

18. Spherical harmonics

Investigation of the free oscillations of a spherical  $\oplus$  is aided considerably by a knowledge of spherical harmonics. For this reason, we shall take a few lectures for a mathematical aside on these objects. We shall follow some notes of George Backus. A useful reference is his paper in *Annals of Physics* 4, 372-447 (1958), written while he was at Princeton ~~✱~~.

Sect A.7 Spherical polar coordinates

First a few definitions.

$\Omega$ : ~~the~~ surface of unit sphere centered on origin 0 in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ .

$\mathcal{L}_2(\Omega)$ : all complex valued functions  
 $f: \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  s.t.

$$\int_{\Omega} ff^* dA < \infty, \quad \text{i.e. square integrable}$$

inner product on  $\mathcal{L}_2(\Omega)$ :

$$(f, g) = \int_{\Omega} fg^* dA$$

Then  $\mathcal{L}_2(\Omega)$  is a Hilbert space.  $\dim \mathcal{L}_2(\Omega) = \infty$

We wish to examine two subspaces of  $L_2(\Omega)$ .

Def: a polynomial in  $\mathbb{R}_3$  ~~is~~ with complex coefficients is called a homogeneous polynomial of degree  $l$  if it involves terms only of total degree  $l$ , i.e.

in DFT

we call this  $H_l(r)$

$$P_l(\underline{r}) = \sum c_{\alpha\beta\gamma} x^\alpha y^\beta z^\gamma ; \alpha + \beta + \gamma = l$$

give some examples

Note: if  $P_l(\hat{r})$  is known and  $P_l(\underline{r})$  is homogeneous, then  $P_l(\underline{r})$  is determined for all  $\underline{r}$ , since

$$P_l(\underline{r}) = r^l P_l(\hat{r})$$

$$\text{or } P_l(\underline{r}) = r^l \sum c_{\alpha\beta\gamma} \left(\frac{x}{r}\right)^\alpha \left(\frac{y}{r}\right)^\beta \left(\frac{z}{r}\right)^\gamma$$

Def:  $\mathcal{P}_l \equiv$  vector space of all complex homogeneous polys. of degree  $l$  in  $\mathbb{R}_3$ .

$\mathcal{P}_l(\Omega) \equiv$  vector space of all functions

$P_l: \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  defined by restricting  $P_l \in \mathcal{P}_l$  to  $\Omega$ . Every element  $P_l(\hat{r}) \in \mathcal{P}_l(\Omega)$  gives rise to a unique  $r^l P_l(\hat{r}) = P_l(\underline{r}) \in \mathcal{P}_l(\Omega)$  is a subspace of  $L_2(\Omega)$ , since it is a vector space and since every  $P_l(\hat{r})$  is certainly square integrable.

What is the dimension of  $\mathcal{P}_l$  and  $\mathcal{P}_l(\Omega)$ ?

Consider  $\alpha + \beta + \gamma = l$ ,  $\alpha \geq 0$ ,  $\beta \geq 0$ ,  $\gamma \geq 0$

$\alpha = 0$ ,  $l+1$  choices for  $\beta$ ,  $\gamma$  determined

$\alpha = 1$ ,  $l$  " " " " "

$\vdots$

$\alpha = l$ ,  $1$  " " " "

(The question is: given  $\alpha, \beta, \gamma$  integers  $\geq 0$  s.t.  $\alpha + \beta + \gamma = l$ , how many such combinations are there?)

$$\dim \mathcal{P}_l = \dim \mathcal{P}_l(\Omega) = 1 + 2 + \dots + (l+1) = \frac{(l+1)(l+2)}{2}$$

Def: a scalar function  $\phi(\underline{r})$   $\phi: \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  is said to be harmonic in an open set  $V$  of  $\mathbb{R}^3$  if  $\nabla^2 \phi = 0$  in  $V$ .

Example: if  $\phi(\underline{r})$  is the grav. pot. of some mass distr. lying outside a (closed) volume  $V$  of  $\mathbb{R}^3$ , then  $\phi$  is harmonic in  $E - V$ .

$$\textcircled{V} \quad \nabla^2 \phi = 0 \text{ outside of } V.$$

Def:  $\mathcal{H}_l \equiv$  the vector space of all harmonic members of  $\mathcal{P}_l$ . Note: if a poly. is harmonic in any open set, it is harmonic everywhere.

Note: in general if  $P_l \in \mathcal{P}_l$ , then



$\nabla^2 P_l \in P_{l-2}$ , since  $\nabla^2 = \partial_x^2 + \partial_y^2 + \partial_z^2$

Def:  $H_l(\Omega) \equiv$  space of all  $Y_l: \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  defined by restricting the elements  $H_l(\underline{r}) \in H_l$  to  $\Omega$ .

Then  $H_l(\Omega)$  is a subspace of  $L_2(\Omega)$ . It is in fact the space we wish to study because

↙ in B&T we call this  $Y_l(\star)$

Def: Any member  $H_l(\underline{r})$  of  $H_l$  (i.e. any harmonic, homogeneous polynomial of degree  $l$  is called a solid spherical harmonic of degree  $l$ . The element  $Y_l(\hat{r}) \in H_l(\Omega)$  defined by  $H_l(\underline{r}) = r^l Y_l(\hat{r})$  is called the surface spherical harmonic of degree  $l$  determined by  $H_l$ .

Our main task will be to construct an orthonormal basis for the spaces  $H_l$  and  $H_l(\Omega)$ . First give examples:  $l=0$  and  $l=1$   
also  $l=2$

19. The operators  $\nabla$ ,  $\nabla_1$  and  $\Lambda$

The key to examining the structure of  $H_l$  and  $H_l(\Omega)$  will be the operator  $\Lambda$ , already



discussed this term by N. Frazer. We consider first a more familiar operator.

Def: Let  $f(\underline{r})$  be a scalar field defined in an open set  $V$  of  $\mathbb{R}_3$ .  $f: V \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ . The field  $f$  is said to be differentiable at  $\underline{r} \in V$  if  $\exists$  a vector  $\underline{F}(\underline{r})$  depending on  $\underline{r}$  s.t.

$$f(\underline{r} + \underline{\delta r}) = f(\underline{r}) + \underline{\delta r} \cdot \underline{F}(\underline{r}) + o(|\underline{\delta r}|^2)$$

$$E(\underline{r}, \underline{\delta r}) \text{ s.t.}$$

$$E/|\underline{\delta r}| \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } |\underline{\delta r}| \rightarrow 0.$$

Section A.7.1

$\underline{r}_1$  and  $\Lambda = \hat{r} \times \underline{r}_1$

This is the usual (coordinate-free) defn of the gradient of a scalar field  $f(\underline{r})$  is usually written  $\underline{\nabla} f(\underline{r})$  and is called the gradient of  $f$  at  $\underline{r}$ .

In spherical coordinates

$$\underline{\nabla} = \hat{r} \partial_r + r^{-1} \left( \hat{\theta} \partial_\theta + \hat{\phi} \frac{1}{\sin \theta} \partial_\phi \right)$$

Let  $\Omega_r$  be the surface of the sphere of radius  $r$  centered on  $\underline{0}$  in  $\mathbb{R}_3$ .

Then  $\Omega_1 \equiv \Omega$ , the surface of the unit sphere.

Consider the vector  $\underline{r} f - \hat{r} (\hat{r} \cdot \underline{\nabla} f)$

At every point  $\underline{r} = r\hat{r}$  on  $\Omega_r$ , this vector is tangent to the sphere  $\Omega_r$ .

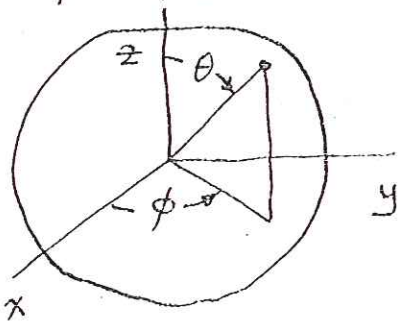
$$\text{Let } \nabla_r f(\underline{r}) \equiv \nabla f(\underline{r}) - \hat{r} [\hat{r} \cdot \nabla f(\underline{r})]$$

Then  $\nabla_r$  is called the surface gradient operator on  $\Omega_r$ .

Can compute  $\nabla_r f$  knowing only values of  $f$  on  $\Omega_r$ .

Geometrically  $\nabla f(\underline{r})$  is rate of change of  $f$  at  $\underline{r}$  in direction of maximum change. Likewise  $\nabla_r f(\underline{r})$  is rate of change of  $f$  along the surface  $\Omega_r$  in the direction of maximum change along that surface.

$\nabla_r$  is the surface gradient operator on  $\Omega$ .  
In spherical coordinates



$$\nabla = \hat{r} \partial_r + \frac{1}{r} [\hat{\theta} \partial_\theta + \frac{1}{\sin \theta} \hat{\phi} \partial_\phi]$$

$$\nabla_r = r^{-1} \nabla$$

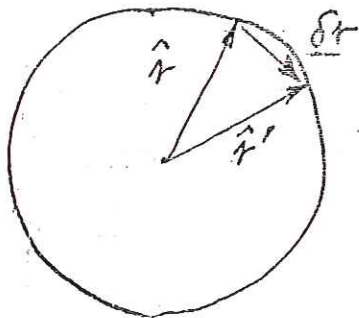
$$\nabla_r = \hat{\theta} \partial_\theta + (\sin \theta)^{-1} \hat{\phi} \partial_\phi$$

$$\text{coordinate free: } \nabla = \hat{r} \partial_r + r^{-1} \nabla_r$$

The gradient  $\nabla$  may be considered a linear operator which maps a differentiable scalar field  $f$  in a region  $V$  of  $\mathbb{R}_3$  into a vector field  $\underline{\nabla}f \in V$ .

The surface gradient  $\nabla_1$  is a linear operator which maps a scalar field  $f: \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  which is differentiable on  $\Omega$  into a tangent vector field  $\nabla_1 f$  on  $\Omega$ .

Note: consider two unit vectors  $\hat{r}'$  and  $\hat{r}$  as  $|\hat{r}' - \hat{r}| \rightarrow 0$ . Their difference  $\hat{r}' - \hat{r} \rightarrow$  a tangent vector.



$$\hat{r}' = \hat{r} + \underline{\delta r}$$

$$\begin{aligned} f(\hat{r} + \underline{\delta r}) &= f(\hat{r}) + \underline{\delta r} \cdot \nabla f(\hat{r}) \\ &\quad + o(|\underline{\delta r}|^2) \\ &= f(\hat{r}) + \underline{\delta r} \cdot \nabla_1 f(\hat{r}) \\ &\quad + o(|\underline{\delta r}|^2) \end{aligned}$$

$$f(\hat{r} + \underline{\delta r}) = f(\hat{r}) + \underline{\delta r} \cdot \nabla_1 f(\hat{r}) + o(|\underline{\delta r}|^2)$$

\* as  $|\underline{\delta r}| \rightarrow 0$

The surface gradient  $\nabla_1$  enables us to calculate  $f$  at nearby points  $\hat{r} + \underline{\delta r}$  on  $\Omega$  via \* above.



A related operator which also maps a differentiable scalar field  $f$  into a vector field is  $\underline{\Lambda}$ , maps  $f$  into  $\underline{\Lambda}f$ .  
Consider

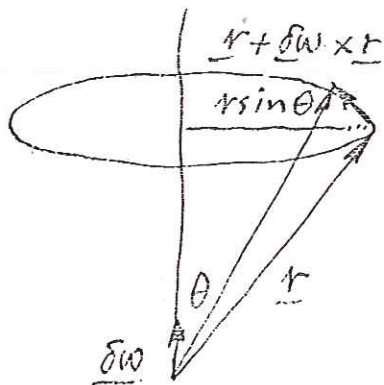
$$\begin{aligned} f(\underline{r} + \underline{\delta\omega} \times \underline{r}) &= f(\underline{r}) + \underline{\delta\omega} \times \underline{r} \cdot \underline{\nabla}f(\underline{r}) + O(|\underline{\delta\omega}|^2) \\ &= f(\underline{r}) + \underline{\delta\omega} \cdot \underline{r} \times \underline{\nabla}f(\underline{r}) + O(|\underline{\delta\omega}|^2) \end{aligned}$$

Define  $\underline{\Lambda} \equiv \underline{r} \times \underline{\nabla}$ . Then

$$f(\underline{r} + \underline{\delta\omega} \times \underline{r}) = f(\underline{r}) + \underline{\delta\omega} \cdot \underline{\Lambda}f(\underline{r}) + O(|\underline{\delta\omega}|^2)$$

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$\underline{\Lambda}$  can be called the infinitesimal rotation operator



$\underline{\delta\omega} \times \underline{r}$  is  $\perp$  to both  $\underline{\delta\omega}$  and  $\underline{r}$

$$|\underline{\delta\omega} \times \underline{r}| = |\underline{\delta\omega}| |\underline{r}| \sin \theta$$

Every  $\underline{r} + \underline{\delta\omega} \times \underline{r}$  is obtained from  $\underline{r}$  by a rigid rotation of all of space through the small angle  $|\underline{\delta\omega}|$  radians about the axis  $\underline{\delta\omega}$ .

The infinitesimal rotation operator  $\underline{r} \times \underline{\nabla} \equiv \underline{\Lambda}$  enables us to calculate  $f$  at infinitesimally

rotated points  $\underline{r} + \underline{\delta\omega} \times \underline{r}$  via  $\hat{\star}$  above, hence its name. Similarly one could call  $\underline{\nabla}$  the inf. translation operator as it enable us to compute  $f$  at infinitesimally translated points  $\underline{r} + \underline{\delta r}$ .

Note that like  $\underline{\nabla}_r f(\underline{r})$ ,  $\underline{\Lambda} f(\underline{r})$  is a tangent vector to  $\Omega_r$ , and  $\underline{\Lambda} f(\underline{r})$  can be calculated at every  $\underline{r} \in \Omega_r$  knowing only values of  $f$  on  $\Omega_r$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \underline{\Lambda} &= \underline{r} \times \underline{\nabla} = \underline{r} \times \left[ \hat{r} \partial_r + \frac{1}{r} \hat{\theta} \partial_\theta + \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \hat{\phi} \partial_\phi \right] \\ &= -\hat{\theta} \frac{1}{\sin \theta} \partial_\phi + \hat{\phi} \partial_\theta \end{aligned}$$

$$\underline{\Lambda} = \underline{r} \times \underline{\nabla} = \underline{r} \times \left[ \hat{r} \partial_r + r^{-1} \underline{v}_1 \right] = \hat{r} \times \underline{v}_1$$

$$\begin{aligned} \underline{\Lambda} &= \hat{r} \times \underline{v}_1 \\ &= \hat{\theta} \left( -\frac{1}{\sin \theta} \partial_\phi \right) + \hat{\phi} \partial_\theta \end{aligned}$$

$\underline{\nabla}$  acts in  $R_3$  (or some open region  $V$  thereof).

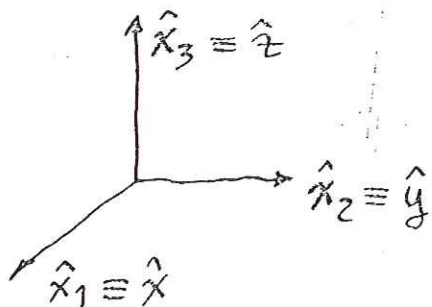
$\underline{v}_1$  acts on  $\Omega$ .

$\underline{\Lambda}$  can be thought of as acting either in  $R_3$  or on  $\Omega$  (or on any  $\Omega_r$ ).

$\underline{\nabla}_r$  acts on  $\Omega_r$  (and is given in terms of  $\underline{\nabla}_1$  on  $\Omega_1 \equiv \Omega$  by  $\underline{\nabla}_r = \frac{1}{r} \underline{\nabla}_1$ ).

## 20. Properties of the $\underline{\Lambda}$ operator

First, those easy in Cartesian coordinates.



Define three scalar operators

$$\underline{\Lambda} = \Lambda_i \hat{x}_i \quad , \quad \Lambda_i = \hat{x}_i \cdot \underline{\Lambda}$$

$$\underline{\Lambda} = \underline{r} \times \underline{\nabla} \quad , \quad \text{so}$$

$$\Lambda_i = \varepsilon_{ijk} r_j \partial_k$$

Let us sometimes use: ~~use~~

$$\hat{x} \equiv \hat{x}_1 \quad , \quad \hat{y} \equiv \hat{x}_2 \quad , \quad \hat{z} \equiv \hat{x}_3$$

Then

$$\underline{\Lambda} = \hat{x} \Lambda_x + \hat{y} \Lambda_y + \hat{z} \Lambda_z \quad \text{where}$$

$$\Lambda_x = y \partial_z - z \partial_y$$

$$\Lambda_y = z \partial_x - x \partial_z$$

$$\Lambda_z = x \partial_y - y \partial_x$$

Now examine  $\Lambda^2 = \underline{\Lambda} \cdot \underline{\Lambda} = \Lambda_i \Lambda_i$   
 ( $\Lambda^2$  is to  $\underline{\Lambda}$  as  $\nabla^2 = \underline{\nabla} \cdot \underline{\nabla}$  is to  $\underline{\nabla}$ ).

$$\begin{aligned} \Lambda_i \Lambda_i &= (\varepsilon_{ijk} r_j \partial_k) (\varepsilon_{ilm} r_l \partial_m) \\ &= \varepsilon_{ijk} \varepsilon_{ilm} r_j \partial_k (r_l \partial_m) \\ &= (\delta_{jl} \delta_{km} - \delta_{jm} \delta_{kl}) r_j \partial_k (r_l \partial_m) \\ &= (\delta_{jl} \delta_{km} - \delta_{jm} \delta_{kl}) (r_j r_l \partial_k \partial_m + \delta_{kl} r_j \partial_m) \end{aligned}$$



$$= r^2 \nabla^2 - r_j r_k \partial_j \partial_k - 2r_j \partial_j$$

$$\Lambda^2 = r^2 \nabla^2 - r_k \partial_k (r_j \partial_j + 1)$$

Now examine  $\underline{\Lambda} \times \underline{\Lambda}$

$$(\underline{\Lambda} \times \underline{\Lambda})_i = \epsilon_{ijk} (\epsilon_{jlm} r_l \partial_m) (\epsilon_{kpq} r_p \partial_q)$$

$$= \epsilon_{ijk} \epsilon_{jlm} \epsilon_{kpq} r_l \partial_m (r_p \partial_q)$$

$$= (\delta_{ip} \delta_{jq} - \delta_{iq} \delta_{jp}) \epsilon_{jlm} (r_l r_p \partial_m \partial_q + r_l \delta_{mp} \partial_q)$$

$$= (\delta_{ip} \epsilon_{qjlm} - \delta_{iq} \epsilon_{pljm}) (r_l r_p \partial_m \partial_q + r_l \delta_{mp} \partial_q)$$

since symmetric  $\cdot$  antisymmetric = 0

$$= \delta_{ip} \epsilon_{qjlm} r_l \delta_{mp} \partial_q = \epsilon_{qli} r_l \partial_q$$

$$= -\epsilon_{ilq} r_l \partial_q = -\Lambda_i$$

$$\underline{\Lambda} \times \underline{\Lambda} = -\underline{\Lambda}$$

i.e.  $\Lambda_x \Lambda_y - \Lambda_y \Lambda_x = -\Lambda_z$ , etc.

We can write this in a familiar notation:

Define the commutator of any two linear operators  $A$  and  $B$  (both acting on the same vector space  $V$ ) to be

$$[A, B] \equiv AB - BA$$

Note  $[A, B] = -[B, A]$

The above is equivalent to

$$\begin{aligned} [\Lambda_x, \Lambda_y] &= -\Lambda_z \\ [\Lambda_y, \Lambda_z] &= -\Lambda_x \\ [\Lambda_z, \Lambda_x] &= -\Lambda_y \\ [\Lambda_i, \Lambda_j] &= -\varepsilon_{ijk} \Lambda_k \end{aligned}$$

Now define

$$\begin{aligned} \Lambda_+ &\equiv \Lambda_x + i\Lambda_y \\ \Lambda_- &\equiv \Lambda_x - i\Lambda_y \end{aligned}$$

Commutation relations for  $\Lambda_{\pm}$  are

$$\begin{aligned} [\Lambda_+, \Lambda_-] &= 2i\Lambda_z \\ [\Lambda_+, \Lambda_z] &= -i\Lambda_+ \\ [\Lambda_-, \Lambda_z] &= i\Lambda_- \end{aligned}$$

Look at  $(\Lambda_x + i\Lambda_y)(\Lambda_x - i\Lambda_y)$

$$= \Lambda_x^2 + \Lambda_y^2 + i(\Lambda_y\Lambda_x - \Lambda_x\Lambda_y)$$

$$= \Lambda_x^2 + \Lambda_y^2 + i\Lambda_z$$

Thus:

$$\Lambda^2 = \Lambda_+\Lambda_- + \Lambda_z^2 - i\Lambda_z$$

likewise  $\Lambda^2 = \Lambda_-\Lambda_+ + \Lambda_z^2 + i\Lambda_z$

Consider now  $\nabla^2$  and  $\underline{\Lambda}$ , Claim  $[\nabla^2, \underline{\Lambda}] = 0$ .

