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Citation	Whitfield, J D, M-H Yung, D G Tempel, S Boixo, and A Aspuru-Guzik. 2014. Computational Complexity of Time-Dependent Density Functional Theory. New Journal of Physics 16, no. 8: 083035.
Published Version	doi:10.1088/1367-2630/16/8/083035
Accessed	February 19, 2015 5:14:22 PM EST
Citable Link	http://nrs.harvard.edu/urn-3:HUL.InstRepos:13454550
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Computational complexity of time-dependent density functional theory

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(Dated: October 8, 2013)

Time-dependent density functional theory (TDDFT) is rapidly emerging as a premier method for solving dynamical many-body problems in physics and chemistry. The mathematical foundations of TDDFT are established through the formal existence of a fictitious non-interacting system (known as the Kohn-Sham system), which can reproduce the one-electron reduced probability density of the actual system. We build upon these works and show that on the interior of the domain of existence, the Kohn-Sham system can be efficiently obtained given the time-dependent density. Since a quantum computer can efficiently produce such time-dependent densities, we present a polynomial time quantum algorithm to generate the time-dependent Kohn-Sham potential with controllable error bounds. As a consequence, in contrast to the known intractability result for ground state density functional theory (DFT), the computation of the necessary time-dependent potentials given the initial state is in the complexity class described by bounded error quantum computation in polynomial time (BQP).

I. INTRODUCTION

Despite the many successes achieved so far, the major challenge of time-dependent density functional theory (TDDFT) is to find good approximations to the Kohn-Sham potential, $\hat{V}^{KS}$, for a non-interacting system. This is a notoriously difficult problem and leads to failures of TDDFT in situations involving charge-transfer excitations [1], conical intersections [2] or photoionization [3]. Naturally, this raises the following question: how hard is the generation of the necessary potentials? We answer this question and show that access to a universal quantum computer is sufficient.

The present work, in addition to contributing to ongoing research about the foundations of TDDFT, is the latest application of quantum computational complexity theory to a growing list of problems in the physics and chemistry community [4]. Our result emphasizes that the foundations of TDDFT are not devoid of computational considerations, even theoretically. Further, our work highlights the utility of reasoning using hypothetical quantum computers to classify the computational complexity of problems. The practical implications are that, within the interior of the domain of existence, it is efficient to compute the necessary potentials using a computer with access to an oracle capable of polynomial-time quantum computation.

Quantum computers are devices which use quantum systems themselves to store and process data. On the one hand, one of the selling points of quantum computation is to have efficient algorithms for calculations in quantum chemistry and quantum physics [5–7]. On the other hand, in the worst case, quantum computers are not expected to solve all NP (non-deterministic polynomial time) problems efficiently [8]. Therefore, it is an ongoing investigation into when a quantum computer would be more useful than a classical computer. Our current result points towards evidence of computational differences between quantum computers and classical computers. In this way, we provide additional insights to one of the driving questions of information and communication processing in the past decades concerning practical application areas of quantum computing.

Our findings are in contrast to a previous result by Schuch and Verstraete [9], which showed that, in the worst-case, polynomial approximation to the universal functional of ground state density functional theory (DFT) is likely to be impossible even with a quantum computer. Remarkably, this discrepancy between the computational difficulty of TDDFT and ground state DFT is often reversed in practice where for common place systems encountered by physicists and chemists, TDDFT calculations are often more challenging than DFT calculations. Therefore, our findings provide more reasons why quantum computers should be built.

II. BACKGROUND

A. Time-dependent Kohn-Sham systems

To introduce TDDFT and its Kohn-Sham formalism, it is instructive to view the Schrödinger equation as a

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map [10]

$$\{\hat{V}(t), \Psi(t_0)\} \mapsto \{n(t), \Psi(t)\}. \tag{1}$$

The inputs to the map are an initial state of N electrons, $\Psi(t = t_0)$, and a Hamiltonian, $\hat{H}(t) = \hat{T} + \hat{W} + \hat{V}(t)$ that contains a kinetic-energy term, $\hat{T}$, a two-body interaction term such as the Coulomb potential, $\hat{W}$, and a scalar time-dependent potential, $\hat{V}(t)$. The outputs of the map are the state at later time, $\Psi(t)$ and the one-particle probability density normalized to N (referred to as the density),

$$\langle \hat{n}(x) \rangle_{\Psi(t)} = \langle \Psi(t) | \hat{n}(x) | \Psi(t) \rangle$$
$$= N \int |\Psi(x, x_2, ..., x_N; t)|^2 dx_2 ... dx_N. \tag{2}$$

TDDFT is predicated on the use of the time-dependent density as the fundamental variable and all observables and properties are functionals of the density. The crux of the theoretical foundations of TDDFT is an inverse map which has as inputs the density at all times and the initial state. It outputs the potential and the wave function at later times t,

$$\{\langle \hat{n} \rangle_{\Psi(t)}, \Psi(t_0)\} \mapsto \{\hat{V}(t), \Psi(t)\}. \tag{3}$$

This mapping exists via the Runge-Gross theorem [11] which shows that, apart from a gauge degree of freedom represented by spatially homogeneous variations, the potential is bijectively related to the density. However, the problem of time-dependent simulation has not been simplified; the dimension of the Hilbert space scales exponentially with the number of electrons due to the two-body interaction $\hat{W}$. As a result, the time-dependent Schrödinger equation quickly becomes intractable to solve with controlled precision on a classical computer.

Practical computational approaches to TDDFT rely on constructing the non-interacting time-dependent Kohn-Sham potential. If at time t the density of a system described by potential and wave function, $\{\hat{V}(t), \Psi(t)\}$, is $\langle \hat{n} \rangle_{\Psi(t)}$, then the non-interacting Kohn-Sham system ($\hat{W} = 0$) reproduces the same density but using a different potential, $\hat{V}^{KS}$. The key difficulty of TDDFT is obtaining the time-dependent Kohn-Sham potential. One route to obtaining such potentials is the evaluation of the map,

$$\{\langle \hat{n} \rangle_{\Psi(t)}, \Phi(t_0)\} \mapsto \{\hat{V}^{KS}(t), \Phi(t)\}. \tag{4}$$

Here, the wave function of the Kohn-Sham system, $\Phi(t) = \mathcal{A}[\phi^1(t)\phi^2(t)...\phi^N(t)]$, is an anti-symmetric combination of single particle wave functions, $\phi^i(t)$, such that for all times t, the Kohn-Sham density, $n^{KS}(t) = \langle \hat{n} \rangle_{\Phi(t)} = \sum_{i=1}^{N} |\phi^i(t)|^2$, matches the interacting density $\langle \hat{n} \rangle_{\Psi(t)}$. If such a map exists, we call the system V-representable while implicitly referring to non-interacting V^{KS}-representablity.

As the map in Eq. (4) is foundational for TDDFT implementations based on the Kohn-Sham system, there are many articles [12–15] examining the existence of such a map. Instead of attempting to merely prove the existence of the Kohn-Sham potential, we will explore the limits on the efficient computation of this map and go beyond the scope of the previous works by addressing questions from the vantage of computational complexity.

