# Improved algorithms for learning quantum Hamiltonians, via flat polynomials

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## **Abstract**

We give an improved algorithm for learning a quantum Hamiltonian given copies of its Gibbs state, that can succeed at any temperature. Specifically, we improve over the work of Bakshi, Liu, Moitra, and Tang (2024), by reducing the sample complexity and runtime dependence to singly exponential in the inverse-temperature parameter, as opposed to doubly exponential. Our main technical contribution is a new flat polynomial approximation to the exponential function, with significantly lower degree than the flat polynomial approximation used in Bakshi et al. (2024).

**Keywords:** Quantum learning, polynomials, approximation theory

#### 1. Introduction

Hamiltonian learning is an important problem at the intersection of quantum algorithms and quantum machine learning. The goal of Hamiltonian learning is to estimate the Hamiltonian of a quantum system given multiple independent copies of its Gibbs state. This problem has been well-studied, with many theoretical and experimental works (e.g., Wiebe et al. (2014); Wang et al. (2017); Bairey et al. (2019); Evans et al. (2019); Anshu et al. (2020); Bakshi et al. (2024)). This problem also has applications to areas including superconductivity and condensed matter physics (see Bakshi et al. (2024) for further discussion).

The Hamiltonian learning problem that we study can be roughly viewed as follows. Suppose we have n interacting qubits. The goal is to (approximately) learn the Hamiltonian  $H = \sum \lambda_a E_a \in \mathbb{C}^{2^n \times 2^n}$ , where we assume each interaction term  $E_a$  is known and each  $\lambda_a$  represents the strength of the corresponding interaction (see Definitions 2 and 3). We assume we can sample multiple i.i.d. copies from the Gibbs state  $\rho \propto e^{-\beta \cdot H}$ , where  $\beta$  is the inverse temperature. The goal is to, using as few copies and/or as little time as possible, approximately learn the Hamiltonian matrix H, which amounts to estimating each parameter  $\lambda_a$  if the interaction terms  $E_a$  are known.

For general interactions of qubits, this problem can be intractable. To combat this, we assume (as in Haah et al. (2022); Bakshi et al. (2024)) that H is what is called a *low-interaction* Hamiltonian (see Definition 4). This can, for instance, capture the interactions of qubits on a lattice of any constant number of dimensions.

**Prior work:** There has been substantial previous work towards the question of learning H from copies of the Gibbs state.

Consider a system of n qubits with m interaction terms  $E_a$  and interaction strengths  $\lambda_a$ , at inverse temperature  $\beta$ . Anshu, Arunachalam, Kuwahara, and Soleimanifar (2020) proved that one can learn each term  $\lambda_a$  up to error  $\varepsilon$ , using only  $\frac{e^{\text{poly}(\beta)} \cdot m^3 \log m}{\beta^{O(1)} \varepsilon^2}$  copies, but with a computationally inefficient algorithm. A follow-up work by the same authors (Anshu et al., 2021) gave an efficient

algorithm, but only when the interaction terms all commute with each other. Returning to the general case (i.e., the interaction terms do not necessarily commute), a subsequent work by Haah, Kothari, and Tang (2022) proved that, if  $\beta < \beta_c$  for some critical threshold  $\beta_c$ , there is an algorithm that works with  $\frac{\log m}{\beta^2 \varepsilon^2}$  copies and  $\frac{m \log m}{\beta^2 \varepsilon^2}$  time.

However, the question of whether a polynomial-time algorithm for learning quantum Hamiltonians at lower temperature (i.e.,  $\beta > \beta_c$ ) was still open. Bakshi, Liu, Moitra, and Tang (2024) resolved this question, by proving that for any fixed constant  $\beta_c > 0$ , there is an algorithm that requires poly  $\left(m, (1/\varepsilon)^{e^{O(\beta)}}\right)$  samples and time for all  $\beta \geq \beta_c$ . While this implies a polynomial-time algorithm for any fixed temperature  $\beta$ , the doubly ex-

While this implies a polynomial-time algorithm for any fixed temperature  $\beta$ , the doubly exponential dependence on  $\beta$  is somewhat unfortunate. While an  $e^{O(\beta)}$  dependence is known to be necessary (Haah et al., 2022), there is no inherent reason that an algorithm at low temperature must require a doubly-exponential dependence on  $\beta$ . Indeed, Bakshi et al. (2024) ask the following as their main open question.

**Question 1** *Is it possible to achieve a polynomial-time algorithm for learning quantum Hamiltoni-* ans with runtime that is only singly exponential in  $\beta$ ?

**Our work.** In this work, we resolve this problem by proving that there exists an algorithm that only requires  $poly(m, (1/\varepsilon)^{O(\beta^2)})$  samples and time. Hence, we have reduced the dependence to only *singly* exponential, rather than *doubly* exponential, in  $\beta$ .

The high-level outline of the algorithm is in fact the same as Bakshi et al. (2024). The main bottleneck, however, in the work of Bakshi et al. (2024), was that their algorithm's runtime crucially depends exponentially on the degree of a certain "flat exponential approximation" polynomial. The degree of the polynomial they constructed was  $e^{O(\beta)} \cdot \log \frac{1}{\varepsilon}$ . Our main contribution is to construct a novel polynomial which satisfies the same flat exponential approximation guarantees (as well as some additional guarantees needed by Bakshi et al. (2024)), while having degree only  $O(\beta^2 \cdot \log \frac{1}{\varepsilon})$ .

# 1.1. Problem Statement

In this subsection, we formally define the problem that we are studying. We will formally state the main theorem in the next subsection. Before we define the problem, we first provide some background, by defining local terms, Hamiltonians, and low-intersection Hamiltonians.

First, we will set 
$$N=2^n$$
, and consider the space  $\mathbb{C}^N=\underbrace{\mathbb{C}^2\otimes\mathbb{C}^2\otimes\cdots\otimes\mathbb{C}^2}_{n \text{ times}}$ .

**Definition 2 (Local Term)** Fix a subset  $S \subset [n]$ , and consider a Hermitian matrix  $E \in \mathbb{C}^{2^{|S|} \times 2^{|S|}}$ . We can view E as a matrix in  $\mathbb{C}^{N \times N}$ , by taking the tensor product of E with the  $2 \times 2$  identity matrix  $I_2$  for all coordinates  $j \in [n] \setminus S$ .

We will call such a matrix  $E \in \mathbb{C}^{N \times N}$  a local term, and we define  $\mathrm{supp}(E)$  to be the corresponding set S.

**Definition 3 (Hamiltonian)** A Hamiltonian is a Hermitian matrix  $H \in \mathbb{C}^{N \times N}$  that can be written as linear combination of local terms  $E_a$  with associated coefficients  $\lambda_a$ , where a ranges from 1 to m. In other words,  $H = \sum_{a=1}^{m} \lambda_a E_a$ . For normalization purposes, we assume that  $|\lambda_a| \leq 1$  and  $||E_a||_{op} \leq 1$  for all  $a \in [m]$ .

Finally, we say that  $H = \sum_{a=1}^{m} \lambda_a E_a$  is  $\Re$ -local if every term  $E_a$  satisfies  $\operatorname{supp}(E_a) \leq \Re$ .

**Definition 4 (Low-interaction Hamiltonian (Haah et al., 2022))** For a Hamiltonian  $H = \sum_{a=1}^{m} \lambda_a E_a$  on a system of n qubits, its dual interaction graph  $\mathfrak{G}(H)$  is an undirected graph on [m], with an edge between  $a \neq b \in [m]$  if and only if  $\operatorname{supp}(E_a) \cap \operatorname{supp}(E_b) \neq \emptyset$ .

We say that  $H = \sum_{a=1}^{m} \lambda_a E_a$  is a low-interaction Hamiltonian if every  $E_a$  is  $\Re$ -local and if the maximum degree of the graph  $\mathfrak{G}(H)$  is some  $\mathfrak{d}$ , and  $\Re$ ,  $\mathfrak{d}$  are bounded by a fixed constant.

Finally, we are ready to define the formulation of Hamiltonian learning that we study.

**Problem 5** Let  $H = \sum_{a=1}^{m} \lambda_a E_a$  be a Hamiltonian on a system of n qubits, where the local terms  $E_a$  are known but the coefficients  $\lambda_a \in [-1,1]$  are unknown. Let  $\varepsilon, \beta > 0$  be some known parameters, corresponding to accuracy and inverse temperature, respectively.

Now, given  $\mathfrak n$  copies of the Gibbs state  $\rho = \frac{\exp(-\beta H)}{\operatorname{Tr}(\exp(-\beta H))}$ , the goal of Hamiltonian learning is to provide estimates  $\hat{\lambda}_a$  such that, with probability at least 2/3,  $|\hat{\lambda}_a - \lambda_a| \leq \varepsilon$  for all  $a \in [m]$ .

The goal is to solve this problem while minimizing  $\mathfrak n$  and the runtime of the algorithm providing the estimates.

We remark that the 2/3 probability is arbitrary: we can improve it to probability  $1 - \delta$  by a simple amplification trick, needing only  $\log(1/\delta)$  times as many samples and as much time.

#### 1.2. Main Theorem

We can now formally state our main theorem, which improves the best-known results for Problem 5.

**Theorem 6** Let  $H = \sum_{a=1}^m \lambda_a E_a \in \mathbb{C}^{N \times N}$  be a low-interaction Hamiltonian on n qubits (i.e., the locality  $\mathfrak R$  and maximum degree  $\mathfrak d$  of  $\mathfrak G(H)$  are bounded by some fixed constant). Given knowledge of  $E_a$ ,  $\varepsilon \in (0,1)$ , and  $\beta > 0$ , there is an algorithm that can output estimates  $\hat{\lambda}_a$ , such that  $|\hat{\lambda}_a - \lambda_a| \leq \varepsilon$  for all  $a \in [m]$ , with at least 2/3 probability. Moreover, the algorithm uses

$$\mathfrak{n} = O\left(m^6 \cdot (1/\varepsilon)^{O(\beta^2)} + \frac{\log m}{\beta^2 \varepsilon^2}\right)$$

copies of the Gibbs state and runtime

$$O\left(m^{O(1)}\cdot (1/\varepsilon)^{O(\beta^2)} + \frac{m\log m}{\beta^2\varepsilon^2}\right).$$

The big O notation may hide dependencies on  $\Re$  and  $\mathfrak{d}$ , which are assumed to be constant.

This improves over the previous work of Bakshi et al. (2024), which had the  $(1/\varepsilon)^{O(\beta^2)}$  terms (in both the sample complexity and runtime) replaced with  $(1/\varepsilon)^{e^{O(\beta)}}$ .

The proof of Theorem 6 is based on a new "flat exponential approximation," which is the main technical contribution of this work, and is a result that we believe may be of independent interest. We state the flat exponential approximation result here, though we remark that we prove a more general result in Theorem 26 (which also deals with additional constraints needed for the quantum Hamiltonian learning problem).

**Theorem 7** Let  $\varepsilon_0 > 0$  be a sufficiently small constant. Then, for any  $0 < \varepsilon < \varepsilon_0$  and any  $\beta \ge 1$ , there exists a polynomial P(x) of degree at most  $O(\beta^2 \log \frac{1}{\varepsilon})$ , such that

- 1. For all  $x \in [-\beta \log \frac{1}{\varepsilon}, \beta \log \frac{1}{\varepsilon}], |P(x) e^{-x}| \le \varepsilon$ .
- 2. For all  $x \le 0$ ,  $|P(x)| \le e^{|x|}$ .
- 3. For all  $x \ge 0$ ,  $|P(x)| \le e^{|x|/\beta}$ .

Intuitively, this polynomial serves as a very good approximation to the exponential function  $e^{-x}$  in a decently sized interval around 0. Moreover, this function does not grow faster than the exponential on the negative side (where  $e^{-x}$  blows up), but does not grow faster than a slow exponential rate on the positive side (where  $e^{-x}$  decays).

## 1.3. Technical Overview

We discuss the main ideas in improving over the work of Bakshi et al. (2024).

# 1.3.1. FLAT EXPONENTIAL APPROXIMATION.

First, we discuss how to obtain Theorem 7, which is the main technical ingredient in our improvement. Before discussing our improvement, we first discuss the high-level approach of Bakshi et al. (2024), which was inspired by the methods of "peeling" the exponential used in the proof of the classic Lieb-Robinson bound (Lieb and Robinson, 1972; Hastings, 2010).

For simplicity, we focus on the following slightly weaker goal. We wish to construct a polynomial P of low degree, such that  $|P(x)-e^{-x}|\leq \varepsilon$  for all  $x\in [-1,1],$   $|P(x)|\leq e^{|x|/\beta}$  for  $x\geq 0$ , and  $|P(x)|\leq e^{|x|}$  for  $x\leq 0$ . Here, we think of  $\beta>1$  as some fixed parameter.

