# Textbook

Fourth Edition

Introduction to Optimum Design



#### Introduction to Optimum Design

4th Edition

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Authors: Jasbir Singh Arora

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# Table of Contents (1)

Part	I. The Basic Concepts			
Ch	Title	U/G1	G1	G2
1	Introduction to Design Optimization	0	0	
2	Optimum Design Problem Formulation	0	0	
3	3 Graphical Optimization and Basic Concepts		0	
4	Optimum Design Concepts: Optimality Conditions	0	0	
5	More on Optimum Design Concepts: Optimality Conditions		0	

U/G1: Undergraduate/First-Year Graduate Level Course

- G1: First Graduate Level Course
- G2 Second Graduate Level Course

# Table of Contents (2)

Part	II. Numerical Methods for Continuous Variable Optimization			
Ch	Title	U/G1	G1	G2
6	Optimum Design with Excel Solver	0		0
7	7 Optimum Design with MATLAB			0
8	8 Linear Programming Methods for Optimum Design		0	0
9	9 More on Linear Programming Methods for Optimum Design		0	0
10	Numerical Methods for Unconstrained Optimum Design	0	0	0
11	More on Numerical Methods for Unconstrained Optimum Design		0	0
12	Numerical Methods for Constrained Optimum Design	0	0	0
13	More on Numerical Methods for Constrained Optimum Design		0	0
14	Practical Applications of Optimization			0

# Table of Contents (3)

Part III. Advanced and Modern Topics on Optimum Design				
Ch	Title	U/G1	G1	G2
15	Discrete Variable Optimum Design Concepts and Methods			0
16	Global Optimization Concepts and Methods			0
17	Nature-Inspired Search Methods			0
18	Multi-Objective Optimum Design Concepts and Methods			0
19	Additional Topics on Optimum Design			0

#### Introduction

- Engineer
  - Design devices and products that perform tasks in an efficient fashion
  - Constrained by the limitations of the physical world and must keep costs down
  - Confronting optimization problems that balance performance and limitations
- Mechanical Design
  - Selection of materials and geometry
  - which satisfies specified and implied functional requirements
  - while remaining within the confines of inherently unavoidable limitations

#### **Engineering Problem-Solving Process**



### Three Phases of Engineering Problem Solving

• Precomputer era



Computer era

# Engineering Model (1)

- Model
  - Abstract description of the real world giving an approximate representation of more complex functions of physical systems
  - Increase our understanding of how a system works
  - Physical: scale model, prototype
  - Symbolic: drawings, verbalization, logic, mathematics
- Mathematical model
  - A model that represents a system by mathematical expressions of relevant natural laws, experience, and geometry
  - May contain many alternative designs, so criteria must be introduced in the model
  - Best, or optimum, design can be identified with the aid of mathematical methods

# Engineering Model (2)

- Real-life engineering design problem
  - very unstructured
- Most difficult and challenging part
- Depends on experience as well as skill
- Thorough understanding of the first principles and fundamentals of engineering
- Describes the physical behavior of the system mathematical model

# Engineering Model (3)

- Elements of models
  - Variables / Parameters / Constants / Mathematical relations
- Hierarchical levels
  - Every system is analyzed at a particular level of complexity
  - System  $\rightarrow$  Subsystems  $\rightarrow$  Components
  - "cut across" the links with environment, input/output characterization: free-body diagram, control volume

# Modeling Process (1)



# Modeling Process (2)

- Formulation
  - Often considered to be an art
  - What aspects of the real system should be included, which can be ignored?
  - What assumptions can and should be made?
- Deduction
  - Involves techniques that depend on the nature of the model
  - May involve solving equations, running a computer program, expressing a sequence of logical statements – whatever it takes to solve the problem of interest relative to the model
  - It should not be subject to differences of opinion, provided that the assumptions are clearly stated and identified
- Interpretation
  - Again involves a large amount of human judgment
  - The model conclusions must be translated to the real world conclusions, in full cognizance of possible discrepancies between the model and its real world

Optimization Techniques model and its real world

#### Analysis vs. Design

- Engineering analysis
  - To determine the behavior of an existing system
  - Sizes and configurations are given
- Engineering design
  - To calculate sizes and shapes of various parts to meet performance requirements
- Each estimate a design and analyze it to see if it performs according to the specifications

# Analysis and Design Model

- Analysis model
  - Based on the principles of engineering science
    - Maximum wind force the tree can withstand before it breaks (*F*) if we take the tree as given ( $\sigma_{max}$ , *h*, *r*: parameters)
- Design model
  - Constructed from the analysis models for specific prediction tasks
    - Protect the tree from high winds by appropriately trimming the foliage to decrease *F* and *h* (variables)

Trunk of a tree subject to a wind force *F* at a height *h* 

$$\sigma = \frac{My}{I} \xrightarrow{I = \frac{\pi r^4}{4}} \sigma_{\text{max}} = \frac{4Fh}{\pi r^3}$$



#### Example: Shaft Design

• Influence of a given viewpoint on the design model

	d		materials
Shaft designer	variable	parameter	parameter
Housing designer	variable	variable	parameter
Project manager	variable	variable	variable



# **Decision Making**

- Criterion: evaluating alternatives and choosing the "best" one
  - Not unique, influenced by many factors
    - Design application, timing, point of view, judgment of the designer
  - May change with time
    - Automobile design: maximum power and comfort  $\rightarrow$  fuel economy
- Decision-making (Optimization) model
  - A design model that includes an evaluation criterion (*objective*)
- Shaft design example

Criterion	
Weight	
Rigidity	Best meshing of the attached gear
Material and manufacturing costs	Shop manager, ease of manufacturing
Cost	Project or plant manager

