

# The Doublet Instabilities of the Hartree–Fock Solutions for the Cation and Anion Radicals of Fulvalene Systems

Azumao Toyota

Department of Chemistry, Faculty of General Education, Yamagata University, Yamagata 990, Japan

Mutsuo Saito and Takeshi Nakajima

Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, Tohoku University, Sendai 980, Japan

The doublet instabilities of the restricted Hartree–Fock (RHF) solutions for the ion radicals of fulvalene systems, some of which have been known to show the lattice instabilities, are examined in the framework of the semi-empirical SCF MO approximation. The RHF solutions for the anion radical of heptafulvalene and the cation radical of pentafulvalene are found to be doublet unstable at the conventional  $D_{2h}$  nuclear arrangement. We calculate the broken-symmetry charge-density-wave (CDW) solutions lower in energy than the usual symmetry-adapted RHF solutions and examine their properties. It is shown that the energy lowerings due to the CDW solutions are very small in both the ion radicals, but their density matrix elements are remarkably different from those for the symmetry-adapted RHF solutions. It is also shown that the proton hyperfine splittings for the anion radical of heptafulvalene calculated assuming the CDW solution are in good agreement with the experimental values. Finally, we refer to the relationship between the doublet instability of the RHF solution and the lattice instability.

**Key words:** Ion radicals of fulvalene systems – Doublet instabilities of the HF solutions.

## 1. Introduction

The ESR spectra of the cation and anion radicals of heptafulvalene have been reported by Sevilla et al. [1]. It was found that in the cation radical the unpaired spin density is delocalized throughout the molecule, while in the anion

radical the spin density is localized essentially on a single seven-membered ring. This means that when one extra electron is added to the neutral molecule, the lattice instability, that is, the molecular symmetry reduction from  $D_{2h}$  to  $C_{2v}$  occurs.

Toyota and Nakajima [2, 3] have investigated the origin of the sharp contrast in spin-density distribution between the cation and the anion radical of heptafulvalene, by examining the energetically most favorable ground-state nuclear arrangements of each radical in the framework of the semiempirical open-shell SCF MO procedure.

On the other hand, it has been shown that the lattice instability is closely related with the instability of the restricted Hartree–Fock (RHF) solution for the most symmetrical nuclear arrangement [9]. For open-shell systems the relevant instability is the doublet instability.

The doublet stability conditions of the RHF solutions for open-shell systems were formulated by Paldus and Čížek [4–6]. When the usual RHF solutions are doublet unstable, there appear new HF solutions lower in energy than the conventional symmetry-adapted RHF solutions. They are characterized by the charge-density waves (CDW), and the symmetries of them are in general lower than those of the nuclear arrangement used. In this sense, the doublet instability is analogous to the singlet instability in closed-shell systems [7–9].

Paldus and Čížek [10] examined the doublet instabilities of the usual RHF solutions for the odd polyenic radicals in the framework of the semiempirical MO approximation. In particular, the doublet instability of the RHF solution for the allyl radical has been reinvestigated at the *ab initio* level of calculations by Mckelvey and Hehre [11], Mckelvey and Berthier [12], and Paldus and Veillard [13].

In this paper we examine the doublet instabilities of the usual RHF solutions for the ion radicals of fulvalene systems, some of which have been known to show the lattice instabilities [2, 3, 14], in the framework of the semiempirical SCF MO approximation. When the conventional RHF solutions are doublet unstable, we calculate the broken-symmetry CDW solutions and examine their properties. It will be shown that in these ion radicals the energy lowerings due to the CDW solutions are very small, but their density matrix elements are remarkably different from those for the symmetry-adapted RHF solutions. Finally, we refer to the relationship between the doublet instability of the conventional RHF solution and the lattice instability.

## 2. The Doublet Stability Conditions

The doublet stability conditions of the RHF solutions for the open-shell case were formulated by Paldus and Čížek [4, 5], which require that all the eigenvalues of the following eigenvalue problem are to be positive:

$$\begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{A} & \mathbf{B} \\ \mathbf{B}^* & \mathbf{A}^* \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{D} \\ \mathbf{D}^* \end{pmatrix} = \lambda \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{D} \\ \mathbf{D}^* \end{pmatrix} \quad (1)$$

where elements of the square matrices,  $\mathbf{A}$  and  $\mathbf{B}$ , represent the configuration interactions between spin unflip singly excited configurations and those between the RHF ground state and spin unflip bi-excited configurations, respectively. The elements of the column matrix  $\mathbf{D}$  are the mixing coefficients which give the weights with which the virtual RHF molecular orbitals are admixed to the occupied ones, and the asterisk superscript denotes the complex conjugate.

