

# Project A20

## FYS-MENA4111

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### **Abstract**

Quinizarin can function as an organic sensitizer in an upconversion system. In ALD the organic molecule can possibly be deposited in a matrix of lanthanide fluoride, to increase the efficiency of the upconversion process in the material. To see how this efficiency can increase and what energy levels can be absorbed by the material, it is wise to investigate the electronic band structure of the molecule. This paper will look in to Quinizarin's own electronic properties, as well as, Quinizarin with lanthanides replacing one a Hydrogen atom, to emulate Quinizarin inside the structure in a simple way.

# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Method</b>	<b>4</b>
2.1	Convergence	4
2.2	Relax	4
2.3	Static	5
2.4	DOS	5
2.5	Band gap	5
2.6	Charge density	5
<b>3</b>	<b>Results</b>	<b>5</b>
3.1	Convergence of energy	5
3.2	Convergence of k-points	6
3.3	Quinizarin	7
3.3.1	Relaxing the structure	7
3.3.2	Total and relative energies	9
3.3.3	Total and local density of states	9
3.3.4	Band gap	10
3.3.5	Charge density	11
3.4	Quinizarin with Yttrium	12
3.4.1	Relaxing the structure	12
3.4.2	Total and relative energies	13
3.4.3	Total and local density of states	14
3.4.4	Band gap	15
3.4.5	Charge density	16
3.5	Quinizarin with Ytterbium	17
3.5.1	Relaxing the structure	17
3.5.2	Total and relative energies	18
3.5.3	Total and local density of states	19
3.5.4	Band gap	20
3.5.5	Charge density	21
3.6	Quinizarin with Neodymium and Thulium	22
<b>4</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>23</b>
4.1	Convergence of energy	23
4.2	Convergence of k-points	24
4.3	Quinizarin	24
4.4	Quinizarin with Yttrium	24
4.5	Quinizarin with Ytterbium	24
4.6	Quinizarin with Neodymium and Thulium	24
4.7	Total comparison	24
<b>5</b>	<b>Conclusion</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>References</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>Quinizarin-bilder</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>Y-bilder</b>	<b>26</b>

Ting å ha i  $\LaTeX$ :

- abstrakt  
done
- kort introduksjon av materialet  
done
- kort om metode, valg av paramtere (CUTOFF, etc)  
done
- presentasjon av de viktigste resultatene  
done
- diskusjon av hvordan resultatene kan tolkes, f.eks. sammenligne til eksperimenter eller tidligere beregninger i litteraturen  
WIP
- konklusjon/oppsummering
- kilder
- appendix ?

**OBS: husk å lagre bilder for rapporten og presentasjonen mens man gjør beregningene**

## 1 Introduction

Photons can be used for many things. However, not all photons are created equal. They come in many different energies, and not all energies are as simple to absorb. A way to increase the efficiency of photon-absorbing materials is by modifying it so that it can absorb photons with a low energy, collect that energy, and re-emit the photon with higher energy. This is known as up-conversion and has many uses. One use is to increase the efficiency of solar panels by allowing it to collect more of the sunlight, where the up-conversion system can be a thin-film on the top of the panel. A different use is to increase the energy to the point where the emitted photon can become ionizing and work as a bacteria or virus killer.

Up-conversion is a phenomenon where incoming photons are re-emitted with a higher energy than they entered with. The photons excite electrons in a material, and by conduction of those electrons they can move to other atoms, where they are further excited. The electron ends up in a high energy state and de-excites releasing all the energy. However, the process can be very inefficient due to narrow energy bands in the material. A form of increasing this efficiency is by adding a material with a wide energy band to allow absorption of photons with more varied energy.

This paper will focus on an organic compound known as Quinizarin. The compound is an organic dye and has a broad energy band. This means it can absorb a broad spectrum of photons energies. The excited electrons from this energy band can move to the actual up-conversion system and hereby increase the efficiency of the up-conversion. The planned up-conversion system will consist of Quinizarin as an organic sensitizer, Nd+3 and Yb+3 as electron migrators (transporting the electrons to the site of de-excitation), and Tm+3

as accumulator and activator (collecting excited electrons and up-converting them, and de-excitation site for said electrons). The system is planned to be inserted into a matrix of YbF<sub>3</sub> or possibly YF<sub>3</sub>.

Since Quinizarin is such an important piece of the system it is wise to know how it interacts with the other materials. This study will therefore investigate how Quinizarin’s electronic band structure changes when the Hydrogen in the alcohol group is replaced with different atoms. In this case: Yb, Nd, Tm and Y. See

## 2 Method

The supercomputer Saga contains many different POSCAR-files for a wide range of structures. Unfortunately for us, Quinizarin was not included. Therefore we had to make our own POSCAR-file. This was done by drawing the structure in an organic compound structure program we found on the internet: [MolView](#). This site lets the user draw organic structures with many varying features, and it also lets the user export the data as a .mol-file. A .mol-file has a similar structure with a POSCAR-file, which let us easily make the POSCAR-file for Quinizarin.

The coordinates of the atoms in the .mol-file were put in a POSCAR file with Direct coordinates. We added a unit cell and, and opened it in VESTA. In order to make the plane-waves more stable for the calculations, we inserted a vacuum distance in each direction of 12 Å.

To differentiate the two Hydrogen-atoms in the alcohol-groups from the other Hydrogen-atoms, we had to find their positions somehow. This was done in the program GeoGebra, by plotting each atom with their positions in 3D. We found that the Hydrogen-atoms were number 25 and 26 in POSCAR. In hindsight, we discovered that this would be easier to do in VESTA.

In this project we will compare the basic Quinizarin with Quinizarin with both Yttrium (Y) and Ytterbium (Yb) substituted in the Hydrogen-positions described in the subsection above. Therefore we had to make in total three POSCAR-files for the three structures. This was done by opening POSCAR in Emacs and changing the two last atoms given in the file to the substitution-atoms. After that we ran in to issues with relaxing the structure, and so went to the ICSD database to find a decent distance between the new atoms and oxygen. We used approximately 2.3 Å in distance, and that worked well for relaxing the structure.

### 2.1 Convergence

Testing for convergence of energy and k-point is important to determine if the variables in INCAR or KPOINTS are good enough to be used for further calculations, mostly to ensure decent and applicable results. If the error is less than  $1 \cdot 10^{-3}$  the calculation can be considered converged.

The testing of convergence is done by performing VASP calculations with different values of either energy-cutoff (ENCUT) or k-point density. For this project the energy convergence testing was done for ENCUT between 300 and 900 eV, with 50 eV steps. The k-point convergence testing was done for k-point density between 1.0 and 6.0, with 1.0 difference. For the aforementioned test the value for ENCUT was decided from the energy convergence test.

### 2.2 Relax

A relaxing calculation is performed to minimize the max force of the material. This is done by moving the atoms to find the optimal atom positions for the structure.

We performed the relaxation calculation once for each structure.

## 2.3 Static

A static calculation is a calculation in which atoms are held at their original positions. These are often used for obtaining a converged energy, as calculations that relax the structure are less safe to use for this.

In this project we have performed static calculations both before and after performing ionic relaxation. The static calculations that were performed before relaxation were to see how the energies changed between before and after relaxation.

## 2.4 DOS

A plot of density of states shows the at what levels the energy bands, or orbitals, exists and how broad they are. A band with a high density of states allows for more electrons to occupy it, whereas a band with a low density of states allows for fewer. The density of states is generally plotted against the energy, and peaks in the plot show how many electrons are allowed to exist at a specific energy. An energy gap is shown by two peaks separated by a void. The size of the void (span in energy) is the height of the energy gap.

For obtaining a plot of density of states we ran the script `dosplot.py` for the values generated by the post-relaxation static calculations. This ensured that the values were converged and safe to use. `dosplot.py` reads the DOSCAR-file and plots the values in an easy-to-read format.

## 2.5 Band gap

The density of states plots show where the band gap is located, but it does not give the numerical value. VASP has the command `bandgap` specifically for this, hence we used this to find the numerical value of the band gap for the structures.

## 2.6 Charge density

The charge density of a structure shows how the charge is distributed around the atoms in that structure. A plot of the charge density therefore shows how many electrons the different atoms attract. To plot the charge density the file CHGCAR, after a completed VASP calculation, is copied over to VESTA, and then visualized.

# 3 Results

## 3.1 Convergence of energy

The energy convergence tests were run as described in Section 2.1. After the runs were completed we looked at `vaspout` from each of the runs. The total energy per atom, or `TOTEN/atom`, was plotted against the cutoff energy and this is shown in Figure (1).

Figure (2) shows the difference in energy from one value to the next. This means, the value of `ENCUT=300` is the difference in total energy going a cutoff energy of 300 eV to 350 eV.

