

GECCO 2022 tutorial on benchmarking multiobjective optimizers 2.0

Dimo Brockhoff, Tea Tusar

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GECCO 2022 Tutorial on Benchmarking Multiobjective Optimizers 2.0

Dimo Brockhoff

dimo.brockhoff@inria.fr

Tea Tušar

tea.tusar@ijs.si







The final slides are available at http://www.cmap.polytechnique.fr/~dimo.brockhoff/

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Overview

Our plan

Discuss history, present and future of multiobjective benchmarking

With respect to different topics

performance assessment / methodology test functions

Finally, recommendations on good algorithms

Disclaimer

This is not an introductory tutorial to multiobjective optimization!

We assume you know basic definitions like

Objective function

Pareto dominance/Pareto front/Pareto set

Ideal/Nadir points

Disclaimer II

We only consider continuous search spaces

Disclaimer II

We only consider continuous search spaces

We only consider unconstrained problems

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We only consider continuous search spaces

We only consider unconstrained problems

What we present is highly subjective & selective

- how important do we find each milestone?
- use version numbering and branches
- what have we learned from the past?

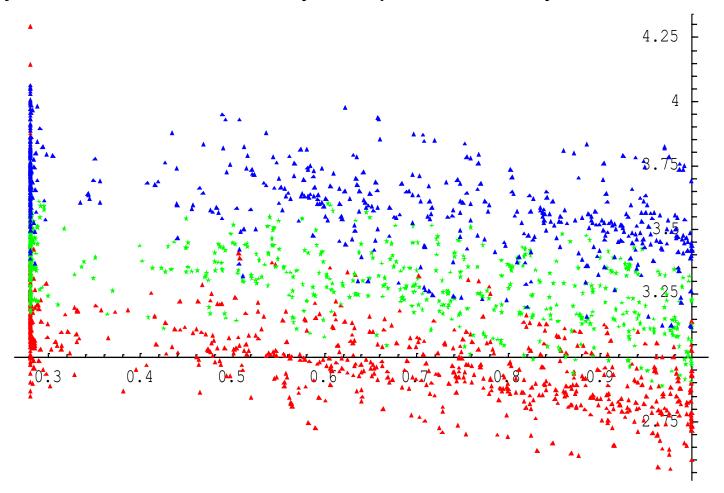
Overview

- Performance Assessment
- 2 Test Problems and Their Visualizations
- Recommendations from Numerical Results

v0.0.1alpha

In The Early Beginnings...

... multiobjective EAs were mainly compared visually:



ZDT6 benchmark problem: IBEA, SPEA2, NSGA-II

v0.1beta

Tables

Problem	-	MOC	SA		NSGA2				
	$\langle d \rangle$	S	GD	ER	$\langle d \rangle$	S	GD	ER	
ZDT1	0.0404	0.0055	0.0000	0	0.0270	0.0156	0.0011	0.04	
ZDT2	0.0404	0.0082	0.0000	0	0.0292	0.0146	0.0212	0.02	
ZDT3	0.0438	0.0148	0.0001	0	0.0329	0.0201	0.0020	0.02	
ZDT4	0.0404	0.0097	0.0000	0	0.0328	0.0159	0.0006	0.02	
ZDT6	0.0327	0.0150	0.0000	0	0.0216	0.0119	0.0000	0	
DTLZ1	0.1114	0.0068	0.0000	0	0.0615	0.0319	0.0000	0	
DTLZ2	0.2319	0.0646	0.0021	0.02	0.1361	0.0683	0.0020	0.04	
DTLZ3	0.2770	0.0225	0.0000	0	0.1139	0.0739	0.0000	0	
DTLZ4	0.2478	0.0424	0.0009	0	0.1630	0.0898	0.0019	0.02	
DTLZ5	0.0487	0.0059	0.0000	0	0.0309	0.0176	0.0610	0.06	
DTLZ6	0.0484	0.0156	0.0000	0	0.0306	0.0135	0.0000	0	
DTLZ7	0.2897	0.0510	0.0011	0.04	0.1880	0.1322	0.0071	0.22	

arXiv, 2012

Tables

Table 4: Influence of different κ values on the performance of the cone ϵ -MOEA on test problems Deb52, ZDT1, and DTLZ2 with three and four objective functions. Median (M) and standard deviation (SD) over 30 independent runs are shown. Intermediate values for κ seem to yield reasonably good performance values for all metrics. A more appropriate study is required in order to formally characterize the effect of this para-

Met	ric						κ ; Deb52	!				
		0.0	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.99
γ	M	0.0006	0.0006	0.0005	0.0006	0.0005	0.0006	0.0006	0.0006	0.0006	0.0006	0.0006
	SD	$< 10^{-4}$	$< 10^{-4}$	$< 10^{-4}$	$< 10^{-4}$	$< 10^{-4}$	$< 10^{-4}$	$< 10^{-4}$	$< 10^{-4}$	$< 10^{-4}$	0.0001	0.0001
Δ	M	0.6766	0.6813	0.5244	0.2991	0.2552	0.2432	0.2648	0.2892	0.3147	0.3194	0.3199
	SD	0.0004	0.0021	0.0025	0.0027	0.0034	0.0039	0.0017	0.0019	0.0016	0.0042	0.0066
HV	M	0.2735	0.2779	0.2794	0.2802	0.2806	0.2806	0.2806	0.2806	0.2806	0.2806	0.2806
	SD	$< 10^{-4}$	$< 10^{-4}$	$< 10^{-4}$	$< 10^{-4}$	$< 10^{-4}$	$< 10^{-4}$	$< 10^{-4}$	$< 10^{-4}$	$< 10^{-4}$	$< 10^{-4}$	$< 10^{-4}$
$ \mathcal{H} $	M	19.00	51.00	74.00	93.00	101.00	101.00	101.00	101.00	101.00	101.00	101.00
	SD	$< 10^{-4}$	$< 10^{-4}$	0.2537	0.3457	0.4842	$< 10^{-4}$	$< 10^{-4}$	$< 10^{-4}$	0.1826	0.1826	0.1826
Met	ric						κ ; ZDT1					
		0.0	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.99
γ	M	0.0103	0.0069	0.0055	0.0059	0.0074	0.0040	0.0042	0.0051	0.0053	0.0050	0.0038
	SD	0.0072	0.0038	0.0057	0.0047	0.0049	0.0042	0.0060	0.0058	0.0040	0.0050	0.0034
Δ	M	0.3046	0.5543	0.3678	0.2084	0.1818	0.1812	0.1898	0.1937	0.1934	0.1956	0.1891
	SD	0.0122	0.0607	0.0480	0.0408	0.0235	0.0220	0.0234	0.0251	0.0240	0.0232	0.0155
HV	M	0.8435	0.8561	0.8602	0.8607	0.8598	0.8652	0.8650	0.8636	0.8633	0.8638	0.8657
	SD	0.0115	0.0066	0.0094	0.0079	0.0082	0.0069	0.0099	0.0096	0.0066	0.0083	0.0057
$ \mathcal{H} $	M	37.00	63.00	84.50	98.00	100.00	101.00	101.00	101.00	101.00	101.00	101.00
	SD	0.6397	5.7211	2.8730	5.0901	3.8201	0.5467	0.8584	0.9371	0.9377	1.3515	0.7112
3.6.4							VTT 220 /	2)				
Met	ric	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5 OTLZ2 (m	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.99
	11											
γ	M	0.0062	0.0069	0.0072	0.0070	0.0074	0.0079	0.0074	0.0076	0.0074	0.0078	0.0072
	SD	0.0002	0.0013	0.0015	0.0013	0.0012	0.0014	0.0010	0.0019	0.0007	0.0014	0.0009
Δ	M	0.0503	0.6066	0.3029	0.2411	0.2386	0.2308	0.2274	0.2175	0.2079	0.2173	0.1982
	SD	0.0041	0.0422	0.0357	0.0302	0.0264	0.0219	0.0316	0.0275	0.0306	0.0295	0.0239
HV	M	0.6731	0.7149	0.7383	0.7435	0.7458	0.7469	0.7467	0.7469	0.7470	0.7470	0.7471
lavi	SD	0.0066	0.0042	0.0023	0.0012	0.0007	0.0006	0.0005	0.0005	0.0005	0.0005	0.0003
$ \mathcal{H} $	M SD	21.00	69.00	88.00	93.00	94.50	95.00	95.00	95.00	95.00	95.00	94.00
	SD	1.3047	3.1639	2.8367	2.0424	1.7750	1.9464	2.2894	2.0197	1.5643	2.2614	1.7100
Met	ric					e - F	TLZ2 (m	- 4)				
Wieu	ric.	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.99
γ	M	0.0001	0.0311	0.0385	0.0312	0.0449	0.0404	0.0445	0.0488	0.0590	0.0489	0.0534
7	SD	0.0001	0.0198	0.0218	0.0239	0.0283	0.0240	0.0369	0.0281	0.0384	0.0241	0.0304
Δ	M	0.1390	0.4700	0.3602	0.3296	0.0283	0.3429	0.3377	0.3258	0.0254	0.3304	0.3319
	SD	0.1173	0.0304	0.0307	0.0226	0.0255	0.0263	0.0187	0.0262	0.0210	0.0254	0.0259
$ \mathcal{H} $	M	14.00	79.50	90.00	92.00	95.00	96.00	95.50	97.00	98.00	95.50	97.00
n	IVI	14.00	19.00	30.00	92.00	33.00	90.00	30.00	91.00	80.00	90.00	91.00

4.6307

5.8530

5.0496

4.5945

4.6233

4.3423

arXiv, 2020

4.8476

Table 7: Problemwise comparison of the algorithms on the four performance metrics used, for problems Deb52, Pol and the ZDT family. The values reported represent the mean and standard error obtained for each combination of algorithm, problem and performance metric.

Problem	Metric	NSGA-II	ε-MOEA	cone∈-MO	EA C-NSG	A-II SPEA	2 NSGA-II	+		
	γ	$0.58\pm7e-3$	0.56±3e-3	$0.56\pm 2e$	-3 0.58±1	le-2 0.55±7	e-3 0.55±6e-3	3		
Deb52	Δ	$0.53\pm 8e-3$	0.99±6e-4	0.32±3e-	-4 0.33±6			3		
	HV	$0.99\pm7e-5$	0.99±6e-5	0.99 ± 0				5		
	CS	0.02±7e-4	0.03±10e-4	0.03±8e	-4 0.02±8	Be-4 0.03±9				
	γ	$0.20\pm 2e-2$	0.13±6e-4	0.19±2e	-2 0.19±9	9e-3 0.15±2	le-3 0.16±2e-3	3		
D 1	Δ	$0.58\pm 1e-2$	0.98±9e-4	0.29±6e	-3 0.38±7	'e-3 0.24±3	e-3 0.36±8e-3	3		
Pol	HV	$1.00\pm 1e-5$	1.00±5e-6	1.00±4e	-6 1.00±3	8e-5 1.00±4	e-6 1.00±8e-6	5		
	CS	$0.04\pm1e-3$	0.04±1e-3	0.04±2e	-3 0.04±10	0e-4 0.06±1	e-3 0.05±1e-3	3		
	γ	0.16±2e-2	0.30±3e-2	0.23±3e						
Zdt1	Δ	$0.79\pm1e-2$	$0.70\pm4e-3$	$0.37 \pm 6e$	-3 0.50±8	3e-3 0.29±7	e-3 0.56±1e-2	2		
Zati	HV	$0.99 \pm 10e-4$	$0.98\pm 2e-3$	0.98±2e	-3 0.98±9	e-4 0.98±1	e-3 0.98±1e-3	3		
	CS	0.33±2e-2	0.20±3e-2	0.27±3e	-2 0.30±2	2e-2 0.15±2	le-2 0.27±2e-2	2		
	γ	0.43±9e-3	0.65±8e-3	0.30±4e	-3 0.80±1	le-2 0.41±8	Se-3 0.41±8e-3	3		
Zdt2	Δ	$0.76\pm1e-2$	0.56±3e-3	$0.38\pm4e$						
Zutz	HV	$0.99 \pm 1e-4$	0.99±7e-5	0.99±4e	-5 0.98±1	le-4 0.99±8	8e-5 0.99±9e-	5		
	CS	0.07±3e-3	0. Table 8:	Problem	wise comp	arison of th	ne algorithms	on the four	r performa	nce metrics
	γ	$0.16\pm 2e-2$					eported repr			
Zdt3	Δ	$0.67 \pm 1e-2$					ithm, problen			
2.00	HV	0.98±2e-3	Droblen		NSGA-II	ε-MOEA	cone∈-MOEA			NSGA-II*
	CS	0.41±3e-2	0.	γ	0.23±7e-3	0.13±1e-3	0.17±2e-2	0.39±1e-2	0.18±2e-3	
	γ	$0.27 \pm 2e-2$	0.	Δ	0.34±3e-3	0.12±2e-3	0.05±1e-2	0.20±2e-2	0.08±1e-3	0.34±4e-3
Zdt4	Δ	0.61±9e-3	0. Dtlz1	HV	0.95±6e-4	0.92±4e-4	0.95±2e-4	0.96±5e-4	0.97±1e-4	0.96±5e-4
2.001	HV	0.84±9e-3	0.	CS	0.02±8e-4	0.01±9e-4	0.03±1e-3	0.00±5e-4	0.02±1e-3	0.02±10e-4
	CS	0.73±3e-2	0.	γ	0.62±10e-3	0.70±7e-3	0.48±8e-3	0.75±1e-2	0.55±8e-3	0.48±6e-3
	γ	0.06±3e-2	0.	Δ	0.81±10e-3	0.42±4e-3	0.42±6e-3	0.29±5e-3	0.16±3e-3	0.83±9e-3
Zdt6	Δ	0.52±1e-2 0.96±1e-2	0. Dtlz2	HV	0.89±9e-4	0.92±4e-4	$0.94\pm1e-4$	0.90±7e-4	0.93±4e-4	0.89±9e-4
2.00	HV		0.	CS	0.03±1e-3	0.02±8e-4	$0.06\pm 2e-3$	0.01±6e-4	0.03±1e-3	0.04±1e-3
	CS	0.18±2e-2	0.	γ	0.35±2e-2	0.25±1e-2	0.42±3e-2	0.50±3e-2	0.32±2e-2	0.26±1e-2
			D.1.0	Δ	0.33±9e-3	0.19±1e-2	$0.29\pm 2e-2$	0.22±3e-2	0.15±2e-2	0.34±8e-3
			Dtlz3	HV	0.90±10e-4	0.91±2e-2	0.91±1e-2	0.91±1e-3	0.93±3e-4	0.90±9e-4
				CS	0.02±1e-3	$0.03\pm2e-3$	$0.04\pm 2e-3$	0.00±5e-4	$0.02\pm 2e-3$	0.02±2e-3
				γ	0.32±8e-3	0.41±2e-2	0.53±3e-2	0.34±1e-2	0.33±1e-2	0.30±3e-3
			Dtlz4	Δ	$0.67 \pm 2e-2$	$0.37 \pm 3e-2$	$0.43\pm 2e-2$	$0.36\pm4e-2$	$0.22\pm3e-2$	$0.66\pm 8e-3$
			DtiZ4	HV	$0.88 \pm 1e-2$	0.86±2e-2	$0.86\pm 2e-2$	$0.84\pm 2e-2$	$0.87\pm 2e-2$	0.90±7e-4
				CS	$0.04\pm 2e-3$	0.02±1e-3	$0.03\pm 2e-3$	0.02±2e-3	$0.03\pm 2e-3$	0.03±1e-3
				γ	0.14±2e-3	0.26±3e-3	0.56±3e-2	0.22±5e-3	0.15±2e-3	0.13±1e-3
			Delas	Δ	$0.74\pm2e-2$	0.78±5e-3	0.83±9e-3	0.43±6e-3	0.26±4e-3	0.61±1e-2
			Dtlz5	HV	0.99±1e-4	0.99±7e-5	0.98±3e-5	0.98±1e-4	0.99±4e-5	0.99±1e-4
				CS	0.06±2e-3	0.02±1e-3	0.04±1e-3	0.03±1e-3	0.05±2e-3	0.07±2e-3
				γ	0.84±8e-3	0.94±3e-3	0.83±3e-3	0.83±5e-3	0.84±7e-3	0.84±8e-3
								1±7e-3	0.32±5e-3	0.62±1e-2
								£9e-5	0.99±3e-5	0.99±1e-4

Numbers have their value. But not only tables, please!

