



A knowledge-driven monarch butterfly optimization algorithm with self-learning mechanism

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Abstract

The Monarch Butterfly Optimization (MBO) algorithm has been proved to be an efficient meta-heuristic to directly address continuous optimization problems. In the MBO algorithm, the migration operator cooperates with the butterfly adjusting operator to generate the entire offspring population. Since the individual iterations of the MBO algorithm are not self-learning, the cooperative intelligence mechanism is a random process. In this study, an improved MBO algorithm with a knowledge-driven learning mechanism (KDLMBO) is presented to enable the algorithm to evolve effectively with a self-learning capacity. The neighborhood information extracted from the candidate solutions is treated as the prior knowledge of the KDLMBO algorithm. The learning mechanism consists of the learning migration operator and the learning butterfly adjusting operator. Then, the self-learning collective intelligence is realized by the two cooperative operators in the iterative process of the algorithm. The experimental results demonstrate and validate the efficiency and significance of the proposed KDLMBO algorithm.

Keywords Continuous optimization problem · Monarch butterfly optimization · Knowledge-driven · Self-learning mechanism

1 Introduction

Various real-world applications are transformed into continuous optimization problems. These optimization problems become complex with the aggrandizing of the problem scales and are challenging to be addressed by the traditional optimization algorithms [1, 2]. The current research focuses on feasible and efficient optimization algorithms for addressing complicated continuous optimization problems [3, 4]

Generally, a continuous optimization problem is defined as $\min f(x)$, $x = [x_1, x_2, \dots, x_D]$, where the objective is to determine the maximal or minimum value of $f(x)$ [5]. Various optimization algorithms and the disparate mechanisms of meta-heuristics have been presented and utilized for addressing complicated continuous optimization problems [6, 7]. The Swarm Intelligence (SI) optimization algorithms are feasible and efficient methods to address complicated continuous optimization problems. Over the past decades, the study of SI algorithms has become an arrestive research and practice area [8, 9]. Due to the collective and intelligent mechanisms, the SI provides satisfactory results for the high-dimensional complicated and variable continuous optimization problems [10–13].

In the past decades, the continuous development of SI algorithms has led to the emergence of a series of optimization algorithms. For instance, the Genetic Algorithm (GA) [14], Evolutionary Strategy (ES) [15], Evolutionary Programming (EP), and Genetic Programming (GP). Other SI algorithms imitate the social behavior of swarm animals in nature, such as Cuckoo Search (CS) Algorithm [16], Bat Algorithm (BA) [17], Ant Colony Optimization (ACO) Algorithm [18], Whale Optimization Algorithm (WOA) [19], Artificial Bee Colony (ABC) Optimization Algorithm [20], Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO) Algorithm [21–23]. In most SI algorithms, the learning mechanism is that the current individuals randomly switch the information of the neighborhood with the

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other individuals. The strategy easily leads to the deterioration of the population in the iterative process. Therefore, the learning mechanism of the individuals is significant during the iteration of the algorithm [24–26].

The Monarch Butterfly Optimization (MBO) algorithm is one of the promising swarm-based meta-heuristic algorithms inspired by the migration behaviors of monarch butterfly individuals in the northern USA and southern Canada [27, 28]. Unlike other existing SI algorithms with only one population, the MBO algorithm has two fundamental operators belonging to two different subpopulations. The migration operator (MO) and the butterfly adjusting operator (BAO) perform separately in subpopulations 1 and 2, respectively, but cooperate synergistically during the evolutionary process. The offspring individuals located in different subpopulations exchange the neighborhood information with other individuals to achieve individual migration, leading to a high-level cooperative learning mechanism in the MBO algorithm. The MO and BAO in the MBO algorithm cooperatively control the local search and global search operations, which leads to the equilibration of exploration and exploitation. However, the unique crossover of MO and BAO restricts the MBO algorithm to high-dimensional complicated and variable continuous optimization problems. Therefore, various improvements have been proposed in the last few years to improve the effectiveness of the MBO algorithm by enhancing the accuracy and increasing the convergence speed [13, 28, 29].

The information of the individual fitness was ignored in the original MBO algorithm. Therefore, a novel improvement of the MBO algorithm with a greedy mechanism and a self-adapting crossover operator (GCMBO) was proposed in [30]. In the GCMBO algorithm, the self-adapting crossover operator improved the diversity of the population during the late exploitation. The greedy mechanism was presented in the BAO to accelerate the convergence of the GCMBO algorithm. However, the performance of the GCMBO algorithm for the high-dimensional complicated continuous optimization problems was not satisfactory [31, 32]. Opposition-based learning (OBL) and random local perturbation (RLP) were introduced in the OPMBO algorithm [32]. The OBL combined the optimization algorithms with the learning mechanism at initialization. However, the performance of the learning mechanism in the OPMBO algorithm was not outstanding for high-dimensional complicated optimization problems.

The combination of the MBO algorithm with other algorithms has attracted considerable attention. Yazdani proposed the LMBO-DE that combined Differential Evolution (DE) and the MBO [33]. In the LMBO-DE, the mutation operator of DE was integrated into the MBO to enhance the exploration, and the offspring individuals obtained the neighborhood information from the differential item. However, the linearized migration operator was controlled by a random migration parameter Mn . The inseparability of the variables was easily

destroyed making the LMBO-DE algorithm fail to outperform in non-separable problems. An algorithm combined with DE and a local search mechanism based on the MBO (DE-LSMBO) was proposed by Cui, Chen, and Yin [34]. The local search strategy improved the searching capability in the late iterations. The mechanism enhanced the iterative learning of offspring individuals. Then, the DE was incorporated to equilibrate the exploration and exploitation. Ghanem and Jantan combined the well-known ABC optimization with the MBO algorithm and proposed the Hybrid ABC/MBO [35]. The algorithm was proposed to equilibrate the exploration and exploitation by increasing the diversity of the original ABC algorithm utilizing the modified operator of the MBO algorithm. Besides, the original and the enhanced MBO algorithms have also been widely utilized for various real applications [36–38].

Numerous studies have shown that the learning mechanism is a promising way to enhance collective intelligence during the iteration of the algorithm [39, 40]. To the best of the authors' knowledge, there are few reports on improving the learning mechanism of the MBO algorithm by utilizing self-learning and self-adapting procedures. In this study, an algorithm based on the MBO algorithm with a knowledge-driven learning mechanism (KDLMBO) is provided to strengthen the self-learning and self-adapting capabilities of the algorithm. In the proposed KDLMBO, the neighborhood information obtained by the offspring individuals is the prior knowledge. The iterative learning process of the offspring individuals is instructed by the prior knowledge during the search. The proposed learning mechanism of the KDLMBO algorithm is aimed at increasing the self-learning, self-adapting, and self-organizing of the MBO algorithm. The characteristics of the KDLMBO algorithm are summarized as follows:

1. A knowledge-driven learning mechanism is introduced in the KDLMBO algorithm to strengthen the self-learning and self-adapting capabilities of the MBO algorithm during the iterations.
2. A knowledge-driven dynamic decision-making mechanism is introduced into the iterative process of the KDLMBO algorithm.
3. Three basic operations The proposed KDLMBO algorithm provides a promising framework for improving the learning mechanism of the algorithms of WWO are redesigned to solve the considered problem.

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows. The original MBO algorithm is described in Section 2. The proposed KDLMBO algorithm is presented in Section 3. The experiments and performance analysis are provided in Section 4. The conclusion and future research are presented in Section 5.

2 Monarch butterfly optimization algorithm

2.1 Migration behavior of monarch butterfly

The MBO is an efficient meta-heuristic algorithm inspired by the migration behavior of monarch butterflies in southern Canada and the northern USA, from where the special butterfly population migrates to Mexico and California in the late summer/autumn every year by flying thousands of miles [27]. In the MBO algorithm, an individual monarch butterfly represents a candidate solution during the iteration of the algorithm. At the beginning of the evolutionary process, the candidate solutions are sorted by the fitness values. Then the population is divided into two parts: Subpopulation 1 in the northern USA and Subpopulation 2 in Mexico. The MO and BAO generate the offspring individuals in Subpopulations 1 and 2. The numbers of monarch butterflies in Subpopulations 1 and 2 are NP_1 and NP_2 , respectively, as given by Eqs. (1) and (2).

$$NP_1 = [p * N] \quad (1)$$

$$NP_2 = N - NP_1 \quad (2)$$

where N is the scale of the population and $p = 5/12$ is the migration ratio of Subpopulation 1 [27].

2.2 Migration operator

In Subpopulation 1, the candidate solutions are generated according to Eqs. (3) and (4) as:

$$x_{i,k}^{t+1} = \begin{cases} x_{r1,k}^t, & \text{if } r \leq p \\ x_{r2,k}^t, & \text{elsewise} \end{cases}, k \in \{1, 2, \dots, D\} \quad (3)$$

$$r = rand * peri \quad (4)$$

where t is the current generation of the algorithm, $x_{i,k}^{t+1}$ indicates the k th element of the i th solution at iteration $t + 1$, $x_{r1,k}^t$ is the k th element of the $r1$ th solution at t , $x_{r2,k}^t$ is the k th element of the $r2$ th solution at t , r is a random number based on Eq. (4), and $peri$ is set to 1 [27]. $r1$ and $r2$ are random numbers representing random individuals in Subpopulations 1 and 2, respectively.

2.3 Butterfly adjusting operator

In Subpopulation 2, the candidate solutions are generated as:

$$x_{j,k}^{t+1} = \begin{cases} x_{best,k}^t, & \text{if } rand \leq p \\ x_{r3,k}^t, & \text{elsewise} \end{cases}, k \in \{1, 2, \dots, D\} \quad (5)$$

where $x_{j,k}^{t+1}$ is the k th element of the j th solution at $t + 1$, $x_{best,k}^t$ is the k th element of the best solution of the entire population at iteration t in Subpopulation 1 and Subpopulation 2, $x_{r3,k}^t$ is

the k th element of the $r3$ th solution at t and $r3$ is a random individual drawn from Subpopulation 2. If $rand > p$ & $rand > 5/12$, the candidate solutions are further improved according to Eqs. (6, 7 and 8) as:

$$x_{j,k}^{t+1} = x_{j,k}^t + \alpha \times (d_{x_k} - 0.5), k \in \{1, 2, \dots, D\} \quad (6)$$

$$\alpha = S_{max} / t^2 \quad (7)$$

$$dx = Levy(x_j^t) \quad (8)$$

where the k th element of the j th solution at iteration $t + 1$ is updated based on Eq. (6), α is the weighting factor based on Eq. (7) and S_{max} is the maximum step size, which is a key parameter for equilibrating exploration and exploitation. At the beginning of the iteration, S_{max} is set larger than that in the late iteration. In Eq. (8), dx is the step size from the Levy flight [41].

2.4 The mechanism of the MBO algorithm

In the MBO algorithm, firstly, the candidate solutions are randomly produced at the beginning of the iterations. Secondly, the fitness values of the candidate solutions are calculated, and the solutions are sorted based on their fitness values. Thirdly, the population is divided into two subpopulations (Subpopulation 1 and Subpopulation 2). The offspring candidate solutions located in different subpopulations exchange the neighborhood information with other individuals to achieve individual migration. After each new subpopulation is generated, the two newly-generated subpopulations are combined into the offspring population. The two cooperative operators perform their duties in different subpopulations to achieve the collective evolutionary process. Finally, the best solution is outputted when the maximum number of iterations is reached. The framework of the original MBO is shown in Algorithm 1.

Algorithm 1 The framework of MBO

```

1  Begin
2  Initialize the value of t, D, N, MaxGen
3  Calculate the fitness of the candidate solutions.
4  t = 1
5  while (t < MaxGen)
6    Sort the population
7    Divide the population into Subpopulations 1 and 2
8    Generate candidate solutions in Subpopulation 1 based
      on the Migration operator
9    Generate candidate solutions in Subpopulation 2 based
      on the Butterfly adjusting operator
10   Combine the two newly-generated subpopulations
11   Evaluate the new candidate solutions
12   t = t + 1
13 end while
14 Output the best solution
15 End

```

3 Knowledge-driven learning monarch butterfly optimization

The crossover and mutation operators used in this study drawn on the idea from the variants of DE, $x_i^t + F_i * (x_{pbest}^t - x_i^t) + F_i * (x_{r1}^t - x_{r2}^t)$ is from “DE/current-to-best/1” and $x_i^t + F_i * (x_{r3}^t - x_i^t) + F_i * (x_{r4}^t - x_{r5}^t)$ is from “DE/rand/2”. In particular, “DE/rand/2” is excellent at maintaining population diversity, while “DE/current-to-best/1” is conducted to speed up population convergence. Two mutation operators are rationally combined with the learning mechanism in the whole evolution process. It can be concluded from the literature that the other operators would generate poor diversity solutions in the searching space [42]. Compared with other operators, the combination of these two operators can effectively balance the exploration and exploitation, this can be verified from the experiment.

