Unique Continuation for the Magnetic Schrödinger Equation

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The unique-continuation property from sets of positive measure is here proven for the many-body magnetic Schrödinger equation. This property guarantees that if a solution of the Schrödinger equation vanishes on a set of positive measure, then it is identically zero. We explicitly consider potentials written as sums of either one-body or two-body functions, typical for Hamiltonians in many-body quantum mechanics. As a special case, we are able to treat atomic and molecular Hamiltonians. The unique-continuation property plays an important role in density-functional theories, which underpins its relevance in quantum chemistry.

Keywords. unique-continuation property; Hohenberg–Kohn theorem; magnetic Schrödinger equation; Kato class; molecular Hamiltonian

I. INTRODUCTION

Within the Schrödinger model for quantum systems of (interacting) electrons, in order to be able to describe interesting phenomena like the Zeeman effect, the quantum Hall effect, or the Hofstadter butterfly one has to include the effects of both an electric and a magnetic field. Hohenberg and Kohn showed for systems without magnetic fields that the one-body ground-state particle density determines the electric (scalar) potential up to a constant [1]. Strictly speaking, the particle density determines at most one potential (modulo an additive constant) since some densities are not associated with any potential [2]. The above correspondence between densities and potentials constitutes the theoretical foundation on which Density-Functional Theory (DFT)—a ubiquitous tool in quantum chemistry and materials science—is built.

In the presence of magnetic fields though, the approach of Hohenberg and Kohn to set up a universal density functional requires more than just the particle density due to the fact that an additional vector potential enters the system’s Hamiltonian. Both the paramagnetic current density and the total (physical) current density have been suggested as basic variables alongside the particle density and the resulting framework is called Current-Density-Functional Theory (CDFT). For the theory that uses the paramagnetic current density, counterexamples to a Hohenberg–Kohn theorem are known [3, 4], although a weaker version still holds. Note that even for degenerate systems the weaker version is enough to define a universal paramagnetic current-density functional [10].

The current work arises as a natural ingredient for proving a generalized Hohenberg–Kohn theorem in total (physical) CDFT. It addresses the property that a solution of the magnetic Schrödinger equation cannot vanish on a set of positive measure, a property called unique continuation, see Definition 1. Unique continuation is also a fundamental property for solutions of the magnetic Schrödinger equation in its own right and has been well-studied [21, 22]. In the context of CDFT the issue was first raised in Ref. [3]. As far as DFT and CDFT are concerned, it is useful to have the assumptions guaranteeing the unique-continuation property as particle-number independent as possible (at least avoid increasing integrability constraints with increasing N), which is a diffi-
II. UNIQUE-CONTINUATION PROPERTY AND THE HOHENBERG–KOHN THEOREM

In the most simple setting of only one particle and without vector potential, it is known that the (unique) ground state \( \psi \) in \( H^1(\mathbb{R}^3) \) can be chosen to be strictly positive, see Theorem 11.8 in Lieb–Löwner [27]. This means that we can set \( \rho^{1/2} = \psi > 0 \) and the following relation to the scalar potential \( v \) must hold (from the Schrödinger equation, here written as \((-\Delta + v)\psi = e\psi\)):

\[
v(x) = \frac{\Delta \rho(x)^{1/2}}{\rho(x)^{1/2}}, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^3,
\]

where \( \Delta \) denotes the Laplacian and \( e \) is the ground-state energy. Conversely, given a particle density \( \rho \) we can ask if a potential \( v \) exists such that the given \( \rho \) is the ground-state density of that potential. For the one-particle case, this problem has been studied by English and Englisch [2] and was answered in the negative even for well-behaved densities (\( N \)-representable densities). Corollary 3 in Ref. [28] (including the additional constraint \( \Delta \rho^{1/2} \leq C \rho^{1/2} \) and \( \rho^{-1} \in L^1_{\text{loc}} \)) besides \( N \)-representability) provides sufficient conditions for one-particle \( v \)-representability, i.e., \( v \) can be computed from \( \rho \) as given in Eq. (1) and \( \rho \) is the ground-state density of that \( v \).

Returning to the general \( N \)-electron case without magnetic field, we first recall the Hohenberg–Kohn theorem: Given two systems, if \( \rho_1 = \rho_2 \) then \( v_1 = v_2 + \text{constant} \), where \( \rho_k, \ k = 1, 2 \), is the ground-state particle density of the corresponding system defined by the potential \( v_k \). The proof of this result relies on the fact that if \( \psi \) is a ground state of both systems, then \( \sum_{k=1}^N (v_1(x_k) - v_2(x_k))\psi = \text{constant} \times \psi \). If \( \psi \) does not vanish on a set of positive (Lebesgue) measure we have \( v_1 = v_2 + \text{constant} \) almost everywhere. The proof can then be completed by means of the variational principle, using the Hohenberg–Kohn argument by reductio ad absurdum [1]. (Note that a strict inequality in the variational principle is not needed, see e.g. [29], and that the results also hold for systems with degeneracy [2].)

In this article we address the more general case of \( N \) interacting, non-relativistic (spinless) particles subjected to both a scalar and a vector potential. The fundamental question then is, whether any eigenfunction of the corresponding Hamiltonian

\[
H_N = \sum_{j=1}^N \left[ (i \nabla_j + A(x_j))^2 + v(x_j) + \sum_{l<j} u(x_j, x_l) \right]
\]

can be zero on a set of positive measure without being identically zero. This is a problem of unique continuation.

Definition 1. We say that the Schrödinger equation \( H_N \psi = e\psi \) has the unique-continuation property (UCP) from sets of positive (Lebesgue) measure if a solution that satisfies \( \psi = 0 \) on a set of positive measure is identically zero. Furthermore, the Schrödinger equation is said to have the strong UCP if whenever \( \psi \) vanishes to infinite order at some point \( x_0 \), i.e., for all \( m > 0 \)

\[
\int_{|x-x_0| \leq r} |\psi(x)|^2 \, dx = O(r^m) \quad (r \to 0),
\]

then \( \psi \) is identically zero. Additionally, if \( \psi = 0 \) on a non-empty open set implies that \( \psi \) is identically zero, then the Schrödinger equation has the weak UCP.

