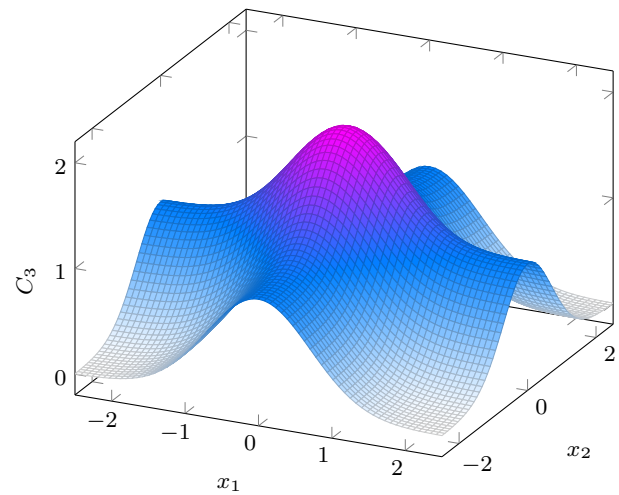
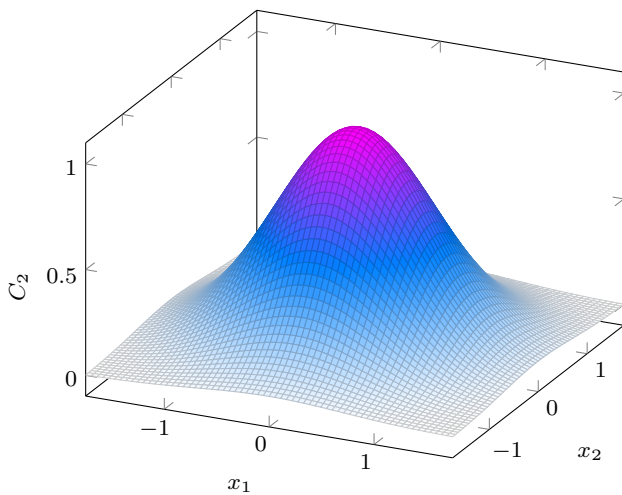


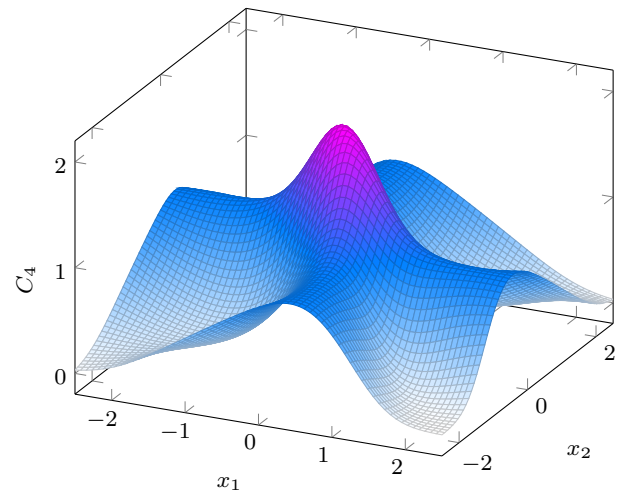
**Fig. 1** Quadratic concave function  $C_1(x_1, x_2)$ .



