

THE REDUCED ROTATION MATRIX: PLOTS AND ZEROS*

J. G. CRAMER

University of Washington, Seattle, Wash. 98105

and

W. J. BRAITHWAITE

Princeton University, Princeton, N. J. 08540

The reduced matrix elements of finite rotations in the angular momentum representation $\{d_{m'm}^j(\beta)\}$ are presented in polar plots and root tables for several low spins having both integral and half-integral values. The plots present, for $j \leq 5/2$, the magnitude of the matrix element as the length of the radius vector at the polar angle which corresponds to the Euler angle of rotation. The tables present those values of β , in the region $0 \leq j \leq 8$, which satisfy the condition $d_{m'm}^j(\beta) = 0$.

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

Comments and Results

Polar Plots of the Reduced Rotation Matrix

TABLE. Zeros of the Reduced Rotation Matrix

*Supported in part by the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission

INTRODUCTION

Although an extensive tabulation of the reduced rotation matrix $d_{mm'}^j(\beta)$ is available in the literature¹ there are no convenient plots available between 0 and 2π for low values of both integer and half-integer spin. Rough values of $d_{mm'}^j(\beta)$ may be obtained from polar graphs, but their major use is in providing a clearer visualization of the symmetries (for a particular spin) than is obtained from ordinary graphical form. Further, there is only one short tabulation (for integer spins *only*) of zeros of the reduced rotation matrix available in the literature² despite the important role these zeros play in the theory of angular correlations.^{2,3}

The reduced rotation matrix is evaluated using a Wigner closed-form⁴ expression:

$$d_{mm'}^j(\beta) \quad (1)$$

$$= \left[\frac{(j+m)! (j-m)!}{(j-m)! (j+m)!} \right]^{1/2} \sum_{\sigma} \binom{j+m}{j-m-\sigma} \binom{j-m}{\sigma}$$

$$\times (-1)^{j-m-\sigma} \left(\cos \frac{\beta}{2} \right)^{2\sigma+m'+m} \left(\sin \frac{\beta}{2} \right)^{2j-2\sigma-m'-m}$$

where $\binom{N}{K} \equiv \frac{N!}{(N-K)!K!}$ is the binomial coefficient, j is the angular momentum of the system, m' the magnetic substate of j before rotation, m the magnetic substate after rotation, and β the Euler angle of rotation.

The sum is over all values of σ for which the factorials all have non-negative arguments.

The phase convention is that of Brink and Satchler.⁵ Multiplication by $(-)^{m-m'}$ or interchange of subscripts m and m' will make the phase consistent with that of Behkami.¹

The following symmetry relations exist:

$$d_{mm'}^j(\beta) \quad (2)$$

$$= (-1)^{m-m'} d_{-m,-m'}^j(\beta) = (-1)^{j-m} d_{-m,m'}^j(\pi + \beta)$$

$$= (-1)^{j-m'} d_{m,-m'}^j(\pi + \beta) = (-1)^{m-m'} d_{m'm}^j(\beta)$$

$$= d_{mm'}^j(-\beta).$$

Comments and Results

A computer program⁶ was used to perform the numerical evaluation of the elements of the reduced rotation matrix $d_{mm'}^j(\beta)$. In the present work, we have employed this program to generate plots of the reduced rotation matrix for $0 \leq j \leq 5/2$ and $|m, m'| \leq j$ with $0 \leq \beta \leq 2\pi$. The plots were done on the line printer of the University of Washington SDS 930 Computer System, employing special high-density plotting symbols

and the subroutine GRAPHIC which will be described elsewhere.⁷

The figure shows the polar plots of the matrix elements thereby generated. The representation employs a normal Cartesian coordinate system, with the x -axis to the right and β increasing in the counter-clockwise direction. It was decided to make the radius vector equal in magnitude to the absolute value of the matrix elements and to indicate the sign of the matrix element by adding plus and minus signs in the different angular regions.

