

A Novel Hybrid Spiral Dynamics Bacterial Chemotaxis Algorithm for Global Optimization with Application to Controller Design

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Abstract—This paper presents a hybrid optimization algorithm, referred to as hybrid spiral dynamics bacterial chemotaxis (HSDBC) algorithm. HSDBC synergizes bacterial foraging algorithm (BFA) chemotaxis strategy and spiral dynamics algorithm (SDA). The original BFA has higher convergence speed while SDA has better accuracy and stable convergence when approaching the optimum value. This hybrid approach preserves the strengths of BFA and SDA and thus has the capability of producing better results. Moreover, it has simple structure, hence reduced computational cost. Several unimodal and multimodal benchmark functions are employed to test the algorithm in finding the global optimum point. Furthermore, the proposed algorithm is tested in the design of PD controller for a flexible manipulator system. The results show that the HSDBC outperforms SDA and BFA in all test functions and successfully optimizes the PD controller.

Keywords—Spiral dynamics; bacterial chemotaxis; optimization algorithm; PD control; flexible manipulator.

I. INTRODUCTION

Metaheuristic optimization algorithms have gained a lot of interest by many researchers worldwide. These algorithms are inspired by biological phenomena or natural phenomena. Some of the newly introduced algorithms include biogeography-based optimization (BBO) [1], firefly optimization algorithm [2], cuckoo search optimization [3], galaxy-based search algorithm [4], and spiral dynamics inspired optimization (SDA) [5]. All these algorithms have gained attention due to their simplicity to program, fast computing time, easy to implement, and possibility to apply to various applications. Each of these algorithms has its own unique features, advantages and also disadvantages. Therefore, there are a lot of possibilities to improve the algorithms from various aspects. Many attempts have been made to improve performances of the algorithms such as developing adaptive approaches or incorporating powerful mathematical functions into the algorithms and mostly hybridizing two or more algorithms.

Hybridisation is a common approach used in metaheuristic to enhance capability of optimization algorithms. It may reduce computational cost by making a simple and better structure to lead to higher performance. Moreover, with the rapidly emerging computing tools and efficiency in current technology, hybrid approaches have become increasingly popular to explore. Various

combinations of optimization algorithms have been considered by researchers with the aim to increase system performance. [6] developed a hybrid optimization algorithm combining bacterial foraging optimisation algorithm (BFA) with BBO, and referred to it as intelligent biogeography-based optimization. In the algorithm, chemotaxis behaviour of bacteria is adopted into BBO migration process to determine a valid emigration of an individual from one place to another. This ensures the island that receives the emigrated solution preserves its fitness level by only accepting individuals that contribute to a better fitness value. [7] introduced hybrid version of BFA with differential evolution (DE) algorithm called chemotaxis differential evolution. In the algorithm, chemotaxis strategy of bacteria is combined with the mutation process in DE. [8], [9] and [10] introduced hybrid GA-BF algorithm employing modified mutation and crossover operation in GA while applying variation bacterial chemotaxis step size in BFA. [11] developed cooperative (BF-TS) by combining adaptive bacterial foraging optimization algorithm (ABFA) and adaptive tabu search (ATS). With limited exploration capability of ATS in the search space and complexity of ABFA, the chemotaxis strategy of ABFA is incorporated into ATS to provide suitable exploration at the early stage. On the other hand, [12] used hybrid ABFA and ATS called BTSSO, to analyze Lyapunov's stability of linear and nonlinear systems. [13] introduced a hybrid algorithm namely BPSO-DE synergizing BFA, particle swarm optimization (PSO), and DE to solve dynamic economic dispatch problem with valve-points effect. Bacterial chemotaxis strategy with adaptive step-size in BFA is used to perform local search to enhance exploitation while PSO-DE features containing evolutionary operators and velocity update equation are used to perform exploration search over the entire search space. Hybrid BFA and PSO on the other hand, has received the most attention. [14], [15], [16], [17] and [18] employed velocity and position update equation in PSO to act as global search method while utilizing chemotaxis strategy in BFA to serve as local search method. [19] introduced simplified version of BFA employing bacterial chemotaxis strategy and PSO velocity update equation to solve parameter identification problem of heavy oil thermal cracking model. Reproduction and elimination stages were omitted to reduce computational time.

