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Metric-space approach to potentials and its relevance to density-functional theory

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External potentials play a crucial role in modeling quantum systems, since, for a given interparticle interaction, they define the system Hamiltonian. We use the metric-space approach to quantum mechanics to derive, from the energy conservation law, two natural metrics for potentials. We show that these metrics are well defined for physical potentials, regardless of whether the system is in an eigenstate or if the potential is bounded. In addition, we discuss the gauge freedom of potentials and how to ensure that the metrics preserve physical relevance. Our metrics for potentials, together with the metrics for wave functions and densities from I. D'Amico *et al.* [Phys. Rev. Lett. **106**, 050401 (2011)] paves the way for a comprehensive study of the two fundamental theorems of density-functional theory. We explore these by analyzing two many-body systems for which the related exact Kohn-Sham systems can be derived. First we consider the information provided by each of the metrics, and we find that the density metric performs best in distinguishing two many-body systems. Next we study for the systems at hand the one-to-one relationships among potentials, ground-state wave functions, and ground-state densities defined by the Hohenberg-Kohn theorem as relationships in metric spaces. We find that, in metric space, these relationships are monotonic and incorporate regions of linearity, at least for the systems considered. Finally, we use the metrics for wave functions and potentials in order to assess quantitatively how close the many-body and Kohn-Sham systems are: We show that, at least for the systems analyzed, both metrics provide a consistent picture, and for large regions of the parameter space the error in approximating the many-body wave function with the Kohn-Sham wave function lies under a threshold of 10%.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Density-functional theory (DFT) is one of the most widely used methods for performing quantum mechanical analysis of many-body systems. DFT is founded upon two core theorems. The first of these is the Hohenberg-Kohn theorem [1], which demonstrates, for ground states, that the many-body wave function, the external potential, and the density are uniquely determined by each other:

$$V(\mathbf{r},\mathbf{r}_2,\ldots,\mathbf{r}_N) \rightleftharpoons \psi(\mathbf{r},\mathbf{r}_2,\ldots,\mathbf{r}_N) \rightleftharpoons \rho(\mathbf{r}). \quad (1)$$

Therefore, wave functions, potentials, and expectation values of any operator can, in principle, be written as functionals of the ground-state density. The Hohenberg-Kohn theorem applies for any given strength of the interaction between the particles. Thus, in the second core theorem of DFT, Kohn and Sham recognized that the many-body system of interacting particles can be described by an auxiliary system of *noninteracting* particles, in a different external potential (the Kohn-Sham potential), that produces the same ground-state density [2]. Since the Kohn-Sham particles are noninteracting, the wave function for this system is composed of single-particle orbitals, found by solving a system of single-particle equations, the Kohn-Sham equations. The solution of these equations thus provides a method to obtain the many-body ground-state density that bypasses the many-body wave function (the Kohn-Sham scheme) [2].

These two theorems are sufficient to construct DFT in a formal way; however, there are open questions with regards to both of them. Although the Hohenberg-Kohn theorem guarantees a one-to-one relationship between potentials and ground-state wave functions, as well as ground-state wave functions and ground-state densities, it offers no prescription on how these wave functions or potentials are produced given a particular density. For the Kohn-Sham scheme, although it is known that the Kohn-Sham potential is constructed from the sum of external, Hartree, and exchange-correlation potentials, the exchange-correlation component is generally unknown and hence must be approximated when DFT calculations are implemented practically. There are numerous approximations to the exchange-correlation potential that cover a wide range of sophistication and complexity [3], and the suitability of an approximation usually depends on the problem studied.

In this work, we apply the metric-space approach to quantum mechanics [4–6] to potentials in order to gain insight into the two fundamental theorems of DFT. First, we use the general procedure from Ref. [5] to derive two metrics for external potentials. These metrics will complement the metrics for wave functions and densities derived in Ref. [4] and ensure that we have metrics for each of the fundamental physical quantities associated to DFT. We will then revisit the Hohenberg-Kohn theorem. This was first studied with the metric-space approach to quantum mechanics in Ref. [4], where only the second part of Eq. (1), concerning

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ground-state wave functions and densities, was studied. Now, with the external potential metrics, we will extend the study to incorporate the first part of Eq. (1), which establishes a unique map between the external potential and the ground-state wave function. We will then turn our attention to the Kohn-Sham scheme. By studying model systems for which the Kohn-Sham quantities can be determined exactly, we will use our metrics to quantify the differences between many-body and Kohn-Sham quantities. We will use atomic units ($\hbar = m_e = e = 1/4\pi\epsilon_0 = 1$) throughout this paper.

II. DERIVING METRICS FOR POTENTIALS

In order to derive a metric for external potentials, we use the metric-space approach to quantum mechanics [4–6], which allows us to derive metrics from conservation laws of the form

$$\int |f(\mathbf{x})|^p d\mathbf{x} = c, \tag{2}$$

where c is a finite, positive constant. Equation (2) has the form of an L^p norm, from which a metric can be derived in a standard way. As these metrics then naturally descend from the physical conservation laws, we refer to them as "natural" metrics for the related physical functions. A metric is a function that assigns a distance between two elements of a set and is subject to the axioms [7,8]

$$D(x,y) \geqslant 0 \text{ and } D(x,y) = 0 \iff x = y, \tag{3}$$

$$D(x,y) = D(y,x), \tag{4}$$

$$D(x,y) \leqslant D(x,z) + D(z,y), \tag{5}$$

for all elements x,y,z in the set. A set with an appropriate metric defined on it is called a metric space.

In time-independent quantum mechanics, the system energy is conserved and it is given by the expectation value

$$\int \cdots \int \psi^*(\mathbf{r}_1,\ldots,\mathbf{r}_N)\hat{H}\psi(\mathbf{r}_1,\ldots,\mathbf{r}_N)d\mathbf{r}_1,\ldots,d\mathbf{r}_N = EN, \tag{6}$$

where

$$\hat{H} = -\sum_{i=1}^{N}\frac{1}{2}\nabla_i^2 + \sum_{j<i}^{N} U(\mathbf{r}_i,\mathbf{r}_j) + \sum_{i=1}^{N} v(\mathbf{r}_i) \tag{7}$$

is the system Hamiltonian, where $V = \sum_{i=1}^{N} v(\mathbf{r}_i)$ is the external potential and $\psi(\mathbf{r}_1,\ldots,\mathbf{r}_N)$ is the system state. We have followed Ref. [4] and normalized the many-body wave function $\psi(\mathbf{r}_1,\ldots,\mathbf{r}_N)$ to the particle number N. In the following we will concentrate on the Coulomb particle-particle interaction $U(\mathbf{r}_i,\mathbf{r}_j) = 1/|\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_j|$, though the results are valid for a general form of $U(\mathbf{r}_i,\mathbf{r}_j)$. In Eq. (7) and the following analysis we focus on electronic systems, as is often done in studies involving DFT when invoking the Born-Oppenheimer approximation. However, our results can be extended to include nuclear terms in the Hamiltonian, which we demonstrate in the Appendix. The derivations in the Appendix can be straightforwardly extended to more complex systems comprising various particles and/or species, such as systems including electrons and different ionic species.

We will now derive metrics for the external potential from Eq. (6) by applying the metric-space approach to quantum mechanics. We start by performing some simple algebra and rewrite Eq. (6) in the following two forms:

$$\int \cdots \int \sum_{i=1}^{N}\left[-\frac{1}{2}\psi^*\nabla_i^2\psi + \sum_{j<i}^{N}\frac{|\psi|^2}{|\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_j|} + |\psi|^2 v(\mathbf{r}_i)\right] \times d\mathbf{r}_1,\ldots,d\mathbf{r}_N = EN \tag{8}$$

and

$$\int N\left[\tau(\mathbf{r}) + \frac{1}{2}\int d\mathbf{r}_1 \frac{g(\mathbf{r},\mathbf{r}_1)}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_1|} + v(\mathbf{r})\rho(\mathbf{r})\right]d\mathbf{r} = EN. \tag{9}$$

Here, we have used the definitions

$$\tau(\mathbf{r}) \equiv \frac{1}{2}\int \cdots \int |\nabla_{\mathbf{r}}\psi(\mathbf{r},\mathbf{r}_2,\ldots,\mathbf{r}_N)|^2 d\mathbf{r}_2,\ldots,d\mathbf{r}_N \geqslant 0 \tag{10}$$

for the kinetic energy density,

$$g(\mathbf{r}_1,\mathbf{r}_2) \equiv (N-1)\int \cdots \int |\psi(\mathbf{r}_1,\mathbf{r}_2,\ldots,\mathbf{r}_N)|^2 \times d\mathbf{r}_3,\ldots,d\mathbf{r}_N \geqslant 0 \tag{11}$$

for the two-particle correlation function, and

$$\rho(\mathbf{r}) \equiv \int \cdots \int |\psi(\mathbf{r},\mathbf{r}_2,\ldots,\mathbf{r}_N)|^2 d\mathbf{r}_2,\ldots,d\mathbf{r}_N \geqslant 0 \tag{12}$$

for the single-particle density. To derive Eq. (10), we have used that for any $i = 1,\ldots,N$

$$\begin{aligned} -\frac{1}{2}\int \psi^*\nabla_i^2\psi d\mathbf{r}_i &= -\frac{1}{2}[\psi^*\nabla_i\psi]_{\mathbf{r}_i\to\infty} \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2}\int [(\nabla_i\psi^*)\cdot(\nabla_i\psi)]d\mathbf{r}_i \\ &= \frac{1}{2}\int |\nabla_i\psi|^2 d\mathbf{r}_i, \end{aligned} \tag{13}$$

as $\psi \to 0$ when $\mathbf{r}_i \to \infty$. This also shows that the kinetic term in Eq. (8) is positive.

