

**RIGOROUS ASYMPTOTICS FOR THE ELECTRIC FIELD IN TM
MODE AT MID-FREQUENCY
IN A BIDIMENSIONAL MEDIUM WITH A THIN LAYER**

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ABSTRACT. Consider an ambient medium and a heterogeneous entity composed of a bidimensional material surrounded by a thin membrane. The electromagnetic constants of these three materials are different. By analogy with biological cells, we call this entity a cell. We study the asymptotic behavior of the electric field in the transverse magnetic (TM) mode, when the thickness h of the membrane tends to zero. We provide a rigorous derivation of the first two terms of the asymptotic expansion for h tending to zero. In the membrane, these terms are given explicitly in local coordinates in terms of the boundary data and of the function f , while outside the membrane they are the solutions of a scalar Helmholtz equation with appropriate boundary and transmissions conditions given explicitly in terms of the boundary data. We prove that the remainder terms are of order $O(h^{3/2})$. In addition, if the complex dielectric permittivity in the membrane, denoted by z_m , tends to zero faster than h , we give the difference between the exact solution and the above asymptotic with $z_m = 0$; it is of order $O(h^{3/2} + |z_m|)$.

INTRODUCTION

We study in this paper the behavior of the solution of Helmholtz equation in a bidimensional medium in transverse magnetic (TM) mode (see Balanis and Constantine [5]). The medium is made out of three materials: a central region surrounded by a thin membrane of thickness h , with θ a curvilinear coordinate, and a third material, which is not assumed to be thin; see Fig. 1. This assemblage is submitted to a field of pulsation ω ; after proper scalings, ω is included in the complex dielectric permittivity, which may be different in the three materials. By analogy with the biological cell, we call this entity a cell in an environment. In this article, we show that as the thickness of the membrane tends to zero, *i.e.* as h tends to zero, the electric field tends to the solution of a Helmholtz equation with an appropriate transmission condition at the boundary between the cell and the ambient medium. This work is a sequel to the author's former article on the static case [15].

Let us give now precise notations. Let Ω be a bidimensional bounded domain composed of three subdomains: a bounded domain \mathcal{O}_c surrounded by a thin membrane \mathcal{O}_h with small thickness h , and an exterior domain $\mathcal{O}_{e,h}$:

$$\Omega = \mathcal{O}_c \cup \mathcal{O}_h \cup \mathcal{O}_{e,h}.$$

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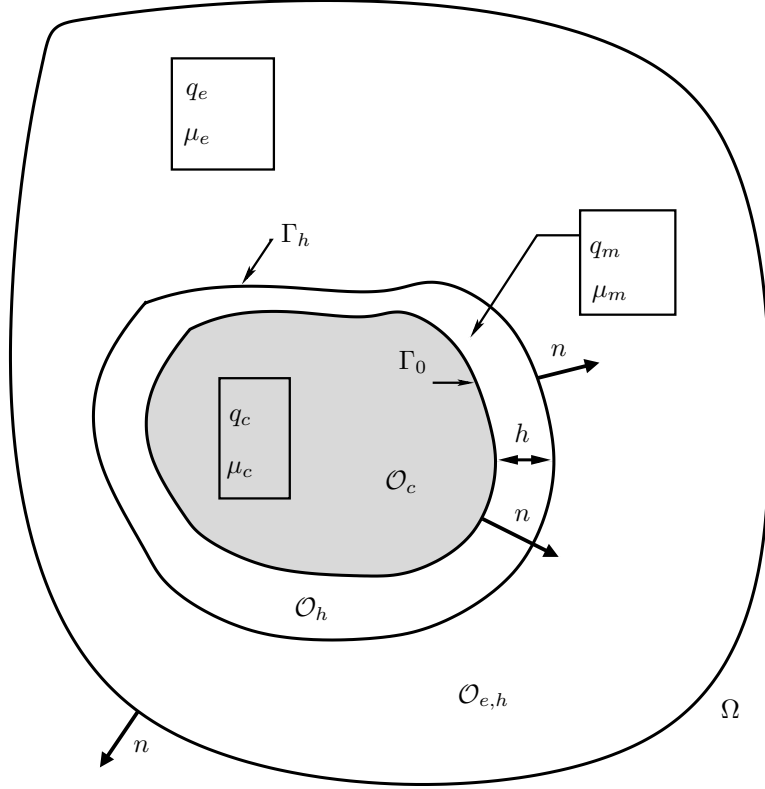


FIGURE 1. Geometric and dielectric data.

We suppose that the cell is strictly embedded in the ambient domain, that is:

$$\overline{(\mathcal{O}_c \cup \mathcal{O}_h)} \cap \partial\Omega = \emptyset.$$

The closed curves Γ_0 and Γ_h are supposed to be of class \mathcal{C}^∞ . We denote by Γ_0 and Γ_h respectively the boundaries of $\partial\mathcal{O}_c$ and of $\partial\mathcal{O}_h \cap \partial\mathcal{O}_{e,h}$:

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma_0 &= \partial\mathcal{O}_c, \\ \Gamma_h &= \partial\mathcal{O}_h \cap \partial\mathcal{O}_{e,h}. \end{aligned}$$

Let μ_e , μ_m and μ_c be the magnetic permittivities: they are constant and strictly positive. Let q_e , q_m and q_c be three complex numbers with strictly negative imaginary part and strictly positive real part; they are non dimensionalized complex permittivities (see [15] or [16] for a description of the non dimensionalization). We define piecewise constant functions μ and q on Ω as follows:

$$\mu = \begin{cases} \mu_e, & \text{in } \mathcal{O}_{e,h}, \\ \mu_m, & \text{in } \mathcal{O}_h, \\ \mu_c, & \text{in } \mathcal{O}_c, \end{cases} \quad q = \begin{cases} q_e, & \text{in } \mathcal{O}_{e,h}, \\ q_m, & \text{in } \mathcal{O}_h, \\ q_c, & \text{in } \mathcal{O}_c. \end{cases}$$

To simplify, we denote by z the product μq , and z_e , z_m and z_c designate the restrictions of z respectively to the domains $\mathcal{O}_{e,h}$, \mathcal{O}_h and \mathcal{O}_c . We summarize our hypotheses in Fig 1.

Let ϕ be a given function on $\partial\Omega$. Its regularity will be chosen later on. We consider the electric field u , which solves the following Helmholtz equation with Neumann boundary condition:

$$(1a) \quad \nabla \cdot \left(\frac{1}{\mu} \nabla u \right) + qu = 0, \text{ in } \Omega,$$

$$(1b) \quad \partial_n u|_{\partial\Omega} = \phi, \text{ on } \partial\Omega.$$

Here ∂_n denotes the derivative in the direction of the vector n : n is the exterior normal to Γ_0 , and is oriented by continuity on Γ_h and also on $\partial\Omega$ (see Fig. 1). Let us denote by u^e , u^h and u^c the restrictions of u respectively to the domains $\mathcal{O}_{e,h}$, \mathcal{O}_h and \mathcal{O}_c . These restrictions satisfy the following transmission conditions:

$$(2a) \quad \frac{1}{\mu_c} \partial_n u^c|_{\Gamma_0} = \frac{1}{\mu_m} \partial_n u^h|_{\Gamma_0},$$

$$(2b) \quad \frac{1}{\mu_e} \partial_n u^e|_{\Gamma_h} = \frac{1}{\mu_m} \partial_n u^h|_{\Gamma_h},$$

$$(2c) \quad u^c|_{\Gamma_0} = u^h|_{\Gamma_0},$$

$$(2d) \quad u^e|_{\Gamma_h} = u^h|_{\Gamma_h}.$$

We would like to understand the behavior for h tending to zero of the solution u of Problem (1).

In our proof, we assume that μ_m and q_m are given constants; μ_c , μ_e , q_c and q_e could be continuous functions of the spatial coordinates with the imaginary part of q_c and q_e bounded away from zero, without changing the argument.

Beretta and Francini have worked on a similar problem in [6]. They considered a thin dielectric material \mathcal{O}_h in an ambient medium, and they studied a Helmholtz equation with Dirichlet boundary condition. They compared on the boundary of the domain $\partial\Omega$ the exact solution to the so-called background solution defined by replacing the material of the membrane by the interior material. The difference between these two solutions restricted to the boundary $\partial\Omega$ is then given through an integral involving the polarization tensor, plus some remainder terms. This polarization tensor is defined for instance in [3], [4], [7], [8], [9]. In this paper, we do not use this approach since we are interested in the transmembranar potential (see Fear and Stuchly [11]), and in the behavior of the field in the whole domain. We work with bidimensional domains and we expect that the same analysis could be performed in higher dimensions.

The heuristics of this work are the same as in [15]. We parameterize \mathcal{O}_h by local coordinates (η, θ) varying in the h -independent domain $[0, 1] \times \mathbb{R}/L\mathbb{Z}$. Here L is simply the length of the curve $\partial\mathcal{O}_c$.

A change of coordinates in the membrane \mathcal{O}_h is performed, so as to parameterize it by local coordinates (η, θ) , which vary in a domain independently of h ; in particular, if we denote by L the length of $\partial\mathcal{O}_c$, the variables (η, θ) belong to $[0, 1] \times \mathbb{R}/L\mathbb{Z}$. This change of coordinates leads to h -independent expression of the Laplacian in the membrane. Once the transmission conditions of the new problem are derived, we perform a formal asymptotic expansion of the solution of (1) in terms of h . It remains to validate this expansion.

This paper is structured as follows. First, we suppose that the parameters q_c , q_m , q_e , μ_c , μ_m and μ_e are constant with respect to space and to h and do not vanish.

Moreover we assume that the imaginary parts of z_c , z_m and z_e , which always have the same sign for physical reasons are negative and bounded away from 0.

In Section 1, we define our geometric conventions. We perform the above described change of variables in the membrane. We refer the reader to [15] for more information on the local coordinates. In Section 3, we derive formally the first two terms of the asymptotic expansion of the solution of our problem in terms of h . Section 4 contains regularity result, which is necessary for estimating the error, and Section 5 is devoted to estimating the error.

In addition, in Remark 8, we give the first two terms of the asymptotic expansion of the electric field for a thin membrane on the boundary of \mathcal{O}_c , and in Remark 10, we consider the case $z_m = 0$. The proofs of these asymptotics are very close to the proof performed in Section 5 and therefore, they are omitted.

In the case of a biological cell, μ is identically equal to 1, z_c and z_e are constants as above and z_m is very small. In Section 6, we show that if $|z_m|$ is small compared to h , we just have to replace z_m by 0 in the asymptotics found in Section 3 to obtain the electric field in all of the domain Ω with an error in $O(h^{3/2} + |z_m|)$.

Let us present now our main result.

Main result. We give the first two terms of the asymptotic expansion of the above function u for h tending to zero, and we estimate rigourously the error made by this approximation.

