

Lagrange Multiplier

1. Uses:

- The Lagrange multiplier is used to find the max and min values of a function, f , subject to constraints.

2. Thms:

1. Let $f: D \subset \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and $g: D \subset \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be of class C^1 and let $x_0 \in D$ and $g(x_0) = c$. Let $S = \{x \in D \mid g(x) = c\}$.

Assume that $\nabla g(x_0) \neq 0$. If x_0 is an ext of f on S , then there is a real number, λ , s.t. $\nabla f(x_0) = \lambda \nabla g(x_0)$.

2. If f , when constrained to a surface S , has a max or min at x_0 , then $\nabla f(x_0) \perp S$.

3. Extreme Value Theorem (EVT):

- Def:

Let D be a **compact** (Bounded and Closed) set in $\mathbb{R}^n$ and let $f: D \subset \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be cont. Then, f has both a global max and global min on D .

4. How to Find Max and Min Values Using Lagrange Multipliers:

- General Method:

Let $a = (a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n) \in \mathbb{R}^n$ be an ext for $f: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ subject to the constraint $g(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) = c$. To find the coordinates of a , we solve the system:

$$1. \nabla f(a) = \lambda \nabla g(a)$$

$$2. g(a) - c = 0$$

Note:

1. λ is called a **Lagrange Multiplier**.
2. " a " gives a constrained crit point.
3. This process is called **The Method of Lagrange Multiplier**.

- Steps:

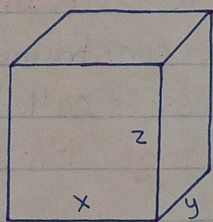
1. Construct a new function $L: \mathbb{R}^{n+1} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ by $L(x, \lambda) = f(x) - \lambda(g(x) - c)$. L is called the **Lagrange Function** or the **Lagrangian**.
2. Find all the crit points of L about λ and the constrained crit points of f .

3. Evaluate all the constrained critical points of f . The largest is the maximum value of f and the smallest is the minimum value of f .

5. Examples:

1. Find the dimensions of the box with the largest possible volume if the box's S.A. is 64 cm^2 .

Soln:



$$\text{Vol} = xyz$$

$$\text{S.A.} = 2xy + 2xz + 2yz = 64$$

$$\rightarrow xy + xz + yz = 32$$

$$f(x, y, z) = xyz$$

$$g(x, y, z) = xy + xz + yz = 32 = c$$

$$L = f(x, y, z) - \lambda(g(x, y, z))$$

$$= xyz - \lambda(xy + xz + yz - 32)$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial x} = yz - \lambda y - \lambda z = 0 \quad (1)$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial y} = xz - \lambda x - \lambda z = 0 \quad (2)$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial z} = xy - \lambda x - \lambda y = 0 \quad (3)$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial \lambda} = xy + xz + yz - 3z = 0 \quad (4)$$

From (1), we get: $\lambda z = yz - \lambda y$.

From (2), we get: $\lambda z = xz - \lambda x$.

$$xz - \lambda x = yz - \lambda y$$

$$xz - yz = \lambda x - \lambda y$$

$$z(x-y) = \lambda(x-y)$$

Either:

$$1. z = \lambda$$

$$2. x = y$$

If $z = \lambda$, then in (1), we would have $\lambda y - \lambda y - \lambda^2 = 0$, which leads us to $\lambda = 0$, which means $z = 0$. However, if $z = 0$, the volume = 0. Therefore, $\lambda \neq z$.

If $x = y$, then (3) would become $y^2 - 2\lambda y = 0 \rightarrow y(y - 2\lambda) = 0$. For the same reason as above, $y \neq 0$, so $y = 2\lambda$. This means that $x = 2\lambda$.

Plugging $x=2\lambda$ into (2), we get
 $2\lambda z - 2\lambda^2 - \lambda z = 0 \rightarrow \lambda z - 2\lambda^2 = 0$.

$\lambda(z-2\lambda)=0$. $\lambda \neq 0$ because if it did, x, y , or z would equal 0. Therefore $z=2\lambda$.

