

# 1 Differential forms

Before we define differential forms, let us start by revising some basics from differential geometry. We follow the approach from [2, Sec. II.5]. It should be noted that there are different definitions of tangent space, but these lead to isomorphic notions (see e.g. [3, Sec. 1.B]). Let  $M$  be a smooth manifold without boundary. For a point  $p \in M$  and a neighborhood  $U$  we call a function  $f : U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  differentiable if for a local chart  $\phi : U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^k$  we have that  $f \circ \phi^{-1}$  is differentiable at  $\phi(p)$ .

Let  $I \subseteq \mathbb{R}$  be an interval containing 0 and  $\gamma : I \rightarrow M$  be a differentiable curve with  $\gamma(0) = p \in M$ . For a differentiable  $f : U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  we define the directional derivative  $D_\gamma(f) := \frac{d}{dt}f(\gamma(t))|_{t=0}$ . We call the functional  $D_\gamma : C^1(U) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  tangent vector. With the help of a local chart  $\phi$  we can now express these derivations by

$$D_\gamma(f) = \frac{d}{dt}f(\gamma(t))|_{t=0} = \frac{d}{dt}(f \circ \phi^{-1} \circ \phi)(\gamma(t))|_{t=0} \quad (1.0.1)$$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^k \frac{\partial(f \circ \phi^{-1})}{\partial x_i}(\phi(p)) \frac{d}{dt}[\phi^{-1}(\gamma(t))]_i|_{t=0} = \left(\sum_{i=1}^k v_i \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i}\right)(f). \quad (1.0.2)$$

In the last step, we abused the location by denoting by  $f$  also the corresponding expression in local coordinates i.e.  $f \circ \phi^{-1}$ . This way we identified  $D_\gamma$  with  $v \in \mathbb{R}^k$  by  $v_i := \frac{d}{dt}[\phi^{-1}(\gamma(t))]_i|_{t=0}$ . If we use a curve  $\tilde{\gamma}$  s.t.  $D_{\tilde{\gamma}} = D_\gamma$  and the same local chart  $\phi$  then we obtain the same vector so this identification is unique.

Our goal is to study the homogeneous magnetostatic problem on the exterior domain of a triangulated torus. That means that for the unbounded domain  $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{R}^3$  we have  $\mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \Omega$  is a triangulated torus. We also need a piecewise straight (i.e. triangulated) closed curve around the torus. **(TBD: Define the "triangulated torus" more rigorous)**

Let  $B$  be a magnetic field on the domain  $\Omega$ . We have the following boundary value problem:

$$\text{curl } B = 0, \quad (1.0.3)$$

$$\text{div } B = 0 \text{ in } \Omega \quad (1.0.4)$$

$$B \cdot n = 0 \text{ on } \partial\Omega \text{ and} \quad (1.0.5)$$

$$\int_\gamma B \cdot dl = C_0 \quad (1.0.6)$$

where  $n$  is the outward normal vector field on  $\partial\Omega$  and  $C_0 \in \mathbb{R}$ . We want to prove existence and uniqueness of solutions. In order to do so we will need

to introduce Sobolev spaces of differential forms and basics from simplicial topology **among other things...**

At first, let us introduce some basic notions about differential forms. We follow the brief introduction given by Arnold (cf. [1, Sec. 6.1]), but less details will be given.

## 1.1 Alternating maps

Let  $V$  be a real vector space with  $\dim V = n$ . Then  $k$ -linear maps are of the form

$$\omega : \underbrace{V \times V \times \dots \times V}_{k \text{ times}} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

that are linear in every component. We call a  $k$ -linear form *alternating* if the sign switches when two arguments are exchanged i.e.

$$\omega(v_1, \dots, v_i, \dots, v_j, \dots, v_k) = -\omega(v_1, \dots, v_j, \dots, v_i, \dots, v_k), \text{ for } 1 \leq i < j \leq k, \quad v_1, \dots, v_k \in V.$$

Denote the space of alternating maps by  $\text{Alt}^k V$ .

For  $\omega \in \text{Alt}^k V$ ,  $\mu \in \text{Alt}^l V$  we define the wedge product  $\omega \wedge \mu \in \text{Alt}^{k+l} V$

$$(\omega \wedge \mu)(v_1, \dots, v_k, v_{k+1}, \dots, v_{k+l}) = \sum_{\pi} \text{sgn}(\pi) \omega(v_{\pi(1)}, \dots, v_{\pi(k)}) \mu(v_{\pi(k+1)}, \dots, v_{\pi(k+l)})$$

where we sum over all permutations  $\pi : \{1, \dots, k+l\} \rightarrow \{1, \dots, k+l\}$  s.t.  $\pi(1) < \dots < \pi(k)$  and  $\pi(k+1) < \dots < \pi(k+l)$ . This definition is not very intuitive. **TBD: Examples in 3D.**

Let  $\{u_i\}_{i=1}^n$  be any basis of  $V$  and  $\{u^i\}_{i=1}^n$  the corresponding dual basis i.e.  $u^i : V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,  $u^i(u_j) = \delta_{ij}$ . Then

$$\{u^{i_1} \wedge u^{i_2} \wedge \dots \wedge u^{i_k} \mid 1 \leq i_1 < \dots < i_k \leq n\}$$

is a basis of  $\text{Alt}^k V$ . In particular,  $\dim \text{Alt}^k V = \binom{n}{k}$ .

Given an inner product  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_V$  on  $V$  we obtain an inner product on  $\text{Alt}^k V$  by defining

$$\langle u^{i_1} \wedge u^{i_2} \wedge \dots \wedge u^{i_k}, u^{j_1} \wedge \dots \wedge u^{j_k} \rangle_{\text{Alt}^k V} := \det [(\langle u_{i_k}, u_{i_l} \rangle_V)_{1 \leq k, l \leq n}]$$

which is then extended to all of  $\text{Alt}^k V$  by linearity. We denote with  $\|\cdot\|_{\text{Alt}^k V}$  the induced norm. From this definition it follows directly that for an orthonormal basis  $b_1, \dots, b_n$  the corresponding basis  $b^{i_1} \wedge b^{i_2} \wedge \dots \wedge b^{i_k}$ ,  $1 \leq i_1 < \dots < i_k \leq n$  is an orthonormal basis of  $\text{Alt}^k V$ .

$\text{Alt}^n V$  is one-dimensional and so can choose a basis by fixing a specific non-zero element. We say that two orthonormal bases of  $V$  have the same orientation if the change of basis has positive determinant. That divides the orthonormal bases into two classes with different orientation. We choose one of these classes and call these orthonormal bases positively oriented. In  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , the convention is to define the class as positively oriented which includes the standard orthonormal basis. Take  $\omega \in \text{Alt}^n V$ . Then  $\omega(b_1, \dots, b_n)$  is the same for any positively oriented orthonormal basis. We now define the *volume form*  $\text{vol} \in \text{Alt}^n V$  by requiring it to be 1 on all positively oriented orthonormal bases. Using this volume form we can now define the *Hodge star operator*  $\star : \text{Alt}^k V \rightarrow \text{Alt}^{n-k} V$  via the property

$$\omega \wedge \mu = \langle \star \omega, \mu \rangle_{\text{Alt}^{n-k} V} \text{vol} \quad \forall \omega \in \text{Alt}^k V, \mu \in \text{Alt}^{n-k} V.$$

The Hodge star is an isometry, we have  $\star \star = (-1)^{k(n-k)} \text{Id}$  and

$$\omega \wedge \star \mu = \langle \omega, \mu \rangle_{\text{Alt}^k V} \text{vol} \quad \forall \omega, \mu \in \text{Alt}^k V.$$

In particular in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ , we have  $\star \star = \text{Id}$  i.e.  $\star$  is self-inverse.

$\text{Alt}^0 V$  is just  $\mathbb{R}$  by definition. So the Hodge star now gives us a natural isomorphism from  $\text{Alt}^n V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ . We call the real number that is associated with an element of  $\text{Alt}^n V$  *scalar proxy*. Similarly we have that  $\text{Alt}^1 V = V'$ , the usual dual space of  $V$ . Because  $V$  is finite-dimensional we know that  $V \cong V'$  using the Riesz representation. Then with the help of the Hodge star we obtain a natural isomorphism from  $\text{Alt}^{n-1} V \rightarrow V$ . We call the vector corresponding to a 1- or  $(n-1)$ -alternating map *vector proxy*.

Note that for  $n = 2$  the situation is slightly ambiguous, see [1, p.67]. But this case will not be relevant in this thesis.

Let us take a closer look at the case of  $V = \mathbb{R}^3$  with the standard basis vectors  $e_1, e_2$  and  $e_3$ . Denote the resulting elements of the dual basis with  $dx^i$ . Then for some  $v \in V$  we get the corresponding 1-alternating map  $v_1 dx^1 + v_2 dx^2 + v_3 dx^3 \in \text{Alt}^1$  and the 2-alternating map  $v_1 dx^2 \wedge dx^3 - v_2 dx^1 \wedge dx^3 + v_3 dx^1 \wedge dx^2 \in \text{Alt}^2$ . For the scalar proxies, take  $c \in \mathbb{R}$ . Then  $c \in \text{Alt}^0$  of course and because we have  $\text{vol} = dx^1 \wedge dx^2 \wedge dx^3$  we get the corresponding  $c dx^1 \wedge dx^2 \wedge dx^3 \in \text{Alt}^3$ .

We can now use this relation to investigate the meaning of the wedge product for vector proxies. Let us denote  $\Phi^k$  as the isomorphism to the  $k$ -alternating map with this scalar or vector as proxy. Let  $v, w \in \mathbb{R}^3$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi^1 v \wedge \Phi^1 w &= \Phi^2(v \times w) \text{ and} \\ \Phi^1 v \wedge \Phi^2 w &= \Phi^3(v \cdot w). \end{aligned}$$

Note that for a 0-alternating map (i.e. a scalar) the wedge product is nothing but the vector-scalar multiplication.

So in 3 dimensions, we can always relate the operations of differential forms to the operations of the corresponding proxies.

## 1.2 Differential forms

Before we define differential forms, let us start by revising some basics from differential geometry. We follow the approach from [2, Sec. II.5]. It should be noted that there are different definitions of tangent space, but these lead to isomorphic notions (see e.g. [3, Sec. 1.B]). Let  $M$  be a smooth manifold without boundary. For a point  $p \in M$  and a neighborhood  $U$  we call a function  $f : U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  differentiable if for a local chart  $\phi : U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^k$  we have that  $f \circ \phi^{-1}$  is differentiable at  $\phi(p)$ . Note that we assume that our manifold is differentiable so all chart transitions are differentiable and thus this definition is independent of the chosen chart.

Let  $I \subseteq \mathbb{R}$  be an interval containing 0 and  $\gamma : I \rightarrow M$  be a differentiable curve with  $\gamma(0) = p \in M$ . For a differentiable  $f : U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  we define the directional derivative  $D_\gamma(f) := \frac{d}{dt}f(\gamma(t))|_{t=0}$ . We call the functional  $D_\gamma : C^1(U) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  tangent vector. Let us fix a chart  $\phi : U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  and let us define

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x_i}|_p : C^1(U) \rightarrow \mathbb{R} f \mapsto \frac{\partial(f \circ \phi^{-1})}{\partial x_i}(\phi(p)).$$

The value depend in general on the chosen chart. With the help of a local chart  $\phi$  we can now express these derivations by

$$D_\gamma(f) = \frac{d}{dt}f(\gamma(t))|_{t=0} = \frac{d}{dt}(f \circ \phi^{-1} \circ \phi)(\gamma(t))|_{t=0} \quad (1.2.1)$$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^k \frac{\partial(f \circ \phi^{-1})}{\partial x_i}(\phi(p)) \phi^{-1} \circ (\gamma)_i'(0) \quad (1.2.2)$$

$$= \left( \sum_{i=1}^k \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i}|_p \phi^{-1} \circ (\gamma)_i'(0) \right) (f) \quad (1.2.3)$$

Thus we can express

$$D_\gamma = \sum_{i=1}^k \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i}|_p \phi^{-1} \circ (\gamma)_i'(0).$$

So we have that  $T_p M = \text{span} \left\{ \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \Big|_p \right\}$ . We will show that this indeed a basis. Assume we have  $\sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \Big|_p = 0$  Then because  $\phi_j \circ \phi^{-1}(x) = x_j$  for  $x \in \phi(U)$  and  $1 \leq j \leq n$ . Then we have

$$0 = \left( \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \Big|_p \right) (\phi_j) = \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i \frac{\partial x_j}{\partial x_i} (\phi(p)) = \lambda_j$$

so  $\left\{ \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \Big|_p \right\}$  is linearly independent and thus a basis of  $T_p M$ .

**Definition 1.2.1** (Differential forms). A differential  $k$ -form  $\omega$  is a maps any point  $p \in M$  to a alternating  $k$ -linear mapping  $\omega_p \in \text{Alt}^k T_p M$ . We denote the space of differential  $k$ -forms on  $M$  as  $\Lambda^k M$ .

Let  $T_p^* M$  be the dual space of  $T_p M$  which is usually called *cotangent space*. As before let us choose a local chart  $\phi : U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  with  $p \in U$  and define  $\frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \Big|_p$  as before. Because we know that this is a basis of  $T_p M$  we denote the corresponding dual basis as  $dx^i$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, n$ . From the consideration about alternating maps from section ?? we can now write any  $\omega \in \Lambda^k M$  with

$$\omega_p = \sum_{1 \leq i_1 < \dots < i_k \leq n} a_{i_1, \dots, i_k}(p) dx^{i_1} \wedge dx^{i_2} \wedge \dots \wedge dx^{i_k}$$

with  $a_{i_1, \dots, i_k}(p) \in \mathbb{R}$ . The regularity of differential forms is then defined via the regularity of these coefficients i.e. we call a differential form smooth if all the  $a_{i_1, \dots, i_k}$  are smooth and we call a differential form differentiable if all the  $a_{i_1, \dots, i_k}$  are differentiable and so on. We denote the space  $C^\infty \Lambda^k M$  the space of smooth differential  $k$ -forms and analogous for other regularity.

