Introduction to density-functional theory

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$$\hat{H}\Psi_0 = E_0\Psi_0$$

N-electron Schrödinger equation for the *ground* state $\hat{H}\Psi_0 = E_0\Psi_0$ $\Psi_0 \equiv \Psi_0(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \dots, \mathbf{x}_N), \quad \mathbf{x}_i \equiv (\mathbf{r}_i, \sigma_i) \equiv (x_i, y_i, z_i, \sigma_i = \pm \frac{1}{2}) \quad \text{for} \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, N,$ where $\hat{H} = \hat{T} + \hat{W}_{ee} + \hat{V}.$ and $\hat{T} \equiv -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \nabla_{\mathbf{r}_{i}}^{2} = -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \left(\frac{\partial^{2}}{\partial x_{i}^{2}} + \frac{\partial^{2}}{\partial y_{i}^{2}} + \frac{\partial^{2}}{\partial z_{i}^{2}} \right)$ \rightarrow *universal* kinetic energy operator $\hat{W}_{\rm ee} \equiv \sum_{i < j}^{N} \frac{1}{|\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_j|} \times$ universal two-electron repulsion operator $\hat{V} \equiv \sum_{i=1}^{N} v(\mathbf{r}_{i}) \times \quad \text{where} \quad v(\mathbf{r}) = -\sum_{i=1}^{nuclei} \frac{Z_{A}}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{R}_{A}|} \quad \longrightarrow$ local *nuclear* potential operator

The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 1998 John Pople - Facts

 $\chi = \frac{1}{2}$

John A. Pople

Born: 31 October 1925, Burnham-on-Sea, United Kingdom

Died: 15 March 2004, Chicago, IL, USA

Affiliation at the time of the award: Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, USA

Prize motivation: "for his development of computational methods in quantum chemistry"

Field: theoretical chemistry

Prize share: 1/2

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(Fictitious) non-interacting electrons

- Solving the Schrödinger equation for non-interacting electrons is *easy*.
- You "just" have to solve the Schrödinger equation for a *single electron*.

$$\left(\hat{T} + \sum_{i=1}^{N} v(\mathbf{r}_{i}) \times \right) \Phi_{0} = \mathcal{E}_{0} \Phi_{0} \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \left[-\frac{1}{2} \nabla_{\mathbf{r}}^{2} + v(\mathbf{r}) \times \right] \varphi_{i}(\mathbf{x}) = \varepsilon_{i} \varphi_{i}(\mathbf{x}), \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, N.$$

<u>Proof</u>: a *simple solution* to the *N*-electron non-interacting Schrödinger equation is

$$\Phi_0 \equiv \varphi_1(\mathbf{x}_1) \times \varphi_2(\mathbf{x}_2) \times \ldots \times \varphi_N(\mathbf{x}_N) = \prod_{j=1}^N \varphi_j(\mathbf{x}_j) \qquad \leftarrow \text{Hartree product!}$$

since
$$\left(\hat{T} + \sum_{i=1}^{N} v(\mathbf{r}_{i}) \times \right) \Phi_{0} = \sum_{i=1}^{N} \prod_{j \neq i}^{N} \varphi_{j}(\mathbf{x}_{j}) \times \left[-\frac{1}{2} \nabla_{\mathbf{r}_{i}}^{2} + v(\mathbf{r}_{i}) \times \right] \varphi_{i}(\mathbf{x}_{i}) = \left(\sum_{i=1}^{N} \varepsilon_{i} \right) \Phi_{0}$$

(Real) interacting many-electron problem

- Before addressing the true (interacting) problem we should keep in mind that electrons are *fermions*.
- Consequently, they should be described by *Slater determinants* instead of Hartree products.
- Therefore, in the particular case of *two electrons*, we have

$$\varphi_1(\mathbf{x}_1)\varphi_2(\mathbf{x}_2) \longrightarrow \Phi_0 \equiv \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{vmatrix} \varphi_1(\mathbf{x}_1) & \varphi_1(\mathbf{x}_2) \\ \varphi_2(\mathbf{x}_1) & \varphi_2(\mathbf{x}_2) \end{vmatrix} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \Big[\varphi_1(\mathbf{x}_1)\varphi_2(\mathbf{x}_2) - \varphi_1(\mathbf{x}_2)\varphi_2(\mathbf{x}_1) \Big].$$

