

Bio-inspired Optimization and Design

Eckart Zitzler

4. Advanced Design Issues

- 4.1 Multiobjective Optimization
- 4.2 Constraint Handling
- 4.3 Implementation Tools
- 4.4 Example Application: Network Processor Design

Introductory Example: The Knapsack Problem

weight = 750g profit = 5	weight = 1500g profit = 8	weight = 300g profit = 7	weight = 1000g profit = 3
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Single objective:

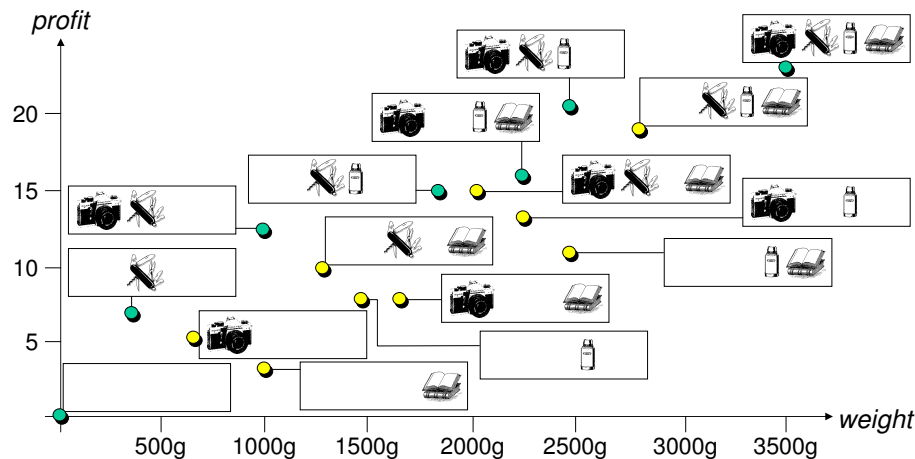
- choose subset that
- maximizes overall profit
 - w.r.t. a weight limit (**constraint**)



Multiobjective:

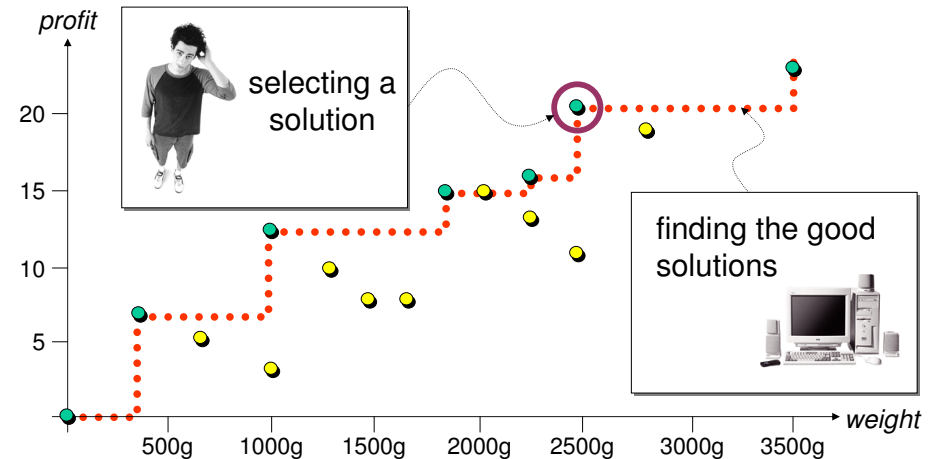
- choose subset that
- maximizes overall profit
 - minimizes overall weight

The Problem Landscape



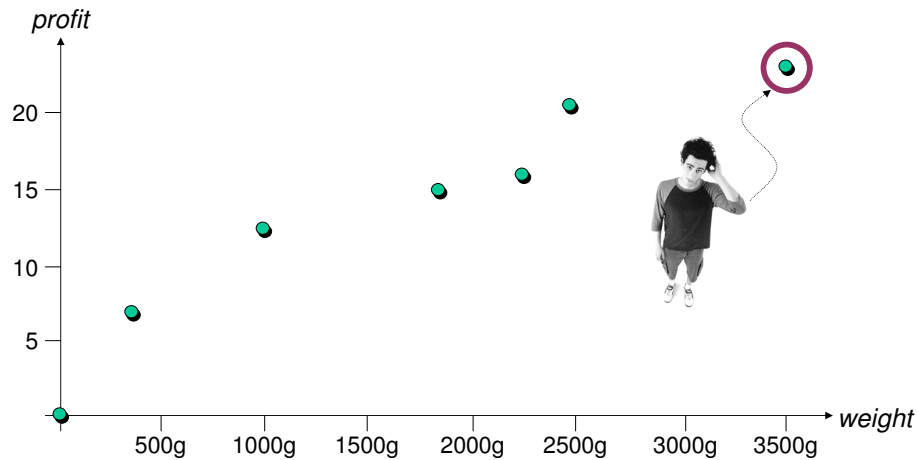
Optimization and Decision Making

- Observations:**
- 1 there is no single optimal solution
 - 2 no optimum is preferable to any other



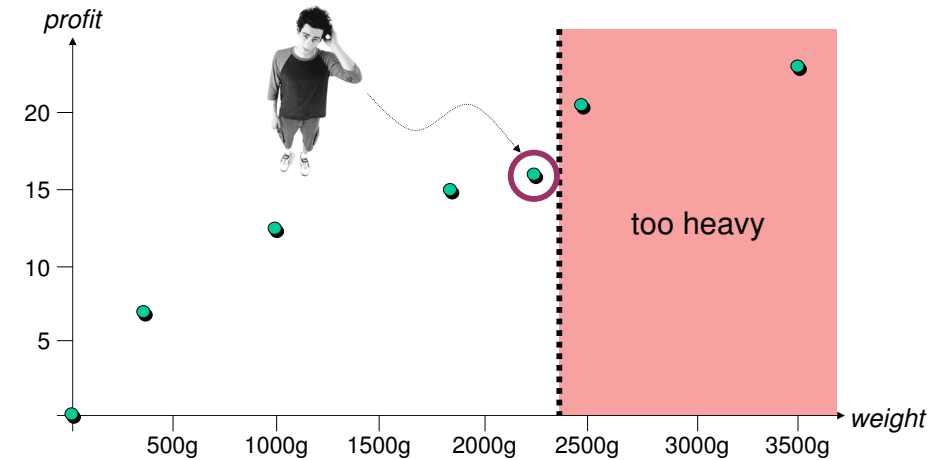
Decision Making: Selecting a Solution

Approaches: • profit more important than cost (ranking)



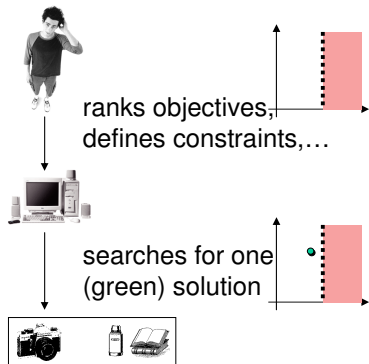
Decision Making: Selecting a Solution

Approaches: • profit more important than cost (ranking)
• weight must not exceed 2400g (constraint)



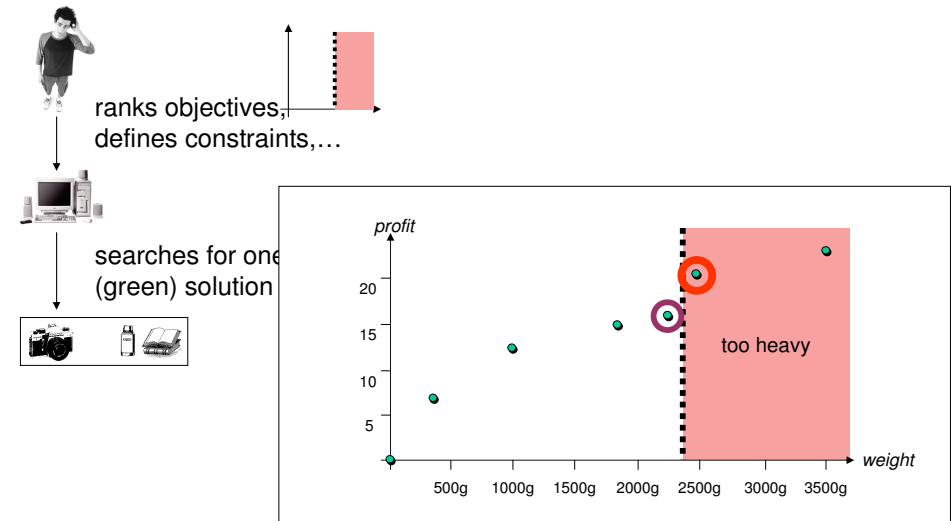
When to Make the Decision

Before Optimization:



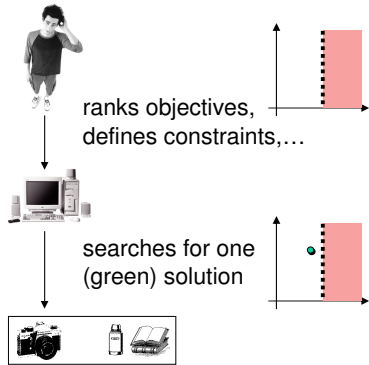
When to Make the Decision

Before Optimization:

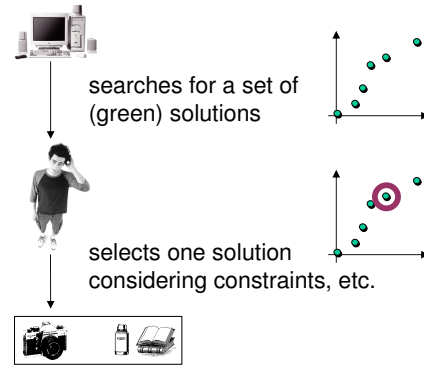


When to Make the Decision

Before Optimization:



After Optimization:



- 🔗 decision making often easier
- 🔗 EAs well suited

In the Following...

