



FFTs in Graphics and Vision

Spherical Harmonics
and
Legendre Polynomials



Outline

Math Stuff

Gram-Schmidt Orthogonalization

Height Functions

Completing Homogenous Polynomials

Review

Defining the Harmonics



Gram–Schmidt Orthogonalization

Given an inner product space V , and given a basis $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$ we can define an orthonormal basis $\{w_1, \dots, w_n\}$ for V :

$$\langle w_i, w_j \rangle = \delta_{ij}$$



Gram–Schmidt Orthogonalization

Given an inner product space V , and given a basis $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$ we can define an orthonormal basis $\{w_1, \dots, w_n\}$ for V :

$$\langle w_i, w_j \rangle = \delta_{ij}$$

Algorithm:

Start by making v_1 a unit vector:

$$w_1 = \frac{v_1}{\|v_1\|}$$



Gram–Schmidt Orthogonalization

Given an inner product space V , and given a basis $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$ we can define an orthonormal basis $\{w_1, \dots, w_n\}$ for V :

$$\langle w_i, w_j \rangle = \delta_{ij}$$

Algorithm:

To get the 2nd basis element, subtract off from v_2 the w_1 component and then normalize:

$$w_2 = \frac{v_2 - \langle v_2, w_1 \rangle w_1}{\|v_2 - \langle v_2, w_1 \rangle w_1\|}$$



Gram–Schmidt Orthogonalization

Given an inner product space V , and given a basis $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$ we can define an orthonormal basis $\{w_1, \dots, w_n\}$ for V :

$$\langle w_i, w_j \rangle = \delta_{ij}$$

Algorithm:

To get the i -th basis element, subtract off all the earlier components from v_i and then normalize:

$$w_i = \frac{v_i - \langle v_i, w_{i-1} \rangle w_{i-1} - \dots - \langle v_i, w_1 \rangle w_1}{\|v_i - \langle v_i, w_{i-1} \rangle w_{i-1} - \dots - \langle v_i, w_1 \rangle w_1\|}$$



Gram–Schmidt Orthogonalization

Example:

Consider the space of polynomial functions of degree N on the interval $[-1, 1]$, with the standard inner-product:

$$\langle f(x), g(x) \rangle = \int_{-1}^1 f(x)g(x)dx$$

We would like to obtain an orthogonal basis:

$$\{p_0(x), \dots, p_N(x)\}$$



Gram–Schmidt Orthogonalization

Example:

Consider the space of polynomial functions of degree N on the interval $[-1, 1]$, with the standard inner-product:

$$\langle f(x), g(x) \rangle = \int_{-1}^1 f(x)g(x)dx$$

We would like to obtain an orthogonal basis:

$$\{p_0(x), \dots, p_N(x)\}$$

An easy basis to start with is the monomials:

$$\{1, x, x^2, \dots, x^N\}$$

Gram–Schmidt Orthogonalization



Example:

Starting with the constant term, we get:

$$p_0(x) = \frac{1}{\|1\|}$$

Gram–Schmidt Orthogonalization



Example:

Starting with the constant term, we get:

$$p_0(x) = \frac{1}{\|1\|} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\int_{-1}^1 dx}}$$



Gram–Schmidt Orthogonalization

Example:

Starting with the constant term, we get:

$$\begin{aligned} p_0(x) &= \frac{1}{\|1\|} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\int_{-1}^1 dx}} \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \end{aligned}$$



Gram–Schmidt Orthogonalization

Example:

Moving on to the linear term, we get:

$$p_1(x) = \frac{x - \langle x, p_0(x) \rangle p_0(x)}{\|x - \langle x, p_0(x) \rangle p_0(x)\|}$$



Gram–Schmidt Orthogonalization

Example:

Moving on to the linear term, we get:

$$\begin{aligned} p_1(x) &= \frac{x - \langle x, p_0(x) \rangle p_0(x)}{\|x - \langle x, p_0(x) \rangle p_0(x)\|} \\ &= \frac{x - \left(\int_{-1}^1 x \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} dx \right) \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}}{\|x - \langle x, p_0(x) \rangle p_0(x)\|} \end{aligned}$$



Gram–Schmidt Orthogonalization

Example:

