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# Explicit bounds for electromagnetic transmission problems

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Joint work with [E.A. Spence](#) (Bath)

# Maxwell equations in heterogeneous media

Given:

- ▶ wavenumber  $k > 0$
- ▶ sources  $\mathbf{J}, \mathbf{K} \in H(\operatorname{div}^0; \mathbb{R}^3)$ , compactly supported
- ▶  $\epsilon_0, \mu_0 > 0$
- ▶  $\epsilon, \mu \in L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^3; \text{SPD})$  such that  $\Omega_i := \operatorname{int}(\operatorname{supp}(\epsilon - \epsilon_0 \mathbf{I}) \cup \operatorname{supp}(\mu - \mu_0 \mathbf{I}))$  is bounded and Lipschitz

Find  $\mathbf{E}, \mathbf{H} \in H_{\text{loc}}(\operatorname{curl}; \mathbb{R}^3)$  such that

$$ik\epsilon \mathbf{E} + \nabla \times \mathbf{H} = \mathbf{J} \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^3,$$

$$-ik\mu \mathbf{H} + \nabla \times \mathbf{E} = \mathbf{K} \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^3,$$

$(\mathbf{E}, \mathbf{H})$  satisfy Silver–Müller radiation condition

$$|\sqrt{\epsilon_0} \mathbf{E} - \sqrt{\mu_0} \mathbf{H} \times \frac{\mathbf{x}}{|\mathbf{x}|}| = \mathcal{O}_{|\mathbf{x}| \rightarrow \infty}(|\mathbf{x}|^{-2}).$$



$$\begin{aligned} \epsilon &= \epsilon_0 \\ \mu &= \mu_0 \end{aligned}$$

Special case: “transmission problem”, i.e. homogeneous scatterer

$$\epsilon = \begin{cases} \epsilon_i & \\ \epsilon_0 & \end{cases} \quad \mu = \begin{cases} \mu_i & \text{in } \Omega_i \\ \mu_0 & \text{in } \Omega_o := \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \overline{\Omega_i} \end{cases} \quad 0 < \epsilon_i, \epsilon_0, \mu_i, \mu_0 \text{ constant.}$$

# Wave scattering

The example we have in mind is incident wave  $\mathbf{E}^{Inc}, \mathbf{H}^{Inc}$  hitting  $\Omega_i$ :

→ BVP with data supported on  $\Omega_i$ :

$$\mathbf{J} = ik^2(\epsilon_0 - \epsilon)\mathbf{E}^{Inc},$$
$$\mathbf{K} = ik^2(\mu - \mu_0)\mathbf{H}^{Inc}.$$

Incoming field

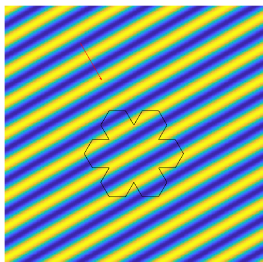
$$\mathbf{E}^{Inc} = \sqrt{\frac{\mu_0}{\epsilon_0}} \mathbf{A} e^{ik\sqrt{\epsilon_0\mu_0}\mathbf{x}\cdot\mathbf{d}}$$
$$\mathbf{H}^{Inc} = \mathbf{d} \times \mathbf{A} e^{ik\sqrt{\epsilon_0\mu_0}\mathbf{x}\cdot\mathbf{d}}$$

