

# Variational Methods in Image Processing

ÚTIA AV ČR

# Outline

- 1 Introduction
  - Motivation
  - Derivation of Euler-Lagrange Equation
  - Variational Problem and P.D.E.

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1

## Introduction

- Motivation
- Derivation of Euler-Lagrange Equation
- Variational Problem and P.D.E.



# History

## The Brachistochrone Problem:

*“Given two points  $A$  and  $B$  in a vertical plane, what is the curve traced out by a point acted on only by gravity, which starts at  $A$  and reaches  $B$  in the shortest time.”*

Johann Bernoulli in 1696

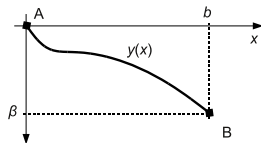


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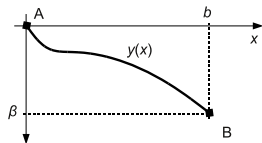
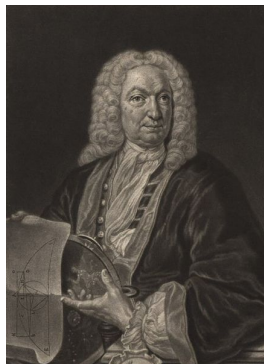
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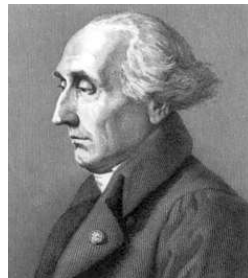
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In one year Newton, Johann and Jacob Bernoulli, Leibniz, and de L'Hôpital came with the solution.



# History

The problem was generalized and an analytic method was given by Euler (1744) and Lagrange (1760).



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- solution by means of Euler-Lagrange (E-L) equation



# Calculus of Variations

## Integral functionals

$$F(u) = \int_{\Omega} f(x, u(x), \nabla u(x)) dx$$

## Example

- $x \in \mathbb{R}^2$  ... space of coordinates  $[x_1, x_2]$
- $\Omega$  ... image support
- $u(x) : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  ... grayscale image
- $\nabla u(x)$  ... image gradient  $[u_{x_1}, u_{x_2}]$



# Examples

- **Image Registration**

given a set of CP pairs  $[x_i, y_i] \leftrightarrow [\tilde{x}_i, \tilde{y}_i]$

find  $\tilde{x} = f(x, y)$ ,  $\tilde{y} = g(x, y)$

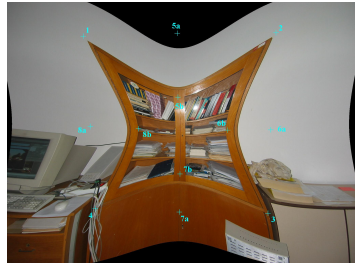
$$F(f) = \sum_i (\tilde{x}_i - f(x_i, y_i))^2 + \lambda \int \int f_{xx}^2 + 2f_{xy}^2 + f_{yy}^2 dx dy$$

and a similar equation for  $g(x, y)$



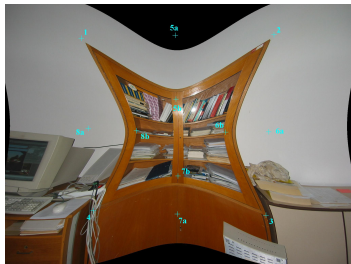
# Examples

- Image Registration



# Examples

- **Image Registration**



- **Image Reconstruction**

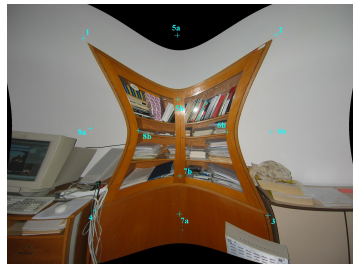
given an image acquisition model  $H(\cdot)$  and measurement  $g$   
find the original image  $u$

$$F(u) = \int (H(u) - g)^2 dx + \lambda \int |\nabla u|^2$$



# Examples

- Image Registration



- Image Reconstruction



# Examples

- **Image Segmentation**

find a piece-wise constant representation  $u$  of an image  $g$

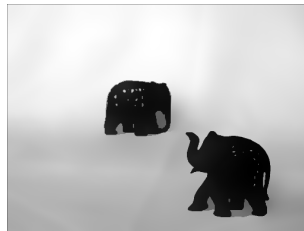
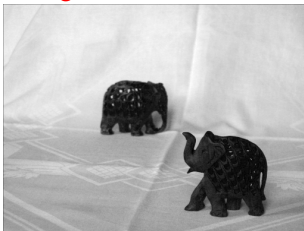
$$F(u, K) = \int_{\Omega-K} (u - g)^2 dx + \alpha \int_{\Omega-K} |\nabla u|^2 dx + \beta \int_K ds$$





