

SPSA with Hessian Approximation on the Noisy Function Testbed

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ABSTRACT

This paper benchmarks the Simultaneous Perturbation Stochastic Algorithm (SPSA) with Hessian Matrix Approximation [5] on the BBOB 2009 noisy testbed. SPSA is a widely used optimization algorithm with its main application in noisy optimization. The paper presents briefly the algorithm and used parameter setting for the testbed.

Categories and Subject Descriptors

G.1.6 [Numerical Analysis]: Optimization Global Optimization, Unconstrained Optimization; F.2.1 [Analysis of Algorithms and Problem Complexity]: Numerical Algorithms and Problems

General Terms

Algorithms

Keywords

Benchmarking, Black-box optimization, evolutionary computation, stochastic optimization

1. INTRODUCTION

The SPSA algorithm [4] is a very common and widely used optimization algorithm and primarily designed for noisy optimization. In this paper the basic variant is coupled with an additional iteration for the approximation of the Hessian Matrix. As for the basic variant a multistart procedure is used to effectively use the computational resources and increase the convergence towards the target value f_{opt} .

2. ALGORITHM PRESENTATION

In Fig. 1 the main algorithm is presented.

3. EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURE

As recommend the gain rates are set to $\alpha = 0.602$ and $\gamma = 0.101$.

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4. RESULTS

Results from experiments according to [2] on the benchmarks functions given in [1, 3] are presented in Figures 2 and 3 and in Tables 1 and 2.

5. CPU TIMING EXPERIMENT

For the timing experiment the same multistart algorithm was run on f_8 and restarted until at least 30 seconds had passed (according to Figure 2 in [2]). The results were 7.6; 7.6; 7.9; 7.9; 7.7 and 18×10^{-4} seconds per function evaluation in dimension 2; 3; 5; 10; 20 and 40, respectively. The dependency of CPU time on the search space dimensionality is negligible for the small dimensions, but for $\text{DIM} = 40$ the time increases by factor about 2.5.

6. CONCLUSION

This paper reports the result for the SPSA with Hessian approximation on the BBOB 2009 noisy testbed.

Acknowledgments

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Figure 1: SPSA with Hessian approximation in Matlab

% SPSA2 with Feedback and Weighting Mechanism for BBOB Workshop

function SPSA2(FUN, DIM, ftarget, maxfunevals)

% multistart such that ftarget is reached with reasonable prob.
for ilaunch = 1:100; % relaunch optimizer up to 100 times

if ilaunch == 1 % initial scenario
xstart = 8 * rand(DIM, 1) - 4;
lambda = 1;
else

choice = round(2*rand) + 1;

switch choice

case 1 % new point
xstart = 8 * rand(DIM, 1) - 4;

case 2 % improve old point
if max(abs(x)) < 5
xstart = x;
else
xstart = 8 * rand(DIM, 1) - 4;
end

case 3 % increase lambda
lambda = ceil(lambda * sqrt(2));

end % switch case

end

% try spsa
[x,termvalue] = alg(FUN,xstart, DIM,ftarget,maxfunevals,lambda);

if termvalue == 1
break;
end

end

end % of function

function [x,termvalue] = alg(FUN,x, DIM, ftarget, maxfunevals,lambda)

% initialize parameter

alpha = 0.602;

gamma = 0.101;

if isinf(maxfunevals)

kmax = 1e5*DIM;

else

kmax = maxfunevals/4/lambda;

end

A = kmax*0.1;

% initialize counters

k = 0; % iteration counter

% initialize hessian matrix and sum of loss measurements

HkBar = eye(DIM);

HkBarBar = zeros(DIM);

Gk = zeros(DIM,1);

dGk = zeros(DIM,1);

Psik = zeros(DIM);

sumck = 0;

HkHat = zeros(DIM);

% determine initial parameter

% a0

a0 = 1;

X = repmat(x,1,10);