Proof:

$$\partial_l \partial_l (\varepsilon_{ijk} r_j \partial_k) = \varepsilon_{ijk} \partial_l (\delta_{jl} \partial_k + r_j \partial_l \partial_k)$$

$$= \varepsilon_{ijk} (\delta_{jl} \partial_l \partial_k + \delta_{jl} \partial_l \partial_k + r_j \partial_l \partial_l \partial_k)$$

$$= \cancel{2\varepsilon_{ilk}} \partial_l \partial_k + \varepsilon_{ijk} r_j \partial_k \partial_l \partial_l$$

$$= (\varepsilon_{ijk} r_j \partial_k) \partial_l \partial_l$$

Thus  $\nabla^2$  and  $\underline{\Lambda}$  commute, i.e.

$$[\nabla^2, \underline{\Lambda}] = 0$$

Now we consider the properties most easily obtained in spherical coordinates



We have seen that in  $\hat{r}, \hat{\theta}, \hat{\phi}$

$$\underline{\Lambda} = -\hat{\theta} (\sin \theta)^{-1} \partial_{\phi} + \hat{\phi} \partial_{\theta}$$

Thus  $\underline{\Lambda}$  commutes with  $\partial_r$  and any function of  $r$  alone.

$$\begin{aligned} [\partial_r, \underline{\Lambda}] &= 0 \\ [f(r), \underline{\Lambda}] &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Also  $\underline{\Lambda} f(\underline{r}) = \underline{\Lambda} f(r, \theta, \phi)$  depends only the values of  $f$  on  $\Omega_r$ , as noted above.

We now make use of

$$\hat{\theta} = \hat{x} \cos \theta \cos \phi + \hat{y} \cos \theta \sin \phi - \hat{z} \sin \theta$$

$$\hat{\phi} = -\hat{x} \sin \phi + \hat{y} \cos \phi$$

$$\underline{\Lambda} = \hat{\theta} \left( -\frac{1}{\sin \theta} \partial_{\phi} \right) + \hat{\phi} \partial_{\theta} = \hat{x} \Lambda_x + \hat{y} \Lambda_y + \hat{z} \Lambda_z$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= \hat{x} \left( -\sin \phi \partial_{\theta} - \cot \theta \cos \phi \partial_{\phi} \right) \\ &+ \hat{y} \left( \cos \phi \partial_{\theta} - \cot \theta \sin \phi \partial_{\phi} \right) \\ &+ \hat{z} \partial_{\phi} \end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$\Lambda_z = \partial_{\phi}$$

$$\Lambda_x = -\sin\phi \partial_\theta - \cot\theta \cos\phi \partial_\phi$$

$$\Lambda_y = \cos\phi \partial_\theta - \cot\theta \sin\phi \partial_\phi$$

Thus

$$\Lambda_+ = ie^{i\phi} (\partial_\theta + i\cot\theta \partial_\phi)$$

$$\Lambda_- = ie^{-i\phi} (-\partial_\theta + i\cot\theta \partial_\phi)$$

Now from above  $\Lambda^2 = \Lambda_+ \Lambda_- + \Lambda_z^2 - i\Lambda_z$

$$= e^{i\phi} (\partial_\theta + i\cot\theta \partial_\phi) e^{-i\phi} (\partial_\theta - i\cot\theta \partial_\phi) + \partial_\phi^2 - i\partial_\phi$$

$$= \partial_\theta^2 + i(\csc^2\theta - \cot^2\theta) \partial_\phi + \cot\theta \partial_\theta + (\cot^2\theta + 1) \partial_\phi^2 - i\partial_\phi$$

$$\left( \frac{\partial}{\partial\theta} (\cot\theta) \right) = -\csc^2\theta$$

$$\csc^2\theta = 1 + \cot^2\theta$$

$$= \partial_\theta^2 + \cot\theta \partial_\theta + \frac{1}{\sin^2\theta} \partial_\phi^2$$

$$\Lambda^2 = \partial_\theta^2 + \cot\theta \partial_\theta + \frac{1}{\sin^2\theta} \partial_\phi^2$$

$$= \frac{1}{\sin\theta} \partial_\theta (\sin\theta \partial_\theta) + \frac{1}{\sin^2\theta} \partial_\phi^2$$

\*

Now claim that  $[\underline{\Lambda}, \Lambda^2] = 0$

Proof: suffices to show for  $\Lambda_z$  since choice of

$\hat{x}, \hat{y}, \hat{z}$  is arbitrary.

But  $\Lambda_z = \partial_\phi$ , and this clearly commutes with  $*$ . Thus

$$[\underline{\Lambda}, \Lambda^2] = 0$$

Check it directly for  $\Lambda_x, \Lambda_y$  if you don't believe it.

The combination  $*$  of  $\partial_\theta, \partial_\phi$  might look familiar. It is because

$$\nabla^2 = \frac{1}{r} \partial_r^2 r + \frac{1}{r^2} \Lambda^2$$

Proof: we have shown that

$$\begin{aligned} \Lambda^2 &= r^2 \nabla^2 - r_k \partial_k (r_j \partial_j + 1) \\ &= r^2 \nabla^2 - r \partial_r (r \partial_r + 1) \end{aligned}$$

$$\left( \text{since } r_i \partial_i = \underline{r} \cdot \underline{\nabla} = \underline{r} \cdot (\hat{r} \partial_r + \frac{1}{r} \hat{\theta} \partial_\theta + \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \hat{\phi} \partial_\phi) = r \partial_r \right)$$

$$= r^2 \nabla^2 - r \partial_r^2 r \quad \text{Thus}$$

$$\nabla^2 = \frac{1}{r} \partial_r^2 r + \frac{1}{r^2} \Lambda^2$$



Can now offer a more direct proof of  
 $[\nabla^2, \underline{\Lambda}] = 0$ , viz.

$$\nabla^2 = \frac{1}{r} \partial_r^2 r + \frac{1}{r^2} \Lambda^2 \quad \text{and}$$

$$[\underline{\Lambda}, \Lambda^2] = 0$$

$$[\underline{\Lambda}, \partial_r] = 0$$

$$[\underline{\Lambda}, f(r)] = 0, \quad \text{i.e. } \underline{\Lambda} \text{ commutes with } \Lambda^2, \partial_r \text{ and any } f(r).$$

Thus  $\underline{\Lambda}$  commutes with  $\nabla^2$ , a comb. of  $\Lambda^2$ ,  $\partial_r$  and  $f(r)$ .

Finally, let us apply  $\Lambda^2$  to  $H_l(\underline{r}) \in H_l$ ,  
 a solid spherical harmonic. call this  $\Upsilon_l$

$$\nabla^2 H_l = 0, \quad \text{so}$$

$$\frac{1}{r} \partial_r^2 [r^l H_l(\hat{r})] + \frac{1}{r^2} \Lambda^2 [r^l H_l(\hat{r})] = 0$$

$$(\ell+1)\ell r^{\ell-2} H_l(\hat{r}) + r^{\ell-2} \Lambda^2 H_l(\hat{r}) = 0$$

call this  $\Upsilon_l$  divide by  $r^{\ell-2}$

$$\Lambda^2 H_l(\hat{r}) = -\ell(\ell+1) H_l(\hat{r})$$

$$\Lambda^2 H_l(\underline{r}) = -\ell(\ell+1) H_l(\underline{r})$$

We used both  
 harmonicity  
 and homogeneity  
 of degree  $\ell$ .

## 21. The angular momentum operator L

Defn: If  $V$  is a finite-dimensional inner product space and  $B: V \rightarrow V$ , then the adjoint of  $B$ , written  $B^+$ , is that unique linear operator s.t.  $\forall f, g \in V$ ,  
*both can be easily shown*

$$(f, Bg) = (B^+f, g) \quad \text{use } \langle f, Bx \rangle$$

If the matrix of  $B$  w.r.t. a basis  $\{v_i\}$  is  $B$ , then the matrix of  $B^+$  is  $B^+$ , defined by  $(B^+)_{ij} = B_{ji}^*$ .

Other properties:

$$(B^+)^+ = B$$

proof:  $(f, B^+g) = (B^+g, f)^*$   
 $= (g, Bf)^* = (Bf, g)$   
 also  $= (B^{++}f, g)$

$$(aB)^+ = a^* B^+$$

$$(AB)^+ = B^+ A^+$$

Defn: An operator  $B: V \rightarrow V$  is self-adjoint or Hermitian if  $B^+ = B$ .

If  $B^+ = -B$ ,  $B$  is anti-Hermitian.

Every linear operator is the sum of a Hermitian and an anti-Hermitian operator.

Question: is  $\underline{\Lambda}$  Hermitian

Answer: no, but it is anti-Hermitian.

This leads us to define

$$\underline{L} \equiv -i \underline{\Lambda} = \frac{1}{i} \underline{\Lambda} = \frac{1}{i} \underline{r} \times \underline{\nabla}$$

Note:  $\hbar \underline{L}$  is the quantum-mechanical angular momentum operator. The three components of  $\underline{L}$  are observables.

We now wish to show that  $\underline{L}$  maps  $\mathcal{P}_\ell$  into itself,  $\mathcal{H}_\ell$  into itself and that (in both cases)  $\underline{L}$  is Hermitian, i.e.

$$\begin{aligned} \underline{L} &: \mathcal{P}_\ell \rightarrow \mathcal{P}_\ell \\ \underline{L} &: \mathcal{H}_\ell \rightarrow \mathcal{H}_\ell \\ \underline{L}^\dagger &= \underline{L} \end{aligned}$$

This a main theorem.

$$\underline{L} : \mathcal{V}_\ell \rightarrow \mathcal{V}_\ell$$

Proof: suffices to prove for  $L_z$

1.  $L_z : \mathcal{P}_\ell \rightarrow \mathcal{P}_\ell$  since  $L_z = \frac{1}{i} (x\partial_y - y\partial_x)$ .  
Thus if  $P_\ell \in \mathcal{P}_\ell$  so is  $L_z P_\ell$ .  
Same clearly true for  $L_x, L_y$ .

2.  $L_z : H_\ell \rightarrow H_\ell$ . If  $H_\ell \in H_\ell$  then  
 $L_z H_\ell \in \mathcal{O}_\ell$ . Does  $\nabla^2 L_z H_\ell = 0$ ?  
 Yes, since  $\nabla^2 L_z H_\ell = \frac{1}{i} \nabla^2 \Lambda_z H_\ell$   
 $= \frac{1}{i} \Lambda_z \nabla^2 H_\ell = \frac{1}{i} \Lambda_z 0 = 0$ .  
 Same clearly true for  $L_x, L_y$ .

3. We must show  $\forall f, g \in \mathcal{O}_\ell$  that  
 $(f, L_z g) = (L_z f, g)$ . But

$$(f, L_z g) = \int_{\Omega} f (L_z g)^* dA$$

use  $\langle \psi, L_z \psi \rangle$

$$= \int_{\Omega} f \left( \frac{1}{i} \partial_\phi g \right)^* dA$$

$$= -\frac{1}{i} \int_0^\pi d\theta \sin\theta \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi f \partial_\phi g^*$$

integrate by parts

$$= \frac{1}{i} \int_0^\pi d\theta \sin\theta \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi (\partial_\phi f) g^*$$

$$= \frac{1}{i} \int_{\Omega} (\partial_\phi f) g^* dA$$

$$= \int_{\Omega} \left( \frac{1}{i} \partial_\phi f \right) g^* dA$$

$$= \int_{\Omega} (L_z f) g^* dA = (L_z f, g) \quad \text{q.e.d.}$$

$\hat{u}$   $\hat{u}$   $\hat{u}$  arbitrary in time  $\dots$



Clearly  $\underline{L} : \mathcal{P}_\ell \rightarrow \mathcal{P}_\ell$  Hermitian  $\Rightarrow$   
 $\underline{L} : \mathcal{H}_\ell \rightarrow \mathcal{H}_\ell$  Hermitian

Corollaries:

$L^2 = -\Lambda^2$  is also self-adjoint on  
 both  $\mathcal{P}_\ell$  and  $\mathcal{H}_\ell$ .

proof:  $L^2 = L_i L_i$  and  $(AB)^\dagger = B^\dagger A^\dagger$   
 so  $(L^2)^\dagger = (L_i L_i)^\dagger = L_i^\dagger L_i^\dagger = L_i L_i = L^2$

$L_+ = \frac{1}{i} \Lambda_+$  and  $L_- = \frac{1}{i} \Lambda_-$  are  
 Hermitian conjugates on both  $\mathcal{P}_\ell$  and  
 $\mathcal{H}_\ell$ , i.e.

$$(L_+)^\dagger = L_-$$

$$(L_-)^\dagger = L_+$$

proof:  $(L_+)^\dagger = (L_x + iL_y)^\dagger = L_x^\dagger - iL_y^\dagger$   
 $= L_x - iL_y = L_-$

Useful  $\underline{L}$  identities and commutators are:

$$\underline{L} \times \underline{L} = i\underline{L}$$

$$L^2 = L_+ L_- + L_z^2 - L_z = L_- L_+ + L_z^2 + L_z$$

$$[L^2, \underline{L}] = [L^2, L_z] = [L^2, L_\pm] = 0$$

$$[L_z, L_+] = L_+, \quad [L_z, L_-] = -L_-, \quad [L_+, L_-] = 2L_z$$

Recall the quantum mechanical significance of commutativity: two observables which commute may be simultaneously specified.

Thus  $[L^2, L_z] = 0$  means that  $L^2$  and  $L_z$  can be simultaneously specified, i.e. the squared length of the angular momentum and any component. Two orthogonal components may however not be simultaneously specified exactly.

end lecture 14 here

## 22. Algebraic structure of the space $P_\ell$

Defn: Two subspaces  $u$  and  $v$  of an inner product space  $W$  are orthogonal if  $\forall u \in u$  and  $\forall v \in v$ ,  $(u, v) = 0$ .

We write  $u \perp v$ .

If  $\ell \neq \ell'$ , then  $H_\ell \perp H_{\ell'}$

i.e. spherical harmonics of different degrees  $\ell$  are orthogonal.

proof: let  $H_l \in H_l$  and  $H_{l'} \in H_{l'}$ .  
 Consider  $(H_l, \Lambda^2 H_{l'}) = (\Lambda^2 H_l, H_{l'})$   
 since  $\Lambda^2$  is Hermitian. call this  $Y_l, Y_{l'}$

$$-l'(l'+1) (H_l, H_{l'}) = -l(l+1) (H_l, H_{l'})$$

$$[l(l+1) - l'(l'+1)] (H_l, H_{l'}) = 0 \quad \text{or}$$

$$\underbrace{(l'-l)(l'+l+1)}_{\geq 0} (H_l, H_{l'}) = 0$$

Thus  $(H_l, H_{l'}) = 0$  if  $l' \neq l$ .

Now define  $r^l H_l$  to be the space of all  
 fns of the form  $r^l H_l$  where  $H_l \in H_l$ .

The main theorem for the space  $P_l$  is:  
 that it has a direct sum decomposition  
 of the form

$$P_l = \overset{H_l}{r^l H_l} \oplus \overset{Y_{l-2}}{r^{l-2} H_{l-2}} \oplus \dots \oplus \overset{Y_{\tau(l)}}{r^{l-\tau(l)} H_{\tau(l)}}$$

$\oplus \begin{cases} r^l Y_0 & \text{even} \\ r^{l-1} Y_1 & \text{odd} \end{cases}$

where  $\tau(l) = l \bmod 2 = 0$  if  $l$  even, 1 if odd

The assertion is that for any  $P_l \in P_l$ ,  
 $\exists$  unique solid spherical harmonics

$H_l, H_{l-2}, \dots$  s.t.

$$P_l = H_l + r^2 H_{l-2} + \dots + r^{l-\tau(l)} H_{\tau(l)}$$

$$\tau(l) = \begin{cases} 0 & l \text{ even} \\ 1 & l \text{ odd} \end{cases} = l \bmod 2 \quad +$$

This theorem lies at the heart of making multipole expansions of non-harmonic fens.

Study of  $P_l$ 's is thereby reduced to study of  $H_l$ 's. Recall that the  $H_l$ 's in  $r$  are mutually orthogonal.

Proof:

(i) uniqueness: say  $\tilde{P}_l$  and  $\tilde{\tilde{P}}_l$  both have expansions of the form  $*$ . Then so does their difference  $P_l \equiv \tilde{P}_l - \tilde{\tilde{P}}_l$ .

Look on  $\Omega$ . If  $P_l = 0$  on  $\Omega$  then

$(P_l, H_{l-2v}) = (0, H_{l-2v}) = 0$  but because  $H_{l'} \perp H_l$ ,  $(P_l, H_{l-2v}) = r^{2v} (H_{l-2v}, H_{l-2v}) = 0$  for any  $v$ .

Hence  $H_{l-2v} = 0$  for any  $v$ . Hence

$\tilde{H}_{l-2v} = \tilde{\tilde{H}}_{l-2v}$  for any  $v$ .

(ii) to prove existence, we need a lemma



$$\nabla^2 r^{n+2} H_l = (n+2)(2l+n+3) r^n H_l$$

proof:  $\nabla^2 r^{n+2} H_l(\underline{r}) = \left[ \frac{1}{r} \partial_r^2 r + \frac{1}{r^2} \Delta^2 \right] r^{l+n+2} H_l(\hat{r})$

$$= \frac{1}{r} \partial_r^2 r^{l+n+3} H_l(\hat{r}) + r^{l+n} \Delta^2 H_l(\hat{r})$$

$$= \left[ (l+n+3)(l+n+2) - l(l+1) \right] r^{l+n} H_l(\hat{r})$$

$$= (n+2)(2l+n+3) r^{l+n} H_l(\hat{r})$$

$$= (n+2)(2l+n+3) r^n H_l(\underline{r})$$

(iii) now prove existence by induction

true for  $l=0$ :  $\mathcal{P}_0 = H_0$ , 1 a basis

true for  $l=1$ :  $\mathcal{P}_1 = H_1$ ,  $x, y, z$  a basis

i.e. every homog. poly of degree 0 or 1 is harmonic.

Now suppose true for  $l$ . Want to prove for  $l+2$ . Consider  $P_{l+2} \in \mathcal{P}_{l+2}$ .

We know that  $\nabla^2 P_{l+2} \in \mathcal{P}_2$  so, by assumption,  $\exists$  spherical harmonics  $H_l, \dots, H_{l(l)}$  s.t.

$$\nabla^2 P_{l+2} = H_l + r^2 H_{l-2} + \dots + r^{l-\tau(l)} H_{\tau(l)}$$

but by the lemma, the r.h.s. is

$$= \nabla^2 \left[ \frac{r^2 H_l}{2(2l+3)} + \frac{r^4 H_{l-2}}{4(2l+1)} + \frac{r^6 H_{l-4}}{6(2l-1)} + \dots \right. \\ \left. \dots + \frac{r^{l+2-\tau(l)} H_{\tau(l)}}{(l+2-\tau(l))(l+3-\tau(l))} \right]$$

Let  $H_l' \equiv \frac{H_l}{2(2l+3)}$ ,  $H_{l-2}' = \frac{H_{l-2}}{4(2l+1)}$ , etc.

Then

$$\nabla^2 \left[ \underbrace{P_{l+2} - r^2 H_l' - r^4 H_{l-2}' - \dots - r^{l+2-\tau(l)} H_{\tau(l)}'}_{F_{l+2}} \right] = 0$$

Thus we can write  $P_{l+2}$  in the form

$$P_{l+2} = F_{l+2} + r^2 H_l' + \dots + r^{l+2-\tau(l)} H_{\tau(l)}'$$

where  $F_{l+2} \in \mathcal{P}_{l+2}$  (since  $P_{l+2}$  and all of  $r^2 H_l'$ , etc. are) and where  $\nabla^2 F_{l+2} = 0$ .

Hence  $F_{l+2}$  is harmonic, i.e.  $F_{l+2} = H_{l+2}' \in \mathcal{H}_{l+2}$ .

