

# Longitudinal versus transverse spheroidal vibrational modes of an elastic sphere

Lucien Saviot<sup>1,\*</sup> and Daniel B. Murray<sup>2,†</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Laboratoire de Recherche sur la Réactivité des Solides, UMR 5613 CNRS, Université de Bourgogne, 9 avenue A. Savary, Boîte Postale 47870, 21078 Dijon, France*

<sup>2</sup>*Department of Physics and Astronomy, The University of British Columbia Okanagan, 3333 University Way, Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada V1V 1V7*

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Analysis of the spheroidal modes of vibration of a free continuum elastic sphere show that they can be qualitatively grouped into two categories: primarily longitudinal and primarily transverse. This is not a sharp distinction. However, there is a relatively stark contrast between the two kinds of modes. Primarily transverse modes have a small divergence and have frequencies that are almost functionally independent of the longitudinal speed of sound. Analysis of inelastic light scattering intensity from confined acoustic phonons in nanoparticles requires an understanding of this qualitative distinction between different spheroidal modes. In addition, some common misconceptions about spheroidal modes are corrected.

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## I. INTRODUCTION

With the explosion of interest in the optical properties of nanoparticles, the classic elastic mechanical problem of the vibrational modes of a free continuum sphere has found a new context for application. The problem was formally and numerically solved back in 1882.<sup>1</sup> Nanoparticles, i.e., spherical clusters of atoms ranging in diameter from 1 to 100 nm, have sufficiently few atoms that the continuum approximation can be questioned.<sup>2,3</sup> Even so, it is acceptable to ignore the effects of the discrete crystal lattice for the few vibrational modes with lowest frequency as long as the nanoparticle diameter exceeds several nanometers.

Inelastic light scattering of a continuous laser beam shining on the nanoparticle permits detection of the mechanical vibrations since the changing size and shape of the nanoparticle modulates the polarizability of the nanoparticle, so that the monochromatic incident light turns into scattered light with sidebands shifted up and down by the frequency of the vibrations. This can be seen using experimental setups of the Raman and Brillouin type.

For theoretical convenience the material is assumed to be homogeneous, isotropic, and linear. The outer surface of the sphere is free from externally imposed stresses and this situation will be referred to as the “free-sphere model” (FSM). The original paper by Lamb<sup>1</sup> classified the FSM modes of vibration into two classes, now called “torsional” (TOR) and “spheroidal” (SPH). The distinctive feature of torsional modes is that the material density does not vary. In other words, the divergence of the displacement field is zero. Furthermore, the spherical symmetry permits classification of the modes by angular momentum number  $\ell \geq 0$ . (However, later on we will show that there is value in considering  $\ell$  to be a continuous variable.) There is no dependence of the frequency on the  $z$  angular momentum  $m$ . Beyond this, the modes are indexed by  $n \geq 0$ . It is convenient to let  $p$  denote either SPH or TOR, to indicate individual modes by  $(p, \ell, m, n)$ , and their frequencies by  $\omega_{p\ell n}$ .

What we explore in this paper is an additional classification of the SPH modes beyond that employed since Lamb. In

particular, SPH modes can be classified (albeit approximately and subjectively) as either being primarily longitudinal (SPH<sub>L</sub>) or primarily transverse (SPH<sub>T</sub>) in nature. The specific meaning of this will be explained further on. This is not a sharp division, and actual modes fall somewhere in between the two ideals. However, the contrast is sufficiently sharp that this distinction among SPH FSM modes as SPH<sub>L</sub> or SPH<sub>T</sub> is a very important tool.

In a recent theoretical paper, Bachelier and Mlayah<sup>4</sup> predicted that (SPH,  $\ell=2, n$ ) modes with differing values of  $n$  contribute to the Raman spectrum in a highly nonuniform way. In this paper we will show that this can be explained using the previously mentioned distinction between SPH modes. They pointed out that there are two separate mechanisms that couple (SPH,  $\ell=2$ ) acoustic vibrations to the surface plasmon resonance and in turn lead to Raman scattering; first, change of the particle shape and second, modulation of the density leading to change of optical properties through the deformation potential.

Section II reprises the formalism necessary for the FSM solution. In Sec. III, we show explicitly what we mean by SPH<sub>L</sub> and SPH<sub>T</sub>. In Sec. IV, we illustrate the natural appearance of SPH<sub>L</sub> and SPH<sub>T</sub> modes in the high-frequency limit. Section V discusses these results and their connection with inelastic light scattering experiments.

