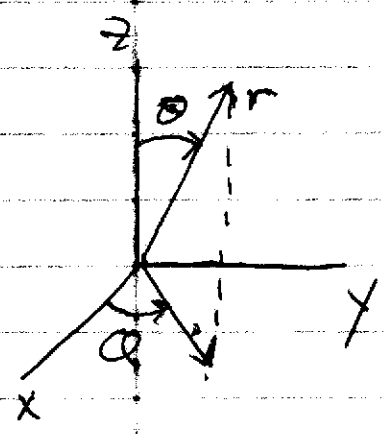


Basis functions in spherical coordinates  
⇒ Laplace's eqn

$$\nabla^2 \phi = 0$$

Consider basis functions



$$h(r, \theta, \phi) = P(\theta) \Phi(\phi) R(r)$$

⇒ separable

$$\nabla^2 = \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} r^2 \frac{\partial}{\partial r} + \frac{1}{r^2 \sin \theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \sin \theta \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} + \frac{1}{r^2 \sin^2 \theta} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \phi^2}$$

$$\nabla^2 h = \frac{h}{r^2} \left[ \frac{1}{R} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} r^2 \frac{\partial}{\partial r} R + \frac{1}{P \sin \theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \sin \theta \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} P + \frac{1}{\sin^2 \theta} \frac{1}{\Phi} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \phi^2} \Phi \right] = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{\Phi} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \phi^2} \Phi = \text{const} \equiv -m^2$$

⇒ since other terms in [ ] indep. of  $\phi$ .

$$\frac{\partial^2}{\partial \phi^2} \Phi + m^2 \Phi = 0 \Rightarrow \Phi \sim e^{\pm im\phi}$$

In a system where  $\phi \in (0, 2\pi)$ ,  $m$  is an integer

⇒ periodic over  $2\pi$

Remaining terms in the bracket yield

$$\underbrace{\frac{1}{R} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} r^2 \frac{\partial}{\partial r} R}_{\text{depends only on } r} + \underbrace{\frac{1}{\sin \theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \sin \theta \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} P - \frac{m^2}{\sin^2 \theta}}_{\text{depends only on } \theta} = 0$$

$$l(l+1) \qquad -l(l+1)$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial r} r^2 \frac{\partial}{\partial r} R_l - l(l+1) R_l = 0$$

⇒ Euler eqn

⇒ power law solutions

$$R \sim r^\gamma$$

$$[\gamma(\gamma+1) - l(l+1)] r^\gamma = 0$$

$$\gamma = l, -l-1$$

$$\Rightarrow R \sim r^l, r^{-l-1}$$

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

$$x = \cos \theta$$

$$dx = -\sin \theta d\theta$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} (1-x^2) \frac{d}{dx} P_l^m + \left[ l(l+1) - \frac{m^2}{1-x^2} \right] P_l^m = 0$$

Associated Legendre eqn

~~the~~ solutions  $P_l^m, Q_l^m$

Behavior near  $x=1 \Rightarrow$  Let  $t=1-x$

$$1-x^2 = (1+x)(1-x) \approx 2t, \quad dt = -dx$$

$$\left[ \frac{d}{dt} 2t \frac{d}{dt} + l(l+1) - \frac{m^2}{2t} \right] P = 0$$

$$\left[ 2t \frac{d}{dt} \overset{\text{small}}{t} \frac{d}{dt} + t(l+1)l - \frac{m^2}{2} \right] P = 0$$

$\Rightarrow$  Euler eqn  $\Rightarrow$  power law solution

$$P \sim t^\gamma$$

$$\left( 2\gamma^2 - \frac{m^2}{2} \right) t^\gamma = 0$$

$$\gamma = \pm \frac{m}{2} \Rightarrow P \sim (1-x)^{\pm \frac{m}{2}}$$

$\Rightarrow$  one singular and one non-singular solution

$\Rightarrow$  series solutions ~~are~~ in powers of

$$P \sim \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^n$$

diverge at  $x = \pm 1$  unless the series truncates.

