DMQEA: Dual Multiobjective Quantum-inspired Evolutionary Algorithm

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Abstract: This paper proposes dual multiobjective quantum-inspired evolutionary algorithm (DMQEA) with the dual-stage of dominance check by introducing secondary objectives in addition to primary objectives. The secondary objectives are to maximize global evaluation values and crowding distances of the solutions in the external global population obtained for the primary objectives and the previous archive obtained from the secondary objectives-based nondominated sorting. By employing the secondary objectives for sorting the solutions in each generation, DMQEA can induce the balanced exploration of the solutions in terms of user’s preference and diversity to generate preferable and diverse nondominated solutions in the archive. To demonstrate the effectiveness of the proposed DMQEA, empirical comparisons with MQEA, MQEA-PS, and NSGA-II are carried out for benchmark functions.

1 INTRODUCTION

Multiobjective evolutionary algorithms (MOEAs) are designed to solve multiobjective optimization problems to get Pareto-optimal solutions while maintaining as diverse a distribution as possible. These are well-known two goals, proximity to Pareto-optimal front and diversity preservation, in ideal multiobjective optimization. Much research has been conducted to enhance the solution quality and diversity (Laumanns et al., 2002; Cui et al., 2001; Bosman and Thierens, 2003; Kim et al., 2009; Deb et al., 2002; Lee and Kim, 2012).

The other issue is how to select a preferable solution among the widely distributed solutions in the Pareto-optimal front for the application of the real world problem. To solve this issue, preference-based solution selection algorithm (PSSA) was proposed (Kim et al., 2012). It selects a solution considering user’s preference for each objective, which is represented by the fuzzy measures. In PSSA, global evaluation value of a candidate solution is calculated by the fuzzy integral of the partial evaluation values with respect to the fuzzy measures. The solution with the highest global evaluation value is selected out of the candidate solutions.

Based on PSSA, multiobjective quantum-inspired evolutionary algorithm with preference-based selection (MQEA-PS) was proposed (Kim et al., 2012). In each archive generation process, MQEA-PS employs PSSA in MQEA for preference-based sorting for the solutions in the external global population and the previous archive. It means that the nondominated solutions in the archive are obtained by preference-based sorting instead of dominance-based sorting, whereas the internal subpopulations are sorted by fast nondominated sorting. In this way, the solutions that reflect user’s preference for each objective can be obtained in the archive. Furthermore, for considering the diversity of the solutions as well as user’s preference, crowding distance sorting after the preference-based sorting in the archive generation process is developed (Ryu et al., 2012). However, the solutions are lack of the proximity to the Pareto front.

In this paper, we propose dual multiobjective quantum-inspired evolutionary algorithm (DMQEA) by introducing secondary objectives in addition to primary objectives that are given objectives in the problem. The proposed DMQEA has the dual-stage of dominance check respectively for the primary and secondary objectives. In the first stage, the dominated solutions with respect to primary objectives are culled out by primary objectives-based nondominated sorting (PONS). In the second stage, nondominated
sortings is applied for the secondary objectives for the generation of archive, which is called secondary objectives-based nondominated sorting (SONS). The secondary objectives are to optimize global evaluation values and crowding distances of the solutions in the previous archive and the external global population obtained for the primary objectives. The archive consists of first-tier solutions obtained from the SONS.

By employing SONS in each generation, DMQEA can induce the balanced exploration of the solutions in terms of user’s preference and diversity to produce preferable and diverse nondominated solutions in the archive. The effectiveness of the proposed DMQEA is demonstrated through statistical comparisons with MQEA, MQEA-PS, and NSGA-II for benchmark functions. The experimental results confirm that the proposed DMQEA generates the solutions with larger hypervolume while maintaining user’s preference compared to the existing two algorithms, MQEA and MQEA-PS.