## II. THE FREE-SPHERE MODEL

Vibrational modes of a free linear elastic continuum homogeneous isotropic sphere were found by Lamb in 1882.<sup>1</sup>

For a mode with angular frequency  $\omega$ , the displacement of material point  $\vec{r}$  from its equilibrium position is  $\vec{u}(\vec{r})\cos(\omega t)$ . For an  $m=0$  TOR mode,  $\vec{u} = A\vec{\nabla} \times [\vec{r}j_\ell(k_T r)P_\ell(\cos \theta)]$ , where  $j_\ell$  are spherical Bessel functions of the first kind and  $P_\ell$  are Legendre polynomials. For an  $m=0$  SPH mode,  $\vec{u} = \vec{u}_L + \vec{u}_T$  where

$$\vec{u}_L(r, \theta) = B\vec{\nabla}j_\ell(k_L r)P_\ell(\cos \theta) \quad (1)$$

and

$$\vec{u}_T(r, \theta) = C \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{\nabla} \times [\vec{r} j_\ell(k_T r) P_\ell(\cos \theta)] \quad (2)$$

where  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  are real coefficients,  $v_L k_L = v_T k_T = \omega$ , and  $v_T$  and  $v_L$  are the transverse and longitudinal speeds of sound.

Modes with  $z$  angular momentum  $m \neq 0$  have a different functional form.

$R$  is the nanoparticle radius. If  $\sigma_{ij}$  is the stress tensor, the boundary conditions at  $r=R$  are  $\sigma_{rr} = \sigma_{r\theta} = 0$ . It is convenient to introduce dimensionless frequencies  $\eta = k_T R$  and  $\xi = k_L R$ . Following Eringen,<sup>5</sup> application of these boundary conditions determines the allowed SPH vibrational frequencies as zeros of a  $2 \times 2$  determinant for  $\ell > 0$ .

$$\Delta_\ell = \begin{vmatrix} T_{11} & T_{13} \\ T_{41} & T_{43} \end{vmatrix}, \quad (3)$$

where

$$T_{11} = \left( \ell^2 - \ell - \frac{\eta^2}{2} \right) j_\ell(\xi) + 2\xi j_{\ell+1}(\xi),$$

$$T_{13} = \ell(\ell+1)[(\ell-1)j_\ell(\eta) - \eta j_{\ell+1}(\eta)],$$

$$T_{41} = (\ell-1)j_\ell(\xi) - \xi j_{\ell+1}(\xi),$$

$$T_{43} = \left( \ell^2 - 1 - \frac{\eta^2}{2} \right) j_\ell(\eta) + \eta j_{\ell+1}(\eta).$$

For  $\ell=0$ , the allowed vibrational frequencies are the zeros of  $T_{11}$ .

Noting that the displacement fields are real valued, it is appropriate to use the following inner product between two displacement fields  $u_A$  and  $u_B$ :<sup>6</sup>

$$(u_A | u_B) = \frac{\int_{r < R} \vec{u}_A(\vec{r}) \cdot \vec{u}_B(\vec{r}) \rho d^3 \vec{r}}{\int_{r < R} \rho d^3 \vec{r}}. \quad (4)$$

A normalization condition [such as  $(u | u) = 1$ ] would typically determine the final values of  $B$  and  $C$ . But the details of the condition do not affect the results reported here. The displacement fields  $\vec{u}(\vec{r})$  for some selected modes are depicted in Fig. 1.

### III. SPHEROIDAL MODE LONGITUDINALITY

Isotropic elastic materials differ in their Poisson ratio  $\nu$ , which is related to  $x = v_T/v_L$  through  $x = \sqrt{(1-2\nu)/(2-2\nu)}$ . Figure 2 shows how the dimensionless frequency,  $\eta$ , of the SPH  $\ell=2$  FSM modes varies with  $v_T/v_L$ . It is quite apparent that some modes keep the same  $\eta$  as  $v_T/v_L$  is varied. However, other modes change frequency as  $v_T/v_L$  changes. There are transition points where a given mode changes from being constant to varying with  $v_T/v_L$ .

