

# Elmer Circuits

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Acknowledgements:

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- Parallel simulations of inductive components

# Introduction to Elmer Circuits

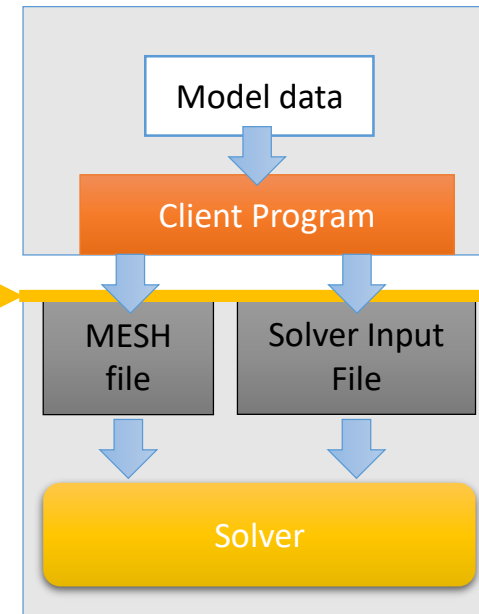
# History

- 2012: Circuit module prototype created
  - Proof of concept with stranded coil
- 2014-2015: Parallax project (TEKES)
  - Objective was to accelerate computation models through parallelization
  - New approach for circuit models: implementation of component sections and possibility to introduce different coil formulations [1]
- 2015-2017: Semtec project (TEKES)
  - Janne Keränen (VTT) as project coordination (**Thank you Janne!**)
    - One of the greatest projects in Elmerfem history
  - Objective was to develop computational tools for electrical machines using Elmer
  - Circuit module connected for all simulation types (transient/harmonic, 2D/3D)
  - Homogenization models
  - Circuit module published

[1] E. Takala *et. al.* "Parallel Simulations of Inductive Components with Elmer Finite-Element Software in Cluster Environments", *Electromagnetics* 36(3), April 2016, p. 167-185

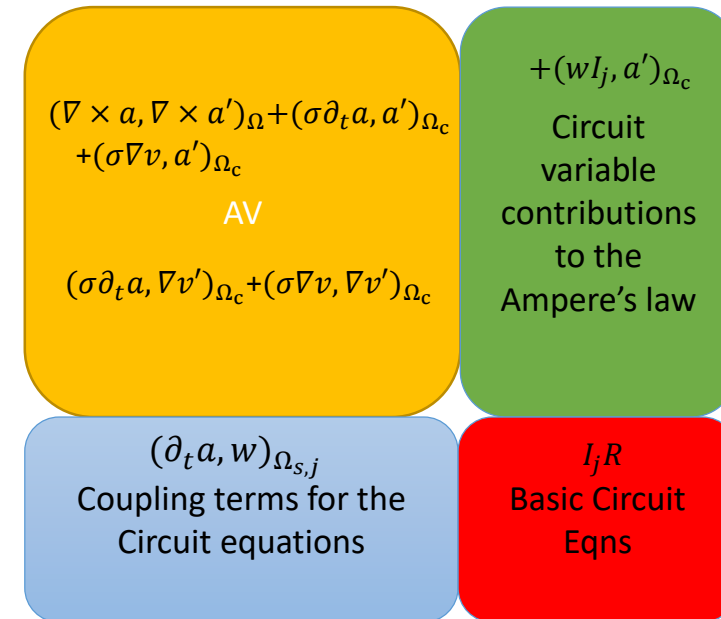
# Circuit Equation core feature – the interface

- In this presentation, the interface specification of the core feature is presented
- The problem of circuit equation user interface should be addressed by the user (or a client program)
  - There can be multiple implementations



# Solvers for the circuit equations: The system matrix

- There are two different "Solvers":
  - CircuitsAndDynamics(...)
  - WhitneyAVSolver(...)
- The first one adds the **circuit variable contributions**, **coupling terms** and the **basic circuit equations** to the system matrix (of the WhitneyAVSolver)
- The second one assembles the conventional **AV system matrix** and solves the whole thing



# How are the "basic circuit equations" described in Elmer?

- General equation

$$\mathbf{Ax}' + \mathbf{Bx} = \mathbf{f}$$

where  $\mathbf{A}$  and  $\mathbf{B}$  are coefficient matrices,  $x$  is the circuit variable vector and  $f$  is the source vector

- Circuit equations can be divided into two categories

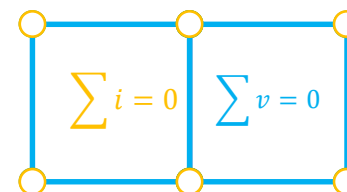
1. Component equations (voltage and current relations of a component)

- Resistor, Inductor, capacitor, etc...



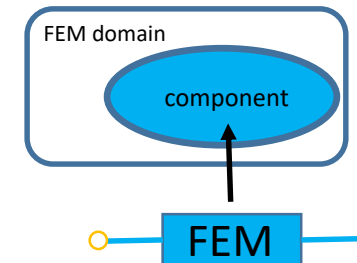
2. Circuit network equations

- Kirchoff 1 and 2



# Component equations

- An important distinction has to be made in component equations; they can be divided in two groups
  - Linear circuit elements
    - These are the conventional circuit elements arising from the basic circuit theory
  - FEM components
    - The coupling of circuits and FE model happens through these
    - Created automatically by the FEM solver

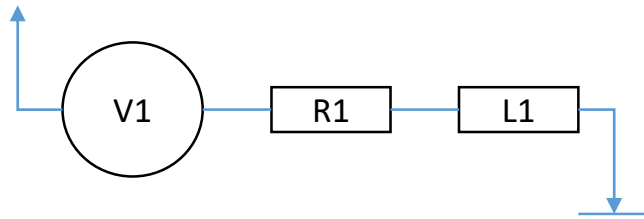




# Basic example on how to use the circuit module

# How are the "basic circuit equations" described in Elmer?

- Example:



- Network equations:

- Kirchoff 1:

- $i_{V1} - i_{R1} = 0$
- $i_{R1} - i_{L1} = 0$

- Kirchoff 2:

- $v_{V1} + v_{R1} + v_{L1} = 0$

- Component equations:

- V1:  $v_{V1} = v_0$
- R1:  $v_{R1} = R_{R1} i_{R1}$
- L1:  $v_{L1} = L_{L1} i_{L1}'$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & L_{L1} & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} i_{V1}' \\ v_{V1} \\ i_{R1} \\ v_{R1} \\ i_{L1} \\ v_{L1} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & R_{R1} & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} i_{V1} \\ v_{V1} \\ i_{R1} \\ v_{R1} \\ i_{L1} \\ v_{L1} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ v_0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

**A**

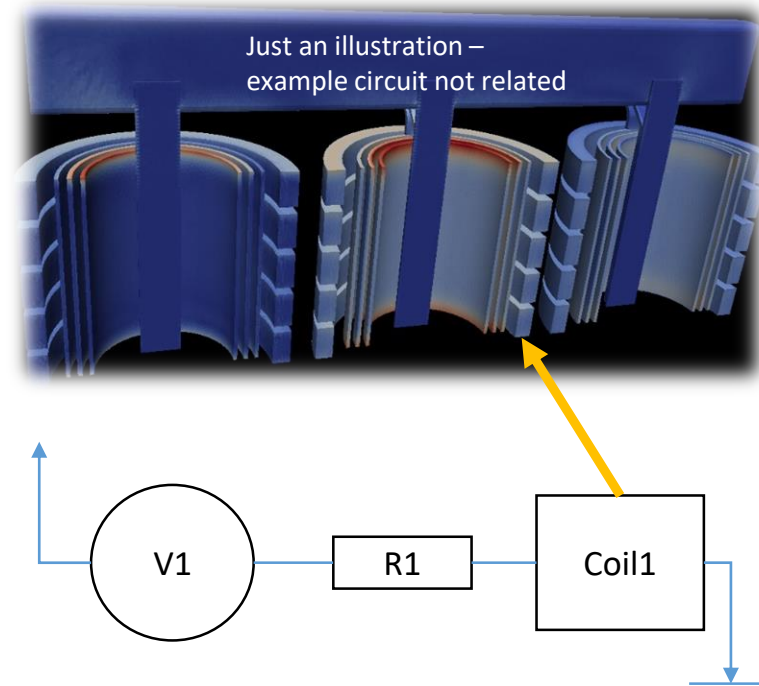
$x'$  +

**B**

$x = f$

# Component Equation Connection to an FE model?

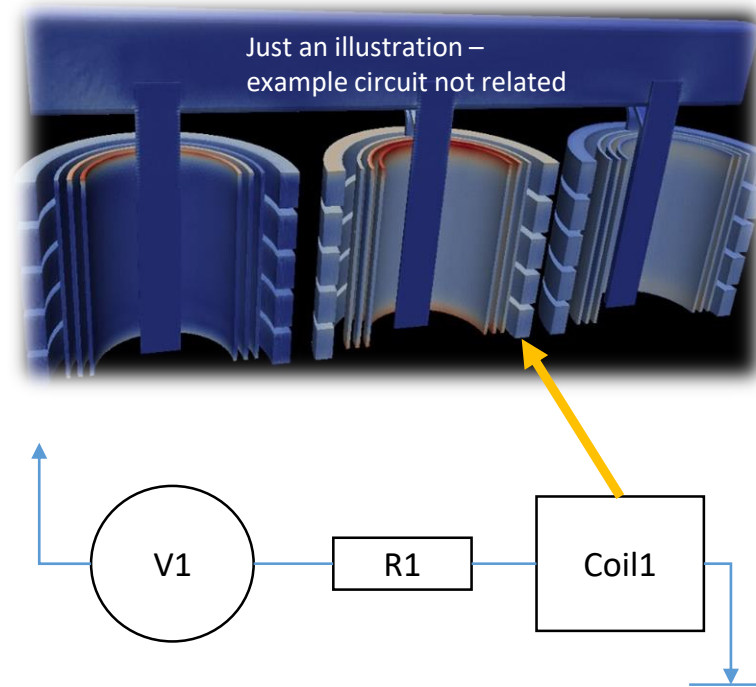
- Elmer can create component equations for bodies of elements in the FE model
- Example: L1 is replaced by a coil component in an FE model
  - Component section needs to be created for "Coil 1" that is associated to the body that corresponds to the geometry of the coil



$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} i_{V1} \\ v_{V1} \\ i_{R1} \\ v_{R1} \\ i_{Coil1} \\ v_{Coil1} \end{bmatrix}' + \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & R_{R1} & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} i_{V1} \\ v_{V1} \\ i_{R1} \\ v_{R1} \\ i_{Coil1} \\ v_{Coil1} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ v_0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