Also  $\tau(l+2) = \tau(l)$ . Hence

$$P_{\ell+2} = H'_{\ell+2} + r^2 H'_{\ell} + \dots + r^{\ell+2-\tau(\ell+2)} H'_{\tau(\ell+2)}$$

and we are done.

Any poly  $F(\underline{r})$  can be written as a sum of homogeneous polys, so we have the immediate corollary.

Any poly  $F(\underline{r})$  can be written as a finite sum of solid spherical harmonics

$$F(\underline{r}) = \sum_{\ell=0}^L \sum_{n=0}^N r^n H_{\ell}^{(n)}(\underline{r}) \quad \text{where}$$

$$H_{\ell}^{(n)} \in H_{\ell}$$

Similarly if  $F(\hat{r})$  is any polynomial mapping  $\Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ , then  $F(\hat{r})$  can be written as a finite sum of surface spherical harmonics  $Y_{\ell}(\hat{r}) \in H_{\ell}(\Omega)$

$$F(\hat{r}) = \sum_{\ell=0}^L Y_{\ell}(\hat{r}) \quad \text{where } Y_{\ell} \in H_{\ell}(\Omega)$$

This expansion is clearly unique. The same uniqueness proof works.

So any poly  $F: \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  can be written as a unique finite sum of surface spherical harmonics  $Y_l$  on  $\Omega$ .

It is now a simple matter to prove the following expansion theorem.

Theorem: if  $f: \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  is a continuous fun, then  $\forall \epsilon > 0 \exists L$  and a sequence of spherical harmonics  $Y_l \in H_l(\Omega)$  s.t.  $\forall \hat{r} \in \Omega$

$$\left| f(\hat{r}) - \sum_{l=0}^L Y_l(\hat{r}) \right| < \epsilon.$$

In words: any continuous fun  $f: \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  can be approximated uniformly ( $\epsilon$  is independent of  $\hat{r}$ ) by a series of spherical harmonics.

Proof: any poly  $P: \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  can be written as a finite sum of  $Y_l(\hat{r})$ . Therefore if we can ~~find~~ find a poly  $P$  s.t.

$$|f(\hat{r}) - P(\hat{r})| < \epsilon$$

then we are done. But the existence of such a poly is exactly the assertion of



the well-known:

Weierstrass Approximation Theorem: Suppose  $V$  is a bounded closed subset of  $\mathbb{R}^3$  (e.g.  $\Omega$ ) and  $f: V \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  is continuous. Then  $\forall \epsilon > 0$   
 $\exists$  a poly  $P$  s.t.  $\forall z \in V$

$$|f(z) - P(z)| < \epsilon.$$

i.e. any cont. fun. can be uniformly approximated by a poly. on a bd, closed domain. For a proof (in 1-d, but easily extended to 3-d, see pp. 65-68 of Courant + Hilbert, vol. 1).

### 23. The structure of the space $H_\ell$ .

We can now find its dimension

$$H_\ell = \overset{\ell}{H_\ell} \oplus r^2 \overset{\ell-2}{H_{\ell-2}} \oplus \dots$$

$$= H_\ell \oplus r^2 \underbrace{[ H_{\ell-2} \oplus \dots ]}$$

homogeneous of degree  $\ell-2$

$$= \overset{\ell}{\cancel{H_\ell}} \oplus r^2 \overset{\ell-2}{\cancel{H_{\ell-2}}} \dots$$

Thus

$$\dim P_l = \dim H_l + \dim P_{l-2}$$

But  $\dim P_l = \frac{(l+1)(l+2)}{2}$ , so

$$\frac{(l+1)(l+2)}{2} = \dim H_l + \frac{l(l-1)}{2}$$

Thus

$$\dim H_l = \dim H_l(\Omega) = 2l+1$$

There is a basis of each space  $H_l$  consisting of  $2l+1$  lin. ind. solid spherical harmonics, and a corresponding basis of  $H_l(\Omega)$  consisting of  $2l+1$  lin. ind. surface spherical harmonics.

Examples: (i)  $l=0$   $\dim H_0 = \dim H_0(\Omega) = 1$   
 $H_0$  consists of the space of all complex constants. The canonical or conventional basis for  $H_l(\Omega)$  is orthonormal, elements denoted by  $Y_l^m(\Omega)$ ,  $-l \leq m \leq l$ , satisfy:

$$(Y_l^m, Y_l^{m'}) = \int_{\Omega} Y_l^m Y_l^{m'} dA = \delta_{mm'}$$

Corresponding canonical basis for  $\mathcal{H}_l$  has elements

$$y_l^m(\underline{r}) = r^l Y_l^m(\hat{r})$$

Thus  $Y_0^0(\hat{r}) = y_{0,0}(\underline{r}) = (1/4\pi)^{1/2}$ , since that renders

$$\|Y_0^0\| = (Y_0^0, Y_0^0)^{1/2} = 1.$$

(ii)  $l=1$ ,  $\dim \mathcal{H}_1 = \dim \mathcal{H}_1(\Omega) = 3$   
 A possible basis for  $\mathcal{H}_1$  consists of  $x, y$  and  $z$ , since they are lin. ind.  
 Note that  $\mathcal{P}_1 \equiv \mathcal{H}_1$ , i.e. every poly of degree 1 is harmonic.

$x, y, z$  is however not the canonical basis. It is in fact

$$y_1^0(\underline{r}) = (3/4\pi)^{1/2} z$$

$$y_1^{\pm 1}(\underline{r}) = \mp (3/8\pi)^{1/2} (x \pm iy)$$

and thus since  $z = r \cos \theta$ ,  $x = r \sin \theta \cos \phi$ ,  $y = r \sin \theta \sin \phi$

$$Y_1^0(\hat{r}) = (3/4\pi)^{1/2} \cos \theta$$

$$Y_1^{\pm 1}(\hat{r}) = \mp (3/8\pi)^{1/2} \sin \theta e^{\pm i\phi}$$



There is a straightforward procedure for constructing the canonical orthonormal basis for  $H_2$  and  $H_2(\Omega)$  in each CAS  $\hat{x}, \hat{y}, \hat{z}$ .

If all we want is an ~~orthonormal~~ orthonormal basis, could use Gram-Schmidt on any lin. ind. set of  $2l+1$  vectors.

We shall however follow the procedure which is standard in quantum mechanics.

First a definition.

Defn: Let  $V$  be a real (complex) vector space and let  $T: V \rightarrow V$  be a linear operator.

Let  $\lambda$  be a real (complex) number. Then  $v \in V$  is said to be an eigenvector of  $T$  with associated eigenvalue  $\lambda$  if

$$(i) \quad v \neq 0, \text{ and}$$

$$(ii) \quad Tv = \lambda v$$

Note: if  $v$  is an eigenvector, so is  $av$ , where  $a$  is any real (complex) non-zero scalar. Thus every eigenvalue  $\lambda$  has an associated eigenvector  $\hat{v}$  of unit length  $\|\hat{v}\| = 1$ .

$$T\hat{v} = \lambda\hat{v}, \quad \|\hat{v}\| = 1.$$



Example:  $(x + iy)^l$  and  $(x - iy)^l$  are both in  $H_l$ , since

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla^2 (x \pm iy)^l &= (\partial_x^2 + \partial_y^2 + \partial_z^2) (x \pm iy)^l \\ &= l(l-1) [1 + i^2] (x \pm iy)^{l-2} = 0. \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Now } (x \pm iy)^l &= (r \sin \theta e^{\pm i\phi})^l \\ &= r^l (\sin \theta)^l e^{\pm i l \phi} \end{aligned}$$

Now recall  $L_z = \frac{1}{i} \Lambda_z = \frac{1}{i} \partial_\phi$ , so

$$\begin{cases} L_z (x + iy)^l = l (x + iy)^l \\ L_z (x - iy)^l = -l (x - iy)^l \end{cases}$$

Thus both  $(x \pm iy)^l$  are eigenvectors of the operator  $L_z : H_l \rightarrow H_l$ . The associated eigenvalues are  $\pm l$ .

We are going to make  $(x - iy)^l$  the first element of our canonical o.n. basis for  $H_l$ . Let us thus normalize it.

$$((x - iy)^l, (x - iy)^l) = \int_{\Omega} |x - iy|^{2l} dA$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi \int_0^\pi \sin\theta \, d\theta (\sin\theta)^{2l} \\
 &= 2\pi \int_0^\pi (\sin\theta)^{2l+1} d\theta \\
 &= 4\pi \frac{2^{2l} (l!)^2}{(2l+1)!}
 \end{aligned}$$

Thus define

$$Y_l^{-l} \equiv \sqrt{\frac{2l+1}{4\pi}} \left[ \frac{(2l)!}{0!} \right]^{1/2} \frac{r^l}{2^l l!} \sin^l \theta e^{-il\phi}$$

$$Y_l^{-l}(\pm) = r^l Y_l^{-l}(\mp)$$

$$Y_l^{-l} \equiv \sqrt{\frac{2l+1}{4\pi}} \left[ \frac{(2l)!}{0!} \right]^{1/2} \frac{1}{2^l l!} \sin^l \theta e^{-il\phi}$$

Then  $Y_l^{-l} \in H_l(\Omega)$  is of unit length

$$\|Y_l^{-l}\|^2 = (Y_l^{-l}, Y_l^{-l}) = 1. \quad \text{So is}$$

$$Y_l \in H_l.$$

We will construct a basis starting with  $Y_l^{-l}$  using as a tool the  $L_+$  ladder operator. The property of  $L_+$  of use to us is this: Suppose that

$$L_+ H_l^m = m H_l^m \quad \text{and} \quad H_l^m \in H_l.$$

Then

$L_+ H_\ell^m \equiv H_\ell^{m+1}$  is also  $\in H_\ell$  and

$$L_z H_\ell^{m+1} = (m+1) H_\ell^{m+1}$$

Proof:  $L_z H_\ell^{m+1} = L_z L_+ H_\ell^m = L_+ (L_z + 1) H_\ell^m$

(since  $[L_z, L_+] = L_+$ )

$$= L_+ (m+1) H_\ell^m = (m+1) L_+ H_\ell^m$$

$$= (m+1) H_\ell^{m+1}$$

Note that we have not shown that  $H_\ell^{m+1}$  is an eigenfunction of  $L_z$  with eigenvalue  $m+1$  since we have not investigated whether or not  $H_\ell^{m+1} = 0$ .

Is  $H_\ell^{m+1}$  an eigenvector of  $L_z$ , i.e. is it  $\neq 0$

$$(H_\ell^{m+1}, H_\ell^{m+1}) = (L_+ H_\ell^m, L_+ H_\ell^m)$$

$$= (H_\ell^m, L_- L_+ H_\ell^m) = (H_\ell^m, (L^2 - L_z^2 - L_z) H_\ell^m)$$

$$= [l(l+1) - m^2 - m] (H_\ell^m, H_\ell^m)$$

$$= (l-m)(l+m+1) (H_\ell^m, H_\ell^m)$$

Thus  $H_l^{m+1} \neq 0$  ~~provided~~ provided  $H_l^m \neq 0$   
if  $m \neq -l-1$  and  $m \neq l$ .

Furthermore  $H_l^m$  must vanish for  $m > l$ .

Thus, over a restricted range of  $m$ ,  $L_+$  has the property that if  $H_l^m$  is an eigenvector of  $L_z: H_l \rightarrow H_l$  with  $\text{eiv } m$ , then  $L_+ H_l^m = H_l^{m+1}$  is also an eigenvector of  $L_z$  with  $\text{eiv } m+1$ .

Reason for name: ladder operator.

Theorem: main theorem on structure of  $H_l(\Omega)$  and  $H_l$ . Define  $Y_l^{-l}$  as above and define  $Y_l^m = 0$  if  $|m| > l$ .

Also define

$$Y_l^m \equiv \left[ \frac{(l-m)!}{(l+m)!} \right]^{1/2} \frac{1}{\sqrt{(2l)!}} (L_+)^{l+m} Y_l^{-l},$$

$$-l \leq m \leq l$$

Then  $Y_l^{-l}, \dots, Y_l^0, \dots, Y_l^l$  are an orthonormal basis for  $H_l(\Omega)$  and furthermore, the following formulae are true for all  $m$ .



$$1. \quad L_+ Y_l^m = \sqrt{(l-m)(l+m+1)} Y_l^{m+1}$$

$$2. \quad L_- Y_l^m = \sqrt{(l+m)(l-m+1)} Y_l^{m-1}$$

$$3. \quad L_z Y_l^m = m Y_l^m$$

Proof: prove the formulas 1, 2, 3. first.

1. for  $m \leq -l-2$ : trivial (all zero)

for  $m = -l-1$ : trivial ( $l+m+1 = 0$ )

for  $-l \leq m \leq l-1$ ;

$$\begin{aligned} L_+ Y_l^m &= \left[ \frac{(l-m)!}{(l+m)!} \right]^{1/2} \frac{1}{\sqrt{(2l)!}} (L_+)^{l+m+1} Y_l^{-l} \\ &= \sqrt{(l-m)(l+m+1)} Y_l^{m+1} \end{aligned}$$

for  $m = l$ :

$$\begin{aligned} (L_+ Y_l^l, L_+ Y_l^l) &= (Y_l^l, L_- L_+ Y_l^l) \\ &= (Y_l^l, (L^2 - L_z^2 - L_z) Y_l^l) \\ &= [l(l+1) - l^2 - l] (Y_l^l, Y_l^l) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

for  $m > l$ : trivial

2. apply  $L_-$  to 1. to get

$$(L^2 - L_z^2 - L_z) Y_l^m = \sqrt{(l-m)(l+m+1)} L_- Y_l^{m+1}$$

this uses 3., which should be proved before 2.

$$(l-m)(l+m+1) Y_l^m = \sqrt{(l-m)(l+m+1)} L_- Y_l^{m+1}$$

$$\text{or } L_- Y_l^{m+1} = \sqrt{(l-m)(l+m+1)} Y_l^m$$

change  $m$  to  $m-1$  (can do since 1. true  $\forall m$ ).

$$L_- Y_l^m = \sqrt{(l+m)(l-m+1)} Y_l^{m-1}$$

3. prove by induction on  $m$ .

~~for  $|m| > l$~~

trivial for  $|m| > l$  (all zero)

true for  $m = -l$ .

Now assume true for  $m$ . Then

true for  $m+1$  because

$$\begin{aligned} L_+ Y_l^m &= L_+ \frac{L_+ Y_l^{m-1}}{\sqrt{(l-m)(l+m+1)}} = \frac{L_+(L_+ Y_l^{m-1})}{\sqrt{(l-m)(l+m+1)}} \\ &= \frac{(m+1) L_+ Y_l^{m-1}}{\sqrt{(l-m)(l+m+1)}} = (m+1) Y_l^m. \end{aligned}$$

Note induction fails if  $m = l$ .

Now we still must prove the  $Y_l^m$  are orthogonal and lin. ind. This is easy now that we have 1.2.3. at our disposal.

That  $\|Y_l^m\| = 1$  is also proved by induction on  $m$ . True for  $m = -l$ .

Suppose true, i.e.  $\|Y_l^m\| = 1$  for  $m$  satisfying  $-l \leq m \leq l-1$ . Then true for  $m+1$  since

$$\begin{aligned} (Y_l^{m+1}, Y_l^{m+1}) &= \frac{1}{(l-m)(l+m+1)} (L+Y_l^m, L+Y_l^m) \\ &= \frac{1}{(l-m)(l+m+1)} (Y_l^m, L-L+Y_l^m) \\ &= \frac{1}{(l-m)(l+m+1)} (Y_l^m, (L^2 - L_z^2 - L_z)Y_l^m) \\ &= (Y_l^m, Y_l^m) = 1. \end{aligned}$$

Again induction fails (as expected) at  $m = l$ .

Now to prove lin. ind. But  $Y_l^m$  is an eigenvector of the operator  $L_z: \mathcal{H}_l(\mathbb{S}^2) \rightarrow \mathcal{H}_l(\mathbb{S}^2)$ , with eiv  $m$  (when  $|m| \leq l$ ). Furthermore  $L_z$  is Hermitian. We may thus call on the well-known theorem

Theorem: If  $\lambda_1$  and  $\lambda_2$  are two distinct eigenvalues of a Hermitian operator  $L: V \rightarrow V$

with associated eigenvectors  $v_1$  and  $v_2$ ,  
then  $(v_1, v_2) = 0$ .

i.e. eigenvectors assoc. with distinct  
eigenvalues are orthogonal. The proof is  
simple.

$$\begin{aligned}Lv_1 &= \lambda_1 v_1, & Lv_2 &= \lambda_2 v_2 \\(v_2, Lv_1) &= (v_2, \lambda_1 v_1) \\&= \lambda_1^* (v_2, v_1) && \text{but} \\(v_2, Lv_1) &= (Lv_2, v_1) && \text{(Hermitian)} \\&= (v_1, Lv_2)^* = (v_1, \lambda_2 v_2)^* \\&= \lambda_2 (v_1, v_2)^* = \lambda_2 (v_2, v_1)\end{aligned}$$

Thus  $\lambda_1^* (v_2, v_1) = \lambda_2 (v_2, v_1)$  or

$$\boxed{(\lambda_2 - \lambda_1^*) (v_2, v_1) = 0}$$

Can now prove two things:

(i) take  $1=2$ , then  $(v_1, v_1) \neq 0$  if  
 $v_1$  is an eigenvector, so  $\lambda_1^* - \lambda_1 = 0$   
i.e.  $\lambda_1$  is real, i.e. all  $\lambda_i$   
are real.

(ii) can now write  $(\lambda_2 - \lambda_1^*) (v_2, v_1) = 0$ .  
take  $\lambda_2 \neq \lambda_1$  (distinct eivs). Then  
 $(v_2, v_1) = 0$ , i.e. eigenvectors assoc.  
with distinct eivs are I.



Thus, since  $L_z: H_l(\Omega) \rightarrow H_l(\Omega)$  is Hermitian, the  $Y_l^m$ ,  $|m| \leq l$  are mutually orthogonal. Therefore they are lin. ind. Since there are  $2l+1$  of them, they form a basis. Thus

$Y_l^{-l}, \dots, Y_l^0, \dots, Y_l^l$  as defined above constitute an orthonormal basis for  $H_l(\Omega)$ .

q.e.d.

Corollary: we can also express  $Y_l^m$  in terms of the  $L_-$  ladder operator. Claim

$$Y_l^m = \left[ \frac{(l+m)!}{(l-m)!} \right]^{1/2} \frac{1}{\sqrt{(2l)!}} (L_-)^{l-m} Y_l^l,$$

$$-l \leq m \leq l$$

Proof: induction again. True if  $m=l$ . Suppose true for  $m$ . Then

$$Y_l^{m-1} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{(l+m)(l-m+1)}} L_- Y_l^m = \left[ \frac{(l+m-1)!}{(l-m+1)!} \right]^{1/2} \frac{1}{\sqrt{(2l)!}}$$

$$\text{is } Y_l^{l-m+1} \text{ by } -l$$

$L_-$  is a descending ladder operator just as  $L_+$  is an ascending ladder operator. We could have constructed the same basis by starting with  $Y_l^l \sim (x+iy)^l$ , normalize, and ladder downward to  $Y_l^{-l}$ .

The canonical basis  $Y_l^{-l}, \dots, Y_l^0, \dots, Y_l^l$  of  $H_l(\Omega)$  consists of the simultaneous eigenvectors of  $L^2$  and  $L_z$ , normalized s.t.  $\|Y_l^m\| = 1$ . The fact that  $L^2$  and  $L_z$  commute, i.e.  $[L^2, L_z] = 0$ , guarantees that these simultaneous eigenvectors exist, by virtue of the

Theorem: If  $V$  is a finite-dimensional inner product space and  $S: V \rightarrow V$  and  $T: V \rightarrow V$  are both Hermitian linear operators, then  $\exists$  an orthonormal basis of  $V$  consisting of simultaneous eigenvectors of both  $S$  and  $T$  iff  $S$  and  $T$  commute, i.e.  $ST = TS$ .

This is the theorem which lies at the  $\heartsuit$  of quantum mechanics. The proof of this is simple. Let's just sketch it.

First if there is such an o.n. basis, then the matrix of components of  $T$  and  $S$  in that basis have the form  $\begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & & \\ & \ddots & \\ & & \lambda_n \end{pmatrix}$  and  $\begin{pmatrix} \sigma_1 & & \\ & \ddots & \\ & & \sigma_n \end{pmatrix}$

where  $\lambda_i, \sigma_i$  are the eigenvalues of  $T, S$  respectively. Clearly these two matrices commute. Thus  $T$  and  $S$  commute.