To derive "natural" metrics, we must ensure that the conservation laws Eqs. (8) and (9) can be written in the form of Eq. (2), so, after taking the absolute value of their left and right sides, we need to demonstrate that the integrands in their left-hand sides always have the same sign throughout the corresponding domains. From previous considerations, the parts of these integrands corresponding to the kinetic and particle-particle interaction terms, for both Eqs. (8) and (9), are positive semidefinite everywhere, so we need only to consider the external potential term.

Although we cannot guarantee the sign of $v(\mathbf{r})$, we can make use of a gauge transformation. If the potential is modified by a constant, $v(\mathbf{r}) \to v(\mathbf{r}) + c$, then the solution to the Schrödinger equation is unaffected. Thus, for potentials with a lower bound, we can choose a constant c such that the potential term (and hence the overall integrand) in Eqs. (8) and (9) is positive semidefinite everywhere [9].

With this in mind we can rewrite Eqs. (8) and (9) as

$$\int\cdots\int\left|\sum_{i=1}^{N}\left\{\frac{1}{2}|\nabla_i\psi|^2+\sum_{j<i}^{N}\frac{|\psi|^2}{|\mathbf{r}_i-\mathbf{r}_j|}+|\psi|^2[v(\mathbf{r}_i)+c]\right\}\right|\times d\mathbf{r}_1,\ldots,d\mathbf{r}_N=|(E+c)N|, \tag{14}$$

and

$$\int\left|N\left\{\tau(\mathbf{r})+\frac{1}{2}\int d\mathbf{r}_1\frac{g(\mathbf{r},\mathbf{r}_1)}{|\mathbf{r}-\mathbf{r}_1|}+[v(\mathbf{r})+c]\rho(\mathbf{r})\right\}\right|d\mathbf{r}=|(E+c)N|. \tag{15}$$

Given that both Eq. (14) and Eq. (15) are of the sought form (2), we can apply the metric-space approach to quantum mechanics [5] and derive the corresponding metrics, which read

$$D_{v_1}=\int\cdots\int|f_1-f_2|d\mathbf{r}_1,\ldots,d\mathbf{r}_N, \tag{16}$$

$$D_{v_2}=\int|h_1-h_2|d\mathbf{r}, \tag{17}$$

where

$$f(\mathbf{r}_1,\ldots,\mathbf{r}_N)\equiv\sum_{i=1}^{N}\left\{\frac{1}{2}|\nabla_i\psi|^2+\sum_{j<i}^{N}\frac{|\psi|^2}{|\mathbf{r}_i-\mathbf{r}_j|}+|\psi|^2[v(\mathbf{r}_i)+c]\right\}, \tag{18}$$

and

$$h(\mathbf{r})\equiv N\left\{\tau(\mathbf{r})+\frac{1}{2}\int d\mathbf{r}_1\frac{g(\mathbf{r},\mathbf{r}_1)}{|\mathbf{r}-\mathbf{r}_1|}+[v(\mathbf{r})+c]\rho(\mathbf{r})\right\}. \tag{19}$$

D_{v_1} and D_{v_2} apply to both the case in which the system is in an eigenstate and when a more general system state is considered, as demonstrated below.

We note that both $\tau(\mathbf{r})$ and $g(\mathbf{r},\mathbf{r}_1)$ are uniquely defined by the many-body wave function, $\psi(\mathbf{r}_1,\ldots,\mathbf{r}_N)$. When the system is in an eigenstate, and for a given particle number and many-body interaction, the time-independent Schrödinger equation shows that the many-body wave function is uniquely determined by the external potential $v(\mathbf{r})$. Hence, every term in the integrands of both Eq. (14) and Eq. (15) (and hence in the related metrics) can be uniquely written as a functional of the external potential so that $f=f[v]$ and $h=h[v]$. This demonstrates that Eqs. (14) and (15) indeed define two norms (and hence metrics) for the external potential $v(\mathbf{r})$. It is simple to show that, when comparing the same two systems, $D_{v_2}<D_{v_1}$.

We note that the metric D_{v_2} is well defined for comparing systems with different numbers of particles because it relies on a single-particle quantity, the function $h(\mathbf{r})$ defined in Eq. (19). The metric D_{v_1} instead is well defined here only for systems with the same number of particles, $N_1=N_2$. The issue of defining D_{v_1} for systems with different numbers of particles is an open problem related to the fact that the wave function is a many-particle quantity. This issue has been discussed previously with reference to D_ψ [10,11].

When considering a system with a *time-independent* Hamiltonian but not in an eigenstate, conservation of energy applies to the time evolution of this state. In this case we can still consider the norms (14) and (15) as derived from the conservation of energy. However, now the system state at any time t, $\psi(t)$, will still be determined by the external potential $v(\mathbf{r})$, but together with the initial condition $\psi(t=0)$. The norms (14) and (15) will then still represent norms for the external potential $v(\mathbf{r})$, and at any time t, but *given the initial state* $\psi(t=0)$. This condition mirrors the condition for uniqueness of the relationship between the potential and the wave function $v(t)\longleftrightarrow\psi(t)$ as set in the core theorems of time-dependent DFT [12], where indeed this uniqueness is subject to the specific initial condition. Given this caveat, we can also in this case use Eqs. (14) and (15) to derive appropriate metrics for the external potential in the way presented above.

A. Potential metric for eigenstates

For system eigenstates, Eq. (6) becomes

$$\int\cdots\int E_i|\psi_i(\mathbf{r}_1,\ldots,\mathbf{r}_N)|^2d\mathbf{r}_1,\ldots,d\mathbf{r}_N=E_iN. \tag{20}$$

The norms for the external potential can then be rewritten as

$$\int\cdots\int|(E_i+c)|\psi_i|^2|d\mathbf{r}_1,\ldots,d\mathbf{r}_N=|(E_i+c)N|, \tag{21}$$

$$\int|(E_i+c)\rho_i(\mathbf{r})|d\mathbf{r}=|(E_i+c)N|. \tag{22}$$

From here the metrics for the external potential become

$$D_{v_1}=\int\cdots\int\left|\left(E_{1_i}+c_1\right)\left|\psi_{1_i}\right|^2-\left(E_{2_j}+c_2\right)\left|\psi_{2_j}\right|^2\right|\times d\mathbf{r}_1,\ldots,d\mathbf{r}_N, \tag{23}$$

$$D_{v_2}=\int\left|\left(E_{1_i}+c_1\right)\rho_{1_i}(\mathbf{r})-\left(E_{2_j}+c_2\right)\rho_{2_j}(\mathbf{r})\right|d\mathbf{r}. \tag{24}$$

B. Coulomb external potentials

Often bare Coulomb potentials are replaced by softened potentials that are finite at $r=0$. One example is the modeling of one-dimensional quantum systems [13,14]. When considering softened Coulomb potentials the external potential metrics defined above in Eqs. (16) and (17) are well defined. However, when the external potential has the bare Coulomb form $v=-1/r$, it diverges to $-\infty$ as $r\to0$. This implies that, if $\psi(\mathbf{r}_1,\ldots,\mathbf{r}_i=0,\ldots,\mathbf{r}_N)\neq0$ for at least one value of i and $\rho(0)\neq0$, it does not seem possible for a gauge transformation to enable the integrand of the potential norms (14) and (15), respectively, to be positive semidefinite everywhere. We show below that, even in this case, the potential norms (14) and (15) instead remain well defined.