- *The 0th order terms.* The electric fields u_0^e and u_0^c are solution of the following problem in Ω :

$$(3a) \quad \begin{cases} \Delta u_0^e + z_e u_0^e = 0, & \text{in } \Omega \setminus \mathcal{O}_c, \\ \Delta u_0^c + z_c u_0^c = 0, & \text{in } \mathcal{O}_c, \end{cases}$$

with transmission conditions

$$(3b) \quad u_0^c|_{\Gamma_0} = u_0^e|_{\Gamma_0},$$

$$(3c) \quad \frac{1}{\mu_c} \partial_n u_0^c|_{\Gamma_0} = \frac{1}{\mu_e} \partial_n u_0^e|_{\Gamma_0},$$

and with Neumann boundary condition

$$(3d) \quad \partial_n u_0^e|_{\partial\Omega} = \phi.$$

- *The first order terms.* The fields u_1^e and u_1^c are solution of the following problem in Ω :

$$(4a) \quad \begin{cases} \Delta u_1^e + z_e u_1^e = 0, & \text{in } \Omega \setminus \mathcal{O}_c, \\ \Delta u_1^c + z_c u_1^c = 0, & \text{in } \mathcal{O}_c, \\ \partial_n u_1^e|_{\partial\Omega} = 0, \end{cases}$$

with the transmission conditions

$$(4b) \quad \frac{1}{\mu_c} \partial_n u_1^c|_{\Gamma_0} - \frac{1}{\mu_e} \partial_n u_1^e|_{\Gamma_0} = \left(\frac{1}{\mu_m} - \frac{1}{\mu_e} \right) \partial_t^2 u_0^c|_{\Gamma_0} + (q_m - q_e) u_0^c|_{\Gamma_0},$$

$$(4c) \quad u_1^c|_{\Gamma_0} - u_1^e|_{\Gamma_0} = \frac{\mu_e - \mu_m}{\mu_c} \partial_n u_0^c|_{\Gamma_0}.$$

We have the following theorem.

Theorem 1. *Let \mathcal{O}_c be a bounded domain with smooth boundary, and denote by κ the curvature of $\partial\mathcal{O}$ in local coordinates. Let h_0 be such that:*

$$0 < h_0 < \frac{1}{\|\kappa\|_\infty}.$$

Let h belong to $(0, h_0)$ and ϕ to $H^s(\partial\Omega)$, $s > 7/2$.

We denote by u the solution of Problem (1). Define (v^e, v^c) in Ω by:

$$\begin{aligned} v^e &= u_0^e + hu_1^e, \text{ in } \Omega \setminus \mathcal{O}_c, \\ v^c &= u_0^c + hu_1^c, \text{ in } \mathcal{O}_c. \end{aligned}$$

Then there exists an h -independent constant $C > 0$ such that

$$\begin{aligned} \|u - v^e\|_{H^1(\mathcal{O}_c)} &\leq Ch^{3/2}\|\phi\|_{H^s(\partial\Omega)}, \\ \|u - v^e\|_{L^2(\mathcal{O}_h)} + \left\| \frac{1}{\mu_m}\nabla u - \frac{1}{\mu_e}\nabla v^e \right\|_{L^2(\mathcal{O}_h)} &\leq Ch^{3/2}\|\phi\|_{H^s(\partial\Omega)}, \\ \|u - v^e\|_{H^1(\mathcal{O}_{\varepsilon,h})} &\leq Ch^{3/2}\|\phi\|_{H^s(\partial\Omega)}. \end{aligned}$$

1. GEOMETRY OF THE PROBLEM

The boundary of the domain \mathcal{O}_c is assumed to be smooth. The boundary Γ_0 is counterclockwise oriented, and we denote by ∂_t the tangential derivative along \mathcal{O}_c . Thanks to a change of units of length, we may suppose that the length of Γ_0 is equal to 2π . We denote by \mathbb{T} the flat torus:

$$\mathbb{T} = \mathbb{R}/2\pi\mathbb{Z}.$$

Since Γ_0 is of class \mathcal{C}^∞ , we can parameterize it by a smooth function Ψ from \mathbb{T} to \mathbb{R}^2 satisfying:

$$\forall \theta \in \mathbb{T}, \quad |\Psi'(\theta)| = 1.$$

The following identities hold:

$$\Gamma_0 = \{\Psi(\theta), \theta \in \mathbb{T}\},$$

and

$$\Gamma_h = \{\Psi(\theta) + hn(\theta), \theta \in \mathbb{T}\}.$$

Here $n(\theta)$ is the unitary exterior normal at $\Psi(\theta)$ to Γ_0 . We parameterize the membrane \mathcal{O}_h as follows:

$$\mathcal{O}_h = \{\Psi(\theta) + h\eta n(\theta), (\eta, \theta) \in]0, 1[\times \mathbb{T}\}.$$

We define now:

$$\Phi(\eta, \theta) = \Psi(\theta) + h\eta n(\theta).$$

We denote by κ the curvature of the Γ_0 in curvilinear coordinate, and by \mathfrak{K} the curvature in Euclidean coordinates:

$$(5) \quad \forall x \in \partial\mathcal{O}, \quad \mathfrak{K} = \kappa \circ \Phi_0^{-1}(x).$$

Let h_0 satisfy:

$$(6) \quad 0 < h_0 < \frac{1}{\|\kappa\|_\infty}.$$

Then, for all h in $[0, h_0]$, there exists an open interval I containing $(0, 1)$ such that Φ is a diffeomorphism of class \mathcal{C}^∞ from $I \times \mathbb{R}/2\pi\mathbb{Z}$ to its image, which is a neighborhood of the membrane. The metric in \mathcal{O}_h is given by:

$$(7) \quad h^2 d\eta^2 + (1 + h\eta\kappa(\theta))^2 d\theta^2.$$

We use two systems of coordinates, depending on the domains $\mathcal{O}_{e,h}$, \mathcal{O}_c and \mathcal{O}_h : in the interior and exterior domains $\mathcal{O}_{e,h}$ and \mathcal{O}_c , we use Euclidean coordinates (x, y) and in the membrane \mathcal{O}_h , we use local coordinates with metric (7).

2. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

In this section, we express our Problem (1) in local coordinates. It is convenient to write:

$$\forall \theta \in \mathbb{T}, \quad \Phi_0(\theta) = \Phi(0, \theta), \quad \Phi_1(\theta) = \Phi(1, \theta).$$

Let us denote by u^e and u^c respectively the electric field in $\mathcal{O}_{e,h}$ and in \mathcal{O}_c , written in Euclidean coordinates, and by u^m the electric field in \mathcal{O}_h in the local coordinates:

$$\begin{aligned} u^e &= u, \text{ in } \mathcal{O}_{e,h}, \\ u^c &= u, \text{ in } \mathcal{O}_c, \\ u^m &= u \circ \Phi, \text{ in } [0, 1] \times \mathbb{T}. \end{aligned}$$

We have shown in [15] that the Laplacian in the local coordinates is given by:

$$(8) \quad \Delta|_{\Phi(\eta, \theta)} = \frac{1}{h(1 + h\eta\kappa)} \left(\partial_\eta \left(\frac{1 + h\eta\kappa}{h} \partial_\eta \right) + \partial_\theta \left(\frac{h}{1 + h\eta\kappa} \partial_\theta \right) \right).$$

Therefore, we rewrite Problem (1) as follows:

$$(9a) \quad \Delta u^e + z_e u^e = 0, \text{ in } \mathcal{O}_{e,h},$$

$$(9b) \quad \Delta u^c + z_c u^c = 0, \text{ in } \mathcal{O}_c,$$

$$\forall (\eta, \theta) \in [0, 1] \times \mathbb{T},$$

$$(9c) \quad \partial_\eta \left(\frac{1 + h\eta\kappa}{h} \partial_\eta u^m \right) + \partial_\theta \left(\frac{h}{1 + h\eta\kappa} \partial_\theta u^m \right) + z_m h f(1 + h\eta\kappa) u^m = 0,$$

with transmission conditions (2) expressed in local coordinates at $\eta = 0$:

$$(9d) \quad \frac{1}{\mu_c} \partial_n u^c \circ \Phi_0 = \frac{1}{h\mu_m} \partial_\eta u^m \Big|_{\eta=0},$$

$$(9e) \quad u^c \circ \Phi_0 = u^m \Big|_{\eta=0},$$

at $\eta = 1$:

$$(9f) \quad \frac{1}{\mu_e} \partial_n u^e \circ \Phi_1 = \frac{1}{h\mu_m} \partial_\eta u^m \Big|_{\eta=1},$$

$$(9g) \quad u^e \circ \Phi_1 = u^m \Big|_{\eta=1},$$

and with boundary condition

$$(9h) \quad \partial_n u^e|_{\partial\Omega} = \phi.$$

3. FORMAL ASYMPTOTIC EXPANSION

In this section, we derive asymptotic expansions of the electric field (u^e, u^c, u^m) solution of (9) in terms of the parameter h . In the limit, we want to be able to replace the membrane by transmission conditions.

We multiply (9c) by $h(1+h\eta\kappa)^2$ and we order the result in powers of h , in order to obtain the partial differential equation (PDE) satisfied by u^m :

$$(10) \quad \begin{aligned} & \forall(\eta, \theta) \in [0, 1] \times \mathbb{T}, \\ & \partial_\eta^2 u^m + h\kappa \{3\eta \partial_\eta^2 u^m + \partial_\eta u^m\} + h^2 \{3\eta^2 \kappa^2 \partial_\eta^2 u^m \\ & \quad + 2\eta \kappa^2 \partial_\eta u^m + \partial_\theta^2 u^m + z_m u^m\} \\ & \quad + h^3 \{\eta^3 \kappa^3 \partial_\eta^2 u^m + \eta^2 \kappa^3 \partial_\eta u^m + \eta \kappa \partial_\theta^2 u^m \\ & \quad - \eta \kappa' \partial_\theta u^m + 3z_m \eta \kappa u^m\} + 3h^4 z_m \eta^2 \kappa^2 u^m + h^5 \eta^3 \kappa^3 z_m u^m = 0 \end{aligned}$$

We assume the following ansatz:

$$(11a) \quad u^e = u_0^e + hu_1^e + \dots,$$

$$(11b) \quad u^c = u_0^c + hu_1^c + \dots,$$

$$(11c) \quad u^m = u_0^m + hu_1^m + \dots.$$

We will to derive the first two terms of the asymptotic expansions of u^e , u^c and u^m by identifying the terms of coefficients of a given power of h .