This pattern visible in Fig. 2 motivates the search for a numerical criterion to permit this contrast among modes to

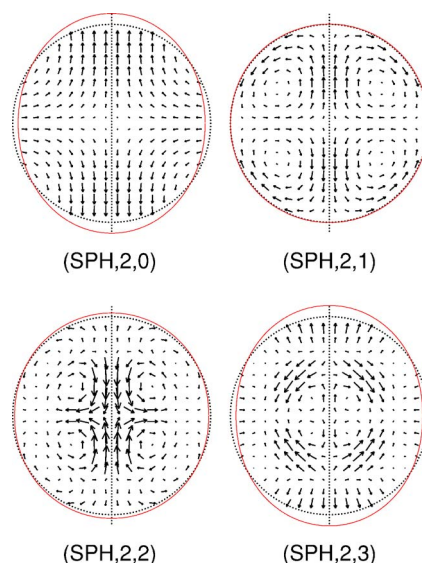


FIG. 1. (Color online) Displacement fields  $\vec{u}(\vec{r})$  of selected SPH  $\ell=2$  modes. As explained in the text, the first three are primarily transverse (i.e.,  $\text{SPH}_T$ ). (SPH,2,3) is primarily longitudinal (i.e.,  $\text{SPH}_L$ ). The equilibrium surface of the nanoparticle and the  $z$  axis are shown as dotted lines. The solid (red online) line shows the distorted surface. Note that the (SPH,2,1) mode does not change the nanoparticle shape.

be quantified. We adopt the starting point that in some sense some modes are more transverse in nature ( $\text{SPH}_T$ ) while others are more longitudinal ( $\text{SPH}_L$ ). We then coin the term “longitudinality,” denoted by  $L$ , for a quantity that varies on a scale from 0 to 1 with 0 being purely transverse and 1 being purely longitudinal. There is no single obvious way of doing this. Rather, we have evaluated a number of quantities as candidates for the best measure of longitudinality, of which we present four which work well. These will be denoted  $L1$ ,  $L2$ ,  $L3$ , and  $L4$ .

Consider a particular SPH mode with indices  $\ell$  and  $n$ . Its frequency is  $\omega(v_L, v_T)$ . Define  $L1$  by

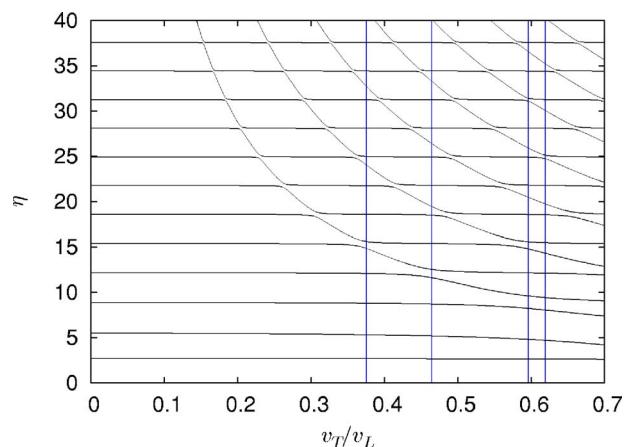


FIG. 2. (Color online) Dimensionless mode frequency  $\eta$  as a function of  $v_T/v_L$  for (SPH,  $\ell=2$ ) modes. Vertical lines (blue online) mark  $v_T/v_L$  for Au, Ag, Si, and Ge from left to right.

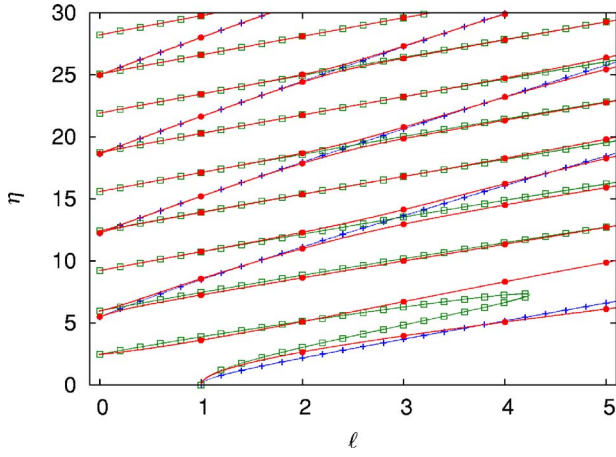


FIG. 3. (Color online) Variation of the SPH mode frequency with  $\ell$  for a material with  $v_T/v_L=0.5$ . Full circles are exact FSM frequencies and are connected with curves calculated for noninteger  $\ell$  (red online). Lines with crosses are roots of  $T_{11}$  (blue online) which approximate  $\text{SPH}_L$  modes. Lines with empty squares are roots of  $T_{43}$  (green online) which approximate  $\text{SPH}_T$  modes.

$$L1 = \frac{v_L}{\omega} \frac{\partial \omega}{\partial v_L} = - \frac{x}{\eta} \frac{d\eta}{dx} = 1 - \frac{v_T}{\omega} \frac{\partial \omega}{\partial v_T}. \quad (5)$$

Noting that  $\vec{u}(\vec{r}) = \vec{u}_T(\vec{r}) + \vec{u}_L(\vec{r})$ , we define  $L2$  as  $(u_L|u_L)/(u|u)$ , and  $L3$  as  $1 - [(u_T|u_T)/(u|u)]$ . But note also that  $(u_L|u_L) + (u_T|u_T) \neq (u|u)$  since  $(u_L|u_T) \neq 0$ .

