PH575 Spring 2019

Lecture #6: Linear chain with periodic boundary conditions, $N \rightarrow \infty$; *k*-space, Brillouin zones, (density of states, Bloch functions): Sutton Ch. 3 pp 44 -> end; McIntyre Ch 15



1

Motivation: Quasi 1-dimensional solids

polyacetylene - highly conducing polymer when doped with I_2



polyethylene - used for hip joints



1-dimensional solids

Infinite chain of H atoms (doesn't exist in nature, but good model)



Peierls distortion

In practice it often leads to systems undergoing a metal-to-insulator transition, as an odd electron count for a metallic 1D chain changes into an even count for a chain of dimers. 3-D H solid is H_2 molecules



voth.hec.utah.edu/ solid_hyd.html

Known atomic orbitals $\left|j
ight
angle$,

(*j* labels atom; have suppressed the orbital type – there's only one)

Known Hamiltonian \hat{H}

Orthogonal states:
$$\langle i | j \rangle = \delta_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1 \text{ if } i = j \\ 0 \text{ if } i \neq j \end{cases}$$

To find: molecular orbitals $|\Psi>$, and corresponding energies *E*

$$\hat{H} |\Psi\rangle = E |\Psi\rangle \qquad |\Psi\rangle = \sum_{j=1}^{N} c_j |j\rangle$$

4



New assumption: nearest neighbor coupling only

$$\langle i | \hat{H} | j \rangle = \begin{cases} \alpha \text{ if } i = j \\ \beta \text{ if } i = j \pm 1 \\ 0 \text{ otherwise} \end{cases} \qquad \hat{H} = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha & \beta & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \beta & \alpha & \beta & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \beta & \alpha & \beta & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \beta & \alpha & \beta \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \beta & \alpha \end{pmatrix}$$

5



This can be written in matrix form, just like the 2-atom case!



Sutton Eq. 3.5 -> solve by setting determinant = $0 \otimes$



N coupled equations (except for two ends):

$$c_{j-1} - \frac{\left(\boldsymbol{E} - \boldsymbol{\alpha}\right)}{\beta} c_j + c_{j+1} = 0$$



Can we make the problem simpler if N becomes large?

Yes!

If we don't care about the ends (what's a few atoms in 10²³?) then we can invoke periodic boundary conditions.

We make an imaginary extra atom "0", and make it identical to "N"

Strategy: Guess form of the *c* coefficients and see if that works Trick: Imaginary 0th atom coincides with the N^{th} atom **Periodic boundary conditions** Demand $c_0 = c_N$ (The chain remains linear, but it helps to imagine a circle)







* Remember the molecule is LINEAR! This ring is just a memory device

Guess:

$$c_j = Ae^{ij\theta}$$

Why is this reasonable? What does it mean?

 c_j is contribution of each atomic orbital – should be **same size** for each *i*, because of symmetry.

Only way to do this is for each each orbital to have a different phase (which does not change its size), but which can give it an imaginary part!



$$c_j = Ae^{ij\theta}$$

$$c_0 = c_N \Longrightarrow A = Ae^{iN\theta} \Longrightarrow 1 = e^{iN\theta}$$

$$\Rightarrow \theta = \frac{2m\pi}{N} \text{ where } m = 0, 1, 2..., N-1 \quad \text{why?}$$

$$c_j^{(m)} = Ae^{ij\left(\frac{2m\pi}{N}\right)} \quad \text{Note TWO counting indices}$$

$$j \text{ labels atoms,}$$

$$m \text{ labels..what?}$$

Note TWO counting indices: *j* labels atoms, *m* labels..what?