We have:

1. $x=2\lambda$

2. $y=2\lambda$

3. $z=2\lambda$

Plugging all 3 into (4), we get:

$$3(2\lambda)^2 = 32$$

$$\lambda^2 = \frac{32}{12}$$

$$= \frac{8}{3}$$

$$\lambda = \pm \sqrt{\frac{8}{3}}$$

$\lambda \neq -\sqrt{\frac{8}{3}}$ because if it did, then the volume would be negative.

$$\therefore \lambda = \sqrt{\frac{8}{3}}$$

$\therefore x=y=z = \sqrt{\frac{32}{3}}$, and the volume of the box is around 34.84 cm^3 .

To test that the max volume of the box is 34.84 cm^3 , we find another point that satisfies the constraint and we plug it into f .

Take the point $(1, 1, \frac{31}{2})$. $f(1, 1, \frac{31}{2}) = 15.5$
 < 34.84

Therefore, the dimensions that give the max vol of the box is $\sqrt[3]{\frac{32}{3}}$ and the max vol of the box is 34.84 .

2. Find the max and min of $f(x, y) = 5x - 3y$ Subject to the constraint $x^2 + y^2 = 136$.

Soln:

Note: From the constraint it is clear that the region of possible solns lies on a circle of radius $\sqrt{136}$, which is closed and bounded.

I.e. $-\sqrt{136} \leq x, y \leq \sqrt{136}$

$\therefore$ By **EVT**, we know that a max and min value must occur.

$$f(x, y) = 5x - 3y$$

$$g(x, y) = x^2 + y^2 = 136 = c$$

$$L = f - \lambda(g)$$

$$= 5x - 3y - \lambda(x^2 + y^2 - 136)$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial x} = 5 - 2\lambda x = 0 \rightarrow x = \frac{5}{2\lambda}, \lambda \neq 0$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial y} = -3 - 2\lambda y = 0 \rightarrow y = \frac{-3}{2\lambda}, \lambda \neq 0$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial \lambda} = x^2 + y^2 - 136 = 0$$

Plugging our values of x and y into

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial \lambda}, \text{ we get: } \frac{25}{4\lambda^2} + \frac{9}{4\lambda^2} = 136$$

$$\lambda^2 = \frac{34}{544}$$

$$= \frac{1}{16}$$

$$\lambda = \pm \frac{1}{4}$$

$$x = \pm 10$$

$$y = \mp 6$$

We get 2 crit points:

1. $(10, -6)$

2. $(-10, 6)$

To find the max and min, we plug both points into $f(x, y)$ and see which one is bigger and which one is smaller.

$$f(10, -6) = 68 \quad \text{Max}$$

$$f(-10, 6) = -68 \quad \text{Min}$$

3. Find the max and min values of $f(x, y) = 4x^2 + 10y^2$ on the disk $x^2 + y^2 \leq 4$.

Soln:

Note: Because this is a compact set, EVT tells us that there will be a max and a min.

Furthermore, we have to split $x^2 + y^2 \leq 4$ into:

1. $x^2 + y^2 < 4$

2. $x^2 + y^2 = 4$

Interior ($x^2+y^2 < 4$):

$$f_x = 8x = 0 \rightarrow x = 0$$

$$f_y = 20y = 0 \rightarrow y = 0$$

We need to check if $(0,0)$ is within the interior.

$$0^2 + 0^2 = 0$$

< 4 , as wanted

$\therefore (0,0)$ is a crit point.

Boundary ($x^2+y^2 = 4$):

$$f(x,y) = 4x^2 + 10y^2$$

$$g(x,y) = x^2 + y^2 = 4 = c$$

$$L = f - \lambda g$$

$$= 4x^2 + 10y^2 - \lambda(x^2 + y^2 - 4)$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial x} = 8x - 2\lambda x = 0 \rightarrow x(4 - \lambda) = 0$$

$x = 0$ or $\lambda = 4$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial y} = 20y - 2\lambda y = 0 \rightarrow y(10 - \lambda) = 0$$

$y = 0$ or $\lambda = 10$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial \lambda} = x^2 + y^2 - 4 = 0$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{If } x=0, \quad y^2-4 &= 0 \\ y^2 &= 4 \\ y &= \pm 2\end{aligned}$$

$(0, -2)$ and $(0, 2)$ are 2 crit points.

$$\begin{aligned}\text{If } y=0, \quad x^2 &= 4 \\ x &= \pm 2\end{aligned}$$

$(-2, 0)$ and $(2, 0)$ are 2 crit points.

$$\begin{aligned}\text{If } \lambda=4, \quad 20y-2(4)y &= 0 \\ 12y &= 0 \\ y &= 0\end{aligned}$$

We already covered this.

$$\begin{aligned}\text{If } \lambda=10, \quad 8x-20x &= 0 \\ -12x &= 0 \\ x &= 0\end{aligned}$$

We already covered this.