The first approach to the Kohn-Sham inverse map found in Eq. (4), was due to van Leeuwen [12] who constructed a Taylor expansion in t of the Kohn-Sham potential to prove its existence. The construction relied on the continuity equation, $-\nabla \cdot \hat{j} = \partial_t \hat{n}$, and the Heisenberg equation of motion for the density operator to derive the local force balance equation at a given time t:

$$\partial_t^2 \hat{n} - i[\hat{W}, \partial_t \hat{n}] = -\nabla \cdot (\hat{n} \nabla \hat{V}) + \hat{Q} \tag{5}$$

where $\hat{Q} = i[\hat{T}, \partial_t \hat{n}]$ is the momentum-stress tensor. In the past few years, several results have appeared extending van Leeuwen's construction [13–15] to avoid technical problems (related to convergence and analyticity requirements). Here previous rigorous results by Farzanehpour and Tokatly [15] on lattice TDDFT are directly applicable to our quantum computational setting.

B. The discrete force balance equation

We summarize the details of the discretized local force-balance equation from [15]. More detailed derivations are provided in Appendix A. We consider a system discretized on a lattice of M points. In second quantization, the creation $\hat{a}_i$ and annihilation $\hat{a}_j^\dagger$ operators for arbitrary sites i and j must satisfy $\hat{a}_i \hat{a}_j = -\hat{a}_j \hat{a}_i$ and $\hat{a}_i \hat{a}_j^\dagger = \delta_{ij} - \hat{a}_j^\dagger \hat{a}_i$. We define a discretized one-body operator as $\hat{A} = \sum_n^M \sum_m^M A_{mn} \hat{a}_m^\dagger \hat{a}_n$ and designate A as the coefficient matrix of the operator. The matrix elements are $A_{mn} = \langle m | \hat{A} | n \rangle$ where $|m\rangle$ and $|n\rangle$ are the single electron sites corresponding to operators $\hat{a}_m$ and $\hat{a}_n$. Similar notation and definitions hold for the two-body operators.

The Hamiltonian, the density at site j, and the continuity equation are then given respectively by

$$\hat{H}(t) = \sum_{ij}[T_{ij} + \delta_{ij}V_i^{KS}(t)]\hat{a}_i^\dagger \hat{a}_j + \sum_{ijkl} W_{ijkl}\hat{a}_i^\dagger \hat{a}_j^\dagger \hat{a}_k \hat{a}_l, \tag{6}$$

$$\hat{n}_j = \hat{a}_j^\dagger \hat{a}_j, \tag{7}$$

$$\partial_t \hat{n}_j = -\sum_k \hat{J}_{jk} = -i \sum_k T_{kj}(\hat{a}_j^\dagger \hat{a}_k - \hat{a}_k^\dagger \hat{a}_j). \tag{8}$$

For the density of the Kohn-Sham system, $n^{KS}(t) = \langle \hat{n} \rangle_{\Phi(t)}$, to match the density of the interacting system, $n(t) = \langle \hat{n} \rangle_{\Psi(t)}$, the discretized local force balance equa-

tion [15] must be satisfied,

$$S_j^{aim} = \sum_k (V_k^{KS} - V_j^{KS})T_{kj}\langle \hat{a}_j^\dagger \hat{a}_k + \hat{a}_k^\dagger \hat{a}_j \rangle_{\Phi(t)} \quad (9)$$

$$= \sum_k \left\langle T_{kj}\hat{\Gamma}_{jk} - \delta_{jk}\sum_m T_{mj}\hat{\Gamma}_{jm} \right\rangle_{\Phi(t)} V_k^{KS} \quad (10)$$

$$= \sum_k K_{jk}V_k^{KS}. \quad (11)$$

Here $\hat{\Gamma}_{ij} = \hat{a}_i^\dagger \hat{a}_j + \hat{a}_j^\dagger \hat{a}_i$ is twice the real part of the one-body reduced density operator. A derivation of this equation is found in Appendix A. The vector S^{aim} is defined as $S_j^{aim}(\Psi,\Phi) = \partial_t^2 \langle \hat{n}_j \rangle_{\Psi(t)} - \langle \hat{Q}_j^{KS} \rangle_{\Phi(t)}$. The force balance coefficient matrix, $K = \langle \hat{K} \rangle_{\Phi(t)}$, is defined through Eq. (10) and Eq. (11). Since the target density enters only through the second derivative appearing in S^{aim}, the initial state $\Phi(t_0)$ must reproduce the initial density, $\langle \hat{n} \rangle_{\Psi(t_0)}$, and the initial time-derivative of the density, $\partial_t \langle \hat{n} \rangle_{\Psi(t_0)}$.

The system is non-interacting V-representable so long as K is invertible on the domain of spatial inhomogeneous potentials. Moreover, the Kohn-Sham potential is unique [15]. Hence, the domain of V-representability is $\Omega = \{\Phi \mid \text{kern } K(\Phi) = \{V_{const}\}\}$. To ensure efficiency, we must further restrict attention to the interior of this domain where K is sufficiently well-condition with respect to matrix inversion. The cost of the algorithm grows exponentially as one approaches this boundary but can in some cases be mitigated by increasing the number of lattice points.

III. RESULTS

A. Quantum algorithm for Kohn-Sham potentials

We consider an algorithm to compute the density with error ϵ in the 1-norm to be efficient when the temporal computational cost grows no more than polynomially in $1/\epsilon$, polynomially in $(\max_{0<s<t}\|H(s)\|)t$, polynomially in M, the number of sites, and polynomially in, N, the number of electrons. We will describe such an algorithm within the interior of the domain of V-representability.

To ensure that the algorithm is efficient, we must assume that the local kinetic energy and the local potential energy are both bounded by constant E_L and that there is a fixed number, κ such that $\|K^{-1}\|_\infty = \max_i \sum_j |(K^{-1})_{ij}| \leq \kappa$. In Appendix C, we show that as long as $E_L \leq \sqrt{\log N}$, the algorithm remains efficient for fixed κ. As is typical in numerical matrix analysis [16], the inversion of a matrix become extremely sensitive to errors as the condition number, $C = \|K\| \, \|K^{-1}\|$, grows. The Lipschitz constant of the Kohn-Sham potential must also scale polynomially with the number of electrons.

The Lipschitz constant of the Kohn-Sham system could be different than that of the interacting system [10, 17]

and understanding of the relationship between these timescales requires a better understanding of the initial state $\Phi(t_0)$ dependence. What can be done, in practice, is to begin with an estimate of the maximum Lipschitz constant and if any two consecutive Kohn-Sham potentials violate this bound, restart with a larger Lipschitz constant.

