

Description of Zernike Polynomials

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The Zernike polynomials are a set of functions that are orthogonal over the unit circle. They are useful for describing the shape of an aberrated wavefront in the pupil of an optical system or true height corneal topography. There exist several different normalization and numbering schemes for these polynomials. The purpose of this outline is to describe a standard for presenting Zernike data as it relates to aberration theory of the eye. Useful derivations and tables are also included.

1. Definition and Indexing Scheme

1.1 Double Indexing Scheme

The Zernike polynomials are usually defined in polar coordinates (ρ, θ) , where ρ is the radial coordinate ranging from 0 to 1 and θ is the azimuthal component ranging from 0 to 2π . Each of the Zernike polynomials consists of three components: a normalization factor, a radial dependent component and an azimuthal dependent component. The radial component is a polynomial, whereas the azimuthal component is sinusoidal. A double indexing scheme is useful for unambiguously describing the functions, with the index n describing the highest power or order of the radial polynomial and the index m describing the azimuthal frequency of the azimuthal component. In general, the Zernike polynomials are defined as

$$Z_n^m(\rho, \theta) = \begin{cases} N_n^m R_n^{|m|}(\rho) \cos m\theta & ; \text{for } m \geq 0 \\ -N_n^m R_n^{|m|}(\rho) \sin m\theta & ; \text{for } m < 0 \end{cases}, \quad (1)$$

Where N_n^m is the normalization factor described in more detail below and $R_n^m(\rho)$ is given by

$$R_n^{|m|}(\rho) = \sum_{s=0}^{(n-|m|)/2} \frac{(-1)^s (n-s)!}{s! [0.5(n+|m|)-s]! [0.5(n-|m|)-s]!} \rho^{n-2s}. \quad (2)$$

This definition uniquely describes the Zernike polynomials except for the normalization constant.

The normalization is given by

$$N_n^m = \sqrt{\frac{2(n+1)}{1+\delta_{m0}}}, \quad (3)$$

where δ_{m0} is the Kronecker delta function (i.e. $\delta_{m0} = 1$ for $m = 0$, and $\delta_{m0} = 0$ for $m \neq 0$).

NOTE: The value of n is a positive integer or zero. For a given n , m can only take on values $-n, -n+2, -n+4, \dots, n$.

When describing individual Zernike terms, the two-index scheme should always be used.

1.2 Single Indexing Scheme

Occasionally, a single indexing scheme is useful for describing Zernike expansion coefficients. Since the polynomials actually depend on two parameters, n and m , ordering of a single indexing scheme is arbitrary. To avoid confusion, a standard single indexing scheme should be used. To obtain the single index, j , it is convenient to lay out the polynomials in a pyramid.

$n \backslash m$	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4	+5
0						$j=0$					
1					1	→	2				
2				3	→	4	→	5			
3			6	→	7	→	8	→	9		
4		10	→	11	→	12	→	13	→	14	
5	15	→	16	→	17	→	18	→	19	→	20

Thus, the single index, j , starts at the top of the pyramid and steps down from left to right. To convert between j and the values of n and m , the following relationships can be used:

$$j = \frac{n(n+1)}{2} + \frac{n+m}{2} \quad (4)$$

and

$$n = \text{roundup} \left[\frac{-3 + \sqrt{9 + 8j}}{2} \right] \quad (5)$$

$$m = 2j - n(n+2). \quad (6)$$

2. Coordinate System

Typically, a right-handed coordinate system is used in scientific applications. The $+z$ Cartesian axis is taken as pointing out of the eye. The $+y$ axis is oriented vertically and the x axis is therefore horizontal, as shown in Figure 1 below. Conventional definitions of the polar coordinates $r = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$ and $\theta = \tan^{-1}(y/x)$ are shown as well. This definition gives $x = r \cos \theta$ and $y = r \sin \theta$. Malacara² uses a polar coordinate system in which $x = r \sin \theta$ and $y = r \cos \theta$. In other words, θ is measured clockwise from the $+y$ axis (Figure 1b), instead of counterclockwise from the $+x$ axis (Figure 1a). This definition stems from early (pre-computer) aberration theory. I am not sure of the purpose other than it leaves only $\cos m\theta$ terms for a rotationally symmetric optical system.

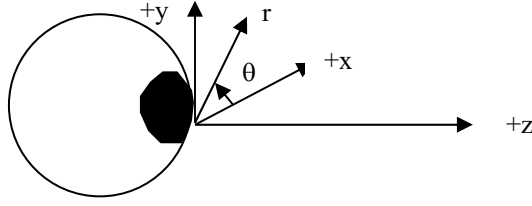


Figure 1. Conventional right-handed coordinate system: Cartesian and Polar.

The Zernike polynomials are only orthogonal over the unit circle, which means that normalized coordinates are typically used when representing functions or surfaces. Normalized polar coordinates (ρ, θ) are related to regular polar coordinates (r, θ) by

$$\rho = r / r_{\max} \quad (7)$$

where r_{\max} is the maximum radial extent of the function or surface. Note that the θ coordinate is not affected. It is also sometimes useful to consider the Zernike polynomials in Cartesian coordinates. Again, normalized coordinates are useful for taking advantage of the orthogonality properties of Zernikes. The normalized Cartesian coordinate (X, Y) are related to the regular Cartesian coordinates (x, y) by

$$X = x / r_{\max} \quad \text{and} \quad Y = y / r_{\max} \quad (8)$$

where again r_{\max} is the maximum radial extent of the function or surface.

2.1 Conversion of Zernike Polynomials from Polar to Cartesian Coordinates

Since the Zernikes depend on $\cos m\theta$ and $\sin m\theta$, examine the complex relationship $e^{i|m|\theta}$.

$$e^{i|m|\theta} = \cos|m|\theta + i \sin|m|\theta = [e^{i\theta}]^{|m|} = [\cos \theta + i \sin \theta]^{|m|} = \left[\frac{X}{\rho} + i \frac{Y}{\rho} \right]^{|m|}$$

From the Binomial Expansion

$$\left[\frac{X}{\rho} + i \frac{Y}{\rho} \right]^{|m|} = \sum_{k=0}^{|m|} \binom{|m|}{k} \left[\frac{iY}{\rho} \right]^k \left[\frac{X}{\rho} \right]^{|m|-k} = \sum_{k=0}^{|m|} \rho^{-k} \rho^{-|m|+k} \binom{|m|}{k} (i)^k X^{|m|-k} Y^k$$

Since $\cos |m|\theta$ equals the real part of the preceding equation and $\sin |m|\theta$ equals the imaginary part, the following relationships hold

$$\cos|m|\theta = \sum_{k=0(\text{even})}^{|m|} (-1)^{k/2} \binom{|m|}{k} \rho^{-|m|} X^{|m|-k} Y^k \quad (9)$$

and

$$\sin|m|\theta = \sum_{k=1(\text{odd})}^{|m|} (-1)^{(k-1)/2} \binom{|m|}{k} \rho^{-|m|} X^{|m|-k} Y^k, \quad (10)$$

which in turn collapse to

$$\cos|m|\theta = \sum_{k=0}^{|m|/2} (-1)^k \binom{|m|}{2k} \rho^{-|m|} X^{|m|-2k} Y^{2k} \quad (11)$$

and

$$\sin|m|\theta = \sum_{k=0}^{(|m|-1)/2} (-1)^k \binom{|m|}{2k+1} \rho^{-|m|} X^{|m|-(2k+1)} Y^{(2k+1)}. \quad (12)$$

Taking advantage of equations (1)-(3), (10-12) and that $\rho^2 = X^2 + Y^2$,

For $m > 0$ (13a)

$$Z_n^m(X, Y) = \sqrt{2(n+1)} \sum_{s=0}^{\frac{n-m}{2}} \sum_{j=0}^{\frac{n-m}{2}-s} \sum_{k=0}^{\frac{m}{2}} \frac{(-1)^{(s+k)} (n-s)!}{s! \left[\frac{n+m}{2} - s \right]! \left[\frac{n-m}{2} - s \right]!} \binom{\frac{n-m}{2} - s}{j} \binom{m}{2k} X^{n-2(s+j+k)} Y^{2(j+k)}$$

For $m < 0$ (13b)

$$Z_n^m(X, Y) = \sqrt{2(n+1)} \sum_{s=0}^{\frac{n-|m|}{2}} \sum_{j=0}^{\frac{n-|m|}{2}-s} \sum_{k=0}^{\frac{|m|-1}{2}} \frac{(-1)^{(s+k)} (n-s)!}{s! \left[\frac{n+|m|}{2} - s \right]! \left[\frac{n-|m|}{2} - s \right]!} \binom{\frac{n-|m|}{2} - s}{j} \binom{|m|}{2k+1} X^{n-2(s+j+k)-1} Y^{2(j+k)+1}$$

For $m = 0$ (13c)

$$Z_n^0(X, Y) = \sqrt{(n+1)} \sum_{s=0}^{\frac{n}{2}} \sum_{j=0}^{\frac{n}{2}-s} \frac{(-1)^s (n-s)!}{s! \left[\frac{n}{2} - s \right]! \left[\frac{n}{2} - s \right]!} \binom{\frac{n}{2} - s}{j} X^{n-2(s+j)} Y^{2j}$$

