



THE CHRONUS QUANTUM (CHRONUSQ)  
SOFTWARE PACKAGE  
USER'S GUIDE

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# 1 General Overview

The aim of this guide is to help facilitate easy compilation and general use of the Chronus Quantum Chemistry (ChronusQ) Software Package. Detailed descriptions of the compilation procedure and anatomy of the input file will be discussed. This is not meant to be a guide for developers (i.e. there will be no mention of the actual structure of the ChronusQ code), but a ChronusQ Developer’s guide is also currently being written and will be made publicly available shortly.

ChronusQ aims to provide an open-source avenue for the development of real-time quantum dynamical simulations and cutting-edge post self-consistent field (SCF) methods. As ChronusQ is a “free” (both in the financial and the GNU definitions) software package, use and development by the scientific community as a whole is strongly encouraged. Those interested in the development of ChronusQ should send inquiries to Xiaosong Li ([xsli@u.washington.edu](mailto:xsli@u.washington.edu)).

Please see the Table of Contents at the beginning of this document to find the information you desire regarding the compilation or use of ChronusQ.

## 2 Obtaining and Compiling ChronusQ

### 2.1 GitHub Repository

Currently, the only method for obtaining ChronusQ is through the Li Research Group GitHub repository located at [http://github.com/liresearchgroup/chronusq\\_public.git](http://github.com/liresearchgroup/chronusq_public.git). Those interested in the development of ChronusQ may request access to the private development GitHub repository through Xiaosong Li ([xsli@u.washington.edu](mailto:xsli@u.washington.edu)). To obtain a copy of the source code (via command line), the `git` program must be installed and be in the shell working path. This can be confirmed via the following command:

```
> which git
/usr/local/bin/git
```

where `/usr/local/bin/git` is the location of the `git` program installed on the (my) system. The location may vary, but as long as you get a location, `git` is installed. Once a `git` installation has been verified, obtaining a copy of the ChronusQ is as simple as:

```
> git clone http://github.com/liresearchgroup/chronusq_public.git
```

which will place a copy of the ChronusQ source into the directory `./chronusq_public`. Any comments, concerns or problems regarding obtaining source code from the `git` repository may be directed towards David Williams ([dbwy@u.washington.edu](mailto:dbwy@u.washington.edu)).

### 2.2 Dependencies

The ChronusQ software package depends on a number of other open source packages to perform some of the underlying tasks that are required by approximate quantum mechanical methods (i.e. (multi-)linear algebra, gaussian integral evaluation, etc). While ChronusQ strives to be a stand alone package, many of the incorporated functionality depend heavily on outside open source software. Any problems regarding the installation of these dependencies should be resolved via the website of that software. Any problems regarding the communication of these dependencies and ChronusQ can be directed to David Williams ([dbwy@u.washington.edu](mailto:dbwy@u.washington.edu)).

### 2.2.1 C++11

ChronusQ (and some of its dependencies) rely on the C++11 standard. The GNU Compilers have already incorporated this standard, but not as the default. Unless you are using GCC 5.X+, you will likely have to add `-std=c++0x` or `-std=c++11` to the compile flags to force use of C++11. The configure/compile procedure described in Section 2.3 will try to smartly figure out the C++11 compile flags, but one may have to manually set the compile flags via `CMake` variables (also in Section 2.3)

### 2.2.2 CMake

ChronusQ utilizes the `CMake` utility to facilitate portability and flexibility of compilation through automatic Makefile generation. `CMake` is readily available through your OS distribution package manager (GNU/Linux or OSX). For example, in Fedora 22, one may obtain (if one has root privileges) `CMake` via

```
> sudo dnf install cmake
```

If for some reason you are unable to obtain a pre-packaged version of `CMake` through a package manager, the source and installation instructions may be obtained from <http://www.cmake.org>.

### 2.2.3 Libint

For the evaluation of molecule integrals over gaussian-type function (GTOs), ChronusQ relies on the `Libint` library of E. Valeev [1]. A preconfigured (uncompiled) library is shipped with ChronusQ (located in the `/deps/src` directory). The configure/compile procedure described in Section 2.3 details the `CMake` options to facilitate compilation of `Libint`. As ChronusQ attempts to use the latest version of `Libint`, but we will only support compilation and linking to the locally stored version of `Libint` as the functionality may be different between versions.