3.1 Initialization

In the proposed KDLMO algorithm, the initial solutions of the problem are randomly scattered in a D dimensional problem space, and each candidate represents an initial solution to the problem. Then the initial population is sorted by the fitness of each candidate. Next, the population is divided into two parts Subpopulation 1 and Subpopulation 2 as the original MBO.

3.2 Mutation

3.2.1 Historical archive

In this study, the historical archive is provided in the learning migration operator to maintain the diversity of the population. The maximum size of the historical archive population A is $N*2$. In the first generation, the historical archive population A is the initial population. Then, the historical archive population A is generated as:

$$A^{t+1} = A^t \cup P_{worse}^t \quad (9)$$

where A^{t+1} is the combination of the A^t and the P_{worse}^t . The P_{worse}^t is the set of individuals that are worse than the parents in the t generation. Whenever the historical archive scale exceeds $|A|$, elements are randomly selected and deleted to store the newly inserted individuals.

3.2.2 Learning migration operator

In the KDLMO algorithm, the candidate solutions in Subpopulation 1 are generated by the learning migration operator defined as:

$$x_i^{t+1} = x_i^t + \sigma_i^t, i \in \{1, 2, \dots, NP_1\} \quad (10)$$

$$\sigma_i^1 = \begin{cases} F_i * (x_{pbest}^1 - x_i^1 + x_{r1}^1 - x_{r2}^1), & \text{if } r \leq 0.5 \\ F_i * (x_{r3}^1 - x_i^1 + x_{r4}^1 - x_{r5}^1), & \text{elsewise} \end{cases} \quad (11)$$

$$\sigma_i^t = \begin{cases} F_i * (x_{pbest}^t - x_i^t + x_{r1}^t - x_{r2}^t), & \text{if } r \leq LR_{MO} \\ F_i * (x_{r3}^t - x_i^t + x_{r4}^t - x_{r5}^t), & \text{elsewise} \end{cases} \quad (12)$$

where x_i^{t+1} and x_i^t are the i th solutions in generations $t + 1$ and t , respectively. The individual x_{pbest}^t is randomly selected from the top $N \times rand$ members in generation t . N is the number of individuals in the population. F_i is the F parameter used by individual x_i . The parameter $F \in [0, 1]$ is the mutation operator that controls the magnitude of the mutation. The individual x_{r1}^t is randomly selected from the population. The individual x_{r2}^t is randomly selected from Subpopulation 2 and x_{r3}^t is randomly selected from Subpopulation 1. The individuals x_{r4}^t and x_{r5}^t are randomly selected from Subpopulation 2. LR_{MO} is the learning rate. Eq. (11) is utilized in the first generation, while Eq. (12) is used in the following generations. The main process of the migration operator is shown in Algorithm 2.

Algorithm 2 Main process of LMO

```

1  Begin
2  for  $i = 1$  to  $NP_1$ 
3    if  $t = 1$ 
4      Generate the candidate solution based on Eq. (11)
5    Else
6      Generate the candidate solution based on Eq. (12)
7    end if
8  end for
9  End

```

3.2.3 Learning butterfly adjusting operator

In the KDLMO, the candidate solutions in Subpopulation 2 are generated by the learning butterfly adjusting operator defined as:

$$x_j^{t+1} = x_j^t + \sigma_j^t, j \in \{NP_1 + 1, NP_1 + 2, \dots, NP_1 + NP_2\} \quad (13)$$

$$\sigma_j^1 = \begin{cases} F_j * (x_{best}^1 - x_j^1 + x_{r6}^1 - x_{worst}^1), & \text{if } r \leq 0.5 \\ F_j * (x_{best}^1 - x_j^1 + x_{r7}^1 - x_{r8}^1), & \text{elsewise} \end{cases} \quad (14)$$

$$\sigma_j^t = \begin{cases} F_j * (x_{best}^t - x_j^t + x_{r6}^t - x_{worst}^t), & \text{if } r \leq LR_{BAO} \\ F_j * (x_{best}^t - x_j^t + x_{r7}^t - x_{r8}^t), & \text{elsewise} \end{cases} \quad (15)$$

where x_j^{t+1} and x_j^t are the j th solutions in generations $t + 1$ and t , respectively. The individual x_{best}^t is the best individual of the population in generation t . F_j is the F parameter used by individual x_j . The parameter $F \in [0, 1]$ is the mutation operator that controls the magnitude of mutation. The individual x_{r6}^t is randomly selected from Subpopulation 1. x_{worst}^t is the worst

individual of the population in generation t . The individuals x_{r7}^t and x_{r8}^t are randomly selected from the population and LR_{BAO} is the learning rate. The primary process of the butterfly adjusting operator is shown in Algorithm 3.

Algorithm 3 Primary process of LBAO

```

1  Begin
2  for  $j = 1$  to  $NP_2$ 
3    if  $t = 1$ 
4      Generate the candidate solution based on Eq. (14)
5    Else
6      Generate the candidate solution based on Eq. (15)
7    end if
8  end for
9  End

```

3.3 Crossover and parameter adaptation

In the KDLMO, the operators LMO and LBAO generate the candidate solutions at the mutation process. Then, the two Subpopulations are combined into an offspring candidate population. The widely used crossover operator in DE [42–44] is considered in the next iteration of the KDLMO, which is defined by Eq. (16) as:

$$x_{i,k}^{t+1} = \begin{cases} x_{i,k}^{t+1}, & \text{if } rand \leq CR \text{ or } k = k_{rand} \\ x_{i,k}^t, & \text{elsewise} \end{cases} \quad (16)$$

$i \in \{1, 2, \dots, N\}$

where $x_{i,k}^{t+1}$ and $x_{i,k}^t$ are the k th elements of the i th solutions in generations $t + 1$ and t , respectively, k_{rand} is an index number randomly selected from $[1, D]$ and CR is the crossover rate.

In this study, the mutation operator F and the crossover rate CR are generated according to Eqs. (17) and (18), respectively, as:

$$CR_i = randn_i(\mu_{CR}, 0.1) \quad (17)$$

$$F_i = randc_i(\mu_F, 0.1) \quad (18)$$

where $randn_i(\mu, \delta^2)$ is randomly selected from normal distributions with mean μ and variance δ^2 , $randc_i(\mu, \delta^2)$ is randomly selected from Cauchy distributions with mean μ and variance δ^2 , $CR_i \in [0, 1]$ and $F_i \in [0, 1]$. At the first iteration, both μ_{CR} and μ_F are set to 0.5 and generated according to Eqs. (19) and (20), respectively, as:

$$\mu_{CR} = 0.9 * \mu_{CR} + 0.1 * mean_{WA}(S_{CR}) \quad (19)$$

$$\mu_F = 0.9 * \mu_F + 0.1 * mean_L(S_F) \quad (20)$$

where S_{CR} is the combination of the successful CR_i in which the offspring individual is preminent and S_F is the combination of the successful F_i in which the offspring individual is superior while $mean_L(*)$ and $mean_A(*)$ are Lehmer mean and weighted mean, respectively, defined as in Eqs. (21, 22 and 23).

$$mean_{WA}(S_{CR}) = \sum_{i=1}^{|S_{CR}|} w_i * S_{CR,i} \quad (21)$$

$$w_i = \frac{|f(x_i^{t+1}) - f(x_i^t)|}{\sum_{i=1}^{|S_{CR}|} |f(x_i^{t+1}) - f(x_i^t)|} \quad (22)$$

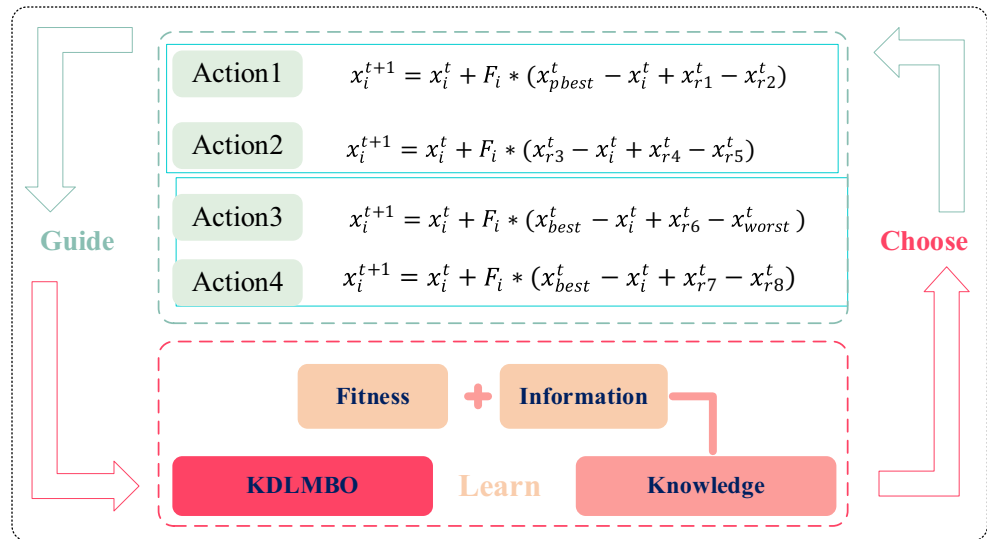
$$mean_L(S_F) = \frac{\sum_{F \in S_F} F^2}{\sum_{F \in S_F} F} \quad (23)$$

3.4 Learning mechanism

To strengthen the learning capacity of the algorithm on continuous optimization problems, the learning mechanism is provided in the KDLMO algorithm. At iteration t , the prior knowledge of the algorithm involves the fitness of the functional problems and the information obtained from the neighborhood of the candidate solutions. The offspring individuals based on the fitness learn the neighborhood information in different phases of the iteration by choosing different actions. The neighborhood information is represented as four kinds of actions. Action 1 is efficient in the LMO compared with Action 2 in the early iteration of the algorithm to improve the convergence rate. Furthermore, in the late iterations, Action 2 makes Subpopulation 1 avoid the local optimal. Action 3 is useful in the LBAO compared with Action 4 in the early iteration to approach the best solution and escape the worst solution. In the late iterations, Action 4 also makes it difficult for Subpopulation 2 to trap into the local optimal. The four actions worked in different stages of the iteration to message the offspring. Collective intelligence is realized by the aforementioned mechanisms. Thus, there is no clear distinction between exploration and exploitation in the proposed algorithm. Therefore, exploration and exploitation of the algorithm are equilibrated by the cooperation of the LMO and LBAO. In general, the knowledge-driven learning mechanisms effectively increase the self-learning and self-adapting abilities of the algorithm. The strategy of collective intelligence is represented by the self-organizing learning mechanism. At the beginning of the generation, the prior knowledge of the algorithm is null. Therefore, the action is randomly selected according to Eqs. (11) and (14). The process of the learning mechanism is shown in Fig. 1.

As shown in Fig. 1, Actions 1 and 2 are the new mutation operators proposed in the LMO. The original actions in MO restrict the performance of the MBO algorithm. Action 1 is represented to accelerate the convergence of the improved algorithm. Action 2 is aimed at increasing the diversity of Subpopulation 1. Actions 3 and 4 are the novel mutation actions given in the LBAO. The original BAO destroys the inseparability of variables, making the MBO unsuited for inseparable problems. Therefore, Actions 3 and 4 are provided

Fig. 1 The general view of the learning mechanism



to avoid the inseparability of variables being destroyed. The cooperative learning mechanism equilibrates the exploration and exploitation of the proposed KDLMBO.

