## Surrogate Model-based Optimization in Practice

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### Overview

#### Introduction

Stochastic Search Algorithms

Quality Criteria: How to Select Surrogates

Examples

SPO2 Part 2

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## Model-based optimization (MBO)

- Prominent role in todays modeling, simulation, and optimization processes
- Most efficient technique for expensive and time-demanding real-world optimization problems
- Engineering domain, MBO is an important practice



### Example

- Waste heat boiler:
- CFD-optimized design



## Model-based optimization (MBO)

- Recent advances in
  - computer science,
  - statistics, and
  - engineering
  - in combination with progress in high-performance computing
- Tools for handling problems, considered unsolvable only a few decades ago



# Global optimization (GO)

- GO can be categorized based on different criteria.
- Properties of problems
  - continuous versus combinatorial
  - linear versus nonlinear
  - convex versus multimodal, etc.
- ▶ We present an algorithmic view, i.e., properties of algorithms
- The term GO will be used in this talk for algorithms that are trying to find and explore global optimal solutions with complex, multimodal objective functions [Preuss, 2015].
- GO problems are difficult: nearly no structural information (e.g., number of local extrema) available
- GO problems belong to the class of black-box functions, i.e., the analytic form is unknown
- Class of black-box function contains also functions that are easy to solve, e.g., convex functions

#### Problem

Optimization problem given by

```
Minimize: f(\vec{x}) subject to \vec{x}_l \leq \vec{x} \leq \vec{x}_u,
```

where  $f : \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}$  is referred to as the *objective function* and  $\vec{x}_l$  and  $\vec{x}_u$  denote the lower and upper bounds of the search space (region of interest), respectively

- Setting arises in many real-world systems:
  - ▶ when the explicit form of the objective function *f* is not readily available,
  - e.g., user has no access to the source code of a simulator
- We cover stochastic (random) search algorithms, deterministic GO algorithms are not further discussed
- Random and stochastic used synonymously



## Taxonomy of model-based approaches in GO





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## **Random Search**

- Stochastic search algorithm: Iterative search algorithm that uses a stochastic procedure to generate the next iterate
- Next iterate can be
  - a candidate solution to the GO or
  - a probabilistic model, where solutions can be drawn from
- ► Do not depend on any structural information of the objective function such as gradient information or convexity ⇒ robust and easy to implement
- Stochastic search algorithms can further be categorized as
  - instance-based or
  - model-based algorithms [Zlochin et al., 2004]



# [2.1] Instance-based Algorithms

- Instance-based algorithms: use a single solution, x, or population, P(t), of candidate solutions
- Construction of new candidates depends explicitly on previously generated solutions
- Examples: Simulated annealing, evolutionary algorithms
- 1: t = 0. InitPopulation(*P*).
- 2: Evaluate(P).
- 3: while not TerminationCriterion() do
- 4: Generate new candidate solutions P'(t) according to a specified random mechanism.
- 5: Update the current population P(t+1) based on population P(t) and candidate solutions in P'(t).
- 6: Evaluate(P(t + 1)).
- 7: t = t + 1.
- 8: end while

## [2.2] MBO: Model-based Algorithms

- MBO algorithms: generate a population of new candidate solutions P'(t) by sampling from a model
- In statistics: model  $\equiv$  distribution
- Model (distribution) reflects structural properties of the underlying true function, say f
- Adapting the model (or the distribution), the search is directed into regions with improved solutions
- ► One of the key ideas: replacement of expensive, high fidelity, fine grained function evaluations,  $f(\vec{x})$ , with evaluations,  $\hat{f}(\vec{x})$ , of an adequate cheap, low fidelity, coarse grained model, M



# [2.2.1] Distribution-based Approaches

- Metamodel is a distribution
- ► Generate a sequence of iterates (probability distributions) {p(t)} with the hope that

$$p(t) \rightarrow p^*$$
 as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ ,

where  $p^*$ : limiting distribution, assigns most of its probability mass to the set of optimal solutions