% c0

dummy = feval(FUN,X);

c0 = max([5*std(dummy,1),1e-5]);

c0Bar = 2*c0;

while k < kmax

% gain sequences

ck = c0*(k+1)^(-gamma);

ckBar = c0Bar*(k+1)^(-gamma);

sumck = sumck + ck^2*ckBar^2;

ak = a0*(k + 1 + A)^(-alpha);

% gradient and hessian approximation

% generation of the simultaneous perturbation vector

for i = 1:lambda

delta = 2*round(rand(DIM,1))-1; % for gradient recursion
deltaH = 2*round(rand(DIM,1))-1; % for hessian recursion

% function evaluation

yplus = FUN(x + ck.*delta);

yminus = FUN(x - ck.*delta);

yplusH = FUN(x + ck.*delta + ckBar.*deltaH);

yminusH = FUN(x - ck.*delta + ckBar.*deltaH);

% gradient approximation

Gk = (i-1)/i*Gk + 1/i*(yplus-yminus)./(2*ck*delta);

% gradient approximation for hessian matrix

dGk = (i-1)/i*dGk + 1/i*((yplusH-yplus)./(ckBar.*deltaH) - ...
(yminusH-yminus)./(ckBar.*deltaH));

hhat = dGk./(2*ck)*(delta.^(-1))';

HkHat = (i-1)/i*HkHat + 1/(2*i)*(hhat + hhat');

% feedback term

Dk = delta*(1./delta)' - eye(DIM);

DkBar = deltaH*(1./deltaH)' - eye(DIM);

psik = DkBar'*HkBarBar*Dk + DkBar'*HkBarBar+HkBarBar*Dk;

Psik = (i-1)/i*Psik + 1/(2*i)*(psik + psik');

end

% weights

wk = ck^2*ckBar^2/sumck; % for noisy testbed

% hessian matrix recursion

HkBar = (1-wk)*HkBar + wk*(HkHat - Psik);

HkBarBar = diag(diag(HkBar + 1e-3*exp(-k+1)*eye(DIM)));

% update of the search point

xnew = x - ak*(HkBarBar\Gk);

% blocking

if max(abs(xnew - x)) < 10

x = xnew;

end

% termination criteria

fit = feval(FUN,x);

if max(isnan(x)) == 1 || max(isinf(x)) == 1 || fit > 1e30

termvalue = 0;

break;

end

if feval(FUN, 'fbest') < ftarget || ...

feval(FUN, 'evaluations') >= maxfunevals

termvalue = 1;

break;

end

k = k + 1;

