



Density-Functional Theory

for the Dicke Hamiltonian

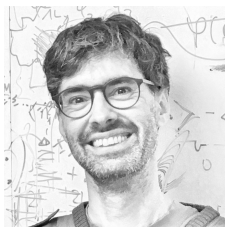
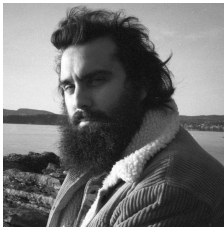
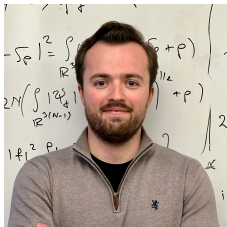
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A. Laestadius

OSLO METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY
STORBYUNIVERSITETET

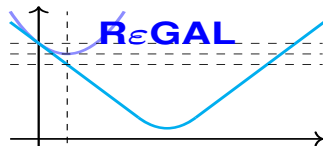
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In collaboration with Vebjørn Bakkestuen¹, Mihaly Csirik^{1,2}, Markus Penz^{1,3} & Michael Ruggenthaler³.



- 1 Department of Computer Science, Oslo Metropolitan University
- 2 Hylleraas Centre for Quantum Molecular Sciences, University of Oslo
- 3 Max Planck Institute for the Structure and Dynamics of Matter

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- The Dicke Model

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- Hohenberg–Kohn theorem
- Levy–Lieb functional
- The QR Universal Density-Functional

3 Summary

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Introduction

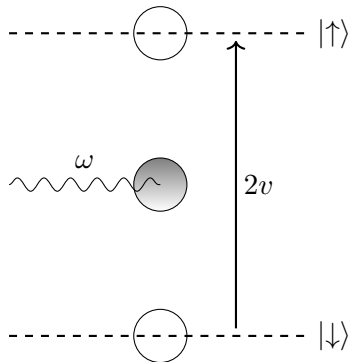
Motivation

- Importance of light-matter interactions \implies
QED = how charged particles interact through coupling to a quantum field
- Simple model (that can be extended)
- Study ground-state effects of coupling photons to electronic systems
- Studying an (almost) explicit form of a DFT functional: QEDFT

- Most of the rigorous considerations in QEDFT are based on the Pauli–Fierz Hamiltonian — various approximations to this Hamiltonian are used as a starting point
- One such quantum-optical model is the Rabi model — physical simplicity, still highly non-trivial and only recently an analytical expression for its spectrum has been found (Bargmann-space reformulation) [1, 2].
- Similar mathematical results have been established for the Dicke model [3, 4]

The Dicke Model

- Two physically different subsystems — matter and light
 - N two-level fermionic systems
 - Individually coupled to M modes of a quantized radiation field, described as quantum harmonic oscillators
- Susceptible to a “DFT program”
- We can achieve considerably more mathematically than for standard DFT
 - results concerning v -representability
 - properties of the universal functional



Function spaces

Hilbert space: $\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{H}_{\text{ph}} \otimes \mathcal{H}_{\text{f}}$

$\mathcal{H}_{\text{ph}} = \bigotimes^M L^2(\mathbb{R})$ and $\mathcal{H}_{\text{f}} = \bigotimes^N \mathbb{C}^2 \simeq \mathbb{C}^{2^N}$

$$\mathcal{H} \simeq L^2(\mathbb{R}^M) \otimes \mathbb{C}^{2^N} \simeq L^2(\mathbb{R}^M, \mathbb{C}^{2^N})$$

Inner product $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ on $L^2(\mathbb{R}^M, \mathbb{C}^{2^N})$,

$$\langle \varphi, \psi \rangle = \sum_{\alpha} \langle \varphi^{\alpha}, \psi^{\alpha} \rangle = \sum_{\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_N \in \{+, -\}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^M} \overline{\varphi^{\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_N}(\mathbf{x})} \psi^{\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_N}(\mathbf{x}) \, d\mathbf{x},$$

ψ^{α} is the spin projection of ψ corresponding to the eigenvector of the lifted Pauli matrix σ_z^j indexed by the multiindex $\alpha \in \{+, -\}^N$.