±1e-3	0.09±3e-3	0.07±2e-3
1e-2	0.83±9e-3	$0.58\pm 1e-2$
£8e-3	$0.36\pm 8e-3$	0.80±1e-2
£3e-3	0.10±3e-3	0.09±3e-3
.4±7e-3	0.77±7e-3	0.90±5e-3
$49\pm 6e-3$	$0.45\pm4e-3$	$0.61\pm 6e-3$
.23±8e-3	0.24±8e-3	0.13±7e-3

 $0.67 \pm 8e-3$

 $0.52 \pm 8e-3$ 0.94±6e-4 0.92±9e-4

0.62±5e-3 0.71±1e-2

v1.0

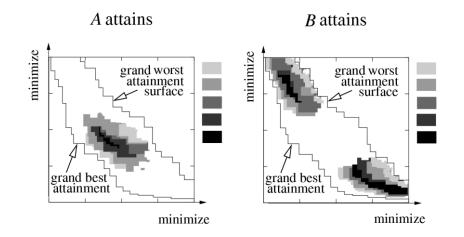
v1.0: Two Approaches for Empirical Studies

Attainment function approach

- applies statistical tests directly to the approximation set
- detailed information about how and where performance differences occur

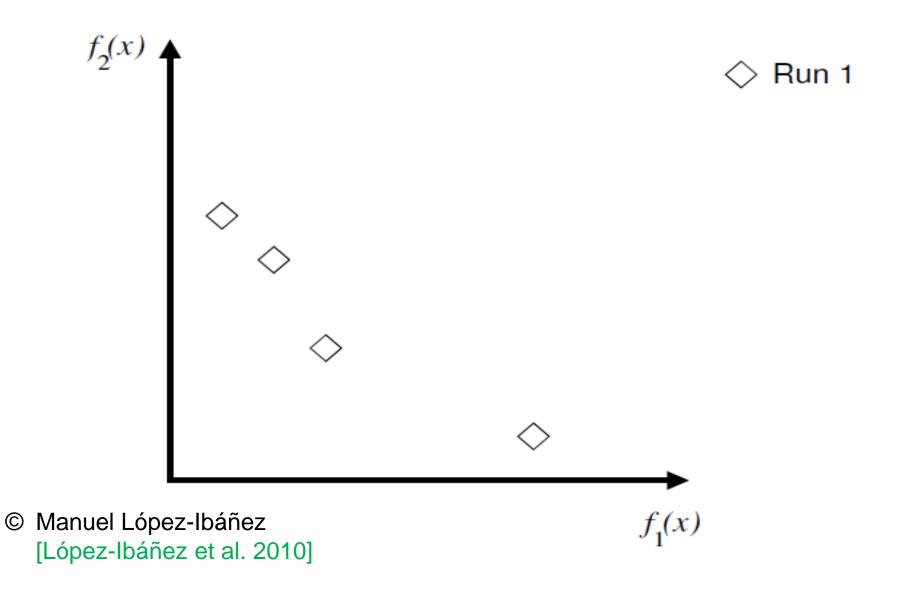
Quality indicator approach

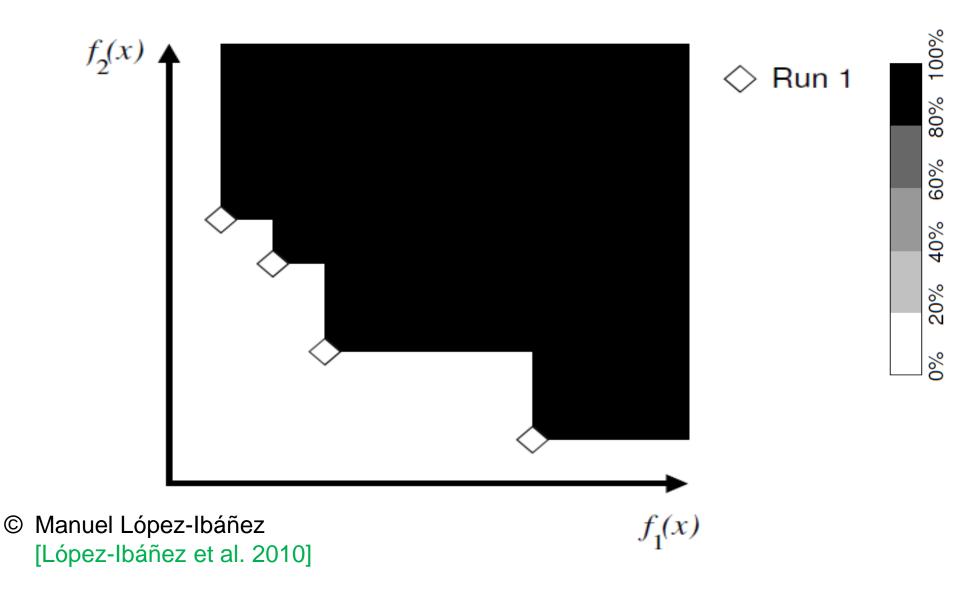
- reduces each approximation set to a single quality value
- applies statistical tests to the quality values

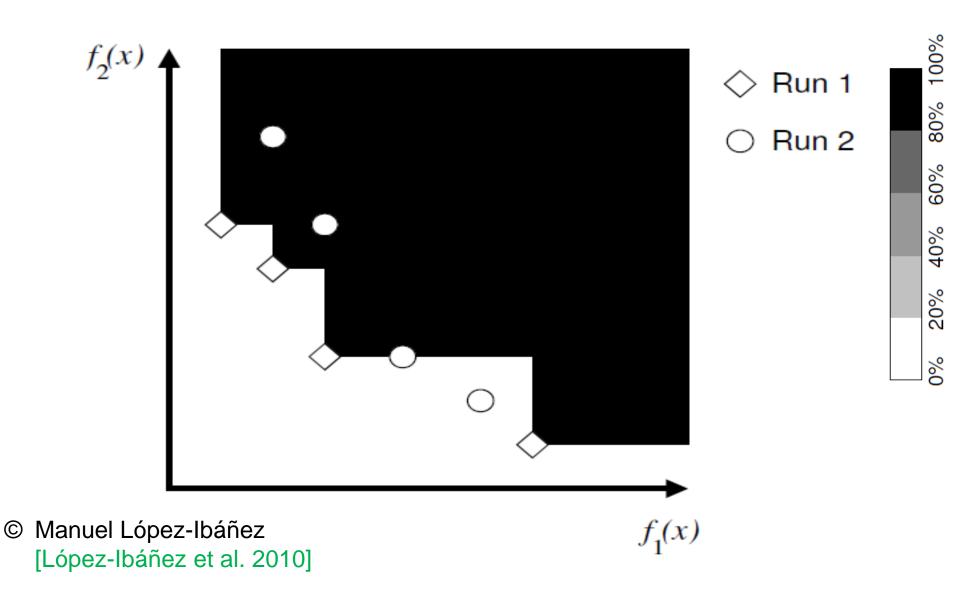


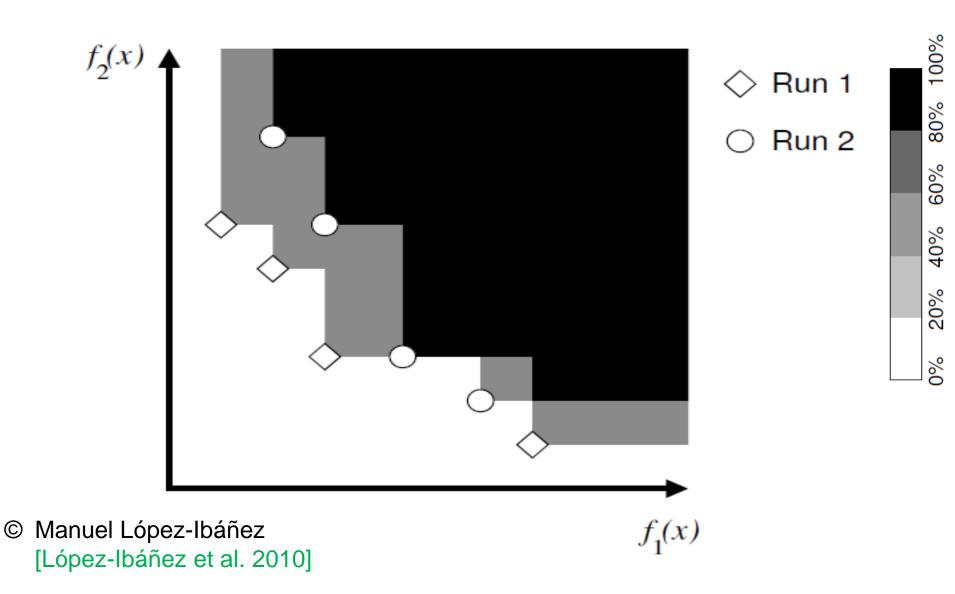
Indicator	A	В
Hypervolume indicator	6.3431	7.1924
$\epsilon ext{-indicator}$	1.2090	0.12722
R_2 indicator	0.2434	0.1643
R_3 indicator	0.6454	0.3475

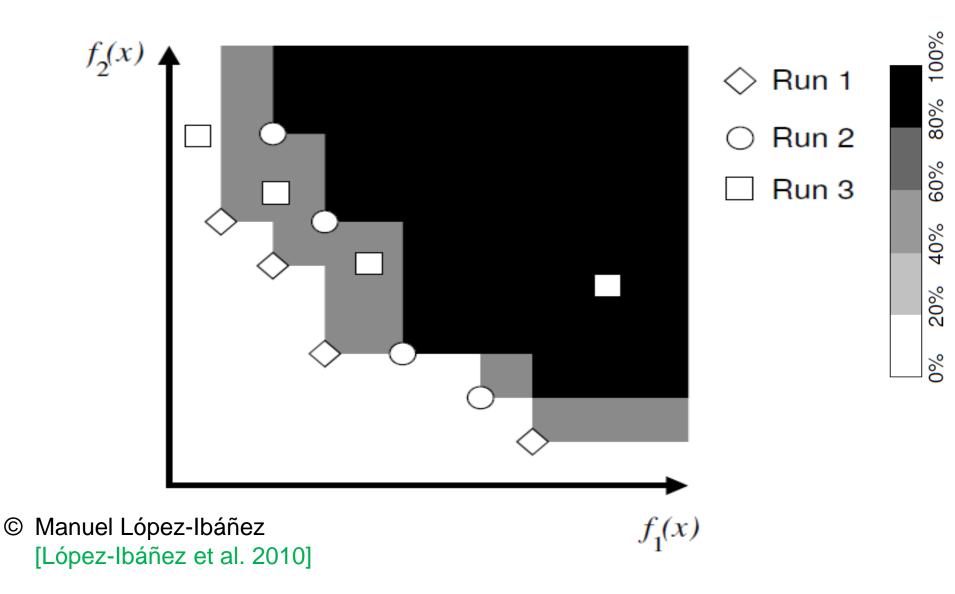
see e.g. [Zitzler et al. 2003]

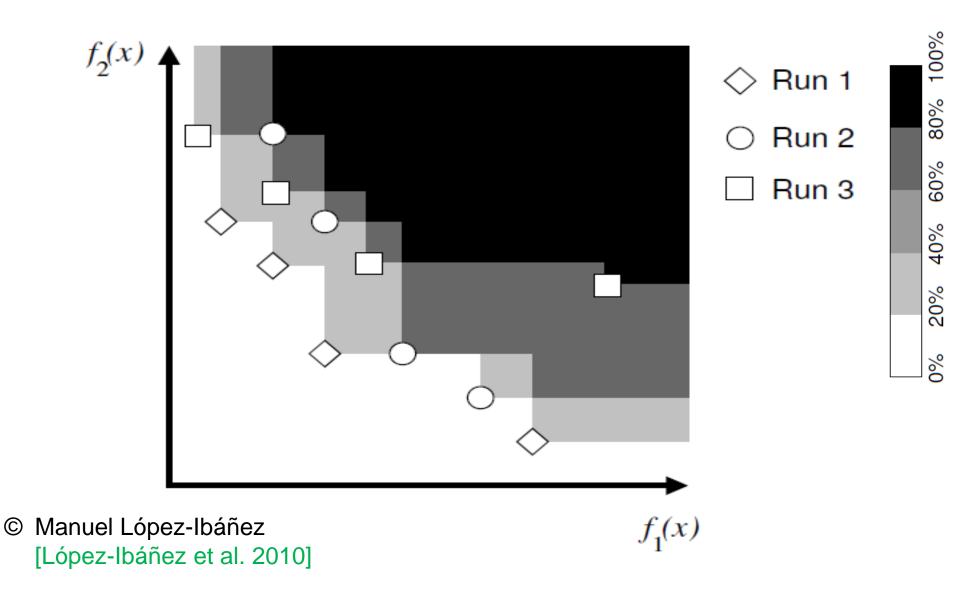












Empirical Attainment Functions: Definition

The Empirical Attainment Function $\alpha(z)$ "counts" how many solution sets \mathcal{X}_i attain or dominate a vector z at time T:

$$\alpha_T(z) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \mathbf{1}_{\{\chi_i \leq_T z\}}$$

with $extstyle _{T}$ being the weak dominance relation between a solution set and an objective vector at time T.

