



BITS Pilani
Pilani Campus

Mathematics-I

MATH F111

Dr. Ashish Tiwari

Maxima, minima and saddle points of $f(x, y)$

Critical points of $f(x)$



For a function of one variable, points, at which $f'(x) = 0$ or $f'(x)$ does not exist, are critical points

We use f'' to tell us if the point is a:

- max ($f'' < 0$)
- Min ($f'' > 0$)
- Or may be point of inflection ($f'' = 0$)

- We can use the first order partial derivatives to find critical points on a surface;
- We can then use the 2nd order partial derivatives to classify the critical points
- critical points can be *maxima*, *minima*, or saddle points

Definition:

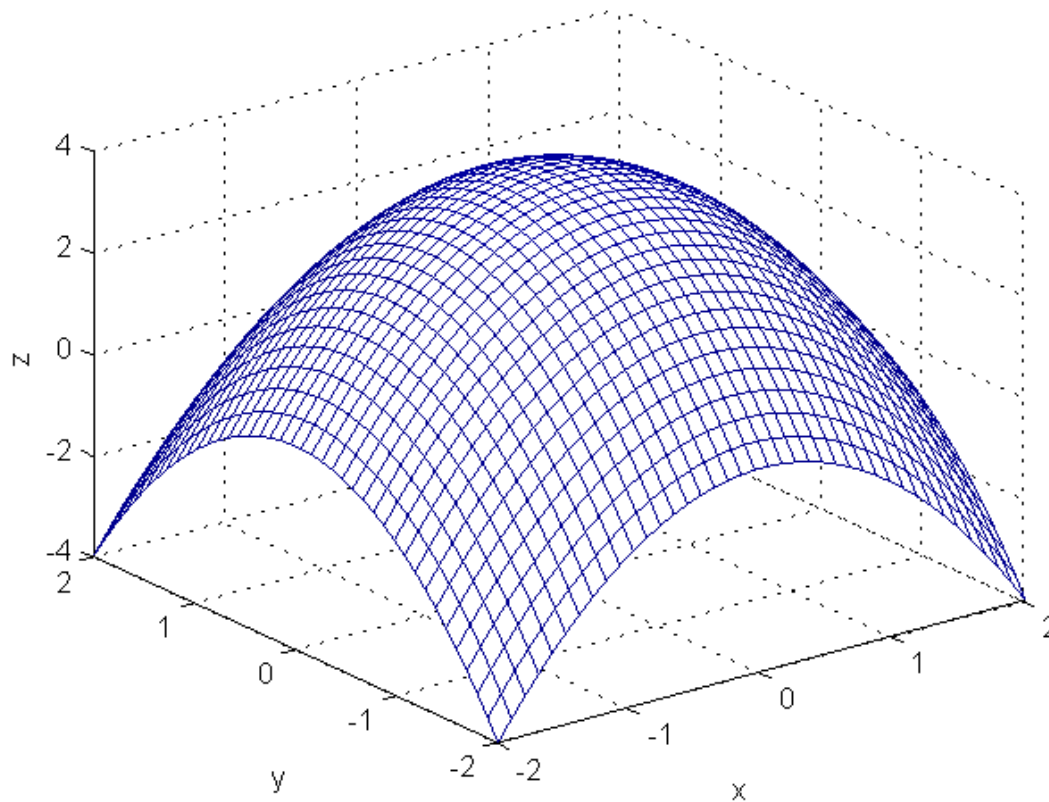
Let $f(x, y)$ be a function defined in a region R and (x_0, y_0) is an interior point of R . Then (x_0, y_0) is called critical point of f if both $f_x(x_0, y_0)$ and $f_y(x_0, y_0)$ are zero or one or both of $f_x(x_0, y_0)$ & $f_y(x_0, y_0)$ do not exist

Definitions :

Let $f(x, y)$ be a function of two variables defined on a region R containing the point (x_0, y_0) then

1. $f(x_0, y_0)$ is a **LOCAL MAXIMUM** value of f if , $f(x_0, y_0) \geq f(x, y)$ for all domain points (x, y) in an open disk centered at (x_0, y_0) , point (x_0, y_0) is then called point of maxima.

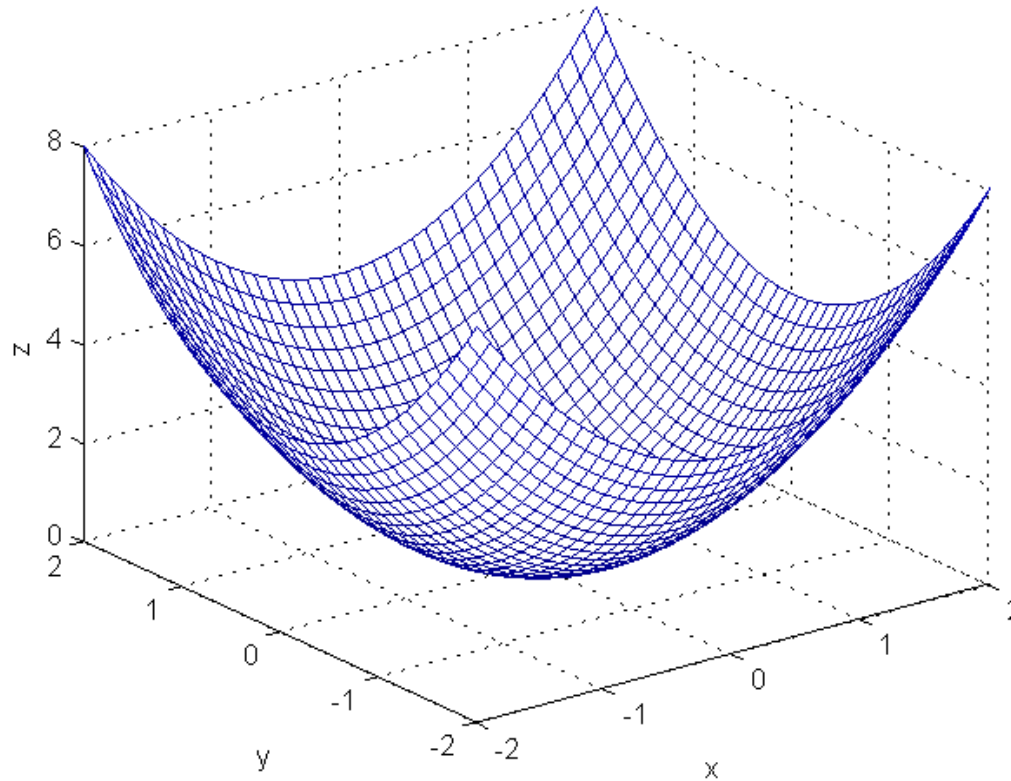
Typical maximum



Plot of $z = 4 - x^2 - y^2$ showing a maximum at (0,0)

2. $f(x_0, y_0)$ is a **LOCAL MINIMUM** value of f if $f(x_0, y_0) \leq f(x, y)$ for all domain points (x, y) in an open disc centered at (x_0, y_0) , the point (x_0, y_0) is then called point of minima.