**Fig. 3** Modified version of Gaussian function  $C_3(x_1, x_2)$ .



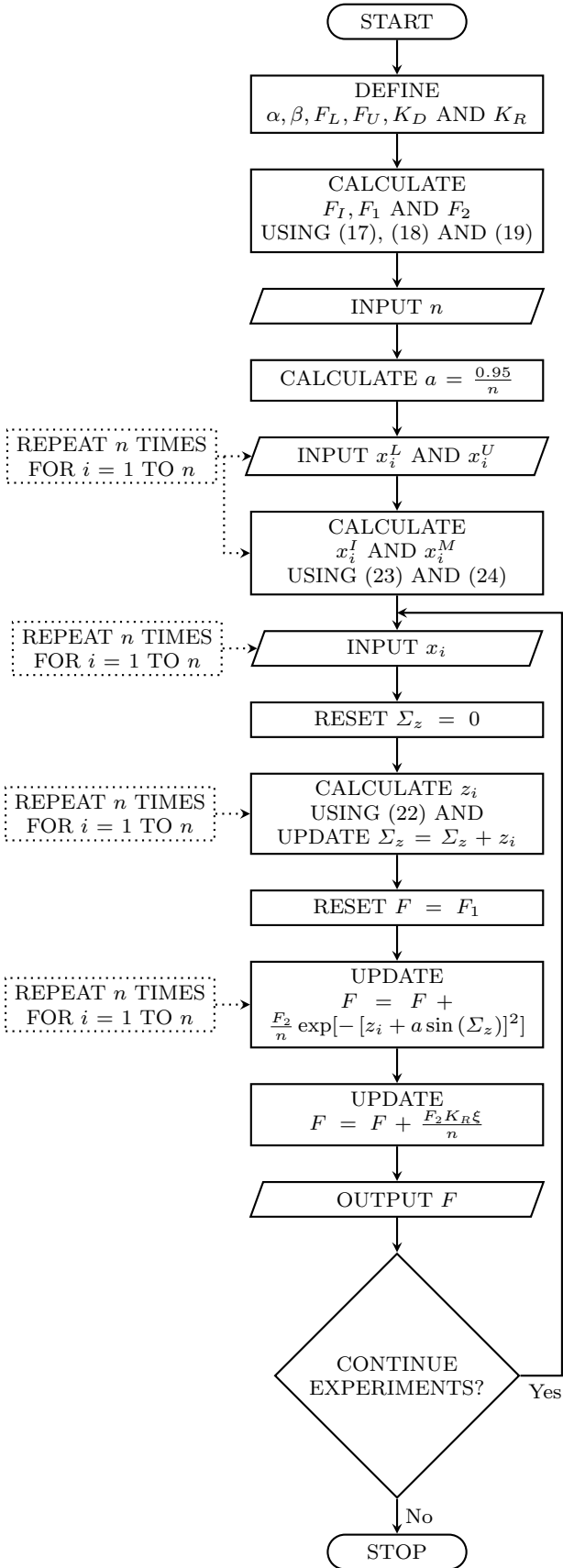
**Fig. 2** Two variable Gaussian function  $C_2(x_1, x_2)$ .



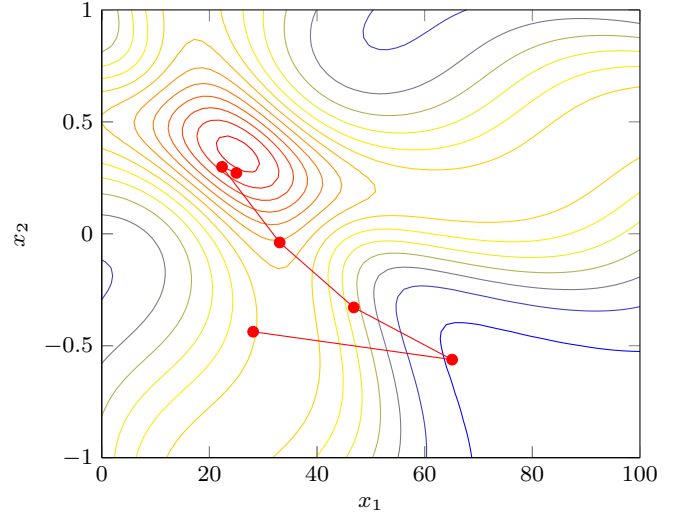
**Fig. 4** The proposed function  $C_4(x_1, x_2)$  for  $a = 0.49$ .

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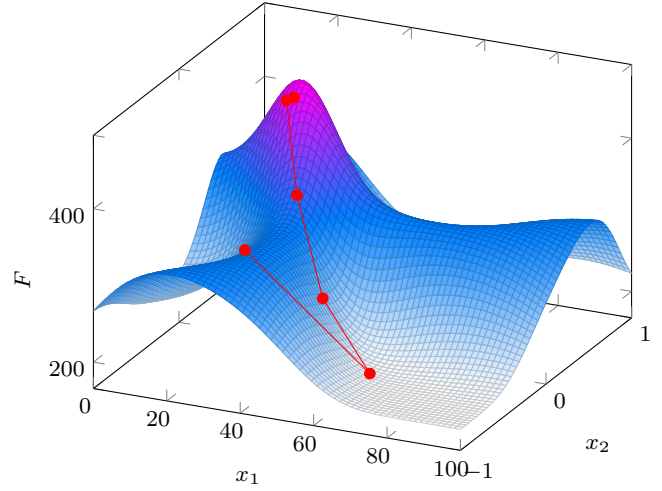
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**Fig. 5** Flowchart of the proposed algorithm



**Fig. 6** Contour plot of  $F$  with the constants given in Section ?? superimposed with the RSM results.



**Fig. 7** The proposed function  $C_4(x_1, x_2)$  for  $a = 0.49$ .

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