



Calculus of Variations (Summer Term 2014)  
Assignment H3 - Homework

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**Problem 3.1 (4+4=8 Points)**

Find the form of extremals of the following functionals

$$\begin{aligned} \text{a)} \quad J_1[y, z] &= \int_{x_0}^{x_1} (2yz - 2y^2 + y'^2 - z'^2) dx \\ \text{b)} \quad J_1[q_1, q_2, q_3] &= \int_{t_1}^{t_2} (\dot{q}_1 \dot{q}_2 + \dot{q}_2 \dot{q}_3 + \dot{q}_3 \dot{q}_1) dt \end{aligned}$$

**Problem 3.2 (5 Points)**

Consider the functional

$$J[y, z] = \int_{x_0}^{x_1} (y^2 + z^2) dx$$

subject to the constraint

$$y' = z - y.$$

What type of the constraint do we have? Write down the form of the problem including a Lagrange multiplier in the integral. Determine the Euler-Lagrange equations for  $y$  and  $z$ . Solve the equations to find the form of the extremal curve of  $J$  under the constraint.

**Problem 3.3 (5 Points)**

The Beltrami identity states that the extremal function of the integral

$$I[u] = \int_a^b L(x, u, u') dx$$

satisfies the differential equation

$$\frac{d}{dx} \left( L - u' \frac{\partial L}{\partial u'} \right) - \frac{\partial L}{\partial x} = 0.$$

Please prove the identity using the Euler-Lagrange equation and the chain rule. Note that as a special case, when  $L$  does not depend on  $x$ , we get the equation for the autonomous case, i.e.,  $H = \text{const}$ .

**Problem 3.4 (3+3=6 Points)**

Find the extremals of the functionals below subject to the fixed end point conditions prescribed

$$\begin{aligned} \text{a) } J_1[y] &= \int_0^{\pi/2} (y^2 + y'^2 - 2y \sin x) dx, \quad y(0) = 0, \quad y(\pi/2) = 3/2 \\ \text{b) } J_2[y] &= \int_1^2 \frac{y'^2}{x^3} dx, \quad y(1) = 0, \quad y(2) = 15 \end{aligned}$$

**Deadline for submission:** Wednesday, June 04, 12 pm