This paper presents hybrid version of bacterial foraging algorithm (BFA) chemotaxis strategy and spiral dynamics

of BFA simple structure of SDA can be retained, thus reducing computational time and enhancing performance of the algorithm. The parameters and description used in n-dimensional HSDBC optimization algorithm are presented in Table 1 and the algorithm is shown in Fig. 1.

TABLE I. PARAMETERS FOR HSDBC OPTIMIZATION ALGORITHM

Symbols	Description
$\theta_{i,j}$	Bacteria angular displacement on $x_i - x_j$ plane around the origin
r	Spiral radius
m	Number of search points
k_{\max}	Maximum iteration number
N_s	Maximum number of swim
$x_i(k)$	Bacteria position
R^n	n x n matrix

An n-dimensional hybrid spiral dynamics bacteria chemotaxis optimization algorithm.

Step 0: Preparation

Select the number of search points (bacteria) $m \geq 2$, parameters $0 \leq \theta < 2\pi, 0 < r < 1$ of $S_n(r, \theta)$, maximum iteration number, k_{\max} and maximum number of swim, N_s for bacteria chemotaxis. Set $k = 0, s = 0$.

Step 1: Initialization

Set initial points $x_i(0) \in R^n, i = 1, 2, \dots, m$ in the feasible region at random and center x^* as $x^* = x_{i_g}(0)$, $i_g = \arg \min_i f(x_i(0)), i = 1, 2, \dots, m$.

Step 2: Applying bacteria chemotaxis

(i) Update x_i

$$x_i(k+1) = S_n(r, \theta)x_i(k) - (S_n(r, \theta) - I_n)x^*$$

$$i = 1, 2, \dots, m.$$

(ii) Bacteria swim

(a) Check number swim for bacteria i .

If $s < N_s$, then check fitness,

Otherwise set $i = i + 1$, and return to step (i).

(b) Check fitness

If $f(x_i(k+1)) < f(x_i(k))$, then update x_i ,

Otherwise set $s = N_s$, and return to step (i).

(c) Update x_i

$$x_i(k+1) = S_n(r, \theta)x_i(k) - (S_n(r, \theta) - I_n)x^*$$

$$i = 1, 2, \dots, m.$$

Step 3: Updating x^*

$$x^* = x_{i_g}(k+1),$$

$$i_g = \arg \min_i f(x_i(k+1)), i = 1, 2, \dots, m.$$

Step 4: Checking termination criterion

If $k = k_{\max}$ then terminate. Otherwise set $k = k + 1$, and return to step 2.

Figure 1. HSDBC optimization algorithm.

In the proposed hybrid approach, bacterial chemotaxis strategy is employed in step 2 to balance and enhance exploration and exploitation of the search space. The bacteria move from low nutrient location towards higher nutrient location, placed at the centre of a spiral. The most important factor of HSDBC algorithm is the respective diversification and intensification at the early phase and later phase of the spiral motion. In the diversification phase, bacteria are located at low nutrient location and move with larger step size thus producing faster convergence. On the other hand, in the intensification phase, bacteria are approaching rich nutrient location and move with smaller step size hence avoiding oscillation around the optimum point. Another factor contributing to better performance of the algorithm is the swimming action in bacterial chemotaxis. Bacteria continuously swim towards optimum point if the next location has higher nutrient value compared to previous location until the maximum number of swim is reached.

IV. VALIDATION TEST AND RESULTS

In this section, the proposed algorithm is validated through simulation tests on two 3-dimensional uni-modal and two 2-dimensional multi-modal benchmark functions. Moreover, the HSDBC algorithm is tested in optimizing PD controller of a flexible manipulator system. Comparison with the original version of SDA and BFA tested on the four benchmark functions is also given to show the improved performance of HSDBC. The parameters used in the simulation are chosen heuristically for all test functions.

A. Uni-modal sphere function

The sphere function is defined as:

$$f(x) = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2 \tag{2}$$

The function has a global minimum at $x_i = [0, 0, 0]$ with fitness $f(x) = 0$. In this simulation, the sphere function is considered to have dimension $n = 3$ and variable x_i is in the range $[-5.12, 5.12]$. Number of search points, $m = 30$, iteration number, 80, angular displacement, $\theta = \pi/4$, and spiral radius, $r = 0.96$ were used for both algorithms. Number of swims with for HSDBC was defined as $N_s = 5$. BFA parameters for this function were $S = 30, Nc = 30, C=0.01, Ns = 4, Nre = 4$ and $Ned = 2$. The convergence plot for 3 dimensional sphere function thus achieved is shown in Fig 2.

