

# Regularity of electromagnetic fields on Lipschitz domains

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For  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^3$ , we consider the standard function spaces:

$$X_N = H(\operatorname{div}, \Omega) \cap H_0(\mathbf{curl}, \Omega) \quad (\text{“Electric energy space”})$$

$$= \{u \in L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{C}^3) \mid \operatorname{div} u \in L^2(\Omega), \mathbf{curl} u \in L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{C}^3), u \times n = 0 \text{ on } \partial\Omega\}$$

$$X_T = H_0(\operatorname{div}, \Omega) \cap H(\mathbf{curl}, \Omega) \quad (\text{“Magnetic energy space”})$$

$$= \{u \in L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{C}^3) \mid \operatorname{div} u \in L^2(\Omega), \mathbf{curl} u \in L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{C}^3), u \cdot n = 0 \text{ on } \partial\Omega\}$$

In other words, we consider solutions  $u \in L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{C}^3)$  of the div-**curl** system

$$\operatorname{div} u = g \in L^2(\Omega); \quad \mathbf{curl} u = h \in L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{C}^3)$$

with homogeneous boundary conditions (“PEC”)

$$u \times n = 0 \quad \text{or} \quad u \cdot n = 0 \quad \text{on } \partial\Omega$$

## Problem

What is the (Sobolev) regularity of  $u$ ?

## 1 $\Omega$ smooth or convex: $H^1$ regularity

[Gaffney 1951, Friedrichs 1955, Morrey 1956]: (“Gaffney inequality”)

$\Omega$  smooth ( $C^2$ )

$$\exists C : \|u\|_{H^1} \leq C(\|u\|_{L^2} + \|\operatorname{div} u\|_{L^2} + \|\operatorname{curl} u\|_{L^2}) \quad \forall u \in X_N \cup X_T$$

[Filonov 1997]  $C^{3/2+\varepsilon}$ ,  $\varepsilon > 0$

[Saranen 1982, Mitrea-et-al 2005, Dacorogna-et-al 2017]  $\Omega$  convex

⊗ Lipschitz domains: No  $H^1$  regularity

⊗ [1990] + [Co-Dauge 1999] + [Amara-et-al 2003]

$$\partial\Omega \text{ has an edge of opening } \pi/\alpha \quad \Rightarrow \quad X_N, X_T \not\subset H^1(\Omega)$$

⊗  $\Omega$  Lipschitz: inclusion  $X_N \rightarrow L^2(\Omega)$  and  $X_T \rightarrow L^2(\Omega)$  are compact

[Nirenberg 1974] (Quilleya et al.)

[Nirenberg 1974, Picard 1994] Lipschitz

⊗  $\Omega$  Lipschitz:  $H^1$  regularity

⊗ [1990, Mitrea 2007]  $X_N \cup X_T \subset H^1(\Omega)$

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## 2 Non-convex corners: No $H^1$ regularity

[Co. 1990 ... Co.-Dauge 1999 ... Amrouche-et-al 1998]

$$\partial\Omega \text{ has an edge of opening } \pi/\alpha \quad \implies \quad X_N, X_T \not\subset H^\alpha(\Omega)$$

3  $\Omega$  Lipschitz,  $X_N, X_T \in L^p(\Omega) \cap X_T \in C^1(\Omega)$  are convex

[Friedrichs 1955, Morrey 1956] Lipschitz

[Morrey 1956, Picard 1994] Lipschitz

4  $\Omega$  Lipschitz:  $H^1$  regularity

[Filonov 1997, Mitrea-et-al 2005]  $X_N \cup X_T \subset H^1(\Omega)$

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[Weck 1974] piecewise smooth

[Weber 1980, Picard 1984] Lipschitz

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[Weck 1974] piecewise smooth

[Weber 1980, Picard 1984] Lipschitz

## 4 $\Omega$ Lipschitz: $H^{\frac{1}{2}}$ regularity

[Co. 1990, Mitrea 2002]  $X_N \cup X_T \subset H^{\frac{1}{2}}(\Omega)$

**Observation:** For any bounded piecewise smooth Lipschitz domain  $\Omega$  (curved polyhedron), there exists  $\varepsilon = \varepsilon(\Omega) > 0$  such that

$$X_N \cup X_T \subset H^{\frac{1}{2} + \varepsilon}(\Omega)$$

This  $\varepsilon(\Omega)$  can be arbitrarily small, depending on the angles of the corners and edges.

$\varepsilon > 0$  is useful in numerical analysis.

