

# Evaluating the Population Size Adaptation Mechanism for CMA-ES on the BBOB Noiseless Testbed

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## ABSTRACT

The population size adaptation mechanism for CMA-ES is evaluated on the BBOB noiseless testbed. The population size is adapted on the basis of the estimated accuracy of the update of the distribution parameters, i.e., the mean vector and the covariance matrix of the Gaussian distribution. The population size is adapted so that the estimated accuracy of the parameter update keeps a certain level. The CMA-ES with the population size adaptation mechanism could solve well-structured multimodal functions as efficiently as the best 2009 portfolio without a restart strategy that increases the population size every restart such as the IPOP strategy.

## Keywords

Benchmarking, Black-Box Optimization, Covariance Matrix Adaptation, Population Size Adaptation

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Covariance Matrix Adaptation Evolution Strategy (CMA-ES) is a stochastic and comparison-based search algorithm for continuous optimization. Thanks to the invariance to several transformations of the problem such as any strictly increasing transformation of the objective function and any positive definite affine transformation of the search space, the CMA-ES can efficiently solve difficult problems such as ill-conditioned and non-separable problems.

The CMA-ES is a quasi parameter free algorithm. That is, all the parameters used in the CMA-ES are not necessarily tuned for each problem. Their default values are predefined based on the number of variables to optimize, i.e., the search space dimension  $D$ . However, it is well-known that a large population size helps to find a better solution on relatively well-structured multimodal functions [8]. It is also important to set the initial step-size to a relatively small value compared to the search interval when solving weakly-structured multimodal functions [4]. The BIPOP restart strategy [4] tackles these difficulties by a restart strategy

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with two budgets of function evaluations—one is for incremental population size, the other is for relatively small population size and a relatively small step-size.

To tackle well-structured multimodal functions and noisy functions, where a large population size has an impact on the performance, the population size adaptation mechanism for the rank- $\mu$  update CMA-ES is proposed in [10]. It adapts the population size online based on the randomness of the parameter update in the parameter space, i.e., the product space of the domains of the mean vector and covariance matrix of the multivariate Gaussian distributions. It tries to keep the randomness of the parameter update in a certain level by increasing or decreasing the population size at each iteration.

In this paper, we evaluate the population size adaptation mechanism for the rank- $\mu$  update CMA-ES on the BBOB noiseless testbed and on the BBOB noisy testbed in a companion paper. Four algorithm variants with different parameter settings are compared.

## 2. ALGORITHM DESCRIPTION

The baseline algorithm for this paper is the so-called pure rank- $\mu$  update  $(\mu/\mu_w, \lambda)$ -CMA-ES. It is a variant of CMA-ES without step-size adaptation and rank-one covariance matrix update. It samples  $\lambda$  candidate solutions from the Gaussian distribution  $\mathcal{N}(\mathbf{m}, \mathbf{C})$ , evaluates them on the objective function, and updates the parameters  $\mathbf{m}$  and  $\mathbf{C}$  using the information of the candidate solutions and their fitness ranking. The weighted recombination and the rank- $\mu$  update are employed to update the mean vector and the covariance matrix. We introduce the learning rate  $c_m$  for the mean vector update.

The population size adaptation proposed in [10] is combined with the pure rank- $\mu$  update  $(\mu/\mu_w, \lambda)$ -CMA-ES. The idea of the population size adaptation is to estimate the signal-to-noise ratio of the parameter update and control the population size  $\lambda$  so that the signal-to-noise ratio is kept constant during optimization. The evolution path in the space of the parameters of the Gaussian distribution is introduced and its squared length is used to estimate the signal-to-noise ratio of the parameter update. The squared length of the evolution path is compared with a constant  $\alpha > 1$  times the expected length of the evolution path under the random function. In [10], the rank- $\mu$  update CMA-ES is considered, where the expected length of the evolution path under the random function is analytically derived. Introducing the step-size adaptation and the rank-one covariance matrix update will make it rather complicated to mathe-

matically analyze the expected length of the evolution path. This is an on-going future work and we restrict our attention to the rank- $\mu$  update CMA-ES in this paper.

The pseudocode of the rank- $\mu$  update CMA-ES with the population size adaptation is given below.

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**Algorithm 1** Rank- $\mu$  Update CMA-ES with  $\lambda$ -Adaptation

**Require:**  $\mathbf{m}$ ,  $\mathbf{C}$ ,  $c_m$ ,  $\alpha$ , and initialize  $\lambda = \lambda_{\min} = 4$ ,  $c_\mu = c_m/\sqrt{(D+1)/2}$ ,  $\beta = \min(c_m, 0.9)$ .

- 1: **repeat**
- 2:    $\mu \leftarrow \lfloor \lambda/2 \rfloor$ ,  $w_i \leftarrow (\ln((\lambda+1)/2) - \ln(i))/\sum_{i=1}^{\mu} (\ln((\lambda+1)/2) - \ln(i))$  for  $i = 1, \dots, \lambda$
- 3:   Sample  $x_i \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{m}, \mathbf{C})$  for  $i = 1, \dots, \lambda$
- 4:   Evaluate  $f(x_i)$  for  $i = 1, \dots, \lambda$
- 5:    $x_{i:\lambda} \leftarrow$  the  $i$ th best among  $\{x_i\}_{i=1,\dots,\lambda}$  w.r.t.  $f(x_i)$
- 6:    $\mathbf{m}' \leftarrow \mathbf{m}$ ,  $\mathbf{C}' \leftarrow \mathbf{C}$  ▷ keep old values
- 7:    $\mathbf{C} \leftarrow \mathbf{C} + c_\mu \sum_{i=1}^{\mu} [w_i(x_{i:\lambda} - \mathbf{m})(x_{i:\lambda} - \mathbf{m})^\top - \mathbf{C}]$
- 8:    $\mathbf{m} \leftarrow \mathbf{m} + c_m \sum_{i=1}^{\mu} w_i(x_{i:\lambda} - \mathbf{m})$
- 9:    $\mathbf{p}_m \leftarrow (1-\beta)\mathbf{p}_m + \sqrt{\beta(2-\beta)}(\mathbf{m} - \mathbf{m}')$
- 10:    $\mathbf{P}_C \leftarrow (1-\beta)\mathbf{P}_C + \sqrt{\beta(2-\beta)}(\mathbf{C} - \mathbf{C}')$
- 11:    $\gamma \leftarrow (1-\beta)^2\gamma + \beta(2-\beta)(c_m^2 D + c_\mu^2 D(D+1)/2) \sum_{i=1}^{\mu} w_i^2$
- 12:    $\Delta = \mathbf{p}_m^\top (\mathbf{C}')^{-1} \mathbf{p}_m + \text{Tr}((\mathbf{P}_C(\mathbf{C}')^{-1})^2)/2$
- 13:   **if**  $\Delta/\gamma < \alpha$  **then**
- 14:      $\lambda \leftarrow \lfloor \lambda \exp(\beta(\alpha - \Delta/\gamma)) \rfloor \vee \lambda + 1$
- 15:   **else**
- 16:      $\lambda \leftarrow \lfloor \lambda \exp(\beta(\alpha - \Delta/\gamma)) \rfloor \vee \lambda_{\min}$
- 17: **until** a termination condition is met.

