

Mathematics for Physicists

物理学中的数学方法


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Mathematical Physics

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Introduction

This book is mainly for graduate students in physics and engineering, and also suitable for undergraduate students at senior level and those who intend to enter the field of theoretical physics. The contents cover the mathematical knowledges of the following fields: the theories of variational method, of Hilbert space and operators, of ordinary linear differential equations, of Bessel functions, of Dirac delta function, of the Green's function in mathematical physics, of norm, of integral equations, the application of number theory in physics, the basic equations in multidimensional spaces and non-Euclid spaces. The book explains the concepts and deduces the formulas in great details. It is very learner-friendly with its content level gradually from being easy to being difficult. A great amount of exercises are beneficial to readers.

Preface

This book grew from a graduate course that I have taught at Tsinghua University. It was originally written in Chinese and published by Science Press in Beijing. World Scientific Publishing and Science Press have been very kind to jointly publish this English version. This English version has been compressed in space compared to the original Chinese version.

The aim of this book is to integrate the necessary aspects of mathematics for graduate students in physics and engineering. The undergraduate students at senior level and researchers who intend to enter the field of theoretical physics were supposed possible readers. Readers are assumed to have knowledges of linear algebra and complex analysis. Some familiarity with elementary physical knowledges could be a prerequisite for deriving full benefit from reading this book.

This book consists of ten chapters. Chapter 1 introduces the variational method. Chapter 2 introduces the theories of Hilbert space and operators. In chapter 3, the theory of ordinary linear differential equations of second order is systematically presented. The polynomial solutions are given. The method of drawing series solutions based on the complex analysis is given. The problems concerning the adjoint equations are discussed. Chapter 4 comprehensively introduces Bessel functions and their various deforms. Chapter 5 introduces Dirac delta function. Chapter 6 presents the theory of Green's function in mathematical physics. By the way, the author has written a graduate textbook systematically introducing the Green's function

in condensed matter physics. Chapter 7 introduces the theory with respect to norm. Chapter 8 introduces the theory of integral equations. In these chapters, the author paid attention to the link up with the contents that readers may have learnt in undergraduate courses.

The last two chapters are an attempt to introduce some recent achievements of scientific research into the textbook while presenting mathematical basic knowledges.

Chapter 9 introduces the basis of number theory and its application in physics, material science and other scientific fields. This kind of application was initiated by a Chinese scientist, Prof. Chen Nanxian. The author thought that this ingenious method was worthy of being introduced to readers. The mathematical basis in this chapter is relatively simple, but it leads to useful and wide results. This achievement has never been introduced in textbooks except a literary work by Chen himself.

Chapter 10 introduces the fundamental equations in spaces with arbitrary dimensions. This is because in modern physics, research has been not limited to three-dimensional space and one-dimensional time, and not limited to Euclid space. The author tries hard to introduce some basic knowledge in multidimensional spaces starting from the ordinary differential equations of second order. The associated Gegenbauer equation and its solutions enable us to realize the values of the angular momentum and their projections in Euclid spaces. The pseudo spherical coordinates were introduced. Although they were employed for the discussion on Euclid spaces, they apparently were also useful to investigations on non-Euclid spaces. Plain terminologies were utilized to present the concept of metric, without resorting to symmetry or group theory. The author believed that this is a way easily grasped by readers. The work on the Klein-Gorden equation and Maxwell equation were new and interesting.

When presenting the mathematical basic theory, the logic rigor was assured without loss of understandability. The author tried hard to clearly narrate the basic concepts and the relations between them. The derivations of the formulas were given in detail as far as possible. For proofs of the theorems, when they were too long or needed knowledges that were beyond the scope of this paper, we had to

omit them. The explanations of the questions asked by students in the course of my teaching have been covered.

This textbook does not include the content of group theory, for there have been textbooks specialized for group theory.

The author thought that a great amount of exercises are beneficial to readers. Most of the exercises in this book were collected from materials. A few were prepared by the author.

The author thanks Prof. Chen Nanxian for introducing his smart work to the author. The contents in Chapter 9 in this book are all from Prof. Chen's work.

The investigations of the Klein-Gordon equation and Maxwell equations in de Sitter spacetime are from the work of Prof. Zhou Bin. The author thanks him for providing his achievements and for his helpful discussions.

I acknowledge and express my deep sense of gratitude to the valuable discussions and helps from Professors Wang Chongyu, Zhou Yunsong, Xun Kun, Han Rushan, Tong Dianmin, Zheng Yujun and Yu Yabin.