Note that  $e^{-x}=1-x+\frac{x^2}{2}-\frac{x^3}{6}+\cdots$  satisfies the desired conditions, even for  $\varepsilon=0$ , but the issue is that this is not expressible as a polynomial. The natural approach is a Taylor expansion, i.e., we consider the polynomial  $P_\ell(x)=\sum_{j=0}^\ell\frac{(-1)^jx^j}{j!}$  for some integer  $\ell$ . If  $\ell\geq\log(1/\varepsilon)$ , this polynomial approximates  $e^{-x}$  up to error  $\varepsilon$  on [-1,1]. Moreover, it is straightforward to verify that  $|P_\ell(x)|\leq e^{|x|}$  for all  $x\in\mathbb{R}$ . The issue is that for positive x, we do not always have  $|P_\ell(x)|\leq e^{|x|/\beta}$ . For instance, if we set  $x=\ell$ , then  $P_\ell(\ell)=\sum_{j=0}^\ell\frac{(-1)^j\ell^j}{j!}$ . Note that the final term of the sum is  $\frac{\ell^\ell}{\ell!}\approx e^\ell$  in absolute value, and this term will roughly define the growth of the overall sum. Indeed,  $P_\ell(\ell)$  will grow as roughly  $e^\ell$  for large values of  $\ell$ . So, for large  $\ell$ , we do not even have  $P_\ell(x)\leq e^{0.9x}$  for all  $x\geq 0$ , because this claim breaks at roughly  $\ell$ .

**Prior approach.** The first observation that can be made is that the degree- $\ell$  Taylor approximation  $P_\ell(x)$ , for x>0, is only close to  $e^x$  for  $x=\Theta(\ell)$ . The details for why this is will not be relevant now, so we will just briefly explain why this holds. For  $x\geq \ell$ , we can write  $P_\ell(x)=\sum_{j=0}^\ell\frac{(-1)^jx^j}{j!}$ . For  $x\gg\ell\geq j$ , one can verify that the absolute value of each term,  $\frac{x^j}{j!}$ , is bounded as  $e^{o(x)}$ , so overall we will have  $|P_\ell(x)|\leq e^{o(x)}$ . Conversely, for  $x\leq \ell$ , we can write  $P_\ell(x)=e^{-x}-\sum_{j>\ell}\frac{(-1)^jx^j}{j!}$ , i.e., we take the full Taylor expansion of  $e^{-x}$  and remove the terms of degree beyond  $\ell$ . This time, for  $x\ll\ell\leq j$ , each of the later terms in absolute value,  $\frac{x^j}{j!}$ , is  $e^{o(x)}$ . Finally, the first term  $e^{-x}$  is at most 1.

Overall, it is not too difficult to demonstrate that the degree- $\ell$  Taylor expansion  $P_{\ell}(x)$ , for  $x \geq 0$ , has absolute value  $e^{\Theta(x)}$  only if  $x = \Theta(\ell)$ . At this point, there is a simple but clever trick to beat the naive bound of  $e^{|x|}$ . Namely, we can write  $e^{-x} = e^{-x/2} \cdot e^{-x/2} \approx P_{\ell_1}(x/2) \cdot P_{\ell_2}(x/2)$ , where  $\ell_1, \ell_2$ 

are positive integers such that  $\ell_1 \ll \ell_2$ . As long as both  $\ell_1, \ell_2 \geq \log(1/\varepsilon)$ ,  $P_{\ell_1}(x/2) \cdot P_{\ell_2}(x/2)$  will be a good approximation of  $e^{-x}$  on [-1,1]. In addition, each of  $|P_{\ell_1}(x/2)|, |P_{\ell_2}(x/2)|$  are uniformly bounded by  $e^{|x|/2}$  so the product is bounded by  $e^{|x|}$ . But, if  $\ell_1$  is much smaller than  $\ell_2$ , then for any x>0, we will either have that  $|P_{\ell_1}(x/2)|=e^{o(x)}$  or  $|P_{\ell_2}(x/2)|=e^{o(x)}$ , from the discussion in the above paragraph. Therefore, for x>0,  $|P_{\ell_1}(x/2) \cdot P_{\ell_2}(x/2)| \leq e^{|x|\cdot(1/2+o(1))}$ .

The approach of Bakshi et al. (2024) is just a simple generalization of the above trick. Namely, we write  $e^{-x} = \underbrace{e^{-x/\beta} \cdot e^{-x/\beta} \cdots e^{-x/\beta}}_{\beta \text{ times}} \approx \prod_{t=1}^{\beta} P_{\ell_t}(x/\beta)$ , where  $\ell_1, \ell_2, \dots, \ell_{\beta}$  are distinct integration.

gers. In order to get an overall upper bound of  $e^{x/\beta}$  for all x>0, it will be important for the  $\ell_t$ 's to be mostly far from each other, i.e., we should not have more than O(1) distinct  $\ell_t$ 's within an O(1) factor of each other. Hence, we may need each  $\ell_t$  to be a constant factor larger than the previous  $\ell_{t-1}$ . Indeed, the final setting will be roughly  $\ell_t=2^t\cdot\log\frac{1}{\varepsilon}$ , which means the overall polynomial  $P(x)=\prod_{t=1}^{\beta}P_{\ell_t}(-x/\beta)$  will have degree roughly  $2^{\beta}\cdot\log\frac{1}{\varepsilon}$ .

Our approach. While the above approach is nice in that it achieves  $O(\log \frac{1}{\varepsilon})$  degree for any fixed  $\beta$ , the exponential dependence on  $\beta$  is somewhat undesirable. Our approach has one similar element, in that we consider a polynomial approximation  $P(x/s) \approx e^{-x/s}$  for some large s (that depends polynomially on  $\beta$ ). However, instead of approximating the product of s different copies of  $e^{-x/s}$ , as done in the prior work, we aim to approximate  $e^{-x}$  as  $(e^{-x/s})^s \approx (P(x/s))^s$ , where we will only use a single polynomial P.

The main insight is to note that  $x^s$  can be approximated by a polynomial G(x) that has much lower-degree  $r \ll s$ . This is in fact a well-known result, and is inspired by approximation guarantees provided by Chebyshev polynomials (see (Sachdeva and Vishnoi, 2014, Chapter 3)). So, we will (roughly) consider  $e^{-x} = (e^{-x/s})^s \approx P_\ell(x/s)^s \approx G(P_\ell(x/s))$ . Recalling that the main issue for approximating  $P_\ell(x)$  as the degree- $\ell$  approximation for  $e^{-x}$  happens at  $x \approx \ell$ , the main issue for us will be at  $x \approx s \cdot \ell$ , where  $P_\ell(x/s) \approx e^\ell$ , so  $P_\ell(x/s)^s \approx e^{\ell s} \approx e^x$ . However, because G has some degree  $r \ll s$ , the value of  $G(P_\ell(x/s))$  will actually depend more like  $e^{\ell \cdot r} \leq e^{x/\beta}$ , as long as  $r \leq s/\beta$ .

It will turn out that for the polynomial G to be a sufficiently good approximation (so that the approximation is within  $\varepsilon$  of  $e^{-x}$  in [-1,1]), we will need  $\ell$  to be logarithmic in  $1/\varepsilon$  and  $r \approx \sqrt{s \cdot \log(1/\varepsilon)}$ , where r is the degree of G. But at the same time, we need  $r = \beta \cdot s$ : solving gives us  $r \approx \beta \log(1/\varepsilon)$  and  $s \approx \beta^2 \log(1/\varepsilon)$ . The overall degree of  $G(P_{\ell}(x/s))$  will thus be  $r \cdot \ell \approx \beta \cdot \log^2 \frac{1}{\varepsilon}$ .

Reducing the dependence on  $\varepsilon$ . While this approach is sufficient to reduce the dependence on  $\beta$  significantly, we have increased the dependence on  $\varepsilon$  from  $\log(1/\varepsilon)$  to  $\log^2(1/\varepsilon)$ . While this may not seem significant, the overall algorithm's runtime will be exponential in the degree of the polynomial we construct, and thus a  $\log^2(1/\varepsilon)$  will result in a *quasi-polynomial* dependence on  $1/\varepsilon$  for the runtime. So, a  $\log(1/\varepsilon)$  dependence is desirable.

Luckily, this fix is actually quite simple. We will just take the polynomial  $G(P_{\ell}(x/s))$  and truncate the polynomial beyond degree  $O(\beta \log(1/\varepsilon))$ . In other words, we just remove all higher-degree terms from the expansion of the polynomial around 0. We prove a strong bound on the coefficients of  $G(P_{\ell}(x/s))$ , which will be sufficient to show that the truncated polynomial behaves similarly to  $G(P_{\ell}(x/s))$  to have both the desired flatness and exponential approximation properties.

#### 1.3.2. REMAINDER OF THE ALGORITHM

The algorithm will mimic that of Bakshi et al. (2024). In fact, the improved polynomial we provide can be almost directly plugged into the desired algorithm. However, there is one additional caveat, which is that the polynomial must satisfy a certain "Sum-of-Squares" identity. Sum-of-Squares is a powerful algorithmic technique, based on semidefinite programming, that has proven highly effective in many optimization and statistics problems. The idea is that, if one can generate a so-called "Sum-of-Squares" proof that a certain estimator is accurate, then one can generate a semidefinite programming relaxation of the estimator, which will be computable in polynomial time, and the estimator remains accurate. In our setting, we must show that a certain 2-variable polynomial R(x,y) (which will be based on the flat polynomial P constructed – see Theorem 43 in the appendix for more details) is always nonnegative, and moreover has a "Sum-of-Squares" proof of nonnegativity, meaning that R(x,y) can be written as  $\sum_{i=1}^{M} q_i(x,y)^2$  for real polynomials  $q_i(x,y)$ . Such a result was proven by Bakshi et al. (2024) as well, though their polynomial R(x,y) was based on their higher-degree construction of P.

To achieve this Sum-of-Squares proof, we first show that our polynomial P (after some appropriate modification) is always positive and that  $P(x) \geq 0.01 \cdot |P'(x)|$ . In fact, it is known that the polynomial  $P_\ell = \sum_{j=0}^\ell \frac{(-1)^j x^j}{j!}$  satisfies this property (for  $\ell$  even). Moreover, for any integer  $s \geq 1$ ,  $P_\ell(x/s)^s$  also satisfies this property. Indeed,  $\frac{d}{dx}(P_\ell(x/s)^s) = s \cdot P_\ell(x/s)^{s-1} \cdot \frac{1}{s} \cdot P'_\ell(x/s) = P_\ell(x/s)^{s-1} \cdot P'_\ell(x/s)$ , so if  $P(x) \geq 0.01 \cdot |P'(x)|$ , then

$$0.01 \cdot \left| \frac{d}{dx} (P_{\ell}(x/s)^s) \right| = 0.01 \cdot P_{\ell}(x/s)^{s-1} \cdot |P'_{\ell}(x/s)| \le P_{\ell}(x/s)^{s-1} \cdot P_{\ell}(x/s) = P_{\ell}(x/s)^s.$$

But what we really need is the same bound for  $G(P_{\ell}(x/s))$ , where we recall that G(y) is a lower-degree approximation of  $y^s$ . We will show that the ratio  $\left|\frac{G'(y)}{G(y)}\right|$  is even smaller than  $\frac{s}{y}$ , i.e., the ratio  $\left|\frac{\frac{d}{dy}(y^s)}{y^s}\right|$ . This will help us prove that  $G(P_{\ell}(x/s))$  has the desired property.

In reality, we will need a Sum-of-Squares proof for a different polynomial inequality (that some bivariate polynomial  $R(x,y) \geq 0$  can be written as a sum of squares). However, inspired by the techniques of Bakshi et al. (2024), we will in fact prove a black-box conversion from the identity  $P(x) \geq 0.01 \cdot |P'(x)|$  into the desired Sum-of-Squares bound. Once this is proven, the rest of the algorithm and analysis is identical to that of Bakshi et al. (2024), and can be viewed as a black box (see Theorem 48 in the appendix).

## 2. Preliminaries

## 2.1. Chebyshev Polynomials

For any integer  $t \ge 0$ , we define  $\Phi_t(x)$  to be the degree-t Chebyshev polynomial of the first kind, and define  $\Phi_{-t} := \Phi_t$ . Recall that  $\Phi_0(x) = 1$ ,  $\Phi_1(x) = x$ ,  $\Phi_2(x) = 2x^2 - 1$ , and so on.

We recall some well-known properties of Chebyshev polynomials.

**Proposition 8** For any  $t \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $\Phi_{t+1}(x) = 2x \cdot \Phi_t(x) - \Phi_{t-1}(x)$ .

**Proposition 9** If  $|x| \le 1$ , then  $\Phi_t(x) = \cos(t \cdot \arccos x)$ . If |x| > 1, then if  $x = \frac{y + (1/y)}{2}$ , then  $\Phi_t(x) = \frac{y^t + (1/y^t)}{2}$ .

Importantly, this implies that  $|\Phi_t(x)| \le 1$  for all  $|x| \le 1$ , and  $|\Phi_t(x)| \ge 1$  for all  $|x| \ge 1$ .

**Proposition 10** If t is even, the  $\Phi_t$  is an even polynomial. Likewise, if t is odd, then  $\Phi_t$  is an odd polynomial.