3. Derivatives of Zernike Polynomials

3.1 Derivative of the Zernike Polynomials in the ρ direction

From equations (1) and (2), it is easy to see that

$$\frac{\partial(Z_n^m(\rho, \theta))}{\partial \rho} = \begin{cases} N_n^m \frac{\partial(R_n^{|m|}(\rho))}{\partial \rho} \cos m\theta & ; \text{for } m \geq 0 \\ -N_n^m \frac{\partial(R_n^{|m|}(\rho))}{\partial \rho} \sin m\theta & ; \text{for } m < 0 \end{cases} \quad (14)$$

and

$$\frac{\partial(R_n^{|m|}(\rho))}{\partial \rho} = \sum_{s=0}^{(n-|m|)/2} \frac{(-1)^s (n-s)!}{s! [0.5(n+|m|)-s]! [0.5(n-|m|)-s]!} (n-2s) \rho^{n-2s-1} \quad (15)$$

3.2 Relationship between ρ and r derivatives of Zernike Polynomials

The chain rule can be used to calculate the r derivative such that

$$\frac{\partial(Z_n^m(r, \theta))}{\partial r} = \frac{\partial(Z_n^m(\rho, \theta))}{\partial \rho} \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial r}, \quad (16)$$

and since $\rho = r / r_{\max}$ and subsequently $\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial r} = \frac{1}{r_{\max}}$, then

$$\frac{\partial(Z_n^m(r, \theta))}{\partial r} = \frac{1}{r_{\max}} \frac{\partial(Z_n^m(\rho, \theta))}{\partial \rho}. \quad (17)$$

3.3 Derivative of the Zernike Polynomials in the θ direction

From equation (1), it is clear that

$$\frac{\partial(Z_n^m(\rho, \theta))}{\partial \theta} = \begin{cases} -m N_n^m R_n^{|m|}(\rho) \sin m\theta & ; \text{for } m \geq 0 \\ -m N_n^m R_n^{|m|}(\rho) \cos m\theta & ; \text{for } m < 0 \end{cases} \quad (18)$$

3.4 Derivative of the Zernike Polynomials in the X direction

From equations 13a-c, it is clear that for $m > 0$

(19a)

$$\frac{dZ_n^m(X, Y)}{dX} = \sqrt{2(n+1)} \times \sum_{s=0}^{\frac{n-|m|}{2}} \sum_{j=0}^{\frac{n-|m|}{2}-s} \sum_{k=0}^{\frac{|m|}{2}} \frac{(-1)^{(s+k)} (n-s)!}{s! \left[\frac{n+|m|}{2} - s \right]! \left[\frac{n-|m|}{2} - s \right]!} \binom{\frac{n-m}{2} - s}{j} \binom{m}{2k} (n-2(s+j+k)) X^{n-2(s+j+k)-1} Y^{2(j+k)}$$

and for $m < 0$

(19b)

$$\frac{dZ_n^m(X, Y)}{dX} = \sqrt{2(n+1)} \times \sum_{s=0}^{\frac{n-|m|}{2}} \sum_{j=0}^{\frac{n-|m|}{2}-s} \sum_{k=0}^{\frac{|m|-1}{2}} \frac{(-1)^{(s+k)} (n-s)!}{s! \left[\frac{n+|m|}{2} - s \right]! \left[\frac{n-|m|}{2} - s \right]!} \binom{\frac{n-m}{2} - s}{j} \binom{m}{2k+1} (n-2(s+j+k)-1) X^{n-2(s+j+k)-2} Y^{2(j+k)+1}$$

and for $m=0$

(19c)

$$\frac{dZ_n^0(X, Y)}{dX} = \sqrt{(n+1)} \sum_{s=0}^{\frac{n}{2}} \sum_{j=0}^{\frac{n-s}{2}} \frac{(-1)^s (n-s)!}{s! \left[\frac{n}{2} - s \right]! \left[\frac{n}{2} - s \right]!} \binom{\frac{n}{2} - s}{j} (n-2(s+j)) X^{n-2(s+j)-1} Y^{2j}$$

3.5 Derivative of the Zernike Polynomials in the Y direction

From equations 13a-c, it is clear that for $m > 0$

(20a)

$$\frac{dZ_n^m(X, Y)}{dY} = \sqrt{2(n+1)} \times \sum_{s=0}^{\frac{n-|m|}{2}} \sum_{j=0}^{\frac{n-|m|}{2}-s} \sum_{k=0}^{\frac{|m|}{2}} \frac{(-1)^{(s+k)} (n-s)!}{s! \left[\frac{n+|m|}{2} - s \right]! \left[\frac{n-|m|}{2} - s \right]!} \binom{\frac{n-m}{2} - s}{j} \binom{m}{2k} (2(j+k)) X^{n-2(s+j+k)} Y^{2(j+k)-1}$$

and for $m < 0$

(20b)

$$\frac{dZ_n^m(X, Y)}{dY} = \sqrt{2(n+1)} \times \sum_{s=0}^{\frac{n-|m|}{2}} \sum_{j=0}^{\frac{n-|m|}{2}-s} \sum_{k=0}^{\frac{|m|-1}{2}} \frac{(-1)^{(s+k)} (n-s)!}{s! \left[\frac{n+|m|}{2} - s \right]! \left[\frac{n-|m|}{2} - s \right]!} \binom{\frac{n-m}{2} - s}{j} \binom{m}{2k+1} (2(j+k)+1) X^{n-2(s+j+k)-1} Y^{2(j+k)}$$

and for $m=0$

(20c)

$$\frac{dZ_n^0(X, Y)}{dY} = \sqrt{(n+1)} \sum_{s=0}^{\frac{n}{2}} \sum_{j=0}^{\frac{n-s}{2}} \frac{(-1)^s (n-s)!}{s! \left[\frac{n}{2} - s \right]! \left[\frac{n}{2} - s \right]!} \binom{\frac{n}{2} - s}{j} (2j) X^{n-2(s+j)} Y^{2j-1}$$

3.6 Relationship between x and x derivatives of Zernike Polynomials

The chain rule can be used to calculate the x derivative such that

$$\frac{\partial(Z_n^m(x, y))}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial(Z_n^m(X, Y))}{\partial X} \frac{\partial X}{\partial x}, \quad (21)$$

and since $X = x / r_{\max}$ and subsequently $\frac{\partial X}{\partial x} = \frac{1}{r_{\max}}$, then

$$\frac{\partial(Z_n^m(x, y))}{\partial x} = \frac{1}{r_{\max}} \frac{\partial(Z_n^m(X, Y))}{\partial X}. \quad (22)$$

3.7 Relationship between Y and y derivatives of Zernike Polynomials

The chain rule can be used to calculate the y derivative such that

$$\frac{\partial(Z_n^m(x, y))}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial(Z_n^m(X, Y))}{\partial Y} \frac{\partial Y}{\partial y}, \quad (21)$$

and since $Y = y / r_{\max}$ and subsequently $\frac{\partial Y}{\partial y} = \frac{1}{r_{\max}}$, then

$$\frac{\partial(Z_n^m(x, y))}{\partial y} = \frac{1}{r_{\max}} \frac{\partial(Z_n^m(X, Y))}{\partial Y}. \quad (22)$$

3.8 X and Y derivatives of Zernikes expressed as Zernikes(from Charlie Campbell)

The following equations give the relationships between the Zernike functions and their first derivatives. The expressions here are a modification of the expressions Charlie Campbell derived for the un-normalized case.

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial X} Z_n^m = \sqrt{(1 + \delta_{m0})(n+1)} \left[\sum_{\substack{n'=|m|+1 \\ \text{Step2}}}^{n-1} \sqrt{(n'+1)} Z_{n'}^{\frac{m}{|m|}(|m|+1)} + (1 - \delta_{m0})(1 - \delta_{m,-1}) \sqrt{1 + \delta_{m1}} \sum_{\substack{n'=|m|-1 \\ \text{Step2}}}^{n-1} \sqrt{(n'+1)} Z_{n'}^{\frac{m}{|m|}(|m|-1)} \right] \quad (23)$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial Y} Z_n^m = \sqrt{(1 + \delta_{m0})(n+1)} \frac{m}{|m|} \left[\sum_{\substack{n'=|m|+1 \\ \text{Step2}}}^{n-1} \sqrt{(n'+1)} Z_{n'}^{\frac{m}{|m|}(|m|+1)} - (1 - \delta_{m0})(1 - \delta_{m1}) \sqrt{1 + \delta_{m,-1}} \sum_{\substack{n'=|m|-1 \\ \text{Step2}}}^{n-1} \sqrt{(n'+1)} Z_{n'}^{\frac{m}{|m|}(|m|-1)} \right] \quad (24)$$

4. Mirroring and Rotating Zernikes

4.1 Mirror image of surface fit

In order to flip the Zernike patterns about the Y axis, the value of X in equations 13a-c with $-X$. This flip is useful for comparing wavefronts from right and left eyes.

