

# Group Theory, especially about Molecular Symmetry

P. Atkins and R.Friedman, Molecular Quantum Mechanics  
F.Cotton, Chemical Applications of Group Theory  
N.Cheung, Molecular Symmetry & Group Theory

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## Why do we need studying Molecular Symmetry?

Molecular symmetry is used to

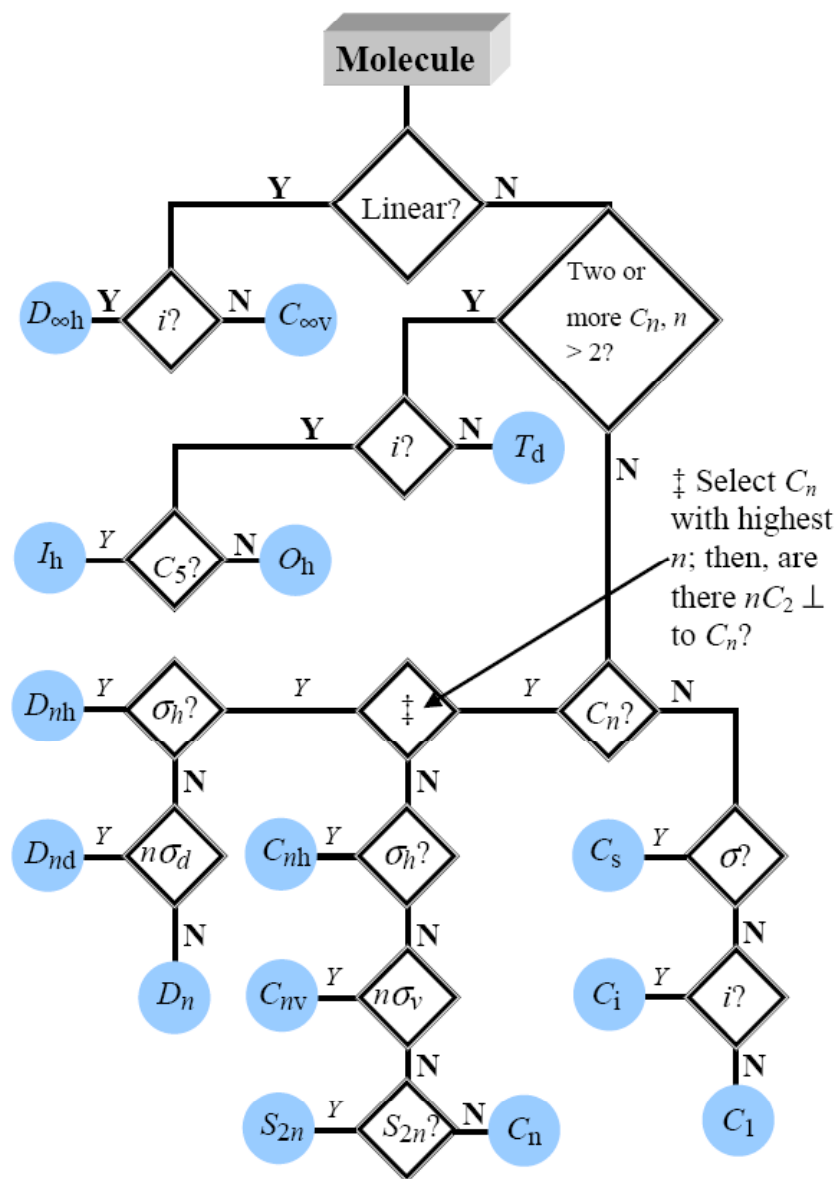
1. Determine whether an integral is zero or not
2. Determine whether the transition dipole moment is zero or not  
-> **Selection Rule**
3. Construct a molecular orbital

Molecular symmetry and Chirality

(<https://people.ok.ubc.ca/wsmcneil/symm/symm.htm> )

