Results of the GECCO 2019 Competition on Niching Methods for Multimodal Optimization

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GECCO 2019 Competition on Niching Methods

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Introduction

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- Many real-world problems are "multi-modal" by nature, i.e., multiple satisfactory solutions exist
- Niching methods: promote and maintain formation of multiple stable subpopulations within a single population
  - Aim: maintain diversity and locate multiple globally optimal solutions.
- Challenge: Find an efficient optimization algorithm, which is able to locate multiple global optimal solutions for multi-modal problems with various characteristics.

Competition: GECCO 16/17/18/19 – CEC 13/15/16/17/18

Provide a common platform that encourages fair and easy comparisons across different niching algorithms.

> X. Li, A. Engelbrecht, and M.G. Epitropakis, "Benchmark Functions for CEC'2013 Special Session and Competition on Niching Methods for Multimodal Function Optimization", Technical Report, Evolutionary Computation and Machine Learning Group, RMIT University, Australia, 2013

- 20 benchmark multi-modal functions with different characteristics
- 5 accuracy levels: $\varepsilon \in \{10^{-1}, 10^{-2}, 10^{-3}, 10^{-4}, 10^{-5}\}$
- The benchmark suite and the performance measures have been implemented in: C/C++, Java, MATLAB, Python, (R soon)

Benchmark function set

X. Li, A. Engelbrecht, and M.G. Epitropakis, "Benchmark Functions for CEC'2013 Special Session and Competition on Niching Methods for Multimodal Function Optimization", Technical Report, Evolutionary Computation and Machine Learning Group, RMIT University, Australia, 2013

Id	Dim.	# GO	Name	Characteristics
F_1	1	2	Five-Uneven-Peak Trap	Simple, deceptive
F_2	1	5	Equal Maxima	Simple
F_3	1	1	Uneven Decreasing Maxima	Simple
F_4	2	4	Himmelblau	Simple, non-scalable, non-symmetric
F_5	2	2	Six-Hump Camel Back	Simple, not-scalable, non-symmetric
F_6	2,3	18,81	Shubert	Scalable, #optima increase with D, unevenly distributed grouped optima
F_7	2,3	36,216	Vincent	Scalable, #optima increase with D, unevenly distributed optima
F_8	2	12	Modified Rastrigin	Scalable, #optima independent from D, symmetric
F_9	2	6	Composition Function 1	Scalable, separable, non-symmetric
F_{10}	2	8	Composition Function 2	Scalable, separable, non-symmetric
F_{11}	2,3,5,10	6	Composition Function 3	Scalable, non-separable, non-symmetric
F_{12}	2,3,5,10	8	Composition Function 4	Scalable, non-separable, non-symmetric

GECCO Competition (I)

Largely follows the procedures of the 2013/2015 CEC niching competitions, adopt new performance criteria:

Improved Scenarios

- Include information on the resources (time, function evaluations) needed to find the global optima, not only the fraction of successes within a given time period (number of evaluations), and
- Take into account the size of the final solution set, and reward small sets that mostly consist of the sought optima only.

GECCO Competition (II)

Three different Scenarios (performance evaluation):

- **Scenario I**: Adopt the CEC2013/2015 competition ranking procedure (based on average Peak Ratio), to facilitate straight forward comparisons with all previous competition entries.
- **Scenario II**: Adopt the (static) F1 measure to take into account the recall and precision of the final solution sets
- **Scenario III**: Adopt the (dynamic) F1 measure integral over the whole runtime to take into account the computational efficiency of the submitted algorithm

Ranking based on average values across all problems/accuracy levels of the aforementioned measures are used to decide the winner.

Participants

Participants

Submissions to the competition:

- (ANBNWI-DE): Yuhao LI, Yifeng LI, Jun YU, Hideyuki TAKAGI, and Ying TAN, Kyushu University, Japan and Peking University, China
- (HillVallEA19): S.C. Maree, T. Alderliesten, and P.A.N. Bosman, Amsterdam UMC, and Centrum Wiskunde & Informatica, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- (KNN-MM-N1): Jonathan Fieldsend, Exeter University, UK
- (KNN-MM-2N): Jonathan Fieldsend, Exeter University, UK

