

# Direct Multisearch for Multiobjective Optimization

Ana Luísa Custódio<sup>1</sup>   José F. Aguilar Madeira<sup>2</sup>

A. Ismael F. Vaz<sup>3</sup>   Luís Nunes Vicente<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Universidade Nova de Lisboa   <sup>2</sup>IDMEC-IST, ISEL

<sup>3</sup>Universidade do Minho   <sup>4</sup>Universidade de Coimbra

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# Outline

- 1 Introduction and motivation
- 2 Direct MultiSearch
- 3 Numerical results
- 4 Further improvements on DMS
- 5 Conclusions and references

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# Derivative-free multiobjective optimization

## MOO problem

$$\min_{x \in \Omega} F(x) \equiv (f_1(x), f_2(x), \dots, f_m(x))^T$$

where

$$\Omega = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : \ell \leq x \leq u\}$$

$$f_j : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \cup \{+\infty\}, j = 1, \dots, m, \ell \in (\mathbb{R} \cup \{-\infty\})^n \text{ and } u \in (\mathbb{R} \cup \{+\infty\})^n$$

- Several objectives, often **conflicting**.
- Functions with **unknown derivatives**.
- **Expensive** function evaluations, possibly subject to **noise**.
- Impractical to compute approximations to derivatives.



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# DMS algorithmic main lines

- Does **not aggregate** any of the objective **functions**.
- Generalizes ALL direct-search methods of directional type to MOO.
- Makes use of **search/poll** paradigm.
- Implements an **optional search step** (only to disseminate the search).
- Tries to capture the whole Pareto front from the polling procedure.
- Keeps a list of feasible nondominated points.
- Poll centers are chosen from the list.
- Successful iterations correspond to list changes.

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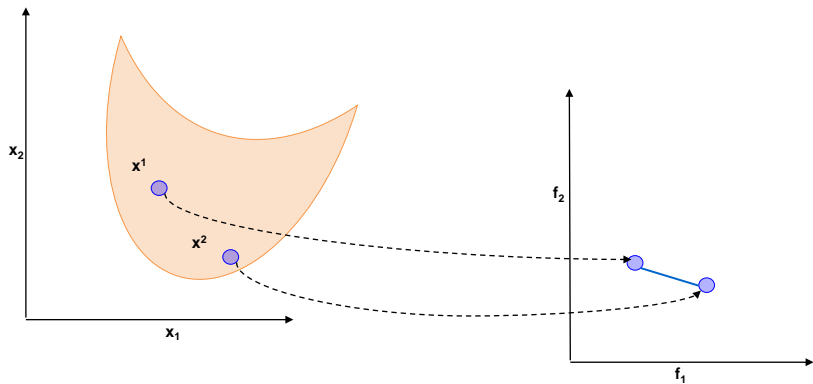
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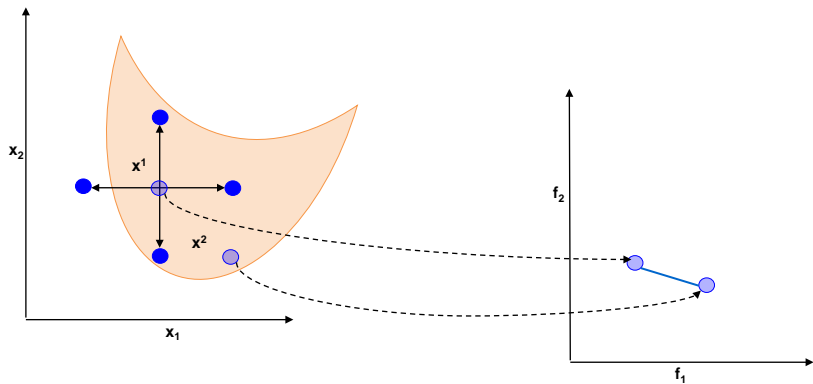
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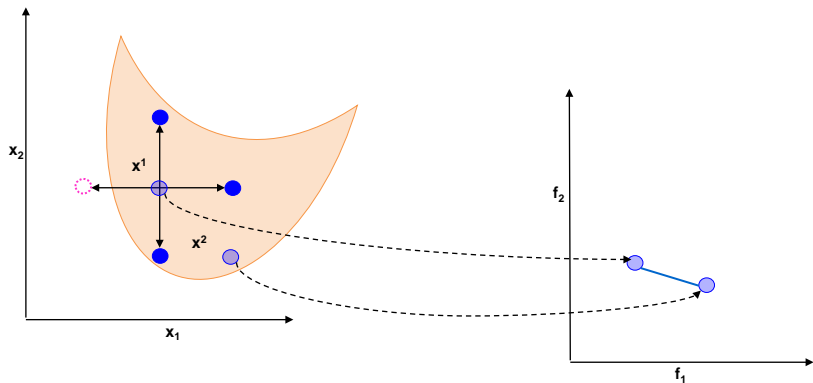
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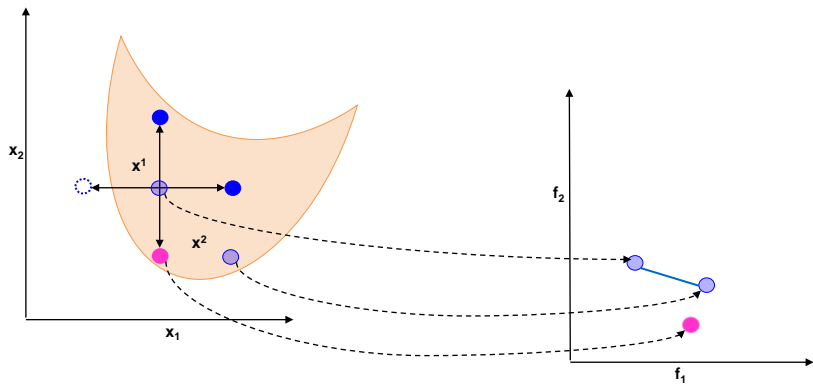


