The ever-increasing demand on engineers to lower production costs to withstand competition has prompted engineers to look for rigorous methods of decision making, such as optimization methods, to design and produce products both economically and efficiently. Optimization techniques, having reached a degree of maturity over the past several years, are being used in a wide spectrum of industries, including aerospace, automotive, chemical, electrical, and manufacturing industries. With rapidly advancing computer technology, computers are becoming more powerful, and correspondingly, the size and the complexity of the problems being solved using optimization techniques are also increasing. Optimization methods, coupled with modern tools of computer-aided design, are also being used to enhance the creative process of conceptual and detailed design of engineering systems.

The purpose of this textbook is to present the techniques and applications of engineering optimization in a simple manner. Essential proofs and explanations of the various techniques are given in a simple manner without sacrificing accuracy. New concepts are illustrated with the help of numerical examples. Although most engineering design problems can be solved using nonlinear programming techniques, there are a variety of engineering applications for which other optimization methods, such as linear, geometric, dynamic, integer, and stochastic programming techniques, are most suitable. This book presents the theory and applications of all optimization techniques in a comprehensive manner. Some of the recently developed methods of optimization, such as genetic algorithms, simulated annealing, neural-network-based methods, and fuzzy optimization, are also discussed in the book.

A large number of solved examples, review questions, problems, figures, and references are included to enhance the presentation of the material. Al-
though emphasis is placed on engineering design problems, examples and problems are taken from several fields of engineering to make the subject appealing to all branches of engineering.

This book can be used either at the junior/senior or first-year-graduate-level optimum design or engineering optimization courses. At Purdue University, I cover Chapters 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, and 7 and parts of Chapters 8, 10, 12, and 13 in a dual-level course entitled *Optimal Design: Theory with Practice*. In this course, a design project is also assigned to each student in which the student identifies, formulates, and solves a practical engineering problem of his or her interest by applying or modifying an optimization technique. This design project gives the student a feeling for ways that optimization methods work in practice. The book can also be used, with some supplementary material, for a second course on engineering optimization or optimum design or structural optimization. The relative simplicity with which the various topics are presented makes the book useful both to students and to practicing engineers for purposes of self-study. The book also serves as reference source for different engineering optimization applications. Although the emphasis of the book is on engineering applications, it would also be useful to other areas, such as operations research and economics. A knowledge of matrix theory and differential calculus is assumed on the part of the reader.

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S. S. Rao

March 1995
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direct methods of optimization are discussed. The methods presented in this chapter can be treated as the most general techniques for the solution of any optimization problem.

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S. S. Rao

March 1995
## Contents

**Preface** .................................................................................................................. vii  
**Acknowledgments** ................................................................................................. xi  

1. **Introduction to Optimization** ................................................................. 1  
   1.1 Introduction .................................................................................................. 1  
   1.2 Historical Development ........................................................................... 3  
   1.3 Engineering Applications of Optimization .................................................. 4  
   1.4 Statement of an Optimization Problem ...................................................... 5  
      1.4.1 Design Vector .................................................................................. 6  
      1.4.2 Design Constraints ......................................................................... 7  
      1.4.3 Constraint Surface ......................................................................... 8  
      1.4.4 Objective Function ......................................................................... 9  
      1.4.5 Objective Function Surfaces ....................................................... 10  
   1.5 Classification of Optimization Problems .................................................... 15  
      1.5.1 Classification Based on the Existence of Constraints ....................... 15  
      1.5.2 Classification Based on the Nature of the Design Variables .......... 15  
      1.5.3 Classification Based on the Physical Structure of the Problem .... 17  
      1.5.4 Classification Based on the Nature of the Equations Involved ....... 20
# 2. Classical Optimization Techniques