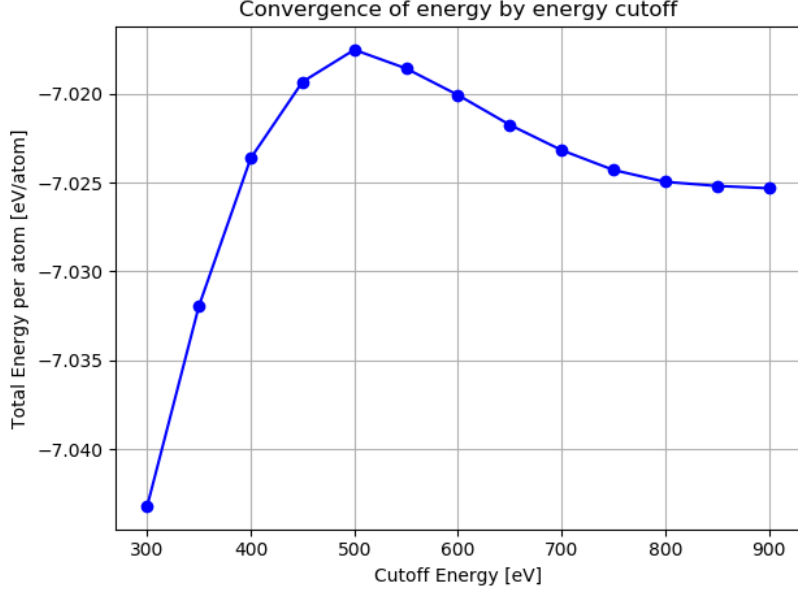


Figure 1: Plot of energy convergence for Quinizarin, with ENCUT ranging from 300 eV to 900 eV.

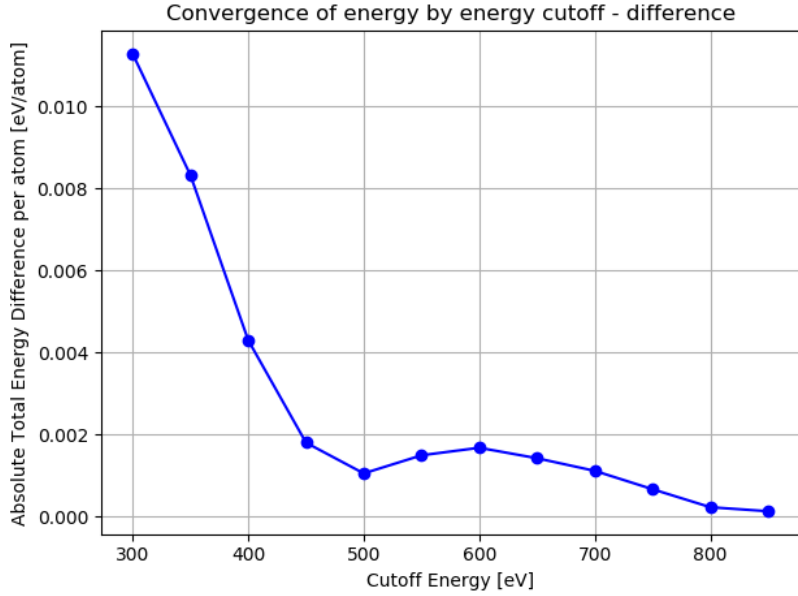


Figure 2: Plot of the difference in energy convergence for Quinizarin, given by ENCUT.

### 3.2 Convergence of k-points

For the convergence of k-points the span of values were used as described in Section 2.1. Figure (3) shows how the total energy changes as k-density increases. Like with energy, the difference has also been plotted, and this is shown in Figure (4).

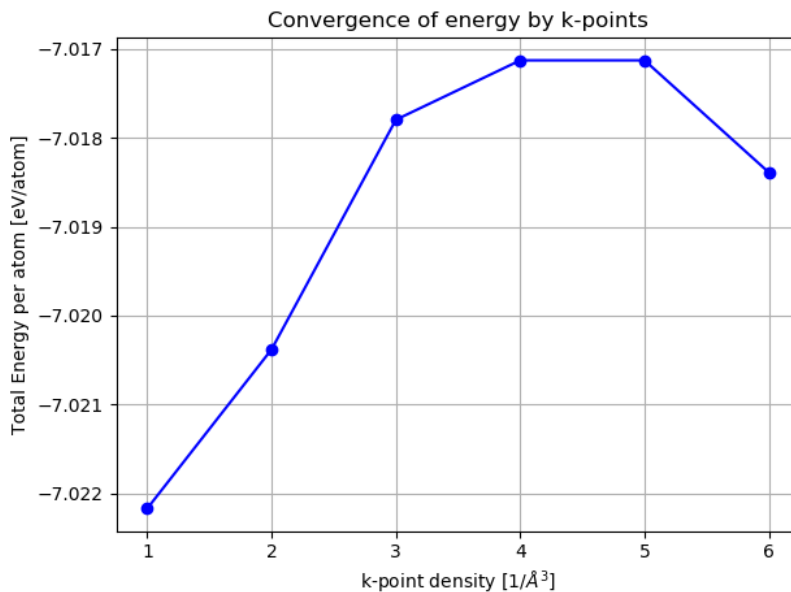


Figure 3: Plot of energy convergence for Quinizarin, with k-point density ranging from 1 to 6.

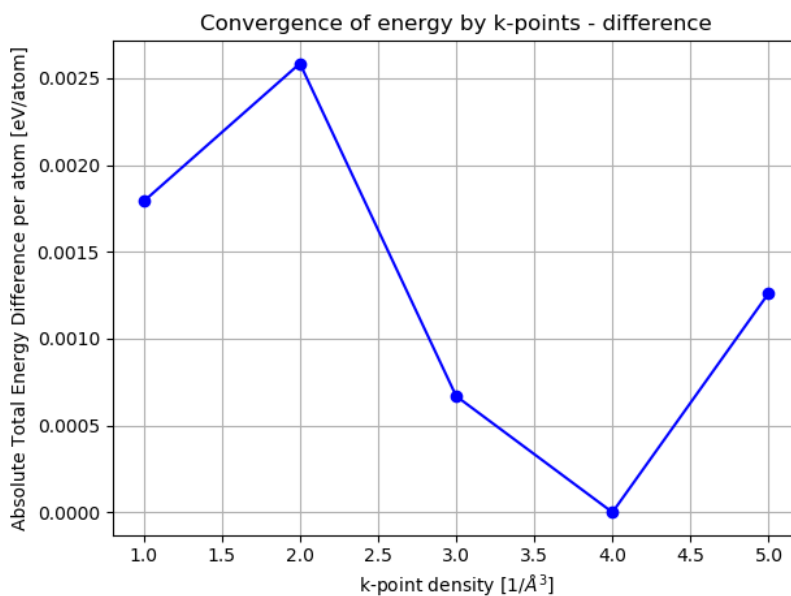


Figure 4: Plot of the difference in energy convergence for Quinizarin, given by k-point density.

### 3.3 Quinizarin

#### 3.3.1 Relaxing the structure

The initial static calculation of Quinizarin gave a CONTCAR as shown in Figure (5).

After relaxing the structure and performing a new static calculation, CONTCAR looked as shown in Figure (6). We do not show CONTCAR from the actual ionic relaxation as it is identical to the post-relaxation static calculation.

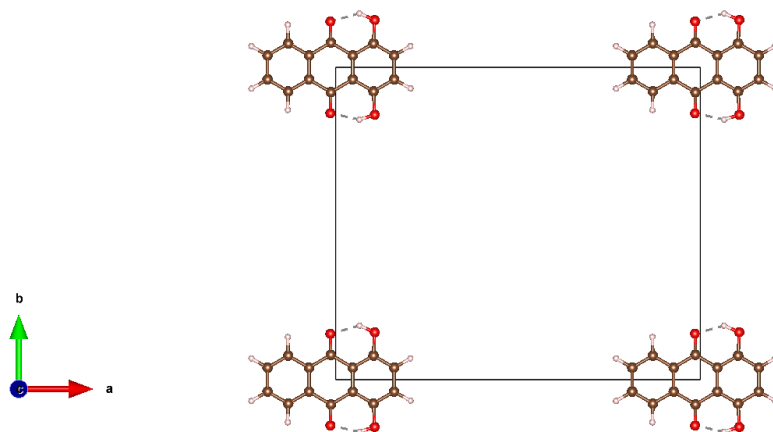


Figure 5: Structure of Quinizarin for static VASP calculation.