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Note that the mean vector update and the rank- $\mu$  covariance matrix update follow the estimation of the natural gradient [2, 11]. It has been shown in [11] that the estimated natural gradient converges as  $\lambda \rightarrow \infty$  if the objective function is deterministic. It implies that the accuracy of the parameter update can be arbitrarily high as we increase the population size. Indeed,  $\Delta/\gamma \rightarrow \infty$  as  $\lambda \rightarrow \infty$  since  $\gamma \rightarrow 0$  as  $\lambda \rightarrow \infty$ . Therefore, there exists a stationary population size. An analogous argument holds for noisy optimization. See the companion paper.

## 2.1 Algorithm Variants

We compare four variants of the population size adaptation with different parameter settings. The modified parameters are the learning rate  $c_m$  for the mean vector and the threshold  $\alpha$  to decide whether the parameter update is considered accurate or not. The combinations are listed below.

**PSAAaLmC**  $\alpha = \sqrt{2}$ ,  $c_m = 0.1$

**PSAAaLmD**  $\alpha = \sqrt{2}$ ,  $c_m = 1/D$

**PSAAaSmC**  $\alpha = 1.1$ ,  $c_m = 0.1$

**PSAAaSmD**  $\alpha = 1.1$ ,  $c_m = 1/D$

The greater  $\alpha$  is, the greater the population size tends to be kept by the population size adaptation mechanism. The other parameters are set as described in [10].

## 2.2 Restart Strategy

For each (re-)start of the algorithm, we initialize the mean vector  $\mathbf{m} \sim \mathcal{U}[-4, 4]^D$  and  $\mathbf{C} = 2^2 \mathbf{I}$ . The termination conditions for each (re-)start are as follows:

**tolf**  $\text{median}(\text{fiqr\_hist}) < 10^{-12} \text{abs}(\text{median}(\text{fmin\_hist}))$ , where  $\text{fiqr\_hist}$  and  $\text{fmin\_hist}$  are the histories of the interquartile ranges and the minimum values, respectively, of the function values for the last 20 iterations. If this is true, we consider that the objective function value differences are too small to sort them without being affected by numerical errors.

**tolx**  $\text{median}(\text{xiqr\_hist}_i) < 10^{-12} \text{min}(\text{abs}(\text{xmed\_hist}_i))$  for some  $i = 1, \dots, D$ , where  $\text{xiqr\_hist}_i$  and  $\text{xmed\_hist}_i$  are the histories of the interquartile ranges and the median values, respectively, of the  $i$ th coordinate of the candidate solutions for the last 20 iterations. If this is true, we consider that the coordinate value differences are too small to update parameters without being affected by numerical errors.

**maxcond**  $\text{cond}(\mathbf{C}) > 10^{-14}$ , where  $\text{cond}(\mathbf{C})$  is the condition number, i.e., the ratio of the maximum and minimum eigenvalues of  $\mathbf{C}$ . If this is true, we consider the matrix operations using  $\mathbf{C}$  are not reliable due to numerical errors.

**maxeval** # $f$ -call  $\geq 5 \cdot 10^4 D$ , while the maximum number of function calls per function instance is  $10^5 D$ .

Note that we do not implement a mechanism to shrink the initial step-size for restart. Therefore, we do not expect this restart strategy is effective on weakly-structured functions.

## 3. CPU TIMING

In order to evaluate the CPU timing of the algorithm, we have run PSAAaLmD on the function  $f_8$  with restarts until a maximum budget equal to  $400(D+2)$  is reached. The code was run on a Mac Intel(R) Core(TM) i5-4288U CPU @ 2.60GHz with 1 processor and 4 cores. The time per function evaluation for dimensions 2, 3, 5, 10, 20 are 2.0, 4.8, 6.7, 7.1, 6.5 milliseconds, respectively. Note that all the variants tested have the same internal complexity per function evaluation.

## 4. RESULTS

Results from experiments according to [6] on the benchmark functions given in [3, 7] are presented in Figures 1, 2 and 3 and in Tables 1 and 2. In Figures 1, 2 and 3, we present the results of the BIPOP-CMA-ES, taken from [4], as references. The results of the BIPOP-CMA-ES are removed from the tables due to the paper size limitation. The **averaged running time** (aRT), used in the figures and tables, 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 while the best function value did not reach  $f_t$ , summed over all trials and divided by the number of trials that actually reached  $f_t$  [6, 12]. **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. The maximum function evaluations are set to  $10^5 D$ , and the experiments are done for  $D = 2, 3, 5, 10, 20$ .

## 5. DISCUSSION

**Unimodal functions.** Due to the lack of the step-size adaptation, we observe from Figure 1 that the convergence speed scales worse on Sphere function and the aRT is higher for most of the unimodal functions than the best 2009 portfolio. Especially for Rosenbrock functions, it fails to find the target function value within a given budget. An exception is Step-Ellipsoid function ( $f_7$ ), where all of the algorithm variants scale similarly to the best 2009. It is because the function is locally flat and the convergence towards the optimum is less important than the adaptation of the covariance matrix. Then, the weak point of the algorithm variants—no step-size adaptation—is less emphasized. We expect that the performance of the algorithms will be improved if the step-size adaptation mechanism is introduced.

**Well-structured multimodal functions.** On  $f_{15}$ ,  $f_{17}$ ,  $f_{18}$ , and  $f_{19}$ , we observe that the tested algorithms scale similarly to the best 2009. It implies that the well-structured functions can be solved efficiently without a restart strategy using increasing population sizes.

**Weakly-structured multimodal functions.** As we expected, the population size adaptation is not very effective for weakly-structured functions. To tackle weakly-structured functions, we may need to restart the algorithm with varying the initial step-size. This should come with the step-size adaptation, which is the future work.

**Comparing the variants.** On noiseless functions, variants with  $\alpha = 1.1$  tends to be better than ones with  $\alpha = \sqrt{2}$ , the former of which tends to keep the population size smaller than the latter. The difference due to  $c_m$  is visible when  $D \geq 5$ , where  $c_m = 0.1$  is better than  $1/D \geq 0.2$  on functions  $f_2$ ,  $f_{10}$ , and  $f_{11}$ . The effect of a small learning rate for the mean update should be studied in details in the future work.

## 6. SUMMARY AND FUTURE WORK

We have evaluated the rank- $\mu$  update CMA-ES with the population size adaptation mechanism on the BBOB noiseless testbed. It has been revealed that the population size adaptation mechanism works well on well-structured multimodal functions, where the observed performance is similar to the best 2009 portfolio even without the step-size adaptation. On the other hand, the population size adaptation is not effective on weakly-structured multimodal functions, where a large population size does not help finding a global optimum, but a restart with a relatively small initial step-size is required. For such functions, we should employ a restart strategy that restarts the optimization with a random initialization of the mean vector and a varying initial step-size. With such a restart strategy, we expect that the performance of the algorithm improves on weakly-structured multimodal functions.

The future work is to incorporate the step-size adaptation mechanism such as the cumulative step-size adaptation (CSA) [9] and the two-point step-size adaptation [5] to make the algorithm robust and less sensitive to the initial step-size. This will improve the performance on many unimodal functions. It will accelerate the convergence, which is helpful also on multimodal functions since it results in

restarting the run more often. We also need to compare this population size adaptation mechanism with the algorithm proposed in [1], which, however, requires a tuning of the maximum population size depending on problems. We may increase the maximum population size with restart, as the IPOP and the BIPOP restart strategy increase the population size.