For cases where $m \geq 0$, if X is replaced with $-X$, then a factor of $(-1)^{n-2(s+j+k)}$ appears. When the exponent is even, then $Z_n^m(X, Y) = Z_n^m(-X, Y)$. When the exponent is odd, then $Z_n^m(X, Y) = -Z_n^m(-X, Y)$. Since $2(s+j+k)$ is always even, then the exponent is even if n is even and odd, if n is odd.

For cases where $m < 0$, if X is replaced with $-X$, then a factor of $(-1)^{n-2(s+j+k)-1}$ appears. When the exponent is even, then $Z_n^m(X, Y) = Z_n^m(-X, Y)$. When the exponent is odd, then $Z_n^m(X, Y) = -Z_n^m(-X, Y)$. Since $2(s+j+k)$ is always even, then the exponent is even if n is odd and the exponent is odd, if n is even.

To flip the Zernikes, if n is even, negate the coefficients where $m < 0$. If n is odd negate the coefficients where $m > 0$.

4.2 Rotation of Zernike functions

To rotate the Zernike polynomials through an angle θ_0 , replace θ with $\theta - \theta_0$ in equation 1.

$$Z_n^m(\rho, \theta - \theta_0) = \begin{cases} N_n^m R_n^{|m|}(\rho) \cos m(\theta - \theta_0) & ; \text{for } m \geq 0 \\ -N_n^m R_n^{|m|}(\rho) \sin m(\theta - \theta_0) & ; \text{for } m < 0 \end{cases} \quad (25)$$

In a linear expansion, if pairs of polynomials with the same n and equal and azimuthal frequencies of equal magnitude and opposite signs are considered

$$\begin{aligned} & a_{n,|m|} Z_n^{|m|}(\rho, \theta - \theta_0) + a_{n,-|m|} Z_n^{-|m|}(\rho, \theta - \theta_0) \\ &= a_{n,|m|} N_n^m R_n^{|m|}(\rho) [\cos|m|\theta \cos|m|\theta_0 + \sin|m|\theta \sin|m|\theta_0] \\ & \quad - a_{n,-|m|} N_n^m R_n^{|m|}(\rho) [-\sin|m|\theta \cos|m|\theta_0 + \cos|m|\theta \sin|m|\theta_0] \quad (26) \\ &= [a_{n,|m|} \cos|m|\theta_0 - a_{n,-|m|} \sin|m|\theta_0] N_n^m R_n^{|m|}(\rho) \cos|m|\theta \\ & \quad + [a_{n,|m|} \sin|m|\theta_0 + a_{n,-|m|} \cos|m|\theta_0] N_n^m R_n^{|m|}(\rho) \sin|m|\theta \end{aligned}$$

Thus, the polynomials can be rotated by modifying the coefficients so that

$$\begin{aligned} b_{n,|m|} &= \left[a_{n,|m|} \cos|m|\theta_o - a_{n,-|m|} \sin|m|\theta_o \right] \\ b_{n,-|m|} &= \left[a_{n,|m|} \sin|m|\theta_o + a_{n,-|m|} \cos|m|\theta_o \right] \end{aligned} \quad (27)$$

where the b's are the expansion coefficients for the rotated polynomials.

5. Variable Power Elements

Decentering coma and trefoil terms, $Z(3,1)$ and $Z(3,3)$, introduces defocus and astigmatism terms, and that the magnitude of the defocus and astigmatism is linearly proportional to the amount of decentration $\Delta\rho$. Consider two complementary thin elements whose phase is given by

$$\phi_1(x, y) = a_{31}Z_3^1(x, y) + a_{33}Z_3^3(x, y) \quad (28)$$

And

$$\phi_2(x, y) = -a_{31}Z_3^1(x, y) - a_{33}Z_3^3(x, y) \quad (29)$$

If one element is shifted along the x-axis by an amount Δx and the other element is shifted an equal distance in the opposite direction, then variable levels of defocus and astigmatism can be produced. Specifically,

$$\begin{aligned} \phi_1(x + \Delta x, y) &= a_{31}Z_3^1(x + \Delta x, y) + a_{33}Z_3^3(x + \Delta x, y) \\ &= a_{31} \left[-2\sqrt{2}(\Delta x + 3\Delta x^3)Z_0^0(x, y) + 9\sqrt{2}\Delta x^2Z_1^1(x, y) - 2\sqrt{6}\Delta xZ_2^0(x, y) - 2\sqrt{3}\Delta xZ_2^2(x, y) + Z_3^1(x, y) \right] \\ &\quad + a_{33} \left[-2\sqrt{2}\Delta x^3Z_0^0(x, y) + 3\sqrt{2}\Delta x^2Z_1^1(x, y) - 2\sqrt{3}\Delta xZ_2^2(x, y) + Z_3^3(x, y) \right] \end{aligned} \quad (30)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \phi_2(x - \Delta x, y) &= -a_{31}Z_3^1(x - \Delta x, y) - a_{33}Z_3^3(x - \Delta x, y) \\ &= -a_{31} \left[2\sqrt{2}(\Delta x + 3\Delta x^3)Z_0^0(x, y) + 9\sqrt{2}\Delta x^2Z_1^1(x, y) + 2\sqrt{6}\Delta xZ_2^0(x, y) + 2\sqrt{3}\Delta xZ_2^2(x, y) + Z_3^1(x, y) \right] \\ &\quad - a_{33} \left[2\sqrt{2}\Delta x^3Z_0^0(x, y) + 3\sqrt{2}\Delta x^2Z_1^1(x, y) + 2\sqrt{3}\Delta xZ_2^2(x, y) + Z_3^3(x, y) \right] \end{aligned} \quad (31)$$

where the decentered version of the coma and trefoil terms are simply obtained from calculating the displaced versions of coma and trefoil terms in Table 4 and projecting the resultant polynomial onto the lower order Zernike terms. Note that in combining these two phase-elements, terms with even powers of Δx cancel, and that the piston terms $Z_0^0(x, y)$ can be ignored since they represent only a constant phase shift of the net wavefront passing through the elements. The phase of a plane wave passing through the elements is then given by

$$\phi_1(x + \Delta x, y) + \phi_2(x - \Delta x, y) = -4\sqrt{6}\Delta x a_{31} Z_2^0(x, y) - 4\sqrt{3}\Delta x (a_{31} + a_{33}) Z_2^2(x, y) \quad (32)$$

There are two special cases of this result. First, when $a_{33} = -a_{31}$. In this case, only pure defocus with a magnitude that is linearly dependent upon Δx appears. The phase of the first element is given by

$$\phi_1(x, y) = a_{31} (Z_3^1(x, y) - Z_3^3(x, y)) = \frac{a_{31}\sqrt{2}}{3} \left(\frac{x^3}{3} + xy^2 - \frac{x}{3} \right) \quad (33)$$

The phase of the second element is just the negative of the first. Equation (33) describes one form of a Variable Focus Lens (VFL) first described by Alvarez. The generalized form for the VFL such that the phase of one of the elements is given by

$$\phi(x, y) = A \left(\frac{x^3}{3} + xy^2 \right) + Bx^2 + Cxy + Dx + E + F(y) \quad (34)$$

where B, C, D, and E are arbitrary constants and $F(y)$ is an arbitrary function of y . Interestingly, the specific example of the VFL given in equation (33) is unique in that it minimizes the rms phase difference between the phase plate and a plane wave. This minimization is due to the rms being related to the sum of the squares of the Zernike expansion coefficients. The function $\phi_1(x, y)$ requires only two Zernike terms ($Z_3^1(x, y)$ and $Z_3^3(x, y)$) to represent its shape.

Additional Zernike terms would be necessary to represent the generalized VFL shape in equation (34). These additional terms can only increase the rms phase difference, since the squares of the coefficients are necessarily positive.

The second special case of the variable power elements is when $a_{31} = 0$. In this case, pure 90/180 astigmatism results in equation (32). The phase of the first element is given by

$$\phi_1(x, y) = a_{33} Z_3^3(x, y) = a_{33} 3\sqrt{8} \left(\frac{x^3}{3} - xy^2 \right) \quad (35)$$

Again, the phase of the second element is just the negative of the first. This element is exactly the Variable Astigmatic Lens (VAL) described by Humphrey, Alvarez's student and colleague.

The element can be generalized as well such that the phase is given by

$$\phi(x, y) = A \left(\frac{x^3}{3} - xy^2 \right) + Bx^2 + Cxy + Dy^2 + Ex + Fy + G \quad (36)$$

where B, C, D, E, F and G are arbitrary constants. As with the VFL, the phase surface described in equation (25) represents the minimum rms phase surface for the VAF.

6. Relationship of Zernikes to Ophthalmic Terms

Positive Z(2,0) defocus means myopia

Negative Z(2,0) defocus means hyperopia

Positive Z(4,0) spherical aberration means rays at the edge of the pupil are myopic relative to rays in the center of the pupil.

Negative Z(4,0) spherical aberration means rays at the edge of the pupil are hyperopic relative to rays in the center of the pupil.