Let us consider the gauge transformation $v(\mathbf{r})\to v(\mathbf{r})+c$ and rewrite Eq. (8) using that $\psi=\sum_i d_i\psi_i$, where $\{\psi_i\}$ are the eigenstates of H, and that $H\psi_i=E_i\psi_i$. Equation (8) then

becomes

$$\int \cdots \int \sum_i (E_i + c)|d_i|^2 |\psi_i(\mathbf{r}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{r}_N)|^2 d\mathbf{r}_1, \ldots, d\mathbf{r}_N = (E + c)N. \quad (25)$$

Equation (25) shows that, as long as $|E_i| < \infty$ for any i, we can choose a finite $c > 0$ such that the integrand in Eq. (25) is positive semidefinite everywhere, even when $v(\mathbf{r})$, as for the bare Coulomb potential, is not bounded from below.

III. GAUGE FREEDOM AND PHYSICAL CONSIDERATIONS

In Sec. II, we demonstrated that a gauge transformation is necessary in order to ensure that the metrics (16) and (17) are well defined. The gauge must ensure that the integrands in Eqs. (8) and (9), respectively, are positive semidefinite everywhere, but one could make different choices of gauge once this condition is fulfilled.

The gauge freedom we are considering reflects the fact that energies are defined up to a constant; however, energy differences have physical significance: When considering problems where it is necessary that the (physical) difference in energy between the systems we are comparing is preserved, we must ensure that we always work in the same gauge for all systems of interest. Hence, the constant c should be the same for *all* of the external potentials that we consider. In fact, from Eqs. (14) and (15) we see that in this way the energy of each system is modified by the same amount, and hence the energy difference between any two systems remains unaffected. For c to satisfy this condition, it must be sufficiently large so that the integrand of Eq. (8) or Eq. (9) is positive semidefinite everywhere for *all* of the potentials characterizing the set of systems $\{S_n\}$ under consideration. This condition is satisfied for any $c \geqslant \bar{c}_{1(2)}$, with $\bar{c}_1$ and $\bar{c}_2$ defined as

$$\bar{c}_1 \equiv \min\{c \in \mathbb{R} \text{ such that } f(\mathbf{r}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{r}_N) \geqslant 0, \forall \{\mathbf{r}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{r}_N\} \text{ and } \forall\, S \in \{S_n\}\}, \quad (26)$$

$$\bar{c}_2 \equiv \min\{c \in \mathbb{R} \text{ such that } h(\mathbf{r}) \geqslant 0, \forall\, \mathbf{r} \text{ and } \forall\, S \in \{S_n\}\}, \quad (27)$$

for the metrics D_{v_1} and D_{v_2} respectively.

IV. MODEL SYSTEMS

In order to assess the performance of the potential metrics D_{v_1} and D_{v_2} and examine the two core theorems of DFT, we will study model systems for which we can obtain both the many-body and exact Kohn-Sham quantities with high accuracy. Since it is possible to reverse engineer the Kohn-Sham equations exactly for systems of two electrons [15–17], we will study two-electron model systems, namely, Hooke's atom and the helium atom. Their Hamiltonians are

$$\hat{H}_{HA} = \frac{1}{2}\left(\mathbf{p}_1^2 + \omega^2 r_1^2 + \mathbf{p}_2^2 + \omega^2 r_2^2\right) + \frac{1}{|\mathbf{r}_1 - \mathbf{r}_2|}, \quad (28)$$

$$\hat{H}_{\mathrm{He}} = \frac{1}{2}\mathbf{p}_1^2 - \frac{Z}{r_1} + \frac{1}{2}\mathbf{p}_2^2 - \frac{Z}{r_2} + \frac{1}{|\mathbf{r}_1 - \mathbf{r}_2|}. \quad (29)$$

Hooke's atom can be solved exactly for particular frequencies via the method of Ref. [18], and numerical solutions for all frequencies can be found by the methods of Ref. [19].

We solve the helium atom with the variational method [20,21]. For our purposes, we need a basis set that will allow us to obtain the ground state for any entry in the helium isoelectronic series, i.e., two-electron ions with any nuclear charge Z. The basis set chosen is

$$\chi_{ijk}(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2) = c_{ijk} N_{ijk} L_i^{(2)}(2Zr_1) L_j^{(2)}(2Zr_2) P_k(\cos\theta), \quad (30)$$

with

$$N_{ijk} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{(i+1)(i+2)}}\sqrt{\frac{1}{(j+1)(j+2)}}\sqrt{\frac{2k+1}{2}}, \quad (31)$$

where $L_n^{(2)}$ are the generalized Laguerre polynomials, P_n are Legendre polynomials, and θ is the angle between r_1 and r_2. The wave function for the helium atom is then

$$\psi(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{8\pi}} e^{-Z(r_1 + r_2)} \sum_{i,j,k}^{i+j+k \leqslant \Omega} \chi_{ijk}(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2), \quad (32)$$

where the parameter Ω controls the number of basis functions [20].

This choice of basis combines the approaches taken by Accad *et al.* [20] and Coe *et al.* [21]. It has the important advantages that, with the constants N_{ijk}, basis functions are orthonormal and separable in the three coordinates $(2Zr_1, 2Zr_2, \cos\theta)$. These coordinates are chosen so that the basis function with $i, j, k = 0$ corresponds to the ground state of a hydrogenlike atom of charge Z. This basis function always makes the largest contribution to the ground state (i.e., $c_{000} \gg c_{ijk}$), particularly for large Z, and hence enables the ground state to converge more rapidly with respect to the number of basis functions.

For both model systems, we will generate families of states for the metric analysis by varying a parameter in the external potentials of our systems. For Hooke's atom, we will vary the strength of the harmonic confinement via the frequency ω, and for the heliumlike atoms we will vary the nuclear charge Z.

Solving the Kohn-Sham equations for the model systems

In order to be able to apply our metrics to quantities in the exact Kohn-Sham picture, we must be able to solve the Kohn-Sham equations exactly. Since the exact Kohn-Sham equations must reproduce the density from the many-body picture, we can use the exact density to reverse engineer the Kohn-Sham equations.

For our model systems, the ground state is a spin singlet. Therefore, in the Kohn-Sham picture, both electrons are described by the same Kohn-Sham orbital and, thus, are expressed in terms of the exact density as [17]

$$\phi_{KS} = \sqrt{\frac{\rho(\mathbf{r})}{2}}. \quad (33)$$

The Kohn-Sham potential follows as [17]

$$v_{KS}(\mathbf{r}) = \epsilon_{KS} + \frac{1}{2}\frac{\nabla^2 \phi_{KS}}{\phi_{KS}}. \quad (34)$$

In order to obtain $v_{KS}(\mathbf{r})$ from Eq. (34), we require the value of the Kohn-Sham eigenvalue, ϵ_{KS}. Reference [15] demonstrated that, provided $v_{xc}(\mathbf{r}) \to 0$ as $\mathbf{r} \to \infty$, the eigenvalue of the highest occupied Kohn-Sham state is equal to the ionization energy of the system.

For our model systems, only one Kohn-Sham state is occupied, and thus the eigenvalues for both electrons are equal to the ionization energy. For Hooke's atom, when decomposed into center-of-mass and relative-motion components [18], the center-of-mass energy is identical to that of a one-electron harmonic oscillator of frequency 2ω, so the ionization energy is clearly equal to the relative motion energy [16,17]. Ionizing an electron from any entry in the helium isoelectronic series results in a hydrogenic atom with energy $-Z^2/2$ hartrees. Therefore, the ionization energy is found from the difference between the helium and the hydrogen ground-state energies.