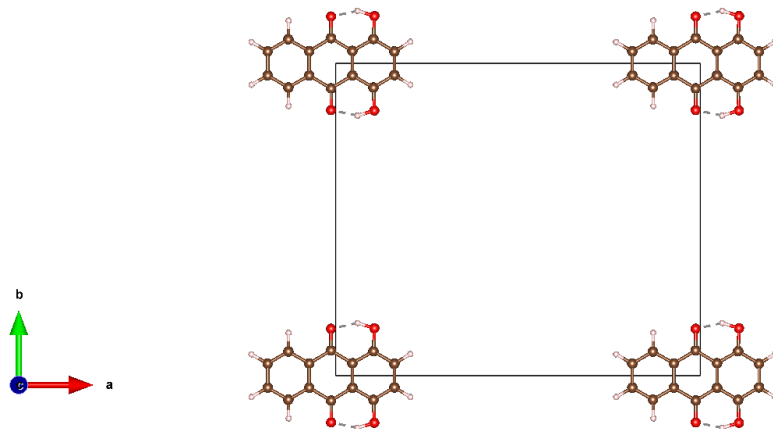


Figure 6: Structure of Quinizarin for static VASP calculation after relaxed calculation.



### 3.3.2 Total and relative energies

As can be seen in Table (1), there was a difference in total energies. This turned out to be 0.015 eV in relative energy difference. The data is taken from static calculations of Quinizarin, before and after a relax VASP calculation.

Table 1: Total energy per atom for Quinizarin with static calculations.

Calculation	Total energy per atom [eV/atom]
Before relax	-7.019
After relax	-7.034

### 3.3.3 Total and local density of states

In Figure (7) we can see the total density of states of the Quinizarin molecule. Figure (8) shows the local density of states for the Hydrogen atom in the lower alcohol group, whereas Figure (9) shows the local density of states for the Hydrogen atom in the upper alcohol group. It is important to note that these figures are zoomed in around the Fermi-level. To see the full pictures, see Figure (31), Figure (32) and Figure (33) in [Appendix](#).

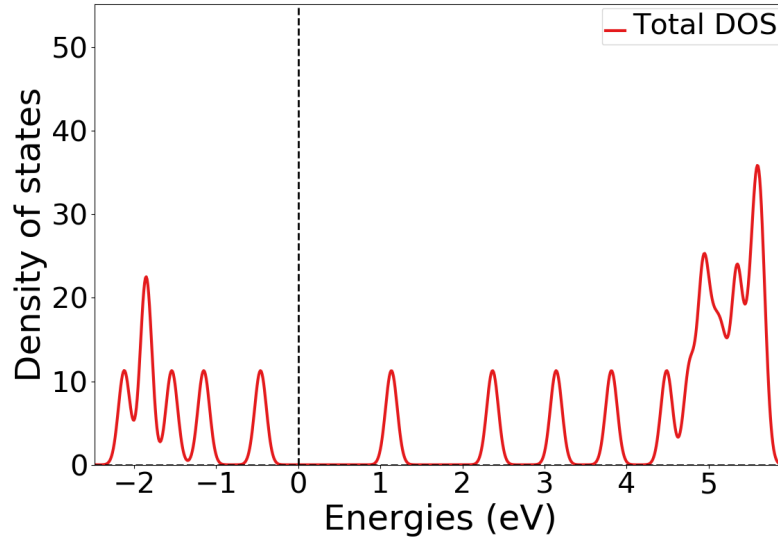


Figure 7: Plot of total DOS for Quinizarin, zoomed in for energies between 4.0 eV and 8.0 eV.

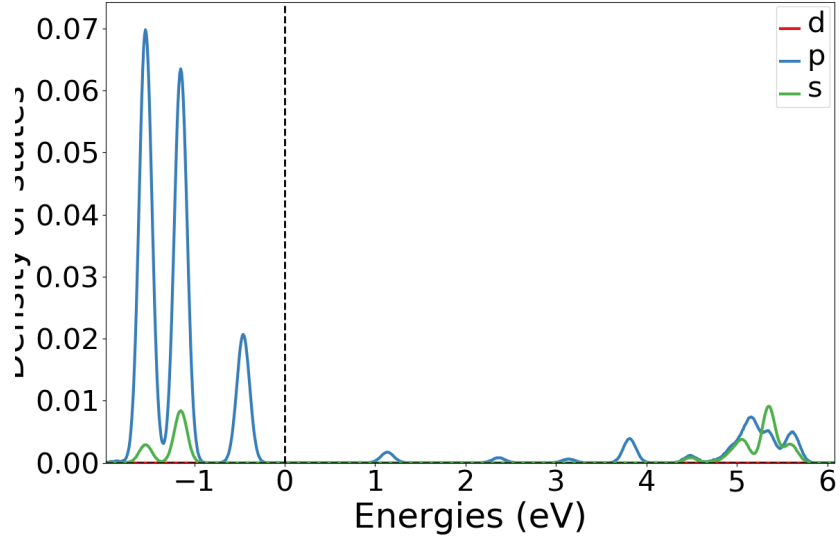


Figure 8: Plot of local DOS for atom number 25(H in alcohol-group) for Quinizarin, zoomed in for energies between 4.0 eV and 8.0 eV.

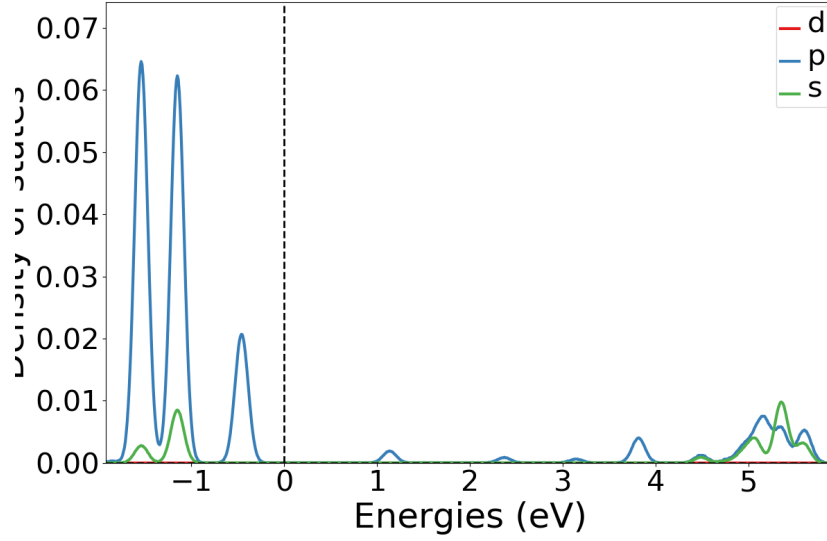


Figure 9: Plot of local DOS for atom number 26(H in alcohol-group) for Quinizarin, zoomed in for energies between 4.0 eV and 8.0 eV.

### 3.3.4 Band gap

Table (2) below shows the band gap, the valance band maximum (VBM), and the conduction band minimum (CBM) for Quinizarin, before and after a relax calculation, using static calculations.

Table 2: Band gap, valance band maximum and conduction band minimum for Quinizarin with static calculations.

Calculation	Band gap [eV]	VBM [eV]	CBM [eV]
Before relax	1.773	−5.335	−3.562
After relax	1.594	−5.313	−3.720

### 3.3.5 Charge density

The charge density before relaxation is shown in Figure (10). The charge density for the static calculation after relaxation can be shown in Figure (11). Figure (12) shows the charge density of a single molecule after having relaxed the structure.

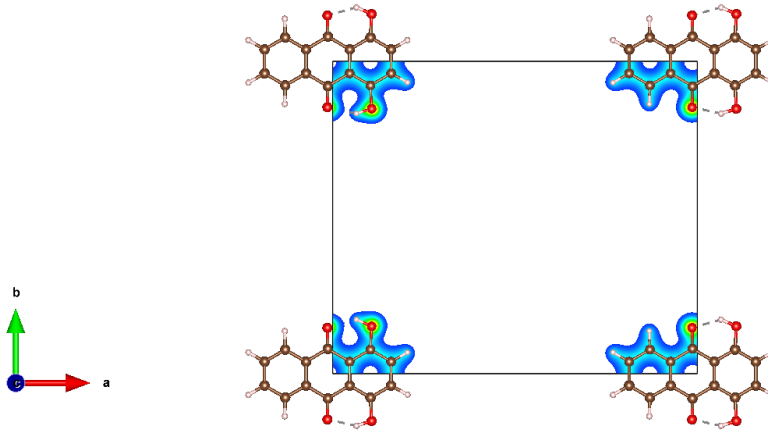


Figure 10: Charge density of Quinizarin for static VASP calculation.