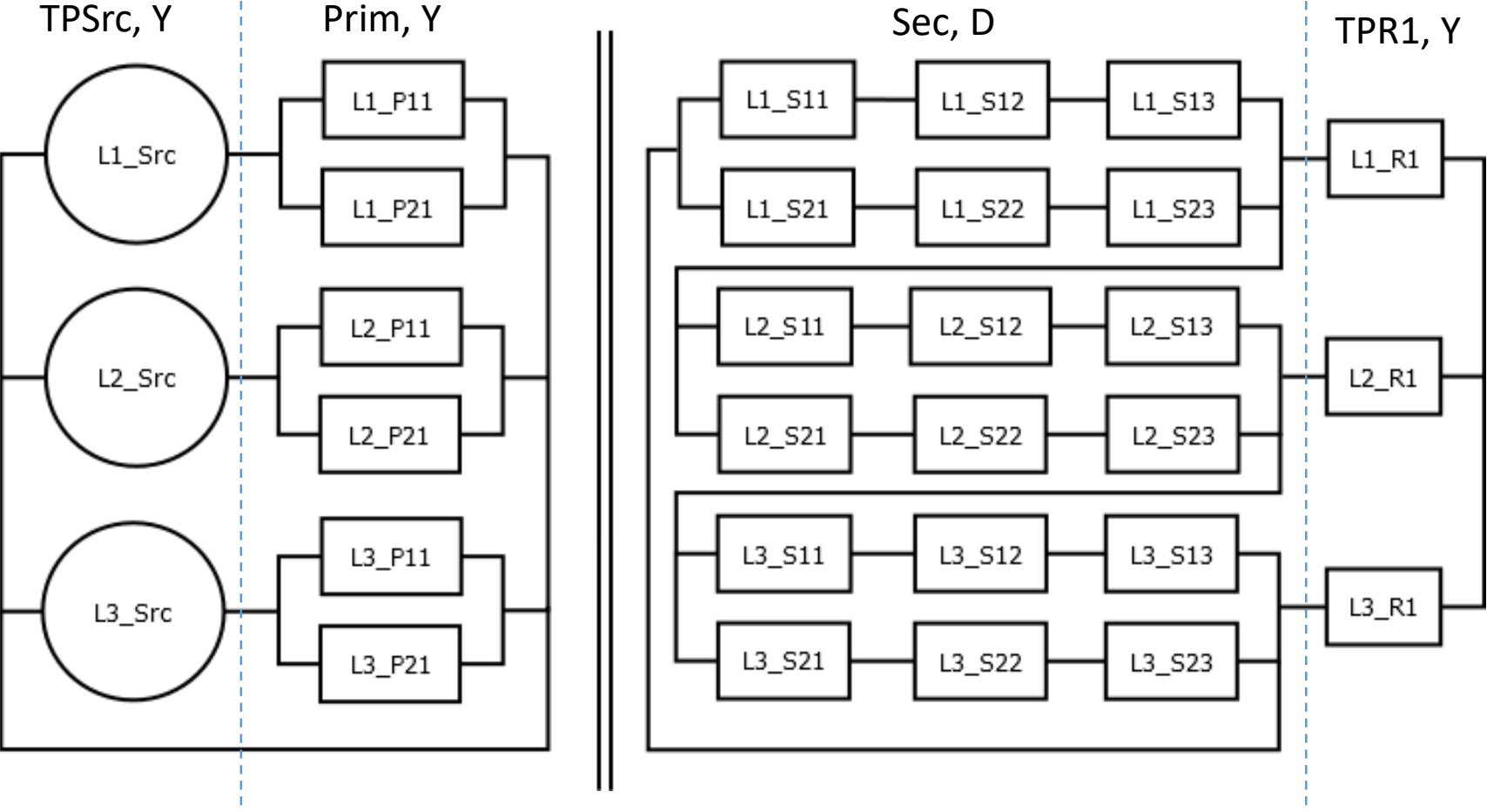
# Component Equation Connection to an FE model?

- The component equation is written by Elmer!!! (In this example the **red number 1** in matrix **B**)
  - FEM component equation is always written to the voltage row
  - Circuit variable contributions and coupling terms to the AV system matrix are written as well (these describe the component actually)
  - Note that in principle Elmer could write also the circuit element equations!



$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} i_{V1} \\ v_{V1} \\ i_{R1} \\ v_{R1} \\ i_{Coil1} \\ v_{Coil1} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & R_{R1} & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} i_{V1} \\ v_{V1} \\ i_{R1} \\ v_{R1} \\ i_{Coil1} \\ v_{Coil1} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ v_0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Parametric circuit model (A relatively simple example, Yd transformer)



# How does it work in practice? component – body association

## Solver input file (SIF):

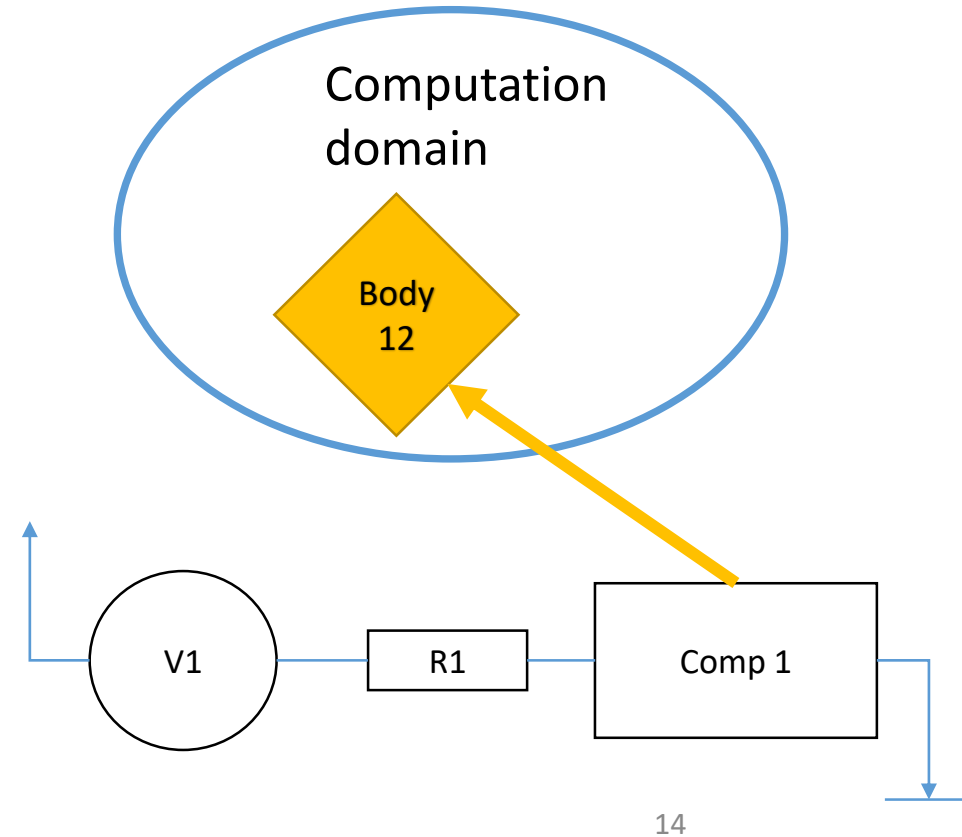
...

### Body 12

Name=Coil  
Target Bodies(1) = \$ Coil  
Equation = 2  
Material = 5  
Initial Condition = 1  
Body Force = 1  
End

### Component 1

Name=Stranded Coil  
Master Bodies(1) = 12  
Coil Type = String Stranded  
Number of Turns = Integer 14  
Electrode Area = Real \$ 2376e-6  
End



# How does it work in practice? component – body association

## circuits.definitions:

```
$ Circuits = 1
```

```
$ C.1.variables = 6  
$ C.1.name.1 = "i_v1"  
$ C.1.name.2 = "v_v1"  
$ C.1.name.3 = "i_R1"  
$ C.1.name.4 = "v_R1"  
$ C.1.name.5 = "i_component(1)"  
$ C.1.name.6 = "v_component(1)"
```

```
! i_v1 - i_R1 = 0  
$ C.1.B(0,0) = 1  
$ C.1.B(0,2) = -1
```

```
! v_v1 = v0  
$ C.1.B(1,1) = 1  
$ C.1.source.2 = "v0"
```

```
...  
! R1 * i_R1 - v_R1 = 0  
$ C.1.B(3,2) = R1  
$ C.1.B(3,3) = -1  
!etc...
```

Both circuit variables need to be declared. The component behaviour is described by the equation that is automatically written (by the solver) for the v\_component

The other equation (that describes the components relation to the circuit) needs to be written in the matrices A and B

## SIF:

```
...  
Body Force 1  
  Name = "Circuit"  
...  
! Phase 1  
v0 = Variable time  
  Real Procedure "phasecurrents" "v0"  
...  
End  
...
```

Note that this is actually a component equation! So we could let elmer write it if we wanted

# Non-linear basic component (specification)

## circuits.definitions:

```
$ Circuits = 1

$ C.1.variables = 6
$ C.1.name.1 = "i_v1"
$ C.1.name.2 = "v_v1"
$ C.1.name.3 = "i_component(2)"
$ C.1.name.4 = "v_component(2)"
$ C.1.name.5 = "i_component(1)"
$ C.1.name.6 = "v_component(1)"

! i_v1 - i_R1 = 0
$ C.1.B(0,0) = 1
$ C.1.B(0,2) = -1

! v_v1 = v0
$ C.1.B(1,5) = 1
$ C.1.source.2 = "v0"

!etc...
```

## Solver input file (SIF):

```
Component 2
Name=R1
Type = Resistor
Resistance = Variable T1
Real Procedure "Components" "getResistance"
End

...

Body Force 1
Name = "Circuit"
...

! Phase 1
v0 = Variable time
Real Procedure "phasecurrents" "v0"
...

End

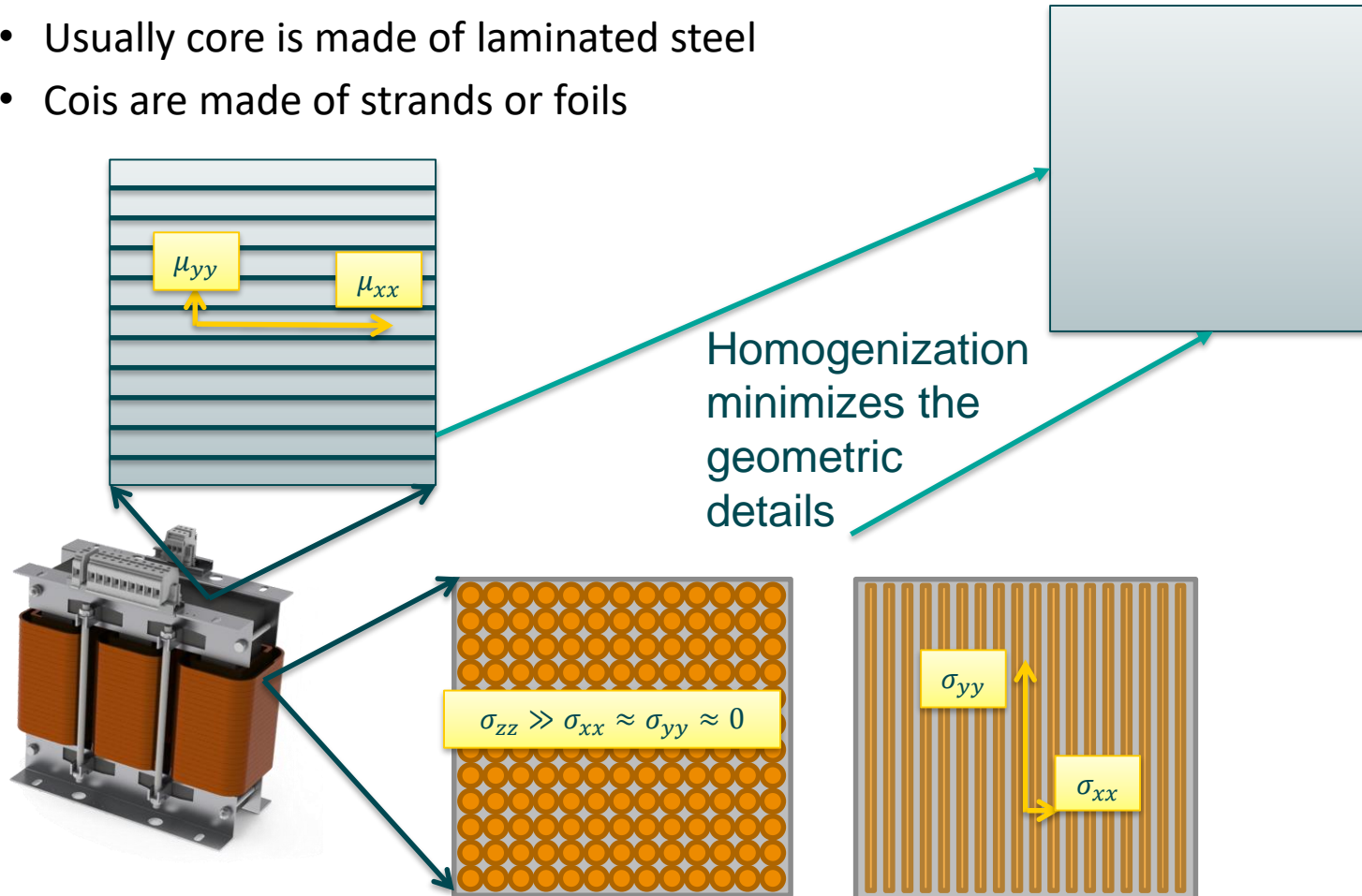
...
```

