#### This is an open access article published under a Creative Commons Attribution (CC-BY) <u>License</u>, which permits unrestricted use, distribution and reproduction in any medium, provided the author and source are cited.

# THE JOURNAL OF PHYSICAL CHEMISTRY



pubs.acs.org/JPCA

Article

# **Unveiling the Physics Behind Hybrid Functionals**

Szymon Śmiga\* and Lucian A. Constantin



**ABSTRACT:** We show that accurate exchange–correlation hybrid functionals give very physically optimized effective-correlation potentials, capable of correctly describing the quantum oscillations of atoms and molecules. Based on this analysis and on understanding the error cancellation between semilocal exchange and correlation functionals, we propose a very simple, semilocal correlation potential model compatible with the exact exchange of density functional theory, which performs remarkably well for charge densities and orbital energies.



# **1. INTRODUCTION**

The ground-state Kohn–Sham (KS)<sup>1</sup> self-consistent, orbital formulation of density functional theory (DFT)<sup>2</sup> is the most used method for electronic structure calculations. In KS–DFT, the noninteracting kinetic energy functional, representing usually a dominant/important part of the total energy,<sup>3–5</sup> is treated exactly with KS one-particle orbitals, and only the exchange–correlation (XC) energy  $E_{\rm xc}[\rho]$  must be approximated as a functional of the electronic density  $\rho(\mathbf{r})$ . Even if the XC energy is just a small fraction of the total energy, it contains all the many-body effects beyond the Hartree method, having crucial theoretical and computational importance.

Starting from the local density approximation (LDA),<sup>1</sup> many useful semilocal density functional approximations (DFA) such as generalized gradient approximations (GGAs)<sup>6</sup> and meta-GGAs<sup>7</sup> have been developed. Most of the standard semilocal XC functionals work by mutual error cancellation effects between the exchange and correlation parts.<sup>8,9</sup> The error cancellation is significantly diminished for the sophisticated meta-GGA functionals (in comparison with the LDA), but this problem is still important especially in the low-density regime, where the correlation energy starts to behave as the exchange energy under the uniform density scaling of the density. Noting that in most of the non-covalent molecular bonds, the density is small,<sup>11</sup> we may conclude that the error cancellation issue plays important role in semilocal DFT calculations of material science. To exemplify this problem, we show in Figure 1 the relative errors (RE) in % of jellium surface exchange, correlation, and XC energies. Even if the LDA is one of the most accurate functionals for jellium and metal surface energies,<sup>12,13</sup> its outstanding performance is based on a huge error cancellation between exchange and correlation. The popular PBE GGA<sup>14</sup> improves the exchange and correlation



**Figure 1.** RE (in %) of the LDA and PBE jellium surface exchange, correlation, and XC energies, vs the bulk parameter  $r_{s}$ . The correlation and exchange-only reference values are the diffusion Monte Carlo<sup>15</sup> and the exact exchange (EXX)<sup>16</sup> ones, respectively.

parts, as reported in the figure, but the total XC results are not as accurate as the LDA ones. Another class of DFAs widely applied in quantum chemistry calculation are the hybrid functionals.<sup>17</sup> They are mixture of a fraction of the Hartree– Fock (HF) exchange energy with fractions of given semilocal exchange and correlation functionals. Similar in popularity are the functionals based on range-separation<sup>18,19</sup> of Coulomb electron–electron interaction  $w_{ee}(r_{12}) = 1/r_{12}$  into the short-

 Received:
 May 9, 2020

 Revised:
 June 16, 2020

 Published:
 June 17, 2020



range and long-range contributions  $(w_{ee}(r_{12}) = w_{ee}^{sr}(r_{12}) + w_{ee}^{lr}(r_{12}))$ . The former interaction is described by specially developed short-range semilocal DFAs,<sup>20–23</sup> whereas the later one, in general, takes the form of long-range HF exchange energy which captures the right -1/r dependence in the tail of XC potential. From here on, we will refer to these two types of functionals as hybrid functionals.

Because the HF optimum potential is non-local, the calculations for both types of functionals (and meta-GGAs as well) are typically done within the generalized KS framework.<sup>24,25</sup> However, in order to remain in the true KS self-consistent scheme, the HF should be replaced with the KS EXX that gives a local-multiplicative exchange potential through the optimized effective potential (OEP) approach.<sup>26–29</sup> The HF- and OEP-based hybrids give practically the same accuracy for ground-state properties<sup>30–32</sup> (see also Figure S4 of ref 33), differing only for quantities involving excited states, electron affinities, and band gaps.<sup>34</sup> Moreover, EXX satisfies the uniform scaling relation  $(E_x[\rho_{\lambda}] = \lambda E_x[\rho],$  with  $\rho_{\lambda}(\mathbf{r}) = \lambda^3 \rho(\lambda \mathbf{r})$  being the uniformly scaled density and  $\lambda \geq 0$ ), in contrast to HF that (slightly) violates this condition.<sup>35</sup>

In the following, we show that XC hybrid functionals give very physically optimized effective correlation potentials, capable of correctly describing the quantum oscillations of atoms and molecules. Moreover, based on the analysis of error cancellation between semilocal exchange and correlation functionals, we propose a very simple, semilocal correlation potential model compatible with the EXX potential supported by analysis of charge densities and orbital energies.

#### 2. THEORY

In general, for a given KS orbital- $(\phi_{p\sigma})$  and/or eigenvalue- $(\varepsilon_{p\sigma})$  dependent XC energy functional, the OEP equation for the XC potential reads<sup>26,27,29,36–40</sup>

$$\int d\mathbf{r}' X_{\sigma}(\mathbf{r}, \, \mathbf{r}') v_{\mathrm{xc},\sigma}(\mathbf{r}') = \Lambda_{\mathrm{xc},\sigma}(\mathbf{r}) \tag{1}$$

which is an integral equation (Fredholm of the first kind) with the inhomogeneity given by

$$\Lambda_{\mathrm{xc},\sigma}(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_{p} \left\{ \int d\mathbf{r}' \phi_{p\sigma}(\mathbf{r}) \sum_{q \neq p} \frac{\phi_{q\sigma}(\mathbf{r}) \phi_{q\sigma}(\mathbf{r}')}{\varepsilon_{p\sigma} - \varepsilon_{q\sigma}} \frac{\delta E_{\mathrm{xc}}}{\delta \phi_{p\sigma}(\mathbf{r}')} + \frac{\delta E_{\mathrm{xc}}}{\delta \varepsilon_{p\sigma}} |\phi_{p\sigma}(\mathbf{r})|^2 \right\}$$
(2)

where  $X_{\sigma}^{-1}$  is the inverse of the static KS linear response function

$$X_{\sigma}(\mathbf{r}', \mathbf{r}) = 2\sum_{ia} \frac{\phi_{i\sigma}(\mathbf{r}')\phi_{a\sigma}(\mathbf{r}')\phi_{a\sigma}(\mathbf{r})\phi_{i\sigma}(\mathbf{r})}{\varepsilon_{i\sigma} - \varepsilon_{a\sigma}}$$
(3)