The eigenvector  $\mathbf{d}_{\min}$  of Eq. (1), corresponding to the lowest eigenvalue  $\lambda_{\min}$ , gives the direction of the steepest descent when  $\lambda_{\min} < 0$ , or the slowest ascent when  $\lambda_{\min} > 0$ , of the energy hypersurface of the energy functional at the point of the symmetry-adapted RHF solution.

When the elements of the matrices,  $\mathbf{A}$  and  $\mathbf{B}$ , are real, the eigenvalue problem Eq. (1) can be reduced into the following two eigenvalue problems [10]:

$$(\mathbf{A} + \mathbf{B})\mathbf{D}_+ = \lambda_+\mathbf{D}_+ \quad (2)$$

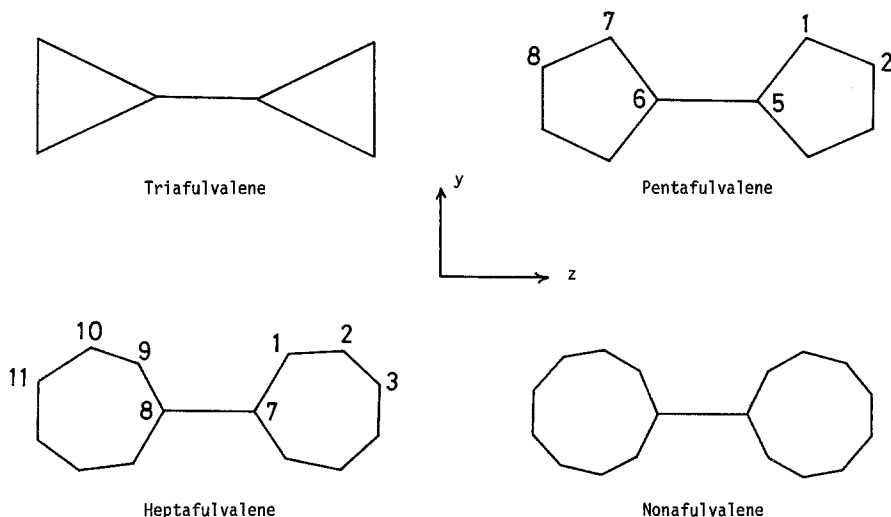
$$(\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{B})\mathbf{D}_- = \lambda_-\mathbf{D}_-$$

If  $\lambda_+ < 0$  or  $\lambda_- < 0$ , a doublet instability occurs and a new HF solution is a real CDW solution or a complex CDW solution lower in energy than the conventional symmetry-adapted RHF solution, respectively.

### 3. Results and Discussion

#### 3.1. Doublet Instabilities of the RHF Solutions

The optimum nuclear arrangements with the  $D_{2h}$  symmetry of the ion radicals of fulvalene systems (Fig. 1) [2, 3] were calculated previously by using Longuet-Higgins and Pople's SCF MO method [15] in conjunction with the



**Fig. 1.** The carbon skeletons of the fulvalene systems, the choice of molecular axes, and the numberings of atomic positions

variable bond length technique [16]. The RHF solutions to which the stability conditions will be applied are those corresponding to the molecular geometries thus optimized with respect to C–C bond length.

The calculated lowest-lying eigenvalues  $\lambda_{\min}$  and the symmetries of the corresponding eigenvectors  $\mathbf{d}_{\min}$  are listed in Table 1. It is noted that all of these eigenvalues are obtained from the  $\lambda_+$  subproblem of Eq. (2) and that the eigenvalues for the anion radicals of triafulvalene and heptafulvalene and the cation radicals of pentafulvalene and nonafulvalene are negative. Since for these ion radicals the directions of the steepest descent in the variational space of the energy functional are of  $b_{1u}$  symmetry, there appear broken-symmetry CDW solutions having the  $C_{2v}$  spatial symmetry. In what follows, we examine the CDW solutions for the anion radical of heptafulvalene and the cation radical of pentafulvalene.

### 3.2. Broken-Symmetry CDW Solutions

#### 3.2.1. Heptafulvalene Anion Radical

From the stability calculations, it is revealed that the electronic configurations which contribute dominantly to the doublet instability of the RHF solution are those including the orbital jumps from the highest doubly occupied orbital  $\phi_7$  to the next lowest vacant one  $\phi_{10}$  and from the half-filled orbital  $\phi_8$  to the lowest vacant one  $\phi_9$ . In order to simplify the procedure for obtaining the CDW solution, we take into account only the above two orbital jumps and solve the eigenvalue problems Eq. (2). This approximate procedure is justified, for the lowest eigenvalue thus obtained reproduces well that obtained by including all the excited configurations (see Table 1). Then, the new occupied

