



FFTs in Graphics and Vision

The Spherical Laplacian



Assignment 1 (Smoothing)

```
SquareGrid<> f;
```

```
FourierKey2D<> fK;
```

```
double scl = 0.0;
```

```
f.resize( res );
```

```
for( int y=-res/2 ; y<res/2; y++ ) for( int x=-res/2 ; x<res/2 ; x++ )
```

```
    f( x , y ) = exp( - ( x*x + y*y ) / ( 2. * Smooth.value * Smooth.value ) ) , scl += f( x , y );
```

```
scl = res * res / ( scl * 4 * PI * PI );
```

```
for( int y=0 ; y<res ; y++ ) for( int x=0 ; x<res ; x++ ) f( x , y ) *= scl;
```

```
xForm.ForwardFourier( f , fK );
```

```
for( int i=0 ; i< fK.resolution() ; i++ ) for( int j=0 ; j< fK.size() ; j++ )
```

```
    gK( i , j ) *= fK( i , j ) , bK( i , j ) *= fK( i , j ) , rK( i , j ) *= fK( i , j );
```

```
xForm.InverseFourier( rK , r ) , xForm.InverseFourier( gK , g ) , xForm.InverseFourier( bK , b );
```

Assignment 1 (Continuous Laplacian)



```
for( int i=0 ; i<rK.resolution() ; i++ )
{
    int _i = i<rK.resolution()/2 ? i : rK.resolution()-i;
    for( int j=0 ; j<rK.size() ; j++ )
    {
        double scl = - 4. * PI * PI * ( _i*_i + j*j ) / ( res * res );
        rK (i,j) *= scl , gK (i,j) *= scl , bK (i,j) *= scl;
    }
}

xForm.InverseFourier( rK , r ) , xForm.InverseFourier( gK , g ) , xForm.InverseFourier( bK , b );
```



Outline

- Stokes' Theorem
- Tangent Spaces
- Gradients
- The Spherical Laplacian
- Applications



Stokes' Theorem

Stokes' Theorem equates the integral of the divergence of a vector field over a region to the integral of the vector field over the boundary:

$$\int_V (\nabla \cdot \vec{F}) dV = \int_{\partial V} \langle \vec{F}, \vec{n} \rangle \cdot dA$$

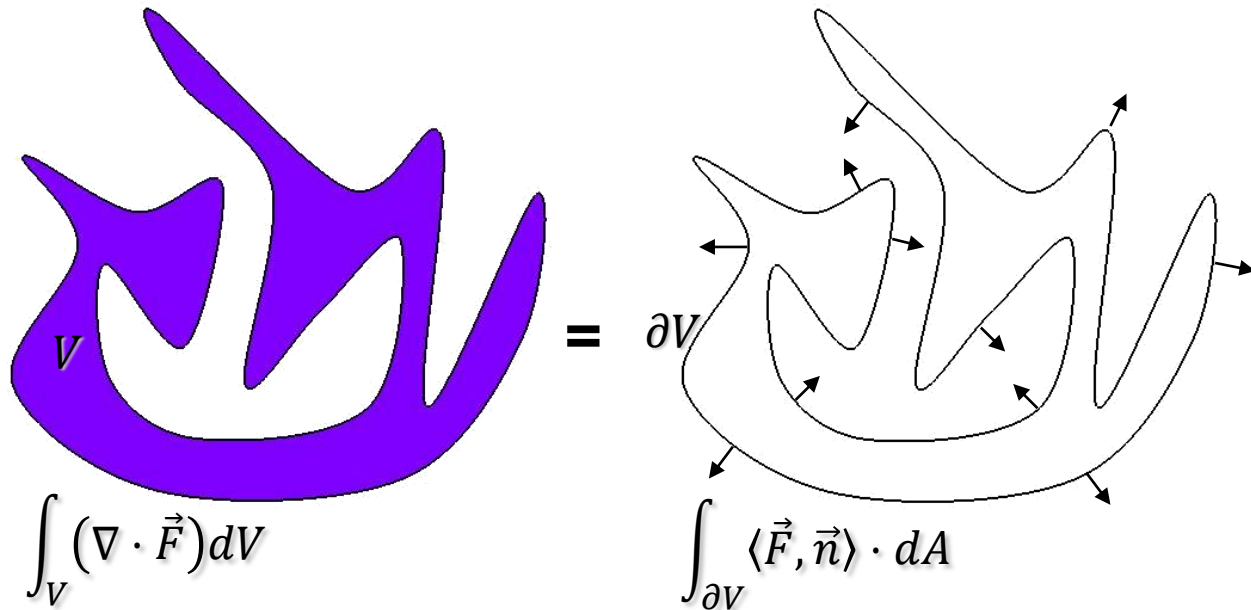
where \vec{n} is the normal at the boundary.



Stokes' Theorem

Stokes' Theorem equates the integral of the divergence of a vector field over a region to the integral of the vector field over the boundary:

$$\int_V (\nabla \cdot \vec{F}) dV = \int_{\partial V} \langle \vec{F}, \vec{n} \rangle \cdot dA$$





Outline

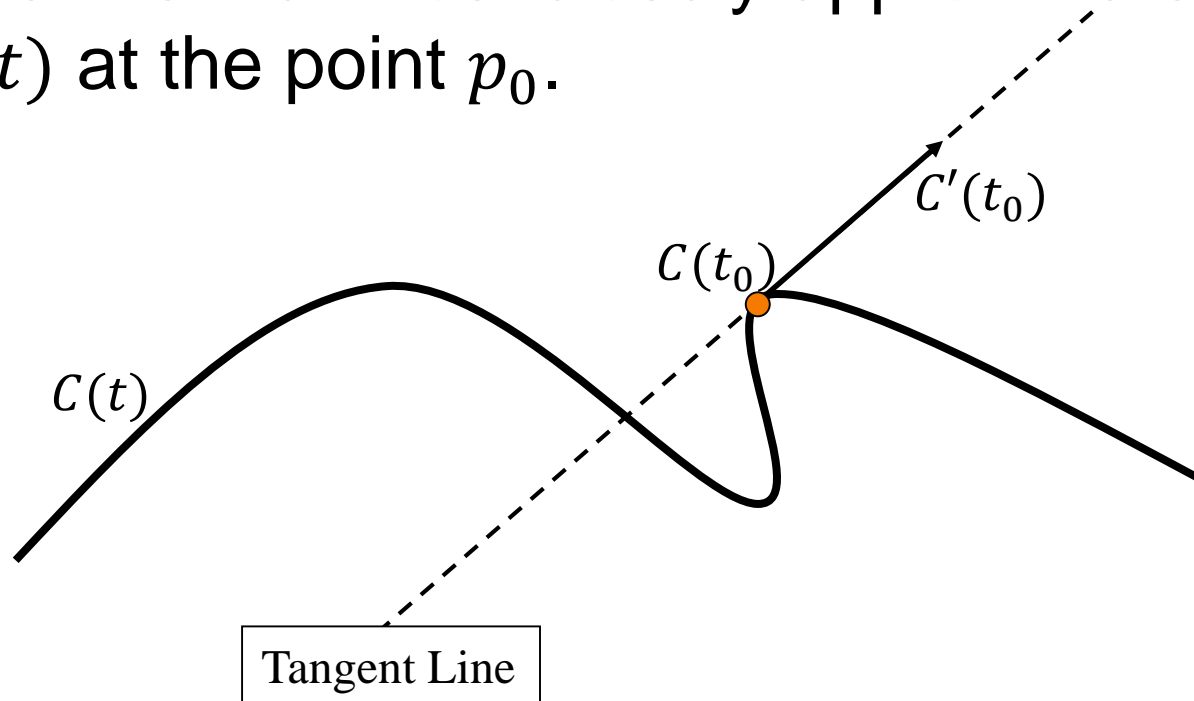
- Stokes' Theorem
- Tangent Spaces
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- Applications



Tangent Spaces

Given a curve $C(t) = (x(t), y(t))$, the tangent line to the curve at a point $p_0 = C(t_0)$ is the line passing through p_0 with direction $C'(t_0) = (x'(t_0), y'(t_0))$.

This is the line that most closely approximates the curve $C(t)$ at the point p_0 .



