

# Use of explicit inf-sup operators to solve indefinite problems

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# Outline

- Well-posedness with the help of explicit inf-sup operators: *T-coercivity*.
- Numerical approximation and convergence via *T-coercivity*.
- Helmholtz equation in acoustics.
- Time-harmonic problems in electromagnetics.
- Transmission problems with sign changing coefficients.
- Conclusion.

# Abstract setting

Let

- $V$  and  $W$  be two Hilbert spaces ;
- $a(\cdot, \cdot)$  be a continuous sesquilinear form over  $V \times W$  ;
- $f$  be an element of  $W'$ , the dual space of  $W$ .

Aim: solve the Variational Formulation

$$(VF) \quad \text{Find } u \in V \text{ s.t. } \forall w \in W, a(u, w) = \langle f, w \rangle.$$

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• [Hadamard] The Problem  $(VF)$  is *well-posed* if, and only if, for all  $f$ , it has one and only one solution  $u$ , with continuous dependence:

$$\exists C > 0, \forall f \in W', \|u\|_V \leq C \|f\|_{W'}.$$

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How can one prove well-posedness?

- [Lax-Milgram]** OK provided that  $a(\cdot, \cdot)$  is **coercive**!

# Abstract setting-2

 [Banach-Necas-Babuska] Introduce the two conditions

$$(BNB_1) \quad \exists \alpha' > 0, \forall v \in V, \sup_{w \in W \setminus \{0\}} \frac{|a(v, w)|}{\|w\|_W} \geq \alpha' \|v\|_V.$$

$$(BNB_2) \quad \forall w \in W : \{\forall v \in V, a(v, w) = 0\} \implies \{w = 0\}.$$

NB. Condition  $(BNB_1)$  is called an *inf-sup condition*, or a *stability condition*.

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- Theorem (Well-posedness) The two assertions below are equivalent:
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- Definition (T-coercivity) The form  $a(\cdot, \cdot)$  is T-coercive if

$$\exists T \in \mathcal{L}(V, W), \text{ bijective}, \exists \underline{\alpha} > 0, \forall v \in V, |a(v, Tv)| \geq \underline{\alpha} \|v\|_V^2.$$

NB. In other words, the form  $(v, v') \mapsto a(v, Tv')$  is *coercive on*  $V \times V$ .

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- the form  $a(\cdot, \cdot)$  is T-coercive.

The operator T realizes conditions  $(BNB_1)$  and  $(BNB_2)$  explicitly.

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  - the hermitian form  $a(\cdot, \cdot)$  is T-coercive.**

# Numerical approximation

## ● Conforming discretization:

- let  $(V_h)_h$  be finite dimensional vector subspaces of  $V$  ( $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \dim(V_h) = +\infty$ );
- let  $(W_h)_h$  be finite dimensional vector subspaces of  $W$  ( $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \dim(W_h) = +\infty$ ).

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$$(DVF) \quad \text{Find } u_h \in V_h \text{ s.t. } \forall w_h \in W_h, a(u_h, w_h) = \langle f, w_h \rangle.$$

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$$(DVF) \quad \text{Find } u_h \in V_h \text{ s.t. } \forall w_h \in W_h, a(u_h, w_h) = \langle f, w_h \rangle.$$

NB. For simplicity, the discrete forms are assumed to be **exact**.

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## ● [Babuska-Brezzi] Introduce the uniform discrete inf-sup condition

$$(UDISC) \quad \exists \alpha_{\dagger} > 0, \forall h > 0, \forall v_h \in V_h, \sup_{w_h \in W_h \setminus \{0\}} \frac{|a(v_h, w_h)|}{\|w_h\|_W} \geq \alpha_{\dagger} \|v_h\|_V.$$

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## ● Definition ( $\mathbb{T}_h$ -coercivity) The form $a(\cdot, \cdot)$ is *uniformly $\mathbb{T}_h$ -coercive* if

$$\exists \alpha^*, \beta^* > 0, \forall h > 0, \exists \mathbb{T}_h \in \mathcal{L}(V_h, W_h), \forall v_h \in V_h, \\ |a(v_h, \mathbb{T}_h v_h)| \geq \alpha^* \|v_h\|_V^2 \text{ and } \|\mathbb{T}_h\| \leq \beta^*.$$

# Numerical approximation-2

● Theorem (approximation error) The three assertions below are equivalent:

- (i) Problems  $(DVF)$  are well-posed with uniform continuous dependence ;
- (ii) the form  $a(\cdot, \cdot)$  satisfies the uniform discrete inf-sup condition  $(UDISC)$  ;
- (iii) the form  $a(\cdot, \cdot)$  is uniformly  $T_h$ -coercive.

If one of these conditions is satisfied, the error  $\|u - u_h\|_V$  is bounded by

$$(Strang) \quad \|u - u_h\|_V \leq C \inf_{v_h \in V_h} \|u - v_h\|_V ,$$

with  $C$  independent of  $f$  and  $h$ .