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.1 Introduction</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2 Single-Variable Optimization</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3 Multivariable Optimization with No Constraints</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.1 Semidefinite Case</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.2 Saddle Point</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.4 Multivariable Optimization with Equality Constraints</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.4.1 Solution by Direct Substitution</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.4.2 Solution by the Method of Constrained Variation</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.4.3. Solution by the Method of Lagrange Multipliers</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5 Multivariable Optimization with Inequality Constraints</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5.1 Kuhn-Tucker Conditions</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5.2 Constraint Qualification</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.6 Convex Programming Problem</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5.4 Exhaustive Search .............................................................. 281
5.5 Dichotomous Search .......................................................... 283
5.6 Interval Halving Method ...................................................... 286
5.7 Fibonacci Method ............................................................... 289
5.8 Golden Section Method ...................................................... 296
5.9 Comparison of Elimination Methods ................................. 298

Interpolation Methods .............................................................. 299
5.10 Quadratic Interpolation Method ......................................... 301
5.11 Cubic Interpolation Method ................................................ 308
5.12 Direct Root Methods ........................................................... 316
  5.12.1 Newton Method ................................................ 316
  5.12.2 Quasi-Newton Method ..................................... 319
  5.12.3 Secant Method ................................................. 321
5.13 Practical Considerations ..................................................... 324
  5.13.1 How to Make the Methods Efficient and More Reliable .......... 324
  5.13.2 Implementation in Multivariable Optimization Problems .......... 325
  5.13.3 Comparison of Methods ................................... 325

References and Bibliography ........................................................ 326
Review Questions ......................................................................... 326
Problems ....................................................................................... 327

6.1 Introduction ......................................................................... 333
  6.1.1 Classification of Unconstrained Minimization Methods ............ 336
  6.1.2 General Approach ....................................................... 337
  6.1.3 Rate of Convergence .................................................. 337
  6.1.4 Scaling of Design Variables .................................... 339
Direct Search Methods .......................................................... 343
6.2 Random Search Methods .................................................. 343
  6.2.1 Random Jumping Method ............................................. 343
  6.2.2 Random Walk Method ................................................ 345
  6.2.3 Random Walk Method with Direction Exploitation .......... 347
6.3 Grid Search Method .......................................................... 348
6.4 Univariate Method ............................................................ 350
6.5 Pattern Directions ............................................................ 353
6.6 Hooke and Jeeves’ Method ............................................... 354
6.7 Powell’s Method .............................................................. 357
  6.7.1 Conjugate Directions ................................................... 358
  6.7.2 Algorithm ................................................................. 362
6.8 Rosenbrock’s Method of Rotating Coordinates .................... 368
6.9 Simplex Method .............................................................. 368
  6.9.1 Reflection ................................................................. 369
  6.9.2 Expansion ............................................................... 372
  6.9.3 Contraction .............................................................. 373

Indirect Search (Descent) Methods .......................................... 376
6.10 Gradient of a Function ..................................................... 376
  6.10.1 Evaluation of the Gradient ......................................... 379
  6.10.2 Rate of Change of a Function Along a Direction .......... 380
6.11 Steepest Descent (Cauchy) Method .................................. 381
6.12 Conjugate Gradient (Fletcher-Reeves) Method .................... 383
  6.12.1 Development of the Fletcher-Reeves Method ............... 384
  6.12.2 Fletcher-Reeves Method ............................................ 386
6.13 Newton's Method ........................................................... 389
6.14 Marquardt Method .......................................................... 392
6.15 Quasi-Newton Methods ................................................... 394
7. Nonlinear Programming III: Constrained Optimization Techniques ............................................ 428

7.1 Introduction .................................................................................................................. 428

7.2 Characteristics of a Constrained Problem ...................................................................... 428

Direct Methods .................................................................................................................. 432

7.3 Random Search Methods .............................................................................................. 432

7.4 Complex Method .......................................................................................................... 433

7.5 Sequential Linear Programming .................................................................................... 436

7.6 Basic Approach in the Methods of Feasible Directions .................................................... 443

7.7 Zoutendijk’s Method of Feasible Directions ................................................................... 444

7.7.1 Direction-Finding Problem ......................................................................................... 446