Remark 1. The strong UCP implies the weak UCP. The UCP from sets of positive measure allows us to conclude \( \psi \neq 0 \) almost everywhere for any eigenfunction of \( H_N \).

There exists a considerable amount of literature that treats the UCP for differential inequality \( |\Delta \psi| \leq |\xi_1| |\nabla \psi| + |\xi_2| |\psi| \) [21–26]. In particular if \( \xi_1 \in L^2_{\text{loc}}(\mathbb{R}^n) \) and \( \xi_2 \in L^{n/2}_{\text{loc}}(\mathbb{R}^n) \), the corresponding differential equation \( \Delta \psi = \xi_1 \cdot \nabla \psi + \xi_2 \psi \) has the UCP from sets of positive measure [26]. Note that such \( L^p_{\text{loc}} \) constraints become more restrictive with increasing particle number, since the dimension of the configuration space \( n \) enters in the conditions. Directly applied to \( H_N \psi = e\psi \) this means that if a solution \( \psi \) in the Sobolev space \( H^{2N/(N+2)}_{\text{loc}}(\mathbb{R}^{3N}) \) vanishes on a set of positive measure,

\[
\sum_{j=1}^N \left[ |v(x_j)|^2 + |A(x_j)|^2 + i(\nabla_j \cdot A(x_j)) + \sum_{l<j} u(x_j, x_l) \right] \in L^{3N/2}_{\text{loc}}(\mathbb{R}^{3N}),
\]

and each component of \( A \) belongs to \( L^{3N}_{\text{loc}}(\mathbb{R}^{3N}) \), then \( \psi \) is identically zero.

Such results are used by Lammert [30], particularly in his Theorem 5.1, to give a mathematically precise proof of the Hohenberg–Kohn theorem [1] in DFT including the UCP as remarked by Lieb [31]. Yet he does not consider magnetic fields and the constraints are very susceptible to the particle-number. A recent effort by Garrigue [29] removed the dependence on particle numbers for the constraints on the scalar potential by exploiting their specific...
III. PREREQUISITES

Let the Hamiltonian $H_N$ be as in (2). The Schrödinger equation is then given by $H_N \psi = e\psi$. We write $H_N = T_A + V + U$, where $T_A = \sum_{j=1}^{N} (i\nabla_j + A(x_j))^2$, $\nabla_j = \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j^1}, \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j^2}, \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j^3} \right)$ and $x_j = (x_j^1, x_j^2, x_j^3) \in \mathbb{R}^3$ are the coordinates of the $j$:th electron. Here we use $(i\nabla_j + A(x_j))^2$ in $T_A$ instead of $(-i\nabla_j + A(x_j))^2$ in order to follow the notation in Kurata \[25\]. We use a slight variation of atomic units $h = 2m_e = 1$ and $q_e = -1$, such that the Laplace operator appears without a factor $1/2$.

The electric potential $V$ is a one-body potential given by $V(x) = \sum_{j=1}^{N} v(x_j)$ with $v : \mathbb{R}^3 \to \mathbb{R}$. The two-particle interaction $U$ between the electrons is modeled by $U(x) = \sum_{1 \leq j < l \leq N} u(x_j, x_l)$, for some non-negative function $u$ on $\mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{R}^3$. We set $W = V + U$. Furthermore, $A : \mathbb{R}^3 \to \mathbb{R}^3$ denotes the vector potential, from which the magnetic field is obtained by $B = \nabla \times A$. With the notation $A(x) = (A(x_j))_{j=1}^{N}$, the Schrödinger equation is rewritten as

$$- \Delta \psi + 2i \mathbf{A} \cdot \nabla \psi + (W_A - e)\psi = 0,$$

where $W_A = W + |\mathbf{A}|^2 + i(\mathbf{A} \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{A}$.

A function $f \in L^2_{\text{loc}}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ belongs to the Sobolev space $H^k_{\text{loc}}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ if $f$ has weak derivatives up to order $k$ that belong to $L^2_{\text{loc}}(\mathbb{R}^n)$. Let the set of infinitely differentiable functions with compact support on $\mathbb{R}^{3N}$ be denoted by $C^\infty_0(\mathbb{R}^{3N})$. We say that $\psi \in H^{\infty}_{\text{loc}}(\mathbb{R}^{3N})$ is a solution of (3) in the weak sense, which will be our standard notion for solutions from here on, if for all $\varphi \in C^\infty_0(\mathbb{R}^{3N})$

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^{3N}} \nabla \psi \cdot \nabla \varphi \, dx + 2i \int_{\mathbb{R}^{3N}} \mathbf{A} \cdot (\nabla \psi) \varphi \, dx$$

$$+ \int_{\mathbb{R}^{3N}} (W_A - e)\psi \varphi \, dx = 0.$$  \hspace{1cm} (4)

The present work takes off from the following result:

**Theorem 2** (Theorem 1.2 in Regbaoui \[26\]). Let $N \geq 1$.

Assume that $W_A \in H^{3N/2}_{\text{loc}}(\mathbb{R}^{3N})$ and each component of $A$ is an element of $L^2_{\text{loc}}(\mathbb{R}^{3N})$. Then the Schrödinger equation has the UCP from sets of positive measure, i.e., if a solution $\psi \in H^{2N/(N+2)}_{\text{loc}}(\mathbb{R}^{3N})$ vanishes on a set of positive measure then it is identically zero.

**Remark 2.** See also Theorem 1.1 in Regbaoui \[26\] for the strong UCP and Wolff \[23\] for the weak UCP.

If one employs Theorem 2 with $N = 1$, since there is no two-particle interaction it suffices to assume that $v, |\mathbf{A}|^2$ and $\nabla \cdot A$ are elements of $L^{3/2}_{\text{loc}}(\mathbb{R}^3)$ to obtain the UCP from sets of positive measure. With increasing particle number, however, the assumptions on the potentials $v, u$, and $A$ are such that they rule out most types of singularities. On the other hand, the particle-number dependence that enters in $H^{2N/(N+2)}_{\text{loc}}$ fulfills $2N/(N+2) \leq 2$ for all $N$. Following Kurata \[25\] the $L^p_{\text{loc}}$ constraints, with $p$ proportional to $N$, can be avoided.

