CHAPTER XII: NONLINEAR OPTIMIZATION CONDITIONS ........................................... 1

12.1 Optimality Conditions ...................................................................................... 1
  12.1.1 Unconstrained Optimization ....................................................................... 1
    12.1.1.1 Univariate .............................................................................................. 1
    12.1.1.2 Multivariate functions ............................................................................ 2
  12.1.2 Global Optima-Concavity and Convexity ..................................................... 2
  12.1.3 Constrained Optimization .......................................................................... 3
    12.1.3.1 Equality Constraints - The Lagrangian ................................................. 3
      12.1.3.1.1 Second Order Conditions - Constraint Qualifications:
        Convexity and Concavity .............................................................................. 5
      12.1.3.1.2 Interpretation of Lagrange Multipliers .......................................... 6
    12.1.3.2 Inequality Constraints - Kuhn Tucker Theory ...................................... 8
      12.1.3.2.2 Example 2 ...................................................................................... 10
  12.1.4 Usage of Optimality Conditions .................................................................. 10
  12.2 Notes on Solution of Nonlinear Programming Models .................................. 10
  12.3 Expressing Nonlinear Programs in Conjunction with GAMS ....................... 11

References .................................................................................................................. 12
CHAPTER XII: NONLINEAR OPTIMIZATION CONDITIONS

The previous material deals largely with linear optimization problems. We now turn our attention to continuous, certain, nonlinear optimization problems. The problems amenable to analysis using the methods in this chapter relax the LP additivity and proportionality assumptions.

The nonlinear optimization problem is important in a number of settings. This chapter will lay the groundwork for several later chapters where price endogenous and risk problems are formulated as nonlinear optimization problems. Optimality conditions for the problems will be treated followed by brief discussion of solution principles.

12.1 Optimality Conditions

This section is devoted to the characterization of optimality conditions for nonlinear programming problems. These characterizations depend upon both first order conditions for identification of stationary points and second order conditions for discovery of the nature of the stationary points found. Consideration of types of optimum involves the topics of concavity and convexity. Thus, concavity and convexity are discussed. The presentation will not be extremely rigorous. Those interested in more rigorous treatments should consult books like Hadley, or Bazaraa and Shetty.

Nonlinear optimization problems may be constrained or unconstrained. Optimality conditions for unconstrained problems are ordinarily developed in calculus classes and will be briefly reviewed. Lagrangian multiplier and Karush-Kuhn-Tucker based approaches are used to treat constrained problems and will be discussed here.

12.1.1 Unconstrained Optimization

Unconstrained optimization is a topic in calculus classes. Such problems may contain one or N variables.

12.1.1.1 Univariate

Problems with a single variable are called univariate. The univariate optimum for \( Y = f(X) \) occurs at points where the first derivative of \( f(X) \) with respect to \( X \) (\( f'(X) \)) equals zero. However, points which have zero first derivatives do not necessarily constitute a minimum or maximum. The second derivative is used to discover character of a point. Points at which a relative minimum occurs have a positive second derivative at that point while relative maximum occurs at points with a negative second derivative. Zero second derivatives are inconclusive.

It is important to distinguish between local and global optima. A local optimum arises when one finds a point whose value in the case of a maximum exceeds that of all surrounding points but may not exceed that of distant points. The second derivative indicates the shape of functions and is useful in indicating whether the optimum is local or global. The second derivative is the rate of change in the first derivative. If the second derivative is always negative (positive) that implies that any maximum (minimum) found is a global result. Consider a maximization problem with a negative second derivative for which \( f'(X) = 0 \). This means the first derivative was \( > 0 \) for \( X < X^* \) and was \( < 0 \) for \( X > X^* \). The function can never rise when moving away from \( X^* \) because of the sign of the second derivative. An everywhere positive second derivative indicates a global minimum will be
found if \( f'(X^\circ) = 0 \), while a negative indicates a global maximum.

### 12.1.1.2 Multivariate functions

The univariate optimization results have multivariate analogues. In the multivariate case, partial derivatives are used, and a set of simultaneous conditions is established. The first and second derivatives are again key to the optimization process, excepting now that a vector of first derivatives and a matrix of second derivatives is involved.