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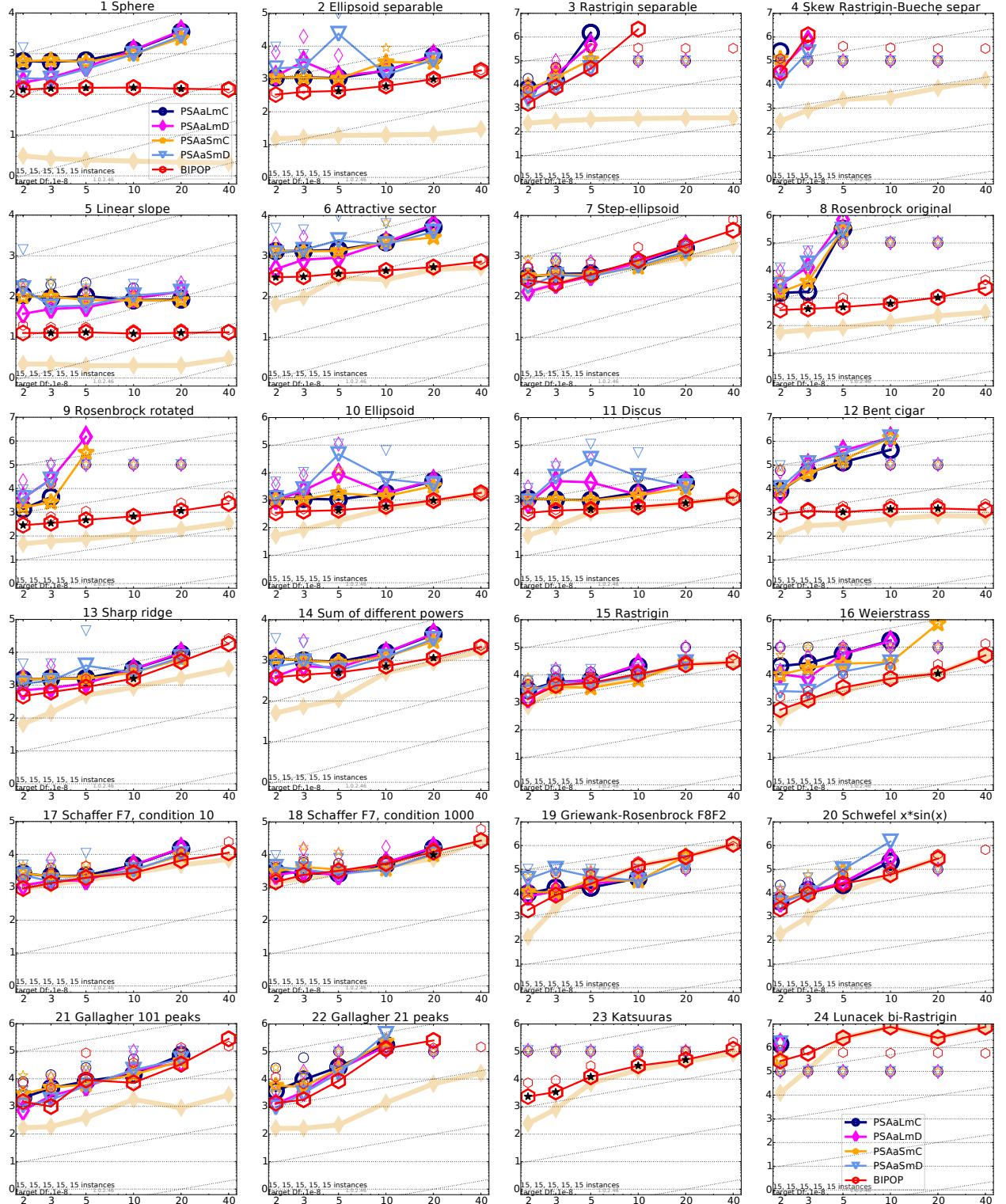


Figure 1: Average running time (aRT in number of  $f$ -evaluations as  $\log_{10}$  value), divided by dimension for target function value  $10^{-8}$  versus dimension. Slanted grid lines indicate quadratic scaling with the dimension. Different symbols correspond to different algorithms given in the legend of  $f_1$  and  $f_{24}$ . Light symbols give the maximum number of function evaluations from the longest trial divided by dimension. Black stars indicate a statistically better result compared to all other algorithms with  $p < 0.01$  and Bonferroni correction number of dimensions (six). Legend:  $\circ$ : PSAaLmC,  $\diamond$ : PSAaLmD,  $\star$ : PSAaSmC,  $\nabla$ : PSAaSmD,  $\circlearrowright$ : BIPOP