We extend formally u^e to $\Omega \setminus \mathcal{O}_c$, by extending a finite number of coefficients of the powers of h . Moreover, we suppose that ϕ is as regular as needed. We will also need the first two terms of

$$u^e \circ \Phi(\eta, \theta) = u^e \circ (\Psi(\theta) + h\eta n(\theta))$$

and $\partial_n u^e \circ \Phi(\eta, \theta)$. This amounts to composing two asymptotics series. We remember that we introduced $\Phi_0 = \Psi$ and $\Phi_1 = \Phi(1, \cdot)$ to homogeneize our notations. A simple calculation gives:

$$u^e \circ \Phi = u^e \circ \Phi_0 + h(u_1^e \circ \Phi_0 + \eta \partial_n u_0^e \circ \Phi_0) + \dots,$$

and similarly

$$\partial_n u^e \circ \Phi = \partial_n u^e \circ \Phi_0 + h(\partial_n u_1^e \circ \Phi_0 + \eta \partial_n^2 u_0^e \circ \Phi_0) + \dots.$$

These expansions enable us to rewrite transmission condition (9f) as:

$$(12a) \quad \begin{aligned} & \frac{h\mu_m}{\mu_e} \left(\partial_n u_0^e \circ \Phi_0 + h(\partial_n u_1^e \circ \Phi_0 + \partial_n^2 u_0^e \circ \Phi_0) + \dots \right) \\ & = \partial_\eta u_0^m|_{\eta=1} + h \partial_\eta u_1^m|_{\eta=1} + h^2 \partial_\eta u_2^m|_{\eta=1} + \dots, \end{aligned}$$

and transmission condition (9g) as

$$(12b) \quad u_0^e \circ \Phi_0 + h(u_1^e \circ \Phi_0 + \partial_n u_0^e \circ \Phi_0) + \dots = u_0^m|_{\eta=1} + hu_1^m|_{\eta=1} + \dots.$$

Observe that we have chosen to limit the order of explicit asymptotic expansions to what will be needed below.

We systematically substitute the fields u^e , u^c and u^m by their asymptotic expansion (11) in (9). For transmission condition, at $\eta = 1$, it is more convenient to use transmission conditions (12) instead of (9f)–(9g).

We are going to select all terms of an appropriate order in these expanded equations in order to get the conditions satisfied by u_0^m , u_i^e , u_i^c and u_{i+1}^m ($i = 0, 1$).

First step : identification of 0th order terms. Substituting into (10) the field u^m by its expansion (11c) we obtain:

$$(13) \quad \partial_\eta^2 u_0^m = 0, \forall (\eta, \theta) \in (0, 1) \times \mathbb{T}.$$

Moreover, we obtain easily:

$$(14a) \quad \Delta u_0^e + z_e u_0^e = 0, \text{ in } \Omega \setminus \overline{\mathcal{O}_c},$$

$$(14b) \quad \Delta u_0^c + z_c u_0^c = 0, \text{ in } \mathcal{O}_c,$$

and the boundary condition

$$(14c) \quad \partial_n u_0^e|_{\partial\Omega} = \phi.$$

Equality (9d) implies:

$$\partial_\eta u_0^m|_{\eta=0} = 0,$$

and equality (12a) implies:

$$\partial_\eta u_0^m|_{\eta=1} = 0.$$

Therefore, u_0^m depends only on θ . By identifying 0th order term in (9d)–(12a), we infer:

$$(15) \quad u_0^c \circ \Phi_0 = u_0^m = u_0^e \circ \Phi_0,$$

thus we obtain the following transmission condition:

$$(16) \quad u_0^c \circ \Phi_0 = u_0^e \circ \Phi_0.$$

We will determine u_0^m later on.

Second step : identification of first order terms. Substituting into equality (10) the field u^m by its expansion (11c), and using that in $(0, 1) \times \mathbb{T}$, we have

$$\partial_\eta^2 u_0^m = \partial_\eta u_0^m = 0,$$

we obtain:

$$(17) \quad \partial_\eta^2 u_1^m = 0.$$

Moreover, we obtain easily:

$$(18a) \quad \Delta u_1^e + z_e u_1^e = 0, \text{ in } \Omega \setminus \overline{\mathcal{O}_c},$$

$$(18b) \quad \Delta u_1^c + z_c u_1^c = 0, \text{ in } \mathcal{O}_c,$$

and the boundary condition

$$(18c) \quad \partial_n u_1^e|_{\partial\Omega} = 0.$$

Equality (9d) implies:

$$(19a) \quad \partial_\eta u_1^m|_{\eta=0} = \frac{\mu_m}{\mu_c} \partial_n u_0^c \circ \Phi_0,$$

and equality (12a) implies:

$$(19b) \quad \partial_\eta u_1^m|_{\eta=1} = \frac{\mu_m}{\mu_e} \partial_n u_0^e \circ \Phi_0.$$

We infer the following transmission condition between $\partial_n u_0^e$ and $\partial_n u_0^c$:

$$(20) \quad \frac{1}{\mu_c} u_0^c \circ \Phi_0 = \frac{1}{\mu_e} u_0^e \circ \Phi_0.$$

Therefore, with (14), (16) and (20) we infer that (u_0^e, u_0^c) satisfies the following PDE in Ω :

$$(21a) \quad \begin{cases} \Delta u_0^e + z_e u_0^e = 0, & \text{in } \mathcal{O}_{e,h}, \\ \Delta u_0^c + z_c u_0^c = 0, & \text{in } \mathcal{O}_c, \end{cases}$$

with the transmission conditions

$$(21b) \quad u_0^c|_{\Gamma_0} = u_0^e|_{\Gamma_0},$$

$$(21c) \quad \frac{1}{\mu_c} \partial_n u_0^c|_{\Gamma_0} = \frac{1}{\mu_e} \partial_n u_0^e|_{\Gamma_0},$$

and with Neumann boundary condition:

$$(21d) \quad \partial_n u_1^e|_{\partial\Omega} = 0.$$

According to (15), u_0^m is equal to:

$$(22) \quad \forall (\eta, \theta) \in [0, L] \times \mathbb{T}, \quad u_0^m(\eta, \theta) = u_0^c \circ \Phi_0(\theta).$$

We have determined u_0^e , u_0^c and u_0^m .

Observe that the identification of the first order term in (9e) implies:

$$(23) \quad u_1^m|_{\eta=0} = u_1^c \circ \Phi_0,$$

and u_1^c will be determine later.

Third step : identification of second order terms. According to (17) and (22), we have

$$\partial_\eta u_0^m \equiv \partial_\eta^2 u_1^m \equiv 0.$$

Therefore, by identifying the second order term in h of (10), we obtain:

$$(24) \quad \partial_\eta^2 u_2^m + m_1 = 0,$$

with

$$(25) \quad m_1 = \kappa \partial_\eta u_1^m + \partial_\theta^2 u_0^m + z_m u_0^m.$$

Observe that m_1 depends only on θ .

The identification of second order terms of (9d) implies

$$\partial_\eta u_2^m|_{\eta=0} = \frac{\mu_m}{\mu_c} \partial_n u_1^c \circ \Phi_0,$$

and those of (12a) implies

$$(26) \quad \partial_\eta u_2^m|_{\eta=1} = \frac{\mu_m}{\mu_e} (\partial_n u_1^e \circ \Phi_0 + \partial_n^2 u_0^e \circ \Phi_0).$$

Observe that $\partial_\eta u_1^m$ depends only on θ thanks to (17). Thereby integrating (24) with respect to η we obtain:

$$(27) \quad \partial_\eta u_2^m(\eta, \cdot) = -\eta m_1 + \frac{\mu_m}{\mu_c} \partial_n u_1^c \circ \Phi_0.$$

From (26) and (27) we will obtain a transmission condition for (u_1^e, u_1^c) . More precisely, taking $\eta = 1$ in (27), with the help of (26) we obtain:

$$(28) \quad \frac{\mu_m}{\mu_c} \partial_n u_1^c \circ \Phi_0 - \frac{\mu_m}{\mu_e} \partial_n u_1^e \circ \Phi_0 = m_1 + \mu_m \frac{1}{\mu_e} \partial_n^2 u_0^e \circ \Phi_0,$$

and the right-hand side of (28) is entirely determined.

By identifying the terms of order 1 in (12b) we obtain:

$$(29) \quad u_1^c \circ \Phi_0 - u_1^e \circ \Phi_0 = \left(1 - \frac{\mu_m}{\mu_c}\right) \partial_n u_0^e \circ \Phi_0.$$

For convenience we write equations satisfied by (u_1^e, u_1^c) in Euclidean coordinates. Thanks to (14), (28) and (29) we infer that (u_1^e, u_1^c) solves:

$$(30a) \quad \begin{cases} \Delta u_1^e + z_e u_1^e = 0, & \text{in } \Omega \setminus \overline{\mathcal{O}_c}, \\ \Delta u_1^c + z_c u_1^c = 0, & \text{in } \mathcal{O}_c, \\ \partial_n u_1^e|_{\partial\Omega} = 0, \end{cases}$$

with transmission conditions

$$(30b) \quad \begin{aligned} \frac{\mu_m}{\mu_c} \partial_n u_1^c|_{\Gamma_0} - \frac{\mu_m}{\mu_e} \partial_n u_1^e|_{\Gamma_0} &= \partial_t^2 u_0^c|_{\Gamma_0} + z_m u_0^c|_{\Gamma_0} \\ &+ \frac{\mu_m}{\mu_e} \partial_n^2 u_0^e|_{\Gamma_0} + \frac{\mu_m}{\mu_c} \mathfrak{K} \partial_n u_0^c|_{\Gamma_0}, \end{aligned}$$

$$(30c) \quad u_1^c|_{\Gamma_0} - u_1^e|_{\Gamma_0} = \left(1 - \frac{\mu_m}{\mu_e}\right) \partial_n u_0^e|_{\Gamma_0}.$$

In Section 4, we prove the existence and uniqueness of (u_1^e, u_1^c) defined by (30). Remark that u_1^m given by equality (23) is entirely determined and $\partial_\eta u_2^m$ is entirely determined by (27).

Observe that (30b) contains a second normal derivative; this is a feature of the asymptotics of a cell in an ambient medium; no second derivative appeared in [15], where there is a cell with boundary condition on the exterior of the membrane. Let us summarize the first two terms of the asymptotics we obtained formally.