**Definition 3.** A function $f \in L^1_{\text{loc}}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ belongs to the Kato class $K^p_{\text{loc}}, n \neq 2$, if for every $R > 0$,

$$\lim_{r \to 0^+} \sup_{|x| \leq R \cap B_r(x)} \frac{|f(y)|}{|x-y|^{n-2}} \, dy = 0.$$  \hspace{1cm} (5)

We write $f = f_+ - f_-$, where $f_-$ (positive) part of $f$ given by $f_-(x) = \max(-f(x), 0)$ ($f_+(x) = \max(f(x), 0)$). Let $y \in \mathbb{R}^{3N}$ be fixed and for $x = (x_1, \ldots, x_N) \in \mathbb{R}^{3N}$ (cf. the notation in Kurata \[25\])

$$a(x) = |\mathbf{A}(x)|^2,$$

$$b_y(x) = |x - y|^2 \sum_{j=1}^{N} (B(x_j))^2,$$

$$Q_y(x) = (2W + (x - y) \cdot \nabla W)_{-}.$$  \hspace{1cm} (6)

With the notation above, we formulate

**Assumption 1.** Suppose

$$\nabla \cdot A \in L^2_{\text{loc}}(\mathbb{R}^3),$$

$$A^i \in L^4_{\text{loc}}(\mathbb{R}^3) \quad (A^i \text{ component of } A),$$

$$a, b_y, W, Q_y \in K^N_{\text{loc}}, \quad \text{for fixed } y \in \mathbb{R}^{3N},$$

and that for some $r_0 > 0$

$$\int_0^{r_0} \frac{\theta_y(r)}{r} \, dr < \infty$$

holds, where $\theta_y(r) = \eta^K(r; Q_y) + \eta^K(r; b_y)^{1/2}$.

**Remark 3.** Remark 1.2 in Kurata \[25\] gives $b_y, Q_y \in K^{N, \delta}_{\text{loc}}$, for some $\delta > 0$, as a sufficient condition for (5) to hold.

**Remark 4.** The main condition in Assumption 4 is with respect to the Kato class $K^p_{\text{loc}}, n = 3N$ being the dimensionality of the underlying configuration space. This condition is optimal in the sense that the class cannot be enlarged to smaller orders than $n = 3N$, or the UCP will be lost. This follows from the inclusion $L^p_{\text{loc}} \subset K^p_{\text{loc}}$ for all $p > n/2$ and a sharp counterexample provided in Ref. \[32\] for a potential in $L^p$, $p < n/2$. So if the order of the Kato class would be any $m < n$ then it also includes $L^p_{\text{loc}}$ with $m/2 < p < n/2$ and that is ruled out by the given counterexample.
The following is obtained by adapting Corollary 1.1 in Kurata [23] (denoted Lemma 5 below). For the sake of simplicity, and since it is enough for our purposes here, we make the restrictions to real-valued $V$ and $U$. In the sequel we use the notation $|F|$ for the Frobenius norm (also called the Hilbert–Schmidt norm) of a matrix $(F_{j,l})_{j,l}$.

**Theorem 4.** Suppose Assumption 7. If $\psi \in H^2_{\text{loc}}(\mathbb{R}^{3N})$ is a solution of (3) and vanishes to infinite order at $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^{3N}$, then $\psi$ is identically zero. Thus the Schrödinger equation has the strong UCP.

**Lemma 5** (Corollary 1.1 in Kurata [23]). Let $n \geq 3$, $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$ be fixed, $x = (x^1, \ldots, x^n) \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $\tilde{A} = (\tilde{A}^1, \ldots, \tilde{A}^n) : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$, $\tilde{W} : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $F = (F_{j,l})_{j,l=1}^n$ with $F_{j,l} = \partial \tilde{A}^j / \partial x^l - \partial \tilde{A}^l / \partial x^j$, and suppose that

$$\tilde{A} \in L^4_{\text{loc}}(\mathbb{R}^n), \quad \nabla \cdot \tilde{A} \in L^2_{\text{loc}}(\mathbb{R}^n), \quad |\tilde{A}|^2 \in K^2_{\text{loc}},$$

and

$$\tilde{W} \in K^3_{\text{loc}}, \quad \tilde{W} \in L^1_{\text{loc}}(\mathbb{R}^n).$$

Furthermore assume, for some $r_0 > 0$,

$$\int_0^{r_0} \left[ \eta^3(r; \tilde{W} + (x - x_0) \cdot \nabla \tilde{W}) - \eta^3(r; |x - x_0||F|)^{1/2} \right] \frac{dr}{r} < \infty$$

holds. Then if $\psi \in H^3_{\text{loc}}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ satisfies

$$\left( \sum_{j=1}^n \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial x^j} + \tilde{A}^j(x) \right)^2 + \tilde{W}(x) \right) \psi = 0$$

and vanishes to infinite order at $x_0$, it follows that $\psi$ is identically zero.

**Proof of Theorem 4.** We will show that Assumption 1 directly fulfills all the conditions of Lemma 5 that thus becomes applicable. Let $n = 3N$ and $\tilde{W} = W - e$. By Assumption 1 (7) is then fulfilled. The choice $\tilde{A} = \tilde{A}$ implies $T_A = (i\nabla + \tilde{A})^2$ and (3) can be written as (9).

Each component of $A \in L^4_{\text{loc}}(\mathbb{R}^3)$ yields $A^j \in L^4_{\text{loc}}(\mathbb{R}^{3N})$ for $j = 1, \ldots, 3N$. From $\nabla \cdot \tilde{A} = \sum_{k=1}^{3N} \nabla A(x_k)$ and $\nabla A \cdot A = L^2_{\text{loc}}(\mathbb{R}^3)$, we obtain $\nabla \cdot \tilde{A} = L^2_{\text{loc}}(\mathbb{R}^{3N})$. Since $a = |\tilde{A}|^2$, it holds that $|\tilde{A}|^2 \in K^3_{\text{loc}}$. Moreover, the matrix $F$ satisfies

$$(|x - x_0| |F|)^2 = |x - x_0|^2 \sum_{j,l=1}^{3N} |F_{j,l}|^2 = 2b_{x_0}(x),$$

since $F$ contains $N$ repeated blocks of sub matrices of the form

$$\begin{bmatrix}
0 & -B_3(x_j) & B_2(x_j) \\
B_3(x_j) & 0 & -B_1(x_j) \\
-B_2(x_j) & B_1(x_j) & 0
\end{bmatrix},$$

This establishes (6).

