

# Investigating the Impact of Sequential Selection in the (1,4)-CMA-ES on the Noiseless BBOB-2010 Testbed

[Black-Box Optimization Benchmarking Workshop]

Anne Auger, Dimo Brockhoff, and Nikolaus Hansen  
 Projet TAO, INRIA Saclay—Ile-de-France  
 LRI, Bât 490, Univ. Paris-Sud  
 91405 Orsay Cedex, France  
 firstname.lastname@inria.fr

## ABSTRACT

This paper investigates the impact of sequential selection, a concept recently introduced for Evolution Strategies (ESs). Sequential selection performs the evaluations of the different candidate solutions sequentially and concludes the iteration immediately if one offspring is better than the parent. In this paper, the (1,4<sup>s</sup>)-CMA-ES, where sequential selection is implemented, is compared on the BBOB-2010 noiseless testbed to the (1,4)-CMA-ES. For each strategy, an independent restart mechanism is implemented. A total budget of  $10^4 D$  function evaluations per trial has been used, where  $D$  is the dimension of the search space.

The experiments show for the (1,4<sup>s</sup>)-CMA-ES a statistically significant worsening compared to the (1,4)-CMA-ES only on the attractive sector function but a significant improvement by about 20% on 5 out of the 24 BBOB-2010 functions (sphere, separable and rotated ellipsoid, discus, and sum of different powers).

## Categories and Subject Descriptors

G.1.6 [Numerical Analysis]: Optimization—*global optimization, unconstrained optimization*; F.2.1 [Analysis of Algorithms and Problem Complexity]: Numerical Algorithms and Problems

## General Terms

Algorithms

## Keywords

Benchmarking, Black-box optimization

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Evolution Strategies (ESs) are robust stochastic search algorithms for numerical optimization where the function to

be minimized,  $f$ , maps the continuous search space  $\mathbb{R}^D$  into  $\mathbb{R}$ . In ESs, a population of  $\lambda$  candidate solutions is sampled at each iteration by adding to a current solution  $\lambda$  random vectors following a multivariate normal distribution. In the local search (1,  $\lambda$ )-ES we are interested in, the best of the  $\lambda$  solutions, i.e., the solution having the smallest objective function value, is selected to become the new current solution. Recently, a new selection called *sequential selection* has been introduced to enhance the performance of (1,  $\lambda$ )-ESs [1]. Sequential selection consists in performing the  $\lambda$  offspring-evaluations sequentially and concluding the iteration as soon as one offspring is better than the parent.

In this paper, we assess quantitatively the possible gain that can be brought by sequential selection. To this end, we have implemented sequential selection within the well-known Covariance-Matrix-Adaptation Evolution-Strategy (CMA-ES) [9, 8, 7]. We compare on the BBOB-2010 testbed the performance of the (1,4<sup>s</sup>)-CMA-ES implementing sequential selection with the performance of the (1,4)-CMA-ES.

## 2. THE ALGORITHMS TESTED

The algorithms tested are derived from the standard CMA-ES algorithm where at each iteration  $n$ ,  $\lambda$  new solutions, or offspring, are generated by sampling independently  $\lambda$  random vectors  $(\mathcal{N}_i(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{C}_n))_{1 \leq i \leq \lambda}$  following a multivariate normal distribution with mean vector  $\mathbf{0}$  and covariance matrix  $\mathbf{C}_n$ . The vectors are added to the current solution  $\mathbf{X}_n$  to create the  $\lambda$  new solutions  $\mathbf{X}_n^i = \mathbf{X}_n + \sigma_n \mathcal{N}_i(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{C}_n)$  where  $\sigma_n$  is a strictly positive parameter called step-size [8].

We benchmark two variants of the CMA-ES algorithm where  $\lambda$  equals 4, namely the (1,4)-CMA-ES and the (1,4<sup>s</sup>)-CMA-ES. Both algorithms differ in the way  $\mathbf{X}_{n+1}$  is updated:

1. in the (1,4)-CMA-ES,  $\mathbf{X}_{n+1}$  is the best among the four offspring, i.e.,  $\mathbf{X}_{n+1} = \operatorname{argmin}\{f(\mathbf{X}_n^1), \dots, f(\mathbf{X}_n^4)\}$ ,
2. in the (1,4<sup>s</sup>)-CMA-ES,  $\mathbf{X}_n^1$  is first evaluated and compared to  $\mathbf{X}_n$ , if  $f(\mathbf{X}_n^1) \leq f(\mathbf{X}_n)$ , then  $\mathbf{X}_{n+1} = \mathbf{X}_n^1$ , else  $\mathbf{X}_n^2$  is evaluated and compared to  $\mathbf{X}_n$ , if  $f(\mathbf{X}_n^2) \leq f(\mathbf{X}_n)$ , then  $\mathbf{X}_{n+1} = \mathbf{X}_n^2$  else  $\mathbf{X}_n^3$  is evaluated ... else  $\mathbf{X}_n^4$  is evaluated and the best among the four offspring is chosen, i.e.,  $\mathbf{X}_{n+1} = \operatorname{argmin}\{f(\mathbf{X}_n^1), \dots, f(\mathbf{X}_n^4)\}$ .