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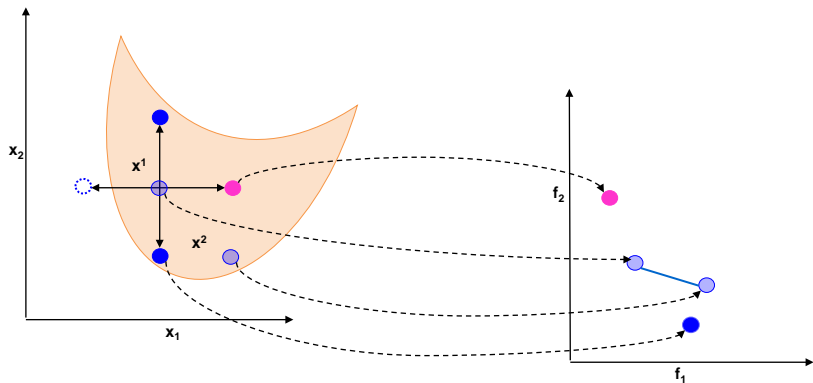




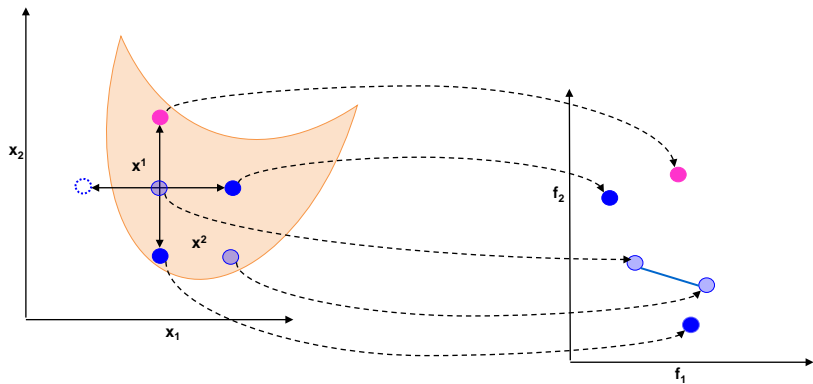
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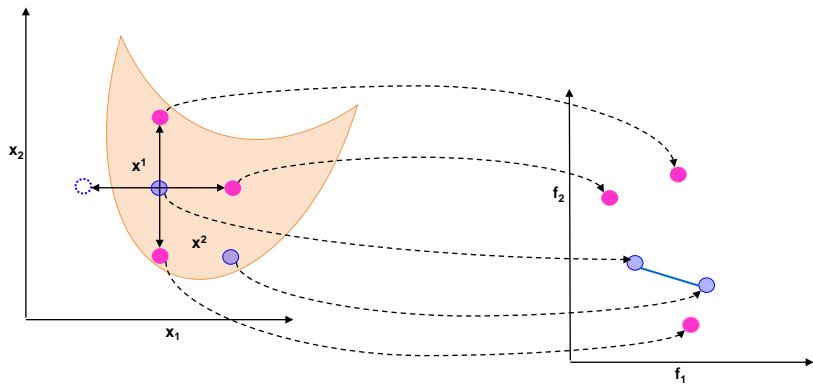
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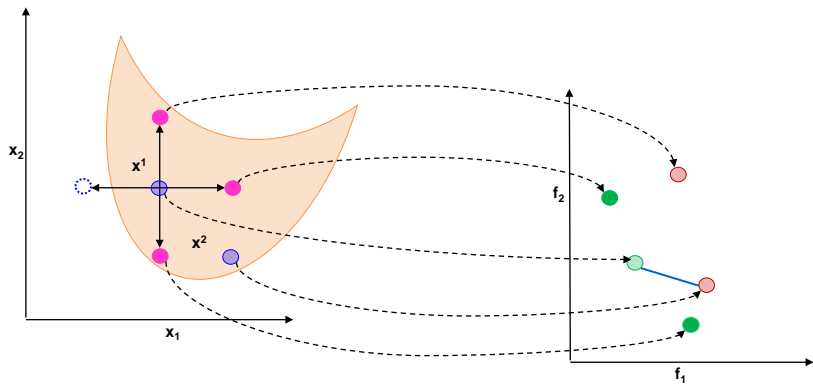
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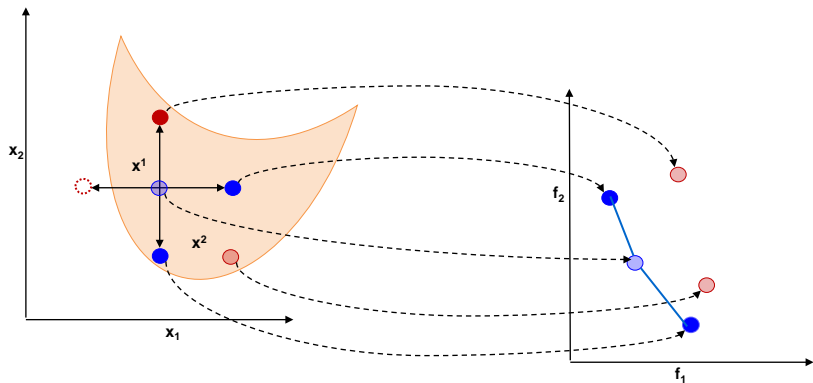
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# DMS search & poll steps