The KS orbitals and eigenvalues are determined by solutions of standard KS equations

$$\left[-\frac{1}{2}\nabla^{2} + v_{\text{ext}}(\mathbf{r}) + v_{\text{J}}(\mathbf{r}) + v_{\text{xc},\sigma}(\mathbf{r})\right]\phi_{p\sigma}(\mathbf{r}) = \varepsilon_{p\sigma}\phi_{p\sigma}(\mathbf{r})$$
(4)

with  $v_{ext}(\mathbf{r})$  and  $v_{J}(\mathbf{r})$  being the external (nuclear) and the Coulomb/Hartree potentials, respectively. In all equations, we use the convention that *i*, *j*, ... label occupied KS orbitals, *a*, *b*, ... label virtual ones; the indexes *p*, *q*, ... are used otherwise,

while  $\sigma$ ,  $\tau$  denotes the spin degrees of freedom. In particular, the corresponding OEP potential of EXX energy expression

$$E_{x}^{\text{EXX}}[\{\phi_{q\tau}\}] = -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{\sigma} \sum_{ij} (i_{\sigma} j_{\sigma} | j_{\sigma} i_{\sigma})$$
(5)

labeled as OEPx is defined by the

$$\nu_{\mathbf{x},\sigma}^{\text{OEPx}}(\mathbf{r}) = -2\sum_{ij}\sum_{a}\int d\mathbf{r}' \frac{(i_{\sigma}j_{\sigma}|j_{\sigma}a_{\sigma})}{\varepsilon_{i\sigma} - \varepsilon_{a\sigma}} \phi_{a\sigma}(\mathbf{r}')\phi_{i\sigma}(\mathbf{r}') \times X_{\sigma}^{-1}(\mathbf{r}',\mathbf{r})$$
(6)

with  $(p_{\sigma}q_{\sigma}|r_{\sigma}s_{\sigma})$  being a two-electron integral (in the Mulliken notation) computed using KS orbitals. Let us now consider the OEP-versions of several most popular hybrid functionals, namely, the global hybrid B3LYP<sup>42</sup> and PBE0<sup>43</sup> XC functionals, and one example of range-separated XC functional, that is,  $\omega$ PBE,<sup>44,45</sup> where only exchange-part of functional is divided into the short- and long-range part and correlation is kept in the original PBE<sup>14</sup> form.

Now, using the OEP formalism, we are able to calculate the correlation potential  $v_c(\mathbf{r}) = \delta E_c[\rho]/\delta\rho(\mathbf{r})$ , where the correlation energy functional is by definition

$$E_{\rm c} = E_{\rm xc} - E_{\rm x}^{\rm EXX} \tag{7}$$

Keeping eq 7 in mind, the corresponding correlation energy functionals (for all aforementioned XC functionals) have the following expressions

$$E_{c}^{B3LYP} = 0.72E_{x}^{B88} - 0.8E_{x}^{EXX} + 0.06E_{x}^{LDA} + 0.19E_{c}^{VWN} + 0.81E_{c}^{LYP} E_{c}^{PBE0} = 0.75[E_{x}^{PBE} - E_{x}^{EXX}] + E_{c}^{PBE} E_{c}^{\omega PBE} = E_{x}^{sr, PBE} - E_{x}^{sr, EXX} + E_{c}^{PBE}$$
(8)

which, as one can note, depend explicitly on EXX energy.

#### **3. COMPUTATIONAL DETAILS**

All calculation have been carried out with locally modified version of ACES  $II^{46}$  program. As in our previous studies<sup>8,31,32,47-49</sup> in order to solve OEP equation (eq 1), we have employed the finite-basis set procedure of refs 50 and 51. To calculate pseudo-inverse of density-density response matrix, we have utilized a truncated singular-value decomposition (TSVD). This step is essential for determining stable and physically meaningful OEP solutions.<sup>48,52,53</sup> The cutoff criteria in the TSVD procedure was set to  $10^{-6}$ . For more technical details on this type of calculations, we refer the reader to refs 8 and 48.

In all calculations, we employed uncontracted triple zeta quality basis sets as in refs 9 and 48, namely, an even tempered 20s10p2d basis set<sup>8</sup> for He and He<sub>2</sub>, an uncontracted ROOS-ATZP basis set<sup>54</sup> for Ne atom and Ne<sub>2</sub>, and for Ar atom, we used a modified basis set which combines s and p type basis functions from the uncontracted ROOS-ATZP<sup>54</sup> with d and f functions coming from the uncontracted aug-cc-pwCVQZ basis set.<sup>55</sup> Remaining systems were treated in uncontracted cc-pVTZ basis set of dunning.<sup>56</sup> For all molecular systems, we considered their equilibrium geometries from refs 57–59 also used in our previous studies.<sup>8,48</sup> To assess the results, we considered the reference data from the Ab Initio DFT OEP2-

sc method  $^{60,61}$  and  $CCSD(T)^{62}$  calculations. The reference KS[CCSD(T)] correlation potentials (depicted on Figures 2



Figure 2. Correlation potentials of the Ne (upper panel), Ar (middle panel) atoms, and CO molecule (lower panel) for various methods. The reference KS[CCSD(T)] have been obtained using the method from ref 41.

and 4) and CCSD(T) KS orbital energies (used to calculated error statistics in Table 1) have been obtained using inverse KS method from ref 41 taking as a starting point the relaxed densities<sup>63-66</sup> constructed using the Lagrangian approach.<sup>67-70</sup> For more technical details, we refer the reader to refs 8, 41, 71.

### 4. RESULTS

The correlation potentials corresponding to eq 8 are shown on Figure 2 for three representative cases of Ne and Ar atoms and CO molecule. Inspection of Figure 2 reveals that:

 (i) The B3LYP, PBE0, and ωPBE correlation potentials are very physical, being in phase with and having the shape of the reference (coupled cluster singles-doubles with perturbative triples<sup>62</sup> - CCSD(T)) and Ab Initio DFT OEP2-sc<sup>60,61</sup>) curves in all the cases. Note that the correlation potentials of,  $E_c^{LYP}$ , and  $E_c^{VWN}$  fail badly to describe such a feature.<sup>8,9</sup> Consequently, even if the semilocal exchange is very accurate, as are  $E_x^{B8872}$  and  $E_x^{PBE 14}$  they still contain correlation effects that are crucial for the shape of the correlation potential.