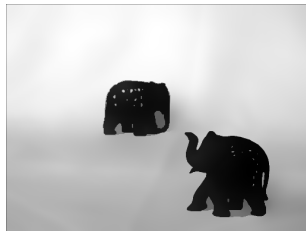
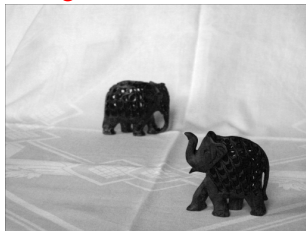
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- **Image Segmentation**



- **Motion Estimation**

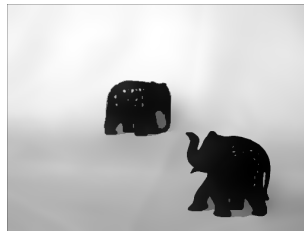
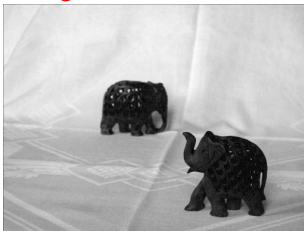
find velocity field  $v(x) \equiv [v_1(x), v_2(x)]$  in an image sequence  $u(x, t)$

$$F(v) = \int |v \cdot \nabla u + u_t| dx + \alpha \sum_j \int |\nabla v_j| dx + \beta \int c(\nabla u) |v|^2 dx$$

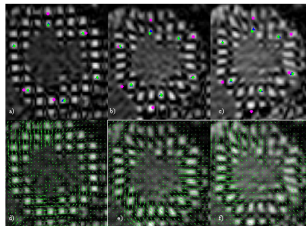


# Examples

- Image Segmentation



- Motion Estimation



# Examples

- Image classification



# Examples

- Image classification
- and many more

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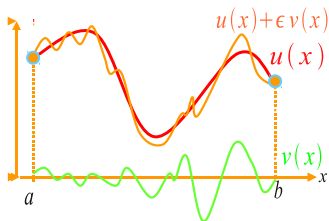
in 1-D ( $g : R \rightarrow R$ ) we get the classical condition

$$g'(x) = 0$$



# Variation of Functional

$$F(u) = \int_a^b f(x, u, u') dx$$



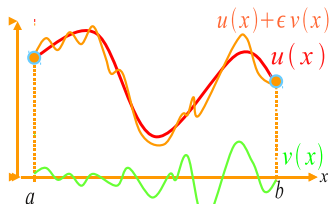
# Variation of Functional

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if  $u$  is extremum of  $F$  then from differential calculus follows

$$\left. \frac{d}{d\varepsilon} F(u + \varepsilon v) \right|_{\varepsilon=0} = 0 \quad \forall v$$

$$F(u + \varepsilon v) = \int_a^b f(x, u + \varepsilon v, u' + \varepsilon v') dx$$



# Partial derivatives

## Example

$$f(x, u) = xu$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = u$$

$$\frac{df}{dx} = u$$



# Partial derivatives

## Example

$$f(x, u) = xu = xu(x) = x \sin x$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = u = \sin x$$

but

$$\frac{df}{dx} = \text{chain rule} = \sin x + x \cos x$$





# Chain Rule

$$\frac{d}{dx} f(u(x), v(x)) = \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial u} f(u, v) \right) \frac{du}{dx} + \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial v} f(u, v) \right) \frac{dv}{dx}$$



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## Example

$$u(x) = x, v(x) = \sin x, f = uv = x \sin x$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} f(u, v) = v(x)1 + u(x) \cos x = \sin x + x \cos x$$



