

Lecture 5. SPHERICAL & ELLIPTIC GEOMETRIES

§1. Spherical geometry (basics)

Spherical geometry is the geometry (S^2, G_S) , where S^2 is the unit sphere in \mathbb{R}^3 and G_S is the isometry group of the sphere (also denoted $O(3)$). Lines in spherical geometry are great circles, the distance between points A and B is the measure (in radians) of the angle AOB (O is the centre of S^2). The polar of a point A is the great circle whose points are at the distance $\pi/2$ from A (e.g. the North pole and the equator). The angle between two lines l_1, l_2 is the dihedral angle between the corresponding planes.

I. $\forall A \exists!$  except $A = -B!$

II. $\forall A \forall l \exists!$  except polars!

III. $\forall A \forall 0 < r \leq \pi/2 \exists!$  $r \neq$ Euclidean radius!

There are **no** parallels.

There are two types of isometries: reflections in planes $\Pi \rightarrow 0$ and rotations about straight lines $L \rightarrow 0$.

§2 Area measure

Jordan measure on S^2 ; $\mathcal{P} : \{\text{polygons on } S^2\} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$ s.t.

(I) Additivity: $S(\cup_i P_i) = \sum S(P_i)$ if $i \neq j \Rightarrow \text{Int } P_i \cap \text{Int } P_j = \emptyset$

(II) Invariance: $S(\varphi(P)) = S(P)$ if $\varphi \in O(3)$

(III) Normalization: $S(S^2) = 4\pi$

(IV) Biangle formula: $S(\text{biangle}) = 2\alpha$



§3 Triangles

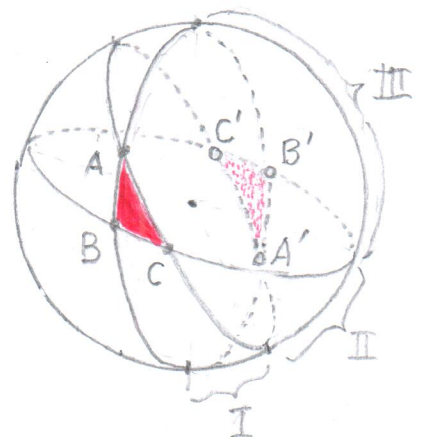
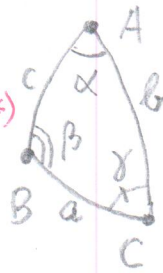
Area: $S(\triangle ABC) = \alpha + \beta + \gamma - \pi$ (*)

Proof $4\pi = S(I) + S(II) + S(III) -$

$- 2S(ABC) - 2S(A'B'C') =$

$= 4\alpha + 4\delta + 4\beta - 4S(ABC) \Rightarrow (*)$

Corollary The sum of angles of a spherical triangle is greater than π .



§3 Triangles (cont'd)

Sine theorem: $\frac{\sin a}{\sin \alpha} = \frac{\sin b}{\sin \beta} = \frac{\sin c}{\sin \gamma}$ (*)

Proof:

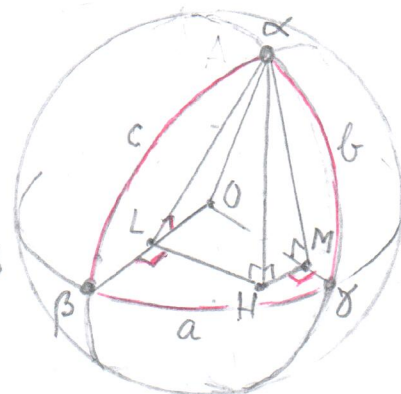
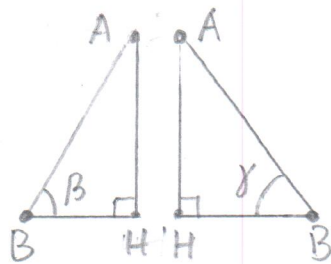
$$\Delta ALH \Rightarrow AH = AL \sin \beta =$$

$$(1) = \sin c \sin \beta$$

$$\Delta AMH \Rightarrow AH = AM \sin \gamma$$

$$(2) = \sin b \sin \gamma$$

$$(1) \& (2) \Rightarrow (*)$$



Cosine theorems: $\cos a = \cos b \cos c + \sin b \sin c \cos \alpha$

$$\cos \alpha + \cos \beta \cos \gamma = \sin \beta \sin \gamma \cos a$$

Pythagoras theorem: $\cos a = \cos b \cos c$

§4 Coxeter triangles on S^2

Def. A triangle with angles $\pi/k, \pi/l, \pi/m$ is Coxeter if it is the fundamental domain of a Klein geometry on S^2 .

Theorem There are three Coxeter triangles: $(\pi/2, \pi/3, \pi/3)$, $(\pi/2, \pi/3, \pi/4)$, $(\pi/2, \pi/3, \pi/5)$ and a series $(\pi/2, \pi/2, \pi/n), n \geq 2$. Pnc. 6.3

Fact. The group $O(3) \cong \text{Isom } S^2$ has five finite subgroups (the isometry groups of the five Platonic solids) and one infinite series (the dihedral groups: isometry groups of regular n -gons, $n \geq 2$)

Fact \Rightarrow Theorem. Let the triangle $(\pi/k, \pi/l, \pi/m)$ be Coxeter and let N triangles cover S^2 . Then $N(\pi/k + \pi/l + \pi/m - \pi) = 4\pi \Rightarrow N/k + N/l + N/m = N + 4$; Fact $\Rightarrow N \in \{24, 48, 120\}$ \Rightarrow three triangles from $(2, 3, 3), (2, 3, 4), (2, 3, 5)$ and series from $(2, 2, n), n \geq 2$

§5 Riemann's elliptic geometry...

... is the geometry $(S^2/\text{Ant} : O(3))$. It is locally isometric to spherical and axioms I, II, III hold without exceptions.

Theorem There is a surjective morphism of geometries

$$\text{Ant} : (S^2 : O(3)) \rightarrow (S^2/\text{Ant} : O(3)) \text{ given by } \Delta \mapsto (\Delta, -\Delta).$$