...you learn:

- how to deal with multiple objectives;
- how to deal with constraints;
- what type of implementation frameworks exist.

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4. Advanced Design Issues

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- 4.2 Constraint Handling
- 4.3 Implementation Tools
- 4.4 Example Application: Network Processor Design

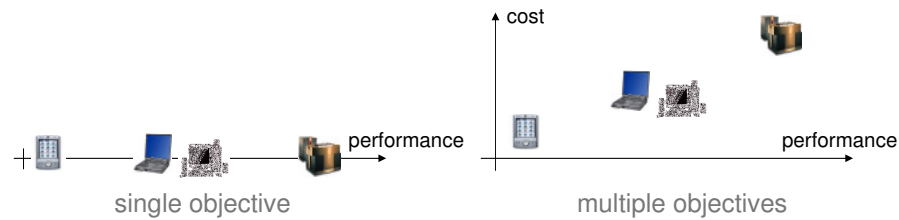
Repetition: Optimization Problem - Definition

A general optimization problem is given by a quadruple (X, Z, f, rel) where

- X denotes the **decision space** containing the elements among which the best is sought; elements of X are called **decision vectors** or simply **solutions**;
- Z denotes the **objective space**, the space within which the decision vectors are evaluated and compared to each other; elements of Z are denoted as **objective vectors**;
- f represents a function $f: X \rightarrow Z$ that assigns each decision vector a corresponding objective vector; f is usually neither injective nor surjective;
- rel is a binary relation over Z , i.e., $rel \subseteq Z \times Z$, which represents a partial order over Z .

Repetition: Objective Functions

- Usually, f consists of one or several functions f_1, \dots, f_n that assign each solution a real number. Such a function $f_i: X \rightarrow \mathcal{R}$ is called an **objective function**, and examples are cost, size, execution time, etc.
- In the case of a single objective function ($n=1$), the problem is denoted as a **single-objective optimization problem**; a **multiobjective optimization problem** involves several ($n \geq 2$) objective functions:



A Single-Objective Optimization Problem

decision space objective space objective function

$$(X, \mathcal{R}, f: X \rightarrow \mathcal{R}, \text{total order})$$

A Single-Objective Optimization Problem

decision space objective space objective function

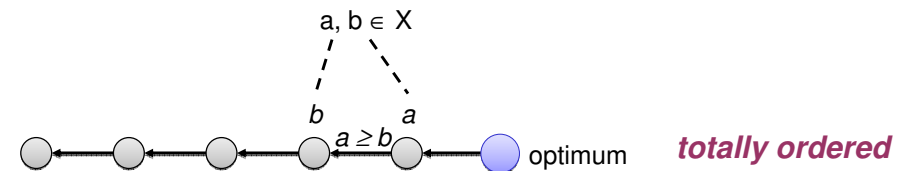
$$(X, \mathcal{R}, f: X \rightarrow \mathcal{R}, \text{total order})$$

$$(X, \text{prefrel})$$

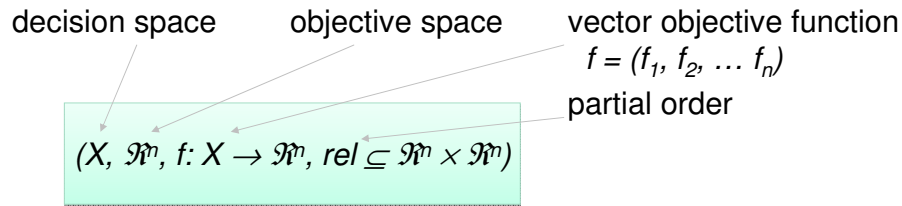
total preorder where $a \text{ prefrel } b \Leftrightarrow f(a) \text{ rel } f(b)$

Simple Graphical Representation: Single Objective

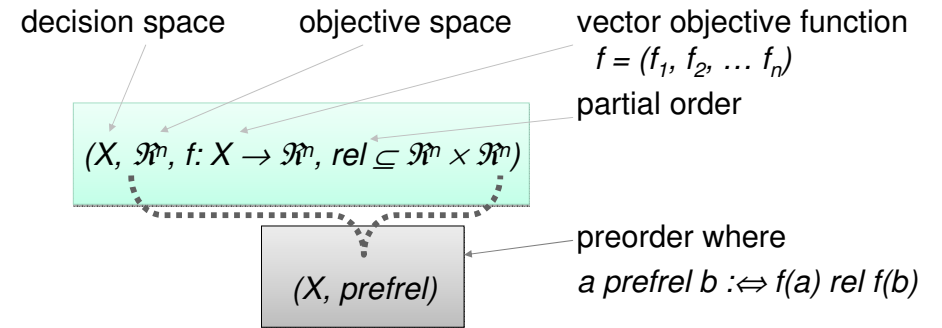
Example: \geq (total order)



A Multiobjective Optimization Problem



A Multiobjective Optimization Problem



Question: What is an appropriate relation rel ?

The Concept Of Pareto Dominance

Assumption:

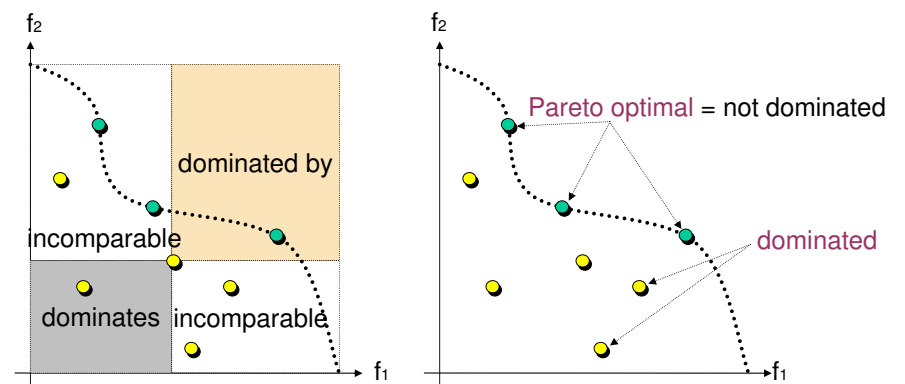
- n objective functions $f_i: X \rightarrow \mathcal{R}$ where $Z = \mathcal{R}^n$
- all objectives are to be maximized

Usually considered relation: weak Pareto dominance

- optimization problem: $(X, \mathcal{R}^n, (f_1, \dots, f_n), \succeq)$ where \succeq stands for componentwise greater or equal
- weak Pareto dominance (preference structure on X):
 $x_1 \succeq x_2 :\Leftrightarrow \forall 1 \leq i \leq n : f_i(x_1) \geq f_i(x_2)$
- Pareto dominance: strict version of weak Pareto dominance
 $x_1 \succ x_2 :\Leftrightarrow x_1 \succeq x_2 \wedge x_2 \not\succeq x_1$

Illustration of Pareto Optimality

- Solutions mapped to minimal elements of (\mathcal{M}, \succeq) are denoted as **Pareto optimal**.
- The entirety of all Pareto-optimal solutions is denoted as **Pareto(-optimal) set**.

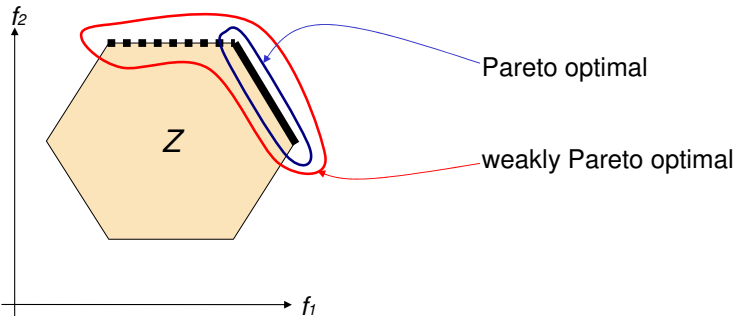


Strict Dominance and Weak Pareto Optimality

Sometimes, one considers a weaker type of optimality:

- A solution is called **weakly Pareto optimal** iff it is not strictly dominated by any other solution.
- A solution x_1 **strictly dominates** a solution x_2 if the former is better than the latter in all objectives:

$$x_1 \succ x_2 :\Leftrightarrow \forall 1 \leq i \leq n : f_i(x_1) > f_i(x_2)$$



Vilfredo Pareto (1848 – 1923)

“We will say that the members of a collectivity enjoy maximum ophelimity in a certain position when it is impossible to find a way of moving from that position very slightly in such a manner that the ophelimity enjoyed by each of the individuals of that collectivity increases or decreases. That is to say, **any small displacement in departing from that position necessarily has the effect of increasing the ophelimity which certain individuals enjoy, and decreasing that which others enjoy**, of being agreeable to some and disagreeable to others.”



