

The State of PsiForum

Jonathon Misiewicz

November 9, 2018



Psi4

OPEN-SOURCE QUANTUM CHEMISTRY

[news](#) | [manual](#) | [developers](#) | [downloads](#)

[Psi4Education](#) | [contacts](#) | [history](#) | [user forum](#)

Psi4 User Survey! (respond by 1 Nov)

Psi4NUMPY Paper!

Our latest paper shows how a combination of Psi4 and NUMPY can be used to facilitate the rapid development of clear, understandable code for electronic structure theory, and presents a set of reference implementations. [Available](#) from the *Journal of Chemical Theory and Computation*



all categories ▾

Latest

























New

Unread

Top

Categories

+ New Topic

Topic	Category	Users	Replies	Views	Activity
Calculation of IR intensities		 	1	8	6h
MP2 polarizability calculation		  	2	45	1d
Pair correlation energies with set pair_energies_print true			0	19	4d
RI-MP2/def2-tzvppd convergence issue for calculations with iodide		 	4	71	6d
NMR chemical shift calculation			0	33	7d
Error on building psi4 from source		    	14	375	8d
Compute Orbital Gradient		 	2	50	12d
Timer.dat Output detailed		  	3	70	15d
Please compile libint to support DF gradients		 	3	123	15d
Installation + enable gdma		  	2	74	15d

- ▶ Sampled last 101 active help threads at time of writing

Procedure

- ▶ Sampled last 101 active help threads at time of writing
- ▶ That 101 excludes certain threads...
 - ▶ Spam questions

Procedure

- ▶ Sampled last 101 active help threads at time of writing
- ▶ That 101 excludes certain threads...
 - ▶ Spam questions
 - ▶ Questions about third-party programs, but not their Psi interfaces

- ▶ Sampled last 101 active help threads at time of writing
- ▶ That 101 excludes certain threads...
 - ▶ Spam questions
 - ▶ Questions about third-party programs, but not their Psi interfaces
 - ▶ Unintelligible questions

- ▶ Sampled last 101 active help threads at time of writing
- ▶ That 101 excludes certain threads...
 - ▶ Spam questions
 - ▶ Questions about third-party programs, but not their Psi interfaces
 - ▶ Unintelligible questions
- ▶ Some threads have multiple questions, if the topic changes, e.g., user asks what the default SAPT(DFT) functional is, but asks about the sensitivity of SAPT(DFT) to choice of functional as a follow-up

- ▶ Gave keywords to the topics and categorized them

Procedure

- ▶ Gave keywords to the topics and categorized them
- ▶ Made rough logs of who posted where when

Procedure

- ▶ Gave keywords to the topics and categorized them
- ▶ Made rough logs of who posted where when
- ▶ Tons of data! What follows is highly distilled.

Survey Limitations

- ▶ Forum evidence is ambiguous without addl. context

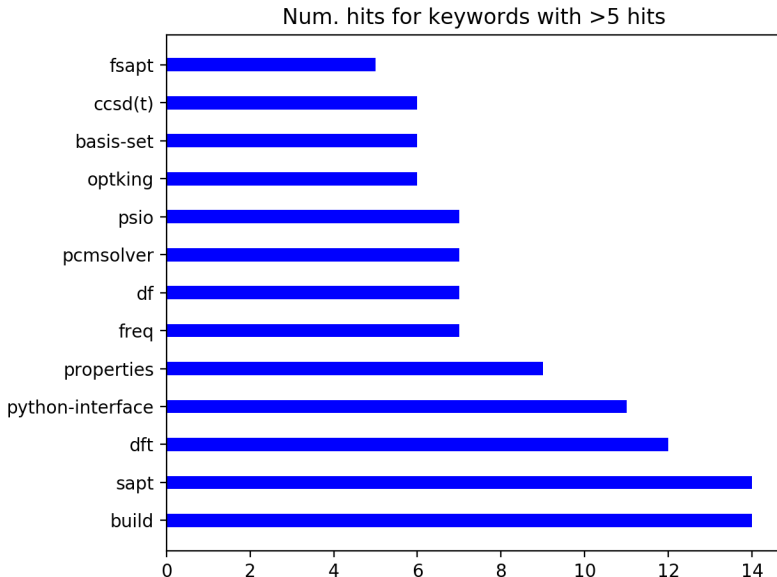
Survey Limitations

- ▶ Forum evidence is ambiguous without addl. context
- ▶ Is an issue absent on the forums because it doesn't exist, or because it didn't occur to anybody to ask?