- At each iteration considers a **list of feasible nondominated** points  
 $\hookrightarrow L_k$
- Evaluate a finite set of feasible points  $\hookrightarrow L_{add}$ .
- Remove dominated points from  $L_k \cup L_{add} \hookrightarrow L_{filtered}$ .
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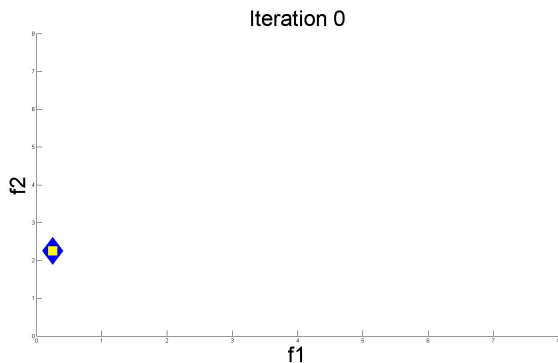
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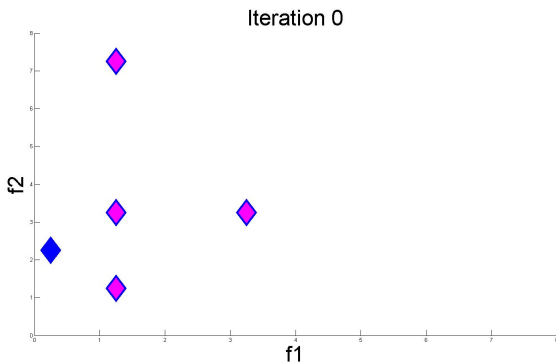
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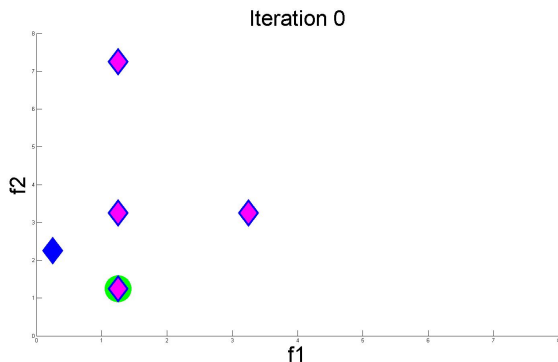
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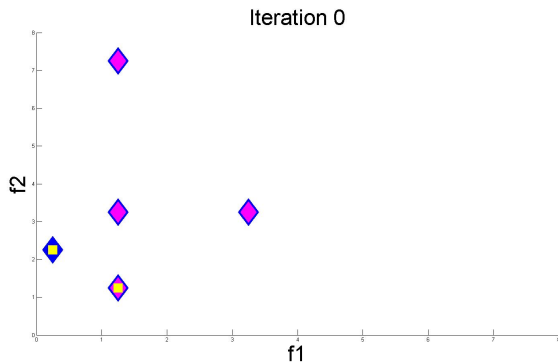
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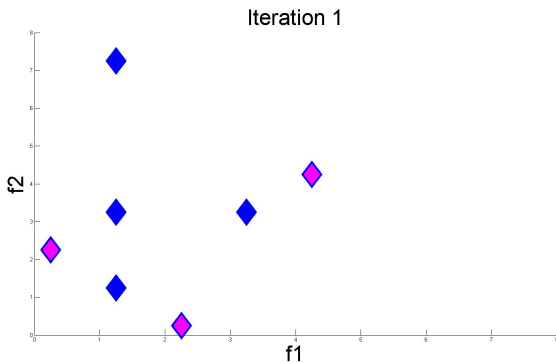
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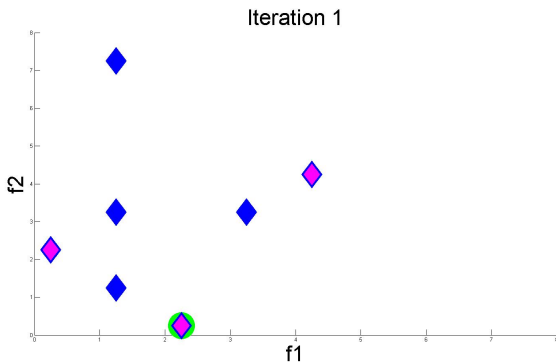
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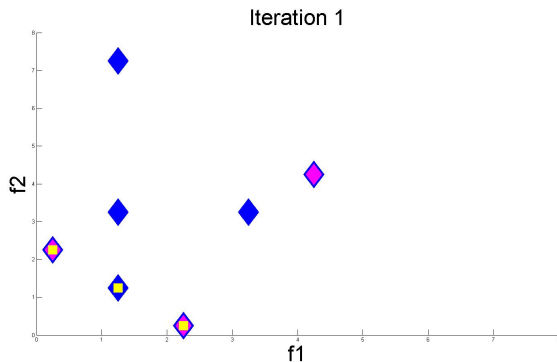


