

The Perlin Effect in terms of molecular orbitals

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Abstract: Many studies have shown the importance of scalar spin-spin coupling constants (SSCCs) obtained by NMR spectroscopy in conformational analysis of molecules, in cyclohexane derivatives SSCCs are used to determine conformation and relative stereochemistry [1]. For instance, in 1,3-dioxane (1, figure 1) the ${}^{1}J_{C1-Hax}$ is smaller than ${}^{1}J_{C1-Hea}$ and in 1.3-dithiane (2, figure 1) the ${}^{1}J_{C1-Hax}$ is larger than ${}^{1}J_{C1-Hea}$. This differences are known as Perlin and reverse-Perlin effect respectively and are usually interpreted in terms of hyperconjugation effects such as LP₀ $\rightarrow \sigma^*_{C1-Hax}$ and $\sigma_{C-S} \rightarrow \sigma^*_{C1-Hax}$ H_{eq} , which are reflected in the bond length of the C₁- H_{ax} and C₁- H_{eq} [2]. Although these interpretations seem reasonable, it is not compatible with computational results. In both compounds, not only for 1, the calculated bond length and hyperconjugation effects are larger for C₁-H_{ax} than C₁-H_{eq}, so, considering only the classical explanation of Perlin effect, both ${}^{1}J_{C1-Hax}$ should be larger than ${}^{1}J_{C1-Heq}$, but this is not what experimental results show (table 1). Also, when comparing both molecules, one can clearly see the small difference in ${}^{1}J_{C1-Hax}$ and the large difference in ${}^{1}J_{C1-Heq}$ between both molecules. Therefore, the aim of this work is to study the origins of Perlin effect for 1 and 2. In order to do that, the structures were optimized and the SSCCs were calculated and decomposed using the ADF 2017 program with several levels of theory. To understand the effects responsible for these SSCCs, the *J*-couplings were analyzed in terms of molecular orbitals (MO) and its natural bond orbitals (NBO) contributions. Both ${}^{1}J_{C1-Hax}$ are similar, and this decomposition revealed that the MOs relevant for J-coupling are constituted of analogous NBOs, resulting in close values of SSCC, and surprisingly, the LP (2) has a very small contribution for 1 and 2 in these MOs. In fact, LP (1) showed a greater contribution than LP (2) for both cases. For the ${}^{1}J_{C1-Hea}$, the decomposition showed more delocalized MOs in 2, meaning that more NBOs contribute to the total SSCC in 2 than in 1. Moreover, the MOs which contributes the most to the SSCC presented a decrease in the contribution of σ_{C1-Heq} and an increase of adjacent NBOs. Decreasing the σ_{C1-Heq} contribution, lowers the total value of ${}^{1}J_{C1-Heq}$ and at the same time, increasing adjacent NBOs contributions to MOs, also lowers the ${}^{1}J_{C1-Heq}$ since the contribution of these orbitals to ${}^{1}J_{C1-Heq}$ is negative (table 2), as stated in the literature [3,4]. With this work, we were able to identify the origin of Perlin effect in 1 and 2 and attribute it to contributions of MOs, mainly to the σ_{C1-Heq}.



Figure 1: compounds studied in this work

	X	[X	S	BC	\sum	
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Table 1: ${}^{1}J_{C1-H}$ and bond length values of 1 and 2 .								
	Molecule/bond	Bond length (theor) ^a	${}^{1}J_{\text{Can-H}} (\text{expt})^{\text{b}}$	${}^{1}J_{\text{Can-H}}$ (theor) ^c				
	$1/C_1$ -Hax	1.102	158.6	154.3				
	$1/C_1-H_{eq}$	1.085	167.5	168.6				
	$2/C_1-H_{ax}$	1.902	154.2	157.0				
	$2/C_1-H_{eq}$	1.089	146.2	145.8				

^aoptimized with MP2/aug-cc-pvdz. ^bobtained at -80°C in CD₂Cl₂. ^ccalculated with pbe0/jcpl

Table 2: contributions of selected MOs to SSCC and its NBOs.

1 , C-Heq			2 , C-Heq			
МО	Contribution to SSCC (Hz)	Main NBO contribution to MO	МО	Contribution to SSCC (Hz)	Main NBO contribution to MO	
3	-10.4	CR (1) O (99%)	3	-10.6	CR (1) S (99%)	
7	10.9	C ₁ -O (44%)	15	16.8	C _{2/4} -C ₃ (26%)	
9	16.9	C _{2/4} -C ₃ (46%)	16	47.4	C _{2/4} -C ₃ (28%)	
11	80.3	C ₁ -Heq (17%)	18	56.9	C ₁ -Heq (15%)	
12	12.8	C ₁ -Hax (21%)	20	22.9	C _{2/4} -Hax (34%)	
13	16.1	C ₁ -Heq (26%)	21	10.4	C _{2/4} -Heq (53%)	
15	-1.1	C ₁ -Hax (37%)	22	-5.2	C ₁ -Hax (31%)	
16	23.1	C ₃ -Heq (47%)	23	16.2	C ₃ -Heq (39%)	
18	-8.7	C ₁ -Heq (24%)	26	-20.2	C ₁ -S (36%)	
21	28.8	C ₁ -Heq (17%)	30	11.2	C _{2/4} -S (38%)	
Total	168.6		Total	145.8		

Key-words: Perlin effect, J-coupling decomposition, molecular orbitals.

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