- When computing the two-electron repulsion energy $\langle \Phi_0 | \hat{W}_{ee} | \Phi_0 \rangle$ we describe the so-called *Hartree* (i.e. electrostatic) and *exchange* energies.
- Finally, Φ₀ *cannot* be the exact solution to the interacting Schrödinger equation [whatever choice is made for the spin-orbitals {φ_i(**x**)}_{i=1,2,...}].
- The energy contribution that is missing is referred to as *correlation* energy.

Mapping the interacting problem onto a non-interacting one

- Is it possible to *extract* the exact (interacting) ground-state energy *from a non-interacting system*?
- If yes, then it would lead to a huge *simplification* of the problem.
- Nevertheless, the question sounds a bit weird since the two-electron repulsion is completely ignored in a non-interacting system.
- One way to establish a *connection* between interacting and non-interacting worlds is to use the *electron density* as basic variable (instead of the wavefunction).

• Electron density for a *non-interacting* system:
$$n_{\Phi_0}(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_{\sigma=\pm\frac{1}{2}} \sum_{i=1}^{N} |\varphi_i(\mathbf{r}, \sigma)|^2$$

• Electron density for an *interacting* system:

$$n_{\Psi_0}(\mathbf{r}) = N \sum_{\sigma = \pm \frac{1}{2}} \int d\mathbf{x}_2 \dots \int d\mathbf{x}_N |\Psi_0(\mathbf{r}, \sigma, \mathbf{x}_2, \dots, \mathbf{x}_N)|^2$$

Mapping the interacting problem onto a non-interacting one

- There is of course no reason to believe that these two densities are equal.
- However, we may assume that it is possible to *adjust* the local potential in the non-interacting system *such that the two densities become equal*.
- This "magical" potential is known as the *Kohn–Sham* (KS) potential.
- In summary:

• Questions to be answered:

(1) If $v^{\text{KS}}(\mathbf{r})$ exists, is it unique? *yes!*

(2) Does the knowledge of $n_{\Psi_0}(\mathbf{r})$ gives access (in principle) to E_0 ? *yes!*











The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 1998 Walter Kohn - Facts



Walter Kohn

Born: 9 March 1923, Vienna, Austria Died: 19 April 2016, Santa Barbara, CA, USA

Affiliation at the time of the award: University of California, Santa Barbara, CA, USA

Prize motivation: "for his development of the density-functional theory"

Field: theoretical chemistry

Prize share: 1/2

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Two things to *remember* before we start ...

• The following expression for the expectation value of the *one-electron potential energy* in terms of the electron density will be used intensively in the rest of this lecture:

$$\left\langle \Psi \middle| \sum_{i=1}^{N} v(\mathbf{r}_{i}) \times \middle| \Psi \right\rangle = \int_{\mathbb{R}^{3}} \mathrm{d}\mathbf{r} \ v(\mathbf{r}) n_{\Psi}(\mathbf{r}) = (v|n_{\Psi})$$

• Note that a *constant* shift $v(\mathbf{r}) \rightarrow v(\mathbf{r}) - \mu$ in the local potential does *not* affect the ground-state wavefunction (and therefore it does not affect the ground-state density):

$$\left(\hat{T}+\hat{W}_{\text{ee}}+\sum_{i=1}^{N}\left(\boldsymbol{v}(\mathbf{r}_{i})-\boldsymbol{\mu}\right)\times\right)\Psi_{0}=\left(\hat{H}\Psi_{0}\right)-N\boldsymbol{\mu}\times\Psi_{0}=\left(E_{0}-N\boldsymbol{\mu}\right)\Psi_{0}.$$



First Hohenberg–Kohn theorem

• Note that $v \to \Psi_0 \to E_0$

 $\rightarrow n_0 = n_{\Psi_0}$

• **HK1:** Hohenberg and Kohn* have shown that, in fact, the ground-state electron density fully determines (up to a constant) the local potential *v*. Therefore

 $n_0 \to v \to \Psi_0 \to E_0$

• In other words, the ground-state energy is a *functional* of the ground-state density: $E_0 = E[n_0]$.