# Symmetry Operations and Elements

1. E (identity)
2.  $C_n$  (n-fold rotation)
3.  $\sigma$  (reflection)
4. i (inversion)
5.  $S_n$  (n-fold improper rotation)



# Group Theory

## Group

1. Group should have the identity
2. Group operation is associative
3. Elements in group has those inverse
4. Group operation is closed under multiplication

# Matrix Representation

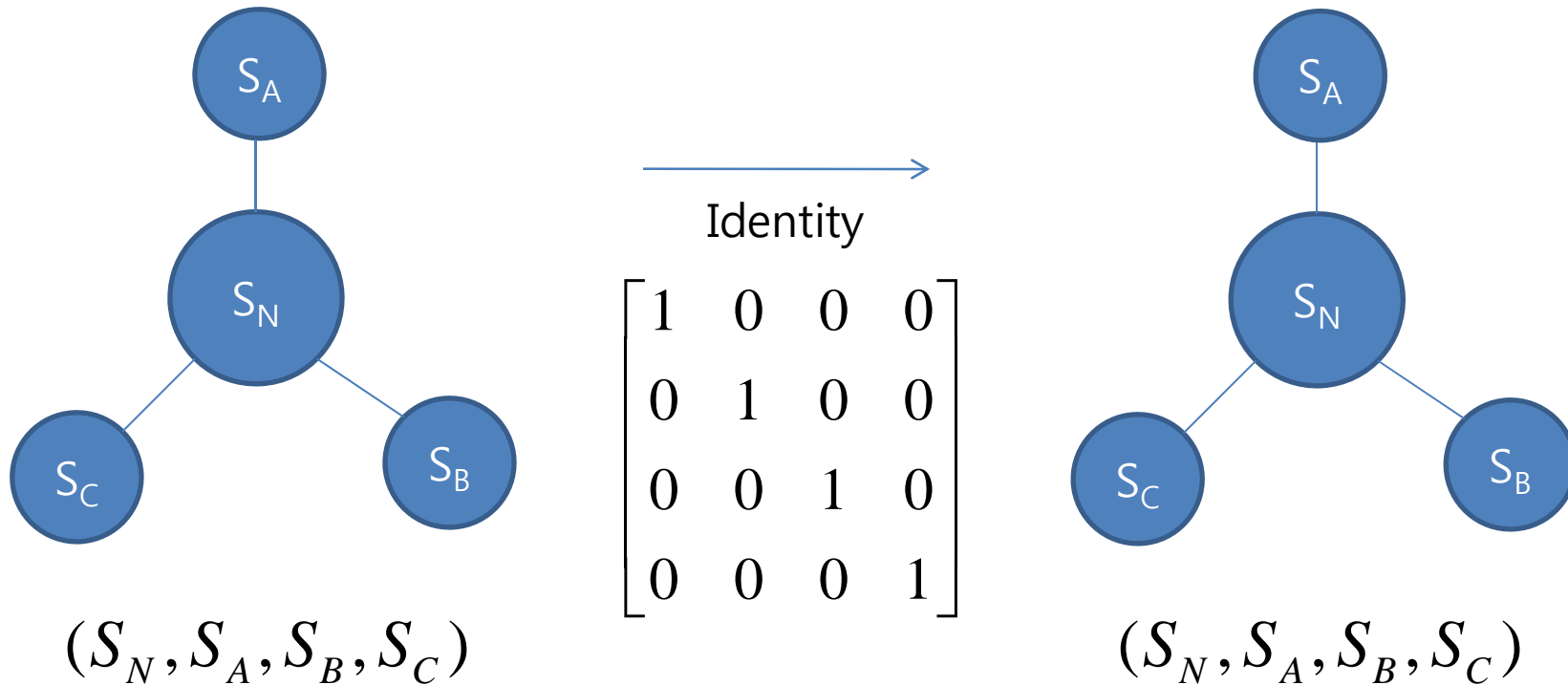
Consider a  $\text{NH}_3$  molecule

\*  $\text{NH}_3$  molecule has a  $C_{3v}$  symmetry

$C_{3v}$  symmetry has six operations

$E$  (identity),  $C_3^+$ ,  $C_3^-$  (rotation),  $\sigma_v$ ,  $\sigma'_v$ ,  $\sigma''_v$  (inversion)

