## Non-orthogonality problem and effective electronic coupling calculation: Application to charge transfer in $\pi$ stacks relevant to biochemistry and molecular electronics.

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This file includes the values of the effective electronic couplings (or charge-transfer integrals) and the diabatic energy differences for the different conformations of the perylenediimide (PDI)  $\pi$ -stack (Table S1) and the quinol-semiquinone redox couple at different donor-acceptor distances  $R_{QA}$  (Table S2). The overlap integrals are also reported for the latter system.

**Table S1.** Charge-transfer integrals for hole  $(V_{IF}^{(h)})$  and electron transfer  $(V_{IF}^{(e)})$  in a PDI stack (x shift = 1.60 Å, y shift = 0.94 Å, z shift = 3.40 Å), and pertinent diabatic energy differences  $(\Delta E_{IF}^{(h)})$  and  $\Delta E_{IF}^{(e)}$ , respectively), at the nuclear coordinate sets  $Q_j = Q_t + j \, \delta Q/10$  (j = 1, ..., 10), where  $Q_t$  is the transition state coordinate and  $Q_t + \delta Q$  is the coordinate after geometry optimization on the H atoms of one PDI molecule at the BHH/6-31g\* computational level. The geometry optimization was not performed with a basis set of high accuracy, because the only purpose of this optimization was to move the system away from  $Q_t$ . These results were obtained by using the M06-2X hybrid function and the 6-311g\*\* basis set. All the energy quantities are given in meV.

j	$\Delta E_{ m IF}^{(h)}$	$V_{ m IF}^{(h)}$	$\Delta E_{ m IF}^{(e)}$	$V_{ m IF}^{(e)}$
1	0.04	35.9	0.10	129.7
2	0.08	35.7		
3	0.12	35.6		
4	0.16	35.4		
5	0.20	35.6	0.48	128.8
6	0.24	35.4		
7	0.28	35.4		
8	0.32	35.4		
9	0.36	35.4		
10	0.40	35.2	0.95	127.6

**Table S2.** Effective electronic couplings  $(V_{IF})$ , diabatic energy differences  $(|\Delta E_{IF}| = |E_I - E_F| = -\Delta E_{IF})$ , and overlap integrals  $(S_{IF} = \langle \psi_I | \psi_F \rangle)$  for electron transfer in the quinol-semiquinol redox couple at the indicated donor-acceptor distances  $(R_{QA})$ . The pertinent calculations were performed using the M06-HF XC hybrid functional, with the aug-cc-pVTZ basis set for the O atoms and the cc-pVTZ basis set for the other atoms. All the energy quantities are reported in eV.

$R_{\scriptscriptstyle D\!\!\!\!\!\mathcal{A}}(\mathrm{\AA})$	$V_{ m IF}$	$-\Delta E_{\rm IF}$	$S_{\rm IF}$
1.54	17.2	0.005	0.949
2.0	7.9	0.113	0.915
2.5	1.5	0.298	0.628
3.0	$3.9 \times 10^{-1}$	0.371	0.356
3.5	$1.3 \times 10^{-1}$	0.401	0.173
4.0	$5.9 \times 10^{-2}$	0.412	$8.39 \times 10^{-2}$
4.5	$2.9 \times 10^{-2}$	0.417	$3.81 \times 10^{-2}$
5.0	$1.4 \times 10^{-2}$	0.419	$1.68 \times 10^{-2}$
5.5	$6.1 \times 10^{-3}$	0.422	$7.04 \times 10^{-3}$
6.0	$2.3 \times 10^{-3}$	0.424	$2.79 \times 10^{-3}$
6.5	$6.2 \times 10^{-4}$	0.427	$8.56 \times 10^{-4}$
7.0	$7.7 \times 10^{-5}$	0.427	$1.13 \times 10^{-4}$