

14.8 Lagrange multipliers

有條件的極值，如：到曲面的最短距離，限制面積的最大容積。

§ 14.7 使用代入限制條件減少變數作微分，但只能解最多三變數。

拉格朗日乘數法可以解多條件多變數的極值。

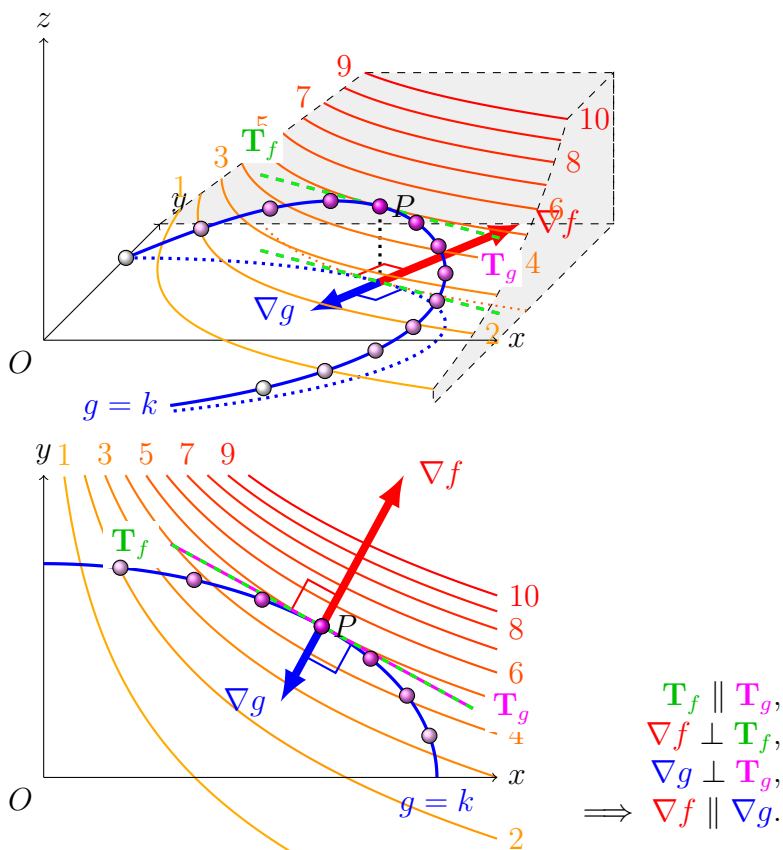
0.1 One constraint

Recall: 梯度垂直等高[面]線: $\nabla f \perp f = c$, 所以也垂直切[面]線。

如果想找 $f(x, y, z)$ 在 $g(x, y, z) = k$ 限制下的極值，可以先畫出 $f = \ell$ 的等高面/線 跟 $g = k$ ，極值就發生在 $f = \ell$ 與 $g = k$ 相切的點 $P(a, b, c)$ ；這時候 $f = \ell$ 與 $g = k$ 在 P 的切線[平面]平行(相同)。

因為 $\nabla f(a, b, c)$ 與 $f = \ell$ 的切線[平面]垂直，而且 $\nabla g(a, b, c)$ 與 $g = k$ 的切線[平面]垂直，所以 $\nabla f(a, b, c)$ 與 $\nabla g(a, b, c)$ 平行，也就是：

$\nabla f(a, b, c) = \lambda \nabla g(a, b, c)$ for some constant λ (“lambda”[爛打])。



Theorem 1 (Method of Lagrange Multipliers) (一個限制)

To find the maximum and minimum values of $f(x, y, z)$ subject to the constraint $g(x, y, z) = k$ [assuming extreme values *exist* and $\nabla g \neq \mathbf{0}$ on the surface $g(x, y, z) = k$]:

(a) Find all values of x, y, z , and λ such that

$$\nabla f(x, y, z) = \lambda \nabla g(x, y, z) \quad \& \quad g(x, y, z) = k$$

where λ is called a **Lagrange multiplier** 拉格朗日乘數.

