PWDFT.jl: Density Functional Theory Calculations with Julia Introduction and Current Status

Fadjar Fathurrahman

Engineering Physics Department Research Center for Nanoscience and Nanotechnology Institut Teknologi Bandung

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Examples

Software packages for DFT calculations

There are a lot of software packages for DFT calculations, for examples:

- Quantum ESPRESSO
- VASP
- ABINIT
- ► Gaussian series: G03, G09, G16
- NWchem

More extensive list:

 $https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_quantum_chemistry_and_solid-state_physics_software$

Problems

- These packages are very helpful for doing various calculations based on DFT. These packages are suitable for black-box-type calculations where we are only concerned about the results.
- However they are generally rather difficult to extend.
 - New development on the DFT functionals: users generally need to wait for the next release of the package to use them (if these functionals are to be implemented at all).
 - Custom calculations or post-processing steps: Users need to know in some detail about how the data they are interested in is represented or implemented in the package's source code.

Introducing PWDFT.jl

- A package (more or less like a library, no executable) for electronic structure calculations based on DFT.
- Available at https://github.com/f-fathurrahman/PWDFT.jl
- Using plane wave basis functions.
- Implemented using Julia programming language.
- My latest attempt to implement DFT softwares, previous attempts:
 - ffr-LFDFT: https://github.com/f-fathurrahman/ffr-LFDFT, using Lagrange basis functions, implemented in Fortran.
 - ffr-PWDFT: https://github.com/f-fathurrahman/ffr-PWDFT also using plane wave basis functions, implemented in Fortran.
- Starting point is my Julia implementation of the code by Prof. Tomas Arias described in his Practical DFT course. I extended the code to handle nonlocal pseudopotentials and multiple k-points.
- ▶ Taking many ideas from Quantum ESPRESSO, KSSOLV, ELK, etc.
- ▶ No logo yet.

Why I write another DFT package?

Writing a DFT package from scratch is not the solution for all problems.

[Rant mode ON]

Several questions appeared during my early days with DFT:

- Why my calculations are slow? What makes my calculations slow?
- ▶ Is this slowness justified? How can I make it faster?
- ▶ What are actually calculated by the DFT packages?

Learn by doing: how DFT or Kohn-Sham equations are solved (beyond described in textbooks or research papers)

Frustation when trying to extend functionalities of available packages.

Educational purpose: the secret art of writing a DFT code is not yet documented extensively in a book.

Programming languages for DFT

Programming languages used:

► Fortran and/or C/C++: ABINIT, VASP, Quantum Espresso, ...

Python: GPAW

MATLAB: KSSOLV, RESCU

Static languages: Fortran, C/C++

Dynamic languages: Python and MATLAB

Julia programming language

A rather new programming language (2012) Syntax is familar to MATLAB or Python users support for multidimensional array and linear algebra Loop is fast!

Aims of PWDFT.jl

- Friendly-to-developers DFT package: enables quick implementation of various algorithms
- educational purpose: simple yet powerful enough to carry out practical DFT calculations for molecular and crystalline systems.

(Short) Introduction to Julia

Julia installation

I am assuming familiarity with command line.

Download Julia the current stable of Julia at https://julialang.org/downloads for your operating system.

Unpack the tarball. Usually after unpacking the tarball you should see a new directory created: julia-1.x.x, where 1.x.x is the version of Julia.

Julia installation (cont'd)

The Julia binary resides within the bin directory. You can launch Julia interpreter by executing the bin/julia executable. After executing the binary you can see the the following output:

Install prerequisites

PWDFT.jl depends on several external packages:

- FFTW.jl: used for Fast Fourier Transform (FFT).
- SpecialFunctions: used for evaluating special functions. For the moment this is used for evaluating error function.
- LibSymspg.jl: used for finding crystal symmetry and reducing k-points. This package is a Julia wrapper for spglib https://github.com/atztogo/spglib.
- Libxc.jl: used for evaluating exchange-correlation energy and potential. This package is a Julia wrapper for Libxc https://gitlab.com/libxc/libxc.

The above packages can be installed by typing the following code in the Julia console. You also need a working internet connection.

```
using Pkg
Pkg.add("FFTW")
Pkg.add("SpecialFunctions")
Pkg.add("LibSymspg")
Pkg.add("Libxe")
```

Install PWDFT.jl

PWDFT.jl is not yet a registered package so we need to use different command to install it.

Pkg.add(PackageSpec(url="https://github.com/f-fathurrahman/PWDFT.jl"))

Import the package by using:

using PWDFT

It there is no error then we are ready to do some DFT calculations using PWDFT.jl.

Using Julia interactively

Operators:

Variables:

Datatype:

Arrays:

Mathematical functions:

Functions:

LinearAlgebra:

Examples

Typical steps

Write Julia code not an input file.

Typical steps:

- ► Initialize Atoms
- ▶ Initialize Hamiltonian with the given Atoms
- ► Solve the Hamiltonian

Atomic units are used (energy: Hartree, length: bohr)

Example: hydrogen molecule in a box



Output

\$ julia run.jl

```
Self-consistent iteration begins ...
update_psi = LOBPCG
mix_method = simple
Density mixing with betamix = 0.20000
```

	iter	Е	ΔΕ	Δρ
SCF: SCF: SCF: SCF:	1 2 3 4 # snipped	-0.9088890376 -0.9197780666 -0.9589404606 -0.9975511159	9.08889e-01 1.08890e-02 3.91624e-02 3.86107e-02	1.36287e-04 1.17877e-04 9.53668e-05 7.60953e-05

Converged Kohn-Sham energy components

```
PWDFT.jl's result:
Final Kohn-Sham energies:
Kinetic
        energy:
                      1.0100082069
Ps loc
       energy:
                      -2.7127851088
Ps nloc
       energy:
                     0.0000000000
Hartree
                     0.9015229089
       energy:
XC.
        energy:
                      -0.6314259148
PspCore
          energy:
                      -0.0000012675
Electronic energy:
                 -1.4326811753
          energy:
                 0.3131700043
Total energy:
                     -1.1195111709
```

ABINIT's result:

Components of total free energy (in Hartree) :

```
Kinetic energy = 1.01004059294567E+00
Hartree energy = 9.01545039301481E-01
XC energy = -6.314363842378438-01
Ewald energy = 3.13170052325859E-01
PspCore energy = -1.26742500464741E-06
Loc. psp. energy= -2.71283243086241E+00

>>>>>>> Etotal = -1.11951439795224E+00
```

SCF solvers

Kohn-Sham problem is solved using self-consistent field (SCF) iterations. This is the most popular method.

In PWDFT.jl we can set various options to SCF algorithm:

- betamix: linear mixing parameters (between 0 and 1)
- mix_method: linear, adaptive linear, Anderson, Pulay, restarted Pulay, periodic Pulay, and Broyden.
- update_psi: how to update the wave functions (iterative diagonalization or Chebyshev subspace filtering).

Direct energy minimization

For systems with band gaps:

Conjugate gradient

Direct minimization