Suppose now that  $ST = TS$ . Let  $\{T, \lambda\}$  denote the subspace of  $V$  consisting of eigenvectors of  $T$  with assoc. eiv.  $\lambda$ . Then ~~if~~ if  $v \in \{T, \lambda\}$ ,  $Tv = \lambda v$ . Then

$$TSv = STv = S\lambda v = \lambda Sv \\ T(Sv) = \lambda(Sv)$$

Thus  $Sv \in \{T, \lambda\}$ . The ~~operator~~ operator defined by restricting  $S$  to  $\{T, \lambda\}$  is clearly Hermitian, so we know  $\exists$  an ~~o.n.~~ o.n. basis of  $\{T, \lambda\}$  consisting of eigenvectors of  $S$ . Being in  $\{T, \lambda\}$  these vectors are also eigenvectors of  $T$ . The same construction can clearly be repeated for each eigenspace of  $T$ . The result is an o.n. basis of  $V$  consisting of simultaneous eigenvectors of  $S$  and  $T$ .



The q.m. significance of this is well-known. ~~That~~ A complete ~~description~~ description of a q.m. system consists of a knowledge of  $L^2$  and  $L_z$ . They are said to constitute a complete set of commuting observables. A stationary angular momentum state is defined by the two quantum numbers  $l(l+1)$  and  $m$ , the eigenvalues of  $L^2$  and  $L_z$ .

Actually, in q.m. because of spin, both  $l$  and  $m$  are allowed to assume half-integral values.

The ladder operators  $L_{\pm}$  convert an eigenvector with eigenvalue (of  $L_z$ )  $m$  into an eigenvector with eigenvalue  $m \pm 1$ . Hence the name.



24. Explicit expressions for the  $Y_l^m$

We have defined, for  $|m| \leq l$ ,

$$Y_l^m = \sqrt{\frac{2l+1}{4\pi}} \frac{1}{2^l l!} \left[ \frac{(l-m)!}{(l+m)!} \right]^{1/2} (L_+)^{l+m} \sin^l \theta e^{-il\phi}$$

where  $L_+ = e^{i\phi} (\partial_\theta + i \cot \theta \partial_\phi)$

Now for any  $f(\theta)$  only:

$$\begin{aligned} L_+ e^{iq\phi} f(\theta) &= e^{i(q+1)\phi} (\partial_\theta - q \cot \theta) f(\theta) \\ &= e^{i(q+1)\phi} \sin^q \theta \partial_\theta \sin^{-q} \theta f(\theta) \end{aligned}$$

$$(L_+)^2 e^{iq\phi} f(\theta) = e^{i(q+2)\phi} [\partial_\theta - (q+1) \cot \theta]$$

$$\sin^q \theta \partial_\theta \sin^{-q} \theta f(\theta)$$

$$= e^{i(q+2)\phi} \sin^{q+1} \theta \partial_\theta \left( \frac{1}{\sin \theta} \right) \partial_\theta \sin^{-q} \theta f(\theta)$$

$$= e^{i(q+2)\phi} \sin^{q+2} \theta \left( \frac{1}{\sin \theta} \partial_\theta \right)^2 \sin^{-q} \theta f(\theta)$$

In general

$$(L_+)^{\nu} e^{iq\phi} f(\theta) = e^{i(q+\nu)\phi} \sin^{q+\nu} \theta \left( \frac{1}{\sin \theta} \frac{d}{d\theta} \right)^{\nu} \sin^{-q} \theta f(\theta)$$

Now set  $\nu = l+m$ ,  $q = -l$ ,  $f(\theta) = \sin^l \theta$

Find:

$$Y_l^m = \sqrt{\frac{2l+1}{4\pi}} \frac{1}{2^l l!} \left[ \frac{(l-m)!}{(l+m)!} \right]^{1/2} e^{im\phi} \sin^m \theta \left( \frac{1}{\sin \theta} \frac{d}{d\theta} \right)^{l+m} \sin^{2l} \theta, \quad |m| \leq l$$

Now let  $\mu = \cos \theta$ .

The Legendre polynomial of degree  $l$  can be defined by the Rodrigues formula:

$$P_l(\mu) \equiv \frac{1}{2^l l!} \left( \frac{d}{d\mu} \right)^l (\mu^2 - 1)^l$$

The associated Legendre function of degree  $l$  and order  $m$  is defined similarly by:

$$P_l^m(\mu) = \frac{1}{2^l l!} (1-\mu^2)^{m/2} \left(\frac{d}{d\mu}\right)^{l+m} (\mu^2-1)^l, \text{ valid for } |m| \leq l.$$

Note that  $P_l^0(\mu) = P_l(\mu)$ .

Making use of  $d\mu = -\frac{1}{\sin\theta} d\theta$ , we can write our  $Y_l^m$  in the form

$$Y_l^m(\theta, \phi) = (-1)^m \sqrt{\frac{2l+1}{4\pi}} \left[ \frac{(l-m)!}{(l+m)!} \right]^{1/2} P_l^m(\cos\theta) e^{im\phi},$$

$$|m| \leq l$$

In particular we have two simple cases

$$Y_l^0 = \sqrt{\frac{2l+1}{4\pi}} P_l(\cos\theta)$$

$$Y_l^l = (-1)^l \sqrt{\frac{2l+1}{4\pi}} \frac{1}{2^l l!} \left[ \frac{(2l)!}{0!} \right]^{1/2} \sin^l \theta e^{il\phi}$$

Recall we started with

$$Y_l^{-l} = \sqrt{\frac{2l+1}{4\pi}} \frac{1}{2^l l!} \left[ \frac{(2l)!}{0!} \right]^{1/2} \sin^l \theta e^{-il\phi}$$

Note that  $Y_l^{-l} = (-1)^l Y_l^{l*}$ .

This is in fact more general, as we now show.

We also derived an expression for  $Y_l^m$  in terms of  $L_-$ , viz.

$$Y_l^m = (-1)^m \sqrt{\frac{2l+1}{4\pi}} \frac{1}{2^l l!} \left[ \frac{(l+m)!}{(l-m)!} \right]^{1/2} (L_-)^{l-m} e^{i l \phi} \sin^l \theta$$

$$L_- = e^{-i\phi} \left[ -\partial_\theta + i \cot \theta \partial_\phi \right]$$

Consider:

$$\begin{aligned} L_- e^{i q \phi} f(\theta) &= -e^{i(q-1)\phi} (\partial_\theta + q \cot \theta) f(\theta) \\ &= -e^{i(q-1)\phi} \sin^{-q} \theta \partial_\theta \sin^q \theta f(\theta) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} (L_-)^2 e^{i q \phi} f(\theta) &= (-1)^2 e^{i(q-2)\phi} \sin^{-2+1} \theta \partial_\theta \frac{1}{\sin \theta} \partial_\theta \\ &= e^{i(q-2)\phi} \sin^{-q+2} \theta \left( -\frac{1}{\sin \theta} \partial_\theta \right)^2 \sin^q \theta f(\theta) \end{aligned}$$

In general

$$(L_-)^v e^{i q \phi} f(\theta) = e^{i(q-v)\phi} \sin^{-v+1} \theta \left( -\frac{1}{\sin \theta} \partial_\theta \right)^v \sin^q \theta f(\theta)$$

Now set  $v = l-m$ ,  $q = l$ ,  $f(\theta) = \sin^l \theta$ .

$$Y_l^m = (-1)^m \sqrt{\frac{2l+1}{4\pi}} \frac{1}{2^l l!} \left[ \frac{(l+m)!}{(l-m)!} \right]^{1/2} e^{i m \phi} \sin^{-m} \theta \left( -\frac{1}{\sin \theta} \partial_\theta \right)^{l-m} \sin^{2l} \theta, \quad |m| \leq l$$



Comparing this with  $*$ , we see that

$$Y_l^{-m} = (-1)^m Y_l^m \quad *$$

Let's see now what the  $Y_l^m$  look like.

$$Y_l^m(-\hat{r}) = (-1)^l Y_l^m(\hat{r}) \quad \text{since } Y_l^m \text{ is} \\ \text{homogeneous of degree} \\ l$$

in the language of g.m. one says the parity of  $Y_l^m$  is equal to its degree

$$Y_l^m(-\hat{r}) = (-1)^l Y_l^m(\hat{r}) \quad **$$

It follows that  $P_l^m(-\mu) = (-1)^{l+m} P_l^m(\mu)$ .

Let us write

$$Y_l^m(\theta, \phi) = X_l^m(\theta) e^{im\phi}$$

Then  $X_l^m(\theta)$  is real and from  $*$  and  $**$  satisfies

$$X_l^{-m}(\theta) = (-1)^m X_l^m(\theta) \\ X_l^m(\pi - \theta) = (-1)^{l+m} X_l^m(\theta) \quad ***$$

If  $X_l^m(\theta)$  is known for positive  $m$ , it can be found for negative  $m$  from \*\*\*

Note that if:

$l+m$  even:  $X_l^m$  symmetric across equator

$l+m$  odd:  $X_l^m$  anti-symmetric across equator, vanishes at equator  $\theta = \pi/2$ .

Now consider near the pole:  $\theta = 0$ .

We make use of

$$X_l^m = \sqrt{\frac{2l+1}{4\pi}} \frac{1}{2^l l!} \left[ \frac{(l-m)!}{(l+m)!} \right]^{1/2} \sin^m \theta$$

$$\left( \frac{1}{\sin \theta} \frac{d}{d\theta} \right)^{l+m} \sin^{2l} \theta$$

Near the pole  $\sin \theta \sim \theta$

Consider:

$$\theta^m \left( \frac{1}{\theta} \frac{d}{d\theta} \right)^{l+m} \theta^{2l}$$

$$m = -l: \theta^l$$

$$m = -(l-1): 2l \theta^{l-1}$$

$$m = -(l-2): 2l(2l-2) \theta^{l-2} = 2^2 l(l-1) \theta^{l-2}$$

⋮

$$m = 0: 2^l l! \theta^0$$

Thus for  $-l \leq m \leq 0$ , we find

$$X_l^m(\theta) \sim \sqrt{\frac{2l+1}{4\pi}} \left[ \frac{(l-m)!}{(l+m)!} \right]^{1/2} \frac{1}{2^{|m|} |m|!} \theta^{|m|}$$

For  $0 < m \leq l$ , the above argument does not work, and we make use instead of

$$X_l^m = (-1)^l \sqrt{\frac{2l+1}{4\pi}} \frac{1}{2^l l!} \left[ \frac{(l+m)!}{(l-m)!} \right]^{1/2}$$

$$\sin^{-m} \theta \left( -\frac{1}{\sin \theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \right)^{l-m} \sin^{2l} \theta$$

Once again for  $\theta \approx 0$ ,  $\sin \theta \approx \theta$ . We consider

$$(-1)^l \theta^{-m} \left( -\frac{1}{\theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \right)^{l-m} \theta^{2l}$$

$$m=l: (-1)^l \theta^l$$

$$m=l-1: (-1)^{l-1} 2l \theta^{l-1}$$

$\vdots$

$$m=0: (-1)^0 2^l l! \theta^0$$

Thus for  $0 \leq m \leq l$ , we find

$$X_l^m(\theta) \sim (-1)^m \sqrt{\frac{2l+1}{4\pi}} \left[ \frac{(l+m)!}{(l-m)!} \right]^{1/2} \frac{1}{2^m m!} \theta^m e^{im\phi}$$

In summary, if we define

$$b_m \equiv \frac{(-1)^m}{2^{|m|} |m|!} \sqrt{\frac{2l+1}{4\pi}} \left[ \frac{(l+|m|)!}{(l-|m|)!} \right]^{1/2}$$

Then near the pole i.e.  $\theta \sim 0$ ,

$$X_l^m(\theta) \sim b_m \theta^m, \quad 0 \leq m \leq l$$

$$X_l^m(\theta) \sim (-1)^m b_m \theta^{|m|}, \quad -l \leq m \leq 0$$

\*

The formulae \* are very useful in normal mode excitation calculations. Note that, as expected,  $X_l^{-m}(\theta) = (-1)^m X_l^m(\theta)$  is conserved by \*.

Right at the poles  $\hat{r} = \pm \hat{z}$ :

$$Y_l^0(\hat{z}) = \sqrt{\frac{2l+1}{4\pi}}$$

$$Y_l^0(-\hat{z}) = (-1)^l \sqrt{\frac{2l+1}{4\pi}}$$

$$Y_l^m(\hat{z}) = Y_l^m(-\hat{z}) = 0 \quad \text{for } m \neq 0$$

What do plots of  $X_l^m(\theta)$  look like?

For  $m=0$ ,

$$X_l^0(\theta) = \sqrt{\frac{2l+1}{4\pi}} P_l(\cos\theta)$$

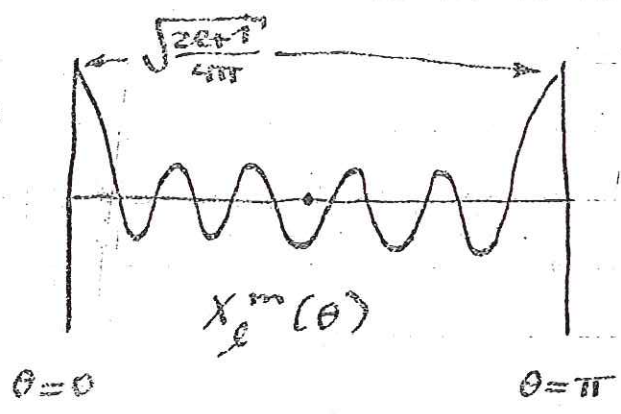
\*  $P_l(\mu) = \frac{1}{2^l l!} \left(\frac{d}{d\mu}\right)^l (\mu^2 - 1)^l$  is a polynomial of degree  $l$  in  $\mu$ .

It has  $l$  zeroes, all located between  $\mu = \pm 1$ .



Thus  $X_l^o(\theta)$  has  $l$  zeroes or nodes between  $\theta=0$  and  $\theta=\pi$ .

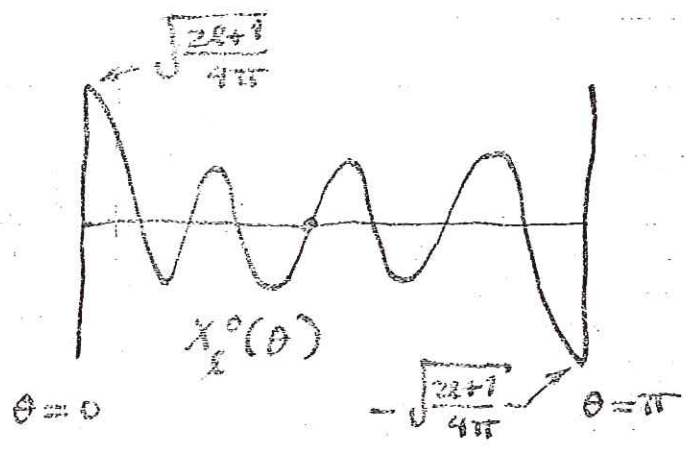
$l$  even:



$l$  nodes, symmetric or even across equator since

$$X_l^m(\pi - \theta) = (-1)^m X_l^m(\theta)$$

$l$  odd:



$l$  nodes, but antisymmetric or odd across equator. Thus one node at equator

At the equator:  $X_l^o(\pi/2) = 0$ ,  $l$  odd  
 can be shown that for  $l$  even

$$X_l^o(\pi/2) = \sqrt{\frac{2l+1}{4\pi}} (-1)^{l/2} \frac{l!}{2^l [(l/2)!]^2}$$

For large even  $l$ , from Stirling's formula we then find

$$X_l^o(\pi/2) \sim (-1)^{l/2} \frac{1}{\pi}$$

Now for  $m \neq 0$ :

$$P_l^m(\mu) = \frac{(1-\mu^2)^{m/2}}{2^l l!} \left(\frac{d}{d\mu}\right)^{l+m} (\mu^2-1)^l \quad *$$

This is valid for negative as well as positive  $m$ . For  $m \geq 0$ , we can combine \* above with \* on page 202 to get

$$P_l^m(\mu) = (1-\mu^2)^{m/2} \left(\frac{d}{d\mu}\right)^m P_l(\mu),$$

$$0 \leq m \leq l.$$

This shows that for  $0 \leq m \leq l$ ,  $X_l^m(\theta)$  has  $l-m$  nodes between  $\theta=0$  and  $\pi$ . Thus since

$$X_l^{-m}(\theta) = (-1)^m X_l^m(\theta)$$

$$X_l^m(\theta) \text{ has } l-|m| \text{ nodes between } \theta=0 \text{ and } \theta=\pi.$$

$l$  even,  $m$  even or  $l$  odd,  $m$  odd:  $X_l^m$   
even across equator.

$l$  even,  $m$  odd or  $l$  odd,  $m$  even:  $X_l^m$   
odd across equator.

Table 1. Harmonic Polynomials and Spherical Harmonics.

$$Y_{lm}(r) = r^l Y_{lm}(\theta, \varphi)$$

$l, m$	$Y_{lm}(r)$	$Y_{lm}(\theta, \varphi)$
0 0	$\frac{1}{2\sqrt{\pi}}$	$\frac{1}{2\sqrt{\pi}}$
1 0	$\frac{1}{2}\sqrt{\frac{3}{\pi}}z$	$\frac{1}{2}\sqrt{\frac{3}{\pi}}\cos\theta$
1 $\pm 1$	$\mp\frac{1}{2}\sqrt{\frac{3}{2\pi}}(x \pm iy)$	$\mp\frac{1}{2}\sqrt{\frac{3}{2\pi}}\sin\theta e^{\pm i\varphi}$
2 0	$\frac{1}{4}\sqrt{\frac{5}{\pi}}(2z^2 - x^2 - y^2)$	$\frac{1}{4}\sqrt{\frac{5}{\pi}}(2\cos^2\theta - \sin^2\theta)$
2 $\pm 1$	$\mp\frac{1}{2}\sqrt{\frac{15}{2\pi}}z(x \pm iy)$	$\mp\frac{1}{2}\sqrt{\frac{15}{2\pi}}\cos\theta\sin\theta e^{\pm i\varphi}$
2 $\pm 2$	$\frac{1}{4}\sqrt{\frac{15}{2\pi}}(x \pm iy)^2$	$\frac{1}{4}\sqrt{\frac{15}{2\pi}}\sin^2\theta e^{\pm 2i\varphi}$
3 0	$\frac{1}{4}\sqrt{\frac{7}{\pi}}(2z^2 - 3x^2 - 3y^2)z$	$\frac{1}{4}\sqrt{\frac{7}{\pi}}(2\cos^3\theta - 3\cos\theta\sin^2\theta)$
3 $\pm 1$	$\mp\frac{1}{8}\sqrt{\frac{21}{\pi}}(4z^2 - x^2 - y^2)(x \pm iy)$	$\mp\frac{1}{8}\sqrt{\frac{21}{\pi}}(4\cos^2\theta\sin\theta - \sin^3\theta)e^{\pm i\varphi}$
3 $\pm 2$	$\frac{1}{4}\sqrt{\frac{105}{2\pi}}z(x \pm iy)^2$	$\frac{1}{4}\sqrt{\frac{105}{2\pi}}\cos\theta\sin^2\theta e^{\pm 2i\varphi}$
3 $\pm 3$	$\mp\frac{1}{8}\sqrt{\frac{35}{\pi}}(x \pm iy)^3$	$\mp\frac{1}{8}\sqrt{\frac{35}{\pi}}\sin^3\theta e^{\pm 3i\varphi}$

Irreducible tensors containing in addition the components of some other vector  $r'$  may be constructed by polarization of the harmonics with the operator

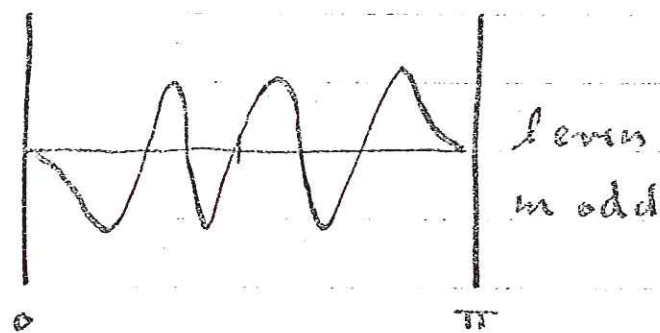
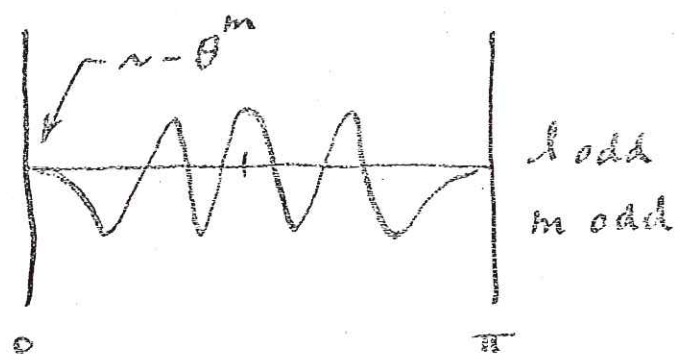
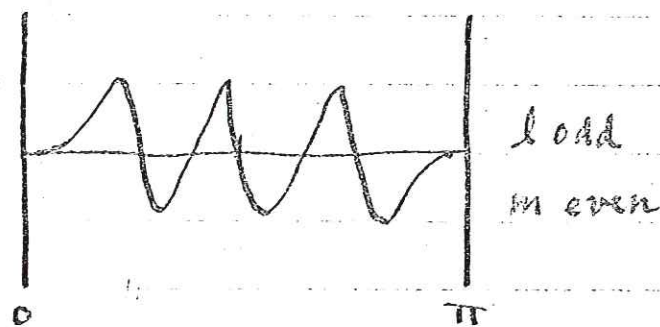
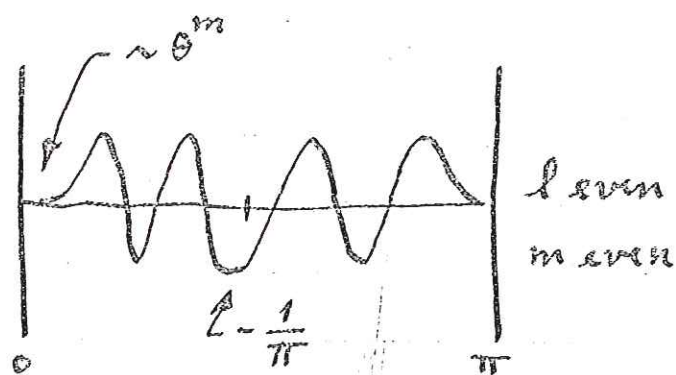
$$r' \cdot \nabla \equiv x' \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + y' \frac{\partial}{\partial y} + z' \frac{\partial}{\partial z}$$

Cf. Rose (1954).