- (ii) Figure 2 additionally reveals the physics behind the hybrid functionals and can be considered an elegant proof on the hybrid functional construction. Until now, the widely accepted rationale for mixing EXX with semilocal functionals was based on the adiabatic connection formula with a heuristic model for the hybrid coupling-constant dependence given in eq 6 of ref 73. We also note that the correlation potential  $v_c$  is well defined, entering the KS scheme, as shown in eq 4, in sharp contrast to the correlation energy per particle  $\epsilon_{\rm c}$ (defined by  $E_{\rm c} = \int d\mathbf{r} \ \rho(\mathbf{r}) \epsilon_{\rm c}(\mathbf{r})$ ) which is not unique, being defined up to a gauge transformation.<sup>74</sup> Thus, this finding shows that inspection of OEP correlation potentials should be seen as a powerful criterion in the construction of new hybrid functionals, whose parameters can be found such that to give the optimal correlation potential.
- (iii) In the tail of the density, the EXX potential behaves as -1/r, while the semilocal exchange potentials are usually vanishing much faster (e.g., B88<sup>72</sup> and xPBE<sup>14</sup> behave as  $-1/r^2$  and  $e^{-r}$ , respectively). This issue gives significant errors of  $v_c$  in the asymptotic region (see Figure 2) directly transferring on the quality of ionization and excited state energies. On the other hand, this region is energetically evanescent, being not relevant for most of ground state properties. Additionally, Figure 2 shows that in the case of range-separated  $\omega$ PBE functional, the  $v_c$  decays much faster in the tail, being similar to the reference OEP2-sc and CCSD(T) potentials, thus explaining the dramatically improvement upon global hybrids XC functionals in the calculation of many properties.<sup>75-77</sup>

In Figure 3 we report the correlation densities<sup>8,9,48</sup>  $\Delta \rho_c = \rho^{\text{method}} - \rho^{\text{EXX}}$  obtained for same systems. All hybrid densities are reasonably accurate everywhere, including the tail region. Overall, B3LYP slightly outperforms PBE0 and  $\omega$ PBE for these systems being much more similar to reference CCSD(T) results.

As shown above for the case of PBE0 and  $\omega$ PBE hybrids, the exchange potential difference  $0.75(v_x^{\text{PBE}} - v_x^{\text{OEPx}})$  and  $v_x^{\text{sr,PBE}} - v_x^{\text{sr,OEPx}}$ , respectively, give the right phase of the correlation potential, almost inverting the  $v_c^{\text{PBE}}$ . Therefore, they can be seen as EXX compatible functionals in some sense.

In several works,  $^{11,78-80}$  it has been observed that  $\nu_c^{\text{PBE}}$  is out of phase in comparison with the exact correlation potential. On the other hand, the  $-\nu_c^{\text{PBE}}$  exhibits similar features as shown in Figure 2. Thus, in the following, we combine  $\nu_x^{\text{OEPx}}$  with  $\nu_c^{\text{GGA-OEPx}}$ , where we chose very simple test cases

$$\nu_{\rm c}^{\rm GGA-OEPx} = -\nu_{\rm c}^{\rm PBE}$$
, and  $\nu_{\rm c}^{\rm GGA-OEPx} = -\nu_{\rm c}^{\rm ACSC}$  (9)

with  $\nu_c^{ACSC}$  being the adiabatic connection semilocal correlation (ACSC) GGA potential of ref 78 which gives a correlation potential close to but smoother than the  $\nu_c^{PBE}$  one, as shown in Figure S5 of ref 33. We recall that the ACSC GGA correlation functional has been constructed from the modified interaction

Article

Table 1. Error Statistics of Several Properties [	$\sum_{i}$	<sup>M</sup> ICDD <sub>i</sub> /(	$(N_e)$	;))]	$]/M^a$
---	------------	-----------------------------------	---------	------	---------

		OEPx-									
	PBE	+ACSC	-ACSC	+PBEc	-PBEc	OEPx	OEP2-sc				
ICDD											
MAE	19.31	21.37	13.95	18.64	13.45	-	3.43				
$MAE/N_e$	1.58	1.71	1.07	1.53	1.03	-	0.29				
HOMO (IP)											
MAE [eV]	6.17	1.78	0.51	1.81	0.50	0.90	0.66				
MARE [%]	38.03	11.54	3.26	11.68	3.17	5.67	4.43				
LUMO											
MAE [eV]	4.04	1.66	0.91	1.65	0.85	1.30	0.64				
MARE [%]	111.49	45.01	27.94	44.57	26.07	36.70	19.77				
			HOMO-LUMO	Energy Gap							
MAE [eV]	1.11	1.14	0.39	1.13	0.39	0.64	0.22				
MARE [%]	8.38	10.96	4.50	10.76	4.46	6.56	1.91				

<sup>*a*</sup> For the ICDD of eq 10, we report the mean absolute error (MAE) in units of  $10^{-2}$ , and the MAE weighted with the number of electrons (MAE/  $N_e = [\sum_{i}^{M} \text{ICDD}_i / (N_e)_i)]/M$ , where  $(N_e)_i$  is the number of electrons of the *i*-th system and M = 14 is the total number of systems). In case of HOMO, LUMO and HOMO–LUMO gaps results, we report additionally the mean absolute RE (MARE) calculated with respect to the reference data.<sup>47,94</sup>

strength interpolation method.<sup>78</sup> Note that the GGA–OEPx correlation potential of eq 9 is a stray potential (is not a functional derivative of any correctly defined correlation energy functional), failing the line-integral test proposed in ref 81. This fact gives severe limitations, such as for electronic excitation calculations.<sup>82</sup> However, most of model XC potentials that are very useful in DFT calculations (e.g., Becke–Johnson potential and its modifications<sup>83–85</sup>) are not functional derivatives.<sup>81</sup>

In Figure 4, we compare the correlation potentials of  $v_c^{\text{PBE}}$  and  $-v_c^{\text{PBE}}$  with high-level Ab Initio OEP2-sc method and the CCSD(T) reference curve. Indeed,  $v_c^{\text{GGA-OEPx}}$  can remarkably reproduce the features of the exact correlation potential, with the exception of the inherent GGA divergence at the nucleus. Nevertheless, comparing to the hybrid functionals behavior of Figure 2, we observe a less prominent description of the quantum oscillations, especially for the CO molecule, but with a better performance in the density tail region (the decay is similar to the one of  $\omega$ PBE hybrid potential).