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## per partes

$$\int_a^b uv' = uv \Big|_a^b - \int_a^b u'v$$



# Derivation of E-L equation

$$\frac{d}{d\varepsilon} F(u + \varepsilon v) = \frac{d}{d\varepsilon} \int_a^b f(x, u + \varepsilon v, u' + \varepsilon v')$$



# Derivation of E-L equation

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{d}{d\varepsilon}F(u + \varepsilon v) &= \frac{d}{d\varepsilon} \int_a^b f(x, u + \varepsilon v, u' + \varepsilon v') \\ &= \int_a^b \frac{\partial f}{\partial u} v + \frac{\partial f}{\partial u'} v'\end{aligned}$$

chain rule



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$$= \int_a^b \frac{\partial f}{\partial u} v + \frac{\partial f}{\partial u'} v'$$

chain rule

$$= \int_a^b \frac{\partial f}{\partial u} v - \int_a^b \frac{d}{dx} \frac{\partial f}{\partial u'} v + \frac{\partial f}{\partial u'} v \Big|_a^b$$

per partes





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 &= \int_a^b \left[ \frac{\partial f}{\partial u} - \frac{d}{dx} \frac{\partial f}{\partial u'} \right] v + \frac{\partial f}{\partial u'} v \Big|_a^b = 0
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 \end{aligned}$$

to be equal to 0 for any  $v$ ,  $\left[ \frac{\partial f}{\partial u} - \frac{d}{dx} \frac{\partial f}{\partial u'} \right] = 0 \rightarrow$  **E-L equation**



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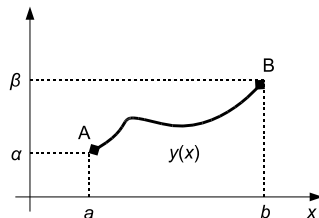
to be equal to 0, we need boundary conditions,  
 e.g., fixed  $u(a), u(b) \rightarrow v(a) = v(b) = 0$ .



# Toy case

## Shortest path

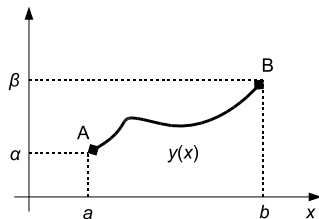
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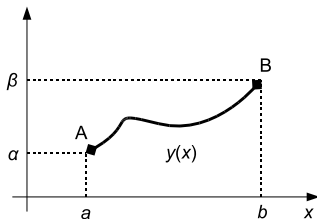
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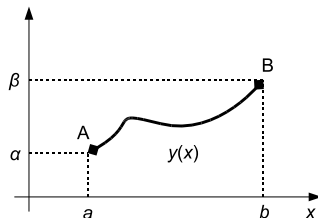
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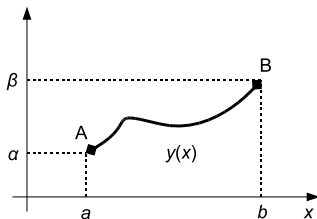
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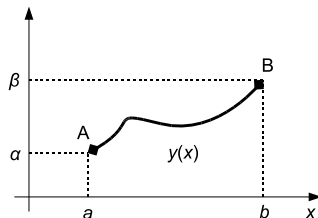




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- E-L eq.:  $-\frac{d}{dx} \frac{y'(x)}{\sqrt{1+y'(x)^2}} = 0 \Rightarrow y' = C\sqrt{1+y'^2} \Rightarrow y' = \text{constant}$
- $y(x)$  is a straight line between  $A$  and  $B$ .



# E-L equation

If  $u(x) : R^N \rightarrow R$  is extremum of  $F(u) = \int_{\Omega} f(x, u, \nabla u) dx$ ,  
where  $\nabla u \equiv [u_{x_1}, \dots, u_{x_N}]$   
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then

$$F'(u) = \frac{\partial f}{\partial u}(x, u, \nabla u) - \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{d}{dx_i} \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial u_{x_i}}(x, u, \nabla u) \right) = 0,$$

which is the E-L equation.



