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一般完整系统Mei对称性的逆问题*

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动力学逆问题是星际航行学、火箭动力学、规划运动学理论的基本问题. Mei对称性是力学系统的动力学函数在群的无限小变换下仍然满足系统原来的运动微分方程的一种新的不变性. 本文研究广义坐标下一般完整系统的Mei对称性以及Mei对称性相关的动力学逆问题. 首先, 给出系统动力学正问题的提法和解法. 引入时间和广义坐标的无限小单参数变换群, 得到无限小生成元向量及其一次扩展. 讨论由 n 个广义坐标确定的一般完整力学系统的运动微分方程, 将其Lagrange函数和非势广义力作无限小变换, 给出系统运动微分方程的Mei对称性定义, 在忽略无限小变换的高阶小量的情况下得到Mei对称性的确定方程, 借助规范函数满足的结构方程导出系统Mei对称性导致的Noether守恒量. 其次, 研究系统Mei对称性的逆问题. Mei对称性的逆问题的提法是: 由已知守恒量来求相应的Mei对称性. 采取的方法是将已知积分当作由Mei对称性导致的Noether守恒量, 由Noether逆定理得到无限小变换的生成元, 再由确定方程来判断所得生成元是否为Mei对称性的. 然后, 讨论生成元变化对各种对称性的影响. 结果表明, 生成元变化对Noether和Lie对称性没有影响, 对Mei对称性有影响, 但在调整规范函数时, 若满足一定条件, 生成元变化对Mei对称性也可以没有影响. 最后, 举例说明结果的应用.

关键词: 一般完整系统, Mei对称性, 守恒量, 逆问题

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1 引言

动力学逆问题是星际航行学、火箭动力学、规划运动学理论的基本问题. 随着空间技术以及其他工业技术的发展, 系统动力学及其逆问题的研究显得越来越重要. 文献[1, 2]对动力学逆问题的提法和解法给出了较全面的论述. 2000年, Mei提出系统的动力学函数在群的无限小变换下仍然满足力学系统原来的运动微分方程的一种不变性[3], 人们称之为Mei对称性[4-8], 并由此直接导致Mei守恒量. 近年来, 动力学系统的Noether对称性、Lie对称性和Mei对称性及其守恒量的研究倍受人们关注[9-27]. 动力学系统Noether对称性与Lie对称性的逆问题也成为热门话题[2, 28-31]. 但是, 动力学系统Mei对称性的逆问题却很少研究. 为此, 本

文探讨一般完整系统Mei对称性的逆问题.

2 一般完整系统Mei对称性的动力学正问题

取时间 t 和广义坐标 q_s 的无限小单参数点变换群

$$\begin{aligned} t^* &= t + \varepsilon \xi_0(t, q), \\ q_s^*(t^*) &= q_s(t) + \varepsilon \xi_s(t, q), \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

其中 ε 为无限小参数, ξ_0, ξ_s 为群的无限小变换的生成元或生成函数. 将广义坐标 $q_s^*(t^*)$ 对时间 t^* 求一阶导数得

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dq_s^*}{dt^*} &= \frac{dq_s + \varepsilon d\xi_s}{dt + \varepsilon d\xi_0} = \frac{\dot{q}_s + \varepsilon \dot{\xi}_s}{1 + \varepsilon \dot{\xi}_0} \\ &= (\dot{q}_s + \varepsilon \dot{\xi}_s)(1 - \varepsilon \dot{\xi}_0) + o(\varepsilon^2) \end{aligned}$$

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$$\begin{aligned} &= \dot{q}_s + \varepsilon(\dot{\xi}_s - \dot{q}_s \dot{\xi}_0) + o(\varepsilon^2) \\ &= \dot{q}_s + \varepsilon X^{(1)}(\dot{q}_s) + o(\varepsilon^2), \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

式中

$$X^{(1)} = X^{(0)} + (\dot{\xi}_s - \dot{q}_s \dot{\xi}_0) \frac{\partial}{\partial \dot{q}_s}, \quad (3)$$

$$X^{(0)} = \xi_0 \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \xi_s \frac{\partial}{\partial q_s}, \quad (4)$$

$X^{(0)}$, $X^{(1)}$ 分别为无限小生成元向量及其一次扩展.

