



Part III Symmetry and Bonding

Graphical Method in Hückel Molecular Orbitals

Prof. Dr. Xin Lu (吕鑫)

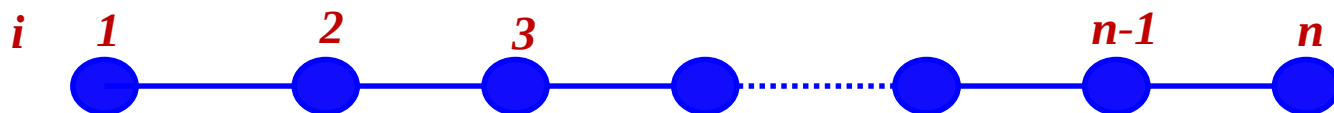
Email: xinlu@xmu.edu.cn

<http://pcossgroup.xmu.edu.cn/old/users/xlu/group/courses/theochem/>



6.6.1 General process for linear [n]polyenes

Graphical method to predefine the coefficients of HMOs for conjugated systems (developed by **Qianer Zhang** et al.)



$$\psi^\pi = \sum_{i=1}^n c_i \phi_i$$

- For a linear [n]polyene, we have **n** secular equations ($x = (\alpha - E)/\beta$):

$$\begin{pmatrix} x & 1 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & x & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & x & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 1 & x \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \\ \dots \\ c_{n-1} \\ c_n \end{pmatrix} = 0 \Rightarrow \begin{cases} xc_1 + c_2 = 0 \\ c_1 + xc_2 + c_3 = 0 \\ \dots \\ c_{i-1} + xc_i + c_{i+1} = 0 \\ \dots \\ c_{n-2} + xc_{n-1} + c_n = 0 \\ c_{n-1} + xc_n = 0 \end{cases}$$

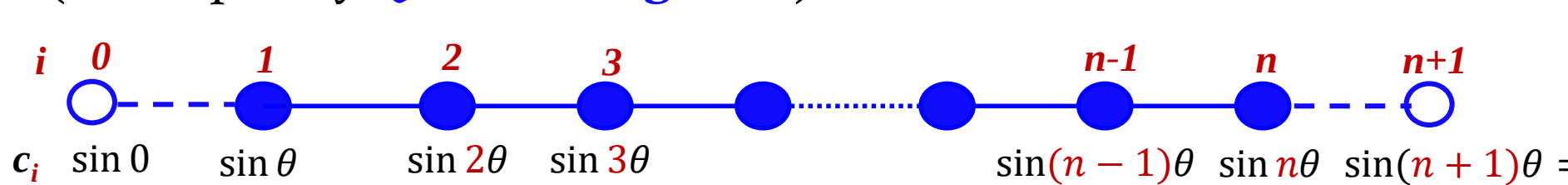
$c_{i+1} + c_{i-1} = -xc_i$
 $\sin A + \sin B = 2 \sin \frac{A+B}{2} \cos \frac{A-B}{2}$
 if $A = (i+1)\theta, B = (i-1)\theta$
 then $x = -2 \cos \theta$
 & $c_i = \sin i\theta$

(cyclic formula)



6.6.1 General process for [n]polyenes

Graphical method to predefine the coefficients of HMOs for conjugated systems (developed by **Qianer Zhang** et al.)



$$\psi^\pi = \sum_{i=1}^n c_i \phi_i$$

For a linear [n]polyene, we have n secular equations ($x = (\alpha - E)/\beta$):

$$xc_1 + c_2 = 0;$$

$$c_1 + xc_2 + c_3 = 0; \dots \dots \dots \text{set } x = -2\cos\theta$$

$$c_{i-1} + xc_i + c_{i+1} = 0; \quad \xrightarrow{c_1 = \sin\theta}$$

(cyclic formula)

$$\dots \dots \dots; c_{n-1} + xc_n = 0$$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} c_2 = \sin 2\theta \\ c_3 = \sin 3\theta \\ \dots \\ c_i = \sin i\theta \\ \dots \\ c_n = \sin n\theta \end{array} \right.$$

Boundary condition:

$$c_{n+1} = \sin(n+1)\theta = 0$$

$$\theta_k = k\pi/(n+1) \quad (k=1, \dots, n)$$

$$E_k = \alpha + 2\beta \cos \theta_k$$

$$\psi_k^\pi = \sum_{i=1}^n \phi_i \sin(i\theta_k)$$

(k defines the energy level!)

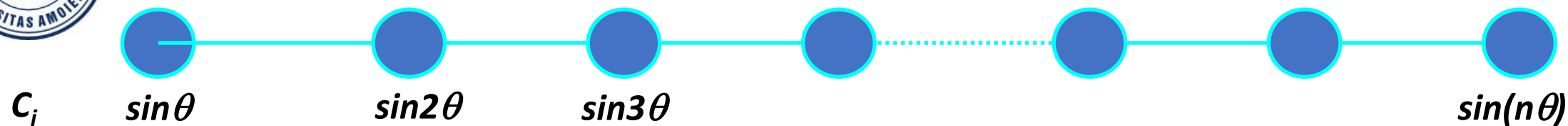
Now recall the sine wave rule we learnt in the 1st semester!



- The method can be used for dealing with more complicated systems.
- Recent work developed by Prof. Zhenhua Chen can be found as “*Graphical representation of Hückel Molecular Orbitals*” in *J. Chem. Educ.* 2020, 97(2), 448-456.
(<https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acs.jchemed.9b00687>)
- FYI: “Introduction to Computational Chemistry: Teaching Hückel Molecular Orbital Theory Using an Excel Workbook for Matrix Diagonalization”
in *J. Chem. Educ.* 2015, 92(2), 291-295.
(<https://pubs.acs.org/doi/full/10.1021/ed500376q>)
- after-class assignment 2: Please figure out the trends in the energies and compositions of LUMO and HOMO for linear and cyclic [n]poyenes, respectively! ($n = 4k, 4k+1, 4k+2, 4k+3$)
- After-class assignment 3: Ex. 29

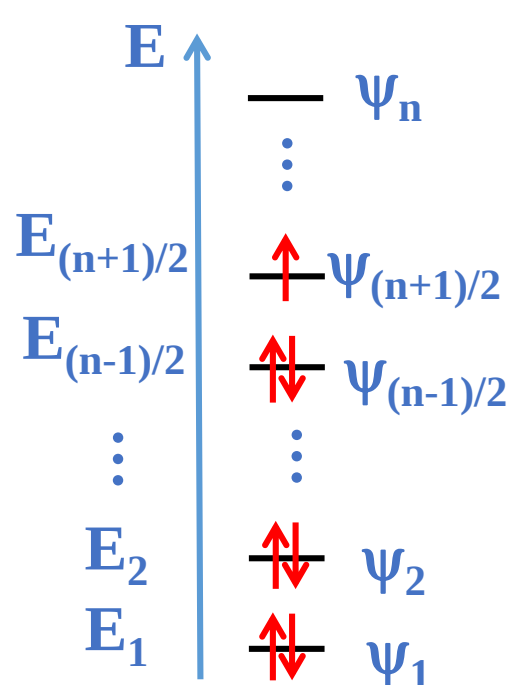


Frontier MO's of [n]polyene

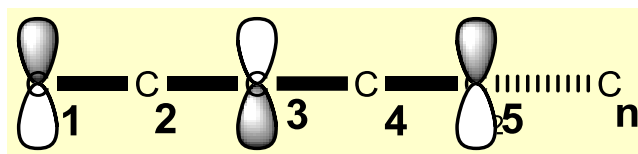


$$\theta_k = \frac{k\pi}{n+1} \quad E_k = \alpha + 2\beta \cos(\theta_k) \quad \psi_k = A \sum_{m=1}^n \sin(m\theta_k) \quad (k=1,2,\dots,n; A = [2/(n+1)]^{1/2})$$

a) When $n=\text{odd}$, SOMO with $k = (n+1)/2$, $\theta_{\text{SOMO}} = \pi/2$, $E_{\text{SOMO}} = \alpha$ Non-bonding!