**NOTE: This type of resistor has not been implemented yet but will be done in the future**

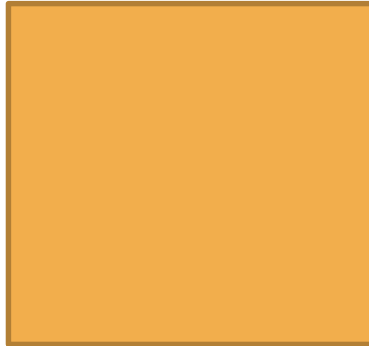


# Homogenization techniques

- Usually core is made of laminated steel
- Coils are made of strands or foils



# Elmer coil models



## Component 1

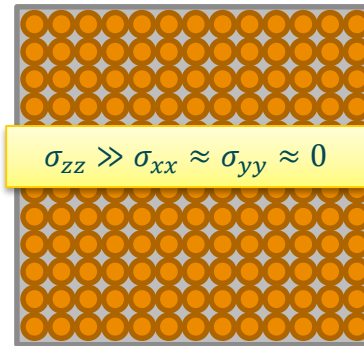
Name=Massive Coil

Master Bodies(1) = 1

Coil Type = String Massive

End

- A natural coupling with the AV formulation
- Strength: “perfect behaviour (losses correctly computed)”
- Drawback: difficult to apply to anything (applications are detailed)



## Component 1

Name=Stranded Coil

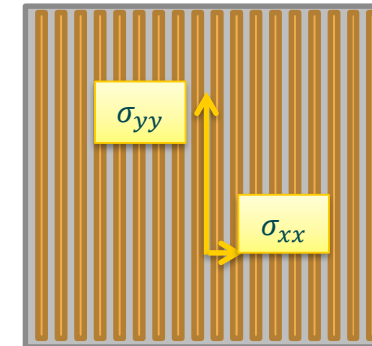
Master Bodies(1) = 1

Coil Type = String Stranded

Electrode Area = Real \$area

End

- Strength: practical, easy to use
- Drawback: needs to be equipped with a homogenization model in order to compute losses



## Component 1

Name=Stranded Coil

Master Bodies(1) = 1

Coil Type = String Foil Winding

Winding thickness

Foil Winding Voltage

Polynomial Order = Integer 2

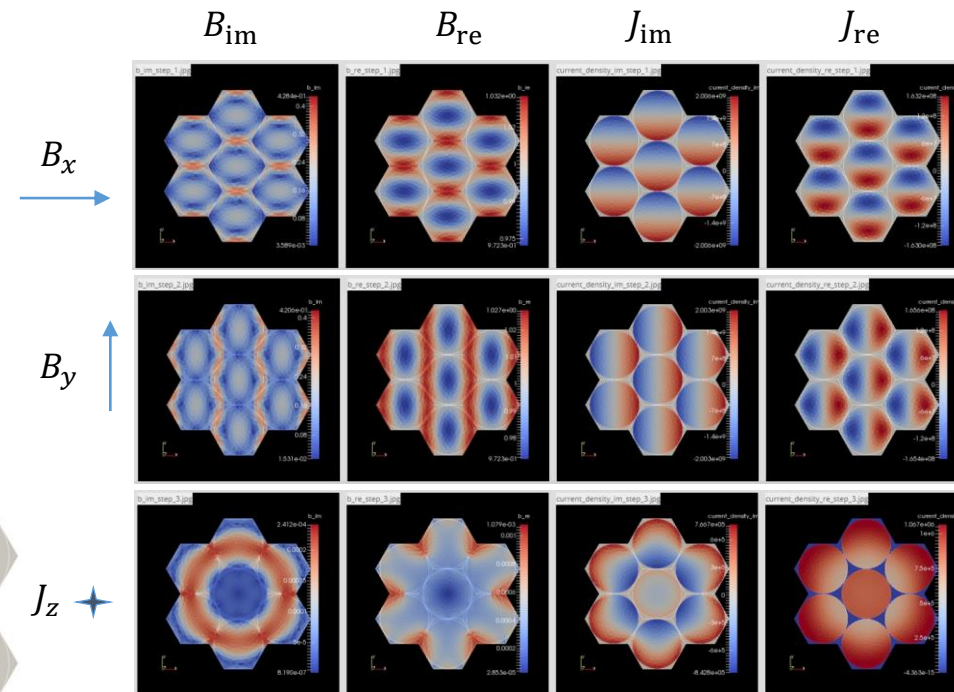
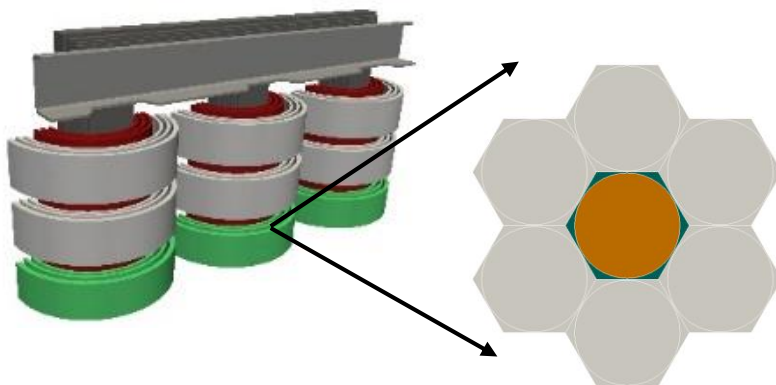
End

- Strength: practical, easy to use, computes losses correctly in low frequencies
- Drawback: current distribution is assumed homogenic over the foil thickness -> needs a homogenization model in high frequencies

# Homogenization technique for stranded coils

# homogenization model (stranded coil) – similar with [6][7]

- Assuming the coil consists of a periodic coil structure
  - Make a small model of the periodic structure
  - Compute the response of one cell
  - Use the response in the homogenization model



[6] J. Gyselinck and P. Dular, "Frequency-Domain Homogenization of Bundles of Wires in 2-D Magnetodynamic FE Calculations", IEEE Trans. Magn., 41(5), May 2005  
[7] G. Meunier, A. T. Phung, O. Chadebec, X. Margueron, J. Keradec. "Propriétés macroscopiques équivalentes pour représenter les pertes dans les bobines conductrices", Revue Internationale de Génie Electrique, 2008, 11 (6), pp.675-694

# Example

- First the "material response" is computed

```

Activate homogenization
parameter computation

Simulation 1
....
Coordinate System = Cartesian
Simulation Type = Scanning
Timestep Intervals = 3
Timestep sizes = 1
Additive Namespaces = Logical True
....
End

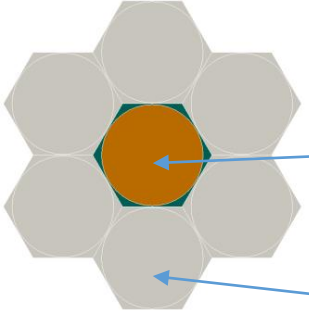
Solver 4 !---- MagnetoDynamics2D, bSolver
....
Procedure = "MagnetoDynamics2D" "bSolver"
Calculate Homogenization Parameters = Logical True
....
End
    
```

```

Solution settings

Boundary Condition 1 !---- none core
Target Boundaries(18) = 1 2 6 7 8 9 \
12 13 14 17 20 21 \
24 25 26 28 29 30
Coupled 1: Magnetic Flux Density 1 = 1
Coupled 2: Magnetic Flux Density 2 = 1
Coupled 3: A re = Real 0
Coupled 3: A im = Real 0
End

Body Force 1 !---- Circuit
Name = "Circuit"
S Re = Real 0
Coupled 3: S Re = Real 1
S Im = Real 0.0
End
    
```



```

Component 5 !---- wp1_5
Name = String wp1_5
Master Bodies(2) = Integer 5 12
Coil Type = String massive
Coupled 1: Homogenization Reluctivity Output Component = String 11
Coupled 2: Homogenization Reluctivity Output Component = String 22
Coupled 3: Homogenization Conductivity Output Component = String 33
End

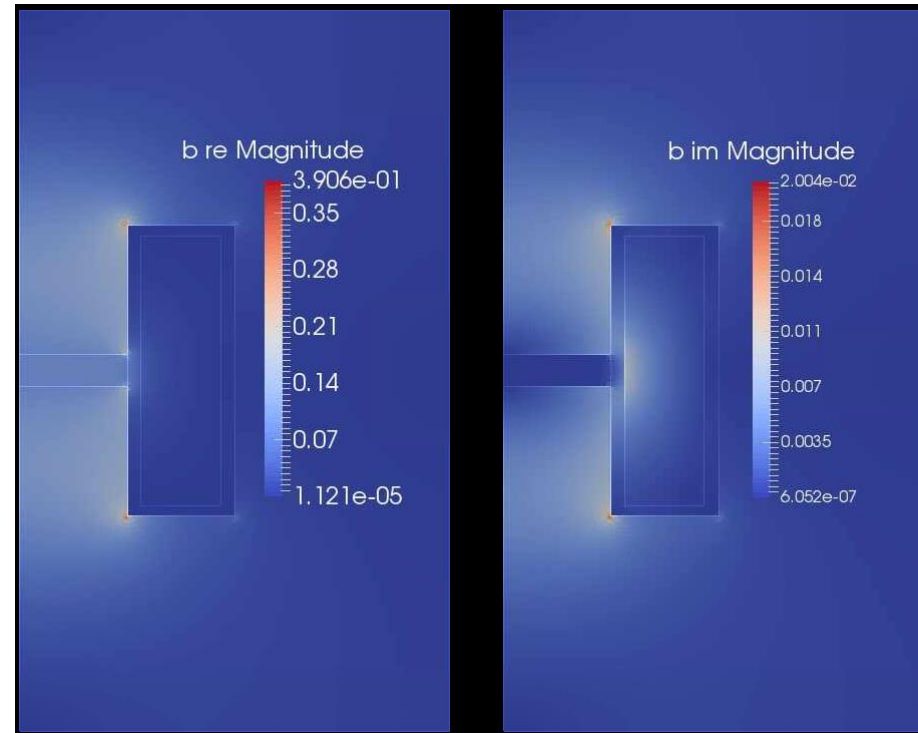
Other components can to be defined without
homogenization output
    
```

**Coupled i are the 3 elementary solutions!**

# Example

- Now the material response can be used in coil component

```
Component 1 !---- wp1
....
Master Bodies = Integer 3
Coil Type = String stranded
Homogenization Model = Logical True
Nu 11 = Real 821526.5625
Nu 11 im = Real 289980.15625
Nu 22 = Real 821526.5625
Nu 22 im = Real 289980.15625
Sigma 33 = Real 47728506.5296
Sigma 33 im = Real -12454099.5408
....
End
```



# Example results

- DC Power of the test coil  
0.2061W
- AC Power 10kHz
  - Massive 11.57W (Fig. 1)
  - Homogenization 11.88W (Fig. 2)
- Capacitive effects are not taken into account in either of the models
- Only applicable to structures with linear permeability

