Equidensity orbitals in resultant-information description of electronic states

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Abstract
The equidensity orbitals (EO) are used in the resultant entropic description of molecular states which combines the probability and current contributions in the overall information content. Continuities of the modulus and phase components of electronic wavefunctions are examined, and the Harriman–Zumbach–Maschke (HZM) construction of Slater determinants yielding the prescribed electron density is explored. The conditional probability interpretation of (complex) HZM wavefunctions is formulated, the entropy/information contributions due to the state phase component are summarized, and a nonclassical origin of quantum dynamics of the resultant gradient information, related to average kinetic energy of electrons, is emphasized. The phase equilibria maximizing the resultant-entropy measures are explored, and “thermodynamic” phase minimizing the overall gradient information is determined. It generates finite orbital currents giving rise to the vanishing resultant flow of electrons in the system as a whole. Potential use of atomic and molecular EO bases in electronic structure calculations and interpretations in chemistry is discussed, and illustrative example of Gaussian probability distribution is examined in some detail.

Keywords Conditioned probabilities · Continuity relations · Distribution-constrained wavefunctions · Entropy/information equilibria · Equidensity orbitals · Resultant entropy/information

1 Introduction
The classical information theory (IT) [1–4] explores functionals of the entropy/information content in molecular probability distribution \( p(\rho) = \rho(\rho)/N \), the shape factor of electron density \( \rho(\rho) \) in \( N \)-electron system. For example, the local (gradient) information measure \( I[p] \) of Fisher [1, 2] and the global (logarithmic) entropy descriptor \( S[p] \) of Shannon [3, 4] reflect the complementary “narrowness” and “spread” aspects of electron distributions. In accordance with modern density functional theory (DFT) [5–10], the ground-state densities \( \rho_0(\rho) \) or \( p_0(\rho) \) determine all molecular properties, e.g., the electronic energy for the given external potential \( v(\rho) \) due to the system fixed nuclei, \( E_0 = E_0[p_0] = E_0[N, p_0] \), and its classical entropy/information contents: \( S_0 = S[p_0] \) or \( I_0 = I[p_0] \). However, in general (non-stationary) quantum states or for approximate (trial) wavefunctions of molecular information principles one has to take into account also the nonclassical entropy/information contributions due to the state phase distribution \( \phi(\rho) \), \( S[\phi] \) or \( I[\phi] \) [11–15], in the resultant-entropy/information measures \( S[p, \phi] = S[p] + S[\phi] \) or \( I[p, \phi] = I[p] + I[\phi] \).

The extrema of such overall global or gradient entropy descriptors determine the phase equilibria in molecules and their fragments [15–20]. These generalized IT descriptors allow one to distinguish the information content of states exhibiting the same electron density but differing in their current composition, e.g., the bonded (entangled) and non-bonded (disentangled) states of subsystems in the chemical reactivity theory [21, 22]. The entropic phase contributions play an important role in an information description of...
reactive systems [23–28] by precisely specifying the mutually open (bonded) and closed (nonbonded) states of reactants. To paraphrase Prigogine [29], the density distribution establishes the molecular “static” structure of being, while the current pattern establishes the complementary “dynamical” aspect of molecular organization—the structure of becoming: the latter determines the dynamics of the former.

The classical IT of Fisher and Shannon [1–4, 30–33] has been already successfully applied to interpret molecular probability distributions, e.g., [15, 34–37]. Information principles have been explored, and density pieces attributed to atoms-in-molecules (AIM) have been approached [38–46], providing the information basis for the intuitive (stockholder) division of Hirshfeld [47]. Patterns of chemical bonds have been extracted from electronic communications in molecules [15, 34–37, 48–58], and the entropy/ information distributions in molecules have been explored [15, 34–37, 59, 60]. The nonadditive Fisher information [15, 34–37, 61, 62] has been linked [62] to electron localization function (ELF) [63–65] of modern DFT. This analysis has also formulated the contragradience (CG) probe [66] for determining the bond patterns in molecules, and orbital communication theory (OCT) has identified the bridge interactions originating from cascade propagations of information, which involve intermediate orbitals [15, 37, 67–72].

In present analysis, the phase/current feature of electronic states will be emphasized throughout. General quantum states of \(N\) electrons yielding the prescribed electron density involve Slater determinants constructed from the (orthonormal) (plane-wave)-type equidensity orbitals (EO) of Harriman, Zumbach and Maschke (HZM) [73, 74], each generating the specified molecular probability distribution and exhibiting the density-dependent local phase safeguarding the orbital orthogonality. This construction separates the modulus and phase aspects of multi-electronic states thus offering an attractive framework for studying the role of classical (probability) and nonclassical (current) entropy/ information contributions in chemical processes. We shall examine the construction of orbital phases and electronic currents they generate, providing them an appropriate probabilistic interpretation in terms of conditional probabilities involving electron coordinates. This development will be illustrated for the special case of the Gaussian-type probability distributions.

The continuities of the physical, probability and phase descriptors of electronic states implied by the Schrödinger equation will be summarized, and probability interpretation of the key constructs of this orbital representation will be given. The dynamics of resultant gradient information will be explored, and a nonclassical character of the information production will be emphasized. The overlap extension of the equidensity orbitals [75] will be outlined, and possible applications of EO bases of constituent atoms in electronic structure calculations and interpretations in chemistry will be explored.

## 2 Continuities of probability and phase distributions

The evolution of molecular electronic wavefunctions is determined by the Schrödinger equation (SE) of quantum mechanics. It also determines the dynamics of probability- and current attributes of the abstract (complex) quantum states [26–28] and the associated information contributions. It is of interest to examine general implications of SE for the dynamics of these two physical descriptors of the modulus and phase components of molecular wavefunctions.

For simplicity, let us first consider a single electron at time \(t\) in state \(\psi(t) \equiv |\psi\rangle\), described by the (complex) wavefunction in position representation,

\[
\psi(r, t) = \langle r | \psi(t) \rangle \equiv R(r, t) \exp[i\phi(r, t)],
\]

where the real functions \(R(r, t)\) and \(\phi(r, t)\) stand for its modulus and phase parts, respectively. They determine the electron probability distribution at time \(t\),

\[
p(r, t) = \langle \psi(t)|r\rangle\langle r|\psi(t)\rangle = |\psi(r, t)|^2 = R(r, t)^2,
\]

and the corresponding current density

\[
j(r, t) = \left[\hbar/(2mi)\right]|\psi(r, t)^*\nabla\psi(r, t) - \psi(r, t)\nabla\psi(r, t)^*| = (\hbar/m)p(r, t)\nabla\phi(r, t) \equiv p(r, t)V(r, t).
\]

Here, the effective velocity of the probability “fluid,” \(V(r, t) = dr/dt\), measures the local current per particle and reflects the state phase-gradient:

\[
V(r, t) = j(r, t)/p(r, t) = (\hbar/m)\nabla\phi(r, t).
\]

The state probability density \(p(r, t)\) and its flux \(j(r, t)\) thus constitute two independent physical degrees-of-freedom of such a general quantum state of an electron:

\[
\psi \Leftrightarrow (R, \phi) \Leftrightarrow (p, j).
\]

The phase component of molecular states reflects the coherence, current aspect of the system electronic structure.

In molecular scenario, the electron is moving in the external potential \(v(r)\) due to the “frozen” nuclei of the familiar Born–Oppenheimer (BO) approximation, thus being described by the Hamiltonian

\[
\hat{H}(r) = -\left(\hbar^2/2m\right)\nabla^2 + v(r) \equiv \hat{T}(r) + v(r),
\]

where \(\hat{T}(r)\) denotes its kinetic part. The dynamics of its quantum state \(\psi(r, t)\) is determined by SE,

\[
\partial\psi(r, t)/\partial t = (i\hbar)^{-1}\hat{H}(r)\psi(r, t).
\]
which also generates the associated temporal evolutions of the state probability density and of its phase distribution.