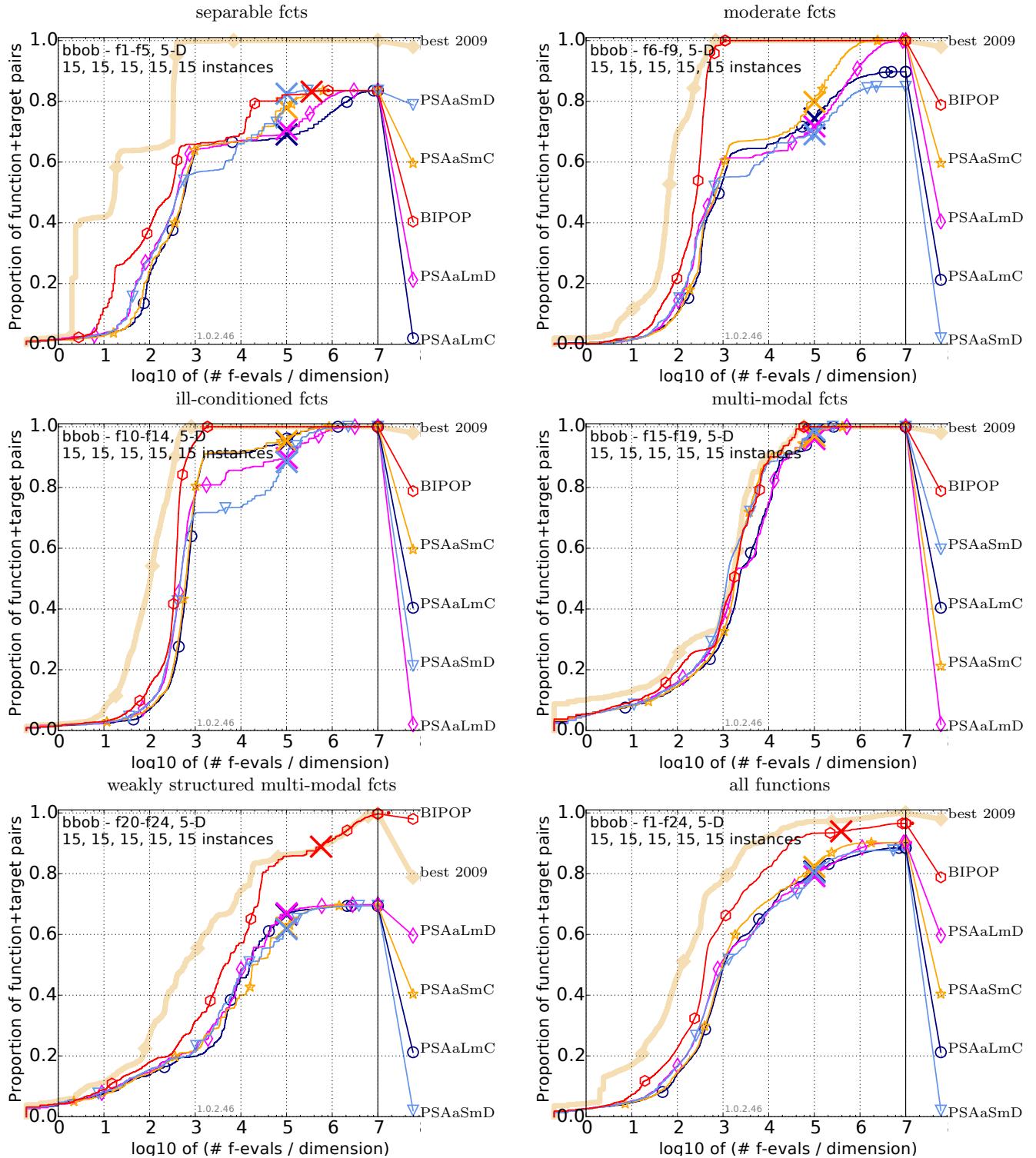


Figure 2: Bootstrapped empirical cumulative distribution of the number of objective function evaluations divided by dimension (FEvals/DIM) for 51 targets with target precision in  $10^{[-8..2]}$  for all functions and subgroups in 5-D. The “best 2009” line corresponds to the best aRT observed during BBOB 2009 for each selected target.

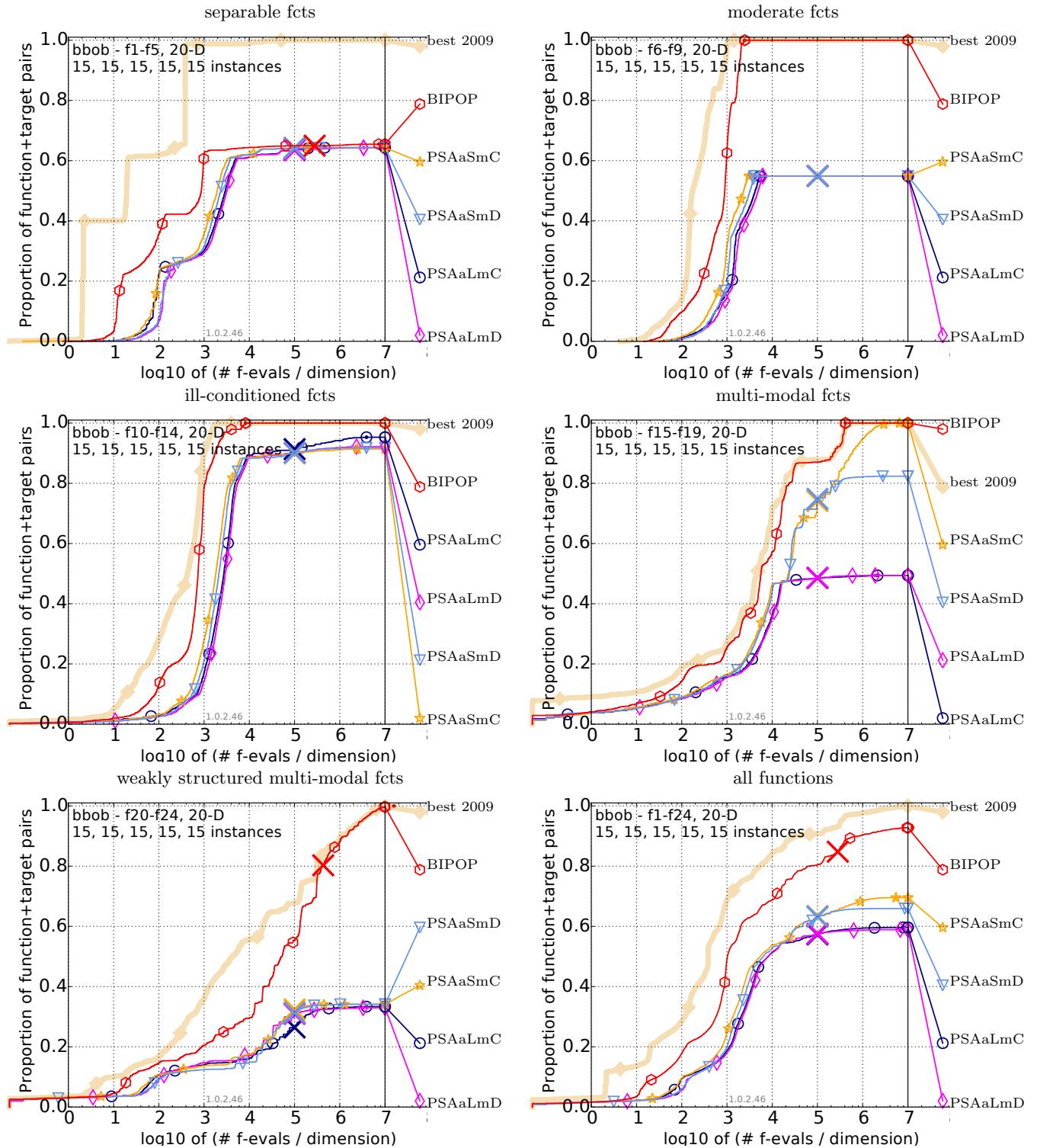


Figure 3: Bootstrapped empirical cumulative distribution of the number of objective function evaluations divided by dimension (FEvals/DIM) for 51 targets with target precision in  $10^{[-8..2]}$  for all functions and subgroups in 20-D. The “best 2009” line corresponds to the best aRT observed during BBOB 2009 for each selected target.

**Table 1:** Average running time (aRT in number of function evaluations) divided by the respective best aRT measured during BBOB-2009 in dimension 5. The aRT and in braces, as dispersion measure, the half difference between 10 and 90%-tile of bootstrapped run lengths appear for each algorithm and target, the corresponding best aRT in the first row. The different target  $\Delta f$ -values are shown in the top row. #succ is the number of trials that reached the (final) target  $f_{\text{opt}} + 10^{-8}$ . The median number of conducted function evaluations is additionally given in *italics*, if the target in the last column was never reached. Entries, succeeded by a star, are statistically significantly better (according to the rank-sum test) when compared to all other algorithms of the table, with  $p = 0.05$  or  $p = 10^{-k}$  when the number  $k$  following the star is larger than 1, with Bonferroni correction by the number of instances. A ↓ indicates the same tested against the best algorithm of BBOB-2009. Best results are printed in bold.