Note that when sequential selection is applied, the number of offspring evaluated is a random variable, ranging here from 1 to  $\lambda = 4$ .

Covariance matrix and step-size are updated using the selected steps [8, 1].

## 2.1 Independent Restarts

Similar to [2], we independently restarted the (1,4)-CMA-ES and the (1,4<sup>s</sup>)-CMA-ES as long as function evaluations were left, where  $10^4 \cdot D$  has been used as the maximal number of function evaluations.

## 2.2 Parameter Settings

We used the default parameter and termination settings (cf. [1, 4, 7]) found in the source code on the WWW<sup>1</sup> with two exceptions. We rectified the learning rate of the rank-one update of the covariance matrix for small values of  $\lambda$ , setting  $c_1 = \min(2, \lambda/3)/((D+1.3)^2 + \mu_{\text{eff}})$ . The original value was not designed to work for  $\lambda < 5$ . We modified the damping parameter for the step-size to  $d_\sigma = 0.3 + 2\mu_{\text{eff}}/\lambda + c_\sigma$ . The setting was found by performing experiments on the sphere function,  $f_1$ :  $d_\sigma$  was set as large as possible while still showing close to optimal performance, but, at least as large such that decreasing it by a factor of two did not lead to unacceptable performance. For  $\mu_{\text{eff}}/\lambda = 0.35$  and  $\mu_{\text{eff}} \leq D + 2$  the former setting of  $d_\sigma$  is recovered. For a smaller ratio of  $\mu_{\text{eff}}/\lambda$  or for  $\mu_{\text{eff}} > D + 2$ , the new setting allows larger (i.e. faster) changes of  $\sigma$ . Here,  $\mu_{\text{eff}} = 1$ . For  $\lambda \geq 3$ , the new setting might be harmful in a noisy or too rugged landscape. Finally, the step-size multiplier was clamped from above at  $\exp(1)$ , while we do not believe this had any effect in the presented experiments. Each initial solution  $\mathbf{X}_0$  was uniformly sampled in  $[-4, 4]^D$  and the step-size  $\sigma_0$  was initialized to 2. The source code used for the experiments is available at<sup>2</sup>.

As the same parameter setting has been used in all experiments for all test functions, the crafting effort CrE of all three algorithms is 0.

## 3. CPU TIMING EXPERIMENTS

For the timing experiment, all three algorithms were run on  $f_8$  with a maximum of  $10^4 D$  function evaluations and restarted until at least 30 seconds have passed (according to Figure 2 in [5]). The experiments have been conducted with an 8 core Intel Xeon E5520 machine with 2.27 GHz under Ubuntu 9.1 linux and Matlab R2008a. The time per function evaluation was 3.3; 3.3; 3.0; 3.1; 3.4; 4.0 times  $10^{-4}$  seconds for (1,4)-CMA-ES and 7.7; 7.4; 7.5; 7.9; 7.3; 8.1 times  $10^{-4}$  seconds for (1,4<sup>s</sup>)-CMA-ES in dimensions 2; 3; 5; 10; 20; 40 respectively. Note that MATLAB distributes the computations over all 8 cores only for 20D and 40D.

## 4. COMPARING THE (1,4) AND THE (1,4<sup>s</sup>)-CMA-ES

Results from experiments comparing (1,4)-CMA-ES and (1,4<sup>s</sup>)-CMA-ES according to [5] on the benchmark functions given in [3, 6] are presented in Figures 1, 2 and 3 and in Table 1. The **expected running time (ERT)**, used in the figures and table, depends on a given target function value,  $f_t = f_{\text{opt}} + \Delta f$ , and is computed over all relevant trials as the number of function evaluations executed during each trial

<sup>1</sup>cmaes.m, version 3.41.beta, from [http://www.lri.fr/~hansen/cmaes\\_inmatlab.html](http://www.lri.fr/~hansen/cmaes_inmatlab.html)

<sup>2</sup><http://coco.gforge.inria.fr/doku.php?id=bbob-2010-results>

while the best function value did not reach  $f_t$ , summed over all trials and divided by the number of trials that actually reached  $f_t$  [5, 10]. **Statistical significance** is tested with the rank-sum test for a given target  $\Delta f_t$  using, for each trial, either the number of needed function evaluations to reach  $\Delta f_t$  (inverted and multiplied by  $-1$ ), or, if the target was not reached, the best  $\Delta f$ -value achieved, measured only up to the smallest number of overall function evaluations for any unsuccessful trial under consideration.

From Fig. 2 and 3 as well as from Table 1, we observe that the expected running time of the (1,4<sup>s</sup>)-CMA-ES is by approximately 20% smaller than the one of the (1,4)-CMA-ES on the sphere  $f_1$ , the separable ( $f_2$ ) and rotated ( $f_{10}$ ) ellipsoid, the discus  $f_{11}$ , and the sum of different powers function ( $f_{14}$ , all results statistically significant). Moreover, only on the attractive sector function ( $f_6$ ), the (1,4<sup>s</sup>)-CMA-ES shows a statistically significant worse performance than the (1,4)-CMA-ES.

