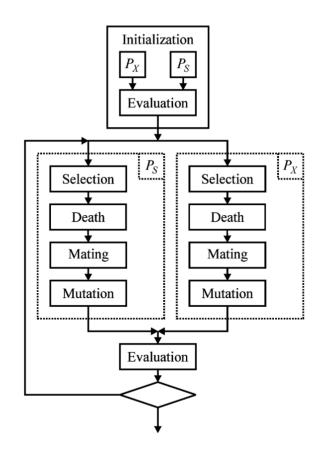
Coevolutionary Algorithm (CoEA)

- 1. 生成初始种群 P₁ P₂
- 2. 根据种群 P_1 P_2 相互竞争或者合作的结果,对个体进行评估
- 3. 根据评估结果对 P₁ 中个体进行筛选和变异,生成下一 代种群
- 4. 根据评估结果对 P_2 中个体进行筛选和变异,生成下一代种群
- 5. 回到步骤 2, 直到满足终止条件



Coevolutionary Algorithm 在许多问题上已经有了成功地应用,包括 design of sorting[1], software patching[2], problems in cyber security[3], 有很高的研究价值。

- [1] W. Daniel Hillis. 1990. Co-evolving parasites improve simulated evolution as an optimization procedure. Physica D: Nonlinear Phenomena 42, 1 (June 1990), 228–234.
- [2] Andrea Arcuri and Xin Yao. 2008. A novel co-evolutionary approach to au-tomatic software bug fixing. In 2008 IEEE Congress on Evolutionary Computation, 162–168.
- [3] Una-May O' Reilly, Jamal Toutouh, Marcos Pertierra, Daniel Prado Sanchez, Dennis Garcia, Anthony Erb Luogo, Jonathan Kelly, and Erik Hemberg. 2020. Adversarial genetic programming for cyber security: a rising application domain where GP matters Genetic Programming and Evolvable Machines 21, 1-2 (June 2020), 219–250.

但 Coevolutionary Algorithm 的理论分析十分困难,有以下难点[1]:

- 1. Over-specialisation: 某些种群只在部分场景中有好的表现, 其余情况下表现很差
- 2. Cyclic behaviour: 算法会陷入循环,并不收敛
- 3. Evolutionary forgetting: 随着进化,之前表现好的个体会被淘汰

正是因为这些困难,在 CoEA 提出的 20 多年里,一直没有严格的理论分析。直到最近的一项研究 [2] 分析了 CoEA 在特定问题下的时间复杂度。

知行合一、经世致用

^[1] Richard A. Watson and Jordan B. Pollack. 2001. Coevolutionary Dynamics in a Minimal Substrate. In Proceedings of the 3rd Annual Conference on Genetic and Evolutionary Computation (GECCO' 01). Morgan Kaufmann Publishers Inc., San Francisco, CA, USA, 702–709.

^[2] Per Kristian Lehre. Runtime analysis of competitive co-evolutionary algorithms for maximin optimisation of a bilinear function. In Proceedings of the Genetic and Evolutionary Computation Conference, GECCO ' 22, page 1408–1416.

Problem 1

Minimax Optimization Problems

优化目标:

 $\min_{x \in \mathcal{X}} \max_{y \in \mathcal{Y}} g(x, y)$

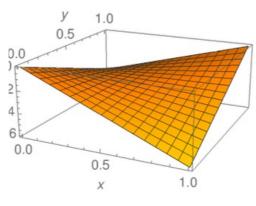
其中 x 代表解 (solution), y 代表场景 (scenario), g(x, y) 为问题的目标函数,表示解 x 在场景 y 中的代价

The Bilinear Problem

在 Bilinear Problem 中, x, y 都表示为 n 位 0/1 串, $\alpha, \beta \in (0,1)$ 为问题的两个参数。该问题的目标函数为 Bilinear Function:

BILINEAR $(x, y) := |y|(|x| - \beta n) - \alpha n|x|,$

|x|, |y| 表示对应 0/1 串中 1 的数量

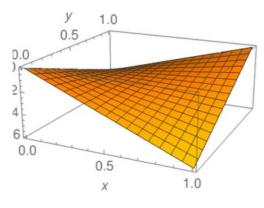


Bilinear 函数图像

Problem 1

[1] 中提出的 Bilinear problem 对于分析 CoEA 来说是一个很好的场景,函数形态简单清晰,而且之前提到的难点在这个场景中 CoEA 都会出现。

