Quantum Theory of Materials

Introduction to Density Functional Theory and its Computational Challenges

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In Quantum Chemistry and Material Science the objective is to derive

chemical and physical properties of complex materials (total energy, energy

derivatives respect to nuclei positions, band energy gaps, conductivity, etc..).

This goal is pursued through the investigation of the electronic structure and

its achievement can be very challenging.

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- 2 Many-electron problem
- 3 Kohn-Sham scheme and DFT
- Methods overview
- Full-Potential Linearized Augmented Plane-Wave Method (FLAPW)
 - Introduction to reverse simulation
 - 7 Sequences of Eigenproblems
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The Schröndinger Equation

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 $\hat{H} \psi(\mathbf{x}) = \left(-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m}\nabla^2 + V(\mathbf{x})\right)\psi(\mathbf{x}) = E \psi(\mathbf{x})$

 $\hat{H} =$ Hamiltonian of a physical system:

- Hermitian operator
- In stationary cases it represents the (constant) energy of the system
- It is composed of a Kinetic $\left(-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m}\nabla^2\right)$ and a Potential $(V(\mathbf{x}))$ energy term.

 $\psi(\mathbf{x}) = Wavefunction:$

- one-dimensional complex value function of many variables
- It is interpreted as probability amplitude so that its square is a density distribution $\Rightarrow \int |\psi(x)|^2 dx = 1$
- It generally depends on a set of discrete countable numbers (for bounded systems)

general form and properties

$$\hat{H} \psi(\mathbf{x}) = \left(-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m}\nabla^2 + V(\mathbf{x})\right)\psi(\mathbf{x}) = E \psi(\mathbf{x})$$

- E =Energy eigenvalues:
 - the time-independent Schrödinger equation is nothing else than an operatorial eigenvalue equation
 - *E* as well as ψ depend generically on a set of discrete numbers (for bounded systems)
 - The set of discrete numbers are called quantum numbers and are the consequence of the so-called first quantization

$$[\mathbf{x},\mathbf{k}] = \mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{k} - \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x} = i\hbar \quad ; \quad \mathbf{k} = i\hbar\nabla$$

Example 1: one dimensional infinite well

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$$V(x) = \begin{cases} \infty & x < 0 \text{ and } x > L \\ 0 & 0 \le x \le L \end{cases} \implies -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{d^2 \Psi(x)}{dx^2} = E \Psi(x)$$

Wave equation generic solution
$$\Psi(x) = A \sin(k x) + B \cos(k x)$$

$$k^2 = \frac{2m E}{\hbar^2}$$

$$\Psi(0) = \Psi(L) = 0$$

Solution after boundary
conditions
$$\Psi_n(x) = \sqrt{\frac{2}{L}} \sin\left(\frac{n \pi x}{L}\right)$$

$$E_n = \frac{n^2 \pi^2 \hbar^2}{2m L^2}$$

There are an infinite countable number of solutions parametrized by $n \in \mathbb{N}$

- 2 Wavefunctions with different quantum numbers are othogonal $\int \psi_m^* \psi_n = \delta_{mn}$
- Each ψ_n has n-1 nodes \Rightarrow for $n \gg 1 \psi_n$ oscillate very wildly
- \bigcirc n = 1 solution is the the so-called ground state: most symmetric and stable

The (time-independent) Schrödinger equation Example 2: Hydrogen atom

$$V(\mathbf{r}) = -\frac{e^2}{4\pi \,\varepsilon_0 r} \quad \Rightarrow \quad -\frac{\hbar^2}{2\mu} \frac{1}{r^2 \sin\theta} \left[\sin\theta \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left(r^2 \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \left(\sin\theta \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \right) + \frac{1}{\sin\theta} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \phi^2} \right] \psi(r,\theta,\phi) + \frac{e^2}{4\pi \,\varepsilon_0 r} \psi(r,\theta,\phi) = E \,\psi(r,\theta,\phi)$$

Due to spherical potential depending only on radial coordinate the solution is separable

$$\Psi(r,\theta,\phi) = R(r)Y(\theta,\phi)$$

Stability of the atom requires quantization of angular momentum \Longrightarrow $L^2 = \ell(\ell+1)\hbar^2$

$$R_{n\ell}(r) = r^{\ell} L_{n-\ell-1} \ e^{-\frac{r}{n}} \quad ; \quad Y_{\ell m}(\theta, \phi) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \left[\frac{2\ell+1}{2} \frac{(\ell-m)!}{(\ell+m)!} \right]^{\frac{1}{2}} P_{\ell m} \ e^{im\phi}$$

 $L_{n-\ell-1}$ associated Laguerre polynomials and $P_{\ell m}$ associated Legendre polynomials

$$E_n = -\frac{\mu e^4}{8\epsilon_0^2 \hbar^2 n^2} ; \quad n = 1, 2, \dots ; \quad \ell = 1, 2, \dots, n-1 ; \quad m = -\ell, \dots, 0, \dots, \ell$$

- $\psi_{n\ell m}(r, \theta, \phi) = R_{n\ell}(r)Y_{\ell m}(\theta, \phi)$ are called orbitals
- Orbitals with $\ell=0$ have spherical symmetry all the others have, at best, cylindrical symmetry
- High quantum numbers orbitals have many "lobes" \rightarrow oscillate wildly closer to r
- Relativistic effects, spin-orbit interactions, etc., force E to be dependent also on ℓ
- For each orbital you can accomodate two opposite spins (Pauli's principle): one ↑ and one ↓
- Again the ground state is the most symmetric and stable state
- The spin orbitals constitute an orthogonal complete set of wavefunctions
- Open shells and closed shells: sistematics of orbitals (core vs valence orbitals, s,p,d,...)

