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Grigor Nika, Bogdan Vernescu

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Grigor Nika, Bogdan Vernescu. An existence result for a class of nonlinear magnetorheological composites. 2022. hal-03668453

## HAL Id: hal-03668453 https://hal.science/hal-03668453v1

Preprint submitted on 14 May 2022

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1	An existence result for a class of
2	nonlinear magnetorheological composites
3	Grigor Nika <sup>1</sup> and Bogdan Vernescu <sup>*2</sup>
4	<sup>1</sup> Mathematics & Computer Science
5	Karlstad University
6	Universitetsgatan 2
7	65188 Karlstad, Sweden
8	grigor.nika@kau.se
9	<sup>2</sup> Mathematical Sciences
10	Worcester Polytechnic Institute
11	100 Institute Rd.
12	Worcester, MA 01609 USA
13	vernescu@wpi.edu

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December 24, 2021

#### Abstract

16	We prove existence of a weak solution for a nonlinear, multi-physics, multi-scale
17	problem of magnetorheological suspensions introduced in Nika & Vernescu (Z. Angew.
18	Math. Phys., 71(1):1–19, '20) in the three dimensional setting. The hybrid model
19	couples the Stokes' equation with the quasi-static Maxwell's equations through the
20	Lorentz force and the Maxwell stress tensor. The proof of existence is based on: i) the
21	augmented variational formulation of Maxwell's equations, ii) the definition of a new
22	function space for the magnetic induction and the proof of a Poincaré type inequality,
23	iii) the Altman-Shinbrot fixed point theorem when the magnetic Reynold's number,
24	R <sub>m</sub> , is small.

#### <sup>25</sup> MSC 2020: 35A15, 35J60, 74F10

26 Keywords: Magnetorheological fluids, Altman–Shinbrot fixed point theory, Maxwell's 27 equations, augmented variational formulation

## 28 1 Introduction

29 The use of suspensions of rigid particles as *smart materials* is of great interest, as their 30 rheological properties can be reversibly changed by the interaction with a magnetic or elec-

<sup>31</sup> tric field. The ability of magnetorheological fluids [PV00], [Ver02], [Rab48] to modify their

<sup>\*</sup>Corresponding author: vernescu@wpi.edu

rheology from liquid to a semi-solid state under the presence of an external magnetic field
 in a matter of milliseconds make them desirable in many industries [LFS01, dVKHA11].

The modelling of magnetorheological and electrorheological fluids has been mostly ex-34 plored from thermodynamically consistent, phenomenological point of view (BD05, Ruz00, 35 RR01]). While this approach is well founded, it does not allow for explicit control of the 36 material properties. The theory of periodic homogenization, specifically designed to treat 37 problems for multiscale heterogeneous materials, allows to derive the effective properties of 38 the aforementioned heterogeneous materials based on the properties of the constituents at 39 the microscale, allowing thus for the design of materials with specified properties [NC19]. 40 [ACN20]. 41

The derivation of effective models of magnetorheological and electrorheological fluids us-42 ing homogenization has been carried out in [L85, LH88, PV00, Ver02]. The microscale 43 problems used to derive the effective models in these works were one-way coupled systems 44 of Stokes or Navier-Stokes equations with quasi-static Maxwell's equations. In [NV20] a 45 fully coupled model between Stokes' equations and the quasi-static Maxwell's equations 46 through the Lorentz force was used to derive a class of nonlinear magnetorheological com-47 posites. Numerical results, for this model, showed that particle-chain microstructures have 48 a non-linear contribution to the magnetorheological effect. Furthermore, in [NV21] it was 49 shown numerically that for particles of fixed volume fraction there is a decrease in the 50 strength of the magnetorheological effect as the surface-to-volume ratio increases. 51

In this work we prove existence of a weak solution to the model introduced in [NV20] in the 52 three dimensional setting, describing the stationary flow of rigid, magnetizable particles 53 in a non-conducting fluid, distributed periodically with period  $\epsilon$  under the influence of 54 a magnetic field. The proof of existence is based on the Altman-Shinbrot fixed point 55 theorem [Alt57], [Shi64] and relies in the augmented variational formulation of Maxwell's 56 equations when the magnetic Reynold's number,  $R_m$ , is small. The use of an augmented 57 variational formulation is motivated by the fact that the magnetic induction does not 58 possess a full weak derivative in  $L^2$ , rather, due to the material properties, the derivatives 59 are split into a divergence part and a skew-symmetric part that, respectively, belong in 60  $L^2$ . Hence, traditional fixed point arguments, like Leray-Schauder which were employed 61 by O. Ladyzhenskaya to show existence for the nonlinear stationary Navier-Stokes are not 62 available to us since the magnetic induction does not possess full weak derivatives. In 63 contrast, the Altman-Shinbrot fixed point theorem requires that the defined operator be 64 continuous only in the weak topology of the underlying space. Thus, as a consequence, 65 we introduce a new function space for the magnetic induction and prove a Poincare type 66 inequality for this new space using the div-curl lemma. 67

The article is organized as follows: In Section 2 we introduce the model describing the 68 suspension in the two component domain. Section 3 introduces the function spaces for the 69 variational framework of the problem and certain auxiliary results regarding embeddings 70 and Poincaré's inequality while in Section 4 we write down the augmentned variational 71 formulation and prove its equivalence to the strong form a.e. in the domain  $\Omega$ . This is 72 done in Theorem 4.1. Moreover, we define the function space  $\mathcal{Y}^{\epsilon}$ , where the magnetic 73 induction belongs and prove that it is a Hilbert space. Furthermore, we prove a Poincaré 74 type inequality for  $\mathcal{Y}^{\epsilon}$  in Theorem 3.1 using the global div-curl lemma ([Tar79], [Mur78]). 75

Section 5 is dedicated to the existence proof. The proof relies on the Altman-Shinbrot
fixed point theorem [Alt57], [Shi64] when R<sub>m</sub> is small and the main result of this section is
stated in Theorem 5.2. Finally, Section 6 is devoted to concluding remarks and comments.

#### 79 Notation

#### <sup>80</sup> Throughout the paper we will make use of the following notation:

i In addition to the standard Sobolev space  $H^1(\Omega)$  we define the following spaces:

$$\begin{split} H^{1}_{\Gamma_{0}}(\Omega) &= \left\{ w \in H^{1}(\Omega) \mid w \big|_{\Gamma_{0}} = 0 \text{ on } \Gamma_{0} \right\}, \\ H(\operatorname{div}; \Omega) &= \left\{ \boldsymbol{w} \in L^{2}(\Omega) \mid \operatorname{div} \boldsymbol{w} \in L^{2}(\Omega) \right\}, \\ H(\operatorname{curl}; \Omega) &= \left\{ \boldsymbol{w} \in L^{2}(\Omega) \mid \operatorname{curl} \boldsymbol{w} \in L^{2}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^{d}) \right\}, \end{split}$$

where the div and curl operators are understood in the sense of distributions and  $w_{|\Gamma_0}$ is the usual trace operator. Naturally, the above spaces are Hilbert spaces when they are equipped with their corresponding graph norms. Moreover, we will make use of

fractional Sobolev spaces defined e.g. in [LM72].

ii  $\chi_{\Omega}(\boldsymbol{x})$  is the indicator function over some set  $\Omega$  such that,

$$\chi_{\Omega}(\boldsymbol{x}) = \begin{cases} 1 \text{ if } \boldsymbol{x} \in \Omega, \\ 0 \text{ otherwise }. \end{cases}$$
(1.1)

<sup>86</sup> iii Throughout the article we employ the Einstein summation notation of repeated indices <sup>87</sup> while the expressions "mes" and "mes<sub>d-1</sub>" stand for the Lebesgue measure and for the <sup>88</sup> d-1 surface measure.

<sup>89</sup> iv We restrict ourselves to the three dimensional setting, d = 3. Most of the results <sup>90</sup> presented remain valid for two spatial dimensions as well, however, in two spatial <sup>91</sup> dimensions many of the challenges encountered, particularly regarding the variational <sup>92</sup> formulation of Maxwell's equations, simplify considerably.

## 93 2 The model

Assume  $\Omega$  is an open, bounded, multiply connected subset of  $\mathbb{R}^d$  lying in vacuum. Let 94  $Y = [-1/2, 1/2)^d$  be the unit cube in  $\mathbb{R}^d$ , and  $\mathbb{Z}^d$  be the set of all d-dimensional vectors 95 with integer components. For every positive  $\epsilon$ , let  $N(\epsilon)$  be the set of all points  $\ell \in \mathbb{Z}^d$  such 96 that  $\epsilon(\ell + Y)$  is strictly included in  $\Omega$  and denote by  $|N(\epsilon)|$  their total number. Let  $Y_1$ 97 be the closure of an open, connected set with sufficiently smooth boundary S, compactly 98 included in Y and  $Y_2 := Y \setminus \overline{Y}_1$ . For every  $\epsilon > 0$  and  $\ell \in N(\epsilon)$  we consider the set 99  $Y_{i\epsilon}^{\ell} \subset \epsilon(\ell+Y)$ , where  $Y_{i\epsilon}^{\ell} = \epsilon(\ell+Y_i)$  for i = 1, 2. The set  $Y_{1\epsilon}^{\ell}$  represents one of the rigid 100 particles suspended in the fluid, and  $S_{\ell}^{\epsilon} = \epsilon(\ell + S)$  denotes its surface (see Fig. 1). 101

We now define the following subsets of  $\Omega$ :  $\Omega_{1\epsilon} = \bigcup_{\ell \in N(\epsilon)} Y_{1\epsilon}^{\ell}, \ \Omega_{2\epsilon} = \Omega \setminus \overline{\Omega}_{1\epsilon}$ . Here,  $\Omega_{1\epsilon}$  is

the domain occupied by the rigid particles and  $\Omega_{2\epsilon}$  the domain occupied by the ambient surrounding fluid of viscosity  $\nu \equiv 1$ . We denote by  $\Gamma := \partial \Omega$  the boundary of  $\Omega$ . By  $\Gamma_0$ we denote the exterior component of  $\Gamma$  and by  $S_{\ell}^{\epsilon}$ ,  $\ell = 1, \dots, N(\epsilon)$  the remaining finite number of components. The vectors  $\boldsymbol{n}$  and  $\boldsymbol{n}^{\epsilon}$  indicate the unit normal on  $\Gamma_0$  and the unit normal to  $S_{\epsilon}^{\ell}$  respectively with both unit normals pointing outwards. Moreover, by  $[\![\cdot]\!]$ we indicate the jump discontinuity between the fluid and the rigid part and by  $\langle \cdot | \cdot \rangle$  the duality product.