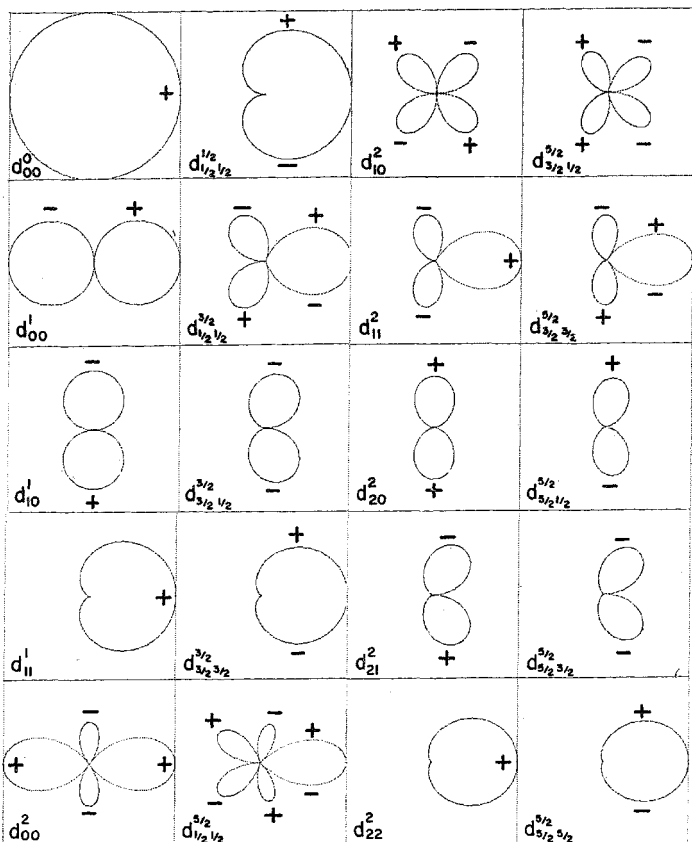
The program, together with ROOT, a program for finding the real roots of an equation numerically,⁸ has been used to calculate the zeros of the reduced rotation matrix elements for values of j up to $j = 8$. The table gives these zeros in *degrees*. It is interesting to note that there are certain regularities in these zeros which suggest symmetries in the rotation matrix which have not been described previously. However, a detailed discussion of these regularities is beyond the scope of the present paper.

Acknowledgments

The authors wish to thank Prof. D. Robson for valuable suggestions during the writing of this paper, and one of us (JGC) wishes to thank the Sektion Physik, Universität München, for its hospitality while this manuscript was in preparation.

References

1. A. N. Behkami, Nucl. Data Tables **10**, 1 (1971)
2. J. G. Cramer and W. W. Eidson, Nucl. Phys. **55**, 593 (1964)
3. M. Jacob and G. C. Wick, Ann. Phys. (N.Y.) **7**, 404 (1959)
4. E. P. Wigner, Group Theory, Trans. by J. J. Griffin, Academic Press, New York and London (1959); A. R. Edmonds, *Angular Momentum in Quantum Mechanics*, Princeton University Press, Princeton, N. J. (1960)
5. D. M. Brink and G. R. Satchler, *Angular Momentum*, Oxford University Press, Amen House, London E. C. 4 (1962)
6. W. J. Braithwaite and J. G. Cramer, Comp. Phys. Comm., to be published
7. J. G. Cramer, Comp. Phys. Comm., to be published
8. W. J. Braithwaite, (private communication)



Polar Plots of the Reduced Rotation Matrix

The polar angle is the Euler angle of rotation of $d_{m'm}^j(\beta)$ and the length of the radius vector is the magnitude of this matrix element

The signs indicate the sign of the matrix element for $0 \leq \beta \leq 2\pi$. For integral j the matrix element repeats every 2π . For half-integral j it repeats every 4π . Signs for $2\pi \leq \beta \leq 4\pi$ can be found from the symmetry relations; Eq. (2)

TABLE. Zeros of the Reduced Rotation Matrix
Explanation of Table

The table presents, in the columns headed ANGLES OF ZEROS, values of β for which $d_{mm'}^j(\beta) = 0$. See Eq. (1) for $d_{mm'}^j(\beta)$ in the INTRODUCTION.

Only matrix elements with m, m' positive and $m' \geq m$ were included because the missing matrix elements may be obtained from the symmetry relations of Eq. (2).

J	j	Angular momentum of the system
MI	m'	Magnetic substate of j, before rotation
MF	m	Magnetic substate of j, after rotation
β		Euler angle of rotation

One should be reminded here that $d_{mm'}^j(\beta)$ for half-integral j repeats every 4π and for integral j repeats every 2π . However, in both cases a zero for β implies a zero for $2\pi - \beta$. Therefore the tables are given only for $0 \leq \beta \leq \pi$.