$\Delta f_{\text{opt}}$	1e1	1e0	1e-1	1e-2	1e-3	1e-5	1e-7	#succ	$\Delta f_{\text{opt}}$	1e1	1e0	1e-1	1e-2	1e-3	1e-5	1e-7	#succ
<b>f1</b>	11	12	12	12	12	12	12	15/15	<b>f13</b>	132	195	250	319	1310	1752	2255	15/15
aLmC	7.3(6)	25(6)	47(12)	67(11)	103(16)	178(9)	243(35)	15/15	aLmC	7.4(0.9)	9.0(1)	10(0.5)	10(0.7)	3.1(0.2)	3.2(0.1)	3.2(0.1)	15/15
aLmD	6.4(5)	<b>16(5)</b>	<b>26(8)</b>	<b>47(8)</b>	<b>68(12)</b>	118(9)	167(13)	15/15	aLmD	5.2(1)	6.4(1)	7.0(0.5)	7.2(0.5)	<b>2.2(0.2)</b>	<b>2.2(0.1)</b>	<b>2.3(0.1)</b>	15/15
aSmC	<b>6.3(6)</b>	23(9)	44(11)	71(13)	100(20)	166(15)	232(21)	15/15	aSmC	7.2(2)	8.6(2)	10(1)	10(1)	3.1(0.2)	3.2(0.1)	3.1(0.1)	15/15
aSmD	9.5(3)	19(14)	34(12)	50(7)	68(10)	<b>112(6)</b>	<b>149(14)*2</b>	15/15	aSmD	5.1(2)	<b>5.9(2)</b>	<b>6.5(0.7)</b>	<b>6.5(2)</b>	13(0.2)	10(32)	8.5(0.1)	15/15
$\Delta f_{\text{opt}}$	1e1	1e0	1e-1	1e-2	1e-3	1e-5	1e-7	#succ	$\Delta f_{\text{opt}}$	1e1	1e0	1e-1	1e-2	1e-3	1e-5	1e-7	#succ
<b>f2</b>	83	87	88	89	90	92	94	15/15	<b>f14</b>	10	41	58	90	139	251	476	15/15
aLmC	22(6)	25(5)	30(7)	33(6)	36(8)	44(5)	52(3)	15/15	aLmC	3.9(9)	8.6(4)	11(3)	12(3)	12(1)	8.7(0.8)	15/15	
aLmD	13(6)	<b>18(7)</b>	29(3)	41(127)	43(5)	49(70)	62(4)	15/15	aLmD	3.4(4)	<b>4.5(2)</b>	<b>7.1(2)</b>	<b>7.3(1)</b>	8.1(0.9)	7.8(0.6)	6.0(0.8)	15/15
aSmC	21(4)	25(4)	<b>29(4)</b>	<b>31(3)</b>	<b>34(2)</b>	<b>42(3)</b>	<b>50(2)</b>	15/15	aSmC	<b>2.9(4)</b>	7.0(4)	10(4)	11(2)	11(0.8)	8.1(1.0)	15/15	
aSmD	295(990)	836(2750)	866(1559)	975(870)	1278(866)	1274(510)	1249(1685)	15/15	aSmD	4.1(5)	5.3(2)	7.2(0.8)	8.0(0.7)	<b>7.6(2)</b>	<b>7.0(0.9)</b>	<b>5.2(0.5)*</b>	15/15
$\Delta f_{\text{opt}}$	1e1	1e0	1e-1	1e-2	1e-3	1e-5	1e-7	#succ	$\Delta f_{\text{opt}}$	1e1	1e0	1e-1	1e-2	1e-3	1e-5	1e-7	#succ
<b>f3</b>	716	1622	1637	1642	1646	1650	1654	15/15	<b>f15</b>	511	9310	19369	19743	20073	20769	21359	14/15
aLmC	2.6(3)	103(178)	2194(1146)	4555(4420)	4544(4105)	4533(4852)	4524(4388)	15/15	aLmC	3.9(2)	2.2(0.8)	1.5(1.0)	1.4(1)	1.4(0.4)	1.4(0.7)	1.4(0.8)	15/15
aLmD	4.8(2)	70(50)	1427(3309)	1423(1041)	1420(1215)	1417(2297)	1414(530)	15/15	aLmD	<b>2.3(1)</b>	2.5(1)	1.6(0.6)	1.6(0.5)	1.5(0.5)	1.5(0.6)	1.5(0.6)	15/15
aSmC	<b>2.2(2)</b>	56(53)	337(264)	336(393)	336(265)	335(441)	335(714)	9/15	aSmC	3.7(2)	1.0(0.3)	<b>0.71(0.5)</b>	<b>0.72(0.3)</b>	<b>0.73(0.2)</b>	<b>0.75(0.3)</b>	<b>0.76(0.3)</b>	15/15
aSmD	2.2(2)	31(28)	146(141)	146(241)	146(115)	146(94)	146(140)	14/15	aSmD	3.0(4)	<b>0.88(0.9)</b>	1.1(1)	1.1(0.7)	1.1(2)	1.1(0.7)	1.1(0.7)	15/15
$\Delta f_{\text{opt}}$	1e1	1e0	1e-1	1e-2	1e-3	1e-5	1e-7	#succ	$\Delta f_{\text{opt}}$	1e1	1e0	1e-1	1e-2	1e-3	1e-5	1e-7	#succ
<b>f4</b>	809	1633	1688	1758	1817	1886	1903	15/15	<b>f16</b>	120	612	2662	10163	10449	11644	12095	15/15
aLmC	3.9(2)	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	0/15	aLmC	<b>1.9(2)</b>	144(170)	104(69)	27(18)	27(22)	25(38)	24(16)	13/15
aLmD	3.4(0.9)	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	0/15	aLmD	3.0(3)	155(315)	105(66)	28(9)	27(26)	24(19)	24(24)	11/15
aSmC	3.8(1)	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	0/15	aSmC	3.1(4)	69(40)	36(54)	11(20)	12(18)	11(0.4)	11(18)	14/15
aSmD	3.1(2)	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	0/15	aSmD	4.2(4)	<b>49(146)</b>	14(39)	<b>5.5(3)</b>	<b>5.5(13)</b>	<b>5.4(3)</b>	15/15	
$\Delta f_{\text{opt}}$	1e1	1e0	1e-1	1e-2	1e-3	1e-5	1e-7	#succ	$\Delta f_{\text{opt}}$	1e1	1e0	1e-1	1e-2	1e-3	1e-5	1e-7	#succ
<b>f5</b>	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	15/15	<b>f17</b>	5.2	215	899	2861	3669	6351	7934	15/15
aLmC	26(19)	47(34)	51(29)	51(17)	51(20)	51(41)	51(31)	15/15	aLmC	10(11)	2.9(0.9)	1.6(0.4)	1.0(0.3)	1.2(0.1)	1.3(0.1)	1.3(0.1)	15/15
aLmD	16(11)	<b>26(14)</b>	<b>27(18)</b>	<b>27(17)</b>	<b>27(25)</b>	<b>27(24)</b>	<b>27(22)</b>	15/15	aLmD	11(9)	2.1(0.7)	1.2(0.8)	0.76(0.3)	0.85(0.1)	<b>0.94(0.0)</b>	0.94(0.0)	15/15
aSmC	24(11)	38(24)	41(10)	41(22)	41(14)	41(25)	41(31)	15/15	aSmC	9.3(9)	2.3(1)	1.5(0.3)	0.90(0.1)	1.0(0.1)	1.2(0.1)	1.2(0.1)	15/15