Figure 1: Schematic of the periodic suspension of rigid magnetizable particles in a nonconducting, non-magnetizable fluid. The periodic cell  $\epsilon Y$  contains a potential geometric realization of a magnetizible, spherical, rigid particles in a chain structure.

- <sup>110</sup> The magnetorheological problem considered in [NV20] after non-dimensionalizing and as-
- <sup>111</sup> suming that the flow is at low Reynolds numbers was the following,

$$-\operatorname{div} (\sigma^{\epsilon}) = \mathbf{0} \qquad \text{in } \Omega_{2\epsilon},$$
  

$$\sigma^{\epsilon} = 2 e(\boldsymbol{v}^{\epsilon}) - p^{\epsilon} I \qquad \text{in } \Omega_{2\epsilon},$$
  

$$\operatorname{div} (\boldsymbol{v}^{\epsilon}) = 0 \qquad \text{in } \Omega_{2\epsilon},$$
  

$$e(\boldsymbol{v}^{\epsilon}) = 0 \qquad \text{in } \Omega_{1\epsilon},$$
  
(2.1)

$$\operatorname{div}(\boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon}) = 0 \qquad \text{in } \Omega, \\ \operatorname{curl}(\widehat{\mu}^{\epsilon}\boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon}) = \operatorname{R}_{\mathrm{m}}\boldsymbol{v}^{\epsilon} \times \boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon}\chi_{\Omega_{1\epsilon}} \quad \text{in } \Omega.$$

$$(2.2)$$

<sup>112</sup> with compatibility conditions,

div 
$$(\mathbf{R}_{\mathrm{m}} \boldsymbol{v}^{\epsilon} \times \boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon} \chi_{\Omega_{1\epsilon}}) = 0$$
 in  $\Omega$ ,  $\langle \mathbf{R}_{\mathrm{m}} \boldsymbol{v}^{\epsilon} \times \boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon} \cdot \boldsymbol{n}^{\epsilon} \mid 1 \rangle_{H^{1/2}(S_{\ell}^{\epsilon}), H^{1/2}(S_{\ell}^{\epsilon})} = 0,$  (2.3)

<sup>113</sup> and interface and exterior boundary conditions,

$$\llbracket \boldsymbol{v}^{\epsilon} \rrbracket = \boldsymbol{0} \text{ on } S_{\ell}^{\epsilon}, \ \boldsymbol{v}^{\epsilon} = \boldsymbol{0}, \ \boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon} \cdot \boldsymbol{n} = \boldsymbol{c} \cdot \boldsymbol{n} \text{ on } \Gamma_{0}.$$
(2.4)

When the MR fluid is submitted to a magnetic field, the rigid particles are subjected to a
force that makes them behave like a dipole aligned in the direction of the magnetic field.
This force can be written in the form,

$$oldsymbol{F}^{\epsilon}:=-rac{1}{2}\,|oldsymbol{H}^{\epsilon}|^2\,
abla\,\mu^{\epsilon},$$

where  $|\cdot|$  represents the standard Euclidean norm. The force can also be written in terms of the Maxwell stress,

$$\tau_{ij}^{\epsilon} = \widehat{\mu}^{\epsilon} B_i^{\epsilon} B_j^{\epsilon} - \frac{1}{2} \widehat{\mu}^{\epsilon} B_k^{\epsilon} B_k^{\epsilon} \delta_{ij}, \qquad (2.5)$$

as  $\mathbf{F}^{\epsilon} = \operatorname{div}(\tau^{\epsilon}) - \mathbf{B}^{\epsilon} \times \operatorname{curl}(\hat{\mu}^{\epsilon} \mathbf{B}^{\epsilon})$ . Since the magnetic permeability is considered constant in each phase, it follows that the force is zero in each phase. Therefore, we deduce that

$$\operatorname{div}\left(\tau^{\epsilon}\right) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } \boldsymbol{x} \in \Omega_{2\epsilon}, \\ \boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon} \times \operatorname{curl}\left(\widehat{\mu}^{\epsilon} \boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon}\right) & \text{if } \boldsymbol{x} \in \Omega_{1\epsilon}. \end{cases}$$
(2.6)

Lastly, we remark that unlike the viscous stress  $\sigma^{\epsilon}$ , the Maxwell stress is present in the entire domain  $\Omega$ . Hence, we can write the balance of forces and torques in each particle as,

$$0 = \int_{S_{\ell}^{\epsilon}} \sigma^{\epsilon} \boldsymbol{n}^{\epsilon} \, ds + \alpha \, \int_{S_{\ell}^{\epsilon}} \left[ \boldsymbol{\tau}^{\epsilon} \boldsymbol{n}^{\epsilon} \right] \, ds - \alpha \, \int_{T_{\ell}^{\epsilon}} \boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon} \times \operatorname{curl} \left( \widehat{\mu}^{\epsilon} \, \boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon} \right) \, d\boldsymbol{x},$$
  

$$0 = \int_{S_{\ell}^{\epsilon}} \sigma^{\epsilon} \boldsymbol{n}^{\epsilon} \times \left( \boldsymbol{x} - \boldsymbol{x}_{c}^{\ell} \right) \, ds + \alpha \, \int_{S_{\ell}^{\epsilon}} \left[ \boldsymbol{\tau}^{\epsilon} \boldsymbol{n}^{\epsilon} \right] \times \left( \boldsymbol{x} - \boldsymbol{x}_{c}^{\ell} \right) \, ds \qquad (2.7)$$
  

$$-\alpha \, \int_{T_{\ell}^{\epsilon}} \left( \boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon} \times \operatorname{curl} \left( \widehat{\mu}^{\epsilon} \, \boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon} \right) \right) \times \left( \boldsymbol{x} - \boldsymbol{x}_{c}^{\ell} \right) \, d\boldsymbol{x}.$$

Here  $\boldsymbol{v}^{\epsilon}$  represents the fluid velocity field,  $p^{\epsilon}$  the pressure,  $e(\boldsymbol{v}^{\epsilon})$  the strain rate,  $\boldsymbol{n}^{\epsilon}$  the 124 unit normal to  $S_{\ell}^{\epsilon}$ , **n** is the unit normal to  $\Gamma_0$ ,  $B^{\epsilon}$  is the magnetic induction and it is 125 related to the magnetic field  $\boldsymbol{H}^{\epsilon}$  by  $\boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon} = \mu^{\epsilon} \boldsymbol{H}^{\epsilon}$ , where  $0 < \mu^{\epsilon}$  is the magnetic permeability 126 of the material and  $\hat{\mu}^{\epsilon} = (\mu^{\epsilon})^{-1}$ ,  $\boldsymbol{x}_{c}^{\ell}$  is the center of mass of the rigid particle  $T_{\ell}^{\epsilon}$ ,  $\alpha$ 127 is the Alfven number, and  $R_m$  is the magnetic Reynolds number. Moreover,  $\boldsymbol{c} \cdot \boldsymbol{n}$  is a 128 transmission condition on the outer boundary indicating that a magnetic field  $\boldsymbol{c}$  exterior 129 to the domain  $\Omega$  is present. Finally, we remark that condition  $e(\boldsymbol{v}^{\epsilon}) = 0$  in  $\Omega_{1\epsilon}$  means that 130  $\boldsymbol{v}^{\epsilon} = \boldsymbol{V}^{\ell,\epsilon} + \boldsymbol{\omega}^{\ell,\epsilon} \times (\boldsymbol{x} - \boldsymbol{x}_{c}^{\ell})$  in  $\Omega_{1\epsilon}$  where  $\boldsymbol{V}^{\ell,\epsilon}$  is a constant translational velocity and  $\boldsymbol{\omega}^{\epsilon,\ell}$ 131 is a constant rotational velocity for each particle. 132

## <sup>133</sup> **3** Function spaces and auxiliary results

<sup>134</sup> We begin with a small extension of a result in [DL72] regarding a non-homogeneous domain <sup>135</sup> containing sub-domains of different piece-wise constant electric permittivity, say,  $\eta_i$ , i =<sup>136</sup> 1,..., $\kappa$ , where  $\kappa$  is the number of subdomains. These domains occur naturally in problems <sup>137</sup> of electromagnetism (see [DL72]).

**Proposition 3.1.** Let  $\mathcal{O} \subset \mathbb{R}^d$  be any open, bounded, multiply connected set with boundary <sup>139</sup>  $\Gamma := \partial \mathcal{O}$  of class  $C^2$ . The exterior boundary will be denoted by  $\Gamma_0$  and by  $\Gamma_j$ , j =<sup>140</sup>  $1, \ldots, \kappa - 1$ , the other components of  $\Gamma$ .