The rest of this paper is organized as follows: quantum-inspired evolutionary algorithm (QEA), preference-based solution selection algorithm (PSSA), and crowding distance are briefly described in Section II. Section III proposes dual multiobjective evolutionary algorithm (DMQEA). The experimental results are presented in Section IV and concluding remarks follow in Section V.

2 PRELIMINARIES

2.1 QEA

Quantum-inspired evolutionary algorithm (QEA) is an evolutionary algorithm, which employs the probabilistic mechanism inspired by the concept and principles of quantum computing, such as a quantum bit and superposition of states (Han and Kim, 2002; Han and Kim, 2004). Building block of classical digital computer is represented by two binary states, ‘0’ or ‘1’, which is a finite set of discrete and stable state. In contrast, QEA utilizes a novel representation, called a Q-bit representation, for the probabilistic representation that is based on the concept of qubits in quantum computing (Hey, 1999). Quantum system enables the superposition of such state as follows:

$$\alpha |0\rangle + \beta |1\rangle$$  \hfill (1)

where $\alpha$ and $\beta$ are the complex numbers satisfying $|\alpha|^2 + |\beta|^2 = 1$.

Qubit is shown in Fig. 1, which can be illustrated as a unit vector on the two dimensional space as follows:

$$|\psi\rangle = \alpha |0\rangle + \beta |1\rangle$$

where $|\alpha|^2 + |\beta|^2 = 1$. Q-bit individual is defined as a string of Q-bits as follows:

$$q'_j = \begin{bmatrix} \alpha'_{j,1} \\ \beta'_{j,1} \\ \vdots \\ \alpha'_{j,m} \\ \beta'_{j,m} \end{bmatrix}$$  \hfill (2)

where $m$ is the string length of Q-bit individual, and $j = 1, 2, \ldots, n$ for the population size $n$. The population of Q-bit individuals at generation $t$ is represented as follows:

$$Q(t) = \{q'_1, q'_2, \ldots, q'_n\}.$$  \hfill (3)

Since Q-bit individual represents the linear superposition of all possible states probabilistically, various individuals are generated during the evolutionary process. The procedure of QEA and the overall structure for single-objective optimization problems are described in (Han and Kim, 2002). To solve multiobjective optimization problems, multiobjective quantum-inspired evolutionary algorithm (MQEA) is also developed (Kim et al., 2006).

2.2 PSSA

Preference-based solution selection algorithm (PSSA) selects a solution among the obtained nondominated solutions considering user’s preference (Kim et al., 2012). The nondominated solutions cannot be directly compared against each other, and therefore a multicriteria decision making (MCDM) algorithm is required to evaluate them. In PSSA, the global evaluation value of a candidate solution is calculated by the fuzzy integral, as an MCDM algorithm, where $\delta_{ij}$ is the partial evaluation value with respect to the fuzzy measures. The fuzzy measures represent the degrees of consideration for objectives, and the partial evaluation value indicates a normalized objective function value. Overall procedure of global evaluation is summarized in Algorithm 1. Each step
in the algorithm is briefly described in the following
and detail procedure of global evaluation is described
in (Kim et al., 2012).

1. Calculate λ-fuzzy measures

Objectives are defined as criteria in multi-
objective problem. λ-fuzzy measure represents the
degree of consideration for each criterion. To get the
values of λ-fuzzy measures, a pairwise comparison
matrix \((P)\) is initially defined by user for represent-
ing preference degrees between criteria. Secondly,
the normalized weights of \(P\) are calculated by adding
each value in the row of the pairwise comparison ma-
trix and dividing it by the total sum of the values in
the row. Lastly, λ-fuzzy measures are obtained using
the normalized weights (Bajwa et al., 2008).

2. Compute global evaluation value

First, the value of partial evaluation of each solu-
tion is calculated by normalizing the objective func-
tion value to 1. Global evaluation of each and every
solution is performed by the Choquet fuzzy integral
solution obtained for the primary objectives and the
distances of the solutions in the external global pop-
ulation. Boundary points for each objective have the maximum crowding distance, and they are always selected. Calculation of crowding distance is described in Algorithm 2.

