

A NEW ELEMENT-ORIENTED MODEL FOR COMPUTATIONAL ELECTROMAGNETICS

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Abstract—In this paper, we present a new model using a Four-dimensional (4D) Element-Oriented physical concepts based on a topological approach in electromagnetism. Its general finite formulation on dual staggered grids reveals a flexible Finite-Difference Time-Domain (FDTD) method with reasonable local approximating functions. This flexible FDTD method is developed without recourse to the traditional Taylor based forms of the individual differential operators. This new formulation generalizes both the standard FDTD (S-FDTD) and the nonstandard FDTD (NS-FDTD) methods. Moreover, it can be used to generate new numerical methods. As proof, we deduce a new nonstandard scheme more accurate than the S-FDTD and the known nonstandard NS-FDTD methods. Through some numerical examples, we validate this proposal, and we show the power and the advantage of this Element-Oriented Model.

1. INTRODUCTION

To solve complex real-world electromagnetic problems, several methods have been developed over the past three decades taking advantage of the powerful computer resources [1–3]. Each one of them has advantages/disadvantages over the others. Some of the most common methods can be classified as follows:

- the finite difference method (FDM),
- the finite integral method (FIT),
- the finite element method (FEM),
- the finite volume method (FVM),
- the method of moments (MoM), and

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- the boundary element method (BEM).

All these numerical methods (and their extensions) have been developed separately, but they have numerous commonalities [4–6]. Numerical methods yield approximate solutions to the governing equations through the discretization of space and time. If the user of a model is unaware of the details of the numerical method, including the derivative approximations, the scale of discretization, and the matrix solution techniques, significant errors can be introduced and remain undetected [8].

In this paper, we initiate the development of a new Four-dimensional numerical model completely oriented object that we call an *Element-Oriented Model* (EOM). Its general formulation is built on new conceptual views. Therefore, it can be used to review and to perform the most known methods. We consider the Element-Oriented Modeling in electromagnetism as a natural process to systematize the electromagnetic concepts in a model by distinguishing objects or individual elements that include information (state or data values) and functionality (behavior). Using an object-oriented approach to arranging a set of equations allows us to group particular physical entities together with common functionalities or actions associated with that information. The state of an object encompasses all of the (usually static) properties of the object plus the current (usually dynamic) values of each of these properties. Through the Object-Oriented Paradigm, we can see electromagnetic problems as a collection of interacting objects. In practice, this approach is based on the strategies and techniques (often called *Object-Oriented analysis*) for establishing a physical model that distinguishes objects, their properties and their actions from the perspective of the classes and objects founded in the vocabulary of the electromagnetism theory. In this paper, we investigate the differential forms and the concept of topological laws in electromagnetism to formulate a general Element-Oriented Model. Notice that topology was recognized by Leibniz, Gauss and Maxwell to play a central role in the electromagnetism theory [11]. This tool is not largely exploited in computational physics [10]. The advantages of the topological approach are various:

- It provides an important framework connection between the electromagnetic fields and the geometry [7–11, 15, 17, 23, 25–29, 33, 35].
- It provides an excellent viewpoint for the discretization of electromagnetic equations [7, 9, 12–15, 35].
- It gives discrete formulations preserving many physically significant properties of the original problem [8–10, 27, 35].

- It permits to draw a dynamic representation of Maxwell's equations [9, 35].
- Furthermore, this approach facilitates the development of new numerical methods [9, 35].

Throughout this paper, we investigate this approach, and we propose an Element-Oriented Model (EOM) enjoying all the benefits of the Object-Oriented Programming (OOP) (abstraction, encapsulation, modularity, hierarchy, polymorphism and persistence). The first task is to find all objects with needed properties and behaviors. Then, we present a general finite formulation for this model. From which, we derive a Flexible Finite-Difference-Time-Domain (Flexible FDTD) algorithm. This formulation generalizes both the standard S-FDTD and the nonstandard NS-FDTD methods. To show its efficiency, we present a new nonstandard scheme derived directly from it. Through a numerical example, we show that this new scheme is more accurate than the S-FDTD and the known NS-FDTD methods. Because the S-FDTD and the NS-FDTD methods present distinct discrete derivative operators, that they are chosen in this work. Indeed, many other methods like ADI-FDTD [18], LOD-FDTD [19], and CN FDTD [20] use the same discrete derivative operator as the S-FDTD method.

2. THE ELEMENT-ORIENTED MODEL

2.1. Geometric Objects

The concept of the geometric objects is ubiquitous in physical field theories [6–9, 17, 33]. In three-dimensional space, the integral form of Maxwell-Heaviside equations reveals four basic spatial geometrical objects such as points P , lines L , surfaces S and volumes V , and two temporal geometrical elements such as instants T and time-intervals I . However, this integral formulation does not clearly reflect the orientation of these objects neither does the axial/polar nature of electromagnetic fields associated with them [35]. Indeed, all geometric objects are endowed with two kinds of orientation: internal or external. We will conventionally add a tilde to distinguish externally oriented objects, from internally oriented ones, thus writing \tilde{P} , \tilde{L} , \tilde{S} , \tilde{V} , \tilde{T} , and \tilde{I} for externally oriented point, line, surface, volume, instant, and interval respectively. For more details on these geometric objects, we refer the reader to [8, 9, 33].

If we adopt a strict space-time viewpoint, we must consider space and time as one four-dimensional space. Therefore, the space-time objects can be considered as Cartesian products of a space object by

a time object. So, we obtain a new space-time structure characterized by two cell complexes:

- A primal cell Complex \mathcal{K} defined by:

$$\mathcal{K} = \{\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{L}, \mathcal{S}, \mathcal{V}, \mathcal{H}\} = \{P, L, S, V\} \times \{T, I\} \quad (1)$$

- A dual cell Complex $\tilde{\mathcal{K}}$ defined by:

$$\tilde{\mathcal{K}} = \{\tilde{\mathcal{P}}, \tilde{\mathcal{L}}, \tilde{\mathcal{S}}, \tilde{\mathcal{V}}, \tilde{\mathcal{H}}\} = \{\tilde{P}, \tilde{L}, \tilde{S}, \tilde{V}\} \times \{\tilde{T}, \tilde{I}\} \quad (2)$$

The space-time objects in the primal cell complex \mathcal{K} have inner orientation, whereas the space-time objects in the dual cell complex $\tilde{\mathcal{K}}$ have outer orientation. To distinguish space-time objects from merely spatial ones, we will use the symbols \mathcal{P} , \mathcal{L} , \mathcal{S} , \mathcal{V} , and \mathcal{H} for the former and the symbols P , L , S , and V for the latter. $\mathcal{H} = V \times I$ is an hypervolume in the cell complex \mathcal{K} . On these geometric objects, we can apply the boundary operator ∂ . So, we get, as examples $\partial S = L$; $\partial \tilde{\mathcal{V}} = \partial(\tilde{S} \times \tilde{I}) = \partial \tilde{S} \times \tilde{I} = \tilde{S} \times \partial \tilde{I} = \partial \tilde{V} \times \tilde{I}$.

These geometric objects are considered basic tools of algebraic topology. They are called oriented p -dimensional cells ($p = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4$) in a four-dimensional space (space-time as example). A generic sub domain of p -dimensional cells is called a p -chain. So, the boundary operator ∂ can be shown as a linear mapping of the space of p -chains into that of $(p - 1)$ -chains.

2.2. Physical Global Quantities of Electrodynamics

After defining the oriented geometric objects, the next task is to find their association with electromagnetic entities. For this, we define the following physical variables on the space-time structure characterized by \mathcal{K} and $\tilde{\mathcal{K}}$:

- $\Phi^2 = (\Phi^e, \Phi^b)$ is the electromagnetic flux associated to primal surfaces \mathcal{S} . Φ^2 is a pairing of Φ^e with Φ^b where Φ^e is the electric flux associated with the object $\partial S \times I$ and Φ^b is the magnetic flux associated with $S \times \partial I$.
- $\tilde{Q}^3 = (\tilde{Q}^\rho, \tilde{Q}^j)$ is the electromagnetic charge associated with dual volumes $\tilde{\mathcal{V}}$. \tilde{Q}^3 is a pairing of \tilde{Q}^ρ with \tilde{Q}^j where \tilde{Q}^ρ is the electric charge content associated with the object $\tilde{V} \times \tilde{T}$ and \tilde{Q}^j is the electric charge flow associated with $\tilde{S} \times \tilde{I}$.
- $\mathcal{U}^1 = (U^a, U^v)$ is the electromagnetic potential associated with the object \mathcal{L} . \mathcal{U}^1 is a pairing of U^a with U^v where U^a is the potential associated with the object $L \times \partial I$ and U^v is the electric potential associated with the object $\partial L \times I$.