### 2.2.4 Eigen

ChronusQ currently utilizes `Eigen` [2] as a high-level C++ API for various light-weight linear algebra tasks (i.e. storage, multiplication, etc). `Eigen` is also made available through most (GNU/Linux) OS distributions via a standard package manager. One may obtain a pre-packaged `Eigen` installation (with root access / Fedora 22) via

```
> sudo dnf install eigen3-devel
```

If for some reason you are unable to obtain a pre-packaged version, installation of `Eigen` is quite easy as it is a header-only library. One need simply download the source tar file from <http://eigen.tuxfamily.org/> and place the contents somewhere that ChronusQ can find them. An explanation of the `CMake` variables that need to be set for a non-standard installation of `Eigen` can be found in Section 2.3. I

### 2.2.5 BTAS

ChronusQ currently utilizes `BTAS` (**B**asic **T**ensor **A**lgebra **S**ubroutines) [3] as a C++11 API for multi-linear algebra. `BTAS` is a header-only API (see `Eigen`), so one only needs to place the headers in a place that ChronusQ can find them. The `BTAS` source code may be obtained from the `BTAS` GitHub via

```
> git clone https://github.com/BTAS/BTAS.git
```

Instructions regarding the **CMake** variables that need to be set for a non-root installation of BTAS may be found in Section 2.3.

### 2.2.6 Boost

Various parts of the code depend on the C++ **Boost** libraries [4] to varying degrees (namely the **PythonAPI** from which **ChronusQ** can be executed). Given that **Boost** is not already installed on your system, one may compile and place boost in the usual (root) place by obtaining the latest **Boost** source from <http://www.boost.org> and following

```
> cd /path/to/boost/download
> tar xvf boost_<boost_version>.tar.gz
> cd boost_<boost_version>
> ./bootstrap
> ./b2 install --prefix=/usr/local
```

If you already have **Boost** installed on your machine (in a non-standard location) or are unable to perform the above procedure (i.e. no root access), instructions regarding the **CMake** variables that must be set are described in Section 2.3.

### 2.2.7 Python

**ChronusQ** utilizes **Python** as a high level API for input file digestion and the actual running of the **ChronusQ** software. One must have the development versions of **Python** as well as **libxml2** and **libxslt** to use **ChronusQ**. These may be obtained through the standard package manager of your (GNU/Linux) OS distribution (Fedora 22 / root access) via:

```
> sudo dnf install python-devel libxml2-devel libxslt-devel
```

To parse the input file, **ChronusQ** relies on the **Python** module **ConfigParser**. One may obtain **ConfigParser** through the **Python** **pip** module via:

```
> pip install configparser
```

### 2.2.8 HDF5

**ChronusQ** utilizes **HDF5** [5] for binary file IO for use with checkpointing and scratch file generation. **HDF5** is made available through the standard (GNU/Linux) OS distribution package manager via (Fedora 22 / root access):

```
> sudo dnf install hdf5-devel
```

If for some reason **HDF5** cannot be installed in this manner (i.e. no root access), it may be compiled from source from the tar files on <https://www.hdfgroup.org/>. Instructions on how one may set the **CMake** and shell environment variables to work with **ChronusQ** can be found in Section 2.3.

### 2.2.9 LAPACK and BLAS

**ChronusQ** utilizes **LAPACK** [6] and **BLAS** [7, 8, 9, 10] to perform the most important linear-algebra functionality (i.e. SVD, QR, diagonalization, etc). **LAPACK** and **BLAS** come standard on most

(GNU/Linux) OS distributions, and if not, they are easily obtained via the standard package manager (i.e. Fedora 22 / root access) via:

```
> sudo dnf install lapack-devel blas-devel
```

If for some reason LAPACK and BLAS cannot be installed in this manner (i.e. no root access), we have included an automatic build of these packages through our configuration procedure. Please see Section 2.3. for details.

**IMPORTANT:** While it is encouraged to attempt to link to optimized LAPACK and BLAS libraries, the developers have experienced many issues when linking to Intel MKL libraries. Please link to the traditional LAPACK and BLAS libraries or ATLAS optimized libraries when configuring ChronusQ.

## 2.3 Configure and Compilation

This section outlines the configuration and compilation of the ChronusQ software package via CMake. Before this procedure can be carried out, all of the dependencies (unless otherwise stated) from the previous section must be installed. Any problems regarding the configuration or compilation may be directed toward David Williams (dbwy@u.washington.edu).