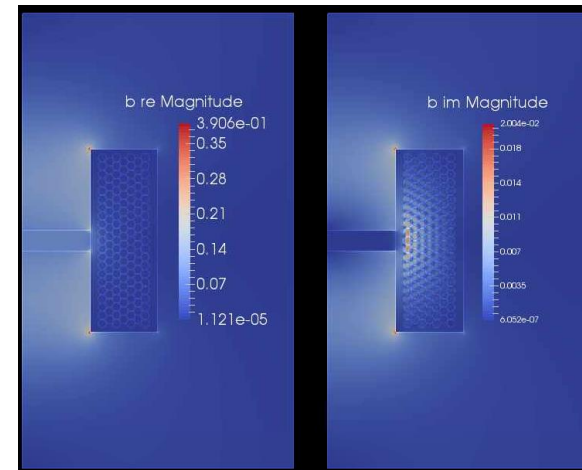


Fig 1. Massive

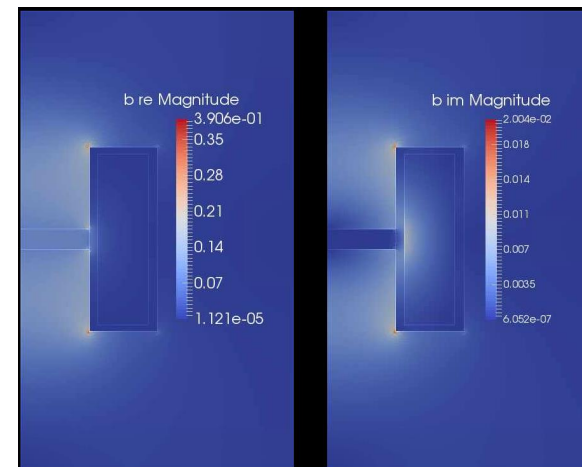
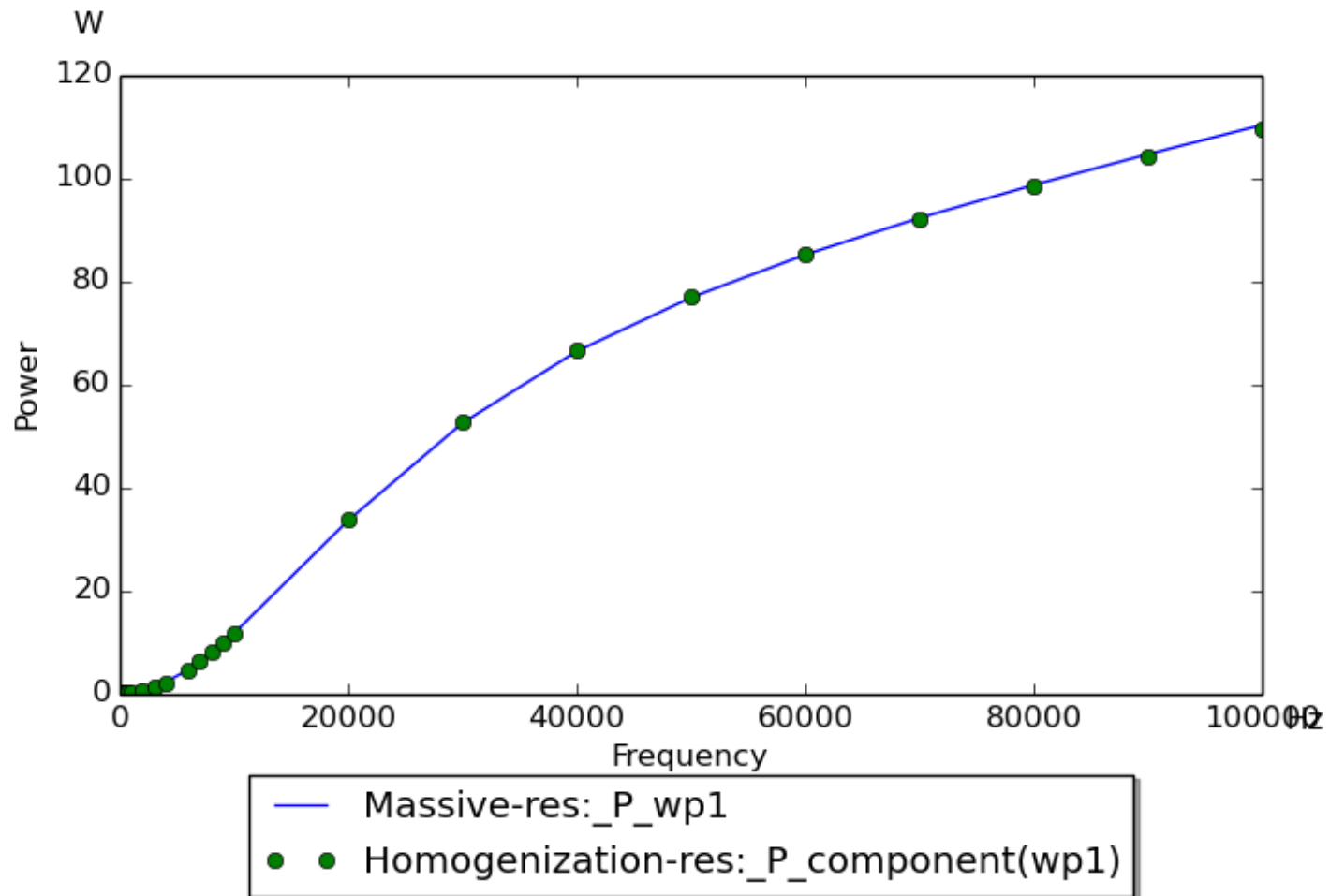


Fig 2. Homogenization

# Massive vs. Homogenization 1-100kHz





# Applications: 3-phase power transformers

# Power transformers - introduction

- Transformer short circuit behaviour has been an academic interest at least for a half a century [1]
- The first foil winding model by N. Mullineux [2]
  - Analytical but involved numerical integration
  - "less than a minute" with Atlas super computer (cost: 500 pounds/hour)

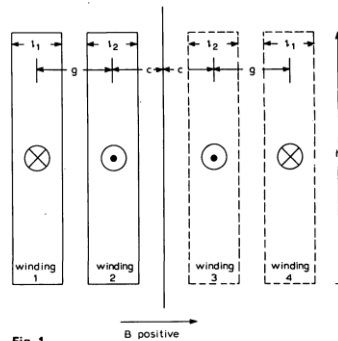


Fig. 1  
Image system for the mathematical model



Image source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atlas\\_\(computer\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atlas_(computer))

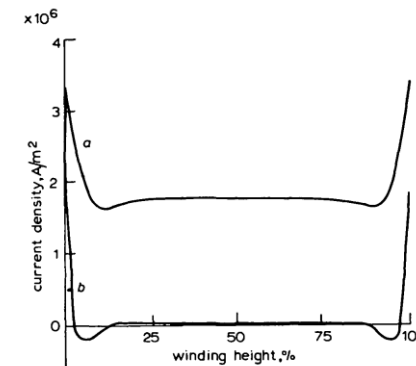


Fig. 3

Current-density distribution  
a Component in phase with h.v. current  
b Component in quadrature (leading positive)

[1] P. L. Dowell, "Effects of eddy currents in transformer windings", Proc. IEE., vol. 113, no. 3, pp. 1387-1394, 1966

[2] N. Mullineux, J. R. Reed and I. J. Whyte, "Current distribution in sheet and foil-wound transformers", Proc. IEE., vol. 116, no. 1, pp. 127-129, January 1969

# Power transformers - introduction

- Nowadays a fast and decent 2D harmonic FEM short circuit model can be run in a matter of seconds

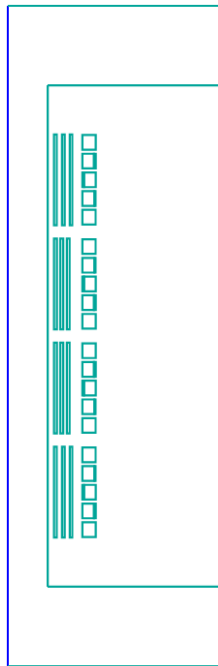
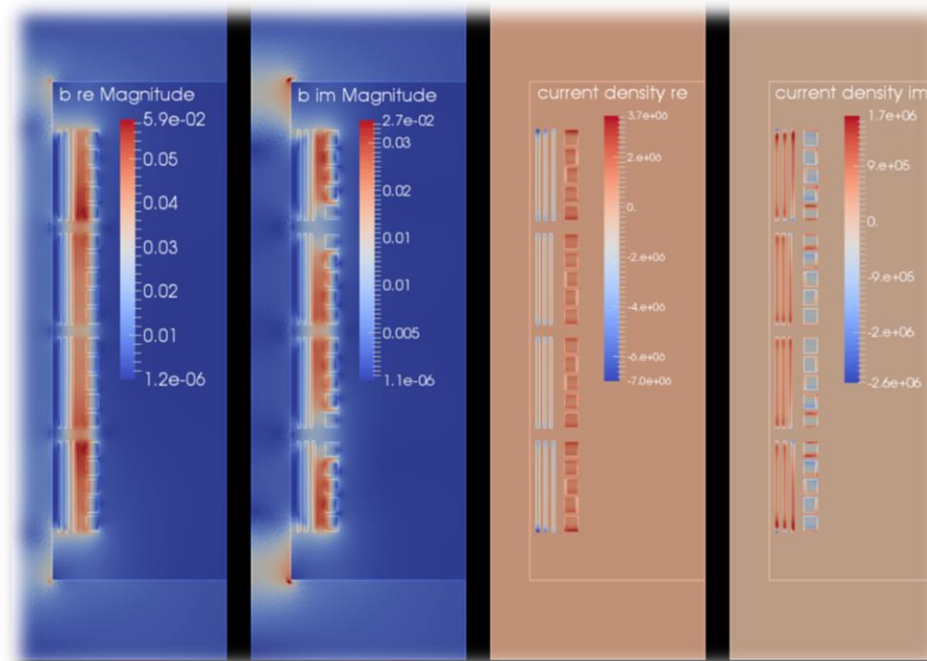
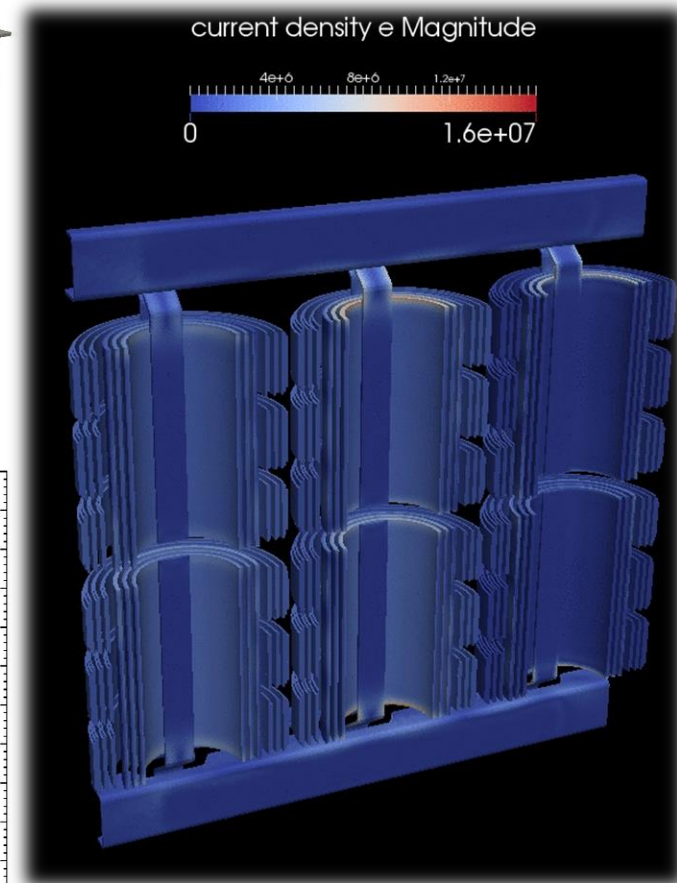
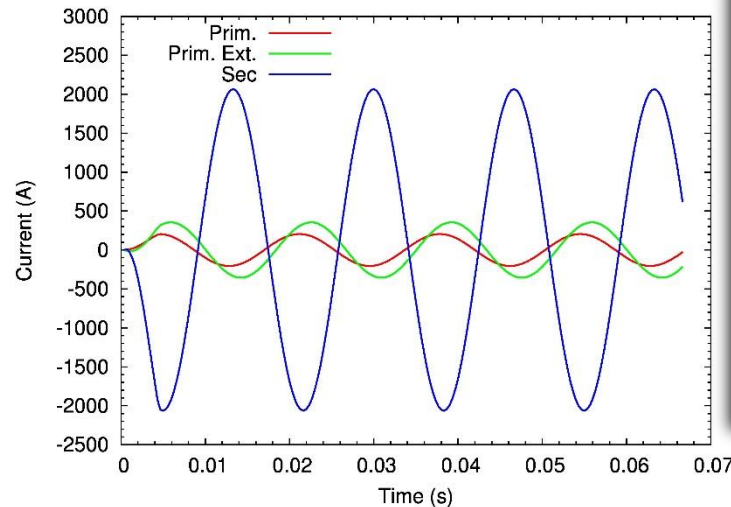
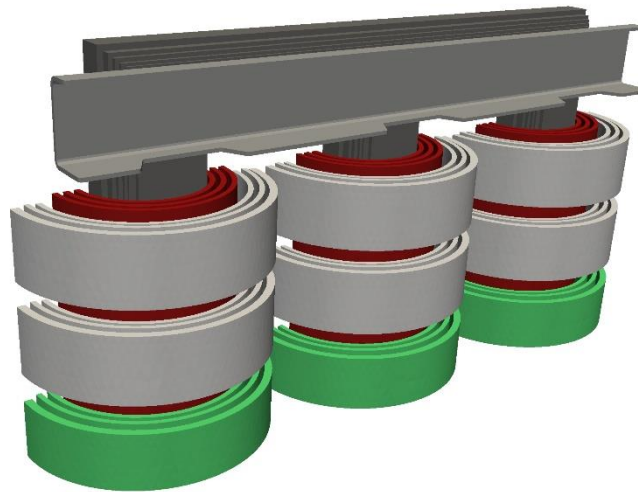