- $\tilde{\Psi}^2 = (\tilde{\Psi}^d, \tilde{\Psi}^h)$ is the electromagnetic charge-current potential (as called in [27]) associated with the object $\tilde{\mathcal{S}}$. $\tilde{\Psi}^2$ is a pairing of $\tilde{\Psi}^d$ with $\tilde{\Psi}^h$ where $\tilde{\Psi}^d$ is the electric flux associated with the object $\tilde{S} \times \partial\tilde{I}$ and $\tilde{\Psi}^h$ is the magnetic voltage impulse (as called in [17]) associated with $\partial\tilde{S} \times \tilde{I}$.

Each Physical Global Quantity is indexed by a prime to emphasize the dimension of the object associated with it. Association of these quantities with geometric objects makes more understandable any electromagnetic model.

These global quantities are also called global variables by other authors such as in [17]. By integration of field functions (E, B, H, D, ρ, J) on space domains (lines, surfaces, volumes) and on time intervals. Some authors deduce all these global variables [8, 9, 33]. In the next section, we use a formal analysis based on the differential forms in electromagnetism and some basic tools of algebraic topology. We deduce global quantities and we establish the discrete topological equations.

2.3. Discrete Topological Equations

In terms of differential forms, Maxwell equations can be written as [30, 31]:

$$dE = -\frac{\partial B}{\partial t}; \quad dD = \rho \tag{3}$$

$$dH = \frac{\partial D}{\partial t} + J; \quad dB = 0 \tag{4}$$

where

- d denotes the spatial exterior derivative; when applied to 0, 1 or 2-forms respectively, d is equivalent to *grad*, *curl* and *div* operators of vector calculus. When acting on a k -form, d produces a $(k + 1)$ -form.
- E is the electric intensity 1-form.
- B is the magnetic flux density 2-form.
- J is the current density 2-form.
- ρ is the charge density 3-form.

These equations are independent from the space metric. So, they are invariant under diffeomorphisms. The metric equations also called constitutive equations can be defined as [8, 9, 13, 14, 17, 22, 25]:

$$D = *_{\epsilon}E; \quad B = *_{\mu}H; \quad J = *_{\sigma}E \tag{5}$$

where $*$ is the spatial Hodge star operator.

In the four-dimensional space-time, we define some electromagnetic entities. Each entity is indexed by a prime to emphasize the dimension of its form. So, we define the electromagnetic strength \mathcal{F} 2-form as:

$$\mathcal{F}^2 = E^1 \wedge dt + B^2 \quad (6)$$

Its dual $*\mathcal{F}^2$ is expressed as:

$$*\mathcal{F}^2 = (*_{\mu}B^2) \wedge dt - *_{\varepsilon}E^1 \quad (7)$$

$$*\mathcal{F}^2 = H^1 \wedge dt - D^2 \quad (8)$$

where \wedge is the exterior product and $*$ is the four-dimensional Hodge star operator.

We define the electromagnetic charge \mathcal{J} as:

$$\mathcal{J}^3 = \rho^3 - J^2 \wedge dt \quad (9)$$

We define the electromagnetic potential \mathcal{E} as:

$$\mathcal{E}^1 = V^0 \wedge dt + A^1 \quad (10)$$

where V is the electric potential 0-form and A is the vector potential 1-form.

By applying the four-dimensional exterior derivative d to the Equations (6), (8), (9) and (10), we get:

$$d\mathcal{F}^2 = 0^3 \quad (11)$$

$$d*\mathcal{F}^2 = \mathcal{J}^3 \quad (12)$$

$$d\mathcal{J}^3 = 0^4 \quad (13)$$

$$d\mathcal{E}^1 = \mathcal{F}^2 \quad (14)$$

Equation (12) reveals that the electromagnetic charge \mathcal{J} is a dual electromagnetic entity.

The projection of these continuous electromagnetic entities in Equations (11)–(14) on the cell complexes \mathcal{K} and $\tilde{\mathcal{K}}$ provides the following discrete topological equations:

$$d\mathcal{F}^2 = 0^3 \xrightarrow{\text{Proj. on } \mathcal{K}} \delta\Phi^2 = 0^3 \quad (15)$$

$$d*\mathcal{F}^2 = \mathcal{J}^3 \xrightarrow{\text{Proj. on } \tilde{\mathcal{K}}} \delta\tilde{\Psi}^2 = \tilde{\mathcal{Q}}^3 \quad (16)$$

$$d\mathcal{J}^3 = 0^4 \xrightarrow{\text{Proj. on } \tilde{\mathcal{K}}} \delta\tilde{\mathcal{Q}}^3 = \tilde{0}^4 \quad (17)$$

$$d\mathcal{E}^1 = \mathcal{F}^2 \xrightarrow{\text{Proj. on } \mathcal{K}} \delta\mathcal{U}^1 = \Phi^2 \quad (18)$$

where:

- δ is the coboundary operator.

- $\Phi^2 = (\Phi^e, \Phi^b)$ is the global electromagnetic flux corresponding to the electromagnetic strength 2-form $\mathcal{F}^2 = (E, B)$.
- $\tilde{Q}^3 = (\tilde{Q}^\rho, \tilde{Q}^j)$ is the global electromagnetic charge corresponding to the electromagnetic charge 3-form $\mathcal{J} = (\rho, J)$.
- $\mathcal{U}^1 = (U^v, U^a)$ is the global electromagnetic potential corresponding to the electromagnetic potential 1-form $\mathcal{E}^1 = (V, A)$.
- $\tilde{\Psi}^2 = (\tilde{\Psi}^d, \tilde{\Psi}^h)$ is the global electromagnetic charge-current potential corresponding to the dual of the electromagnetic strength 2-form $*\mathcal{F}^2 = (H, D)$.

We surmount by a tilde all global entities corresponding to dual electromagnetic entities. On their associated geometric objects endowed with inner/outer orientation, we reformulate the discrete equations as:

$$\langle c_3^i, \delta\Phi^2 \rangle = \langle c_3^i, 0^3 \rangle \tag{19}$$

$$\langle \tilde{c}_3^i, \delta\tilde{\Psi}^2 \rangle = \langle \tilde{c}_3^i, \tilde{Q}^3 \rangle \tag{20}$$

$$\langle \tilde{c}_4^i, \delta\tilde{Q}^3 \rangle = \langle \tilde{c}_4^i, \tilde{0}^4 \rangle \tag{21}$$

$$\langle c_2^i, \delta\mathcal{U}^1 \rangle = \langle c_2^i, \Phi^2 \rangle \tag{22}$$

where c_p^i (\tilde{c}_p^i) designates a p -dimensional geometric object of index i endowed with inner (outer) orientation.

This formulation has important consequences [23] since the objective is to find a consistent discretization scheme for Maxwell's equations. Otherwise, these continuous and discrete equations permit to redraw the space-time classification diagrams, also called the Tonti diagrams [7–10, 24], as shown in the Figure 1.

By decoupling the electromagnetic fluxes to the electric and the magnetic fields, Equations (15) and (16) can be rewritten in a detailed manner:

$$\Phi^e(\partial S \times I) + \Phi^b(S \times \partial I) = 0^3(S \times I) \tag{23}$$

$$\tilde{\Psi}^h(\partial\tilde{S} \times \tilde{I}) + \tilde{\Psi}^d(\tilde{S} \times \partial\tilde{I}) = \tilde{Q}^j(\tilde{S} \times \tilde{I}) \tag{24}$$

These equations are visualized graphically on the Figure 2. The Maxwell equations are given in a compact and elegant form [30–32] in terms of the four-dimensional differential form representation. This formalism appears to be an ideal tool for electromagnetic analysis [31], particularly for numerical algorithms. Moreover, Its geometric interpretation holds many pedagogical interests since it enables conjointly an intuitive and a dynamic visualization.