Given a fixed value of  $v_T/v_L$  and  $n$ ,  $\eta$  may be considered to be a continuous function of  $\ell$ , as in Fig. 3. In terms of this  $\eta(\ell)$ , we define

$$L4 = \frac{v_T}{v_L - v_T} \left( \frac{2}{\pi} \frac{d\eta}{d\ell} - 1 \right). \quad (6)$$

Let  $\langle \dots \rangle_V$  and  $\langle \dots \rangle_S$  denote averages over the nanoparticle volume and surface, respectively. In particular,  $(u|u) = \langle u_r^2 + u_\theta^2 + u_\phi^2 \rangle_V$ . Some other measures of interest are as follows:  $\text{URV} = \langle u_r^2 \rangle_V / (u|u)$ ,  $\text{URS} = \langle u_r^2 \rangle_S / (u|u)$ ,  $\text{UTS} = \langle u_\theta^2 + u_\phi^2 \rangle_S / (u|u)$ , and  $\text{U2S} = \text{URS} + \text{UTS}$ .

Note that all of these quantities are defined in such a way as to be independent of  $m$ .

Except at low  $\eta$ , Fig. 4 shows that  $L1$  and  $L2$  are in close agreement.  $L3$  and  $L4$  are not plotted, but also agree closely except at low  $\eta$  (see Table I). Generally, a given mode either has all of  $L1$ ,  $L2$ ,  $L3$ , and  $L4$  low, or else all high. It is thus possible to classify modes as  $\text{SPH}_L$  or  $\text{SPH}_T$ . Rarely, there are cases where the values of  $L1$ ,  $L2$ ,  $L3$ , and  $L4$  are in the intermediate range, such as in Fig. 4 for  $\ell=3$  for the two modes near  $\eta=13$ . Such modes, which are neither clearly  $\text{SPH}_L$  nor  $\text{SPH}_T$ , always occur in pairs. The reason for this is explained in Sec. IV.

Table II provides additional information about the modes. The dimensionless frequency  $\eta$  is provided for convenience, as is the ratio of coefficients  $B$  and  $C$ .

In principle,  $C/B$  could be expected to provide useful information about whether a mode is  $\text{SPH}_L$  or  $\text{SPH}_T$ . In the

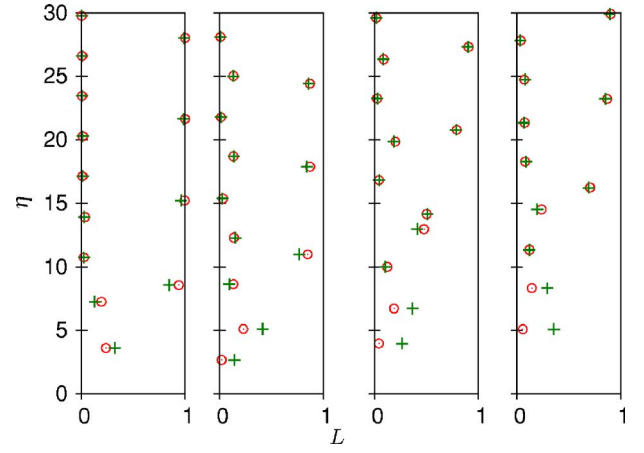


FIG. 4. (Color online) Dimensionless mode frequency  $\eta$  as a function of longitudinality measures  $L1$  [circles (red online)] and  $L2$  [crosses (green online)] for SPH modes of a material with  $v_T/v_L=0.5$ .  $\ell=1, \dots, 4$  from left to right.  $\text{SPH}_T$  modes have  $L1$  and  $L2$  near zero, while for  $\text{SPH}_L$  modes they are close to 1.

extreme case that  $C=0$ , the mode is evidently  $\text{SPH}_L$ , and likewise when  $B=0$  the mode is  $\text{SPH}_T$ . But the  $C/B$  values do not exhibit an informative pattern.

There is a strong contrast in the values of URS for different modes. However, it does not correlate with whether the mode is  $\text{SPH}_L$  or  $\text{SPH}_T$  except at high enough  $\eta$ . URS is an interesting quantity because it is the one we have to monitor for the surface deformation mechanism except for  $\ell=0$  modes.