**Proposition 11 (Markov Brothers' Inequality)** For any  $|x| \le 1$  and any  $t \ge 0$ ,  $|\Phi'_t(x)| \le t^2$ .

**Proposition 12** For  $t \geq 0$ , all coefficients of the Chebyshev polynomial  $\Phi_t$  are at most  $(1 + \sqrt{2})^t$  in absolute value.

**Proof** The proof is simple by induction. Let the base cases be t=0 and t=1, for which the statement is clearly true. For  $t\geq 2$ , note that  $\Phi_t(x)=2x\cdot\Phi_{t-1}(x)-\Phi_{t-2}(x)$ . By the inductive hypothesis, every coefficient of  $2x\cdot\Phi_{t-1}$  is at most  $2\cdot(1+\sqrt{2})^{t-1}$ , and every coefficient of  $\Phi_{t-2}(x)$  is at most  $(1+\sqrt{2})^{t-2}$ . So, every coefficient of  $\Phi_t(x)$  is at most  $2\cdot(1+\sqrt{2})^{t-1}+(1+\sqrt{2})^{t-2}=(1+\sqrt{2})^t$ , as desired.

Next, for any integer  $s \ge 0$ , we define  $\mathcal{D}_s$  to be the distribution over  $\{-s, -(s-1), \dots, s\}$  where we add together s i.i.d. copies of a uniform  $\pm 1$  variable. For any integers  $s \ge r \ge 0$ , we define

$$G_{r,s}(x) := \underset{t \sim \mathcal{D}_s}{\mathbb{E}} \left[ \Phi_t(x) \cdot \mathbb{I}[|t| \le r] \right]. \tag{1}$$

We note some useful properties about the distribution  $\mathcal{D}_s$  and the polynomials  $G_{r,s}$ .

**Proposition 13** (Sachdeva and Vishnoi, 2014, Theorem 3.1) We have that  $\mathbb{E}_{t \sim \mathcal{D}_s}(\Phi_t(x)) = x^s$ .

**Proposition 14** (Sachdeva and Vishnoi, 2014, Theorem 3.3) For all  $0 \le r \le s$  and all  $|x| \le 1$ , we have that  $|G_{r,s}(x) - x^s| \le 2e^{-r^2/2s}$ .

**Proposition 15** Let  $s \ge 2$  be even. Then, for all  $0 \le r \le s$  and all  $|x| \ge 1$ , we have  $0 \le G_{r,s}(x) \le \min(|x|^s, (2|x|)^r)$ .

**Proof** First, note that if  $t \sim \mathcal{D}_s$  and s is even, then t is even with probability 1. Also, for any even t and  $|x| \geq 1$ ,  $\Phi_t(x)$  is positive since  $\Phi_t(x) = \frac{y^t + (1/y)^t}{2}$  for some real y and even t. Thus,

$$G_{r,s}(x) = \underset{t \sim \mathcal{D}_s}{\mathbb{E}} \left( \Phi_t(x) \cdot \mathbb{I}[|t| \le r] \right) \le \underset{t \sim \mathcal{D}_s}{\mathbb{E}} \left( \Phi_t(x) \right) = x^s,$$

where the final equality is true by Proposition 13.

Moreover, for any even t, if  $x \geq 1$  and  $\frac{y+1/y}{2} = x$ , then  $0 < y, 1/y \leq 2x$ , so  $0 < \Phi_t(x) = \frac{y^t + (1/y)^t}{2} \leq (2x)^t$ . Since  $\Phi_t$  is an even polynomial by Proposition 10, for all  $|x| \geq 1$ ,  $0 < \Phi_t(x) \leq (2|x|)^t$ . Thus, for any even t,  $0 \leq \Phi_t(x) \cdot \mathbb{I}[|t| \leq r] \leq (2|x|)^r$ . Taking the expectation over  $t \sim \mathcal{D}_s$ , the claim still holds.

## 2.2. Truncation of Polynomials

For any integer  $\ell \geq 0$ , we define the exponential truncation polynomial as

$$E_{\ell}(x) := \sum_{j=0}^{\ell} \frac{(-1)^j \cdot x^j}{j!},\tag{2}$$

where  $x^0 = 1$  for all x (including x = 0). Also, for any polynomial  $A(x) = \sum_{i=0}^n a_i x^i$ , we define

$$\operatorname{Trunc}_{k}(A)(x) := \sum_{j=0}^{\min(n,k)} a_{j}x^{j}.$$
(3)

We note a series of important facts about the polynomial  $E_{\ell}$ .

**Proposition 16** For any even  $\ell \geq 0$  and all real x,  $E_{\ell}(x) \geq \min(1, e^{-x})$ .

**Proof** For  $x \leq 0$ , we can write  $E_{\ell}(x) = 1 + \sum_{j=1}^{\ell} \frac{(-x)^j}{j!}$ . Every term is nonnegative and the first term is 1, so  $E_{\ell}(x) \geq 1$ .

For  $x\geq 0$ , we can prove that  $e^{-x}\leq E_\ell(x)$  for all even  $\ell$ , via induction on  $\ell$ . For  $\ell=0$ ,  $E_\ell(x)=1\geq e^{-x}$ . A simple integration can verify that  $e^{-x}=1-x+\int_0^x\int_0^y e^{-z}dzdy$ , whereas  $E_\ell(x)=1-x+\int_0^x\int_0^y E_{\ell-2}(z)dzdy$ . By the inductive hypothesis,  $e^{-z}\leq E_{\ell-2}(z)$  for all  $z\geq 0$ , which means that  $e^{-x}\leq E_\ell(x)$  for all  $x\geq 0$ .

**Proposition 17** For any integer  $\ell \geq 0$  and any real x,  $|E_{\ell}(x)| \leq e^{|x|}$ .

**Proof** The proof is immediate from the observation that

$$|E_{\ell}(x)| \le \sum_{j=0}^{\ell} \frac{|x|^j}{j!} \le \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{|x|^j}{j!} = e^{|x|}.$$

**Proposition 18** For any integer  $\ell \geq 2$  and any  $x \in [-1, 1]$ ,  $|E_{\ell}(x) - e^{-x}| \leq \frac{|x|^{\ell}}{\ell!}$ .

**Proof** Note that  $|E_{\ell}(x) - e^{-x}| \leq \sum_{j=\ell+1}^{\infty} \left| \frac{x^{j}}{j!} \right|$ . For  $|x| \leq 1$ , this is at most  $|x|^{\ell+1} \cdot \sum_{j=\ell+1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{j!} = |x|^{\ell+1} \cdot \left( \frac{1}{(\ell+1)!} + \frac{1}{(\ell+2)!} + \cdots \right)$ , which is at most  $\frac{|x|^{\ell}}{\ell!}$ .

**Proposition 19** (Bakshi et al., 2024, Lemma B.1) Let  $\ell \geq 2$  be even. Then, for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $|E_{\ell-1}(x)| \leq 99 \cdot E_{\ell}(x)$ .

**Proposition 20** Let  $\ell \geq 2$  be even. Then,  $\min_x E_{\ell}(x) \geq \min(\frac{1}{100}, e^{-\ell})$ .

**Proof** If  $x \leq \ell$ , then by Proposition 16,  $E_{\ell}(x) \geq \min(1, e^{-x}) \geq e^{-\ell}$ . Alternatively, if  $x > \ell$ , then by Proposition 19,  $99E_{\ell}(x) \geq |E_{\ell-1}(x)|$ , which means that  $99 \cdot E_{\ell}(x) + E_{\ell-1}(x) \geq 0$ . Moreover,  $E_{\ell}(x) - E_{\ell-1}(x) = \frac{x^{\ell}}{\ell!} \geq \frac{\ell^{\ell}}{\ell!} \geq 1$ . Adding these two equations together, we have that  $E_{\ell}(x) \geq \frac{1}{100}$ . So, for all  $x, E_{\ell}(x) \geq \min(\frac{1}{100}, e^{-\ell})$ .

# 2.3. Sum-of-Squares

We recall some basics of the Sum-of-Squares method.

**Definition 21 (Sum-of-Squares polynomial)** Let  $p(x_1, \ldots, x_m) \in \mathbb{R}[x_1, \ldots, x_m]$  be a real polynomial over variables  $x_1, \ldots, x_m$ , for some  $m \geq 1$ . We say that  $p(x_1, \ldots, x_m)$  is a Sum-of-Squares (SoS) polynomial if  $p(x_1, \ldots, x_m) = \sum_{j=1}^M q_j(x_1, \ldots, x_m)^2$ , for some positive integer M and polynomials  $q_1, \ldots, q_M \in \mathbb{R}[x_1, \ldots, x_m]$ .

We now note the definition of bounded polynomials, from Bakshi et al. (2024).

**Definition 22 (Bounded polynomial (Bakshi et al., 2024, Definition 2.22))** A polynomial  $p(x_1, ..., x_m) \in \mathbb{R}[x_1, ..., x_m]$  is (d, C)-bounded if the following properties hold.

- 1. p has degree at most d.
- 2. for each monomial in p of total degree d', its coefficient has magnitude at most C/(d'!).

A polynomial p is a (k, d, C)-bounded Sum-of-Squares (SoS) polynomial if p is a sum-of-squares polynomial,  $p = q_1^2 + \cdots + q_k^2$ , and each of the  $q_i$ 's are (d, C)-bounded.

We note the following basic fact about bounded SoS polynomials.

**Proposition 23** (Bakshi et al., 2024, Claim 2.23) Let  $p_1(x_1, x_2)$  be a  $(k_1, d_1, C_1)$ -bounded SoS polynomial and  $p_2(x_1, x_2)$  be a  $(k_2, d_2, C_2)$ -bounded SoS polynomial. Then,

- (a)  $p_1 + p_2$  is a  $(k_1 + k_2, \max(d_1, d_2), \max(C_1, C_2))$ -bounded SoS polynomial;
- (b)  $p_1p_2$  is a  $(k_1k_2, d_1 + d_2, (d_1 + d_2 + 1) \cdot 2^{d_1+d_2} \cdot C_1C_2)$ -bounded SoS polynomial;
- (c) For any  $t \in [0, 1]$ ,  $p_1((1-t)x_1+ty_1, (1-t)x_2+ty_2)$  is a  $(k_1, d_1, C_1)$ -bounded SoS polynomial in  $x_1, y_1, x_2, y_2$ .

We also note the following fact about bounded univariate SoS polynomials.

**Proposition 24** Let p(x) be a real, degree-d, univariate polynomial. Suppose that p has leading coefficient which is positive and at most 1. Moreover, suppose that p has all roots bounded in magnitude by some A, but p(x) has no real roots. Then, p(x) is a  $(2, d/2, (A \cdot d)^{d/2})$ -bounded SoS polynomial.

**Proof** First, assume that p is monic, i.e., it has leading coefficient 1. Note that since p(x) has real coefficients but no real roots, we can pair the roots of p into complex conjugates, i.e.,  $p(x) = \prod_{j=1}^{d/2} (x-z_j)(x-\bar{z}_j)$ . So, we can write  $p(x) = q(x)\bar{q}(x)$ , where  $q(x) = \prod_{j=1}^{d/2} (x-z_j)$ . By writing  $q(x) = q_1(x) + i \cdot q_2(x)$  for real polynomials  $q_1, q_2$  of degree at most d/2, we have that  $p(x) = q_1(x)^2 + q_2(x)^2$ .

Since p is monic and has all roots at most A, this means p has degree j coefficient bounded by  $A^{d/2-j}\cdot \binom{d/2}{j}\leq \frac{(A\cdot d)^{d/2}}{j!}$ . Thus,  $q_1,q_2$  must have their degree j coefficient bounded by  $\frac{(A\cdot d)^{d/2}}{j!}$ . Hence,  $q_1$  and  $q_2$  are both  $(d/2,(A\cdot d)^{d/2})$ -bounded, which means that  $P=q_1^2+q_2^2$  is a  $(2,d/2,(A\cdot d)^{d/2})$ -bounded SoS polynomial.

Finally, if p(x) has leading coefficient  $0 < p_d < 1$ , we can write  $p(x) = p_d \cdot \frac{p(x)}{p_d}$ . We have just proven that  $\frac{p(x)}{p_d}$  is a  $(2, d/2, (A \cdot d)^{d/2})$ -bounded SoS polynomial, and because we are scaling by a factor  $p_d \in (0, 1)$ , p(x) is as well.

# 3. Polynomial Construction

## 3.1. Main Theorem

Our main goal is to produce a low-degree *flat* approximation to the exponential, similar to the goal in (Bakshi et al., 2024, Section 4). We aim for a flat polynomial of significantly smaller degree, which will be crucial in reducing the runtime of the final algorithm from doubly exponential in  $\beta$  to singly exponential.

First, we recall the definition of a flat exponential approximation.

**Definition 25** (Bakshi et al., 2024, Definition 4.1) Given  $\varepsilon \in (0, 1/2)$ ,  $\eta \in (0, 1)$ , and  $\kappa \ge 1$ , we say a polynomial P(x) is a  $(\kappa, \eta, \varepsilon)$ -flat exponential approximation if

- 1. For all  $x \in [-\kappa, \kappa]$ ,  $|P(x) e^{-x}| \le \varepsilon$ .
- 2. For all  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $|P(x)| \leq \max(1, e^{-x}) \cdot e^{\eta \cdot |x|}$ .