Scattered field

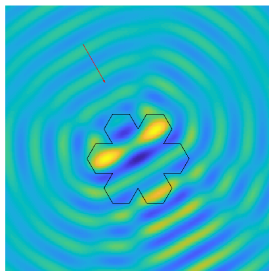
$$\mathbf{E}$$
$$\mathbf{H}$$

Total field

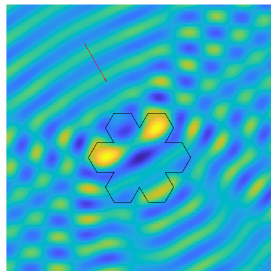
$$\mathbf{E} + \mathbf{E}^{Inc}$$
$$\mathbf{H} + \mathbf{H}^{Inc}$$



datum



BVP solution



physical field

# Goal and motivation

If  $\epsilon, \mu$  are sufficiently regular then the problem is **well-posed**.  
From Fredholm theory we have

$$\left\| \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{E} \\ \mathbf{H} \end{pmatrix} \right\|_{\Omega_{i/o}} \leq C \left\| \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{J} \\ \mathbf{K} \end{pmatrix} \right\|_{\Omega_{i/o}}$$

Goal: find out **how**  $C = C(k, \epsilon, \mu)$  depends on  $k, \epsilon$  and  $\mu$ .

**Why?** In **FEM** & **BEM** analysis and in **UQ** for time-harmonic problems, explicit parameter dependence allows to control:

- ▶ Quasi-optimality & pollution effect
- ▶ Gmres iteration numbers
- ▶ Matrix compression
- ▶ *hp*-FEM & BEM (Melenk–Sauter)
- ▶ Shape differentiation & uncertainty quantification
- ▶ ...

The following is a non-exhaustive list of papers on the **frequency-explicit convergence analysis of numerical methods** for solving the Helmholtz equation where a central role is played by *either* the non-trapping resolvent estimate (1.5), *or* its analogue (with the same  $k$ -dependence) for the commonly-used approximation of the exterior problem where the exterior domain  $\mathcal{O}_+$  is truncated and an impedance boundary condition is imposed:

- conforming FEMs (including continuous interior-penalty methods) [72, Proposition 2.1], [74, Proposition 8.1.4], [56, Lemma 2.1], [77, Lemma 3.5], [78, Assumptions 4.8 and 4.18], [45, §2.1], [110, Theorem 3.1], [113, §3.1], [44, §3.2.1], [40, Remark 3.2], [41, Remark 3.1], [29, Assumption 1], [30, Definition 2], [55, Theorem 3.2], [50, Lemma 6.7], [14, Equation 4],
- least squares methods [33, Assumption A1], [10, Remark 1.2], [64, Assumption 1 and equation after Equation 5.37],
- DG methods based on piece-wise polynomials [46, Theorem 2.2], [47, Theorem 2.1], [39, Assumption 3], [48, §3], [62, Assumption A (Equation 4.5)], [76, Equation 4.4], [35, Remark 3.2], [32, Equation 2.4], [84, Equation 4.3], [112, Remark 3.1], [94, Theorem 2.2],
- plane-wave/Trefftz-DG methods [3, Theorem 1], [59, Equation 3.5], [60, Theorem 2.2], [2, Lemma 4.1], [61, Proposition 2.1],
- multiscale finite-element methods [51, Equation 2.3], [13, §1.2], [88, Assumption 5.3], [8, Theorem 1], [87, Assumption 3.8], [31, Assumption 1],
- integral-equation methods [71, Equation 3.24], [75, Equation 4.4], [24, Chapter 5], [53, Theorem 3.2], [111, Remark 7.5], [43, Theorem 2], [49, Theorem 3.2], [52, Assumption 3.2],

In addition, the following papers focus on proving bounds on the solution of Helmholtz boundary-value problems (with these bounds often called “stability estimates”) motivated by applications in numerical analysis: [36], [57], [26], [11], [7], [70], [98], [28], [6], [9], [27], [93], [54], [55] [83], [50]. Of these papers, all but [70], [6], [27], [11] are in nontrapping situations, [70], [6], [27] are in parabolic trapping scenarios, and [11] proves the exponential growth (1.7) under elliptic trapping.