### 2.3.1 Configure

The configuration of the machine specific Makefiles to compile ChronusQ are handled by CMake. ChronusQ has adopted an “out-of-source” compilation model to better separate source and compiled code. In this manner, if a compilation or configuration goes wrong, one must simply delete the build directory and start over with no risk of editing the source code. Configuration of ChronusQ takes place via the following general scheme

```
> cd /path/to/chronusq
> mkdir build && cd build
> cmake -D<OPT1>=<V1> -D<OPT2>=<V2> [ETC] ..
```

where <OPT1> and <OPT2> are CMake variables and V1 and V2 are the corresponding values to set these variables. The “..” must be present at the end of the command to let CMake know that there is a file in the previous directory called “CMakeLists.txt”, which contains the CMake configuration instructions. The following CMake variables may be influential to a successful configuration of ChronusQ:

Variable	Purpose	Default Value
CMAKE_CXX_COMPILER	Set the C++ Compiler (full path)	g++
CMAKE_C_COMPILER	Set the C Compiler (full path)	gcc
CMAKE_Fortran_COMPILER	Set the FORTRAN Compiler (full path)	gfortran
CMAKE_CXX_FLAGS	Set the C++ Compile Flags	–
BOOST_ROOT	The root directory of a boost installation	/usr
BOOST_LIBRARYDIR	Location of Boost libraries	\$(BOOST_ROOT)/lib
BOOST_INCLUDEDIR	Location of Boost headers	\$(BOOST_ROOT)/include
Boost_NO_SYSTEM_PATHS	Whether or not to use the system paths to find Boost installation	OFF
EIGEN3_ROOT	Path that contains the Eigen directory	/usr/include/eigen3
BTAS_ROOT	Path that contains the btas directory	/usr/include/btas
BUILD_LA	Build LAPACK and BLAS locally	OFF
BUILD_LIBINT	Build Libint locally	ON

As a working example, on a machine that all of the dependencies had to be installed as a non-root user, the following script generated a successful configuration:

```
#!/bin/sh

echo "Building ChronusQ in "$PWD
export HDF5_ROOT=$(HOME)/HDF5
cmake \
  -DCMAKE_CXX_COMPILER=$(HOME)/gcc/gcc-4.9.2/bin/g++ \
  -DCMAKE_C_COMPILER=$(HOME)/gcc/gcc-4.9.2/bin/gcc \
  -DCMAKE_Fortran_COMPILER=$(HOME)/gcc/gcc-4.9.2/bin/gfortran \
  -DCMAKE_CXX_FLAGS='-w -O2 -std=c++11'\
  -DUSE_LIBINT=ON \
  -DBOOST_ROOT=$(HOME)/boost/1.59.0 \
  -DBOOST_LIBRARYDIR=$(HOME)/boost/1.59.0/stage-1_59_0/lib \
  -DBOOST_INCLUDEDIR=$(HOME)/boost/1.59.0/include \
  -DBoost_NO_SYSTEM_PATHS=ON \
  -DEIGEN3_ROOT=$(HOME)/eigen/eigen-eigen-c58038c56923 \
  -DBTAS_ROOT=$(HOME)/github/BTAS \
  -DBUILD_LA=ON \
  -DBUILD_LIBINT=ON \
  ..
```

### 2.3.2 Compilation

Once a successful configuration has been achieved, compilation is very simple. From the build directory, simply type

```
> make
```

and compilation will begin. ChronusQ does not currently have a standard install protocol once the compilation has been successful, so it is not suggested that the user performs a `make install` command, as we are not sure if this will work on all machines. Note that this is being looked into and will be handled before the first non-Beta release.

**Note on parallel builds:** If you wish to compile ChronusQ in parallel, i.e.

```
> make -j <NCORES>
```

you will likely experience very many errors as the CMake configuration has not been set up to smartly do things in the correct order. It will try to build Libint and ChronusQ at the same time, and because Libint is a dependency of ChronusQ, the build won't be able to find the correct headers, and error messages will ensue. **TO FIX THIS** one can build things in two (or three if building LAPACK and BLAS)

```
> cmake <PARAMETERS> ..  
> make libint  
> make lapack # if building LAPACK and BLAS  
> make -j <NCORES>
```

Once ChronusQ has been successfully compiled, you should find a file named “chronusq.py” in the main build directory. This is the ChronusQ python script and it may be run in two ways. The first is directly through python:

```
> python chronusq.py <input_file>
```

The next is to create an executable out of the script and run it directly

```
> chmod +x chronusq.py  
> ./chronusq.py <input_file>
```

With this last method, it is possible to place chronusq.py into your PATH and run it from outside directories:

```
> export PATH=$PATH":"$PWD  
> chronusq.py <input_file>
```

## 2.4 Testing Installation

After you've compiled ChronusQ, it is recommended that users test that everything is functioning correctly. We've added a set of unit tests that are available in the `Test/UNIT` folder. Inside that directory you will find:

```
buglist.txt  
chronusq.py  
refval.py  
rununit.py  
testXXXX*.inp  
test.index
```



The `rununit.py` utility will run the unit tests and compare against reference values that are stored in `chronus-ref.val`. Upon completion, the results of each test will be printed out in `summary.txt`. This file will show the differences between the test and reference values and will say if that test passed or not.