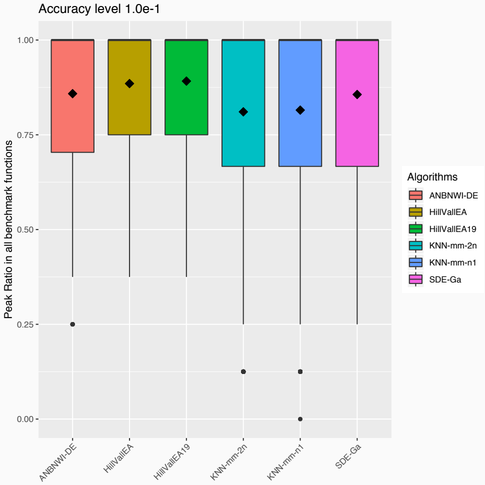
Results

Results

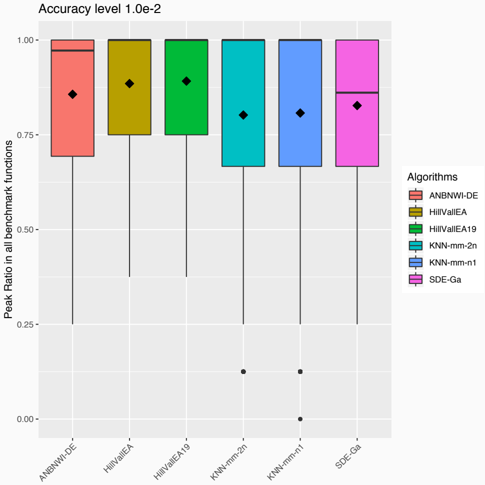
Summary:

- **4** new search algorithms
- **2** baseline algorithms based on the previous competition @ GECCO 2018
- **20** multi-modal benchmark functions
- **5** accuracy levels $\varepsilon \in \{10^{-1}, 10^{-2}, 10^{-3}, 10^{-4}, 10^{-5}\}$
- Results: **per accuracy level & over all accuracy levels**
- Latest version always in the repository: `https://github.com/mikeagn/CEC2013`

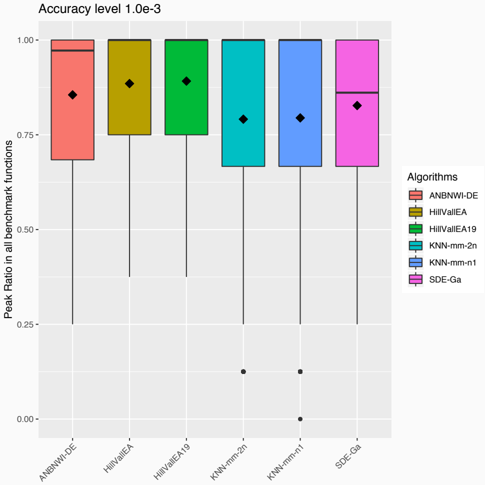
Scenario I: Accuracy level $\varepsilon = 10^{-1}$



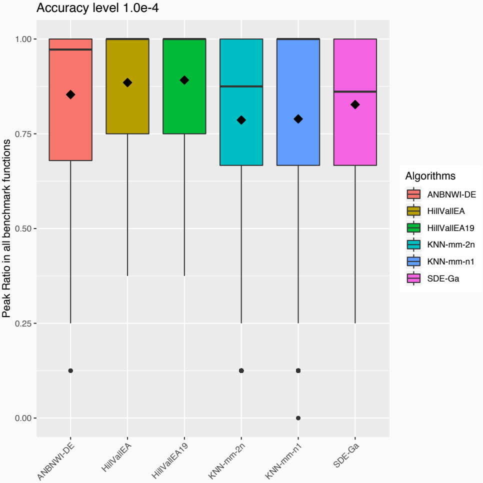
Scenario I: Accuracy level $\varepsilon = 10^{-2}$



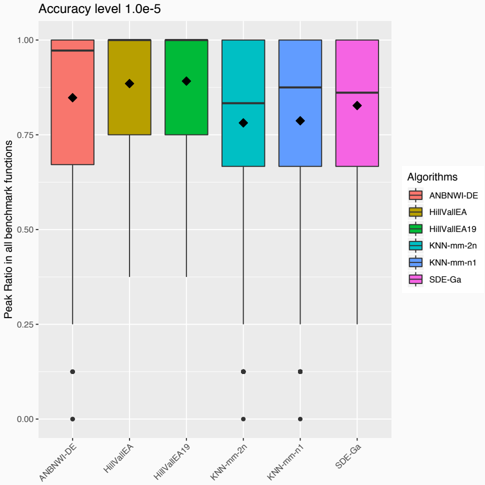
Scenario I: Accuracy level $\varepsilon = 10^{-3}$