aSmD	15(15)	28(18)	30(15)	30(21)	30(23)	30(21)	30(20)	15/15	aSmD	<b>6.1(12)</b>	<b>1.7(0.8)</b>	<b>1.1(0.7)</b>	<b>0.62(0.1)</b>	<b>0.70(0.1)</b>	<b>*6.68(0.1)*</b>	1.2(1)	15/15
$\Delta f_{\text{opt}}$	1e1	1e0	1e-1	1e-2	1e-3	1e-5	1e-7	#succ	$\Delta f_{\text{opt}}$	1e1	1e0	1e-1	1e-2	1e-3	1e-5	1e-7	#succ
<b>f6</b>	114	214	281	404	580	1038	1332	15/15	<b>f18</b>	103	378	3968	8451	9280	10905	12469	15/15
aLmC	5.3(3)	6.5(0.7)	7.3(0.6)	6.9(0.7)	6.0(0.9)	4.8(0.4)	4.8(0.4)	15/15	aLmC	2.3(2)	2.7(1)	<b>0.89(1)</b>	<b>0.59(0.1)</b>	<b>0.70(0.8)</b>	0.87(0.0)	0.98(0.6)	15/15
aLmD	4.3(1)	<b>4.4(1)</b>	<b>4.8(1)</b>	<b>4.5(0.4)</b>	<b>3.9(0.2)</b>	<b>3.1(0.1)</b>	<b>3.1(0.2)</b>	15/15	aLmD	<b>1.6(1)</b>	<b>1.9(0.9)</b>	1.1(3)	0.66(1)	0.71(0.0)	<b>0.81(0.1)</b>	<b>0.88(0.8)</b>	15/15
aSmC	5.7(3)	6.1(0.9)	7.1(2)	6.4(0.4)	5.6(0.3)	4.4(0.4)	4.5(0.3)	15/15	aSmC	3.1(1)	2.8(2)	2.3(6)	1.3(3)	1.3(1)	1.4(0.9)	1.4(0.9)	15/15
aSmD	4.4(1)	14(69)	17(27)	19(45)	16(38)	11(11)	8.8(9)	15/15	aSmD	2.2(2)	2.2(0.9)	1.7(3)	0.88(1)	0.89(0.1)	1.0(1)	1.0(1)	15/15
$\Delta f_{\text{opt}}$	1e1	1e0	1e-1	1e-2	1e-3	1e-5	1e-7	#succ	$\Delta f_{\text{opt}}$	1e1	1e0	1e-1	1e-2	1e-3	1e-5	1e-7	#succ
<b>f7</b>	24	324	1171	1451	1572	1572	1597	15/15	<b>f19</b>	1	1	242	1.0e5	1.2e5	1.2e5	1.2e5	15/15
aLmC	7.5(4)	1.7(0.9)	0.92(0.3)	1.1(0.1)	1.1(0.1)	1.1(0.2)	1.1(0.1)	15/15	aLmC	39(38)	1343(816)	220(102)	<b>0.62(0.1)</b>	<b>0.69(1)</b>	<b>0.69(0.2)</b>	<b>0.69(0.6)</b>	15/15
aLmD	8.5(5)	<b>1.5(0.5)</b>	<b>0.80(0.6)</b>	<b>0.87(0.5)</b>	<b>0.86(0.6)</b>	<b>0.86(0.7)</b>	<b>0.92(0.3)</b>	15/15	aLmD	25(27)	1277(1710)	263(104)	0.78(1)	0.84(0.6)	0.84(0.7)	0.97(1)	15/15
aSmC	9.4(11)	1.8(0.7)	0.81(0.3)	1.0(0.0)	1.0(0.2)	1.0(0.1)	1.1(0.1)	15/15	aSmC	7.6(6)	10(3)	12(11)	9.1(14)	8.6(5)	8.6(8)	8.5(12)	10/15
aSmD	<b>7.4(3)</b>	1.7(1)	0.87(0.8)	0.92(0.7)	0.91(0.2)	0.91(0.6)	0.95(0.1)	15/15	aSmD	18(11)	<b>1242(773)</b>	284(534)	1.1(0.9)	1.9(3)	2.0(5)	13/15	
$\Delta f_{\text{opt}}$	1e1	1e0	1e-1	1e-2	1e-3	1e-5	1e-7	#succ	$\Delta f_{\text{opt}}$	1e1	1e0	1e-1	1e-2	1e-3	1e-5	1e-7	#succ
<b>f8</b>	73	273	336	372	391	410	422	15/15	<b>f20</b>	16	851	38111	51362	54470	58461	55313	14/15
aLmC	11(4)	81(234)	<b>229(325)</b>	<b>1538(2769)</b>	3063(3245)	<b>3015(3047)</b>	<b>3782(2779)</b>	4/15	aLmC	6.8(5)	14(9)	<b>2.6(2)</b>	<b>2.1(2)</b>	<b>2.0(2)</b>	<b>2.0(2)</b>	15/15	
aLmD	7.2(2)	84(167)	1180(1806)	2640(2655)	4236(3778)	5422(2972)	5270(5116)	3/15	aLmD	<b>5.3(9)</b>	13(7)	3.4(4)	2.6(3)	2.5(3)	2.4(2)	15/15	
aSmC	11(4)	<b>28(66)</b>	457(448)	1623(2118)	<b>2885(2906)</b>	3742(1738)	3637(6073)	4/15	aSmC	7.6(6)	10(3)	12(11)	9.1(14)	8.6(5)	8.6(8)	8.5(12)	10/15
aSmD	6.3(2)	135(85)	1434(1653)	3868(5127)	3862(7064)	<b>3522(4476)</b>	4/15	aSmD	6.0(4)	<b>6.7(7)</b>	13(29)	10(9)	9.0(13)	9.0(8)	8.9(9)	10/15	
$\Delta f_{\text{opt}}$	1e1	1e0	1e-1	1e-2	1e-3	1e-5	1e-7	#succ	$\Delta f_{\text{opt}}$	1e1	1e0	1e-1	1e-2	1e-3	1e-5	1e-7	#succ
<b>f9</b>	35	127	214	263	300	335	369	15/15	<b>f21</b>	41	1157	1674	1692	1705	1729	1757	14/15
aLmC	20(8)	127(182)	900(1905)	8587(9329)	1.2e4(2e4)	$\infty$	$\infty$	0/15	aLmC	4.2(2)	18(14)	23(37)	24(24)	23(18)	23(23)	23(22)	15/15
aLmD	15(3)	142(222)	1616(2032)	1.4e4(2e4)	1.2e4(1e4)	2.2e4(3e4)	$\infty$	1/15	aLmD	<b>2.2(1)</b>	14(29)	15(12)	<b>15(26)</b>	<b>15(26)</b>	<b>15(23)</b>	<b>15(23)</b>	15/15
aSmC	18(8)	<b>78(43)</b>	<b>465(596)</b>	<b>1414(1398)</b>	<b>3147(3538)</b>	<b>2868(7291)</b>	<b>4391(4456)</b>	4/15	aSmC	3.3(3)	18(21)	18(27)	18(30)	18(11)	18(34)	18(34)	15/15
aSmD	<b>12(5)</b>	142(303)	4204(5317)	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	0/15	aSmD	2.2(2)	13(6)	16(30)	16(15)	16(25)	16(19)	16(18)	15/15
$\Delta f_{\text{opt}}$	1e1	1e0	1e-1	1e-2	1e-3	1e-5	1e-7	#succ	$\Delta f_{\text{opt}}$	1e1	1e0	1e-1	1e-2	1e-3	1e-5	1e-7	#succ
<b>f10</b>	349	500	574	607	626	829	880	15/15	<b>f22</b>	71	386	938	980	1008	1040	1068	14/15
aLmC	5.3(0.8)	<b>4.4(0.5)</b>	<b>4.4(0.4)</b>	<b>4.8</b>													

