Low Frequency Breakdown

Donald R. Wilton

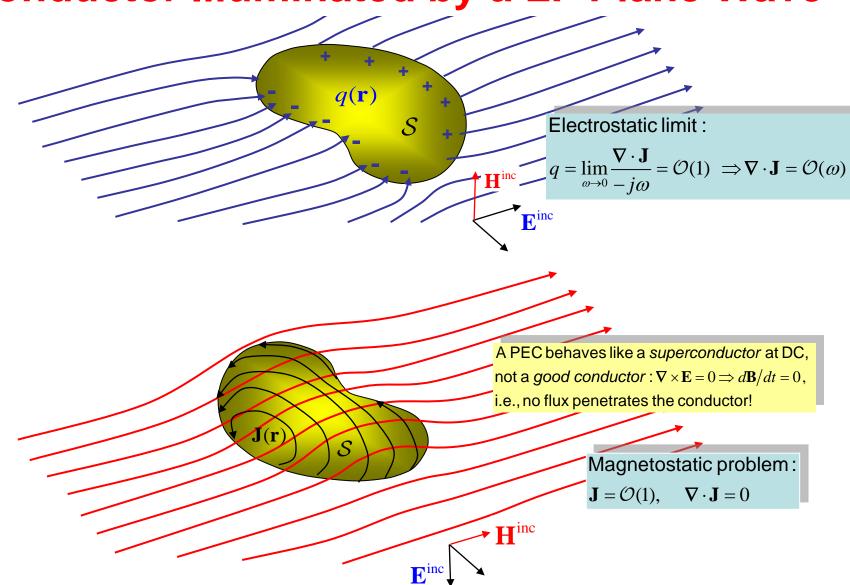
Dept. of Electrical and Computer Engineeering

University of Houston

Houston, TX 77096 USA

wilton@uh.edu

Conductor Illuminated by a LF Plane Wave



EFIE and Vector Helmholtz Equations at Low Frequencies

• EFIE (strong form):

$$\mathcal{L}\mathbf{J} = \left[j\omega\mu \int_{\mathcal{S}} G(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}')\mathbf{J}(\mathbf{r}')d\mathcal{S}' - \frac{\nabla}{j\omega\varepsilon} \int_{\mathcal{S}} G(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}')\nabla \cdot \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{r}')d\mathcal{S}' \right]_{tan} = \mathbf{E}_{tan}^{inc}, \ \mathbf{r} \in \mathcal{S}$$

$$\xrightarrow{\omega \to 0} \mathcal{L}_{LF} \mathbf{J} \equiv \left[-\frac{\nabla}{j\omega\varepsilon} \int_{\mathcal{S}} G(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}') \nabla \cdot \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{r}') d\mathcal{S}' \right]_{tan} = \mathbf{E}_{tan}^{inc}$$

 \Rightarrow Any divergenceless current $(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{J}_h(\mathbf{r}') = 0)$ distribution on \mathcal{S} is a homogeneous solution, $\mathcal{L}_{\mathrm{LF}}\mathbf{J}_h = 0$, and implies *low frequency solutions are non-unique*.

• Helmholtz Eq. (strong form):

$$\mathcal{L}\mathbf{E} \equiv \nabla \times \mu_r^{-1} \nabla \times \mathbf{E} - \omega^2 \mu_0 \varepsilon_0 \varepsilon_r \mathbf{E} = -j\omega \mu_0 \mathbf{J}, \quad \mathbf{r} \in \mathcal{D} = \mathcal{S} \text{ (2-D) or } \mathcal{V} \text{ (3-D)}$$

$$\xrightarrow{\omega \to 0} \mathcal{L}_{LF} \mathbf{E} \equiv \nabla \times \mu_r^{-1} \nabla \times \mathbf{E} = -j\omega \mu_0 \mathbf{J}$$

 \Rightarrow Any curl-free field $(\nabla \times \mathbf{E}_h = 0)$ in \mathcal{D} is a homogeneous solution, $\mathcal{L}_{LF}\mathbf{E}_h = 0$, and implies low frequency solutions are non-unique.

