

Introduction to Octopus: a real-space (TD)DFT code

David A. Strubbe
and the Octopus development team

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Time-dependent Kohn-Sham equation

$$i\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\varphi_n(\mathbf{r}, t) = -\nabla^2\varphi_n + V_{\text{eff}}[\rho](\mathbf{r}, t)\varphi_n(\mathbf{r}, t)$$
$$\rho(\mathbf{r}, t) = \sum_n \varphi_n^*(\mathbf{r}, t)\varphi_n(\mathbf{r}, t)$$

- Solve the equations numerically.
- Represent functions and other objects.
- Calculate derivatives and integrals.

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- The atomic potential is very strong and “hard” (small spacing or high plane-wave cutoff required).
- Core electrons are almost independent of the environment.
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Norm-conserving pseudo-potentials in Kleinman-Bylander form

$$V = V_{loc} + \sum_{lm} |lm\rangle (V_l - V_{loc}) \langle lm|$$

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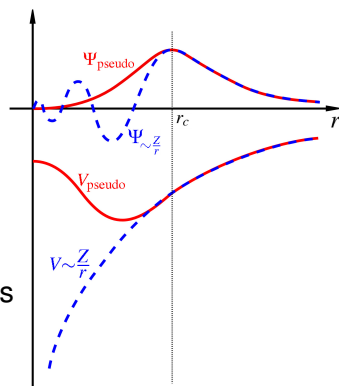
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Real-space grid

- Partial differential equation with infinite degrees of freedom.
- Reduce to a finite number.
- Functions are represented by values on a set of points.
- Point distribution:
 - Uniformly spaced grid.
 - Distance between points is constant. Spacing.
 - Non-uniform grids also possible.
- Finite region of the space: *Box*

Real-space grid

- Partial differential equation with infinite degrees of freedom.
- **Reduce to a finite number.**
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- Point distribution:
 - Uniformly spaced grid.
 - Variable distance between points to capture singularities.
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Boundary conditions

- For finite systems, functions go to zero.
- Force functions to go to zero on the border of the box.
- The box has to be large enough to contain the functions.
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Boundary conditions

- Optimize the shape of the box to minimize the number of points needed.
- Available box shapes:
 - Minimum box: union of spheres around each atom.
 - Rectangular
 - Cylindrical
 - Periodic
 - Arbitrary (e.g. ellipsoid)

Boundary conditions

- Optimize the shape of the box to minimize the number of points needed.
- Available box shapes:
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 - Parallelepiped.
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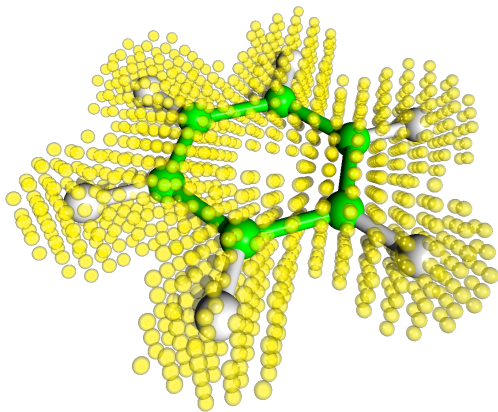
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Example: benzene molecule in minimal box



Real-space grid characteristics

- Natural boundary conditions for different problems:
zero, one, two, or three periodic dimensions for molecules, wires, sheets, and solids.
- Representation used for calculating $V_{xc}[\rho]$ even with other bases.
- Can systematically improve discretization quality:
 - Increase the spacing (the resulting plane waves cutoff)
 - Increase the basis size (the number of plane waves)
- Orthogonal “basis set”.
- Unbiased, independent of atomic positions (no Pulay forces).
- Problems:
 - Lack of translational invariance (e.g. box effect)
 - Lack of rotational invariance
 - Lack of spherical symmetry (basis set)

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Derivatives

- **Derivative at a point: sum over neighboring points.**
- The coefficients c_{ij} depend on the mesh and number of points used: *the stencil*.
- General form for Laplacian:

$$\nabla^2 f(n_x h, n_y h) = \sum_i^n \sum_j^n \frac{c_{ij}}{h} f(n_x h + ih, n_y h + jh)$$

- Compare definition of derivative:

$$f'(x_0) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x_0 + h) - f(x_0)}{\Delta x}$$

- More points \rightarrow more precision.
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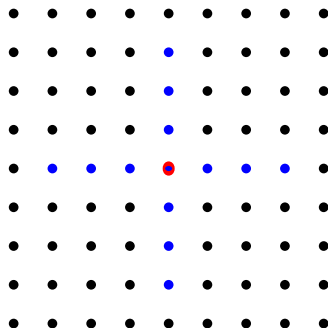
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Example of stencil for Laplacian

Symmetric third-order in 2D.



Trapezoidal rule

$$\int f(x, y) dx dy = h^2 \sum_{ij} f(ih, jh)$$

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Ground-state calculations

- What we want to solve:

Kohn-Sham equations

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- Solve for eigenstates at fixed V_{eff} , then update ρ and V_{eff} .

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Discretization of the Hamiltonian

- For the Laplacian (kinetic energy) we use finite differences.
- The local part of the potential can be applied directly.
- The non-local potential is applied in a small spherical grid around the atoms.
- The Hamiltonian becomes a finite-size matrix.

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Rayleigh-Ritz quotient

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Absorption spectra from time-propagation

- Start from the ground state, with a 'kick.'

Time-dependent potential

$$V(\mathbf{r}, t) = \kappa \delta(t) \quad \Rightarrow \quad \psi \rightarrow \psi e^{i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r}}$$

- Time-propagate and get the dipole $d(t)$ as a function of time.

$$d(t) = \frac{1}{2} \langle \psi(t) | \mathbf{r} | \psi(t) \rangle$$

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- Fortran 95 and C (+ some Perl utilities).
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Pulpo a feira (pulpo a la gallega)

The origin of the name Octopus. (Recipe available in code.)



- Ground-state DFT.
- Time-propagation.
- Molecular dynamics (Ehrenfest, Born-Oppenheimer).
- Casida linear response.
- Sternheimer linear response for electromagnetic response, phonons, Van der Waals coefficients.
- Optimal control theory.
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Parallelization

- Parallelization in domains:

- Each processor handles points in a region of space.
- Points in the boundaries of each region must be copied to other nodes.
- Integrals are performed locally and summed over all domains.
- Efficient and scalable scheme.

- Parallelization in states:

Each processor handles a group of states.

Efficient scheme for time-propagation.

Also applicable for the ground state.

- Parallelization in k-points/spin.
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- Scales to thousands of processors.

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