$C_0^\infty \Lambda^k(M)$  are the smooth compactly supported differential forms which will become very crucial later when we discuss Sobolev spaces of differential forms (see Sec. ??). Note that the support is not defined via the coefficient functions as above, but directly on the manifold i.e.  $\text{supp } \omega = \overline{\{p \in M \mid \omega_p \neq 0\}} \subseteq M$  where the closure is w.r.t. the topology on  $M$ .

In order to define the Hodge star and an inner product on differential forms we need that  $T_p M$  is an inner product space.

A Riemannian metric gives us at every point  $p \in M$  a symmetric, positive definite bilinear form  $g_p : T_p M \times T_p M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ . Additionally, a Riemannian metric is assumed to be smooth in the sense that for smooth vector fields  $X$  and  $Y$  we have  $p \mapsto g_p(X, Y)$  is a smooth function. The degree of smoothness depends on the context. For example, for a differentiable manifold it is only required to be differentiable as well. **More details...** Manifolds on which a Riemannian metric is defined are called *Riemannian manifolds*. The

Riemannian metric provides us with the inner product on every tangent space  $T_p M$ .

Now we will move on to differential forms on a smooth, oriented, Riemannian manifold  $M$  of dimension  $n$  with or without boundary. We denote the Riemannian metric by  $g$ . Let  $p \in M$  and  $T_p M$  be the tangent space at the point  $p$ . Due to our assumptions on  $M$ , this is an inner product space of dimension  $n$  and we can apply all of the constructions from the previous chapter [Are you sure?](#). We have a volume form  $\text{vol}$  on  $M$  so the previous constructions using the Hodge star operator are well-defined. [3].

We define the Hodge star operator to differential forms  $\star : \Lambda^k(\Omega) \rightarrow \Lambda^{n-k}(\Omega)$  simply by applying it pointwise. In order for the Hodge star to be well-defined the assumption of an orientation on our manifold is crucial. We do the same for the exterior product to get  $\wedge : \Lambda^k \times \Lambda^l \rightarrow \Lambda^{k+l}$ .

Next, we will define integration of an  $n$ -form over an  $n$  dimensional manifold. At first, we do so for an open set  $U \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ . This is the simplest example of an  $n$ -dimensional manifold where we only have one chart which is the identify and the local coordinates are just our standard coordinates. Let  $\omega$  be an  $n$ -form on  $U$  so we can write

$$\omega_x = f(x)dx_1 \wedge dx_2 \wedge \dots \wedge dx_n$$

for  $x \in U$ . We can now simply define

$$\int_U \omega = \int_U f(x)dx.$$

With this definition at hand we can now extend this definition to any smooth oriented  $n$ -dimensional manifold  $M$ . As it is often done in differential geometry we will work locally first and then extend this construction globally by using a partition of unity.

Let  $(U, \phi)$  be a chart on  $M$  and assume  $\text{supp } \omega \subseteq U$ . Then  $(\phi^{-1})^* \omega$  is a  $n$ -form on  $\phi(U) \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$  and we can apply our prior definition. So now we just define

$$\int_M \omega := \int_{\phi(U)} (\phi^{-1})^* \omega.$$

It can be shown that this definition does not depend on the chart if we choose the atlas corresponding to the orientation of the manifold.

Now let us move on to the global definition. Let  $\{(U_i, \phi_i)\}_{i=1}^\infty$  be a oriented atlas and let  $\{\xi_i\}_{i=1}^\infty$  be a partition of unity subordinate to it. Then  $\text{supp } \xi_i \omega \subseteq U_i$  and we define

$$\int_M \omega := \sum_{i=1}^\infty \int_M \xi_i \omega.$$

This definition is also independent of the chosen chart and partition of unity. We will omit the proof. **In Bredon this is defined only for differentiable functions but Arnold uses this in a  $L^2$  setting. So there must be a way to generalize the ideas of integrability etc.**

Now that we defined integration we will also introduce a natural way to differentiate differential forms. Let  $\omega \in \Lambda^k(M)$  be given in local coordinates with some chart  $(U, \phi)$  as above i.e.

$$\omega_p = \sum_{1 \leq i_1 < \dots < i_k \leq n} a_{i_1, \dots, i_k}(p) dx^{i_1} \wedge dx^{i_2} \wedge \dots \wedge dx^{i_k}$$

Then we define the exterior derivative  $d : \Lambda^k(M) \rightarrow \Lambda^{k+1}(M)$ .  
By

$$(d\omega)_p = \sum_{1 \leq i_1 < \dots < i_k \leq n} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\partial a_{i_1, \dots, i_k}}{\partial x_i}(\phi(p)) dx^i \wedge dx^{i_1} \wedge dx^{i_2} \wedge \dots \wedge dx^{i_k}$$

As the other definitions above this is also independent of the chosen chart.

If the manifold is oriented and we have thus a Hodge star operator. Then we define the *codifferential operator*  $\delta := (-1)^{n(k-1)+1} \star d \star$  which is then an operator  $\Lambda^k(M) \rightarrow \Lambda^{k-1}(M)$ .

The exterior derivative and the codifferential both require the differential form to be differentiable. Later we will extend this in weak sense so classical differentiability is no longer required (see ??).

Then we define the  $L_p$ -norm of a  $k$ -form  $\omega$  for  $1 \leq p < \infty$  as (cf. [4])

$$\|\omega\|_{L_p^k(\Omega)} := \left( \int_{\Omega} \|\omega(x)\|_{\text{Alt}^k}^p dx \right)^{1/p}$$

and for  $p = \infty$  as

$$\text{ess sup}_{x \in \Omega} \|\omega(x)\|_{\text{Alt}^k}.$$

$L_p^k(\Omega)$  are the spaces of  $k$ -forms s.t. the corresponding  $L_p$ -norm is finite. For  $p = 2$  we obtain a Hilbert space (cf. [1, Sec. 6.2.6]) with the  $L_2$  inner product

$$\langle \omega, \nu \rangle := \int_{\Omega} \langle \omega(x), \nu(x) \rangle_{\text{Alt}^k} dx = \int_{\Omega} \omega \wedge \star \nu \quad (1.2.4) \quad \{\text{eq: def\_inner\_pr}$$

**Proposition 1.2.2.** *The Hodge star operator  $\star : L_2^k(\Omega) \rightarrow L_2^{n-k}(\Omega)$  is a Hilbert space isometry.*

*Proof.* This follows directly from the definition of the inner product (1.2.4) and the fact that  $\star$  is an isometry when applied to alternating forms  $\text{Alt}^k$ .  $\square$

Our next goal is to extend the exterior derivative  $d$  of smooth differential forms in the weak sense (cf. [4]). Let  $\overset{\circ}{d} : L_2^k(\Omega) \rightarrow L_2^{k+1}(\Omega)$  be the exterior derivative as an unbounded operator with domain  $D(\overset{\circ}{d}) = C_0^\infty \Lambda^k(\Omega)$  which are the smooth compactly supported differential forms  $\varphi$  of degree  $k$  with  $\text{supp } \varphi \subseteq \text{int } M$ .

Note that when we talk about smoothness or regularity of differential forms we always mean the regularity of the coefficients when the form is expressed via local charts.

Analogous, let  $\overset{\circ}{\delta} : L_2^k(\Omega) \rightarrow L_2^{k-1}(\Omega)$  be the codifferential operator  $\overset{\circ}{\delta} := (-1)^{n(k-1)+1} \star \overset{\circ}{d} \star$  also with domain  $C_0^\infty \Lambda^k(\Omega)$ .

Then the exterior derivative  $d\omega \in L_p^{k+1}(\Omega)$  is defined as the unique  $(k+1)$ -form in  $L_p^{k+1}(\Omega)$  s.t.

$$\int_{\Omega} d\omega \wedge \star \phi = \int_{\Omega} \omega \wedge \star \overset{\circ}{\delta} \phi \quad \forall \phi \in C_0^\infty \Lambda^k(\Omega).$$

Just as in the usual Sobolev setting we define the following spaces:

$$\begin{aligned} W_p^k(\Omega) &= \{ \omega \in L_p^k(\Omega) \mid d\omega \in L_p^{k+1}(\Omega) \}, \\ W_{p,loc}^k(\Omega) &= \{ \omega \text{ } k\text{-form} \mid \omega|_A \in W_p^k(A) \text{ for every open } A \subseteq \Omega \text{ s.t. } \overline{A} \subseteq \Omega \text{ is compact} \}. \end{aligned}$$

For  $\omega \in W_p^k(\Omega)$  for  $p < \infty$  we define the norm

$$\|\omega\|_{W_p^k(\Omega)} := \left( \|\omega\|_{L_p^k(\Omega)}^p + \|d\omega\|_{L_p^{k+1}(\Omega)}^p \right)^{1/p}$$

and for  $p = \infty$

$$\|\omega\|_{W_\infty^k} := \max \{ \|\omega\|_{L_\infty^k}, \|d\omega\|_{L_\infty^{k+1}} \}.$$

**Remark 1.2.3.** Throughout this thesis, we will mostly deal with open subdomains  $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$  with Lipschitz boundary. Then  $\Omega$  is a smooth submanifold of  $\mathbb{R}^n$  and  $\overline{\Omega}$  is a Lipschitz manifold with boundary. If we now assume that  $\Omega = \text{int } \overline{\Omega}$  then  $W_p^k(\Omega)$  and  $W_p^k(\overline{\Omega})$  are essentially the same. Take  $\omega \in W_p^k(\Omega)$  and extend it arbitrarily to  $\overline{\omega} \in W_p^k(\overline{\Omega})$ . Then because  $\partial\Omega$  is a null set  $\overline{\omega} \in L_2^k(\overline{\Omega})$  and because the definition of the exterior derivative uses only smooth functions with compact support contained in  $\text{int } \overline{\Omega} = \Omega$  we get that  $d\overline{\omega} = d\omega \in L_2^k(\overline{\Omega})$  (again by choosing arbitrary values on the boundary). From now on we will in the assumed setting treat the spaces  $W_p^k(\overline{\Omega})$  and  $W_p^k(\Omega)$  as the same.

{rem:identificat



**Definition 1.2.4** ( $L^p$ -cohomology). We define the following subspaces of  $W_p^k(\Omega)$ ,  $1 \leq p \leq \infty$ :

$$\begin{aligned}\mathfrak{B}_k &:= dW_p^{k-1}(\Omega) \text{ and} \\ \mathfrak{Z}_k &:= \{\omega \in W_p^k(\Omega) \mid d\omega = 0\}.\end{aligned}$$

We call the  $k$ -forms in  $\mathfrak{B}_k$  exact and the forms in  $\mathfrak{Z}_k$  closed. Because  $d \circ d = 0$  we always have  $\mathfrak{B}_k \subseteq \mathfrak{Z}_k$ . Then we define the de Rham- or  $L^p$ -cohomology space  $H_{p,dR}^k(\Omega)$  as the quotient space

$$H_{p,dR}^k(\Omega) := \mathfrak{Z}_k / \mathfrak{B}_k.$$

We want to examine the Hilbert space  $L_2^k(\Omega)$  more closely (see [1, Sec. 6.2.6] for more details). We denote  $H^k(d; \Omega) := W_2^k(\Omega)$ . If the domain is clear we will leave it out. Note that the above definition of the exterior derivative is in the Hilbert space setting equivalent to defining  $d$  as the adjoint of  $\mathring{d}$ .

In order to extend  $\mathring{d}$  as well, we will need the following

**Definition 1.2.5** (Codifferential operator). Analogous to the smooth case, we define the *codifferential operator* for any  $k$  as an unbounded operator  $\delta : L_2^k(\Omega) \rightarrow L_2^{k-1}$  as

$$\delta := (-1)^{n(k-1)+1} \star d \star$$

with domain

$$D(\delta) = \{\omega \in L_2^k(\Omega) \mid \star \omega \in H^{n-k}(d)\} =: H^k(\delta; \Omega).$$

**Proposition 1.2.6.**  $\delta = \mathring{d}^*$  i.e.  $\delta$  is the adjoint of  $\mathring{d}$ .

*Proof.* Denote with  $D(\mathring{d}^*) \subseteq L_2^{k-1}(\Omega)$  the domain of the adjoint. Now take  $\omega \in H^k(\delta)$  and  $\phi \in C_0^\infty \Lambda^k(\Omega)$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned}\langle \delta \omega, \phi \rangle &= (-1)^{nk+1} \langle \star d \star \omega, \phi \rangle \\ &= (-1)^{nk+1} (-1)^{k(n-k)} \langle d \star \omega, \star \phi \rangle = (-1)^{nk+1} (-1)^{k(n-k)} \langle \star \omega, \mathring{d} \star \phi \rangle \\ &= (-1)^{nk+1} (-1)^{k(n-k)} (-1)^{n(n-k-1)+1} \langle \star \omega, \star \mathring{d} \star \phi \rangle \\ &= (-1)^{n(n-1)+2} (-1)^{k(n-k)} \langle \omega, \mathring{d} \star \phi \rangle \\ &= \langle \omega, \mathring{d} \phi \rangle\end{aligned}$$

where we used repeatedly that  $\star$  is an isometry and  $\star\star = (-1)^{k(n-k)}\text{Id}$ . This shows that  $H^{k+1}(\delta) \subseteq D(\mathring{d}^*)$  and that  $\mathring{d}^*\omega = \delta\omega$ . Now for the other inclusion assume that  $\omega \in D(\mathring{d}^*)$  and take  $\phi \in C_0^\infty \Lambda^{n-k}(\Omega)$  arbitrary.

$$\langle \star\omega, \mathring{\delta}\phi \rangle = \pm \langle \omega, \mathring{d} \star \phi \rangle = \pm \langle \mathring{d}^*\omega, \star\phi \rangle = \pm \langle \star\mathring{d}^*\omega, \phi \rangle.$$

Here we use  $\pm$  to mean that we choose the sign correctly, s.t. all the operations are correct. Then by choosing the sign appropriately we find that  $\pm \star \mathring{d}^*\omega = \mathring{d} \star \omega$  and therefore  $\star\omega \in H^{n-k-1}(d)$  so we proved  $D(\mathring{d}^*) \subseteq H^{k+1}(\delta)$  and we are done.  $\square$

In order to deal with the boundary of our domain we introduce Homogeneous boundary conditions for these Sobolev spaces of differential forms.