I wish to express my thanks to my wife Miao Qing and my family members Miao Hui, Miao JiChun and Wang Nianci for their constant help in my work and life.

A special thank goes to Prof. Lu Xiukun, who taught me mathematics when I was a student in secondary school.

Finally, I thank editor Qian Jun for his help in publishing the original Chinese version and present English version.

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This English version has been translated from Chinese by myself, with slight updating over the original Chinese version. I shall be most grateful to those readers who are kind enough to bring to my notice any remaining mistakes, typographical or otherwise for remedial action. Please feel free to contact me.

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Contents

Introduction

Preface

Chapter 1	Variational Method	1
1.1.	Functional and Its Extremal Problems	1
1.1.1.	The conception of functional	1
1.1.2.	The extremes of functionals	3
1.2.	The Variational of Functionals and the Simplest Euler Equation	7
1.2.1.	The variational of functionals	7
1.2.2.	The simplest Euler equation	12
1.3.	The Cases of Multifunctions and Multivariates	16
1.3.1.	Multifunctions	16
1.3.2.	Multivariates	19
1.4.	Functional Extremes under Certain Conditions	22
1.4.1.	Isoperimetric problem	22
1.4.2.	Geodesic problem	26
1.5.	Natural Boundary Conditions	29
1.6.	Variational Principle	33
1.6.1.	Variational principle of classical mechanics .	34
1.6.2.	Variational principle of quantum mechanics	40
1.7.	The Applications of the Variational Method in Physics	41

1.7.1.	The applications in classical physics	44
1.7.2.	The applications in quantum mechanics	48
Exercises	. . . . .	50

Chapter 2 Hilbert Space 55

2.1.	Linear Space, Inner Product Space and Hilbert Space	55
2.1.1.	Linear space	55
2.1.2.	Inner product space	63
2.1.3.	Hilbert space	71
2.2.	Operators in Inner Product Spaces	74
2.2.1.	Operators and adjoint operators	74
2.2.2.	Self-adjoint operators	84
2.2.3.	The alternative theorem for the solutions of linear algebraic equations	94
2.3.	Complete Set of Orthonormal Functions	96
2.3.1.	Three kinds of convergences	96
2.3.2.	The completeness of a set of functions	98
2.3.3.	N -dimensional space and Hilbert function space	101
2.3.4.	Orthogonal polynomials	103
2.4.	Polynomial Approximation	109
2.4.1.	Weierstrass theorem	109
2.4.2.	Polynomial approximation	112
Exercises	. . . . .	120

Chapter 3 Linear Ordinary Differential Equations of Second Order 127

3.1.	General Theory	127
3.1.1.	The existence and uniqueness of solutions	127
3.1.2.	The structure of solutions of homogeneous equations	130
3.1.3.	The solutions of inhomogeneous equations	137
3.2.	Sturm-Liouville Eigenvalue Problem	140
3.2.1.	The form of Sturm-Liouville equations	140

3.2.2.	The boundary conditions of Sturm-Liouville equations	142
3.2.3.	Sturm-Liouville eigenvalue problem	144
3.3.	The Polynomial Solutions of Sturm-Liouville Equations	151
3.3.1.	Possible forms of kernel and weight functions	151
3.3.2.	The expressions in series and in derivatives of the polynomials	158
3.3.3.	Generating functions	165
3.3.4.	The completeness theorem of orthogonal polynomials as Sturm-Liouville solutions	169
3.3.5.	Applications in numerical integrations	171
3.4.	Equations and Functions that Relate to the Polynomial Solutions	174
3.4.1.	Laguerre functions	175
3.4.2.	Legendre functions	179
3.4.3.	Chebyshev functions	185
3.4.4.	Hermite functions	190
3.5.	Complex Analysis Theory of the Ordinary Differential Equations of Second Order	196
3.5.1.	Solutions of homogeneous equations	196
3.5.2.	Ordinary differential equations of second order	216
3.6.	Non-Self-Adjoint Ordinary Differential Equations of Second Order	224
3.6.1.	Adjoint equations of ordinary differential equations	224
3.6.2.	Sturm-Liouville operator	225
3.6.3.	Complete set of non-self-adjoint ordinary differential equations of second order	229
3.7.	The Conditions under Which Inhomogeneous Equations have Solutions	231
	Exercises	236
	Appendix 3A Generalization of Sturm-Liouville Theorem to Dirac Equation	244

