Introduction to Randomized Black-Box Numerical Optimization and CMA-ES

July 3, 2017

CEA/EDF/Inria summer school "Numerical Analysis"

Université Pierre-et-Marie-Curie, Paris, France

Anne Auger, Asma Atamna, Dimo Brockhoff

Inria Saclay – Ile-de-France

CMAP, Ecole Polytechnique

Lectures & Exercises Overview

Randomized Single-Objective Black-Box Optimization - CMA-ES

- single-objective black-box optimization, the basics
- Covariance Matrix Adaptation Evolution Strategy (CMA-ES)

(Evolutionary) Multiobjective Optimization (Wednesday)

- difference to single-objective optimization, the basics
- algorithms and their design principles; MO-CMA-ES

Benchmarking Optimization Algorithms (Wednesday)

- performance assessment
- automated benchmarking with the COCO platform

Exercise around COCO (Wednesday afternoon)

- interpreting available COCO data

Exercise on CMA-ES (Thursday afternoon)

- (1+1)-ES, running CMA-ES and interpreting its output, ...

Randomized Single-Objective Black-Box Optimization - CMA-ES

Anne Auger

CEA / EDF / Inria Summer school on *Design and Optimization Under Uncertainty Of Large Scale Numerical Models*

anne.auger@inria.fr
INRIA Saclay - Ile-de-France - RandOpt team
CMAP - Ecole Polytechnique

Some slides are extracted from a joint tutorial with N. Hansen.

July 2017

Overview

Problem Statement

Continuous Domain Search/Optimization

- Task: minimize an objective function (*fitness* function, *loss* function) in continuous domain

$$f : \mathcal{X} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}, \qquad \boldsymbol{x} \mapsto f(\boldsymbol{x})$$

- Black Box scenario (direct search scenario)

  - gradients are not available or not useful
  - problem domain specific knowledge is used only within the black box, e.g. within an appropriate encoding
- Search costs: number of function evaluations

What Makes a Function Difficult to Solve?

Why stochastic search?

- non-linear, non-quadratic, non-convex

  on linear and quadratic functions much better search policies are available

- ruggedness

  non-smooth, discontinuous, multimodal, and/or noisy function

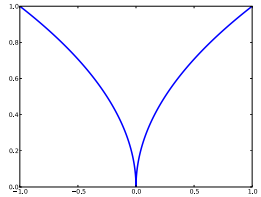
- dimensionality (size of search space)

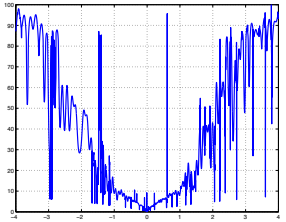
  (considerably) larger than three

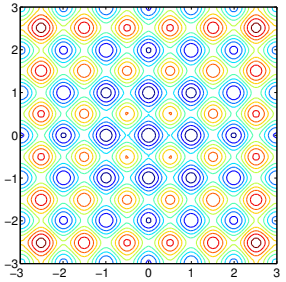
- non-separability

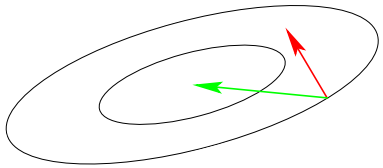
  dependencies between the objective variables

- ill-conditioning









gradient direction Newton directio

Separable Problems

Definition (Separable Problem)

A function f is separable if

$$\arg\min_{(x_1,\ldots,x_n)} f(x_1,\ldots,x_n) = \left(\arg\min_{x_1} f(x_1,\ldots),\ldots,\arg\min_{x_n} f(\ldots,x_n)\right)$$

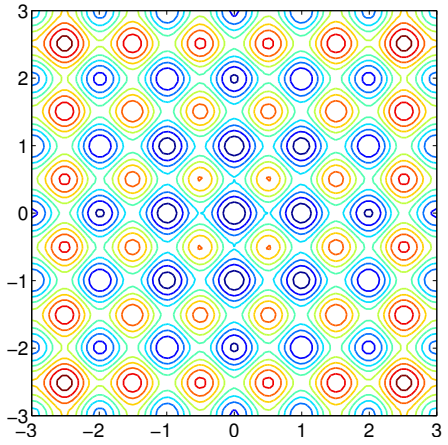
$\Rightarrow$ it follows that f can be optimized in a sequence of n independent 1-D optimization processes

Example: Additively decomposable functions

$$f(x_1,\ldots,x_n) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} f_i(x_i)$$

Rastrigin function

$f(\boldsymbol{x}) = 10n + \sum_{i=1}^{n}(x_i^2 - 10\cos(2\pi x_i))$



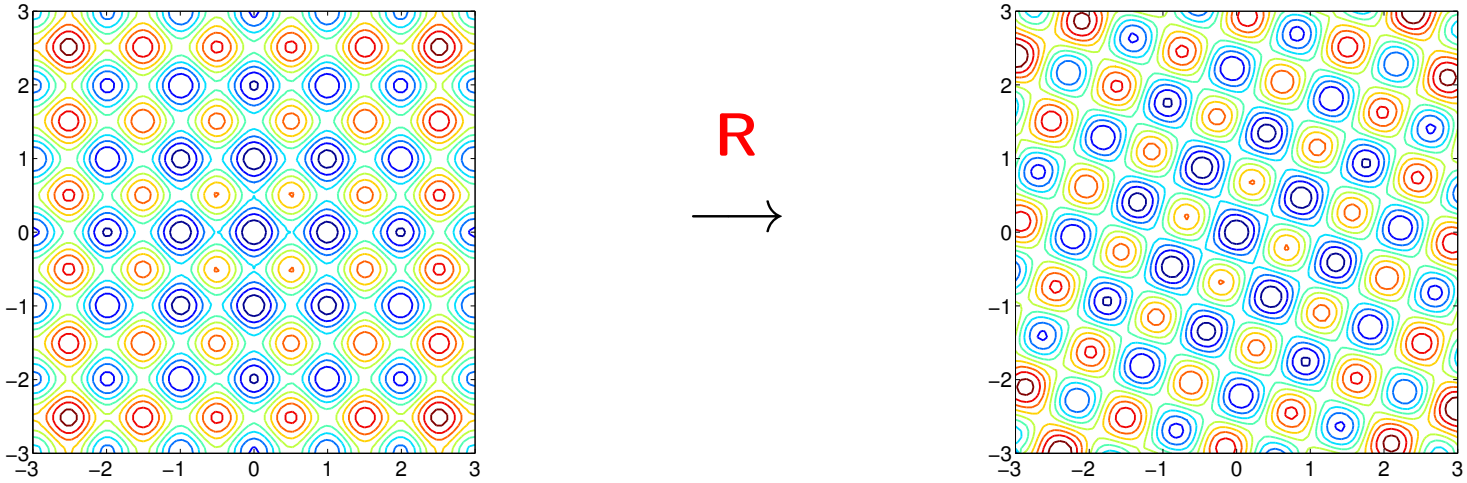
Non-Separable Problems

Building a non-separable problem from a separable one [1,2]

Rotating the coordinate system

- $f : \boldsymbol{x} \mapsto f(\boldsymbol{x})$ separable
- $f : \boldsymbol{x} \mapsto f(\mathbf{R}\boldsymbol{x})$ non-separable

R rotation matrix



[1] Hansen, Ostermeier, Gawelczyk (1995). On the adaptation of arbitrary normal mutation distributions in evolution strategies: The generating set adaptation. Sixth ICGA, pp. 57-64, Morgan Kaufmann

[2] Salomon (1996). "Reevaluating Genetic Algorithm Performance under Coordinate Rotation of Benchmark Functions; A survey of some theoretical and practical aspects of genetic algorithms." BioSystems, 39(3):263-278

Ill-Conditioned Problems

- If f is convex quadratic, $f : \boldsymbol{x} \mapsto \frac{1}{2}\boldsymbol{x}^{\mathrm{T}}\boldsymbol{H}\boldsymbol{x} = \frac{1}{2}\sum_i h_{i,i}\, x_i^2 + \frac{1}{2}\sum_{i \neq j} h_{i,j}\, x_i x_j$, with $\boldsymbol{H}$ positive, definite, symmetric matrix

  $\boldsymbol{H}$ is the Hessian matrix of f

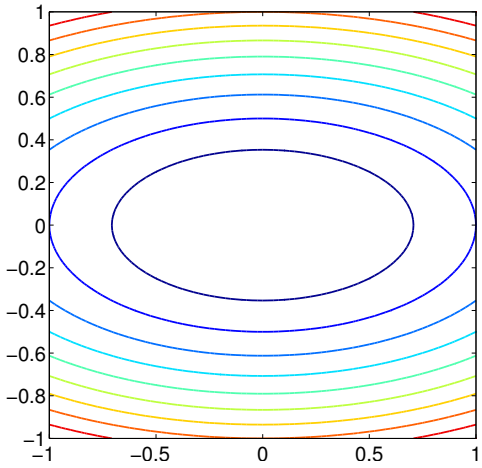
- ill-conditioned means a high condition number of Hessian Matrix $\boldsymbol{H}$

$$\mathrm{cond}(\boldsymbol{H}) = \frac{\lambda_{\mathsf{max}}(\boldsymbol{H})}{\lambda_{\mathsf{min}}(\boldsymbol{H})}$$

Example / exercice

$$f(\boldsymbol{x}) = \frac{1}{2}(x_1^2 + 9x_2^2)$$

condition number equals 9

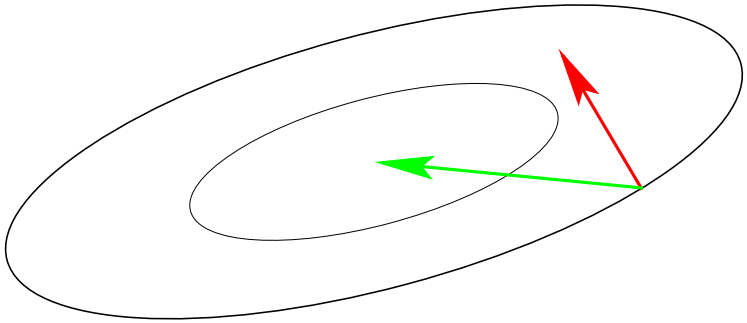


Shape of the iso-fitness lines

Ill-conditionned Problems

consider the curvature of iso-fitness lines

ill-conditioned means "squeezed" lines of equal function value (high curvatures)



gradient direction $-f'(\boldsymbol{x})^{\mathrm{T}}$

Newton direction
$-\boldsymbol{H}^{-1}f'(\boldsymbol{x})^{\mathrm{T}}$

Condition number equals nine here. Condition numbers up to 10^{10} are not unusual in real world problems.

Stochastic Search

A black box search template to minimize $f : \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}$

Initialize distribution parameters $\boldsymbol{\theta}$, set population size $\lambda \in \mathbb{N}$
While not terminate

1. Sample distribution $P(\boldsymbol{x}|\boldsymbol{\theta}) \to \boldsymbol{x}_1, \ldots, \boldsymbol{x}_\lambda \in \mathbb{R}^n$
2. Evaluate $\boldsymbol{x}_1, \ldots, \boldsymbol{x}_\lambda$ on f
3. Update parameters $\boldsymbol{\theta} \leftarrow F_\theta(\boldsymbol{\theta}, \boldsymbol{x}_1, \ldots, \boldsymbol{x}_\lambda, f(\boldsymbol{x}_1), \ldots, f(\boldsymbol{x}_\lambda))$

Stochastic Search

A black box search template to minimize $f : \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}$

Initialize distribution parameters $\boldsymbol{\theta}$, set population size $\lambda \in \mathbb{N}$

While not terminate

1. Sample distribution $P(\boldsymbol{x}|\boldsymbol{\theta}) \to \boldsymbol{x}_1, \ldots, \boldsymbol{x}_\lambda \in \mathbb{R}^n$
2. Evaluate $\boldsymbol{x}_1, \ldots, \boldsymbol{x}_\lambda$ on f
3. Update parameters $\boldsymbol{\theta} \leftarrow F_\theta(\boldsymbol{\theta}, \boldsymbol{x}_1, \ldots, \boldsymbol{x}_\lambda, f(\boldsymbol{x}_1), \ldots, f(\boldsymbol{x}_\lambda))$

Stochastic Search

A black box search template to minimize $f : \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}$

Initialize distribution parameters $\boldsymbol{\theta}$, set population size $\lambda \in \mathbb{N}$

While not terminate

1. Sample distribution $P(\boldsymbol{x}|\boldsymbol{\theta}) \to \boldsymbol{x}_1, \ldots, \boldsymbol{x}_\lambda \in \mathbb{R}^n$
2. Evaluate $\boldsymbol{x}_1, \ldots, \boldsymbol{x}_\lambda$ on f
3. Update parameters $\boldsymbol{\theta} \leftarrow F_\theta(\boldsymbol{\theta}, \boldsymbol{x}_1, \ldots, \boldsymbol{x}_\lambda, f(\boldsymbol{x}_1), \ldots, f(\boldsymbol{x}_\lambda))$

Stochastic Search

A black box search template to minimize $f : \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}$

Initialize distribution parameters $\boldsymbol{\theta}$, set population size $\lambda \in \mathbb{N}$

While not terminate

1. Sample distribution $P(\boldsymbol{x}|\boldsymbol{\theta}) \to \boldsymbol{x}_1, \ldots, \boldsymbol{x}_\lambda \in \mathbb{R}^n$
2. Evaluate $\boldsymbol{x}_1, \ldots, \boldsymbol{x}_\lambda$ on f
3. Update parameters $\boldsymbol{\theta} \leftarrow F_\theta(\boldsymbol{\theta}, \boldsymbol{x}_1, \ldots, \boldsymbol{x}_\lambda, f(\boldsymbol{x}_1), \ldots, f(\boldsymbol{x}_\lambda))$

Stochastic Search

A black box search template to minimize $f : \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}$

Initialize distribution parameters $\boldsymbol{\theta}$, set population size $\lambda \in \mathbb{N}$

While not terminate

1. Sample distribution $P(\boldsymbol{x}|\boldsymbol{\theta}) \to \boldsymbol{x}_1, \ldots, \boldsymbol{x}_\lambda \in \mathbb{R}^n$
2. Evaluate $\boldsymbol{x}_1, \ldots, \boldsymbol{x}_\lambda$ on f
3. Update parameters $\boldsymbol{\theta} \leftarrow F_\theta(\boldsymbol{\theta}, \boldsymbol{x}_1, \ldots, \boldsymbol{x}_\lambda, f(\boldsymbol{x}_1), \ldots, f(\boldsymbol{x}_\lambda))$

Stochastic Search

A black box search template to minimize $f : \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}$

Initialize distribution parameters $\boldsymbol{\theta}$, set population size $\lambda \in \mathbb{N}$

While not terminate

1. Sample distribution $P(\boldsymbol{x}|\boldsymbol{\theta}) \to \boldsymbol{x}_1, \ldots, \boldsymbol{x}_\lambda \in \mathbb{R}^n$
2. Evaluate $\boldsymbol{x}_1, \ldots, \boldsymbol{x}_\lambda$ on f
3. Update parameters $\boldsymbol{\theta} \leftarrow F_\theta(\boldsymbol{\theta}, \boldsymbol{x}_1, \ldots, \boldsymbol{x}_\lambda, f(\boldsymbol{x}_1), \ldots, f(\boldsymbol{x}_\lambda))$

Stochastic Search

A black box search template to minimize $f : \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}$

Initialize distribution parameters $\boldsymbol{\theta}$, set population size $\lambda \in \mathbb{N}$
While not terminate

1. Sample distribution $P(\boldsymbol{x}|\boldsymbol{\theta}) \to \boldsymbol{x}_1, \ldots, \boldsymbol{x}_\lambda \in \mathbb{R}^n$
2. Evaluate $\boldsymbol{x}_1, \ldots, \boldsymbol{x}_\lambda$ on f
3. Update parameters $\boldsymbol{\theta} \leftarrow F_\theta(\boldsymbol{\theta}, \boldsymbol{x}_1, \ldots, \boldsymbol{x}_\lambda, f(\boldsymbol{x}_1), \ldots, f(\boldsymbol{x}_\lambda))$

Everything depends on the definition of P and F_θ

Stochastic Search

A black box search template to minimize $f : \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}$

Initialize distribution parameters $\boldsymbol{\theta}$, set population size $\lambda \in \mathbb{N}$
While not terminate

1. Sample distribution $P(\boldsymbol{x}|\boldsymbol{\theta}) \to \boldsymbol{x}_1, \ldots, \boldsymbol{x}_\lambda \in \mathbb{R}^n$
2. Evaluate $\boldsymbol{x}_1, \ldots, \boldsymbol{x}_\lambda$ on f
3. Update parameters $\boldsymbol{\theta} \leftarrow F_\theta(\boldsymbol{\theta}, \boldsymbol{x}_1, \ldots, \boldsymbol{x}_\lambda, f(\boldsymbol{x}_1), \ldots, f(\boldsymbol{x}_\lambda))$

Everything depends on the definition of P and F_θ

In Evolutionary Algorithms the distribution P is often implicitly defined via operators on a population, in particular, selection, recombination and mutation

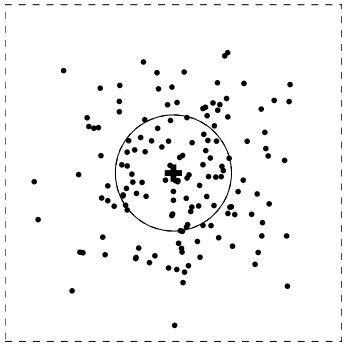
Natural template for *Estimation of Distribution Algorithms*

Evolution Strategies

New search points are sampled normally distributed

$$\boldsymbol{x}_i \sim \boldsymbol{m} + \sigma\, \mathcal{N}_i(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{C}) \qquad \text{for } i = 1, \ldots, \lambda$$

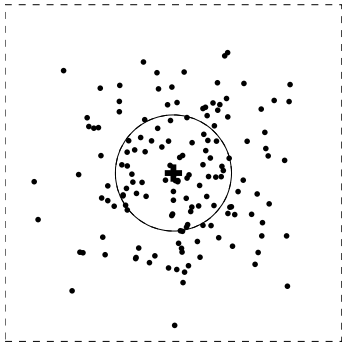
as perturbations of $\boldsymbol{m}$, where $\boldsymbol{x}_i, \boldsymbol{m} \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $\sigma \in \mathbb{R}_+$, $\mathbf{C} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$



Evolution Strategies

New search points are sampled normally distributed

$$\boldsymbol{x}_i \sim \boldsymbol{m} + \sigma\,\mathcal{N}_i(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{C}) \qquad \text{for } i = 1, \ldots, \lambda$$



as perturbations of $\boldsymbol{m}$, where $\boldsymbol{x}_i, \boldsymbol{m} \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $\sigma \in \mathbb{R}_+$, $\mathbf{C} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$

where

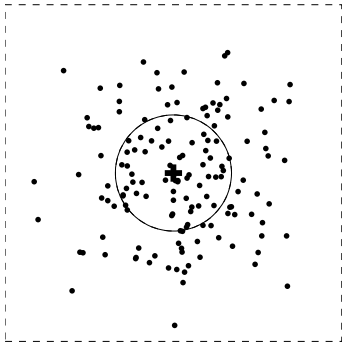
- the mean vector $\boldsymbol{m} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ represents the favorite solution
- the so-called step-size $\sigma \in \mathbb{R}_+$ controls the *step length*
- the covariance matrix $\mathbf{C} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ determines the shape of the distribution ellipsoid

here, all new points are sampled with the same parameters

Evolution Strategies

New search points are sampled normally distributed

$$\boldsymbol{x}_i \sim \boldsymbol{m} + \sigma\,\mathcal{N}_i(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{C}) \qquad \text{for } i = 1, \ldots, \lambda$$



as perturbations of $\boldsymbol{m}$, where $\boldsymbol{x}_i, \boldsymbol{m} \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $\sigma \in \mathbb{R}_+$, $\mathbf{C} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$

where

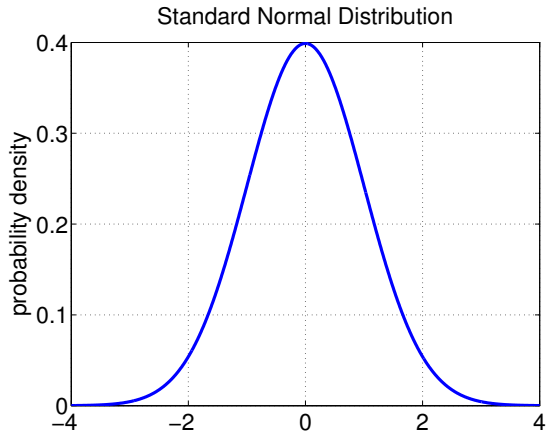
- the mean vector $\boldsymbol{m} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ represents the favorite solution
- the so-called step-size $\sigma \in \mathbb{R}_+$ controls the *step length*
- the covariance matrix $\mathbf{C} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ determines the shape of the distribution ellipsoid

here, all new points are sampled with the same parameters

The question remains how to update $\boldsymbol{m}$, $\mathbf{C}$, and σ.

Normal Distribution

1-D case



probability density of the 1-D standard normal distribution $\mathcal{N}(0,1)$

(expected (mean) value, variance) = (0,1)

$$p(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp\left(-\frac{x^2}{2}\right)$$

General case

- Normal distribution $\mathcal{N}(\boldsymbol{m}, \sigma^2)$

(expected value, variance) $= (\boldsymbol{m}, \sigma^2)$

density: $p_{\boldsymbol{m},\sigma}(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} \exp\left(-\frac{(x-\boldsymbol{m})^2}{2\sigma^2}\right)$

- A normal distribution is entirely determined by its mean value and variance
- The family of normal distributions is closed under linear transformations: if X is normally distributed then a linear transformation $aX + b$ is also normally distributed
- **Exercice:** Show that $\boldsymbol{m} + \sigma\mathcal{N}(0,1) = \mathcal{N}(\boldsymbol{m}, \sigma^2)$

Normal Distribution

General case

A random variable following a 1-D normal distribution is determined by its mean value $\boldsymbol{m}$ and variance σ^2.