REDUCED ROTATION MATRIX

TABLE. Zeros of the Reduced Rotation Matrix

<i>J</i>	<i>MF</i>	<i>MI</i>	Angles of Zeros			
0	0	0				
1/2	1/2	1/2	180.000			
1	0	0	90.000			
1	1	0	.000	180.000		
1	1	1	180.000			
3/2	1/2	1/2	70.529	180.000		
3/2	3/2	1/2	.000	180.000		
3/2	3/2	3/2	180.000			
2	0	0	54.736	125.264		
2	1	0	.000	90.000	180.000	
2	1	1	60.000	180.000		
2	2	0	.000	180.000		
2	2	1	.000	180.000		
2	2	2	180.000			
5/2	1/2	1/2	46.378	106.852	180.000	
5/2	3/2	1/2	.000	78.463	180.000	
5/2	3/2	3/2	53.130	180.000		
5/2	5/2	1/2	.000	180.000		
5/2	5/2	3/2	.000	180.000		
5/2	5/2	5/2	180.000			
3	0	0	39.231	90.000	140.768	
3	1	0	.000	63.435	116.565	180.000
3	1	1	40.977	95.066	180.000	
3	2	0	.000	90.000	180.000	
3	2	1	.000	70.529	180.000	
3	2	2	48.190	180.000	180.000	
3	3	0	.000	180.000		
3	3	1	.000	180.000		
3	3	2	.000	180.000		
3	3	3	180.000			
7/2	1/2	1/2	34.631	79.566	125.122	180.000
7/2	3/2	1/2	.000	56.844	105.141	180.000
7/2	3/2	3/2	37.115	86.578	180.000	
7/2	5/2	1/2	.000	81.787	180.000	
7/2	5/2	3/2	.000	64.623	180.000	
7/2	5/2	5/2	44.415	180.000		
7/2	7/2	1/2	.000	180.000		
7/2	7/2	3/2	.000	180.000		
7/2	7/2	5/2	.000	180.000		
7/2	7/2	7/2	180.000			
4	0	0	30.556	70.124	109.876	149.444
4	1	0	.000	49.107	90.000	130.893
4	1	1	31.349	72.182	114.205	180.000
4	2	0	.000	67.782	112.208	180.000
4	2	1	.000	51.978	96.659	180.000
4	2	2	36.175	80.057	180.000	
4	3	0	.000	90.000	180.000	
4	3	1	.000	75.523	180.000	
4	3	2	.000	60.000	180.000	
4	3	3	41.410	180.000		
4	4	0	.000	180.000		
4	4	1	.000	180.000		
4	4	2	.000	180.000		
4	4	3	.000	180.000		
4	4	4	180.000			
9/2	1/2	1/2	27.651	63.403	99.624	136.094
9/2	3/2	1/2	.000	44.861	82.397	120.517
9/2	3/2	3/2	28.854	66.570	105.871	180.000
9/2	5/2	1/2	.000	62.453	103.901	180.000
9/2	5/2	3/2	.000	48.190	90.000	180.000
9/2	5/2	5/2	31.840	74.836	180.000	
9/2	7/2	1/2	.000	83.621	180.000	
9/2	7/2	3/2	.000	70.529	180.000	
9/2	7/2	5/2	.000	56.251	180.000	
9/2	7/2	7/2	36.948	180.000		
9/2	9/2	1/2	.000	180.000		
9/2	9/2	3/2	.000	180.000		
9/2	9/2	5/2	.000	180.000		
9/2	9/2	7/2	.000	180.000		
9/2	9/2	9/2	180.000			