Notations

For any $j = 1, \dots, N$, we have set

$$\sigma_a^j = \mathbb{1} \otimes \dots \otimes \mathbb{1} \otimes \underbrace{\sigma_a}_{j\text{th}} \otimes \mathbb{1} \otimes \dots \otimes \mathbb{1} \in \mathbb{C}^{2^N \times 2^N},$$

where the Pauli matrices are given by

$$\sigma_x = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \sigma_y = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \text{and} \quad \sigma_z = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Vector of lifted Pauli matrices

$$\boldsymbol{\sigma}_a = (\sigma_a^1, \dots, \sigma_a^N)^\top \in \left(\mathbb{C}^{2^N \times 2^N} \right)^N.$$

Examples

Let $N = 2$, then

$$\sigma_z = \left(\begin{pmatrix} 1 & & & \\ & 1 & & \\ & & -1 & \\ & & & -1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & & \\ & -1 & & \\ & & 1 & \\ & & & -1 \end{pmatrix} \right)^\top$$

has always diagonal form and

$$\sigma_x = \left(\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \right)^\top$$

Dicke Hamiltonian

“Internal” part of Hamiltonian $\mathbf{H}_0 : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$,

$$\mathbf{H}_0 = (-\Delta + |\mathbf{x}|^2)\mathbb{1}_{\mathbb{C}^{2^N}} + \mathbf{x} \cdot \Lambda \boldsymbol{\sigma}_z - \mathbf{t} \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}_x \quad (1)$$

$\Lambda \boldsymbol{\sigma}_z$ is to be understood as the M -vector of $2^N \times 2^N$ matrices

$$\Lambda \boldsymbol{\sigma}_z = \left(\sum_{n=1}^N \Lambda_{1n} \sigma_z^n, \dots, \sum_{n=1}^N \Lambda_{Mn} \sigma_z^n \right)^\top.$$

Set $\mathbf{V}(\mathbf{x}) = \left(\mathbf{x} + \frac{1}{2} \Lambda \boldsymbol{\sigma}_z \right)^2$,

$$\mathbf{H}_0 = -\Delta + \mathbf{V} - \mathbf{t} \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}_x - \frac{1}{4} \boldsymbol{\sigma}_z \cdot (\Lambda^\top \Lambda \boldsymbol{\sigma}_z),$$

\mathbf{H}_0 is bounded from below

Dicke Hamiltonian

Full Hamiltonian

$$\mathbf{H}(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{j}) = \mathbf{H}_0 + \mathbf{v} \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}_z + \mathbf{j} \cdot \mathbf{x} \quad (2)$$

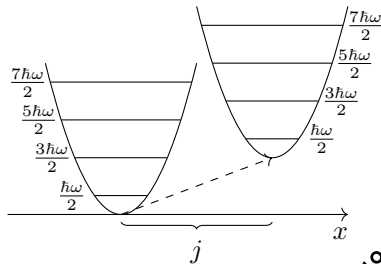
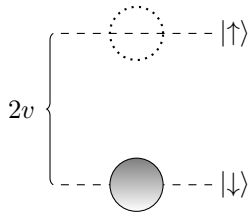
Where the external potentials are

$$\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^N, \quad \mathbf{j} \in \mathbb{R}^M$$

Ground-state energy

$$E(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{j}) = \inf_{\substack{\psi \in Q_0 \\ \|\psi\|=1}} \langle \psi, \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{j}) \psi \rangle \quad (3)$$

$$Q_0 := Q(\mathbf{H}_0) = Q(-\Delta + \mathbf{V}) \text{ form domain of } \mathbf{H}_0$$



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Internal “density” variables

Definition (Magnetization vector and photon coordinate)

For $\psi \in \mathcal{H}$, we define

$$\sigma_\psi = \langle \psi, \sigma_z \psi \rangle := \begin{pmatrix} \langle \psi, \sigma_z^1 \psi \rangle \\ \vdots \\ \langle \psi, \sigma_z^N \psi \rangle \end{pmatrix} \in [-1, 1]^N \subset \mathbb{R}^N$$

$$\xi_\psi = \langle \psi, \mathbf{x} \psi \rangle = \int_{\mathbb{R}^M} \mathbf{x} |\psi(\mathbf{x})|^2 d\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^M.$$

