NAG C Library Function Document

nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc)

1   Purpose

nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc) is a comprehensive quasi-Newton algorithm for finding:

– an unconstrained minimum of a function of several variables

– a minimum of a function of several variables subject to fixed upper and/or lower bounds on the variables.

No derivatives are required. nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc) is intended for objective functions which have continuous first and second derivatives (although it will usually work even if the derivatives have occasional discontinuities).

2   Specification

```
#include <nag.h>
#include <nage04.h>

void nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (Integer n,
    void (*objfun)(Integer n, const double x[], double *objf, double g[],
        Nag_Comm *comm),
    Nag_BoundType bound, double bl[], double bu[], double x[], double *objf,
    double g[], Nag_E04_Opt *options, Nag_Comm *comm, NagError *fail)
```

3   Description

nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc) is applicable to problems of the form:

$$\text{Minimize} \qquad F(x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n)$$
$$\text{subject to} \qquad l_j \le x_j \le u_j, \quad j = 1, 2, \ldots, n.$$

Special provision is made for unconstrained minimization (i.e., problems which actually have no bounds on the x_j), problems which have only non-negativity bounds, and problems in which $l_1 = l_2 = \cdots = l_n$ and $u_1 = u_2 = \cdots = u_n$. It is possible to specify that a particular x_j should be held constant. The user must supply a starting point and a function **objfun** to calculate the value of $F(x)$ at any point x.

A typical iteration starts at the current point x where n_z (say) variables are free from both their bounds. The vector g_z, whose elements are finite-difference approximations to the derivatives of $F(x)$ with respect to the free variables, is known. A unit lower triangular matrix L and a diagonal matrix D (both of dimension n_z), such that LDL^T is a positive-definite approximation to the matrix of second derivatives with respect to the free variables, are also stored. The equations

$$LDL^T p_z = -g_z$$

are solved to give a search direction p_z, which is expanded to an n-vector p by the insertion of appropriate zero elements. Then α is found such that $F(x + \alpha p)$ is approximately a minimum (subject to the fixed bounds) with respect to α; x is replaced by $x + \alpha p$, and the matrices L and D are updated so as to be consistent with the change produced in the estimated gradient by the step αp. If any variable actually reaches a bound during the search along p, it is fixed and n_z is reduced for the next iteration. Most iterations calculate g_z using forward differences, but central differences are used when they seem necessary.

There are two sets of convergence criteria – a weaker and a stronger. Whenever the weaker criteria are satisfied, the Lagrange-multipliers are estimated for all the active constraints. If any Lagrange-multiplier estimate is significantly negative, then one of the variables associated with a negative Lagrange-multiplier estimate is released from its bound and the next search direction is computed in the extended subspace (i.e., n_z is increased). Otherwise minimization continues in the current subspace provided that this is practicable. When it is not, or when the stronger convergence criteria is already satisfied, then, if one or

more Lagrange-multiplier estimates are close to zero, a slight perturbation is made in the values of the corresponding variables in turn until a lower function value is obtained. The normal algorithm is then resumed from the perturbed point.

If a saddle point is suspected, a local search is carried out with a view to moving away from the saddle point. In addition, nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc) gives the user the option of specifying that a local search should be performed when a point is found which is thought to be a constrained minimum.

If the user specifies that the problem is unconstrained, nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc) sets the l_j to -10^{10} and the u_j to 10^{10}. Thus, provided that the problem has been sensibly scaled, no bounds will be encountered during the minimization process and nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc) will act as an unconstrained minimization algorithm. When the problem is unconstrained, the function values used for estimating the first derivatives will always be required in sets of n. nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc) enables the user to take advantage (via the parameter **bound**) of the fact that such sets can often be evaluated in less computer time than n separate function evaluations would take in general.

4 References

Baker G A Jr and Graves–Morris P R (1981) Padé approximants, Part 1: Basic theory *encyclopaedia of Mathematics and its Applications* Addison–Wesley

Gill P E and Murray W (1972) Quasi-Newton methods for unconstrained optimization *J. Inst. Math. Appl.* **9** 91–108

Gill P E and Murray W (1973) Safeguarded steplength algorithms for optimization using descent methods *NPL Report NAC 37* National Physical Laboratory

Gill P E and Murray W (1976) Minimization subject to bounds on the variables *NPL Report NAC 72* National Physical Laboratory

5 Arguments

1:   **n** – Integer   *Input*

   On entry: the number n of independent variables.

   Constraint: $\mathbf{n} \geq 1$.

2:   **objfun** – function, supplied by the user   *External Function*

   objfun must evaluate the function $F(x)$ at any x. If nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc) is called with **bound** = **Nag_NoBounds_One_Call**, **objfun** must also be able to provide the set of n function values used for estimating first derivatives. (However, if the user does not wish to calculate F at a particular x, there is the option of setting a parameter to cause nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc) to terminate immediately.)

   Its specification is:

   ```
   void objfun (Integer n, const double x[], double *objf, double g[],
         Nag_Comm *comm)
   ```

   1:   **n** – Integer   *Input*

      On entry: the number n of variables.

   2:   **x**[**n**] – const double   *Input*

      On entry: the point x at which the value of F is required.

   3:   **objf** – double *   *Output*

      On exit: if **comm** $\rightarrow$ **flag** = 0 on entry, then **objfun** must set **objf** to the value of the objective function F at the current point given in **x**. If it is not possible to evaluate F,

then **objfun** should assign a negative value to **comm** $\rightarrow$ **flag**; nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc) will then terminate.

4: **g**[**n**] – double *Input/Output*

On entry: if **comm** $\rightarrow$ **flag** = 3 then **g** contains a set of differencing intervals.

On exit: if **comm** $\rightarrow$ **flag** = 3 on entry, then **objfun** must reset **g**[$j - 1$] to $F(x_c + \mathbf{g}[j - 1] \times e_j)$, for $j = 1, 2, \ldots, n$, where x_c is the point given in **x** and e_j is the jth co-ordinate direction. If it is not possible to evaluate the elements of **g** then **objfun** should assign a negative value to **comm** $\rightarrow$ **flag**; nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc) will then terminate.

Thus, since the function values are required at n points which each differ from x_c only in one co-ordinate, it may be possible to calculate some terms once but use them in the calculation of more than one function value. (If **comm** $\rightarrow$ **flag** = 0 on entry, **objfun** must **not** change the elements of **g**.)

5: **comm** – Nag_Comm *

Pointer to structure of type **Nag_Comm**; the following members are relevant to **objfun**.

flag – Integer *Input/Output*

On entry: **comm** $\rightarrow$ **flag** will be set to 0 or 3. The value 0 indicates that a single function value is required. The value 3 (which will only occur if nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc) is called with **bound** = **Nag_NoBounds_One_Call**) indicates that a set of n function values is required.

On exit: if **objfun** resets **comm** $\rightarrow$ **flag** to some negative number then nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc) will terminate immediately with the error indicator **NE_USER_STOP**. If **fail** is supplied to nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc), **fail.errnum** will be set to the user's setting of **comm** $\rightarrow$ **flag**.

first – Nag_Boolean *Input*

On entry: will be set to **Nag_True** on the first call to **objfun** and **Nag_False** for all subsequent calls.

nf – Integer *Input*

On entry: the number of calculations of the objective function; this value will be equal to the number of calls made to **objfun**, including the current one, unless the parameter **bound** = **Nag_NoBounds_One_Call**.

user – double *
iuser – Integer *
p – Pointer

The type Pointer will be void * with a C compiler that defines void * and char * otherwise. Before calling nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc) these pointers may be allocated memory by the user and initialized with various quantities for use by **objfun** when called from nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc).

