CONTENTS

PART I CRITICAL EXTREMALS

1 Minimizing Extremals g: Fixed Endpoints **9**

1 The Euler Equations, 9
2 The Existence of Extremals Near g, 13
3 The Necessary Conditions of Weierstrass and Legendre, 17
4 The Jacobi Condition, 19
5 Conjugate Points in the Nonsingular Case, 23
6 The Hilbert Integral, 31
7 Sufficient Conditions, 39

2 The Algebraic Index of a Critical Extremal g **48**

8 General End Conditions C_r, Locally Defined, 49
9 C_r-Transversality Conditions on g, 53
10 The Second Variation of (J,C_r), $r > 0$, 56
11 Critical Secondary Extremals: Endpoints Variable, 64
12 Critical Secondary Extremals: Endpoints Fixed, 73

PART II QUADRATIC INDEX FORMS, DERIVED AND FREE

3 Derived Index Forms **79**

13 The Framed Family Γ^λ of Broken λ-Extremals, 79
14 The "Geometric" Index of a Critical Extremal g, 85

4 Free Index Forms **93**

15 Free Linear Differential and Boundary Conditions, 93
16 Relative Minima under General End Conditions C_r, 106

PART III FOCAL CONDITIONS AND STURM-LIKE THEOREMS

5 The Focal Point Theorem **117**

17 Focal Conditions, Derived and Free, 117
18 Conjugate Families (von Escherich), 124
19 Proof of Focal Point Theorem 17.3, 128

6 Sturm-Like Theorems in E_{m+1} **140**

20 The Separation Theorem in E_{m+1}, 140
21 Comparison of Free Focal Conditions, 144
22 The Sturm Comparisons When $m = 1$, 155
23 The Variation of Conjugate Points, 164

PART IV GENERAL BOUNDARY CONDITIONS

7 The Oscillation Number, Index W_0 **169**

24 Conjugate Points and Characteristic Roots, 169
25 The Auxiliary Theorem on Quadratic Forms, 172
26 Proof of Oscillation Theorem 24.1, 174
27 Quadratic End Forms of the System W_r, 176
28 A Minimizing Periodic Extremal g, 181

8 Selfadjoint Boundary Conditions **185**

29 General Mixed Boundary Conditions, 185
30 Conditions for Selfadjointness, 188
31 The Reduction of Selfadjoint BC to Canonical Form, 190

PART V PRESTRUCTURES FOR CHARACTERISTIC ROOT THEORY

9 Admissible Canonical Systems $\dot{W}_r$ **197**

32 The Dependence on λ, 197
33 Canonical Systems $\dot{W}_r$, 202

10 The Existence of Characteristic Roots **209**

34 Selfconjugate Limit Values, 209
35 Comparison of Characteristic Roots, 216
36 The $\dot{W}_r$-Nuclear Comparison Test, 219
37 Oscillation Criteria, 224

APPENDIX I FREE LINEAR CONDITIONS

1 Free Second-Order Differential Equations 229

2 Solution of the Differential Equations (1.5) 231

3 Conjugate Points 232

4 Second-Order DE with a Parameter α 236

5 The End Space $((W_\tau))$ of W_τ 238

APPENDIX II SUBORDINATE QUADRATIC FORMS AND THEIR COMPLEMENTARY FORMS

1 Auxiliary Theorem 25.1 241

2 The Case of a Nonsingular Form $P(0,s)$ 243

3 Proof of Theorem 25.1 Completed 246

APPENDIX III MODEL FAMILIES OF QUADRATIC FORMS

1 Model Families F 250

2 Model Families G 251

3 The Principal Theorem of Appendix III 253

References 255

Index 259