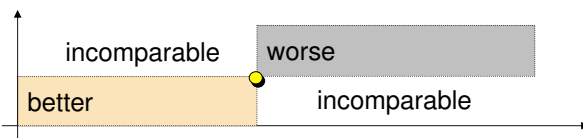
V. Pareto: Manual of Political Economy (in French), 1896

Background: Comparing Objective Vectors

The pair (Z, rel) forms a partially ordered set, i.e., for any two objective vectors $a, b \in Z$ there can be four situations:

- a and b are **equal**: $a rel b$ and $b rel a$
- a is **better** than b : $a rel b$ and not $(b rel a)$
- a is **worse** than b : not $(a rel b)$ and $b rel a$
- a and b are **incomparable**: neither $a rel b$ nor $b rel a$

Example: $Z = \mathcal{R}^2$, $(a_1, a_2) rel (b_1, b_2) :\Leftrightarrow a_1 \leq b_1 \wedge a_2 \leq b_2$



Often, (Z, rel) is a totally ordered set, i.e., for all $a, b \in Z$ either $a rel b$ or $b rel a$ or both holds (no incomparable elements).

Repetition: Preference Structures

- The function f together with the partially ordered set (Z, rel) defines a **preference structure** on the decision space X that reflects which solutions the decision maker / user prefers to other solutions.
- The preference structure $prefrel \subseteq X \times X$ is a binary relation with

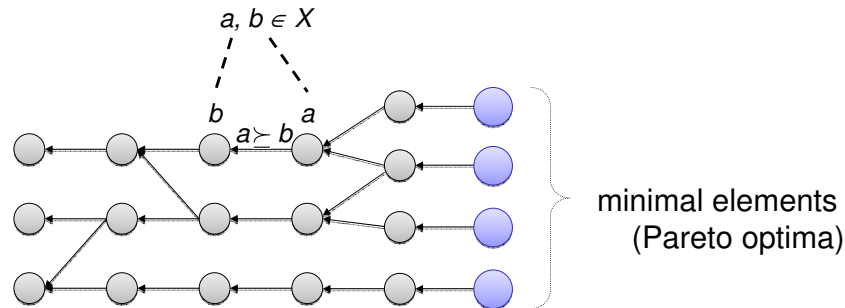
$$x_1 prefrel x_2 :\Leftrightarrow f(x_1) rel f(x_2)$$

The pair $(X, prefrel)$ is an preordered set, but not necessarily a partially ordered set because different solutions may be mapped to the same objective vector and antisymmetry is not fulfilled (indifferent solutions).

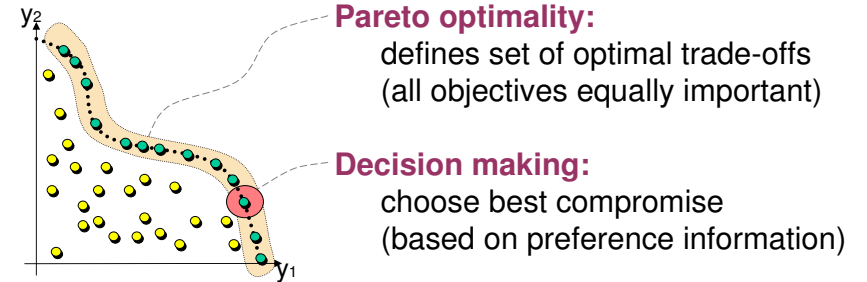
- One says:
 - Two solutions x_1, x_2 are **equal** iff $x_1 = x_2$;
 - A solution x_1 is **indifferent** to a solution x_2 iff $x_1 prefrel x_2$ and $x_2 prefrel x_1$ and $x_1 \neq x_2$;
 - A solution x_1 is **preferred** to a solution x_2 iff $x_1 prefrel x_2$;
 - A solution x_1 is **strictly preferred** to a solution x_2 iff $x_1 prefrel x_2$ and not $(x_2 prefrel x_1)$;
 - A solution x_1 is **incomparable** to a solution x_2 iff neither $x_1 prefrel x_2$ nor $x_2 prefrel x_1$.

Simple Graphical Representation: Multiple Objectives

Example: \succeq (preorder on the set of solutions X)



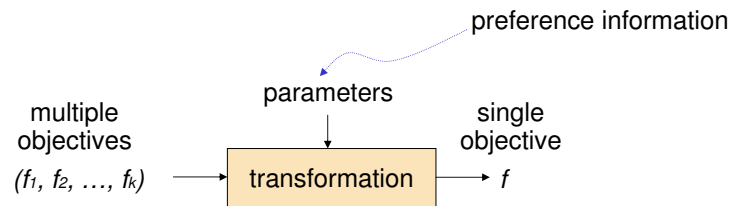
Optimization and Decision Making



- ❶ Decision making before search (define single objective)
- ❷ Decision making after search (find/approximate Pareto set first)
- ❸ Decision making during search (guide search interactively)
- ❹ Combinations of the above

Decision Making Before Optimization: Aggregation

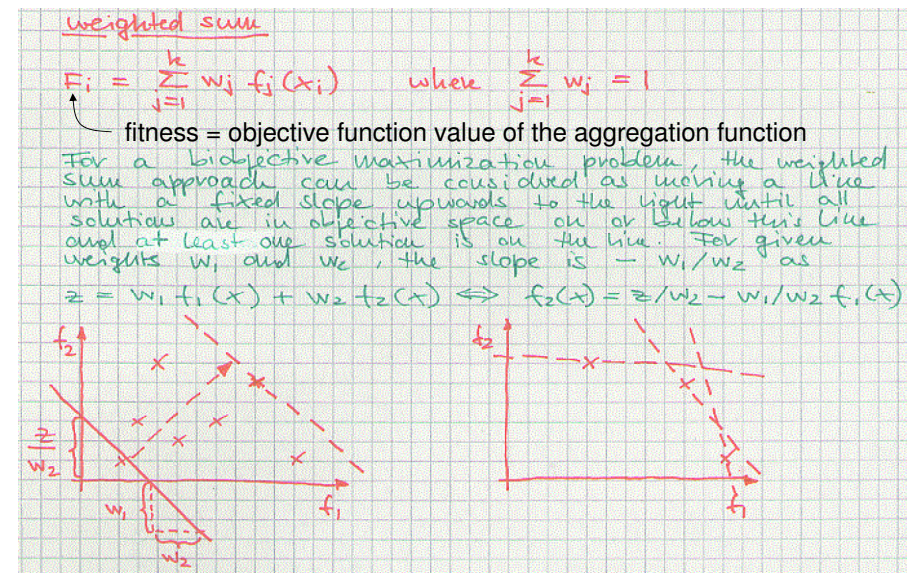
Idea: transform the multiobjective optimization problem into a single-objective optimization problem



Examples:

- ranking the objectives
- transforming $n-1$ objectives into constraints
- weighted sum, Tchebycheff

Weighted-Sum Aggregation



Properties of Weighted-Sum Aggregation

- For every weight combination, a Pareto-optimal solution is optimum:

If $F_i \geq F_j$ for one $x_i \in X$ and all $x_j \in X$, then x_i is weakly Pareto optimal; if in addition $w_k > 0$ for all $1 \leq k \leq k$, then f_i is Pareto optimal.

Proof: Assume x_i is not weakly Pareto optimal, i.e., $\exists x_j \in X$ with x_j strictly dominates x_i . Then $f_m(x_j) > f_m(x_i)$ which implies that $F_j > F_i$. The same arguments can be used for the case $w_k > 0$. \square

- Not for every Pareto-optimal necessarily a weight-combination exists:

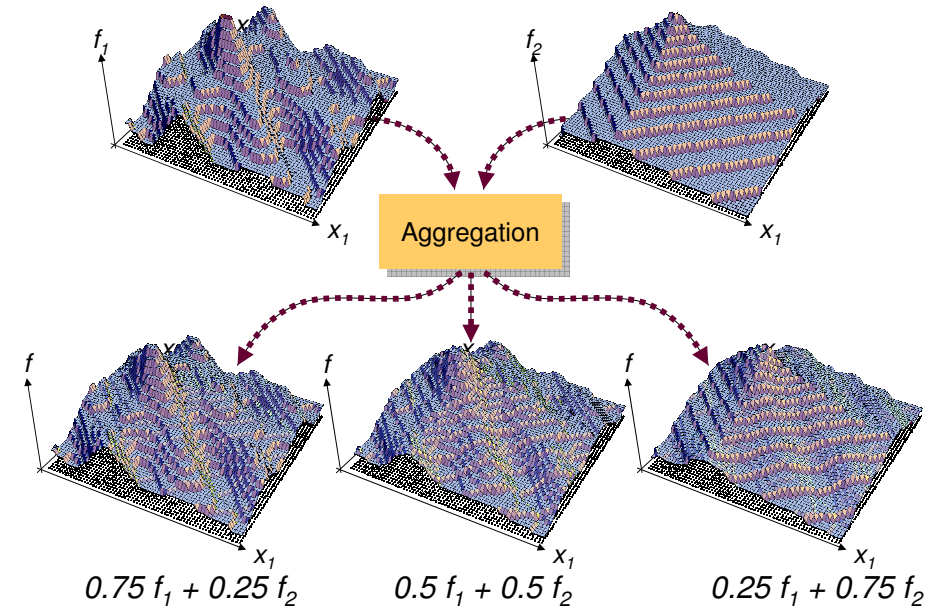
Assume x_1 is Pareto optimal. Does a weight combination w_1, w_2, \dots, w_k exist such that $F_i \geq F_j$ for all $x_j \in X$?