$S_N$ ,  $S_A$ ,  $S_B$  and  $S_C$  are s-orbitals of H or N and Basis function also



# Matrix Representation

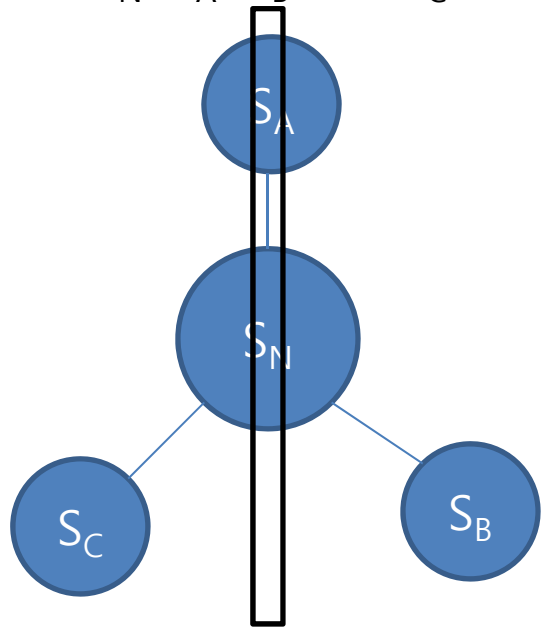
Consider a  $\text{NH}_3$  molecule

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$E$  (identity),  $C_{3+}$ ,  $C_{3-}$  (rotation),  $\sigma_v$ ,  $\sigma'_v$ ,  $\sigma''_v$  (inversion)

$S_N$ ,  $S_A$ ,  $S_B$  and  $S_C$  are s-orbitals of H or N and Basis function also

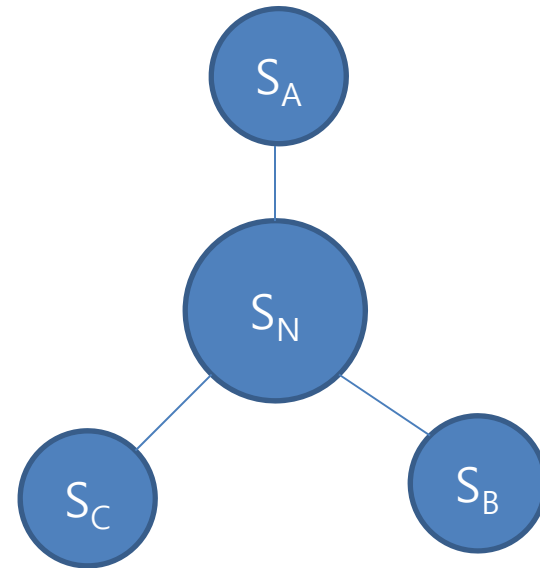


$(S_N, S_A, S_B, S_C)$

→  
Inversion Sym.

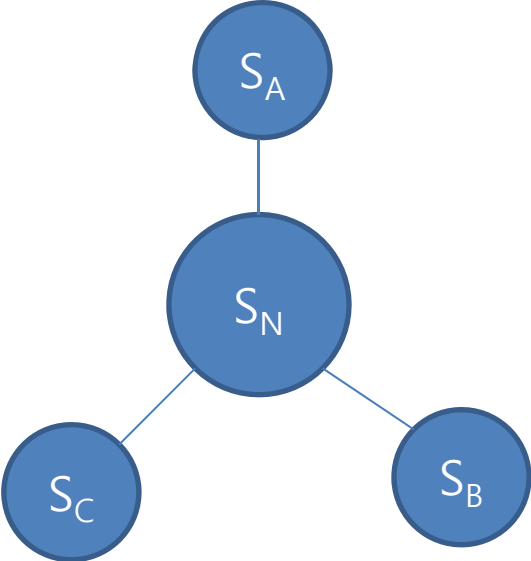
$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$= D(\sigma_v)$