In the n-dimensional case it is determined by its mean vector and covariance matrix

Covariance Matrix

If the entries in a vector $\boldsymbol{X} = (X_1, \ldots, X_n)^T$ are random variables, each with finite variance, then the covariance matrix Σ is the matrix whose (i, j) entries are the covariance of (X_i, X_j)

$$\Sigma_{ij} = \operatorname{cov}(X_i, X_j) = \mathrm{E}\left[(X_i - \mu_i)(X_j - \mu_j)\right]$$

where $\mu_i = \mathrm{E}(X_i)$. Considering the expectation of a matrix as the expectation of each entry, we have

$$\Sigma = \mathrm{E}[(X - \mu)(X - \mu)^T]$$

Σ is symmetric, positive definite

The Multi-Variate (n-Dimensional) Normal Distribution

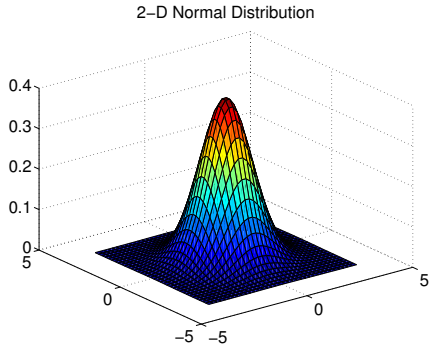
Any multi-variate normal distribution $\mathcal{N}(\boldsymbol{m}, \mathbf{C})$ is uniquely determined by its mean value $\boldsymbol{m} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and its symmetric positive definite $n \times n$ covariance matrix $\mathbf{C}$.

$$\text{density: } p_{\mathcal{N}(\boldsymbol{m},\mathbf{C})}(\boldsymbol{x}) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{n/2}|\mathbf{C}|^{1/2}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}(\boldsymbol{x}-\boldsymbol{m})^{\mathrm{T}}\mathbf{C}^{-1}(\boldsymbol{x}-\boldsymbol{m})\right),$$

The mean value $\boldsymbol{m}$

- determines the displacement (translation)
- value with the largest density (modal value)
- the distribution is symmetric about the distribution mean

$$\mathcal{N}(\boldsymbol{m}, \mathbf{C}) = \boldsymbol{m} + \mathcal{N}(0, \mathbf{C})$$



The Multi-Variate (n-Dimensional) Normal Distribution

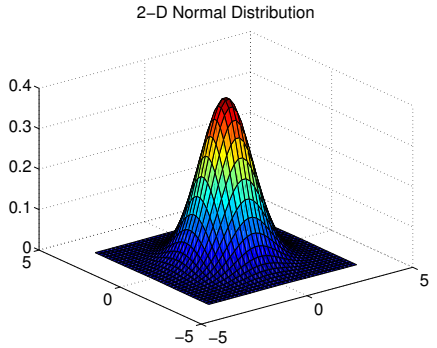
Any multi-variate normal distribution $\mathcal{N}(\boldsymbol{m}, \mathbf{C})$ is uniquely determined by its mean value $\boldsymbol{m} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and its symmetric positive definite $n \times n$ covariance matrix $\mathbf{C}$.

$$\text{density: } p_{\mathcal{N}(\boldsymbol{m},\mathbf{C})}(\boldsymbol{x}) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{n/2}|\mathbf{C}|^{1/2}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}(\boldsymbol{x}-\boldsymbol{m})^{\mathrm{T}}\mathbf{C}^{-1}(\boldsymbol{x}-\boldsymbol{m})\right),$$

The mean value $\boldsymbol{m}$

- determines the displacement (translation)
- value with the largest density (modal value)
- the distribution is symmetric about the distribution mean

$$\mathcal{N}(\boldsymbol{m}, \mathbf{C}) = \boldsymbol{m} + \mathcal{N}(0, \mathbf{C})$$

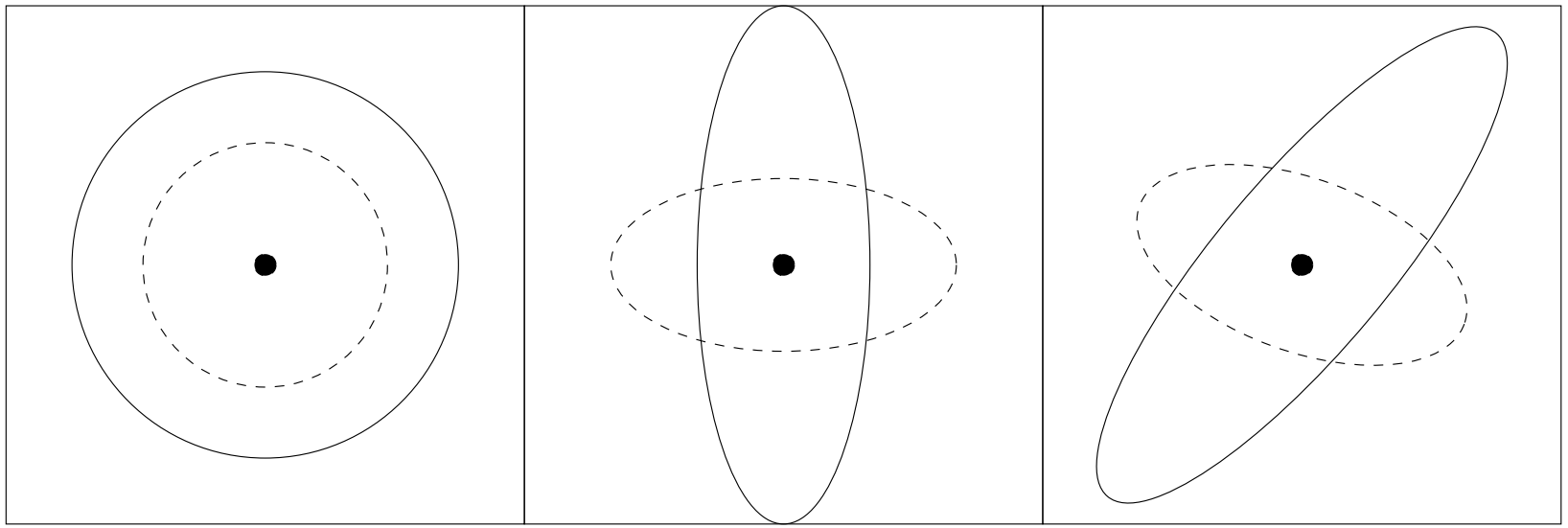


The covariance matrix $\mathbf{C}$

- determines the shape
- geometrical interpretation: any covariance matrix can be uniquely identified with the iso-density ellipsoid $\{\boldsymbol{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n \,|\, (\boldsymbol{x}-\boldsymbol{m})^{\mathrm{T}}\mathbf{C}^{-1}(\boldsymbol{x}-\boldsymbol{m}) = 1\}$

. . . any covariance matrix can be uniquely identified with the iso-density ellipsoid $\{\boldsymbol{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid (\boldsymbol{x} - \boldsymbol{m})^{\mathrm{T}} \mathbf{C}^{-1} (\boldsymbol{x} - \boldsymbol{m}) = 1\}$

Lines of Equal Density



$\mathcal{N}(\boldsymbol{m}, \sigma^2 \mathbf{I}) \sim \boldsymbol{m} + \sigma \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I})$

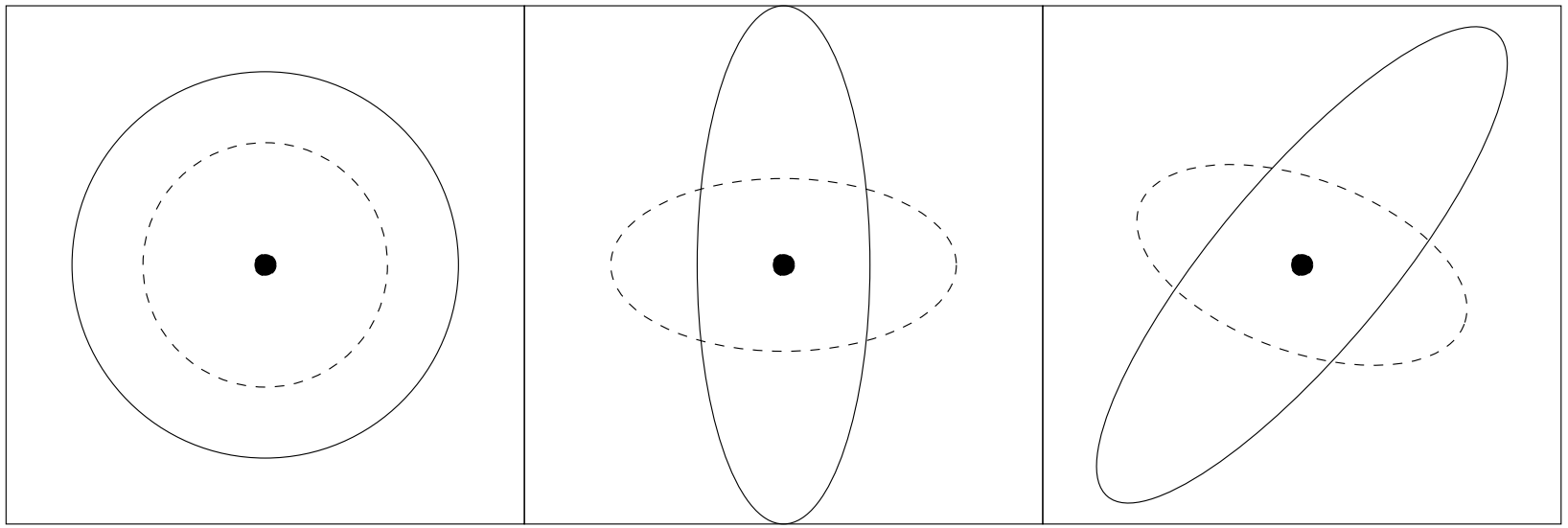
one degree of freedom σ

components are independent standard normally distributed

where $\mathbf{I}$ is the identity matrix (isotropic case) and $\mathbf{D}$ is a diagonal matrix (reasonable for separable problems) and $\mathbf{A} \times \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I}) \sim \mathcal{N}\left(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{A}\mathbf{A}^{\mathrm{T}}\right)$ holds for all $\mathbf{A}$.

. . . any covariance matrix can be uniquely identified with the iso-density ellipsoid $\{\boldsymbol{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n \,|\, (\boldsymbol{x} - \boldsymbol{m})^{\mathrm{T}} \mathbf{C}^{-1} (\boldsymbol{x} - \boldsymbol{m}) = 1\}$

Lines of Equal Density



$\mathcal{N}(\boldsymbol{m}, \sigma^2 \mathbf{I}) \sim \boldsymbol{m} + \sigma \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I})$

one degree of freedom σ

components are independent standard normally distributed

$\mathcal{N}(\boldsymbol{m}, \mathbf{D}^2) \sim \boldsymbol{m} + \mathbf{D}\,\mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I})$

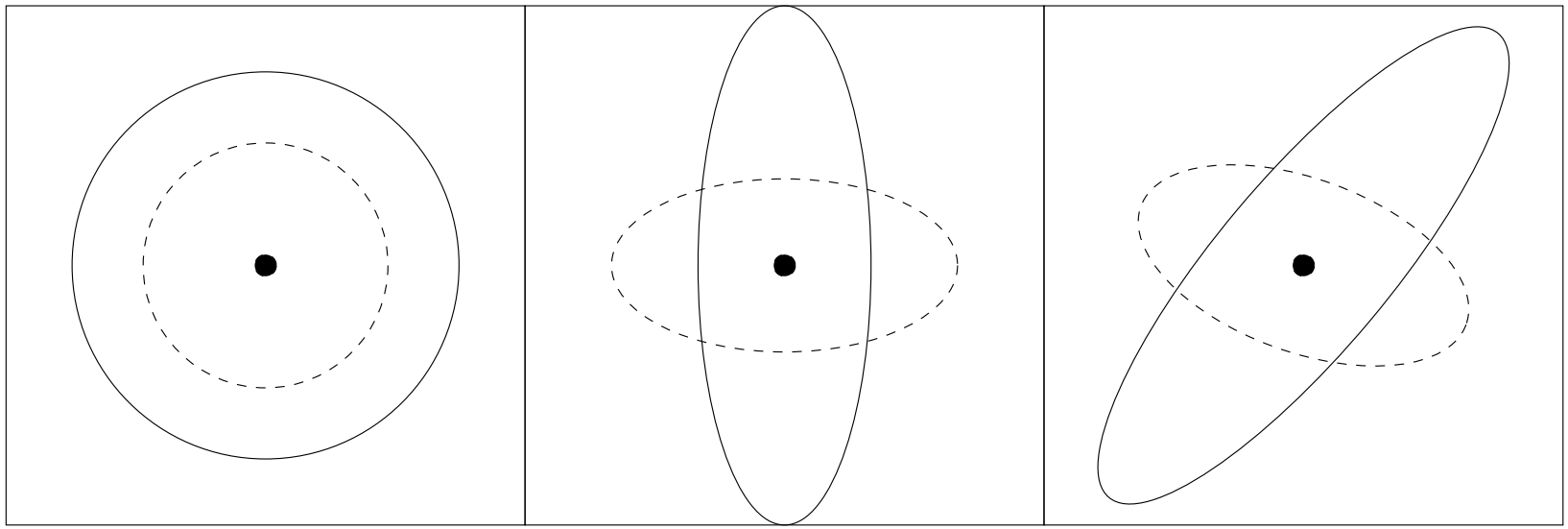
n degrees of freedom

components are independent, scaled

where $\mathbf{I}$ is the identity matrix (isotropic case) and $\mathbf{D}$ is a diagonal matrix (reasonable for separable problems) and $\mathbf{A} \times \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I}) \sim \mathcal{N}\left(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{A}\mathbf{A}^{\mathrm{T}}\right)$ holds for all $\mathbf{A}$.

. . . any covariance matrix can be uniquely identified with the iso-density ellipsoid $\{\boldsymbol{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid (\boldsymbol{x} - \boldsymbol{m})^{\mathrm{T}} \mathbf{C}^{-1} (\boldsymbol{x} - \boldsymbol{m}) = 1\}$

Lines of Equal Density



$\mathcal{N}(\boldsymbol{m}, \sigma^2 \mathbf{I}) \sim \boldsymbol{m} + \sigma \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I})$

one degree of freedom σ

components are independent standard normally distributed

$\mathcal{N}(\boldsymbol{m}, \mathbf{D}^2) \sim \boldsymbol{m} + \mathbf{D}\,\mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I})$

n degrees of freedom

components are independent, scaled

$\mathcal{N}(\boldsymbol{m}, \mathbf{C}) \sim \boldsymbol{m} + \mathbf{C}^{\frac{1}{2}} \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I})$

$(n^2 + n)/2$ degrees of freedom

components are correlated

where $\mathbf{I}$ is the identity matrix (isotropic case) and $\mathbf{D}$ is a diagonal matrix (reasonable for separable problems) and $\mathbf{A} \times \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I}) \sim \mathcal{N}\left(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{A}\mathbf{A}^{\mathrm{T}}\right)$ holds for all $\mathbf{A}$.

Where are we?

Adaptation: What do we want to achieve?

New search points are sampled normally distributed

$$\boldsymbol{x}_i \sim \boldsymbol{m} + \sigma\, \mathcal{N}_i(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{C}) \qquad \text{for } i = 1, \ldots, \lambda$$

where $\boldsymbol{x}_i, \boldsymbol{m} \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $\sigma \in \mathbb{R}_+$, $\mathbf{C} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$

- the mean vector should represent the favorite solution
- the step-size controls the step-length and thus convergence rate

  should allow to reach fastest convergence rate possible
- the covariance matrix $\mathbf{C} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ determines the shape of the distribution ellipsoid

  adaptation should allow to learn the "topography" of the problem

  particulary important for ill-conditionned problems

  $\mathbf{C} \propto \boldsymbol{H}^{-1}$ on convex quadratic functions

Evolution Strategies

Simple Update for Mean Vector

Let μ: # parents, λ: # offspring

Plus (elitist) and comma (non-elitist) selection

$(\mu + \lambda)$-ES: selection in $\{\text{parents}\} \cup \{\text{offspring}\}$
(μ, λ)-ES: selection in $\{\text{offspring}\}$

$(1 + 1)$-ES

Sample one offspring from parent $\boldsymbol{m}$

$$\boldsymbol{x} = \boldsymbol{m} + \sigma \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{C})$$

If $\boldsymbol{x}$ better than $\boldsymbol{m}$ select

$$\boldsymbol{m} \leftarrow \boldsymbol{x}$$

The $(\mu/\mu, \lambda)$-ES

Non-elitist selection and intermediate (weighted) recombination

Given the i-th solution point $\boldsymbol{x}_i = \boldsymbol{m} + \sigma \underbrace{\mathcal{N}_i(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{C})}_{=: \boldsymbol{y}_i} = \boldsymbol{m} + \sigma \boldsymbol{y}_i$

Let $\boldsymbol{x}_{i:\lambda}$ the i-th ranked solution point, such that $f(\boldsymbol{x}_{1:\lambda}) \leq \cdots \leq f(\boldsymbol{x}_{\lambda:\lambda})$.

The best μ points are selected from the new solutions (non-elitistic) and weighted intermediate recombination is applied.

The $(\mu/\mu, \lambda)$-ES

Non-elitist selection and intermediate (weighted) recombination

Given the i-th solution point $\boldsymbol{x}_i = \boldsymbol{m} + \sigma \underbrace{\mathcal{N}_i(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{C})}_{=: \boldsymbol{y}_i} = \boldsymbol{m} + \sigma \boldsymbol{y}_i$

Let $\boldsymbol{x}_{i:\lambda}$ the i-th ranked solution point, such that $f(\boldsymbol{x}_{1:\lambda}) \leq \cdots \leq f(\boldsymbol{x}_{\lambda:\lambda})$.
The new mean reads

$$\boldsymbol{m} \leftarrow \sum_{i=1}^{\mu} w_i \, \boldsymbol{x}_{i:\lambda}$$

where

$$w_1 \geq \cdots \geq w_\mu > 0, \quad \sum_{i=1}^{\mu} w_i = 1, \quad \frac{1}{\sum_{i=1}^{\mu} w_i^2} =: \mu_w \approx \frac{\lambda}{4}$$

The best μ points are selected from the new solutions (non-elitistic) and weighted intermediate recombination is applied.

The $(\mu/\mu, \lambda)$-ES

Non-elitist selection and intermediate (weighted) recombination

Given the i-th solution point $\boldsymbol{x}_i = \boldsymbol{m} + \sigma \underbrace{\mathcal{N}_i(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{C})}_{=: \boldsymbol{y}_i} = \boldsymbol{m} + \sigma \boldsymbol{y}_i$

Let $\boldsymbol{x}_{i:\lambda}$ the i-th ranked solution point, such that $f(\boldsymbol{x}_{1:\lambda}) \leq \cdots \leq f(\boldsymbol{x}_{\lambda:\lambda})$.
The new mean reads

$$\boldsymbol{m} \leftarrow \sum_{i=1}^{\mu} w_i \, \boldsymbol{x}_{i:\lambda} = \boldsymbol{m} + \sigma \underbrace{\sum_{i=1}^{\mu} w_i \, \boldsymbol{y}_{i:\lambda}}_{=: \boldsymbol{y}_w}$$

where

$$w_1 \geq \cdots \geq w_\mu > 0, \quad \sum_{i=1}^{\mu} w_i = 1, \quad \frac{1}{\sum_{i=1}^{\mu} w_i^2} =: \mu_w \approx \frac{\lambda}{4}$$

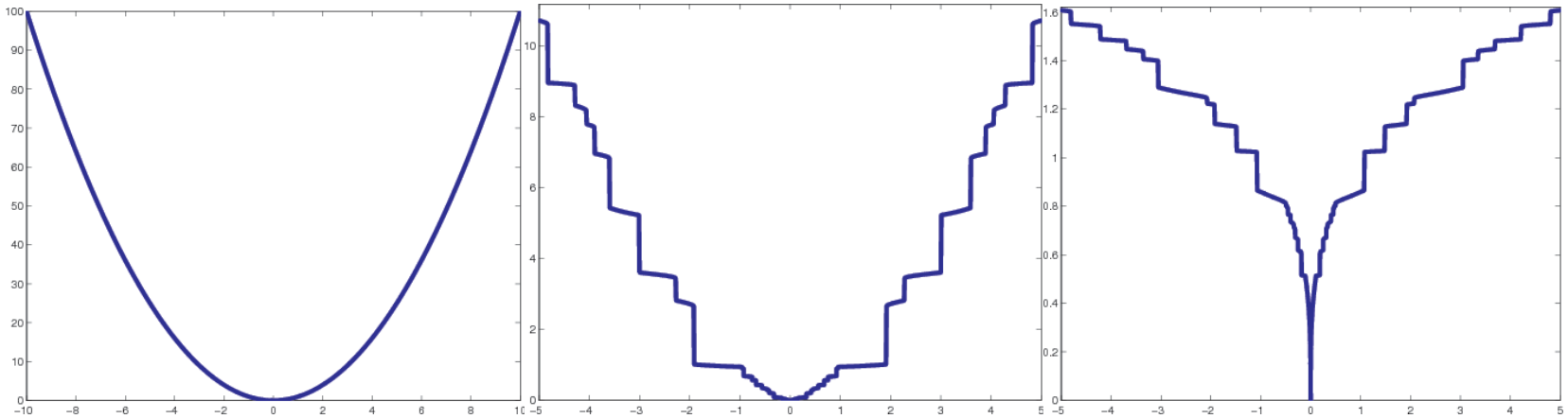
The best μ points are selected from the new solutions (non-elitistic) and weighted intermediate recombination is applied.

Invariance Under Monotonically Increasing Functions

Rank-based algorithms

Update of all parameters uses only the ranks

$$f(x_{1:\lambda}) \leq f(x_{2:\lambda}) \leq \ldots \leq f(x_{\lambda:\lambda})$$



$$g(f(x_{1:\lambda})) \leq g(f(x_{2:\lambda})) \leq \ldots \leq g(f(x_{\lambda:\lambda})) \quad \forall g$$

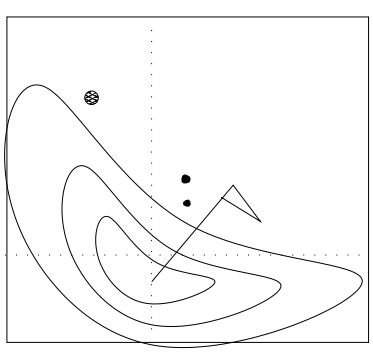
g is strictly monotonically increasing

g preserves ranks

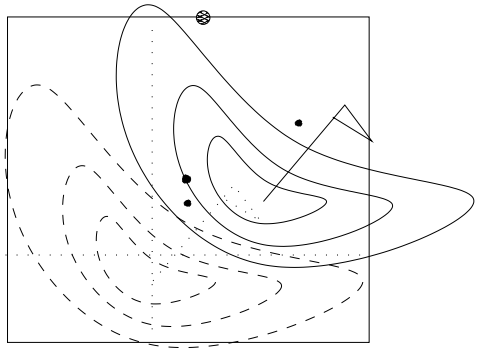
Basic Invariance in Search Space

- translation invariance

is true for most optimization algorithms



$f(x) \leftrightarrow f(x-a)$



Identical behavior on f and f_a

$$\begin{aligned} f: &\quad x \mapsto f(x), && x^{(t=0)} = x_0 \\ f_a: &\quad x \mapsto f(x-a), && x^{(t=0)} = x_0 + a \end{aligned}$$

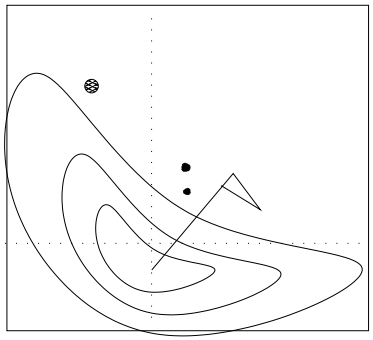
No difference can be observed w.r.t. the argument of f

Rotational Invariance in Search Space

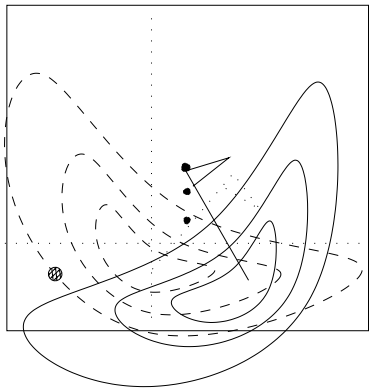
- invariance to orthogonal (rigid) transformations $\mathbf{R}$, where $\mathbf{R}\mathbf{R}^{\mathrm{T}} = \mathbf{I}$

e.g. true for simple evolution strategies

recombination operators might jeopardize rotational invariance



$$f(\boldsymbol{x}) \leftrightarrow f(\mathbf{R}\boldsymbol{x})$$



Identical behavior on f and $f_{\mathbf{R}}$

$$\begin{aligned} f: &\quad \boldsymbol{x} \mapsto f(\boldsymbol{x}), &\quad \boldsymbol{x}^{(t=0)} &= \boldsymbol{x}_0 \\ f_{\mathbf{R}}: &\quad \boldsymbol{x} \mapsto f(\mathbf{R}\boldsymbol{x}), &\quad \boldsymbol{x}^{(t=0)} &= \mathbf{R}^{-1}(\boldsymbol{x}_0) \end{aligned}$$

No difference can be observed w.r.t. the argument of f

[3] Salomon 1996. "Reevaluating Genetic Algorithm Performance under Coordinate Rotation of Benchmark Functions; A survey of some theoretical and practical aspects of genetic algorithms." BioSystems, 39(3):263-278

[4] Hansen 2000. Invariance, Self-Adaptation and Correlated Mutations in Evolution Strategies. *Parallel Problem Solving from Nature PPSN VI*

Invariance

The grand aim of all science is to cover the greatest number of empirical facts by logical deduction from the smallest number of hypotheses or axioms.

