

# Hierarchy Influenced Differential Evolution: A Motor Function Inspired Approach

## ABSTRACT

Operational maturity of biological control systems have fuelled the inspiration for a large number of mathematical and logical models for control, automation and optimisation. The human brain represents the most sophisticated control architecture known to us and is a central motivation for several research attempts across various domains. In the present work, we introduce an algorithm for mathematical optimisation that derives its intuition from the hierarchical and distributed operations of the human motor system. The system comprises global leaders, local leaders and an effector population that adapt dynamically to attain global optimisation via a feedback mechanism coupled with the structural hierarchy. The hierarchical system operation is distributed into local control for movement and global controllers that facilitate gross motion and decision making. We present our algorithm as a variant of the classical Differential Evolution algorithm, introducing a hierarchical crossover operation. The discussed approach is tested exhaustively on standard test functions from the CEC 2017 benchmark. Our algorithm significantly outperforms various standard algorithms as well as their popular variants as discussed in the results.

## KEYWORDS

Differential Evolution, Metaheuristics, Combinatorial Optimization, Hierarchical Influence

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

Evolutionary algorithms are classified as meta-heuristic search algorithms, where possible solution elements span the n-dimensional search space to find the global optimum solution. Over the years, natural phenomena and biological processes have laid the foundation for several algorithms for control and optimization that have highlighted their applicability in solving intricate optimization problems. For instance, at the cellular level in the E.Coli Bacterium, there is sensing and locomotion involved in seeking nourishment and avoiding harmful chemicals. These behavioral characteristics fuelled the inspiration for the Bacterial Foraging Optimization algorithm [8][7]. Ant Colony Optimization [3] deals with behavior of

ants and has been a successful model for solving complex problems. Particle Swarm Optimization [5] is a swarm intelligence algorithm based on behavior of birds and fishes that models these particles as they traverse an n-dimensional search space and share information in order to obtain global optimum. From a biological control point, the human brain represents one of the most advanced architectures and several research attempts seek to mimic its functional accuracy, precision and efficiency. The brain function activities can be broadly classified into 2 categories: sensory and motor operations. Sensory cortical functions inspired the concept of neural networks that are being scaled successfully in deep learning to solve vast amount of problems.

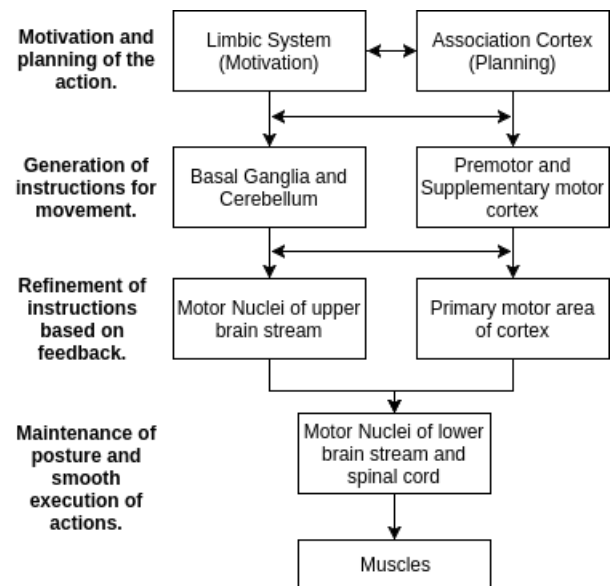


Figure 1: Hierarchy of Motor Control in Humans

The human motor function represents a distributed neural and hierarchical control system. It can be classified as having local control functions for movement as well as higher level controllers for gross motion and decision making. The execution of motor operation involves distributed brain structures at different levels of hierarchy. These include the pre-frontal cortex, motor cortex, spinal cord, anterior horn cells etc [10]. For executing an action sequence, a sequence of actions is implemented by a string of subsequences of actions each implemented in a different part of the body. The operational structure has been depicted in Figure 1[9]. For optimality of actions, neurons act in unison. The neurons in the motor cortex act like global leaders and send inhibitory or facilitatory influence over anterior horn cells, the local leaders, located in the spinal cord[10]. These local leaders are connected to muscle fibers, the effectors, through a peripheral nerve and neuromuscular junction. Efficient

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execution of task requires feedback based facilitation and inhibition of the effectors over the anterior horn cells. These sequence of operations realise the optimal convergence of the system leading to smooth motor execution.

The present work introduces an algorithm modelled intuitively on the distributed and hierarchical operation of the brain motor function.

The Classical DE Algorithm [11], proposed by Storn and Price has been hailed as one of the premier evolutionary algorithms, owing to it's simple yet effective structure[2]. However, in recent times, it has been criticized for it's slow convergence rate and inability to effectively optimize multimodal composite functions[2]. This work focusses on supplementing the algorithm's performance through the introduction of hierarchical influence in the pipeline. The architecture enables the algorithm to control the flow of agents through the cumulative effect of global and local leaders in the hierarchy.

The proposed approach, Hierarchy Influenced Differential Evolution (HIDE), has been subjected to exhaustive analysis on the hybrid and composite objective functions of the CEC 2017 benchmark[1]. Comparison with the classical DE algorithm and its other popular variants including JADE and PSODE [13] highlights the particular viability of the schemed approach in solving complex optimization tasks. We show that even with fixed parameters, HIDE is able to outperform adaptive architectures such as JADE by a respectable margin, as discussed in the result sections.

## 2 CLASSICAL DIFFERENTIAL EVOLUTION

The classical Differential Evolution (DE) algorithm is a population-based global optimization algorithm, utilizing a crossover and mutation approach to generate new individuals in the population for achieving optimum solutions[2]. For each individual  $x_i$  that belongs to the population for generation  $G$ , DE randomly samples three individuals from the population namely  $x_{r1,G}$ ,  $x_{r2,G}$  and  $x_{r3,G}$ . Employing these randomly chosen points, a new individual trial vector,  $V_i$ , is generated using equation (1):

$$V_i = x_{r1,G} + F(x_{r2,G} - x_{r3,G}) \quad (1)$$

Where,  $F$  is called the differential weight (Usually lies between  $[0, 1]$ ).