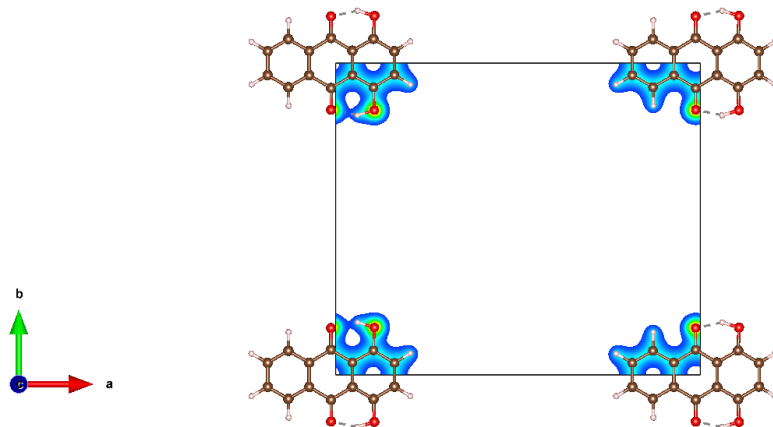


Figure 11: Charge density of Quinizarin for static VASP calculation after relaxed calculation.

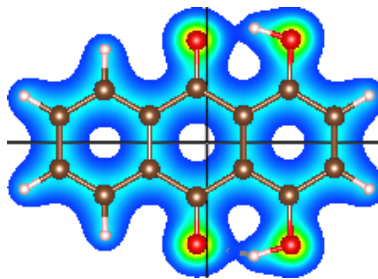


Figure 12: Charge density of a single Quinizarin molecule for static VASP calculation after relaxed calculation.

### 3.4 Quinizarin with Yttrium

#### 3.4.1 Relaxing the structure

Below we can see the structure of Quinizarin with Yttrium. Figure (13) shows it as it is before relaxing the structure, and Figure (14) shows the structure after having been relaxed.

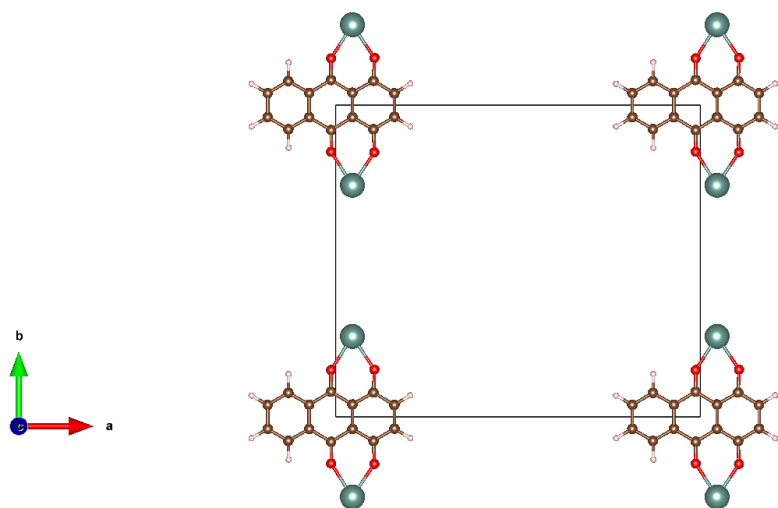


Figure 13: Structure of Quinizarin with Yttrium for static VASP calculation.

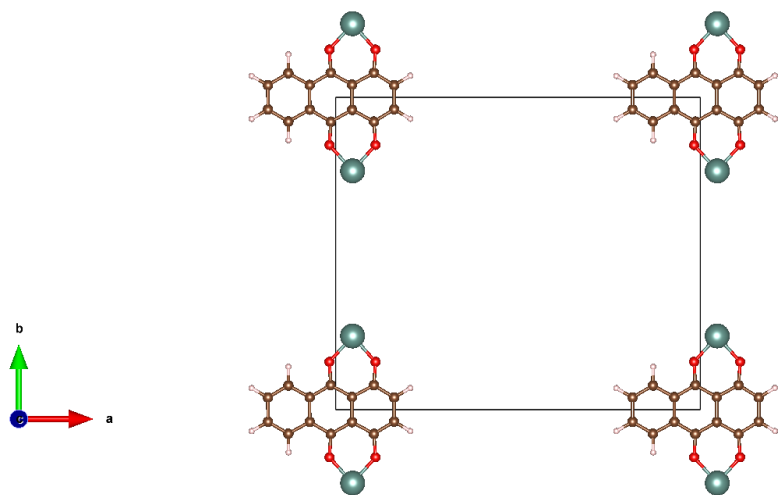


Figure 14: Structure of Quinizarin with Yttrium for static VASP calculation after relaxed calculation.

### 3.4.2 Total and relative energies

Table (3) shows the total energy per atom for Quinizarin with Yttrium, with calculations done by static calculations before and after a relax calculations.

Table 3: Total energy per atom for Quinizarin with Yttrium.

Calculation	Total energy per atom [eV/atom]
Before relax	-7.167
After relax	-7.276

### 3.4.3 Total and local density of states

TDOS and LDOS graphs are shown below. Figure (15) shows the total DOS for Quinizarin with Yttrium, whilst Figure (16) shows the local DOS for the lower Yttrium atom and Figure (24) shows the local DOS for the upper Yttrium atom. The full pictures of these plots, see Figure (34), Figure (35) and Figure (36) in [Appendix](#).

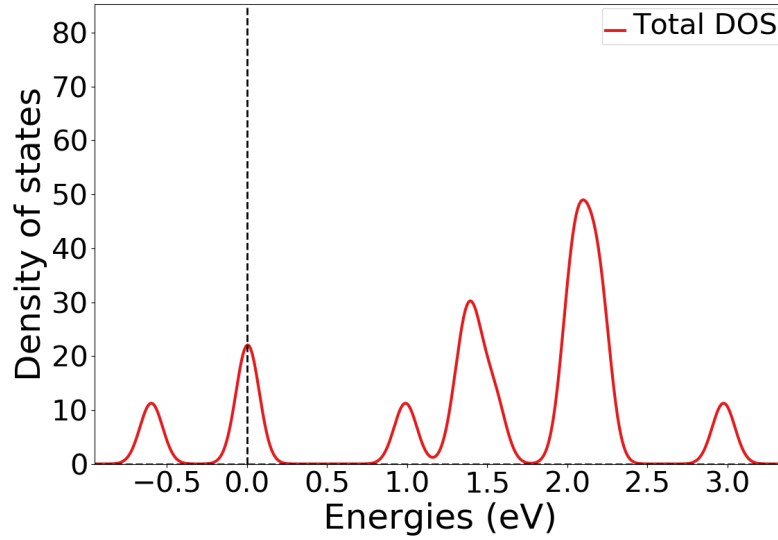


Figure 15: Plot of total DOS for Yttrium, zoomed in for energies between 0.0 eV and 4.5 eV.

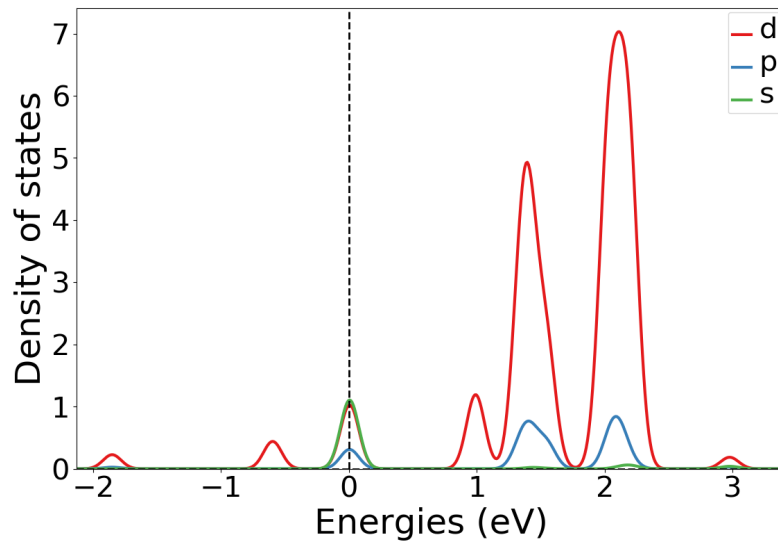


Figure 16: Plot of local DOS of atom number 25(Y in lower alcohol-group) for Quinizarin with Yttrium, zoomed in for energies between 0.0 eV and 4.5 eV.

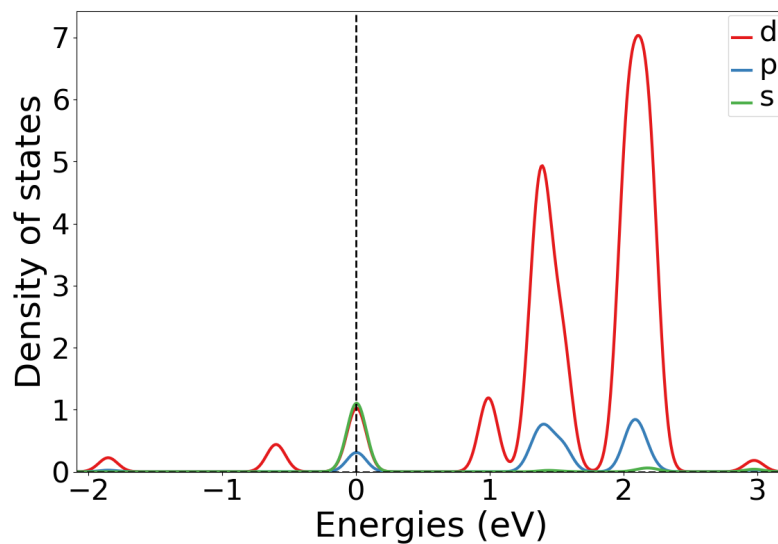


Figure 17: Plot of local DOS of atom number 26(Y in upper alcohol-group) for Quinizarin with Yttrium, zoomed in for energies between 0.0 eV and 4.5 eV.