Survey Limitations

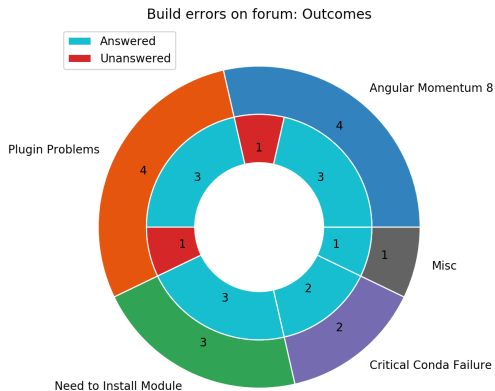
- ▶ Forum evidence is ambiguous without addl. context
- ▶ Is an issue absent on the forums because it doesn't exist, or because it didn't occur to anybody to ask?
- ▶ Do people post about a module because there's a problem with it, or because it sees a lot of use?

What are users posting about?



Public Enemy No. 1: Building

- ▶ 14 conversations, 12 topics about build problems






Public Enemy No. 2: PSIO

```
RuntimeError:
Fatal Error: PSIO Error
Error occurred in file: /home/nevensky/.psi4/psi4/src/psi
```

<input/output files removed>

Thanks for your help.

  ...  Reply

created
 May 29

last reply
 May 29

2
replies

161
views

2
users




 



Nevensky

May 29

Seems I've ran out of disk space. But the error itself seems obscure at best.




  ...  Reply



loriab

May 29

Yes, PSIO errors are notoriously unhelpful. We have dreams of switching to hdf5 or bd.

  ...  Reply

- ▶ *pcmsolver* questions are hit-or-miss for responses. Bug reports in particular tend to go unexplored.

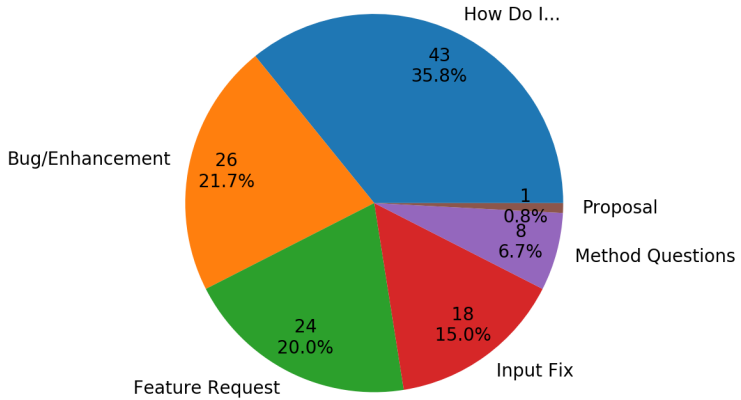
- ▶ *pcmsolver* questions are hit-or-miss for responses. Bug reports in particular tend to go unexplored.
- ▶ *python-interface* questions are either somebody wanting something really tricky or not checking the docs

- ▶ *pcmsolver* questions are hit-or-miss for responses. Bug reports in particular tend to go unexplored.
- ▶ *python-interface* questions are either somebody wanting something really tricky or not checking the docs
- ▶ *sapt* questions often about wanting a basis set for metals or fixable by writing SAPT documentation with novices in mind

- ▶ *pcmsolver* questions are hit-or-miss for responses. Bug reports in particular tend to go unexplored.
- ▶ *python-interface* questions are either somebody wanting something really tricky or not checking the docs
- ▶ *sapt* questions often about wanting a basis set for metals or fixable by writing SAPT documentation with novices in mind
- ▶ *optking* usually the setting for problems rather than problematic itself - only one topic about trouble converging a geometry

- ▶ *pcmsolver* questions are hit-or-miss for responses. Bug reports in particular tend to go unexplored.
- ▶ *python-interface* questions are either somebody wanting something really tricky or not checking the docs
- ▶ *sapt* questions often about wanting a basis set for metals or fixable by writing SAPT documentation with novices in mind
- ▶ *optking* usually the setting for problems rather than problematic itself - only one topic about trouble converging a geometry
- ▶ *dft* has no clear patterns, despite the relatively large sample. Just a common thing to use?

Categorization of Forum Conversations



- ▶ Timo Strunk proposed a faster way to compute one electron properties. Got a Slack invite the same day. PR accepted.

Proposals

- ▶ Timo Strunk proposed a faster way to compute one electron properties. Got a Slack invite the same day. PR accepted.
- ▶ So far, so good!