Chapter 4	Bessel Functions	247
4.1.	Bessel Equation	247
4.1.1.	Bessel equation and its solutions	247
4.1.2.	Bessel functions of the first and second kinds	255
4.2.	Fundamental Properties of Bessel Functions	258
4.2.1.	Recurrence relations of Bessel functions . . .	258
4.2.2.	Asymptotic formulas of Bessel functions . . .	261
4.2.3.	Zeros of Bessel functions	262
4.2.4.	Wronskian	264
4.3.	Bessel Functions of Integer Orders	266
4.3.1.	Parity and the values at certain points	266
4.3.2.	Generating function of Bessel functions of integer orders	267
4.4.	Bessel Functions of Half-Integer Orders	273
4.5.	Bessel Functions of the Third Kind and Spherical Bessel Functions	275
4.5.1.	Bessel functions of the third kind	275
4.5.2.	Spherical Bessel functions	280
4.6.	Modified Bessel Functions	288
4.6.1.	Modified Bessel functions of the first and second kinds	288
4.6.2.	Modified Bessel functions of integer orders . .	293
4.7.	Bessel Functions with Real Arguments	294
4.7.1.	Eigenvalue problem of Bessel equation	294
4.7.2.	Properties of eigenfunctions	297
4.7.3.	Eigenvalue problem of spherical Bessel equation	301
Exercises	. . . . .	302
Chapter 5	The Dirac Delta Function	311
5.1.	Definition and Properties of the Delta Function	311
5.1.1.	Definition of the delta function	311
5.1.2.	The delta function is a generalized function	312

5.1.3.	The Fourier and Laplace transformations of the delta function	314
5.1.4.	Derivative and integration of generalized functions	315
5.1.5.	Complex argument in the delta function . . .	318
5.2.	The Delta Function as Weak Convergence Limits of Ordinary Functions	320
5.3.	The Delta Function in Multidimensional Spaces	330
5.3.1.	Cartesian coordinate system	330
5.3.2.	The transform from Cartesian coordinates to curvilinear coordinates	331
5.4.	Generalized Fourier Series Expansion of the Delta Function	335
	Exercises	339

Chapter 6 Green's Function 345

6.1.	Fundamental Theory of Green's Function	345
6.1.1.	Definition of Green's function	345
6.1.2.	Properties of Green's function	347
6.1.3.	Methods of obtaining Green's function	352
6.1.4.	Physical meaning of Green's function	360
6.2.	The Basic Solution of Laplace Operator	362
6.2.1.	Three-dimensional space	363
6.2.2.	Two-dimensional space	365
6.2.3.	One-dimensional space	369
6.3.	Green's Function of a Damped Oscillator	371
6.3.1.	Solution of homogeneous equation	371
6.3.2.	Obtaining Green's function	372
6.3.3.	Generalized solution of the equation	373
6.3.4.	The case without damping	374
6.3.5.	The influence of boundary conditions	375
6.4.	Green's Function of Ordinary Differential Equations of Second Order	376
6.4.1.	The symmetry of Green's function	377

6.4.2.	Solutions of boundary value problem of ordinary differential equations of second order	378
6.4.3.	Modified Green's function	381
6.4.4.	Examples of solving boundary value problem of ordinary differential equations of second order	388
6.5.	Green's Function in Multi-dimensional Spaces	394
6.5.1.	Ordinary differential equations of second order and Green's function	394
6.5.2.	Examples in two-dimensional space	400
6.5.3.	Examples in three-dimensional space	418
6.6.	Green's Function of Ordinary Differential Equation of First Order	421
6.6.1.	Boundary value problem of inhomogeneous equations	421
6.6.2.	Boundary value problem of homogeneous equations	421
6.6.3.	Inhomogeneous equations and Green's function	422
6.6.4.	General solutions of boundary value problem	425
6.7.	Green's Function of Non-Self-Adjoint Equations	425
6.7.1.	Adjoint Green's function	425
6.7.2.	Solutions of inhomogeneous equations	427
Exercises	. . . . .	429

Chapter 7 Norm 435

7.1.	Banach Space	435
7.1.1.	Banach space	435
7.1.2.	Hölder inequality	439
7.1.3.	Minkowski inequality	442
7.2.	Vector Norms	443
7.2.1.	Vector norms	443
7.2.2.	Equivalence between vector norms	446
7.3.	Matrix Norms	447