end % of iteration

end % of function

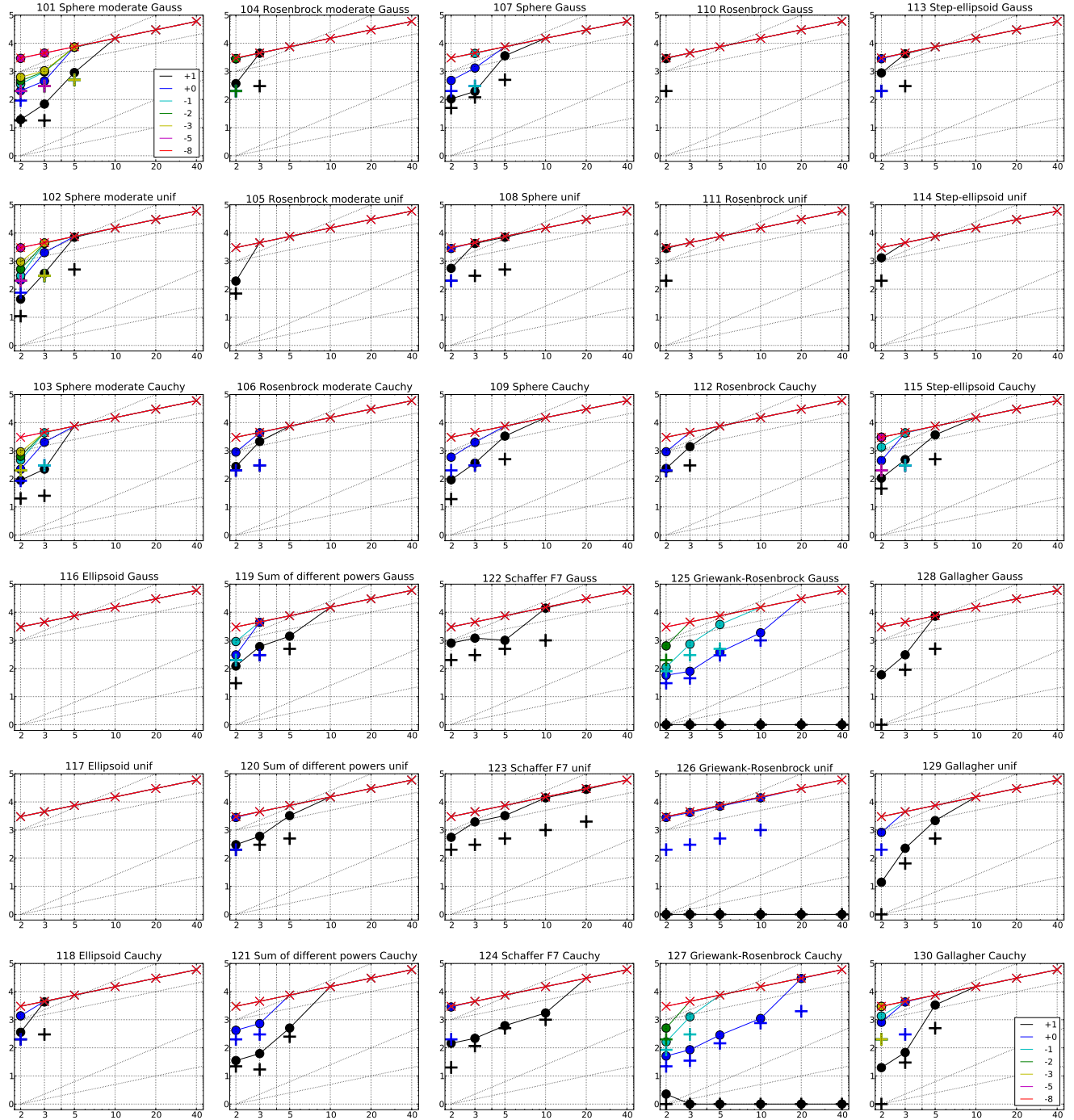


Figure 2: Expected Running Time (ERT, \bullet) to reach $f_{\text{opt}} + \Delta f$ and median number of function evaluations of successful trials (+), shown for $\Delta f = 10, 1, 10^{-1}, 10^{-2}, 10^{-3}, 10^{-5}, 10^{-8}$ (the exponent is given in the legend of f_{101} and f_{130}) versus dimension in log-log presentation. The $\text{ERT}(\Delta f)$ equals to $\#F\text{Es}(\Delta f)$ divided by the number of successful trials, where a trial is successful if $f_{\text{opt}} + \Delta f$ was surpassed during the trial. The $\#F\text{Es}(\Delta f)$ are the total number of function evaluations while $f_{\text{opt}} + \Delta f$ was not surpassed during the trial from all respective trials (successful and unsuccessful), and f_{opt} denotes the optimal function value. Crosses (\times) indicate the total number of function evaluations $\#F\text{Es}(-\infty)$. Numbers above ERT-symbols indicate the number of successful trials. Annotated numbers on the ordinate are decimal logarithms. Additional grid lines show linear and quadratic scaling.