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Assume

- $\exists T \in \mathcal{L}(V, W)$ , bijective, such that  $(v, v') \mapsto a(v, Tv')$  is coercive on  $V \times V$  ;
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Then, the form  $a(\cdot, \cdot)$  is uniformly  $T_h$ -coercive for  $h$  small enough.

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● Similar approach, see [\[Buffa-Costabel-Schwab'02\]](#) for BEM.

● *Non-conforming* discretization, see [\[Chung-Jr'1x\]](#) for DG.

# Helmholtz equation in acoustics

- Consider a bounded domain  $\Omega$  of  $\mathbb{R}^d$ , with  $d = 1, 2, 3$ .  
We study the **classical problem**

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Find } u \in H^1(\Omega) \text{ such that} \\ \operatorname{div}(\sigma \nabla u) + \omega^2 \eta u = f \text{ in } \Omega \\ u = 0 \text{ on } \partial\Omega. \end{array} \right.$$

- Above,  $f$  is a source,  $\omega > 0$  is the given pulsation.
- $\sigma, \eta \in L^\infty(\Omega)$ , and  $\exists \sigma_-, \eta_- > 0$  such that  $\sigma > \sigma_-$  and  $\eta > \eta_-$  a.e. in  $\Omega$ .

NB. Other boundary conditions are possible...

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- Above,  $f \in H^{-1}(\Omega)$ .

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- Within our framework:
  - $V = W = H_0^1(\Omega)$ .
  - $a^{ac}(v, w) = \int_{\Omega} (\sigma \nabla v \cdot \nabla w - \omega^2 \eta vw) \, d\Omega$ .

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- Choose the norms:
  - $v \mapsto \|v\|_0 := \left( \int_{\Omega} \eta v^2 \, d\Omega \right)^{1/2}$  in  $L^2(\Omega)$ .
  - $v \mapsto \|v\|_1 := \left( \int_{\Omega} \eta v^2 \, d\Omega + \int_{\Omega} \sigma |\nabla v|^2 \, d\Omega \right)^{1/2}$  in  $H^1(\Omega)$ .

# Helmholtz equation in acoustics-2

● Spectral Theorem:  $\exists (v_\ell)_{\ell \geq 0}$ , a Hilbert basis of  $H_0^1(\Omega)$  made up of eigenfunctions

$$\begin{cases} \text{Find } (v_\ell, \lambda_\ell) \in H_0^1(\Omega) \times \mathbb{R} \text{ such that } v_\ell \neq 0 \text{ and} \\ \int_{\Omega} \sigma \nabla v_\ell \cdot \nabla w \, d\Omega = \lambda_\ell \int_{\Omega} \eta v_\ell w \, d\Omega, \quad \forall w \in H_0^1(\Omega). \end{cases}$$

In addition

- $(v_\ell)_{\ell \geq 0}$  is also an orthogonal basis of  $L^2(\Omega)$ ;
- all eigenvalues are of *finite multiplicity*;
- $\lambda_0 > 0$ , and  $\lim_{\ell \rightarrow \infty} \lambda_\ell = +\infty$ .

NB. The eigenpairs are ordered by increasing values of the eigenvalues.

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- Choice of  $T^{ac}$ :

Let  $\ell_{max}$  denote the largest index  $\ell \geq 0$  such that  $\lambda_\ell < \omega^2$ . Introduce:

- $V^- := \text{span}_{0 \leq \ell \leq \ell_{max}}(v_\ell)$ , a *finite dimensional* vector subspace of  $H_0^1(\Omega)$ ;
- the *orthogonal projection operator*  $P^-$  from  $H_0^1(\Omega)$  to  $V^-$ .

NB. When  $\omega^2$  is smaller than  $\lambda_0$ ,  $\ell_{max} = -1$ ,  $V^- = \{0\}$  and  $P^- = 0$ ...

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Define  $T^{ac} := I_{H_0^1(\Omega)} - 2P^-$ :

$$T^{ac} v_\ell := \begin{cases} -v_\ell & \text{if } 0 \leq \ell \leq \ell_{max} \\ +v_\ell & \text{if } \ell > \ell_{max}. \end{cases}$$

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Define  $T^{ac} := I_{H_0^1(\Omega)} - 2P^-$ .

- Proposition  $a^{ac} : (v, w) \mapsto \int_{\Omega} (\sigma \nabla v \cdot \nabla w - \omega^2 \eta v w) \, d\Omega$  is *T-coercive*:

$$\forall v \in H_0^1(\Omega), \quad |a^{ac}(v, T^{ac}v)| \geq \underline{\alpha} \|v\|_V^2, \quad \text{with } \underline{\alpha} := \min_{\ell \geq 0} \left| \frac{\lambda_\ell - \omega^2}{1 + \lambda_\ell} \right|.$$

# Helmholtz equation in acoustics-3

- Conforming discretization: Lagrange finite elements  $\implies (V_h)_h \dots$   
The Discrete Variational Formulation writes:

$$\text{Find } u_h \in V_h \text{ s.t. } a^{ac}(u_h, v_h) = -\langle f, v_h \rangle, \forall v_h \in V_h.$$

How can one achieve the uniform  $T_h$ -coercivity of the form  $a^{ac}(\cdot, \cdot)$ ?