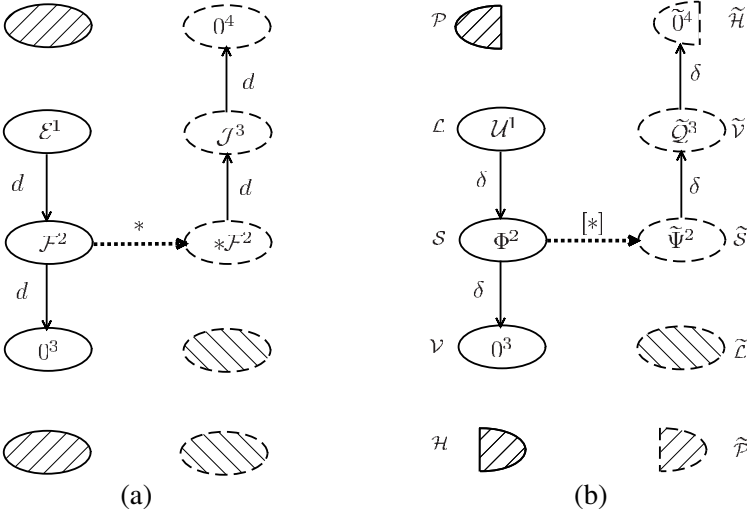


Figure 1. The Tonti classification diagrams of (a) electromagnetic entities linked by continuous equations, and (b) global electromagnetic quantities linked by discrete topological laws.

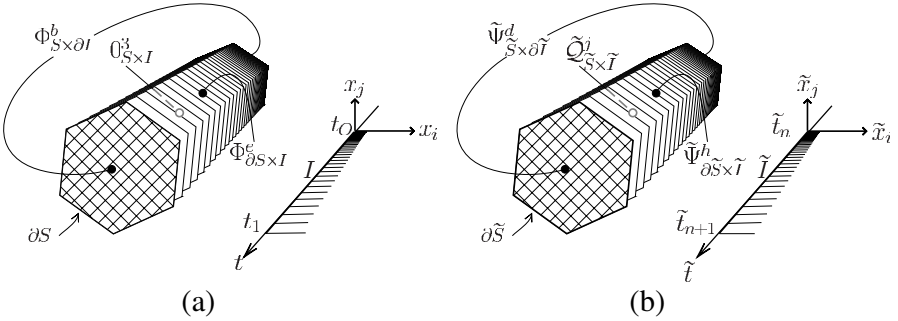


Figure 2. Graphical representations of (a) Faraday's law and (b) Maxwell-Ampere's law interpreted as balance laws on space-time cylinders.

2.4. Discretization of Metric Equations

The discrete topological equations were carried out without recourse to any approximation. Thus, discretization errors come only from the discretization of metric relations [9, 33]. At first, we show how to perform the discretization of continuous operators $*$ to be discrete

operators $[*]$. On a complex \mathcal{K} and its dual $\tilde{\mathcal{K}}$, we define the discrete operators $[*_\varepsilon]$, $[*_\mu]$ and $[*_\sigma]$ as:

$$\begin{aligned}
 [*_\varepsilon] : \quad & \tilde{\mathcal{K}} \rightarrow \mathcal{K} \\
 & \langle \tilde{c}_2^i, \tilde{\Psi}^d \rangle \rightarrow \sum_j [*_\varepsilon]_{ij} \langle c_2^j, \Phi^e \rangle \\
 [*_\mu] : \quad & \mathcal{K} \rightarrow \tilde{\mathcal{K}} \\
 & \langle c_2^i, \Phi^b \rangle \rightarrow \sum_j [*_\mu]_{ij} \langle \tilde{c}_2^j, \tilde{\Psi}^h \rangle \\
 [*_\sigma] : \quad & \tilde{\mathcal{K}} \rightarrow \mathcal{K} \\
 & \langle \tilde{c}_3^i, \tilde{Q}^J \rangle \rightarrow \sum_j [*_\sigma]_{ij} \langle c_2^j, \Phi^e \rangle
 \end{aligned} \tag{25}$$

For a consistent discretization, the discrete Hodge operators $[*]$ must complete some conditions. For example, on the usual Euclidean space, they should be symmetric and positive definite operators. When explicit schemes are preferred, it is necessary to verify that at least one of these matrixes needs to be diagonal. For an orthogonal grid mesh, we accomplish these conditions. The Voronoi-Delaunay mesh, by its construction, is a good example.

However, this discretization does not mean that $[*]_i$ is constant. It simply means that the discrete operator is only depending on the cell where it is defined. In this way, the parameter — the permittivity ε as example — is an electromagnetic property of the corresponding object. Thus, a member function of the object — function `UpdateEpsilon (...)`: `Number` as example — can adjust the parameter at any moment t and at any angular frequency ω .

2.5. The General Finite Formulation

The discrete topological Equations (15)–(17) and (18) have the form:

$$\delta a^p = b^{p+1} \tag{26}$$

where a^p and b^{p+1} are called cochains [25, 28]. Cochains therefore constitute the discrete representation of the electromagnetic fields. This Equation (26) is known as the discrete *strong form* of the continuous Equations (3) and (4). By using the discrete generalized Stoke’s theorem[†]:

$$\langle c_{p+1}^i, \delta a^p \rangle = \langle \partial c_{p+1}^i, a^p \rangle \forall c_{p+1}^i \tag{27}$$

We get the discrete *weak form*:

$$\langle \partial c_{p+1}^i, a^p \rangle = \langle c_{p+1}^i, b^{p+1} \rangle \forall c_{p+1}^i \tag{28}$$

[†] The continuous generalized Stoke’s theorem is: $\int_{D_{p+1}} d\omega^p = \int_{\partial D_{p+1}} \omega^p \forall D_{p+1}$.

The boundary ∂c_{p+1}^i is by definition the collection of its faces:

$$\partial c_{p+1}^i = \sum_{j=1}^{n_p} [c_{p+1}^i, c_p^j] c_p^j \tag{29}$$

where:

- (i) n_p is the number of p -dimensional objects in the complex \mathcal{K} .
- (ii) $[c_{p+1}^i, c_p^j]$ is the incidence number resulting from the induced orientation of the cell c_{p+1}^i on the cell c_p^j :

$$[c_{p+1}^i, c_p^j] = \begin{cases} +1 & \text{if } c_p^j \text{ is a face of } c_{p+1}^i \text{ and has the} \\ & \text{same orientation} \\ 0 & \text{if } c_p^j \text{ is not a face of } c_{p+1}^i \\ -1 & \text{if } c_p^j \text{ is a face of } c_{p+1}^i \text{ and has the} \\ & \text{opposite orientation} \end{cases}$$

The linearity of the chain-cochain pairing gives:

$$\sum_{j=1}^{n_p} [c_{p+1}^i, c_p^j] \langle c_p^j, a^p \rangle = \langle c_{p+1}^i, b^{p+1} \rangle \forall c_{p+1}^i \tag{30}$$

Thus, we rewrite Equations (19) and (20) as follows to obtain the finite formulation of the Element-Oriented Model:

$$\sum_{j=1}^{n_2} \alpha_{3,2}^{i,j} \langle c_2^j, \Phi^2 \rangle = 0 \tag{31}$$

$$\sum_{j=1}^{n_2} \tilde{\beta}_{3,2}^{i,j} \langle \tilde{c}_2^j, \tilde{\Psi}^2 \rangle = \langle \tilde{c}_3, \tilde{Q}^3 \rangle \tag{32}$$

where n_2 is the number of the 2-dimensional cells in the complex \mathcal{K} , $\alpha_{3,2}^{i,j} = [c_3^i, c_2^j]$ and $\tilde{\beta}_{3,2}^{i,j} = [\tilde{c}_3^i, \tilde{c}_2^j]$.

These Equations (31) and (32) govern the behaviors of the objects c_3^i and \tilde{c}_3^i in the space-time structure previously described.

Decoupling the electromagnetic fluxes to the electric and the magnetic fields (see Figure 2) gives:

$$\langle c_2^{n+\frac{1}{2}}, \Phi^b \rangle = \langle c_2^{n-\frac{1}{2}}, \Phi^b \rangle - \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq n \pm \frac{1}{2}}}^{n_2} \alpha_{3,2}^{i,j} \langle c_2^j, \Phi^e \rangle \tag{33}$$

$$\langle \tilde{c}_2^{n+1}, \tilde{\Psi}^d \rangle = \langle \tilde{c}_2^n, \tilde{\Psi}^d \rangle - \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq n \pm 1}}^{n_2} \tilde{\beta}_{3,2}^{i,j} \langle \tilde{c}_2^j, \tilde{\Psi}^h \rangle - \langle \tilde{c}_3, \tilde{Q}^3 \rangle \tag{34}$$

where:

- $c_2^{n+\frac{1}{2}}$ ($c_2^{n-\frac{1}{2}}$) denotes the 2-dimensional geometric object ($S \times \partial I$) localized at the instant $t = n + \frac{1}{2}$ ($t = n - \frac{1}{2}$).
- \tilde{c}_2^{n+1} (\tilde{c}_2^n) denotes the 2-dimensional geometric object ($\tilde{S} \times \partial \tilde{I}$) localized at the instant $\tilde{t} = n + 1$ ($\tilde{t} = n$).