Algorithm 2 Crowding distance assignment

\[
\text{Algorithm 2 Crowding distance assignment}
\]
\begin{itemize}
\item \(l\): No. of the solutions
\item \(m\): No. of the objectives
\item \(f_j(x_k)\): \(j\)-th objective value of \(x_k\)
\item \(h_j(x_k)\): \(j\)-th partial evaluation value of \(x_k\)
\item \(e(x_k)\): Global evaluation value of \(x_k\)
\end{itemize}

1. Initialize

\[
1: \text{for } k = 1 \text{ to } l \text{ do}
2: \quad x_k.CD = 0
3: \text{end for}
\]

2. Calculate the crowding distances

\[
1: \text{for } j = 1 \text{ to } m \text{ do}
2: \quad \text{for } k = 1 \text{ to } l \text{ do}
3: \qquad \text{Calculate the objective value } f_j(x_k)
4: \quad \text{end for}
5: \quad \text{Sort the solutions using objective value } f_j(x_k), x_k = \text{sort}(x_k)
6: \quad x_k.CD = x_k.CD + |f_j(x_{k+1}) - f_j(x_{k-1})|
7: \text{end for}
8: \text{end for}
\]

3. DMQEA

Dual multiobjective quantum-inspired evolution-
ary algorithm (DMQEA) has the dual-stage of dom-
inance check for the primary and secondary objec-
tives. Primary objectives are the given objectives of
the problem. The secondary objectives are to maxi-
mize both the global evaluation values and crowding
distances of the solutions in the external global pop-
ulation obtained for the primary objectives and the
previous archive. In each archive generation process, the secondary objectives are employed for sorting the solutions, which is called secondary objectives-based nondominated sorting (SONS). By the proposed SONS, the archive stores first-tier solutions.

### 3.1 SONS

SONS is to sort the solutions with the secondary objectives for maximizing the global evaluation value (GEval) and crowding distance (CD). The SONS is performed for the solutions in the external global population obtained for the primary objectives and the previous archive. It means that in DMQEA, the solutions are sorted by SONS that checks the dominance relationship with respect to GEval and CD. By SONS, the solutions that are not dominated by any other solutions could be obtained as first-tier solutions that are stored in the archive.

The proposed SONS is depicted in Fig. 2. GEval and CD of every solution in the external global population and the previous archive are calculated as explained in the previous section. Note that the global evaluation value of a solution is calculated by the fuzzy integral of the partial evaluation values with respect to the fuzzy measures representing the user’s preference for objectives. The solutions with higher values of GEval and CD are better in terms of user’s preference and diversity. For example, in the figure, blue points are classified as first-tier solutions to be stored in the archive. The solutions in lower tiers are discarded because they are dominated by the first-tier solutions.

### 3.2 Procedure of DMQEA

In an archive generation process, MQEA employs dominance-based sorting for primary objectives of the solutions in the external global population and the previous archive. Most of them are nondominated by the other solutions because primary objectives-based nondominated sorting (PONS) or fast nondominated sorting is already performed in each subpopulation. It means that the dominance-based sorting for the primary objectives might be an ineffective operation in selecting solutions to be stored in the archive. Indeed, in experiments, the external global population almost consists of nondominated solutions. To solve this problem, DMQEA employs SONS in the archive generation process. By SONS, each solution is classified into the corresponding tier and the solutions in the first tier are stored in the archive. These are used for reference solutions through the global random migration process. The overall procedure of DMQEA is summarized in Algorithm 3, and depicted in Fig. 3. Each step is described in detail in the following.