Next, in Figure 5, we show the correlation density  $\Delta \rho_c(\mathbf{r})$ obtained from the self-consistent OEPx method combined with  $\nu_c^{\text{GGA-OEPx}}$  correlation potential (denoted as OEPx-PBEc/ACSC) and also (for comparison) with standard PBEc/ ACSC potentials (denoted as OEPx + PBEc/ACSC). The OEPx-PBEc and OEPx-ACSC methods give the right shapes of the correlation densities (reported for ACSC in ref 33) with exception of nucleus region, while both OEPx + PBEc and OEPx + ACSC fail badly. The compatibility between semilocal correlation functionals and the EXX is one of the most difficult DFT challenges.<sup>50,51,86-88</sup> Even the sophisticated meta-GGA non-empirical correlation functionals, developed to satisfy many constraints of the exact correlation energy, do not perform better than simple GGAs for various molecular properties,<sup>89,90</sup> and the reason behind that seems to be intimately related to the shape of their OEP-based correlation potentials which basically is GGA quality.<sup>91</sup> (In Figure S1 of ref 33, we show for Ne atom that the  $\nu_{xc}^{92}$  of PBE GGA, TPSS meta-GGA, and SCAN meta-GGA agree closely. All these semilocal functionals give accurate densities,<sup>93</sup> see also Figure S2 of ref 33, because of a large error cancellation between exchange and correlation parts, as proved in Figure S3 of ref 33.). In this respect, we recall that very complex, non-local, and

orbital-dependent hyper-GGA correlation functionals have been developed,<sup>87,88</sup> with the aim to be compatible with full EXX, but still they do not achieve good overall accuracy.

To quantify the method accuracy, we consider several small atoms and molecules (He, Ne, Ar, H<sub>2</sub>, He<sub>2</sub>, HF, CO, Cl<sub>2</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>, Ne<sub>2</sub>, HCl, H<sub>2</sub>O, NH<sub>3</sub>, and C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>6</sub>) used in our previous studies, <sup>9,48</sup> and we calculate

• the integrated correlation density differences (ICDDs) defined as

$$\text{ICDD} = \int |\delta\rho_{c}^{\text{method}}(\mathbf{r}) - \delta\rho_{c}^{\text{CCSD}(T)}(\mathbf{r})|dr \qquad (10)$$

where  $\delta \rho_c^{\text{method}}(\mathbf{r}) = \rho^{\text{method}}(\mathbf{r}) - \rho^{\text{xref}}(\mathbf{r})$ , and xref denotes the corresponding exchange method. ICDDs provide a direct test of the quality of the correlation potential.<sup>9,48</sup> Note that  $\delta \rho_c$  is a generalization of  $\Delta \rho_c$ ;

- the energy of the highest occupied molecular orbital (HOMO), and we compare it with the results from ref 47
- the energy of the lowest unoccupied molecular orbital (LUMO), and we use the CCSD(T) results as reference values.<sup>94</sup>
- the HOMO-LUMO gap energies, considering the CCSD(T) results as refs 94 and 95

The full results are reported in ref 33, while in Table 1, we summarize them showing the error statistics. The  $v_x^{OEP} + v_c^{GGA-OEPx}$  method gives a significant and systematic improvement over the  $v_x^{OEP}$ ,  $v_x^{OEP} + v_c^{GGA}$  and PBE, for all the properties, but it is not as accurate as the high-level Ab Initio OEP2-sc method, with exception of the HOMO energies where it gives the best performance. The ACSC results are in line with the PBEc ones. Somehow, this was expected because the ACSC construction is based on PBE functional.<sup>78</sup> Similar trends can also be observed for HOMO and HOMO–LUMO gap energies (see Tables S5 and S6 of ref 33) obtained with Becke–Johnson potential<sup>83</sup> combined with PBEc and  $v_c^{GGA-OEPx}$  correlation potentials. This can be important from the standpoint of further application of the potential model in solid-state calculations.

To assess in detail the performance of these functionals, we show in Figure 6 the correlation plots for HOMO and



**Figure 3.** Correlation densities  $\Delta \rho_c = \rho^{\text{method}} - \rho^{\text{EXX}}$ , of the Ne and Ar atoms and CO molecule for various methods. The reference CCSD(T) correlation density was calculated with respect to HF density as  $\Delta \rho_c = \rho^{\text{CCSD}(T)} - \rho^{\text{HF}}$ .

HOMO-LUMO gap energies, respectively, calculated with respect to reference data. For all the benchmark systems, OEPx-PBEc is remarkably accurate despite its simplicity.

We note that even for the exact HOMO–LUMO gap energy, one needs to add the uniform shift  $\Delta$  because of derivative discontinuity of the KS potential when the particle number changes, in order to obtain the band gap energy  $E_{\rm g}$ .<sup>96</sup> The derivative discontinuity can be rigorously taken into account by perturbation theory methods<sup>97</sup> but can also be modeled by non-local potentials of the generalized KS, in both hybrid<sup>98,99</sup> and meta-GGA calculations,<sup>84,85,100</sup> and, to some extent, even by the semilocal GGA potentials.<sup>101</sup>

# 5. CONCLUSIONS

We have shown that the correlation potential/densities of the OEP-based hybrid functionals can reproduce the quantum



pubs.acs.org/JPCA

Figure 4. Correlation potentials for the He and Ne atoms and CO molecule. The reference KS[CCSD(T)] have been obtained using method from ref 41.

shell oscillations of the high-level reference CCSD(T) correlation potential/densities, providing an alternative but very physical explanation on the success of this type of functionals. The presented analysis might shed some light on how to overcome some current DFT limitations and face challenges, as described in ref 102. Thus, for example, using the reverse engineering method, one can build more accurate hybrid XC functionals by fixing the functional parameters (e.g., the mixing fraction of EXX), eventually using the machine learning techniques,<sup>103</sup> to give the optimum OEP correlation potential.

We have also explained the error cancellation between the semilocal exchange and correlation functionals. Thus, as in the case of popular PBE GGA,<sup>14</sup> even if both exchange  $(E_x)$  and correlation  $(E_c)$  energies are very accurate for a given system, still only the XC potential is realistic, while the correlation potential is out of phase. Based on these considerations, we

Article



Figure 5. Correlation densities for the He and Ne atoms and CO molecule. The reference CCSD(T) correlation density was calculated with respect to HF density as  $\Delta \rho_c = \rho^{\text{CCSD}(T)} - \rho^{\text{HF}}$ .

have shown that the OEPx-PBEc potential method gives an outstanding performance in spite of its simplicity, showing accurate correlation densities and orbital energies.