Constraints

For $N = 1, 2, \dots$

- The constraint manifold \mathcal{M} collects all $\psi \mapsto (\sigma, \xi) \in [-1, 1]^N \times \mathbb{R}^M$

$$\mathcal{M}_{\sigma, \xi} = \{\psi \in Q_0 : \|\psi\| = 1, \sigma_\psi = \sigma, \xi_\psi = \xi\}. \quad (4)$$

- Recall that $Q_0 := Q(\mathbf{H}_0) = Q(-\Delta + \mathbf{V})$ is the form domain of \mathbf{H}_0

Constraints: Example

For $N = 1$, we simply have

$$\left. \begin{aligned} 1 &= \|\psi^+\|^2 + \|\psi^-\|^2 \\ \sigma &= \|\psi^+\|^2 - \|\psi^-\|^2 \end{aligned} \right\} \implies \begin{cases} \|\psi^+\|^2 = \frac{1+\sigma}{2} \\ \|\psi^-\|^2 = \frac{1-\sigma}{2} \end{cases}$$

- $\sigma = +1 \Rightarrow \psi^- \equiv 0$ and $\sigma = -1 \Rightarrow \psi^+ \equiv 0$
- Reverse implication $\psi^+ \not\equiv 0$ and $\psi^- \not\equiv 0$ precisely if $\sigma \in (-1, 1)$.

Unfortunately, this is no longer true for $N \geq 2$.

Constraints: Example

For $N = 2$,

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \frac{1 + \sigma_1}{2} &= \|\psi^{++}\|^2 + \|\psi^{+-}\|^2 \\ \frac{1 - \sigma_1}{2} &= \|\psi^{-+}\|^2 + \|\psi^{--}\|^2 \end{aligned} \right\} \quad \left. \begin{aligned} \frac{1 + \sigma_2}{2} &= \|\psi^{++}\|^2 + \|\psi^{-+}\|^2 \\ \frac{1 - \sigma_2}{2} &= \|\psi^{+-}\|^2 + \|\psi^{--}\|^2 \end{aligned} \right\} \Rightarrow$$

- Whenever $\sigma_1 = \pm 1$ or $\sigma_2 = \pm 1$ (or both), certain spinor components of ψ must vanish.
- Contrary to the $N = 1$ case, it is possible that one (or more) spinor components of ψ vanishes even though $\sigma \in (-1, 1)^2$.

Main Results

Definition

Regular $\sigma \in [-1, 1]^N$:

- Let the $N \times 2^N$ matrix Ω be given by $\Omega_{n,\alpha} = (\sigma_z^n)_{\alpha\alpha}$, i.e., the matrix with the diagonal of σ_z^n as the n -th row vector.
- σ is *regular* if for every $\omega \in \mathbb{R}^{2^N}$ with $\omega_\alpha \geq 0$ and $\sum_\alpha \omega_\alpha = 1$ that verifies $\Omega\omega = \sigma$, we have $\text{Aff}\{\Omega e_\alpha : \omega_\alpha \neq 0\} = \mathbb{R}^N$.

We denote the set of regular σ 's by \mathcal{R}_N .

Theorem (Hohenberg–Kohn)

Suppose that $\psi^{(1)}, \psi^{(2)} \in Q_0$ are ground states of $H(\mathbf{v}^{(1)}, \mathbf{j}^{(1)})$ and $H(\mathbf{v}^{(2)}, \mathbf{j}^{(2)})$ respectively.

If $\sigma = \sigma_{\psi^{(1)}} = \sigma_{\psi^{(2)}}$ and $\xi = \xi_{\psi^{(1)}} = \xi_{\psi^{(2)}}$, then $\psi^{(1)}$ is also a ground state of $H(\mathbf{v}^{(2)}, \mathbf{j}^{(2)})$ and $\psi^{(2)}$ is also a ground state of $H(\mathbf{v}^{(1)}, \mathbf{j}^{(1)})$.

Furthermore, $\mathbf{j} = \mathbf{j}^{(1)} = \mathbf{j}^{(2)}$ and

■ (Regular case) If σ is regular, then $\mathbf{v}^{(1)} = \mathbf{v}^{(2)}$.