$$\psi_{\text{SOMO}} = A(\phi_1 - \phi_3 + \phi_5 - \dots) \text{ with } C_1 = C_{4i+1} = -C_{4i+3} = A, C_2 = C_{2i} = 0$$

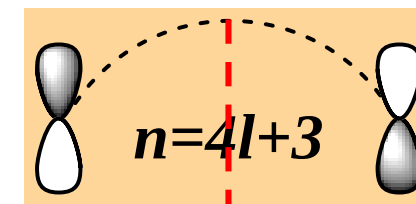
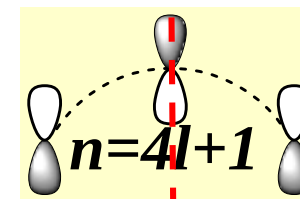


coefficients of AOs in SOMO

$n = 4l+1$ symmetric

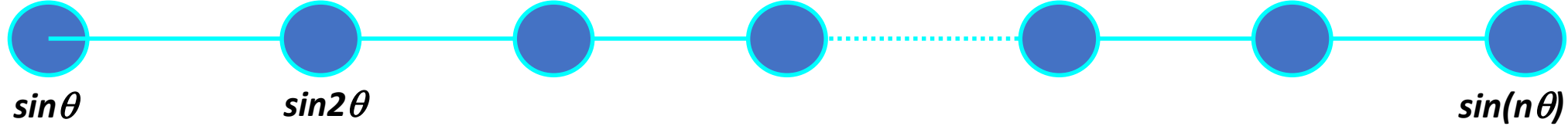
$n = 4l+3$ asymmetric

Simplified diagram of SOMO:



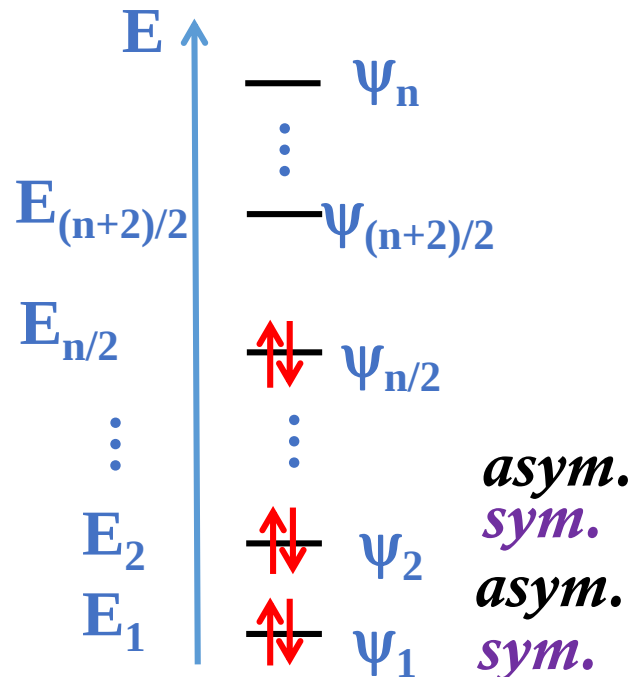


Frontier MO's of [n]polyene



$$\theta_k = \frac{k\pi}{n+1} \quad E_k = \alpha + 2\beta \cos \theta_k \quad \psi_k = A \sum_{m=1}^n \sin m\theta_k \quad (k=1, 2, \dots, n; A = [2/(N+1)]^{1/2})$$

a) When $n=\text{even}$, $n/2$ bonding MOs, **HOMO** with $k = n/2$, **LUMO** with $k = (n+2)/2$,



$$\theta_{HOMO} = \frac{n\pi}{2(n+1)} = \frac{\pi}{2} - \frac{\pi}{2(n+1)} \quad \theta_{LUMO} = \frac{(n+2)\pi}{2(n+1)} = \frac{\pi}{2} + \frac{\pi}{2(n+1)}$$

i) $n = 4l+2$

HOMO: $C_n = C_1 \quad C_{n-1} = C_2 \quad \dots, \text{symmetric}$

LUMO: $C_n = -C_1 \quad C_{n-1} = -C_2 \quad \dots, \text{anti-symmetric}$

ii) $n = 4l$

HOMO: $C_n = -C_1 \quad C_{n-1} = -C_2 \quad \dots, \text{anti-symmetric}$

LUMO: $C_n = C_1 \quad C_{n-1} = C_2 \quad \dots, \text{symmetric}$

Odd-numbered MO: coeff. sym.

Even-numbered MOs: coeff. asym.



6.6.2 Symmetry classification: a. [n]polyenes with n=even

Symmetric MOs:

$$\because C_1 = C_{1'}$$

$$C_2 = C_{2'} \dots,$$

$$C_{n/2} = C_{(n/2)'} \quad \& \quad C_{k-1} + C_{k+1} = 2C_k \cos \theta \quad (\text{Cyclic formula})$$

Let coefficients of central atoms (**1** & **1'**) be $\cos(\theta/2)$

$$\Rightarrow C_2 = C_{2'} = 2 \cos \frac{\theta}{2} \cos \theta - \cos \frac{\theta}{2} = \left(\cos \frac{3\theta}{2} + \cos \frac{\theta}{2} \right) - \cos \frac{\theta}{2} = \cos \frac{3\theta}{2}$$

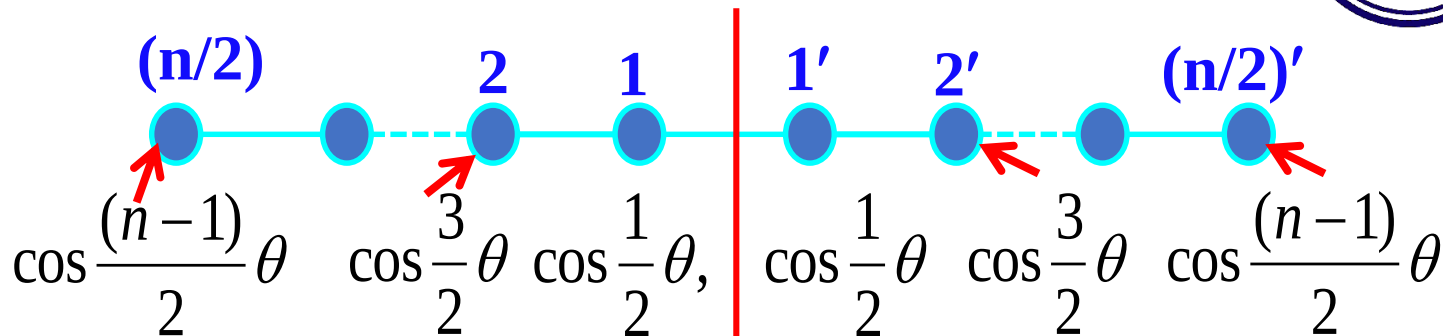
$$C_3 = C_{3'} = 2 \cos \frac{3\theta}{2} \cos \theta - \cos \frac{\theta}{2} = \left(\cos \frac{5\theta}{2} + \cos \frac{\theta}{2} \right) - \cos \frac{\theta}{2} = \cos \frac{5\theta}{2}$$

$$\dots, C_{(n/2)} = C_{(n/2)'} = \cos \frac{(n-1)\theta}{2}$$

→ Boundary condition: $\cos[(n+1)\theta/2] = 0$

$$\rightarrow \theta_m = \frac{2m+1}{n+1} \pi \quad (m=0, 1, 2, \dots, (n-2)/2)$$

