

Task 1 (50 points)

Consider the parameters

$$\vec{r} = \vec{r}_1 = 5.4 \hat{e}_x + 3.4 \hat{e}_y + 2.3 \hat{e}_z, \quad \vec{r}' = \vec{r}_2 = 5.1 \hat{e}_x + 3.3 \hat{e}_y + 2.2 \hat{e}_z. \quad (1)$$

Define the terms

$$\begin{aligned} T_\ell &= \sum_{m=-\ell}^{\ell} \frac{4\pi}{2\ell+1} \frac{r_{<}^\ell}{r_{>}^{\ell+1}} Y_{\ell m}(\theta, \varphi) Y_{\ell m}^*(\theta', \varphi') \\ &= \sum_{m=-\ell}^{\ell} \frac{4\pi}{2\ell+1} \frac{r_2^\ell}{r_1^{\ell+1}} Y_{\ell m}(\theta_1, \varphi_1) Y_{\ell m}^*(\theta_2, \varphi_2), \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

where the second line is just a trivial specialization of the first, to the case $\vec{r} = \vec{r}_1$ and $\vec{r}' = \vec{r}_2$, and we anticipate that $r_2 = r_{<}$, and $r_1 = r_{>}$ (why?). Write a computer symbolic program which calculates, explicitly and numerically,

$$T_\ell, \quad 0 \leq \ell \leq 20. \quad (3)$$

Show that the sum converges **slowly**, and that the result

$$\sum_{\ell=0}^{20} T_\ell \quad \text{approximates only about 75\% of the full result for} \quad \frac{1}{|\vec{r}' - \vec{r}'|}. \quad (4)$$

Then, calculate the first 201 terms $0 \leq \ell \leq 200$ and show that the full result for $1/|\vec{r}' - \vec{r}'|$ is obtained to better than 90% agreement.

The tasks are due Thursday, 18-APR-2024, with a possible extension.