

Editorial

Published online: 25 September 2010
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This special issue of *Theoretical Chemistry Accounts* contains a collection of papers dedicated to the memory of Jürgen Hinze, former Professor of Theoretical Chemistry at the University of Bielefeld, Germany. He was an esteemed colleague and a valued friend of many of the contributors of this issue.

We cordially thank all authors for their contributions, and we are grateful to the reviewers for their help, their constructive criticism, and their comments. We are very thankful to Robert Hinze, Edzard Klapp, Sigrid Peyerim-

hoff, Wolfgang W. Schoeller, and Ersin Yurtsever for biographical details. These have been included in the scientific biography of Jürgen Hinze that sketches the principal lines of his scientific work.

Last but not least, we wish to acknowledge gratefully Chris Cramer, Editor-in-chief, for giving us the opportunity to edit this issue, for his assistance, and for his patience.

Alexander Alijah (Reims, France)
Dirk Andrae (Berlin, Germany)

Theory in Chemistry, Theory for Chemistry

A scientific biography of Jürgen Hinze (1937–2008)



Portrait taken from D. Bergmann and J. Hinze, *Electronegativity and Molecular Properties*, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* 35 (1996) 151. © Wiley-VCH Verlag GmbH & Co. KGaA. Reproduced with permission

Jürgen Andreas Michael Hinze was born in Berlin on June 28, 1937. His family later moved to Stuttgart, a town in the south-west of Germany, where he was brought up and completed school education, in 1957, with receipt of the general qualification for university entrance (*Abitur*). His interest in science and technology showed up early. For example, he developed very good skills in constructing model glider airplanes during his years at school, at a time when prefabricated or even ready-to-fly assembly kits were unavailable. Many years later, he could still enthusiastically tell about problems related to wing profiles, but also remembered his teachers' regretful comments that his marks in the languages were not as good as those in mathematics and the sciences.

In 1957, Jürgen began studying chemistry at the *Technische Hochschule Stuttgart* (renamed to *Universität Stuttgart* ten years later). After completion of the first part of the studies (*Vordiplom*) in 1959, he moved to the U.S.A. in 1960. A Fulbright scholarship allowed him to go to the University of Cincinnati, Ohio, where he wrote his thesis on electronegativity under the guidance of Hans H. Jaffé (1919–1989). The new concept of orbital electronegativity was developed in this work, and the resulting new electronegativity scale, widely known in chemistry textbooks by the name Mulliken-Jaffé scale, provides electronegativity values depending on the valence state an atom assumes in a molecule. In this way, e.g., a carbon atom is assigned a higher electronegativity in an ethynyl group (sp hybridization) than in a methyl group (sp^3 hybridization), so that needs of experience could be met.

From 1962 to 1964, Jürgen was postdoctoral fellow with Kenneth S. Pitzer (1914–1997) at the Rice University in

Houston, Texas. His research subjects during that stay were not restricted to Theoretical Chemistry. In addition to the question of bonding in noble gas halides and the calculation of atomic integrals with integrands containing factors depending on interelectronic distances, he also joined Robert F. Curl, Jr. (*1933), in the study of the molecule $CH_2=N-CH_3$, the simplest Schiff base. Jürgen prepared this highly thermolabile substance by pyrolysis of an *s*-triazine precursor, recorded, and analyzed its infrared spectrum in the solid and in an argon matrix and was also involved in the analysis of its microwave and 1H NMR spectra.

Thereafter, he worked as an assistant at the Institute of Physical Chemistry of the *Technische Hochschule Stuttgart*, with Theodor Förster (1910–1974), but soon left Germany again, in 1966, and went to the Laboratory for Molecular Structure and Spectra (LMSS) at the University of Chicago, Illinois. The LMSS, chaired at that time by Robert S. Mulliken (1896–1986) and Clemens C. J. Roothaan (*1918), was one of the 'hot spots' of method development in electronic structure theory. In that same year, Mulliken was awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry. Jürgen joined Roothaan's group and developed computer programs for multiconfiguration self-consistent field (MCSCF) calculations, first for atoms and then for diatomic molecules. To younger people, complaining about difficulties of program development, he sometimes told the story about writing his first computer programs. Initially, following Roothaan's notes, as copied from a blackboard, he had to use machine-dependent assembler language and faced severe storage limitations (compared to present-day standards). High-level programming languages were not yet available, and the principles of object-oriented programming still widely unknown.

