Review of: "Technological Tools to Teach the Idea of Optimality"

Mahmut Parlar[1]

1 McMaster University

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The author presents a unique approach to teaching optimization problems using geometrical constructs. In general, the manuscript is clearly written. However, in some sections, the paragraphs are too long, which makes reading somewhat uncomfortable. For example, the FeliX-Systems section is one very long paragraph. The material following Table 1 is also quite long.

A few minor comments:

1. I noticed that Figure 2 text is written in German, which is not consistent with other figures.
2. Figure 3 is a special case of a location problem that appears in operations management texts. The points A, B, and C are the customer locations (demand points) with possibly different weights (demands). It would have been interesting to see the solution if the weights were not equal for multiple locations.
3. This system appears to deal with equality-constrained problems only. It would have been very interesting if the inequality constraints were also included in the analysis. In such cases, the Kuhn-Tucker necessary conditions may not be sufficient for optimality if the feasible set is not convex, etc.
4. I discuss the following problem in one of my classes: I will pay you the sum of your coordinates, but you must stay within the unit circle, possibly including the perimeter. What are the optimal coordinates and the maximum payment to you? Could this problem be solved with the current approach?
5. Overall, this is a novel and interesting approach to simple optimization problems.