**Table 1.** The lowest-lying eigenvalues  $\lambda_{\min}$  and the symmetries of the corresponding eigenvectors  $\mathbf{d}_{\min}$

Molecule (point group and symmetry) <sup>a</sup>	$\lambda_{\min}$ (eV)	Symmetry of $\mathbf{d}_{\min}$
Triafulvalene <sup>+</sup> ( $D_{2h}$ ; $B_{3u}$ ) <sup>c</sup>	2.42	$b_{2u}$
Triafulvalene <sup>-</sup> ( $D_{2h}$ ; $A_u$ )	-1.17	$b_{1u}$
Pentafulvalene <sup>+</sup> ( $D_{2h}$ ; $B_{1g}$ )	-1.25 (-1.15) <sup>b</sup>	$b_{1u}$
Pentafulvalene <sup>-</sup> ( $D_{2h}$ ; $B_{2g}$ )	1.67	$b_{3g}$
Heptafulvalene <sup>+</sup> ( $D_{2h}$ ; $B_{3u}$ )	1.25	$b_{1u}$
Heptafulvalene <sup>-</sup> ( $D_{2h}$ ; $A_u$ )	-1.20 (-1.14) <sup>b</sup>	$b_{1u}$
Nonafulvalene <sup>+</sup> ( $D_{2h}$ ; $B_{1g}$ )	-1.11	$b_{1u}$
Nonafulvalene <sup>-</sup> ( $D_{2h}$ ; $B_{2g}$ )	0.99	$b_{1u}$
Heptafulvalene <sup>-</sup> ( $C_{2v}$ ; $A_2$ )	0.72	$b_2$
Pentafulvalene <sup>+</sup> ( $C_{2v}$ ; $A_2$ )	0.88	$b_2$

<sup>a</sup> The point group and symmetry of the RHF ground state.

<sup>b</sup> The eigenvalue obtained by including the two most important electronic excited configurations in the stability problem.

<sup>c</sup> The + or - sign refers to the cation or the anion radical, respectively.

molecular orbitals are formed as:

$$\begin{aligned}\psi_i &= \phi_i \quad (i = 1-6) \\ \psi_7 &= \mu_1\phi_7 + \mu_2\phi_{10} \\ \psi_8 &= \lambda_1\phi_8 + \lambda_2\phi_9\end{aligned}\tag{3}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}\mu_1 &= \{1 - (0.366\kappa)^2\}^{1/2}, & \mu_2 &= -0.336\kappa \\ \lambda_1 &= \{1 - (0.942\kappa)^2\}^{1/2}, & \lambda_2 &= 0.942\kappa\end{aligned}\tag{4}$$

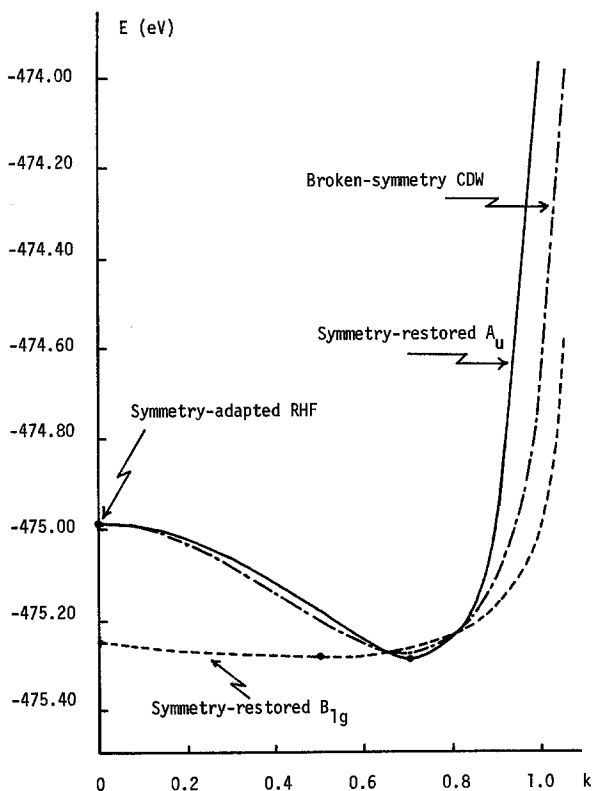
where  $\kappa$  is the dimensionless mixing parameter, which indicates the degree of deformation of the CDW solution from the symmetry-adapted RHF solution. Using the above orbitals, we can write the CDW solution as:

$$\begin{aligned}{}^2\Psi_{\text{CSW}}(\kappa) &= \mu_1^2\lambda_1^2{}^2\Psi_{\text{RHF}}(A_u) + \mu_1^2\lambda_2^2{}^2\Psi_1(B_{1g}, 8 \rightarrow 9) \\ &\quad + \sqrt{2}\mu_1\mu_2\lambda_1^2{}^2\Psi_1(B_{1g}, 7 \rightarrow 10) \\ &\quad + \sqrt{2}\mu_1\mu_2\lambda_2^2{}^2\Psi_2(A_u, 7, 8 \rightarrow 9, 10) \\ &\quad + \mu_2^2\lambda_1^2{}^2\Psi_2(A_u, 7, 7 \rightarrow 10, 10) \\ &\quad + \mu_2^2\lambda_2^2{}^2\Psi_3(B_{1g}, 7, 7, 8 \rightarrow 10, 10, 9)\end{aligned}\tag{5}$$

where the superscript and the subscript attached to the wavefunction  $\Psi$  denote respectively the multiplicity of the configuration and the number of electron jump. The orbital jumps involved are specified in the parentheses after  $\Psi$ .

The CDW solution thus obtained comprises the configurations of  $A_u$  and  $B_{1g}$  symmetries. In order to obtain the symmetry-restored solution, one in general projects away the symmetry-breaking components out of the broken-symmetry CDW solution [17–19]. In usual cases, the above projection procedure brings about further energy lowering. The symmetry-breaking components are the configurations of  $B_{1g}$  symmetry, for the RHF ground state is of  $A_u$  symmetry. The unnormalized symmetry-restored  $A_u$  solution is obtained by the simple deletion of the configurations of  $B_{1g}$  symmetry from the broken-symmetry CDW solution. On the other hand, the unnormalized symmetry-restored  $B_{1g}$  solution is obtained by deleting the configurations of  $A_u$  symmetry.

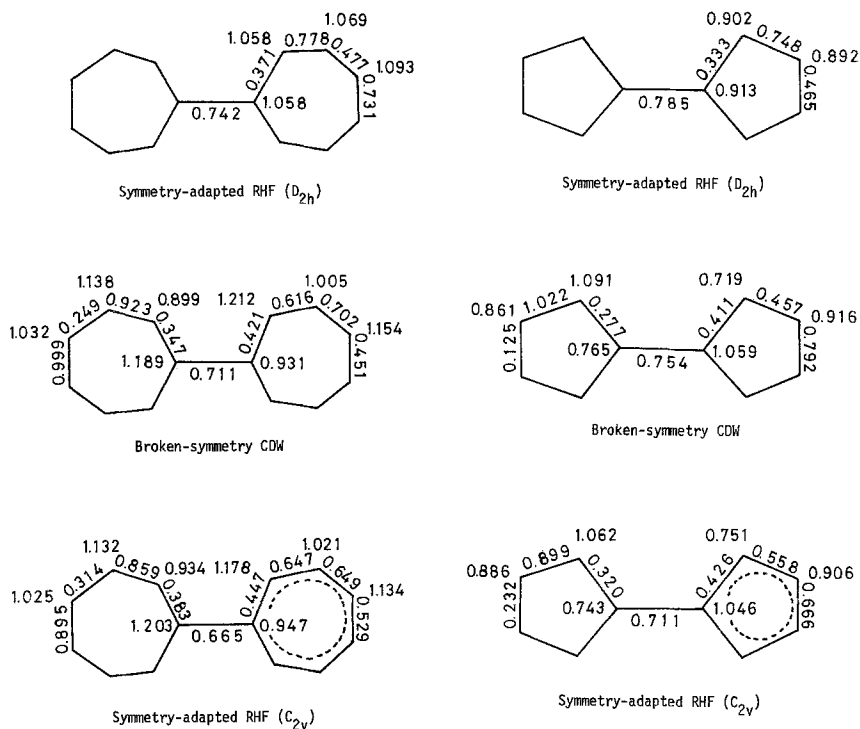
The dependence of the energy expectation values of the broken-symmetry CDW solution and the symmetry-restored  $A_u$  and  $B_{1g}$  solutions on the mixing parameter  $\kappa$  is shown in Fig. 2. It is seen that the three energy curves cross one another at the  $\kappa$  values of ca. 0.65 and ca. 0.80. The stable broken-symmetry CDW solution is found at the  $\kappa$  value of ca. 0.69 and the associated energy lowering from the symmetry-adapted RHF solution is calculated to be 0.286 eV. The energy minimum points for the symmetry-restored  $A_u$  and  $B_{1g}$  solutions are found at the  $\kappa$  values of ca. 0.70 and ca. 0.50 and the associated energy depressions from the symmetry-adapted RHF solution are calculated to be 0.293 eV and 0.291 eV, respectively. Consequently, in the framework of the approximation used the symmetry-restored  $A_u$  solution becomes the ground



**Fig. 2.** The dependence of the energy expectation values of the broken-symmetry CDW solution and the symmetry-restored  $A_u$  and  $B_{1g}$  solutions on the mixing parameter  $\kappa$  for the heptafulvalene anion radical at the  $D_{2h}$  nuclear arrangement

state, which is lower than the symmetry-restored  $B_{1g}$  solution corresponding to the lowest doublet excited state only by 0.002 eV. It should be noted that only in the region of interest the symmetry-restored  $A_u$  solution is lower in energy than the broken-symmetry CDW solution.