Just about one year after having entered the LMSS, Jürgen became Assistant Professor at the Department of Chemistry of the University of Chicago. He stayed there till 1975, with a short interruption by half a year's sabbatical spent in 1973 at the *Max-Planck-Institut für Physik und Astrophysik* at Munich. Around 1970, he switched the spelling of his first name from 'Jürgen' to 'Juergen' when indicating his authorship on a publication. His major research subject during these years was the development of the MCSCF method for electronic structure calculations. With his first doctoral student, Bowen Liu, he engaged in the development of an MCSCF program for larger linear molecules (with more than two nuclei), a joint research project with Enrico Clementi's group from the IBM Research Laboratories at San Jose, California. As in all previous work, Slater-type functions were to be used in this project too. Bowen decided to move to San Jose for the main work of code development, so that Juergen became co-supervisor, together with Doug McLean, of Bowen's

thesis on theoretical studies of the three-electron systems He_2^+ and linear H_3 [1, 2]. The already existing MCSCF code for diatomic molecules was applied and developed further in three other research projects. Kate Kirby (Doc-ken), now retired Director of the Institute for Theoretical Atomic, Molecular and Optical Physics (ITAMP) at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, Cambridge, Massachusetts, studied spectroscopic properties of low-lying singlet and triplet states of lithium hydride. A study of the five lowest electronic states of carbon hydride, a species of astrophysical interest, was carried out by George Lie. The first paper published from his work was included later in an ‘incomplete list of landmark papers in ab initio molecular electronic structure methods’ [3]. Furthermore, his work provided the basis for the prediction of the lambda-doubling spectrum of ^{13}CH by Don Levy and Juergen in 1977. The high quality of their prediction was confirmed about ten years later by an analysis of new experimental data [4]. The valence excited states of sodium hydride were studied by Edward Sachs. His work finally helped to understand the broadening of the sodium *D* line induced by collisions between sodium and hydrogen atoms. In addition, a semiempirical version of the MCSCF method was developed, with Charles Eaker, and used to investigate possible reaction paths in the thermal decomposition of 1,2-dioxetane. The general work on the development of the MCSCF method clearly showed the limitations caused by the use of algebraic basis sets. This observation led Juergen to initiate a feasibility study for a fully numerical Hartree-Fock method for molecules, which became the topic of Frank Tobin’s thesis.

In 1975, Juergen was appointed Full Professor at the *Universität Bielefeld* (founded in 1969) and thus became one of the four founding professors of the chemistry department. Juergen stayed at Bielefeld until his retirement in 2002. The move from the excellent University of Chicago to Bielefeld was not easy for him; however, he liked the challenge to build up something new in his native country, Germany. The Bielefeld Center for Interdisciplinary Research (*Zentrum für interdisziplinäre Forschung, ZiF*), an internationally operating Institute for Advanced Study founded already in 1968, played a crucial role in the following years. It provided, and still provides, excellent facilities as a conference center and for hosting groups of researchers for longer periods of time up to a year. Juergen initiated and organized research groups at the ZiF in the years 1978–1980 and 1996–1997. The international conferences, related with these activities, united chemists, physicists, and mathematicians around interdisciplinary topics and attracted much attention across the disciplines. The proceedings of seven workshops, held in the first period of time mentioned above, were edited by Juergen and published in the form of five books. The lists of

contributing authors read like a ‘who’s who’ in contemporary research in the fields of atomic, molecular and optical physics, theoretical chemistry, and in several branches of mathematics.

Juergen always tried to push theoretical work to the point where calculated results could be compared directly with observed quantities. With Lüder Engelbrecht, a postdoc coming from Dieter Sutter’s group at the *Universität Kiel*, Germany, he presented in the late 1970s a rigorous and a very detailed analysis of the requirements that have to be met to actually reach coincidence between theoretical and experimental results for spectroscopic properties of small molecules.

Also in the late 1970s, the development of sophisticated methods for the treatment of electron correlation in electronic structure theory continued to be one of Juergen’s principal research subjects. Together with Alojzy Gołębiewski from the Jagiellonian University at Cracow, Poland, and Ersin Yurtsever, who came as a postdoc from Donald Shillady’s group at Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia, new algorithms for solving the general MCSCF problem in its algebraic version were developed and implemented. Ersin Yurtsever is now Professor and Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at Koç University, Istanbul, Turkey. Reduced density matrix elements for general reference state functions were considered already around 1980 as basic quantities to evaluate configuration interaction (CI) energies in joint work with John Broad. He came as a postdoc from Bill Reinhardt’s group, which was at that time at the University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado. With the computer scientist K. V. Dinesha, now Professor at the International Institute of Information Technology at Bangalore, India, the merits of permutation group algebra in evaluating CI matrix elements for atoms were explored.