Helmholtz Decomposition of EFIE Current

• EFIE current splitting:

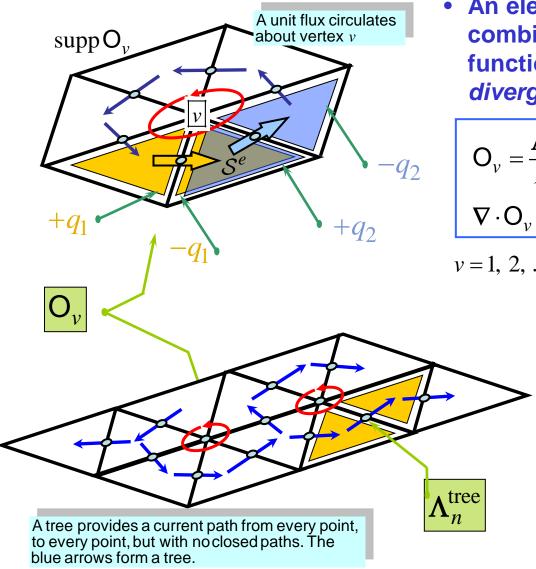
$$J = \begin{matrix} \text{divergenceless,} \\ \text{magnetostatic} \end{matrix} + \begin{matrix} \text{non-divergenceless,} \\ \text{electrostatic} \end{matrix}$$

• Low frequency behavior:

$$\mathbf{J} \xrightarrow{\omega \to 0} \mathbf{J}^{\circ} \qquad \Rightarrow \mathbf{J}^{\circ} = \mathcal{O}(1) \text{ (real)}$$

$$q = \frac{\nabla \cdot \mathbf{J}^{\star}}{-i\omega} = \mathcal{O}(1) \text{ (real)} \Rightarrow \mathbf{J}^{\star} = \mathcal{O}(\omega) \text{ (imaginary)}$$

Loop-Tree Basis Decomposition



 An elemental "loop" is a linear combination of patch basis functions that produces a divergence-free basis function

$$O_{v} = \frac{\Lambda_{i+1}^{e}}{\ell_{i+1}} - \frac{\Lambda_{i-1}^{e}}{\ell_{i-1}}, \quad \mathbf{r} \in \mathcal{S}^{e} \subset \operatorname{supp} O_{v}$$

$$\nabla \cdot O_{v} = 0 \quad \Rightarrow q_{1} = q_{2}$$

v = 1, 2, ..., # interior vertices = V - B

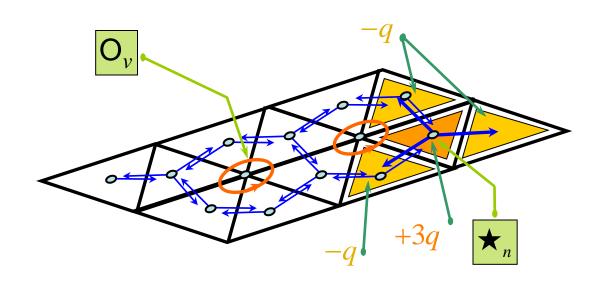
At low frequencies:

- O_ν forms a magnetostatic source (current loop)
- Λ_n^{tree} forms an electrostatic source (charge dipole)

$$n = 1, 2, ..., \# \text{ triangles } -1 = F - 1,$$

 $V - B + F - 1 = E - B = N$

Loop-Star Basis Decomposition



At low frequencies:

- O_ν becomes a magnetostatic source (current loop)
- * *\bigcup_n becomes an electrostatic source (charge multipole)

- O, is a vertex-based source
- \bigstar_n is a face-based source



In principle, the loop-star decomposition eliminates the tedious procedure of specifying a "tree" on the triangular patch surface.

In practice, it usually does not yield as well-conditioned MoM matrix as the loop-tree decomposition.

EFIE and Vector Helmholtz Equations at Low Frequencies

EFIE Unknowns:

$$\mathbf{J} \approx \sum_{n=1}^{N} I_{n} \mathbf{\Lambda}_{n}, \ q_{S} = -\frac{\nabla \cdot \mathbf{J}}{j\omega} \approx -\frac{\sum_{n=1}^{N} I_{n} \nabla \cdot \mathbf{\Lambda}_{n}}{j\omega}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} Z_{mn} \end{bmatrix} = j\omega\mu \Big[\langle \mathbf{\Lambda}_{m}; G, \mathbf{\Lambda}_{n} \rangle \Big] + \frac{1}{j\omega\varepsilon} \Big[\langle \nabla \cdot \mathbf{\Lambda}_{m}, G, \nabla \cdot \mathbf{\Lambda}_{n} \rangle \Big]$$

$$\xrightarrow{\omega \to 0} \frac{1}{j\omega\varepsilon} \Big[\langle \nabla \cdot \mathbf{\Lambda}_{m}, G, \nabla \cdot \mathbf{\Lambda}_{n} \rangle \Big]$$

