

The Topology of Circuit-Field Coupling

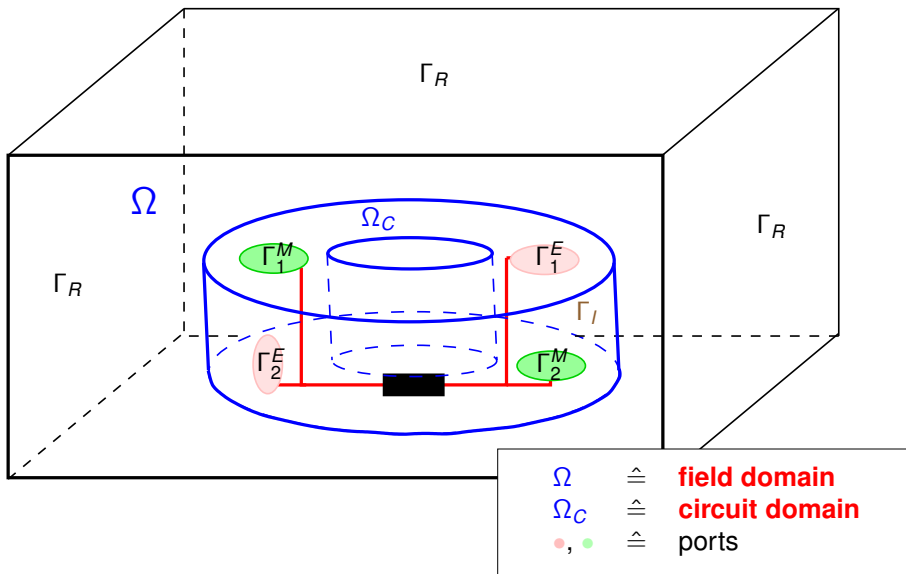
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Circuit Domain Ω_C – Field Domain Ω



Coupling interface:

$$\Gamma := \partial\Omega_C = \Gamma_1^E \cup \dots \cup \Gamma_{N_E}^E \cup \Gamma_1^M \cup \dots \cup \Gamma_{N_M}^M \cup \Gamma_I$$

Maxwell's Equations

$\Sigma \hat{=}$ oriented surface

Faraday's law

$$\int_{\partial\Sigma} \mathbf{E} \cdot d\mathbf{s} = -\frac{d}{dt} \int_{\Sigma} \mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbf{n} dS$$



$$\mathbf{curl} \mathbf{E} = -\partial_t \mathbf{B}$$

Ampere's law

$$\int_{\partial\Sigma} \mathbf{H} \cdot d\mathbf{s} = \frac{d}{dt} \int_{\Sigma} \mathbf{D} \cdot \mathbf{n} dS$$



$$\mathbf{curl} \mathbf{H} = \partial_t \mathbf{D}$$

Material laws:

$$\mathbf{B} = \mu(\mathbf{x})\mathbf{H} \quad , \quad \mathbf{D} = \epsilon(\mathbf{x})\mathbf{E}$$

$\left. \begin{matrix} \mathbf{E}, \mathbf{H} \\ \mathbf{D}, \mathbf{B} \end{matrix} \right\}$ integrated over $\left\{ \begin{matrix} \text{paths} \\ \text{surfaces} \end{matrix} \right.$



Exterior calculus perspective : $\mathbf{E}, \mathbf{H} \leftrightarrow$ 1-forms
 $\mathbf{D}, \mathbf{B} \leftrightarrow$ 2-forms
 $\mathbf{curl} \leftrightarrow$ exterior derivative d

Maxwell's equations



De Rham complex

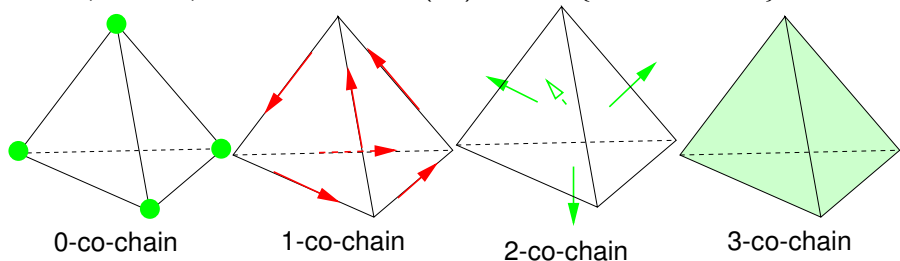


algebraic topology

Discrete Fields

$\Omega_h \hat{=}$ oriented tetrahedral mesh for Ω (simplicial complex)

(Discrete) l -co-chain $\vec{U} \in \mathcal{C}^l(\Omega_h)$: $\vec{U} : \{l\text{-facets of } \Omega_h\} \mapsto \mathbb{R}$