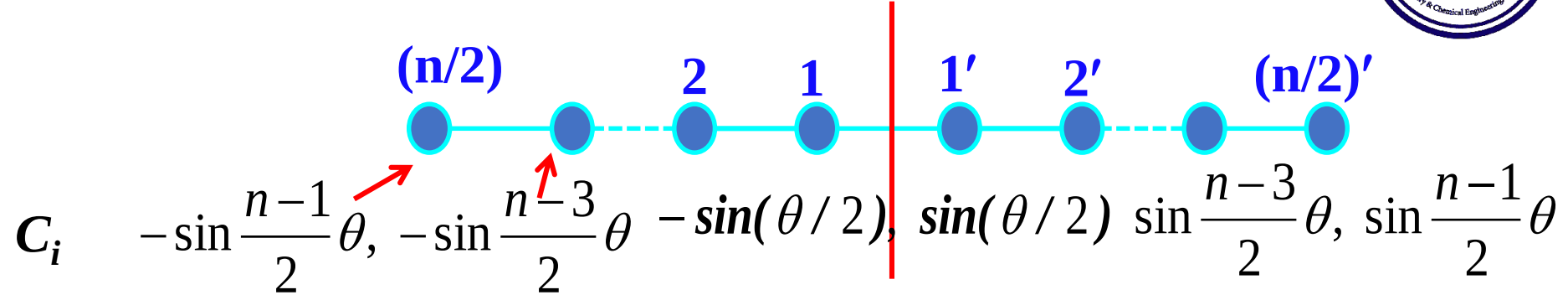
$$E_m^{\text{sym}} = \alpha + 2\beta \cos \theta_m$$





6.6.2 Symmetry classification: a. [**n**]polyenes with **n=even**

Asymmetric MOs:



$$\because C_1 = -C_{1'}, C_2 = -C_{2'}, \dots, \text{ \& } C_{k-1} + C_{k+1} = 2C_k \cos \theta$$

Let coefficients for central atoms be $-\sin(\theta/2), \sin(\theta/2)$

Then coefficients for terminal atoms are $-\sin \frac{n-1}{2} \theta$ and $\sin \frac{n-1}{2} \theta$

→ Boundary condition: $\sin[(n+1)\theta/2]=0$

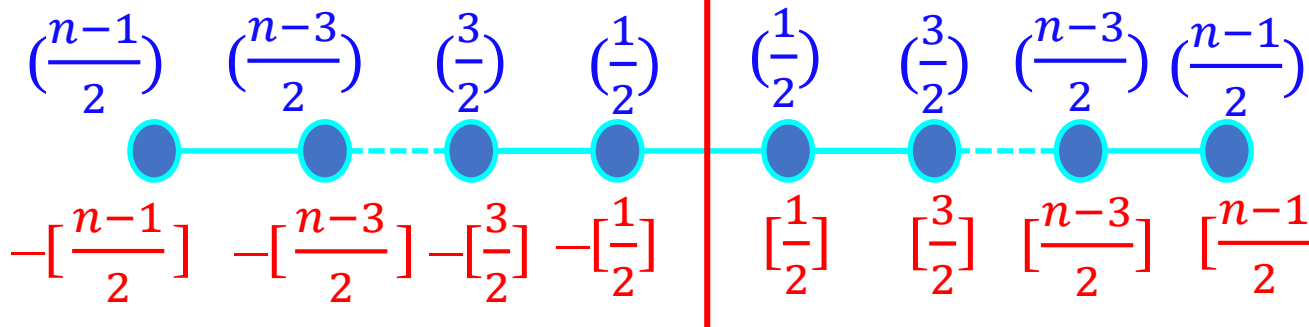
$$\rightarrow \theta_m = \frac{2m}{n+1} \pi \quad (m=1, 2, \dots, n/2)$$

$$E_m^{asym} = \alpha + 2\beta \cos \theta_m$$



6.6.2 Symmetry classification: a. [n]polyenes with **n=even**

Sym.

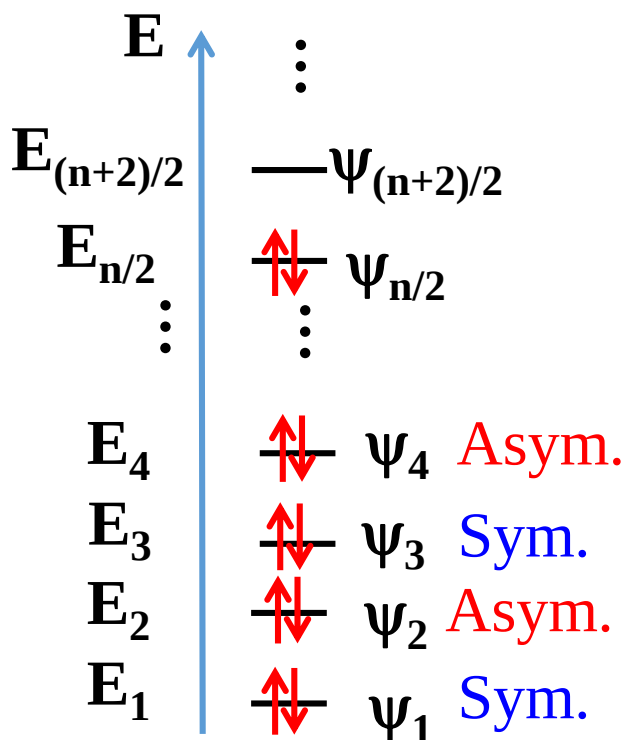


Asym.

$$\theta_m = \frac{2m+1}{n+1}\pi \quad (m=0, 1, 2, \dots, <n/2)$$

$$E_m = \alpha + 2\beta \cos \theta_m$$

$$\theta_m = \frac{2m}{n+1}\pi \quad (m=1, 2, \dots, n/2)$$



Thus the lowest $n/2$ MOs with $\theta_m < \pi/2$ are bonding MOs.

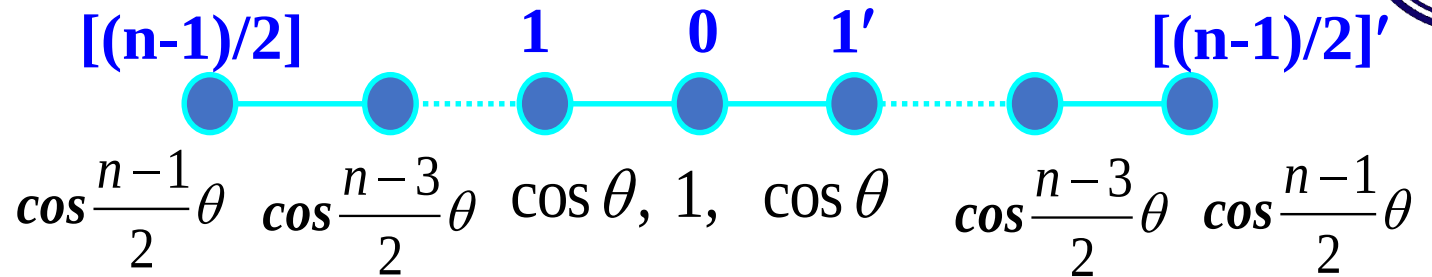
	$n = 4k, \quad \mathbf{n/2 = 2k}$ $(n+2)/2 = 2k+1$	$n = 4k+2, \quad \mathbf{n/2 = 2k+1}$ $(n+2)/2 = 2k+2$
LUMO No. $(n+2)/2$	Sym., $m = \frac{n}{4}, \theta_m = \frac{n+2}{2(n+1)}\pi$	Asym., $m = \frac{n+2}{4}, \theta_m = \frac{n+2}{2(n+1)}\pi$
HOMO No. $n/2$	Asym., $m = \frac{n}{4}, \theta_m = \frac{n}{2(n+1)}\pi$	Sym., $m = \frac{n-2}{4}, \theta_m = \frac{n}{2(n+1)}\pi$