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How can one achieve the uniform  $T_h$ -coercivity of the form  $a^{ac}(\cdot, \cdot)$ ?

- Idea (simple!): Build a suitable approximation of  $V^-$  in  $V_h$ .  
Choose approximations  $(v_{\ell, h})_{0 \leq \ell \leq \ell_{max}}$  of the basis vectors  $(v_{\ell})_{0 \leq \ell \leq \ell_{max}}$ , and set

$$V_h^- := \text{span}_{0 \leq \ell \leq \ell_{max}}(v_{\ell, h}).$$

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Because  $V^-$  is finite dimensional, one can find, *for  $h$  small enough*, a sequence of orthonormal families  $(v_{\ell, h})_{0 \leq \ell \leq \ell_{max, h}}$  and a *uniform bound*  $\delta$  ( $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \delta(h) = 0$ ) s.t.

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# Helmholtz equation in acoustics-3

- Conforming discretization: Lagrange finite elements  $\implies (V_h)_h \dots$   
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- Proposition There holds  $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \left( \sup_{v_h \in V_h \setminus \{0\}} \frac{\|(T_h^{ac} - T^{ac})(v_h)\|_1}{\|v_h\|_1} \right) = 0$ .

Hence, the discrete solution  $u_h$  converges to  $u$ , with a rate governed by (*Strang*).

# Time-harmonic problem in EM-ics

- Consider a bounded domain  $\Omega$  of  $\mathbb{R}^3$ .  
We study the **classical problem**

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Find } \mathbf{e} \in \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{curl}; \Omega) \text{ such that} \\ -\omega^2 \varepsilon \mathbf{e} + \mathbf{curl}(\mu^{-1} \mathbf{curl} \mathbf{e}) = \mathbf{f} \text{ in } \Omega \\ \mathbf{e} \times \mathbf{n} = 0 \text{ on } \partial\Omega. \end{array} \right.$$

- Above,  $\mathbf{f}$  is a source,  $\omega > 0$  is the given pulsation.
- $\varepsilon, \mu \in L^\infty(\Omega)$ , and  $\exists \varepsilon_-, \mu_- > 0$  such that  $\varepsilon > \varepsilon_-$  and  $\mu > \mu_-$  a.e. in  $\Omega$ .

NB. Other boundary conditions are possible...

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- Above,  $\mathbf{f} \in \mathbf{L}^2(\Omega)$ .

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- $V = W = \mathbf{H}_0(\mathbf{curl}; \Omega)$ .

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- Choose the norms:

- $\mathbf{v} \mapsto \|\mathbf{v}\|_0 := \left( \int_{\Omega} \varepsilon |\mathbf{v}|^2 \, d\Omega \right)^{1/2}$  in  $\mathbf{L}^2(\Omega)$ .
- $\mathbf{v} \mapsto \|\mathbf{v}\|_{\mathbf{curl}} := \left( \int_{\Omega} \varepsilon |\mathbf{v}|^2 \, d\Omega + \int_{\Omega} \mu^{-1} |\mathbf{curl} \mathbf{v}|^2 \, d\Omega \right)^{1/2}$  in  $\mathbf{H}(\mathbf{curl}; \Omega)$ .

# Time-harmonic problem in EM-ics-2

- **DIFFICULTY:** the embedding of  $H_0(\text{curl}; \Omega)$  into  $L^2(\Omega)$  is *not compact!*  
Hence, the Spectral Theorem can not be applied “as is”...

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$$H_0(\mathbf{curl}; \Omega) = G \overset{\perp_{\mathbf{curl}}}{\oplus} W_\varepsilon$$

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- Idea: one can try and build two Hilbert bases:
  - one for  $\mathbf{G}$  (cf. acoustics section):  $(\mathbf{e}_\ell)_{\ell < 0}$ , with  $\mathbf{e}_\ell := \nabla v_{-(1+\ell)}$  for  $\ell < 0$ ;
  - one for  $\mathbf{W}_\varepsilon$ .

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$(e_\ell)_{\ell < 0}$  Hilbert basis of  $G$ , with  $e_\ell := \nabla v_{-(1+\ell)}$  for  $\ell < 0$ .

- Theorem [Weber'80]  $W_\varepsilon$  is compactly embedded into  $L^2(\Omega)$ .
- **DIFFICULTY:**  $W_\varepsilon$  is *not dense* in  $L^2(\Omega)$ .

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- **DIFFICULTY:**  $W_\varepsilon$  is *not dense* in  $L^2(\Omega)$ .
- New *pivot space*:  $H(\text{div} \varepsilon 0; \Omega) := \{\mathbf{w} \in \mathbf{H}(\text{div} \varepsilon; \Omega) : \text{div}(\varepsilon \mathbf{w}) = 0\}$ .
  - (+)  $W_\varepsilon$  is compactly embedded into  $H(\text{div} \varepsilon 0; \Omega)$ ;
  - (+) one can prove that  $W_\varepsilon$  is dense in  $H(\text{div} \varepsilon 0; \Omega)$ .