 \Rightarrow Homogeneous solutions exist : $[Z_{mn}][I_n] = 0$

$$O_{v} = \sum_{n=1}^{N} \sigma_{vn}^{o} \Lambda_{n}, \quad \nabla \cdot O_{v} = 0$$

$$\bigstar_f = \sum_{n=1}^N \sigma_{fn}^{\star} \Lambda_n, \quad \nabla \cdot \bigstar_f \neq 0$$

Loop Basis Representation

• We can write a loop basis O_v about interior vertex v containing triangle S^e in its support, $\operatorname{supp} O_v$, and with the i-th local vertex of S^e corresponding to vertex v, in various ways:

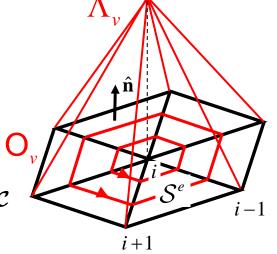
$$O_{v} = \frac{\Lambda_{i+1}^{e}}{\ell_{i+1}} - \frac{\Lambda_{i-1}^{e}}{\ell_{i-1}} = \frac{\ell_{i}}{2A^{e}} = \frac{\hat{\ell}_{i}}{h_{i}} = \frac{\hat{\mathbf{n}} \times \hat{\mathbf{h}}_{i}}{h_{i}}, \quad \mathbf{r} \in \mathcal{S}^{e} \subset \operatorname{supp} O_{v},$$

but perhaps most useful and illuminating is

$$O_{v} = \nabla \xi_{i} \times \hat{\mathbf{n}}, \quad \mathbf{r} \in \mathcal{S}^{e} \subset \operatorname{supp} O_{v} \Rightarrow O_{v} = \nabla \Lambda_{v} \times \hat{\mathbf{n}}, \quad \mathbf{r} \in \operatorname{supp} O_{v}$$

• For an arbitrary, continuous vector \mathbf{A} on \mathcal{S}^e , we have

$$\int_{\mathcal{S}^{e}} \left(\nabla \xi_{i} \times \hat{\mathbf{n}} \right) \cdot \mathbf{A} \, d\mathcal{S} = -\int_{\mathcal{S}^{e}} \left(\nabla \xi_{i} \times \mathbf{A} \right) \cdot \hat{\mathbf{n}} \, d\mathcal{S} = \int_{\mathcal{S}^{e}} \left(\xi_{i} \hat{\mathbf{n}} \cdot \nabla \times \mathbf{A} \right) d\mathcal{S} - \oint_{\partial \mathcal{S}^{e}} \xi_{i} \mathbf{A} \cdot d\mathbf{C}$$
(Van Bladel, A3.57)



where the contour integral vanishes when contributions from all adjacent triangles with a common vertex are added, so that

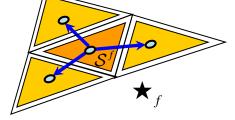
$$= \int_{S}O_{v}\cdot\mathbf{A}\,dS = \int_{S}(\Lambda_{v}\hat{\mathbf{n}}\cdot\nabla\times\mathbf{A})dS = <\Lambda_{v}\hat{\mathbf{n}}; \nabla\times\mathbf{A}>$$

where $\Lambda_v = \xi_i$, $\mathbf{r} \in \mathcal{S}^e \subset \operatorname{supp} O_v$ is the scalar rooftop (pyramidal) function with peak at node v. Hence, testing a continuous vector with a loop function is equivalent to averaging the rooftop - weighted normal component of the vector's curl over the loop's support.

Tree, Star Basis Representations

- Tree bases are usual basis set but with any tree links forming closed loops removed from the set : $\{\Lambda_n^{\text{tree}}\}\subset \{\Lambda_n\}$
- Star bases are not uniquely defined; two possible definitions are

$$\bigstar_f = \sum_n \sigma_{fn}^{\star} \Lambda_n, \quad \sigma_{fn}^{\star} = \pm 1 \quad \text{or} \quad \sigma_{fn}^{\star} = \pm \frac{1}{\ell_n}$$



where the sum is over edge DoFs for edges of face $f(S^f)$ and the signs are chosen such that current flows out of triangular face f and into adjacent faces.