Positive Z(2,2) horizontal astigmatism is against-the-rule astigmatism

Negative Z(2,2) horizontal astigmatism is with-the-rule astigmatism

Positive Z(3,-1) vertical coma has superior steepening

Negative Z(3,-1) vertical coma has inferior steepening

Positive Z(3,1) horizontal coma has steepening along 0 degree semi-meridian

Negative Z(3,1) horizontal coma has steepening along 180 degree semi-meridian

Table 1. Zernike Polynomials in Polar Coordinates up to 7th order (36 terms)

j	n	m	$Z_n^m(\rho, \theta)$
0	0	0	1
1	1	-1	2 $\rho \sin \theta$
2	1	1	2 $\rho \cos \theta$
3	2	-2	$\sqrt{6} \rho^2 \sin 2\theta$
4	2	0	$\sqrt{3} (2\rho^2-1)$
5	2	2	$\sqrt{6} \rho^2 \cos 2\theta$
6	3	-3	$\sqrt{8} \rho^3 \sin 3\theta$
7	3	-1	$\sqrt{8} (3\rho^3-2\rho) \sin \theta$
8	3	1	$\sqrt{8} (3\rho^3-2\rho) \cos \theta$
9	3	3	$\sqrt{8} \rho^3 \cos 3\theta$
10	4	-4	$\sqrt{10} \rho^4 \sin 4\theta$
11	4	-2	$\sqrt{10} (4\rho^4-3\rho^2) \sin 2\theta$
12	4	0	$\sqrt{5} (6\rho^4-6\rho^2+1)$
13	4	2	$\sqrt{10} (4\rho^4-3\rho^2) \cos 2\theta$
14	4	4	$\sqrt{10} \rho^4 \cos 4\theta$
15	5	-5	$\sqrt{12} \rho^5 \sin 5\theta$
16	5	-3	$\sqrt{12} (5\rho^5-4\rho^3) \sin 3\theta$
17	5	-1	$\sqrt{12} (10\rho^5-12\rho^3+3\rho) \sin \theta$
18	5	1	$\sqrt{12} (10\rho^5-12\rho^3+3\rho) \cos \theta$
19	5	3	$\sqrt{12} (5\rho^5-4\rho^3) \cos 3\theta$
20	5	5	$\sqrt{12} \rho^5 \cos 5\theta$
21	6	-6	$\sqrt{14} \rho^6 \sin 6\theta$
22	6	-4	$\sqrt{14} (6\rho^6-5\rho^4) \sin 4\theta$
23	6	-2	$\sqrt{14} (15\rho^6-20\rho^4+6\rho^2) \sin 2\theta$
24	6	0	$\sqrt{7} (20\rho^6-30\rho^4+12\rho^2-1)$
25	6	2	$\sqrt{14} (15\rho^6-20\rho^4+6\rho^2) \cos 2\theta$
26	6	4	$\sqrt{14} (6\rho^6-5\rho^4) \cos 4\theta$
27	6	6	$\sqrt{14} \rho^6 \cos 6\theta$
28	7	-7	4 $\rho^7 \sin 7\theta$
29	7	-5	4 $(7\rho^7-6\rho^5) \sin 5\theta$
30	7	-3	4 $(21\rho^7-30\rho^5+10\rho^3) \sin 3\theta$
31	7	-1	4 $(35\rho^7-60\rho^5+30\rho^3-4\rho) \sin \theta$
32	7	1	4 $(35\rho^7-60\rho^5+30\rho^3-4\rho) \cos \theta$
33	7	3	4 $(21\rho^7-30\rho^5+10\rho^3) \cos 3\theta$
34	7	5	4 $(7\rho^7-6\rho^5) \cos 5\theta$
35	7	7	4 $\rho^7 \cos 7\theta$

Table 2. ρ Derivative of Zernike Polynomials in Polar Coordinates up to 7th order

j	n	m	$d(Z_n^m(\rho, \theta)) / d\rho$
0	0	0	0
1	1	-1	2 sin θ
2	1	1	2 cos θ
3	2	-2	$\sqrt{6}$ 2 ρ sin 2 θ
4	2	0	$\sqrt{3}$ 4 ρ
5	2	2	$\sqrt{6}$ 2 ρ cos 2 θ
6	3	-3	$\sqrt{8}$ 3 ρ^2 sin 3 θ
7	3	-1	$\sqrt{8}$ (9 ρ^2 -2) sin θ
8	3	1	$\sqrt{8}$ (9 ρ^2 -2) cos θ
9	3	3	$\sqrt{8}$ 3 ρ^2 cos 3 θ
10	4	-4	$\sqrt{10}$ 4 ρ^3 sin 4 θ
11	4	-2	$\sqrt{10}$ (16 ρ^3 -6 ρ) sin 2 θ
12	4	0	$\sqrt{5}$ (24 ρ^3 -12 ρ)
13	4	2	$\sqrt{10}$ (16 ρ^3 -6 ρ) cos 2 θ
14	4	4	$\sqrt{10}$ 4 ρ^3 cos 4 θ
15	5	-5	$\sqrt{12}$ 5 ρ^4 sin 5 θ
16	5	-3	$\sqrt{12}$ (25 ρ^4 -12 ρ^2) sin 3 θ
17	5	-1	$\sqrt{12}$ (50 ρ^4 -36 ρ^2 +3) sin θ
18	5	1	$\sqrt{12}$ (50 ρ^4 -36 ρ^2 +3) cos θ
19	5	3	$\sqrt{12}$ (25 ρ^4 -12 ρ^2) cos 3 θ
20	5	5	$\sqrt{12}$ 5 ρ^4 cos 5 θ
21	6	-6	$\sqrt{14}$ 6 ρ^5 sin 6 θ
22	6	-4	$\sqrt{14}$ (36 ρ^5 -20 ρ^3) sin 4 θ
23	6	-2	$\sqrt{14}$ (90 ρ^5 -80 ρ^3 +12 ρ) sin 2 θ
24	6	0	$\sqrt{7}$ (120 ρ^5 -120 ρ^3 +24 ρ)
25	6	2	$\sqrt{14}$ (90 ρ^5 -80 ρ^3 +12 ρ) cos 2 θ
26	6	4	$\sqrt{14}$ (36 ρ^5 -20 ρ^3) cos 4 θ
27	6	6	$\sqrt{14}$ 6 ρ^5 cos 6 θ
28	7	-7	4 (7 ρ^6 sin 7 θ)
29	7	-5	4 (49 ρ^6 -30 ρ^4) sin 5 θ
30	7	-3	4 (147 ρ^6 -150 ρ^4 +30 ρ^2) sin 3 θ
31	7	-1	4 (245 ρ^6 -300 ρ^4 +90 ρ^2 -4) sin θ
32	7	1	4 (245 ρ^6 -300 ρ^4 +90 ρ^2 -4) cos θ
33	7	3	4 (147 ρ^6 -150 ρ^4 +30 ρ^2) cos 3 θ
34	7	5	4 (49 ρ^6 -30 ρ^4) cos 5 θ
35	7	7	4 (7 ρ^6 cos 7 θ)

Table 3. θ derivative of Zernike Polynomials in Polar Coordinates up to 7th order

j	n	m	$d(Z_n^m(\rho, \theta)) / d\theta$
0	0	0	0
1	1	-1	$2 \rho \cos \theta$
2	1	1	$-2 \rho \sin \theta$
3	2	-2	$2\sqrt{6} \rho^2 \cos 2\theta$
4	2	0	0
5	2	2	$-2\sqrt{6} \rho^2 \sin 2\theta$
6	3	-3	$3\sqrt{8} \rho^3 \cos 3\theta$
7	3	-1	$\sqrt{8} (3\rho^3-2\rho) \cos \theta$
8	3	1	$-\sqrt{8} (3\rho^3-2\rho) \sin \theta$
9	3	3	$-3\sqrt{8} \rho^3 \sin 3\theta$
10	4	-4	$4\sqrt{10} \rho^4 \cos 4\theta$
11	4	-2	$2\sqrt{10} (4\rho^4-3\rho^2) \cos 2\theta$
12	4	0	0
13	4	2	$-2\sqrt{10} (4\rho^4-3\rho^2) \sin 2\theta$
14	4	4	$-4\sqrt{10} \rho^4 \sin 4\theta$
15	5	-5	$5\sqrt{12} \rho^5 \cos 5\theta$
16	5	-3	$3\sqrt{12} (5\rho^5-4\rho^3) \cos 3\theta$
17	5	-1	$\sqrt{12} (10\rho^5-12\rho^3+3\rho) \cos \theta$
18	5	1	$-\sqrt{12} (10\rho^5-12\rho^3+3\rho) \sin \theta$
19	5	3	$-3\sqrt{12} (5\rho^5-4\rho^3) \sin 3\theta$
20	5	5	$-5\sqrt{12} \rho^5 \sin 5\theta$
21	6	-6	$6\sqrt{14} \rho^6 \cos 6\theta$
22	6	-4	$4\sqrt{14} (6\rho^6-5\rho^4) \cos 4\theta$
23	6	-2	$2\sqrt{14} (15\rho^6-20\rho^4+6\rho^2) \cos 2\theta$
24	6	0	0
25	6	2	$-2\sqrt{14} (15\rho^6-20\rho^4+6\rho^2) \sin 2\theta$
26	6	4	$-4\sqrt{14} (6\rho^6-5\rho^4) \sin 4\theta$
27	6	6	$-6\sqrt{14} \rho^6 \sin 6\theta$
28	7	-7	$28 \rho^7 \cos 7\theta$
29	7	-5	$20 (7\rho^7-6\rho^5) \cos 5\theta$
30	7	-3	$12 (21\rho^7-30\rho^5+10\rho^3) \cos 3\theta$
31	7	-1	$4 (35\rho^7-60\rho^5+30\rho^3-4\rho) \cos \theta$
32	7	1	$-4 (35\rho^7-60\rho^5+30\rho^3-4\rho) \sin \theta$
33	7	3	$-12 (21\rho^7-30\rho^5+10\rho^3) \sin 3\theta$
34	7	5	$-20 (7\rho^7-6\rho^5) \sin 5\theta$
35	7	7	$-28 \rho^7 \sin 7\theta$

