

CONSTRAINED OPTIMIZATION: LAGRANGE MULTIPLIERS [SST 11.8]

EX 11.8.3: Using one Lagrange Multiplier λ , minimize $f(x, y, z) = x - 2y + z$ subject to constraint $x^2 + 2y^2 + 3z^2 = 6$.

Let $g(x, y, z)$ be the LHS of the constraint: $g(x, y, z) = x^2 + 2y^2 + 3z^2$

Compute the gradients of f & g :

$$\nabla f = \left\langle \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \right\rangle = \langle 1, -2, 1 \rangle \qquad \nabla g = \left\langle \frac{\partial g}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial g}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial g}{\partial z} \right\rangle = \langle 2x, 4y, 6z \rangle$$

Solve the nonlinear system:
$$\begin{cases} \nabla f = \lambda \nabla g \\ g(x, y, z) = 6 \end{cases} \implies \begin{cases} f_x = \lambda g_x \\ f_y = \lambda g_y \\ f_z = \lambda g_z \\ g(x, y, z) = 6 \end{cases} \implies \begin{cases} 1 = 2x\lambda \\ -2 = 4y\lambda \\ 1 = 6z\lambda \\ x^2 + 2y^2 + 3z^2 = 6 \end{cases}$$

Observe that $x \neq 0$, $y \neq 0$, $z \neq 0$, and $\lambda \neq 0$ (Do you see why??)

This observation allows us to safely divide by any of the variables, if necessary.

In the top three equations, solve for each variable in terms of λ :

$$1 = 2x\lambda \implies x = \frac{1}{2\lambda}, \qquad -2 = 4y\lambda \implies y = -\frac{1}{2\lambda}, \qquad 1 = 6z\lambda \implies z = \frac{1}{6\lambda}$$

Plug each λ -expression for x, y, z into the constraint (bottom equation):

$$\left(\frac{1}{2\lambda}\right)^2 + 2\left(-\frac{1}{2\lambda}\right)^2 + 3\left(\frac{1}{6\lambda}\right)^2 = 6 \implies \frac{1}{4} \cdot \frac{1}{\lambda^2} + \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{\lambda^2} + \frac{1}{12} \cdot \frac{1}{\lambda^2} = 6 \implies \frac{5}{6} \cdot \frac{1}{\lambda^2} = 6 \implies \lambda^2 = \frac{5}{36} \implies \lambda = \pm \frac{\sqrt{5}}{6}$$

Find the corresponding values of x, y, z :

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda = -\frac{\sqrt{5}}{6} &\implies x = \frac{1}{2\lambda} = \frac{1}{2} \left(-\frac{\sqrt{5}}{6}\right) = -\frac{3}{\sqrt{5}}, \quad y = -\frac{1}{2\lambda} = -\frac{1}{2} \left(-\frac{\sqrt{5}}{6}\right) = \frac{3}{\sqrt{5}}, \quad z = \frac{1}{6\lambda} = \frac{1}{6} \left(-\frac{\sqrt{5}}{6}\right) = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \\ \lambda = \frac{\sqrt{5}}{6} &\implies x = \frac{1}{2\lambda} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\sqrt{5}}{6}\right) = \frac{3}{\sqrt{5}}, \quad y = -\frac{1}{2\lambda} = -\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\sqrt{5}}{6}\right) = -\frac{3}{\sqrt{5}}, \quad z = \frac{1}{6\lambda} = \frac{1}{6} \left(\frac{\sqrt{5}}{6}\right) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, the CCP's of f are $\left(-\frac{3}{\sqrt{5}}, \frac{3}{\sqrt{5}}, -\frac{1}{\sqrt{5}}\right), \left(\frac{3}{\sqrt{5}}, -\frac{3}{\sqrt{5}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}}\right)$

Finally, build a table computing f at each CCP:

| | | |
|--------------|---|--|
| (x, y, z) | $\left(-\frac{3}{\sqrt{5}}, \frac{3}{\sqrt{5}}, -\frac{1}{\sqrt{5}}\right)$ | $\left(\frac{3}{\sqrt{5}}, -\frac{3}{\sqrt{5}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}}\right)$ |
| $f(x, y, z)$ | $-\frac{10}{\sqrt{5}}$ | $\frac{10}{\sqrt{5}}$ |
| Result | Abs Min | |

$$\begin{aligned} x &\geq 0 \\ y &\geq 0 \\ z &\geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

EX 11.8.4: Using one Lagrange Multiplier λ , maximize $f(x, y, z) = xyz$ subject to constraint $x + y + z = 1$, where