Notice that the electric flux Φ^e is computed on the cell $c_2^j = \partial S \times I$ during the time interval $I = [n - \frac{1}{2}, n + \frac{1}{2}]$. Similarly, $\tilde{\Psi}^h$ is computed during the time interval $\tilde{I} = [n, n + 1]$ (see Figure 2). This statement constitutes the main disagreement with the most FDTD schemes where the flux Φ^e ($\tilde{\Psi}^h$) is calculated implicitly at the time instant $t = n$ ($\tilde{t} = n + \frac{1}{2}$). So, if we restrict these fluxes at an instant time, these equations become only approximation relations.

3. A FLEXIBLE FDTD SCHEME OF THE ELEMENT-ORIENTED MODEL

The computing restriction mentioned in the previous section also can be explained by considering the fluxes Φ^e and $\tilde{\Psi}^h$ constants on their associated surfaces $\partial S \times I$ and $\partial \tilde{S} \times \tilde{I}$. In this section, we examine a first idea to correct this disagreement by taking these fluxes variables on their surfaces. In other hand, the most known standard S-FDTD and nonstandard NS-FDTD methods use the Taylor form to approximate the differential operator acting on the electric and the magnetic fields. However, it is the solution that is sought, and hence it is redundant to approximate any function other than the solution itself [37, 38]. Unlike these methods, we attempt to incorporate any reasonable local approximating functions (such as plane wave, harmonic polynomial, sinusoidal, exponential, cylindrical or spherical harmonics, etc.) into the previous formulation of the Element-Oriented Model. In fact, solutions of many physical problems have salient local features that are qualitatively known a priori. In this situation, the accuracy of finite-difference methods in electromagnetic can be improved by approximating the solution itself and not the differential equations [37, 38].

For simplicity, we choose to develop our study (but not necessarily) on dual rectangular Cartesian grids. We focus our interest on the hypervolumetric primary cell \mathcal{H} located between the coordinates $(x = i, y = j, z = k, t = t^{n-\frac{1}{2}})$ and $(x = i+1, y = j+1, z = k+1, t = t^{n+\frac{1}{2}})$. Its first base face is a volumetric primary cell ($\mathcal{V}_k = \partial \mathcal{H}|_{z=k}$) located at $z = k$ between the coordinates $(x = i, y = j, t = t^{n-\frac{1}{2}})$ and $(x = i + 1,$

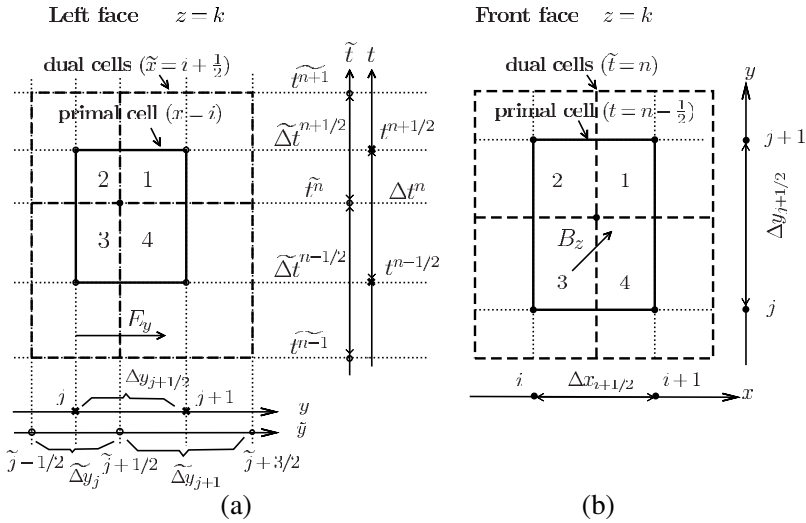


Figure 4. (a) The left and (b) the front faces of the primary cell \mathcal{V}_k .

the flux $\Phi_L^{e_y}$ is:

$$\Phi_L^{e_y} = \Phi_{L1}^{e_y} + \Phi_{L2}^{e_y} + \Phi_{L3}^{e_y} + \Phi_{L4}^{e_y}$$

The flux Φ_{L1}^e is:

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi_{L1}^{e_y} &= \oint_{L1} E_y(x, y, z, t) \cdot dydt \\ &= \int_{L1} E_y|_{i+\frac{1}{2}, j+1, k}^{n+\frac{1}{2}} \cdot \psi_{L1}^{e_y}(x, y, z, t) \cdot dydt \\ &= E_y|_{i+\frac{1}{2}, j+1, k}^{n+\frac{1}{2}} \cdot \varphi_{L1}^{e_y} \end{aligned} \tag{37}$$

where $\varphi_{L1}^{e_y} = \int_{L1} \psi_{L1}^{e_y}(x, y, z, t) \cdot dydt$.

In the same manner we obtain:

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi_{L2}^{e_y} &= E_y|_{i+\frac{1}{2}, j, k}^{n+\frac{1}{2}} \cdot \varphi_{L2}^{e_y} \\ \Phi_{L3}^{e_y} &= E_y|_{i+\frac{1}{2}, j, k}^{n-\frac{1}{2}} \cdot \varphi_{L3}^{e_y} \\ \Phi_{L4}^{e_y} &= E_y|_{i+\frac{1}{2}, j+1, k}^{n-\frac{1}{2}} \cdot \varphi_{L4}^{e_y} \end{aligned} \tag{38}$$

Hence, we deduce the total flux Φ_L^e on the left face:

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi_L^{e_y} &= \sum_{\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \tau} E_y|_{\alpha, \beta, \gamma}^{\tau} \cdot \varphi_{L1:L4}^{e_y} \\ \alpha &= i + \frac{1}{2}; \beta = j, j + 1; \gamma = k; \tau = n - \frac{1}{2}, n + \frac{1}{2} \end{aligned} \tag{39}$$

On the *right face*, we obtain:

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi_R^{e_y} &= \sum_{\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \tau} E_y|_{\alpha, \beta, \gamma}^\tau \cdot \varphi_{R1:R4}^{e_y} \\ \alpha &= i + \frac{3}{2}; \beta = j, j + 1; \gamma = k; \tau = n - \frac{1}{2}, n + \frac{1}{2} \end{aligned} \quad (40)$$

Therefore, the total flux $\Phi_{R-L}^e = \Phi_R^e - \Phi_L^e$ is:

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi_{R-L}^{e_y} &= \sum_{\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \tau} (-1)^{i+\frac{3}{2}-\alpha} E_y|_{\alpha, \beta, \gamma}^\tau \cdot \varphi_{1:8}^{e_y} \\ \alpha &= i + \frac{1}{2}, i + \frac{3}{2}; \beta = j, j + 1; \gamma = k; \tau = n - \frac{1}{2}, n + \frac{1}{2} \end{aligned} \quad (41)$$

The total flux $\Phi_{B-T}^{e_x} = \Phi_B^{e_x} - \Phi_T^{e_x}$ is:

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi_{B-T}^{e_x} &= \sum_{\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \tau} (-1)^{j+\frac{3}{2}-\beta} E_x|_{\alpha, \beta, \gamma}^\tau \cdot \varphi_{1:8}^{e_x} \\ \alpha &= i, i + 1; \beta = j + \frac{1}{2}, j + \frac{3}{2}; \gamma = k; \tau = n - \frac{1}{2}, n + \frac{1}{2} \end{aligned} \quad (42)$$

The total flux of B_z on the back-front faces is:

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi_{Bk-F}^{b_z} &= \sum_{\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \tau} (-1)^{n+1-\tau} B_z|_{\alpha, \beta, \gamma}^\tau \cdot \varphi_{1:8}^{b_z} \\ \alpha &= i, i + 1; \beta = j, j + 1; \gamma = k; \tau = n, n + 1 \end{aligned} \quad (43)$$

Hence, we get an explicit form of the Equation (33) for the component $\Phi^{b_z} = f(\Phi^{e_x}, \Phi^{e_y})$.

