# Benchmarking Real-Coded Genetic Algorithm on Noisy Black-Box Optimization Testbed

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#### **ABSTRACT**

Originally developed version of genetic algorithms uses the binary representation of candidate solutions (i.e. chromosomes); real-coded versions are, however, basically superior and frequently utilized in tackling hard optimization tasks, particularly for optimization on continuous domains in a black-box scenario. In this paper, we implemented a generational real-coded genetic algorithm (RCGA)—which is composed of a tournament selection, an arithmetical crossover, and an adaptive-range variation of non-uniform mutation—with an independent restarts mechanism and benchmark it on the BBOB-2010 noisy testbed. The maximum number of function evaluations for each run is set to 50000 times the search space dimension. For 40-dimensional search space the algorithm shows promising results with 6 functions can be solved up to precision  $10^{-8}$ .

## **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, Real-coded genetic algorithm

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

Real-coded genetic algorithms (RCGAs) have existed in a great deal of variations developed by practitioners of genetic algorithms [2, 5]. Each of which has its own merits in accompany with some specific problem. A general implementation of RCGA using tournament selection, arithmetical crossover

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GECCO'10, July 7–11, 2010, Portland, Oregon, USA. Copyright 2010 ACM 978-1-4503-0073-5/10/07 ...\$10.00. and non-uniform mutation is in common use. Surprisingly, such a version of RCGA is rarely encountered to be fully benchmarked on a set noisy functions with diverse characteristics to examine when and how it is advantageous. The aim of this paper is to perform such a task.

Detailed descriptions of algorithm and implementation for the RCGA in use have been reported in the complement of this paper [6]. In [6] an independent restarts implementation of RCGA using an adaptive-range variant of non-uniform mutation is benchmarked on BBOB-2010 noiseless testbed. In the same manner, the exactly identical algorithm and parameter settings are utilized in this paper to tackle the BBOB-2010 noisy testbed. All details regarding the algorithm setting of parameters can be found in [6].

### 2. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results from experiments according to [3] on the benchmark functions given in [1, 4] are presented in Figures 1, 2, 3 and in Tables 1, 2 and 3.

It is observed that the performce of RCGA on noisy testbed is mediocre and generally of secondary significance. The obtained results from Figures 1 show that RCGA is able to solve functions  $f_{101}$ ,  $f_{102}$ ,  $f_{103}$ ,  $f_{107}$ ,  $f_{109}$ ,  $f_{130}$  in 40-D. In case of 20-D, one more function,  $f_{128}$ , is solved. In 5-D, almost all functions can be solved with the precision as low as  $10^{-2}$  to  $10^{-1}$  as shown in Table 1 and Table 1. These results are trivial, however the applicability of RCGA is still promsing thanks to the simplicity of the algorithm and ease of implementation. Moreover, there is still enough room for the integration of enhancement techniques to improve the algorithm's performance. Further investigations such as adaptively control the parameters and/or hybrid schemes for crossover and mutation may bring better results.