Semilocal correlation potential models compatible with OEPx are of utmost theoretical and computational importance, having the ability to become the next generation method in electronic structure calculations.<sup>104</sup> The simplicity of the semilocal correlation potential combined with the almost-exact description of the many-electron self-interaction given by OEP EXX can be of high interest for solid-state applications.

In this sense, the here developed  $\nu_c^{\text{GGA-OEPx}}$  may open such a path, but more accurate potential models can be built considering exact conditions on correlation potentials (including derivative discontinuity problem<sup>96,101</sup>), and right semilocal ingredients, such as the Laplacian of the density ( $\nabla^2 \rho$ ), which is crucial for describing various quantum oscillations<sup>105</sup> and to impose exact properties in the bond and core regions.<sup>106,107</sup>



Figure 6. Correlation plots for HOMO energies (upper panel) and HOMO-LUMO gap energies (lower panel).

## ASSOCIATED CONTENT

#### **Supporting Information**

The Supporting Information is available free of charge at https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acs.jpca.0c04156.

Data of all calculations and accompanying statistical analysis and additional figures and tables (PDF)

#### AUTHOR INFORMATION

#### **Corresponding Author**

Szymon Smiga – Institute of Physics, Faculty of Physics, Astronomy and Informatics, Nicolaus Copernicus University, 87-100 Toruń, Poland; o orcid.org/0000-0002-5941-5409; Email: szsmiga@fizyka.umk.pl

#### Author

Lucian A. Constantin – Center for Biomolecular Nanotechnologies@UNILE, Istituto Italiano di Tecnologia (IIT), 73010 Arnesano (LE), Italy; Istituto di Nanoscienze, Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche CNR-NANO, 41125 Modena, Italy; <sup>©</sup> orcid.org/0000-0001-8923-3203

Complete contact information is available at: https://pubs.acs.org/10.1021/acs.jpca.0c04156

#### Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We thank Dr. Zeng-hui Yang for providing us data for Figure S1 of ref 33. S.S thanks the Polish National Science Center for the partial financial support under grant no. 2016/21/D/ST4/00903.

pubs.acs.org/JPCA

#### REFERENCES

- (1) Kohn, W.; Sham, L. J. Self-consistent equations including exchange and correlation effects. *Phys. Rev.* **1965**, *140*, A1133.
- (2) Hohenberg, P.; Kohn, W. Inhomogeneous electron gas. *Phys. Rev.* **1964**, 136, B864.

(3) Constantin, L. A.; Fabiano, E.; Śmiga, S.; Della Sala, F. Jelliumwith-gap model applied to semilocal kinetic functionals. *Phys. Rev. B* **2017**, *95*, 115153.

(4) Constantin, L. A.; Fabiano, E.; Della Sala, F. Semilocal Pauli-Gaussian Kinetic Functionals for Orbital-Free Density Functional Theory Calculations of Solids. *J. Phys. Chem. Lett.* **2018**, *9*, 4385–4390.

(5) Śmiga, S.; Siecińska, S.; Fabiano, E. Methods to generate reference total and Pauli kinetic potentials. *Phys. Rev. B* **2020**, *101*, 165144.

(6) Scuseria, G. E.; Staroverov, V. N. Progress in the development of exchange-correlation functionals. In *Theory and Applications of Computational Chemistry*; Elsevier, 2005; pp 669–724.

(7) Della Sala, F.; Fabiano, E.; Constantin, L. A. Kinetic-energydensity dependent semilocal exchange-correlation functionals. *Int. J. Quantum Chem.* **2016**, *116*, 1641–1694.

(8) Grabowski, I.; Teale, A. M.; Śmiga, S.; Bartlett, R. J. Comparing ab initio density-functional and wave function theories: The impact of correlation on the electronic density and the role of the correlation potential. *J. Chem. Phys.* **2011**, *135*, 114111.

(9) Grabowski, I.; Teale, A. M.; Fabiano, E.; Śmiga, S.; Buksztel, A.; Sala, F. D. A density difference based analysis of orbital-dependent exchange-correlation functionals. *Mol. Phys.* **2014**, *112*, 700–710.

(10) Levy, M. Mathematical thoughts in DFT. Int. J. Quantum Chem. 2016, 116, 802–804.

(11) Buksztel, A.; Smiga, S.; Grabowski, I. The Correlation Effects in Density Functional Theory Along the Dissociation Path. *Advances in Quantum Chemistry*; Elsevier, 2016; Vol.73; pp 263–283.

(12) Chiodo, L.; Constantin, L. A.; Fabiano, E.; Della Sala, F. Nonuniform scaling applied to surface energies of transition metals. *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **2012**, *108*, 126402.

(13) Vega, L.; Ruvireta, J.; Viñes, F.; Illas, F. Jacob's Ladder as Sketched by Escher: Assessing the Performance of Broadly Used Density Functionals on Transition Metal Surface Properties. *J. Chem. Theory Comput.* **2017**, *14*, 395–403.

(14) Perdew, J. P.; Burke, K.; Ernzerhof, M. Generalized gradient approximation made simple. *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **1996**, *77*, 3865–3868.

(15) Wood, B.; Hine, N.; Foulkes, W.; García-González, P. Quantum Monte Carlo calculations of the surface energy of an electron gas. *Phys. Rev. B: Condens. Matter Mater. Phys.* **200**7, *76*, 035403.

(16) Pitarke, J.; Eguiluz, A. Jellium surface energy beyond the localdensity approximation: Self-consistent-field calculations. *Phys. Rev. B: Condens. Matter Mater. Phys.* **2001**, *63*, 045116.

(17) Schmidt, T.; Kümmel, S. One-and many-electron selfinteraction error in local and global hybrid functionals. *Phys. Rev. B* **2016**, *93*, 165120.

(18) Savin, A. On Degeneracy, Near Degeneracy and Density Functional Theory. In *Recent Developments of Modern Density Functional Theory*; Seminario, J. M., Ed.; Elsevier: Amsterdam, 1996; pp 327–357.

(19) Toulouse, J.; Colonna, F.; Savin, A. Long-range-short-range separation of the electron-electron interaction in density-functional theory. *Phys. Rev. A* **2004**, *70*, 062505.

