

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER	PAGE
I. TYPICAL PROBLEMS OF THE CALCULUS OF VARIATIONS	1
1. The invention of the calculus	
2. Maxima and minima	
3. Two problems of the calculus of variations which may be simply formulated	
4. The problem of Newton	
5. The brachistochrone problem	
6. A more general problem	
7. Other problems of the calculus of variations	
II. SHORTEST DISTANCES	17
8. The shortest arc joining two points	
9. A first necessary condition	
10. A fundamental lemma	
11. Proof that the straight line is shortest	
12. Two important auxiliary formulas	
13. The notion of a field and a second sufficiency proof	
14. The shortest arc joining a point to a curve	
15. The shortest arc from a point to an ellipse	
16. The shortest arc joining two curves	
III. THE BRACHISTOCHRONE PROBLEM	41
17. Its significance as an illustration	
18. The analytic formulation of the problem	
19. A first necessary condition	
20. Application to the brachistochrone problem	
21. Cycloids	
22. The unique cycloid through two points	
23. The construction of a field	
24. Properties of the field functions	
25. Two important auxiliary formulas	
26. The invariant integral of the field	
27. The sufficiency proof	

CHAPTER	PAGE
28. The case when the initial velocity is zero	
29. The path of quickest descent from a point to a curve. First necessary conditions	
30. The envelope theorem and the analogue of Jacobi's condition	
31. Sufficient conditions	
32. The path of quickest descent from a curve to a point	
33. The determination of the focal point	
IV. SURFACES OF REVOLUTION OF MINIMUM AREA . . .	85
34. Preliminary remarks concerning the problem	
35. The proof that the minimizing arc is a catenary	
36. The one-parameter family of catenaries through a point	
37. Proofs of the properties of the family	
38. Two important auxiliary formulas	
39. The envelope theorem and Jacobi's condition	
40. The construction of a field	
41. Properties of the field functions	
42. The sufficiency proof	
43. Solutions consisting of straight-line segments	
44. A second type of field	
45. The continuity of the extremal integral	
46. The absolute minimum	
47. Soap films	
48. The case of one variable end-point	
49. The geometrical construction for the focal point	
50. Further remarks concerning the catenary problem	
V. A MORE GENERAL THEORY	128
51. Formulation of the problem	
52. A summary of results	
53. The first necessary condition and two fundamental formulas	
54. The necessary conditions of Weierstrass and Legendre	
55. The envelope theorem and Jacobi's condition	
56. Further consequences of the first necessary condition	
57. The extremals	
58. Determination of conjugate points	

TABLE OF CONTENTS

xiii

CHAPTER	PAGE
59. The fundamental sufficiency theorem	
60. Sufficient conditions for relative minima	
61. Comments on the preceding conclusions	
62. A second proof of Jacobi's condition	
63. Necessary conditions when one end-point is variable	
64. Sufficient conditions when one end-point is variable	
65. The case when both end-points are variable	
66. Historical remarks	
 A LIST OF REFERENCES	180
 NOTES	182
 INDEX	187