# Beltrami Identity

$$f(x, u, u')$$

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



# Beltrami Identity

$$f(x, u, u')$$

$$\frac{df}{dx} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial u} u' + \frac{\partial f}{\partial u'} u'' + \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}$$

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



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





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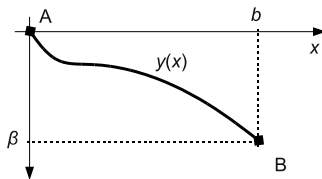
if  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = 0$  then

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



# Brachistochrone

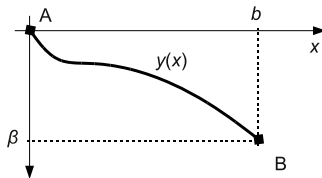
- $F = \int dt$ ,  $\min F \dots$  curve of the shortest time.
- $F = \int \frac{ds}{v} = \int_0^b \frac{\sqrt{1+(y'(x))^2}}{v} dx$
- $\frac{1}{2}mv^2 = mgy(x) \Rightarrow v = \sqrt{2gy(x)}$



# Brachistochrone

- $F = \int dt$ ,  $\min F$  ... curve of the shortest time.
- $F = \int \frac{ds}{v} = \int_0^b \frac{\sqrt{1+(y'(x))^2}}{v} dx$
- $\frac{1}{2}mv^2 = mgy(x) \Rightarrow v = \sqrt{2gy(x)}$
- 

$$F = \int_0^b \frac{\sqrt{1+(y')^2}}{\sqrt{2gy}} dx$$



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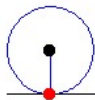
$$y(1 + (y')^2) = \frac{1}{2gC^2} = k$$

The solution is a cycloid

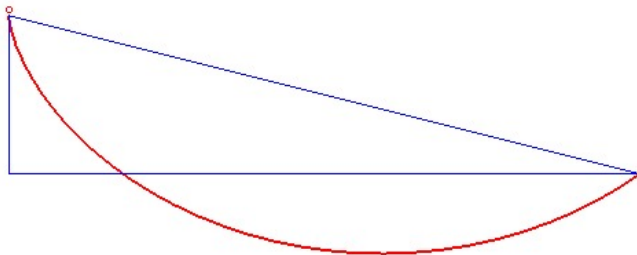
$$x(\theta) = \frac{1}{2}k(\theta - \sin \theta), \quad y(\theta) = \frac{1}{2}k(1 - \cos \theta)$$



# Cycloid



Play avi



Play avi



# Boundary conditions

- using “per partes” on  $u(x, y)$ ,  $\mathbf{n}(x, y) \equiv [n_1(x, y), n_2(x, y)]$  normal vector at the boundary  $\partial\Omega$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \varepsilon} F(u + \varepsilon v) = \int (\cdot) dx dy + \int_{\partial\Omega} \left[ \frac{\partial f}{\partial u_x} n_1 + \frac{\partial f}{\partial u_y} n_2 \right] v ds$$



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# E-L equation example

- Smoothing functional:

$$F(u) = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} |\nabla u|^2 dx, \quad f = u_x^2 + u_y^2$$



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Laplace equation



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- Total variation of an image function  $u(x,y)$ :

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# Outline

- 1 Introduction
  - Motivation
  - Derivation of Euler-Lagrange Equation
  - Variational Problem and P.D.E.**

# Steepest Descent

- Classical optimization problem

$$g : R \rightarrow R, \tilde{x} = \min_x g(x)$$



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$$x_{k+1} = x_k - \alpha g'(x_k),$$

where  $\alpha$  is the step length



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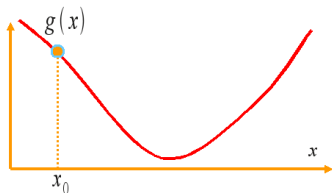
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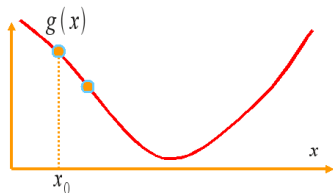
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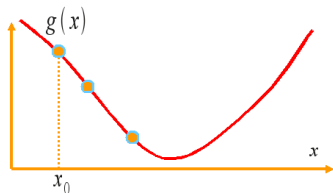
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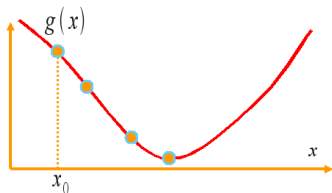
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$$\frac{dx}{dt}(t_k) = \lim_{\alpha \rightarrow 0} \frac{x(t_k + \alpha) - x(t_k)}{\alpha} = \lim_{\alpha \rightarrow 0} \frac{x_{k+1} - x_k}{\alpha} = -g'(x_k)$$