— Albert Einstein

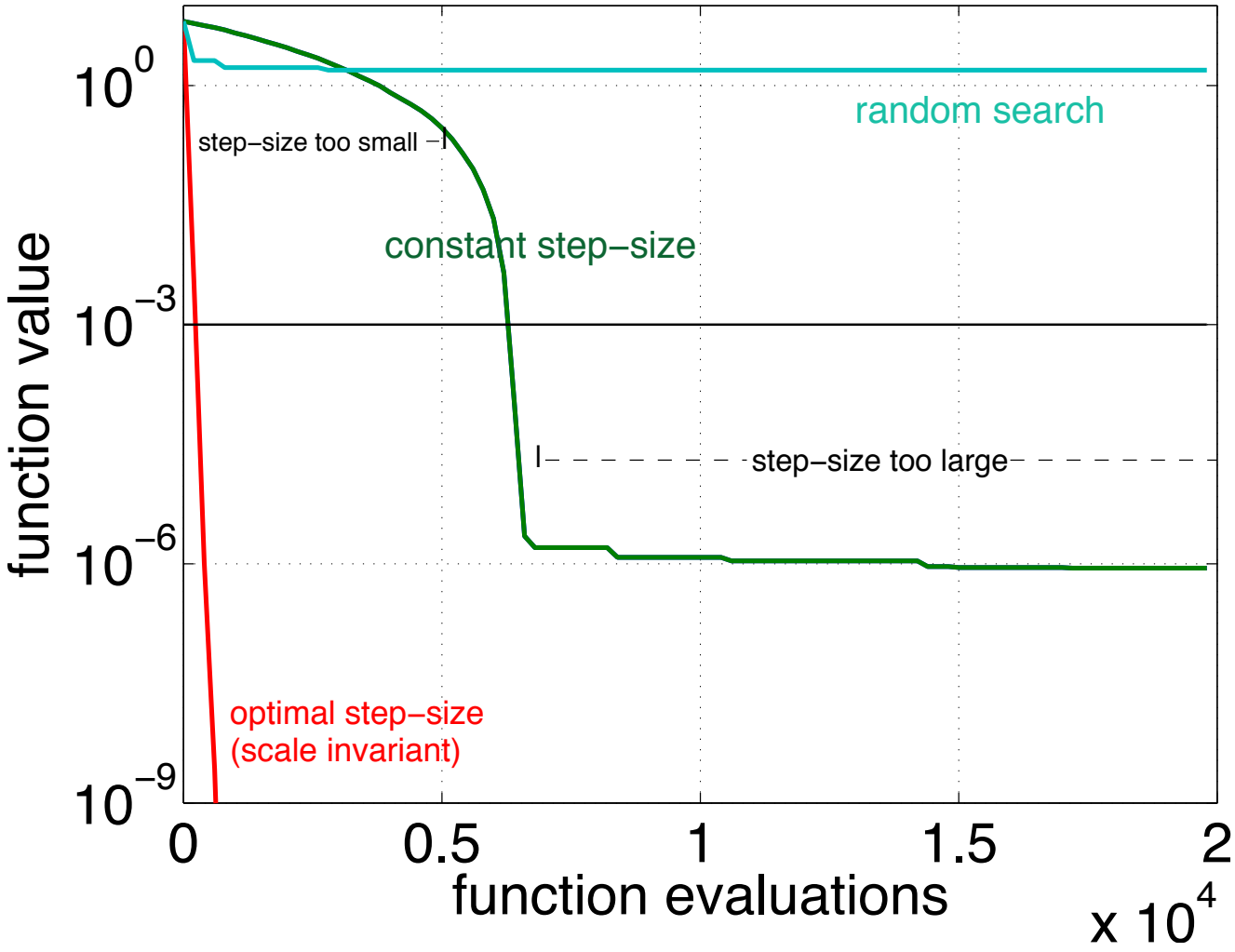
- Empirical observations
  - from benchmark functions
  - from solved real world problems

  are *only* useful if they do generalize to other problems
- Invariance is a strong non-empirical statement about generalization

  generalizing (identical) performance from a single function to an entire class of functions
- makes algorithms predictable and "robust"

consequently, invariance is very important for the evaluation of search algorithms

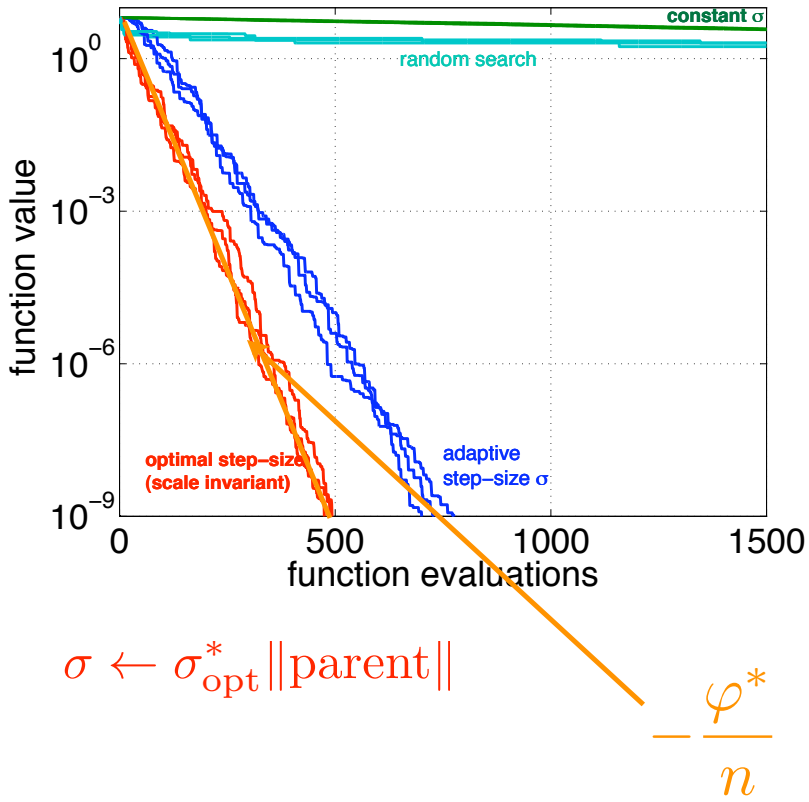
Why Step-Size Control?

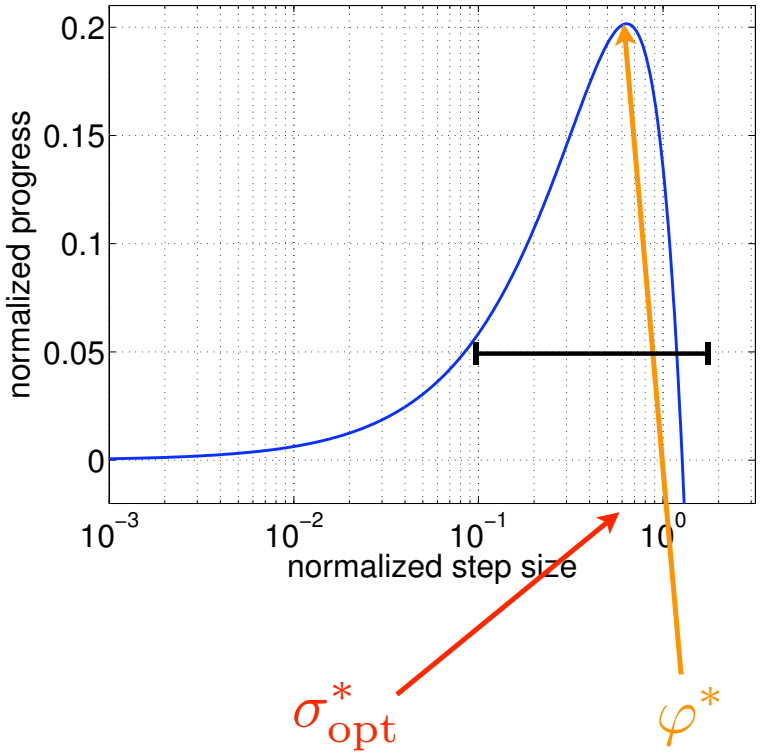


$$f(x) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} x_i^2$$

in $[-0.2, 0.8]^n$
for $n = 10$

Why Step-size Control (II)?





evolution window refers to the step-size interval (⟷) where reasonable performance is observed

Methods for Step-Size Control (I)

- 1/5-th success rule[ab], often applied with "+"-selection

  increase step-size if more than 20% of the new solutions are successful, decrease otherwise

- σ-self-adaptation[c], applied with ","-selection

  mutation is applied to the step-size and the better one, according to the objective function value, is selected

  simplified "global" self-adaptation

- path length control[d] (Cumulative Step-size Adaptation, CSA)[e], applied with ","-selection

---

[a] Rechenberg 1973, *Evolutionsstrategie, Optimierung technischer Systeme nach Prinzipien der biologischen Evolution*, Frommann-Holzboog

[b] Schumer and Steiglitz 1968. Adaptive step size random search. *IEEE TAC*

[c] Schwefel 1981, *Numerical Optimization of Computer Models*, Wiley

[d] Hansen & Ostermeier 2001, Completely Derandomized Self-Adaptation in Evolution Strategies, *Evol. Comput. 9(2)*

[e] Ostermeier *et al* 1994, Step-size adaptation based on non-local use of selection information, *PPSN IV*

Methods for Step-Size Control (II)

Recent methods

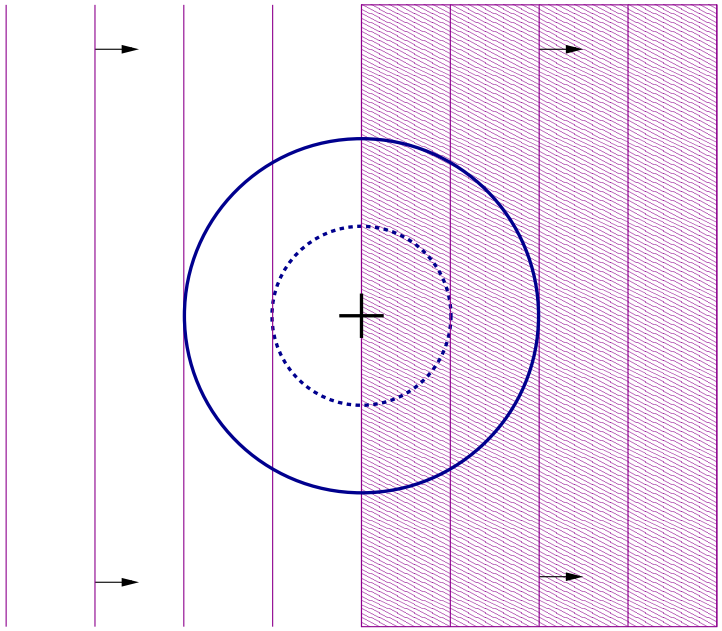
- Two-point adaptation[a], coarse line search (with 2 points) along the mean shift direction
- Median success rule[b], generalization of one-fifth success rule to “,”-selection

---

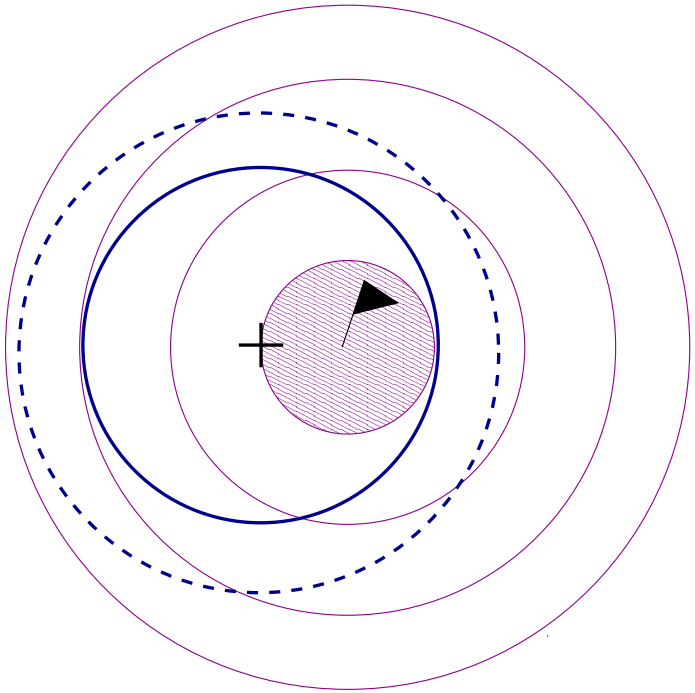
[a] Hansen, 2008, *CMA-ES with Two-Point Step-Size Adaptation*, RR-6527, INRIA. 2008

[b] Ait ElHara, Auger, Hansen, GECCO 2013, A Median Success Rule for Non-Elitist Evolution Strategies: Study of Feasibility

One-fifth success rule

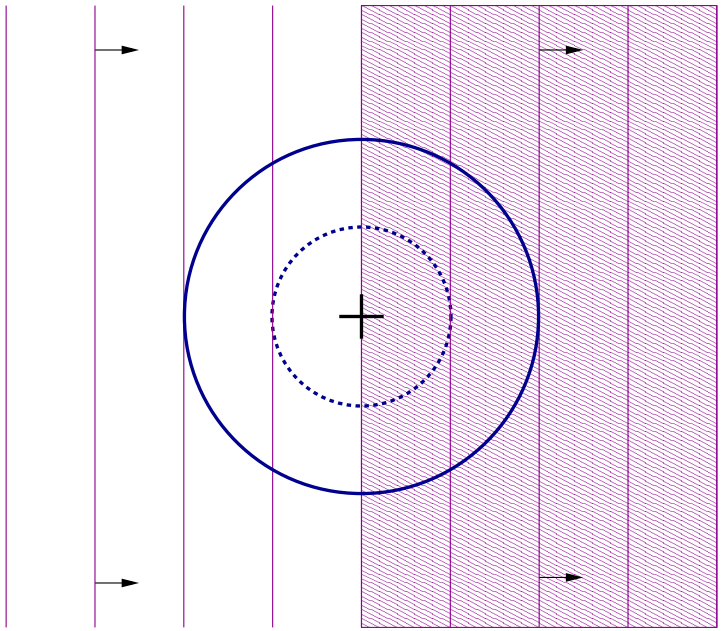


increase σ



decrease σ

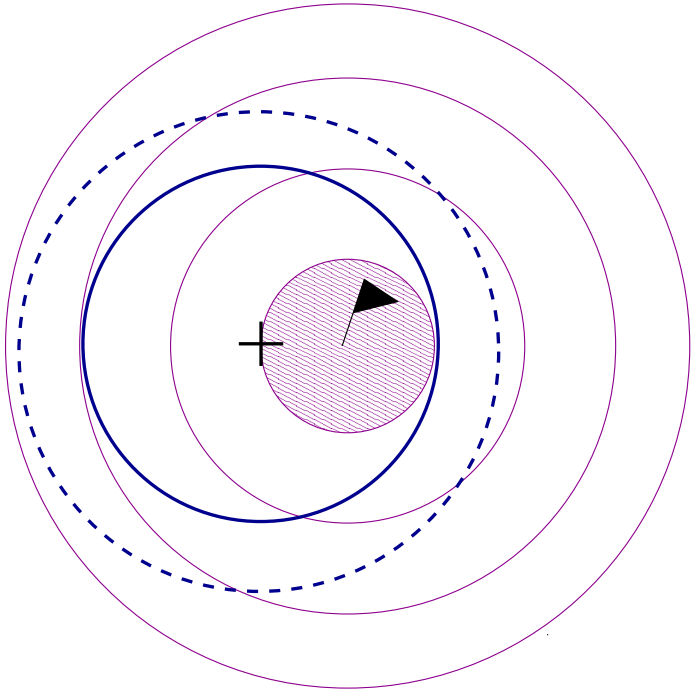
One-fifth success rule



Probability of success (p_s)

1/2

1/5



Probability of success (p_s)

"too small"

One-fifth success rule

p_s: # of successful offspring / # offspring (per generation)

$$\sigma \leftarrow \sigma \times \exp\left(\frac{1}{3} \times \frac{p_s - p_{\text{target}}}{1 - p_{\text{target}}}\right)$$

Increase σ if $p_s > p_{\text{target}}$
Decrease σ if $p_s < p_{\text{target}}$

$(1+1)$-ES

$p_{target} = 1/5$

IF *offspring better parent*

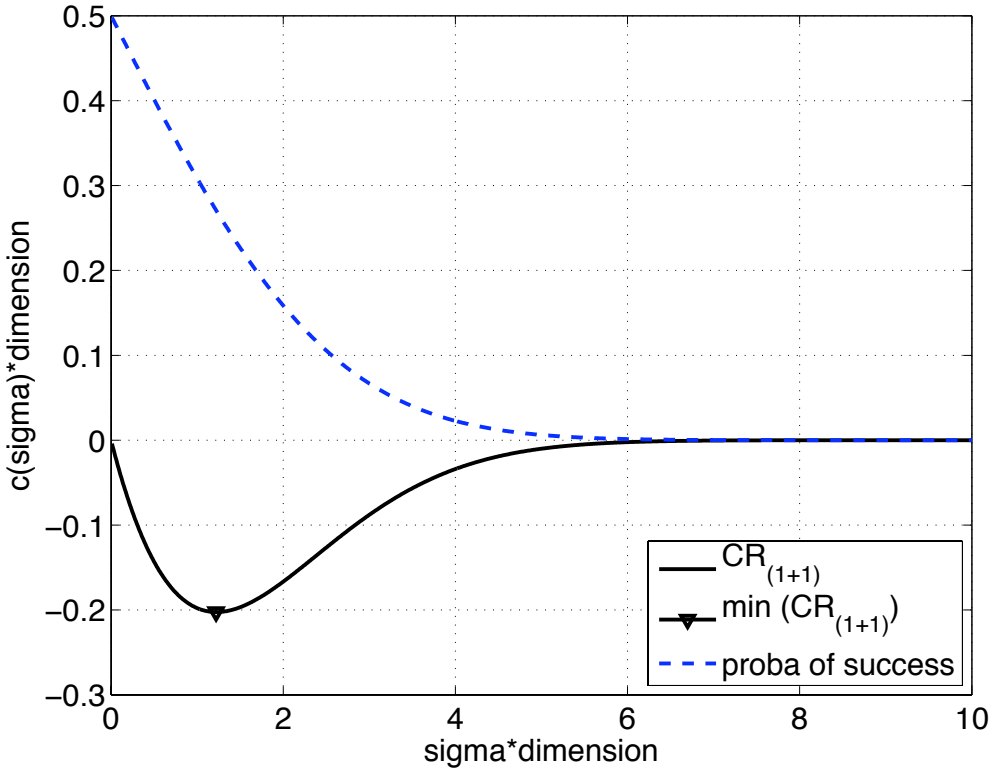
$p_s = 1$, $\sigma \leftarrow \sigma \times \exp(1/3)$

ELSE

$p_s = 0$, $\sigma \leftarrow \sigma / \exp(1/3)^{1/4}$

Why 1/5?

Asymptotic convergence rate and probability of success of scale-invariant step-size (1+1)-ES



sphere - asymptotic results, i.e. $n = \infty$

1/5 trade-off of optimal probability of success on the sphere and corridor

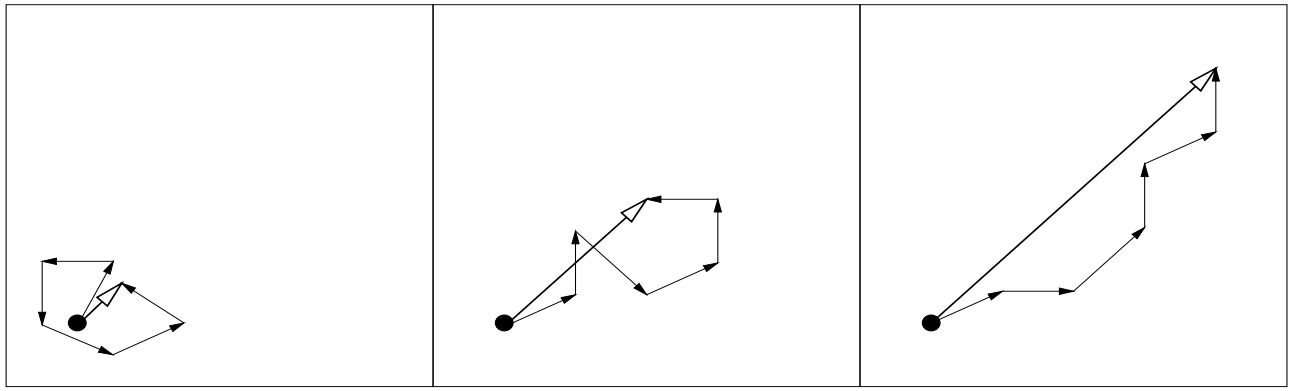
Path Length Control (CSA)

The Concept of Cumulative Step-Size Adaptation

$$\begin{aligned} \boldsymbol{x}_i &= \boldsymbol{m} + \sigma\, \boldsymbol{y}_i \\ \boldsymbol{m} &\leftarrow \boldsymbol{m} + \sigma\, \boldsymbol{y}_w \end{aligned}$$

Measure the length of the *evolution path*

the pathway of the mean vector $\boldsymbol{m}$ in the generation sequence



$\Downarrow$

decrease σ

$\Downarrow$

increase σ

Path Length Control (CSA)

The Equations

Initialize $\boldsymbol{m} \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $\sigma \in \mathbb{R}_+$, evolution path $\boldsymbol{p}_\sigma = \mathbf{0}$,
set $c_\sigma \approx 4/n$, $d_\sigma \approx 1$.