According to the roles of the four actions played in the proposed KDLMBO, a novel parameter named *Score*, defined as a real number, is introduced to quantitate the prior knowledge of each action. Specifically, if the fitness value of the current iteration is better than the previous iteration, the score of the current action is calculated according to Eq. (24) to indicate that the current action achieves one more acceptable evolution, otherwise, the score value remains the same. At the beginning, the initial score of each action is set to 0. Based on the score values obtained at the current iteration, the learning rates LR_{MO} and LR_{BAO} are redefined separately. When the prior knowledge of t th iteration is successfully learned, the subsequent action of $t + 1$ iteration is guided by the knowledge at t iteration, and the learning rates LR_{MO} and LR_{BAO} are defined and updated according to Eqs. (25) and (26), respectively. The primary procedure of this condition is shown in Fig. 2.

if $fitness^t < fitness^{t-1}$

$$Score_{action\ n}^t = Score_{action\ n}^{t-1} + 1 \quad (24)$$

if $Score_{action\ 1}^t$ and $Score_{action\ 2}^t \neq 0$

$$LR_{MO}^{t+1} = \frac{Score_{action\ 1}^t}{Score_{action\ 1}^t + Score_{action\ 2}^t} \quad (25)$$

if $Score_{action\ 3}^t$ and $Score_{action\ 4}^t \neq 0$

$$LR_{BAO}^{t+1} = \frac{Score_{action\ 3}^t}{Score_{action\ 3}^t + Score_{action\ 4}^t} \quad (26)$$

When the fitness value at the t th iteration fails to be updated, meaning that all the offsprings are worse than the

parents, then the action score is set to 0. Therefore, the score values from 1st iteration to $t - 1$ th iteration are considered, meaning that the prior knowledge of t th iteration comes from historical knowledge, and the action in t th iteration is guided by historical knowledge. Then the learning rates LR_{MO} and LR_{BAO} are generated by Eqs. (27) and (28), respectively. The learning mechanism in this second condition is shown in Fig. 3.

if $Score_{action\ 1}^t$ or $Score_{action\ 2}^t = 0$

$$LR_{MO}^{t+1} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^t Score_{action\ 1}^i}{\sum_{i=1}^t Score_{action\ 1}^i + \sum_{i=1}^t Score_{action\ 2}^i} \quad (27)$$

if $Score_{action\ 3}^t$ or $Score_{action\ 4}^t = 0$

$$LR_{BAO}^{t+1} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^t Score_{action\ 3}^i}{\sum_{i=1}^t Score_{action\ 3}^i + \sum_{i=1}^t Score_{action\ 4}^i} \quad (28)$$

3.5 Learning mechanism

The framework of the proposed KDLMBO is shown in Algorithm 4. Firstly, similar to the original MBO, the candidate solutions in the KDLMBO are randomly produced at the beginning of the iterations. Then, the fitness values of the candidate solutions are calculated, and the solutions are sorted based on their fitness values. After that, the entire population is divided into Subpopulations 1 and 2. Subpopulations 1 and 2 are evolved by Algorithms 2 and 3, respectively. After each new subpopulation is generated, the two newly-generated subpopulations are combined into the offspring population. The two cooperative operators perform their duties in different subpopulations to

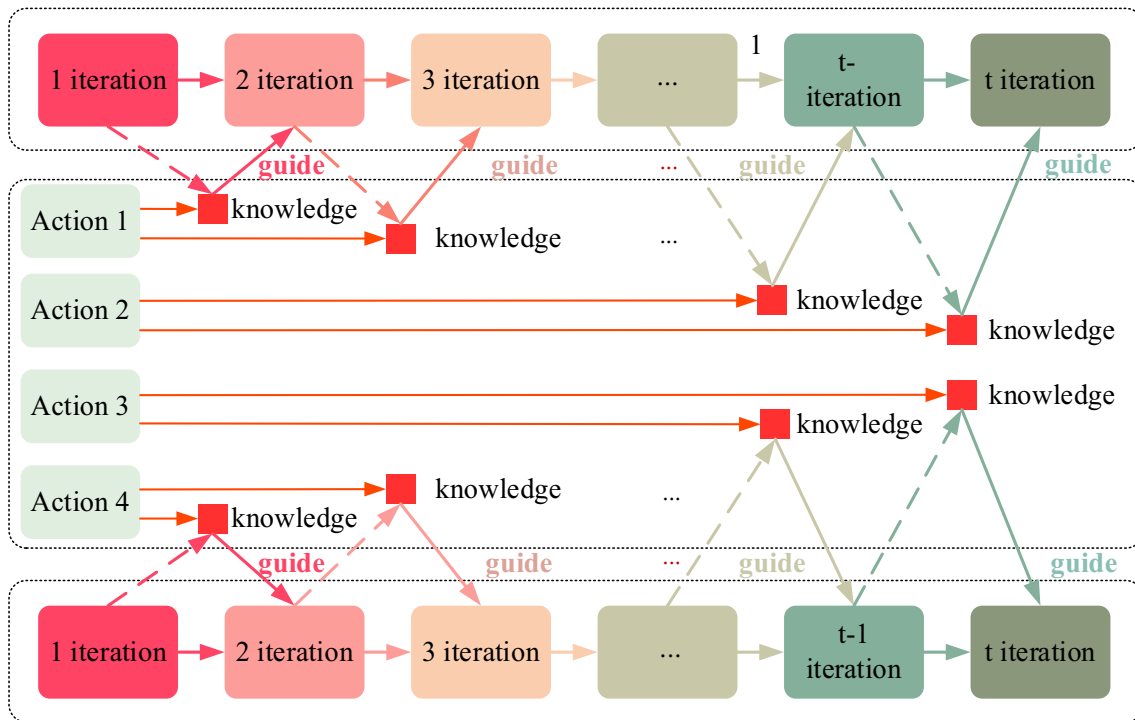


Fig. 2 The process of the learning mechanism in the first condition

achieve the collective evolutionary process. These solutions are operated by crossover after the combination. Finally, the best solution is outputted when the number

of maximum iterations is reached. Furthermore, the flow-chart of KDLMO is shown in Fig. 4, we can clearly learn that how the LMO and LBAO work cooperatively.

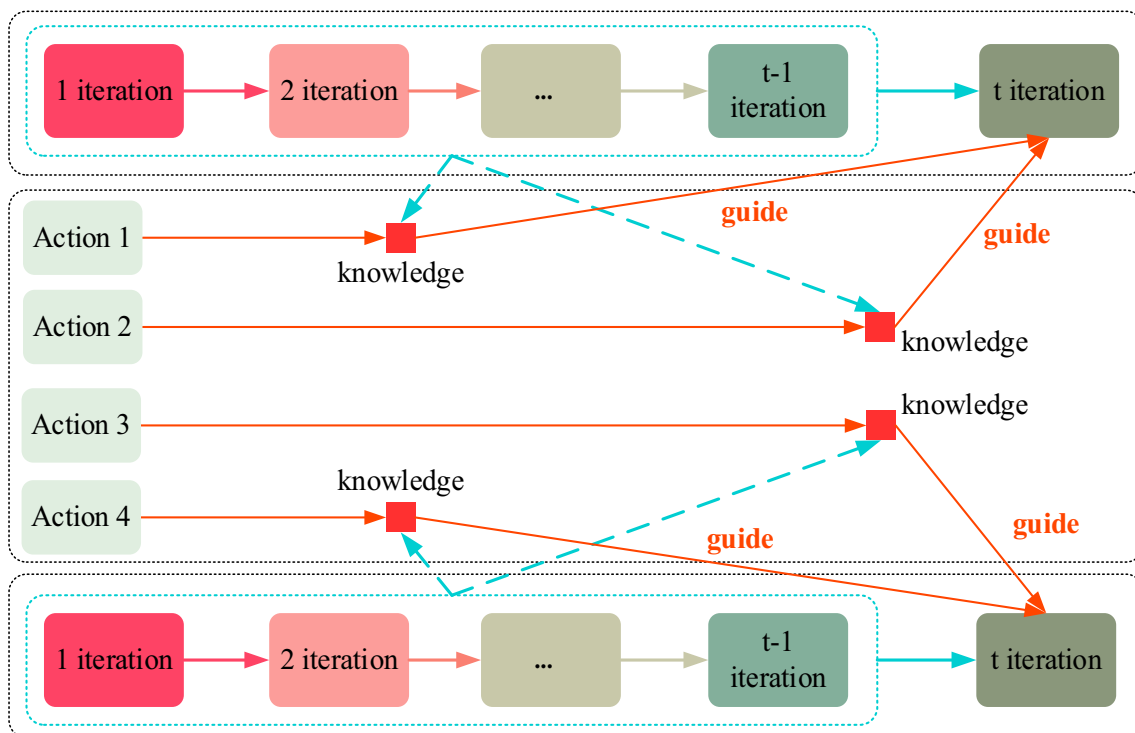
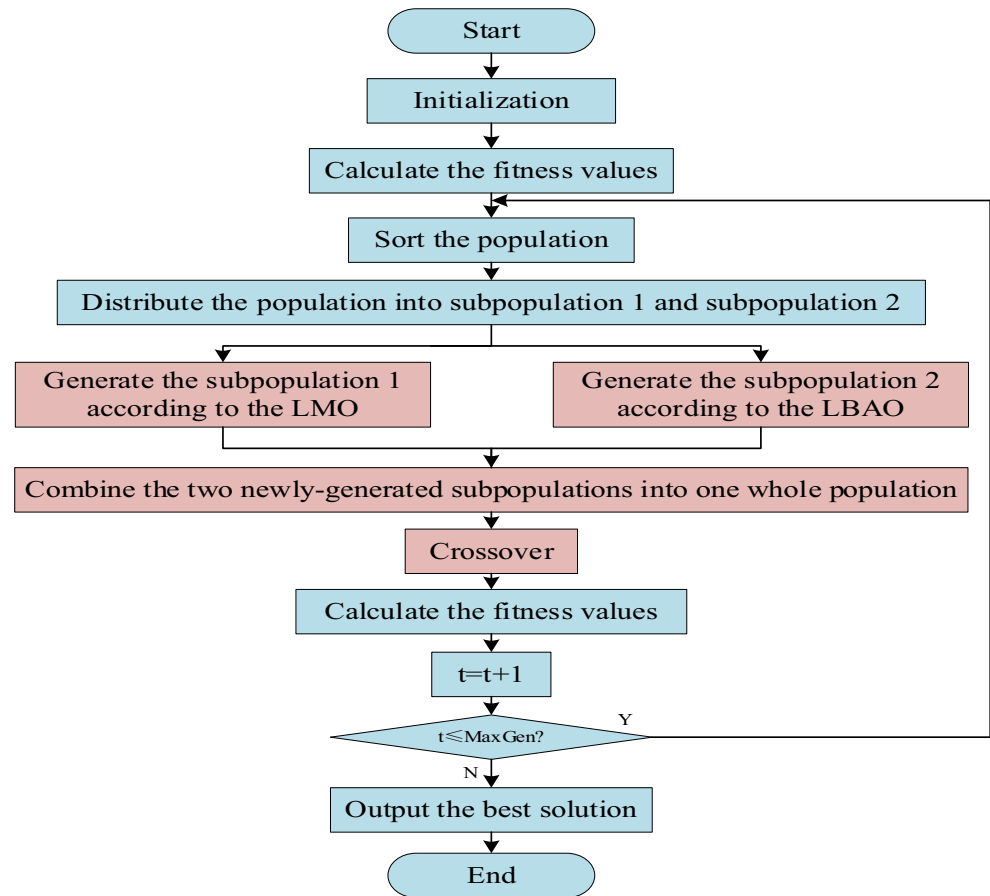


Fig. 3 The framework of the learning mechanism in the second condition

Fig. 4 Flowchart of the proposed KDLMBO algorithm



Algorithm 4 The framework of the proposed KDLMBO

```

1  Begin
2  Initialize the values of  $t$ ,  $D$ ,  $N$ ,  $MaxGen$ ,  $F$ ,  $CR$ 
3  Calculate the fitness of each candidate solution.
4   $t = 1$ 
5  while ( $t < MaxGen$ )
6    Sort the population
7    Divide the population into Subpopulation 1 and Subpopulation 2
8    Generate candidate solutions in Subpopulation 1 based on
      Algorithm 2
9    Generate candidate solutions in Subpopulation 2 based on
      Algorithm 3
10   Combine the two newly-generated subpopulations
11   Crossover
12   Evaluate the new candidate solutions
13    $t = t + 1$ 
14 end while
15 Output the best solution
16 End
  
```

3.6 The computational complexity of KDLMBO

This section analyzes the computational complexity of the proposed KDLMBO algorithm. N is the number of individuals in the population, while $NP1$ and $NP2$ represent the numbers of individuals in Subpopulations 1 and 2, respectively. In the KDLMBO, the complexity of fitness evaluation is $O(N)$ and the complexity of sorting the population is

$O(N \log(N))$. With respect to the generation of candidate solutions, the complexities in Subpopulations 1 and 2 are $O(NP1)$ and $O(NP2)$, respectively. Lastly, the complexity of crossover is roughly $O(N)$. As a result, under the condition of $MaxGen$ iterations, the overall complexity of the KDLMBO algorithm is $O(MaxGen * N \log(N))$.

4 Experimental results and analysis

4.1 Initialization

To validate the performance of the proposed KDLMBO algorithm, it was compared with the standard MBO [26], the variant of MBO GCMBO [28] and some state-of-the-art algorithms including BBO [45], IWO [46], Jaya [47], CMA-ES [48], LMBO-DE [33], and the reinforcement learning brain storm optimization algorithm (RLBSO) [49] on the 29 test functions of the CEC-2017 benchmark.