$\mathbf{E}(t), \mathbf{H}(t) \leftrightarrow$ 1-co-chains $\vec{\mathbf{E}}(t), \vec{\mathbf{H}}(t) \in \mathcal{C}^1(\Omega_h)$ (d.o.f.s on edges)
 $\mathbf{B}(t), \mathbf{D}(t) \leftrightarrow$ 2-co-chains $\vec{\mathbf{B}}(t), \vec{\mathbf{D}}(t) \in \mathcal{C}^2(\Omega_h)$ (d.o.f.s on faces)

$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Faraday's law: } \mathbf{C}\vec{\mathbf{E}} = -\partial_t \vec{\mathbf{B}} \\ \text{Ampere's law: } \mathbf{C}\vec{\mathbf{H}} = \partial_t \vec{\mathbf{D}} \end{array} \right.$, $\mathbf{C} \hat{=}$ edge-face incidence matrix

Polynomial extension of l -cochains \blacktriangleright Whitney- l -forms \blacktriangleright FEEC

Maxwell's Equations: Weak Formulations

I. **E-based**: I.b.p. on Ampere's law & keep Faraday's law

$$\int_{\Omega} \partial_t(\epsilon \mathbf{E}) \cdot \mathbf{E}' - \mathbf{H} \cdot \mathbf{curl} \mathbf{E}' \, d\mathbf{x} - \int_{\Gamma} (\mathbf{H} \times \mathbf{n}) \cdot \mathbf{E}' \, dS = 0 \quad \forall \mathbf{E}' ,$$
$$\int_{\Omega} \partial_t(\mu \mathbf{H}) \cdot \mathbf{H}' + \mathbf{curl} \mathbf{E} \cdot \mathbf{H}' \, d\mathbf{x} = 0 \quad \forall \mathbf{H}' .$$

Spaces: $\mathbf{E}(t) \in \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{curl}, \Omega) := \{\mathbf{V} \in \mathbf{L}^2(\Omega) : \mathbf{curl} \mathbf{V} \in \mathbf{L}^2(\Omega)\}$, $\mathbf{H}(t) \in \mathbf{L}^2(\Omega)$

II. **H-based**: I.b.p. on Faraday's law & keep Ampere's law

$$\int_{\Omega} \partial_t(\mu \mathbf{H}) \cdot \mathbf{H}' - \mathbf{E} \cdot \mathbf{curl} \mathbf{H}' \, d\mathbf{x} - \int_{\Gamma} \mathbf{E} \cdot (\mathbf{H}' \times \mathbf{n}) \, dS = 0 \quad \forall \mathbf{H}' ,$$
$$\int_{\Omega} \partial_t(\epsilon \mathbf{E}) \cdot \mathbf{E}' + \mathbf{curl} \mathbf{H} \cdot \mathbf{E}' \, d\mathbf{x} = 0 \quad \forall \mathbf{E}' .$$

Spaces: $\mathbf{H}(t) \in \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{curl}, \Omega) := \{\mathbf{V} \in \mathbf{L}^2(\Omega) : \mathbf{curl} \mathbf{V} \in \mathbf{L}^2(\Omega)\}$, $\mathbf{E}(t) \in \mathbf{L}^2(\Omega)$

Traces

$$\int_{\Omega} \partial_t(\epsilon \mathbf{E}) \cdot \mathbf{E}' - \mathbf{H} \cdot \mathbf{curl} \mathbf{E}' \, dx - \int_{\Gamma} \gamma_{\times} \mathbf{H} \cdot \gamma_t \mathbf{E}' \, dS = 0 \quad \forall \mathbf{E}',$$

$$\int_{\Omega} \partial_t(\mu \mathbf{H}) \cdot \mathbf{H}' + \mathbf{curl} \mathbf{E} \cdot \mathbf{H}' \, dx = 0 \quad \forall \mathbf{H}'.$$

γ_p	$\hat{=}$	pointwise trace	$\gamma_p \mathbf{U}(\mathbf{x}) := U(\mathbf{x}),$
γ_t	$\hat{=}$	tangential trace	$\gamma_t \mathbf{U}(\mathbf{x}) := \mathbf{n}(\mathbf{x}) \times (\mathbf{U}(\mathbf{x}) \times \mathbf{n}(\mathbf{x})), \quad \mathbf{x} \in \Gamma.$
γ_{\times}	$\hat{=}$	twisted tangential trace	$\gamma_{\times} \mathbf{U}(\mathbf{x}) := \mathbf{U}(\mathbf{x}) \times \mathbf{n}(\mathbf{x}),$
γ_n	$\hat{=}$	normal trace	$\gamma_n \mathbf{U}(\mathbf{x}) := \mathbf{U}(\mathbf{x}) \cdot \mathbf{n}(\mathbf{x}),$

