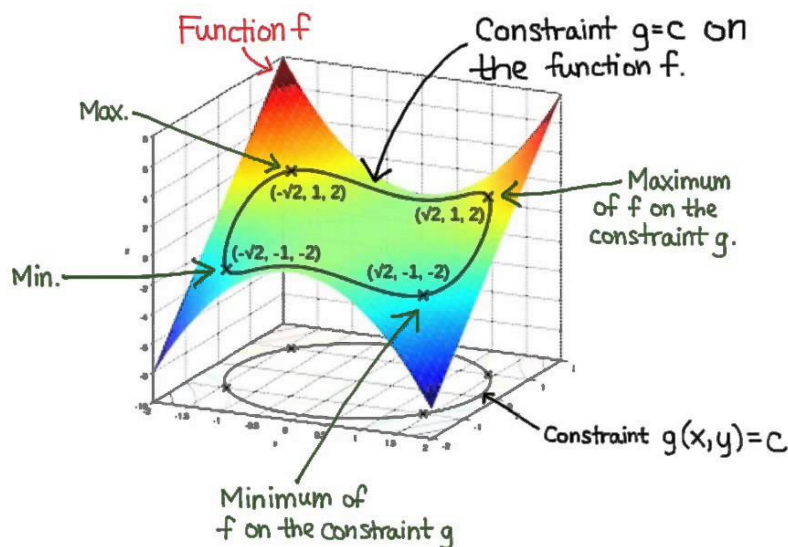




F19_LN_1...

14.8: Lagrange Multipliers

PROBLEM: Maximize/minimize a general function $z = f(x, y)$ subject to a constraint (or side condition) of the form $g(x, y) = c$.



<http://4.bp.blogspot.com/-wwTBUQGsfyQ/VqH2rKDMoNI/AAAAAAAAADM/7SD6-oKJPUM/s1600/maxresdefault.jpg>

METHOD OF LAGRANGE MULTIPLIERS: To Maximize/minimize a general function $z = f(x, y)$ subject to a constraint of the form $g(x, y) = c$ (assuming that these extreme values exist):

1. Find all values x, y and λ (a Lagrange multiplier) s.t.

$$\nabla f(x, y) = \lambda \nabla g(x, y) \Leftrightarrow \nabla f(x, y) \parallel \nabla g(x, y)$$

and

$$g(x, y) = c$$

2. Evaluate f at all points (x, y) that arise from the previous step. The largest of these values is the max f ; the smallest is the min f .

Rewrite the system

is the max f ; the smallest is the min f .

Rewrite the system

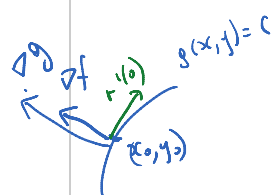
$$\begin{aligned}\nabla f(x, y) &= \lambda \nabla g(x, y) \\ g(x, y) &= c\end{aligned}$$

in component form:

$$\begin{cases} f_x(x, y) = \lambda g_x(x, y) \\ f_y(x, y) = \lambda g_y(x, y) \\ g(x, y) = c \end{cases}$$

EXPLANATION via properties of gradient

Assume that f has ^{local} extremum at (x_0, y_0) under $g(x, y) = c$



$g(x, y) = c$ is some curve in \mathbb{R}^2

Parametrize it: $\begin{cases} x = x(t) \\ y = y(t) \end{cases} \Leftrightarrow \vec{r} = \vec{r}(t)$ s.t. $\begin{cases} x(0) = x_0 \\ y(0) = y_0 \end{cases}$

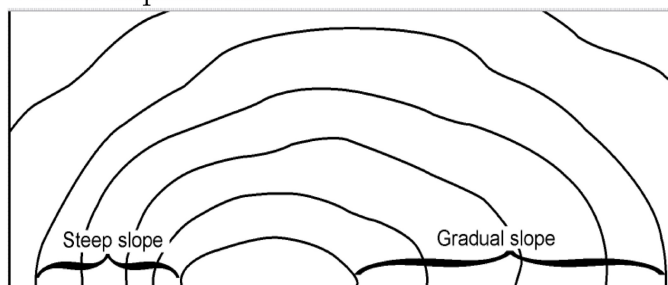
$t \rightarrow f(x(t), y(t))$ has a local extremum at $t = 0$