Path Length Control (CSA)

The Equations

Initialize $\boldsymbol{m} \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $\sigma \in \mathbb{R}_+$, evolution path $\boldsymbol{p}_\sigma = \mathbf{0}$,
set $c_\sigma \approx 4/n$, $d_\sigma \approx 1$.

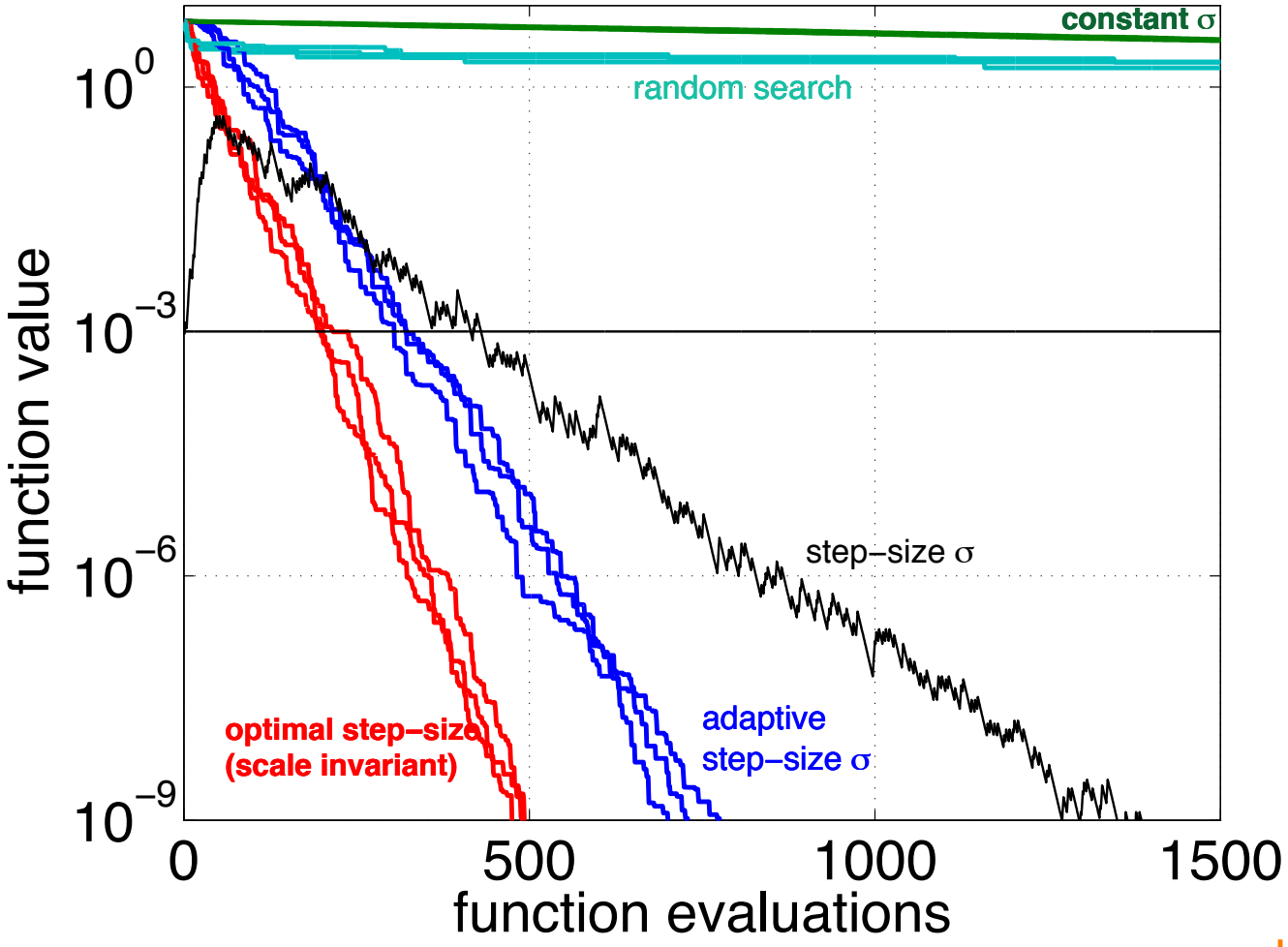
$$\boldsymbol{m} \leftarrow \boldsymbol{m} + \sigma \boldsymbol{y}_w \quad \text{where } \boldsymbol{y}_w = \sum_{i=1}^{\mu} w_i \, \boldsymbol{y}_{i:\lambda} \qquad \text{update mean}$$

$$\boldsymbol{p}_\sigma \leftarrow (1 - c_\sigma)\, \boldsymbol{p}_\sigma + \underbrace{\sqrt{1 - (1 - c_\sigma)^2}}_{\text{accounts for } 1 - c_\sigma} \underbrace{\sqrt{\mu_w}}_{\text{accounts for } w_i} \boldsymbol{y}_w$$

$$\sigma \leftarrow \sigma \times \underbrace{\exp\left(\frac{c_\sigma}{d_\sigma}\left(\frac{\|\boldsymbol{p}_\sigma\|}{\mathrm{E}\|\mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I})\|} - 1\right)\right)}_{>1 \iff \|\boldsymbol{p}_\sigma\| \text{ is greater than its expectation}} \qquad \text{update step-size}$$

Step-size Adaptation

What is achieved: (1+1)-ES with one-fifth success rule



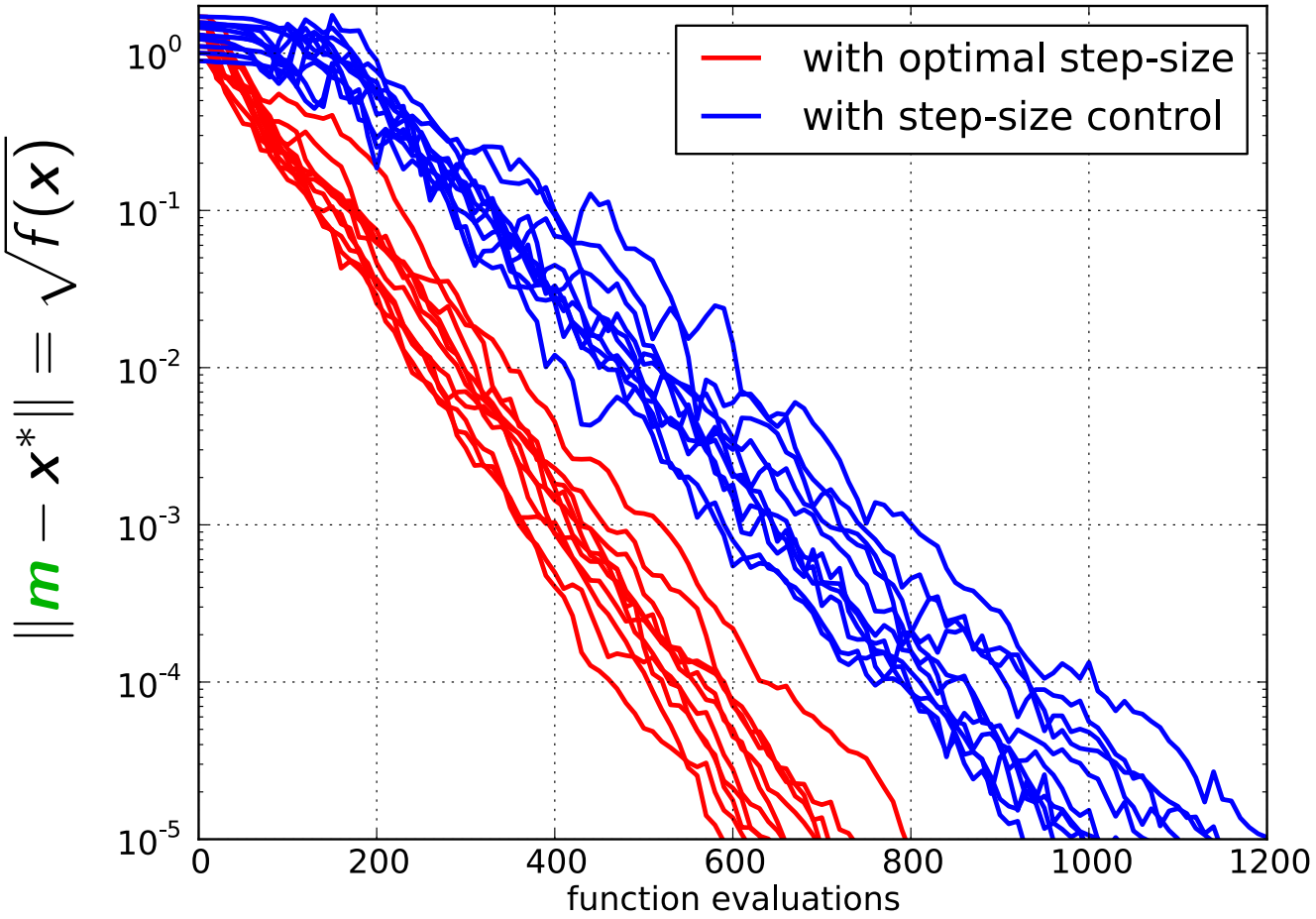
$$f(x) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} x_i^2$$

in $[-0.2, 0.8]^n$
for $n = 10$

Linear convergence

Step-size Adapdation

$(5/5_w, 10)$-ES, 2×11 runs



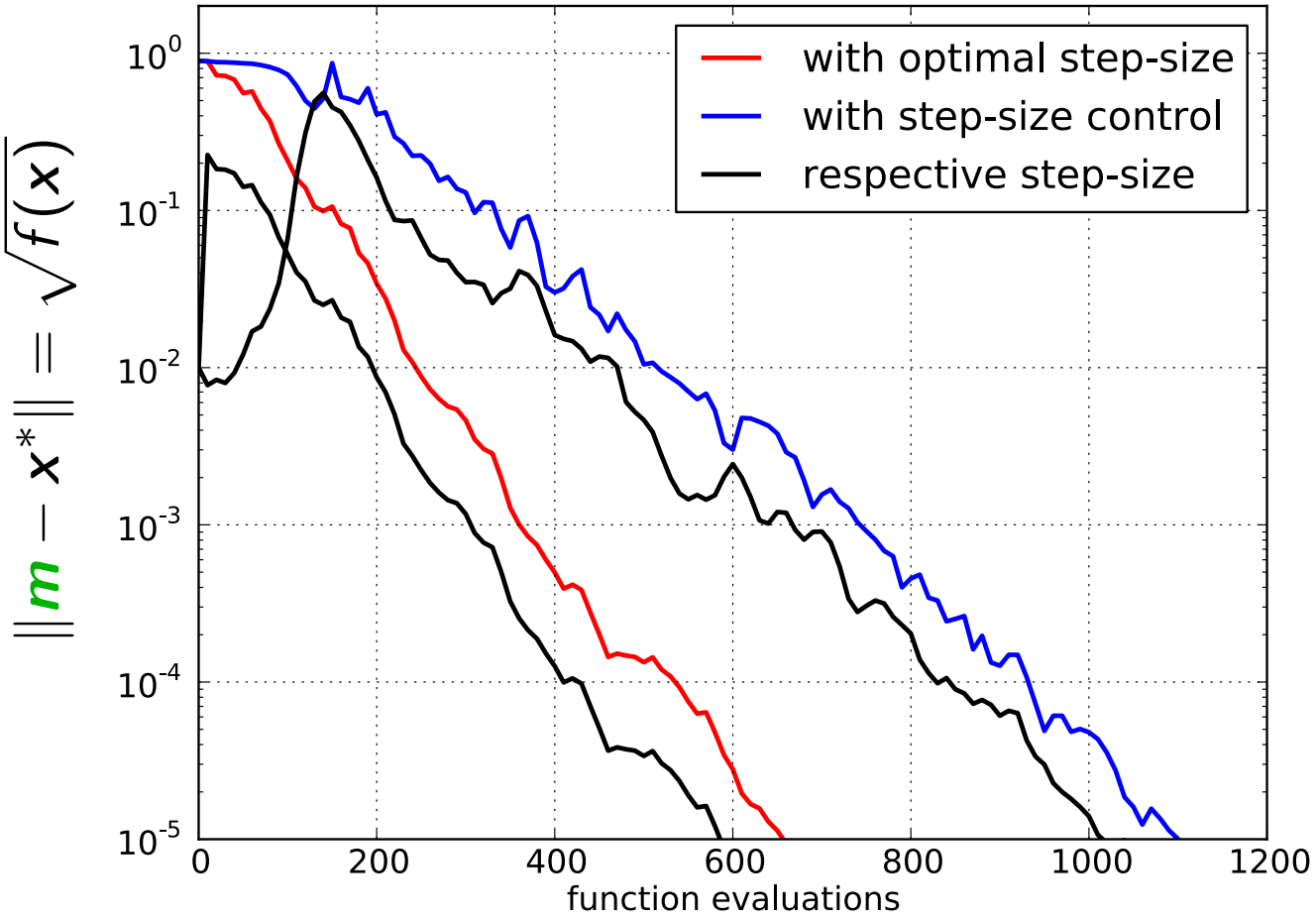
$$f(\boldsymbol{x}) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} x_i^2$$

for $n = 10$
and
$\boldsymbol{x}^0 \in [-0.2, 0.8]^n$

with optimal versus adaptive (CSA) step-size σ with too small initial σ

Step-size Adaptation

$(5/5_w, 10)$-ES



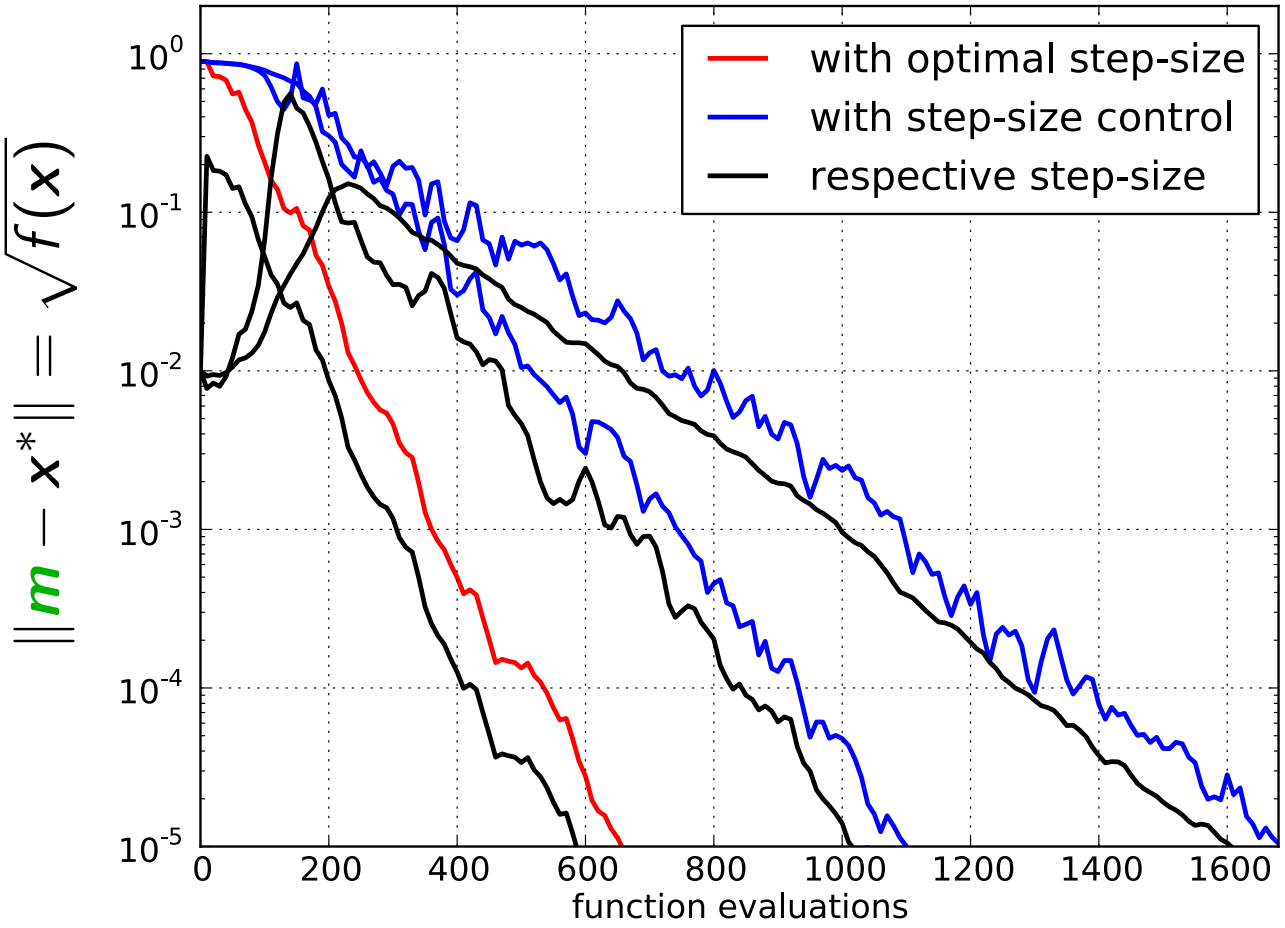
$$f(\boldsymbol{x}) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} x_i^2$$

for $n = 10$
and
$\boldsymbol{x}^0 \in [-0.2, 0.8]^n$

comparing number of f-evals to reach $\|\boldsymbol{m}\| = 10^{-5}$: $\frac{1100-100}{650} \approx 1.5$

Step-size Adaptation

$(5/5_w, 10)$-ES



$$f(\boldsymbol{x}) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} x_i^2$$

for $n = 10$
and
$\boldsymbol{x}^0 \in [-0.2, 0.8]^n$

comparing optimal versus default damping parameter d_σ:
$\frac{1700}{1100} \approx 1.5$

Hitting Time Versus Convergence

Finite hitting time for all epsilon

$$T_\epsilon = \inf\{t \in \mathbb{N}, \mathbf{X}_t \in B(\mathbf{x}^\star, \epsilon)\}$$

$$T_\epsilon < \infty \text{ for all } \epsilon > 0$$

$\Longleftrightarrow$ under some regularity conditions on the algorithm and the function
e.g.) (1+1)-ES on a spherical function

Convergence towards the optimum

$$\lim_{t \to \infty} \mathbf{X}_t = \mathbf{x}^\star$$

$$\Longleftrightarrow \quad \forall \epsilon > 0, \ \exists T_\epsilon < \infty \text{ such that } \|\mathbf{X}_t - \mathbf{x}^\star\| < \epsilon \text{ for all } t \geq T_\epsilon$$

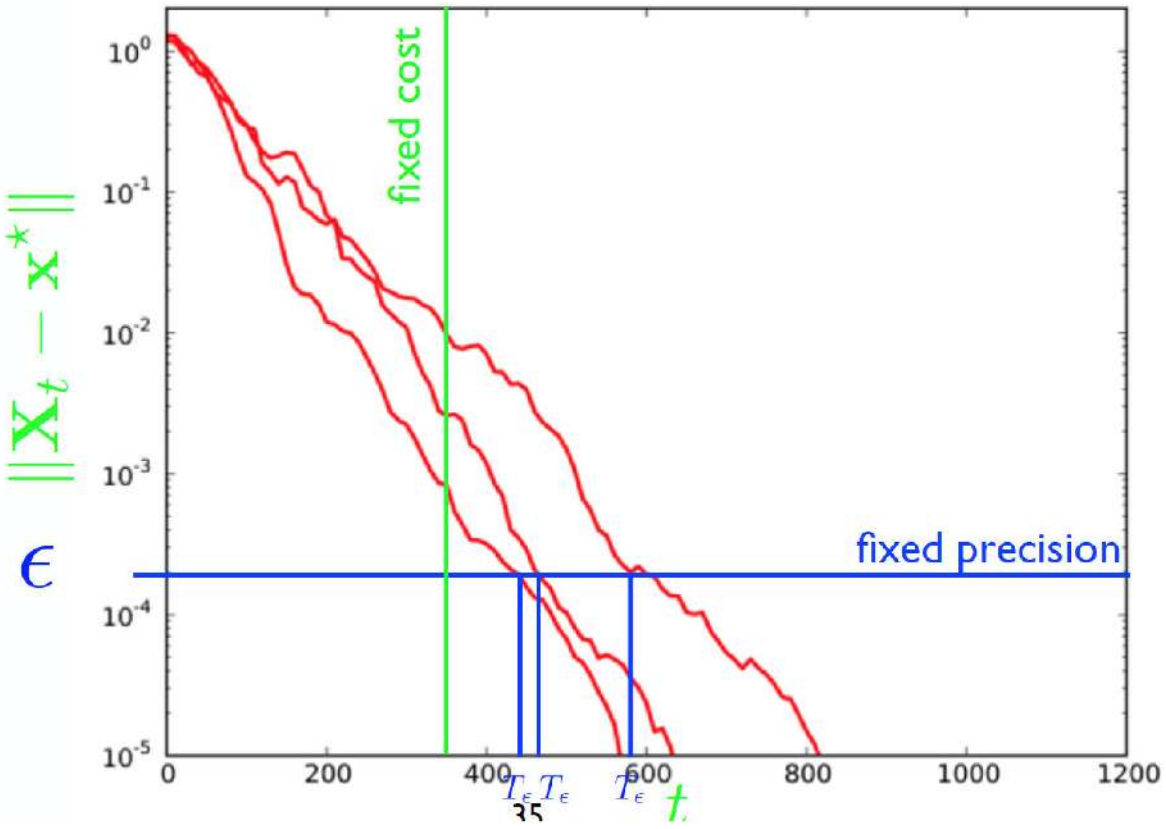
translate that an algorithm approximates the optimum with arbitrary precision

Hitting Time Versus Convergence

two side of a coin, measuring

the hitting time T_ϵ given a fixed precision ϵ

the precision $\|\mathbf{X}_t - \mathbf{x}^\star\|$ (or ϵ) given the iteration number t



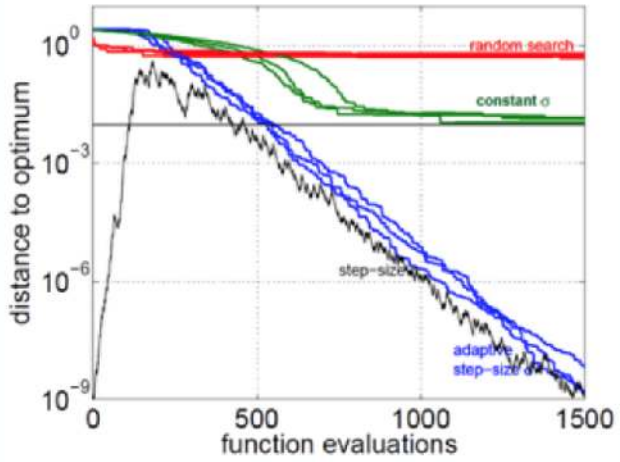
Hitting Time Versus Convergence

A theoretical convergence result is a "guarantee" that the algorithm will approach the solution in infinite time

$$\lim_{t \to \infty} \mathbf{X}_t = \mathbf{x}^\star$$

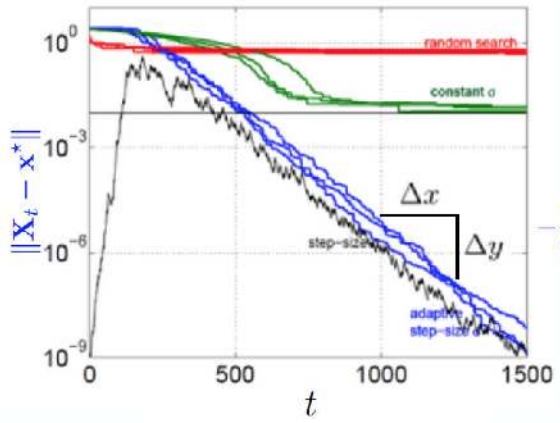
often the first/only question investigated about an optimization algorithm