Our efficient algorithm for computing the time-dependent potential, is depicted in Figure 1. There are two stages. The first stage involves a quantum computer and its inputs are the initial many-body state $\Psi(t_0)$ and the external potential $V(t)$ on a given interval $[t_0, t_1]$. The quantum computer then evolves the initial state with the given external potential and obtains the time-evolved wave function at a series of discrete time-steps. The detailed analysis of the expectation estimation algorithm found in Ref. [18] is used to bound errors in the measurement of the density and to estimate its second time derivative. In order to rigorously bound the error term, we assume that the fourth time derivative of the density is bounded by a constant, c_4.

The total cost of both stages of the algorithm is dominated by the cost of obtaining the wave function as this is the only step that depends directly on the number of electrons. Fortunately, quantum computers can perform time-dependent simulation efficiently [19, 20]. The cost depends on the requested error δ_ψ and depends on the length of time propagated when time is measured relative to the norm of the Hamiltonian being simulated. The essential idea is to leverage the evolution of a controllable system (the quantum computer) with an imposed (simulation) Hamiltonian [6]. It should be highlighted that obtaining the density through experimental spectroscopic means is equivalent to the quantum computation provided the necessary criteria for efficiency and accuracy are satisfied.

The second stage involves only a classical computer, with the inputs being a consistent initial Kohn-Sham state $\Phi(t_0)$ and the interacting $\partial_t^2 \langle \hat{n} \rangle_{\Psi(t)}$ on the given interval $[t_0, t_1]$. The output is the Kohn-Sham potential at sufficiently many time steps to ensure the target accuracy is achieved. The classical algorithm performs matrix inversion of a M by M matrix. The cost for the matrix inversion is $O(M^3)$ regardless of the other problem parameters (such as the number of electrons).

In our analysis, detailed in Appendix B, we only consider errors from the quantum and classical aspects of our algorithm but we avoided some unnecessary complications omitting any detailed analysis of the classical problem of propagating the non-interacting Kohn-Sham system. Kohn-Sham propagation in the classical computer is well studied and can be done efficiently using various methods [21]. Further, we have also assumed that errors in the measured data are large enough that issues of machine precision do not enter. Thus, we have ignored the device dependent issue of machine precision in our analysis and refer to standard treatments [16] for the proper handling of this issue.
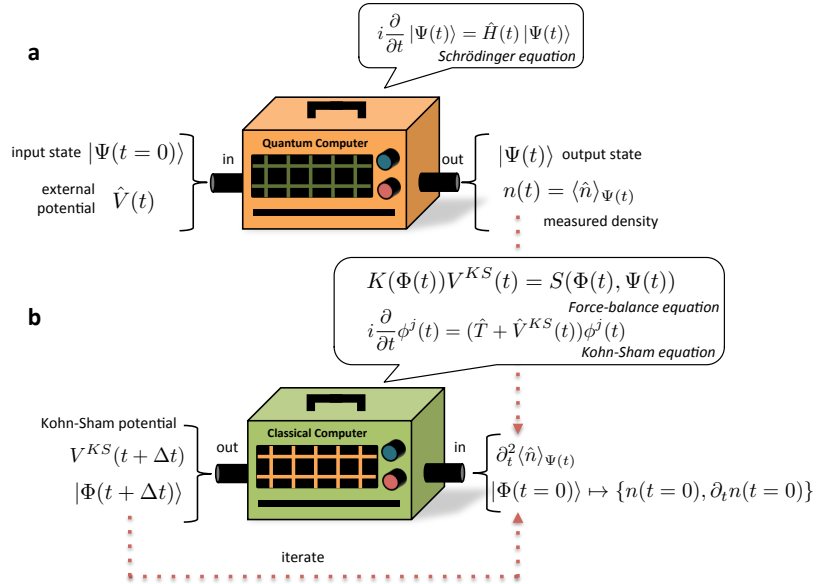
FIG. 1. In part **a**, the quantum computer takes as inputs the initial state and the time-dependent Hamiltonian and outputs the density at sufficiently many times. The output allows the numerical computation of the second derivative of the density at each time step which is then utilized by the classical computer to solve the discrete force balance equation Eq. (11). A consistent initial state at time $t = 0$ must also be given which reproduces $n(0)$ and $\partial_t n(0)$. The classical algorithm is then used to obtain the Kohn-Sham potential at each subsequent time step through an iterated marching process as depicted in part **b**.

B. Error bounds

We demonstrate that our algorithm has the desired scaling by bounding the final error in the density. We follow an explicit-type marching process to obtain the solution at time $q\Delta t$ from the solution at $(q-1)\Delta t$. The full details are given in Appendix B.

As the classical matrix inversion algorithm at each time step is independent of the number of electrons and the quantum algorithm requires $\mathrm{poly}(N, t_f, \delta_\psi^{-1}, \epsilon^{-1})$ per time step, we can utilize error analysis for matrix inversion and an explicit marching process to get a final estimate of the classical and quantum costs for the desired precision ϵ

$$\mathrm{cost}\ Classical = \mathrm{poly}(L, t_f, \epsilon^{-1}, M)e^{64\kappa E_L^2} \quad (12)$$

$$\mathrm{cost}\ Quantum = \mathrm{poly}(L, t_f, \epsilon^{-1}, r, M, N)\ e^{16\kappa E_L^2} \quad (13)$$

The parameter r is the number of repetitions of the quantum measurement required to obtain a suitably large confidence interval.

The intractability of the algorithm as the smallest eigenvalue vanishes reflects the breakdown of V-representability. Despite the exponential dependence of the algorithm on the condition number of the force balance matrix, Eq. (11), the domain of V-representability is known to encompass all time-analytic Kohn-Sham potentials in the continuum limit [13, 14]. Examining the exponential dependence, it is clear that increases in κ can be offset by decreases in the local energy.

C. Quantum computation and the computational complexity of TDDFT

Since the cost of both the quantum and classical algorithms scale as a polynomial of the input parameters, we can say that this is an efficient quantum algorithm for computing the time-dependent Kohn-Sham potential. Therefore, the computation of the Kohn-Sham potential is in the complexity class described by bounded error quantum computers running in polynomial time (BQP). This is the class of problems that can be solved efficiently on a quantum computer.

Quantum computers have long been considered as a tool for simulating quantum physics [5–7, 22, 23]. The applications of quantum simulation fall into two broad categories: (1) dynamics [24] and (2) ground state properties [25]. The first problem is in the spirit of the original proposal by Feynman [22] and is the focus of the current work.

Unfortunately, unlike classical simulations, the complete final state of a quantum simulation is not readily available due to the exponentially large size of the simulated Hilbert space. The retrieval of the full state would require quantum state tomography, which in the worst case, requires an exponential number of copies of the state. If, instead, the simulation results can be encoded into a minimal set of information and the simulation algorithm can be efficiently executed on a quantum computer, then the problem is in the complexity class BQP. Extraction of the density [18] is the relevant example of such a quantity that can be obtained. BQP is analogous

to the polynomial-time (P) class of problems for classical computers however, in BQP the output is probabilistic with error bounded away from 1/2. While BQP is the class of problems that quantum computers solve, there is no definitive proof that the class of problems BQP contains is strictly larger than P. However, there is evidence (e.g. factoring [26]) that suggests quantum computers are more powerful.