For the Gallagher functions ( $f_{21}$  and  $f_{22}$ ), mixed results can be observed: on  $f_{21}$ , the success probability of the (1,4<sup>s</sup>)-CMA-ES is slightly higher than the one of the (1,4)-CMA-ES whereas on  $f_{22}$ , the success probability is lower, resulting in an expected running time that is more than twice as large as for the (1,4)-CMA-ES (both results are not statistically significant).

## 5. CONCLUSIONS

The idea behind the sequential selection scheme introduced in [1] is to skip function evaluations of the  $\lambda$  offspring in a  $(1 + \lambda)$ -ES as soon as an offspring is evaluated which is better than the current solution. Here, the concept of sequential selection has been integrated into a comma-strategy, the so-called (1,4<sup>s</sup>)-CMA-ES, and compared with the baseline algorithm (1,4)-CMA-ES on the BBOB-2010 testbed.

The experiments show improved results for the algorithm employing sequential selection: the (1,4<sup>s</sup>)-CMA-ES shows a significant improvement over the (1,4)-CMA-ES by about 20% on 5 of the 24 BBOB-2010 functions. However, a statistically significant worsening on the attractive sector function in comparison to the (1,4)-CMA-ES is reported as well. Also on the Gallagher function  $f_{22}$ , the (1,4<sup>s</sup>)-CMA-ES shows a lower success probability than the (1,4)-CMA-ES but the difference is not statistically significant here.

## 6. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This work received support by the French national research agency (ANR) within the SYSCOMM project ANR-08-SYSC-017 and within the COSINUS project ANR-08-COSI-007-12.

## 7. REFERENCES

- [1] A. Auger, D. Brockhoff, and N. Hansen. Mirrored sampling and sequential selection for evolution strategies. Rapport de Recherche RR-7249, INRIA Saclay—Île-de-France, April 2010.
- [2] A. Auger and N. Hansen. Performance evaluation of an advanced local search evolutionary algorithm. In *Proceedings of the IEEE Congress on Evolutionary Computation (CEC 2005)*, pages 1777–1784, 2005.
- [3] S. Finck, N. Hansen, R. Ros, and A. Auger. Real-parameter black-box optimization benchmarking