<sup>141</sup> Define  $\mathcal{Y}$  to be the Hilbert space of vector fields,

$$\mathcal{Y}:=\left\{\boldsymbol{v}\in L^{2}(\mathcal{O};\mathbb{R}^{d})\mid \operatorname{div}\boldsymbol{v}\in L^{2}(\mathcal{O}), \operatorname{curl}(\widehat{\boldsymbol{\mu}}\boldsymbol{v})\in L^{2}(\mathcal{O};\mathbb{R}^{d}), \\ \boldsymbol{v}\cdot\boldsymbol{n}\in H^{1/2}(\Gamma_{0})\right\},$$
(3.1)

142 for the norm,

$$\|\boldsymbol{v}\|_{\mathcal{Y}} := \|\boldsymbol{v}\|_{L^{2}(\mathcal{O};\mathbb{R}^{d})} + \|\operatorname{div}\boldsymbol{v}\|_{L^{2}(\mathcal{O})} + \|\operatorname{curl}(\widehat{\mu}\,\boldsymbol{v})\|_{L^{2}(\mathcal{O};\mathbb{R}^{d})} + \|\boldsymbol{v}\cdot\boldsymbol{n}\|_{H^{1/2}(\Gamma_{0})}, \qquad (3.2)$$

then for all  $\boldsymbol{v} \in \mathcal{Y}$  we have,  $\boldsymbol{v}_{|\mathcal{O}_i} \in H^1(\mathcal{O}_i; \mathbb{R}^d)$  for  $i = 1, ..., \kappa$  where  $\boldsymbol{v}_{|\mathcal{O}_i}$  is the restriction of  $\boldsymbol{v}$  to  $\mathcal{O}_i, 0 < \mu = \hat{\mu}^{-1}$  is constant in  $\mathcal{O}_i$  and



Figure 2: A schematic of a finite, multiply connected region  $\mathcal{O}$  containing two sub-regions. The open set  $\mathcal{O}$  is defined as  $\mathcal{O} := \mathcal{O}_1 \cup \mathcal{O}_2 \cup \mathcal{O}_3 \cup \Gamma_1 \cup \Gamma_2$ .

$$\left\| \boldsymbol{v}_{|\mathcal{O}_{i}} \right\|_{H^{1}(\mathcal{O}_{i};\mathbb{R}^{d})} \leq C_{\mathcal{O}_{i}} \left\| \boldsymbol{v} \right\|_{\mathcal{Y}}.$$
(3.3)

Proof. Let  $\boldsymbol{v} \in \mathcal{Y}$  and define  $\pi \in H^1(\mathcal{O})$  as the solution to the following Neumann problem,

$$\operatorname{div}(\eta \nabla \pi) = \operatorname{div} \boldsymbol{v} \text{ in } \mathcal{O},$$
  

$$\llbracket \eta \,\partial_n \pi \rrbracket = 0 \text{ on } \Gamma_j, \ j = 1, \dots, \kappa - 1,$$
  

$$\eta \,\partial_n \pi = \boldsymbol{v} \cdot \boldsymbol{n} \text{ on } \Gamma_0.$$
(3.4)

Take  $\boldsymbol{u} = \boldsymbol{v} - \eta \nabla \pi$  and note that div  $\boldsymbol{u} = 0$  in  $\mathcal{O}$ , curl  $(\widehat{\eta} \boldsymbol{u}) = \text{curl}(\widehat{\eta} \boldsymbol{v}) \in L^2(\mathcal{O}; \mathbb{R}^d)$ , and  $\boldsymbol{u} \cdot \boldsymbol{n} = 0$  on  $\Gamma_0$ . Then  $\boldsymbol{u}_{|\mathcal{O}_i|} \in H^1(\mathcal{O}_i; \mathbb{R}^d)$  by [DL72, Theorem 6.2, page 355].

It remains to prove that  $\pi_{|\mathcal{O}_i} \in H^2(\mathcal{O}_i)$  and inequality (3.3). This is the result of [LU68, Chap. 3, Sec. 16, Eq. 16.12, pg. 212]. For our case, we include a sketch of the proof for the higher regularity up to the interphase boundary for completion. Set  $f := \operatorname{div} \boldsymbol{u}$  and  $g := \boldsymbol{u} \cdot \boldsymbol{n}$ . Define a smooth function  $\xi$  such that  $\xi \equiv 0$  in  $\mathcal{O}_i, \xi \equiv 1$  in a neighbourhood of  $\Gamma_0$ , and  $\xi \in [0, 1]$ . Since  $g \in H^{1/2}(\Gamma_0)$  there exists a  $\Phi \in H^2(\mathcal{O})$  such that  $\partial_n \Phi = g$  on  $\Gamma_0$ . Set  $q := \pi - \xi \Phi$ . From the variational formulation of (3.4) we have,

$$\int_{\mathcal{O}} \eta \,\nabla q \cdot \nabla \overline{q} \, d\boldsymbol{x} = \int_{\mathcal{O}} f \, \overline{q} \, d\boldsymbol{x} + \int_{\mathcal{O}} \operatorname{div} \left( \eta \,\nabla(\xi \, \Phi) \right) \overline{q} \, d\boldsymbol{x} \quad \forall \overline{q} \in H^1(\mathcal{O}).$$
(3.5)

154 Fix  $V \subset \mathcal{O}$  and choose W such that  $V \subset \mathcal{O} W \subset \mathcal{O}$ . Select a function  $\chi \equiv 1$  in V,

 $\chi \equiv 0$  in  $\mathbb{R}^d \setminus W$ , and  $\chi \in [0, 1]$ . Set  $\overline{q} := D_{-h}^k(\chi^2 D_h^k q)$  where  $D_h^k$  is the usual difference quotient. Using properties of difference quotients we can obtain for (3.5),

$$\int_{V} |D_{h}^{k} \nabla q|^{2} d\boldsymbol{x} \leq \int_{\mathcal{O}} \chi^{2} |D_{h}^{k} \nabla q|^{2} d\boldsymbol{x}$$

$$\leq c \left( \int_{\mathcal{O}} (|f|^{2} + |\nabla q|^{2}) d\boldsymbol{x} + \|\Phi\|_{H^{2}(\mathcal{O})}^{2} \right)$$
(3.6)

for  $k = 1, \ldots, d-1$ . Passing to the limit as  $h \to 0$  we obtain  $\partial_{x_i x_j}^2 q \in L^2(V)$  provided that *i* and *j* are not both equal to *d* with the global bound in (3.6). For points belonging on the interphase  $\Gamma_i$  we can use local charts to straighten and rotate  $\Gamma_i$  so that locally it looks like a hyperplane. In doing so, since the difference quotient operator is a tangential operator,  $D_h^k$  will always remain on one side of the interphase where no jump occurs on  $\eta$ . Therefore, since  $\eta_i \Delta q = f + \operatorname{div}(\eta \nabla(\xi \Phi))$  in  $\mathcal{O}_i$  and by assumption  $\eta_i > 0$  we have  $\partial_{x_d x_d}^2 q \leq c(f + \operatorname{div}(\eta \nabla(\xi \Phi)) - \sum_{i=1}^{d-1} \partial_{x_i x_i}^2 q)$ . Thus, we have control over all the second derivatives of *q* and moreover we have the global bound,

$$\|q\|_{H^{2}(V\cap\mathcal{O}_{i})} \leq c\left(\|f\|_{L^{2}(\mathcal{O})} + \|\nabla q\|_{L^{2}(\mathcal{O};\mathbb{R}^{d})} + \|\Phi\|_{H^{2}(\mathcal{O})}\right),$$
(3.7)

165 for  $i = 1, \ldots, k$ .

One can extend (3.7) up to the boundary  $\Gamma_0$ , since it is of class  $C^2$ , using standard elliptic regularity theory and therefore obtain

$$\|q\|_{H^{2}(\mathcal{O}_{i})} \leq c \left( \|f\|_{L^{2}(\mathcal{O})} + \|\nabla q\|_{L^{2}(\mathcal{O};\mathbb{R}^{d})} + \|\Phi\|_{H^{2}(\mathcal{O})} \right) \text{ for } i = 1, \dots, k.$$
(3.8)

Using (3.9) we can obtain a bound on  $\pi$  for  $i = 1, \ldots, \kappa$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \|\pi\|_{H^{2}(\mathcal{O}_{i})} &\leq \|q\|_{H^{2}(\mathcal{O}_{i})} + \|\xi \Phi\|_{H^{2}(\mathcal{O}_{i})} \\ &\leq c \left(\|f\|_{L^{2}(\mathcal{O})} + \|\nabla q\|_{L^{2}(\mathcal{O};\mathbb{R}^{d})} + \|\Phi\|_{H^{2}(\mathcal{O})}\right) \\ &\leq c \left(\|f\|_{L^{2}(\mathcal{O})} + \|g\|_{H^{1/2}(\Gamma_{0})}\right) \end{aligned} (3.9)$$

where the last inequality is a result of standard estimates of q in  $H^1(\mathcal{O})$  resulting from (3.5) and the trace theorem (see [Gal11, Thm. II.4.4, pg. 68]). Hence, inequality (3.3) follows.

