

## 1 Energy-volume curves and EOS

Just like the equation of state for ideal gases is  $pV = nRT$ , there have also been several attempts to describe bulks with an EOS. Some examples can be found here:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Equation\\_of\\_state](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Equation_of_state)

ASE provides a simple interface for fitting such an EOS to calculated energy-volume data points:

<https://wiki.fysik.dtu.dk/ase/ase/eos.html>

In the following, we will find the equilibrium lattice constant for your system by performing a ground state calculation (= find total energy) for a set of different lattice constants that are slightly smaller or larger compared to the one listed in your CIF file.

1. Calculate the total energies while varying the lattice constant, i. e. while expanding and compressing the cell, within a range of -5% to +5% and 11 total configurations.

**Solution:**

```
1 import numpy as np
2 from ase.build import bulk
3 from ase.io import Trajectory
4 from gpaw import GPAW, PW
5
6 # create a list of lattice parameters to test
7 a0 = 5.43
8 percent = 0.05
9 # syntax: np.linspace(start, end, number of values)
10 a_list = a0 * (1 + np.linspace(-percent, +percent, 11))
11 print("Lattice constants:\n", a_list.round(3), "\n\n")
12
13 # prepare arrays for total energies and corresponding volumes
14 etots = []
15 vols = []
16 # prepare trajectory object to store all cells in
17 traj = Trajectory("Si.traj", "w")
18
19 # print nice header
20 print("a          volume    total energy")
21 print("-----")
22 # create the cell, then find, store and print the total energy
23 for a in a_list:
24     si = bulk("Si", "diamond", a)
25     si.calc = GPAW(mode=PW(400), xc="PBE", kpts=(8, 8, 8), txt=None)
26     # we need volume and energy for E(V) curve;
27     # use corresponding getter functions and append values to lists
28     vol = si.get_volume()
29     vols.append(vol)
30     etot = si.get_potential_energy()
31     etots.append(etot)
32     # print progress; {:.13f} -> float with 3 digits after dec. point
33     print("{:.13f}    {:.23f}    {:.26f}".format(a, vol, etot))
34     # write the entire configuration (cell + energy) as trajectory
35     traj.write(si)
```

2. Calculate the DFT equilibrium lattice constant from the minimum volume  $V_0$ , while keeping in mind that we used the primitive cell for the DFT calculation whereas the lattice constant is always given with respect to the conventional cell! Use the `ase.eos` module to retrieve the minimal volume from the calculated data points.

**Solution:**

```

1 from ase.eos import EquationOfState
2 from ase.io.trajectory import Trajectory
3 # OPTIONAL: read in the E-V data if not present anymore
4 traj = Trajectory("Si.traj", "r")
5 etots = [t.get_potential_energy() for t in traj]
6 vols = [t.get_volume() for t in traj]
7 # save volumes and corresponding energies in eos class
8 eos = EquationOfState(vols, etots)
9 # fit an EOS and return the minimal volume, energy and bulk modulus
10 v0, e0, B = eos.fit()
11 # calculate the DFT lattice constant from the minimal volume
12 aDFT = (v0 * 4) ** (1 / 3.0)
13 print("aDFT = {:.3f}".format(aDFT)) # 5.476 (GGA), 5.407 (LDA)
    
```

3. Verify, that you can obtain the exact same result using the convenience function `ase.eos.calculate_eos(atoms, npoints=5, eps=0.04, trajectory=None, callback=None)`, where the entire code from task 1 is already implemented.

**Solution:**

```

1 from ase.build import bulk
2 from ase.eos import calculate_eos
3 from gpaw import GPAW, PW
4 si = bulk("Si", "diamond", 5.43)
5 si.calc = GPAW(mode=PW(400), kpts=(8, 8, 8), xc='PBE', txt=None)
6 eos = calculate_eos(si)
7 v0, e0, B = eos.fit()
8 aDFT = (v0 * 4) ** (1 / 3.0)
9 print("aDFT = {:.3f}".format(aDFT)) # 5.476 (GGA), 5.407 (LDA)
    
```

4. Compare the DFT lattice constant with the one from the CIF file. How large is the difference? Interpret the results.

**Solution:**

Difference for the Si example is about 1%. However, DFT lattice constants can differ from experimental ones up to 10%!

