Electric-field Dependence of Nuclear Magnetic Shielding and Susceptibility of Hydrogen and Hydrogen Fluoride Molecules

M. Žaucer and A. Ažman
Boris Kidrič Institute of Chemistry, 61000 Ljubljana, Yugoslavia

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The components of the tensors $\sigma^{(1)}$, $\sigma^{(2)}$ and $\chi^{(1)}$, $\chi^{(2)}$, which describe the linear and quadratic electric-field dependences of the nuclear magnetic shielding and susceptibility are computed for H$_2$ and HF molecules using a gauge invariant double finite perturbation SCF approach. This approach is suitable for the discussion of intramolecular and intermolecular environmental effects and the effect of electric-field gradient is pointed out.

1. Introduction

An electric field distorts the electron distribution in a molecule which causes changes in the molecular susceptibility and in the magnetic shielding of nuclei. The dependence of the magnetic shielding on the electric field was calculated by Buckingham [1]. He showed that the shielding change $\Delta \sigma_E$ due to a uniform electric field $E$ for a proton in an X-H bond is given by

$$\Delta \sigma_E = -A E_2 - B E^2,$$

(1)

where $A$ and $B$ are bond parameters which are independent of the electric field, but dependent of the nature of X. The z-axis is taken along the X-H bond from X to H, so that for an electric field along the bond the shielding will be reduced if $A$ and $B$ are positive.

Direct experimental evidence for the existence of an electric field effect on shielding has been found by many authors not only for protons but also for fluorine and $^{13}$C nuclei. There have been also some ab-initio theoretical calculations of the electric-field dependence of molecular magnetic properties [2–4].

In the present paper a simple but general method for the calculation of the electric field effect upon the molecular susceptibility and magnetic shielding is presented.

2. Details of Calculations

In the presence of a uniform electric field $E$ the nuclear magnetic shielding tensor $\sigma_{\alpha\beta}$ can be expanded as a power series in $E$

$$\sigma_{\alpha\beta} = \sigma_{\alpha\beta}^{(0)} + \frac{1}{2} \sigma_{\alpha\beta}^{(2)} E_\alpha E_\beta + \cdots,$$

(2)

where $\sigma_{\alpha\beta}^{(0)}$ is the shielding in the absence of $E$. Averaging over all directions of the magnetic field we obtain for a nucleus of $C_{ov}$ site symmetry [5]

$$\sigma = \sigma^{(0)} - A E_\| - B_\| E_\|^2 - B_\perp E_\perp^2,$$

(3)

where $E_\|$ and $E_\perp$ are the electric-field components parallel and perpendicular to the internuclear axis and the parameters $A$, $B_\|$ and $B_\|$ are defined (using the tensor summation convention) by

$$A = -\frac{1}{2} \sigma_{\alpha\alpha}^{(1)}; \quad B_\| = -\frac{1}{2} \sigma_{\alpha\alpha}^{(2)};$$

(4)

$$B_\perp = -\frac{1}{2} \sigma_{\alpha\alpha}^{(2)}.$$

In these expressions the negative signs have been introduced to make more easy the comparison with Equation (1).

Similar equations can be written also for the magnetic susceptibility.

The procedure used to obtain the electric-field dependence of the nuclear shielding tensor is a double finite perturbation theory. For a given magnitude and direction of the external electric field the SCF-Hartree-Fock equation has been solved and the magnetic field perturbation has been determined by use of a standard finite perturbation procedure [6–9]. Such calculations were carried out for an external magnetic field density of 5000 T ($\approx 0.021$ a.u.) for several values of the external electric field between 2.5 \times 10^8 V/m ($\approx 0.005$ a.u.) and 10 \times 10^8 V/m ($\approx 0.02$ a.u.). Derivatives with respect to both external fields were obtained by numerical differentiation. The numerical technique is computationally convenient although it requires very high accuracy because of the relatively small number of digits necessary to express the results.

Reprint requests to Dr. A. Ažman, Kemijski Institut Borisa Kidriča, Hajdrihova 19, 61001 Ljubljana, Jugoslavien.

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external field dependence. The threshold for molecular integrals was set to $10^{-10}$ a.u.