b. [n]polyenes with n=odd



Symmetric MO's:



$$\because C_{k-1} + C_{k+1} = 2C_k \cos \theta$$

$$\& C_0 = 1, C_1 = C_{1'}, \dots, C_{[(n-1)/2]} = C_{[(n-1)/2]'} \Rightarrow C_1 = C_{1'} = \cos \theta$$

$$\Rightarrow C_2 = 2C_1 \cos \theta - 1 = \cos 2\theta \Rightarrow \dots, C_{(n-3)/2} = \cos \frac{n-3}{2} \theta \Rightarrow C_{(n-1)/2} = \cos \frac{n-1}{2} \theta$$

Boundary conditions:

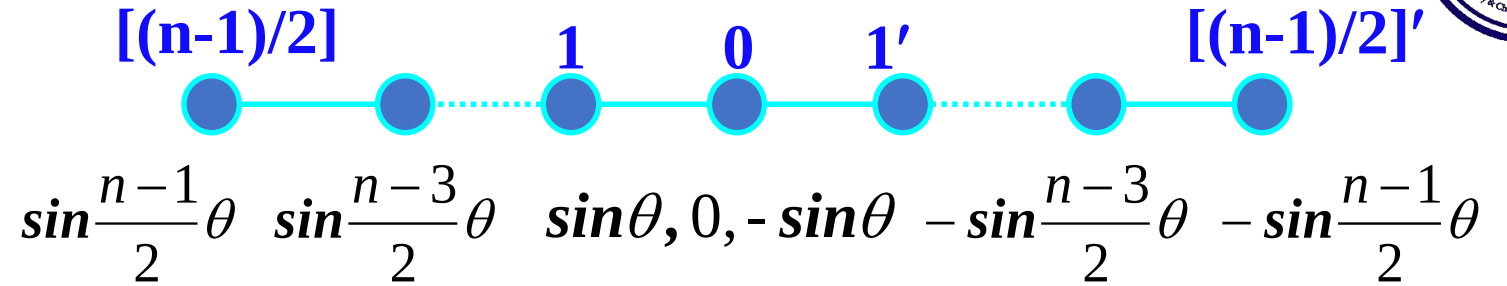
$$\cos \frac{n+1}{2} \theta = 0 \Rightarrow \frac{n+1}{2} \theta = \frac{2m+1}{2} \pi \rightarrow \theta_m = \frac{2m+1}{n+1} \pi \quad (m=0, 1, 2, \dots, (n-1)/2)$$

$$E_m^{sym} = \alpha + 2\beta \cos \theta_m$$



b. [n]polyenes with n=odd

Asymmetric MO's:



$$\because C_{k-1} + C_{k+1} = 2C_k \cos \theta \quad \& \quad C_0 = 0, C_1 = -C_{1'}, \dots, C_{[(n-1)/2]} = -C_{[(n-1)/2]'}$$

$$\text{Let } C_1 = -C_{1'} = \sin \theta \quad \Rightarrow \quad C_2 = 2C_1 \cos \theta = \sin 2\theta$$

$$\dots \Rightarrow C_{[(n-3)/2]} = \sin[(n-3)\theta / 2] = -C_{[(n-3)/2]'}$$

$$\Rightarrow C_{[(n-1)/2]} = \sin[(n-1)\theta / 2] = -C_{[(n-1)/2]'}$$

$$\text{Boundary condition: } \sin \frac{n+1}{2} \theta = 0 \quad \rightarrow \quad \theta_m = \frac{2m}{n+1} \pi \quad (m=1, 2, \dots, \frac{n-1}{2})$$

$$E_m^{asym} = \alpha + 2\beta \cos \theta_m$$

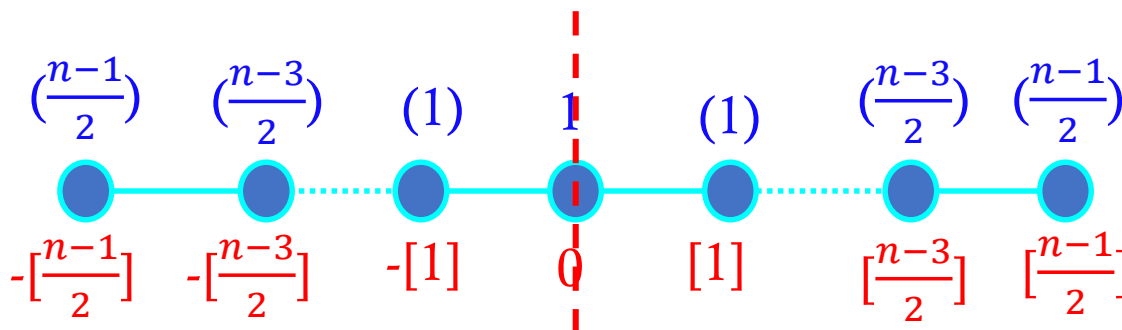


FMOs of [n]polyenes with odd-number carbon atoms



Sym.

Asym.



$$E_m = \alpha + 2\beta \cos \theta_m$$

$$\theta_m^{sym} = \frac{2m+1}{n+1} \pi \quad (m=0, 1, 2, \dots, \frac{n-1}{2})$$

$$\theta_m^{asym} = \frac{2m}{n+1} \pi \quad (m=1, 2, \dots, \frac{n-1}{2})$$

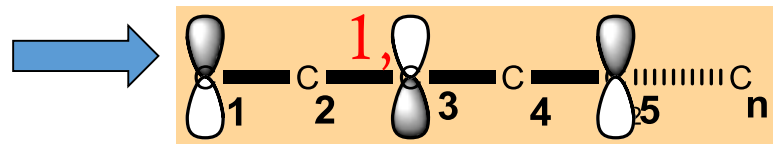
i) $n = 4l+1, n-1 = 4l, (n+1)/2 = 2l+1$; Let $m = l, \theta_l^{sym} = \frac{2l+1}{n+1} \pi = \frac{\pi}{2} > \theta_m^{asym} = \frac{2l}{n+1} \pi$

SOMO, sym. MO, $\theta = \pi / 2, E = \alpha \quad C_{2l+1} = 1, C_{2l} = C_{2l+2} = 0,$