In Fig. 3 is shown the distribution of density matrix elements of the stable broken-symmetry CDW solution, together with that of the symmetry-adapted ( $D_{2h}$ ) RHF solution. It should be remarked that there is a notable difference in bond-order distribution between the CDW solution and the symmetry-adapted RHF solution: in the CDW solution the double-bond fixation is considerably enhanced on a single seven-membered ring, while it is relaxed on the other seven-membered ring. Further, if we take the values of electron density for the RHF solution as the reference values, the charge-density alternation can be seen along the long molecular ( $z$ ) axis in the distribution of electron density for the CDW solution. It is also seen that the distribution of density matrix elements of the CDW solution is very similar to that of the symmetry-adapted RHF solution, obtained previously [2, 3], corresponding to the reduced  $C_{2v}$  nuclear arrangement. This will be discussed later in connection with the lattice instability.

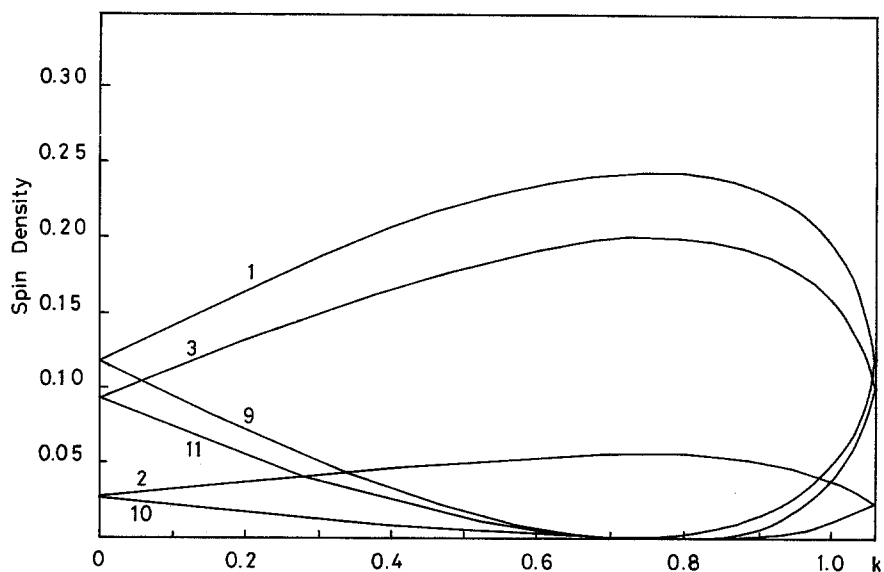


**Fig. 3.** The distribution of density matrix elements of the various solutions for the  $D_{2h}$  and  $C_{2v}$  nuclear arrangements of the heptafulvalene anion and pentafulvalene cation radicals

In Fig. 4 is shown the dependence of the unpaired spin densities of the broken-symmetry CDW solution on the mixing parameter  $\kappa$ . From this figure we can see how the spin-density distribution changes in each seven-membered ring as the mixing parameter  $\kappa$  increases. The detailed spin densities and the proton hyperfine splittings calculated assuming the stable broken-symmetry CDW solution are listed in Table 2, together with the previous results [2] obtained by assuming the symmetry-adapted RHF solution corresponding to the  $C_{2v}$  nuclear arrangement and the experimental values [1]. It is found that the unpaired spin-density distribution of the CDW solution is essentially localized on a single seven-membered ring, which is in good agreement with the previously calculated results and the experimental fact. It should be noted that without invoking the lattice instability of the ground-state nuclear arrangement, the observed proton hyperfine splittings can be accounted for by examining the broken-symmetry CDW solution.