Empirical Attainment Functions: Definition

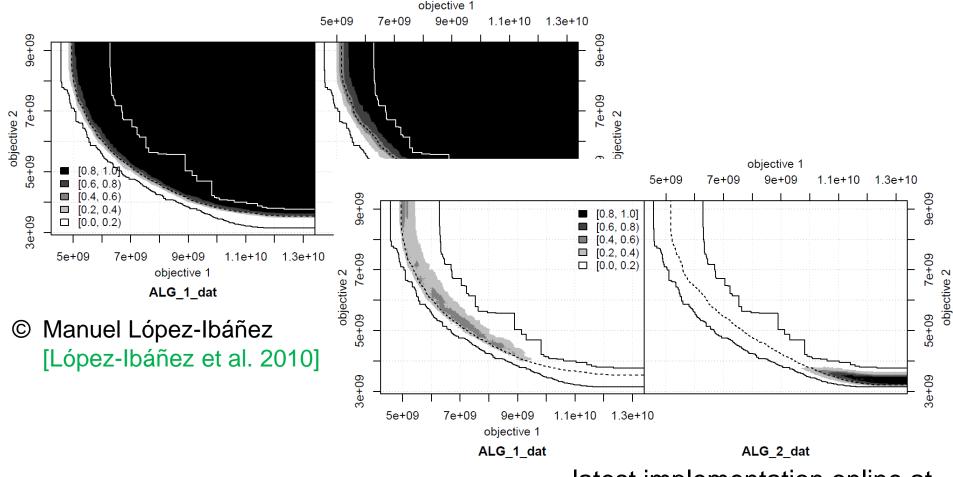
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with $extstyle _{T}$ being the weak dominance relation between a solution set and an objective vector at time T.

Note that $\alpha_T(z)$ is the empirical cumulative distribution function of the achieved objective function distribution at time T in the single-objective case ("fixed budget scenario").

Empirical Attainment Functions in Practice



latest implementation online at http://eden.dei.uc.pt/~cmfonsec/software.html R package: http://lopez-ibanez.eu/eaftools see also [López-Ibáñez et al. 2010, Fonseca et al. 2011]

Quality Indicator Approach

Idea:

transfer multiobjective problem into a set problem define an objective function ("unary quality indicator") on sets use the resulting total (pre-)order (on the quality values)

Quality Indicator Approach

Idea:

transfer multiobjective problem into a set problem define an objective function ("unary quality indicator") on sets use the resulting total (pre-)order (on the quality values)

Question:

Can any total (pre-)order be used or are there any requirements concerning the resulting preference relation?

⇒ Underlying dominance relation should be reflected!

$$A \leq B : \Leftrightarrow \forall_{b \in B} \exists_{a \in A} \ a \leq b$$

Monotonicity and Strict Monotonicity

Monotonicity when quality indicator does not contradict relation

$$A \leq B \Rightarrow I(A) \geq I(B)$$

Monotonicity and Strict Monotonicity

Monotonicity when quality indicator does not contradict relation

$$A \leq B \Rightarrow I(A) \geq I(B)$$

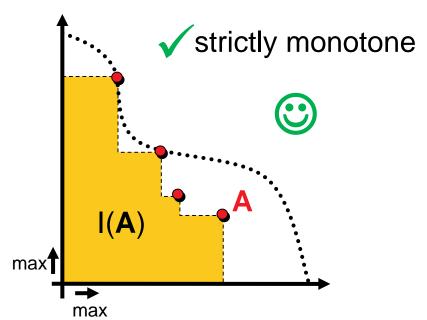
Strict monotonicity: better = higher indicator

$$A \leq B$$
 and $A \neq B \Rightarrow I(A) > I(B)$

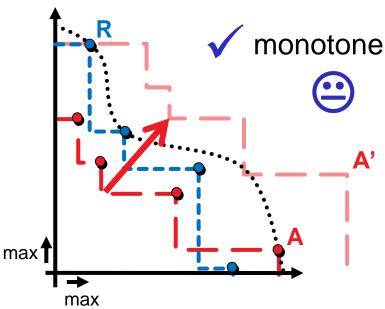
Example: Refinements Using Indicators

I(A) = volume of the weakly dominated area in objective space

I(A,R) = how much needs A to be moved to weakly dominate R



unary hypervolume indicator



unary epsilon indicator

v1.0.1 - v1.0.100 and counting

Many Indicators Available

Performance Assessment of Multiobjective Optimizers: An Analysis and Review

Eckart Zitzler¹, Lothar Thiele¹, Marco Laumanns¹, Carlos M. Fonseca², and Viviane Grunert da Fonseca²

¹ Computer Engineering and Networks Laboratory (TIK) Department of Information Technology and Electrical Engineering Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich, Switzerland Email: {zitzler, thiele, laumanns}@tik.ee.ethz.ch

²ADEEC and ISR (Coimbra)
Faculty of Sciences and Technology
University of Algarve, Portugal
Email: cmfonsec@ualg.pt, vgrunert@csi.fct.ualg.pt

[Zitzler et al. 2003]

22 indicators

Even More Indicators...

Performance indicators in multiobjective optimization

Charles Audet^a, Jean Bigeon^b, Dominique Cartier^c, Sébastien Le Digabel^a, Ludovic Salomon^{a,1}

^aGERAD and Département de mathématiques et génie industriel, École Polytechnique de Montréal, C.P. 6079, Succ. Centre-ville, Montréal, Québec, H3C 3A7, Canada.
^bUniv. Grenoble Alpes, CNRS, Grenoble INP, G-SCOP, 38000 Grenoble, France.
^cCollège de Maisonneuve, 3800 Rue Sherbrooke E, Montréal, Québec, H1X 2A2, Canada.

[Audet et al 2021]

63 indicators

Quality Evaluation of Solution Sets in Multiobjective Optimisation: A Survey

Miqing Li, and Xin Yao¹

100 indicators

¹CERCIA, School of Computer Science, University of Birmingham, Birmingham B15 2TT, U. K. *Email: limitsing@gmail.com, x.yao@cs.bham.ac.uk

[Li and Yao 2019]

Many Indicators: What Do We Do?

Focus on indicators which are (strictly) monotone

```
all hypervolume-based indicators unary epsilon indicator R2 IGD+
```

Many Indicators: What Do We Do?

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Why is monotonicity important?

- Pareto dominance is the lowest form of preference
- If dominance relation does not hold, we have not defined a true multiobjective problem.

v2.0

Benchmarking Multiobjective Optimizers 2.0

 With the right (strictly) monotone indicator, multiobjective optimization is not different from single-objective optimization (!)

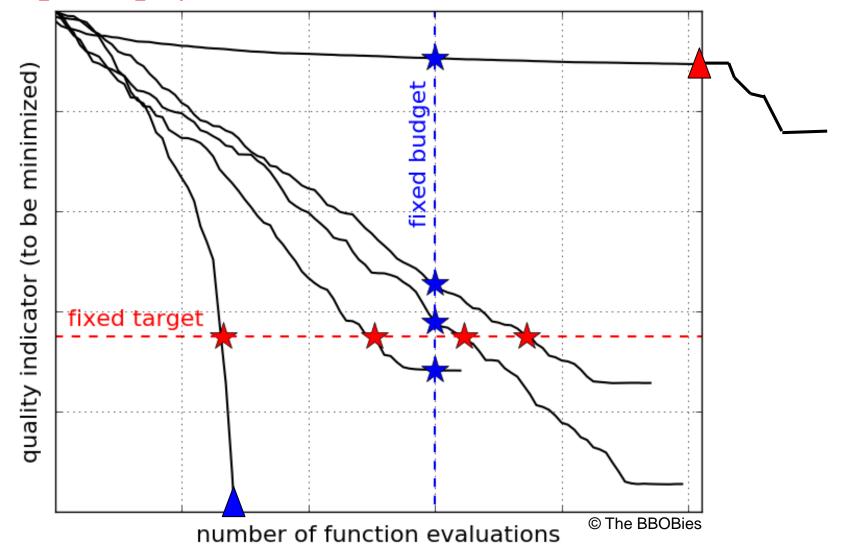
We can use our normal tools from single-objective optimization, including

- reporting of target-based runtimes
- ECDFs of runtimes, performance profiles, data profiles
- statistical tests, box plots, ...

see for example [Hansen et al. 2021]

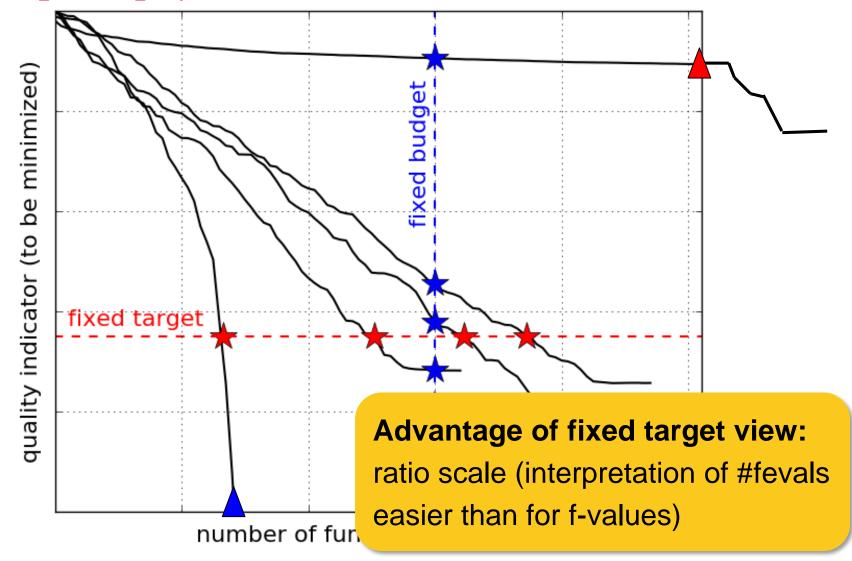
Measuring Performance Empirically

convergence graphs is all we have to start with...



Measuring Performance Empirically

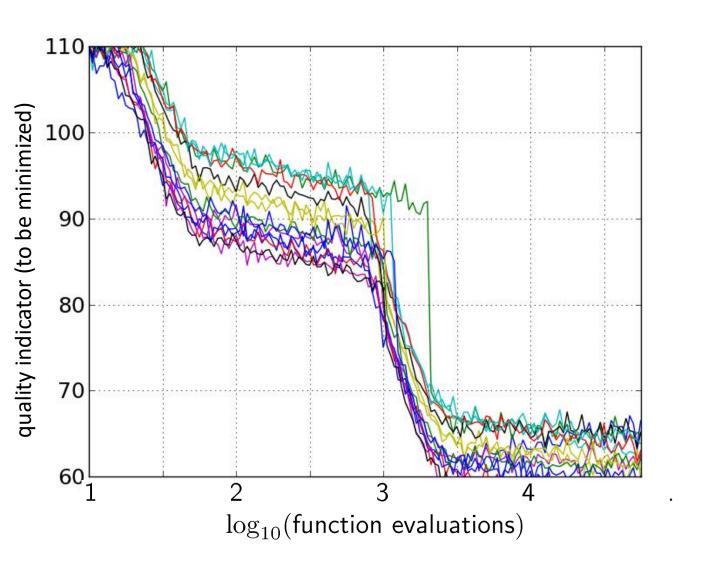
convergence graphs is all we have to start with...



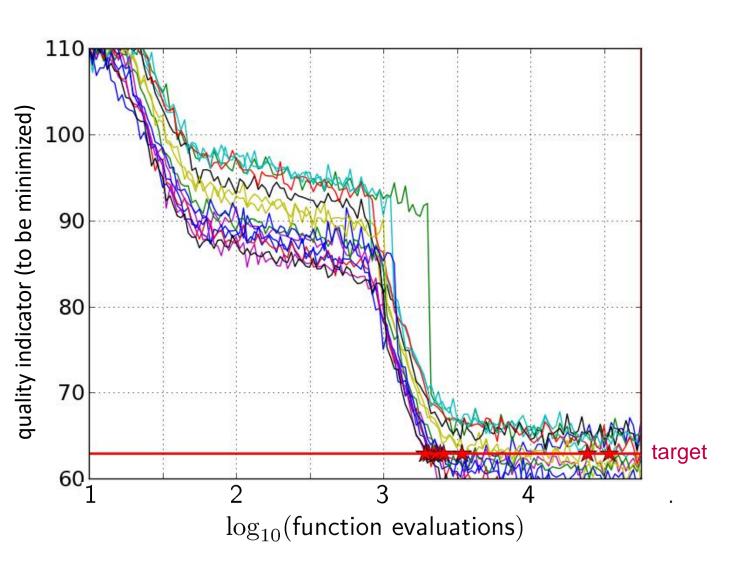
ECDF:

Empirical Cumulative Distribution Function of the Runtime

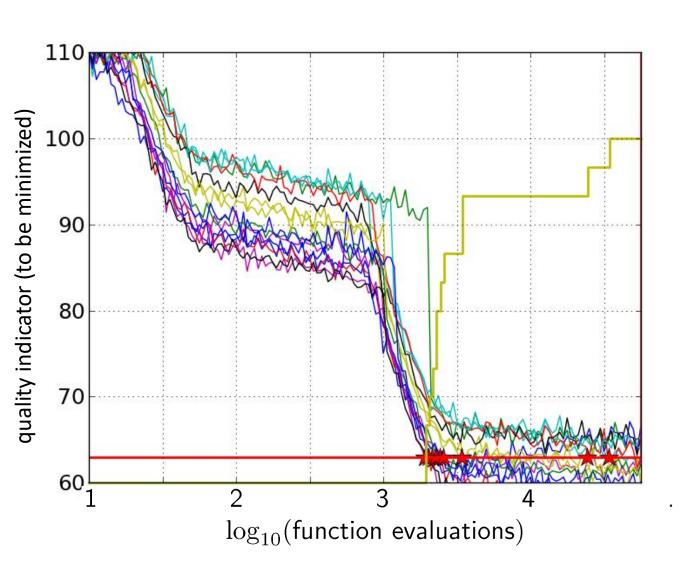
Convergence Graph of 15 Runs



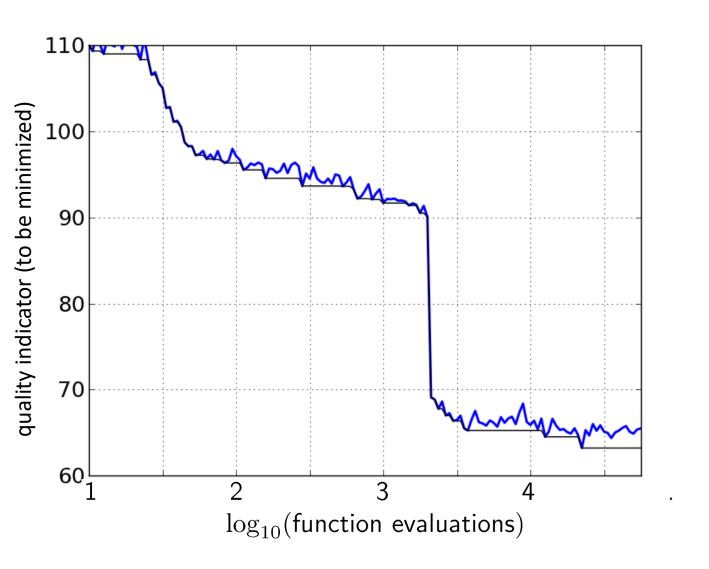
15 Runs ≤ 15 Runtime Data Points

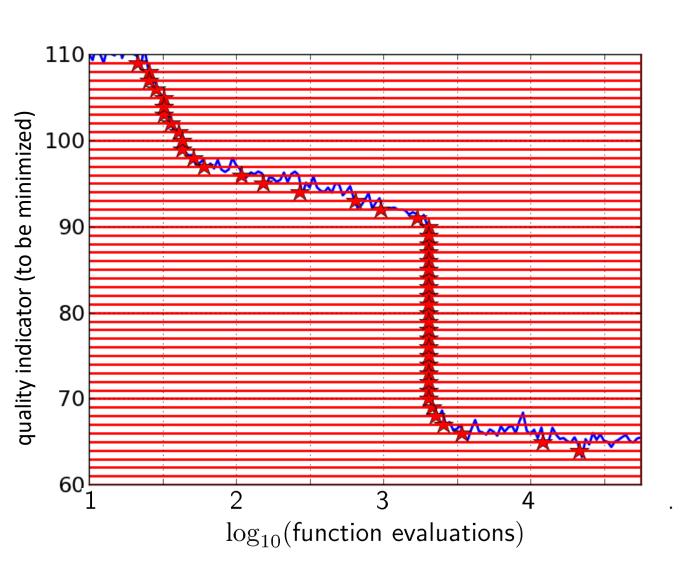


Empirical Cumulative Distribution

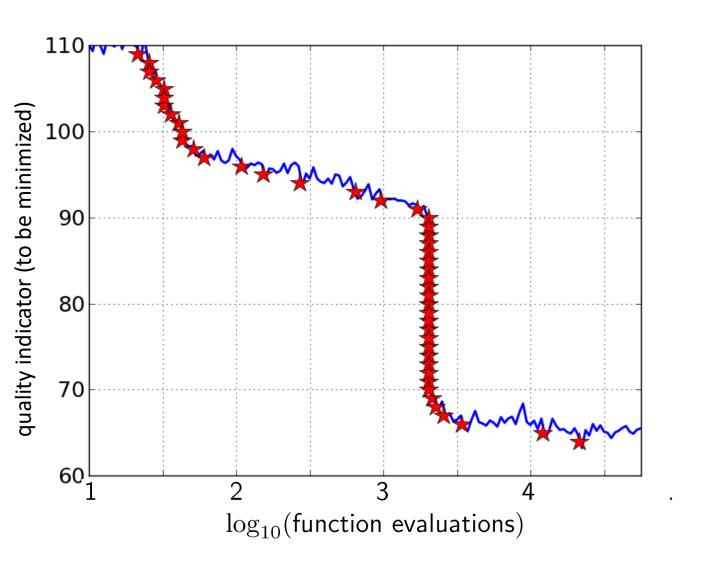


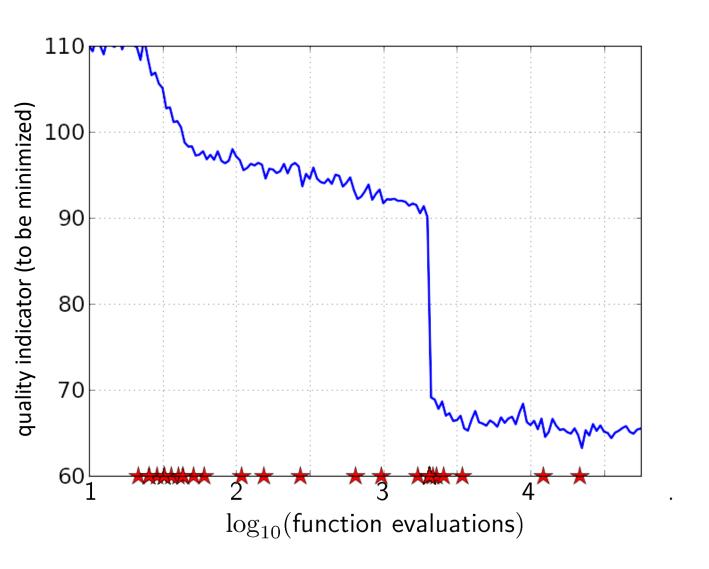
- the ECDF of run lengths to reach the target
- has for each data point a vertical step of constant size
- displays for each x-value (budget) the count of observations to the left (first hitting times)

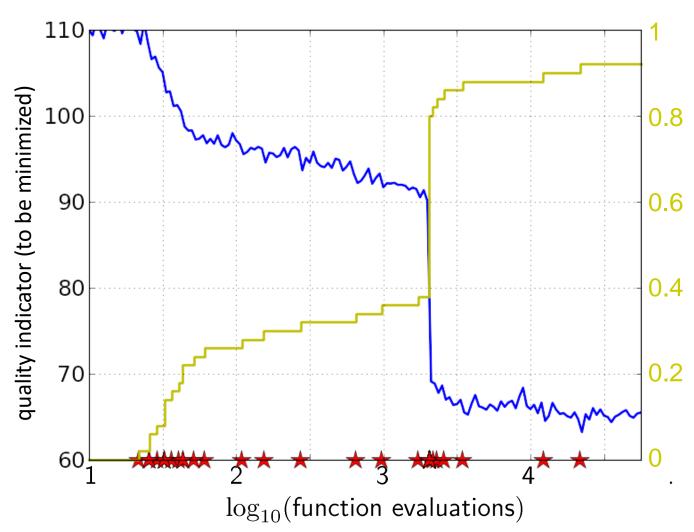




50 equally spaced targets

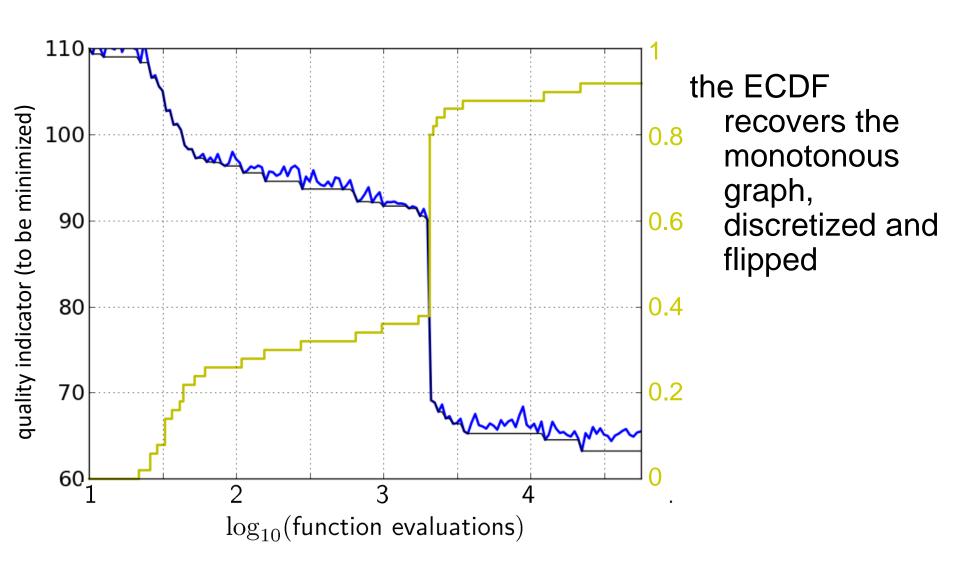


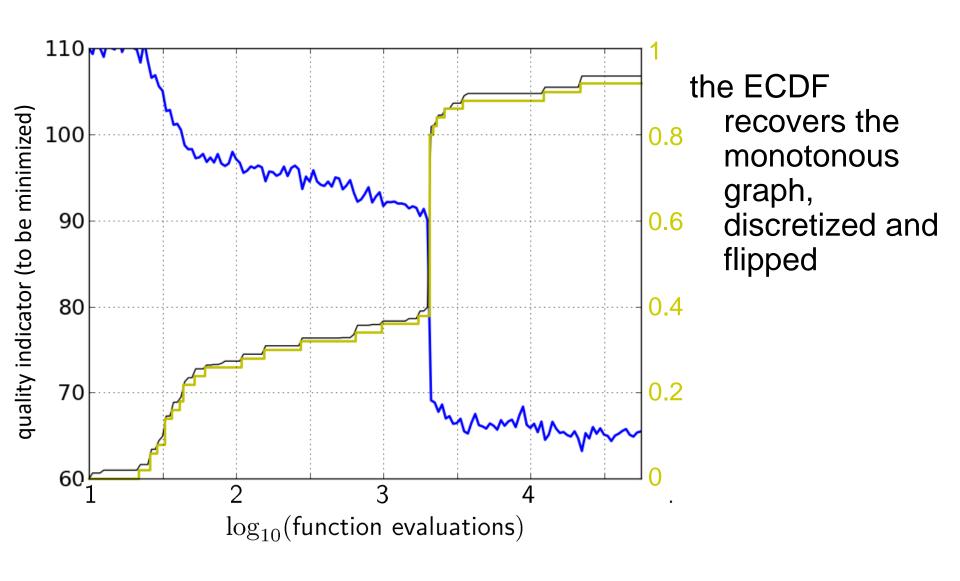


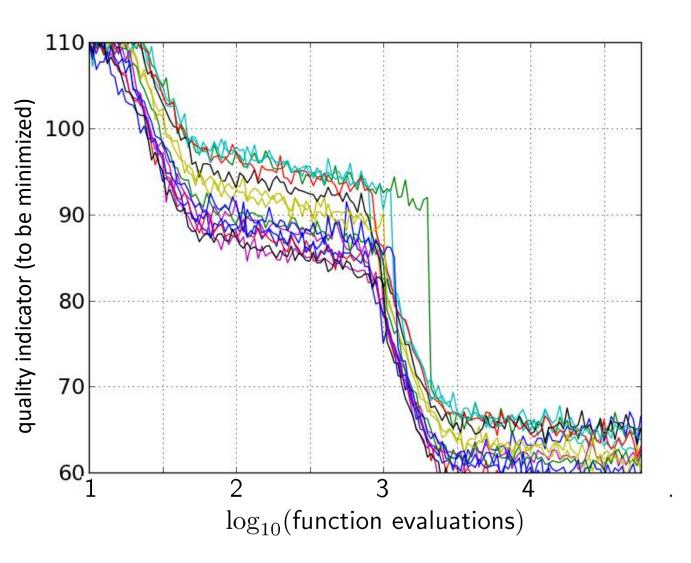


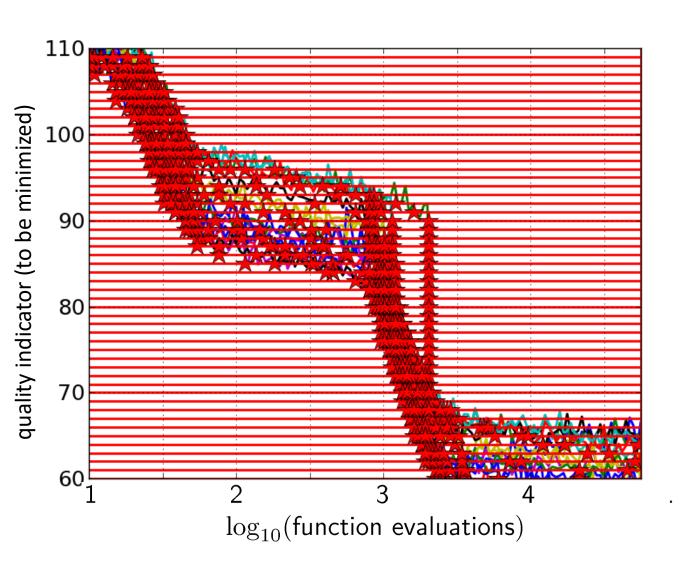
the empirical

CDF makes a step for each star, is monotonous and displays for each budget the fraction of targets achieved within the budget

