



分离变量法求解椭球星体的重力势增量

冉雪峰 谢社锐

(重庆市育才中学校 重庆 400050)

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摘要:尝试利用电动力学中常用的求电势的方法“分离变量法”求解椭球星体的重力势增量。

关键词:分离变量法;椭球星体;重力势增量

1 引言

在《中学奥林匹克竞赛物理教程电磁学篇》上都有一道关于万有引力的经典题目^[1]:一个密度均匀的行星绕一个固定轴以角速度 ω 自转,行星的赤道半径 R_e ,略大于球的半径 R ,行星两极的半径 R_p 略小于球的半径 R ,用 $\epsilon = \frac{R_e - R_p}{R}$ 描述变形的大小,由于这种变形引起星球表面的重力势有一

增量 $\Delta U = -\frac{2}{5} \frac{GMR_e^2 \epsilon}{r^3} P_2(\cos \theta)$,其中 θ 是球坐标的极角, $P_2(\cos \theta) = \frac{3}{2} \cos^2 \theta - \frac{1}{2}$.对于这直接给出的结论无论是学生,还是很多竞赛教练都百思不得其解,因此笔者研读了电动力学中用分离变量法求解均匀电场中均匀介质球内外的电势分布^[2],从中受到启发,于是准备借用分离变量的基本思路,尝试求出椭球星体的重力势增量。

2 用分离变量法求解椭球星体的重力势增量

首先

首先在椭球星体上建立如图1所示的直角坐标系,然后写出椭球的方程

$$\frac{x^2 + y^2}{R_e^2} + \frac{z^2}{(1 - \epsilon)^2 R_e^2} = 1$$

由题设条件知: $\epsilon \ll 1$,显然椭球关于 z 轴对称,且球外引力势 U 满足拉普拉斯方程

$$\nabla^2 U = 0 \quad (1)$$

轴对称情况下式(1)的通解为

$$U = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left(a_n r^n + \frac{b_n}{r^{n+1}} \right) P_n(\cos \theta) \quad (2)$$

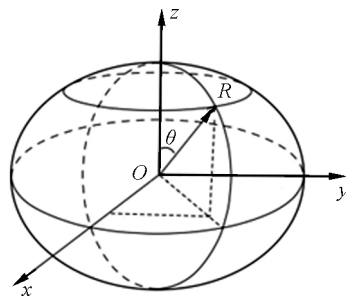


图1 直角坐标系下的椭球星体

取无穷远处势能 $U=0$,可得 $a_n=0$,因此,式(2)可简化为

$$U = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{b_n}{r^{n+1}} P_n(\cos \theta)$$

由引力和势能的关系可得

$$\mathbf{F} = -\nabla U = -\frac{\partial U}{\partial r} \mathbf{r} - \frac{\partial U}{\partial \theta} \boldsymbol{\theta} =$$

$$\sum (n+1) \frac{b_n P_n(\cos \theta)}{r^{n+2}} \mathbf{r} + \sum \frac{b_n}{r^{n+2}} \frac{\partial P_n(\cos \theta)}{\partial \theta} \boldsymbol{\theta}$$

其中, $P_n(\cos \theta)$ 为勒让德函数。设

$$P_n(x) = \frac{1}{n!} \frac{d^n}{dx^n} [(x^2 - 1)^n]$$

则

$$P_n(-x) = \frac{1}{n!} \frac{1}{2^n} \frac{1}{(-1)^n} \frac{d^n}{dx^n} [(x^2 - 1)^n]$$

可见, n 为奇数时, $P_n(x)$ 为奇函数; n 为偶数时, $P_n(x)$ 为偶函数,且 $P'_n(x)|_{x=0}=0$ 。考虑到 $\theta = \frac{\pi}{2}$ 的点,由对称性知 $F_\theta = 0$ 。所以

$$F_\theta \Big|_{\theta = \frac{\pi}{2}} = \sum \frac{b_n}{r^{n+2}} \frac{\partial P_n(\cos \theta)}{\partial \theta} =$$

$$\sum \frac{b_n}{r^{n+2}} \frac{\partial P_n(x)}{\partial x} \Big|_{x=0}$$

显然 n 为偶数时

$$\left. \frac{\partial P_n(x)}{\partial x} \right|_{x=0} = 0$$

从而得

$$F_\theta = \sum_{n \text{ 为奇数}} \frac{b_n}{r^{n+2}} \frac{\partial P_n(x)}{\partial x}$$

n 为奇数时

$$\begin{aligned} \left. \frac{\partial P_n(x)}{\partial x} \right|_{x=0} &= \frac{1}{2^n n!} \frac{\partial^{n+1}}{\partial x^{n+1}} (x^2 - 1)^n = \\ &= \frac{1}{2^n n!} \frac{\partial^{n+1}}{\partial x^{n+1}} \sum_{i=0}^n C_n^i x^{2i} (-1)^{n-i} \end{aligned}$$

