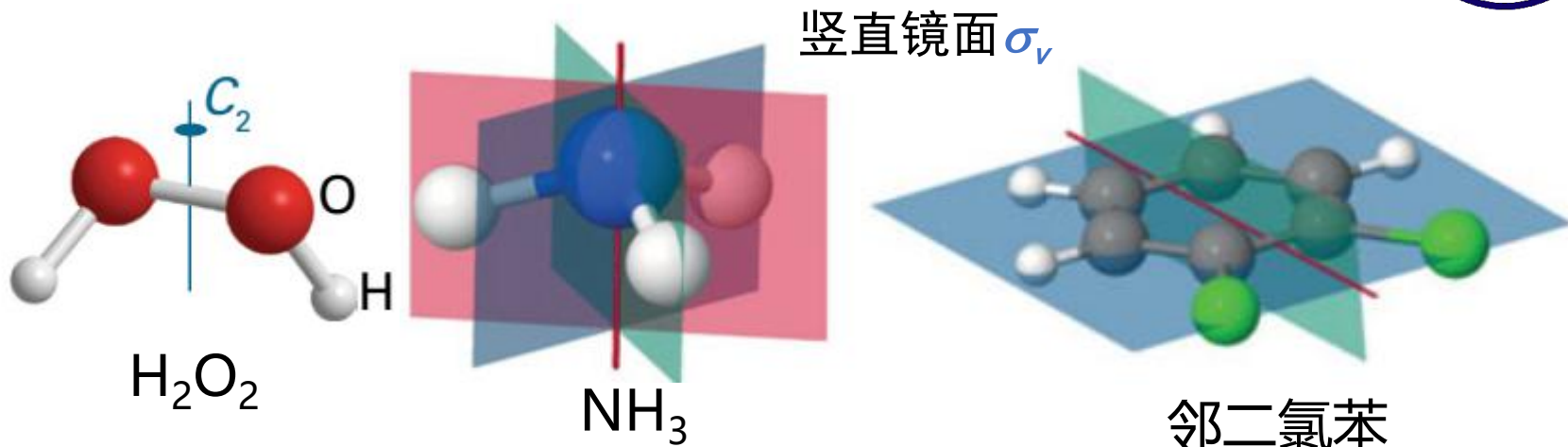
# 1.3.2 单轴点群: $C_n, C_{nv}, C_{nh}$ ( $n \geq 2$ , 主轴轴次)

名称 特征对称元素  $h$

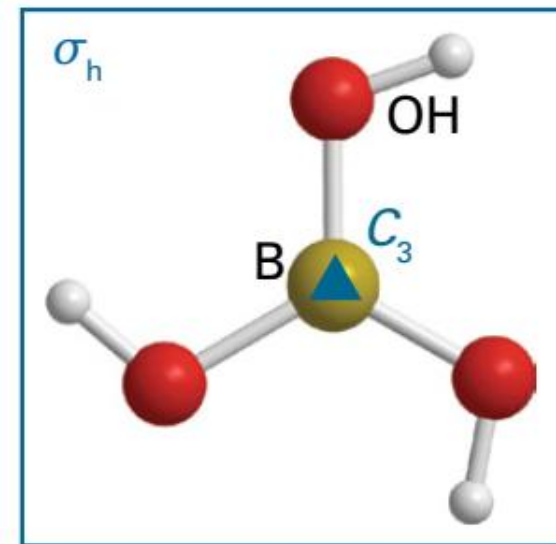
$C_n$   $E, C_n$   $n$

$C_{nv}$   $E, C_n, n\sigma_v$   $2n$

$C_{nh}$   $E, C_n, \sigma_h$   $2n^*$



9 *trans*-CHCl=CHCl



10  $B(OH)_3$

\*未列出全部对称元素!

- 某些特征元素共存时会派生出其他对称元素:

e.g.,  $C_n$  &  $\sigma_h \rightarrow S_n$

(对称操作:  $C_n \cdot \sigma_h = S_n$ )

e.g.,  $C_2$  &  $\sigma_h \rightarrow i$

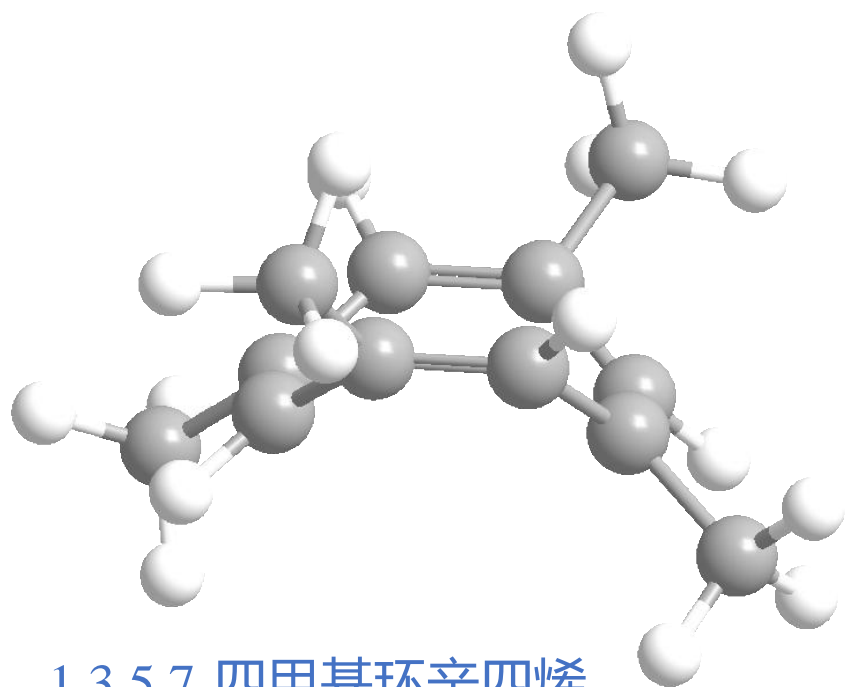
(对称操作:  $C_2 \cdot \sigma_h = i$ )