Example: [Alonso-Valli 1999] Domain decomposition methods

Does there exist such an  $\varepsilon(\Omega) > 0$  for every bounded Lipschitz domain  $\Omega$ ?

No

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## Short Answer

No

## Theorem [Co. Nov 2017, arXiv : 1711.07179]

There exists a bounded domain  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^3$  such that

1  $\partial\Omega \in C^1$

2  $X_N, X_T \not\subset H^{\frac{1}{2}+\varepsilon}(\Omega)$  for any  $\varepsilon > 0$

In this domain, homog. Dirichlet implies Neumann:

$$H^{\frac{3}{2}+\varepsilon}(\Omega) \cap H_0^1(\Omega) = H_0^{\frac{3}{2}+\varepsilon}(\Omega)$$

Analogous properties are true for  $L^p$  Sobolev spaces,  $1 \leq p < \infty$ .

The construction of  $\Omega$  follows ideas from [Filonov 1997], who constructs a  $C^{\frac{3}{2}}$  domain with similar properties for  $\varepsilon = \frac{1}{2}$ .

## General principle

Main Maxwell singularities are gradients of Laplace singularities  
("Electrostatic or magnetostatic fields")

Conversely, all non- $H^1$  elements of  $X_D \cup X_T$  come from gradients:

$$H(\operatorname{div}, \Omega) \cap H(\operatorname{curl}, \Omega) = H^1(\Omega; \mathbb{C}^3) + \nabla H^1(\Delta, \Omega)$$

(Proof:  $\operatorname{curl} u = b \in L^2 \Rightarrow \exists w \in H^1 : \operatorname{curl} w = b$ )

With boundary conditions: Helman-Solomyak decomposition

$$X_D = H^1 \cap X_D + \nabla H^1(\Delta) \quad \text{true for any Lipschitz domain}$$

$$X_T = H^1 \cap X_T + \nabla H^1(\Delta) \cap X_T \quad \text{true for any piecewise smooth domain}$$

(Randy 1997) True for  $C^{1+\alpha}$  domains, but  $\mathbb{R}^3$  counterexample for  $X_T$

## General principle

Main Maxwell singularities are gradients of Laplace singularities  
 (“Electrostatic or magnetostatic fields”)

$$\Delta v = g \text{ in } \Omega; \quad v = 0 \text{ on } \partial\Omega; \quad u = \nabla v; \quad \implies \begin{cases} \mathbf{curl} \, u = 0; \operatorname{div} u = g \\ v \in H^1, g \in L^2 \implies u \in X_N \\ v \in H^{s+1}(\Omega) \Leftrightarrow u \in H^s(\Omega; \mathbb{C}^3) \end{cases}$$

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(Proof:  $\operatorname{curl} u = 0, \operatorname{div} u = g \implies \exists w \in H^1(\operatorname{curl} w = 0)$ )

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Main Maxwell singularities are gradients of Laplace singularities  
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Tracy (1977) True for  $C^{1+\alpha}$  domains, but  $\mathbb{R}^3$  counterexample for  $X_T$

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With boundary conditions: [Birman-Solomyak decomposition](#)

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[Filonov 1997] True for  $C^{\frac{3}{2}+\varepsilon}$  domains, but  $C^{\frac{3}{2}}$  counterexample for  $X_T$

- 1 We construct a  $2\pi$ -periodic continuous function  $f$  via Fourier series:

$$f(x) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} a_k \sin(b_k x)$$

- 2 Setting  $F(x) = 1 + \int_0^x f dx$ , we define  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^2$  in polar coordinates  $(r, \theta)$

$$\Omega = \{(r, \theta) \mid r < F(\theta)\}$$

- 3 In higher dimensions, we define  $\Omega$  in cylindrical coordinates  $(r, \theta, z)$

$$\Omega = \{(r, \theta, z) \mid r^2 < (1 - |z|^2) F(\theta)^2\}$$

It is clear that  $\Omega$  is a  $C^1$  domain.

For  $f$ , the coefficients will be chosen as follows:

$$a_k = q^{-k}, \quad b_k = 2^{2k}, \quad q \in \mathbb{N} \text{ large enough (} q = 55 \text{ will do)}$$

(In Filonov's counterexample,  $b_k = q^{2k}$ )



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Lemma (Strongly nowhere Hölder continuous)

$$\forall x \in [0, 2\pi], \forall \varepsilon > 0 : \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{|f(y) - f(x)|^2}{|y - x|^{1+2\varepsilon}} dy = +\infty$$

If  $a, b \in H^{\varepsilon}([0, 2\pi])$ ,  $\varepsilon > 0$  and if  $af = bf$ , then  $a = b = 0$ .