You can change which tests are run by editing the `text.index` file. Simple comment out the tests that you don't want to run and they will be ignored. There are tests using a single core (serial) and multiple cores (SMP) as well as tests contracting the two-electron integrals in core and calculating and contracting them directly. We are aware of some bugs in several of the tests, so we have left them commented out for now and added details about them in `buglist.txt`. Many of these are not really bugs and simply require more robust optimization schemes, but they are left as things that need to be addressed in the future.

One can run the unit tests by simply running

```
> python rununit.py
```

and checking the generated `summary.txt`. If you identify a bug or error that is not addressed in `buglist.txt`, please contact David Williams ([dbwy@u.washington.edu](mailto:dbwy@u.washington.edu)).

## 3 Input Files

To use ChronusQ, it is necessary to specify the molecule and job type within an input file. The easiest way to understand the input for ChronusQ is to take a look at an example. Here is a sample input file for water, `h2o.inp`. As written, it performs an HF/STO-3G calculation on neutral, singlet water with a single processor.

```
#
# Molecule Specification
#
[Molecule]
charge = 0
mult   = 1
geom:
  O    0.0000000000 -0.0757918436 0.0
  H    0.866811829  0.6014357793 0.0
  H   -0.866811829  0.6014357793 0.0

#
# Job Specification
#
[QM]
reference = HF
job       = SCF
basis     = sto3g.gbs

#
# Misc Settings
#
[Misc]
nsmp = 1
```

ChronusQ input files are divided into sections that specify the molecular geometry, the type of job, and other miscellaneous options. Lines beginning with `#` are ignored. Inputs are not case-sensitive. Sections are defined by the square bracket, e.g. `[Molecule]` specifies the molecular geometry, charge, etc. When ChronusQ encounters a section, it then searches the following lines for the appropriate commands and keywords. We will look at these sections each in turn.

### 3.1 Specifying your molecule: the `[Molecule]` section

The `[Molecule]` section specifies the geometry, charge, and multiplicity of the system.

#### `charge`

A signed integer that defines the overall electric charge of your molecule.

#### `mult`

An integer that defines the multiplicity of the molecule. Singlets correspond to 1, doublets to 2, triplets to 3, and so on.

#### `geom`

Specifies the geometry of the molecule. The input is always Cartesian, and the default units

are in Angstroms. Each line corresponds to one atom. Each line here follows the following format

```
<atomic symbol> <x-coordinate> <y-coordinate> <z-coordinate>
```

That's all there is to the [Molecule] specification!

### 3.2 Defining the type of job with the [QM] section

The [QM] section sets up the type of job you want to run, be it a single point Hartree-Fock energy calculation or a real-time propagation. It is also where you specify your basis set and many other options.

#### Basis

Defines your basis set. Available options can be found in the **basis** directory. Note that you will need to specify the filename, hence the **.gbs** extension.

#### Job

Defines what kind of job you want to do. Available options:

**SCF** Default. Perform self-consistent field energy optimization. Defaults to Hartree-Fock (DFT on its way!)

**RT** Perform real-time propagation. ChronusQ will know to look for section [RT] (described later).

**CIS** Perform Configuration Interaction Singles (CIS).

**RPA** Perform Random Phase Approximation (RPA), also known as linear-response time-dependent Hartree-Fock (LR-TDHF).

#### Ints

Defines the integral routine. Available options:

**DIRECT** Default. Direct integral evaluation.

**INCORE** Integral evaluation and storage in memory.

#### Reference

Defines your reference wave function. Available options:

**REAL/COMPLEX RHF/UHF/CUHF/GHF** Default is real, and RHF or UHF depending on multiplicity of the molecule.

- NOTE: CUHF is constrained UHF, not complex UHF.

#### Print

An integer [ $1 \leq \text{print} \leq 4$ ] that toggles how much information is printed to the output file.

### 3.3 Controlling the SCF optimization: the [SCF] section

ChronusQ allows you to take finer control over the self-consistent field optimization through the [SCF] section. You can add an external electric field to the SCF here, as well as turn on and off DIIS acceleration and fiddle with the convergence tolerances. Here are the available options:

**SCFDENTOL** Floating point number that specifies the desired convergence of the density.

Default = `1e-10`

**SCFENETOL** Floating point number that specifies the desired convergence of the energy.

Default = `1e-12`

**SCFMAXITER** Integer that specifies the maximum number of SCF iterations.

Default = `256`

**DIIS** Boolean that specifies whether to do DIIS acceleration of SCF.

Default = `true`

Note the DIIS algorithm is Pulay's Commutator-based DIIS.