The 29 test functions of the CEC-2017 benchmark involve unimodal functions $f_1 - f_3$, multimodal functions $f_4 - f_{10}$, hybrid functions $f_{11} - f_{20}$ and composition functions $f_{21} - f_{30}$. The maximum fitness of the function evaluations was set to $D \times 10,000$. The baseline algorithms were carefully re-

implemented in MATLAB and run on a PC with a 2.60 GHz Intel(R)-Core i7-9750H CPU, 16 GB of RAM and 64-bit OS. All algorithms were run independently 51 times to ensure the reliability of the experimental results.

4.2 Parameters analysis

In this study, the parameters of the mutation are self-learning. In the crossover, the parameters are self-adapting at the iteration except the beginning of the iteration. Therefore, the number of individuals in the population N , the mutation operator F , and the crossover operator CR were selected to analyze the effect of the parameters in the KDLMO. There were three levels of the different combinations of the parameters including large, medium and small scales as shown in Table 1. Thus, the orthogonal design of the parameters was necessary. The experimental results depended on the three factors, and each factor had three levels. Hence, there were 9 test combinations. The orthogonal array of the parameters is listed in Table 2. The experimental results at $10D$ and $30D$ of the 9 test combinations are shown in Table 2. All the results of the combinations were followed by the Monte Carlo rule. The AVE and TAVE show the performance of each combination.

Table 3 lists the importance of each parameter calculated according to the TAVE in Table 2. The main effect diagram of parameters is shown in Fig. 5. F was the most significant parameter among the three parameters. The second was CR . The two parameters controlled the range of variation of the elements for the candidate solutions. The diversity of the population was ensured by the selection mechanism of the number of candidates. According to Table 3 and Fig. 5, the selected parameters of the KDLMO algorithm were set as followed. $N=16 \times D$, $F=0.3$, $CR=0.5$.

4.3 Effect analysis of LMO and LBAO

The two main operators of the proposed KDLMO are first analyzed for convergence performance on four types of functions from CEC-2017. These functions include the unimodal function f_1 , the multimodal function f_4 , the hybrid function f_{14} and the composition function f_{26} . It can be seen from Figs. 6, 7, 8 and 9 that the LMO improves the convergence speed of the algorithm and the LBAO enhances the precision of the solution. In addition, the LBAO can make Subpopulation 2 jump out of the local regions in the later iterations, which can

Table 1 The combinations of parameters

Levels	N	F	CR
1	$8 \times D$	0.3	0.3
2	$12 \times D$	0.5	0.5
3	$16 \times D$	0.2	0.2

Table 2 The orthogonal array of parameters

NO.	Parameters Levels			AVE		TAVE
	N	F	CR	10 D	30 D	
1	1	1	1	1.03E+02	4.77E+02	2.90E+02
2	1	2	2	1.16E+02	5.65E+02	3.40E+02
3	1	3	3	1.16E+02	1.56E+03	8.36E+02
4	2	1	2	1.06E+02	6.62E+02	3.84E+02
5	2	2	3	1.08E+02	1.21E+03	6.61E+02
6	2	3	1	1.11E+02	8.93E+02	5.02E+02
7	3	1	3	1.12E+02	5.41E+02	3.26E+02
8	3	2	1	1.10E+02	5.95E+02	3.53E+02
9	3	3	2	1.14E+02	6.62E+02	3.88E+02

ensure that the algorithm could find the best in the later iterations. Meanwhile, the experimental results from the proposed KDLMO with LMO and LBAO algorithms in $D = 10, 30, 50$, and 100 dimensions are analyzed. The experimental results demonstrate that the two proposed operators cooperated and played complementary roles in improving the performance of the algorithm.

4.4 Results and analysis

In this experiment, the KDLMO and the eight baselines algorithms were independently run 51 times on the selected benchmarks. The mean values with dimensions $D = 10, 30, 50$, and 100 are shown in Tables 4, 5, 6 and 7, respectively, where the mean values smaller than $1e-8$ are taken as zero and the text of the minimum value in the experimental results is set to bold. It can be seen from the tables that the proposed KDLMO outperforms the other eight baselines on the majority of the test benchmarks except the f_{21} and f_{30} when the dimension $D = 10$. With the increase of the search dimension, some of the baseline algorithms achieve better results than the proposed KDLMO. However, the KDLMO always returns the best solutions on most of the multimodal and hybrid functions when the dimensions are $D = 30, 50$, and 100 .

Table 3 The importance of parameters

Levels	N	F	CR
1	4.89E+02	3.33E+02	3.82E+02
2	5.16E+02	4.51E+02	3.71E+02
3	3.56E+02	5.75E+02	6.08E+02
Delta	1.60E+02	2.42E+02	2.37E+02
Rank	3	1	2

Fig. 5 The main effect diagram of three parameters

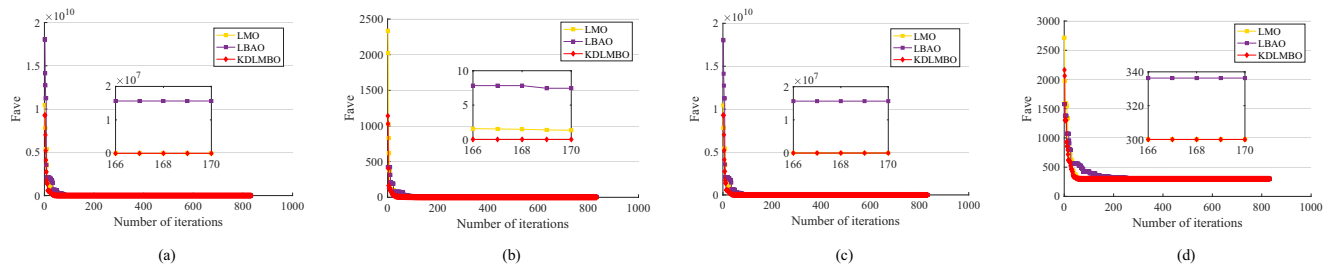
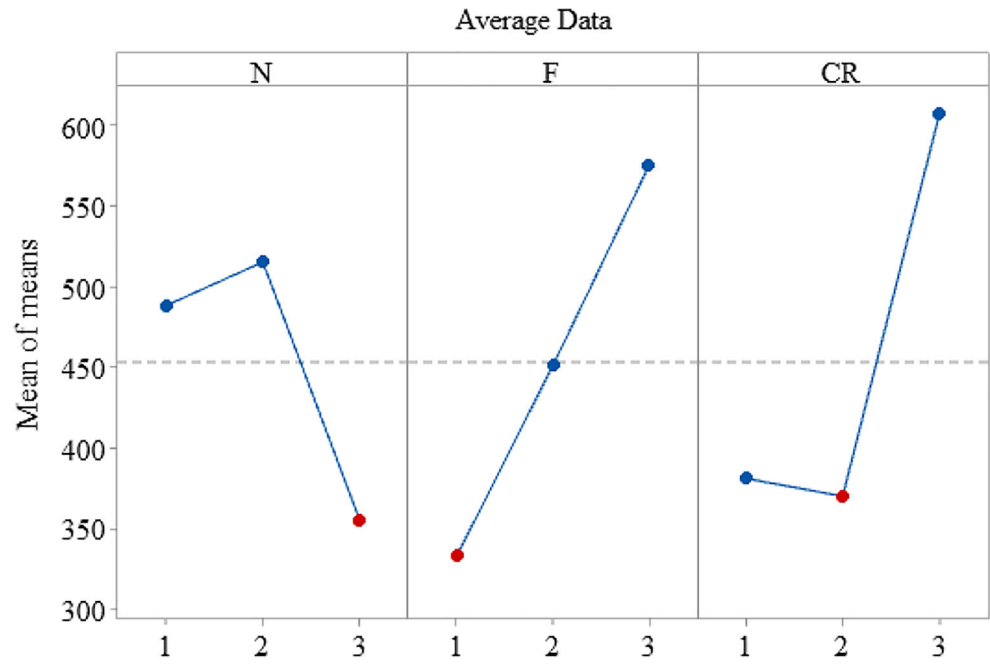


Fig. 6 The convergence curves of four functions from CEC-2017 with $D = 10$. **a** The convergence of f_1 with $D = 10$, **b** The convergence of f_4 with $D = 10$, **c** The convergence of f_{14} with $D = 10$, **d** The convergence of f_{26} with $D = 10$

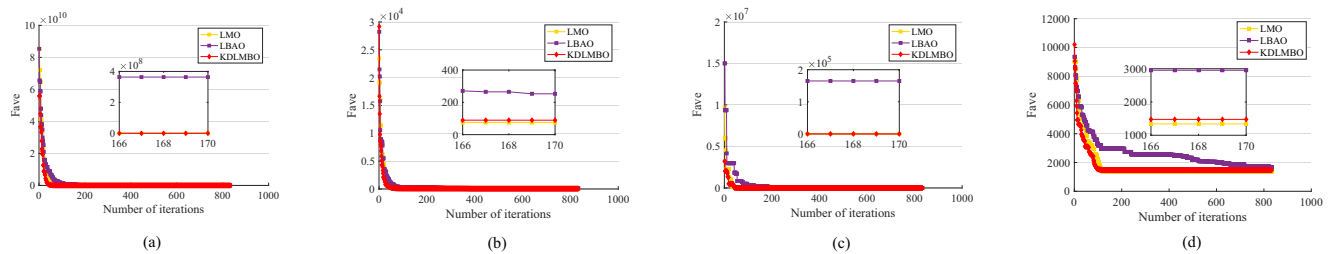


Fig. 7 The convergence curves of four functions from CEC-2017 with $D = 30$. **a** The convergence of f_1 with $D = 30$, **b** The convergence of f_4 with $D = 30$, **c** The convergence of f_{14} with $D = 30$, **d** The convergence of f_{26} with $D = 30$

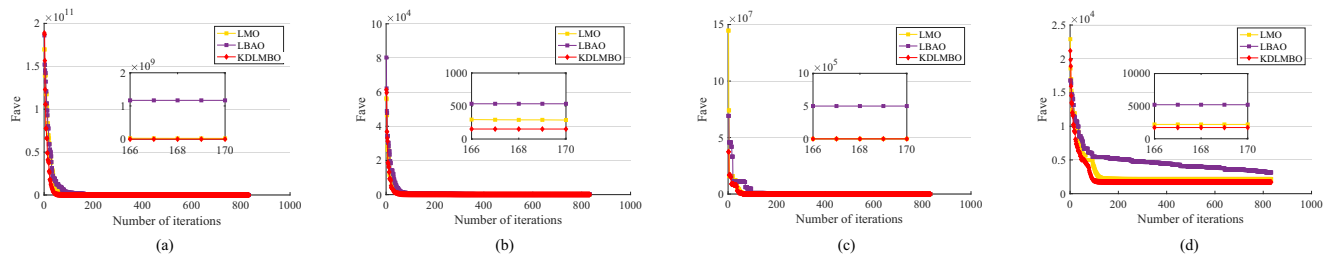


Fig. 8 The convergence curves of four functions from CEC-2017 with $D = 50$. **a** The convergence of f_1 with $D = 50$, **b** The convergence of f_4 with $D = 50$, **c** The convergence of f_{14} with $D = 50$, **d** The convergence of f_{26} with $D = 50$

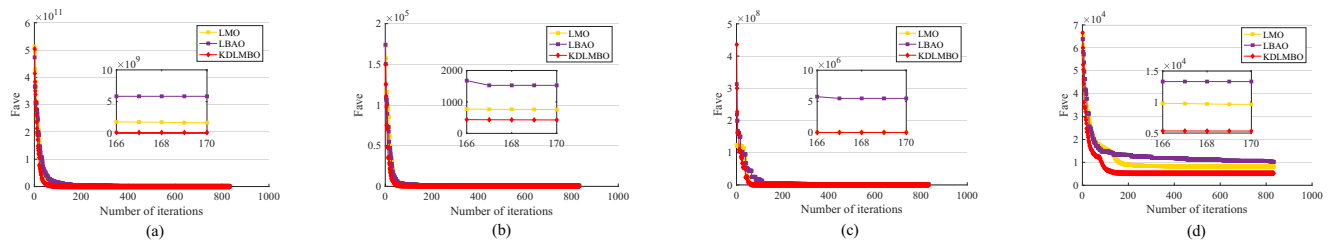


Fig. 9 The convergence curves of four functions from CEC-2017 with $D = 100$. **a** The convergence of f_1 with $D = 100$, **b** The convergence of f_4 with $D = 100$, **c** The convergence of f_{14} with $D = 100$, **d** The convergence of f_{26} with $D = 100$