To obtain the updated position of the individual, a crossover operation is implemented between  $x_{i,G}$  and  $V_i$ , controlled by the parameter  $CR$  called the crossover probability. The value for  $CR$  always lies between  $[0, 1]$ .

## 3 HIERARCHY INFLUENCED DIFFERENTIAL EVOLUTION

Taking inspiration from the human motor system, we model the hierarchical motor operations in our optimization agents, where we define a global leader which influences the action of several distributed local leaders and the particle agents which act as the effectors. The global leader is analogous to the decision making and planning section in the motor system hierarchy whilst, the local leaders correspond to motion generators acting under the influence of the global leader.

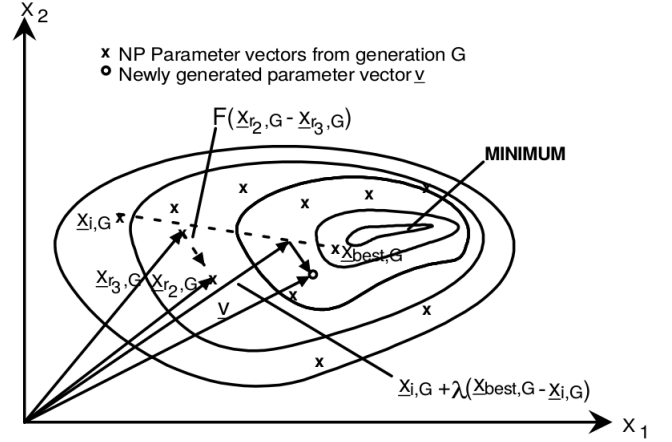


Figure 2: Motion planning of individuals in DE on two dimensional example of objective function.

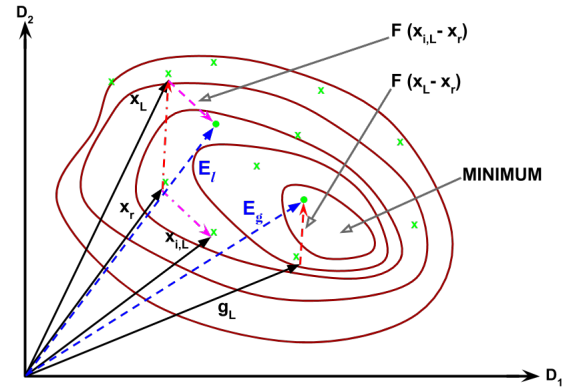


Figure 3: Hierarchical Decisive Motion planning of individuals in HIDE on two dimensional example of objective function. The position vectors resulting from the influence of global leader and local leaders are both represented as  $E_g$  and  $E_l$  on the contour of a two dimensional objective function.

The position of each particle in the population is affected by the influence of global leader and local leaders, while also being affected by a randomly chosen particle from the population to induce some stochasticity in the optimization pipeline. We first model the influence of the global leader on the local leaders and the influences of the local leaders on each population element using equation (4) and (3). We introduce a hierarchical crossover between the two influencing equations governed by a hierarchical crossover parameter  $HC$ .

Analogously to the brain motor operation depicted in Figure 1, the updation of particle positions requires generating feedback for the leaders as a part of the optimization procedure, and hence the

**Algorithm 1** Hierarchy Influenced Differential Evolution

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1: procedure START
2:   Initialize parameters ( $HC, HC, P, N_L, NP$ ).
3:   Generate initial global leader  $g_L$  as a random point.
4:   Generate  $N_L$  local leader points around  $g_L$ .
5:   Using a Normal distribution, generate  $NP$  points for population  $P$  around the local leaders.
6:   while termination criteria is not met do
7:     for each individual  $x_i, L$  in  $P$  do
8:       Determine the corresponding local leader  $l$  from the set of all local leader based on nearest position.
9:       Let  $u = 0$  be an empty vector.
10:      Let  $i_c$  and  $i_N$  be the current generation and total generations of the procedure.
11:      if  $i_c < (HC * i_N)$  then
12:         $u = E_g$  from (4).
13:      else
14:         $u = E_l$  from (3).
15:      end if
16:      for each dimension  $j$  do
17:        Generate  $r_j = U(0, 1)$ , a random number between 0 and 1.
18:        if  $r_j < HC$  then
19:          Set  $x'_j = x_j$ .
20:        else
21:          Set  $x'_j = u_j$ 
22:        end if
23:      end for
24:      if  $f(x') < f(x)$  then
25:        Replace  $x$  with  $x'$  in the population.
26:      end if
27:    end for
28:    Alter local leaders in each population cluster based on objective function value.
29:    Compute updated global leader  $g_L$ .
30:  end while
31: end procedure

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local leaders and the global leader are updated based on their objective function value generated from the perturbations in population particles. This series of events comprise of one optimization pass (one loop step). On execution of several optimization passes as described, the system is able to converge to an optimal configuration, analogous to the successful execution of the required task as shown in the final steps of Figure 1.

For each particle  $x_i, i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, NP - 1$  the trial vector of the particle  $u$ , is governed by the hierarchical crossover operation and a mutation operation as follows :

$$E_g = g_L + F(x_L - x_r) \quad (2)$$

$$E_l = x_L + F(x_{i,L} - x_r) \quad (3)$$

with

$$x_r \in P; r \in [0, NP - 1] \quad (4)$$

$x_r$  is randomly chosen particle from the population to induce stochasticity. The hierarchical operation is affected by the global leader  $g_L$  and the local leader  $x_L$  through the parametric equations (4) and (3). Switching between the two is governed by the hierarchical crossover parameter  $HC$  discussed as follows:

$$u = \begin{cases} E_g, & i_c < (HC * i_N) \\ E_l, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (5)$$

