

CH 801: Symmetry in Chemistry

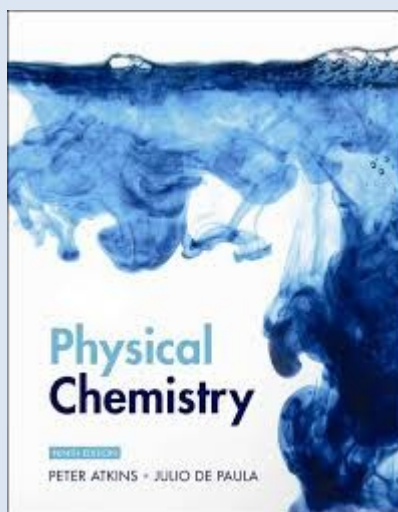
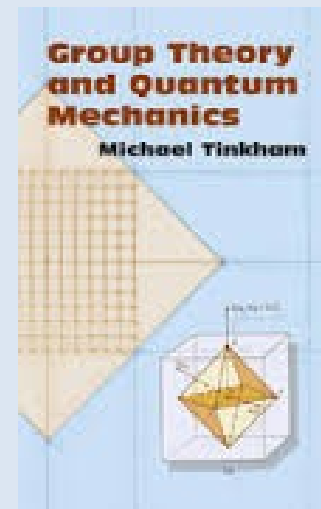
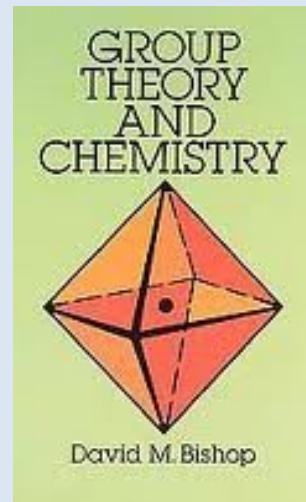
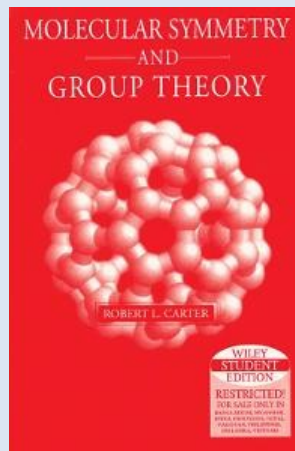
Anindya Datta

adutta@iitb.ac.in

What we will learn

- Symmetry classification of molecules: Symmetry Point Groups
 - Matrices: Geometry to algebra
- Representations: Reducible and Irreducible
- Group theory: Great Orthogonality Theorem
- Character Tables: What, how and why
- Symmetry Adapted Linear Combinations (SALCs)
- Molecular Orbital Theory of Organic Compounds using SALCs
 - Inorganic Complexes
 - Molecular Vibrations (*if time permits*)

Text books



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Let us get going

Symmetry element and operation

Symmetry Operation

Something done to a molecule that leaves it in an equivalent configuration

Point: Inversion (i)

Line: Simple rotation (C_n)
Complex Rotation (S_n)