**Definition 1.2.7** (Zero boundary condition). We say that  $\omega \in H^k(d; \Omega)$  has zero boundary condition if

$$\langle d\omega, \chi \rangle_{L_2^{k+1}(\Omega)} = \langle \omega, \delta\chi \rangle_{L_2^k(\Omega)} \quad \forall \chi \in H^{k+1}(\delta; \Omega).$$

Denote  $\mathring{H}^k(d; \Omega) := \{\omega \in H^k(d; \Omega) \mid \omega \text{ has zero boundary condition}\}$ .

Of course we should justify why this is a reasonable definition. If  $\Omega$  is lipschitz and bounded we have the integration by parts formula (cf. [1, Thm. 6.3])

$$\int_{\Omega} d\omega \wedge \mu = (-1)^k \int_{\Omega} \omega \wedge d\mu + \int_{\partial\Omega} \text{tr } \mu \wedge \text{tr } \omega \quad \text{for } \omega \in H^1 \Lambda^k(\Omega), \mu \in H^{n-k-1}(d; \Omega)$$

where  $H^1 \Lambda^k(\Omega)$  are the differential forms with all coefficients being in  $H^1(\Omega)$  (here we mean just the standard Sobolev space). Let now  $\omega \in \mathring{H}^k(d)$ . Then if we use the integration by parts formula and  $\langle d\omega, \mu \rangle_{L^{k+1}(\Omega)} = \langle \omega, \delta\mu \rangle_{L^k(\Omega)}$  we get after some computation using the Hodge star

$$\langle \text{tr } \omega, \star \text{tr } \star \mu \rangle_{L^k(\Omega)} = 0 \quad \forall \mu \in H^1 \Lambda^k(\Omega).$$

The trace operator  $\text{tr} : H^1 \Lambda^k(\Omega) \rightarrow H^{1/2} \Lambda^k(\Omega)$  is surjective [1, Thm. 6.1].

$$\star \text{tr } \star H^1 \Lambda^{k+1}(\Omega) = \star \text{tr } H^1 \Lambda^{n-k-1}(\Omega) = \star H^{1/2} \Lambda^{n-k-1}(\Omega) = H^{1/2} \Lambda^k(\Omega)$$

is dense in  $L_2^k(\Omega)$ . Thus  $\text{tr } \omega = 0$ . So in the case of bounded Lipschitz domains this definition is reasonable. The reason why we chose to define it as in Def. 1.2.7 is that is easily extendible to unbounded domains and the regularity of the boundary is not an issue.

Then we define the spaces

$$\begin{aligned} H_0^k(d; \Omega) &:= \{\omega \in H^k(d; \Omega) | d\omega = 0\} \\ \mathring{H}_0^k(d; \Omega) &:= \{\omega \in \mathring{H}^k(d; \Omega) | d\omega = 0\} \end{aligned}$$

i.e. the spaces of closed forms. We will use the analogous definition for  $H_0^k(\delta; \Omega)$  and  $\mathring{H}_0^k(\delta; \Omega)$  which we call coclosed forms. We then define the spaces of harmonic forms

$$\mathring{H}_0^k(d, \delta; \Omega) := \{\omega \in \mathring{H}^k(d; \Omega) | d\omega = 0, \delta\omega = 0\}.$$

With this one can prove the Hodge decomposition ([1, Lemma 1])

$$L_2^k(\Omega) = \overline{d\mathring{H}^{k-1}(d)} \overset{\perp}{\oplus} \mathring{H}_0^k(d, \delta) \overset{\perp}{\oplus} \overline{\delta H^{k+1}(\delta)} \quad (1.2.5) \quad \{\text{hodge\_decomposi}$$

and furthermore for the closed and coclosed forms respectively,

$$\mathring{H}_0^k(d) = \overline{d\mathring{H}^{k-1}(d)} \overset{\perp}{\oplus} \mathring{H}_0^k(d, \delta) \quad (1.2.6) \quad \{\text{decomposition\_c}$$

$$H_0^k(\delta) = \overline{\delta H^{k+1}(\delta)} \overset{\perp}{\oplus} \mathring{H}_0^k(d, \delta). \quad (1.2.7) \quad \{\text{decomposition\_c}$$

## 2 Simplicial topology

Before we can reformulate the boundary value problem in the language of differential forms we have to introduce some things from simplicial topology. This material is taken from [2] where a lot more details and results can be found.

### 2.1 Simplicial complex

**Definition 2.1.1** (Affine simplex). Let  $x_0, x_1, \dots, x_k \in \mathbb{R}^n$  be affine independent. Then

$$[x_0, x_1, \dots, x_k] := \text{conv}\{x_0, \dots, x_k\}$$

is called an affine  $k$ -simplex. With conv we mean the convex combination.

We will assume all simplices to be affine.

**Definition 2.1.2** (Simplicial complex). A *simplicial complex*  $K$  is a collection of affine simplices s.t.

1.  $\sigma \in K \Rightarrow$  any face of  $\sigma$  is in  $K$ ,

2.  $\sigma, \tau \in K \Rightarrow \sigma \cap \tau$  is either empty or a face of both  $\sigma$  and  $\tau$ .

We call  $|K| := \bigcup \{\sigma \mid \sigma \in K\}$  the polyhedron of  $K$  and we denote the set of all  $k$ -simplices as  $K^{(k)}$ .

For any topological space  $X$  a homeomorphism  $\tau : |K| \rightarrow X$  is called *triangulation* of  $X$ . Let  $\{x_1, x_2, \dots\}$  be the vertices in the simplicial complex  $K$ . We fix an ordering of the vertices for every simplex. That means for any  $k$  every  $k$  simplex  $\sigma$  has a designated representation in the form of

$$\sigma = [x_{i_0}, x_{i_1}, \dots, x_{i_k}].$$

**Definition 2.1.3** (Star). The *star* of a vertex  $x_i$  is the collection of all simplices  $\sigma \in K$  s.t.  $x_i$  is contained in  $\sigma$ .

We call a simplicial complex *star-bounded* for some number  $N$  if the star of any vertex contains at most  $N$  simplices.

**Does this imply quasi-regularity?** Star-boundedness will be a crucial assumption later (see Assumption ??). Now we will introduce algebraic structures on the simplicial complex.

**Definition 2.1.4** ( $k$ -chain). Let  $K$  be a simplicial complex. By  $C_k(K)$  we will denote the free abelian group on the  $k$ -simplices i.e. the abelian group of all formal finite sums

$$\sum_{\sigma} n_{\sigma} \sigma$$

with  $\sigma$  being  $k$ -simplices. The elements of  $C_k(K)$  (i.e. sums of the above form) are called  *$k$ -chains*.

**Definition 2.1.5** (Boundary). We have the *boundary operator*  $\partial_k : C_k(K) \rightarrow C_{k-1}(K)$ . We first define it for any simplex  $[x_{i_0}, x_{i_1}, \dots, x_{i_k}]$

$$\partial[x_{i_0}, x_{i_1}, \dots, x_{i_k}] := \sum_{j=0}^k (-1)^j [x_{i_0}, x_{i_1}, \dots, \hat{x}_{i_j}, \dots, x_{i_k}]$$

where  $[x_{i_0}, x_{i_1}, \dots, \hat{x}_{i_j}, \dots, x_{i_k}]$  is the simplex without vertex  $x_{i_j}$ . We then extend the definition of the boundary operator linearly to  $k$ -chains  $c = \sum_{\sigma} c_{\sigma} \sigma$  by

$$\partial c := \sum_{\sigma} c_{\sigma} \partial \sigma.$$

By convention we define  $\partial_0 = 0$ . We will leave out the index  $k$  if it is clear from the context or irrelevant.

A crucial property of the chain operator is the following.

**Proposition 2.1.6.**  $\partial \circ \partial = 0$ .

*Proof.* This can be proven by direct computation, analogous to [2, Chap. 4, Lemma 1.6]  $\square$

We can now generalize the notions of the chain groups by using factor groups. Let  $L \subseteq K$  be a simplicial complex which we will call simplicial subcomplex. Then we define the factor group

$$C_k(K, L) := C_k(K) / C_k(L).$$

We denote the elements of  $C_k(K, L)$  i.e. the equivalence class by  $\underline{c}$  for some  $c \in C_k(K)$ . Because  $L$  is a simplicial complex we have  $\partial_k c \in C_{k-1}(L)$  for any  $c \in C_k(L)$ . Thus it induces a homomorphism on the factor groups denoted by

$$\underline{\partial}_k : C_k(K, L) \rightarrow C_{k-1}(K, L), \underline{\partial}_k \underline{c} := \underline{\partial}_k c.$$

Note that  $C(K, L)$  generalizes the definition of  $C_k(K, L)$  because we can choose  $L = \emptyset$ . Then the abelian group on  $\emptyset$  is just  $\{0\}$  and thus  $C_k(K, L) = C_k(K)$ .

**Remark 2.1.7.** The last equality is technically not precise of course. However, for any group  $G$  with identity  $\iota$  the resulting factor group  $G / \{\iota\}$  every equivalence class  $\underline{g}$  would only include  $g$  itself so we can trivially identify  $G$  with  $G / \{\iota\}$  and we will do so from now on.

We want to investigate how we can understand  $\underline{c}$ .

**Proposition 2.1.8.** *Let  $c \in C_k(K)$  be arbitrary. Then*

$$\underline{c} = \underline{0} \leftrightarrow c = \sum_{\tau \in L} n_\tau \tau.$$

*As usual the right hand side is a finite sum. So for two  $k$ -chains  $c = \sum_\sigma n_\sigma \sigma \in C_k(K)$  and  $c' = \sum_\sigma n'_\sigma \sigma$  we have*

$$\underline{c} = \underline{c'} \leftrightarrow n_\sigma = n'_\sigma \quad \forall \sigma \in K \setminus L. \quad (2.1.1) \quad \{\text{eq:equivalence\_}\}$$

*Proof.*  $c \in \underline{0}$  is just equivalent to saying that  $c \in C_k(L)$  by definition of the factor group and thus we can write  $c = \sum_{\tau \in L} n_\tau \tau$ . (2.1.1) follows from that because  $\underline{c} = \underline{c'}$  is equivalent to  $\underline{c - c'} = \underline{0}$ .  $\square$

In this sense we can identify  $C_k(K, L)$  with formal sums of simplices in  $K^{(k)} \setminus L^{(k)}$ .

## 2.2 Simplicial (Co-)Homology

We call a  $k$ -chain  $\underline{c} \in C_k(K, L)$  a  $k$ -cycle if  $\partial \underline{c} = 0$  and we call  $\underline{c}$  a  $k$ -boundary if there exists  $\underline{d}$  s.t.  $\underline{c} = \partial \underline{d}$ . Let  $Z_k(K, L) = \ker \partial_k$  and  $B_k(K, L) = \text{im } \partial_{k-1}$ . We can now define the simplicial homology groups of our simplicial complex.

**Definition 2.2.1** (Simplicial homology). The relative homology groups  $H_k(K, L)$  are defined as

$$H_k(K) := Z_k(K, L) / B_k(K, L).$$

**Remark 2.2.2.** We call them relative homology group because we define them on the for  $C_k(K, L)$ . The standard homology groups  $H_k(K)$  (i.e. taking  $L = \emptyset$ ) are independent of the chosen triangulation of  $|K|$  [2, p.248] because they are isomorphic to the singular homology groups which only depend on  $|K|$ .

Let  $G$  be any abelian group. Then we define the group of  $k$ -cochains  $C^k(K, L; G)$  by

$$C^k(K, L; G) := \text{Hom}(C_k(K, L), G)$$

i.e. the group of all homomorphisms from  $C_k(K, L)$  to  $G$ . We generally use the superindex  $^k$  if something is related to cochains and the subindex  $_k$  if it is related to chains. We now introduce an operator between the groups of cochains.

$C^k(K, L; G)$  can be identified with the cochains that vanish on  $L$ .

**Proposition 2.2.3.** Define

$$\tilde{C}^k(K, L; G) := \{F \in C^k(K; G) \mid F(c) = 0 \quad \forall c \in C_k(L)\}.$$

Then any  $F \in \tilde{C}^k(K, L; G)$  induces an homomorphism  $\underline{F} \in C^k(K, L; G)$  and  $j : \tilde{C}^k(K, L; G) \rightarrow C^k(K, L; G)$ ,  $F \mapsto \underline{F}$  is an isomorphism.