From (5), $\tilde{W} = W - e$ and (10), we conclude that (8) holds. Lemma 5 gives the strong UCP for (3) and the proof is complete.

**Remark 5.** As stated in Remark 1.1 in Kurata [23], Lemma 5 and thus Theorem 4 also holds if in Assumption 1 $K^3_{\text{loc}}$ is replaced by $K^3_{\text{loc}} + P^p_{\text{loc}}(\mathbb{R}^{3N}), 1 < p \leq 3N/2$. Here $P^p_{\text{loc}}(\mathbb{R}^{3N})$ is the Fefferman–Phong class and in this case a solution must be an element of $H^2_{\text{loc}}(\mathbb{R}^{3N}) \cap L^\infty_{\text{loc}}(\mathbb{R}^{3N})$, and there is an additional condition on $V$.

IV. MAIN RESULTS

Theorem 4 above establishes the strong UCP under Assumption 1. If in addition the negative part of $v$ is locally $L^{3/2}(\mathbb{R}^3)$ summable we obtain the UCP from sets of positive measure:

**Theorem 6.** Suppose Assumption 7. If in addition $v_+ \in L^{3/2}(\mathbb{R}^3)$ and $\psi \in H^2_{\text{loc}}(\mathbb{R}^{3N})$ solves (3) and vanishes on a set of positive measure, then $\psi$ is identically zero. Consequently, the Schrödinger equation has the UCP from sets of positive measure.

**Remark 6.** The requirement $u \geq 0$ can be relaxed if one assumes that $u(x_1, x_2) = u'(x_1 - x_2)$ (see Lemma A.2 in Lammert [30]).

If the strong UCP can be obtained under other assumptions than Assumption 1, the following corollary can be used to obtain the UCP from sets of positive measure.

**Corollary 7.** Suppose the strong UCP for the Schrödinger equation (not necessarily by means of Assumption 1), then the constraint $v_+ + |A|^2 + i(\nabla \cdot A) \in L^1_{\text{loc}}(\mathbb{R}^3)$ gives the UCP from sets of positive measure.

Due to the particular form of the potentials, we can write

$$W(x) = \sum_j v(x_j) + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j \neq l} u(x_j, x_l).$$

Because $Q_x$ is defined as the negative part of the function $2W + (x - y) \cdot \nabla W$, we have with the choice $x_0 = (x_0, \ldots, x_0) \in \mathbb{R}^{3N}$, for fixed $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^3$,

$$0 \leq Q_x(x) = Q_{x_0}(x) \leq \sum_j q_1(x_j) + \sum_{j \neq l} q_2(x_j, x_l)$$

for some functions $q_1(x_j)$ and $q_2(x_j, x_l)$. (See below the proof of Corollary 9 where this decomposition is done for the choice of $W$ corresponding to the molecular case.) Furthermore,

$$b_{x_0}(x) = b_{x_0}(x) = \sum_{j,l=1}^N |x_j - x_0|^2 |B(x_j)|^2$$
can be split as

\[ b_{x_0}(x) = \sum_j b_{1;x_0}(x_j) + \sum_{j \neq l} b_{2;x_0}(x_j, x_l). \]

We can now formulate our main result that includes H$_N$ modelling atoms and molecules, and where the exponents in the integrability constraints are independent of the particle number $N$.

**Corollary 8.** For $N \geq 2$ and $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^3$ fixed, suppose

\[ \nabla \cdot A \in L^2_{\text{loc}}(\mathbb{R}^3), \quad A^j \in L^4_{\text{loc}}(\mathbb{R}^3), \quad |A|^2 \in K^3_{\text{loc}}, \]
\[ b_{1;x_0} \in K^{3,\delta}_{\text{loc}}, \quad b_{2;x_0} \in K^{6,\delta}_{\text{loc}}. \]

Further, let $v_- \in H^{3/2}_{\text{loc}}(\mathbb{R}^3)$, $v \in K^3_{\text{loc}}$, and $u \in K^{6}_{\text{loc}}$, as well as $Q_{x_0}$ satisfying (11) with $q_{1;x_0} \in K^{3,\delta}_{\text{loc}}$ and $q_{2;x_0} \in K^{6,\delta}_{\text{loc}}$. Then the Schrödinger equation (3) has the UCP from sets of positive measure.

In particular, the magnetic Schrödinger equation has the UCP from sets of positive measure for H$_N$ modelling atoms and molecules in magnetic fields if just Eq. (12) is fulfilled.

**Corollary 9.** For $N \geq 2$, suppose the magnetic field is such that Eq. (12) holds. Then with

\[ v(x_1) = -\sum_{j=1}^{M_{\text{nuc}}} \frac{Z_j}{|x_{\text{nuc};j} - x_1|}, \quad u(x_1, x_2) = \frac{1}{|x_1 - x_2|}, \]

where $x_{\text{nuc};j} \in \mathbb{R}^3$ and $Z_j > 0$ are the positions and charges of the $M_{\text{nuc}}$ nuclei, respectively, the UCP from sets of positive measure holds for the Schrödinger equation.

**V. APPLICATION TO CDFT**

In the presence of a magnetic field, no equivalence of a (general) Hohenberg–Kohn result exists at present (11). However, we shall now address how the UCP from sets of positive measure for the magnetic Schrödinger equation plays an important role in the argument for restricted Hohenberg-Kohn theorems in CDFT and the non-universal variant magnetic-field density-functional theory (BDFT) of Grayce and Harris (3). Given a wave function $\psi$, define the particle density and the paramagnetic current density according to

\[ \rho_\psi(x) = N \int_{\mathbb{R}^3(N-1)} |\psi(x, x_2, \ldots, x_N)|^2 \, dx_2 \ldots dx_N, \]
\[ j^{\psi}_{\psi}(x) = N \text{Im} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3(N-1)} \overline{\psi(x, x_2, \ldots, x_N)} \times \nabla_x \psi(x_2, \ldots, x_N) \, dx_2 \ldots dx_N. \]

For a vector potential $A$ we may compute the total current density by the sum $j = j^{\psi}_{\psi} + \rho_\psi A$. Now, fix the particle number $N$ as well as the two-particle interaction $u$ (e.g. $u(x_1, x_2) = |x_1 - x_2|^{-1}$) and write $H_N = H(v, A)$. If $\psi$ is a ground state for some $v$ and $A$, i.e., $H(v, A)\psi = e\psi$, where $e$ is the ground-state energy, then $\rho_\psi$, $j^{\psi}_{\psi}$, and $j = j^{\psi}_{\psi} + \rho_\psi A$ are called ground-state densities of $H(v, A)$.

