

Existence of scalar minimizers for nonconvex 1-dim integrals of the calculus of variations

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Abstract

We prove existence of minimizers for the nonconvex integral

$$\int_a^b l(x(t), x'(t)) dt$$

among the AC functions $x : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ with $x(a) = A$, $x(b) = B$. The lagrangian $l : \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow [0, +\infty]$ is assumed $\mathcal{L} \otimes \mathcal{B}$ -measurable with coercive growth, having $l(s, \cdot)$ lsc, and $l^{**}(\cdot)$ lsc at $(s, 0)$, $\forall s$. (Here $l^{**}(s, \cdot)$ is the closed convex hull of $l(s, \cdot)$.)

Besides these basic hypotheses we impose an extra hypothesis, to be chosen among several possibilities (e.g. zero-convexity).