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- Spectral Theorem:  $\exists (e_\ell)_{\ell \geq 0}$  a Hilbert basis of  $W_\varepsilon$  made up of eigenfunctions

$$\begin{cases} \text{Find } (e_\ell, \mu_\ell) \in W_\varepsilon \times \mathbb{R} \text{ such that } e_\ell \neq 0 \text{ and} \\ \int_\Omega (\varepsilon e_\ell \cdot w + \mu_\ell^{-1} \text{curl } e_\ell \cdot \text{curl } w) d\Omega = (1 + \mu_\ell) \int_\Omega \varepsilon e_\ell \cdot w d\Omega, \quad \forall w \in W_\varepsilon. \end{cases}$$

- all eigenvalues are of *finite multiplicity*;
- $\mu_\ell = 0$  occurs  $K$  times, with  $K + 1$  number of c.c. of  $\partial\Omega$ , and  $\lim_{\ell \rightarrow \infty} \mu_\ell = +\infty$ .

NB. The eigenpairs are ordered by increasing values of the eigenvalues.

# Time-harmonic problem in EM-ics-3

● Conclusion:  $(\mathbf{e}_\ell)_\ell$  is a Hilbert basis of  $\mathbf{H}_0(\mathbf{curl}; \Omega)$  such that

$$\forall \ell, \exists \mu_\ell \geq 0, (\mathbf{e}_\ell, \mathbf{w})_{\mathbf{curl}} = (1 + \mu_\ell) \int_{\Omega} \varepsilon \mathbf{e}_\ell \cdot \mathbf{w} d\Omega, \forall \mathbf{w} \in \mathbf{H}_0(\mathbf{curl}; \Omega).$$

- For  $\ell < 0$ :  $\mathbf{e}_\ell \in \mathbf{G}$  and  $\mu_\ell = 0$ ;
- For  $\ell \geq 0$ :  $\mathbf{e}_\ell \in \mathbf{W}_\varepsilon$  and  $\mu_\ell$  are eigenpairs, and
  - all eigenvalues are of *finite multiplicity*;
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- Choice of  $\mathbb{T}^{EM}$ :

Let  $\ell_{max}$  denote the largest index  $\ell$  such that  $\mu_\ell < \omega^2$ . Introduce:

- $\mathbf{V}^- := \text{span}_{0 \leq \ell \leq \ell_{max}}(\mathbf{e}_\ell)$ , a *finite dimensional* vector subspace of  $\mathbf{W}_\varepsilon$ ;
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Define  $\mathbf{T}^{EM} := -i\mathbf{G} + i\mathbf{W}_\varepsilon - 2\mathbf{P}^-$ :

$$\mathbf{T}^{EM} \mathbf{e}_\ell := \begin{cases} -\mathbf{e}_\ell & \text{if } \ell \leq \ell_{max} \\ +\mathbf{e}_\ell & \text{if } \ell > \ell_{max}. \end{cases}$$

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# Time-harmonic problem in EM-ics-4

- Conforming discretization: Nédélec's first family finite elements  $\implies (\mathbf{V}_h)_h \dots$   
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How can one achieve the uniform  $T_h$ -coercivity of the form  $a^{EM}(\cdot, \cdot)$ ?

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- Idea:
  - split elements of  $\mathbf{V}_h$  ( $\approx$  exact decomposition  $H_0(\mathbf{curl}; \Omega) = \mathbf{G} \oplus \mathbf{W}_\varepsilon$ );
  - take the opposite of the gradient part;
  - use the orthogonal projection on the other part (cf. acoustics section).

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**DIFFICULTY:** The discrete splitting needs to be *uniformly close* to the exact splitting.

# Time-harmonic problem in EM-ics-5

● Given  $\mathbf{v}_h \in \mathbf{V}_h$ :

● the exact splitting is  $\exists!(\varphi, \mathbf{w}) \in H_0^1(\Omega) \times \mathbf{W}_\varepsilon, \mathbf{v}_h = \nabla\varphi + \mathbf{w}$ .

● a discrete splitting is  $(\varphi_h, \mathbf{w}_h) \in V_h \times \mathbf{V}_h, \mathbf{v}_h = \nabla\varphi_h + \mathbf{w}_h$ .

NB. Provided the orders of FE are appropriately chosen, there holds  $\nabla V_h \subset \mathbf{V}_h$ .

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- Proposition (Uniform discrete splittings)  
Assume that  $\varepsilon$  is *piecewise-constant*: there exists a discrete splitting such that

$$\|\nabla(\varphi - \varphi_h)\|_{\text{curl}} = \|\mathbf{w} - \mathbf{w}_h\|_{\text{curl}} \leq C_r h^s \|\mathbf{v}_h\|_{\text{curl}},$$

with  $s := s(\Omega, \varepsilon) > 0$ ,  $C_r > 0$  independent of  $\mathbf{v}_h$ .

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Proof (main ingredients!)