Moving on to the linear term, we get:

$$\begin{aligned} p_1(x) &= \frac{x - \langle x, p_0(x) \rangle p_0(x)}{\|x - \langle x, p_0(x) \rangle p_0(x)\|} \\ &= \frac{x - \left(\int_{-1}^1 x \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} dx \right) \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}}{\|x - \langle x, p_0(x) \rangle p_0(x)\|} \\ &= \frac{x}{\sqrt{\int_{-1}^1 x^2 dx}} = \sqrt{\frac{3}{2}} x \end{aligned}$$

Gram–Schmidt Orthogonalization



Example:

And the quadratic term:

$$p_2(x) = \frac{x^2 - \langle x^2, p_1(x) \rangle p_1(x) - \langle x^2, p_0(x) \rangle p_0(x)}{\|x^2 - \langle x^2, p_1(x) \rangle p_1(x) - \langle x^2, p_0(x) \rangle p_0(x)\|}$$



Gram–Schmidt Orthogonalization

Example:

And the quadratic term:

$$p_2(x) = \frac{x^2 - \langle x^2, p_1(x) \rangle p_1(x) - \langle x^2, p_0(x) \rangle p_0(x)}{\|x^2 - \langle x^2, p_1(x) \rangle p_1(x) - \langle x^2, p_0(x) \rangle p_0(x)\|}$$

These polynomials are called the
Legendre Polynomials.



Legendre Polynomials

Claim:

The degrees of the monomials comprising the Legendre polynomials have the same parity as k :

$$p_k(x) = a_k x^k + a_{k-2} x^{k-2} + \dots$$



Legendre Polynomials

Claim:

The degrees of the monomials comprising the Legendre polynomials have the same parity as k :

$$p_k(x) = a_k x^k + a_{k-2} x^{k-2} + \dots$$

Proof by Induction:



Legendre Polynomials

Claim:

The degrees of the monomials comprising the Legendre polynomials have the same parity as k :

$$p_k(x) = a_k x^k + a_{k-2} x^{k-2} + \dots$$

Proof by Induction ($k=0$):

$$p_0(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$$



Legendre Polynomials

Claim:

The degrees of the monomials comprising the Legendre polynomials have the same parity as k :

$$p_k(x) = a_k x^k + a_{k-2} x^{k-2} + \dots$$

Proof by Induction (assume true for $k=n$):

$$p_{n+1}(x) = \frac{x^{n+1} - \langle x^{n+1}, p_n(x) \rangle p_n(x) - \dots - \langle x^{n+1}, p_0(x) \rangle p_0(x)}{\|x^{n+1} - \langle x^{n+1}, p_n(x) \rangle p_n(x) - \dots - \langle x^{n+1}, p_0(x) \rangle p_0(x)\|}$$



Legendre Polynomials

Claim:

The degrees of the monomials comprising the Legendre polynomials have the same parity as k :

$$p_k(x) = a_k x^k + a_{k-2} x^{k-2} + \dots$$

Proof by Induction (assume true for $k=n$):

$$p_{n+1}(x) = \frac{x^{n+1} - \langle x^{n+1}, p_n(x) \rangle p_n(x) - \dots - \langle x^{n+1}, p_0(x) \rangle p_0(x)}{\|x^{n+1} - \langle x^{n+1}, p_n(x) \rangle p_n(x) - \dots - \langle x^{n+1}, p_0(x) \rangle p_0(x)\|}$$

Recall that:

$$\langle x^{n+1}, p_m(x) \rangle = \int_{-1}^1 x^{n+1} p_m(x) dx$$



Legendre Polynomials

Claim:

The degrees of the monomials comprising the Legendre polynomials have the same parity as k :

$$p_k(x) = a_k x^k + a_{k-2} x^{k-2} + \dots$$

Proof by Induction:

$$\langle x^{n+1}, p_m(x) \rangle = \int_{-1}^1 x^{n+1} p_m(x) dx$$

Since $m \leq n$ we can assume that the monomials comprising $p_m(x)$ are all even if m is even and all odd if m is odd.