- *The 0th order terms.* The electric fields u_0^e and u_0^c are solution of the following problem in Ω :

$$(31a) \quad \begin{cases} \Delta u_0^e + z_e u_0^e = 0, & \text{in } \Omega \setminus \mathcal{O}_c, \\ \Delta u_0^c + z_c u_0^c = 0, & \text{in } \mathcal{O}_c, \end{cases}$$

with transmission conditions

$$(31b) \quad u_0^c|_{\Gamma_0} = u_0^e|_{\Gamma_0},$$

$$(31c) \quad \frac{1}{\mu_c} \partial_n u_0^c|_{\Gamma_0} = \frac{1}{\mu_e} \partial_n u_0^e|_{\Gamma_0},$$

and with Neumann boundary condition

$$(31d) \quad \partial_n u_0^e|_{\partial\Omega} = \phi.$$

In the membrane, the field u_0^m is equal to:

$$(32) \quad \forall(\eta, \theta) \in [0, 1] \times \mathbb{T}, \quad u_0^m = u_0^c \circ \Phi_0(\theta).$$

- *The first order terms.* The fields u_1^e and u_1^c are solution of the following problem in Ω :

$$(33a) \quad \begin{cases} \Delta u_1^e + z_e u_1^e = 0, & \text{in } \Omega \setminus \mathcal{O}_c, \\ \Delta u_1^c + z_c u_1^c = 0, & \text{in } \mathcal{O}_c, \\ \partial_n u_1^e|_{\partial\Omega} = 0, \end{cases}$$

with the transmission conditions

$$(33b) \quad \frac{1}{\mu_c} \partial_n u_1^c|_{\Gamma_0} - \frac{1}{\mu_e} \partial_n u_1^e|_{\Gamma_0} = \frac{1}{\mu_m} (\partial_t^2 u_0^c|_{\Gamma_0} + z_m u_0^c|_{\Gamma_0}) \\ + \frac{1}{\mu_e} \partial_n^2 u_0^e|_{\Gamma_0} + \frac{1}{\mu_c} \mathfrak{K} \partial_n u_0^c|_{\Gamma_0},$$

$$(33c) \quad u_1^c|_{\Gamma_0} - u_1^e|_{\Gamma_0} = \frac{\mu_e - \mu_m}{\mu_c} \partial_n u_0^c|_{\Gamma_0}.$$

In the membrane, we have:

$$(34) \quad \forall(\eta, \theta) \in [0, 1] \times \mathbb{T}, \quad u_1^m = \eta \frac{\mu_m}{\mu_c} \partial_n u_0^c \circ \Phi_0 + u_1^c \circ \Phi_0.$$

Remark 2. We may write $\partial_n^2 u_0^e|_{\Gamma_0}$ in terms of $\partial_n u_0^e|_{\Gamma_0}$, of $u_0^e|_{\Gamma_0}$ and of its tangential derivatives. Actually, we perform the change in local coordinates in a neighborhood of $\partial\mathcal{O}_c$. According to (31), the following identity holds along Γ_0 :

$$\partial_n^2 u_0^e|_{\Gamma_0} = -\mathfrak{K} \partial_n u_0^e|_{\Gamma_0} - \partial_t^2 u_0^e|_{\Gamma_0} - z_e u_0^e|_{\Gamma_0},$$

thus we may rewrite transmission conditions (33b)–(31c) as follows:

$$\frac{1}{\mu_c} \partial_n u_1^c|_{\Gamma_0} - \frac{1}{\mu_e} \partial_n u_1^e|_{\Gamma_0} = \left(\frac{1}{\mu_m} - \frac{1}{\mu_e} \right) \partial_t^2 u_0^c|_{\Gamma_0} + (q_m - q_e) u_0^c|_{\Gamma_0},$$

hence (31)–(33) are equivalent to (3)–(4).

We have given the first two terms of the asymptotic expansion of u^e , u^c and u^m . It remains to prove that the remainder terms are small. First we need to study the regularity of u_0^e and u_1^e in a neighborhood of Γ_0 .

4. REGULARITY RESULT

In this section, we study the regularity of the solution of Helmholtz equation with our transmission condition, which is non usual. This result is required to prove Theorem 1 of Section 5, which estimates the errors between the asymptotics and the exact solution. The following result is natural and expected; it is very close to a result of [12] (Appendix, page 147) by Li and Vogelius, but different enough to require a proof. We thank very warmly Michael Vogelius for his suggestions on the reflection principle.

Theorem 3. *Let G belong to $H^s(\Gamma_0)$, $s \geq -1/2$. Let (U^e, U^c) be the solution of the following problem:*

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla \cdot \left(\frac{1}{\mu_c} \nabla U^c \right) + q_c U^c &= 0, \text{ in } \mathcal{O}_c, \\ \nabla \cdot \left(\frac{1}{\mu_e} \nabla U^e \right) + q_e U^e &= 0, \text{ in } \Omega \setminus \mathcal{O}_c, \end{aligned}$$

with the following transmission condition:

$$\begin{aligned} U^e|_{\Gamma_0} &= U^c|_{\Gamma_0}, \\ \frac{1}{\mu_e} \partial_n U^e|_{\Gamma_0} - \frac{1}{\mu_c} \partial_n U^c|_{\Gamma_0} &= G, \end{aligned}$$

and with the Neumann boundary condition on $\partial\Omega$

$$\partial_n U^e|_{\partial\Omega} = 0.$$

Then we have:

$$U^e \in H^{s+3/2}(\Omega \setminus \overline{\mathcal{O}_c}), \quad U^c \in H^{s+3/2}(\mathcal{O}_c).$$

Moreover let m be a non negative integer, and $s > m + 1/2$. Then,

$$U^e \in \mathcal{C}^m(\overline{\Omega \setminus \mathcal{O}_c}), \quad U^c \in \mathcal{C}^m(\overline{\mathcal{O}_c}).$$

Proof. Since Γ_0 is smooth, we use local coordinates in a neighborhood of Γ_0 . Actually, as in Section 1, there exists h_1 such that:

$$\mathcal{V}_1 = \{ \Psi(\theta) + h_1 \eta n(\theta), (\eta, \theta) \in (-1, 1) \times \mathbb{T} \},$$

is an open neighborhood of Γ_0 and

$$(\eta, \theta) \mapsto \Psi(\theta) + h_1 \eta n(\theta)$$

is a diffeomorphism from $(-1, 1) \times \mathbb{T}$ to \mathcal{V}_1 . We denote by g the function G written in local coordinates:

$$\forall \theta \in \mathbb{T}, \quad g(\theta) = G \circ \Psi(\theta).$$

We denote by \mathbf{C} the cylinder $[0, 1] \times \mathbb{T}$ and by $H_m^1(\mathbf{C})$ the space of the functions α defined on \mathbf{C} such that:

$$\begin{aligned} \|\alpha\|_{H_m^1(\mathbf{C})} &= \left(\int_0^1 \int_0^{2\pi} h_1 (1 + h_1 \eta \kappa) |\alpha(\eta, \theta)|^2 d\eta d\theta \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \int_0^1 \int_0^{2\pi} \left(\frac{1 + h_1 \eta \kappa}{h_1} |\partial_\eta \alpha(\eta, \theta)|^2 + \frac{h_1}{1 + h_1 \eta \kappa} |\partial_\theta \alpha(\eta, \theta)|^2 \right) d\eta d\theta \right)^{1/2}, \end{aligned}$$

is finite. We equip $H_m^1(\mathbf{C})$ with such a norm, which is equivalent to the ordinary norm

$$\left(\int_0^1 \int_0^{2\pi} (|\alpha|^2 + |\partial_\eta \alpha|^2 + |\partial_\theta \alpha|^2) d\theta d\eta \right)^{1/2},$$

because we have the following equality:

$$\|v \circ \Phi^{-1}\|_{H^1(\mathcal{V}_1)} = \|v\|_{H_m^1(\mathbf{C})}.$$

We use a partition of unity and classical elliptic regularity to reduce our problem to establishing the regularity of the solutions (V^e, V^c) of the following problem:

$$\begin{aligned} \forall(\eta, \theta) \in [-1, 0] \times \mathbb{T}, \\ \partial_\eta \left(\frac{1 + h_1 \eta \kappa}{h_1 \mu_c} \partial_\eta V^c \right) + \partial_\theta \left(\frac{h_1}{(1 + h_1 \eta \kappa) \mu_c} \partial_\theta V^c \right) + q_c h_1 (1 + h_1 \eta \kappa) V^c &= 0, \\ \forall(\eta, \theta) \in [0, 1] \times \mathbb{T}, \\ \partial_\eta \left(\frac{1 + h_1 \eta \kappa}{h_1 \mu_e} \partial_\eta V^e \right) + \partial_\theta \left(\frac{h_1}{(1 + h_1 \eta \kappa) \mu_e} \partial_\theta V^e \right) + q_e h_1 (1 + h_1 \eta \kappa) V^e &= 0, \end{aligned}$$

with Dirichlet boundary conditions

$$V^c|_{\eta=-1} = 0, \quad V^e|_{\eta=1} = 0$$

and with transmission conditions

$$\begin{aligned} V^c|_{\eta=0} &= V^e|_{\eta=0}, \\ \frac{1}{\mu_e} \partial_\eta V^e|_{\eta=0} - \frac{1}{\mu_c} \partial_\eta V^c|_{\eta=0} &= g, \end{aligned}$$

We use the reflection principle, suggested by Vogelius and coming from an idea of Nirenberg (see [12], page 147 or [1] and [2]). With the help of this principle, we transform transmission conditions into boundary conditions. We define V^r on $[0, 1] \times \mathbb{T}$ by:

$$\forall(\eta, \theta) \in [0, 1] \times \mathbb{T}, \quad V^r(\eta, \theta) = V^c(-\eta, \theta).$$

The functions V^e, V^r satisfy the following problem in $(0, 1) \times \mathbb{T}$:

$$\begin{aligned} \forall(\eta, \theta) \in (0, 1) \times \mathbb{T}, \\ (35a) \quad \partial_\eta \left(\frac{1 + h_1 \eta \kappa}{h_1 \mu_e} \partial_\eta V^e \right) + \partial_\theta \left(\frac{h_1}{(1 + h_1 \eta \kappa) \mu_e} \partial_\theta V^e \right) + q_e h_1 (1 + h_1 \eta \kappa) V^e &= 0, \\ (35b) \quad \partial_\eta \left(\frac{1 - h_1 \eta \kappa}{h_1 \mu_c} \partial_\eta V^r \right) + \partial_\theta \left(\frac{h_1}{(1 - h_1 \eta \kappa) \mu_c} \partial_\theta V^r \right) + q_c h_1 (1 - h_1 \eta \kappa) V^r &= 0, \end{aligned}$$

with Dirichlet boundary conditions in $\eta = 1$

$$(35c) \quad V^r|_{\eta=1} = 0, \quad V^e|_{\eta=1} = 0,$$

with boundary conditions in $\eta = 0$:

$$(35d) \quad V^r|_{\eta=0} - V^e|_{\eta=0} = 0,$$

$$(35e) \quad \frac{1}{\mu_c} \partial_\eta V^r|_{\eta=0} + \frac{1}{\mu_e} \partial_\eta V^e|_{\eta=0} = g,$$

Multiplying (35a) by $\overline{V^e}$ and (35b) by $\overline{V^r}$, integrating by parts and summing, we obtain:

$$(36a) \quad \int_0^1 \int_0^{2\pi} \left(\frac{1+h_1\eta\kappa}{h_1\mu_e} |\partial_\eta V^e|^2 + \frac{1-h_1\eta\kappa}{h_1\mu_c} |\partial_\eta V^r|^2 + \frac{h_1}{(1+h_1\eta\kappa)\mu_e} |\partial_\theta V^e|^2 + \frac{h_1}{(1-h_1\eta\kappa)\mu_c} |\partial_\theta V^r|^2 - q_c h_1 (1-h_1\eta\kappa) |V^r|^2 - q_e h_1 (1+h_1\eta\kappa) |V^e|^2 \right) d\eta d\theta = \int_0^{2\pi} \left(\frac{1}{h_1\mu_e} \partial_\eta V^e|_{\eta=0} \overline{V^e}|_{\eta=0} + \frac{1}{h_1\mu_c} \partial_\eta V^r|_{\eta=0} \overline{V^r}|_{\eta=0} \right) d\theta$$

Using boundary conditions (35d)–(35e), we obtain:

$$(36b) \quad \int_0^{2\pi} \left(\frac{1}{\mu_e} \partial_\eta V^e|_{\eta=0} \overline{V^e}|_{\eta=0} + \frac{1}{\mu_c} \partial_\eta V^r|_{\eta=0} \overline{V^r}|_{\eta=0} \right) d\theta = \int_0^{2\pi} g \overline{V^e} d\theta.$$

We argue as in [14] or in [4], and the reader will verify that (36a) and (36b) suffice to give existence and uniqueness of solutions of (35) in $H_m^1(\mathbf{C})$.