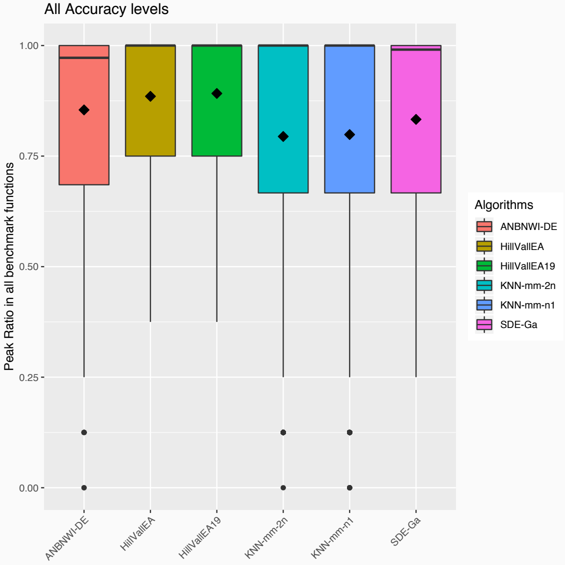
Scenario I: Accuracy level $\varepsilon = 10^{-4}$



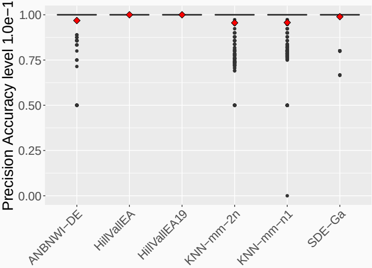
Scenario I: Accuracy level $\varepsilon = 10^{-5}$

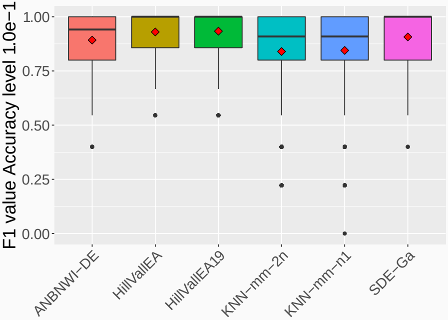


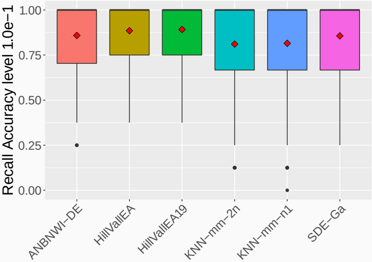
Scenario I: Overall performance



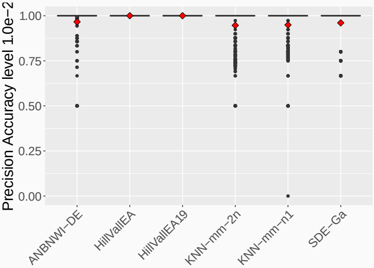
Scenario II: Accuracy level $\varepsilon = 10^{-1}$

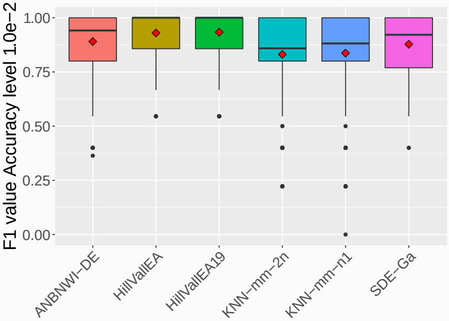


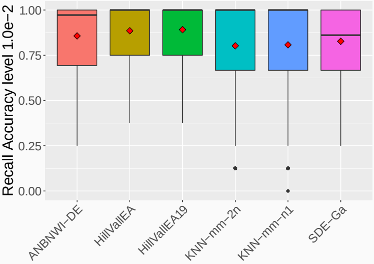




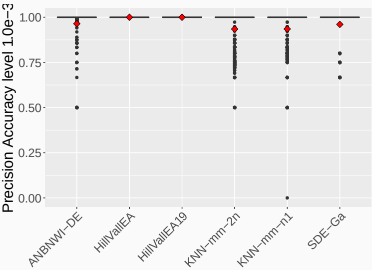
Scenario II: Accuracy level $\varepsilon = 10^{-2}$