Legendre Polynomials

Claim:

The degrees of the monomials comprising the Legendre polynomials have the same parity as k :

$$p_k(x) = a_k x^k + a_{k-2} x^{k-2} + \dots$$

Proof by Induction:

So if n and m are both either odd or both even, the polynomial $x^{n+1} p_m(x)$ is comprised of strictly odd-powered monomials:

$$\langle x^{n+1}, p_m(x) \rangle = \int_{-1}^1 x^{n+1} p_m(x) dx = 0$$



Legendre Polynomials

Claim:

The degrees of the monomials comprising the Legendre polynomials have the same parity as k :

$$p_k(x) = a_k x^k + a_{k-2} x^{k-2} + \dots$$

Proof by Induction:

$$p_{n+1}(x) = \frac{x^{n+1} - \langle x^{n+1}, p_n(x) \rangle p_n(x) - \dots - \langle x^{n+1}, p_0(x) \rangle p_0(x)}{\|x^{n+1} - \langle x^{n+1}, p_n(x) \rangle p_n(x) - \dots - \langle x^{n+1}, p_0(x) \rangle p_0(x)\|}$$



$$p_{n+1}(x) = \frac{x^{n+1} - \langle x^{n+1}, p_{n-1}(x) \rangle p_{n-1}(x) - \langle x^{n+1}, p_{n-3}(x) \rangle p_{n-3}(x) - \dots}{\|x^{n+1} - \langle x^{n+1}, p_{n-1}(x) \rangle p_{n-1}(x) - \langle x^{n+1}, p_{n-3}(x) \rangle p_{n-3}(x) - \dots\|}$$



Legendre Polynomials

Claim:

The degrees of the monomials comprising the Legendre polynomials have the same parity as k :

$$p_k(x) = a_k x^k + a_{k-2} x^{k-2} + \dots$$

Proof by Induction:

$$p_{n+1}(x) = \frac{x^{n+1} - \langle x^{n+1}, p_{n-1}(x) \rangle p_{n-1}(x) - \langle x^{n+1}, p_{n-3}(x) \rangle p_{n-3}(x) - \dots}{\|x^{n+1} - \langle x^{n+1}, p_{n-1}(x) \rangle p_{n-1}(x) - \langle x^{n+1}, p_{n-3}(x) \rangle p_{n-3}(x) - \dots\|}$$

So $p_{n+1}(x)$ is obtained by starting with the monomial x^{n+1} and subtracting off monomials with the same parity.

Gram–Schmidt Orthogonalization



Example:

Consider the space of polynomials of degree N on the interval $[-1, 1]$, with an inner-product giving more weight to points near the origin:

$$\langle f(x), g(x) \rangle_m = \int_{-1}^1 (1 - x^2)^m f(x) g(x) dx$$



Gram–Schmidt Orthogonalization

Example:

Consider the space of polynomials of degree N on the interval $[-1, 1]$, with an inner-product giving more weight to points near the origin:

$$\langle f(x), g(x) \rangle_m = \int_{-1}^1 (1-x^2)^m f(x)g(x)dx$$

We would like to obtain⁻¹ an orthogonal basis:

$$\{p_0^m(x), \dots, p_N^m(x)\}$$



Gram–Schmidt Orthogonalization

Example:

$$\langle f(x), g(x) \rangle_m = \int_{-1}^1 (1-x^2)^m f(x)g(x)dx$$

We proceed exactly as before but now using the new inner-product.



Gram–Schmidt Orthogonalization

Example:

$$\langle f(x), g(x) \rangle_m = \int_{-1}^1 (1-x^2)^m f(x)g(x)dx$$

We proceed exactly as before but now using the new inner-product.

Since the weighting function is even, if f is an even function and g is an odd function (or vice-versa), the inner product must be zero:

$$\langle f(x), g(x) \rangle_m = 0$$



Gram–Schmidt Orthogonalization

Example:

$$\langle f(x), g(x) \rangle_m = \int_{-1}^1 (1-x^2)^m f(x)g(x)dx$$

We proceed exactly as before but now using the new inner-product.

Since the weighting function is even, if f is an even function and g is an odd function (or vice-versa), the inner product must be zero:

$$\langle f(x), g(x) \rangle_m = 0$$

Thus, as before, the degree of the monomials comprising $p_l^m(x)$ must all have the same parity.