The SE implies the sourceless continuity relation for the particle probability “fluid”:

\[
\frac{\partial \rho(r,t)}{\partial t} = -\nabla \cdot j(r,t) \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{\partial \rho(r,t)}{\partial t} \equiv \frac{\partial \rho(r,t)}{\partial \tau} = \nabla \cdot j(r,t) + \frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} \left( \frac{\partial \rho(r,t)}{\partial \tau} \right) = 0. \tag{8}
\]

The total time derivative \( \partial \rho(r,t) / \partial t \) of the electron probability density \( \rho(r,t) = |\rho|^{2} \) of the system electron density \( |\rho|^{2} \) also determines the state modulus dynamics:

\[
\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} \equiv \sigma_{\rho} = \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + (dr/dt) \cdot (\partial \rho/\partial r)
= \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \rho = 0 \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} = -\nabla \cdot \rho = -(\hbar/m) \nabla \phi \cdot \nabla \rho.
\tag{9}
\]

Using the probability continuity also gives:

\[
\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} = -\nabla \cdot j = -\nabla \cdot \rho_p - \rho \nabla \cdot V
= -(\hbar/m)[\nabla \phi \cdot \nabla p + p \nabla^{2} \phi].
\tag{10}
\]

Therefore, comparing the two preceding equations implies the vanishing divergence of the effective velocity field, determined by the Laplacian of the phase component of molecular quantum states:

\[
\nabla \cdot V = (\hbar/m) \nabla^{2} \phi = 0. \tag{11}
\]

The probability continuity of Eq. (9) also determines the state modulus dynamics:

\[
\frac{\partial R}{\partial t} = -(\hbar/m) \nabla \phi \cdot \nabla R,
\tag{12}
\]

while the phase dynamics from SE reads:

\[
\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} = \frac{[\hbar/(2m)]}{[R^{-1} \Delta R - (\nabla \phi)^{2}]} - v/h.
\tag{13}
\]

The probability velocity \( V \) also drives the phase current

\[
J(r,t) \equiv \phi(r,t) V(r,t) = (\hbar/m) \rho(r,t) \nabla \phi(r,t).
\tag{14}
\]

The SE then predicts a nonvanishing phase source in the associated continuity equation:

\[
\sigma_{\phi}(t) \equiv \frac{\partial \phi(t)}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial \phi(t)}{\partial \tau} + \nabla \cdot J(t)
= \frac{\partial \phi(t)}{\partial \tau} + \nabla \cdot \nabla \phi(t) \neq 0 \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{\partial \phi(t)}{\partial \tau} - \sigma_{\phi}(t) = -\nabla \cdot J(t) = -(\hbar/m)[\nabla \phi(t)]^{2}.
\tag{15}
\]

Using Eq. (13) finally gives the following production term of a local phase:

\[
\sigma_{\phi} = \frac{[\hbar/(2m)]}{[R^{-1} \Delta R + (\nabla \phi)^{2}]} - v/h.
\tag{16}
\]

It follows from these continuity relations that a common velocity of the probability and phase currents, determined by the state phase-gradient, reflects the structure dynamical aspect, while the probability density at the specified time establishes its static facet. The former characterizes the temporal evolution of the latter. In other words, a structure of “becoming” determines the evolution of an instantaneous structure of “being.”

### 3 Equidensity orbitals

In DFT, one often explores the density-constrained ("entropic") variational principles, e.g., the Levy [7] construction of the universal density functional for the sum of electronic kinetic and repulsion energies. They are also called the "vertical" or "thermodynamic" searches, by analogy to the minimum-energy and maximum-entropy criteria for determining equilibria in ordinary thermodynamics [76].

A related problem of constructing the antisymmetric wave functions of \( N \) fermions yielding the prescribed density \( \rho(r) \), vital for solving the familiar \( N \)-representability problem of DFT, has been solved by Harriman [73], who had used the crucial insights due to Macke [77, 78] and Gilbert [79]. Its three-dimensional generalization by Zumbach and Maschke [74] introduces the complete set of Slater determinants build using the density-dependent (orthonormal) equidensity orbitals (EO) of the plane-wave type,

\[
\phi_{q}(r) = \left[ \rho(r)/N \right]^{1/2} \exp \left\{ i \left[ q \cdot f(r) + \phi(r) \right] \right\}
\equiv \left[ \rho(r)/N \right]^{1/2} \exp \left\{ i \left[ F_{q}(r) + \phi(r) \right] \right\} \equiv R(r) \exp \left\{ i \Phi_{q}(r) \right\},
\tag{17}
\]

each generating the molecular probability distribution

\[
\rho(r) = \rho(r)/N = \rho(x \land y \land z) \equiv \rho(x,y,z),
\tag{18}
\]

the shape factor of the system electron density \( \rho(r) \). Here, \( q = (q_{1},q_{2},q_{3}) \equiv \{ q_{m} \} \)

\[
denotes the (constant) reduced-momentum (wave-number) vector, and \( \Phi_{q}(r) \) stands for the EO resultant phase, defined by the sum of the orthogonality-phase \( F_{q}(r) \) and thermodynamic-phase contribution \( \phi(r) \), common to all occupied EO.

The latter has to be eventually determined from the auxiliary maximum resultant-entropy principle, which establishes the system phase equilibrium. The vector function in Eq. (17),

\[
f(r) = f_{s}(r)i + f_{s}(r)j + f_{s}(r)k = \{ f_{m}(r) \} \equiv \{ f_{m}(r) \},
\tag{20}
\]

ultimately generates the probability-dependent Jacobian determinant \( df/\partial r = \partial f_{m}/\partial x_{n} \) grouping partial derivatives \( \{ df_{m}/dx_{n} \} \) of the phase-vector \( f \equiv \{ f_{m} \} \) components with respect to electron position coordinates \( r \equiv \{ x_{n} \} \).
This construction can be thus viewed as transformation of the physical space into itself: for any \( \mathbf{r} = (x, y, z) \in \mathbb{R}^3 \) we define the (invertible) density-dependent transformation of \( r \) into the new vector \( \mathbf{f}(r) \in \mathbb{R}^3 \), with the familiar plane-wave type orthogonality relation between orbitals. The overall phase \( \Phi_q(r) \) of EO involves the orbital-specific (geometric) internal contribution \( q \mathbf{f}(r) \equiv F_q(r) \), which enforces the independence of these one-particle states, and “thermodynamic” external phase \( \phi(r) \), common to all EO,

\[
\Phi_q(r) = F_q(r) + \phi(r). \tag{21}
\]

The latter has to be determined from a subsidiary variational principle for the extremum of the state resultant entropy [12–21, 36].

By definition, in the HZM construction one sets this transformation between local volume elements as being proportional to molecular probability distribution, \( df(r) \propto p(r)\,dr \), with the associated Jacobian determinant

\[
\frac{\partial f}{\partial r} = (2\pi)^3\frac{1}{N} \rho(r) = (2\pi)^3 p(r). \tag{22}
\]

As explicitly proposed by Zumbach and Maschke [74], the functional relations defining components of the phase vector field \( f = f(\rho) \) read:

\[
egin{align*}
&f_x(x, y, z) = 2\pi \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{dx'}{\rho(x', y, z)}, \\
&f_y(y, z) = 2\pi \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{dy'}{\rho(x', y', z)} \\
&f_z(z) = 2\pi \frac{1}{N} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{dz'}{\rho(x', y', z')}.
\end{align*}
\]

They define the functional determinant of Eq. (22):

\[
\frac{\partial f}{\partial r} = \begin{vmatrix}
\frac{\partial f_x}{\partial x} & 0 & 0 \\
\frac{\partial f_y}{\partial y} & 0 & 0 \\
\frac{\partial f_z}{\partial z} & 0 & 0
\end{vmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix}
\frac{\partial f_x}{\partial x} \\
\frac{\partial f_y}{\partial y} \\
\frac{\partial f_z}{\partial z}
\end{pmatrix}.
\]