Typical minimum



Plot of $z = x^2 + y^2$ showing a minimum at (0,0)

3. If $f(x_0, y_0) \geq f(x, y)$ for **ALL** points (x, y) in the domain of f , then f has an **ABSOLUTE MAXIMUM** at (x_0, y_0)
4. If $f(x_0, y_0) \leq f(x, y)$ for **ALL** points (x, y) in the domain of f , then f has an **ABSOLUTE MINIMUM** at (x_0, y_0)

Saddle point:



Let (x_0, y_0) be a critical point of a differentiable function $f(x, y)$.

If in **EVERY** open disc centered at (x_0, y_0) , there are domain points (x, y) where

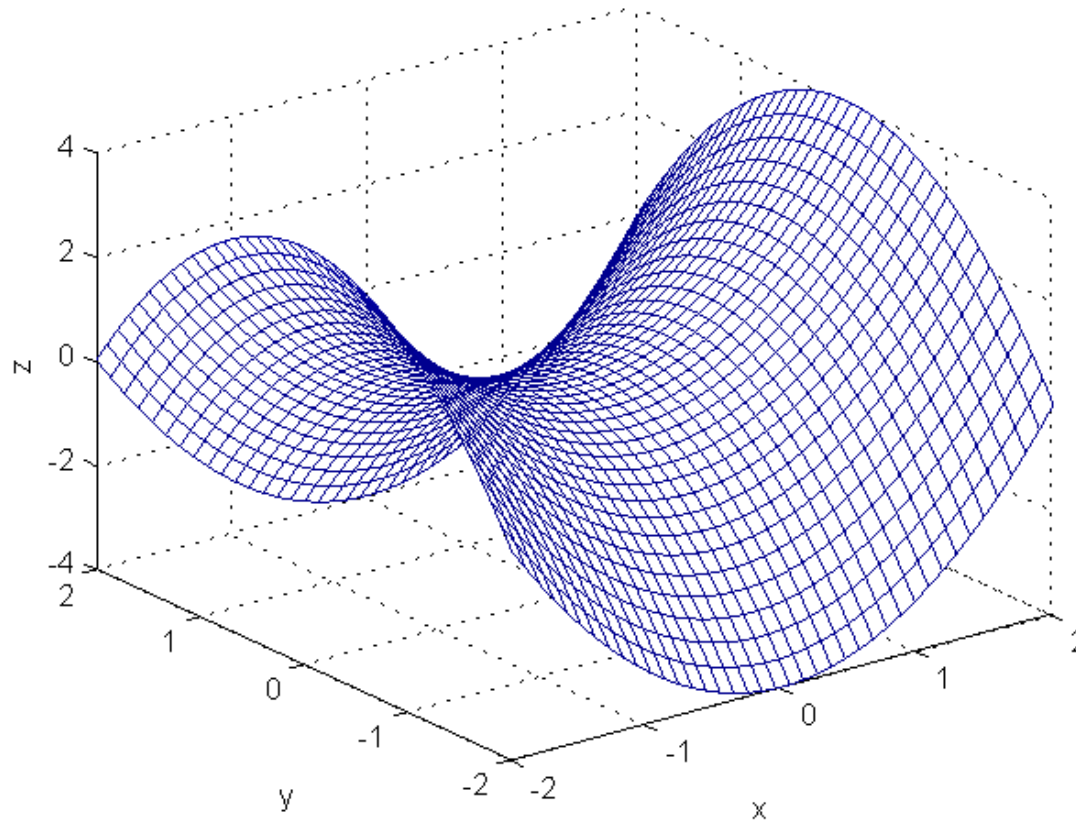
$$f(x, y) < f(x_0, y_0)$$

and domain points (x, y) where

$$f(x, y) > f(x_0, y_0),$$

then the point $(x_0, y_0, f(x_0, y_0))$ on the surface $z = f(x, y)$ is called saddle point of the surface

Typical saddle point



Plot of $z = x^2 - y^2$ showing a saddle point at (0,0)

Theorem (First derivative test):

If $f(x, y)$ has a local maximum or minimum at an *interior point* (x_0, y_0) of its domain and the first order partial derivatives of f exist there, then

$$f_x(x_0, y_0) = 0 \text{ and } f_y(x_0, y_0) = 0.$$

Proof:



Let $g(x) = f(x, y_0)$

If f has a local maximum (or minimum) at (x_0, y_0) ,
then g has a local maximum (or minimum) at $x = x_0$.

$$\Rightarrow g'(x_0) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow f_x(x_0, y_0) = 0.$$

Similarly, using $h(y) = f(x_0, y)$,

We obtain $f_y(x_0, y_0) = 0$.

Second Derivative Test for Local Extreme Values:



Let $f(x, y)$ and its first & second partial derivatives are continuous throughout a disc centered at (x_0, y_0) and $f_y(x_0, y_0) = 0 = f_x(x_0, y_0)$. Then

(i) f has a local maximum at (x_0, y_0) if

$$f_{xx} < 0 \text{ and } f_{xx}f_{yy} - f_{xy}^2 > 0 \text{ at } (x_0, y_0).$$

(ii) f has a local minimum at (x_0, y_0) if

$$f_{xx} > 0 \text{ \& } f_{xx}f_{yy} - f_{xy}^2 > 0 \text{ at } (x_0, y_0).$$

Second Derivative Test for Local Extreme Values:



(iii) f has a saddle point at (x_0, y_0) if

$$f_{xx}f_{yy} - f_{xy}^2 < 0 \text{ at } (x_0, y_0).$$

(iv) *The* test is **INCONCLUSIVE**

at (x_0, y_0) if

$$f_{xx}f_{yy} - f_{xy}^2 = 0 \text{ at } (x_0, y_0)$$

Classifying critical points



$D = f_{xx}f_{yy} - f_{xy}^2$ (Hessian or discriminant)	f_{xx} OR f_{yy}	Classification
>0	>0	Local Minimum
	<0	Local Maximum
<0		Saddle point
$=0$		Inconclusive

Example – Classifying stationary points



Find and classify all the stationary points for the function:

$$f(x, y) = x^3y - y^2 - 3x^2y$$

Find the first order partial derivatives :

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = 3x^2y - 6xy$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = x^3 - 2y - 3x^2$$

Example – Classifying stationary points



Set these partial derivatives equal to 0 :