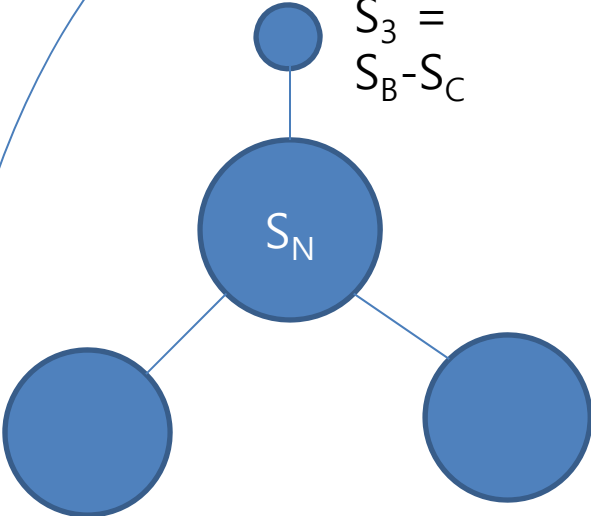
$(S_N, S_A, S_C, S_B)$

# Matrix Representation II

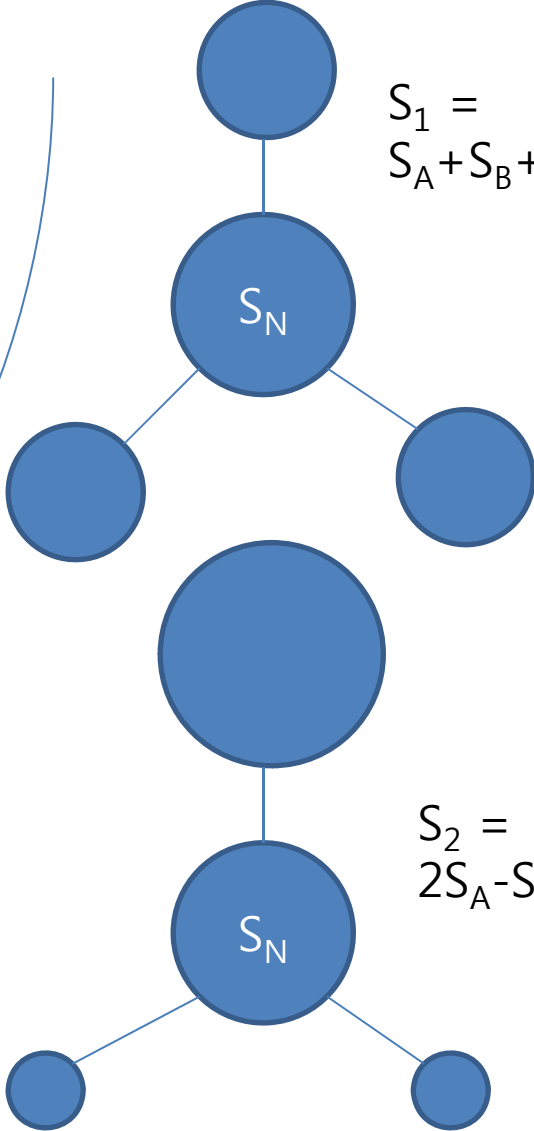


$$(S_N, S_A, S_B, S_C)$$

**WHY?  
HOW?**



$$S_3 = S_B - S_C$$



$$S_1 = S_A + S_B + S_C$$

$$S_2 = 2S_A - S_B - S_C$$

$$(S_N, S_1, S_2, S_3)$$

## Matrix Representation II

$$D(R) = (S_N, S_A, S_B, S_C) \longrightarrow D'(R) = (S_N, S_1, S_2, S_3)$$

Similarity Transformation

$$D(R) = cD'(R)c^{-1}$$

Character  $\chi(R)$  (Trace of Matrix)