当且仅当 $2i = n + 1$ 时, 该项不为零, 故

$$\left. \frac{\partial P_n(x)}{\partial x} \right|_{x=0} = \frac{1}{2^n n!} (n+1)! C_n^{\frac{n+1}{2}} (-1)^{\frac{n-1}{2}}$$

可见 $\left. \frac{\partial P_n(x)}{\partial x} \right|_{x=0} = 0$, n 为奇数时, 必不为零. 故要使

$F_\theta = 0$, 只能 $b_n = 0$, 且 n 为奇数.

因此, 对任意的 r , 使得 $F_\theta|_{\theta=\frac{\pi}{2}} = 0$, 必有 $b_n = 0$, 且 n 为奇数. 因此

$$U = \sum_{n \text{ 为偶数}} \frac{b_n}{r^{n+1}} P_n(\cos \theta) =$$

$$\frac{b_0}{r} + \frac{b_2}{r^3} P_2(\cos \theta) + \frac{b_4}{r^5} P_4(\cos \theta) + \dots$$

又 $\theta = 0$, $\cos \theta = 1$ 时, $U_0 = \frac{b_0}{r} + \frac{b_2}{r^3} + \frac{b_4}{r^5} + \dots$ 对应 z 轴上引力势分布, 在 $r > (1-\epsilon)R_e$ 下求 z 轴引力势分布, 设星体密度为 ρ , 在 $(0, 0, r)$ 处有

$$\begin{aligned} U_0 &= -G\rho \int [x^2 + y^2 + (r-z)^2]^{-\frac{1}{2}} dx dy dz = \\ &= -G\rho \int_{-(1-\epsilon)R_e}^{(1-\epsilon)R_e} \left\{ \iint_{x^2+y^2 \leq R_e^2 - \frac{z^2}{(1-\epsilon)^2}} [x^2 + y^2 + (r-z)^2]^{-\frac{1}{2}} dx dy \right\} dz = \\ &= -2\pi G\rho \int_{-(1-\epsilon)R_e}^{(1-\epsilon)R_e} \left[R_e^2 - \frac{z^2}{(1-\epsilon)^2} + (r-z)^2 \right]^{\frac{1}{2}} dz = \\ &= -2\pi G\rho \int_{-(1-\epsilon)R_e}^{(1-\epsilon)R_e} \left\{ R_e^2 + r^2 - 2rz - \left[\frac{1}{(1-\epsilon)^2} - 1 \right] z^2 \right\}^{\frac{1}{2}} dz \end{aligned}$$

只保留首阶非零项得

$$U_0 = -2\pi G\rho \cdot$$

$$\int_{-(1-\epsilon)R_e}^{(1-\epsilon)R_e} \left(\sqrt{R_e^2 + r^2 - 2rz} - \frac{\epsilon z^2}{\sqrt{R_e^2 + r^2 - 2rz}} \right) dz \quad (3)$$

又 $\epsilon \ll 1$, 故

$$\begin{aligned} &\sqrt{R_e^2 + r^2 - 2rz} - 2\epsilon z^2 \approx \\ &\sqrt{R_e^2 + r^2 - 2rz} \left(1 - \frac{\epsilon z^2}{R_e^2 + r^2 - 2rz} \right) \quad (4) \end{aligned}$$

将式(4)代入式(3)并由积分公式

$$\begin{aligned} \int \sqrt{ax+b} dx &= \frac{2}{3a} \sqrt{(ax+b)^3} + c \int \frac{x^2}{\sqrt{ax+b}} dx = \\ &= \frac{2}{15a^3} (3a^2 x^2 - 4abx + zb^2) \sqrt{ax+b} + c \end{aligned}$$

