

Illustration of the Geometric Principle in TDDFT with a 1D Soft-Coulomb Model

Éric Cancès Théo Duez Jari van Gog Asbjørn Bækgaard Lauritsen Mathieu Lewin
Julien Toulouse



Oslo, Norway
22/04/2026



1D Soft-Coulomb Model with 2 electrons in a spin singlet state

Interacting system

$$\Psi^S(t) = \Psi^S(t, x_1, x_2) \text{ symmetric}$$

$$\begin{cases} i\partial_t \Psi^S(t) = \hat{H}^S(t) \Psi^S(t) \\ \Psi^S(0) = \Psi_0 \end{cases} \quad \rightsquigarrow$$

$$\hat{H}^S(t) := \sum_{i=1}^2 \hat{h}(t, x_i) + \underbrace{\frac{1}{\sqrt{(x_1 - x_2)^2 + 1}}}_{\text{Soft-Coulomb}}$$

$\Rightarrow \text{Gives } \rho^S$

Kohn-Sham system

One spatial orbital $\varphi(t) = \varphi(t, x)$

$$\begin{cases} i\partial_t \varphi(t) = (\hat{h}(t) + \hat{\mathbf{F}}(\mathbf{t}))\varphi(t) \\ \varphi(0) = \varphi_0 \end{cases}$$

$$\hat{h}(t) = -\frac{1}{2}\partial_x^2 + V_{\text{ext}}(t, x)$$

$\Rightarrow \text{Gives } \rho_\varphi = 2|\varphi|^2$

1D Soft-Coulomb Model with 2 electrons in a spin singlet state

Interacting system

$$\Psi^S(t) = \Psi^S(t, x_1, x_2) \text{ symmetric}$$

$$\begin{cases} i\partial_t \Psi^S(t) = \hat{H}^S(t) \Psi^S(t) \\ \Psi^S(0) = \Psi_0 \end{cases} \quad \rightsquigarrow$$

$$\hat{H}^S(t) := \sum_{i=1}^2 \hat{h}(t, x_i) + \underbrace{\frac{1}{\sqrt{(x_1 - x_2)^2 + 1}}}_{\text{Soft-Coulomb}}$$

$\Rightarrow$ Gives ρ^S

Kohn-Sham system

One spatial orbital $\varphi(t) = \varphi(t, x)$

$$\begin{cases} i\partial_t \varphi(t) = (\hat{h}(t) + \hat{\mathbf{F}}(\mathbf{t}))\varphi(t) \\ \varphi(0) = \varphi_0 \end{cases}$$

$$\hat{h}(t) = -\frac{1}{2}\partial_x^2 + V_{\text{ext}}(t, x)$$

$\Rightarrow$ Gives $\rho_\varphi = 2|\varphi|^2$

Several choices for $\hat{\mathbf{F}}(\mathbf{t})$ to enforce $\rho^S = \rho_\varphi$:

- 1 Variational Principle : $\hat{\mathbf{F}}(\mathbf{t}) = \mathbf{V}(\mathbf{t}, \mathbf{x})$
- 2 Geometric Principle : $\hat{\mathbf{F}}(\mathbf{t}) = \mathbf{iW}(\mathbf{t}, \mathbf{x})$
- 3 We can mix both : $\hat{\mathbf{F}}(\mathbf{t}) = \mathbf{V}(\mathbf{t}, \mathbf{x}) + \mathbf{iW}(\mathbf{t}, \mathbf{x})$

(for e.g. W^{corr} can correct $V_{\text{adia}}^{\text{approx}}$)

Hydrodynamic picture

If $\rho_\varphi = \rho^S$, one can write **the polar form**

$$\varphi(t, x) = \sqrt{\frac{\rho^S(t, x)}{2}} e^{i\theta(t, x)}$$

The non-interacting current is $j_\varphi = j_\theta := \rho^S \partial_x \theta$.

Hydrodynamic picture

If $\rho_\varphi = \rho^S$, one can write **the polar form**

$$\varphi(t, x) = \sqrt{\frac{\rho^S(t, x)}{2}} e^{i\theta(t, x)}$$

The non-interacting current is $j_\varphi = j_\theta := \rho^S \partial_x \theta$.

