the implicit constraint (6) in Balkhi¹ ((9) in Yan and Cheng²) should be considered. Similarly it holds for constraints (10) in Balkhi.¹ Also, the constraint (8) in Balkhi¹ is an explicit constraint as indicated in the assumptions and the conclusion of Yan and Cheng,² and it, therefore, cannot be ignored.

- (4) Furthermore, each of T_{01} and S are decision variables since they are to be determined optimally as well as T_1 (the optimal stopping) and T_2 (the optimal restarting) times.

Finally, Yan and Cheng³ stated that ‘we have excluded the set-up cost for each cycle and the shortage cost for the initial period of the cycle as pointed out by Balkhi.¹ This may be included in future research’.

This means that the two authors are (implicitly) convinced by my original Viewpoint.¹

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References

- 1 Balkhi ZT (2000). Viewpoint on the optimal production stopping and restarting times for an EOQ model with deteriorating items. *J Opl Res Soc* **51**: 999–1001.
- 2 Yan H and Cheng TCE (1998). Optimal production stopping and restarting times for an EOQ model with deteriorating items. *J Opl Res Soc* **49**: 1288–1295.
- 3 Yan H and Cheng TCE (2000). Response to the Viewpoint on ‘Optimal production stopping and restarting time for an EOQ model with deteriorating items’. *J Opl Res Soc* **51**: 1001–1002.

Response to Balkhi’s response

First of all, it is not precise to say that the model is an infinite horizon model. The model is a single stage model, and considered on an infinite horizon. The model can be implemented repeatedly. We trust that this is clear to Balkhi’s work.

Response to (1): We have already explained that we do not consider the set up time, since this is a single stage model. Therefore, the item S_0 in Balkhi’s response does not exist.

Response to (2): It is not clear what this point is about.

Response to (3): The statement ‘It is well known that relations between the decision variables are to be treated as constraints in any optimisation problem . . .’ is not true. We do not need to explain this basic mathematical modeling technique here.

Response to (4): We have made it clear that T_{01} and S are not decision variables in our last response. They are simply the time when inventory level equals to zero.

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