$$\text{tr}\{D(R)\} = \text{tr}\{cD'(R)c^{-1}\} = \text{tr}\{D'(R)\}$$



## Character

Character  $\chi(R)$  (Trace of Matrix)  
 $\text{tr}\{D(R)\} = \text{tr}\{cD'(R)c^{-1}\} = \text{tr}\{D'(R)\}$

$$D(E) \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\chi(E) = 4$$



Class 1

$$D(C_3^+) \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1/2 & 1/2 \\ 0 & 0 & -1/2 & -1/2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\chi(C_3^+) = \chi(C_3^-) = 1$$



Class 2

$$D(\sigma_v) \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\chi(\sigma_v) = \chi(\sigma'_v) = \chi(\sigma''_v) = 2$$



Class 3

# Irreducible Operator & Character Table

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1/2 & 1/2 \\ 0 & 0 & -1/2 & -1/2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Block-diagonal Form

$$D^{(1)} \oplus D^{(1)} \oplus D^{(2)}$$



Irreducible Representation

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

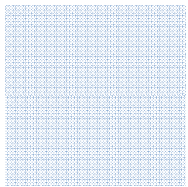
$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -\frac{1}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -\frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \\ 0 & 0 & -\frac{1}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} \end{bmatrix}$$

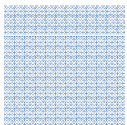
$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -\frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{3}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -\frac{1}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} \\ 0 & 0 & -\frac{3}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \end{bmatrix}$$

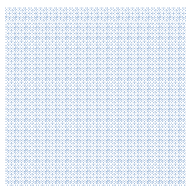


Character {1,1,1,1,1,1} – 1-Dim irreducible representation, A

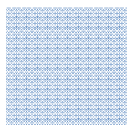


Character {2,-1,-1,0,0,0} – 2-Dim irreducible representation, E

## Irreducible Operator & Character Table



Character  $\{1,1,1,1,1,1\}$  – 1-Dim irreducible representation, A



Character  $\{2,-1,-1,0,0,0\}$  – 2-Dim irreducible representation, E

$C_{3v}$	E	$2C_3$	$3\sigma_v$
$A_1$	1	1	1
E	2	-1	0

: Character Table

$NH_3$



# How to Construct Character Table?

## Little Orthogonality Theorem

$$\sum_R \chi^{(l)}(R) * \chi^{(l')}(R) = h \delta_{ll'}$$

$\downarrow$  Symmetry operation       $\downarrow$  Dimension of operation       $\downarrow$  Order of group

For  $C_{3v}$

	E	$2C_3(z)$	$3\sigma_v$	linear, rotations	quadratic
<b>A<sub>1</sub></b>	1	1	1	z	$x^2+y^2, z^2$
<b>A<sub>2</sub></b>	1	1	-1	$R_z$	
<b>E</b>	2	-1	0	(x, y) ( $R_x, R_y$ )	$(x^2-y^2, xy)$ (xz, yz)

The order of  $C_{3v}$  (h) is 6.

Three classes of operation (R) exist in  $C_{3v}$

1. When  $l=l'$

$$d_{A_1}^2 + d_E^2 + d_X^2 = 6$$

$$d_x = 1$$

2. others

$$1 * x * 1 + 2 * y * 1 + 3 * z * 1 = 0$$

$$1 * x * 2 + 2 * y * -1 + 3 * z * 0 = 0$$

$$\rightarrow A_2 = \{1, 1, -1\}$$

## Direct Product

Direct Product Table for  $D_3, C_{3v}$

	$A_1$	$A_2$	$E$
$A_1$	$A_1$	$A_2$	$E$
$A_2$		$A_1$	$E$
$E$			$A_1 + A_2 + E$

So what?