### 3.4.4 Band gap

The table below, Table (4), shows the values of the band gap of Quinizarin with Yttrium. It also shows how the values between before and after relaxing the structure.

Table 4: Band gap, valance band maximum and conduction band minimum for Quinizarin with Yttrium with static calculations.

Calculation	Band gap [eV]	VBM [eV]	CBM [eV]
Before relax	0.042	−3.323	−3.281
After relax	0.029	−2.979	−2.950

### 3.4.5 Charge density

Figure (18) and Figure (19) show the charge density of Quinizarin with Yttrium, respectively before and after relaxation. Figure (12) shows the charge density of a single molecule of Quinizarin with Yttrium after relaxation.

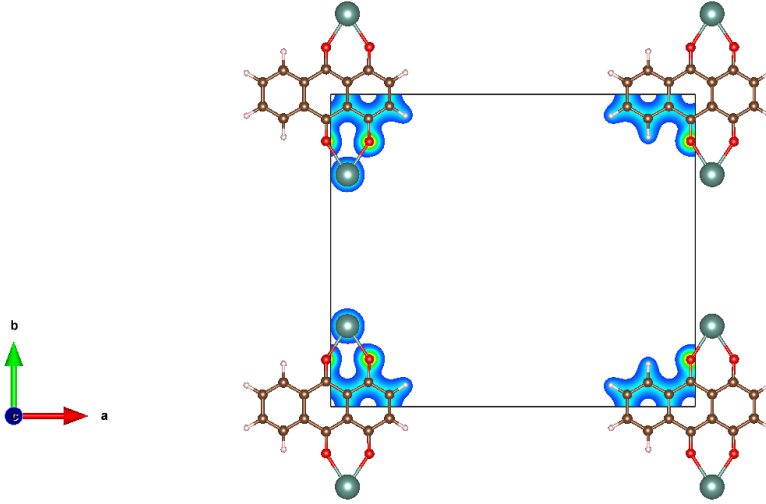


Figure 18: Charge density of Quinizarin with Yttrium for static VASP calculation.



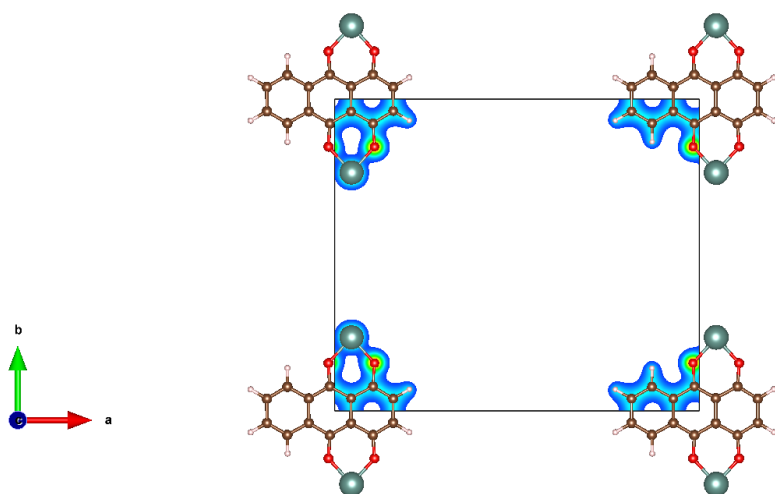


Figure 19: Charge density of Quinizarin with Yttrium for static VASP calculation after relaxed calculation.

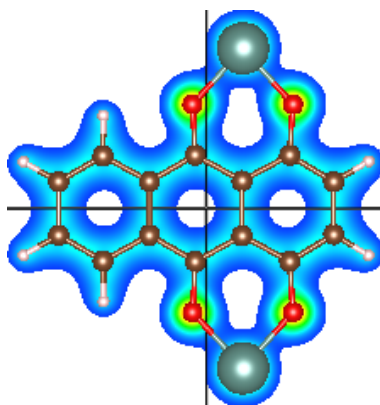


Figure 20: Charge density of a single Quinizarin molecule with Yttrium for static VASP calculation after relaxed calculation.

### 3.5 Quinizarin with Ytterbium

#### 3.5.1 Relaxing the structure

Quinizarin with Ytterbium before relaxation is shown in Figure (21). After relaxation the structure looked as in Figure (22).

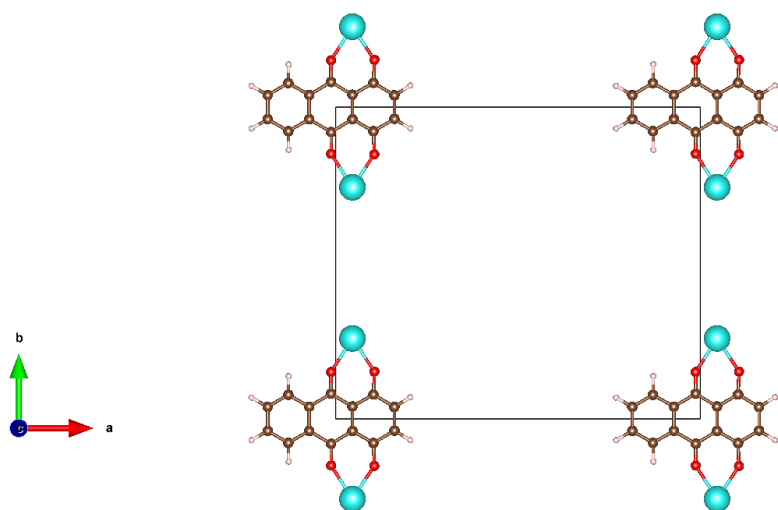


Figure 21: Structure of Quinizarin with Ytterbium for static VASP calculation.

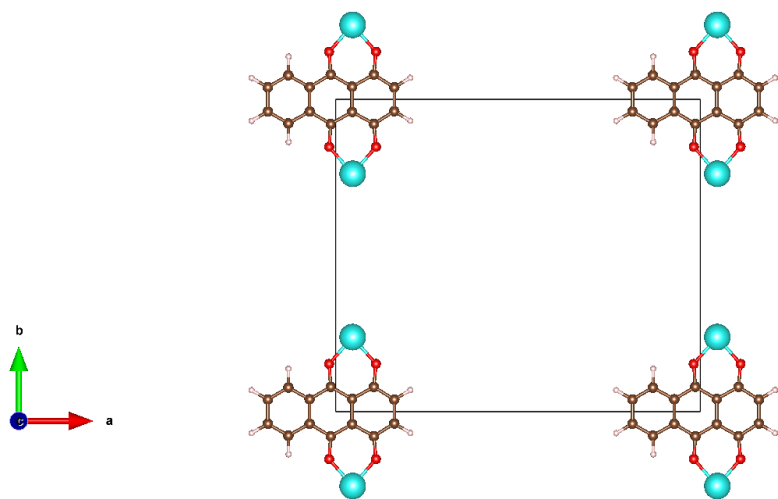


Figure 22: Structure of Quinizarin with Ytterbium for static VASP calculation after relaxed calculation.

### 3.5.2 Total and relative energies

See Table (5) for a table comparing the total energies of the static VASP calculations of Quinizarin with Ytterbium. The relative energy was 0.013 eV difference.

Table 5: Total energy per atom for Quinizarin with Ytterbium before and after relaxation.

Calculation	Total energy per atom [eV/atom]
Before relax	−6.869
After relax	−6.882

### 3.5.3 Total and local density of states

Figure (23) shows the total DOS of Quinizarin with Ytterbium. Figure (24) and Figure (25) respectively show the local DOS of the lower and upper Ytterbium atoms. In addition, to see the uncropped figures, see Figure (37), Figure (38) and Figure (39) in [Appendix](#).