### 3.1 Hierarchical Crossover

Convergence trend in HIDE is largely pivoted about (2) and (3), which in unison, lend a hierarchical structure to the algorithm. A successful optimization algorithm involves establishing a trade-off between fast convergence and robust optimization [11]. Achieving global optimization can be visualized as collaboration of two forces, greedy exploration over a larger subspace followed by intensive exploration over the resulting restricted search space. Phase 1, involving (2) is marked by the interaction between the global and local leaders representing decision planning and facilitation of gross motion. This is followed by phase 2, involving (3) wherein the local leaders interact with and guide their effector population to control intricate motion over the constraint subspace to achieve smooth convergence. Robust convergence necessitates an optimal transition from phase 1 to phase 2 in the hierarchy. This hierarchical transition is characterized by our proposed parameter,  $HC$ . The value of  $HC$  belongs to  $[0, 1]$ . An optimal value for  $HC$  was observed experimentally to lie about one-quarter. For the purpose of our results, we have fixed  $HC$  to be 0.27. The differential influence of the global leader and distributed local leaders at the higher levels of hierarchy balances the greediness of mutation. Running these vector configurations concurrently has enabled our algorithm to largely avoid local minima in quest to attain global minimum. Our proposition is complemented by the observations in our results section wherein we significantly outperform several popular algorithms on involved multimodal hybrid and composite functions on higher dimensions.

## 4 RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

All evaluations were performed using Python 2.7.12 with Scipy[6] and Numpy[12] for numerical computations and Matplotlib [4] package for graphical representation of the result data. This section is divided into two sub-sections: Section A provides description about the problem set used for analysis of algorithmic efficiency and accuracy, and section B comprises of tabular and graphical data to reinforce the claim of superiority of the proposed approach.

### 4.1 Problem Set Description

The set of objective functions considered for testing the proposed algorithm and compare it's performance against classical DE and it's variants PODE and JADE have been taken from the CEC 2017 set of benchmark functions. Exhaustive comparisons and analysis have been depicted on dimensions  $D = 10, 30, 50$  and  $100$  for a clear understanding of the strengths of the proposed algorithm. Objective functions  $f_1 - f_3$  are simple unimodal functions and  $f_4 - f_{10}$  are multimodal functions with a high number of local optima values. Functions  $f_{11} - f_{20}$  are all hybrid functions using a combination

**Table 1: CEC 2017 Test Functions**

$F_{id}$	Problem Function	$F^*$
$f_1$	Shifted and Rotated Bent Cigar Function	100
$f_2$	Shifted and Rotated Sum of Different Power Function	200
$f_3$	Shifted and Rotated Zakharov Function	300
$f_4$	Shifted and Rotated Rosenbrock's Function	400
$f_5$	Shifted and Rotated Rastrigin's Function	500
$f_6$	Shifted and Rotated Expanded Scaffer's F6 Function	600
$f_7$	Shifted and Rotated Lunacek Bi_Rastrigin Function	700
$f_8$	Shifted and Rotated Non-Continuous Rastrigin's Function	800
$f_9$	Shifted and Rotated Levy Function	900
$f_{10}$	Shifted and Rotated Schwefel's Function	1000
$f_{11}$	Hybrid Function 1 (N=3)	1100
$f_{12}$	Hybrid Function 2 (N=3)	1200
$f_{13}$	Hybrid Function 3 (N=3)	1300
$f_{14}$	Hybrid Function 4 (N=4)	1400
$f_{15}$	Hybrid Function 5 (N=4)	1500
$f_{16}$	Hybrid Function 6 (N=4)	1600
$f_{17}$	Hybrid Function 7 (N=5)	1700
$f_{18}$	Hybrid Function 8 (N=5)	1800
$f_{19}$	Hybrid Function 9 (N=5)	1900
$f_{20}$	Hybrid Function 10 (N=6)	2000
$f_{21}$	Composition Function 1 (N=3)	2100
$f_{22}$	Composition Function 2 (N=3)	2200
$f_{23}$	Composition Function 3 (N=4)	2300
$f_{24}$	Composition Function 4 (N=4)	2400
$f_{25}$	Composition Function 5 (N=5)	2500
$f_{26}$	Composition Function 6 (N=5)	2600
$f_{27}$	Composition Function 7 (N=6)	2700
$f_{28}$	Composition Function 8 (N=6)	2800
$f_{29}$	Composition Function 9 (N=3)	2900
$f_{30}$	Composition Function 10 (N=3)	3000
Search Range: $[-100,100]^D$		

of functions from  $f_1 - f_{10}$ . The set of composite function range from  $f_{21} - f_{30}$  and merges the properties of the sub-functions better while incorporating the basic functions as well as hybrid functions to increase complexity while maintaining continuity around the global optima.

Summarized in Table 1 are the 30 objective functions from the CEC 2017 dataset and the global optimum value for each function denoted by  $F^*$ . In all simulation runs, we set the population size  $NP$  to a fixed value of 40, and the results are shown in a tabular structure depicting the best and average values of the population individuals for the simulations. Additionally, several graphical results have been discussed to observe the convergence rate and efficiency of the algorithms used in the simulation. These graphs were plotted based on the numerical results obtained from the simulation runs used to build the tables.

## 4.2 Parameter Settings

For fair comparisons, the parameters for all algorithms are fixed to the values depicted in table 2. As clear from the table, we set the parameters  $F$  and  $CR$  as 0.42 and 0.48 for DE across all experiments. The parameters for JADE were selected as suggested in the original work. These parameter settings allow transparency in results and a base for fair and clear comparisons in the analysis of the algorithms.

## 4.3 Numerical and Graphical Results

In tables 3-6, the best and mean values obtained for the population agents in the simulation runs have been reported, and the optimum values for each objective function have been highlighted in **bold**. For the sake of clarity, the comparison results in each table have been summarized in "w/t/l" format wherein  $w$  represents the number of objective functions where the algorithm outperforms all other algorithms,  $t$  specifies the number of objective functions where it is tied as the best algorithm for the objective function and  $l$  represents the no of test functions where it does not finish first. The utilization of the evaluation metric facilitates a definitive comparison of the different algorithms under consideration.