### 3.2.2. Pentafulvalene Cation Radical

The CDW solution of the pentafulvalene cation radical is treated according to the same procedure as used in the preceding section. The electronic configurations which play an important role in the doublet instability of the RHF solution are those including the orbital jumps from the next highest doubly occupied orbital  $\phi_3$  to the lowest vacant one  $\phi_6$  and from the highest doubly



**Fig. 4.** The dependence of the unpaired spin densities of the broken-symmetry CDW solution of the heptafulvalene anion radical on the mixing parameter  $\kappa$  at the  $D_{2h}$  nuclear arrangement. The spin densities on the carbon atoms 7 and 8 are zero

**Table 2.** Spin densities and proton hyperfine splittings of the heptafulvalene anion radical

Atom	Symmetry-breaking CDW ( $D_{2h}$ nuclear configuration)		Symmetry-adapted RHF ( $C_{2v}$ nuclear configuration)		Observed Splitting const. (G)
	Spin density	Hyperfine splitting (G) <sup>a</sup>	Spin density	Hyperfine splitting (G) <sup>a</sup>	
1	0.244	6.36	0.275	7.15	8.22
2	0.054	1.40	0.040	1.04	
3	0.199	5.18	0.189	4.91	5.02
7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
9	0.001	0.03	0.000	0.000	
10	0.001	0.03	0.000	0.000	
11	0.001	0.03	0.000	0.000	

<sup>a</sup> The hyperfine splittings  $a^H$  were calculated by using McConnell's relationship with  $|Q| = 26G$ .

occupied orbital  $\phi_4$  to the half-filled one  $\phi_5$ . By using the mixing coefficients of the eigenvector corresponding to the eigenvalue obtained by taking into account the above two types of electron jump, the new occupied molecular orbitals are formed as:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \psi_1 &= \phi_i \quad (i = 1, 2) \\
 \psi_3 &= \mu_1 \phi_3 + \mu_2 \phi_6 \\
 \psi_4 &= \lambda_1 \phi_4 + \lambda_2 \phi_5 \\
 \psi_5 &= \lambda_1 \phi_5 - \lambda_2 \phi_4
 \end{aligned} \tag{6}$$



and

$$\begin{aligned}\mu_1 &= \{1 - (0.306\kappa)^2\}^{1/2}, & \mu_2 &= 0.306\kappa \\ \lambda_1 &= \{1 - (0.952\kappa)^2\}^{1/2}, & \lambda_2 &= 0.952\kappa\end{aligned}\quad (7)$$

where  $\kappa$  is the dimensionless mixing parameter. Using the above orbitals, we can write the CDW solution as:

$$\begin{aligned}{}^2\Psi_{\text{CDW}}(\kappa) &= \mu_1^2\lambda_1^2\Psi_{\text{RHF}}(B_{1g}) + \mu_1^2\lambda_2^2\Psi_1(A_u, 4 \rightarrow 5) \\ &+ \sqrt{2}\mu_1\mu_2\lambda_1^2\Psi_1(A_u, 3 \rightarrow 6) \\ &+ \sqrt{2}\mu_1\mu_2\lambda_2^2\Psi_2(B_{1g}, 3, 4 \rightarrow 5, 6) \\ &+ \mu_2^2\lambda_1^2\Psi_2(B_{1g}, 3, 3 \rightarrow 6, 6) \\ &+ \mu_2^2\lambda_2^2\Psi_3(A_u, 3, 3, 4 \rightarrow 6, 6, 5)\end{aligned}\quad (8)$$

The CDW solution thus obtained comprises the configurations of  $B_{1g}$  symmetry and those of  $A_u$  symmetry. In this case, the symmetry-breaking components are the configurations of  $A_u$  symmetry, for the RHF ground state is of  $B_{1g}$  symmetry.

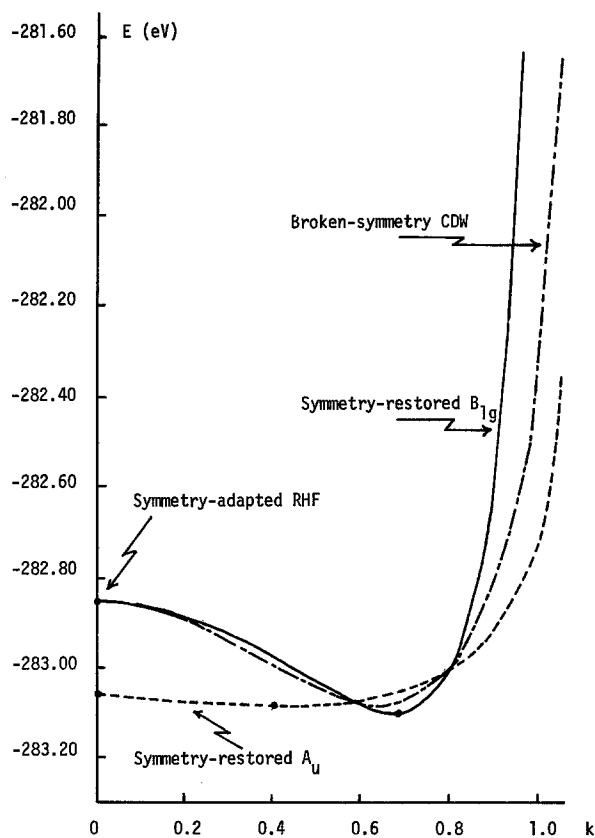
The dependence of the energy expectation values of the broken-symmetry CDW solution and the symmetry-restored  $B_{1g}$  and  $A_u$  solutions on the mixing parameter  $\kappa$  is shown in Fig. 5. The energy lowering due to the stable broken-symmetry CDW solution is 0.227 eV, the value being comparable to that obtained in case of the anion radical of heptafulvalene. In the framework of the approximation used, the symmetry-restored  $B_{1g}$  solution becomes the ground state, which is lower than the symmetry-restored  $A_u$  solution corresponding to the lowest doublet excited state only by 0.019 eV.