Height Functions

Given a function $f(x)$ on the interval $[-1,1]$, we can turn the function into a function on the sphere:

$$F(x, y, z) = \frac{f(y)}{\sqrt{2\pi}}$$



Height Functions

Given a function $f(x)$ on the interval $[-1,1]$, we can turn the function into a function on the sphere:

$$F(x, y, z) = \frac{f(y)}{\sqrt{2\pi}}$$

Given two such functions $f(x)$ and $g(y)$, the mapping from 1D functions to spherical functions preserves inner products:

$$\int_{|p|=1} F(p) \cdot G(p) dp = \int_{-1}^{-1} f(y) \cdot g(y) dy$$



Height Functions

To see this, we can parameterize points on the sphere by spherical angle:

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

Then the integral on the left-hand side becomes:

$$\int_{|p|=1} F(p) \cdot G(p) dp = \int_0^\pi \int_0^{2\pi} F(\Phi(\theta, \phi)) \cdot G(\Phi(\theta, \phi)) d\theta \sin(\phi) d\phi$$



Height Functions

To see this, we can parameterize points on the sphere by spherical angle:

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

Then the integral on the left-hand side becomes:

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{|p|=1} F(p) \cdot G(p) dp &= \int_0^\pi \int_0^{2\pi} F(\Phi(\theta, \phi)) \cdot G(\Phi(\theta, \phi)) d\theta \sin(\phi) d\phi \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^\pi \int_0^{2\pi} f(\cos \phi) \cdot g(\cos \phi) d\theta \sin(\phi) d\phi \end{aligned}$$



Height Functions

To see this, we can parameterize points on the sphere by spherical angle:

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

Then the integral on the left-hand side becomes:

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{|p|=1} F(p) \cdot G(p) dp &= \int_0^\pi \int_0^{2\pi} F(\Phi(\theta, \phi)) \cdot G(\Phi(\theta, \phi)) d\theta \sin(\phi) d\phi \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^\pi \int_0^{2\pi} f(\cos \phi) \cdot g(\cos \phi) d\theta \sin(\phi) d\phi \\ &= \int_0^\pi f(\cos \phi) \cdot g(\cos \phi) \sin(\phi) d\phi \end{aligned}$$



Height Functions

On the other hand, setting $y=\cos\phi$, the left-hand side can be expressed as:

$$\int_{-1}^1 f(y) \cdot g(y) dy = \int_{\pi}^0 f(\cos\phi) \cdot g(\cos\phi) \frac{dy}{d\phi} d\phi$$



Height Functions

On the other hand, setting $y=\cos\phi$, the left-hand side can be expressed as:

$$\begin{aligned}\int_{-1}^1 f(y) \cdot g(y) dy &= \int_{\pi}^0 f(\cos\phi) \cdot g(\cos\phi) \frac{dy}{d\phi} d\phi \\ &= \int_{\pi}^0 f(\cos\phi) \cdot g(\cos\phi) (-\sin(\phi)) d\phi\end{aligned}$$



Height Functions

On the other hand, setting $y=\cos\phi$, the left-hand side can be expressed as:

$$\begin{aligned}\int_{-1}^1 f(y) \cdot g(y) dy &= \int_{\pi}^0 f(\cos\phi) \cdot g(\cos\phi) \frac{dy}{d\phi} d\phi \\ &= \int_{\pi}^0 f(\cos\phi) \cdot g(\cos\phi) (-\sin(\phi)) d\phi \\ &= \int_0^{\pi} f(\cos\phi) \cdot g(\cos\phi) \sin(\phi) d\phi\end{aligned}$$



Height Functions

On the other hand, setting $y=\cos\phi$, the left-hand side can be expressed as:

$$\begin{aligned}\int_{-1}^1 f(y) \cdot g(y) dy &= \int_{\pi}^0 f(\cos\phi) \cdot g(\cos\phi) \frac{dy}{d\phi} d\phi \\ &= \int_{\pi}^0 f(\cos\phi) \cdot g(\cos\phi) (-\sin(\phi)) d\phi \\ &= \int_0^{\pi} f(\cos\phi) \cdot g(\cos\phi) \sin(\phi) d\phi \\ &= \int_{|p|=1} F(p) \cdot G(p) dp\end{aligned}$$



Completing Homogenous Polynomials

Given a polynomial $p(x,y,z)$ of degree d ,
consisting of monomials of powers $d, d-2, d, \dots$:

$$p(x, y, z) = \sum_{k=0}^{\lfloor d/2 \rfloor} \left(\sum_{l+m+n=d-2k} a_{lmn} x^l y^m z^n \right)$$



Completing Homogenous Polynomials

Given a polynomial $p(x,y,z)$ of degree d ,
consisting of monomials of powers $d, d-2, d, \dots$:

$$p(x, y, z) = \sum_{k=0}^{\lfloor d/2 \rfloor} \left(\sum_{l+m+n=d-2k} a_{lmn} x^l y^m z^n \right)$$

This is *not* a homogenous polynomial.