- ▶ 5 questions answered within 3 days, 3 received no response

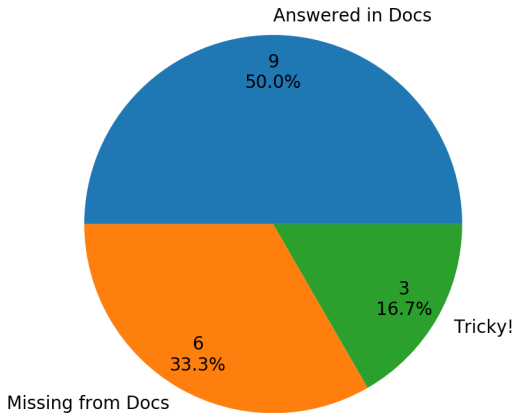
Method Questions

- ▶ 5 questions answered within 3 days, 3 received no response
- ▶ 5 questions are about SAPT(!)

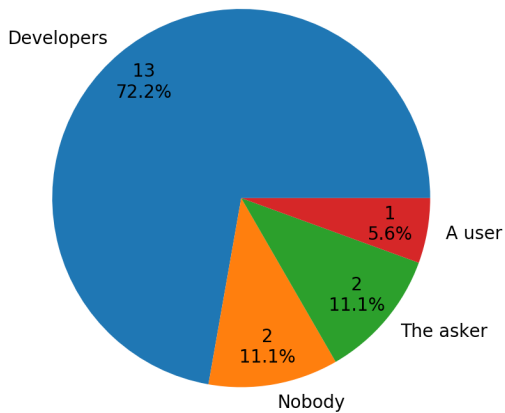
Method Questions

- ▶ 5 questions answered within 3 days, 3 received no response
- ▶ 5 questions are about SAPT(!)
- ▶ All answers came from devs

Subcategories of "Fix my Input File"



Who Answered "Fix my Input File"?



What features are being requested?

- ▶ Short answer: Too many

What features are being requested?

- ▶ Short answer: Too many
- ▶ IR intensities, NMR shifts, HOMO/LUMO gradients, DMRG convergence control, ω B97M gradients, exporting multipole integrals, ADC properties, accepting FCHK files as input, estimating job memory, wavefunction serialization, 3 body SAPT, SCF level shifting, TDDFT, more customization of frozen core commands, easier “embedding potentials”, cube files for valence electrons, ω B97M(2), more readable timer data...

What features are being requested?

- ▶ Short answer: Too many
- ▶ IR intensities, NMR shifts, HOMO/LUMO gradients, DMRG convergence control, ω B97M gradients, exporting multipole integrals, ADC properties, accepting FCHK files as input, estimating job memory, wavefunction serialization, 3 body SAPT, SCF level shifting, TDDFT, more customization of frozen core commands, easier “embedding potentials”, cube files for valence electrons, ω B97M(2), more readable timer data...
- ▶ The forum is no help in prioritizing these

What features have we fulfilled?

1. More readable timer data

What features have we fulfilled?

1. More readable timer data
2. Valence cube files

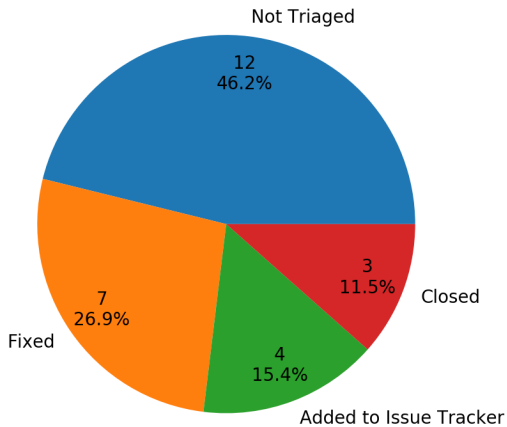
What features have we fulfilled?

1. More readable timer data
2. Valence cube files
3. Wavefunction serialization (literally last night)

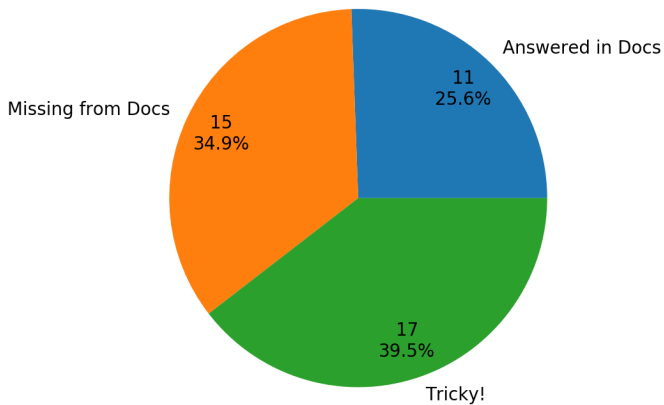
What features have we fulfilled?

1. More readable timer data
 2. Valence cube files
 3. Wavefunction serialization (literally last night)
- Only the timer readability influenced dev decisions

Subcategories of "Bug/Enhancement"



Subcategories of "How do I...?"



Who Answered "How do I...?"