*Proof.* Because  $C_k(L) \subseteq \ker F$  is a subgroup we get the induced homomorphism

$$\underline{F} : C_k(K, L) = C_k(K) / C_k(L) \rightarrow G / 0 = G.$$

**$j$  is injective.** Let  $\underline{F}(\underline{c}) = 0$  for every  $c \in C_k(K)$ . Then  $F(c) = \underline{F}(\underline{c}) = 0$  so  $F = 0$ .  **$j$  is surjective.** Let  $\varphi \in C^k(K, L; G)$  be arbitrary. Then define  $F \in \tilde{C}^k(K, L; G)$ ,  $F(c) := \varphi(\underline{c})$ . We first have to show that  $F \in \tilde{C}^k(K, L; G)$ . For any  $d \in C_k(L)$  we get  $\underline{d} = 0 \in C_k(K, L)$  and  $F(d) = 0$ . Then we have for any  $\underline{c} \in C_k(K, L)$ ,  $\underline{F}(\underline{c}) = F(c) = \varphi(\underline{c})$  i.e.  $\underline{F} = \varphi$  which proves surjectivity.  $\square$

{prop:relative\_c

**Proposition 2.2.4.**  $j$  as defined in Prop. 2.2.3 is a chain map.

*Proof.* Let  $F \in \tilde{C}^k(K, L)$  be arbitrary. Then

$$\underline{\partial}^k \underline{F}(\underline{c}) = \partial^k F(c) = F(\partial_k F) = \underline{F}(\underline{\partial}_k c) = \underline{F}(\underline{\partial}_k \underline{c}) = \underline{\partial}^k \underline{F}(\underline{c})$$

i.e.  $j \circ \partial^k = \underline{\partial}^k \circ j$  and  $j$  is a chain map.  $\square$

**Corollary 2.2.5.** The induced map  $[j] : H^k(K, L; G) \rightarrow \tilde{H}^k(K, L; G)$  is an isomorphism.

**Definition 2.2.6.** We define the operator  $\delta : C^k(K; G) \rightarrow C^{k+1}(K; G)$  via

$$(\delta f)(c) := f(\partial c).$$

for a  $(k+1)$ -chain  $c$ . We call a cochain  $f \in C^k(K; G)$  *closed* if  $\delta f = 0$  and we call  $f$  *exact* if there is a  $g \in C^{k+1}(K; G)$  s.t.  $f = \delta g$ .

We define the cohomology spaces analogous to homology spaces above.

**Definition 2.2.7** (Simplicial cohomology). Denote the closed  $k$ -cochains as  $Z^k(K; G)$  and the exact ones with  $B^k(K; G)$ . We then define the *simplicial cohomology groups*  $H^k(K)$  as

$$H^k(K; G) := Z^k(K; G) / B^k(K; G).$$

Note that in the case of  $G = \mathbb{R}$  this becomes a vector space. We will later show that if we consider certain subspaces of cochains so called *p-summable* cochains (see Def. ??) that the  $L_p$ -cohomology defined above and the cohomology spaces of these *p-summable* cochains are isomorphic.

Now of course there is the question how the homology and cohomology groups are related to each other. This question is answered by the *universal coefficient theorem*. But before we can formulate it we have to introduce exact sequences.

**Definition 2.2.8** (Exact sequence). Let  $(G_i)_{i \in \mathbb{Z}}$  be a sequence of groups and  $(f_i)_{i \in \mathbb{Z}}$  be a sequence of homomorphisms  $f_i : G_i \rightarrow G_{i+1}$ . Then this sequence of homomorphisms is called *exact* if  $\text{im } f_{i-1} = \ker f_i$ .

The universal coefficient theorem in the case of simplicial homology states that the sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \text{Ext}(H_{k-1}(K), G) \rightarrow H^k(K; G) \xrightarrow{\beta} \text{Hom}(H_k(K), G) \rightarrow 0 \quad (2.2.1) \quad \{\text{eq:universal\_coe}\}$$

is exact.  $\beta$  is defined via  $\beta([F])([c]) := F(c)$ . The definition of  $\text{Ext}$  can be found in [2], but it does not matter for our purpose because from now on we will assume  $G = \mathbb{R}$  and  $\text{Ext}(H_{k-1}(K), \mathbb{R}) = 0$ . This follows from the fact that  $\mathbb{R}$  is a divisible and hence injective abelian group. The definition these terms and the connections used can also be found in [2, Sec. V.6]. However, we will not dwelve into the algebraic background further. We can conclude from the exactness of the above short sequence that  $\ker \beta = 0$  and  $\text{im } \beta = \text{Hom}(H_k(K), \mathbb{R})$ . So  $\beta$  is a isomorphism.

## 2.3 Existence of uniqueness of cochain

As an application, we will show the following proposition which will be used later to show existence and uniqueness of a solution of the magnetostatic problem.

**Proposition 2.3.1.** *Assume that  $H_1(K, L) = \mathbb{Z}[\gamma]$  i.e. the homology class of the closed 1-chain  $\gamma$  is a generator of the first homology group. Then we have the following:*

- (i) *For any  $C_0 \in \mathbb{R}$  there exists a closed 1-chain  $F \in Z^1(K, L)$  with  $F(\gamma) = C_0$ ,*
- (ii) *any other  $G \in Z^1(K, L)$  with  $G(\gamma) = C_0$  is in the same cohomology class i.e.  $[F] = [G]$ .*

*Proof. Proof of (i)* Because  $[\gamma]$  is a generator of the homology group we obtain a homomorphism  $\hat{F} \in \text{Hom}(H_1(K, L), \mathbb{R})$  by fixing  $\hat{F}([\gamma]) = C_0$ . This determines the other values. Then we know from (2.2.1) that there exists a  $[F] \in H^1(K, L)$  with  $\beta([F]) = \hat{F}$  because  $\beta$  is a isomorphism. So we obtain

$$F(\gamma) = \beta([F])([\gamma]) = \hat{F}([\gamma]) = C_0.$$

**Proof of (ii)** Take  $[c] \in H_1(K, L)$  arbitrary. Then there exists  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$  s.t.  $[c] = n[\gamma]$ . Using  $\beta$  from (2.2.1) We have

$$\beta([F])([c]) = \beta([F])(n[\gamma]) = n\beta([F])([\gamma]) = nF(\gamma) = nG(\gamma) = \beta([G])([c])$$

and thus  $\beta([F]) = \beta([G])$ . Because  $\beta$  is an isomorphism we arrive at  $[F] = [G]$ .  $\square$

The following lemma will be needed later in Sec. ?? to prove existence and uniqueness of a solution of the magnetostatic problem. It is now useful to think of  $K$  as a triangulation of an exterior domain and  $L$  be the triangulation



of the exterior of some ball  $\mathbb{R}^3 \setminus B_R$  with  $R > 0$  large enough. Then we assume for the simplicial subcomplex  $L$  that its geometric realization  $|L|$  is homeomorphic to  $\mathbb{R}^3 \setminus B_R$ .

First we need to understand how the zero-th homology group looks like. When we say path-connected we mean in the sense of simplicial topology i.e. we can connect all vertices with a 1-chain.

{lem:zeroth\_homo

**Lemma 2.3.2.** *Let  $K$  be a path-connected simplicial complex. Then the homology class of every vertex  $[x_i] \in H_0(K)$  is a generator of the homology group.*

*Proof.* The proof works exactly as the proof of Theorem IV.2.1 in [2] where we use the notion of path-connected on simplicial complexes.  $\square$

{lem:inclusion\_z

**Lemma 2.3.3.** *Let  $K, L$  be simplicial complexes with  $L \subseteq K$  and assume they are path-connected. Then the inclusion  $\iota : C_0(L) \hookrightarrow C_0(K)$  induces an isomorphism on homology.*

*Proof.* This follows immediately from Lemma 2.3.2.  $\square$

{lem:isom\_chains

**Lemma 2.3.4.** *Let  $K$  and  $L$  be as in the previous lemma. Assume additionally that  $|L|$  is homeomorphic to  $\mathbb{R}^3 \setminus B_R$ . Then the natural surjection  $j : C_1(K) \rightarrow C_1(K, L)$  induces an isomorphism on homology.*

*Proof.* We have the exact sequence

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} H_1(L) & \xrightarrow{[\iota_1]} & H_1(K) & \xrightarrow{[j_1]} & H_1(K, L) \\ \xrightarrow{[\partial_1]} & H_0(L) & \xrightarrow{[\iota_0]} & H_0(K) & \xrightarrow{[j_0]} & H_0(K, L). \end{array}$$

We know that  $H_1(L) \cong H_1(|L|) \cong H_1(\mathbb{S}^2) = 0$ . Because  $[\iota_0]$  is an isomorphism due to Lemma 2.3.3  $\text{im}[\partial_1] = 0$ . Thus, we get the exact sequence

$$0 \xrightarrow{[\iota_1]} H_1(K) \xrightarrow{[j_1]} H_1(K, L) \xrightarrow{[\partial_1]} 0$$

and so  $[j_1]$  is a isomorphism.  $\square$

Now using all these lemmas and results we can now prove the following important lemma that will be needed later in Sec. ??

{lem:existence\_v

**Lemma 2.3.5.** *Let  $K$  and  $L$  be as in the previous lemma and assume that  $H_1(K) = \mathbb{Z}[\gamma]$ . Then there exists a cochain  $F \in \tilde{C}^1(K, L)$  s.t.  $F(\gamma) = C_0$ .*

*Proof.* We know from Lemma 2.3.4 that  $[j] : H_1(K) \rightarrow H_1(K, L)$  is an isomorphism. Thus, we have  $[j]([\gamma]) = [\underline{\gamma}] \in H_1(K, L)$  is a generator. We can now apply Prop. 4.3.1 to get a  $\tilde{F} \in C^1(K, L)$  s.t.  $\tilde{F}(\underline{\gamma}) = C_0$ . Now we continue with Prop. 2.2.3 to get that there exists a unique  $F \in \tilde{C}^1(K, L)$  s.t.  $jF = \underline{F} = \tilde{F}$  and we arrive at

$$F(\gamma) = \underline{F}(\underline{\gamma}) = \tilde{F}(\underline{\gamma}) = C_0.$$

□

### 3 Isomorphism of Cohomology

In order to show existence and uniqueness of solutions of the magnetostatic problem we use a lot of results and tools from [4]. In the diploma thesis of Nikolai Nowaczyk [6], which mostly is based on this paper, many additional details can be found. The results which are important for our progress will be presented in the next section. It should be noted that even though the results in [4] are proved explicitly for smooth manifolds without boundary the results can be extended to Lipschitz manifolds with boundary (see the proof of Theorem 2 and the remark at the end in [4]). Therefore, we can apply the result to our case.

In the first section we will introduce S-forms which can be seen as an intermediate object between differential forms and we will go over the basic results from [4] how these S-forms are connected with cochains on our simplicial complex  $K$ . Then we will look at how S-forms and differential forms are connected. At last, we will introduce two operators and their properties which are introduced in [4] and will prove to be very useful later on.

Because  $\bar{\Omega}$  from our problem is itself a polyhedron we can assume that  $\bar{\Omega}$  and  $|K|$  are equal as subsets of  $\mathbb{R}^n$  and we can simply use the identity as triangulation. However, we will use different metrics on  $|K|$  and  $\bar{\Omega}$ . We use the Euclidian metric on  $\bar{\Omega}$  and we use the standard simplicial metric on  $|K|$  (cf. [4, p.191]). This metric is defined as follows:

Choose some numbering of the vertices  $\{x_1, x_2, \dots\}$  and take  $f : |K| \rightarrow \ell^2$  where  $\ell^2$  is the Hilbert space of real-valued square-summable sequences s.t.  $f(x_i) = e_i$  with  $e_i \in \ell^2$  being the standard unit vectors and  $f$  is affine on every simplex. This mapping is unique.

Then we define the metric on  $|K|$  as the pullback  $g_S = f^*g$  where  $g$  is the standard metric in  $\ell^2$ . Let  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$  be the standard scalar product on  $\ell^2$ . Then

for  $x \in |K|$  and  $\sum_{i=1}^n v_i \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i}, \sum_{j=1}^n w_j \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} \in T_x |K|$  we have

$$\begin{aligned}
g_S|_x \left( \sum_{i=1}^n v_i \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i}, \sum_{j=1}^n w_j \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} \right) &= \left\langle \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \sum_{i=1}^n v_i \frac{\partial f_k}{\partial x_i}(x) \frac{\partial}{\partial y_k}, \sum_{l=1}^{\infty} \sum_{j=1}^n w_j \frac{\partial f_l}{\partial x_j}(x) \frac{\partial}{\partial y_l} \right\rangle \\
&= \sum_{i,j=1}^n \sum_{k,l=1}^{\infty} v_i \frac{\partial f_k}{\partial x_i}(x) w_j \frac{\partial f_l}{\partial x_j}(x) \left\langle \frac{\partial}{\partial y_k}, \frac{\partial}{\partial y_l} \right\rangle \\
&= \sum_{i,j=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} v_i \frac{\partial f_k}{\partial x_i}(x) w_j \frac{\partial f_k}{\partial x_j}(x) \\
&= \sum_{i,j=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} v_i w_j (Df(x)^T Df(x))_{ij} \\
&= v^T Df(x)^T Df(x) w = \langle Df(x)v, Df(x)w \rangle,
\end{aligned}$$

where  $D$  denotes the Jacobian. (TBD: This Jacobian as written here would technically be in  $\mathbb{R}^{\infty \times n}$ . Only finitely many lines are non-zero though, but this is not quite rigorous yet. )

We have two crucial assumptions on the triangulation for the result to hold (cf. [4, p.194]). We summarize them under *GKS-condition* named after the three authors of [4].

**Assumption 3.0.1** (GKS-condition). We will assume the following on the simplicial complex  $K$  and the triangulation  $\tau$ :

{ass:gks\_conditi

- (i) The star of every vertex in  $K$  contains at most  $N$  simplices.
- (ii) For the differential of  $\tau$  we have constants  $C_1, C_2 > 0$  s.t.

$$\|d\tau|_x\| < C_1, \|d\tau^{-1}|_{\tau(x)}\| < C_2,$$

where  $d$  denotes the differential in the sense of differential geometry and the norm is the operator norm w.r.t. the metrics on  $|K|$  and  $\bar{\Omega}$ .

The first assumption is equivalent to every vertex being contained in at most  $N$  simplices, which is fulfilled if we have a shape regular mesh.