Table 2.

$$\begin{pmatrix} j_1 & j_2 & j_3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = (-1)^{j_1} \left[ \frac{(j_1 + j_2 - j_3)! (j_1 + j_2 + j_3 - j_3 - j_1)!}{(j_1 + j_2 + j_3 + 1)!} \right] \frac{(j_3)!}{(\frac{1}{2}J - j_1)! (\frac{1}{2}J - j_2)! (\frac{1}{2}J - j_3)!}$$

if  $J$  is even.  
/ : : \



both symmetric

both antisymmetric

Edmonds has a table giving  $Y_l^m(\hat{r})$  and the associated  $y_l^m(\underline{r})$  for  $l, m$  up to  $3, \pm 3$ .

Orthogonality of  $Y_l^m$ :  $(Y_l^m, Y_l^{m'}) = \delta_{mm'}$

or

$$\int_{\Omega} Y_l^m Y_l^{m'*} dA = \delta_{mm'}$$

We can use this to obtain orthogonality relations for the Legendre polys  $P_l$  and the associated Legendre functions  $P_l^m$ , viz.



$$\int_{-1}^1 P_l(\mu) P_{l'}(\mu) d\mu = \frac{\delta_{ll'}}{l+1/2}$$

$$\int_{-1}^1 P_l^m(\mu) P_{l'}^m(\mu) d\mu = \frac{\delta_{ll'}}{l+1/2} \left[ \frac{(l+m)!}{(l-m)!} \right]$$

Note: we do not have

$$\int_{-1}^1 P_l^m P_{l'}^{m'} d\mu = 0, \quad m \neq m'$$

26. Asymptotic formulae for  $Y_l^m$ ,  $l \gg 1$ .

The p.d.e. satisfied by  $Y_l^m$  is

$$\Lambda^2 Y_l^m = -l(l+1) Y_l^m, \quad \text{or equivalently}$$

$$\nabla_1^2 Y_l^m = -l(l+1) Y_l^m \quad \text{where}$$

$$\nabla_1^2 = \Lambda^2 = \frac{1}{\sin \theta} \partial_\theta (\sin \theta \partial_\theta) + \frac{1}{\sin^2 \theta} \partial_\phi^2$$

The o.d.e. satisfied by  $X_l^m(\theta)$  is thus

$$\frac{1}{\sin \theta} \partial_\theta (\sin \theta \partial_\theta) X_l^m - \frac{m^2}{\sin^2 \theta} X_l^m + l(l+1) X_l^m = 0, \quad \text{or}$$

$$\partial_{\theta}^2 X_l^m + \cot \theta \partial_{\theta} X_l^m + \left[ l(l+1) - \frac{m^2}{\sin^2 \theta} \right] X_l^m = 0$$

Make the substitution  $\mu = \cos \theta$

$$\partial_{\theta} = -\sin \theta \partial_{\mu}$$

$$\partial_{\theta}^2 = -\cos \theta \partial_{\mu} + \sin^2 \theta \partial_{\mu}^2$$

$$\partial_{\theta} = -\sqrt{1-\mu^2} \partial_{\mu}$$

$$\partial_{\theta}^2 = -\mu \partial_{\mu} + (1-\mu^2) \partial_{\mu}^2$$

$$\cot \theta \partial_{\theta} = -\mu \partial_{\mu}$$

Thus find that  $P_l^m(\mu)$  satisfies:

$$(1-\mu^2) \frac{d^2 y}{d\mu^2} - 2\mu \frac{dy}{d\mu} + \left[ l(l+1) - \frac{m^2}{1-\mu^2} \right] y = 0$$

This is Legendre's diff. eqn.

Let us now change the dependent variable to:

$$w = (1-\mu^2)^{1/2} u$$

$$\text{or } y = (1 - \mu^2)^{-1/2} w$$

Let a prime denote  $d/d\mu$ . Then

$$y' = \mu(1 - \mu^2)^{-3/2} w + (1 - \mu^2)^{-1/2} w'$$

$$y'' = \left[ (1 - \mu^2)^{-3/2} + 3\mu^2(1 - \mu^2)^{-5/2} \right] w \\ + 2\mu(1 - \mu^2)^{-3/2} w' + (1 - \mu^2)^{-1/2} w''$$

$$\text{Thus } (1 - \mu^2) y'' - 2\mu y'$$

$$= (1 - \mu^2)^{1/2} w'' + \underline{2\mu(1 - \mu^2)^{-1/2} w'}$$

$$+ \left[ (1 - \mu^2)^{-1/2} + 3\mu^2(1 - \mu^2)^{-3/2} \right] w$$

$$- \underline{2\mu(1 - \mu^2)^{-1/2} w' - 2\mu^2(1 - \mu^2)^{-3/2} w}$$

The prime terms cancel out. We get from \*

$$(1 - \mu^2)^{1/2} w'' + \left[ (1 - \mu^2)^{-1/2} + \mu^2(1 - \mu^2)^{-3/2} \right]$$

$$+ \left[ \ell(\ell+1)(1 - \mu^2)^{-1/2} - m^2(1 - \mu^2)^{-3/2} \right] w = 0$$

$$w'' + \left[ (\ell(\ell+1) + 1)(1 - \mu^2)^{-1} + (\mu^2 - m^2) \right]$$

$$(1 - \mu^2)^{-2} w = 0$$

Let  $\varepsilon \equiv \frac{1}{\sqrt{l(l+1)}}$  and  $a = \sqrt{1 - \frac{m^2}{l(l+1)}}$

Then Legendre's eqn. becomes

$$\varepsilon^2 w'' + \left[ \frac{a^2 - \mu^2 + \varepsilon^2}{(1 - \mu^2)^2} \right] w = 0 \quad *$$

For  $\varepsilon \ll 1$ , i.e.  $l \gg 1$ , we can obtain a good approximation to the solution of \* using the WKBJ method.

We try a solution of the form

$$w = \exp(iS/\varepsilon)$$

In that case  $w' = (iS'/\varepsilon) e^{iS/\varepsilon}$  and

$$w'' = [iS''/\varepsilon - (S'/\varepsilon)^2] e^{iS/\varepsilon}$$

Thus

$$\left[ i\varepsilon S'' - (S')^2 + \frac{a^2 - \mu^2 + \varepsilon^2}{(1 - \mu^2)^2} \right] e^{iS/\varepsilon} = 0$$



$$i\varepsilon S'' - (S')^2 + \frac{a^2 - \mu^2 + \varepsilon^2}{(1 - \mu^2)^2} = 0$$

Now let us write  
(\* says we can)

$$S = S_0 + \varepsilon S_1 + \dots$$

This leads to, equating powers of  $\varepsilon$ :

$$-(S_0')^2 + \frac{a^2 - \mu^2}{(1 - \mu^2)^2} = 0$$

$$2S_0' S_1' - i S_0'' = 0$$

Now look back at \* for  $w$ .

Note: if  $\mu^2 < a^2$ ,  $w$  is oscillatory  
if  $\mu^2 > a^2$ ,  $w$  is exponential

$\mu = \pm a$  are turning points for  $w$ .

For  $l \gg 1$ , we can always replace  $l(l+1)$  by  $(l+1/2)^2 = l(l+1) + 1/4$ .

Let us define

$$\sin \theta_0 = \frac{m}{l+1/2} \quad \text{or}$$

$$\theta_0 = \arcsin \left| \frac{m}{l+1/2} \right|$$

$$\varepsilon^{-1} = \sqrt{l(l+1)}$$

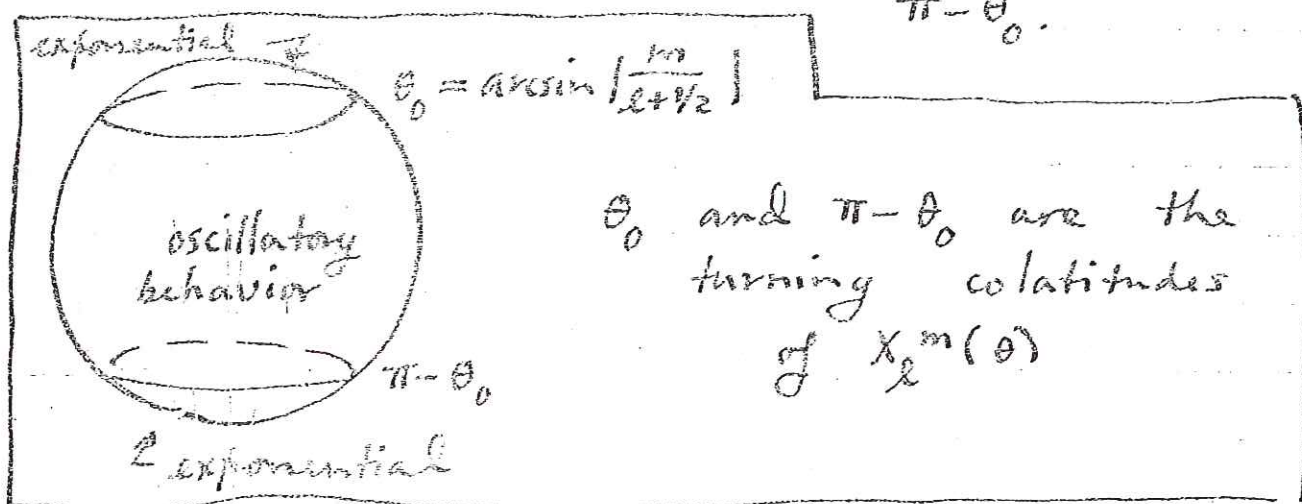
$$\approx (l+1/2)$$

Then  $a \equiv \left[ 1 - \frac{m^2}{l(l+1)} \right]^{1/2} \approx \left[ 1 - \frac{m^2}{(l+1/2)^2} \right]^{1/2}$

i.e.  $a \equiv \cos \theta_0$

The turning points are located at

$\mu^2 \approx a^2 \approx \cos^2 \theta_0$ , i.e. at  $\theta_0$  and  $\pi - \theta_0$ .



Between the turning colatitudes  $\mu^2 < a^2$ ,  $X_l^m$  is oscillatory, N of  $\theta_0$  and S of  $\pi - \theta_0$ ,  $X_l^m$  is exponential

In the oscillatory regions from  $\theta$

$$S_0 = \pm \int_{\mu}^a \frac{\sqrt{a^2 - \mu^2}}{1 - \mu^2} d\mu, \quad \text{i.e.}$$

The solution for  $S_1$  gives  $S_1 = \frac{i}{4} \ln \frac{a^2 - \mu^2}{(1 - \mu^2)^2}$  apart from an additive constant.

This is because if  $S_0' = Q^{1/2}$   
 $S_0'' = \frac{1}{2} Q^{-1/2} Q'$

$$S_1' = \frac{i}{2} \frac{S_0''}{S_0'} = \frac{i}{4} \frac{Q'}{Q} = \frac{i}{4} (\ln Q)'$$

We conclude that in the oscillatory region  $w$  is of the form

$$w = A \frac{(1-\mu^2)^{1/2}}{(a^2-\mu^2)^{1/4}} \exp \left[ \pm \frac{i}{\varepsilon} \int^{\mu} \frac{(a^2-\mu^2)^{1/2}}{1-\mu^2} d\mu \right]$$

This is because  $e^{iS/\varepsilon} = e^{iS_1} e^{iS_0/\varepsilon} \dots$   
 $= Q^{-1/4} e^{iS_0/\varepsilon}$

Since  $y = (1-\mu^2)^{-1/2} w$ , we find finally that:

$$x_l^m \sim A (a^2-\mu^2)^{-1/4} \exp \left[ \pm \frac{i}{\varepsilon} \int^{\mu} \frac{(a^2-\mu^2)^{1/2}}{1-\mu^2} d\mu \right]$$

in the oscillatory region

here  $A$  is a complex constant and there is an unknown lower limit of integration.

We must select these to make the asymptotic formula agree with the known properties of  $X_\ell^m$ .

Consider the two symmetries

$$X_\ell^{-m}(\theta) = (-1)^m X_\ell^m(\theta)$$

$$X_\ell^m(\pi - \theta) = (-1)^{l+m} X_\ell^m(\theta)$$

These require that we write

$$X_\ell^m(\theta) \sim A (a^2 - \mu^2)^{-1/4} \cos \left[ \varepsilon^{-1} \int_0^\mu \frac{(a^2 - \mu'^2)^{3/2}}{1 - \mu'^2} d\mu' \pm (l+m)\pi/2 \right]$$

where  $A$  is real since  $X_\ell^m$  is.

Check that  $\pm$  are then satisfied.

The first is since

$$\begin{aligned} & \cos \left[ \chi \pm (l-m)\pi/2 \right] \\ &= \cos \left[ \chi \pm (l+m)\pi/2 \mp m\pi \right] \\ &= (-1)^m \cos \left[ \chi \pm (l+m)\pi/2 \right]. \end{aligned}$$



Consider now the second of  $\frac{1}{2}$ .

$$X_l^m(\pi - \theta) = A (a^2 - \mu^2)^{-1/4} \cos \left[ \varepsilon^{-1} \int_0^{-\mu(a^2 - \mu^2)^{1/2}} \frac{d\mu}{1 - \mu^2} \right. \\ \left. \pm (l+m)\pi/2 \right],$$

Change variable of integration to  $-\mu$ .  
Get

$$\begin{aligned} & \cos \left[ -x \pm (l+m)\pi/2 \right] \\ &= \cos \left[ - \left( x \pm (l+m)\pi/2 \right) \pm (l+m)\pi \right] \\ &= (-1)^{l+m} \cos \left[ x \pm (l+m)\pi/2 \right]. \end{aligned}$$

Note that:

$$l+m \text{ odd: } X_l^m(\pi/2) = 0$$

$$l+m \text{ even: } \text{sgn } X_l^m(\pi/2) = (-1)^{\frac{l+m}{2}}$$

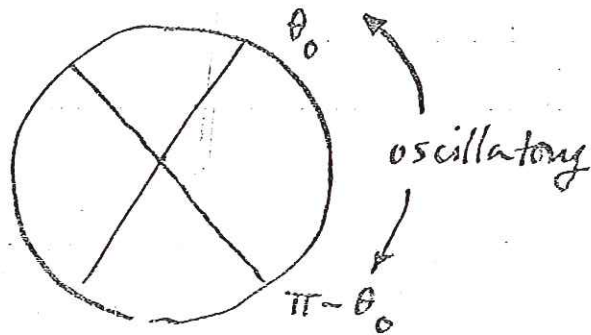
To find  $A$ , we make use of the normalization

$$\int_{\Omega} Y_l^m Y_l^{m*} dA = 1, \text{ i.e.}$$

$$2\pi \int_0^\pi (X_l^m(\theta))^2 \sin\theta d\theta = 1$$

The  $\cos[\cdot]$  is very wiggly, so  
 $\cos^2[\cdot] \sim 1/2$ . Thus

We integrate only over the oscillatory portion. We assume it is exponentially small outside



$$\text{Thus} \quad 2\pi \cdot \frac{1}{2} A^2 \int_{\theta_0}^{\pi - \theta_0} (a^2 - \mu^2)^{-1/2} \sin \theta \, d\theta = 1$$

$$\text{let } x = a^{-1} \sin \theta = \frac{\sin \theta}{\sin \theta_0}$$

Then

$$\pi A^2 \int_{-1}^1 (1 - x^2)^{-1/2} dx = 1, \text{ or}$$

$$A = \frac{1}{\pi}$$

Thus, letting  $\epsilon^{-1} = \sqrt{l(l+1)} \sim (l+1/2)$

$$X_l^m(\theta) \sim \frac{1}{\pi} (\sin^2 \theta - \sin^2 \theta_0)^{-1/4}$$

$$\cos \left[ (l+1/2) \int_0^\mu \frac{(a^2 - \mu^2)^{1/2}}{1 - \mu^2} d\mu \pm (l+m) \frac{\pi}{2} \right]$$

We must still choose between  $\pm \pi/2$ .

The correct choice is - but why?

To see this requires consideration of the connection formula, since the one other thing we know is how  $X_l^m(\theta)$  starts out growing at  $\theta=0$  and  $\theta=\pi$ . We shall not go through this. With the correct choice, we obtain finally:

In the oscillatory regime  $\theta_0 < \theta < \pi - \theta_0$  where  $\theta_0 = \arcsin \left[ m / (l + 1/2) \right]$

$$X_l^m(\theta) \sim \frac{1}{\pi} \left[ 1 - \frac{m^2}{(l+1/2)^2} - \cos^2 \theta \right]^{-1/4}$$

$$\cos \left[ (l+1/2) \int_0^{\cos \theta} (1 - \mu^2)^{-1/2} \left( 1 - \frac{m^2}{(l+1/2)^2} - \mu^2 \right)^{1/2} d\mu - (l+m)\pi/2 \right]$$

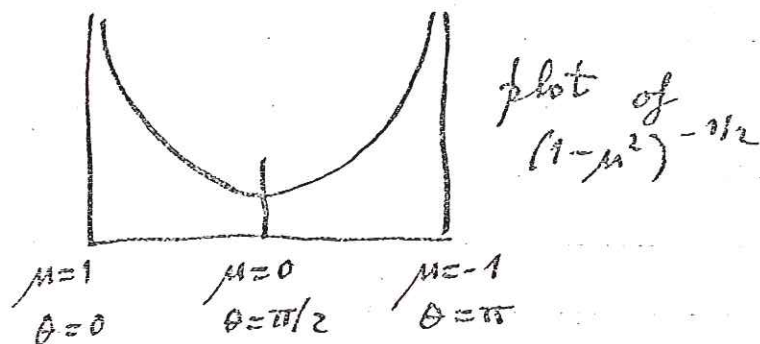
→ in the limit  $l \gg m$

One other way to convince yourself the correct choice is - is to consider the case  $m \ll l + 1/2$ .