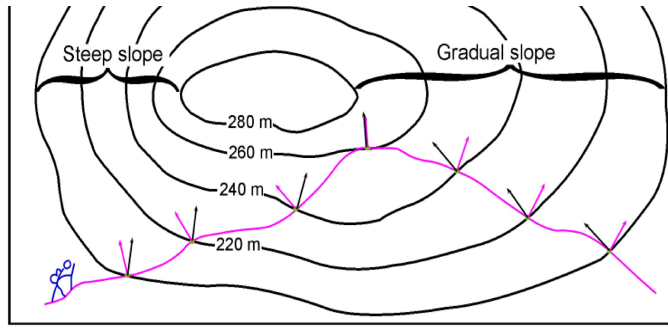
$$\begin{aligned}0 &= \frac{d}{dt} \Big|_{t=0} f(x(t), y(t)) \stackrel{\text{Chain rule}}{=} \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(x_0, y_0) x'(0) + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}(x_0, y_0) y'(0) = \\ &= \nabla f(x_0, y_0) \cdot \vec{r}'(0) = 0 \Rightarrow \nabla f \perp \vec{r}'(0)\end{aligned}$$

On the other hand, $\nabla g \perp \vec{r}'(0)$, because ∇g is orthogonal to level curves

$$\begin{aligned}\nabla f|_{(x_0, y_0)} \perp \vec{r}'(0) \\ \nabla g|_{x, y} \perp \vec{r}'(0) \Rightarrow \nabla f(x_0, y_0) \parallel \nabla g(x_0, y_0)\end{aligned}$$

Visual explanation





<https://math.stackexchange.com/questions/686538/how-to-explain-lagrange-multipliers-to-a-lay-audience/686655>

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EXAMPLE 1. Use Lagrange multipliers to find the maximum and minimum values of $f(x, y) = x^2 + y^2$ subject to $x^4 + y^4 = 1$.

Find x, y, λ satisfying:

$$\begin{cases} f_x = \lambda g_x \\ f_y = \lambda g_y \\ g = 1 \end{cases} \Leftrightarrow \begin{cases} 2x = \lambda \cdot 4x^3 \\ 2y = \lambda \cdot 4y^3 \\ x^4 + y^4 = 1 \end{cases} \Leftrightarrow \begin{cases} x - 2\lambda x^3 = 0 \\ y - 2\lambda y^3 = 0 \\ x^4 + y^4 = 1 \end{cases} \Leftrightarrow \begin{cases} x(1 - 2\lambda x^2) = 0 \text{ (Eq 1)} \\ y(1 - 2\lambda y^2) = 0 \text{ (Eq 4)} \\ x^4 + y^4 = 1 \text{ (Eq 3)} \end{cases}$$

From the 1st eq: $x=0$
 \Downarrow (Eq 3)

$y^4 = 1 \Rightarrow y = 1$ or $y = -1$

\Downarrow (Eq 2)

$1 - 2\lambda = 0 \Rightarrow \lambda = \frac{1}{2}$

$(x, y) = (0, 1)$ is a crit. point with $\lambda = \frac{1}{2}$

Similarly

$(x, y) = (0, -1)$ is a crit. point with $\lambda = \frac{1}{2}$

or $1 - 2\lambda x^2 = 0$
 \Downarrow from (Eq 2)

$y = 0$ or $1 - 2\lambda y^2 = 0$

\Downarrow

in the same as for $x=0$

$(x, y) = (\pm 1, 0)$ is a crit. point with $\lambda = \frac{1}{2}$

$$\begin{cases} 1 - 2\lambda x^2 = 0 & (4) \\ 1 - 2\lambda y^2 = 0 & (5) \\ x^4 + y^4 = 1 & (6) \end{cases}$$

(4) & (5) \Rightarrow

$x^2 = y^2 = \frac{1}{2\lambda}$

\Downarrow plug into (6)

$2y^4 = 1 \Rightarrow$

$y = \pm \frac{1}{\sqrt[4]{2}} = \pm x$

\Downarrow

4 crit. point $(\pm \frac{1}{\sqrt[4]{2}}, \pm \frac{1}{\sqrt[4]{2}})$

$f = x^2 + y^2$

Calculate f in all crit. points and compare

$f(0, \pm 1) = f(\pm 1, 0) = 1 \rightarrow \min$

$1 < \sqrt{2}$

$1 + 1 + 1 + 1 - 1 + 1 - 2 = \sqrt{2}$

$$f(0, \pm 1) = f(\pm 1, 0) = \underline{1} \rightarrow \dots$$

$$1 < \sqrt{2}$$

$$f\left(\pm \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, \pm \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} = \frac{2}{\sqrt{2}} = \underline{\sqrt{2}} \rightarrow \text{max}$$

$$1 \text{ crit. point} \\ \left(\pm \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, \pm \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right)$$

Answer : min = 1
max = $\sqrt{2}$