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(22nd June 2015 – 26th June 2015)
Lisbon, Portugal
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REFMULF: 2D Fullwave FDTD Full Polarization Maxwell Code

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Abstract

A novel 2D full-wave FDTD code, REFMULF, includes full polarization waves, allowing the coupling of the transverse-electric mode (TE/X-mode) with the transverse-magnetic mode (TM/O-mode) via a linear vectorial differential equation for $J$ with a generic external magnetic field $B_0$. It extends the capabilities of microwave reflectometry simulation, and being a parallel code, is able to cope with real size problems.

Introduction

An important tool for the progress of reflectometry is numerical simulation, able to assess the measuring capabilities of existing systems and to predict the performance of future ones in machines such as ITER and DEMO. The newly developed 2D full-wave FDTD code, REFMULF, presented here allows the treatment of full polarization waves, coupling the TE/X-mode with the TM/O-mode via a linear vectorial differential equation for $J$ with any kind of external magnetic field $B_0$.

\[
\frac{dJ}{dt} = \varepsilon_0 \omega_p^2 E - \nu J + \omega_c \times J.
\]  

(1)

This equation further couples wave propagation, described by Maxwell curl equations to the plasma medium. The external magnetic field components of $B_0$ lying on the propagation plane ($B_x$ and $B_y$) are responsible for linking the TE and TM modes. For a $B_0$ purely perpendicular to the propagation plane the code describes simultaneously O-mode and X-mode propagation, which enables the simulation of depolarization processes in turbulent plasmas. This offers capabilities unavailable in present day 2D reflectometry codes, closing the gap to the much sought-after usable 3D code. Being a parallel code is able to cope with real size problems.

Code description

The code considers propagation in a 2D plane ($x$-$y$ plane) with no gradients along $z$ ($\partial / \partial z = 0$). This assumption avoids a standard linear mode conversion for any arbitrary orientation of the magnetic field. Maxwell equations are solved using the classic Yee schema
on two sets of staggered grids, one for the transverse magnetic mode (TMz) with field components \((E_z, H_x, \text{and } H_y)\) and another for the transverse electric mode (TEz), with field components \((H_z, E_x, \text{and } E_y)\). The TMz and TEz planes are not coupled through Maxwell equations since \(\partial/\partial z = 0\) but coupling through the equation for \(\mathbf{J}\) is possible through the product \(\omega \times \mathbf{J}\). Developing equation (1) into components the coupling (emphasized in color) is clear.

\[
\frac{dJ_x}{dt} + \nu J_x = e_0 \omega_p^2 E_x + \omega J_z - \omega J_y 
\]

\[
\frac{dJ_y}{dt} + \nu J_y = e_0 \omega_p^2 E_y + \omega J_x - \omega J_z 
\]

\[
\frac{dJ_z}{dt} + \nu J_z = e_0 \omega_p^2 E_z + \omega J_y - \omega J_x. 
\]

The components \(B_x\) and \(B_y\) couple the TMz plane to the TEz (in red) and the TEz plane to the TMz (in blue). Equations (2)—(4), with \(\nu = 0\), are solved using the Xu-Yuan schema [1] with the modifications proposed in [2] for extended long-run stability. The expression for \(J_x\) is given by

\[
C_{0x} = 1 + \frac{\omega_p^2 \Delta t^2}{4} 
\]

\[
C_{1x} = 1 + \frac{\omega_p^2 \Delta t^2}{4} \left( \frac{\omega_x^2 \omega_p^2 \Delta t^4}{16C_{0x}} - \frac{\Delta t^2 \omega_z^2}{4C_{0x}} \right) 
\]

\[
J_n^{\nu+1/2}(i, j + 1/2) = \frac{1}{C_{1x}} \left[ 1 - \frac{\omega_x^2 \Delta t^2}{4} \right] \left[ E_n^\nu(i, j + 1/2) + \left( \frac{\omega_x \omega_p \Delta t^2}{4C_{0x}} - \frac{\Delta t \omega_z}{2C_{0x}} \right) E_n^\nu(i + 1/2, j) \right] + 
\]

\[
+ \frac{\omega_x \omega_p \Delta t^2}{2C_{1x}} \left[ \omega_y - \left( \frac{\omega_x \omega_p \Delta t^2}{4C_{0x}} - \frac{\Delta t \omega_z}{2C_{0x}} \right) \right] E_n^\nu(i - 1/2, j - 1/2) + 
\]