These “diagonal” derivatives \( \{\partial f_a/\partial x_a\} \) can be expressed in terms of the relevant conditional probabilities [14] involving the position coordinates (see Figs. 1 and 2), defined by the corresponding ratios of the relevant joint probabilities:

\[
\left(\frac{\partial f_x}{\partial x}\right) = 2\pi p(x) \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} p(r) \, dx \\
= 2\pi p(x, y, z) / p(y, z) \equiv 2\pi p(x | y, z),
\]

\[
\left(\frac{\partial f_y}{\partial y}\right) = 2\pi \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} p(x, y, z) \, dx \, dy \\
= 2\pi p(x | y, z),
\]

\[
\left(\frac{\partial f_z}{\partial z}\right) = 2\pi \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} p(x, y, z) \, dx \, dy \\
= 2\pi p(z).
\]

Here, \( p(ab) \equiv p(a, b)/p(b) \) denotes the conditional probability of event \( a \), given event \( b \), while \( p(a, b) \) stands for the joint probability of simultaneously observing the two events. Substituting Eq. (25) into Eq. (24) then indeed generates the postulated density-dependent transformation between the volume elements \( dr \) and \( df \):

\[
\begin{align*}
\frac{\partial f}{\partial r} &= (2\pi)^3 \left[ \frac{p(r)}{p(y, z)} \right] p(z) = (2\pi)^3 p(r). \\
\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \varphi_q^*(r) \varphi_q(r) \, dr &= \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} e^{i(q-q') \cdot f(r)} \frac{p(r)}{p(y, z)} p(z) \, dr \\
&= \frac{1}{(2\pi)^3} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} e^{i(q-q') \cdot f(r)} \frac{\partial f}{\partial r} \, dr \\
&= \frac{1}{(2\pi)^3} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} e^{i(q-q') \cdot f(r)} df = \delta(q - q').
\end{align*}
\]

In “Appendix 1,” the illustrative case of Gaussian probability distribution is examined, where the key concepts of HZM construction have been examined, with the local phase vector \( f(r) \) expressed in terms of the error function of probability theory.

To summarize, the Slater determinants build from specific selections of \( N \) different equidensity orbitals,

\[
\Psi_{q_1, q_2, \ldots, q_N}(N) = (1/\sqrt{N!}) \det(\varphi_{q_1}, \varphi_{q_2}, \ldots, \varphi_{q_N}) = \Psi_q(N) \equiv \langle r \mid q \rangle, \quad [q, \neq q], \quad r = \{r \}, \quad q = \{q \},
\]

then by construction generate the prescribed electron density \( \rho(r) \):

\[
\langle \Psi_q | \rho(r) | \Psi_q \rangle = \sum_{i=1}^{N} |\varphi_{q_i}(r)|^2 = \rho(r).
\]

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Fig. 1 The graphical representation of various joint and conditional probabilities of the electron position coordinates, \( r=x+yi+jk \equiv (x,y,z) \), e.g.,
\[
\begin{align*}
 p(r) &= p(x,y,z) = p(x,y) p(x), \\
p(x,y) &= p(x,y) = p(x) + p(y) - p(x,y), \\
p(x,y,z) &= p(x,y,z) = p(x) + p(y) + p(z) - p(x,y) - p(x,z) - p(y,z) + p(x,y,z).
\end{align*}
\]
A single circle delineates probability of a separate coordinate, e.g., \( p(x) = \int p(r) \, dy \, dz \); the envelope of the two or three overlapping circles represents the probability of the union (sum) of observing the specified (dependent) coordinates, e.g.,
\[
 p(x) + p(y) - p(x,y) = p(x) + p(y) = p(x,y) \quad \text{or} \quad p(x,y) + p(y,z) = p(x,y) + p(y) = p(x,y,z).
\]
The probabilities of the joint coordinate events (products), e.g., \( p(x,y,z) \) or \( p(x,y) \), generally correspond to the overlap areas (intersections) of two or three circles, respectively. The non-overlapping circles in part (a) represent the independent, exclusive coordinate events

They constitute the complete orthonormal set of \( N \)-particle functions capable of representing the molecular ground state of \( N \) electrons for the associated electron distribution \( \rho_0(r) = \rho[N, v, \sigma] \), the equilibrium density for the system electronic Hamiltonian
\[
\hat{H}(N,v) = \hat{V}_{ne}(N,v) + [\hat{T}(N) + \hat{V}_{ee}(N)] \equiv \sum_{i=1}^{N} v(i) + \hat{T}(N),
\]
in the HZM configuration interaction (CI) type expansion:
\[
\Psi_0(N) = \int \Psi_q(N) C_0(q) d\mathbf{q}. \tag{31}
\]
It should be emphasized, however, that such trial functions do not satisfy the phase constraint of Eq. (11), the implication of the probability-continuity relation, since \( \nabla \cdot f(r) \neq 0 \). This phase requirement should be ultimately fulfilled by the exact solutions of SE, which reflect the system dynamical conditions.

The EO \( \left\{ \varphi_q(r) = \langle r | \varphi_q \rangle \equiv \langle r | \psi \rangle \right\} \) constitute the complete set of functions capable of representing any quantum state \( |\psi\rangle \) of a single electron or the associated wavefunction in the position representation:
\[
\psi(r) = \langle r | \psi \rangle = \int \langle r | q \rangle \langle q | \psi \rangle d\mathbf{q} = \int \varphi_q(r) \psi(q) d\mathbf{q}. \tag{32}
\]
Fig. 2 Schematic diagram of the partition of the probability density $p(\{r\}) = p(x)p(y)p(z)$ of the union of spatial coordinates $(x, y, z)$ of the electron position vector $r = xi + yj + zk$ (see also Fig. 1), corresponding to the envelope of three probability circles $\{p(x)\}$ for the separate Cartesian coordinates, into partial areas representing the conditional probabilities of Eq. (25). Here, $p(z)$ stands for the probability distribution of the coordinate “z,” $p(x,y,z)$ the conditional probability of observing coordinate “$y$” given “$z$,” and $p(x,y)$ denotes conditional probability of observing coordinate “$x$” when one has already simultaneously observed coordinates “$y$” and “$z$”.

They constitute the basis of the Harriman representation of electronic states [14, 36]. The coefficient function in the preceding equation,

$$\psi(q) = \langle q | \psi \rangle = \int \langle q | r \rangle \langle r | \psi \rangle dr = \int \varphi_q(r)^* \psi(r) dr,$$  
(33)

the momentum representation of $|\psi\rangle$ can be subsequently ($r \rightarrow f$)-transformed,

$$\psi(q) = \int \langle q | f \rangle \langle f | \psi \rangle \frac{df}{dr} \equiv \int \varphi_q(f)^* \psi(f) df,$$  
(34)

where the transformed “volume” element

$$df = \frac{df}{dr} dr = (2\pi)^3 p(r) dr.$$  
(35)

Here, $\psi(f) = \langle f | \psi \rangle$ stands for the $f$ representation of the state vector $|\psi\rangle$, while $\varphi_q(f)$ similarly expresses the state $|\varphi_q\rangle$ in terms of the density-dependent spatial variable $f$.

These equations summarize the Fourier transformations between the momentum ($\langle q \rangle$) and position ($\langle r \rangle$ or $|f\rangle$) representations of $|\psi\rangle$. Notice that in this vector interpretation, the orthogonality relation of Eq. (27) reads,

$$\int \varphi_q^*(r) \varphi_q(r) dr = \int \langle q | r \rangle \langle r | q \rangle = \delta(q - q'),$$  
(36)

thus manifesting the completeness of the EO basis yielding the molecular probability density:

$$\int |r| dr \langle r | f \rangle \langle f | r \rangle = \int |q| dq \langle q | q \rangle = 1.$$  
(37)

It is also of interest to express the HZM representation of $|\psi\rangle$, $\psi(f) = \langle f | \psi \rangle$, in terms of its standard position or momentum representations: $\psi(r) = \langle r | \psi \rangle$ or $\psi(k) = \langle k | \psi \rangle$. Using the familiar Fourier transformation gives:

$$\psi(f) = \int dr \langle f | r \rangle \langle r | \psi \rangle = \int dr \langle f | \psi \rangle^* \psi(r)$$

$$= \int dk \langle f | k \rangle \langle k | \psi \rangle = \int dk \langle k | \psi \rangle^* \psi(k)$$  
(38)

$$= \int dk (2\pi)^{-3/2} \int dr \exp(-ik \cdot r) \langle f | r \rangle \psi(k),$$

with $f(k) = \langle k | f \rangle$ and $f(r) = \langle r | f \rangle = \langle f | r \rangle^*$ standing for the momentum and position representations of $|f\rangle$, respectively.

