

Multi-Stage Rocket Optimization Analysis

Stage_Opt Analysis Report

February 28, 2025

1 Introduction

This report presents a comprehensive analysis of multi-stage rocket optimization using various state-of-the-art optimization algorithms. The optimization process aims to maximize payload capacity by finding optimal stage configurations while satisfying various constraints including total delta-v requirements and structural mass ratios ?.

Our approach incorporates multiple optimization techniques from recent literature ??:

- **Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO):** Based on the work of ?, this method simulates the collective behavior of particle swarms to explore the solution space effectively. Recent applications in micro-launch vehicles ? have demonstrated its effectiveness in rocket trajectory optimization.
- **Differential Evolution (DE):** Following the methodology presented by ?, this algorithm employs vector differences for mutation operations, making it particularly effective for handling the multi-constraint nature of rocket stage optimization.

- **Genetic Algorithm (GA):** Inspired by evolutionary processes and implemented following principles from [?], this method uses selection, crossover, and mutation operators to evolve optimal solutions. We include both standard and adaptive variants to enhance exploration capabilities.
- **Basin-Hopping:** A hybrid global optimization technique that combines local optimization with Monte Carlo sampling, effective for problems with multiple local optima [?].
- **Sequential Least Squares Programming (SLSQP):** A gradient-based optimization method for constrained nonlinear problems, particularly useful for fine-tuning solutions in smooth regions of the search space [?].

2 Problem Formulation

The optimization problem involves finding the optimal distribution of total delta-v (ΔV) across multiple stages while considering:

- Structural coefficients (ϵ) for each stage
- Specific impulse (ISP) variations between stages
- Mass ratio constraints [?]
- Total delta-v requirement [?]

3 Methodology

Each optimization method was implemented with specific adaptations for rocket stage optimization [?]:

3.1 Particle Swarm Optimization

Following ?, our PSO implementation uses adaptive inertia weights and local topology to balance exploration and exploitation. The algorithm has shown particular effectiveness in handling the nonlinear constraints of rocket trajectory optimization ?.

3.2 Differential Evolution

Based on the approach outlined in ?, our DE implementation uses adaptive mutation rates and crossover operators specifically tuned for multi-stage rocket optimization. The algorithm effectively handles the coupling between stage configurations and overall system performance.

3.3 Genetic Algorithm

Implementing concepts from ?, our GA variants use specialized crossover and mutation operators that maintain the feasibility of solutions while exploring the design space effectively. The adaptive version dynamically adjusts population size and genetic operators based on solution diversity and convergence behavior.

4 Results and Analysis

The following methods were evaluated, sorted by their achieved payload ratio ?:

Table 1: Optimization Methods Performance Comparison

Method	Payload Ratio
DE	0.0185
PSO	0.0185
BASIN-HOPPING	0.0181
SLSQP	0.0181
GA	0.0181
ADAPTIVE-GA	0.0181

5 Stage Configuration Analysis

The following configurations were found for each method:

- **DE**
- **PSO**
- **BASIN-HOPPING**
- **SLSQP**
- **GA**
- **ADAPTIVE-GA**

6 Conclusion

The optimization analysis revealed that DE achieved the best payload ratio of 0.0185. This result demonstrates the effectiveness of modern optimization techniques in solving complex rocket design problems.

The comparative analysis shows that different algorithms exhibit varying strengths:

- PSO excels in handling the nonlinear nature of the problem ?
- DE shows robust performance in maintaining constraint feasibility ?
- Evolutionary approaches provide good exploration of the design space ?

These results provide valuable insights for future rocket design optimization studies and highlight the importance of choosing appropriate optimization methods for specific design challenges.