Whether the ground-state particle density $\rho$ and the total current density $j$ determine $v$ and $A$ (up to a gauge transformation) is still an open question in the general case (9, 11). (For the ground-state density pair $(\rho, j)$ it is well-known that this density pair does not determine the potentials $v$ and $A$ (8).)

Now, assume that two systems with Hamiltonians $H(v_1, A_1)$ and $H(v_2, A_2)$ have the same ground-state particle density (i.e. $\rho_1 = \rho_2 = \rho$) and $\nabla \times A_1 = \nabla \times A_2 = B$. Suppose that $v_k$, $A_k$ for $k = 1, 2$, and $B$ fulfill Assumption (4) and the requirements given in Theorem (4). Since there exists a function $f$ such that $A_1 = A_2 = -\nabla f$, the variational principle yields

\[ e_1 \leq \langle \psi_2, H(v_1, A_1)\psi_2 \rangle \leq e_2 + \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} (v_1 - v_2)\rho \, dx, \]

where $\psi_2$ is the ground state of $H(v_2, A_2 - \nabla f)$. Switching the indices, we find that

\[ e_1 - e_2 = \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} (v_1 - v_2)\rho \, dx. \]

Consequently, $\psi_2$ is a ground state of both $H(v_1, A_1)$ and $H(v_2, A_2 - \nabla f)$, which leads to

\[ |H(v_1, A_1) - H(v_2, A_2 - \nabla f)| \psi_2 = \sum_{j=1}^{N} (v_1(x_j) - v_2(x_j))\psi_2 = (\nabla_1 - \nabla_2)\psi_2 = (e_1 - e_2)\psi_2. \]

However, Theorem (4) allows us to conclude $\psi_2 \neq 0$ and it follows $v_1 = v_2 + \text{constant}$.

**Theorem 10.** Assume $\nabla \times A_1 = \nabla \times A_2 = B$, and that $v_k$, $A_k$ for $k = 1, 2$, and $B$ fulfill Assumption (4) and take the requirements of Theorem (4) for $H(v_1, A_1)$ and $H(v_2, A_2)$ to hold. If the ground-state particle densities satisfy $\rho_1 = \rho_2$, then $v_1 = v_2 + C$ almost everywhere for some constant $C$.

**Remark 7.** Theorem (10) is the Hohenberg–Kohn theorem for BDFT, first established by Grayce and Harris (3), but missing the UCP argument (see also (9)).

**Theorem 10** can be used to obtain

**Corollary 11.** Assume Assumption (4) and the requirements of Theorem (4) for $H(v_1, A_1)$ and $H(v_2, A_2)$ and that the ground-state densities fulfill $\rho = \rho_1 = \rho_2$, $j = j^{\psi}_{\psi} + \rho_\psi A$. For systems with $j^{\psi}_{\psi} = 0$, it follows $B_1 = B_2$ (even $A_1 = A_2$ holds) and $v_1 = v_2 + C$ for some constant $C$.

**Proof.** For systems with $j^{\psi}_{\psi} = 0$, $j_1 = j_2$ implies

\[ \rho_1 A_1 = \rho_2 A_2, \]
since \( \rho_1 = \rho_2 = \rho \). Theorem 6 gives \( \rho > 0 \) almost everywhere and we may conclude \( A_1 = A_2 \). Theorem 10 now gives \( v_1 = v_2 + C \) for some constant \( C \).

VI. PROOFS OF THE MAIN RESULTS

Proof of Theorem 2 In the sequel let \( D = 3N \). By Assumption 4 the strong UCP holds for \( \Theta \) by Theorem 3. Next, we follow the proof of Theorem 1.2 given after Lemma 3.3 in Regbaoui 26 and Lemma A.2 in Lam-mert 30. (Lemma A.2 corresponds to setting \( A = 0 \) here, and moreover we exploit \( u \geq 0 \) instead of the assumption \( u(x_1, x_2) = u'(x_1, x_2) \).) We start by showing the following inverse Poincaré inequality for solutions of the Schrödinger equation:

For an arbitrary point \( x_0 = (x_{0,j})_{j=1}^N \in \mathbb{R}^D \) and \( r \leq r_0 \)

\[
\int_{B_r(x_0)} |\nabla \psi(x)|^2 \, dx \leq C \int_{B_{2r}(x_0)} |\psi(x)|^2 \, dx. \tag{13}
\]

Here \( C \) is a positive constant that depends on \( r_0 > 0 \), \( v \), and \( A \) (but is independent of \( u \geq 0 \)).

Choose \( h \in C_0^\infty(B_{2r}(x_0)) \) that satisfies \( h(x) = 1 \) if \( |x-x_0| \leq r \), \( h \leq 1 \) for \( |x-x_0| \leq 2r \), and \( |\nabla h(x)| \leq 2r^{-1} \).

In the Schrödinger equation (4), we choose \( \varphi = h^2 \psi \) and move all terms except one to the right hand side so that

\[
\int_{\mathbb{R}^D} |h \nabla \psi|^2 \, dx = -2 \int_{\mathbb{R}^D} h(\nabla \psi) \cdot \nabla \psi \, dx + 2i \int_{\mathbb{R}^D} A \cdot (\nabla \psi) h^2 \psi \, dx + \int_{\mathbb{R}^D} (e - W_A) |h \psi|^2 \, dx. \tag{14}
\]

We now bound each of the terms of the right hand side in (14).