### 1.3.3 $S_n$ ( $n = 2m, m \geq 2$ ) 点群

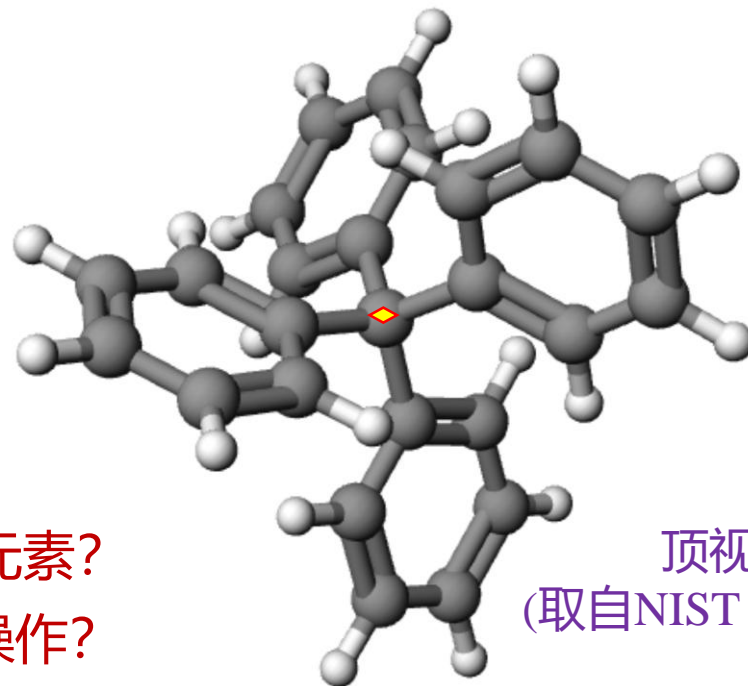
名称	特征对称元素	$h$
$S_n$	$E, S_n$	$n$

- 罕见  $S_n$  ( $n > 4$ ) 点群分子。

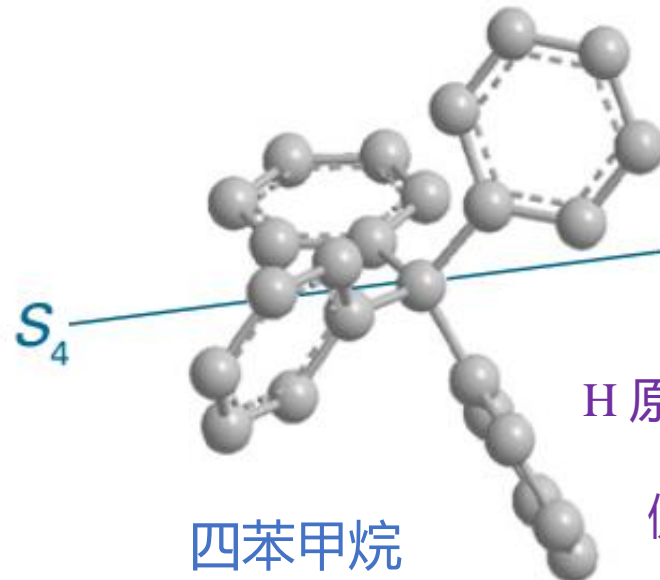


1,3,5,7-四甲基环辛四烯

Q:  $S_4$  点群有哪些对称元素?  
共有哪些对称操作?



顶视图  
(取自NIST webbook)



四苯甲烷  
14 Tetraphenylmethane,  $C(C_6H_5)_4$  ( $S_4$ )

H 原子未显示

侧视图



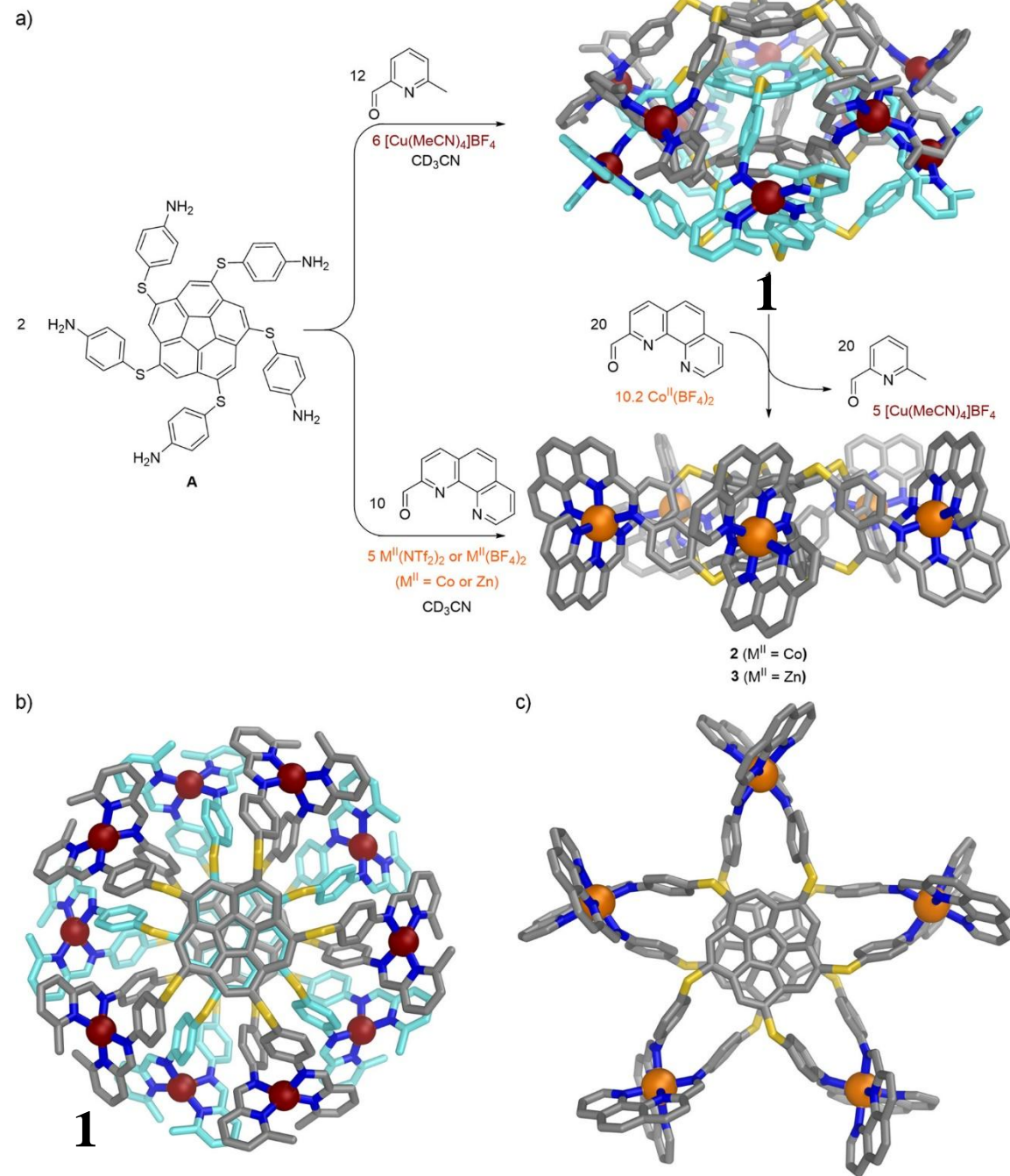


# Funny Structures

## An $S_{10}$ -Symmetric 5-Fold Interlocked [2]Catenane

By T.K. Ronson et al.,  
*J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2020, 142, 10267.

