

Let the dimensions of the box be  $x$ ,  $y$ , and  $z$ , so its volume is

$f(x, y, z) = xyz$ , its surface area is  $2xy + 2yz + 2xz = 1500$  and its total edge length is  $4x + 4y + 4z = 200$ . We find the extreme values of  $f(x, y, z)$  subject to the constraints  $g(x, y, z) = xy + yz + xz = 750$  and  $h(x, y, z) = x + y + z = 50$ .

Then

$$\begin{aligned}\nabla f &= \langle yz, xz, xy \rangle = \lambda \nabla g + \mu \nabla h \\ &= \langle \lambda(y+z), \lambda(x+z), \lambda(x+y) \rangle + \langle \mu, \mu, \mu \rangle.\end{aligned}$$

So  $yz = \lambda(y+z) + \mu$  **(1)**,  $xz = \lambda(x+z) + \mu$  **(2)**, and

$xy = \lambda(x+y) + \mu$  **(3)**. Notice that the box can't be a cube or else  $x = y = z = \frac{50}{3}$  but then  $xy + yz + xz = \frac{2500}{3} \neq 750$ . Assume  $x$  is the distinct side, that is,  $x \neq y$ ,  $x \neq z$ . Then **(1)** minus **(2)** implies  $z(y-x) = \lambda(y-x)$  or  $\lambda = z$ , and **(1)** minus **(3)** implies

$y(z-x) = \lambda(z-x)$  or  $\lambda = y$ . So  $y = z = \lambda$  and  $x + y + z = 50$  implies  $x = 50 - 2\lambda$ ; also  $xy + yz + xz = 750$  implies  $x(2\lambda) + \lambda^2 = 750$ . Hence  $50 - 2\lambda = \frac{750 - \lambda^2}{2\lambda}$  or  $3\lambda^2 - 100\lambda + 750 = 0$  and  $\lambda = \frac{50 \pm 5\sqrt{10}}{3}$ , giving the

points  $(\frac{1}{3}(50 \mp 10\sqrt{10}), \frac{1}{3}(50 \pm 5\sqrt{10}), \frac{1}{3}(50 \pm 5\sqrt{10}))$ . Thus the minimum of  $f$  is

$f(\frac{1}{3}(50 - 10\sqrt{10}), \frac{1}{3}(50 + 5\sqrt{10}), \frac{1}{3}(50 + 5\sqrt{10})) = \frac{1}{27}(87,500 - 2500\sqrt{10})$ , and its maximum is

$f(\frac{1}{3}(50 + 10\sqrt{10}), \frac{1}{3}(50 - 5\sqrt{10}), \frac{1}{3}(50 - 5\sqrt{10})) = \frac{1}{27}(87,500 + 2500\sqrt{10})$ .

*Note:* If either  $y$  or  $z$  is the distinct side, then symmetry gives the same result.