Example 2: Hydrogen atom



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Atoms, molecules and solids are composed of many interacting electrons and nuclei

$$\hat{H}_{tot} = \sum_{i} \frac{\mathbf{p}_{i}^{2}}{2m} - \sum_{i,I} \frac{z_{I} e^{2}}{|\mathbf{r}_{i} - \mathbf{R}_{I}|} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i \neq j} \frac{e^{2}}{|\mathbf{r}_{i} - \mathbf{r}_{j}|} + \sum_{I} \frac{\mathbf{P}_{I}^{2}}{2M_{I}} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{I \neq j} \frac{z_{I} z_{J} e^{2}}{|\mathbf{R}_{I} - \mathbf{R}_{I}|}$$

- First 3 terms consitutte the so-called electronic Hamiltonian last two terms describe nuclei dynamics
- 1st and 4th term represent the kinetic energy of electrons and nuclei respectively $(\mathbf{p} = i\hbar\nabla)$
- 2nd term describes the Coulomb potential well experienced by electrons
- 3rd and 5th terms describe repulsion (due to same charge) between electrons and nuclei respectively

Note: Dynamics of electrons and nuclei are somewhat separated if it wasn't for the presence of the Coulomb potential

Consideration: Since $M_I \gg m_i \Rightarrow K_i \gg K_I$, it is possible to decouple the dynamics of fast variables (electrons) from the one of slow variables (nuclei)

This is at the base of the so-called adiabatic procedure also known as

Born-Oppenheimer approximation (1927)

- Nuclei are supposed fixed in a selected spatial configuration
- Attention is only focused on electronic eigenvalues as functions of the chosen nuclear coordinates
- The approximation introduces the concept of adiabatic potential-energy surfaces

Note: Usually the main interest is in the *ground adiabatic sheet*. This is usually non-degenerate and has a minimum \Rightarrow "fixed" lattice leading to an adiabatic or electronic Hamiltonian

$$\hat{H}_{\rm el} = -\sum_{i} \frac{\hbar^2 \nabla_i^2}{2m} - \sum_{i,I} \frac{z_I \ e^2}{|\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{R}_I|} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i \neq j} \frac{e^2}{|\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_j|}$$

Electronic Schrödinger Equation

$$\hat{H}_{el} \Psi(\mathbf{r}_1; \boldsymbol{\sigma}_1, \mathbf{r}_2; \boldsymbol{\sigma}_2, \dots, \mathbf{r}_N; \boldsymbol{\sigma}_N) = E \Psi(\mathbf{r}_1; \boldsymbol{\sigma}_1, \mathbf{r}_2; \boldsymbol{\sigma}_2, \dots, \mathbf{r}_N; \boldsymbol{\sigma}_N)$$

 $\Psi: \left(\mathbb{R}^3 \times \{\pm\frac{1}{2}\}\right)^N \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$ high-dimensional anti-symmetric function.

One electron approximation:

Hartree-Fock (occupied states only)

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 $\left. \begin{array}{c} \text{Configuration Interaction (CI)} \\ \text{Coupled Clusters (CC)} \end{array} \right\} \longleftarrow (\text{incl. exited states}) \text{ Quantum Chemistry} \end{array} \right\}$

Electron density:

- Ground state Density Functional Theory (DFT)
- Nuclei dynamics Molecular Dynamics (MD)

- Identical particles
- Antisymmetry for interchange of coordinates (spin included)
- Orthonormal one-particle functions base

$$\Psi(\mathbf{r}_1; \boldsymbol{\sigma}_1, \mathbf{r}_2; \boldsymbol{\sigma}_2, \dots, \mathbf{r}_N; \boldsymbol{\sigma}_N) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N!}} \begin{vmatrix} \psi_1(\mathbf{r}_1; \boldsymbol{\sigma}_1) & \psi_1(\mathbf{r}_2; \boldsymbol{\sigma}_2) & \dots & \psi_1(\mathbf{r}_N; \boldsymbol{\sigma}_N) \\ \psi_2(\mathbf{r}_1; \boldsymbol{\sigma}_1) & \psi_2(\mathbf{r}_2; \boldsymbol{\sigma}_2) & \dots & \psi_2(\mathbf{r}_N; \boldsymbol{\sigma}_N) \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ \psi_N(\mathbf{r}_1; \boldsymbol{\sigma}_1) & \psi_N(\mathbf{r}_2; \boldsymbol{\sigma}_2) & \dots & \psi_N(\mathbf{r}_N; \boldsymbol{\sigma}_N) \end{vmatrix}$$

Hartree self-consistent approximation: Each electron moves in the effective field corresponding to the Coulomb potential generated by the charge distribution of all the other N-1 electrons

$$V_{\rm H}(\mathbf{r}) = \int \rho(\mathbf{r}') \frac{e^2}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|} \quad ; \quad \rho(\mathbf{r}) = -e \sum_{j}^{(occ)} \psi_j^*(\mathbf{r}) \psi_j(\mathbf{r}) (= \text{charge density})$$

The one-electron spin orbitals making up Ψ , satisfy the Hartree equation

$$\left[\frac{\mathbf{p}^2}{2m} - \frac{z \ e^2}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{R}|} + V_{\rm H}(\mathbf{r})\right] \psi_i = \varepsilon_i \psi_i$$

Intro to Many-electron problem

Basic Hartree-Fock: continued

$$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{\mathbf{p}^{2}}{2m} + V_{\text{nucl}}(\mathbf{r}) + V_{\text{H}}(\mathbf{r}) \end{bmatrix} \psi_{i} = \varepsilon_{i} \psi_{i}; \quad \rho(\mathbf{r}) = -e \sum_{j \neq i}^{(occ)} \psi_{j}^{*}(\mathbf{r}) \psi_{j}(\mathbf{r}); \quad V_{\text{H}}(\mathbf{r}) = \int \rho(\mathbf{r}') \frac{e^{2}}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|}$$
$$\underbrace{\psi_{1}, \psi_{2}, \dots, \psi_{N}}_{\uparrow \text{ No}} \implies \qquad \boxed{\rho(\mathbf{r})} \longrightarrow \qquad \underbrace{\int \rho(\mathbf{r}') \frac{e^{2}}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|}}_{\downarrow}$$
$$\underbrace{\text{END}} \quad \underbrace{\text{Yes}}_{\leftarrow} \qquad \boxed{\text{Converged?}} \leftarrow \qquad \underbrace{\psi_{1}', \psi_{2}', \dots, \psi_{N}'}_{\downarrow}$$

Cycles are *repeated* up to self-consistency of input and output functions and potentials