The main theorem we wish to prove is the following.

**Theorem 26** Let  $\varepsilon_0 > 0$  be a sufficiently small constant. For any  $\varepsilon \in (0, \varepsilon_0)$  and any  $\beta \ge 1$ , there exists a polynomial P(x) of degree at most  $10^9 \cdot \beta^2 \cdot \log \frac{1}{\varepsilon}$  such that

- 1. P(x) is a  $(\beta \log \frac{1}{\varepsilon}, \frac{1}{\beta}, \varepsilon)$ -flat exponential approximation.
- 2. For all  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ , P(x) > 0 and  $99 \cdot P(x) > |P'(x)|$ .
- 3. The leading coefficients of both  $99 \cdot P + P'$  and  $99 \cdot P P'$  are positive and at most 1, and all roots of both  $99 \cdot P + P'$  and  $99 \cdot P P'$  have magnitude bounded by  $e^{10^{14} \cdot \beta^3 \cdot \log^2(1/\varepsilon)}$ .

Moreover, it will be straightforward to verify that the polynomial P that we construct is computable in poly $(\beta, \log \frac{1}{2})$  time. (See the discussion after Equation (6)).

In reality, we will focus on proving a slight modification of the theorem, which will have more convenient guarantees to prove.

**Theorem 27** Let  $\delta_0 = \varepsilon_0^{100}$  (where  $\varepsilon_0$  is the constant from Theorem 26) be a sufficiently small constant. Let  $\beta \geq 1$  and  $0 < \delta < \delta_0$  be parameters. Then, there exists a polynomial  $\hat{P}$  of degree at most  $5 \cdot 10^6 \cdot \beta \log \frac{\beta}{\delta}$  such that

- 1. For all  $0 \le x \le 4\beta \log \frac{1}{\delta}$ ,  $|\hat{P}(x) e^{-x}| \le \delta$ .
- 2. For all  $x \ge 0$ ,  $|\hat{P}(x)| \le e^{x/(2\beta)}$ .
- 3. For all  $x \le 0$ ,  $|\hat{P}(x)| \le e^{-x}$ .
- 4. For all  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\hat{P}(x) > 0$  and  $99\hat{P}(x) > |\hat{P}'(x)|$ .
- 5. The leading coefficients of both  $99 \cdot \hat{P} + \hat{P}'$  and  $99 \cdot \hat{P} \hat{P}'$  are positive and at most  $\delta$ , and all roots of both  $99 \cdot \hat{P} + \hat{P}'$  and  $99 \cdot \hat{P} \hat{P}'$  have magnitude bounded by  $e^{10^9 \cdot \beta \cdot \log^2(\beta/\delta)}$ .

First, we see why Theorem 27 implies Theorem 26.

**Proof** [Proof of Theorem 26 from Theorem 27] For simplicity, we will define  $\kappa = \beta \log \frac{1}{\varepsilon}$ . We will set  $\delta = e^{-100 \cdot \kappa}$ . Note that  $\delta \leq \varepsilon^{100}$  because  $\beta \geq 1$ , so for any  $\varepsilon < \varepsilon_0$ , we automatically have  $\delta < \delta_0$ . Next, for  $\hat{P}$  which satisfies Theorem 27, define  $P(x) := (1 - \delta \cdot e^{\kappa}) \cdot e^{\kappa} \cdot \hat{P}(x + \kappa)$ . Note that the degree of P equals the degree of  $\hat{P}$ , which is at most  $5 \cdot 10^6 \cdot \beta \log \frac{\beta}{\delta} \leq 10^9 \beta^2 \log \frac{1}{\varepsilon}$ .

Thus, it suffices to prove that if  $\hat{P}$  satisfies the four properties of Theorem 27, then P satisfies the three properties of Theorem 26.

First, note that for any  $x \in [-\kappa, \kappa]$ ,  $|\hat{P}(x + \kappa) - e^{-(x+\kappa)}| \le \delta$ , by Property 1 of Theorem 27. This also implies that  $|\hat{P}(x + \kappa)| \le 1 + \delta$ . Therefore, for any  $x \in [-\kappa, \kappa]$ ,

$$\begin{split} |P(x) - e^{-x}| &= |(1 - \delta \cdot e^{\kappa}) \cdot e^{\kappa} \cdot \hat{P}(x + \kappa) - e^{-x}| \\ &= e^{\kappa} \cdot |(1 - \delta \cdot e^{\kappa}) \cdot \hat{P}(x + \kappa) - e^{-(x + \kappa)}| \\ &\leq e^{\kappa} \cdot \left(|\hat{P}(x + \kappa) - e^{-(x + \kappa)}| + \delta \cdot e^{\kappa} \cdot |\hat{P}(x + \kappa)|\right) \\ &\leq e^{\kappa} \cdot (\delta + \delta \cdot e^{\kappa} \cdot (1 + \delta)) \\ &\leq 3\delta \cdot e^{2\kappa} \leq \varepsilon. \end{split}$$

Next, note that for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $|P(x)| = (1 - \delta \cdot e^{\kappa}) \cdot e^{\kappa} \cdot |\hat{P}(x + \kappa)|$ . We can then bound |P(x)| based on four cases.

- If  $x \le -\kappa$ , then  $|P(x)| \le e^{\kappa} \cdot |\hat{P}(x+\kappa)| \le e^{-x}$ , by Property 3 in Theorem 27.
- If  $-\kappa < x \le 0$ , then  $0 \le x + \kappa \le \kappa$ , so  $|P(x)| \le (1 \delta \cdot e^{\kappa}) \cdot e^{\kappa} \cdot (e^{-(x+\kappa)} + \delta)$ , where we used Property 1 in Theorem 27. Since  $x \le 0$ ,  $e^{-(x+\kappa)} + \delta \le e^{-(x+\kappa)} \cdot (1 + \delta \cdot e^{\kappa})$ . So,  $|P(x)| \le (1 \delta \cdot e^{\kappa}) \cdot e^{-x} \cdot (1 + \delta \cdot e^{\kappa}) \le e^{-x}$ .
- If  $0 < x \le 4\beta \log \frac{1}{\delta} \kappa$ , then  $|\hat{P}(x+\kappa)| \le \delta + e^{-(x+\kappa)} \le \delta + e^{-\kappa} = e^{-\kappa} \cdot (1 + e^{\kappa} \cdot \delta)$ , where we used Property 1 in Theorem 27. So,  $|P(x)| \le (1 \delta \cdot e^{\kappa}) \cdot e^{\kappa} \cdot e^{-\kappa} \cdot (1 + e^{\kappa} \cdot \delta) \le 1$ , which is at most  $e^{x/\beta}$ .
- If  $x>4\beta\log\frac{1}{\delta}-\kappa$ , then  $|\hat{P}(x+\kappa)|\leq e^{(x+\kappa)/(2\beta)}$ , by Property 2 of Theorem 27. So,  $|P(x)|\leq e^{\kappa+(x+\kappa)/(2\beta)}$ . However, note that  $\kappa=\frac{\log(1/\delta)}{100}\leq \frac{x}{200\beta}$ . Thus,  $\kappa+\frac{x+\kappa}{2\beta}\leq 2\kappa+\frac{x}{2\beta}\leq \frac{x}{\beta}$ , which means that  $|P(x)|\leq e^{x/\beta}$ .

In summary,  $|P(x)-e^{-x}| \leq \varepsilon$  for all  $x \in [-\kappa,\kappa]$ ,  $|P(x)| \leq e^{-x}$  whenever  $x \leq 0$ , and  $|P(x)| \leq e^{x/\beta}$  whenever  $x \geq 0$ , so Property 2 in Definition 25 is satisfied. Therefore, because  $\kappa = \beta \log \frac{1}{\varepsilon}$ , P(x) is a  $(\beta \log \frac{1}{\varepsilon}, \frac{1}{\beta}, \varepsilon)$ -flat exponential approximation.

Next, note that if  $\hat{P}(x+\beta) > 0$ , then P(x) > 0 and  $\frac{\hat{P}'(x+\beta)}{\hat{P}(x+\beta)} = \frac{P'(x)}{P(x)}$ , since P(x) is just a scaled version of  $\hat{P}(x+\beta)$ . Thus, if Property 4 of Theorem 27 holds for  $\hat{P}$ , then for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ , P(x) > 0 and  $|P'(x)| < 99 \cdot P(x)$ .

Finally, note that  $(99 \cdot P - P')(x) = (1 - \delta \cdot e^{\kappa}) \cdot e^{\kappa} \cdot (99\hat{P} - \hat{P}')(x + \kappa)$ . Thus, the leading coefficient of  $99 \cdot P - P'$  is  $(1 - \delta \cdot e^{\kappa}) \cdot e^{\kappa}$  times the leading coefficient of  $99 \cdot \hat{P} - \hat{P}'$ , which is positive and at most  $e^{\kappa} \cdot \delta \leq 1$ . Moreover, the roots of  $99 \cdot P - P'$  are the same as the roots of  $99 \cdot \hat{P} - \hat{P}'$ , up to a shift of  $\kappa$ . So, all roots of  $99 \cdot P - P'$ , in magnitude, are at most  $e^{10^9 \cdot \beta \cdot \log^2(\beta/\delta)} + \kappa \leq e^{10^9 \cdot \beta \cdot (\log \beta + 100\beta \log 1/\varepsilon)^2} + \beta \log \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \leq e^{10^{14} \cdot \beta^3 \cdot \log^2(1/\varepsilon)}$ . The same calculations can be done for  $99 \cdot P + P'$  versus  $99 \cdot \hat{P} + \hat{P}'$ .

# 3.2. The Polynomial

For some appropriate choices of  $k, \ell, r, s$ , we define

$$Q(x) := G_{r,s}\left(E_{\ell}\left(\frac{x}{s}\right)\right) \tag{4}$$

and

$$\hat{P}(x) := \left(1 - \frac{\delta}{5}\right) \cdot \operatorname{Trunc}_{k}(Q)\left(x\right) + \left(\frac{x}{2s}\right)^{k+2} + \frac{\delta}{10},\tag{5}$$

where we recall the definitions of  $G_{r,s}$ ,  $E_{\ell}$ , and  $\operatorname{Trunc}_k$  from Subsections 2.1 and 2.2. One should think of Q as essentially satisfying the desired properties already, but  $\hat{P}$  is a necessary modification of Q to further reduce the degree and maintain positivity.

We will set

$$\ell = 2 \left\lceil \log \frac{\beta}{\delta} \right\rceil$$

$$s = 2 \left\lceil 10^7 \cdot \beta^2 \cdot \log \frac{\beta}{\delta} \right\rceil$$

$$r = 2 \left\lceil 10^4 \cdot \beta \cdot \log \frac{\beta}{\delta} \right\rceil$$

$$k = 2 \left\lceil 10^6 \cdot \beta \cdot \log \frac{\beta}{\delta} \right\rceil$$
(6)

Clearly,  $\ell, s, r, k$  are all even. Moreover, note that  $\hat{P}$  is straightforward to compute in time  $\operatorname{poly}(\ell, s, r, k) = \operatorname{poly}(\beta, \log \frac{1}{\delta})$ . Thus,  $P(x) = (1 - \delta \cdot e^{\kappa}) \cdot e^{\kappa} \cdot \hat{P}(x + \kappa)$ , where  $\kappa = \beta \log \frac{1}{\varepsilon}$  and  $\delta = e^{-100\kappa}$ , can be computed in time  $\operatorname{poly}(\beta, \log \frac{1}{\delta}) = \operatorname{poly}(\beta, \log \frac{1}{\varepsilon})$  time.

We prove Theorem 27 (where the polynomial  $\hat{P}$  is precisely the one constructed above), along with the Sum-of-Squares bounds needed to complete the proof of Theorem 6, in the appendix.

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# **Appendix A. Proof of Theorem 27**

In this section, we prove Theorem 27, which finishes the proof of our main polynomial approximation result, Theorem 26.

# A.1. Properties of Q

In this subsection, we will show that Q(x) (Equation (4)) will satisfy some modified versions of the properties in Theorem 27. In the next subsection, we show that modifying Q to  $\hat{P}$  will precisely satisfy all properties, while having even lower degree. We will not worry about satisfying Property 5 in Theorem 27 in this subsection, and will deal with Property 5 in the next subsection. From now on, we assume the parameter choices in (6), and assume that  $\beta \geq 1$  and  $\delta < \delta_0$  for a sufficiently small constant  $\delta_0 > 0$ .

First, we note a basic fact.

**Proposition 28** For r, s as in (6),  $e^{-r^2/(2s)} \le (\delta/\beta)^5$ .

**Proof** Note that 
$$r \geq 2 \cdot 10^4 \cdot \beta \cdot \log \frac{\beta}{\delta}$$
 and  $s \leq 4 \cdot 10^7 \cdot \beta^2 \cdot \log \frac{\beta}{\delta}$ . Thus,  $\frac{r^2}{2s} \geq 5 \cdot \log \frac{\beta}{\delta}$ , so  $e^{-r^2/(2s)} \leq e^{-5\log(\beta/\delta)} = (\delta/\beta)^5$ .