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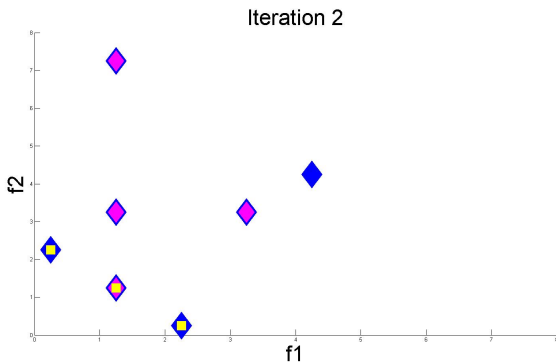
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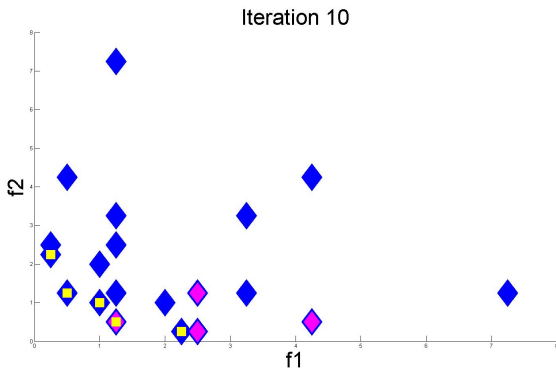
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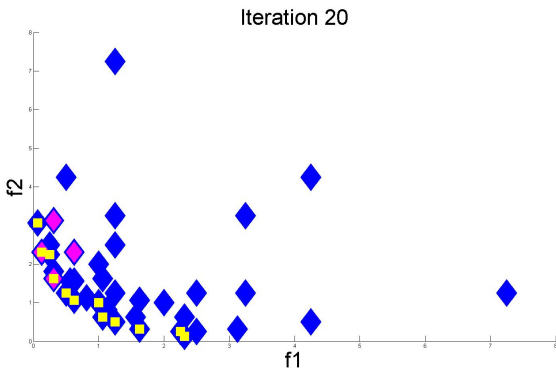
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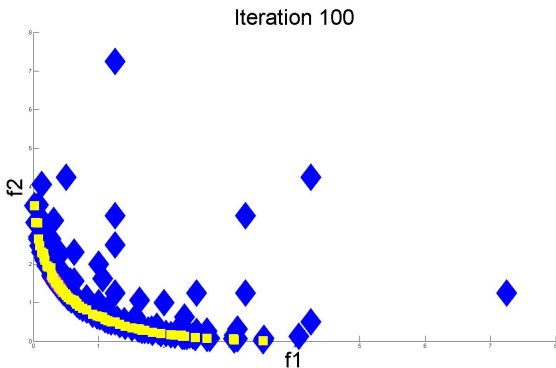
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## Refining subsequences and directions

For both globalization strategies (using the mesh or the forcing function in the search step), one also has:

Theorem (existence of refining subsequences)

There is at least a *convergent subsequence of iterates*  $\{x_k\}_{k \in K}$  corresponding to *unsuccessful poll steps*, such that  $\alpha_k \rightarrow 0$  in  $K$ .

Definition

Let  $x_*$  be the *limit point* of a *convergent refining subsequence*.

*Refining directions* for  $x_*$  are *limit points* of  $\{d_k / \|d_k\|\}_{k \in K}$  where  $d_k \in D_k$  and  $x_k + \alpha_k d_k \in \Omega$ .

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## Pareto-Clarke critical point

Let us focus (for simplicity) on the **unconstrained case**,  $\Omega = \mathbb{R}^n$ .

### Definition

$x_*$  is a *Pareto-Clarke critical point* of  $F$  (Lipschitz continuous near  $x_*$ ) if

$$\forall d \in \mathbb{R}^n, \exists j = j(d), f_j^\circ(x_*; d) \geq 0.$$

# Analysis of DMS

## Assumption

- $\{x_k\}_{k \in K}$  refining subsequence converging to  $x_*$ .
- $F$  Lipschitz continuous near  $x_*$ .

## Theorem

If  $v$  is a refining direction for  $x_*$  then

$$\exists j = j(v) : f_j^\circ(x_*; v) \geq 0.$$

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If the set of refining directions for  $x_*$  is dense in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , then  $x_*$  is a Pareto-Clarke critical point.

## Notes

- When  $m = 1$ , the presented results coincide with the ones reported for direct search.
- The convergence analysis is valid for multiobjective problems with general convex constraints.

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# Numerical testing framework

## Problems

- 100 bound constrained MOO problems (AMPL models available at <http://www.mat.uc.pt/dms>).
- Number of variables between 1 and 30.
- Number of objectives between 2 and 4.