Because of the effective Hartree potential $V_{\rm H}$ this system is also referred to as "non-interacting"

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We split the adiabatic Hamiltonian in internal and external terms

$$\hat{H}_{\text{el}} = \hat{H}_{\text{int}} + V_{\text{ext}} \quad \Leftarrow \quad \begin{cases} \hat{H}_{\text{int}} = K + V_{\text{ee}} = \sum_{i} \frac{\mathbf{p}_{i}^{2}}{2m} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i \neq j} \frac{e^{2}}{|\mathbf{r}_{i} - \mathbf{r}_{j}|} \\ V_{\text{ext}} = \sum_{i} \upsilon_{\text{ext}}(\mathbf{r}) = -\sum_{i} \sum_{l} \frac{z_{l} e^{2}}{|\mathbf{r}_{i} - \mathbf{R}_{l}|} \end{cases}$$

HK Theorem statement (1964)

There is one-to-one correspondence between the ground-state density $n_0(\mathbf{r})$ of a *N* electron system and the external potential acting on it. $n_0(\mathbf{r})$ is then said to be v-representable

i)
$$n_0(\mathbf{r}) \iff v_{\text{ext}}(\mathbf{r})$$

ii)
$$\mathcal{E}_{HK}[n, v_{ext}] = \mathcal{F}_{HK}[n] + \int v_{ext}(\mathbf{r})n(\mathbf{r})$$

iii)
$$E_0 = \min_n \mathcal{E}_{HK}[n, v_{ext}]$$

vi) $K[n] + V_{ee}[n] = \mathcal{F}_{HK}[n]$

 $n_0(\mathbf{r})$ is the ground state density

unique functional

minimum at the exact ground state density

universal (v-independent)

Kohn-Sham scheme and DFT

Exact density functional theory



- Any property of a system of many interacting particles can be viewed as a functional of $n_0(\mathbf{r})$
- The H-K proves the existence of such functionals
- H-K does not provide any method to compute such functionals exactly
- In many cases these are non-local functionals depending simultaneously upon $n_0(\mathbf{r})$ at different positions \mathbf{r}
- Even if $\mathcal{F}_{\mathrm{HK}}[n]$ is a universal functional there is no known approach that allows to go, for example, from density to kinetic energy

H-K theorem by itself does not provide an **operative** way to use density functional theory in practical problem

K-S ansatz (1965)

Interactive υ -representable charge density $n_0(\mathbf{r})$ are also non-interactive υ -representable.

In other words, for each interactive system described by the charge density $n_0(\mathbf{r})$, it exists an auxiliary non-interactive system described by the same charge density.

Interacting system

Non-interacting system

$$V_{\rm ee} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i \neq j} \frac{e^2}{|\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_j|} \quad \iff$$

$$V_{\rm H} = \int n_0(\mathbf{r}') \frac{e^2}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|}$$

The Kohn-Sham scheme allows for a practical application of the Hohenberg-Kohn theorem through a set of non-linear coupled equations

Interacting system

Non-interacting system

 $\mathcal{E}_{\mathrm{HK}}[n] = \mathcal{F}_{\mathrm{HK}}[n] + \int \upsilon_{\mathrm{ext}}([n], \mathbf{r}) n(\mathbf{r}) \quad \Longleftrightarrow \quad \mathcal{E}_{\mathrm{0}}[n] = K_{\mathrm{0}}[n] + \int \upsilon_{\mathrm{ext}}([n], \mathbf{r}) n(\mathbf{r}) + E_{\mathrm{H}}[n] + E_{\mathrm{xc}}[n]$

The K-S equations

• $\upsilon_0([n], \mathbf{r}) = \upsilon_{\text{ext}}(\mathbf{r}) + \int \upsilon_{\text{H}}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}') n(\mathbf{r}) + \upsilon_{\text{xc}}([n], \mathbf{r})$

$$\widehat{H}_{\mathrm{KS}}\psi_i(\mathbf{r}) = \left(-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m}\nabla^2 + \upsilon_0(\mathbf{r})\right)\psi_i(\mathbf{r}) = \varepsilon_i\psi_i(\mathbf{r}); \quad \varepsilon_1 \leqslant \varepsilon_2 \leqslant \dots$$

$$n_0(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_{i}^{N_c} |\Psi_i(\mathbf{r})|^2$$

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \sum_{i} |\Psi_i(\mathbf{r})|^2 = \frac{\delta E_{\rm xc}[n]}{\delta E_{\rm xc}[n]}$$

Exchange potential

$$\begin{cases} E_{\mathrm{xc}}[n] = \mathcal{F}_{\mathrm{HK}}[n] - \left(\frac{1}{2}\int n(\mathbf{r}')\upsilon_{\mathrm{H}}(\mathbf{r},\mathbf{r}')n(\mathbf{r}) + K_{0}[n]\right) \end{cases}$$

- The kinetic energy $K_0[n]$ is now **computable** directly from the orbital functions $\psi_i(\mathbf{r})$
- The ground state energy now can be *operatively* computed from $\mathcal{E}_0[n]$

$$E_0 = \mathcal{E}_0[n_0] = \sum_{i=1}^{N_e} \varepsilon_i - \frac{1}{2} \int n_0(\mathbf{r}') \upsilon_{\rm H}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}') n_0(\mathbf{r}) + E_{\rm xc}[n_0] - \int \upsilon_{\rm xc}([n], \mathbf{r}) n_0(\mathbf{r})$$

- All the complex many-body contributions are now incorporated in an *exchange-correlation functional of the density*
- *E*_{xc}[*n*] can be reasonably approximated as a local or nearly local functional of the charge density
- Many approximations LDA, GGA, OEP, EXX, Hybrid, etc.

Conceptually similar to the self-consistent cycle of Hartree-Fock methods



In practice this iterative cycle is much more computationally challenging.