The admissible $N$-electron determinants

$$\Psi_q(r) \equiv \langle \{r\} | \Psi_q \rangle \equiv \langle r | q \rangle$$

similarly span the complete $N$-electron basis in molecular Hilbert space,

$$\int |r| dr \langle r | f \rangle = \int |f| df \langle f | r \rangle = \int |q| dq \langle q | f \rangle = 1, \quad f = \langle f | r \rangle \equiv f_i.$$  
(39)

which can be used in the CI-type expansion of Eq. (31) for the molecular ground state $|\Psi_0\rangle$:

$$\Psi_0(r) = \langle r | \Psi_0 \rangle = \int \langle r | q \rangle \langle q | \Psi_0 \rangle dq$$

$$= \int r(q)^* \Psi_0(q) dq = \Psi_0(N).$$  
(40)

4 Resultant descriptors, phase equilibria and information production

For simplicity, let us first consider a single electron in the specified quantum state $|\psi\rangle$ of Eq. (1). The average Fisher’s [1, 2] measure of the gradient information for locality events contained in the electronic probability density $p(r) = R(r)^2 [80]$, called the intrinsic accuracy, is reminiscent of von Weizsäcker’s [81] inhomogeneity correction to kinetic energy functional,

$$I[p] = \langle \psi | (\nabla \ln p)^2 | \psi \rangle = \int [\nabla p(r)]^2 / p(r) dr$$

$$= 4 \int [\nabla R(r)]^2 dr \equiv I[R].$$  
(41)

This classical measure characterizes an effective “narrowness” of the spatial probability distribution, a degree of electronic position determinicity. It represents the complementary measure to Shannon’s [3, 4] global entropy descriptor,
\[ S[p] = -\langle \psi | \ln p | \psi \rangle = - \int p(r) \ln(p(r)) \, dr \]
\[ = -2 \int R(r)^2 \ln(R(r)) \, dr \equiv S[R]. \quad (42) \]

which reflects the position uncertainty, i.e., a "spread" of the distribution.

In quantum IT (QIT), these complementary classical descriptors are supplemented by the associated nonclassical complements in the resultant-entropy/information functionals, which combine the probability and phase/current contributions. The intrinsic accuracy concept generalizes naturally into the associated resultant descriptor of the gradient information content in the quantum state \( | \psi \rangle \) itself:

\[ I[|\psi\rangle] = I[p] + I[\phi] \equiv I[p, \phi] = I[p] + I[\psi]. \quad (43) \]

This overall Fisher-type measure is defined by the expectation value of the Hermitian information operator \( I(r) \) [61], related to kinetic energy operator \( T(r) \) of Eq. (6),

\[ \hat{I}(r) = -4\Delta = (8m/h^2) \hat{T}(r) \equiv \sigma \hat{T}(r). \quad (44) \]

Using the integration by parts then gives:

\[ I[|\psi\rangle] = \langle \psi | I(|\psi\rangle) | \psi \rangle = -4 \int \psi^*(r) \Delta \psi(r) \, dr = 4 \int |\nabla \psi(r)|^2 \, dr \]
\[ = I[p] + 4 \int p(r) |\nabla \psi(r)|^2 \, dr \equiv I[p] + I[\phi] = I[p, \phi]. \]
\[ = I[p] + (2m/h^2) \int p(r)^{-1} j(r)^2 \, dr \equiv I[p] + I[\hat{\psi}] = I[p, \hat{\psi}]. \quad (45) \]

This quantum information concept thus combines the classical (probability) contribution \( I[p] \) of Fisher and (positive) nonclassical (phase/current) supplement \( I[\phi] = I[\hat{\psi}] \). The sign of the latter expresses the fact that nonvanishing current pattern introduces more structural indeterminacy or order information about the system. This dimensionless measure is seen to also reflect the average kinetic energy of an electron

\[ T[|\psi\rangle] = \langle \psi | \tilde{T} | \psi \rangle = \sigma^{-1} I[|\psi\rangle]. \quad (46) \]

It is of interest to examine the resultant gradient information content of EO. One first observes that \( \varphi_q(r) \) satisfies the pseudo-eigenvalue problem of the momentum operator

\[ \hat{p}(r) \varphi_q(r) = -i\hbar \nabla \varphi_q(r) = -i\hbar 1/2 \nabla \ln(p(r)) + iq \cdot f(r) \varphi_q(r). \quad (47) \]

which directly gives the expectation value of the information operator of Eq. (44):

\[ I[\varphi_q] = (4/\hbar^2) \varphi^2[\varphi_q] = (4/\hbar^2)(\varphi_q \nabla \hat{p} \varphi_q) = 4 \int |\nabla \varphi_q(r)|^2 \, dr \]
\[ = \int p(r)^{-1} |\nabla \psi(r)|^2 \, dr + 4q^2 \int p(r) |\nabla \cdot f(r)|^2 \, dr \equiv I[p] + I[F_q]. \quad (48) \]

Its first (classical) contribution thus amounts to the Fisher information in probability distribution \( p(r) \), while the second (nonclassical) component, due to the orthogonality phase of Eq. (17), amounts to the plane-wave contribution \( 4q^2 \) multiplied by the EO-average value of the squared divergence of the phase vector field \( f(r) \).

One similarly generalizes the global entropy concept by supplementing the classical (probability) functional with the (negative) nonclassical contribution generated by the state (positive) phase [15–21]. Its sign implies a decrease in state overall structural indeterminacy due to its nonvanishing current distribution. The resultant global entropy measure then reads

\[ S[|\psi\rangle] = -\langle \psi | \ln(p + 2\phi) | \psi \rangle = S[p] - 2 \int p(r) \phi(r) \, dr \]
\[ \equiv S[p] + M[\phi] \equiv S[p, \phi]. \quad (49) \]

while the overall gradient entropy is given by the expectation value

\[ M[|\psi\rangle] = \langle \psi | (\nabla \ln(p))^2 - (2\nabla \phi)^2 | \psi \rangle = I[p] - I[\phi] \]
\[ \equiv M[p] + M[\phi] \equiv M[p, \phi]. \quad (50) \]

The negative character of the phase contribution \( M[\phi] \) in the latter reflects the fact that a presence of a finite current decreases the overall structure-uncertainty (entropy) content in \( \psi \).

The state extrema of these uncertainty descriptors identify the same optimum (nonnegative) equilibrium-phase solution,

\[ \{ \delta S[|\psi\rangle] / \delta \psi^*(r) = [\ln(p(r) - 2\phi_{eq}(r)] |\psi(r) = 0 \text{ or} \]
\[ \delta M[|\psi\rangle] / \delta \psi^*(r) = [(\nabla \ln(p(r))^2 - (2\nabla \phi_{eq}(r))^2 | \psi(r) = 0, \quad \phi_{eq} \geq 0, \]
\[ \Rightarrow \phi_{eq}(r) = -(1/2) \ln p(r). \quad (51) \]

This entropy equilibrium ("thermodynamic") phase thus generates the associated EO current density reflecting the negative probability-gradient:

\[ j_{eq}(r) = (h/m)p(r) \nabla \phi_{eq}(r) = -[\hbar/(2m)] \nabla p(r). \quad (53) \]

One also introduces the complex overall entropy concept [11], the quantum expectation value of the non-Hermitian entropy operator \( \hat{S}(r) = -2\ln(p(r)) \). In this “vector” measure of the state overall structural uncertainty, the two contributions of Eq. (49) constitute its real and imaginary parts:

\[ \hat{S}[|\psi\rangle] \equiv \langle \psi | \hat{S} | \psi \rangle = \langle \psi | -2 \ln |\psi\rangle - S[p] + iS[\phi]. \quad (54) \]