In summary, what we have proven is that computing the Kohn-Sham potential at bounded κE_L^2 is in the complexity class BQP. To be precise, two technical comments are in order. First, we point out that we are really focused on promise problems since we require constraints on the inputs to be satisfied (i.e. $\kappa E_L^2 <$constant). Second, computing the map Eq. (4) is not a decision problem and cannot technically be in the complexity class BQP. However, we can define the map to b bits of precision by solving $M \log b$ accept-reject instances from the corresponding decision problem, which is in BQP. These concepts are further elaborated in [4, 27].

IV. CONCLUSION

In this article, we have rigorously demonstrated two fundamental results concerning the computational complexity of time dependent density functional theory. First, we showed that with a quantum computer, one need only provide the initial state and external potential on the interval $[t_0, t_1]$ in order to generate the time-dependent Kohn-Sham potentials. Second, we show that if one provides the density on the interval $[t_0, t_1]$, the Kohn-Sham potential can be obtained efficiently with a classical computer.

We point out that an alternative to our lattice approach may exist using tools from partial differential equations. Early results in this direction have been pioneered using an iterated map whose domain of convergence defines V-representability [14]. The convergence properties of the map have been studied in several one-dimensional numerical examples [14, 28]. Analytical understanding of the rate of convergence to the fixed point would complement the present work with an alternate formulation directly in real space.

While this paper focuses on the simulation of quantum dynamics, the complexity of the ground state problem is interesting in its own right [4, 9, 27]. In this context, ground state DFT was formally shown [9] to be difficult even with polynomial time quantum computation. Interestingly, in that work, the Levy-minimization procedure [29] was utilized for the interacting system to avoid discussing the non-interacting ground state Kohn-Sham system and its existence. We have used a different approach and worked within the Kohn-Sham picture, but it might be interesting to construct a functional approach directly.

Future research involves improving the scaling with the condition number or showing that our observed exponential dependence on κE_L^2 is optimal. Additionally, pre-conditioning the matrix K can also help increase the domain of computationally feasible V-representability.

Our findings provide further illustration of how the fields of quantum computing and quantum information can contribute to our understanding of physical systems through the examination of quantum complexity theory.

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Appendix A: Derivation of discrete local-force balance equation

The results found in Farzanehpour and Tokatly [15], are directly applicable to the quantum computational case since a quantum simulation would ultimately require a discretized space [6]. In [15], they utilized a discrete space but derive all equations in first quantization. For this reason we think the derivation in second quantization may be useful for future inquiry into discretized Kohn-Sham systems. Throughout this section, we consider the non-interacting Kohn-Sham system without an interaction term, i.e. $\hat{W} = 0$.

First note, $[\hat{a}_p^\dagger \hat{a}_q, \hat{a}_j^\dagger] = \hat{a}_p^\dagger \delta_{jq}$ and $[\hat{a}_p^\dagger \hat{a}_q, \hat{a}_i] = -\hat{a}_q \delta_{ip}$ to get the first derivative of the density

$$\partial_t \hat{n}_j = -\sum_k \hat{J}_{jk} = i[\hat{H}, \hat{n}_j] \tag{A1}$$

$$= i \sum_{pq} T_{pq}[\hat{a}_p^\dagger \hat{a}_q, \hat{a}_j^\dagger \hat{a}_j] \tag{A2}$$

$$= -i \sum_k T_{kj}(\hat{a}_j^\dagger \hat{a}_k - \hat{a}_k^\dagger \hat{a}_j) \tag{A3}$$

Here and throughout, we assume that there is no magnetic field present and consequently $T_{ij} = T_{ji}$.

To get to the discrete force balance equation, consider $\partial_t^2 \hat{n}_j = i[\hat{H}, \partial_t \hat{n}_j] = i[\hat{V}, \partial_t \hat{n}_j] + \hat{Q}_j + i[\hat{W}, \partial_t \hat{n}_j]$ with $\hat{Q}_j = i[\hat{T}, \partial_t \hat{n}_j]$, a term that does not depend on the local potential. This is analogous to Eq. (5) first derived in van Leeuwen's paper [12].

In the case that the non-interacting Kohn-Sham potential is desired, only the momentum-stress tensor is needed since $\hat{W} = 0$ in the non-interacting system. We will need the expression for $\hat{Q}_j$ so let us compute it now for the KS system,

$$\hat{Q}_j = i[\hat{T}, \partial_t \hat{n}_j] = \sum_{pq} \sum_k T_{pq} T_{jk}[\hat{a}_p^\dagger \hat{a}_q, \hat{a}_j^\dagger \hat{a}_k - \hat{a}_k^\dagger \hat{a}_j] \tag{A4}$$

$$= \sum_{pq} \sum_k T_{pq} T_{jk}(\hat{a}_p^\dagger \hat{a}_k + \hat{a}_k^\dagger \hat{a}_p)\delta_{jq} - \sum_{pq} \sum_k T_{pq} T_{jk}(\hat{a}_j^\dagger \hat{a}_p + \hat{a}_p^\dagger \hat{a}_j)\delta_{qk} \tag{A5}$$

$$= \sum_{pq} \sum_k T_{pq} T_{jk} \left\{ \hat{\Gamma}_{kp} \delta_{jq} - \hat{\Gamma}_{jp} \delta_{qk} \right\} \tag{A6}$$

$$= \sum_{pq} T_{pq} \delta_{jq} \left(\sum_k T_{jk} \hat{\Gamma}_{kp} \right) - \sum_{qk} T_{jk} \delta_{qk} \left(\sum_p \hat{\Gamma}_{jp} T_{pq} \right) \tag{A7}$$

$$= \sum_p \left(\sum_k T_{jk} \hat{\Gamma}_{kp} \right) T_{pj} - \sum_q \left(\sum_p \hat{\Gamma}_{jp} T_{pq} \right) T_{qj} \tag{A8}$$

$$= \left(\left[T, \hat{\Gamma} \right] T \right)_{jj} \tag{A9}$$

Here we have defined the real part of the 1-RDM as $\hat{\Gamma}_{ij} = \hat{a}_i^\dagger \hat{a}_j + \hat{a}_j^\dagger \hat{a}_i$ following the notation in the main text and T is the coefficient matrix of the kinetic energy operator.