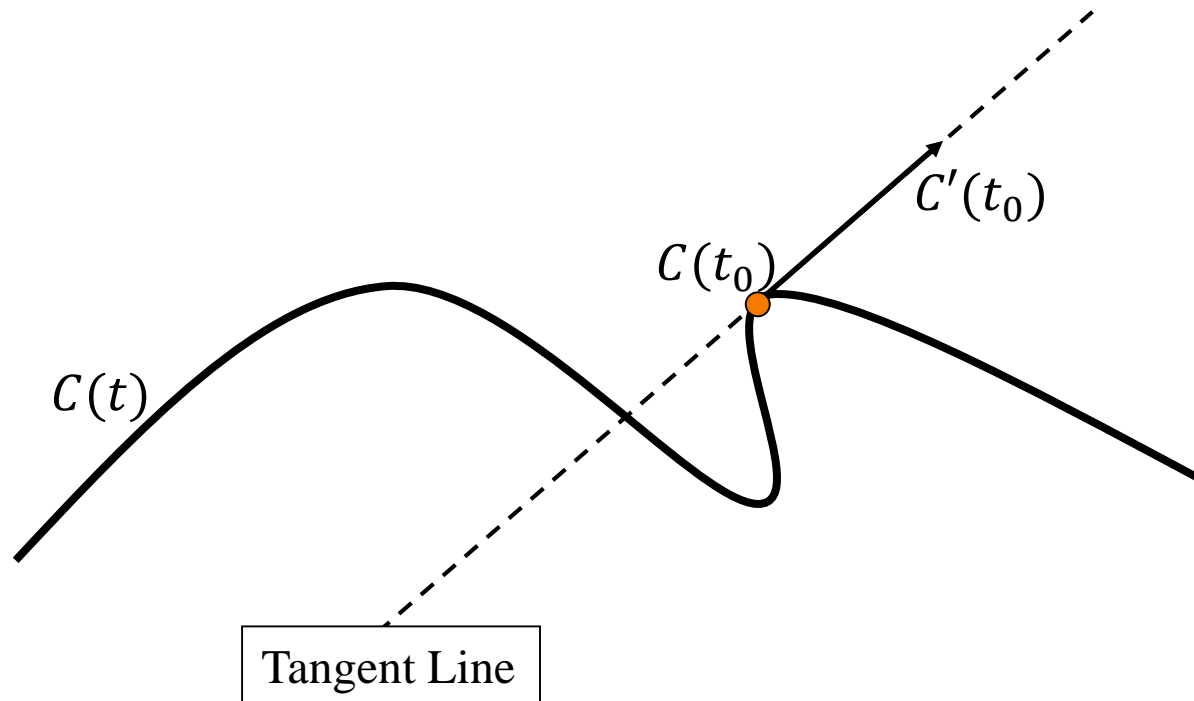


Tangent Spaces

Often, we want a unit vector.

In this case, we need to normalize:

$$T_C(t) = \frac{C'(t)}{|C'(t)|}$$



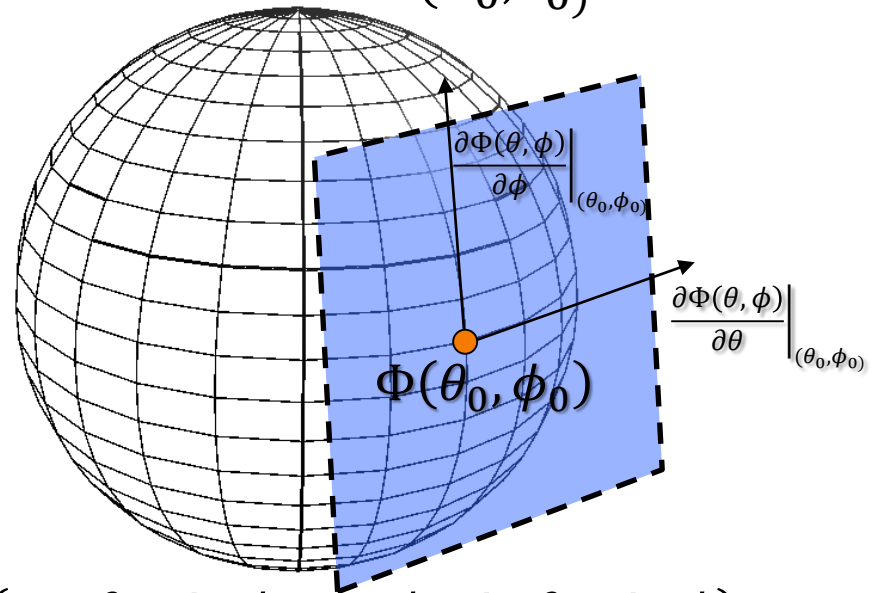


Tangent Spaces

Given a surface $S(u, v)$ the tangent plane to the curve at a point $p_0 = S(u_0, v_0)$ is the plane passing through p_0 , parallel to the plane spanned by:

$$\left. \frac{\partial S(u, v)}{\partial u} \right|_{(u_0, v_0)} \quad \text{and} \quad \left. \frac{\partial S(u, v)}{\partial v} \right|_{(u_0, v_0)}$$

This is the plane that most closely approximates $S(u, v)$ at the point p_0 .



$$\Phi(\theta, \phi) = (\cos \theta \cdot \sin \phi, \cos \phi, \sin \theta \cdot \sin \phi)$$



Tangent Spaces

In the case of the sphere, points are parameterized by the equation:

$$\Phi(\theta, \phi) = (\cos \theta \cdot \sin \phi, \cos \phi, \sin \theta \cdot \sin \phi)$$

and two tangent directions are:

$$\frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial \theta} = (-\sin \theta \cdot \sin \phi, 0, \cos \theta \cdot \sin \phi)$$

$$\frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial \phi} = (\cos \theta \cdot \cos \phi, -\sin \phi, \sin \theta \cdot \cos \phi)$$



Tangent Spaces

$$\frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial \theta} = (-\sin \theta \cdot \sin \phi, 0, \cos \theta \cdot \sin \phi)$$

$$\frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial \phi} = (\cos \theta \cdot \cos \phi, -\sin \phi, \sin \theta \cdot \cos \phi)$$

Taking the dot-product of the tangent vectors gives:

$$\begin{aligned} \left\langle \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial \theta}, \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial \theta} \right\rangle &= \sin^2 \theta \cdot \sin^2 \phi + \cos^2 \theta \cdot \sin^2 \phi \\ &= \sin^2 \phi \cdot (\sin^2 \theta + \cos^2 \theta) \\ &= \sin^2 \phi \end{aligned}$$



Tangent Spaces

$$\frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial \theta} = (-\sin \theta \cdot \sin \phi, 0, \cos \theta \cdot \sin \phi)$$

$$\frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial \phi} = (\cos \theta \cdot \cos \phi, -\sin \phi, \sin \theta \cdot \cos \phi)$$

Taking the dot-product of the tangent vectors gives:

$$\left\langle \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial \theta}, \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial \theta} \right\rangle = \sin^2 \theta$$

$$\begin{aligned} \left\langle \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial \phi}, \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial \phi} \right\rangle &= \cos^2 \theta \cdot \cos^2 \phi + \sin^2 \phi + \sin^2 \theta \cdot \cos^2 \phi \\ &= (\cos^2 \theta + \sin^2 \theta) \cdot \cos^2 \phi + \sin^2 \phi \\ &= \cos^2 \phi + \sin^2 \phi \\ &= 1 \end{aligned}$$



Tangent Spaces

$$\frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial \theta} = (-\sin \theta \cdot \sin \phi, 0, \cos \theta \cdot \sin \phi)$$

$$\frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial \phi} = (\cos \theta \cdot \cos \phi, -\sin \phi, \sin \theta \cdot \cos \phi)$$

Taking the dot-product of the tangent vectors gives:

$$\left\langle \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial \theta}, \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial \theta} \right\rangle = \sin^2 \theta$$

$$\left\langle \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial \phi}, \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial \phi} \right\rangle = 1$$

$$\begin{aligned} \left\langle \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial \theta}, \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial \phi} \right\rangle &= -\sin \theta \cdot \cos \theta \cdot \sin \phi \cdot \cos \phi + \sin \theta \cdot \cos \theta \cdot \sin \phi \cdot \cos \phi \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$



Tangent Spaces

$$\left\langle \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial \theta}, \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial \theta} \right\rangle = \sin^2 \theta$$
$$\left\langle \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial \phi}, \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial \phi} \right\rangle = 1$$
$$\left\langle \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial \theta}, \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial \phi} \right\rangle = 0$$

So, the vectors:

$$\Phi_\theta(\theta, \phi) = \frac{1}{\sin \theta} \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial \theta} \quad \text{and} \quad \Phi_\phi(\theta, \phi) = \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial \phi}$$

form an orthonormal basis for the tangent plane to the sphere at the point $\Phi(\theta, \phi)$.



Outline

- Stokes' Theorem
- Tangent Spaces
- Gradients
- The Spherical Laplacian
- Applications



Function Gradients

The gradient of a function is a vector which tells us how the function changes as we move in different directions.



Function Gradients

The gradient of a function is a vector which tells us how the function changes as we move in different directions.

Given a function f and given a direction v :

$$\left. \frac{d}{dt} \right|_{t=0} f(p + tv) = \langle \nabla f(p), v \rangle$$



Function Gradients

To compute the gradient, we can choose two orthogonal unit vectors u and v , and set:

$$\nabla f(p) = \left. \frac{d}{dt} \right|_{t=0} f(p + tu) \cdot u + \left. \frac{d}{dt} \right|_{t=0} f(p + tv) \cdot v$$



Curve Gradients

Given a curve $C(t)$, and given a function $f(t)$ the gradient of the function is a vector field on the curve telling us how the function changes as we move along the curve.



Curve Gradients

Example:

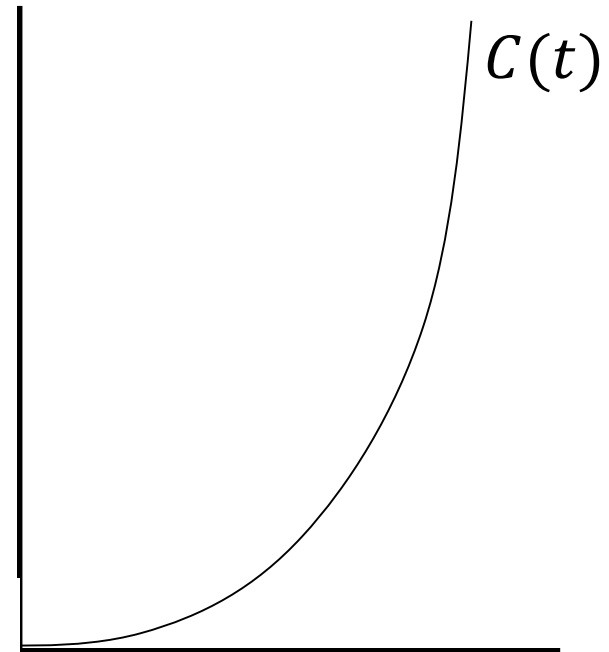
Let C be the curve defined by:

$$C(t) = (t, t^2)$$

and let $f(t)$ be the function on the curve defined by:

$$f(t) = t$$

What is the gradient $\nabla_C f$ of f along the curve?