Group theoretical arguments<sup>7</sup> show that only SPH modes with  $\ell=0$  and 2 are Raman active. This assumes that the nanoparticle is perfectly spherical in shape and spherically symmetric in all of its properties. The basic nature of the  $\ell=0$  modes is much more clear because of their simplicity and symmetry. Consequently, the modes ( $\text{SPH}$ ,  $\ell=2, n$ ) are of primary interest when trying to understand Raman intensities.

From the value of  $L2 \approx 0.14$  in Table II, the displacement of ( $\text{SPH}, 2, 0$ ) is mostly due to the  $u_T$  term and not the  $u_L$  term. Its squared displacement due to the  $u_L$  term alone is just 14% of the total. The  $u_T$  term has zero divergence. Therefore, ( $\text{SPH}, 2, 0$ ) does not have much divergence. So the effect of changing density on the dielectric constant through the deformation potential may not be significant to the overall Raman intensity.

On the other hand, based on its URS of  $\approx 0.66$  and UTS of  $\approx 0.20$ , the surface displacement of ( $\text{SPH}, 2, 0$ ) is strongly along  $r$  and only weakly along  $\theta$  as Fig. 1 illustrates. Note that  $r$  surface displacement changes the nanoparticle shape, while  $\theta$  displacement does not.

The ( $\text{SPH}, 2, 1$ ) mode differs from ( $\text{SPH}, 2, 0$ ) in several ways. From the  $L1$  value of 0.2281 in Fig. 4, we can see that the frequency of ( $\text{SPH}, 2, 1$ ) depends more on  $v_L$ . Also,  $L2 \approx 0.416$  in Fig. 4 shows that ( $\text{SPH}, 2, 1$ ) has more of a  $u_L$  component, even if it is still weaker than the  $u_T$  part. But this means that ( $\text{SPH}, 2, 1$ ) can have much more divergence than ( $\text{SPH}, 2, 0$ ). So the deformation potential mechanism can modulate the dielectric constant. But it is very interesting to notice from the URS value of  $\approx 0.00$  in Table II (more pre-

TABLE I. Longitudinality measures for a material with  $v_T/v_L=0.5$ .

$\ell$	$n$	$\eta$	$L1$	$L2$	$L3$	$L4$
0	0	5.49	1.36	1.00	1.00	0.86
0	1	12.23	1.06	1.00	1.00	0.84
0	2	18.63	1.02	1.00	1.00	0.89
1	0	3.60	0.24	0.32	-0.27	-0.12
1	1	7.24	0.19	0.13	0.10	-0.09
1	2	8.55	0.94	0.84	0.84	0.66
1	3	10.73	0.02	0.03	0.02	-0.03
1	4	13.89	0.03	0.03	0.03	-0.06
1	5	15.19	0.99	0.96	0.96	0.79
1	6	17.11	0.01	0.01	0.01	-0.03
2	0	2.65	0.02	0.14	-0.85	-0.06
2	1	5.10	0.23	0.41	0.02	0.01
2	2	8.63	0.13	0.09	0.04	-0.13
2	3	10.99	0.85	0.77	0.75	0.42
2	4	12.29	0.14	0.15	0.15	0.05
2	5	15.35	0.03	0.03	0.02	-0.07
2	6	17.85	0.87	0.84	0.84	0.57
2	7	18.68	0.13	0.14	0.14	0.07
3	0	3.95	0.04	0.27	-1.15	-0.25
3	1	6.71	0.19	0.37	0.24	0.03
3	2	9.98	0.12	0.10	0.04	-0.14
3	3	12.95	0.48	0.41	0.38	0.08
3	4	14.12	0.50	0.51	0.51	0.28
3	5	16.80	0.04	0.04	0.04	-0.07
3	6	19.84	0.20	0.19	0.18	0.01
4	0	5.07	0.06	0.36	-1.30	-0.31
4	1	8.31	0.14	0.29	0.33	0.01
4	2	11.33	0.12	0.12	0.06	-0.14
4	3	14.49	0.24	0.19	0.16	-0.07
4	4	16.21	0.71	0.69	0.69	0.33
4	5	18.26	0.08	0.09	0.09	-0.05

cisely, 0.0003) that (SPH,2,1) causes negligible radial movement of the surface. So (SPH,2,1) barely changes the shape of the nanoparticle, as Fig. 1 shows.

(SPH,2,3) has strong  $v_L$  dependence ( $L1 \approx 0.8475$ ) in Fig. 4 as well as a strong  $u_L$  component ( $L2 \approx 0.766$ ). So it is clear that it is  $SPH_L$ . Its surface displacement is mostly along  $r$  and not  $\theta$  from its URS value of 0.71 and  $UTS \approx 0.04$ . So (SPH,2,3) will strongly affect the shape of the nanoparticle surface, as shown in Fig. 1.