7.7.2 Determination of Step Length .................................................................................... 449

7.7.3 Termination Criteria .................................................................................................. 452

7.8 Rosen’s Gradient Projection Method .............................................................................. 455

7.8.1 Determination of Step Length .................................................................................... 459

7.9 Generalized Reduced Gradient Method .......................................................................... 465

7.10 Sequential Quadratic Programming ............................................................................. 477

7.10.1 Derivation ................................................................................................................ 477

7.10.2 Solution Procedure .................................................................................................. 480

Indirect Methods ................................................................................................................ 485

7.11 Transformation Techniques ........................................................................................... 485
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7.12</td>
<td>Basic Approach of the Penalty Function Method</td>
<td>487</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.13</td>
<td>Interior Penalty Function Method</td>
<td>489</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.14</td>
<td>Convex Programming Problem</td>
<td>501</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.15</td>
<td>Exterior Penalty Function Method</td>
<td>502</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.16</td>
<td>Extrapolation Technique in the Interior Penalty Function Method</td>
<td>507</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.16.1</td>
<td>Extrapolation of the Design Vector $X$</td>
<td>508</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.16.2</td>
<td>Extrapolation of the Function $f$</td>
<td>510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.17</td>
<td>Extended Interior Penalty Function Methods</td>
<td>512</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.17.1</td>
<td>Linear Extended Penalty Function Method</td>
<td>512</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.17.2</td>
<td>Quadratic Extended Penalty Function Method</td>
<td>513</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.18</td>
<td>Penalty Function Method for Problems with Mixed Equality and Inequality Constraints</td>
<td>515</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.18.1</td>
<td>Interior Penalty Function Method</td>
<td>515</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.18.2</td>
<td>Exterior Penalty Function Method</td>
<td>517</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.19</td>
<td>Penalty Function Method for Parametric Constraints</td>
<td>517</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.19.1</td>
<td>Parametric Constraint</td>
<td>517</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.19.2</td>
<td>Handling Parametric Constraints</td>
<td>519</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.20</td>
<td>Augmented Lagrange Multiplier Method</td>
<td>521</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.20.1</td>
<td>Equality-Constrained Problems</td>
<td>521</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.20.2</td>
<td>Inequality-Constrained Problems</td>
<td>523</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.20.3</td>
<td>Mixed Equality-Inequality Constrained Problems</td>
<td>525</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.21</td>
<td>Checking Convergence of Constrained Optimization Problems</td>
<td>527</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.21.1</td>
<td>Perturbing the Design Vector</td>
<td>527</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.21.2</td>
<td>Testing the Kuhn-Tucker Conditions</td>
<td>528</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
8. Geometric Programming ................................................................. 556
  8.1 Introduction ............................................................................. 556
  8.2 Posynomial ............................................................................. 556
  8.3 Unconstrained Minimization Problem ..................................... 557
  8.4 Solution of an Unconstrained Geometric Programming Problem Using Differential Calculus ........................... 558
  8.5 Solution of an Unconstrained Geometric Programming Problem Using Arithmetic-Geometric Inequality ...................................................... 566
  8.6 Primal-Dual Relationship and Sufficiency Conditions in the Unconstrained Case ..................................................... 567
  8.7 Constrained Minimization ........................................................ 575
  8.8 Solution of a Constrained Geometric Programming Problem ........................................................................................................... 576
  8.9 Primal and Dual Programs in the Case of Less-Than Inequalities .............................................................................................. 577
  8.10 Geometric Programming with Mixed Inequality Constraints ........................................................................................................... 585
  8.11 Complementary Geometric Programming ................................ 588
  8.12 Applications of Geometric Programming ................................. 594
References and Bibliography ........................................................ 609
Review Questions ......................................................................... 611
Problems ....................................................................................... 612