Simplest heterogeneous Helmholtz problem: find  $u \in H_{loc}^1(\mathbb{R}^d)$  s.t.

$$\Delta u + k^2 n u = f \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^d \quad f \in L^2(\mathbb{R}^d), \quad n = \begin{cases} n_i & \text{constant in } \Omega_i, \\ 1 & \text{in } \Omega_o. \end{cases}$$

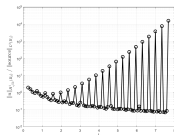
+Sommerfeld radiation c.

► If  $0 < n_i < 1$ ,  $\Omega_i$  star-shaped  $\Omega_i \cup \text{supp } f \subset B_R$

$$\|\nabla u\|_{L^2(B_R)}^2 + k^2 \|\sqrt{n} u\|_{L^2(B_R)}^2 \leq \left[ 4R^2 + \frac{1}{n_i} \left( 2R + \frac{d-1}{k} \right)^2 \right] \|f\|_{L^2(B_R)}^2$$

Fully explicit,  $k$ -independent, shape-robust estimate.  
(For  $d = 2$  it implies bounds for Maxwell TE/TM modes.)

► If  $n_i > 1$ ,  $\Omega_i$  strictly convex &  $C^\infty$ :  
superalgebraic blow up in  $k$ , quasi-resonances,  
ray trapping, creeping waves...



Dependence on parameters is complicated!  
Monotonicity of  $n$  & shape of  $\Omega_i$  are crucial.



# Wavenumber-explicit bounds: a bit of history

- ▶ MORAWETZ 1960s/70s: introduced main **tools** (multipliers)
- ▶ MELENK 1995: **1st  $k$ -explicit bound for Helmholtz**, bdd dom.
- ▶ CHANDLER-WILDE, MONK 2008: **unbounded domains**
- ▶ HIPTMAIR, MOIOLA, PERUGIA 2011: **Maxwell**, bdd dom.

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homogeneous coeff.  
heterogeneous coeff.

- ▶ MOIOLA, SPENCE 2019: Helmholtz & **piecewise-constant  $n$**
- ▶ GRAHAM, PEMBERY, SPENCE 2019: Helmholtz & **general coeff.**
- ▶ VERFÜRTH 2019: **Maxwell** & impedance

Plenty of other related contributions exist!

BARUCQ, CHAUMONT-FRELET, FENG, HETMANIUK, LORTON, PETERSEIM,  
SAUTER, TORRES, WIENERS&WOHLMUTH, (your name here), ...

Our goal: **extend (GRAHAM, PEMBERY, SPENCE 2019) to Maxwell eq.s.**

# Bound #1: transmission problem

Single homogeneous scatterer:

$$\epsilon = \begin{cases} \epsilon_i & \text{in } \Omega_i \\ \epsilon_0 & \text{in } \Omega_o \end{cases}, \quad \mu = \begin{cases} \mu_i & \text{in } \Omega_i \\ \mu_0 & \text{in } \Omega_o \end{cases} \quad 0 < \epsilon_i, \epsilon_0, \mu_i, \mu_0 \text{ constant.}$$

If  $\epsilon_i \leq \epsilon_0$ ,  $\mu_i \leq \mu_0$ ,  $\Omega_i$  star-shaped,  $\Omega_i \cup \text{supp } \mathbf{J} \cup \text{supp } \mathbf{K} \subset B_R$ , then

$$\epsilon_i \|\mathbf{E}\|_{B_R}^2 + \mu_i \|\mathbf{H}\|_{B_R}^2 \leq 4R^2 \left( \frac{\epsilon_0}{\epsilon_i} + \frac{\mu_0}{\mu_i} \right) (\epsilon_0 \|\mathbf{K}\|_{B_R}^2 + \mu_0 \|\mathbf{J}\|_{B_R}^2).$$

Equivalent to wavenumber-independent  $H(\text{curl}; B_R)$  bound for  $\mathbf{E}$ .  $\|\cdot\|_{B_R} = \|\cdot\|_{L^2(B_R)}$

If  $\epsilon_i$  is (constant) SPD matrix, same holds if  $\max \text{eig}(\epsilon_i) \leq \epsilon_0$  and with  $\epsilon_i$  substituted by  $\min \text{eig}(\epsilon_i)$  in the bound. Same for  $\mu_i$ .