To obtain the regularity result, we just have to apply the method of frozen coefficients. Let $\theta_0 \in \mathbb{T}$, and denote by κ_0 the value of κ at θ_0 . A classical argument (see for instance [1], [2], [10], [13] or [14]) shows that (V^e, V^r) have the same respective regularity as (V', V'') solution of:

$$\begin{aligned} \forall (\eta, \theta) \in [0, 1] \times \mathbb{T}, \\ \frac{1}{h_1} \partial_\eta^2 V' + \frac{\kappa_0}{1+h_1\eta\kappa_0} \partial_\eta V' + \frac{h_1 \partial_\theta^2 V'}{(1+h_1\eta\kappa_0)^2} &= 0, \\ \frac{1}{h_1} \partial_\eta^2 V'' - \frac{\kappa_0}{1-h_1\eta\kappa_0} \partial_\eta V'' + \frac{h_1 \partial_\theta^2 V''}{(1-h_1\eta\kappa_0)^2} &= 0, \end{aligned}$$

with Dirichlet boundary conditions

$$V'|_{\eta=1} = 0, \quad V''|_{\eta=1} = 0,$$

with transmission conditions

$$\begin{aligned} V'|_{\eta=0} &= V''|_{\eta=0}, \\ \frac{1}{\mu_e} \partial_\eta V'|_{\eta=0} + \frac{1}{\mu_c} \partial_\eta V''|_{\eta=0} &= g. \end{aligned}$$

The regularity results of this last problem is obtained directly by working in Fourier coefficients, hence the regularity result, in \mathcal{V}_1 . The end of the proof follows by classical regularity theorems (see [14] for instance). \square

5. ERROR ESTIMATES

We give an error estimate, which proves that the first two terms obtained in Section 3 through a formal argument are indeed the first terms, *i.e.* the remainder is smaller.

Remark 4. Recall that the L^2 norm of a 0-form α in \mathcal{C} with the metric (7), denoted by $\|\alpha\|_{\Lambda^0 L_m^2(\mathcal{C})}$, is equal to:

$$\begin{aligned} \|\alpha\|_{\Lambda^0 L_m^2(\mathcal{C})}^2 &= \int_0^1 \int_0^{2\pi} h(1+h\eta\kappa) |\alpha(\eta, \theta)|^2 d\eta d\theta, \\ &= \|\alpha \circ \Phi^{-1}\|_{L^2(\mathcal{O}_h)}^2, \end{aligned}$$

and that the L^2 norm of the exterior derivative $d\alpha$ of α , denoted by $\|d\alpha\|_{\Lambda^1 L_m^2(\mathcal{C})}$ is equal to

$$\begin{aligned} \|d\alpha\|_{\Lambda^1 L_m^2(\mathcal{C})}^2 &= \int_0^1 \int_0^{2\pi} \left(\frac{1+h\eta\kappa}{h} |\partial_\eta \alpha(\eta, \theta)|^2 + \frac{h}{1+h\eta\kappa} |\partial_\theta \alpha(\eta, \theta)|^2 \right) d\eta d\theta, \\ &= \|\nabla(\alpha \circ \Phi^{-1})\|_{L^2(\mathcal{O}_h)}^2. \end{aligned}$$

Let us prove now Theorem 1. We remember that u is the solution to Problem (1) and that (v^e, v^c) are defined in Ω by:

$$(37a) \quad v^e = u_0^e + hu_1^e, \text{ in } \Omega \setminus \mathcal{O}_c,$$

$$(37b) \quad v^c = u_0^c + hu_1^c, \text{ in } \mathcal{O}_c.$$

We have to prove that there exists an h -independent constant $C > 0$ such that

$$(38a) \quad \|u - v^e\|_{H^1(\mathcal{O}_c)} \leq Ch^{3/2} \|\phi\|_{H^s(\partial\Omega)},$$

$$(38b) \quad \|u - v^e\|_{\Lambda^0 L_m^2(\mathcal{C})} + \left\| \frac{1}{\mu_m} du - \frac{1}{\mu_e} dv^e \right\|_{\Lambda^1 L_m^2(\mathcal{C})} \leq Ch^{3/2} \|\phi\|_{H^s(\partial\Omega)},$$

$$(38c) \quad \|u - v^e\|_{H^1(\mathcal{O}_{e,h})} \leq Ch^{3/2} \|\phi\|_{H^s(\partial\Omega)}.$$

Remark 5. The estimates of Theorem 1 are piecewise H^1 estimates since estimate (38b) involves

$$\left\| \frac{1}{\mu_m} du - \frac{1}{\mu_e} dv^e \right\|_{\Lambda^1 L_m^2(\mathcal{C})},$$

which is not the norm of a difference of gradients. However, we could have global estimate with an appropriate norm involving the permeabilities μ_c , μ_m and μ_e and by defining an appropriately modified μ ; details are left to the reader.

Since ϕ belongs to $H^s(\partial\Omega)$, $s > 7/2$ and Theorem 3 holds, u_0^e belongs to $\mathcal{C}^3(\overline{\mathcal{O}_h})$ and u_1^e to $\mathcal{C}^2(\overline{\mathcal{O}_h})$. To prove Theorem 1, we need the following lemma.

Lemma 6. Let h belong to $(0, h_0)$.

Let u_0^e , u_1^e , u_0^m and u_1^m be defined by (31) and (33). We denote by \tilde{v} the following function:

$$(39) \quad \forall(\eta, \theta) \in [0, 1] \times \mathbb{T}, \quad \tilde{v}(\eta, \theta) = u_0^m + hu_1^m.$$

Then, there exists an h -independent constant $C > 0$ such that

$$(40) \quad \|v^e \circ \Phi - \tilde{v}\|_{\Lambda^0 L^2(\mathcal{C})} \leq Ch^{3/2} \|\phi\|_{H^s(\partial\Omega)},$$

$$(41) \quad \left\| \frac{1}{\mu_e} d(v^e \circ \Phi) - \frac{1}{\mu_m} d\tilde{v} \right\|_{\Lambda^1 L^2(\mathcal{C})} \leq Ch^{3/2} \|\phi\|_{H^s(\partial\Omega)}$$

and

$$(42) \quad \begin{cases} \|v^e \circ \Phi_1 - \tilde{v}|_{\eta=1}\|_{\Lambda^0 L^2(\mathbb{T})} \leq Ch^2 \|\phi\|_{H^s(\partial\Omega)}, \\ \|\partial_\theta v^e \circ \Phi_1 - \partial_\theta \tilde{v}|_{\eta=1}\|_{\Lambda^0 L^2(\mathbb{T})} \leq Ch^2 \|\phi\|_{H^s(\partial\Omega)}, \\ \|\partial_\theta^2 v^e \circ \Phi_1 - \partial_\theta^2 \tilde{v}|_{\eta=1}\|_{\Lambda^0 L^2(\mathbb{T})} \leq Ch^2 \|\phi\|_{H^s(\partial\Omega)}. \end{cases}$$

Remark 7. *A priori, one would have expected that the statement of Theorem 1 would have given a comparison of the exact solution with its asymptotics in the three regions $\mathcal{O}_{e,h}$, \mathcal{O}_h and \mathcal{O}_c . Actually, Lemma 6 shows that we may dispense with the asymptotics in \mathcal{O}_h , provided that v^e defined by (37) has been extended up to the inner boundary of the membrane, and this is precisely how v^e has been constructed.*

Proof of Lemma 6. Since $u_0^e \circ \Phi$ belongs to $\mathcal{C}^3([0, 1] \times \mathbb{T})$ and since $u_1^e \circ \Phi$ belongs to $\mathcal{C}^2([0, 1] \times \mathbb{T})$, using Taylor formula with integral remainder, we obtain for all $(\eta, \theta) \in [0, 1] \times \mathbb{T}$:

$$\begin{aligned} v^e \circ \Phi|_{(\eta, \theta)} &= u_0^e \circ \Phi|_{(0, \theta)} + h\eta \partial_n u_0^e \circ \Phi|_{(0, \theta)} + hu_1^e \circ \Phi|_{(0, \theta)} \\ &\quad + h^2 \eta^2 \int_0^1 (1-t) \left(\partial_n u_1^e \circ \Phi(t\eta, \theta) + \frac{(1-t)}{2} \partial_n^2 u_0^e \circ \Phi(t\eta, \theta) \right) dt, \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_\eta (v^e \circ \Phi)|_{(\eta, \theta)} &= h \partial_n u_0^e \circ \Phi|_{(0, \theta)} + h^2 \left(\partial_n u_1^e \circ \Phi|_{(\eta, \theta)} \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \eta \int_0^1 (1-t) \partial_n^2 u_0^e \circ \Phi(t, \theta) dt \right). \end{aligned}$$

Since we have:

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{v}(\eta, \theta) &= u_0^c \circ \Phi_0(\theta) + h\eta \frac{\mu_m}{\mu_c} \partial_n u_0^c \circ \Phi_0(\theta) + hu_1^c \circ \Phi_0(\theta), \\ \partial_\eta \tilde{v}(\eta, \theta) &= h \frac{\mu_m}{\mu_c} \partial_n u_0^c \circ \Phi_0(\theta), \end{aligned}$$

using transmission condition (31b), we obtain for all $(\eta, \theta) \in [0, 1] \times \mathbb{T}$:

$$\begin{aligned} (v^e \circ \Phi - \tilde{v})|_{\eta, \theta} &= h \left(\eta \left(1 - \frac{\mu_m}{\mu_e} \right) \partial_n u_0^e \circ \Phi_0 + u_1^e \circ \Phi_0 - u_1^c \circ \Phi_0 \right. \\ &\quad \left. + h\eta \int_0^1 (1-t) \left(\partial_n u_1^e \circ \Phi(t\eta, \theta) + \eta \frac{(1-t)}{2} \partial_n^2 u_0^e \circ \Phi(t\eta, \theta) \right) dt \right). \end{aligned}$$

This equality implies directly estimate (40). Moreover, using transmission conditions (31b) and (33c), we obtain for all $\theta \in \mathbb{T}$:

$$v^e \circ \Phi_1(\theta) - \tilde{v}(1, \theta) = h^2 \int_0^1 (1-t) \left(\partial_n u_1^e \circ \Phi(t, \theta) + \frac{(1-t)}{2} \partial_n^2 u_0^e \circ \Phi(t, \theta) \right) dt,$$

which implies the first estimate of (42). Applying the same reasoning to $\partial_\theta v^e \circ \Phi$ and to $\partial_\theta^2 v^e \circ \Phi$, we obtain the two last estimates of (42).