- regular-singular splitting of elements of  $\mathbf{W}_\varepsilon$ , cf. [Costabel-Dauge-Nicaise'99];
- edge element approximability of piecewise-smooth fields, cf. [Monk'03];
- edge element interpolation of gradients, cf. [Nédélec'80].

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with  $s := s(\Omega, \varepsilon) > 0$ ,  $C_r > 0$  independent of  $\mathbf{v}_h$ .

Approximate  $\mathbf{V}^-$  in  $\mathbf{V}_h$ , cf. acoustics section:  $\mathbf{V}_h^- := \text{span}_{0 \leq \ell \leq \ell_{max}}(\mathbf{e}_{\ell,h})$ , with

$$\|\mathbf{e}_\ell - \mathbf{e}_{\ell,h}\|_{\text{curl}} \leq \delta(h), \quad 0 \leq \ell \leq \ell_{max}, \quad \text{for } h \text{ small enough } \left( \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \delta(h) = 0 \right).$$

# Time-harmonic problem in EM-ics-5

Given  $\mathbf{v}_h \in \mathbf{V}_h$ :

- the exact splitting is  $\exists!(\varphi, \mathbf{w}) \in H_0^1(\Omega) \times \mathbf{W}_\varepsilon$ ,  $\mathbf{v}_h = \nabla\varphi + \mathbf{w}$ .
- a discrete splitting is  $(\varphi_h, \mathbf{w}_h) \in V_h \times \mathbf{V}_h$ ,  $\mathbf{v}_h = \nabla\varphi_h + \mathbf{w}_h$ .

NB. Provided the orders of FE are appropriately chosen, there holds  $\nabla V_h \subset \mathbf{V}_h$ .

Proposition (Uniform discrete splittings)

Assume that  $\varepsilon$  is *piecewise-constant*: there exists a discrete splitting such that

$$\|\nabla(\varphi - \varphi_h)\|_{\text{curl}} = \|\mathbf{w} - \mathbf{w}_h\|_{\text{curl}} \leq C_r h^s \|\mathbf{v}_h\|_{\text{curl}},$$

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Introduce:

- the orthogonal projection operator  $\mathbb{P}_h^-$  from  $\mathbf{V}_h$  to  $\mathbf{V}_h^-$ ;
- the operator  $\mathbb{T}_h^{EM}$  of  $\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{V}_h)$  defined by  $\mathbb{T}_h^{EM}(\mathbf{v}_h) := -\nabla\varphi_h + (\mathbb{I}_{\mathbf{V}_h} - 2\mathbb{P}_h^-)(\mathbf{w}_h)$ .

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Proposition There holds  $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \left( \sup_{\mathbf{v}_h \in \mathbf{V}_h \setminus \{0\}} \frac{\|(\mathbb{T}_h^{EM} - \mathbb{T}^{EM})(\mathbf{v}_h)\|_{\text{curl}}}{\|\mathbf{v}_h\|_{\text{curl}}} \right) = 0$ .

Hence, the discrete solution  $e_h$  converges to  $e$ , with a rate governed by (*Strang*).

# Sign-changing coefficients

- Consider a scalar *transmission* problem, set in a bounded domain  $\Omega$  of  $\mathbb{R}^d$ ,  $d = 1, 2, 3$ .

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Find } u \in H_0^1(\Omega) \text{ such that} \\ \operatorname{div}(\sigma \nabla u) = f \text{ in } \Omega. \end{array} \right.$$

- $\sigma \in L^\infty(\Omega)$  is a **sign-changing** coefficient:  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \sigma > 0 \text{ in } \Omega_1, \text{ with } \operatorname{meas}(\Omega_1) > 0; \\ \sigma < 0 \text{ in } \Omega_2, \text{ with } \operatorname{meas}(\Omega_2) > 0. \end{array} \right.$
- $\sigma^{-1} \in L^\infty(\Omega)$ .

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NB. The “generalized” Helmholtz equation  $\operatorname{div}(\sigma \nabla u) + \omega^2 \eta u = f$  with  $\eta \in L^\infty(\Omega)$  can be analyzed similarly, cf. [\[BonnetBenDhia-Jr-Zwölf’10\]](#).

When  $\sigma < 0$ , this models a *metamaterial*.

One can also consider a Neumann b.c., cf. [\[BonnetBenDhia-Chesnel-Jr’12\]](#).

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- We follow [\[BonnetBenDhia-Jr-Zwölf'10\]](#):
  - $\Omega_1$  and  $\Omega_2$  are domains of  $\mathbb{R}^d$ ;
  - $\Sigma := \overline{\Omega_1} \cap \overline{\Omega_2}$  is the **interface**;
  - $\Gamma_k := \partial\Omega \cap \partial\Omega_k$ ,  $k = 1, 2$  are the boundaries.

# Sign-changing coefficients-2

● For the transmission problem with sign-changing coefficient:

●  $V = H_0^1(\Omega);$

● the sesquilinear form is  $a^{tr}(v, w) = \int_{\Omega} \sigma \nabla v \cdot \overline{\nabla w} d\Omega.$

NB. Complex-valued forms, to enable the introduction of *dissipation*...