Proof of the corollary: Writing the  $H^{\varepsilon}$  (Sobolev) seminorm:

$$\begin{aligned} |a|_{\varepsilon} &= \left( \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{|a(y) - a(x)|^2}{|y - x|^{1+2\varepsilon}} dx dy \right)^{1/2} \\ &\geq \left( \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{|a(x)|^2 |f(y) - f(x)|^2}{|y - x|^{1+2\varepsilon}} dx dy \right)^{1/2} = \|f\|_{\varepsilon} |a|_{\varepsilon} \end{aligned}$$

If  $a \in H^{\varepsilon}([0, 2\pi])$ , we find  $|a|_{\varepsilon} = +\infty$ , unless  $a(x) = 0$  for a.e.  $x \in [0, 2\pi]$ .  $\square$

$$f(x) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} a_k \sin(b_k x) \quad a_k = q^{-k}; \quad b_k = 2^{q^k}; \quad q \text{ large enough}$$

Lemma (Strongly nowhere Hölder continuous)

$$\forall x \in [0, 2\pi], \forall \varepsilon > 0 : \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{|f(y) - f(x)|^2}{|y - x|^{1+2\varepsilon}} dy = +\infty$$

Corollary 1 (Not a Sobolev multiplier)

If  $a, b \in H^\varepsilon([0, 2\pi])$ ,  $\varepsilon > 0$  and if  $af = b$ , then  $a = b = 0$ .

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If  $a \in H^{\varepsilon > 0}([0, 2\pi])$ , we find  $|a|_\varepsilon = +\infty$ , unless  $a(x) = 0$  for a.e.  $x \in [0, 2\pi]$ .  $\square$

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Proof of the corollary: Writing the  $H^\varepsilon$  (Slobodeckij) seminorm:

$$\begin{aligned} |b|_\varepsilon &= \left( \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{|b(y) - b(x)|^2}{|y - x|^{1+2\varepsilon}} dy dx \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ &\geq \left( \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{|a(x)|^2 |f(y) - f(x)|^2}{|y - x|^{1+2\varepsilon}} dy dx \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} - \|f\|_{L^\infty} |a|_\varepsilon \end{aligned}$$

If  $a \in H^{\frac{1}{2}+\varepsilon}([0, 2\pi])$ , we find  $|b|_\varepsilon = +\infty$ , unless  $a(x) = 0$  for a.e.  $x \in [0, 2\pi]$ .  $\square$

## Corollary 2 (Dirichlet implies Neumann)

$$H_0^{3+\varepsilon}(\Omega) \cap H_0^1(\Omega) = H_0^{3+\varepsilon}(\Omega)$$

### • (Dirichlet)

The solution  $v \in H_0^1(\Omega)$  of  $\Delta v = 1$  in  $\Omega$  satisfies

$$v \in H^{3+\varepsilon}(\Omega) \quad \forall \varepsilon > 0$$

The same is true for all Dirichlet eigenfunctions in  $\Omega$ .

### • (Neumann)

There exists  $g \in C(\overline{\Omega})$  such that the solutions  $v \in H^1(\Omega)$  of  $\Delta v = g$  in  $\Omega$ ,  $\partial_n v = 0$  on  $\partial\Omega$  satisfy

$$v \in H^{3+\varepsilon}(\Omega) \quad \forall \varepsilon > 0$$

## Corollary 2 (Dirichlet implies Neumann)

$$H^{\frac{3}{2}+\varepsilon}(\Omega) \cap H_0^1(\Omega) = H_0^{\frac{3}{2}+\varepsilon}(\Omega)$$

## Corollary 3 (Laplace non-regularity)

### 1 (Dirichlet)

The solution  $v \in H_0^1(\Omega)$  of  $\Delta v = 1$  in  $\Omega$  satisfies

$$v \notin H^{\frac{3}{2}+\varepsilon}(\Omega) \quad \forall \varepsilon > 0$$

The same is true for all Dirichlet eigenfunctions in  $\Omega$ .

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There exists  $g \in C(\bar{\Omega})$  such that the solutions  $v \in H^1(\Omega)$  of  $\Delta v = g$  in  $\Omega$ ,  $\partial_n v = 0$  on  $\partial\Omega$  satisfy

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$$v \notin H^{\frac{3}{2}+\varepsilon}(\Omega) \quad \forall \varepsilon > 0$$

## Corollary 4 **The Theorem:** $X_N, X_T \notin H^{\frac{1}{2}+\varepsilon}(\Omega) \quad \forall \varepsilon > 0$



# Some proofs: Proof of the Lemma

Recall  $f = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} f_k$ ,  $f_k(x) = a_k \sin b_k x$ ,  $a_k = q^{-k}$ ,  $b_k = 2^{q^k}$ .