Let $g(x, y, z)$ be the LHS of the constraint: $g(x, y, z) = x + y + z$

Compute the gradients of f & g :

$$\nabla f = \left\langle \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \right\rangle = \langle yz, xz, xy \rangle \quad \nabla g = \left\langle \frac{\partial g}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial g}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial g}{\partial z} \right\rangle = \langle 1, 1, 1 \rangle$$

Solve the nonlinear system:
$$\begin{cases} \nabla f = \lambda \nabla g \\ g(x, y, z) = 1 \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} f_x = \lambda g_x \\ f_y = \lambda g_y \\ f_z = \lambda g_z \\ g(x, y, z) = 1 \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} yz = \lambda \\ xz = \lambda \\ xy = \lambda \\ x + y + z = 1 \end{cases}$$

Now,
$$\begin{cases} yz = \lambda \\ xz = \lambda \\ xy = \lambda \\ x + y + z = 1 \end{cases} \Rightarrow yz = xz = xy \Rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} yz = xz \\ \text{and} \\ xz = xy \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} yz - xz = 0 \\ \text{and} \\ xz - xy = 0 \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} z(y - x) = 0 \\ \text{and} \\ x(z - y) = 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} z = 0 \text{ or } y - x = 0 \\ \text{and} \\ x = 0 \text{ or } z - y = 0 \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} z = 0 \text{ or } y = x \\ \text{and} \\ x = 0 \text{ or } z = y \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} z = 0 \text{ and } x = 0 \\ \text{or} \\ z = 0 \text{ and } z = y \\ \text{or} \\ y = x \text{ and } x = 0 \\ \text{or} \\ y = x \text{ and } z = y \end{pmatrix}$$

Apply each of these four cases to the constraint (bottom equation) and solve for x, y, z :

(CASE I) Suppose $z = 0$ and $x = 0$:

$$\text{Then, } x + y + z = 1 \Rightarrow (0) + y + (0) = 1 \Rightarrow y = 1 \Rightarrow (0, 1, 0) \text{ is a CCP of } f$$

(CASE II) Suppose $z = 0$ and $z = y$:

$$\text{Then, } y = 0 \text{ and } x + y + z = 1 \Rightarrow x + (0) + (0) = 1 \Rightarrow x = 1 \Rightarrow (1, 0, 0) \text{ is a CCP of } f$$

(CASE III) Suppose $y = x$ and $x = 0$:

$$\text{Then, } y = 0 \text{ and } x + y + z = 1 \Rightarrow (0) + (0) + z = 1 \Rightarrow z = 1 \Rightarrow (0, 0, 1) \text{ is a CCP of } f$$

(CASE IV) Suppose $y = x$ and $z = y$:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Then, } x = y = z \text{ and } x + y + z = 1 &\Rightarrow x + x + x = 1 \Rightarrow 3x = 1 \Rightarrow x = \frac{1}{3} \Rightarrow y = \frac{1}{3} \text{ and } z = \frac{1}{3} \\ &\Rightarrow \left(\frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{3}\right) \text{ is a CCP of } f \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, the CCP's of f are $(1, 0, 0)$, $(0, 1, 0)$, $(0, 0, 1)$, $\left(\frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{3}\right)$

Finally, build a table computing f at each CCP:

| | | | | |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--|
| (x, y, z) | $(1, 0, 0)$ | $(0, 1, 0)$ | $(0, 0, 1)$ | $\left(\frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{3}\right)$ |
| $f(x, y, z)$ | 0 | 0 | 0 | $\frac{1}{27}$ |
| Result | | | | Abs Max |

EX 11.8.5: Find the largest product of positive real numbers x, y such that their sum is 60.

First of all, reframe this problem as a constrained optimization problem:

Using one Lagrange Multiplier λ , maximize $f(x, y) = xy$ subject to constraint $x + y = 60$, where $x \geq 0, y \geq 0$

Let $g(x, y)$ be the LHS of the constraint: $g(x, y) = x + y$

Compute the gradients of f & g :

$$\nabla f = \left\langle \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \right\rangle = \langle y, x \rangle \quad \nabla g = \left\langle \frac{\partial g}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial g}{\partial y} \right\rangle = \langle 1, 1 \rangle$$

Solve the nonlinear system:
$$\begin{cases} \nabla f = \lambda \nabla g \\ g(x, y) = 60 \end{cases} \implies \begin{cases} f_x = \lambda g_x \\ f_y = \lambda g_y \\ g(x, y) = 60 \end{cases} \implies \begin{cases} y = \lambda \\ x = \lambda \\ x + y = 60 \end{cases}$$