No! Counterexample:

x	1	2	3
f_1	1	5	2
f_2	5	1	2

either $F_1 > F_3$
or $F_2 > F_3$
but 3 is Pareto optimal

Aggregation Example: Weighted Sum



Tchebycheff Aggregation

weighted Tchebycheff metric

Let $z^* \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $f_i(x) \leq z^*$ for $1 \leq i \leq k, x \in X$

$$F_i = \max_{1 \leq j \leq k} \{w_j (z^* - f_j(x_i))\} \quad \text{where } \sum_{1 \leq j \leq k} w_j = 1$$

Note: F_i is to be minimized here!

$$F_i = \max \{w_1 b, w_2 a\}$$

Properties of Tchebycheff Aggregation

- Every weight combination leads to a weakly Pareto-optimal solution:

If $F_i \leq F_j$ for one $x_i \in X$ and all $x_j \in X$, then x_i is weakly Pareto optimal, provided that $w_k > 0$ for all $1 \leq k \leq k$.

Proof: Assume x_i is not weakly Pareto optimal, i.e., $\exists x_j \in X$ with x_j strictly dominates x_i . Then $f_m(x_j) > f_m(x_i)$ which implies $F_j < F_i$. \square

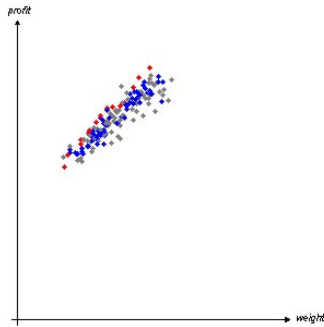
- For every Pareto-optimal solution, there is a unique weight

Assume x_i is Pareto optimal. Then, there exists a weight combination w_1, w_2, \dots, w_k such that $F_i \leq F_j$ for all $x_j \in X$.

Proof: Choose w_1, w_2, \dots, w_k such that $w_1(z^* - f_1(x_i)) = w_2(z^* - f_2(x_i)) = \dots = w_k(z^* - f_k(x_i))$ and $\sum w_k = 1$. Assume $F_j < F_i$ for one $x_j \in X$. Then $w_2(z^* - f_2(x_j)) < w_2(z^* - f_2(x_i))$ for all $1 \leq l \leq k$. Accordingly, x_j strictly dominates x_i . \square

Decision Making After Optimization

Idea: Identify or approximate the set Pareto-optimal solutions; the decision making is carried out on the basis of the resulting set of trade-off solutions.

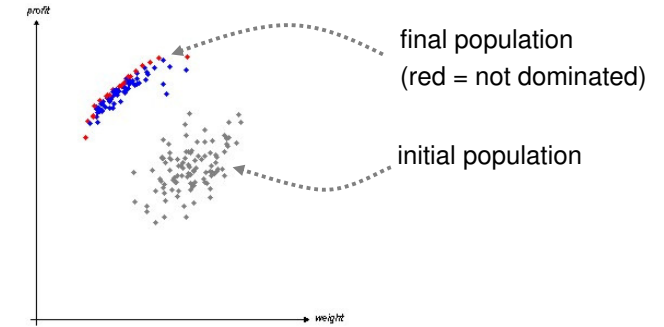


Questions:

- How does this change the underlying optimization problem?
- How can a randomized search algorithm be designed for this type of problem?

Decision Making After Optimization

Idea: Identify or approximate the set Pareto-optimal solutions; the decision making is carried out on the basis of the resulting set of trade-off solutions.

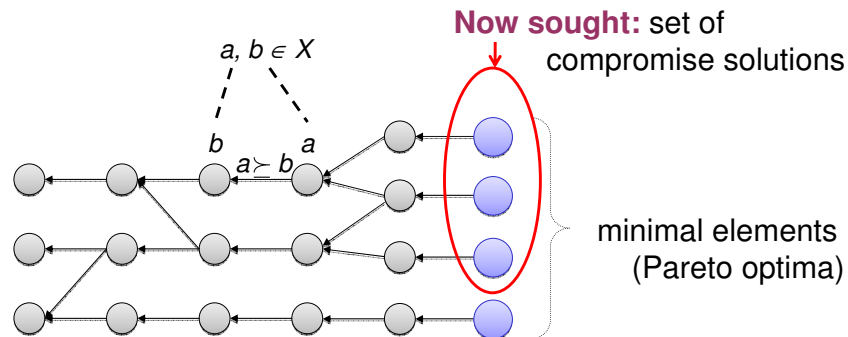


Questions:

- How does this change the underlying optimization problem?
- How can a randomized search algorithm be designed for this type of problem?

Simple Graphical Representation: Multiple Objectives

Example: \succeq (preorder on the set of solutions X)



The Modified Optimization Problem

- Suppose $(X, \mathcal{M}, (f_1, \dots, f_n), \succeq)$ is the original optimization problem involving n objectives. Then, the transformed optimization problem is

$(\Psi, 2^{\mathbb{R}^n}, f^*, \succeq^*)$ where

- Ψ is the set of Pareto set approximations with $\Psi := \{A \mid A \subseteq X\}$
- $2^{\mathbb{R}^n}$ is the powerset of \mathbb{R}^n
- $f^*(A) := S$ with $S = \{(f_1(a), f_2(a), \dots, f_n(a)) \mid a \in A\}$
- \succeq^* is a dominance relation on sets

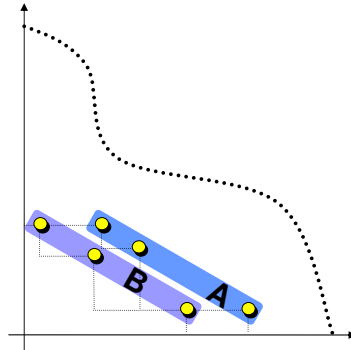
Question: How to define \succeq^* based on \succeq ?

Dominance Relations on Sets

Extension: a preference relation \succsim on sets $A, B \in \Psi$

weak Pareto dominance:

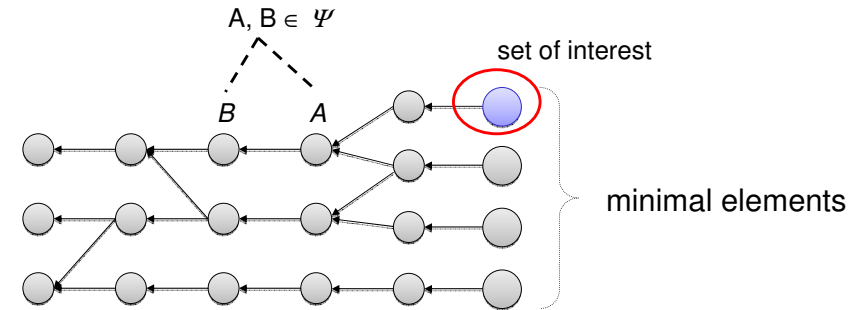
$A \succsim B$ iff
for all $b \in B$ exists $a \in A$
with $a \succeq b$



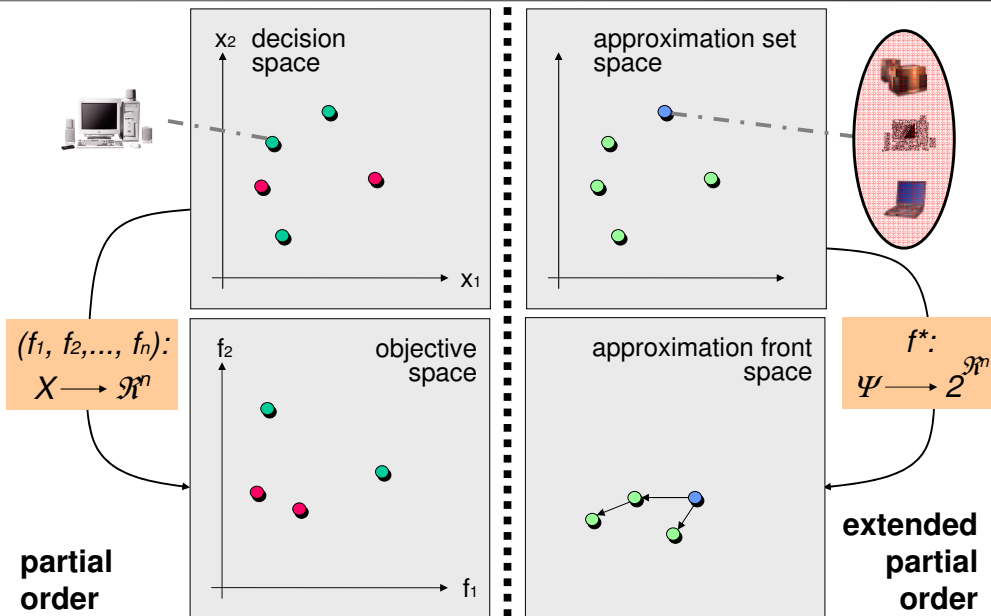
$\Rightarrow (\Psi, \succsim)$ is reflexive and transitive, but usually not total
 \Rightarrow The minimal elements of (Ψ, \succsim) represent the Pareto set

Simple Graphical Representation: Set Problem

Example: \succsim (preorder on the set Ψ of sets of solutions in X)

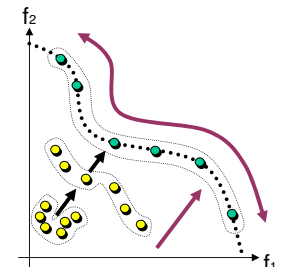


Original and Transformed Problem: Illustration



What Is the Optimization Goal?