Table 4. Zernike Polynomials in Cartesian Coordinates up to 7th order (36 terms)

j	n	m	$Z_n^m(x,y)$	where $x^2 + y^2 = \rho^2 \leq 1$
0	0	0	1	
1	1	-1	2 Y	
2	1	1	2 X	
3	2	-2	$\sqrt{6} 2XY$	
4	2	0	$\sqrt{3} (2X^2+2Y^2-1)$	
5	2	2	$\sqrt{6} (X^2-Y^2)$	
6	3	-3	$\sqrt{8} (3X^2Y-Y^3)$	
7	3	-1	$\sqrt{8} (3X^2Y+3Y^3-2Y)$	
8	3	1	$\sqrt{8} (3X^3+3XY^2-2X)$	
9	3	3	$\sqrt{8} (X^3-3XY^2)$	
10	4	-4	$\sqrt{10} (4X^3Y-4XY^3)$	
11	4	-2	$\sqrt{10} (8X^3Y+8XY^3-6XY)$	
12	4	0	$\sqrt{5} (6X^4+12X^2Y^2+6Y^4-6X^2-6Y^2+1)$	
13	4	2	$\sqrt{10} (4X^4-4Y^4-3X^2+3Y^2)$	
14	4	4	$\sqrt{10} (X^4-6X^2Y^2+Y^4)$	
15	5	-5	$\sqrt{12} (5X^4Y-10X^2Y^3+Y^5)$	
16	5	-3	$\sqrt{12} (15X^4Y+10X^2Y^3-5Y^5-12X^2Y+4Y^3)$	
17	5	-1	$\sqrt{12} (10X^4Y+20X^2Y^3+10Y^5-12X^2Y-12Y^3+3Y)$	
18	5	1	$\sqrt{12} (10X^5+20X^3Y^2+10XY^4-12X^3-12XY^2+3X)$	
19	5	3	$\sqrt{12} (5X^5-10X^3Y^2-15XY^4-4X^3+12XY^2)$	
20	5	5	$\sqrt{12} (X^5-10X^3Y^2+5XY^4)$	
21	6	-6	$\sqrt{14} (6X^5Y-20X^3Y^3+6XY^5)$	
22	6	-4	$\sqrt{14} (24X^5Y-24XY^5-20X^3Y+20XY^3)$	
23	6	-2	$\sqrt{14} (30X^5Y+60X^3Y^3+30XY^5-40X^3Y-40XY^3+12XY)$	
24	6	0	$\sqrt{7} (20X^6+60X^4Y^2+60X^2Y^4+20Y^6-30X^4-60X^2Y^2-30Y^4+12X^2+12Y^2-1)$	
25	6	2	$\sqrt{14} (15X^6+15X^4Y^2-15X^2Y^4-15Y^6-20X^4+20Y^4+6X^2-6Y^2)$	
26	6	4	$\sqrt{14} (6X^6-30X^4Y^2-30X^2Y^4+6Y^6-5X^4+30X^2Y^2-5Y^4)$	
27	6	6	$\sqrt{14} (X^6-15X^4Y^2+15X^2Y^4-Y^6)$	
28	7	-7	$4 (7X^6Y-35X^4Y^3+21X^2Y^5-Y^7)$	
29	7	-5	$4 (35X^6Y-35X^4Y^3-63X^2Y^5+7Y^7-30X^4Y+60X^2Y^3-6Y^5)$	
30	7	-3	$4 (63X^6Y+105X^4Y^3+21X^2Y^5-21Y^7-90X^4Y-60X^2Y^3+30Y^5+30X^2Y-10Y^3)$	
31	7	-1	$4 (35X^6Y+105X^4Y^3+105X^2Y^5+35Y^7-60X^4Y-120X^2Y^3-60Y^5+30X^2Y+30Y^3-4Y)$	
32	7	1	$4 (35X^7+105X^5Y^2+105X^3Y^4+35XY^6-60X^5-120X^3Y^2-60XY^4+30X^3+30XY^2-4X)$	
33	7	3	$4 (21X^7-21X^5Y^2-105X^3Y^4-63XY^6-30X^5+60X^3Y^2+90XY^4+10X^3-30XY^2)$	
34	7	5	$4 (7X^7-63X^5Y^2-35X^3Y^4+35XY^6-6X^5+60X^3Y^2-30XY^4)$	
35	7	7	$4 (X^7-21X^5Y^2+35X^3Y^4-7XY^6)$	

Table 5. x Derivative of Zernike Polynomials in Cartesian Coordinates up to 7th order

j	n	m	$d(Z_n^m(x,Y))/dx$	where $x^2 + Y^2 = \rho^2 \leq 1$
0	0	0	0	
1	1	-1	0	
2	1	1	2	
3	2	-2	$\sqrt{6} 2Y$	
4	2	0	$\sqrt{3} 4x$	
5	2	2	$\sqrt{6} 2x$	
6	3	-3	$\sqrt{8} 6XY$	
7	3	-1	$\sqrt{8} 6XY$	
8	3	1	$\sqrt{8} (9x^2+3Y^2-2)$	
9	3	3	$\sqrt{8} (3x^2-3Y^2)$	
10	4	-4	$\sqrt{10} (12x^2Y-4Y^3)$	
11	4	-2	$\sqrt{10} (24x^2Y+8Y^3-6Y)$	
12	4	0	$\sqrt{5} (24x^3+24XY^2-12x)$	
13	4	2	$\sqrt{10} (16x^3-6x)$	
14	4	4	$\sqrt{10} (4x^3-12XY^2)$	
15	5	-5	$\sqrt{12} (20x^3Y-20XY^3)$	
16	5	-3	$\sqrt{12} (60x^3Y+20XY^3-24XY)$	
17	5	-1	$\sqrt{12} (40x^3Y+40XY^3-24XY)$	
18	5	1	$\sqrt{12} (50x^4+60x^2Y^2+10Y^4-36x^2-12Y^2+3)$	
19	5	3	$\sqrt{12} (25x^4-30x^2Y^2-15Y^4-12x^2+12Y^2)$	
20	5	5	$\sqrt{12} (5x^4-30x^2Y^2+5Y^4)$	
21	6	-6	$\sqrt{14} (30x^4Y-60x^2Y^3+6Y^5)$	
22	6	-4	$\sqrt{14} (120x^4Y-24Y^5-60x^2Y+20Y^3)$	
23	6	-2	$\sqrt{14} (150x^4Y+180x^2Y^3+30Y^5-120x^2Y-40Y^3+12Y)$	
24	6	0	$\sqrt{7} (120x^5+240x^3Y^2+120XY^4-120x^3-120XY^2+24x)$	
25	6	2	$\sqrt{14} (90x^5+60x^3Y^2-30XY^4-80x^3+12x)$	
26	6	4	$\sqrt{14} (36x^5-120x^3Y^2-60XY^4-20x^3+60XY^2)$	
27	6	6	$\sqrt{14} (6x^5-60x^3Y^2+30XY^4)$	
28	7	-7	$4 (42x^5Y-140x^3Y^3+42XY^5)$	
29	7	-5	$4 (210x^5Y-140x^3Y^3-126XY^5-120x^3Y+120XY^3)$	
30	7	-3	$4 (378x^5Y+420x^3Y^3+42XY^5-360x^3Y-120XY^3+60XY)$	
31	7	-1	$4 (210x^5Y+420x^3Y^3+210XY^5-240x^3Y-240XY^3+60XY)$	
32	7	1	$4 (245x^6+525x^4Y^2+315x^2Y^4+35Y^6-300x^4-360x^2Y^2-60Y^4+90x^2+30Y^2-4)$	
33	7	3	$4 (147x^6-105x^4Y^2-315x^2Y^4-63Y^6-150x^4+180x^2Y^2+90Y^4+30x^2-30Y^2)$	
34	7	5	$4 (49x^6-315x^4Y^2-105x^2Y^4+35Y^6-30x^4+180x^2Y^2-30Y^4)$	
35	7	7	$4 (7x^6-105x^4Y^2+105x^2Y^4-7Y^6)$	