#cycles	C_0	<i>c</i> ₁	<i>c</i> ₂	<i>C</i> ₃	<i>C</i> ₄
m = 0	e^{i0}	<i>eⁱ⁰</i> 1	e^{i0}	e^{i0}	<i>eⁱ⁰</i> 1
<i>m</i> = 1	e ⁱ⁰	$e^{i\pi/2}$	$e^{i2\pi/2}$	$e^{i3\pi/2}$	$e^{i2\pi} = e^{i0}$
<i>m</i> = 2	e ⁱ⁰	<i>e^{iπ}</i> -1	$e^{i2\pi}$	<i>e^{i3π}</i> -1	$e^{i4\pi} = e^{i0}$ 1
<i>m</i> = 3	e ⁱ⁰	$e^{i3\pi/2}$ - i	<i>e^{i6π/2}</i> -1	$e^{i9\pi/2}$ i	$e^{i6\pi} = e^{i0}$
<i>m</i> = 4	e ⁱ⁰	$e^{i2\pi}$ 1	$e^{i4\pi}$ 1	$e^{i6\pi}$	$e^{i8\pi} = e^{i0}$

aliasing





$$E^{(m)} = \alpha + 2\beta \cos\left(\frac{2m\pi}{N}\right)$$

Unique information can be presented in either of 2 forms. The left hand one is conventional.



1-dimensional chain of identical atoms $c_j^{(m)} = A e^{ij\left(\frac{2m\pi}{N}\right)}$ Normalize MO to find A: Normalization: $\langle \Psi^{(m)} | \Psi^{(m)} \rangle = 1$ $c_{j}^{(m)} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} e^{ij\left(\frac{2m\pi}{N}\right)}$ MO: $|\Psi^{(m)}\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \left(e^{i\left(\frac{2m\pi}{N}\right)} |1\rangle + e^{i2\left(\frac{2m\pi}{N}\right)} |2\rangle + \dots + e^{i\left(\frac{2m\pi}{1}\right)} |N\rangle \right)$ $e^{i\left(\frac{2m\pi}{N}\right)}$ $e^{i2\left(\frac{2m\pi}{N}\right)}$ $e^{i3\left(\frac{2m\pi}{N}\right)}$ $\Psi^{(m)}(x)$ 3a x. 2aa 17

$$c_{j}^{(m)} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} e^{ij\left(\frac{2m\pi}{N}\right)}$$

Vertical axis: Re and Im parts of $c_j^{(m)}$ Horizontal axis: distance Each number represents an atom.





k-space: a different label for molecular orbitals



a is lattice spacing; *N* is number of atoms *Na* is length of solid

$$m = \# cycles = \frac{Na}{\lambda_m}$$
$$k_m = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda_m} = \frac{m}{N} \frac{2\pi}{a}$$

 k_m is an alternative label. Usually we leave off the subscript *m*. *k*-space: info in the first Brillouin zone

All unique information about the MOs is contained in the first "**Brillouin zone**".

It has width (in m-space) $\Delta m=N$ It has width (in k-space) $\Delta k=2\pi/a$

Conventionally, we center it on k=0, and then the "edges" are at $k_{BZB} = \pm \pi/a$



k-space: a different label for molecular orbitals

Instead of labeling MOs with a number *m*, we designate them by the wavelength of the variation of the charge distribution.



k: dimensions of inverse length BZB B *k* is a discrete index if there are few atoms/orbitals => E_k *k* is a quasi-continuous index if *N* is large => E(k)The set of values of *k* is called *k*-space or "reciprocal space" If the "real space" lattice spacing *a* is large (small) then the "reciprocal space" spacing between allowed *k* values is small (large).



We're almost there ... Just add more dimensions and more orbitals





Bloch's theorem in 1-d

We needed a MO that would give periodically varying probability. Bloch's theorem, for a 1-d system of periodicity (lattice spacing) *a*

$$\Psi^{(k)}(x) = e^{ikx}u(x) \quad (u(x) \text{ periodic in a})$$
$$\left|\Psi^{(k)}(x)\right|^2 = \left|\Psi^{(k)}(x+a)\right|^2$$



Felix Bloch (1905 – 1983) http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Felix Bloch

Bloch waves