1 Educated guess for $n_{\text{start}}(\mathbf{r})$. For example in molecular or solid state systems it is usually constructed from an opportunely tuned sum of atomic densities

$$n_{\text{start}}(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_{\alpha} n_{\alpha}(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{R}_{\alpha}); \quad \alpha = \text{nuclei index}$$

- 2 Each component of $\upsilon_0([\mathit{n}], r)$ is computed separately and poses a different numerical problem.
 - The external potential can be a sum of atomic potentials $v_{ext}(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_{\alpha} v_{\alpha}(\mathbf{r} \mathbf{R}_{\alpha})$. In many cases the use of the Coulomb potential is unfeasible \longrightarrow Pseudo-potentials
 - Hartree potential is computed either by direct integration (atomic cases) or by solving the associated Poisson equation

$$\nabla^2 \upsilon_{\rm H}(\mathbf{r}) = -4\pi n(\mathbf{r})$$

• The xc potential is formally a functional derivative of the *E*_{xc}[*n*] functional. Hundreds of approximate xc functional have appeared in the last 30 years

- **3** The goal of solving the KS equations is to find the lowest N_e eigenstates of the Hamiltonian \hat{H}_{KS} .
 - $\bullet\,$ For atomistic systems it is reduced to a one-dimensional equation $\rightarrow\,$ efficient integration method
 - For all the other cases a basis set is used leading to the diagonalization of $\hat{H}_{\rm KS}$. Such an operation makes use of different methods depending on the sparsity of the Hamiltonian as well as the size of the basis set.
- 4 Convergence: the two most common methods are based on the difference of total energies or densities between iterations i and i 1

$$\left| E_{0}^{(i)} - E_{0}^{(i-1)}
ight| < \eta_{E} \quad ext{or} \quad \left| n_{0}^{(i)} - n_{0}^{(i-1)}
ight| < \eta_{n}$$

If the criterium has not been fulfilled, the cycle is started with a new density. Usually, to avoid instabilities, it is a mix of new and old density.

- Simplest scheme linear mixing $n_0^{(i+1)} = \beta n' + (1-\beta)n_0^{(i)}$
- More sophisticated schemes use extrapolation of several iterations and more complex methods

Kohn-Sham scheme and DFT

The process of convergence



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The different methods stem from the fact that the Kohn-Sham equations must be "discretized" before they can be numerically solved

- Plane Waves: uses plane wave basis expansions and a variety of different ways to express v_{ext}[n]
- Localized orbitals: uses specialized functions such as exponential or Gaussian orbitals
- Real-Space methods: does not use an explicit basis but discretizes the equations in real space

Plane wave expansions of the K-S eq. take advantage of the **periodicity** of the crystal. In the case of one-dimensional Schrödinger equation:

$$\hat{H}\psi(x) = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m}\frac{d^2\psi(x)}{d\psi^2(x)} + V(x)\psi(x) = E \ \psi(x); \quad V(x) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{+\infty} V_n \ e^{ih_n x}; \quad h_n = \frac{2\pi n}{a}$$

Applying the Hamiltonian to a normalized plane wave $W_k(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{L}}e^{ikx}$

$$\hat{H}W_k(x) \subset \mathbf{S}_k \equiv \{W_k(x), W_{k+h_1}(x), W_{k-h_1}(x), W_{k+h_2}(x), W_{k-h_2}(x), \dots\}$$

A generic wavefunction $\psi(x)$ can be obtained diagonalizing \hat{H} on the subspace S_k and expressed as a linear combination

$$\psi_k(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{L}} \sum_n c_n(k) e^{i(k+h_n)x} \quad ; \quad \psi_k(x+ma) = e^{ikma} \ \psi_k(x)$$
$$k \in \mathbf{BZ} \equiv \left\{ k : -\frac{\pi}{a} < k \le \frac{\pi}{a} \right\} \qquad \text{First Brillouin Zone}$$

- $\Psi_k(x) = u_k(x) e^{ikx}$ is a travelling wave function modulated, on the microscopic scale by an appropriate function with lattice periodicity
- in general, the energy spectrum E(k) consists of allowed regions separated by energy gaps. These are usually referred to as **Energy Bands**
- In one dimension it is possible to demonstrate that these bands do not cross eachother
- In solids these bands can be quite completed

Example of periodic array of quantum wells (Kronig-Penney model)

Grosso and Parravicini



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In 3D the Bloch theorem is easily generalized

$$\phi_k(x) = e^{i\mathbf{k}\mathbf{r}} \sum_{\mathbf{G}} c_{\mathbf{k},\mathbf{v}}(\mathbf{G}) e^{i\mathbf{G}\mathbf{r}} \quad ; \quad \begin{array}{l} \mathbf{G} = \text{reciprocal lattice vector} \\ \mathbf{v} = \text{energy band index} \end{array}$$

All the quantities of interest are computed in Fourier space using FFT. There are only two parameters that need to be fine-tuned for every calculations:

- The Brillouin zone sampling (using space group lattice and special points)
- $\bullet\,$ Cut-off G_{max} in order to truncate the sums over reciprocal lattice vectors G
- 1 Density the $f(\varepsilon_{k,\nu})$ denotes the occupation numbers for the K-S energies $\varepsilon_{k,\nu}$

$$n(\mathbf{G}) = \sum_{\mathbf{k},\mathbf{v}} \sum_{\mathbf{G}'} f(\mathbf{\epsilon}_{\mathbf{k},\mathbf{v}}) \ c^*_{\mathbf{k},\mathbf{v}}(\mathbf{G}' - \mathbf{G}) \ c_{\mathbf{k},\mathbf{v}}(\mathbf{G})$$

2 The Kinetic energy

$$K = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{v}} \sum_{\mathbf{G}} f(\mathbf{\varepsilon}_{\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{v}}) |c_{\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{v}}(\mathbf{G})|^2 |\mathbf{k} + \mathbf{G}|^2$$

- **3** The K-S potential $v_0[n]$
 - Calculating the Hartree υ_H , the external potential υ_{ext} and the nuclei interaction presents some issues due the divergence of the potential at $G = 0 \Rightarrow$ however the sum of three divergences is a constant (Ewald)
 - Valence orbitals of high atomic number *z* atoms oscillates wildly (remember 1D case) in the vicinity of the atomic nucleus due to orthogonalization respect to inner core orbitals ⇒ large numbers of plane waves required!
 - Description of atom based only on valence orbitals ⇒ introduction of an effective potential Pseudo-potential that takes into account the nuclei as well as the core electrons.