(b) 比大小, 最大/小的一定是絕對最大/小。

Note: 1. 雙 [三]變數會有 3[4] 個式子: (方程式與變數一樣多!)

$$f_x = \lambda g_x \quad f_y = \lambda g_y \quad [f_z = \lambda g_z] \quad g(x, y, z) = k$$

Attention: 1. $\nabla g \neq \mathbf{0}$, 當 $\nabla g = \mathbf{0}$ 時的點要另外判斷。(Ex 14.8.25)

◆ 2. 其實找到的是奇異點 (critical points), 有可能是局部極大/小或鞍點。

Ex: $f = y, g = y - x^3 = 0$. (try it yourself.)

Example 0.1 (無蓋盒) $V(x, y, z) = xyz, g(x, y, z) = 2xz + 2yz + xy = 12$.

$$\nabla V = \lambda \nabla g \implies \begin{cases} V_x = \lambda g_x \\ V_y = \lambda g_y \\ V_z = \lambda g_z \\ g = 12 \end{cases} \implies \begin{cases} yz = \lambda(2z + y) \\ xz = \lambda(2z + x) \\ xy = \lambda(2x + 2y) \\ 2xz + 2yz + xy = 12 \end{cases}$$

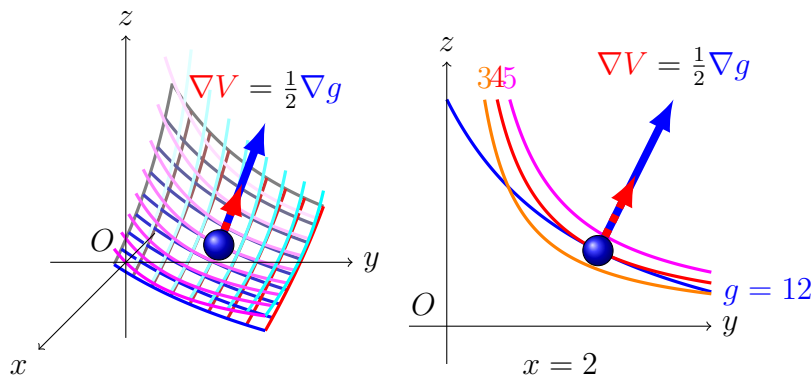
If $\lambda = 0$, 代入得到 $g = 0$, contradiction 矛盾, so $\lambda \neq 0$.

約掉 $\lambda \implies 2xz + xy = 2yz + xy = 2xz + 2yz \implies xy = 2yz = 2xz$.

If $x = 0, y = 0$, or $z = 0$ then $V(x, y, z) = 0$. (這也是個極值)

Otherwise, $\implies x = y = 2z$, 代入 $g(2z, 2z, z) = 12z^2 = 12, z = 1$ (負不合).

So $x = y = 2, z = 1, (\lambda = \frac{1}{2},) V(2, 2, 1) = 4$. ■



Example 0.2 Find the extreme value of $f(x, y) = x^2 + 2y^2$ on the circle $x^2 + y^2 = 1$.

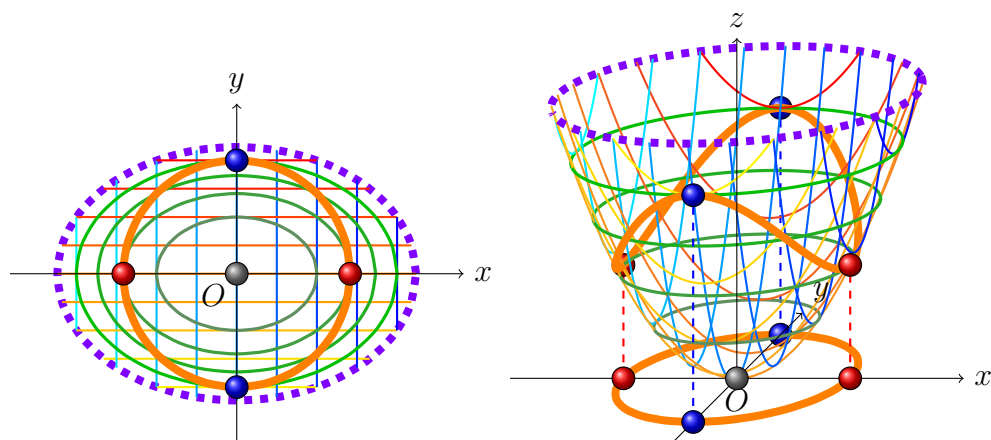
Let $g(x, y) = x^2 + y^2 = 1$.