In the same manner, we obtain the explicit forms for the components Φ^{b_y} and Φ^{b_x} on the volumetric primary cells $\mathcal{V}_j = \partial\mathcal{H}|_{y=j}$ and $\mathcal{V}_i = \partial\mathcal{H}|_{x=i}$. The components $\tilde{\Psi}^{dz}$, $\tilde{\Psi}^{dy}$ and $\tilde{\Psi}^{dx}$ can be easily computed on the dual cells $\tilde{\mathcal{V}}_k$, $\tilde{\mathcal{V}}_j$ and $\tilde{\mathcal{V}}_i$ or simply deduced by permutation and translation.

Finally, we obtain a set of six equations that governs the behavior of the hypervolumetric space-time object \mathcal{H} .

4. FROM THE FLEXIBLE FDTD SCHEME OF THE ELEMENT-ORIENTED MODEL TO THE STANDARD S-FDTD METHOD

In this section, we show that we can derive, under some assumptions, the standard S-FDTD method from the flexible FDTD scheme of the Element-Oriented Model. Let us consider the following assumptions:

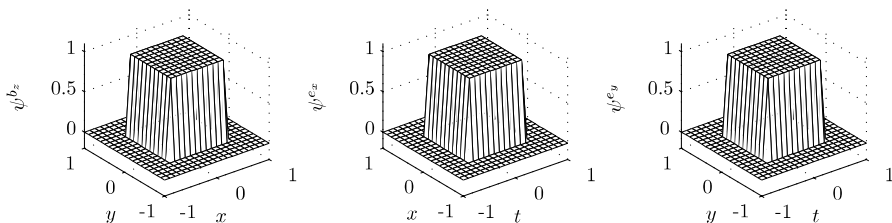


Figure 5. Definitions of the normalized ψ functions.

- (i) we assume that the dual mesh is orthogonal and regular. All intervals in the directions x, y, z, t , are equals to $\Delta x, \Delta y, \Delta z$ and Δt respectively.
- (ii) we assume that the normalized functions ψ are constants and equal to unity in their cells where they are defined as shown in Figure 5. Therefore, all functions φ^{e_y} defined in Equations (37)–(41) become:

$$\varphi_{L1}^{e_y} = \varphi_{L2}^{e_y} = \varphi_{L3}^{e_y} = \varphi_{L4}^{e_y} = \Delta y \Delta t / 4$$

All functions $\varphi_{1:8}^{e_x}$ defined in Equation (42) become: $\varphi_{1:8}^{e_x} = \Delta x \Delta t / 4$. All functions $\varphi_{1:8}^{b_z}$ defined in Equation (43) become: $\varphi_{1:8}^{b_z} = \Delta x \Delta y / 4$.

- (iii) We assume that the field E_y remains uniform over the intervals $[i - \frac{1}{2}, i + \frac{1}{2}]$, $[i + \frac{1}{2}, i + \frac{3}{2}]$. Thus,

$$E_y|_{i+\frac{1}{2}} = E_y|_i \quad \text{and} \quad E_y|_{i+\frac{3}{2}} = E_y|_{i+1}$$

- (iv) A linear approximation leads us to write:

$$\begin{aligned} E_y|_{i,j+\frac{1}{2},k}^n &= \left(E_y|_{i,j+1,k}^{n+\frac{1}{2}} + E_y|_{i,j,k}^{n-\frac{1}{2}} \right) / 2 \\ E_y|_{i,j+\frac{1}{2},k}^n &= \left(E_y|_{i,j,k}^{n+\frac{1}{2}} + E_y|_{i,j+1,k}^{n-\frac{1}{2}} \right) / 2 \end{aligned} \tag{44}$$

Equation (39) becomes:

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi_L^{e_y} &= \frac{\Delta y \Delta t}{4} \cdot \left[E_y|_{i,j+1,k}^{n+\frac{1}{2}} + E_y|_{i,j,k}^{n+\frac{1}{2}} + E_y|_{i,j,k}^{n-\frac{1}{2}} + E_y|_{i,j+1,k}^{n-\frac{1}{2}} \right] \\ &= \Delta y \Delta t \cdot E_y|_{i,j+\frac{1}{2},k}^n \end{aligned} \tag{45}$$

With the same assumptions on the right face of the volumetric cell \mathcal{V}_k , the Equation (41) becomes:

$$\Phi_{R-L}^{e_y} = \Delta y \Delta t \cdot \left[E_y|_{i+1,j+\frac{1}{2},k}^n - E_y|_{i,j+\frac{1}{2},k}^n \right] \tag{46}$$

- (v) Assuming that E_x is uniform over the intervals $]j - \frac{1}{2}, j + \frac{1}{2}]$, $]j + \frac{1}{2}, j + \frac{3}{2}]$ and using a linear approximation, the Equation (42) becomes:

$$\Phi_{B-T}^{e_x} = \Delta x \Delta t \cdot \left[E_x|_{i+\frac{1}{2}, j+1, k}^n - E_x|_{i+\frac{1}{2}, j, k}^n \right] \quad (47)$$

- (vi) We consider B_z uniform over the intervals $]n - 1, n]$, $]n, n + 1]$. Equation (43) becomes:

$$\Phi_{Bk-F}^{b_z} = \Delta x \Delta y \cdot \left[B_z|_{i+\frac{1}{2}, j+\frac{1}{2}, k}^{n+\frac{1}{2}} - B_z|_{i+\frac{1}{2}, j+\frac{1}{2}, k}^{n-\frac{1}{2}} \right] \quad (48)$$

Equation (33) for the component Φ^{b_z} becomes:

$$\begin{aligned} B_z|_{i+\frac{1}{2}, j+\frac{1}{2}, k}^{n+\frac{1}{2}} \cdot \Delta x \Delta y &= B_z|_{i+\frac{1}{2}, j+\frac{1}{2}, k}^{n-\frac{1}{2}} \cdot \Delta x \Delta y \\ &\quad - \left(E_y|_{i+1, j+\frac{1}{2}, k}^n - E_y|_{i, j+\frac{1}{2}, k}^n \right) \cdot \Delta y \Delta t \\ &\quad + \left(E_x|_{i+\frac{1}{2}, j+1, k}^n - E_x|_{i+\frac{1}{2}, j, k}^n \right) \cdot \Delta x \Delta t \end{aligned} \quad (49)$$

Thus,

$$\frac{B_z|_{i+\frac{1}{2}, j+\frac{1}{2}, k}^{n+\frac{1}{2}} - B_z|_{i+\frac{1}{2}, j+\frac{1}{2}, k}^{n-\frac{1}{2}}}{\Delta t} = \frac{E_x|_{i+\frac{1}{2}, j+1, k}^n - E_x|_{i+\frac{1}{2}, j, k}^n}{\Delta y} - \frac{E_y|_{i+1, j+\frac{1}{2}, k}^n - E_y|_{i, j+\frac{1}{2}, k}^n}{\Delta x} \quad (50)$$

This formulation represents the discretization of the Faraday's law $-\partial_t B = \nabla \times E$ by the conventional Yee-FDTD algorithm established on dual Yee-cells. The discrete derivative operator d_r in a direction r is well:

$$d_r \cdot f = \frac{f(r + \Delta r) - f(r)}{\Delta r}$$

- (vii) Assuming that the permittivity ε and the permeability μ are constants on every line c or \tilde{c} of any volumetric cell \mathcal{V} or $\tilde{\mathcal{V}}$, we can write for any direction $r = x, y, z$ at any point pt :

$$B_r|_{(pt)} = \mu_{(pt)} \cdot \tilde{H}_r|_{(pt)} ; \quad \tilde{D}_r|_{(pt)} = \varepsilon_{(pt)} \cdot E_r|_{(pt)}$$

The operators $[*\varepsilon]$ and $[*\mu]$ become:

$$[*\varepsilon] = [\varepsilon]_3 ; \quad [*\mu] = [\mu]_3$$

where $[\varepsilon]_3$ and $[\mu]_3$ are three order diagonal matrixes.