**Lemma 29 (Property 1)** For all  $0 \le x \le s$ , we have that  $|Q(x) - e^{-x}| \le \frac{\delta}{50}$ .

**Proof** By Proposition 18, we have that  $|E_{\ell}(x/s) - e^{-x/s}| \leq \frac{(x/s)^{\ell}}{\ell!} \leq \frac{x/s}{2}$ . Therefore,

$$|E_{\ell}(x/s)| \le e^{-x/s} + \frac{x/s}{2} \le 1,$$
 (7)

where we use the fact that  $e^{-y} + \frac{y}{2} \le 1$  for any  $0 \le y \le 1$ , and set y = x/s.

Now, we use the standard fact that for any positive integer s and any real values  $a,b, |a^s-b^s| \le s \cdot |a-b| \cdot \max(|a|^{s-1},|b|^{s-1})$ . Hence, we obtain that  $|E_\ell(x/s)^s-e^{-x}| \le s \cdot |E_\ell(x/s)-e^{-x/s}| \cdot \max\left(|E_\ell(x/s)|^{s-1},|e^{-x/s}|^{s-1}\right)$ . Since  $|e^{-x/s}| \le 1$  and  $|E_\ell(x/s)| \le 1$  by Equation (7), this means that  $|E_\ell(x/s)^s-e^{-x}| \le s \cdot |E_\ell(x/s)-e^{-x/s}| \le s \cdot \frac{(x/s)^\ell}{\ell!} \le \frac{s}{\ell!}$ .

Next, note that  $\ell! \geq (\ell/e)^{\ell}$ . So, if  $\delta < \delta_0$  is sufficiently small, because  $\ell \geq 2 \cdot \log \frac{\beta}{\delta} \geq 2 \cdot \log \delta_0^{-1}$ , then  $\ell! \geq e^{5\ell} \geq (\beta/\delta)^5$ . Hence, because  $s \leq 10^8 \cdot \beta^2 \cdot \log \frac{\beta}{\delta} \leq 10^8 \cdot \frac{\beta^3}{\delta}$ , this means  $\frac{s}{\ell!} \leq 10^8 \cdot \frac{\delta^4}{\beta^2} \leq \frac{\delta}{100}$ . In summary, for all  $0 \leq x \leq s$ , we have  $|E_{\ell}(x/s)^s - e^{-x}| \leq \frac{\delta}{100}$ .

Next, we bound  $|E_{\ell}(x/s)^s - G_{r,s}(E_{\ell}(x/s))|$ . Indeed, because  $|E_{\ell}(x/s)| \le 1$  by Equation (7), we can apply Propositions 14 and 28 to obtain that  $|E_{\ell}(x/s)^s - G_{r,s}(E_{\ell}(x/s))| \le 2e^{-r^2/2s} \le 2 \cdot (\delta/\beta)^5 \le \frac{\delta}{100}$ .

So, by triangle inequality, we have that  $|G_{r,s}(E_{\ell}(x/s)) - e^{-x}| \leq \frac{\delta}{50}$ .

**Lemma 30 (Property 2)** For any  $x \ge s$ ,  $-\frac{\delta}{50} \le G_{r,s}(E_{\ell}(x/s)) \le e^{0.1 \cdot x/\beta}$ .

**Proof** Since  $x \ge s \ge 0$ , we have  $|E_{\ell}(x/s)| \le e^{x/s}$  by Proposition 17.

First, assume that  $1 \le |E_{\ell}(x/s)| \le e^{x/s}$ . In this case, by Proposition 15,  $0 \le G_{r,s}(E_{\ell}(x/s)) \le (2 \cdot e^{x/s})^r$ . Since  $x \ge s$ ,  $2 \cdot e^{x/s} \le e^{2x/s}$ . Thus,  $0 \le G_{r,s}(E_{\ell}(x/s)) \le e^{(2x/s) \cdot r} \le e^{0.1 \cdot x/\beta}$ , by our bounds on r and s.

Alternatively,  $|E_{\ell}(x/s)| \leq 1$ , in which case  $|G_{r,s}(E_{\ell}(x/s)) - E_{\ell}(x/s)^s| \leq 2 \cdot e^{-r^2/2s} \leq 2(\delta/\beta)^5$  by Propositions 14 and 28. Since s is even, this means  $0 \leq E_{\ell}(x/s)^s \leq 1$ , so  $-2(\delta/\beta)^5 \leq G_{r,s}(E_{\ell}(x/s)) \leq 1 + 2(\delta/\beta)^5$ . Moreover, assuming  $\delta < \delta_0$ ,  $2(\delta/\beta)^5 \leq \frac{\delta}{50}$  and  $2(\delta/\beta)^5 \leq \frac{0.1}{\beta} \leq \frac{0.1 \cdot x}{\beta}$ . So,  $-\frac{\delta}{50} \leq G_{r,s}(E_{\ell}(x/s)) \leq 1 + \frac{0.1x}{\beta} \leq e^{0.1 \cdot x/\beta}$ .

In either case, we have that  $-\frac{\delta}{50} \leq G_{r,s}(E_{\ell}(x/s)) \leq e^{0.1 \cdot x/\beta}$ .

**Lemma 31 (Property 3)** For any  $x \le 0$ ,  $0 \le G_{r,s}(E_{\ell}(x/s)) \le e^{|x|}$ .

**Proof** By Propositions 16 and 17,  $1 \le E_{\ell}(x/s) \le e^{|x|/s}$ . Therefore, by Proposition 15,  $0 \le G_{r,s}(E_{\ell}(x/s)) \le (e^{|x|/s})^s = e^{|x|}$ .

Before proving that Q satisfies a version of Property 4, we prove several auxiliary lemmas.

**Lemma 32** On the range  $[1, \infty)$ , and for any  $t \ge 0$ ,  $\frac{\Phi_{t+1}}{\Phi_t}$  is at least 1 and increasing.

**Proof** We prove this via induction. For the base case t=0, this equals  $\frac{x}{1}=x$ , which, on  $[1,\infty)$ , is clearly increasing and at least 1. Next, for any  $t\geq 1$ , note that  $\Phi_{t+1}(x)=2x\cdot\Phi_t(x)-\Phi_{t-1}(x)$ , which means that  $\frac{\Phi_{t+1}(x)}{\Phi_t(x)}=2x-\frac{\Phi_{t-1}(x)}{\Phi_t(x)}$ . By our inductive hypothesis,  $\frac{\Phi_t(x)}{\Phi_{t-1}(x)}\geq 1$ , which means  $\frac{\Phi_{t-1}(x)}{\Phi_t(x)}\leq 1$ , so  $2x-\frac{\Phi_{t-1}(x)}{\Phi_t(x)}\geq 2-\frac{\Phi_{t-1}(x)}{\Phi_t(x)}\geq 1$  for all  $x\geq 1$ . Moreover, by our inductive hypothesis,  $\frac{\Phi_t(x)}{\Phi_{t-1}(x)}$  is increasing and positive, which means  $\frac{\Phi_{t-1}(x)}{\Phi_t(x)}$  is decreasing, which means  $2x-\frac{\Phi_{t-1}(x)}{\Phi_t(x)}$  is increasing. This completes the inductive step.

**Corollary 33** For any  $x \ge 1$ , we have that  $0 = \frac{\Phi_0'(x)}{\Phi_0(x)} \le \frac{\Phi_1'(x)}{\Phi_1(x)} \le \frac{\Phi_2'(x)}{\Phi_2(x)} \le \cdots$ .

**Proof** Since  $\Phi_0(x)=1$ , clearly  $\frac{\Phi_0'(x)}{\Phi_0(x)}=\frac{0}{1}=0$ .

So, we just need to check that for any  $t\geq 0$ ,  $\frac{\Phi'_{t+1}(x)}{\Phi_{t+1}(x)}\geq \frac{\Phi'_{t}(x)}{\Phi_{t}(x)}$ . To see why, by Lemma 32,  $\frac{d}{dx}\left(\frac{\Phi_{t+1}(x)}{\Phi_{t}(x)}\right)=\frac{\Phi_{t}(x)\cdot\Phi'_{t+1}(x)-\Phi'_{t}(x)\cdot\Phi_{t+1}(x)}{\Phi_{t}(x)^{2}}\geq 0$ . Since  $\Phi_{t}$ ,  $\Phi_{t+1}$  are strictly positive for  $x\geq 1$ , this implies that

$$0 \le \frac{\Phi_t(x) \cdot \Phi'_{t+1}(x) - \Phi'_t(x) \cdot \Phi_{t+1}(x)}{\Phi_t(x)^2} \cdot \frac{\Phi_t(x)}{\Phi_{t+1}(x)}$$

$$= \frac{\Phi_t(x) \cdot \Phi'_{t+1}(x) - \Phi'_t(x) \cdot \Phi_{t+1}(x)}{\Phi_t(x) \cdot \Phi_{t+1}(x)}$$

$$= \frac{\Phi'_{t+1}(x)}{\Phi_{t+1}(x)} - \frac{\Phi'_t(x)}{\Phi_t(x)}.$$

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**Lemma 34** For all  $x \ge 1$ ,  $0 \le G'_{r,s}(x) \le \frac{s}{r} \cdot G_{r,s}(x)$ 

**Proof** Fix any  $x \geq 1$ , and let  $a_t := \frac{\Phi_t'(x)}{\Phi_t(x)}$  and  $b_t := \Phi_t(x) \cdot \mathbb{P}_{t' \sim \mathcal{D}_s}(|t'| = t)$ . By Corollary 33,  $0 = a_0 \leq a_1 \leq \cdots$  and for every  $0 \leq t \leq s$  and  $x \geq 1$ ,  $b_t$  is nonnegative. By Proposition 13,  $x^s = \sum_{t=0}^s \mathbb{P}_{t' \sim \mathcal{D}_s}(|t'| = t) \cdot \Phi_t(x) = \sum_{t=0}^s b_t$ , and  $G_{r,s}(x) = \sum_{t'=0}^r \mathbb{P}_{t' \sim \mathcal{D}_s}(|t'| = t) \cdot \Phi_t(x) = \sum_{t=0}^r b_t$ . We also have that  $sx^{s-1} = \frac{d}{dx}(x^s) = \sum_{t=0}^s \Phi_t'(x) \cdot \mathbb{P}_{t' \sim \mathcal{D}_s}(|t'| = t) = \sum_{t=0}^s a_t b_t$ , and  $G_{r,s}' = \sum_{t=0}^r \Phi_t'(x) \cdot \mathbb{P}_{t' \sim \mathcal{D}_s}(|t'| = t) = \sum_{t=0}^r a_t b_t$ . Since every  $b_t$  is nonnegative, and every  $a_t$  is nonnegative by Corollary 33, this immediately

Since every  $b_t$  is nonnegative, and every  $a_t$  is nonnegative by Corollary 33, this immediately implies that  $G'_{r,s}(x) = \sum_{t=0}^r a_t b_t \ge 0$ . Next, to prove that  $G'_{r,s}(x) \le \frac{s}{x} \cdot G_{r,s}(x)$ , it is equivalent to prove that  $G'_{r,s}(x) \cdot x^s \le G_{r,s}(x) \cdot sx^{s-1}$ , or

$$\left(\sum_{t=0}^r a_t b_t\right) \cdot \left(\sum_{t=0}^s b_t\right) \le \left(\sum_{t=0}^s a_t b_t\right) \cdot \left(\sum_{t=0}^r b_t\right).$$

The Right Hand Side minus the Left Hand Side of the above equation equals

$$\sum_{t>r,t'\leq r} a_t b_t b_{t'} - \sum_{t\leq r,t'>r} a_t b_t b_{t'} = \sum_{t>r,t'\leq r} (a_t - a_{t'}) b_t b_{t'}.$$

Corollary 33 tells us that  $a_t - a_{t'} \ge 0$  for all t > r and  $t' \le r$ , which completes the proof.

**Lemma 35** For all  $0 \le x \le 1$ ,  $|G'_{r,s}(x) - sx^{s-1}| \le 2s^2 \cdot e^{-r^2/2s}$ .

**Proof** By Proposition 13, we can write  $G_{r,s}(x) = x^s - \sum_{t>r} \mathbb{P}_{t' \sim \mathcal{D}_s}(|t'| = t) \cdot \Phi_t(x)$ . Hence,  $G'_{r,s}(x) = sx^{s-1} - \sum_{t>r} \mathbb{P}_{t' \sim \mathcal{D}_s}(|t'| = t) \cdot \Phi'_t(x)$ . By Proposition 11,  $|\Phi'_t(x)| \leq t^2 \leq s^2$ , so  $|G'_{r,s}(x) - sx^{s-1}| \leq \sum_{t>r} s^2 \cdot \mathbb{P}_{t' \sim \mathcal{D}_s}(|t'| = t) \leq 2s^2 \cdot e^{-r^2/2s}$ , where the final inequality holds by Hoeffding's inequality.

We can now prove that Q almost satisfies Property 4 in Theorem 27.