$\Rightarrow$  requires  $l$  be an integer

$P_l^m$  bounded at  $x = \pm 1$  for  $l$  an integer

$Q_l^m$  diverges  $\implies$  discard

For  $m=0$ , near  $x=1$

$$t \frac{d}{dt} t \frac{d}{dt} P_l^0 = 0$$

$$t \frac{d}{dt} P = \text{const} \implies P \sim \text{const.} + \ln(t)$$

$\implies$  one convergent and one divergent solution at  $x = \pm 1$ .  
 $\theta = 0, \pi$

For  $m=0$ , have Legendre's eqn

$$\frac{d}{dx} (1-x^2) \frac{d}{dx} P_l + l(l+1) P_l = 0$$

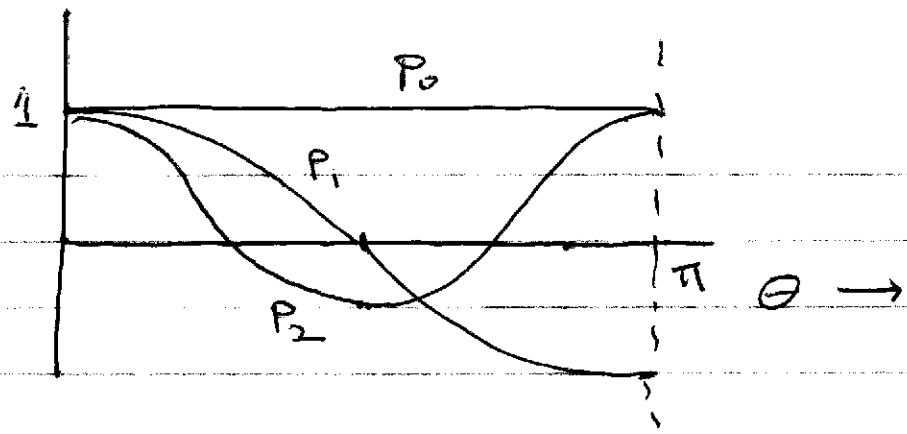
Again, series truncates for  $l$  an integer

$\implies$  Legendre Polynomials bounded at  $x = \pm 1$

Rodriguez formula

$$P_l(x) = \frac{1}{2^l l!} \frac{d^l}{dx^l} (x^2-1)^l$$

$$P_0 = 1, P_1 = x, P_2 = \frac{1}{2}(3x^2-1), P_l \sim x^l$$



⇒ oscillatory  
 ⇒ form a complete set over  $(-1, 1)$

Orthogonality

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

Recursion relations

$$(l+1)P_{l+1} - (2l+1)xP_l + lP_{l-1} = 0$$

see Jackson, Antken

⇒ can evaluate

$$\int_{-1}^1 x P_l(x) P_{l'}(x) = \dots$$

Associated Legendre Polynomials

$$P_l^m = (-1)^m (1-x^2)^{\frac{m}{2}} \frac{d^m}{dx^m} P_l(x)$$

$= 0$  for  $m > l$

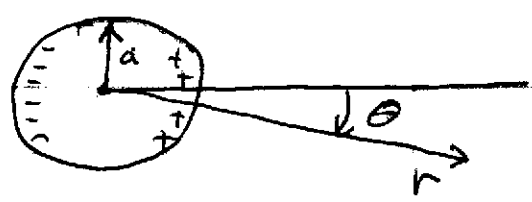
Orthogonality

$$\int_{-1}^1 dx P_l^m P_{l'}^m = \frac{2}{2l+1} \frac{(l+m)!}{(l-m)!} \delta_{ll'}$$

⇒ always have the same m

⇒ azimuthal dependences forces m = m'

Example Conductor in a uniform external electric field



$$\vec{E}_0 \Rightarrow \phi_0 = -E_0 z$$

$$\frac{\partial \phi_0}{\partial z} = 0 \Rightarrow m=0 \quad = -E_0 r \cos\theta$$

$$\phi = \sum_l (a_l r^l + b_l \frac{1}{r^{l+1}}) P_l(\cos\theta)$$

$a_l = 0$  for  $l > 1$  or  $\phi$  will diverge for large  $r$ .