Finally the K-S equations become

$$\sum_{\mathbf{G}'} \hat{H}_{\mathbf{G},\mathbf{G}'}(\mathbf{k}) \ c_{\mathbf{k},\mathbf{v}}(\mathbf{G}') = \varepsilon_{\mathbf{k},\mathbf{v}} \ c_{\mathbf{k},\mathbf{v}}(\mathbf{G})$$

$$\hat{H}_{\mathbf{G},\mathbf{G}'}(\mathbf{k}) = \frac{1}{2} \left| \mathbf{k} + \mathbf{G} \right|^2 \delta_{\mathbf{G},\mathbf{G}'} + \upsilon_{\text{ext}}^{\text{eff}}(\mathbf{k} + \mathbf{G}, \mathbf{k} + \mathbf{G}') + \upsilon_{\text{H}}(\mathbf{G} - \mathbf{G}') + \upsilon_{\text{xc}}(\mathbf{G} - \mathbf{G}')$$

Eigenvalue equation $Ax = \lambda x$ where $A = \hat{H}$, $x = c_{k,v}$, and $\lambda = \varepsilon_{k,v}$.

- The Laplacian term (kinetic energy) of the Hamiltonian is represented by a diagonal matrix
- The potential v₀[n] gives rise to a dense matrix. Its computation can be a very expensive task.
- For each vector **k** there is an independent eigenvalue equation
- Each FFT performed costs *q* log *q* operation where *q* is the number of plane waves. For large *q* this can be costly.
- The most costly operation is the diagonalization, contributing with a G_{max}^3 cost.
- The plane wave expansion is quite effective for periodic systems. For nonperiodic systems such as clusters, liquids can be combined with supercell methods that repeat local configuration to impose periodicity.

In this approach to each atom labeled by α is associated a set of functions which combine radial functions with spherical harmonics

$$\psi^{\alpha}_{n\ell m}(\mathbf{r}) = \phi^{\alpha}_{n\ell}(\mathbf{r}_{\alpha}) Y_{\ell m}(\hat{\mathbf{r}}_{\alpha}) \quad ; \quad \mathbf{r}_{\alpha} = \mathbf{r} - \mathbf{R}_{\alpha}$$

The radial functions $\phi^{\alpha}_{n\ell}(\mathbf{r}_{\alpha})$ are the solution of 1D equation. They can be exponentials, Gaussians or any set of localized functions.

$$\left[-\frac{1}{2}\frac{d^2}{dr^2}-\frac{1}{r}\frac{d}{dr}+\frac{\ell(\ell+1)}{2r^2}+\upsilon_{\rm KS}\right]\phi^{\alpha}_{n\ell}(\mathbf{r}_{\alpha})=\varepsilon_{n\ell}\phi^{\alpha}_{n\ell}(\mathbf{r}_{\alpha})$$

Gaussians, for example:

- yield analytical matrix elements for $\hat{H}_{\rm KS}$ provided also the potential are expanded in terms of Gaussians
- basis set size produces much smaller matrices than plane wave
- requires many indices to label state, orbitals and basis set increasing dramatically the "bookkeeping" operations
- convergence is not controlled by a single parameter; if atoms in a solid are slightly moved, the basis should be re-optimized for the new geometry

Functions $\psi_{k\nu}(\mathbf{r})$ are not expanded in a basis set but just sampled on a real-space mesh. This property overcomes many complications arising from non-periodic physical systems

1 Kinetic energy results from the discretization of the Laplacian using a finite M-order rule

$$\nabla^2 \Psi_{\mathbf{k}\nu}(\mathbf{r}) \Big|_{\mathbf{r}=(x_i, y_j, z_k)} = \sum_{n_x=-M}^M C_{n_x} \Psi_{\mathbf{k}\nu}(x_i + n_x a, y_j, z_k) + (\text{same for } y_j \text{ and } z_k) + O(a^{2M+2})$$

2 The potential term $v_0[n]$ is mostly diagonal.

When the pseudo-potential and/or a non-simple xc potential are used there is the possibility of non-local term. In discrete form the non-local contribution becomes a sum of rank-one updates over all atoms:

$$\sum_{\alpha,\ell,m} d_{\alpha,\ell,m} \mathbf{U}_{\alpha,\ell,m} \mathbf{U}_{\alpha,\ell,m}^T ; \quad \mathbf{U}_{\alpha,\ell,m} = \text{sparse vectors}$$

The υ_H is usually obtained by efficiently by solving Poisson eq. in Fourier space and transforming back (or by multi-grid techniques)

The main advantages of the real-space methods is the simplicity and intuitiveness of the whole procedure. There are also some drawbacks

- Higher order finite differences can improve convergence
- The matrix $\hat{H}_{\rm KS}$ is usually bigger than in the plane waves method but quite sparse. Consequently the solution of the eigenvalue problem is achieved through iterative methods.
- The is no need to store the Hamiltonian explicitly as a sparse matrix
- The convergence depends only on one parameter: the grid spacing
- $\bullet\,$ most of the implementations are not variational \rightarrow computed ground energy may be lower than true energy
- $\bullet\,$ it breaks translational symmetry \rightarrow artificial lifting of some energy degeneracies
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Lapw

$$\begin{split} \Psi_{\mathbf{k},\mathbf{v}}(\mathbf{r}) &= \sum_{|\mathbf{G}+\mathbf{k}| \leq \mathbf{G}_{max}} c_{\mathbf{k},\mathbf{v}}^{\mathbf{G}} \phi_{\mathbf{G}}(\mathbf{k},\mathbf{r}) & \mathbf{k} & \text{Bloch vector} \\ \mathbf{v} & \text{band index} \end{split} \\ \phi_{\mathbf{G}}(\mathbf{k},\mathbf{r}) &= \begin{cases} e^{i(\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{G})\mathbf{r}} & \text{Interstitial (I)} \\ \sum_{\ell,m} \left[a_{\ell m}^{\alpha,\mathbf{G}}(\mathbf{k}) u_{\ell}^{\alpha}(r) + b_{\ell m}^{\alpha,\mathbf{G}}(\mathbf{k}) \dot{u}_{\ell}^{\alpha}(r) \right] Y_{\ell m}(\hat{\mathbf{r}}_{\alpha}) & \text{Muffin Tin} \end{cases} \end{split}$$



boundary conditions

Continuity of wavefunction and its derivative at MT boundary ψ $a_{\ell m}^{lpha,\mathbf{G}}(\mathbf{k})$ and $b_{\ell m}^{lpha,\mathbf{G}}(\mathbf{k})$ The radial functions $u_{\ell}^{\alpha}(r)$ are the solutions of the atomic Schrödinger equations where the potential retains only the spherical part.