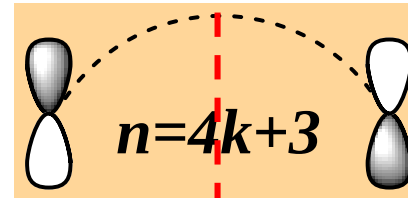
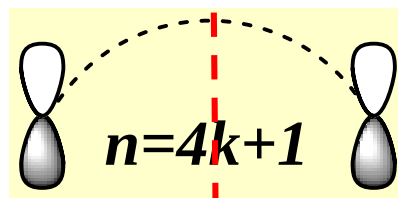
$$C_{2l-1} = C_{2l+3} = -1, \quad \dots C_1 = C_n = -1,$$

ii) $n = 4l+3, n-1 = 4l+2, (n+1)/2 = 2l+2$; SOMO $\sim$ asym. MO with $m = l+1, \theta_{l+1}^{asym} = \frac{\pi}{2}$

$$E = \alpha \quad C_{2l+2} = 0, -C_{2l+1} = C_{2l+3} = -C_{2l} = C_{2l+4} = 0, \quad \dots -C_1 = C_n = 1$$



Simplified diagram of SOMO:

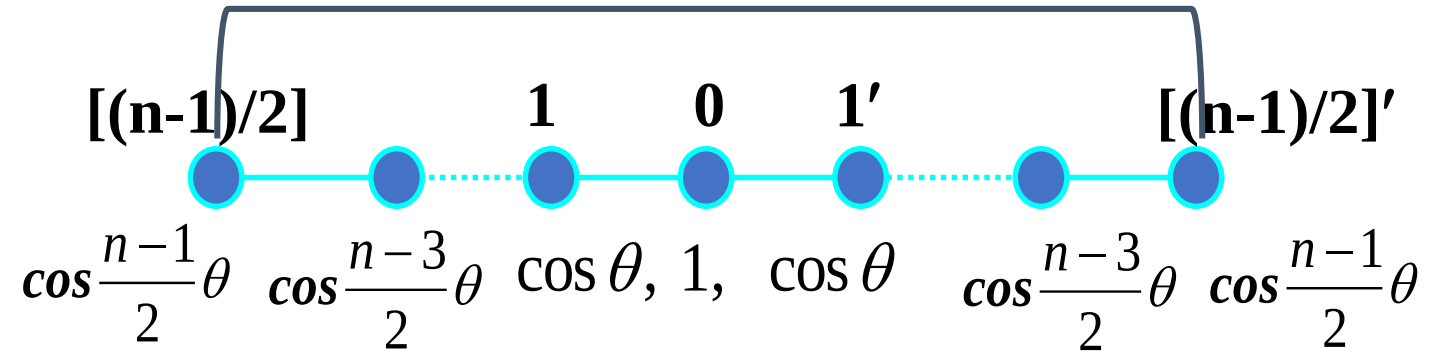




c. Cyclic [n]polyenes with odd-number carbon atoms: (n=odd)



Symmetric MO's:



Boundary conditions:

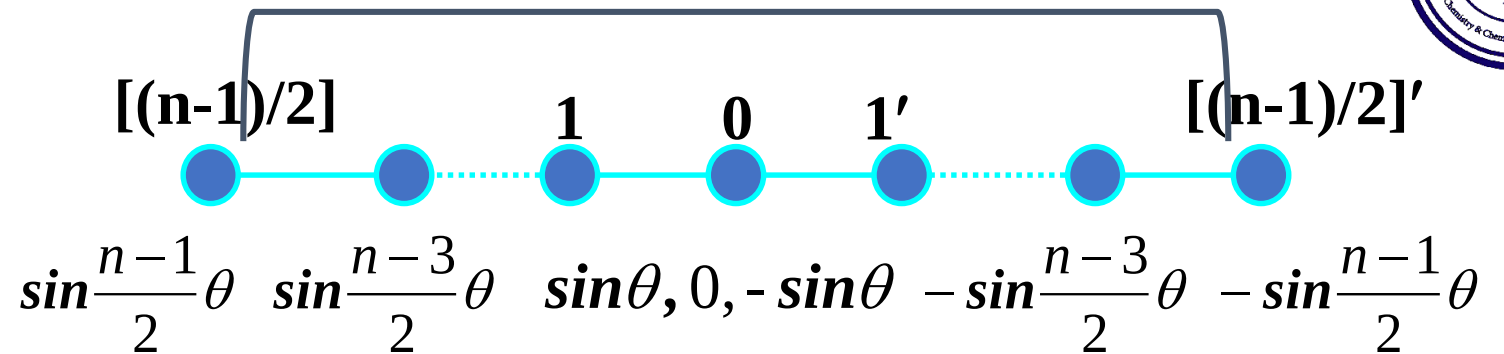
$$\cos \frac{n+1}{2} \theta = \cos \frac{n-1}{2} \theta \quad \rightarrow \quad -\sin \frac{n}{2} \theta \sin \frac{\theta}{2} = 0$$

$$\rightarrow \theta_m^{\text{sym}} = \frac{2m}{n} \pi \quad (m=0,1,2,\dots,\frac{n-1}{2})$$

$$E_m^{\text{sym}} = \alpha + 2\beta \cos \theta_m^{\text{sym}}$$



Asymmetric MO's:



Boundary conditions:

$$-\sin \frac{n+1}{2} \theta = \sin \frac{n-1}{2} \theta \quad \rightarrow \sin \frac{n}{2} \theta \cos \frac{\theta}{2} = 0$$

$$\rightarrow \theta_m^{asym} = \frac{2m}{n} \pi \quad (m=1, 2, \dots, \frac{n-1}{2})$$

$$E_m^{asym} = \alpha + 2\beta \cos \theta_m^{sym}$$



MOs of cyclic [n]polyenes with odd-number carbon atoms

Sym. MOs: $\theta_m^{sym} = \frac{2m}{n}\pi \quad (m=0,1,2,\dots,\frac{n-1}{2}) \quad E_m^{sym} = \alpha + 2\beta\cos\theta_m^{sym}$

Asym. MOs: $\theta_m^{asym} = \frac{2m}{n}\pi \quad (m=1,2,\dots,\frac{n-1}{2}) \quad E_m^{asym} = \alpha + 2\beta\cos\theta_m^{asym}$

→ $m = 0$, non-degenerate MO; $m > 0$, doubly degenerate MOs.

i) $n = 4l + 1$, → $m_{HOMO} = (n-1)/4 = l$, triply occupied! → $m_{LUMO} = l+1$!

$$E_{HOMO} = \alpha + 2\beta\cos\frac{(n-1)}{2n}\pi = \alpha + 2\beta\sin\frac{\pi}{2n} \quad E_{LUMO} = \alpha + 2\beta\cos\frac{(n+3)}{2n}\pi = \alpha - 2\beta\sin\frac{3\pi}{2n}$$

ii) $n = 4l + 3$ → $m_{SOMO} = (n+1)/4 = l+1$, singly occupied.

$$E_{SOMO} = \alpha + 2\beta\cos\frac{(n+1)}{2n}\pi = \alpha - 2\beta\sin\frac{\pi}{2n}$$



d. cyclic [n]polyenes with n=even

Symmetric MOs:

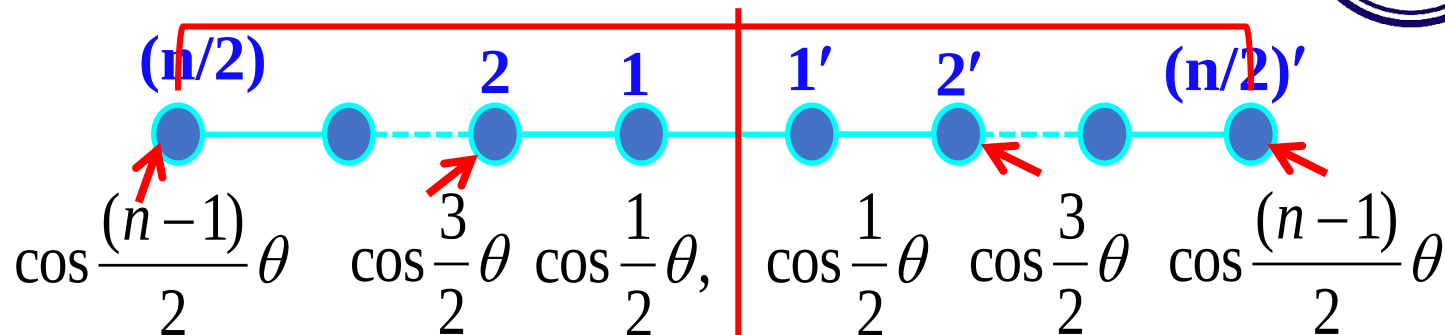
Boundary condition:

$$\cos \frac{n+1}{2} \theta = \cos \frac{n-1}{2} \theta$$

$$\rightarrow -\sin \frac{n}{2} \theta \sin \frac{\theta}{2} = 0$$

$$\rightarrow \theta_m^{sym} = \frac{2m}{n} \pi \quad (m=0,1,2,\dots,\frac{n-2}{2})$$

$$E_m^{sym} = \alpha + 2\beta \cos \theta_m^{sym}$$



Asymmetric MOs:

Boundary condition:

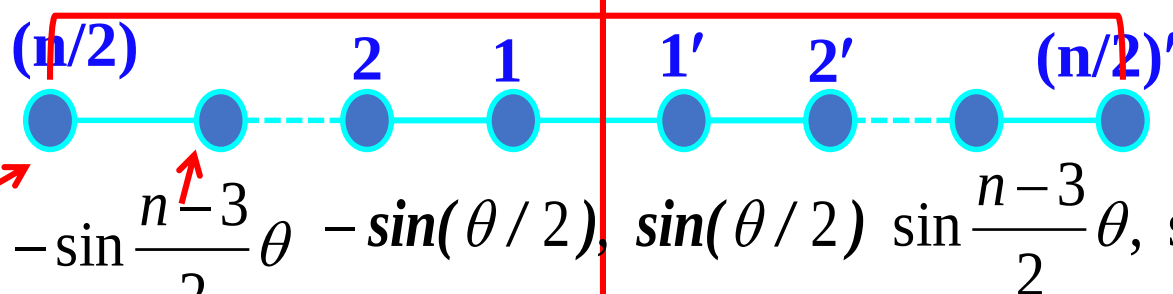
$$\sin \frac{n+1}{2} \theta = -\sin \frac{n-1}{2} \theta$$

$$-\sin \frac{n-1}{2} \theta, -\sin \frac{n-3}{2} \theta, -\sin(\theta/2), \sin(\theta/2), \sin \frac{n-3}{2} \theta, \sin \frac{n-1}{2} \theta$$

$$\rightarrow \sin \frac{n}{2} \theta \cos \frac{\theta}{2} = 0$$

$$\rightarrow \theta_m^{asym} = \frac{2m}{n} \pi \quad (m=1,2,\dots,\frac{n}{2})$$

$$E_m^{asym} = \alpha + 2\beta \cos \theta_m^{asym}$$





FMOs of cyclic [n]polyenes with n=even



Sym. MOs: $\theta_m^{sym} = \frac{2m}{n}\pi$ ($m=0,1,2,\dots,\frac{n-2}{2}$) $E_m^{sym} = \alpha + 2\beta\cos\theta_m^{sym}$

Asym. MOs: $\theta_m^{asym} = \frac{2m}{n}\pi$ ($m=1,2,\dots,\frac{n}{2}$) $E_m^{asym} = \alpha + 2\beta\cos\theta_m^{asym}$

→ $m = 0$, non-degenerate sym. MO; $m = n/2$, non-degenerate asym. MOs.

$0 < m < (n-2)/2$, a total of $(n-2)/2$ doubly degenerate MOs.

i) $n = 4l + 2$, $m_{HOMO} = (n-2)/4 = l$, $\theta_{HOMO} = \frac{n-2}{2n}\pi$, $m_{LUMO} = (n+2)/4 = l+1$, $\theta_{LUMO} = \frac{n+2}{2n}\pi$,

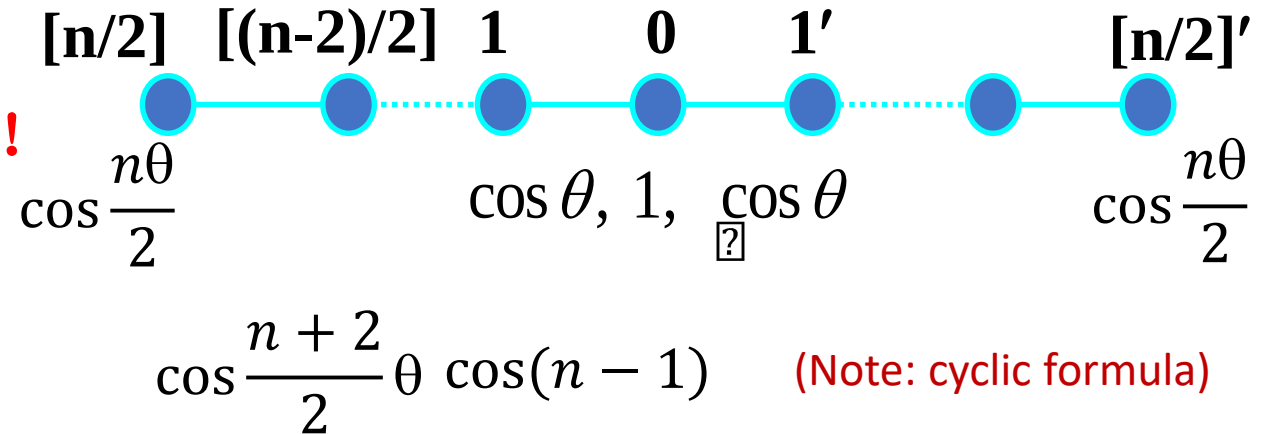
$$E_{HOMO} = \alpha + 2\beta\cos\frac{(n-2)}{2n}\pi = \alpha + 2\beta\sin\frac{\pi}{n} \quad E_{LUMO} = \alpha + 2\beta\cos\frac{(n+2)}{2n}\pi = \alpha - 2\beta\sin\frac{\pi}{n}$$

ii) $n = 4l$, doubly degenerate SOMO with $m_{SOMO} = n/4 = l$, $\theta_{SOMO} = \pi/2$, $E_{SOMO} = \alpha$



e. Cyclic [n]polyenes with even-number carbon atoms: (n=even)

Symmetric MO's: 两端点重合!