Compound **1** is  $S_{10}$ -symmetric.

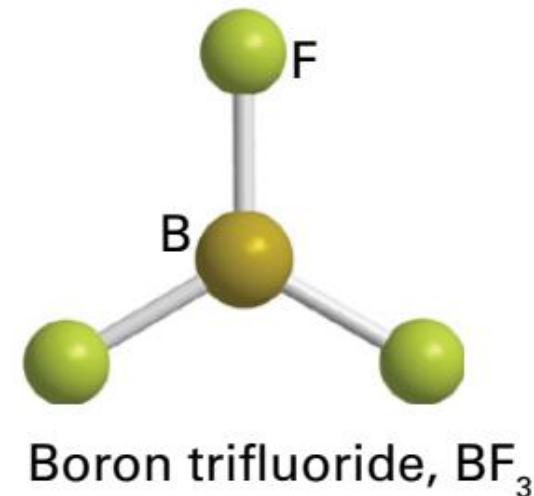
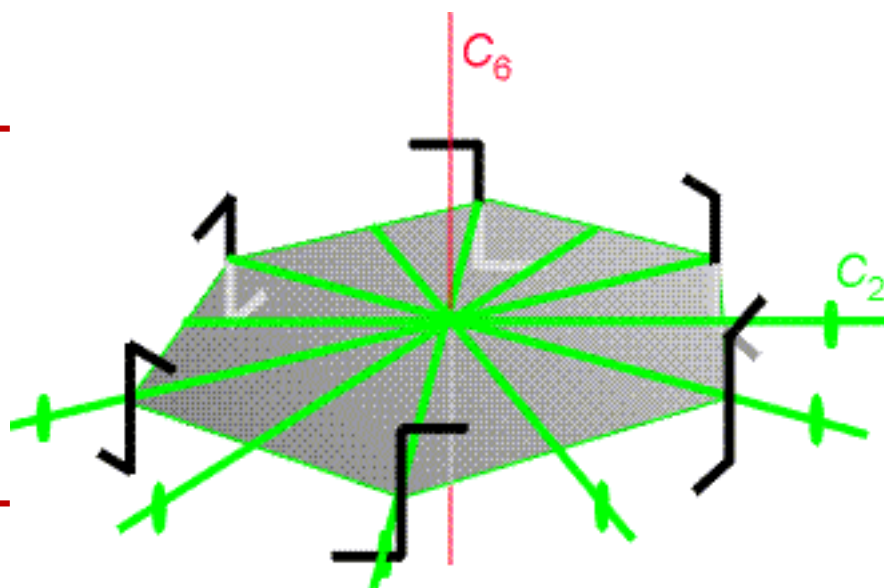




# 1.3.4 二面群: $D_n, D_{nd}, D_{nh}$

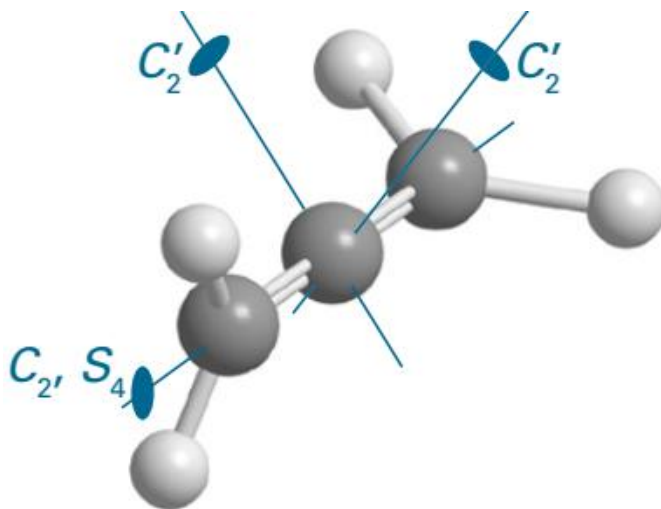
名称	特征对称元素	$h$
$D_n$	$E, C_n, nC'_2(\perp C_n)$	$2n$
$D_{nh}$	$E, C_n, nC'_2(\perp C_n), \sigma_h$	$4n^*$
$D_{nd}$	$E, C_n, nC'_2(\perp C_n), n\sigma_d$	$4n^*$

\*未列出全部对称元素

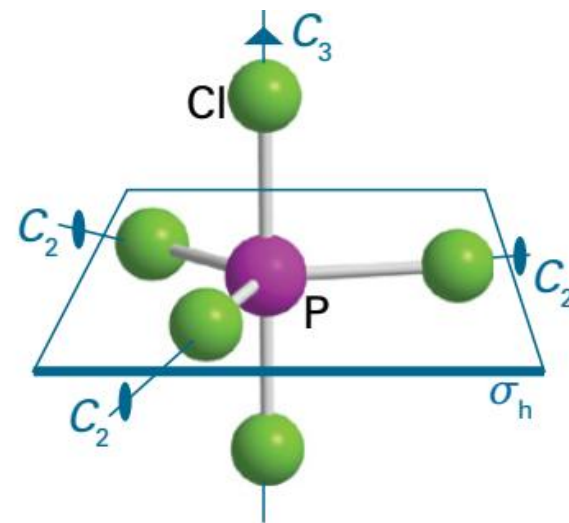


Q1: 试列出 $D_{3h}$ 点群的全部对称元素以及全部群元(同类可合并);