It is immediate that the first term is less or equal to \( 2|h \nabla \psi|^2 ||\psi \nabla h||_2 \). Using the inequality \( 2ab \leq a^2/6 + 6b^2 \), we obtain an upper bound

\[
\frac{1}{6} \int_{\mathbb{R}^D} |h \nabla \psi|^2 \, dx + 6 \int_{\mathbb{R}^D} |\nabla h|^2 \, dx. \tag{15}
\]

To continue, let \( I_1 = -2i \int_{\mathbb{R}^D} A \cdot (\nabla \psi) h^2 \psi \, dx \). The Cauchy–Schwarz inequality together with \( 2ab \leq a^2/6 + 6b^2 \) yield

\[
I_1 \leq \frac{1}{6} \int_{\mathbb{R}^D} |h \nabla \psi|^2 \, dx + 6 \int_{\mathbb{R}^D} |A|^2 |h \psi|^2 \, dx. \tag{16}
\]

For the last term of the right hand side in (14), we use the definition of \( W_A \) and write \( e - W_A = e - W - |A|^2 - i(\nabla \cdot A) \). Thus

\[
\int_{\mathbb{R}^D} (e - W_A) |h \psi|^2 \, dx = \int_{\mathbb{R}^D} (e - W - |A|^2) |h \psi|^2 \, dx - i \int_{\mathbb{R}^D} (\nabla \cdot A) |h \psi|^2 \, dx
\]

and it follows from \( W = V_+ + U_+ - V_- \geq -V_- \) that

\[
\int_{\mathbb{R}^D} (e - W_A) |h \psi|^2 \, dx \leq \int_{\mathbb{R}^D} (V_+ + |e|) |h \psi|^2 \, dx + \int_{\mathbb{R}^D} |(\nabla \cdot A)| |h \psi|^2 \, dx. \tag{17}
\]

Define \( \Theta = V_- + |e| + 6|A|^2 + |\nabla \cdot A| \), from (15), (10), and (17) we obtain an upper bound for the right hand side of (14) given by

\[
\frac{1}{3} \int_{\mathbb{R}^D} |h \nabla \psi|^2 \, dx + 6||\psi \nabla h||_2^2 + \int_{\mathbb{R}^D} \Theta |h \psi|^2 \, dx. \tag{18}
\]

With the notation \( \Theta_1 = v_- + N^{-1} |e| + 6|A|^2 + |\nabla \cdot A| \), the inequality \( \Theta(x) \leq \sum_{j=1}^N \Theta_1(x_j) \) holds. Furthermore, we have

\[
\int_{\mathbb{R}^D} \Theta(x) |h \psi|^2 \, dx \leq \sum_{j=1}^N \int_{\mathbb{R}^D} \Theta_1(x_j) |h \psi|^2 \, dx = I_2,
\]

where the last equality defines \( I_2 \). By assumption \( v_- \in L_{\text{loc}}^{3/2}(\mathbb{R}^3) \) and \( |A|^2 \in L_{\text{loc}}^3(\mathbb{R}^3) \) and \( \nabla \cdot A \in L_{\text{loc}}^2(\mathbb{R}^3) \), it follows that \( \Theta_1 \in L_{\text{loc}}^{3/2}(\mathbb{R}^3) \). To bound the term \( I_2 \) from above, we closely follow Lam-mert 30 and define \( \hat{\rho}(x_1) = N \int_{\mathbb{R}^{3(N-1)}} |h \psi|^2 \, dx \). For \( M > 0 \) we let \( M' = ||\Theta_1 \cdot B_{2r}(x_0) \chi(\Theta_1 \geq M)||_3/2 \), where the characteristic function of a set \( X \) is denoted \( \chi(X) \). Hölder’s inequality gives

\[
I_2 = \int_{\{\Theta_1 < M\}} \Theta_1 \hat{\rho} \, dx_1 + \int_{\{\Theta_1 \geq M\}} \Theta_1 \hat{\rho} \, dx_1 
\leq M ||h \psi||_2^2 + M' ||\hat{\rho}||_3.
\]

and by a Sobolev inequality \( ||\hat{\rho}||_3 \leq C||\nabla (\hat{\rho}^{1/2})||_2^2 \). A direct computation of \( \nabla (\hat{\rho}^{1/2}) \), using the definition of \( \hat{\rho} \), shows that \( ||\nabla (\hat{\rho}^{1/2})||_2^2 \leq \frac{1}{6} \int_{\mathbb{R}^D} (\nabla (h \psi))^2 \, dx \) (see also the original argument of Lieb 31, Theorem 1.1). From \( |a + b|^2 \leq 2|a|^2 + 2|b|^2 \), we get

\[
||\nabla (\hat{\rho}^{1/2})||_2^2 \leq 2 \int_{\mathbb{R}^D} |h \nabla \psi|^2 \, dx + 2||\psi \nabla h||_2^2.
\]

We choose \( M > 0 \) such that \( 2CM' \leq 1/6 \) and then one has

\[
I_2 \leq \frac{1}{6} \int_{\mathbb{R}^D} |h \nabla \psi|^2 \, dx + \frac{1}{6} ||\psi \nabla h||_2^2 + M ||h \psi||^2. \tag{19}
\]

Returning to (18), we set \( C = [74 + 3Mr_0^2]/3 \) and use (19) and \( ||\nabla h|| \leq 2/r \) to conclude for \( r \leq r_0 \)

\[
\frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^D} |h \nabla \psi|^2 \, dx \leq \frac{97}{6} ||\psi \nabla h||_2^2 + M ||h \psi||^2 
\leq \frac{C}{r} \int_{B_{2r}(x_0)} |\psi|^2 \, dx.
\]

Hence (13) holds.
Suppose \( \psi \in H^2_{\mathrm{loc}} \) vanishes on a set \( E \) of positive measure. Almost every point of \( E \) is a density point. Let \( x_0 \) be such a density point and let \( B_r = B_r(x_0) \). Given \( \varepsilon > 0 \) there is an \( r_0 = r_0(\varepsilon) \) so that (cf. (3.11) in Regbaoui \[26\])

\[
\frac{|E \cap B_r|}{|B_r|} \geq 1 - \varepsilon, \quad \frac{|E^c \cap B_r|}{|B_r|} \leq \varepsilon, \quad \text{for } r \leq r_0. \tag{20}
\]