In Fig. 3 is shown also the distribution of density matrix elements of the stable broken-symmetry CDW solution as well as that of the symmetry-adapted ( $D_{2h}$ ) RHF solution. The bond-order distribution of the CDW solution is remarkably different from that of the symmetry-adapted RHF solution: on a single five-membered ring the double-bond fixation is greatly enhanced as compared with that in the symmetry-adapted RHF solution, while it is considerably relaxed on the other five-membered ring.

The unpaired spin densities calculated by assuming the stable broken-symmetry CDW solution are listed in Table 3, together with the previous results [2] obtained by assuming the symmetry-adapted RHF solution corresponding to the reduced  $C_{2v}$  nuclear arrangement. It should be remarked that the unpaired spin density is essentially localized on a single five-membered ring, and this behavior is quite similar to that seen in the anion radical of heptafulvalene.

### 3.3. The Relationship Between the Doublet and Lattice Instabilities

In the anion radical of heptafulvalene and the cation radical of pentafulvalene, it is found that the bond-order and electron density distributions due to the broken-symmetry CDW solutions are quite similar to those due to the RHF



**Fig. 5.** The dependence of the energy expectation values of the broken-symmetry CDW solution and the symmetry-restored  $B_{1g}$  and  $A_u$  solutions on the mixing parameter  $\kappa$  for the pentafulvalene cation radical at the  $D_{2h}$  nuclear arrangement

**Table 3.** Spin densities and proton hyperfine splittings of the pentafulvalene cation radical

Atom	Symmetry-breaking CDW solution ( $D_{2h}$ nuclear configuration)		Symmetry-adapted RHF solution ( $C_{2v}$ nuclear configuration)	
	Spin density	Hyperfine splitting (G) <sup>a</sup>	Spin density	Hyperfine splitting (G) <sup>a</sup>
1	0.351	9.12	0.379	9.85
2	0.142	3.70	0.120	3.12
5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
7	0.005	0.12	0.000	0.00
8	0.002	0.06	0.000	0.00

<sup>a</sup> The hyperfine splittings  $a^H$  were calculated by using McConnell's relationship with  $|Q| = 26G$ .

solutions for the distorted nuclear arrangement brought about by the lattice instability. The reason for this is explained as follows.

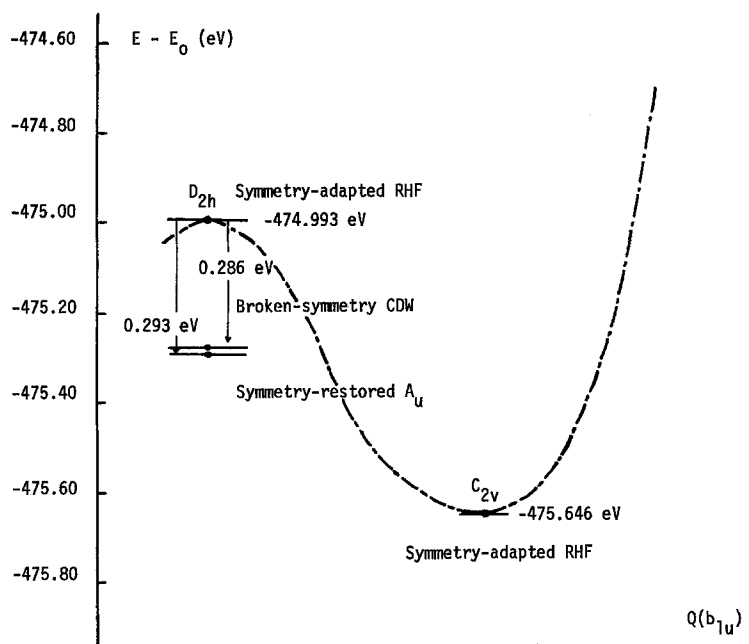
In the heptafulvalene anion radical, the most important excited configuration which contributes to the doublet instability is that corresponding to the orbital jump from the half-filled molecular orbital to the lowest vacant one (see Eqs. (3) and (4)). The admixture of the above configuration to the RHF ground state leads to the broken-symmetry CDW solution which exhibits the  $C_{2v}$  symmetry with respect to the distribution of density matrix elements.