# **Design Optimization**

- Goal of engineering
  - To improve the design so as to achieve the best way of satisfying the original need within the available means
- Elements in the design process
  - Recognition of need / act of creation / selection of alternatives
- Design optimization: selection of the "best" alternative
  - How do we describe different designs ? (design model)
  - What is our criterion for "best" design ? (objective)
  - What are the "available means" ? (set of requirements)

## **Optimum Design**

- Undesirable effects
  - Stress, deflection, vibration, space occupancy, weight, cost
  - Dependent of the application (degree of significance)
  - Tolerable limit
- Desirable effects
  - Power transmission/ energy absorption/ momentary overload/ speed capacity, usable length of life, factor of safety
- Optimum design
  - Best possible one from the standpoint of the most significant effect
  - Minimize/Maximize the most significant undesirable/desirable effect

## **Problem Formulation Steps**

- Identification of *design variables* 
  - Parameter chosen to describe the design
  - Independent of each other, minimum number
- Identification of an *objective (cost) functions* 
  - Criterion to compare various designs
  - as a function of the design variables
  - Single/Multi-objective
- Identification of all *design constraints* 
  - All restrictions placed on a design
  - Explicit/Implicit, Linear/Nonlinear, Equality/Inequality
  - Feasible/Infeasible

## 10 Bar Truss Design



## Conventional vs. Optimum (1)

- Conventional design
  - Depends on designer's intuition, experience, and skill
  - Merits in making conceptual changes/additional specs
  - Difficulties in detailed design (complex constraints)
  - Less formal, no objective function/trend information
- Optimum design
  - Identify explicitly a set of design variables, cost function to be minimized, and constraint functions
  - More organized using trend information

#### Conventional vs. Optimum (2)



#### Conventional vs. Optimum (3)



# Optimization Problems in Engineering (1)

- Design aircraft for minimum weight and maximum strength
- Optimal trajectories of space vehicles
- Design civil engineering structures for minimum cost
- Design water-resource projects like dams to mitigate flood damage while yielding maximum hydropower
- Predict structural behavior by minimizing potential energy
- Material-cutting strategy for minimum cost
- Design pump and heat transfer equipment for maximum efficiency
- Maximize power output of electrical networks and machinery while minimizing heat generation
- Shortest route of salesperson visiting various cities during one sales trip
- Optimal planning and scheduling

# Optimization Problems in Engineering (2)

- Statistical analysis and models with minimum error
- Optimal pipeline networks
- Inventory control
- Maintenance planning to minimize cost
- Minimize waiting and idling times
- Design waste treatment systems to meet water-quality standards at least cost

# Classification

- Form of design variables
  - Continuous Optimization
  - Discrete Optimization
- Form of functions
  - Linear Programming
  - Quadratic Programming
  - Nonlinear Programming
- Existence of constraints
  - Constrained Optimization
  - Unconstrained Optimization
- Dimensionality
  - One-dimensional Problems
  - Multidimensional Problems



### **Optimization Tree**



# Plastic Tray Design (1)

- Basic design problem
  - Design a plastic tray capable of holding a specified volume of liquid, V, such that the liquid has a specified depth H, and the wall thickness of the tray is to be a specified thickness, T. The tray is to be manufactured in large quantities.
- Adequate design solution
  - Geometry
    - Intuition: rectangular ?
    - Infinite number of possible solutions
  - Material: experience?
    - Possible manufacturing techniques: vacuum forming
    - Possible chemical reactions w/ liquid: acrylic thermoplastic sheet



# Plastic Tray Design (2)

- Optimum design solution
  - "manufactured in large quantities": cost (most significant undesirable effect)
  - Primary design equation: C
  - $C_o, C_t, C_l$ : independent of

$$C = \underbrace{C_o}_{\text{overhead}} + \underbrace{C_t}_{\text{tooling}} + \underbrace{C_l}_{\text{labor}} + \underbrace{C_m}_{\text{material}}$$

- Reasonable geometrical shapes / Feasible plastic materials
- Objective: minimize cost  $C_m$ 
  - selecting the best feasible material and the best values for b and l

c: unit volume cost of the tray material

- Optimum feasible material
  - *c*: polystyrene

	C	
n have stand	\$/in <sup>3</sup>	\$/m <sup>3</sup>
Acrylic	0.030	1831
Polystyrene	0.012	732

# Plastic Tray Design (3)

- Optimum geometry for the rectangular tray



# Plastic Tray Design (4)

• Space restrictions:  $b \le b_{\max}$ ,  $l \le l_{\max}$ 

 $\sqrt{V/H}$ 

b

 $\begin{cases} b_{\max} \ge \sqrt{V/H} & \text{and } l_{\max} \ge \sqrt{V/H} \text{ : ideal square tray is still the optimum design} \\ b_{\max} < \sqrt{V/H} & \text{ or } l_{\max} < \sqrt{V/H} \text{ : the tray which barely fits within the space restriction} \\ & \text{ incompatible specifications : } b_{\max} l_{\max} < \frac{V}{H} \end{cases}$ 

within space

 $l = V/b_{\max}H$ ,

(Eq. 1.1)

restriction

Heompariore spectric all feasible design solutions  $b \le b_{max}$  $b = b_{max}$  $c_{tray}$  design  $b = b_{max}$  $c_{tray}$  design  $c_{tray}$  design

Optimization Techniques

b<sub>max</sub>.

Space

restrictions

bmax

## Plastic Tray Design (5)

- Other basic geometrical shape ?
  - Circle: lowest  $C_{\rm m}$  from the calculus of variations