将上述结果推广到一个函数或方程在无限小变换 (1) 式下的一般情况, 我们得到

$$\begin{aligned} F^* &= F\left(t^*, q^*, \frac{dq^*}{dt^*}\right) \\ &= F\left(t, q, \frac{dq}{dt}\right) + \varepsilon X^{(1)}(F) + o(\varepsilon^2). \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

显然, 当

$$X^{(1)}(F) = 0, \quad (6)$$

忽略高阶项, 得到

$$F^* = F. \quad (7)$$

(6) 式为 F 对称性的确定方程.

设一般完整力学系统的位形由 n 个广义坐标 $q_s (s = 1, \dots, n)$ 来确定, 其运动微分方程有如下形式:

$$\begin{aligned} E_s(L) &= \frac{d}{dt} \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}_s} - \frac{\partial L}{\partial q_s} = Q_s, \\ &(s = 1, \dots, n), \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

假设在无限小变换 (1) 下, Lagrange 函数 L 变为 L^* , 非势广义力 Q_s 变为 Q_s^* , 由 (5) 式易得

$$\begin{aligned} L^* &= L\left(t^*, q^*, \frac{dq^*}{dt^*}\right) \\ &= L(t, q, \dot{q}) + \varepsilon X^{(1)}(L) + o(\varepsilon^2), \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

$$\begin{aligned} Q_s^* &= Q_s\left(t^*, q^*, \frac{dq^*}{dt^*}\right) \\ &= Q_s(t, q, \dot{q}) + \varepsilon X^{(1)}(Q_s) + o(\varepsilon^2), \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

如果动力学函数 (L, Q_s) 变换成为 (L^*, Q_s^*) 而后动力学方程 (8) 的形式保持不变, 即

$$E_s(L^*) = Q_s^*, \quad (11)$$

人们称这种不变性为系统的 Mei 对称性.

将 (9) 和 (10) 式代入 (11) 式, 忽略高阶小量, 并利用方程 (8) 可得广义坐标下一般完整系统 Mei 对

称性的确定方程

$$\{E_s[X^{(1)}(L)] - X^{(1)}(Q_s)\} |_{E_s(L)=Q_s} = 0. \quad (12)$$

为方便研究 Mei 对称性的动力学逆问题, 我们给出 Mei 对称性导致的 Noether 守恒量. 利用方程 (8), 消去 $\partial L / \partial q_s$ 可得

$$\begin{aligned} X^{(1)}(L) &= \xi_0 \frac{\partial L}{\partial t} + \xi_s \left(\frac{d}{dt} \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}_s} - Q_s \right) \\ &\quad + (\dot{\xi}_s - \dot{q}_s \dot{\xi}_0) \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}_s} \\ &= \frac{d}{dt} \left[(\xi_s - \dot{q}_s \xi_0) \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}_s} + L \xi_0 \right] - L \dot{\xi}_0 \\ &\quad - (Q_s)(\xi_s - \dot{q}_s \xi_0). \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

令

$$G = - \left[(\xi_s - \dot{q}_s \xi_0) \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}_s} + L \xi_0 \right] + \text{const}, \quad (14)$$

显然有下述结果.

命题 1 对一般完整系统, 如果 Mei 对称性的生成元 ξ_0, ξ_s 和规范函数 $G_N = G_N(t, q, \dot{q})$ 满足如下结构方程:

$$L \dot{\xi}_0 + X^{(1)}(L) + Q_s(\xi_s - \dot{q}_s \xi_0) + \dot{G}_N = 0, \quad (15)$$

则 Mei 对称性导致 Noether 守恒量

$$I_N = L \xi_0 + \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}_s} (\xi_s - \dot{q}_s \xi_0) + G_N = \text{const}. \quad (16)$$

事实上, 利用 (15) 式, 容易验证 $\frac{dI_N}{dt} = 0$.

一般完整系统的 Mei 对称性满足一定条件时还可导致相应的其他守恒量, 如 Mei 守恒量、Hojman 守恒量等 [9,10], 此处不再讨论.

3 Mei 对称性的动力学逆问题

一般完整系统的 Mei 对称性逆问题的提法是: 由已知守恒量来求相应的 Mei 对称性.

