

**alternancy symmetry**

A topological property of the molecular graphs of alternant hydrocarbons which allows the carbon atoms to be divided into two subsets in such a way that no two atoms of the same subset are adjacent. A consequence of this property is the symmetrical arrangement of the energy levels of bonding and antibonding Hückel MOs relative to the level of a non-bonding orbital (energy level of the p AO of a carbon atom).

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