$$\nabla f = \lambda \nabla g \implies \begin{cases} f_x = \lambda g_x \\ f_y = \lambda g_y \\ g = 1 \end{cases} \implies \begin{cases} 2x = \lambda 2x \\ 4y = \lambda 2y \\ x^2 + y^2 = 1 \end{cases} \implies \begin{matrix} x = 0 \text{ or} \\ \lambda = 1 \end{matrix}$$

If $x = 0$, then $y = \pm 1$; if $\lambda = 1$, then $y = 0$, $x = \pm 1$.

So the *absolute maximum value* of f on the circle is $f(0, \pm 1) = 2$,

and the *absolute minimum value* is $f(\pm 1, 0) = 1$. ■



Example 0.3 Find the extreme value of $f(x, y) = x^2 + 2y^2$ on the disk $x^2 + y^2 \leq 1$.

1. 找奇異點: $f_x = 2x = 0$, $f_y = 4y = 0$.

critical point: $(0, 0)$ and $f(0, 0) = 0$.

2. 找邊點: 由上題 $f(\pm 1, 0) = 1$ and $f(0, \pm 1) = 2$.

3. 比大小: the *maximum value* of f on the disk is $f(0, \pm 1) = 2$ and the *minimum value* is $f(0, 0) = 0$. ■

Example 0.4 Find the points on the sphere $x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 4$ that are closest to and the farthest from the point $(3, 1, -1)$.

Let d be the distance, $f(x, y, z) = d^2 = (x - 3)^2 + (y - 1)^2 + (z + 1)^2$,
 $g(x, y, z) = x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 4$.

$$\nabla f = \lambda \nabla g \implies \begin{cases} 2(x - 3) = \lambda 2x \\ 2(y - 1) = \lambda 2y \\ 2(z + 1) = \lambda 2z \\ x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 4 \end{cases} \implies \begin{cases} x = \frac{3}{1 - \lambda} \\ y = \frac{1}{1 - \lambda} \\ z = \frac{-1}{1 - \lambda} \end{cases} \quad (\lambda \neq 1)$$

$$\frac{3^2 + 1^2 + (-1)^2}{(1 - \lambda)^2} = 4, \quad \lambda = 1 \pm \frac{\sqrt{11}}{2},$$

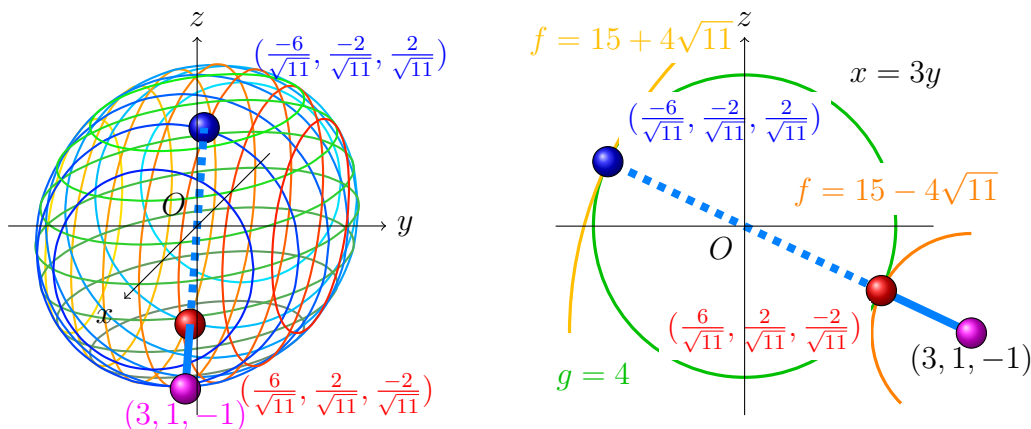
$$\implies (x, y, z) = \left(\frac{-6}{\sqrt{11}}, \frac{-2}{\sqrt{11}}, \frac{2}{\sqrt{11}} \right) \quad (\text{when } \lambda = 1 + \frac{\sqrt{11}}{2}),$$