$u_L$  and  $u_T$  take on simpler forms as  $\eta$  becomes larger. For large  $\eta$ , the  $u_L$  term has primarily radial displacement, while the  $u_T$  term corresponds to displacement in the  $\theta$  direction.

For the lowest modes, the situation is qualitatively different. Consider (SPH,2,0) with  $v_T/v_L=0.5$ . Suppose to simplify this discussion we normalize the displacement field so that  $(u|u)=1$ . Then  $(u_L|u_L) \approx 0.14$ . However,  $(u_T|u_T) \approx 1.85$ . So  $L3$  for (SPH,2,0) is actually  $\approx -0.85$ , making it “ultra-transverse” by that measure. It seems quite odd that the  $u_T$

TABLE II. Other features of SPH modes for a material with  $v_T/v_L=0.5$ .

$\ell$	$n$	$\eta$	$C/B$	URV	URS	UTS	U2S	Class	$n_L$	$n_T$
0	0	5.49	0.00	1.00	0.91	0.00	0.91	$SPH_L$	0	
0	1	12.23	0.00	1.00	0.71	0.00	0.71	$SPH_L$	1	
0	2	18.63	0.00	1.00	0.68	0.00	0.68	$SPH_L$	2	
1	0	3.60	-0.99	0.37	0.05	1.26	1.31	$SPH_T$		0
1	1	7.24	1.65	0.43	0.14	0.66	0.81	$SPH_T$		1
1	2	8.55	-0.29	0.43	0.70	0.03	0.72	$SPH_L$	0	
1	3	10.73	4.37	0.21	0.00	0.69	0.69	$SPH_T$		2
1	4	13.89	-3.93	0.14	0.02	0.68	0.69	$SPH_T$		3
2	0	2.65	-0.44	0.59	0.66	0.20	0.86	$SPH_T$		0
2	1	5.10	-0.38	0.26	0.00	1.78	1.78	$SPH_T$		1
2	2	8.63	1.09	0.50	0.08	0.85	0.92	$SPH_T$		2
2	3	10.99	-0.22	0.35	0.71	0.04	0.75	$SPH_L$	0	
2	4	12.29	0.96	0.34	0.07	0.64	0.71	$SPH_T$		3
3	0	3.95	-0.17	0.74	0.89	0.03	0.91	$SPH_T$		0
3	1	6.71	-0.21	0.22	0.04	1.91	1.95	$SPH_T$		1
3	2	9.98	0.70	0.53	0.04	1.05	1.09	$SPH_T$		2
3	3	12.95	-0.33	0.35	0.43	0.41	0.84	mix	0	3
3	4	14.12	0.27	0.37	0.39	0.29	0.68	mix	0	3
4	0	5.07	-0.08	0.81	1.05	0.00	1.05	$SPH_T$		0
4	1	8.31	-0.15	0.23	0.14	1.78	1.92	$SPH_T$		1
4	2	11.33	0.46	0.54	0.01	1.25	1.27	$SPH_T$		2
4	3	14.49	-0.41	0.41	0.21	0.75	0.95	$SPH_T$		3
4	4	16.21	0.14	0.35	0.65	0.03	0.68	$SPH_L$	0	

term alone has a magnitude much greater than that of the overall motion. The resolution of this puzzle is that  $u_L$  and  $u_T$  are not mutually orthogonal with respect to the inner product of Eq. (4). In fact,  $(u_T|u_L) \approx -0.50$ . According to the usual vector relation,  $\vec{a} \cdot \vec{b} = \|\vec{a}\| \|\vec{b}\| \cos \theta_{ab}$ , the “angle” between  $u_L$  and  $u_T$  is  $\approx 165^\circ$  for the (SPH,2,0) mode. This angle is nearly unchanged as  $v_T/v_L$  varies. Thus,  $u_L$  and  $u_T$  are nearly anti-parallel vectors in the function space of vector fields within the nanoparticle interior. It can be said, then, that the functional forms of  $u_L$  and  $u_T$  are actually relatively similar. This is a bit of a surprise since one is curl-free while the other is divergence-free. This angle between  $u_L$  and  $u_T$  rapidly approaches  $90^\circ$  as  $\eta$  increases (i.e., for modes with higher  $n$ ).