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 H^1(\Omega) & \xrightarrow{\text{grad}} & \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{curl}, \Omega) & \xrightarrow{\text{curl}} & \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{div}, \Omega) & \xrightarrow{\text{div}} & L^2(\Omega) \\
 \gamma_p \downarrow & & \gamma_t \downarrow & & \gamma_n \downarrow & & \\
 H^{\frac{1}{2}}(\Gamma) & \xrightarrow{\text{grad}_{\Gamma}} & \mathbf{H}^{-\frac{1}{2}}(\mathbf{curl}_{\Gamma}, \Gamma) & \xrightarrow{\text{curl}_{\Gamma}} & H^{-\frac{1}{2}}(\Gamma) & &
 \end{array}$$

Traces

γ_p	$\hat{=}$	pointwise trace	$\gamma_p \mathbf{U}(\mathbf{x}) := \mathbf{U}(\mathbf{x}),$
γ_t	$\hat{=}$	tangential trace	$\gamma_t \mathbf{U}(\mathbf{x}) := \mathbf{n}(\mathbf{x}) \times (\mathbf{U}(\mathbf{x}) \times \mathbf{n}(\mathbf{x})),$
γ_\times	$\hat{=}$	twisted tangential trace	$\gamma_\times \mathbf{U}(\mathbf{x}) := \mathbf{U}(\mathbf{x}) \times \mathbf{n}(\mathbf{x}),$
γ_n	$\hat{=}$	normal trace	$\gamma_n \mathbf{U}(\mathbf{x}) := \mathbf{U}(\mathbf{x}) \cdot \mathbf{n}(\mathbf{x}),$

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 H^1(\Omega) & \xrightarrow{\text{grad}} & \mathbf{H}(\text{curl}, \Omega) & \xrightarrow{\text{curl}} & \mathbf{H}(\text{div}, \Omega) & \xrightarrow{\text{div}} & L^2(\Omega) \\
 \gamma_p \downarrow & & \gamma_t \downarrow & & \gamma_n \downarrow & & \\
 H^{\frac{1}{2}}(\Gamma) & \xrightarrow{\text{grad}_\Gamma} & \mathbf{H}^{-\frac{1}{2}}(\text{curl}_\Gamma, \Gamma) & \xrightarrow{\text{curl}_\Gamma} & H^{-\frac{1}{2}}(\Gamma) & &
 \end{array}$$

$\Gamma_h := \Omega_h|_\Gamma =$ mesh of interface Γ !

Trace of ℓ -co-chain $\vec{V} \in \mathcal{C}^\ell(\Omega_h)$: $\gamma \vec{V} := \vec{V}|_{\Gamma_h}$

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 \mathcal{C}^0(\Omega_h) & \xrightarrow{\mathbf{G}} & \mathcal{C}^1(\Omega_h) & \xrightarrow{\mathbf{C}} & \mathcal{C}^2(\Omega_h) & \xrightarrow{\mathbf{D}} & \mathcal{C}^3(\Omega_h) \\
 \gamma \downarrow & & \gamma \downarrow & & \gamma \downarrow & & \\
 \mathcal{C}^0(\Gamma_h) & \xrightarrow{\mathbf{G}_\Gamma} & \mathcal{C}^1(\Gamma_h) & \xrightarrow{\mathbf{C}_\Gamma} & \mathcal{C}^2(\Gamma_h) & &
 \end{array}$$

Coupling Conditions and Ports

Partition: $\Gamma := \partial\Omega_C = \underbrace{\Gamma_1^E \cup \dots \cup \Gamma_{N_E}^E}_{=:\Gamma_E} \cup \underbrace{\Gamma_1^M \cup \dots \cup \Gamma_{N_M}^M}_{=:\Gamma_M} \cup \Gamma_I$

electric ports magnetic ports insulating boundary

@*electric ports*: $\gamma_t \mathbf{E} = 0$ on Γ_E (PEC)

free electric current

no magnetic flux

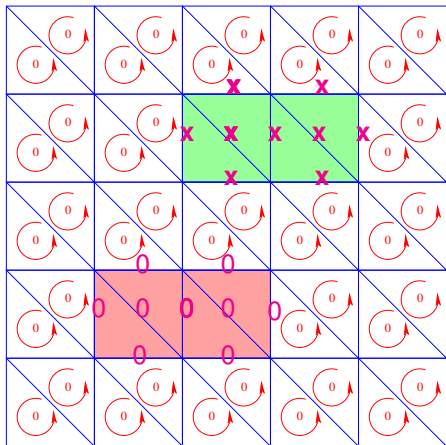
@*magnetic ports*: $\gamma_\times \mathbf{H} = 0$ on Γ_M (PMC)

