

Evaluation of the Factors Affecting the Efficiency of Some Modified Firefly Algorithms

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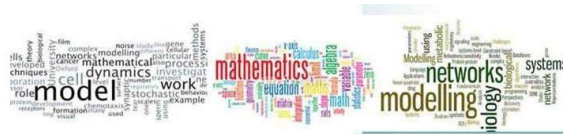
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ABSTRACT

Firefly Algorithms (FA) is one of the nature-inspired metaheuristic algorithms used in solving modern global optimization problems. Several Modified Firefly Algorithms (MFA) have been developed to overcome the lapses of the standard FA, however, critical factors which determine the performance of these MFA have not been adequately evaluated. This research evaluates the critical factors which determine the efficiency of four MFAs: Chaotic, Parallel, Binary, and Gaussian in the classification of mammographic test. Eighty-four mammographic data samples were obtained from the Wisconsin Breast Cancer Database. Simulation experiments were carried out by applying Chaotic, Parallel, Binary, and Gaussian Firefly algorithms on the data samples. The outcome of the experiments was subjected to principal component analysis by computing the mean and standard deviation of variables. The variables were normalized and correlation metric computed. Eigen values of correlations and sum of squares were used to arrive at percentage of variance. The percentage of variance form the basis for estimating the level of contribution of three critical factors: Light Intensity (LI), Distance Dependence (DD), and Randomization Term (RT) on the performance of the selected MFAs. The performance of Chaotic, Parallel, Binary, and Gaussian factors algorithms was evaluated based on Percentage of Variance. The percentage of variance for Chaotic Firefly algorithm based on LI, DD, and RT were 88.20, 11.24, and 0.56%, respectively, while the corresponding values for Parallel Firefly algorithm were 86.20, 11.79 and 2.00%, respectively. Furthermore, the percentage of variance for Binary Firefly algorithm based on LI, DD, and RT were 85.21, 13.01, and 2.00%, respectively, while the corresponding values for Gaussian Firefly algorithm were 67.81, 29.25 and 2.94%, respectively. Light Intensity was discovered to be the most critical factor while Chaotic Firefly algorithm was the most effective Modified Firefly Algorithm.

Key words: Firefly, Binary, Gaussian, parallel, Chaos, PCA, Light Intensity, Randomness, Eigenvalue, optimization.



1. INTRODUCTION

Optimization is the process of using a parameter in a function to make a better solution. This process may involve algorithm such as deterministic or stochastic algorithm. Deterministic algorithm is quite efficient in finding local optimal because it follows a rigorous procedure, and its path and values of both design variables and the functions are repeatable (Farahani *et al.*, 2011). Stochastic algorithms often have a deterministic and a random components which are divided into heuristic and meta-heuristic. In heuristic algorithm, the quality solutions for tough optimization problems can be found, but there is no guarantee the solution is optimal (Nadhirah *et al.*, 2004). Meta-heuristic algorithm is better than heuristic because the search process is randomization and local search as well as provides acceptable solution (Yang, 2010). Nature-inspired meta-heuristic algorithms such as firefly algorithm are becoming powerful in solving modern global optimization problems and its superiority over the traditional algorithms such as Genetic Algorithm (GA), Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO) and Ant Bee Colony (ABC) was confirmed (Yang, Ukasik and Salawormiz, 2009). Firefly algorithm is a nature-inspired metaheuristic approach based on the behavior of fireflies (Olusi *et al.*, 2025). The Firefly algorithm is well known for its efficiency in solving optimization problems, including feature selection, where irrelevant or redundant features are discarded to improve the performance of models (Olusi *et al.*, 2021).

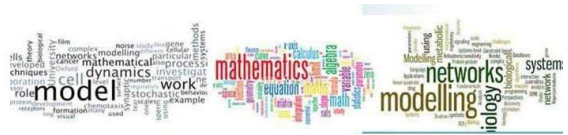
Thus, this study evaluates the performance of modified fireflies algorithm by determining the most critical factor which affect the efficiency of binary, gaussian, parallel and chaos modified firefly techniques.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Firefly Algorithm

Firefly is characterized by their flashing light produced by biochemical process bioluminescence from light producing organs called lantern (Iztok *et al.*, 2013). The function of the flashing light is to attract partners (communication) or attract potential prey and as a protective warning toward the predator. Firefly is attracted toward the other firefly that has brighter flash than itself. The attractiveness is depended with the light intensity (Yu, Yang and Su, 2013). Intensity of light is the factor of the other fireflies to move toward the other firefly. It varies at the distance from the eyes of the beholder. The light intensity is decreased as the distance increase (Yang, 2010). Firefly algorithm has two important variables; light intensity and attractiveness (Tilahun and Ong, 2012).

This algorithm is based on a physical formula of the light intensity I that decreases with the increase in the square of the distance r^2 (Iztok *et al.*, 2013). Firefly algorithm uses the three rules according to (Raed *et al.*, 2017) as stated: A firefly is attracted to other fireflies regardless of their sex, because all fireflies are unisex. Attractiveness is proportional to their brightness, thus for any two flashing fireflies, the less bright one will move towards the brighter one (both attractiveness and brightness are decreasing as the distance between the two fireflies' increases, if no one is brighter than a particular firefly, then it moves randomly). The brightness or light intensity of a firefly is determined by the objective function of the optimization problem. According to Yang (2010), the light intensity thus attractiveness is inversely proportional with the particular distance r from the light source. Thus the light and attractiveness is decrease as the distance increase;



Coelho *et al.* (2013) proposed a combination of FA with chaotic maps to improve the convergence of the classical firefly algorithm. The proposed firefly algorithms used chaotic maps by tuning the randomized parameter α and light absorption coefficient γ . Reliability-redundancy optimization were used as benchmark to test the efficiency of this method. Simulation results revealed that proposed algorithm outperformed the previously best –known solutions available (Coelho, Bernert and Mariani, 2013). Gandomi *et al.*(2013) introduced chaos into FA to increase global search mobility for robust global optimization. The author analyzed the influence of using 12 different chaotic maps on the optimization of benchmark function. The results showed that chaotic FA outperformed classical FA. Olabiyisi, Aladesae, Oyeyinka and Oladipo (2013) evaluated the efficiency of searching algorithms using factor analysis by principal component. The search time, distance dependence and number of comparison were used as decision variables to evaluate their efficiencies. The result showed that number of comparisons is the most critical factor affecting the searching techniques and binary search is the most efficient search technique. The search algorithms considered have limited applicable areas.