For  $m \ll (l+1/2)$ :

$$\left[ 1 - \frac{m^2}{(l+1/2)^2} - \cos^2 \theta \right] \sim [1 - \cos^2 \theta] = \sin^2 \theta$$

$$\int_0^{\mu} (1-\mu^2)^{-1/2} d\mu = \pi/2 - \theta$$



$$\begin{aligned} & \cos \left[ (l+1/2)(\pi/2 - \theta) - (l+m)\pi/2 \right] \\ &= \cos \left[ (l+1/2)\theta + m\pi/2 - \pi/4 \right] \end{aligned}$$

Thus for  $m \ll l$  and  $\varepsilon \gg l^{-1}$ ,  
in the region  $\varepsilon \leq \theta \leq \pi - \varepsilon$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} X_l^m(\theta) \sim \frac{1}{\pi} (\sin \theta)^{-1/2} \cos \left[ (l+1/2)\theta \right. \\ \left. + m\pi/2 - \pi/4 \right] \end{aligned}$$

We shall find this useful in the study of surface wave propagation.



In the integral make the change of variables

$$\mu = \cos \theta$$

$$d\mu = -\sin \theta d\theta$$

$$\int_{\pi/2}^{\theta} \sqrt{\sin^2 \theta - \frac{m^2}{(l+1/2)^2}} \frac{-\sin \theta d\theta}{\sin^2 \theta}$$

$$= - \int_{\pi/2}^{\theta} \sqrt{1 - \frac{m^2}{(l+1/2)^2 \sin^2 \theta}} d\theta$$

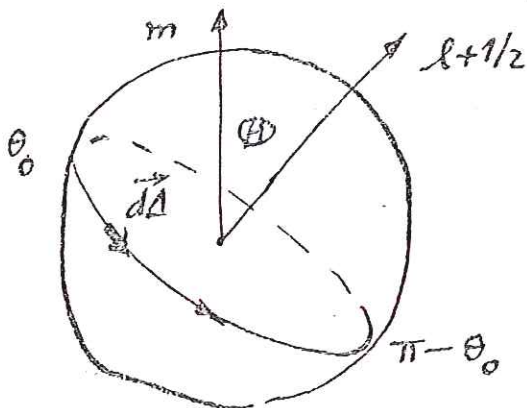
Thus can write  $\chi$  in the form

$$\chi_l^m(\theta) \sim \frac{1}{\pi} (\sin^2 \theta - \sin^2 \theta_0)^{-1/4}$$

$$\cos \left[ \int_{\pi/2}^{\theta} p_{\theta} d\theta + (l+m) \frac{\pi}{2} \right]$$

where  $p_{\theta}^2 = (l+1/2)^2 - m^2 / \sin^2 \theta$ .

Consider a particle going around an orbit with angular momentum  $l+1/2$  inclined at an angle  $\Theta$  to the  $\hat{z}$  axis, where



$$\cos \Theta = \frac{m}{l+1/2}$$

The  $\hat{\phi}$  component of ~~angular~~ angular momentum is

$$p_{\phi} = m / \sin \theta$$

At the turning colatitudes  $\theta_0$  and  $\pi - \theta_0$ ,

$$p_{\phi} = \pm (l + 1/2), \quad \begin{array}{l} + \text{ for } m > 0 \\ - \text{ for } m < 0 \end{array}$$

$m > 0$  : ccw from above

$m < 0$  : cw from above.

The  $\hat{\theta}$  component is  $p_{\theta} = \pm \sqrt{(l + 1/2)^2 - m^2 / \sin^2 \theta}$

Consider  $\underline{p} \cdot \underline{d\Delta}$  along the path (see figure)

$$\begin{aligned} \underline{p} \cdot \underline{d\Delta} &= p_{\theta} d\theta + p_{\phi} \sin \theta d\phi \\ &= p_{\theta} d\theta + m d\phi = (l + 1/2) d\Delta \end{aligned}$$

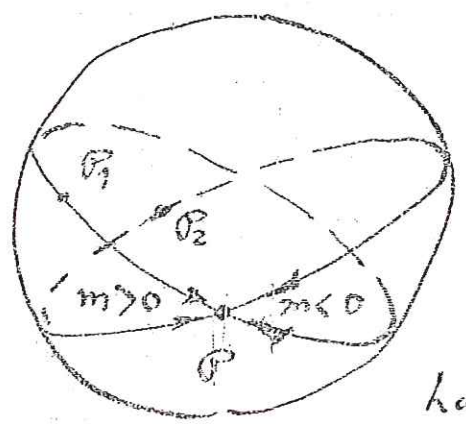
Consider  $Y_l^m(\theta, \phi) \sim \frac{1}{\pi} (\sin^2 \theta - \sin^2 \theta_0)^{-1/4}$

$$\cos \left[ \int_{\pi/2}^{\theta} p_{\theta} d\theta + (l+m)\pi/2 \right] e^{im\phi}$$

Write  $\cos X = \frac{1}{2} (e^{iX} + e^{-iX})$

With a bit of manipulation this leads to another form for  $Y_l^m$ .

Given  $P = (\theta, \phi)$  first construct the two unique great circles through  $P$  and tangent to the turning colatitudes. Pick any two points  $P_1 = (\theta_1, \phi_1)$  and  $P_2 = (\theta_2, \phi_2)$  one on each great circle. Then



$$Y_{\ell}^m \sim \frac{1}{2\pi} (\sin^2 \theta - \sin^2 \theta_0)^{-1/4} \sum_{1,2} e^{i[(\ell+1/2)\Delta + \Phi - N\pi/2]}$$

$m > 0$ : traverse in rt. hand direction  
 $m < 0$ : in left hand direction.

where  $\Delta$  is the distance from  $P_1$  or  $P_2$  to  $P$  and  $N$  is the number of intervening caustic encounters.

Homework: show the above.

The turning colatitudes are caustics: the envelope of adjacent rays all with  $\cos \theta = m / (\ell + 1/2)$

Recall that  $Y_{\ell}^m$  expresses the angular dependence of the quantum mechanical

wavefunction of a system with angular momentum quantum numbers  $L^2 = l(l+1)$  and  $L_z = m$ .

We see that in the limit of large  $l$ ,  $Y_l^m$  has all the properties of a classical wave with wave number (or  $2\pi$ )  $k = l + 1/2$  going around great circles inclined at  $\cos \theta = m / (l + 1/2)$

This is an example of the correspondence principle.

$|Y_l^m|^2$  gives the q.m. probability of finding the orbiting particle at a point  $\theta, \phi$

$|Y_l^m(\theta, \phi)|^2 = (X_l^m(\theta))^2$ . This oscillates rapidly as a function of  $\theta$ , but if we consider the average of these rapid oscillations, we find (factor of  $2\pi$  from  $\int_0^{2\pi} d\phi$ )

$$\overline{2\pi (X_l^m(\theta))^2} = \frac{1}{\pi} (\sin^2 \theta - \sin^2 \theta_0)^{-1/2} = P(\cos \theta)$$

This is exactly the classical probability of finding the orbiting particle at some ~~value~~ value of  $\cos \theta$  in its orbit.



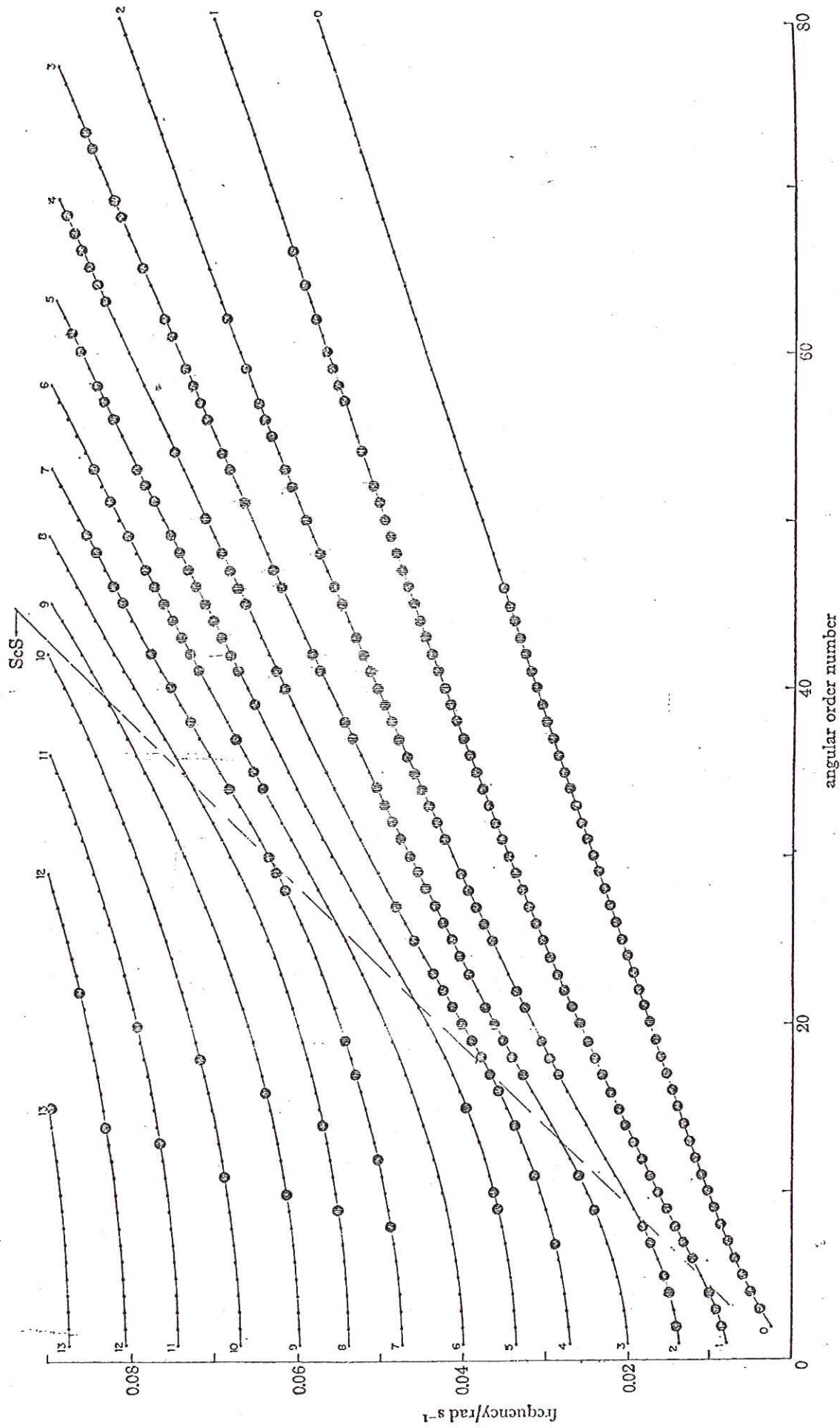
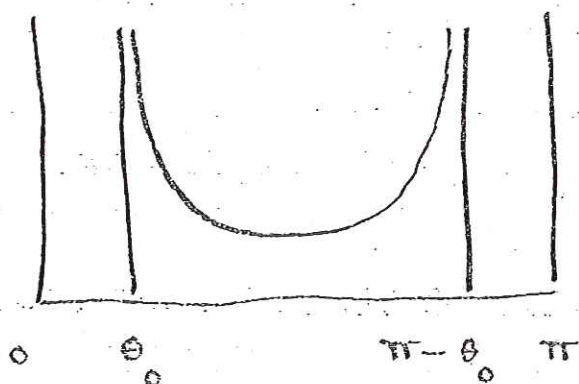


FIGURE 16. Toroidal normal modes in the  $(\omega, l)$  plane. The large dots indicate observed modes used in the inversions. Most of the toroidal overtones identified by Brune & Gilbert (1964) fall outside the range of the figure. The dashed line designated 'ScS' divides the modes into two groups according to the normal mode-body wave analogy: modes to the left of this line correspond to  $(\text{ScS})_{II}$  reflections, those to the right correspond to mantle  $S_{II}$  waves.

The classical probability vanishes at  $N$  and  $S$  of the turning colatitudes.



$$2\pi \overline{(\chi_e^m(\theta))^2} = \frac{1}{\pi} (\sin^2 \theta - \sin^2 \theta_0)^{-1/2}$$

The classical probability density in  $\cos \theta$  of a particle is

$$P(\cos \theta) \propto |d(\cos \theta(t)) / dt|^{-1}$$

$$(d \cos \theta / dt)^{-1} = |- \sin \theta \, d\theta / dt|^{-1}$$

$$\propto |- \sin \theta \, \dot{\theta}|^{-1} \propto (\sin^2 \theta - \sin^2 \theta_0)^{-1/2}$$

~~\_\_\_\_\_~~  
~~\_\_\_\_\_~~  
~~\_\_\_\_\_~~

Finally, we wish to derive a form suitable for numerical calculations.

We go back to \* on page 216.  
 With  $a^2 \equiv 1 - m^2 / (l + 1/2)^2$

$$\chi_l^m(\theta) \sim \frac{1}{\pi} (\sin^2 \theta - \sin^2 \theta_0)^{-1/4} \\
\cos \left[ (l + 1/2) \int_0^\mu (1 - \mu^2)^{-1} (1 - a^2 - \mu^2)^{1/2} d\mu \right. \\
\left. - (l + m)\pi/2 \right]$$

Write integrand as

$$\frac{(1 - a^2 - \mu^2)^{1/2}}{1 - \mu^2} = \frac{1}{(1 - a^2 - \mu^2)^{1/2}} \\
- \frac{a^2}{(1 - \mu^2)(1 - a^2 - \mu^2)^{1/2}}$$

$$\int_0^\mu \frac{1}{(1 - a^2 - \mu^2)^{1/2}} d\mu = \arcsin \frac{\mu}{\sqrt{1 - a^2}} \\
= \arcsin (\cos \theta / \cos \theta_0)$$

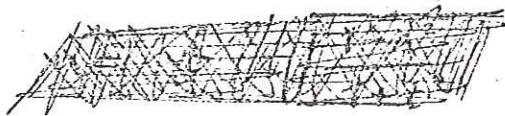
Now consider  $-a^2 \int_0^\mu (1 - \mu^2)^{-1} (1 - a^2 - \mu^2)^{-1/2} d\mu$

Try the inspired substitution

$$\boxed{\mu (1 - a^2 - \mu^2)^{-1/2} = t}$$



$$1 - \mu^2 = \frac{1 + a^2 t^2}{1 + t^2}$$



and differentiating it

$$d\mu (1 - a^2 - \mu^2)^{-1/2} + \mu^2 d\mu (1 - a^2 - \mu^2)^{-3/2} = dt$$

$$\begin{aligned} d\mu (1 - a^2) &= dt (1 - \mu^2 - M^2)^{3/2} \\ &= dt \left( \frac{1 + M^2 t^2 - M^2 - M^2 t^2}{1 + t^2} \right)^{3/2} \end{aligned}$$

$$d\mu = dt (1 + t^2)^{-3/2} \sqrt{1 - a^2}$$

So

$$\frac{d\mu}{(1 - \mu^2) \sqrt{1 - a^2 - \mu^2}} = \frac{dt \sqrt{1 - a^2}}{(1 + t^2)^{3/2}} \cdot \frac{1 + t^2}{1 + a^2 t^2}$$

$$\cdot \sqrt{\frac{1 + t^2}{1 - a^2}}$$

$$= \frac{dt}{1 + a^2 t^2}$$

Thus get

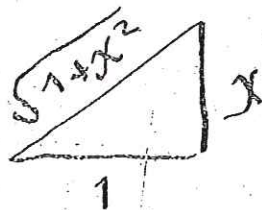
$$\int_0^{\mu} \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - a^2 - \mu^2}} dt / (1 + a^2 t^2)$$

$$= \frac{1}{a} \arctan \left( \frac{a\mu}{\sqrt{1 - a^2 - \mu^2}} \right)$$

$$= \frac{1}{a} \arctan \left( \frac{a \cos \theta}{\sqrt{1 - a^2 - a^2 \sin^2 \theta}} \right)$$



Now  $\arctan x = \arcsin \left( \frac{x}{\sqrt{1+x^2}} \right)$ , so



$$-a \arctan \left( \frac{a \cos \theta}{\sqrt{\cos^2 \theta_0 - \cos^2 \theta}} \right) \\ = -a \arcsin \frac{a \cos \theta}{\sin \theta \cos \theta_0}$$

The integrand is thus just

$$(l+1/2) \left[ \arcsin \left( \frac{\cos \theta}{\cos \theta_0} \right) - \frac{m}{l+1/2} \arcsin \left( \frac{a \cos \theta}{\sin \theta \cos \theta_0} \right) \right] - \frac{(l+m)\pi}{2}$$

The underlined terms combine to give

$$-(l+1/2) \arccos \left( \frac{\cos \theta}{\cos \theta_0} \right) + \pi/4$$

Consider  $m > 0$ , so that  $a = \sin \theta_0$ . Then the underlined terms give

$$-m \arccos \left( \frac{\sin \theta_0 \cos \theta}{\sin \theta \cos \theta_0} \right) - m\pi$$

Now use  $\cos [x] = \cos [-x]$

Summary: in the oscillatory region  
 $\theta_0 < \theta < \pi - \theta_0$ , in the limit of  
 large  $l$ , for  $m > 0$ ,

$$X_l^m(\theta) \sim \frac{1}{\pi} (\sin^2 \theta - \sin^2 \theta_0)^{-1/4} \\
\cos \left[ (l + 1/2) \arccos (\cos \theta / \cos \theta_0) \right. \\
\left. - m \arccos (\sin \theta_0 \cos \theta / \sin \theta \cos \theta_0) \right. \\
\left. + m\pi - \pi/4 \right]$$

where  $\sin \theta_0 = m / (l + 1/2)$

Can find  $X_l^{-m}(\theta)$  from  $X_l^{-m} = (-1)^m X_l^m$ .

\* is very easy to compute.

The agreement with the exact  $X_l^m(\theta)$   
 is very good for  $l=10$ .

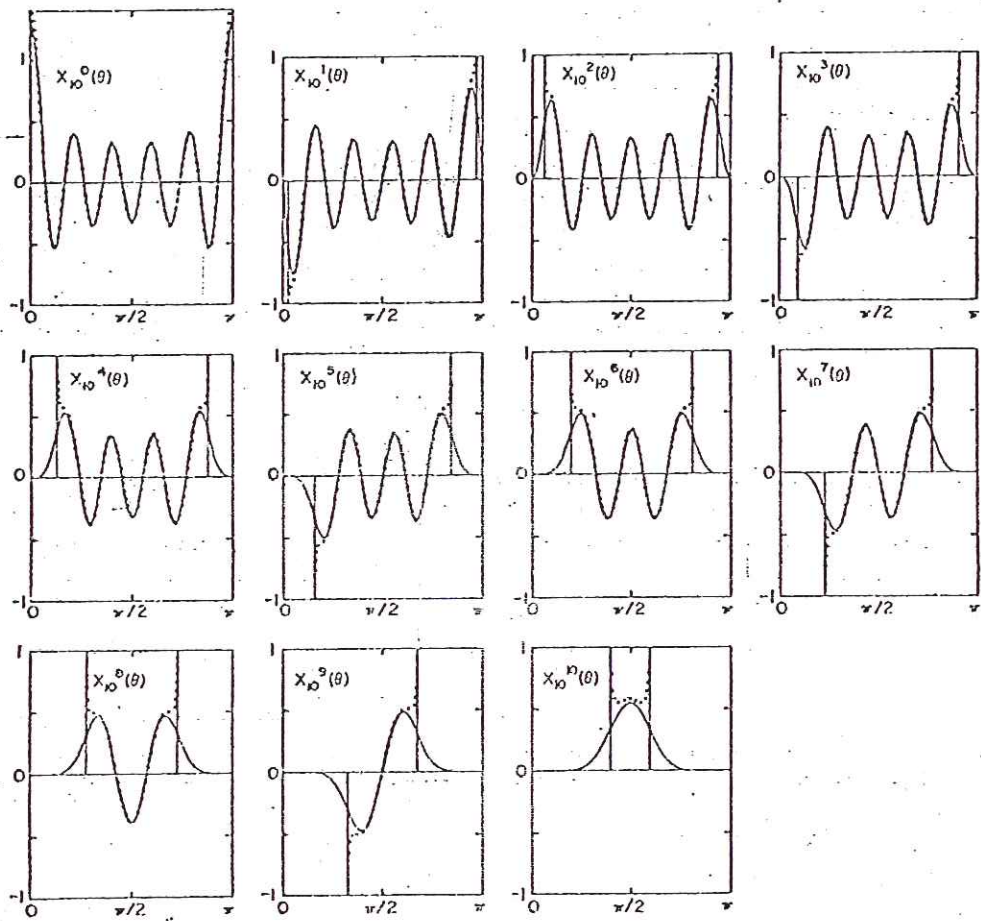
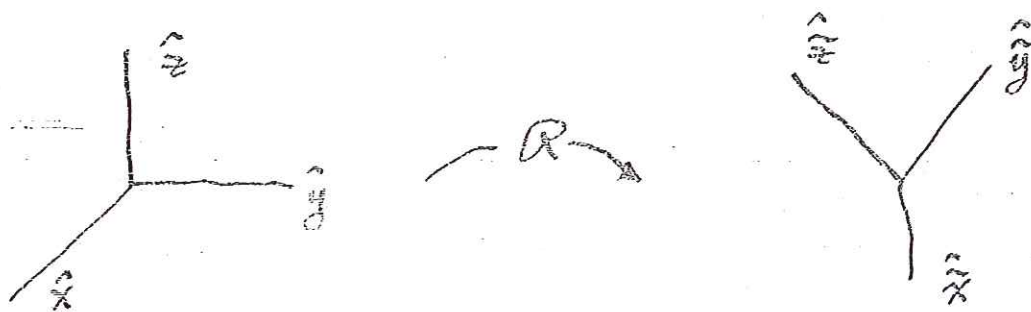


Figure 18

27. Change of basis in  $H_l(\Omega)$  induced by a change in basis of  $\mathbb{R}^3$ .

Every CAS  $\hat{x}, \hat{y}, \hat{z}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  generates a canonical basis  $\{Y_l^m(\theta, \phi), -l \leq m \leq l\}$  of  $H_l(\Omega)$ .