■ (Irregular case) Otherwise, for all $\alpha \in I^{(1)} \cup I^{(2)}$ there holds

$$\sum_{n=1}^N (\sigma_z^n)_{\alpha\alpha} (v_n^{(1)} - v_n^{(2)}) = E(\mathbf{v}^{(1)}, \mathbf{j}) - E(\mathbf{v}^{(2)}, \mathbf{j}), \quad (5)$$

where $I^{(i)}$ denotes the set of spinor indices α for which $(\psi^{(i)})^\alpha \neq 0$.

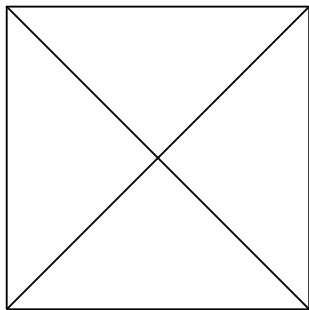
Regular case: Example

$N = 1$. $\mathcal{R}_1 = (-1, 1)$:

- $\sigma \in [-1, 1]$ is regular if and only if $\sigma \in (-1, 1)$.
- $S = \{\Omega \mathbf{e}_\alpha : \omega_\alpha \neq 0\} \subset \{-1, 1\}$
- So $\text{Aff}(S) = \mathbb{R}$ iff $|S| = 2$.
- But $\Omega \omega = \sigma$ simply reads $\omega_+ - \omega_- = \sigma$, and $\omega_+ \neq 0, \omega_- \neq 0$ if and only if $\sigma \neq \pm 1$.

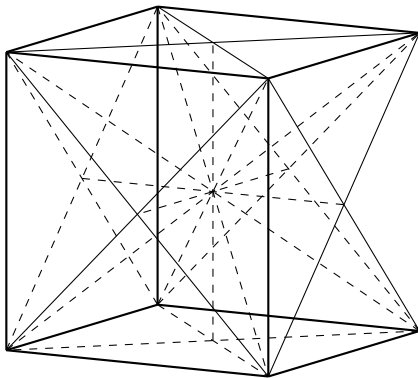
Regular case: Example

$N = 2$. $\mathcal{R}_2 \subset (-1, 1)^2$ is the union of 4 congruent open triangles.



Example, $N = 3$

The set $\mathcal{R}_3 \subset (-1, 1)^3$ is the union of 24 congruent open tetrahedra.



- The regularity property of σ can be seen in analogy to finite-lattice DFT [5, Cor. 10].
- Unlike the HK theorem for the electronic Hamiltonian, the potentials are completely determined in the regular case, i.e., not only up to an additive constant.
- The HK itself is nonconstructive, more precisely, it only states the injectivity of the “potential to ground-state density map” $(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{j}) \mapsto (\sigma, \xi)$ and *not* its surjectivity.
- Whenever $(\sigma, \xi) \in [-1, 1]^N \times \mathbb{R}^M$ is the ground-state density of $\mathbf{H}(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{j})$ for some $(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{j}) \in \mathbb{R}^N \times \mathbb{R}^M$, we say (σ, ξ) is *v-representable*.

Levy–Lieb functional

- HK theorem \implies we can formulate the ground-state problem

$$E(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{j}) = \inf_{\substack{\psi \in Q_0 \\ \|\psi\|=1}} \langle \psi, \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{j}) \psi \rangle \quad (6)$$

in terms of the density pair (σ, ξ) .

- We introduce the constraint manifold that collects all states that map to a given $(\sigma, \xi) \in [-1, 1]^N \times \mathbb{R}^M$,

