

514.

Problem 37.29 (RHK)

The magnetic field of the Earth can be approximated as a dipole magnetic field, with horizontal and vertical components, at a point a distance r from the Earth's centre, given by

$$B_h = \frac{\mu_0 \mu}{4\pi r^3} \cos L_m, \quad B_v = \frac{\mu_0 \mu}{2\pi r^3} \sin L_m,$$

where L_m is the magnetic latitude (latitude measured from the magnetic equator toward the north or south magnetic pole). The magnetic dipole moment is $8.0 \times 10^{22} \text{ A m}^2$. (a) We have to show that the strength at latitude L_m is given by

$$B = \frac{\mu_0 \mu}{4\pi r^3} \sqrt{1 + 3 \sin^2 L_m}.$$

(b) We have to show that the inclination ϕ_i of the magnetic field is related to the magnetic latitude L_m by $\tan \phi_i = 2 \tan L_m$.

Solution:

The magnetic field of the Earth can be approximated as a dipole magnetic field, with horizontal and vertical components, at a point a distance r from the Earth's centre, given by

$$B_h = \frac{\mu_0 \mu}{4\pi r^3} \cos L_m, \quad B_v = \frac{\mu_0 \mu}{2\pi r^3} \sin L_m,$$

where L_m is the magnetic latitude (latitude measured from the magnetic equator toward the north or south magnetic pole).

The strength of the magnetic field at the latitude L_m will be given by

$$\begin{aligned} B &= \left(B_h^2 + B_v^2 \right)^{1/2} = \frac{\mu_0 \mu}{4\pi r^3} \left(\cos^2 L_m + 4 \sin^2 L_m \right)^{1/2} \\ &= \frac{\mu_0 \mu}{4\pi r^3} \left(1 + 3 \sin^2 L_m \right)^{1/2}. \end{aligned}$$

The inclination ϕ_i of the magnetic field is defined as

$$\tan \phi_i = \frac{B_v}{B_h}.$$

We note that

$$\tan \phi_i = 2 \tan L_m.$$