#### 3. REFERENCES

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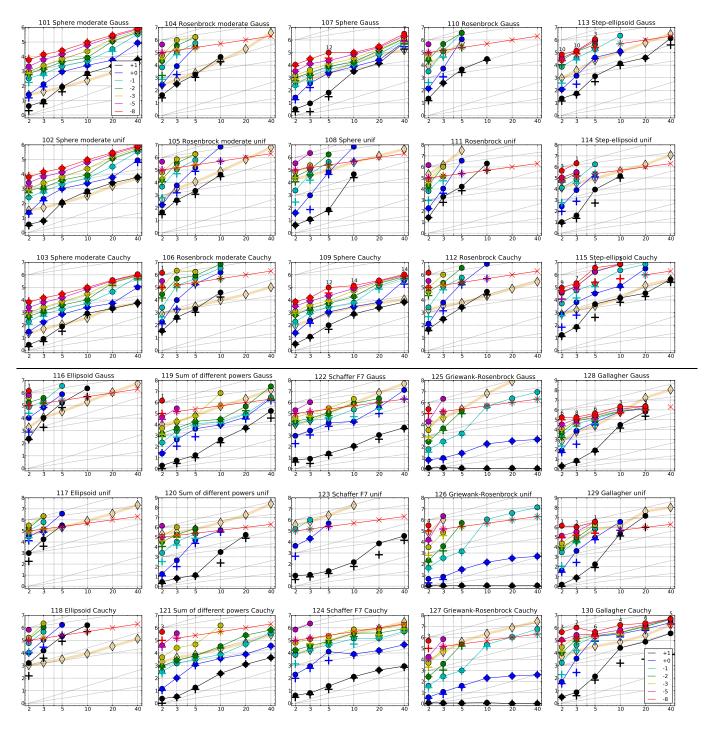


Figure 1: Expected Running Time (ERT, ullet) to reach  $f_{\mathrm{opt}}+\Delta f$  and median number of f-evaluations from successful trials (+), for  $\Delta f=10^{\{+1,0,-1,-2,-3,-5,-8\}}$  (the exponent is given in the legend of  $f_{101}$  and  $f_{130}$ ) versus dimension in log-log presentation. For each function and dimension,  $\mathrm{ERT}(\Delta f)$  equals to  $\#\mathrm{FEs}(\Delta f)$  divided by the number of successful trials, where a trial is successful if  $f_{\mathrm{opt}}+\Delta f$  was surpassed. The  $\#\mathrm{FEs}(\Delta f)$  are the total number (sum) of f-evaluations while  $f_{\mathrm{opt}}+\Delta f$  was not surpassed in the trial, from all (successful and unsuccessful) trials, and  $f_{\mathrm{opt}}$  is the optimal function value. Crosses (×) indicate the total number of f-evaluations,  $\#\mathrm{FEs}(-\infty)$ , divided by the number of trials. Numbers above ERT-symbols indicate the number of successful trials. Y-axis annotations are decimal logarithms. The thick light line with diamonds shows the single best results from BBOB-2009 for  $\Delta f=10^{-8}$ . Additional grid lines show linear and quadratic scaling.

