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Analytical Dynamics

An Introduction to the Calculus of Variations



Euler

Lagrange

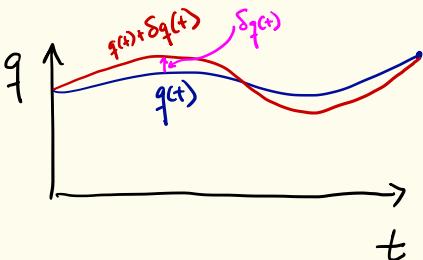
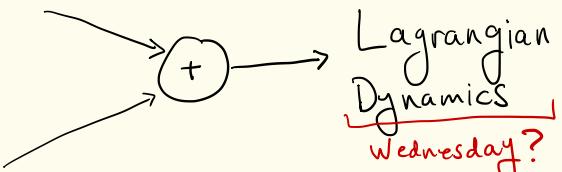
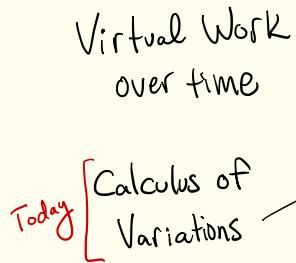
Admin:

- HW 3 Due Wednesday 10/9 ← 2D Rigid Body Review & Example on Panopto
- HW 4 Due next Wednesday

Last Time:

- The total virtual work of constraint forces is zero under any virtual Displacement that satisfies the constraints
- Virtual work δW is defined during motion. SW for active forces is zero at Equilibrium.

Next Steps:



Conventional Calculus, Gradients, and Extrema

- Conventional derivative of a function of $y = [y_1, \dots, y_n]^T$

$$f(y + \delta y) = f(y) + \sum_{i=1}^n \left. \frac{\partial f}{\partial y_i} \right|_y \delta y_i$$

In infinitesimal

δf

- Gradient of f

$$\nabla f = \left[\frac{\partial f}{\partial y_1} \cdots \frac{\partial f}{\partial y_n} \right]^T$$

① Same dimension as y

② Variation of f : $\delta f = f(y + \delta y) - f(y) = \nabla f^T \delta y$

Inner product of
 ∇f and δy

- When $\nabla f(y^*) = 0$ we say y^* is extremal

- y^* could be

- local min/max f
 - Saddle of f

- In any case, at an extremal $\delta f = 0$ for any δy

Variational Calculus and the Functional Derivative

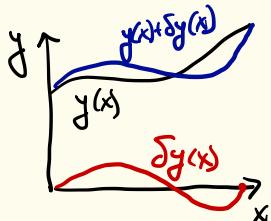
- Now consider $y(x)$ and a functional $F[y]$ [function of a function] $x \in [a, b]$

Examples:

$$F[y] = \int_0^3 y(x)^2 dx$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx}$$

$$F[y] = \int_0^3 [y(x) + y'(x)^2] dx$$



- An infinitesimal variation to $y(x)$ is also a function of x : $\delta y(x)$

- We consider the functional derivative $\frac{\delta F}{\delta y(x)}$ as the function satisfying

$$\delta F = F[y + \delta y] - F[y] = \int_a^b \frac{\delta F}{\delta y(x)} \delta y(x) dx$$

Inner product between two functions

$$\frac{\delta F}{\delta y(x)} \text{ and } \delta y(x)$$

continuous analog of

$$\sum \frac{\partial F}{\partial y_i} \delta y_i$$

Example: $F[y] = \int_0^3 y(x)^2 dx$. Find $\frac{\delta F}{\delta y(x)}$

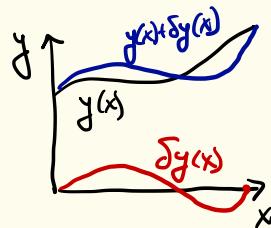
$$\delta F = F[y + \delta y] - F[y] = \int_0^3 \frac{\delta F}{\delta y(x)} \delta y(x) dx$$

$$= \int_0^3 (y(x) + \delta y(x))^2 dx - \int_0^3 y(x)^2 dx$$

$$= \int_0^3 [y(x)^2 + 2y(x)\delta y(x) - \cancel{y(x)^2}] dx$$

$$= \int_0^3 2y(x)\delta y(x) dx$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\delta F}{\delta y(x)} = 2y(x)$$