- Find all Pareto-optimal solutions?
 - ▶ Impossible in continuous search spaces
 - ▶ How should the decision maker handle 10000 solutions?
- Find a representative subset of the Pareto set?
 - ▶ Many problems are NP-hard
 - ▶ What does representative actually mean?
- Find a good approximation of the Pareto set?
 - ▶ What is a good approximation?
 - ▶ How to formalize intuitive understanding:
 - 1 close to the Pareto front
 - 2 well distributed



Crucial: definition of \succeq (different algorithms implement that differently)

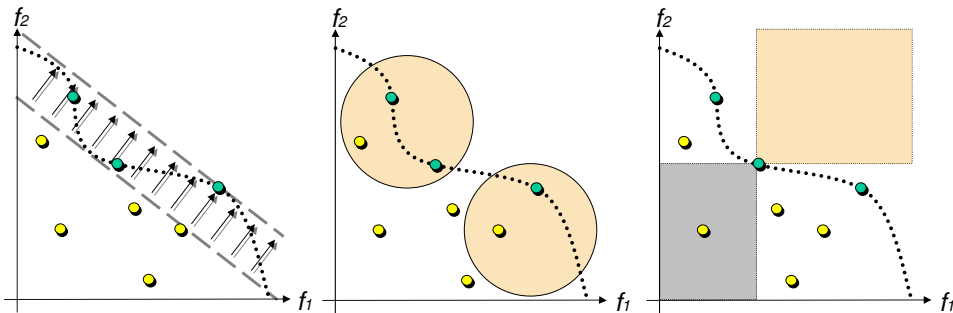
Fitness Assignment Strategies

In general, one can distinguish three classes of fitness assignment strategies for multiobjective search (Pareto set approximation):

aggregation-based
weighted sum

criterion-based
VEGA

set-based
SPEA2



Aggregation-Based Approaches

In principle, there are two strategies:

1. Several separate runs, each with a different parameter combination for the aggregation function (e.g., a weight combination)

Problem: How to select a representative set of parameters?

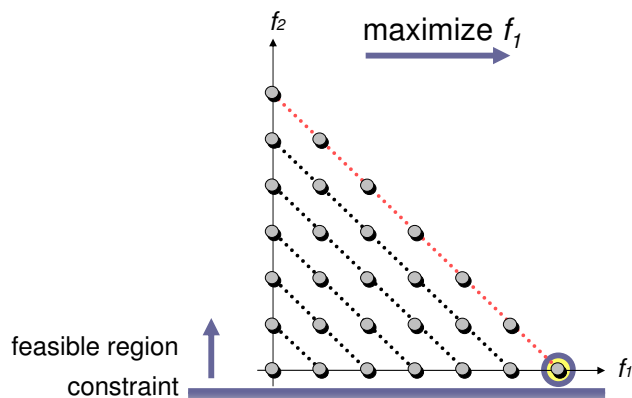
2. Single run within which the parameters are varied, e.g.,

- by evaluating each individual according to a randomly chosen parameter combination;
- by performing different selection stages for each given parameter combination;
- by encoding the parameter combination in each individual separately (undergoes variation)

Example: Multistart Constraint Method

Underlying concept:

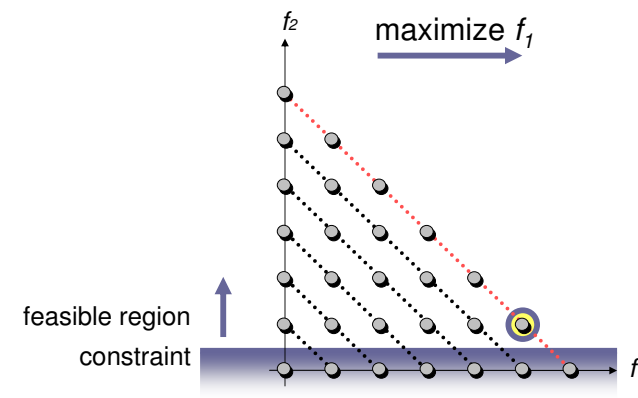
- Convert all objectives except of one into constraints
- Adaptively vary constraints



Example: Multistart Constraint Method

Underlying concept:

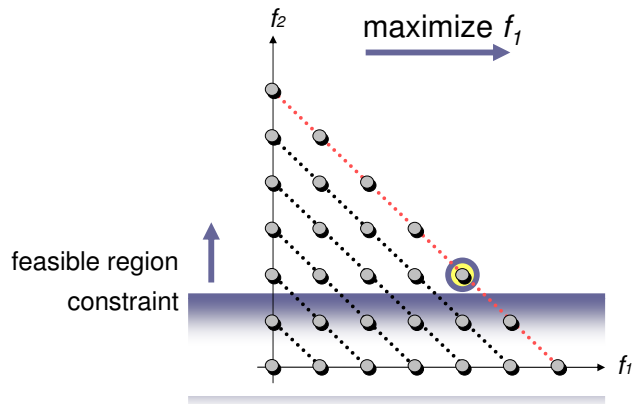
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Example: Multistart Constraint Method

Underlying concept:

- Convert all objectives except of one into constraints
- Adaptively vary constraints



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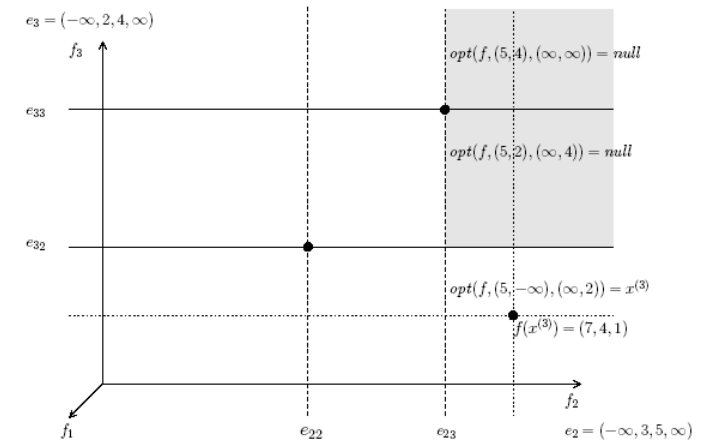
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The Constraint Method For More Than Two Objectives

The previous approach based on constraint method can be extended to an arbitrary number of objectives (tricky!) If you are interested, have a look at [Laumanns et al. (2006)].

Example for $n=3$:

- f_1 is the objective to optimize
- The boxes are defined by constraints on f_2 and

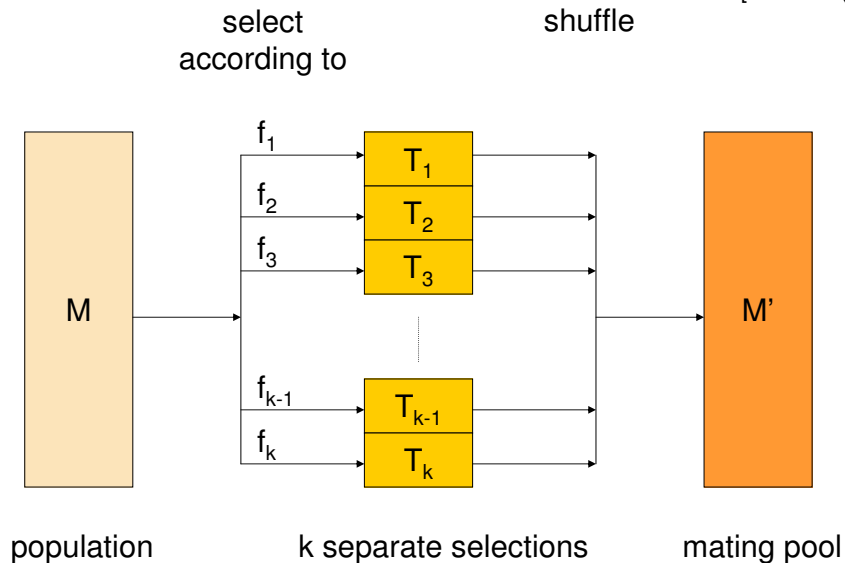


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Switching Between the Objectives: VEGA

[Schaffer (1985)]



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VEGA In Detail

example: Vector Evaluated Genetic Algorithm (VEGA) (Schaffer 1985)

mating selection:

```

M' = ∅
for i := 1 to k
  for j := 1 to N/k
    randomly choose  $x_e, x_m$  in M
    if  $f_i(x_e) > f_i(x_m)$  then
      add  $x_e$  to M
    else
      add  $x_m$  to M
  end
end
end
end
    
```

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Dominance-Based Ranking

Types of information:

- **dominance rank** by how many individuals is an individual dominated?
- **dominance count** how many individuals does an individual dominate?
- **dominance depth** at which front is an individual located?

