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Mechanics

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The fixed end Point Problem for
 n unknown function

Let $F(x, y_1, z_2, \dots, y_n, z_1, z_2, \dots, z_n)$ be
a function with continuous first and
second derivative with respect to
all its arguments consider the
problem of finding necessary
condition for Extremum of
function of the form

$$I_f[y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n] =$$

b.

$$\int_a^b F(x, y_1, z_2, \dots, y_n, y_1', y_2', \dots, y_n') dx$$

which depends on n independent
continuously differentiable functions

$$y_1(x), y_2(x), \dots, y_n(x)$$

Satisfying the Boundary condition

$$y_i(a) = A_i, y_i(b) = B_i \quad (i=1, 2, \dots, n)$$

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Fixed end Point Problems

we shall start with the simplest function maximization problem and show how to solve by finding the first variation and deriving the Euler-Lagrange Equation

$$\frac{d}{dx} \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial y'} \right) - \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = 0$$

Formulation -

Define the formulation $F : C^2[x_0, x_1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

$$F\{y\} = \int_{x_0}^{x_1} f(x, y, y') dx$$

where f is assumed to be function

with (atleast) continuous second order partial derivatives with respect to x, y and y' .

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Simplification :-

Integrate the second term by parts.

$$\delta F(\eta, \gamma) = \int_{x_0}^{x_1} \left[\eta \frac{\partial F}{\partial y} + \eta' \frac{\partial F}{\partial y'} \right] dx$$

$$= \left[\eta \frac{\partial F}{\partial y'} \right]_{x_0}^{x_1} + \int_{x_0}^{x_1} \eta \left[\frac{\partial F}{\partial y} - \frac{d}{dx} \left(\frac{\partial F}{\partial y'} \right) \right] dx$$

But note that by Problem definition

$$\eta \in H, \text{ and so } \eta(x_0) = \eta(x_1) = 0$$

and so that first term is zero

The function inside the integral exists,

and is continuous by our assumption that

F has two continuous derivatives so for

$$E(x) = \left[\frac{\partial F}{\partial y} - \frac{d}{dx} \left(\frac{\partial F}{\partial y'} \right) \right]$$

$$\delta F(\eta, \gamma) = \int_{x_0}^{x_1} \eta(x) E(x) dx = (\eta E)^2 = 0$$

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Euler Lagrange Equation

Theorem :-

Let $F: C^2[x_0, x_1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a functional

of the form $F\{y\} = \int_{x_0}^{x_1} f(x, y, y') dx$

where f has continuous partial derivatives of second order with respect to

$x, y,$ and y' , and $x_0 < x_1$, let

$$S = \{y \in C^2[x_0, x_1] \mid y(x_0) = y_0 \text{ and } y(x_1) = y_1\},$$

where y_0 and y_1 are real numbers

If $y \in S$ is an extreme functional

for F , then for all $x \in [x_0, x_1]$

$$\frac{d}{dx} \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial y'} \right) - \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = 0 \iff \text{The Euler Lagrange Eqn}$$

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Proof of Euler-Lagrange Equation:-

As noted earlier at an extremal the
first variation

$$\delta F(\eta, \gamma) = \langle \eta(x), E(x) \rangle^2 \\ = \int_{x_0}^{x_1} \eta(x) E(x) dx = 0$$

For all $\eta(x) \in H$. From Lemma

we can state that,

$$E(x) = \left[\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} - \frac{d}{dx} \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial y'} \right) \right] = 0$$

which is the Euler Lagrange
Equation.

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Special case -

When f depends only on y' the
EL Equation simplify to

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial y'} = \text{constant.}$$

An Example of this is calculating
geodesics in the plane (which we all
know are straight lines)

f depends only on y'

Geodesics in the Plane are a special
case of $f = f(y')$ with no explicit
dependence on y . Apply the chain Rule to
E-L equation and we get

$$\frac{d}{dx} \cdot \frac{\partial f}{\partial y'} = 0$$

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$$\frac{d^2 f(y')}{d^2 y'^2} \frac{dy'}{dx} = 0$$

$$\frac{d^2 f(y')}{d^2 y'^2} \cdot y'' = 0$$

so one of two the two following
must be true

$$f''(y') = 0$$

$$y'' = 0$$

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