Note: **objfun** should be tested separately before being used in conjunction with nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc). The array **x** must **not** be changed by **objfun**.

3: **bound** – Nag_BoundType *Input*

On entry: indicates whether the problem is unconstrained or bounded. If the problem is unconstrained, the value of **bound** can be used to indicate that the user wishes **objfun** to be called with **comm** $\rightarrow$ **flag** set to 3 when a set of n function values is required for making difference estimates of derivatives. If there are bounds on the variables, **bound** can be used to indicate

whether the facility for dealing with bounds of special forms is to be used. **bound** should be set to one of the following values:

bound = Nag_Bounds

> If the variables are bounded and the user will be supplying all the l_j and u_j individually.

bound = Nag_NoBounds

> If the problem is unconstrained and the user wishes **objfun** to be called n times with **comm → flag** set to 0 when a set of function values is required for making difference estimates.

bound = Nag_BoundsZero

> If the variables are bounded, but all the bounds are of the form $0 \le x_j$.

bound = Nag_BoundsEqual

> If all the variables are bounded, and $l_1 = l_2 = \cdots = l_n$ and $u_1 = u_2 = \cdots = u_n$.

bound = Nag_NoBounds_One_Call

> If the problem is unconstrained and the user wishes a single call to be made to **objfun** with **comm → flag** = 3 when a set of function values are required for making difference estimates.

Constraint: **bound = Nag_Bounds**, **Nag_NoBounds**, **Nag_BoundsZero**, **Nag_BoundsEqual** or **Nag_NoBounds_One_Call**.

4: **bl[n]** – double   *Input/Output*

On entry: the lower bounds l_j.

If **bound = Nag_Bounds**, the user must set **bl**$[j-1]$ to l_j, for $j = 1, 2, \ldots, n$. (If a lower bound is not required for any x_j, the corresponding **bl**$[j-1]$ should be set to a large negative number, e.g., -10^{10}.)

If **bound = Nag_BoundsEqual**, the user must set **bl**$[0]$ to l_1; nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc) will then set the remaining elements of **bl** equal to **bl**$[0]$.

If **bound = Nag_NoBounds**, **Nag_BoundsZero** or **Nag_NoBounds_One_Call**, **bl** will be initialized by nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc).

On exit: the lower bounds actually used by nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc), e.g., if **bound = Nag_BoundsZero**, **bl**$[0] = $ **bl**$[1] = \cdots = $ **bl**$[n-1] = 0.0$.

5: **bu[n]** – double   *Input/Output*

On entry: the upper bounds u_j.

If **bound = Nag_Bounds**, the user must set **bu**$[j-1]$ to u_j, for $j = 1, 2, \ldots, n$. (If an upper bound is not required for any x_j, the corresponding **bu**$[j-1]$ should be set to a large positive number, e.g., 10^{10}.)

If **bound = Nag_BoundsEqual**, the user must set **bu**$[0]$ to u_1; nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc) will then set the remaining elements of **bu** equal to **bu**$[0]$.

If **bound = Nag_NoBounds**, **Nag_BoundsZero** or **Nag_NoBounds_One_Call**, **bu** will be initialized by nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc).

On exit: the upper bounds actually used by nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc), e.g., if **bound = Nag_BoundsZero**, **bu**$[0] = $ **bu**$[1] = \cdots = $ **bu**$[n-1] = 10^{10}$.

6: **x[n]** – double   *Input/Output*

On entry: **x**$[j-1]$ must be set to a guess at the jth component of the position of the minimum, for $j = 1, 2, \ldots, n$.

On exit: the final point x^*. Thus, if **fail.code** = **NE_NOERROR** on exit, $\mathbf{x}[j-1]$ is the jth component of the estimated position of the minimum.

7: **objf** – double *   *Input/Output*

On entry: if **init_state** = **Nag_Init_None** or **Nag_Init_H_S**, the user need not initialize **objf**.

If **init_state** = **Nag_Init_All**, **objf** must be set on entry to the value of $F(x)$ at the initial point supplied by the user in **x**.

On exit: the function value at the final point given in **x**.

8: **g**[**n**] – double   *Input/Output*

On entry: if **init_state** = **Nag_Init_All**, **g** must be set on entry to an approximation to the first derivative vector at the initial x. This could be calculated by central differences.

If **init_state** = **Nag_Init_None** or **Nag_Init_H_S**, **g** need not be set.

On exit: a finite difference approximation to the first derivative vector. Note that the elements of **g** corresponding to free variables are updated every iteration, but the elements corresponding to fixed variables are only updated when it is necessary to test the Lagrange-multiplier estimates (see Section 3). So, in the printout from nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc) (see Section 5 and Section 10.3) and on exit from nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc), the elements of **g** corresponding to fixed variables may be out of date. The elements of **g** corresponding to free variables should normally be close to zero on exit from nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc).

9: **options** – Nag_E04_Opt *   *Input/Output*

On entry/on exit: a pointer to a structure of type **Nag_E04_Opt** whose members are optional parameters for nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc). These structure members offer the means of adjusting some of the parameter values of the algorithm and on output will supply further details of the results. A description of the members of **options** is given below in Section 10. Some of the results returned in **options** can be used by nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc) to perform a 'warm start' if it is re-entered (see the member **init_state** in Section 10.2).

If any of these optional parameters are required then the structure **options** should be declared and initialized by a call to nag_opt_init (e04xxc) and supplied as an argument to nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc). However, if the optional parameters are not required the NAG defined null pointer, E04_DEFAULT, can be used in the function call.

10: **comm** – Nag_Comm *   *Input/Output*

On entry/on exit: structure containing pointers for communication with user-supplied functions; see the above description of **objfun** for details. If the user does not need to make use of this communication feature the null pointer NAGCOMM_NULL may be used in the call to nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc); **comm** will then be declared internally for use in calls to user-supplied functions.

11: **fail** – NagError *   *Input/Output*

The NAG error parameter, see the Essential Introduction.

5.1 Description of Printed Output

Intermediate and final results are printed out by default. The level of printed output can be controlled by the user with the structure member **print_level** (see Section 10.2). The default, **print_level** = **Nag_Soln_Iter** provides a single line of output at each iteration and the final result. This section describes the default printout produced by nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc).

The following line of output is produced at each iteration. In all cases the values of the quantities printed are those in effect *on completion* of the given iteration.

Itn	the iteration count, k.
Nfun	the cumulative number of calls made to **objfun**.
Objective	the value of the objective function, $F\left(x^{(k)}\right)$
Norm g	the Euclidean norm of the projected gradient vector, $\left\|g_z\left(x^{(k)}\right)\right\|$.
Norm x	the Euclidean norm of $x^{(k)}$.
Norm(x(k-1)-x(k))	the Euclidean norm of $x^{(k-1)} - x^{(k)}$.
Step	the step $\alpha^{(k)}$ taken along the computed search direction $p^{(k)}$.
Cond H	the ratio of the largest to the smallest element of the diagonal factor D of the projected Hessian matrix. This quantity is usually a good estimate of the condition number of the projected Hessian matrix. (If no variables are currently free, this value will be zero.)

The printout of the final result consists of:

x	the final point, x^*.
g	the final estimate of the projected gradient vector, $g_z(x^*)$.
Status	the final state of the variable with respect to its bound.

6 Error Indicators and Warnings

When one of the above exits occurs, no values will have been assigned by nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc) to **objf** or to the elements of **g**, **hesl**, or **hesd**.

