## Physics 3210

Week 1 clicker questions





## The iClicker is becoming the University of **Colorado Standard for** Clickers. You will use the iClicker in some of your future classes.

Are you using i clickers in any of your other classes?

- A. Yes
- B. No

When is the first homework due in this class?

- A. Friday 1/19
- B. Monday 1/22
- C. Wednesday 1/24
- D. Friday 1/26
- E. Monday 1/29

What is the date of the first exam in this class?

- A. 1/31
- **B.** 2/7
- C. 2/14
- D. 2/21
- E. 2/28

Which of these problems must be solved using the calculus of variations?

1. Find the period of small oscillations for a particle sliding (without friction) on the inside of a sphere.

2. Find the surface with fixed area that encloses the maximum volume.

3. Find the path between two points that minimizes the time for a particle to slide (without friction) between the points.

4. Find the path of a projectile (with no air resistance) that leads to the maximum range.

- A. None
- B. Only one
- C. Exactly two
- D. Exactly three
- E. All four

A calculus of variations problem requires minimizing  

$$J[y(x)] = \int_{x_1}^{x_2} f[y(x);y'(x);x] dx$$
When we solve Euler's equation

what do we learn? 
$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} - \frac{d}{dx} \frac{\partial f}{\partial y'} = 0$$

- A. The value of J[y(x)] at the minimum/maximum.
- B. The path y(x) that minimizes J[y(x)].
- C. The functional f[y(x);y'(x);,x] that minimizes J[y(x)].
- D. All A-C.
- E. None of A-C.

Soap films form **minimal surfaces** (surfaces with minimum surface area). Suppose a surface is described by a curve from  $(x_1,y_1)$  to  $(x_2,y_2)$  revolved about the y axis. Which is the correct expression for the area of the surface?

Χ

A. 
$$A = 2\pi \int_{x_1}^{x_2} y' \sqrt{1 + x^2} dx$$
  
B.  $A = \pi \int_{x_1}^{x_2} y'^2 \sqrt{1 + x^2} dx$   
C.  $A = 2\pi \int_{x_1}^{x_2} y \sqrt{1 + y'^2} dx$   
D.  $A = \pi \int_{x_1}^{x_2} x^2 \sqrt{1 + y'^2} dx$   
E.  $A = 2\pi \int_{x_1}^{x_2} x \sqrt{1 + y'^2} dx$ 



iclickor

Would it be useful to you if the course website had an RSS feed?

- A. Yes.
- B. No.
- C. Don't know/don't care.

Which of these problems must be solved using the calculus of variations with constraints?

- 1. Find the shortest path between two points on the surface of a cylinder.
- 2. Find the surface with fixed area that encloses the maximum volume.
- 3. Find the path between two points that minimizes the time for a particle to slide (without friction) between the points.
- 4. Find the path between two points that minimizes the area of the surface of revolution (formed by rotating the path around an axis).
- A. None
- B. Only one
- C. Exactly two
- D. Exactly three
- E. All four



Set up Dido's problem: what are J[y] and K[y]?

A. 
$$J[y] = \int_{-a}^{a} y \, dx$$
  $K[y] = \int_{-a}^{a} \sqrt{1 + {y'}^2} \, dx$   
B.  $J[y] = \int_{-a}^{a} y^2 \, dx$   $K[y] = \int_{-a}^{a} {y'}^2 \, dx$   
C.  $J[y] = \int_{-a}^{a} y^2 \, dx$   $K[y] = \int_{-a}^{a} 1 + {y'}^2 \, dx$   
D.  $J[y] = \int_{-a}^{a} \sqrt{1 + {y'}^2} \, dx$   $K[y] = \int_{-a}^{a} y \, dx$ 

What is the Lagrangian of a particle (mass m) attached to a spring (spring constant k)?

A. 
$$\mathcal{L}(x, \dot{x}, t) = \frac{1}{2}k\dot{x}^2 - \frac{1}{2}mx^2$$
  
B.  $\mathcal{L}(x, \dot{x}, t) = m\dot{x}^2 - kx^2$   
C.  $\mathcal{L}(x, \dot{x}, t) = m\dot{x}^2 + kx^2$ 

D. 
$$\mathcal{L}(x, \dot{x}, t) = \frac{1}{2}m\dot{x}^{2} + \frac{1}{2}kx^{2}$$
  
E.  $\mathcal{L}(x, \dot{x}, t) = \frac{1}{2}m\dot{x}^{2} - \frac{1}{2}kx^{2}$ 

What is the Lagrangian of a pendulum (mass m, length l)? Assume the potential energy is zero when  $\theta$  is zero.

A. 
$$\mathcal{L}(\theta, \dot{\theta}, t) = \frac{1}{2}m\ell^{2}\dot{\theta}^{2} - mg\ell(1 - \cos\theta)$$
  
B.  $\mathcal{L}(\theta, \dot{\theta}, t) = \frac{1}{2}m\ell^{2}\dot{\theta}^{2} + mg\ell(1 - \cos\theta)$   
C.  $\mathcal{L}(\theta, \dot{\theta}, t) = \frac{1}{2}m\dot{\theta}^{2} + mg\ell(1 - \cos\theta)$ 

Which of these constraints is holonomic?

- 1. A particle is constrained to slide on the inside of a sphere.
- 2. A cylinder rolls down an inclined plane.
- 3. Two moving particles are connected by a rod of length l.
- 4. A moving car is constrained to obey the speed limit.
- A. None
- B. Only one
- C. Exactly two
- D. Exactly three
- E. All four

For which of these systems could you use Lagrange's equations of motion?

1. A double pendulum: a pendulum (mass m, length l) has a second pendulum (mass m, length l) connected to its bob.

2. A projectile moves in two dimensions with gravity and air resistance.

3. A bead slides without friction on a circular, rotating wire.

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. 3 only
- D. 1 and 2

E. 1 and 3



A bead of mass m slides on a circular wire of radius R. The wire rotates about a vertical axis with angular velocity W. What is the Lagrangian of the system?

A. 
$$\mathcal{L}(\theta, \dot{\theta}, t) = \frac{1}{2}mR^2\dot{\theta}^2 + \frac{1}{2}mR^2\Omega^2 - mgR\cos\theta$$



B. 
$$\mathcal{L}(\theta, \theta, t) = \frac{1}{2}mR^2\theta^2 + \frac{1}{2}mR^2\sin^2\theta\Omega^2 - mgR(1 - \cos\theta)$$

C. 
$$\mathcal{L}(\theta, \dot{\theta}, t) = \frac{1}{2}mR^2\dot{\theta}^2 + \frac{1}{2}mR^2\cos^2\theta\Omega^2 - mgR\cos\theta$$

D. 
$$\mathcal{L}(\theta, \dot{\theta}, t) = \frac{1}{2}mR^2\dot{\theta}^2 + \frac{1}{2}mR^2\sin^2\theta\Omega^2 - mgR(1-\sin\theta)$$
  
E.  $\mathcal{L}(\theta, \dot{\theta}, t) = \frac{1}{2}mR^2(\dot{\theta} + \Omega)^2 - mgR(1-\cos\theta)$