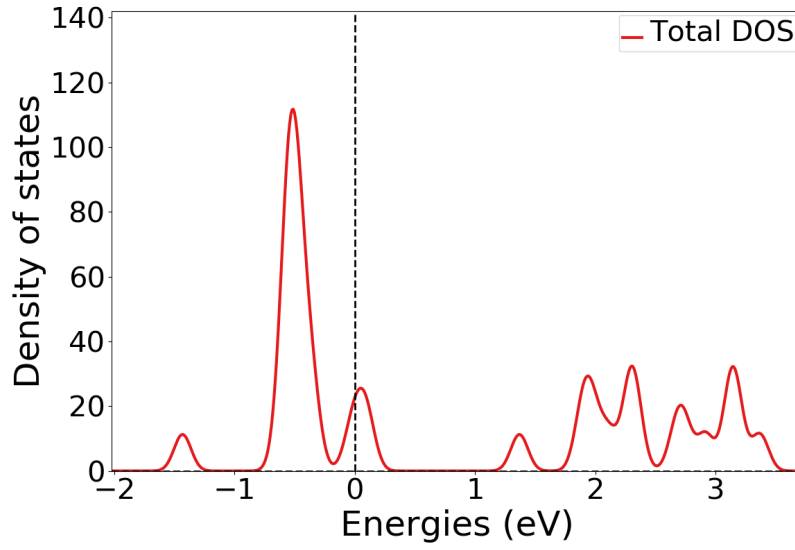


Figure 23: Plot of total DOS for Ytterbium, zoomed in for energies between 0.0 eV and 8.0 eV.

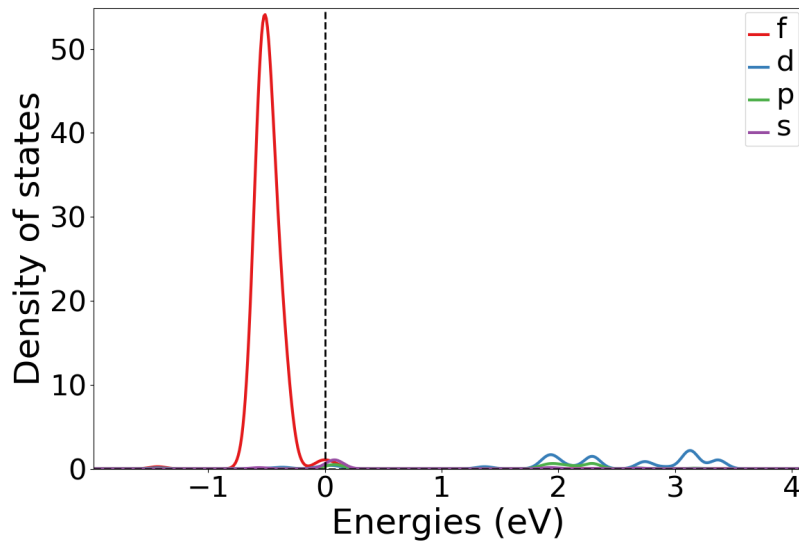


Figure 24: Plot of local DOS of atom number 25(Yb in lower alcohol-group) for Quinizarin with Ytterbium, zoomed in for energies between 0.0 eV and 8.0 eV.

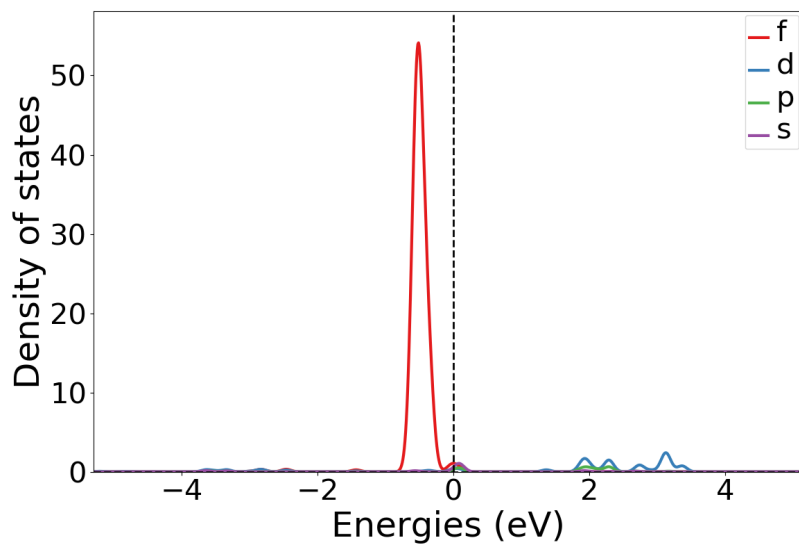


Figure 25: Plot of local DOS of atom number 26(Yb in upper alcohol-group) for Quinizarin with Ytterbium, zoomed in for energies between 0.0 eV and 8.0 eV.

### 3.5.4 Band gap

Table (6) shows the band gap of Quinizarin with Ytterbium using static VASP calculations, both before and after relaxing the structure.

Table 6: Band gap, valance band maximum and conduction band minimum for Quinizarin with Ytterbium with static calculations.

Calculation	Band gap [eV]	VBM [eV]	CBM [eV]
Before relax	0.0552	−2.9157	−2.6422
After relax	0.0771	−2.7193	−3.720

### 3.5.5 Charge density

Figure (26) and Figure (27) show the charge density of Quinizarin with Ytterbium respectively before and after relaxation. Figure (28) show the charge density of a single molecule, also after relaxation.

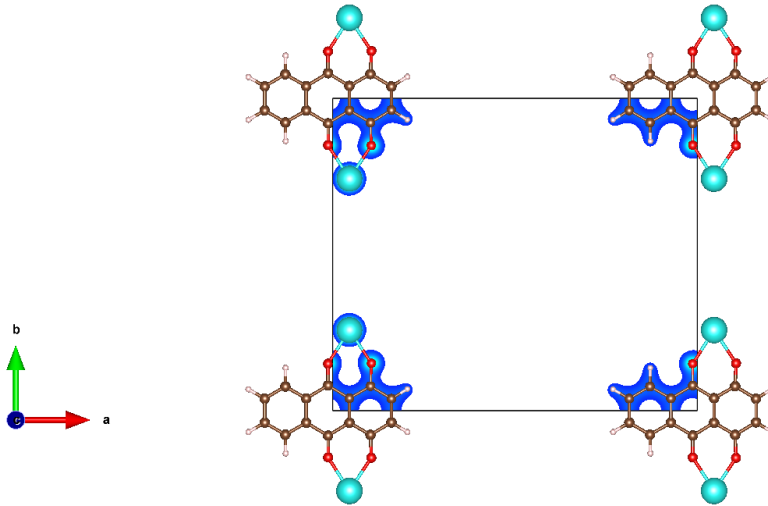


Figure 26: Charge density of Quinizarin with Ytterbium for static VASP calculation.

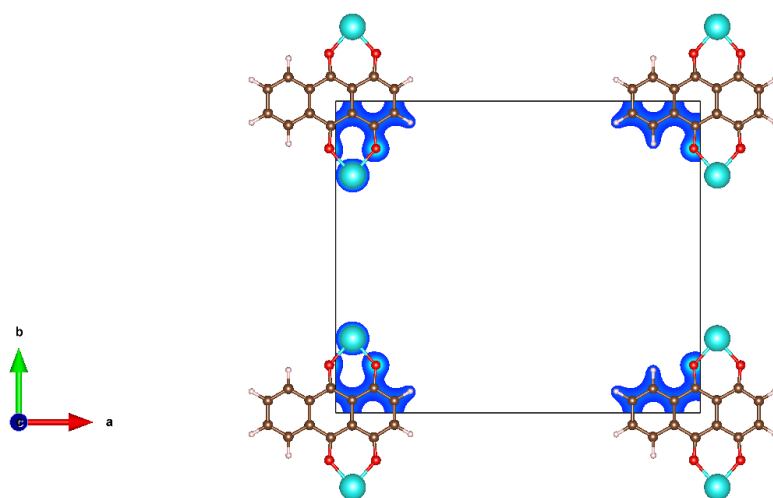


Figure 27: Charge density of Quinizarin with Ytterbium for static VASP calculation after relaxed calculation.

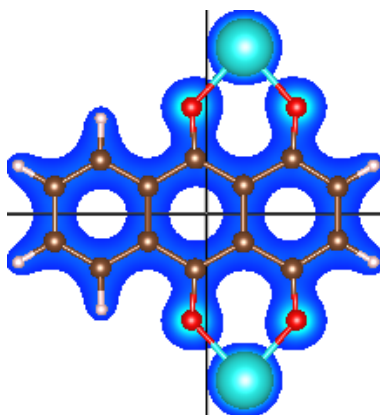


Figure 28: Charge density of a single Quinizarin molecule with Ytterbium for static VASP calculation after relaxed calculation.

### 3.6 Quinizarin with Neodymium and Thulium

We made an attempt to relax the structure with Neodymium and Thulium. This was abandoned, but below, in Figure (29) one can see how one of the attempts at relaxation went. Figure (30) shows CONTCAR from a different relaxation attempt.