**Lemma 36** We have that for all x,  $|Q'(x)| \le 99 \cdot Q(x) + \frac{\delta}{50}$ .

**Proof** Note that  $E'_{\ell}(x) = -E_{\ell-1}(x)$ . Since  $\ell$  is even, by Proposition 19, we have that  $\left|\frac{d}{dx}E_{\ell}(x/s)\right| = \left|\frac{1}{s}\cdot E_{\ell-1}(x/s)\right| \leq \frac{99}{s}\cdot |E_{\ell}(x/s)|$ . Then, we have that

$$|Q'(x)| = \left| \frac{d}{dx} G_{r,s}(E_{\ell}(x/s)) \right| \le |G'_{r,s}(E_{\ell}(x/s))| \cdot \frac{99}{s} \cdot |E_{\ell}(x/s)|.$$

Now, let  $y := E_{\ell}(x/s)$ . By Proposition 20, we know that  $y \ge \min\left(\frac{1}{100}, e^{-\ell}\right) > 0$ .

Next, we bound  $|G'_{r,s}(y)| = |G'_{r,s}(E_{\ell}(x/s))|$ . If  $y \ge 1$ , then by Lemma 34,  $G_{r,s}(y)$  is nonnegative and  $|G'_{r,s}(y)| \le \frac{s}{y} \cdot G_{r,s}(y)$ . Otherwise, 0 < y < 1, so by Lemma 35,  $|G'_{r,s}(y)| \le sy^{s-1} + 2s^2 \cdot e^{-r^2/2s}$ , whereas by Proposition 14,  $G_{r,s}(y) \ge y^s - 2e^{-r^2/2s}$ .

In the case where  $y = E_{\ell}(x/s) \ge 1$ ,  $|Q'(x)| \le \frac{s}{y} \cdot G_{r,s}(y) \cdot \frac{99}{s} \cdot y = 99 \cdot Q(x)$ . Otherwise,

$$|Q'(x)| \le (sy^{s-1} + 2s^2 \cdot e^{-r^2/2s}) \cdot \frac{99}{s} \cdot y = 99 \cdot y^s + 198se^{-r^2/2s} \cdot y \le 99 \cdot G_{r,s}(y) + 198(s+1)e^{-r^2/2s} \cdot y \le 99 \cdot G_{r,s}(y)$$

By Proposition 28,  $e^{-r^2/2s} = (\delta/\beta)^5$ , so  $198(s+1)e^{-r^2/2s} \le \frac{\delta}{50}$ , assuming  $\delta < \delta_0$  is sufficiently small. Therefore, whether  $y \ge 1$  or 0 < y < 1, we have that  $|Q'(x)| \le 99 \cdot Q(x) + \frac{\delta}{50}$ .

While the desired properties are not exactly satisfied, it will turn out that a simple shifting/scaling will be enough to modify Q to exactly satisfy the properties of Theorem 27. However, we will not make this correction yet, because we also wish to further reduce the degree of Q, which we will do using  $\operatorname{Trunc}_k$ . Since  $G_{r,s}$  has degree r and  $E_\ell$  has degree  $\ell$ , Q has degree  $r \cdot \ell = O(\beta \cdot \log^2 \frac{\beta}{\delta})$ . While this already improves over Bakshi et al. (2024) in that it reduces the dependence on  $\beta$  to polynomial rather than exponential, we have picked up an additional factor of  $\log \frac{1}{\delta}$ , compared to Bakshi et al. (2024). By truncating, we can further reduce the degree to  $k+2 = O(\beta \cdot \log \frac{\beta}{\delta})$  while ensuring that all four properties hold, which will prove Theorem 27.

# A.2. Proof of Theorem 27

Before proving Theorem 27, we will show that  $\hat{P}$ , despite having smaller degree  $k+2 = O(\beta \cdot \log \frac{1}{\delta})$ , is very similar to Q.

We start by bounding the coefficients of Q(x).

**Lemma 37** For every  $j \ge 0$ , the degree j coefficient of  $Q(x) = G_{r,s}(E_{\ell}(x/s))$  (as a polynomial in x) is at most  $5^r \cdot \frac{(r/s)^j}{j!}$  in absolute value.

**Proof** Note that

$$\left(\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{j! \cdot s^j} \cdot x^j\right)^t = \left(\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{(x/s)^j}{j!}\right)^t = e^{x \cdot t/s} = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{(t/s)^j}{j!} \cdot x^j.$$

This holds not only for all x, but also as an equality as formal series in x. Since all of these coefficients  $\frac{1}{i! \cdot s^j}$  are positive, if we look at

$$E_{\ell}(-x/s)^{t} = \left(\sum_{j=0}^{\ell} \frac{(x/s)^{j}}{j!}\right)^{t} = \left(\sum_{j=0}^{\ell} \frac{1}{j! \cdot s^{j}} \cdot x^{j}\right)^{t}$$

as a polynomial, for any  $j \geq 0$  the degree j coefficient is nonnegative and at most  $\frac{(t/s)^j}{j!}$ . Therefore, the degree j coefficient of  $E_\ell(x/s)^t$  is at most  $\frac{(t/s)^j}{j!}$  in absolute value. Now, let's look at the degree j coefficient of a Chebyshev polynomial of degree t applied to

Now, let's look at the degree j coefficient of a Chebyshev polynomial of degree t applied to  $E_{\ell}(x/s)$ , i.e.,  $\Phi_t(E_{\ell}(x/s))$ . By Proposition 12, the degree j coefficient, in absolute value, is at most

$$\sum_{t'=0}^{t} (1+\sqrt{2})^t \cdot \frac{(t'/s)^j}{j!} \le (1+\sqrt{2})^t \cdot (t+1) \cdot \frac{(t/s)^j}{j!} \le 5^t \cdot \frac{(t/s)^j}{j!}.$$

Since  $G_{r,s}(x) = \mathbb{E}_{t \sim \mathcal{D}_s}[\Phi_t(x) \cdot \mathbb{I}[|t| \leq r]], G_{r,s}(E_\ell(x/s))$  is a weighted average of  $\Phi_t(E_\ell(x/s))$  for  $0 \leq t \leq r$  and 0, which means that the degree j coefficient of  $G_{r,s}(E_\ell(x/s))$  is at most  $5^r \cdot \frac{(r/s)^j}{j!}$  in absolute value.

**Corollary 38** Let Err(x) denote the polynomial  $Q(x) - Trunc_k(Q)(x)$ . Then, we can bound both

$$|\operatorname{Err}(x)|, |\operatorname{Err}'(x)| \le \begin{cases} \frac{\delta}{10^5} & |x| \le 4s\\ e^{0.1|x|/\beta} & |x| > 4s. \end{cases}$$
 (8)

**Proof** By Lemma 37, we can bound

$$|\operatorname{Err}(x)| \le \sum_{j=k+1}^{\infty} 5^r \cdot \frac{(r/s)^j}{j!} \cdot |x|^j \tag{9}$$

and

$$|\operatorname{Err}(x)| \le \sum_{j=k+1}^{\infty} 5^r \cdot \frac{(r/s)^j}{(j-1)!} \cdot |x|^{j-1}.$$
 (10)

If  $|x| \le 4s$ , using the fact that  $k \ge 90r$ , (9) is at most

$$\sum_{j=k+1}^{\infty} \frac{5^r \cdot (4r)^j}{j!} \leq \sum_{j=k+1}^{\infty} \frac{(10r)^j}{j!} \leq \sum_{j=k+1}^{\infty} \frac{(10r)^j}{(j/e)^j} = \sum_{j=k+1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{10e \cdot r}{j}\right)^j \leq \sum_{j=k+1}^{\infty} 2^{-j} = 2^{-k} \leq \frac{\delta}{10^5}$$

and (10) is at most

$$\sum_{j=k+1}^{\infty} \frac{(5r/s) \cdot 5^{r-1} \cdot (r \cdot |x|/s)^{j-1}}{(j-1)!} \leq \sum_{j=k+1}^{\infty} \frac{5^{r-1} \cdot (4r)^{j-1}}{(j-1)!} \leq \sum_{j=k}^{\infty} \left(\frac{10e \cdot r}{j}\right)^{j} \leq \sum_{j=k}^{\infty} 2^{-j} = 2^{-k+1} \leq \frac{\delta}{10^{5}}.$$

If |x| > 4s, (9) is at most

$$5^r \cdot \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \frac{(|x| \cdot r/s)^j}{j!} = 5^r \cdot e^{|x| \cdot r/s} \le e^{2|x| \cdot r/s} \le e^{0.1 \cdot |x|/\beta}.$$

and (10) is at most

$$5^r \cdot (r/s) \cdot \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \frac{(|x| \cdot r/s)^{j-1}}{(j-1)!} \le 5^r \cdot \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{(|x| \cdot r/s)^j}{j!} \le e^{0.1 \cdot |x|/\beta}.$$

We are now ready to prove the desired properties of Theorem 27.

**Lemma 39 (Property 1)** For all  $0 \le x \le 4\beta \log \frac{1}{\delta}$ ,  $|\hat{P}(x) - e^{-x}| \le \delta$ .

**Proof** We will prove the result for all  $0 \le x \le s$ : note that  $s \ge 4\beta \log \frac{1}{\delta}$  by (6).

We know that  $|Q(x) - e^{-x}| \le \frac{\delta}{50}$  for all  $0 \le x \le s$ , by Lemma 29. Next, we know that  $|Q(x) - \operatorname{Trunc}_k(Q)(x)| \le \frac{\delta}{10^5} \le \frac{\delta}{50}$  for all  $0 \le x \le s$ , by Corollary 38. So, by Triangle inequality,

 $|\operatorname{Trunc}_k(Q)(x) - e^{-x}| \le \frac{\delta}{25}$ . This implies that  $|\operatorname{Trunc}_k(Q)(x)| \le e^{-x} + \frac{\delta}{25} \le 1 + \frac{\delta}{25}$ , since x is nonnegative. So, for any  $0 \le x \le s$ , we have

$$\begin{split} |\hat{P}(x) - e^{-x}| &= \left| \left( 1 - \frac{\delta}{5} \right) \cdot \mathrm{Trunc}_k(Q)(x) + \left( \frac{x}{2s} \right)^{k+2} + \frac{\delta}{10} - e^{-x} \right| \\ &\leq \left| \mathrm{Trunc}_k(Q)(x) - e^{-x} \right| + \frac{\delta}{5} \cdot \left| \mathrm{Trunc}_k(Q)(x) \right| + \left( \frac{|x|}{2s} \right)^{k+2} + \frac{\delta}{10} \\ &\leq \frac{\delta}{25} + \frac{\delta}{5} \cdot \left( 1 + \frac{\delta}{25} \right) + 2^{-(k+2)} + \frac{\delta}{10}, \end{split}$$

which is at most  $\delta$ .

**Lemma 40 (Properties 2 and 3)** For all  $x \ge 0$ ,  $|\hat{P}(x)| \le e^{x/(2\beta)}$ , and for all  $x \le 0$ ,  $|\hat{P}(x)| \le e^{-x}$ .

**Proof** We will repeatedly use the fact that  $|\hat{P}(x)| \leq (1 - \frac{\delta}{5}) \cdot |\operatorname{Trunc}_k(Q)(x)| + (\frac{|x|}{2s})^{k+2} + \frac{\delta}{10}$ , which follows by the definition of  $\hat{P}$ .

First, assume  $0 \le x \le s$ . We saw in the proof of Lemma 39 that  $|\operatorname{Trunc}_k(Q)(x)| \le 1 + \frac{\delta}{25}$ . Thus,

$$|\hat{P}(x)| \le \left(1 - \frac{\delta}{5}\right) \cdot \left(1 + \frac{\delta}{25}\right) + \left(\frac{|x|}{2s}\right)^{k+2} + \frac{\delta}{10} \le 1 - \frac{\delta}{5} + \frac{\delta}{25} + 2^{-(k+2)} + \frac{\delta}{10} \le 1 \le e^{x/(2\beta)}.$$

Next, assume  $x \geq s$ . By Corollary 38, we have that  $|Q(x) - \operatorname{Trunc}_k(Q)(x)| \leq e^{0.1 \cdot x/\beta}$ . Moreover, by Lemma 30,  $|Q(x)| \leq e^{0.1 \cdot x/\beta}$ . So,  $|\operatorname{Trunc}_k(Q)(x)| \leq 2e^{0.1 \cdot x/\beta}$ . Therefore,

$$\begin{split} |\hat{P}(x)| &\leq \left(1 - \frac{\delta}{5}\right) \cdot |\operatorname{Trunc}_k(Q)(x)| + \left(\frac{x}{2s}\right)^{k+2} + \frac{\delta}{10} \\ &\leq 2e^{0.1 \cdot x/\beta} + e^{(x/2s) \cdot (k+2)} + 1 \\ &\leq 4e^{x/(4\beta)} \\ &\leq e^{x/(2\beta)}. \end{split}$$

where the second line uses the fact that  $\frac{x}{2s} \leq e^{x/2s}$  (indeed,  $y \leq e^y$  for all  $y \in \mathbb{R}$ ).