There are several terms to review. First, the gradient vector, \( \nabla f(X^\circ) \), is the vector of first order partial derivatives of a multivariate function with respect to each of the variables evaluated at the point \( X^\circ \).

\[
\nabla f(X^\circ) = \left[ \frac{\partial f(X^\circ)}{\partial X_i} \right]
\]

where \( \frac{\partial f(X^\circ)}{\partial X_i} \) stands for the partial derivative of \( f(X) \) with respect to \( X_i \) evaluated at \( X^\circ \), and \( X^\circ \) depicts \( X_1^\circ, X_2^\circ, ..., X_n^\circ \). The second derivatives constitute the Hessian matrix,

\[
H(X^\circ)_{ij} = \left[ \frac{\partial^2 f(X^\circ)}{\partial X_i \partial X_j} \right]
\]

The Hessian matrix, evaluated at \( X^\circ \), is an NxN symmetric matrix of second derivatives of the function with respect to each variable pair.

The multivariate analogue of the first derivative test is that an \( X^\circ \) must be found so that all terms of the gradient vector simultaneously equal zero. The multivariate version of the second derivative test involves examination of the Hessian matrix at \( X^\circ \). If that matrix is positive definite then the point \( X^\circ \) is a local minimum, whereas if the Hessian matrix is negative definite then the point is a local maximum. If the Hessian matrix is neither positive nor negative definite, then no conclusion can be made about whether this point is a maximum or minimum and one must conclude it is an inflection or saddle point.

### 12.1.2 Global Optima-Concavity and Convexity

The characterization of minimum and maximum points whether global or local is related to the concavity and convexity of functions. A univariate concave function has a negative second derivative everywhere and guarantees global maximum. A univariate convex function has a positive derivative everywhere yielding a global minimum. The multivariate analogues exhibit the proper definiteness of the Hessian matrix at all \( X \) points.

It is obviously desirable when dealing with optimization problems that global optimum be found. Thus, maximization problems are frequently assumed to be concave while minimization problems are assumed to be convex. Functions may also be locally concave or convex when the second derivative or Hessian only satisfies the sign convention in a region. Optimization problems over such functions can only yield local optimum.

Concavity of functions has been defined in another fashion. Concave functions exhibit the property
that, given any two points \( X_1 \) and \( X_2 \) in the domain of the function, a line joining those points always lies below the function. Mathematically, this is expressed as

\[
f(\lambda X_1 + (1-\lambda) X_2) \geq \lambda f(X_1) + (1-\lambda) f(X_2)
\]

\[0 \leq \lambda \leq 1\]

Note that \( \lambda f(X_1) + (1-\lambda) f(X_2) \) is a line between \( f(X_1) \) and \( f(X_2) \) and that concavity requires this line to fall below the true function \( f(\lambda X_1 + (1-\lambda)X_2) \) everywhere below this function.

Similarly, a line associated with two points on a convex function must lie above the true function

\[
f(\lambda X_1 + (1-\lambda) X_2) \leq \lambda f(X_1) + (1-\lambda) f(X_2)
\]

\[0 \leq \lambda \leq 1\]

Concavity and convexity occur locally or globally. A function is globally concave if the conditions hold for all \( X \) or is locally concave or convex if the functions satisfy the conditions in some neighborhood.

The optimality conditions may be restated in terms of concavity and convexity. Namely, a multivariate function for which a stationary point \( X^\circ \) has been discovered has: a) a local maximum at \( X^\circ \) if the function is locally concave, b) a global maximum if the function is concave throughout the domain under consideration, c) a local minimum at \( X^\circ \) if the function is locally convex, d) a global minimum at \( X^\circ \) if the function is strictly convex, and e) a saddle point if the function is neither concave nor convex. At the stationary point, concavity and convexity for these conditions may be evaluated either using the two formulas above or using the positive or negative definiteness properties of the Hessian.

### 12.1.3 Constrained Optimization

The second major type of optimization problem is the constrained optimization problem. Two types of constrained problems will be considered: those subject to equality constraints without sign restricted variables and those subject to inequality constraints and/or sign restrictions on the variables.

