

Lagrange Multipliers

Let f and g are two functions in three variables

To find the maximum or minimum value of $f(x, y, z)$
 subject to constraint $g(x, y, z) = 0$

* Do the following.

1 Solve the Eqs $\nabla f = \lambda \nabla g, g(x, y, z) = 0$

λ is called Lagrange Multiplier

to get all solutions $(x_1, y_1, z_1, \lambda_1), (x_2, y_2, z_2, \lambda_2), \dots$

2 Discard λ , and find x, y and z

Remember $\nabla f = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \vec{i} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \vec{j} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \vec{k}$
grad f

3 Evaluate $f(x, y, z)$ for each solution,

The largest value yields the max. value

and the smallest value yields the min value

(Ex) Use Lagrange Multipliers to find greatest and
 smallest values of $f(x, y, z) = x + y + z$ subject to
 constraint $x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 25$

Ans:

(pb) \Rightarrow max or min $f(x, y, z) = x + y + z$
s.t $x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 25$

Solve the Eqs

$$\nabla f = \lambda \nabla g \quad (1)$$

$$-g(x, y, z) = x^2 + y^2 + z^2 - 25 = 0 \quad (2)$$

$$\nabla f = \langle 1, 1, 1 \rangle, \quad \nabla g = \langle 2x, 2y, 2z \rangle$$

$$(1) \Rightarrow \langle 1, 1, 1 \rangle = \lambda \langle 2x, 2y, 2z \rangle$$

$$\Rightarrow 1 = 2\lambda x \quad \therefore x = \frac{1}{2\lambda}$$

$$1 = 2\lambda y \quad \therefore y = \frac{1}{2\lambda}$$

$$1 = 2\lambda z \quad \therefore z = \frac{1}{2\lambda}$$

(3)

Substitute (3) in (2), we get

$$\left(\frac{1}{2\lambda}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{1}{2\lambda}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{1}{2\lambda}\right)^2 - 25 = 0$$

$$\therefore \frac{3}{4\lambda^2} = 25 \Rightarrow \lambda^2 = \frac{3}{100} \quad \therefore \lambda = \pm \frac{\sqrt{3}}{10}$$

2 Discard λ and find x, y, z from (3),

$$\Rightarrow x = \pm \frac{5}{\sqrt{3}}, \quad y = \pm \frac{5}{\sqrt{3}}, \quad z = \pm \frac{5}{\sqrt{3}}$$

3 Find the values of $f(x, y, z)$

$$f\left(\frac{5}{\sqrt{3}}, \frac{5}{\sqrt{3}}, \frac{5}{\sqrt{3}}\right) = \frac{5}{\sqrt{3}} + \frac{5}{\sqrt{3}} + \frac{5}{\sqrt{3}} = \frac{15}{\sqrt{3}} = 5\sqrt{3}$$

which is the greatest value of f

$$f\left(\frac{-5}{\sqrt{3}}, \frac{-5}{\sqrt{3}}, \frac{-5}{\sqrt{3}}\right) = \frac{-5}{\sqrt{3}} - \frac{5}{\sqrt{3}} - \frac{5}{\sqrt{3}} = -5\sqrt{3}$$

which is the smallest value of f

\therefore the max. value of f is $5\sqrt{3}$ and its min. value is $-5\sqrt{3}$.

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EX 2

If $f(x, y, z) = 4x^2 + y^2 + 5z^2$, find the point on the plane $2x + 3y + 4z = 12$ at which $f(x, y, z)$ has its least value.

Ans (pb) \Rightarrow $\min f(x, y, z) = 4x^2 + y^2 + 5z^2$
s.t. $2x + 3y + 4z = 12$

1 Solve the Eqns

$$\nabla f = \lambda \nabla g \quad (1)$$

$$g(x, y, z) = 2x + 3y + 4z - 12 = 0 \quad (2)$$

$$\therefore \nabla f = \langle 8x, 2y, 10z \rangle, \nabla g = \langle 2, 3, 4 \rangle$$

$$(1) \Rightarrow \langle 8x, 2y, 10z \rangle = \lambda \langle 2, 3, 4 \rangle$$

$$\therefore \begin{cases} 8x = 2\lambda \\ 2y = 3\lambda \\ 10z = 4\lambda \end{cases}$$

\Rightarrow

$$\begin{cases} x = \frac{1}{4}\lambda \\ y = \frac{3}{2}\lambda \\ z = \frac{2}{5}\lambda \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

Subs. (3) in (2)

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{2}\lambda + \frac{9}{2}\lambda + \frac{8}{5}\lambda - 12 = 0$$

$$\frac{66}{10}\lambda = 12 \quad \therefore \lambda = \frac{20}{11}$$

2 Discard λ and find x, y, z from Eq. (3)

$$x = \frac{1}{4} \left(\frac{20}{11} \right) = \frac{5}{11}$$

$$y = \frac{3}{2} \left(\frac{20}{11} \right) = \frac{30}{11}$$

$$z = \frac{2}{5} \left(\frac{20}{11} \right) = \frac{8}{11}$$

(3) \Rightarrow

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3 Find the values of $f(x, y, z)$
on the critical points

There is only one critical point which is
 $(\frac{5}{11}, \frac{30}{11}, \frac{8}{11})$

$$\Rightarrow f\left(\frac{5}{11}, \frac{30}{11}, \frac{8}{11}\right)$$

$$= 4\left(\frac{5}{11}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{30}{11}\right)^2 + 5\left(\frac{8}{11}\right)^2$$

$$= \frac{120}{11} \approx 10.91$$

which is the min. value of function f occurs

at $P\left(\frac{5}{11}, \frac{30}{11}, \frac{8}{11}\right)$.

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