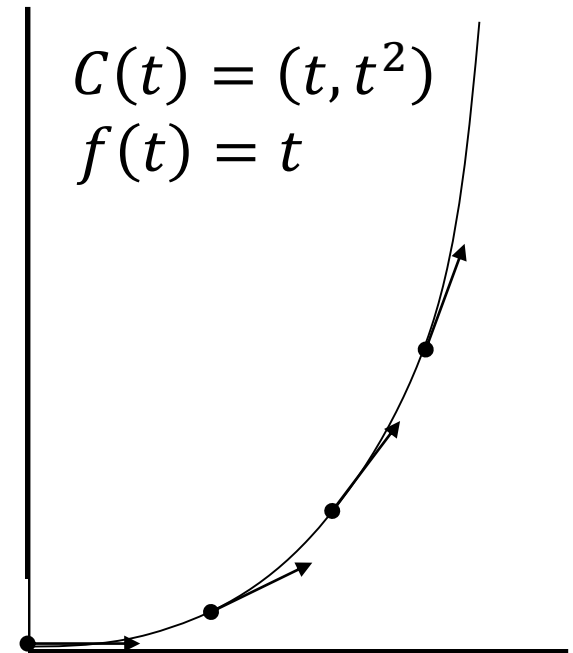
Curve Gradients

Example:

Note that:

$$\nabla_C f \neq 1$$

This would imply that at any point on the curve moving a unit distance forward would change the value by a constant amount.





Curve Gradients

Example:

Note that:

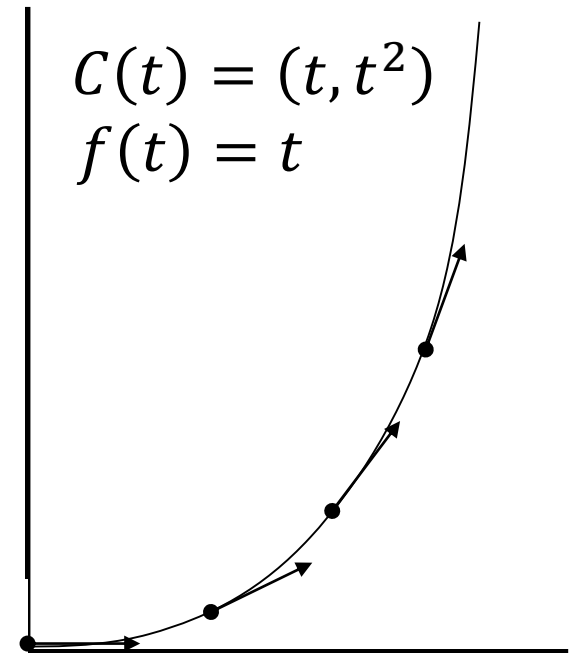
$$\nabla_C f \neq 1$$

As we move from $t = 1$ to $t = 2$, the function changes by a value of 1.

Similarly, as we move from $t = 10$ to $t = 11$, the function changes by a value of 1.

But in the first case, we have moved a distance of:

$$d_1 \approx \|C(2) - C(1)\| = \sqrt{1^2 + 3^2}$$





Curve Gradients

Example:

Note that:

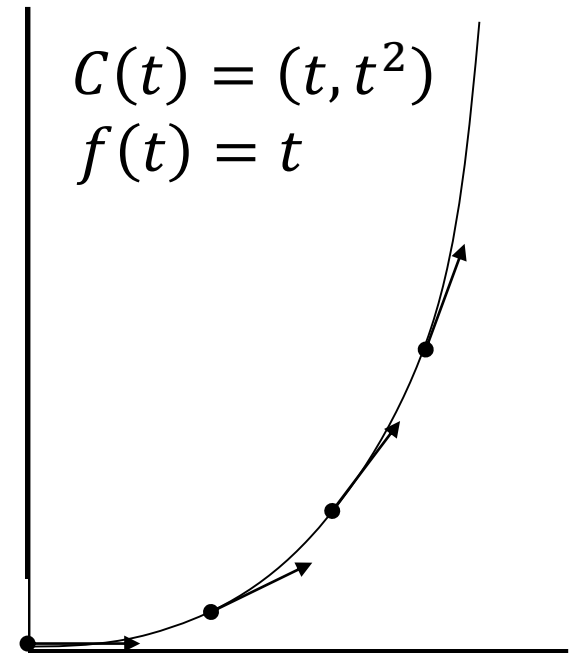
$$\nabla_C f \neq 1$$

As we move from $t = 1$ to $t = 2$, the function changes by a value of 1.

Similarly, as we move from $t = 10$ to $t = 11$, the function changes by a value of 1.

And in the first case, we have moved a distance of:

$$d_2 \approx \|C(10) - C(11)\| = \sqrt{1^2 + 21^2}$$





Curve Gradients

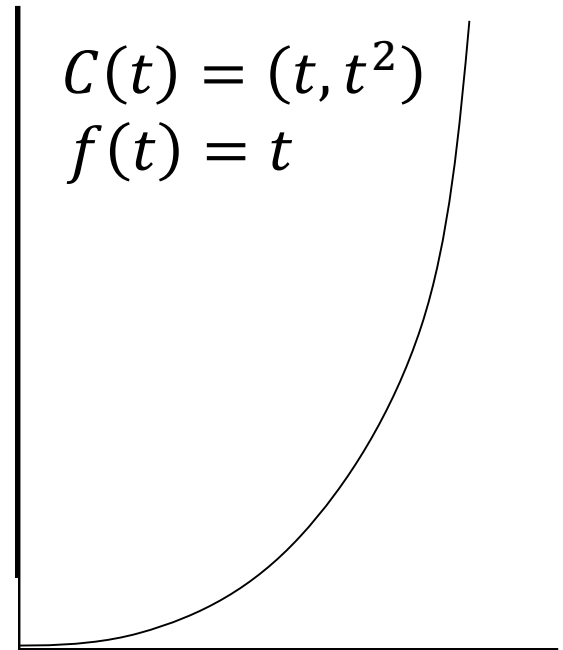
Example:

We need to measure the ratio of the change in f over the distance traveled:

$$\nabla_C f(t) \approx \frac{f(t + \varepsilon) - f(t)}{|C(t + \varepsilon) - C(t)|}$$

\Downarrow

$$\begin{aligned}\nabla_C f(t) &= \frac{f'(t)}{|C'(t)|} \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + 2t}}\end{aligned}$$





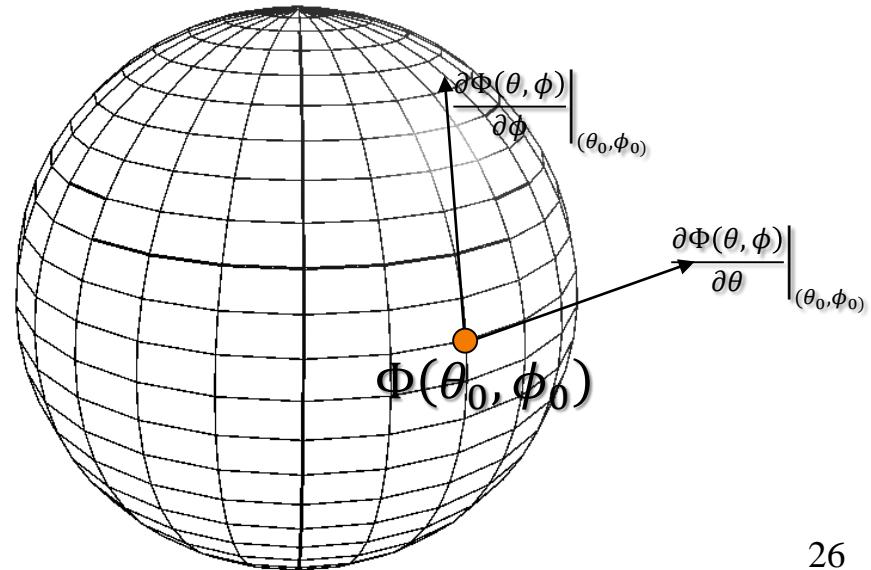
Spherical Gradients

Given a function on the sphere, $f(\theta, \phi)$, we would like to compute the gradient:

$$\nabla f(\theta, \phi)$$

We need to pick two directions in parameter space whose images on the surface of the sphere are orthogonal.