The optimality conditions for equality constrained optimization problems involve the Lagrangian and associated optimality conditions. The solution of problems with inequality constraints and/or variable sign restrictions relies on Karush-Kuhn-Tucker theory.

#### 12.1.3.1 Equality Constraints - The Lagrangian

Consider the problem

Maximize \( f(X) \)

s.t. \( g_i(X) = b_i \) for all \( I \)

where \( f(X) \) and \( g_i(X) \) are functions of \( N \) variables and there are \( M \) equality constraints on the problem. Optimization conditions for this problem were developed in the eighteenth century by Lagrange. The Lagrangian approach involves first forming the function,
\[ L(X, \lambda) = f(X) \sum \lambda_i (g_i(X) - b_i) \]

where a new set of variables \((\lambda_i)\) are entered. These variables are called Lagrange multipliers. In turn the problem is treated as if it were unconstrained with the gradient set to zero and the Hessian examined. The gradient is formed by differentiating the Lagrangian function \(L(X, \lambda)\) with respect to both \(X\) and \(\lambda\). These resultant conditions are

\[
\frac{\partial L}{\partial X_j} = \frac{\partial f(X^\circ)}{\partial X_j} - \sum_i \lambda^\circ_i \frac{\partial g_i(X^\circ)}{\partial X_i} = 0 \quad \text{for all } j
\]

\[
\frac{\partial L}{\partial \lambda_i} = -(g_i(X^\circ) - b_i) = 0 \quad \text{for all } i.
\]

In words, the first condition requires that at \(X^\circ\) the gradient vector of \(f(X)\) minus the sum of \(\lambda^\circ\) times the gradient vector of each constraint must equal zero. The second condition says that at \(X^\circ\) the original constraints must be satisfied with strict equality. The first order condition yields a system of \(N+M\) equations which must be simultaneously satisfied. In this case, the derivatives of the objective function are not ordinarily driven to zero. Rather, the objective gradient vector is equated to the Lagrange multipliers times the gradients of the constraints.

\[ \text{Max } \sum_j c_j X_j \]
\[ \text{s.t. } \sum_j a_{ij} X_j = b_i \text{ for all } i \]

These conditions are analogous to the optimality conditions of an LP consider a LP problem with \(N\) variables and \(M\) binding constraints. The first order conditions using the Lagrangian would be

\[
\frac{\partial L}{\partial X_j} = c_j - \sum_i \lambda_i a_{ij} = 0 \quad \text{for all } j
\]

\[
\frac{\partial L}{\partial \lambda_i} = -(\sum_j a_{ij} X_j - b_i) = 0 \quad \text{for all } i
\]

Clearly, this set of conditions is analogous to the optimality conditions on the LP problem when one eliminates the possibility of zero variables and nonbinding constraints. Further, the Lagrange multipliers are analogous to dual variables or shadow prices, as we will show below.

Use of the Lagrangian is probably again best illustrated by example. Given the problem

\[ \text{Minimize } \quad X_1^2 + X_2^2 \]
\[ \text{s.t. } \quad X_1 + X_2 = 10 \]

the Lagrangian function is

\[ L(X, \lambda) = X_1^2 + X_2^2 - \lambda(X_1 + X_2 - 10) \]

Forming the Lagrange multiplier conditions leads to
\[ \frac{\partial L}{\partial X_1} = 2X_1 - \lambda = 0 \]
\[ \frac{\partial L}{\partial X_2} = 2X_2 - \lambda = 0 \]
\[ \frac{\partial L}{\partial \lambda} = -(X_1 + X_2 - 10) = 0 \]

In turn, utilizing the first two conditions, we may solve for \( X_1^\circ \) and \( X_2^\circ \) in terms of \( \lambda^\circ \) and getting
\[ X_1^\circ = X_2^\circ = \lambda^\circ / 2 \]

Then plugging this into the third equation leads to the conclusion that
\[ \lambda^\circ = 10; \]
\[ X_1^\circ = X_2^\circ = 5 \]

This is then a stationary point for this problem and, in this case, is a relative minimum. We will discuss the second order conditions below.

