Assignment 1 MAT 454

Q3: Suppose $z, w \in S^2$. We have that their distance on the sphere is given by

$$d(z,w)^{2} = |z-w|^{2} = (z_{1}-w_{1})^{2} + (z_{2}-w_{2})^{2} + (z_{3}-w_{3})^{2} = 2 - 2(z_{1}w_{1} + z_{2}w_{2} + z_{3}w_{3}).$$

Using the fact that for any vector $x \in \mathbb{C}$,

$$(x_1, x_2, x_3) = \left(\frac{x + \overline{x}}{1 + |x|^2}, \frac{x - \overline{x}}{i(1 + |x|^2)}, \frac{|x|^2 - 1}{|x|^2 + 1}\right),$$

therefore we compute that

$$\begin{split} d(z,w)^2 &= 2 - 2 \Big(\frac{(z+\overline{z})(w+\overline{w})}{(1+|z|^2)(1+|w|^2)} - \frac{(z-\overline{z})(w-\overline{w})}{(1+|z|^2)(1+|w|^2)} + \frac{(|z|^2-1)(|w|^2-1)}{(1+|z|^2)(1+|w|^2)} \Big) \\ &= 2 - 2 \Big(\frac{z\overline{w}+\overline{z}w+z\overline{w}+\overline{z}w+|z|^2|w^2|-|z|^2-|w|^2+1}{(1+|z|^2)(1+|w|^2)} \Big) \\ &= \frac{2(1+|z|^2+|w|^2+|z|^2|w|^2)-2(z\overline{w}+\overline{z}w+z\overline{w}+\overline{z}w+|z|^2|w^2|-|z|^2-|w|^2+1)}{(1+|z|^2)(1+|w|^2)} \\ &= \frac{4|w-z|}{(1+|z|^2)(1+|w|^2)} \end{split}$$

Taking the square root gives the desired result. If we wish to compute $d(z, \infty)$, we write $\infty = (0, 0, 1)$. The same computations as above except with w = (0, 0, 1) gives us

$$d(z,\infty)^2 = 2 - 2\left(\frac{|z|^2 - 1}{|z|^2 + 1}\right) = \frac{4}{|z|^2 + 1}.$$

We are done.