Tables 3 and 4 highlight the performance of the algorithms for  $D=10$  and  $30$  respectively. For  $D=10$ , HIDE depicts impressive performance. It registered a "w/t/l" score of 12/7/11 in the best case and 14/4/12 in the mean of population case. In both these test functions, JADE achieved the second best performance registering a w/t/l of 5/7/18 on the best optimal value case and 9/4/17 on the mean of optimal value case. On  $D=30$ , HIDE achieved maximum number of wins in both best and mean case (17 and 18 respectively). JADE achieved second position with 8 and 9 wins in the best and mean case. The decent performance of JADE can be attributed to the adaptive nature of its parameter selection with enables enhancement of its convergence rate.

The results for  $D=50$  and  $D=100$  (higher dimensions) have been summarized in tables 5 and 6. On  $D=50$ , HIDE depicted exceptional performance, outperforming all other algorithms. It registered 17 wins in the best case and 18 wins in the mean case. Classical DE shows no wins in any case in high dimensional settings owing to its slow convergence rate and inability to attain global optimum thus highlighting the usefulness of the modifications introduced

**Table 2: Algorithm Parameter Settings used for comparison**

Algorithm	Parameter	Value
DE	$F$	0.42
	$Cr$	0.48
PSODE	$w$	0.7
	$Cp$	2.0
	$Cg$	2.0
	$F$	0.48
	$Cr$	0.5
JADE	$\mu_{CR}$	0.5
	$\mu_F$	0.5
HIDE	$HC$	0.27
	$F$	0.48
	$N_l$	5

Table 3: Objective Function Value for Dimension: 10

ID	DE		JADE		PSO-DE		Ours	
	best	mean	best	mean	best	mean	best	mean
$f_1$	100.000051	100.011085	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	100.000712	185.975885	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
$f_2$	<b>200.0</b>	200.1	<b>200.0</b>	<b>200.0</b>	<b>200.0</b>	<b>200.0</b>	<b>200.0</b>	<b>200.0</b>
$f_3$	300.00134	300.214502	<b>300.0</b>	<b>300.0</b>	300.000006	300.000985	<b>300.0</b>	<b>300.0</b>
$f_4$	400.042617	403.674837	<b>400.0</b>	400.409399	400.064644	404.307763	<b>400.0</b>	<b>400.000003</b>
$f_5$	566.661791	604.867489	<b>523.908977</b>	<b>541.521084</b>	525.868824	575.61616	533.803201	579.483815
$f_6$	621.914237	634.807962	620.878276	636.034759	<b>603.187964</b>	635.865001	613.730565	<b>629.293758</b>
$f_7$	724.831278	739.129935	<b>717.016542</b>	<b>723.983312</b>	725.44788	733.15638	720.345706	725.233785
$f_8$	<b>818.904202</b>	829.749207	821.914433	<b>826.321588</b>	820.8941	830.246691	821.064763	828.160987
$f_9$	<b>900.0</b>	908.104383	<b>900.0</b>	1084.478253	<b>900.0</b>	1124.102561	<b>900.0</b>	<b>903.454324</b>
$f_{10}$	1911.510092	2447.443751	1760.956867	2162.648588	2049.644727	2518.241095	<b>1694.437597</b>	<b>2049.074266</b>
$f_{11}$	1102.985708	1113.423105	1105.661676	1117.509748	1105.97013	1120.192974	<b>1101.769749</b>	<b>1108.863598</b>
$f_{12}$	2531.746305	6509.743078	1438.605713	5430.674683	4089.006352	10810.387667	<b>1308.438341</b>	<b>1327.405881</b>
$f_{13}$	1313.130226	1404.903601	<b>1304.681558</b>	<b>1328.755262</b>	1319.839199	1453.340785	1306.682039	1344.282241
$f_{14}$	1409.949612	1426.571937	1412.934432	1428.169439	1420.91065	1434.112884	<b>1404.928993</b>	<b>1410.000769</b>
$f_{15}$	1504.131392	1521.446614	1502.496189	1508.31154	1501.389515	1518.310358	<b>1500.08137</b>	<b>1503.169264</b>
$f_{16}$	1958.42062	2104.555728	1958.857997	2094.630816	<b>1958.411527</b>	<b>2048.156879</b>	1958.433511	2062.385949
$f_{17}$	1728.194973	<b>1743.155244</b>	1730.715318	1748.129878	1727.80039	1791.607742	<b>1723.853972</b>	1747.589077
$f_{18}$	1801.586012	1838.840555	1804.298538	1825.091639	1817.154641	1840.546923	<b>1800.235516</b>	<b>1804.014301</b>
$f_{19}$	1901.195482	1903.604767	1900.399786	1902.152965	1902.71174	1906.252333	<b>1900.005632</b>	<b>1901.014116</b>
$f_{20}$	2204.55412	2289.226577	2148.538938	2178.313173	2140.561308	2261.038768	<b>2139.915527</b>	<b>2172.816519</b>
$f_{21}$	2337.772994	2387.230357	<b>2314.421135</b>	<b>2338.688719</b>	2337.207339	2351.898856	2320.496212	2344.61612
$f_{22}$	2300.805852	2304.132879	<b>2300.0</b>	<b>2300.093485</b>	2300.684181	2301.710478	2300.000015	2301.095975
$f_{23}$	3070.177083	3145.772296	3003.678563	3091.22041	<b>2773.372859</b>	3060.022519	2867.020036	<b>3047.982305</b>
$f_{24}$	<b>2500.0</b>	<b>2500.0</b>	<b>2500.0</b>	<b>2500.0</b>	<b>2500.0</b>	<b>2500.0</b>	<b>2500.0</b>	<b>2500.0</b>
$f_{25}$	2899.584968	2933.249812	2899.584968	2930.266506	<b>2897.742869</b>	<b>2921.27479</b>	2897.833388	2927.976511
$f_{26}$	<b>2800.0</b>	4117.597033	<b>2800.0</b>	<b>2956.064173</b>	<b>2800.0</b>	3367.60765	<b>2800.0</b>	3161.548079
$f_{27}$	3113.157656	3358.806434	3072.439023	3178.509645	3078.873134	3240.501812	<b>3071.203569</b>	<b>3107.268539</b>
$f_{28}$	3184.75565	3230.921422	3184.75565	<b>3195.113042</b>	3184.755652	3198.370691	<b>3100.0</b>	3195.411961
$f_{29}$	<b>3148.587115</b>	3266.979786	3172.400194	<b>3233.707677</b>	3191.348193	3244.892638	3189.211417	3292.420474
$f_{30}$	3442.555095	11927.404685	3207.766942	4615.591316	4573.358512	16415.162901	<b>3205.740954</b>	<b>3249.710975</b>
w/t/l	2/4/24	1/1/28	5/7/18	9/4/17	4/4/22	2/2/26	12/7/11	14/4/12