(20) Toulouse, J.; Savin, A.; Flad, H.-J. r. Short-range exchangecorrelation energy of a uniform electron gas with modified electronelectron interaction. *Int. J. Quantum Chem.* **2004**, *100*, 1047.

(21) Toulouse, J.; Colonna, F.; Savin, A. Short-range exchange and correlation energy density functionals: Beyond the local-density approximation. *J. Chem. Phys.* **2005**, *122*, 014110.

(22) Paziani, S.; Moroni, S.; Gori-Giorgi, P.; Bachelet, G. B. Localspin-density functional for multideterminant density functional theory. *Phys. Rev. B: Condens. Matter Mater. Phys.* **2006**, *73*, 155111.

(23) Goll, E.; Werner, H.-J.; Stoll, H.; Leininger, T.; Gori-Giorgi, P.; Savin, A. A short-range gradient-corrected spin density functional in combination with long-range coupled-cluster methods: Application to alkali-metal rare-gas dimers. *Chem. Phys.* **2006**, *329*, 276.

(24) Fritsche, L. Generalized Kohn-Sham theory for electronic excitations in realistic systems. *Phys. Rev. B: Condens. Matter Mater. Phys.* **1986**, 33, 3976–3989.

(25) Seidl, A.; Görling, A.; Vogl, P.; Majewski, J. A.; Levy, M. Generalized Kohn-Sham schemes and the band-gap problem. *Phys. Rev. B: Condens. Matter Mater. Phys.* **1996**, *53*, 3764.

(26) Sharp, R. T.; Horton, G. K. A Variational Approach to the Unipotential Many-Electron Problem. *Phys. Rev.* **1953**, *90*, 317.

(27) Talman, J. D.; Shadwick, W. F. Optimized effective atomic central potential. *Phys. Rev. A* 1976, 14, 36-40.

(28) Norman, M. R.; Koelling, D. D. Towards a Kohn-Sham potential via the optimized effective-potential method. *Phys. Rev. B: Condens. Matter Mater. Phys.* **1984**, *30*, 5530–5540.

(29) Kümmel, S.; Kronik, L. Orbital-dependent density functionals: Theory and applications. *Rev. Mod. Phys.* **2008**, *80*, 3.

(30) Arbuznikov, A. V. Hybrid exchange correlation functionals and potentials: Concept elaboration. *J. Struct. Chem.* **2007**, *48*, S1–S31.

(31) Śmiga, S.; Franck, O.; Mussard, B.; Buksztel, A.; Grabowski, I.; Luppi, E.; Toulouse, J. Self-consistent double-hybrid density-functional theory using the optimized-effective-potential method. *J. Chem. Phys.* **2016**, *145*, 144102.

(32) Śmiga, S.; Grabowski, I.; Witkowski, M.; Mussard, B.; Toulouse, J. Self-Consistent Range-Separated Density-Functional Theory with Second-Order Perturbative Correction via the Optimized-Effective-Potential Method. J. Chem. Theory Comput. 2020, 16, 211–223.

(33) Śmiga, S.; Constantin, L. A. Supporting Information.

(34) Kim, J.; Hong, K.; Hwang, S.-Y.; Ryu, S.; Choi, S.; Kim, W. Y. Effects of the locality of a potential derived from hybrid density functionals on Kohn-Sham orbitals and excited states. *Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.* **2017**, *19*, 10177–10186.

(35) Levy, M.; Perdew, J. P. Hellmann-Feynman, virial, and scaling requisites for the exact universal density functionals. Shape of the correlation potential and diamagnetic susceptibility for atoms. *Phys. Rev. A* **1985**, *32*, 2010–2021.

(36) Krieger, J. B.; Li, Y. Derivation and application of an accurate Kohn-Sham potential with integer discontinuity. *Phys. Lett. A* **1990**, *146*, 256–260.

(37) Görling, A.; Levy, M. DFT ionization formulas and DFT perturbation theory for exchange and correlation. Through adiabatic connection. *Int. J. Quantum Chem.* **1995**, *56*, 93–108.

(38) Grabowski, I.; Hirata, S.; Ivanov, S.; Bartlett, R. J. Ab initio density functional theory: OEP-MBPT(2). A new orbital-dependent correlation functional. *J. Chem. Phys.* **2002**, *116*, 4415–4425.

(39) Della Sala, F. Orbital-dependent exact-exchange methods in density functional theory. In *Chemical Modelling*; Springborg, M., Ed.; Royal Society of Chemistry: London, U.K., 2011; Vol. 7, pp 115–161. (40) Engel, E. Orbital-dependent functional for the Exchange-Correlation Energy: A Third Generation of DFT. In *A Primer in Density Functional Theory*; Fiolhais, C., Nogueira, F., Marques, M. A., Eds.; Springer: Berlin, 2003.

(41) Wu, Q.; Yang, W. A direct optimization method for calculating density functionals and exchange-correlation potentials from electron densities. *J. Chem. Phys.* **2003**, *118*, 2498–2509.

(42) Becke, A. D. Density-functional thermochemistry. III. The role of exact exchange. J. Chem. Phys. **1993**, 98, 5648–5652.

(43) Adamo, C.; Barone, V. Toward reliable density functional methods without adjustable parameters: The PBE0 model. *J. Chem. Phys.* **1999**, *110*, 6158–6170.

(44) Weintraub, E.; Henderson, T. M.; Scuseria, G. E. Long-Range-Corrected Hybrids Based on a New Model Exchange Hole. *J. Chem. Theory Comput.* **2009**, *5*, 754–762.

(45) Goll, E.; Werner, H.-J.; Stoll, H. A short-range gradientcorrected density functional in long-range coupled-cluster calculations for rare gas dimers. *Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.* **2005**, *7*, 3917–3923.

(46) Stanton, J. F.; et al. ACES II; Quantum Theory Project: Gainesville, Florida, 2007.

pubs.acs.org/JPCA

(47) Śmiga, S.; Della Sala, F.; Buksztel, A.; Grabowski, I.; Fabiano, E. Accurate Kohn-Sham ionization potentials from scaled-opposite-spin second-order optimized effective potential methods. *J. Comput. Chem.* **2016**, *37*, 2081–2090.

(48) Grabowski, I.; Fabiano, E.; Teale, A. M.; Śmiga, S.; Buksztel, A.; Sala, F. D. Orbital-dependent second-order scaled-opposite-spin correlation functionals in the optimized effective potential method. *J. Chem. Phys.* **2014**, *141*, 024113.