5. Repeat your script but this time use the LDA approximation instead of the GGA functional (set `xc='LDA'` instead of `xc='PBE'`). What can you tell about the deviation of the lattice constant in this case?

**Solution:**

- GGA is underbinding  
 smaller binding energies  $\rightarrow$  larger interatomic distances  $\rightarrow$  larger  $a_0$
- LDA is overbinding  
 larger binding energies  $\rightarrow$  smaller interatomic distances  $\rightarrow$  smaller  $a_0$

6. Repeat the analysis graphically: `$ ase gui Si.traj` (Tools  $\rightarrow$  Bulkmodulus)

**Solution:**  $V_0 = 41.047 \text{ \AA}^3$ ,  $B = 88.382 \text{ GPa}$ ,  $E_0 = -10.799 \text{ eV}$  (see Fig. 1)

More information on the `ase.eos` module:

<https://wiki.fysik.dtu.dk/ase/tutorials/eos/eos.html>

<https://wiki.fysik.dtu.dk/ase/ase/eos.html>

<https://wiki.fysik.dtu.dk/gpaw/tutorialsexercises/structureoptimization/aluminium/aluminium.html>

[https://wiki.fysik.dtu.dk/gpaw/tutorialsexercises/structureoptimization/lattice\\_constants/lattice\\_constants.html](https://wiki.fysik.dtu.dk/gpaw/tutorialsexercises/structureoptimization/lattice_constants/lattice_constants.html)

## 2 Relax calculation via BFGS algorithm

An often performed type of calculation is the so called “relaxation”. There, either the atomic positions or the cell parameters or even both simultaneously are optimized with respect to the forces acting on the atoms. For solids/bulks, periodic boundary conditions are usually assumed.

Since the approach of the previous tasks would be rather tedious, there is a simpler and quicker way to search for minima, namely using an optimizer algorithm like BFGS search:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Broyden-Fletcher-Goldfarb-Shanno\\_algorithm](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Broyden-Fletcher-Goldfarb-Shanno_algorithm)

1. Perform a BFGS search for the equilibrium lattice constant with GPAW. Set the initial lattice constant to 6.0 Å. Use the `UnitCellFilter` function to ensure simultaneous optimization of cell parameters and atomic positions.

The algorithm will stop when the force on all individual atoms  $a$  is less than a given convergence parameter  $f_{\max}$ :

$$\max_a |\mathbf{F}_a| < f_{\max}$$

You can use the following script for the relaxation calculation:

```
1 # import necessary modules
2 from ase.build import bulk
3 from ase.optimize.bfgs import BFGS
4 from ase.optimize.bfgslinesearch import BFGSLineSearch
5 from ase.filters import UnitCellFilter
6 from gpaw import GPAW
7 from gpaw import PW
8
9 # create cell using non-equilibrium lattice constant
10 si = bulk("Si", "diamond", 6.0)
11 si.calc = GPAW(xc="PBE", mode="PW(400)", kpts=(8, 8, 8), txt=None)
12
13 # make sure atom positions and cell parameters will both be optimized
14 uf = UnitCellFilter(si)
15 # also try to replace BFGS by BFGSLineSearch
16 relax = BFGS(uf, trajectory="Si-BFGS.traj")
17
18 # set force convergence parameter and start search
19 relax.run(fmax=0.05) # unit of force is eV / Ang
20
21 # print cell information
22 print("\nCell parameters:")
23 print(si.get_cell().round(5))
24 print("\nCell volume: ", si.get_volume())
```

2. Compare your result with the ones from fitting the energy-volume-curve. Also try another optimizer like `BFGSLineSearch`. How large is the difference in volume and lattice constant in each case?