The fully numerical, i.e., basis-set-free, approach to the atomic or molecular (MC)SCF problem was also pursued further. Initially, the molecular problem was treated in terms of one-center expansions for the orbitals. Thomas Vögel, Juergen’s first doctoral student at Bielefeld, considered multicenter expansions for the orbitals and applied the numerical SCF method to H_2^+ and H_2 ; he completed his thesis in 1981. The mathematician Friedrich Biegler-König joined Juergen’s group in the mid 1980s. He returned to Bielefeld from a postdoc stay with Richard F. W. Bader at the Department of Chemistry, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, where he had contributed to the development of mathematical methods required for the topological electron density analysis (wherfrom evolved what is known today as the Quantum Theory of Atoms in Molecules, QTAIM). With Juergen he developed and implemented new efficient algorithms for numerical atomic MCSCF calculations. Friedrich

Biegler-König is now Professor at the *Fachhochschule Bielefeld*, an advanced technical college. External (electric or magnetic) fields were also included in the numerical approach, as shown in the work of Alexander Alijah, who completed his thesis on the photodissociation of the hydrogen atom in strong magnetic fields in 1988. The 1990s then saw several interesting developments conducted under Juergen's supervision: the creation of a two-dimensional numerical SCF program for relativistic four-component electronic structure calculations for closed-shell states of diatomic molecules by Hans-Dieter Krumme (1992); further work on the numerical MCSCF problem for atoms, with extension to the case including an external static electric field, by Johannes Stiehler (1995); the development of programs for time-dependent numerical MCSCF and CI calculations on atoms by Martina Rosenberger (1997); and the generation of a program for relativistic four-component numerical MCSCF calculations on atoms by Markus Reiher (1998). Markus Reiher is now Professor at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology at Zurich, Switzerland. With Dirk Andrae, who came as a postdoc from the group of Heinz Werner Preuß and Hermann Stoll at the *Universität Stuttgart*, a numerical Kohn–Sham program for closed-shell atomic states was set up. It included several exchange- and correlation-energy density functionals, based on the local density and the generalized gradient approximations, with explicit construction of the functional derivatives in the SCF procedure. From the many papers resulting from these developments, the one written together with Johannes Stiehler on static electric dipole polarizabilities and hyperpolarizabilities for all atoms from He to Kr stands out for the large amount of accurate data, for the wide range of systems considered, many of them being open-shell cases and excited states, and for the many references included that make it an “excellent source for theoretical data” [5].

The concept of electronegativity, which Juergen had generalized to an orbital-dependent quantity in his thesis, starting from Mulliken's definition, was revisited in the early 1980s. The orbital electronegativity was extended such that it became dependent not only on hybridization, but also on partial atomic charge. This opened the way to the definition of orbital electronegativities of molecular fragments or group electronegativities. Juergen showed, together with Dieter Bergmann, that group electronegativities and partial charges, computed for a large number of molecules, correlate well with several experimentally accessible quantities (bond lengths and bond dissociation energies, NMR and ESCA chemical shifts, proton affinities, force constants). Simple, but remarkably reliable models were obtained for the prediction of these molecular properties.

Another area of Juergen's research deserves mention: the development of accurate methods for the theoretical study of collision and scattering processes and for quantum dynamics in small molecules. The ZiF research group activities in the late 1970s and his getting to know John Broad may be seen as events triggering Juergen's interest into this direction. In addition, he joined forces with Lutek Wolniewicz from the Nicolaus Copernicus University, Toruń, Poland, to explore the usefulness of hyperspherical coordinates and hyperspherical functions as tools to describe the quantum dynamics in three-particle systems. A first study, using hyperspherical coordinates for a quantum mechanical description of the three-dimensional reactive scattering process, was made in the thesis of Heinrich Wippermann (1989). The method development continued in collaboration with Lutek Wolniewicz and Alexander Alijah. Quite naturally, the protonated hydrogen molecule, H_3^+ , and its isotopomers were the first systems to which the new method was applied, with great success. Aspects of symmetry breaking were considered in the thesis of Oliver Friedrich (2000); a complete determination and identification of the rovibrational states of H_3^+ , up to about $13,000\text{ cm}^{-1}$ above its ground state, was achieved in the thesis of Peter Schiffels (2002). Further works considered the adiabatic approximation and non-adiabatic effects in three-particle systems. As Takeshi Oka remarked, “Juergen has contributed greatly to the science of H_3^+ at the most fundamental level” with these developments [6]. Juergen was also interested in electron-atom and electron-molecule scattering. With Peter Hamacher, who completed his thesis in 1990, non-relativistic and relativistic versions of program codes for variational *R*-matrix scattering calculations were developed. Fundamental problems of the relativistic *R*-matrix theory were discussed and solved in joint work with Radek Szmytkowski, who came as a postdoc from the group of Eugeniusz Czuchaj at the University of Gdańsk, Poland, and is now Professor at Gdańsk University of Technology.