In the Schrödinger dynamical picture, the time evolution of resultant gradient information, the operator of which does not depend on time explicitly, \( \hat{I}(r) = -4\nabla^2 = \sigma \hat{T}(r) \), results solely from the quantum dynamics of the system state vector \(|\psi(t)\rangle\).
dI(t)/dt = (i/ℏ) [\langle \psi(t) | [\hat{H}, \hat{I}] | \psi(t) \rangle], \quad (55)

is then generated by the expectation value of the commutator

\[ [\hat{H}, \hat{I}] = [\nabla, \psi] = 4[\nabla^2, \psi] = 4\{[\nabla, \psi] \cdot \nabla + \nabla \cdot [\nabla, \psi]\}, \quad (56) \]

and the integration by parts implies:

\[ \langle \psi(t) | \nabla \psi(t) \rangle = -\langle \nabla \psi(t) | \psi(t) \rangle \equiv \langle \nabla^\dagger \psi(t) | \psi(t) \rangle \quad \text{or} \quad \nabla^\dagger = -\nabla. \quad (57) \]

Hence, the integral production (source) of this information descriptor reads:

\[ \sigma_{q}(t) \equiv \frac{\partial I}{\partial t} \mid_{t} = (4i/\hbar) \left\{ \langle \psi(t) | \nabla \nabla \psi(t) \rangle - \langle \nabla \psi(t) | \nabla \psi(t) \rangle \right\} = -8(\hbar/\delta) \int \nabla \psi(t) \cdot \nabla \psi(t) \, dr \quad (58) \]

This derivative is seen to be determined by the current content of molecular electronic state. Therefore, it identically vanishes for the zero-current density everywhere, when the local component of the state phase identically vanishes, thus confirming its nonclassical origin.

This qualitative conclusion also follows from the time-differentiation of the resultant gradient information \( I[p, \phi] = \langle p | \hat{I} | \phi \rangle \quad \text{[Eq. (45)]} \). Its vanishing classical source then indeed directly follows from the sourceless character of probability distribution \[ \text{[Eq. (8)]} \]

\[ \frac{\partial I}{\partial t} \mid_{t} = \int \left\{ \delta I[p] \right\} \delta \rho(r) | \sigma_{q}(r, t) \rangle dr = 0, \quad (59) \]

while the phase continuity relations \[ \text{[Eqs. (11) and (16)]} \]

give the following expression for the nonclassical information source:

\[ \frac{\partial I}{\partial \phi} \mid_{\phi} = \int \left\{ \delta I[\phi] \right\} \delta \phi(r) | \sigma_{q}(r, t) \rangle dr + \int \left\{ \delta I[\phi] \right\} \delta \phi(r) | \sigma_{q}(r, t) \rangle dr = -8 \int \sigma_{q}(r, t) \nabla \rho(r) \cdot \nabla \phi(r, t) \, dr. \quad (60) \]

Therefore, the integral source of resultant gradient information in fact reflects the total time derivative of its nonclassical contribution \[ I[\phi] \]. Hence, the associated derivative of the overall gradient entropy of \[ \text{Eq. (50)} \] reads:

\[ \sigma_{\phi}(t) \equiv \frac{\partial M(t)}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial I[p]}{\partial t} - \frac{\partial I[\phi]}{\partial t} = -\frac{\partial I[\phi]}{\partial t} = -\sigma_{\phi}(t). \quad (61) \]

This result confirms the intuitive expectation that an increase in the state overall structural determinacy (order) information, \( \sigma_{\phi}(t) > 0 \) implies the associated decrease in the structural indeterminacy (disorder) information (entropy): \( \sigma_{\phi}(t) < 0 \).

The above one-electron development can be straightforwardly generalized into a general \( N \)-electron system in the specified electronic state \( |\Psi(N)\rangle \), exhibiting the electron density \( \rho(r) = N\rho(r) \). The \( N \)-electron information operator then combines terms due to each particle,

\[ I(N) = \sum_{i=1}^{N} I(r_{i}) = \sigma \tilde{T}(N), \quad (62) \]

determines the state overall gradient information,

\[ I(N) = \langle \Psi(N) | \tilde{I}(N) | \Psi(N) \rangle = \sigma \langle \Psi(N) | \tilde{T}(N) | \Psi(N) \rangle = \sigma T(N), \quad (63) \]

proportional to the system average kinetic energy \( T(N) \). The relevant separation of the modulus and phase components of \( N \)-electron states calls for wavefunctions yielding the specified electron density. For example, in DFT this goal can be effected using the HZM construction, which we have outlined in Sect. 3.

5 Probability currents and information equilibria

Both parts of the resultant EO phases \( \Phi_{q} \) in \[ \text{Eq. (17)} \] contribute to the overall probability current generated by the Slater determinant \( |\Psi_{q}(N)\rangle \) describing an electron configuration. The given EO \( \Phi_{q}(r) \) generates the associated current density

\[ j_{q}(r) = \langle \Phi_{q} | \hat{j}_{q} | \Phi_{q} \rangle = \frac{\hbar}{m} \rho(r) \nabla \Phi_{q}(r) = \frac{\hbar}{m} \rho(r) \{ q \nabla \cdot f(r) + \nabla \phi(r) \}. \quad (64) \]

Hence, the overall current in a trial configuration of \( N \) electrons, corresponding to the \( N \)-electron operator

\[ \hat{j}(r; N) = \sum_{q=1}^{N} \hat{j}_{q}(r), \quad (65) \]

\[ j_{q}(r) = \langle \Psi_{q}(N) | \hat{j}_{q}(r; N) | \Psi_{q}(N) \rangle = \sum_{q=1}^{N} j_{q}(r) \]

\[ = \frac{\hbar}{m} \rho(r) \{ q \nabla \cdot f(r) + \frac{\hbar}{m} \rho(r) \nabla \phi(r) \} \]

\[ = \langle \hbar/m \rho(r) \{ q \nabla \cdot f(r) + \nabla \phi(r) \} \rangle \approx j_{q}(r) + j_{q}(r), \quad (66) \]
where
\[ \mathcal{Q} = \sum_{l=1}^{N} q_l = N \langle q \rangle \] (67)
denotes the resultant “wave-number” vector of \( \Psi_q(N) \), independent of the spatial position \( r \), and \( \nabla f(r) \) stands for the divergence of its phase vector field \( f(r) \).

A reference to Eq. (25) and Fig. 2 shows that this divergence corresponds to the probability density of the union (sum) \( U(r) = x \sqrt{y} \sqrt{z} \) of observing the specified position coordinates,
\[
\nabla \cdot f(r) = \frac{\partial f_x}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial f_y}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial f_z}{\partial z} \\
= 2\pi[p(x,y,z) + p(y|z) + p(z)] \\
= 2\pi p(U(r)) \geq 0,
\]
which is represented by the area enclosed by the envelope of three probability circles in the figure [14, 36].

Therefore, in the HZM construction of an antisymmetric wavefunction of \( N \) electrons the Jacobian of the \( r \rightarrow f(r) \) transformation, expressing a dependence of the volume element \( df \) on the spatial volume \( dr \), is proportional to molecular probability function of the product (joint) event involving the spatial coordinates of an electron, while its divergence—determining the current density—corresponds to the probability of the union of such elementary coordinate events.

The overall current of Eq. (66) consists of the resultant “orthogonality” component \( j_f(r) \) in HZM construction, determined by the local electron density \( \rho(r) \), the average wave-number vector \( \langle q \rangle \) and the divergence of the phase vector \( f(r) \), supplemented by the overall “thermodynamic” component \( j_q(r) \) determined by the “thermodynamic” phase-gradient, \( \nabla \phi(r) \). The orbital contributions \( \{ j_f(r) \} \) to the former,
\[
j_f(r) = \sum_l j_f^l(r) = [\nabla \cdot f(r)] \cdot \sum_l \left( \frac{2\pi}{m} q_l \phi(r) \right) \\
= [\nabla \cdot f(r)] \sum_l j_q^l(r) = \sum_l \left( 2\pi q_l U(r) \right) j_q^l(r),
\]
(69)
can be also regarded as the \( \nabla f(r) \)-enhanced plane-wave currents \( j_q^l(r) \) of \( \Psi_q(N) \), with the local enhancement factor reflecting the probability density of Fig. 2.