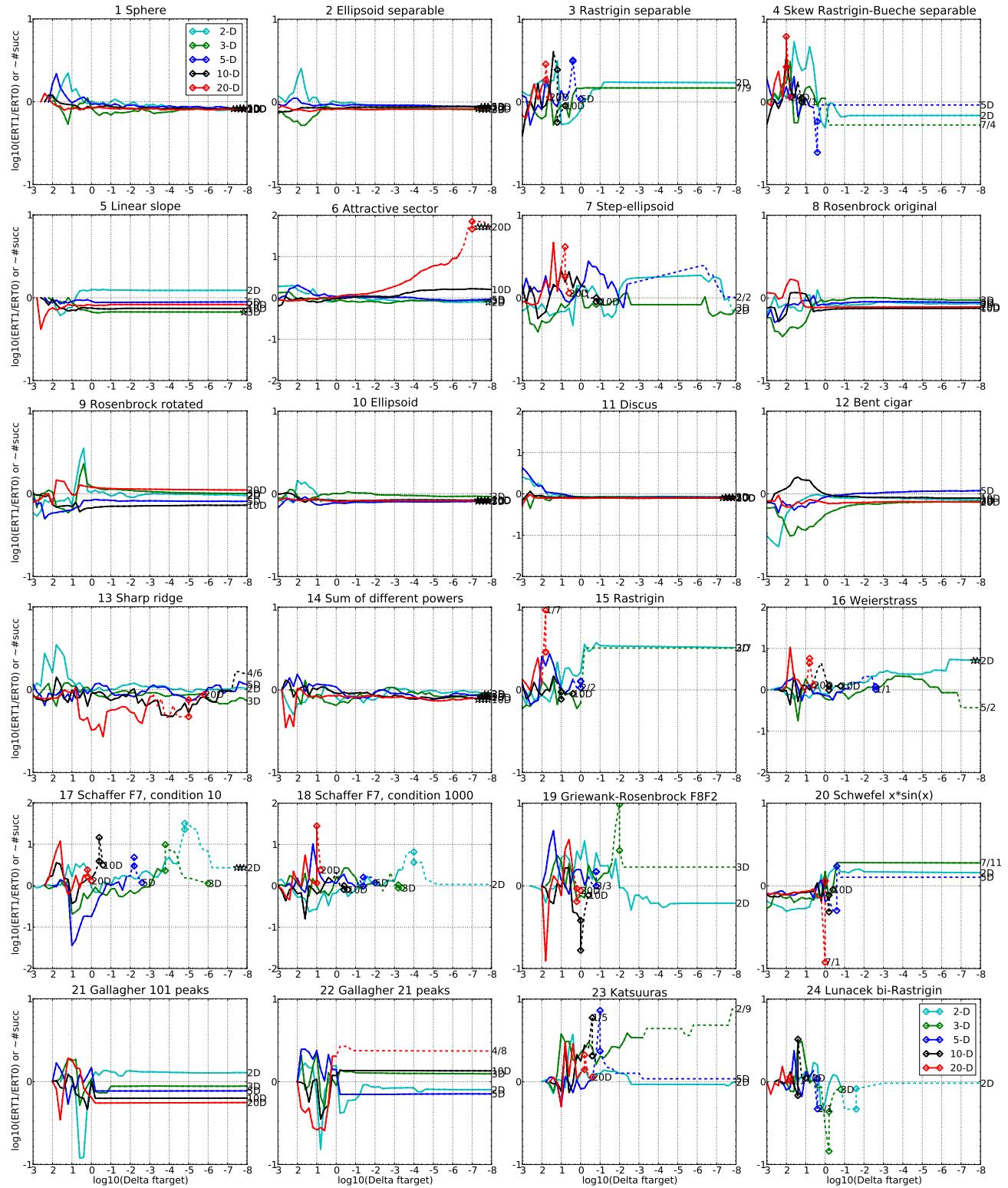


Figure 1: ERT ratio of  $(1,4^s)$ -CMA-ES divided by  $(1,4)$ -CMA-ES versus  $\log_{10}(\Delta f)$  for  $f_1-f_{24}$  in **2, 3, 5, 10, 20**. Ratios  $< 10^0$  indicate an advantage of  $(1,4^s)$ -CMA-ES, smaller values are always better. The line gets dashed when for any algorithm the ERT exceeds thrice the median of the trial-wise overall number of  $f$ -evaluations for the same algorithm on this function. Symbols indicate the best achieved  $\Delta f$ -value of one algorithm (ERT gets undefined to the right). The dashed line continues as the fraction of successful trials of the other algorithm, where 0 means 0% and the y-axis limits mean 100%, values below zero for  $(1,4^s)$ -CMA-ES. The line ends when no algorithm reaches  $\Delta f$  anymore. The number of successful trials is given, only if it was in  $\{1 \dots 9\}$  for  $(1,4^s)$ -CMA-ES (1st number) and non-zero for  $(1,4)$ -CMA-ES (2nd number). Results are significant with  $p = 0.05$  for one star and  $p = 10^{-\#^*}$  otherwise, with Bonferroni correction within each figure.