4.4.1 Visual analysis

For a clear comparison, the visualization of the experimental results is shown in Fig. 10. The horizontal axis labels the number of the test functions. The vertical axis represents the normalized mean values. To clearly show the gaps in the

performance, the mean values in Tables 4, 5, 6 and 7 were normalized by Eq. (29):

$$\text{Normalized Value} = \log_{10}(\text{Mean}) \quad (29)$$

where Mean is the data in Tables 4, 5, 6 and 7. It can be seen from Fig. 10 that most of the curves of the proposed

Table 4 The results on the benchmarks when $D = 10$

Func	MBO	GCMBO	BBO	IWO	Jaya	CMA-ES	LMODE	RLBSO	KDLMBO
1	5.93E+05	3.29E+03	3.61E+04	3.25E+03	1.36E+08	0.00E+00	5.71E+03	6.55E-14	0.00E+00
3	1.43E+04	4.87E+01	4.50E+03	3.28E-06	1.35E+03	5.55E+04	0.00E+00	3.34E-15	0.00E+00
4	2.47E+01	5.40E+00	8.94E+00	5.01E-02	8.30E+00	2.26E+03	5.47E-01	3.13E-01	0.00E+00
5	2.14E+01	1.19E+01	8.08E+00	9.38E+01	3.69E+01	2.62E+02	9.75E+00	9.31E+00	6.62E+00
6	6.73E-01	3.93E-04	1.25E-01	2.93E+01	5.19E+00	8.34E+01	1.44E-06	1.66E-03	1.42E-06
7	3.66E+01	2.10E+01	2.26E+01	1.86E+01	4.94E+01	4.10E+02	1.88E+01	1.93E+01	1.61E+01
8	2.18E+01	1.18E+01	1.04E+01	6.86E+01	3.65E+01	1.69E+02	8.39E+00	8.80E+00	6.75E+00
9	7.33E+01	7.56E-07	1.27E+00	8.26E+02	9.32E+00	3.17E+03	1.76E-03	0.00E+00	0.00E+00
10	6.92E+02	5.52E+02	3.20E+02	1.06E+03	9.48E+02	1.76E+03	4.06E+02	5.63E+02	1.37E+02
11	1.58E+02	9.58E+00	9.60E+00	7.00E+01	4.69E+01	6.54E+03	8.74E+00	2.73E+00	2.07E+00
12	6.55E+05	2.99E+05	1.43E+06	1.37E+04	2.87E+06	2.36E+08	1.72E+04	1.63E+02	1.19E+02
13	1.22E+04	8.04E+03	1.02E+04	1.24E+04	8.25E+03	3.79E+08	1.55E+02	7.41E+00	5.21E+00
14	7.47E+03	2.32E+03	7.26E+03	1.97E+02	8.42E+01	6.47E+04	8.66E+01	1.73E+01	2.77E+00
15	7.35E+03	3.94E+03	6.97E+03	1.34E+03	3.82E+02	6.87E+04	4.61E+01	1.91E+00	9.86E-01
16	1.76E+02	7.50E+01	1.80E+02	4.43E+02	6.70E+01	5.98E+02	5.53E+01	7.99E+01	6.25E-01
17	6.93E+01	3.78E+01	4.49E+01	2.97E+02	7.22E+01	8.91E+02	3.69E+01	1.53E+01	1.28E+00
18	1.45E+04	2.17E+04	9.15E+03	1.21E+04	3.85E+04	1.16E+09	4.82E+03	1.69E+01	1.02E+00
19	9.83E+03	7.68E+03	8.85E+03	6.90E+02	9.56E+02	8.63E+07	4.84E+01	1.09E+00	1.07E-01
20	5.61E+01	1.77E+01	6.36E+00	2.50E+02	5.44E+01	1.16E+03	2.70E+01	2.97E+01	5.63E-02
21	2.13E+02	1.58E+02	2.02E+02	2.54E+02	2.35E+02	4.78E+02	1.71E+02	1.09E+02	1.72E+02
22	1.04E+02	9.30E+01	1.03E+02	6.12E+02	1.10E+02	2.55E+03	9.75E+01	1.78E+02	9.17E+01
23	3.29E+02	3.16E+02	3.16E+02	4.58E+02	3.42E+02	1.81E+03	3.14E+02	3.13E+02	3.07E+02
24	3.60E+02	3.33E+02	3.36E+02	4.00E+02	3.63E+02	6.03E+02	3.20E+02	3.45E+02	3.01E+02
25	4.40E+02	4.30E+02	4.31E+02	4.11E+02	4.48E+02	7.97E+02	4.19E+02	4.20E+02	4.16E+02
26	4.67E+02	3.24E+02	4.24E+02	1.36E+03	5.35E+02	2.40E+03	3.23E+02	3.50E+02	3.00E+02
27	4.12E+02	4.46E+02	3.99E+02	4.75E+02	3.97E+02	1.70E+03	4.33E+02	3.80E+02	3.95E+02
28	4.84E+02	4.76E+02	5.30E+02	4.81E+02	5.82E+02	5.00E+02	4.92E+02	4.64E+02	3.17E+02
29	3.24E+02	2.95E+02	2.80E+02	5.10E+02	2.85E+02	3.02E+04	2.85E+02	2.55E+02	2.44E+02
30	1.06E+04	7.20E+02	5.81E+05	3.81E+05	2.24E+05	2.84E+08	2.88E+02	2.08E+02	4.51E+02

Table 5 The results on the benchmarks when $D = 30$

Func	MBO	GCMBO	BBO	IWO	Jaya	CMA-ES	LMBO	RLBO	KDLMO
1	2.28E+08	3.23E+03	1.37E+05	4.55E+03	6.40E+09	0.00E+00	4.16E+03	1.63E-05	0.00E+00
3	2.88E+07	3.38E+04	7.43E+04	7.76E-05	5.24E+04	4.10E+05	1.38E-06	3.35E+03	0.00E+00
4	9.85E+01	7.91E+01	9.85E+01	6.92E+01	2.83E+02	1.69E+04	2.16E+01	2.44E+01	2.09E+01
5	1.37E+02	5.44E+01	5.71E+01	3.11E+02	2.31E+02	5.71E+02	4.72E+01	5.63E+01	3.41E+01
6	8.24E+00	2.74E-02	1.37E-01	5.50E+01	2.26E+01	9.05E+01	8.36E-04	1.16E-01	1.32E-01
7	2.09E+02	8.83E+01	1.09E+02	7.69E+01	3.45E+02	3.39E+03	7.70E+01	8.30E+01	5.91E+01
8	1.36E+02	5.52E+01	6.05E+01	2.83E+02	2.41E+02	6.06E+02	3.98E+01	5.33E+01	3.36E+01
9	3.56E+03	2.02E+02	3.36E+02	8.04E+03	3.02E+03	1.95E+04	6.90E+01	1.32E+01	4.65E+00
10	3.32E+03	2.74E+03	2.22E+03	3.12E+03	6.86E+03	7.79E+03	2.62E+03	2.97E+03	3.35E+03
11	3.29E+03	9.52E+01	2.16E+03	1.73E+02	8.03E+02	4.05E+03	9.26E+01	2.18E+01	7.20E+01
12	7.35E+06	2.91E+06	3.09E+06	8.78E+05	7.34E+07	1.25E+09	7.59E+04	3.05E+04	6.35E+03
13	1.66E+06	7.82E+04	5.14E+04	1.18E+05	8.52E+06	7.29E+08	1.75E+04	2.20E+02	1.10E+02
14	4.12E+05	9.22E+04	1.84E+06	2.80E+03	8.57E+04	4.93E+06	7.54E+02	4.50E+01	5.56E+01
15	2.40E+05	1.70E+04	2.82E+04	8.04E+04	4.38E+06	5.22E+05	2.20E+04	7.30E+01	7.51E+01
16	1.14E+03	8.17E+02	1.16E+03	1.08E+03	1.62E+03	4.19E+03	5.37E+02	9.17E+02	5.18E+02
17	6.80E+02	3.60E+02	4.85E+02	8.35E+02	5.76E+02	6.51E+02	2.68E+02	4.33E+02	1.15E+02
18	2.73E+06	1.12E+06	2.44E+06	8.73E+04	1.81E+06	2.74E+08	3.42E+04	9.50E+03	5.91E+01
19	1.12E+05	1.23E+04	2.16E+04	7.80E+04	4.40E+05	1.09E+09	9.65E+03	1.59E+01	5.06E+01
20	6.13E+02	3.95E+02	4.99E+02	8.77E+02	6.12E+02	2.58E+03	2.01E+02	4.43E+02	1.69E+02
21	3.19E+02	2.60E+02	2.69E+02	4.86E+02	4.21E+02	1.06E+03	2.48E+02	2.59E+02	2.34E+02
22	3.63E+03	1.78E+03	1.98E+03	3.66E+03	6.23E+03	9.99E+03	1.05E+03	3.38E+03	1.00E+02
23	5.19E+02	4.22E+02	4.22E+02	7.90E+02	6.02E+02	1.62E+03	4.19E+02	4.12E+02	3.86E+02
24	6.05E+02	4.99E+02	4.96E+02	7.63E+02	6.65E+02	2.63E+03	5.05E+02	4.83E+02	4.52E+02
25	4.08E+02	3.87E+02	3.93E+02	3.88E+02	4.72E+02	1.87E+03	3.79E+02	3.79E+02	3.87E+02
26	2.62E+03	1.39E+03	1.93E+03	3.26E+03	3.80E+03	1.43E+04	1.51E+03	1.42E+03	1.31E+03
27	5.00E+02	5.00E+02	5.35E+02	5.99E+02	5.40E+02	5.00E+02	5.00E+02	5.00E+02	5.27E+02
28	4.93E+02	4.91E+02	4.23E+02	3.46E+02	8.66E+02	5.00E+02	4.93E+02	4.99E+02	3.45E+02
29	9.46E+02	6.13E+02	8.37E+02	1.31E+03	1.43E+03	4.78E+03	5.43E+02	5.58E+02	5.87E+02
30	2.14E+04	5.68E+03	1.92E+04	3.54E+05	5.98E+06	1.65E+06	3.90E+03	2.20E+02	2.58E+03

KDLMO are at the bottom of the graph, meaning that the results of the KDLMO for most benchmark functions are better than the other algorithms. For the hybrid functions f_{11} - f_{20} , the KDLMO is an excellent algorithm compared with the other baseline algorithms. In some simple unimodal, multimodal and composition functions, the KDLMO is better than the other baseline algorithms. The inseparability of variables was maintained by the mutation and crossover of the KDLMO. The learning mechanism played an essential role to maintain the equilibration of the convergence and diversity of the KDLMO. The visualization of experimental results shows that the proposed mechanisms in the KDLMO algorithm are feasible, and the performance of the KDLMO is expectable.

To analyze the performance of the KDLMO on different benchmark functions, the convergence curves of the

KDLMO and the eight baseline algorithms are shown in Figs. 11, 12, 13 and 14. The figures show that the KDLMO has the best accuracy among all algorithms on f_5 and f_{21} with $D=10, 30, 50$, and 100 . The KDLMO is better than the MBO on the simple multimodal and the hybrid functions. The reason is that the learning mechanism balances the convergence speed and the accuracy of the KDLMO algorithm. The LMO and LBAO of the KDLMO avoid the population falling into local optima. Therefore, the proposed KDLMO algorithm is feasible and effective for addressing continuous optimization problems in terms of convergence speed and accuracy.