Next, we obtain more convenient representations for the local force balance equation. Beginning with $\partial_t^2 \hat{n} = i[\hat{H}, \partial_t \hat{n}] = i[\hat{T}, \partial_t \hat{n}] + i[\hat{V}, \partial_t \hat{n}] = \hat{Q} + i[\hat{V}, \partial_t \hat{n}]$. Defining $\hat{S} = \partial_t^2 \hat{n} - \hat{Q}$, we have the following,

$$\hat{S}_j = i[\hat{V}, \partial_t \hat{n}_j] = i \left[\left(\sum_m V_m \hat{a}_m^\dagger \hat{a}_m \right), \left(-i \sum_k T_{kj}(\hat{a}_j^\dagger \hat{a}_k - \hat{a}_k^\dagger \hat{a}_j) \right) \right]$$

$$= \sum_k V_k T_{kj} \hat{a}_j^\dagger \hat{a}_k - \sum_k V_j T_{kj} \hat{a}_j^\dagger \hat{a}_k - \sum_k V_j T_{kj} \hat{a}_k^\dagger \hat{a}_j + \sum_k V_k T_{kj} \hat{a}_k^\dagger \hat{a}_j$$

$$= \sum_k (V_k - V_j) T_{kj}(\hat{a}_j^\dagger \hat{a}_k + \hat{a}_k^\dagger \hat{a}_j) \tag{A10}$$

$$= \sum_k T_{kj}(\hat{a}_j^\dagger \hat{a}_k + \hat{a}_k^\dagger \hat{a}_j) V_k - \sum_m T_{mj}(\hat{a}_j^\dagger \hat{a}_m + \hat{a}_m^\dagger \hat{a}_j) \left(\sum_k \delta_{jk} V_k \right)$$

$$= \sum_k \left\{ T_{kj} \hat{\Gamma}_{jk} - \delta_{jk} \sum_m T_{mj} \hat{\Gamma}_{jm} \right\} V_k \tag{A11}$$

So now consider the LHS as vector $\hat{S}$ with components $\hat{S}_j = \partial_t^2 \hat{n}_j - \hat{Q}_j$. Similarly consider the potential V as a vector with components V_i, then we can write Eq. (A11) as $\hat{S} = \hat{K}V$. Examining Eq. (A10), if $V_k = V_{k'}$ for all k, k' then the RHS of Eq. (A10) vanishes. Hence, K always has at least one vector in the null space, namely the spatially constant potential.

Farzanehpour and Tokatly [15] study the existence of a unique solution for the non-linear Schrödinger equation which follows from Eq. (A11):

$$\partial_t \Phi = -i(\hat{H}_0 + \hat{V}^{KS}) = -i(\hat{H}_0 - \hat{K}(\Phi)^{-1}\hat{S})\Phi = \hat{F}(\Phi) . \tag{A12}$$

In the space where $\hat{K}$ has only one zero eigenvalue, the Picard-Lindelöf theorem [M. E. Lindelöf, C. R. Hebd. Sances Acad. Sci. **116**, 454 (1894)] guarantees the existence of a unique solution.

The Picard-Lindelöf theorem concerns the differential equation $\partial_t y(t) = f(t, y(t))$ with initial value $y(t_0)$ on $t \in [t_0 - \varepsilon, t_0 + \varepsilon]$. If f is bounded above by a constant and is continuous in t and Lipschitz continuous in y then, according to the theorem, for $\varepsilon > 0$, there exists a unique solution $y(t)$ on $[t_0 - \varepsilon, t_0 + \varepsilon]$. This solution can be extended until either y becomes unbounded or y is no longer a solution. The conditions of the theorem are satisfied because $\hat{K}(\Phi)$ and $\hat{S}$ are quadratic in Φ, the RHS is Lipschitz continuous in Φ in the domain where $\hat{K}$ has only one zero eigenvalue, and the continuity of $\hat{K}$ and $\hat{S}$ in time follows immediately from the continuity of Φ.

A nice connection of Eq. (A11) to master equations in probabilistic processes can be drawn. In Eq. (A11), $\hat{K}$ has the form of a master equation for a probability distribution P,

$$\partial_t P_n(t) = \sum_{n'} w_{nn'} P_{n'}(t) - w_{n'n} P_n(t) \tag{A13}$$

$$= \sum_{n'} \left(w_{nn'} - \delta_{nn'} \sum_m w_{mn} \right) P_{n'} \tag{A14}$$

with

$$w_{nn'} = T_{nn'} \langle \Phi(t) | (\hat{a}_n^\dagger \hat{a}_{n'} + \hat{a}_{n'}^\dagger \hat{a}_n) | \Phi(t) \rangle. \tag{A15}$$

The key difference is that the entries of K are not strictly positive ($\langle \Phi(t) | \hat{a}_i^\dagger \hat{a}_j | \Phi(t) \rangle$ can be positive or negative). Since K is Hermitian and its null space contains the uniform state, if all transition coefficients were positive, then K would satisfy detailed balance.

Appendix B: Detail analysis of the error bounds

In this appendix, we provide the full error analysis alluded to in the main text. Before diving into the details, let us give an overview. In the first subsection, we look at the error in the wave function at time t. In each time step the error is bounded from the errors in the previous steps. This leads to a recursion relation which we solve to get a bound for the total error at any time step. This error is propagated forward because we must solve $KV = S = Q + \partial_t^2 n$ for V based on the data from the previous time step. The error in $\partial_t^2 n$ is due to the finite precision of the quantum computation and is independent of previous times. In the second subsection, the error in the density is then derived followed by a cost analysis in the final subsection.

We rescale time by factor $c = 1/T$ such $t_1 - t_0 = 1$ to get the final time step $z = 1/\Delta t$. This rescaling is possible because there is no preferred units of time. That said the rescaling of time cannot be done indefinitely for two reasons. First, the Lipschitz constant of both the real and the KS system must be rescaled by same factor of c. Since the cost of the algorithm depends on the Lipschitz constant, increasingly long times will require more resources. Second, the quantum simulation algorithm does have an intrinsic time scale set by the norm of the H and its time derivatives [19, 20]. Rescaling time by c increases the norm of H by the same factor; consequently, the difficulty of the quantum simulation is invariant to trivial rescaling of the dynamics.

It is important to get estimates which do not directly depend on the number of sites. To do this we assume that the lattice is locally connected under the hopping term such that there are at most d elements per row of T (since T is symmetric, it is also d-col-sparse). This is equivalent to a bound for the local kinetic energy.

Throughout, we work with the matrix representations of the operators and the states. The L_p vector norms [16] with $p = 1, 2,$ and ∞ is defined by $|x|_p = (\sum |x_i|^p)^{1/p}$. The induced matrix norms are defined by $\|A\|_p = \max_{|x|_p=1} |Ax|_p$. Induced norm are important because they are compatible with the vector norm such that $|Mx|_p = \|M\|_p |x|_p$. The vector 1-norm is appropriate for probability distributions and the vector 2-norm is appropriate for wave functions. The matrix 2-norm is also called the spectral norm and is equal to the absolute value of the maximum eigenvalue.

For a diagonal matrix, D, the matrix 2-norm is the vector ∞-norm of $\mathrm{diag}(D)$. Note that $|x|_p \geq |x|_{p'}$ for $p < p'$. Important, non-trivial characterizations of the infinity norms are $|x|_\infty = \max_i |x_i|$ and $\|A\|_\infty = \max_i \sum_j |A_{ij}|$.

1. Error in the wave function via recursion relations

We bound the error of the evolution operator from time $k\Delta t$ to $(k-1)\Delta t$, denoted $\|\Delta U(k, k-1)\|_2$, in terms of the previous time step in order to obtain a recursion relation. We first bound the errors in the potential due to the time discretization and then those due to the computation errors using Lemma 1. The computation errors will depend on the error at the previous time step which will lead to the recursion relation sought after.