172 Lemma 3.1. Let  $\boldsymbol{v} \in \{\boldsymbol{w} \in H(\operatorname{div}, \mathcal{O}) \mid \operatorname{div} \boldsymbol{v} = 0 \text{ in } \mathcal{O}\}\ and define \mathcal{Y}_{\Gamma_0} = \{\boldsymbol{w} \in \mathcal{Y} \mid \mathbf{v} \in \boldsymbol{v} \in \boldsymbol{v} \mid \mathbf{v} \in \boldsymbol{v} \in \boldsymbol{v}$ 

$$\operatorname{curl}(\widehat{\mu}\,\boldsymbol{w}) = \boldsymbol{v}, \quad \| \, \widehat{\mu}\,\boldsymbol{w} \|_{\mathcal{Y}^{0}_{\Gamma_{0}}} \leq c \, \|\boldsymbol{v}\|_{L^{2}(\mathcal{O};\mathbb{R}^{d})}, \qquad (3.10)$$

where  $c := c(\mathcal{O})$ . Moreover, there exists  $\xi \in (3, 6]$  such that

$$\widehat{\mu} \boldsymbol{w} \in L^{\xi}(\mathcal{O}; \mathbb{R}^d) \text{ and } \|\widehat{\mu} \boldsymbol{w}\|_{L^{\xi}(\mathcal{O}; \mathbb{R}^d)} \leq c \|\boldsymbol{v}\|_{L^2(\mathcal{O}; \mathbb{R}^d)}.$$
(3.11)

176 Proof. This is [Dru, Prop. 2.2].

**Proposition 3.2.** The space  $\mathcal{Y}$  is embedded into  $L^q(\mathcal{O}, \mathbb{R}^d)$  for  $q \in [1, 6]$  with the embedding being continuous.

Proof. Assume  $\boldsymbol{z} \in \mathcal{Y}$  and define  $\boldsymbol{g} := \operatorname{curl}(\widehat{\eta} \boldsymbol{z})$ . Then div  $\boldsymbol{g} = 0$  in the sense of distributions in  $\mathcal{O}$  and by Lemma 3.1 there exists a  $\boldsymbol{w} \in \mathcal{Y}_{\Gamma_0}^0$  such that  $\operatorname{curl}(\widehat{\eta} \boldsymbol{w}) = \boldsymbol{g}$ . Hence, we have  $\widehat{\eta} \boldsymbol{z} - \widehat{\eta} \boldsymbol{w} = \nabla \pi$  where  $\pi$  is the solution to the following problem:

182 Find  $\pi \in H^1(\mathcal{O})$  such that

$$\int_{\mathcal{O}} \eta \, \nabla \pi \cdot \nabla \phi \, d\boldsymbol{x} = F(\phi) \quad \forall \phi \in H^1(\mathcal{O})$$
(3.12)

where  $F(\phi) := \int_{\mathcal{O}} (\operatorname{div} \boldsymbol{z}) \phi \, d\boldsymbol{x} + \int_{\Gamma_0} (\boldsymbol{z} \cdot \boldsymbol{n}) \phi \, ds$ . Evidently,  $F \in H^{-1}(\mathcal{O})$ . Hence, by [ERS07], there exists  $\xi \in (3, 6]$  such that  $\pi \in W^{1,\xi}(\mathcal{O})$ . Combining this result with Lemma 3.1 the

result follows. Additionally, one obtains the bound

$$\|\pi\|_{W^{1,\xi}(\mathcal{O})} \le c \left( \|\operatorname{div} \boldsymbol{z}\|_{L^{2}(\mathcal{O})} + \|\boldsymbol{z} \cdot \boldsymbol{n}\|_{H^{1/2}(\Gamma_{0})} \right).$$
(3.13)

Recalling that  $\hat{\eta} \boldsymbol{z} - \hat{\eta} \boldsymbol{w} = \nabla \pi$  and using (3.13) and then (3.11) we obtain,

$$\begin{aligned} \|\boldsymbol{z}\|_{L^{\xi}(\mathcal{O},\mathbb{R}^{d})} &\leq \|\nabla\pi\|_{L^{\xi}(\mathcal{O};\mathbb{R}^{d})} + \|\widehat{\boldsymbol{\eta}}\boldsymbol{w}\|_{L^{\xi}(\mathcal{O};\mathbb{R}^{d})} \\ &\leq c \left( \|\operatorname{div}\,\boldsymbol{z}\|_{L^{2}(\mathcal{O})} + \|\boldsymbol{z}\cdot\boldsymbol{n}\|_{H^{1/2}(\Gamma_{0})} + \|\operatorname{curl}(\widehat{\boldsymbol{\eta}}\boldsymbol{z})\|_{L^{2}(\mathcal{O};\mathbb{R}^{d})} \right) \\ &\leq c \|\boldsymbol{z}\|_{\mathcal{Y}} \,. \end{aligned}$$
(3.14)

It is possible to pick  $\xi = 6$  as an exponent due to the fact that we have assumed  $\Gamma_0$  has  $C^2$ regularity. For more details the reader can consult the works in [Dru, Prop. 2.6 (2)].  $\Box$ 

189 **Proposition 3.3.** Define a new norm on  $\mathcal{Y}$  by

$$[\boldsymbol{v}]_{\mathcal{Y}} := \|\operatorname{div} \boldsymbol{v}\|_{L^{2}(\mathcal{O})} + \|\operatorname{curl}\left(\widehat{\mu}\,\boldsymbol{v}\right)\|_{L^{2}(\mathcal{O};\mathbb{R}^{d})} + \|\boldsymbol{v}\cdot\boldsymbol{n}\|_{H^{1/2}(\Gamma_{0})}, \qquad (3.15)$$

190 then  $\mathcal{Y}$  is also a Hilbert space with norm  $[\cdot]_{\mathcal{Y}}$ .

Proof. It is evident that if  $\boldsymbol{v} = \boldsymbol{0}$  then  $[\boldsymbol{v}]_{\mathcal{Y}} = 0$ . For the other direction we have,  $[\boldsymbol{v}]_{\mathcal{Y}} = 0$ implies that  $\operatorname{curl}(\hat{\mu}\boldsymbol{v}) = \boldsymbol{0}$  in  $\Omega$ . Hence,  $\boldsymbol{v}$  can be written as,  $\boldsymbol{v} = -\mu \nabla \theta$ . Thus, we get that  $\theta$  satisfies the following elliptic problem,

$$-\operatorname{div}\left(\mu\,\nabla\theta\right) = 0 \text{ in } \mathcal{O},$$
  
$$\mu\,\nabla\theta\cdot\boldsymbol{n} = 0 \text{ on } \Gamma_0.$$
(3.16)

The above problem has a unique solution,  $\theta = 0$  (if we fix constants) and the result follows. We remark that  $\mathcal{Y}$  is complete which follows by similar arguments used to show the completeness of the classical  $H(\text{div}; \mathcal{O})$  or  $H(\text{curl}; \mathcal{O})$  spaces (see [Tem84]).

<sup>197</sup> **Theorem 3.1** (Poincaré type inequality for  $(\mathcal{Y}, [\cdot]_{\mathcal{Y}})$ ). There exists a constant,  $c := c(\mathcal{O})$ , <sup>198</sup> such that

$$\|\boldsymbol{w}\|_{L^2(\mathcal{O};\mathbb{R}^d)} \le c \, [\boldsymbol{w}]_{\mathcal{Y}},\tag{3.17}$$

199 for all  $\boldsymbol{w} \in \mathcal{Y}$ .

Proof. We proceed by contradiction. If (3.17) is false then there exists a sequence  $\boldsymbol{w}_n \in \mathcal{Y}$ , such that

$$\|\boldsymbol{w}_n\|_{L^2(\mathcal{O};\mathbb{R}^d)} > n \, [\boldsymbol{w}_n]_{\mathcal{Y}} \text{ for all } n \in \mathbb{N}.$$
(3.18)

We can suppose that  $\|\boldsymbol{w}_n\|_{L^2(\mathcal{O};\mathbb{R}^d)} = 1$ . Then as  $n \to \infty$  and up to a, non-relabeled, subsequence we have:

$$\boldsymbol{w}_n \rightharpoonup \boldsymbol{w} \text{ in } H(\operatorname{div}; \mathcal{O}), \quad \widehat{\mu} \, \boldsymbol{w}_n \rightharpoonup \widehat{\mu} \, \boldsymbol{w} \text{ in } H(\operatorname{curl}; \mathcal{O}),$$

$$(3.19)$$

div 
$$\boldsymbol{w}_n \to 0$$
 in  $L^2(\mathcal{O})$ ,  
curl  $(\hat{\mu} \, \boldsymbol{w}_n) \to 0$  in  $L^2(\mathcal{O}; \mathbb{R}^d)$ , (3.20)  
 $\boldsymbol{w}_n \cdot \boldsymbol{n} \to 0$  in  $H^{1/2}(\Gamma_0)$ .

Decompose  $\hat{\mu} \boldsymbol{w}_n$  using Helmholtz decomposition as  $\hat{\mu} \boldsymbol{w}_n = \nabla p_n + \operatorname{curl} \boldsymbol{f}_n$ . Denote by  $\boldsymbol{g}_n := \operatorname{curl} \boldsymbol{f}_n$ , then  $\boldsymbol{g}_n \in L^2(\mathcal{O}; \mathbb{R}^d)$ , div  $\boldsymbol{g}_n = 0$ ,  $\operatorname{curl} \boldsymbol{g}_n \in L^2(\mathcal{O}; \mathbb{R}^d)$ , and  $\boldsymbol{g}_n \cdot \boldsymbol{n} = 0$  on  $\Gamma_0$ in the sense of distributions. By theorem, [FT78, Prop. 1.4, pg. 41] or [DL72, Thm 6.1, pg. 354]  $\boldsymbol{g}_n \in H^1(\mathcal{O}; \mathbb{R}^d)$  and is bounded uniformly. By the compact embedding of  $H^1$ into  $L^2$ ,  $\boldsymbol{g}_n \to \boldsymbol{g}$  in  $L^2(\mathcal{O}; \mathbb{R}^d)$  or  $\operatorname{curl} \boldsymbol{f}_n \to \operatorname{curl} \boldsymbol{f}$  in  $L^2(\mathcal{O}; \mathbb{R}^d)$ . Hence, if  $\hat{\mu}_0 := \min_i \hat{\mu}_i$ denotes the the smallest of the  $\hat{\mu}_i$ , we have

$$0 < \widehat{\mu}_{0} \leq \int_{\mathcal{O}} \widehat{\mu} \, \boldsymbol{w}_{n} \cdot \boldsymbol{w}_{n} \, d\boldsymbol{x}$$
  