Consider two CAS  $\hat{x}, \hat{y}, \hat{z}$  and  $\tilde{\hat{x}}, \tilde{\hat{y}}, \tilde{\hat{z}}$ . Let  $R$  denote the rotation which takes one into the other.



Let  $Y_l^m(\hat{r})$  and  $\tilde{Y}_l^{\tilde{m}}(\tilde{r})$  be the corresponding surface spherical harmonics on  $\Omega$ .

Both are an o.n. basis of  $H_l(\Omega)$ . Therefore  $\exists$  a  $(2l+1) \times (2l+1)$  unitary matrix  $D_{\tilde{m}m}^{(l)}(R)$  such that

$$Y_l^m = \sum_{\tilde{m}=-l}^l D_{\tilde{m}m}^{(l)} \tilde{Y}_l^{\tilde{m}}$$



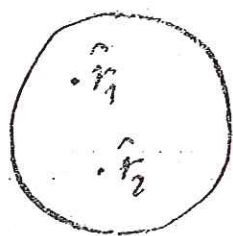
The matrix is unitary, i.e.

$$\sum_{\tilde{m}=-l}^l D_{\tilde{m}m}^{(l)} D_{\tilde{m}m'}^{(l)*} = \delta_{mm'}$$



Expressions for calculating the matrix elements  $D_{\tilde{m}m}^{(l)}$  in terms of the Euler angles defining  $\mathcal{R}$  are given, e.g. by Edmonds.

Consider this basis transformation at two arbitrary points  $\hat{r}_1$  and  $\hat{r}_2 \in \Omega$ .



$$Y_l^m(\hat{r}_1) = \sum_{\tilde{m}=-l}^l D_{\tilde{m}m}^{(l)} \tilde{Y}_l^{\tilde{m}}(\hat{r}_1)$$

$$Y_l^m(\hat{r}_2) = \sum_{\tilde{m}=-l}^l D_{\tilde{m}m}^{(l)} \tilde{Y}_l^{\tilde{m}}(\hat{r}_2)$$

Let us denote:

$$Y(\hat{r}) \equiv \begin{bmatrix} Y_l^{-l}(\hat{r}) \\ \vdots \\ Y_l^l(\hat{r}) \end{bmatrix}$$

and employ matrix notation.

Then

$$Y(\hat{r}_1) = \tilde{Y}(\hat{r}_1) D$$

$$Y(\hat{r}_2) = \tilde{Y}(\hat{r}_2) D$$

Note the "perversity of the indices".

Now consider:  $Y(\hat{r}_1) Y(\hat{r}_2)^\dagger$

If ~~Y = [ ]~~  $Y = [ ]$ , then  $Y^\dagger = [ ]^*$

$$Y(\hat{r}_1) Y(\hat{r}_2)^\dagger = (\tilde{Y}(\hat{r}_1) D) (\tilde{Y}(\hat{r}_2) D)^\dagger$$

$$= \tilde{Y}(\hat{r}_1) D D^\dagger \tilde{Y}^\dagger(\hat{r}_2)$$

$$= \tilde{Y}(\hat{r}_1) \tilde{Y}^\dagger(\hat{r}_2), \quad \text{since } D D^\dagger = I$$

unitary;  
inverse is  
adjoint.

Thus

$$\sum_{m=-l}^l Y_l^m(\hat{r}_1) Y_l^{m*}(\hat{r}_2) =$$

$$\sum_{\tilde{m}=-l}^l \tilde{Y}_l^{\tilde{m}}(\hat{r}_1) \tilde{Y}_l^{\tilde{m}*}(\hat{r}_2)$$

true for any  $\hat{r}_1, \hat{r}_2$

This is merely the statement that the change ~~of basis~~ of basis in  $\mathbb{H}_\ell(\mathbb{R}^3)$  does not change the lengths or geometrical relationships between any vectors, i.e. it is a rotation, i.e.  $\star$  is the counterpart of

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{r}_1 &= (x_1, y_1, z_1) = (\tilde{x}_1, \tilde{y}_1, \tilde{z}_1) \\ \hat{r}_2 &= (x_2, y_2, z_2) = (\tilde{x}_2, \tilde{y}_2, \tilde{z}_2)\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Then } \hat{r}_1 \cdot \hat{r}_2 &= (x_1 x_2 + y_1 y_2 + z_1 z_2) \\ &= (\tilde{x}_1 \tilde{x}_2 + \tilde{y}_1 \tilde{y}_2 + \tilde{z}_1 \tilde{z}_2)\end{aligned}$$

The sum  $\star$  is independent of the basis elements used.

Now take  $\hat{\tilde{x}}, \hat{\tilde{y}}, \hat{\tilde{z}}$  s.t.  $\hat{\tilde{z}} \equiv \hat{r}_1$ .

Then

$$\tilde{Y}_\ell^{\tilde{m}}(\hat{r}_1) = \tilde{Y}_\ell^{\tilde{m}}(\hat{\tilde{z}}) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } \tilde{m} \neq 0 \\ \sqrt{\frac{2\ell+1}{4\pi}} & \text{if } \tilde{m} = 0 \end{cases}$$

Thus

$$\sqrt{\frac{2\ell+1}{4\pi}} \tilde{Y}_\ell^{0*}(\hat{r}_2) = \sum_{m=-\ell}^{\ell} Y_\ell^m(\hat{r}_1) Y_\ell^{m*}(\hat{r}_2)$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{but } \tilde{Y}_\ell^{0*}(\hat{r}_2) &= \sqrt{\frac{2\ell+1}{4\pi}} P_\ell(\cos \Theta), \quad \cos \Theta = \hat{\tilde{z}} \cdot \hat{r}_2 \\ &= \hat{r}_1 \cdot \hat{r}_2\end{aligned}$$

Thus, the spherical harmonic addition theorem

$$\sum_{m=-l}^l Y_l^m(\hat{r}_1) Y_l^{m*}(\hat{r}_2) = \frac{2l+1}{4\pi} P_l(\hat{r}_1 \cdot \hat{r}_2)$$

for any  $\hat{x}, \hat{y}, \hat{z}$ . \*

This a very useful result.

As an aside, can bound  $Y_l^m(\hat{r})$ .

Choose  $\hat{r}_1 \equiv \hat{r}_2$  in \*. Then, calling  $\hat{r}_1 = \hat{r}_2 = \hat{r}$

$$\sum_{m=-l}^l |Y_l^m(\hat{r})|^2 = \frac{2l+1}{4\pi}$$

Thus every  $Y_l^m(\hat{r})$  must satisfy

$$|Y_l^m(\hat{r})| \leq \sqrt{\frac{2l+1}{4\pi}}$$

The bound is achieved by  $Y_l^0$  at  $\hat{r} = \hat{z}$ , but nowhere else.

## 28. Expansions of arbitrary functions in series of spherical harmonics

We now examine to what extent an "arbitrary" function  $f: \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  can be



written as a sum of surface spherical harmonics.

Already know one result (followed from Weierstrass theorem).

If  $f: \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  is continuous, then  $\exists Y_l(\hat{r}) \in H_l(\Omega)$  s.t.

$$\left| f(\hat{r}) - \sum_{l=0}^L Y_l(\hat{r}) \right| < \varepsilon,$$

i.e. a cont. fun  $f: \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  can be uniformly approximated. This theorem merely asserts existence. How could we determine the  $Y_l(\hat{r})$ ?

Formally, say

$$f(\hat{r}) = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} Y_l(\hat{r}) = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-l}^l f_l^m Y_l^m(\hat{r})$$

Each  $Y_l(\hat{r})$  is a lin. comb. of the canonical basis elements  $Y_l^m(\hat{r})$ .

Can use orthogonality to find the coeff.  $f_l^m$ .

Take inner product with an arbitrary  $Y_{l'}^{m'}(\hat{r})$

$$(f, Y_{l'}^{m'}) = \left( \sum_l \sum_m f_l^m Y_l^m, Y_{l'}^{m'} \right)$$

$$= \sum_l \sum_m f_l^m (Y_l^m, Y_{l'}^{m'}) =$$

$$\sum_l \sum_m f_l^m \delta_{ll'} \delta_{mm'} = f_{l'}^{m'}$$

Define  $f_l^m \equiv (f, Y_l^m) = \int_{\Omega} f(\hat{r}) Y_l^{m*}(\hat{r}) dA$

These will be called the Laplace coefficients  
 Also define  $L^{\text{th}}$  partial sum

$$f_L(\hat{r}) = \sum_{l=0}^L \sum_{m=-l}^l f_l^m Y_l^m(\hat{r})$$

Our theorem asserts the existence of a  
 fun of the form  $f_L(\hat{r})$  s.t.

$$\lim_{L \rightarrow \infty} f_L(\hat{r}) = f(\hat{r}) \quad \text{uniformly on } \Omega$$

if  $f(\hat{r})$  is continuous.

Life would be nice if the funs  $f_L(\hat{r})$   
 defined above were exactly the one  
 and only such funs whose existence  
 is asserted. Mais, malheureusement, ce n'est pas vrai

Can be shown that  $\exists$  continuous fns  $f(z)$  for which  $\lim_{L \rightarrow \infty} f_L(z)$  fails to exist at an  $\infty$  no. of pts.

Two questions now arise.

1. What stronger cond. on  $f$  is sufficient to insure convergence of  $f_L(z)$  to  $f(z)$  as  $L \rightarrow \infty$ ?

Answer: if  $f: \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  is continuously differentiable (i.e. if  $\forall z \in \Omega$   $f$  is cont.) then

$$\lim_{L \rightarrow \infty} f_L(z) = f(z).$$

Somewhat weaker but more complicated conds. will also suffice.

2.  $f$  cont. does not insure pointwise convergence, but we know  $\exists$  a series which converges uniformly.

Can such a series be exhibited? Yes. If one defines the so-called Césaro mean as the arithmetic mean of ~~the partial sums~~ partial sums ~~of the series~~ of Laplace coefficients i.e.

$$\sigma_L(\hat{r}) = \frac{1}{L+1} [f_0(\hat{r}) + f_1(\hat{r}) + \dots + f_L(\hat{r})],$$

then it can be shown that

$$\sigma_L(\hat{r}) \rightarrow f(\hat{r}) \quad \text{uniformly at all } \hat{r} \text{ where } f \text{ is continuous.}$$

So much for pointwise convergence.

Actually, the Laplace series is much more naturally associated with another type of convergence (convergence in the mean)

Consider the problem of making a least squares approximation to a fun  $f$  by a finite l.c. of  $Y_\ell^m$ 's.

Take  $f \in L_2(\Omega)$ , any square int. fun. As long as  $f \in L_2(\Omega)$ , the Laplace coefficients

$$f_\ell^m \equiv (f, Y_\ell^m) \quad \text{exist.}$$

We wish to determine coefficients  $g_\ell^m$  s.t.

$$\left\| f - \sum_{\ell=0}^L \sum_{m=-\ell}^{\ell} g_\ell^m Y_\ell^m \right\|^2 = \int_{\Omega} \left| f - \sum_{\ell=0}^L \sum_{m=-\ell}^{\ell} g_\ell^m Y_\ell^m \right|^2 dA$$



is a minimum.

$$\text{But } \int_{\Omega} |f - \sum \sum g_l^m \Upsilon_l^m|^2 dA$$

$$= \int_{\Omega} (f - \sum \sum g_l^m \Upsilon_l^m) (f - \sum \sum g_l^m \Upsilon_l^m)^* dA$$

~~$$= \int_{\Omega} |f|^2 dA + \sum_{l=0}^L \sum_{m=-l}^l [g_l^{m*} f_l^m - g_l^m f_l^{m*} + |g_l^m|^2]$$~~

$$= \int_{\Omega} |f|^2 dA + \sum_{l=0}^L \sum_{m=-l}^l [g_l^{m*} f_l^m - g_l^m f_l^{m*} + |g_l^m|^2]$$

$$= \int_{\Omega} |f|^2 dA + \sum_{l=0}^L \sum_{m=-l}^l |f_l^m - g_l^m|^2$$

$$- \sum_{l=0}^L \sum_{m=-l}^l |f_l^m|^2$$

The minimum is attained when  $g_l^m = f_l^m$ . This is the best approximation by a finite no. of terms.

The r.m.s. error in making this best approximation is

$$\|f - f_L\|^2 = \int_{\Omega} |f(\hat{r}) - f_L(\hat{r})|^2 dA$$

where  $f_L(\hat{r}) = \sum_{l=0}^L \sum_{m=-l}^l f_l^m \Upsilon_l^m(\hat{r})$ .

$$= \|f\|^2 - \sum_{l=0}^L \sum_{m=-l}^l |f_l^m|^2$$

i.e. the length of  $f$  squared - the ~~the~~ sum of the squared lengths of all the orthogonal projections of  $f$  onto the o.n. basis elements  $\gamma_l^m$ .

Theorem: it can be shown that for all  $f \in L_2(\Omega)$ , this error can be made as small as one desires, i.e.

$$\lim_{L \rightarrow \infty} \|f - f_L\|^2 = 0.$$

The content of this thm. is often stated by saying that every  $f \in L_2(\Omega)$  can be written in the form

$$f(\hat{r}) = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-l}^l f_l^m \gamma_l^m(\hat{r}) \quad *$$

in a unique manner, and the series is said to converge in the mean (this is the sense in which the  $=$  sign in  $*$  is interpreted). The set of all  $\gamma_l^m(\hat{r})$  is said to be an o.n. basis for the Hilbert space  $L_2(\Omega)$ .

29. The representation of tangent vectors

We have considered the expansion of a scalar function  $f: \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  in terms of s.s.h.  $Y_l^m(\hat{r})$ .

~~Main~~ Main result: if  $f \in \mathcal{L}_2(\Omega)$ , then

$$* \quad f = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-l}^l f_l^m Y_l^m \quad \text{where}$$

$$f_l^m = (f, Y_l^m) = \int_{\Omega} f Y_l^m * dA$$

and where  $*$  is to be interpreted in the mean.

We consider now a vector-valued function  $\underline{f}(\hat{r})$ :  $\underline{f}: \Omega \rightarrow \underline{\mathbb{C}} \equiv \mathbb{C}^3$ .

We would like to represent  $\underline{f}$  in terms of three scalar fields, which we may then in turn represent as s.s.h. expansions. One possibility is obvious:

$$\underline{f} = f_r \hat{r} + f_\theta \hat{\theta} + f_\phi \hat{\phi}.$$

This is not however a very convenient representation.

It is useful to separate  $\underline{f}$  into its radial and tangential parts.

$$\underline{f}(\hat{r}) = f_r(\hat{r}) \hat{r} + \underline{t}(\hat{r})$$

$$\hat{r} \cdot \underline{t}(\hat{r}) = 0$$

The problem now is to represent the tangent vector  $\underline{t}(\hat{r})$  as a sum of two scalar fields.

Tangent vector representation theorem: If  $\underline{t}: \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^3$  is continuously differentiable tangent vector field on  $\Omega$ , then  $\exists$  unique scalar fields  $V(\hat{r})$  and  $W(\hat{r})$  s.t.

$$\underline{t}(\hat{r}) = \underline{r}_1 V(\hat{r}) - \hat{r} \times \underline{r}_1 W(\hat{r})$$

and

$$\int_{\Omega} V(\hat{r}) dA = \int_{\Omega} W(\hat{r}) dA = 0$$

Notes: at every  $\hat{r}$ ,  $\underline{r}_1 V$  and  $-\hat{r} \times \underline{r}_1 W$  are tangent vectors. The - sign is conventional (to agree with



an older convention, established prior to this notation.)

Since  $\underline{\Lambda} \equiv \hat{r} \times \underline{V} = \hat{r} \times \underline{V}_1$ , can also write

$$\underline{\underline{t}} = \underline{V}_1 V - \underline{\Lambda} W \quad *$$

$$\begin{aligned} \underline{V}_1 &= \hat{\theta} \partial_\theta + (\sin\theta)^{-1} \hat{\phi} \partial_\phi \\ \underline{\Lambda} &= -(\sin\theta)^{-1} \hat{\theta} \partial_\phi + \hat{\phi} \partial_\theta \end{aligned}$$

Proof: If  $*$  is true, then  $V$  and  $W$  must satisfy (taking  $\underline{V}_1 \cdot *$  and  $\underline{\Lambda} \cdot *$ , and using  $\underline{V}_1 \cdot \underline{\Lambda} = \underline{\Lambda} \cdot \underline{V}_1 = 0$ )

$$\begin{aligned} \underline{V}_1^2 V &= \underline{V}_1 \cdot \underline{\underline{t}} \\ -\underline{\Lambda}^2 W &= \underline{\Lambda} \cdot \underline{\underline{t}} \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{But } \underline{V}_1^2 = \underline{\Lambda}^2 = \frac{1}{\sin\theta} \partial_\theta (\sin\theta) \partial_\theta + \frac{1}{\sin^2\theta} \partial_\phi^2$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Thus } \underline{V}_1^2 V &= \underline{\Lambda}^2 V = \underline{V}_1 \cdot \underline{\underline{t}} \\ \underline{V}_1^2 W &= \underline{\Lambda}^2 W = -\underline{\Lambda} \cdot \underline{\underline{t}} \end{aligned}$$

Formally we find ~~the same~~

$$\begin{aligned} V &= \underline{\Lambda}^{-2} \underline{V}_1 \cdot \underline{\underline{t}} \\ W &= -\underline{\Lambda}^{-2} \underline{\Lambda} \cdot \underline{\underline{t}} \end{aligned}$$

write using  $\underline{V}_1^{-2}$

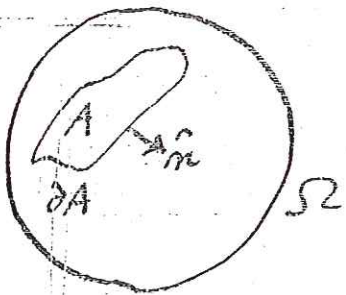
We are thus led to examine the invertibility of  $\Delta^2$ . Consider

$$\Delta^2 f = g. \quad (*) \quad \Delta^2 \psi = \chi \text{ in } DFT$$

If this is to be soluble for  $f$ , we must have

$$\int_{\Omega} g \, dA = 0, \text{ since}$$

$$\int_{\Omega} \Delta^2 f \, dA = \int_{\Omega} \nabla_1 \cdot \nabla_1 f \, dA = 0 \text{ by Gauss' theorem on } \underline{\Omega}$$



Gauss theorem on  $\Omega$  states that if  $\underline{t}$  is cont. diff. in  $A$ , then

$$\int_A \nabla_1 \cdot \underline{t} \, dA = \int_{\partial A} \hat{n} \cdot \underline{t} \, dA$$

Thus a necessary condition for  $(*)$  to have a soln is that ~~that~~

$$\int_{\Omega} g \, dA = 0$$

If  $g(\hat{r}) \in L_2(\Omega)$ , we can write

$$\psi \quad g = \sum_{l=1}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-l}^l g_l^m Y_l^m \quad **$$

↑ note:  $g_0^0 = 0$

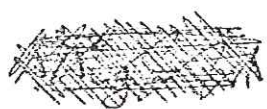
But since  $\Lambda^2 Y_l^m = -l(l+1) Y_l^m$ , the unique solution to \* is

$$\psi \quad f = - \sum_{l=1}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-l}^l \frac{g_l^m}{l(l+1)} Y_l^m \quad ***$$

This series is convergent in the mean square if that for  $g$  is, and this uniquely defines  $f$ .