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- Finding the solution with the steepest-descent method is equivalent to solving P.D.E.:

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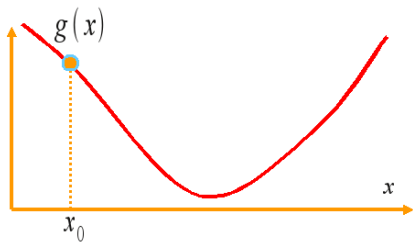
- Solving the variational problem with the steepest-descent method is equivalent to solving P.D.E.:

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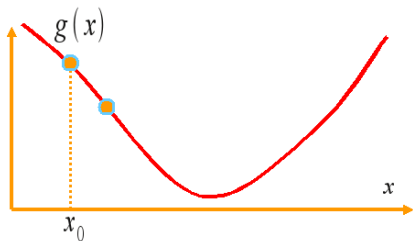
+boundary conditions.



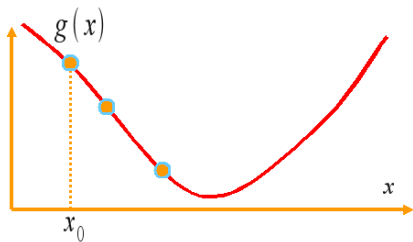
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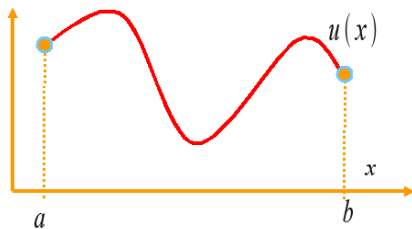
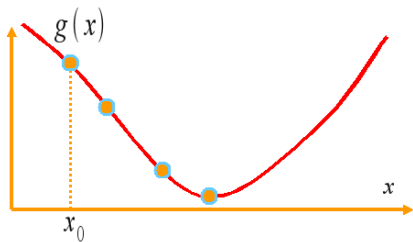
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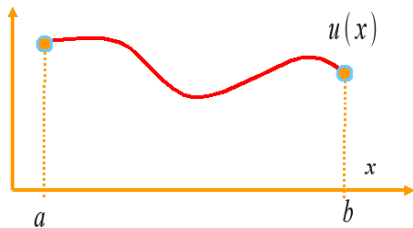
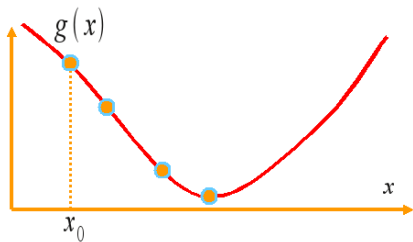
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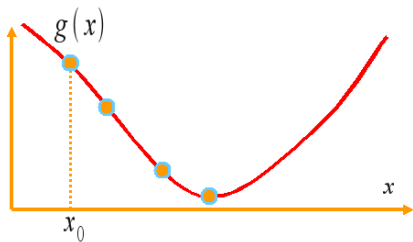
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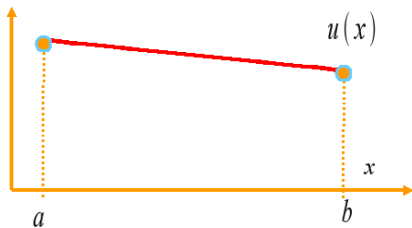
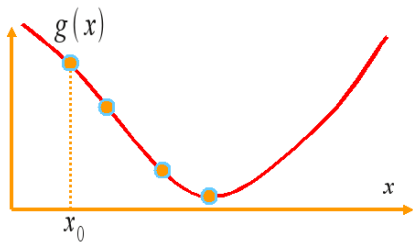


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# Differential Calculus x Variational Calculus

	Differential Calculus	Variational Calculus
Problem Spec.	function	function of function = functional
Necess. Cond.	1st derivative = 0	1st variation = 0
Result	one number (or vector)	function



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## Example

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- Does every PDE have its corresponding optimization problem?