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = 3x^2y - 6xy = 0 \Rightarrow 3xy(x - 2) = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = x^3 - 2y - 3x^2 = 0$$

The first equation will equal 0 if :

$$x = 0, \quad x = 2 \quad \text{or} \quad y = 0$$

Example – Classifying stationary points



Put each value into the second equation and solve:

(i) $x = 0, x^3 - 2y - 3x^2 = 0$

$$\Rightarrow -2y = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow y = 0$$

(ii) $x = 2, x^3 - 2y - 3x^2 = 0$

$$\Rightarrow 8 - 2y - 12 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow -2y = 4$$

$$\Rightarrow y = -2$$

Example – Classifying stationary points



Put each value into the second equation and solve:

$$(iii) \quad y = 0, x^3 - 2y - 3x^2 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow x^3 - 3x^2 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow x^2(x - 3) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow x = 0, 3$$

So we find 3 stationary points :

$$(x, y) = (0, 0), (2, -2), (3, 0)$$

Now we can classify them using the 2nd order partial derivatives.

Example – Classifying stationary points



Find the second order partial derivatives :

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = 3x^2y - 6xy \quad \Rightarrow \quad \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} = 6xy - 6y$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = x^3 - 2y - 3x^2 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2} = -2$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x \partial y} = 3x^2 - 6x$$

Example – Classifying stationary points



- Now we can set up the table below:

Point	$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} = 6xy - 6y$	$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2} = -2$	$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x \partial y} = 3x^2 - 6x$	D	Type
(0,0)	0	-2	0	0	???
(3,0)	0	-2	9	-81	Saddle
(2,-2)	-12	-2	0	24	Max

Example – Classifying stationary points



$$Q19. f(x, y) = 4xy - x^4 - y^4$$

(i) *Critical* points:

$$f_x = 4y - 4x^3 = 0$$

$$f_y = 4x - 4y^3 = 0$$

\Rightarrow critical points are

$$P_0(0,0), P_1(1,1) \text{ and } P_2(-1,-1)$$

Example – Classifying stationary points



$$(ii) f_{xx} = -12x^2$$

$$\begin{aligned} D &= f_{xx}f_{yy} - f_{xy}^2 \\ &= 144x^2y^2 - 16 \end{aligned}$$

Example – Classifying stationary points



(iii) At the point $P_0(0,0)$, we have

$$f_{xx} = 0$$

$$D = -16 < 0$$

Conclusion:

$(0,0)$ is a saddle point of $f(x,y)$.

Example – Classifying stationary points



At the point $P_1(1,1)$:

$$f_{xx} = -12 < 0$$

$$D = 144 - 16 > 0$$

Conclusion: $f(x, y)$ has a local max at $(1,1)$ and $f(1,1) = 2$

Example – Classifying stationary points



At the point $P_2(-1, -1)$:

$$f_{xx} = -12 < 0$$

$$D = 128 > 0$$

$\Rightarrow f(x, y)$ has local max at $(-1, -1)$

and $f(-1, -1) = 2$

Absolute Maxima & Minima on a Closed Bounded Region R



Theorem : A continuous function on a *closed and bounded* region always has a max and min.

Remark:

The extreme values of $f(x, y)$ can occur only at

1. Boundary points of the domain of f ,
2. Critical points (interior points where $f_x = f_y = 0$ or points where f_x or f_y fail to exist)

Procedure:

- I. Sketch the region R
- II. List the interior points of the region R where f may have local max & min, and evaluate f at these points.

These are the points where $f_x = f_y = 0$

OR

where one or both f_x and f_y fail to exist-critical points of f .

III. List the boundary points of R
where f has local max & min,
and evaluate f at these points.

IV. Since the absolute max & min are also local max & min, hence absolute max & min values of f already appear somewhere in the list made in step II & III.

Thus, look through the list made in step II & III for max & min values of f . They will be absolute maximum & minimum values of f .

Q31. Find the absolute maxima & minima of the function

$$f(x, y) = 2x^2 - 4x + y^2 - 4y + 1$$

on a closed triangular plate bounded by the lines $x = 0$, $y = 2$, $y = 2x$ in the first quadrant

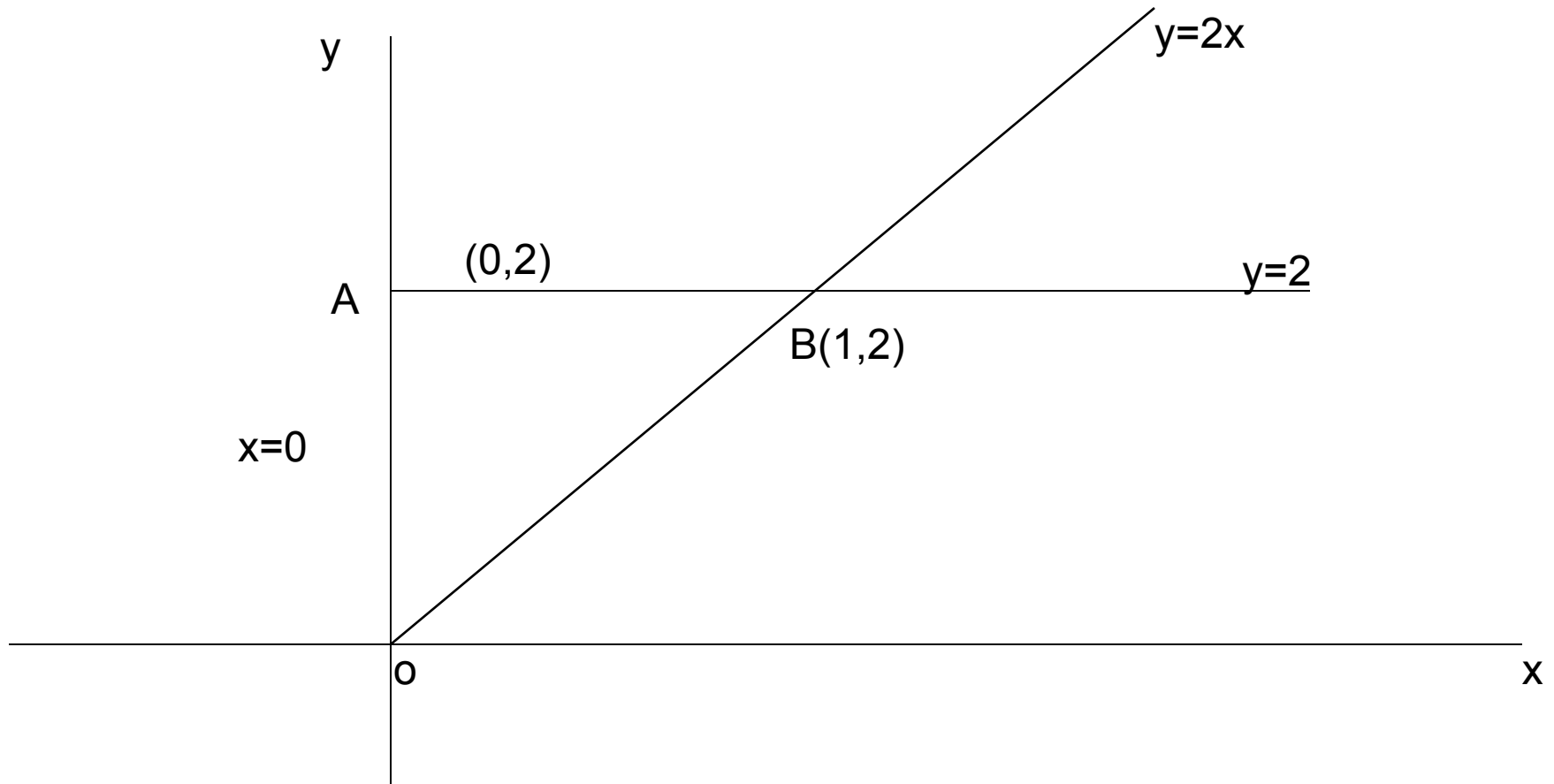
Solution: $\because f$ is differentiable