In order to analyze the stability of the proposed algorithm, the box plots of the KDLMO and the eight baseline algorithms for f_1, f_5, f_{14} and f_{21} are shown in Figs. 15, 16, 17 and 18, respectively. In this study, the actions of the KDLMO

Table 6 The results on the benchmarks when $D = 50$

Func	MBO	GCMBO	BBO	IWO	Jaya	CMA-ES	LMBO	RLBSO	KDLMBO
1	8.89E+10	5.39E+09	3.24E+05	1.53E+04	2.52E+10	0.00E+00	3.08E+03	6.77E-01	1.33E-02
3	5.60E+05	1.61E+05	9.50E+04	2.97E-02	1.18E+05	3.20E+05	4.68E+01	1.37E+05	1.21E-04
4	1.68E+04	9.73E+02	1.52E+02	1.14E+02	1.86E+03	2.33E+03	7.67E+01	3.92E+01	7.21E+01
5	6.53E+02	2.15E+02	1.19E+02	7.87E+01	5.02E+02	1.35E+03	1.06E+02	1.20E+02	5.87E+01
6	7.67E+01	2.09E+01	1.43E-01	6.25E-01	4.10E+01	9.37E+01	2.61E-01	1.66E+00	1.11E+00
7	2.49E+03	2.74E+02	2.15E+02	1.31E+02	7.94E+02	7.51E+03	1.67E+02	1.67E+02	1.03E+02
8	6.51E+02	2.14E+02	1.21E+02	8.31E+01	5.42E+02	1.44E+03	1.05E+02	1.13E+02	6.15E+01
9	3.25E+04	3.50E+03	1.15E+03	1.31E+00	1.33E+04	3.75E+04	9.01E+02	3.83E+02	4.51E+01
10	1.25E+04	8.26E+03	4.22E+03	3.39E+03	1.34E+04	1.43E+04	4.93E+03	5.86E+03	6.47E+03
11	3.14E+04	4.98E+03	6.03E+03	2.26E+02	2.23E+03	9.40E+04	3.05E+02	5.44E+01	1.38E+02
12	3.02E+10	1.38E+09	8.26E+06	7.37E+06	3.86E+09	2.80E+09	1.64E+06	2.96E+05	4.61E+04
13	1.46E+10	3.78E+08	8.64E+04	2.03E+05	5.66E+08	1.45E+06	1.21E+04	2.33E+03	1.79E+03
14	3.74E+07	3.53E+06	4.80E+06	2.12E+04	8.98E+05	3.90E+06	1.39E+04	1.34E+04	1.62E+02
15	5.01E+09	4.36E+07	4.33E+04	8.54E+04	1.16E+08	6.91E+08	1.35E+04	5.97E+02	2.56E+02
16	5.28E+03	2.03E+03	1.80E+03	7.41E+02	3.36E+03	6.68E+03	1.17E+03	1.71E+03	9.30E+02
17	8.82E+03	1.40E+03	1.40E+03	8.00E+02	2.38E+03	1.50E+05	8.01E+02	1.21E+03	7.98E+02
18	1.14E+08	1.65E+07	7.17E+06	1.81E+05	9.58E+06	2.24E+06	1.57E+05	1.07E+05	3.17E+02
19	2.16E+09	8.96E+06	2.90E+04	2.17E+05	2.67E+07	8.76E+05	1.62E+04	7.20E+02	7.97E+01
20	2.42E+03	1.16E+03	1.09E+03	5.22E+02	1.85E+03	2.47E+03	6.10E+02	9.07E+02	5.98E+02
21	8.46E+02	4.31E+02	3.25E+02	2.87E+02	6.85E+02	1.62E+03	3.03E+02	3.23E+02	2.58E+02
22	1.29E+04	8.66E+03	5.19E+03	3.72E+03	1.33E+04	1.96E+04	5.39E+03	6.87E+03	4.98E+03
23	1.40E+03	7.81E+02	5.89E+02	5.04E+02	1.02E+03	4.07E+03	5.22E+02	5.39E+02	5.00E+02
24	1.44E+03	8.81E+02	6.58E+02	5.68E+02	1.02E+03	3.41E+03	6.86E+02	6.29E+02	5.57E+02
25	1.22E+04	1.27E+03	5.53E+02	4.91E+02	1.25E+03	2.45E+03	4.64E+02	4.42E+02	5.24E+02
26	1.15E+04	4.62E+03	2.84E+03	1.90E+03	7.63E+03	3.63E+04	1.81E+03	2.44E+03	1.76E+03
27	1.96E+03	1.23E+03	7.18E+02	5.43E+02	8.68E+02	5.00E+02	5.00E+02	5.00E+02	6.84E+02
28	6.80E+03	2.17E+03	5.10E+02	4.72E+02	3.53E+03	5.00E+02	4.96E+02	5.00E+02	4.93E+02
29	6.29E+03	2.01E+03	1.19E+03	9.09E+02	2.80E+03	1.11E+04	8.49E+02	1.16E+03	7.88E+02
30	2.95E+09	9.10E+07	1.13E+06	1.30E+07	7.48E+07	5.81E+08	7.37E+03	3.07E+02	1.34E+06

are guided by the learning mechanism. The generation of the KDLMBO is not just a random search. The process of the KDLMBO is intelligent. Figures 15, 16, 17 and 18 demonstrate that the KDLMBO is superior to the baseline algorithms.

4.4.2 Friedman test

To make a statistical comparison between KDLMBO and other algorithms, the Friedman test was conducted. The Friedman test is a non-parametric statistical test used to determine significant differences in multiple (related) samples. The results of the Friedman test are shown in Tables 8, 9, 10 and 11. As shown in Figs. 19, 20, 21 and 22, it can be observed that the Mean Rank of the KDLMBO is the minimum. Furthermore, the performance of KDLMBO is excellent compared with the

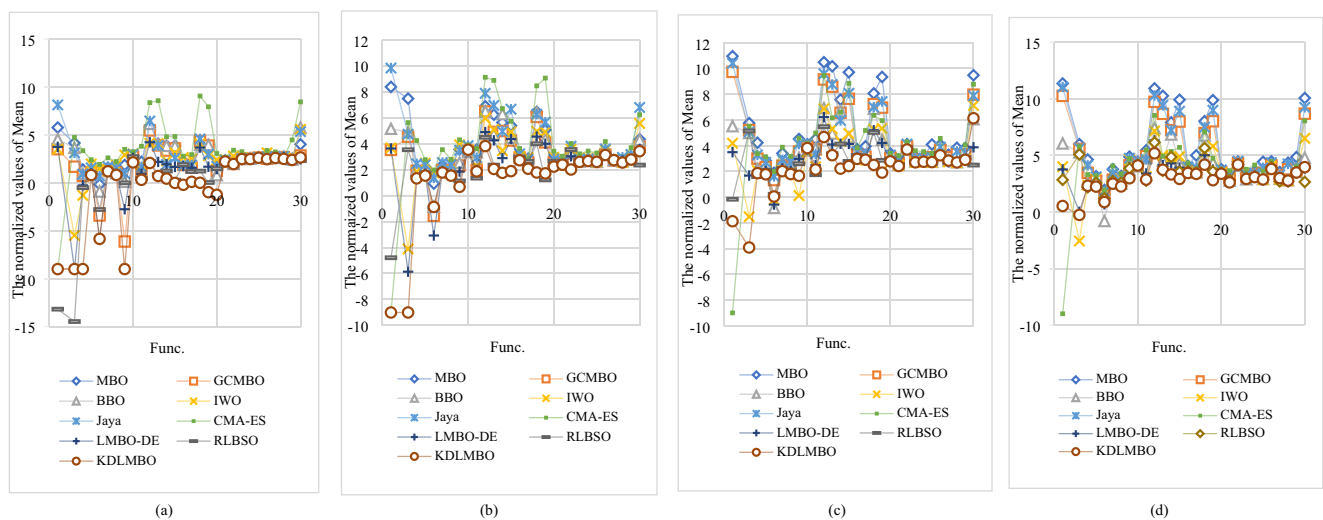
other algorithms at 90% and 95% confidence intervals. There are significant differences between the algorithms, and the Mean Rank of the KDLMBO algorithm is the smallest among all algorithms with $D=10,30,50,100$.

4.4.3 Wilcoxon test

In addition, the Wilcoxon test was also adopted to make a pairwise comparison between the KDLMBO and the other algorithms. The method was developed based on the sign test of paired observation data and was more effective than the traditional plus or minus sign alone. The results of the Wilcoxon sign test are shown in Table 12. The R+ represents outstanding results compared with the other contrast algorithm. R- is the opposite. In the Wilcoxon test, if the p -value is less than α , it means that there are significant differences in

Table 7 The results on the benchmarks when $D = 100$

Func	MBO	GCMBO	BBO	IWO	Jaya	CMA-ES	LMBO-DE	RLBSO	KDLMBO
1	2.25E+11	1.81E+10	1.13E+06	9.98E+03	1.11E+11	0.00E+00	5.69E+03	6.93E+02	3.36E+00
3	9.82E+05	3.68E+05	1.82E+05	2.70E-03	4.12E+05	5.87E+05	1.03E+00	1.20E+05	5.47E-01
4	4.24E+04	2.84E+03	2.99E+02	2.26E+02	1.31E+04	2.01E+03	1.95E+02	1.51E+02	2.05E+02
5	1.45E+03	5.72E+02	3.18E+02	9.81E+02	1.27E+03	1.65E+03	3.70E+02	3.67E+02	1.73E+02
6	8.78E+01	2.92E+01	1.58E-01	7.45E+01	6.84E+01	8.32E+01	4.71E+00	1.54E+01	7.51E+00
7	5.96E+03	7.17E+02	6.12E+02	3.93E+02	2.71E+03	1.16E+04	6.32E+02	5.31E+02	3.15E+02
8	1.50E+03	5.69E+02	3.30E+02	9.64E+02	1.34E+03	2.36E+03	3.89E+02	3.76E+02	1.78E+02
9	7.64E+04	1.32E+04	5.21E+03	4.34E+04	5.57E+04	5.27E+04	9.24E+03	7.06E+03	9.46E+02
10	2.74E+04	1.91E+04	1.09E+04	1.09E+04	3.02E+04	1.59E+04	1.29E+04	1.46E+04	1.27E+04
11	2.77E+05	8.53E+04	5.79E+04	1.33E+03	4.41E+04	2.93E+05	2.51E+03	5.89E+02	7.23E+02
12	8.31E+10	5.38E+09	2.55E+07	1.44E+07	1.98E+10	3.39E+08	2.11E+06	1.38E+06	1.52E+05
13	1.82E+10	4.68E+08	3.47E+04	1.01E+05	2.66E+09	8.50E+04	1.38E+04	4.37E+03	5.33E+03
14	8.20E+07	1.67E+07	6.92E+06	6.46E+04	1.61E+07	2.22E+05	2.01E+04	7.25E+04	2.07E+03
15	8.19E+09	9.72E+07	1.95E+04	7.83E+04	8.01E+08	5.13E+05	8.29E+03	3.53E+03	8.23E+02
16	1.18E+04	4.77E+03	4.06E+03	3.38E+03	9.45E+03	2.10E+04	2.84E+03	3.93E+03	2.76E+03
17	9.93E+04	3.41E+03	3.07E+03	2.93E+03	8.54E+03	5.80E+03	2.97E+03	2.97E+03	2.29E+03
18	1.05E+08	9.26E+06	5.66E+06	2.07E+05	3.06E+07	1.20E+07	1.03E+05	4.48E+05	1.49E+04
19	7.57E+09	1.03E+08	2.16E+04	6.38E+05	9.76E+08	5.63E+04	5.53E+03	3.83E+03	6.38E+02
20	5.96E+03	3.25E+03	3.01E+03	2.89E+03	5.23E+03	5.85E+03	2.41E+03	2.73E+03	2.37E+03
21	1.74E+03	9.42E+02	5.86E+02	1.20E+03	1.52E+03	4.49E+03	6.19E+02	6.64E+02	4.07E+02
22	2.85E+04	2.08E+04	1.19E+04	1.27E+04	3.10E+04	3.02E+04	1.37E+04	1.60E+04	1.51E+04
23	2.43E+03	1.39E+03	7.62E+02	1.82E+03	1.98E+03	5.87E+03	9.89E+02	9.83E+02	8.31E+02
24	3.85E+03	2.03E+03	1.29E+03	1.76E+03	2.66E+03	1.39E+04	1.65E+03	1.36E+03	1.20E+03
25	2.69E+04	2.79E+03	8.15E+02	7.22E+02	7.98E+03	4.06E+03	7.42E+02	7.50E+02	7.40E+02
26	2.93E+04	1.28E+04	7.57E+03	1.11E+04	2.33E+04	2.87E+04	1.11E+04	8.69E+03	6.23E+03
27	3.38E+03	1.65E+03	8.39E+02	7.79E+02	1.84E+03	5.00E+02	5.00E+02	5.00E+02	9.83E+02
28	2.23E+04	5.99E+03	6.28E+02	5.55E+02	1.76E+04	5.00E+02	5.00E+02	5.00E+02	5.88E+02
29	7.05E+04	5.46E+03	3.51E+03	3.94E+03	9.52E+03	9.79E+03	2.78E+03	3.08E+03	3.06E+03
30	1.17E+10	4.86E+08	6.07E+04	3.21E+06	1.75E+09	1.10E+08	7.10E+03	4.46E+02	9.09E+03

**Fig. 10** Experimental results of nine algorithms on the benchmarks with $D = 10, 30, 50$ and 100 . **a** Experimental results of nine algorithms with $D = 10$, **b** Experimental results of nine algorithms with $D = 30$, **c**Experimental results of nine algorithms with $D = 50$, **d** Experimental results of nine algorithms with $D = 100$