Image source:  
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ThinkPad>



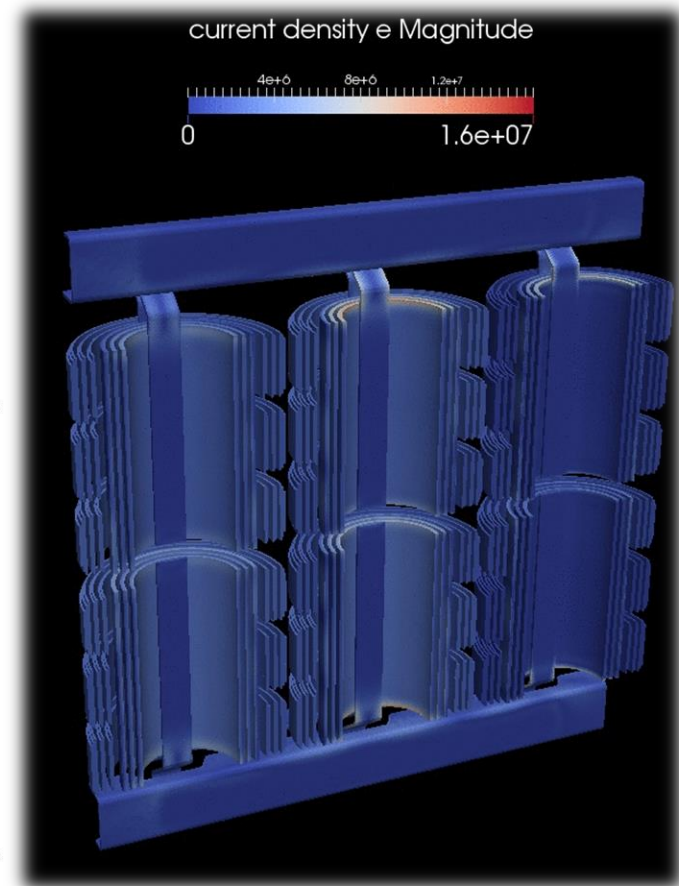
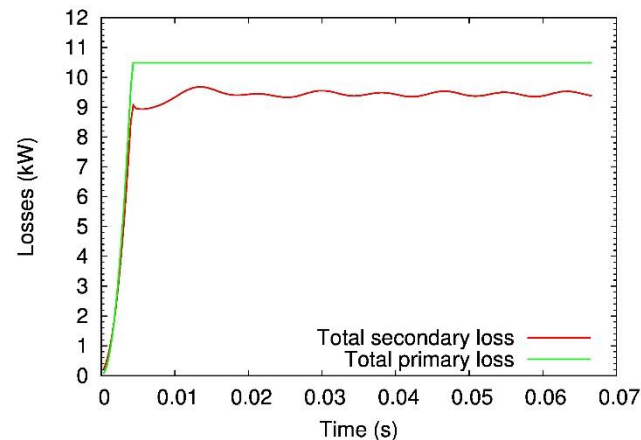
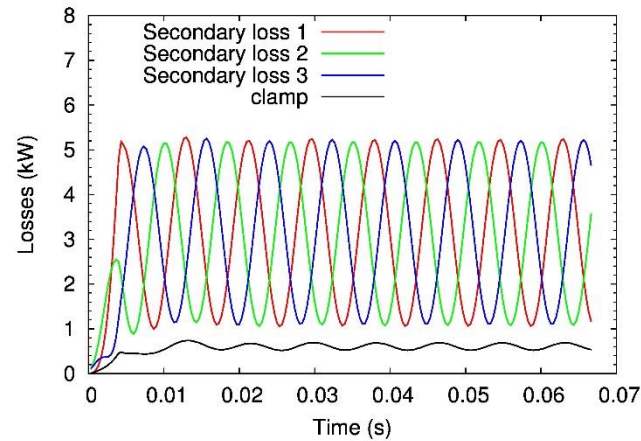
# 3D Example

- Apply the A-V formulation on a test transformer
- Geometry
  - Primary (Stranded)
  - Primary phase shift (30 deg)
  - Secondary (Foil Winding)
  - Core ( $\mu$ :  $2e3$ )
  - Clamp ( $\sigma$ :  $1e7$ )
  - Air box (Covers everything)



# Loss estimation

- Now we can compute the losses due to the uneven distribution of current at any point at a given time
- Or with a little touch of paraview we can produce really cool animations...



# Applications (motivation) : superconducting magnet – Quench model

Quench model by courtesy of Prof. F. Trillaud from UNAM

The simulation shows the motivation for quench protection  
and thus the connection to external circuits

# Development for superconducting magnets

- Superconductors = high current density at no loss at cryogenic temperatures
- Superconducting magnets are prone to “quenches”
- A quench is the sudden appearance of local Joule dissipation followed by a propagating heat wave through the magnet => multiphysics model coupling magnetodynamic solver and heat solver
- A quench is harmful => need of rapid protection and detection systems => circuit model

Steps of quench process:

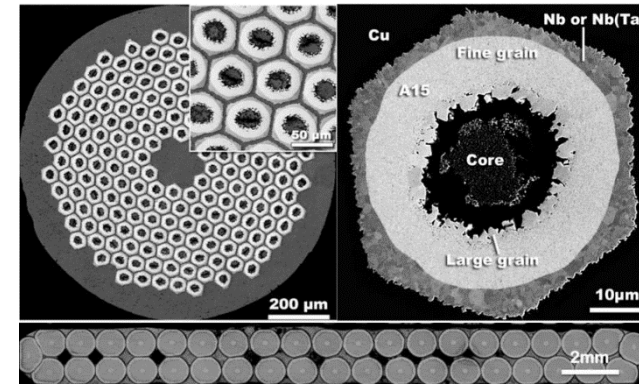
- 1: Initial normal zone (first localized dissipation)
- 2-3: Diffusion (expansion of the dissipative zone)
- 4: Propagation (dissipative front at constant velocity)



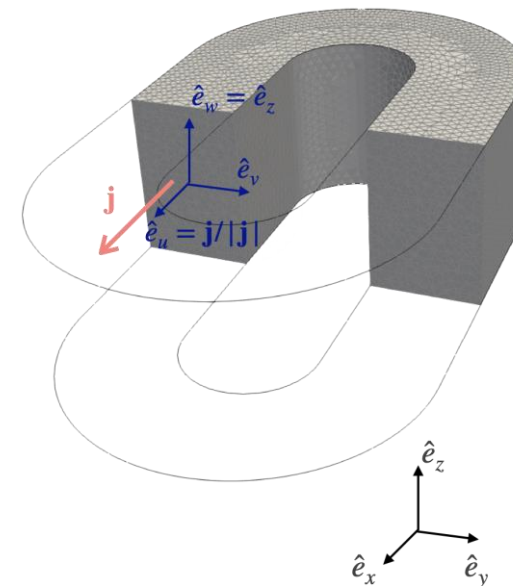
F. Trillaud, “Etude de la stabilité thermoélectronique des conducteurs supraconducteurs à basse température critique et contribution à l'étude de la stabilité thermoélectrique des supraconducteurs à haute température critique.”, PhD thesis, 2005, Laboratoire de Génie Electrique de Grenoble

# Coil model

- Coil wound with composite material  $\Rightarrow$  anisotropic material properties
- Heat conductivity tensor in a local coordinate system  $\Rightarrow$  UDF
- CoilSolver to model a closed coil

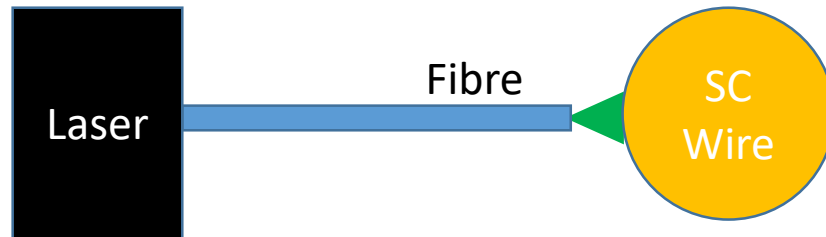


Reviews of Accelerator Science and Technology, Vol. 05, pp. 25-50 (2012)

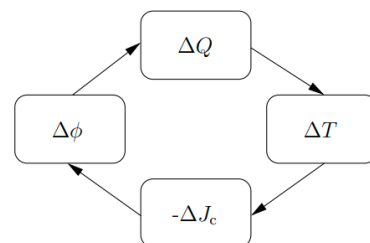




# Initiating a quench in a superconducting strand can be done with a very low energy



- Minimum perturbation energy to quench a Nb<sub>3</sub>Sn SC wire is between **0.5 μJ - 23 μJ**
  - **Kinetic energy** of a water drop (50 uL or 50mg) falling **1 mm – 47 mm**



E. Takala, “THE LASER QUENCHING TECHNIQUE FOR STUDYING THE MAGNETO-THERMAL INSTABILITY IN HIGH CRITICAL CURRENT DENSITY SUPERCONDUCTING STRANDS FOR ACCELERATOR MAGNETS”, PhD thesis, 2012, University of Turku

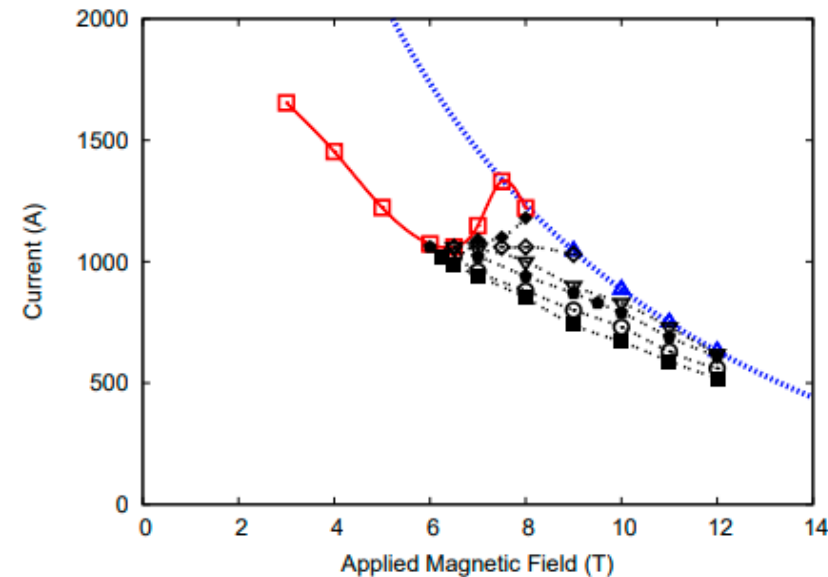
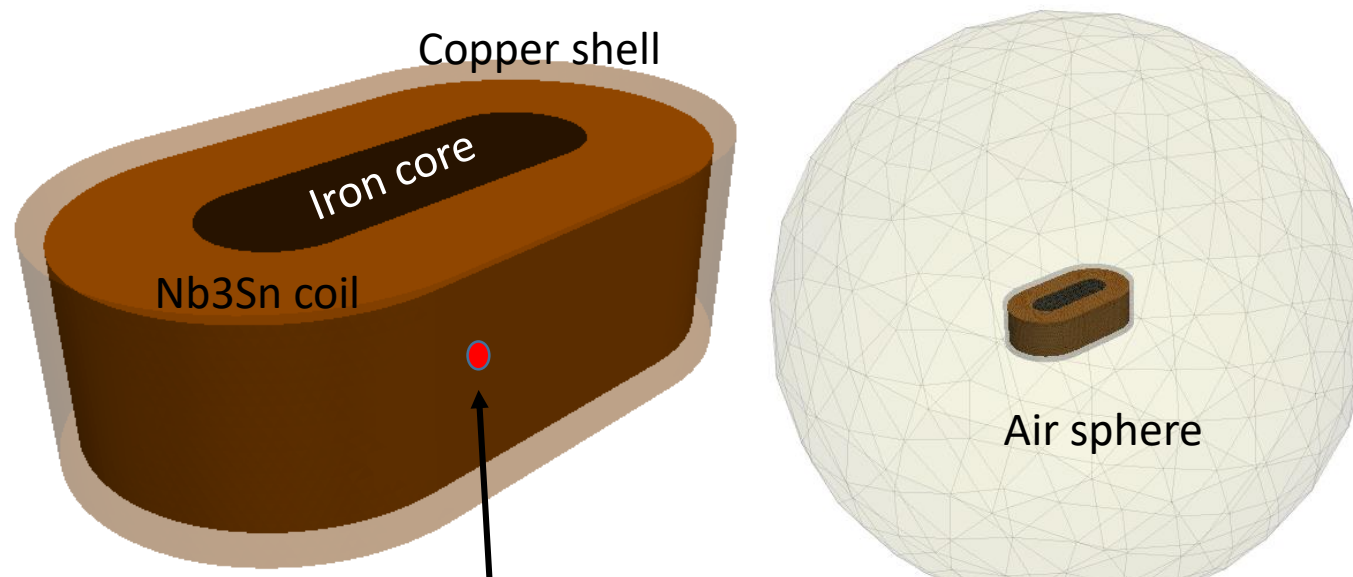


