Bruce McCarl's GAMS Newsletter Number 1

For some time I have felt that the GAMS user community is in need of additional information on the use and features which emerge as GAMS develops. This document is an attempt to fill that need. I intend to periodically issue a very short newsletter that informs people of things that are new and or under documented as well as opportunities to learn more about GAMS features and usage. Ordinarily I will provide references to web sites with additional details. This newsletter will not appear on a regular schedule rather appearing only when I think that a release is justified.

Note this document is not a product of GAMS Development Corporation although it is being distributed with the cooperation of GAMS Development.

New GAMS IDE released

A new version of the GAMS IDE has been released. There are several significant improvements which include an updated library handler, syntax coloring, an improved search and replace, column block handling and online access to GAMS documentation. For details on functionality see my notes on http://www.gams.com/mccarl/useide.pdf.

Constraints on GAMS item lengths expanded

GAMS has quietly lengthened the permissible length of set elements, variable and equation names. The current length allowed of all of these items is 31 characters.

Courses offered

For those wishing more training there are upcoming courses by myself and others. I teach advanced GAMS in the Netherlands May 22-25 and basic GAMS in Texas June 5-8. Other courses in Europe are listed on http://www.gams.de and in the U.S. on http://www.gams.com.

Conditioning on sets

A command that has been in GAMS for some time is the sameas command. It can be used as follows

```
z = sum((i,j)$(not sameas(i,j)), x(i,j)); -- sum where the i set element text does not equal that for j
z = sum((i,j)$sameas(i,j), x(i,j)); -- sum cases where the set element text for i equals that for j
z(k) = sum(i$sameas(i,'water'), r(i,k)); -- sum cases only when set element text for i equals water
```

GAMSCHK is free and in all GAMS releases

GAMSCHK is designed to help you debug your models. See http://www.gams.com/mccarl/gamschk.htm for some usage examples.

Subscribe to the GAMS List

An email list server is available for those wishing to pose questions about GAMS usage or observe others questions and responses. Subscribe through the GAMS mailing list link on http://www.gams.de or http://www.gams.com.

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