
Assignment 3 - Solution

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Exercise 1: Unconstrained Optimization of a Quadratic Problem

Solution

$$f(x) = x^T H x + c^T x$$

$$f'(x) = 2Hx + c$$

For extrema of the function. Set first derivative equal to zero

$$f'(x) = 0$$

$$2Hx + c = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow x = \frac{-(H^{-1}c)}{2}$$

Exercise 2: Constrained Optimization with Parametrization

Solution

$$\max_{x_1, x_2} f(x_1, x_2) = 5 - x_1^2 - \frac{1}{2}x_2^2$$

$$\text{s.t. } x_1 + x_2 = 2$$

Converting it to minimization problem by setting $g(x) = -f(x)$

$$\min_{x_1, x_2} g(x_1, x_2) = -5 + x_1^2 + \frac{1}{2}x_2^2$$

$$\text{s.t. } x_1 + x_2 = 2$$

Now for parametrization, Put $x_1 = t$

$$\Rightarrow x_2 = 2 - t$$

$$\Rightarrow g(x_1, x_2) = h(t) = -5 + t^2 + \frac{(t-2)^2}{2}$$

$$\Rightarrow h(t) = -3 + \frac{3t^2}{2} - 2t$$

Now our minimization problem becomes

$$\min_t h(t) = -3 + \frac{3t^2}{2} - 2t$$

$$\Rightarrow h'(t) = 3t - 2 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow t = \frac{2}{3}$$

$$\Rightarrow x_1 = \frac{2}{3}$$

$$\Rightarrow x_2 = 2 - \frac{2}{3} = \frac{4}{3}$$

Exercise 3: Optimization on the Unit Circle

(a) All norm balls are in the figure.

(b) Solution

$$f(x_1, x_2) = x_1 x_2$$

For 1-norm unit ball constraint in first quadrant

$$\min_{x_1, x_2} f(x_1, x_2)$$

$$\text{s.t. } x_1 + x_2 = 1$$

Writing in Lagrange form

$$L(x_1, x_2, \lambda) = x_1 x_2 + (x_1 + x_2 - 1)$$

$$\nabla L(x_1, x_2, \lambda) = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial L}{\partial x_1}(x_1, x_2, \lambda) \\ \frac{\partial L}{\partial x_2}(x_1, x_2, \lambda) \\ \frac{\partial L}{\partial \lambda}(x_1, x_2, \lambda) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\nabla L(x_1, x_2, \lambda) = \begin{bmatrix} x_2 + \lambda \\ x_1 + \lambda \\ x_1 + x_2 - 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow \lambda = -\frac{1}{2}; x_1 = x_2 = \frac{1}{2}$$

For 2-norm unit ball constraint in first quadrant

$$\min_{x_1, x_2} f(x_1, x_2)$$

$$\text{s.t. } |x_1|^2 + |x_2|^2 = 1$$

Writing in Lagrange form

$$L(x_1, x_2, \lambda) = x_1 x_2 + (x_1^2 + x_2^2 - 1)$$

$$\nabla L(x_1, x_2, \lambda) = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial L}{\partial x_1}(x_1, x_2, \lambda) \\ \frac{\partial L}{\partial x_2}(x_1, x_2, \lambda) \\ \frac{\partial L}{\partial \lambda}(x_1, x_2, \lambda) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\nabla L(x_1, x_2, \lambda) = \begin{bmatrix} x_2 + 2x_1\lambda \\ x_1 + 2x_2\lambda \\ x_1^2 + x_2^2 - 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow (-2x_2\lambda)^2 + (-2x_1\lambda)^2 = 1$$

$$\Rightarrow (4\lambda^2(x_1^2 + x_2^2)) = 1$$

$$\Rightarrow (4\lambda^2 = 1$$

$$\Rightarrow \lambda = \pm 1/2$$

$$\Rightarrow x_1 = x_2; \text{ for } \lambda = -\frac{1}{2},$$

$$\Rightarrow x_1 = -x_2; \text{ for } \lambda = \frac{1}{2}$$

Since we are considering only first quadrant

$$\Rightarrow x_1 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, x_2 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$$

For ∞ -norm unit ball constraint in first quadrant

$$\min_{x_1, x_2} f(x_1, x_2)$$

$$\text{s.t. } \max\{|x_1|, |x_2|\} = 1$$

Writing in Lagrange form

$$L(x_1, x_2, \lambda) = x_1x_2 + (\max\{|x_1|, |x_2|\} - 1)$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial x_1}(x_1, x_2, \lambda) = \begin{cases} x_2 + \lambda & \text{if } x_1 > x_2 \\ x_2 & \text{if } x_1 < x_2 \end{cases}$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial x_2}(x_1, x_2, \lambda) = \begin{cases} x_1 + \lambda & \text{if } x_2 > x_1 \\ x_1 & \text{if } x_2 < x_1 \end{cases}$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial \lambda}(x_1, x_2, \lambda) = \max\{|x_1|, |x_2|\} - 1$$