But a convergence result alone is pretty meaningless in practice as it does not tell how fast the algorithm converges



need to quantify how fast the optimum is approached

Linear Convergence



$$-\frac{c}{n} = \frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x}$$

$$\frac{\|\mathbf{X}_{t+1} - \mathbf{x}^\star\|}{\|\mathbf{X}_t - \mathbf{x}^\star\|} \approx \exp\left(-\frac{c}{n}\right)$$

$$\log \frac{\|\mathbf{X}_{t+1} - \mathbf{x}^\star\|}{\|\mathbf{X}_t - \mathbf{x}^\star\|} \approx -\frac{c}{n}$$

$$\log \frac{\|\mathbf{X}_t - \mathbf{x}^\star\|}{\|\mathbf{X}_0 - \mathbf{x}^\star\|} \approx -\frac{c}{n} t$$

Different formal statements (not exactly equivalent)

almost surely

$$\lim_{t\to\infty} \frac{1}{t} \log \frac{\|\mathbf{X}_t - \mathbf{x}^\star\|}{\|\mathbf{X}_0 - \mathbf{x}^\star\|} = -\frac{c}{n}$$

in expectation

$$\frac{\mathbb{E}\left[\|\mathbf{X}_{t+1} - \mathbf{x}^\star\|\right]}{\mathbb{E}\left[\|\mathbf{X}_t - \mathbf{x}^\star\|\right]} = \exp\left(-\frac{c}{n}\right)$$

$$\mathbb{E} \log \frac{\|\mathbf{X}_{t+1} - \mathbf{x}^\star\|}{\|\mathbf{X}_t - \mathbf{x}^\star\|} = -\frac{c}{n}$$

Connection with Hitting Time formulation

$$T_\epsilon \approx \frac{n}{c} \log \frac{\epsilon_0}{\epsilon}$$

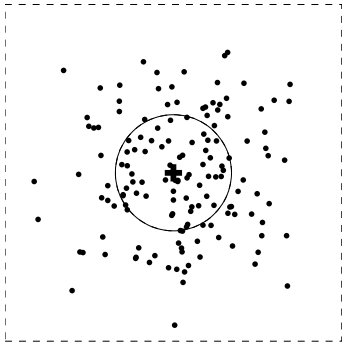
	Rate of convergence	Hitting time scaling
Pure Random Search		
(1+1)-ES constant step-size	$\frac{1}{t}\log\frac{\|\mathbf{X}_t-\mathbf{x}^\star\|}{\|\mathbf{X}_0-\mathbf{x}^\star\|}\approx-\frac{1}{n}\frac{\log(t)}{t}$	$\left(\frac{\epsilon_0}{\epsilon}\right)^n$
Linear Convergence (fixed n) **+** **Linear dependence wrt n**	$\mathbb{E}\left[\|\mathbf{X}_t-\mathbf{x}^\star\|\right]=\exp\left(-\frac{c}{n}\right)^t\mathbb{E}\left[\|\mathbf{X}_0-\mathbf{x}^\star\|\right]$ $\lim_{t\to\infty}\frac{1}{t}\log\frac{\|\mathbf{X}_t-\mathbf{x}^\star\|}{\|\mathbf{X}_0-\mathbf{x}^\star\|}=-\frac{c}{n}$	$\frac{n}{c}\log\frac{\epsilon_0}{\epsilon}$

Evolution Strategies

Recalling

New search points are sampled normally distributed

$$\boldsymbol{x}_i \sim \boldsymbol{m} + \sigma\, \mathcal{N}_i(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{C}) \qquad \text{for } i = 1, \ldots, \lambda$$



as perturbations of $\boldsymbol{m}$, where $\boldsymbol{x}_i, \boldsymbol{m} \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $\sigma \in \mathbb{R}_+$, $\mathbf{C} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$

where

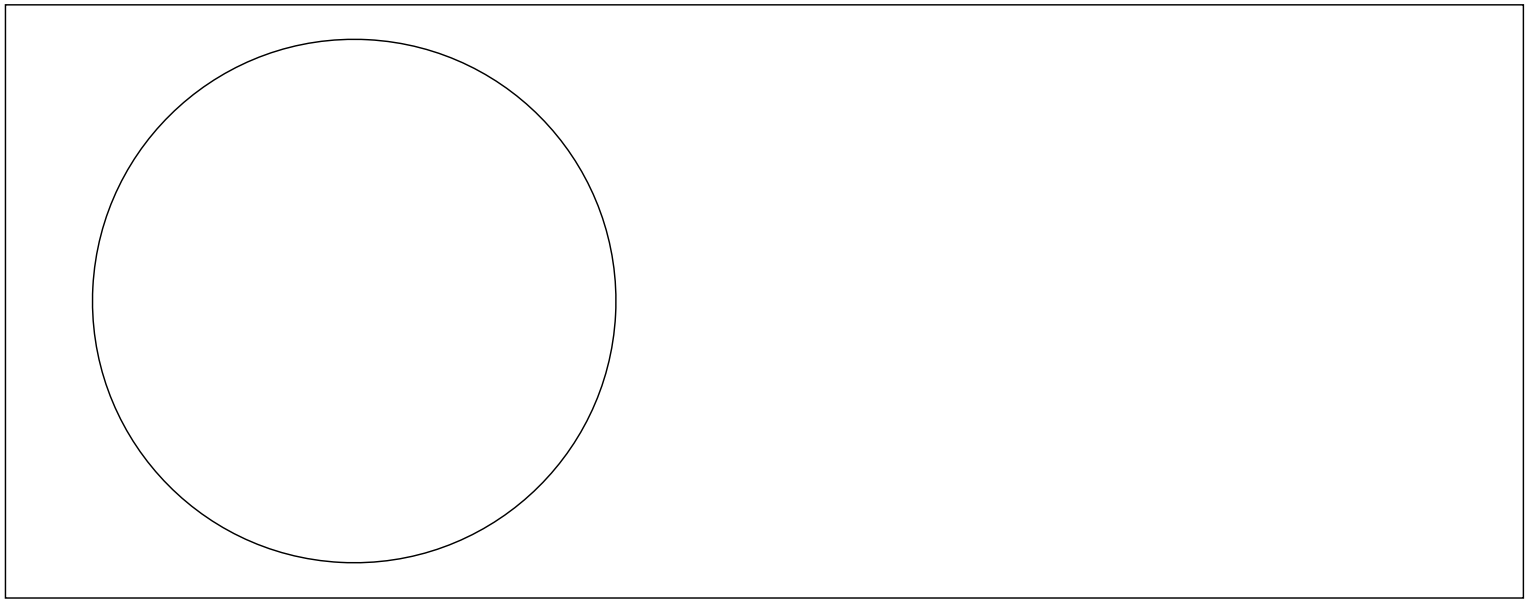
- the mean vector $\boldsymbol{m} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ represents the favorite solution
- the so-called step-size $\sigma \in \mathbb{R}_+$ controls the *step length*
- the covariance matrix $\mathbf{C} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ determines the shape of the distribution ellipsoid

The remaining question is how to update $\mathbf{C}$.

Covariance Matrix Adaptation

Rank-One Update

$$\boldsymbol{m} \leftarrow \boldsymbol{m} + \sigma \boldsymbol{y}_w, \quad \boldsymbol{y}_w = \sum_{i=1}^{\mu} w_i \boldsymbol{y}_{i:\lambda}, \quad \boldsymbol{y}_i \sim \mathcal{N}_i(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{C})$$

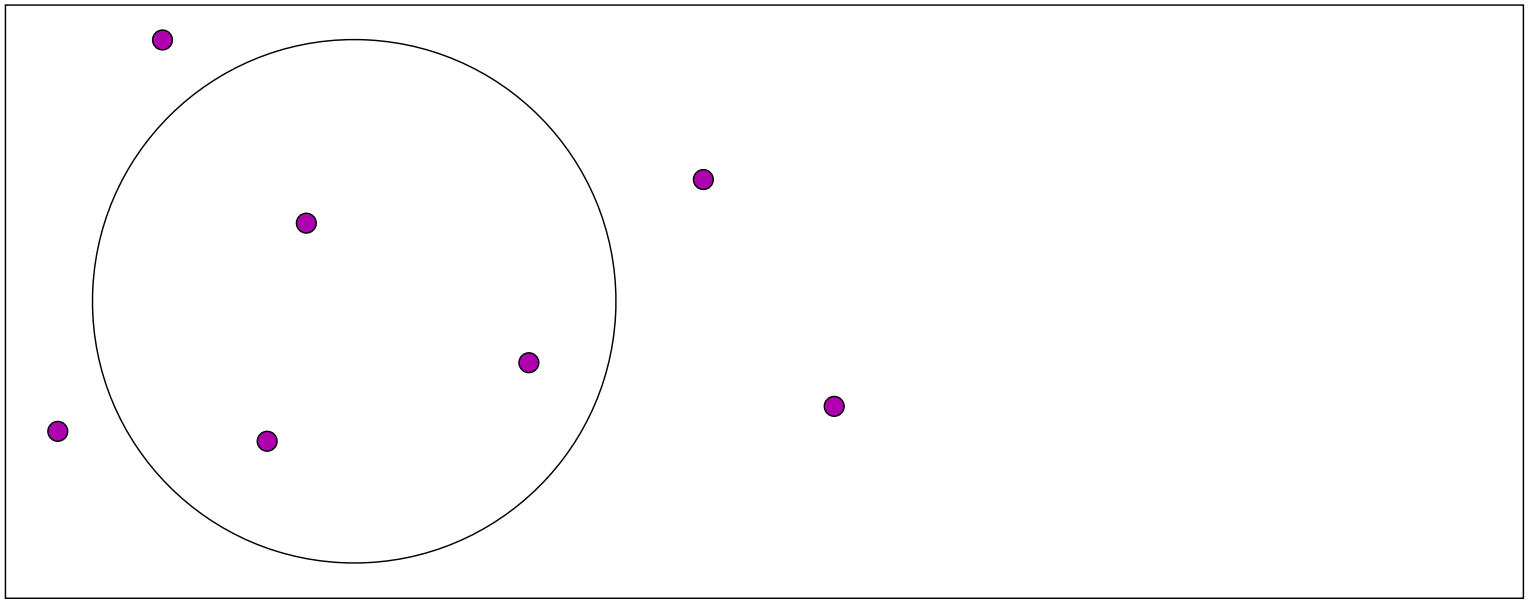


initial distribution, $\mathbf{C} = \mathbf{I}$

Covariance Matrix Adaptation

Rank-One Update

$$\boldsymbol{m} \leftarrow \boldsymbol{m} + \sigma \boldsymbol{y}_w, \quad \boldsymbol{y}_w = \sum_{i=1}^{\mu} w_i \boldsymbol{y}_{i:\lambda}, \quad \boldsymbol{y}_i \sim \mathcal{N}_i(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{C})$$

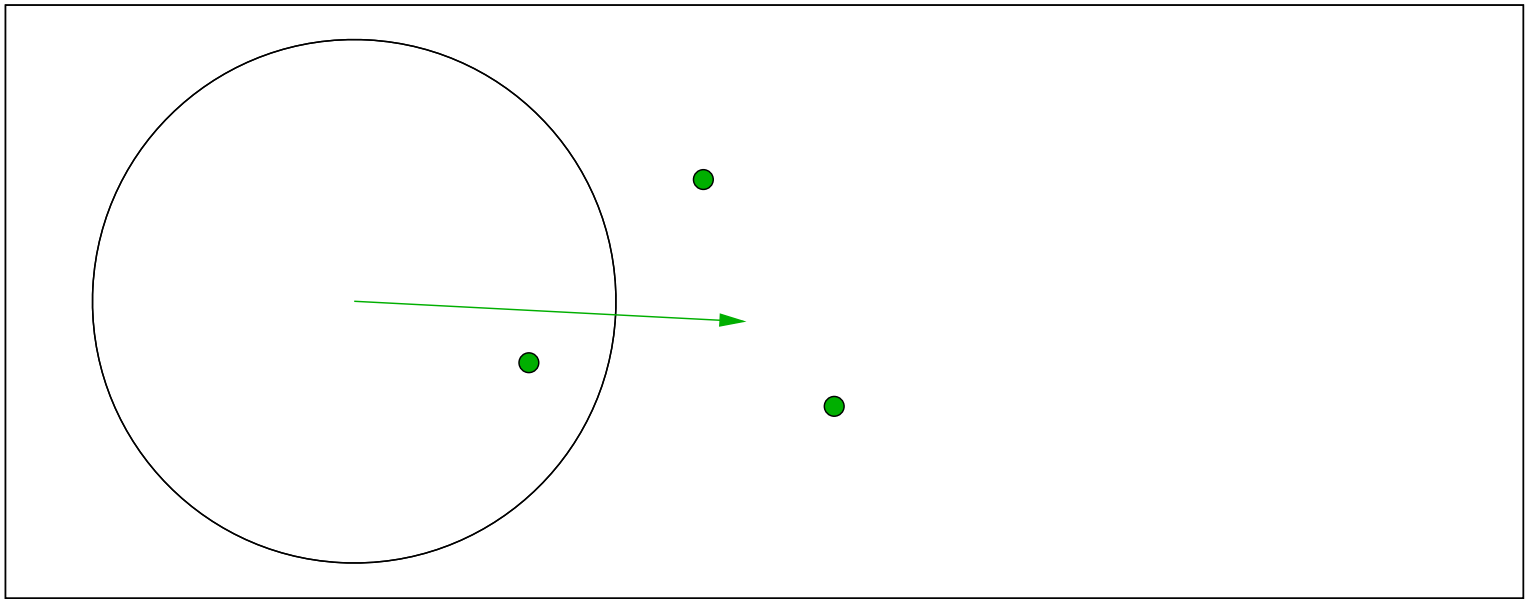


initial distribution, $\mathbf{C} = \mathbf{I}$

Covariance Matrix Adaptation

Rank-One Update

$$\boldsymbol{m} \leftarrow \boldsymbol{m} + \sigma \boldsymbol{y}_w, \quad \boldsymbol{y}_w = \sum_{i=1}^{\mu} w_i \boldsymbol{y}_{i:\lambda}, \quad \boldsymbol{y}_i \sim \mathcal{N}_i(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{C})$$

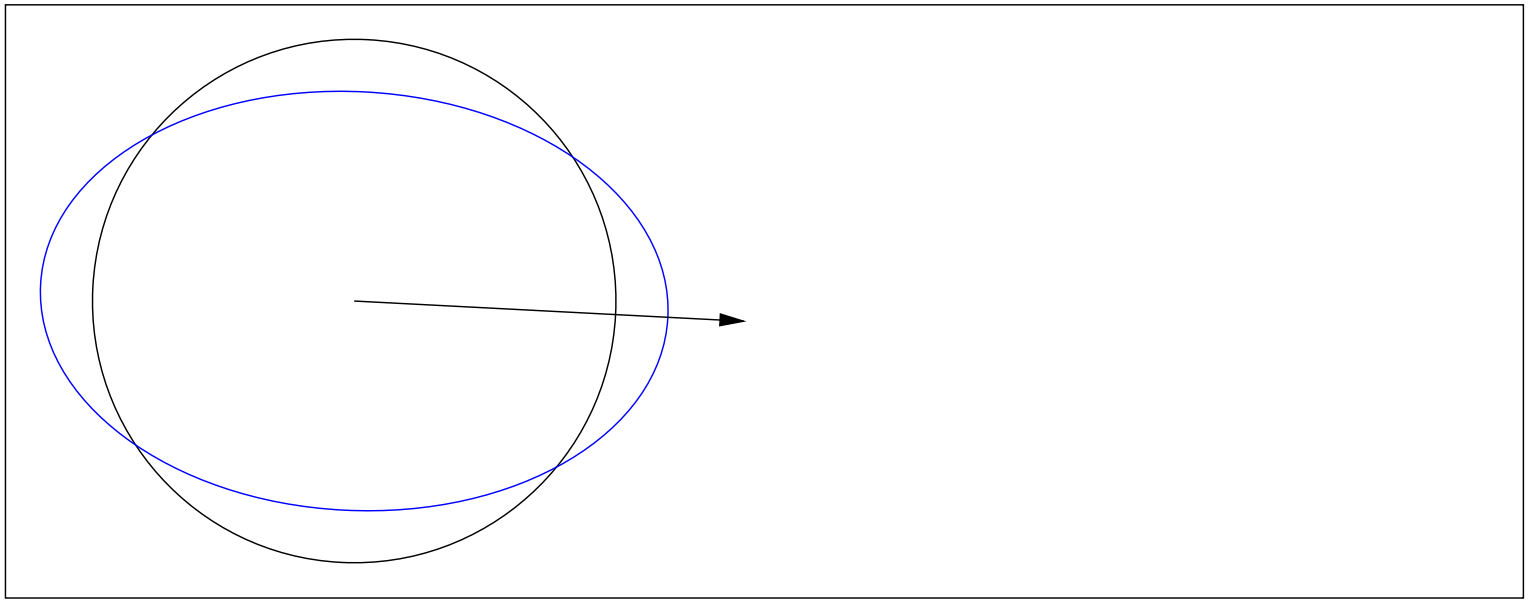


$\boldsymbol{y}_w$, movement of the population mean $\boldsymbol{m}$ (disregarding σ)

Covariance Matrix Adaptation

Rank-One Update

$$\boldsymbol{m} \leftarrow \boldsymbol{m} + \sigma \boldsymbol{y}_w, \quad \boldsymbol{y}_w = \sum_{i=1}^{\mu} w_i \, \boldsymbol{y}_{i:\lambda}, \quad \boldsymbol{y}_i \sim \mathcal{N}_i(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{C})$$



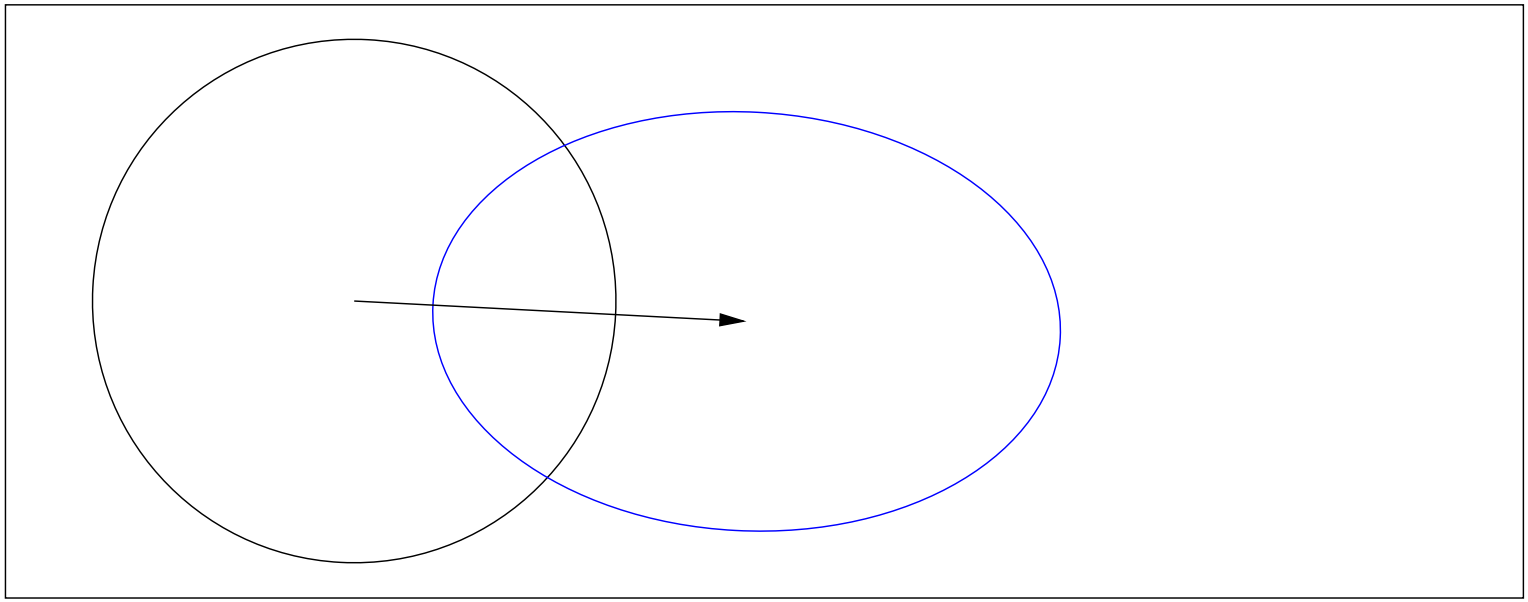
mixture of distribution $\mathbf{C}$ and step $\boldsymbol{y}_w$,

$\mathbf{C} \leftarrow 0.8 \times \mathbf{C} + 0.2 \times \boldsymbol{y}_w \boldsymbol{y}_w^{\mathrm{T}}$

Covariance Matrix Adaptation

Rank-One Update

$$\boldsymbol{m} \leftarrow \boldsymbol{m} + \sigma \boldsymbol{y}_w, \quad \boldsymbol{y}_w = \sum_{i=1}^{\mu} w_i \boldsymbol{y}_{i:\lambda}, \quad \boldsymbol{y}_i \sim \mathcal{N}_i(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{C})$$