$$\mathcal{M}_{\sigma, \xi} = \{ \psi \in Q_0 : \|\psi\| = 1, \sigma_\psi = \sigma, \xi_\psi = \xi \}. \quad (7)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
E(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{j}) &= \inf_{\substack{\psi \in Q_0 \\ \|\psi\|=1}} \langle \psi, \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{j}) \psi \rangle \\
&= \inf_{(\boldsymbol{\sigma}, \boldsymbol{\xi}) \in [-1, 1]^N \times \mathbb{R}^M} \left[\inf_{\psi \in \mathcal{M}_{\boldsymbol{\sigma}, \boldsymbol{\xi}}} \langle \psi, \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{j}) \psi \rangle \right] \\
&= \inf_{(\boldsymbol{\sigma}, \boldsymbol{\xi}) \in [-1, 1]^N \times \mathbb{R}^M} \left[\inf_{\psi \in \mathcal{M}_{\boldsymbol{\sigma}, \boldsymbol{\xi}}} \langle \psi, \mathbf{H}_0 \psi \rangle + \langle \psi, \mathbf{v} \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}_z \psi \rangle + \langle \psi, \mathbf{j} \cdot \mathbf{x} \psi \rangle \right] \\
&= \inf_{(\boldsymbol{\sigma}, \boldsymbol{\xi}) \in [-1, 1]^N \times \mathbb{R}^M} \left[F_{\text{LL}}(\boldsymbol{\sigma}, \boldsymbol{\xi}) + \mathbf{v} \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma} + \mathbf{j} \cdot \boldsymbol{\xi} \right]
\end{aligned} \tag{8}$$

Levy–Lieb (universal density) functional

Definition

For every $(\sigma, \xi) \in [-1, 1]^N \times \mathbb{R}^M$ the *Levy–Lieb* (universal density) *functional* $F_{\text{LL}} : [-1, 1]^N \times \mathbb{R}^M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is

$$F_{\text{LL}}(\sigma, \xi) = \inf_{\psi \in \mathcal{M}_{\sigma, \xi}} \langle \psi, \mathbf{H}_0 \psi \rangle \quad (9)$$

Immediate question: Is the “inf” in the definition of F_{LL} attained?

Theorem (Existence of an optimizer for F_{LL})

For every $(\sigma, \xi) \in [-1, 1]^N \times \mathbb{R}^M$ there exists a $\psi \in \mathcal{M}_{\sigma, \xi}$ such that

$$F_{\text{LL}}(\sigma, \xi) = \langle \psi, \mathbf{H}_0 \psi \rangle.$$

- Proof is somewhat different from the analogous one in standard DFT [6] and, e.g., generalization to paramagnetic current-DFT [7, 8]:
there, one exploits the density constraint on the wavefunction to obtain the tightness of the optimizing sequence.
- In our case, the trapping nature of \mathbf{H}_0 provides compactness.

Property of F_{LL}

Trial state constructions to derive useful properties of F_{LL} .

Theorem (Displacement rule)

For every $(\sigma, \xi) \in [-1, 1]^N \times \mathbb{R}^M$ the following hold true:

$$F_{\text{LL}}(\sigma, \xi) = F_{\text{LL}}(\sigma, 0) + \xi \cdot \Lambda \sigma + |\xi|^2.$$

Or more generally, for any $\zeta \in \mathbb{R}^M$,

$$F_{\text{LL}}(\sigma, \xi + \zeta) = F_{\text{LL}}(\sigma, \xi) + 2\zeta \cdot \xi + \zeta \cdot \Lambda \sigma + |\zeta|^2$$

Displacement rule $\implies \xi \mapsto F_{\text{LL}}(\sigma, \xi)$ is smooth and convex for every fixed $\sigma \in [-1, 1]^N$.

Optimizers

Constrained opt: Minimize

$$\langle \psi, \mathbf{H}_0 \psi \rangle \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \psi \in \mathcal{M}_{\sigma, \xi} = \{ \psi \in Q_0 : \|\psi\| = 1, \sigma_\psi = \sigma, \xi_\psi = \xi \}. \quad (10)$$

The tangent space of $\mathcal{M}_{\sigma, \xi}$ at $\psi \in \mathcal{M}_{\sigma, \xi}$ is given by

$$\mathcal{T}_\psi(\mathcal{M}_{\sigma, \xi}) = \left\{ \chi \in Q_0 : \langle \psi, \chi \rangle = 0, \langle \sigma_z \psi, \chi \rangle = 0, \langle \mathbf{x} \psi, \chi \rangle = 0 \right\}.$$

Theorem (Optimality)

