## 6.3 EQUIPOTENTIAL AND EQUIDENSITY SURFACES

A further simplification of  $W_4$  is obtained by subtracting the hydrostatic value

$$W_4^H(\beta) = \frac{GM}{R} \beta^2 \cdot \frac{8}{35} \left[ \left( \frac{3}{2} e^2 - 4\kappa_H \right) D - 3eS + \frac{3}{2} P_H + \frac{4}{3} Q_H \right] \equiv 0 \quad , \quad (6-26)$$

noting that D and S are equal in both cases. Thus we get

$$W_4(\beta) = \frac{GM}{R} \beta^2 \cdot \frac{32}{105} \left[ -3(\kappa - \kappa_H)D + \frac{9}{8}(P - P_H) + (Q - Q_H) \right] \quad , \qquad (6-27)$$

where, by (4-56),

$$\frac{9}{8}(P-P_H) = \beta^{-7} \int_0^\beta \delta \frac{d}{d\beta} \left[ (\kappa - \kappa_H) \beta^7 \right] d\beta \quad , \qquad (6-28)$$

$$Q - Q_H = \beta^2 \int_{\beta}^{1} \delta \frac{d}{d\beta} \left[ (\kappa - \kappa_H) \beta^{-2} \right] d\beta \quad . \tag{6-29}$$

## 6.3 Equipotential Surfaces and Surfaces of Constant Density

Denote a surface of constant density,  $\rho = \rho_1$ , by  $S_1$  and a corresponding surface of constant potential,  $W = W_1$ , by  $S_2$ . Let the surface  $S_1$  be characterized by a value  $\beta_1$  such that

$$\rho(\beta_1) = \rho_1 \quad ; \tag{6-30}$$

then the constant  $W_1$  will be determined by

$$W_0(\beta_1) = W_1 \quad , \tag{6-31}$$

the function  $W_0(\beta)$  being expressed by (6-24). Thus a surface  $S_2$  is made to correspond to each surface  $S_1$  (Fig. 6.1).



**FIGURE 6.1:** A surface of constant density,  $S_1$ , and the corresponding surface of constant potential,  $S_2$ 

## CHAPTER 6 ELLIPSOID: SECOND-ORDER APPROXIMATION

For equilibrium figures, the surfaces  $S_1$  and  $S_2$  are identical. In the case of ellipsoidal mass distributions, they will be slightly different, and we shall now determine their deviation  $\zeta$ . The idea is the same as that used in determining the height N of the geoid above the reference ellipsoid (cf. Heiskanen and Moritz, 1967, p. 84).

At P we have  $W_P = W_1$ , so that at Q

$$W_Q = W_1 - \frac{\partial W}{\partial n} \zeta = W_1 + g\zeta \quad . \tag{6-32}$$

Here  $\partial/\partial n$  denotes the derivative along the normal n to the equidensity surface  $S_1$  (Fig. 6.1), which can practically be identified with the plumb line; hence  $-\partial W/\partial n = g$  is gravity inside the earth, for which the spherical approximation (2-62) is sufficient. On the other hand, since Q lies on the surface  $\rho = \rho_1$ , we can apply (6-23) to get

$$W_Q = W_0(\beta_1) + W_4(\beta_1) P_4(\cos \theta) = W_1 + W_4(\beta_1) P_4(\cos \theta)$$
(6-33)

in view of (6-31). By comparing the right-hand sides of (6-32) and (6-33) we see that

$$\zeta = \frac{1}{g} W_4(\beta) P_4(\cos \theta) \tag{6-34}$$

(since  $\beta_1$  may be replaced by a general  $\beta$ ) is the desired result for the height of  $S_2$  above  $S_1$ . The reader will recognize the analogy of this result with the standard Bruns formula (1-25).

## 6.4 The Deviation $\kappa$

The deviation  $\kappa = \kappa(\beta)$  for any second-order spheroid must satisfy the integral condition (6-15), where  $P_1$  is given by (4-56) with  $\beta = 1$ :

$$\int_{0}^{1} \delta \frac{d}{d\beta} \left( f^{2} \beta^{7} \right) d\beta + \frac{8}{9} \int_{0}^{1} \delta \frac{d}{d\beta} \left( \kappa \beta^{7} \right) d\beta = -\frac{35}{12} J_{4} \quad . \tag{6-35}$$

For the value  $\kappa_1 = \kappa(1)$  be have the boundary condition (6–16):

$$-\frac{4}{5}f^2 + \frac{4}{7}fm - \frac{32}{35}\kappa_1 = J_4 \quad . \tag{6-36}$$

For the level ellipsoid there is  $\kappa_1 = 0$ , whence

$$-\frac{4}{5}f^2 + \frac{4}{7}fm = J_4^E \quad . \tag{6-37}$$

The difference of the last two equations gives

$$J_4 = J_4^E - \frac{32}{35} \kappa_1 \quad . \tag{6-38}$$

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