= 
$$\int_{\mathcal{O}} \nabla p_{n} \cdot \boldsymbol{w}_{n} \, d\boldsymbol{x} + \int_{\mathcal{O}} \operatorname{curl} \boldsymbol{f}_{n} \cdot \boldsymbol{w}_{n} \, d\boldsymbol{x}$$
  
= 
$$\int_{\Gamma_{0}} p_{n} \, \boldsymbol{w}_{n} \cdot \boldsymbol{n} \, ds - \int_{\mathcal{O}} p_{n} \cdot \operatorname{div} \boldsymbol{w}_{n} \, d\boldsymbol{x} + \int_{\mathcal{O}} \operatorname{curl} \boldsymbol{f}_{n} \cdot \boldsymbol{w}_{n} \, d\boldsymbol{x}.$$
 (3.21)

- Since  $p_n$  remains bounded in  $H^1(\mathcal{O})$ ,  $\operatorname{curl} \boldsymbol{f}_n \to \operatorname{curl} \boldsymbol{f}$  in  $L^2(\mathcal{O}; \mathbb{R}^d)$ , and using (3.19) and
- (3.20) we can pass to the limit as  $n \to \infty$ . Noting further from (3.20) that the curl  $\mathbf{f} = \mathbf{0}$
- in  $\mathcal{O}$  we obtain that  $0 < \hat{\mu}_0 = 0$ , which is a contradiction.
- 213 Sometimes this is referred to as the global div-curl lemma (see [Sch18]).  $\Box$
- <sup>214</sup> Corollary 3.1. The norms  $\|\cdot\|_{\mathcal{V}}$  and  $[\cdot]_{\mathcal{Y}}$  are equivalent norms on  $\mathcal{Y}$

<sup>215</sup> *Proof.* It is a consequence of Theorem 3.1.

## <sup>216</sup> 4 Augmented variational formulation

#### 217 4.1 Assumptions

We frame the magnetorheological model (2.1)–(2.2) under the following general Assumption tions (A).

220 •	We assume $\Omega$ is a bounded, multiply connected domain such that $\operatorname{mes}_{d-1}(\Gamma) > 0$
221	and $\operatorname{mes}_{d-1}(S_{\ell}^{\epsilon}) > 0$ for $\ell = 1, \dots, N(\epsilon)$ .

•  $\Gamma_0$  and  $S_{\ell}^{\epsilon}$  are surfaces of class  $C^2$ ,  $S_p^{\epsilon} \cap S_q^{\epsilon} = \emptyset$  for  $p, q = 1, \dots, N(\epsilon)$  with  $p \neq q$ , and  $\Gamma_0 \cap S_{\ell}^{\epsilon} = \emptyset$  for every  $\ell = 1, \dots, N(\epsilon)$ .

• The magnetic permeability of the magnetorheological fluid,  $\mu^{\epsilon}$ , is assumed be a piecewise constant function with values  $\mu^{\epsilon}(\boldsymbol{x}) = \mu_1$  if  $\boldsymbol{x} \in \Omega_{1\epsilon}$  and  $\mu^{\epsilon}(\boldsymbol{x}) = \mu_2$  if  $\boldsymbol{x} \in \Omega_{2\epsilon}$ with  $0 < \mu_2 < \mu_1 < +\infty$ .

#### 227 4.2 Variational formulation

To properly establish a weak solution to the system of equations (2.1), (2.2), (2.3), (2.4), and (2.7) we need appropriate variational formulations and function spaces. We begin by defining the following function spaces,

$$\mathcal{V}^{\epsilon} = \left\{ \boldsymbol{v} \in H^{1}_{\Gamma_{0}}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^{d}) \mid \operatorname{div}(\boldsymbol{v}) = 0 \text{ in } \Omega, e(\boldsymbol{v}) = 0 \in \Omega_{1\epsilon} \right\}.$$
(4.1)

It is clear that  $\mathcal{V}^{\epsilon}$  is a closed subspace of  $H^1_{\Gamma_0}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d)$  and thus a Hilbert space with the induced  $H^1_{\Gamma_0}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d)$  inner product which by Korn's inequality is equivalent to

$$(\boldsymbol{v} \mid \boldsymbol{\phi})_{\mathcal{V}^{\epsilon}} = \int_{\Omega_{2\epsilon}} 2 \, e(\boldsymbol{v}) : e(\boldsymbol{\phi}) \, d\boldsymbol{x}.$$
(4.2)

<sup>233</sup> The corresponding norm will be denoted by  $\|\cdot\|_{\mathcal{V}^{\epsilon}}$ . Furthermore, we define the function <sup>234</sup> space,

$$\mathcal{Y}^{\epsilon} = \left\{ \boldsymbol{w} \in L^{2}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^{d}) \mid \operatorname{div} \boldsymbol{w} \in L^{2}(\Omega), \operatorname{curl}(\widehat{\mu}^{\epsilon} \boldsymbol{w}) \in L^{2}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^{d}), \\ \boldsymbol{w} \cdot \boldsymbol{n} \in H^{1/2}(\Gamma_{0}) \right\},$$

$$(4.3)$$

235 equipped with the inner product,

$$(\boldsymbol{h} \mid \boldsymbol{\psi})_{\mathcal{Y}^{\epsilon}} = \int_{\Omega} \operatorname{div}(\boldsymbol{h}) \operatorname{div}(\boldsymbol{\psi}) d\boldsymbol{x} + \int_{\Omega} \operatorname{curl}(\widehat{\mu}^{\epsilon} \boldsymbol{h}) \cdot \operatorname{curl}(\widehat{\mu}^{\epsilon} \boldsymbol{\psi}) d\boldsymbol{x} + \int_{\Gamma_{0}} (\boldsymbol{h} \cdot \boldsymbol{n})(\boldsymbol{\psi} \cdot \boldsymbol{n}) ds,$$

$$(4.4)$$

while the corresponding norm will be denoted by  $[\cdot]_{\mathcal{Y}_{\epsilon}}$ . It is evident that  $(\mathcal{Y}^{\epsilon}, [\cdot]_{\mathcal{Y}^{\epsilon}})$  is a Hilbert space from Proposition 3.3, since  $\mathcal{Y}^{\epsilon}$  is the Hilbert space  $\mathcal{Y}$  with  $\hat{\mu} := \hat{\mu}^{\epsilon}$  and  $\mathcal{O}$  is now the domain  $\Omega$ .

The variational formulation of (2.1), (2.2), (2.3), (2.4) and (2.7) is written in two steps. First, we write down the variational formulation of the Stokes' equations and the Maxwell equations separately and then add the resulting variational problems. The variational formulation of the Stokes' equation reads: Find  $\boldsymbol{u}^{\epsilon} \in \mathcal{V}^{\epsilon}$  such that,

$$(\boldsymbol{u}^{\epsilon} \mid \boldsymbol{\phi})_{\mathcal{V}^{\epsilon}} + \alpha \int_{\Omega_{2\epsilon}} \tau^{\epsilon} : e(\boldsymbol{\phi}) \, d\boldsymbol{x} = \boldsymbol{0} \quad \text{for all } \boldsymbol{\phi} \in \mathcal{V}^{\epsilon}.$$

$$(4.5)$$

For the quasi-static Maxwell's equations, we consider an augmented variational formulation in  $\mathcal{Y}^{\epsilon}$  [Jr05]. Find  $\mathbf{B}^{\epsilon} \in \mathcal{Y}^{\epsilon}$  such that

$$\frac{\alpha}{\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{m}}} \left(\boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon} \mid \boldsymbol{\psi}\right)_{\boldsymbol{\mathcal{Y}}^{\epsilon}} = \alpha \int_{\Omega_{1\epsilon}} \boldsymbol{u}^{\epsilon} \times \boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon} \cdot \mathrm{curl}\left(\widehat{\boldsymbol{\mu}}^{\epsilon} \boldsymbol{\psi}\right) \, d\boldsymbol{x} + \frac{\alpha}{\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{m}}} \int_{\Gamma_{0}} (\boldsymbol{c} \cdot \boldsymbol{n}) (\boldsymbol{\psi} \cdot \boldsymbol{n}) \, ds, \tag{4.6}$$

245 for all  $\boldsymbol{\psi} \in \mathcal{Y}^{\epsilon}$ .

Hence, the variational formulation of (2.1), (2.2), (2.3), (2.4) and (2.7) reads: Find 247  $(\boldsymbol{u}^{\epsilon}, \boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon}) \in \mathcal{V}^{\epsilon} \times \mathcal{Y}^{\epsilon}$  such that

$$(\boldsymbol{u}^{\epsilon} \mid \boldsymbol{\phi})_{\mathcal{V}^{\epsilon}} + \frac{\alpha}{\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{m}}} (\boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon} \mid \boldsymbol{\psi})_{\mathcal{Y}^{\epsilon}} = -\alpha \int_{\Omega_{2\epsilon}} \tau^{\epsilon} : e(\boldsymbol{\phi}) \, d\boldsymbol{x} + \alpha \int_{\Omega_{1\epsilon}} \boldsymbol{u}^{\epsilon} \times \boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon} \cdot \operatorname{curl}(\hat{\mu}^{\epsilon} \, \boldsymbol{\psi}) \, d\boldsymbol{x} + \frac{\alpha}{\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{m}}} \int_{\Gamma_{0}} (\boldsymbol{c} \cdot \boldsymbol{n}) (\boldsymbol{\psi} \cdot \boldsymbol{n}) \, ds,$$

$$(4.7)$$

248 for all  $(\boldsymbol{\phi}, \boldsymbol{\psi}) \in \mathcal{V}^{\epsilon} \times \mathcal{Y}^{\epsilon}$ .