On the other hand, we have derived in a previous paper [3] the condition for the lattice instability for the open-shell conjugated hydrocarbons, which is stated as follows: the ground-state nuclear arrangement is unstable if the energy gap between the lowest doublet excited state and the ground state is smaller than a certain critical value, ca. 0.6 eV. If the energy gap is smaller than the critical value, the molecule under consideration would be distorted into a new nuclear arrangement with a lower symmetry. The type of nuclear displacement effective for the lattice instability is predicted from the distribution of two-center components of the transition density between the ground state and the lowest excited state [20, 21]. In the heptafulvalene anion radical at the  $D_{2h}$  nuclear arrangement, the lowest excited state ( $B_{1g}$ ) corresponds to the same type of the orbital jump as that responsible for the doublet instability and is higher than the ground state ( $A_u$ ) only by 0.033 eV in the approximation of the single determinant description. On the basis of the criterion stated above, the symmetrical nuclear arrangement is unstable under the nuclear deformation of  $b_{1u}$  symmetry, resulting in the molecular symmetry reduction from  $D_{2h}$  to  $C_{2v}$ .

It has been shown that the anion radical of triafulvalene and the cation radicals of pentafulvalene and nonafulvalene suffer the same type of lattice instability [2, 3]. It can be shown that in these radicals also the excited configuration effective for the doublet instability is the same as that effective for the lattice instability. It is thus indicated that the symmetry of nuclear deformation in the lattice instability is identical with that of the direction of the steepest descent in the variational space of energy functional in the doublet instability. This is the reason for the appearance of a similar distribution of density matrix elements in both the instabilities.

Next we show in Fig. 6 the relative total energy of various solutions for the  $D_{2h}$  and  $C_{2v}$  nuclear arrangements of the heptafulvalene anion radical. The total energy has been assumed to be expressed as the sum of the three parts: the  $\pi$ -electron energy, the core repulsion energy and the  $\sigma$ -bond energy [8, 22]. In the pentafulvalene cation radical, we can also obtain qualitatively the same energy diagram as that shown in Fig. 6.

In the anion radical of heptafulvalene, it is expected that the broken-symmetry CDW solution would be stabilized by the electrostatic interaction through the nuclear deformation of  $b_{1u}$  symmetry. This will be performed by distorting the



**Fig. 6.** The relative total energies of various solutions for the  $D_{2h}$  and  $C_{2v}$  nuclear arrangements of the heptafulvalene anion radical.  $E_0$  is the sum of the  $\sigma$ -bond and core repulsion energies at the  $D_{2h}$  nuclear arrangement

nuclear arrangement so that it may match up with the distribution of bond-order matrix elements of the stable broken-symmetry CDW solution [8]. In the distorted structure ( $C_{2v}$ ) thus obtained, it is expected that the broken-symmetry CDW solution becomes to be symmetry adapted. Actually the symmetry-adapted RHF solution at the  $C_{2v}$  nuclear arrangement is doublet stable (see Table 1). As seen in Fig. 4, the symmetry-adapted RHF solution corresponding to the  $C_{2v}$  nuclear arrangement is lower in energy than the symmetry-restored  $A_u$  solution corresponding to the  $D_{2h}$  nuclear arrangement. We can thus confirm that the ground-state nuclear arrangement of the heptafulvalene anion radical is of  $C_{2v}$  symmetry.

#### 4. Conclusion

The doublet instabilities of the RHF solutions for the anion radicals of triafulvalene and heptafulvalene and the cation radicals of pentafulvalene and nonafulvalene suggest that for these systems the symmetrical ( $D_{2h}$ ) nuclear arrangement does not represent a minimum of the potential energy surface and a nuclear configuration with a lower symmetry ( $C_{2v}$ ) is more stable. All the molecules that exhibit the doublet instabilities suffer actually the lattice instabilities [2, 3]. The doublet instability is intimately related with the lattice instability in the sense that the occurrence of both instabilities is associated with the existence of a sufficiently low-lying doublet excited state and the

direction of the steepest descent in the variational space of energy functional is the same as that of the nuclear displacement effective for the lattice instability. This situation is quite similar to the relationship between the singlet and the lattice instability for the closed-shell systems [8].

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