**FIELD** Three floats that specify the external static electric field to be applied.

Default is zero field, equivalent to: `FIELD = 0.0 0.0 0.0`

**GUESS** Type of guess for the wave function.

Available options:

**SAD** Superposition of **A**tomic **D**ensities. Default.

**READ** Read density

**PRINT** An integer [`1≤print≤4`] that toggles how much information is printed to the output file.

### 3.4 Parallelism and other miscellaenous options: the [MISC] section

If you compiled ChronusQ to work with SMP parallelism, you can change the number processors to be used in this section. All the keywords in [MISC] are totally optional. The default behavior of parallelism in ChronusQ is to use just one processor. Available options:

**NSMP** An integer number of processors to use.

Default = `1`

### 3.5 Real time time-dependent Hartree-Fock: the [RT] section

If in the [QM] section you have set `Job = RT`, ChronusQ will search for additional commands and options specified in the [RT] section. Here we can define the type of perturbing field (currently based on the electric dipole only), as well as the type of orthonormalization, and how long we want our time-evolution to last. Below are the possible flags:

**MAXSTEP**

An integer that defines how many time steps you want to take.

Default = `10`.

#### TIMESTEP

A floating point number that defines how large your time step is (in au).  
 Default = 0.05 au.

#### EDFIELD

Three floats that indicate the magnitude of the x, y, and z dipole components of the electric field.  
 Default is zero field, equivalent to: **EDFIELD** = 0.0 0.0 0.0

#### TIME\_ON

A floating point time,  $t_{on}$ , (in fs) we want the external field turned on.  
 Default = 0.0 fs.

#### TIME\_OFF

A floating point time,  $t_{off}$ , (in fs) we want the external field turned off.  
 Default = 1000.0 fs.

#### FREQUENCY

A floating point number that sets the frequency,  $\omega$ , (in eV) of the applied field.  
 Default = 0.0 eV.

#### PHASE

A floating point number that defines the phase offset,  $\phi$ , (in radians) of the applied field.  
 Default = 0.0 rad.

#### ENVELOPE

Envelope function that describes the shape of the external field. Possible options:

**PW** Plane-wave,  $E(t) = E \cdot \cos(\omega(t - t_{on}) + \phi)$

Note that setting frequency to zero gives the static field.

**LINRAMP** Linear ramping up to the maximum in the first cycle, then constant envelope afterwards until we linearly ramp off to zero.

For  $t_{on} \leq t \leq t_{off}$ :

$$E(t) = \begin{cases} E \cdot (\omega(t - t_{on})/2\pi) \cos(\omega(t - t_{on}) + \phi) & t \leq t_{on} + 2\pi/\omega \\ E \cdot \cos(\omega(t - t_{on}) + \phi) & t_{on} + 2\pi/\omega < t < t_{off} - 2\pi/\omega \\ E \cdot (\omega(t_{off} - t)/2\pi) \cos(\omega(t - t_{on}) + \phi) & t \geq t_{off} - 2\pi/\omega \end{cases}$$

**GAUSSIAN** Gaussian envelope,  $E(t) = E \cdot \exp(-(\sigma(t - t_m))^2) \sin(\omega(t - t_{on}) + \phi)$

$\sigma$  = the range of frequency (FWHM)

$t_m$  = the time when the amplitude reaches maximum

The default for  $t_m = \sqrt{(\ln(1000))/\sigma}$  (at  $t_{on}$ , the amplitude is 1/1000 times maximum.

This ensures a smooth turning-on of the field)

Note that this requires you to define  $\sigma$  through the **SIGMA** keyword, explained below.

**STEP** Step function,

$$E(t) = \begin{cases} E & t_{on} \leq t \leq t_{off} \\ 0 & else \end{cases}$$

## SIGMA

A floating point number, in eV, that defines the full-width half-max (FWHM) of the Gaussian envelope,  $\sigma$ . This keyword is necessary (and meaningful) only for the Gaussian envelope.  
Default = 0.0 eV

## ORTHO

Type of orthogonalization. Available options are LOWDIN and CHOLESKY.  
Default = LOWDIN.

## 3.6 Response theory: the [CIS] and [RPA] section

In the [QM] section, if you set `Job` equal to CIS or RPA, you can set the number of roots to look for here. This

`NSTATES` an integer number of roots to find in either CIS or RPA.

There is no default, and the number of roots must be specified manually.

## References

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