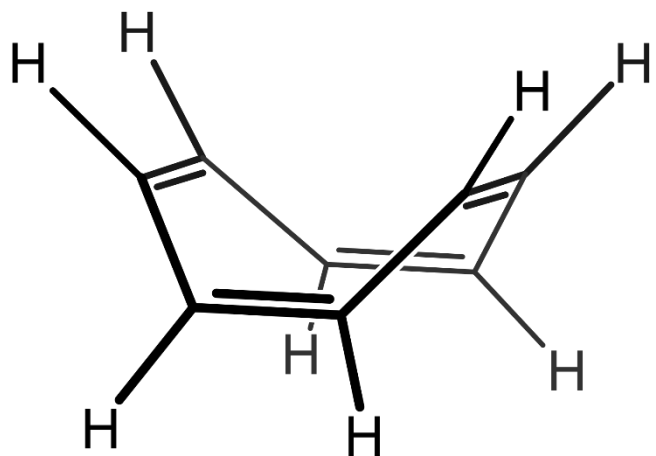
Q2: 试列出 $D_{3d}$ 点群的全部对称元素以及全部群元(同类可合并);



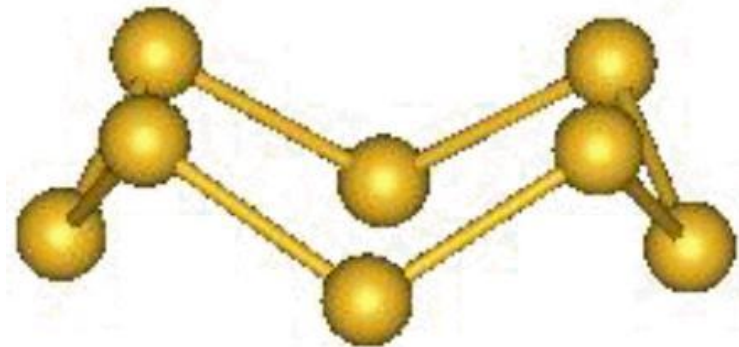
13 Propadiene,  $C_3H_4 (D_{2d})$



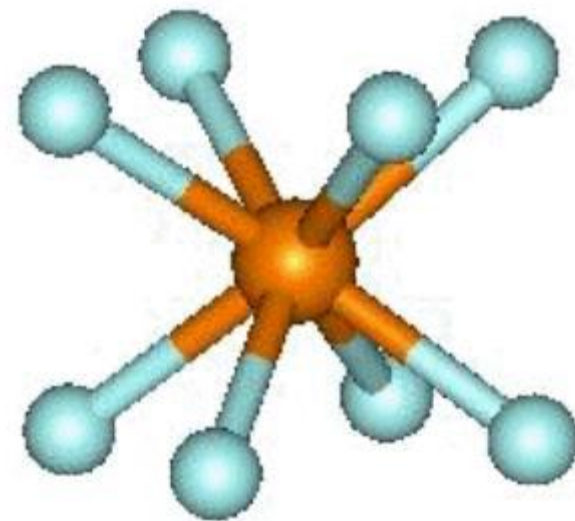
Phosphorus pentachloride,  $PCl_5 (D_{3h})$



C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>8</sub>



S<sub>8</sub>



[TaF<sub>8</sub>]<sup>3-</sup>



$n =$	2	3	4	5	6	$\infty$
$C_n$						
$D_n$						
$C_{nv}$	 Pyramid					 Cone
$C_{nh}$						
$D_{nh}$	 Plane or bipyramid					
$D_{nd}$						
$S_{2n}$						



# 1.3.4 立方体群



## Name Elements

$T$   $E, 4C_3, 3C_2$

$T_d$   $E, 3C_2, 4C_3, 3S_4, 6\sigma_d$

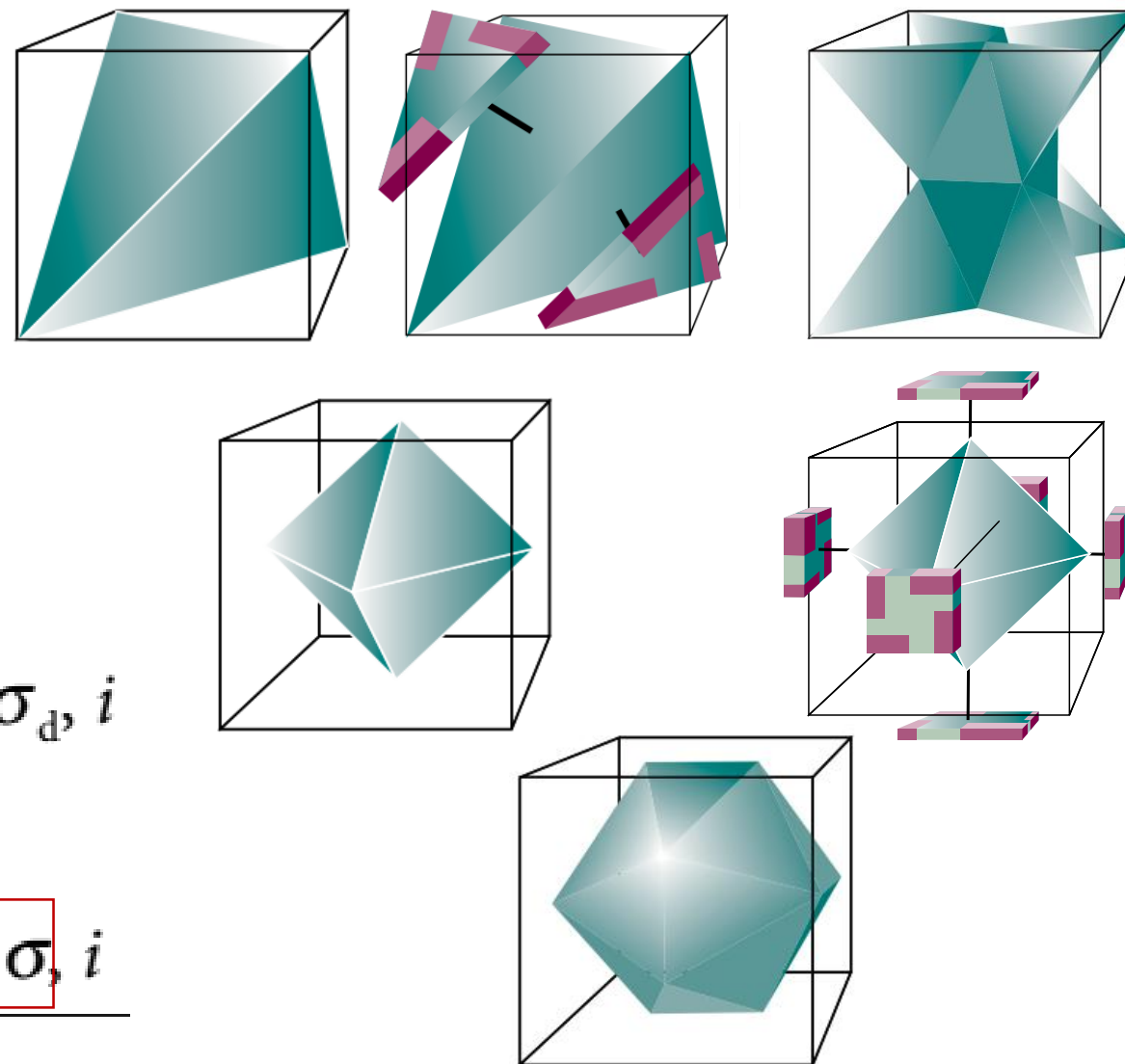
$T_h$   $E, 3C_2, 4C_3, i, 4S_6, 3\sigma_h$

