

# Vector spherical waves calculation procedure

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Equations are taken from:

Mishchenko, M.I., Travis, L.D., and Lacis, A.A. (2002). Scattering, absorption, and emission of light by small particles (Cambridge University Press).

Vector spherical waves (**M** and **N**) are define as:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathbf{M}_{mm}(kr, \vartheta, \varphi) &= \gamma_{mm} \nabla \times \begin{pmatrix} \psi_{mm}(kr, \vartheta, \varphi) \\ \text{Rg}\psi_{mm}(kr, \vartheta, \varphi) \end{pmatrix} \\
 &= \gamma_{mm} \begin{pmatrix} h_n^{(1)}(kr) \\ j_n(kr) \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{C}_{mm}(\vartheta, \varphi) \\
 &= \frac{1}{k} \nabla \times \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{N}_{mm}(kr, \vartheta, \varphi) \\ \text{Rg}\mathbf{N}_{mm}(kr, \vartheta, \varphi) \end{pmatrix}
 \end{aligned} \tag{C.14}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathbf{N}_{mm}(kr, \vartheta, \varphi) &= \frac{1}{k} \nabla \times \mathbf{M}_{mm}(kr, \vartheta, \varphi) \\
 \text{Rg}\mathbf{N}_{mm}(kr, \vartheta, \varphi) &= \frac{1}{k} \text{Rg}\mathbf{M}_{mm}(kr, \vartheta, \varphi) \\
 &= \gamma_{mm} \left\{ \frac{n(n+1)}{kr} \frac{h_n^{(1)}(kr)}{j_n(kr)} \mathbf{P}_{mm}(\vartheta, \varphi) + \frac{1}{kr} \frac{d}{d(kr)} \left( \frac{h_n^{(1)}(kr)}{j_n(kr)} \right) \mathbf{B}_{mm}(\vartheta, \varphi) \right\},
 \end{aligned} \tag{C.15}$$

$\mathbf{B}_{mn}(\theta, \phi)$ ,  $\mathbf{C}_{mn}(\theta, \phi)$ ,  $\mathbf{P}_{mn}(\theta, \phi)$  are calculated from:  
where

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathbf{B}_{mm}(\vartheta, \varphi) &= r \nabla [P_n^m(\cos \vartheta) e^{im\varphi}] \\
 &= \left[ \hat{\vartheta} \frac{d}{d\vartheta} P_n^m(\cos \vartheta) + \hat{\varphi} \frac{im}{\sin \vartheta} P_n^m(\cos \vartheta) \right] e^{im\varphi} \\
 &= (-1)^m \sqrt{\frac{(n+m)!}{(n-m)!}} \mathbf{B}_{mm}(\vartheta) e^{im\varphi} \\
 &= \hat{\mathbf{r}} \times \mathbf{C}_{mm}(\vartheta, \varphi),
 \end{aligned} \tag{C.16}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathbf{C}_{mm}(\vartheta, \varphi) &= \nabla \times [\mathbf{r} P_n^m(\cos \vartheta) e^{im\varphi}] \\
 &= \left[ \hat{\vartheta} \frac{im}{\sin \vartheta} P_n^m(\cos \vartheta) - \hat{\varphi} \frac{d}{d\vartheta} P_n^m(\cos \vartheta) \right] e^{im\varphi} \\
 &= (-1)^m \sqrt{\frac{(n+m)!}{(n-m)!}} \mathbf{C}_{mm}(\vartheta) e^{im\varphi} \\
 &= \mathbf{B}_{mm}(\vartheta, \varphi) \times \hat{\mathbf{r}},
 \end{aligned} \tag{C.17}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathbf{P}_{mm}(\vartheta, \varphi) &= \hat{\mathbf{r}} P_n^m(\cos \vartheta) e^{im\varphi} \\
 &= (-1)^m \sqrt{\frac{(n+m)!}{(n-m)!}} \mathbf{P}_{mm}(\vartheta) e^{im\varphi},
 \end{aligned} \tag{C.18}$$

