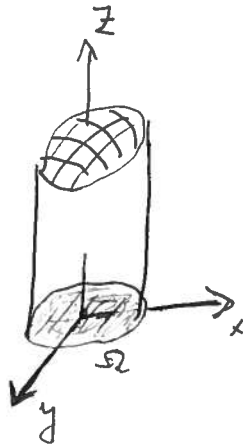


① Derive the Euler-Lagrange eqn for the problem of minimizing the area

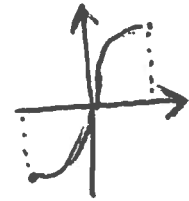
$$A(u) = \iint_{\Omega} \sqrt{1 + |\nabla u|^2} \, dx \, dy$$



among all functions  $z = u(x, y)$  with given boundary values on  $\partial\Omega$ , where  $\Omega$  is a bounded domain.

② [Weierstraß's example]. Consider the variational integral

$$I(y) = \int_{-1}^1 x^2 y'(x)^2 \, dx$$



among all differentiable functions  $y = y(x)$  that are continuous in  $[-1, 1]$ . Show that there is no minimizer with  $y(-1) = -1$ ,  $y(1) = 1$ .

Hint:  $y_k(x) = \frac{\arctan(kx)}{\arctan(k)}$ ,  $k = 1, 2, 3, \dots$

③ Let  $f \in L^2(\Omega)$ , where  $\Omega$  is bounded. Show that there exists a constant  $\beta$  so that

$$J(v) \equiv \int_{\Omega} |\nabla v|^2 \, d\bar{x} - 2 \int_{\Omega} f v \, d\bar{x} \geq -\beta \|f\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2$$

for all  $v \in H_0^1(\Omega)$ .

④ Let  $\Omega$  be a bounded domain.  
Find the Euler-Lagrange equation  
for the variational integral

$$I(u) = \int_{\Omega} [|\nabla u|^2 + e^u] d\bar{x},$$

when this is minimized among all  
functions in  $C^2(\Omega) \cap C(\bar{\Omega})$  with  
given boundary values. Show that the  
extremal(s) cannot attain an interior  
maximum. Is the minimizer unique?