Completing Homogenous Polynomials

Given a polynomial $p(x,y,z)$ of degree d , consisting of monomials of powers $d, d-2, d-4, \dots$:

$$p(x, y, z) = \sum_{k=0}^{\lfloor d/2 \rfloor} \left(\sum_{l+m+n=d-2k} a_{lmn} x^l y^m z^n \right)$$

This is *not* a homogenous polynomial.

However, if we restrict it to the sphere, we *can* think of it as homogenous:

$$p(x, y, z) \rightarrow \sum_{k=0}^{\lfloor d/2 \rfloor} \left(x^2 + y^2 + z^2 \right)^k \left(\sum_{l+m+n=d-2k} a_{lmn} x^l y^m z^n \right)$$

Completing Homogenous Polynomials



Example:

$$p(x, y, z) = x^2 y + y + z$$

Is not a homogenous polynomial.



Completing Homogenous Polynomials

Example:

$$p(x, y, z) = x^2 y + y + z$$

Is not a homogenous polynomial.

But on the unit-sphere, the polynomial:

$$q(x, y, z) = x^2 y + (y + z)(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)$$

has identical values and is homogenous of degree 3.



Outline

Math Stuff

Review

Spherical Harmonics

Defining the Harmonics



Spherical Harmonics

For each non-negative integer l , there are $2l+1$ spherical harmonics of degree l satisfying:

1. Each spherical harmonic of degree l can be expressed as the restriction of a homogenous polynomial of degree l to the unit-sphere.
2. The different spherical harmonics are orthogonal to each other.



Spherical Harmonics

We had seen that by considering just the rotations about the y -axis, we could factor the spherical harmonics as:

$$\begin{aligned} Y_l^m(\theta, \phi) &= e^{im\theta} P_l^m(\phi) \\ &= (\cos \theta + i \sin \theta)^m P_l^m(\phi) \end{aligned}$$

where $|m| \leq l$.

Outline

Math Stuff

Review

Defining the Harmonics





Defining the Harmonics ($m \geq 0$)

To define the spherical harmonics, we would like to express the function:

$$Y_l^m(\theta, \phi) = (\cos \theta + i \sin \theta)^m P_l^m(\phi)$$

as the restriction of a homogenous polynomial of degree l to the unit sphere.



Defining the Harmonics ($m \geq 0$)

Using the parameterization of the unit-sphere

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

we get:

$$Y_l^m(\theta, \phi) = \left(\frac{x}{\sin \phi} + i \frac{z}{\sin \phi} \right)^m P_l^m(\phi)$$



Defining the Harmonics ($m \geq 0$)

Using the parameterization of the unit-sphere

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

we get:

$$\begin{aligned} Y_l^m(\theta, \phi) &= \left(\frac{x}{\sin \phi} + i \frac{z}{\sin \phi} \right)^m P_l^m(\phi) \\ &= (x + iz)^m \frac{P_l^m(\phi)}{\sin^m \phi} \end{aligned}$$



Defining the Harmonics ($m \geq 0$)

Using the parameterization of the unit-sphere

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

we get:

$$\begin{aligned} Y_l^m(\theta, \phi) &= \left(\frac{x}{\sin \phi} + i \frac{z}{\sin \phi} \right)^m P_l^m(\phi) \\ &= (x + iz)^m \frac{P_l^m(\phi)}{\sin^m \phi} \\ &= (x + iz)^m \frac{P_l^m(\cos^{-1} y)}{(\sqrt{1 - y^2})^m} \end{aligned}$$



Defining the Harmonics ($m \geq 0$)

$$Y_l^m(\theta, \phi) = \boxed{(x + iz)^m} \frac{P_l^m(\cos^{-1} y)}{\left(\sqrt{1 - y^2}\right)^m}$$

This • is a homogenous polynomial of degree m .



Defining the Harmonics ($m \geq 0$)

$$Y_l^m(\theta, \phi) = \boxed{(x + iz)^m} \frac{P_l^m(\cos^{-1} y)}{\left(\sqrt{1 - y^2}\right)^m}$$

This • is a homogenous polynomial of degree m .

