

$$J[y] = \int_0^1 \frac{y'^2}{x^3} dx \quad y(0) = 1 \quad y(1) = 2$$

The integrand is  $F(y, y', x) = \frac{y'^2}{x^3}$

The Euler-Lagrange equation

$$\frac{d}{dx} \left( \frac{\partial F}{\partial y'} \right) = \frac{\partial F}{\partial y}$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} \left( \frac{2y'}{x^3} \right) = 0$$

$$\frac{2(xy'' - 3y')}{x^4} = 0$$

This yields  $xy'' - 3y' = 0$  or  $\frac{y''}{y'} = \frac{3}{x}$

Integrating the last expression gives

$$\int \frac{y''}{y'} = 3 \int \frac{dx}{x}$$

$$\ln y' = 3 \ln x + C$$

$$\ln \left( \frac{y'}{x^3} \right) = C \quad \text{and} \quad y' = Cx^3$$

Then we integrate again and get

$$\int dy = \int Cx^3 dx$$

$$y = Ax^4 + B$$

Constants  $A$  and  $B$  are determined from the

boundary conditions  $y(0) = 1$   $y(1) = 2$  :

$$1 = B \quad 2 = A + 1 \Rightarrow A = 1$$

So the solution is

$$y(x) = x^4 + 1$$