Table 6. Y Derivative of Zernike Polynomials in Cartesian Coordinates up to 7th order

j	n	m	$d(Z_n^m(x,Y)) / dY$	where $x^2 + Y^2 = \rho^2 \leq 1$
0	0	0	0	
1	1	-1	2	
2	1	1	0	
3	2	-2	$\sqrt{6} 2X$	
4	2	0	$\sqrt{3} 4Y$	
5	2	2	$\sqrt{6} -2Y$	
6	3	-3	$\sqrt{8} (3X^2-3Y^2)$	
7	3	-1	$\sqrt{8} (3X^2+9Y^2-2)$	
8	3	1	$\sqrt{8} 6XY$	
9	3	3	$\sqrt{8} -6XY$	
10	4	-4	$\sqrt{10} (4X^3-12XY^2)$	
11	4	-2	$\sqrt{10} (8X^3+24XY^2-6X)$	
12	4	0	$\sqrt{5} (24X^2Y+24Y^3-12Y)$	
13	4	2	$\sqrt{10} (-16Y^3+6Y)$	
14	4	4	$\sqrt{10} (-12X^2Y+4Y^3)$	
15	5	-5	$\sqrt{12} (5X^4-30X^2Y^2+5Y^4)$	
16	5	-3	$\sqrt{12} (15X^4+30X^2Y^2-25Y^4-12X^2+12Y^2)$	
17	5	-1	$\sqrt{12} (10X^4+60X^2Y^2+50Y^4-12X^2-36Y^2+3)$	
18	5	1	$\sqrt{12} (40X^3Y+40XY^3-24XY)$	
19	5	3	$\sqrt{12} (-20X^3Y-60XY^3+24XY)$	
20	5	5	$\sqrt{12} (-20X^3Y+20XY^3)$	
21	6	-6	$\sqrt{14} (6X^5-60X^3Y^2+30XY^4)$	
22	6	-4	$\sqrt{14} (24X^5-120XY^4-20X^3+60XY^2)$	
23	6	-2	$\sqrt{14} (30X^5+180X^3Y^2+150XY^4-40X^3-120XY^2+12X)$	
24	6	0	$\sqrt{7} (120X^4Y+240X^2Y^3+120Y^5-120X^2Y-120Y^3+24Y)$	
25	6	2	$\sqrt{14} (30X^4Y-60X^2Y^3-90Y^5+80Y^3-12Y)$	
26	6	4	$\sqrt{14} (-60X^4Y-120X^2Y^3+36Y^5+60X^2Y-20Y^3)$	
27	6	6	$\sqrt{14} (-30X^4Y+60X^2Y^3-6Y^5)$	
28	7	-7	$4 (7X^6-105X^4Y^2+105X^2Y^4-7Y^6)$	
29	7	-5	$4 (35X^6-105X^4Y^2-315X^2Y^4+49Y^6-30X^4+180X^2Y^2-30Y^4)$	
30	7	-3	$4 (63X^6+315X^4Y^2+105X^2Y^4-147Y^6-90X^4-180X^2Y^2+150Y^4+30X^2-30Y^2)$	
31	7	-1	$4 (35X^6+315X^4Y^2+525X^2Y^4+245Y^6-60X^4-360X^2Y^2-300Y^4+30X^2+90Y^2-4)$	
32	7	1	$4 (210X^5Y+420X^3Y^3+210XY^5-240X^3Y-240XY^3+60XY)$	
33	7	3	$4 (-42X^5Y-420X^3Y^3-378XY^5+120X^3Y+360XY^3-60XY)$	
34	7	5	$4 (-126X^5Y-140X^3Y^3+210XY^5+120X^3Y-120XY^3)$	
35	7	7	$4 (-42X^5Y+140X^3Y^3-42XY^5)$	

Table 7. x Derivative of Zernike Polynomials in terms of Zernike Polynomials to 7th order

j	n	m	$d(Z_n^m(x,Y)) / dx$	where $x^2 + Y^2 = \rho^2 \leq 1$
0	0	0	0	
1	1	-1	0	
2	1	1	$2 Z_{00}$	
3	2	-2	$\sqrt{6} Z_{1-1}$	
4	2	0	$2\sqrt{3} Z_{11}$	
5	2	2	$\sqrt{6} Z_{11}$	
6	3	-3	$2\sqrt{3} Z_{2-2}$	
7	3	-1	$2\sqrt{3} Z_{2-2}$	
8	3	1	$2\sqrt{2} Z_{00} + 2\sqrt{6} Z_{20} + 2\sqrt{3} Z_{22}$	
9	3	3	$2\sqrt{3} Z_{22}$	
10	4	-4	$2\sqrt{5} Z_{3-3}$	
11	4	-2	$\sqrt{10} Z_{1-1} + 2\sqrt{5} Z_{3-3} + 2\sqrt{5} Z_{3-1}$	
12	4	0	$2\sqrt{5} Z_{11} + 2\sqrt{10} Z_{31}$	
13	4	2	$\sqrt{10} Z_{11} + 2\sqrt{5} Z_{31} + 2\sqrt{5} Z_{33}$	
14	4	4	$2\sqrt{5} Z_{33}$	
15	5	-5	$\sqrt{30} Z_{4-4}$	
16	5	-3	$3\sqrt{2} Z_{2-2} + \sqrt{30} Z_{4-4} + \sqrt{30} Z_{4-2}$	
17	5	-1	$3\sqrt{2} Z_{2-2} + \sqrt{30} Z_{4-2}$	
18	5	1	$2\sqrt{3} Z_{00} + 6 Z_{20} + 3\sqrt{2} Z_{22} + 2\sqrt{15} Z_{40} + \sqrt{30} Z_{42}$	
19	5	3	$3\sqrt{2} Z_{22} + \sqrt{30} Z_{42} + \sqrt{30} Z_{44}$	
20	5	5	$\sqrt{30} Z_{44}$	
21	6	-6	$\sqrt{42} Z_{5-5}$	
22	6	-4	$2\sqrt{7} Z_{3-3} + \sqrt{42} Z_{5-5} + \sqrt{42} Z_{5-3}$	
23	6	-2	$\sqrt{14} Z_{1-1} + 2\sqrt{7} Z_{3-3} + 2\sqrt{7} Z_{3-1} + \sqrt{42} Z_{5-3} + \sqrt{42} Z_{5-1}$	
24	6	0	$2\sqrt{7} Z_{11} + 2\sqrt{14} Z_{31} + 2\sqrt{21} Z_{51}$	
25	6	2	$\sqrt{14} Z_{11} + 2\sqrt{7} Z_{31} + 2\sqrt{7} Z_{33} + \sqrt{42} Z_{51} + \sqrt{42} Z_{53}$	
26	6	4	$2\sqrt{7} Z_{33} + \sqrt{42} Z_{53} + \sqrt{42} Z_{55}$	
27	6	6	$\sqrt{42} Z_{55}$	
28	7	-7	$2\sqrt{14} Z_{6-6}$	
29	7	-5	$2\sqrt{10} Z_{4-4} + 2\sqrt{14} Z_{6-6} + 2\sqrt{14} Z_{6-4}$	
30	7	-3	$2\sqrt{6} Z_{2-2} + 2\sqrt{10} Z_{4-4} + 2\sqrt{10} Z_{4-2} + 2\sqrt{14} Z_{6-4} + 2\sqrt{14} Z_{6-2}$	
31	7	-1	$2\sqrt{6} Z_{2-2} + 2\sqrt{10} Z_{4-2} + 2\sqrt{14} Z_{6-2}$	
32	7	1	$4 Z_{00} + 4\sqrt{3} Z_{20} + 2\sqrt{6} Z_{22} + 4\sqrt{5} Z_{40} + 2\sqrt{10} Z_{42} + 4\sqrt{7} Z_{60} + 2\sqrt{14} Z_{62}$	
33	7	3	$2\sqrt{6} Z_{22} + 2\sqrt{10} Z_{42} + 2\sqrt{10} Z_{44} + 2\sqrt{14} Z_{62} + 2\sqrt{14} Z_{64}$	
34	7	5	$2\sqrt{10} Z_{44} + 2\sqrt{14} Z_{64} + 2\sqrt{14} Z_{66}$	
35	7	7	$2\sqrt{14} Z_{66}$	