Observe that:

$$\frac{1}{\mu_e} \partial_\eta (v^e \circ \Phi)(\eta, \theta) - \frac{1}{\mu_m} \partial_\eta \tilde{v}(\eta, \theta) = \frac{h^2 f}{\mu_e}(\theta) \left(\eta f \int_0^1 (1-t) \partial_n^2 u_0^e \circ \Phi(t\eta, \theta) dt + \partial_n u_1^e \circ \Phi(\eta, \theta) \right),$$

hence estimate (41). This ends the proof of Lemma 6 \square

Let us prove now Theorem 1.

Proof of Theorem 1. Define m_0 by

$$m_0 = \frac{\mu_m}{\mu_c} \partial_n u_0^c \circ \Phi_0,$$

and \bar{u}_2^m by

$$\bar{u}_2^m(\eta, \cdot) = -\frac{\eta^2}{2} m_1 + \eta m_0,$$

where m_1 is defined by (25).

Let

$$(43a) \quad W^e = u^e - (u_0^e + h u_1^e), \text{ in } \mathcal{O}_{e,h},$$

$$(43b) \quad W^c = u^c - (u_0^c + h u_1^c) - h^2 B^c, \text{ in } \mathcal{O}_c,$$

$$(43c) \quad W^m = u^m - (u_0^m + h u_1^m) - h^2 B^m, \text{ in } [0, 1] \times \mathbb{T},$$

where

$$(44) \quad B^m(\eta, \theta) = \bar{u}_2^m + a^m(\theta) + \eta b^m(\eta),$$

and B^c , a^m and b^m are allowed to depend on h and will be chosen later, so that yield the easiest estimates of W^e , W^c and W^m .

Let us write the problem satisfied by (W^e, W^c, W^m) . In order to simplify the notations, we introduce \mathcal{L} , the Helmholtz operator written in the local coordinates (η, θ) given by

$$\mathcal{L} = \partial_\eta \left(\frac{1 + h\eta\kappa}{h} \partial_\eta \right) + \partial_\theta \left(\frac{h}{1 + h\eta\kappa} \partial_\theta \right) + z_m h (1 + h\eta\kappa).$$

We obtain

$$(45a) \quad \Delta W^e + z_e W^e = 0, \text{ in } \mathcal{O}_{e,h},$$

$$(45b) \quad \Delta W^c + z_c W^c = -h^2 (\Delta B^c + z_c B^c), \text{ in } \mathcal{O}_c,$$

$$\forall (\eta, \theta) \in [0, 1] \times \mathbb{T},$$

$$\mathcal{L} W^m = -\mathcal{L} (u_0^m + h u_1^m + h^2 B^m),$$

with transmission conditions coming from (2)

$$(45c) \quad \frac{1}{\mu_c} \partial_n W^c \circ \Phi_0 = \frac{1}{h\mu_m} \partial_\eta W^m|_{\eta=0} + h \left(\frac{1}{\mu_m} \partial_\eta B^m|_{\eta=0} - \frac{1}{\mu_c} \partial_n u_1^c \circ \Phi_0 \right) - h^2 \partial_n B^c \circ \Phi_0,$$

$$(45d) \quad W^c \circ \Phi_0 = W^m|_{\eta=0} + h^2 (B^m|_{\eta=0} - B^c \circ \Phi_0),$$

$$(45e) \quad \frac{1}{\mu_e} \partial_n W^e \circ \Phi_1 = \frac{1}{h\mu_m} \left(\partial_\eta W^m|_{\eta=1} + h \partial_\eta u_1^m + h^2 \partial_\eta B^m|_{\eta=1} \right)$$

$$(45f) \quad - \frac{1}{\mu_e} \partial_n u_0^e \circ \Phi_1 - \frac{h}{\mu_e} \partial_n u_1^e \circ \Phi_1,$$

$$(45g) \quad W^e \circ \Phi_1 = W^m|_{\eta=1} + h^2 B^m|_{\eta=1} + u_0^m|_{\eta=1} + h u_1^m|_{\eta=1} - u_0^e \circ \Phi_1 - h u_1^e \circ \Phi_1,$$

and the boundary condition

$$(45h) \quad \partial_n W^e|_{\partial\Omega} = 0.$$

We calculate $\mathcal{L}W^m$, knowing that $\partial_\eta u_0^m$ and $\partial_\eta^2 u_1^m$ vanish and we obtain:

$$(46) \quad \begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}W^m = & -h\kappa \partial_\eta u_1^m - h \partial_\eta ((1 + h\eta\kappa) \partial_\eta B^m) - h \partial_\theta \left(\frac{1}{1 + h\eta\kappa} \partial_\theta \right) (u_0^m \\ & + h u_1^m + h^2 B^m) - z_m h (1 + h\eta\kappa) (u_0^m + h u_1^m + h^2 B^m), \end{aligned}$$

and we find that in the above expression, the coefficient of terms of order 1 in h is:

$$(47) \quad -\partial_\eta^2 B^m - \kappa \partial_\eta u_1^m - \partial_\theta^2 u_0^m - z_m u_0^m.$$

By definition (44) of B^m , the first term of (47) is m_1 , and according to the definition (25) of m_1 , the expression (47) vanishes.

We will determine a^m and b^m so as to have nice transmission conditions. Observe that if y satisfies, in the weak sense:

$$\nabla \cdot \left(\frac{1}{\mu} \nabla y \right) + qy = 0, \text{ in } \mathcal{O}_{e,h} \cup \mathcal{O}_h,$$

with discontinuous μ on the outer boundary of the membrane \mathcal{O}_h , then the transmission conditions on this boundary are:

$$\begin{aligned} y^e \circ \Phi_1 &= y^m|_{\eta=1}, \\ \frac{\mu_m}{\mu_e} \partial_n y^e \circ \Phi_1 &= \frac{1}{h} \partial_\eta y^m|_{\eta=1}. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, it is natural to write transmission conditions of this form on the outer boundary of \mathcal{O}_h . The continuity condition (45g) may be rewritten :

$$W^e \circ \Phi_1 - W^m|_{\eta=1} = h^2 B^m|_{\eta=1} - \tilde{v}|_{\eta=1} - v^e \circ \Phi_1,$$

where \tilde{v} and v^e are respectively defined by (39) and (37). We choose B^m so that the right-hand side of the above equality vanishes:

$$(48) \quad a^m + b^m = \frac{\tilde{v}|_{\eta=1} - v^e \circ \Phi_1}{h^2} - \bar{u}_2^m|_{\eta=1},$$

and thanks to Lemma 6 estimate (42), the right-hand side of (48) is bounded in $H^2(\mathbb{T})$.

The condition (45f) is rewritten into:

$$(49) \quad \begin{aligned} \frac{1}{\mu_e} \partial_n W^e \circ \Phi_1 - \frac{1}{h\mu_m} \partial_\eta W^m|_{\eta=1} &= \frac{1}{\mu_m} (\partial_\eta u_1^m + h\partial_\eta B^m|_{\eta=1}) \\ &- \frac{1}{\mu_e} \partial_n u_0^e \circ \Phi_1 - \frac{h}{\mu_e} \partial_n u_1^e \circ \Phi_1, \end{aligned}$$

Observe that:

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_n u_0^e \circ \Phi_1 &= \partial_n u_0^e \circ \Phi_0 + h\partial_n^2 u_0^e \circ \Phi_0 + h^2 \int_0^1 \frac{(1-t)^2}{2} \partial_n^3 u_0^e \circ \Phi dt, \\ \partial_n u_1^e \circ \Phi_1 &= \partial_n u_1^e \circ \Phi_0 + h \int_0^1 (1-t) \partial_n^2 u_0^e \circ \Phi dt, \end{aligned}$$

and recall that

$$\partial_\eta u_1^m = \frac{\mu_m}{\mu_e} \partial_n u_0^e \circ \Phi_0.$$

Therefore, in order for the right-hand side of (49) to be of order 2, we impose:

$$\frac{1}{\mu_m} \partial_\eta B^m|_{\eta=1} - \frac{1}{\mu_e} \partial_n^2 u_0^e \circ \Phi_0 - \frac{1}{\mu_e} \partial_n u_1^e \circ \Phi_0 = 0,$$

which implies

$$(50) \quad b_m = m_1 - m_0 + \frac{\mu_m}{\mu_e} \partial_n^2 u_0^e \circ \Phi_0 + \frac{\mu_m}{\mu_e} \partial_n u_1^e \circ \Phi_0,$$

thanks to (44). We infer from (48) and (50) that a_m and b_m are bounded in $H^2(\mathbb{T})$ independently of h , and therefore, since B^m is polynomial in η , it belongs to $\mathcal{C}^\infty([0, 1]; H^2(\mathbb{T}))$, the space of functions, which are \mathcal{C}^∞ in $\eta \in [0, 1]$ with values in $H^2(\mathbb{T})$. Particularly, there exists $C > 0$ independent of h such that

$$(51) \quad \forall \eta \in [0, 1], \quad \|B^m(\eta, \cdot)\|_{H^{s-1}(\mathbb{T})} \leq C \|\phi\|_{H^s(\partial\Omega)}.$$

Observe that with such B^m , we have:

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_\eta B^m|_{\eta=0} &= b_m + m_0, \\ &= m_1 + \frac{\mu_m}{\mu_e} \partial_n^2 u_0^e \circ \Phi_0 + \frac{\mu_m}{\mu_e} \partial_n u_1^e \circ \Phi_0, \end{aligned}$$

thanks to (50). Transmission condition (28) with definition (25) of m_1 imply:

$$\partial_\eta B^m|_{\eta=0} = \frac{\mu_m}{\mu_c} \partial_n u_1^e \circ \Phi_0.$$

Therefore, transmission condition (45c) is simplified into:

$$(52) \quad \frac{1}{\mu_c} \partial_n W^c \circ \Phi_0 = \frac{1}{h\mu_m} \partial_\eta W^m|_{\eta=0} - h^2 \partial_n B^c \circ \Phi_0,$$

It remains to define B^c . It is simply define by

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta B^c + z_c B^c &= 0, \quad \text{in } \mathcal{O}_c, \\ B_c|_{\partial\mathcal{O}_c} &= B^m \circ \Phi_0^{-1}. \end{aligned}$$