Next, assume that  $-s \le x \le 0$ . In this case,  $|\operatorname{Trunc}_k(Q)(x)| \le |\operatorname{Err}(x)| + |Q(x)| \le \frac{\delta}{50} + e^{|x|}$ , by Corollary 38 and Lemma 31. So,

$$\begin{split} |\hat{P}(x)| &\leq \left(1 - \frac{\delta}{5}\right) \cdot \left(e^{|x|} + \frac{\delta}{50}\right) + 2^{-(k+2)} + \frac{\delta}{10} \\ &\leq e^{|x|} - \frac{\delta}{5} + \frac{\delta}{50} + 2^{-(k+2)} + \frac{\delta}{10} \\ &\leq e^{|x|}. \end{split}$$

Finally, assume  $x \le -s$ . In this case,  $|\operatorname{Trunc}_k(Q)(x)| \le |\operatorname{Err}(x)| + |Q(x)| \le e^{0.1|x|/\beta} + e^{|x|}$ , by Corollary 38 and Lemma 31. So,

$$\begin{split} |\hat{P}(x)| &\leq \left(1 - \frac{\delta}{5}\right) \cdot \left(e^{|x|} + e^{0.1 \cdot |x|/\beta}\right) + \left(\frac{|x|}{2s}\right)^{k+2} + \frac{\delta}{10} \\ &\leq e^{|x|} - \frac{\delta}{5} \cdot e^{|x|} + e^{0.1 \cdot |x|/\beta} + e^{x \cdot (k+2)/(2s)} + \frac{\delta}{10} \\ &\leq e^{|x|} - \frac{\delta}{5} \cdot e^{|x|} + e^{0.1 \cdot |x|/\beta} + e^{0.5 \cdot |x|} + \frac{\delta}{10} \\ &\leq e^{|x|}. \end{split}$$

**Lemma 41 (Property 4)** For all x, we have that  $99 \cdot \hat{P}(x) > |\hat{P}'(x)|$ . (Note that this automatically implies  $\hat{P}(x) > 0$ .)

**Proof** First, note that for all x,  $|Q'(x)| \le 99 \cdot Q(x) + \frac{\delta}{50}$ , by Lemma 36. We start with the case  $|x| \le 4s$ . By Corollary 38,  $|\operatorname{Err}(x)|, |\operatorname{Err}'(x)| \le \frac{\delta}{10^5}$ , so

$$99 \cdot \text{Trunc}_k(Q)(x) \ge 99 \cdot Q(x) - \frac{\delta}{10^3} \ge |Q'(x)| - \frac{\delta}{50} - \frac{\delta}{10^3} \ge |\text{Trunc}_k(Q)'(x)| - \frac{\delta}{25}.$$

Next, we recall that  $\hat{P}(x) = (1 - \frac{\delta}{5}) \cdot \text{Trunc}_k(Q)(x) + \left(\frac{x}{2s}\right)^{k+2} + \frac{\delta}{10}$ , which means that

$$99 \cdot \hat{P}(x) \ge \left(1 - \frac{\delta}{5}\right) \cdot 99 \cdot \operatorname{Trunc}_{k}(Q)(x) + \frac{\delta}{10} + \left(\frac{x}{2s}\right)^{k+2}$$
$$\ge \left(1 - \frac{\delta}{5}\right) \cdot |\operatorname{Trunc}_{k}(Q)'(x)| + \frac{\delta}{20} + \left(\frac{x}{2s}\right)^{k+2} \tag{11}$$

and

$$|\hat{P}'(x)| \le \left(1 - \frac{\delta}{5}\right) \cdot |\operatorname{Trunc}_k(Q)'(x)| + \frac{k+2}{2s} \cdot \left(\frac{|x|}{2s}\right)^{k+1}. \tag{12}$$

For any  $|x| \le k+2$ , note that  $\left|\frac{k+2}{2s} \cdot \left(\frac{x}{2s}\right)^{k+1}\right|$  is at most  $2^{-k} \le \frac{\delta}{50}$ , and k is even so  $\left(\frac{x}{2s}\right)^{k+2}$  is positive. Thus, (12) is smaller than (11). Alternatively, if  $k+2 < |x| \le 4s$ , then  $\left|\frac{k+2}{2s} \cdot \left(\frac{|x|}{2s}\right)^{k+1}\right| \le \left(\frac{|x|}{2s}\right)^{k+2} = \left(\frac{x}{2s}\right)^{k+2}$ , so we still have that (12) is smaller than (11). In either case,  $99 \cdot \hat{P}(x) > |\hat{P}'(x)|$ .

We now assume  $|x| \ge 4s$ . In this case, we explicitly write

$$\hat{P}(x) = \left(\frac{x}{2s}\right)^{k+2} + \frac{\delta}{10} + \left(1 - \frac{\delta}{5}\right) \cdot \sum_{j=0}^{k} q_j x^j,$$

where  $q_j$  represent the coefficients of Q. (Note that we stop the summation at degree k.) By Lemma 37,  $|q_j| \leq 5^r \cdot \frac{(r/s)^j}{j!}$ . Hence, assuming  $|x| \geq 4s$  and since k is even,

$$\hat{P}(x) \ge \left(\frac{|x|}{2s}\right)^{k+2} - \sum_{j=0}^{k} 5^{r} \cdot \frac{(r/s)^{j}}{j!} |x|^{j}$$

$$= 2^{k+2} \cdot \left(\frac{|x|}{4s}\right)^{k+2} - 5^{r} \cdot \sum_{j=0}^{k} \left(\frac{|x|}{4s}\right)^{j} \cdot \frac{(4r)^{j}}{j!}$$

$$\ge \left(\frac{|x|}{4s}\right)^{k+2} \cdot \left(2^{k+2} - 5^{r} \cdot \sum_{j=0}^{k} \frac{(4r)^{j}}{j!}\right)$$

$$\ge \left(\frac{|x|}{4s}\right)^{k+2} \cdot \left(2^{k+2} - 5^{r} \cdot e^{4r}\right)$$

$$\ge \left(\frac{|x|}{4s}\right)^{k+2} \cdot 2^{k+1} = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \left(\frac{|x|}{2s}\right)^{k+2}.$$

Conversely,

$$|\hat{P}'(x)| \le \frac{k+2}{2s} \cdot \left(\frac{|x|}{2s}\right)^{k+1} + \sum_{j=1}^{k} 5^{r} \cdot \frac{(r/s)^{j}}{(j-1)!} \cdot |x|^{j-1}$$

$$= \frac{k+2}{|x|} \cdot 2^{k+2} \cdot \left(\frac{|x|}{4s}\right)^{k+2} + 5^{r} \cdot \frac{r}{s} \cdot \sum_{j=0}^{k-1} \left(\frac{|x|}{4s}\right)^{j} \cdot \frac{(4r)^{j}}{j!}$$

$$\le \left(\frac{|x|}{4s}\right)^{k+2} \cdot \left(\frac{k+2}{|x|} \cdot 2^{k+2} + 5^{r} \cdot \frac{r}{s} \cdot \sum_{j=0}^{k-1} \frac{(4r)^{j}}{j!}\right)$$

$$\le \left(\frac{|x|}{4s}\right)^{k+2} \cdot \left(2^{k+1} + 5^{r} \cdot e^{4r}\right)$$

$$\le \left(\frac{|x|}{4s}\right)^{k+2} \cdot 2^{k+2} = \left(\frac{|x|}{2s}\right)^{k+2}.$$

So, we again have that  $99 \cdot \hat{P}(x) > |\hat{P}'(x)|$ ; in fact, we even have that  $2 \cdot \hat{P}(x) \geq |\hat{P}'(x)|$ .

Finally, we verify that the roots of  $\hat{P}$  are (reasonably) bounded.

**Lemma 42 (Property 5)** Then, the leading coefficient of  $(99 \cdot \hat{P} - \hat{P}')$  is at most  $\delta$  in magnitude, and all roots of  $\hat{P}(x)$  have magnitude bounded by  $e^{10^9 \cdot \beta \cdot \log^2(\beta/\delta)}$ .

**Proof** Note that for  $\hat{P}$ , the only term beyond degree k is the term  $\left(\frac{x}{2s}\right)^{k+2}$ . Thus, the leading coefficient of  $(99 \cdot \hat{P} - \hat{P}')$  is  $99 \cdot (2s)^{-(k+2)} \leq 2^{-(k+2)} \leq \delta$ .

Next, by Lemma 37, the degree j coefficient of Q(x) is at most  $\frac{5^r}{j!}$  in absolute value, which means that every coefficient of  $99 \cdot Q(x) - Q'(x)$  is at most  $100 \cdot 5^r$  in absolute value. Therefore, for

every  $0 \le j \le k$ , the degree j coefficient of  $(99 \cdot \hat{P} - \hat{P}')$  is at most  $\left(1 - \frac{\delta}{5}\right) \cdot 100 \cdot 5^r + \frac{\delta}{10} \le 100 \cdot 5^r$ . Moreover, the degree k+1 coefficient is  $-\frac{k+2}{(2s)^{k+2}}$  and the degree k+2 coefficient is  $\frac{99}{(2s)^{k+2}}$ .

This implies that any z which is a root of  $99 \cdot \hat{P} - \hat{P}'$  is at most  $3 \cdot (2s)^{k+2} \cdot 5^r$ . This is because if  $|z| > 3 \cdot (2s)^{k+2} \cdot 5^r$ , then

$$|99 \cdot \hat{P}(z) - \hat{P}'(z)| \ge 99 \cdot (2s)^{-(k+2)} \cdot |z|^{k+2} - (k+2)(2s)^{-(k+2)} \cdot |z|^{k+1} - 100 \cdot 5^r \cdot \sum_{j=0}^k |z|^j$$

$$\ge (2s)^{-(k+2)} \cdot \left(99 \cdot |z|^{k+2} - 100 \cdot 5^r \cdot (2s)^{k+2} \cdot \sum_{j=0}^{k+1} |z|^j\right)$$

$$\ge (2s)^{-(k+2)} \cdot \left(99 \cdot |z|^{k+2} - 200 \cdot 5^r \cdot (2s)^{k+2} \cdot |z|^{k+1}\right)$$

$$> 0.$$

where the final inequality is strict. Thus, z cannot be a root of  $\hat{P}$ .

So, the roots are bounded by  $3 \cdot (2s)^{k+2} \cdot 5^r \le e^{10^9 \cdot \beta \cdot \log^2(\beta/\delta)}$ , by the parameter settings on r, s, k and the assumption that  $\delta < \delta_0$  is sufficiently small.

Combining everything together, we have Theorem 27.

**Proof** [Proof of Theorem 27] Note that  $\hat{P}$  has degree  $k + 2 \le 5 \cdot 10^6 \cdot \beta \cdot \log \frac{\beta}{\delta}$ . Moreover, all five properties are satisfied, by Lemmas 39, 40, 41, and 42.

# Appendix B. Sum-of-Squares Bound

In this section, we prove an important Sum-of-Squares result about the polynomial P, showing that a particular bivariate polynomial (depending on P) can be expressed as a SoS polynomial. The result we prove will correspond to (Bakshi et al., 2024, Theorem 4.6), and will be a key ingredient in the final algorithm.

Specifically, our goal in this section is to prove the following theorem.

**Theorem 43** Let P(x) be the polynomial of Theorem 26. Let d equal the degree of P(x), and and let U(x) be any polynomial satisfying U'(x) = P(x). Then, the polynomial

$$R(x,y) := 0.5(x-y)(1+0.25(x-y)^2) \cdot (U(x)-U(y)) - 0.00025(x-y)^2 P(x)$$

is a  $(6d^2, d, e^{10^{23} \cdot \beta^5 \cdot \log^3(1/\varepsilon)})$ -bounded SoS polynomial in x, y.

Before we prove the above theorem, we note a few key lemmas.

**Lemma 44** (Bakshi et al., 2024, Claim B.4) Let  $p(x, y, \lambda)$  be a polynomial such that for all  $\lambda \in [0, 1]$ , it is a (k, d, C)-bounded SoS polynomial in x, y (after plugging in a real value for  $\lambda$ ). Then the polynomial

$$r(x,y) = \int_0^1 p(x,y,\lambda) d\lambda$$

is a  $(3d^2, d, \sqrt{k}C)$ -bounded SoS polynomial in x, y.

**Lemma 45 (Restatement of (Bakshi et al., 2024, Lemma B.7))** *Let* p, q *be univariate polynomials such that* p *is the derivative of* q*. Let* p' *be the derivative of* p*. Define* 

$$r(x,y) := 0.5(x-y)(1+0.25(x-y)^2)(q(x)-q(y)) - 0.00025(x-y)^2(p(x)+p(y)).$$
 (13)

Define the polynomials z = (x + y)/2 and a = (x - y)/2. Then,

$$r(x,y) = \int_0^1 ((0.998a^2 + a^4) p(z + \lambda a) - 0.001a^3(2 - \lambda) \cdot p'(z + \lambda a)) d\lambda + \int_0^1 ((0.998a^2 + a^4) p(z - \lambda a) - 0.001a^3(2 - \lambda) \cdot p'(z - \lambda a)) d\lambda.$$
 (14)

**Lemma 46** Let A, B, C, D be polynomials such that A+B, A-B, C+D, C-D are all (k, d, C)-bounded SoS polynomials. Then,  $A \cdot C + B \cdot D$  and  $A \cdot C - B \cdot D$  are both  $(2k^2, 2d, 2^{3d}C^2)$ -bounded SoS polynomials.

