

Prob. 1: Find the function $y(x)$ for external (minimum of maximum) of

$$J(y, y') = \int_{x_0}^{x_1} \frac{1+y^2}{y'^2} dx$$

Prob. 2: Fermat's principle of optics states that a light ray will follow the path $y(x)$ for which

$$\int_{(x_1, y_1)}^{(x_2, y_2)} n(y, x) ds$$

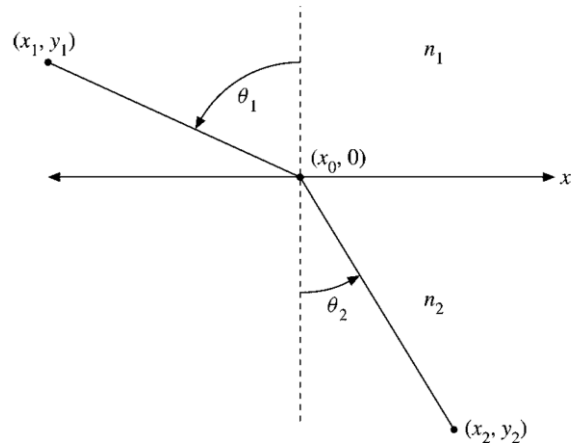
is a minimum when n is the index of refraction and ds is differential path element.

For $y_2 = y_1 = 1$ and $-x_1 = x_2 = 1$, find the ray path if $n = e^{y(x)}$.

Prob. 3: A ray of light follows a straight-line path in a first homogeneous medium, is refracted at an interface, and then follows a new straight-line path in the second medium. Use Fermat's principle of optics to derive Snell's law of refraction:

$$n_1 \sin \theta_1 = n_2 \sin \theta_2$$

Hint. Keep the points (x_1, y_1) and (x_2, y_2) fixed and vary x_0 to satisfy Fermat (Fig. 1). This is not an Euler equation problem. (The light path is not differentiable at x_0 .)



Prob. 4: Find the function $u(x, y, z)$ for external (minimum of maximum) of

$$J(u(x, y, z)) = \iiint_D [u_x^2 + u_y^2 + u_z^2 + 2u\rho(x, y, z)] dx dy dz$$

where $\rho(x, y, z)$ is a given (known) function.

Prob. 5: The Lagrangian for a moving particle with mass m , charge q , and velocity vector \mathbf{v} in an electromagnetic field described by scalar potential ϕ and vector potential \mathbf{A} is

$$L = \frac{1}{2} mv^2 - q\phi + q\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{v}$$

Find the equation of motion of the charged particle.

Hint. $\frac{d}{dt} A_j = \frac{\partial A_j}{\partial t} + \sum_i \frac{\partial A_j}{\partial x_i} \dot{x}_i$. The dependence of the force fields \mathbf{E} and \mathbf{B} upon the potentials

ϕ and \mathbf{A} is developed in Section 1.13 of the text book (compare Exercise 1.13.10).

Prob. 6: Show that requiring J , given by

$$J = \int_a^b \int_a^b K(x, t) \varphi(x) \varphi(t) dx dt$$

to have a stationary value subject to the normalizing condition

$$\int_a^b \varphi^2(x) dx = 1$$

leads to the Hilbert–Schmidt integral equation,

$$\varphi(x) = \lambda \int_a^b K(x, t) \varphi(t) dt$$

Note. The kernel $K(x, t)$ is symmetric.

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Prob. 6: Find the functional associated with the homogeneous wave equation,

$$\nabla^2 \varphi + k^2 \varphi = 0$$

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Prob. 7: Using the Rayleigh-Ritz method, solve Laplace’s equation:

$$\nabla^2 V(x, y) = 0$$

in a square $-1 \leq x, y \leq 1$, subject to the boundary conditions

$$V(\pm 1, y) = 0, V(x, -1) = 0, \text{ and } V(x, 1) = 1.$$

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