**Solution:**

Slight difference in volume, also between relaxations using different optimizers like BFGS vs. `BFGSLineSearch`, but basically the same lattice constant.

More information on optimization algorithms:

<https://wiki.fysik.dtu.dk/ase/ase/optimize.html>

<https://wiki.fysik.dtu.dk/gpaw/tutorialsexercises/structureoptimization/stress/stress.html>

**Appendix**

Additional material for the EOS task:

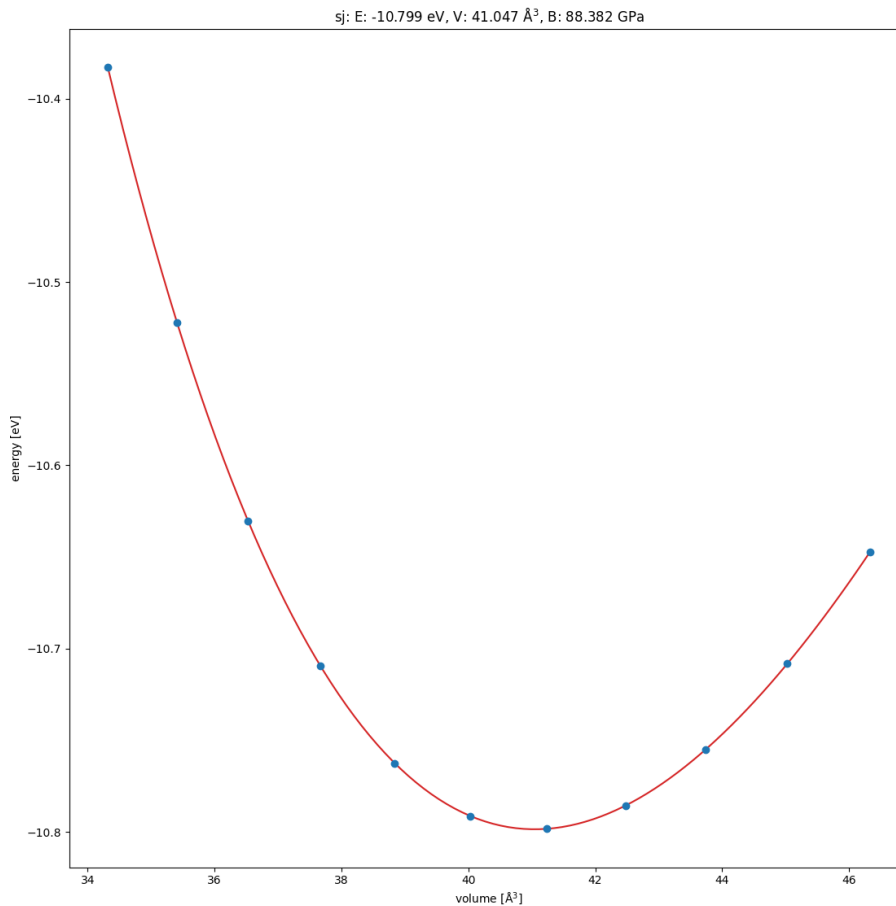


Figure 1: Bulk modulus via ase-gui.

The bulk modulus from thermodynamics is defined by

$$B = -V \frac{\partial p}{\partial V}, \quad \text{with} \quad p = -\frac{\partial E(V)}{\partial V}. \quad (1)$$

Inserting the (volume/lattice constant)-relation for primitive fcc crystals,  $V = a^3/4$ , we obtain

$$B = \frac{4}{9a_0} \left. \frac{\partial^2 E(a)}{\partial^2 a} \right|_{a=a_0} \quad \left( \text{using} \quad \frac{\partial V}{\partial a} = \frac{3a^2}{4} \right) \quad (2)$$

for the bulk modulus in terms of the conventional (equilibrium) lattice constant.