Plane: Reflection

Symmetry element

A geometrical entity with respect to which the operation is performed

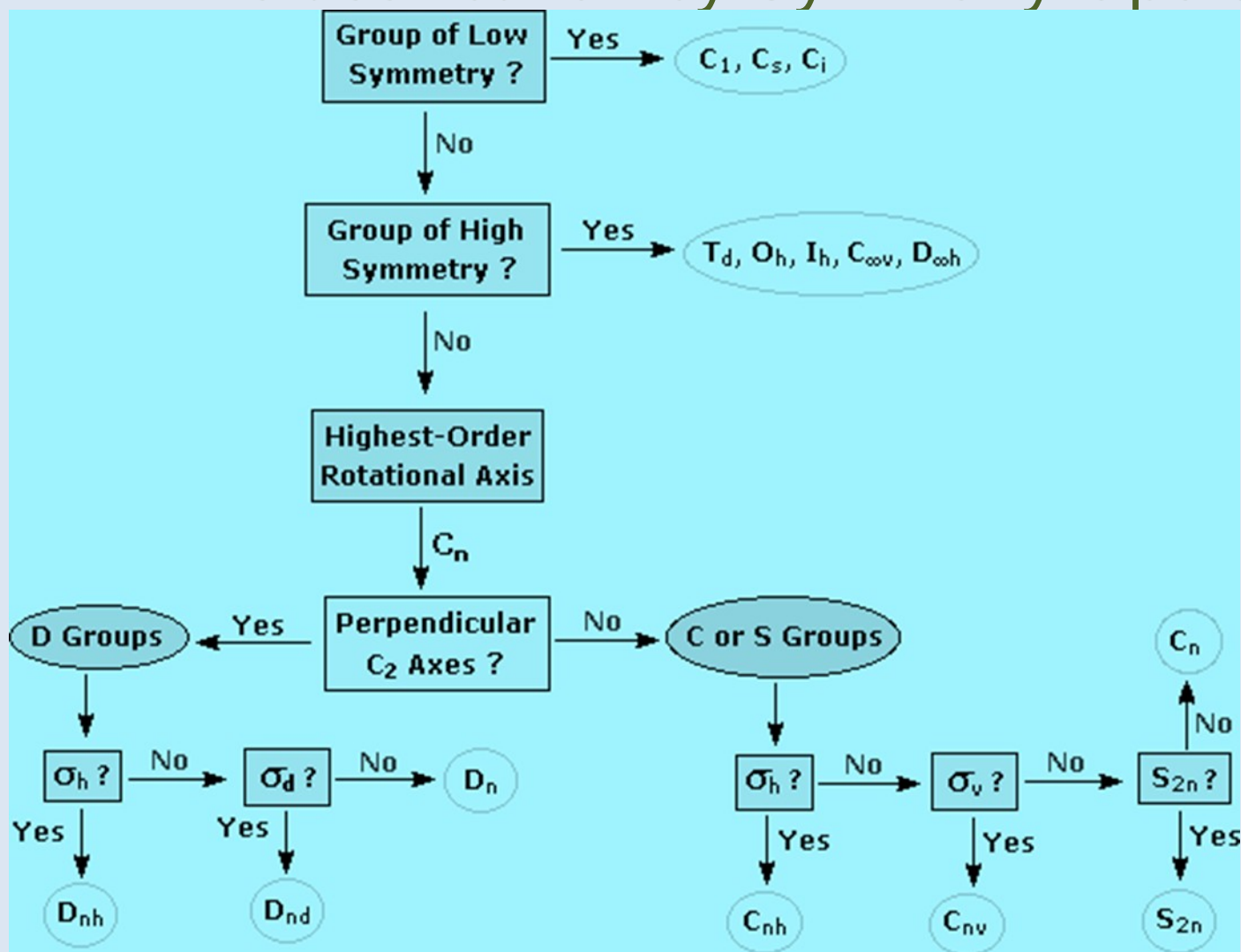
Principal axis of symmetry: The axis with the largest n value

Horizontal plane: Plane of reflection to which the principal axis is perpendicular