f101 in 5-D, N=15, mFE=30200	f101 in 20-D, N=15, mFE=290700	f102 in 5-D, N=15, mFE=31100	f <sub>102</sub> in 20-D, N=15, mFE=293000
$\Delta f$ # ERT 10% 90% RT <sub>succ</sub>	# ERT 10% 90% RT <sub>succ</sub>	$\Delta f$ # ERT 10% 90% RT <sub>succ</sub> 7	# ERT 10% 90% RT <sub>succ</sub>
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1 15 9.2e2 3.9e2 1.7e3 9.2e2	15 5.7e3 5.0e3 6.9e3 5.7e3		5 5.9e3 4.9e3 6.7e3 5.9e3
1e-1 15 2.1e3 1.0e3 2.8e3 2.1e3	15 3.2 e4 1.0 e4 5.8 e4 3.2 e4		5 3.3e4 1.5e4 6.1e4 3.3e4
1e-3 15 7.0e3 5.9e3 8.5e3 7.0e3	15 1.7e5 1.6e5 1.8e5 1.7e5		5 1.6e5 1.5e5 1.8e5 1.6e5
1e-5 15 1.4e4 1.0e4 1.6e4 1.4e4	15 2.3e5 2.3e5 2.4e5 2.3e5		5 2.3e5 2.2e5 2.4e5 2.3e5
1e-8 15 2.5e4 2.1e4 3.0e4 2.5e4	15 2.9e5 2.8e5 2.9e5 2.9e5		15 2.9e5 2.9e5 2.9e5 2.9e5
f103 in 5-D, N=15, mFE=34500	f103 in 20-D, N=15, mFE=979800	f <sub>104</sub> in 5-D, N=15, mFE=250000	$f_{104}$ in 20-D, N=15, mFE=1.00e6
$\Delta f$ # ERT 10% 90% RT <sub>succ</sub>	# ERT 10% 90% RT <sub>succ</sub>	$\Delta f$ # ERT 10% 90% RT <sub>succ</sub>	# ERT 10% 90% RT <sub>succ</sub>
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1e-1 15 1.8e3 8.0e2 2.9e3 1.8e3	15 4.5e4 9.9e3 8.1e4 4.5e4	1e-1 5 5.6e5 1.3e4 1.3e6 5.5e4	
1e-3 15 7.3e3 5.0e3 9.4e3 7.3e3 1e-5 15 1.5e4 1.2e4 2.0e4 1.5e4	15 2.8e5 1.7e5 1.9e5 2.8e5 15 3.4e5 2.4e5 9.6e5 3.4e5	1e-3 2 1.7e6 2.0e5 3.2e6 7.9e4 1e-5 0 12e-1 29e-5 24e-1 1.1e5	
1e-5 15 1.5e4 1.2e4 2.0e4 1.5e4 1e-8 15 2.9e4 2.6e4 3.2e4 2.9e4	15 3.465 2.465 9.665 3.465 15 3.865 2.965 9.865 3.865	1e-5 0 12e-1 29e-5 24e-1 1.1e5 1e-8	
			f106 in 20-D, N=15, mFE=1.00e6
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1e-1 5 6.2e5 1.0e5 1.5e6 1.2e5		1e-1 6 5.0e5 2.8e4 1.2e6 1.3e5	
1e-3 2 1.8e6 2.5e5 4.0e6 2.1e5		1e-3 2 1.8e6 2.5e5 3.4e6 1.4e5	
1e-5 0 51e-2 70e-5 17e-1 1.1e5		1e-5 0 $44e-2$ $75e-5$ $22e-1$ 1.3e5	
1e-8		1e-8	
f107 in 5-D, N=15, mFE=250000	f107 in 20-D, N=15, mFE=305400	f108 in 5-D, N=15, mFE=250000	f108 in 20-D, N=15, mFE=1.00e6
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1e-1 0 26e-1 11e-1 33e-1 1.7e5		1e-1 5 5.9e5 4.0e4 1.4e6 9.5e4	
1e-3		1e-3 0 70e-2 14e-3 21e-1 1.8e5	
1e-5		1e-5	
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f113 in 5-D, N=15, mFE=250000	f113 in 20-D, N=15, mFE=1.00e6	f114 in 5-D, N=15, mFE=250000	f114 in 20-D, N=15, mFE=1.00e6
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1e-3 4 8.4e5 1.1e5 2.2e6 1.5e5		1e-3 0 41e-2 67e-3 35e-1 1.3e5	
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f117 in 5-D, N=15, mFE=250000	f117 in 20-D, N=15, mFE=1.00e6	f118 in 5-D, N=15, mFE=250000	f118 in 20-D, N=15, mFE=1.00e6
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Table 1: Shown are, for functions  $f_{101}$ - $f_{120}$  and for a given target difference to the optimal function value  $\Delta f$ : the number of successful trials (#); the expected running time to surpass  $f_{\rm opt} + \Delta f$  (ERT, see Figure 1); 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<sub>succ</sub>). If  $f_{\rm opt} + \Delta f$  was never reached, figures in *italics* denote the best achieved  $\Delta f$ -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 1 for the names of functions.