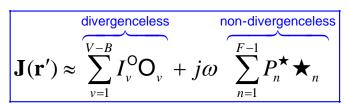
We note that only F−1 of the star bases are independent since

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\mathsf{F}} \bigstar_f = 0.$$

• The divergence of star bases may be simply defined by

$$\nabla \cdot \bigstar_f = \sum_n \sigma_{fn}^* \nabla \cdot \Lambda_n$$

The star and loop bases form a quasi-Helmholtz decomposition of J:



Loop- and Star-Tested EFIE

Testing EFIE with a loop basis O_x:

$$\begin{split} \jmath \omega \mu < & \mathsf{O}_{v}; G(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}'), \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{r}') > + \frac{1}{\jmath \omega \varepsilon} < \nabla \cdot \mathcal{O}_{v}, G(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}'), \nabla \cdot \mathbf{J} > \\ &= < \mathsf{O}_{v}; \mathbf{E}^{\mathrm{inc}} > = < \Lambda_{v} \hat{\mathbf{n}}; \nabla \times \mathbf{E}^{\mathrm{inc}} > = - \jmath \omega \mu < \Lambda_{v} \hat{\mathbf{n}}; \mathbf{H}^{\mathrm{inc}} > \\ &\Rightarrow \boxed{< \mathsf{O}_{v}; G(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}'), \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{r}') > = - < \Lambda_{v} \hat{\mathbf{n}}; \mathbf{H}^{\mathrm{inc}} >, v = 1, 2, ..., V - B,} \end{split}$$

$$(\text{weak form of magnetostatic integral eq., } \hat{\mathbf{n}} \cdot \mathbf{H}^{\mathrm{sc}}[\mathbf{J}^{\mathrm{O}}] = \hat{\mathbf{n}} \cdot \frac{1}{\mu} \nabla \times \mathbf{A}[\mathbf{J}^{\mathrm{O}}] = -\hat{\mathbf{n}} \cdot \mathbf{H}^{\mathrm{inc}})$$

Now expand the surface current in terms of loops and star (or tree) bases:

$$\mathbf{J}(\mathbf{r}') \approx \sum_{v=1}^{V-B} I_v^{O} O_v + j\omega \sum_{n=1}^{F-1} P_n^{\star} \bigstar_n \qquad \left(\mathbf{J}(\mathbf{r}') \approx \sum_{v=1}^{V-B} I_v^{O} O_v + j\omega \sum_{n=1}^{F-1} P_n^{\text{tree}} \Lambda_n^{\text{tree}} \right)$$

Substitute into the EFIE and above eq. and test with star (or tree) bases, yielding

$$\begin{bmatrix} [\langle \mathsf{O}_{u}; G, \mathsf{O}_{v} \rangle] & j\omega[\langle \mathsf{O}_{u}; G, \bigstar_{n} \rangle] \\ j\omega\mu[\langle \bigstar_{m}; G, \mathsf{O}_{v} \rangle] & \left[\frac{1}{\varepsilon} \langle \nabla \cdot \bigstar_{m}, G, \nabla \cdot \bigstar_{n} \rangle - \omega^{2}\mu \langle \bigstar_{m}; G, \bigstar_{n} \rangle \right] \begin{bmatrix} [I_{v}^{\mathsf{O}}] \\ [P_{n}^{\star}] \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} [-\langle \Lambda_{v} \hat{\mathbf{n}}; \mathbf{H}^{\mathrm{inc}} \rangle] \\ [\langle \bigstar_{m}; \mathbf{E}^{\mathrm{inc}} \rangle] \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\xrightarrow{\omega \to 0} \left[\begin{bmatrix} \langle O_{u}; \frac{1}{4\pi R}, O_{v} \rangle \end{bmatrix} \right] 0$$

$$0 \left[\frac{1}{\varepsilon} \langle \nabla \cdot \star_{m}, \frac{1}{4\pi R}, \nabla \cdot \star_{n} \rangle \right] \left[\begin{bmatrix} I_{v}^{O} \end{bmatrix} \right] = \left[\begin{bmatrix} -\langle \Lambda_{v} \hat{\mathbf{n}}; \mathbf{H}^{\text{inc}} \rangle \end{bmatrix} \right] (\text{ or } \star \to \Lambda^{\text{tree}})$$