### 12.1.3 Second Order Conditions - Constraint Qualifications: Convexity and Concavity

The Lagrangian conditions develop conditions for a stationary point, but yield no insights as to its nature. One then needs to investigate whether the stationary point is, in fact, a maximum or a minimum. In addition, the functions must be continuous with the derivatives defined and there are constraint qualifications which insure that the constraints are satisfactorily behaved.

Distinguishing whether a global or local optimum has been found, again, involves use of second order conditions. In this case, second order conditions arise through a "bordered" Hessian. The bordered Hessian is

\[
H(X, \lambda) = \begin{bmatrix}
0 & \frac{\partial g_i(X)}{\partial X_j} \\
\frac{\partial g_i(X)}{\partial X_j} & \frac{\partial^2 f(X)}{\partial X_i X_j}
\end{bmatrix}
\]

For original variables and \( m \leq n \) constraints, the stationary point is a minimum if starting with the principal minor of order \( 2m + 1 \) the last \( n-m \) principal minor determinants follow the sign \((-1)^{m}\). As similarly, if those principal minor determinants alternate in sign, starting with \((-1)^{m+1}\), then the stationary point is a maximum. Mann originally developed this condition while Silberberg and Taha (1992) elaborate on it.

For the example above the bordered Hessian is
\[
H(X^0, \lambda^0) = \begin{bmatrix}
0 & 1 & -1 \\
1 & 2 & 0 \\
-1 & 0 & 2
\end{bmatrix}
\]

Here, there are two variables and one constraint thus \( n - m = 2 - 1 = 1 \), and we need to examine only one determinant. This determinant is positive, thus \( X^0 \) is a minimum.

An additional set of qualifications on the problem have also arisen in the mathematical programming literature. Here, the qualification involves relationship of the constraints to the objective function. It is expressed using the Jacobian matrix \((J)\) which is defined with the elements

\[
J = \left[ \frac{\partial g_i(x^0)}{\partial x_j} \right]_{i,j}
\]

This Jacobian matrix gives row vectors of the partial derivatives of each of the constraints with respect to the \( X \) variables. The condition for existence of \( \lambda \) is that the rank of this Jacobian matrix, evaluated at the optimum point, must equal the rank of the Jacobian matrix which has been augmented with a row giving the gradient vector of the objective function. This condition insures that the objective function can be written as a linear combination of the gradients of the constraints. Note that this condition does not imply that the Jacobian of the constraints has to be of full row rank. However, when the Jacobian of the constraints is not of full row rank, this introduces an indeterminacy in the Lagrange multipliers and is equivalent to the degenerate case in LP. Both Hadley and Pfaffenberger and Walker treat such cases in more detail.

The sufficient conditions for the Lagrangian also can be guaranteed by specifying: a) that the above rank condition holds which insures that the constraints bind the objective function, b) that the objective function is concave, and c) that the constraint set is convex. A convex constraint set occurs when given any two feasible points all points in between are feasible.

**12.1.3.1.2 Interpretation of Lagrange Multipliers**

Hadley (1964) presents a useful derivation of the interpretation of Lagrange multipliers. We will follow this below. Assume \( Z \) is the optimal objective value, and \( X^* \) the optimal solution for the decision variables. Suppose now we wish to derive an expression for the rate at which the optimal objective function value changes when we change the right hand side. Then, by the chain rule, we obtain
\[
\frac{\partial Z}{\partial b_i} = \sum_j \frac{\partial f(X^0)}{\partial X^0_j} \frac{\partial X^0_j}{\partial b_i}
\]

If we also differentiate the constraints with respect to \(b_i\), we get

\[
\frac{\partial g_k}{\partial b_i} = \delta_{ik} = \sum_j \frac{\partial g_k(X)}{\partial X^0_j} \frac{\partial X^0_j}{\partial b_i}
\]

where \(\delta_{ik}\) is the so-called Kronecker delta and equals

\[
\delta_{ik} = \begin{cases} 
1 & \text{if } i = k \\
0 & \text{otherwise}
\end{cases}
\]

If we now take the equality relationship between the Kronecker \(\delta\) and the derivatives of the constraints with respect to \(X^*_j\) we may rewrite this as

\[
\delta_{ik} - \sum_j \frac{\partial g_k(X)}{\partial X^0_j} \frac{\partial X^0_j}{\partial b_i} = 0 \quad \text{for all } i \text{ and } k
\]