Proof (part 1):

Let us consider two potentials v and v' that differ by more than a constant, which means that $v(\mathbf{r}) - v'(\mathbf{r})$ varies with \mathbf{r} . In the following, we denote Ψ_0 and Ψ'_0 the associated ground-state wavefunctions with energies E_0 and E'_0 , respectively.

* P. Hohenberg and W. Kohn, Phys. Rev. 136, B864 (1964).

First Hohenberg–Kohn theorem

If $\Psi_0 = \Psi'_0$ then

$$\sum_{i=1}^{N} \left(v(\mathbf{r}_{i}) - v'(\mathbf{r}_{i}) \right) \times \Psi_{0} = \sum_{i=1}^{N} v(\mathbf{r}_{i}) \times \Psi_{0} - v'(\mathbf{r}_{i}) \times \Psi'_{0}$$
$$= \left(\hat{T} + \hat{W}_{ee} + \sum_{i=1}^{N} v(\mathbf{r}_{i}) \times \right) \Psi_{0} - \left(\hat{T} + \hat{W}_{ee} + \sum_{i=1}^{N} v'(\mathbf{r}_{i}) \times \right) \Psi'_{0}$$
$$= E_{0} \Psi_{0} - E'_{0} \Psi'_{0}$$

 $= (E_0 - E'_0) \times \Psi_0$

so that, in the particular case $\mathbf{r}_1 = \mathbf{r}_2 = \ldots = \mathbf{r}_N = \mathbf{r}$, we obtain

$$v(\mathbf{r}) - v'(\mathbf{r}) = (E_0 - E'_0)/N \longrightarrow \text{constant (absurd!)}$$

Therefore Ψ_0 and Ψ'_0 cannot be equal.

First Hohenberg–Kohn theorem

<u>Proof</u> (part 2): Let us now assume that Ψ_0 and Ψ'_0 have the same electron density n_0 .

According to the Rayleigh–Ritz variational principle

$$E_{0} < \underbrace{\left\langle \Psi_{0}^{\prime} \middle| \hat{T} + \hat{W}_{ee} + \sum_{i=1}^{N} v(\mathbf{r}_{i}) \times \middle| \Psi_{0}^{\prime} \right\rangle}_{E_{0}^{\prime} + (v - v^{\prime} | \mathbf{n}_{0})} \quad \text{and} \quad E_{0}^{\prime} < \underbrace{\left\langle \Psi_{0} \middle| \hat{T} + \hat{W}_{ee} + \sum_{i=1}^{N} v^{\prime}(\mathbf{r}_{i}) \times \middle| \Psi_{0} \right\rangle}_{E_{0} - (v - v^{\prime} | \mathbf{n}_{0})}$$

thus leading to

$$0 < E_0 - E'_0 - (v - v'|n_0) < 0$$
 absurd!

* P. Hohenberg and W. Kohn, Phys. Rev. 136, B864 (1964).

Second Hohenberg–Kohn theorem

HK2: The exact ground-state density $n_0(\mathbf{r})$ of the electronic Hamiltonian

$$\hat{H}[v_{\rm ne}] \equiv \hat{T} + \hat{W}_{\rm ee} + \sum_{i=1}^{N} v_{\rm ne}(\mathbf{r}_i) \times$$

minimizes the energy density functional $E[n] = F[n] + \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} d\mathbf{r} v_{ne}(\mathbf{r}) n(\mathbf{r}),$

where the Hohenberg–Kohn universal functional F[n] is defined as

$$F[n] = \langle \Psi[n] | \hat{T} + \hat{W}_{ee} | \Psi[n] \rangle,$$

and the minimum equals the exact ground-state energy E_0 :

$$\min_{n} E[n] = E[n_0] = E_0$$

Comment: we know from HK1 that

$$n(\mathbf{r}) \rightarrow v[n](\mathbf{r}) \rightarrow \Psi[v[n]] = \Psi[n]$$

ground-state wavefunction with density n.