It is also of interest to determine the information-optimum thermodynamic phase, which minimizes the nonclassical gradient information of EO, for the prescribed molecular probability distribution. Indeed, in such a vertical search, for the fixed (ground-state) probability density \( p_0 = \rho_0/N \), it is the thermodynamic phase \( \phi(r) \) of EO states \( \langle \psi_p | p_0 \rangle \), which is being optimized, since their orthogonality phases are uniquely determined by the electron density \( \rho_0; f(r) = f_0; r \) and \( \{ q_l = q_l^0 | p_0 \} \). The condition of the minimum overall gradient information in configuration \( \Psi_q[p_0] \),
\[
I[\psi_q[p_0]] = \sum_l \langle \psi_l | p_0 \rangle \left( \nabla \ln p_0 \right)^2 + 2\langle \nabla \phi_l | f_0; p_0 \rangle^2 | \psi_l | p_0 \rangle \\
= I[p_0] + I[\phi; p_0],
\]
for the specified probability distribution \( p_0 \), the shape factor of \( p_0 \), then implies the minimum value of the overall nonclassical information,
\[
I[\{ \Phi_l | f_0; p_0 \}] = 4 \int p_0(r) \left( \sum_l | \nabla \Phi_l | f_0; p_0 \rangle^2 \right) dr \\
\equiv 4 \int p_0(r) \left( \sum_l | g_l | f_0; p_0 \rangle^2 \right) dr \geq 0.
\]
(71)
\[ g_l(r) = \nabla \Phi_l(r) = q_l \nabla f(r) + \nabla \phi(r) = g_l + \phi(r), \]
with respect to thermodynamic part \( \phi \) of the resultant EO phases \( \{ \Phi_l | f_0; p_0 \} \):
\[
\text{Min}_{\phi}[\{ \Phi_l | f_0; p_0 \}] \equiv I[\{ \Phi_l | \phi_{opt.}; p_0 \}] = 0.
\]
(72)
This condition is satisfied by the optimum phase \( \phi_{opt.}(r) \) satisfying the local gradient condition
\[
\sum_l \left( | \nabla \Phi_l | \phi_{opt.}; p_0 \rangle \right)^2 \equiv \sum_l g_l^2 \equiv G(\{ g_l \}) = 0.
\]
(73)
This minimum value of \( G(\{ g_l \}) \) implies the associated Euler equation for determining the information-optimum thermodynamic phase \( \phi_{opt.}(r) \geq 0 \):
\[
[\partial G(\{ g_l \}) / \partial g_{l \phi}] = \sum_l \left( \partial g_l / \partial g_{l \phi} \right) \left( \partial G / \partial g_l \right) |_{\phi_{opt.}} \\
= 2 \sum_l g_l p_0 |_{\phi_{opt.}} = 0 \quad \text{or}
\]
\[
\left( \sum_{l=1}^{N} q_l \cdot f | p_0; r \rangle + N \Phi | p_0; r \rangle \right) = 0.
\]
(74)
This equation thus predicts, to a constant phase unspecified in QM,
\[
\phi_{opt.}[p_0; r] = -N^{-1} \left( \sum_{l=1}^{N} q_l | p_0 \rangle \right) \cdot f | p_0; r \rangle + \text{const.} \\
\equiv -N^{-1} \left( q | p_0 \rangle \right) \cdot f | p_0; r \rangle + \text{const.} \\
\equiv \langle q | p_0 \rangle \cdot f | p_0; r \rangle + \text{const.}
\]
(75)
Setting const. = 0 finally determines the optimum phase \( \phi_{opt.}[p_0; r] \) of EO that minimizes its overall nonclassical gradient information \( I[\phi; p_0] \) (see also “Appendix 2”):
\[
\phi_{opt.}[p_0; r] = -\langle q | p_0 \rangle \cdot f | p_0; r \rangle.
\]
(76)
One observes that this information-optimum local phase of EO differs from its entropy-optimum (“equilibrium”) analog of Eq. (52). It generates the orbital current in direction of the EO-average wave-number vector \( \langle q | p_0 \rangle \):
To summarize, the information-optimum thermodynamic phase of EO is determined by the average “wave-number” vector $\langle \mathbf{q} \rangle$ in $\Psi_q(N) = \Psi_{q_1, q_2, \ldots, q_N}(N)$. The associated information-equilibrium” EO thus exhibits the overall phase determined by the deviation of its wave-number vector $\mathbf{q}$ from configuration-average vector $\langle \mathbf{q} \rangle$:

$$q^\text{opt}_{q, \mathbf{p}}[\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{r}] = \left[\mathbf{p}(\mathbf{r})\right]^1/2 \exp\left(i\left\{ \langle \mathbf{q} | \mathbf{p} \rangle - \langle \mathbf{q} \rangle \right\} \cdot \mathbf{r} \right),$$

and generates the associated orbital current:

$$f^\text{opt}_{q, \mathbf{p}}[\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{r}] = \left[\mathbf{p}(\mathbf{r})\right]^1/2 \exp\left(i\langle \mathbf{q} | \mathbf{p} \rangle \cdot \mathbf{r} \right).$$

Such phase-transformed EO thus gives rise to the vanishing resultant probability current:

$$f^\text{opt}_{q, \mathbf{p}}[\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{r}] = \sum_{i=1}^{N} f^\text{opt}_{q_i, \mathbf{p}}[\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{r}] = \left[\mathbf{p}(\mathbf{r})\right]^1/2 \exp\left(i\langle \mathbf{q} | \mathbf{p} \rangle \cdot \mathbf{r} \right).$$

and since

$$\langle \delta \mathbf{q} \rangle = N^{-1}\left(\sum_{i=1}^{N} \mathbf{q}_i \right) - \langle \mathbf{q} \rangle = \langle \mathbf{q} \rangle - \langle \mathbf{q} \rangle = 0.$$  

The information-optimum equilibria in EO, for the specified electron density, thus ascribe finite orbital currents, which sum up to the vanishing resultant probability current in the system as a whole. Moreover, since in the information-equilibrium state of Eq. (78) $\delta \mathbf{q}[\mathbf{p}]$ replaces $\mathbf{q}[\mathbf{p}]$, its resultant gradient information content [see Eq. (48)],

$$I[p, \Phi_q] = I[p] + I[\Phi_q] = I[p] + 4\langle \delta \mathbf{q} \rangle^2 \int \mathbf{p}(\mathbf{r}) |\nabla \cdot \mathbf{r}(\mathbf{r})|^2 \mathbf{d} \mathbf{r},$$

exhibits the current contribution proportional to the squared deviation of the EO wave-number vector $\mathbf{q}$ from the configuration-average value $\langle \mathbf{q} \rangle$.

6 Atomic bases and orbitals reconstructing overlap distributions

The EO states $\{q^X(X) \equiv \mathbf{q}^X(r)\}$ of constituent atoms $X = A, B, \ldots$ in a molecule,

$$\mathbf{q}^X(r) = [\mathbf{p}^X(r)]^{1/2} \exp\left(i\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{f}_X[\mathbf{p}^X; \mathbf{r}] \right),$$

form an admissible (non-orthogonal) molecular basis for electronic structure calculations. They give rise to a non-vanishing (complex) diatomic $(X \neq Y)$ overlap integral,

$$\langle \mathbf{q}^X[X] | \mathbf{q}^Y[Y] \rangle = \delta(q' - q),$$

the projection of $|\mathbf{q}^X[X]\rangle$ on $|\mathbf{q}^X[Y]\rangle$ in the molecular Hilbert space: $O = (O_{q,q}(X,Y))$. Since the complex AO are characterized by their probability and current distributions, the natural question arises about the chemically favorable combinations of these physical descriptors of AIM subsystems in a molecule. In particular, one would like to address the intriguing question, how to combine the probability currents to facilitate/enhance the chemical bonds between AIM or reactant fragments? The constructive superposition of subsystem probabilities in the bonding MO combinations of the real AO and their destructive superposition pattern in the antibonding MO states have been well established in the familiar MO theory of molecular electronic structure. Hence, the favorable MO combination of the subsystem EO calls for their summation in the probability-bonding combination,

$$\psi_{XY}^b = \mathbf{q}^X + \lambda \mathbf{q}^Y, \quad \lambda > 0,$$

while the EO difference,

$$\psi_{XY}^n = \mathbf{q}^X - \kappa \mathbf{q}^Y, \quad \kappa > 0,$$

should be associated with the probability-antibonding situation.