$$\int y^2 dx$$

$$\delta F = \int_0^3 y + \delta y - y^2 dx$$

$$\int_0^3 \delta y(x) dx$$

Functional Derivative Example: More General Case

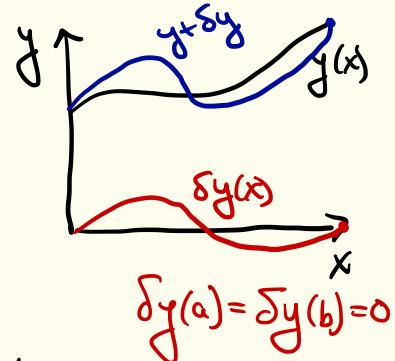
$$F[y] = \int_a^b L(x, y(x), y'(x)) dx$$

$$F[y + \delta y] = \int_a^b L(x, y(x) + \delta y(x), y'(x) + \delta y'(x)) dx$$

$$= F[y] + \int_a^b \left[\frac{\partial L}{\partial y} \delta y(x) + \frac{\partial L}{\partial y'} \delta y'(x) \right] dx$$

Integrate By Parts: $\int_a^b u dv = uv \Big|_a^b - \int_a^b v du$

$$u := \frac{\partial L}{\partial y'} \quad dv := d\delta y$$



$$= F[y] + \int_a^b \frac{\partial L}{\partial y} \delta y(x) dx + \cancel{\frac{\partial L}{\partial y} \delta y \Big|_a^b} - \int_a^b \frac{d}{dx} \left[\frac{\partial L}{\partial y'} \right] \delta y'(x) dx$$

$$= F[y] + \int_a^b \left[\frac{\partial L}{\partial y} - \frac{d}{dx} \frac{\partial L}{\partial y'} \right] \delta y(x) dx = \frac{\delta F}{\delta y(x)}$$

Extrema of Functionals

Conventional Extrema (Multivariable Case): Infinitesimal variations around y^* do not change $f(y)$

$$\delta F = 0 \quad \text{if } \delta y \quad \Rightarrow \quad \frac{\partial F}{\partial y_i} \Big|_{y^*} = 0 \quad i = 1, \dots, n$$

Extrema of Functionals : " $F[y]$ "

$$\delta F = 0 \quad \text{if } \delta y \quad \Rightarrow \quad \frac{\delta F}{\delta y(x)} \Big|_{y^*} = 0 \quad \forall x \in [a, b]$$

In the case of $F = \int_a^b L(x, y, y') dx$ an extremal y requires

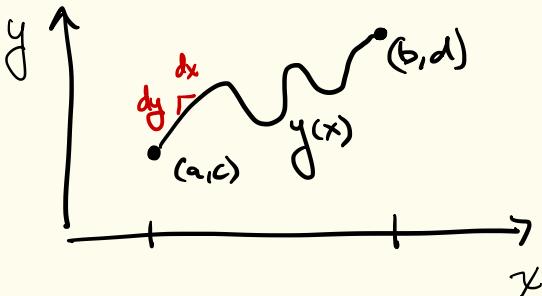
$$\boxed{\frac{\partial L}{\partial y} - \frac{d}{dx} \frac{\partial L}{\partial y'} = 0} \quad \text{if } x$$

Euler-Lagrange Equation

Example: Find shortest path from (a, c) to (b, d)

Arc Length

$$= \int_a^b \sqrt{dx^2 + \left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^2} = \int_a^b \sqrt{1 + y'^2} dx$$



Use Euler-Lagrange Equation to find a differential equation that any extremal y must satisfy:

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial y} = 0 \quad \frac{\partial L}{\partial y'} = \frac{y'}{\sqrt{1+y'^2}} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \frac{\partial L}{\partial y} - \frac{d}{dx} \frac{\partial L}{\partial y'} = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \frac{d}{dx} \left[\frac{y'}{\sqrt{1+y'^2}} \right] = 0$$

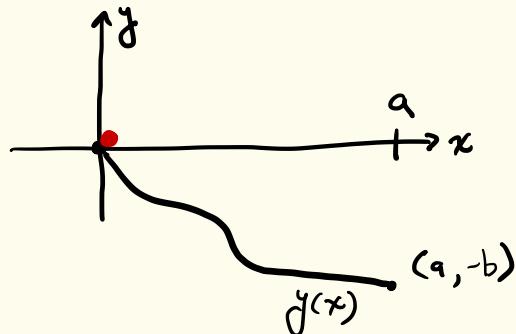
$$\Rightarrow \frac{d}{dx} \frac{y'}{\sqrt{1+y'^2}} = \frac{y''}{(1+y'^2)^{3/2}} = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad y''(x) = 0 \Rightarrow$$

$y'(x) = C$
Constant Slope
= Straight Line

MATLAB Example

Brachistochrone Problem

Setup: We place a ball at rest @ $(0,0)$. We want to design a ramp from $(0,0)$ to $(a,-b)$ so that the ball arrives @ $(a,-b)$ as soon as possible.