Δf	f_{101} in 5-D, N=15, mFE=500					f_{101} in 20-D, N=15, mFE=2000					Δf	f_{102} in 5-D, N=15, mFE=500					f_{102} in 20-D, N=15, mFE=2000				
	#	ERT	10%	90%	RT _{succ}	#	ERT	10%	90%	RT _{succ}		#	ERT	10%	90%	RT _{succ}	#	ERT	10%	90%	RT _{succ}
10	6	9.1e2	7.4e2	1.1e3	2.9e2	0	19e+1	13e+1	30e+1	1.4e1	10	1	7.0e3	6.5e3	7.5e3	5.0e2	0	23e+1	15e+1	28e+1	3.9e1
1	1	7.2e3	6.9e3	7.5e3	5.0e2	.	.	.	.	.	1	0	26e+0	11e+0	52e+0	2.2e2	.	.	.	.	.
1e-1	1	7.2e3	7.0e3	7.5e3	5.0e2	.	.	.	.	.	1e-1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1e-3	1	7.3e3	7.2e3	7.5e3	5.0e2	.	.	.	.	.	1e-3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1e-5	0	10e+0	20e-1	27e+0	2.2e2	.	.	.	.	.	1e-5	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1e-8	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1e-8	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Δf	f_{103} in 5-D, N=15, mFE=500					f_{103} in 20-D, N=15, mFE=2000					Δf	f_{104} in 5-D, N=15, mFE=500					f_{104} in 20-D, N=15, mFE=2000				
	#	ERT	10%	90%	RT _{succ}	#	ERT	10%	90%	RT _{succ}		#	ERT	10%	90%	RT _{succ}	#	ERT	10%	90%	RT _{succ}
10	0	46e+0	25e+0	97e+0	1.9e1	0	22e+1	15e+1	30e+1	2.8e1	10	0	48e+2	24e+1	14e+4	2.8e2	0	47e+4	54e+3	83e+4	1.0e0
1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1e-1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1e-1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1e-3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1e-3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1e-5	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1e-5	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1e-8	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1e-8	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Δf	f_{105} in 5-D, N=15, mFE=500					f_{105} in 20-D, N=15, mFE=2000					Δf	f_{106} in 5-D, N=15, mFE=500					f_{106} in 20-D, N=15, mFE=2000				
	#	ERT	10%	90%	RT _{succ}	#	ERT	10%	90%	RT _{succ}		#	ERT	10%	90%	RT _{succ}	#	ERT	10%	90%	RT _{succ}
10	0	24e+3	33e+2	22e+4	2.2e1	0	34e+4	17e+4	50e+4	1.0e0	10	0	12e+3	68e+1	31e+4	2.8e2	0	30e+4	14e+4	84e+4	2.2e1
1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1e-1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1e-1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1e-3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1e-3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1e-5	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1e-5	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1e-8	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1e-8	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Δf	f_{107} in 5-D, N=15, mFE=500					f_{107} in 20-D, N=15, mFE=2000					Δf	f_{108} in 5-D, N=15, mFE=500					f_{108} in 20-D, N=15, mFE=2000				
	#	ERT	10%	90%	RT _{succ}	#	ERT	10%	90%	RT _{succ}		#	ERT	10%	90%	RT _{succ}	#	ERT	10%	90%	RT _{succ}
10	2	3.6e3	3.4e3	3.8e3	5.0e2	0	21e+1	12e+1	24e+1	1.0e0	10	1	7.0e3	6.5e3	7.5e3	1.0e0	0	22e+1	13e+1	27e+1	1.0e0
1	0	21e+0	79e-1	62e+0	4.0e2	.	.	.	.	.	1	0	29e+0	11e+0	89e+0	1.0e0	.	.	.	.	.
1e-1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1e-1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1e-3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1e-3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1e-5	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1e-5	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1e-8	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1e-8	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Δf	f_{109} in 5-D, N=15, mFE=500					f_{109} in 20-D, N=15, mFE=2000					Δf	f_{110} in 5-D, N=15, mFE=500					f_{110} in 20-D, N=15, mFE=2000				
	#	ERT	10%	90%	RT _{succ}	#	ERT	10%	90%	RT _{succ}		#	ERT	10%	90%	RT _{succ}	#	ERT	10%	90%	RT _{succ}
10	2	3.3e3	2.9e3	3.8e3	2.7e2	0	15e+1	11e+1	21e+1	7.1e2	10	0	57e+3	38e+2	26e+4	1.0e0	0	44e+4	34e+4	81e+4	1.0e0
1	0	30e+0	88e-1	80e+0	7.9e1	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1e-1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1e-1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1e-3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1e-3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1e-5	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1e-5	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1e-8	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1e-8	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Δf	f_{111} in 5-D, N=15, mFE=500					f_{111} in 20-D, N=15, mFE=2000					Δf	f_{112} in 5-D, N=15, mFE=500					f_{112} in 20-D, N=15, mFE=2000				