Second Hohenberg–Kohn theorem

Proof:

• for any density $n(\mathbf{r})$, $\Psi[n]$ is well defined according to **HK1** and

 $\langle \Psi[n] | \hat{H}[v_{\rm ne}] | \Psi[n] \rangle \ge E_0$

$$\underbrace{\langle \Psi[n] | \hat{T} + \hat{W}_{ee} | \Psi[n] \rangle}_{F[n]} + \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} d\mathbf{r} \ v_{ne}(\mathbf{r}) \underbrace{n_{\Psi[n]}(\mathbf{r})}_{n(\mathbf{r})} \ge E_0$$

for thus leading to $E[n] \ge E_0$

• When $n(\mathbf{r})$ equals the exact ground-state density $n_0(\mathbf{r})$:

$$n_0(\mathbf{r}) \rightarrow v_{\mathrm{ne}}(\mathbf{r}) \rightarrow \Psi[n_0] = \Psi[v_{\mathrm{ne}}] = \Psi_0$$

$$E[n_0] = \langle \Psi_0 | \hat{T} + \hat{W}_{ee} | \Psi_0 \rangle + \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} d\mathbf{r} \ v_{ne}(\mathbf{r}) n_0(\mathbf{r}) = \langle \Psi_0 | \hat{T} + \hat{W}_{ee} + \hat{V}_{ne} | \Psi_0 \rangle = E_0$$

Kohn–Sham DFT (KS-DFT)

• The HK theorems apply to non-interacting electrons:

interacting problem \rightarrow *non-interacting* KS problem

$$\begin{aligned}
\hat{W}_{ee} &\to 0 \\
v[n](\mathbf{r}) &\to v^{KS}[n](\mathbf{r}) \\
\Psi[n] &\to \Phi^{KS}[n] \\
F[n] &\to T_{s}[n] = \left\langle \Phi^{KS}[n] \middle| \hat{T} \middle| \Phi^{KS}[n] \right\rangle
\end{aligned}$$

$$n_{\Psi[n]}(\mathbf{r}) = n_{\Phi^{\mathrm{KS}}[n]}(\mathbf{r}) = n(\mathbf{r})$$

• *KS decomposition* of the universal HK functional:

$$F[n] = T_{s}[n] + E_{Hxc}[n] \qquad \text{with} \qquad E_{Hxc}[n] = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{3}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{3}} \mathrm{d}\mathbf{r} \mathrm{d}\mathbf{r}' \frac{n(\mathbf{r})n(\mathbf{r}')}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|} + E_{xc}[n].$$

W. Kohn and L. J. Sham, Phys. Rev. A 140, 1133 (1965).

How can we determine the KS determinant?

Levy–Lieb constrained search formalism

- For a given density *n* there is a unique potential $v_{\text{KS}}[n](\mathbf{r})$, if it exists ..., such that $\Phi^{\text{KS}}[n]$ is the ground state of $\hat{T} + \sum_{i=1}^{N} v_{\text{KS}}[n](\mathbf{r}_i) \times$ with density *n*.
- For all normalized wavefunctions Ψ with density *n* the following inequality is fulfilled:

$$\left\langle \Phi^{\mathrm{KS}}[n] \middle| \left(\hat{T} + \sum_{i=1}^{N} v_{\mathrm{KS}}[n](\mathbf{r}_{i}) \times \right) \middle| \Phi^{\mathrm{KS}}[n] \right\rangle \leq \left\langle \Psi \middle| \left(\hat{T} + \sum_{i=1}^{N} v_{\mathrm{KS}}[n](\mathbf{r}_{i}) \times \right) \middle| \Psi \right\rangle$$
$$T_{\mathrm{s}}[n] \leq \left\langle \Psi | \hat{T} | \Psi \right\rangle \longrightarrow \qquad T_{\mathrm{s}}[n] = \min_{\Psi \to n} \left\langle \Psi | \hat{T} | \Psi \right\rangle$$

• Therefore $\langle \Phi^{\text{KS}} | \hat{T} | \Phi^{\text{KS}} \rangle = T_{\text{s}}[n_0] = \min_{\Psi \to n_0} \langle \Psi | \hat{T} | \Psi \rangle$ but we do not know $n_0 \dots$

• Note that, as a consequence of the previous equality, $T_s[n_0] \le \langle \Psi_0 | \hat{T} | \Psi_0 \rangle$!