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● Introduce  $V_k := \{v_k \in H^1(\Omega_k) \mid v_k|_{\Gamma_k} = 0\}, k = 1, 2:$

$$V = \{v \mid v|_{\Omega_k} \in V_k, k = 1, 2, \text{ Matching}_{\Sigma}(v|_{\Omega_1}, v|_{\Omega_2}) = 0\},$$

$$\text{with } \text{Matching}_{\Sigma}(v_1, v_2) := v_1|_{\Sigma} - v_2|_{\Sigma}.$$

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$$\forall v_1 \in V_1, \sigma_1^- \|\nabla v_1\|_{L^2(\Omega_1)}^2 \leq +a_1^{tr}(v_1, v_1) \leq \sigma_1^+ \|\nabla v_1\|_{L^2(\Omega_1)}^2;$$

$$\forall v_2 \in V_2, \sigma_2^- \|\nabla v_2\|_{L^2(\Omega_2)}^2 \leq -a_2^{tr}(v_2, v_2) \leq \sigma_2^+ \|\nabla v_2\|_{L^2(\Omega_2)}^2.$$

NB. We have  $0 < \sigma_k^- \leq \sigma_k^+ < \infty, k = 1, 2$ .

# Sign-changing coefficients-3

● First try:

$$\forall v \in H_0^1(\Omega), \quad \mathbb{T}_- v := \begin{cases} v_1 & \text{in } \Omega_1 \\ -v_2 & \text{in } \Omega_2 \end{cases} .$$

NB. Given  $v \in H_0^1(\Omega)$ , we set  $v_k := v|_{\Omega_k}$ ,  $k = 1, 2$ .

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Can one achieve T-coercivity?

# Sign-changing coefficients-4

● Some elementary computations:

$$\begin{aligned} |a^{tr}(v, \mathbf{T}v)| &= |a_1^{tr}(v_1, v_1) - a_2^{tr}(v_2, v_2) + 2a_2^{tr}(v_2, R_1 v_1)| \\ &\geq |a_1^{tr}(v_1, v_1) - a_2^{tr}(v_2, v_2)| - 2|a_2^{tr}(v_2, R_1 v_1)| \\ &\geq \sigma_1^- \|v_1\|_{V_1}^2 - a_2^{tr}(v_2, v_2) - 2|a_2^{tr}(v_2, R_1 v_1)| \end{aligned}$$

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- Some elementary computations: let  $\delta > 0$ , apply [Young's inequality](#)

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- Hence, to obtain  $|a^{tr}(v, \mathbf{T}v)| \geq \underline{\alpha} \|v\|_V^2$  with  $\underline{\alpha} > 0$ , it is *sufficient* that

$$\frac{\sigma_1^-}{\sigma_2^+} > \|R_1\|^2.$$

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● Third try: let  $R_2 \in \mathcal{L}(V_2, V_1)$  s.t. for all  $v_2 \in V_2$ ,  $\text{Matching}_\Sigma(R_2 v_2, v_2) = 0$ .

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- Conclusion: to achieve  $\mathbb{T}$ -coercivity, one needs

$$\frac{\sigma_1^-}{\sigma_2^+} > \left( \inf_{R_1} \|\|R_1\|\| \right)^2 \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{\sigma_2^-}{\sigma_1^+} > \left( \inf_{R_2} \|\|R_2\|\| \right)^2.$$

# Sign-changing coefficients-6

- How to **choose** the operators  $R_1$  or  $R_2$ ?
  - using traces on  $\Sigma$ , liftings, cf. [BonnetBenDhia-Jr-Zwölf'10], [Nicaise-Venel'11];
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- Under this last assumption, convergence follows.  
NB. One can also add dissipation, cf. [Chesnel-Jr'1x]:
  - (+) convergence follows without safety net;
  - (-) convergence rate is reduced.

# Sign-changing coefficients-6

- How to **choose** the operators  $R_1$  or  $R_2$ ?
  - using traces on  $\Sigma$ , liftings, cf. [BonnetBenDhia-Jr-Zwölf'10], [Nicaise-Venel'11];
  - using geometrical transformations, cf. [BonnetBenDhia-Chesnel-Jr'12].
- Numerical studies in  $(V_h)_h$ :
  - in general, one cannot build discrete operators  $(T_h)_h$  s.t.  
$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \left( \sup_{v_h \in V_h \setminus \{0\}} \frac{\|(T_h - T)(v_h)\|_V}{\|v_h\|_V} \right) = 0;$$
  - one can only prove that  $(R_{k,h})_h$  is *bounded* wrt  $\|R_k\|$ ,  $k = 1, 2$ .
- *Safety net*: choose  $\sigma$  s.t.  $\sigma_1^- / \sigma_2^+$  or  $\sigma_2^- / \sigma_1^+$  are **sufficiently large** to ensure

$$\frac{\sigma_1^-}{\sigma_2^+} > \|R_{1,h}\|^2 \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{\sigma_2^-}{\sigma_1^+} > \|R_{2,h}\|^2, \quad \text{for } h \text{ small enough.}$$