**Theorem 4.1.** The pair  $(v^{\epsilon}, B^{\epsilon})$  satisfies (2.1), (2.2), (2.3), (2.4) and (2.7) if and only if it is a weak solution to (4.7).

Proof. It is clear that if  $(\boldsymbol{v}^{\epsilon}, \boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon})$  satisfies (2.1), (2.2), (2.3), (2.4) and (2.7) then it is a solution to (4.7). To see this, multiply the Stokes' equations by a test function in  $\boldsymbol{\phi} \in \mathcal{V}^{\epsilon}$ and carry out the varational formulation as in [Tem84], [GMV14], [NV16, Appendix]. For Maxwell's equations multiply the divergence part by  $\frac{\alpha}{R_{m}} \operatorname{div} \boldsymbol{\psi}$ , the rotational part by  $\frac{\alpha}{R_{m}} \operatorname{curl} \boldsymbol{\psi}$ , and the exterior boundary condition by  $\frac{\alpha}{R_{m}} \boldsymbol{\psi} \cdot \boldsymbol{n}$ , respectively.

For the other direction we have: Take  $(\boldsymbol{\phi}, \mathbf{0})$  as a test function in (4.7) and obtain the variational formulation of Stokes' equation (4.5) from which we can recover Stokes' equation, boundary conditions, and balance of forces and torques in the distributional sense as usual (see [Tem84], [GMV14]). On the other hand if we take  $(\mathbf{0}, \boldsymbol{\psi})$  as a test function in (4.7) we obtain (4.6). In order to recover Maxwell's equations we need to introduce appropriate test functions on each domain  $\Omega_{1\epsilon}$  and  $\Omega_{2\epsilon}$ . To this end if we let  $\zeta^{\delta} : \mathbb{R}^d \to [0, 1]$  be a smooth cut-off function defined by

$$\zeta^{\delta}(\boldsymbol{x}) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } d(\boldsymbol{x}, \Gamma_0) < \delta, \\ 0 & \text{if } d(\boldsymbol{x}, \Gamma_0) > 2 \, \delta, \end{cases}$$
(4.8)

where  $\delta$  is chosen in a way that the inner most neighbourhood does not intersect the rigid particles. Following [Lad14], define  $\boldsymbol{\theta}(\boldsymbol{x}) := (c_2 x_3, c_3 x_1, c_1 x_2)$  where the vector field  $\boldsymbol{c} = (c_1, c_2, c_3)$  is the constant vector field from the outer transmission condition on the boundary  $\Gamma_0$ . Set  $\boldsymbol{a}^{\delta}(\boldsymbol{x}) := \operatorname{curl} (\zeta^{\delta}(\boldsymbol{x}) \boldsymbol{\theta}(\boldsymbol{x}))$  then  $\boldsymbol{a}^{\delta}(\boldsymbol{x})$  is a divergence free vector field that is zero in the domain  $\Omega^{\delta} := \{\boldsymbol{x} \in \Omega \mid d(\boldsymbol{x}, \Gamma_0) < 2\delta\}$  and equals  $\boldsymbol{c}$  in the  $\delta$  neighbourhood of  $\Gamma_0$ .

Moreover, by Proposition 3.1 we have that  $\boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon} \in H^{1}(\Omega_{i\epsilon}), i = 1, 2$  and by the classical Sobolev embedding of  $H^{1}$  into  $L^{q}$  for  $1 \leq q < 6$  we have that  $\boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon} \in L^{4}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^{d})$ . Likewise, for  $\boldsymbol{v}^{\epsilon}$ , namely,  $\boldsymbol{v}^{\epsilon} \in L^{4}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^{d})$ . Thus,  $R_{m}\boldsymbol{v}^{\epsilon} \times \boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon}\chi_{\Omega_{1\epsilon}} \in L^{2}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^{d})$  by the Cauchy–Schwartz inequality. Using (2.3) we also have that  $\operatorname{div}(R_{m}\boldsymbol{v}^{\epsilon} \times \boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon}\chi_{\Omega_{1\epsilon}}) = 0$  in  $\Omega$ . Therefore,  $R_{m}\boldsymbol{v}^{\epsilon} \times \boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon}\chi_{\Omega_{1\epsilon}} \in \{\boldsymbol{v} \in H(\operatorname{div}, \Omega) \mid \operatorname{div} \boldsymbol{v} = 0 \text{ in } \Omega\}$ . By Lemma 3.1 there exists a  $\boldsymbol{w} \in \mathcal{Y}_{\Gamma_{0}}^{0}$ such that,

$$\operatorname{curl}(\widehat{\mu}_{\epsilon} \boldsymbol{w}) = \operatorname{R}_{\mathrm{m}} \boldsymbol{v}^{\epsilon} \times \boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon} \chi_{\Omega_{1\epsilon}}.$$
(4.9)

Setting  $\boldsymbol{\psi} := \boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon} - \boldsymbol{w} - \boldsymbol{a}^{\delta} \in \mathcal{Y}^{\epsilon}$  we reduce (4.6) to the following,

$$\int_{\Omega} \operatorname{div} \boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon} \operatorname{div}(\boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon} - \boldsymbol{w} - \boldsymbol{a}^{\delta}) d\boldsymbol{x}$$
  
+ 
$$\int_{\Omega} (\operatorname{curl}(\widehat{\mu}^{\epsilon} \boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon}) - \operatorname{R}_{\mathrm{m}} \boldsymbol{v}^{\epsilon} \times \boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon} \chi_{\Omega_{1\epsilon}}) \cdot \operatorname{curl}(\widehat{\mu}^{\epsilon} (\boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon} - \boldsymbol{w} - \boldsymbol{a}^{\delta})) d\boldsymbol{x} \qquad (4.10)$$
  
+ 
$$\int_{\Gamma_{0}} ((\boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon} - \boldsymbol{c}) \cdot \boldsymbol{n}) ((\boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon} - \boldsymbol{w} - \boldsymbol{a}^{\delta}) \cdot \boldsymbol{n}) d\boldsymbol{s} = 0$$

<sup>276</sup> Using the properties of the vector fields  $\boldsymbol{w}$  and  $\boldsymbol{a}^{\delta}$  we obtain:

$$\int_{\Omega} |\operatorname{div} \boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon}|^{2} d\boldsymbol{x} + \int_{\Omega} |\operatorname{curl} \left( \widehat{\mu}^{\epsilon} \, \boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon} \right) - \operatorname{R}_{\mathrm{m}} \boldsymbol{v}^{\epsilon} \times \boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon} \chi_{\Omega_{1\epsilon}} |^{2} d\boldsymbol{x} + \int_{\Gamma_{0}} |(\boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon} - \boldsymbol{c}) \cdot \boldsymbol{n}|^{2} ds = 0$$

$$(4.11)$$

Since the expression above is a sum of squares that is equal to zero, each integral must be equal to zero and the claim follows.  $\Box$ 

# <sup>279</sup> 5 Existence of a weak solution via the Altman-Shinbrot <sup>280</sup> fixed point theorem

#### <sup>281</sup> 5.1 M. Shinbrot's fixed point argument

To prove existence we employ the fixed point argument of Altman-Shinbrot [Shi64], [Alt57]. For the readers convenience, we recall the main theorem and corollaries as formulated by M. Shinbrot and whose proofs can be found in [Shi64].

In what follows,  $\mathcal{H}$  denotes a real or complex Hilbert space, and  $\mathcal{S}_r$  and  $\mathcal{B}_r$  will denote the sphere and the closed unit ball of radius r centered at zero:

$$\mathcal{S}_r = \{ x \in \mathcal{H} \mid \|x\|_{\mathcal{H}} = r \}, \quad \mathcal{B}_r = \{ x \in \mathcal{H} \mid \|x\|_{\mathcal{H}} \le r \}.$$

**Theorem 5.1.** Let H be an operator on the separable Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}$ , continuous in the weak topology on  $\mathcal{H}$ . If there is a positive constant r such that

$$\Re(Hx,x) \leq ||x||_{\mathcal{H}}^2 \text{ for all } x \in \mathcal{B}_r,$$

289 then H has a fixed point in  $\mathcal{B}_r$ .

**Corollary 5.1.** Let G be an operator on the separable Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}$ , continuous in the weak topology on  $\mathcal{H}$ . Let y be an element of  $\mathcal{H}$ . Let y be an element of  $\mathcal{H}$ . If there exists a positive r such that either,

$$\Re(Gx - y, x) \ge 0$$
 for all  $x \in \mathcal{S}_r$ ,

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$$\Re(Gx-y,x) \leq 0 \text{ for all } x \in \mathcal{S}_r,$$

then y is in the range of G.

**Corollary 5.2.** Let G be an operator on the separable Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}$ , continuous in the weak topology on  $\mathcal{H}$ . Then, zero is in the range of G if (Gx, x) is of one sign on some sphere  $S_r$ .