Table 4: Objective Function Value for Dimension: 30

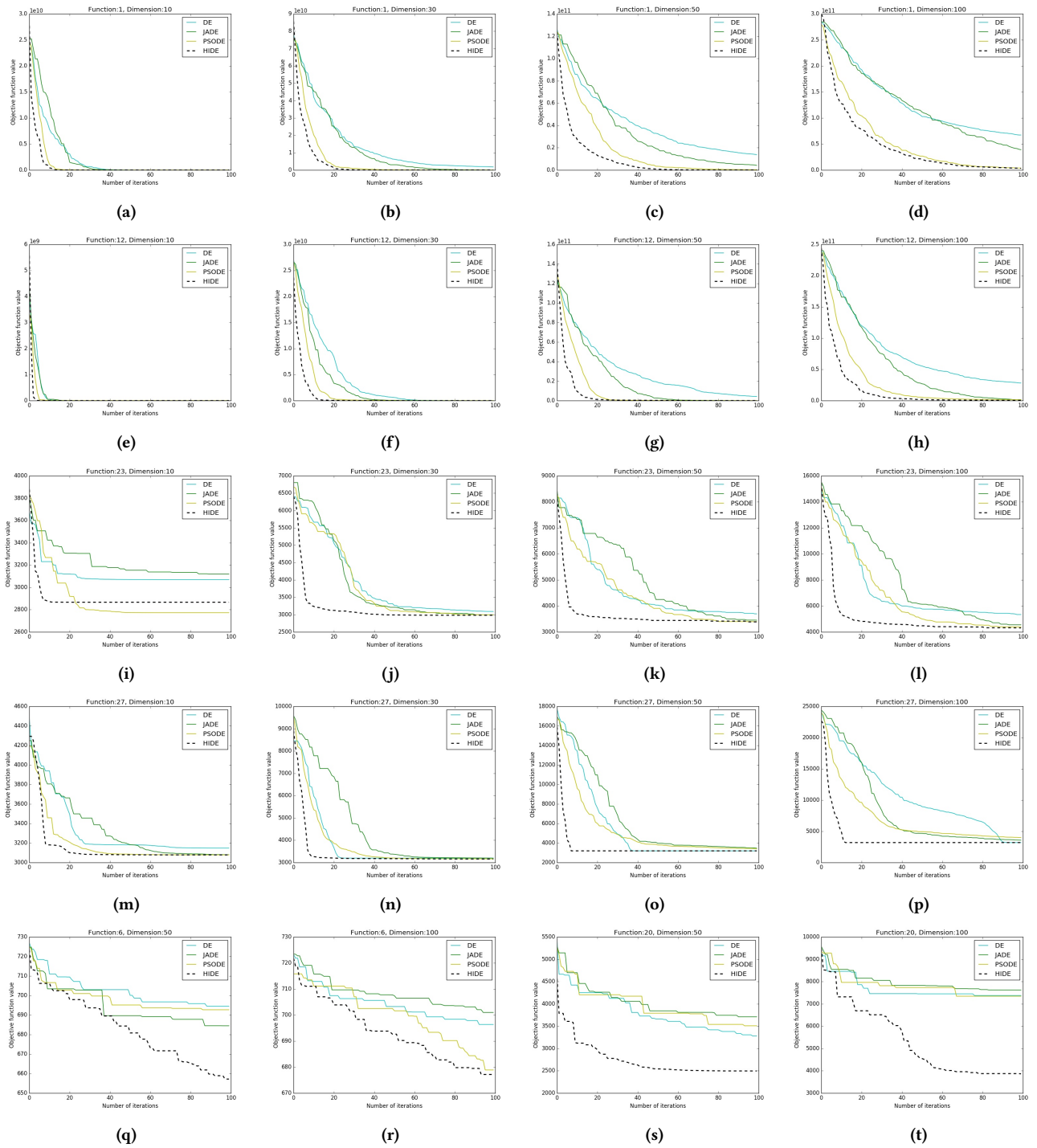
$f_{id}$	DE		JADE		PSO-DE		Ours	
	best	mean	best	mean	best	mean	best	mean
$f_1$	100.001508	4334.438478	100.001338	100.056201	364.295574	4236.363207	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
$f_2$	40412441.0	5.129601e+19	<b>200.0</b>	1535352368.6	332899.0	9.590679e+11	<b>200.0</b>	<b>159855.5</b>
$f_3$	17926.872873	22131.542719	69304.926091	74080.700372	15792.547575	21683.209092	<b>3679.811599</b>	<b>8999.947269</b>
$f_4$	481.255055	519.422652	403.633939	<b>442.206911</b>	468.341175	479.341966	<b>400.004163</b>	443.016156
$f_5$	689.041352	737.79326	<b>667.50756</b>	<b>735.204027</b>	715.904429	746.548906	685.40454	738.842184
$f_6$	<b>643.626307</b>	652.582714	651.39169	655.142819	642.724237	655.106996	644.701241	<b>652.002395</b>
$f_7$	883.347367	962.591129	<b>779.907693</b>	<b>818.344111</b>	790.014281	854.285524	812.923573	856.90477
$f_8$	923.37426	967.251501	931.500175	<b>957.362003</b>	<b>915.414882</b>	960.486239	930.288539	964.11663
$f_9$	5652.483961	7878.781444	4953.05469	5146.600953	6018.417197	9042.410178	<b>4003.118072</b>	<b>4734.984364</b>
$f_{10}$	<b>3596.63104</b>	4536.989761	4012.723292	<b>4204.18969</b>	3934.606704	4863.741107	3793.781776	4346.741344
$f_{11}$	1162.405965	1184.634006	1152.748529	1174.58813	1165.144993	1189.171787	<b>1149.748499</b>	<b>1171.130409</b>
$f_{12}$	56679.435092	317650.61349	24821.171765	58930.090242	10221.077465	161046.05540	<b>9208.289246</b>	<b>41947.22269</b>
$f_{13}$	3002.029489	18794.835991	4276.907742	13775.816239	3871.279833	10612.26359	<b>1664.06241</b>	<b>2453.606969</b>
$f_{14}$	1773.180798	5502.160382	1496.219858	42868.9158	1555.452763	4029.808535	<b>1462.926848</b>	<b>1504.191515</b>
$f_{15}$	1860.435669	2484.689969	1688.05046	2222.674323	1651.747476	2223.060542	<b>1611.074402</b>	<b>1852.66177</b>