Since $B^m \in H^2(\mathbb{T})$, a classical argument and estimate (51) imply that there exists $C > 0$ independent on h such that:

$$(53a) \quad \|\partial_n B^c|_{\partial\mathcal{O}_c}\|_{H^1(\partial\mathcal{O}_c)} \leq C \|\phi\|_{H^s(\partial\Omega)},$$

$$(53b) \quad \|B^c\|_{H^{2+1/2}(\mathcal{O}_c)} \leq C \|\phi\|_{H^s(\partial\Omega)}.$$

To simplify our notations, we define

$$g(\eta, \theta) = \frac{1}{h^2} \mathcal{L} (u_0^m + hu_1^m + h^2 B^m),$$

$$g_1(\theta) = \frac{1}{h^2} \left(\frac{1}{\mu_m} (\partial_\eta u_1^m + h \partial_\eta B^m|_{\eta=1}) - \frac{1}{\mu_e} \partial_n u_0^e \circ \Phi_1 - \frac{h}{\mu_e} \partial_n u_1^e \circ \Phi_1 \right).$$

We equip $L^2(\mathcal{C})$ with the ordinary norm

$$\|\alpha\|_{L^2(\mathcal{C})} = \left(\int_0^1 \int_0^{2\pi} |\alpha|^2 d\theta d\eta \right)^{1/2},$$

and $L^2(\mathbb{T})$ with the ordinary norm

$$\|\gamma\|_{L^2(\mathbb{T})} = \left(\int_0^{2\pi} |\gamma|^2 d\theta \right)^{1/2}.$$

We have chosen B^m and B^c such that there exists an h -independent constant $C > 0$ such that

$$(54a) \quad \|g\|_{L^2(\mathcal{C})} \leq C \|\phi\|_{H^s(\partial\Omega)},$$

and

$$(54b) \quad \|g_1\|_{L^2(\mathbb{T})} \leq C \|\phi\|_{H^s(\partial\Omega)}.$$

We rewrite Problem (45) as follows:

$$(55a) \quad \Delta W^e + z_e W^e = 0, \text{ in } \mathcal{O}_{e,h},$$

$$(55b) \quad \Delta W^c + z_c W^c = 0, \text{ in } \mathcal{O}_c,$$

$$\forall (\eta, \theta) \in [0, 1] \times \mathbb{T},$$

$$(55c) \quad \mathcal{L} W^m = -h^2 g,$$

with transmission conditions

$$(55d) \quad \frac{1}{\mu_c} \partial_n W^c \circ \Phi_0 = \frac{1}{h\mu_m} \partial_\eta W^m|_{\eta=0} - h^2 \partial_n B^c \circ \Phi_0,$$

$$(55e) \quad W^c \circ \Phi_0 = W^m|_{\eta=0},$$

$$(55f) \quad \frac{1}{\mu_e} \partial_n W^e \circ \Phi_1 = \frac{1}{h\mu_m} \partial_\eta W^m|_{\eta=1} + h^2 g_1,$$

$$(55g) \quad W^e \circ \Phi_1 = W^m|_{\eta=1}$$

and the boundary condition

$$(55h) \quad \partial_n W^e|_{\partial\Omega} = 0.$$

Now we are ready to perform L^2 estimates as it has been performed in [15]. In \mathcal{O}_c parameterized by Euclidean coordinates, the L^2 norm of a 0-form β , denoted by $\|\beta\|_{L^2(\mathcal{O}_c)}$, is equal to:

$$\|\beta\|_{\Lambda^0 L^2(\mathcal{O}_c)} = \|\beta\|_{L^2(\mathcal{O}_c)},$$

and the L^2 norm of its exterior derivative $d\beta$, denoted by $\|d\beta\|_{\Lambda^1 L^2(\mathcal{O}_c)}$ is equal to

$$\|d\beta\|_{\Lambda^1 L^2(\mathcal{O}_c)} = \|\nabla \beta\|_{L^2(\mathcal{O}_c)}.$$

In $\mathcal{O}_{\varepsilon,h}$ parameterized by Euclidean coordinates, the L^2 norm of a 0-form γ , denoted by $\|\gamma\|_{L^2(\mathcal{O}_{\varepsilon,h})}$, is equal to:

$$\|\gamma\|_{\Lambda^0 L^2(\mathcal{O}_{\varepsilon,h})} = \|\gamma\|_{L^2(\mathcal{O}_{\varepsilon,h})},$$

and the L^2 norm of its exterior derivative dv , denoted by $\|du\|_{\Lambda^1 L^2(\mathcal{O}_{\varepsilon,h})}$ is equal to

$$\|d\gamma\|_{\Lambda^1 L^2(\mathcal{O}_{\varepsilon,h})} = \|\nabla\gamma\|_{L^2(\mathcal{O}_{\varepsilon,h})}.$$

We multiply equalities (55a), (55b) and (55c) respectively by the conjugates of W^e , W^c and W^m . Using transmission conditions (55d)–(55g), we integrate by parts and we take the imaginary part of the result. To simplify the notations, we define $\|W\|_{\Lambda^0 L^2(\Omega)}^2$ and $\|dW\|_{\Lambda^1 L^2(\Omega)}^2$ as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \|W\|_{\Lambda^0 L^2(\Omega)}^2 &= \|W^e\|_{\Lambda^0 L^2(\mathcal{O}_{\varepsilon,h})}^2 + \|W^m\|_{\Lambda^0 L_m^2(\mathcal{C})}^2 + \|W^c\|_{\Lambda^0 L^2(\mathcal{O}_c)}^2, \\ \|dW\|_{\Lambda^1 L^2(\Omega)}^2 &= \|dW^e\|_{\Lambda^1 L^2(\mathcal{O}_{\varepsilon,h})}^2 + \|dW^m\|_{\Lambda^1 L_m^2(\mathcal{C})}^2 + \|dW^c\|_{\Lambda^1 L^2(\mathcal{O}_c)}^2, \end{aligned}$$

Defining

$$\sigma = \min(\Im(z_e), \Im(z_m), \Im(z_c)),$$

we obtain:

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma \|W\|_{\Lambda^0 L^2(\Omega)}^2 &\leq \frac{h^2}{\mu_c} \left| \int_{\Gamma_0} \partial_n B^c \overline{W^c} \, d\text{vol}_{\Gamma_0} \right| \\ &\quad + \frac{h^2}{\mu_m} \left| \int_0^{2\pi} (1 + h\kappa) g_1 \overline{W^e} \circ \Phi_1 \, d\theta \right| \\ &\quad + h^2 \left| \int_0^1 \int_0^{2\pi} g \overline{W^m} \, d\eta \, d\theta \right|. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, there exists an h -independent constant C such that:

$$\begin{aligned} (56) \quad \|W\|_{\Lambda^0 L^2(\Omega)}^2 &\leq Ch^{3/2} \left(\sqrt{h} \left(\|\partial_n B^c\|_{L^2(\Gamma_0)} + \|g_1\|_{L^2(\mathbb{T})} \right) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \left(\int_0^1 \int_0^{2\pi} |g|^2 \, d\eta \, d\theta \right)^{1/2} \right) (\|W\|_{\Lambda^0 L^2(\Omega)} + \|dW\|_{\Lambda^1 L^2(\Omega)}). \end{aligned}$$

Observe that C depends on the dielectric parameters and on the geometry of the domains. One more time, we multiply equalities (55a)–(55b)–(55c) respectively by the conjugates of W^e , W^c and W^m . Using transmission conditions we integrate by parts and we take the real part of the result. Defining

$$a = \max \{ \Re(z_e), \Re(z_m), \Re(z_c) \},$$

We infer:

$$\begin{aligned} \|dW\|_{\Lambda^1 L^2(\Omega)}^2 &\leq a \|W\|_{\Lambda^0 L^2(\Omega)}^2 + \frac{h^2}{\mu_c} \left| \int_{\Gamma_0} \partial_n B^c \overline{W^c} \, d\text{vol}_{\Gamma_0} \right| \\ &\quad + \frac{h^2}{\mu_m} \left| \int_0^{2\pi} g_1 \overline{W^e} \circ \Phi_1 \, d\theta \right| + h^2 \left| \int_0^1 \int_0^{2\pi} g \overline{W^m} \, d\eta \, d\theta \right|. \end{aligned}$$

Using (56) we infer that there exists an h -independent constant $C > 0$ such that:

$$(57) \quad \begin{aligned} \|W\|_{\Lambda^0 L^2(\Omega)} + \|dW\|_{\Lambda^1 L^2(\Omega)} &\leq Ch^{3/2} \left(\sqrt{h} \left(\|\partial_n B^c\|_{L^2(\Gamma_0)} + \|g_1\|_{L^2(\mathbb{T})} \right) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \left(\int_0^1 \int_0^{2\pi} |g|^2 d\eta d\theta \right)^{1/2} \right). \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, estimating the right-hand side of (57) with estimates (53) and (54), we infer that there exists an h -independent constant $C > 0$ such that:

$$\|W\|_{\Lambda^0 H^1(\Omega)} \leq Ch^{3/2} \|\phi\|_{H^s(\partial\Omega)}.$$

Since we have respectively in the cylinder \mathcal{C}

$$u^m - u_0^m - hu_1^m = W^m - h^2 B^m,$$

in \mathcal{O}_c

$$u^c - u_0^c - hu_1^c = W^c - h^2 B^c,$$

and in \mathcal{O}_e

$$u^e - u_0^e - hu_1^e = W^e,$$

we have proved Theorem 1. □

Remark 8 (Neumann boundary condition imposed on the cell). *Consider the domain Ω_h defined by:*

$$\Omega_h = \mathcal{O}_c \cup \mathcal{O}_h.$$

Let γ be in $H^s(\partial\Omega_h)$, $s > 7/2$, and we denote by g and \mathbf{g} the following function defined on the torus:

$$(58) \quad \forall \theta \in \mathbb{T}, \quad g(\theta) = \gamma \circ \Phi_1(\theta),$$

$$(59) \quad \forall x \in \partial\mathcal{O}, \quad \mathbf{g}(x) = g \circ \Phi_0^{-1}(x).$$

Let u be the solution of the following problem:

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla \cdot \left(\frac{1}{\mu} \nabla u \right) + qu &= 0, \text{ in } \Omega_h, \\ \partial_n u|_{\partial\Omega_h} &= \gamma, \text{ in } \Omega_h, \end{aligned}$$

Then, we have the following theorem:

Theorem 9. *We remember that h_0 is defined in Theorem 1. Let γ be in $H^s(\partial\Omega_h)$. We denote by u_0^c , u_0^m , u_1^c , and u_1^m the functions defined as follows:*

$$\begin{cases} \Delta u_0^c + z_c u_0^c = 0, \text{ in } \mathcal{O}_c, \\ \partial_n u_0^c|_{\Gamma_0} = (\mu_c/\mu_m) \mathbf{g}, \text{ on } \Gamma_0. \end{cases}$$