\Rightarrow The max/min of f will occur only at the interior points of the domain where

$$f_x = f_y = 0,$$

or

on the boundary points of the domain



For the interior points, we have

$$f_x = 4x - 4 = 0$$

$$f_y = 2y - 4 = 0$$

$\Rightarrow x = 1, y = 2$ NOT an interior point.

For the boundary points:



I. Along the line OA, $x = 0, 0 \leq y \leq 2$

\therefore To maximize $\phi(y) = f(0, y)$

$$= y^2 - 4y + 1, \quad 0 \leq y \leq 2$$

At the end points of OA,

$$f(0, 0) = 1, \quad f(0, 2) = -3.$$

For the interior points of OA,

$$\phi'(y) = 2y - 4 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow y = 2$$

But this does not lie in interval (0,2).

Hence point (0,2) not included in the list.

II. Along the line AB,
 $y = 2, 0 \leq x \leq 1.$

$$\therefore f(x, 2) = 2x^2 - 4x - 3$$

At the end points of AB,

$$f(0, 2) = -3, f(1, 2) = -5$$

For the interior points of AB,

$$f'(x, 2) = 4x - 4 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow x = 1$$

But $(1, 2)$ is not an int. point of AB.

III. Along the line OB,

$$y = 2x, 0 \leq x \leq 1.$$

$$\therefore \theta(x) = f(x, 2x)$$

$$= 6x^2 - 12x + 1, 0 \leq x \leq 1.$$

At the end points of OB,

$$f(0, 0) = 1, f(1, 2) = -5$$

For the interior points of OB

$$\theta'(x) = 12x - 12 = 0$$

$\Rightarrow x = 1$, not in the interval $(0,1)$.

Final Step:

List of all the values are

$-5, 1, -3$

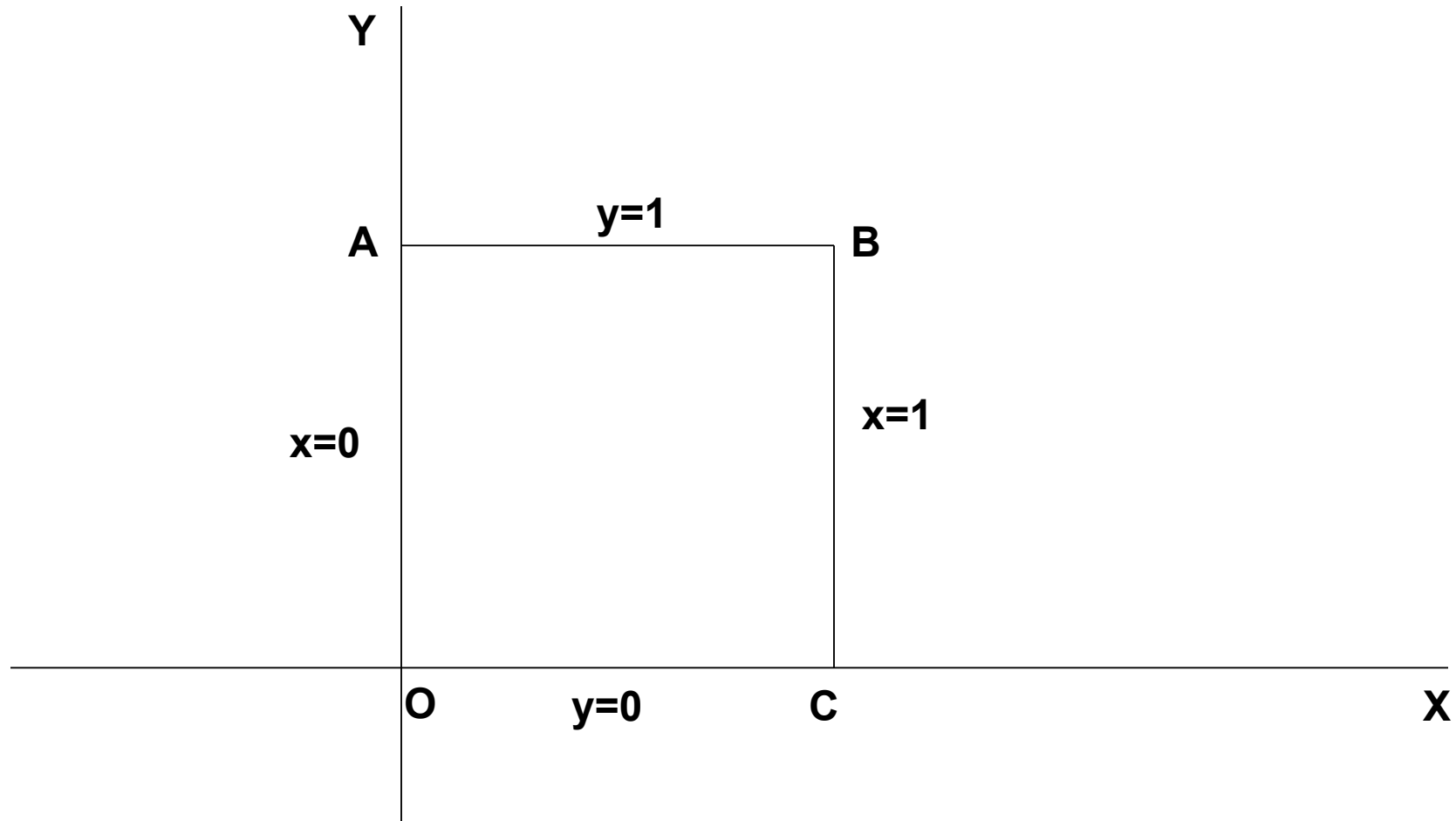
\Rightarrow Abs. max. of $f = 1$ at $(0,0)$

Abs. min. of $f = -5$ at $(1,2)$.