$f_{16}$	2517.439623	2827.004968	2344.19818	2621.618684	<b>2239.242719</b>	<b>2664.114667</b>	2298.041965	2691.674809
$f_{17}$	2321.175936	2604.529778	2062.898023	2546.995596	2107.43677	2457.34021	<b>1820.806639</b>	<b>2418.723829</b>
$f_{18}$	38987.282456	94156.328505	<b>11841.60813</b>	184888.162181	62294.853257	118430.28912	12578.003784	<b>23024.11193</b>
$f_{19}$	2043.469888	3010.235379	1959.71819	2156.957875	3049.52231	6840.408394	<b>1949.271714</b>	<b>1987.866771</b>
$f_{20}$	2625.539158	2864.832611	<b>2706.314441</b>	<b>2805.600064</b>	2619.996493	2895.107238	2753.806213	2966.035793
$f_{21}$	2412.081757	2504.777775	2414.52134	2456.718982	2431.740293	2478.841357	<b>2200.0</b>	<b>2442.734316</b>
$f_{22}$	2300.481796	5655.569322	<b>2300.0</b>	<b>4157.698784</b>	2307.721358	6811.069162	2300.009985	6795.24842
$f_{23}$	3050.654508	3572.965066	<b>2772.002023</b>	<b>2946.749322</b>	2764.922461	3199.874364	2883.276891	3543.839343
$f_{24}$	3104.623692	3290.698756	2891.557648	2965.225566	<b>2911.63347</b>	2983.772932	<b>2500.0</b>	2940.75997
$f_{25}$	2916.180657	2946.711753	2875.106846	2881.091389	2875.498843	2889.943671	<b>2874.171109</b>	<b>2877.484904</b>
$f_{26}$	4043.691403	6756.3724	2900.0	<b>3266.510982</b>	<b>2800.007809</b>	3273.128769	2900.0	3298.490539
$f_{27}$	3200.005857	3998.876498	3145.810354	<b>3189.82261</b>	3145.425231	3639.634132	<b>3132.816283</b>	3284.28897
$f_{28}$	3290.744025	3326.263983	<b>3100.0</b>	3131.027315	3195.486838	3225.594053	<b>3100.0</b>	<b>3115.505829</b>
$f_{29}$	3720.314598	4115.185803	<b>3305.310139</b>	<b>3626.887552</b>	3535.952295	3867.593068	3352.845055	3709.102375
$f_{30}$	3359.030768	3900.826662	<b>3263.496536</b>	3749.610722	3312.635025	3524.714477	3298.704645	<b>3421.715322</b>
w/t/l	2/0/28	0/0/30	8/2/20	11/0/19	4/0/26	1/0/29	15/2/13	17/0/13