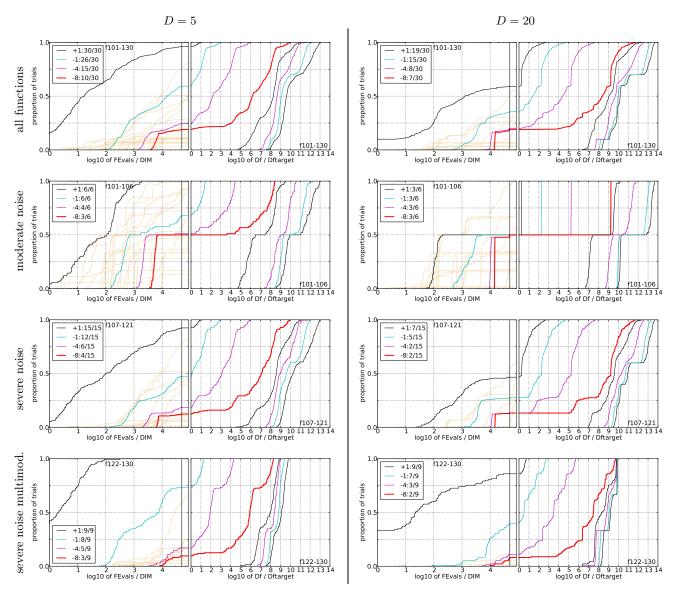


Figure 2: Empirical cumulative distribution functions (ECDFs), plotting the fraction of trials versus running time (left subplots) or versus  $\Delta f$  (right subplots). The thick red line represents the best achieved results. Left subplots: ECDF of the running time (number of function evaluations), divided by search space dimension D, to fall below  $f_{\rm opt} + \Delta f$  with  $\Delta f = 10^k$ , where k is the first value in the legend. Right subplots: ECDF of the best achieved  $\Delta f$  divided by  $10^k$  (upper left lines in continuation of the left subplot), and best achieved  $\Delta f$  divided by  $10^{-8}$  for running times of D, 10D, 10D... function evaluations (from right to left cycling black-cyan-magenta). 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  $\Delta f$  and Df denote the difference to the optimal function value. Light brown lines in the background show ECDFs for target value  $10^{-8}$  of all algorithms benchmarked during BBOB-2009.