- Probability distribution is propagated from one iteration to the next
- Instance-based algorithms propagate candidate solutions
- 1: t = 0. Let p(t) be a probability distribution.
- 2: while not TerminationCriterion() do
- 3: Randomly generate a population of candidate solutions P(t) from p(t).
- 4: Evaluate(P(t)).
- 5: Update the distribution using population (samples) P(t) to generate a new distribution p(t + 1).
- 6: t = t + 1.
- 7: end while

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# [2.2.1] Estimation of distribution algorithms (EDA)

- ► EDA: very popular in the field of *evolutionary algorithms* (EA)
- Variation operators such as mutation and recombination replaced by a distribution based procedure:
  - ► Probability distribution estimated from promising candidate solutions from the current population ⇒ generate new population
- Larraaga and Lozano [2002] review different ways for using probabilistic models
- Hauschild and Pelikan [2011] discuss advantages and outline many of the different types of EDAs
- ► Hu et al. [2012] present recent approaches and a unified view



## [2.2.2] Focus on Surrogates

- Although distribution-based approaches play an important role in GO, they will not be discussed further in this talk
- ▶ We will concentrate on surrogate model-based approaches
- Origin in statistical design and analysis of experiments, especially in response surface methodology [G E P Box, 1951, Montgomery, 2001]



## [2.2.2] Surrogate Model-based Approaches

- In general: Surrogates used, when outcome of a process cannot be directly measured
- Imitate the behavior of the real model as closely as possible while being computationally cheaper to evaluate
- Surrogate models also known as
  - the cheap model, or
  - a response surface,
  - meta model,
  - approximation,
  - coarse grained model
- Simple surrogate models constructed using a data-driven approach
- Refined by integrating additional points or domain knowledge, e.g., constraints



## [2.2.2] Surrogate Model-based Approaches



- Validation step (e.g., via CV) is optional
- Samples generated iteratively to improve the surrogate model accuracy

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# [2.2.2] Surrogate Model Based Optimization (SBO) Algorithm

- 1: t = 0. InitPopulation(P(t))
- 2: Evaluate(P(t))
- 3: while not TerminationCriterion() do
- 4: Use P(t) to build a cheap model M(t)
- 5: P'(t+1) = GlobalSearch(M(t))
- 6: Evaluate(P'(t+1))

7: 
$$P(t+1) \subseteq P(t) + P'(t+1)$$

- 8: t = t + 1
- 9: end while



## [2.2.2] Surrogates

- ► Wide range of surrogates developed in the last decades ⇒ complex design decisions [Wang and Shan, 2007]:
  - (a) Metamodels
  - (b) Designs
  - (c) Model fit
- (a) Metamodels:
  - Classical regression models such as polynomial regression or response surface methodology [G E P Box, 1951, Montgomery, 2001]
  - support vector machines (SVM) [Vapnik, 1998],
  - neural networks [Zurada, 1992],
  - radial basis functions [Powell, 1987], or
  - Gaussian process (GP) models, design and analysis of computer experiments, Kriging [Schonlau, 1997], [Büche et al., 2005], [Antognini and Zagoraiou, 2010], [Kleijnen, 2009], [Santner et al., 2003]
- Comprehensive introduction to SBO in [Forrester et al., 2008]



# [2.2.2] Surrogates: Popular metamodeling techniques

- (b) Designs [Wang and Shan, 2007]:
- Classical
  - Fractional factorial
  - Central composite
  - Box-Behnken
  - A-, D-optimal (alphabetically)
  - Plackett-Burmann
- Space filling
  - Simple grids

- Latin hypercube
- Orthogonal
- Uniform
- Minimax and Maximin
- Hybrid methods
- Random or human selection
- Sequential methods



### [2.2.2] Surrogates: Popular metamodeling techniques

- (b) Designs: Sequential methods
- Model Refinement: Selection Criteria for Sample Points
- ► An initial model refined during the optimization ⇒ Adaptive sampling
- Identify new points, so-called infill points
- Balance between
  - exploration, i.e., improving the model quality (related to the model, global), and
  - exploitation, i.e., improving the optimization and determining the optimum (related to the objective function, local)
- Expected improvement (EI): popular adaptive sampling method [Mockus et al., 1978], [Jones et al., 1998]