$a_1 = -E_0$  to match external potential

$$\phi = -E_0 r \cos\theta + \sum_l b_l \frac{1}{r^{l+1}} P_l(\cos\theta)$$

Potential independent of  $\theta$  for  $r = a$

$$\phi(r=a, \theta) = -E_0 a \cos\theta + \sum_l b_l \frac{1}{a^{l+1}} P_l(\cos\theta)$$

$$b_l = 0 \text{ for } l \neq 1$$

$\Rightarrow \cos\theta$  linearly independent of  $P_l(\cos\theta)$  for  $l \neq 1$

$\Rightarrow$  ~~total~~ discard  $l=0$  since no net charge.

$$\phi \sim b_0 \frac{1}{r}, \quad E_r \sim -\frac{b_0}{r^2}$$

$$\phi(r=a, \theta) = \left(-E_0 a + \frac{b_1}{a^2}\right) \cos\theta = 0$$

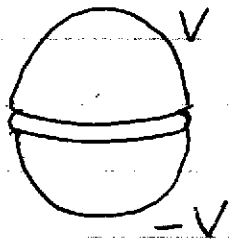
$$b_1 = E_0 a^3$$

$$\phi = -E_0 r \cos\theta + \frac{E_0 a^3}{r^2} \cos\theta$$

$$E_r(a) = -\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial r} \Big|_a = E_0 \cos\theta + 2 \frac{E_0 a^3}{a^3} \cos\theta$$

$$= 3 E_0 \cos\theta$$

$$G = \epsilon_0 E_r = 3 \epsilon_0 E_0 \cos\theta$$

Example Hemispherical conductors

$\Rightarrow$  azimuthal symmetry  
 $m=0$

$$\mathcal{Q} = \sum_l \left( a_l r^l + b_l \frac{1}{r^{l+1}} \right) P_l(\cos\theta)$$

Odd symmetry around  $\theta = \frac{\pi}{2}$  or  
 $x = \cos\theta = 0 \Rightarrow$  odd function of  $x$   
 $\Rightarrow l$  odd

Since  $\mathcal{Q}$  is bounded at  $\infty$ ,  $a_l = 0$

$$\mathcal{Q} = \sum_{l \text{ odd}} b_l \frac{1}{r^{l+1}} P_l(\cos\theta)$$

$$\mathcal{Q}(a, \theta) = \sum_{l \text{ odd}} b_l \frac{1}{a^{l+1}} P_l(\cos\theta)$$

Multiply by  $P_l(\cos\theta)$  and integrate to eliminate sum over  $l$

$$\int_{-1}^1 d\cos\theta P_l(\cos\theta) \mathcal{Q}(a, \theta) = \frac{2}{2l+1} \frac{b_l}{a^{l+1}}$$

$$V \left[ \int_0^1 d\cos\theta P_l(\cos\theta) - \int_{-1}^0 d\cos\theta P_l(\cos\theta) \right]$$

$$= \frac{2}{a^{l+1}} \frac{b_l}{2l+1}$$



Two integrals cancel for  $l$  even and add for  $l$  odd

$$2V \int_0^1 dx \cos \theta P_l(\cos \theta) = \frac{2be}{a^{l+1}(2l+1)}$$

$$I \equiv \int_0^1 dx P_l(x)$$

Use Rodriguez' formula  $P_l = \frac{1}{2^l l!} \frac{d^l}{dx^l} (x^2-1)^l$

$$I = \frac{1}{2^l l!} \frac{d^{l-1}}{dx^{l-1}} (x^2-1)^l \Big|_0^1$$

$\Rightarrow$  zero for  $x=1$  since

$$\frac{d^{l-1}}{dx^{l-1}} (x-1)^l (x+1)^l \sim x-1 \Rightarrow 0$$

$$I = -\frac{1}{2^l l!} \frac{d^{l-1}}{dx^{l-1}} (x^2-1)^l \Big|_0$$

use binomial theorem

$$(x^2-1)^l = (x^2)^{l-q} \cdot (-1)^q \frac{l!}{q!(l-q)!}$$

$\Rightarrow$  summation over  $q$ .

Only surviving term has  $x^0$  after  $l-1$  derivatives

$$2(l-g) = l-1$$

$$2l - 2g = l-1$$

$$g = \frac{l+1}{2}$$

$$I = - \frac{1}{2^l l!} \frac{d^{l-1}}{dx^{l-1}} \underbrace{x^{2l-l-1}}_{x^{l-1}} (-1)^{\frac{l+1}{2}} \frac{l!}{(\frac{l+1}{2})! (\frac{l-1}{2})!}$$

$$= - \frac{1}{2^l} \frac{(-1)^{\frac{l+1}{2}} (l-1)!}{(\frac{l+1}{2})! (\frac{l-1}{2})!} \quad \text{l odd}$$

$$b_l = -v \frac{a^{l+1} (2l+1)(l-1)! (-1)^{\frac{l+1}{2}}}{2^l (\frac{l+1}{2})! (\frac{l-1}{2})!}$$