Let $(\sigma, \xi) \in \mathcal{R}_N \times \mathbb{R}^M$ and suppose that $\psi \in \mathcal{M}_{\sigma, \xi}$ is an optimizer of $F_{\text{LL}}(\sigma, \xi)$. Then there exist Lagrange multipliers $E \in \mathbb{R}$, $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^N$ and $\mathbf{j} \in \mathbb{R}^M$, such that ψ satisfies the strong Schrödinger equation

$$\mathbf{H}(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{j})\psi = E\psi \quad (11)$$

and the second-order condition

$$\langle \chi, \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{j})\chi \rangle \geq E\|\chi\|^2, \quad (12)$$

for all $\chi \in \mathcal{T}_\psi(\mathcal{M}_{\sigma, \xi})$. Moreover,

$$F_{\text{LL}}(\sigma, \xi) = \langle \psi, \mathbf{H}_0\psi \rangle = E - \mathbf{v} \cdot \sigma - \mathbf{j} \cdot \xi. \quad (13)$$

The second-order information (12) about a minimizer gives a result which is analogous to the Aufbau principle in Hartree–Fock theory.

Theorem (Optimizers are low-lying eigenstates)

Let $(\sigma, \xi) \in \mathcal{R}_N \times \mathbb{R}^M$, and suppose that $\psi \in \mathcal{M}_{\sigma, \xi}$ is an optimizer of $F_{\text{LL}}(\sigma, \xi)$, with Lagrange multipliers $E \in \mathbb{R}$, $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^N$ and $\mathbf{j} \in \mathbb{R}^M$, so that (11) and (12) holds true. Then ψ is at most the $(N + M)$ th excited eigenstate of $\mathbf{H}(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{j})$.

Any $(\sigma, \xi) \in \mathcal{R}_N \times \mathbb{R}^M$, while not proven to be pure-state v -representable in the usual sense, can be called “low-lying excited-pure-state v -representable”.

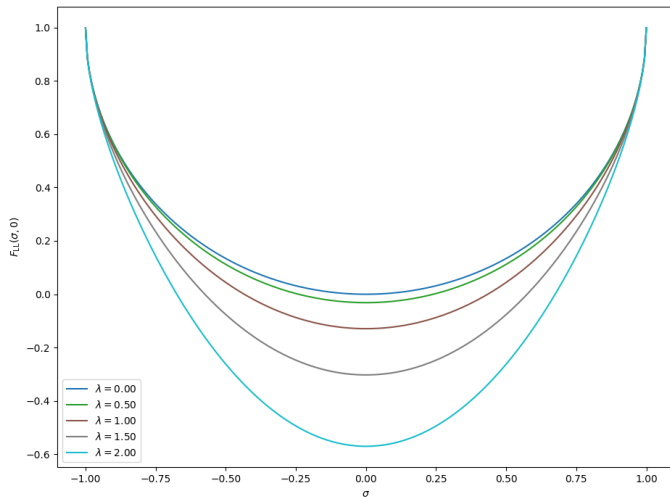
The Universal Density-Functional

Corollary ($M = N = 1$)

Consider a regular density pair $(\sigma, \xi) \in (-1, 1) \times \mathbb{R}$. Then the following holds:

- (i) (v -representability) The (σ, ξ) is uniquely pure-state v -representable.*
- (ii) (equivalence of functionals) $F_{\text{LL}}(\sigma, \xi) = F_{\text{L}}(\sigma, \xi)$.*
- (iii) (differentiability) The F_{LL} is differentiable at (σ, ξ) and $(v, j) = -\nabla F_{\text{LL}}(\sigma, \xi)$ is its representing external potential pair.*

The Universal Density-Functional $M = N = 1$



Summary

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2 Main Results

- Hohenberg–Kohn theorem
- Levy–Lieb functional
- The QR Universal Density-Functional

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4 References

Summary

- Study of an (almost) explicit form of a DFT functional: QEDFT
- Sharper results on Hohenberg–Kohn and v -rep
- More direct properties of the functional (to be used in future work)

Journal references

- “Density-Functional Theory for the Dicke Hamiltonian”, Journal of Statistical Physics 192, 61, 2025
- “Quantum-Electrodynamical Density-Functional Theory Exemplified by the Quantum Rabi Model”, Journal Physical Chemistry A 129, 9, 2337–2360, 2025

Thank you for your attention!

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