3.1 由 Noether 对称性导出 Mei 对称性的逆问题

为解上述 Mei 对称性的逆问题, 可先由 Noether 理论按已知守恒量找到相应的 Noether 对称性, 再由确定方程来判断所得对称性是否为 Mei 的.

假设一般完整系统有守恒量

$$I = I(t, q, \dot{q}) = \text{const}, \quad (17)$$

将(17)式对 t 求导, 有

$$\frac{dI}{dt} = \frac{\partial I}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial I}{\partial q_s} \dot{q}_s + \frac{\partial I}{\partial \dot{q}_s} \ddot{q}_s = 0. \quad (18)$$

令

$$\bar{\xi}_s = \xi_s - \dot{q}_s \xi_0, \quad (19)$$

将(8)式两端乘以 $\bar{\xi}_s$, 并对 s 求和, 得

$$\bar{\xi}_s (E_s(L) - Q_s) = 0, \quad (20)$$

将(18)式与(20)式相加, 分出含 \ddot{q}_k 的项, 因沿任意轨道所有 \ddot{q}_k 的系数应为零, 从而得到

$$\bar{\xi}_s \left(\frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial \dot{q}_s \partial \dot{q}_k} \right) - \frac{\partial I}{\partial \dot{q}_k} = 0, \quad (k = 1, \dots, n). \quad (21)$$

当系统非奇异时, $D = \det \left(\frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial \dot{q}_s \partial \dot{q}_k} \right) \neq 0$, 由(21)式可得

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{\xi}_s &= \tilde{h}_{sk} \frac{\partial I}{\partial \dot{q}_k}, \\ (s &= 1, \dots, n; k = 1, \dots, n), \end{aligned} \quad (22)$$

其中

$$\tilde{h}_{sk} h_{kr} = \delta_{sr}, \quad h_{sk} = \frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial \dot{q}_s \partial \dot{q}_k}. \quad (23)$$

再令积分(17)等于Noether守恒量(16), 即

$$\begin{aligned} I &= L\xi_0 + \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}_s} (\xi_s - \dot{q}_s \xi_0) + G_N \\ &= L\xi_0 + \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}_s} \tilde{h}_{sk} \frac{\partial I}{\partial \dot{q}_k} + G_N, \end{aligned} \quad (24)$$

这样, 由(22)和(24)式在给定规范函数 G_N 下可求出无限小生成元 ξ_0, ξ_s , 它们对应于与一般完整系统的Noether对称性. 注意, 其中包含规范函数 G_N .

将上述所得到的Noether对称性生成元 ξ_0, ξ_s 代入Mei对称性确定方程(12)来检验对称性是否是Mei的, 有下述结果.

命题2 如果由方程(22)及(24)确定的无限小生成元 ξ_0 和 ξ_s 满足确定方程(12), 则所得对称性为一般完整系统的Mei对称性.

顺便指出, 对于Lie对称性, 同样有下述类似的结果.

命题3 如果由方程((22)及(24)确定的无限小生成元 ξ_0 和 ξ_s 满足Lie对称性确定方程

$$X^{(2)}[E_s(L) - (Q_s)] = 0. \quad (25)$$

则所得对称性为一般完整系统的Lie对称性.

3.2 生成元变化对于对称性的影响

由上所述, 由已知守恒量寻找Noether对称性生成元 ξ_0, ξ_s 时, 由于规范函数 G_N 可自由选取, 而使生成元有所不同. 那么, 在调整规范函数时, 对称性是否变化呢?

由(22)和(23)式可知, 虽然生成元 ξ_0, ξ_s 变化, 但 $\bar{\xi}_s = \xi_s - \dot{q}_s \xi_0$ 不受其影响. 因为对于某一确定系统(即某一 L , $h_{sk} = \frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial \dot{q}_s \partial \dot{q}_k}$ 是一定的)和某一守恒量 I , $\bar{\xi}_s = \tilde{h}_{sk} \frac{\partial I}{\partial \dot{q}_k}$ 是确定的.