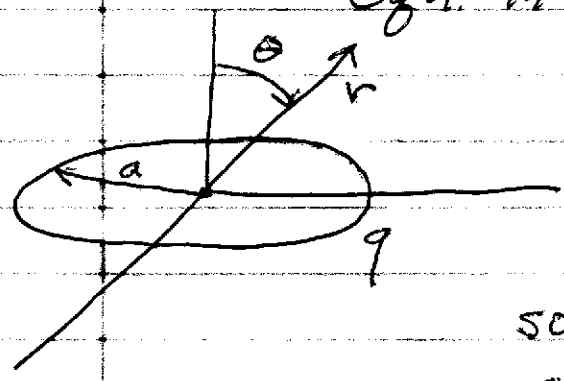
for l odd

= 0 for l even

$$Q = \sum_{l \text{ odd}} b_l \frac{P_l(\cos \theta)}{r^{l+1}}$$

Large  $r$   $Q \approx \frac{3}{2} \sqrt{\frac{a^2}{r^2}} \cos \theta$  as before.

Example Ring of charge: solving Poisson's eqn. in spherical coordinates



$$\nabla^2 \phi = -\frac{\rho}{\epsilon_0}$$

Need to express  $\rho(r, \theta)$  so that the total integrated charge is  $q$ .

$$q = \int dx \rho = 2\pi \int_0^\infty dr \int_{-1}^1 d(\cos\theta) \rho(r, \theta) r^2$$

$$\rho = q \frac{1}{2\pi r^2} \delta(\cos\theta) \delta(r-a)$$

$$dx = r^2 d\phi d(\cos\theta) dr$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} r^2 \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial r} + \frac{1}{r^2 \sin\theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \sin\theta \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial \theta} \\ = -\frac{q}{\epsilon_0} \frac{1}{2\pi r^2} \delta(\cos\theta) \delta(r-a) \end{aligned}$$

Since  $\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial r} = 0$ ,

$$\phi = \sum_l g_l(r) P_l(\cos\theta)$$

recall  $\Rightarrow$

$$\frac{1}{\sin\theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \sin\theta \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} P_l(\cos\theta) = -l(l+1) P_l(\cos\theta)$$

$$\sum_l P_l(\cos\theta) \left[ \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} r^2 \frac{\partial}{\partial r} g_l - l(l+1) \frac{g_l}{r^2} \right]$$

$$= - \frac{\rho}{\epsilon_0} \frac{\delta(\cos\theta) \delta(r-a)}{2\pi r^2}$$

Multiply by  $P_{l'}(\cos\theta)$  and integrate over  $\cos\theta$  to eliminate sum over  $l$

$$\sum_l \int_{-1}^1 d(\cos\theta) P_{l'}(\cos\theta) P_l(\cos\theta) \left[ \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} r^2 \frac{\partial}{\partial r} g_l - l(l+1) \frac{g_l}{r^2} \right] = - \int_{-1}^1 d(\cos\theta) \delta(\cos\theta)$$

$$\underbrace{\frac{2}{2l'+1} S_{l'}}_{\text{orthogonality}} \quad \textcircled{x} P_{l'}(\cos\theta) \frac{\rho}{\epsilon_0} \frac{\delta(r-a)}{2\pi r^2}$$

$\Rightarrow$  yields equation in  $r$

$$\frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} r^2 \frac{\partial}{\partial r} g_{l'} - l'(l'+1) \frac{g_{l'}}{r^2} = - \frac{\rho}{\epsilon_0} \frac{(2l'+1)}{4\pi r^2}$$

$$\textcircled{x} P_{l'}(0) \delta(r-a)$$

$$\equiv S_{l'} \delta(r-a)$$

$$S_{l'} = - \frac{\rho}{\epsilon_0} \frac{2l'+1}{4\pi a^2} P_{l'}(0)$$

Jump conditions at  $r=a$ ,

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial r} g_l \Big|_{a-\epsilon}^{a+\epsilon} = S_l$$

$$g_l \Big|_{a-\epsilon}^{a+\epsilon} = 0$$

For  $a \neq r$ ,  $g_l \sim r^l, r^{-l-1}$

$r > a$   $g_l \rightarrow 0$  as  $r \rightarrow \infty$

$$g_l = c_l \left(\frac{a}{r}\right)^{l+1}$$

$r < a$   $g_l$  bounded at  $r=0$

$$g_l = c_l \left(\frac{r}{a}\right)^l$$

$\Rightarrow g_l$  continuous at  $r=a$ .