B. Uni-modal Ackley function

The Ackley function is mathematically defined as:

$$f(x) = -20 \exp(-0.2 \sqrt{\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2})$$

$$- \exp(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \cos(2\pi x_i)) + 20 + e \tag{3}$$

The function has a global minimum at $x_i = [0, 0, 0]$ with fitness $f(x) = 0$. The Ackley function is considered with dimension $n = 3$ and variable x_i in the range $[-32.768, 32.768]$. Number of search points, $m = 30$, iteration number

200, angular displacement, $\theta = \pi/4$, and spiral radius, $r = 0.96$ were used in both algorithms. Number of swims for HSDBC with swim radius, $r = 0.6$ was defined as $N_s = 1$. BFA parameters for this function were $S = 20$, $N_c = 20$, $C = 0.02$, $N_s = 4$, $N_{re} = 4$ and $N_{ed} = 2$. The resulting convergence plot for 3-dimension Ackley function is shown in Fig 3.

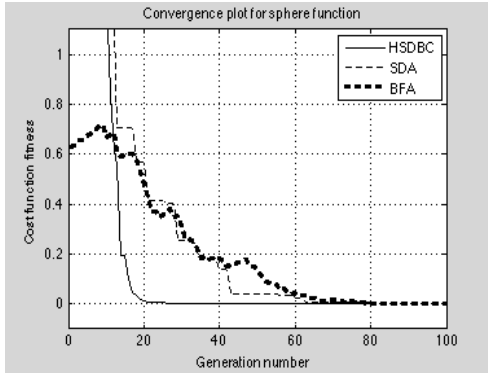


Figure 2. Convergence plot for 3D sphere function.

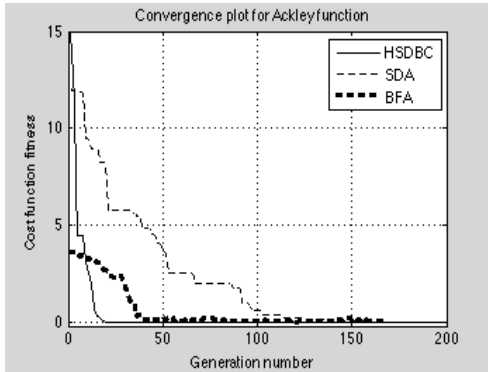


Figure 3. Convergence plot for 3D Ackley function.

C. Multi-modal Rastrigin function

The Rastrigin function is defined as:

$$f(x) = \sum_{i=1}^n [x_i^2 - 10 \cos(2\pi x_i) + 10] \quad (4)$$

The function has a global minimum at $x_i = [0, 0]$ with fitness $f(x) = 0$. The Rastrigin function is considered with dimension $n = 2$ and variable x_i in the range $[-5.12, 5.12]$. The number of search points, $m = 50$, iteration number 120, angular displacement, $\theta = \pi/4$, and spiral radius, $r = 0.96$ were used in both algorithms. Number of swims for HSDBC with swim radius, $r = 0.65$ was defined as $N_s = 2$. BFA parameters for this function were $S = 30$, $N_c = 20$, $C = 0.01$, $N_s = 4$, $N_{re} = 4$ and $N_{ed} = 2$. The resulting convergence plot for the 2-dimensional Rastrigin function is shown in Fig 4.

D. Multi-modal Griewank function

The Griewank function is defined as:

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{4000} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2 - \prod_{i=1}^n \cos\left(\frac{x_i}{\sqrt{i}}\right) + 1 \quad (5)$$

The function has a global minimum at $x_i = [0, 0]$ with fitness $f(x) = 0$. The Griewank function was considered with dimension $n = 2$ and variable x_i in the range $[-600, 600]$. The number of search points, $m = 50$, iteration number 200, angular displacement, $\theta = \pi/4$, and spiral radius, $r = 0.96$ were used for both algorithms. Number of swims for HSDBC with swim radius, $r = 0.55$ was defined as $N_s = 1$. BFA parameters for Griewank function were $S = 30$, $N_c = 10$, $C = 0.1$, $N_s = 4$, $N_{re} = 4$ and $N_{ed} = 2$. The resulting convergence plot for the 2-dimensional Griewank function is shown in Fig 5.