Equation (50) becomes:

$$\begin{aligned} & \mu_{(i+\frac{1}{2},j+\frac{1}{2},k)} \frac{H_z|_{i+\frac{1}{2},j+\frac{1}{2},k}^{n+\frac{1}{2}} - H_z|_{i+\frac{1}{2},j+\frac{1}{2},k}^{n-\frac{1}{2}}}{\Delta t} \\ &= \frac{E_x|_{i+\frac{1}{2},j+1,k}^n - E_x|_{i+\frac{1}{2},j,k}^n}{\Delta y} - \frac{E_y|_{i+1,j+\frac{1}{2},k}^n - E_y|_{i,j+\frac{1}{2},k}^n}{\Delta x} \end{aligned} \quad (51)$$

Equation (34) (in the case of $Q = 0$) for the component D_z becomes:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{D_z|_{i,j,k+\frac{1}{2}}^{n+1} - D_z|_{i,j,k+\frac{1}{2}}^n}{\Delta t} &= \frac{H_y|_{i+\frac{1}{2},j,k+\frac{1}{2}}^{n+\frac{1}{2}} - H_y|_{i-\frac{1}{2},j,k+\frac{1}{2}}^{n+\frac{1}{2}}}{\Delta x} \\ &\quad - \frac{H_x|_{i,j+\frac{1}{2},k+\frac{1}{2}}^{n+\frac{1}{2}} - H_x|_{i,j-\frac{1}{2},k+\frac{1}{2}}^{n+\frac{1}{2}}}{\Delta y} \end{aligned} \quad (52)$$

In the same manner, we find all remaining equations for the components H_x , H_y , D_x and D_y as previously mentioned.

Finally, the demonstration of the passage from the Element-Oriented Model to the standard S-FDTD is complete.

5. FROM THE FLEXIBLE FDTD SCHEME OF THE ELEMENT-ORIENTED MODEL TO THE NONSTANDARD NS-FDTD METHOD

To show the passage from the Element-Oriented Model to the nonstandard NS-FDTD, we maintain all previous assumptions in Section 4 except the assumption (ii). Therefore, we propose to consider the ψ functions dependent on the directions of the cells where they are

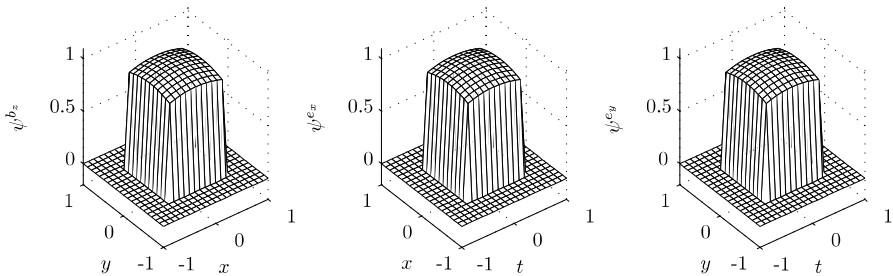


Figure 6. Definitions of the normalized ψ functions for $N_\lambda = 10$.

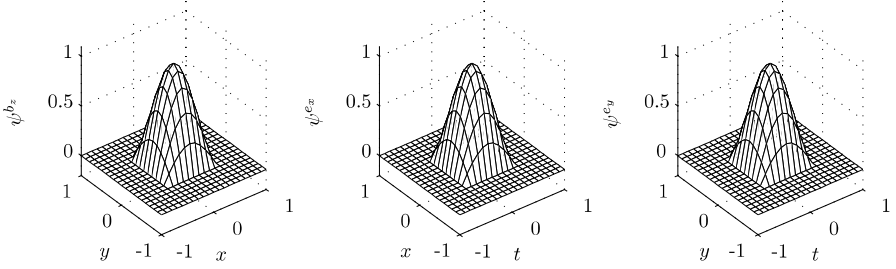


Figure 7. Definitions of the normalized ψ functions at the limit for $N_\lambda = 2$.

defined:

$$\psi^{e_r}(r, t) = \cos(k_r r) \cos(\omega t) \quad \text{for} \quad -\frac{\Delta r}{2} \leq r \leq \frac{\Delta r}{2}; \quad -\frac{\Delta t}{2} \leq t \leq \frac{\Delta t}{2}$$

These ψ functions are dependent on the mesh density N_λ as shown in Figures 6 and 7. In the end, for a very fine mesh ($N_\lambda \rightarrow +\infty$). All ψ functions will be equal to unity ($\psi \rightarrow 1$). Hence, this formulation will be identical to the standard S-FDTD method. The flux of E_y on the left face of the primary spatial temporal cell will be:

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi_L^{e_y} &= \oint_{\Omega} E_y \cdot \psi^{e_y}(x, y, z, t) d\Omega \\ &= \int_{-\Delta y/2}^{\Delta y/2} \int_{-\Delta t/2}^{\Delta t/2} E_y^n_{(i, j+\frac{1}{2}, k)} \psi^{e_y}(x, y, z, t) dy dt \\ &= E_y^n_{(i, j+\frac{1}{2}, k)} \left[\frac{2}{k_y} \sin\left(k_y \frac{\Delta y}{2}\right) \frac{2}{\omega} \sin\left(\omega \frac{\Delta t}{2}\right) \right] \end{aligned} \quad (53)$$

By computing and grouping fluxes:

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi_R^{e_y} &= E_y^n_{(i+1, j+\frac{1}{2}, k)} \left[\frac{2}{k_y} \sin\left(k_y \frac{\Delta y}{2}\right) \frac{2}{\omega} \sin\left(\omega \frac{\Delta t}{2}\right) \right] \\ \Phi_T^{e_x} &= E_x^n_{(i+\frac{1}{2}, j+1, k)} \left[\frac{2}{k_x} \sin\left(k_x \frac{\Delta x}{2}\right) \frac{2}{\omega} \sin\left(\omega \frac{\Delta t}{2}\right) \right] \\ \Phi_B^{e_x} &= E_x^n_{(i+\frac{1}{2}, j, k)} \left[\frac{2}{k_x} \sin\left(k_x \frac{\Delta x}{2}\right) \frac{2}{\omega} \sin\left(\omega \frac{\Delta t}{2}\right) \right] \\ \Phi_F^{b_z} &= B_z^{n-\frac{1}{2}}_{(i+\frac{1}{2}, j+\frac{1}{2}, k)} \left[\frac{2}{k_x} \sin\left(k_x \frac{\Delta x}{2}\right) \frac{2}{k_y} \sin\left(k_y \frac{\Delta y}{2}\right) \right] \\ \Phi_{Bk}^{b_z} &= B_z^{n+\frac{1}{2}}_{(i+\frac{1}{2}, j+\frac{1}{2}, k)} \left[\frac{2}{k_x} \sin\left(k_x \frac{\Delta x}{2}\right) \frac{2}{k_y} \sin\left(k_y \frac{\Delta y}{2}\right) \right] \end{aligned} \quad (54)$$

we obtain:

$$\begin{aligned} & \mu_{(i+\frac{1}{2},j+\frac{1}{2})} \frac{H_z^{n+\frac{1}{2}}_{(i+\frac{1}{2},j+\frac{1}{2},k)} - H_z^{n-\frac{1}{2}}_{(i+\frac{1}{2},j+\frac{1}{2},k)}}{\frac{2}{\omega} \sin(\omega \frac{\Delta t}{2})} \\ = & \frac{E_x^n_{(i+\frac{1}{2},j+1,k)} - E_x^n_{(i+\frac{1}{2},j,k)}}{\frac{2}{k_y} \sin(k_y \frac{\Delta y}{2})} - \frac{E_y^n_{(i+1,j+\frac{1}{2},k)} - E_y^n_{(i,j+\frac{1}{2},k)}}{\frac{2}{k_x} \sin(k_x \frac{\Delta x}{2})} \end{aligned} \quad (55)$$

It is clear that the discrete derivative operator has an unconventional form:

$$d_x f(x) = \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{\phi(h)} \quad \text{where } \phi(h) \rightarrow h \quad \text{when } h \rightarrow 0 \quad (56)$$

The same procedure can be applied to the other components to formulate completely this scheme. This formulation is well known as the nonstandard finite-difference time-domain method NS-FDTD [16, 21, 34]. The main rules to construct a nonstandard scheme are [16]:

- The order of derivative discretizations should be the same as the corresponding order derivatives in differential equations.
- The discrete form of the derivative must have a denominator in general a non-trivial function of the step discretization.

$$\frac{dy}{dt} \rightarrow \frac{y_{k+1} - \psi(h)y_k}{\Phi(h)}$$

where $\Phi(h) = h + \mathcal{O}(h^2)$ and $\psi(h) = 1 + \mathcal{O}(h)$

- Nonlinear terms must be in general replaced by non-local representation: $x^2 \rightarrow x_{k+1}x_k$.
- The special conditions related to differential equations and/or their solutions are maintained for discrete formulations and/or their solutions, such as, for example, the time invariance $t \rightarrow -t$.