由(19)式可得

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{\xi}_s &= \dot{\bar{\xi}}_s + \ddot{q}_s \xi_0 + \dot{q}_s \dot{\xi}_0, \\ X^{(1)}(L) &= \xi_0 \frac{\partial L}{\partial t} + \xi_s \frac{\partial L}{\partial q_s} + (\dot{\xi}_s - \dot{q}_s \dot{\xi}_0) \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}_s} \\ &= \dot{L}\xi_0 + \left(\bar{\xi}_s \frac{\partial L}{\partial q_s} + \dot{\bar{\xi}}_s \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}_s} \right). \end{aligned} \quad (26)$$

对于Noether对称性, 因为对于某一确定系统(L)和某一守恒量(I), $\frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}_s} \bar{\xi}_s = \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}_s} \tilde{h}_{sk} \frac{\partial I}{\partial \dot{q}_k}$ 是确定的. 因此, $L\xi_0 + G_N = I - \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}_s} \bar{\xi}_s = \text{const}$, 从而

$$\begin{aligned} L\dot{\xi}_0 + X^{(1)}(L) + Q_s(\xi_s - \dot{q}_s \xi_0) + \dot{G}_N \\ = L\dot{\xi}_0 + \dot{L}\xi_0 + \left(\bar{\xi}_s \frac{\partial L}{\partial q_s} + \dot{\bar{\xi}}_s \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}_s} \right) + Q_s \bar{\xi}_s + \dot{G}_N \\ = \frac{d}{dt}(L\xi_0 + G_N) + \left(\bar{\xi}_s \frac{\partial L}{\partial q_s} + \dot{\bar{\xi}}_s \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}_s} \right) + Q_s \bar{\xi}_s \\ = \left(\bar{\xi}_s \frac{\partial L}{\partial q_s} + \dot{\bar{\xi}}_s \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}_s} \right) + Q_s \bar{\xi}_s, \end{aligned} \quad (28)$$

上式是否为零, 仅与 $\bar{\xi}_s$ 有关, ξ_0 不明显出现. 因此, 有下述结果:

命题4 生成元 ξ_0, ξ_s 变化对Noether对称性没有影响.

同理有

命题5 生成元 ξ_0, ξ_s 变化对Lie对称性没有影响.

这可从Lie对称性确定方程来考虑, 将Lie对称性确定方程(25)

$$X^{(2)}[E_s(L) - (Q_s)] = 0. \quad (29)$$

左边可改写为

$$\begin{aligned} X^{(2)}[E_s(L) - (Q_s)] \\ = \xi_0 \frac{\partial [E_s(L) - (Q_s)]}{\partial t} + \xi_k \frac{\partial [E_s(L) - (Q_s)]}{\partial q_k} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & + (\dot{\xi}_k - \dot{q}_k \dot{\xi}_0) \frac{\partial[E_s(L) - (Q_s)]}{\partial \dot{q}_k} \\
 & + (\ddot{\xi}_k - 2\ddot{q}_k \dot{\xi}_0 - \dot{q}_k \ddot{\xi}_0) \frac{\partial[E_s(L) - (Q_s)]}{\partial \ddot{q}_k} \\
 = & \xi_0 \frac{d[E_s(L) - (Q_s)]}{dt} + \bar{\xi}_k \frac{\partial[E_s(L) - (Q_s)]}{\partial q_k} \\
 & + \dot{\xi}_k \frac{\partial[E_s(L) - (Q_s)]}{\partial \dot{q}_k} + \ddot{\xi}_k \frac{\partial[E_s(L) - (Q_s)]}{\partial \ddot{q}_k} \\
 = & \bar{\xi}_k \frac{\partial[E_s(L) - (Q_s)]}{\partial q_k} + \dot{\xi}_k \frac{\partial[E_s(L) - (Q_s)]}{\partial \dot{q}_k} \\
 & + \ddot{\xi}_k \frac{\partial[E_s(L) - (Q_s)]}{\partial \ddot{q}_k}, \tag{30}
 \end{aligned}$$

显然, (30) 式是否为零, 也仅与 $\bar{\xi}_k$ 有关, ξ_0 不明显出现.