#### Model Refinement: Expected Improvement

Include Fig. 11 from Jones et al. [1998]



## [2.2.2] Surrogates: Popular metamodeling techniques

- (c) Model fitting [Wang and Shan, 2007]:
- Weighted least squares regression
- Best linear unbiased predictor (BLUP)
- Likelihood

- Multipoint approximation
- Sequential metamodeling
- Neural networks: backpropagation
- Decision trees: entropy



# [2.2.2] Applications of SBO

- Popular application areas: Simulation-based design of complex engineering problems
  - computational fluid dynamics (CFD)
  - finite element modeling (FEM) methods
- ► Exact solutions ⇒ solvers require a large number of expensive computer simulations
- Two variants of SBO
  - ▶ (i) metamodel [2.2.2.1]: uses one or several different metamodels
  - (ii) multi-fidelity approximation [2.2.2.2]: same metamodel with different parameterizations



#### Example

- Automotive: Exhaust gas recirculation
- Optimization:
  - Pressure loss
  - Fill level: uniformly distributed

- 3D CFD tool to analyze behavior
- Surrogate substitutes CFD for optimization
- Evolutionary algorithm
- Project duration: several years



# [2.2.2.1] Applications of Metamodels and [2.2.2.2] Multi-fidelity Approximation

#### Meta-modeling approaches

- 31 variable helicopter rotor design [Booker et al., 1998]
- Aerodynamic shape design problem [Giannakoglou, 2002]
- Multi-objective optimal design of a liquid rocket injector [Queipo et al., 2005]
- Airfoil shape optimization with CFD [Zhou et al., 2007]
- Aerospace design [Forrester and Keane, 2009]
- Multi-fidelity Approximation
  - Several simulation models with different grid sizes in FEM [Huang et al., 2015]
  - Sheet metal forming process [Sun et al., 2011]
- "How far have we really come?" [Simpson et al., 2012]



## [2.2.2.3] Surrogate-assisted Evolutionary Algorithms

- Surrogate-assisted EA: EA that decouple the evolutionary search and the direct evaluation of the objective function
- Cheap surrogate model replaces evaluations of expensive objective function



#### Example

- Electrostatic precipitator (filter)
- How to arrange baffles?
- Velocity profile

- Pressure loss and uniformity
- Velocities before and after electrostatic fields



## Example

- Filter
- Velocity profile

- Pressure loss and uniformity
- Velocities before and after filter



## [2.2.2.3] Surrogate-assisted Evolutionary Algorithms

- Combination of a genetic algorithm and neural networks for aerodynamic design optimization [Hajela and Lee, 1997]
- Approximate model of the fitness landscape using Kriging interpolation to accelerate the convergence of EAs [Ratle, 1998]
- Evolution strategy (ES) with neural network based fitness evaluations [Jin et al., 2000]
- Surrogate-assisted EA framework with online learning [Zhou et al., 2007]
- Not evaluate every candidate solution (individual), but to just estimate the objective function value of some of the neighboring individuals [Branke and Schmidt, 2005]
- Survey of surrogate-assisted EA approaches [Jin, 2003]
- SBO approaches for evolution strategies [Emmerich et al., 2002]



## [2.2.2.4] Multiple Models

- ▶ Instead of using one surrogate model only, several models  $M_i$ , i = 1, 2, ..., p, generated and evaluated in parallel
- Each model  $M_i : X \to y$  uses
  - ▶ same candidate solutions, *X*, from the population *P* and
  - same results, y, from expensive function evaluations
- Multiple models can also be used to partition the search space
  - The tree-based Gaussian process (TGP): regression trees to partition the search space, fit local GP surrogates in each region [Gramacy, 2007].
  - Tree-based partitioning of an aerodynamic design space, independent Kriging surfaces in each partition [Nelson et al., 2007]
- Combination of an evolutionary model selection (EMS) algorithm with expected improvement (EI) criterion: select best performing surrogate model type at each iteration of the EI algorithm [Couckuyt et al., 2011]