可得

$$\begin{aligned} -\frac{U_0}{2\pi G\rho} &= -\frac{1}{3r} \sqrt{(R_e^2 + r^2 - 2rz)^3} \Big|_{-(1-\epsilon)R_e}^{(1-\epsilon)R_e} - \\ &= 2r(1-\epsilon)R_e + \frac{\epsilon}{15R_e^3} [3r^3 z^2 + 2r(R_e^2 + r^2)z + \\ &= 2(R_e^2 + r^2)^2] \sqrt{R_e^2 + r^2 - 2rz} \Big|_{-(1-\epsilon)R_e}^{(1-\epsilon)R_e} \quad (5) \end{aligned}$$

又

$$\begin{aligned} &\sqrt{R_e^2 + r^2 - 2rz} \Big|_{-(1-\epsilon)R_e}^{(1-\epsilon)R_e} = \\ &= (R_e^2 + r^2 - 2rR_e + 2\epsilon rR_e)^{\frac{1}{2}} - \\ &= (R_e^2 + r^2 + 2rR_e - 2\epsilon rR_e)^{\frac{1}{2}} = \end{aligned}$$

$[(r-R_e)^2 + 2\epsilon rR_e]^{\frac{1}{2}} - [(r+R_e)^2 - 2\epsilon rR_e]^{\frac{1}{2}}$
注意到 $\epsilon \ll 1$, 对上式泰勒展开, 并保留一阶小量得

$$\begin{aligned} &\sqrt{R_e^2 + r^2 - 2rz} \Big|_{-(1-\epsilon)R_e}^{(1-\epsilon)R_e} = \\ &= (r-R_e) \left[1 + \frac{\epsilon r R_e}{(r-R_e)^2} \right] \end{aligned}$$

再将上式代入式(5)可得

$$U_0 = -G\rho \frac{4}{3} \pi R_e^3 \frac{1}{r} - \frac{2}{5} \frac{G\rho}{r^3} \frac{4}{3} \pi R_e^3 R_e^2 \epsilon$$

又 $M = \frac{4}{3} \pi R_e^3 \rho$ 为总质量, 上式进一步化简可得

$$U_0 = -\frac{GM}{r} - \frac{2}{5} \frac{GMR_e^2 \epsilon}{r^3}$$

对比

$$U_0 = \frac{b_0}{r} + \frac{b_2}{r^3} + \frac{b_4}{r^5} + \dots$$

易得

$$b_0 = -GM \quad b_2 = -\frac{2}{5} GMR_e^2 \epsilon$$

故 $U = -\frac{GM}{r} - \frac{2}{5} \frac{GMR_e^2 \epsilon}{r^3} P_2(\cos \theta)$

即得到重力势增量

$$\Delta U = -\frac{2}{5} \frac{GMR_e^2 \epsilon}{r^3} P_2(\cos \theta)$$

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4 结论

热传导方程是一类重要的偏微分方程,本文以均匀且各向同性的细棒为例,推导了细棒在传热过程中温度所满足的偏微分方程,且对一些常见的定解条件进行总结并举例说明。

致谢:作者非常感谢相关文献对本文的启发以及审稿专家提出的宝贵意见。

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Derivation on One - Dimensional Heat Conduction Equation and the Summary of Its Definite Solution Conditions

MO Huixia MEI Ting

(School of Science, Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications, Beijing 100876)

Abstract: Taking a uniform and isotropic thin rod as an example, we deduce the heat conduct equation of one dimension by two methods, and give some definite solution conditions.

Key words: heat conduction equation; definite solution conditions; Fourier law; energy conservation and transformation law; Newton cooling law

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3 结束语

本文用求解静电场电势分布的分离变量法解决了引力场中的引力势增量问题,一方面体现了引力场与静电场的相似性,另一方面也体现了知识和方法迁移的重要性. 希望能给物理教学和竞赛辅导一

些参考,以期和广大同仁共勉。

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Solving the Gravitational Potential Increment of an Ellipsoidal Celestial Body Using Separation of Variables Method

Ran Xuefeng XIE Zhirui

(Yucui Middle School, Chongqing 400050)

Abstract: This paper attempts to solve the gravitational potential increment of an ellipsoidal celestial body using the Method of Separation of Variables, a commonly used method for calculating electric potential in electrostatics.

Key words: Separating variables Method; ellipsoidal celestial body; gravitational potential increment