## Bound #2: more general $\epsilon, \mu$

Assume  $\epsilon, \mu \in W^{1,\infty}(\Omega_i; \text{SPD})$ ,  $\Omega_i$  Lipschitz,

- ▶  $\Omega_i$  star-shaped
- ▶  $\|\epsilon_i\|_{L^\infty(\partial\Omega_i)} \leq \epsilon_0$ ,  $\|\mu_i\|_{L^\infty(\partial\Omega_i)} \leq \mu_0$ , i.e. jumps are “upwards” on  $\partial\Omega_i$
- ▶  $\epsilon_* := \text{ess inf}_{\mathbf{x} \in \Omega_i} (\epsilon + (\mathbf{x} \cdot \nabla)\epsilon) > 0$ ,  $\mu_* := \text{ess inf}_{\mathbf{x} \in \Omega_i} (\mu + (\mathbf{x} \cdot \nabla)\mu) > 0$   
“weak monotonicity” in radial direction, avoid trapping of rays
- ▶ “extra regularity” ( $\mathbf{E}, \mathbf{H} \in H^1(\Omega_i \cup \Omega_o)^3$  or  $\epsilon, \mu \in C^1(\Omega_i)$  or  $W^{1,\infty}(\mathbb{R}^3)$ )

Then we have explicit wavenumber-independent bound:

$$\begin{aligned} & \epsilon_* \|\mathbf{E}\|_{B_R}^2 + \mu_* \|\mathbf{H}\|_{B_R}^2 \\ & \leq 4R^2 \left( \frac{\|\epsilon\|_{L^\infty(B_R)}^2}{\epsilon_*} + \frac{\epsilon_0 \mu_0}{\mu_*} \right) \|\mathbf{K}\|_{B_R}^2 + 4R^2 \left( \frac{\|\mu\|_{L^\infty(B_R)}^2}{\mu_*} + \frac{\epsilon_0 \mu_0}{\epsilon_*} \right) \|\mathbf{J}\|_{B_R}^2. \end{aligned}$$

Expect (from Helmholtz analogy) superalgebraic blow up in  $k$  if any of the first 3 assumptions is lifted.

Similar results when  $\mathbb{R}^3$  is truncated with impedance BCs.

# How our bound was obtained

First consider smooth case  $\mathbf{E}, \mathbf{H} \in C^1(\mathbb{R}^3; \mathbb{C}^3)$ .

(i) Multiply the 2 PDEs by the “test fields” (Morawetz multipliers)

$$\begin{aligned} (\epsilon \bar{\mathbf{E}} \times \mathbf{x} + R\sqrt{\epsilon\mu} \bar{\mathbf{H}}) &\quad \& \quad (\mu \bar{\mathbf{H}} \times \mathbf{x} - R\sqrt{\epsilon\mu} \bar{\mathbf{E}}) &\quad \text{in } B_R \supset \Omega_i, \\ (\epsilon_0 \bar{\mathbf{E}} \times \mathbf{x} + r\sqrt{\epsilon_0\mu_0} \bar{\mathbf{H}}) &\quad \& \quad (\mu_0 \bar{\mathbf{H}} \times \mathbf{x} - r\sqrt{\epsilon_0\mu_0} \bar{\mathbf{E}}) &\quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus B_R, \end{aligned}$$

(ii) integrate by parts in  $\Omega_i$ ,  $B_R \setminus \bar{\Omega}_i$  and  $\mathbb{R}^3 \setminus B_R$ ,

(iii) sum 3 contributions, (iv) take Real part, (v) have fun!