Functional?

$$\frac{1}{2}mv^2 + mg y(x) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow v = \sqrt{-2g y(x)} = \sqrt{\left(\frac{dy}{dt}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{dx}{dt}\right)^2} = \sqrt{\left(\frac{dy}{dx} \frac{dx}{dt}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{dx}{dt}\right)^2} = \sqrt{1+y'^2} \frac{dx}{dt}$$

$$\Rightarrow dt = \sqrt{\frac{1+y'^2}{-2gy}} dx$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{Time} = \int_0^a \sqrt{\frac{1+y'^2}{-2gy(x)}} dx = F[y]$$

$$L(x, y, y')$$

Brachistochrone Problem

① Euler Lagrange Equation

$$L = \frac{1}{\sqrt{g}} \sqrt{\frac{1+y'^2}{y}}$$

$$\text{EL} \Rightarrow 0 = \frac{y''}{1+y'^2} + \frac{1}{2y}$$

② Multiply by y' on both sides & integrate

$$\int \frac{y' y'' dx}{1+y'^2} = \int -\frac{y'}{2y} dx$$

$$\int \frac{y' dy'}{1+y'^2} = \int -\frac{dy}{2y}$$

③ Integrate

$$\ln(1+y'^2) = -\ln(y) + C,$$

④ $c^{\text{Both Sides}}$

$$y(1+y'^2) = C_2$$

⑤ Smart guess

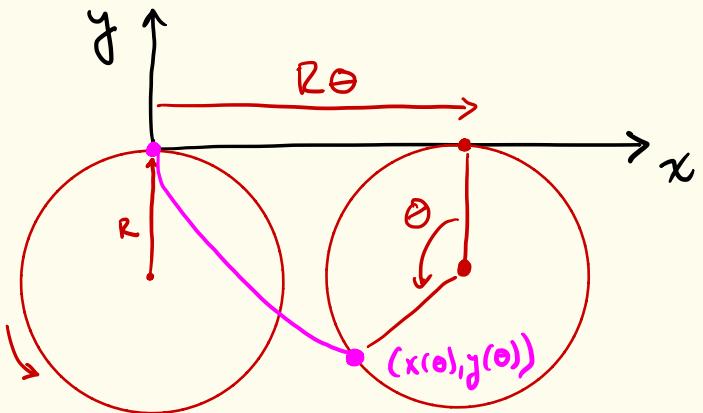
$$x = R(\theta - \sin \theta)$$

$$y = R(\cos \theta - 1)$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{dy/d\theta}{dx/d\theta} = \frac{-R \sin \theta}{R(1-\cos \theta)}$$

$$\begin{aligned} y(1+y'^2) &= R(\cos \theta - 1) \left(1 + \frac{s^2 \theta}{(1-\cos \theta)^2} \right) \\ &= R(\cos \theta - 1) \left(\frac{1 + c^2 \theta - 2c \theta + s^2 \theta}{(1-\cos \theta)^2} \right) \\ &= 2R(c \theta - 1) \frac{(1-c \theta)}{(1-c \theta)^2} = -2R \end{aligned}$$

Geometric Interpretation



$$x = R(\theta - \sin \theta)$$

$$y = R(\cos \theta - 1)$$

Imagine a bike wheel riding on the ceiling ($y=0$). Track the point of original contact on the bike wheel as the wheel rolls.

- Curve drawn is called a cycloid.

Summary

- Variational Calculus

- Extension of Multivariable Calculus to functions of functions

- Functional Derivative Generalizes the Gradient

$$\frac{\delta F}{\delta y(x)} \text{ satisfies } \delta F = \int_a^b \frac{\delta F}{\delta y(x)} \delta y(x) dx$$

- If $F = \int_a^b L(x, y(x), y'(x)) dx$ and endpoints fixed

$$\delta F = \int_a^b \delta L dx = \int_a^b \left[\frac{\partial L}{\partial y} - \frac{d}{dx} \frac{\partial L}{\partial y'} \right] \delta y(x) dx$$

- Extrema of Functionals:

- $\frac{\delta F}{\delta y(x)} = 0 \quad \forall x \in [a, b]$ (*)

- If $F = \int_a^b L(x, y(x), y'(x)) dx$ and endpoints fixed

- (*) is equivalent to $\frac{d}{dx} \frac{\partial L}{\partial y'} - \frac{\partial L}{\partial y} = 0 \quad \begin{bmatrix} \text{Euler-Lagrange} \\ \text{Equation} \end{bmatrix}$