**This has to be shown.**

Because  $\tau$  is just the identity in our case the second assumption says that for every  $x \in |K|$

$$\sup_{v \neq 0} \frac{\|v\|}{\sqrt{g_S|_x(v, v)}} = \sup_{v \neq 0} \frac{\|v\|}{\|Df(x)v\|} < C_1$$

and analogously

$$\sup_{v \neq 0} \frac{\|Df(x)v\|}{\|v\|} < C_1.$$

### 3.1 S-forms

**Definition 3.1.1** (Induced map). Let  $V$  and  $W$  be real vector spaces,  $X \subseteq V$ ,  $Y \subseteq W$  be subspaces. For a linear map  $L : V \rightarrow W$  with  $L(X) \subseteq Y$  we define the induced map

$$[L] : V/X \rightarrow W/Y, [v] \mapsto [Lv].$$

It is easy to check that the induced map is well-defined using the definition of quotient space.

The first isomorphism is induced from a linear mapping from the so called *S-forms*  $S_p^k(K)$  to *p-summable k-cochains*  $C_p^k(K)$  which will both be defined next.

**Definition 3.1.2.** We define the following norm of a  $k$ -cochain  $f$

$$\|f\|_{C_p^k(K)} := \left( \sum_{\sigma \in K^{(k)}} |f(\sigma)|^p \right)^{1/p}.$$

and the space of *p-summable k-cochains*

$$C_p^k(K) := \{f \in C^k(K) \mid \|f\|_{C_p^k(K)} < \infty\}.$$

Take  $\tau, \sigma \in K$  s.t.  $\tau$  is a face of  $\sigma$  which we write as  $\tau < \sigma$ . We need a restriction operator  $j_{\tau, \sigma}^* : W_{\infty, loc}^k(\sigma) \rightarrow W_{\infty, loc}^k(\tau)$ . This is done by extending  $\omega \in W_{\infty, loc}^k(\sigma)$  first to some  $\tilde{\omega} \in W_{\infty, loc}^k(U)$  with  $U$  an open neighborhood of  $\sigma$  in the affine hull of  $\sigma$ . Then  $\tau \subseteq U$  and we apply a restriction operator  $j_{\tau, U}^*$  and define  $j_{\tau, \sigma}^* \omega := j_{\tau, U}^* \tilde{\omega}$ . This restriction operator is then well defined, bounded and independent of the chosen extension  $\tilde{\omega}$  (cf. [4, p.191]). It should be emphasized that this restriction only works for  $W_{\infty}^k$  and fails for  $W_p^k$ ,  $p < \infty$ .

**Definition 3.1.3** (S-forms). Let

$$\theta = \{\theta(\sigma) \in W_{\infty}^k(\sigma) \mid \sigma \in K\}$$

be a collection of differential  $k$ -forms. We call  $\theta$  *S-form of degree k* if we have for all simplices  $\mu < \sigma$

$$j_{\sigma, \mu}^* \theta(\sigma) = \theta(\mu).$$

We denote with  $S^k(K)$  the space of all S-forms of degree  $k$  over the chain complex  $K$ . For  $\theta \in S^k(K)$  we define  $d\theta := \{d\theta(\sigma) \mid \sigma \in K\} \in S^{k+1}(K)$ .  $S^*(K)$  is the resulting cochain complex.

For  $\theta \in S^k(K)$  we now define the norm

$$\|\theta\|_{S_p(K)} := \left( \sum_{\sigma \in K} \|\theta(\sigma)\|_{W_\infty^k(\sigma)}^p \right)^{1/p}.$$

$S_p^k(K)$  are the S-forms of degree  $k$  s.t. this norm is finite.

Let  $L \subseteq K$  be a simplicial subcomplex. Then we define the restriction operator

$$j_{K,L}^* : S^k(K) \rightarrow S^k(L), \{\theta(\sigma) \mid \sigma \in K\} \mapsto \{\theta(\sigma) \mid \sigma \in L\}.$$

Then we define  $S^k(K, L) := \ker j_{K,L}^*$  and analogously  $S_p^k(K, L)$ . So these are the S-forms that vanish on a simplicial subcomplex. As in the case of cochains (compare Sec. ??) this generalizes the first definition because we get  $S^k(K, \emptyset) = S^k(K)$ .

The integration of an S-form  $\theta \in S^k(K)$  over a chain  $c = \sum n_\sigma \sigma \in C_k(K)$  is then simply defined as

$$\int_c \theta := \sum_\sigma n_\sigma \int_\sigma \theta(\sigma).$$

We also write  $I(\theta)(c) := \int_c \theta$ . Then the integration mapping  $I : S^k(K, L) \rightarrow C^k(K, L)$  is a homomorphism (see [4, p.191]). The reason why S-forms are a useful concept is because they provide an intermediate step between differential forms and cochains.

With the exterior derivative  $d$  on S-forms as defined above we define

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{Z}^k(K, L) &:= \{\theta \in S^k(K, L) \mid d\theta = 0\} \\ \mathcal{B}^k(K, L) &:= dS^{k-1}(K, L) \end{aligned}$$

and then the resulting cohomology space

$$\mathcal{H}^k(K, L) := \mathcal{Z}^k(K, L) / \mathcal{B}^k(K, L).$$

We also define the in the case of  $p$ -summable S-forms

$$\mathcal{Z}_p^k(K, L) := \{\theta \in S_p^k(K, L) \mid d\theta = 0\}$$

as well  $\mathcal{B}_p^k(K, L)$  and  $\mathcal{H}_p^k(K, L)$  analogously.

Then we have that the integration mapping  $I : S_p^k(K, L) \rightarrow C_p^k(K, L)$  induces an isomorphism on the cohomologies i.e.  $[I] : \mathcal{H}_p^k(K, L) \rightarrow \tilde{H}_p^k(K, L)$  is an isomorphism of vector spaces (see [4, Thm. 1] and the proof thereof).

### 3.2 Isomorphism between cohomologies of S-forms and $L^p$ -cohomology

The next step is to obtain an isomorphism between the cohomology of S-forms  $\mathcal{H}_p^k(K)$  and the  $L_p$  cohomology  $H_{p,dR}^k(\overline{\Omega})$ . Do I really do that?

In order to achieve that we need a some connection between differential forms and S-forms. Take  $\omega \in W_{\infty,loc}^k(\overline{\Omega})$ . Using the analogous reasoning as above, we use the restriction operators  $j_{\sigma,\tau}^*$  to restrict  $\omega$  to the simplices. Denote the resulting forms as  $\omega(\sigma) \in W_{\infty,loc}^k(\sigma)$ . So we obtain an S-form  $\{\omega(\sigma) | \sigma \in K\}$ . This way we constructed an operator

$$\varphi : W_{\infty,loc}^k(\overline{\Omega}) \rightarrow S^k(K), \omega \mapsto \{\omega(\sigma) | \sigma \in K\} \quad (3.2.1) \quad \{\text{eq:forms\_Sforms}\}$$

This operator  $\varphi$  is an isomorphism [4, Lemma 1]. To also obtain corresponding forms to the  $p$ -summable S-forms we simply define  $S_p^k(\overline{\Omega}) := \varphi^{-1}S_p^k(K)$ . It can be shown that  $S_p^k(\overline{\Omega}) \subseteq W_p^k(\overline{\Omega})$ . Now if we have some  $\omega \in S_p^k(\overline{\Omega})$  then we can look at two possible norms. From the inclusion we know that  $\|\omega\|_{W_p^k(\overline{\Omega})} < \infty$ . But we can also use the norm induced by  $\varphi$  denoted by

$$\|\omega\|_{S_p^k(\overline{\Omega})} := \|\varphi\omega\|_{S_p^k(K)}. \quad (3.2.2) \quad \{\text{eq:induced\_norm}\}$$

Let us briefly show that this is indeed a norm.

**Proposition 3.2.1.** *Let  $K$  be a simplicial complex and  $\overline{\Omega} = |K|$ . Then  $\|\cdot\|_{S_p^k(\overline{\Omega})}$  is a norm and  $\varphi$  as defined at (3.2.1) is an isometry.*

*Proof.* Subadditivity and absolute homogeneity follow directly from the linearity of  $\varphi$  and the corresponding property of  $\|\cdot\|_{S_p^k(K)}$ . For the positive definiteness

$$\|\omega\|_{S_p^k(\overline{\Omega})} = 0 \Leftrightarrow \|\varphi\omega\|_{S_p^k(K)} = 0 \Leftrightarrow \varphi\omega = 0 \stackrel{\varphi \text{ isom.}}{\Leftrightarrow} \omega = 0.$$

$\varphi$  is an isometry by construction of the norm. □

We then also have that the inclusion operator  $\iota : S_p^k(\overline{\Omega}) \hookrightarrow W_p^k(\overline{\Omega})$  is bounded ([4, Lemma 4]).

**Remark 3.2.2.** In the paper [4], no difference is made between the spaces  $S_p^k(\overline{\Omega})$  and  $S_p^k(K)$  because they can be identified with each other via  $\varphi$ . However, we will follow the approach from Nowaczyk's thesis [6] to treat them separately because it is more precise and less confusing.

{\texttt{rem:local\\_const.}}

We can now extend our definition of integration on a simplex to any differential form  $\omega \in W_{\infty,loc}^k(\bar{\Omega})$  thanks to the well-definedness of the restriction operators. We can do this by first applying  $\varphi$  which means nothing but applying these restrictions to obtain an S-form  $\varphi\omega \in S^k(K)$  for which we have defined the integration above. Note that this is exactly how integration is defined for continuous differential forms. The only difference is that we had to give an additional argument because the restriction can not be applied directly as in the continuous case. We will sometimes just write  $I(\omega) := I(\varphi\omega)$  or  $\int_{\sigma} \omega = \int_{\sigma} (\varphi\omega)(\sigma)$  for any simplex  $\sigma \in K$ .

Now we also want to introduce a regularization operator in order to obtain a form in  $S_p^k(\bar{\Omega})$  from form  $W_p^k(\bar{\Omega})$ . This is done using two operators  $\mathcal{R} : L_{1,loc}^k(\bar{\Omega}) \rightarrow L_{1,loc}^k(\bar{\Omega})$  and  $\mathcal{A} : L_{1,loc}^k(\bar{\Omega}) \rightarrow L_{1,loc}^{k-1}(\bar{\Omega})$ . We will not go over their construction but instead we will only use some properties that we collect in the following theorem (cf. [4, Thm.2]).

{thm:operators}

**Theorem 3.2.3.** *Assume that the triangulation  $\tau$  fulfills the GKS-condition defined at Def. ?? . Then there exist linear mappings  $\mathcal{R} : L_{1,loc}^k(\bar{\Omega}) \rightarrow L_{1,loc}^k(\bar{\Omega})$ ,  $\mathcal{A} : L_{1,loc}^k(\bar{\Omega}) \rightarrow L_{1,loc}^{k-1}(\bar{\Omega})$  such that*

- (i)  $\mathcal{R}(W_{1,loc}^k(\bar{\Omega})) \subseteq W_{1,loc}^k(\bar{\Omega})$ ,  $\mathcal{A}(W_{1,loc}^k(\bar{\Omega})) \subseteq W_{1,loc}^{k-1}(\bar{\Omega})$  and  $\mathcal{R}\omega - \omega = d\mathcal{A}\omega + \mathcal{A}d\omega$  and  $d\mathcal{R}\omega = \mathcal{R}d\omega$  for  $\omega \in W_{1,loc}^k(\bar{\Omega})$
- (ii) for any  $1 \leq p \leq \infty$ ,  $\mathcal{R}(W_p^k(\bar{\Omega})) \subseteq S_p^k(\bar{\Omega})$  and  $\mathcal{A}(S_p^k(\bar{\Omega})) \subseteq S_p^{k-1}(\bar{\Omega})$
- (iii)  $\mathcal{R} : W_p^k(\bar{\Omega}) \rightarrow (S_p^k(\bar{\Omega}), \|\cdot\|_{S_p^k(\bar{\Omega})})$  is bounded (here we mean with  $(S_p^k(\bar{\Omega}), \|\cdot\|_{S_p^k(\bar{\Omega})})$  the space  $S_p^k(\bar{\Omega})$  endowed with the norm  $\|\cdot\|_{S_p^k(\bar{\Omega})}$ )

Let  $\iota : S_p^k(\bar{\Omega}) \hookrightarrow W_p^k(\bar{\Omega})$  be the inclusion operator. The inclusion induces an isomorphism on cohomology [4, Lemma 4, Corollary] i.e.  $[\iota \circ \varphi^{-1}] : \mathcal{H}_p^k(K) \rightarrow H_{p,dR}^k(\bar{\Omega})$  is an isomorphism.

**Remark 3.2.4.** Let  $L \subseteq K$  be a full-dimensional simplicial subcomplex. Let  $\mathcal{R}_L$  be the regularization operator constructed for this simplicial subcomplex. The construction of the regularization operator is done locally on the stars of the vertices. Therefore if we now look at a vertex  $x_i \in L$  s.t. its star  $\Sigma_i$  does not include any boundary vertices of  $L$  then we have  $\mathcal{R}\omega = \mathcal{R}_L(\omega|_{|L|})$  for any  $\omega \in W_{1,loc}^k(|K|)$  if we choose the ordering of the vertices appropriately. We will not prove this because it would require to go over the construction of the operator which we want to avoid as it is quite technical. Thus, we refer to [4, Sec. 2] for further details.

## 4 Existence and uniqueness of solutions

We now return to the main problem that this thesis is about, the magnetostatic problem. We exterior domain we mean that our domain  $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{R}^3$  is the complement of a compact set. The main motivation for this problem is the when  $\Omega$  complement of a torus. This is also the motivation behind the topological assumption that we will give.