$$\hat{H}_{\rm sph}^{\alpha} u_{\ell}^{\alpha}(r) = \left[-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial r^2} + \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{\ell(\ell+1)}{r^2} + \upsilon_{\rm sph}^{\alpha}(r) - \right] r \ u_{\ell}^{\alpha}(r) = E_{\ell} u_{\ell}^{\alpha}(r)$$

where the \dot{u} can be determined from the energy derivative of the Schrödinger-like equation

$$\hat{H}^{\alpha}_{\rm sph}\dot{u}^{\alpha}_{\ell} = E_{\ell}\dot{u}^{\alpha}_{\ell} + u^{\alpha}_{\ell}$$

- E_{ℓ} is a parameter and it is predetermined by optimization
- $\bullet\,$ like the plane wave case there is a cut-off G_{max} (typically $\sim 3.5-4.0)$
- $\bullet\,$ unlike the plane waves there is also a cut-off (for open-shell atoms) on ℓ_{max} (tipically \sim 8)
- $\bullet\,$ unlike the plane waves this set of basis functions is overcomplete $\Rightarrow\,$ it is NOT an orthogonal set
- it is one of the most accurate implementation of ab initio methods

The Kohn-Sham equations receive contributes from the Interstitial as well as the Muffin-Tin regions. These can be treated separately

$$\hat{H}_{\mathbf{G}\mathbf{G}'}^{\mathrm{MT}} + \hat{H}_{\mathbf{G}\mathbf{G}'}^{\mathrm{I}}$$

Both the density and the K-S potential are expanded in the same fashion as the wave functions

$$\upsilon_{\rm KS}(\mathbf{r}) = \begin{cases} \Sigma_{\rm G} \upsilon_{\rm I}^{\rm G} e^{i\mathbf{G}\mathbf{r}} & \\ \sum_{\ell m} \upsilon_{\rm MT}^{\ell m}(r) Y_{\ell m}(\hat{\mathbf{r}}_{\alpha}) & n(\mathbf{r}) = \begin{cases} \Sigma_{\rm G} n_{\rm I}^{\rm G} e^{i\mathbf{G}\mathbf{r}} & \text{Interstitial} \\ \sum_{\ell m} n_{\rm MT}^{\ell m}(r) Y_{\ell m}(\hat{\mathbf{r}}_{\alpha}) & \text{MT} \end{cases}$$

- 1 Kinetic energy for Interstitial and MT give diagonal matrix entries
- 2 The spherical part of the potential, inside MT, are also diagonal by construction. The non-spherical part (like υ_H) are more complicate to compute (Pseudo-charge method) and in general result in a dense matrix.

3 In the FLAPW framework the Kohn-Sham equations translate to generalized eigenvalue equations.

Inserting the LAPW expansion in the equations

$$\phi^*_G(\mathbf{k},\mathbf{r})\sum_{G'}\hat{\mathcal{H}}_{KS}\; c^{G'}_{\mathbf{k},\mathbf{v}}\; \phi_{G'}(\mathbf{k},\mathbf{r}) = \lambda_{\mathbf{k}\mathbf{v}}\; \phi^*_G(\mathbf{k},\mathbf{r})\sum_{G'}c^{G'}_{\mathbf{k},\mathbf{v}}\; \phi_{G'}(\mathbf{k},\mathbf{r}),$$

defining the matrix entries for the left and right hand side respectively as Hamiltonian $A(\mathbf{k})$ and overlap matrices $B(\mathbf{k})$

$$\{A(\mathbf{k}), B(\mathbf{k})\} = \sum_{\alpha} \int \phi_{\mathbf{G}}^*(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{r}) \{\hat{H}_{\mathbf{KS}}, \hat{\mathbb{1}}\} \phi_{\mathbf{G}'}(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{r})$$

and remebering that the basis set is overcomplete ($\Rightarrow B \neq \text{diag}$)

$$\sum_{\mathbf{G}'} A_{\mathbf{G}\mathbf{G}'}(\mathbf{k}) \ c_{\mathbf{k}\nu}^{\mathbf{G}'} = \lambda_{\mathbf{k}\nu} \sum_{\mathbf{G}'} B_{\mathbf{G}\mathbf{G}'}(\mathbf{k}) c_{\mathbf{k}\nu}^{\mathbf{G}'}$$

Introduction to FLAPW Convergence and mixing

4 The started density is constructed from a superposition of atomic densities. The process of minimization of the energy functional *E*₀ determines a fix-point map

$$E_0 = \min_n \mathcal{E}_{\text{KS}}[n, v_{\text{ext}}] \implies n^{(i+1)} = F\{n^{(i)}\}$$

In order to find the fixed point of F several methods can be used

- linear mixing \rightarrow linear convergence
- $\bullet\,$ Newton-Rapshon methods \rightarrow quadratic convergence, Jocobian computationally demanding
- Quasi-Newton methods \rightarrow superlinear convergence, local Jacobian



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FLAPW self-consistent cycle



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The "self-made man" approach

Mathematical Model \Longrightarrow Algorithmic Structure \Longrightarrow Simulations \Longrightarrow Physics

- Math ⇒ Algorithm Often a sort of "mechanical" one-way process with little room for optimization;
- Algorithm ⇒ Sim The simulation is considered an end product, the successful translation of an algorithm into a series of machine accessible operations resulting in the computation of meaningful physical quantities;
- Math ⇒ Sim The mathematical model and the simulation are considered as practically disjoint.



