

Consider the functional

$$S[y] = \int_a^b dx \left(y^2 \sinh x - \frac{2y'^2}{\sinh x} \right), \quad y(a) = A, \quad y(b) = B, \quad 0 < a < b$$

- (a) Find the Euler–Lagrange equation associated with this functional.
- (b) Find a new independent variable, u , depending only on x , that transforms this functional to

$$S[y] = \int_{u_1}^{u_2} du (y^2 - 2(y'(u))^2), \quad (4)$$

for some limits u_1 and u_2 , which you should find.

- (c) Solve the associated Euler–Lagrange equation for the functional (4).
- (d) Hence or otherwise show that the solution of

$$2 \sinh x \frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} - 2 \cosh x \frac{dy}{dx} + y \sinh^3 x = 0, \quad y(1) = 0, \quad y(2) = 2,$$

is

$$y = \frac{2 \sin \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (\cosh x - \cosh 1) \right)}{\sin \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (\cosh 2 - \cosh 1) \right)}.$$

[No marks will be given for verifying that this is a solution by direct substitution.]