1. Initialize $Q_k(t)$ and generate archive $A(t)$ $Q_k(0)$ including $q_j^0$, which consists of $\alpha_{ji}^0$ and $\beta_{ji}^0$, is initialized with $1/\sqrt{2}$, where $i = 0, 1, ..., m - 1$, $j = 1, 2, ..., n$, and $k = 1, 2, ..., s$. Note that $m$ is the string length of Q-bit individual, $n$ is the subpopulation size, and $s$ is the number of subpopulations. It means that one Q-bit individual, $q_j^0$, represents the linear superposition of all possible states with same probability. Binary solutions in $P_k(0)$ are produced by multiple observing the states of $Q_k(0)$, where $P_k(0) = \{x_1^0, x_2^0, ..., x_n^0\}$ and $x_j^0 = \{x_{j,m-1}, x_{j,m-2}, ..., x_{j,0}\}$, $j = 1, 2, ..., n$. A bit of one binary solution, $x_{ji}^0$, has a value either ‘0’ or ‘1’ according to the probability either $|\alpha_{ji}^0|^2$ or $|\beta_{ji}^0|^2$, where $i = 0, 1, ..., m - 1$, $j = 1, 2, ..., n$, as follows:

$$x_{ji}^0 = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if rand}[0,1] \geq |\beta_{ji}^0|^2 \\ 1 & \text{if rand}[0,1] < |\beta_{ji}^0|^2. \end{cases}$$

Algorithm 3 Procedure of DMQEA

- $P_k(t) = \{x'_1, x'_2, \ldots, x'_n\}$
- $x'_j = \{x'_{j,1}, x'_{j,2}, \ldots, x'_{j,m}\}$
- $Q_k(t) = \{q'_1, q'_2, \ldots, q'_n\}$
- $q'_j = \begin{bmatrix} \alpha'_{j,m-1} \\ \beta'_{j,m-1} \\ \alpha'_{j,m-2} \\ \beta'_{j,m-2} \\ \ldots \\ \alpha'_{j,0} \\ \beta'_{j,0} \end{bmatrix}$
- $R_k(t) = \{r'_1, r'_2, \ldots, r'_n\}$
- $s = \text{No. of subpopulations}$
- $n = \text{Size of subpopulation}$
- $m = \text{Q-bit string length}$

1. Initialize $Q_k(t)$ and generate archive $A(t)$
   1: $t = 0$
   2: for $k = 1$ to $s$
   3: \hspace{1em} for $j = 1$ to $n$
   4: \hspace{2em} for $i = 0$ to $m-1$
   5: \hspace{3em} $\alpha'_{j,i} = \beta'_{j,i} = 1/\sqrt{2}$
   6: \hspace{1em} end for
   7: \hspace{1em} Make $P_k(t)$ by multiple observing the states of $Q_k(t)$
   8: \hspace{1em} for each objective do
   9: \hspace{2em} Evaluate the objective value from $x'_j$
   10: \hspace{1em} end for
   11: \hspace{1em} Store first-tier solutions of $P(t)$ by SONS in the archive $A(t)$
   12: \hspace{1em} end for
   13: end for
2. Generate global population $P(t)$
   1: $t = t + 1$
   2: for $k = 1$ to $s$
   3: \hspace{1em} for $j = 1$ to $n$
   4: \hspace{2em} Make $P_k(t)$ by multiple observing the states of $Q_k(t)$
   5: \hspace{2em} for each objective do
   6: \hspace{3em} Evaluate the objective value from $x'_j$
   7: \hspace{2em} end for
   8: \hspace{2em} end for
   9: \hspace{1em} Run PONS for $P_k(t) \cup B_k(t-1)$
   10: \hspace{1em} Store $n$ higher-tier solutions of $P_k(t) \cup B_k(t-1)$ into $B_k(t)$
   11: \hspace{1em} end for
   12: \hspace{1em} Store all solutions in every $B_k(t)$ into $P(t)$
3. Update archive $A(t)$
   1: for each solution in $A(t-1) \cup P(t)$ do
   2: \hspace{1em} Evaluate GEval and CD
   3: end for
   4: Run SONS
   5: Store the first-tier solutions into the archive $A(t)$
   4. Migrate and update $Q_k(t)$
      1: for $k = 1$ to $s$
      2: \hspace{1em} for $j = 1$ to $n$
      3: \hspace{2em} Select a solution in $A(t)$ randomly
      4: \hspace{2em} Store it into $r'_j$
      5: \hspace{2em} Update $q'_j$ using Q-gates referring to the solutions in $r'_j$
      6: \hspace{1em} end for
      7: \hspace{1em} end for
   5. Go back to Step 2 and repeat