(49) Fabiano, E.; Śmiga, S.; Giarrusso, S.; Daas, T. J.; Della Sala, F.; Grabowski, I.; Gori-Giorgi, P. Investigation of the Exchange-Correlation Potentials of Functionals Based on the Adiabatic Connection Interpolation. *J. Chem. Theory Comput.* **2019**, *15*, 1006–1015.

(50) Görling, A. New KS method for molecules based on an exchange charge density generating the exact local KS exchange potential. *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **1999**, *83*, 5459–5462.

(51) Ivanov, S.; Hirata, S.; Bartlett, R. J. Exact exchange treatment for molecules in finite-basis-set Kohn-Sham theory. *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **1999**, 83, 5455–5458.

(52) Hirata, S.; Ivanov, S.; Grabowski, I.; Bartlett, R. J.; Burke, K.; Talman, J. D. Can optimized effective potentials be determined uniquely? *J. Chem. Phys.* **2001**, *115*, 1635–1649.

(53) Ivanov, S.; Hirata, S.; Bartlett, R. J. Finite-basis-set optimized effective potential exchange-only method. J. Chem. Phys. 2002, 116, 1269–1276.

(54) Widmark, P.-O.; Malmqvist, P. k.; Roos, B. r. O. Density matrix averaged atomic natural orbital (ANO) basis sets for correlated molecular wave functions. *Theor. Chim. Acta* **1990**, *77*, 291–306.

(55) Peterson, K. A.; Dunning, T. H. Accurate correlation consistent basis sets for molecular core-valence correlation effects: The second row atoms Al-Ar, and the first row atoms B-Ne revisited. *J. Chem. Phys.* **2002**, *117*, 10548–10560.

(56) Dunning, T. H. Gaussian basis sets for use in correlated molecular calculations. I. The atoms boron through neon and hydrogen. *J. Chem. Phys.* **1989**, *90*, 1007–1023.

(57) Herzberg, G. Spectra of Diatomic Molecules; Van Nostrand Reinhold Co.: Princeton. N.J., 1970.

(58) Boucier, S. Spectroscopic Data Relative to Diatomic Molecules. Tables of Constants and Numerical Data; Pergainon Press: Elmsford, N.Y., 1970; Vol. 17.

(59) Callonion, J. H.; Hirota, E.; Kuchitsu, K. .; Lafferty, W. J.; Maki, A. G.; Pote, C. S. Numerical Data and Function Relationships in Science and Technology. In *Structure Data on Free Polyatomic Molecules*; Springer-Verlag: West Berlin, 1976; Vol. 7.

(60) Bartlett, R. J.; Grabowski, I.; Hirata, S.; Ivanov, S. The exchange-correlation potential inab initiodensity functional theory. *J. Chem. Phys.* **2005**, *122*, 034104.

(61) Śmiga, S.; Marusiak, V.; Grabowski, I.; Fabiano, E. The ab initio density functional theory applied for spin-polarized calculations. *J. Chem. Phys.* **2020**, *152*, 054109.

(62) Raghavachari, K.; Trucks, G. W.; Pople, J. A.; Head-Gordon, M. A fifth-order perturbation comparison of electron correlation theories. *Chem. Phys. Lett.* **1989**, *157*, 479–483.

(63) Handy, N. C.; Schaefer, H. F. On the evaluation of analytic energy derivatives for correlated wave functions. *J. Chem. Phys.* **1984**, *81*, 5031–5033.

(64) Rice, J. E.; Zenser, T. V. On the efficient evaluation of analytic energy gradients. *Chem. Phys. Lett.* **1985**, *122*, 585–590.

(65) Davis, R. J. Analytical evaluation of gradients in coupled-cluster and many-body perturbation theory. In *Geometrical Derivatives of Energy Surfaces and Molecular Properties*; Jørgensen, P., Simons, J., Eds.; Reidel: Dordecht, The Netherlands, 1986; pp 35–61.

(66) Salter, E. A.; Trucks, G. W.; Bartlett, R. J. Analytic energy derivatives in many-body methods. I. First derivatives. *J. Chem. Phys.* **1989**, *90*, 1752–1766.

(67) Helgaker, T.; Jørgensen, P. Configuration-interaction energy derivatives in a fully variational formulation. *Theor. Chim. Acta* **1989**, 75, 111–127.

(68) Jørgensen, P.; Helgaker, T. Møller-Plesset energy derivatives. J. Chem. Phys. **1988**, 89, 1560–1570.

(69) Koch, H.; Jensen, H. J. r. A.; Jørgensen, P.; Helgaker, T.; Scuseria, G. E.; Schaefer, H. F., III Coupled cluster energy derivatives. Analytic Hessian for the closed-shell coupled cluster singles and doubles wave function: Theory and applications. *J. Chem. Phys.* **1990**, *92*, 4924.

(70) Hald, K.; Halkier, A.; Jørgensen, P.; Coriani, S.; Hättig, C.; Helgaker, T. A Lagrangian, integral-density direct formulation and implementation of the analytic CCSD and CCSD(T) gradients. *J. Chem. Phys.* **2003**, *118*, 2985.

(71) Śmiga, S.; Buksztel, A.; Grabowski, I. Chapter 7 - Density-Dependent Exchange-Correlation Potentials Derived From highly Accurate Ab initio Calculations. In *Proceedings of MEST 2012: Electronic Structure Methods with Applications to Experimental Chemistry*; Hoggan, P., Ed.; Advances in Quantum Chemistry; Academic Press, 2014; Vol. 68; pp 125–151.

(72) Becke, A. D. Density-functional exchange-energy approximation with correct asymptotic behavior. *Phys. Rev. A* **1988**, *38*, 3098– 3100.

(73) Perdew, J. P.; Ernzerhof, M.; Burke, K. Rationale for mixing exact exchange with density functional approximations. *J. Chem. Phys.* **1996**, *105*, 9982–9985.

(74) Tao, J.; Staroverov, V. N.; Scuseria, G. E.; Perdew, J. P. Exactexchange energy density in the gauge of a semilocal density-functional approximation. *Phys. Rev. A* **2008**, *77*, 012509.

(75) Iikura, H.; Tsuneda, T.; Yanai, T.; Hirao, K. A long-range correction scheme for generalized-gradient-approximation exchange functionals. *J. Chem. Phys.* **2001**, *115*, 3540–3544.

(76) Tawada, Y.; Tsuneda, T.; Yanagisawa, S.; Yanai, T.; Hirao, K. A long-range-corrected time-dependent density functional theory. *J. Chem. Phys.* **2004**, *120*, 8425–8433.

(77) Gerber, I. C.; Angyán, J. G.; Marsman, M.; Kresse, G. Range separated hybrid density functional with long-range Hartree-Fock exchange applied to solids. *J. Chem. Phys.* **2007**, *127*, 054101.

