

Part I

Lagrange multiplier

To look for the optimums of a function :

$$f(t_1, t_2, \dots, t_p)$$

of p variables subject to :

$$l(t_1, t_2, \dots, t_p) = \text{cte},$$

we compute the partial derivatives of the function :

$$g(t_1, t_2, \dots, t_p) = f(t_1, t_2, \dots, t_p) - \lambda(l(t_1, t_2, \dots, t_p) - \text{cte})$$

with respect to each variable. By canceling the p partial derivatives obtained and considering the single constraint, we obtain a linear system with $p + 1$ equations. The $p + 1$ unknowns are the variables (t_1, \dots, t_p) and the Lagrange multiplier λ . The existence of solutions for the linear system is a necessary condition but not sufficient to the existence of an optimum for the function f .

We can generalize the previous approach when the p variables are subject to c constraints. We consider now a new function $g(t_1, t_2, \dots, t_p)$ with a linear combination of all constraints whose coefficients are the Lagrange multipliers $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_c$ and we solve the linear system with $p + c$ equations associated.

Part II

Derivative of a quadratic form with respect to a vector

To look for the principal components, we had to compute the partial derivatives of both ${}^t a \Sigma a$ and ${}^t a a$ with respect to the coefficients a_1, \dots, a_p of the vector a . We denote $\frac{\partial g(a)}{\partial a} \in \mathbb{R}^p$ the vector whose components are the partial derivatives of $g(a)$ with respect to each component of the vector a :

$$\frac{\partial g(a)}{\partial a} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial g(a)}{\partial a_1} \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ \frac{\partial g(a)}{\partial a_j} \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ \frac{\partial g(a)}{\partial a_p} \end{bmatrix}$$

One can show that :

$$\frac{\partial (^t a \Sigma a)}{\partial a} = 2 \Sigma a.$$

Indeed :

$$\frac{\partial (^t a \Sigma a)}{\partial a} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial ^t a}{\partial a_1} \Sigma a \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ \frac{\partial ^t a}{\partial a_j} \Sigma a \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ \frac{\partial ^t a}{\partial a_p} \Sigma a \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} ^t a \Sigma \frac{\partial a}{\partial a_1} \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ ^t a \Sigma \frac{\partial a}{\partial a_j} \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ ^t a \Sigma \frac{\partial a}{\partial a_p} \end{bmatrix}.$$

One can notice that on each line, both elements are equal since they are of dimension 1×1 and are the transpose of each other. Thus :

$$\frac{\partial (^t a \Sigma a)}{\partial a} = 2 \frac{\partial ^t a}{\partial a} \Sigma a,$$

and the derivative of $^t a$ with respect to a is :

$$\frac{\partial ^t a}{\partial a} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial ^t a}{\partial a_1} \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ \frac{\partial ^t a}{\partial a_j} \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ \frac{\partial ^t a}{\partial a_p} \end{bmatrix} = I_p$$

which the identity matrix of dimension p . Similarly we can show that : $\frac{\partial ^t a a}{\partial a} = 2a$