Nadhirah (2014) did a comprehensive review on the modification and hybridization of the firefly algorithm (Firefly5). Amarita *et al.*(2014) proposed an improvement on the original firefly algorithm. The proposed algorithm takes into account not only the firefly’s reaction to light but also the following contributing factors: firefly’s gene exchange, its pheromone, and the impact the wind has on pheromone dispersion. The proposed algorithm was tested against the traditional firefly algorithm and the original genetic algorithm with six standard benchmark functions and found that proposed algorithm is not only more effective but also faster than the other two algorithms.

Osama, Mohamed and Ibrahim (2014) presented an improved firefly algorithm with chaos (IFCH) for solving definite integral. The IFCH satisfies the question of parallel calculating numerical integration in engineering and those segmentation points are adaptive. Several numerical simulation results show that the algorithm offers an efficient way to calculate the numerical value of definite integrals, and has a high convergence rate, high accuracy and robustness. Krishna and Iqbal (2015) implemented bat algorithm (BA) and FA using chaotic sequence and levy flight. These two algorithms were applied to optimize parameters of parameterized high boost filter, entropy, number of edges pixel. The experimental results showed that BA with chaotic levy outperformed FA via chaotic levy.

Raed *et al.*(2017) implemented FA to find best decision hyper-plane in the feature space. The proposed classifier used cross-validation of 10- fold portioning for training and testing phases used for classification. Five pattern recognition binary benchmark problems were used to demonstrate the effectiveness of the proposed classifier. The experimental results indicated that FA classifier shows better results over the other algorithms in the experiment performed (Binary Journal). Gabriel *et al.*(2018) introduced the distributed computing concept to an optimized version of the firefly algorithm. The proposed distributed version show remarkable superiority over the regular existing algorithm. However, various authors have demonstrated the performance of the different modified firefly algorithms in solving different optimization problems such as continuous, constraint, multi-objective and engineering applications. However, the level of contribution at which each factor affecting the performance of modified firefly algorithm is still open for discussion and not fully investigated. Therefore, this research will evaluate the performance of these factors affecting the efficiency of different modified firefly algorithms using principal component analysis.

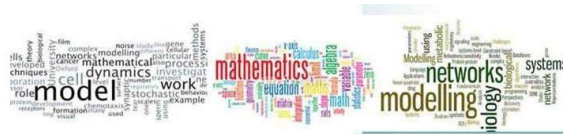


Table 1c: Descriptive Statistics of Parallel firefly

	Mean	Std.Deviation	N
Light intensity	47.4757	8.3932	7
Distance dependence	1279.2857	1111.4950	7
Randomization term	68.3014	19.5001	7

Table 1d: Descriptive Statistics of Chaotic firefly

	Mean	Std.Deviation	N
Light intensity	41.3443	10.1021	7
Distance dependence	1072.8571	931.2127	7
Randomization term	60.4314	18.4726	7

In Parallel search, mean and standard deviation on rating of light intensity, distance dependence and randomization term are (47.4757, 8.3932),(1279.2857, 1111.4950) and (68.3014, 19.5001) respectively. In Chaotic, mean and standard deviation on rating of light intensity, distance dependence and randomization term are (41.3443, 10.1021),(1072.8571, 931.2127) and (60.4314, 18.4726) respectively. Table 1a-d shows the descriptive statistics of the Binary, Gaussian, Parallel and Chaotic firefly algorithms.

Extraction method determined the number of factors to be extracted using Principal components. The extraction of the initial factors is based on eigenvalues greater than 1. Communalities show the proportion of variance of a variable explained by the common factors as indicated in Table 2a-d. For Binary firefly, the communality in light intensity is 0.757, this implies that 75.7% can be explained by the extracted factors while the remaining 24.3 are extraneous. Distance dependence is 0.837, this implies that 83.7% can be explained by the extracted factor, the remaining 16.3 are extraneous. The randomization term is 0.962, this implies that 96.2 % can be explained by the extracted factor, the remaining 3.8 are extraneous. For Gaussian, the communality of light intensity is 0.254, this implies that 25.4% of variance in light intensity can be explained by the extracted factors while the remaining 74.6% are extraneous.

Distance dependence is 0.841, this implies that 84.1% of distance dependence can be explained by the extracted factors while the remaining 15.9 are extraneous. The randomization term is 0.939, this implies that 93.9% can be explained by the extracted factors while the remaining 6.1% are extraneous. For Parallel, the communality in light intensity is 0.975, this implies that 97.5% can be explained by extracted factors, the remaining 2.5 are extraneous. Distance dependence is 0.941, this implies that 94.1% can be explained by extracted factors, the remaining 5.9 are extraneous and the randomization term is 0.925, this implies that 92.5% can be explained by extracted factors, the remaining 7.5 are extraneous. For Chaotic firefly, the communality in light intensity is 0.967; this implies that 96.7% can be explained by extracted factors, the remaining 3.7 are extraneous. Distance dependence is 0.940; this implies that 94% can be explained by extracted factors, the remaining 6 are extraneous.