An exit of **fail.code** = **NW_TOO_MANY_ITER**, **NW_COND_MIN** or **NW_LOCAL_SEARCH** may also be caused by mistakes in **objfun**, by the formulation of the problem or by an awkward function. If there are no such mistakes, it is worth restarting the calculations from a different starting point (not the point at which the failure occurred) in order to avoid the region which caused the failure.

NE_2_REAL_ARG_LT

On entry, **step_max** = $\langle value \rangle$ while **optim_tol** = $\langle value \rangle$. These parameters must satisfy **step_max** $\geq$ **optim_tol**.

NE_ALLOC_FAIL

Dynamic memory allocation failed.

NE_BAD_PARAM

On entry, parameter **bound** had an illegal value.

NE_BOUND

The lower bound for variable $\langle value \rangle$ (array element **bl**[$\langle value \rangle$]) is greater than the upper bound.

NE_CHOLESKY_OVERFLOW

An overflow would have occurred during the updating of the Cholesky factors if the calculations had been allowed to continue. Restart from the current point with **init_state** = **Nag_Init_None**.

NE_FD_INT

Finite difference interval for variable $\langle value \rangle$ (array element **delta**[$\langle value \rangle$]) is negative or so small that **x**+ interval = **x**.

NE_HESD

The initial values of the supplied **hesd** has some value(s) which is negative or too small or the ratio of the largest element of **hesd** to the smallest is too large.

NE_INT_ARG_LT

On entry, **n** must not be less than 1: **n** $= \langle value \rangle$.

NE_INVALID_INT_RANGE_1

Value $\langle value \rangle$ given to **max_iter** is not valid. Correct range is **max_iter** ≥ 0.

NE_INVALID_REAL_RANGE_EF

Value $\langle value \rangle$ given to **optim_tol** is not valid. Correct range is $\epsilon \leq$ **optim_tol** < 1.0.

NE_INVALID_REAL_RANGE_FF

Value $\langle value \rangle$ given to **linesearch_tol** is not valid. Correct range is $0.0 \leq$ **linesearch_tol** < 1.0.

NE_NO_MEM

Option **init_state** $= \langle \text{string} \rangle$ but at least one of the pointers $\langle string \rangle$ in the option structure has not been allocated memory.

NE_NOT_APPEND_FILE

Cannot open file $\langle string \rangle$ for appending.

NE_NOT_CLOSE_FILE

Cannot close file $\langle string \rangle$.

NE_OPT_NOT_INIT

Options structure not initialized.

NE_USER_STOP

User requested termination, user flag value $= \langle value \rangle$.

This exit occurs if the user sets **comm** $\rightarrow$ **flag** to a negative value in **objfun**. If **fail** is supplied the value of **fail.errnum** will be the same as the user's setting of **comm** $\rightarrow$ **flag**.

NW_COND_MIN

The conditions for a minimum have not all been satisfied, but a lower point could not be found.

Provided, on exit, that the estimated first derivatives of $F(x)$ with respect to the free variables are sufficiently small, and that the estimated condition number of the second derivative matrix is not too large, this error exit may simply mean that, although it has not been possible to satisfy the specified requirements, the algorithm has in fact found the minimum as far as the accuracy of the machine permits. This could be because **optim_tol** has been set so small that rounding the error in **objfun** makes attainment of the convergence conditions impossible.

If the estimated condition number of the approximate Hessian matrix at the final point is large, it could be that the final point is a minimum but that the smallest eigenvalue of the second derivative matrix is so close to zero that it is not possible to recognize the point as a minimum.

NW_LOCAL_SEARCH

The local search has failed to find a feasible point which gives a significant change of function value.

If the problem is a genuinely unconstrained one, this type of exit indicates that the problem is extremely ill conditioned or that the function has no minimum. If the problem has bounds which

may be close to the minimum, it may just indicate that steps in the subspace of free variables happened to meet a bound before they changed the function value.

NW_TOO_MANY_ITER

The maximum number of iterations, $\langle value \rangle$, have been performed.

If steady reductions in $F(x)$, were monitored up to the point where this exit occurred, then the exit probably occurred simply because **max_iter** was set too small, so the calculations should be restarted from the final point held in **x**. This exit may also indicate that $F(x)$ has no minimum.

7 Accuracy

A successful exit (**fail.code** $=$ **NE_NOERROR**) is made from nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc) when (B1, B2 and B3) or B4 hold, and the local search (if used) confirms a minimum, where

$$\text{B1} \equiv \alpha^{(k)} \times \left\| p^{(k)} \right\| < \left(\textbf{optim\_tol} + \sqrt{\epsilon} \right) \times \left(1.0 + \left\| x^{(k)} \right\| \right)$$

$$\text{B2} \equiv \left| F^{(k)} - F^{(k-1)} \right| < \left(\textbf{optim\_tol}^2 + \epsilon \right) \times \left(1.0 + \left| F^{(k)} \right| \right)$$

$$\text{B3} \equiv \left\| g_z^{(k)} \right\| < \left(\epsilon^{1/3} + \textbf{optim\_tol} \right) \times \left(1.0 + \left| F^{(k)} \right| \right)$$

$$\text{B4} \equiv \left\| g_z^{(k)} \right\| < 0.01 \times \sqrt{\epsilon}.$$

(Quantities with superscript k are the values at the kth iteration of the quantities mentioned in Section 3; ϵ is the *machine precision*, $\|.\|$ denotes the Euclidean norm and **optim_tol** is described in Section 10.)

If **fail.code** $=$ **NE_NOERROR**, then the vector in **x** on exit, x_{sol}, is almost certainly an estimate of the position of the minimum, x_{true}, to the accuracy specified by **optim_tol**.

If **fail.code** $=$ **NW_COND_MIN** or **NW_LOCAL_SEARCH**, x_{sol} may still be a good estimate of x_{true}, but the following checks should be made. Let the largest of the first n_z elements of **hesd** be **hesd**$[b]$, let the smallest be **hesd**$[s]$, and define $k = $ **hesd**$[b]/$**hesd**$[s]$. The scalar k is usually a good estimate of the condition number of the projected Hessian matrix at x_{sol}. If

(a) the sequence $\left\{ F\left(x^{(k)} \right) \right\}$ converges to $F(x_{\text{sol}})$ at a superlinear or a fast linear rate,

(b) $\| g_z(x_{\text{sol}}) \|^2 < 10.0 \times \epsilon$, and

(c) $k < 1.0/\| g_z(x_{\text{sol}}) \|$,

then it is almost certain that x_{sol} is a close approximation to the position of a minimum. When (b) is true, then usually $F(x_{\text{sol}})$ is a close approximation to $F(x_{\text{true}})$. The quantities needed for these checks are all available in the results printout from nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc); in particular the final value of Cond H gives k.

Further suggestions about confirmation of a computed solution are given in the e04 Chapter Introduction.

8 Further Comments

8.1 Timing

The number of iterations required depends on the number of variables, the behaviour of $F(x)$, the accuracy demanded and the distance of the starting point from the solution. The number of multiplications performed in an iteration of nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc) is roughly proportional to n_z^2. In addition, each iteration makes at least $n_z + 1$ function evaluations. So, unless $F(x)$ can be evaluated very quickly, the run time will be dominated by the time spent in **objfun**.

8.2 Scaling

Ideally, the problem should be scaled so that, at the solution, $F(x)$ and the corresponding values of the x_j are each in the range $(-1, +1)$, and so that at points one unit away from the solution, $F(x)$ differs from its

value at the solution by approximately one unit. This will usually imply that the Hessian matrix at the solution is well conditioned. It is unlikely that the user will be able to follow these recommendations very closely, but it is worth trying (by guesswork), as sensible scaling will reduce the difficulty of the minimization problem, so that nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc) will take less computer time.