Plug the top two equations into the constraint (bottom equation) and solve for λ :

$$x + y = 60 \implies (\lambda) + (\lambda) = 60 \implies 2\lambda = 60 \implies \lambda = 30$$

Find the corresponding values of x, y :

$$x = \lambda = 30 \text{ and } y = \lambda = 30 \implies (30, 30) \text{ is the only CCP of } f$$

Since there is only one CCP, pick another point on the constraint:

Remember that $x \geq 0, y \geq 0$ (see the "reframing problem as constrained optimization" above)

Let $x = 20$, then $(20) + y = 60 \implies y = 40$

Therefore, $(20, 40)$ is a point on the constraint

Finally, build a table computing f at each CCP:

| | | |
|-----------|-----------------|----------|
| (x, y) | (30, 30) | (20, 40) |
| $f(x, y)$ | 900 | 800 |
| Result | Abs Max | |

EX 11.8.6: Find the smallest sum of positive real numbers x, y, z such that their product is 64.

First of all, reframe this problem as a constrained optimization problem:

Using one Lagrange Multiplier λ , minimize $f(x, y) = x + y + z$ s.t. constraint $xyz = 64$, where $x \geq 0, y \geq 0, z \geq 0$

Let $g(x, y, z)$ be the LHS of the constraint: $g(x, y, z) = xyz$

Compute the gradients of f & g :

$$\nabla f = \left\langle \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \right\rangle = \langle 1, 1, 1 \rangle \quad \nabla g = \left\langle \frac{\partial g}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial g}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial g}{\partial z} \right\rangle = \langle yz, xz, xy \rangle$$

Solve the nonlinear system:
$$\begin{cases} \nabla f = \lambda \nabla g \\ g(x, y, z) = 64 \end{cases} \implies \begin{cases} f_x = \lambda g_x \\ f_y = \lambda g_y \\ f_z = \lambda g_z \\ g(x, y, z) = 64 \end{cases} \implies \begin{cases} 1 = yz\lambda \\ 1 = xz\lambda \\ 1 = xy\lambda \\ xyz = 64 \end{cases}$$

Observe that $x \neq 0, y \neq 0, z \neq 0, \lambda \neq 0$ (Do you see why??)

This observation allows us to safely divide by any of the variables, if necessary.

Divide both sides of the top three equations by λ :

$$\begin{cases} 1 = yz\lambda \\ 1 = xz\lambda \\ 1 = xy\lambda \end{cases} \implies \begin{cases} 1/\lambda = yz \\ 1/\lambda = xz \\ 1/\lambda = xy \end{cases}$$

Now, since the LHS's are all equal, equate the RHS's to each other:

$$yz = xz = xy$$

Now, unpack this "chain of equalities" into a pair of equations & then simplify:

$$\begin{aligned} yz = xz = xy &\implies \begin{pmatrix} yz = xz \\ \text{and} \\ xz = xy \end{pmatrix} \implies \begin{pmatrix} yz - xz = 0 \\ \text{and} \\ xz - xy = 0 \end{pmatrix} \implies \begin{pmatrix} (y - x)z = 0 \\ \text{and} \\ x(z - y) = 0 \end{pmatrix} \implies \begin{pmatrix} y = x \text{ or } z = 0 \\ \text{and} \\ x = 0 \text{ or } z = y \end{pmatrix} \\ &\implies \begin{pmatrix} y = x \\ \text{and} \\ z = y \end{pmatrix} \implies x = y = z \end{aligned}$$

Find the corresponding values of x, y, z by using the constraint (bottom equation):

$$xyz = 64 \implies x(x)(x) = 64 \implies x^3 = 64 \implies x = 4 \implies y = 4 \text{ and } z = 4$$

Therefore, the only CCP of f is $(4, 4, 4)$.

Since there is only one CCP, pick another point on the constraint:

Remember that $x > 0, y > 0, z > 0$ (see the "reframing as constrained opt." & observation above)

Let $x = 1$ and $y = 1$, then $(1)(1)z = 64 \implies z = 64$

Therefore, $(1, 1, 64)$ is a point on the constraint

Finally, build a table computing f at each CCP:

| | | |
|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| (x, y, z) | $(4, 4, 4)$ | $(1, 1, 64)$ |
| $f(x, y, z)$ | 12 | 66 |
| Result | Abs Min | |