## Solvers

- DMS tested against 8 different MOO solvers (complete results available at <http://www.mat.uc.pt/dms>).
- Results reported only for
  - AMOSA – simulated annealing code.
  - BIMADS – based on mesh adaptive direct search algorithm.
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All solvers tested with default values.

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# DMS numerical options

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- List initialization: sample along the line  $l-u$ .
- List selection: **all current feasible nondominated points**.
- List ordering: **new points added at the end of the list**, poll center moved to the end of the list.
- Positive basis:  $[I \quad -I]$ .
- Step size parameter:  $\alpha_0 = 1$ , halved at unsuccessful iterations.
- Stopping criteria: minimum step size of  $10^{-3}$  or a maximum of 20000 function evaluations.

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- Stopping criteria: minimum step size of  $10^{-3}$  or a maximum of 20000 function evaluations.

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- No search step.
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## Performance metrics — Purity

$F_{p,s}$  (approximated Pareto front computed by solver  $s$  for problem  $p$ ).

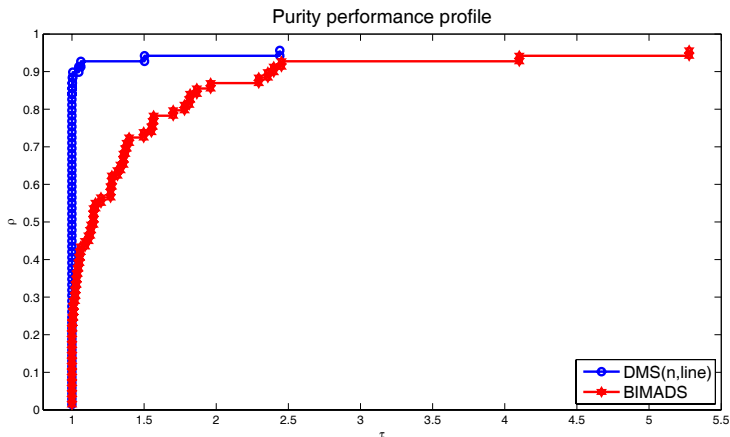
$F_p$  (approximated Pareto front computed for problem  $p$ , using results for all solvers).

Purity value for solver  $s$  on problem  $p$ :

$$\frac{|F_{p,s} \cap F_p|}{|F_{p,s}|}.$$



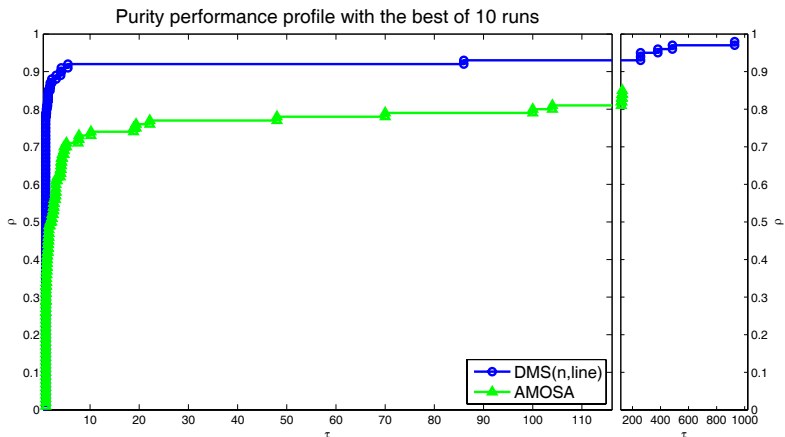
# Comparing DMS to other solvers (Purity)



Purity Metric (percentage of points generated in the reference Pareto front)