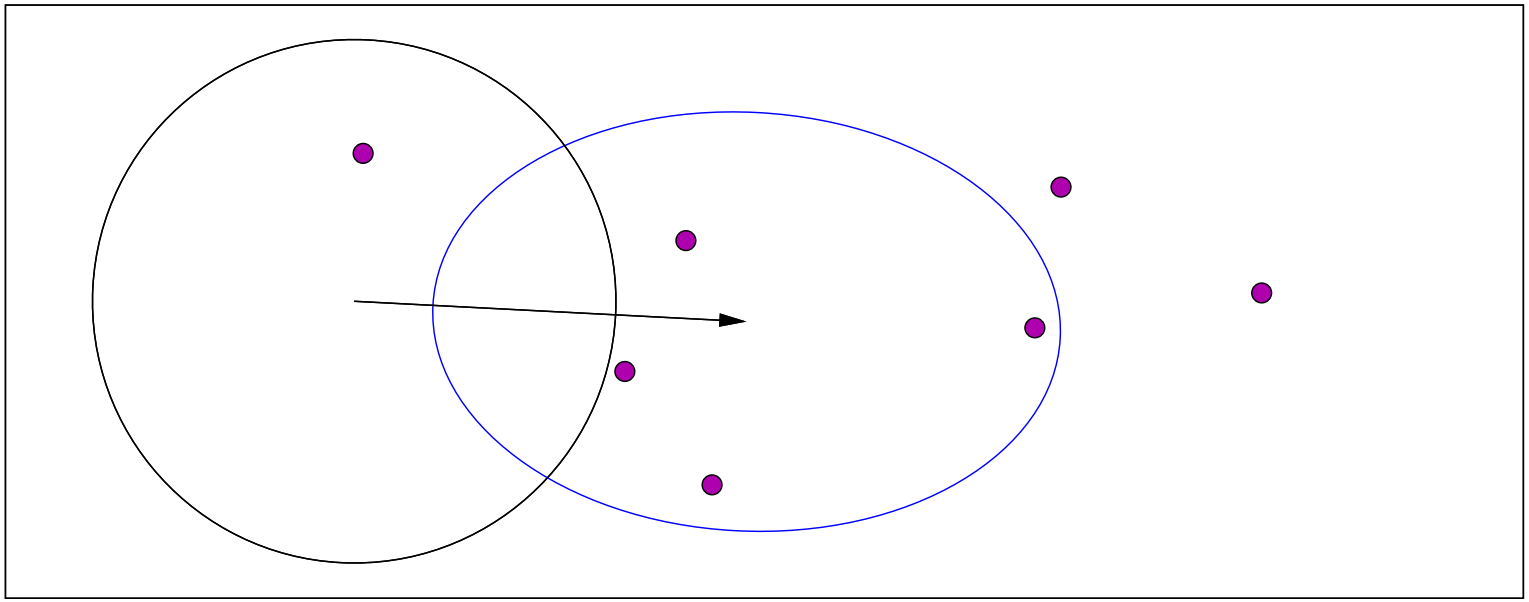


new distribution (disregarding σ)

Covariance Matrix Adaptation

Rank-One Update

$$\boldsymbol{m} \leftarrow \boldsymbol{m} + \sigma \boldsymbol{y}_w, \quad \boldsymbol{y}_w = \sum_{i=1}^{\mu} w_i \boldsymbol{y}_{i:\lambda}, \quad \boldsymbol{y}_i \sim \mathcal{N}_i(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{C})$$

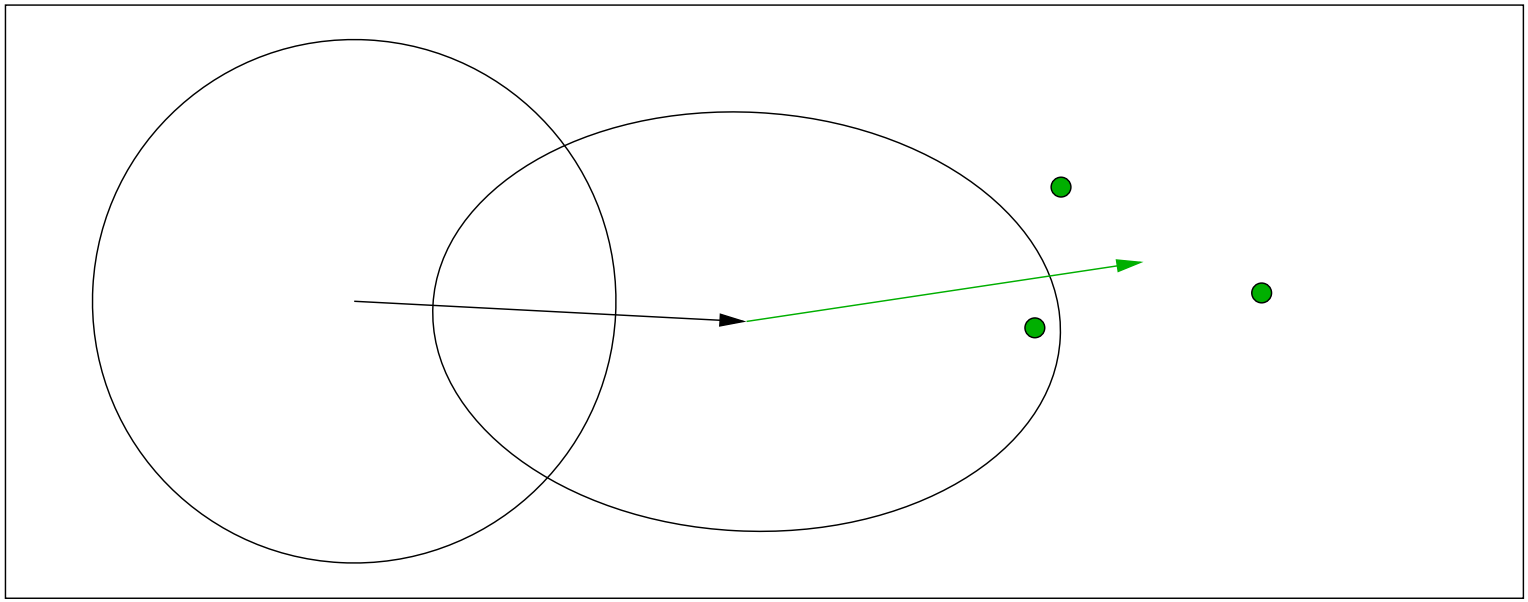


new distribution (disregarding σ)

Covariance Matrix Adaptation

Rank-One Update

$$\boldsymbol{m} \leftarrow \boldsymbol{m} + \sigma \boldsymbol{y}_w, \quad \boldsymbol{y}_w = \sum_{i=1}^{\mu} w_i \boldsymbol{y}_{i:\lambda}, \quad \boldsymbol{y}_i \sim \mathcal{N}_i(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{C})$$

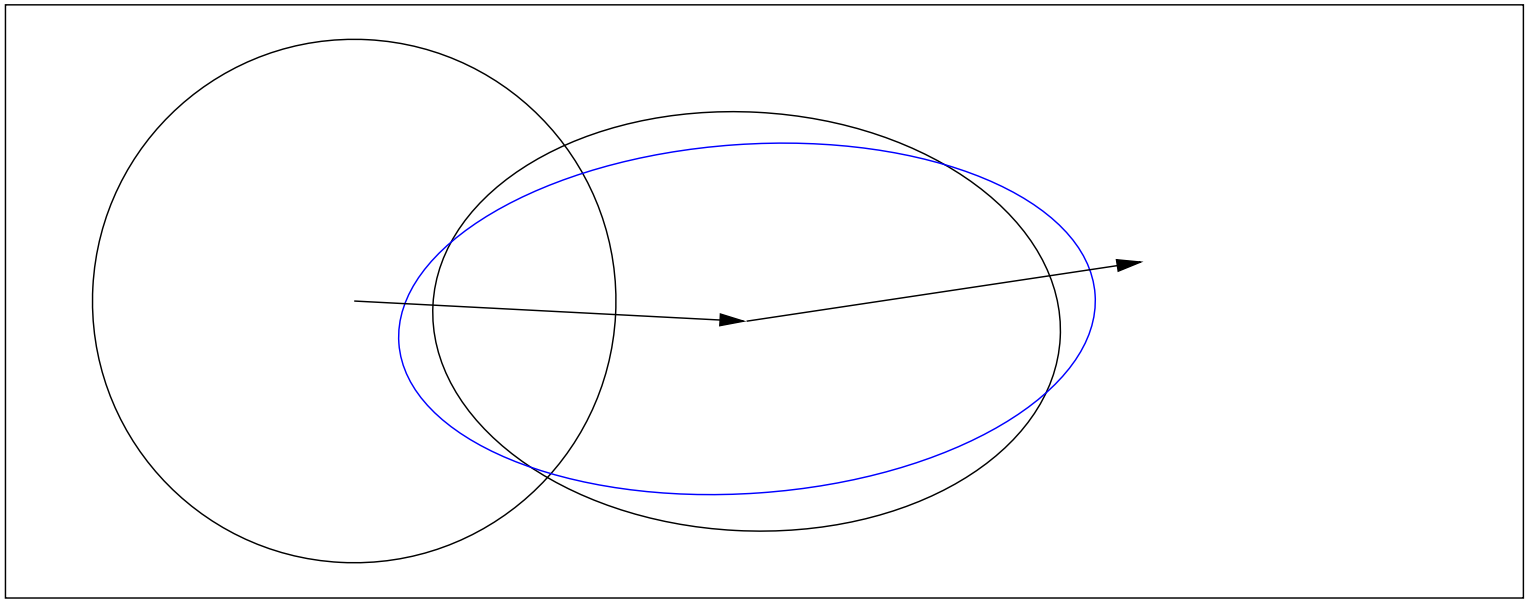


movement of the population mean $\boldsymbol{m}$

Covariance Matrix Adaptation

Rank-One Update

$$\boldsymbol{m} \leftarrow \boldsymbol{m} + \sigma \boldsymbol{y}_w, \quad \boldsymbol{y}_w = \sum_{i=1}^{\mu} w_i \boldsymbol{y}_{i:\lambda}, \quad \boldsymbol{y}_i \sim \mathcal{N}_i(\boldsymbol{0}, \boldsymbol{C})$$



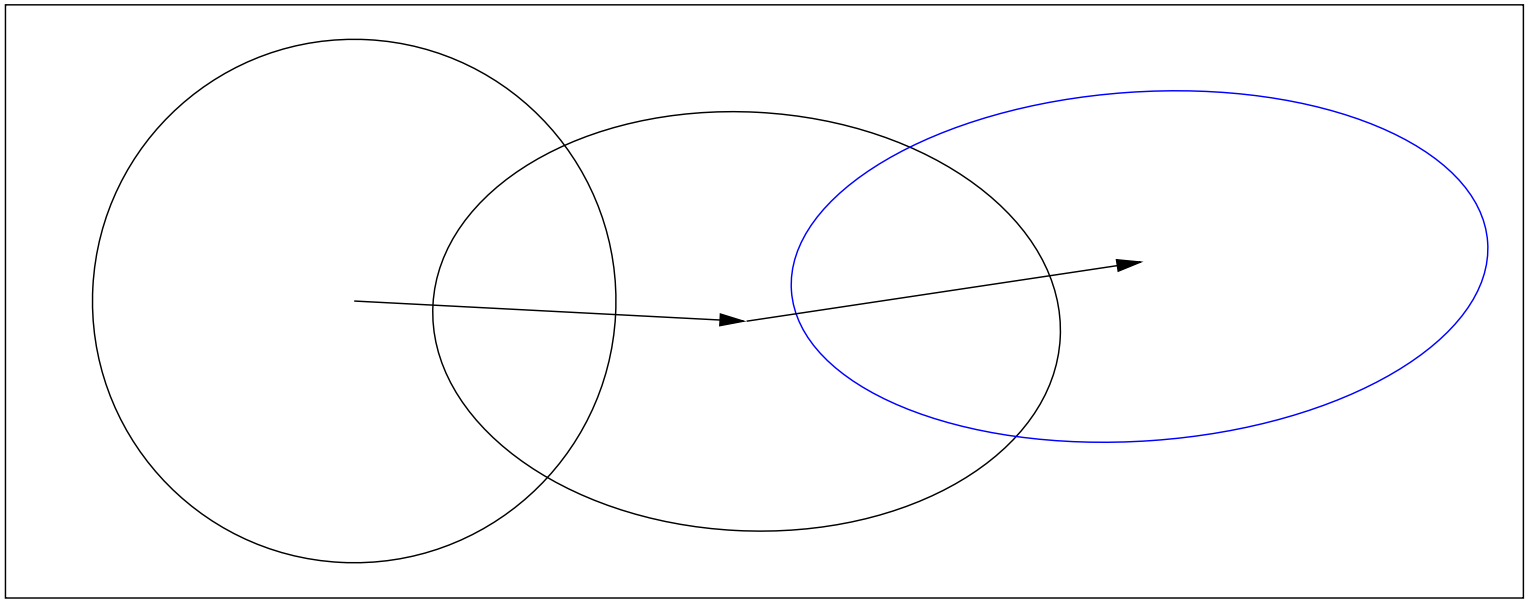
mixture of distribution $\boldsymbol{C}$ and step $\boldsymbol{y}_w$,

$\boldsymbol{C} \leftarrow 0.8 \times \boldsymbol{C} + 0.2 \times \boldsymbol{y}_w \boldsymbol{y}_w^{\mathrm{T}}$

Covariance Matrix Adaptation

Rank-One Update

$$\boldsymbol{m} \leftarrow \boldsymbol{m} + \sigma \boldsymbol{y}_w, \quad \boldsymbol{y}_w = \sum_{i=1}^{\mu} w_i \boldsymbol{y}_{i:\lambda}, \quad \boldsymbol{y}_i \sim \mathcal{N}_i(\boldsymbol{0}, \boldsymbol{C})$$



new distribution,

$\boldsymbol{C} \leftarrow 0.8 \times \boldsymbol{C} + 0.2 \times \boldsymbol{y}_w \boldsymbol{y}_w^{\mathrm{T}}$

the ruling principle: the adaptation increases the likelihood of successful steps, $\boldsymbol{y}_w$, to appear again

Covariance Matrix Adaptation

Rank-One Update

Initialize $\boldsymbol{m} \in \mathbb{R}^n$, and $\mathbf{C} = \mathbf{I}$, set $\sigma = 1$, learning rate $c_{\text{cov}} \approx 2/n^2$
While not terminate

$$\boldsymbol{x}_i = \boldsymbol{m} + \sigma\, \boldsymbol{y}_i, \qquad \boldsymbol{y}_i \sim \mathcal{N}_i(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{C}),$$

$$\boldsymbol{m} \leftarrow \boldsymbol{m} + \sigma \boldsymbol{y}_w \qquad \text{where } \boldsymbol{y}_w = \sum_{i=1}^{\mu} w_i\, \boldsymbol{y}_{i:\lambda}$$

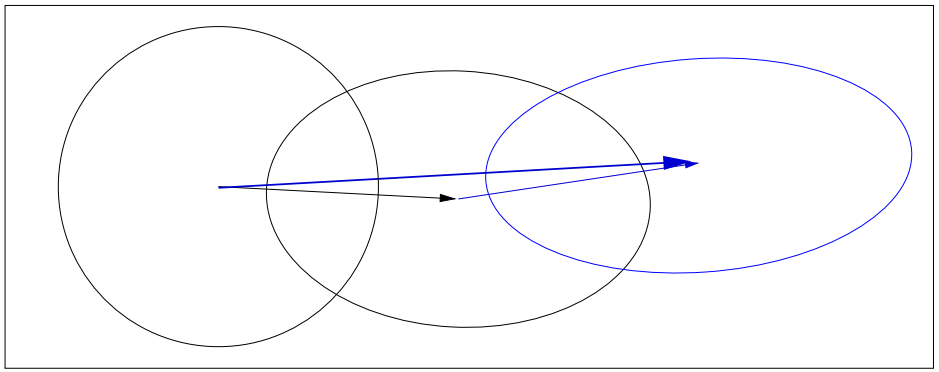
$$\mathbf{C} \leftarrow (1 - c_{\text{cov}})\mathbf{C} + c_{\text{cov}} \mu_w \underbrace{\boldsymbol{y}_w \boldsymbol{y}_w^{\mathrm{T}}}_{\text{rank-one}} \qquad \text{where } \mu_w = \frac{1}{\sum_{i=1}^{\mu} {w_i}^2} \geq 1$$

Cumulation

The Evolution Path

Evolution Path

Conceptually, the evolution path is the search path the strategy takes over a number of generation steps. It can be expressed as a sum of consecutive *steps* of the mean $\boldsymbol{m}$.



An exponentially weighted sum of steps $\boldsymbol{y}_w$ is used

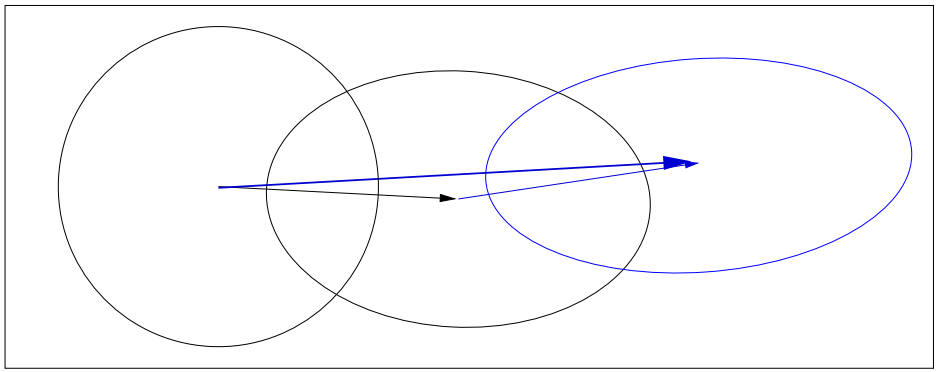
$$\boldsymbol{p}_c \propto \sum_{i=0}^{g} \underbrace{(1-c_c)^{g-i}}_{\text{exponentially fading weights}} \boldsymbol{y}_w^{(i)}$$

Cumulation

The Evolution Path

Evolution Path

Conceptually, the evolution path is the search path the strategy takes over a number of generation steps. It can be expressed as a sum of consecutive *steps* of the mean $\boldsymbol{m}$.



An exponentially weighted sum of steps $\boldsymbol{y}_w$ is used

$$\boldsymbol{p}_c \propto \sum_{i=0}^{g} \underbrace{(1-c_c)^{g-i}}_{\substack{\text{exponentially} \\ \text{fading weights}}} \boldsymbol{y}_w^{(i)}$$

The recursive construction of the evolution path (cumulation):

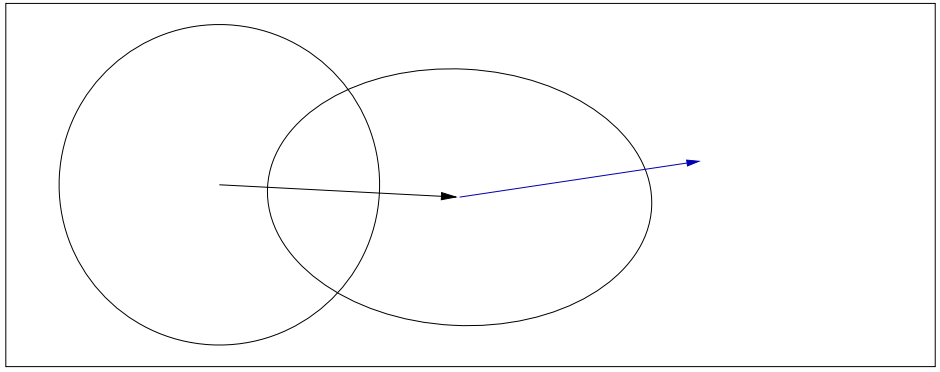
$$\boldsymbol{p}_c \leftarrow \underbrace{(1-c_c)}_{\text{decay factor}} \boldsymbol{p}_c + \underbrace{\sqrt{1-(1-c_c)^2}\sqrt{\mu_w}}_{\text{normalization factor}} \underbrace{\boldsymbol{y}_w}_{\text{input} = \frac{\boldsymbol{m}-\boldsymbol{m}_{\text{old}}}{\sigma}}$$

where $\mu_w = \frac{1}{\sum \boldsymbol{w_i}^2}$, $c_c \ll 1$. History information is accumulated in the evolution path.

Cumulation

Utilizing the Evolution Path

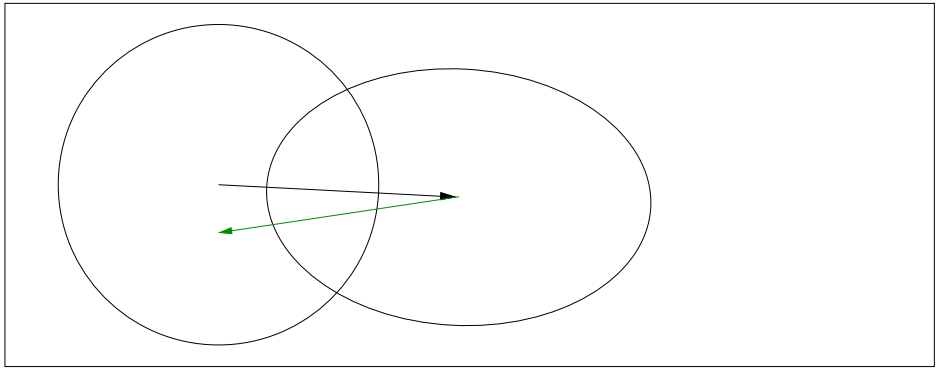
We used $\boldsymbol{y}_w \boldsymbol{y}_w^{\mathrm{T}}$ for updating $\mathbf{C}$. Because $\boldsymbol{y}_w \boldsymbol{y}_w^{\mathrm{T}} = -\boldsymbol{y}_w (-\boldsymbol{y}_w)^{\mathrm{T}}$ the sign of $\boldsymbol{y}_w$ is lost.



Cumulation

Utilizing the Evolution Path

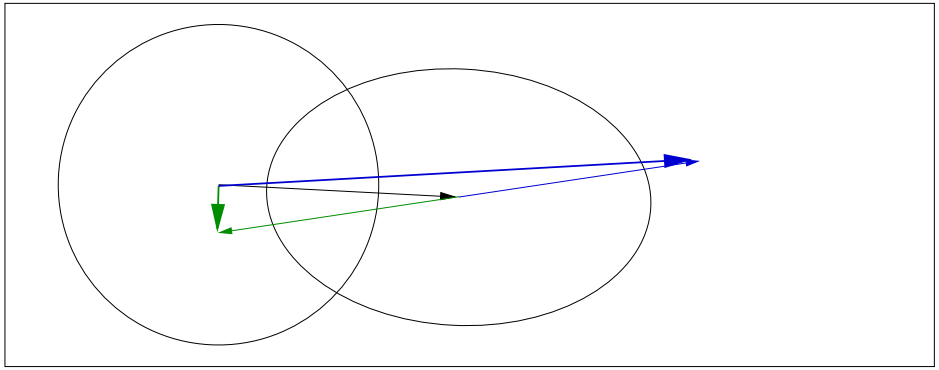
We used $\boldsymbol{y}_w \boldsymbol{y}_w^{\mathrm{T}}$ for updating $\mathbf{C}$. Because $\boldsymbol{y}_w \boldsymbol{y}_w^{\mathrm{T}} = -\boldsymbol{y}_w (-\boldsymbol{y}_w)^{\mathrm{T}}$ the sign of $\boldsymbol{y}_w$ is lost.



Cumulation

Utilizing the Evolution Path

We used $\boldsymbol{y}_w \boldsymbol{y}_w^{\mathrm{T}}$ for updating $\mathbf{C}$. Because $\boldsymbol{y}_w \boldsymbol{y}_w^{\mathrm{T}} = -\boldsymbol{y}_w(-\boldsymbol{y}_w)^{\mathrm{T}}$ the sign of $\boldsymbol{y}_w$ is lost.



The sign information is (re-)introduced by using the *evolution path*.

$$\boldsymbol{p}_\mathrm{c} \leftarrow \underbrace{(1 - c_\mathrm{c})}_{\text{decay factor}} \boldsymbol{p}_\mathrm{c} + \underbrace{\sqrt{1 - (1 - c_\mathrm{c})^2}\sqrt{\mu_w}}_{\text{normalization factor}} \boldsymbol{y}_w$$

$$\mathbf{C} \leftarrow (1 - c_\mathrm{cov})\mathbf{C} + c_\mathrm{cov} \underbrace{\boldsymbol{p}_\mathrm{c} \boldsymbol{p}_\mathrm{c}^{\mathrm{T}}}_{\text{rank-one}}$$

where $\mu_w = \frac{1}{\sum w_i^2}$, $c_\mathrm{c} \ll 1$.