Boundary conditions:

$$\cos \frac{n+2}{2} \theta = \cos \frac{n-2}{2} \theta \rightarrow -\sin \frac{n}{2} \theta \sin \frac{\theta}{2} = 0$$

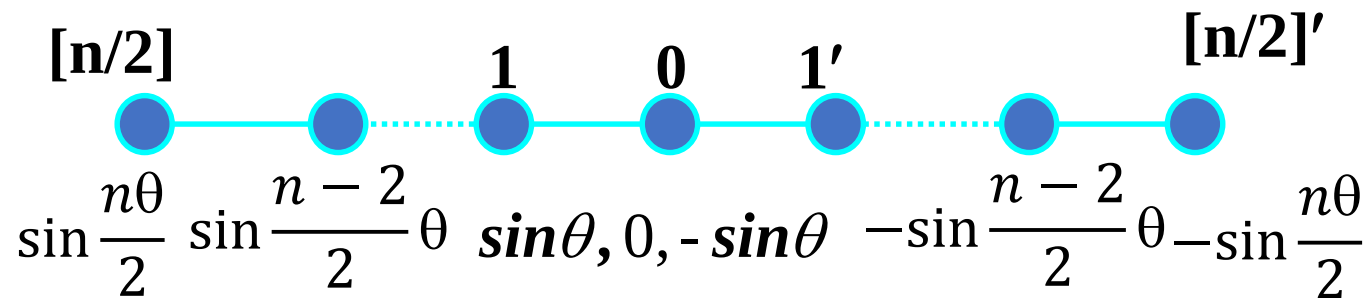
$$\rightarrow \theta_m^{\text{sym}} = \frac{2m}{n} \pi \quad (m=0,1,2,\dots,\frac{n}{2})$$

$$E_m^{\text{sym}} = \alpha + 2\beta \cos \theta_m^{\text{sym}}$$



Asymmetric MO's:

两端点重合!



Boundary conditions:

$$\sin \frac{n}{2} \theta = -\sin \frac{n}{2} \theta \quad \rightarrow \sin \frac{n}{2} \theta = 0$$

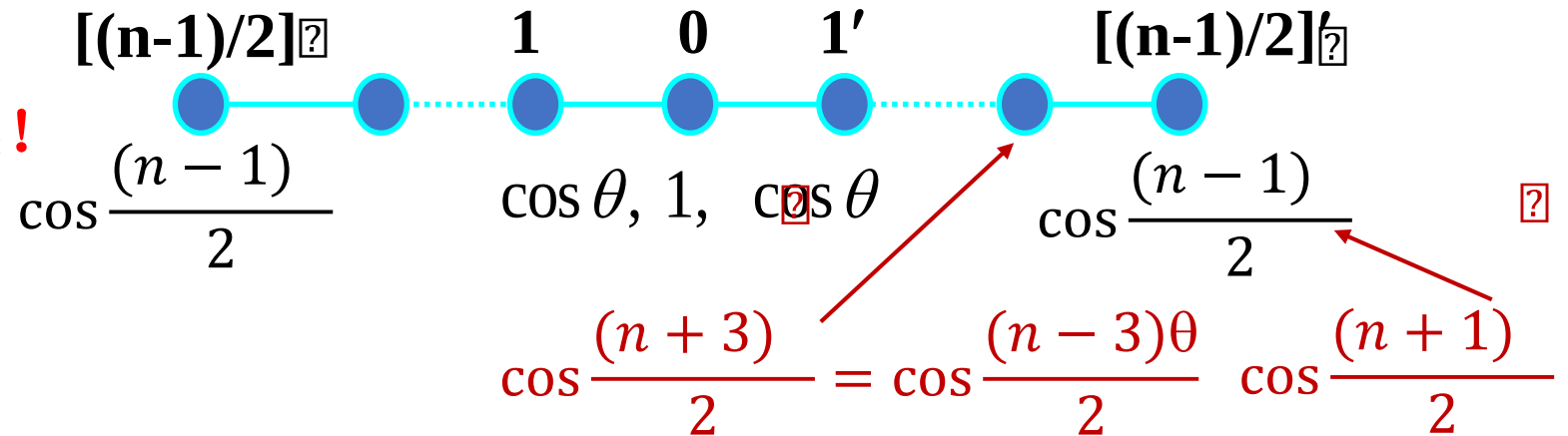
$$\rightarrow \theta_m^{asym} = \frac{2m}{n} \pi \quad (m=1, 2, \dots, \frac{n-2}{2})$$

$$E_m^{asym} = \alpha + 2\beta \cos \theta_m^{sym}$$



f. Cyclic [n]polyenes with odd-number carbon atoms: (n=odd)

Symmetric MO's: 两端点相连!



Boundary conditions: $\cos \frac{n+1}{2} \theta = \cos \frac{n-1}{2} \theta \rightarrow -\sin \frac{n}{2} \theta \sin \frac{\theta}{2} = 0$

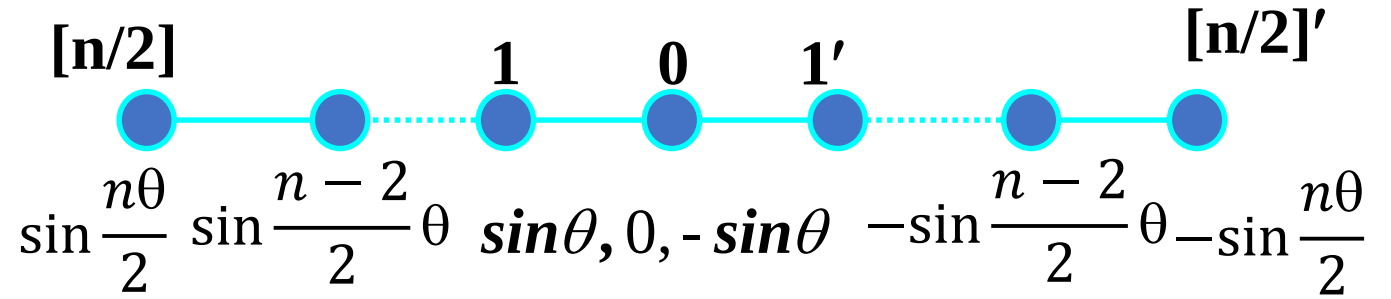
$\rightarrow \theta_m^{sym} = \frac{2m}{n} \pi \quad (m=0,1,2,\dots,\frac{n-1}{2})$

$E_m^{sym} = \alpha + 2\beta \cos \theta_m^{sym}$



Asymmetric MO's:

两端点重合!



Boundary conditions:

$$\sin \frac{n}{2} \theta = -\sin \frac{n}{2} \theta \quad \rightarrow \sin \frac{n}{2} \theta = 0$$

$$\rightarrow \theta_m^{asym} = \frac{2m}{n} \pi \quad (m=1, 2, \dots, \frac{n-2}{2})$$

$$E_m^{asym} = \alpha + 2\beta \cos \theta_m^{sym}$$



cyclic [n]polyenes

$$\theta = 2\pi/n$$

$k = 0, 1, \dots, (n-1)/2$ (for n = odd) or $n/2$ (for n = even)