So we want:

1. This • to complete to a homogenous polynomial of degree $l-m$.



Defining the Harmonics ($m \geq 0$)

$$Y_l^m(\theta, \phi) = \boxed{(x + iz)^m} \frac{P_l^m(\cos^{-1} y)}{\boxed{\left(\sqrt{1 - y^2}\right)^m}}$$

This • is a homogenous polynomial of degree m .

So we want:

1. This • to complete to a homogenous polynomial of degree $l-m$.
2. The different Y_l^m to be orthogonal.



Defining the Harmonics ($m \geq 0$)

$$Y_l^m(\theta, \phi) = (x + iz)^m \frac{P_l^m(\cos^{-1} y)}{\left(\sqrt{1 - y^2}\right)^m}$$

Homogeneity:

To satisfy the homogeneity constraint, we need:

$$\frac{P_l^m(\cos^{-1} y)}{\left(\sqrt{1 - y^2}\right)^m} = a_{l-m} y^{l-m} + a_{l-m-2} y^{l-m-2} + \dots$$



Defining the Harmonics ($m \geq 0$)

$$Y_l^m(\theta, \phi) = (x + iz)^m \frac{P_l^m(\cos^{-1} y)}{\left(\sqrt{1 - y^2}\right)^m}$$

Homogeneity:

To satisfy the homogeneity constraint, we need:

$$\frac{P_l^m(\cos^{-1} y)}{\left(\sqrt{1 - y^2}\right)^m} = a_{l-m} y^{l-m} + a_{l-m-2} y^{l-m-2} + \dots$$

Or equivalently:

$$P_l^m(\cos^{-1} y) = q_l^m(y) \left(\sqrt{1 - y^2}\right)^m$$

for a polynomial:

$$q_l^m(y) = a_{l-m} y^{l-m} + a_{l-m-2} y^{l-m-2} + \dots$$



Defining the Harmonics ($m \geq 0$)

$$Y_l^m(\theta, \phi) = (x + iz)^m \frac{P_l^m(\cos^{-1} y)}{\left(\sqrt{1 - y^2}\right)^m}$$

Orthogonality:

To satisfy the orthogonality constraint, we need:

$$\langle Y_l^m(\theta, \phi), Y_{l'}^{m'}(\theta, \phi) \rangle = 0 \quad \forall l \neq l' \text{ or } m \neq m'$$



Defining the Harmonics ($m \geq 0$)

$$Y_l^m(\theta, \phi) = (x + iz)^m \frac{P_l^m(\cos^{-1} y)}{\left(\sqrt{1 - y^2}\right)^m}$$

Orthogonality ($m \neq m'$):

Since we have separation of variables:

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

we know that:

$$\langle Y_l^m(\theta, \phi), Y_{l'}^{m'}(\theta, \phi) \rangle = \int_0^\pi \int_0^{2\pi} e^{im\theta} P_l^m(\phi) \overline{e^{im'\theta} P_{l'}^{m'}(\phi)} d\theta \sin \phi d\phi$$



Defining the Harmonics ($m \geq 0$)

$$Y_l^m(\theta, \phi) = (x + iz)^m \frac{P_l^m(\cos^{-1} y)}{(\sqrt{1 - y^2})^m}$$

Orthogonality ($m \neq m'$):

Since we have separation of variables:

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

we know that:

$$\begin{aligned} \langle Y_l^m(\theta, \phi), Y_{l'}^{m'}(\theta, \phi) \rangle &= \int_0^\pi \int_0^{2\pi} e^{im\theta} P_l^m(\phi) \overline{e^{im'\theta} P_{l'}^{m'}(\phi)} d\theta \sin \phi d\phi \\ &= \left(\int_0^\pi P_l^m(\phi) P_{l'}^{m'}(\phi) \sin \phi d\phi \right) \left(\int_0^{2\pi} e^{i(m-m')\theta} d\theta \right) \end{aligned}$$



Defining the Harmonics ($m \geq 0$)

$$Y_l^m(\theta, \phi) = (x + iz)^m \frac{P_l^m(\cos^{-1} y)}{(\sqrt{1 - y^2})^m}$$

Orthogonality ($m \neq m'$):

$$\langle Y_l^m(\theta, \phi), Y_l^{m'}(\theta, \phi) \rangle = \left(\int_0^\pi P_l^m(\phi) P_l^{m'}(\phi) \sin \phi d\phi \right) \left(\int_0^{2\pi} e^{i(m-m')\theta} d\theta \right)$$