no electric current

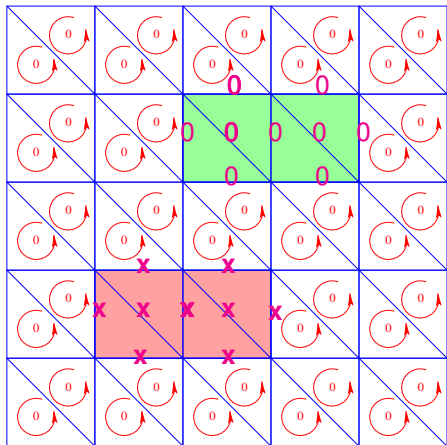
free magnetic flux

@*insulating boundary*:
 no magnetic flux: $\mathbf{curl} \mathbf{E} \cdot \mathbf{n} = \mathbf{curl}_\Gamma(\gamma_t \mathbf{E}) = 0$,
 no electric current: $\mathbf{curl} \mathbf{H} \cdot \mathbf{n} = \mathbf{div}_\Gamma(\gamma_\times \mathbf{H}) = 0$.

Discrete Surface Fields



$$\gamma \vec{\mathbf{E}} \in \mathcal{C}^1(\Gamma_h)$$



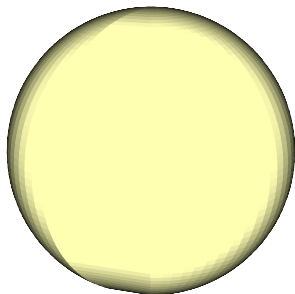
$$\gamma \vec{\mathbf{H}} \in \mathcal{C}^1(\Gamma_h)$$

$\hat{=}$ Γ_E ,
 $\hat{=}$ Γ_M ,
 0 $\hat{=}$ zero edge circulation,
 x $\hat{=}$ free edge value

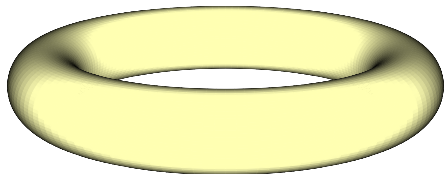
Surface Scalar Potentials

If Ω has no handles $\Leftrightarrow \beta_1(\Omega) = \beta_1(\Gamma) = 0$, then

$$\mathbf{v} \in \mathbf{H}^{-\frac{1}{2}}(\text{curl}_\Gamma, \Gamma), \quad \text{curl}_\Gamma \mathbf{v} = 0 \Rightarrow \exists \varphi \in H^{\frac{1}{2}}(\Gamma): \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{grad}_\Gamma \varphi,$$
$$\vec{v} \in \mathcal{C}^1(\Gamma_h), \quad \mathbf{C}_\Gamma \vec{v} = 0 \Rightarrow \exists \vec{\varphi} \in \mathcal{C}^0(\Gamma_h): \vec{v} = \mathbf{G}_\Gamma \vec{\varphi}.$$



$$\beta_1(\Gamma) = 0$$



$$\beta_1(\Gamma) = 1$$

Surface Electric Fields

Setting: Electric ports Γ_E , magnetic ports Γ_M & insulating boundary Γ_I

$$\gamma_t \mathbf{E} \in \mathcal{V}_E(\Gamma) := \left\{ \mathbf{v} \in \mathbf{H}^{-\frac{1}{2}}(\text{curl}_\Gamma, \Gamma) : \text{curl}_\Gamma \mathbf{v} = 0 \text{ in } \Gamma \setminus \Gamma_M, \mathbf{v}|_{\Gamma_E} = 0 \right\} .$$

$$\blacktriangleright \quad \forall \mathbf{u} \in \mathcal{V}_E(\Gamma): \int_\sigma \mathbf{u} \cdot d\vec{\mathbf{s}} = 0 \quad \forall \sigma \in \mathcal{B}(\Gamma \setminus \Gamma_M),$$

$$\mathcal{B}(\Gamma \setminus \Gamma_M) := \{\text{boundaries in } \Gamma \setminus \Gamma_M\} .$$

Space for scalar potentials: $\mathcal{S}(\Gamma) := \left\{ \varphi \in H^{\frac{1}{2}}(\Gamma \setminus \Gamma_M) : \varphi = 0 \text{ on } \Gamma_E \right\} .$