	#	ERT	10%	90%	RT _{succ}	#	ERT	10%	90%	RT _{succ}		#	ERT	10%	90%	RT _{succ}	#	ERT	10%	90%	RT _{succ}
10	0	11e+4	67e+2	26e+4	1.0e0	0	34e+4	15e+4	62e+4	1.0e0	10	0	19e+2	12e+1	18e+3	1.0e2	0	37e+4	92e+3	57e+4	5.0e1
1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1e-1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1e-1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1e-3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1e-3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1e-5	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1e-5	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1e-8	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1e-8	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Δf	f_{113} in 5-D, N=15, mFE=500					f_{113} in 20-D, N=15, mFE=2000					Δf	f_{114} in 5-D, N=15, mFE=500					f_{114} in 20-D, N=15, mFE=2000				
	#	ERT	10%	90%	RT _{succ}	#	ERT	10%	90%	RT _{succ}		#	ERT	10%	90%	RT _{succ}	#	ERT	10%	90%	RT _{succ}
10	0	34e+1	12e+1	78e+1	1.0e0	0	19e+2	94e+1	56e+2	1.0e0	10	0	29e+1	10e+1	14e+2	1.0e0	0	24e+2	14e+2	37e+2	1.0e0
1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1e-1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1e-1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1e-3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1e-3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1e-5	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1e-5	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1e-8	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1e-8	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Δf	f_{115} in 5-D, N=15, mFE=500					f_{115} in 20-D, N=15, mFE=2000					Δf	f_{116} in 5-D, N=15, mFE=500					f_{116} in 20-D, N=15, mFE=2000				
	#	ERT	10%	90%	RT _{succ}	#	ERT	10%	90%	RT _{succ}		#	ERT	10%	90%	RT _{succ}	#	ERT	10%	90%	RT _{succ}
10	2	3.7e3	3.6e3	3.8e3	5.0e2	0	11e+2	73e+1	25e+2	5.6e2	10	0	89e+3	17e+3	59e+4	1.0e0	0	14e+4	59e+3	28e+4	1.0e0
1	0	42e+0	91e-1	15e+1	3.2e2	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1e-1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1e-1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1e-3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1e-3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1e-5	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1e-5	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1e-8	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1e-8	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Δf	f_{117} in 5-D, N=15, mFE=500					f_{117} in 20-D, N=15, mFE=2000					Δf	f_{118} in 5-D, N=15, mFE=500					f_{118} in 20-D, N=15, mFE=2000				
	#	ERT	10%	90%	RT _{succ}	#	ERT	10%	90%	RT _{succ}		#	ERT	10%	90%	RT _{succ}	#	ERT	10%	90%	RT _{succ}
10	0	80e+3	17e+3	38e+4	1.0e0	0	16e+4	85e+3	34e+4	1.0e0	10	0	94e+2	90e+1	59e+3	2.0e2	0	83e+3	29e+3	32e+4	6.3e2
1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1e-1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1e-1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1e-3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1e-3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1e-5	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1e-5	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1e-8	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1e-8	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Δf	f_{119} in 5-D, N=15, mFE=500					f_{119} in 20-D, N=15, mFE=2000					Δf	f_{120} in 5-D, N=15, mFE=500					f_{120} in 20-D, N=15, mFE=2000				
	#	ERT	10%	90%	RT _{succ}	#	ERT	10%	90%	RT _{succ}		#	ERT	10%	90%	RT _{succ}	#	ERT	10%	90%	RT _{succ}
10	4	1.4e3	1.2e3	1.7e3	3.8e2	0	12e+1	78e+0	20e+1	1.0e0	10	2	3.3e3	2.8e3	3.8e3	5.0e2	0	11e+1	81e+0	31e+1	1.0e0
1	0	14e+0	28e-1	69e+0	1.9e1	.	.	.	.	.	1	0	35e+0	81e-1	20e+1	1.0e0	.	.	.	.	.
1e-1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1e-1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1e-3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1e-3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1e-5	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1e-5	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1e-8	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1e-8	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.