Multiplying this through by \(\lambda_k\), we get

\[
\lambda_k \delta_{ik} - \lambda_k \sum_j \frac{\partial g_k(X)}{\partial X^0_j} \frac{\partial X^0_j}{\partial b_i} = 0 \quad \text{for all } i \text{ and } k
\]

Since the above term equals zero, we may freely sum over it and still obtain zero. If we add this term to the expression above we obtain

\[
\frac{\partial Z}{\partial b_i} = \sum_j \frac{\partial f(X^0)}{\partial X^0_j} \frac{\partial X^0_j}{\partial b_i} - \sum_k \left( \lambda_k \delta_{ik} - \lambda_k \sum_j \frac{\partial g_k(X)}{\partial X^0_j} \frac{\partial X^0_j}{\partial b_i} \right) \quad \text{for all } i
\]

Grouping terms yields
\[
\frac{\partial Z}{\partial b_i} = \sum_k \lambda_k \delta_{ik} - \sum_j \left( \frac{\partial f(X_0)}{\partial x_j^0} - \sum_k \lambda_k \frac{\partial g_k(X_0)}{\partial x_j^0} \right) \frac{\partial x_j^0}{\partial b_i} \text{ for all } i
\]

The parenthetic part of this expression is equal to zero via the Lagrangian conditions. Thus, the sum over \( j \) always equals zero. The left hand side \( \lambda_k \text{ times } \delta_{ik} \) will be zero for all terms except where \( I \) equals \( k \). Consequently, the sum equals \( \lambda_i \), and we obtain the conclusion

\[
\frac{\partial Z}{\partial b_i} = \lambda_i
\]

or that the partial derivative of the objective function at optimality with respect to the \( i \text{th} \) right hand side is equal to \( \lambda_i \). Thus, the \( \lambda_i \)'s are analogous to shadow prices from ordinary LP. However, these are derivatives and are not generally constant over ranges of right hand side values as is true in LP. Rather, they are instantaneous projections of how the objective function would change given an infinitesimal change in the right hand side.

### 12.1.3.2 Inequality Constraints - Karush-Kuhn-Tucker Theory

Kuhn and Tucker, in 1951 and Karush independently, developed optimality conditions for problems which contain inequality constraints and/or sign restricted variables. These conditions deal with the problem

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Maximize} & \quad f(X) \\
\text{s.t.} & \quad g(X) \leq b \\
& \quad X \geq 0
\end{align*}
\]

The Karush-Kuhn-Tucker conditions state that if the following six conditions are satisfied then the solution

1) \( \nabla_x f(X^*) - \lambda^* \nabla_x g(X^*) \leq 0 \)
2) \( [\nabla_x f(X^*)] \lambda^* \nabla_x g(X^*) X^* = 0 \)
3) \( X^* \geq 0 \)
4) \( g(X^*) \leq b \)
5) \( \lambda^* (g(X^*) - b) = 0 \)
6) \( \lambda^* \geq 0 \)

\( X^*, \lambda^* \) would be a candidate for optimality.

The conditions may be interpreted economically. The first condition requires that the first derivative of the objective function minus \( \lambda^* \) times the first derivative of the constraints be less than or equal to zero at optimality. If one interprets the objective function as profit and the Lagrange multipliers as the cost of resources, and the constraint derivatives as the marginal resource requirements, then this
condition requires that the marginal profit contribution of any product be less than or equal to the marginal cost of producing this product.

The second condition requires that the difference between the marginal profit and marginal cost times the \( X \) variable equals zero. The third condition requires nonnegative production. The second condition, taken together with the first and the third, requires that either the good be produced at a nonzero level and that marginal profit equals marginal cost, or the good not be produced and marginal profit be less than or equal to marginal cost (strictly less than in nondegenerate cases).

The fourth condition, in turn, requires that the original problem constraints be satisfied. The fifth condition requires that the Lagrange multiplier variables times the slack in the constraints equals zero, and

the sixth condition that the Lagrange multipliers be nonnegative. The fourth and sixth conditions taken together, in conjunction with the fifth condition, require that either the constraint be binding and the Lagrange multiplier be nonzero (zero in degenerate cases), or that the Lagrange multiplier be zero and the constraint be nonbinding. Conditions 2 and 5 are analogous to the complementary slackness conditions in LP.