$O$   $E, 3C_4, 4C_3, 6C_2$

$O_h$   $E, 3S_4, 3C_4, 6C_2, 4S_6, 4C_3, 3\sigma_h, 6\sigma_d, i$

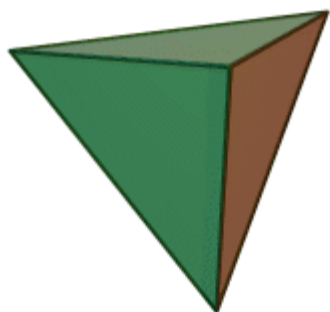
$I$   $E, 6C_5, 10C_3, 15C_2$

$I_h$   $E, 6S_{10}, 10S_6, 6C_5, 10C_3, 15C_2, 15\sigma, i$

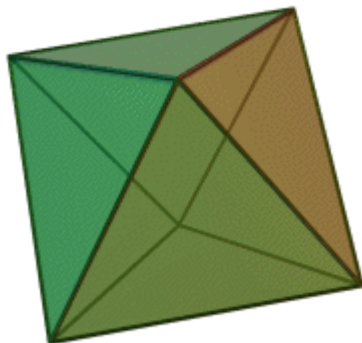


\* 特征对称元素

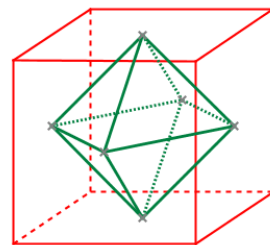




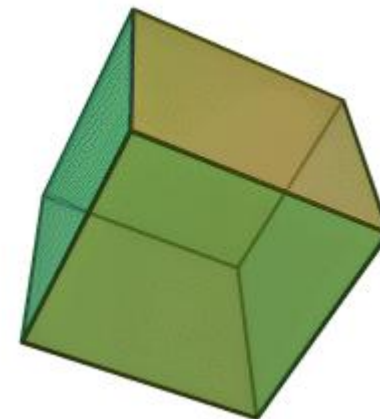
正四面体 ( $T_d$ )  
Tetrahedron



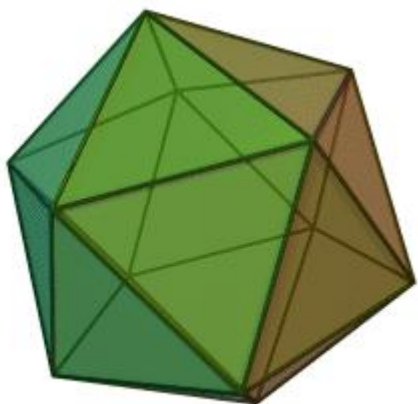
正八面体 ( $O_h$ )  
Octahedron