As Fig. 2 shows, the starkness of the contrast between  $SPH_L$  and  $SPH_T$  modes is at its best when  $v_T/v_L$  is lower. For materials with high  $v_T/v_L$  such as Si and Ge, FSM modes tend more to be mixtures of  $SPH_L$  and  $SPH_T$ , especially at low  $\eta$ . But the concept of longitudinality is quite applicable to materials such as Au and Ag.

#### IV. HIGH-FREQUENCY MODE CLASSIFICATION

The reason for the dichotomy of SPH modes as  $SPH_T$  and  $SPH_L$  can be simply explained in the high-frequency limit. Consider  $\Delta_\ell$ , the  $2 \times 2$  determinant in Eq. (3), and its four

matrix elements. Note that  $\xi/\eta = v_T/v_L$ . So at high frequency, both  $\eta$  and  $\xi$  are large. In that case,  $T_{11}$  and  $T_{43}$  will be much larger than  $T_{13}$  and  $T_{41}$  because of their terms including factors of  $\eta^2$ . Consequently,  $\Delta_\ell$  is very well approximated by  $T_{11}T_{43}$ . Since normal modes correspond to zeros of  $\Delta_\ell$ , it is clear that there will be two sets of modes: those which are approximately zeros of  $T_{11}$  and  $T_{43}$ , respectively. The first group are  $\text{SPH}_L$  and the second group are  $\text{SPH}_T$ .

The roots of  $T_{11}$  and  $T_{43}$  are plotted versus  $\ell$  in Fig. 3 with lines with crosses for  $\text{SPH}_L$  modes and lines with empty squares for  $\text{SPH}_T$  modes. The lines with full circles are the exact FSM mode frequencies.

There are three kinds of situations where we do not expect this approximation to be valid: (1) for low  $\eta$ , (2) when it is not true that  $\eta \gg \ell$ , and (3) where longitudinal ( $T_{11}$ ) and transverse ( $T_{43}$ ) modes for a given  $\ell$  are close—i.e., when the associated curves cross. Except in the previously mentioned places, the agreement between FSM and our approximation is quite good. The low- $\eta$  situation corresponds specifically to similar prefactors of  $j_\ell$  for  $T_{11}$  and  $T_{43}$  not being large. It is apparent that  $T_{11}$  and  $T_{43}$  can only be useful as estimators of  $\text{SPH}_L$  and  $\text{SPH}_T$  mode frequencies when  $\eta \gg \ell$ . This is confirmed from inspection of the lower right portion of Fig. 3.

For large  $x$ ,  $j_\ell(x) \approx \sin(x - \ell\pi/2)/x$ . Therefore, for large  $\xi$  and  $\eta$ , the roots of  $T_{11}$  can be approximated by  $\xi \approx \ell\pi/2 + (1+n_L)\pi$  and the roots of  $T_{43}$  by  $\eta \approx \ell\pi/2 + n_T\pi$  where  $n_L \geq 0$  and  $n_T \geq 0$  are integers. These lead to remarkably compact approximate expressions for  $\text{SPH}_L$  and  $\text{SPH}_T$  FSM frequencies in hertz, respectively:

$$f \approx \frac{v_L}{d} \left( \frac{\ell}{2} + n_L + 1 \right), \quad (7)$$

$$f \approx \frac{v_T}{d} \left( \frac{\ell}{2} + n_T \right), \quad (8)$$

where  $d=2R$ . These expressions are very suggestive of the formula for acoustic standing waves in a one-dimensional system of length  $d$ . Table II shows the value of either  $n_L$  or  $n_T$  for each mode.

The behavior observed in Fig. 2 becomes simple to explain. To a good approximation,  $\text{SPH}$  FSM modes are either  $\text{SPH}_L$  or  $\text{SPH}_T$ . This approximation is considered here to be good because it gives the right number of vibrational modes and it predicts their frequency with a reasonable accuracy.

“Anticrossing” is observed in Fig. 2 each time the variation of the frequency of a  $\text{SPH}_L$  mode crosses the one of a  $\text{SPH}_T$  mode. In Fig. 2 there are two kinds of curves: horizontal lines for  $\text{SPH}_T$  modes and descending curves for  $\text{SPH}_L$  ones. Then, each time these curves come together, an anticrossing pattern appears for the FSM solutions. In Fig. 3, FSM frequencies  $\eta$  are plotted versus  $\ell$  for a sphere made of a material that has  $v_T/v_L=0.5$ . Because the  $\text{SPH}_L$  and  $\text{SPH}_T$  approximation curves are plotted, the anticrossing patterns are clearly revealed. The continuation of Bessel functions to noninteger  $\ell$  permits relationships among modes for different