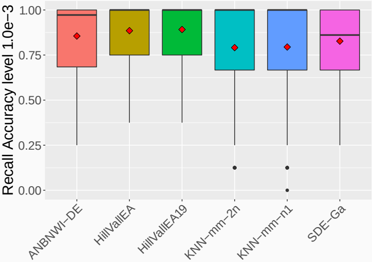


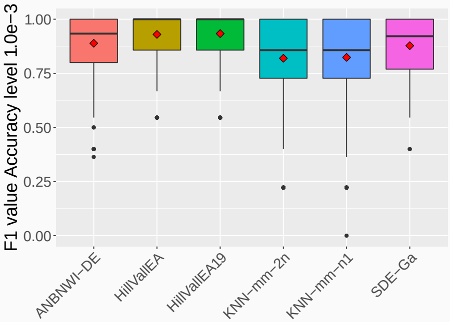




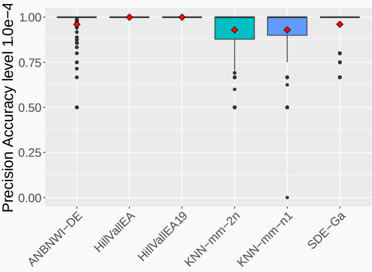
Scenario II: Accuracy level $\varepsilon = 10^{-3}$

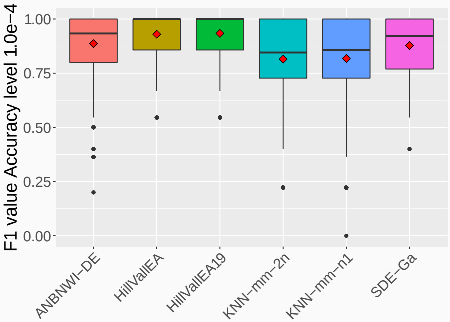


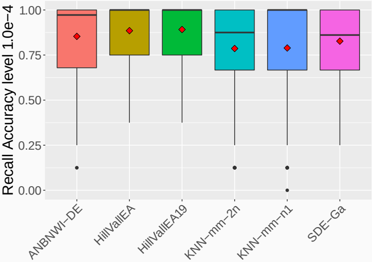




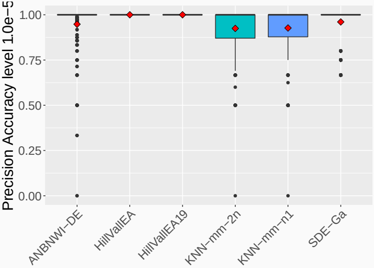
Scenario II: Accuracy level $\varepsilon = 10^{-4}$