To summarize: an operator  $\Lambda^{-2}$  can be defined on the space of all  $L_2(\Omega)$  fens which average to zero on  $\Omega$ , i.e. all  $g \in L_2(\Omega)$  s.t.  $\int_{\Omega} g \, dA = 0$ .

If  $g$  is given by \*\* above, then  $\Lambda^{-2} g$  is defined to be the  $f$  of \*\*\*. The operator  $\Lambda^{-2}$  is linear and we have



$$\Lambda^{-2} \Lambda^2 g = \Lambda^2 \Lambda^{-2} g = g$$

Backus (1958) has given an alternative representation of  $f = \nabla^{-2} g$ , namely

$$f(\hat{r}) = \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_{\Omega} g(\hat{r}') \ln(1 - \hat{r} \cdot \hat{r}') \, dA'$$

Let us apply the above method of solving  $\nabla_1^2 f = g$  ~~or~~ or  $\Delta^2 f = g$  to

$$\begin{aligned}\nabla_1^2 V &= \text{} \Delta^2 V = \underline{\nabla}_1 \cdot \underline{\underline{t}} \\ \nabla_1^2 W &= \Delta^2 W = -\underline{\Delta} \cdot \underline{\underline{t}}\end{aligned}$$

Both r.h.s. satisfy  $\int_{\Omega} \underline{\nabla}_1 \cdot \underline{\underline{t}} dA = -\int_{\Omega} \underline{\Delta} \cdot \underline{\underline{t}} dA = 0$ ,

i.e. both average to zero on  $\Omega$ . Thus both have unique solutions, i.e.  $\exists$  unique  $V, W$  defined by

$$\begin{aligned}V &= \Delta^{-2} \underline{\nabla}_1 \cdot \underline{\underline{t}} \quad * \\ W &= -\Delta^{-2} \underline{\Delta} \cdot \underline{\underline{t}}\end{aligned}$$

and both  $V, W$  average to  zero on  $\Omega$ , i.e.  $\int_{\Omega} V dA = \int_{\Omega} W dA = 0$ .

We have thus shown that if  $V, W$  satisfying  $\underline{\underline{t}} = \underline{\nabla}_1 V - \underline{\Delta} W$  and  $\int_{\Omega} V dA = \int_{\Omega} W dA = 0$  exist, then they are unique, in fact they are given uniquely by \* above. It remains to show that  $\underline{\underline{t}}$   is given in terms of  $V$  and  $W$  by

$$\underline{\underline{t}} = \underline{\nabla}_1 V - \underline{\Delta} W.$$



This question is settled by the following

Lemma: Let  $\underline{t}$  be a tangent vector field cont. differ.  $\Delta$  everywhere on  $\Omega$ . Then  $\nabla_1 \cdot \underline{t} = \Delta \cdot \underline{t} = 0$  implies that  $\underline{t} \equiv \underline{0}$ .

Proof. (Backus 1958)

Introduce the change of variable

$$\xi = -\ln(\csc\theta + \cot\theta)$$

Then  $\frac{\partial}{\partial \xi} = \sin\theta \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta}$  \*

The mapping  $(\theta, \phi) \rightarrow (\xi, \phi)$  is the Mercator projection of  $\Omega$  into the plane. To check \*

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d\xi}{d\theta} &= -\frac{1}{\csc\theta + \cot\theta} (-\csc\theta \cot\theta - \csc^2\theta) \\ &= \csc\theta, \quad \text{so} \quad \frac{d\theta}{d\xi} = \sin\theta \end{aligned}$$

i.e.  $\frac{\partial}{\partial \xi} = \sin\theta \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta}$

Thus  $\nabla_1 \cdot \underline{t} \equiv \frac{1}{\sin\theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} (\sin\theta \underline{t}_\theta) + \frac{1}{\sin\theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} \underline{t}_\phi = 0$

implies that

$$\sin \theta \partial_{\theta} (\sin \theta t_{\theta}) + \partial_{\phi} (\sin \theta t_{\phi}) = 0$$

i.e.

$$\partial_{\theta} (\sin \theta t_{\theta}) + \partial_{\phi} (\sin \theta t_{\phi}) = 0$$

Likewise  $\underline{\Lambda} \cdot \underline{t} = \cancel{\underline{r} \cdot \underline{v} \times \underline{t}}$

$$= \frac{1}{\sin \theta} \partial_{\theta} (\sin \theta t_{\theta}) - \frac{1}{\sin \theta} \partial_{\phi} t_{\theta} \text{ implies}$$

$$\underline{\Lambda} = -\hat{r} \times \underline{v}, \text{ so } \underline{\Lambda}' = \underline{v} \cdot \nabla \times$$

$$\partial_{\theta} (\sin \theta t_{\theta}) - \partial_{\phi} (\sin \theta t_{\phi}) = 0$$

But these are precisely the Cauchy-Riemann equations in the plane  $z = \theta + i\phi$  for the function  $f(z) = \sin \theta (t_{\theta} - it_{\phi})$ .

Thus  $\sin \theta (t_{\theta} - it_{\phi})$  must be an entire function, i.e. regular everywhere in the  $z$ -plane except at  $\infty$ . Note it ~~is~~ is periodic with period  $2\pi$  in  $\phi$ .

Since

$$f(z) = \sin \theta (t_\theta - it_\phi)$$

is

both bounded and entire, it must be a constant by Liouville's theorem. Since at

$$\frac{1}{z} \rightarrow 0, \quad \text{i.e. } \theta \rightarrow 0$$

$f(z)$  vanishes (because of the factor of  $\sin \theta$ ), the constant must be zero, i.e.

$$f(z) = 0 \quad \text{for all } z.$$

Thus  $t_\theta = t_\phi = 0$ , or

$$\underline{t = 0}$$

~~This is a very important result in the theory of functions. It shows that if a function is bounded and entire, it must be constant. This is a special case of Liouville's theorem.~~

Cauchy-Riemann equations: if  $f(z) = u(x, y) + iv(x, y)$ , then

$$\left[ \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = -\frac{\partial v}{\partial x} \right] \quad \text{at every } z \text{ where } f(z) \text{ is regular}$$

Now we can use this to show that

$$\underline{t} = \underline{v}_1 V - \underline{\Lambda} W$$

Consider  $\underline{t} - \underline{v}_1 V + \underline{\Lambda} W$ .

$$\underline{v}_1 \cdot (\underline{t} - \underline{v}_1 V + \underline{\Lambda} W) = \underline{v}_1 \cdot \underline{t} - \underline{v}_1^2 V = 0$$

if  $V \equiv \Lambda^{-2} \underline{v}_1 \cdot \underline{t}$

$$\underline{\Lambda} \cdot (\underline{t} - \underline{v}_1 V + \underline{\Lambda} W) = \underline{\Lambda} \cdot \underline{t} + \Lambda^2 W = 0$$

if  $W \equiv \Lambda^{-2} (-\underline{\Lambda} \cdot \underline{t})$

Thus, by the lemma,  $\underline{t} - \underline{v}_1 V + \underline{\Lambda} W = 0$

or

$$\underline{t} = \underline{v}_1 V - \underline{\Lambda} W$$

This completes the proof of the tangent vector representation theorem.



30. Vector spherical harmonics

Consider a vector field  $\underline{s}$  on  $\Omega$ .  
 We now know we can represent it in terms of three scalar fields as follows

$$\underline{s} = \hat{r}U + \nabla_1 V - \hat{r} \times \nabla_1 W$$

where  $U(\hat{r})$  is what we previously called  $s_p$ .

Now all three of the scalar fields ~~are~~  $U(\hat{r})$ ,  $V(\hat{r})$  and  $W(\hat{r})$  can be expanded in s.s.h.

$$U(\hat{r}) = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-l}^l U_l^m Y_l^m(\hat{r})$$

Recall that to insure uniqueness we must specify

$$\int_{\Omega} V(\hat{r}) dA = \int_{\Omega} W(\hat{r}) dA = 0$$

Thus

$$V(\hat{r}) = \sum_{l=1}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-l}^l V_l^m Y_l^m(\hat{r})$$

$$W(\hat{r}) = \sum_{l=1}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-l}^l W_l^m Y_l^m(\hat{r})$$

Note lower limit  $l=1$ .

We are thus led to, with  $V_0^0 = W_0^0 = 0$

$$\underline{s}(\hat{r}) = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-l}^l \left[ u_l^m \hat{r} Y_l^m(\hat{r}) + v_l^m \nabla_1 Y_l^m(\hat{r}) + w_l^m (-\hat{r} \times \nabla_1 Y_l^m(\hat{r})) \right]$$

It is conventional to define

$$\underline{P}_l^m(\hat{r}) \equiv \hat{r} Y_l^m(\hat{r})$$

$$\underline{B}_l^m(\hat{r}) \equiv \nabla_1 Y_l^m(\hat{r}) = \hat{\theta} \frac{\partial Y_l^m}{\partial \theta} + \hat{\phi} \frac{im}{\sin \theta} Y_l^m$$

$$\underline{C}_l^m(\hat{r}) \equiv -\hat{r} \times \nabla_1 Y_l^m(\hat{r}) = \hat{\theta} \frac{im}{\sin \theta} Y_l^m - \hat{\phi} \frac{\partial Y_l^m}{\partial \theta}$$

$\underline{B}_l^m$  &  $\underline{C}_l^m$  normalized differently in DFT.

These called vector spherical harmonics,  $\underline{P}_l^m$ ,  $\underline{B}_l^m$ ,  $\underline{C}_l^m$  is the notation of, e.g., Morse + Feshbach.

They are used to expand a vector field  $\underline{s}$  on  $\Omega$  the same way the  $Y_l^m$ 's are used to expand a scalar field  $f$  on  $\Omega$ .

Note  $\gamma_0^0 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi}}$ , so

$$\underline{P}_0^0 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi}} \hat{r}, \quad \text{but}$$

$$\underline{B}_0^0 = \underline{C}_0^0 = \underline{0} \quad \text{since } \nabla_1(\text{const}) = 0$$

This related to the uniqueness of the expansion  $\underline{t} = \nabla_1 V - \hat{r} \times \nabla_1 W$ . Rendered unique by setting  $V_0^0 = W_0^0 = 0$ . Note any other  $V_0^0, W_0^0$  would give same  $\underline{t}$  since  $\underline{B}_0^0 = \underline{C}_0^0 = \underline{0}$ .

Reason for - sign in  $\underline{t} = \nabla_1 V - \hat{r} \times \nabla_1 W$  is to agree with Morse + Feshbach's convention for  $\underline{L}_\ell^m$ .

A note on expanding in vector spherical harmonics: the tangent tensor representation theorem reduces this to expanding  $u, v, w$  in  $Y_\ell^m$ 's. Thus all the  $Y_\ell^m$  expansion theorems are applicable, e.g. if  $u, v, w \in L_2(\mathbb{R}^2)$ , the Laplace series converge in the mean, and are unique.

How to find the coefficients?

The vector spherical harmonics are mutually orthogonal. Consider

$$\int_{\Omega} P_l^m \cdot \underline{B}_{l'}^{m'} * dA \quad \text{and}$$

$$\int_{\Omega} P_l^m \cdot C_{l'}^{m'} * dA$$

Both clearly vanish since  $\hat{r} \cdot \hat{\theta} = \hat{r} \cdot \hat{\phi} = 0$

Now consider  $\int_{\Omega} \underline{B}_l^m \cdot C_{l'}^{m'} * dA$

$\frac{1}{\sqrt{l(l+1)}} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \left( \frac{1}{\sin \theta} \frac{\partial Y_l^m}{\partial \theta} \right)$  with  $\delta$ PT normalization

$$= \int_{\Omega} \left[ \frac{\partial Y_l^m}{\partial \theta} \left( - \frac{im' Y_{l'}^{m'}}{\sin \theta} \right) + \left( - \frac{im Y_l^m}{\sin \theta} \right) \frac{\partial Y_{l'}^{m'}}{\partial \theta} \right] dA$$

For  $m \neq m'$ , this vanishes since

$$\int_0^{2\pi} e^{i(m-m')\phi} d\phi = 0$$

Consider  $m = m'$ . Get

$$- 2\pi im \int_0^{\pi} \left( \frac{\partial Y_l^m}{\partial \theta} Y_{l'}^{m'} * + Y_l^m \frac{\partial Y_{l'}^{m'}}{\partial \theta} \right) d\theta$$

$$= - 2\pi im \int_0^{\pi} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} (Y_l^m Y_{l'}^{m'} *) d\theta$$

$$= - 2\pi im [Y_l^m Y_{l'}^{m'} *]_0^{\pi} = 0$$



Case  $m = 0$  : zero because of factor of  $m$  in front.

Case  $m \neq 0$  : zero because  $Y_l^m$  vanishes at poles.

$$\text{Now } \int_{\Omega} P_l^m \cdot P_{l'}^{m'}{}^* dA$$

$$= \int_{\Omega} Y_l^m Y_{l'}^{m'}{}^* dA = \delta_{ll'} \delta_{mm'}$$

Now consider

$$\int_{\Omega} C_l^m \cdot C_{l'}^{m'}{}^* dA = \int_{\Omega} (-\hat{r} \times \nabla_1 Y_l^m) \cdot (-\hat{r} \times \nabla_1 Y_{l'}^{m'}{}^*) dA$$

$\frac{1}{\sqrt{l(l+1)l'(l'+1)}}$

$$= \int_{\Omega} \nabla_1 Y_l^m \cdot \nabla_1 Y_{l'}^{m'}{}^* dA = \int_{\Omega} B_{-l}^m \cdot B_{-l'}^{m'}{}^* dA$$

$$= \int_{\Omega} \nabla_1 \cdot (Y_l^m \nabla_1 Y_{l'}^{m'}{}^*) dA - \int_{\Omega} Y_l^m \nabla_1^2 Y_{l'}^{m'}{}^* dA$$

First term vanishes by Gauss' theorem on  $\Omega$ . Also

$$\nabla_1^2 Y_{l'}^{m'}{}^* = -l'(l'+1) Y_{l'}^{m'}{}^*$$

$$= l'(l'+1) \int_{\Omega} Y_l^m Y_{l'}^{m'*} dA$$

$$= l'(l'+1) \delta_{ll'} \delta_{mm'} = l(l+1) \delta_{ll'} \delta_{mm'}$$

In summary, we have

$$\int_{\Omega} \frac{P_l^m}{l} \cdot \frac{P_{l'}^{m'*}}{l'} dA = \delta_{ll'} \delta_{mm'}$$

$$\int_{\Omega} \frac{B_l^m}{l} \cdot \frac{B_{l'}^{m'*}}{l'} dA = \int_{\Omega} \frac{C_l^m}{l} \cdot \frac{C_{l'}^{m'*}}{l'} dA = l(l+1) \delta_{ll'} \delta_{mm'}$$

$$\int_{\Omega} \frac{P_l^m}{l} \cdot \frac{B_{l'}^{m'*}}{l'} dA = \int_{\Omega} \frac{P_l^m}{l} \cdot \frac{C_{l'}^{m'*}}{l'} dA$$

$$= \int_{\Omega} \frac{B_l^m}{l} \cdot \frac{C_{l'}^{m'*}}{l'} dA = 0.$$

Now say we have a scalar  
 for  $f(\underline{r})$ ;  $f: \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$   
 Then we may expand

$$f(\underline{r}) = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-l}^l f_l^m(\underline{r}) Y_l^m(\underline{r})$$

The coefficients  $f_l^m$  are functions of radius  $r$ . They can be determined by

$$f_l^m(r) = \int_{\Omega} f(r\hat{r}) Y_l^{m*}(\hat{r}) dA$$

$$= \int_{\Omega} f(r, \theta, \phi) Y_l^{m*}(\theta, \phi) dA$$

If we have a vector field  $\underline{s}(r)$ , we can expand it as

$$\underline{s}(r) = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-l}^l \left[ u_l^m(r) \underline{T}_l^m(\hat{r}) + v_l^m(r) \underline{B}_l^m(\hat{r}) + w_l^m(r) \underline{C}_l^m(\hat{r}) \right]$$

The coefficients  $u_l^m(r)$ ,  $v_l^m(r)$ ,  $w_l^m(r)$  are found by

$$u_l^m(r) = \int_{\Omega} \underline{s}(r\hat{r}) \cdot \underline{T}_l^{m*}(\hat{r}) dA$$

$$l(l+1) v_l^m(r) = \int_{\Omega} \underline{s}(r\hat{r}) \cdot \underline{B}_l^{m*}(\hat{r}) dA$$

$$l(l+1) w_l^m(r) = \int_{\Omega} \underline{s}(r\hat{r}) \cdot \underline{C}_l^{m*}(\hat{r}) dA$$

An important property of this representation: separates curl and div in a convenient way.

Consider  $\nabla \cdot \underline{s}(\underline{r})$

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla \cdot \underline{s} &= \left( \hat{r} \partial_r + \frac{1}{r} \nabla_1 \right) \cdot \underline{s} \\ &= \left( \hat{r} \partial_r + \frac{1}{r} \nabla_1 \right) \cdot \sum_l \sum_m \left( u_l^m \hat{r} Y_l^m \right. \\ &\quad \left. + v_l^m \nabla_1 Y_l^m - w_l^m \hat{r} \times \nabla_1 Y_l^m \right) \end{aligned}$$

interchange  $\partial$  and  $\Sigma$ .

$$\begin{aligned} &= \sum_l \sum_m \left[ \partial_r u_l^m Y_l^m + \frac{1}{r} u_l^m (\nabla_1 \cdot \hat{r}) Y_l^m \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{1}{r} v_l^m \nabla_1^2 Y_l^m + \text{zero} \right] \end{aligned}$$

since  $\nabla_1 \cdot \underline{\Lambda} = 0$

Now  $\nabla_1^2 Y_l^m = -l(l+1) Y_l^m$ . What is  $\nabla_1 \cdot \hat{r}$ ?

Consider  $\nabla \cdot \underline{r} = \nabla \cdot (r \hat{r}) = \underline{\nabla} r \cdot \hat{r} + r \nabla \cdot \hat{r}$

i.e.

$$\nabla \cdot \hat{r} = \frac{1}{r} (\nabla \cdot \underline{r} - \partial_r r) = \frac{2}{r}$$

and  $\nabla \cdot \hat{r} = \hat{r} \cdot \partial_r \hat{r} + \frac{1}{r} \nabla_1 \cdot \hat{r}$

$$= \frac{1}{r} \nabla_1 \cdot \hat{r}, \quad \text{so}$$

$$\boxed{\nabla_1 \cdot \hat{r} = 2}$$



And thus:

$$\nabla \cdot \underline{s}(\underline{r}) = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-l}^l D_l^m(r) Y_l^m(\hat{r})$$

where

$$D_l^m(r) = \partial_r u_l^m(r) + \frac{1}{r} [2u_l^m(r) - l(l+1)v_l^m(r)]$$

No contribution from  $w(r)$ .

Now consider  $\nabla \times \underline{s}(\underline{r})$

Homework: show that

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla \times \underline{s}(\underline{r}) = & \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-l}^l [l(l+1) \frac{1}{r} w_l^m(r)] \underline{P}_l^m(\hat{r}) \\ & + [ \partial_r w_l^m(r) + \frac{3}{r} w_l^m(r) ] \underline{B}_l^m(\hat{r}) \\ & + [ \partial_r v_l^m(r) + \frac{1}{r} u_l^m(r) - \frac{1}{r} v_l^m(r) ] \underline{C}_l^m(\hat{r}) \end{aligned}$$

Nomenclature: a field of the form

$-\hat{r} \times r_1 W$  : toroidal  
 $\hat{r} U + r_1 V$  : spheroidal  
 spheroidal and  $\nabla \cdot \underline{s} = 0$  : poloidal

These are geometrical names.

A list of properties:

Toroidal:

1. purely tangential, no  $\hat{r}$  component.
2. zero divergence
3. curl is spheroidal, radial component of curl non-zero

Spheroidal:

1. has a radial component and a tangential component
2. non-zero divergence
3. curl is toroidal, has ~~a~~ <sup>no</sup> radial component.

This designation leads to the designation toroidal and spheroidal free oscillations.

### 31. The radial SNREI equations

Back to modes, at last. The linearized SNREI equations are

$$-\rho_0 \omega^2 \underline{s} = -\rho_0 \nabla \phi_1 - \rho_1 \nabla \phi_0 - \nabla [\rho_0 \underline{s} \cdot \nabla \phi_0] + \underline{\tau} \cdot \underline{\underline{\tau}}$$

$$\rho_1 = -\nabla \cdot (\rho_0 \underline{s})$$