TABLE. Zeros of the Reduced Rotation Matrix

<i>J</i>	<i>MF</i>	<i>MI</i>	Angles of Zeros					
5	0	0	25.017	57.420	90.000	122.579	154.963	
5	1	0	.000	40.088	73.427	106.573	130.912	180.000
5	1	1	25.445	58.480	91.954	126.278	160.000	
5	2	0	.000	54.736	90.000	125.264	160.000	
5	2	1	.000	41.564	76.500	112.437	160.000	
5	2	2	26.875	62.110	99.194	160.000		
5	3	0	.000	70.529	109.471	180.000		
5	3	1	.000	58.224	97.273	160.000		
5	3	2	.000	45.130	84.576	160.000		
5	3	3	29.926	70.529	180.000			
5	4	0	.000	90.000	180.000			
5	4	1	.000	78.463	180.000			
5	4	2	.000	66.422	180.000			
5	4	3	.000	53.130	180.000			
5	4	4	36.870	180.000				
5	5	0	.000	180.000				
5	5	1	.000	180.000				
5	5	2	.000	180.000				
5	5	3	.000	180.000				
5	5	4	.000	180.000				
5	5	5	180.000					
11/2	1/2	1/2	23.018	52.845	82.874	113.012	143.411	180.000
11/2	3/2	1/2	.000	37.127	68.069	98.996	130.600	180.000
11/2	3/2	3/2	23.695	54.510	85.889	118.493	160.000	
11/2	5/2	1/2	.000	50.967	84.006	117.462	160.000	
11/2	5/2	3/2	.000	38.905	71.737	105.665	160.000	
11/2	5/2	5/2	25.255	58.450	93.671	160.000		
11/2	7/2	1/2	.000	66.057	102.945	160.000		
11/2	7/2	3/2	.000	54.763	91.806	160.000		
11/2	7/2	5/2	.000	42.590	80.045	160.000		
11/2	7/2	7/2	28.322	66.494	180.000			
11/2	9/2	1/2	.000	84.784	180.000			
11/2	9/2	3/2	.000	74.173	180.000			
11/2	9/2	5/2	.000	62.964	180.000			
11/2	9/2	7/2	.000	50.479	180.000			
11/2	9/2	9/2	35.097	180.000				
11/2	11/2	1/2	.000	180.000				
11/2	11/2	3/2	.000	180.000				
11/2	11/2	5/2	.000	180.000				
11/2	11/2	7/2	.000	180.000				
11/2	11/2	9/2	.000	180.000				
11/2	11/2	11/2	180.000					
6	0	0	21.177	48.608	76.195	103.605	131.392	156.823
6	1	0	.000	33.878	62.040	90.000	117.960	146.122
6	1	1	21.433	49.229	77.278	105.585	134.596	180.000
6	2	0	.000	45.993	75.489	104.511	134.007	180.000
6	2	1	.000	34.743	63.760	92.917	123.113	180.000
6	2	2	22.264	51.260	80.919	112.069	160.000	
6	3	0	.000	58.518	90.000	121.482	160.000	
6	3	1	.000	47.925	79.110	111.041	160.000	
6	3	2	.000	36.702	67.761	100.364	160.000	
6	3	3	23.696	55.374	88.997	180.000		
6	4	0	.000	72.452	107.548	180.000		
6	4	1	.000	62.357	97.506	180.000		
6	4	2	.000	51.659	87.188	180.000		
6	4	3	.000	40.437	76.179	180.000		
6	4	4	26.850	63.773	180.000			
6	5	0	.000	90.000	180.000			
6	5	1	.000	80.406	180.000			
6	5	2	.000	70.529	180.000			
6	5	3	.000	60.000	180.000			
6	5	4	.000	48.190	180.000			
6	5	5	33.857	180.000				
6	6	0	.000	180.000				
6	6	1	.000	180.000				
6	6	2	.000	180.000				
6	6	3	.000	180.000				
6	6	4	.000	180.000				
6	6	5	.000	180.000				
6	6	6	180.000					