In this section, we have shown the passage from the Element-Oriented Model to the standard S-FDTD method.

6. A NEW NONSTANDARD FINITE-DIFFERENCE TIME-DOMAIN SCHEME

The main purpose from this section is to show the capability of the Element-Oriented Model to generate new schemes. In fact, we propose a new nonstandard NS-FDTD more accurate than the standard S-FDTD and the known nonstandard NS-FDTD methods. To formulate

this new scheme, we will consider the same assumptions in Section 5. But, unlike the assumption (vi) in Section 4, we take the field B_z variable on the interval $]n, n + 1]$. We also take D_z variable on the interval $]n + \frac{1}{2}, n + \frac{3}{2}]$.

$$\begin{aligned} B_z(t) &= B_z|^{n+\frac{1}{2}} \cdot \psi^{b_z}(t); \quad t \in]n, n + 1] \\ D_z(t) &= D_z|^{n+1} \cdot \psi^{d_z}(t); \quad t \in]n + 1/2, n + 3/2] \end{aligned}$$

where:

$$\begin{aligned} \psi^{b_z}(t) &= \cos(\omega(t - (n + 1/2)\Delta t)); \quad t \in]n, n + 1] \\ \psi^{d_z}(t) &= \cos(\omega(t - (n + 1)\Delta t)); \quad t \in]n + 1/2, n + 3/2] \end{aligned}$$

Near the instant $t = n + \frac{1}{2}$, we take $B_z|^{n+\frac{1}{2}}$ equal to its temporal mean value:

$$B_z|^{n+\frac{1}{2}} = \left\langle B_z|^{n+\frac{1}{2}} \right\rangle = \frac{1}{\tau\Delta t} \int_{(n+\frac{1}{2}-\frac{\tau}{2})\Delta t}^{(n+\frac{1}{2}+\frac{\tau}{2})\Delta t} B_z|^{n+\frac{1}{2}} \cdot \psi_z^b(t) dt$$

where $\tau \in [0, +1]$.

In the same manner, near the instant $t = n + 1$, $D_z|^{n+1}$ becomes:

$$D_z|^{n+1} = \left\langle D_z|^{n+1} \right\rangle = \frac{1}{\tau\Delta t} \int_{(n+1-\frac{\tau}{2})\Delta t}^{(n+1+\frac{\tau}{2})\Delta t} D_z|^{n+1} \cdot \psi_z^d(t) dt$$

Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} \left\langle B_z|^{n+\frac{1}{2}} \right\rangle &= B_z|^{n+\frac{1}{2}} \cdot \frac{2}{\omega\tau\Delta t} \cdot \sin\left(\frac{\omega\tau\Delta t}{2}\right) \\ \left\langle D_z|^{n+1} \right\rangle &= D_z|^{n+1} \cdot \frac{2}{\omega\tau\Delta t} \cdot \sin\left(\frac{\omega\tau\Delta t}{2}\right) \end{aligned}$$

We can see that $B_z^{n+\frac{1}{2}}$ and D_z^{n+1} are corrected by the same function $\varphi_c(\Delta t, \tau)$:

$$\varphi_c(\Delta t, \tau) = \frac{2}{\omega\tau\Delta t} \cdot \sin\left(\frac{\omega\tau\Delta t}{2}\right)$$

where:

$$\lim_{\tau \cdot \Delta t \rightarrow 0} \varphi_c(\Delta t, \tau) = 1 \text{ and } \varphi_c(\Delta t, \tau) \succ 0 \quad \forall \tau \in]-1, +1]$$

This function $\varphi_c(\Delta t, \tau)$ is illustrated on the Figure 8 for some temporal steps.

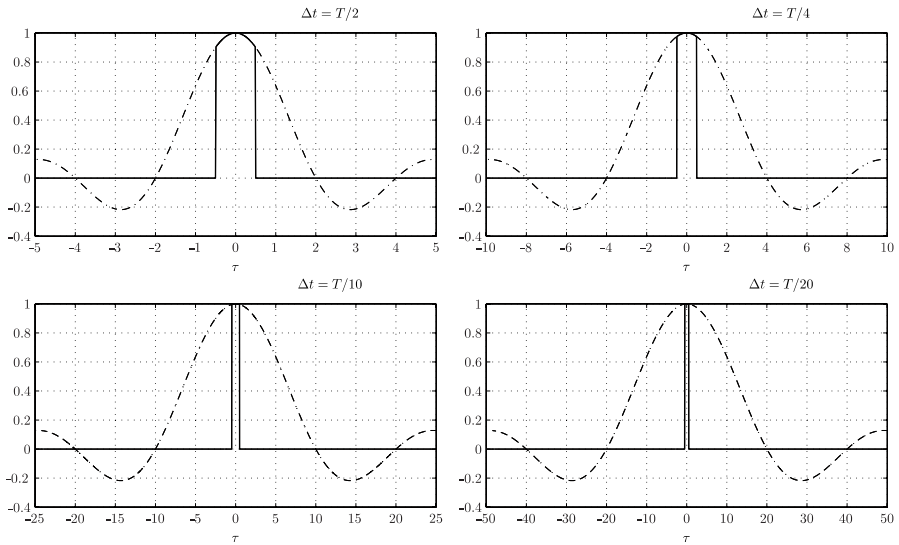


Figure 8. Graphs of the function $\varphi_c(\Delta t, \tau)$ for $\tau \in] - 1/2, 1/2]$ and for the temporal steps: $\Delta t = T/2$ (the limit of Shanon’s theorem), $\Delta t = T/4$, $\Delta t = T/10$ and $\Delta t = T/20$.

Equation (52) becomes:

$$\begin{aligned} & \mu_{(i+\frac{1}{2},j+\frac{1}{2})} \frac{H_z^{n+\frac{1}{2}}_{(i+\frac{1}{2},j+\frac{1}{2},k)} \cdot \varphi_c(\Delta t, \tau) - H_z^{n-\frac{1}{2}}_{(i+\frac{1}{2},j+\frac{1}{2},k)}}{\frac{2}{\omega} \sin(\omega \frac{\Delta t}{2})} \\ &= \frac{E_x^n_{(i+\frac{1}{2},j+1,k)} - E_x^n_{(i+\frac{1}{2},j,k)}}{\frac{2}{k_y} \sin(k_y \frac{\Delta y}{2})} - \frac{E_y^n_{(i+1,j+\frac{1}{2},k)} - E_y^n_{(i,j+\frac{1}{2},k)}}{\frac{2}{k_x} \sin(k_x \frac{\Delta x}{2})} \end{aligned} \quad (57)$$

The new nonstandard temporal derivative operator is formulated as:

$$d_t \cdot f(t) = \frac{f(t + \Delta t) \cdot \varphi_c(\Delta t, \tau) - f(t)}{\phi(\Delta t)} \quad (58)$$

where: $\lim_{\tau \cdot \Delta t \rightarrow 0} \varphi_c(\Delta t, \tau) = 1$ and $\lim_{\Delta t \rightarrow 0} \phi(\Delta t) = \Delta t$.

This algorithm uses the new temporal derivative operator d_t in Equation (58) and the spatial derivative operator d_x in Equation (56).

Only these two operators d_t and d_x are sufficient to prove that the new nonstandard scheme generalizes both the standard and the nonstandard FDTD methods.

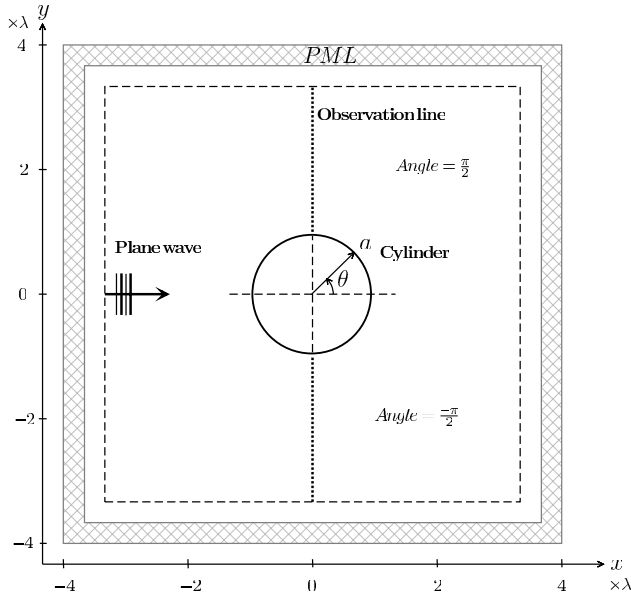


Figure 9. Geometry of the test problem. A transverse magnetic (TM) plane wave is incident upon a perfectly conducting circular cylinder. The computational domain is terminated by the perfectly matched layer (PML) absorbing boundary condition implemented as special object.