Q 36 Find the absolute maxima & minima of

$$f(x, y) = 48xy - 32x^3 - 24y^2$$

on the rectangular plate $0 \leq x \leq 1$,
 $0 \leq y \leq 1$.



Critical points interior to domain of f :

$$f_x = 48y - 96x^2 = 0,$$

$$f_y = 48x - 48y = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow (x, y) = \left(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2} \right)$$

(1) Along the line OA, $x = 0$.

$$\therefore f(x, y) = f(0, y) = -24y^2$$

At the end points of OA,

$$f(0, 0) = 0, \quad f(0, 1) = -24$$

For the interior points of OA,

$$f'(0, y) = -48y = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow y = 0$$

But (0,0) is not an interior point of OA.

(II)

Along the line AB, $y = 1$

$$\therefore f(x, 1) = 48x - 32x^3 - 24$$

At the end points of AB,

$$f(0,1) = -24, \quad f(1,1) = -8$$

For the interior points of AB,

$$f'(x,1) = 0 \Rightarrow x = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, \quad y = 1$$

$$\text{or } x = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, \quad y = 1$$

$$\therefore f\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, 1\right) = 16\sqrt{2} - 24$$

(III) Along the line BC , $x = 1$.

$$\therefore f(1, y) = 48y - 32 - 24y^2$$

At the end points of BC,

$$f(1, 1) = -8, \quad f(1, 0) = -32$$

For the interior points of BC,

$$f'(1, y) = 48 - 48y = 0 \Rightarrow y = 1$$

$\therefore x = 1, y = 1 \rightarrow$ not an interior point

(IV) Along the line OC, $y = 0$

$$\therefore f(x, 0) = -32x^3$$

At the end points of OC,

$$f(0, 0) = 0, \quad f(1, 0) = -32.$$

For the interior points of OC,

$$f'(x,0) = -96x^2 = 0 \Rightarrow x = 0 = y$$

NOT an interior point.

Final Step:

List of all the Candidates:

$2, 0, -24, -8, 16\sqrt{2} - 24, -32$

Abs. max of $f = 2$ at $\left(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}\right)$

Abs. min of $f = -32$ at $(1, 0)$



Multipliers:

Theorem: Suppose that $f(x, y, z)$ is differentiable in a region whose interior contains a smooth curve

$$C: \vec{r}(t) = x(t) \hat{i} + y(t) \hat{j} + z(t) \hat{k}.$$

Let P_o is any point on C where f has a local max or minima relative to its value on C .

Then ∇f is orthogoral to the velocity vector $(d\vec{r} / dt)$ at P_o

Proof: By chain rule , we have

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{df}{dt} &= \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \frac{dx}{dt} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \frac{dy}{dt} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \frac{dz}{dt} \\ &= \left(\left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \right) \hat{i} + \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \right) \hat{j} + \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \right) \hat{k} \right) \cdot \left(\frac{dx}{dt} \hat{i} + \frac{dy}{dt} \hat{j} + \frac{dz}{dt} \hat{k} \right) \\ \Rightarrow \frac{df}{dt} &= \nabla f \cdot \vec{v}\end{aligned}$$

But f has a local max or min
at P_0 , hence

$$\frac{df}{dt} = 0 \quad \text{at } P_0$$

$$\therefore \nabla f \cdot \vec{v} = 0 \quad \text{at } P_0$$

The method of Lagrange multipliers:

Let $f(x, y, z)$ and $g(x, y, z)$ are two differentiable functions and P_0 is a point on the surface $g(x, y, z) = 0$ where f has a local max or min relative to its other values on the surface.

$\Rightarrow f$ has a local max or min
relative to its values on every
differentiable curve through P_0
on the surface $g(x, y, z) = 0$.

$\Rightarrow \nabla f$ is orthogonal to $\frac{d\vec{r}}{dt}$ of
every such differentiable curve
through P_0

But ∇g is also orthogonal to the tangent vector at P_0 .

Hence $\nabla f(P_0)$ and $\nabla g(P_0)$ must be parallel.

\therefore If $\nabla g(P_0) \neq 0$, there is a number λ such that

$$\nabla f = \lambda \nabla g \quad \text{at } P_0$$

λ : a Lagrange multiplier

Procedure:



Let $f(x, y, z)$ and $g(x, y, z)$ are differentiable functions. Then to find the max. and min. values of f subject to the constraint

$$g(x, y, z) = 0$$

Step I: Find all values of x, y, z and λ such that

$$\nabla f = \lambda \nabla g \text{ and } g(x, y, z) = 0.$$

Step II: Evaluate f at all the points (x, y, z) that result from step I.

The largest of these values is the
max of f
and the smallest is the min of f .

Remark:



The method says, if max or min exists then it satisfies these equations.

The condition $\vec{\nabla}f = \lambda\vec{\nabla}g$ with $g(x, y) = 0$, $\vec{\nabla}g(x, y) \neq 0$, is not sufficient for existence of absolute max/min.

e.g. $f(x, y) = x + y$ with constraint $g(x, y) = xy = 16$ has neither max nor min but has two stationary points $(4, 4)$ and $(-4, -4)$.

Q2. Find the extreme values of

$$f(x, y) = xy$$

subject to the constraint

$$g(x, y) = x^2 + y^2 - 10 = 0.$$

Solution:

Step I: $\nabla f = y\hat{i} + x\hat{j}$, $\nabla g = 2x\hat{i} + 2y\hat{j}$

If λ is a Lagrange Multiplier, then

$$\nabla f = \lambda \nabla g$$

$$\Rightarrow y = 2\lambda x \quad \text{and} \quad x = 2\lambda y$$

Step II: solve

$$y = 2\lambda x, \quad (\text{i})$$

$$x = 2\lambda y, \quad (\text{ii})$$

$$x^2 + y^2 = 10 \quad (\text{iii})$$

$$(i) \& (ii) \Rightarrow x = 4\lambda^2 x$$

$$\Rightarrow x = 0 \text{ or } \lambda = \pm \frac{1}{2}$$

Case I: If $x = 0$, then $y = 0$

But $(0,0)$ does not satisfy

$$x^2 + y^2 = 10.$$

$$\therefore x \neq 0 \Rightarrow \lambda = \pm \frac{1}{2}$$

Case II: When $\lambda = \frac{1}{2}$, then

(i) gives $y = x$, (iii) $\Rightarrow 2x^2 = 10$
 $\Rightarrow x = \pm\sqrt{5} = y$.