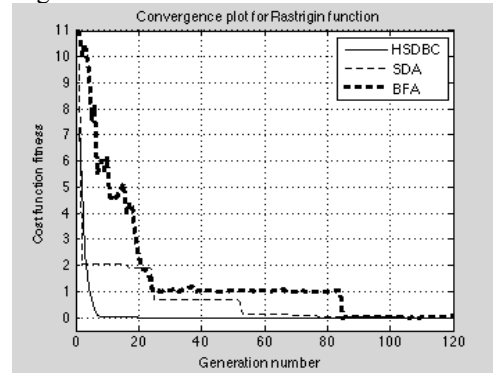


Figure 4. Convergence plot for 2D Rastrigin function.

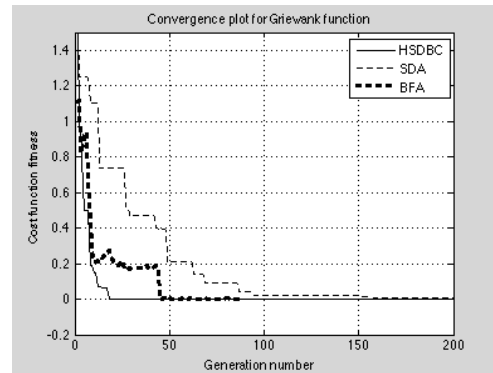


Figure 5. Convergence plot for 2D Griewank function.

It can be clearly seen in the plots, in Figures 2-5 that the HSDBC outperformed SDA and BFA in terms of convergence speed and improved accuracy. Numerical results of HSDBC, SDA and BFA performance tests with the benchmark functions are shown in Tables II, III and IV respectively. It is noted that HSDBC has achieved better performance than SDA and BFA with the test functions in terms of convergence speed and accuracy.

TABLE II. HSDBC PERFORMANCE ON BENCHMARK FUNCTIONS

Cost Function Name	Performance				
	Best fitness	Converge time (iter)	X_1	X_2	X_3
Sphere	6×10^{-7}	26	2×10^{-4}	6×10^{-7}	-7×10^{-4}
Ackley	3×10^{-7}	20	1×10^{-7}	2×10^{-8}	-3×10^{-8}
Rastrigin	0	15	-2×10^{-9}	4×10^{-10}	-
Griewank	2×10^{-11}	18	-3×10^{-6}	6×10^{-6}	-

TABLE III. SDA PERFORMANCE ON BENCHMARK FUNCTIONS

Cost Function Name	Performance				
	Best fitness	Converge time (iter)	X_1	X_2	X_3
Sphere	5×10^{-3}	63	-4×10^{-2}	-5×10^{-2}	-7×10^{-3}
Ackley	6×10^{-3}	159	9×10^{-4}	2×10^{-5}	-2×10^{-3}
Rastrigin	1×10^{-6}	84	-8×10^{-5}	-2×10^{-5}	-
Griewank	7×10^{-5}	91	-6×10^{-3}	-1×10^{-2}	-

TABLE IV. BFA PERFORMANCE ON BENCHMARK FUNCTIONS

Cost Function Name	Performance				
	Best fitness	Converge time (iter)	X_1	X_2	X_3
Sphere	5×10^{-5}	84	4×10^{-3}	-4×10^{-3}	3×10^{-3}
Ackley	2×10^{-2}	40	-5×10^{-3}	-9×10^{-3}	-1×10^{-3}
Rastrigin	5×10^{-4}	85	-8×10^{-4}	-1×10^{-3}	-
Griewank	7×10^{-4}	45	-1×10^{-2}	4×10^{-2}	-

E. Controller design optimization

The HSDBC algorithm is employed here to optimize PD controller of a flexible manipulator system (FMS). Schematic diagram of the flexible manipulator system is shown in Fig. 6. X_0OY_0 and XOY represent the stationary and moving coordinate frames respectively. τ represents the applied torque at the hub. Young modulus, area moment of inertia, mass density per unit volume, cross-sectional area, hub inertia, displacement and hub angle of the manipulator are represented by $E, I, \rho, A, I_h, v(x,t)$ and $\theta(t)$ respectively [23].

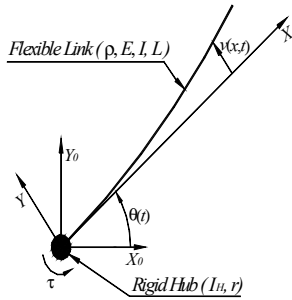


Figure 6. Schematic diagram of flexible manipulator system.