9. Dynamic Programming .............................................................. 616
9.1 Introduction ......................................................................... 616
9.2 Multistage Decision Processes ............................................. 617
  9.2.1 Definition and Examples .................................. 617
  9.2.2 Representation of a Multistage Decision Process ............................................................ 618
  9.2.3 Conversion of a Nonserial System to a Serial System ..................................................... 620
  9.2.4 Types of Multistage Decision Problems ........... 621
9.3 Concept of Suboptimization and the Principle of Optimality ............................................................................ 622
9.4 Computational Procedure in Dynamic Programming ...................................................................................... 626
9.5 Example Illustrating the Calculus Method of Solution .......................................................................................... 630
9.6 Example Illustrating the Tabular Method of Solution ........ 635
9.7 Conversion of a Final Value Problem into an Initial Value Problem ......................................................................... 641
9.8 Linear Programming as a Case of Dynamic Programming .................................................................................. 644
9.9 Continuous Dynamic Programming ......................................... 649
9.10 Additional Applications .......................................................... 653
  9.10.1 Design of Continuous Beams ....................... 653
  9.10.2 Optimal Layout (Geometry) of a Truss .......... 654
  9.10.3 Optimal Design of a Gear Train ....................... 655
  9.10.4 Design of a Minimum-Cost Drainage System ......................................................................... 656
10. **Integer Programming** .......................................................... 667
  10.1 Introduction ......................................................................... 667
  
  **Integer Linear Programming** .................................................. 668
  10.2 Graphical Representation ................................................... 668
  10.3 Gomory’s Cutting Plane Method ........................................ 670
    10.3.1 Concept of a Cutting Plane ........................................ 670
    10.3.2 Gomory’s Method for All-Integer Programming Problems ........................................ 672
    10.3.3 Gomory’s Method for Mixed-Integer Programming Problems ........................................ 679
  10.4 Balas’ Algorithm for Zero-One Programming Problems .......... 685
  
  **Integer Nonlinear Programming** ............................................ 687
  10.5 Integer Polynomial Programming ....................................... 687
    10.5.1 Representation of an Integer Variable by an Equivalent System of Binary Variables ........................................ 688
    10.5.2 Conversion of a Zero-One Polynomial Programming Problem into a Zero-One LP Problem ........................................ 689
  10.6 Branch-and-Bound Method ................................................ 690
  10.7 Sequential Linear Discrete Programming ............................ 697
  10.8 Generalized Penalty Function Method ................................. 701

References and Bibliography ...................................................... 707
Review Questions ................................................................. 708
Problems .................................................................................. 709
11. **Stochastic Programming** ................................................................. 715

11.1 Introduction ............................................................................. 715

11.2 Basic Concepts of Probability Theory ................................. 716

11.2.1 Definition of Probability .................................................. 716

11.2.2 Random Variables and Probability Density Functions ..................................................... 717

11.2.3 Mean and Standard Deviation ........................................ 719

11.2.4 Function of a Random Variable .................................... 722

11.2.5 Jointly Distributed Random Variables .......................... 723

11.2.6 Covariance and Correlation ............................................ 724

11.2.7 Functions of Several Random Variables ......................... 725

11.2.8 Probability Distributions ................................................. 727

11.2.9 Central Limit Theorem .................................................... 732

11.3 Stochastic Linear Programming .............................................. 732

11.4 Stochastic Nonlinear Programming ....................................... 738

11.4.1 Objective Function ......................................................... 738

11.4.2 Constraints ......................................................................... 739

11.5 Stochastic Geometric Programming ..................................... 746

11.6 Stochastic Dynamic Programming ....................................... 748

11.6.1 Optimality Criterion ....................................................... 748

11.6.2 Multistage Optimization .................................................. 749

11.6.3 Stochastic Nature of the Optimum Decisions ................... 753

References and Bibliography ........................................................... 758

Review Questions ............................................................................. 759

Problems ....................................................................................... 761

12. **Further Topics in Optimization** ............................................. 768