**Proof** Define  $Q_1:=A-B$  and  $Q_2:=B-(-A)=A+B$ . Define  $R_1:=C-D$  and  $R_2:=D-(-C)=C+D$ . Note that  $Q_1,Q_2,R_1,R_2$  are all (k,d,C)-bounded SoS polynomials. Moreover, we can write

$$A = \frac{Q_1 + Q_2}{2}, B = \frac{Q_2 - Q_1}{2}, C = \frac{R_1 + R_2}{2}, D = \frac{R_2 - R_1}{2}.$$

As a result, we can easily compute

$$A \cdot C - B \cdot D = \frac{Q_1 \cdot R_2 + Q_2 \cdot R_1}{2}, A \cdot C + B \cdot D = \frac{Q_1 \cdot R_1 + Q_2 \cdot R_2}{2}.$$

By Part b) of Proposition 23, all of  $Q_1 \cdot R_1$ ,  $Q_2 \cdot R_2$ ,  $Q_1 \cdot R_2$ ,  $Q_2 \cdot R_1$  are  $(k^2, 2d, (2d+1) \cdot 2^{2d}C^2)$ -bounded SoS polynomials, Thus,  $A \cdot C - B \cdot D$  and  $A \cdot C + B \cdot D$  are  $(2k^2, 2d, \frac{2d+1}{2} \cdot 2^{2d}C^2)$ -bounded SoS polynomials. This also means they are  $(2k^2, 2d, 2^{3d}C^2)$ -bounded SoS polynomials, since  $\frac{2d+1}{2} \le 2^d$  for all  $d \ge 1$ .

We can now prove the following claim, which roughly states that as long as p(x) satisfies  $|p'(x)| \leq 99 \cdot p(x)$  for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ , then in fact r(x,y) is not only always nonnegative but has a sum-of-squares proof of nonnegativity. While in the proof we assume  $99 \cdot p(x) + p'(x)$  and  $99 \cdot p(x) - p'(x)$  have Sum-of-Squares proofs of nonnegativity, we remark that a nonnegative univariate polynomial is always expressible as a sum of squares.

**Lemma 47** Suppose that p,q are univariate polynomials such that p=q'. Define r(x,y) as in (13). Suppose that  $99 \cdot p(x) + p'(x)$  and  $99 \cdot p(x) - p'(x)$  are both (k,d/2,C)-bounded SoS polynomials, where  $k \geq 2$ ,  $d \geq 4$ , and  $C \geq 10$ . Then, r(x,y) is a  $(6d^2,d,k \cdot 2^{2d} \cdot C^2)$ -bounded SoS polynomial.

**Proof** We start by considering the polynomials

$$(0.998a^{2} + a^{4}) p(z + \lambda a) - 0.001a^{3}(2 - \lambda) \cdot p'(z + \lambda a)$$
(15)

and

$$(0.998a^{2} + a^{4}) p(z - \lambda a) - 0.001a^{3}(2 - \lambda) \cdot p'(z - \lambda a)$$
(16)

for any fixed  $0 \le \lambda \le 1$ , where  $z := \frac{x+y}{2}$  and  $a := \frac{x-y}{2}$ . The bounds on these polynomials are identical, so we will focus on the first of them.

Note that  $p(z+\lambda a)=p\left(\frac{x+y}{2}+\lambda\cdot\frac{x-y}{2}\right)=p\left(\frac{1+\lambda}{2}\cdot x+\frac{1-\lambda}{2}\cdot y\right)$ . Likewise,  $p'(z+\lambda a)=p'\left(\frac{1+\lambda}{2}\cdot x+\frac{1-\lambda}{2}\cdot y\right)$ . Thus, by part c) of Proposition 23,  $99\cdot p(z+\lambda a)-p'(z+\lambda a)$  and  $99\cdot (z+\lambda a)+p'(z+\lambda a)$ , viewed as polynomials in x and y, are (k,d/2,C)-bounded SoS polynomials.

Next, note that for  $0 < \lambda < 1$ ,

$$0.998a^{2} + a^{4} - 0.099(2 - \lambda)a^{3} = a^{2} \cdot (a - 0.0495(2 - \lambda))^{2} + a^{2} \cdot (0.998 - 0.0495^{2}(2 - \lambda)^{2})$$
$$= (a \cdot (a - 0.0495(2 - \lambda)))^{2} + \left(a \cdot \sqrt{0.998 - 0.0495^{2}(2 - \lambda)^{2}}\right)^{2}$$

and

$$0.998a^{2} + a^{4} + 0.099(2 - \lambda)a^{3} = a^{2} \cdot (a + 0.0495(2 - \lambda))^{2} + a^{2} \cdot (0.998 - 0.0495^{2}(2 - \lambda)^{2})$$
$$= (a \cdot (a + 0.0495(2 - \lambda)))^{2} + \left(a \cdot \sqrt{0.998 - 0.0495^{2}(2 - \lambda)^{2}}\right)^{2}.$$

For  $0 \le \lambda \le 1$ , note that  $0 < 0.998 - 0.0495^2(2 - \lambda)^2 < 1$ . Therefore, for  $a = \frac{x - y}{2}$  and  $0 \le \lambda \le 1$ ,  $a \cdot (a - 0.0495(2 - \lambda))$  is (2, 10)-bounded, and  $a \cdot \sqrt{0.998 - 0.0495^2(2 - \lambda)^2}$  is (1, 1)-bounded. Thus, both  $0.998a^2 + a^4 - 0.099(2 - \lambda)a^3$  and  $0.998a^2 + a^4 + 0.099(2 - \lambda)a^3$  are (2, 2, 10)-bounded SoS polynomials in x, y.

Therefore, if we write  $A = p(z + \lambda a)$ ,  $B = \frac{1}{99} \cdot p'(z + \lambda a)$ ,  $C = 0.998a^2 + a^4$ , and  $D = 0.099(2 - \lambda)a^3$ , we have that A + B, A - B, C + D, C - D are all (k, d/2, C)-bounded SoS polynomials. So, by Lemma 46, we can rewrite Equation (15) as

$$A \cdot C - B \cdot D = (0.998a^2 + a^4)p(z + \lambda a) - 0.001(2 - \lambda)a^3 \cdot p'(z + \lambda a),$$

which is a  $(2k^2,d,2^{3d/2}C^2)$ -bounded SoS polynomial, for any  $0 \le \lambda \le 1$ . A nearly identical calculation will also tell us that Equation (16) is also a  $(2k^2,d,2^{3d/2}C^2)$ -bounded SoS polynomial, for any  $0 \le \lambda \le 1$ .

Therefore, by (14) and Lemma 44, we have that r(x,y) is the sum of two terms, each of which is a  $(3d^2,d,\sqrt{2k^2}\cdot 2^{3d/2}C^2)$ -bounded SoS polynomial. So, overall, r(x,y) is a  $(6d^2,d,k\cdot 2^{2d}\cdot C^2)$ -bounded SoS polynomial.

By combining Lemma 47 with what we know about P(x), we can prove Theorem 43. **Proof** [Proof of Theorem 43] We will apply Lemma 47, plugging in P for p and U for q. By Property 2 of Theorem 26, both  $99 \cdot P(x) - P'(x)$  and  $99 \cdot P(x) + P'(x)$  are positive for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ , and thus neither polynomial has any real roots. In addition, by Property 3 of Theorem 26, along with Proposition 24,  $99 \cdot P + P'$  and  $99 \cdot P - P'$  are both  $\left(2, d/2, (e^{10^{14} \cdot \beta^3 \cdot \log^2(1/\varepsilon)} \cdot d)^{d/2}\right)$ -bounded SoS polynomials. Then, we can apply Lemma 47, to say that the polynomial

$$0.5(x-y)(1+0.25(x-y)^2)\cdot (U(x)-U(y)) - 0.00025(x-y)^2 P(x)$$
 is  $\left(6d^2,d,k\cdot 2^{2d}\cdot (e^{10^{14}\cdot\beta^3\cdot\log^2(1/\varepsilon)}\cdot d)^d\right)$ -bounded. Since

$$d = k + 2 \le 3 \cdot 10^6 \cdot \beta \log \frac{\beta}{\delta} = 3 \cdot 10^6 \cdot \beta (\log \beta + 100\beta \log \frac{1}{\varepsilon}) \le 6 \cdot 10^8 \cdot \beta^2 \log \frac{1}{\varepsilon},$$

we have that

$$k \cdot 2^{2d} \cdot (e^{10^{14} \cdot \beta^3 \cdot \log^2(1/\varepsilon)} \cdot d)^d \le e^{10^{23} \cdot \beta^5 \cdot \log^3(1/\varepsilon)}.$$

# **Appendix C. Putting Everything Together**

Finally, we can prove Theorem 6. First, we note the following result from Bakshi et al. (2024).

**Theorem 48 (Implicit from Bakshi et al. (2024))** Let C > 1 > c be some absolute constants. Let  $\beta > 1$ ,  $\varepsilon \in (0,1)$ , and  $B,d \geq 1$  be parameters which may depend on  $\beta,\varepsilon$ . Suppose P(x) is a polynomial of degree d with the following guarantees.

- 1. P is a  $(C\beta \log(1/\varepsilon), c/\beta, c\varepsilon)$ -flat exponential approximation.
- 2. Let U be the polynomial with  $U(x) = \int_0^x P(t)dt$ . Then,

$$0.5(x-y)(1+0.25(x-y)^2)(U(x)-U(y)) - 0.00025(x-y)^2P(x)$$
(17)

is a  $(B, d, e^B)$ -bounded sum-of-squares polynomial in x, y.

Then, there exists an algorithm for quantum Hamiltonian learning up to error  $\varepsilon$  (with 2/3 probability) which only requires

$$\mathfrak{n} = O\left(m^6 \cdot e^{O(d)} + \frac{\log m}{\beta^2 \varepsilon^2}\right)$$

copies of the Gibbs state and runtime

$$O\left((m\cdot B)^{O(1)}\cdot e^{O(d)} + \frac{m\log m}{\beta^2\varepsilon^2}\right).$$

The proof of Theorem 6 will now follow by combining Theorems 26, 43, and 48.

**Proof** [Proof of Theorem 6] We assume that  $\beta \geq \beta_c$  for some critical threshold  $\beta_c$ . Otherwise, we can use the known bounds of Haah et al. (2022), which uses  $\mathfrak{n} = \frac{\log m}{\beta^2 \varepsilon^2}$  copies of the Gibbs state, with runtime  $\frac{m \log m}{\beta^2 \varepsilon^2}$ .

First, set  $\beta' = \beta \cdot \max(C, 1/c, 1/\beta_c)$ , where C, c are the constants in Theorem 48, and set  $\varepsilon' = \min(c, \varepsilon_0) \cdot \varepsilon$ , where  $\varepsilon_0$  is the constant in Theorem 26. Then,  $\beta' \geq 1$  and  $\varepsilon \leq \varepsilon_0$ . Now, in poly $(\beta', \log \frac{1}{\varepsilon'}) = \operatorname{poly}(\beta, \log \frac{1}{\varepsilon})$  time (since  $C, c, \varepsilon_0$  are all constants), we can construct a polynomial P satisfying Theorem 26, with respect to  $\beta', \varepsilon'$ . Importantly, P is a  $(C\beta \log(1/\varepsilon), c/\beta, c\varepsilon)$ -flat exponential approximation, since  $\beta' \geq C\beta$ ,  $1/\beta' \leq c/\beta$ , and  $\varepsilon' \leq c\varepsilon$ . Moreover, P has degree  $d = O(\beta^2 \cdot \log \frac{1}{\varepsilon})$ , since  $C, c, \varepsilon_0$  are absolute constants.

Then, by Theorem 43, we have that for  $U(x) = \int_0^x P(t)dt$ , where we view U(x) as a degree-(d+1) polynomial, we have that Equation (17) is a  $(6d^2, d, e^{O(\beta^5 \log^3(1/\varepsilon)})$ -bounded SoS polynomial in x, y. Therefore, if we set B to be a sufficiently large multiple of  $\beta^5 \cdot \log^3(1/\varepsilon)$ , we have that Equation (17) is a  $(B, d, e^B)$ -bounded SoS polynomial in x, y.

In summary, the conditions of Theorem 48 are met, so the number of samples needed is

$$\mathfrak{n} = O\left(m^6 \cdot e^{O(d)} + \frac{\log m}{\beta^2 \varepsilon^2}\right) = O\left(m^6 \cdot (1/\varepsilon)^{O(\beta^2)}\right),$$

and the runtime (along with constructing P) is

$$\operatorname{poly}\left(\beta,\log\frac{1}{\varepsilon}\right) + O\left((m\cdot\beta^5\cdot\log^3(1/\varepsilon))^{O(1)}\cdot e^{O(d)} + \frac{m\log m}{\beta^2\varepsilon^2}\right) = O\left(m^{O(1)}\cdot(1/\varepsilon)^{O(\beta^2)}\right),$$

where we assumed that  $\beta \geq \beta_c$ .