Of course in order for the curve integral constraint to be well-defined we need to check the regularity of solutions. Then using the tools we developed in the previous sections we will proof existence and uniqueness.

### 4.1 Regularity of solutions

We will rely heavily on standard regularity results about elliptic systems of the following form. Take  $A_{ij}^{\alpha\beta} \in \mathbb{R}$  for  $i, j, \alpha, \beta = 1, 2, 3$  and  $A_{ij}^{\alpha\beta} = A_{ji}^{\beta\alpha}$ . Then we have systems for the form

$$-\sum_{\alpha\beta j} \partial_\alpha (A_{ij}^{\alpha\beta} \partial_\beta B_j) = f_i - \sum_\alpha \partial_\alpha F_i^\alpha$$

with data  $f_i, F_i^\alpha \in L^2(\Omega)$ . We call this system *elliptic* if  $A$  satisfies the Legendre condition i.e.

$$\sum_{\alpha,\beta,i,j} A_{ij}^{\alpha\beta} \xi_\alpha^i \xi_\beta^j \geq c|\xi|^2, \quad \forall \xi \in \mathbb{R}^{3 \times 3} \quad (4.1.1) \quad \{\text{eq:legendre\_con}\}$$

with  $c > 0$ . We then call  $B$  a weak solution of the problem if

$$\int_\Omega \sum_{\alpha,\beta,i,j} A_{ij}^{\alpha\beta} \partial_\beta B_j \partial_\alpha \varphi_i dx = \int_\Omega \left\{ \sum_i f_i \varphi_i + \sum_{\alpha,i} F_i^\alpha \partial_\alpha \varphi_i \right\} dx \quad (4.1.2) \quad \{\text{eq:weak\_elliptic}\}$$

for all  $\varphi \in C_0^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^3)$ . This formulation is taken from [Lectures on PDE]. At first we will slightly modify the notion of weak solution.

**Proposition 4.1.1.** *Assume that we have an elliptic system with constant coefficients i.e.  $A$  is constant. Then (4.1.2) is fulfilled for all  $\varphi \in C_0^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^3)$  if and only if it is fulfilled for  $\varphi \in C_0^\infty(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^3)$ .*

*Proof.* This follows by a simple density argument. Assume that (4.1.2) is fulfilled for all test functions in  $C_0^\infty(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^3)$ . Now take  $\varphi \in C_0^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^3)$  arbitrary. Because  $\varphi \in H^1(\Omega)^3$  and  $C_0^\infty(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^3)$  is dense in  $H^1(\Omega)^3$  we can find



a sequence  $(\varphi^{(l)})_{l \in \mathbb{N}} \subseteq C_0^\infty(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^3)$  s.t.  $\varphi^{(l)} \rightarrow \varphi$  in  $H^1(\Omega)^3$ . Thus the partial derivatives converge in  $L^2(\Omega)$  and we get

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\Omega} \sum_{i,j,\alpha,\beta} A_{ij}^{\alpha,\beta} \partial_{\beta} B_j \partial_{\alpha} \varphi_i dx &= \sum_{i,j,\alpha,\beta} A_{ij}^{\alpha,\beta} \int_{\Omega} \partial_{\beta} B_j \lim_{l \rightarrow \infty} \partial_{\alpha} \varphi_i^{(l)} dx \\ &\stackrel{L^2 \text{ limit}}{=} \lim_{l \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\Omega} \left\{ \sum_i f_i \varphi_i^{(l)} + \sum_{\alpha,i} F_i^{\alpha} \partial_{\alpha} \varphi_i^{(l)} \right\} dx = \int_{\Omega} \left\{ \sum_i f_i \varphi_i + \sum_{\alpha,i} F_i^{\alpha} \partial_{\alpha} \varphi_i \right\} dx. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $\varphi \in C_0^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^3)$  was arbitrary the first direction of the equivalence is proved. The other direction is trivial.  $\square$

So we see that in the case of constant coefficients we can consider just smooth compactly supported functions as test functions.

Next, we will state the crucial result about the regularity of elliptic systems which will give us the desired regularity. This is Theorem 2.13 and Remark 2.16 in [Lectures on elliptic PDEs] in slightly less generality.

**Theorem 4.1.2.** *Let  $\Omega$  be an open domain in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . Let  $A$  be constant and satisfy the Legendre condition 4.1.1. Then for every  $B \in H_{loc}^1(\Omega)^3$  weak solution in the sense of (4.1.2) with  $f \in H_{loc}^k(\Omega)^3$  and  $F \in H_{loc}^{k+1}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^{m \times n})$  we have  $B \in H_{loc}^{k+2}(\Omega)^3$ .*

{cor:smooth\_solu

**Corollary 4.1.3.** *If under the assumptions of the previous theorem we consider the homogeneous problem, i.e.*

$$\int_{\Omega} \sum_{\alpha,\beta,i,j} A_{ij}^{\alpha,\beta} \partial_{\beta} B_j \partial_{\alpha} \varphi_i dx = 0$$

for all  $\phi \in C_0^\infty(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^3)$ , then  $B$  is smooth.

It should be noted that this does not guarantee us any regularity on the boundary.

Before we can apply this result, we have to check whether a solution of our problem  $B$  is actually in  $H_{loc}^1(\Omega)^3$ .

{thm:solution\_in

**Theorem 4.1.4.** *Assume  $B \in H(\text{div}; \Omega) \cap H(\text{curl}; \Omega)$ . Then  $B \in H_{loc}^1(\Omega)^3$ .*

Note that we did not assume  $B$  to be a solution.

*Proof.* We know that for a function  $u \in H_0(\text{curl}; U) \cap H(\text{div}; U)$  for some smooth domain  $U$  we have  $u \in H^1(U)^3$  (cf. [monk]). Our  $\Omega$  is not assumed to be smooth so we can not apply this result directly.

Take  $Q \subset\subset \Omega$  open. Then we can find an open cover of  $\overline{Q}$  with a finite set of open balls  $\{K_i\}_{i=1}^N$  s.t.  $K_i \subseteq \Omega$  and

$$\overline{Q} \subseteq \bigcup_{i=1}^N K_i.$$

As a open cover of a compact set we can find a smooth partition of unity  $\{\chi_i\}_{i=1}^N$  subordinate to  $\{K_i\}_{i=1}^N$ .  $(B\chi_i)|_{K_i} \in H_0(\text{curl}; K_i) \cap H(\text{div}; K_i)$  and thus  $(B\chi_i)|_{K_i} \in H^1(K_i)^3$  by the above mentioned result. Also because  $B\chi_i$  has compact support in  $K_i$  we can extend it by zero to obtain  $B\chi_i \in H^1(\mathbb{R}^3)^3$ . Whence,

$$B|_Q = \left( \sum_{i=1}^N \chi_i|_Q \right) B|_Q = \sum_{i=1}^N (\chi_i B)|_Q \in H^1(Q)$$

i.e.  $B \in H_{loc}^1(\Omega)^3$ . □

The following lemma is a reformulation of the differential operator  $\text{grad div} - \text{curl curl}$  which will be needed when we write our magnetostatic problem in the above standard elliptic form.

**Lemma 4.1.5.** *Let  $F \in H_{loc}^2(\Omega)^3$ . Then*

$$\text{grad div } F - \text{curl curl } F = \begin{pmatrix} \Delta F_1 \\ \Delta F_2 \\ \Delta F_3 \end{pmatrix}.$$

*Proof.* By a simple calculation and changing the order of differentiation

$$\text{grad div } F = \begin{pmatrix} \partial_1^2 F_1 \\ \partial_1 \partial_2 F_2 \\ \partial_1 \partial_3 F_3 \end{pmatrix}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \text{curl curl } F &= \text{curl} \begin{pmatrix} \partial_2 F_3 - \partial_3 F_2 \\ \partial_3 F_1 - \partial_1 F_3 \\ \partial_1 F_2 - \partial_2 F_1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \partial_2(\partial_1 F_2 - \partial_2 F_1) - \partial_3(\partial_3 F_1 - \partial_1 F_3) \\ \partial_3(\partial_2 F_3 - \partial_3 F_2) - \partial_1(\partial_1 F_2 - \partial_2 F_1) \\ \partial_1(\partial_3 F_1 - \partial_1 F_3) - \partial_2(\partial_2 F_3 - \partial_3 F_2) \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} \partial_1 \partial_2 F_2 - \partial_2^2 F_1 - \partial_3^2 F_1 + \partial_1 \partial_3 F_3 \\ \partial_2 \partial_3 F_3 - \partial_3^2 F_2 - \partial_1^2 F_2 + \partial_1 \partial_2 F_3 \\ \partial_1 \partial_3 F_3 - \partial_3^2 F_2 - \partial_2^2 F_3 + \partial_2 \partial_3 F_2 \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

and so by subtracting the two expressions

$$\text{grad div } F - \text{curl curl } F = \begin{pmatrix} \partial_1^2 B_1 + \partial_2^2 B_1 + \partial_3^2 B_1 \\ \partial_1^2 B_2 + \partial_2^2 B_2 + \partial_3^2 B_3 \\ \partial_1^2 B_3 + \partial_2^2 B_3 + \partial_3^2 B_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \Delta B_1 \\ \Delta B_2 \\ \Delta B_3 \end{pmatrix}.$$

□

We want to rewrite this system in the expression of the elliptic system ???. We have the differential operator for  $i = 1, 2, 3$

$$-\Delta F_i = -\sum_{\alpha=1}^3 \partial_\alpha \partial_\alpha F_i = -\sum_{\alpha,\beta=1}^3 \partial_\alpha \delta_{\alpha,\beta} \partial_\beta F_i = -\sum_{\alpha,\beta,j=1}^3 \partial_\alpha \delta_{\alpha,\beta} \delta_{ij} \partial_\beta F_j$$

so we get  $A_{ij}^{\alpha\beta} = \delta_{ij} \delta_{\alpha\beta}$ . We have to check that the resulting differential operator is indeed elliptic, but this is trivial because for any  $(\xi_\alpha^i)_{1 \leq i, \alpha \leq 3}$  we get

$$\sum_{\alpha,\beta,i,j} A_{ij}^{\alpha\beta} \xi_\alpha^i \xi_\beta^j = \sum_{\alpha,\beta,i,j} \delta_{ij} \delta_{\alpha\beta} \xi_\alpha^i \xi_\beta^j = \sum_{\alpha,i} (\xi_\alpha^i)^2 = |\xi|^2$$

so the Legendre condition (4.1.1) is fulfilled and the resulting system is elliptic. The weak formulation is

$$\int_{\Omega} \sum_{\alpha,\beta,i,j} \delta_{ij} \delta_{\alpha\beta} \partial_\beta B_j \partial_\alpha \phi_i dx = \sum_{i=1}^3 \nabla B_i \cdot \nabla \phi_i dx.$$

Here we can assume  $\varphi \in C_0^\infty(\Omega)^3$  because all coefficients are constant.

**Theorem 4.1.6** (Smoothness of solutions). *Let  $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{R}^3$  open and  $B \in H(\text{div}; \Omega) \cup H(\text{curl}; \Omega)$  and*

$$\begin{aligned} \text{curl } B &= 0, \\ \text{div } B &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

*Then  $B$  is smooth.*

*Proof.* Take  $\varphi \in C_0^\infty(\Omega)^3$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \int_{\Omega} \text{div } B \text{div } \varphi + \text{curl } B \cdot \text{curl } \varphi dx = - \int_{\Omega} B \cdot (\text{grad div } \varphi - \text{curl curl } \varphi) dx \\ &\stackrel{\text{Lemma??}}{=} - \int_{\Omega} B \cdot \begin{pmatrix} \Delta \varphi_1 \\ \Delta \varphi_2 \\ \Delta \varphi_3 \end{pmatrix} = \sum_{i=1}^3 \int_{\Omega} \nabla B_i \cdot \nabla \varphi_i dx. \end{aligned}$$

Note that the last integration by parts is well defined because  $B \in H_{loc}^1(\Omega)$  according to 4.1.4. So  $B$  is a weak solution of the elliptic system given by  $A_{ij}^{\alpha\beta} = \delta_{ij}\delta_{\alpha\beta}$ . Because we look at the homogenous problem our right hand side is obviously smooth and thus  $B$  is smooth as well due to Cor. 4.1.3.  $\square$

**Remark 4.1.7.** Obviously, the above arguments can be generalized by using a non-zero right hand side of our problem. Then we will in general not obtain a smooth solution, but for a sufficiently regular right hand side the curve integral would still be well-defined. **How much regularity? Source?**

## 4.2 Reformulation of the problem

We will return now to the magnetostatic problem. In order to use the results above we will reformulate the problem in the notation of differential forms. From now on we assume  $n = 3$  i.e. we are in three dimensional space. There are two ways to identify a vector field with a differential form (cf. [1, Table 6.1 and p.70]) either as a 1-form or a 2-form. For a vector field  $B$  we define

$$\begin{aligned} F^1 B &:= B_1 dx_1 + B_2 dx_2 + B_3 dx_3 \text{ and} \\ F^2 B &:= B_2 dx_2 \wedge dx_3 - B_1 dx_1 \wedge dx_3 + B_3 dx_1 \wedge dx_2 \end{aligned}$$

as the corresponding 1-form and 2-form. Then the exterior derivative is  $dF^2 \omega$  corresponds to the divergence, the codifferential  $\delta F^2 \omega$  corresponds to the curl and the normal component being zero on the boundary corresponds to  $\omega \in \dot{H}^2(d)$ .**[empty citation]**.