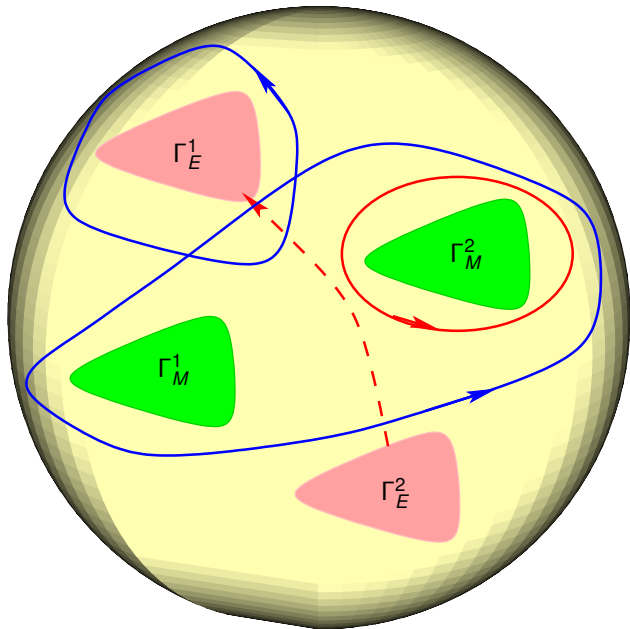
$$\blacktriangleright \quad \forall \mathbf{u} \in \mathbf{grad}_\Gamma \mathcal{S}(\Gamma): \int_\sigma \mathbf{u} \cdot d\vec{\mathbf{s}} = 0 \quad \forall \sigma \in \mathcal{Z}(\Gamma \setminus \Gamma_M; \partial\Gamma_E),$$

$$\mathcal{Z}(\Gamma \setminus \Gamma_M; \Gamma_E) := \{\text{paths either closed or with endpoints } \in \Gamma_E\} .$$

$$\mathcal{B}(\Gamma \setminus \Gamma_M) \subset \mathcal{Z}(\Gamma \setminus \Gamma_M; \partial\Gamma_E),$$

but $\mathcal{V}_E(\Gamma) \neq \mathbf{grad}_\Gamma \mathcal{S}(\Gamma)$, if $\mathcal{B}(\Gamma \setminus \Gamma_M) \neq \mathcal{Z}(\Gamma \setminus \Gamma_M; \Gamma_E)$.

Boundaries and Cycles



$\mathcal{B}(\Gamma \setminus \Gamma_M) := \{$
boundaries in $\Gamma \setminus \Gamma_M\}$,
 $\mathcal{Z}(\Gamma \setminus \Gamma_M; \Gamma_E) := \{$
paths either closed or
with endpoints $\in \Gamma_E\}$.

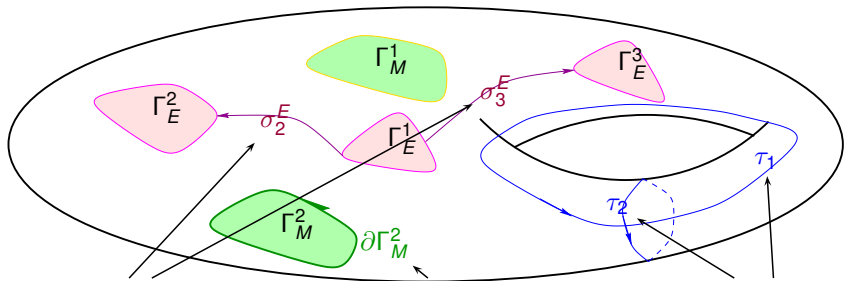
— $\in \mathcal{Z}(\Gamma \setminus \Gamma_M; \Gamma_E)$
 $\notin \mathcal{B}(\Gamma \setminus \Gamma_M)$

— $\in \mathcal{B}(\Gamma \setminus \Gamma_M)$

- - - $\in \mathcal{Z}(\Gamma \setminus \Gamma_M; \Gamma_E)$

Fundamental Relative Cycles

$$\mathcal{Z}(\Gamma \setminus \Gamma_M; \Gamma_E) = \mathcal{B}(\Gamma \setminus \Gamma_M) + \text{span}\{M \text{ fundamental cycles}\} \quad .$$