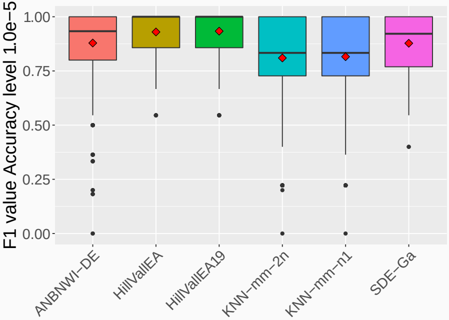


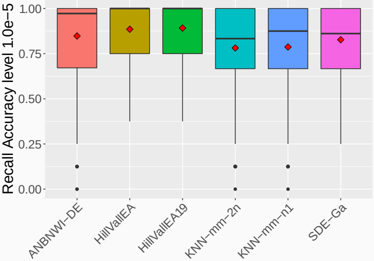




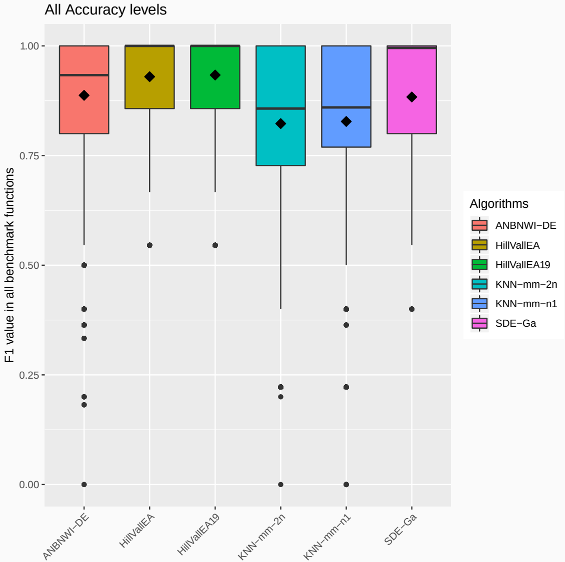
Scenario II: Accuracy level $\varepsilon = 10^{-5}$



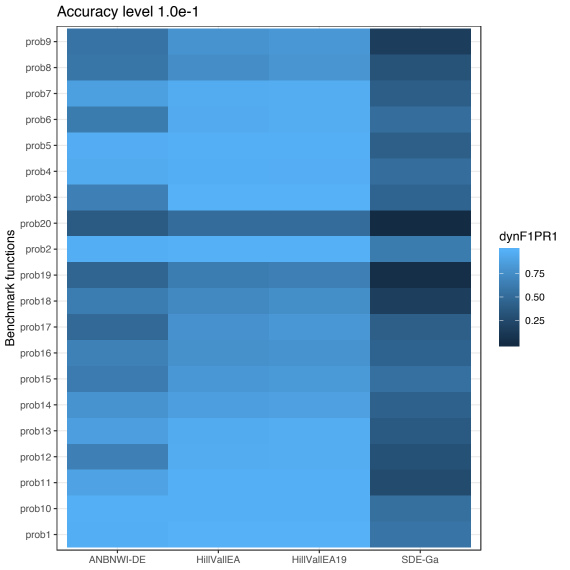




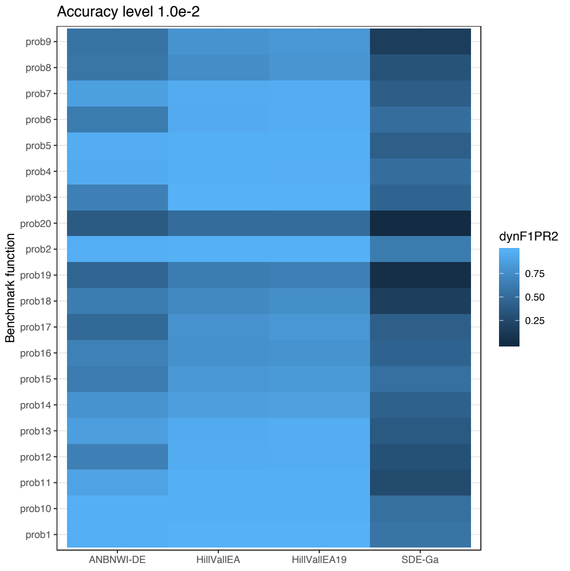
Scenario II: Overall performance



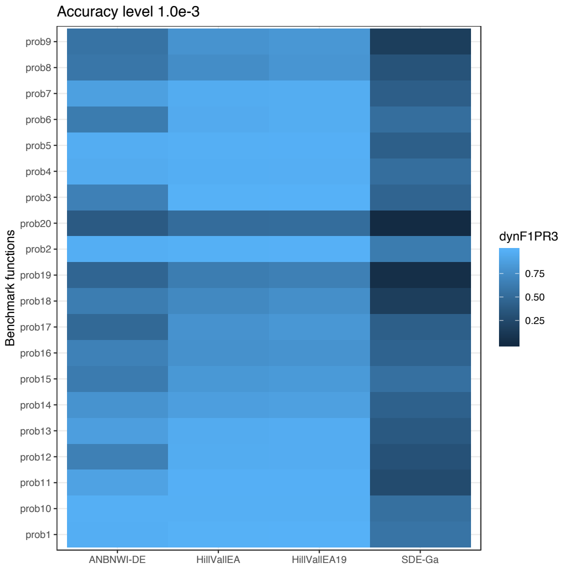
Scenario III: Accuracy level $\varepsilon = 10^{-1}$