If we then use the association of 3-forms with scalars we have the corresponding boundary value problem without the integral condition for 2-forms: Find  $\omega \in \dot{H}^2(d)$  s.t.

$$\delta \omega = 0, \tag{4.2.1}$$

$$d\omega = 0 \text{ in } \Omega. \tag{4.2.2}$$

Next, we have to add the integral condition. We remind the reader that we are in three dimensions so  $** = \text{Id}$  and observe

$$\begin{aligned} *F^2 B &= B_1 **dx_1 + B_2 **dx_2 + B_3 **dx_3 = B_1 dx_1 + B_2 dx_2 + B_3 dx_3 \\ &= F^1 B. \end{aligned}$$

**: Actually, we already use the Hodge star to define the vector proxies. So of course the vector proxy of the Hodge star will be the same.** Then we have

$$\int_{\gamma} *F^2 B = \int_{\gamma} F^1 B = \int_{\gamma} B \cdot dl.$$

In the last step we used the fact that the integration of a 1-form over a curve is equivalent to the curve integral of the associated vector field (cf. [1, Sec. 6.2.3]). Hence, we can add the integral condition

$$\int_{\gamma} *\omega = C_0. \quad (4.2.3) \quad \{\text{integral\_condit}$$

However, we have only  $\omega \in \mathring{H}_0^2(d, \delta)$  so  $*\omega \in H^1(d)$  so this integral might not be well defined. In order to deal with this, we will again use the operator  $\mathcal{R}$  from Sec. ??.

We know from Thm. 3.2.3 that  $\mathcal{R}*\omega \in S_2^1(\bar{\Omega})$ . Using the operator  $\varphi$  from ?? we obtain  $\varphi\mathcal{R}*\omega \in S_2^1(K)$ . Now we know from Sec. ?? that the integration mapping  $I : S_2^1(K) \rightarrow C_2^1(K)$  is well-defined. Denote  $\bar{I} := I \circ \varphi \circ \mathcal{R}$  and let us replace the integral condition (??) with

$$\bar{I}(*\omega)(\gamma) = C_0.$$

Of course, we have to justify why this is reasonable. So let us take  $\eta \in S_2^1(\bar{\Omega})$ . That means we can integrate it directly using the definition from ??. Let us also assume that  $\eta$  is closed and  $\int_{\gamma} \eta = C_0$ . Then we know from Thm. 3.2.3

$$\mathcal{R}\eta = \eta + d\mathcal{A}\eta + \mathcal{A}d\eta \stackrel{\eta \text{ closed}}{=} \eta + d\mathcal{A}\eta.$$

We know further that  $\mathcal{A}\eta \in S_2^0(\bar{\Omega})$ . Apply  $\varphi$  on both sides and use that fact that it commutes ?? with the exterior derivative to get

$$\varphi\mathcal{R}\eta = \varphi\eta + d\varphi\mathcal{A}\eta.$$

$[I]$  is an isomorphism of cohomology and thus sends exact S-forms to exact cochains.  $\gamma$  is closed so  $I(d\varphi\mathcal{A}\eta)(\gamma) = 0$  and we conclude

$$\bar{I}(\eta)(\gamma) = I(\varphi\mathcal{R}\eta)(\gamma) = I(\varphi\eta) \stackrel{\text{by def.}}{=} I(\eta),$$

i.e. the integral remains unchanged if we integrate closed forms over closed chains. Because  $*\omega$  is closed we thus do not change the integral if the curve integral  $*\omega$  would already have been well defined before.

To summarize we obtain the following problem.

**Problem 4.2.1.** Find  $\omega \in \mathring{H}^2(d; \Omega)$  s.t.

$$\begin{aligned} d\omega &= 0, \\ \delta\omega &= 0 \text{ in } \Omega, \\ \bar{I}(*\omega)(\gamma) &= C_0. \end{aligned}$$

We will examine existence and uniqueness of this problem in the next section.

### 4.3 Existence and uniqueness

The curve integral condition is closely linked to the topology of our domain. This is why we have to link this condition with the topological stuff that we did in Sec. ???. Because of this connection if we want the curve integral to give us uniqueness of the solution we need to assume certain topological properties. In our case, this will be the condition that our first homology group is generated by the curve that we are integrating over i.e.

$$H_1(\Omega) = \mathbb{Z}[\gamma].$$

Then we get the following existence and uniqueness result on homology.

**Proposition 4.3.1.** *Assume that  $H_1(\Omega) = \mathbb{Z}[\gamma]$  i.e. the homology class of the closed 1-chain  $\gamma$  is a generator of the first homology group. Then we have the following:*

{prop:uniqueness}

- (i) For any  $C_0 \in \mathbb{R}$  there exists a closed 1-chain  $F \in Z^1(\Omega)$  with  $F(\gamma) = C_0$ ,
- (ii) any other  $G \in Z^1(\Omega)$  with  $G(\gamma) = C_0$  is in the same cohomology class i.e.  $[F] = [G]$

i.e. the cochain is unique up to cohomology.

*Proof. Proof of (i)* Because  $[\gamma]$  is a generator of the homology group we obtain a homomorphism  $\hat{F} \in \text{Hom}(H_1(K, L), \mathbb{R})$  by fixing  $\hat{F}([\gamma]) = C_0$ . This determines the other values. Then we know from (2.2.1) that there exists a  $[F] \in H^1(K, L)$  with  $\beta([F]) = \hat{F}$  because  $\beta$  is an isomorphism. So we obtain

$$F(\gamma) = \beta([F])([\gamma]) = \hat{F}([\gamma]) = C_0.$$

**Proof of (ii)** Take  $[c] \in H_1(K, L)$  arbitrary. Then there exists  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$  s.t.  $[c] = n[\gamma]$ . Using  $\beta$  from (2.2.1) We have

$$\beta([F])([c]) = \beta([F])(n[\gamma]) = n\beta([F])([\gamma]) = nF(\gamma) = nG(\gamma) = \beta([G])([c])$$

and thus  $\beta([F]) = \beta([G])$ . Because  $\beta$  is an isomorphism we arrive at  $[F] = [G]$ .  $\square$

This abstract topological result can now be linked to the differential forms via the de Rham isomorphism Thm. ???. We will formulate it in a way that demonstrates the parallellness of differential forms and cochains.

**Corollary 4.3.2.** *Assume  $H_1(\Omega) = \mathbb{Z}[\gamma]$  as above. Then*

(i) For any  $C_0 \in \mathbb{R}$  there exists a closed smooth 1-form  $\theta \in \mathfrak{Z}^1(\Omega)$  with

$$I(\theta)(\gamma) = \int_{\gamma} \theta = C_0$$

(ii) any other  $\eta \in \mathfrak{Z}^1(\Omega)$  with

$$I(\eta)(\gamma) = \int_{\gamma} \eta = C_0$$

is in the same cohomology class of  $\mathfrak{H}^1(\Omega)$  i.e.  $[\eta] = [\theta]$ .

*Proof. Proof of (i)* Recall from Sec. ?? that the integration of differential forms over chains induces an isomorphism on cohomology  $[I] : \mathcal{H}^1(\Omega) \rightarrow H^1(\Omega)$  which we call de Rham isomorphism. We know from Prop. 4.3.1 that there exists  $F \in H^1(\Omega)$  s.t.  $F(\gamma) = C_0$ . The surjectivity of the de Rham isomorphism now gives us  $[\theta] \in \mathcal{H}^1(\Omega)$  s.t.

$$[I(\theta)] = [I](\theta) = [F]$$

i.e.

$$I(\theta) = F + \partial^0 J$$

with  $J \in C^0$ . Then,

$$I(\theta)(\gamma) = F(\gamma) + \partial^0 J(\gamma) = C_0 + J(\partial_0 \gamma) \stackrel{\gamma \text{ closed}}{=} C_0.$$

**Proof of (ii)** We have  $I(\eta)$  is a 1-cochain with  $I(\eta)(\gamma) = C_0$ . Thus, we can apply Prop. 4.3.1 to get

$$[I](\eta) = [I(\eta)] = [I(\theta)] = [I](\theta).$$

Because  $[I]$  is an isomorphism we can conclude  $[\eta] = [\theta]$ . □

We start with the following

**Proposition 4.3.3.** Let  $(\phi_i)_{i \in \mathbb{N}} \subseteq H^0(d)$  s.t.  $(d\phi_i)_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$  is convergent and let  $\gamma \in C_1(K)$  be a bounded closed 1-chain. Then

$$\bar{I}(\lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} d\phi_i)(\gamma) = 0.$$

{prop:integral\_e

*Proof.* Because  $[\bar{I}]$  is an isomorphism of cohomology  $\bar{I}$  has to send exact forms to exact cochains. Because  $\gamma$  is a closed 1-chain we obtain  $\bar{I}(d\psi)(\gamma) = 0$  for every  $\psi \in H^0(d)$ . Because  $\mathcal{R}$ ,  $\phi$  and  $I$  are all bounded  $\bar{I}$  is a continuous operator ?? and so we have  $\bar{I}(\lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} d\phi_i) = \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \bar{I}(d\phi_i)$  with the limit of cochains taken w.r.t. the norm in  $C_2^1(K)$ . Now let  $J_\gamma$  be the set of indices of simplices contained in  $\gamma$  i.e.

$$\gamma = \sum_{i \in J_\gamma} \sigma_i.$$

Here we remind that we fixed the ordering and indices for our simplicial complex ?. Let  $N_\gamma := |J_\gamma|$  which is finite. Then

$$\begin{aligned} & \left| \left( \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \bar{I}(d\phi_j) \right) (\gamma) \right| \leq \left| \left( \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \bar{I}(d\phi_i) - \bar{I}(d\phi_j) \right) (\gamma) \right| \\ & \leq \sum_{k \in J_\gamma} \left| \left( \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \bar{I}(d\phi_i) - \bar{I}(d\phi_i) \right) (\sigma_k) \right| \\ & \leq N_\gamma^{1/2} \left( \sum_{k \in J_\gamma} \left| \left( \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \bar{I}(d\phi_i) - \bar{I}(d\phi_j) \right) (\sigma_k) \right|^2 \right)^{1/2} \\ & \leq N_\gamma^{1/2} \left\| \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \bar{I}(d\phi_i) - \bar{I}(d\phi_j) \right\|_{C_2^1(K)} \leq N_\gamma^{1/2} \epsilon \end{aligned}$$

and thus

$$\left| \left( \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \bar{I}(d\phi_i) \right) (\gamma) \right| = 0$$

because  $\epsilon$  was arbitrarily small. This can be done more elegantly by identifying  $C_2^1(K)$  with  $\ell^2$ . See notes from 28.12 □

**Lemma 4.3.4.** Let  $\Omega$ ,  $U$  be open and  $U \subseteq \Omega$ . Let  $\nu \in \dot{H}^k(d; U)$ . Define  $\bar{\nu}$  as the zero extension of  $\nu$  in  $\Omega \setminus U$ . Then  $\bar{\nu} \in \dot{H}^k(d; \Omega)$  and  $d\bar{\nu} = d\nu$  in  $U$  and  $d\bar{\nu} = 0$  in  $\Omega \setminus U$ .

*Proof.* The proof works exactly as in the standard Sobolev case. Take  $\varphi \in C_0^\infty \Lambda^k(\Omega)$  arbitrary. Define  $\bar{\nu}' = d\nu$  in  $U$  and  $\bar{\nu}' = 0$  in  $\Omega \setminus U$ . We want to show that

$$\int_{\Omega} \bar{\nu} \wedge * \delta \varphi = \int_{\Omega} \bar{\nu}' \wedge * \varphi$$

which implies that  $\bar{\nu}' = d\bar{\nu}$ . If  $\text{supp } \varphi \subseteq U$  this follows by applying the definition of  $d\nu$ . If  $\text{supp } \varphi \subseteq \text{int}(\Omega \setminus U)$  then it is also trivial since both  $\bar{\nu}$  and  $\bar{\nu}'$  are zero in  $\Omega \setminus U$ .



Otherwise, we recognize  $\varphi|_U \in C_c^\infty \Lambda^{k+1}(U)$ . Thus we get from the definition of the zero boundary condition (Def. 1.2.7)

$$\langle \bar{\nu}, \delta\varphi \rangle_{L_2^k(\Omega)} = \langle \nu, \delta\varphi \rangle_{L_2^k(U)} = \langle d\nu, \varphi \rangle_{L_2^{k+1}(U)} = \langle \bar{\nu}', \varphi \rangle_{L_2^{k+1}(\Omega)}.$$

Thus,  $\bar{\nu}' = d\bar{\nu}$ . Because  $d\nu \in L_2^{k+1}(U)$ ,  $d\bar{\nu} \in L_2^{k+1}(\Omega)$  and the lemma is proven.  $\square$

{thm:existence}

**Theorem 4.3.5** (Existence of solution). *Let  $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{R}^3$  be such that  $\mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \Omega$  is compact and  $\text{int } \bar{\Omega} = \text{int } \Omega$ . Assume there exists a simplicial complex  $K$  s.t.  $\bar{\Omega} = |K|$  and a simplicial subcomplex  $L \subseteq K$  s.t.  $|L|$  is homeomorphic to the exterior of a ball with radius  $R > 0$  and  $K \setminus L$  is finite. Both  $K$  and  $L$  are assumed path-connected in the sense of simplicial complexes (cf. ??). For  $K$  we require that  $H_1(K) = \mathbb{Z}[\gamma]$  for a 1-chain  $\gamma$ . Assume that the GKS-condition 3.0.1 holds for  $K$ . Then there exists a solution to Problem 4.2.1.*

*Proof.* At first we want to find a smooth differential 1-form  $\theta \in \Lambda^1(\Omega)$  with the desired curve integral. In order to do that we will increase the domain slightly. Take a non-empty compact set  $K \subseteq \text{int } \Omega^c$ . Denote  $\tilde{\Omega} := K^c$ . Then we have  $\tilde{\Omega} \supseteq \Omega$ . We start by referring to Cor. ?? to get a smooth differential form  $\tilde{\theta} \in \Lambda^1(\tilde{\Omega})$  with

$$\int_{\gamma} \tilde{\theta} = C_0.$$

We now refer back to ?? to change back to vector proxies. Let  $\tilde{\phi}$  be the vector proxy of  $\tilde{\theta}$  i.e.  $\tilde{\phi} \in C^\infty(\tilde{\Omega})^3$ . From the properties of  $\theta$  we obtain the corresponding properties of  $\tilde{\phi}$  which are

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\gamma} \tilde{\phi} \cdot dl &= C_0 \\ \text{curl } \phi &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

We define  $\phi$  by restricting  $\tilde{\phi}$  to  $\Omega$ . Let now  $K_R$  be the open ball around the origin with radius  $R > 0$  large enough s.t.  $\Omega^c \subseteq K_R$  and  $\gamma \subseteq K_R$ . We now restrict  $\theta$  further to  $\Omega_R := \Omega \cap K_R$ . We denote the restriction with  $\phi_R$ .

