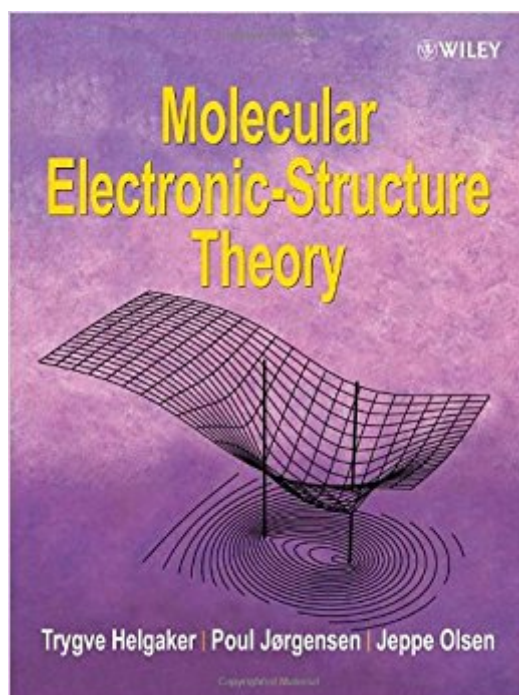


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Molecular Electronic-Structure Theory



Synopsis

Ab initio quantum chemistry has emerged as an important tool in chemical research and is applied to a wide variety of problems in chemistry and molecular physics. Recent developments of computational methods have enabled previously intractable chemical problems to be solved using rigorous quantum-mechanical methods. This is the first comprehensive, up-to-date and technical work to cover all the important aspects of modern molecular electronic-structure theory. Topics covered in the book include: * Second quantization with spin adaptation * Gaussian basis sets and molecular-integral evaluation * Hartree-Fock theory * Configuration-interaction and multi-configurational self-consistent theory * Coupled-cluster theory for ground and excited states * Perturbation theory for single- and multi-configurational states * Linear-scaling techniques and the fast multipole method * Explicitly correlated wave functions * Basis-set convergence and extrapolation * Calibration and benchmarking of computational methods, with applications to molecular equilibrium structure, atomization energies and reaction enthalpies. Molecular Electronic-Structure Theory makes extensive use of numerical examples, designed to illustrate the strengths and weaknesses of each method treated. In addition, statements about the usefulness and deficiencies of the various methods are supported by actual examples, not just model calculations. Problems and exercises are provided at the end of each chapter, complete with hints and solutions. This book is a must for researchers in the field of quantum chemistry as well as for nonspecialists who wish to acquire a thorough understanding of ab initio molecular electronic-structure theory and its applications to problems in chemistry and physics. It is also highly recommended for the teaching of graduates and advanced undergraduates.

Book Information

Paperback: 944 pages

Publisher: Wiley; 1 edition (February 18, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1118531477

ISBN-13: 978-1118531471

Product Dimensions: 7.5 x 1.9 x 9.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 5 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #392,950 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #18 in Books > Science & Math > Chemistry > Physical & Theoretical > Quantum Chemistry #52 in Books > Science & Math >

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For a text this thorough and updated, I'd expect a price tag of \$150 US or more. It is still not cheap and as a recent edition there are few used ones around, but is a wonderful value for the price given its uniqueness. And don't wait for used copies-- despite the publisher's hype this is NOT an undergrad level text, so those who do buy this will likely end up keeping it as a very fine reference (1,000 pages!) to refer to again and again as their doctoral studies, research, and applications proceed. There is moderately good attention paid to pedagogics, but the examples, problems, etc. are far better in reality than a text designed for teaching alone-- they take a "research-reality" approach and give many practical aspects of solutions, including bootstrap methods and shortcuts that get you there but certainly aren't the simpler "mathematical rigor" examples other authors choose for their examples to frankly look smart. Many of these examples show the really tough (as in no apparent solution) things we run into daily in molecular structure, which force us to apply messier numerical methods, sieves, brute force and other tricks, as well as much newer algorithms. The really cool thing about the whole relatively recent (10 years) trend of applying QM and QF techniques to both structure and function problems in molecular and physical chem are the many new tools now available since the particle guys get so many grants!!! These include path integrals, looking at structural elements as operators, not just geometry, new energy and state/structure calcs, perturbation techniques, new statistical methods, and much more. The text/reference is VERY up to date with code, modeling sims, programs, the most recent "named" algorithms, etc. as well as detailed equation applications and examples, INCLUDING Octave/MatLab- ready sequences you can apply more widely (not that 1,000 pages of densely

packed formulas is not broad enough!). An interesting aside is that, unlike a pure "text," there also is original research and equation applications not found either in citations, journals or other texts yet. You can search these on all the databases and pubs-- the authors pull back the curtain on techniques that are state of the art right now, and being practically used in research where intermediate results are too busy to publish every detail vs. the bigger picture. Highly recommended both to extend your toolkit, as an outstanding reference, and as a grad text. If you're undergrad (Senior), it is worth the investment if you are going on to specialize in this application, but I doubt there will be many undergrad classes (maybe an AP lab or seminar?) given on these advanced topics. The professor herself/himself would probably rather keep it!!! I've also error checked with about 60% sampling, and the math is very tight and error free. Authors assume working knowledge of some notation you'd probably explain more thoroughly to undergrads but not grads, like sudden jumps from functions to polynomial generation without the "why", switches in notation between integral and matrix, assumed knowledge of QM constants (more explanation given of QFT constants), a LOT of exponential/ log and trig notation, and of course assumption of previous work with Lagrangians, Laplacians, Gaussians, Fourier's, Monte Carlo, oscillators, Yang-Mills and other gauges, etc. Library Picks reviews only for the benefit of shoppers and has nothing to do with , the authors, manufacturers or publishers of the items we review. We always buy the items we review for the sake of objectivity, and although we search for gems, are not shy about trashing an item if it's a waste of time or money for shoppers. If the reviewer identifies herself, her job or her field, it is only as a point of reference to help you gauge the background and any biases.

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book you must read. This book covers all of the fundamental material in the field using the modern notation and avoids preserving poor presentations of basic topics which have been kept in other books alive for the sake of history. Each of the authors is a master in his craft and they have spent an extraordinary amount of work to make a book which exceeds all reasonable standards for quality. I won't reiterate the contents of the book since the Table of Contents is quite explicit but it's fair to say each chapter is one of the best presentations of its subject available. The only weakness of this book is that it was meant to be volume one of a two-volume set, but for various reasons, the second volume has never been published. Thus, the authors did not cover their specialty, molecular properties, which is sad given a good book on that topic is missing from the literature. The price is not a weakness because this book is worth every penny of its list price. If you want less book for less money, these authors have contributed to the ESQC (European Summer School in Quantum Chemistry) Lecture Notes, which can be obtained from (an older version) or from Bjorn Roos at Lund University, for less than half of the cost of this book. Some of the introductory material in this book is reproduced there in an essentially identical form.

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