#### <sup>298</sup> 5.2 Existence

For all  $\boldsymbol{u}^{\epsilon}, \boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon}, \boldsymbol{\phi}, \boldsymbol{\psi}$  we define the following expression  $\mathcal{Q}$  by,

$$\mathcal{Q}[(\boldsymbol{u}^{\epsilon}, \boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon}); (\boldsymbol{\phi}, \boldsymbol{\psi})] := -\alpha \int_{\Omega_{2\epsilon}} \widehat{\mu}_2 \, \boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon} \otimes \boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon} : e(\boldsymbol{\phi}) \, d\boldsymbol{x} + \alpha \int_{\Omega_{1\epsilon}} \boldsymbol{u}^{\epsilon} \times \boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon} \cdot \operatorname{curl}(\widehat{\mu}_1 \, \boldsymbol{\psi}) \, d\boldsymbol{x}.$$
(5.1)

We can immediately see that by combining the results of Proposition 3.1 and Theorem 3.1 with classical Sobolev embedding theorems of  $H^1$  into  $L^q$ ,  $q \in [1, 2d/(d-2))$  we obtain,

$$|\mathcal{Q}[(\boldsymbol{u}^{\epsilon},\boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon});(\boldsymbol{\phi},\boldsymbol{\psi})]| \leq c |||(\boldsymbol{u}^{\epsilon},\boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon})|||^{2} |||(\boldsymbol{\phi},\boldsymbol{\psi})|||, \qquad (5.2)$$

where  $|||(-, \cdot)||| := ||-||_{\mathcal{V}^{\epsilon}} + \frac{\alpha}{\mathbb{R}_{m}}[\cdot]_{\mathcal{W}^{\epsilon}}$  and c is a generic constant depending on  $\Omega_{i\epsilon}, \alpha, \widehat{\mu}_{i}$  for i = 1, 2.

<sup>304</sup> Thus, we can write (4.7) as: Find  $(\boldsymbol{u}^{\epsilon}, \boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon}) \in \mathcal{V}^{\epsilon} \times \mathcal{Y}^{\epsilon}$  such that,

$$(\boldsymbol{u}^{\epsilon} \mid \boldsymbol{\phi})_{\mathcal{V}^{\epsilon}} + \frac{\alpha}{R_{m}} \left(\boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon} \mid \boldsymbol{\psi}\right)_{\mathcal{Y}^{\epsilon}} - \mathcal{Q}[(\boldsymbol{u}^{\epsilon}, \boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon}); (\boldsymbol{\phi}, \boldsymbol{\psi})] = \frac{\alpha}{R_{m}} \int_{\Gamma_{0}} (\boldsymbol{c} \cdot \boldsymbol{n}) (\boldsymbol{\phi} \cdot \boldsymbol{n}) \, ds, \qquad (5.3)$$

305 for all  $(\boldsymbol{\phi}, \boldsymbol{\psi}) \in \mathcal{V}^{\epsilon} \times \mathcal{Y}^{\epsilon}$ .

The Cauchy-Schwartz inequality and the definition of the norm  $\frac{\alpha}{R_{m}}[\cdot]_{\mathcal{Y}^{\epsilon}}$  make the right hand side of equation (5.3) a bounded linear functional of  $(\boldsymbol{\phi}, \boldsymbol{\psi}) \in \mathcal{V}^{\epsilon} \times \mathcal{Y}^{\epsilon}$ . Using Riesz's theorem, we can express the right hand side of (5.3) as the scalar product of a well determined element  $(\boldsymbol{f}, \boldsymbol{g}) \in \mathcal{V}^{\epsilon} \times \mathcal{Y}^{\epsilon}$  by  $(\boldsymbol{\phi}, \boldsymbol{\psi})$ .

Likewise, if we fix  $(\boldsymbol{u}^{\epsilon}, \boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon}) \in \mathcal{V}^{\epsilon} \times \mathcal{Y}^{\epsilon}$  and take into account the estimate (5.2), we can write

- the left hand side as a product of an element in  $\mathcal{V}^{\epsilon} \times \mathcal{Y}^{\epsilon}$ , denoted by  $\mathcal{F}(\boldsymbol{u}^{\epsilon}, \boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon})$  that depends nonlinearly on  $(\boldsymbol{u}^{\epsilon}, \boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon})$ , by  $(\boldsymbol{\phi}, \boldsymbol{\psi})$ .
- <sup>313</sup> Therefore, we can re-write (5.3) using the operator  $\mathcal{F}$  as,

$$(\mathcal{F}(\boldsymbol{u}^{\epsilon}, \boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon}); (\boldsymbol{\phi}, \boldsymbol{\psi})) = ((\boldsymbol{f}, \boldsymbol{g}); (\boldsymbol{\phi}, \boldsymbol{\psi})), \tag{5.4}$$

314 for all  $(\boldsymbol{\phi}, \boldsymbol{\psi}) \in \mathcal{V}^{\epsilon} \times \mathcal{Y}^{\epsilon}$  where,

$$(\mathcal{F}(\boldsymbol{u}^{\epsilon},\boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon});(\boldsymbol{\phi},\boldsymbol{\psi})):=(\boldsymbol{u}^{\epsilon}\mid\boldsymbol{\phi})+\frac{\alpha}{\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{m}}}\left(\boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon}\mid\boldsymbol{\psi}\right)-\mathcal{Q}[(\boldsymbol{u}^{\epsilon},\boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon});(\boldsymbol{\phi},\boldsymbol{\psi})],$$
(5.5)

315 and

$$((\boldsymbol{f},\boldsymbol{g});(\boldsymbol{\phi},\boldsymbol{\psi})) := \frac{\alpha}{\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{m}}} \int_{\Gamma_0} (\boldsymbol{c} \cdot \boldsymbol{n}) (\boldsymbol{\phi} \cdot \boldsymbol{n}) \, ds.$$
(5.6)

Hence, searching for a solution to (4.7) reduces to showing that at least one solution exists to the above nonlinear operator equation. Lemma 5.1. The nonlinear operator  $\mathcal{F} : (\boldsymbol{u}^{\epsilon}, \boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon}) \mapsto \mathcal{F}(\boldsymbol{u}^{\epsilon}, \boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon})$  is continuous in the weak topology of the product space  $\mathcal{V}^{\epsilon} \times \mathcal{Y}^{\epsilon}$ .

Proof. Assume that  $(\boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa}^{\epsilon}, \boldsymbol{B}_{\kappa}^{\epsilon})$  is a weakly convergent sequence in  $\mathcal{V}^{\epsilon} \times \mathcal{Y}^{\epsilon}$  to  $(\boldsymbol{u}^{\epsilon}, \boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon})$  as  $\kappa \to +\infty$  then,

$$|(\mathcal{F}(\boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa}^{\epsilon}-\boldsymbol{u}^{\epsilon},\boldsymbol{B}_{\kappa}^{\epsilon}-\boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon});(\boldsymbol{\psi},\boldsymbol{\psi}))| = \left| (\boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa}^{\epsilon}-\boldsymbol{u}^{\epsilon} \mid \boldsymbol{\phi}) + \frac{\alpha}{R_{m}} (\boldsymbol{B}_{\kappa}^{\epsilon}-\boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon} \mid \boldsymbol{\psi}) - \mathcal{Q}[(\boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa}^{\epsilon}-\boldsymbol{u},\boldsymbol{B}_{\kappa}^{\epsilon}-\boldsymbol{B});(\boldsymbol{\phi},\boldsymbol{\psi})] \right|.$$

$$(5.7)$$

By Hölder's inequality and the embedding of  $H^1(\Omega_{i\epsilon}; \mathbb{R}^d)$  into  $L^q(\Omega_{i\epsilon}; \mathbb{R}^d)$ , i = 1, 2 with 1  $\leq q < 6$  we have,

$$\begin{aligned} & |\mathcal{Q}[(\boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa}^{\epsilon} - \boldsymbol{u}, \boldsymbol{B}_{\kappa}^{\epsilon} - \boldsymbol{B}); (\boldsymbol{\phi}, \boldsymbol{\psi})]| \\ & \leq c \, \|\boldsymbol{B}_{\kappa}^{\epsilon} - \boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon}\|_{L^{4}(\Omega_{1\epsilon}; \mathbb{R}^{d})}^{2} \, \|e(\boldsymbol{\phi})\|_{L^{2}(\Omega_{2\epsilon}; \mathbb{R}^{d \times d})} \\ & \leq c \, \|\boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa}^{\epsilon} - \boldsymbol{u}^{\epsilon}\|_{L^{4}(\Omega_{1\epsilon}; \mathbb{R}^{d})} \, \|\boldsymbol{B}_{\kappa}^{\epsilon} - \boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon}\|_{L^{4}(\Omega_{1\epsilon}; \mathbb{R}^{d})} \, \|\operatorname{curl}(\widehat{\mu}_{1}\boldsymbol{\psi})\|_{L^{2}(\Omega_{2\epsilon}; \mathbb{R}^{d})}, \end{aligned}$$
(5.8)

for generic constant  $c := c(\Omega_{i\epsilon}, a, R_m, \widehat{\mu}_i), i = 1, 2$ . Moreover, since the above embedding of

<sup>325</sup>  $H^1(\Omega_{i\epsilon}; \mathbb{R}^d)$  into  $L^q(\Omega_{i\epsilon}; \mathbb{R}^d)$  is compact we can extract strongly  $\kappa$  convergent subsequences <sup>326</sup> (not relabelled) in  $L^4(\Omega_{i\epsilon}; \mathbb{R}^d)$  of  $\boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa}^{\epsilon}$  and  $\boldsymbol{B}_{\kappa}^{\epsilon}$  to  $\boldsymbol{u}^{\epsilon}$  and  $\boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon}$ , respectively.

Passing to the limit as  $\kappa \to +\infty$  in (5.7) we have,

$$\lim_{\kappa \to +\infty} (\mathcal{F}(\boldsymbol{u}_{\kappa}^{\epsilon} - \boldsymbol{u}^{\epsilon}, \boldsymbol{B}_{\kappa}^{\epsilon} - \boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon}); (\boldsymbol{\psi}, \boldsymbol{\psi})) = 0.$$
(5.9)

328

 $_{329}$  Lemma 5.2. If the magnetic Reynolds number,  $\mathrm{R}_\mathrm{m},$  is small then

$$\left(\mathcal{F}(\boldsymbol{u}^{\epsilon},\boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon});(\boldsymbol{u}^{\epsilon},\boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon})\right) \geq \frac{1}{2}\left|\left|\left|(\boldsymbol{u}^{\epsilon},\boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon})\right|\right|\right|^{2},\tag{5.10}$$

330 for all  $(\boldsymbol{u}^{\epsilon}, \boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon}) \in \mathcal{V}^{\epsilon} \times \mathcal{Y}^{\epsilon}$ .