An Example: Sequences of eigenproblems in Density Functional Theory

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Initialization: At every iteration of the cycle all numerical quantities are entirely re-computed

- A new set of basis functions is assembled at each iteration cycle (Math $\not\leftarrow$ Sim)
- The entries of the matrices A and B are re-initialized at each iteration cycle (Algorithm \notin Sim)

Eigenproblems: Each eigenproblem $P^{(i)} : A^{(i)}x = \lambda B^{(i)}x$ at iteration *i* is solved in total independence from the eigenproblem $P^{(i-1)}$ of the previous iteration (Algorithm \notin Sim)

Convergence: Starting with a electron density close enough to the one minimizing the energy E_0 it is likely to reach convergence within few tens of iterations. Unfortunately there is no general theorem establishing the converging conditions

- $|n'(\mathbf{r}) n(\mathbf{r})|$ undergo relatively small decreasing oscillations (Math \notin Sim)

• □ • • □ • • □ • • □ •

Sequences of eigenproblems

- Consider the set of generalized eigenproblems $P^{(1)} \dots P^{(i)} P^{(i+1)} \dots P^{(N)} \neq (P)^N$
- Could this sequence $\{P^{(i)}\}$ of eigenproblems evolve following a convergence pattern in line with the convergence of $n(\mathbf{r})$?

Investigating evidence of evolution

- (a) Eigenvectors transformation from one iteration to the next
- (b) Distance between successive Hamiltonian matrices $A_{\rm k}$

Sequences of eigenproblems

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Investigating evidence of evolution

- (a) Eigenvectors transformation from one iteration to the next
- (b) Distance between successive Hamiltonian matrices $A_{\mathbf{k}}$

$$\sum_{\mathbf{G}'} \left[A_{\mathbf{G}\mathbf{G}'}(\mathbf{k}) - \lambda_{\mathbf{k}\nu} B_{\mathbf{G}\mathbf{G}'}(\mathbf{k}) \right] c_{\mathbf{k}\nu}^{\mathbf{G}'} = 0$$

Reminder:

- the eigenvectors x, solving for each problem P, are vectors of coefficents $c_{k\nu}^G$ expressing orbital wave functions $\psi_{k,\nu}(\mathbf{r})$ as a linear combination of basis wave functions $\phi_G(\mathbf{k},\mathbf{r}) \rightarrow$ eigenvectors are seemingly uncorrelated across iterations
- # of k= 1:10-100 ; # of i = 1:20-50 ; size of A: 1,000 20,000

Actions:

- study the evolutions of the angles b/w eigenvectors of successive iterations
- develop a method that establishes systematically a one-to-one correspondence b/w eigenvectors
- collect data on eigenvectors deviation angles

Analysis:

- *i* and λ fixed \Rightarrow distribution among **k**s
- 2 fix $\mathbf{k} \Rightarrow$ multi-plot on evolution for all λs
- **③** fix $\lambda \Rightarrow$ multi-plot on evolution for all **k**s

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- Distribution of deviation angles peaked on lowest end of the interval with small tail
- Output: Contribution of eigenvectors to convergence process

Eigenvectors evolution - Multiplot



- Angles decrease monotonically with some oscillation (excess of localized charge)
- Ø Majority of angles are small after the first few iterations
- Universal" behaviour

Eigenvectors evolution - Multiplot fixed λ



- Some k-points contribute slightly more → Help identify sensitive areas of the reciprocal lattice
- In line with the "democratic" principle

Correlation

- There is a strong correlation between eigenvectors of successive eigenproblems $x^{(i-1)}$ and $x^{(i)}$
- It validates the importance of looking at the set of eigenproblems as a sequence $\left\{P^{(i)}\right\}$

Can we exploit this result?

Use an iterative solver where the eigenvectors of $P^{(i-1)}$ are fed to solve $P^{(i)}$

Exploratory study using SLEPc framework:

- Subspace Iteration Method
- Implicit Restarted Arnoldi Method
- Krylov-Schur Method

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Molecule: an example of high-T superconducting material Matrix size: 2628 Num of fixed-point iterations: 32 Num of k-points: 27

B ill-conditioned

B is in general almost singular. Ex: size(A) = 50 $\rightarrow \kappa(A) \approx 10^4$ size(A) = 500 $\rightarrow \kappa(A) \approx 10^7$ We used the standard form for the problem $Ax = \lambda Bx \longrightarrow A'y = \lambda y$ with $A' = L^{-1}AL^{-T}$ and $y = L^T x$

TOL:

Nev = Number of searched eigenpairs $Nvc \ge \max[2 \times Nev, Nev + 15]$

$$\frac{\|Ax - \lambda x\|}{\|\lambda x\|} = 1e - 07$$

Nvc = size of subspace

for random vectors

This method is based on

- Inner loop $V \longleftarrow A'V$
- A refinement loop using a Rayleigh-Ritz quotient

It can accept, as initial guess, the entire set of vectors V

Iter cycle	Nev=5, Nvc=20 random	Nev=5, Nvc=20 feed-in	Nev=10, Nvc=25 random	Nev=10, Nvc=20 feed-in
10	75.43 s	52.31 s	114.60 s	80.17 s
20	74.89 s	50.74 s	113.05 s	82.64 s
30	74.93 s	51.56 s	112.15 s	79.49 s

- 30% speed-up independently from Nev search space
- Ivc for the feed-in can be adjusted for better exploitation
- Still very slow and not competitive with the other methods

They can accept, as initial guess, only **one vector** (we chose the dominant one)

Iter cycle	Nev=4, Nvc=20 IRAM random	Nev=4, Nvc=20 IRAM feed-in	Nev=10, Nvc=25 (K-S) random	Nev=10, Nvc=25 (K-S) feed-in
10	5.37 s	3.37 s	3.37 s	2.54 s
20	5.37 s	3.34 s	3.39 s	2.51 s
30	5.37 s	3.36 s	3.39 s	2.55 s

- between 25% and 35% speed-up
- Presults depend on the Nev (speed up decreases as Nev increase)
- Convergence in IRAM-random seems to be influenced by the clustering of eigenvalues

Feeding eigenvectors:

- All methods experience between 25% and 35% speed-up
- Due to the different number of eigenvectors that can be "seeded", the speed up for IRAM and K-S is limited to few sought after eigenpairs
- Subspace Iteration does not have limits but it is still not competitive

Oirect vs Iterative:

- Preliminary results, using IRAM, show that iterative methods for dense matrices can be competitive if a portion 10% or lower of the spectrum is sought after
- Iterative methods become competitive for large systems (size > 10000)
- When GPUs are factored in, iterative methods may be competitive even for higher portion of the spectrum.

