Numerical methods for light scattering in plasmonic structures with corners

Camille Carvalho

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At optical frequencies ($\gamma \ll \omega < \omega_p$), ε has a negative real part and a neglectable imaginary part.



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-one has to solve PDEs with sign-changing coefficients (mathematical challenges)
-for non regular geometry singular behaviors appear
-phenomenon of nanofocusing at sub-wavelength (multiple scales to handle)



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Goal: develop accurate methods that take into account the multiple scales inherent.

The plasmonic scattering problem

The goal is to compute the scattered field by a polygonal metallic obstacle.

Nun

Time-harmonic equations for the TM polarization

$$H_z = u^{\rm inc} + u^{\rm sca} \qquad k = \frac{\omega}{c} \sqrt{\varepsilon_{\rm d} \mu_{\rm d}}$$

div
$$\left(\frac{1}{\varepsilon(\omega)}\nabla H_z\right) + \frac{\omega^2}{c^2}\mu H_z = 0$$
 in D_R
 $\partial_n H_z - ikH_z = \partial_n u^{\text{inc}} - iku^{\text{inc}}$ on ∂D_R

Radiation condition at finite distance

Work at a chosen frequency.



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Mathematically:

-due to the dissipation, the problem has a unique solution

(Variational formulation + Fredholm theory)

-one can approximate the solution with Finite Elements Methods



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$$\omega_p = 13.3 \text{ PHz}$$
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The solution is not stable ! Strong oscillations near the corners. To understand the reasons of such instabilities and how to avoid them, we study a **limit problem by neglecting dissipation.**

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- The limit problem
- Analysis at the corners
- Multiscale-FEM approach
- Extensions

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Mathematically this implies for our problem: -difficulties to prove existence and uniqueness of the solution -the corners of the inclusion may cause strong singular behavior -standard approximation with Finite Elements Methods may fail

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 such that: $H^1(D_R) := \{u | \int_{D_R} |u|^2 + |\nabla u|^2 \, d\mathbf{x} < +\infty\}$
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Thanks to the T-coercivity theory, one can prove well-posedness under some conditions on ε and the geometry.

Idea: build ad hoc isomorphisms to compensate the change of sign.



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 Surface plasmons frequency







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Outside I_c (YES)

The scattering problem has a unique solution $u \in H^1(D_R)$

Finite Elements converge (under some condition on the mesh): design symmetric meshes near the interface to ensure optimal FE convergence





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Results for $\omega = 3.7$ PHz



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Numerical results for triangular silver inclusion in vacuum for $\kappa_{\varepsilon} \in I_c$

 $\kappa_{\varepsilon} \in I_c \quad \Longleftrightarrow \quad \omega \in [3.839 \text{ PHz}; 12.733 \text{ PHz}].$

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Behaviour at infinity in the strip

 $\frac{1}{\ln \rho}$

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Numerical methods in plasmonic structures, CARVALHO, 2018

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Near the corners the solution decomposes as $u = b^+ s^+ + b^- s^- + \tilde{u}, \quad \tilde{u} \in H^1(D_R), s^{\pm} \notin H^1(D_R), b^{\pm} \in \mathbb{C}$

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How to proceed numerically to select the good singularity ?

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PMLs enable to artificially bound the strip while making the propagative modes become evanescent.

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 ∂D_R
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Computation with Lagrange FE of order 2 with a Matlab code

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Numerical illustrations for triangular silver inclusion in vacuum:

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| $\varepsilon_{\rm m}(\omega) = -3.9193$ | + 0.0926i | $\varepsilon_{\rm d} = \mu_{\rm d} = \mu_{\rm m} = 1$ |



Without PMLs

With PMLs



Considering losses in the metal, then the problem is well-posed. The black-hole waves becomes of finite energy. If dissipation is small, it requires meshes sufficiently refined at the corners to capture the oscillations.

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Animation in time $\Re e(u e^{-i\omega t})$



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Outline

- Introduction
- The limit problem
- Analysis at the corners
- Multiscale-FEM approach
- Extensions

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Introduce one extra problem to solve (technical) but it has to be solved only once !







Variational-based approach

(multiscale- FEM)



z_x



Variational-based approach

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✓ Mathematical challenges solved



Variational-based approach

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Mathematical challenges solved
High mesh constraints

Numerical methods in plasmonic structures, CARVALHO, 2018



Variational-based approach

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Mathematical challenges solved
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Multiscale asymptotic boundary integral approach




Future work



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ℯ₳₳₳ ✓ No high mesh constraints



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Multiscale asymptotic boundary integral approach

ℯ₳₳₳

- ✓ No high mesh constraints
- X Adapt the mathematical difficulties

Future work



The black-hole is of "infinite" energy. What does it mean in the time domain ?

Thank you for your attention.