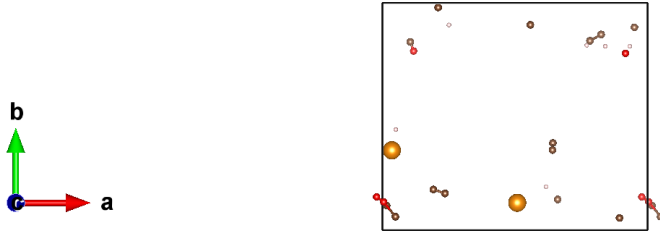


Figure 29: Structure of Quinizarin with Neodymium after relax calculation.

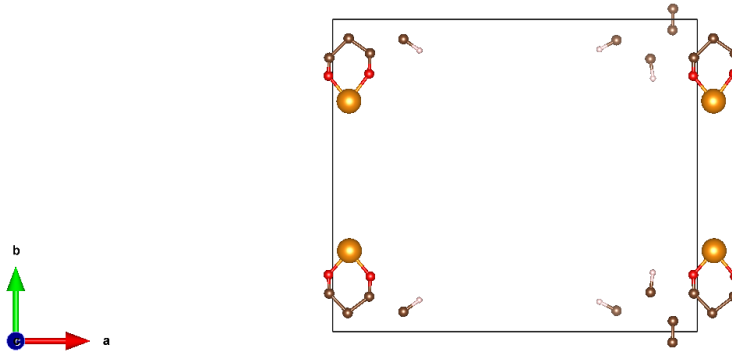


Figure 30: Structure of Quinizarin with Neodymium after a different relax calculation.

## 4 Discussion

### 4.1 Convergence of energy

Figure (1) shows that the values change quite rapidly and reach a peak around cutoff 500 eV which then lowers and stabilizes near cutoff 800 eV. However, the values differ by a very small amount, which can indicate that one needs a smaller cutoff energy than 800. Figure (2) also indicates this.

From Section 2.1 we learned that if the difference in energy is less than 0.003 eV the calculation can be considered converged. The figure shows that ENCUT=450 is below 0.002 eV in difference from ENCUT=500. This shows that ENCUT=450 is safe enough to use. This can seem weird due to it being before a peak and the stabilized total energy is lower, but the values are quite small, and overall should not impact the results

in a meaningful way.

## 4.2 Convergence of k-points

There were fewer data points than with the energy convergence, so it is not as easy to find a pattern as it was with the convergence of energy. For Figure (3) one can see the energy increases to a peak around 4.0 and 5.0 in k-density, which then decreases at k-density 6.0. Due to the lack of a good pattern we quickly moved on to Figure (4) which showed even less of a converging pattern. However, already at k-density 1.0 we could see the difference was less than 0.003 eV. Since the difference increased again with 2.0, we wondered if we could use 3.0, but after a few test-calculations with both 1.0 and 3.0 we found the difference was negligible and so we chose to use 1.0.

## 4.3 Quinizarin

*MANGLER TEKST*

## 4.4 Quinizarin with Yttrium

*MANGLER TEKST*

## 4.5 Quinizarin with Ytterbium

*MANGLER TEKST*

## 4.6 Quinizarin with Neodymium and Thulium

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## 4.7 Total comparison

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# 5 Conclusion

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# 6 References

- [1] Ben G. Streetman & Sanjay Kumar Banerjee, 2016, *Solid State Electronic Devices seventh edition*, Pearson Education



## Appendix

### A Quinizarin-bilder

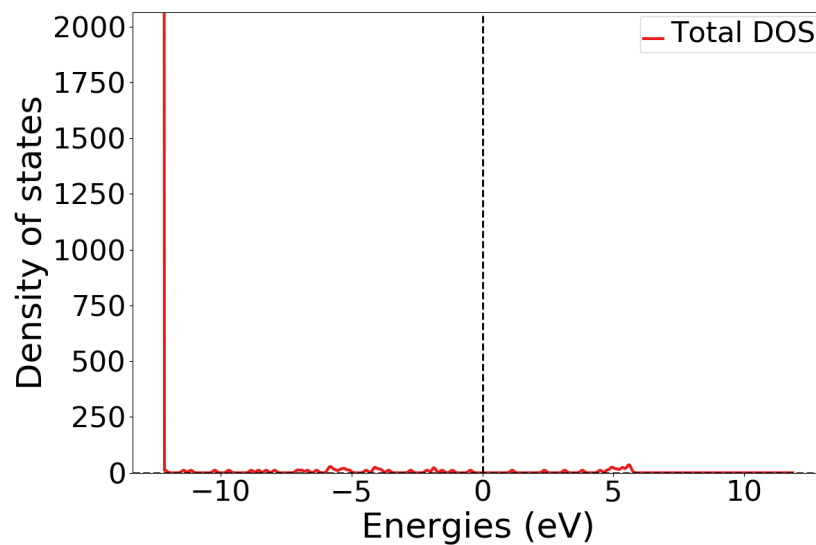


Figure 31: Plot of total DOS for Quinizarin.

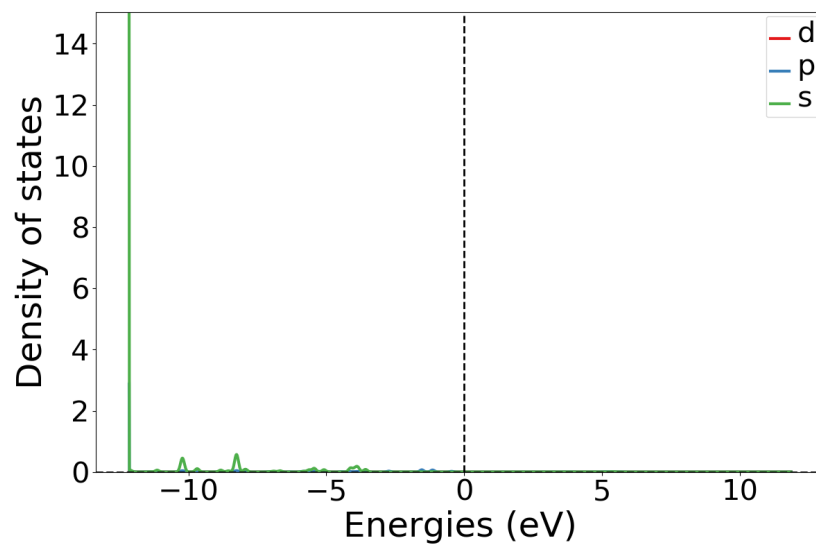


Figure 32: Plot of local DOS for atom number 25(H in alcohol-group) for Quinizarin.

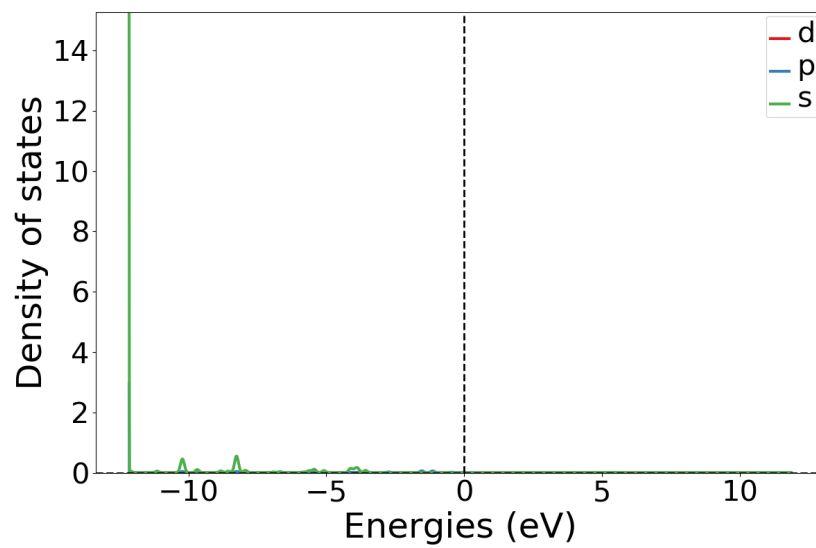


Figure 33: Plot of local DOS for atom number 26(H in alcohol-group) for Quinizarin.

## B Y-bilder

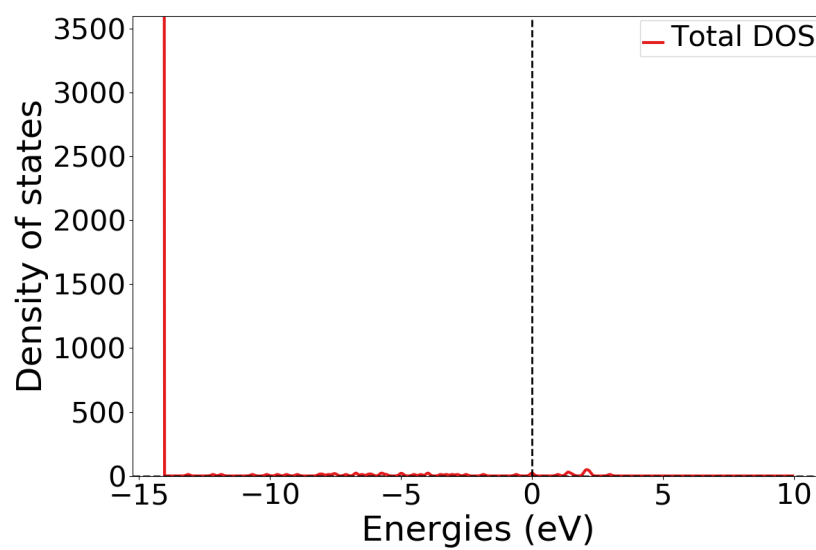


Figure 34: Plot of total DOS for Quinizarin with Yttrium.