Many other research topics attracted Juergen's interest. He published papers, e.g., on the theory of reaction dynamics (with his diploma student Klaus-Peter Karmann), on perturbation theory combined with the variation principle (with Jerry Silverman, then at the Department of Chemistry, University of Stirling, Stirling, United Kingdom.), on the local-scaling transformation version of density functional theory (with Eduardo Ludeña from the Instituto Venezolano de Investigaciones Científicas, Caracas, Venezuela, Eugene Kryachko from the Bogolubov Institute of Theoretical Physics, Kiev, Ukraine, and Toshikatsu Koga from the Muroran Institute of Technology, Japan), on extended line notations for coding of chemical formulas and structures (with his coworker Udo Welz and his doctoral student Andreas Bruder), on fundamental

relations between parameters in density functional theory, and on ‘non-trivial zeroes’ of angular momentum coupling coefficients (with Ravi Rau from the Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Louisiana, Baton Rouge, Louisiana). The list of publications following this biography provides further details.

Several of Juergen’s research contributions were fundamental and later proved to be essential for further developments, though sometimes with quite large time delay. For example, his work on the theory of the MCSCF method from 1973, written with electronic (fermionic) systems in mind, proved to be important about 25 years later for the development of vibrational MCSCF methods [7]. It is worth to mention in this context that according to Juergen’s conviction, only the essentials of scientific work should be published. He became more and more concerned about the future of high-quality science, and early on expressed his view on the publication explosion, at least partly caused by what he called the failure of the peer-review system. As partial solutions, he suggested (1) to moderately reimburse the referees for their efforts, and (2) to stop judging scientists and their work merely by simple counting criteria. Imposing a refereeing system based on fees, similar or comparable to consulting practices in other branches (e.g., law, medicine), might work well in the exact sciences if the authors have to carry the charge in case of reject of their article, but if the publisher takes it over in case of acceptance. As to the misapplication of counting criteria, Juergen could have asked, “How could it happen that so many decision makers in what claim to be highly developed countries base their decisions on criteria requiring no higher intellectual skills than those acquired already in the first school years, namely counting numbers, up to several orders of magnitude? How could it happen that counting is self-deceptively taken for measuring?” Do we have forgotten that the quote “Measure what is measurable, and make measurable what is not so”, attributed to Galileo Galilei, does not exclude failure, i.e., non-existence of a measure, as a possible correct answer? Under the headline “Quality not Quantity,” the *Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft* (DFG) announced, early this year, to change a paradigm in research funding [8]: new regulations adopted for funding proposals impose upper limits on the number of own publications scientists are allowed to cite in their proposals. This measure, taken to counter the flood of publications in research,

follows similar regulations now imposed by the NSF and the NIH. Presumably, Juergen might have called this a step in the right direction.

Juergen has been a member of several national and international scientific societies, including the *Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker* (GDCh), the *Deutsche Physikalische Gesellschaft* (DPG), the *Deutsche Bunsen-Gesellschaft für Physikalische Chemie*, the European Physical Society (EPS), the American Chemical Society (ACS), the American Physical Society (APS), and the American Geographical Society. He acted as a member of the editorial board of the *Lecture Notes in Chemistry* series of monographs from 1984 until discontinuation of the series in 2004. At Bielefeld, he was chairman of the local chapter of the GDCh from 1975, the year of his appointment, till 1996. He also served as chairman of the chemistry department in the years 1977–1979 and 1989–1990 and was a member of the university’s senate from 1979 to 1991.

Science was not Juergen’s sole affection, he also liked to play tennis, to go for skiing, and he was a passionate yachtsman. A trophy received for a first place in the Flying Dutchman class, in a regatta on Lake Michigan in 1970, always decorated his office desk. Cruising with a sail boat along some distant coasts was one of his favorite summer activities. He has also been an enthusiastic chef-de-cuisine, and guests invited to his home may recollect delicious meals enjoyed with witty conversations. Since his sudden and unexpected death, on October 10, 2008 in Bielefeld, such recollections are to be treasured.

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“One can measure the importance of a scientific work by the number of earlier publications rendered superfluous by it.”

David Hilbert (1862–1943, German mathematician)

Titles in German are supplemented by translations to English.

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