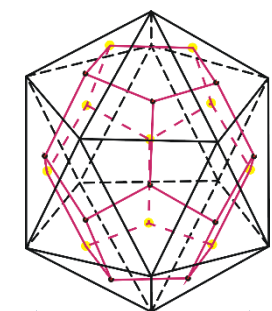
对偶多面体



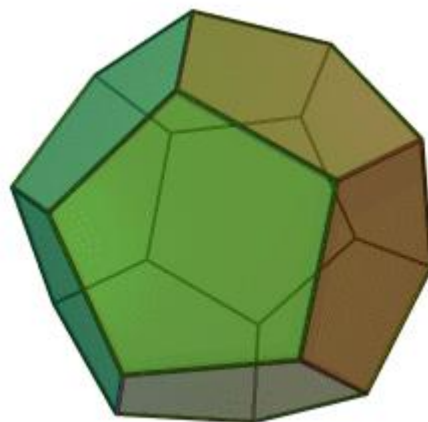
立方体 ( $O_h$ )  
Cube



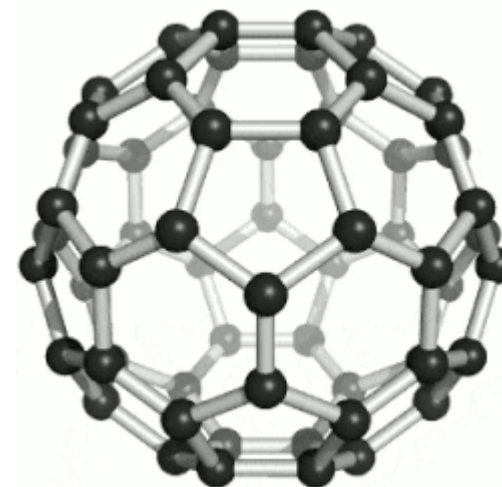
正二十面体 ( $I_h$ )  
Icosahedron



对偶多面体



正十二体 ( $I_h$ )  
Dodecahedron

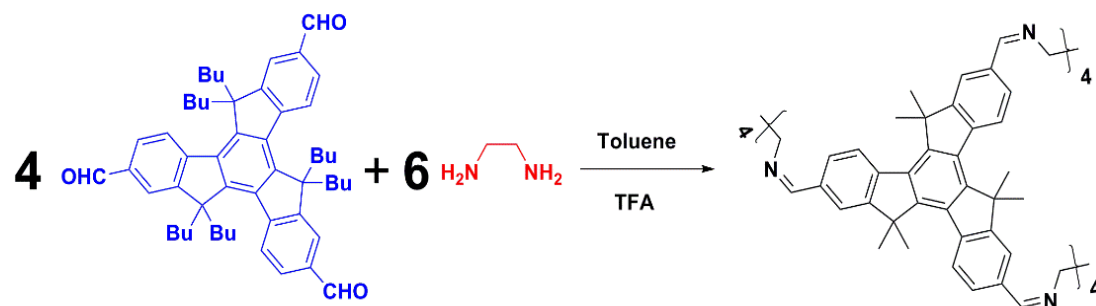


$I_h - C_{60}$

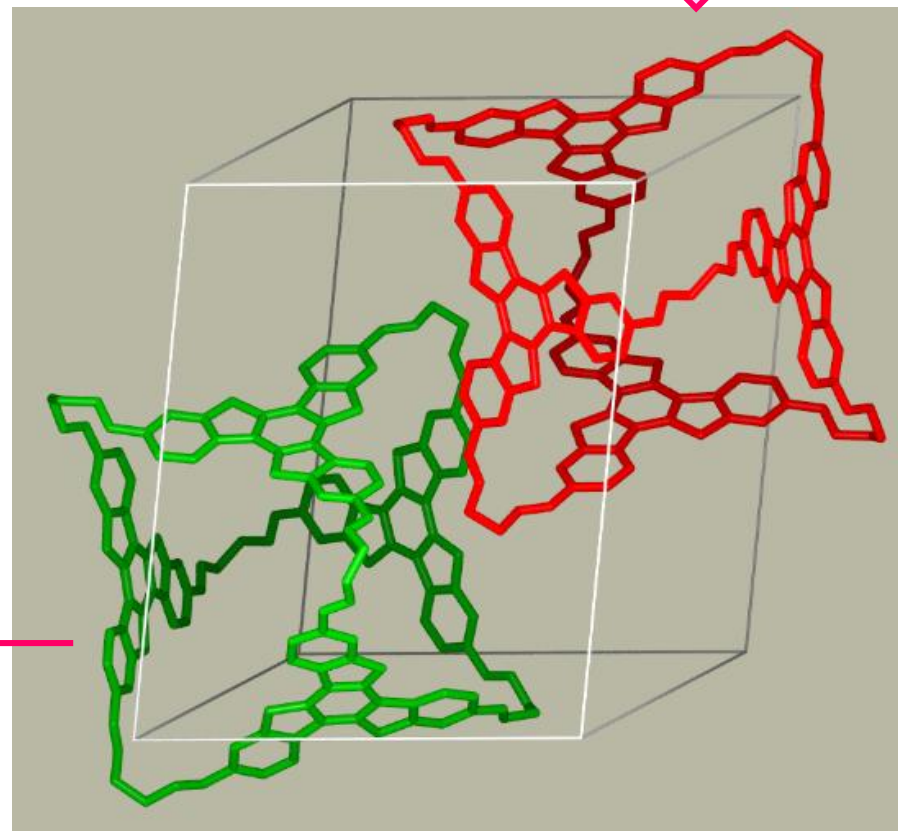
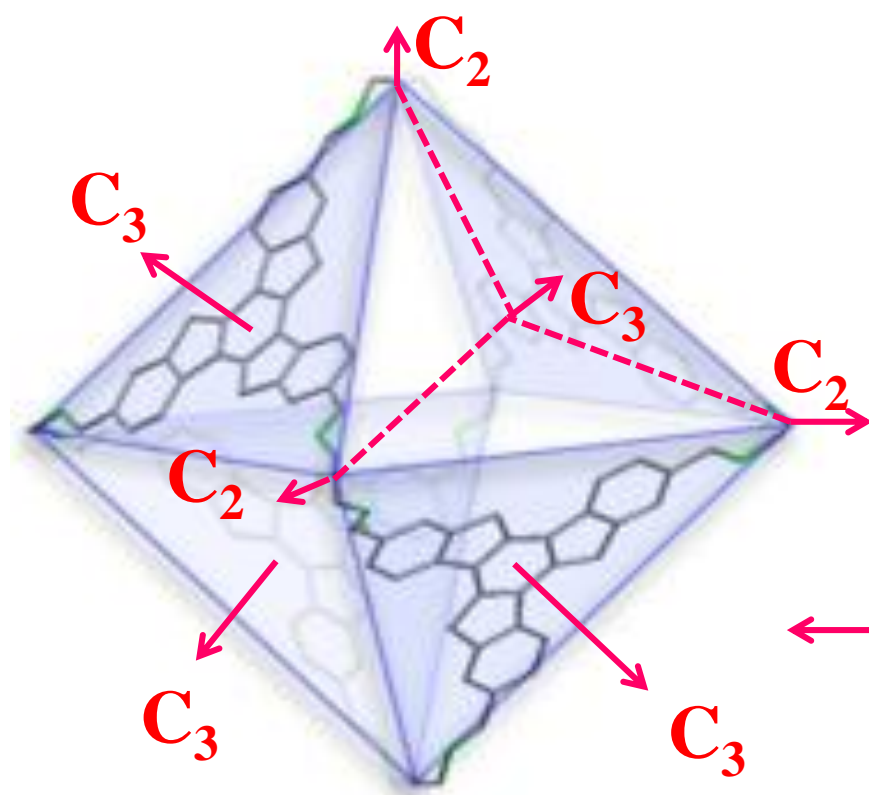
\* 以上动图取自 <https://zh.wikipedia.org/>

# Example: T

Molecules of T-group symmetry are chiral!