The directions θ and ϕ are two such directions:



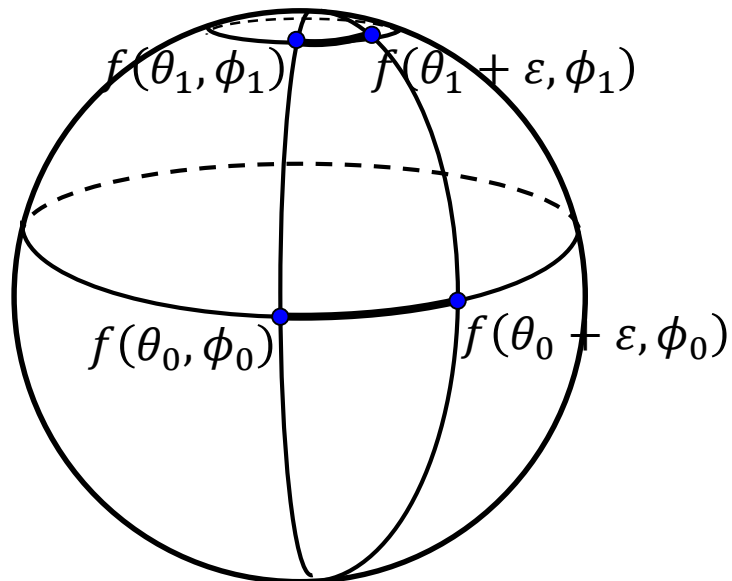


Spherical Gradients

We could try taking the partial derivatives in the θ and ϕ directions:

$$\nabla f(\theta, \phi) = \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial \theta}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial \phi} \right)$$

But this introduces bias!



Shifting by a constant ϵ will move us different distances depending on where we are on the sphere.



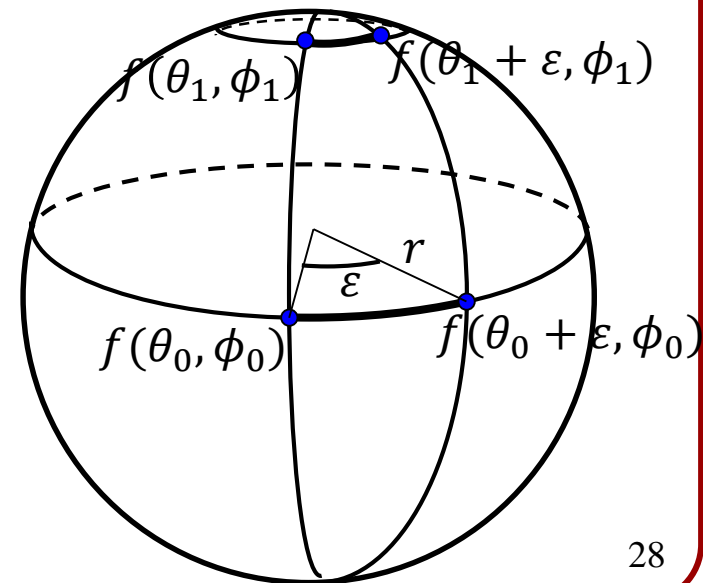
Spherical Gradients

How does the scale change as we change θ or ϕ by a value of ε ?

At the point $p = \Phi(\theta, \phi)$, changing the value of θ by ε , moves us a distance of εr along the circle about the y -axis, where r is the radius of the circle.

On the sphere, the radius is defined by:

$$r(\phi) = \sin \phi$$

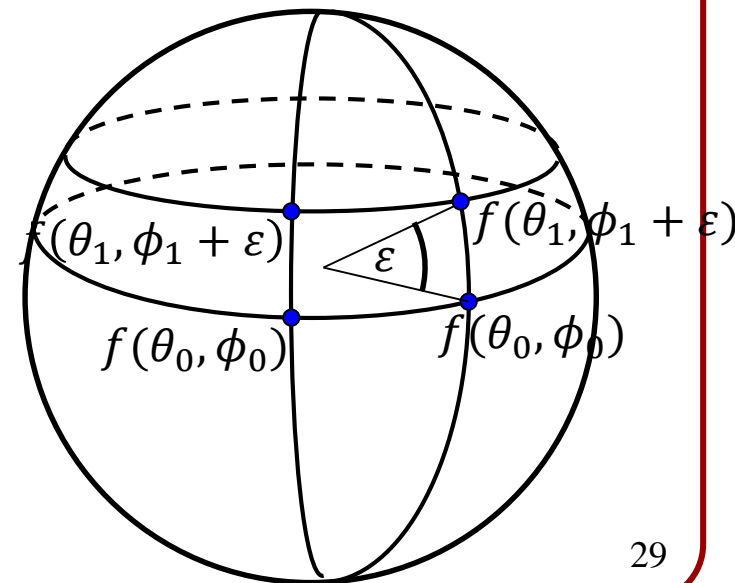




Spherical Gradients

How does the scale change as we change θ or ϕ by a value of ε ?

At the point $p = \Phi(\theta, \phi)$, changing the value of ϕ by ε , moves us a distance of ε along a great circle regardless of where on the sphere we are:



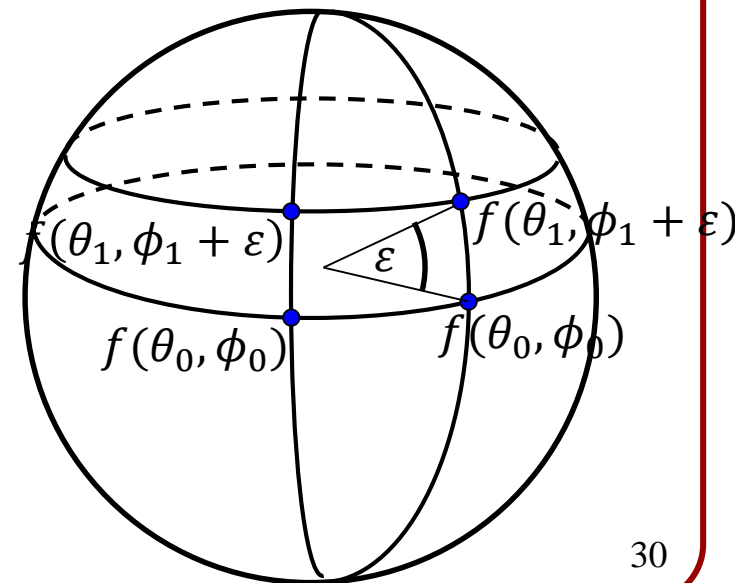
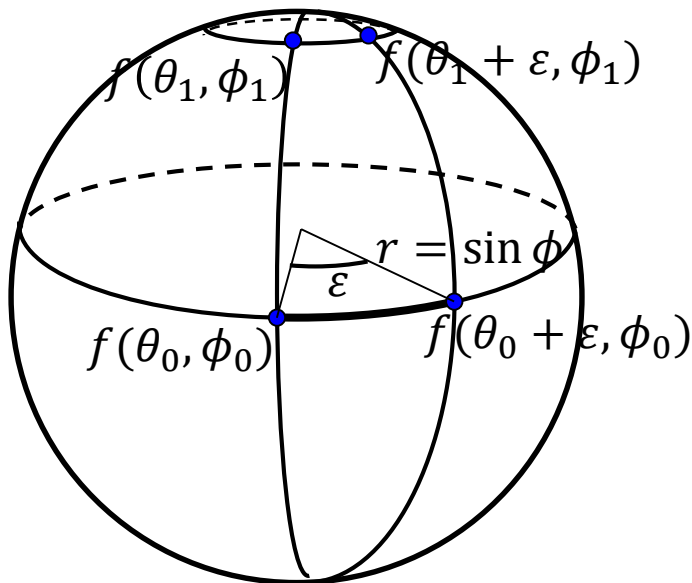


Spherical Gradients

Taking the scaling into account, we get:

$$\nabla f(\theta, \phi) \approx \left(\frac{f(\theta + \varepsilon, \phi) - f(\theta, \phi)}{\varepsilon \sin \phi}, \frac{f(\theta, \phi + \varepsilon) - f(\theta, \phi)}{\varepsilon} \right)$$

$$\Downarrow$$
$$\nabla f(\theta, \phi) = \left(\frac{1}{\sin \phi} \frac{\partial f}{\partial \theta}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial \phi} \right)$$





Outline

- Stokes' Theorem
- Tangent Spaces
- Gradients
- **The Spherical Laplacian**
- Applications



The Spherical Laplacian

Recall:

The Laplacian operator is self-adjoint (symmetric)

\Rightarrow There is an orthogonal basis of eigenvectors.

The Laplacian operator commutes with rotations

\Rightarrow If F_λ are the eigenfunctions of the Laplacian with eigenvalue λ , rotations fix F_λ .

\Rightarrow The irreducible representations are subspaces of the F_λ .



The Spherical Laplacian

All this implies that for a fixed degree l , the spherical harmonics of degree l :

$$Y_l^m(\theta, \phi) = e^{im\theta} \cdot P_l^m(\cos \phi)$$

(with $|m| \leq l$) must be eigenvectors of the Laplacian with the same eigenvalue.

1. What is the Laplacian?
2. What are the eigenvalues?



The Spherical Laplacian

How do we compute the Laplacian of a spherical function $f(\theta, \phi)$?

Recall:

The Laplacian of a function is the divergence of its gradient:

$$\Delta f = \nabla \cdot (\nabla f)$$



The Spherical Laplacian

By Stokes' Theorem, we can compute the integral of the Laplacian (the divergence of the gradient) over a region by computing the surface integral of the gradient field over the boundary.