Using an evolution path for the rank-one update of the covariance matrix reduces the number of function evaluations to adapt to a straight ridge from $\mathcal{O}(n^2)$ to $\mathcal{O}(n)$.[5]

The overall model complexity is n^2 but important parts of the model can be learned in time of order n

[5] Hansen, Müller and Koumoutsakos 2003. Reducing the Time Complexity of the Derandomized Evolution Strategy with Covariance Matrix Adaptation (CMA-ES). *Evolutionary Computation, 11(1)*, pp. 1-18

Rank-μ Update

$$\begin{array}{lcllcl} \boldsymbol{x}_i & = & \boldsymbol{m} + \sigma\, \boldsymbol{y}_i, & \boldsymbol{y}_i & \sim & \mathcal{N}_i(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{C})\,, \\ \boldsymbol{m} & \leftarrow & \boldsymbol{m} + \sigma \boldsymbol{y}_w & \boldsymbol{y}_w & = & \sum_{i=1}^{\mu} w_i\, \boldsymbol{y}_{i:\lambda} \end{array}$$

The rank-μ update extends the update rule for large population sizes λ using $\mu > 1$ vectors to update $\mathbf{C}$ at each generation step.

Rank-μ Update

$$\begin{array}{lcllcl} \boldsymbol{x}_i & = & \boldsymbol{m} + \sigma\, \boldsymbol{y}_i, & \boldsymbol{y}_i & \sim & \mathcal{N}_i(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{C})\,, \\ \boldsymbol{m} & \leftarrow & \boldsymbol{m} + \sigma \boldsymbol{y}_w & \boldsymbol{y}_w & = & \sum_{i=1}^{\mu} w_i\, \boldsymbol{y}_{i:\lambda} \end{array}$$

The rank-μ update extends the update rule for large population sizes λ using $\mu > 1$ vectors to update $\mathbf{C}$ at each generation step. The matrix

$$\mathbf{C}_\mu = \sum_{i=1}^{\mu} w_i\, \boldsymbol{y}_{i:\lambda} \boldsymbol{y}_{i:\lambda}^{\mathrm{T}}$$

computes a weighted mean of the outer products of the best μ steps and has rank $\min(\mu, n)$ with probability one.

Rank-μ Update

$$\begin{array}{lcllcl} \boldsymbol{x}_i & = & \boldsymbol{m} + \sigma\, \boldsymbol{y}_i, & \boldsymbol{y}_i & \sim & \mathcal{N}_i(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{C})\,, \\ \boldsymbol{m} & \leftarrow & \boldsymbol{m} + \sigma \boldsymbol{y}_w & \boldsymbol{y}_w & = & \sum_{i=1}^{\mu} w_i\, \boldsymbol{y}_{i:\lambda} \end{array}$$

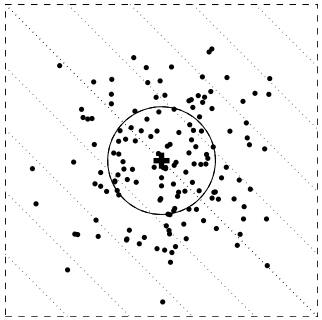
The rank-μ update extends the update rule for large population sizes λ using $\mu > 1$ vectors to update $\mathbf{C}$ at each generation step. The matrix

$$\mathbf{C}_\mu = \sum_{i=1}^{\mu} w_i\, \boldsymbol{y}_{i:\lambda} \boldsymbol{y}_{i:\lambda}^{\mathrm{T}}$$

computes a weighted mean of the outer products of the best μ steps and has rank $\min(\mu, n)$ with probability one.
The rank-μ update then reads

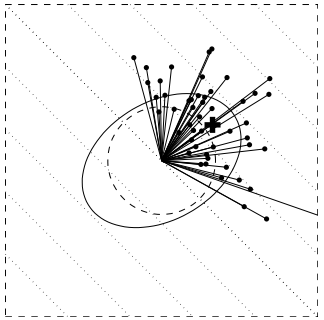
$$\mathbf{C} \leftarrow (1 - c_{\mathrm{cov}})\, \mathbf{C} + c_{\mathrm{cov}}\, \mathbf{C}_\mu$$

where $c_{\mathrm{cov}} \approx \mu_w / n^2$ and $c_{\mathrm{cov}} \leq 1$.



$$x_i = m + \sigma\, y_i, \quad y_i \sim \mathcal{N}(0, C)$$

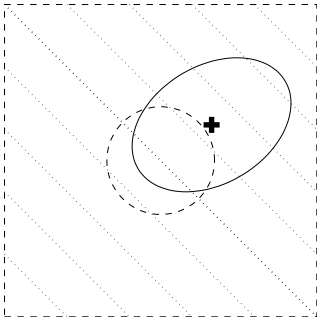
sampling of $\lambda = 150$ solutions where $C = I$ and $\sigma = 1$



$$C_\mu = \frac{1}{\mu} \sum y_{i:\lambda} y_{i:\lambda}^{\mathrm{T}}$$

$$C \leftarrow (1-1) \times C + 1 \times C_\mu$$

calculating C where $\mu = 50$, $w_1 = \cdots = w_\mu = \frac{1}{\mu}$, and $c_{\mathrm{cov}} = 1$



$$m_{\mathrm{new}} \leftarrow m + \frac{1}{\mu} \sum y_{i:\lambda}$$

new distribution

The rank-μ update

- increases the possible learning rate in large populations

  roughly from $2/n^2$ to μ_w/n^2

- can reduce the number of necessary generations roughly from $\mathcal{O}(n^2)$ to $\mathcal{O}(n)$ [6]

  given $\mu_w \propto \lambda \propto n$

Therefore the rank-μ update is the primary mechanism whenever a large population size is used

say $\lambda \geq 3\,n + 10$

[6] Hansen, Müller, and Koumoutsakos 2003. Reducing the Time Complexity of the Derandomized Evolution Strategy with Covariance Matrix Adaptation (CMA-ES). *Evolutionary Computation, 11(1)*, pp. 1-18

The rank-μ update

- increases the possible learning rate in large populations

  roughly from $2/n^2$ to μ_w/n^2

- can reduce the number of necessary generations roughly from $\mathcal{O}(n^2)$ to $\mathcal{O}(n)$ [6]

  given $\mu_w \propto \lambda \propto n$

Therefore the rank-μ update is the primary mechanism whenever a large population size is used

say $\lambda \geq 3\,n + 10$

The rank-one update

- uses the evolution path and reduces the number of necessary function evaluations to learn straight ridges from $\mathcal{O}(n^2)$ to $\mathcal{O}(n)$.

[6] Hansen, Müller, and Koumoutsakos 2003. Reducing the Time Complexity of the Derandomized Evolution Strategy with Covariance Matrix Adaptation (CMA-ES). *Evolutionary Computation, 11(1)*, pp. 1-18

The rank-μ update

- increases the possible learning rate in large populations

  roughly from $2/n^2$ to μ_w/n^2

- can reduce the number of necessary generations roughly from $\mathcal{O}(n^2)$ to $\mathcal{O}(n)$ [6]

  given $\mu_w \propto \lambda \propto n$

Therefore the rank-μ update is the primary mechanism whenever a large population size is used

say $\lambda \geq 3\,n + 10$

The rank-one update

- uses the evolution path and reduces the number of necessary function evaluations to learn straight ridges from $\mathcal{O}(n^2)$ to $\mathcal{O}(n)$.

Rank-one update and rank-μ update can be combined

---

[6] Hansen, Müller, and Koumoutsakos 2003. Reducing the Time Complexity of the Derandomized Evolution Strategy with Covariance Matrix Adaptation (CMA-ES). *Evolutionary Computation, 11(1)*, pp. 1-18

Summary of Equations

The Covariance Matrix Adaptation Evolution Strategy

Input: $\boldsymbol{m} \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $\sigma \in \mathbb{R}_+$, λ
Initialize: $\mathbf{C} = \mathbf{I}$, and $\boldsymbol{p}_\mathbf{c} = \mathbf{0}$, $\boldsymbol{p}_\sigma = \mathbf{0}$,
Set: $c_\mathbf{c} \approx 4/n$, $c_\sigma \approx 4/n$, $c_1 \approx 2/n^2$, $c_\mu \approx \mu_w/n^2$, $c_1 + c_\mu \leq 1$,
$d_\sigma \approx 1 + \sqrt{\frac{\mu_\mathbf{w}}{n}}$, and $w_{i=1\ldots\lambda}$ such that $\mu_w = \frac{1}{\sum_{\boldsymbol{i}=\mathbf{1}}^{\mu} w_\boldsymbol{i}^\mathbf{2}} \approx 0.3\,\lambda$

While not terminate

$$\boldsymbol{x}_i = \boldsymbol{m} + \sigma\,\boldsymbol{y}_i, \quad \boldsymbol{y}_i \sim \mathcal{N}_i(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{C}), \quad \text{for } i = 1, \ldots, \lambda \qquad \text{sampling}$$

$$\boldsymbol{m} \leftarrow \sum_{i=1}^{\mu} w_i\,\boldsymbol{x}_{i:\lambda} = \boldsymbol{m} + \sigma\,\boldsymbol{y}_w \quad \text{where } \boldsymbol{y}_w = \sum_{i=1}^{\mu} w_i\,\boldsymbol{y}_{i:\lambda} \qquad \text{update mean}$$

$$\boldsymbol{p}_\mathbf{c} \leftarrow (1 - c_\mathbf{c})\,\boldsymbol{p}_\mathbf{c} + \mathbb{1}_{\{\|\boldsymbol{p}_\sigma\| < 1.5\sqrt{n}\}} \sqrt{1 - (1 - c_\mathbf{c})^2}\sqrt{\mu_w}\,\boldsymbol{y}_w \qquad \text{cumulation for } \mathbf{C}$$

$$\boldsymbol{p}_\sigma \leftarrow (1 - c_\sigma)\,\boldsymbol{p}_\sigma + \sqrt{1 - (1 - c_\sigma)^2}\sqrt{\mu_w}\,\mathbf{C}^{-\frac{\mathbf{1}}{\mathbf{2}}}\,\boldsymbol{y}_w \qquad \text{cumulation for } \sigma$$

$$\mathbf{C} \leftarrow (1 - c_1 - c_\mu)\,\mathbf{C} + c_1\,\boldsymbol{p}_\mathbf{c}\,\boldsymbol{p}_\mathbf{c}^{\mathrm{T}} + c_\mu \sum_{i=1}^{\mu} w_i\,\boldsymbol{y}_{i:\lambda}\boldsymbol{y}_{i:\lambda}^{\mathrm{T}} \qquad \text{update } \mathbf{C}$$

$$\sigma \leftarrow \sigma \times \exp\left(\frac{c_\sigma}{d_\sigma}\left(\frac{\|\boldsymbol{p}_\sigma\|}{\mathrm{E}\|\mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0},\mathbf{I})\|} - 1\right)\right) \qquad \text{update of } \sigma$$

Not covered on this slide: termination, restarts, useful output, boundaries and encoding

Experimentum Crucis (0)

What did we want to achieve?

- reduce any convex-quadratic function

$$f(\boldsymbol{x}) = \boldsymbol{x}^{\mathrm{T}} \boldsymbol{H} \boldsymbol{x}$$

e.g. $f(\boldsymbol{x}) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} 10^{6} \frac{\boldsymbol{i-1}}{\boldsymbol{n-1}} x_i^2$

to the sphere model

$$f(\boldsymbol{x}) = \boldsymbol{x}^{\mathrm{T}} \boldsymbol{x}$$

without use of derivatives

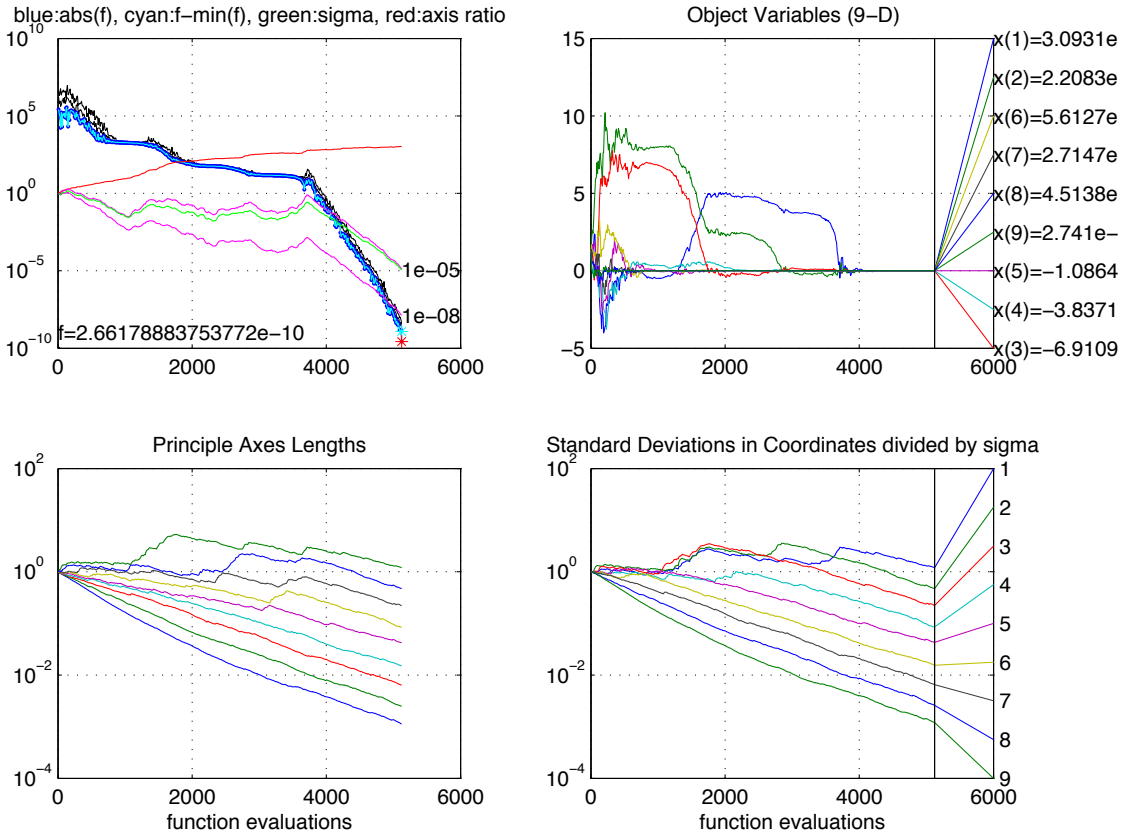
- lines of equal density align with lines of equal fitness

$$\mathbf{C} \propto \boldsymbol{H}^{-1}$$

in a stochastic sense

Experimentum Crucis (1)

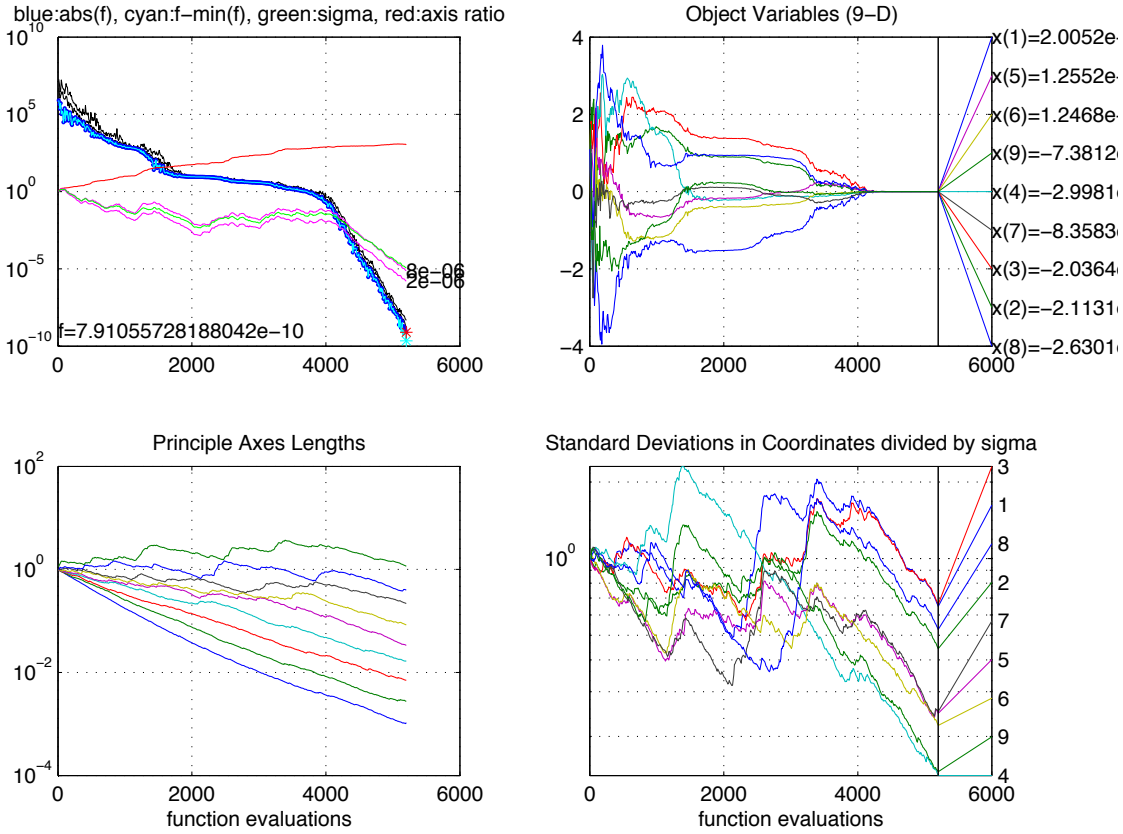
f convex quadratic, separable



$$f(\boldsymbol{x}) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} 10^{\alpha \frac{i-1}{n-1}} x_i^2, \alpha = 6$$

Experimentum Crucis (2)

f convex quadratic, as before but non-separable (rotated)

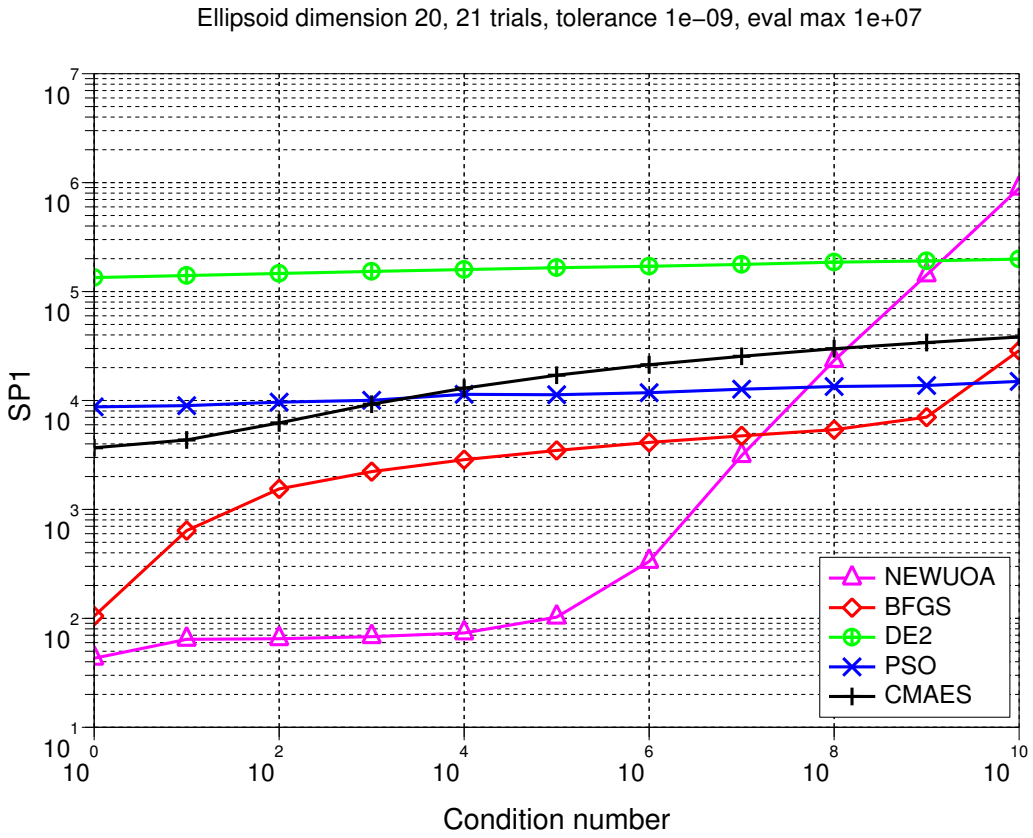


$\mathbf{C} \propto \boldsymbol{H}^{-1}$ for all $g, \mathbf{H}$

$f(\boldsymbol{x}) = g\left(\boldsymbol{x}^{\mathrm{T}}\mathbf{H}\boldsymbol{x}\right)$, $g : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$ stricly increasing

Comparison to BFGS, NEWUOA, PSO and DE

f convex quadratic, separable with varying condition number α



BFGS (Broyden et al 1970)
NEWUAO (Powell 2004)
DE (Storn & Price 1996)
PSO (Kennedy & Eberhart 1995)
CMA-ES (Hansen & Ostermeier 2001)

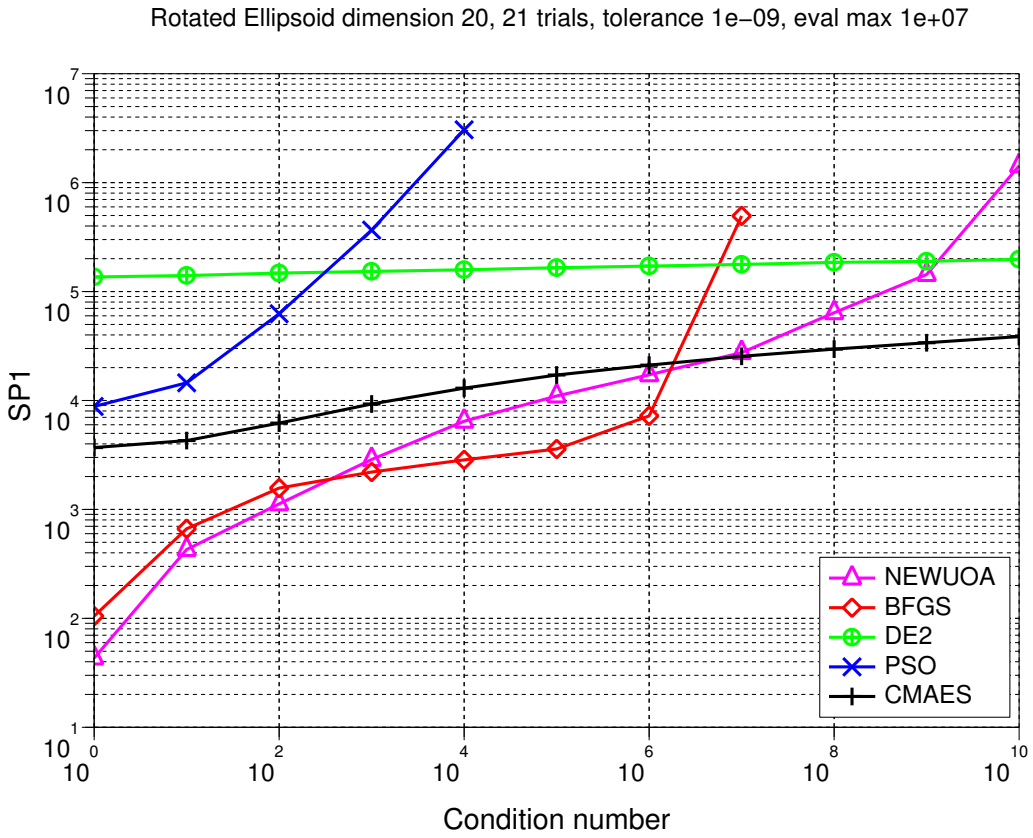
$f(\boldsymbol{x}) = g(\boldsymbol{x}^{\mathrm{T}}\mathbf{H}\boldsymbol{x})$ with
$\boldsymbol{H}$ diagonal
g identity (for BFGS and NEWUOA)
g any order-preserving = strictly increasing function (for all other)