Figure 24. Full characterization of sample 1 with RRR of 129 at a) 1.9 K and b) 4.3 K. (▲) represents the critical current measurements, (····) is the critical surface, (◻) and (◓) represent the quench current by natural perturbation in V-I and V-H, respectively. Laser quenching data is represented by (◐) 0.5 μJ, (◑) 1 μJ, (◒) 4.4 μJ, (◔) 7 μJ, (◕) 10 μJ, (◖) 13 μJ, (◗) 23 μJ. [P4]

# Quench model

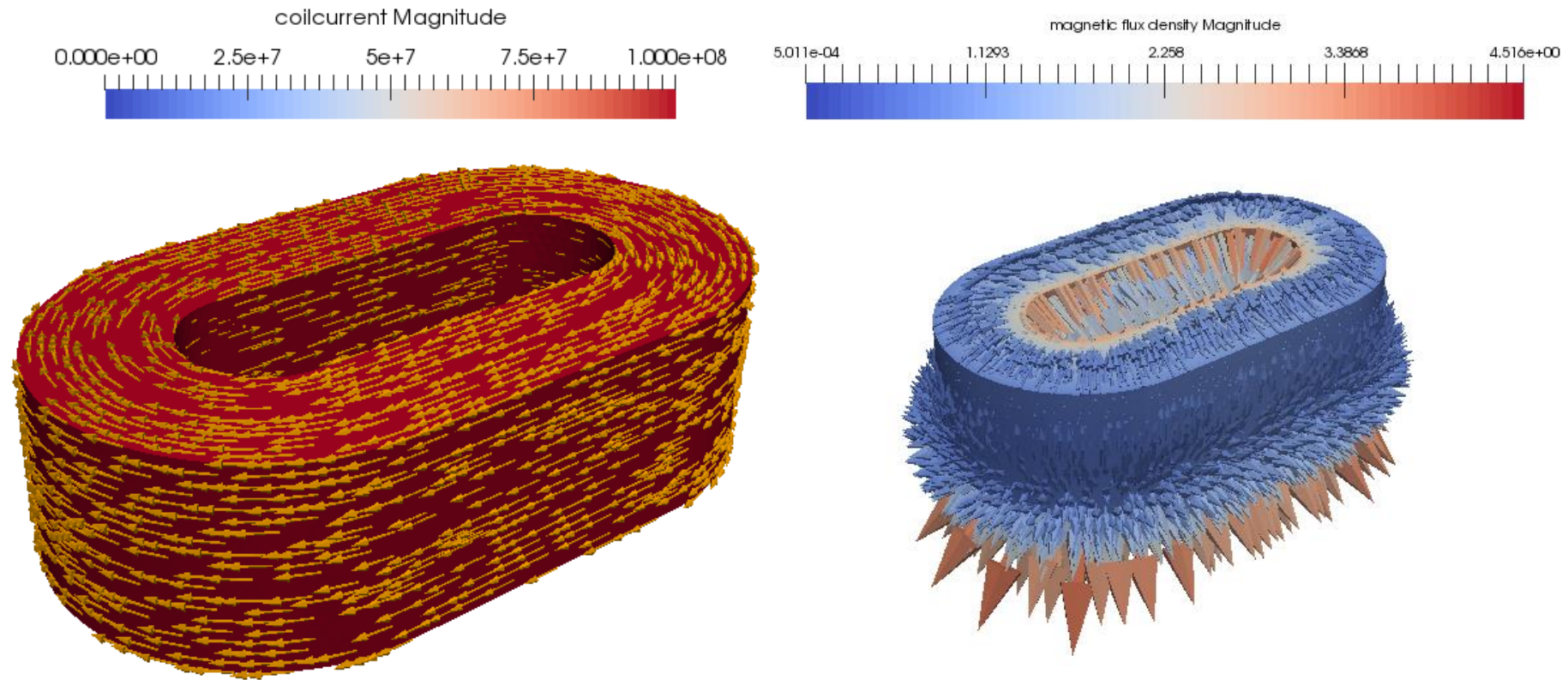
- Quench modelled through a heat source
- The heat source depends on time, temperature, magnetic flux density, and current:



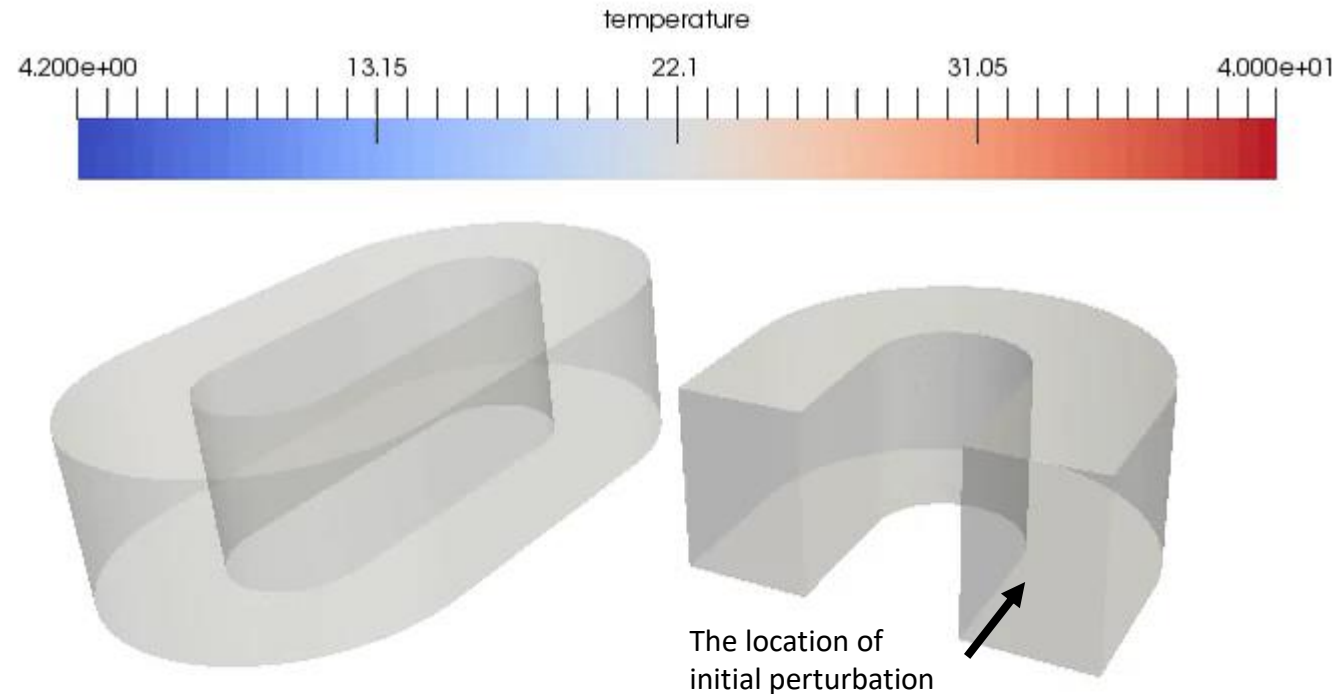
Initial point perturbation (heat) is given at the center of the straight section

Heat Source = Variable Time, Temperature, Magnetic Flux Density, coilcurrent  
Real Procedure `"/Fortran90/dissipation" "getDissipation"`

# Current (and thus magnetic flux density) is assumed constant



# Example (problem of "quench")

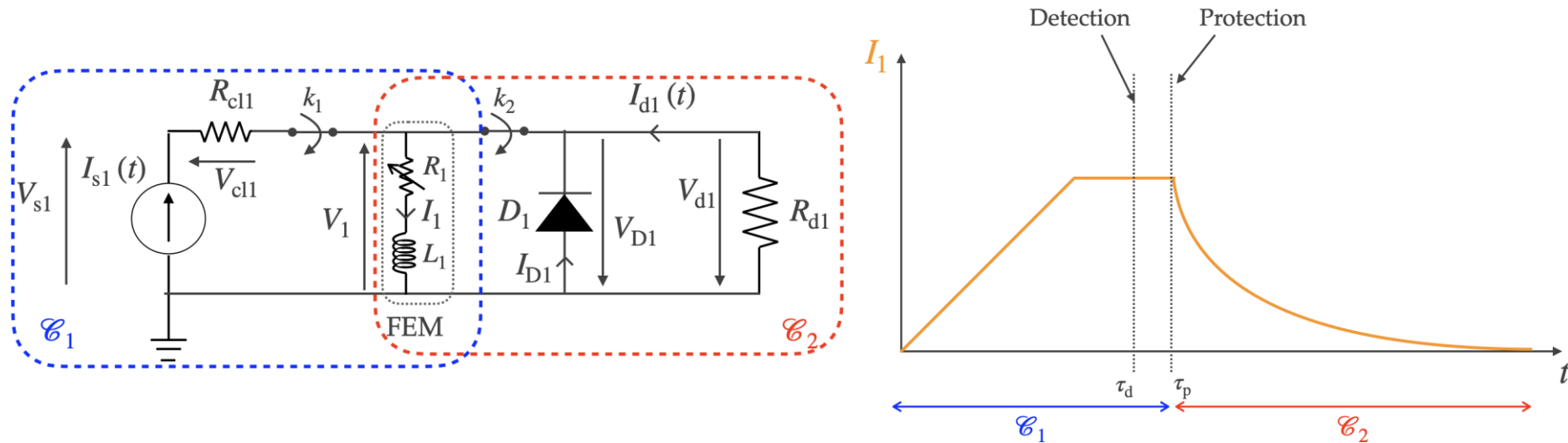


- Note that the perturbation only lasts for 10 simulation steps (out of 100) => heating mainly due to the propagating normalzone
- Current is assumed constant here => if nothing is done, the temperature keeps rising until something breaks => protection system => **circuit coupling**