Kohn–Sham DFT (KS-DFT)

• For any normalized wavefunction Ψ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \Psi | \hat{T} | \Psi \rangle &\geq T_{s}[n_{\Psi}] \\ \langle \Psi | \hat{T} + \hat{V}_{ne} | \Psi \rangle &\geq T_{s}[n_{\Psi}] + \int_{\mathbb{R}^{3}} d\mathbf{r} \ v_{ne}(\mathbf{r}) n_{\Psi}(\mathbf{r}) \\ \langle \Psi | \hat{T} + \hat{V}_{ne} | \Psi \rangle + E_{Hxc}[n_{\Psi}] &\geq \underbrace{T_{s}[n_{\Psi}] + E_{Hxc}[n_{\Psi}] + \int_{\mathbb{R}^{3}} d\mathbf{r} \ v_{ne}(\mathbf{r}) n_{\Psi}(\mathbf{r})}_{E[n_{\Psi}] \geq E_{0}} \end{aligned}$$

• The exact ground-state energy E_0 is recovered when $\Psi = \Phi^{KS}$ thus leading to

$$E_0 = \min_{\Psi} \left\{ \langle \Psi | \hat{T} + \hat{V}_{\rm ne} | \Psi \rangle + E_{\rm Hxc}[n_{\Psi}] \right\}$$

• Note that the minimization can be restricted to single determinantal wavefunctions Φ .

Comparing wave function theory (WFT) with KS-DFT

$$E_{0} = \min_{\Psi} \left\{ \langle \Psi | \hat{T} + \hat{V}_{\text{ne}} + \hat{W}_{\text{ee}} | \Psi \rangle \right\} = \min_{\Phi} \left\{ \langle \Phi | \hat{T} + \hat{V}_{\text{ne}} | \Phi \rangle + E_{\text{Hxc}}[n_{\Phi}] \right\}$$

 $\downarrow WFT$

 $\downarrow \mathrm{DFT}$

 $\Psi = \Phi^{\mathrm{HF}} + \sum_{k} C_k \mathrm{det}_k$ multideterminantal wave function

 $\Phi = [\varphi_1^2 \varphi_2^2 \dots \varphi_{\frac{N}{2}}^2]$

single determinant

Standard density-functional approximations (DFAs)













DFT, us (humans), and the machines



$$\begin{cases} x_n^2 CR_y & n \to e^{x} O^n & O' & n \to e^{x} V + e^{(-\pi R + 1)} \\ y_n \neq 0 \\ y_n \neq 0 \\ y_n \neq 0 \\ p_x \\ \end{cases} \begin{pmatrix} Y_n \in \mathcal{N}, f_0(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{\pi}{n}) \\ y_n^2(f_n) \\ y_n^2(f_n) \\ y_n = n_0, (x_n) \\ y_n = n_0, ($$

$$n(\mathbf{r}) \rightarrow n_{\gamma}(\mathbf{r}) = \gamma^3 n(\gamma \mathbf{r})$$

$$E_{\mathbf{x}}[n_{\gamma}] \quad = \quad \gamma E_{\mathbf{x}}[n]$$



Felix Brockherde^{1,2}, Leslie Vogt ³, Li Li ⁴, Mark E. Tuckerman^{3,5,6}, Kieron Burke^{4,7} & Klaus-Robert Müller^{1,8,9}

Last year, at least 30,000 scientific papers used the Kohn-Sham scheme of density functional theory to solve electronic structure problems in a wide variety of scientific fields. Machine learning holds the promise of learning the energy functional via examples, bypassing the need to solve the Kohn-Sham equations. This should yield substantial savings in computer time, allowing larger systems and/or longer time-scales to be tackled, but attempts to machine-learn this functional have been limited by the need to find its derivative. The present work overcomes this difficulty by directly learning the density-potential and energy-density maps for test systems and various molecules. We perform the first molecular dynamics simulation with a machine-learned density functional on malonaldehyde and are able to capture the intramolecular proton transfer process. Learning density models now allows the construction of accurate density functionals for realistic molecular systems.