## [2.2.2.4] Multiple Models: Ensembles

- Ensembles of surrogate models gained popularity:
- Adaptive weighted average model of the individual surrogates [Zerpa et al., 2005]
- Use the best surrogate model or a weighted average surrogate model instead [Goel et al., 2006]
- Weighted-sum approach for the selection of model ensembles [Sanchez et al., 2006]
  - Models for the ensemble chosen based on their performance
  - Weights are adaptive and inversely proportional to the local modeling errors



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## Model Selection Criteria

- El approach handles the initialization and refinement of a surrogate model
- But not the selection of the model itself
- Popular efficient global optimization (EGO) algorithm uses a Kriging model
  - Because Kriging inherently determines the prediction variance (necessary for the El criterion)
- But there is no proof that Kriging is the best choice
- Alternative surrogate models, e.g., neural networks, regression trees, support vector machines, or lasso and ridge regression may be better suited
- An a priory selection of the best suited surrogate model is conceptually impossible in the framework treated in this talk, because of the black-box setting



### Single or Ensemble

- Regarding the model choice, the user can decide whether to use
  - ► one single model, i.e., one unique global model or
  - multiple models, i.e., an ensemble of different, possibly local, models
  - The static SBO uses a single, global surrogate model, usually refined by *adaptive sampling*, but did not change  $\Rightarrow$  category [2.2.2.1]



## Criteria for Selecting a Surrogate

- Here, we do not consider the selection of a new sample point (as done in EI)
- Instead: Criteria for the selection of one (or several) surrogate models
- Usually, surrogate models chosen according to their estimated true error [Jin et al., 2001], [Shi and Rasheed, 2010]
- Commonly used performance metrics:
  - mean absolute error (MAE)
  - root mean square error (RMSE)
- Generally, attaining a surrogate model that has minimal error is the desired feature
- Methods from statistics, statistical learning [Hastie, 2009], and machine learning [Murphy, 2012]:
  - Simple holdout
  - Cross-validation
  - Bootstrap


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#### Criteria for Selecting a Surrogate: Evolvability

- Model error is not the only criterion for selecting surrogate models
- Evolvability learning of surrogates approach (EvoLS) [Le et al., 2013]:
  - Use fitness improvement for determining the quality of surrogate models
- EvoLS belongs to the category of surrogate-assisted evolutionary algorithms ([2.2.2.3])
- Distributed, local information



#### Evolvability Learning of Surrogates

- EvoLS: select a surrogate models that enhance search improvement in the context of optimization
- Process information about the
  - (i) different fitness landscapes,
  - (ii) state of the search, and
  - (iii) characteristics of the search algorithm to statistically determine the so-called *evolvability* of each surrogate model
- Evolvability of a surrogate model estimates the expected improvement of the objective function value that the new candidate solution has gained after a local search has been performed on the related surrogate model [Le et al., 2013]



## Evolvability

- Local search: After recombination and mutation, a local search is performed
- ▶ It uses an individual local meta-model, *M*, for each offspring
- The local optimizer, φ<sub>M</sub>, uses an offspring y as an input and returns y\* as the refined offspring
- Evolvability measure can be estimated as follows [Le et al., 2013]:

$$Ev_M(\vec{x}) = f(\vec{x}) - \sum_{i=1}^{K} f(\vec{y}_i^*) \times w_i(\vec{x})$$

with weights (selection probabilities of the offsprings):

$$w_{i}(\vec{x}) = \frac{P(\vec{y}_{i} | P(t), \vec{x})}{\sum_{j=1}^{K} P(\vec{y}_{j} | P(t), \vec{x})}$$