We now need to construct a harmonic vector field with zero tangential trace s.t. we can extend it by zero. We do this by using the Hodge decomposition for 1-forms on  $\Omega_R$  in the 3D case ??. We project  $\phi_R$  onto the harmonic fields to obtain  $B_R$  which has zero tangential trace. So there exists a sequence  $(\psi_i)_{i \in \mathbb{N}} \in H^1(\Omega_R)$  s.t.

$$B_R = \phi_R - \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \nabla \psi_i$$

We also know that  $B_R$  is smooth because it is curl and divergence free from the section about the smoothness of solutions (Sec. ??). We want to check that the curve integral did not change. We know from ?? that the image of the exterior is closed on bounded domains. For vector proxies this means that  $\nabla H^1(U)$  is closed in  $L^2$  if  $U$  is a bounded domain. So we get that

$$\lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \nabla \psi_i = \nabla \psi_R$$

with  $\psi_R \in H^1(\Omega_R)$ . Because  $B_R$  and  $\phi_R$  are smooth  $\psi_R$  must be smooth as well and so we get from Stoke's theorem

$$\int_{\gamma} B_R \cdot dl = \int_{\gamma} \phi_R \cdot dl.$$

Now because  $B_R$  has zero tangential trace we can extend it by zero. Let  $\overline{B}_R$  be that extension. That means of course that  $B_R$  might not be smooth on  $\partial K_R$  as it might have a jump. But the tangential part is zero and thus we have  $\overline{B}_R \in H(\text{curl}; \Omega)$ . Here it is important to remember that  $K_R^c \subseteq \Omega$ . Now we can once again use the Hodge decomposition of two forms. This time on the whole domain  $\Omega$  to find a harmonic field  $B$  and a sequence  $(\rho_i)_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$  s.t.

$$\overline{B}_R = B + \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \nabla \rho_i.$$

Notice that because  $B$  is a harmonic vector field and is the vector proxy of the harmonic 2-form it already satisfies the Neumann boundary condition and it is divergence as well as curl free. That means  $B$  is a solution if the curve integral condition is satisfied. In order to see this, note that we have on  $K_R$

$$B_R = B|_{K_R} + \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \nabla \rho_i|_{K_R}.$$

Because the image of the gradient is closed on bounded domains we have  $\rho_R \in H^1(K_R)$  s.t.

$$B_R = B|_{K_R} + \nabla \rho_R.$$

With the same argument as above,  $\rho_R$  must be smooth and again with Stoke's theorem we get

$$\int_{\gamma} B = \int_{\gamma} B|_{K_R} = \int_{\gamma} B_R = C_0$$

and thus  $B$  is indeed a solution. □

*Proof.* Under the given assumptions we know that we can find a  $F \in \tilde{C}^1(K, L)$  (see Lemma 2.3.5) with  $F(\gamma) = C_0$ . Because  $K \setminus L$  is finite  $F$  is obviously 2-summable i.e.  $F \in \tilde{C}_2^1(K, L)$ . Then we use the fact that the integration mapping  $I : S_2^1(K, L) \rightarrow \tilde{C}_2^1(K, L)$  induces an isomorphism on cohomology  $[I] : \mathcal{H}_2^1(K, L) \rightarrow \tilde{H}_2^1(K, L)$ . So there exists a S-form  $\tilde{\theta} \in S_2^1(K, L)$  s.t.  $[I(\tilde{\theta})] = [F] \in \tilde{H}_2^1(K, L)$ . Thus we have some  $J \in \tilde{C}_2^0(K, L)$  s.t.  $I(\tilde{\theta}) = F + \partial J$  and thus

$$I(\tilde{\theta})(\gamma) = F(\gamma) + J(\partial\gamma) \stackrel{\gamma \text{ closed}}{=} F(\gamma) = C_0.$$

Now define  $\theta := \varphi^{-1}\tilde{\theta}$ . So we found already a 1-form that has the desired curve integral.

$\tilde{\theta} \in S_2^1(K, L) \subseteq S_2^1(K)$  so  $\theta \in S_2^1(\bar{\Omega}) \subseteq W_2^1(\bar{\Omega})$ . We now use the fact that  $\text{int } \bar{\Omega} = \text{int } \Omega$  and remember the resulting identification of the Sobolev spaces  $W_2^1(\bar{\Omega})$  and  $W_2^1(\Omega)$  (cf. Remark 1.2.3) to obtain  $\theta \in H^1(d; \Omega)$ . Next, we will use the Hodge decomposition (1.2.5). Now we project  $\star\theta$  onto harmonic forms to get  $\omega \in \mathring{H}_0^2(d, \delta; \Omega)$ . So because  $\star\theta$  is co-closed we obtain a sequence  $(\phi_i)_{i \in \mathbb{N}} \subseteq H^3(\delta)$  s.t.

$$\star\theta = \omega + \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \delta\phi_i$$

where the limit is in the  $L^2$ -sense. Apply the Hodge star operator on both sides, use the fact that it is an isometry and thus continuous and then remember the definition of  $\delta$  to get a sequence  $(\psi_i)_{i \in \mathbb{N}} \subseteq H^0(d)$  s.t.

$$\theta = \star\omega + \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} d\psi_i.$$

Then we get

$$\int_{\gamma} \mathcal{R} \star \omega = \int_{\gamma} \mathcal{R}(\theta - \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} d\psi_i) \stackrel{\text{Prop. 4.3.3}}{=} \int_{\gamma} \mathcal{R}\theta \stackrel{\text{Prop. ??}}{=} \int_{\gamma} \theta = C_0.$$

In the penultimate step equality we used the fact that  $\mathcal{R}$  does not change the integral because  $\theta \in S^1(K)$  is closed. Thus  $\omega$  fulfills the integral condition. Because  $\omega \in \mathring{H}_0^2(d, \delta; \Omega)$  all other conditions are satisfied as well and  $\omega$  is a solution.  $\square$

In the proof of uniqueness we will use the following lemma. We are now back in the realm of standard vector analysis so all the notation is to be seen in this light (e.g.  $H^1$  is here the standard Sobolev space and not a Sobolev space of differential forms).

**Lemma 4.3.6.** *Let  $\phi \in L_{loc}^2(\Omega)$  with  $\nabla\phi \in L^2(\Omega)$ . Then there exists a sequence  $(\phi_i)_{i \in \mathbb{N}} \subseteq H^1(\Omega)$  s.t.  $\nabla\phi_i \rightarrow \nabla\phi$  in  $L^2(\Omega)^3$ .*

{lem:gradient\_se

*Proof.* Take  $B_R$  with  $R$  large enough s.t.  $B_R^c \subseteq \Omega$ . Define  $\Omega_R := B_R \cap \Omega$ . Then  $\bar{\Omega}_R \subseteq B_{R+1}$  and  $\Omega_R$  is a Lipschitz domain and  $B_{R+1}$  is pre-compact and  $\phi|_{\Omega_R} \in W^{1,2}(\Omega_R)$ . Therefore we can find an extension  $E\phi \in W_0^{1,2}(\Omega_{R+1}) \hookrightarrow W^{1,2}(\mathbb{R}^3)$  (cf. [5, Sec. 1.5.1]). So we can now define

$$\bar{\phi} := \begin{cases} \phi & \text{in } \Omega \\ E\phi & \text{in } \Omega^c. \end{cases}$$

Then  $\bar{\phi} \in L_{loc}^2(\mathbb{R}^3)$  and  $\nabla \bar{\phi} \in L^2(\mathbb{R}^3)^3$ . Then there exists a sequence  $(\phi_l)_{l \in \mathbb{N}} \subseteq C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^3)$  s.t.  $\nabla \phi_l \rightarrow \nabla \bar{\phi}$  in  $L^2(\mathbb{R}^3)^3$  (cf. [7, Lemma 1.1]). By restricting  $\phi_l$  to  $\Omega$  we obtain the result.  $\square$

**Theorem 4.3.7.** *Let the same assumptions hold as in Thm. 4.3.5. Then solution of the problem is unique.*

*Proof.* Let  $\omega$  and  $\tilde{\omega}$  both be solutions. Then  $\star\omega$  is closed thus  $\mathcal{R}\star\omega \in S_2^1(\bar{\Omega})$  is also closed because

$$d\mathcal{R}\star\omega = \mathcal{R}d\star\omega = 0.$$

The same holds for  $\tilde{\omega}$ .  $I(\varphi\mathcal{R}\star\omega), I(\varphi\mathcal{R}\star\tilde{\omega}) \in C_2^1(K)$  are closed 1-cochains with  $I(\varphi\mathcal{R}\star\omega)(\gamma) = I(\varphi\mathcal{R}\star\tilde{\omega})(\gamma)$ . Thus Prop. 4.3.1 implies  $[I(\varphi\mathcal{R}\star\omega)] = [I(\varphi\mathcal{R}\star\tilde{\omega})] \in H^1(K)$ . Because  $[I] : \mathcal{H}^1(K) \rightarrow H^1(K)$  is an isomorphism (see ??) we have

$$[\varphi\mathcal{R}\star\omega] = [\varphi\mathcal{R}\star\tilde{\omega}]$$

Here the cohomology classes are in the cohomology spaces of S-forms  $\mathcal{H}^1(K)$ . That means there is a S-form  $\theta \in S^0(K)$  s.t.

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi\mathcal{R}\star\omega - \varphi\mathcal{R}\star\tilde{\omega} &= d\theta \\ \Rightarrow \mathcal{R}\star\omega - \mathcal{R}\star\tilde{\omega} &= \varphi^{-1}d\theta = d\varphi^{-1}\theta =: d\tilde{\theta}. \end{aligned}$$

We have  $\tilde{\theta} \in S^0(\bar{\Omega}) \subseteq W_{\infty,loc}^0(\bar{\Omega})$  and  $d\tilde{\theta} \in S_2^1(\bar{\Omega}) \subseteq W_2^1(\bar{\Omega})$ .

Using the properties of  $\mathcal{R}$  there exists a  $\eta \in L_{2,loc}^0(\Omega)$  with  $d\eta \in L_2^1(\Omega)$  s.t.

$$\star\omega - \star\tilde{\omega} = -d\mathcal{A}(\star\omega - \star\tilde{\omega}) + d\theta = d\eta.$$

By applying the Hodge star operator on both sides we find  $\mu \in L_{2,loc}^3(\Omega)$  with  $\delta\eta \in L_2^2(\Omega)$  s.t.

$$\omega - \tilde{\omega} = \delta\mu. \tag{4.3.1} \quad \{\text{difference\_solu}\}$$

But because  $\mu$  is only in  $L^3_{2,loc}(\Omega)$  we can not immediately conclude that  $\delta\mu = 0$ .

Let us briefly return to vector proxies. Let  $B$  and  $\tilde{B}$  be vector proxies of  $\omega$  and  $\tilde{\omega}$  respectively. (4.3.1) then translates to  $B, \tilde{B} \in \dot{H}(\text{div})$  and  $B - \tilde{B} = \nabla\phi$  with  $\phi \in L^2_{loc}(\Omega)$  and  $\nabla\phi \in L^2(\Omega)^3$ . Because  $B$  and  $\tilde{B}$  are both harmonic we have

$$0 = \int_{\Omega} (B - \tilde{B}) \cdot \nabla f \, dx = \int_{\Omega} \nabla\phi \cdot \nabla f \, dx \quad \forall f \in H^1(\Omega).$$

Thank to Lemma 4.3.6 we know that  $\nabla\phi \in \overline{\nabla H^1(\Omega)}$ . Because  $B$  and  $\tilde{B}$  are harmonic we have  $B - \tilde{B} \in \overline{\nabla H^1(\Omega)}^{\perp}$  and hence  $\nabla\phi = 0$  and  $B = \tilde{B}$ . Because the corresponding vector proxies are equal we obtain  $\omega = \tilde{\omega}$ .  $\square$

*Proof.* Let  $B$  and  $\tilde{B}$  both be solutions and denote with  $\omega$  and  $\tilde{\omega}$  the corresponding 1-forms. So we have  $I(\omega)(\gamma) = I(\tilde{\omega})(\gamma) = C_0$ . Then we know from Cor. ?? that  $\omega$  and  $\tilde{\omega}$  are in the same cohomology in  $\mathfrak{H}^1$ . This is equivalent to saying that there exists a smooth  $\mu$  s.t.

$$B - \tilde{B} = \text{grad } \mu.$$

However,  $\mu$  must of course not be in  $L^2$  since  $\Omega$  is unbounded. But we know that  $\text{grad } \mu \in L^2(\Omega)^3$  and  $\mu \in L^2_{loc}$ . Here we can now apply Lemma 4.3.6 and conclude

$$B - \tilde{B} \in \overline{\text{grad } H^1(\Omega)}.$$

Now remembering the Hodge decomposition in the 3D case we know

$$B - \tilde{B} \in \overline{\text{grad } H^1(\Omega)}^{\perp}$$

as well and thus  $B = \tilde{B}$  which concludes the proof of uniqueness.  $\square$

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