Then the triplet $(\theta, \mathbf{V}, \mathbf{W})$ solves the hydrodynamic equations

$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{W} = \frac{\partial_t \rho^S + \partial_x(\rho^S \partial_x \theta)}{2\rho^S}, \\ \mathbf{V} = -\partial_t \theta - \frac{|\partial_x \theta|^2}{2} + \frac{\partial_x^2 \sqrt{\rho^S}}{2\sqrt{\rho^S}} - V_{\text{ext}}. \end{cases}$$

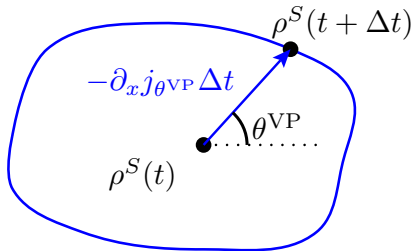
$V^{\text{eaKS}} := \frac{\partial_x^2 \sqrt{\rho^S}}{2\sqrt{\rho^S}} - V_{\text{ext}}$ is the exact adiabatic Kohn-Sham potential giving ρ^S .

Hydrodynamic picture : VP vs GP

Variational Principle : set $W = 0$

→ the pair $(\theta^{\text{VP}}, \mathbf{V}^{\text{eKS}})$ solves

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \mathbf{0} = \frac{\partial_t \rho^S + \partial_x(\rho^S \partial_x \theta^{\text{VP}})}{2\rho^S}, \\ \mathbf{V}^{\text{eKS}} = -\partial_t \theta^{\text{VP}} - \frac{|\partial_x \theta^{\text{VP}}|^2}{2} + V^{\text{eKS}}. \end{array} \right.$$

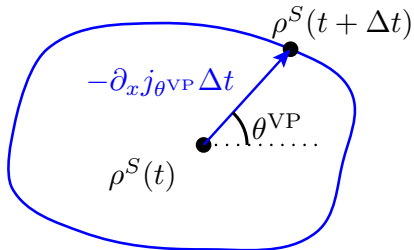


Hydrodynamic picture : VP vs GP

Variational Principle : set $W = 0$

→ the pair $(\theta^{\text{VP}}, \mathbf{V}^{\text{eKS}})$ solves

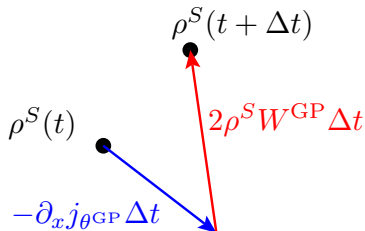
$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{0} = \frac{\partial_t \rho^S + \partial_x(\rho^S \partial_x \theta^{\text{VP}})}{2\rho^S}, \\ \mathbf{V}^{\text{eKS}} = -\partial_t \theta^{\text{VP}} - \frac{|\partial_x \theta^{\text{VP}}|^2}{2} + V^{\text{eKS}}. \end{cases}$$



Geometric Principle : set $V = 0$

→ the pair $(\theta^{\text{GP}}, \mathbf{W}^{\text{GP}})$ solves

$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{W}^{\text{GP}} = \frac{\partial_t \rho^S + \partial_x(\rho^S \partial_x \theta^{\text{GP}})}{2\rho^S}, \\ \mathbf{0} = -\partial_t \theta^{\text{GP}} - \frac{|\partial_x \theta^{\text{GP}}|^2}{2} + V^{\text{eKS}}. \end{cases}$$

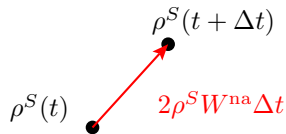


GP as a correction to exact adiabatic

A third natural choice : set $\theta = 0$! $\rightarrow$ No equation to solve !

The pair $(\mathbf{V}^{\text{eaKS}}, \mathbf{W}^{\text{na}})$ is directly given by

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \mathbf{W}^{\text{na}} = \frac{\partial_t \rho^S}{2\rho^S}, \\ \mathbf{V}^{\text{eaKS}} = \frac{\partial_x^2 \sqrt{\rho^S}}{2\sqrt{\rho^S}} - V_{\text{ext}}. \end{array} \right.$$



$\mathbf{W}^{\text{na}}$ is the non-adiabatic correction to the exact adiabatic potential $\mathbf{V}^{\text{eaKS}}$.