In order to apply our metrics to Kohn-Sham quantities, we need to consider the Hamiltonian of the whole N-particle Kohn-Sham system. The corresponding Schrödinger equation is simply the sum of the Kohn-Sham equations for each electron, so the wave function is formed by taking the Slater determinant of the Kohn-Sham orbitals:

$$\begin{aligned}\psi_{KS}(\mathbf{r}_1,\mathbf{r}_2) &= \begin{vmatrix} \phi_{KS}(\mathbf{r}_1)\uparrow_1 & \phi_{KS}(\mathbf{r}_2)\uparrow_2 \\ \phi_{KS}(\mathbf{r}_1)\downarrow_1 & \phi_{KS}(\mathbf{r}_2)\downarrow_2 \end{vmatrix}, \\ &= \phi_{KS}(\mathbf{r}_1)\phi_{KS}(\mathbf{r}_2)(\uparrow_1\downarrow_2 - \downarrow_1\uparrow_2). \end{aligned} \tag{35}$$

We consider only the orbital part of the wave function in this paper, so the two-electron Kohn-Sham wave function simplifies to

$$\begin{aligned}\psi_{KS}(\mathbf{r}_1,\mathbf{r}_2) &= \phi_{KS}(\mathbf{r}_1)\phi_{KS}(\mathbf{r}_2) \\ &= \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{\rho(\mathbf{r}_1)\rho(\mathbf{r}_2)}. \end{aligned} \tag{36}$$

The potential for the two Kohn-Sham electrons' Hamiltonian is given by the sum of the single-particle Kohn-Sham potentials,

$$V_{KS}(\mathbf{r}_1,\mathbf{r}_2) = v_{KS}(\mathbf{r}_1) + v_{KS}(\mathbf{r}_2). \tag{37}$$

We will apply our metrics to these two-electron Kohn-Sham quantities. Equation (36) shows that for a Kohn-Sham system the metrics D_{v_1} and D_{v_2} will, in general, take on different values.

V. COMPARISON OF METRICS FOR CHARACTERIZING QUANTUM SYSTEMS

Within the metric-space approach to quantum mechanics, we now have metrics for wave functions, densities, and potentials. For systems subject only to scalar potentials and with a given many-body interaction, these quantities, taken together, fully characterize a many-body system. We are then, in principle, in the position of *quantitatively* answering the following questions. Are two many-body systems close to each other in the Hilbert space? Could two many-body systems be close to each other with respect to some of these quantities but far away for others? We will address these questions, at least for the systems at hand and with a focus on DFT, in the rest of the paper: Apart from the general interest, these questions have practical implications, for example when considering how closely quantum information processes reproduce the desired result [22] or assessing the effectiveness of convergence loops in codes aiming to determine numerically accurate properties of systems, such as DFT codes.

When considering ground states, thanks to the Hohenberg-Kohn theorem, any among the density, wave function, and external potential are equally appropriate for characterizing quantum systems subject to external scalar potentials. Therefore, it is worthwhile to make a comparison between the information given by each of the corresponding metrics.

Figure 1 shows the values of the wave function, density, and both potential metrics plotted against the parameter values for both of our model systems and considering both many-body (top panels) and Kohn-Sham (bottom panels) quantities. The distances are calculated with respect to a reference state, $Z = 50.0$ for the heliumlike atoms and $\omega = 0.5$ for Hooke's atom, and are all scaled to have a maximum value of 2 for ease of comparison. We can immediately observe that all of the metrics follow broadly the same trend, increasing monotonically from the reference to their maximum value. The curves for both increasing and decreasing values of the parameters incorporate a region of rapidly increasing distance for parameter values close to the reference, a region where the distance asymptotically approaches its maximum for parameter values far from the reference, along with a transition region in between, where the largest differences between metrics are observed. The crucial difference between the four metrics, however, is how the metrics converge to the maximum value. Figure 1 shows that, as we depart from the reference, the potential metric D_{v_1} is the fastest to converge to its maximum, followed by the wave function metric, with the density metric being the slowest to converge. The behavior of the metric D_{v_2} is different for the two systems that we study. We first note the metric D_{v_2} takes on different values for many-body and Kohn-Sham systems because, although they share the same density, many-body and related Kohn-Sham systems have different energies in general. For heliumlike atoms, this metric strongly follows the trend of the density metric for both many-body and Kohn-Sham quantities. However, when considering Hooke's atom, the potential metric D_{v_2} is similar in value to the wave-function metric, albeit slightly greater for frequencies greater than the reference. These results suggest that, when comparing systems that are significantly different from one another, the density metric is the most useful tool for analysis, as it is capable of providing nontrivial information over a wider range of parameter space than the metrics for wave functions and potentials. When comparing systems that are relatively close to one another, all four metrics provide useful information to quantitatively characterize the differences between the systems.

With regard to practical calculations, the density metric D_ρ, along with the potential metric D_{v_2}, has another significant advantage in that, in general, it is considerably easier to calculate than the metrics D_ψ and D_{v_1}. The metrics D_ρ and D_{v_2}, in fact, need only be integrated over three degrees of freedom, compared to $3N$ degrees of freedom for the other two metrics. Also we can calculate the density metric from both the many-body and Kohn-Sham systems, since, unlike for wave functions and potentials, the Kohn-Sham system will, in principle, provide the exact many-body density.

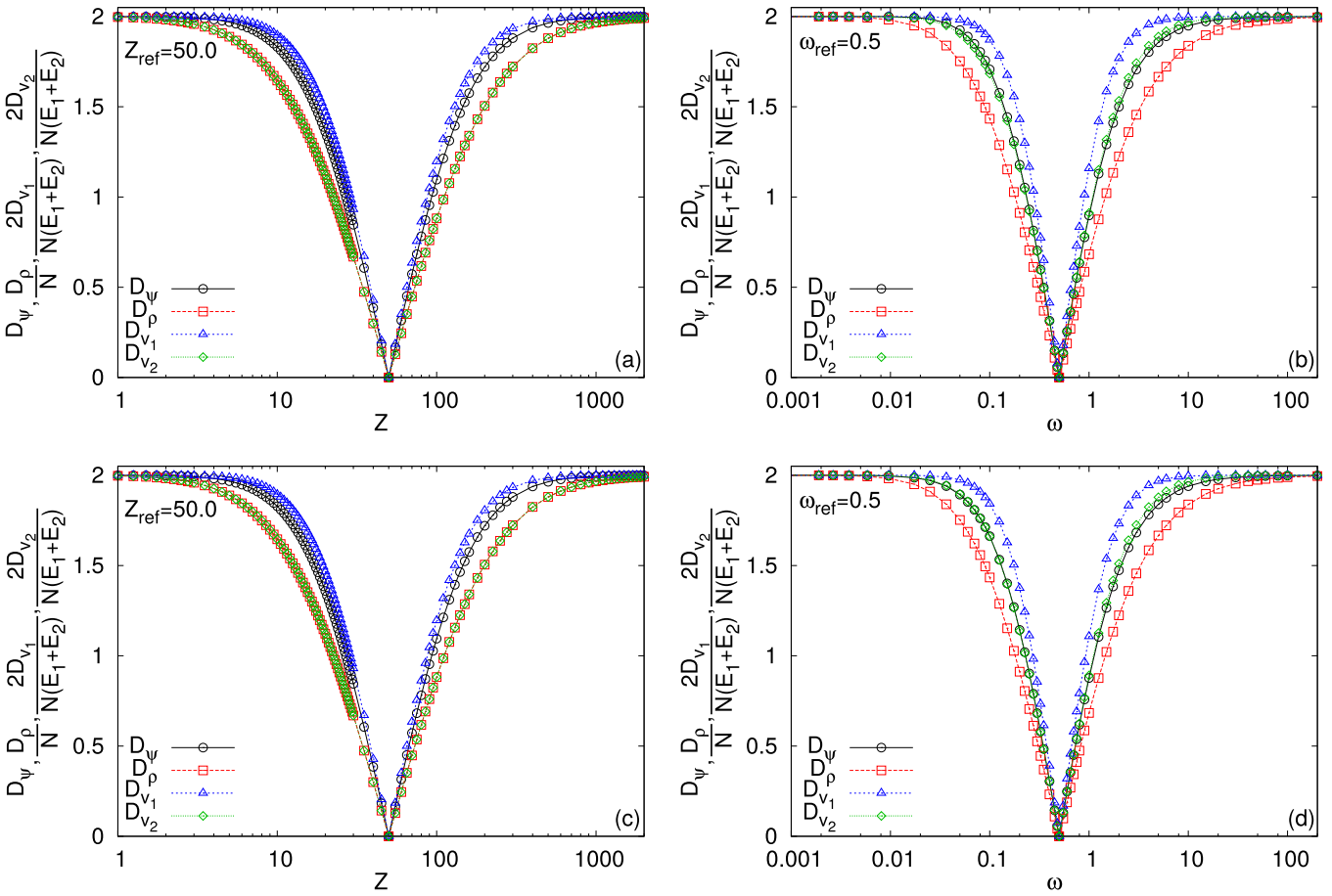

FIG. 1. The wave function, density, and potential distances for many-body systems (a),(b) and Kohn-Sham systems (c),(d) are plotted against the nuclear charge for heliumlike atoms (left) and against the confinement frequency for Hooke's atom (right). For heliumlike atoms the reference state is $Z = 50.0$, and for Hooke's atom the reference state is $\omega = 0.5$. All of the metrics are scaled such that their maximum value is 2.