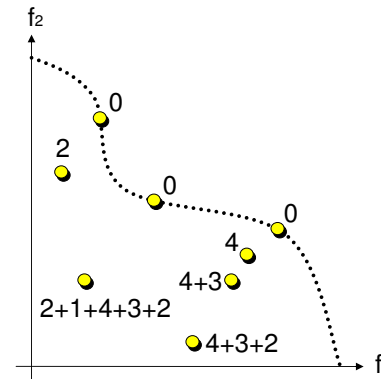
Examples:

- *MOGA, NPGA* dominance rank
- *NSGA/NSGA-II* dominance depth
- *SPEA/SPEA2* dominance count + rank

SPEA2: Fitness Assignment

Basic idea: the less dominated, the fitter...

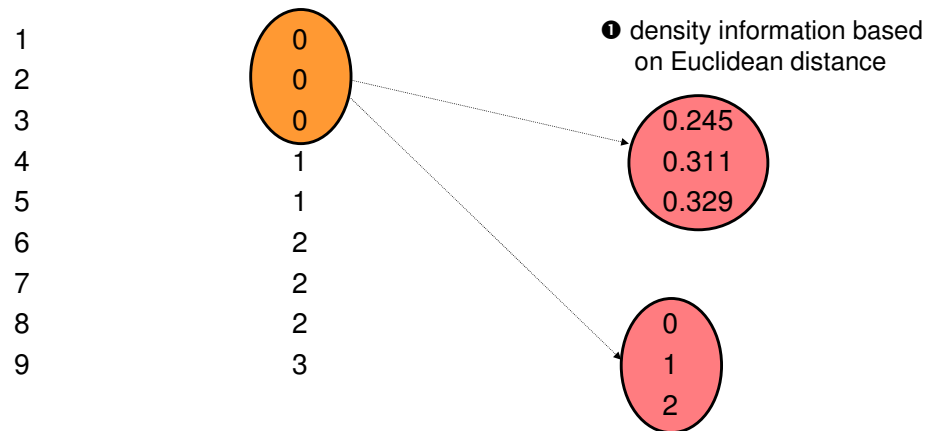
Principle: first assign each solution a weight (strength), then add up weights of dominating solutions



- S (strength) = #dominated solutions
- R (raw fitness) = \sum strengths of dominators

Refining Rankings

ranks pure dominance rank refined ranking



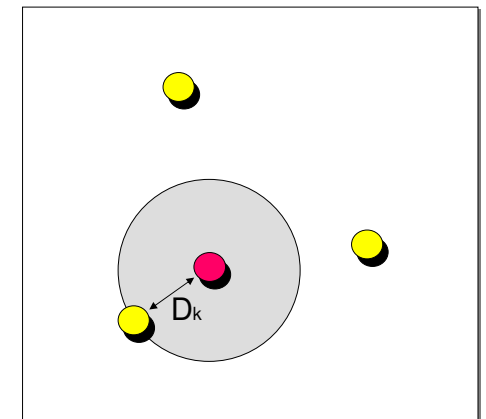
no selection pressure within equivalence classes

SPEA2: Diversity Preservation

Density Estimation

k-th nearest neighbor method:

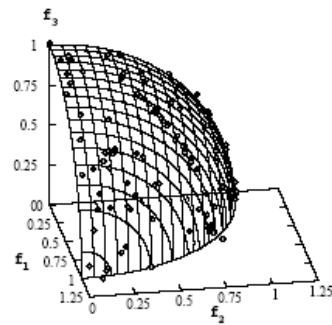
- $Fitness = R + 1 / (2 + D_k)$
 < 1
- D_k = distance to the k-th nearest individual
- Usually used: $k = 2$



Influence of the Density Estimation Method

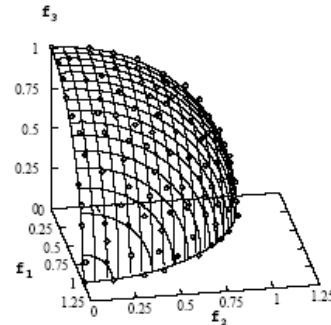
Two Nearest Neighbor Variants

Objective-Wise
NSGA-II



faster
good for 2 objectives

Euclidean Distance
SPEA2

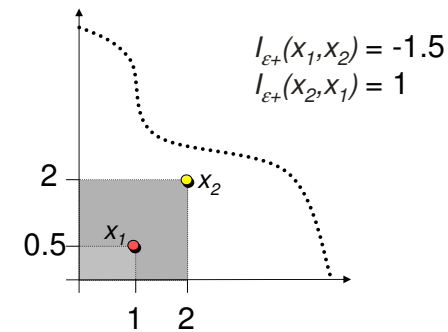


slower
good for 3 objectives and more

Refinement of Dominance Relations

A continuous dominance function (epsilon indicator):

- $I_{\varepsilon+}(x_1, x_2) = \min_i f_i(x_1) - f_i(x_2)$
- $I_{\varepsilon+}(x_1, x_2) \geq 0$ and $I_{\varepsilon+}(x_2, x_1) < 0 \Leftrightarrow x_1$ dominates x_2



$I_{\varepsilon+}(x_1, x_2)$ gives the degree of how much x_1 dominates x_2 : the larger the value, the larger the differences in the objective values

Example: IBEA

Question: How to continuous dominance functions for fitness assignment? [Zitzler, Künzli (2004)]

Given: function I (continuous dominance function) with

a dominates $b \Leftrightarrow I(a, b) < I(b, a)$

Idea: measure for “loss in quality” if A is removed

Possible fitness function: $F'_i = \sum_{y_j \in M \setminus \{y_i\}} I(\{y_j\}, \{y_i\})$
(to be maximized)

...corresponds to continuous extension of dominance rank
...blurs influence of dominating and dominated individuals

Example: IBEA (Cont'd)

Fitness assignment: $O(n^2)$

Fitness: $F_i = \sum_{y_j \in M \setminus \{y_i\}} e^{-I(\{y_j\}, \{y_i\})/\kappa}$

fitness is to be maximized

parameter κ is problem- and indicator-dependent

no additional diversity preservation mechanism

Mating selection: $O(n)$

binary tournament selection, fitness values constant

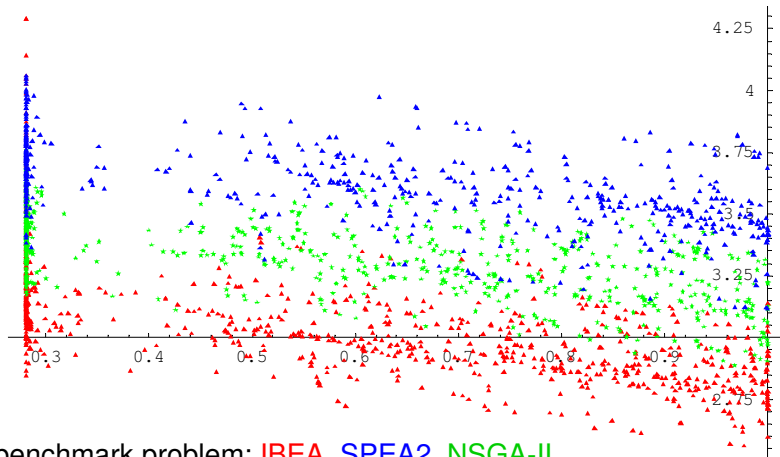
Environmental selection: $O(n^2)$

iteratively remove individual with lowest fitness

update fitness values of remaining individuals after each deletion

Comparison Of IBEA to Other Algorithms

30 runs plotted for three different algorithms on a biobjective minimization problem (ZDT6):



ZDT6 benchmark problem: IBEA, SPEA2, NSGA-II

Bio-inspired Optimization and Design

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4. Advanced Design Issues

4.1 Multiobjective Optimization

→ 4.2 Constraint Handling

4.3 Implementation Tools

4.4 Example Application: Network Processor Design

What Are Constraints?

With many applications, constraints restrict the set of possible solutions and divide the search space into feasible and infeasible solutions. In this context, we are interested in finding an optimal solution among the feasible ones; however, often the problem of finding one feasible solution is already hard to solve.

constraints

= set of functions g_1, g_2, \dots, g_e with $g_i: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

$X_f = \{x \in X \mid g_i(x) \geq 0 \text{ for } 1 \leq i \leq e\}$ feasible search space

goal: find $x^* \in X_f$ such that $f(x^*) \geq f(x)$ for $x \in X_f$

examples

$x_1 + x_2 = 2 \iff g_1(x_1, x_2) = 2 - x_1 - x_2$

$g_2(x_1, x_2) = x_1 + x_2 - 2$

$1 \leq x \leq 3 \iff g_1(x) = x - 1, g_2(x) = 3 - x$

Example: Welded Beam Design

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Minimize } & f_w(x) = 1.10471h^2\ell + 0.04811tb(14.0 + \ell), \\ \text{Subject to } & g_1(x) \equiv 13600 - \tau(x) \geq 0, \\ & g_2(x) \equiv 30000 - \sigma(x) \geq 0, \\ & g_3(x) \equiv b - h \geq 0, \\ & g_4(x) \equiv P_c(x) - 6000 \geq 0, \\ & g_5(x) \equiv 0.25 - \delta(x) \geq 0, \\ & 0.125 \leq h \leq 10, \\ & 0.1 \leq \ell, t, b \leq 10. \end{aligned} \quad (4.31)$$

The terms $\tau(x)$, $\sigma(x)$, $P_c(x)$ and $\delta(x)$ are given below:

$$\tau(x) = \sqrt{(\tau'(x))^2 + (\tau''(x))^2 + \ell \tau'(x) \tau''(x) / \sqrt{0.25[\ell^2 + (h+t)^2]}}$$

$$\sigma(x) = \frac{504000}{t^2 b}$$

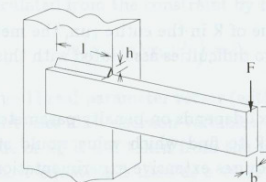


Figure 72 The welded beam design problem.

