

-1-

Calculus of

variations

• $f(x) \rightarrow$

$$f'(x) = \frac{df(x)}{dx} = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+\epsilon) - f(x)}{\epsilon}$$

• $f(x, y)$

$$\frac{\partial f(x, y)}{\partial x} = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+\epsilon, y) - f(x, y)}{\epsilon}$$

• Calculus of variation:

Functional
function of a function

$f(x) \rightarrow$ number

$$I[f(x)] = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) dx$$

-2-

$$I[f(x)] = \int_a^b f(x) dx$$

$$I[f(x)] = \int_a^b f(x) g(x) dx \quad \swarrow \text{given}$$

$$I[f(x)] = \int_a^b \frac{d f(x)}{dx} g(x) dx$$

$$I[f(x)] = \int_a^b F(f(x), f'(x), f''(x), \dots, x) dx$$

$\uparrow$
given

-3- Variation

$$\delta I[f(x)] = I[f(x) + \epsilon \eta(x)]$$

- $I[f(x)]$
Boundary condition
conditions for η

$$\eta(a) = \eta(b) = 0$$

$$\frac{\delta I}{\delta \eta} = \frac{I[f + \epsilon \eta] - I[f]}{\epsilon \eta}$$

-4-

$$\frac{SI[f(x)]}{Sf(x)} \Rightarrow$$

$$\textcircled{2} SI[f(x)] = I[f(x) + 2(x)] - I[f(x)]$$

$$\textcircled{3} = \int_a^b \frac{SI[f(x)]}{Sf(x)} 2(x) dx$$

EXAMPLE

$$-5' \bullet I[f(x)] = \int_a^b f(x)g(x)dx$$

$$\frac{\delta I[f(x)]}{\delta f(x)} = ? \quad 2(a) = 2(b) = 0$$

$$\delta I = I[f(x) + 2(x)] - I[f(x)]$$

$$= \int_a^b (f(x) + 2(x))g(x)dx$$

$$- \int_a^b f(x)g(x)dx$$

$$\frac{\delta I[f(x)]}{\delta f(x)} = g(x)$$

$$= \int_a^b 2(x)g(x)dx$$

$$= \int_a^b \frac{\delta I[f(x)]}{\delta f(x)} 2(x)dx$$

$$\frac{\delta I[f(x)]}{\delta f(x)}$$

$$\frac{\int_a^b \int [f(x)] \quad ???}{\int f(x)} =$$

$$= \frac{\int [f(x) + \eta(x)] - \int [f(x)]}{\eta(x)} =$$

$$= \frac{\int_a^b \eta(x) g(x) dx}{\eta(x)}$$

$$\eta(x) = \delta(x - a)$$

-2-

$$I[f(x)] = \int_a^b \frac{df(x)}{dx} g(x) dx$$

$$SI[f(x)] =$$

$$= \int_a^b dx \left[\left(\frac{df(x)}{dx} + \frac{d\eta(x)}{dx} \right) g(x) \right.$$

$$\left. - g(x) \frac{df(x)}{dx} \right] =$$
$$= \int_a^b dx \frac{d\eta(x)}{dx} g(x) =$$

$$= \int_a^b \overbrace{g(x)}^{dV} \frac{d\eta(x)}{dx} \cdot dx =$$

$$= g(x) \eta(x) \Big|_{x=a}^{x=b} - \int_a^b \eta(x) \frac{dg(x)}{dx} dx$$

$\underbrace{\hspace{10em}}_{=0}$

$dV \equiv d\eta$

35

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{S}I[f(x)] &= - \int_a^b \left(2(x) \frac{d g(x)}{dx} \right) dx \\ &\stackrel{df}{=} \int_a^b \frac{\mathcal{S}I}{\mathcal{S}f(x)} 2(x) dx \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\mathcal{S}}{\mathcal{S}f(x)} \int_a^b f'(x) g(x) dx \\ = - g'(x) \end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{\mathcal{S}}{\mathcal{S}f(x)} \int_a^b f''(x) g(x) dx =$$