Thus, f assumes its extreme values
at $(\sqrt{5}, \sqrt{5})$ and $(-\sqrt{5}, -\sqrt{5})$.

Case III: When $\lambda = -\frac{1}{2}$, then

Eq (i) $y = 2\lambda x$ gives $y = -x$

Now $x^2 + y^2 = 10$ gives

$$x = \pm \sqrt{5}$$

f assumes its extreme values at
 $(\sqrt{5}, -\sqrt{5})$ and $(-\sqrt{5}, \sqrt{5})$.

FINAL STEP:

Points for max/min are

$$\left(\sqrt{5}, \sqrt{5}\right), \quad \left(-\sqrt{5}, -\sqrt{5}\right),$$

$$\left(\sqrt{5}, -\sqrt{5}\right), \quad \left(-\sqrt{5}, \sqrt{5}\right).$$

Now, evaluate f at all these points:

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

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

Conclusion:

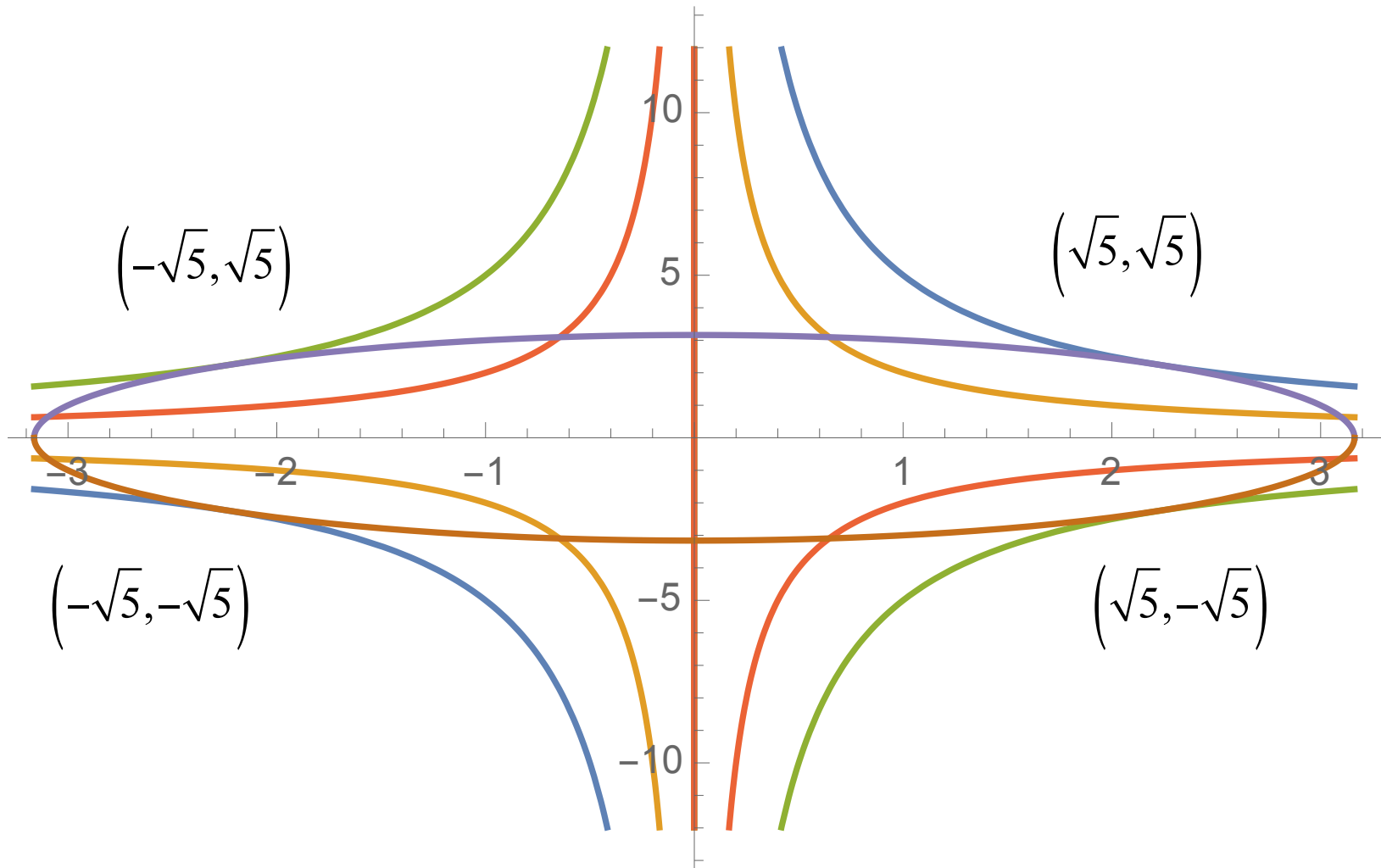


$$\Rightarrow \max f = 5$$

$$\text{at } \left(\sqrt{5}, \sqrt{5} \right) \& \left(-\sqrt{5}, -\sqrt{5} \right).$$

$$\min f = -5$$

$$\text{at } \left(\sqrt{5}, -\sqrt{5} \right) \& \left(-\sqrt{5}, \sqrt{5} \right).$$



Q. Find the points on curve

$$x^2 + xy + y^2 = 1$$

in the xy -plane that are nearest to and farthest from the origin

Let $P(x, y)$ be any point in the given curve. Then its distance from the origin is

$$d = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}.$$

d will be max/min whenever
 $f(x, y) = x^2 + y^2$ will be max/min
subject to

$$g(x, y) = x^2 + xy + y^2 - 1 = 0$$

$\nabla f = \lambda \nabla g$ yields

$$\lambda = \frac{2x}{2x + y} = \frac{2y}{x + 2y}$$

(WHY ??)

(A point satisfying all these conditions
and $2x + y = 0$,

$$2x = \lambda(2x + y) \text{ and } g(x, y) = 0$$

does not exist, similarly for $x + 2y$).

$$\Rightarrow x = \pm y$$

Case I: When $x = y$,

$$g(x, y) \equiv x^2 + xy + y^2 - 1 = 0$$

yields

$$3y^2 = 1 \Rightarrow y = \pm \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}$$

∴ Points are

$$\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \right), \left(-\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}, -\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \right).$$

CaseII: When $x = -y$,
 $g(x, y) = 0$ gives
 $y = \pm 1$.
 \therefore points are
 $(1, -1)$ and $(-1, 1)$.