REDUCED ROTATION MATRIX

TABLE. Zeros of the Reduced Rotation Matrix

<i>J</i>	<i>MF</i>	<i>MI</i>	Angles of Zeros							
13/2	1/2	1/2	19.718	45.264	70.972	96.739	122.579	148.637	180.000	
13/2	3/2	1/2	.000	31.696	56.073	84.324	110.723	137.742	180.000	
13/2	3/2	3/2	20.137	46.274	72.714	99.544	127.414	180.000		
13/2	5/2	1/2	.000	43.215	71.001	98.488	126.801	180.000		
13/2	5/2	3/2	.000	32.767	60.192	87.878	116.866	180.000		
13/2	5/2	5/2	21.064	48.935	76.742	106.631	180.000			
13/2	7/2	1/2	.000	55.200	85.052	115.226	180.000			
13/2	7/2	3/2	.000	45.361	74.999	105.614	180.000			
13/2	7/2	5/2	.000	34.836	64.423	95.653	180.000			
13/2	7/2	7/2	22.738	52.741	84.971	140.000				
13/2	9/2	1/2	.000	68.608	102.175	180.000				
13/2	9/2	3/2	.000	59.226	92.872	180.000				
13/2	9/2	5/2	.000	49.377	83.215	180.000				
13/2	9/2	7/2	.000	38.582	72.830	180.000				
13/2	9/2	9/2	25.761	61.053	180.000					
13/2	11/2	1/2	.000	85.588	180.000					
13/2	11/2	3/2	.000	75.858	180.000					
13/2	11/2	5/2	.000	67.380	180.000					
13/2	11/2	7/2	.000	57.421	180.000					
13/2	11/2	9/2	.000	46.187	180.000					
13/2	11/2	11/2	32.204	180.000						
13/2	13/2	1/2	.000	180.000						
13/2	13/2	3/2	.000	180.000						
13/2	13/2	5/2	.000	180.000						
13/2	13/2	7/2	.000	180.000						
13/2	13/2	9/2	.000	180.000						
13/2	13/2	11/2	.000	180.000						
13/2	13/2	13/2	180.000							
7	0	0	18.358	42.138	66.056	90.000	113.944	137.862	161.642	
7	1	0	.000	29.338	53.722	77.919	102.081	126.278	150.652	
7	1	1	18.124	42.534	66.726	91.036	115.554	140.679	180.000	
7	2	0	.000	39.695	65.108	90.000	114.892	140.305	180.000	
7	2	1	.000	29.890	54.793	79.644	104.773	130.844	180.000	
7	2	2	19.081	43.799	68.893	94.481	121.360	180.000		
7	3	0	.000	50.160	76.933	103.067	129.840	180.000		
7	3	1	.000	40.890	67.249	93.450	120.736	180.000		
7	3	2	.000	31.096	57.171	83.603	111.530	180.000		
7	3	3	20.040	46.206	73.163	101.940	180.000			
7	4	0	.000	61.289	90.000	118.710	180.000			
7	4	1	.000	52.398	80.866	109.894	180.000			
7	4	2	.000	43.173	71.481	100.939	180.000			
7	4	3	.000	33.230	61.524	91.579	180.000			
7	4	4	21.730	50.453	81.452	180.000				
7	5	0	.000	73.898	106.102	180.000				
7	5	1	.000	65.332	97.565	180.000				
7	5	2	.000	56.530	88.658	180.000				
7	5	3	.000	47.222	79.748	180.000				
7	5	4	.000	36.962	69.890	180.000				
7	5	5	24.716	56.656	80.000	180.000				
7	6	0	.000	90.000	180.000					
7	6	1	.000	81.787	180.000					
7	6	2	.000	73.398	180.000					
7	6	3	.000	64.623	180.000					
7	6	4	.000	55.150	180.000					
7	6	5	.000	44.415	180.000					
7	6	6	31.003	180.000						
7	7	0	.000	180.000						
7	7	1	.000	180.000						
7	7	2	.000	180.000						
7	7	3	.000	180.000						
7	7	4	.000	180.000						
7	7	5	.000	180.000						
7	7	6	.000	180.000						
7	7	7	180.000							