To bound the error in $\|\Delta U\|_2$ we must bound the error in the potential $|\Delta V|_\infty \leq |\Delta V^{\Delta t}|_\infty + |\Delta V^{comp}|_\infty$. We define $V^{\Delta t}(t) = V(t_k)$ with k such that $|t - t_k| \leq |t - t_m|$ for all m. Here, $\{V(t_k)\}$ is the discretized potential with time step $|t_j - t_{j+1}| = \Delta t$. The error due to temporal discretization can be controlled assuming a Lipschitz constant L for the potential such that for all t and t', $|V(t) - V(t')|_\infty / |t - t'| \leq L$. Thus, for all t,

$$|\Delta V^{\Delta t}|_\infty = |V(t) - V^{\Delta t}(t)|_\infty \leq L\Delta t. \tag{B1}$$

The computational error $|\Delta V^{comp}|_\infty$ is bounded using Lemma 2 with $\|K^{-1}\|_\infty \leq \kappa$ and the assumption $|V|_\infty \leq E_L$,

$$|\Delta V^{comp}|_\infty \leq \kappa \left(|\Delta Q|_\infty + |\Delta \partial_t^2 n|_\infty + \|\Delta K\|_\infty E_L \right) \tag{B2}$$

Now we need to bound the errors in $|\Delta Q|_\infty$ and $\|\Delta K\|_\infty$ in terms of the error $\delta_k^\Gamma = \max_{ij} |\Delta \Gamma_{ij}(k-1)|$ at time step $k-1$.

The error bound for $|\Delta Q|_\infty$ is obtained as

$$|\Delta Q|_\infty \leq \max_i |([T, \Delta \Gamma]T)_i| \leq \max_i \left| \sum_{pq} T_{ip} \Delta \Gamma_{pq} T_{qi} - \sum_{mn} \Delta \Gamma_{im} T_{mn} T_{ni} \right|$$

$$\leq 2\delta_{k-1}^\Gamma d^2 \left(\max_{ij} |T_{ij}| \right)^2$$

$$|\Delta Q|_\infty \leq 2\delta_{k-1}^\Gamma E_L^2 \tag{B3}$$

The product $d\max|T_{ij}|$ is the maximum local kinetic energy and is, by assumption, bounded by E_L. Similarly,

$$\|\Delta K\|_\infty = \max_i \sum_j |K_{ij} - \tilde{K}_{ij}| = \max_i \sum_j |T_{ij} \Delta \Gamma_{ij} - \delta_{ij} \sum_m T_{mj} \Delta \Gamma_{mj}|$$

$$\leq \max_i \sum_j |T_{ij} \Delta \Gamma_{ij}| + \max_i \left| \sum_m T_{mi} \Delta \Gamma_{mi} \right|$$

$$\leq \delta_{k-1}^\Gamma \max_i \sum_j |T_{ij}| + \delta_k^\Gamma \max_i \left| \sum_m T_{mi} \right|$$

$$\leq 2d\delta_{k-1}^\Gamma \left(\max_{ij} |T_{ij}| \right)$$

$$\|\Delta K\|_\infty \leq 2\delta_{k-1}^\Gamma E_L \tag{B4}$$

We convert from errors in the real part of the 1-RDM to errors in the wave function via

$$\delta^{\Gamma_{ij}} = |\Delta \Gamma_{ij}|$$

$$\leq |\langle \Phi | \Gamma_{ij} | \Phi \rangle - \langle \Phi | \Gamma_{ij} | \tilde{\Phi} \rangle + \langle \Phi | \Gamma_{ij} | \tilde{\Phi} \rangle - \langle \tilde{\Phi} | \Gamma_{ij} | \tilde{\Phi} \rangle| \tag{B5}$$

$$\leq |((\langle \Phi | \Gamma_{ij}) | \Delta \Phi \rangle| + |\langle \Delta \Phi | (\Gamma_{ij} | \Phi \rangle)|$$

$$\leq 2|\Delta \Phi|_2 \, |\Gamma_{ij} | \Phi \rangle|_2 \leq 2|\Delta \Phi|_2 \, \|\Gamma_{ij}\|_2 \leq 4|\Delta \Phi|_2 \tag{B6}$$

The inequality Eq. (B6) follows because the maximum eigenvalue of $\langle a_i^\dagger a_j \rangle_\psi$ for all ψ is bounded by 1 and $\Gamma_{ij} = 2\,\mathrm{real}\langle a_i^\dagger a_j \rangle_\psi$. Taking the maximum over all i, j we have

$$\delta_{k-1}^\Gamma = \max_{ij}(\delta_{k-1}^{\Gamma_{ij}}) \leq 4\delta_{k-1}^\Phi \tag{B7}$$

Here δ_{k-1}^{Φ} bounds the error in the two-norm $|\Delta\Phi|_2$ at time step $k-1$.

Putting together Eq. (B2), Eq. (B3), Eq. (B4), and Eq. (B7) gives

$$|\Delta V^{comp}|_{\infty} \leq 16\kappa E_L^2 \delta_{k-1}^{\Phi} + \kappa|\Delta\partial_t^2 n|_{\infty} \tag{B8}$$

To obtain the desired recursion relation, we note that at time step k the error can be bounded via

$$|\Phi(k) - \tilde{\Phi}(k)|_2 \leq \|\Delta U(k, k-1)\|_2 + \delta_{k-1}^{\Phi} \tag{B9}$$

obtained using an expansion similar to the one found in Eq. (B5). Utilizing Lemma 1 and bound Eq. (B8), we arrive at

$$|\Phi(k) - \tilde{\Phi}(k)|_2 \leq \delta_{k-1}^{\Phi} + \Delta t|\Delta_{k,k-1}V|_{\infty} \tag{B10}$$

$$\leq \delta_{k-1}^{\Phi} + \Delta t(|\Delta V^{\Delta t}|_{\infty} + |\Delta V^{comp}|_{\infty}) \tag{B11}$$

$$\leq \delta_{k-1}^{\Phi} + \Delta t(L\Delta t + 16\kappa E_L^2 \delta_{k-1}^{\Phi} + \kappa|\Delta\partial_t^2 n|_{\infty}) \tag{B12}$$

$$\leq (16\kappa E_L^2 \Delta t + 1)\delta_{k-1}^{\Phi} + \Delta t(L\Delta t + \kappa|\Delta\partial_t^2 n|_{\infty}) \tag{B13}$$

To obtain a recursion relation we let the LHS of Eq. (B13) define the new upper bound at time step k.