Table 5: Objective Function Value for Dimension: 50

$f_{id}$	DE		JADE		PSO-DE		Ours	
	best	mean	best	mean	best	mean	best	mean
$f_1$	5884574.87314	367294248.521	136.072384	3708.75086	5811.218992	154233.646744	<b>106.072862</b>	<b>3665.419272</b>
$f_2$	4.718137e+24	3.364977e+44	<b>2635725.0</b>	<b>5.02374e+26</b>	2.212101e+19	2.544543e+23	2.279950e+17	1.00729e+31
$f_3$	45520.966376	62237.296819	143481.793147	156166.762356	52308.42743	64435.24063	<b>44613.29993</b>	<b>58182.83733</b>
$f_4$	574.400328	801.384952	418.580378	470.113207	477.080964	574.528479	<b>400.005049</b>	<b>447.775413</b>
$f_5$	816.394775	843.258843	809.899483	834.131266	<b>778.59312</b>	831.066954	791.405194	<b>830.218472</b>
$f_6$	652.541914	655.794152	<b>633.217881</b>	<b>654.893828</b>	653.291336	658.183613	645.25633	656.060597
$f_7$	1109.02123	1263.038487	<b>889.036574</b>	<b>944.90319</b>	915.153525	1047.43879	989.957862	1186.248741
$f_8$	1139.278925	1175.893113	1118.339103	<b>1144.604745</b>	<b>1092.62639</b>	1159.032351	1100.476077	1168.529946
$f_9$	22196.387817	29218.775982	11958.280061	<b>13174.66236</b>	24753.040541	32233.95451	<b>10251.47631</b>	14752.7168
$f_{10}$	6228.49289	7289.183679	6054.707691	6833.306317	6207.795302	7055.595231	<b>6050.434374</b>	<b>6609.804567</b>
$f_{11}$	1170.858603	1258.517635	1202.694857	1232.204268	1206.154564	1252.939541	<b>1156.439606</b>	<b>1205.254497</b>
$f_{12}$	677263.0799	16987989.981	<b>74784.6159</b>	530814.6481	584300.6983	3448448.7906	126908.2157	<b>494471.0756</b>
$f_{13}$	6005.535308	16893.949921	2041.488125	4332.5945	1572.252973	<b>4301.829606</b>	<b>1484.761799</b>	7760.056137
$f_{14}$	38490.532315	174367.45065	<b>2466.047056</b>	238838.470051	16327.42317	67939.000264	2967.818485	<b>26290.31618</b>
$f_{15}$	2278.141229	26989.255509	13553.041864	25636.769611	3443.587343	<b>9167.267098</b>	<b>1938.200405</b>	14976.72189
$f_{16}$	2722.026011	3176.916902	<b>2345.400708</b>	<b>2916.561016</b>	2521.93881	3146.04527	2436.449338	2978.37746
$f_{17}$	2799.949776	3289.61565	2568.383575	2907.869272	2887.281107	3236.957928	<b>2561.370306</b>	<b>2874.965038</b>
$f_{18}$	264037.12570	872072.47739	36176.58677	<b>113941.3176</b>	<b>26965.28512</b>	114846.121366	260540.781819	536454.326476
$f_{19}$	10051.912407	20380.25713	2089.172253	7763.17234	9905.850822	16555.756926	<b>2013.126904</b>	<b>3609.258962</b>
$f_{20}$	2950.923195	3274.334015	3041.81309	3113.289461	2991.589293	3361.823946	<b>2495.031774</b>	<b>3080.137478</b>
$f_{21}$	2596.725663	2689.688363	2526.190898	2597.677199	2555.8788	2642.381597	<b>2447.758274</b>	<b>2570.911014</b>
$f_{22}$	9713.993241	10803.653732	10759.59674	11032.880953	8918.436264	10465.022457	<b>8181.446081</b>	<b>9755.070369</b>
$f_{23}$	3451.104943	4200.174424	2971.160647	3237.778662	2977.554961	3490.639751	<b>2851.650254</b>	<b>3162.313622</b>
$f_{24}$	3434.465028	3682.846708	3103.955173	3185.382676	<b>3036.799607</b>	<b>3158.330504</b>	3136.927747	3284.656095
$f_{25}$	3141.144886	3292.303449	2931.162959	2962.471758	2931.926959	3008.895353	<b>2931.142314</b>	<b>2954.767839</b>
$f_{26}$	4906.132848	7989.490966	<b>2900.0</b>	3346.874039	2900.441895	3653.757741	<b>2900.0</b>	<b>3262.668498</b>
$f_{27}$	3200.010703	3792.645588	3143.038057	3184.646353	3158.178238	3397.130323	<b>3141.010872</b>	<b>3176.011524</b>
$f_{28}$	3300.010827	3431.570911	<b>3240.725865</b>	<b>3288.253039</b>	3263.207144	3300.257609	3243.631996	3294.373237
$f_{29}$	3812.475517	4605.349537	<b>3533.945743</b>	<b>3956.835243</b>	3955.324537	4364.18129	3653.675553	3966.471956
$f_{30}$	3673.711968	5813.173755	3916.725719	4869.089335	3730.309354	5143.078706	<b>3346.483679</b>	<b>4747.88675</b>
w/t/l	0/0/30	0/0/30	8/1/21	9/0/21	4/0/26	3/0/27	17/1/12	18/0/12