12.1 Introduction ............................................................................. 768
12.2 Separable Programming ................................................................. 769
  12.2.1 Transformation of a Nonlinear Function to Separable Form .................. 770
  12.2.2 Piecewise Linear Approximation of a Nonlinear Function ...................... 772
  12.2.3 Formulation of a Separable Nonlinear Programming Problem .................... 774
12.3 Multiobjective Optimization .......................................................... 779
  12.3.1 Utility Function Method ......................................................... 780
  12.3.2 Inverted Utility Function Method ............................................... 781
  12.3.3 Global Criterion Method ........................................................ 781
  12.3.4 Bounded Objective Function Method .......................................... 781
  12.3.5 Lexicographic Method ............................................................ 782
  12.3.6 Goal Programming Method ...................................................... 782
12.4 Calculus of Variations ................................................................. 783
  12.4.1 Introduction .............................................................................. 783
  12.4.2 Problem of Calculus of Variations .............................................. 784
  12.4.3 Lagrange Multipliers and Constraints .......................................... 791
  12.4.4 Generalization ........................................................................... 795
12.5 Optimal Control Theory ................................................................. 795
  12.5.1 Necessary Conditions for Optimal Control ........................................ 796
  12.5.2 Necessary Conditions for a General Problem ...................................... 799
12.6 Optimality Criteria Methods ............................................................. 800
  12.6.1 Optimality Criteria with a Single Displacement Constraint ..................... 801
  12.6.2 Optimality Criteria with Multiple Displacement Constraints ................. 802
  12.6.3 Reciprocal Approximations ....................................................... 803
12.7 Genetic Algorithms ............................................................. 806  
  12.7.1 Introduction ............................................................... 806  
  12.7.2 Representation of Design Variables  ......................... 808  
  12.7.3 Representation of Objective Function and Constraints ...................................................... 809  
  12.7.4 Genetic Operators .................................................... 810  
  12.7.5 Numerical Results .................................................... 811  
12.8 Simulated Annealing .......................................................... 811  
12.9 Neural-Network-Based Optimization .................................. 814  
12.10 Optimization of Fuzzy Systems ........................................ 818  
  12.10.1 Fuzzy Set Theory .................................................... 818  
  12.10.2 Optimization of Fuzzy Systems .............................. 821  
  12.10.3 Computational Procedure ........................................ 823  
References and Bibliography .................................................. 824  
Review Questions ..................................................................... 827  
Problems .................................................................................. 829  

13. Practical Aspects of Optimization ............................................. 836  
  13.1 Introduction ..................................................................... 836  
  13.2 Reduction of Size of an Optimization Problem ............... 836  
      13.2.1 Reduced Basis Technique ................................. 836  
      13.2.2 Design Variable Linking Technique .................... 837  
  13.3 Fast Reanalysis Techniques ........................................... 839  
      13.3.1 Incremental Response Approach ....................... 839  
      13.3.2 Basis Vector Approach ....................................... 845  
  13.4 Derivatives of Static Displacements and Stresses .......... 847  
  13.5 Derivatives of Eigenvalues and Eigenvectors ................. 848  
      13.5.1 Derivatives of $\lambda_i$ ...................................... 848  
      13.5.2 Derivatives of $Y_i$ ............................................ 849  
  13.6 Derivatives of Transient Response ............................... 851
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13.7 Sensitivity of Optimum Solution to Problem Parameters</td>
<td>854</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.7.1 Sensitivity Equations Using Kuhn-Tucker Conditions</td>
<td>854</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.7.2 Sensitivity Equations Using the Concept of Feasible Direction</td>
<td>857</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.8 Multilevel Optimization</td>
<td>858</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.8.1 Basic Idea</td>
<td>858</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.8.2 Method</td>
<td>859</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.9 Parallel Processing</td>
<td>864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>References and Bibliography</td>
<td>867</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review Questions</td>
<td>868</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problems</td>
<td>869</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendices</td>
<td>876</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix A: Convex and Concave Functions</td>
<td>876</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix B: Some Computational Aspects of Optimization</td>
<td>882</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Answers to Selected Problems</td>
<td>888</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Index</td>
<td>895</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>