[Deb (2001)]

Constraint Handling Techniques

- 1 Only feasible solution are contained in the population:
 - a. The initialization of the population and the variation operators are designed such that infeasible solutions cannot be generated.
 - b. Infeasible solutions never enter the population: e.g., whenever an infeasible solutions is generated by mutation, the mutation operator is applied as long as a feasible child emerges.
 - c. The decoder function is designed such that only feasible solutions are contained in the search space.
- 2 Penalize infeasible solutions:

Infeasible solutions will be penalized by diminishing their fitness.

The Penalty Approach

penalty functions

$$C_i = \sum_{j=1}^k \langle g_j(x_i) \rangle \quad \text{where } \langle g_j(x_i) \rangle = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } g_j(x_i) \leq 0 \\ |g_j(x_i)| & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

Obviously, if there is no constraint violated, $C_i = 0$.
Now, there are different ways to integrate the overall constraint violation into the fitness. Two approaches will be discussed, where we assume that the fitness is to be minimized.

variant 1:
 $F_i = F_i' + C_i$ where F_i' is the original fitness

variant 2:
 $F_i = \begin{cases} F_i' & \text{if } C_i = 0 \\ F_{\max} + C_i & \text{else} \end{cases}$ where F_{\max} is the maximum original fitness value in the population

The problem with variant 1 is that infeasible solutions may have a better fitness than feasible solutions. This problem is avoided with variant 2.

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4. Advanced Design Issues

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Why Are Implementations Tools Useful?

Application engineer

- knowledge in the algorithm domain necessary
- state-of-the-art algorithms get more and more complex
- many algorithms

Algorithm designer

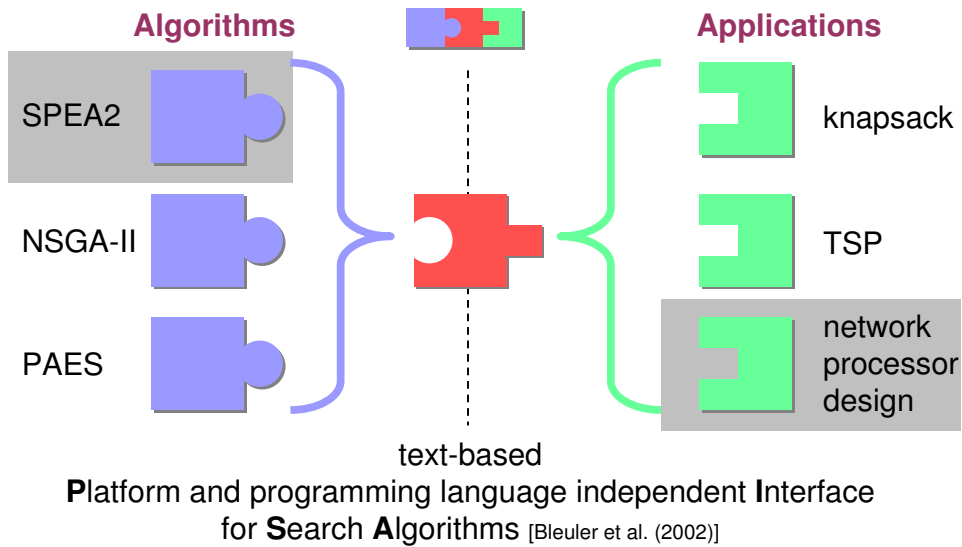
- comparison to competing algorithms mandatory
- tests on various benchmark problems necessary
- algorithms and applications become increasingly complex

high implementation effort / risk of implementation errors

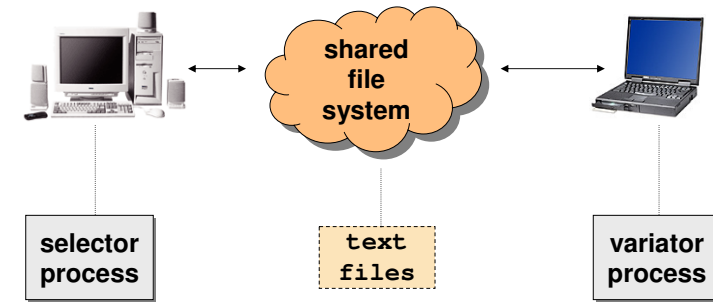
Programming libraries:

- ⊕ valuable tools to tailor a particular technique to a specific application
- ⊖ exchange of optimization algorithm or application still difficult

The Concept of PISA

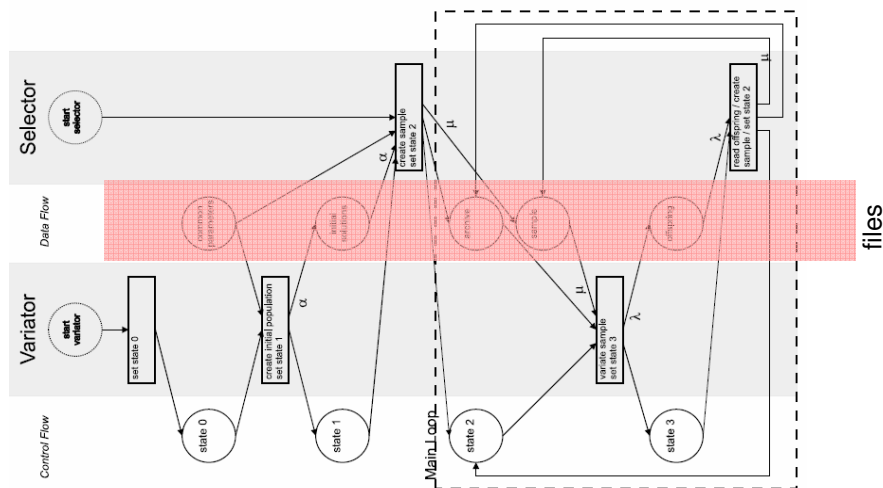


PISA: Implementation



- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <p>application independent:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ mating / environmental selection ▪ individuals are described by IDs and objective vectors | <p>handshake protocol:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • state / action • individual IDs • objective vectors • parameters | <p>application dependent:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • variation operators • stores and manages individuals |
|---|---|--|

The Handshake Protocol (Petri Net)



Available PISA Modules

The screenshot shows the PISA website with a list of available modules. A large URL is highlighted in the center: <http://www.tik.ee.ethz.ch/pisa>. The modules listed include:

- Optimization Problems (variator):** LOTZ - Demonstration Program, LOTZ2 - Leading Ones Trailing Zeros, Knapsack Problem, DTLZ - Continuous Test Functions, BBV - Biobjective Binary Value Problem, MLOTZ - Generalization of the LOTZ Problem.
- Optimization Algorithms (selector):** SEMO - Demonstration Program, SEMO2 - Simple Evolutionary Multiobjective Optimizer, SPEA2 - Strength Pareto Evolutionary Algorithm 2, NSGA2 - Nondominated Sorting Genetic Algorithm 2, ECEA - Epsilon-Constraint Evolutionary Algorithm, IBEA - Indicator Based Evolutionary Algorithm.

Each module entry includes a link to 'more...' and lists source code availability for C and binaries for Solaris, Windows, and Linux.