The phase/current factors of atomic EO dynamically influence a chemical character of the bonding MO combination describing a given X–Y bond. One recalls that directions of atomic currents in standard EO states, for $q = 0$, are determined by the orbital wave-number vectors: $\mathbf{q}_s = \mathbf{q}$ and $\mathbf{q}_y = \mathbf{q}$. Therefore, in the probability-bonding combination of Eq. (85), the inward orientation of EO currents, toward the bonding region between the nuclei,

$$\psi_{XY}(\text{in}) = \mathbf{q}^X(-) + \lambda \mathbf{q}^Y(-),$$

should enhance the covalent bond X–Y, while the outward pattern of EO currents,
\[ \psi_{XY}^\delta(\text{out}) = \varphi_q^X(\leftarrow) + \lambda \varphi_q^Y(\rightarrow), \] (88)

is expected to weaken this bond component. Therefore, the ("static") probability-bonding combination of Eq. (85) can assume both the ("dynamic") current-bonding and current-antibonding characters of Eqs. (87) and (88), respectively. In such EO combinations, the current pattern (the structure of "becoming") determines different time evolutions of the same initial (bonding) probability distribution (the structure of "being").

Similar current-bonding and current-antibonding combinations of the subsystem MO, e.g., substrates in chemical reactions, can be encountered in molecular interactions. Consider two interacting (parallel) benzene rings of reactants, perpendicular to "z" axis passing through their centers. In the bonding combination of complex MO exhibiting finite ring currents, the conrotatory matching of the latter should indeed result in an attraction between the magnetic moments associated with these substrate currents, while their disrotatory pattern should produce a magnetic repulsion.

One can also design the EO bases for the specified probability distributions of molecular fragments, e.g., substrates in a chemical reaction. This application should facilitate an orbital interpretation of molecular interactions. The HZM construction of antisymmetric states can be generalized to generate any probability distribution. In particular, one can design the orthonormal EO of N electrons which yields the prescribed diatomic overlap distribution [75],

\[ p_{XY}(r) = [p_X(r)p_Y(r)]^{1/2} \equiv \Omega_{XY}(r), \] (89)

which represents the geometrical average of atomic probability densities \( p_q(r) \),

\[ \psi_{XY}^\delta(r) = \{\Omega_{XY}(r)\}^{1/2} \exp[iq \cdot f(\Omega_{XY}(r))], \] (90)

and then construct Slater determinants from alternative selections of different \( N \) such orbitals.

Following the development of Sect. 3, this overlap-HZM construction transforms \( r \) into

\[ F_{XY}(r) = f[\Omega_{XY}(r)] = F_{X}^X + F_{Y}^Y + F_{Z}^X, \] (91)

with the associated Jacobian relation between volume elements:

\[ df_{XY}(r) = (2\pi)^3 \Omega_{XY}(r) dr. \] (92)

This can be effected through the overlap-dependent vector field \( F_{XY}(r) = f[\Omega_{XY}(r)] \) of the EO phase component,

\[ F_{XY}(x, y, z) = 2\pi x f_{X} + y f_{Y} + z f_{Z}, \] (93a)

It gives the functional Jacobian determinant of Eq. (88):

\[ \frac{\partial F_{XY}}{\partial r} = \begin{vmatrix} \frac{\partial F_{XY}}{\partial x} & 0 & 0 \\ \frac{\partial F_{XY}}{\partial y} & 0 & 0 \\ \frac{\partial F_{XY}}{\partial z} & 0 & 0 \end{vmatrix} = (2\pi)^3 \Omega_{XY}(r). \] (94)

Again, the diagonal derivatives of the preceding equation can be also interpreted as the associated conditional distributions:

\[ \frac{\partial F_{XY}}{\partial x} = 2\pi \Omega_{XY}(x) \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \Omega_{XY}(y, z) dy, \]

\[ \frac{\partial F_{XY}}{\partial y} = 2\pi \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \Omega_{XY}(x, y, z) dx dy, \]

\[ \frac{\partial F_{XY}}{\partial z} = 2\pi \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \Omega_{XY}(x, y, z) dx dy. \] (95)

The orthonormality of such transformed EO conserving the given overlap distribution can be then demonstrated directly, following the substitution of Eq. (27):

\[ \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \psi_{XY}^\delta(r)\psi_{XY}^\delta(r) dr = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} e^{i\left(q - q'\right) \cdot F_{XY}(r)} \Omega_{XY}(r) dr = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^3} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} e^{i\left(q - q'\right) \cdot F_{XY}(r)} \frac{\partial F_{XY}}{\partial r} dr = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^3} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} e^{i\left(q - q'\right) \cdot F_{XY}} dF_{XY} = \delta(q - q'). \] (96)
The standard HZM construction, reproducing the prescribed molecular probability density \( p(r) \), can be thus considered as representing a special case of the above overlap development for the equal fragment distributions:

\[
p_X(r) = p_Y(r) = \Omega_{XY}(r) = p(r).
\]  

(97)

The generalized approach, however, allows one to generate the orthonormal basis for any average distribution, e.g., that resulting from the overlap between atomic orbitals, AIM, reactants, etc. Such an EO framework can be thus focused on the valence region of the overlap between the specified pair of AIM, which is mostly responsible for the chemical bond formation between such subsystems. It can be better suited for a more compact, chemical interpretation of the bonding patterns generated by atomic electron distributions.

As an illustrative example, consider an overlap between two spherical-Gaussian densities \( \{ G_\alpha(A, R_\alpha) \} \) corresponding to subsystems \( \alpha = (a, b) \) (see “Appendix 1”), centered in positions \( \{ R_\alpha \} \),

\[
p_a(r) = (2\lambda/\pi)^{3/2} \exp[-A_a(r - R_a)^2] \equiv G_a(a, R_a),
\]

\[
p_b(r) = G_a(A, R_a) \quad \text{and} \quad p_b(r) = G_b(B, R_b).
\]  

(98)

Their product can be transformed into an effective Gaussian function

\[
p_a(r)p_b(r) \propto \exp[-(A - R_a)^2] \exp[-(B - R_b)^2]
\]

\[
= \exp[-(AB/(A + B))(R_a - R_b)^2] \exp[-(A + B)(r - \rho_{ab})^2],
\]  

(99)

where \( \rho_{ab} = (AR_a + BR_b)/(A + B) \). It also generates the Gaussian average density,

\[
\Omega_{ab}(r) = \left[ p_a(r)p_b(r) \right]^{1/2}
\]

\[
= (2/\pi)^{3/2}(AB)^{3/4} \exp[-(AB/2(A + B))(R_a - R_b)^2]
\]

\[
\times \exp[-(A + B)/2](r - \rho_{ab})^2.
\]  

(100)

which provides the distribution basis of the associated overlap EO of Eq. (90). As shown in “Appendix 1,” the HZM conditional probabilities and local phase-vector components for such an effective spherical-Gaussian distribution are readily available.

7 Conclusion

In this article, we have first summarized the probability and phase continuities of molecular states, as implied by SE. We have then reexamined the HZM construction of DFT, of antisymmetric states yielding the prescribed electron density, and provided the probability interpretation of its key phase concept. It has been argued that this transformed position representation in fact preserves main features of the momentum representation in molecular quantum mechanics. A need for the quantum extension of the familiar classical (probability) measures of the entropy/information content in molecular states, to accommodate the complex wave functions of the quantum–mechanical description, has been stressed, and resultant descriptors combining the probability and phase/current contributions have been introduced. This quantum generalization of Fisher’s gradient information, related to electronic kinetic energy, generates a nonvanishing information source. We have also demonstrated the nonclassical (current) origins of the associated resultant-information production. The present analysis and related treatments of reactivity phenomena [23–28] complement the previous classical information approaches to reactive systems, e.g., [82–86].