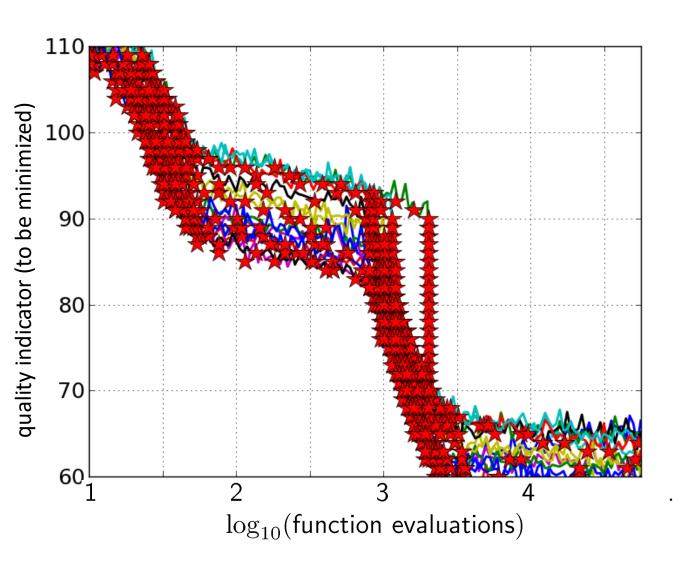




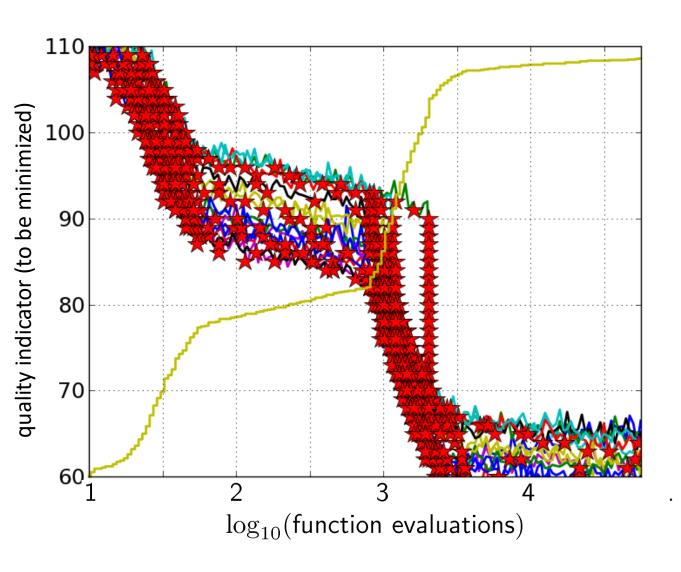




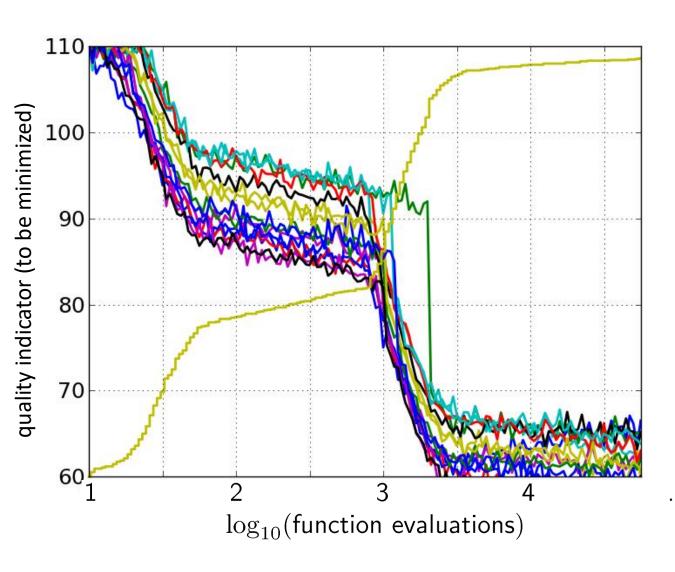
15 runs50 targets



15 runs50 targets

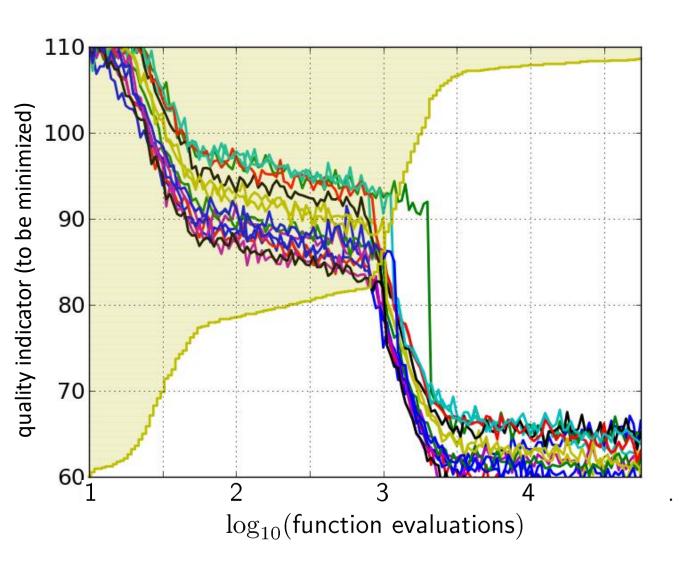


15 runs50 targetsECDF with750 steps



50 targets from 15 runs integrated in a single graph

Interpretation



50 targets from 15 runs integrated in a single graph

area over the ECDF curve

_

average log runtime

(or geometric avg. runtime) over all targets (difficult and easy) and all runs

ECDF graphs

should never aggregate over dimension

dimension is input parameter to algorithm

ECDF graphs

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- but often over targets and functions
- can show data of more than 1 algorithm at a time

ECDF graphs

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- are an extension of data profiles introduced by Moré and Wild [Moré and Wild 2009] but for multiple and absolute targets

ECDF graphs

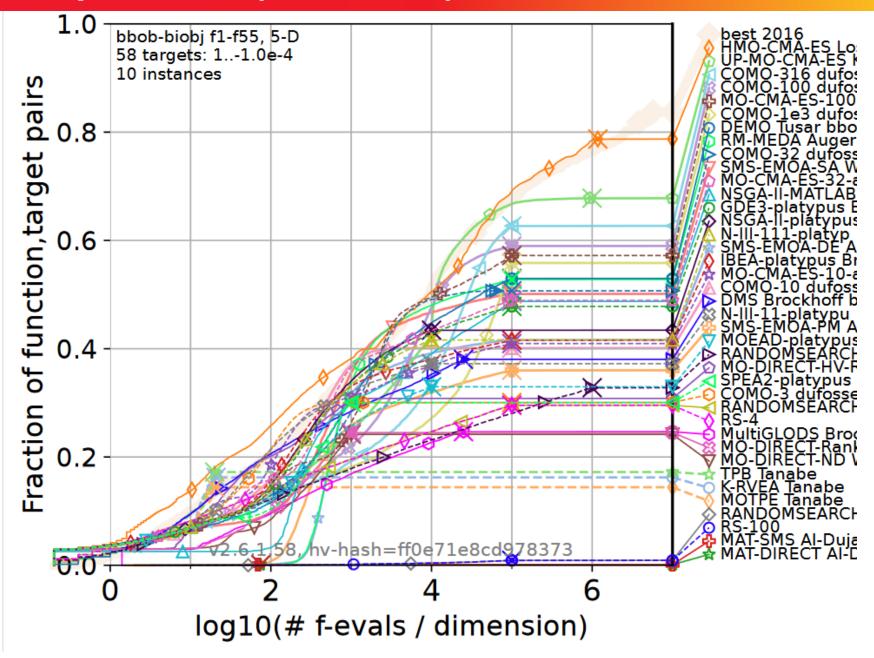
should never aggregate over dimension

dimension is input parameter to algorithm

- but often over targets and functions
- can show data of more than 1 algorithm at a time
- are an extension of data profiles introduced by Moré and Wild [Moré and Wild 2009] but for multiple and absolute targets
- are COCO's main performance visualization tool

[Hansen et al. 2021] - https://github.com/numbbo/coco

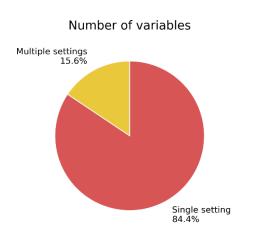
Example ECDF (later more)



In single-objective optimization: scaling behavior mandatory to investigate

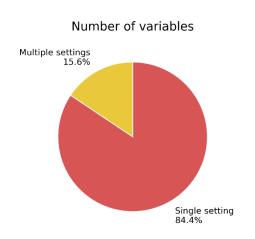
- In single-objective optimization: scaling behavior mandatory to investigate
- In multiobjective optimization:
 actually two dimensions: search and objective space

- In single-objective optimization: scaling behavior mandatory to investigate
- In multiobjective optimization: actually two dimensions: search and objective space but former almost never looked at right now ⁽³⁾



~10 papers from EMO'21 and PPSN/GECCO/CEC'21 change dimension but 50+ papers have a "fixed" dimension

- In single-objective optimization: scaling behavior mandatory to investigate
- In multiobjective optimization:
 actually two dimensions: search and objective space
 but former almost never looked at right now



~10 papers from EMO'21 and PPSN/GECCO/CEC'20 change dimension but 50+ papers have a "fixed" dimension

but in practice search space scalability almost more important

number of objectives often fixed

A Few General Recommendations

- always display everything you have
- look at single runs
- do each experiment at least twice

(= look at the *variance* of your results)

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A Few General Recommendations

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(= look at the *variance* of your results)

- as quality indicators, use hypervolume, R2, or epsilon indicator
 or any indicator which is at least monotone
- see also the tutorial slides by Nikolaus Hansen on this topic (not restricted to single-objective optimization!)

http://www.cmap.polytechnique.fr/~nikolaus.hansen/gecco2018experimentation-guide-slides.pdf

Recommended Experimental Setup (w/ or w/o COCO)

- Benchmarking Experiment
- Choosing Algorithms for Comparison

```
See https://numbbo.github.io/data-archive/
```

8 Postprocessing

```
python -m cocopp resultfolder/ ALG2 ALG3
```

- Oisplaying and Discussing Summary Results
- 6 Investigating and Discussing Complementary Results

provide html output somewhere

Raw Data Sharing

easy with COCO archive module & through issue tracker

Overview

- Performance Assessment
- 2 Test Problems and Their Visualizations
- Recommendations from Numerical Results

Test Problems and Their Visualizations

Introduction

Test Problems (1)

Artificial problems (continuous and unconstrained)

```
v0.1: Individual problems
```

v0.2: MOP suite (unscalable problems)

v0.5: ZDT suite (scalable number of variables)

v1.0: DTLZ suite (scalable number of variables and objectives)

v1.2: WFG suite

v1.3: Other suites with a bottom-up construction

v1.5: Suites of distance-based problems

v2.0: The bbob-biobj(-ext) suite

Test Problems and Their Visualizations

Visualization of multiobjective landscapes

Low-dimensional search spaces

Dominance ratio

Local dominance

Gradient path length

PLOT

Any-dimensional search spaces

Line cuts

Optima network

Test Problems and Their Visualizations

Test Problems (2)

Artificial problems (other)

Constrained problems

Mixed-integer problems

Real-world problems

v0.1: Individual problems

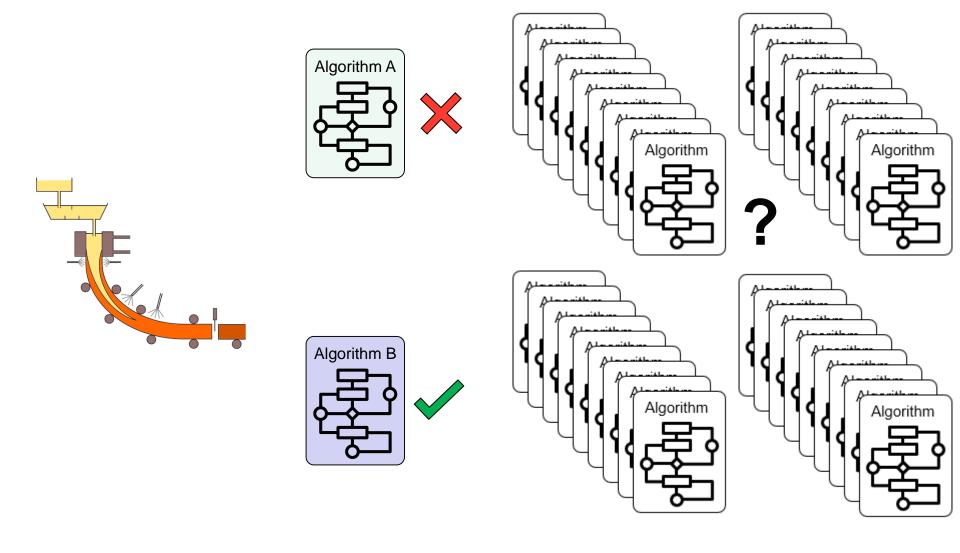
v0.2: Suites of unscalable problems

v0.5: Suites of scalable problems (number of variables)

Conclusions

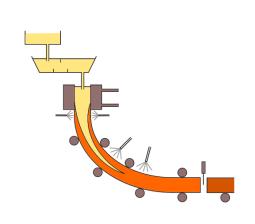
Introduction

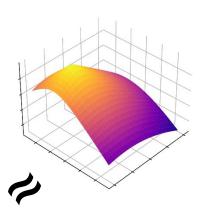
Why use test problems?

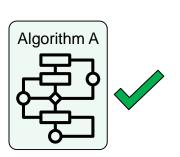


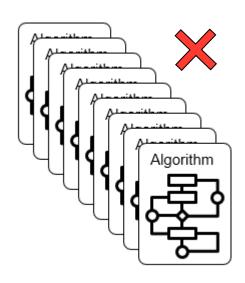
Introduction

Why use test problems?

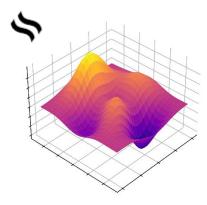


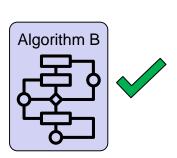


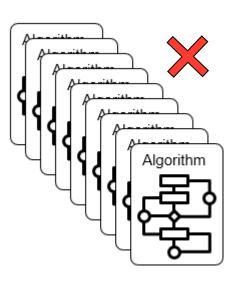




Expert knowledge Landscape analysis







Introduction

Desirable Characteristics of a Problem Set

[Bartz-Beielstein et al. 2020]

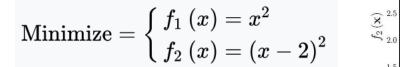
- 1. Diverse
- 2. Representative
- Scalable and tunable
- 4. Known optima / best performance
- 5. [Continually updated]

Artificial problems (continuous and unconstrained)

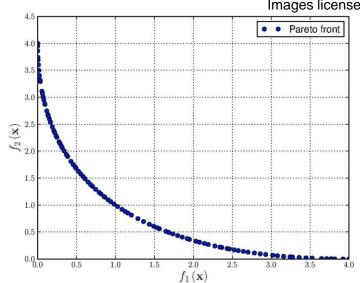
v0.1

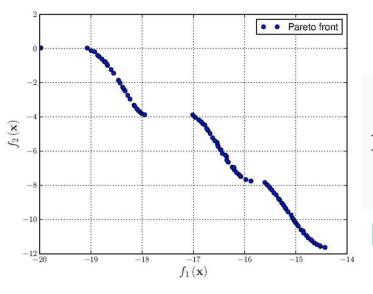
Individual problems

Images licensed under CC BY 2.0



[Schaffer 1985]





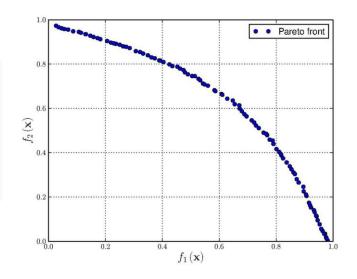
$$ext{Minimize} = \left\{ egin{aligned} f_1\left(oldsymbol{x}
ight) &= \sum_{i=1}^2 \left[-10 \exp\left(-0.2 \sqrt{x_i^2 + x_{i+1}^2}
ight)
ight] \ f_2\left(oldsymbol{x}
ight) &= \sum_{i=1}^3 \left[\left|x_i
ight|^{0.8} + 5 \sin\left(x_i^3
ight)
ight] \end{aligned}
ight.$$

[Kursawe 1991]

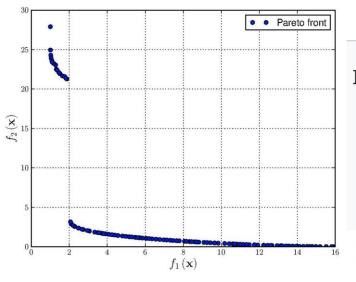
Individual problems

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$$ext{Minimize} = \left\{ egin{aligned} f_1\left(oldsymbol{x}
ight) = 1 - \exp\left[-\sum_{i=1}^n \left(x_i - rac{1}{\sqrt{n}}
ight)^2
ight] & rac{\Im}{2} \ f_2\left(oldsymbol{x}
ight) = 1 - \exp\left[-\sum_{i=1}^n \left(x_i + rac{1}{\sqrt{n}}
ight)^2
ight] & rac{\Im}{2} \end{aligned}
ight.$$