External electric fields were generated by point charges at very large distances. The charges used were up to $3 \cdot 10^{-13}$ As ($\sim 2 \cdot 10^6$ a.u.) at a distance of $5 \cdot 10^{-7}$ m ($\sim 10^4$ a.u.). The homogenity of thus generated electric fields is good enough for the evaluation of the field dependence. The field difference at the sites of the nuclei in H$_2$ is less than $3 \cdot 10^6$ V/m (0.03%). This procedure is simple enough and can be used to show also the effect of inhomogenity of external electric fields — a true reality in all experimental measurements.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Proton Shielding in H$_2$

Computed values of the components $\sigma^{(1)}$ and $\sigma^{(2)}$ for proton shielding in H$_2$ are given in Table 1. Computations are done with two slightly different basis sets. The first basis is a double-zeta basis set [10] implemented with polarization functions with exponent one. Basis set II consists of the same functions, but with orbital exponents of polarization functions equal to 0.5.

There are some differences between the computed values with different bases, especially in components including also paramagnetic parts. Components of $\sigma^{(1)}$ computed with both bases are not much different and are similar to those of earlier works given in Table 1 in separate columns. The sign of the components of $\sigma^{(1)}$ depends on the nucleus in question.

The difference between the components $\sigma^{(2)}_{zzz}$ computed with the two bases sets is substantial showing that the basis sets used are too small to give a satisfactory description of the electric-field dependence of the shielding. This is perhaps also the reason why the inequality $B_z > B_\parallel$ predicted in earlier work [3] is not confirmed.

3.2. Nuclear Shieldings in HF

Computed values of the shielding components for the nuclei of HF are given in Table 2. The basis set used (III) is that of Dunning [11]. The computed values $A$, $B_\parallel$ and $B_z$ agree well with those of Day and Buckingham [2], though there are some differences in the values of the components $\sigma^{(2)}$. The basis set we used is smaller than the one of Day and Buckingham, but due to the use of field dependent factors [6], [7] our results are gauge invariant.

Comparison of the proton components in HF and H$_2$ shows a great increase in the value of $\sigma^{(2)}_{zzz}$. The sign of $B_z$ is negative, though the signs of $B_\parallel$ for all protons were believed to be positive [12].
The magnitude of $A$, $B_\parallel$, and $B_\perp$ for the fluorine nucleus is greater than for the proton as was predicted before considering the ease of polarization along and perpendicular to the bond direction.

### 3.3. Magnetic Susceptibility of $H_2$ and HF

The magnetic susceptibility components of $H_2$ in an electric field are given in Table 3. The values are calculated with the same basis sets as the nuclear

The susceptibility components of HF are given in Table 4. The greatest differences between our values and those of reference [2] occur with the components $\chi_{zzz}^{(2)}$ and $\chi_{zxx}^{(2)}$. These components are most sensitive to the quality of the basis set; so the great discrepancy between these results can be due to the different basis sets used.

### 3.4. Electric Field Gradient Effects

From the results calculated for different distances of the point charge it is possible to evaluate the dependence of the magnetic properties on the gradient of the electric field. For instance, we can develop the susceptibility in a series

$$
\chi = \chi^{(0)} + \chi^{(1)} E + \frac{1}{2} \chi^{(2)} E^2 + \Theta^{(1)} \frac{dE}{dr} + \frac{1}{2} \Theta^{(2)} \frac{d^2E}{dr^2}.
$$

We hope to present the dependence of magnetic properties on electric field gradients in a later paper. Let us note here only that this dependence is considerable and should be taken into account.

For a hydrogen molecule in perpendicular magnetic field and parallel electric field (point charge on molecular axis) the field gradient components are:

$$
\Theta^{(1)} = -2.3 \times 10^{-51} \text{JT}^{-2} \text{m}^2 \text{V}^{-1},
$$

$$
\Theta^{(2)} = -2.7 \times 10^{-60} \text{JT}^{-2} \text{m}^3 \text{V}^{-1}.
$$

This means that for the electric field of a point charge of 100 a.u. at a distance of 100 a.u. from $H_2$ the perturbation of the quadratic electric field term ($\chi^{(2)}$) is only twice as big as the perturbation of the first electric field gradient term ($\Theta^{(1)}$). That is one of the reasons why the approach of Day and Buckingham with point charges at smaller distances [2] did not succeed. For such small distances there is even a need for higher terms in the series (5).