**Symmetry relations that may speed the code:**

$$\mathbf{B}_{-mm}(\vartheta, \varphi) = (-1)^m \frac{(n-m)!}{(n+m)!} \mathbf{B}_{mm}^*(\vartheta, \varphi), \quad (\text{C.27})$$

and analogous relations hold for  $\mathbf{C}_{mm}(\vartheta, \varphi)$  and  $\mathbf{P}_{mm}(\vartheta, \varphi)$ . The regular vector spherical wave functions obey a similar symmetry relation:

$$\text{Rg}\mathbf{M}_{-mm}(kr, \vartheta, \varphi) = (-1)^m \text{Rg}\mathbf{M}_{mm}^*(kr, \vartheta, \varphi), \quad (\text{C.28})$$

and analogous relations again hold for  $\text{Rg}\mathbf{N}$  and  $\text{Rg}\mathbf{L}$ .

$\mathbf{B}_{mn}(\theta)$ ,  $\mathbf{C}_{mn}(\theta)$ ,  $\mathbf{P}_{mn}(\theta)$  are calculated from:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{B}_{mm}(\vartheta) &= \hat{\vartheta} \frac{d}{d\vartheta} d_{0m}^n(\vartheta) + \hat{\varphi} \frac{im}{\sin \vartheta} d_{0m}^n(\vartheta) \\ &= \hat{\vartheta} \tau_{mm}(\vartheta) + \hat{\varphi} i \pi_{mm}(\vartheta), \end{aligned} \quad (\text{C.19})$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{C}_{mm}(\vartheta) &= \hat{\vartheta} \frac{im}{\sin \vartheta} d_{0m}^n(\vartheta) - \hat{\varphi} \frac{d}{d\vartheta} d_{0m}^n(\vartheta) \\ &= \hat{\vartheta} i \pi_{mm}(\vartheta) - \hat{\varphi} \tau_{mm}(\vartheta), \end{aligned} \quad (\text{C.20})$$

$$\mathbf{P}_{mm}(\vartheta) = \hat{\mathbf{r}} d_{0m}^n(\vartheta), \quad (\text{C.21})$$

$$\gamma_{mm} = \left[ \frac{(2n+1)(n-m)!}{4\pi n(n+1)(n+m)!} \right]^{1/2}. \quad (\text{C.22})$$

In Eqs. (C.19) and (C.20),

$$\pi_{mm}(\vartheta) = \frac{m}{\sin \vartheta} d_{0m}^n(\vartheta),$$

$$\tau_{mm}(\vartheta) = \frac{d}{d\vartheta} d_{0m}^n(\vartheta).$$

$d_{nm}^n$  are the Wigner d-functions. They can be calculated using one of two methods:

#### **Method 1: Direct calculation**

**For now, this one works with auto-differentiation. It is slower and not as stable as calculation using recurrence.**

$$\begin{aligned} d_{nm}^s(\vartheta) &= \sqrt{(s+m)!(s-m)!(s+n)!(s-n)!} \\ &\times \sum_k (-1)^k \frac{(\cos \frac{1}{2} \vartheta)^{2s-2k+m-n} (\sin \frac{1}{2} \vartheta)^{2k-m+n}}{k!(s+m-k)!(s-n-k)!(n-m+k)!}, \end{aligned} \quad (\text{B.1})$$

The summation index  $k$  runs from

$$k_{min} = \max(0, m-n)$$

$$k_{max} = \min(s+m, s-n)$$

If  $k_{min} > k_{max}$ , then  $d_{nm}^n = 0$

$\frac{d(d_{nm}^n)}{d\theta}$  can be calculated from:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{d\vartheta} d_{nm}^s(\vartheta) &= \frac{m-n \cos \vartheta}{\sin \vartheta} d_{nm}^s(\vartheta) + \sqrt{(s+n)(s-n+1)} d_{nm-1}^s(\vartheta) \\ &= -\frac{m-n \cos \vartheta}{\sin \vartheta} d_{nm}^s(\vartheta) - \sqrt{(s-n)(s-n+1)} d_{nm+1}^s(\vartheta). \end{aligned} \quad (\text{B.25})$$