$$\text{if } x_1 > x_2$$

$$\nabla L(x_1, x_2, \lambda) = \begin{bmatrix} x_2 + \lambda \\ x_1 \\ x_1 - 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{if } x_2 > x_1$$

$$\nabla L(x_1, x_2, \lambda) = \begin{bmatrix} x_2 \\ x_1 + \lambda \\ x_2 - 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

if $x_2 = x_1$

$$\nabla L(x_1, x_2, \lambda) = \begin{bmatrix} x_2 + \lambda \\ x_1 + \lambda \\ x_2 - 1 \text{ (or } x_1 - 1) \end{bmatrix}$$

first two conditions i.e $x_1 > x_2$ and vice versa do not yield gradient zero

Gradient is only zero with given constraints at $x_1 = x_2 = 1$

$$\Rightarrow \lambda = -1; x_1 = x_2 = 1$$

(c) Solution

Optimal point moves farther away from the origin along the line $x_1 = x_2$

Exercise 4: Lagrange Multipliers and Bordered Hessian

(a) Case with $n = 2$ variables and $m = 1$ constraint:

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & f(x_1, x_2) = 3x_1^2 - 2x_2^2, \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & g(x_1, x_2) = x_1 - 2x_2 + 6 = 0 \end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

Writing in Lagrange form. Since there is only one constraint only one multiplier needed. Let's say λ

$$\min \quad L(x_1, x_2, \lambda) = 3x_1^2 - 2x_2^2 + \lambda(g(x_1, x_2)), \tag{2}$$

Now taking the gradient of $L(x_1, x_2, \lambda)$

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla L(x_1, x_2, \lambda) &= \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial L}{\partial x_1}(x_1, x_2, \lambda) \\ \frac{\partial L}{\partial x_2}(x_1, x_2, \lambda) \\ \frac{\partial L}{\partial \lambda}(x_1, x_2, \lambda) \end{bmatrix} \\ \Rightarrow \nabla L(x_1, x_2, \lambda) &= \begin{bmatrix} 6x_1 + \lambda \\ -4x_2 - 2\lambda \\ x_1 - 2x_2 + 6 \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

For getting extreme points

$$\nabla L(x_1, x_2, \lambda) = 0$$

$$x_1 = -\frac{\lambda}{6};$$

$$x_2 = -\frac{\lambda}{2};$$

and

$$x_1 - 2x_2 + 6 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow -\frac{\lambda}{6} + \lambda + 6 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{5\lambda}{6} + 6 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \lambda = -\frac{36}{5}$$

$$\Rightarrow x_1 = \frac{6}{5} \text{ and } x_2 = \frac{18}{5}$$

We have our extrema at $(\frac{6}{5}, \frac{18}{5})$

Now calculating bordered Hessian and its determinant to check if we have a maxima or a minima

$$H(x_1, x_2, \lambda) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \frac{\partial g}{\partial x_1} & \frac{\partial g}{\partial x_2} \\ \frac{\partial g}{\partial x_1} & \frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial^2 x_1}(x_1, x_2, \lambda) & \frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial x_1 \partial x_2}(x_1, x_2, \lambda) \\ \frac{\partial g}{\partial x_2} & \frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial x_1 \partial x_2}(x_1, x_2, \lambda) & \frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial^2 x_2}(x_1, x_2, \lambda) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$H(x_1, x_2, \lambda) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & -2 \\ 1 & 6 & 0 \\ -2 & 0 & -4 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$-\det(H) > 0$$

\Rightarrow This is a minima

(b) Case with $n = 3$ variables and $m = 1$ constraint:

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & f(x_1, x_2, x_3) = (x_1 - 10)^2 + (x_2 - 3)^2 + (x_3 - 3)^2, \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & g(x_1, x_2, x_3) = 2x_1^2 + x_2^2 + x_3^2 - 10 = 0. \end{aligned} \tag{3}$$

Writing in Lagrange form. Since there is only one constraint, only one multiplier needed. Let's say λ

$$\min L(x_1, x_2, x_3, \lambda) = (x_1 - 10)^2 + (x_2 - 3)^2 + (x_3 - 3)^2 + \lambda(g(x_1, x_2)), \quad (4)$$

Now taking the gradient of $L(x_1, x_2, x_3, \lambda)$

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla L(x_1, x_2, x_3, \lambda) &= \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial L}{\partial x_1}(x_1, x_2, x_3, \lambda) \\ \frac{\partial L}{\partial x_2}(x_1, x_2, x_3, \lambda) \\ \frac{\partial L}{\partial x_3}(x_1, x_2, x_3, \lambda) \\ \frac{\partial L}{\partial \lambda}(x_1, x_2, x_3, \lambda) \end{bmatrix} \\ \Rightarrow \nabla L(x_1, x_2, x_3, \lambda) &= \begin{bmatrix} 2(x_1 - 10) + 4x_1\lambda \\ 2(x_2 - 3) + 2x_2\lambda \\ 2(x_3 - 3) + 2x_3\lambda \\ 2x_1^2 + x_2^2 + x_3^2 - 10 \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