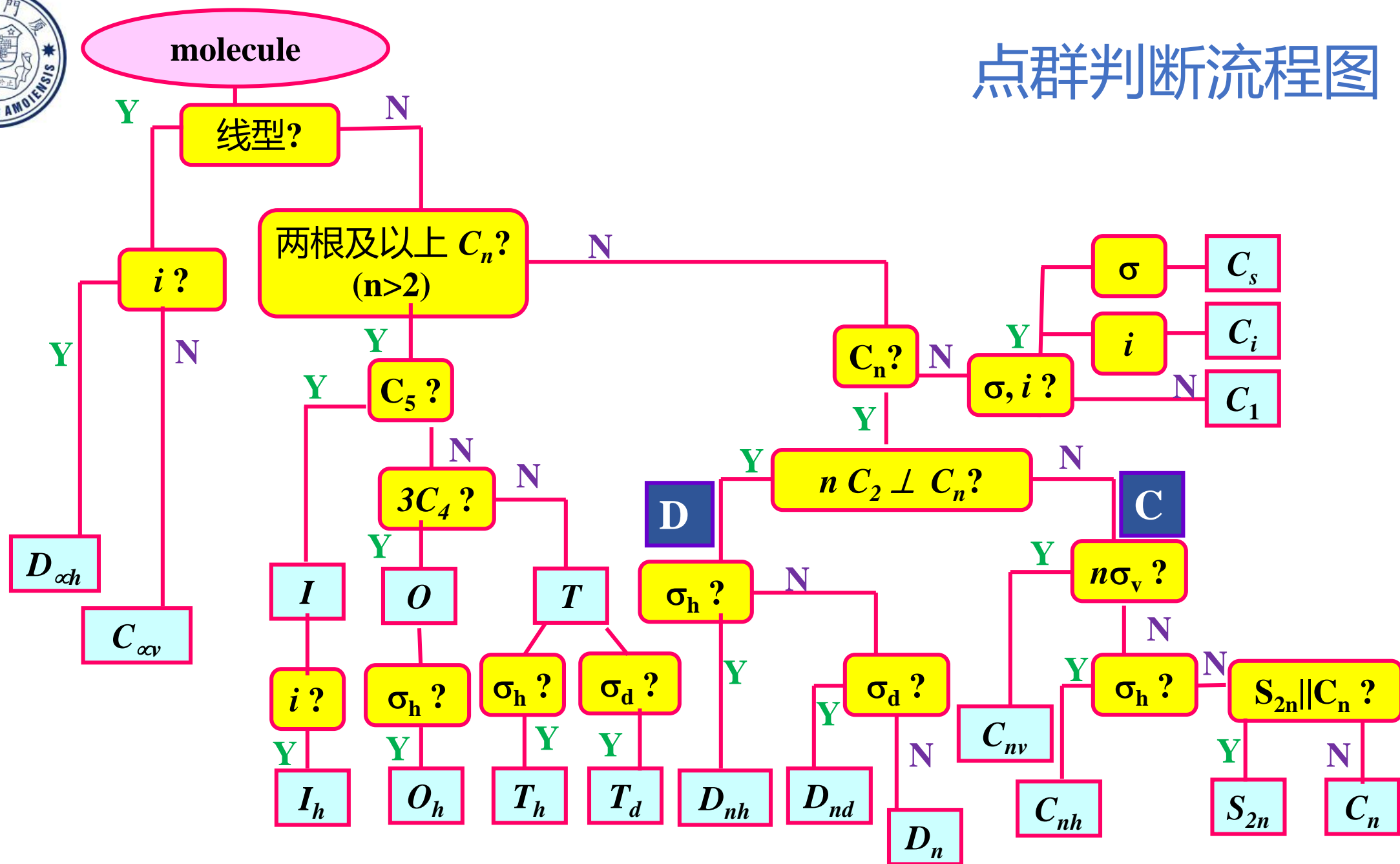
crystallization







# 点群判断流程图





# 1.4 Character tables (特征标表)

Much of the useful information we need to apply Group Theory is summarised in the *character table* for a group, e.g., the character table for the  $C_{2v}$  group.

*The character table for  $C_{2v}$*

- *Symmetry operations* listed class-by-class, also known as *elements of a point group*.
- The rows labelled  $A_1, A_2$  etc. are the *irreducible representations (IRs)*, each row containing the symmetry species, characters, and simple basis functions of the corresponding *IR*.

$C_{2v}$	$E$	$C_2^z$	$\sigma^{xz}$	$\sigma^{yz}$		
$A_1$	1	1	1	1	$z$	$x^2; y^2; z^2$
$A_2$	1	1	-1	-1	$R_z$	$xy$
$B_1$	1	-1	1	-1	$x$	$R_y$ $xz$
$B_2$	1	-1	-1	1	$y$	$R_x$ $yz$

Symmetry species  
(对称种类—不可约表示的Mulliken符号)

Characters  
(特征标)

typical basis  
(典型的基)



# 1.4 Character tables

$D_{3h}$  (e.g.,  $\text{BF}_3$ ): The symmetry elements possessed by  $\text{BF}_3$  include

a  $C_3$  axis, three  $C_2$  axes, a  $\sigma_h$  plane, an  $S_3$  axis, and three  $\sigma_v$  planes.

- Two  $C_3$  operations,  $C_3$  and  $C_3^2$ , belonging to the same class are indicated as  $2C_3$ , so do the  $3C_2$ ,  $3\sigma_v$  and  $2S_3$  ( $S_3^1$  and  $S_3^5$ ) operations.

$D_{3h}$	$E$	$2C_3$	$3C_2$	$\sigma_h$	$2S_3$	$3\sigma_v$	
$A'_1$	1	1	1	1	1	1	$x^2 + y^2; z^2$
$A'_2$	1	1	-1	1	1	-1	$R_z$
$E'$	2	-1	0	2	-1	0	$(x, y)$ $(x^2 - y^2, 2xy)$
$A''_1$	1	1	1	-1	-1	-1	
$A''_2$	1	1	-1	-1	-1	1	$z$
$E''$	2	-1	0	-2	1	0	$(R_x, R_y)$ $(xz, yz)$



# 1.4 Character tables

$D_{6h}$ : Benzene has a six-fold axis of symmetry and this generates several symmetry operations. It turns out that  $C_6^+$  and  $C_6^-$  are in the same class, and so are listed as ' $2C_6$ '. Similarly  $(C_6^+)^2$  and  $(C_6^-)^2$  are in the same class, and are listed as ' $2C_6^2$ '.  $(C_6)^3$  is in a class of its own.

		$(C_6^1, C_6^5)$	$(C_6^2, C_6^4)$					$(S_3^1, S_3^5)$	$(S_6^1, S_6^5)$				
$D_{6h}$	$E$	$2C_6$	$2C_6^2$	$C_6^3$	$3C_2$	$3C_2'$	$i$	$2S_3$	$2S_6$	$\sigma_h$	$3\sigma_d$	$3\sigma_v$	
$A_{1g}$	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	

To save space, only one of the irreducible representations is given

Q: please figure out the symmetry operation(s) that relates the operations of the same class.



## 1.5 Summary

- A molecule may possess *several symmetry elements*.
- The possible symmetry elements are: *the identity*; *n-fold axis of symmetry*; *mirror plane*; *centre of symmetry*; *n-fold axis of improper rotation*.
- Each *symmetry element* generates one or more symmetry operations.
- The action of any *symmetry operation* is to leave the molecule in an indistinguishable orientation from that in which it starts.
- The *symmetry elements* which a molecule possesses defines the point group to which it belongs.
- *Symmetry operations* are in the same class if they are related by another symmetry operation of the group.
- **Each point group** has a *character table* which, amongst other things, gives the symmetry operations of the group, arranged into classes.