Table 8. 2nd x Derivative of Zernike Polynomials in terms of Zernikes to 7th order

j	n	m	$d^2(Z_n^m(x,y)) / dx^2$ where $x^2 + y^2 = \rho^2 \leq 1$
0	0	0	0
1	1	-1	0
2	1	1	0
3	2	-2	0
4	2	0	$4\sqrt{3} Z_{00}$
5	2	2	$2\sqrt{6} Z_{00}$
6	3	-3	$6\sqrt{2} Z_{1-1}$
7	3	-1	$6\sqrt{2} Z_{1-1}$
8	3	1	$18\sqrt{2} Z_{11}$
9	3	3	$6\sqrt{2} Z_{11}$
10	4	-4	$4\sqrt{15} Z_{2-2}$
11	4	-2	$8\sqrt{15} Z_{2-2}$
12	4	0	$12\sqrt{5} Z_{00} + 8\sqrt{15} Z_{20} + 4\sqrt{30} Z_{22}$
13	4	2	$6\sqrt{10} Z_{00} + 4\sqrt{30} Z_{20} + 8\sqrt{15} Z_{22}$
14	4	4	$4\sqrt{15} Z_{22}$
15	5	-5	$10\sqrt{6} Z_{3-3}$
16	5	-3	$16\sqrt{3} Z_{1-1} + 20\sqrt{6} Z_{3-3} + 10\sqrt{6} Z_{3-1}$
17	5	-1	$16\sqrt{3} Z_{1-1} + 10\sqrt{6} Z_{3-3} + 10\sqrt{6} Z_{3-1}$
18	5	1	$48\sqrt{3} Z_{11} + 30\sqrt{6} Z_{31} + 10\sqrt{6} Z_{33}$
19	5	3	$16\sqrt{3} Z_{11} + 10\sqrt{6} Z_{31} + 20\sqrt{6} Z_{33}$
20	5	5	$10\sqrt{6} Z_{33}$
21	6	-6	$6\sqrt{35} Z_{4-4}$
22	6	-4	$10\sqrt{21} Z_{2-2} + 12\sqrt{35} Z_{4-4} + 6\sqrt{35} Z_{4-2}$
23	6	-2	$20\sqrt{21} Z_{2-2} + 6\sqrt{35} Z_{4-4} + 12\sqrt{35} Z_{4-2}$
24	6	0	$24\sqrt{7} Z_{00} + 20\sqrt{21} Z_{20} + 10\sqrt{42} Z_{22} + 12\sqrt{35} Z_{40} + 6\sqrt{70} Z_{42}$
25	6	2	$12\sqrt{14} Z_{00} + 10\sqrt{42} Z_{20} + 20\sqrt{21} Z_{22} + 6\sqrt{70} Z_{40} + 12\sqrt{35} Z_{42} + 6\sqrt{35} Z_{44}$
26	6	4	$10\sqrt{21} Z_{22} + 6\sqrt{35} Z_{42} + 12\sqrt{35} Z_{44}$
27	6	6	$6\sqrt{35} Z_{44}$
28	7	-7	$28\sqrt{3} Z_{5-5}$
29	7	-5	$48\sqrt{2} Z_{3-3} + 56\sqrt{3} Z_{5-5} + 28\sqrt{3} Z_{5-3}$
30	7	-3	$60Z_{1-1} + 96\sqrt{2} Z_{3-3} + 48\sqrt{2} Z_{3-1} + 28\sqrt{3} Z_{5-5} + 56\sqrt{3} Z_{5-3} + 28\sqrt{3} Z_{5-1}$
31	7	-1	$60Z_{1-1} + 48\sqrt{2} Z_{3-3} + 48\sqrt{2} Z_{3-1} + 28\sqrt{3} Z_{5-3} + 28\sqrt{3} Z_{5-1}$
32	7	1	$180Z_{11} + 144\sqrt{2} Z_{31} + 48\sqrt{2} Z_{33} + 84\sqrt{3} Z_{51} + 28\sqrt{3} Z_{53}$
33	7	3	$60Z_{11} + 48\sqrt{2} Z_{31} + 96\sqrt{2} Z_{33} + 28\sqrt{3} Z_{51} + 56\sqrt{3} Z_{53} + 28\sqrt{3} Z_{55}$
34	7	5	$48\sqrt{2} Z_{33} + 28\sqrt{3} Z_{53} + 56\sqrt{3} Z_{55}$
35	7	7	$28\sqrt{3} Z_{55}$

Table 9. 3rd x Derivative of Zernike Polynomials in terms of Zernikes to 7th order

j	n	m	$d^3(Z_n^m(x,y)) / dx^3$ where $x^2 + y^2 = \rho^2 \leq 1$
0	0	0	0
1	1	-1	0
2	1	1	0
3	2	-2	0
4	2	0	0
5	2	2	0
6	3	-3	0
7	3	-1	0
8	3	1	$36\sqrt{2} Z_{00}$
9	3	3	$12\sqrt{2} Z_{00}$
10	4	-4	$12\sqrt{10} Z_{1-1}$
11	4	-2	$24\sqrt{10} Z_{1-1}$
12	4	0	$72\sqrt{5} Z_{11}$
13	4	2	$48\sqrt{10} Z_{11}$
14	4	4	$12\sqrt{10} Z_{11}$
15	5	-5	$60\sqrt{2} Z_{2-2}$
16	5	-3	$180\sqrt{2} Z_{2-2}$
17	5	-1	$120\sqrt{2} Z_{2-2}$
18	5	1	$216\sqrt{3} Z_{00} + 360Z_{20} + 240\sqrt{2} Z_{22}$
19	5	3	$72\sqrt{3} Z_{00} + 120Z_{20} + 180\sqrt{2} Z_{22}$
20	5	5	$60\sqrt{2} Z_{22}$
21	6	-6	$60\sqrt{7} Z_{3-3}$
22	6	-4	$60\sqrt{14} Z_{1-1} + 180\sqrt{7} Z_{3-3} + 60\sqrt{7} Z_{3-1}$
23	6	-2	$120\sqrt{14} Z_{1-1} + 180\sqrt{7} Z_{3-3} + 120\sqrt{7} Z_{3-1}$
24	6	0	$360\sqrt{7} Z_{11} + 180\sqrt{14} Z_{31} + 60\sqrt{14} Z_{33}$
25	6	2	$240\sqrt{14} Z_{11} + 240\sqrt{7} Z_{31} + 180\sqrt{7} Z_{33}$
26	6	4	$60\sqrt{14} Z_{11} + 60\sqrt{7} Z_{31} + 180\sqrt{7} Z_{33}$
27	6	6	$60\sqrt{7} Z_{33}$
28	7	-7	$84\sqrt{10} Z_{4-4}$
29	7	-5	$180\sqrt{6} Z_{2-2} + 252\sqrt{10} Z_{4-4} + 84\sqrt{10} Z_{4-2}$
30	7	-3	$540\sqrt{6} Z_{2-2} + 252\sqrt{10} Z_{4-4} + 252\sqrt{10} Z_{4-2}$
31	7	-1	$360\sqrt{6} Z_{2-2} + 84\sqrt{10} Z_{4-4} + 168\sqrt{10} Z_{4-2}$
32	7	1	$1440 Z_{00} + 1080\sqrt{3} Z_{20} + 720\sqrt{6} Z_{22} + 504\sqrt{5} Z_{40} + 336\sqrt{10} Z_{42} + 84\sqrt{10} Z_{44}$
33	7	3	$480 Z_{00} + 360\sqrt{3} Z_{20} + 540\sqrt{6} Z_{22} + 168\sqrt{5} Z_{40} + 252\sqrt{10} Z_{42} + 252\sqrt{10} Z_{44}$
34	7	5	$180\sqrt{6} Z_{22} + 84\sqrt{10} Z_{42} + 252\sqrt{10} Z_{44}$
35	7	7	$84\sqrt{10} Z_{44}$

Table 10. 4th x Derivative of Zernike Polynomials in terms of Zernikes to 7th order

j	n	m	$d^4(Z_n^m(x,y)) / dx^4$ where $x^2 + y^2 = \rho^2 \leq 1$
0	0	0	0
1	1	-1	0
2	1	1	0
3	2	-2	0
4	2	0	0
5	2	2	0
6	3	-3	0
7	3	-1	0
8	3	1	0
9	3	3	0
10	4	-4	0
11	4	-2	0
12	4	0	$144\sqrt{5} Z_{00}$
13	4	2	$96\sqrt{10} Z_{00}$
14	4	4	$24\sqrt{10} Z_{00}$
15	5	-5	$120\sqrt{3} Z_{1-1}$
16	5	-3	$360\sqrt{3} Z_{1-1}$
17	5	-1	$240\sqrt{3} Z_{1-1}$
18	5	1	$1200\sqrt{3} Z_{11}$
19	5	3	$600\sqrt{3} Z_{11}$
20	5	5	$120\sqrt{3} Z_{11}$
21	6	-6	$120\sqrt{21} Z_{2-2}$
22	6	-4	$480\sqrt{21} Z_{2-2}$
23	6	-2	$600\sqrt{21} Z_{2-2}$
24	6	0	$1440\sqrt{7} Z_{00} + 720\sqrt{21} Z_{20} + 480\sqrt{42} Z_{22}$
25	6	2	$960\sqrt{14} Z_{00} + 480\sqrt{42} Z_{20} + 840\sqrt{21} Z_{22}$
26	6	4	$240\sqrt{14} Z_{00} + 120\sqrt{42} Z_{20} + 480\sqrt{21} Z_{22}$
27	6	6	$120\sqrt{21} Z_{22}$
28	7	-7	$840\sqrt{2} Z_{3-3}$
29	7	-5	$1920 Z_{1-1} + 3360\sqrt{2} Z_{3-3} + 840\sqrt{2} Z_{3-1}$
30	7	-3	$5760 Z_{1-1} + 5040\sqrt{2} Z_{3-3} + 2520\sqrt{2} Z_{3-1}$
31	7	-1	$3840 Z_{1-1} + 2520\sqrt{2} Z_{3-3} + 1680\sqrt{2} Z_{3-1}$
32	7	1	$19200 Z_{11} + 8400\sqrt{2} Z_{31} + 4200\sqrt{2} Z_{33}$
33	7	3	$9600 Z_{11} + 4200\sqrt{2} Z_{31} + 5040\sqrt{2} Z_{33}$
34	7	5	$1920 Z_{11} + 840\sqrt{2} Z_{31} + 3360\sqrt{2} Z_{33}$
35	7	7	$840\sqrt{2} Z_{33}$