These conditions guarantee a global optimum, if the objective function is concave, the constraints \( g(X) \leq b \) form a convex set, and one of several constraint qualifications occur. The simplest of these constraint qualifications require that the constraints form a convex set and a feasible interior point can be found (the Slater condition). Another constraint qualification requires that the rank condition of the Jacobian be satisfied. There are other forms of constraint qualifications as reviewed in Bazaraa and Shetty; Gould and Tolle; and Peterson.

12.1.3.2.1 Example 1

Consider the LP problem

\[
\text{Maximize } \quad CX \\
\text{s.t. } \\
AX \leq b \\
X \geq 0
\]

The Karush-Kuhn-Tucker conditions of this problem are

1) \[ C - \lambda^*A \leq 0 \]
2) \[ [C - \lambda^*A ]X^* = 0 \]
3) \[ X^* \geq 0 \]
4) \[ AX^* \leq b \]
5) \[ \lambda^* (AX - b) = 0 \]
6) \[ \lambda^* \geq 0 \]

These Karush-Kuhn-Tucker conditions are equivalent to the optimality conditions of the LP problem.
and show that the Karush-Kuhn-Tucker theory is simply a superset of LP theory and LP duality theory as the \( \lambda \)'s in the Karush-Kuhn-Tucker problem are equivalent to the LP dual variables.

12.1.3.2.2 Example 2

The Karush-Kuhn-Tucker theory has also been applied to quadratic programming problems. A quadratic problem is

\[
\text{Maximize} \quad CX - \frac{1}{2}X'QZ \\
\text{s.t.} \quad AX \leq b \\
\quad X \geq 0
\]

and its Karush-Kuhn-Tucker conditions are

1) \( C - X'Q - \lambda^*A \leq 0 \)
2) \( [C - X'Q - \lambda^*A]X^* = 0 \)
3) \( X^* \geq 0 \)
4) \( AX^* \leq b \)
5) \( \lambda^* (AX - b) = 0 \)
6) \( \lambda^* \geq 0 \)

These Karush-Kuhn-Tucker conditions are close to a linear system of equations. If one disregards equations (2) and (5) the system is linear. These Karush-Kuhn-Tucker conditions have provided the basic equations that specialized quadratic programming algorithms (e.g. Wolfe) attempt to solve.

12.1.4 Usage of Optimality Conditions

Optimality conditions have been used in mathematical programming for three purposes. The first and least used purpose is to solve numerical problems. Not many modelers check second derivatives or attempt to solve such things as the Karush-Kuhn-Tucker conditions directly. Rather, the more common usages of the optimality conditions are to characterize optimal solutions analytically, as is very commonly done in economics, or to provide the conditions that an algorithm attempts to achieve as in the Wolfe algorithm in quadratic programming.

12.2 Notes on Solution of Nonlinear Programming Models

Three general approaches have been used to solve nonlinear models. Problems have been approximated by a linear model and the resulting model solved via the simplex method as in the approximations chapter. Second, special problem structures (most notably those with a quadratic objective function and linear constraints) have been solved with customized algorithms. Third, general nonlinear programming algorithms such as MINOS within GAMS have been used.

A popular way of solving nonlinear programming problems is the “gradient” method (Lasdon and Waren, Waren and Lasdon). One of the popular gradient algorithms was developed by Murtaugh and Saunders (1987) and implemented in MINOS (which is the common GAMS nonlinear solver). That method solves the problem
Min  \( F(X) = f(X^N) + CX^L \)
\[ \text{s.t. } AX \leq b \]
\[ X \geq 0. \]

where \( f(X) \) is a twice-differentiable convex function. Their approach involves an \( X \) vector which contains variables which only have linear terms, \( X^L \), and variables with nonlinear objective terms, \( X^N \).