- ► EvoLS: distributed, local information. Now: more centralized, global information ⇒ sequential parameter optimization (SPO)
- Goal: Analysis and understanding of algorithms
- Early versions of the SPO [Bartz-Beielstein, 2003, Bartz-Beielstein et al., 2005] combined methods from
  - design of experiments (DOE) [Pukelsheim, 1993]
  - response surface methodology (RSM) [Box and Draper, 1987, Montgomery, 2001]
  - design and analysis of computer experiments (DACE) [Lophaven et al., 2002, Santner et al., 2003]
  - regression trees [Breiman et al., 1984]
- Also: SPO as an optimizer



- SPO: sequential, model based approach to optimization
- Nowadays: established parameter tuner and an optimization algorithm
- Extended in several ways:
  - For example, Hutter et al. [2013] benchmark an SPO derivative, the so-called sequential model-based algorithm configuration (SMAC) procedure, on the BBOB set of blackbox functions.
  - Small budget of 10 × d evaluations of d-dimensional functions, SMAC in most cases outperforms the state-of- the-art blackbox optimizer CMA-ES



- > The most recent version, SPO2, is currently under development
- Integration of state-of-the-art ensemble learners
- SPO2 ensemble engine:
  - Portfolio of surrogate models
  - regression trees and random forest, least angle regression (lars), and Kriging
  - Uses cross validation to select an improved model from the portfolio of candidate models
  - Creates a weighted combination of several surrogate models to build the improved model
  - Use stacked generalization to combine several level-0 models of different types with one level-1 model into an ensemble [Wolpert, 1992]
  - Level-1 training algorithm: simple linear model



- Promising preliminary results
- SPO2 ensemble engine can lead to significant performance improvements
- Rebolledo Coy et al. [2016] present a comparison of different data driven modeling methods
  - Bayesian model
  - Several linear regression models
  - Kriging model
  - Genetic programming
- Models build on industrial data for the development of a robust gas sensor
- Limited amount of samples and a high variance



#### Example: Sensor development

- Two sensors are compared
- 1st sensor (MSE)
  - Linear model (0.76), OLS (0.79), Lasso (0.56), Kriging (0.57), Bayes (0.79), and genetic programming (0.58)
  - SPO2 0.38
- 2nd sensor (MSE)
  - Linear model (0.67), OLS (0.80), Lasso (0.49), Kriging (0.49), Bayes (0.79), and genetic programming (0.27)
  - SPO2 0.28



## Example: Sensor development

- Comparison of the mean squared error from the SPO2 ensemble and the single models:
- SPO2 (MSE): 0.284948273406
- L (MSE): 0.673695001324
- R (MSE): 0.367652881967







## Summary

SMBO works!



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#### Example

- Baffle geometry in electrostatic precipitators
- Combinatorial optimization problem: more than 2<sup>300</sup> possible arrangements



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## Function Definitions [jupyter]

- Motivated by van der Laan and Polley [2010], we consider six test functions
- All simulations involve a univariate X drawn from a uniform distribution in [-4, +4]
- Test functions:
  - ► f1(x): return -2 \* l(x < -3) + 2.55 \* l(x > -2) 2 \* l(x > 0) + 4 \* l(x > 2) 1 \* l(x > 3) +  $\epsilon$
  - ▶ f2(x): return 6 + 0.4 \* x 0.36x \* x + 0.005x \* x \* x + ϵ
  - f3(x): return 2.83 \* np.sin(math.pi/2 \* x) + ε
  - ► f4(x): return 4.0 \* np.sin(3 \* math.pi \* x) \* I(x >= 0) + ϵ
  - f5(x): return x + ε
  - ▶ f6(x): return np.random.normal(0,1,len(x)) + ϵ
- ►  $I(\cdot)$  indicator function,  $\epsilon$  drawn from an independent standard normal distribution, sample size r = 100 (repeats)



## Function Definitions [jupyter]

f1: Step function





## f1: Coefficients of the Level-1 Model [jupyter]

► The coefficients can be interpreted as weights in the linear combination of the models. 0 = intercept; 1, 2, and 3 denote the  $\beta_1$ ,  $\beta_2$ , and  $\beta_3$  values, respectively



