

Diagonalization-free real space DFT calculations using Chebyshev filtered subspace iteration

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The Chebyshev-filtered subspace iteration (CheFSI) method [1–5] has resulted in significant speedup over iterative diagonalization-based methods in DFT calculations. An order of magnitude speedup can be routinely obtained for material systems with thousands of atoms. However, the previous CheFSI method is not diagonalization-free. It resorts to iterative diagonalization at the first step of a self-consistent loop to provide initial vectors for the latter more efficient subspace filtering.

We propose a novel approach to completely avoid the expensive first-step diagonalization. This is achieved by suitably chosen polynomial filters. The new approach costs about half of the memory requirement of diagonalization-based methods. In addition, this filtering can provide better initial vectors than diagonalization-based methods, which reduces the overall self-consistency iteration steps.

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