

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 nonbonding orbital (energy level of the p AO of a carbon atom).

Source:

PAC, 1999, 71, 1919 (*Glossary of terms used in theoretical organic chemistry*) on page 1922