7.3.1.	Matrix norms	447
7.3.2.	Spectral norm and spectral radius of matrices	455
7.4.	Operator Norms	459
7.4.1.	Operator norms	459
7.4.2.	Adjoint operators	465
7.4.3.	Projection operators	469
Exercises	. . . . .	473
Chapter 8	Integral Equations	477
8.1.	Fundamental Theory of Integral Equations	477
8.1.1.	Definition and classification of integral equations	477
8.1.2.	Relations between integral equations and differential equations	481
8.1.3.	Theory of homogeneous integral equations . .	484
8.2.	Iteration Technique for Linear Integral Equations . . .	490
8.2.1.	The second kind of Fredholm integral equations	490
8.2.2.	The second kind of Volterra integral equations	502
8.3.	Iteration Technique of Inhomogeneous Integral Equations	504
8.3.1.	Iteration procedure	504
8.3.2.	Lipschitz condition	506
8.3.3.	Use of contraction	509
8.3.4.	Anharmonic vibration of a spring	510
8.4.	Fredholm Linear Equations with Degenerated Kernels	512
8.4.1.	Separable kernels	512
8.4.2.	Kernels with a finite rank	521
8.4.3.	Expansion of kernel in terms of eigenfunctions	532
8.5.	Integral Equations of Convolution Type	535
8.5.1.	Fredholm integral equations of convolution type	535

8.5.2.	Volterra integral equations of convolution type	538
8.6.	Integral Equations with Polynomials	543
8.6.1.	Fredholm integral equations with polynomials	543
8.6.2.	Generating function method	544
Exercises	. . . . .	547

Chapter 9 Application of Number Theory in Inverse Problems in Physics 557

9.1.	Chen-Möbius Transformation	557
9.1.1.	Introduction	557
9.1.2.	Möbius transformation	560
9.1.3.	Chen-Möbius transformation	567
9.2.	Inverse Problem in Phonon Density of States in Crystals	571
9.2.1.	Inversion formula	571
9.2.2.	Low-temperature approximation	574
9.2.3.	High-temperature approximation	577
9.3.	Inverse Problem in the Interaction Potential between Atoms	580
9.3.1.	One-dimensional case	581
9.3.2.	Two-dimensional case	586
9.3.3.	Three-dimensional case	592
9.4.	Additive Möbius Inversion and Its Applications	597
9.4.1.	Additive Möbius inversion of functions and its applications	598
9.4.2.	Additive Möbius inversion of series and its applications	606
9.5.	Inverse Problem in Crystal Surface Relaxation and Interfacial Potentials	609
9.5.1.	Pair potentials between an isolated atom and atoms in a semi-infinite crystal	609
9.5.2.	Relaxation of atoms at a crystal surface	612
9.5.3.	Inverse problem of interfacial potentials	614

9.6. Construction of Biorthogonal Complete Function Sets	617
Exercises	620
Appendix 9A. Some Values of Riemann ζ Function	622
Appendix 9B. Calculation of Reciprocal Coefficients	625
Chapter 10 Fundamental Equations in Spaces with Arbitrary Dimensions	627
10.1. Euclid Spaces with Arbitrary Dimensions	628
10.1.1. Cartesian coordinate system and spherical coordinates	628
10.1.2. Gradient, divergence and Laplace operator	632
10.2. Green's Functions of the Laplace Equation and Helmholtz Equation	636
10.2.1. Green's function of the Laplace equation	636
10.2.2. Green's function of the Helmholtz equation	639
10.3. Radial Equations under Central Potentials	641
10.3.1. Radial equation under a central potential in multidimensional spaces	641
10.3.2. Helmholtz equation	643
10.3.3. Infinitely deep spherical potential	644
10.3.4. Finitely deep spherical potential	644
10.3.5. Coulomb potential	646
10.3.6. Harmonic potential	649
10.3.7. Molecular potential with both negative powers	650
10.3.8. Molecular potential with positive and negative powers	651
10.3.9. Attractive potential with exponential decay	652
10.3.10. Conditions that the radial equation has analytical solutions	652
10.4. Solutions of Angular Equations	654
10.4.1. Four-dimensional space	656
10.4.2. Five-dimensional space	661
10.4.3. N -dimensional space	662

10.5. Pseudo Spherical Coordinates	666
10.5.1. Pseudo coordinates in four-dimensional space	666
10.5.2. Solutions of Laplace equation	668
10.5.3. Five- and six-dimensional spaces	671
10.6. Non-Euclidean Space	674
10.6.1. Metric tensor	674
10.6.2. Five-dimensional Minkowski space and four-dimensional de Sitter space	678
10.6.3. Maxwell equations in de Sitter spacetime . .	689
Exercises	697
Appendix 10A. Hypergeometric Equation and Hypergeometric Functions	699
References	703
Answers of Selected Exercises	705
Author Index	721
Subject Index	723