In total, we have 5 crit points:

1. $(0, 0)$ $f(0, 0) = 0$ Min
2. $(0, -2)$ $f(0, -2) = 40$ Max
3. $(0, 2)$ $f(0, 2) = 40$ Max
4. $(2, 0)$ $f(2, 0) = 16$
5. $(-2, 0)$ $f(-2, 0) = 16$

4. Find the max and min of $f(x,y,z) = 4y - 2z$ subject to the constraints $2x - y - z = 2$ and $x^2 + y^2 = 1$.

Soln:

Note: Here, there are 2 constraints.

Furthermore, because x and y are bounded; $-1 \leq x, y \leq 1$; z is also bounded. Therefore, by EVT, there must be a max and a min.

$$f(x,y,z) = 4y - 2z$$

$$g_1(x,y,z) = 2x - y - z = 2 = c$$

$$g_2(x,y,z) = x^2 + y^2 = 1 = d$$

$$L = f - \lambda_1(g_1) - \lambda_2(g_2)$$

$$= 4y - 2z - \lambda_1(2x - y - z - 2) - \lambda_2(x^2 + y^2 - 1)$$

$$L_x = -2\lambda_1 - 2\lambda_2 x = 0 \rightarrow \lambda_1 = -\lambda_2 x$$

$$L_y = 4 + \lambda_1 - 2\lambda_2 y = 0 \rightarrow \lambda_1 = 2\lambda_2 y - 4$$

$$L_{\lambda_1} = 2x - y - z - 2 = 0$$

$$L_{\lambda_2} = x^2 + y^2 - 1 = 0$$

$$L_z = -2 + \lambda_1 = 0 \rightarrow \lambda_1 = 2$$

$$x = -\frac{2}{\lambda_2}$$

$$2 = 2\lambda_2 y - 4$$

$$6 = 2\lambda_2 y$$

$$3 = \lambda_2 y$$

$$y = \frac{3}{\lambda_2}$$

Plugging the values of x and y into $L\lambda_2$, we get:

$$\left(-\frac{2}{\lambda_2}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{3}{\lambda_2}\right)^2 = 1$$

$$\frac{13}{(\lambda_2)^2} = 1$$

$$(\lambda_2)^2 = 13$$

$$\lambda_2 = \pm \sqrt{13}$$

$$x = \mp \frac{2}{\sqrt{13}}, \quad y = \pm \frac{3}{\sqrt{13}}$$

Plugging in the values of x and y into $L\lambda_1$, we get:

$$1. \quad 2\left(-\frac{2}{\sqrt{13}}\right) - \left(\frac{3}{\sqrt{13}}\right) - z = 2$$

$$-\frac{7}{\sqrt{13}} - z = 2$$

$$z = -\left(2 + \frac{7}{\sqrt{13}}\right)$$

$$2. \quad 2\left(\frac{2}{\sqrt{13}}\right) - \left(-\frac{3}{\sqrt{13}}\right) - z = 2$$

$$\frac{7}{\sqrt{13}} - z = 2$$

$$z = -\left(2 - \frac{7}{\sqrt{13}}\right)$$

The 2 critical points found are:

$$1. \quad \left(-\frac{2}{\sqrt{13}}, \frac{3}{\sqrt{13}}, -2 - \frac{7}{\sqrt{13}}\right) \rightarrow f(\dots) = 11.2 \text{ Max}$$

$$2. \quad \left(\frac{2}{\sqrt{13}}, \frac{-3}{\sqrt{13}}, -2 + \frac{7}{\sqrt{13}}\right) \rightarrow f(\dots) = -3.2 \text{ Min}$$