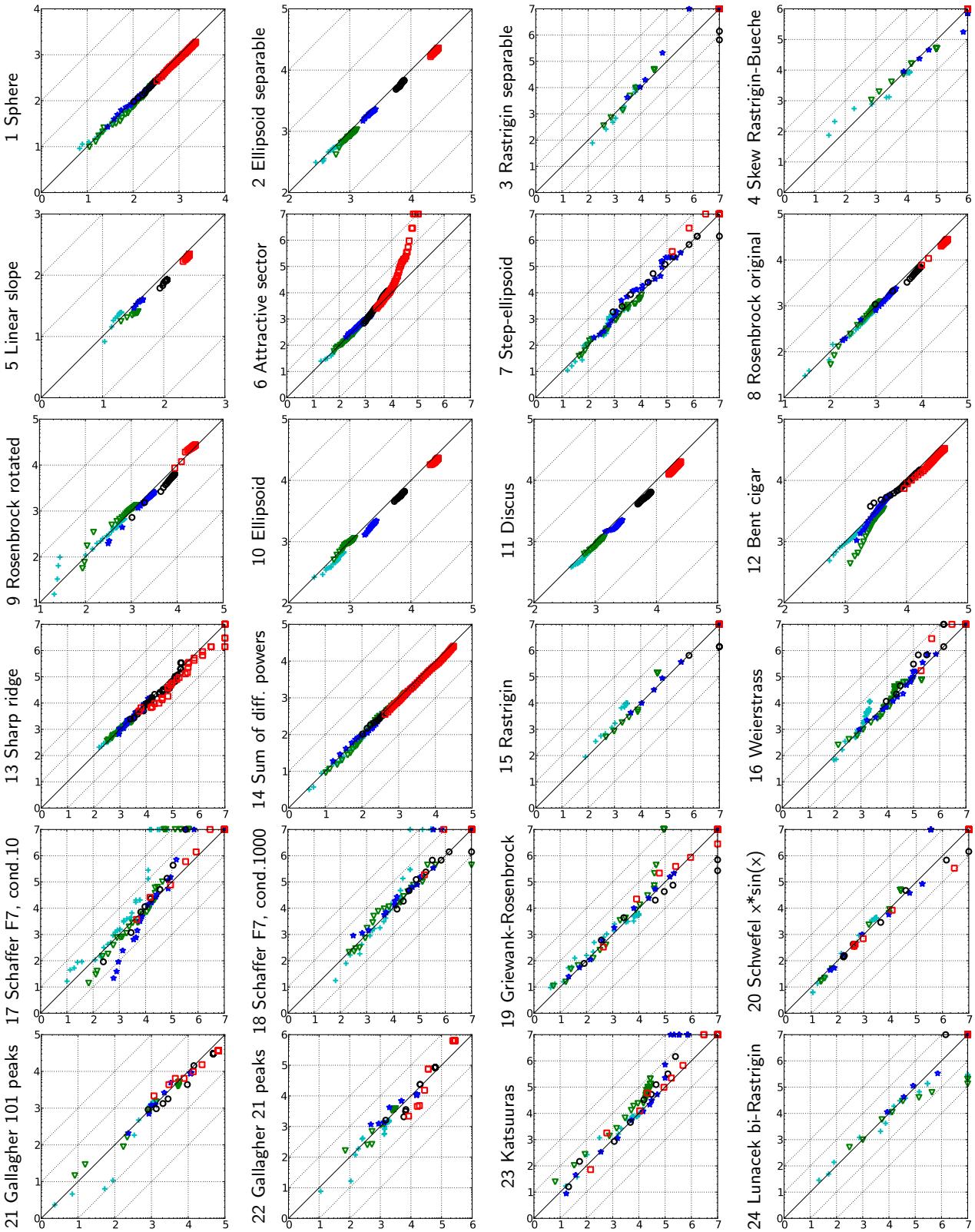
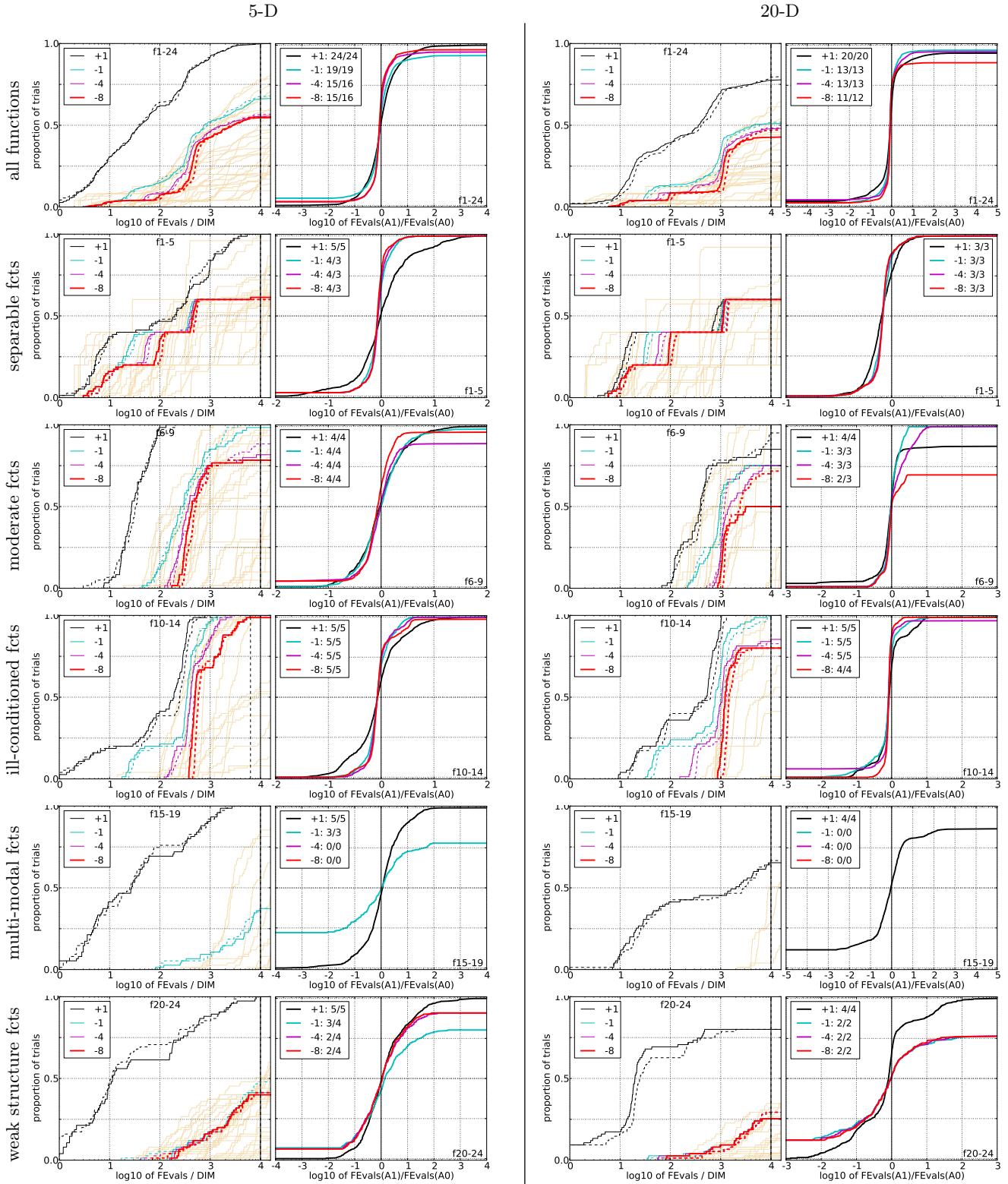


Figure 2: Expected running time (ERT in  $\log_{10}$  of number of function evaluations) of  $(1,4^s)$ -CMA-ES versus  $(1,4)$ -CMA-ES for 46 target values  $\Delta f \in [10^{-8}, 10]$  in each dimension for functions  $f_1-f_{24}$ . Markers on the upper or right edge indicate that the target value was never reached by  $(1,4^s)$ -CMA-ES or  $(1,4)$ -CMA-ES respectively. Markers represent dimension: 2:+, 3:▲, 5:★, 10:○, 20:□.