Mathematical model of FMS adopted here is that derived using Lagrange method in [22]. The FMS model has been used by many researchers in testing various types of controller for flexible systems [23], [24]. The dynamic equation of motion of FMS can be represented as:

$$M\ddot{Q}(t) + D\dot{Q}(t) + KQ(t) = F(t) \quad (6)$$

where M, D and K are mass, damping and stiffness matrices respectively. $F(t)$ and $Q(t)$ are vectors of external forces and modal displacement respectively;

$$F(t) = [\tau \ 0 \ 0 \ \dots \ 0]^T \quad (7)$$

$$Q(t) = [\theta \ q_1 \ q_2 \ \dots \ q_n]^T = [\theta \ q^T]^T \quad (8)$$

More details of the derivation and parameters of FMS can be found in [22], [23]. A state-space model of FMS is obtained by linearizing (6) and it is used to design PD controller through HSDBC. The control strategy of FMS is adopted from [23] and [24] where PD feedback of collocated sensor signals is employed. A block diagram of the control structure is shown in Fig. 7, where K_p, K_v and A_c are the proportional, derivative and motor amplifier gains respectively. The input of the system is reference hub angle, R_f and the outputs of the system are hub angle, θ and hub angle velocity, $\dot{\theta}$. In this simulation, number of search points, $m = 30$, iteration number 100, angular displacement, $\theta = \pi/4$, and spiral radius, $r = 0.96$, and number of swim $N_s = 3$ were used to optimize the PD controller.

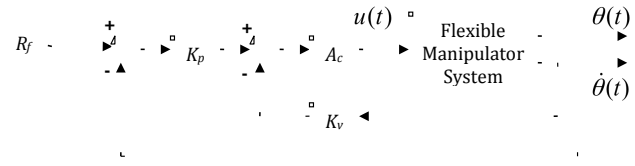


Figure 7. Collocated PD control structure of FMS.

Integral square error (ISE) of hub angle was chosen as cost function for the optimization algorithm. As a means of examining the proposed algorithm, this paper is only dealing with step input tracking capability of FMS. Step input was defined to have final value at 0.8 radians, which is the final location of hub angle. Graphical plot of the hub angle achieved is shown in Fig. 8.

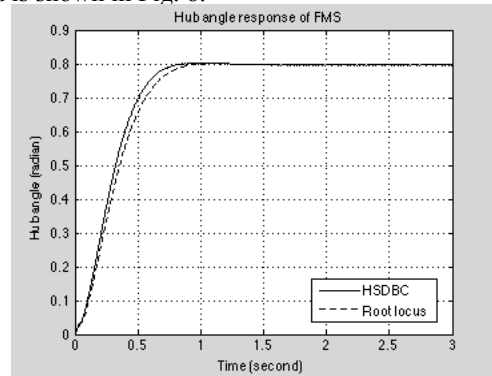


Figure 8. Hub angle response of FMS.

In this plot, for the purpose of comparison, the hub angle response with PD controller designed using root locus approach from [24] is also shown. Simulation with HSDBC optimization algorithm on the FMS gave $K_p = 72.3459$ and $K_v = 20.6227$ while $K_p = 60$ and $K_v = 19$ using root locus technique [24]. It is clear from Fig. 8, that hub angle response of FMS using HSDBC was better than hub angle response using root locus technique in terms of speed of response. Numerical results of the hub angle response are shown in Table V. It is noted that the HSDBC approach resulted slightly larger overshoot within acceptable range. However, the response rise time with HSDBC was better, which indicates that the algorithm can perform faster with satisfactory response overshoot and no error at steady state.

TABLE V. PERFORMANCE SPECIFICATION OF HUB ANGLE RESPONSE

Tuning Method	Performance Specification			
	Overshoot, %os (%)	Settling time, ts (s)	Rise time, tr (s)	Steady state error, ess
HSDBC	0.84	1.47	0.44	0
Root locus	0.53	1.47	0.50	0

V. CONCLUSION

A novel hybrid spiral dynamics bacterial chemotaxis optimization algorithm has been proposed. Validation with uni-modal and multi-modal benchmark functions and comparison with standard SDA and BFA have been carried out. Moreover, the HSDBC has been used in controller design of a flexible manipulator in comparison with root locus design approach. Simulation results have shown that the proposed algorithm outperformed its counterpart in all test functions and it successfully optimized PD controller of flexible manipulator system in terms of convergence speed and accuracy.

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