[Fonseca and Fleming 1995]

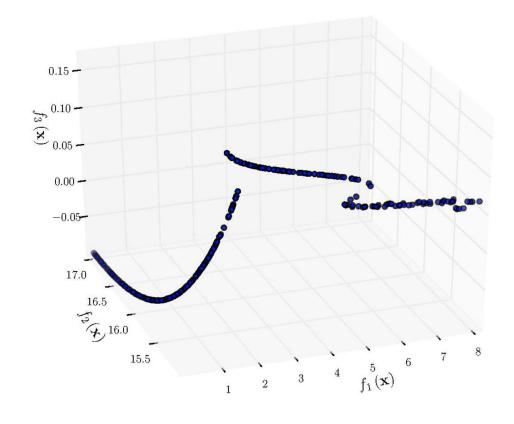


$$egin{aligned} ext{Minimize} &= egin{cases} f_1\left(x,y
ight) = \left[1 + \left(A_1 - B_1\left(x,y
ight)
ight)^2 + \left(A_2 - B_2\left(x,y
ight)
ight)^2
ight] \ f_2\left(x,y
ight) = \left(x+3
ight)^2 + \left(y+1
ight)^2 \ &= \left\{egin{aligned} A_1 &= 0.5\sin(1) - 2\cos(1) + \sin(2) - 1.5\cos(2) \ A_2 &= 1.5\sin(1) - \cos(1) + 2\sin(2) - 0.5\cos(2) \ B_1\left(x,y
ight) = 0.5\sin(x) - 2\cos(x) + \sin(y) - 1.5\cos(y) \ B_2\left(x,y
ight) = 1.5\sin(x) - \cos(x) + 2\sin(y) - 0.5\cos(y) \end{aligned}$$

[Poloni et al. 1996]

$$ext{Minimize} = \left\{ egin{aligned} f_1\left(x,y
ight) &= 0.5\left(x^2 + y^2
ight) + \sinig(x^2 + y^2ig) \ f_2\left(x,y
ight) &= rac{\left(3x - 2y + 4
ight)^2}{8} + rac{\left(x - y + 1
ight)^2}{27} + 15 \ f_3\left(x,y
ight) &= rac{1}{x^2 + y^2 + 1} - 1.1\expig(-\left(x^2 + y^2
ight)ig) \end{aligned}
ight.$$

[Viennet et al. 1996]



v0.2

MOP Suite

MOP = Multi-Objective Problem

[Van Veldhuizen 1999]

Properties

- A collection of 7 test problems from the literature (including the 5 shown before)
- Most problems have 2 or 3 variables
- Not scalable in the number of objectives
- Many problems have optimal solutions on the boundary or middle of the search space
- Some problems are both nonseparable and multimodal
- A collection of various Pareto front geometries
- The Pareto set is hard to compute for some problems

v0.5

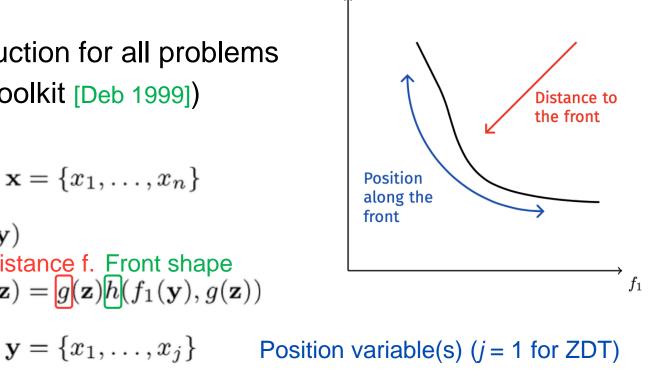
ZDT Suite

ZDT = Zitzler, Deb, Thiele

[Zitzler et al. 2000]

The same construction for all problems (following Deb's toolkit [Deb 1999])

 $\mathbf{x} = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$ Given Distribution f. **Minimise** Distance f. Front shape $f_2(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{z}) = g(\mathbf{z})h(f_1(\mathbf{y}), g(\mathbf{z}))$



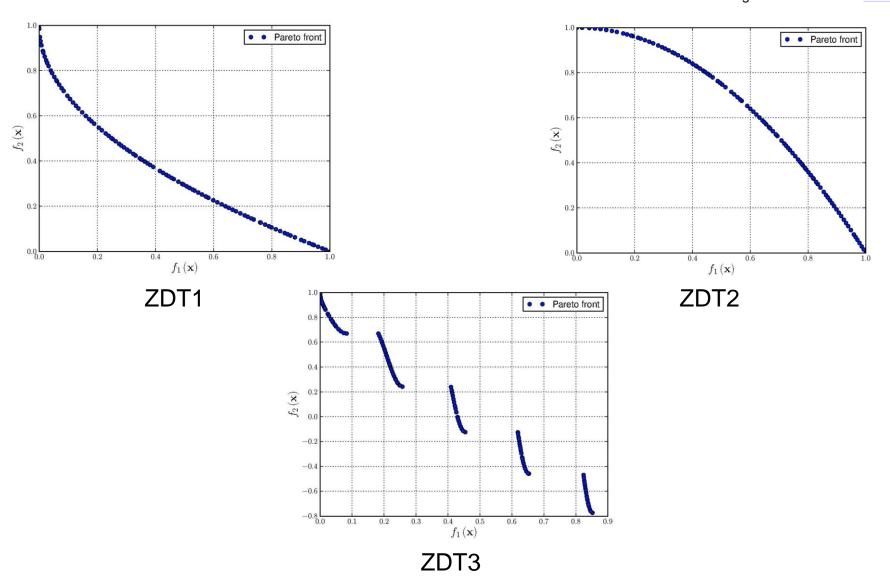
where

$$\mathbf{y} = \{x_1, \dots, x_j\}$$

$$\mathbf{z} = \{x_{j+1}, \dots, x_n\}$$
 Distance variables

The separation of variables was done to simplify problem construction

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ZDT Suite

Properties

- 6 test problems, but ZDT5 is regularly omitted, because it has a binary encoding
- Scalable in the number of (distance) variables
- All problems have 2 objectives
- 4 problems have optimal solutions on the boundary and 1 in the middle of the search space
- All problems are separable (the first objective depends only on the first variable)
- Some problems are multimodal
- Convex, concave and disconnected Pareto fronts
- The Pareto sets and fronts are known

v1.0

DTLZ Suite

DTLZ = Deb, Thiele, Laumanns, Zitzler

[Deb et al. 2005]

Desired Features of Test Problems

- 1. Have controllable difficulty to converge to the Pareto front, a widely-distributed set of Pareto-optimal solutions
- 2. Scalable number of variables
- 3. Scalable number of objectives
- 4. Simple to construct
- Pareto front easy to comprehend, both the Pareto set and front known
- 6. Similar difficulties to those present in real-world problems

DTLZ Suite

Problem Design Approaches

- 1. Multiple single-objective functions approach
- 2. Bottom-up approach
 - 1. Choose a Pareto front
 - 2. Build the objective space
 - 3. Construct the search space (add difficulties using the function *g*)
- 3. Constraint surface approach (for constrained problems)

DTLZ Suite

Properties

- Originally 9 problems, but then 2 were dropped
- Scalable number of distance variables, M-1 position variables
- Scalable number of objectives
- Objectives separable in practice (optimizing one variable at a time will yield at least one global optimum)
- Linear, concave and disconnected Pareto fronts
- The Pareto sets and fronts are known
- Most problems have the Pareto set in the middle of the search space

Note that although the suite is scalable in the number of variables, this is rarely used in benchmark studies

v1.2

WFG Suite

WFG = Walking Fish Group

[Huband et al. 2006]

Recommendations for multiobjective test problems

- No extremal variables
- No medial variables
- Scalable number of variables
- 4. Scalable number of objectives
- 5. Dissimilar variable domains
- 6. Dissimilar objective ranges
- 7. Pareto set and front known

WFG Suite

Recommendations for multiobjective test suites

[Huband et al. 2006]

- A few unimodal test problems to test convergence velocity relative to different Pareto optimal geometries and bias conditions
- Cover the three core types of geometries: degenerate Pareto fronts, disconnected Pareto fronts, and disconnected Pareto sets
- 3. The majority of problems should be multimodal with a few deceptive problems
- 4. The majority of problems should be nonseparable
- Contain problems that are both nonseparable and multimodal to be representative of real-world problems

WFG Suite

Properties

- 9 problems constructed from a combination of shape functions and several transformations
- Scalable number of variables (2 variables are not supported for some of the problems)
- Scalable number of objectives
- Includes also nonseparable, multimodal, deceptive and biased problems
- Convex, linear, concave, mixed, disconnected and degenerate Pareto fronts
- The Pareto sets and fronts are known
- Optimal solutions do not lie on the boundary or the middle of the search space, but the Pareto set is linear for 8 of the 9 problems
- Still rely on distance and position variables

v1.3

Other Suites and Problems

Problems constructed with the bottom-up approach

[Zapotecas et al. 2019]

- IHR test suite of 5 rotated ZDT problems [Igel et al. 2007]
- LZ test suite of 9 problems with complicated Pareto sets [Li and Zhang 2009]
- SZDT test suite of 7 scalable problems with complicated Pareto sets [Saxena et al. 2011]
- Convex DTLZ problem [Deb and Jain 2014]
- Inverted DTLZ problem [Jain and Deb 2014]
- MNI test suite of 2 test problems with diverse shapes of the Pareto front [Masuda et al. 2016]
- LSMOP test suite of 9 test problems for large-scale optimization with variable dependencies [Cheng et al. 2017b]
- Minus-DTLZ and Minus-WFG test suites [Ishibuchi et al. 2017]
- MMF test problems with diverse landscapes [Yue et al. 2019]

CEC Competition Suites

Information about all CEC competitions:

https://www3.ntu.edu.sg/home/EPNSugan/index_files/cec-benchmarking.htm

```
    13 test problems for CEC 2007 [Huang et al. 2007]
    OKA [Okabe et al. 2004], SYM-PART [Rudolph et al. 2007]
    4 shifted ZDT, 1 rotated ZDT
    2 shifted DTLZ, 1 rotated DTLZ
    3 WFG
```

13 test problems for CEC 2009 (UF suite) [Zhang et al. 2009]
 10 with complicated Pareto sets (4 from the LZ suite)
 2 extended rotated DTLZ
 1 WFG

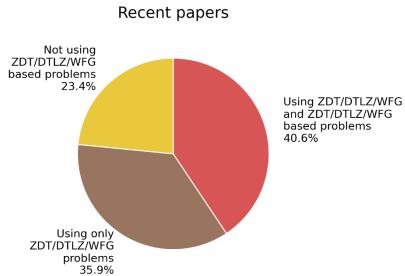
CEC Competition Suites

- 15 test problems for CEC 2017 (MaF suite) [Cheng et al. 2017a]
 - 7 modified DTLZ problems
 - 2 distance minimization problems
 - 3 WFG problems
 - 1 SZDT problem
 - 2 LSMOP problem
- 22 test problems for CEC 2019 [Liang et al. 2019]
 - 2 SYM-PART
 - Omni-test [Deb and Tiwari 2008]
 - 19 MMF problems
- 24 test problems for CEC 2020 [Liang et al. 2020]
 24 MMF problems

Survey of Recent Papers

- 64 papers on unconstrained continuous multiobjective optimization from recent conferences (without application papers)
 - CEC 2020
 - GECCO 2020
 - PPSN 2020
 - EMO 2021





v1.5

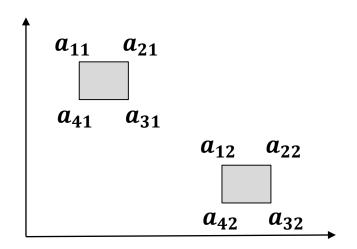
Distance-Based Problems

General idea

[Ishibuchi et al. 2010]

Minimize
$$\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}) = (f_1(\mathbf{x}), f_2(\mathbf{x}), ..., f_k(\mathbf{x}))$$

 $f_i(\mathbf{x}) = \min\{\text{dis}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{a}_{i1}), \text{dis}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{a}_{i2}), ..., \text{dis}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{a}_{im})\}$



- 2-D test problems that are inherently visualizable
- Pareto set easy to characterize
- Scalable in the number of objectives
- Useful for visualizing the distribution of solutions
- Unlikely to be relevant for real-world problems
- Based on earlier work [Köppen et al. 2005, Rudolph et al. 2007]

Distance-Based Problems

Extensions

- High-dimensional search spaces [Masuda et al. 2014]
- Distance to lines (instead of points) [Li et al. 2014, 2018]
- Dominance resistance regions [Fieldsend 2016]
- Local Pareto fronts [Liu et al. 2018]
- Problem generator for scalable problems with various properties (local fronts, disconnected Pareto sets and fronts, dominance resistance regions, uneven ranges of objective values, varying density of solutions) [Fieldsend et al. 2019]

v2.0

bbob-biobj Suite

Motivation

[Brockhoff et al. 2016]