## f1: R<sup>2</sup> Values [jupyter]

- ► R<sup>2</sup> (larger values are better) and standard deviation.
  - SPO: 0.78211976, 0.03308847
  - L: 0.4024831, 0.07134356
  - R: 0.78556947, 0.03187105
  - G: 0.76547433, 0.03564519



## Function Definitions [jupyter]

► f2: Polynomial function





## f2: Coefficients of the Level-1 Model [jupyter]

► The coefficients can be interpreted as weights in the linear combination of the models. 0 = intercept; 1, 2, and 3 denote the  $\beta_1$ ,  $\beta_2$ , and  $\beta_3$  values, respectively



## f2: R<sup>2</sup> Values [jupyter]

- ▶ R<sup>2</sup> (larger values are better) and standard deviation.
  - SPO: 0.79514735 0.03602018
  - L: 0.21445917 0.07656562
  - R: 0.79488344 0.03604606
  - G: 0.79514727 0.03602018



## Function Definitions [jupyter]

f3: Sine function





## f3: Coefficients of the Level-1 Model [jupyter]

► The coefficients can be interpreted as weights in the linear combination of the models. 0 = intercept; 1, 2, and 3 denote the  $\beta_1$ ,  $\beta_2$ , and  $\beta_3$  values, respectively



## f3: R<sup>2</sup> Values [jupyter]

- ▶ R<sup>2</sup> (larger values are better) and standard deviation.
  - SPO: 0.7939634 0.02777211
  - L: 0.11677184 0.05688847
  - R: 0.79244941 0.02743085
  - G: 0.79396338 0.02777211



## Function Definitions [jupyter]

► f4: Composite function





## f4: Coefficients of the Level-1 Model [jupyter]

► The coefficients can be interpreted as weights in the linear combination of the models. 0 = intercept; 1, 2, and 3 denote the  $\beta_1$ ,  $\beta_2$ , and  $\beta_3$  values, respectively



## f4: R<sup>2</sup> Values [jupyter]

- ► R<sup>2</sup> (larger values are better) and standard deviation.
  - SPO: 0.74144195 0.05779718
  - L: 0.00651219 0.01489886
  - R: 0.75301025 0.05133169
  - G: 0.31721598 0.07939812



## Function Definitions [jupyter]

f5: Linear function





## f5: Coefficients of the Level-1 Model [jupyter]

► The coefficients can be interpreted as weights in the linear combination of the models. 0 = intercept; 1, 2, and 3 denote the  $\beta_1$ ,  $\beta_2$ , and  $\beta_3$  values, respectively



# f5: R<sup>2</sup> Values [jupyter]

- ▶ *R*<sup>2</sup> (larger values are better) and standard deviation.
  - SPO: 0.8362937 0.02381472
  - L: 0.8362937 0.02381472
  - R: 0.83628043 0.02374492
  - G: 0.8362937 0.02381472



## Function Definitions [jupyter]

f6: Noise function





## f5: Coefficients of the Level-1 Model [jupyter]

The coefficients can be interpreted as weights in the linear combination of the models. 0 = intercept; 1, 2, and 3 denote the  $\beta_1$ ,  $\beta_2$ , and  $\beta_3$  values, respectively



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# f5: R<sup>2</sup> Values [jupyter]

- ▶ *R*<sup>2</sup> (larger values are better) and standard deviation.
  - SPO: -0.02025601 0.10308039
  - L: -0.00035958 0.01505964
  - R: 0.3586063 0.06232495
  - G: 0.10037904 0.05356867



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#### More: Video Lecture



http://videolectures.net/bioma2016\_bartz\_beielstein\_ based\_methods



#### More: Publication

Cipius Band 5/2016

#### Stacked Generalization of Surrogate Models -A Practical Approach

Thomas Bartz-Beielstein

Bartz-Beielstein [2016], can be downloaded from http://nbn-resolving.de/urn/resolver.pl?urn:nbn:de: hbz:832-cos4-3759



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