8.3   Unconstrained Minimization

If a problem is genuinely unconstrained and has been scaled sensibly, the following points apply:

(a) n_z will always be n,

(b)   if **init_state** = **Nag_Init_All** or **Nag_Init_H_S** on entry, **state**$[j-1]$ has simply to be set to j, for $j = 1, 2, \ldots, n$,

(c)   **hesl** and **hesd** will be factors of the full approximate second derivative matrix with elements stored in the natural order,

(d)   the elements of **g** should all be close to zero at the final point,

(e)   the Status values given in the printout from nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc) and in **state** on exit are unlikely to be of interest (unless they are negative, which would indicate that the modulus of one of the x_j has reached 10^{10} for some reason),

(f)   Norm g simply gives the norm of the estimated first derivative vector.

9   Example

There is one example program file, the main program of which calls both examples EX1 and EX2. Example 1 (EX1) shows the simple use of nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc) where default values are used for all optional parameters. An example showing the use of optional parameters is given in Example 2 (EX2) and is described in Section 11.

Example 1 (EX1)

This example minimizes the function

$$F = (x_1 + 10x_2)^2 + 5(x_3 - x_4)^2 + (x_2 - 2x_3)^4 + 10(x_1 - x_4)^4$$

subject to the bounds

$$1 \le x_1 \le 3$$
$$-2 \le x_2 \le 0$$
$$1 \le x_4 \le 3$$

starting from the initial guess $(3, -1, 0, 1)^{\mathrm{T}}$.

9.1   Program Text

```
/* nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc) Example Program.
 *
 * Copyright 1991 Numerical Algorithms Group.
 *
 * Mark 2, 1991.
 * Mark 7 revised, 2001.
 * Mark 8 revised, 2004.
 *
 */

#include <nag.h>
#include <math.h>
#include <stdio.h>
#include <nag_stdlib.h>
#include <nage04.h>
#include <nagx02.h>

#ifdef __cplusplus
extern "C" {
```

```
#endif
  static void objfun(Integer n, double x[], double *f,
                     double g[], Nag_Comm *comm);
#ifdef __cplusplus
}
#endif
static int ex1(void);
static int ex2(void);

#define NMAX 4

int main(void)
{
  Integer exit_status_ex1=0;
  Integer exit_status_ex2=0;

  /* Two examples are called, ex1() which uses the
   * default settings to solve the problem and
   * ex2() which solves the same problem with
   * some optional parameters set by the user.
   */

  Vprintf("nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc) Example Program Results.\n");

  exit_status_ex1 = ex1();
  exit_status_ex2 = ex2();

  return exit_status_ex1 == 0 && exit_status_ex2 == 0 ? 0 : 1;
}
static void objfun(Integer n, double x[], double *objf,
                   double g[], Nag_Comm *comm)
{
  /* Routine to evaluate objective function. */

  double a, b, c, d, x1, x2, x3, x4;

  x1 = x[0];
  x2 = x[1];
  x3 = x[2];
  x4 = x[3];

  /* Supply a single function value */
  a = x1 + 10.0*x2;
  b = x3 - x4;
  c = x2 - 2.0*x3, c *= c;
  d = x1 - x4, d *= d;
  *objf = a*a + 5.0*b*b + c*c + 10.0*d*d;
}                               /* objfun */

static int ex1(void)
{
  Integer exit_status=0, n;
  NagError fail;
  Nag_BoundType bound;
  double *bl=0, *bu=0, *g=0, objf, *x=0;

  INIT_FAIL(fail);

  Vprintf("\nnag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc) example 1: no option setting.\n");

  n = NMAX;
  if (n>=1)
    {
      if ( !( x = NAG_ALLOC(n, double)) ||
           !( g = NAG_ALLOC(n, double)) ||
           !( bl = NAG_ALLOC(n, double)) ||
           !( bu = NAG_ALLOC(n, double)) )
        {
          Vprintf("Allocation failure\n");
          exit_status = -1;
          goto END;
```

```
        }
      }
    else
      {
        Vprintf("Invalid n.\n");
        exit_status = 1;
        return exit_status;
      }
    x[0] = 3.0;
    x[1] = -1.0;
    x[2] = 0.0;
    x[3] = 1.0;

    /* Set bounds on variables */
    bound = Nag_Bounds;
    bl[0] = 1.0;
    bu[0] = 3.0;
    bl[1] = -2.0;
    bu[1] = 0.0;
    /* x[2] is not bounded, so we set bl[2] to a large negative
     * number and bu[2] to a large positive number
     */
    bl[2] = -1.0e10;
    bu[2] = 1.0e10;
    bl[3] = 1.0;
    bu[3] = 3.0;

    /* Call optimization routine */
    /* nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc).
     * Bound constrained nonlinear minimization (no derivatives
     * required)
     */
    nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv(n, objfun, bound, bl, bu, x, &objf,
                            g, E04_DEFAULT, NAGCOMM_NULL, &fail);

    if (fail.code != NE_NOERROR)
      {
        Vprintf("Error/Warning from nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc).\n%s\n",
                fail.message);
        if (fail.code != NW_COND_MIN)
          exit_status = 1;
        goto END;
      }
  END:
    if (x) NAG_FREE(x);
    if (g) NAG_FREE(g);
    if (bl) NAG_FREE(bl);
    if (bu) NAG_FREE(bu);
    return exit_status;
} /* ex1 */


static int ex2(void)
{
  Nag_Boolean print;
  Integer exit_status=0, n;
  NagError fail;
  Nag_BoundType bound;
  Nag_E04_Opt options;
  double *bl=0, *bu=0, *g=0, objf, *x=0;

  INIT_FAIL(fail);
  Vprintf("\n\nnag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc) example 2: using option"
          " setting.\n");

  n = NMAX;
  if (n>=1)
    {
      if ( !( x = NAG_ALLOC(n, double)) ||
           !( g = NAG_ALLOC(n, double)) ||
           !( bl = NAG_ALLOC(n, double)) ||
```

```
         !( bu = NAG_ALLOC(n, double)) )
       {
         Vprintf("Allocation failure\n");
         exit_status = -1;
         goto END;
       }
   }
 else
   {
     Vprintf("Invalid n.\n");
     exit_status = 1;
     return exit_status;
   }
 x[0] = 3.0;
 x[1] = -1.0;
 x[2] = 0.0;
 x[3] = 1.0;

 /* Initialise options structure */
 /* nag_opt_init (e04xxc).
  * Initialization function for option setting
  */
 nag_opt_init(&options);

 /* nag_machine_precision (x02ajc).
  * The machine precision
  */
 options.optim_tol = 100*sqrt(X02AJC); /* Specify accuracy of solution */

 /* Read remaining option values from file */
 print = Nag_TRUE;
 /* nag_opt_read (e04xyc).
  * Read options from a text file
  */
 nag_opt_read("e04jbc", "stdin", &options, print, "stdout", &fail);
 if (fail.code != NE_NOERROR)
   {
     Vprintf("Error from nag_opt_read (e04xyc).\n%s\n", fail.message);
     exit_status = 1;
     goto END;
   }

 /* Set bounds on variables */
 bound = Nag_Bounds;
 bl[0] = 1.0;
 bu[0] = 3.0;
 bl[1] = -2.0;
 bu[1] = 0.0;
 /* x[2] is not bounded, so we set bl[2] to a large negative
  * number and bu[2] to a large positive number
  */
 bl[2] = -1.0e10;
 bu[2] = 1.0e10;
 bl[3] = 1.0;
 bu[3] = 3.0;

 /* Call optimization routine */
 /* nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc), see above. */
 nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv(n, objfun, bound, bl, bu, x, &objf,
                         g, &options, NAGCOMM_NULL, &fail);
 if (fail.code != NE_NOERROR)
   {
     Vprintf("Error/Warning from nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc).\n%s\n",
             fail.message);
     if (fail.code != NW_COND_MIN)
       exit_status = 1;
   }

 /* Free Nag allocated memory */
 /* nag_opt_free (e04zc).
  * Memory freeing function for use with option setting
```

```
   */
  nag_opt_free(&options, "all", &fail);
  if (fail.code != NE_NOERROR)
    {
      Vprintf("Error from nag_opt_free (e04xzc).\n%s\n", fail.message);
      exit_status = 2;
    }
 END:
  if (x) NAG_FREE(x);
  if (g) NAG_FREE(g);
  if (bl) NAG_FREE(bl);
  if (bu) NAG_FREE(bu);

  return exit_status;
} /* ex2 */
```