Table 1: Shown are, for functions f_{101} - f_{120} and for a given target difference to the optimal function value Δf : the number of successful trials (#); the expected running time to surpass $f_{\text{opt}} + \Delta f$ (ERT, see Figure 2); the 10%-tile and 90%-tile of the bootstrap distribution of ERT; the average number of function evaluations in successful trials or, if none was successful, as last entry the median number of function evaluations to reach the best function value (RT_{succ}). If $f_{\text{opt}} + \Delta f$ was never reached, figures in *italics* denote the best achieved Δf -value of the median trial and the 10% and 90%-tile trial. Furthermore, N denotes the number of trials, and mFE denotes the

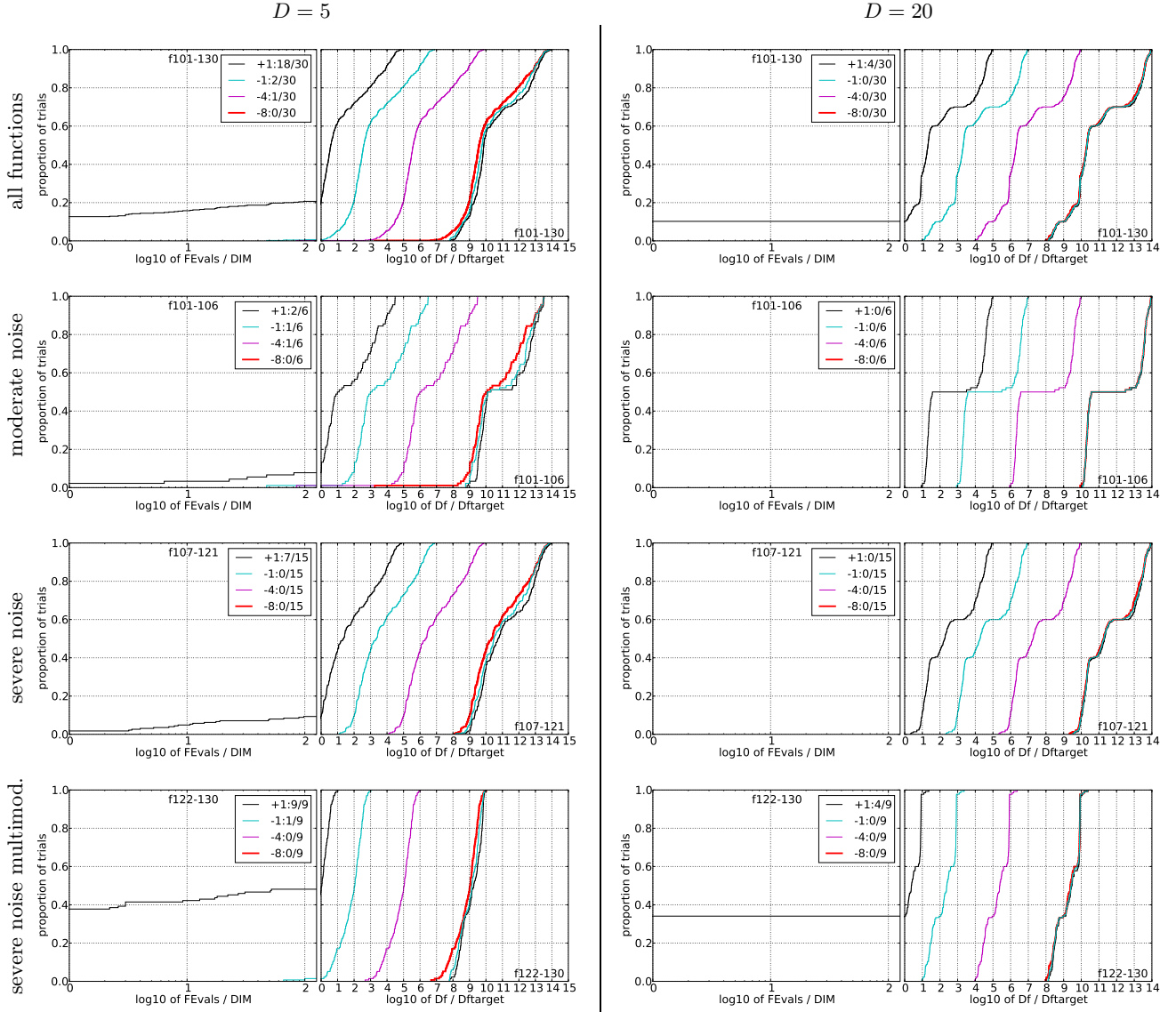


Figure 3: Empirical cumulative distribution functions (ECDFs), plotting the fraction of trials versus running time (left) or Δf . Left subplots: ECDF of the running time (number of function evaluations), divided by search space dimension D , to fall below $f_{\text{opt}} + \Delta f$ with $\Delta f = 10^k$, where k is the first value in the legend. Right subplots: ECDF of the best achieved Δf divided by 10^k (upper left lines in continuation of the left subplot), and best achieved Δf divided by 10^{-8} for running times of $D, 10D, 100D \dots$ function evaluations (from right to left cycling black-cyan-magenta). Top row: all results from all functions; second row: moderate noise functions; third row: severe noise functions; fourth row: severe noise and highly-multimodal functions. The legends indicate the number of functions that were solved in at least one trial. FEvals denotes number of function evaluations, D and DIM denote search space dimension, and Δf and Df denote the difference to the optimal function value.

