

Suppose one wishes to express the product $Y_{31}(\theta, \phi) Y_{20}(\theta, \phi)$ as a linear combination of spherical harmonics, i.e.

$$Y_{31}(\theta, \phi) Y_{20}(\theta, \phi) = \sum_{\ell=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-\ell}^{\ell} C_{\ell m} Y_{\ell m} \quad [*]$$

where the $C_{\ell m}$ are numerical constants to be determined.

(a) Explain how you can use the general selection rules for the product of 3 spherical harmonics

$$\int \int Y_{\ell_1 m_1}^* Y_{\ell_2 m_2} Y_{\ell_3 m_3} d^2\Omega = 0 \quad \text{unless}$$

$$\begin{array}{ll} (i) & m_2 + m_3 = m_1; \\ (ii) & |\ell_2 - \ell_3| \leq \ell_1 \leq |\ell_2 + \ell_3|; \\ \text{and} & (iii) \quad \ell_1 + \ell_2 + \ell_3 = \text{even integer}; \end{array}$$

to show that only 3 terms in the expansion [*] are non-zero.

(b) Explicitly evaluate these nonzero coefficients $C_{\ell m}$.