Summary of EFIE Low Frequency Treatment

- Split surface current **J** into a divergenceless and non-divergenceless part using loop and star (or tree) bases, respectively.
- Equate the EFIE's surface curl and quasi divergence parts by testing with loop and star (or tree) bases, respectively.
- The separated parts require frequency scaling the electrostatic limit exists.
- The electrostatic limit approximates the integral equation $-\nabla \Phi[q] = \mathbf{E}^{\mathrm{inc}}$ with constraint $\int q \, d\mathcal{S} = 0$, by the matrix equation $\left[\langle \nabla \cdot \bigstar_m, \frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon R}, \nabla \cdot \bigstar_n \rangle \right] \left[P_n^{\star} \right] = \langle \bigstar_m; \mathbf{E}^{\mathrm{inc}} \rangle$, where $\Phi[q]$ is the electrostatic scalar potential in terms of surface charge q, expanded as a superposition of charge dipoles to satisfy the constraint. Testing the equation with stars ensures no closed paths of the (conservative) electrostatic field are formed.
- The magneostatic limit approximates the integral equation $-(1/\mu)\hat{\mathbf{n}}\cdot\nabla\times\mathbf{A}[\mathbf{J}]=\hat{\mathbf{n}}\cdot\mathbf{H}^{\mathrm{inc}}$ with constraint $\nabla\cdot\mathbf{J}=0$, by the matrix equation $\left[-<\mathbf{O}_u;\frac{1}{4\pi R},\mathbf{O}_v>\right]\left[I_v^{\mathrm{O}}\right]=\left[<\Lambda_v\hat{\mathbf{n}};\mathbf{H}^{\mathrm{inc}}>\right]$, where $\mathbf{A}[\mathbf{J}]$ is the magnetostatic vector potential as a function of the associated surface current \mathbf{J} expanded in divergence less loop bases to satisfy the constraint.

Helmholtz Decomposition of Electric Field

Vector wave equation:

$$\nabla \times \mu_r^{-1} \nabla \times \mathbf{E} - \omega^2 \mu_0 \varepsilon_0 \varepsilon_r \mathbf{E} = -j\omega \mu_0 \mathbf{J}, \quad \mathbf{r} \in \mathcal{D} = \mathcal{S} (2 - D) \text{ or } \mathcal{V} (3 - D)$$

• E - field splitting:

$$\mathbf{E} = \mathbf{E}^{\mathsf{o}} + \mathbf{E}^{\bigstar}$$

Low frequency behavior :

$$\mathbf{J} \xrightarrow{\omega \to 0} \mathbf{J}^{\circ} \qquad \qquad \Rightarrow \boxed{\mathbf{J}^{\circ} = \mathcal{O}(1) \text{ (real)}}$$

$$q = \frac{\nabla \cdot \mathbf{J}^{\star}}{-i\omega} = \mathcal{O}(1) \text{ (real) } \Rightarrow \boxed{\mathbf{J}^{\star} = \mathcal{O}(\omega) \text{ (imaginary)}}$$

Dual Star Basis Representation

• We can write a *dual* star basis \bigstar_{v} about an interior vertex v containing \mathcal{D}^{e} in its support, supp \bigstar_{v} , and with the i - th local vertex of \mathcal{D}^{e} corresponding to vertex v, as

$$\bigstar_{v} = O_{v} \times \hat{\mathbf{n}} = \frac{\Omega_{i-1}^{e}}{\ell_{i-1}} - \frac{\Omega_{i+1}^{e}}{\ell_{i+1}} = \frac{\hat{\mathbf{h}}_{i}}{h_{i}}, \quad \mathbf{r} \in \mathcal{D}^{e} \subset \operatorname{supp} \bigstar_{v}$$

but perhaps most useful is

$$\bigstar_{v} = -\nabla \xi, \quad \mathbf{r} \in \mathcal{D}^{e} \subset \operatorname{supp} \bigstar_{v}$$

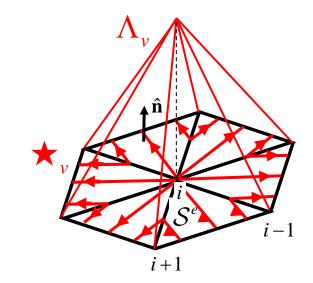
- Note $\nabla \times \bigstar_{v} = -\nabla \times \nabla \xi = 0$, i.e. \bigstar_{v} is curl free.
- For an arbitrary, continuous vector \mathbf{A} on \mathcal{D}^e , we have

$$-\int_{\mathcal{D}^e} \nabla \xi \cdot \mathbf{A} \, d\mathcal{D} = \int_{\mathcal{D}^e} (\xi_i \, \nabla \cdot \mathbf{A}) \, d\mathcal{D} - \oint_{\partial \mathcal{D}^e} \xi_i \mathbf{A} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{n}} \, d\mathcal{B}$$



$$\langle \bigstar_{v}; \mathbf{A} \rangle = \int_{\mathcal{D}} \bigstar_{v} \cdot \mathbf{A} d\mathcal{D} = \int_{\mathcal{D}} (\Lambda_{v} \nabla \cdot \mathbf{A}) d\mathcal{D} = \langle \Lambda_{v}, \nabla \cdot \mathbf{A} \rangle$$