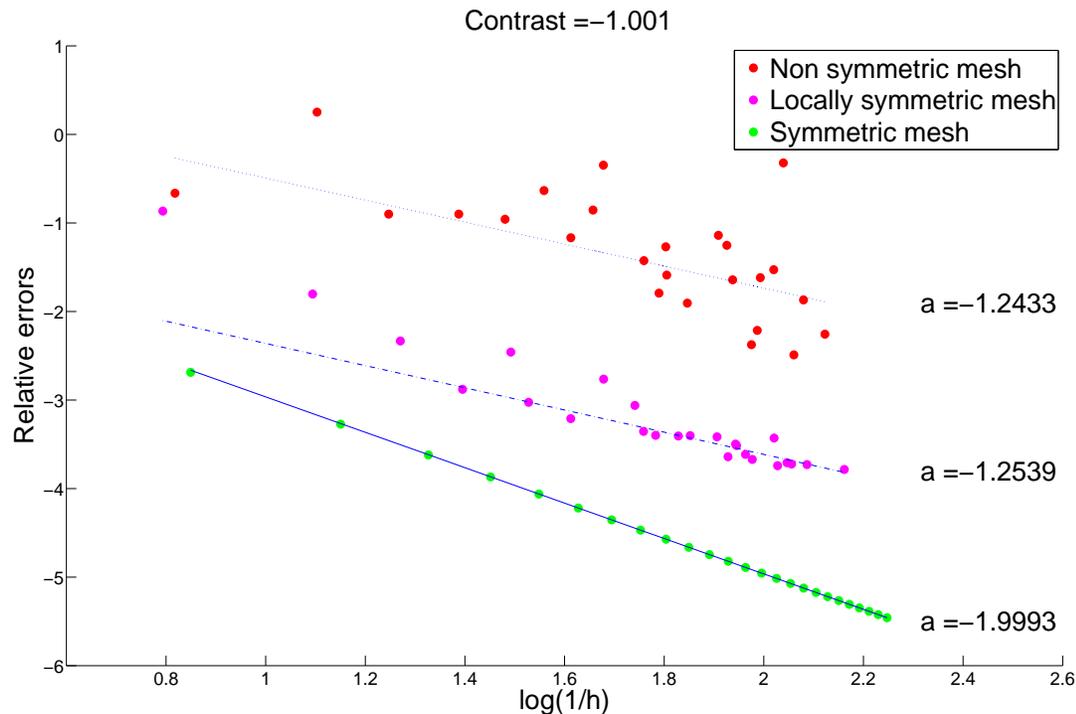
- Under this last assumption, convergence follows.
- Numerical results:
  - conforming discretization, cf. [Chesnel-Jr'1x].
  - non-conforming discretization, cf. [Chung-Jr'1x];

# Sign-changing coefficients-7

- In a symmetric domain. Here,  $\Omega = ]-1, 1[ \times ]0, 1[$ ,  $\Omega_1$  and  $\Omega_2$  are unit squares.
- $\sigma_k := \sigma|_{\Omega_k}$ ,  $k = 1, 2$ , are constant numbers, and  $\sigma_2/\sigma_1 = -1.001$ ;  $\omega = 0$ .
- An *exact* piecewise smooth solution of the transmission problem is available.
- *Conforming discretization* using  $P_1$  Lagrange FE.
- We study below the **influence of the meshes** (errors in  $L^2$ -norm;  $O(h^2)$  is expected).

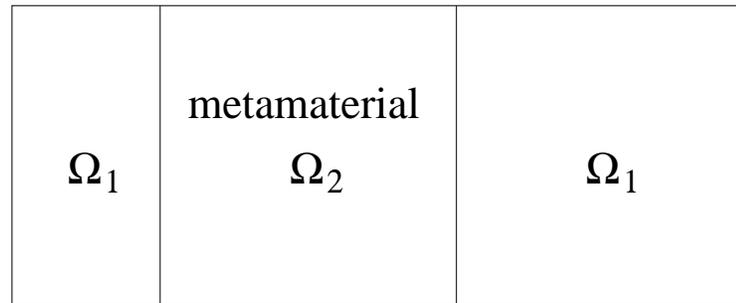
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# Sign-changing coefficients-8

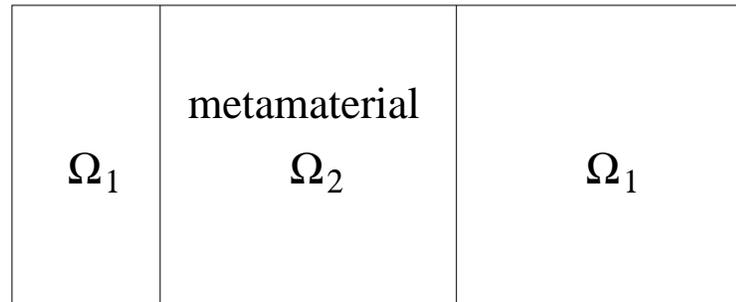
- In a rectangle. Here,  $\Omega = ]0, 5[ \times ]0, 2[$ ,  $\Omega_2 = ]1, 3[ \times ]0, 2[$ , and  $\Omega_1 = \Omega \setminus \overline{\Omega_2}$ .