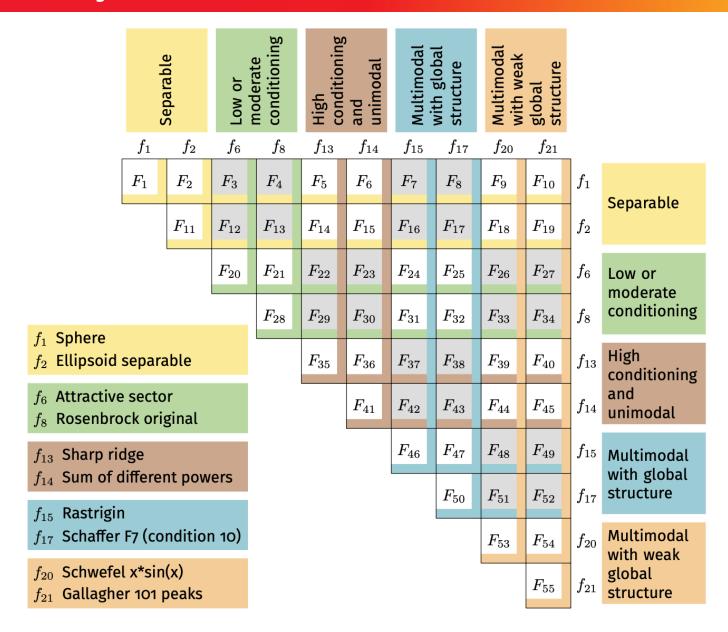
- Most other suites are constructed based on the desired Pareto front properties
- Consequently, problems have artificial properties not likely to exist in real-world problems
 - Distance and position parameters (DTLZ-like problems)
 - Linear objectives (distance-based problems)
- In real-world problems each objective is a separate function
- Go back to basics use single-objective functions for each objective
 - Idea not new [Schaffer 1985, Igel et al. 2007, Emmerich and Deutz 2007, Kerschke et al. 2016]

bbob-biobj Suite

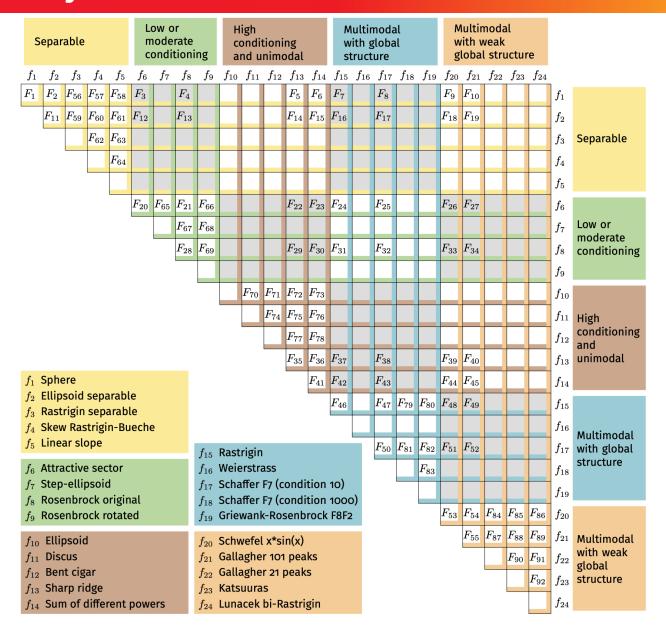
Construction

- Use the functions from the bbob suite
 - Well-understood
 - Scalable in the number of variables and parametrized
 - 24 functions categorized in 5 groups based on their properties
 - Separable
 - Low or moderate conditioning
 - High conditioning and unimodal
 - Multimodal with global structure
 - Multimodal with weak global structure
- How to avoid an explosion in the number of problems?

bbob-biobj Suite



bbob-biobj-ext Suite



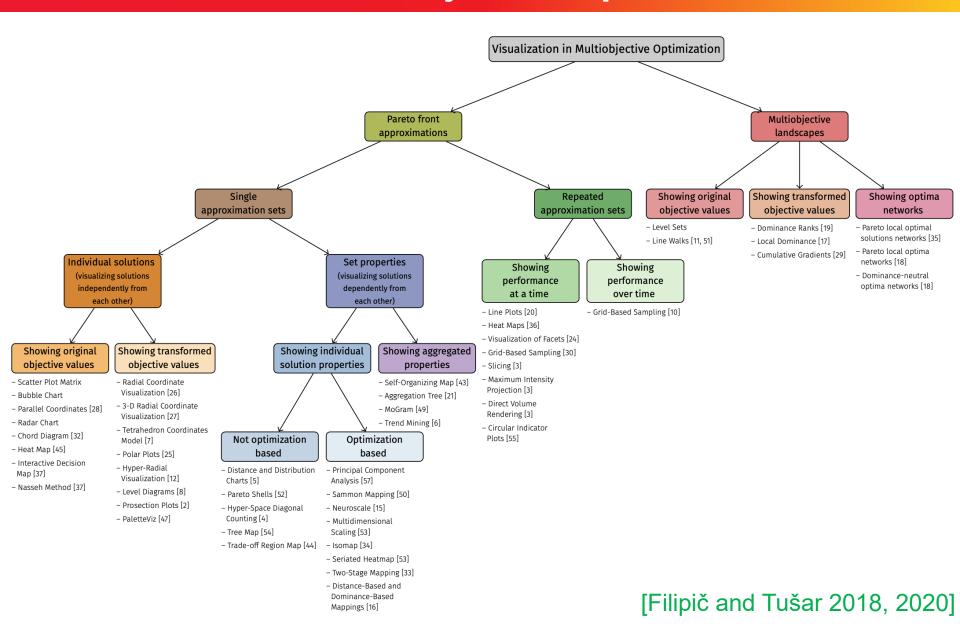
bbob-biobj(-ext) Suite

Properties

- Construction similar as in real-world problems
- Scalability in the number of variables
- Various problem properties (more diverse than existing multiobjective test suites)
- Problem instances more diverse than for the singleobjective suite
- Currently limited to 2 objectives
- Unknown Pareto set and front (but known single-objective optima)
- Available approximations of the Pareto fronts (and sets for lower-dimensional problems)

Visualization of multiobjective landscapes

Visualization in Multiobjective Optimization



Visualization of Multiobjective Problem Landscapes

Low-dimensional search spaces

- Dominance ratio [Fonseca 1995]
- Gradient path length (inspired by gradient plots [Kerschke and Grimme 2017])
- Local dominance [Fieldsend et al. 2019]
- PLOT [Shaepermeier et al. 2020]

Any-dimensional search spaces

- Line cuts [Brockhoff et al. 2016, Volz et al. 2019]
- Optima network [Liefooghe et al. 2018, Fieldsend and Alyahya 2019]

Various visualizations of bbob-biobj-ext problems:

https://numbbo.github.io/bbob-biobj/

Visualizations of bbob-biobj and other multi-objective suites using PLOT:

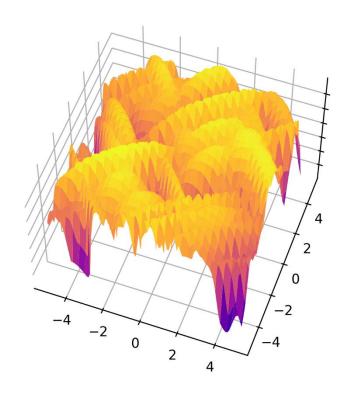
https://schaepermeier.shinyapps.io/moPLOT/

Visualization of Multiobjective Problem Landscapes

Problems for demonstration

- Double sphere problem bbob-biobj $F_1 = (f_1, f_1)$, instance 1
- Sphere-Gallagher problem bbob-biobj $F_{10} = (f_1, f_{21})$, instance 1
- Double Gallagher problem bbob-biobj $F_{55} = (f_{21}, f_{21})$, instance 1

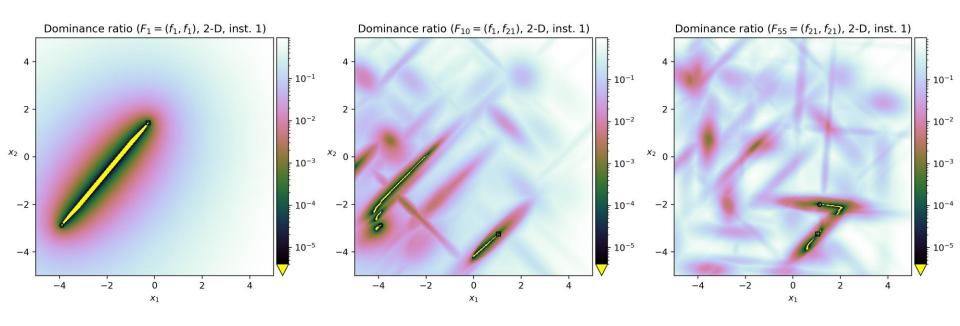
Gallagher = Gallagher's Gaussian 101-me Peaks Function



Dominance Ratio

[Fonseca 1995]

- Discretized search space (501 x 501 grid)
- Dominance ratio = the ratio of grid points that dominate the current point
- All nondominated points have a ratio of zero
- Visualize dominance ratios in logarithmic scale



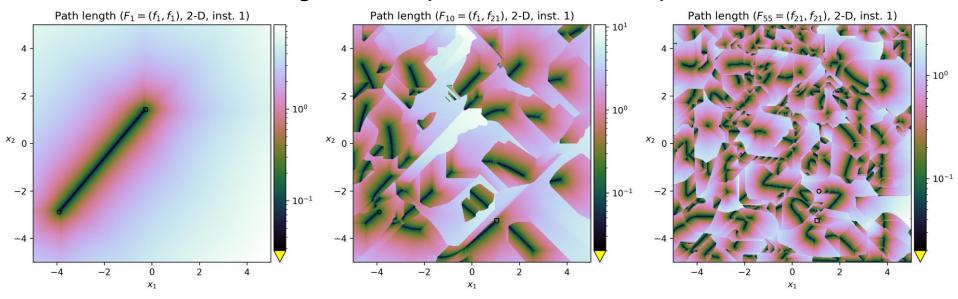
Gradient Path Length

Adjusted from [Kerschke and Grimme 2017]

Compute the bi-objective gradient for all grid points

$$v = \frac{\nabla f_1(x)}{\|\nabla f_1(x)\|} + \frac{\nabla f_2(x)}{\|\nabla f_2(x)\|}$$

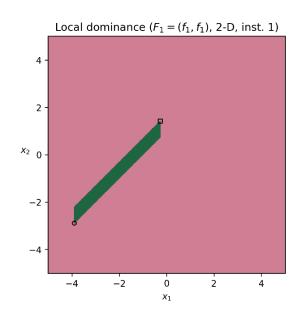
- From a grid point, follow the path in the direction of this gradient
- Visualize the length of the path to the local optimum

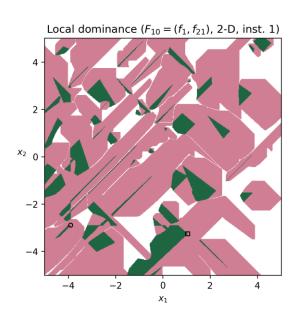


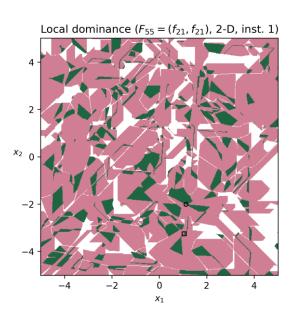
Local Dominance

[Fieldsend et al. 2019]

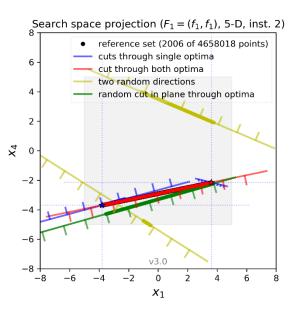
- Green: Dominance-neutral local optima regions
 - Points that are mutually nondominated with all their 8 neighbors (not equal to Pareto sets)
- Pink: Basins of attraction
 - Points that are dominated by at least one neighbor and whose dominating paths lead to the same green region
- White: Boundary regions
 - Points whose dominating paths lead to different green regions

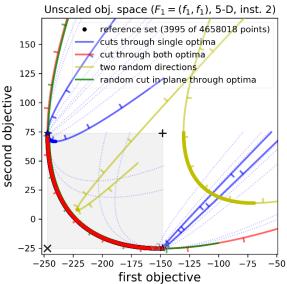


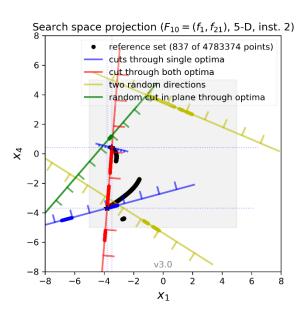


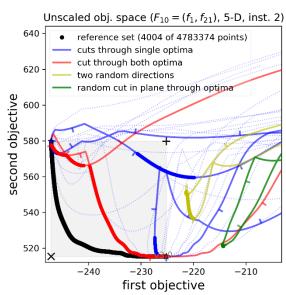


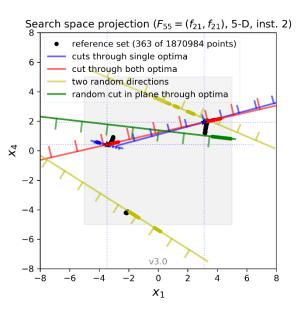
Line Cuts

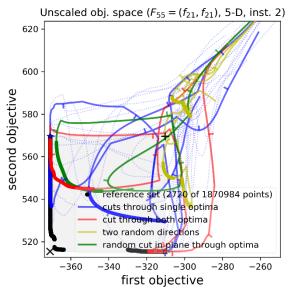










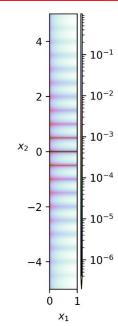


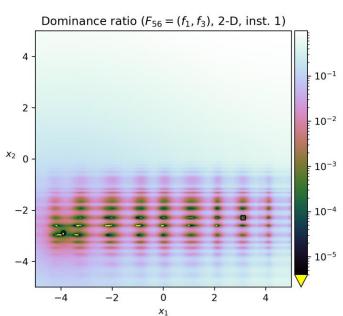
Comparison of Problem Landscapes

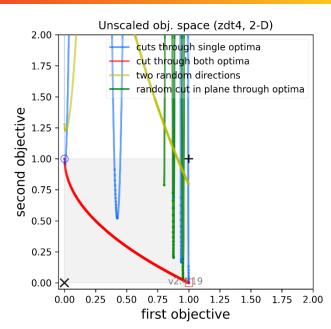
ZDT4

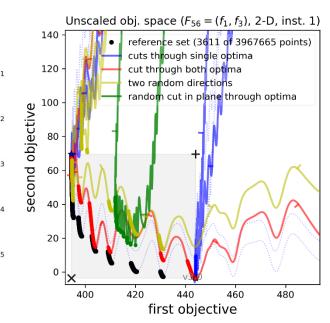
Two problems where both objectives are separable, first is unimodal and second is multimodal

bbob-biobj-ext F_{56} f_1 Sphere function f_3 Rastrigin function







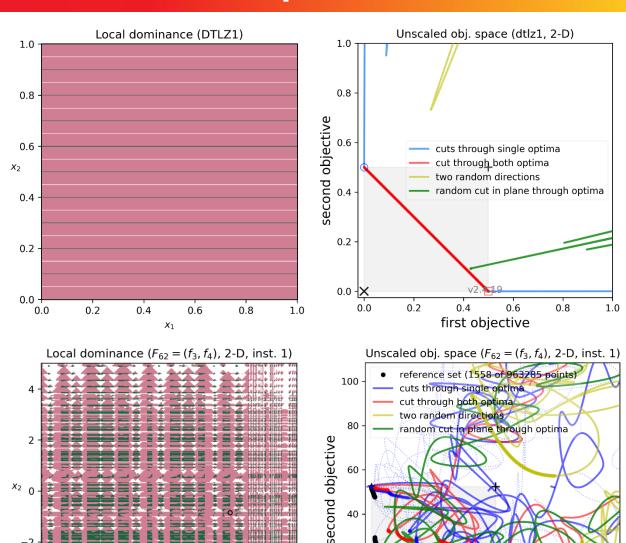


Comparison of Problem Landscapes

DTLZ1

Two problems where both objectives are separable and multimodal

bbob-biobj-ext F_{62} f_3 Rastrigin function f_4 Skew Rastrigin-Bueche



 x_1

90

100

110

first objective

120

130

140

Comparison of Problem Landscapes

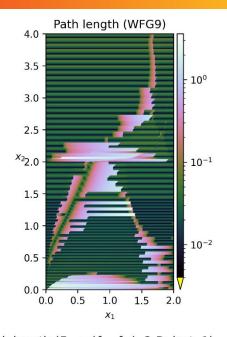
WFG9

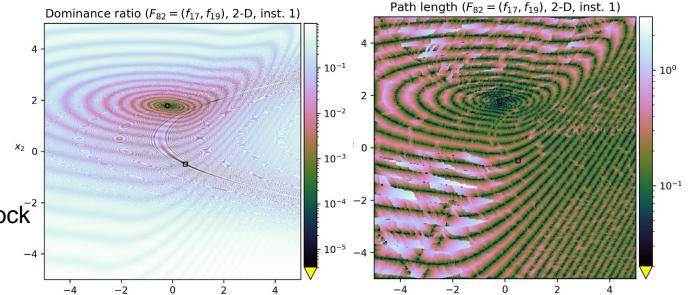
Two problems where both objectives are nonseparable and multimodal

3.5 10^{-1} 3.0 10-2 2.5 10-3 *x*₂2.0 1.5 10^{-4} 1.0 10^{-5} 0.5 0.0 0.5 1.0 1.5

 x_1

Dominance ratio (WFG9)





bbob-biobj-ext F_{82} f_{17} Schaffer F7 f_{19} Griewank-Rosenbrock

Other artificial problems

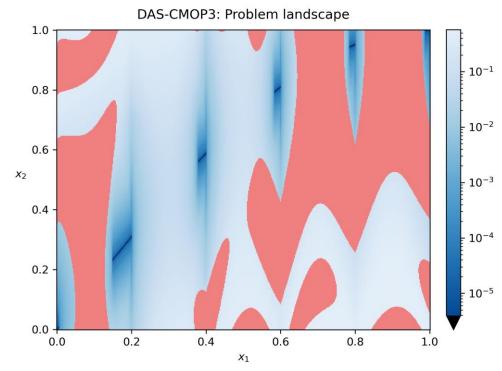
Other Artificial Problems

Suites of multiobjective problems with constraints

- CTP [Deb et al. 2001]
- CF [Zhang et al. 2009]
- C-DTLZ [Jain and Deb 2014]
- NCTP [Li et al. 2016]
- DC-DTLZ [Li et al. 2019]
- LIR-CMOP [Fan et al. 2019a]
- DAS-CMOP [Fan et al. 2019b]
- MW [Ma and Wang 2019]
- DOC [Liu and Wang 2019]
- Eq-DLTZ and Eq-IDTLZ [Cuate et al. 2020]
- CLSMOP [He et al. 2021]



Tutorial on Multiobjective optimization in the presence of constraints: https://dis.ijs.si/filipic/cec2021tutorial/



Other Artificial Problems

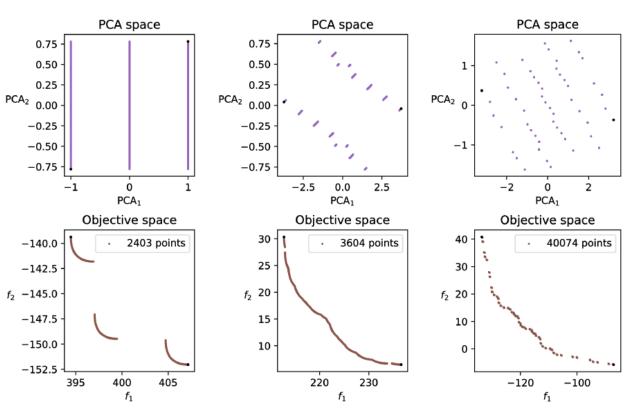
Suites of multiobjective mixed-integer problems

 Exeter suite of 6 problems constructed with the bottom-up approach [McClymont and Keedwell 2011]

bbob-biobj-mixint suite of 92 bi-objective problems [Tušar et

al. 2019]

Pareto set and front approximations for three different instances of the double sphere function



Real-world problems

v0.1

Real-World Problems

Individual problems

- Radar waveform design problem with a varying number of variables and 9 objectives [Hughes 2007]
- HBV problem of calibrating the HBV rainfall-runoff model with 14 variables and 4 objectives [Reed et al. 2013]
- MAZDA car structure design problem with 222 integer variables, 2 objectives and 54 constraints [Kohira et al. 2018]
- Lunar lander landing site selection problem with 2 variables, 3 objectives and 2 constraints [JSEC and JAXA 2018]
- Wind turbine design problem with 32 variables, 5 objectives and 22 constraints [JSEC 2019]

v0.2

Suites of Real-World Problems

Suites of unscalable problems

- DDMOP suite of 7 test problems with a different number of variables (5–17) and objectives (2–10) [He et al. 2020]
- Two suites of previously published problems [Tanabe and Ishibuchi 2020]
 - RE suite of 16 test problems with a different number of variables (2–7) and objectives (2–9)
 - 11 continuous, 1 integer, 4 mixed-integer
 - CRE suite of 8 test problems with constraints a different number of variables (3–7) and objectives (2–5)
 - 6 continuous, 1 integer, 1 mixed-integer
- RCM suite of 50 problems with a different number of variables (2–34), objectives (2–5) and constraints (1–29) [Kumar et al. 2021]

v0.5

Suites of Real-World Problems

Suites of scalable problems

- Heat exchanger design problem with scalable variables and 1 or 2 objectives [Daniels et al. 2018]
- Suite of 3 bi-objective TopTrumps problems in multiple dimensions and instances [Volz et al. 2019]
- Suite of 26 bi-objective MarioGAN problems in multiple dimensions and instances [Volz et al. 2019]
- Framework with scalable pathfinding problems (5 different objectives) [Weise and Mostaghim 2022]

Conclusions

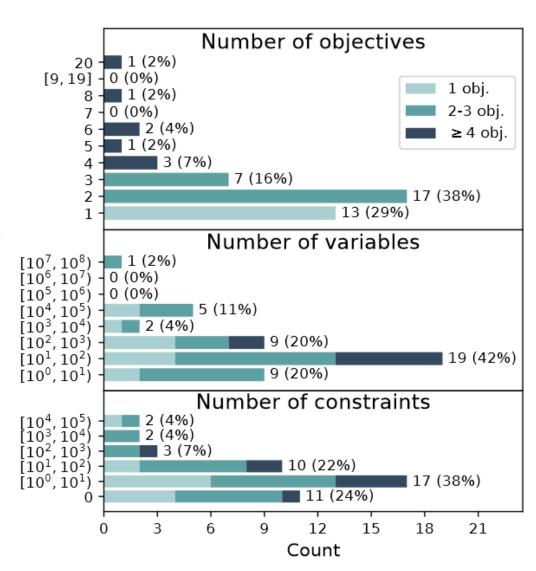
We should think about the usefulness of our research

Results of a questionnaire on the properties of real-world problems has shown their diversity [van der Blom et al. 2020]

https://sites.google.com/view/macoda-rwp/home

Most research is done on continuous unconstrained problems

Although the test problems are scalable, most studies use a fixed number of variables



Conclusions

Problem suites constructed with the bottom-up approach have unrealistic properties

Algorithms are overfitting to these problems (especially the overused DTLZ and WFG) [Ishibuchi et al. 2017]

Using separate functions for the objectives looks like a step in the right direction

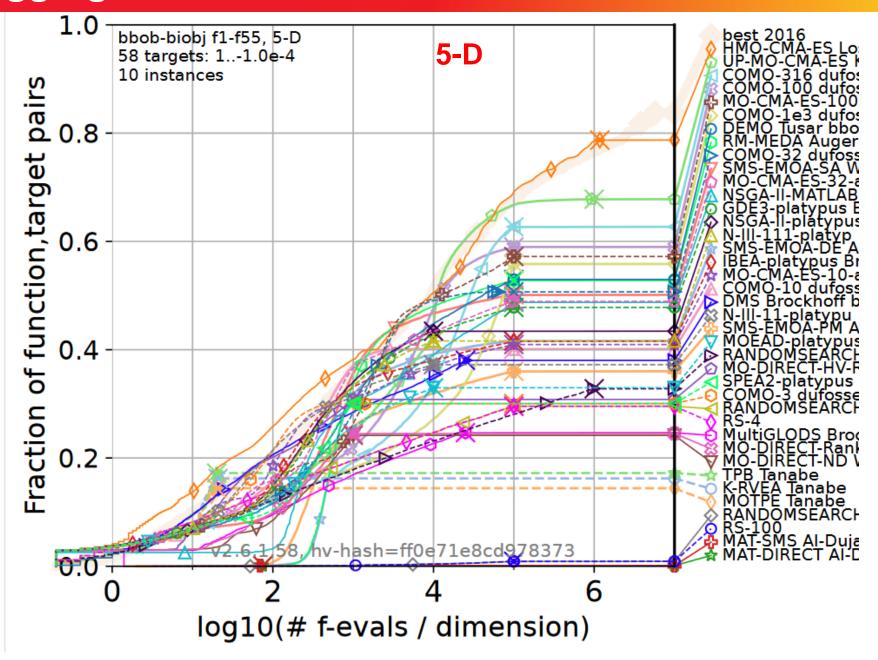


Overview

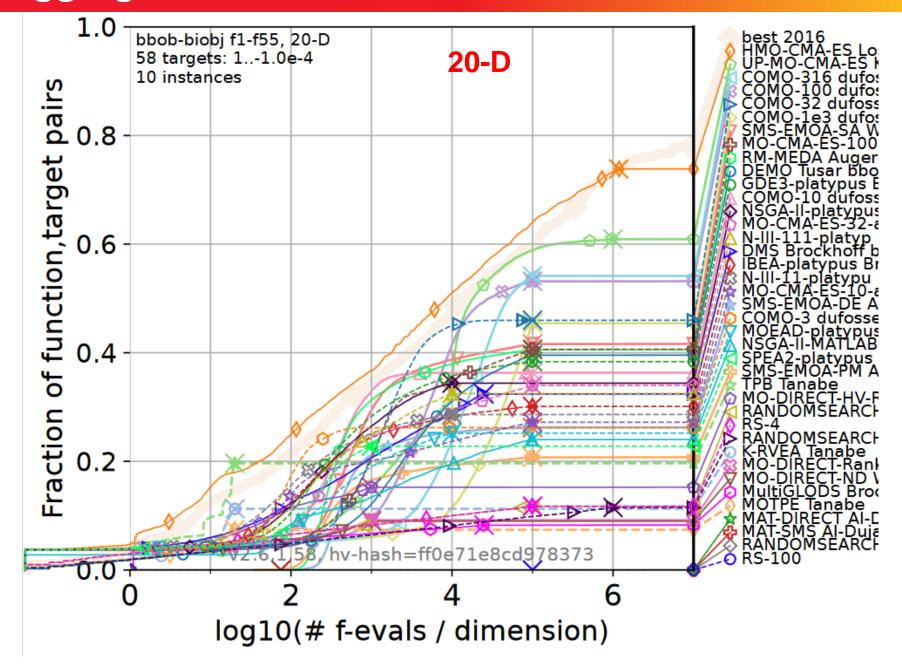
- Performance Assessment
- 2 Test Problems and Their Visualizations
- Recommendations from Numerical Results

python -m cocopp bbob-biobj*

Aggregated Results Over All 55 Functions



Aggregated Results Over All 55 Functions



a.k.a Challenging Open Research Directions

a.k.a Challenging Open Research Directions

many-objective problems
 problems/suites
 indicators
 efficient implementations

a.k.a Challenging Open Research Directions

- many-objective problems
 problems/suites
 indicators
 efficient implementations
- constraints, mixed-integer, ...

a.k.a Challenging Open Research Directions

- many-objective problems
 problems/suites
 indicators
 efficient implementations
- constraints, mixed-integer, ...
- real-world benchmarking?
 simulation crashes
 parallelism
 dynamic changes
 interactive decision making

a.k.a Challenging Open Research Directions

- many-objective problems
 problems/suites
 indicators
 efficient implementations
- constraints, mixed-integer, ...
- real-world benchmarking?
 simulation crashes
 parallelism
 dynamic changes
 interactive decision making

benchmarking results from more classical approaches

Show convergence graphs/ECDF

anything else than tables for fixed budget

Show convergence graphs/ECDF anything else than tables for fixed budget

Use "most realistic" problems

Show convergence graphs/ECDF anything else than tables for fixed budget

Use "most realistic" problems

6 Show scaling with (search & objective space) dimension

Three "New Year" Resolutions

Show convergence graphs/ECDF anything else than tables for fixed budget

Use "most realistic" problems

6 Show scaling with (search & objective space) dimension

Thank you!

Supplementary Material

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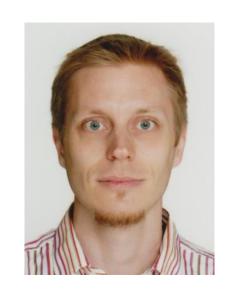
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Instructor Biography: Dimo Brockhoff

Dimo Brockhoff

RandOpt team
Inria Saclay - Ile-de-France
CMAP, CNRS, Ecole Polytechnique, IP Paris
Route de Saclay
91128 Palaiseau
France



After obtaining his diploma in computer science (Dipl.-Inform.) from University of Dortmund, Germany in 2005, Dimo Brockhoff received his PhD (Dr. sc. ETH) from ETH Zurich, Switzerland in 2009. After postdoctoral research positions at Inria Saclay Ile-de-France in Orsay and at Ecole Polytechnique in Palaiseau, both in France, Dimo has been a permanent researcher at Inria: from 2011 till 2016 with the Inria Lille - Nord Europe research center and since October 2016 with the Saclay - Ile-de-France research center, co-located with CMAP, Ecole Polytechnique, IP Paris. His most recent research interests are focused on evolutionary multiobjective optimization (EMO) and other (single-objective) blackbox optimization techniques, in particular with respect to benchmarking, theoretical aspects, and expensive optimization.

Instructor Biography: Tea Tušar

Tea Tušar

Computational Intelligence Group
Department of Intelligent Systems
Jožef Stefan Institute
Jamova cesta 29
1000 Ljubljana
Slovenia



Tea Tušar is a research associate at the Department of Intelligent Systems of the Jožef Stefan Institute, and an assistant professor at the Jožef Stefan International Postgraduate School, both in Ljubljana, Slovenia. After receiving the PhD degree in Information and Communication Technologies from the Jožef Stefan International Postgraduate School for her work on visualizing solution sets in multiobjective optimization, she has completed a one-year postdoctoral fellowship at Inria Lille in France where she worked on benchmarking multiobjective optimizers. Her research interests include evolutionary algorithms for singleobjective and multiobjective optimization with emphasis on visualizing and benchmarking their results and applying them to real-world problems.