electric connector paths

magnetic port cycles

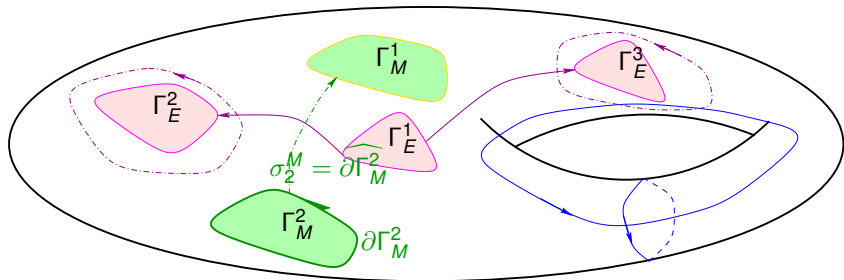
topological cycles

$$M = \max\{N_E, 1\} - 1 + \max\{N_M, 1\} - 1 + 2\beta_1(\Omega) .$$

$\{\phi_1, \dots, \phi_M\} \hat{=} \text{fundamental cycles of } \mathcal{Z}/\mathcal{B}. \exists \mathbf{c}_1, \dots, \mathbf{c}_M \in \mathcal{V}_E(\Gamma):$

$$\int_{\phi_j} \mathbf{c}_i \cdot d\mathbf{s} = \delta_{ij}, \quad \mathcal{V}_E(\Gamma) = \mathbf{grad}_\Gamma \mathcal{S}(\Gamma) + \text{span}\{\mathbf{c}_1, \dots, \mathbf{c}_M\} .$$

Tool: Dual Relative Cycles

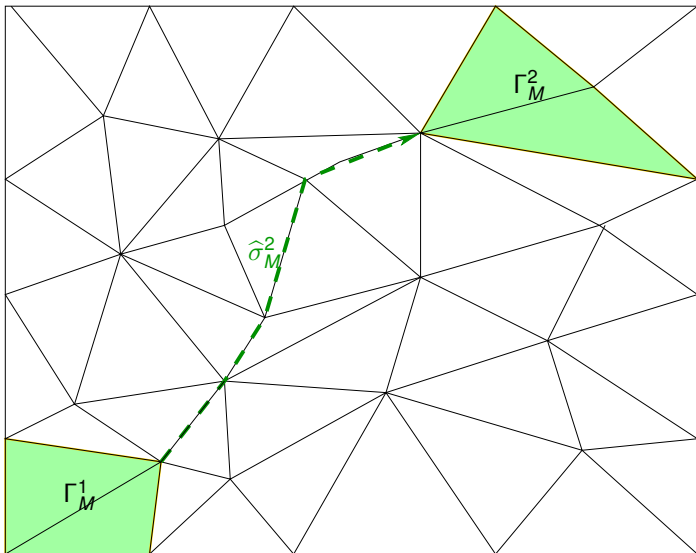


Poincaré
Lefschetz
duality

fundamental cycle	dual cycle
electric connector σ_k^E	electric port cycle $\widehat{\sigma}_k^E$
magnetic port cycle σ_ℓ^M	magnetic connector $\widehat{\sigma}_\ell^M$

Collar Fields

fundamental cycle $\sigma \longrightarrow$ dual cycle $\hat{\sigma} \longrightarrow$ collar field $\mathbf{c} \in \mathcal{V}_E(\Gamma)$



$\vec{\mathbf{c}} \in \mathcal{C}_E^1(\Gamma_h)$:

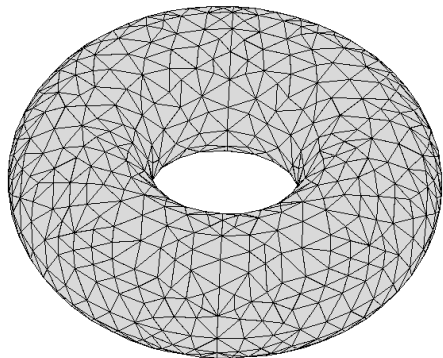
(magnetic
connector)

Fundamental Cycles: Construction

→

Spanning-tree techniques

Example: Torus ($\beta_1(\Gamma) = 2$) ▶ 2 topological fundamental cycles τ_1, τ_2



Fundamental Cycles: Construction

Demonstration:

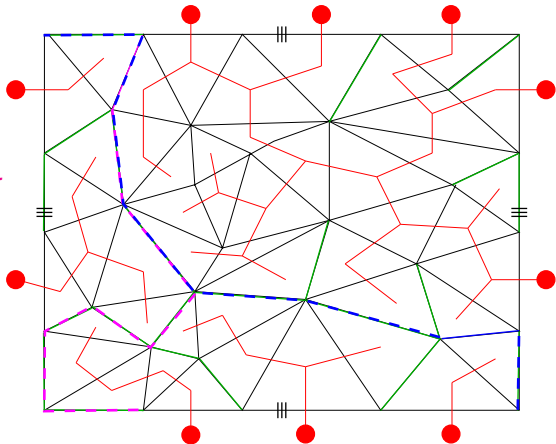
Spanning-tree techniques

—: spanning tree in edge-cell graph

—: spanning tree in *remainder* edge-vertex graph

—, —: “Belt buckles”