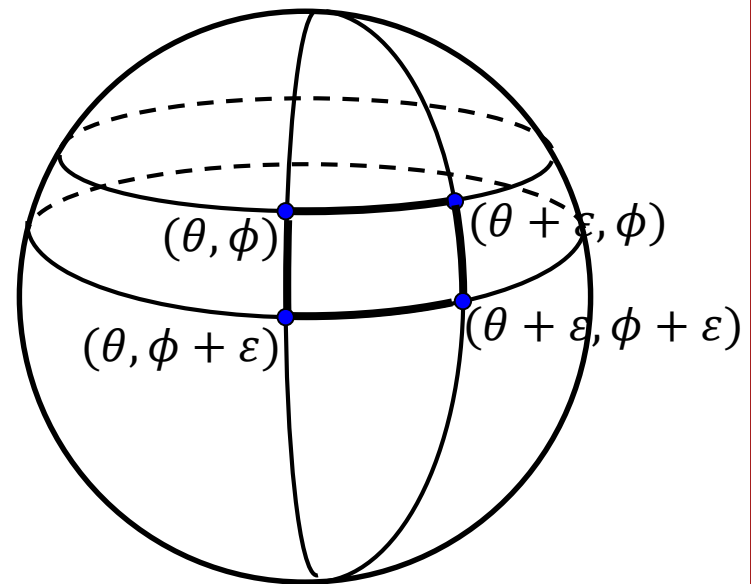


The Spherical Laplacian

Consider the “square” on the sphere with vertices (θ, ϕ) , $(\theta + \varepsilon, \phi)$, $(\theta + \varepsilon, \phi + \varepsilon)$, and $(\theta, \phi + \varepsilon)$.

The integral of the Laplacian is approximately:

$$\begin{aligned}\int_R \Delta f \, dR &\approx \text{Area}(R) \cdot \Delta f(\theta, \phi) \\ &= \varepsilon^2 \cdot \sin \phi \cdot \Delta f(\theta, \phi)\end{aligned}$$

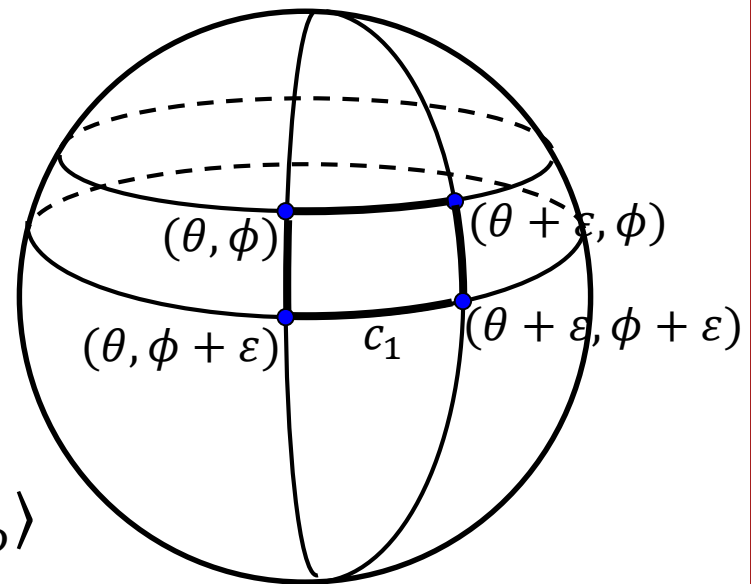




The Spherical Laplacian

Consider the “square” on the sphere with vertices (θ, ϕ) , $(\theta + \varepsilon, \phi)$, $(\theta + \varepsilon, \phi + \varepsilon)$, and $(\theta, \phi + \varepsilon)$.

On the curve c_1 the boundary integral of the Laplacian is approximately:



$$\int_{c_1} \langle \nabla f, \vec{n} \rangle \cdot dA \approx \text{Length}(c_1) \cdot \langle \nabla f, \Phi_\phi \rangle$$

$$= \varepsilon \cdot \sin(\phi + \varepsilon) \cdot \left\langle \left(\frac{1}{\sin(\phi + \varepsilon)} \frac{\partial f}{\partial \theta}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial \phi} \right), (0, 1) \right\rangle$$

$$= \varepsilon \cdot \sin(\phi + \varepsilon) \cdot \frac{\partial f}{\partial \phi}(\theta, \phi + \varepsilon)$$

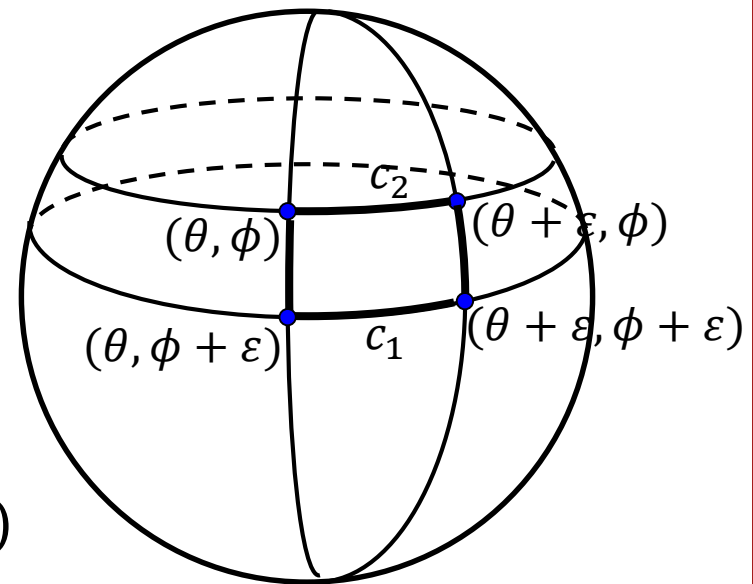


The Spherical Laplacian

Consider the “square” on the sphere with vertices (θ, ϕ) , $(\theta + \varepsilon, \phi)$, $(\theta + \varepsilon, \phi + \varepsilon)$, and $(\theta, \phi + \varepsilon)$.

On the curve c_2 the boundary integral of the Laplacian is approximately:

$$\int_{c_2} \langle \nabla f, \vec{n} \rangle \cdot dA \approx -\varepsilon \cdot \sin \phi \cdot \frac{\partial f}{\partial \phi}(\theta, \phi)$$





The Spherical Laplacian

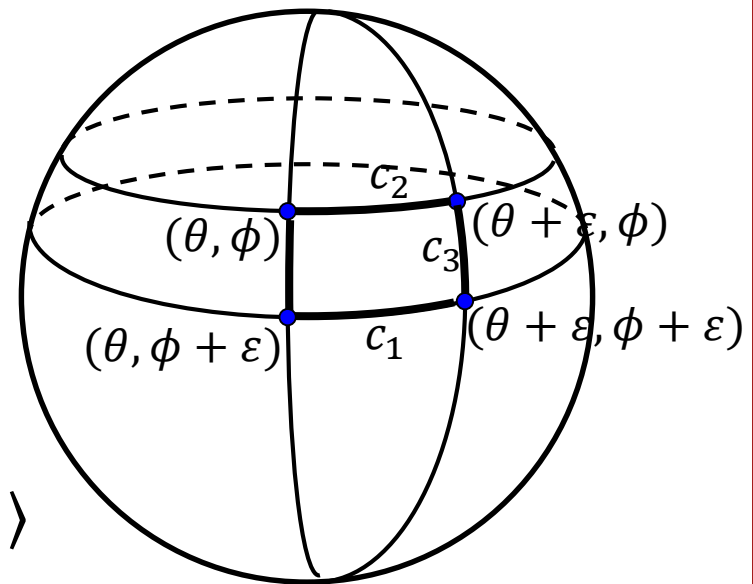
Consider the “square” on the sphere with vertices (θ, ϕ) , $(\theta + \varepsilon, \phi)$, $(\theta + \varepsilon, \phi + \varepsilon)$, and $(\theta, \phi + \varepsilon)$.

On the curve c_3 the boundary integral of the Laplacian is approximately:

$$\int_{c_3} \langle \nabla f, \vec{n} \rangle \cdot dA \approx \text{Length}(c_3) \cdot \langle \nabla f, \Phi_\theta \rangle$$

$$= \varepsilon \left\langle \left(\frac{1}{\sin \phi} \frac{\partial f}{\partial \theta}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial \phi} \right), (1, 0) \right\rangle$$

$$= \varepsilon \frac{1}{\sin \phi} \frac{\partial f}{\partial \theta} (\theta + \varepsilon, \phi)$$



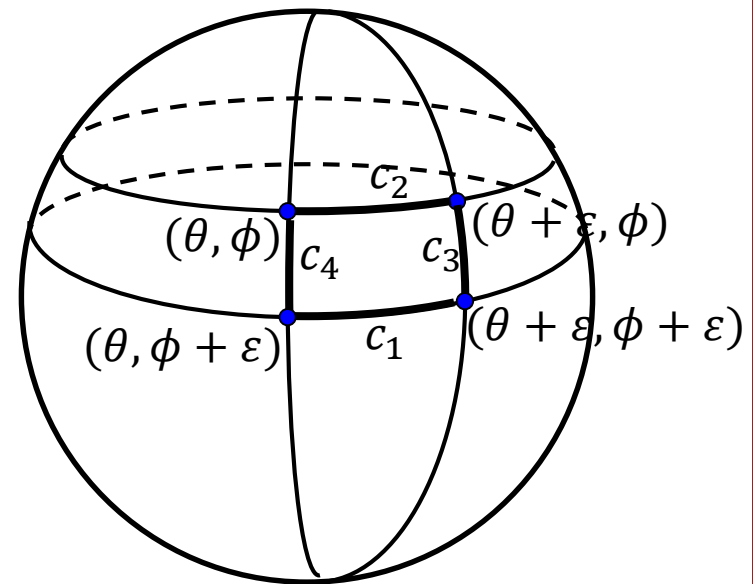


The Spherical Laplacian

Consider the “square” on the sphere with vertices (θ, ϕ) , $(\theta + \varepsilon, \phi)$, $(\theta + \varepsilon, \phi + \varepsilon)$, and $(\theta, \phi + \varepsilon)$.