The orbital flows of electrons have been examined, and the information-optimum “thermodynamic” phases of the information-equilibrium EO states have been determined. It has been argued that the overall current of electron configurations in such information equilibria identically vanishes. The current orientations in the bonding combinations of atomic EO have been examined and the current-bonding or current-antibonding patterns have been identified. Finally, the EO basis reproducing the specified diatomic overlap density has been discussed and an illustrative example of the overlapping Gaussian distributions has been explored.

This article further develops the resultant-information description of molecular states [26–28, 86]. The electronic state exhibiting a nonvanishing probability current indeed contains more information, compared to the zero-current state of the same electron density, since the former exhibits an additional structural element, and thus also the associated coherence information of the phase/flux pattern, which is missing in the state specification by the probability distribution alone. Following Prigogine [29], one could refer at this point to the now famous picture of a complicated network of vortices on Jupiter. The current structure of “becoming” contains the information about the (subsequent) quantum evolution of the system temporary probability distribution, the structure of “being,” thus representing the state of a greater “knowledge” about the system, as reflected by the higher degree of the gradient “order” (determinicity) information, corresponding to lower level of the system “uncertainty,” corresponding to smaller gradient “disorder” (indeterminicity) information (entropy) measure.

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Appendix 1: HZM construction for the spherical-Gaussian probability distribution

Consider the 1s-type spherical-Gaussian orbital (SGO) centered at the origin \( \mathbf{R}=0 \) of the Cartesian coordinate system \( \{x_a\} \),

\[
s_\mu(r) = G(\mu, \mathbf{R}) = (\frac{2\mu}{\pi})^{3/4} \exp[-\mu(r-R)^2], \quad \left\langle s_\mu \right\rangle = 1,
\]

and the probability density it generates,

\[
p_\mu(r) = s_\mu(r)^2 = (\frac{2\mu}{\pi})^{3/2} \exp(-2\mu^2 r^2) = \frac{[(\frac{2\mu}{\pi})^{1/2} \exp(-2\mu^2 x^2)] [(\frac{2\mu}{\pi})^{1/2} \exp(-2\mu y^2)]}{[(\frac{2\mu}{\pi})^{1/2} \exp(-2\mu z^2)]}
\]

\[
= p_\mu(x)p_\mu(y)p_\mu(z), \quad \int p_\mu(r)dr = 1,
\]

expressed in terms of the coordinate distributions

\[
[p_\mu(x_a)], \quad \int p_\mu(x_a)dx_a = 1, \quad x_a = x, y, z.
\]

The factorization of Eq. (A2) and partial normalization of Eq. (A3) then imply the following joint and conditional probability distributions:

\[
p_\mu(x, y, z) = p_\mu(x)p_\mu(y)p_\mu(z),
\]

\[
p_\mu(y|z) = p_\mu(y)p_\mu(z), \quad p_\mu(x|y, z) = p_\mu(x), \quad p_\mu(z) = p_\mu(x).
\]

Following the HZM prescription, the corresponding components of the local phase vector \( f_{\mu,a}(\mathbf{r}) \) are defined by the partial integrals of Eq. (23). One first observes that the construction definite integrals read:

\[
\int p_\mu(x', y, z)dx' = p_\mu(y)p_\mu(z) \int p_\mu(x')dx' = p_\mu(y)p_\mu(z)
\]

and

\[
\int p_\mu(x', y', z)dx'dy' = p_\mu(z) \int p_\mu(x')dx' \int p_\mu(x')dx' = p_\mu(z).
\]

(An5)

Its indefinite integrals can be thus expressed in terms of the familiar error function of probability theory,

\[
\text{erf}(s) = \frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \int_0^s \exp(-t^2) dt,
\]

\[
\int_{-\infty}^x p_\mu(x_a)dx_a = \frac{1}{2}[1 + \text{erf}(x_a)].
\]

The resulting components of the phase vector for this spherical-Gaussian probability density thus read:

\[
f_{\mu,a}(\mathbf{r}) = \pi[1 + \text{erf}(x_a)] = f_{\mu,a}(x_a).
\]

Finally, by direct differentiation one can verify Eq. (25) which determines the construction Jacobian of Eq. (24).

Appendix 2: Thermodynamic phase from extremum principle for nonclassical information

Consider first the resultant-information content [Eq. (45)] in the single original (nontransformed) EO of Eq. (17), for \( \phi=0 \),

\[
\psi_q(r) = [q(r)^1/2 \exp[iq \cdot f(r)] \equiv [q(r)]^{1/2} \exp[iF_q(r)], \quad \psi_{\psi_q}[p] = \langle \psi_q[p] | \hat{\psi}_q[p] \rangle = 4\langle \nabla \psi_q[p] \nabla \psi_q[p] \rangle
\]

\[
= I[p] + 4 \int [q(r) \nabla \cdot f(r)]^2 dr \equiv I[p] + 4[q[p,f[p]].
\]

This classical information term is thus uniquely determined by the electron probability distribution \( p(r) \). Indeed, both \( q \) and \( f \) are unique functionals of \( p \): the former—by the energy—minimum principle of quantum mechanics, and the latter—by the HZM construction.

After the thermodynamic-phase transformation,

\[
\phi_q(r) = \psi_q(r) \exp[i\phi(r)],
\]

the overall classical information content in such an information-equilibrium state is supplemented by \( \phi \)-dependent, nonclassical contributions:

\[
I[\psi_q] = \langle \phi_q | \phi_q \rangle = 4\langle \nabla \phi_q \nabla \phi_q \rangle
\]

\[
= I[\psi_q[p]] + 4 \int [q(r) \nabla \phi(r)]^2 dr
\]

\[
- 4i \int [\nabla \phi(r) \cdot \psi_q(r)^* \psi_q(r) - \psi_q(r) \nabla \psi_q(r)^*] dr
\]

\[
= I[\psi_q[p]] + 4 \int [q(r) \nabla \phi(r)]^2 dr
\]

\[
- 4i \int [\nabla \phi(r) \cdot (2mi/h) \psi_q(r)] dr
\]

\[
= I[\psi_q[p]] + 4 \int [q(r) \nabla \phi(r)]^2 dr
\]

\[
+ 8q \int [q(r) \nabla \psi_q(r) \nabla \cdot f(r)] dr
\]

\[
= I[\psi_q[p]] + I[\phi] + I[f_\phi].
\]

(An4)
The information-equilibrium thermodynamic phase, for the fixed probability distribution, then results from the extremum of the nonclassical information contribution,
\[ \delta I(\phi) + I(f, \phi_0) / \delta \phi(r) \big|_{\phi_0} = 0, \tag{B5} \]
which gives the following Euler’s equation for the information-optimum phase of EO:
\[ \nabla \{ q_p(r) \nabla \cdot f(r) + p(r) \nabla \phi_{\text{opt.}}(r) \} = \nabla p(r) \cdot \{ q \nabla \cdot f(r) + \nabla \phi_{\text{opt.}}(r) \} = 0, \tag{B6} \]
where we have recognized the phase continuities of Eq. (11):
\[ \nabla^2 F_\text{p} = \nabla^2 \phi_{\text{opt.}} = 0. \]
It thus follows from the preceding equation that
\[ \nabla \phi_{\text{opt.}}(r) = -q \nabla \cdot f(r). \tag{B7} \]
Finally, for the specified configuration of $N$ electrons [Eq. (28)], identified by the set of the occupied information-equilibrium EO \{ $\phi^{opt}$ \}, one finds by summation over the orbital relations (B7),
\[ \sum_i [\nabla \phi_{\text{opt.}}(r)] = N \nabla \phi_{\text{opt.}}(r) = - \sum_i q_i \nabla \cdot f(r) = -q \nabla \cdot f(r) \text{ or} \]
\[ \nabla \phi_{\text{opt.}}(r) = -(q) \nabla \cdot f(r), \tag{B8} \]
and hence [see Eq. (76)],
\[ \phi_{\text{opt.}}(r) = -(q)f(r) + \text{const.} \equiv -(q)f(r). \tag{B9} \]

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