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Teaching the HK theorem to a machine

- One can *teach the functional* $T_s[n]$ to a machine.
- But then it needs to find the value of $\delta T_{\rm s}[n]/\delta n({\bf r})$ by itself ...
- ... in order to determine n_0 variationally from v_{ne} .
- What about *learning the map* $v \to n[v]$ directly ?*
- If we have v_{ne} , the machine will tell us directly what the ground-state density $n_0 = n[v_{ne}]$ is.
- We can also *teach* the machine how to *compute the energy* $E[n_0] = T_s[n_0] + E_{Hxc}[n_0] + (v_{ne}|n_0)$.

* Brockherde, Felix, Vogt, Leslie, Li, Li, Tuckerman, Mark E, Burke, Kieron and Muller, Klaus-Robert, Nature Communications 8, 872 (2017).

Teaching the HK theorem to a machine

• *Expansion* of densities in an *orthonormal* basis of functions $\{\phi_l(\mathbf{r})\}_{1 \le l \le L}$:

$$n[\mathbf{v}](\mathbf{r}) = \sum_{l=1}^{L} u^{(l)}[\mathbf{v}] \times \phi_l(\mathbf{r}).$$

• Kernel Ridge Regression (KRR) method:

$$u^{(l)}[\boldsymbol{v}] = \sum_{j=1}^{M} \boldsymbol{\beta}_{j}^{(l)} \times k(\boldsymbol{v}, v_{j})$$

$$k(\boldsymbol{v}, v_i) = \exp\left(-\frac{\int d\mathbf{r} \left|\boldsymbol{v}(\mathbf{r}) - v_i(\mathbf{r})\right|^2}{2\sigma^2}\right)$$

where $\{v_j\}_{1 \le j \le M}$ are the potentials the machine will learn from.

Brockherde, Felix, Vogt, Leslie, Li, Li, Tuckerman, Mark E, Burke, Kieron and Muller, Klaus-Robert, Nature Communications 8, 872 (2017).

Teaching the HK theorem to a machine

• The machine will learn

$$n_i(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_{l=1}^L u_i^{(l)} \times \phi_l(\mathbf{r})$$

- The paramaters to be *optimized* (learning process) are $\beta \equiv \left\{\beta_j^{(l)}\right\}_{1 \le j \le M, 1 \le l \le L}$.
- Cost function to be minimized with respect to β :

$$e(\boldsymbol{\beta}) = \sum_{i=1}^{M} \int d\mathbf{r} \left| n_i(\mathbf{r}) - n[v_i](\mathbf{r}) \right|^2$$

orthonormal basis
$$\sum_{i=1}^{M} \sum_{l=1}^{L} \left| u_i^{(l)} - u^{(l)}[v_i] \right|^2$$
$$= \sum_{i=1}^{M} \sum_{l=1}^{L} \left| u_i^{(l)} - \sum_{j=1}^{M} \boldsymbol{\beta}_j^{(l)} \times k(v_i, v_j) \right|^2$$



Fig. 5 Energy errors of ML-HK along ab initio MD and ML-generated trajectories. **a** Energy errors of ML-HK along a 0.25 ps ab initio MD trajectory of malonaldehyde. PBE values in *blue*, ML-HK values in *red*. The ML model correctly predicts energies during proton transfer in frames 7–15 without explicit inclusion of these geometries in the training set. **b** Energy errors of ML-HK along a 1 ps MD trajectory of malonaldehyde generated by the ML-HK model. ML-HK values in *red*, PBE values of trajectory snapshots in *blue*

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