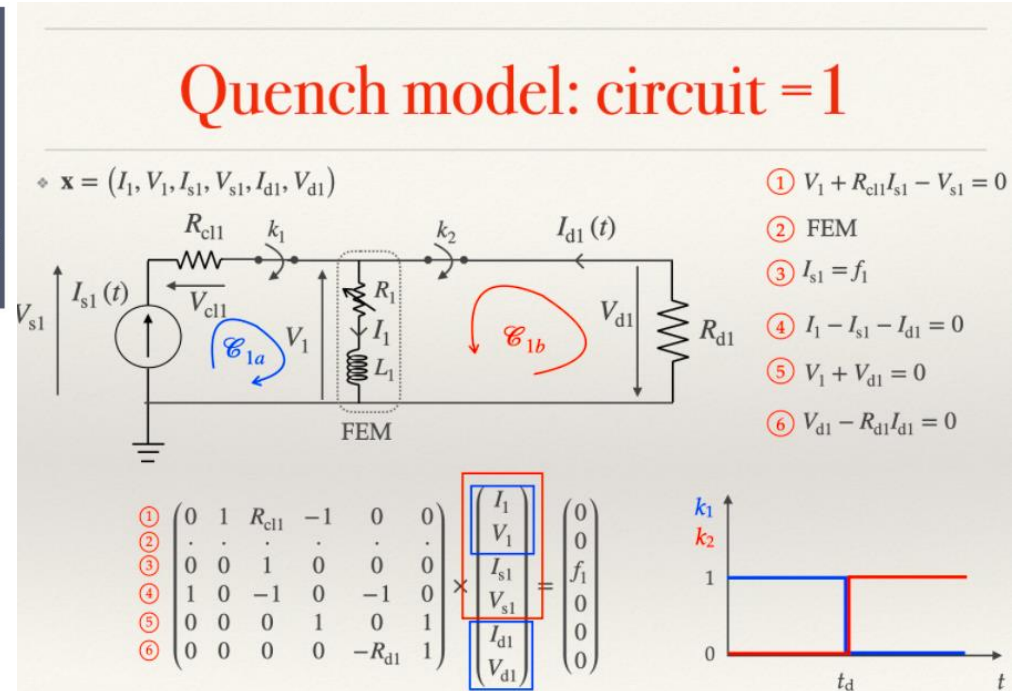
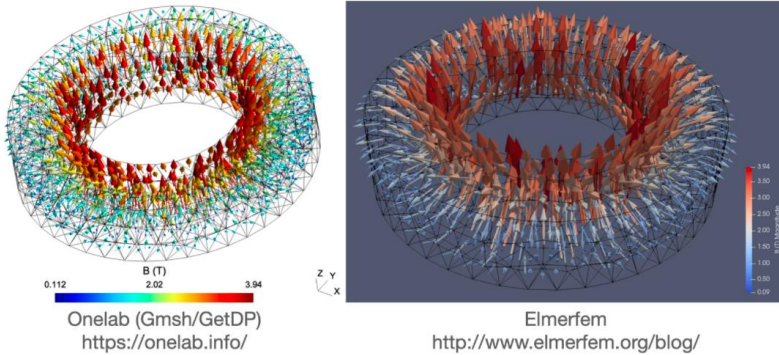
# Applications: superconducting magnet – Coupling to external circuits

# External electrical circuit

- Model of the protection system through an external circuit
- Presence of nonlinear lumped-parameters components (diode)
- Coupling for a stranded coil model through current source with the “CoilSolver” => closed coil with enforced “ $\text{div J} = 0$ ”



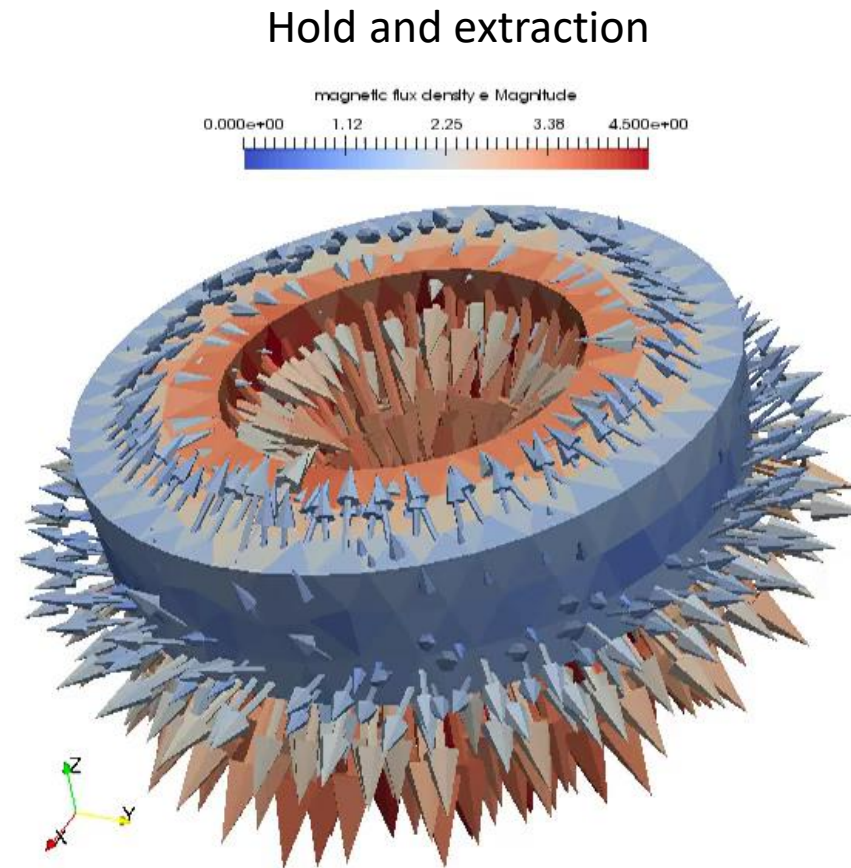
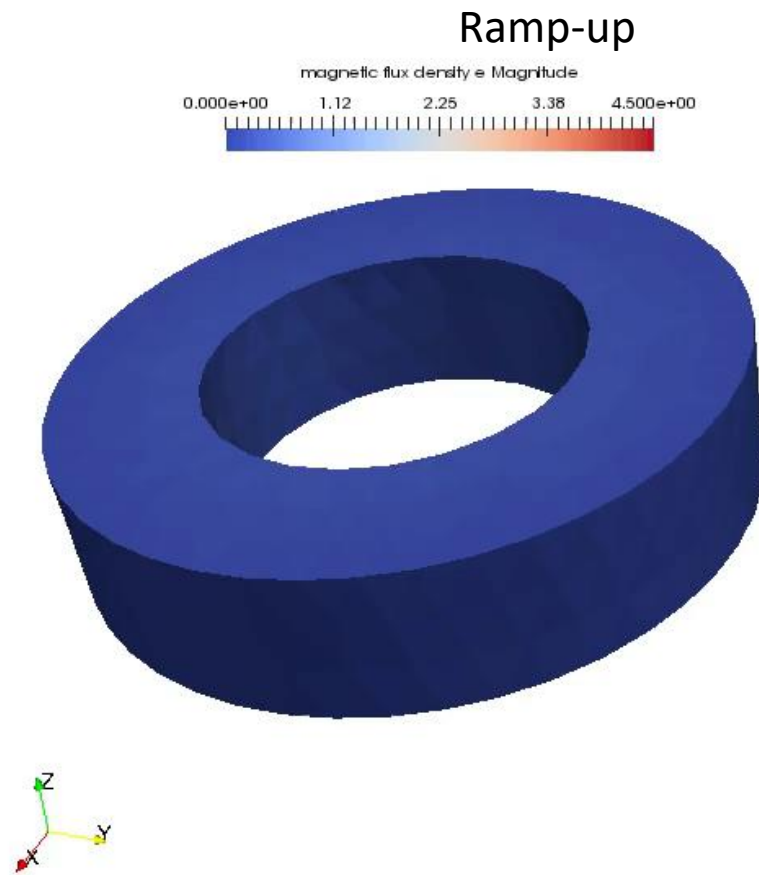
# Example: external coupling with a superconducting coil



- Three simulation phases:
  1. Ramp-up
  2. Hold
  3. Extraction

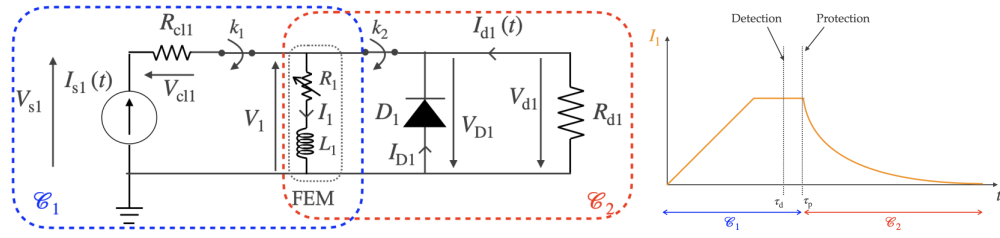
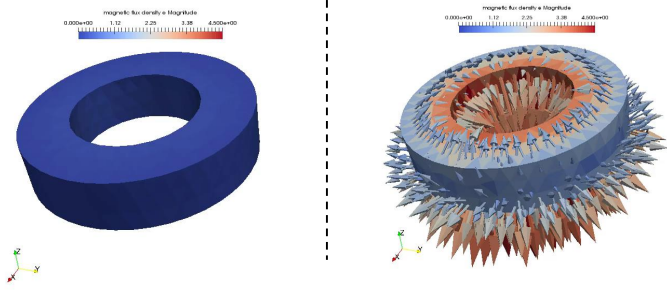
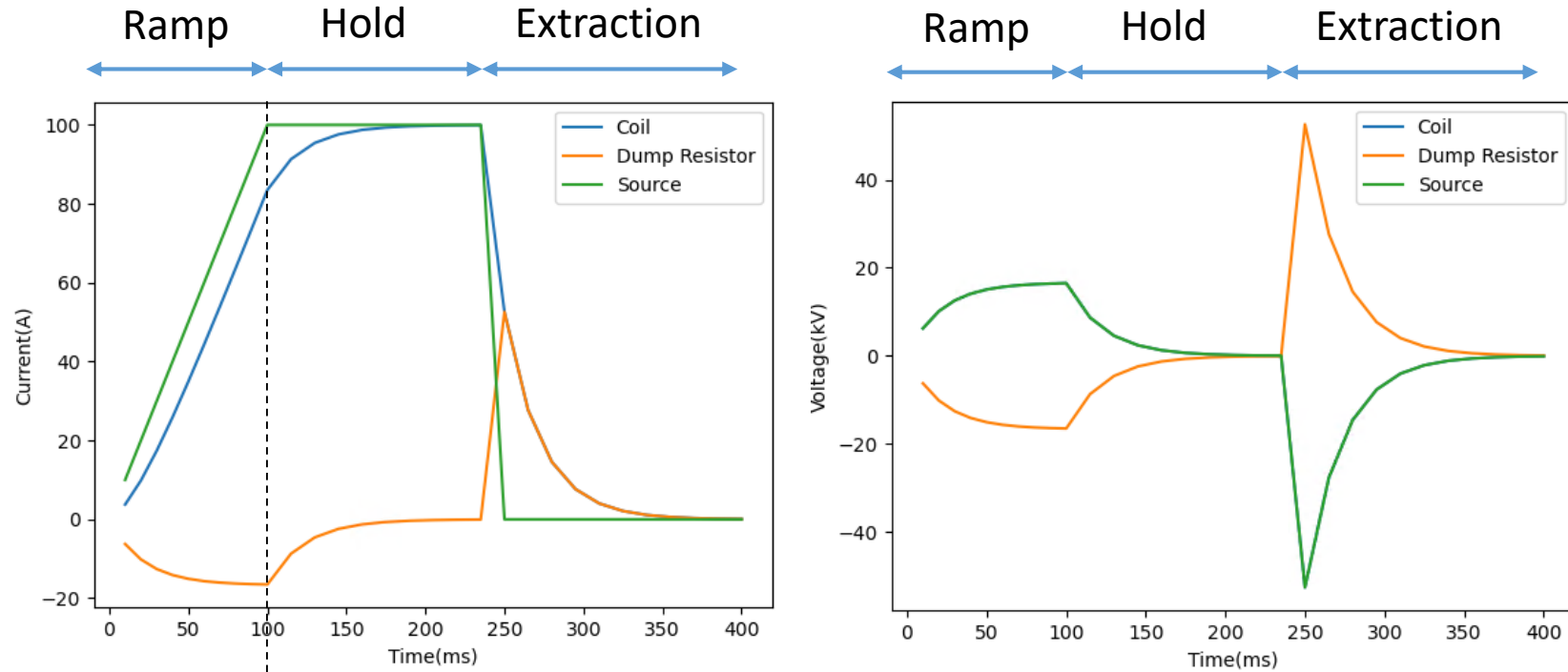
Follow the development at: <https://github.com/ettaka/elmer-elmag/tree/main/SuperconductingCoilCircuit>