(78) Constantin, L. A. Correlation energy functionals from adiabatic connection formalism. *Phys. Rev. B* **2019**, *99*, 085117.

(79) Neese, F. Prediction of molecular properties and molecular spectroscopy with density functional theory: From fundamental theory to exchange-coupling. *Coord. Chem. Rev.* **2009**, *253*, 526–563.

(80) Bartlett, R. J.; Schweigert, I. V.; Lotrich, V. F. Ab initio DFT: getting the right answer for the right reason. *J. Mol. Struct.: THEOCHEM* **2006**, 771, 1–8.

(81) Gaiduk, A. P.; Staroverov, V. N. How to tell when a model Kohn-Sham potential is not a functional derivative. *J. Chem. Phys.* **2009**, *131*, 044107.

(82) Karolewski, A.; Armiento, R.; Kümmel, S. Electronic excitations and the Becke-Johnson potential: The need for and the problem of transforming model potentials to functional derivatives. *Phys. Rev. A* **2013**, *88*, 052519.

(83) Becke, A. D.; Johnson, E. R. A simple effective potential for exchange. J. Chem. Phys. 2006, 124, 221101.

(84) Tran, F.; Blaha, P. Accurate band gaps of semiconductors and insulators with a semilocal exchange-correlation potential. *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **2009**, *102*, 226401.

(85) Patra, A.; Jana, S.; Myneni, H.; Samal, P. Laplacian free and asymptotic corrected semilocal exchange potential applied to the band gap of solids. *Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.* **2019**, *21*, 19639–19650.

(86) Bylander, D. M.; Kleinman, L. Energy Gaps and Cohesive Energy of Ge from the Optimized Effective Potential. *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **1995**, *74*, 3660–3663.

(87) Perdew, J. P.; Staroverov, V. N.; Tao, J.; Scuseria, G. E. Density functional with full exact exchange, balanced nonlocality of correlation, and constraint satisfaction. *Phys. Rev. A* **2008**, *78*, 052513. (88) Becke, A. D.; Johnson, E. R. A unified density-functional treatment of dynamical, nondynamical, and dispersion correlations. *J. Chem. Phys.* **2007**, *127*, 124108.

(89) Fabiano, E.; Trevisanutto, P. E.; Terentjevs, A.; Constantin, L. A. Generalized gradient approximation correlation energy functionals

based on the uniform electron gas with gap model. J. Chem. Theory Comput. 2014, 10, 2016–2026.

(90) Constantin, L. A.; Fabiano, E.; Sala, F. D. Spin-dependent gradient correction for more accurate atomization energies of molecules. *J. Chem. Phys.* **2012**, *137*, 194105.

(91) Kananenka, A. A.; Kohut, S. V.; Gaiduk, A. P.; Ryabinkin, I. G.; Staroverov, V. N. Efficient construction of exchange and correlation potentials by inverting the Kohn-Sham equations. *J. Chem. Phys.* **2013**, *139*, 074112.

(92) Yang, Z.-h.; Peng, H.; Sun, J.; Perdew, J. P. More realistic band gaps from meta-generalized gradient approximations: Only in a generalized Kohn-Sham scheme. *Phys. Rev. B* **2016**, *93*, 205205.

(93) Medvedev, M. G.; Bushmarinov, I. S.; Sun, J.; Perdew, J. P.; Lyssenko, K. A. Density functional theory is straying from the path toward the exact functional. *Science* **2017**, 355, 49–52.

(94) The reference results are obtained using method from ref 41 and CCSD(T) density. The computational setup is identical as in refs 9 and 48.

(95) Pearson, R. G. Chemical hardness and density functional theory. J. Chem. Sci. 2005, 117, 369–377.

(96) Hodgson, M. J. P.; Kraisler, E.; Schild, A.; Gross, E. K. U. How Interatomic Steps in the Exact Kohn-Sham Potential Relate to Derivative Discontinuities of the Energy. *J. Phys. Chem. Lett.* **2017**, *8*, 5974–5980.

(97) Shishkin, M.; Marsman, M.; Kresse, G. Accurate quasiparticle spectra from self-consistent GW calculations with vertex corrections. *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **200**7, *99*, 246403.

(98) Krukau, A. V.; Vydrov, O. A.; Izmaylov, A. F.; Scuseria, G. E. Influence of the exchange screening parameter on the performance of screened hybrid functionals. *J. Chem. Phys.* **2006**, *125*, 224106.

(99) Jana, S.; Patra, A.; Constantin, L. A.; Samal, P. Screened rangeseparated hybrid by balancing the compact and slowly varying density regimes: Satisfaction of local density linear response. *J. Chem. Phys.* **2020**, *152*, 044111.

(100) Patra, B.; Jana, S.; Constantin, L. A.; Samal, P. Relevance of the Pauli kinetic energy density for semilocal functionals. *Phys. Rev. B* **2019**, *100*, 155140.

(101) Armiento, R.; Kümmel, S. Orbital localization, charge transfer, and band gaps in semilocal density-functional theory. *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **2013**, *111*, 036402.

(102) Cohen, A. J.; Mori-Sánchez, P.; Yang, W. Challenges for Density Functional Theory. *Chem. Rev.* **2012**, *112*, 289–320.

(103) Faber, F. A.; Hutchison, L.; Huang, B.; Gilmer, J.; Schoenholz, S. S.; Dahl, G. E.; Vinyals, O.; Kearnes, S.; Riley, P. F.; Von Lilienfeld, O. A. Prediction errors of molecular machine learning models lower than hybrid DFT error. *J. Chem. Theory Comput.* **2017**, *13*, 5255–5264.

(104) Becke, A. D. Perspective: Fifty years of density-functional theory in chemical physics. J. Chem. Phys. 2014, 140, 18A301.

(105) Yang, W.; Parr, R. G.; Lee, C. Various functionals for the kinetic energy density of an atom or molecule. *Phys. Rev. A* **1986**, *34*, 4586.

(106) Śmiga, S.; Fabiano, E.; Constantin, L. A.; Della Sala, F. Laplacian-dependent models of the kinetic energy density: Applications in subsystem density functional theory with meta-generalized gradient approximation functionals. *J. Chem. Phys.* **201**7, *146*, 064105.

(107) Smiga, S.; Constantin, L. A.; Della Sala, F.; Fabiano, E. The Role of the Reduced Laplacian Renormalization in the Kinetic Energy Functional Development. *Computation* **2019**, *7*, 65.