但 [1] 中分析的局限性也很明显,能够分析 α < 1/5 的小情况,规避了难点 Cyclic behaviour 的分析。



Bilinear 函数图像

^[1] Per Kristian Lehre. Runtime analysis of competitive co-evolutionary algorithms for maximin optimisation of a bilinear function. In Proceedings of the Genetic and Evolutionary Computation Conference, GECCO ' 22, page 1408–1416.

在 [1] 中,第一次研究了 CoEA 在 Minimax Optimization 问题中的应用,并提出了经典的 CoEA 算法框架

Coevolutionary Algorithm

- 随机生成初始种群 P,Q。 P 代表解 x 构成的种群, Q 代表场景 y 构成的种群。
- 2. 根据 Q 种群对 P 中的个体计算 fitness value h(x)
- 3. 依据 P 种群对 Q 中的个体计算 fitness value v(y)
- 4. 根据 fitness value 对 P 中个体进行变异生成新个体, 并进行筛选, 生成新一代种群
- 5. 根据 fitness value 对 Q 中个体进行变异生成新个体, 并进行筛选, 生成新一代种群
- 6. 返回步骤 2. 直到满足终止条件

其中:

$$h(x) = \max_{y \in Q} g(x, y).$$

$$v(y) = \min_{x \in P_t} g(x, y).$$

种群 P 偏好 fitness value 小的个体种群 Q 偏好 fitness value 大的个体

[1] J. W. Herrmann. A Genetic Algorithm for Minimax Optimization Problems. In Angeline et. al., editors, Proc. 1999 Congress on Evolutionary Computation, pages 1099-1103, 1997.

我的研究给经典的算法框架补充了具体的筛选和 进化机制,提出了右图的 CoEA:

这个 CoEA 在 Bilinear problem 中有很好的实际表现,并且我的研究给出了严格的时间分析。

除此之外还克服了之前研究的缺陷,首次解决了 Cyclic behaviour 这个难点,并且我的分析能够处 理所有情况。

Algorithm 1: Co-evolutionary Algorithm (CoEA) **Input:** Object function $g: \{0,1\}^n \times \{0,1\}^n \to \mathbb{R}$ **Input:** Population size $\lambda \in \mathbb{N}$ Output: $\min_{x \in \mathcal{X}} \max_{y \in \mathcal{Y}} g(x, y)$ 1 for $i \in [\lambda]$ do $P_0(i) \leftarrow \{1\}^n$; $Q_0(i) \leftarrow \{1\}^n \; ;$ 4 end 5 for $t \in \mathbb{N}$ until algorithm converge do for individual $x \in P_t$ do calculate $h(x) = \max_{y \in Q_t} g(x, y);$ end for individual $y \in Q_t$ do calculate $v(y) = \min_{x \in P_t} g(x, y);$ 10 11 end let x_{max} and x_{min} be the individuals in P_t with the maximum and minimum $h(\cdot)$ value, respectively; let y_{max} and y_{min} be the individuals in Q_t with the maximum and minimum $v(\cdot)$ value, respectively; obtain x' by flipping exactly one bit in x_{\min} uniformly at random; obtain y' by flipping exactly one bit in y_{max} uniformly at random; if $h(x') < h(x_{\min})$ then $P_{t+1} \leftarrow P_t \cup \{x'\} \setminus \{x_{\max}\};$ \mathbf{end} 18 19 \mathbf{else} $P_{t+1} \leftarrow P_t;$ end if $v(y') > v(y_{\text{max}})$ then $| Q_{t+1} \leftarrow Q_t \cup \{y'\} \setminus \{y_{\min}\};$ end 2425else $Q_{t+1} \leftarrow Q_t$; 26 end

28 end

Definition 1

Bilinear 问题中目标函数的梯度为:

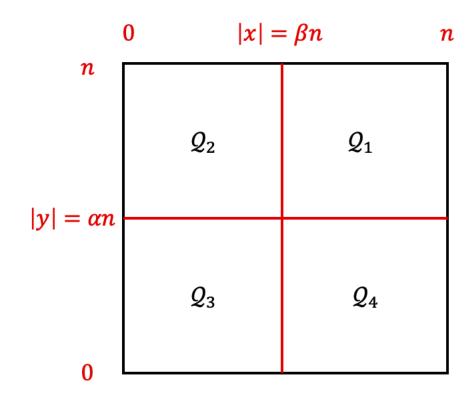
$$\nabla g = (|y| - \alpha n, |x| - \beta n),$$

根据梯度的方向,将整个搜索空间划分为四个象限。

以 $(x_{min}, y_{max}) \in Q_1$ 的情况为例,分析算法的行为:

$$x_{min}^{t+1} = \begin{cases} x_{min}^t - 1 & x_t' = x_{min}^t - 1 \\ x_{min}^t & x_t' = x_{min}^t + 1 \end{cases}$$

$$y_{max}^{t+1} = egin{cases} y_{max}^{t} + 1 & y_{t}' = y_{max}^{t} + 1 \ y_{max}^{t} & y_{t}' = y_{max}^{t} - 1 \end{cases}$$



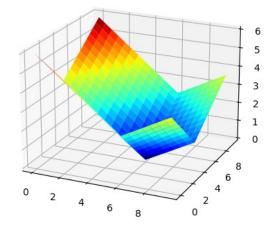
搜索空间的划分

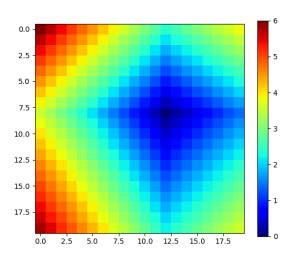
Definition 2

为了追踪算法的运行状态,为个体和种群定义 potential function

$$p(x,y) = \begin{cases} \alpha(x-n) - (\beta-1)y & x \ge \beta n \text{ and } y \ge \alpha n \\ (\alpha-1)(x-n) - (\beta-1)(y-n) & x < \beta n \text{ and } y \ge \alpha n \\ (\alpha-1)x - \beta(y-n) & x < \beta n \text{ and } y < \alpha n \\ \alpha x - \beta y & x \ge \beta n \text{ and } y < \alpha n \end{cases}$$

$$p(P,Q) = p(x_{min}, y_{max})$$





Potential function 函数图像

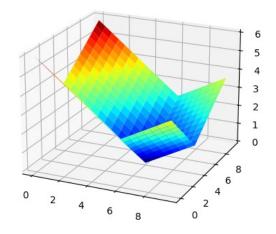
Theorem 1

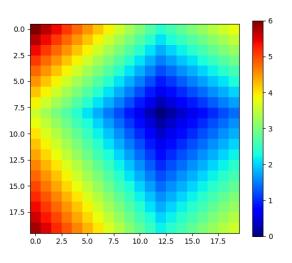
分析每次迭代 potential value 的期望减少量,提出 lemma

Lemma 3. Assume after t iterations algorithm 1 is in phase 2. Let P, Q are the populations of Algorithm 1, α, β are the parametre of Bilinear_{α,β}. Assume that for a positive constant c it holds $c\sqrt{n} \leq \lambda \in poly(n)$. If $\omega = min\{\alpha, \beta, 1 - \alpha, 1 - \beta\} \geq n^{-\frac{1}{2}}$, then $\mathbb{E}(p_t - p_{t+1}|p_t = s) \geq \frac{s}{n}$

应用 Multiplicative Drift 分析技巧,得出算法运行的期望时间

Theorem 1. Assume that for a positive constant c it holds $c\sqrt{n} \leq \lambda \in poly(n)$. Let α, β are the parameter of $Bilinear_{\alpha,\beta}$. Define $T = min\{\lambda t | (\beta n, \alpha n) \in (P_t, Q_t)\}$ where P_t and Q_t are the populations of Algorithm 1 applied to $Bilinear_{\alpha,\beta}$. There exists a constant c_0 that $\mathbb{E}[T] \leq c_0 \lambda n \ln n$





Potential function 函数图像