VI. MAPPINGS RELEVANT TO THE HOHENBERG-KOHN THEOREM

In Ref. [4] it was shown that the mapping between wave functions and densities in the Hohenberg-Kohn theorem [Eq. (1)] is a mapping between metric spaces; by examining it in this light several features were found. In this paper, we have shown that all of the relationships in Eq. (1) are mappings between metric spaces: Using various families of states for each of our model systems, we will now look at the other relationships within the Hohenberg-Kohn theorem. We choose a reference state for each family of systems. We then calculate the distance between each member of the family and the reference state, for densities, wave functions, and potentials.

In Fig. 2 we plot the potential metrics D_{v_1} and D_{v_2}, respectively, against the wave function (left-hand panels) and density (right-hand panels) metrics for both interacting systems and their related Kohn-Sham systems and for increasing and decreasing parameters. In this way we compare for each plot eight different families of states as well as the behavior of the many-body systems with respect to the noninteracting Kohn-Sham systems. The rescaling of the metrics has been chosen such that the dependence on the particle number is removed and that these figures are directly comparable to Fig. 2 of Ref. [4], where corresponding plots for D_ψ versus D_ρ for heliumlike and Hooke's atoms were considered.

Considering our plots, we observe many features in common with the relationship between wave function and density metrics of Ref. [4]: The relationships between the potential distances and the other distances are monotonic, with nearby wave functions and nearby densities mapped onto nearby potentials and distant wave functions and distant densities mapped onto distant potentials. The curves for increasing parameters and decreasing parameters within each of the four systems (Hooke's many-body, Hooke's Kohn-Sham, heliumlike many-body, heliumlike Kohn-Sham) are also seen to overlap, or almost overlap, with one another. Finally, all curves have an extended region (up to and including intermediate potential distances) where the relationship between potential and the other distances is linear or almost linear. Interestingly, depending on the potential distance and the system considered, we observe that this linear region can cover the entire parameter range; see Figs. 2(a), 2(c), and 2(d). With the exception of Fig. 2(c), we notice that the curves have opposite convexity at large distances with respect to Fig. 2 of Ref. [4], which suggests that, in general, the potential distance is more likely to converge to its maximum faster than wave function or density

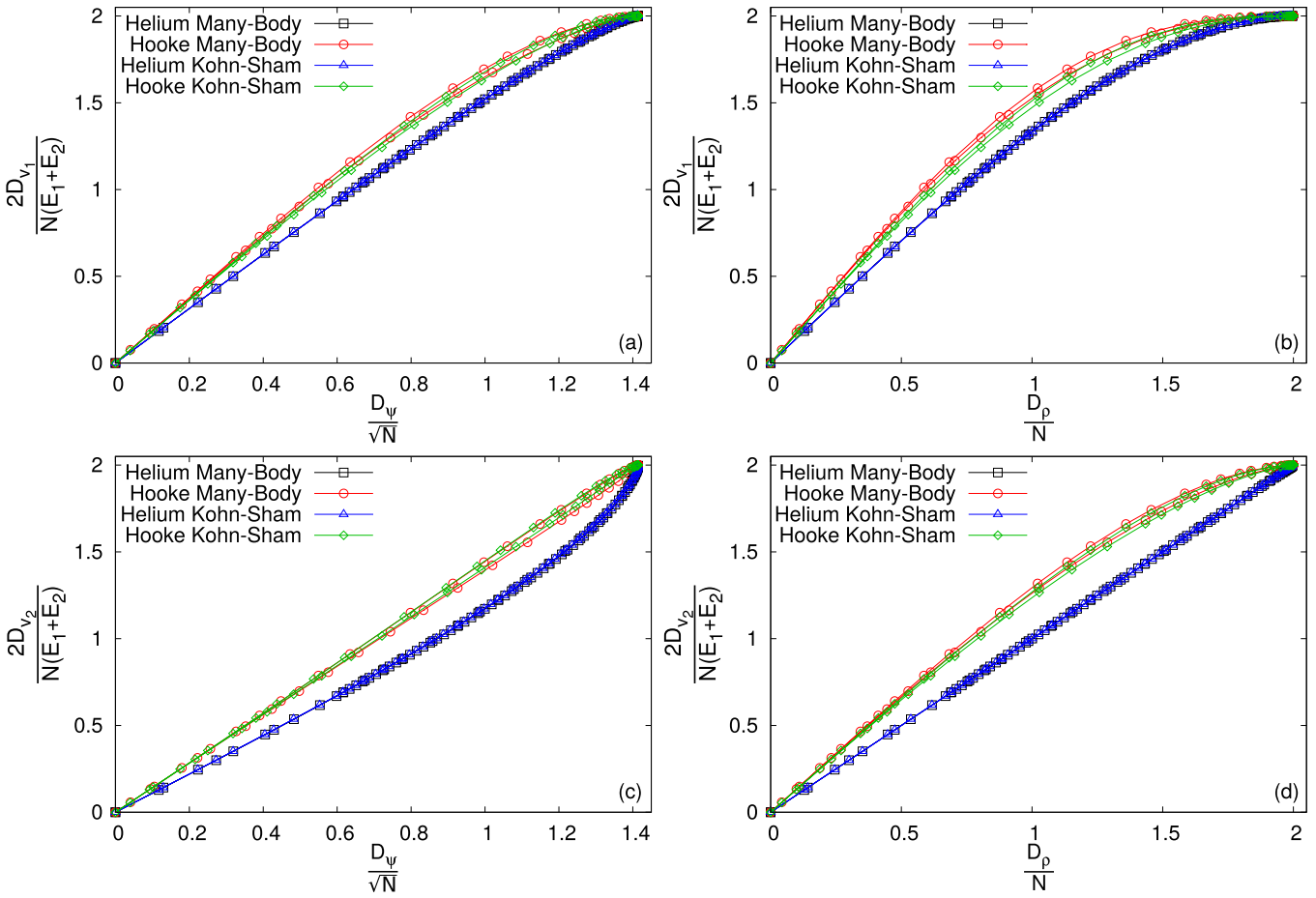

FIG. 2. Plots of rescaled potential distance $2D_{v_1}/[N(E_1+E_2)]$ (top) and $2D_{v_2}/[N(E_1+E_2)]$ (bottom) against rescaled wave function distance $D_\psi/\sqrt{N}$ (a),(c) and against rescaled density distance D_ρ/N (b),(d). We have plotted both the many-body and related Kohn-Sham systems for heliumlike atoms and Hooke's atom. In each panel we consider families of systems characterized by increasing and decreasing parameters starting from the reference state ($Z = 50.0$ for heliumlike atoms, $\omega = 0.5$ for Hooke's atom). The parameter ranges are $1.0 < Z < 2000.0$ for heliumlike atoms and $2.6 \times 10^{-8} < \omega < 1000.0$ for Hooke's atom.

distances; hence, in general, it is less effective in distinguishing far-away systems (compare also with Fig. 1).

In Ref. [4] a hint to universality was observed for the mapping between wave function and density distances; when looking at the potential versus wave function or density distances we note that the mapping from each many-body system is very close to the one from the corresponding exact Kohn-Sham system. This mapping is closer for heliumlike atoms compared to Hooke's atom; this is because we are always in a weak-correlation regime for heliumlike atoms, while we consider both strong- and weak-correlation regimes for Hooke's atom (see Fig. 3). However, the mapping is less close when comparing the behavior of Hooke's with respect to heliumlike atoms, and particularly so for the D_{v_2} distance, for which the convexity of the corresponding curves at large distances may be opposite [compare curves for the two Kohn-Sham systems in Fig. 2(c)].

VII. QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE KOHN-SHAM SCHEME

We will now consider the distance between wave functions and potentials of many-body systems, and the ones used to describe the corresponding Kohn-Sham systems [23], and study how these distances change throughout the parameter range. This allows us to provide a *quantitative* description of the differences between the many-body and exact Kohn-Sham descriptions of quantum systems. Although there is no promise from DFT for the many-body wave function to be reproduced by the Kohn-Sham ground-state wave function, the latter is commonly used as an approximation to the former in various contexts, such as linear response calculations in time-dependent DFT and some magnetic-system calculations, even if the regime of validity of this approximation has not been properly established. It is therefore of interest to quantitatively determine how good this approximation is.