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1e-5  .  .  .  .  1e-5  0  55e-5  35e-6  76e-4  8.3  e4  0  39e-5  77e-6  23e-3  3.4  e5
$1\mathrm{e}{-8}$ $1\mathrm{e}{-8}$
f125 in 5-D, N=15, mFE=250000   f125 in 20-D, N=15, mFE=1.00e6   f126 in 5-D, N=15, mFE=250000   f126 in 20-D, N=15, mFE=1.00e6
$\Delta f$   # ERT 10% 90% RT <sub>succ</sub>   # ERT 10% 90% RT <sub>succ</sub> $\Delta f$   # ERT 10% 90% RT <sub>succ</sub>   # ERT 10% 90% RT <sub>succ</sub>
10 15 1.1e0 1.0e0 2.0e0 1.1e0 15 1.1e0 1.0e0 2.0e0 1.1e0 15 1.1e0 1.0e0 2.0e0 1.1e0 10 15 1.1e0 1.0e0 2.0e0 1.1e0
1 15 2.6e1 6.0e0 5.1e1 2.6e1 15 3.2e2 2.2e2 3.8e2 3.2e2 1 15 3.3e1 2.0e0 5.9e1 3.3e1 15 3.4e2 2.6e2 4.2e2 3.4e2
$1e-1 \   15 \   1.6e3 \   8.8e2 \   3.2e3 \   1.6e3 \   5 \   2.3e6 \   1.7e5 \   4.8e6 \   3.4e5 \   1e-1 \   15 \   1.4e3 \   3.5e2 \   2.1e3 \   1.4e3 \   3 \   4.2e6 \   7.4e4 \   9.7e6 \   1.8e5$
1e-3  0  82e-4  30e-4  15e-3  1.2e5  0  33e-2  25e-3  34e-2  3.9e5  1e-3  0  11e-3  35e-4  20e-3  1.4e5  0  32e-2  25e-3  39e-2  4.1e5
$1\mathrm{e}{-5}$ $1\mathrm{e}{-5}$
$1\mathrm{e}{-8}$ $1\mathrm{e}{-8}$
f127 in 5-D, N=15, mFE=250000   f127 in 20-D, N=15, mFE=1.00e6   f128 in 5-D, N=15, mFE=250000   f128 in 20-D, N=15, mFE=1.00e6
$\Delta f$ # ERT 10% 90% RT <sub>succ</sub> # ERT 10% 90% RT <sub>succ</sub> = $\Delta f$ # ERT 10% 90% RT <sub>succ</sub> # ERT 10% 90% RT <sub>succ</sub>
10   15 1.1e0 1.0e0 2.0e0
1 15 4.1e1 3.0e0 7.9e1 4.1e1 15 3.1e2 2.5e2 3.5e2 3.1e2 1 14 5.6e4 1.1e3 2.0e5 3.8e4 7 1.3e6 1.3e5 3.4e6 2.0e5
$1e-1 \   \ 15 \ 9.9e2 \ 5.5e2 \ 1.3e3 \ 9.9e2 \   \ 9 \ 1.1e6 \ 1.7e3 \ 2.3e6 \   \ 4.1e5 \   \ 1e-1 \   \ 11 \ 1.2e5 \ 6.6e3 \ 3.0e5 \   \ 3.2e4 \   \ 6 \ 1.7e6 \ 5.7e4 \ 4.3e6 \   \ 2.1e5 \   \ 4.3e6 \   \ 2.1e5 \   \ 4.3e6 \   \ $
1e-3  0  95e-4  57e-4  17e-3  1.1e5  0  59e-3  25e-3  24e-2  9.9e5  1e-3  8  2.7e5  1.3e4  8.1e5  4.7e4  6  1.7e6  1.1e5  4.3e6  2.5e5  1.3e4  1.1e5
1e-5 $1e-5$ 8 $2.8e5$ $3.3e4$ $8.0e5$ $6.5e4$ 5 $2.3e6$ $1.8e5$ $5.8e6$ $3.1e5$
1e-8
f <sub>129</sub> in 5-D, N=15, mFE=250000   f <sub>129</sub> in 20-D, N=15, mFE=1.00e6   f <sub>130</sub> in 5-D, N=15, mFE=250000   f <sub>130</sub> in 20-D, N=15, mFE=1.00e6
$\Delta f$ # ERT 10% 90% RT <sub>succ</sub> # ERT 10% 90% RT <sub>succ</sub> $\Delta f$ # ERT 10% 90% RT <sub>succ</sub> # ERT 10% 90% RT <sub>succ</sub>
10 15 1.8e2 7.0e0 2.1e2 1.8e2 1 1.5e7 1.1e6 3.6e7 5.8e5 10 15 1.4e2 1.1e1 4.0e2 1.4e2 15 7.8e4 2.2e3 3.4e5 7.8e4
$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$
le-1 4 7.6e5 7.4e4 1.6e6 7.1e4
le-3 2 1.7e6 1.2e5 3.3e6 1.0e5 le-3 9 2.5e5 3.2e4 5.6e5 7.8e4 7 1.7e6 3.4e4 3.5e6 5.2e5
1e-5 1 3.7e6 6.9e5 7.4e6 1.9e5
1e-8 1 3.7e6 4.5e5 6.7e6 2.0e5

Table 2: Shown are, for functions  $f_{121}$ - $f_{130}$  and for a given target difference to the optimal function value  $\Delta f$ : the number of successful trials (#); the expected running time to surpass  $f_{\rm opt} + \Delta f$  (ERT, see Figure 1); 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<sub>succ</sub>). If  $f_{\rm opt} + \Delta f$  was never reached, figures in *italics* denote the best achieved  $\Delta f$ -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 1 for the names of functions.