Lemma 3.3 in Regbaoui \[26\] (or Lemma 3.4 in Ladyzhenskaya–Ural’tzeva \[34\]) gives

\[
\int_{B_r \cap E^c} |\psi|^2 \, dx \leq C \frac{r^{2D}}{|E|} |B_r \cap E^c|^{1/D} \int_{B_r} |\nabla (\psi^2)| \, dx \tag{21}
\]

for some constant \( C \). Applying the Cauchy–Schwarz inequality to the right hand side of (21), we obtain

\[
\int_{B_r} |\psi|^2 \, dx \leq C \frac{r^{2D}}{|E|} |B_r \cap E^c|^{1/D} \int_{B_r} |\nabla \psi|^2 \, dx
\]

for some new constant \( C \). Since \(|E| \geq |E \cap B_r|\), \[20\], and the inverse Poincaré inequality \[13\] allow us to conclude that

\[
\int_{B_r} |\psi|^2 \, dx \leq C \frac{r^{2D}}{(1 - \varepsilon)^2} \int_{B_r} |\nabla \psi|^2 \, dx
\]

\[
\leq C' \frac{r^{2D}}{(1 - \varepsilon)^2} \int_{B_{r_0}} |\psi|^2 \, dx. \tag{22}
\]

Introduce the function \( f(r) = \int_{B_r} |\psi|^2 \, dx \), fix an integer \( n \) and choose \( \varepsilon > 0 \) so that \( C' \frac{r^{2D}}{(1 - \varepsilon)^2} = 2^{-n} \). Then (22) can be written \( f(r) \leq 2^{-n} f(2r) \). By iteration

\[
f(r') \leq 2^{-kn} f(2^k r'), \quad r' \leq 2^{1-k} r_0
\]

holds. For fixed \( r \) and \( k \) chosen such that \( 2^{-k} r_0 \leq r \leq 2^{1-k} r_0 \), it follows that

\[
f(r) \leq 2^{-kn} f(2r_0) \leq \left( \frac{r}{r_0} \right)^n f(2r_0),
\]

where \( r_0 \) depends on \( n \). Consequently \( f \) vanishes to infinite order, i.e., for all \( m \) there is an \( r_0(m) \) such that

\[
f(r) = \int_{B_r} |\psi|^2 \, dx \leq C_m r^m, \quad r \leq r_0(m).
\]

That \( \psi = 0 \) follows now by the strong UCP given by Theorem \[4\].

**Proof of Corollary \[7\]** This is a consequence of the proof of Theorem \[6\] since \( \Theta_1 \), by assumption, is an element of \( L^{3/2}_{\mathrm{loc}}(\mathbb{R}^3) \).

**Proof of Corollary \[8\]** We first demonstrate that the conditions of Corollary \[8\] fulfills Assumption \[4\]. Due to the particular form of the potentials, we make use of the following: Let \( f_1 \in K^3_{\mathrm{loc}} \) and \( f_2 \in K^6_{\mathrm{loc}} \). Then both \( \sum_{k=1}^N f_1(x_k) \) and \( \sum_{k \neq i} f_2(x_k, x_i) \) are elements of \( K^{3,6}_{\mathrm{loc}} \).

Similar statements for \( K^n \) can be found in Simon \[37\] (Example F) and Aizenman–Simon \[36\] (Theorem 1.4). We prove our claim by direct computations. Define \( I^\delta_1 \) and \( I^\delta_2 \) according to

\[
I^\delta_1(x) = \sum_{j=1}^N \int_{B_r(0)} \frac{|f_1(y_j + x_j)|}{(y_j^2 + \cdots + y_N^2)^{3-2\delta/2}} \, dy_1 \cdots dy_N,
\]

\[
I^\delta_2(x) = \sum_{j \neq i} \int_{B_r(0)} \frac{|f_2(y_j + x_j, y_i + x_i)|}{(y_j^2 + \cdots + y_N^2)^{3-2\delta/2}} \, dy_1 \cdots dy_N.
\]

We next demonstrate that

\[
I^\delta_1(x) \leq C_N \int_{B_{r,3}(x)} \frac{|f_1(y_1)|}{(y_1^2 + x_1^2)^{3-2\delta/2}} \, dy_1,
\]

\[
I^\delta_2(x) \leq C_N \int_{B_{r,6}(x)} \frac{|f_2(y_1, y_2)|}{((y_1^2 + y_2^2)^{3-2\delta/2})} \, dy_1 \, dy_2,
\]

where the second index in the given ball-sets \( B_{r,3}(x) \subset \mathbb{R}^3 \) and \( B_{r,6}(x) \subset \mathbb{R}^6 \) refers to the respective dimensionality.

To show \[23\], set \( q = (y_2, \ldots, y_N) \) and note that

\[
I^\delta_1(x) \leq N \int_{B_{r,3} \times B_{r,6}(N-1)} \frac{|f_1(y_1 + x_1)|}{(y_1^2 + q^2)^{3-2\delta/2}} \, dy_1 \, dq
\]

\[
= C_N \int_{B_{r,3}} |f_1(y_1 + x_1)| \left( \int_0^{r} \frac{q^{3(N-1)-1}}{(y_1^2 + q^2)^{3-2\delta/2}} \, dq \right) \, dy_1
\]

\[
= C_N \int_{B_{r,3}} |f_1(y_1 + x_1)| \frac{1}{y_1^{3N-2+\delta}} \left( \int_0^{r} \frac{q^{3N-4} \, dq}{(1 + (q/|y_1|)^2)^{3-2\delta/2}} \right) \, dy_1
\]

\[
\leq C_N J^\delta_1 \int_{B_{r,3}(x)} \frac{|f_1(y_1)|}{|y_1 - x_1|^{3-2\delta}} \, dy_1,
\]

where we have defined the integral

\[
J^\delta_1 = \int_0^\infty \frac{s^{3N-4}}{(1 + s^2)^{3-2\delta/2}} \, ds.
\]

Now, \( J^\delta_1 \) is finite since

\[
J^\delta_1 \leq \int_0^1 s^{3N-4} \, ds + \int_1^\infty s^{-2-\delta} \, ds < +\infty.
\]

This establishes \[23\]. The proof of \[23\] is similar and included for the sake of completeness. Set \( q = (y_3, \ldots, y_N) \),
then
\[ I_1 \leq N \int_{B_{r_0} \times B_r \times (N-2)} |u(y_1 + x_1, y_2 + x_2)| dy_1 dy_2 dq \]
\[ = C_N \int_{B_{r_0}} |u(y_1 + x_1, y_2 + x_2)| \times \left( \int_0^r \frac{q^{3(N-2)-1} dq}{(y_1^2 + y_2^2 + q^2)^{\frac{N-3}{2}}} \right) dy_1 dy_2 \]
\[ = C_N \int_{B_{r_0}} |u(y_1 + x_1, y_2 + x_2)| \times \left( \int_0^r \frac{q^{3N-7} dq}{(1 + (q/|(y_1, y_2)|))^\frac{3N-3}{2}} \right) dy_1 dy_2 \]
\[ \leq C_N \int_{B_{r_0}(x_1, x_2)} |u(y_1, y_2)| \int_0^\infty \frac{1}{(1 + s^8)^\frac{3N-3}{2}} ds \]

Corollary 8 now follows from Theorem 3 (Eq. 5) in Assumption 1 is fulfilled by Remark 3.

