

Another sufficient condition of local minima/maxima

Let a function $f(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$ have continuous second order partial derivatives at a point $A \in E_n$ and let $\frac{\partial f(A)}{\partial x_i} = 0, i = 1, 2, \dots, n$

If $d^2 f(A) < 0$ for all dx_1, dx_2, \dots, dx_n , then $f(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$ has a local maximum at A .

If $d^2 f(A) > 0$ for all dx_1, dx_2, \dots, dx_n , then $f(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$ has a local minimum at A .

Relative maximum

Let $f(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$ be defined on a set $M \subseteq E_n$ and let a set U be defined by the constraints

$$\begin{aligned} g_1(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) &= 0 \\ g_2(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) &= 0 \\ &\vdots \\ g_k(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

If, for a point $A \in U$, there is a neighbourhood $N(A, \delta)$ such that $f(X) \leq f(A)$ for $X \in N(A, \delta) \cap U$, we say that $f(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$ has a local maximum at A relative to U .

Relative minimum

Let $f(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$ be defined on a set $M \subseteq E_n$ and let a set U be defined by the constraints

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If, for a point $A \in U$, there is a neighbourhood $N(A, \delta)$ such that $f(X) \geq f(A)$ for $X \in N(A, \delta) \cap U$, we say that $f(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$ has a local minimum at A relative to U .

Method of Lagrange multipliers

Let U be given by the set of constraints

$$g_i(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) = 0, i = 1, 2, \dots, k$$

We are to find local minima or maxima of $f(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$

relative to U .

First we define $L(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$ called a Lagrange function

as
$$L(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) = f(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) + \sum_{i=1}^k \lambda_i g_i(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$$

The numbers $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_k$ are called Lagrange multipliers.

We are now looking for points where the first partial derivatives of $L(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$ are equal to zero (stationary points) while satisfying the constraints. This leads to the following system of equations:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial f(X)}{\partial x_1} + \lambda_1 \frac{\partial g_1(X)}{\partial x_1} + \dots + \lambda_k \frac{\partial g_k(X)}{\partial x_1} &= 0 \\ &\vdots \\ \frac{\partial f(X)}{\partial x_n} + \lambda_1 \frac{\partial g_1(X)}{\partial x_n} + \dots + \lambda_k \frac{\partial g_k(X)}{\partial x_n} &= 0 \\ g_1(X) = g_2(X) = \dots = g_k(X) &= 0 \end{aligned} \quad (*)$$

We have $n + k$ equations for $n + k$ unknowns

$$x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, \lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_k$$

By solving (*), we find a set $M \subseteq E_n$ of candidates

for local maxima/minima.

Finally, we test each $X \in M$ whether

$$d^2L(X) < 0 \text{ (maximum) or } d^2L(X) > 0 \text{ (minimum)}$$

using the fact that the first differentials of the constraints have

to be zero at X :

$$\frac{\partial g_1(X)}{\partial x_1} dx_1 + \frac{\partial g_1(X)}{\partial x_2} dx_2 + \cdots + \frac{\partial g_1(X)}{\partial x_n} dx_n = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial g_2(X)}{\partial x_1} dx_1 + \frac{\partial g_2(X)}{\partial x_2} dx_2 + \cdots + \frac{\partial g_2(X)}{\partial x_n} dx_n = 0$$

⋮

$$\frac{\partial g_k(X)}{\partial x_1} dx_1 + \frac{\partial g_k(X)}{\partial x_2} dx_2 + \cdots + \frac{\partial g_k(X)}{\partial x_n} dx_n = 0$$

Example

$$z = xy - x + y - 1 \quad \text{Constraint: } x + y = 1$$

$$L(x, y) = xy - x + y + \lambda(x + y - 1)$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial x} = y - 1 + \lambda, \quad \frac{\partial L}{\partial y} = x + 1 + \lambda \quad \frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial x^2} = 0, \quad \frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial y^2} = 0, \quad \frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial x \partial y} = 1$$

$$\begin{array}{rcll} x & + & y & = & 1 & d^2L = dx dy \\ & & y & + & \lambda & = & 1 \\ x & & & + & \lambda & = & -1 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} x + y = 1 \Rightarrow dx + dy = 0 \Rightarrow dy = -dx \\ \Downarrow \end{array}$$

$$\text{Solution: } x = \frac{-1}{2}, y = \frac{3}{2}, \lambda = \frac{-1}{2} \quad d^2L = -dx dx < 0$$

$$\text{Relative maximum at } \left[\frac{-1}{2}; \frac{3}{2} \right]$$

Example

$$w = x^2 + y^2 + z^2 \quad \text{Constraints:} \quad \begin{aligned} x + y - 3z + 7 &= 0 \\ x - y + z - 3 &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$L(x, y, z) = x^2 + y^2 + z^2 + \lambda_1(x + y - 3z + 7) + \lambda_2(x - y + z - 3)$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial x} = 2x + \lambda_1 + \lambda_2 = 0, \quad \frac{\partial L}{\partial y} = 2y + \lambda_1 - \lambda_2 = 0, \quad \frac{\partial L}{\partial z} = 2z - 3\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 = 0$$

$$\text{Solution: } x = 0, y = -1, z = 2, \lambda_1 = 1, \lambda_2 = -1$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial x^2} = \frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial y^2} = \frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial z^2} = 2, \quad \frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial x \partial y} = \frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial x \partial z} = \frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial y \partial z} = 0$$

$$d^2 L = 2(dx^2 + dy^2 + dz^2) > 0$$

Relative minimum at $[0, -1, 2]$