f_{121} in 5-D, N=15, mFE=500						f_{121} in 20-D, N=15, mFE=2000					
Δf	#	ERT	10%	90%	RT _{succ}	#	ERT	10%	90%	RT _{succ}	
10	8	5.0e2	3.6e2	6.5e2	3.0e2	0	77e+0	25e+0	16e+1	2.5e2	
1	0	81e-1	21e-1	28e+1	1.6e2	.	.	.	.	.
1e-1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1e-3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1e-5	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1e-8	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
f_{123} in 5-D, N=15, mFE=500						f_{123} in 20-D, N=15, mFE=2000					
Δf	#	ERT	10%	90%	RT _{succ}	#	ERT	10%	90%	RT _{succ}	
10	2	3.3e3	2.8e3	3.8e3	2.5e2	1	2.8e4	2.6e4	3.0e4	2.0e3	
1	0	18e+0	80e-1	80e+0	1.0e0	0	27e+0	16e+0	85e+0	1.0e0	
1e-1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1e-3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1e-5	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1e-8	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
f_{125} in 5-D, N=15, mFE=500						f_{125} in 20-D, N=15, mFE=2000					
Δf	#	ERT	10%	90%	RT _{succ}	#	ERT	10%	90%	RT _{succ}	
10	15	1.0e0	1.0e0	1.0e0	1.0e0	15	1.0e0	1.0e0	1.0e0	1.0e0	
1	11	3.8e2	2.8e2	4.7e2	2.7e2	0	29e-1	15e-1	41e-1	1.0e0	
1e-1	2	3.7e3	3.6e3	3.8e3	5.0e2	.	.	.	.	.
1e-3	0	52e-2	78e-3	25e-1	2.8e2	.	.	.	.	.
1e-5	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1e-8	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
f_{127} in 5-D, N=15, mFE=500						f_{127} in 20-D, N=15, mFE=2000					
Δf	#	ERT	10%	90%	RT _{succ}	#	ERT	10%	90%	RT _{succ}	
10	15	1.0e0	1.0e0	1.0e0	1.0e0	15	1.0e0	1.0e0	1.0e0	1.0e0	
1	11	2.8e2	2.0e2	3.7e2	2.2e2	1	2.9e4	2.8e4	3.0e4	2.0e3	
1e-1	0	70e-2	23e-2	43e-1	2.5e2	0	15e-1	10e-1	25e-1	1.3e3	
1e-3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1e-5	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1e-8	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
f_{129} in 5-D, N=15, mFE=500						f_{129} in 20-D, N=15, mFE=2000					
Δf	#	ERT	10%	90%	RT _{succ}	#	ERT	10%	90%	RT _{succ}	
10	3	2.2e3	2.0e3	2.4e3	3.6e2	0	82e+0	79e+0	85e+0	1.9e1	
1	0	19e+0	56e-1	45e+0	8.9e1	.	.	.	.	.
1e-1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1e-3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1e-5	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1e-8	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
f_{122} in 5-D, N=15, mFE=500						f_{122} in 20-D, N=15, mFE=2000					
Δf	#	ERT	10%	90%	RT _{succ}	#	ERT	10%	90%	RT _{succ}	
10	5	1.0e3	8.1e2	1.2e3	3.1e2	0	31e+0	14e+0	62e+0	1.0e0	
1	0	23e+0	58e-1	67e+0	1.0e0	.	.	.	.	.
1e-1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1e-3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1e-5	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1e-8	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