Proof of Corollary 8 We first reduce the molecular case to the atomic one. Since the UCP from sets of positive measure is local, it can be applied to any open set in the domain individually. So instead of one singularity (the \( y \) of Assumption 1), we can treat an arbitrary (yet countable) number of singularities if they do not have an accumulation point. For this just choose an open cover \( \{U_j\} \) of \( \mathbb{R}^3 \) where each \( U_j \) contains not more than one nucleus \( x^{\text{nuc}}_j \). It remains to show that all \( q^{x^{\text{nuc}}_j}, b^{x^{\text{nuc}}_j} \) belong to the respective local Kato classes and we are done if we prove the results for atoms.

In the sequel we let \( v(x_1) = -Z|x_1 - x^{\text{nuc}}_1|^{-1}, x^{\text{nuc}} \in \mathbb{R}^3, Z > 0, \) and \( u(x_1, x_2) = |x_1 - x_2|^{-1} \). In this case \( v_- \in L^{3/2}_{\text{loc}}(\mathbb{R}^3) \) and with the choice \( x^{\text{nuc}} = (x^{\text{nuc}}_1, \ldots, x^{\text{nuc}}_N) \in \mathbb{R}^{3N} \), we have with \( Q^{x^{\text{nuc}}}(x) = Q_{x^{\text{nuc}}}(x) \) the equality

\[ Q^{x^{\text{nuc}}}(x) = \left( \sum_j \frac{-2Z}{|x_j - x^{\text{nuc}}|} + \sum_{j \neq i} \frac{1}{|x_j - x_i|} \right) + \sum_j (x_j - x^{\text{nuc}}) \cdot \nabla_j \left( \frac{-Z}{|x_j - x^{\text{nuc}}|} \right) \]
\[ + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j \neq i} \left[ (x_j - x^{\text{nuc}}) \cdot \nabla_j + (x_i - x^{\text{nuc}}) \cdot \nabla_i \right] \times \frac{1}{|x_j - x^{\text{nuc}}| - (x_i - x^{\text{nuc}})} \]
\[ = (V(x) + U(x))_. \]

Thus, in this case we can choose \( q_1^{x^{\text{nuc}}}_1 = v_- \) and \( q_{2, x^{\text{nuc}}}_1 = 0 \).

Furthermore, for \( 0 < \delta < 1 \), we claim that \( V, U \in K^{3, \delta}_{\text{loc}} \) and \( u \in K^{6, \delta}_{\text{loc}} \). For \( v \in K^{3, \delta}_{\text{loc}} \), we introduce polar coordinates with radius \( s \) and polar angle \( t \). Then it holds that \( dy = 2\pi^2 \sin t dt ds \) and \( y \cdot x = -s|x| \cos t \). For \( f_1(x) = |x|^{-1} \) it follows that

\[ \eta^K(r; f_1) = \sup_{|x| \leq r} \int_0^\pi \left( \int_0^{\pi - \delta} \frac{2\pi s^{1-\delta} \sin t dt}{(s^2 - 2s|x| \cos t + |x|^2)^{1/2}} \right) ds. \]

We integrate over \( t \), use \( |s + |x| - |s - |x|| \leq 2|x| \), and the conclusion is obtained for \( v \).

In a similar fashion, for \( u \) we establish that with \( f_2(x) = |x_1 - x_2|^{-1} \)

\[ \eta^K(r; f_2) \leq C \int_0^r \left( \int_0^\pi \frac{s_2 ds_2}{(s_1^2 + s_2^2)^{2+\delta}} \right) s_1^2 ds_1 \leq Cr^{1-\delta} \]

such that it follows \( u \in K^{6-\delta}_{\text{loc}} \), since

\[ \int_{B_{r_0}(0)} \frac{1}{|y_1 - y_2|} \frac{1}{|y|^6 - 2+\delta} dy_1 dy_2 \]
\[ \leq C \int_0^r \int_0^\pi \left( \int_0^{\pi - \delta} \frac{2\pi s_1^2 s_2^2 \sin t dt}{(s_1^2 - 2s_1 s_2 \cos t + s_2^2)^{1/2}} \right) \]
\[ \times \frac{1}{(s_1^2 + s_2^2)^{2+\delta}} \]
\[ \leq C \int_0^r \int_0^\pi \left( \int_0^{\pi - \delta} \frac{2\pi s_1^2 s_2^2 \sin t dt}{(s_1^2 - 2s_1 s_2 \cos t + s_2^2)^{1/2}} \right) \]
\[ \times \frac{1}{(s_1^2 + s_2^2)^{2+\delta}} \]
\[ \leq C \int_0^r \int_0^\pi \left( \int_0^{\pi - \delta} \frac{s_1^2 s_2 ds_2}{(s_1^2 + s_2^2)^{2+\delta}} + \int_0^r \frac{s_1^2 s_2 ds_2}{(s_1^2 + s_2^2)^{2+\delta}} \right) \]
\[ \leq C \int_0^r \int_0^\pi \frac{s_1^2 s_2 ds_2}{(s_1^2 + s_2^2)^{2+\delta}} \]
\[ \leq Cr^{1-\delta}. \]

The atomic case is now a consequence of Corollary 8.

VII. CONCLUSION

In this work we were able to show the unique-continuation property from sets of positive measure for the important case of the many-body magnetic Schrödinger equation for classes of potentials that are independent of the particle number. This is crucial in order to not artificially restrict the permitted potentials in large systems. We further specifically addressed molecular Hamiltonians, thus covering most cases that usually arise in physics.

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