-9-

$$I[f(x)] = \int_a^b f''(x) g(x) dx$$

$$\begin{aligned} \delta I[f(x)] &= \int_a^b dx [f''(x) g(x) + \eta''(x) g(x) \\ &\quad - f''(x) g(x)] = \\ &= \int_a^b dx \eta''(x) g(x) = \end{aligned}$$

$$= \int dx g(x) \frac{d}{dx} \eta'(x)$$

$$= g(x) \eta'(x) \Big|_{x=a}^{x=b} - \int_a^b dx \eta'(x) g'(x)$$

$$= - \int_a^b g'(x) \underbrace{\frac{d}{dx} \eta'(x) dx}_v$$

$\underbrace{\hspace{10em}}_{dv}$

10-

$$I[f(x)] = \int_a^b F(f(x), f'(x), f''(x), \dots, x) dx$$

$$\rightarrow \frac{\partial}{\partial f(x_n)} \sum_{n=1}^N F(f(x_n), f'(x_n), \dots, f''(x_n), x_n)$$

→ Remove Σ

-11-
All mechanical systems

have $\mathcal{L}(\underline{x}(t), \underline{\dot{x}}(t), t)$

For 1 particle

n particle

$\mathcal{L}(\underline{x}_1, \underline{x}_2, \dots, \underline{x}_n, \underline{\dot{x}}_1, \underline{\dot{x}}_2, \dots, \underline{\dot{x}}_n, t)$

Fluids:

$\mathcal{L}(\underline{x}(\bar{r}), \underline{\dot{x}}(\bar{r}), t)$

-12-

Action:

$$t = T$$

$$S[x(t)] = \int_{t=t_0}^{t=T} dt \mathcal{L}(\underline{x}(t), \dot{\underline{x}}(t), t)$$

ALL MECHANICAL
SYSTEMS MOVE TO
MINIMIZE ACTION

$$\frac{\delta S[x(t)]}{\delta x(t)} = 0$$

-13-

$$\underline{S S(x(t))} = \int_{t=0}^T dt [L(x(t), \dot{x}(t), t) + 2(t), T)]$$

$$- \int_{t=0}^T dt [L(x(t), \dot{x}(t), t)]$$

$$= \int_{t=0}^T dt \left[\underline{L(x(t), \dot{x}(t), t)} + \frac{\partial L(x(t), \dot{x}(t), t)}{\partial x(t)} \right]$$

$$+ \frac{\partial L(x(t), \dot{x}(t), t)}{\partial \dot{x}(t)} \dot{x}(t)$$

$$\cdot 2(t)$$

$$- L(x(t), \dot{x}(t), t)] =$$

$$= \int_{t=0}^T dt \left[\underline{\partial L(x(t), \dot{x}(t), t)} \right]$$

-14-

$$\delta S = \int_{t=0}^T dt \left[\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}(x(t), \dot{x}(t), t)}{\partial x(t)} \cdot \delta x(t) + \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}(x(t), \dot{x}(t), t)}{\partial \dot{x}} \cdot \delta \dot{x}(t) \right]$$

$$= \int_{t=0}^T dt \left[\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial x(t)} \delta x(t) - \frac{d}{dt} \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{x}} \delta x(t) + \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{x}} \cdot \delta x(t) \right]_{t=0}^{t=T}$$

$\text{At } T, x(T), \dot{x}(T)$

$= 0$

$$\equiv \int_{t=0}^T dt \frac{\delta \mathcal{L}(x(t), \dot{x}(t), t)}{\delta x(t)} \delta x(t) dt$$

15

$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{\delta S}{\delta x(\tau)} &= \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}(x(\tau), \dot{x}(\tau), \tau)}{\partial x(\tau)} \\
 &\quad - \frac{d}{dt} \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}(x(\tau), \dot{x}(\tau), \tau)}{\partial \dot{x}} \\
 &= 0
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{x}} - \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial x} = 0$$

10

$$L(x) = \frac{m\dot{x}^2}{2} - V(x) \quad (1)$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial x} = - \frac{\partial V(x)}{\partial x} \quad (2)$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{x}} = m\dot{x}$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{x}} = m\ddot{x} \quad \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{x}} - \frac{\partial L}{\partial x} = 0$$

$$m\ddot{x} = - \frac{\partial V(x)}{\partial x}$$