- $(\sigma_k)_{k=1,2}$  are constant numbers, and  $\sigma_2/\sigma_1 = -1/3$ ;  $\omega = 1.6$  and  $\eta = \sigma^{-1}$ .
- An *exact* piecewise smooth solution of the transmission problem is available.
- *Non-conforming discretization* using staggered DG<sub>1</sub> FE, cf. [\[Chung-Engquist'06/'09\]](#).
- Errors in  $L^2$ -norm;  $O(h^2)$  is expected.

# Sign-changing coefficients-8

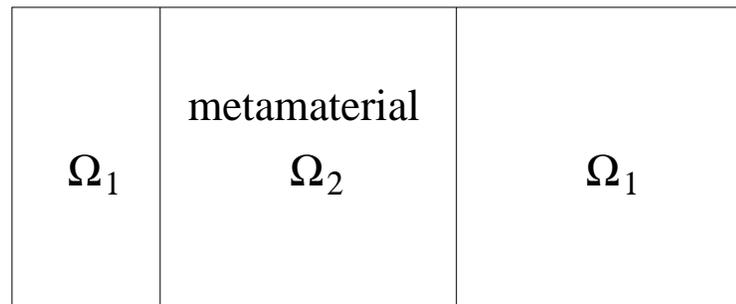
- In a rectangle.



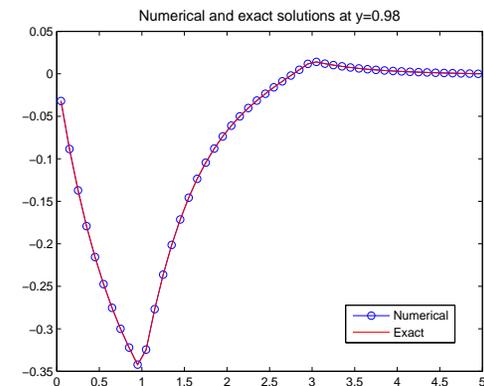
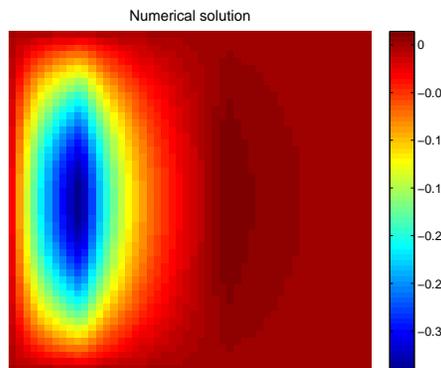
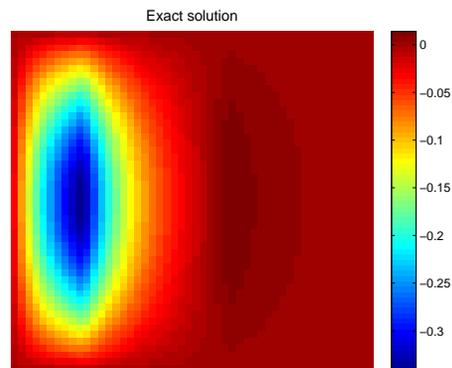
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# Conclusion/Perspectives

- T-coercivity is versatile!
  - BEM for the classical Maxwell problem (cf. [Buffa-Costabel-Schwab'02]);
  - FEM for the classical scalar or Maxwell problems (cf. [Jr'12]);
  - Vol. Int. Eq. Methods for scattering from gratings (cf. [Lechleiter-Nguyen'1x]);
  - study of Interior Transmission Eigenvalue Problems:
    - scalar case (cf. [BonnetBenDhia-Chesnel-Haddar'11]);
    - Maxwell problem (cf. [Chesnel'1x]);
  - etc.

# Conclusion/Perspectives

- T-coercivity is versatile!
- Scalar problems *with sign-shifting coefficients*:
  - introduction of T-coercivity during WAVES'07 (cf. [BonnetBenDhia-Jr-Zwölf'10]);
  - numerical analysis when T-coercivity applies (cf. [BonnetBenDhia-Jr-Zwölf'10], [Nicaise-Venel'11], [Chesnel-Jr'1x], DG-approach [Chung-Jr'1x], etc.);
  - theoretical study of well-posedness (cf. [BonnetBenDhia-Chesnel-Jr'12]);
  - theoretical study of the *critical* cases (with [BonnetBenDhia-Chesnel-Claeys'1x]);
  - discretization and numerical analysis of the *critical* cases.

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  - T-coercivity + side results during NELIA'11 (cf. [BonnetBenDhia-Chesnel-Jr'??]);
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- In the *critical* cases: are models derived from physics still relevant?
  - re-visit models (homogenization, multi-scale numerics, etc.).  
(A.N.R. METAMATH Project; coordinator S. Fliss (POEMS)).