**Figure 3: Empirical cumulative distributions (ECDF) of run lengths and speed-up ratios in 5-D (left) and 20-D (right).** Left sub-columns: ECDF of the number of function evaluations divided by dimension  $D$  ( $\text{FEvals}/D$ ) to reach a target value  $f_{\text{opt}} + \Delta f$  with  $\Delta f = 10^k$ , where  $k \in \{1, -1, -4, -8\}$  is given by the first value in the legend, for  $(1,4^s)$ -CMA-ES (solid) and  $(1,4)$ -CMA-ES (dashed). Light beige lines show the ECDF of  $\text{FEvals}$  for target value  $\Delta f = 10^{-8}$  of algorithms benchmarked during BBOB-2009. Right sub-columns: ECDF of  $\text{FEval}$  ratios of  $(1,4^s)$ -CMA-ES divided by  $(1,4)$ -CMA-ES, all trial pairs for each function. Pairs where both trials failed are disregarded, pairs where one trial failed are visible in the limits being  $> 0$  or  $< 1$ . The legends indicate the number of functions that were solved in at least one trial ( $(1,4^s)$ -CMA-ES first).

5-D								20-D							
$\Delta f$	1e+11e+0	1e-1	1e-3	1e-5	1e-7	#succ	$\Delta f$	1e+1	1e+0	1e-1	1e-3	1e-5	1e-7	#succ	
<b>f<sub>1</sub></b>	11 2.5	12 6.9	12 11	12 21	12 30	12 40	15/15	<b>f<sub>1</sub></b>	43 7.7	43 13	43 18	43 27	43 38	43 49	15/15
(1,4)-CMA-ES	2.5	6.5	10	18	26	34	15/15	(1,4)-CMA-ES	2.5	6.5	10	18	27	38	15/15
<b>f<sub>2</sub></b>	83 20	87 22	88 24	90 25	92 26	94 27	15/15	<b>f<sub>2</sub></b>	380 54	390 62	390 65	390 68	390 69	390 70	15/15
(1,4)-CMA-ES	2.5	6.5	10	18	26	34	15/15	(1,4)-CMA-ES	2.5	6.5	10	18	27	31*3	15/15
<b>f<sub>3</sub></b>	720 4.3430	1600 $\infty$	1600 $\infty$	1700 $\infty$	1700 $\infty$	1700 $\infty$	15/15	<b>f<sub>3</sub></b>	5100 $\infty$	7600 $\infty$	7600 $\infty$	7600 $\infty$	7600 $\infty$	7700 $\infty$	15/15
(1,4)-CMA-ES	5.9	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	0/15	(1,4)-CMA-ES	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	0/15
<b>f<sub>4</sub></b>	810 10	1600 $\infty$	1700 $\infty$	1800 $\infty$	1900 $\infty$	1900 $\infty$	15/15	<b>f<sub>4</sub></b>	4700 $\infty$	7600 $\infty$	7700 $\infty$	7700 $\infty$	7800 $\infty$	7800 $\infty$	9/15
(1,4)-CMA-ES	11	450	430	400	390	380	1/15	(1,4)-CMA-ES	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	0/15
<b>f<sub>5</sub></b>	10 3.2	10 4.3	10 4.5	10 4.5	10 4.5	10 4.5	15/15	<b>f<sub>5</sub></b>	41 5.1	41 6.1	41 6.4	41 6.5	41 6.5	41 6.5	15/15
(1,4)-CMA-ES	2.9	3.9	4	4	4	4	15/15	(1,4)-CMA-ES	4.1	5	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	15/15
<b>f<sub>6</sub></b>	110 1.6	210 1.8	280 1.8	580 1.5	1000 1.3	1300 1.2	15/15	<b>f<sub>6</sub></b>	1300 2.1	2300 2	3400 2.5	5200 3.6*2	6700 7.4*3	8400 13/15	15/15
(1,4)-CMA-ES	1.8	4.2	11	100	100	140	15/15	(1,4)-CMA-ES	2	2	2.4	4.8	22	340	0/15
<b>f<sub>7</sub></b>	24 7.1	320 3.1	1200 5.8	1600 41	1600 41	1600 97	15/15	<b>f<sub>7</sub></b>	1400 120	4300 $\infty$	9500 $\infty$	1.7e4 $\infty$	1.7e4 $\infty$	1.7e4 $\infty$	15/15
(1,4)-CMA-ES	8.4	4.2	11	100	100	140	2/15	(1,4)-CMA-ES	270	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	0/15
<b>f<sub>8</sub></b>	73 2.6	270 4.9	340 5.7	390 5.9	410 6.2	420 6.3	15/15	<b>f<sub>8</sub></b>	2000 4.9	3900 7.7	4000 8	4200 8.1	4400 8	4500 8	15/15
(1,4)-CMA-ES	2.4	4.1	5	5.4	5.5	5.6	15/15	(1,4)-CMA-ES	3.8	5.9	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	15/15
<b>f<sub>9</sub></b>	35 9	130 14	210 11	300 9.4	340 9	370 8.6	15/15	<b>f<sub>9</sub></b>	1700 5.1	3100 6	3300 6.5	3500 6.6	3600 6.6	3700 6.6	15/15
(1,4)-CMA-ES	5.7	11	9.2	7.7	7.3	6.9	15/15	(1,4)-CMA-ES	5	7.2	7.5	7.5	7.4	7.3	15/15
<b>f<sub>10</sub></b>	350 3.7	500 3.2	570 3.1*	630 3.1*	830 2.5*2	880 2.5*3	15/15	<b>f<sub>10</sub></b>	7400 2.4	8700 2.8	1.1e4 2.8	1.5e4 2.4	1.7e4 2.4	1.7e4 1.6	15/15
(1,4)-CMA-ES	5	4.1	3.9	3.9	3.1	3	15/15	(1,4)-CMA-ES	2.4	3.2*2	2*2	1.5*3	1.3*3	1.3*3	15/15
<b>f<sub>11</sub></b>	140 10	200 9.9	760 2.9	1200 2	1500 1.7	1700 1.6	15/15	<b>f<sub>11</sub></b>	1000 16	2200 8	6300 3.1	9800 2.2	1.2e4 1.9	1.5e4 1.6	15/15
(1,4)-CMA-ES	10	8.1	2.3*	1.7*	1.4*	1.3*2	15/15	(1,4)-CMA-ES	13*	6.3*	2.4*2	1.8*2	1.5*2	1.3*2	15/15