f_{124} in 5-D, N=15, mFE=500						f_{124} in 20-D, N=15, mFE=2000					
Δf	#	ERT	10%	90%	RT _{succ}	#	ERT	10%	90%	RT _{succ}	
10	7	6.2e2	4.4e2	7.9e2	2.5e2	0	17e+0	12e+0	30e+0	4.5e2	
1	0	11e+0	44e-1	30e+0	8.9e1	.	.	.	.	.
1e-1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1e-3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1e-5	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1e-8	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
f_{126} in 5-D, N=15, mFE=500						f_{126} in 20-D, N=15, mFE=2000					
Δf	#	ERT	10%	90%	RT _{succ}	#	ERT	10%	90%	RT _{succ}	
10	15	1.0e0	1.0e0	1.0e0	1.0e0	15	1.0e0	1.0e0	1.0e0	1.0e0	
1	1	7.0e3	6.5e3	7.5e3	5.0e2	0	36e-1	26e-1	51e-1	1.0e0	
1e-1	0	28e-1	12e-1	46e-1	1.0e0	.	.	.	.	.
1e-3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1e-5	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1e-8	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
f_{128} in 5-D, N=15, mFE=500						f_{128} in 20-D, N=15, mFE=2000					
Δf	#	ERT	10%	90%	RT _{succ}	#	ERT	10%	90%	RT _{succ}	
10	1	7.3e3	7.0e3	7.5e3	5.0e2	0	83e+0	75e+0	85e+0	1.9e1	
1	0	31e+0	11e+0	40e+0	1.6e2	.	.	.	.	.
1e-1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1e-3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1e-5	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1e-8	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
f_{130} in 5-D, N=15, mFE=500						f_{130} in 20-D, N=15, mFE=2000					
Δf	#	ERT	10%	90%	RT _{succ}	#	ERT	10%	90%	RT _{succ}	
10	2	3.3e3	2.9e3	3.8e3	3.1e2	0	79e+0	71e+0	85e+0	2.8e2	
1	0	14e+0	84e-1	27e+0	7.9e1	.	.	.	.	.
1e-1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1e-3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1e-5	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1e-8	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.

Table 2: Shown are, for functions f_{121} - f_{130} and for a given target difference to the optimal function value Δf : the number of successful trials (#); the expected running time to surpass $f_{\text{opt}} + \Delta f$ (ERT, see Figure 2); the 10%-tile and 90%-tile of the bootstrap distribution of ERT; the average number of function evaluations in successful trials or, if none was successful, as last entry the median number of function evaluations to reach the best function value (RT_{succ}). If $f_{\text{opt}} + \Delta f$ was never reached, figures in *italics* denote the best achieved Δf -value of the median trial and the 10% and 90%-tile trial. Furthermore, N denotes the number of trials, and mFE denotes the maximum of number of function evaluations executed in one trial. See Figure 2 for the names of functions.