Table 6: Objective Function Value for Dimension: 100

$f_{id}$	DE		JADE		PSO-DE		Ours	
	best	mean	best	mean	best	mean	best	mean
$f_1$	3427212811.79	13807281895.7	141.263356	13516.698933	6067123.52108	29751976.5091	<b>122.398748</b>	<b>11708.82360</b>
$f_2$	4.19617e+84	1.54741e+112	8.73752e+74	2.54362e+87	<b>6.1536e+66</b>	<b>3.2118e+73</b>	3.8835e+80	8.8914e+114
$f_3$	228808.969094	262699.687639	312244.360944	332179.290693	241427.723667	257462.977885	<b>220765.0838</b>	<b>251901.1093</b>
$f_4$	1975.651157	2752.246068	539.386275	677.054657	777.314462	836.965399	<b>531.169819</b>	<b>621.219143</b>
$f_5$	1223.536503	1286.153332	1249.195036	1307.110127	1248.410134	1310.887657	<b>1068.11742</b>	<b>1272.47682</b>
$f_6$	651.650133	657.84974	654.709342	659.421427	656.877048	662.318417	<b>642.33355</b>	<b>654.132758</b>
$f_7$	1614.003864	1920.797726	1367.066537	1536.357878	<b>1311.849757</b>	<b>1534.207764</b>	1562.379772	2076.702502
$f_8$	1595.418732	1736.367379	1672.567849	1768.082435	1678.127263	1761.94051	<b>1293.552115</b>	<b>1592.162983</b>
$f_9$	59726.514621	71986.043905	28906.90908	30336.745335	63640.331351	74961.220998	<b>23466.57501</b>	<b>27067.02959</b>
$f_{10}$	12005.889721	14725.348334	14227.801909	15355.621891	12937.027857	14972.950738	<b>11153.58683</b>	<b>13298.09210</b>
$f_{11}$	7540.617987	11481.260145	40447.548688	57228.683666	<b>3521.901521</b>	<b>4544.804011</b>	5380.432052	9916.347692
$f_{12}$	529993877.325	1881773956.29	3893556.27222	<b>6415173.6097</b>	26105108.937	41876679.0862	<b>3680108.181</b>	10059039.63
$f_{13}$	7943.9249	508209.562668	4622.698553	<b>8892.775994</b>	8246.515295	12675.845535	<b>2976.841354</b>	11376.986338
$f_{14}$	728122.833253	1329183.17224	<b>132194.7952</b>	<b>365560.8816</b>	548410.338286	941547.524763	234045.940166	867160.306892
$f_{15}$	2660.465784	181957.060133	<b>1799.506503</b>	3362.509604	1899.073444	<b>2914.44348</b>	1976.789124	4485.415275
$f_{16}$	4749.254663	5847.826738	4817.483738	5632.3022	3852.700054	5228.663526	<b>3519.494945</b>	<b>4796.802728</b>
$f_{17}$	4397.496352	4958.418182	3842.206015	<b>4450.177422</b>	3790.72056	4730.994585	<b>3582.785882</b>	5463.216947
$f_{18}$	1357845.39305	1938893.27972	<b>146426.2736</b>	<b>763318.8226</b>	1004224.20385	2315010.29868	631040.14635	1335739.59138
$f_{19}$	2482.170159	26455.706954	2098.9496	4767.529535	2263.725158	3927.459947	<b>2071.077067</b>	<b>3664.159878</b>
$f_{20}$	4968.497438	5436.604051	5231.026486	5690.748998	5109.460563	5781.300835	<b>3627.777893</b>	<b>5228.430669</b>
$f_{21}$	3180.746656	3355.4783	2921.900122	<b>3085.692252</b>	<b>2885.574085</b>	3127.356835	2926.350399	3199.986183
$f_{22}$	17808.897744	19562.986646	19213.375668	20278.929093	18695.522312	20167.413741	<b>17548.33905</b>	<b>19547.15124</b>
$f_{23}$	4907.519646	5819.207866	<b>3352.556985</b>	4222.436894	3582.043556	4779.921248	3418.983204	<b>3609.098575</b>
$f_{24}$	5173.249408	5946.12042	4060.951302	4095.429519	<b>3801.368588</b>	<b>4042.426859</b>	3998.054028	4216.824895
$f_{25}$	4089.118918	4548.285768	<b>3153.485413</b>	<b>3236.61784</b>	3348.382262	3407.526581	3176.3038	3264.318532
$f_{26}$	8557.498566	20159.11458	11924.799473	11924.799473	3021.136025	4682.035439	<b>2900.000382</b>	<b>9867.5518</b>
$f_{27}$	3200.023355	3772.409153	<b>3194.809213</b>	3201.670732	3200.024171	3494.618132	3200.023542	<b>3200.023953</b>
$f_{28}$	4947.745152	5948.213156	<b>3295.122914</b>	<b>3340.280383</b>	3456.828432	3542.571307	3300.807691	3354.717338
$f_{29}$	6004.774424	7090.642544	5208.711727	5970.628689	5462.328635	6178.559061	<b>4541.195471</b>	<b>5739.291549</b>
$f_{30}$	7798.106217	202435555.594	<b>3584.974771</b>	10674.217331	3920.327039	<b>7139.460728</b>	3850.317099	15318.554601
w/t/l	0/0/30	0/0/30	8/0/22	8/0/22	5/0/25	6/0/24	17/0/13	16/0/14



**Figure 4: Comparison analysis over various functions and dimensions**

in the variants including HIDE. Similarly for  $D=100$ , HIDE again outperforms all other algorithms by an appreciable margin. From a functional standpoint, It would be worthwhile to highlight that HIDE outperformed the other algorithm on majority on the composite and hybrid functions, particularly on the higher dimensional

settings. The efficiency of HIDE can be attributed to the hierarchical nature of crossover selection and concurrency in vector configurations at the higher hierarchy levels. The tabular results reinforce the fact that HIDE outperforms JADE, PSODE and DE. On close

analysis, it can be witnessed that HIDE falls behind the other algorithms on a small fraction of unimodal functions such as  $f_5, f_7$  on lower dimensions due to fast convergence during early stages of execution. However, the performance of higher dimensions, particularly on the more involved functions highlights utility for real world problems

The tabular results are complemented through the graphical representations in Fig. 4. Analysis of the plots clearly depicts that HIDE shows a better convergence rate as compared to the other algorithms. As the analysis transcends to higher dimensional settings, the proposed approach outperforms majority of the algorithms in terms of both convergence rate and optimality. HIDE and PSODE produce similar performance trend As observed from Fig. 4(a,b,e,f,i,j,m,n), HIDE produces better end results than PSODE, DE and JADE in majority of the cases The trends of relative performance of HIDE and other algorithms as observed in the tables on lower dimensions is complemented by Fig. 4(a,b,e,f,i,j,m,n). On higher dimensions, HIDE significantly outperforms other algorithms by large margins, especially in Fig. 4(s,t) where it depicts exceptional performance on both convergence rate and optimality. Similarly, in Fig. 4 (k, l, o, p) HIDE shows a faster convergence than any other algorithms considered for comparisons, hence validating the claim that the proposed approach is able to overcome the issue of slow convergence with Differential Evolution algorithm. This is remarkable trait in HIDE enhances its utility for high dimensional problems where fast convergence to global optimum value is required, hence making it superior to the other considered algorithms and several variants of the DE algorithm.

## 5 CONCLUSION

Differential Evolution has been regarded as one of the most successful optimization algorithms and over the years, several variants have been proposed to enhance its convergence rate and performance. In the present work, we introduced a hierarchy influenced variant of the classical DE algorithm and modeled the same on the brain motor operation. The algorithm was characterized by global leader, local leaders and an effector population. The global leader and distributed local leaders interacted to facilitate gross motion via a greedy exploration strategy. The local leaders and their effectors interacted to control intricate motion for smooth convergence. A hierarchical crossover parameter was introduced to characterize the hierarchical transition between the two interactions. The influence of the vector configurations at the higher levels of hierarchy enabled the algorithm to avoid local minima in most objective functions. The same is complemented through our result observations wherein we significantly outperform several popular algorithm on complex multimodal functions in higher dimensional settings. Our proposed approach has sought to establish a viable tradeoff between fast optimization, robust convergence and low number of control parameters. The performance analysis of the algorithm highlights the particular effectiveness of the proposed approach on high dimensional hybrid and composite functions. The observed results provide sufficient motivation to extend the scope of the work to complex high dimensional real life problems including image enhancement, traveling salesman problem and flexible job-shop scheduling.

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