$$t_{p,s} = \frac{|F_{p,s}|}{|F_{p,s} \cap F_p|}$$

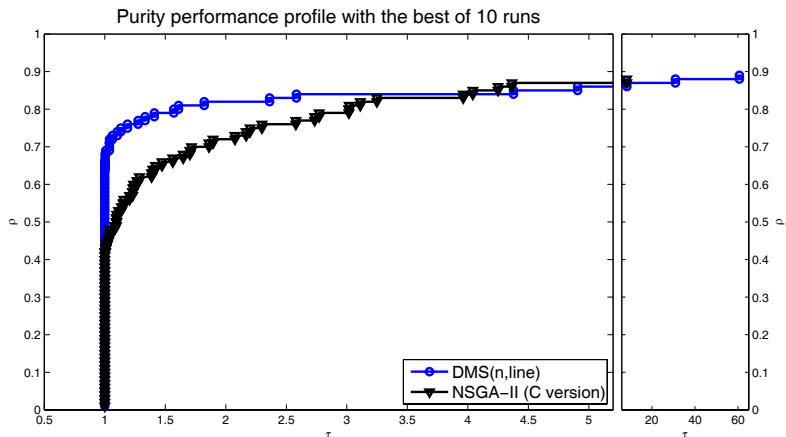
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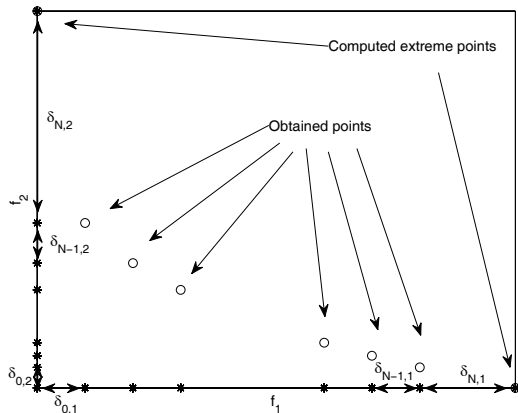
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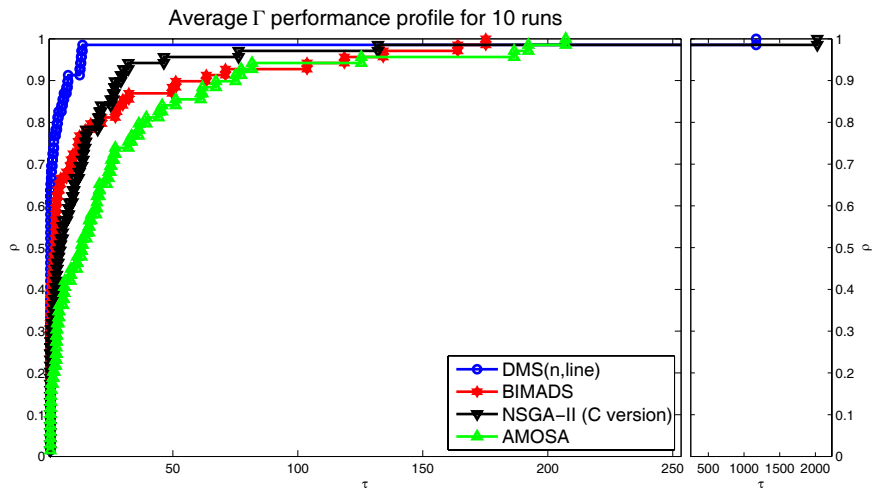
## Performance metrics — Spread

Gamma Metric (largest gap in the Pareto front)

$$\Gamma_{p,s} = \max_{j \in \{1, \dots, m\}} \left( \max_{i \in \{0, \dots, N\}} \{\delta_{i,j}\} \right)$$



# Comparing DMS to other solvers (Spread)



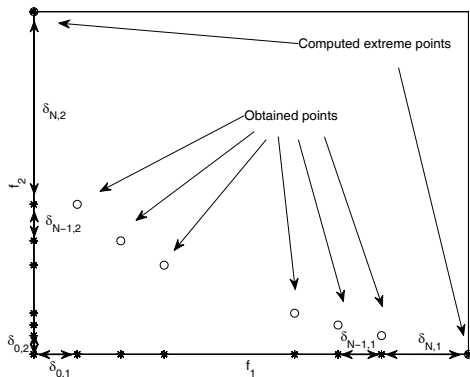
Gamma Metric (largest gap in the Pareto front)

# Performance metrics — Spread

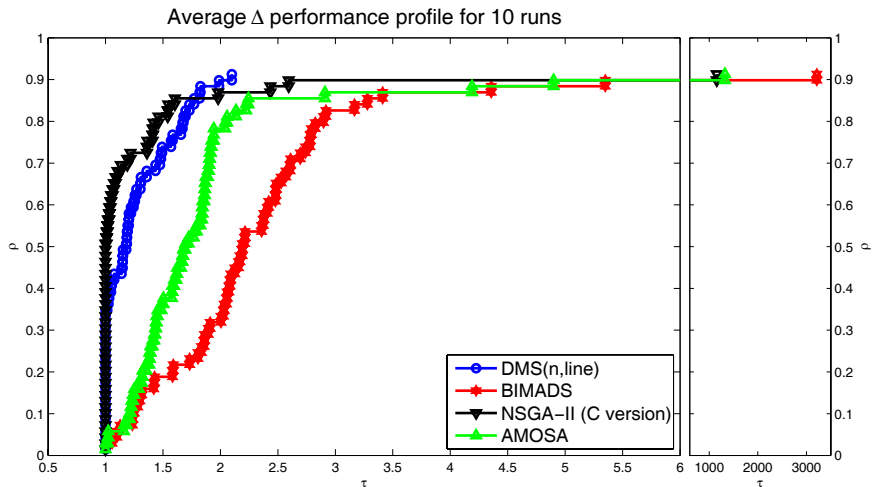
Delta Metric (uniformity of gaps in the Pareto front)

$$\Delta_{p,s} = \max_{j \in \{1, \dots, m\}} \left( \frac{\delta_{0,j} + \delta_{N,j} + \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} |\delta_{i,j} - \bar{\delta}_j|}{\delta_{0,j} + \delta_{N,j} + (N-1)\bar{\delta}_j} \right)$$

where  $\bar{\delta}_j$ , for  $j = 1, \dots, m$ , is the  $\delta_{i,j}$ 's average.