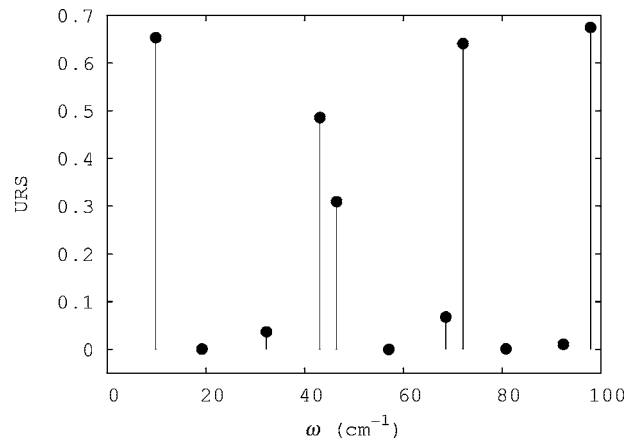


FIG. 5. Mean squared radial surface displacement (URS) as a function of wave number for ( $\text{SPH}, \ell=2$ ) modes of a 5-nm-diameter silver nanoparticle ( $v_T/v_L=0.464$ ).

integer  $\ell$  to be clearly seen. This is preferable to the common practice of joining modes on such a graph with hand-drawn straight lines.

## V. DISCUSSION

Normal elastic waves in a solid have a longitudinal acoustic (LA) branch and two transverse acoustic (TA) branches. However, for the FSM it seemed there are just two kinds:  $\text{SPH}$  and  $\text{TOR}$ . By classifying  $\text{SPH}$  modes into two kinds (i.e.,  $\text{SPH}_L$  and  $\text{SPH}_T$ ), there are now three categories of modes, as we would expect.

We plot in Fig. 5 the mean squared radial surface displacement (URS) at the surface of a 5-nm-diameter silver nanoparticle for all  $\text{SPH}$   $\ell=2$  modes. The magnitude of URS is in good agreement with the calculated Raman intensities.<sup>4</sup> (These calculations took into account the nonlinear dispersion of acoustic phonons in silver. As a result, the calculated vibration wave numbers do not match.) As discussed before, the ( $\text{SPH}, 2, 0$ ) mode is quite special even if we class it as a  $\text{SPH}_T$  mode. It changes the surface shape and therefore contributes significantly to inelastic light scattering. Other harmonics contribute significantly only when their URS is large and this in turn is very well correlated with their  $\text{SPH}_L$  nature as can be seen in Fig. 2.

Many experiments have observed peaks in Raman spectra attributed to acoustic phonon vibrations of silver,<sup>8–14</sup> silicon,<sup>15,16</sup> and  $\text{CdS}_x\text{Se}_{1-x}$ .<sup>17–21</sup> These studies have regularly succeeded in observing the ( $\text{SPH}, 2, 0$ ) mode and the ( $\text{SPH}, 0, 0$ ) mode. A number of studies have seen ( $\text{SPH}, 0, n$ ) with  $n$  up to 4.<sup>14</sup> However, there has never been a clear indication of Raman scattering from ( $\text{SPH}, 2, 1$ ) even though there have been determined efforts to see it.

At the same time, ( $\text{SPH}_L, 2, n_L=0$ ) seems like a strong candidate to have noticeable Raman scattering, since it has strong radial surface motion as well as a strong  $u_L$  component that will give it stronger divergence in its interior.

It should be noted that  $\ell=0$  modes are always  $\text{SPH}_L$ . That is why no full circles are plotted in Fig. 3 on the  $T_{43}$  root curves at  $\ell=0$ . This has been the source of many erroneous calculations in the past.<sup>22</sup>

It is often claimed<sup>23–26</sup> that modes with  $n=0$  are “surface modes” while modes with  $n>0$  are “inner modes.” The values of U2S in Table II show that this is a misconception. While this is true for  $\ell=0$  and 1, for  $\ell=2, 3$ , and 4 it can be seen that (SPH, $\ell$ ,1) has the strongest surface motion relative to all (SPH, $\ell$ , $n$ ).

Although Table II shows URS to be zero for (SPH,2,1), the more precise value of  $v_T/v_L$  where URS is zero is 0.488. URS for (SPH,2,1) is only near zero for  $v_T/v_L$  close to 0.488. However, URS remains small for (SPH,2,1) for materials whose Poisson ratio is close to  $\frac{1}{3}$ , which is true of many

common materials. This contradicts a widespread misconception<sup>27–29</sup> that SPH FSM modes always have a radial displacement component at the surface.

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\*Electronic address: lucien.saviot@u-bourgogne.fr

†Electronic address: daniel.murray@ubc.ca

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