In Fig. 3, the distances between many-body and Kohn-Sham wave functions and potentials are plotted for a range of parameter values. For potentials, we use here the metric D_{v_1}, since Eq. (24) shows that, in this case, the metric D_{v_2} will yield only the difference in the energy of the two systems. We first observe that the wave function and potential distances, when rescaled to the same maximum value, always take approximately the same value throughout the parameter range explored for both systems. This demonstrates that the two metrics provide a consistent measure of how the many-body

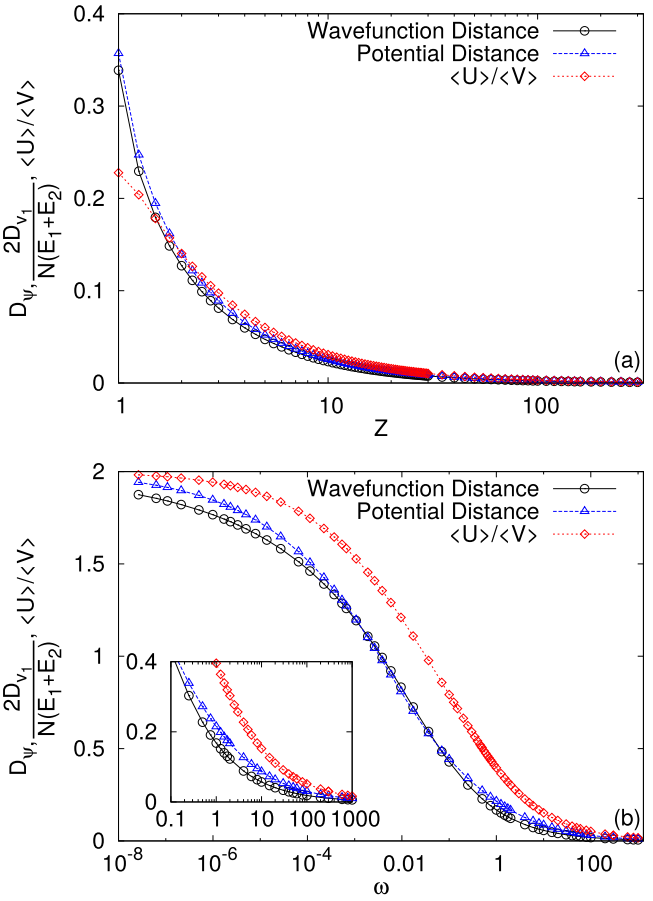

FIG. 3. For (a) heliumlike atoms and (b) Hooke's atom, the distances between many-body and Kohn-Sham wave functions, and between many-body and Kohn-Sham potentials, are plotted against the parameter values. In addition, the ratio of the expectation of the electron-electron interaction to the many-body external potential energy is plotted and shown to follow a similar trend to the metrics. In the inset, we focus on Hooke's atom in the regime of distances covered by the heliumlike atoms.

description differs from the Kohn-Sham description of our systems.

For both systems we have also plotted the ratio of the Coulomb energy to the external potential energy for the many-body systems. This ratio can be seen to follow broadly the the same trend as the metrics. This is an important observation as it provides further confirmation that the metrics derived from the metric-space approach to quantum mechanics provide a physically relevant comparison of quantum mechanical functions. It also shows that, alongside the two metrics and at least for the systems considered, this ratio is a useful indicator of how much the many-body and Kohn-Sham descriptions of the system differ from one another.

If we consider as a good performance indicator that the distance between the many-body and Kohn-Sham wave functions is up to 10% of the maximum distance [i.e., $D_\psi(\psi_{MB},\psi_{KS}) < 0.2$], then we see that for all families of systems the Kohn-Sham wave function is indeed a good approximation for a relatively large range of parameters, for $Z > 1.5$ for the helium isoelectronic series and $\omega > 1.25$ for Hooke's atom.

For heliumlike atoms, even at $Z = 1$, the maximum difference between the many-body and Kohn-Sham systems is just 17.5%. For these systems, the external potential always dominates over the Coulomb interaction between the electrons, and we observe that the distance between the potentials is always larger than the distance between the wave functions. For Hooke's atom, for small and large values of ω, we observe that the value of the potential metric is greater than that of the wave function metric, while, in the region where the ratio $\langle U\rangle/\langle V\rangle$ is approximately unity, the wave function metric takes a larger value than the potential metric.

In the inset of Fig. 3, we show the large ω behavior of our metrics for Hooke's atom, which can be seen for heliumlike atoms in Fig. 3(a). In this regime, both metrics and the ratio $\langle U\rangle/\langle V\rangle$ all tend to zero. This behavior can be understood by considering the limit of the quantities of interest in the regime where the external potential strongly dominates over the Coulomb interaction. The Kohn-Sham external potential is the sum of the external potential used to describe the many-body system, the Hartree potential, and the exchange-correlation potential; in this regime, $V_{KS} \approx V_{\text{ext}}$, and hence $D_{v_1}(V_{KS},V_{\text{ext}}) \approx 0$. Likewise, the many-body wave function approaches a noninteracting wave function which coincides with the Kohn-Sham wave function; hence, $D_\psi(\psi_{MB},\psi_{KS}) \approx 0$.

Physically, the wave function and potential distances between many-body and Kohn-Sham systems can be interpreted as a measure of specific electron-electron interaction effects. The Kohn-Sham wave function is the product of single-particle states; hence, the wave-function distance can be interpreted as a measure of the features of the many-body wave function that go beyond single-particle approximations. In this respect this distance is a measure of correlation effects, which cannot be captured by mean-field-type approximations. For potentials, the value of the metric $D_{v_1}(V_{\text{ext}},V_{KS})$ can be interpreted as measuring the contribution of the Hartree and exchange-correlation potentials to the Kohn-Sham potential.

VIII. CONCLUSION

The aim of this paper was to derive a metric for external potentials, which is motivated by their role in the Hohenberg-Kohn theorem, and more generally the crucial role external potentials play in modeling quantum systems. This metric complements the density and wave-function metrics, providing us with metrics for each of the fundamental quantities of DFT. The tools we now have at our disposal have enabled us to take our metric analysis in other directions, such as the quantitative analysis of the Kohn-Sham scheme. In particular, since the density of Kohn-Sham and many-body interacting systems are the same, the potential metric is able to provide a meaningful insight into the Kohn-Sham scheme that the density metric cannot.

By considering the conservation of energy and applying the metric-space approach to quantum mechanics to it, we have derived two "natural" metrics for external potentials. These

metrics can be applied to electronic systems subject to any physical scalar potential (including unbounded potentials such as Coulomb interactions), in eigenstates or out of equilibrium. We also showed how to extend our analysis to derive the potential metrics for systems incorporating both electronic and nuclear effects. This analysis can be straightforwardly extended to even more complex systems. We have also considered the effects of the gauge freedom of potentials and shown which conditions the metrics should satisfy to remain well defined when the preservation of relative energy differences are important to the problem considered. As for all metrics derived within the metric-space approach to quantum mechanics, our potential metrics are characterized by well-defined maximum values, which makes it possible to compare quantitatively the behaviors of very different systems.

Physical systems subject to scalar potentials are defined through their external potentials, densities and wave functions: Here we have analyzed in detail eight families of systems, all in their ground states, so that these quantities are subject to a one-to-one mapping through the Hohenberg-Kohn theorem, the pillar of density-functional theory. These families are defined by increasing and decreasing parameters with respect to reference systems for the interacting helium isoelectronic series, the interacting Hooke's atom with varying confinement strength, and the two corresponding families of noninteracting exact Kohn-Sham systems. When comparing the performances of the metrics, we found that they converged onto their maximum values at different rates, with the potential metric D_{v_1} converging first, followed by the wave-function metric, and finally by the density metric, with the behavior of the potential metric D_{v_2} depending on the system studied. This strengthens the findings in Ref. [4] that the density is the best quantity to differentiate between distant systems. Importantly, however, we find that, in general, two systems close to (or distant from) each other with respect to the metric for one physical quantity remain so with respect to the metrics for all physical quantities.

In the context of the Hohenberg-Kohn theorem, in Ref. [4] it was found that in metric spaces the mapping between wave functions and densities was monotonic, and incorporated a (quasi) linear mapping between small and between intermediate distances. When examining in metric-space the relationships of the external potential with wave functions and densities in the Hohenberg-Kohn theorem, we find once more surprisingly simple mappings and with a similar behavior, with some curves showing an even greater range of linearity than the wave-function-density mapping. These results are evidence of the deep connection between the quantities involved in the Hohenberg-Kohn theorem. However, while the interacting and related exact Kohn-Sham systems have almost identical behavior, there are differences, especially at intermediate to large distance regions between Hooke's and heliumlike families, as opposed to Ref. [4].