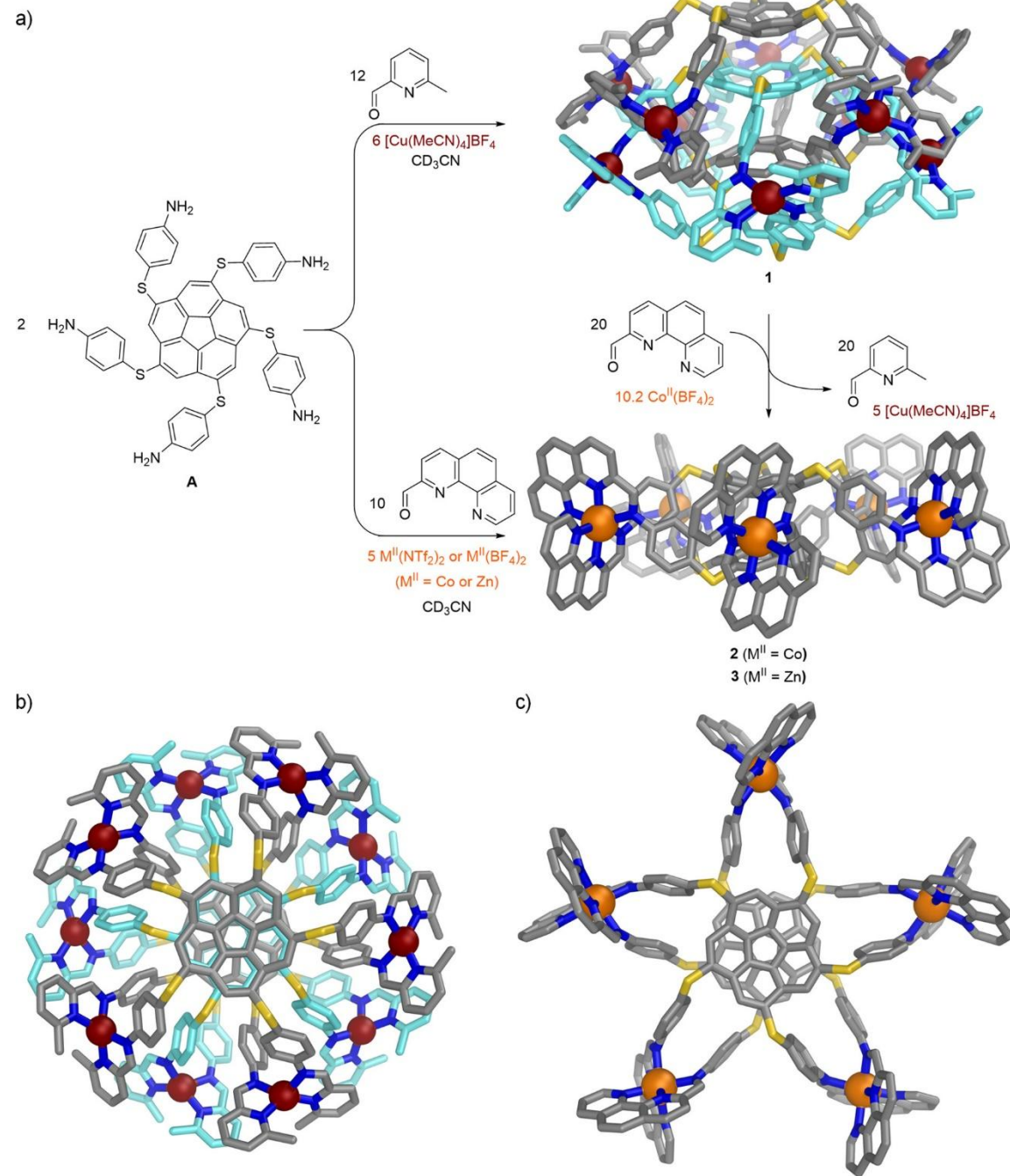


# Funny Structures

## An $S_{10}$ -Symmetric 5-Fold Interlocked [2]Catenane

By T.K. Ronson et al.,  
*J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2020, 142, 10267.

Compound 2 belongs to \_\_\_\_\_-symmetry.





## Definition of group (群的定义)

A **group** in mathematics is a collection of transformations,  $G = \{R_1, R_2, \dots, R_i, \dots\}$ , that satisfy four criteria,

- a) **Closure**. The product of any two elements  $R_i$  and  $R_j$  is another element in the group, i.e.  $R_i \cdot R_j = R_k$ ,  $R_m^2 = R_n$ , ...
- b) **Identity**. One of the transformations is the identity  $E$ .
- c) **Inversion**. For every transformation  $R$  in  $G$ , the inverse transformation  $R^{-1}$  is in the collection so that  $R \cdot R^{-1} = R^{-1} \cdot R = E$ .
- d) **Associative rule**.  $(R_i \cdot R_j) \cdot R_m = R_i \cdot (R_j \cdot R_m)$ .

**The order of a group (群阶):**

**The number of elements in a group!**



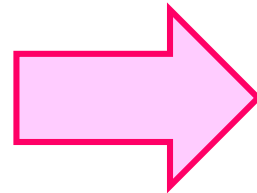
# Point Groups

- The collection of all allowed symmetry operations of a molecule (or an object) forms a mathematical group.
- These symmetry operations have at least one common **point** unchanged (e.g., the O atom in H<sub>2</sub>O).
- *Such a group of symmetry operations is thus called **point group**.*
- Accordingly, it is quite convenient to represent the symmetry of a molecule by the very ***point group***!
- ***Subgroup***: if group **A** contains all elements of group **B**, group **B** is said to be a ***subgroup*** of group **A**.

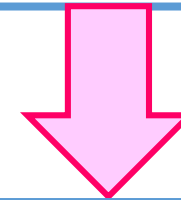
The symmetry of an object (molecule) can be conveniently represented by a point group that contains all allowed unique symmetry operations arising from its available symmetry elements.



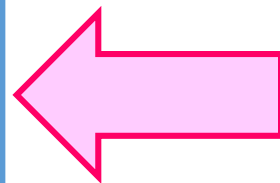
Objects/  
Molecules



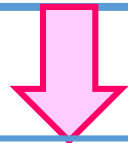
If they have a common  
set of symmetry elements



They belong to the same  
type of *point group*.



They must have a common set of  
symmetry operations!



Symmetry classification of molecules in terms of point group!