$$\text{and } (x, y, z) = \left(\frac{6}{\sqrt{11}}, \frac{2}{\sqrt{11}}, \frac{-2}{\sqrt{11}} \right) \quad (\text{when } \lambda = 1 - \frac{\sqrt{11}}{2}).$$

$$f(x, y, z) = (x - 3)^2 + (y - 1)^2 + (z + 1)^2 \quad (\text{用 } \nabla f = \lambda \nabla g \text{ 換}) \\ = x^2 \lambda^2 + y^2 \lambda^2 + z^2 \lambda^2 = 4 \lambda^2 = (2 \pm \sqrt{11})^2 = 15 \pm 4\sqrt{11}.$$

So the **closest** point is $\left(\frac{6}{\sqrt{11}}, \frac{2}{\sqrt{11}}, \frac{-2}{\sqrt{11}} \right)$ (with distance $\sqrt{11} - 2$, $\sqrt{11} > 2$),

and the **farthest** point is $\left(\frac{-6}{\sqrt{11}}, \frac{-2}{\sqrt{11}}, \frac{2}{\sqrt{11}} \right)$ (with distance $2 + \sqrt{11}$). ■



Note: \pm 代表有正跟負兩個答案, 同時也用 $\mp = -(\pm)$ 表示對應的負與正。
 ex: $x = a \pm b \mp c$ 代表 $x = a + b - c$ and $x = a - b + c$.