Recursion relations of the form $f_k = af_{k-1} + b$ have closed solution $f_k = b(a^k - 1)(a - 1)^{-1}$. Thus, we have for the bound at time step k

$$\delta_k^{\Phi} = \frac{L\Delta t + \kappa|\Delta\partial_t^2 n|_{\infty}}{16\kappa E_L^2} \left\{ (16\kappa E_L^2 \Delta t + 1)^k - 1 \right\} \tag{B14}$$

Now consider the final time step at $z = 1/\Delta t$, and $e^x \geq (xz^{-1} + 1)^z$ for $z < \infty$,

$$\delta_z^{\Phi} = \frac{L\Delta t + \kappa|\Delta\partial_t^2 n|_{\infty}}{16\kappa E_L^2} \left\{ \left(\frac{16\kappa E_L^2}{z} + 1 \right)^z - 1 \right\} \tag{B15}$$

$$\leq \left(\frac{1}{z}\frac{L}{16\kappa E_L^2} + \frac{|\Delta\partial_t^2 n|_{\infty}}{16 E_L^2} \right) \left\{ e^{16\kappa E_L^2} - 1 \right\} \tag{B16}$$

$$\leq \left(\frac{1}{z}\frac{L}{16\kappa E_L^2} + \frac{\sqrt{2c_4\delta_n}}{16 E_L^2} \right) \left\{ e^{16\kappa E_L^2} - 1 \right\} \tag{B17}$$

We applied Lemma 3 to obtain the last line. This bound is similar to the Euler formula for the global error but arises from the iterative dependence of the potential on the previous error; not from any approximate solution to an ordinary differential equation.

To ensure that the cost is polynomial in M and N for fixed κ, we must insist that $E_L \leq \sqrt{\log N}$. Consider the exponential factor and assume that $E_L > 1$. Then $\exp(16\kappa E_L^2) \leq \exp(16\kappa \log N) = N^{16\kappa}$ is a polynomial for fixed κ.

2. Error bound on the density

To finish the derivation, we utilize our bound for the wave function at the final time to get a bound on the error of the density at the final time. This will translate into conditions for the number of steps needed and the precision required for the density. The error in the density is bounded by the error in the wave function through the following,

$$|\Delta n|_1 = |\langle\Phi|n|\Phi\rangle - \langle\tilde{\Phi}|n|\tilde{\Phi}\rangle|_1$$
$$= |\langle\Phi|n|\Phi\rangle - \langle\Phi|n|\tilde{\Phi}\rangle + \langle\Phi|n|\tilde{\Phi}\rangle - \langle\tilde{\Phi}|n|\tilde{\Phi}\rangle|_1$$
$$\leq |\langle\Phi|n|\Delta\Phi\rangle|_1 + |\langle\Delta\Phi|n|\Phi\rangle|_1$$

Now consider the i-th element, $n_i = a_i^{\dagger}a_i$, and the Cauchy-Schwarz $|\langle x|y\rangle| \leq |x|_2 |y|_2$,

$$\left| \left(\langle\Phi|a_i^{\dagger}a_i\right)|\Delta\Phi\rangle \right| \leq \left| \langle\Phi|a_i^{\dagger}a_i \right|_2 |\Delta\Phi|_2 \leq \|a_i^{\dagger}a_i\|_2 |\Delta\Phi|_2$$
$$|\langle\Phi|n_i|\Delta\Phi\rangle|_1 \leq |\Delta\Phi|_2$$

Finally, from the definition of the 1-norm,

$$|\Delta n(z)|_1 \leq \sum_i \left(|\langle\Delta\Phi(z)|n_i|\tilde{\Phi}(z)\rangle| + |\langle\Phi(z)|n_i|\Delta\Phi(z)\rangle| \right) \leq 2M|\Delta\Phi(z)|_2 \leq 2M\delta_z^{\Phi} \tag{B18}$$

For final error ϵ in the 1-norm of the density, we allow error $\epsilon/2$ due to the time step error and $\epsilon/2$ error due to the density measurement. Following Eq. (B17) and Eq. (B18), we have for the number of time steps,

$$\left(\frac{ML}{4\epsilon\kappa E_L^2}\right)\left\{e^{16\kappa E_L^2} - 1\right\} \leq z. \tag{B19}$$

The bound for the measurement precision also follows as,

$$\left(\frac{\sqrt{2}Mc_4^{1/2}}{4\epsilon E_L^2}\right)^2 \left\{e^{16\kappa E_L^2} - 1\right\}^2 \leq \delta_n^{-1} \tag{B20}$$

3. Cost analysis

To obtain the cost for the quantum simulation and the subsequent measurement, we leverage detailed analysis of the expectation estimation algorithm [18]. To measure the density at time $t \in [t_0, t_1]$, a quantum simulation [19, 20] of $\psi(t_0) \mapsto \psi(t)$ is performed at cost $q \leq \text{poly}(N, t_f, \delta_\psi^{-1})$ following an assumption that $H(t)$ is simulatable on a quantum computer which is usually the case for physical systems. In order to simplify the analysis, we assume that δ_ψ is such that $\delta_n + \delta_\psi \approx \delta_n$ is a reasonable approximation. Given the recent algorithm for logarithmically small errors [20], this assumption is reasonable.

The expectation estimation algorithm (EEA) was analyzed in [18]. The algorithm $\text{EEA}(\psi, A, \delta, c)$ measures $\langle\psi|A|\psi\rangle$ with precision δ and confidence c such that $\text{Prob}(\tilde{a} - \delta \leq \langle\psi|A|\psi\rangle \leq \tilde{a} + \delta) > c$, that is, the probability that the measured value $\tilde{a}$ is within δ of $\langle\psi|A|\psi\rangle$ is bounded from below by c. The idea is to use an approximate Taylor expansion:

$$\langle\psi|A|\psi\rangle \approx i\left(\langle\psi|e^{-iAs}|\psi\rangle - 1\right)/s$$

The confidence interval is improved by repeating the protocol $r = |\log(1-c)|$ times. If the spectrum of A is bounded by 1, then the algorithm requires on the order $O(r/\delta^{3/2})$ copies of ψ and $O(r/\delta^{3/2})$ uses of $\exp(-iAs)$ with $s = \sqrt{3\delta}/2$.

To perform the measurement of the density, we assume that the wave function is represented in first quantization [6] such that the necessary evolution operator is: $\exp(-i\hat{n}_j s) = \prod_k^N \exp(-i|j\rangle\langle j|^{(k)}t)$. Here each Hamiltonian $|j\rangle\langle j|^{(k)}$ acts on site j of the kth electron simulation grid. Hence, each operation is local with disjoint support. Since there are NM sites, this can be done efficiently. Comparing the costs, we will assume that the generation of the state dominates the cost.