$\Rightarrow$  use jump in  $\frac{\partial}{\partial r} g_l$  to determine  $c_l$

$$\left[-(l+1)\frac{1}{a} - l\frac{1}{a}\right] c_l = S_l$$

$$c_l = -\frac{a S_l}{2l+1} = \frac{q}{\epsilon_0} \frac{1}{4\pi a} P_l(0)$$

note:  $P_l(0) = 0$  for  $l$  odd

$\Rightarrow$  solution even around  $x = \cos\theta = 0$

$$Q = \sum_{l \text{ even}} \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} P_l(0) P_l(\cos\theta) \frac{r_<^l}{r_>^{l+1}}$$

$r_< =$  smaller of  $r, a$

$r_> =$  larger of  $r, a$

point charge

$\Rightarrow$  large  $r$ ,  $l=0$  dominates  $\Rightarrow \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{1}{r}$

## Spherical harmonics

The basis functions  $P_l^m(\cos\theta)$  and  $e^{im\phi}$  can be combined into a complete set of functions on the unit sphere

$\Rightarrow$  spherical harmonics  $Y_l^m$

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

Orthogonality:

$$\int_0^{2\pi} d\phi \int_{-1}^1 d\cos\theta Y_{l'm'}^*(\theta, \phi) Y_{lm}(\theta, \phi) = \delta_{ll'} \delta_{mm'}$$

$\Rightarrow$  as discussed previously the  $\delta_{mm'}$  arises from the  $\phi$  integral.

## $\delta$ -function in spherical coordinates

Can represent  $\delta(\phi - \phi') \delta(\cos\theta - \cos\theta')$  using  $Y_l^m$

$$\sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-l}^l a_l^m Y_l^m(\theta, \phi) = \delta(\phi - \phi') \delta(\cos\theta - \cos\theta')$$

⇒ invert the sum to solve for  $a_l^m$

⇒ mult. by  $Y_{l'}^{m'}(\theta, \varphi)$  and integrate over  $4\pi$

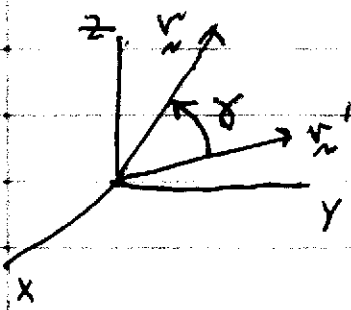
$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_m a_l^m \int_0^{2\pi} d\varphi \int_0^\pi d\cos\theta Y_{l'}^{m'}(\theta, \varphi) Y_l^m(\theta, \varphi) \\ = Y_{l'}^{m'}(\theta', \varphi') \\ = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-l}^l a_l^m \delta_{ll'} \delta_{mm'} \\ = a_{l'}^{m'} \end{aligned}$$

$$\sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-l}^l Y_l^{m'}(\theta', \varphi') Y_l^m(\theta, \varphi) = \delta(\varphi - \varphi') \delta(\cos\theta - \cos\theta')$$

⇒ completeness relation

Infinite medium Green's function in spherical coordinates

$$\nabla^2 G(\underline{r}, \underline{r}') = -4\pi \delta(\underline{r} - \underline{r}')$$



$$\delta(\underline{r} - \underline{r}') = \frac{1}{r^2} \delta(r - r')$$

$$\otimes \delta(\varphi - \varphi') \delta(\cos\theta - \cos\theta')$$

$$\int d\underline{r} \delta(\underline{r} - \underline{r}') = \int_0^\infty dr \int_0^{2\pi} d\varphi \int_0^\pi d\cos\theta \delta = 1$$

$$G(r, r') = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-l}^l g_l^m(r) Y_l^m(\theta, \phi)$$