**Table 2:** Average running time (aRT in number of function evaluations) divided by the respective best aRT measured during BBOB-2009 in dimension 20. The aRT and in braces, as dispersion measure, the half difference between 10 and 90%-tile of bootstrapped run lengths appear for each algorithm and target, the corresponding best aRT in the first row. The different target  $\Delta f$ -values are shown in the top row. #succ is the number of trials that reached the (final) target  $f_{\text{opt}} + 10^{-8}$ . The median number of conducted function evaluations is additionally given in *italics*, if the target in the last column was never reached. Entries, succeeded by a star, are statistically significantly better (according to the rank-sum test) when compared to all other algorithms of the table, with  $p = 0.05$  or  $p = 10^{-k}$  when the number  $k$  following the star is larger than 1, with Bonferroni correction by the number of instances. A ↓ indicates the same tested against the best algorithm of BBOB-2009. Best results are printed in **bold**.

$\Delta f_{\text{opt}}$	1e1	1e0	1e-1	1e-2	1e-3	1e-5	1e-7	#succ	$\Delta f_{\text{opt}}$	1e1	1e0	1e-1	1e-2	1e-3	1e-5	1e-7	#succ							
<b>f1</b>	43	43	43	43	43	43	43	15/15	<b>f13</b>	652	2021	2751	3507	18749	24455	30201	15/15							
aLmC	20(2)	51(12)	118(17)	306(37)	519(55)	951(60)	1375(51)	15/15	aLmC	24(3)	17(0.9)	19(0.9)	20(0.4)	4.7(0.1)	5.1(0.0)	5.3(0.1)	15/15							
aLmD	29(4)	64(13)	142(15)	323(56)	563(33)	1018(30)	1471(54)	15/15	aLmD	28(1)	19(0.7)	21(0.7)	22(0.3)	5.1(0.0)	5.5(0.1)	5.7(0.1)	15/15							
aSmC	19(6)	<b>47(17)</b>	105(11)	<b>218(34)*</b> <sup>2</sup> <b>376(24)*</b> <sup>4</sup> <b>675(23)*</b> <sup>4</sup> <b>981(32)*</b> <sup>4</sup>	18(3)* <sup>3</sup>	12(1)* <sup>3</sup>	13(0.6)* <sup>4</sup>	14(0.4)* <sup>4</sup>	aSmC	18(3)* <sup>3</sup>	12(1)* <sup>3</sup>	13(0.6)* <sup>4</sup>	14(0.4)* <sup>4</sup>	3.3(0.1)* <sup>4</sup> <b>3.6(0.1)*</b> <sup>4</sup> <b>3.7(0.1)*</b> <sup>4</sup>	15/15									
aSmD	25(6)	60(8)	138(31)	276(28)	455(36)	782(38)	1108(29)	15/15	aSmD	23(2)	14(0.8)	15(0.4)	16(0.3)	3.8(0.1)	4.0(0.1)	4.2(0.0)	15/15							
$\Delta f_{\text{opt}}$	1e1	1e0	1e-1	1e-2	1e-3	1e-5	1e-7	#succ	$\Delta f_{\text{opt}}$	1e1	1e0	1e-1	1e-2	1e-3	1e-5	1e-7	#succ							
<b>f2</b>	385	386	387	388	390	391	393	15/15	<b>f14</b>	75	239	304	451	932	1648	15861	15/15							
aLmC	66(7)	76(6)	89(4)	108(6)	132(8)	180(7)	226(7)	15/15	aLmC	14(11)	15(2)	22(4)	32(4)	28(3)	30(1)	4.8(0.2)	15/15							
aLmD	74(8)	86(8)	98(6)	118(7)	144(4)	195(9)	243(5)	15/15	aLmD	17(7)	21(3)	26(2)	37(8)	31(2)	33(1)	5.1(0.2)	15/15							
aSmC	45(4)* <sup>4</sup>	<b>52(6)*</b> <sup>3</sup>	<b>59(5)*</b> <sup>3</sup>	<b>69(7)*</b> <sup>4</sup>	<b>82(8)*</b> <sup>3</sup>	<b>114(19)*</b> <sup>3</sup>	<b>146(3)*</b> <sup>4</sup>	15/15	aSmC	12(5)	12(3)	<b>17(3)*</b> <sup>3</sup>	<b>24(3)*</b> <sup>3</sup>	<b>20(2)*</b> <sup>2</sup>	<b>21(1)*</b> <sup>4</sup>	<b>3.2(0.1)*</b> <sup>4</sup>	15/15							
aSmD	58(6)	66(6)	74(5)	85(4)	101(8)	138(11)	174(5)	15/15	aSmD	17(6)	17(1)	23(5)	31(4)	23(2)	24(1.0)	3.7(0.2)	15/15							
$\Delta f_{\text{opt}}$	1e1	1e0	1e-1	1e-2	1e-3	1e-5	1e-7	#succ	$\Delta f_{\text{opt}}$	1e1	1e0	1e-1	1e-2	1e-3	1e-5	1e-7	#succ							
<b>f3</b>	5066	7626	7635	7637	7643	7646	7651	15/15	<b>f15</b>	30378	3.1e5	3.2e5	3.2e5	4.5e5	4.6e5	15/15								
aLmC	847(1037)	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	0/15	aLmC	<b>7.5(6)</b>	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	0/15							
aLmD	635(1478)	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	0/15	aLmD	8.6(5)	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	0/15							
aSmC	<b>95(5)</b>	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	0/15	aSmC	10(3)	3.6(0.4)	1.7(0.3)	1.7(0.3)	1.3(0.2)	1.3(0.2)	15/15								
aSmD	102(56)	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	0/15	aSmD	11(4)	3.4(0.2)	1.6(0.2)	1.6(0.2)	1.2(0.1)	1.2(0.1)	15/15								
$\Delta f_{\text{opt}}$	1e1	1e0	1e-1	1e-2	1e-3	1e-5	1e-7	#succ	$\Delta f_{\text{opt}}$	1e1	1e0	1e-1	1e-2	1e-3	1e-5	1e-7	#succ							
<b>f4</b>	4722	7628	7666	7686	7700	7758	1.4e5	9/15	<b>f16</b>	1384	27265	77015	1.4e5	1.9e5	2.0e5	2.2e5	15/15							
aLmC	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	0/15	aLmC	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	0/15							
aLmD	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	0/15	aLmD	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	0/15							
aSmC	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	0/15	aSmC	<b>1.0e4</b> (2621(503))	<b>185(126)</b>	<b>102(116)</b>	<b>76(80)</b>	<b>72(127)</b>	<b>65(87)</b>	<b>2.1e4(3e4)</b>	2/15							
aSmD	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	0/15	aSmD	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	0/15							