# Result animations





# Results



# Parallel simulations of inductive components

[1] E. Takala *et. al.* "Parallel Simulations of Inductive Components with Elmer Finite-Element Software in Cluster Environments", *Electromagnetics* 36(3), April 2016, p. 167-185

# Circuit Equations

- The **new circuit equation module** supports **easy addition** of new formulations
- So far three implemented (supports all simulation types)

- Massive inductors as in [9]

$$(\nabla \times a, \nabla \times a')_{\Omega} + (\sigma \partial_t a, a')_{\Omega_c} + \sum_{i \in \Gamma_j} V_i (\sigma \nabla v_0^i, a')_{\Omega_c} = 0, \forall a' \in F_a(\Omega)$$

$$(\sigma \partial_t a, \nabla s^i)_{\Omega_c} + V_i (\sigma \nabla v_0, \nabla s^i)_{\Omega_c} = I_i, \text{ with } v_0 = s^i = \sum_{n \in \Gamma_j^i} s_n$$

- Stranded inductors as in [10]

$$(\nabla \times a, \nabla \times a')_{\Omega} + (\sigma \partial_t a, a')_{\Omega_c} = (w I_j, a')_{\Omega_c}, \forall a' \in F_a(\Omega)$$

$$(\partial_t a, j_{s,j})_{\Omega_{s,j}} + I_j (\sigma^{-1} j_{s,j}, j_{s,j})_{\Omega_{s,j}} = -V_j$$

- Foil windings as in [11] (voltage  $V(\alpha)$  is dependent on the thickness of the coil)

$$(\nabla \times a, \nabla \times a')_{\Omega} + (\sigma \partial_t a, a')_{\Omega_c} + \sum_{i \in \Gamma_j} (\sigma V'(\alpha) \nabla v_0^i, a')_{\Omega_c} = 0, \forall a' \in F_a(\Omega)$$

$$(\sigma \partial_t a, V'(\alpha) \nabla s^i)_{\Omega_c} + (\sigma V(\alpha) \nabla v_0, V'(\alpha) \nabla s^i)_{\Omega_c} = \frac{N_f}{L_\alpha} I_i \int_{\Omega_\alpha} V'(\alpha), \text{ with } v_0 = s^i = \sum_{n \in \Gamma_j^i} s_n$$

[9] P. Dular, F. Henrotte, W. Legros, "A General Natural Method to Define Circuit Relations Associated with Magnetic Vector Potential Formulations", IEEE Trans. Magn. 35(3) May 1999

[10] P. Dular et. Al. "Dual Complete Procedures to Take Stranded Inductors into Account in Magnetic Vector Potential Formulations", IEEE Trans. Magn. 36(4) July 2000

[11] P. Dular, C. Geuzaine, "Spatially Dependent Global Quantities Associated With 2-D and 3-D Magnetic Vector Potential Formulations for Foil Winding Modeling", IEEE Trans. Magn. 38(2) May 2002

# Computational performance

- Global matrix structure changes due to circuit equations!

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{a}_{aa} & \mathbf{a}_{av} \\ \mathbf{a}_{va} & \mathbf{a}_{vv} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \vec{a}_e \\ \vec{v}_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \vec{f}_a \\ \vec{f}_v \end{bmatrix} \longrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{a}_{aa} & \mathbf{a}_{av} & \mathbf{a}_{aV} & \\ \mathbf{a}_{va} & \mathbf{a}_{vv} & & \\ \mathbf{a}_{Va} & & \mathbf{a}_{VV} & \mathbf{a}_{VI} \\ & & \mathbf{a}_{IV} & \mathbf{a}_{II} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \vec{a}_e \\ \vec{v}_n \\ \vec{V}_{\text{global}} \\ \vec{I}_{\text{global}} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \vec{f}_a \\ \vec{f}_v \\ \\ \vec{f}_I \end{bmatrix}$$

- Depending on the computed problem, the global variables may couple any elements
  - May cause severe communication problems in parallel computing!

# “Reduced support”

- When circuit equations are computed:

- Matrix is of the form:  $\begin{bmatrix} A & B \\ C & D \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a \\ i \end{bmatrix} = F$

$$\begin{aligned} Aa + Bi &= f_a \\ Ca + Di &= f_i \end{aligned}$$

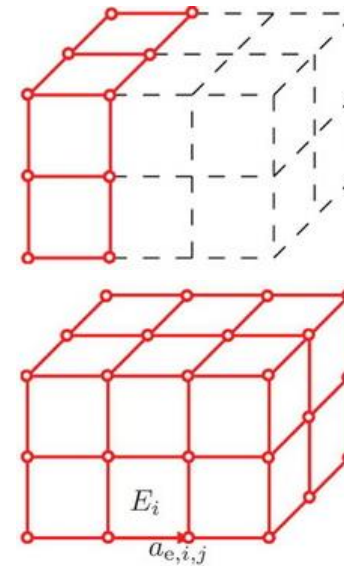
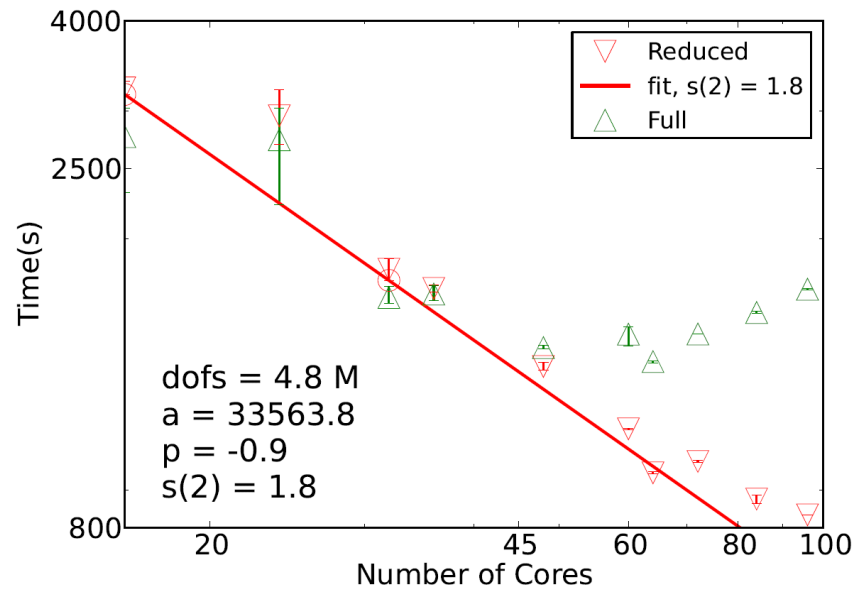
- The  $i$  equations are all owned by the last process

- $Aa$  and  $Ca$  might be (and usually are) computed in a different process than  $Bi$  and  $Di$  => communication to and from the owner of  $i$  equations depends on the coupling between the  $a$  and  $i$  that are in different processes

- Reduced support minimizes the sizes of the coupling matrices  $B$  and  $C$  => reduced communication

- Improved scaling with **dense meshes** is expected

# HPC highlight: Reduced support vs full support [2]

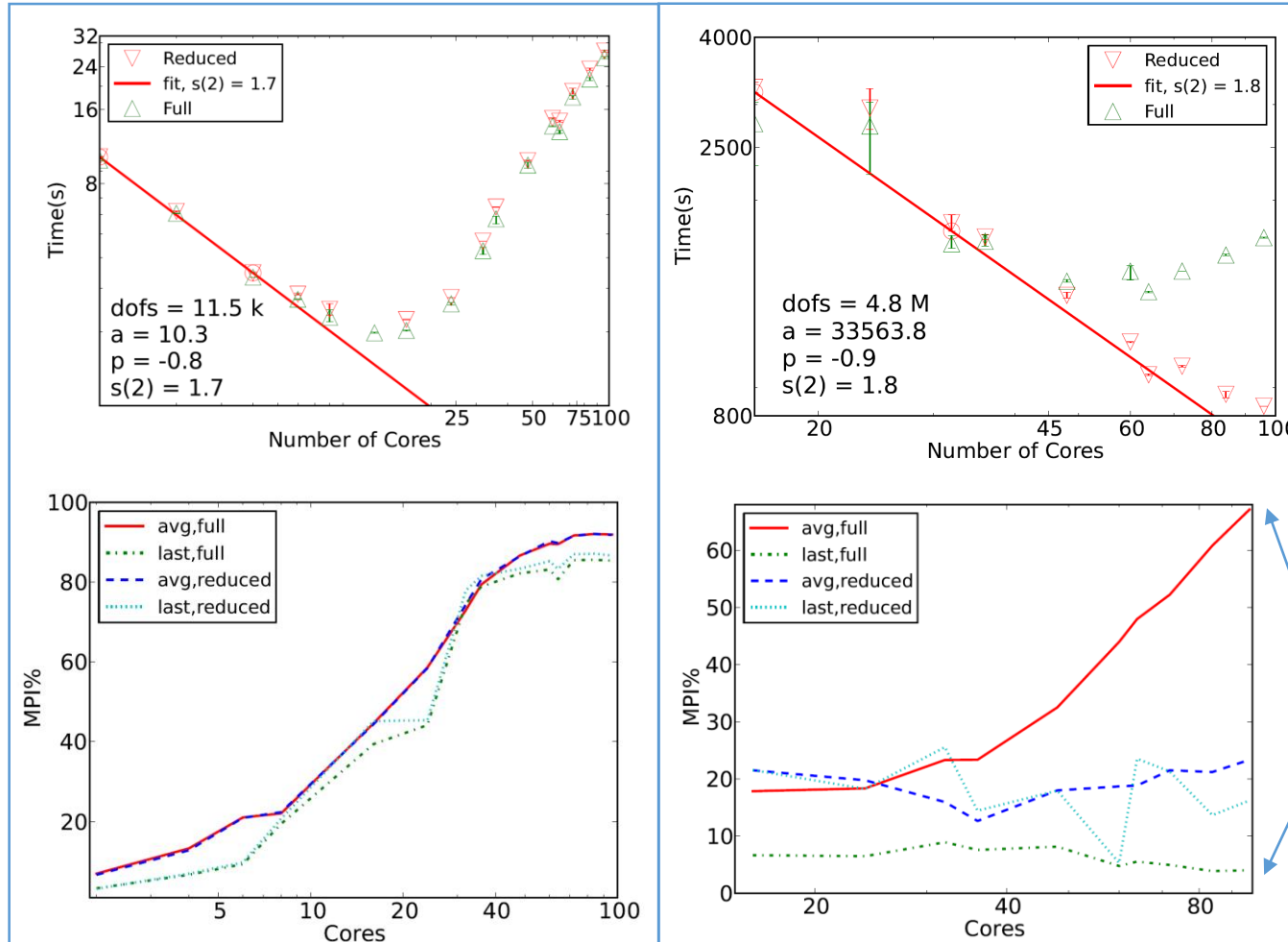


[2] E. Takala et. al. "Using Reduced Support to enhance parallel strong scalability in 3D Finite Element Magnetic Vector Potential Formulations with Circuit Equations", Electromagnetics 36(6), August 2016, p. 400-408

# Full vs Reduced Support

Coarse Mesh

Dense Mesh



MPI% is the relative computation time used in the MPI routines (communication)

Last processor was chosen as the **owner** of the circuit equation => it is working full steam while the others are waiting for the communication. This is seen in the MPI%

# Interested in using Elmer?

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- Title: Elmer-Circuits
- Introduction to elmerfem module for circuit equations and FE model coupling: Stranded, massive and foil windings; homogenization; parallel simulations (MPI). Basic usage and the role in 3-phase power transformer simulations is presented. Exciting new developments in superconducting magnet quench protection circuits are explained.