Define  $I_m = [\frac{1}{b_m}, \frac{2}{b_m}]$ . Then  $\int_0^{2\pi} \frac{|f(y) - f(x)|^2}{|y-x|^{1+2\epsilon}} dy \geq \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \int_{I_m} \frac{|f(x+h) - f(x)|^2}{|h|^{1+2\epsilon}} dh$ .

We show that each term in the sum is  $\geq c$  for some  $c = c(\epsilon) > 0$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{|f(x+h) - f(x)|^2}{|h|^{1+2\epsilon}} dh &\geq \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{|f_k(x+h) - f_k(x)|^2}{|h|^{1+2\epsilon}} dh \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{|f_k(x+h) - f_k(x)|^2}{|h|^{1+2\epsilon}} dh = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{|a_k \sin(b_k(x+h)) - a_k \sin(b_k x)|^2}{|h|^{1+2\epsilon}} dh \end{aligned}$$

• Resonance frequency  $k = m$ : Change of scale  $t = b_m h$

$$\left( \int_{I_m} \frac{|f_k(x+h) - f_k(x)|^2}{|h|^{1+2\epsilon}} dh \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} = a_m b_m \left( \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{|\sin(b_m x + t) - \sin(b_m x)|^2}{|t|^{1+2\epsilon}} dt \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \geq \gamma a_m b_m \delta$$

with  $\gamma = \frac{1}{8} \min_x \int_0^{2\pi} |\sin(z+t) - \sin(z)|^2 dt > 0$ .

• Small frequencies  $k \leq m-1$ :  $|f_k(x+h) - f_k(x)| \leq a_k b_k |h| \leq 2a_k b_k \frac{1}{b_m}$

• Large frequencies  $k \geq m+1$ :  $|f_k(x+h) - f_k(x)| \leq 2a_k$ .

It follows (easy exercise):  $\sum_{k < m-1} a_k \leq \frac{2}{q-1} a_m b_m$  and  $\sum_{k > m+1} a_k \leq \frac{2}{q-1} a_m b_m$ .

# Some proofs: Proof of the Lemma

Recall  $f = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} f_k$ ,  $f_k(x) = a_k \sin b_k x$ ,  $a_k = q^{-k}$ ,  $b_k = 2^{q^k}$ .

Define  $I_m = [\frac{1}{b_m}, \frac{2}{b_m}]$ . Then  $\int_0^{2\pi} \frac{|f(y) - f(x)|^2}{|y-x|^{1+2\epsilon}} dy \geq \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \int_{I_m} \frac{|f(x+h) - f(x)|^2}{|h|^{1+2\epsilon}} dh$ .

We show that each term in the sum is  $\geq c$  for some  $c = c(\epsilon) > 0$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \left( \int_{I_m} \frac{|f(x+h) - f(x)|^2}{|h|^{1+2\epsilon}} dh \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} &\geq \left( \int_{I_m} \frac{|f_m(x+h) - f_m(x)|^2}{|h|^{1+2\epsilon}} dh \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ &- \sum_{k \leq m-1} \left( \int_{I_m} \frac{|f_k(x+h) - f_k(x)|^2}{|h|^{1+2\epsilon}} dh \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} - \sum_{k \geq m+1} \left( \int_{I_m} \frac{|f_k(x+h) - f_k(x)|^2}{|h|^{1+2\epsilon}} dh \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \end{aligned}$$

- **Resonance frequency  $k = m$ :** Change of scale  $t = b_m h$ :

$$\left( \int_{I_m} \frac{|f_m(x+h) - f_m(x)|^2}{|h|^{1+2\epsilon}} dh \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} = a_m b_m^\epsilon \left( \int_1^2 \frac{|\sin(b_m x + t) - \sin(b_m x)|^2}{t^{1+2\epsilon}} dt \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \geq 5\gamma a_m b_m^\epsilon$$

with  $\gamma = \frac{1}{5} \min_z \int_1^2 |\sin(z+t) - \sin(z)| t^{-2} dt > 0$ .

- **Small frequencies  $k \leq m-1$ :**  $|f_k(x+h) - f_k(x)| \leq a_k b_k |h| \leq 2a_k b_k \frac{1}{b_m}$
- **Large frequencies  $k \geq m+1$ :**  $|f_k(x+h) - f_k(x)| \leq 2a_k$ .