Combining these facts, we arrive at the conclusion that the cost to measure the density to within δ_n precision is

$$\text{cost } Quantum = \text{cost } StateGen + \text{cost } EEA \approx \text{cost } StateGen$$
$$= O\left(rq\delta_n^{-3/2}\right) \tag{B21}$$

Pairing this with Eq. (B19) and Eq. (B20), we have an estimate for the number of quantum operations

$$\text{cost } Quantum = O\left(rqz\delta_n^{-3/2}\right) \tag{B22}$$

$$= O\left(rqM^4L\epsilon^{-4}E_L^{-8}2^{-9/2}c_4\kappa^{-1}\left\{e^{16\kappa E_L^2} - 1\right\}^4\right) \tag{B23}$$

$$= \text{poly}(L, \epsilon^{-1}, r, M, N)\, e^{64\kappa E_L^2} \tag{B24}$$

The classical computational algorithm is an $[M \times M]$ matrix inversion at each time step costing

$$\text{cost } Classical = O(zM^3) \tag{B25}$$

$$= O\left(M^3\left(\frac{ML}{4\epsilon\kappa E_L^2}\right)\left\{e^{16\kappa E_L^2} - 1\right\}\right) \tag{B26}$$

$$= \text{poly}(L, \epsilon^{-1}, M)e^{16\kappa E_L^2} \tag{B27}$$

Appendix C: Lemmas

Lemma 1. *For two time dependent Hamiltonians $H(t) = H_0 + V(t)$ and $\tilde{H}_t = H_0 + \tilde{V}(t)$, the error in the evolution from t' to t is bounded as*

$$\|\Delta U(t, t')\|_2 \leq (t - t')|\Delta_{tt'} V|_\infty \tag{C1}$$

Proof.

$$
\begin{aligned}
U(t_1, t_0) - \tilde{U}(t_1, t_0) &= \tilde{U}(t_1, t_0) \left(\tilde{U}^\dagger(t_1, t_0) U(t_1, t_0) - 1 \right) \\
&= \tilde{U}(t_1, t_0) \left(\int_{t_0}^{t_1} \frac{d}{ds} (\tilde{U}^\dagger(s, t_0) U(s, t_0)) ds \right) \\
&= -i\tilde{U}(t_1, t_0) \left(\int_{t_0}^{t_1} \tilde{U}^\dagger(s, t_0)(H(s) - \tilde{H}(s)) U(s, t_0) ds \right) \\
&= -i \int_{t_0}^{t_1} \tilde{U}(t_1, t_0) \tilde{U}(t_0, s)(V(s) - \tilde{V}(s)) U(s, t_0) ds \\
&= -i \int_{t_0}^{t_1} \tilde{U}(t_1, s)(V(s) - \tilde{V}(s)) U(s, t_0) ds
\end{aligned}
$$

Using sub-additivity and the unitary invariance of the operator norm

$$\|\Delta U(t_1, t_0)\|_2 \leq (t_1 - t_0) \max_{t_0 \leq s \leq t_1} \|V(s) - \tilde{V}(s)\|_2 = (t_1 - t_0)\|\Delta_{t_1, t_0} V\|_2$$

$$\|\Delta U(t_1, t_0)\|_2 \leq (t_1 - t_0)|\Delta_{t_1, t_0} V|_\infty$$

$\square$

Lemma 2. *When we approximate the solution x of $Ax = b$ from the solution of $\tilde{A}x = \tilde{b}$ the error in x is bounded by*

$$|\Delta x| \leq \alpha(|\Delta b| + \|\Delta A\| \, |x|) \tag{C2}$$

where the vector and matrix norms are compatible (i.e. $|Mb| \leq \|M\||b|$)

Proof.

$$Ax = b$$
$$(A - \Delta A)\tilde{x} = \tilde{A}\tilde{x} = \tilde{b} = (b - \Delta b), \qquad det(\tilde{A}) \neq 0$$

$$
\begin{aligned}
|x - \tilde{x}| &= |A^{-1}b - A^{-1}\tilde{b} + A^{-1}\tilde{b} - \tilde{A}^{-1}\tilde{b}| \\
&\leq |A^{-1}\Delta b| + |(A^{-1} - \tilde{A}^{-1})\tilde{b}| \\
&= |A^{-1}\Delta b| + |(A^{-1}\tilde{A} - \mathbf{1})\tilde{A}^{-1}\tilde{b}| \\
&= |A^{-1}\Delta b| + |A^{-1}(\tilde{A} - A)\tilde{x}| \\
&\leq \|A^{-1}\| \, |\Delta b| + \|\tilde{A}^{-1}\|\|\tilde{A} - A\| \, |x| \\
|\Delta x| &\leq \alpha \left(|\Delta b| + \|\Delta A\| \, |x| \right)
\end{aligned}
$$

Here, $\alpha = \max\{\|A^{-1}\|, \|\tilde{A}^{-1}\|\}$. We arrive at the claimed inequality:

$$|\Delta x|_\infty \leq \alpha(|\Delta b|_\infty + \|\Delta A\|_\infty \, |x|_\infty)$$

$\square$

Lemma 3. *Suppose density is measured with maximum error $|\Delta n|_\infty < \delta_n$ and the fourth derivative in time is bounded as $\max |\delta_t^4 \Delta n|_\infty < c_4$, we have that*

$$|\Delta \partial_t^2 n|_\infty \leq \sqrt{2c_4 \delta_n} \tag{C3}$$

Proof. We utilize the three point stencil to estimate the second derivative by Taylor expanding to third order

$$f(t \pm h) = f(t) \pm \partial_t f(t)h + \frac{1}{2}\partial_t^2 f(t)h^2 + \pm\frac{1}{6}\partial_t^3 f(t)h^3 + R_3(t \pm h)$$

$$R_3(t \pm h) = \frac{f^{(4)}(\xi)}{4!}h^4, \quad \text{for some } \xi \in [t, t \pm h]$$

$$\partial_t^2 f(t) = \frac{f(t+h) - 2f(t) + f(t-h)}{h^2} + \frac{R_3(t-h) + R_3(t+h)}{h^2}$$

$$\left|\partial_t^2 f(t) - \partial_t^2 f^{3pt}\right| \leq \frac{f^{(4)}(\xi_1) + f^{(4)}(\xi_2)}{4!}h^2 \leq \frac{c_4 h^2}{12}$$

where c_4 is a bound for the fourth derivative of the function f.

If δ_n is the maximum absolute difference between any component of the given density and the true density (∞-norm of the difference) then from the triangle inequality,

$$|\partial_t^2 n(t) - \partial_t^2 \tilde{n}(t)|_\infty \leq |\partial_t^2 n(t) - \partial_t^2 n(t)^{3pt}|_\infty + |\partial_t^2 n(t)^{3pt} - \partial_t^2 \tilde{n}(t)|_\infty$$

$$\leq \frac{c_4}{12}h^2 + \left|\frac{[n(t-h) - \tilde{n}(t-h)] - 2[n(t) - \tilde{n}(t)] + [n(t+h) - \tilde{n}(t+h)]}{h^2}\right|_\infty$$

$$|\Delta\partial_t^2 n|_\infty \leq \frac{c_4 h^2}{12} + \frac{4\delta_n}{h^2}$$

To get the best bound, select $h^2 = \sqrt{48\delta_N/c_4}$. Substituting this into the previous equation gives,

$$|\Delta\partial_t^2 n|_\infty \leq \left(\frac{\sqrt{48}}{12} + \frac{4}{\sqrt{48}}\right)\sqrt{\delta_n c_4} < \sqrt{2}\sqrt{\delta_n c_4}$$

$\square$