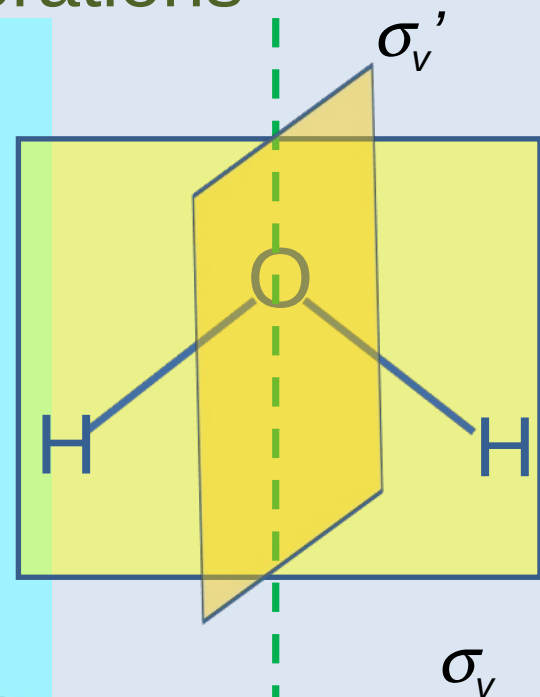
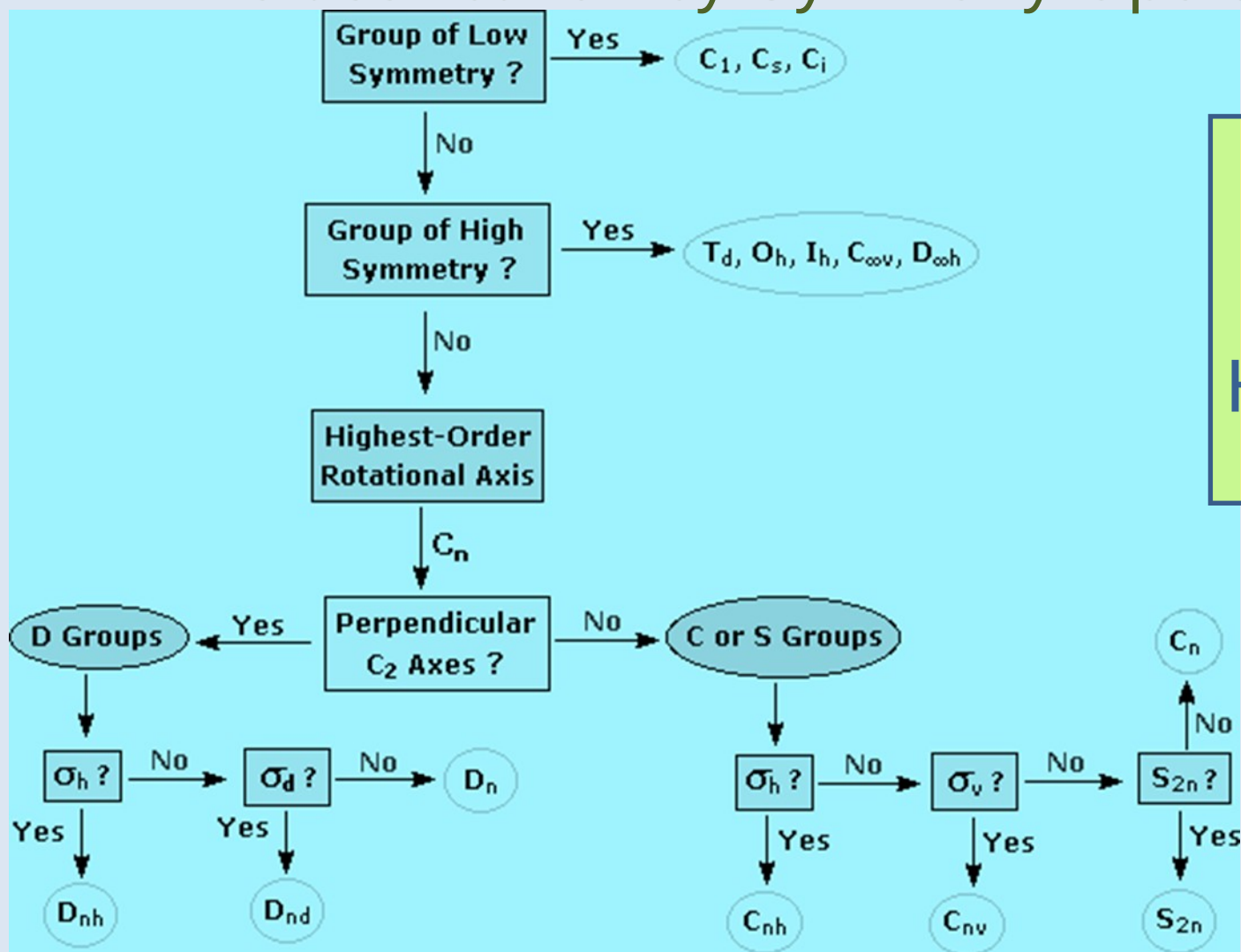
Vertical Plane: Contains the principal axis

Dihedral plane: Vertical plane which bisects the angle between C_2 axes

Symmetry point groups: Classification by Symmetry Operations



Symmetry point groups: Classification by Symmetry Operations



C_{2v}