

# Calculations for the second-order zonal harmonic

Pascal Leroy (phl) & Robin Leroy (eggrobin)

2014-10-31

Notations:

$$\mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix}, |\mathbf{j}| = 1, r = |\mathbf{r}|.$$

For oblateness along the  $z$ -axis, the potential is

$$\frac{J_2}{2r^5}(3z^2 - r^2).$$

For oblateness along  $\mathbf{j}$ ,

$$U(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{J_2}{2r^5}(3(\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{j})^2 - r^2).$$

Differentiating,

$$\frac{dU}{d\mathbf{r}} = \frac{J_2}{2} \left( -\frac{5}{r^6} \frac{d\mathbf{r}}{d\mathbf{r}} (3(\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{j})^2 - r^2) + \frac{1}{r^5} \left( 3 \frac{d}{d\mathbf{r}} (\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{j})^2 - 2r \frac{d\mathbf{r}}{d\mathbf{r}} \right) \right).$$

Recall that  $\frac{d\mathbf{r}}{d\mathbf{r}} = \frac{\mathbf{r}}{r}$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dU}{d\mathbf{r}} &= \frac{J_2}{2} \left( -\frac{5\mathbf{r}}{r^7} (3(\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{j})^2 - r^2) + \frac{1}{r^5} \left( 3 \frac{d}{d\mathbf{r}} (\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{j})^2 - 2\mathbf{r} \right) \right) \\ &= \frac{J_2}{2} \left( -\frac{15\mathbf{r}}{r^7} (\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{j})^2 + \frac{3\mathbf{r}}{r^5} + \frac{3}{r^5} \frac{d}{d\mathbf{r}} (\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{j})^2 \right). \end{aligned}$$

With  $\frac{d}{d\mathbf{r}} (\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{j})^2 = 2(\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{j}) \frac{d(\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{j})}{d\mathbf{r}} = 2(\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{j})\mathbf{j}$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dU}{d\mathbf{r}} &= \frac{J_2}{2} \left( -\frac{15\mathbf{r}}{r^7} (\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{j})^2 + \frac{3\mathbf{r}}{r^5} + \frac{6\mathbf{j}}{r^5} (\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{j}) \right) \\ &= \frac{3J_2}{2r^5} \left( 2\mathbf{j}(\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{j}) + \mathbf{r} \left( 1 - \frac{5(\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{j})^2}{r^2} \right) \right). \end{aligned}$$

Note that this is invariant under  $\mathbf{j} \mapsto -\mathbf{j}$  (but not under  $\mathbf{r} \mapsto -\mathbf{r}$ ).

Implementation:

```
// If j is a unit vector along the axis of rotation, and r is the separation
// between the bodies, the acceleration computed here is:
//
// 
$$-(J_2 / |r|^5) (3 j (r \cdot j) + r (3 - 15 (r \cdot j)^2 / |r|^2) / 2)$$

//
// Where |r| is the norm of r and r.j is the inner product.
template<typename InertialFrame>
__forceinline Vector<Acceleration, InertialFrame>
Order2ZonalAcceleration(
    Body<InertialFrame> const& body,
    Vector<Length, InertialFrame> const& r,
    Exponentiation<Length, -2> const& one_over_r_squared,
    Exponentiation<Length, -3> const& one_over_r_cubed) {
    Vector<double, InertialFrame> const& axis = body.axis();
    Length const r_axis_projection = InnerProduct(axis, r);
    auto const j2_over_r_fifth =
        body.j2() * one_over_r_cubed * one_over_r_squared;
    Vector<Acceleration, InertialFrame> const& axis_acceleration =
        (-3 * j2_over_r_fifth * r_axis_projection) * axis;
    Vector<Acceleration, InertialFrame> const& radial_acceleration =
        (j2_over_r_fifth *
            (-1.5 +
                7.5 * r_axis_projection *
                    r_axis_projection * one_over_r_squared)) * r;
    return axis_acceleration + radial_acceleration;
}
```