

Writing a DFT program for the helium atom in Matlab

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Script 1: Poisson equation

We are looking for a solution on an equidistant mesh and therefore rewriting the equation using finite differences:

$$\frac{y_{i+1} - 2y_i + y_{i-1}}{h^2} = -4\pi x_i n(x_i). \quad \begin{array}{l} y(0)=0 \\ y(x_{\max})=q \end{array}$$

Rewrite in matrix form **Ay=b**,

$$\mathbf{y} = \begin{pmatrix} y_2 \\ y_3 \\ \vdots \\ y_{N-1} \end{pmatrix} \quad \mathbf{b} = \begin{pmatrix} -h^2 4\pi x_2 n(x_2) - 0 \\ -h^2 4\pi x_3 n(x_3) \\ \vdots \\ -h^2 4\pi x_{N-1} n(x_{N-1}) - q \end{pmatrix}$$

A is a tridiagonal $(N-2) \times (N-2)$ matrix with $A_{i,i} = -2$ and $A_{i,i\pm 1} = 1$.

Script 2: Schrödinger equation

Radial Schrödinger equation using equidistant finite differences:

$$-\frac{1}{2} y''(x) + V(x) y(x) \approx -\frac{1}{2} \frac{y_{i-1} - 2y_i + y_{i+1}}{h^2} + V(x_i) y_i = \lambda y_i$$

Reorganize the terms on the left side:

$$-\frac{1}{2h^2} (y_{i-1} + (-2 - 2h^2 V(x_i)) y_i + y_{i+1}) = \lambda y_i. \quad y(0) = y(x_{\max}) = 0$$

Rewrite in matrix form $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{y} = \lambda\mathbf{y}$, \mathbf{A} is a tridiagonal $(N-2) \times (N-2)$ matrix

$$\mathbf{y} = \begin{pmatrix} y_2 \\ y_3 \\ \vdots \\ y_{N-1} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$A_{i,i} = -\frac{1}{2h^2} (-2 - 2h^2 V(x_i))$$

$$A_{i,i\pm 1} = -\frac{1}{2h^2}$$

Script 3: Self-consistent cycle

1. Construct suitable starting guess for the charge density (hydrogen times 2)
2. Using this density, calculate potential terms: Hartree, exchange&correlation, external potential
3. Solve differential equation as in script 2
4. Calculate new density from the solution
5. Mix new and old densities (half-half)
6. Repeat steps 2-5 until self consistency