On the curve c_4 the boundary integral of the Laplacian is approximately:

$$\int_{c_4} \langle \nabla f, \vec{n} \rangle \cdot dA \approx -\varepsilon \frac{1}{\sin \phi} \frac{\partial f}{\partial \theta} (\theta, \phi)$$

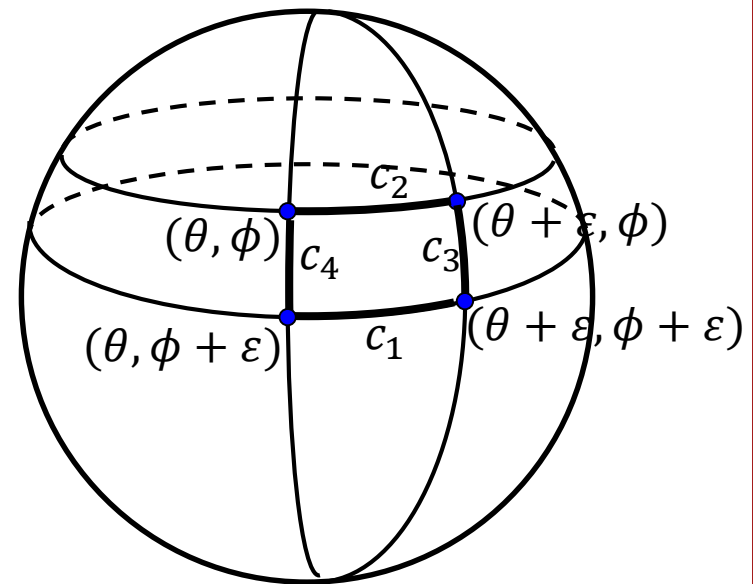




The Spherical Laplacian

Consider the “square” on the sphere with vertices (θ, ϕ) , $(\theta + \varepsilon, \phi)$, $(\theta + \varepsilon, \phi + \varepsilon)$, and $(\theta, \phi + \varepsilon)$.

Summing these together, we can approximate the boundary integral by:



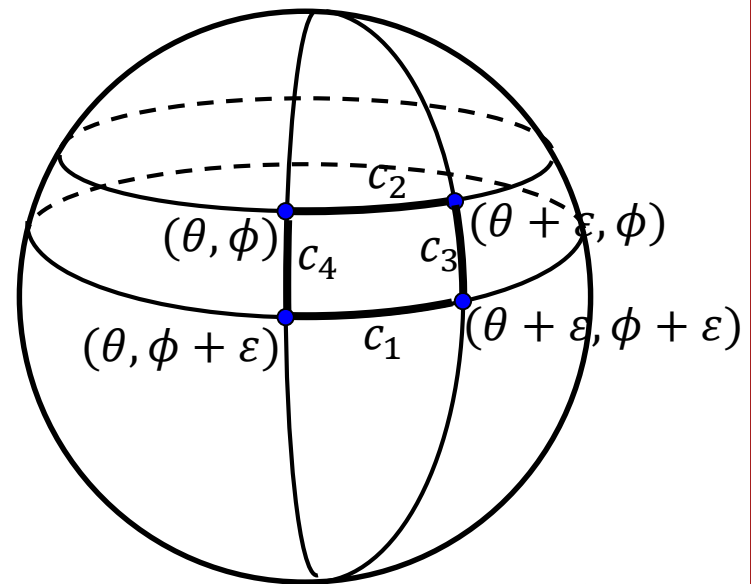
$$\int_{\partial R} \langle \nabla f, \vec{n} \rangle \cdot dA \approx \varepsilon \left(\frac{1}{\sin \phi} \left[\frac{\partial f}{\partial \theta}(\theta + \varepsilon, \phi) - \frac{\partial f}{\partial \theta}(\theta, \phi) \right] \right) + \varepsilon \left(\sin(\phi + \varepsilon) \frac{\partial f}{\partial \phi}(\theta, \phi + \varepsilon) - \sin \phi \frac{\partial f}{\partial \phi}(\theta, \phi) \right)$$



The Spherical Laplacian

Consider the “square” on the sphere with vertices (θ, ϕ) , $(\theta + \varepsilon, \phi)$, $(\theta + \varepsilon, \phi + \varepsilon)$, and $(\theta, \phi + \varepsilon)$.

Summing these together, we can approximate the boundary integral by:



$$\int_{\partial R} \langle \nabla f, \vec{n} \rangle \cdot dA \approx \varepsilon \left(\frac{1}{\sin \phi} \varepsilon \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \left[\frac{\partial f}{\partial \theta} (\theta, \phi) \right] \right) + \varepsilon \left(\varepsilon \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} \left[\sin \phi \frac{\partial f}{\partial \phi} (\theta, \phi) \right] \right)$$

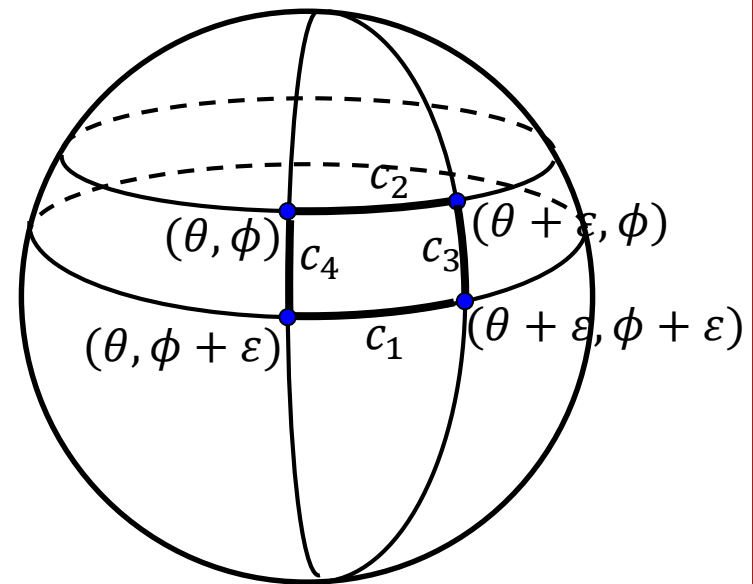


The Spherical Laplacian

Consider the “square” on the sphere with vertices (θ, ϕ) , $(\theta + \varepsilon, \phi)$, $(\theta + \varepsilon, \phi + \varepsilon)$, and $(\theta, \phi + \varepsilon)$.

Summing these together, we can approximate the boundary integral by:

$$\int_{\partial R} \langle \nabla f, \vec{n} \rangle \cdot dA \approx \varepsilon^2 \left(\frac{1}{\sin \phi} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \left[\frac{\partial f}{\partial \theta} \right] \right) + \varepsilon^2 \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} \left[\sin \phi \frac{\partial f}{\partial \phi} \right] \right)$$





The Spherical Laplacian

Using the fact that the boundary integral can be approximated by:

$$\int_{\partial R} \langle \nabla f, \vec{n} \rangle \cdot dA \approx \varepsilon^2 \left(\frac{1}{\sin \phi} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \left[\frac{\partial f}{\partial \theta} \right] \right) + \varepsilon^2 \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} \left[\sin \phi \frac{\partial f}{\partial \phi} \right] \right)$$

and the surface integral can be approximated by:

$$\int_R \Delta f \, dR \approx \varepsilon^2 \cdot \sin \phi \cdot \Delta f(\theta, \phi)$$

We can apply Stokes' Theorem to get:

$$\Delta f = \frac{1}{\sin^2 \phi} \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial \theta^2} + \frac{1}{\sin \phi} \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} \left[\sin \phi \frac{\partial f}{\partial \phi} \right]$$



The Spherical Laplacian

$$\Delta f = \frac{1}{\sin^2 \phi} \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial \theta^2} + \frac{1}{\sin \phi} \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} \left[\sin \phi \frac{\partial f}{\partial \phi} \right]$$

To compute the eigenvalues of the Laplacian associated to the spherical harmonics, we need to compute:

$$\Delta Y_l^m(\theta, \phi) = \Delta \left(e^{ik\theta} \cdot P_l^m(\cos \phi) \right)$$



The Spherical Laplacian

$$\Delta f = \frac{1}{\sin^2 \phi} \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial \theta^2} + \frac{1}{\sin \phi} \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} \left[\sin \phi \frac{\partial f}{\partial \phi} \right]$$

Taking the derivative with respect to θ is easy:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{\sin^2 \phi} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \theta^2} Y_l^m(\theta, \phi) &= \frac{1}{\sin^2 \phi} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \theta^2} \left(e^{im\theta} \cdot P_l^m(\cos \phi) \right) \\ &= -\frac{m^2}{\sin^2 \phi} e^{im\theta} \cdot P_l^m(\cos \phi) \\ &= -\frac{m^2}{\sin^2 \phi} Y_l^m(\theta, \phi) \end{aligned}$$



The Spherical Laplacian

$$\Delta f = \frac{1}{\sin^2 \phi} \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial \theta^2} + \frac{1}{\sin \phi} \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} \left[\sin \phi \frac{\partial f}{\partial \phi} \right]$$

Taking the derivative with respect to ϕ is more complicated:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{\sin \phi} \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} \left[\sin \phi \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} Y_l^m(\theta, \phi) \right] &= \frac{1}{\sin \phi} \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} \left[\sin \phi \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} \left(e^{im\theta} \cdot P_l^m(\theta, \phi) \right) \right] \\ &= \frac{e^{im\theta}}{\sin \phi} \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} \left[\sin \phi \frac{\partial P_l^m}{\partial \phi}(\cos \phi) \right] \end{aligned}$$

This requires taking the derivatives of the associated Legendre polynomials.