In the membrane, the field u_0^m is equal to:

$$\forall (\eta, \theta) \in [0, 1] \times \mathbb{T}, \quad u_0^m = u_0^c \circ \Phi_0(\theta).$$

The field u_1^c is the solution of the following problem in \mathcal{O}_c :

$$\begin{cases} \Delta u_1^c + z_c u_1^c = 0, & \text{in } \mathcal{O}_c, \\ (\mu_m/\mu_c) \partial_n u_1^c|_{\Gamma_0} = (\mathfrak{K}\mathfrak{g} + \partial_t^2 u_0^c|_{\Gamma_0}) + z_m u_0^c|_{\Gamma_0}, & \text{on } \Gamma_0. \end{cases}$$

In the membrane, we have:

$$\forall (\eta, \theta) \in [0, 1] \times \mathbb{T}, \quad u_1^m = \eta\gamma + u_1^c \circ \Phi_0.$$

Let W be the function defined on Ω_h by:

$$W = \begin{cases} u - (u_0^c + h u_1^c), & \text{in } \mathcal{O}_c, \\ u - (u_0^m \circ \Phi^{-1} + h u_1^m \circ \Phi^{-1}), & \text{in } \mathcal{O}_h. \end{cases}$$

Then, there exists an h -independent constant $C > 0$ such that

$$\|W\|_{H^1(\Omega_h)} \leq Ch^{3/2} \|\mathfrak{g}\|_{H^s(\partial\mathcal{O}_c)}.$$

Remark 10 (The case $z_m = 0$ in \mathcal{O}_h). In Theorem 1, we can replace z_m by zero. The proof is then very similar, except that we need the following inequality.

Proposition 11. Let h be as in Theorem 1. Let u be a function of class $C^1([0, 1] \times \mathbb{T})$. In the cylinder $[0, 1] \times \mathbb{T}$, we use Euclidean metric (7) written in local coordinates defined at Section 1, that is

$$h^2 d\eta + (1 + h\eta\kappa) d\theta.$$

Then, there exists an h -independent constant C such that

$$(60) \quad \|u\|_{\Lambda^0 L_m^2(\mathcal{C})}^2 \leq C \left(\|du\|_{\Lambda^1 L_m^2(\mathcal{C})}^2 + \int_0^{2\pi} |u(0, \theta)|^2 d\theta \right).$$

Proof. Actually, according to the definition of h_0 in (6) there exists two constants C_1 and C_2 depending on the domain \mathcal{O} such that the following inequalities hold:

$$(61a) \quad \|u\|_{\Lambda^0 L_m^2(\mathcal{C})}^2 \leq C_1 h \int_0^1 \int_0^{2\pi} |u(\eta, \theta)|^2 d\theta d\eta,$$

$$(61b) \quad \|du\|_{\Lambda^1 L_m^2(\mathcal{C})}^2 \geq C_2 \left(\int_0^1 \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{|\partial_\eta u(\eta, \theta)|^2}{h} + h |\partial_\theta u|^2 d\theta d\eta \right).$$

Let us denote by $(\widehat{u})_k$ for $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ the k^{th} -Fourier coefficient (with respect to θ) of u :

$$\widehat{u}_k = \int_0^{2\pi} u(\theta) e^{-2i\pi k/L} d\theta.$$

Since $(\widehat{\partial_\theta u})_k = 2i\pi k \widehat{u}_k$, it is easy to see that:

$$\forall k \neq 0, \quad \int_0^1 |\widehat{u}_k(\eta)|^2 d\eta \leq 4\pi^2 \int_0^1 \left| (\widehat{\partial_\theta u})_k(\eta) \right|^2 d\eta.$$

Using the following equality

$$\widehat{u}_0(\eta) = \int_0^\eta (\widehat{\partial_\eta u})_0(s) ds + \widehat{u}_0(0),$$

we infer

$$\int_0^1 |\widehat{u}_0(\eta)|^2 d\eta \leq 2 \int_0^1 \left| (\widehat{\partial_\eta u})_0(\eta) \right|^2 + 2|\widehat{u}_0(0)|^2 d\eta.$$

We deduce directly inequality (60). \square

6. APPLICATION TO THE BIOLOGICAL CELL

In biological cells, the membrane is insulating (see Fear and Stuchly [11] or Sebastián *al.* [17]). This means that at mid frequencies, the ratio $|z_m|/|z_c|$ and $|z_m|/|z_e|$ are small compared to h . Actually, the thickness is of order 10^{-3} , while $|z_m|/|z_c|$ is about 10^{-5} (see [15]). We say that we work at mid frequency since we suppose that z_c and z_e are of order 1. Moreover, the relative permeability is constant equal to 1, thus in the following, we suppose:

$$\mu_c = \mu_m = \mu_e = 1.$$

The following results show that the asymptotics obtained by replacing z_m by zero in the expansions of Theorem 1 give a good approximation of the electric field in the biological cell. We have the following proposition.

Proposition 12. *Let z_c and z_e be complex constants with strictly negative imaginary part.*

We suppose that $|z_m|$ tends to zero and that there exists a constant $c > 0$ such that:

$$(62) \quad 0 < -\frac{|z_m|}{\Im(z_m)} < c.$$

Let z and \tilde{z} be such that:

$$z = \begin{cases} z_e, & \text{in } \mathcal{O}_{e,h}, \\ z_m, & \text{in } \mathcal{O}_h, \\ z_c, & \text{in } \mathcal{O}_c, \end{cases} \quad \tilde{z} = \begin{cases} z_e, & \text{in } \mathcal{O}_{e,h}, \\ 0, & \text{in } \mathcal{O}_h, \\ z_c, & \text{in } \mathcal{O}_c. \end{cases}$$

Let ϕ in $H^{1/2}(\partial\Omega)$. Let u the solution of the following problem:

$$(63a) \quad \Delta u + zu = 0, \text{ in } \Omega,$$

$$(63b) \quad \partial_n u|_{\partial\Omega} = \phi, \text{ in } \Omega,$$

and let v be such that

$$(63c) \quad \Delta v + \tilde{z}v = 0, \text{ in } \Omega,$$

$$(63d) \quad \partial_n v|_{\partial\Omega} = \phi, \text{ in } \Omega.$$

Then, there exists a constant C such that:

$$\|u - v\|_{H^1(\Omega)} \leq C|z_m| \|\phi\|_{H^{1/2}(\partial\Omega)}.$$

Proof. First, using hypothesis (62), we prove by classical argument that there exists an h -independent constant C such that:

$$\|u\|_{H^1(\Omega)} \leq C \|\phi\|_{H^{1/2}(\partial\Omega)}.$$

Then, we just have to write the problem satisfies by $u - v$ in local coordinates in the membrane. As usual, we multiply in by $\overline{u - v}$ and we integrate by parts. Then, according to inequality (60) the following inequality holds:

$$\|u - v\|_{H^1(\Omega)} \leq C|z_m| \|u\|_{H^1(\Omega)},$$

which ends the proof of the theorem. \square

Using Proposition 12 and Remark 10, we infer the following theorem.

Theorem 13. *Let h_0 be in $(0, 1)$ such that*

$$h_0 < \frac{1}{\|f\kappa\|_\infty}.$$

Let h be in $(0, h_0)$.

Let z_c and z_e be complex constants with strictly negative imaginary part.

We suppose that $|z_m| = o(h)$ and that there exists a constant $c > 0$ such that:

$$0 < -\frac{|z_m|}{\Im(z_m)} < c.$$

Let ϕ be in $H^s(\partial\Omega)$, $s > 7/2$.

We denote by u the solution of the following problem:

$$\begin{cases} \Delta u + zu = 0, & \text{in } \Omega, \\ \partial_n u = \phi, & \text{on } \partial\Omega. \end{cases}$$

We define (u_0^e, u_0^c) , u_0^m , (u_1^e, u_1^c) , and u_1^m are defined as follows.

- *The 0th order terms. The electric fields u_0^e and u_0^c are solution of the following problem in $\mathcal{O}_{e,h} \cup \mathcal{O}_c$:*

$$(64a) \quad \begin{cases} \Delta u_0^e + z_e u_0^e = 0, & \text{in } \mathcal{O}_{e,h}, \\ \Delta u_0^c + z_c u_0^c = 0, & \text{in } \mathcal{O}_c, \end{cases}$$

with transmission conditions

$$(64b) \quad u_0^c|_{\Gamma_0} = u_0^e|_{\Gamma_0},$$

$$(64c) \quad \partial_n u_0^c|_{\Gamma_0} = \partial_n u_0^e|_{\Gamma_0},$$

with Neumann boundary condition:

$$(64d) \quad \partial_n u_0^e|_{\partial\Omega} = \phi.$$

In the membrane, the field u_0^m is equal to:

$$(65) \quad \forall(\eta, \theta) \in [0, 1] \times \mathbb{T}, \quad u_0^m = u_0^c \circ \Phi_0(\theta).$$

- *The first order terms. The fields u_1^e and u_1^c are solution of the following problem in $\mathcal{O}_{e,h} \cup \mathcal{O}_c$:*

$$(66a) \quad \begin{cases} \Delta u_1^e + z_e u_1^e = 0, & \text{in } \mathcal{O}_{e,h}, \\ \Delta u_1^c + z_c u_1^c = 0, & \text{in } \mathcal{O}_c, \\ \partial_n u_1^e|_{\partial\Omega} = 0, \end{cases}$$

with the following transmission conditions

$$(66b) \quad \partial_n u_1^c|_{\Gamma_0} - \partial_n u_1^e|_{\Gamma_0} = \partial_t^2 u_0^c|_{\Gamma_0} + \partial_n^2 u_0^e|_{\Gamma_0} + \mathfrak{K} \partial_n u_0^c|_{\Gamma_0},$$

$$(66c) \quad u_1^c|_{\Gamma_0} - u_1^e|_{\Gamma_0} = 0.$$

Recall that \mathfrak{K} is the curvature of $\partial\mathcal{O}_c$ defined by (5). In the membrane, we have:

$$(67) \quad \forall(\eta, \theta) \in [0, 1] \times \mathbb{T}, \quad u_1^m = \eta \partial_n u_0^c \circ \Phi_0 + u_1^c \circ \Phi_0.$$

Let W be the function defined in Ω by:

$$W = \begin{cases} u - (u_0^e + hu_1^e), & \text{in } \mathcal{O}_{e,h}, \\ u - (u_0^c + hu_1^c), & \text{in } \mathcal{O}_c, \\ u - (u_0^m \circ \Phi^{-1} + hu_1^m \circ \Phi^{-1}), & \text{in } \mathcal{O}_h. \end{cases}$$

Then, there exists an h -independent constant $C > 0$ such that

$$\|W\|_{H^1(\Omega)} \leq C \left(h^{3/2} + |z_m| \right) \|\phi\|_{H^s(\partial\Omega)}.$$

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