

1 Sea el eigenvector complejo es  $\vec{v} = \vec{v}' + \vec{v}''$

2 Eso significa que el campo es

$$\vec{E}(t) \propto \vec{v}' \cos \omega t + \vec{v}'' \sin \omega t$$

3 Tomando componentes

$$E_x = v'_x \cos \omega t + v''_x \sin \omega t$$

$$E_y = v'_y \cos \omega t + v''_y \sin \omega t$$

4 Eliminando  $\cos \omega t$

$$v'_y E_x - v'_x E_y = (v'_y v''_x - v'_x v''_y) \sin \omega t$$

5 y eliminando  $\sin \omega t$

$$v''_y E_x - v''_x E_y = (v''_y v'_x - v''_x v'_y) \cos \omega t$$

6 De donde podemos despejar

$$\sin \omega t = \frac{v'_y E_x - v'_x E_y}{v'_y v''_x - v'_x v''_y}$$

$$\cos \omega t = -\frac{v''_y E_x - v''_x E_y}{v'_y v''_x - v'_x v''_y}$$

7 Con  $\cos^2 + \sin^2 = 1$ , podemos eliminar al tiempo escribiendo

$$\vec{E}^T M \vec{E} = 1$$

8 donde escribimos  $\vec{E}$  como vector columna y  $M$  es una matriz con componentes

$$M_{xx} = |v_y|^2 / D$$

$$M_{xy} = -(v'_x v'_y + v''_x v''_y) / D$$

$$M_{yy} = |v_x|^2 / D$$

con

$$D = (v'_y v''_x - v'_x v''_y)^2.$$

9 La ecuacion secular para esta matriz es

$$\lambda^2 - \lambda \text{tr}(M) + \det(M) = 0$$

con soluciones

$$\lambda_{\pm} = (\text{tr}(M) \pm \sqrt{\text{tr}(M)^2 - 4\det(M)}) / 2$$

a las que corresponden eigenvectores  $|+\rangle$  y  $|-\rangle$  (no confundir con polarizaciones circulares derecha e izquierda).

10 Escribiendo  $\vec{E} = E_+|+\rangle + E_-|-\rangle$  obtenemos

$$\vec{E}^T M \vec{E} = \lambda_- E_-^2 + \lambda_+ E_+^2 = 1$$

que es la ecuacion de una elipse con semieje mayor

$$a = 1/\sqrt{\lambda_-}$$

y semieje menor

$$b = 1/\sqrt{\lambda_+}$$

11 Las direcciones correspondientes a estos semiejes son

$$\tan \psi_- = (\lambda_- - M_{xx})/M_{xy}$$

$$\tan \psi_+ = (\lambda_+ - M_{xx})/M_{xy}$$

12 Para verificarlo hice un programita en gnuplot (anexo).

## I. DIAGONALIZATION

Eigenvalues and eigenvectors of a  $2 \times 2$  symmetric matrix  $M|\lambda_i\rangle = \lambda_i|\lambda_i\rangle$ , with

$$\begin{pmatrix} M_{xx} & M_{xy} \\ M_{xy} & M_{yy} \end{pmatrix}. \quad (1)$$

Then,

$$\begin{aligned} \begin{vmatrix} M_{xx} - \lambda & M_{xy} \\ M_{xy} & M_{yy} - \lambda \end{vmatrix} &= (M_{xx} - \lambda)(M_{yy} - \lambda) - M_{xy}^2 \\ &= \lambda^2 - \lambda(M_{xx} + M_{yy}) + M_{xx}M_{yy} - M_{xy}^2 \\ &= \lambda^2 - \lambda\text{Tr}[M] + \text{Det}[M] = 0 \\ \rightarrow \lambda_{\pm} &= \frac{1}{2} \left( \text{Tr}[M] \pm \sqrt{(\text{Tr}[M])^2 - 4\text{Det}[M]} \right). \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

The eigenvectors follow from

$$\begin{aligned} \begin{pmatrix} M_{xx} - \lambda & M_{xy} \\ M_{xy} & M_{yy} - \lambda \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix} &= 0 \\ (M_{xx} - \lambda)a + M_{xy}b &= 0 \\ M_{xy}a + (M_{yy} - \lambda)b &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\rightarrow b &= \frac{\lambda - M_{xx}}{M_{xy}}a, \\ \rightarrow \mathbf{V} &= \frac{a}{M_{xy}} \begin{pmatrix} M_{xy} \\ \lambda - M_{xx} \end{pmatrix},\end{aligned}\tag{3}$$

and use  $a$  to normalize the vector, then

$$\mathbf{v}_{\pm} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{|M_{xy}|^2 + |\lambda_{\pm} - M_{xx}|^2}} \begin{pmatrix} M_{xy} \\ \lambda_{\pm} - M_{xx} \end{pmatrix},\tag{4}$$

with  $\mathbf{v}_{\pm} \cdot \mathbf{v}_{\pm}^T = 1$ , and  $\mathbf{v}_{\mp} \cdot \mathbf{v}_{\pm} = 0$  can be easily verified for the case of real  $M$ . If  $M$  is complex the complex eigenvectors are not necessarily perpendicular.