**Symmetry relations may speed up the code:**

$$d_{mn}^s(\vartheta) = (-1)^{m-n} d_{-m,-n}^s(\vartheta) = (-1)^{m-n} d_{mn}^s(\vartheta) = d_{-n,-m}^s(\vartheta), \quad (\text{B.5})$$

$$d_{mn}^s(-\vartheta) = (-1)^{m-n} d_{mn}^s(\vartheta) = d_{mn}^s(\vartheta), \quad d_{mn}^s(0) = \delta_{mn}, \quad (\text{B.6})$$

$$d_{mn}^s(\pi - \vartheta) = (-1)^{s-n} d_{-mn}^s(\vartheta) = (-1)^{s+m} d_{m,-n}^s(\vartheta), \quad d_{mn}^s(\pi) = (-1)^{s-n} \delta_{-mn}, \quad (\text{B.7})$$

## Method 2: using recurrence

$$s_{\min} = \max(|m|, |n|).$$

Recurrence relation over  $s$ :

$$d_{mn}^{s+1}(\vartheta) = \frac{1}{s\sqrt{(s+1)^2 - m^2}\sqrt{(s+1)^2 - n^2}} \{(2s+1)[s(s+1)x - mn]d_{mn}^s(\vartheta) - (s+1)\sqrt{s^2 - m^2}\sqrt{s^2 - n^2}d_{mn}^{s-1}(\vartheta)\}, \quad s \geq s_{\min}. \quad (\text{B.22})$$

Initial values:

$$d_{mn}^{s_{\min}-1}(\vartheta) = 0, \quad (\text{B.23})$$

$$d_{mn}^{s_{\min}}(\vartheta) = \xi_{mn} 2^{-s_{\min}} \left[ \frac{(2s_{\min})!}{(|m-n|!(|m+n|)!)} \right]^{1/2} (1-x)^{|m-n|/2} (1+x)^{|m+n|/2}, \quad (\text{B.24})$$

$$\xi_{mn} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{for } n \geq m, \\ (-1)^{m-n} & \text{for } n < m. \end{cases} \quad (\text{B.16})$$

Denoting  $x = \cos \vartheta$

If  $m = n = 0$

$$d_{00}^s(\vartheta) = P_s(x). \quad (\text{B.27})$$

If  $n = 0$

$$d_{m0}^s(\vartheta) = \sqrt{\frac{(s-m)!}{(s+m)!}} P_s^m(x), \quad (\text{B.28})$$

$P_s$  is the Legendre polynomials and  $P_s^m$  are the associated Legendre functions:

$$P_l^m(x) = (-1)^m (1-x^2)^{m/2} \frac{d^m}{dx^m} P_l(x), \quad P_l(x) = \frac{1}{2^l l!} \frac{d^l}{dx^l} (x^2-1)^l \quad (\text{A.3})$$

Associated

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Associated\\_Legendre\\_polynomials#Recurrence\\_formula](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Associated_Legendre_polynomials#Recurrence_formula)

$$P_\ell^\ell(x) = (-1)^\ell (2\ell - 1)!! (1 - x^2)^{(\ell/2)}$$

$$P_{\ell+1}^\ell(x) = x(2\ell + 1)P_\ell^\ell(x)$$

$$(\ell - m + 1)P_{\ell+1}^m(x) = (2\ell + 1)xP_\ell^m(x) - (\ell + m)P_{\ell-1}^m(x)$$

Remember that for  $P_n^m$ ,  $0 \leq m \leq n$

Derivative of Wigner-d using the recurrence relation over  $s$ :

$$\frac{d}{d\vartheta} d_{mn}^s(\vartheta) = \frac{1}{\sin \vartheta} \left[ -\frac{(s+1)\sqrt{(s^2 - m^2)(s^2 - n^2)}}{s(2s+1)} d_{mn}^{s-1}(\vartheta) - \frac{mn}{s(s+1)} d_{mn}^s(\vartheta) + \frac{s\sqrt{(s+1)^2 - m^2}\sqrt{(s+1)^2 - n^2}}{(s+1)(2s+1)} d_{mn}^{s+1}(\vartheta) \right]. \quad (\text{B.26})$$