--- fundamental cycles τ_1, τ_2

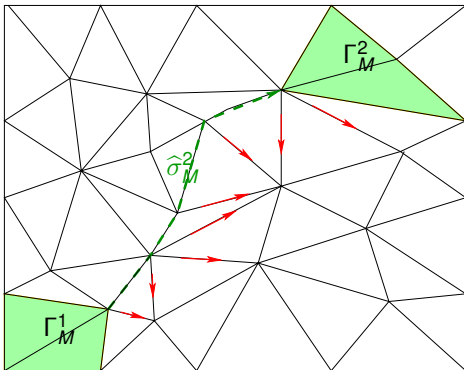


Topology \rightarrow Variational Formulation

$$\int_{\Omega} \partial_t(\epsilon \mathbf{E}) \cdot \mathbf{E}' - \mathbf{H} \cdot \mathbf{curl} \mathbf{E}' \, dx - \int_{\Gamma} \gamma_{\times} \mathbf{H} \cdot \gamma_t \mathbf{E}' \, dS = 0 \quad \forall \mathbf{E}',$$

$$\int_{\Omega} \partial_t(\mu \mathbf{H}) \cdot \mathbf{H}' + \mathbf{curl} \mathbf{E} \cdot \mathbf{H}' \, dx = 0 \quad \forall \mathbf{H}'.$$

$$\gamma_t \mathbf{E}' = \mathbf{grad} \varphi + \sum_{k=2}^{N_E} \mu_k \mathbf{c}_k^E + \sum_{\ell=2}^{N_M} \alpha_{\ell} \mathbf{c}_{\ell}^M + \sum_{m=1}^{N_T} \beta_m \mathbf{c}_m^T, \quad \varphi \in \mathcal{S}(\Gamma), \quad \mu_k, \alpha_{\ell}, \beta_m \in \mathbb{R}.$$



dual cycle $\hat{\sigma}$

∇

collar field $\mathbf{c} \in \mathcal{V}_E(\Gamma)$

Topology \rightarrow Variational Formulation

$$\int_{\Omega} \partial_t(\epsilon \mathbf{E}) \cdot \mathbf{E}' - \mathbf{H} \cdot \mathbf{curl} \mathbf{E}' \, dx - \int_{\Gamma} \gamma_{\times} \mathbf{H} \cdot \gamma_t \mathbf{E}' \, dS = 0 \quad \forall \mathbf{E}',$$

$$\int_{\Omega} \partial_t(\mu \mathbf{H}) \cdot \mathbf{H}' + \mathbf{curl} \mathbf{E} \cdot \mathbf{H}' \, dx = 0 \quad \forall \mathbf{H}'.$$

$$\gamma_t \mathbf{E}' = \mathbf{grad} \varphi + \sum_{k=2}^{N_E} \mu_k \mathbf{c}_k^E + \sum_{\ell=2}^{N_M} \alpha_{\ell} \mathbf{c}_{\ell}^M + \sum_{m=1}^{N_T} \beta_m \mathbf{c}_m^T, \quad \varphi \in \mathcal{S}(\Gamma),$$

$$\mu_k, \alpha_{\ell}, \beta_m \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Collar field $\mathbf{c} = \widetilde{\mathbf{grad}}_{\Gamma} \psi$, $\psi \in H^1(\Gamma \setminus (\Gamma_M \cup \sigma))$, $[[\psi]]_{\hat{\sigma}} = 1$.

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\Gamma} \gamma_{\times} \mathbf{H} \cdot \mathbf{c} \, dS &= \int_{\Gamma \setminus \hat{\sigma}} \gamma_{\times} \mathbf{H} \cdot \mathbf{grad}_{\Gamma} \psi \, dS \\ &= - \int_{\Gamma_I} \underbrace{\operatorname{div}_{\Gamma}(\gamma_{\times} \mathbf{H})}_{=0} \psi \, dS + \int_{\hat{\sigma}} [[\psi]]_{\hat{\sigma}} \mathbf{H} \cdot \mathbf{ds} = \int_{\hat{\sigma}} \mathbf{H} \cdot \mathbf{ds}. \end{aligned}$$

Port Quantities

$$\mathbf{E} = \mathbf{E}_0 + \mathbf{grad} \Phi + \sum_{k=2}^{N_E} U_k(t) \mathbf{C}_k^E + \sum_{\ell=2}^{N_M} \dot{B}_\ell(t) \mathbf{C}_\ell^M + \sum_{m=1}^{N_T} \dot{B}_m^T(t) \mathbf{C}_m^T, \quad \mathbf{E}_0 \in \mathbf{H}_0(\mathbf{curl}), \quad \Phi \in H^1(\Omega).$$