$$\begin{aligned} &\int_{B_R} \bar{\mathbf{E}} \cdot \underbrace{(\epsilon + (\mathbf{x} \cdot \nabla)\epsilon)}_{\geq \epsilon_* \text{ by assumpt.}} \mathbf{E} + \bar{\mathbf{H}} \cdot \underbrace{(\mu + (\mathbf{x} \cdot \nabla)\mu)}_{\geq \mu_* \text{ by assumpt.}} \mathbf{H} && \text{Using PDEs \& } \nabla \cdot [\epsilon \mathbf{E}] = \nabla \cdot [\mu \mathbf{H}] = 0 \\ &= 2 \int_{B_R} \Re \left\{ \mathbf{K} \cdot (\epsilon \bar{\mathbf{E}} \times \mathbf{x} + \sqrt{\epsilon_0\mu_0} R \bar{\mathbf{H}}) + \mathbf{J} \cdot (\mu \bar{\mathbf{H}} \times \mathbf{x} - \sqrt{\epsilon_0\mu_0} R \bar{\mathbf{E}}) \right\} \\ &+ \int_{\partial\Omega_i} \underbrace{[\text{terms from IBP}]}_{\leq 0 \text{ by } \epsilon_i \leq \epsilon_0, \mu_i \leq \mu_0, \mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{x} \geq 0, [\mathbf{E}_T, \mathbf{H}_T, (\epsilon \mathbf{E})_N, (\mu \mathbf{H})_N] = 0} + \int_{\partial B_R} \underbrace{[\text{terms from IBP}]}_{\leq 0 \text{ by S-M radiation c.}} \end{aligned}$$

Conclude by Cauchy-Schwarz.



# Rough coefficients, regularity and density

Proof in previous slide only uses elementary results if  $\mathbf{E}, \mathbf{H} \in C^1(\mathbb{R}^3; \mathbb{C}^3)$ .

For general case we need **density** of inclusion

$$C^\infty(\bar{D})^3 \subset \left\{ \mathbf{v} \in H(\text{curl}; D), \nabla \cdot [\mathbf{A}\mathbf{v}] \in L^2(D), \mathbf{A}\mathbf{v} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{n}} \in L^2(\partial D), \mathbf{v}_T \in L_T^2(\partial D) \right\}$$

for  $\mathbf{A} = \epsilon$  &  $\mathbf{A} = \mu$ ,  $D$  Lipschitz bdd.

If  $\mathbf{A} \in C^1(\Omega_i; \mathbf{SPD})$ , this density is non-trivial but follows from **regularity results for layer potentials on manifolds** (MITREA, TAYLOR 1999).

- ▶ Equivalent step for Helmholtz was much simpler.
- ▶ Constant scalar  $\epsilon$  &  $\mu$ : density proved in COSTABEL, DAUGE 1998.
- ▶ If  $\mathbf{E}, \mathbf{H} \in H_{\text{loc}}^1(\mathbb{R}^3; \mathbb{C}^3)$  then no density is needed.  
E.g. ensured if  $\epsilon, \mu \in W^{1,\infty}(\mathbb{R}^3; \mathbf{SPD})$  (no jumps).
- ▶ What about  $\mathbf{A} \in W^{1,\infty}(\Omega_i; \mathbf{SPD})$ ?

# Summary

Time-harmonic Maxwell eq.s in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  with heterogeneous inclusion:

- ▶ fully explicit bounds on  $\|\mathbf{E}\|_{H(\text{curl}, B_R)}$  if  $\epsilon, \mu$  “radially growing”
- ▶ also for impedance BVPs in star-shaped domains
- ▶ extends Helmholtz results from (GRAHAM, PEMBERY, SPENCE 2019)

Some open questions:

- ▶ resonance-free strip in complex  $k$  plane?
- ▶ presence of quasi-resonances blow up for “wrong” coefficients?
- ▶ rougher  $(W^{1,\infty}(\Omega_i; SPD), L^\infty)$  coefficients?
- ▶ relation with shape-differentiation and UQ?

Preprint coming soon. . .

Thank you!

