# Scalar wave transmission problems with sign changing coefficients

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Time-harmonic problem in electromagnetism (at a given frequency) set in a heterogeneous bounded domain:



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Negative metamaterial

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Combination Dielectric + Metamaterial  $\Rightarrow$  interesting applications Example: the "superlens"

Time-harmonic problem in electromagnetism (at a given frequency) set in a heterogeneous bounded domain:



Unusual transmission problem because the sign of the coefficients  $\varepsilon$  and  $\mu$  changes.

Difficulty of the scalar problem concentrated in the study of the problem:

$$(\mathscr{P}) \ \left| \begin{array}{c} \mathrm{Find} \ u \in H^1_0(\Omega) \ \mathrm{such} \ \mathrm{that:} \\ -\mathrm{div}(\sigma \, \nabla u) = f \quad \mathrm{in} \ \Omega. \end{array} \right.$$



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- $\bullet \ H^1_0(\Omega) = \{ v \in L^2(\Omega) \, | \, \nabla v \in L^2(\Omega); \, v|_{\partial\Omega} = 0 \}$
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$$\mathscr{P}$$
  $\Leftrightarrow$   $(\mathscr{P}_V)$  Find  $u \in H_0^1(\Omega)$  such that:  
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with  $a(u,v) = \int_{\Omega} \sigma \, \nabla u \cdot \nabla v \text{ and } l(v) = \langle f, v \rangle.$ 



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DEFINITION. Problem  $(\mathscr{P})$  well-posed if for all  $f \in H^{-1}(\Omega)$ , it has one and only one solution with continuous dependence.

#### Outline of the talk: two steps



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1) A presentation of the T-coercivity method to derive a criterion on  $\sigma$  and on the geometry of the interface to ensure that problem  $(\mathscr{P})$  is well-posed.

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2 The T-coercivity method for the dielectric/metamaterial transmission problem

#### Outline of the talk: two steps

1) A presentation of the T-coercivity method to derive a criterion on  $\sigma$  and on the geometry of the interface to ensure that problem ( $\mathscr{P}$ ) is well-posed.

2) An use of this T-coercivity method to study an *a priori* different problem and emphasizing the generality of this approach.

#### 1 Mathematical difficulty

- 2 The T-coercivity method for the dielectric/metamaterial transmission problem
- The T-coercivity method for the Interior Transmission Eigenvalue Problem



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3 The T-coercivity method for the Interior Transmission Eigenvalue Problem

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$$a(u,u) = \int_{\Omega} \frac{\sigma |\nabla u|^2 \ge C ||u||_{H_0^1(\Omega)}^2}{|\log of ||u||_{H_0^1(\Omega)}^2}$$
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► For a symmetric domain (w.r.t.  $\Sigma$ ) with  $\sigma_2 = -\sigma_1$ , we can build a kernel of infinite dimension.



2 The T-coercivity method for the dielectric/metamaterial transmission problem

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Let T be an isomorphism of  $H_0^1(\Omega)$ .

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Goal: Find **T** such that *a* is **T**-coercive:  $\int_{\Omega} \sigma \nabla u \cdot \nabla(\mathbf{T}u) \ge C \|u\|_{H_0^1(\Omega)}^2.$ In this case, Lax-Milgram  $\Rightarrow (\mathscr{P}_V)$  (and so  $(\mathscr{P}_V)$ ) is well-posed.

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$$T_1 u = \begin{vmatrix} u_1 & \text{in } \Omega_1 \\ -u_2 + \dots & \text{in } \Omega_2 \end{vmatrix}$$

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2  $T_1 \circ T_1 = Id$  so  $T_1 \text{ is an isomorphism of } H_0^1(\Omega)$ 

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THEOREM. If the contrast  $\kappa_{\sigma} = \sigma_2/\sigma_1 \notin [-\|R_2\|^2; -1/\|R_1\|^2]$  (critical interval) then div  $(\sigma \nabla \cdot)$  is an isomorphism from  $H_0^1(\Omega)$  to  $H^{-1}(\Omega)$ .

▶ Symmetric domain:

 $\Omega_2$  $\Omega_1$ 

Symmetric domain:



symmetry w.r.t.  $\Sigma$   $R_1 = S_{\Sigma}$  and  $R_2 = S_{\Sigma}$  $(\mathscr{P})$  well-posed  $\Leftrightarrow \kappa_{\sigma} \neq -1$ 

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► Right angle:



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• Other particular geometries:



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► General geometries: partition of unity and local inversion using particular cases.

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• This leads to study the Interior Transmission Eigenvalue Problem.

$$\begin{array}{lll} \mbox{Find} & (u,w) \in H^1(\Omega) \times H^1(\Omega) \ \mbox{s. t.:} \\ \mbox{div} \left( A \nabla u \right) + k^2 n u & = \ 0 & \mbox{in} \ \Omega \\ \Delta w + k^2 w & = \ 0 & \mbox{in} \ \Omega \\ u - w & = \ 0 & \mbox{on} \ \partial \Omega \\ \nu \cdot A \nabla u - \nu \cdot \nabla w & = \ 0 & \mbox{on} \ \partial \Omega. \end{array}$$



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DEFINITION. Values of  $k \in \mathbb{C}$  for which this problem has a nontrivial solution (u, w) are called transmission eigenvalues.

► The goal is to prove that the set of transmission eigenvalues is discrete and countable.

• Equivalent formulation:

Find 
$$(u, w) \in X$$
 s. t.,  $\forall (u', w') \in X$ ,  
 $a((u, w), (u', w')) = \int_{\Omega} A \nabla u \cdot \overline{\nabla u'} \cdot \nabla w \cdot \overline{\nabla w'} - k^2 (n u \overline{u'} \cdot w \overline{w'}) dx = 0$ ,

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- Define the isomorphism T(u, w) = (u 2w, -w).
- For  $k \in \mathbb{R}i \setminus \{0\}$ , A > 1 and n > 1, one finds

 $\Re e\,a((u,w),{\rm T}(u,w))\geq C\,(\|u\|_{H^1(\Omega)}^2+\|w\|_{H^1(\Omega)}^2),\quad \forall (u,w)\in X.$ 

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► This result can extended to situations where A - Id and n - 1 change sign in  $\Omega$  (joint work with H. Haddar).

#### Generalizations

- ✓ T-coercivity approach can be used for non-constant  $\sigma$  (L<sup>∞</sup>) and other problems (Maxwell's equations, bilaplacian form of the ITEP ...).
- ✓ One can justify convergence of standard finite elements method for simple meshes.

#### Generalizations

✓ T-coercivity approach can be used for non-constant  $\sigma$  (L<sup>∞</sup>) and other problems (Maxwell's equations, bilaplacian form of the ITEP ...).

✓ One can justify convergence of standard finite elements method for simple meshes.

Ongoing work

What happens in the critical interval ? For  $\kappa_{\sigma} \neq -1$ , strong singularities appear at the corners of the interface  $\Rightarrow (\mathscr{P})$  is well-posed in a new functional framework (joint work with X. Claeys).

♠ More generally, can we reconsider the homogenization process to take into account interfacial phenomena?
 ⇒ METAMATH project (ANR) directed by S. Fliss.

# Thank you for your attention.

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