E-based variational problem:

$$\int_{\Omega} \partial_t(\epsilon \mathbf{E})(t) \cdot \mathbf{E}'_0 - \mathbf{H}(t) \cdot \mathbf{curl} \mathbf{E}'_0 \, d\mathbf{x} = 0 \quad \forall \mathbf{E}'_0 \in \mathbf{H}_0(\mathbf{curl}, \Omega),$$

$$\int_{\Omega} \partial_t(\epsilon \mathbf{E})(t) \cdot \mathbf{grad} \Phi', \quad \gamma_p \Phi \in \mathcal{S}(\Gamma) \, d\mathbf{x} = 0 \quad \forall \Phi',$$

$$\int_{\Omega} \partial_t(\epsilon \mathbf{E})(t) \cdot \mathbf{C}_k^E \, d\mathbf{x} - J_k(t) = 0 \quad \forall k = 2, \dots, N_E,$$

$$\int_{\Omega} \partial_t(\epsilon \mathbf{E})(t) \cdot \mathbf{C}_\ell^M - \mathbf{H}(t) \cdot \mathbf{curl} \mathbf{C}_\ell^E \, d\mathbf{x} - F_\ell(t) = 0 \quad \forall \ell = 2, \dots, N_M,$$

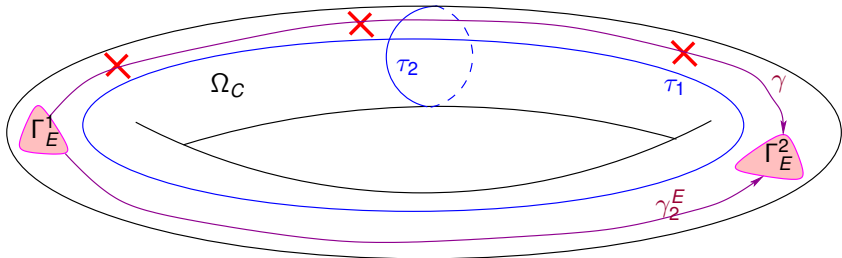
$$\int_{\Omega} \partial_t(\epsilon \mathbf{E})(t) \cdot \mathbf{C}_m^T - \mathbf{H}(t) \cdot \mathbf{curl} \mathbf{C}_m^T \, d\mathbf{x} - J_m^T(t) = 0 \quad \forall m = 1, \dots, N_T,$$

$$\int_{\Omega} (\partial_t(\mu \mathbf{H})(t) + \mathbf{curl} \mathbf{E}(t)) \cdot \mathbf{H}' \, d\mathbf{x} = 0 \quad \forall \mathbf{H}' \in \mathbf{L}^2(\Omega).$$

Topological Obstructions

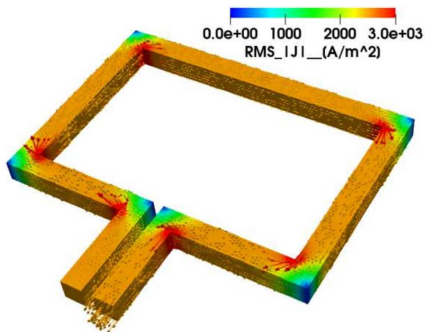
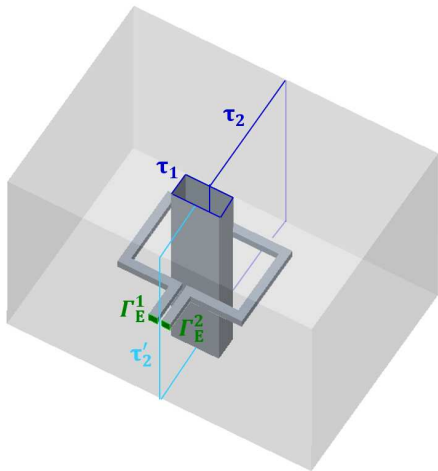
$\beta_1(\Omega_C) > 0$ \blacktriangleright unique voltages requires **cuts** in Ω_C !

bounded by topological cycles $\hat{\tau}_m$




The Importance of Choosing Cuts

Computations in frequency domain, bounded Ω , voltage excitation.



Wrap-Up: Circuit-Field Coupling & Topology

Mathematical tools: Relative (co-)homology,
Poincaré-Lefschetz duality

 R. HIPTMAIR AND J. OSTROWSKI, *Electromagnetic port boundary conditions: Topological and variational perspective*, Tech. Rep. 2020-27, Seminar for Applied Mathematics, ETH Zürich, Switzerland, 2020.

fundamental
cycles

duality
→

collar
fields

variational
formulations
→

port quantities
(currents, voltages, etc.)



$\beta_1(\Omega_C) > 0$ dangerous!