$$E_k = \alpha + 2\beta \cos(k\theta)$$

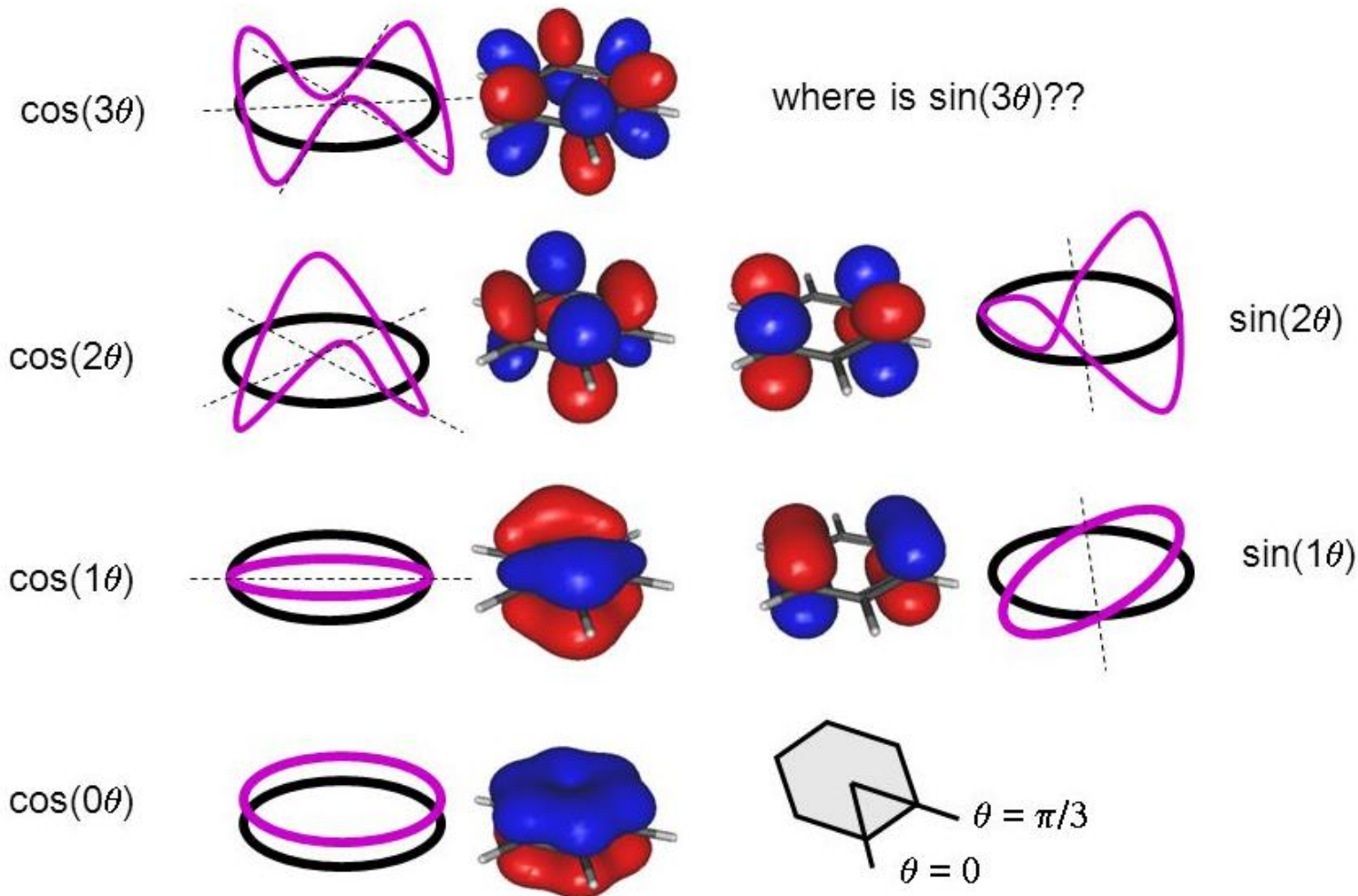
$$\psi_k^{\cos} = \sum_{m=1}^n \phi_m \cos[(m-1)k\theta]$$

$$\psi_k^{\sin} = \sum_{m=1}^n \phi_m \sin[(m-1)k\theta]$$

(when $k\theta = 0$ or π , no $\psi_k^{\sin}$)

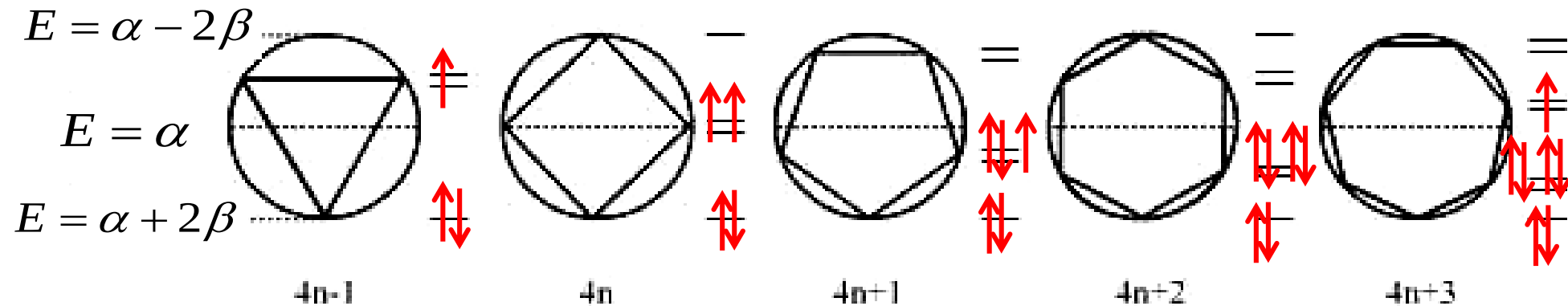


π MOs of Benzene





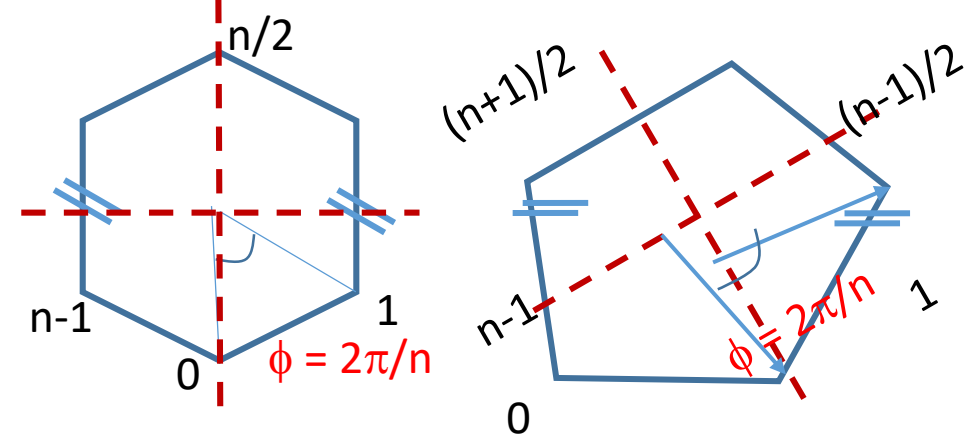
General HMO solutions for cyclic [n]polyenes (C_nH_n)



- When $n=4m+1$ or $4m+3$, the system has a singly occupied HOMO, being radicaloid.
- When $n=4m$, the system has two degenerate singly-occupied HOMOs (non-bonding), thus being diradicaloid.
- Only when $n=4m+2$ can a cyclically conjugated system have fully occupied HOMOs and be chemically stable. (fulfilling the Hückel rule of aromaticity!)
- Can we use the representations for cyclic groups to obtain the aforementioned trends?



cyclic [n]polyenes with n=even、 odd



MO level	$\theta_m = m\phi$	$E_m = \alpha + 2\beta \cos \theta_m$	$\psi_m = A \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} c_k^m p_k$	N_{Node}
$m=n/2$ (n=even)	π	$\alpha - 2\beta$	$c_k^{n/2} = \cos(k\pi)$	$n/2$
$m=(n-1)/2$ (n=odd)	$(n-1)\pi/n$	$\alpha - 2\beta \cos(\phi/2)$	$c_k^m = \cos(km\phi)$ $c_k^{m'} = \sin(km\phi)$	$(n-1)/2$
$\dot{m}$	$m\phi$	$\alpha + 2\beta \cos(m\phi)$	$c_k^m = \cos(km\phi)$ $c_k^{m'} = \sin(km\phi)$	m
$m=1$	ϕ	$\alpha + 2\beta \cos \phi$	$c_k^1 = \cos(k\phi)$ $c_k^{1'} = \sin(k\phi)$	1
LEMO $m=0$	0	$\alpha + 2\beta$	$c_k^0 = 1$	0