⇒ eliminate sum over  $l, m$  using orthogonality

$$\Rightarrow \int d\Omega d\Omega' Y_l^{m*}(\theta', \phi') [ ]$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} r^2 \frac{\partial}{\partial r} g_l(r, r') - \frac{l(l+1)}{r^2} g_l(r, r') \\ = -4\pi \frac{1}{r^2} Y_l^{m*}(\theta', \phi') \delta(r-r') \end{aligned}$$

jump conditions:

$$\left. \frac{\partial g_l}{\partial r} \right|_{r'-\epsilon}^{r'+\epsilon} = -4\pi \frac{1}{r'^2} Y_l^{m*}(\theta', \phi')$$

$$g_l \Big|_{r'-\epsilon}^{r'+\epsilon} = 0$$

For  $r \neq r'$ :

$$g_l \sim r^l, r^{-l-1}$$

$$r > r': g_l = c_l \left(\frac{r'}{r}\right)^{l+1} Y_l^{m*}(\theta', \phi')$$

$$r < r': g_l = c_l \left(\frac{r}{r'}\right)^l Y_l^{m*}(\theta', \phi')$$



jump condition for  $\frac{\partial g_l}{\partial r}$

$$\left(-\frac{(l+1)}{r'} - \frac{l}{r'}\right) c_l = -\frac{4\pi}{r'^2} Y_l^{m*}(\theta', \varphi')$$

$$c_l = \frac{4\pi}{(2l+1)r'} Y_l^{m*}(\theta', \varphi')$$

$$G = 4\pi \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-l}^l \frac{1}{2l+1} Y_l^{m*}(\theta', \varphi') Y_l^m(\theta, \varphi)$$

$\otimes \frac{r_<^l}{r_>^{l+1}}$

$r_< =$  smaller of  $r, r'$

$r_> =$  larger of  $r, r'$

$\Rightarrow$  infinite medium Green's function

$\Rightarrow$  equivalent to  $\frac{1}{|\underline{x} - \underline{x}'|}$

### Alternate forms

For  $\theta' = 0$ ,  $G$  is independent of  $\varphi$

$\Rightarrow$  only  $m=0$  survives

$\Rightarrow P_l^m(1) = 0$  for  $m \neq 0$   
(see p. 59)

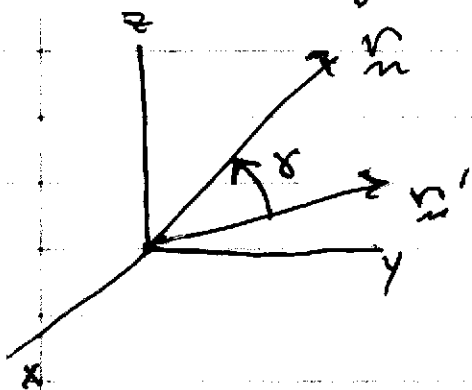
$$P_l(1) = 1 \quad (\text{see p. 58})$$

(72)

$$G = 4\pi \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2l+1} P_l(1) P_l(\cos\theta) \frac{r_{<}^l}{r_{>}^{l+1}} \frac{2l+1}{4\pi}$$

$$G = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} P_l(\cos\theta) \frac{r_{<}^l}{r_{>}^{l+1}}$$

$\Rightarrow$  but  $G$  only depends on the angle between  $\hat{r}_m, \hat{r}'_m$



$$G = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} P_l(\cos\delta) \frac{r_{<}^l}{r_{>}^{l+1}}$$

Previously wrote  $\cos\delta$  in terms of  $\theta, \theta'$  (p. 38)

$$\cos\delta = \cos\theta \cos\theta' + \sin\theta \sin\theta' \cos(\varphi - \varphi')$$

Comparing  $G$  on p. 71 with  $G$  here must have

$$P_l(\cos\delta) = 4\pi \sum_{m=-l}^l \frac{1}{2l+1} Y_l^{m*}(\theta', \varphi') Y_l^m(\theta, \varphi)$$

$\Rightarrow$  addition theorem

For  $\gamma = 0$ , and noting that  $P_\ell(1) = 1$

$$1 = \frac{4\pi}{2\ell+1} \sum_{m=-\ell}^{\ell} Y_\ell^{m*}(\theta, \phi) Y_\ell^m(\theta, \phi)$$

$\Rightarrow$  sum rule for spherical harmonics,

Finite medium Green's function

$\Rightarrow$  conducting boundary at  $|r| = a$

$\Rightarrow$  Change the BCs on  $g_\ell$  for  $r > r'$  so that  $g_\ell = 0$  for  $r = a$ .