9.2　Program Data

```
nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc) Example Program Data

Following options for e04jbc are read by e04xyc in example 2.

begin e04jbc

print_level = Nag_Soln_Iter_Full /* Print full iterations and solution. */
max_iter = 40       /* Perform maximum of 40 iterations */
step_max = 4.0      /* estimate minimum within 4 units of start */

end
```

9.3　Program Results

```
nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc) Example Program Results.

nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc) example 1: no option setting.

Parameters to e04jbc
--------------------

Number of variables..........  4

optim_tol............... 1.05e-07   linesearch_tol.......... 5.00e-01
step_max................ 1.00e+05   max_iter................    200
init_state.......... Nag_Init_None  local_search............   Nag_TRUE
print_level........ Nag_Soln_Iter   machine precision....... 1.11e-16
outfile................   stdout

Memory allocation:
delta...................        Nag
state...................        Nag
hesl....................        Nag   hesd...................        Nag

Results from e04jbc:
-------------------

Iteration results:

  Itn   Nfun   Objective    Norm g    Norm x  Norm(x(k-1)-x(k))   Step     Cond H
    0      0   2.1500e+02   1.4e+02   3.3e+00                               3.7e+00
    1      6   1.6467e+02   3.2e+02   3.2e+00      7.0e-01       1.0e+00    2.1e+02
    2      9   8.7285e+00   4.2e+01   1.4e+00      2.0e+00       6.3e-03    3.6e+00
    3     13   2.9252e+00   7.9e+00   1.4e+00      3.3e-01       1.1e+00    5.0e+00
    4     17   2.4562e+00   1.5e+00   1.5e+00      1.7e-01       1.7e+00    5.3e+00
    5     22   2.4356e+00   4.6e-01   1.5e+00      3.9e-02       1.0e+00    4.2e+00
    6     28   2.4338e+00   4.7e-03   1.5e+00      8.7e-03       1.1e+00    4.4e+00
    7     33   2.4338e+00   9.3e-05   1.5e+00      4.5e-05       1.0e+00    4.4e+00
    8     40   2.4338e+00   6.3e-06   1.5e+00      7.0e-07       1.0e+00    5.2e+00
    9     47   2.4338e+00   5.8e-07   1.5e+00      7.7e-08       1.0e+00    5.2e+00
   10     54   2.4338e+00   2.3e-07   1.5e+00      7.8e-09       1.4e+00    5.2e+00
```

Local search performed.

Final solution:
```
  10    74    2.4338e+00    2.3e-07    1.5e+00      0.0e+00        0.0e+00    5.2e+00
```

```
 Variable          x                g              Status
    1          1.0000e+00        2.9535e-01     Lower Bound
    2         -8.5233e-02        1.8348e-07     Free
    3          4.0930e-01       -1.4060e-07     Free
    4          1.0000e+00        5.9070e+00     Lower Bound
```

nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc) example 2: using option setting.

Optional parameter setting for e04jbc.

Option file: stdin

print_level set to Nag_Soln_Iter_Full
max_iter set to 40
step_max set to 4.00e+00

Parameters to e04jbc

Number of variables..........   4

```
optim_tol............... 1.05e-06    linesearch_tol.......... 5.00e-01
step_max................ 4.00e+00    max_iter.................    40
init_state.......... Nag_Init_None   local_search............    Nag_TRUE
print_level.... Nag_Soln_Iter_Full   machine precision....... 1.11e-16
outfile.................    stdout
```

```
Memory allocation:
delta...................      Nag
state...................      Nag
hesl....................      Nag    hesd...................       Nag
```

Results from e04jbc:

Iteration results:

```
  Itn   Nfun   Objective    Norm g     Norm x   Norm(x(k-1)-x(k))    Step      Cond H
   0     0    2.1500e+02    1.4e+02    3.3e+00                                 3.7e+00
```

```
 Variable          x                g              Status
    1          3.0000e+00        3.0600e+02     Upper Bound
    2         -1.0000e+00       -1.4400e+02     Free
    3          0.0000e+00       -2.0000e+00     Free
    4          1.0000e+00       -3.1000e+02     Lower Bound
```

```
  Itn   Nfun   Objective    Norm g     Norm x   Norm(x(k-1)-x(k))    Step      Cond H
   1     6    1.6467e+02    3.2e+02    3.2e+00      7.0e-01         1.0e+00    2.1e+02
```

```
 Variable          x                g              Status
    1          3.0000e+00        3.1997e+02     Free
    2         -3.0174e-01       -5.5533e-01     Free
    3          3.5448e-02       -9.2316e+00     Free
    4          1.0000e+00       -3.1035e+02     Lower Bound
```

```
  Itn   Nfun   Objective    Norm g     Norm x   Norm(x(k-1)-x(k))    Step      Cond H
   2     9    8.7285e+00    4.2e+01    1.4e+00      2.0e+00         6.3e-03    3.6e+00
```

```
 Variable          x                g              Status
    1          1.0000e+00        3.1997e+02     Lower Bound
    2         -3.0166e-01       -4.0542e+01     Free
    3          3.6453e-02       -9.2150e+00     Free
    4          1.0000e+00       -3.1035e+02     Lower Bound
```

```
Itn  Nfun  Objective    Norm g    Norm x   Norm(x(k-1)-x(k))   Step     Cond H
 3    13   2.9252e+00   7.9e+00   1.4e+00        3.3e-01        1.1e+00  5.0e+00

Variable        x              g           Status
   1        1.0000e+00      3.1997e+02    Lower Bound
   2       -6.7556e-02      5.6219e+00    Free
   3        2.6655e-01     -5.6009e+00    Free
   4        1.0000e+00     -3.1035e+02    Lower Bound

Itn  Nfun  Objective    Norm g    Norm x   Norm(x(k-1)-x(k))   Step     Cond H
 4    17   2.4562e+00   1.5e+00   1.5e+00        1.7e-01        1.7e+00  5.3e+00

Variable        x              g           Status
   1        1.0000e+00      3.1997e+02    Lower Bound
   2       -8.2099e-02      2.7295e-02    Free
   3        4.3958e-01      1.5017e+00    Free
   4        1.0000e+00     -3.1035e+02    Lower Bound

Itn  Nfun  Objective    Norm g    Norm x   Norm(x(k-1)-x(k))   Step     Cond H
 5    22   2.4356e+00   4.6e-01   1.5e+00        3.9e-02        1.0e+00  4.2e+00

Variable        x              g           Status
   1        1.0000e+00      2.9810e-01    Lower Bound
   2       -8.5095e-02      1.9440e-01    Free
   3        4.0069e-01     -4.1992e-01    Free
   4        1.0000e+00      5.9931e+00    Lower Bound

Itn  Nfun  Objective    Norm g    Norm x   Norm(x(k-1)-x(k))   Step     Cond H
 6    28   2.4338e+00   4.7e-03   1.5e+00        8.7e-03        1.1e+00  4.4e+00

Variable        x              g           Status
   1        1.0000e+00      2.9504e-01    Lower Bound
   2       -8.5248e-02     -4.0918e-03    Free
   3        4.0935e-01      2.3733e-03    Free
   4        1.0000e+00      5.9065e+00    Lower Bound

Itn  Nfun  Objective    Norm g    Norm x   Norm(x(k-1)-x(k))   Step     Cond H
 7    33   2.4338e+00   9.3e-05   1.5e+00        4.5e-05        1.0e+00  4.4e+00

Variable        x              g           Status
   1        1.0000e+00      2.9535e-01    Lower Bound
   2       -8.5232e-02      8.5748e-05    Free
   3        4.0930e-01     -3.6655e-05    Free
   4        1.0000e+00      5.9070e+00    Lower Bound

Itn  Nfun  Objective    Norm g    Norm x   Norm(x(k-1)-x(k))   Step     Cond H
 8    40   2.4338e+00   6.3e-06   1.5e+00        7.0e-07        1.0e+00  4.4e+00

Variable        x              g           Status
   1        1.0000e+00      2.9535e-01    Lower Bound
   2       -8.5233e-02     -5.7347e-06    Free
   3        4.0930e-01     -2.5644e-06    Free
   4        1.0000e+00      5.9070e+00    Lower Bound

Itn  Nfun  Objective    Norm g    Norm x   Norm(x(k-1)-x(k))   Step     Cond H
 9    47   2.4338e+00   1.4e-07   1.5e+00        7.5e-08        1.0e+00  4.4e+00

Variable        x              g           Status
   1        1.0000e+00      2.9535e-01    Lower Bound
   2       -8.5233e-02      1.2801e-07    Free
   3        4.0930e-01      4.4636e-08    Free
   4        1.0000e+00      5.9070e+00    Lower Bound

Local search performed.

Final solution:

Itn  Nfun  Objective    Norm g    Norm x   Norm(x(k-1)-x(k))   Step     Cond H
 9    64   2.4338e+00   1.4e-07   1.5e+00        0.0e+00        0.0e+00  4.4e+00

Variable        x              g           Status
```

```
1         1.0000e+00       2.9535e-01     Lower Bound
2        -8.5233e-02       1.2801e-07     Free
3         4.0930e-01       4.4636e-08     Free
4         1.0000e+00       5.9070e+00     Lower Bound
```

10 Optional Parameters

A number of optional input and output parameters to nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc) are available through the structure argument **options**, type **Nag_E04_Opt**. A parameter may be selected by assigning an appropriate value to the relevant structure member; those parameters not selected will be assigned default values. If no use is to be made of any of the optional parameters the user should use the NAG defined null pointer, E04_DEFAULT, in place of **options** when calling nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc); the default settings will then be used for all parameters.

Before assigning values to **options** directly the structure **must** be initialized by a call to the function nag_opt_init (e04xxc). Values may then be assigned to the structure members in the normal C manner.

Option settings may also be read from a text file using the function nag_opt_read (e04xyc) in which case initialization of the **options** structure will be performed automatically if not already done. Any subsequent direct assignment to the **options** structure must **not** be preceded by initialization.

If assignment of functions and memory to pointers in the **options** structure is required, then this must be done directly in the calling program; they cannot be assigned using nag_opt_read (e04xyc).

10.1 Optional Parameter Checklist and Default Values

For easy reference, the following list shows the members of **options** which are valid for nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc) together with their default values where relevant. The number ϵ is a generic notation for *machine precision* (see nag_machine_precision (X02AJC)).

Boolean list	**Nag_True**
Nag_PrintType print_level	**Nag_Soln_Iter**
char outfile[80]	stdout
void (*print_fun)()	**NULL**
Nag_InitType init_state	**Nag_Init_None**
Integer max_iter	50**n**
double optim_tol	$10\sqrt{\epsilon}$
double linesearch_tol	0.5 (0.0 if $\mathbf{n} = 1$)
double step_max	100000.0
double f_est	
Boolean local_search	**Nag_True**
double *delta	size **n**
Integer *state	size **n**
double *hesl	size $\max(\mathbf{n}(\mathbf{n} - 1)/2, 1)$
double *hesd	size **n**
Integer iter	
Integer nf	

10.2 Description of the Optional Arguments

list – Nag_Boolean   Default = **NagTrue**

On entry: if **list** = **NagTrue** the parameter settings in the call to nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc) will be printed.

print_level – Nag_PrintType   Default = **Nag_Soln_Iter**

On entry: the level of results printout produced by nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc). The following values are available:

Nag_NoPrint	No output.
Nag_Soln	The final solution.
Nag_Iter	One line of output for each iteration.
Nag_Soln_Iter	The final solution and one line of output for each iteration.
Nag_Soln_Iter_Full	The final solution and detailed printout at each iteration.

Details of each level of results printout are described in Section 10.3.

Constraint: **print_level** = **Nag_NoPrint**, **Nag_Soln**, **Nag_Iter**, **Nag_Soln_Iter** or **Nag_Soln_Iter_Full**.

outfile – const char[80]   Default = stdout

On entry: the name of the file to which results should be printed. If **outfile**[0] = '\0' then the stdout stream is used.

print_fun – pointer to function   Default = **NULL**

On entry: printing function defined by the user; the prototype of **print_fun** is

```
void (*print_fun)(const Nag_Search_State *st, Nag_Comm *comm);
```

See Section 10.3.1 below for further details.

init_state – Nag_InitType   Default = **Nag_Init_None**

On entry: **init_state** specifies which of the parameters **objf**, **g**, **hesl**, **hesd** and **state** are actually being initialized by the user. Such information will generally reduce the time taken by nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc).

init_state = **Nag_Init_None**

No values are assumed to have been set in any of **objf**, **g**, **hesl**, **hesd** or **state**. (nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc) will use the unit matrix as the initial estimate of the Hessian matrix.)

init_state = **Nag_Init_All**

The parameters **objf** and **g** must contain the value of $F(x)$ and estimates of its first derivatives at the starting point. All n elements of **state** must have been set to indicate which variables are on their bounds and which are free. The pointer **delta** must give the n finite-difference intervals. **hesl** and **hesd** must contain the Cholesky factors of a positive-definite approximation to the n_z by n_z Hessian matrix for the subspace of free variables. (This option is useful for restarting the minimization process if **max_iter** is reached.)

init_state = **Nag_Init_H_S**

No values are assumed to have been set in **objf** or **g**, but **hesl**, **hesd**, **state** and **delta** must have been set as for **init_state** = **Nag_Init_All**. (This option is useful for starting off a minimization run using second derivative information from a previous, similar, run.)

Constraint: **init_state** = **Nag_Init_None**, **Nag_Init_All** or **Nag_Init_H_S**.

max_iter – Integer   *i*   Default = 50**n**

On entry: the limit on the number of iterations allowed before termination.