然而, 对 Mei 对称性, 利用 (27) 式有

$$\begin{aligned}
 & E_s[X^{(1)}(L)] - X^{(1)}(Q_s) \\
 = & E_s(\dot{L}\xi_0) - \dot{Q}_s \xi_0 + E_s \left(\bar{\xi}_k \frac{\partial L}{\partial q_k} + \dot{\xi}_k \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}_k} \right) \\
 & - \left(\bar{\xi}_k \frac{\partial Q_s}{\partial q_k} + \dot{\xi}_k \frac{\partial Q_s}{\partial \dot{q}_k} \right), \tag{31}
 \end{aligned}$$

生成元 ξ_0 明显出现于 (31) 式中, 因此有

命题 6 生成元 ξ_0, ξ_s 变化对 Mei 对称性有影响. 但是, 在调整规范函数 G_N 时, 若 $E_s(\dot{L}\xi_0) - \dot{Q}_s \xi_0$ 保持不变, 则生成元变化对 Mei 对称性没有影响.

4 算例

本节给出一个完整系统 Mei 对称性的逆问题, 其中 Lagrange 函数、广义力分别为

$$L = \frac{1}{2}(\dot{q}_1^2 + \dot{q}_2^2), \quad Q_1 = q_1^2, \quad Q_2 = q_2^2. \tag{32}$$

方程 (8) 给出

$$\ddot{q}_1 = q_1^2, \quad \ddot{q}_2 = q_2^2. \tag{33}$$

取无限小变换的生成元

$$\xi_0 = 1, \quad \xi_1 = 0, \quad \xi_2 = 0, \tag{34}$$

则有

$$X^{(1)}(L) = X^{(1)}(Q_1) = X^{(1)}(Q_2) = 0, \tag{35}$$

$$E_1[X^{(1)}(L)] = E_2[X^{(1)}(L)] = 0. \tag{36}$$

从而满足 Mei 对称性确定方程 (12). 因此, 系统是 Mei 对称性的.

由命题 1, 结构方程 (15) 给出

$$\dot{G}_N = q_1^2 \dot{q}_1 + q_2^2 \dot{q}_2, \tag{37}$$

取

$$G_N = \frac{1}{3}(q_1^3 + q_2^3), \tag{38}$$

(16) 式给出 Mei 对称性导致的 Noether 守恒量

$$I_N = \frac{1}{3}(q_1^3 + q_2^3) - \frac{1}{2}(\dot{q}_1^2 + \dot{q}_2^2) = \text{const.} \tag{39}$$

我们再讨论其逆问题:

假设完整系统 (32) 有 (39) 式给出的一个积分

$$I = \frac{1}{3}(q_1^3 + q_2^3) - \frac{1}{2}(\dot{q}_1^2 + \dot{q}_2^2) = \text{const.} \tag{40}$$

由 (22) 式给出

$$\bar{\xi}_1 = -\dot{q}_1, \quad \bar{\xi}_2 = -\dot{q}_2. \tag{41}$$

再令积分 (40) 等于 Noether 守恒量 (16), 得

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \frac{1}{3}(q_1^3 + q_2^3) - \frac{1}{2}(\dot{q}_1^2 + \dot{q}_2^2) \\
 = & \frac{1}{2}(\dot{q}_1^2 + \dot{q}_2^2)\xi_0 - \dot{q}_1^2 - \dot{q}_2^2 + G_N. \tag{42}
 \end{aligned}$$

由此可导出

$$\begin{aligned}
 G_N = & \frac{1}{3}(q_1^3 + q_2^3) + \frac{1}{2}(\dot{q}_1^2 + \dot{q}_2^2)(1 - \xi_0) \\
 = & \frac{1}{3}(q_1^3 + q_2^3) + L(1 - \xi_0), \tag{43}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\xi_0 = \frac{\frac{1}{3}(q_1^3 + q_2^3) - G_N}{L} + 1. \tag{44}$$

取规范函数不同的值并利用 (19) 式, 可得如下不同的无限小生成元, 它们对应系统的 Noether 对称性:

$$\begin{aligned}
 G_N = & \frac{1}{3}(q_1^3 + q_2^3), \\
 \xi_0 = & 1, \quad \xi_1 = 0, \quad \xi_2 = 0, \tag{45a}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 G_N = & \frac{1}{3}(q_1^3 + q_2^3) + L, \\
 \xi_0 = & 0, \quad \xi_1 = -\dot{q}_1, \quad \xi_2 = -\dot{q}_2, \tag{45b}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 G_N = & \frac{1}{3}(q_1^3 + q_2^3) - L, \\
 \xi_0 = & 2, \quad \xi_1 = \dot{q}_1, \quad \xi_2 = \dot{q}_2, \tag{45c}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 G_N = & \frac{1}{3}(q_1^3 + q_2^3) + Lq_1, \\
 \xi_0 = & 1 - q_1, \quad \xi_1 = -q_1 \dot{q}_1, \\
 \xi_2 = & -q_1 \dot{q}_2, \tag{45d}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 G_N = & \frac{1}{3}(q_1^3 + q_2^3) + Lt, \\
 \xi_0 = & 1 - t, \quad \xi_1 = -t \dot{q}_1, \quad \xi_2 = -t \dot{q}_2, \\
 \dots & \tag{45e}
 \end{aligned}$$

将所得到的 Noether 对称性的生成元代入 Mei 对称性确定方程 (12), 容易验证 (45a) 式满足. 因此,

(45a) 式是 Mei 对称性的生成元. 由命题 6, 由于

$$E_s(\dot{L}\xi_0) - (\dot{Q}_s)\xi_0 = -2q_s\dot{q}_s\xi_0, \quad (46)$$

均随 ξ_0 而变, 故 (45b)—(45e) 式不是 Mei 对称性的生成元.

容易验证, (45a) 式之生成元 $\xi_0 = 1, \xi_1 = 0, \xi_2 = 0$ 满足 Lie 对称性确定方程 (25), 从而也是 Lie 对称性的. 由命题 5, ξ_0, ξ_s 的变化对 Lie 对称性没有影响. 因此, 上述生成元 (45a)—(45e) 均是 Lie 对称性的生成元.

5 结 论

一般完整系统是一类重要而常用的约束力学系统, Mei 对称性是一种新的对称性, 其动力学逆问题是一个既有理论又有应用的动力学问题. 完整系统的 Mei 对称性在一定条件下不仅可直接导致 Mei 守恒量, 而且还可间接导致 Noether 守恒量或 Hojman 守恒量. 为解 Mei 对称性的逆问题, 可先由 Noether 理论按已知守恒量找到相应的 Noether 对称性, 再由确定方程来判断所得对称性是否为 Mei 的. 生成元 ξ_0, ξ_s 变化对 Noether 对称性或 Lie 对称性没有影响, 但对 Mei 对称性有影响.

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Inverse problem of Mei symmetry for a general holonomic system*

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Abstract

Inverse problems in dynamics are the basic problems in astronautics, rocket dynamics, and motion planning theory, etc. Mei symmetry is a kind of new symmetry where the dynamical function in differential equations of motion still satisfies the equation's primary form under infinitesimal transformations of the group. Mei symmetry and its inverse problem of dynamics for a general holonomic system in generalized coordinates are studied. Firstly, the direct problem of dynamics of the system is proposed and solved. Introducing a one-parameter infinitesimal transformation group with respect to time and coordinates, the infinitesimal generator vector and its first prolonged vector are obtained. Based on the discussion of the differential equations of motion for a general holonomic system determined by n generalized coordinates, their Lagrangian and non-potential generalized forces are made to have an infinitesimal transformation, the definition of Mei symmetry about differential equation of motion for the system is then provided. Ignoring the high-order terms in the infinitesimal transformation, the determining equation of Mei symmetry is given. With the aid of a structure equation which the gauge function satisfies, the system's corresponding conserved quantities are derived. Secondly, the inverse problem for the Mei symmetry of the system is studied. The formulation of the inverse problem of Mei symmetry is that we use the known conserved quantity to seek the corresponding Mei symmetry. The method is: considering a given integral as a Noether conserved quantity obtained by Mei symmetry, the generators of the infinitesimal transformations can be obtained by the inverse Noether theorem. Then the question whether the obtained generators are Mei symmetrical or not is verified by the determining equation, and the effect of generators' changes on the symmetries is discussed. It has been shown from the studies that the changes of the generators have no effect on the Noether and Lie symmetries, but have effects on the Mei symmetry. However, under certain conditions, while adjusting the gauge function, changes of generators can also have no effect on the Mei symmetry. In the end of the paper, an example for the system is provided to illustrate the application of the result.

Keywords: general holonomic system, Mei symmetry, conserved quantity, inverse problem

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