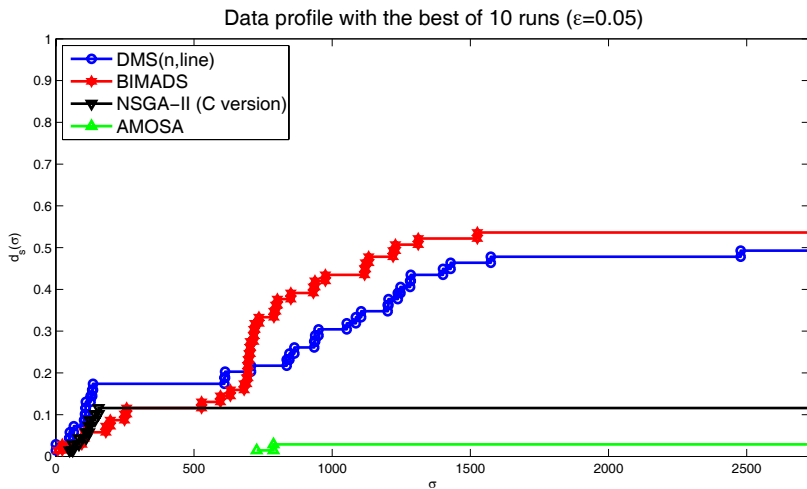


# Comparing DMS to other solvers (Spread)



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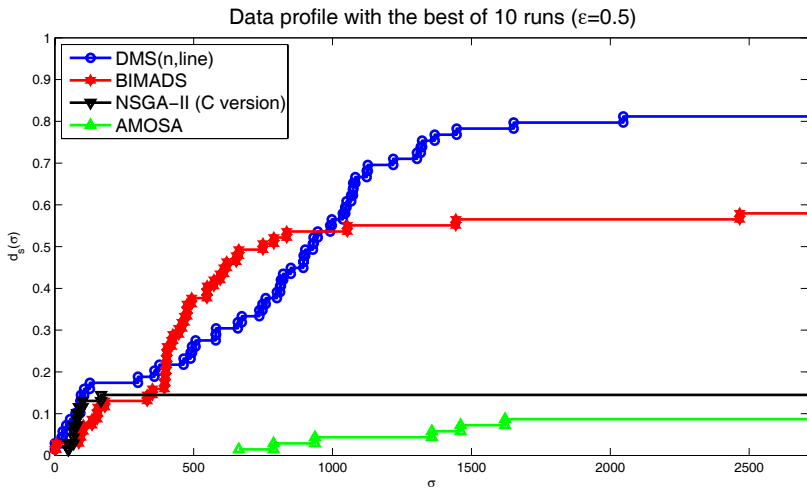
# Comparing DMS to other solvers



# maximum function evaluations = 5000



# Comparing DMS to other solvers

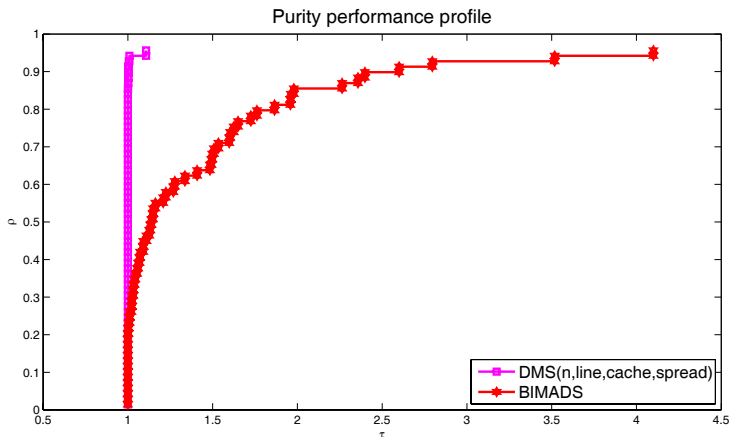


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# Outline

- 1 Introduction and motivation
- 2 Direct MultiSearch
- 3 Numerical results
- 4 Further improvements on DMS**
- 5 Conclusions and references