Constraint: **max_iter** ≥ 0.

optim_tol – double   Default = $10\sqrt{\epsilon}$

On entry: the accuracy in *x* to which the solution is required. If x_{true} is the true value of *x* at the minimum, then x_{sol}, the estimated position prior to a normal exit, is such that

$$\|x_{\text{sol}} - x_{\text{true}}\| < \text{optim\_tol} \times (1.0 + \|x_{\text{true}}\|),$$

where $\|y\| = \left(\sum_{j=1}^{n} y_j^2 \right)^{1/2}$. For example, if the elements of x_{sol} are not much larger than 1.0 in modulus and if **optim_tol** is set to 10^{-5}, then x_{sol} is usually accurate to about 5 decimal places. (For further details see Section 8.) If the problem is scaled roughly as described in Section 8 and ϵ is the *machine precision*, then $\sqrt{\epsilon}$ is probably the smallest reasonable choice for **optim_tol**. (This is because, normally, to machine accuracy, $F(x + \sqrt{\epsilon} e_j) = F(x)$ where e_j is any column of the identity matrix.)

Constraint: $\epsilon \leq$ **optim_tol** < 1.0.

linesearch_tol – double   Default $= 0.5$. (If **n** $= 1$, default $= 0.0$.)

On entry: every iteration of nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc) involves a linear minimization (i.e., minimization of $F(x + \alpha p)$ with respect to α). **linesearch_tol** specifies how accurately these linear minimizations are to be performed. The minimum with respect to α will be located more accurately for small values of **linesearch_tol** (say 0.01) than for large values (say 0.9).

Although accurate linear minimizations will generally reduce the number of iterations performed by nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc), they will increase the number of function evaluations required for each iteration. On balance, it is usually more efficient to perform a low accuracy linear minimization.

A smaller value such as 0.01 may be worthwhile:

(a) if $F(x)$ can be evaluated unusually quickly (since it may be worth using extra function evaluations to reduce the number of iterations and associated matrix calculations);

(b) if $F(x)$ is a penalty or barrier function arising from a constrained minimization problem (since such problems are very difficult to solve).

If **n** $= 1$, the default for **linesearch_tol** $= 0.0$ (if the problem is effectively one-dimensional then **linesearch_tol** should be set to 0.0 by the user even though **n** > 1; i.e., if for all except one of the variables the lower and upper bounds are equal).

Constraint: $0.0 \leq$ **linesearch_tol** < 1.0.

step_max – double   Default $= 100000.0$

On entry: an estimate of the Euclidean distance between the solution and the starting point supplied by the user. (For maximum efficiency a slight overestimate is preferable.) nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc) will ensure that, for each iteration,

$$\left(\sum_{j=1}^{n} \left[x_j^{(k)} - x_j^{(k-1)} \right]^2 \right)^{1/2} \leq \textbf{step\_max},$$

where k is the iteration number. Thus, if the problem has more than one solution, nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc) is most likely to find the one nearest the starting point. On difficult problems, a realistic choice can prevent the sequence of $x^{(k)}$ entering a region where the problem is ill-behaved and can also help to avoid possible overflow in the evaluation of $F(x)$. However an underestimate of **step_max** can lead to inefficiency.

Constraint: **step_max** $\geq$ **optim_tol**.

f_est – double

On entry: an estimate of the function value at the minimum. This estimate is just used for calculating suitable step lengths for starting linear minimizations off, so the choice is not too critical. However, it is better for **f_est** to be set to an underestimate rather than to an overestimate. If no value is supplied then an initial step length of 1.0 is used, though this may be reduced to ensure that the bounds are not overstepped.

local_search – Nag_Boolean   Default $=$ **NagTrue**

On entry: **local_search** must specify whether or not the user wishes a 'local search' to be performed when a point is found which is thought to be a constrained minimum.

If **local_search** $=$ **NagTrue** and either the quasi-Newton direction of search fails to produce a lower function value or the convergence criteria are satisfied, then a local search will be performed. This may move the search away from a saddle point or confirm that the final point is a minimum.

If **local_search** $=$ **NagFalse** there will be no local search when a point is found which is thought to be a minimum.

The amount of work involved in a local search is comparable to twice that required in a normal iteration to minimize $F(x + \alpha p)$ with respect to α. For most problems this will be small (relative to the total time required for the minimization). **local_search** could be set **Nag_False** if:

–   it is known from the physical properties of a problem that a stationary point will be the required minimum;

–   a point which is not a minimum could be easily recognized, for example if the value of $F(x)$ at the minimum is known.

delta – double * r Default memory $=$ **n**

On entry: suitable step lengths for making difference approximations to the partial derivatives of $F(x)$.

If **delta** is not allocated memory by the user and **init_state** $=$ **Nag_Init_None** then nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc) will allocate memory to **delta** and assign a suitable set of difference intervals.

If **delta** is allocated memory by the user, i.e., **delta** is not **NULL**, and **init_state** $=$ **Nag_Init_None** then difference intervals are assumed to be supplied by **delta**.

When **init_state** $\neq$ **Nag_Init_None** then **delta** must hold the finite difference intervals; these may be the values output from a previous call to nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc).

If the user wishes to supply difference intervals then the following advice can be given. When the problem is scaled roughly as described in Section 8 and ϵ is the ***machine precision***, values in the range $\sqrt{\epsilon}$ to $\epsilon^{2/3}$ may be suitable. Otherwise, the user must choose suitable settings, bearing in mind that, when forward differences are used, the approximation is

$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial x_j} = F\left(\frac{x + \mathbf{delta}[j] \times e_j) - F(x)}{\mathbf{delta}[j]}\right)$$

where e_j is the jth co-ordinate direction, for $j = 1, 2, \ldots, n$.

On exit: the **n** finite difference intervals used by nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc). If **delta** is **NULL** on entry and **init_state** $=$ **Nag_Init_None** then memory will have been automatically allocated to **delta** and suitable values assigned.

Constraint: $\mathbf{delta}[j] \geq 0.0$, $\mathbf{x}[j] + \mathbf{delta}[j] \neq \mathbf{x}[j]$.

state – Integer * i Default memory $=$ **n**

On entry: **state** need not be set if the default option of **init_state** $=$ **Nag_Init_None** is used as **n** values of memory will be automatically allocated by nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc).

If the option **init_state** $=$ **Nag_Init_All** or **Nag_Init_H_S** has been chosen, **state** must point to a minimum of **n** elements of memory. This memory will already be available if the calling program has used the **options** structure in a previous call to nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc) with **init_state** $=$ **Nag_Init_None** and the same value of **n**. If a previous call has not been made, sufficient memory must be allocated by the user.

When **init_state** $=$ **Nag_Init_All** or **Nag_Init_H_S** then **state** must specify information about which variables are currently on their bounds and which are free. If x_j is:

(a)   fixed on its upper bound, $\mathbf{state}[j - 1]$ is -1

(b)   fixed on its lower bound, $\mathbf{state}[j - 1]$ is -2

(c)   effectively a constant (i.e., $l_j = u_j$), $\mathbf{state}[j - 1]$ is -3

(d)   free, $\mathbf{state}[j - 1]$ gives its position in the sequence of free variables.

If **init_state** = **Nag_Init_None**, **state** will be initialized by nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc).

If **init_state** = **Nag_Init_All** or **Nag_Init_H_S**, **state** must be initialized by the user before nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc) is called.

On exit: **state** gives information as above about the final point given in **x**.

hesl – double *		*r*	Default memory $= \max(\mathbf{n}(\mathbf{n}-1)/2, 1)$
hesd – double *		*r*	Default memory $= \mathbf{n}$

On entry: **hesl** and **hesd** need not be set if the default of **init_state** = **Nag_Init_None** is used as sufficient memory will be automatically allocated by nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc).