\[
+ \left( \frac{\omega_x \omega_p \Delta t^2}{4C_{1x}} - \frac{\Delta t \omega_z}{2C_{1x}} \right) \left[ 1 + \left( \frac{1}{C_{0x}} - \frac{\omega_x \omega_p \Delta t^2}{4C_{0x}} \right) \right] J_{n-1/2}(i + 1/2, j) + 
\]

\[
+ \left( \frac{\omega_x \omega_p \Delta t^2}{4C_{1x}} - \frac{\Delta t \omega_z}{2C_{1x}} \right) \left[ 1 + \left( \frac{1}{C_{0x}} - \frac{\omega_x \omega_p \Delta t^2}{4C_{0x}} \right) \right] J_{n-1/2}(i - 1/2, j - 1/2). 
\]

Expressions for \(J_x\) and \(J_z\) can be easily obtained by inspection considering the positive circulation \(x \to y \to z\). Note that if \(\mathbf{B} = B_z\), frequencies \(\omega_x\) and \(\omega_y\) are null and the equations (2)—(3) describe the X-mode propagation as used in REFMUL [2] code while equation (4) describes O-mode propagation as used in REFMULX [2] code while equation (4) describes O-mode propagation as used in REFMUL code [3]. In this case the code can be used within the same scenario to simultaneously run both X- and O-mode cases in order to compare them. To run just a X- or an O-mode case is also possible by keeping the unwanted mode unexcited. Nevertheless that would result in a waste of resources, therefore the code can be compiled not only with the full polarization (default) but also with just X- or O-mode.
Figure 1: X-mode is excited on the TEz plane, being reflected at the upper branch cutoff frequency $f_U$. The signal couples to O-mode which propagates until the plasma frequency $f_p$. Executables. With this compile options, REFMULF is intended to replace REFMUL (the O-mode code) and REFMULX (the X-mode code). REFMULF uses Berenger’s perfectly matched layer (PML) boundary conditions [4] and an unidirectional transparent source (UTS) [3]. The code is parallelized in the sense that its computational domain is decomposed and distributed among different computer cores using the message-passing interface (MPI) standard [5]. Within each MPI sub-domain, the OpenMP thread-parallelism [6] is further invoked to take advantage of the current trend in modern hierarchical architectures, on which several computer cores are grouped together and locally share memory. Such hybrid parallelization paradigm allows for an efficient scaling up to several hundreds of cores, which is a necessary condition for an extension of the model to three spatial dimensions.

Full polarization examples

We can observe in Fig. 1 snapshots of the $H_z$ (left) and of the $E_z$ (right) fields for a simulation with a linear density profile and an external magnetic field $B_0 = 0.1e_y + 0.9e_z T$. A $f_c = 35$GHz fixed frequency signal is excited in the TEz plane (X-mode, on the left), where it propagates until it is reflected at the upper branch cutoff frequency $f_U$. Due to the $B_y$ component the wave energy is coupled to the TMz plane (O-mode, on the right) and can propagate further into the plasma up to the plasma frequency cutoff $f_p$ position, where it is reflected before returning to the antenna. In the complementary situation (Fig. 2), with the same plasma and magnetic field $B_0$, in the TMz plane (O-mode), the same frequency $f_c$ is excited and the wave propagates until it reaches the plasma frequency $f_p$ cut-off. There is coupling to the X-mode in the TEz plane and reflection at at the upper branch frequency cutoff $f_U$ position. In each of these two examples the wave was only excited on one of the
O-mode probing, $E_z$ field  

X-mode mode coupling, $H_z$ field

![Diagram showing O-mode probing and X-mode coupling](image)

**Figure 2:** O-mode is excited on the TMz plane, being reflected at the plasma frequency $f_p$. Signal is coupled to X-mode propagating until reaching the upper branch frequency cutoff $f_U$.

planes, but more general cases can be treated with excitation on both planes with different frequencies, as well as using different techniques (e.g. pulse, CWFM, etc.).

**Acknowledgements**

This work has been carried out within the framework of the EUROfusion Consortium and has received funding from the Euratom research and training programme 2014-2018 under grant agreement No 633053. IST activities also received financial support from Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia through project UID/FIS/50010/2013 and via the PhD scholarship FCT-SFRH/BD/52414/2013. UL activities received financial support from ANR CHROME ANR-12-BS0006-01. The views and opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect those of the European Commission.

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