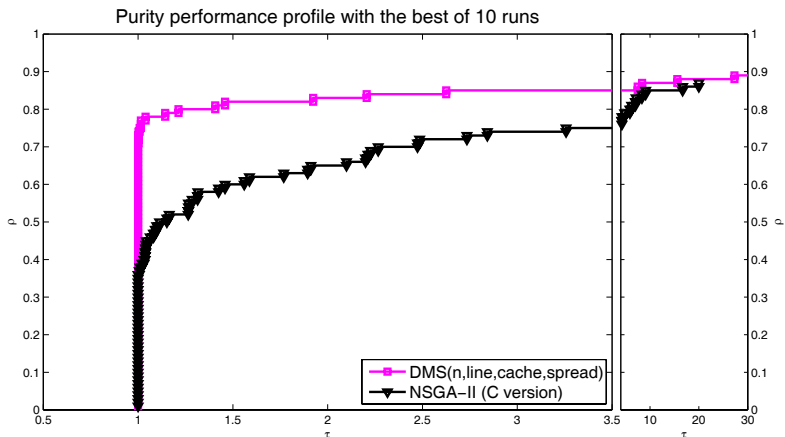
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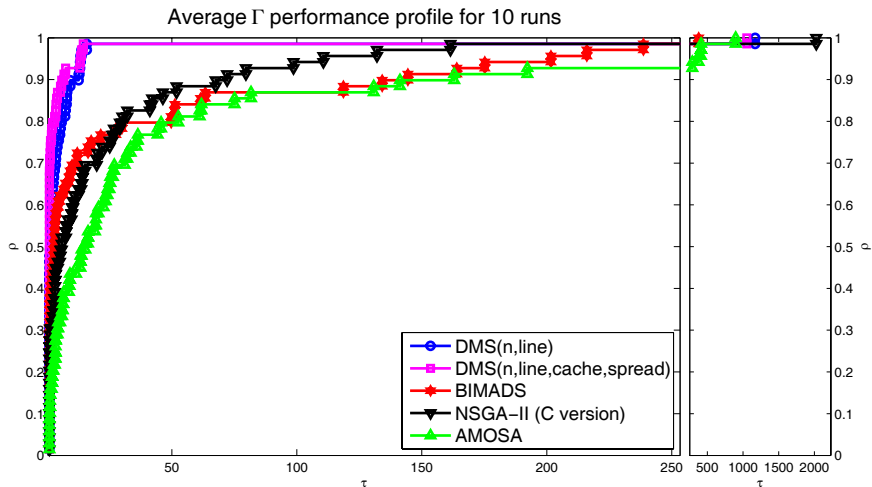
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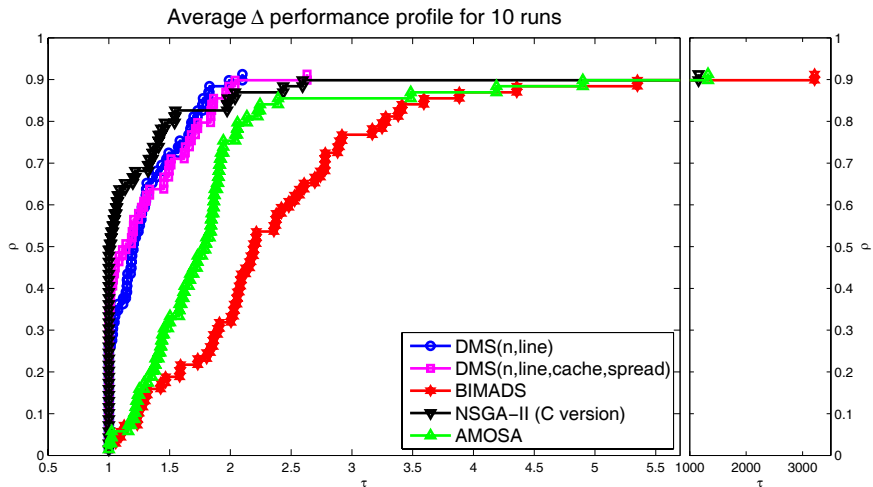
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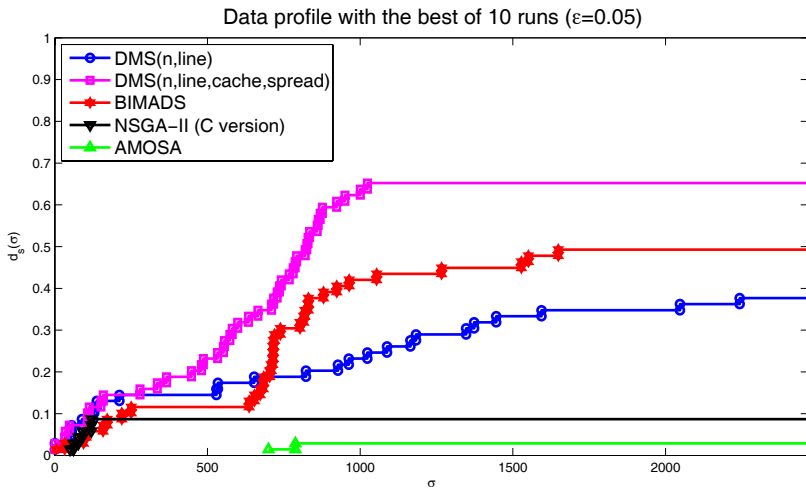
Gamma Metric (largest gap in the Pareto front)

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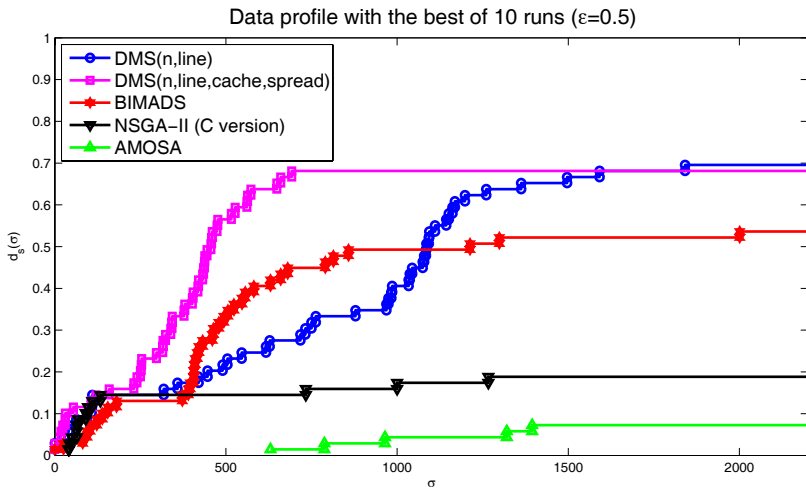
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## Conclusions and references

- Development and analysis of a **novel approach (Direct MultiSearch) for MOO**, generalizing ALL direct-search methods.
- Direct MultiSearch (DMS) exhibits highly competitive numerical results for MOO.

DMS (Matlab implementation) and problems (coded in AMPL) freely available at: <http://www.mat.uc.pt/dms>.

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