<b>f<sub>12</sub></b>	110 14	270 9	370 8.9	460 8.6	1300 3.6	1500 3.5	15/15	<b>f<sub>12</sub></b>	1000 8.8	1900 8.8	2700 8.5	4100 7.2	1.2e4 2.9	1.4e4 2.9	15/15
(1,4)-CMA-ES	9.7	8.2	8.7	9	3.9	3.8	15/15	(1,4)-CMA-ES	7.1	6.9	6.7	5.7	2.3	2.3	15/15
<b>f<sub>13</sub></b>	130 7	190 9.7	250 11	1300 3	1800 4.2	2300 5.1	15/15	<b>f<sub>13</sub></b>	650 8.3	2000 15	2800 25	1.9e4 21	2.4e4 120	3.0e4 $\infty$	15/15
(1,4)-CMA-ES	5	9.7	9.9	3.3	3.1	5	14/15	(1,4)-CMA-ES	7.6	4.9	14	17	57	$\infty$	0/15
<b>f<sub>14</sub></b>	9.8 1.7	41 1.9	58 3.1	140 4.2	250 6.8	480 5.4	15/15	<b>f<sub>14</sub></b>	75 5.7	240 3.1	300 3.6	930 3.9	1600 7.3	1.6e4 1.6	15/15
(1,4)-CMA-ES	2	2	2.5	3.8	5.2*2	4.7	15/15	(1,4)-CMA-ES	4.7	2.6	2.9	3.2*3	5.4*3	1.3*2	15/15
<b>f<sub>15</sub></b>	510 8.2	9300 38	1.9e4 $\infty$	2.0e4 $\infty$	2.1e4 $\infty$	2.1e4 $\infty$	14/15	<b>f<sub>15</sub></b>	3.0e4 $\infty$	1.5e5 $\infty$	3.1e5 $\infty$	3.2e5 $\infty$	4.5e5 $\infty$	4.6e5 $\infty$	15/15
(1,4)-CMA-ES	8.5	40	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	0/15	(1,4)-CMA-ES	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	0/15
<b>f<sub>16</sub></b>	120 7.2	610 27	2700 31	1.0e4 $\infty$	1.2e4 $\infty$	1.2e4 $\infty$	15/15	<b>f<sub>16</sub></b>	1400 140	2.7e4 $\infty$	7.7e4 $\infty$	1.9e5 $\infty$	2.0e5 $\infty$	2.2e5 $\infty$	15/15
(1,4)-CMA-ES	8.1	20	33	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	0/15	(1,4)-CMA-ES	120	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	0/15
<b>f<sub>17</sub></b>	5.2 120	210 20	900 18	3700 $\infty$	6400 $\infty$	7900 $\infty$	15/15	<b>f<sub>17</sub></b>	63 73	1000 2.8e3	4000 $\infty$	3.1e4 $\infty$	5.6e4 $\infty$	8.0e4 $\infty$	15/15
(1,4)-CMA-ES	4.2	3.6	18	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	0/15	(1,4)-CMA-ES	59	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	0/15
<b>f<sub>18</sub></b>	100 3	380 31	4000 21	9300 $\infty$	1.1e4 $\infty$	1.2e4 $\infty$	15/15	<b>f<sub>18</sub></b>	620 260	4000 300	2.0e4 2.0e4	6.8e4 6.8e4	1.3e5 1.3e5	1.5e5 1.5e5	15/15
(1,4)-CMA-ES	8.8	35	20	35	$\infty$	$\infty$	0/15	(1,4)-CMA-ES	300	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	0/15
<b>f<sub>19</sub></b>	1 21	1 6.5e3	240 $\infty$	1.2e5 $\infty$	1.2e5 $\infty$	1.2e5 $\infty$	15/15	<b>f<sub>19</sub></b>	1 440	1 2.8e3	1 $\infty$	1 $\infty$	1 $\infty$	1 $\infty$	15/15
(1,4)-CMA-ES	25	1.0e4	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	0/15	(1,4)-CMA-ES	330	2.8e6	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	0/15
<b>f<sub>20</sub></b>	16 3.3	850 10	3.8e4 9.4	5.4e4 6.6	5.5e4 6.6	5.5e4 6.5	14/15	<b>f<sub>20</sub></b>	82 5.1	4.6e4 61	3.1e6 $\infty$	5.5e6 $\infty$	5.6e6 $\infty$	5.6e6 $\infty$	14/15
(1,4)-CMA-ES	2.8	6.8	6	6.8	6.7	6.5	0/15	(1,4)-CMA-ES	4.4	7.3	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	0/15
<b>f<sub>21</sub></b>	41 5.7	1200 2.9	1700 6.9	1700 6.8	1800 6.7	1800 6.5	14/15	<b>f<sub>21</sub></b>	560 2.1	6500 3.6	1.4e4 4.7	1.5e4 4.5	1.6e4 4.3	1.8e4 3.8	15/15
(1,4)-CMA-ES	5.1	4.3	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.2	15/15	(1,4)-CMA-ES	3.8	2.3	2.6	2.5	2.4	2.1	15/15
<b>f<sub>22</sub></b>	71 6.9	390 13	940 16	1000 15	1000 15	1100 15	14/15	<b>f<sub>22</sub></b>	470 18	5600 6.6	2.3e4 11	2.5e4 11	2.7e4 10	3.1e5 2	12/15
(1,4)-CMA-ES	16	18	12	11	11	11	15/15	(1,4)-CMA-ES	22	140	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	4.7	4/15
<b>f<sub>23</sub></b>	3 5.7	520 28	1.4e4 7	3.2e4 22	3.3e4 21	3.4e4 1/15	15/15	<b>f<sub>23</sub></b>	3.2	1600 45	6.7e4 110	4.9e5 $\infty$	8.1e5 $\infty$	8.4e5 $\infty$	15/15
(1,4)-CMA-ES	3	23	51	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	0/15	(1,4)-CMA-ES	22	140	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	0/15
<b>f<sub>24</sub></b>	1600 5.3	2.2e5 $\infty$	6.4e6 $\infty$	9.6e6 $\infty$	1.3e7 $\infty$	1.3e7 $\infty$	3/15	<b>f<sub>24</sub></b>	1.3e6 1	7.5e6 440	5.2e7 $\infty$	5.2e7 $\infty$	5.2e7 $\infty$	5.2e7 $\infty$	3/15
(1,4)-CMA-ES	7	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	0/15	(1,4)-CMA-ES	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	0/15