Bio-inspired Optimization and Design

Eckart Zitzler

4. Advanced Design Issues

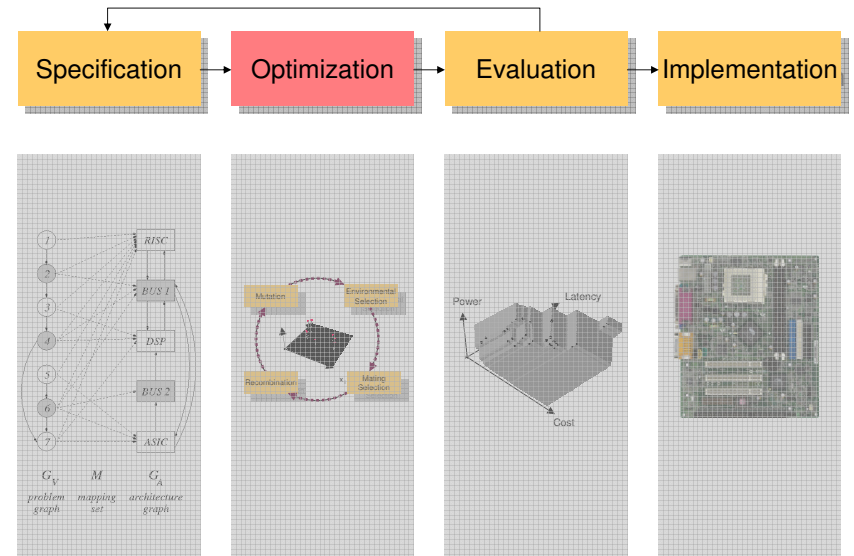
4.1 Multiobjective Optimization

4.2 Constraint Handling

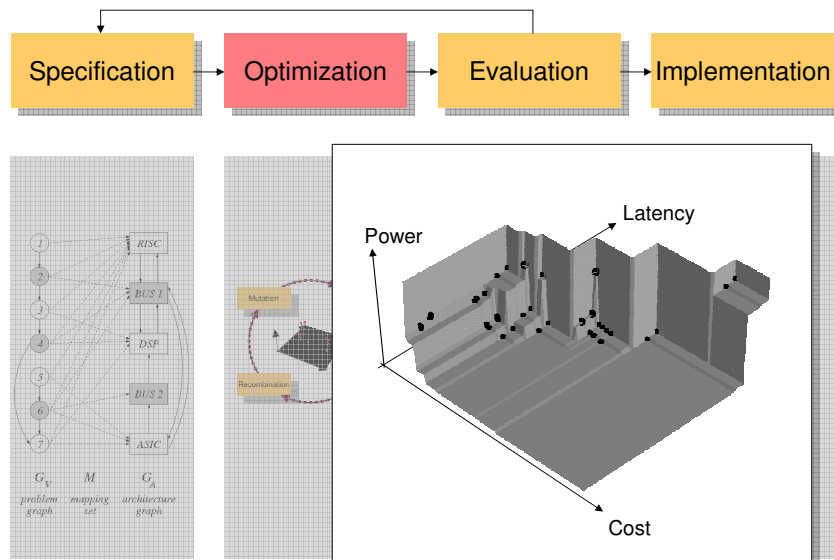
4.3 Implementation Tools

➔ 4.4 Example Application: Network Processor Design
(application details are not part of the exam)

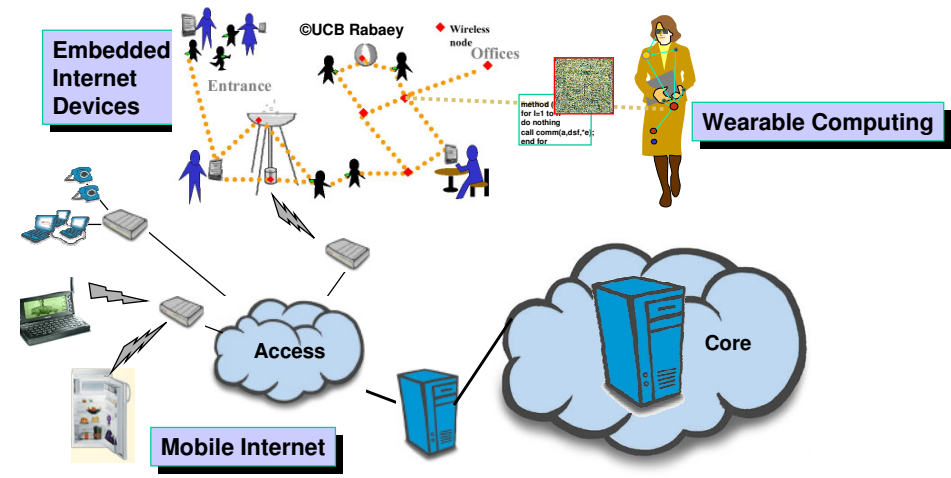
Design Space Exploration: Setting



Design Space Exploration: Setting



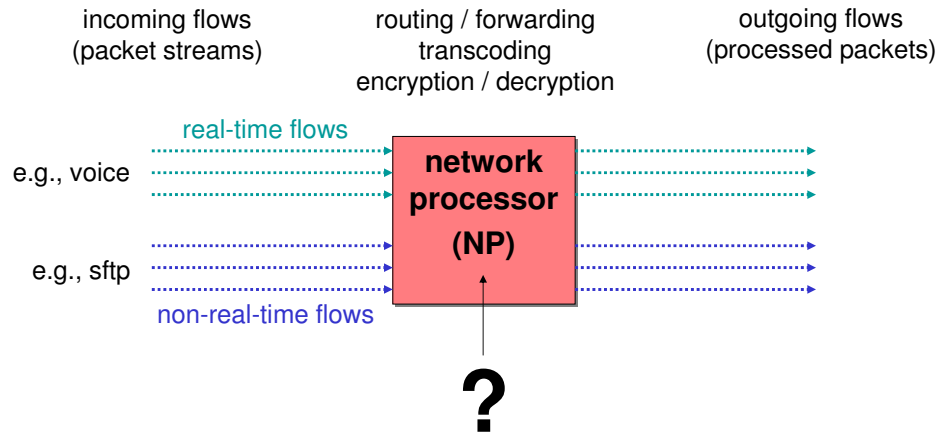
Packet Processing in Networks



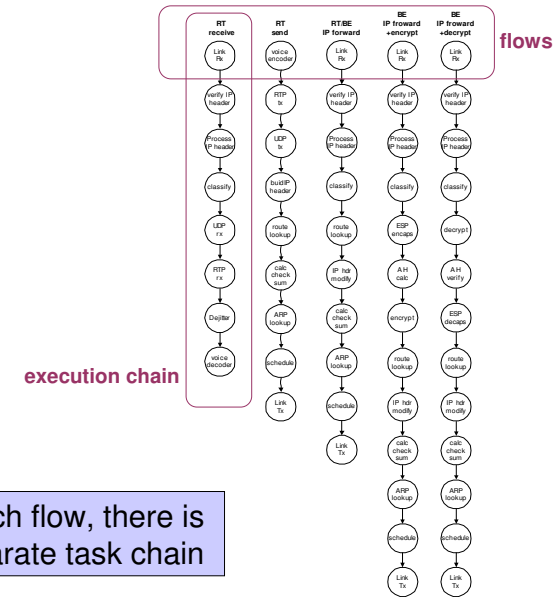
The following presentation describes a network processor application that has been carried out at the Computer Engineering Group at ETH Zurich.

Network Processors: Overview

Network processor = high-performance, programmable device designed to efficiently execute communication workloads

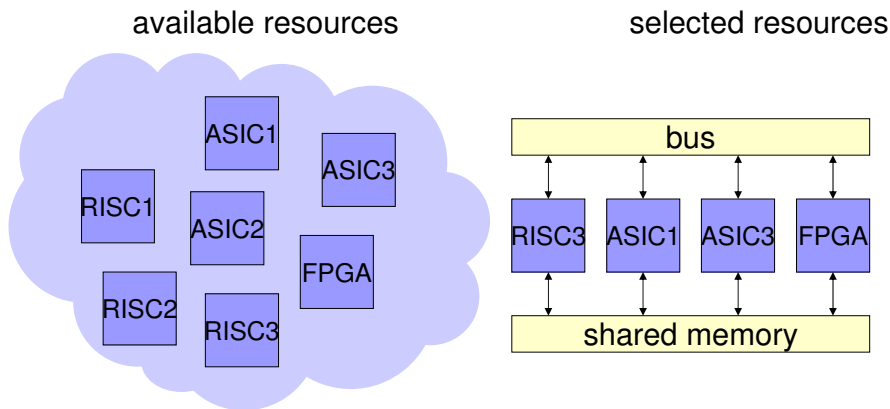


Task Model: A Simple Network Processor



Resource Model: Architecture

In the following, we assume a simple architecture model (in general the model allows for more complex architecture):



Allocation and Binding

- Allocation can be represented as a function:

$$allocation : S \rightarrow \{true, false\}$$

- Binding is a function:

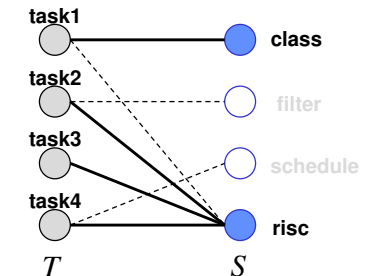
$$binding : (T \times S) \rightarrow \{true, false\}$$

- Binding restrictions:

$$\forall t \in T \quad \exists s \in S : binding(t, s) = true$$

$$\forall s \in S : binding(t, s) = true \Rightarrow allocation(s) = true$$

- Note:** for each usage scenario, there may be another binding!



Variator Process: Representation

- **Allocation:** integer vector (1 per individual)

1 0 1 0 2

→ for each resource type, number of allocated instances

- **Binding:** integer vector (1 per usage scenario)

5 5 2 4 1 3

→ for each task and for each scenario, selected resource instance

- **Scheduling priorities:** permutation vector (1 per usage scenario)

1 3 2

→ for each flow, its priority

Variator Process: Mutation & Recombination

- 1 **Allocation:** integer vector
 - mutation: randomly choose an integer between 0 and $max_instances$ per resource type
 - recombination: one-point crossover
 - appropriate decoder function ensures feasible allocations
- 2 **Binding:** integer vector
 - mutation: randomly choose admissible resource instance
 - recombination: one-point crossover
 - appropriate decoder function ensures feasible bindings
- 3 **Priorities:** permutation vector
 - mutation: swap operator
 - recombination: scramble-sublist crossover

Demo

The screenshot shows the PISA website interface. On the left, there's a sidebar with navigation links. The main content is divided into two columns: 'Optimization Problems (variator)' and 'Optimization Algorithms (selector)'. In the 'Optimization Problems' column, 'EXPO - Network Processor Design Problem' is highlighted with a red box. In the 'Optimization Algorithms' column, 'SPEA2 - Strength Pareto Evolutionary Algorithm 2' is highlighted with a red box. Both highlighted items list source and binary availability for Solaris, Windows, and Linux.

References

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