Now

$$f\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\right) = \frac{2}{3},$$

$$f\left(-\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}, -\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\right) = \frac{2}{3},$$

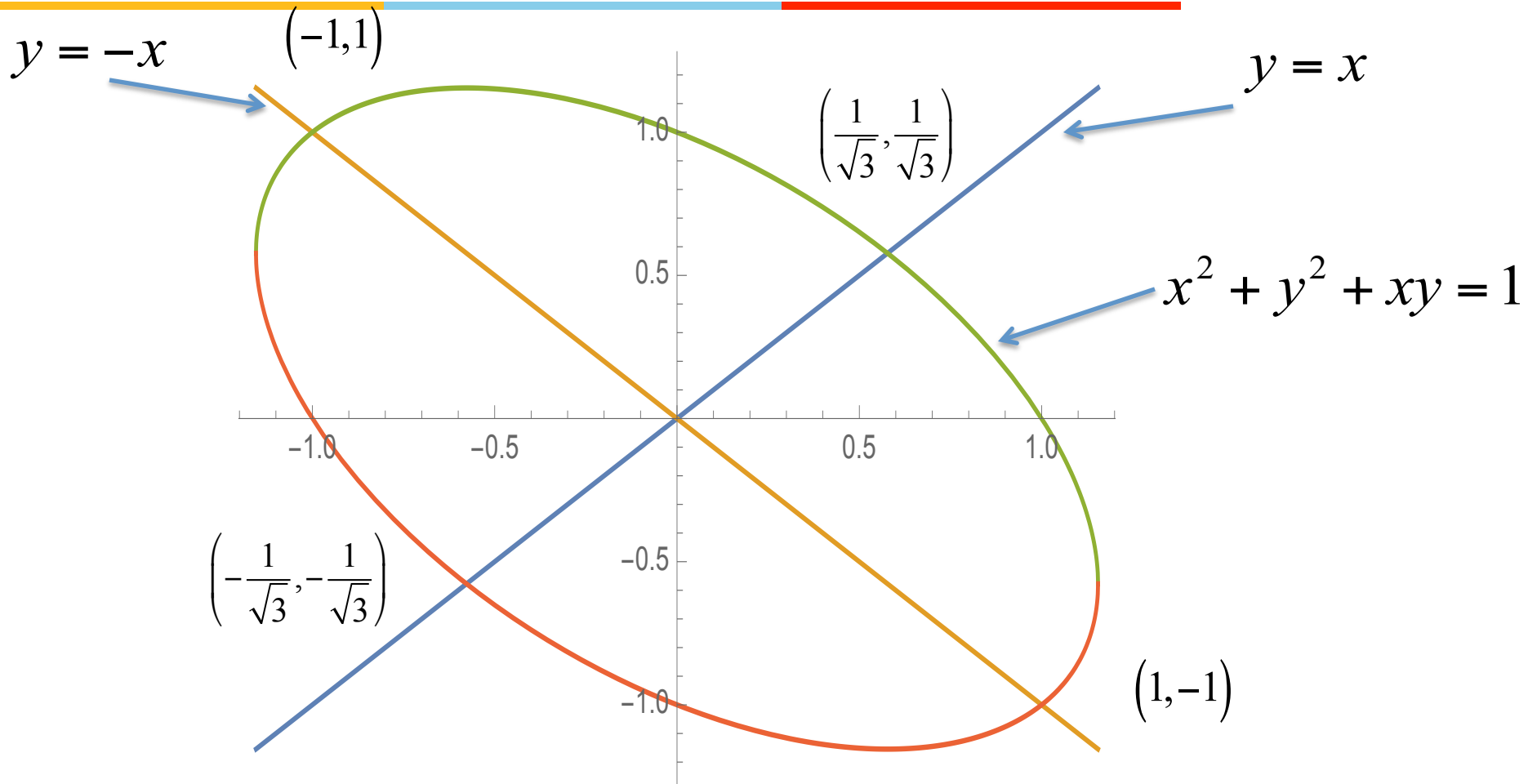
$$f(1, -1) = 2, \quad f(-1, 1) = 2.$$

$\Rightarrow (1, -1) \& (-1, 1):$

farthest from the origin

$\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\right) \& \left(-\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}, -\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\right):$

nearest from the origin



Q. A space probe in the shape of the ellipsoid

$$4x^2 + y^2 + 4z^2 = 16$$

enters the earth atmosphere and its surface begins to hot. After one hour, the temperature at the point (x, y, z) on the probe's surface is

$$T(x, y, z) = 8x^2 + 4yz - 16z + 600.$$

Find the hottest point on the probe's surface.

Soln: We wish to find
 $\max (T(x, y, z))$ subject to the
constraint

$$g(x, y, z) \equiv 4x^2 + y^2 + 4z^2 - 16 = 0.$$

We have

$$\nabla T = 16x\hat{i} + 4z\hat{j} + (4y - 16)\hat{k},$$

$$\nabla g = 8x\hat{i} + 2y\hat{j} + 8z\hat{k}.$$

If λ is the Lagrange multiplier, then

$$\nabla T = \lambda \nabla g.$$

We wish to solve:

$$16x = 8\lambda x, \quad (1)$$

$$4z = 2\lambda y, \quad (2)$$

$$4y - 16 = 8\lambda z, \quad (3)$$

$$4x^2 + y^2 + 4z^2 - 16 = 0. \quad (4)$$

Eq.(1) $\Rightarrow x = 0$ *or* $\lambda = 2$.

$\lambda = 2$ gives

$$x = \pm \frac{4}{3}, \quad y = -\frac{4}{3}, \quad z = -\frac{4}{3}.$$

$x = 0$ gives $y \neq 0$, thus $\lambda = 2z / y$.

$$\therefore 4y - 16 = 16z^2 / y \text{ or } 4z^2 = y^2 - 4y.$$

Substituting in $g(x, y, z) = 0$,

$$y = -2, \quad 4.$$

$$y = -2 \text{ gives } z = \pm\sqrt{3}.$$

$$y = 4 \text{ gives } z = 0.$$

Points of max/min are among :

$$\left(\pm \frac{4}{3}, -\frac{4}{3}, -\frac{4}{3} \right),$$

$$\left(0, -2, \pm \sqrt{3} \right),$$

$$(0, 4, 0).$$

$$\because T(x, y, z) = 8x^2 + 4yz - 16z + 600$$

$$\Rightarrow T(\pm 4/3, -4/3, -4/3) = 642.667 \text{ units}$$

$$T(0, -2, \sqrt{3}) = 558.431 \text{ units}$$

$$T(0, -2, -\sqrt{3}) = 641.569 \text{ units}$$

$$T(0, 4, 0) = 600 \text{ units}$$

$\Rightarrow (\pm 4/3, -4/3, -4/3)$ are the
hottest points on the space probe.