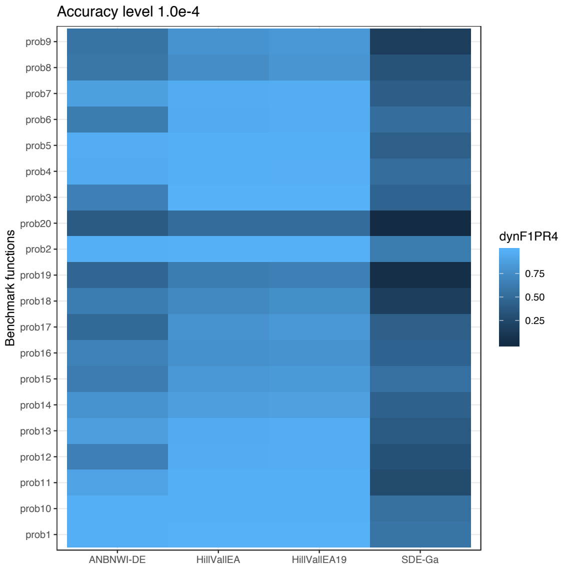
Scenario III: Accuracy level $\varepsilon = 10^{-2}$



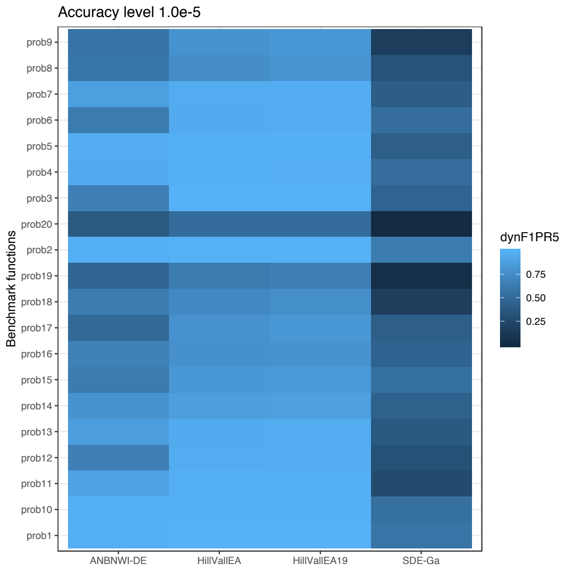
Scenario III: Accuracy level $\varepsilon = 10^{-3}$



Scenario III: Accuracy level $\varepsilon = 10^{-4}$



Scenario III: Accuracy level $\varepsilon = 10^{-5}$



Overall performance

Average metric values across all accuracy levels

Algorithm	Sc.I	Rank	Sc.II	Rank	Sc.III	Rank	Mean Rank	Final Rank
ANBNWI-DE	0.8544251	3	0.8872559	3	0.7268581	3	3	3
HillVallEA	0.8851358	2	0.9297674	2	0.8689697	2	2	2
HillVallEA19	**0.8916219**	**1**	**0.9335203**	**1**	**0.8827127**	**1**	**1**	**1**
KNN-MM-2N	0.7943350	6	0.8228401	6	NA	–	–	–
KNN-MM-N1	0.7986617	5	0.8277033	5	NA	–	–	–
SDE-Ga	0.8329861	4	0.8835081	4	0.3764606	4	4	4

Winners

Winners

Overall ranking on all scenarios

1. (**Winner HillVallEA19**): S.C. Maree, T. Alderliesten, and P.A.N. Bosman, Amsterdam UMC, and Centrum Wiskunde & Informatica, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
2. (**ANBNWI-DE**): Jun-ichi Kushida, Hiroshima City University, Japan
3. (**KNN-MM-N1**): Jonathan Fieldsend, Exeter University, UK
4. (**KNN-MM-2N**): Jonathan Fieldsend, Exeter University, UK

Note: The algorithms have not been fine-tuned for the specific benchmark suite!

Summary

Conclusions

- The competition provides a boost to the multi-modal optimization community
- New competitive and very promising approaches in new performance scenarios

Future Work

Possible objectives:

- Re-organize the competitions in future
- Enhance the benchmark function set
- Introduce new performance measures and automated analyses
- Boost multi-modal optimization community
- Closer links to Quality Diversity community

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