<sup>331</sup> *Proof.* We prove the lemma in two steps. In step 1 we obtain an estimate of the magnetic <sup>332</sup> induction in terms of  $R_m$  using Proposition 3.2. In step 2. we obtain an estimate for Q.

 $_{333}$  Combining both steps gives bounds on  $R_m$  for the existence of solutions.

Step 1: We begin with a bound on  $\mathbf{B}^{\epsilon}$  in  $L^{q}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^{d})$  for  $q \in (1, 2d/(d-2)]$ . By Proposition 3.2 we have that

$$\begin{aligned} \|\boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon}\|_{L^{q}(\Omega;\mathbb{R}^{d})} &\leq c[\boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon}]_{\mathcal{Y}^{\epsilon}} \\ &= c(\|\operatorname{curl}(\widehat{\mu}^{\epsilon}\boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon})\|_{L^{2}(\Omega;\mathbb{R}^{d})} + \|\boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon}\cdot\boldsymbol{n}\|_{H^{1/2}(\Gamma_{0})}) \\ &\leq c(\|\operatorname{R}_{\mathrm{m}}\boldsymbol{u}^{\epsilon}\times\boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon}\|_{L^{2}(\Omega_{1\epsilon};\mathbb{R}^{d})} + |\boldsymbol{c}|\operatorname{mes}_{d-1}(\Gamma_{0})). \end{aligned}$$
(5.11)

On the rigid particles the velocity takes the form  $\boldsymbol{u}^{\epsilon} = \boldsymbol{V}^{\ell,\epsilon} + \boldsymbol{\omega}^{\ell,\epsilon} \times (\boldsymbol{x} - \boldsymbol{x}_{c}^{\ell}), \ \ell = 1, \ldots, N(\epsilon)$ with the translational and rotational velocity  $\boldsymbol{V}^{\ell,\epsilon}$  and  $\boldsymbol{\omega}^{\ell,\epsilon}$ , respectively, being constant. Additionally, the term  $|\boldsymbol{x} - \boldsymbol{x}_{c}^{\ell}|$  is such that  $|\boldsymbol{x} - \boldsymbol{x}_{c}^{\ell}| < \operatorname{diam}(T_{\ell}^{\epsilon}) < \epsilon \ll 1$ . Hence,

$$c \|\mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{m}}\boldsymbol{u}^{\epsilon} \times \boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon}\|_{L^{2}(\Omega_{1\epsilon};\mathbb{R}^{d})} \leq c_{\epsilon}\mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{m}} \|\boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon}\|_{L^{2}(\Omega_{1\epsilon};\mathbb{R}^{d})} \leq c_{\epsilon}\mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{m}} \|\boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon}\|_{L^{q}(\Omega;\mathbb{R}^{d})},$$

$$(5.12)$$

- 339 for  $q \in [2, 2d/(d-2)]$ .
- Combining (5.11) and (5.12) we obtain the following  $L^q$ ,  $q \in [2, 2d/(d-2)]$ , bound for  $\boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon}$ ,

$$\|\boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon}\|_{L^{q}(\Omega;\mathbb{R}^{d})} \leq \frac{c|\boldsymbol{c}|\mathrm{mes}_{d-1}(\Gamma_{0})}{1-c_{\epsilon}\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{m}}},\tag{5.13}$$

341 if  $R_m < 1/c_\epsilon$ .

342 Step 2: By Korn's inequality, Hölder's inequality, and (5.13) we can bound  $\mathcal{Q}$  by,

$$\begin{aligned} |\mathcal{Q}[(\boldsymbol{u}^{\epsilon},\boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon});(\boldsymbol{u}^{\epsilon},\boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon})]| &\leq c \, \|\boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon}\|_{L^{4}(\Omega_{2\epsilon};\mathbb{R}^{d})} \, \|\boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon}\|_{L^{4}(\Omega_{2\epsilon};\mathbb{R}^{d})} \, \|\boldsymbol{e}(\boldsymbol{u}^{\epsilon})\|_{L^{2}(\Omega_{2\epsilon};\mathbb{R}^{d\times d})} \\ &+ c \, \|\boldsymbol{u}^{\epsilon}\|_{L^{4}(\Omega_{1\epsilon};\mathbb{R}^{d})} \, \|\boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon}\|_{L^{4}(\Omega_{1\epsilon};\mathbb{R}^{d})} \, \|\operatorname{curl}(\widehat{\mu}^{\epsilon}\boldsymbol{u}^{\epsilon})\|_{L^{2}(\Omega_{1\epsilon};\mathbb{R}^{d})} \\ &\leq \frac{c|\boldsymbol{c}|\operatorname{mes}_{d-1}(\Gamma_{0})}{1-c_{\epsilon}R_{\mathrm{m}}} \, |||(\boldsymbol{u}^{\epsilon},\boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon})|||^{2} \, . \end{aligned}$$
(5.14)

343 Hence we obtain,

$$\left(\mathcal{F}(\boldsymbol{u}^{\epsilon},\boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon});(\boldsymbol{u}^{\epsilon},\boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon})\right) = \left|\left|\left|(\boldsymbol{u}^{\epsilon},\boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon})\right|\right|^{2} - \frac{c|\boldsymbol{c}|\mathrm{mes}_{d-1}(\Gamma_{0})}{1-c_{\epsilon}\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{m}}}\left|\left|\left|(\boldsymbol{u}^{\epsilon},\boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon})\right|\right|\right|^{2},\tag{5.15}$$

if  $R_m > (1 - 2c |\boldsymbol{c}| \operatorname{mes}_{d-1}(\Gamma_0))/c_{\epsilon}$  the result follows.

Theorem 5.2. Given the assumptions in Subsection 4.1, if the magnetic Reynolds number, R<sub>m</sub>, is small then problem (5.4) admits at least one weak solution.

<sup>347</sup> *Proof.* According to [Shi64, Corollary 2] (see also [Fin65], [SP68]) if we can show that <sup>348</sup> there exists a number r such that

$$(\mathcal{F}(\boldsymbol{u}^{\epsilon},\boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon}) - (\boldsymbol{f},\boldsymbol{g}); (\boldsymbol{u}^{\epsilon},\boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon})) \ge 0 \text{ for all } (\boldsymbol{u}^{\epsilon},\boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon}) \text{ with } |||(\boldsymbol{u}^{\epsilon},\boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon})||| = r$$
(5.16)

then equation (5.4) has at least one solution. Hence, by Lemma 5.2 we have,

$$(\mathcal{F}(\boldsymbol{u}^{\epsilon},\boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon}) - (\boldsymbol{f},\boldsymbol{g}); (\boldsymbol{u}^{\epsilon},\boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon})) = (\mathcal{F}(\boldsymbol{u}^{\epsilon},\boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon}); (\boldsymbol{u}^{\epsilon},\boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon})) - ((\boldsymbol{f},\boldsymbol{g}); (\boldsymbol{u}^{\epsilon},\boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon}))$$

$$\geq \frac{1}{2} |||(\boldsymbol{u}^{\epsilon},\boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon})|||^{2} - |||(\boldsymbol{f},\boldsymbol{g})||| |||(\boldsymbol{u}^{\epsilon},\boldsymbol{B}^{\epsilon})||| \qquad (5.17)$$

$$\geq 0,$$

350 if we select r = 2 |||(f, g)|||.

## 351 6 Conclusions

We proved existence of a weak solution in three spatial dimensions to a coupled sys-352 tem of Stokes' equations and quasi-static Maxwell's equations under moderate magnetic 353 field strength using the Altman–Shinbrot fixed point theorem and the augmented vari-354 ational formulation of Maxwell's equations when the magnetic Reynold's number, R<sub>m</sub>, 355 is small. The novelty of our approach lies in the fact that the magnetic induction that 356 does not possess full weak derivatives in  $L^2$  due to material inhomogeneities. Classical 357 fixed point arguments, like Leray-Schauder, require that the defined operator be com-358 pletely continuous which is a consequence of the Sobolev embedding of  $H^1$  into  $L^2$  for 359 three dimensions. In contrast, the Altman–Shinbrot fixed point argument requires that 360 the operator constructed need only be continuous in the weak topology of the underlying 361 function space (and not completely continuous as is required by the fixed point theorem 362 of Leray-Schauder). Moreover, in order to apply the Altman–Shinbrot theory, we prove 363 higher regularity of the non-linear term present due to the Lorentz force and define a new 364 function space for the magnetic induction. Additionally, we prove using the celebrated 365 div-curl lemma that this new space is compactly embedded into  $L^2$ . 366

By and large, the existence result holds true when the magnetic Reynold's number,  $R_m$ is small. The case of  $R_m \equiv 0$  can be thought off as a limit case of the above model. When  $R_m \equiv 0$  the system becomes weakly coupled and, existence and uniqueness follow by invoking the Lax-Milgram lemma once higher integrability of the magnetic induction is established.

## 372 Acknowledgments

GN gratefully acknowledges the funding by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG,
 German Research Foundation) under Germany's Excellence Strategy – The Berlin Mathe-

matics Research Center MATH+ (EXC-2046/1, project ID: 390685689) in project AA2-1.

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