

# 1 Stationary Integral

Find  $y(x)$  such that the following integral is stationary,

$$J = \int_{x_1}^{x_2} \left( \frac{1}{2} y'^2 \right) dx, \quad (1.1)$$

where  $y' \equiv \frac{dy}{dx}$ .

Hints: Do so by using the Euler equation,

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} - \frac{d}{dx} \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial y'} \right) = 0, \quad (1.2)$$

where  $f(y, y'; x) = \frac{1}{2} y'^2$ . You do not have to determine the two constants of integration, just call them  $c_1$  and  $c_2$ . Don't bother interpreting them. Don't bother interpreting  $J$  or  $y(x)$ . This is just an exercise.