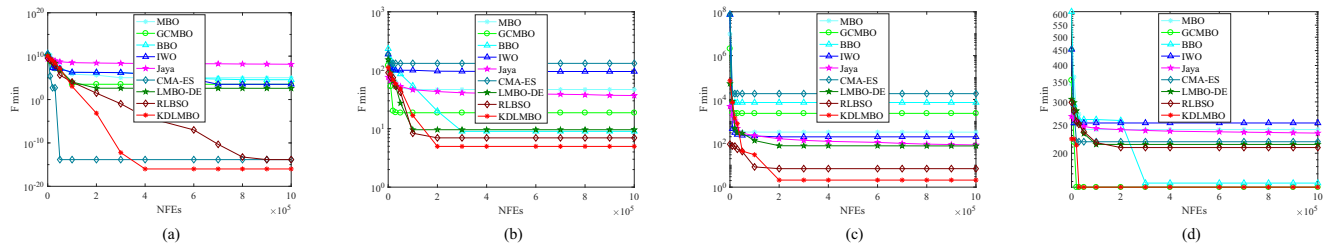


Fig. 11 The convergence curves of different algorithms for four benchmark functions with $D = 10$. **a** The convergence of f_1 with $D = 10$, **b** The convergence of f_5 with $D = 10$, **c** The convergence of f_{14} with $D = 10$, **d** The convergence of f_{21} with $D = 10$

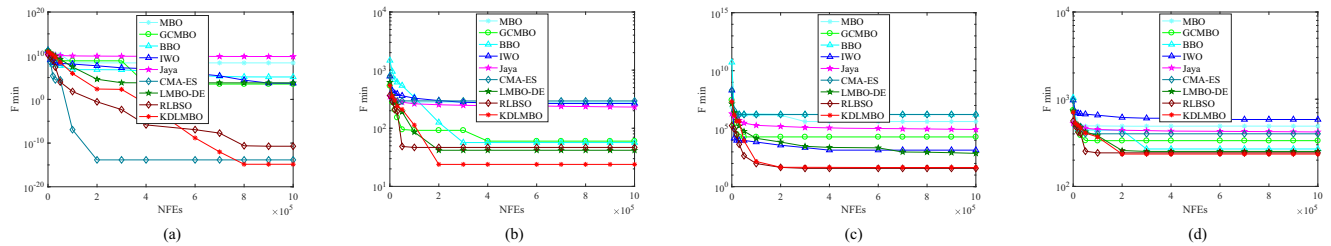


Fig. 12 The convergence curves of different algorithms for four benchmark functions with $D = 30$. **a** The convergence of f_1 with $D = 30$, **b** The convergence of f_5 with $D = 30$, **c** The convergence of f_{14} with $D = 30$, **d** The convergence of f_{21} with $D = 30$

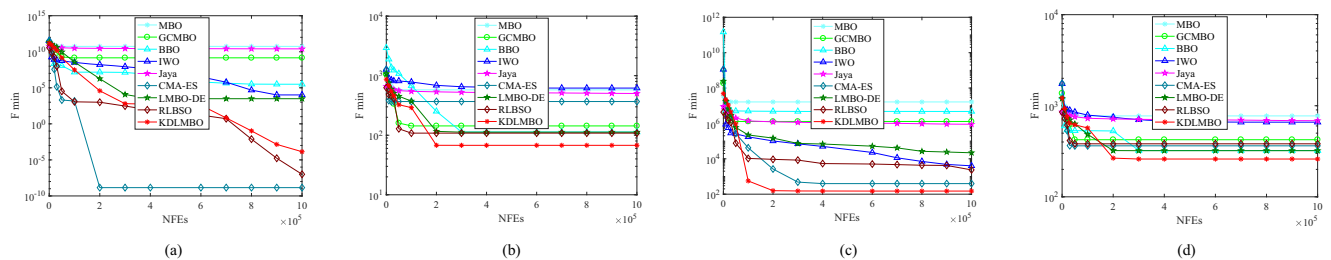


Fig. 13 The convergence curves of different algorithms for four benchmark functions with $D = 50$. **a** The convergence of f_1 with $D = 50$, **b** The convergence of f_5 with $D = 50$, **c** The convergence of f_{14} with $D = 50$, **d** The convergence of f_{21} with $D = 50$

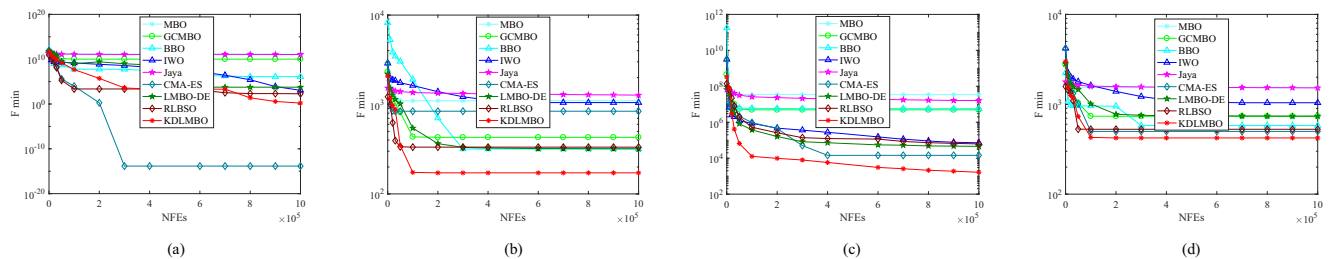


Fig. 14 The convergence curves of different algorithms for four benchmark functions with $D = 100$. **a** The convergence of f_1 with $D = 100$, **b** The convergence of f_5 with $D = 100$, **c** The convergence of f_{14} with $D = 100$, **d** The convergence of f_{21} with $D = 100$

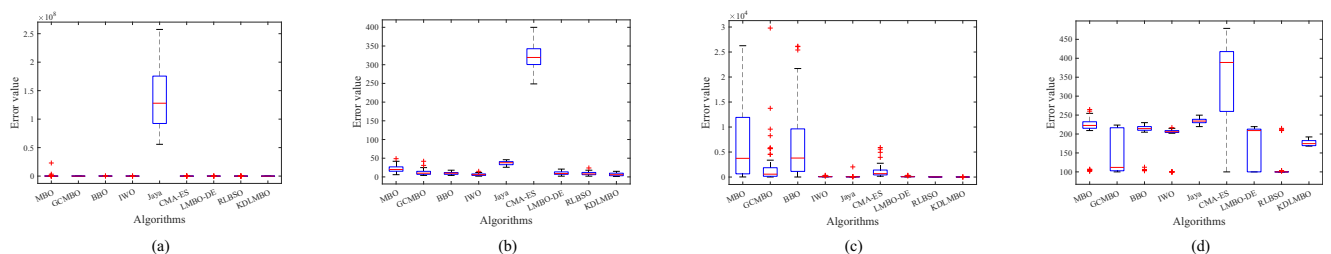


Fig. 15 Boxplots of four typical benchmark functions with different algorithms (10D). **a** The mean plot of f_1 , **b** The mean plot of f_5 , **c** The mean plot of f_{14} , **d** The mean plot of f_{21}

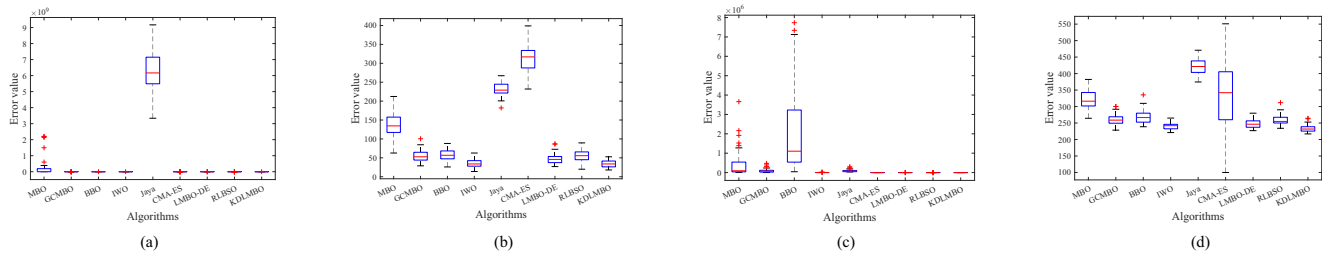


Fig. 16 Boxplots of four benchmark functions with different algorithms (30D). **a** The mean plot of f_1 , **b** The mean plot of f_5 , **c** The mean plot of f_{14} , **d** The mean plot of f_{21}

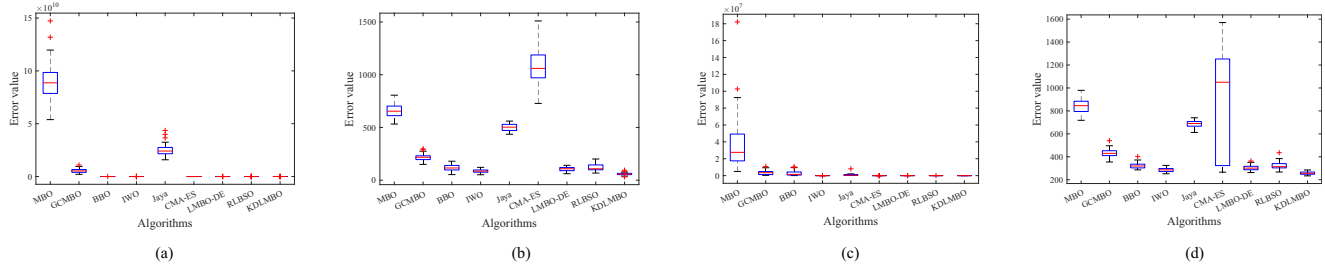


Fig. 17 Boxplots of four benchmark functions with different algorithms (50D). **a** The mean plot of f_1 , **b** The mean plot of f_5 , **c** The mean plot of f_{14} , **d** The mean plot of f_{21}

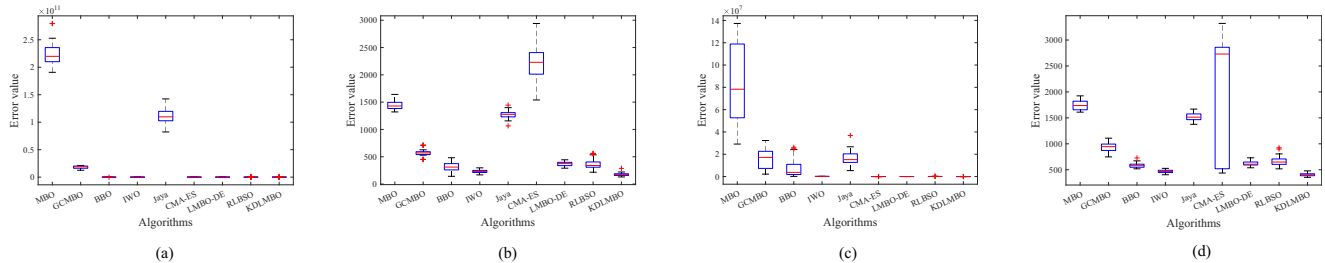


Fig. 18 Boxplots of four typical benchmark functions with different algorithms (100D). **a** The mean plot of f_1 , **b** The mean plot of f_5 , **c** The mean plot of f_{14} , **d** The mean plot of f_{21}

Table 8 Friedman-test results with $D = 10$

Algorithm	Mean Rank
MBO	6.55
GCMBO	4.43
BBO	5.29
IWO	6.24
Jaya	6.29
CMA_ES	8.67
LMBO_DE	3.31
RLBSO	2.91
KDLMBO	1.29
Crit. Diff $\alpha=0.05$	2.69
Crit. Diff $\alpha=0.1$	2.45

Table 9 Friedman-test results with $D = 30$

Algorithm	Mean Rank
MBO	6.59
GCMBO	3.86
BBO	5.31
IWO	6.10
Jaya	7.41
CMA_ES	8.33
LMBO_DE	2.76
RLBSO	2.81
KDLMBO	1.83
Crit. Diff $\alpha=0.05$	2.69
Crit. Diff $\alpha=0.1$	2.45

Table 10 Friedman-test results with $D = 50$

Algorithm	Mean Rank
MBO	8.38
GCMBO	6.36
BBO	4.74
IWO	2.83
Jaya	6.97
CMA_ES	7.67
LMBO_DE	3.02
RLBSO	3.17
KDLMBO	1.86
Crit. Diff $\alpha=0.05$	2.69
Crit. Diff $\alpha=0.1$	2.45

Table 11 Friedman-test results with $D = 100$

Algorithm	Mean Rank
MBO	8.62
GCMBO	6.24
BBO	3.78
IWO	4.14
Jaya	7.48
CMA_ES	6.83
LMBO_DE	3.03
RLBSO	2.95
KDLMBO	1.93
Crit. Diff $\alpha=0.05$	2.69
Crit. Diff $\alpha=0.1$	2.45

the pairwise algorithms. The KDLMBO was compared with the eight baseline algorithms, and all the p-values are less than α at $D=10, 30, 50, 100$. Therefore, according to the Wilcoxon test, the KDLMBO is promising compared with other algorithms.

