

Contents

1 General Introduction	1
References	9
Part I Theoretical Studies in Photophysics and Photochemistry: Applications to Aniline and Pyrazine	
2 Basic Concepts and Methodology	13
2.1 The Molecular Schrödinger Equation	13
2.1.1 The Molecular Hamiltonian Operator	13
2.1.2 The Born–Oppenheimer Approximation	14
2.2 Vibronic Coupling	17
2.2.1 The Group Born–Oppenheimer Approximation	17
2.2.2 The Diabatic Representation	17
2.2.3 Conical Intersections	19
2.3 Basics of Electronic Structure Theory	21
2.3.1 Spin Orbitals and Slater Determinants	21
2.3.2 The Hartree–Fock Approximation	23
2.3.3 Electronic Correlation	27
2.4 Potential Energy Surface Exploration	35
2.4.1 Minima and Transition State Optimization	36
2.4.2 Minimum Energy Conical Intersection Optimization	37
2.4.3 Minimum Energy Paths Optimization	38
References	39
3 Exploration of the Potential Energy Landscape of Aniline Using CASSCF and XMCQDPT2 Electronic Structure Calculations	41
3.1 Introduction	41
3.1.1 General Trends in the Photochemistry of Simple Aromatic Organic Molecules	41
3.1.2 Previous Studies on the Photochemistry of Aniline	42
3.2 Computational Details	45

3.3	Vertical and Adiabatic Excitation Energies	47
3.4	Photochemistry After Excitation to the $1\pi\pi^*$ State	49
3.5	Photochemistry After Excitation to the $1\pi\sigma^*$ State	51
3.6	Photochemistry After Excitation to the $2\pi\pi^*$ State	55
3.7	Summary and Conclusions	61
	References	62
4	Theory of Nuclear Quantum Dynamics Simulations.	67
4.1	Setting up the Hamiltonian Operator	68
4.1.1	The Choice of the Coordinates and the Nuclear Kinetic Energy Operator	68
4.1.2	The Discrete Variable Representation.	69
4.2	The Solution of the Nuclear Time-Dependent Schrödinger Equation.	72
4.2.1	The Standard Method.	72
4.2.2	The Multi-configuration Time-Dependent Hartree Method.	73
4.2.3	Product Form of the Hamiltonian Operator	76
4.2.4	Integration of the Equations of Motion.	77
4.2.5	The MCTDH Equations of Motion for Several Electronic States.	79
4.3	The Vibronic Coupling Model.	80
4.4	Calculation of Absorption Spectra	82
	References	84
5	The Role of the Low-Lying $n\pi^*$ States on the Photophysics of Pyrazine	87
5.1	Introduction	87
5.2	Ab Initio Electronic Structure Calculations	88
5.3	Construction of the Models.	91
5.4	Time-Dependent Nuclear Quantum Dynamics Simulations	94
5.4.1	Simulation of the UV Absorption Spectrum	95
5.4.2	Electronic State Populations and Decay Mechanism.	97
5.5	Conclusion	102
	References	102
Part II Laser Control of Unimolecular Processes		
6	Theoretical Tools for the Description of Strong Field Laser-Molecule Interaction.	107
6.1	The Semi-classical Dipolar Approximation of Laser-Matter Interaction	107
6.2	Laser Driven Two-Level System	108
6.2.1	The Resonant Wave Approximation.	109
6.2.2	The Rabi Model	110
6.2.3	The π -pulse Technique	111

6.3	The Non-resonant Dynamic Stark Effect	113
6.3.1	The Adiabatic Elimination Approach	114
6.3.2	Connection with the Static Electronic Polarizability	117
6.4	The Floquet Theory	118
6.5	The Adiabatic Floquet Theory	121
6.5.1	The Floquet Schrödinger Equation for Pulsed Laser Fields	122
6.5.2	The Adiabatic Approximation for the Time-Dependent Floquet Schrödinger Equation	123
6.5.3	Calculation of the Eigenvalues of the Floquet Operator	126
	References	126
7	Laser Control of the Radiationless Decay in Pyrazine Using the Dynamic Stark Effect	129
7.1	Introduction	129
7.2	Model and Methods	130
7.2.1	The Hamiltonian	130
7.2.2	Electronic Structure Calculations	135
7.3	An Adiabatic Picture of the Control Mechanism	137
7.4	Results	142
7.5	Discussion and Conclusions	145
	References	147
8	Laser Driven Tunneling Dynamics in NHD₂	149
8.1	Introduction	149
8.2	Laser Induced Enhancement of Tunneling	150
8.2.1	Enhancement of Tunneling by a Resonant Pulsed Field: Mechanism	151
8.2.2	Hamiltonian and Coordinates	154
8.2.3	Computational Strategy	157
8.2.4	Results and Discussion	160
8.2.5	Conclusion	166
8.3	Coherent Destruction of Tunneling	167
8.3.1	Model and Methods	168
8.3.2	Results	169
8.3.3	Summary	181
8.4	Conclusion	182
	References	183
9	Conclusion	185
	References	189

Quantum Dynamics and Laser Control for
Photochemistry

Sala, M.

2016, XIII, 189 p. 54 illus., 41 illus. in color., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-3-319-28978-6