If **init_state** = **Nag_Init_All** or **init_state** = **Nag_Init_H_S** has been set then **hesl** must point to a minimum of $\max(\mathbf{n}(\mathbf{n}-1)/2, 1)$ elements of memory.

hesd must point to at least **n** elements of memory if **init_state** = **Nag_Init_All** or **Nag_Init_H_S** has been chosen.

The appropriate amount of memory will already be available for **hesl** and **hesd** if the calling program has used the **options** structure in a previous call to nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc) with **init_state** = **Nag_Init_None** and the same value of **n**. If a previous call has not been made, sufficient memory must be allocated by the user.

hesl and **hesd** are used to store the factors L and D of the current approximation to the matrix of second derivatives with respect to the free variables (see Section 3). (The elements of the matrix are assumed to be ordered according to the permutation specified by the positive elements of **state**, see above.) **hesl** holds the lower triangle of L, omitting the unit diagonal, stored by rows. **hesd** stores the diagonal elements of D. Thus if n_z elements of **state** are positive, the strict lower triangle of L will be held in the first $n_z(n_z - 1)/2$ elements of **hesl** and the diagonal elements of D in the first n_z elements of **hesd**. If **init_state** = **Nag_Init_None** (the default), **hesl** and **hesd** will be initialized within nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc) to the factors of the unit matrix. If the user sets **init_state** = **Nag_Init_All** or **Nag_Init_H_S**, **hesl** and **hesd** must contain on entry the Cholesky factors of a positive-definite approximation to the n_z by n_z matrix of second derivatives for the subspace of free variables as specified by the user's setting of **state**.

On exit: **hesl** and **hesd** hold the factors L and D corresponding to the final point given in **x**. The elements of **hesd** are useful for deciding whether to accept the result produced by nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc) (see Section 8).

iter – Integer		*i*

On exit: the number of iterations which have been performed in nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc).

nf – Integer		*i*

On exit: the number of times the residuals have been evaluated.

10.3 Description of Printed Output

The level of printed output can be controlled with the structure members **list** and **print_level** (see Section 10.2). If **list** = **NagTrue** then the parameter values to nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc) are listed, whereas the printout of results is governed by the value of **print_level**. The default of **print_level** = **Nag_Soln_Iter** provides a single line of output at each iteration and the final result. This section describes all of the possible levels of printout available from nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc).

When **print_level** = **Nag_Iter** or **Nag_Soln_Iter** a single line of output is produced on completion of each iteration, this gives the following values:

`Itn`	the iteration count, k.
`Nfun`	the cumulative number of objective function evaluations.
`Objective`	the value of the objective function, $F\left(x^{(k)}\right)$
`Norm g`	the Euclidean norm of the projected gradient vector, $\left\| g_z\left(x^{(k)}\right) \right\|$.

`Norm x`	the Euclidean norm of $x^{(k)}$.
`Norm(x(k-1)-x(k))`	the Euclidean norm of $x^{(k-1)} - x^{(k)}$.
`Step`	the step $\alpha^{(k)}$ taken along the computed search direction $p^{(k)}$.
`Cond H`	the ratio of the largest to the smallest element of the diagonal factor D of the projected Hessian matrix. This quantity is usually a good estimate of the condition number of the projected Hessian matrix. (If no variables are currently free, this value will be zero.)

When **print_level** = **Nag_Soln_Iter_Full** more detailed results are given at each iteration. Additional values output are:

`x`	the current point $x^{(k)}$.
`g`	the current estimate of the projected gradient vector, $g_z\left(x^{(k)}\right)$.
`Status`	the current state of the variable with respect to its bound(s).

If **print_level** = **Nag_Soln**, **Nag_Soln_Iter** or **Nag_Soln_Iter_Full** the final result is printed out. This consists of:

`x`	the final point, x^*.
`g`	the final estimate of the projected gradient vector, $g_z(x^*)$.
`Status`	the final state of the variable with respect to its bound(s).

If **print_level** = **Nag_NoPrint** then printout will be suppressed; the user can print the final solution when nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc) returns to the calling program.

10.3.1 Output of results via a user-defined printing function

Users may also specify their own print function for output of iteration results and the final solution by use of the **print_fun** function pointer, which has prototype

```
void (*print_fun)(const Nag_Search_State *st, Nag_Comm *comm);
```

The rest of this section can be skipped if the default printing facilities provide the required functionality.

When a user-defined function is assigned to **print_fun** this will be called in preference to the internal print function of nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc). Calls to the user-defined function are again controlled by means of the **print_level** member. Information is provided through **st** and **comm**, the two structure arguments to **print_fun**.

The results contained in the members of **st** are those on completion of the last iteration or those after a local search. (An iteration may be followed by a local search (see **local_search**, Section 10.2) in which case **print_fun** is called with the results of the last iteration (**st**.**local_search** = **NagFalse**) and then again when the local search has been completed (**st**.**local_search** = **NagTrue**).)

If **comm** → **it_prt** = **NagTrue** then the results on completion of an iteration of nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc) are contained in the members of **st**. If **comm** → **sol_prt** = **NagTrue** then the final results from nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc), including details of the final iteration, are contained in the members of **st**. In both cases, the same members of **st** are set, as follows:

iter – Integer

The current iteration count, k, if **comm** → **it_prt** = **NagTrue**; the final iteration count, k, if **comm** → **sol_prt** = **NagTrue**.

n – Integer

The number of variables.

x – double *

The co-ordinates of the point $x^{(k)}$.

f – double *

   The value of the current objective function.

g – double *

   The estimated value of $\dfrac{\partial F}{\partial x_j}$ at $x^{(k)}$, for $j = 1, 2, \ldots, n.$

gpj_norm – double

   The Euclidean norm of the current estimate of the projected gradient g_z.

step – double

   The step $\alpha^{(k)}$ taken along the search direction $p^{(k)}$.

cond – double

   The estimate of the condition number of the Hessian matrix.

xk_norm – double

   The Euclidean norm of $x^{(k-1)} - x^{(k)}$.

state – Integer *

   The status of variables x_j, $j = 1, 2, \ldots, n$, with respect to their bounds. See Section 3 for a description of the possible status values.

local_search – Nag_Boolean

   Nag_True if a local search has been performed.

nf – Integer

   The cumulative number of objective function evaluations.

The relevant members of the structure **comm** are:

it_prt – Nag_Boolean

   Will be **Nag_True** when the print function is called with the results of the current iteration.

sol_prt – Nag_Boolean

   Will be **Nag_True** when the print function is called with the final result.

user – double *
iuser – Integer *
p – Pointer

   Pointers for communication of user information. If used they must be allocated memory by the user either before entry to nag_opt_bounds_no_deriv (e04jbc) or during a call to **objfun** or **print_fun**. The type Pointer will be `void *` with a C compiler that defines `void *` and `char *` otherwise.

11   Example 2 (EX2)

Example 2 (EX2) solves the same problem as Example 1 (EX1), described in Section 9, but shows the use of certain optional parameters. This example shows option values being assigned directly within the program text and by reading values from a data file. The **options** structure is declared and initialized by nag_opt_init (e04xxc), an array holding the required finite difference intervals is then assigned to **delta** and three further options are read from the data file by use of nag_opt_read (e04xyc). The memory freeing function nag_opt_free (e04xzc) is used to free the memory assigned to the pointers in the option structure. Users should **not** use the standard C function `free()` for this purpose.

See Section 9 for the example program.