It follows (easy exercise):  $\sum_{k \leq m-1} \dots \leq \frac{2}{q-1} a_m b_m^\epsilon$  and  $\sum_{k \geq m+1} \dots \leq \frac{2}{q-1} a_m b_m^\epsilon$ .

If  $\frac{1}{q-1} < \gamma$ , we find

$$\left( \int_{I_m} \frac{|f(x+h) - f(x)|^2}{|h|^{1+2\varepsilon}} dh \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \geq a_m b_m^\varepsilon (5\gamma - 2\gamma - 2\gamma) = \gamma a_m b_m^\varepsilon$$

It remains to show that

$$\sum_{m=1}^{\infty} a_m^2 b_m^{2\varepsilon} = +\infty$$

But  $a_m b_m^\varepsilon = \varepsilon(2^{\varepsilon q^m}) / (\varepsilon q^m) \geq \varepsilon \log 2 = c(\varepsilon) > 0$ . □

In 2D,  $\partial\Omega$  is given by the curve  $r = F(\theta)$  or  $x = \begin{pmatrix} F \cos \theta \\ F \sin \theta \end{pmatrix}$ .

The tangential vector is

$$t = n^\perp = (F^2 + f^2)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \begin{pmatrix} -F \sin \theta + f \cos \theta \\ F \cos \theta + f \sin \theta \end{pmatrix}$$

Hence  $n \times \nabla v = 0 \iff af = b$  if we define

$$a = \partial_1 v \cos \theta + \partial_2 v \sin \theta, \quad b = (\partial_1 v \sin \theta - \partial_2 v \cos \theta)F$$

Let now  $v \in H^{\frac{3}{2}+\varepsilon}(\Omega)$ .

Then  $\nabla v|_{\partial\Omega} \in H^\varepsilon(\partial\Omega; \mathbb{C}^2)$ , and also  $a, b \in H^\varepsilon(\partial\Omega)$ .

Thus, if the tangential derivative  $n \times \nabla v$  vanishes on  $\partial\Omega$ , by Corollary 1 we find  $a = b = 0$ , hence  $\nabla v|_{\partial\Omega} = 0$ . □

Again in 2D, let  $v \in H_0^1(\Omega)$  solve  $\Delta v = 1$  in  $\Omega$ .

If  $v \in H^{\frac{3}{2}+\varepsilon}(\Omega)$ , then by Corollary 2 we have  $\partial_n v = 0$ , and Green's formula leads to a contradiction:

$$0 = \int_{\partial\Omega} \partial_n v \, ds = \int_{\Omega} \Delta v \, dx = \int_{\Omega} 1 \, dx \quad \square$$

A similar argument shows that no Dirichlet eigenfunction on  $\Omega$  can have  $H^{\frac{3}{2}+\varepsilon}$  regularity.

For the Neumann problem, one gets a contradiction if  $\Delta v = g$  with a non-zero harmonic polynomial  $g$  satisfying  $\int_{\Omega} g = 0$ : In 2D,  $\partial_n v = 0$  implies that  $n \times \nabla v = 0$ , hence  $v = \text{const}$  on  $\partial\Omega$ , w.l.o.g.  $v = 0$  on  $\partial\Omega$ :

$$0 = \int_{\partial\Omega} (\partial_n v g - v \partial_n g) \, ds = \int_{\Omega} (\Delta v g - v \Delta g) \, dx = \int_{\Omega} g^2 \, dx \quad \square$$

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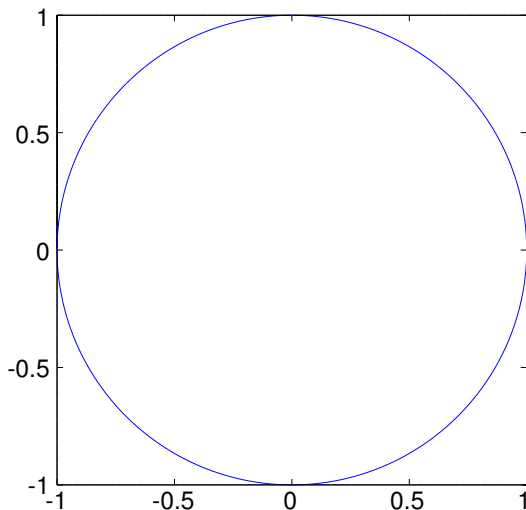
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Here is a graph of the boundary curve  $r = F(\theta)$ , for  $q = 66$ :



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A somewhat more meaningful picture...

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Thank you for your attention!