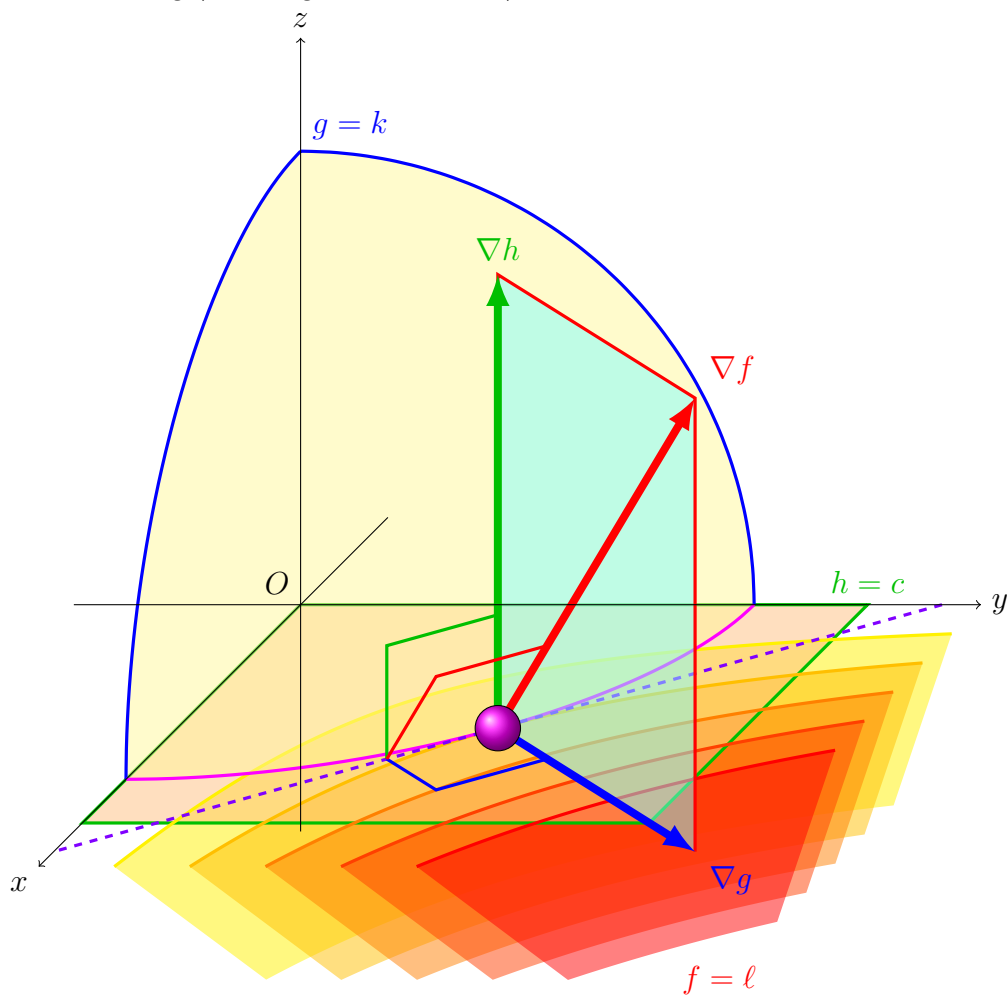
0.2 Two constraints

極值發生在 f 的 level curves(surfaces) C 與 $g = k$ 與 $h = c$ 的交線 C' 相切的點 P 。這時後 C 與 C' 在 P 的切向量平行。因為 ∇f 與 C 在 P 的切向量垂直, ∇g 與 ∇h 都與 C' 在 P 的切向量垂直, 所以 ∇f 在 ∇g 與 ∇h 展開的平面上, 也就是

$$\nabla f = \lambda \nabla g + \mu \nabla h \quad \& \quad g = k \quad \& \quad h = c$$

where λ, μ (“mu”[喵]) are called *Lagrange multipliers*.

Note: $\nabla g \neq \mathbf{0}$ on $g = k$ and $\nabla h \neq \mathbf{0}$ on $h = c$.



Example 0.5 Find the maximum value of $f(x, y, z) = x + 2y + 3z$ on the curve of intersection of the plane $x - y + z = 1$ and the cylinder $x^2 + y^2 = 1$.

Let $g(x, y, z) = x - y + z = 1$, $h(x, y, z) = x^2 + y^2 = 1$.

$$\nabla f = \lambda \nabla g + \mu \nabla h \implies \begin{cases} 1 = \lambda + \mu 2x \\ 2 = -\lambda + \mu 2y \\ 3 = \lambda \\ x - y + z = 1 \\ x^2 + y^2 = 1 \end{cases} \implies \begin{cases} \lambda = 3 \\ x = \frac{-1}{\mu} \\ y = \frac{5}{2\mu} \end{cases}$$

$$(\text{代 } h:) \left(\frac{1}{\mu}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{5}{2\mu}\right)^2 = 1, \mu = \pm \frac{\sqrt{29}}{2},$$

$$\implies x = \mp \frac{2}{\sqrt{29}}, y = \pm \frac{5}{\sqrt{29}}, (\text{代 } g:) z = 1 - x + y = 1 \pm \frac{7}{\sqrt{29}},$$

$$f\left(\mp \frac{2}{\sqrt{29}}, \pm \frac{5}{\sqrt{29}}, 1 \pm \frac{7}{\sqrt{29}}\right) = \mp \frac{2}{\sqrt{29}} + 2\left(\pm \frac{5}{\sqrt{29}}\right) + 3\left(1 \pm \frac{7}{\sqrt{29}}\right) = 3 \pm \sqrt{29}.$$

So the **maximum** value of f on the curve is

$$f\left(-\frac{2}{\sqrt{29}}, \frac{5}{\sqrt{29}}, 1 + \frac{7}{\sqrt{29}}\right) = 3 + \sqrt{29}.$$

(And the **minimum** value of f on the curve is

$$f\left(\frac{2}{\sqrt{29}}, -\frac{5}{\sqrt{29}}, 1 - \frac{7}{\sqrt{29}}\right) = 3 - \sqrt{29}.)$$