Associated Legendre Polynomials



Recall:

The associated Legendre polynomials are defined by the (somewhat hairy) formula:

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

Associated Legendre Polynomials



One can show, (but we won't) that the associated Legendre polynomials satisfy the identities:

$$\frac{dP_l^m(\cos \phi)}{d\phi} = \frac{l \cdot \cos \phi \cdot P_l^m(\cos \phi) - (l + m) \cdot P_{l-1}^m(\cos \phi)}{\sin \phi}$$

$$\begin{aligned} 0 = & (l - m) \cdot P_l^m(\cos \phi) \\ & - \cos \phi \cdot (2l - 1) \cdot P_{l-1}^m(\cos \phi) \\ & + (l + m - 1) \cdot P_{l-2}^m(\cos \phi) \end{aligned}$$



The Spherical Laplacian

Plugging these identities into the equation for the Laplacian, we get (see appendix):

$$\frac{1}{\sin \phi} \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} \left[\sin \phi \frac{\partial Y_l^m}{\partial \phi} \right] = (-l^2 - l) \cdot Y_l^m + m^2 \cdot \frac{Y_l^m}{\sin^2 \phi}$$

\Downarrow

$$\frac{1}{\sin^2 \phi} \frac{\partial^2 Y_l^m}{\partial \theta^2} + \frac{1}{\sin \phi} \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} \left[\sin \phi \frac{\partial Y_l^m}{\partial \phi} \right] = -l(l+1)Y_l^m$$

\Downarrow

$$\Delta Y_l^m(\theta, \phi) = -l(l+1)Y_l^m(\theta, \phi)$$



Outline

- Stokes' Theorem
- Tangent Spaces
- Gradients
- The Spherical Laplacian
- Applications



Smoothing

In the case of a functions on a plane, we had Newton's Law of Cooling:

"The rate of heat loss of a body is proportional to the difference in temperatures between the body and its surroundings."



Smoothing

In the case of a functions on a plane, we had Newton's Law of Cooling:

"The rate of heat loss of a body is proportional to the difference in temperatures between the body and its surroundings."

This can be expresses as a PDE:

$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial t} = \eta \cdot \Delta F$$



Smoothing

Using the fact that the spherical harmonics are eigenvectors of the Laplacian, we get solutions of the form:

$$F_l^m(\theta, \phi, t) = e^{-\lambda \cdot l(l+1)t} \cdot Y_l^m(\theta, \phi)$$

Since the linear sum of solutions is also a solution, solutions to the PDE will have the form:

$$F(\theta, \phi, t) = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-l}^l a_l^m \cdot e^{-\lambda \cdot l(l+1)t} \cdot Y_l^m(\theta, \phi)$$

and we have freedom in choosing the linear coefficients.



Smoothing

To satisfy the initial condition:

$$F(\theta, \phi, 0) = f(\theta, \phi)$$

we need to compute the spherical harmonic decomposition of f :

$$f(\theta, \phi) = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-l}^l \hat{f}(l, m) \cdot Y_l^m(\theta, \phi)$$

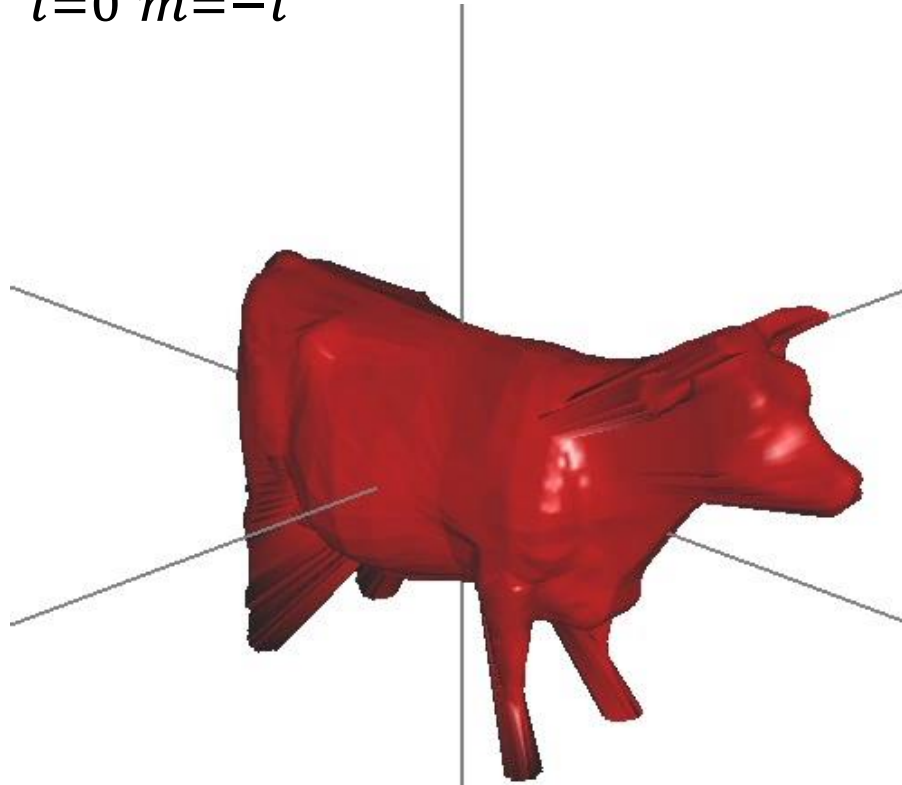
Then we set the solution to be:

$$F(\theta, \phi, t) = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-l}^l \hat{f}(l, m) \cdot e^{-\lambda \cdot l(l+1)t} \cdot Y_l^m(\theta, \phi)$$



Smoothing

$$F(\theta, \phi, t) = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-l}^l \hat{f}(l, m) \cdot e^{-\lambda \cdot l(l+1)t} \cdot Y_l^m(\theta, \phi)$$



Cooling Cow



The Spherical Wave Equation

We can repeat the same type of argument for the wave equation, where the acceleration is proportional to the difference in values:

$$\frac{\partial^2 F}{\partial t^2} = \eta \cdot \Delta F$$



The Spherical Wave Equation

Again, using the fact that the spherical harmonics Y_l^m are eigenvectors of the Laplacian with eigenvalues $l(l + 1)$ we get solutions of the form:

$$F_l^{m+}(\theta, \phi, t) = e^{i\sqrt{\eta \cdot l(l+1)}t} \cdot Y_l^m(\theta, \phi)$$

$$F_l^{m-}(\theta, \phi, t) = e^{-i\sqrt{\eta \cdot l(l+1)}t} \cdot Y_l^m(\theta, \phi)$$



The Spherical Wave Equation

Thus, given the initial conditions:

$$F(\theta, \phi, 0) = f(\theta, \phi)$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} F(\theta, \phi, 0) = 0$$

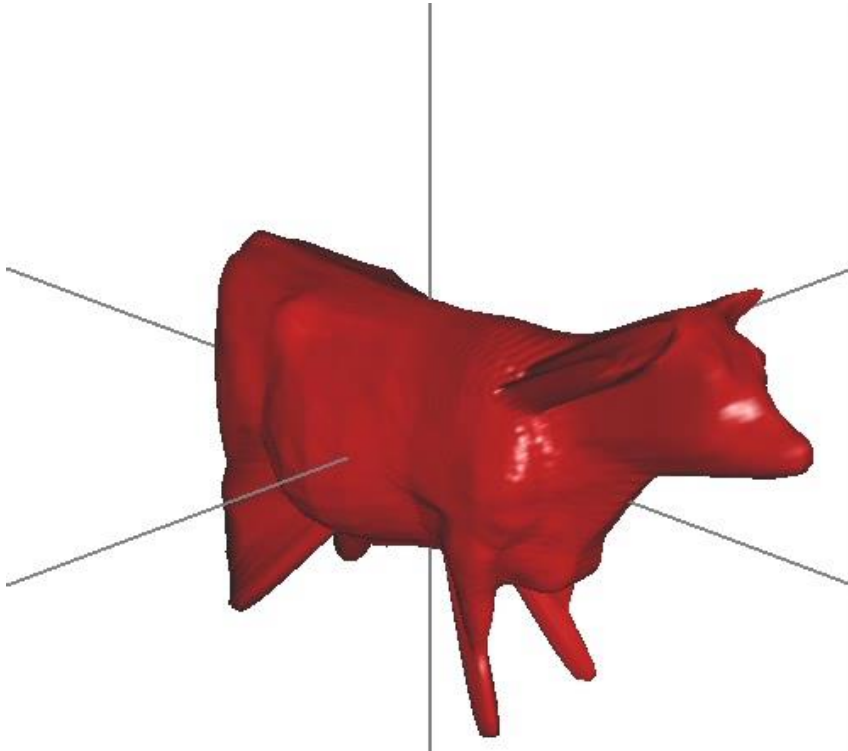
we get the solution:

$$F(\theta, \phi, t) = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-l}^l \hat{f}(k, l) \cdot \cos\left(\sqrt{\eta \cdot l(l+1)}t\right) Y_l^m(\theta, \phi)$$