Now calculating bordered Hessian and its determinant to check if we have a maxima or a minima

$$H(x_1, x_2, \lambda) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \frac{\partial g}{\partial x_1} & \frac{\partial g}{\partial x_2} & \frac{\partial g}{\partial x_3} \\ \frac{\partial g}{\partial x_1} & \frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial^2 x_1}(x_1, x_2, x_3, \lambda) & \frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial x_1 \partial x_2}(x_1, x_2, x_3, \lambda) & \frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial x_1 \partial x_3}(x_1, x_2, x_3, \lambda) \\ \frac{\partial g}{\partial x_2} & \frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial x_1 \partial x_2}(x_1, x_2, x_3, \lambda) & \frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial^2 x_2}(x_1, x_2, x_3, \lambda) & \frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial x_2 \partial x_3}(x_1, x_2, x_3, \lambda) \\ \frac{\partial g}{\partial x_3} & \frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial x_3 \partial x_1}(x_1, x_2, x_3, \lambda) & \frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial x_3 \partial x_2}(x_1, x_2, x_3, \lambda) & \frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial^2 x_3}(x_1, x_2, x_3, \lambda) \end{bmatrix}$$

(c) Case with $n = 3$ variables and $m = 2$ constraints:

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & f(x_1, x_2, x_3) = (x_1 - 3)^2 + (x_2 + 1)^2 - (x_3 - 2)^2, \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & g_1(x_1, x_2, x_3) = 3x_1^2 x_2 + 4x_3 - 9 = 0, \\ \text{and} \quad & g_2(x_1, x_2) = x_1 + 2x_2 - 3 = 0. \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

Writing in Lagrange form. Since there are two constraints we need two multipliers namely λ_1, λ_2

$$\min L(x_1, x_2, x_3, \lambda_1, \lambda_2) = (x_1 - 10)^2 + (x_2 - 3)^2 + (x_3 - 3)^2 + \lambda_1 g_1(x_1, x_2, x_3) + \lambda_2 g_2(x_1, x_2, x_3), \quad (6)$$

Now taking the gradient of $L(x_1, x_2, x_3, \lambda_1, \lambda_2)$

$$\nabla L(x_1, x_2, x_3, \lambda_1, \lambda_2) = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial L}{\partial x_1}(x_1, x_2, x_3, \lambda_1, \lambda_2) \\ \frac{\partial L}{\partial x_2}(x_1, x_2, x_3, \lambda_1, \lambda_2) \\ \frac{\partial L}{\partial x_3}(x_1, x_2, x_3, \lambda_1, \lambda_2) \\ \frac{\partial L}{\partial \lambda_1}(x_1, x_2, x_3, \lambda_1, \lambda_2) \\ \frac{\partial L}{\partial \lambda_2}(x_1, x_2, x_3, \lambda_1, \lambda_2) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow \nabla L(x_1, x_2, x_3, \lambda_1, \lambda_2) = \begin{bmatrix} 2(x_1 - 3) + 3\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 \\ 2(x_2 + 1) - 2\lambda_1 + 2\lambda_2 \\ 2(x_3 - 2) + 4\lambda_1 \\ 3x_1 2x_2 + 4x_3 - 9 \\ x_1 + 2x_2 - 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

Now calculating bordered Hessian and its determinant to check if we have a maxima or a minima

$$H = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & \frac{\partial g_1}{\partial x_1} & \frac{\partial g_1}{\partial x_2} & \frac{\partial g_1}{\partial x_3} \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{\partial g_2}{\partial x_1} & \frac{\partial g_2}{\partial x_2} & 0 \\ \frac{\partial g_1}{\partial x_1} & \frac{\partial g_2}{\partial x_1} & \frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial^2 x_1}(x_1, x_2, x_3, \lambda_1, \lambda_2) & \frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial x_1 \partial x_2}(x_1, x_2, x_3, \lambda_1, \lambda_2) & \frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial x_1 \partial x_3}(x_1, x_2, x_3, \lambda_1, \lambda_2) \\ \frac{\partial g_1}{\partial x_2} & \frac{\partial g_2}{\partial x_2} & \frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial x_1 \partial x_2}(x_1, x_2, x_3, \lambda_1, \lambda_2) & \frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial^2 x_2}(x_1, x_2, x_3, \lambda_1, \lambda_2) & \frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial x_2 \partial x_3}(x_1, x_2, x_3, \lambda_1, \lambda_2) \\ \frac{\partial g_1}{\partial x_3} & \frac{\partial g_2}{\partial x_3} & \frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial x_3 \partial x_1}(x_1, x_2, x_3, \lambda_1, \lambda_2) & \frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial x_3 \partial x_2}(x_1, x_2, x_3, \lambda_1, \lambda_2) & \frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial^2 x_3}(x_1, x_2, x_3, \lambda_1, \lambda_2) \end{bmatrix}$$