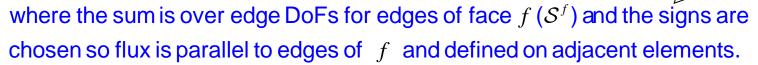
where $\Lambda_v = \xi_i$, $\mathbf{r} \in \mathcal{D}^e \subset \operatorname{supp} \bigstar_v$ is the scalar rooftop function with peak at node v. Hence, testing a continuous vector with a star function is equivalent to averaging its rooftop - weighted divergence over the star's support.



Dual Loop Basis Representations

Dual loop bases are not uniquely defined; two possible definitions are /

$$O_f = \sum_n \sigma_{fn}^* \Omega_n, \quad \sigma_{fn}^* = \pm 1 \quad \text{or} \quad \sigma_{fn}^* = \pm \frac{1}{\ell_n}$$



• We note that only F-1 of the star bases are independent since

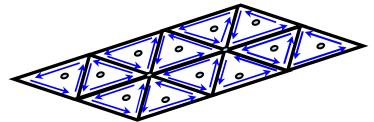
$$\sum_{n=1}^{\mathsf{F}} \mathsf{O}_n = 0.$$

The curl of loop bases may be simply defined by

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{O}_f = \sum_n \sigma_{fn}^{\star} \nabla \times \mathbf{\Omega}_n$$



$$\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}') \approx \sum_{n=1}^{F-1} P_n^{\mathsf{O}} \mathbf{O}_n + \frac{1}{j\omega} \sum_{v=1}^{V-B} V_v^{\star} \bigstar_v$$



Loop- and Star-Tested Helmholtz Eq.

Testing Helholtz Eq. with a star basis ★;:

• Now expand the field in terms of loop and star bases:

$$\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r'}) \approx \sum_{n=1}^{F-1} V_n^{\star} \bigstar_n + \frac{1}{j\omega} \sum_{v=1}^{V-B} P_v^{O} O_v$$

$$\mathbf{J}(\mathbf{r'}) \approx \sum_{v=1}^{V-B} I_v^{O} O_v + j\omega \sum_{n=1}^{F-1} P_n^{\text{star}} \bigstar_n$$

Substitute into the Helmholtz and Poisson's eqs. and test with loop bases, yielding

$$\begin{bmatrix} [\langle \mathsf{O}_{u}; G, \mathsf{O}_{v} \rangle] & j\omega[\langle \mathsf{O}_{u}; G, \bigstar_{n} \rangle] \\ j\omega\mu[\langle \bigstar_{m}; G, \mathsf{O}_{v} \rangle] & \left[\frac{1}{\varepsilon} \langle \nabla \cdot \bigstar_{m}, G, \nabla \cdot \bigstar_{n} \rangle - \omega^{2}\mu \langle \bigstar_{m}; G, \bigstar_{n} \rangle \right] \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} [I_{v}^{\mathsf{O}}] \\ [P_{n}^{\star}] \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} [-\langle \Lambda_{v} \hat{\mathbf{n}}; \mathbf{H}^{\mathrm{inc}} \rangle] \\ [\langle \bigstar_{m}; \mathbf{E}^{\mathrm{inc}} \rangle] \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\xrightarrow{\omega \to 0} \begin{bmatrix} \left\{ \right] & 0 \\ 0 & \left[\frac{1}{\varepsilon} <\nabla \cdot \bigstar_{m}, \frac{1}{4\pi R}, \nabla \cdot \bigstar_{n} > \right] \begin{bmatrix} \left[I_{v}^{O} \right] \\ \left[P_{n}^{\text{star}} \right] \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \left[-<\Lambda_{v} \hat{\mathbf{n}}; \mathbf{H}^{\text{inc}} > \right] \\ \left[<\bigstar_{m}; \mathbf{E}^{\text{inc}} > \right] \end{bmatrix} \text{ (or } \bigstar \to \Lambda^{\text{tree}} \text{)}$$

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