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Hamiltonian flows on the sphere S^2

The Hamiltonian vector fields for the area symplectic form

Definition. The area form on round S^2

The area form λ_{S^2} on the 2-sphere is the *volume form* induced by the *spherical metric* $S^2 \hookrightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$.

which

- In cylindrical polar coordinates,

$$\lambda_{S^2} = d\theta \wedge dz$$

so

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda_S(X, -) &= -dH(-) \\ \implies -\frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial \theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \end{aligned}$$

Thus,

$$-(\omega^{-1}df)_p = J_p \operatorname{grad}_p(f) = p \times \operatorname{grad}_p(f)$$

- Area preserving flow $\iff$ the generating vector field is Hamiltonian $\iff d(\iota_X\omega) = 0$
- examples
 - The Hamiltonian vector field of $(\theta, z) \mapsto z$ is $-\partial_\theta$

- A vector field is Hamiltonian $\iff$ symplectic as S^2 is simply connected.

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 - S^2 [and](#) $\mathbb{CP}^1$
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