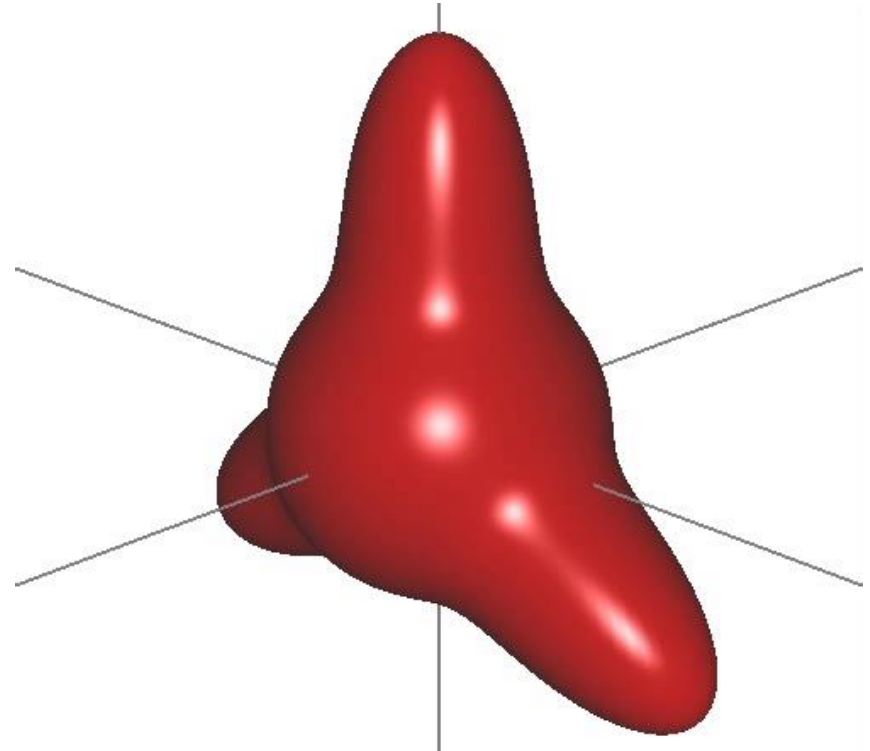


The Spherical Wave Equation

$$F(\theta, \phi, t) = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-l}^l \hat{f}(k, l) \cdot \cos\left(\sqrt{\eta \cdot l(l+1)}t\right) Y_l^m(\theta, \phi)$$



Waving Cow



Waving Gaussians



Appendix



$$\begin{aligned}\frac{1}{\sin \phi} \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} \left[\sin \phi \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} Y_l^m(\theta, \phi) \right] &= e^{im\theta} \frac{1}{\sin \phi} \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} \left[\sin \phi \frac{\partial P_l^m}{\partial \phi}(\cos \phi) \right] \\ &= e^{im\theta} \left(\frac{\cos \phi}{\sin \phi} \frac{\partial P_l^m(\cos \phi)}{\partial \phi} + \frac{\partial^2 P_l^m(\cos \phi)}{\partial \phi^2} \right)\end{aligned}$$

Appendix



$$\frac{dP_l^m(\cos \phi)}{d\phi} = \frac{l \cdot \cos \phi \cdot P_l^m(\cos \phi) - (l + m)P_{l-1}^m(\cos \phi)}{\sin \phi}$$

$$0 = (l - m) \cdot P_l^m(\cos \phi) - \cos \phi \cdot (2l - 1) \cdot P_{l-1}^m(\cos \phi) + (l + m - 1) \cdot P_{l-2}^m(\cos \phi)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \left(\frac{\cos \phi}{\sin \phi} \frac{\partial P_l^m(\cos \phi)}{\partial \phi} + \frac{\partial^2 P_l^m(\cos \phi)}{\partial \phi^2} \right) &= \frac{\cos \phi}{\sin \phi} \frac{l \cdot \cos \phi \cdot P_l^m(\cos \phi) - (l + m) \cdot P_{l-1}^m(\cos \phi)}{\sin \phi} + \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} \left(\frac{l \cdot \cos \phi \cdot P_l^m(\cos \phi) - (l + m) \cdot P_{l-1}^m(\cos \phi)}{\sin \phi} \right) \\ &= \frac{\cos \phi}{\sin^2 \phi} (l \cdot \cos \phi \cdot P_l^m(\cos \phi) - (l + m) \cdot P_{l-1}^m(\cos \phi)) \\ &\quad - \frac{\cos \phi}{\sin^2 \phi} (l \cdot \cos \phi \cdot P_l^m(\cos \phi) - (l + m) \cdot P_{l-1}^m(\cos \phi)) \\ &\quad + \left(\frac{-l \cdot \sin \phi \cdot P_l^m(\cos \phi) + l \cdot \cos \phi \frac{\partial P_l^m(\cos \phi)}{\partial \phi} - (l + m) \frac{\partial P_{l-1}^m(\cos \phi)}{\partial \phi}}{\sin \phi} \right) \\ &= \frac{-l \cdot \sin \phi \cdot P_l^m(\cos \phi) + l \cdot \cos \phi \frac{\partial P_l^m(\cos \phi)}{\partial \phi} - (l + m) \frac{\partial P_{l-1}^m(\cos \phi)}{\partial \phi}}{\sin \phi} \end{aligned}$$

Appendix



$$\frac{dP_l^m(\cos \phi)}{d\phi} = \frac{l \cdot \cos \phi \cdot P_l^m(\cos \phi) - (l + m)P_{l-1}^m(\cos \phi)}{\sin \phi}$$

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$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{-l \cdot \sin \phi \cdot P_l^m(\cos \phi) + l \cdot \cos \phi \frac{\partial P_l^m(\cos \phi)}{\partial \phi} - (l + m) \frac{\partial P_{l-1}^m(\cos \phi)}{\partial \phi}}{\sin \phi} \\ &= -l \cdot P_l^m(\cos \phi) + l \cdot \frac{\cos \phi}{\sin \phi} \frac{l \cdot \cos \phi \cdot P_l^m(\cos \phi) - (l + m)P_{l-1}^m(\cos \phi)}{\sin \phi} - (l + m) \frac{1}{\sin \phi} \frac{(l - 1) \cdot \cos \phi \cdot P_{l-1}^m(\cos \phi) - (l - 1 + m) \cdot P_{l-2}^m(\cos \phi)}{\sin \phi} \\ &= \frac{-l \cdot \sin^2 \phi \cdot P_l^m(\cos \phi) + l^2 \cdot \cos^2 \phi \cdot P_l^m(\cos \phi) - l \cdot (l + m) \cdot \cos \phi \cdot P_{l-1}^m(\cos \phi) - (l + m)(l - 1) \cdot \cos \phi \cdot P_{l-1}^m(\cos \phi) + (l + m)(l - 1 + m) \cdot P_{l-2}^m(\cos \phi)}{\sin^2 \phi} \\ &= \frac{(-l \cdot \sin^2 \phi + l^2 \cdot \cos^2 \phi) \cdot P_l^m(\cos \phi) - (l + m)(2l - 1) \cdot \cos \phi \cdot P_{l-1}^m(\cos \phi) + (l + m)(l - 1 + m) \cdot P_{l-2}^m(\cos \phi)}{\sin^2 \phi} \end{aligned}$$

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$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{(-l \cdot \sin^2 \phi + l^2 \cdot \cos^2 \phi) \cdot P_l^m(\cos \phi) - (l + m)(2l - 1) \cdot \cos \phi \cdot P_{l-1}^m(\cos \phi) + (l + m)(l - 1 + m) \cdot P_{l-2}^m(\cos \phi)}{\sin^2 \phi} \\ &= \frac{((-l^2 - l) \cdot \sin^2 \phi + l^2) \cdot P_l^m(\cos \phi) - (l + m)(2l - 1) \cdot \cos \phi \cdot P_{l-1}^m(\cos \phi) + (l + m)(l - 1 + m) \cdot P_{l-2}^m(\cos \phi)}{\sin^2 \phi} \\ &= (-l^2 - l) \cdot P_l^m(\cos \phi) + \frac{l^2 \cdot P_l^m(\cos \phi) - (l + m)(2l - 1) \cdot \cos \phi \cdot P_{l-1}^m(\cos \phi) + (l + m)(l - 1 + m) \cdot P_{l-2}^m(\cos \phi)}{\sin^2 \phi} \end{aligned}$$

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$$\begin{aligned} & (-l^2 - l) \cdot P_l^m(\cos \phi) + \frac{l^2 \cdot P_l^m(\cos \phi) - (l + m)(2l - 1) \cdot \cos \phi \cdot P_{l-1}^m(\cos \phi) + (l + m)(l - 1 + m) \cdot P_{l-2}^m(\cos \phi)}{\sin^2 \phi} \\ &= (-l^2 - l) \cdot P_l^m(\cos \phi) + \frac{m^2 \cdot P_l^m(\cos \phi) + (l - m)(l + m) \cdot P_l^m(\cos \phi) - (l + m)(2l - 1) \cdot \cos \phi \cdot P_{l-1}^m(\cos \phi) + (l + m)(l - 1 + m) \cdot P_{l-2}^m(\cos \phi)}{\sin^2 \phi} \\ &= (-l^2 - l) \cdot P_l^m(\cos \phi) + m^2 \cdot \frac{P_l^m(\cos \phi)}{\sin^2 \phi} + \frac{l + m}{\sin^2 \phi} \frac{(l - m) \cdot P_l^m(\cos \phi) - (2l - 1) \cdot \cos \phi \cdot P_{l-1}^m(\cos \phi) + (l - 1 + m) \cdot P_{l-2}^m(\cos \phi)}{\sin^2 \phi} \\ &= (-l^2 - l) \cdot P_l^m(\cos \phi) + m^2 \cdot \frac{P_l^m(\cos \phi)}{\sin^2 \phi} \end{aligned}$$