MINOS first finds a feasible solution to the problem. The usual method employed in LP is to designate basic variables and non-basic variables which are set equal to zero. However, the optimal solution to a nonlinear problem is rarely basic. But Murtaugh and Saunders (1987) note that if the number of nonlinear variables is small, the optimal solution will be "nearly basic"; i.e., the optimal solution will lie near a basic solution. Thus, they maintain the traditional basic variables as well as superbasic and traditional non-basic variables. The superbasic variables have nonzero values with their levels determined by the first order conditions on those variables.

Given a current solution to the problem, \( X^0 \), MINOS seeks to improve the objective function value. The algorithm uses the gradient to determine the direction of change, thus GAMS automatically takes derivatives and passes them to MINOS. The algorithm proceeds until the reduced gradient of the objective function, in the space determined by the active constraints, is zero. MINOS can also solve problems with nonlinear constraints. See Gill, Murry and Wright for discussion.

### 12.3 Expressing Nonlinear Programs in Conjunction with GAMS

The solution of nonlinear programming problems in GAMS is a simple extension of the solution of linear programming problems in GAMS. One ordinarily has to do two things. First, one specifies the model using nonlinear expressions, and second the solve statement is altered so a nonlinear solver is used. In addition, it is desirable to specify an initial starting point and that the problem be well scaled.

An example quadratic programming problem is as follows:
\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Max} & \quad 6Q_d - 0.15Q_d - Q_s - 0.1Q_s^2 \\
& \quad Q_d, \quad Q_s \quad \leq 0 \\
& \quad Q_d, \quad Q_s \quad \leq 0
\end{align*}
\]

This problem is explained in the Price Endogenous modeling chapter and is only presented here for illustrative purposes. The GAMS formulation is listed in Table 12.1 and is called TABLE12.1 on the associated disk. The solution to this model as presented in Table 12.2 reveals shadow prices as well as optimal variable values and reduced costs. The SOLVE statement (line 34) uses the phrase "USING NLP" which signifies using nonlinear programming. Obviously users must have a license to a nonlinear programming algorithm such as MINOS to do this. Also, the objective function is specified as a nonlinear model in lines 26-28.

Finally a caution is also in order. Modelers should avoid nonlinear terms in equations to the extent possible (excepting in the equation expressing a nonlinear objective function). It is much more difficult for nonlinear solvers, like MINOS, to deal with nonlinear constraints.
References


Karush, W. Minima of functions of several variables with inequalities as side conditions. Master of Science Dissertation, Dept. of Mathematics, Univ. of Chicago, 1939, December


Table 12.1. GAMS Formulation of Nonlinear Programming Example

```
2 OPTION LIMCOL = 0;
5 OPTION LIMROW = 0;
7 SETS CURVEPARM CURVE PARAMETERS /INTERCEPT,SLOPE/
8 CURVES TYPES OF CURVES /DEMAND,SUPPLY/
10 TABLE DATA(CURVES,CURVEPARM) SUPPLY DEMAND DATA
12
13                     INTERCEPT       SLOPE
14    DEMAND               6           -0.30
15    SUPPLY               1           0.20
16 PARAMETERS SIGN(CURVES) SIGN ON CURVES IN OBJECTIVE FUNCTION
17                            /SUPPLY -1, DEMAND 1/
19 POSITIVE VARIABLES QUANTITY(CURVES) ACTIVITY LEVEL
21 VARIABLES OBJ NUMBER TO BE MAXIMIZED
23 EQUATIONS OBJJ OBJECTIVE FUNCTION
24 BALANCE COMMODITY BALANCE;
26 OBJJ..   OBJ =E= SUM(CURVES, SIGN(CURVES)*
27                          (DATA(CURVES,"INTERCEPT")*QUANTITY(CURVES)
28                          +0.5*DATA(CURVES,"SLOPE")*QUANTITY(CURVES)**2)) ;
29 BALANCE..    SUM(CURVES, SIGN(CURVES)*QUANTITY(CURVES)) =L= 0 ;
31 MODEL PRICEEND /ALL/ ;
34 SOLVE PRICEEND USING NLP MAXIMIZING OBJ ;
```

Table 12.2. Solution to Nonlinear Example Model

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Reduced Cost</th>
<th>Equation</th>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Shadow Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Q_d</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Objective function</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q_s</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Constraint</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

copyright 1997 Bruce A. McCarl and Thomas H. Spreen