SP1 = average number of objective function evaluations[7] to reach the target function value of $g^{-1}(10^{-9})$

[7] Auger et.al. (2009): Experimental comparisons of derivative free optimization algorithms, SEA

Comparison to BFGS, NEWUOA, PSO and DE

f convex quadratic, non-separable (rotated) with varying condition number α



BFGS (Broyden et al 1970)
NEWUAO (Powell 2004)
DE (Storn & Price 1996)
PSO (Kennedy & Eberhart 1995)
CMA-ES (Hansen & Ostermeier 2001)

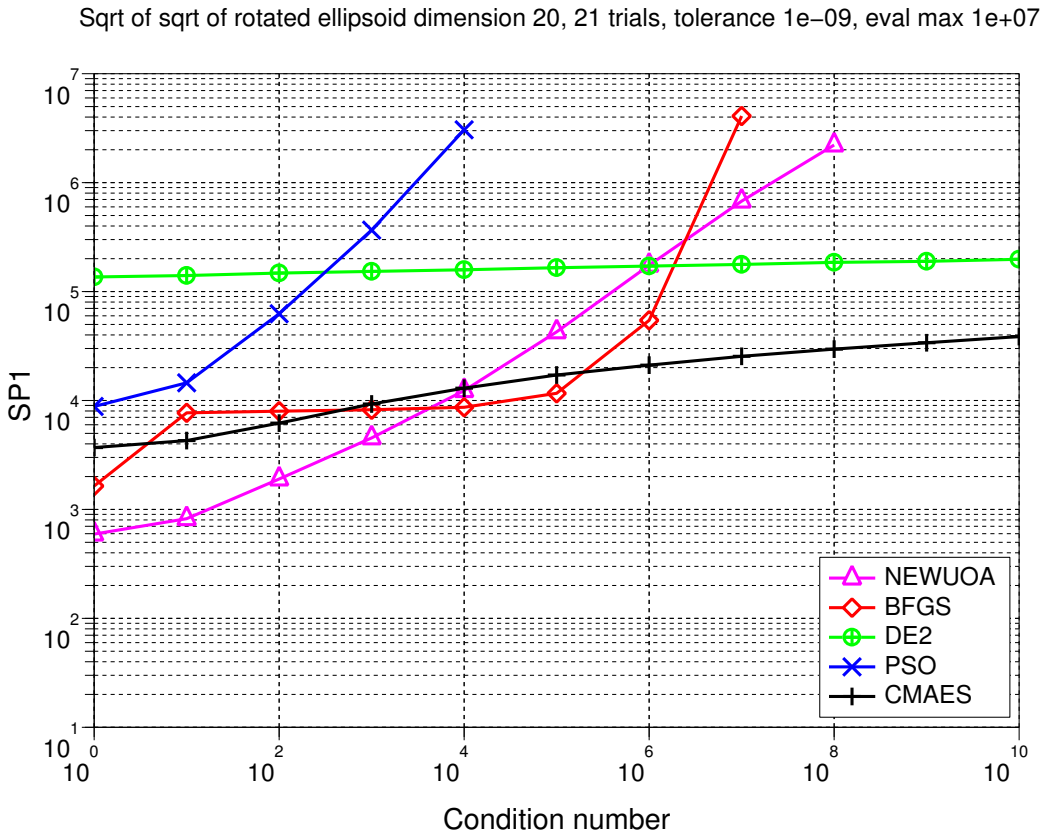
$f(\boldsymbol{x}) = g(\boldsymbol{x}^{\mathrm{T}}\mathbf{H}\boldsymbol{x})$ with
$\boldsymbol{H}$ full
g identity (for BFGS and NEWUOA)
g any order-preserving = strictly increasing function (for all other)

SP1 = average number of objective function evaluations[8] to reach the target function value of $g^{-1}(10^{-9})$

[8] Auger et.al. (2009): Experimental comparisons of derivative free optimization algorithms, SEA

Comparison to BFGS, NEWUOA, PSO and DE

f non-convex, non-separable (rotated) with varying condition number α



BFGS (Broyden et al 1970)
NEWUAO (Powell 2004)
DE (Storn & Price 1996)
PSO (Kennedy & Eberhart 1995)
CMA-ES (Hansen & Ostermeier 2001)

$f(\boldsymbol{x}) = g(\boldsymbol{x}^{\mathrm{T}}\mathbf{H}\boldsymbol{x})$ with

$\boldsymbol{H}$ full

$g : x \mapsto x^{1/4}$ (for BFGS and NEWUOA)

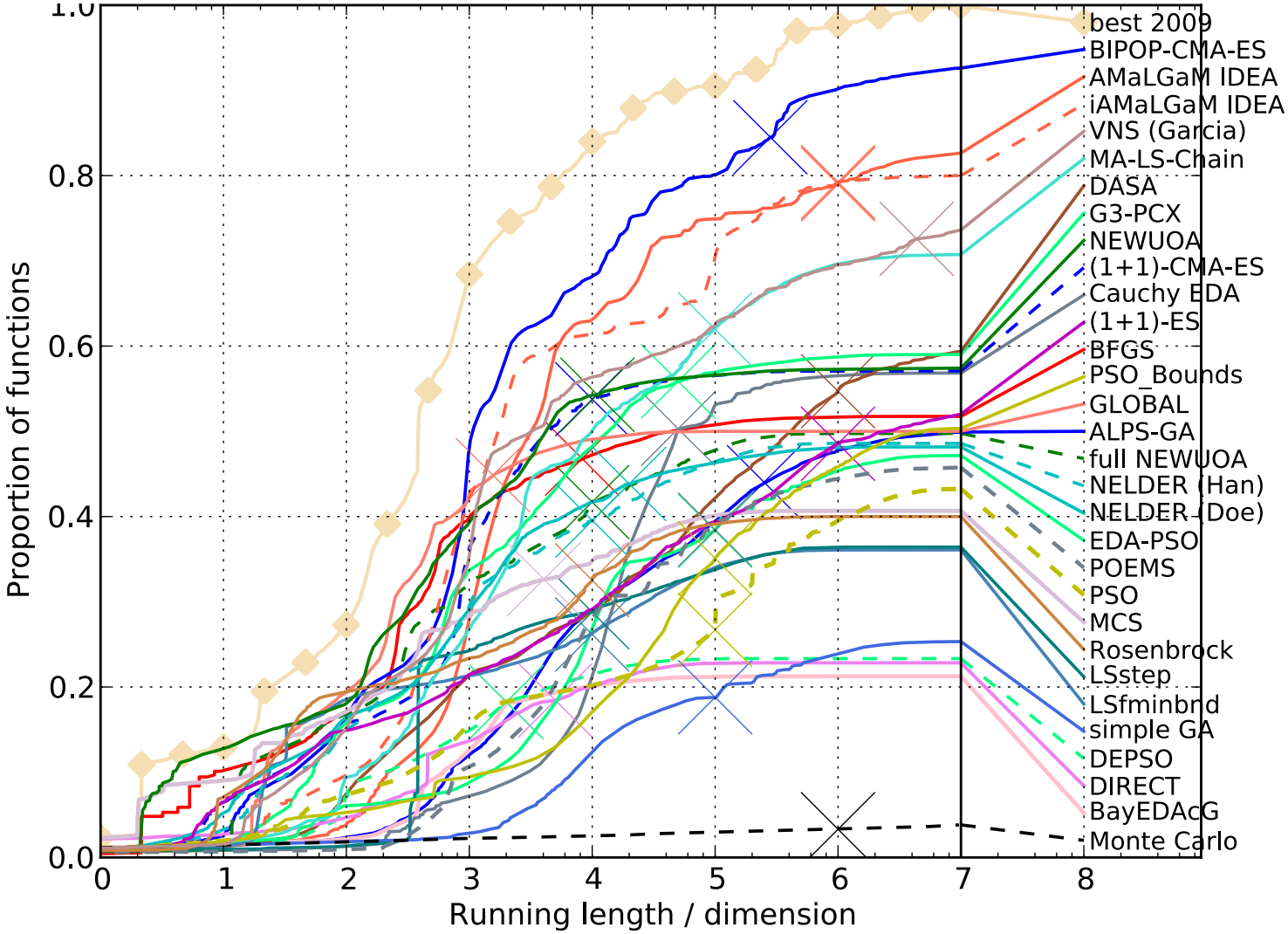
g any order-preserving = strictly increasing function (for all other)

SP1 = average number of objective function evaluations[9] to reach the target function value of $g^{-1}(10^{-9})$

[9] Auger et.al. (2009): Experimental comparisons of derivative free optimization algorithms, SEA

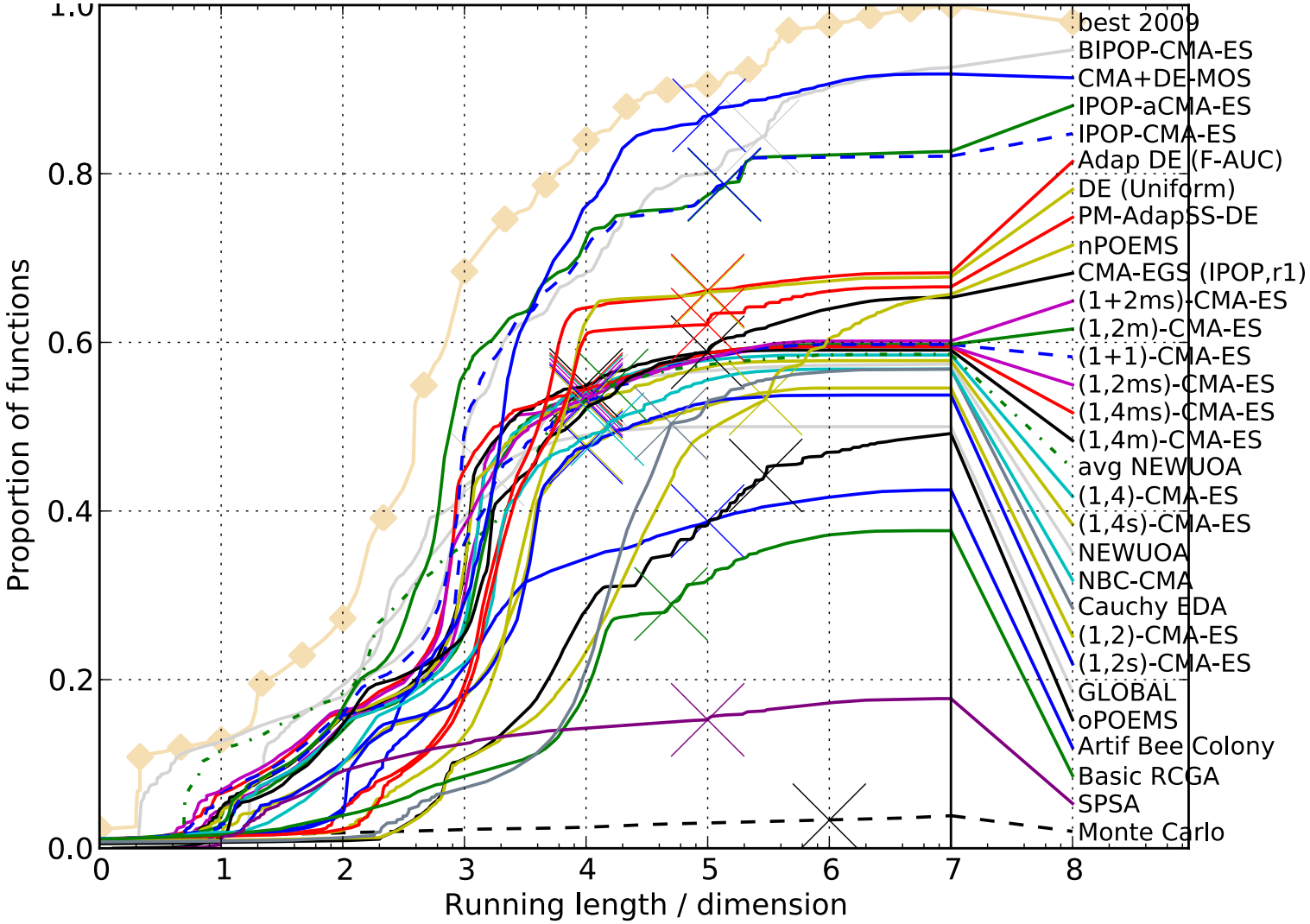
Comparison during BBOB at GECCO 2009

24 functions and 31 algorithms in 20-D



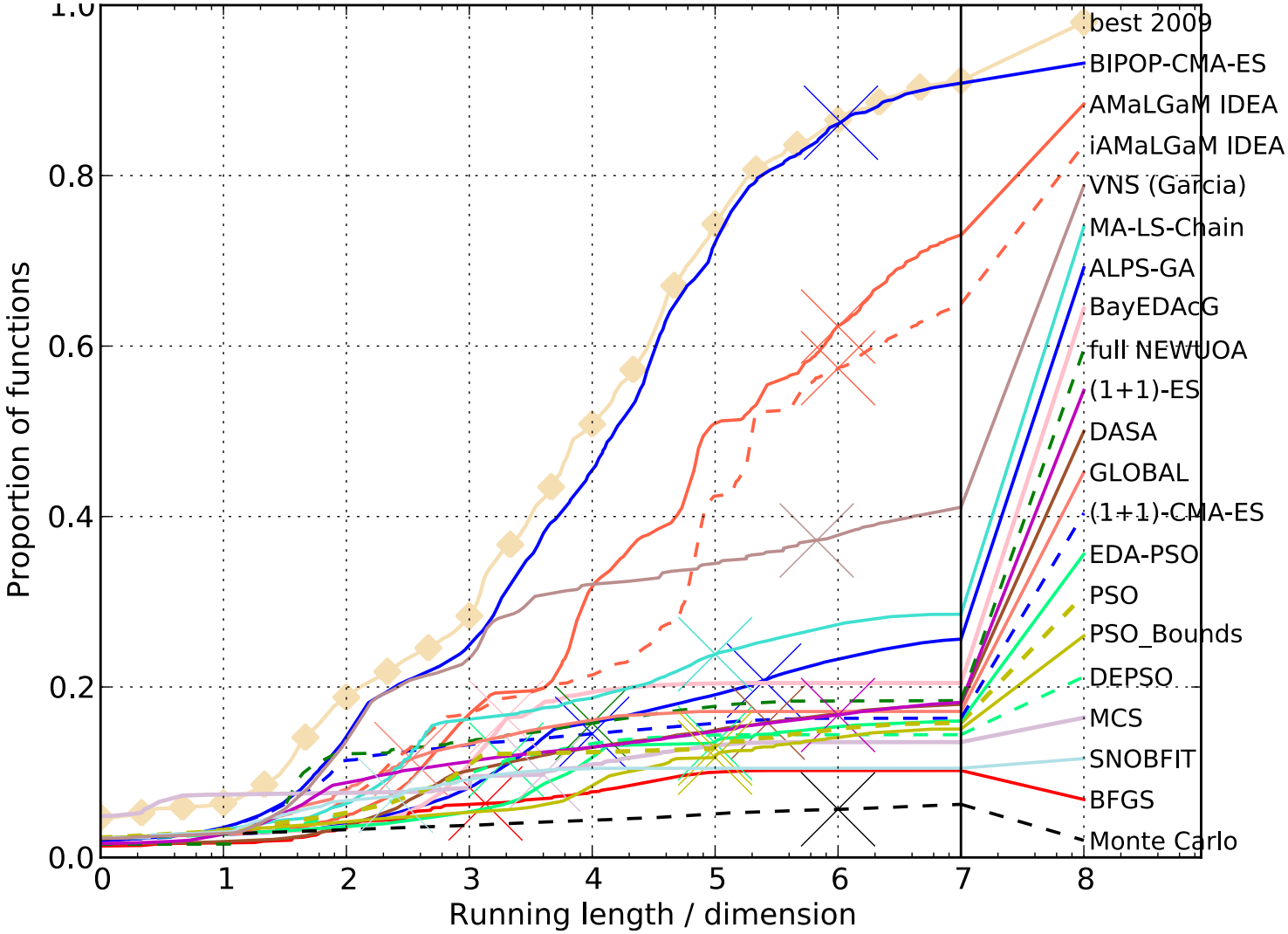
Comparison during BBOB at GECCO 2010

24 functions and 20+ algorithms in 20-D



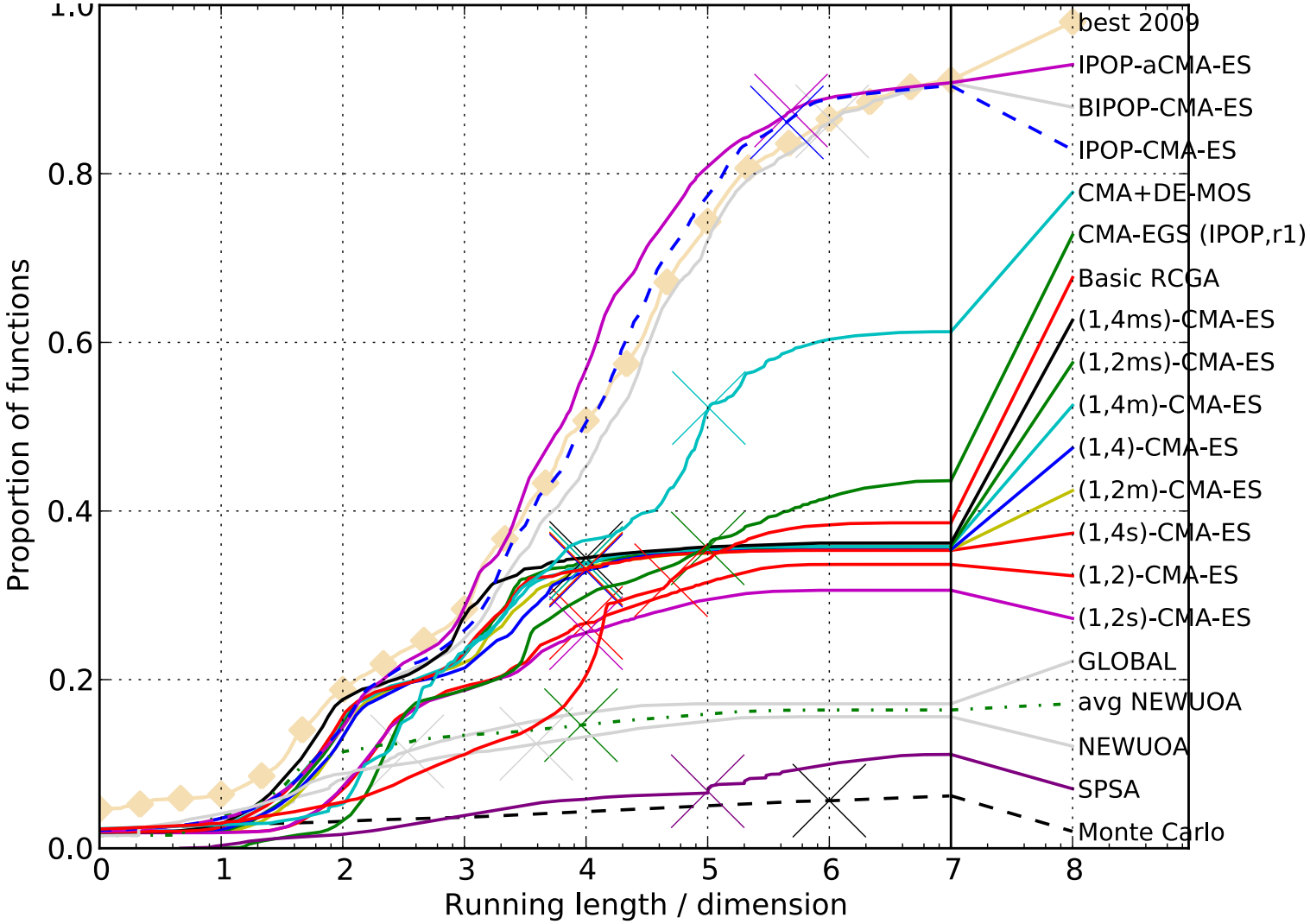
Comparison during BBOB at GECCO 2009

30 noisy functions and 20 algorithms in 20-D



Comparison during BBOB at GECCO 2010

30 noisy functions and 10+ algorithms in 20-D



The Continuous Search Problem

Difficulties of a non-linear optimization problem are

- dimensionality and non-separabitity
  demands to exploit problem structure, e.g. neighborhood
- ill-conditioning
  demands to acquire a second order model
- ruggedness
  demands a non-local (stochastic?) approach

Approach: population based stochastic search, coordinate system independent and with second order estimations (covariances)

Main Features of (CMA) Evolution Strategies

1. Multivariate normal distribution to generate new search points
   follows the maximum entropy principle
2. Rank-based selection
   implies invariance, same performance on $g(f(\boldsymbol{x}))$ for any increasing g
   more invariance properties are featured
3. Step-size control facilitates fast (log-linear) convergence
   based on an evolution path (a non-local trajectory)
4. *Covariance matrix adaptation (CMA)* increases the likelihood of previously successful steps and can improve performance by orders of magnitude
   the update follows the natural gradient
   $\mathbf{C} \propto \boldsymbol{H}^{-1} \iff$ adapts a variable metric
   $\iff$ new (rotated) problem representation
   $\implies f(\boldsymbol{x}) = g(\boldsymbol{x}^{\mathrm{T}}\boldsymbol{H}\boldsymbol{x})$ reduces to $g(\boldsymbol{x}^{\mathrm{T}}\boldsymbol{x})$

Limitations

of CMA Evolution Strategies

- internal CPU-time: $10^{-8} n^2$ seconds per function evaluation on a 2GHz PC, tweaks are available

  100 000 f-evaluations in 1000-D take 1/4 hours *internal* CPU-time

- better methods are presumably available in case of
  - partly separable problems
  - specific problems, for example with cheap gradients

    specific methods
  - small dimension ($n \ll 10$)

    for example Nelder-Mead
  - small running times (number of f-evaluations $\ll 100n$)

    model-based methods