Table 11. 5th x Derivative of Zernike Polynomials in terms of Zernikes to 7th order

j	n	m	$d^5(Z_n^m(x,y)) / dx^5$ where $x^2 + y^2 = \rho^2 \leq 1$
0	0	0	0
1	1	-1	0
2	1	1	0
3	2	-2	0
4	2	0	0
5	2	2	0
6	3	-3	0
7	3	-1	0
8	3	1	0
9	3	3	0
10	4	-4	0
11	4	-2	0
12	4	0	0
13	4	2	0
14	4	4	0
15	5	-5	0
16	5	-3	0
17	5	-1	0
18	5	1	$2400\sqrt{3} Z_{00}$
19	5	3	$1200\sqrt{3} Z_{00}$
20	5	5	$240\sqrt{3} Z_{00}$
21	6	-6	$360\sqrt{14} Z_{1-1}$
22	6	-4	$1440\sqrt{14} Z_{1-1}$
23	6	-2	$1800\sqrt{14} Z_{1-1}$
24	6	0	$7200\sqrt{7} Z_{11}$
25	6	2	$5400\sqrt{14} Z_{11}$
26	6	4	$2160\sqrt{14} Z_{11}$
27	6	6	$360\sqrt{14} Z_{11}$
28	7	-7	$1680\sqrt{6} Z_{2-2}$
29	7	-5	$8400\sqrt{6} Z_{2-2}$
30	7	-3	$15120\sqrt{6} Z_{2-2}$
31	7	-1	$8400\sqrt{6} Z_{2-2}$
32	7	1	$72000 Z_{00} + 33600\sqrt{3} Z_{20} + 25200\sqrt{6} Z_{22}$
33	7	3	$36000 Z_{00} + 16800\sqrt{3} Z_{20} + 18480\sqrt{6} Z_{22}$
34	7	5	$7200 Z_{00} + 3360\sqrt{3} Z_{20} + 8400\sqrt{6} Z_{22}$
35	7	7	$1680\sqrt{6} Z_{22}$

Table 12. 6th x Derivative of Zernike Polynomials in terms of Zernikes to 7th order

j	n	m	$d^6(Z_n^m(x,y)) / dx^6$	where $x^2 + y^2 = \rho^2 \leq 1$
0	0	0	0	
1	1	-1	0	
2	1	1	0	
3	2	-2	0	
4	2	0	0	
5	2	2	0	
6	3	-3	0	
7	3	-1	0	
8	3	1	0	
9	3	3	0	
10	4	-4	0	
11	4	-2	0	
12	4	0	0	
13	4	2	0	
14	4	4	0	
15	5	-5	0	
16	5	-3	0	
17	5	-1	0	
18	5	1	0	
19	5	3	0	
20	5	5	0	
21	6	-6	0	
22	6	-4	0	
23	6	-2	0	
24	6	0	$14400\sqrt{7} Z_{00}$	
25	6	2	$10800\sqrt{14} Z_{00}$	
26	6	4	$4320\sqrt{14} Z_{00}$	
27	6	6	$720\sqrt{14} Z_{00}$	
28	7	-7	$10080 Z_{1-1}$	
29	7	-5	$50400 Z_{1-1}$	
30	7	-3	$90720 Z_{1-1}$	
31	7	-1	$50400 Z_{1-1}$	
32	7	1	$352800 Z_{11}$	
33	7	3	$211680 Z_{11}$	
34	7	5	$70560 Z_{11}$	
35	7	7	$10080 Z_{11}$	

Table 13. 7th x Derivative of Zernike Polynomials in terms of Zernikes to 7th order

j	n	m	$d^7(Z_n^m(x,Y)) / dx^7$	where $x^2 + Y^2 = \rho^2 \leq 1$
0	0	0	0	
1	1	-1	0	
2	1	1	0	
3	2	-2	0	
4	2	0	0	
5	2	2	0	
6	3	-3	0	
7	3	-1	0	
8	3	1	0	
9	3	3	0	
10	4	-4	0	
11	4	-2	0	
12	4	0	0	
13	4	2	0	
14	4	4	0	
15	5	-5	0	
16	5	-3	0	
17	5	-1	0	
18	5	1	0	
19	5	3	0	
20	5	5	0	
21	6	-6	0	
22	6	-4	0	
23	6	-2	0	
24	6	0	0	
25	6	2	0	
26	6	4	0	
27	6	6	0	
28	7	-7	0	
29	7	-5	0	
30	7	-3	0	
31	7	-1	0	
32	7	1	705600 Z00	
33	7	3	423360 Z00	
34	7	5	141120 Z00	
35	7	7	20160 Z00	

Table 14. y Derivative of Zernike Polynomials in terms of Zernike Polynomials to 7th order

j	n	m	$d(Z_n^m(x,Y))/dY$	where $x^2 + Y^2 = \rho^2 \leq 1$
0	0	0	0	
1	1	-1	2Z00	
2	1	1	0	
3	2	-2	$\sqrt{6} Z11$	
4	2	0	$2\sqrt{3} Z1-1$	
5	2	2	$-\sqrt{6} Z1-1$	
6	3	-3	$2\sqrt{3} Z22$	
7	3	-1	$2\sqrt{2} Z00 + 2\sqrt{6} Z20 - 2\sqrt{3} Z22$	
8	3	1	$2\sqrt{3} Z2-2$	
9	3	3	$-2\sqrt{3} Z2-2$	
10	4	-4	$2\sqrt{5} Z33$	
11	4	-2	$\sqrt{10} Z11 + 2\sqrt{5} Z31 - 2\sqrt{5} Z33$	
12	4	0	$2\sqrt{5} Z1-1 + 2\sqrt{10} Z3-1$	
13	4	2	$-\sqrt{10} Z1-1 + 2\sqrt{5} Z3-3 - 2\sqrt{5} Z3-1$	
14	4	4	$-2\sqrt{5} Z3-3$	
15	5	-5	$\sqrt{30} Z44$	
16	5	-3	$3\sqrt{2} Z22 + \sqrt{30} Z42 - \sqrt{30} Z44$	
17	5	-1	$2\sqrt{3} Z00 + 6 Z20 - 3\sqrt{2} Z22 + 2\sqrt{15} Z40 - \sqrt{30} Z42$	
18	5	1	$3\sqrt{2} Z2-2 + \sqrt{30} Z4-2$	
19	5	3	$-3\sqrt{2} Z2-2 + \sqrt{30} Z4-4 - \sqrt{30} Z4-2$	
20	5	5	$-\sqrt{30} Z4-4$	
21	6	-6	$\sqrt{42} Z55$	
22	6	-4	$2\sqrt{7} Z33 + \sqrt{42} Z53 - \sqrt{42} Z55$	
23	6	-2	$\sqrt{14} Z11 + 2\sqrt{7} Z31 - 2\sqrt{7} Z33 + \sqrt{42} Z51 - \sqrt{42} Z53$	
24	6	0	$2\sqrt{7} Z1-1 + 2\sqrt{14} Z3-1 + 2\sqrt{21} Z5-1$	
25	6	2	$-\sqrt{14} Z1-1 + 2\sqrt{7} Z3-3 - 2\sqrt{7} Z3-1 + \sqrt{42} Z5-3 - \sqrt{42} Z5-1$	
26	6	4	$-2\sqrt{7} Z3-3 + \sqrt{42} Z5-5 - \sqrt{42} Z5-3$	
27	6	6	$-\sqrt{42} Z5-5$	
28	7	-7	$2\sqrt{14} Z66$	
29	7	-5	$2\sqrt{10} Z44 + 2\sqrt{14} Z64 - 2\sqrt{14} Z66$	
30	7	-3	$2\sqrt{6} Z22 + 2\sqrt{10} Z42 - 2\sqrt{10} Z44 + 2\sqrt{14} Z62 - 2\sqrt{14} Z64$	
31	7	-1	$4 Z00 + 4\sqrt{3} Z20 - 2\sqrt{6} Z22 + 4\sqrt{5} Z40 - 2\sqrt{10} Z42 + 4\sqrt{7} Z60 - 2\sqrt{14} Z62$	
32	7	1	$2\sqrt{6} Z2-2 + 2\sqrt{10} Z4-2 + 2\sqrt{14} Z6-2$	
33	7	3	$-2\sqrt{6} Z2-2 + 2\sqrt{10} Z4-4 - 2\sqrt{10} Z4-2 + 2\sqrt{14} Z6-4 - 2\sqrt{14} Z6-2$	
34	7	5	$-2\sqrt{10} Z4-4 + 2\sqrt{14} Z6-6 - 2\sqrt{14} Z6-4$	
35	7	7	$-2\sqrt{14} Z6-6$	