What does W^{na} look like ?

We want to compare $V^{\text{na}} := V^{\text{eKS}} - V^{\text{eaKS}}$ and W^{na} .

The shape of V^{na} has already been studied to understand what is missing in current approximations (for e.g. steps).

See the works of

- P. Elliott et al. “Universal Dynamical Steps in the Exact Time-Dependent Exchange-Correlation Potential”. In: *Phys. Rev. Lett.* 109.26 (Dec. 2012), p. 266404
- N. Helbig et al. “Density functional theory beyond the linear regime: Validating an adiabatic local density approximation”. In: *Phys. Rev. A* 83.3 (Mar. 2011), p. 032503
- N. Helbig et al. “Time-dependent density-functional and reduced density-matrix methods for few electrons: Exact versus adiabatic approximations”. In: *Chem. Phys.* 391.1 (Nov. 2011), pp. 1–10
- J. I. Fuks et al. “Nonlinear phenomena in time-dependent density-functional theory: What Rabi oscillations can teach us”. In: *Phys. Rev. B* 84.7 (Aug. 2011), p. 075107

1D Helium Atom

Helium atom with electric field :

$$V_{\text{ext}}(t, x) = -\frac{2}{\sqrt{x^2 + 1}} + Ex \sin(\omega t)$$

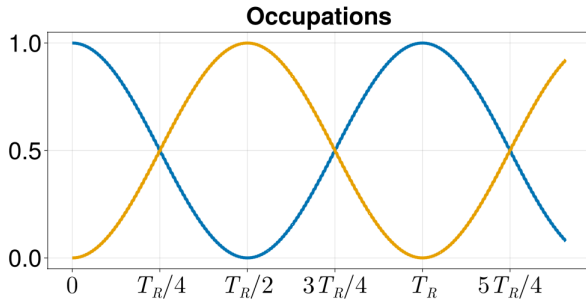
ω chosen to induce **Rabi Oscillations**

$$\Psi_{\text{gs}} \xrightarrow{T_R/2} \Psi_{\text{exc}} \xrightarrow{T_R/2} \Psi_{\text{gs}} \xrightarrow{T_R/2} \dots$$

with Ψ_{gs} = ground state

Ψ_{exc} = first excited state

T_R = Rabi period.

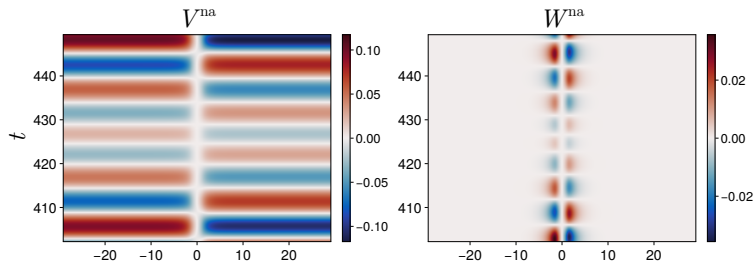


$$\text{— } |\langle \Psi_{\text{gs}}, \Psi(t) \rangle|^2 \quad \text{— } |\langle \Psi_{\text{exc}}, \Psi(t) \rangle|^2$$

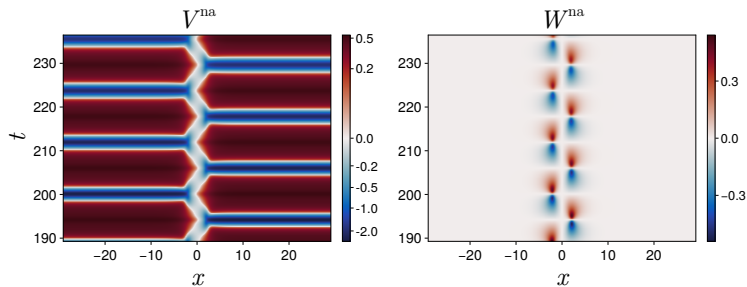
We simulate the interacting system to get the interacting density ρ^S .

Rabi Oscillations in 1D Helium

around $T_R/2$



around $T_R/4$



Thank you for your attention !