**Table 1:** Expected running time (ERT in number of function evaluations) divided by the best ERT measured during BBOB-2009 (given in the respective first row) for the algorithms (1,4)-CMA-ES and (1,4<sup>S</sup>)-CMA-ES for different  $\Delta f$  values for functions  $f_1-f_{24}$ . The median number of conducted function evaluations is additionally given in *italics*, if  $\text{ERT}(10^{-7}) = \infty$ . #succ is the number of trials that reached the final target  $f_{\text{opt}} + 10^{-8}$ . **Bold** entries are statistically significantly better compared to the other algorithm, with  $p = 0.05$  or  $p = 10^{-k}$  where  $k > 1$  is the number following the \* symbol, with Bonferroni correction of 48.

- 2009: Presentation of the noiseless functions.  
Technical Report 2009/20, Research Center PPE,  
2009. Updated February 2010.
- [4] N. Hansen. Benchmarking a BI-population CMA-ES on the BBOB-2009 function testbed. In F. Rothlauf, editor, *GECCO (Companion)*, pages 2389–2396. ACM, 2009.
- [5] N. Hansen, A. Auger, S. Finck, and R. Ros. Real-parameter black-box optimization benchmarking

- 2010: Experimental setup. Technical Report RR-7215, INRIA, 2010.
- [6] N. Hansen, S. Finck, R. Ros, and A. Auger. Real-parameter black-box optimization benchmarking 2009: Noiseless functions definitions. Technical Report RR-6829, INRIA, 2009. Updated February 2010.
- [7] N. Hansen and S. Kern. Evaluating the CMA evolution strategy on multimodal test functions. In X. Yao et al., editors, *Parallel Problem Solving from*

- Nature PPSN VIII*, volume 3242 of *LNCS*, pages 282–291. Springer, 2004.
- [8] N. Hansen, S. D. Müller, and P. Koumoutsakos. Reducing the time complexity of the derandomized evolution strategy with covariance matrix adaptation. *Evolutionary Computation*, 11(1):1–18, 2003.
- [9] N. Hansen and A. Ostermeier. Completely derandomized self-adaptation in evolution strategies. *Evolutionary Computation*, 9(2):159–195, 2001.
- [10] K. Price. Differential evolution vs. the functions of the second ICEO. In *Proceedings of the IEEE International Congress on Evolutionary Computation*, pages 153–157, 1997.