5 Conclusion and future research

In this study, a novel algorithm (KDLMBO) based on the MBO with a knowledge-driven learning mechanism (KDLMBO) is proposed to strengthen the self-learning and self-adapting capabilities of the original algorithm. In the proposed KDLMBO algorithm, the prior knowledge of the algorithm is defined. The information of the neighborhood is represented by four kinds of actions. The appropriate actions of the KDLMBO are guided by the cooperative learning mechanism. The Wilcoxon test results demonstrate that the fitness and information are effectively utilized in the iterations of the algorithm. The experiments conducted on 29 benchmarks show that the performance of the KDLMBO algorithm is increased by 240.40% and 459.03% compared with the LMBODE and the original MBO algorithm, respectively. The learning mechanism efficiently increases the self-organizing ability of the algorithm and maintains the inseparability of variables. The collective intelligence is self-learning and is realized by the mechanism in the iterative process of the algorithm.

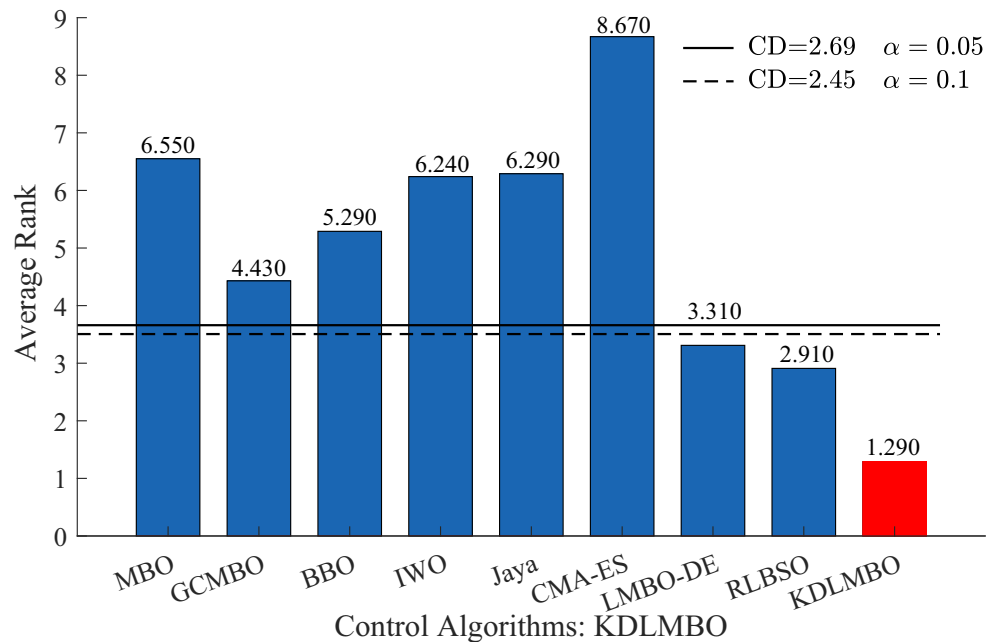
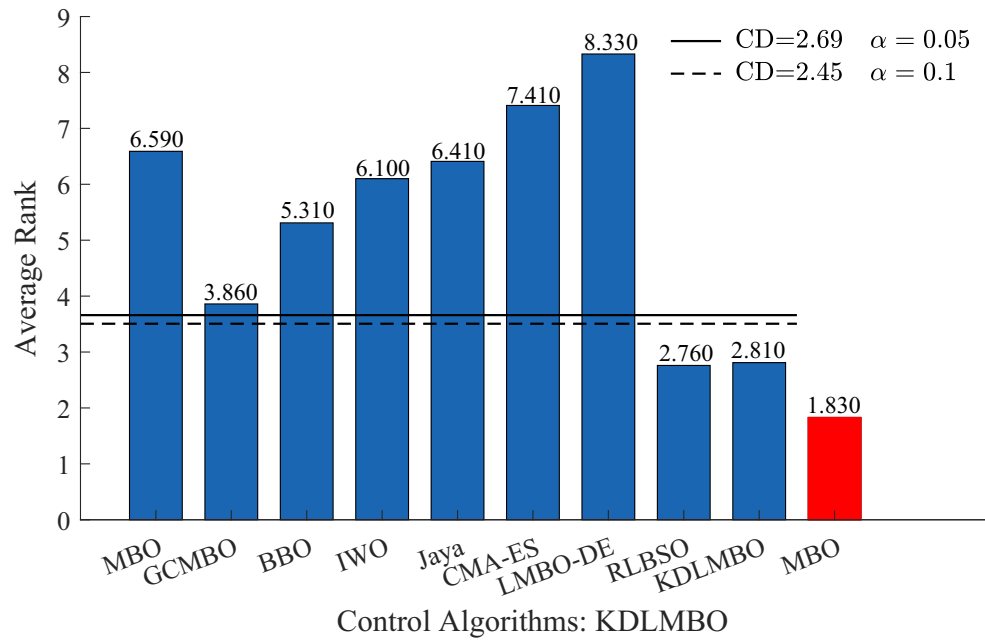
Fig. 19 Rankings with $D = 10$ 

Fig. 20 Rankings with $D = 30$ 

Therefore, the evolution process of the KDLMB0 is not a random search rather an intelligent mechanism. The experimental results demonstrate and validate that the knowledge-driven learning mechanism is feasible, contributing and promising.

In future work, the effectiveness and efficiency of the proposed KDLMB0 algorithm for optimizing high-dimensional continuous optimization problems will be further explored.

Meanwhile, the learning mechanism in the KDLMB0 algorithm can be improved by combining advanced machine learning mechanisms including the typical Apriori heuristic that can enhance learning personalization and autonomy. Moreover, improved MBO versions can be utilized to address practically intractable optimization problems such as the flow shop scheduling problem and the optimal reactive power dispatch, etc.

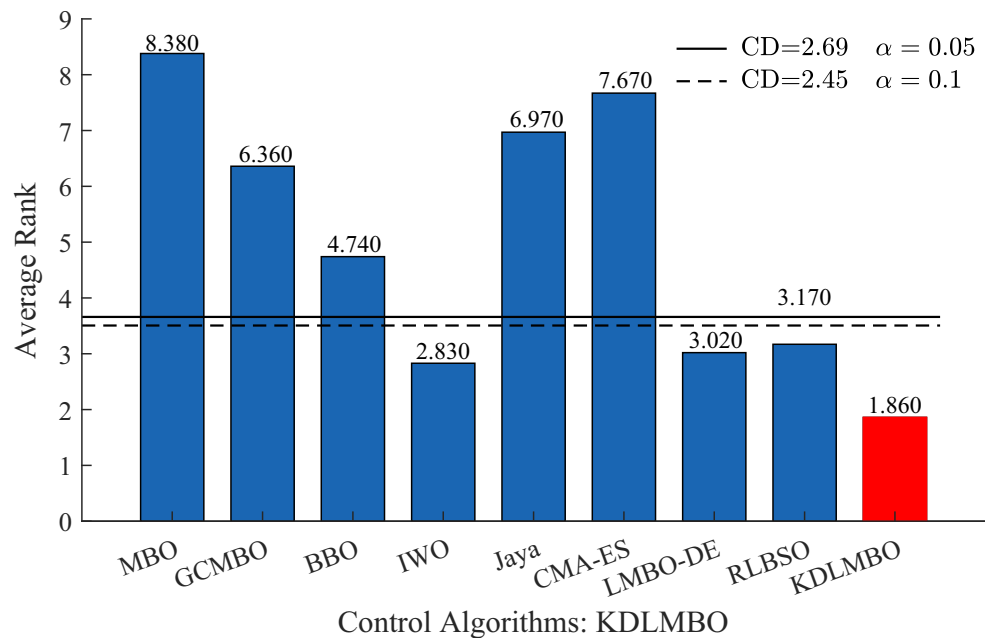
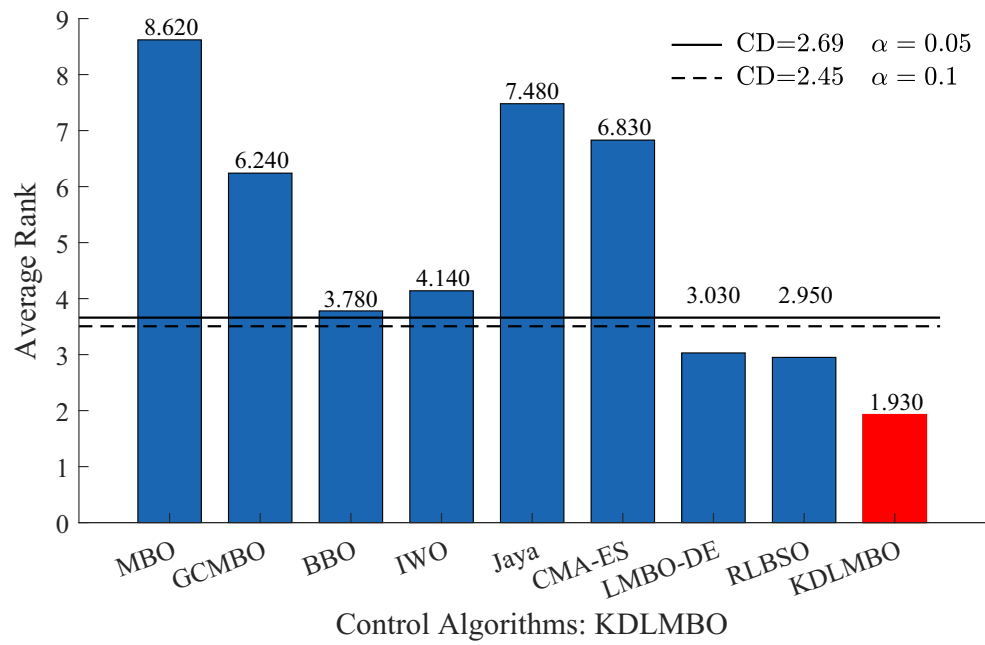
Fig. 21 Rankings with $D = 50$ 

Fig. 22 Rankings with $D = 100$ **Table 12** Wilcoxon sign test results

D	KDLMB-Opk	R+	R-	p -value	$\alpha=0.1$	$\alpha=0.05$
10	MBO	29	0	2.56E-06	yes	yes
	GCMBO	28	1	7.60E-06	yes	yes
	BBO	29	0	2.56E-06	yes	yes
	IWO	28	1	3.90E-06	yes	yes
	Jaya	29	0	2.56E-06	yes	yes
	CMA-ES	28	0	3.79E-06	yes	yes
	LMBO-DE	25	3	6.13E-05	yes	yes
	RLBSO	26	2	1.95E-03	yes	yes
	RLBSO	26	2	1.95E-03	yes	yes
30	MBO	27	2	5.32E-06	yes	yes
	GCMBO	25	3	5.56E-05	yes	yes
	BBO	28	1	1.60E-05	yes	yes
	IWO	28	1	6.53E-06	yes	yes
	Jaya	29	0	2.56E-06	yes	yes
	CMA-ES	27	1	4.23E-06	yes	yes
	LMBO-DE	24	5	3.75E-04	yes	yes
	RLBSO	19	10	4.55E-02	yes	yes
	RLBSO	19	10	4.55E-02	yes	yes
50	MBO	29	0	2.56E-06	yes	yes
	GCMBO	29	0	2.56E-06	yes	yes
	BBO	26	3	1.91E-04	yes	yes

Table 12 (continued)

D	KDLMB-Opk	R+	R-	p -value	$\alpha = 0.1$	$\alpha = 0.05$
100	IWO	20	3	4.55E-02	yes	yes
	Jaya	29	0	2.56E-06	yes	yes
	CMA-ES	27	2	4.33E-06	yes	yes
	LMBO-DE	24	5	2.75E-03	yes	yes
	RLBSO	23	6	5.46E-03	yes	yes
	MBO	29	0	2.56E-06	yes	yes
	GCMBO	29	0	2.56E-06	yes	yes
	BBO	24	5	2.09E-04	yes	yes
	IWO	23	6	3.18E-04	yes	yes
30	Jaya	29	0	2.56E-06	yes	yes
	CMA-ES	26	3	5.90E-06	yes	yes
	LMBO-DE	22	7	3.16E-03	yes	yes
	RLBSO	23	6	1.65E-03	yes	yes

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Declarations

Ethical approval This article does not contain any studies with human participants or animals performed by any of the authors.

Conflict of interest All authors certify that they have no affiliations with or involvement in any organization or entity with any financial interest or non-financial interest in the subject matter or materials discussed in this manuscript.

Informed consent Informed consent was obtained from all individual participants included in the study.

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