But this • is zero whenever $m \neq m'$:

$$\int_0^{2\pi} e^{i(m-m')\theta} d\theta = \frac{1}{i(m-m')} e^{i(m-m')\theta} \bigg|_0^{2\pi} = 0$$



Defining the Harmonics ($m \geq 0$)

$$Y_l^m(\theta, \phi) = (x + iz)^m \frac{P_l^m(\cos^{-1} y)}{\left(\sqrt{1 - y^2}\right)^m}$$

Orthogonality ($m=m'$ and $l \neq l'$):

We have to choose the function:

$$P_l^m(\cos^{-1} y) = q_l^m(y) \left(\sqrt{1 - y^2}\right)^m$$

so that:

$$\langle Y_l^m(\theta, \phi), Y_{l'}^m(\theta, \phi) \rangle = \int_0^\pi \int_0^{2\pi} e^{im\theta} P_l^m(\phi) e^{\overline{im'\theta}} P_{l'}^m(\phi) d\theta \sin \phi d\phi = 0$$



Defining the Harmonics ($m \geq 0$)

$$Y_l^m(\theta, \phi) = (x + iz)^m \frac{P_l^m(\cos^{-1} y)}{\left(\sqrt{1 - y^2}\right)^m}$$

Orthogonality ($m=m'$ and $l \neq l'$):

We have to choose the function:

$$P_l^m(\cos^{-1} y) = q_l^m(y) \left(\sqrt{1 - y^2}\right)^m$$

so that:

$$\langle Y_l^m(\theta, \phi), Y_{l'}^{m'}(\theta, \phi) \rangle = \int_0^\pi \int_0^{2\pi} e^{im\theta} P_l^m(\phi) e^{\overline{im'\theta}} P_{l'}^{m'}(\phi) d\theta \sin \phi d\phi = 0$$

Since $m=m'$, this reduces to:

$$\int_0^\pi P_l^m(\phi) P_{l'}^m(\phi) \sin \phi d\phi = 0$$



Defining the Harmonics ($m \geq 0$)

$$Y_l^m(\theta, \phi) = (x + iz)^m \frac{P_l^m(\cos^{-1} y)}{(\sqrt{1 - y^2})^m}$$

Orthogonality ($m=m'$ and $l \neq l'$):

We have to choose the function:

$$P_l^m(\cos^{-1} y) = q_l^m(y) (\sqrt{1 - y^2})^m$$

Using the change of variable formulation we get:

$$\int_0^\pi P_l^m(\phi) P_{l'}^m(\phi) \sin \phi d\phi = \int_{-1}^1 P_l^m(\cos^{-1} y) P_{l'}^m(\cos^{-1} y) dy$$



Defining the Harmonics ($m \geq 0$)

$$Y_l^m(\theta, \phi) = (x + iz)^m \frac{P_l^m(\cos^{-1} y)}{\left(\sqrt{1 - y^2}\right)^m}$$

Orthogonality ($m=m'$ and $l \neq l'$):

We have to choose the function:

$$P_l^m(\cos^{-1} y) = q_l^m(y) \left(\sqrt{1 - y^2}\right)^m$$

Using the change of variable formulation we get:

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^\pi P_l^m(\phi) P_{l'}^m(\phi) \sin \phi d\phi &= \int_{-1}^1 P_l^m(\cos^{-1} y) P_{l'}^m(\cos^{-1} y) dy \\ &= \int_{-1}^1 q_l^m(y) q_{l'}^m(y) (1 - y^2)^m dy \end{aligned}$$



Defining the Harmonics ($m \geq 0$)

$$Y_l^m(\theta, \phi) = (x + iz)^m \frac{P_l^m(\cos^{-1} y)}{\left(\sqrt{1 - y^2}\right)^m}$$

$$P_l^m(\cos^{-1} y) = p_l^m(y) \left(\sqrt{1 - y^2}\right)^m$$

Thus, we require:

1. The polynomials $q_l^m(y)$ to complete to homogenous polynomials of degree $l-m$:

$$q_l^m(y) = a_{l-m} y^{l-m} + a_{l-m-2} y^{l-m-2} + \dots$$



Defining the Harmonics ($m \geq 0$)

$$Y_l^m(\theta, \phi) = (x + iz)^m \frac{P_l^m(\cos^{-1} y)}{\left(\sqrt{1 - y^2}\right)^m}$$

$$P_l^m(\cos^{-1} y) = p_l^m(y) \left(\sqrt{1 - y^2}\right)^m$$

Thus, we require:

1. The polynomials $q_l^m(y)$ to complete to homogenous polynomials of degree $l-m$:

$$q_l^m(y) = a_{l-m} y^{l-m} + a_{l-m-2} y^{l-m-2} + \dots$$

2. And they satisfy the orthogonality condition:

$$\int_{-1}^1 q_l^m(y) q_{l'}^m(y) (1 - y^2)^m dy = 0$$



Defining the Harmonics ($m \geq 0$)

$$Y_l^m(\theta, \phi) = (x + iz)^m \frac{P_l^m(\cos^{-1} y)}{\left(\sqrt{1 - y^2}\right)^m}$$

$$P_l^m(\cos^{-1} y) = p_l^m(y) \left(\sqrt{1 - y^2}\right)^m$$

This is precisely what we get when we compute the G.S. orthogonalization of $\{1, y, y^2, \dots\}$ relative to the inner-product:

$$\langle f(y), g(y) \rangle_m = \int_{-1}^1 f(y) g(y) (1 - y^2)^m dy$$

and set:

$$q_l^m(y) = p_{l-m}^m(y)$$



Defining the Harmonics ($m \geq 0$)

$$Y_l^m(\theta, \phi) = e^{im\theta} P_l^m(\phi)$$
$$P_l^m(\cos^{-1} y) = p_l^m(y) \left(\sqrt{1 - y^2} \right)^m$$

In sum, we get an expression for the spherical harmonics as:

$$Y_l^m(\theta, \phi) = e^{im\theta} p_{l-m}^m(\cos \phi) \left(\sqrt{1 - \cos^2 \phi} \right)^m$$



Defining the Harmonics ($m \geq 0$)

$$Y_l^m(\theta, \phi) = e^{im\theta} P_l^m(\phi)$$
$$P_l^m(\cos^{-1} y) = p_l^m(y) \left(\sqrt{1 - y^2} \right)^m$$

In sum, we get an expression for the spherical harmonics as:

$$Y_l^m(\theta, \phi) = e^{im\theta} p_{l-m}^m(\cos \phi) \left(\sqrt{1 - \cos^2 \phi} \right)^m$$
$$= e^{im\theta} p_{l-m}^m(\cos \phi) \sin^m \phi$$

where $p_{l-m}^m(y)$ is a polynomial of degree $l-m$.



The Spherical Harmonics

$$Y_l^m(\theta, \phi) = e^{im\theta} p_{l-m}^m(\cos \phi) \sin^m \phi$$

Examples ($l=0$):

$$Y_0^0(\theta, \phi) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi}}$$



The Spherical Harmonics

$$Y_l^m(\theta, \phi) = e^{im\theta} p_{l-m}^m(\cos \phi) \sin^m \phi$$

Examples ($l=1$):

$$Y_1^{-1}(\theta, \phi) = \sqrt{\frac{3}{8\pi}} \sin(\phi) e^{-i\theta}$$

$$Y_1^0(\theta, \phi) = \sqrt{\frac{3}{4\pi}} \cos(\phi)$$

$$Y_1^1(\theta, \phi) = -\sqrt{\frac{3}{8\pi}} \sin(\phi) e^{i\theta}$$



The Spherical Harmonics

$$Y_l^m(\theta, \phi) = e^{im\theta} p_{l-m}^m(\cos \phi) \sin^m \phi$$

Examples ($l=2$):

$$Y_2^{-2}(\theta, \phi) = \sqrt{\frac{15}{32\pi}} \sin^2(\phi) e^{-2i\theta}$$

$$Y_2^{-1}(\theta, \phi) = \sqrt{\frac{15}{8\pi}} \sin(\phi) \cos(\phi) e^{-i\theta}$$

$$Y_2^0(\theta, \phi) = \sqrt{\frac{5}{16\pi}} (3 \cos^2(\phi) - 1)$$

$$Y_2^1(\theta, \phi) = -\sqrt{\frac{15}{8\pi}} \sin(\phi) \cos(\phi) e^{i\theta}$$

$$Y_2^2(\theta, \phi) = \sqrt{\frac{15}{32\pi}} \sin^2(\phi) e^{2i\theta}$$