$\Delta f_{\text{opt}}$	1e1	1e0	1e-1	1e-2	1e-3	1e-5	1e-7	#succ	$\Delta f_{\text{opt}}$	1e1	1e0	1e-1	1e-2	1e-3	1e-5	1e-7	#succ							
<b>f5</b>	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	15/15	<b>f17</b>	63	1030	4005	12242	30677	56288	80472	15/15							
aLmC	32(7)	41(8)	42(10)	42(12)	42(10)	42(12)	42(12)	15/15	aLmC	<b>7.1(3)</b>	4.9(0.8)	4.9(1)	5.2(0.1)	3.1(0.2)	3.2(0.1)	3.3(0.1)	15/15							
aLmD	50(8)	62(18)	64(5)	65(20)	65(23)	65(21)	65(8)	15/15	aLmD	12(4)	6.1(0.5)	5.5(1)	5.6(0.2)	3.3(0.1)	3.4(0.1)	3.5(0.1)	15/15							
aSmC	30(7)	<b>39(11)</b>	<b>40(11)</b>	<b>40(14)</b>	<b>40(14)</b>	<b>40(5)</b>	<b>40(5)</b>	15/15	aSmC	8.2(4)	4.0(0.8)*	3.9(0.4)	3.4(0.2)* <sup>2</sup> <b>3.2(0.1)</b> * <sup>3</sup> <b>2.0(0.1)</b> * <sup>4</sup> <b>2.1(0.0)</b> * <sup>4</sup>	15/15										
aSmD	49(9)	62(20)	64(18)	64(14)	64(22)	64(13)	15/15	aSmD	5.3(0.5)	4.3(1)	3.8(0.2)	2.2(0.1)	2.3(0.1)	2.3(0.1)	15/15									
$\Delta f_{\text{opt}}$	1e1	1e0	1e-1	1e-2	1e-3	1e-5	1e-7	#succ	$\Delta f_{\text{opt}}$	1e1	1e0	1e-1	1e-2	1e-3	1e-5	1e-7	#succ							
<b>f6</b>	1296	2343	3413	4255	5220	6728	8409	15/15	<b>f18</b>	621	3972	19561	28555	67569	1.3e5	1.5e5	15/15							
aLmC	11(0.8)	10(0.5)	10(0.6)	10(0.3)	11(0.3)	11(0.3)	11(0.3)	15/15	aLmC	4.4(1)	2.7(0.5)	2.6(0.3)	3.0(0.1)	1.8(0.0)	1.5(0.0)	2.0(0.0)	15/15							
aLmD	14(12)	12(0.9)	12(0.7)	12(0.4)	12(0.5)	13(0.4)	13(0.2)	15/15	aLmD	5.4(1)	3.2(0.6)	2.8(0.2)	3.3(0.2)	1.9(0.0)	1.6(0.0)	2.1(0.0)	15/15							
aSmC	<b>7.0(0.9)*</b> <sup>2</sup> <b>6.1(0.7)*</b> <sup>4</sup> <b>5.7(0.6)*</b> <sup>4</sup> <b>5.7(0.5)*</b> <sup>4</sup> <b>6.1(0.3)*</b> <sup>4</sup> <b>6.2(0.4)*</b> <sup>4</sup>	15/15	aSmC	<b>3.3(1)</b>	1.9(0.2)* <sup>3</sup> <b>1.7(0.2)</b>	<b>2.0(0.1)*</b> <sup>2</sup> <b>1.2(0.1)</b> * <sup>3</sup> <b>0.99(0.0)*</b> <sup>4</sup> <b>1.2(0.0)</b> * <sup>4</sup>	15/15																	
aSmD	10(0.7)	8.6(0.4)	8.0(0.6)	8.1(0.7)	8.1(0.6)	8.4(0.4)	8.5(0.4)	15/15	aSmD	4.8(1)	2.6(0.3)	1.9(0.2)	2.2(0.1)	1.3(0.1)	1.1(0.0)	1.3(0.0)	15/15							
$\Delta f_{\text{opt}}$	1e1	1e0	1e-1	1e-2	1e-3	1e-5	1e-7	#succ	$\Delta f_{\text{opt}}$	1e1	1e0	1e-1	1e-2	1e-3	1e-5	1e-7	#succ							
<b>f7</b>	1351	4274	9503	16523	16524	16524	16969	15/15	<b>f19</b>	1	1	3.4e5	4.7e6	6.2e6	6.7e6	15/15								
aLmC	3.0(0.8)	2.3(0.4)	1.6(0.3)	1.7(0.1)	1.7(0.2)	1.7(0.2)	1.7(0.1)	15/15	aLmC	408(132)	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	0/15							
aLmD	3.7(1)	2.6(0.3)	1.7(0.2)	1.8(0.3)	1.9(0.2)	1.9(0.2)	1.9(0.4)	15/15	aLmD	518(150)	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	0/15							
aSmC	<b>2.6(0.7)</b>	<b>1.7(0.4)*</b> <sup>2</sup> <b>1.2(0.3)*</b> <sup>2</sup> <b>1.1(0.2)*</b> <sup>2</sup> <b>1.1(0.1)*</b> <sup>2</sup> <b>1.2(0.1)*</b> <sup>2</sup>	15/15	aSmC	<b>3.3(1)</b>	1.9(0.2)* <sup>3</sup> <b>1.7(0.2)</b>	<b>2.0(0.1)*</b> <sup>2</sup> <b>1.2(0.1)</b> * <sup>3</sup> <b>0.99(0.0)*</b> <sup>4</sup> <b>1.2(0.0)</b> * <sup>4</sup>	15/15								4/15								
aSmD	3.6(1.0)	2.6(0.5)	1.6(0.2)	1.3(0.1)	1.3(0.1)	1.3(0.1)	1.4(0.1)	15/15	aSmD	455(151)	<b>1.6e6</b> (2e6) <b>5.2(5)</b>	<b>5.0(1.0)</b>	<b>4.6(0.2)</b>	<b>0.48(0.2)</b>	<b>0.55(0.6)</b>	<b>7/15</b>								
$\Delta f_{\text{opt}}$	1e1	1e0	1e-1	1e-2	1e-3	1e-5	1e-7	#succ	$\Delta f_{\text{opt}}$	1e1	1e0	1e-1	1e-2	1e-3	1e-5	1e-7	#succ							
<b>f8</b>	2039	3871	4040	4148	4219	4371	4484	15/15	<b>f20</b>	82	46150	3.1e6	5.5e6	5.6e6	5.6e6	5.6e6	14/15							
aLmC	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	0/15	aLmC	15(5)	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	0/15							
aLmD	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	0/15	aLmD	22(9)	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	0/15							
aSmC	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	0/15	aSmC	14(3)	<b>8.9(5)</b>	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	0/15							
aSmD	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	0/15	aSmD	20(12)	9.2(2)	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	0/15							
$\Delta f_{\text{opt}}$	1e1	1e0	1e-1	1e-2	1e-3	1e-5	1e-7	#succ	$\Delta f_{\text{opt}}$	1e1	1e0	1e-1	1e-2	1e-3	1e-5	1e-7	#succ							
<b>f9</b>	1716	3102	3277	3379	3455	3594	3727	15/15	<b>f21</b>	561	6541	14103	14318	14643	15567	17589	15/15							
aLmC	$\infty^*$	$\infty^*$	$\infty^*$	$\infty^*$	$\infty^*$	$\infty^*$	$\infty^*$	0/15	aLmC	<b>3.7(1)</b>	188(153)	100(90)	99(85)	97(136)	92(93)	82(112)	11/15							
aLmD	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	0/15	aLmD	<b>24(3)</b>	104(150)	<b>53(69)</b>	<b>52(103)</b>	<b>51(45)</b>	<b>48(70)</b>	<b>43(41)</b>	14/15							
aSmC	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	0/15	aSmC	49(105)	120(137)	61(51)	60(62)	59(80)	55(71)	49(97)	14/15							
aSmD	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	0/15	aSmD	61(3)	126(270)	73(111)	72(90)	71(67)	67(90)	60(43)	13/15							
$\Delta f_{\text{opt}}$	1e1	1e0	1e-1	1e-2	1e-3	1e-5	1e-7																	