## 1. Wavefunction Overlap & the expectation value

Only if the integrand is  $A_1$ , then the integral is not necessarily zero.

Wavefunction Overlap

Expectation Value

$\langle d_{xy} | I_z | d_{xz} \rangle$  in  $C_{3v}$  molecule

	E	$2C_3(z)$	$3\sigma_v$	linear, rotations	quadratic
<b>A<sub>1</sub></b>	1	1	1	z	$x^2+y^2, z^2$
<b>A<sub>2</sub></b>	1	1	-1	$R_z$	
<b>E</b>	2	-1	0	(x, y) ( $R_x, R_y$ )	$(x^2-y^2, xy)$ (xz, yz)

	$A_1$	$A_2$	E
$A_1$	$A_1$	$A_2$	E
$A_2$		$A_1$	E
E			$A_1 + A_2 + E$

## The Selection Rule for the Molecular Vibration mode

How do we get the molecular vibration mode ?

Total symmetry species –

(translational symmetry species (x, y, z) +  
rotational symmetry species (Rx, Ry, Rz) )

Ex>H<sub>2</sub>O (C<sub>2</sub>V)

~~Character table for C<sub>2</sub>v point group~~

	E	C <sub>2</sub> (z)	σ <sub>v</sub> (xz)	σ <sub>v</sub> (yz)	linear, rotations	quadratic
<b>A<sub>1</sub></b>	1	1	1	1	z	x <sup>2</sup> , y <sup>2</sup> , z <sup>2</sup>
<b>A<sub>2</sub></b>	1	1	-1	-1	R <sub>z</sub>	xy
<b>B<sub>1</sub></b>	1	-1	1	-1	x, R <sub>y</sub>	xz
<b>B<sub>2</sub></b>	1	-1	-1	1	y, R <sub>x</sub>	yz

$$\text{H}_2\text{O} : 3A_1 + A_2 + 3B_1 + 2B_2$$

$$\text{H}_2\text{O}_{\text{vib}} = \text{H}_2\text{O}_{\text{tot}}$$

$$-\text{H}_2\text{O}_{\text{trans}} (A_1 + B_1 + B_2)$$

$$-\text{H}_2\text{O}_{\text{rot}} (A_2 + B_1 + B_2)$$

$$= 2A_1 + B_1$$



## The Selection Rule for the Molecular Vibration mode - IR & Raman activity

The Absorption of Infrared light is caused from the permanent dipole moment ( $p_x, p_y, p_z$ )

The Polarizability of molecules makes Stokes shift  
( $d_{xz}, d_{yz}, d_{xy}, d_x^2, dx_2-y_2$ )

**CHARACTER TABLE FOR C<sub>2v</sub> POINT GROUP**

	E	C <sub>2</sub> (z)	$\sigma_v(xz)$	$\sigma_v(yz)$	linear, rotations	quadratic
<b>A<sub>1</sub></b>	1	1	1	1	z	$x^2, y^2, z^2$
<b>A<sub>2</sub></b>	1	1	-1	-1	R <sub>z</sub>	xy
<b>B<sub>1</sub></b>	1	-1	1	-1	x, R <sub>y</sub>	xz
<b>B<sub>2</sub></b>	1	-1	-1	1	y, R <sub>x</sub>	yz

# The Selection Rule for the Molecular Vibration mode - IR & Raman activity

Methane ( $T_d$  symmetry)