Method of Lagrange Multipliers with two constraint



Lagrange multipliers with two
constraints:

How to find extreme
values of $f(x, y, z)$ subject to
 $g_1(x, y, z) = 0$ & $g_2(x, y, z) = 0$.

Method of Lagrange Multipliers with two constraint



Let C : be a curve of intersection of
 $g_1 = 0$ & $g_2 = 0$, P_0 : be a point on C
(which lies on both the surfaces $g_1 = 0$
& $g_2 = 0$) where f has local max./min.
 $\Rightarrow \nabla f \perp C$ at P_0 & $\nabla g_1, \nabla g_2 \perp C$ at P_0
 ∇f lies on the plane containing ∇g_1 and ∇g_2

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Method: Find x, y, z, λ and μ that satisfy

$$\nabla f = \lambda \nabla g_1 + \mu \nabla g_2,$$

$$g_1(x, y, z) = 0,$$

$$g_2(x, y, z) = 0.$$

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Q 41. Find the extreme values of

$$f(x, y, z) = x^2 yz + 1$$

on the intersection of the
plane $z = 1$ with the sphere

$$x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 10.$$

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Solution : We wish to find

extrema $f(x, y, z)$ subject to

$$\left. \begin{aligned} g_1(x, y, z) &\equiv z - 1 = 0 \\ g_2(x, y, z) &\equiv x^2 + y^2 + z^2 - 10 = 0 \end{aligned} \right\}$$

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Let λ & μ be Lagrange Multipliers, then

$$\nabla f = \lambda \nabla g_1 + \mu \nabla g_2$$

$$\Rightarrow 2xyz \hat{i} + x^2 z \hat{j} + x^2 y \hat{k}$$

$$= \lambda(0 \hat{i} + 0 \hat{j} + \hat{k}) + \mu(2x \hat{i} + 2y \hat{j} + 2z \hat{k})$$

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$$xyz = \mu x \quad (1)$$

$$x^2 z = 2\mu y \quad (2)$$

$$x^2 y = \lambda + 2\mu z \quad (3)$$

$$z = 1 \quad (4)$$

$$x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 10 \quad (5)$$

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Eq. (1) gives $x = 0$ or $\mu = yz$.

When $x = 0$,

then eq. (5) yields $y = \pm 3$ as $z = 1$.

Thus the points are

$(0, 3, 1)$ and $(0, -3, 1)$.

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When $\mu = yz$, then eq.(2) gives

$$z(x^2 - 2y^2) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow z = 0 \quad \text{or} \quad x^2 - 2y^2 = 0.$$

$z = 0$ NOT POSSIBLE (??)

$$\text{Hence } x = \pm\sqrt{2} y$$

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When $x = +\sqrt{2} y$, then

eq. (4) & eq. (5) give

$$y = \pm\sqrt{3} .$$

$$\therefore x = \pm\sqrt{6}$$

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Thus, points for max/min are
 $(\sqrt{6}, \sqrt{3}, 1), \quad (-\sqrt{6}, -\sqrt{3}, 1),$

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When $x = -\sqrt{2} y$, then

eq. (4) & eq. (5) give

$$y = \pm\sqrt{3} .$$

$$\therefore x = \pm\sqrt{6}$$

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Thus, points for max/min are

$$(-\sqrt{6}, \sqrt{3}, 1), \quad (\sqrt{6}, -\sqrt{3}, 1).$$

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Since $f(x, y, z) = x^2 yz + 1$, we have

$$f(0, 3, 1) = 1, f(0, -3, 1) = 1,$$

$$f(\sqrt{6}, \sqrt{3}, 1) = 6\sqrt{3} + 1,$$

$$f(\sqrt{6}, -\sqrt{3}, 1) = -6\sqrt{3} + 1,$$

$$f(-\sqrt{6}, \sqrt{3}, 1) = 6\sqrt{3} + 1,$$

$$f(-\sqrt{6}, -\sqrt{3}, 1) = -6\sqrt{3} + 1,$$

Q 17. Find the point on the plane

$$x + 2y + 3z = 13$$

closest to the point $(1, 1, 1)$

Solution : we have

$$\min f(x, y, z) = (x - 1)^2 + (y - 1)^2 + (z - 1)^2$$

subject to

$$g(x, y) = x + 2y + 3z - 13 = 0$$

$\nabla f = \lambda \nabla g$ gives

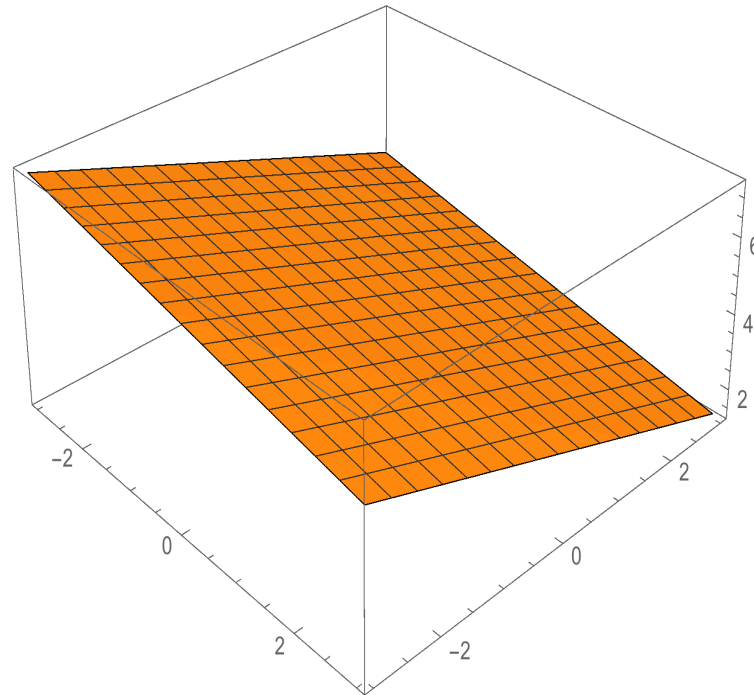
$$\lambda = 2(x - 1), \quad \lambda = y - 1,$$

$$\lambda = \frac{2}{3}(z - 1).$$

and $x + 2y + 3z - 13 = 0$

solve the above equation to get

$$x = \frac{3}{2}, y = 2, z = \frac{5}{2}$$



Closest point is being identified by using the geometrical interpretation that the line joining points $(1,1,1)$ and $(3/2, 2, 5/2)$ is perpendicular to the plane, making the above point on plane closest to $(1,1,1)$. Justification is needed as the region is not closed and bounded.

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