We looked at the distance between many-body and Kohn-Sham quantities for both wave functions and external potentials, gaining quantitative insight into when, and by how much, the many-body and Kohn-Sham systems differ from one another. We showed that, when rescaled to the same maximum distance, wave functions and potentials provide a consistent picture, since they yield approximately the same distance values throughout all the parameter ranges considered. We also found that the two metrics followed the same qualitative trend as the ratio of Coulomb to external potential energies. The Kohn-Sham wave function has been used as an approximation to the many-body wave function, even if there is no promise of good behavior, in this respect, from density-functional theory. Our metrics allowed us to explore this approximation *quantitatively*, at least for the systems at hand. For these systems we prove that the Kohn-Sham wave function indeed represents a well-behaved approximation which provides good quantitative results (10% maximum error) for a relatively large range of the parameters explored.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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APPENDIX: EXTERNAL POTENTIAL METRICS FOR SYSTEMS COMPRISING ELECTRONS AND NUCLEI

In this appendix we will generalize the external potential metrics D_{v_1} and D_{v_2} to systems comprising both electrons and nuclei. We define the sum of the electrons and nuclei numbers $N_e + N_n \equiv N$, and consider the Hamiltonian

$$\hat{H} = -\sum_{i=1}^{N} \frac{1}{2}\nabla_i^2 + \sum_{j<i}^{N} U(\mathbf{r}_i,\mathbf{r}_j) + \sum_{i=1}^{N_e} v_e(\mathbf{r}_i) + \sum_{i=1}^{N_n} v_n(\mathbf{r}_i), \tag{A1}$$

where $V = \sum_{i=1}^{N_e} v_e(\mathbf{r}_i) + \sum_{i=1}^{N_n} v_n(\mathbf{r}_i)$ is the external potential acting on the electrons and nuclei (e.g., from an applied electric field) and $\sum_{j<i}^{N} U(\mathbf{r}_i,\mathbf{r}_j)$ is a shorthand for

$$\sum_{j<i}^{N_e+N_n} U(\mathbf{r}_i,\mathbf{r}_j) \equiv \sum_{j<i}^{N_e} U_e(\mathbf{r}_i,\mathbf{r}_j) + \sum_{\substack{i=N_e+1,\\ j<i}}^{N_e+N_n} U_n(\mathbf{r}_i,\mathbf{r}_j) + \sum_{i=1}^{N_e}\sum_{j=N_e+1}^{N_e+N_n} U_{e-n}(\mathbf{r}_i,\mathbf{r}_j) \tag{A2}$$

and contains the electron-electron, nuclear-nuclear, and electron-nuclear interactions, respectively. The system state is $\psi(\mathbf{r}_1,\ldots,\mathbf{r}_{N_e},\mathbf{r}_{N_e+1},\ldots,\mathbf{r}_{N_e+N_n})$, where we have followed Ref. [4], and normalized the many-body wave function to the total particle number $N \equiv N_e + N_n$. Without loss of generality, we have positioned the electron coordinates before the nuclear coordinates.

1. Generalization of D_{v_1} to an electron-nuclear system

The Hamiltonian expectation value is

$$\int\cdots\int \psi^*(\mathbf{r}_1,\ldots,\mathbf{r}_{N_e},\mathbf{r}_{N_e+1},\ldots,\mathbf{r}_{N_e+N_n})\hat{H}\psi(\mathbf{r}_1,\ldots,\mathbf{r}_{N_e},\mathbf{r}_{N_e+1},\ldots,\mathbf{r}_{N_e+N_n})d\mathbf{r}_1,\ldots,d\mathbf{r}_{N_e+N_n}$$
$$=\int\cdots\int\left\{-\sum_{i=1}^{N}\frac{1}{2}\psi^*\nabla_i^2\psi+\left[\sum_{j<i}^{N_e}U_e(\mathbf{r}_i,\mathbf{r}_j)+\sum_{i=N_e+1,j<i}^{N_e+N_n}U_n(\mathbf{r}_i,\mathbf{r}_j)\right]|\psi|^2\right.$$
$$\left.+\sum_{i=1}^{N_e}\sum_{j=N_e+1}^{N_e+N_n}U_{e-n}(\mathbf{r}_i,\mathbf{r}_j)|\psi|^2+\left[\sum_{i=1}^{N_e}v_e(\mathbf{r}_i)+\sum_{i=1}^{N_n}v_n(\mathbf{r}_i)\right]|\psi|^2\right\}d\mathbf{r}_1,\ldots,d\mathbf{r}_{N_e+N_n}=E(N_e+N_n)=EN. \tag{A3}$$

Following a procedure similar to the one used to derive Eq. (14) we can write

$$\int\cdots\int\left[F(\mathbf{r}_1,\ldots,\mathbf{r}_N)+\sum_{i=1}^{N}c|\psi|^2\right]d\mathbf{r}_1,\ldots,d\mathbf{r}_N=(E+c)N, \tag{A4}$$

where $F(\mathbf{r}_1,\ldots,\mathbf{r}_N)$ is the integrand of (A3) and c is the positive constant from the gauge transformation $v_{e(n)}(\mathbf{r})\rightarrow v_{e(n)}(\mathbf{r})+c$. While the kinetic term [after applying Eq. (13)] and the terms containing the electron-electron and the nuclear-nuclear interactions are positive definite, this gauge transformation is necessary to ensure the the sum of the electron-nuclear and external potential terms in (A3) is also positive definite. By using that $\psi=\sum_i d_i\psi_i$ with $\{\psi_i\}$ the set of orthogonal eigenstates such that $H\psi_i=E_i\psi_i$, Eq. (A4) can be rewritten as

$$\int\cdots\int\sum_i(E_i+c)|d_i|^2|\psi_i|^2d\mathbf{r}_1,\ldots,d\mathbf{r}_N=(E+c)N. \tag{A5}$$

As was the case with Eq. (25), this equation proves that, provided that $|E_i|<\infty$ for all i, it is possible to find a value of c such that the integrand of (A6) becomes positive definite. With this choice of c we can write

$$\int\cdots\int\left|F(\mathbf{r}_1,\ldots,\mathbf{r}_N)+\sum_{i=1}^{N}c|\psi|^2\right|d\mathbf{r}_1,\ldots,d\mathbf{r}_N=|(E+c)N|, \tag{A6}$$

which is the analog of Eq. (14) for the Hamiltonian (A1) and represents a well-defined L^1 norm when extended to the appropriate set [5]. From this, following the metric-space approach to quantum mechanics [5], we derive the generalization of D_{v_1} to the external potential $\sum_{i=1}^{N_e}v(\mathbf{r}_i)+\sum_{i=1}^{N_n}v(\mathbf{r}_i)$, which reads

$$D_{v_1,e-n}=\int\cdots\int\left|F_1(\mathbf{r}_1,\ldots,\mathbf{r}_N)+\sum_{i=1}^{N}c|\psi_1|^2-F_2(\mathbf{r}_1,\ldots,\mathbf{r}_N)-\sum_{i=1}^{N}c|\psi_2|^2\right|d\mathbf{r}_1,\ldots,d\mathbf{r}_N, \tag{A7}$$
$$=\int\cdots\int\left|f_{1,e-n}-f_{2,e-n}\right|d\mathbf{r}_1,\ldots,d\mathbf{r}_N, \tag{A8}$$

where

$$f_{i,e-n}(\mathbf{r}_1,\ldots,\mathbf{r}_N)=F_i(\mathbf{r}_1,\ldots,\mathbf{r}_N)+\sum_{j=1}^{N}c|\psi_i|^2. \tag{A9}$$

In a similar way, the metric D_{v_1} can be generalized to measure the distance between systems containing an arbitrary number of sets of different particles $p_a,p_b,\ldots,p_m$ (e.g., systems which include electrons and various ionic species), as long as the number of corresponding particles is identical for both systems, i.e., $N_{a_1}\equiv N_{a_2},N_{b_1}\equiv N_{b_2}$, etc.

2. Generalization of D_{v_2} to an electron-nuclear system

The system wave function $\psi(\mathbf{r}_1,\ldots,\mathbf{r}_{N_e},\mathbf{r}_{N_e+1},\ldots,\mathbf{r}_{N_e+N_n})$ is antisymmetric with respect to electron-electron exchange and either symmetric or antisymmetric with respect to nuclear-nuclear exchange depending on whether the nuclei are bosons or

fermions, respectively. By using these properties we can rewrite Eq. (A3) as

$$N\Bigg\{\int_V d\mathbf{r}_e\langle\tau_e(\mathbf{r}_e;\mathbf{r}_{N_e+1},\ldots,\mathbf{r}_{N_e+N_n})\rangle_n + \int_V d\mathbf{r}_n\langle\tau_n(\mathbf{r}_n;\mathbf{r}_1,\ldots,\mathbf{r}_{N_e})\rangle_e + \int_V d\mathbf{r}_{e_1}\frac{1}{2}\int_V d\mathbf{r}_{e_2}U_e(\mathbf{r}_{e_1},\mathbf{r}_{e_2})$$
$$\times\langle g_e(\mathbf{r}_{e_1},\mathbf{r}_{e_2};\mathbf{r}_{N_e+1},\ldots,\mathbf{r}_{N_e+N_n})\rangle_n + \int_V d\mathbf{r}_{n_1}\frac{1}{2}\int_V d\mathbf{r}_{n_2}U_n(\mathbf{r}_{n_1},\mathbf{r}_{n_2})\langle g_n(\mathbf{r}_{n_1},\mathbf{r}_{n_2};\mathbf{r}_1,\ldots,\mathbf{r}_{N_e})\rangle_e$$
$$+\int_V d\mathbf{r}_e\int_V d\mathbf{r}_n U_{e-n}(\mathbf{r}_e,\mathbf{r}_n)g_{e-n}(\mathbf{r}_e,\mathbf{r}_n) + \int_V d\mathbf{r}_e v_e(\mathbf{r}_e)\langle\rho_e(\mathbf{r}_e;\mathbf{r}_{N_e+1},\ldots,\mathbf{r}_{N_e+N_n})\rangle_n$$
$$+\int_V d\mathbf{r}_n v_n(\mathbf{r}_n)\langle\rho_n(\mathbf{r}_n;\mathbf{r}_1,\ldots,\mathbf{r}_{N_e})\rangle_e\Bigg\} = EN, \tag{A10}$$

where

$$\langle\tau_e(\mathbf{r}_e;\mathbf{r}_{N_e+1},\ldots,\mathbf{r}_{N_e+N_n})\rangle_n \equiv \int d\mathbf{r}_{N_e+1},\ldots,d\mathbf{r}_{N_e+N_n}\left[\frac{N_e}{2N}\int|\nabla\psi|^2 d\mathbf{r}_2,\ldots,d\mathbf{r}_{N_e}\right], \tag{A11}$$

$$\langle g_e(\mathbf{r}_{e_1},\mathbf{r}_{e_2};\mathbf{r}_{N_e+1},\ldots,\mathbf{r}_{N_e+N_n})\rangle_n \equiv \int d\mathbf{r}_{N_e+1},\ldots,d\mathbf{r}_{N_e+N_n}\left[\frac{N_e(N_e-1)}{N}\int|\psi|^2 d\mathbf{r}_3,\ldots,d\mathbf{r}_{N_e}\right], \tag{A12}$$

$$\langle\rho_e(\mathbf{r}_e;\mathbf{r}_{N_e+1},\ldots,\mathbf{r}_{N_e+N_n})\rangle_n \equiv \int d\mathbf{r}_{N_e+1},\ldots,d\mathbf{r}_{N_e+N_n}\left[\frac{N_e}{N}\int|\psi|^2 d\mathbf{r}_2,\ldots,d\mathbf{r}_{N_e}\right]. \tag{A13}$$

It can be seen that the terms in square brackets in Eqs. (A9)–(A11) correspond to the definitions of the analogous quantities for electron-only systems in Eqs. (10)–(12). The corresponding nuclear functions are obtained by interchanging in the three equations above the sets of electron and nuclear coordinates and the "e" and "n" indices, and

$$g_{e-n}(\mathbf{r}_e,\mathbf{r}_n) \equiv \frac{N_eN_n}{N}\int d\mathbf{r}_2,\ldots,d\mathbf{r}_{N_e}\int|\psi|^2 d\mathbf{r}_{N_e+2},\ldots,d\mathbf{r}_{N_e+N_n}. \tag{A14}$$

We then note that (i) all integrations in (A10) are over the same volume, (ii) the integrands of the first four terms are positive definite, (iii) the integrand of the fifth term is negative, and (iv) the integrands of the sixth and seventh terms have no defined sign. By using (i) and a gauge transformation for $v_e(\mathbf{r})$ and $v_n(\mathbf{r})$, we can write (A10) as

$$\int_V N\Big\{\langle\tau_e(\mathbf{r};\mathbf{r}_{N_e+1},\ldots,\mathbf{r}_{N_e+N_n})\rangle_n + \langle\tau_n(\mathbf{r};\mathbf{r}_1,\ldots,\mathbf{r}_{N_e})\rangle_e$$
$$+\frac{1}{2}\int_V d\mathbf{r}'\big[U_e(\mathbf{r},\mathbf{r}')\langle g_e(\mathbf{r},\mathbf{r}';\mathbf{r}_{N_e+1},\ldots,\mathbf{r}_{N_e+N_n})\rangle_n + U_n(\mathbf{r},\mathbf{r}')\langle g_n(\mathbf{r},\mathbf{r}';\mathbf{r}_1,\ldots,\mathbf{r}_{N_e})\rangle_e\big]$$
$$+\int_V d\mathbf{r}' U_{e-n}(\mathbf{r},\mathbf{r}')g_{e-n}(\mathbf{r},\mathbf{r}') + (v_e(\mathbf{r})+c)\langle\rho_e(\mathbf{r};\mathbf{r}_{N_e+1},\ldots,\mathbf{r}_{N_e+N_n})\rangle_n$$
$$+(v_n(\mathbf{r})+c)\langle\rho_n(\mathbf{r};\mathbf{r}_1,\ldots,\mathbf{r}_{N_e})\rangle_e\Big\}d\mathbf{r} = (E+c)N, \tag{A15}$$

where $c \geqslant 0$ is chosen such that the sum of the last three terms of the overall integrand is always positive. In this way the overall integrand in (A15) is positive definite and, following the metric-space approach to quantum mechanics [5], we can write the L^1 norm

$$\int_V N\big|\langle\tau_e(\mathbf{r};\mathbf{r}_{N_e+1},\ldots,\mathbf{r}_{N_e+N_n})\rangle_n + \langle\tau_n(\mathbf{r};\mathbf{r}_1,\ldots,\mathbf{r}_{N_e})\rangle_e.$$
$$+\frac{1}{2}\int_V d\mathbf{r}'\big[U_e(\mathbf{r},\mathbf{r}')\langle g_e(\mathbf{r},\mathbf{r}';\mathbf{r}_{N_e+1},\ldots,\mathbf{r}_{N_e+N_n})\rangle_n.$$
$$+U_n(\mathbf{r},\mathbf{r}')\langle g_n(\mathbf{r},\mathbf{r}';\mathbf{r}_1,\ldots,\mathbf{r}_{N_e})\rangle_e\big] + \int_V d\mathbf{r}' U_{e-n}(\mathbf{r},\mathbf{r}')g_{e-n}(\mathbf{r},\mathbf{r}')$$
$$+(v_e(\mathbf{r})+c)\langle\rho_e(\mathbf{r};\mathbf{r}_{N_e+1},\ldots,\mathbf{r}_{N_e+N_n})\rangle_n + (v_n(\mathbf{r})+c)\langle\rho_n(\mathbf{r};\mathbf{r}_1,\ldots,\mathbf{r}_{N_e})\rangle_e|d\mathbf{r} = |(E+c)N|, \tag{A16}$$

which is the analog of Eq. (15) for the Hamiltonian (A1) and the generalization of D_{v_2} to the external potential $\sum_{i=1}^{N_e}v(\mathbf{r}_i)+\sum_{i=1}^{N_n}v(\mathbf{r}_i)$ is

$$D_{v_2,e-n} = \int|h_{1,e-n}(\mathbf{r}) - h_{2,e-n}(\mathbf{r})|d\mathbf{r}, \tag{A17}$$

where $h_{i,e-n}(\mathbf{r})$ corresponds to the integrand of Eq. (A15) for system i. As was the case for D_{v_1}, the metric D_{v_2} can be generalized to measure the distance between systems containing an arbitrary number of sets of different particles $p_a, p_b, \ldots, p_m$ (e.g., systems

which include electrons and various ionic species). In this case, however, it is not required that corresponding ensembles of particles in different systems have the same size.

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