CH<sub>4</sub> : A<sub>1</sub> + E + T<sub>1</sub> + 3T<sub>2</sub>

Trans : T<sub>2</sub>

Rot : T<sub>1</sub>

Raman : A<sub>1</sub>, E

IR : T<sub>2</sub>

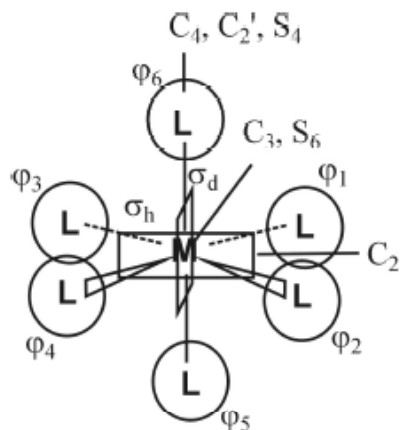
Character table for  $T_d$  point group

	E	8C <sub>3</sub>	3C <sub>2</sub>	6S <sub>4</sub>	6σ <sub>d</sub>	linear, rotations	quadratic
A <sub>1</sub>	1	1	1	1	1		$x^2+y^2+z^2$
A <sub>2</sub>	1	1	1	-1	-1		
E	2	-1	2	0	0		$(2z^2-x^2-y^2, x^2-y^2)$
T <sub>1</sub>	3	0	-1	1	-1	(R <sub>x</sub> , R <sub>y</sub> , R <sub>z</sub> )	
T <sub>2</sub>	3	0	-1	-1	1	(x, y, z)	(xy, xz, yz)

	A <sub>1</sub>	A <sub>2</sub>	E	T <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>2</sub>
A <sub>1</sub>	A <sub>1</sub>	A <sub>2</sub>	E	T <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>2</sub>
A <sub>2</sub>		A <sub>1</sub>	E	T <sub>2</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>
E			A <sub>1</sub> + A <sub>2</sub> + E	T <sub>1</sub> + T <sub>2</sub>	T <sub>1</sub> + T <sub>2</sub>
T <sub>1</sub>				A <sub>1</sub> + E + T <sub>1</sub> + T <sub>2</sub>	A <sub>2</sub> + E + T <sub>1</sub> + T <sub>2</sub>
T <sub>2</sub>					A <sub>1</sub> + E + T <sub>1</sub> + T <sub>2</sub>

# Molecular Orbital

Octahedral complex  $AB_6$



Application of all symmetry operations to the set of ligand AOs and determination of the characters of the 6 dimensional representation:

Operation	$\phi_1, \phi_2, \phi_3, \phi_4, \phi_5, \phi_6$	$\chi$
E (1)	$\phi_1, \phi_2, \phi_3, \phi_4, \phi_5, \phi_6$	6
$C_3$ (8)	$\phi_2, \phi_6, \phi_4, \phi_5, \phi_3, \phi_1$	0
$C_2$ (6)	$\phi_2, \phi_1, \phi_4, \phi_3, \phi_6, \phi_5$	0
$C_4$ (6)	$\phi_2, \phi_3, \phi_4, \phi_1, \phi_5, \phi_6$	2
$C_2'$ (6)	$\phi_3, \phi_4, \phi_1, \phi_2, \phi_5, \phi_6$	2
i (1)	$\phi_3, \phi_4, \phi_1, \phi_2, \phi_6, \phi_5$	0
$S_4$ (6)	$\phi_2, \phi_3, \phi_4, \phi_1, \phi_6, \phi_5$	0
$S_6$ (8)	$\phi_4, \phi_5, \phi_2, \phi_6, \phi_1, \phi_3$	0

$\sigma_h$ (3)	$\phi_1, \phi_2, \phi_3, \phi_4, \phi_5, \phi_6$	4
$\sigma_d$ (6)	$\phi_4, \phi_3, \phi_2, \phi_1, \phi_5, \phi_6$	2

Analysis (analogous to tetrahedral case):

$$\Gamma_{\text{ligand } \sigma\text{-AOs}} = A_{1g} + E_g + T_{1u}$$

MO diagram for octahedral  $\sigma$ -bonded  $ML_6$  complex of 3d transition metal:

