Computational Intelligence

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Evolutionary Algorithms: State of the art in 1970

main arguments against EA in $\mathbb{R}^n$:

1. **Evolutionary Algorithms have been developed heuristically.**
2. **No proofs of convergence have been derived for them.**
3. **Sometimes the rate of convergence can be very slow.**

what can be done? ⇒ disable arguments!

ad 1) not really an argument against EAs …

EAs use principles of biological evolution as pool of inspiration purposely:

- to overcome traditional lines of thought
- to get new classes of optimization algorithms

⇒ the new ideas may be bad or good …
⇒ necessity to analyze them!

On the notion of “convergence“ (I)

stochastic convergence ≠ “empirical convergence“

frequent observation:

N runs on some test problem / averaging / comparison

⇒ **this proves nothing!**

- no guarantee that behavior stable in the limit!
- N lucky runs possible
- etc.

On the notion of “convergence“ (II)

formal approach necessary:

$D_k = | f(X_k) – f^* | \geq 0$ is a random variable

we shall consider the stochastic sequence $D_0, D_1, D_2, \ldots$

Does the stochastic sequence $(D_k)_{k\geq 0}$ converge to 0?

If so, then evidently „convergence to optimum“!

But: there are many modes of **stochastic convergence**!

→ therefore here only the most frequently used ...

notation: $\mathcal{P}^{(t)}$ = population at time step t ≥ 0, $f_b(\mathcal{P}(t)) = \min\{ f(x): x \in \mathcal{P}(t) \}$

Definition

Let $D_t = |f_b(\mathcal{P}(t)) - f^*| \geq 0$. We say: The EA

(a) ***converges completely*** to the optimum, if $\forall\, \varepsilon > 0$

$$\lim_{t\to\infty} \sum_{k=1}^{t} P\{D_k > \varepsilon\} < \infty\,;$$

(b) ***converges almost surely*** or ***with probability 1 (w.p. 1)*** to the optimum, if

$$P\{\lim_{t\to\infty} D_k = 0\} = 1\,;$$

(c) ***converges in probability*** to the optimum, if $\forall\, \varepsilon > 0$

$$\lim_{t\to\infty} P\{D_t > \varepsilon\} = 0\,;$$

(a) ***converges in mean*** to the optimum, if $\forall\, \varepsilon > 0$

$$\lim_{t\to\infty} E\{D_t\} = 0\,.$$

■

Lemma

- (a) ⇒ (b) ⇒ (c).
- (d) ⇒ (c).
- If $\exists\, K < \infty : \forall\, t \geq 0 : D_t \leq K$, then (d) ⇔ (c).
- If $(D_t)_{t\geq 0}$ stochastically independent sequence, then (a) ⇔ (b). ■

Typical *modus operandi*:

1. Show convergence in probablity (c). Easy! (in most cases)
2. Show that convergence fast enough (a). This also implies (b).
3. Sequence bounded from above? This implies (d).

Let $(X_k)_{k\geq 1}$ be sequence of independent random variables.

distribution: $P\{X_k = 0\} = 1 - \frac{1}{k}$ $\quad P\{X_k = 1\} = \frac{1}{k}$

1. $P\{X_k > \varepsilon\} = P\{X_k = 1\} = \frac{1}{k} \to 0$ for $t \to \infty$

   ⇒ convergence in probability (c)

2. $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} P\{X_k > \varepsilon\} = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} P\{X_k = 1\} = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k} = \infty$

   ⇒ convergence too slow! Consequently, <u>no</u> complete convergence!

3. Note: $\forall k \geq 0 : 0 \leq X_k \leq 1.$ Hence: sequence bounded with K = 1.

   since convergence in prob. (c) and bounded ⇒ convergence in mean (d)

let $(X_k)_{k\geq 1}$ be sequence of independent random variables.

distribution:		(a)	(c)	(d)
$P\{X_k = 0\} = 1 - \frac{1}{k}$	$P\{X_k = 1\} = \frac{1}{k}$	(–)	(+)	(+)
$P\{X_k = 0\} = 1 - \frac{1}{k^2}$	$P\{X_k = 1\} = \frac{1}{k^2}$	(+)	(+)	(+)
$P\{X_k = 0\} = 1 - \frac{1}{k}$	$P\{X_k = k\} = \frac{1}{k}$	(–)	(+)	(–)
$P\{X_k = 0\} = 1 - \frac{1}{k^2}$	$P\{X_k = k\} = \frac{1}{k^2}$	(+)	(+)	(+)
$P\{X_k = 0\} = 1 - \frac{1}{k}$	$P\{X_k = k^2\} = \frac{1}{k}$	(–)	(+)	(–)
$P\{X_k = 0\} = 1 - \frac{1}{k^2}$	$P\{X_k = k^2\} = \frac{1}{k^2}$	(+)	(+)	(–)

ad 2) no convergence proofs!

timeline of theoretical work on convergence

1971 – 1975	Rechenberg / Schwefel	convergence rates for simple problems
1976 – 1980	Born	convergence proof for EA with genetic load
1981 – 1985	Rappl	convergence proof for (1+1)-EA in $\mathbb{R}^n$
1986 – 1989	Beyer	convergence rates for simple problems

all publications in <u>German</u> and for EAs in $\mathbb{R}^n$

⇒ results only known to German-speaking EA nerds!

ad 2) no convergence proofs!

timeline of theoretical work on convergence

1989	Eiben	a.s. convergence for elitist GA
1992	Nix/Vose	Markov chain model of simple GA
1993	Fogel	a.s. convergence of EP (Markov chain based)
1994	Rudolph	a.s. convergence of elitist GA non-convergence of simple GA (MC based)
1994	Rudolph	a.s. convergence of non-elitist ES (based on supermartingales)
1996	Rudolph	conditions for convergence

⇒ convergence proofs are no issue any longer!

A simple proof of convergence (I)

Theorem:

Let $D_k = | f(x_k) – f^* |$ with $k \geq 0$ be generated by (1+1)-EA,

$S^* = \{ x^* \in S : f(x^*) = f^* \}$ is set of optimal solutions and

$P_m(x, S^*)$ is probability to get from $x \in S$ to S^* by a single mutation operation.

If for each $x \in S \setminus S^*$ holds $P_m(x, S^*) \geq \delta > 0$, then $D_k \to 0$ completely and in mean.

Remark:

The proofs become simpler and simpler.

Born‘s proof (1978) took about 10 pages.

Eiben‘s proof (1989) took about 2 pages.

Rudolph‘s proof (1996) takes about 1 slide …

A simple proof of convergence (II)

Proof:

For the (1+1)-EA holds: $P(x, S^*) = 1$ for $x \in S^*$ due to elitist selection.

Thus, it is sufficient to show that the EA reaches S^* with probability 1:

Success in 1st iteration: $P_m(x, S^*) \geq \delta$.

No success in 1st iteration: $\leq 1 - \delta$.

No success in kth iteration: $\leq (1- \delta)^k$.

⇒ at least one success in k iterations: $\geq 1 - (1- \delta)^k \to 1$ as $k \to \infty$.

Since $P\{ D_k > \varepsilon \} \leq (1- \delta)^k \to 0$ we have convergence in probablity and

since $\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (1-\delta)^k < \infty$ we actually have complete convergence.

Moreover: $\forall\, k \geq 0: 0 \leq D_k \leq D_0 < \infty$, implies convergence in mean. ■

ad 3) Speed of Convergence — Lecture 12

Observation:

Sometimes EAs have been very slow …

Questions:

Why is this the case?

Can we do something against this?

$\Rightarrow$ no speculations, instead: formal analysis!

first hint in Schwefel's masters thesis (1965):

observed that step size adaptation in $\mathbb{R}^2$ useful!

ad 3) Speed of Convergence — Lecture 12

convergence speed <u>without</u> „step size adaptation" (pure random search)

$f(x) = \| x \|^2 = x'x \rightarrow \min!$ where $x \in S_n(r) = \{ x \in \mathbb{R}^n : \| x \| \le r \}$

Z_k is uniformly distributed in $S_n(r)$

$X_{k+1} = Z_k$ if $f(Z_k) < f(X_k)$, else $X_{k+1} = X_k$

$\Rightarrow V_k = \min \{ f(Z_1), f(Z_2), \ldots, f(Z_k) \}$ best objective function value until iteration k

$$P\{ \| Z \| \le z \} = P\{ Z \in S_n(z) \} = Vol(S_n(z)) / Vol(S_n(r)) = (z / r)^n , \quad 0 \le z \le r$$

$$P\{ \| Z \|^2 \le z \} = P\{ \| Z \| \le z^{1/2} \} = z^{n/2} / r^n , \quad 0 \le z \le r^2$$

$$P\{ V_k \le v \} = 1 - (1 - P\{ \| Z \|^2 \le v \})^k = 1 - (1 - v^{n/2} / r^n)^k$$

$E[V_k] \rightarrow r^2 \, \Gamma(1 + 2/n) \, k^{-2/n}$ for large k

no adaptation:
$D_k = \Theta(k^{-2/n})$

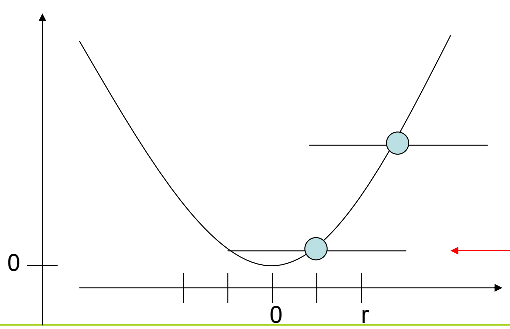
ad 3) Speed of Convergence — Lecture 12

convergence speed <u>without</u> „step size adaptation" (local uniformly distr.)

$f(x) = \| x \|^2 = x'x \rightarrow \min!$ where $x \in S_n(r) = \{ x \in \mathbb{R}^n : \| x \| \le r \}$

Z_k uniformly distributed in $[-r, r]$, n = 1

$X_{k+1} = X_k + Z_k$ if $f(X_k + Z_k) < f(X_k)$, else $X_{k+1} = X_k$



no adaptation:
$D_k = \Theta(k^{-2/n})$

from now on: resembling pure random search!

ad 3) Speed of Convergence — Lecture 12

convergence speed <u>with</u> „step size adaptation" (uniform distribution on $S_n(1)$)

$(1, \lambda)$-EA mit $f(x) = \| x \|^2$

$$\| Y_k \|^2 = \| X_k + r_k U_k \|^2 = (X_k + r_k U_k)' (X_k + r_k U_k)$$
$$= X'_k X_k + 2 r_k X'_k U_k + r_k^2 U'_k U_k$$
$$= \|X_k\|^2 + 2 r_k X'_k U_k + r_k^2 \underbrace{\|U_k\|^2}_{=1} = \|X_k\|^2 + 2X'_k U_k + r_k^2$$

note: random scalar product x'U has same distribution like ||x|| B,

where r.v. B beta-distributed with parameters (n-1)/2 on [-1, 1]. It follows, that

$\| Y_k \|^2 = \| X_k \|^2 + 2 r_k \| X_k \| B + r_k^2$.

Since $(1,\lambda)$-EA selects best value out of λ trials in total, we obtain

$\| X_{k+1} \|^2 = \| X_k \|^2 + 2 r_k \| X_k \| B_{1:\lambda} + r_k^2$

ad 3) Speed of Convergence

$\| X_{k+1} \|^2 = \| X_k \|^2 + 2r_k \| X_k \| B_{1:\lambda} + r_k^2$

↓ conditional expection on both sides

$E\| X_{k+1} \|^2 = \| X_k \|^2 + 2r_k \| X_k \| E[B_{1:\lambda}] + r_k^2$

↓ assume: $r_k = \gamma \| X_k \|$

$E\| X_{k+1} \|^2 = \| X_k \|^2 + 2 \gamma \| X_k \|^2 E[B_{1:\lambda}] + \gamma^2 \| X_k \|^2$

↓ symmetry of B implies $E[B_{1:\lambda}] = - E[B_{\lambda:\lambda}] < 0$

$E\| X_{k+1} \|^2 = \| X_k \|^2 - 2 \gamma \| X_k \|^2 E[B_{\lambda:\lambda}] + \gamma^2 \| X_k \|^2$
$= \| X_k \|^2 (1 - 2\gamma E[B_{\lambda:\lambda}] + \gamma^2)$

with adaptation:
$D_k \sim \mathcal{O}(c^k)$, $c \in (0,1)$

minimum at $\gamma^* = E[B_{\lambda:\lambda}]$, thus $E\| X_{k+1} \|^2 = \| X_k \|^2 (1 - E[B_{\lambda:\lambda}]^2)$

ad 3) Speed of Convergence

problem in practice:

how do we get $\| X_k \|$ for $r_k = \| X_k \| \cdot E[B_{\lambda:\lambda}]$?

We know from analysis: $E\| X_{k+1} \|^2 = \| X_k \|^2 (1 - E[B_{\lambda:\lambda}]^2)$

assume: r_k was optimally adjusted

$\Rightarrow r_{k+1} = \| X_{k+1} \| \; E[B_{\lambda:\lambda}] \approx \| X_k \| \underbrace{(1 - E[B_{\lambda:\lambda}]^2)^{1/2} E[B_{\lambda:\lambda}]}_{\text{constant!}}$

$\Rightarrow$ multiply r_k with constant: $r_{k+1} = c \cdot r_k$

but: how do we get r_0 or $\| X_0 \|$?

→ r_0 too large
→ r_0 almost optimal
→ r_0 too small

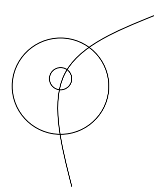
ad 3) Speed of Convergence

(1+1)-EA with step-size adaptation (1/5 success rule, Rechenberg 1973)

Idea:

- If many successful mutation, then step size too small.
- If few successful mutations, then step size too large.

for infinitesimal
small radius:
success rate = 1/2



approach:

- count successful mutations in certain time interval
- if fraction larger than some threshold (z. B. 1/5),
  then increase step size by factor > 1,
  else decrease step size by factor < 1.

ad 3) Speed of Convergence

empirically known since 1973:

step size adaptation increases convergence speed dramatically!

about 1993 EP adopted multiplicative step size adaptation
(was additive)

no proof of convergence!

1999	Rudolph	no a.s. convergence for all continuous functions
2003	Jägersküppers	shows a.s. convergence for convex problems and linear convergence speed

$\Rightarrow$ same order of local convergence speed like gradient method!

mutation: Y = X + Z   Z ~ N(0, C) multinormal distribution

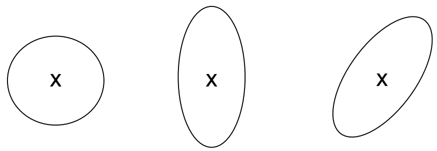
maximum entropy distribution for support $\mathbb{R}^n$, given expectation vector and covariance matrix

how should we choose covariance matrix C?

unless we have not learned something about the problem during search

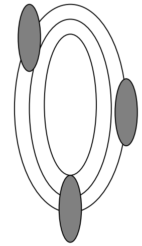
⇒ don't prefer any direction!

⇒ covariance matrix C = I_n (unit matrix)



C = I_n C = diag(s_1,...,s_n)   C orthogonal

claim: mutations should be aligned to isolines of problem (Schwefel 1981)



if true then covariance matrix should be inverse of Hessian matrix!

⇒ assume f(x) ≈ ½ x'Ax + b'x + c   ⇒ H = A

Z ~ N(0, C) with density

$$f_Z(x) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{n/2}\,|C|^{1/2}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}x'C^{-1}x\right)$$

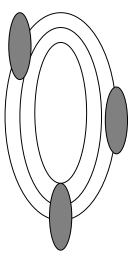
since then many proposals how to adapt the covariance matrix

⇒ extreme case: use n+1 pairs (x, f(x)),

apply multiple linear regression to obtain estimators for A, b, c

invert estimated matrix A!   OK, **but:** O(n^6)! (Rudolph 1992)

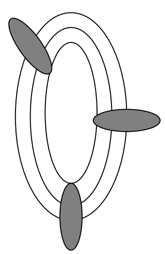
doubts: are equi-aligned isolines really optimal?



principal axis

should point into negative gradient direction!

(proof next slide)



most (effective) algorithms behave like this:

run roughly into negative gradient direction,
sooner or later we approach longest main principal axis of Hessian,

now negative gradient direction coincidences with direction to optimum,
which is parallel to longest main principal axis of Hessian,
which is parallel to the longest main principal axis of the inverse covariance matrix

(Schwefel OK in this situation)

Z = rQu, A = B'B, B = Q^{-1}

$$\begin{aligned}
f(x+rQu) &= \tfrac{1}{2}(x+rQu)'A\,(x+rQu) + b'(x+rQu) + c \\
&= \tfrac{1}{2}(x'Ax + 2\,rx'AQu + r^2u'Q'AQu) + b'x + rb'Qu + c \\
&= f(x) + rx'AQu + rb'Qu + \tfrac{1}{2}r^2u'Q'AQu \\
&= f(x) + r(Ax + b + \tfrac{r}{2}AQu)'Qu \\
&= f(x) + r(\nabla f(x) + \tfrac{r}{2}AQu)'Qu \\
&= f(x) + r\,\nabla f(x)'Qu + \tfrac{r^2}{2}\,u'Q'AQu \\
&= f(x) + r\,\nabla f(x)'Qu + \tfrac{r^2}{2}
\end{aligned}$$

if Qu were deterministic ...

⇒ set Qu = -∇f(x)   (direction of steepest descent)

Apart from (inefficient) regression, how can we get matrix elements of Q?

⇒ iteratively: $C^{(k+1)}$ = update($C^{(k)}$, Population$^{(k)}$)

basic constraint: $C^{(k)}$ must be positive definite (p.d.) and symmetric for all $k \geq 0$, otherwise Cholesky decomposition impossible: $C = Q'Q$

Lemma

Let A and B be quadratic matrices and $\alpha, \beta > 0$.

a) A, B symmetric $\Rightarrow \alpha A + \beta B$ symmetric.

b) A positive definite and B positive semidefinite $\Rightarrow \alpha A + \beta B$ positive definite

Proof:

ad a) $C = \alpha A + \beta B$ symmetric, since $c_{ij} = \alpha a_{ij} + \beta b_{ij} = \alpha a_{ji} + \beta b_{ji} = c_{ji}$

ad b) $\forall x \in \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{0\}$: $x'(\alpha A + \beta B) x = \alpha \underbrace{x'Ax}_{>0} + \beta \underbrace{x'Bx}_{\geq 0} > 0$ ■

Theorem

A quadratic matrix $C^{(k)}$ is symmetric and positive definite for all $k \geq 0$,

if it is built via the iterative formula $\mathbf{C^{(k+1)} = \alpha_k C^{(k)} + \beta_k v_k v'_k}$

where $C^{(0)} = I_n$, $v_k \neq 0$, liminf $\alpha_k > 0$ and liminf $\beta_k > 0$.

Proof:

If $v \neq 0$, then matrix $V = vv'$ is symmetric and positive semidefinite, since

- as per definition of the dyadic product $v_{ij} = v_i \cdot v_j = v_j \cdot v_i = v_{ji}$ for all i, j and
- for all $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$: $x' (vv') x = (x'v) \cdot (v'x) = (x'v)^2 \geq 0$.

Thus, the sequence of matrices $v_k v'_k$ is symmetric and p.s.d. for $k \geq 0$.

Owing to the previous lemma matrix $C^{(k+1)}$ is symmetric and p.d., if

$C^{(k)}$ is symmetric as well as p.d. and matrix $v_k v'_k$ is symmetric and p.s.d.

Since $C^{(0)} = I_n$ symmetric and p.d. it follows that $C^{(1)}$ is symmetric and p.d.

Repetition of these arguments leads to the statement of the theorem. ■

Idea: Don't estimate matrix **C** in each iteration! Instead, approximate <u>iteratively</u>!

(Hansen, Ostermeier et al. 1996ff.)

→ **C**ovariance **M**atrix **A**daptation **E**volutionary **A**lgorithm (CMA-EA)

Set initial covariance matrix to $C^{(0)} = I_n$

$C^{(t+1)} = (1-\eta)\, C^{(t)} + \eta \sum_{i=1}^{\mu} w_i\, d_i\, d_i'$

η : "learning rate" $\in (0,1)$

$m = \frac{1}{\mu} \sum_{i=1}^{\mu} x_{i:\lambda}$ mean of all <u>selected</u> parents

complexity: $\mathcal{O}(\mu n^2 + n^3)$

$d_i = (x_{i:\lambda} - m) / \sigma$ sorting: $f(x_{1:\lambda}) \leq f(x_{2:\lambda}) \leq \ldots \leq f(x_{\lambda:\lambda})$

dyadic product: $dd' = \begin{pmatrix} d_1 d_1 & d_1 d_2 & \cdots & d_1 d_\mu \\ d_2 d_1 & d_2 d_2 & \cdots & d_2 d_\mu \\ \vdots & & & \vdots \\ d_\mu d_1 & d_\mu d_2 & \cdots & d_\mu d_\mu \end{pmatrix}$ is positive semidefinite dispersion matrix

variant:

$m = \frac{1}{\mu} \sum_{i=1}^{\mu} x_{i:\lambda}$ mean of all <u>selected</u> parents

$p^{(t+1)} = (1 - \chi)\, p^{(t)} + (\chi\, (2 - \chi)\, \mu_{eff})^{1/2}\, (m^{(t)} - m^{(t-1)}) / \sigma^{(t)}$ "Evolution path"

$p^{(0)} = 0$ $\chi \in (0,1)$

$C^{(0)} = I_n$

$C^{(t+1)} = (1 - \eta)\, C^{(t)} + \eta\, p^{(t)}\, (p^{(t)})'$

complexity: $\mathcal{O}(n^2)$

→ Cholesky decomposition: $\mathcal{O}(n^3)$ für $C^{(t)}$

State-of-the-art: **CMA-EA** (currently many variants)

→ successful applications in practice

available in WWW:

- http://www.lri.fr/~hansen/cmaes_inmatlab.html → **C, C++, Java Fortran, Python, Matlab, R, Scilab**
- http://shark-project.sourceforge.net/ (EAlib, C++)
- …