Exercise 5: An Application to Economics

(a)

$$\begin{aligned} \max \quad & f(x_1, x_2, x_3) = 3 \ln(x_1) + \ln(x_2) + 2 \ln(x_3), \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & x_1 + x_2 + x_3 - 3000 = 0 \end{aligned} \tag{7}$$

(b) Writing in Lagrange form. Since there are two constraints we need two multipliers namely λ_1, λ_2

$$\min \quad L(x_1, x_2, x_3, \lambda) = 3 \ln(x_1) + \ln(x_2) + 2 \ln(x_3) + \lambda(x_1 + x_2 + x_3 - 3000), \tag{8}$$

$$\Rightarrow \nabla L(x_1, x_2, x_3, \lambda) = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{3}{x_1} + \lambda \\ \frac{1}{x_2} + \lambda \\ \frac{2}{x_3} + \lambda \\ x_1 + x_2 + x_3 - 3000 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow x_1 = -\frac{3}{\lambda}$$

$$\Rightarrow x_2 = -\frac{1}{\lambda}$$

$$\Rightarrow x_3 = -\frac{2}{\lambda}$$

$$\Rightarrow -\frac{3}{\lambda} - \frac{1}{\lambda} - \frac{2}{\lambda} = 3000$$

$$\Rightarrow -\frac{6}{\lambda} = 3000$$

$$\Rightarrow \lambda = -\frac{1}{500}$$

$$\Rightarrow x_1 = 1500$$

$$\Rightarrow x_2 = 500$$

$$\Rightarrow x_3 = 1000$$

$$H(x_1, x_2, x_3, \lambda) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \frac{\partial g}{\partial x_1} & \frac{\partial g}{\partial x_2} & \frac{\partial g}{\partial x_3} \\ \frac{\partial g}{\partial x_1} & \frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial^2 x_1}(x_1, x_2, x_3, \lambda) & \frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial x_1 \partial x_2}(x_1, x_2, x_3, \lambda) & \frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial x_1 \partial x_3}(x_1, x_2, x_3, \lambda) \\ \frac{\partial g}{\partial x_2} & \frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial x_1 \partial x_2}(x_1, x_2, x_3, \lambda) & \frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial^2 x_2}(x_1, x_2, x_3, \lambda) & \frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial x_2 \partial x_3}(x_1, x_2, x_3, \lambda) \\ \frac{\partial g}{\partial x_3} & \frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial x_3 \partial x_1}(x_1, x_2, x_3, \lambda) & \frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial x_3 \partial x_2}(x_1, x_2, x_3, \lambda) & \frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial^2 x_3}(x_1, x_2, x_3, \lambda) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$H(x_1, x_2, x_3, \lambda) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -\frac{3}{x_1^2} & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & -\frac{1}{x_2^2} & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & -\frac{2}{x_3^2} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$H_{sub}(x_1, x_2, \lambda) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -\frac{3}{x_1^2} & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & -\frac{1}{x_2^2} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$-\det(H) > 0$$

Thus this can be a maximum or a minimum $-\det(H_{sub}) < 0$

\Rightarrow We have a maxima at the point

(c) Results are in the same ratio as the value of money for each girl.

No maxima would not be affected a lot since still overall happiness increases if girl number 1 gets maximum money followed by three and two

Exercise 6: Maximisation Using the KKT Conditions

$$\begin{aligned} \max \quad & f(x_1, x_2) =, \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & g(x_1, x_2) = x_1^2 + x_2^2 \leq 2, \end{aligned} \tag{9}$$

Writing in Lagrange form.

$$\min \quad L(x_1, x_2, \lambda) = x_1 x_2 + \lambda(x_1^2 + x_2^2 - 2), \tag{10}$$

$$(a) \quad \frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial^2 x_1}$$

$$(b) \quad \frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial^2 x_1} = 0$$

$$(c) \quad \lambda(x_1^2 + x_2^2 - 2) = 0 = 0$$

$$(d) \quad \lambda \leq 0$$

$$(e) \quad g(x_1, x_2) = x_1^2 + x_2^2 \leq 2$$

if $\lambda = 0$ from c

$$(a) \quad x_2 ==$$

(b) $x_1 = 0$

(c) $0 = 0$

(d) $0 \leq 0$

(e) $0 \leq 2$

Since all the conditions are satisfied $(0,0)$ is a minima for f