TABLE. Zeros of the Reduced Rotation Matrix

<i>J</i>	<i>MF</i>	<i>MI</i>	Angles of Zeros							
15/2	1/2	1/2	17.246	39.588	62.066	84.589	107.143	129.756	152.598	180.000
15/2	3/2	1/2	.000	27.664	50.669	73.528	96.415	119.466	143.071	180.000
15/2	3/2	3/2	17.524	40.730	63.179	86.263	109.719	134.063	180.000	
15/2	5/2	1/2	.000	37.353	61.629	85.277	109.056	133.666	180.000	
15/2	5/2	3/2	.000	26.362	52.021	75.689	99.744	124.980	180.000	
15/2	5/2	5/2	18.124	41.686	65.827	90.148	116.143	180.000		
15/2	7/2	1/2	.000	46.597	73.074	98.068	123.953	180.000		
15/2	7/2	3/2	.000	38.006	64.046	89.142	115.517	180.000		
15/2	7/2	5/2	.000	29.656	56.569	79.912	106.892	180.000		
15/2	7/2	7/2	19.152	44.185	70.049	97.833	180.000			
15/2	9/2	1/2	.000	58.326	85.785	113.490	180.000			
15/2	9/2	3/2	.000	49.989	77.258	105.277	180.000			
15/2	9/2	5/2	.000	41.275	68.424	98.851	180.000			
15/2	9/2	7/2	.000	31.827	59.986	87.986	180.000			
15/2	9/2	9/2	20.846	46.441	76.342	180.000				
15/2	11/2	1/2	.000	70.529	101.537	180.000				
15/2	11/2	3/2	.000	62.493	93.547	180.000				
15/2	11/2	5/2	.000	54.175	85.333	180.000				
15/2	11/2	7/2	.000	45.328	76.666	180.000				
15/2	11/2	9/2	.000	35.530	67.262	180.000				
15/2	11/2	11/2	23.789	56.521	180.000					
15/2	13/2	1/2	.000	86.177	180.000					
15/2	13/2	3/2	.000	78.463	180.000					
15/2	13/2	5/2	.000	70.529	180.000					
15/2	13/2	7/2	.000	62.182	180.000					
15/2	13/2	9/2	.000	53.130	180.000					
15/2	13/2	11/2	.000	42.833	180.000					
15/2	13/2	13/2	29.926	180.000						
15/2	15/2	1/2	.000	180.000						
15/2	15/2	3/2	.000	180.000						
15/2	15/2	5/2	.000	180.000						
15/2	15/2	7/2	.000	180.000						
15/2	15/2	9/2	.000	180.000						
15/2	15/2	11/2	.000	180.000						
15/2	15/2	13/2	.000	180.000						
15/2	15/2	15/2	180.000							
8	0	0	16.261	37.187	58.296	79.430	100.570	121.704	142.813	163.799
8	1	0	.000	25.874	47.376	68.708	90.000	111.292	132.824	154.126
8	1	1	14.315	37.456	58.742	80.096	101.539	123.164	145.322	180.000
8	2	0	.000	34.931	57.275	79.124	100.676	122.725	145.069	180.000
8	2	1	.000	26.247	46.091	69.628	91.653	113.761	136.711	180.000
8	2	2	16.670	38.301	60.154	82.233	104.744	128.394	180.000	
8	3	0	.000	43.955	67.339	90.000	112.661	136.045	180.000	
8	3	1	.000	35.726	58.665	81.256	104.089	127.984	180.000	
8	3	2	.000	27.048	49.635	72.284	95.407	119.891	180.000	
8	3	3	17.320	39.853	62.794	86.378	111.575	180.000		
8	4	0	.000	53.316	78.017	101.983	126.884	180.000		
8	4	1	.000	45.396	69.758	93.762	116.855	180.000		
8	4	2	.000	37.191	61.269	85.397	110.952	180.000		
8	4	3	.000	28.403	52.295	76.679	102.805	180.000		
8	4	4	16.373	42.409	67.307	94.196	180.000			
8	5	0	.000	63.435	90.000	116.565	180.000			
8	5	1	.000	55.762	82.131	108.939	180.000			
8	5	2	.000	47.888	74.105	101.213	180.000			
8	5	3	.000	39.009	65.733	93.233	180.000			
8	5	4	.000	30.589	56.744	84.793	180.000			
8	5	5	20.063	46.852	75.566	180.000				
8	6	0	.000	75.037	104.963	180.000				
8	6	1	.000	67.594	97.537	180.000				
8	6	2	.000	60.000	90.000	180.000				
8	6	3	.000	52.095	82.204	180.000				
8	6	4	.000	43.947	73.955	180.000				
8	6	5	.000	34.253	64.948	180.000				
8	6	6	22.959	54.604	180.000					
8	7	0	.000	90.000	180.000					
8	7	1	.000	82.619	180.000					
8	7	2	.000	75.522	180.000					
8	7	3	.000	67.976	180.000					
8	7	4	.000	60.000	180.000					
8	7	5	.000	51.318	180.000					
8	7	6	.000	41.410	180.000					
8	7	7	28.955	180.000						
8	8	0	.000	180.000						
8	8	1	.000	180.000						
8	8	2	.000	180.000						
8	8	3	.000	180.000						
8	8	4	.000	180.000						
8	8	5	.000	180.000						
8	8	6	.000	180.000						
8	8	7	.000	180.000						
8	8	8	180.000							