Table 3: ERT loss ratio (see Figure 3) compared to the respective best result from BBOB-2009 for budgets given in the first column. The last row  $\mathrm{RL_{US}}/\mathrm{D}$  gives the number of function evaluations in unsuccessful runs divided by dimension. Shown are the smallest, 10%-tile, 25%-tile, 50%-tile, 75%-tile and 90%-tile value (smaller values are better).

	f 101	l− <i>f</i> 130	in 5-I	D, maxl	E/D=5	0000
#FEs/D	best	10%			75%	90%
2	0.56	1.0	1.6	2.5	6.3	10
10	0.94	1.1	2.1	4.2	5.8	28
100	2.5	5.1	7.0	9.2	15	2.6e2
1e3	2.4	7.5	12	36	79	2.6e3
1e4	1.8	11	19	43	1.6e2	1.1e4
1e5	0.42	4.9	17	27	2.4e2	3.7e2
$RL_{US}/D$	5e4	5e4	5e4	5e4	5e4	5e4
,	•					
	f101	$-f_{130}$	in <b>20-</b> ]	$\mathbf{D}$ , max	FE/D=	50000
#FEs/D	f101-best	<i>f</i> <b>130</b> 10%				50000 90%
${\rm \#FEs/D} \atop 2$						
	best	10%	25%	<b>med</b> 32	$75\% \\ 40$	$90\% \\ 40$
2	best 1.0	10% 1.0	25% 1.9	$\frac{\mathbf{med}}{32}$	$75\% \\ 40$	$90\% \\ 40$
2 10	best 1.0 0.42	10% 1.0 1.1	25% $1.9$ $2.9$	med 32 35 7.6	75% 40 2.0e2	90% 40 2.0e2
10 100	best 1.0 0.42 0.42	10% 1.0 1.1 0.88	25% 1.9 2.9 1.6	med 32 35 7.6	75% 40 2.0e2 24	90% 40 2.0e2 1.0e3 2.0e4
2 10 100 1e3	best 1.0 0.42 0.42 0.48	10% 1.0 1.1 0.88 0.83	25% 1.9 2.9 1.6 2.1	med 32 35 7.6 12	75% 40 2.0e2 24 37	90% 40 2.0e2 1.0e3 2.0e4
2 10 100 1e3 1e4	best 1.0 0.42 0.42 0.48 0.93	10% 1.0 1.1 0.88 0.83 2.2	25% 1.9 2.9 1.6 2.1 4.4	med 32 35 7.6 12 36	75% 40 2.0e2 24 37 1.9e2	90% 40 2.0e2 1.0e3 2.0e4 1.0e5 1.0e6

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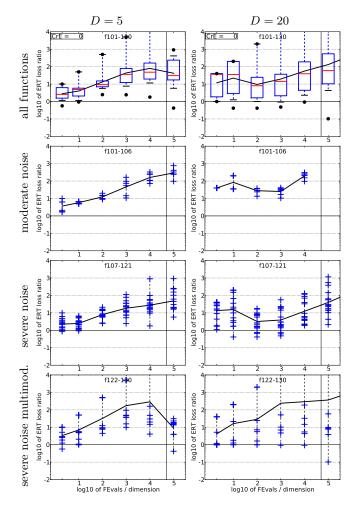


Figure 3: ERT loss ratio versus given budget FEvals. The target value  $f_{\rm t}$  for ERT (see Figure 1) is the smallest (best) recorded function value such that ERT( $f_{\rm t}$ )  $\leq$  FEvals for the presented algorithm. Shown is FEvals divided by the respective best ERT( $f_{\rm t}$ ) from BBOB-2009 for functions  $f_{101}-f_{130}$  in 5-D and 20-D. Each ERT is multiplied by  $\exp({\rm CrE})$  correcting for the parameter crafting effort. Line: geometric mean. Box-Whisker error bar: 25-75%-tile with median (box), 10-90%-tile (caps), and minimum and maximum ERT loss ratio (points). The vertical line gives the maximal number of function evaluations in this function subset.