7. NUMERICAL EXAMPLES

A known severe test of any algorithm is Mie scattering [16]. In the Mie regime, the feature size of the scatterer is comparable to the wavelength. An infinite plane wave is incident from the left upon a perfectly conducting circular cylinder (Figure 9). In this case of cylindrical scatterers, the exact solution is given analytically by the Mie series. Using this analytic solution we are able to compute exact errors of any algorithm. The total electric field is calculated with the three methods (The standard S-FDTD, the nonstandard NS-FDTD and the new nonstandard NS-FDTD methods) and is compared with the analytic solution.

The exact analytical solution to the problem is given by [36]:

$$E_z = E_0 \sum_{n=-\infty}^{+\infty} j^{-n} \left[J_n(k_0 \rho) - \frac{J_n(k_0 a)}{H_n^{(2)}(k_0 a)} H_n^{(2)}(k_0 \rho) \right] e^{-jn\theta} \quad (59)$$

where E_z is the total electric field, E_0 is the amplitude of the plane

wave, k_0 is the propagation constant in free space, ρ is the radial distance from the center of the cylinder to the observation point, θ is the corresponding angle measured from the positive x -axis, J_n is the

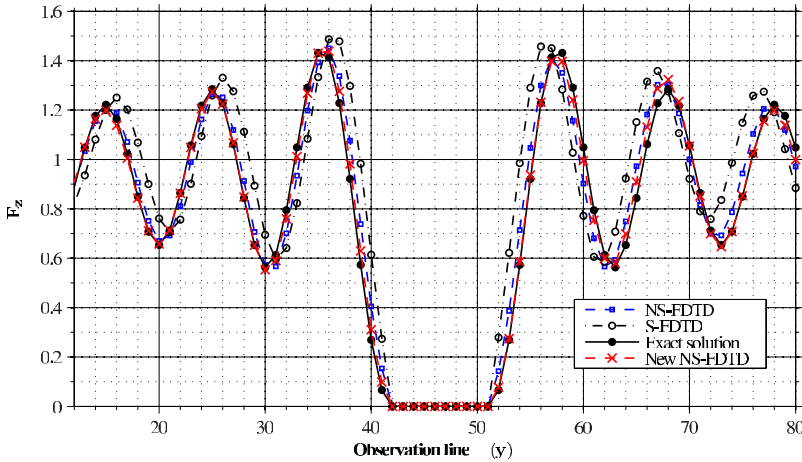


Figure 10. Comparison between the total electric field E_z calculated using the exact analytical solution and the electric field computed using the three numerical methods along the line observation ($y = 0$) for $N_\lambda = 10$ and $a = \lambda/2$.

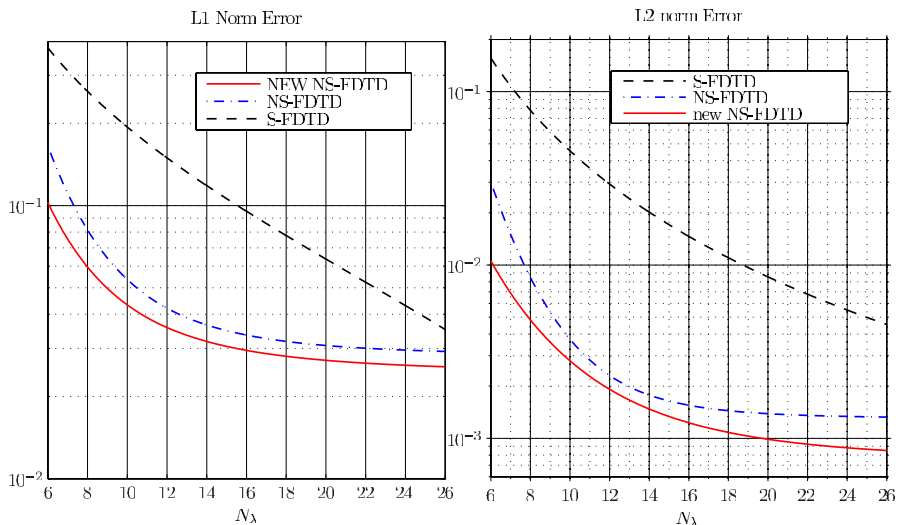


Figure 11. Numerical errors based on the L_1 and L_2 norms as a function of mesh density N_λ .

Bessel function of the first kind, and $H_n^{(2)}$ is the Hankel function of the second kind.

Figure 10 shows the distribution of the total electric field E_z computed by the three numerical methods and compared with the exact solution.

Figure 11 shows the numerical errors based on the L_1 and L_2 norms. This proves that the new NS-FDTD deduced from the Element-

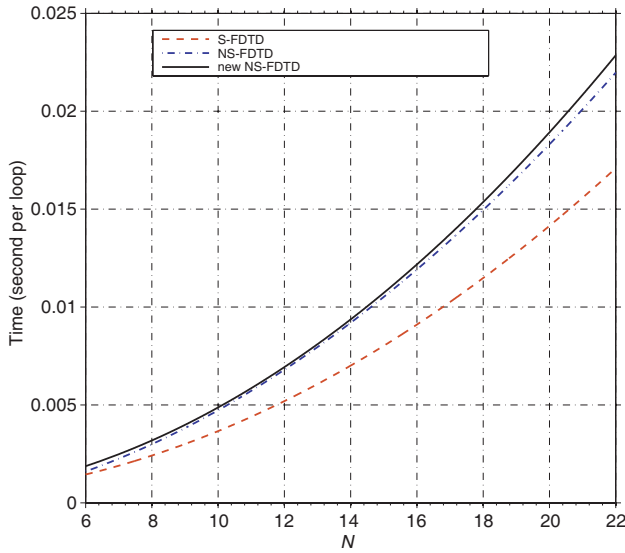


Figure 12. Comparison of computing times between the S-FDTD, the NS-FDTD methods and the proposed new NS-FDTD scheme.

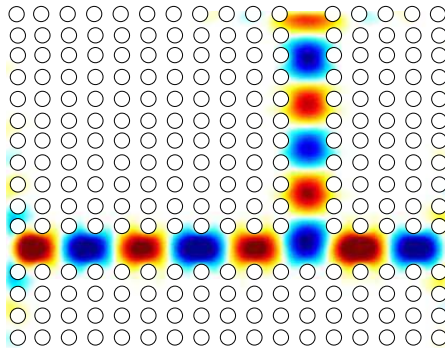


Figure 13. A photonic wave guide with three ports.

Oriented Model is more accurate than the standard and nonstandard FDTD methods with about the same computational cost as shown on the Figure 12.

In other hand, since our model is oriented object, we reuse the same program to develop several applications benefiting from the instantiation and the inheritance concepts. To illustrate the importance of this Element-Oriented Model, we present here another example of a photonic waveguide with three ports. This application is simply developed by instantiating some cylinders from the cylinder object of the previous problem. Figure 13 shows a simulation of this waveguide.

8. CONCLUSION

Based on a topological approach, we formulated a new Element-Oriented Model that conserves many physical informations. On dual staggered grids, we developed this model to obtain a flexible Finite-Difference Time-Domain using a general approximating function. We demonstrated that this scheme generalizes both the standard S-FDTD and the nonstandard NS-FDTD methods. Moreover, to confirm the productivity of this model, we presented a new nonstandard scheme. Its accuracy was proven by a numerical problem of a plane wave striking a perfectly conducting circular cylinder. Furthermore, the importance of this Element-Oriented Model was elucidated by instantiation of a cylinder object to produce a simulation of a photonic waveguide. We are persuaded that the Element-Oriented Model can also generate other new schemes. In future work, we will present a second new nonstandard NS-FDTD algorithm which is more accurate.

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