Future work:

- Using block Krylov-Schur methods will allow "seeding" the eigensolver with more eigenvectors. This should provide extra speed-up
- Experiments on large parallel architectures need to be performed
- Evolution of the sequence still to be factored in

Distance between Hamiltonians Matrix entries

Hamiltonians $A^{(i)}$ across iterations are completely re-computed. If there is correlation among eigenvectors, the Hamiltonian may not be completely independent across iterations.

A simple comparison through entry subtraction can be used

$$\tilde{A}_{\mathbf{k}}^{(i)} = \frac{|A_{\mathbf{k}}^{(i+1)} - A_{\mathbf{k}}^{(i)}|}{\delta^{(i)}} \quad ; \quad \delta^{(i)} = \max(|A_{\mathbf{k}}^{(i+1)} - A_{\mathbf{k}}^{(i)}|)$$

Matrix entries variation for k-point 1 and iteration 4



Matrix entries variation for k-point 1 and iteration 4



Distance between Hamiltonians

each entry of $\tilde{A}_{\mathbf{k}}^{(i)}$ is a map onto the [0,1] interval. Measuring the threshold as a fraction of δ_i , one can look at the percentage of entries that vary as a functions the cut-off value, p_t



the lower the cut-off value p_t , the greater the number of non-zero entries of \tilde{A} is.

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Quantum Theory of Materials

$\textbf{Conclusions on } A \texttt{LGORITHM} \Leftarrow \texttt{Sim}$

- Feeding eigenvectors of $P^{(i-1)}$ speed-ups the iterative solver for $P^{(i)}$
- Iterative methods seem to be competitive than direct methods for medium/large problems
- The algorithmic structure of FLAPW need to be re-thought to take into consideration these results

Future scientific directions

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The crystal structure of a periodic solid is given by:

- the positions of the nuclei in one repeat unit (primitive cell) through a so-called basis. T(n) = n₁a₁ + n₂a₂ + n₃a₃
- the rules that describe the translations of the points in a primitive cell, called *Bravais lattice*

The reciprocal lattice is defined by a set of vectors $\{\mathbf{b}_1, \mathbf{b}_2, \mathbf{b}_3\}$ that are "reciprocal" to the basis vectors: $\mathbf{b}_i \cdot \mathbf{a}_j = \delta_{ij}$. The Brillouin zone corresponds to the Wigner-Sitz cell of the reciprocal lattice. In other words the set of points that are closer to the central reciprocal lattice point than any other reciprocal lattice point.



The simplest atomic pseudo-potential was introduced by Fermi and re-proposed by Hellman in 1935

$$v(r) = -\frac{1}{r} + \frac{2.74}{r} e^{-1.16r}$$

for a valence atom of Potassium (K).

The generic concept is based on the substitution the interaction of valence electrons with nuclei and core electrons with a function that smoots away the strong oscillation of the valence wavefunctions close to the nuclei core. The result is an energy dependent potential that is generically represented as

$$v_{\rm PK}(E) = v_0 - \sum_c (E_c - E) |\psi_c\rangle \langle \psi_c |$$
; E_c = energy of core orbitals

At a certain distance from the core $v_{PK}(E)$ becomes v_0 due to the decay of the core orbitals wavefunctions. The second term in the equation represents a **repulsive** effect, making the potential much weaker than the true potential in the vicinity of the core return

The first and most simple exchange-correlation potential is the Local Density Approximation (LDA)

$$E_{\rm xc}^{\rm LDA}[n] = \int d^3 r \ n(\mathbf{r}) \varepsilon_{\rm xc}^{\rm hom}(n(\mathbf{r}))$$

where ε_{xc}^{hom} is the exchange-correlation energy density of an homogeneous electron gas with density $n(\mathbf{r})$ at each point (that can be found analytically).

The Generalized Gradient Approximation (GGA) introduces in ϵ_{xc} a dependence on the gradient of the charge density $\nabla n(\mathbf{r})$.

Advanced Hybrid functional have been recently introduced, that mix parametrically ($\lambda \in [0,1])$ HF with LDA or GGA

$$E_{\rm xc} = \lambda E_{\rm xc}^{\rm HF} + (1 - \lambda) E_{\rm xc}^{\rm DFA}$$

They are computationally challenging having non-local contributions. They can be very useful in helping to predict excitation energies.

No shape approximations

$$\upsilon_{\text{ext}}(\mathbf{r}) = \begin{cases} \sum_{\mathbf{G}} \upsilon_{\mathbf{I}}^{\mathbf{G}} e^{i\mathbf{G}\mathbf{r}} & \text{Interstitial warped potential} \\ \sum_{\ell m} \upsilon_{\text{MT}}^{\ell m}(r) Y_{\ell m}(\hat{\mathbf{r}}_{\alpha}) & \text{MT (includ. non spherical terms)} \end{cases}$$

Pseudocharge method (Weinert 1981)

•
$$n_{MT}(\mathbf{r}_{\alpha}) \implies q_{l,m}$$
 (multiple moments) & $n_{I}(\mathbf{r}) \implies v_{I}(\mathbf{r})$ (interstitial potential)

•
$$n_{MT}(\mathbf{r}_{\alpha}) \xrightarrow{subs with} \tilde{n}_{MT}(\mathbf{r}_{\alpha}) \xrightarrow{rapidly convergent} \Rightarrow \upsilon_{I}(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_{\mathbf{G}\neq\mathbf{0}} \frac{4\pi n(\mathbf{G})}{\mathbf{G}^{2}} e^{i\mathbf{G}\mathbf{r}}$$

• $\upsilon_{I}(\mathbf{r})|_{\partial MT@\alpha} \implies \upsilon_{MT}(\hat{\mathbf{r}}_{\alpha}) \quad \text{Green's function method}$