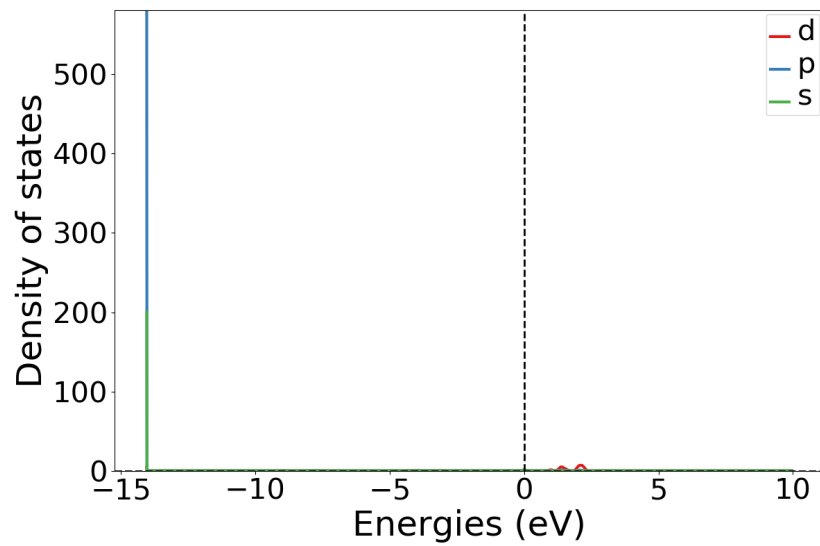


Figure 35: Plot of local DOS of atom number 25(Y in lower alcohol-group) for Quinizarin with Yttrium.

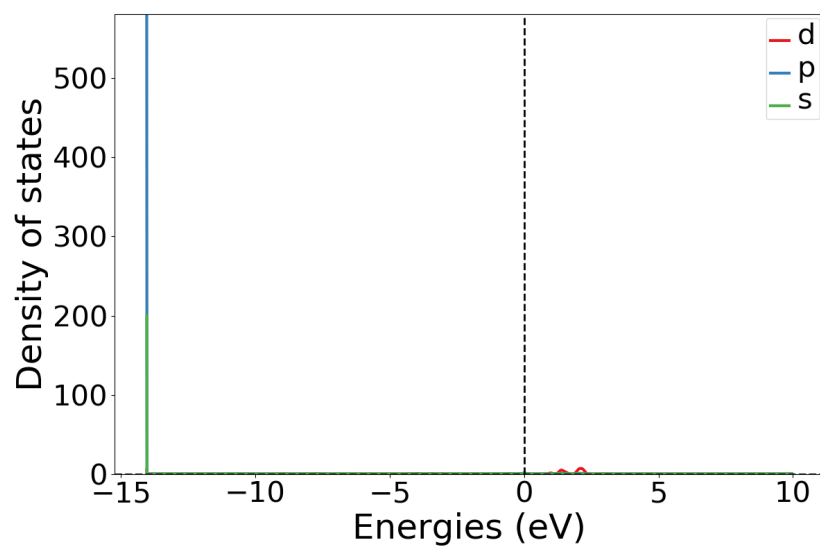


Figure 36: Plot of local DOS of atom number 26(Y in upper alcohol-group) for Quinizarin with Yttrium.

## C Yb-bilder

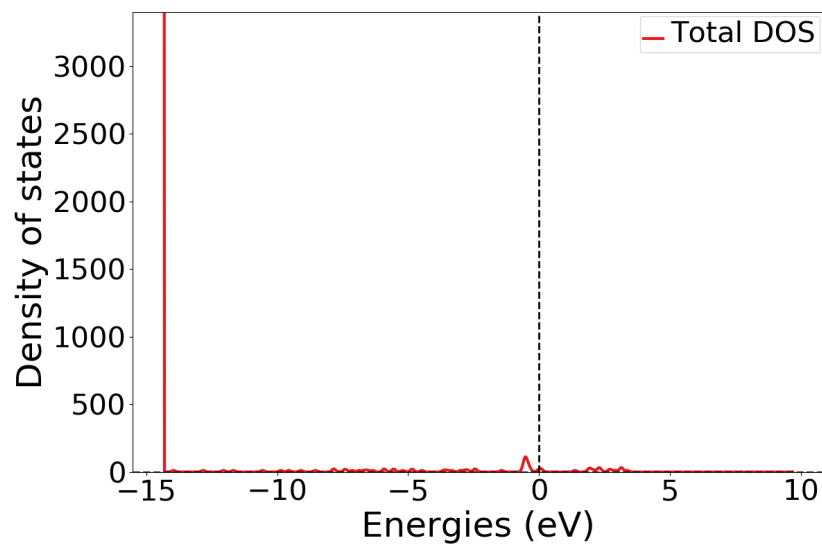


Figure 37: Plot of total DOS for Ytterbium.

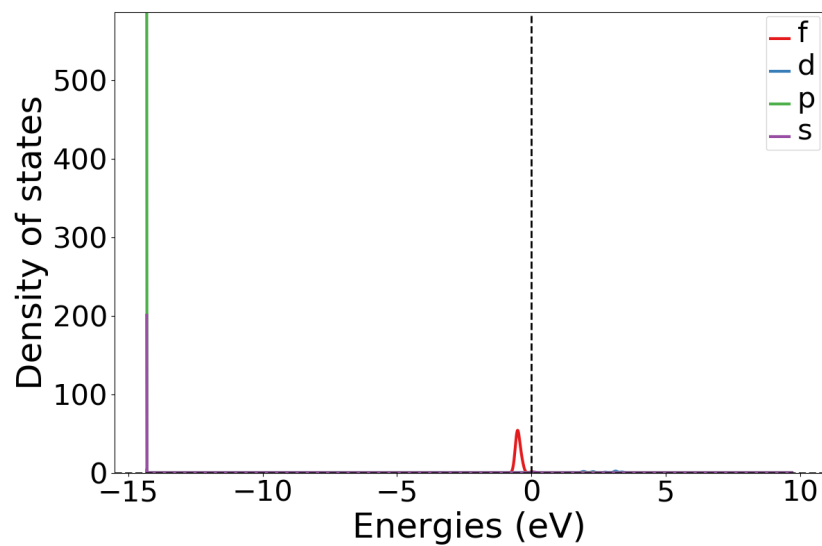


Figure 38: Plot of local DOS of atom number 25(Yb in lower alcohol-group) for Quinizarin with Ytterbium.

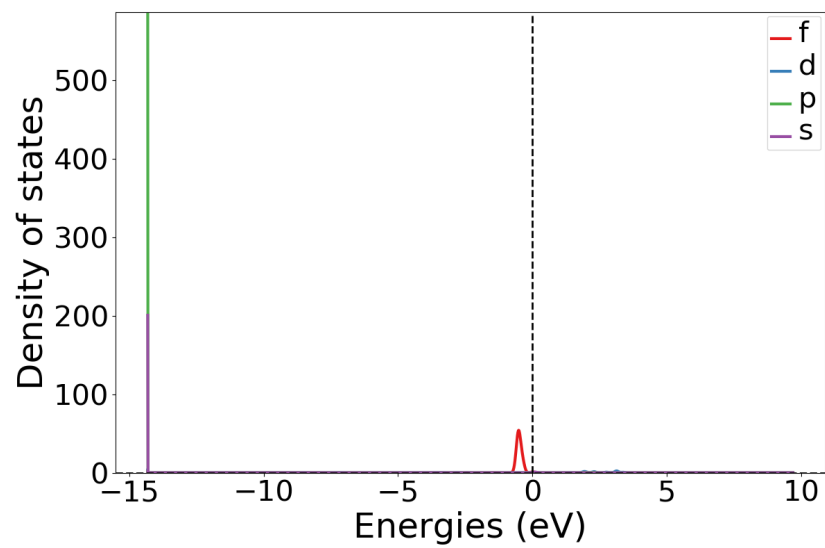


Figure 39: Plot of local DOS of atom number 26(Yb in upper alcohol-group) for Quinizarin with Ytterbium.