Multiple observation is performed on each and every Q-bit individual in subpopulations, $q'_j$ in $Q_k(0), k = 1, 2, \ldots, s$. Each binary solution in $P_k(0)$ is decoded to a real number if necessary, and its objective value is calculated. All solutions in each binary subpopulation $P_k(0)$ are copied to the external global population $P(0)$ and store first-tier solutions of $P(0)$ by SONS in the archive $A(t)$.

2. Generate global population $P(t)$

Binary solutions are generated by multiple observations of Q-bit individuals in Q-bit subpopulation $Q_k(t)$. Each bit of binary solution $x'_{jl}, l = 1, 2, \ldots, o$, where $o$ is the observation index is obtained. $x'_j$ is assigned by the best among the observed binary solutions $x'_{jl}, l = 1, 2, \ldots, o$, from the multiple observations. And then, evaluation is performed to $P_k(t)$, where $k = 1, 2, \ldots, s$. Therefore, objective values of all solutions in each subpopulation are obtained. The solutions in the previous higher-tier subpopulation and the current binary subpopulation $P_k(t) \cup B_k(t-1)$ are sorted by PONS to select $n$ solutions in order from the first tier to the lower tiers. The $n$ higher-tier solutions form $B_k(t)$, where $B_k(t) = \{b'_1, b'_2, \ldots, b'_n\}$ that is to become the previous higher-tier subpopulation in the next generation. To update Q-bit individuals corresponding to higher-tier subpopulation later, Q-bit subpopulation $Q_k(t)$ is rearranged by replacing each $q'_j$ in the subpopulation by the Q-bit individual that has generated $b'_j$. All higher-tier solutions in each subpopulation $B_k(t)$ are copied to the external global population $P(t)$.

3. Update archive $A(t)$

Global evaluation values are calculated by the fuzzy integral and crowding distance is also calculated. The fuzzy integral reflects how much a user prefers the solution, and crowding distance denotes the density of the solutions. SONS with GEval and CD for the solutions in the external global
population and the previous archive is performed. The nondominated solutions in the first tier are stored into the archive \( A(t) \). The size of the archive might be different each generation.

4. Migrate and update \( Q_t(t) \)

The solutions in the archive \( A(t) \) are randomly selected \( n \) times and they are globally migrated to each reference subpopulation \( R_k(t) \), where \( R_k(t) = \{ r_{1k}^t, r_{2k}^t, \ldots, r_{nk}^t \} \). Note that the solutions in \( R_k(t) \) are employed as references to update \( Q \)-bit individuals, each of which is corresponding to the solution in the higher-tier subpopulation. Global random migration procedure occurs at every generation. In the update process of \( Q \)-bit individuals, the rotation gate is employed. \( r_1^t \) and \( b_1^t \) in each subpopulation are compared bit-by-bit to decide the update directions of \( Q \)-bit individuals in the rotation gate \( U(\Delta \theta) \), which is defined as follows:

\[
q_i^t = U(\Delta \theta) \cdot q_i^{t-1}
\]

with

\[
U(\Delta \theta) = \begin{bmatrix}
\cos(\Delta \theta) & -\sin(\Delta \theta) \\
\sin(\Delta \theta) & \cos(\Delta \theta)
\end{bmatrix}
\]

where \( \Delta \theta \) is the rotation angle of each \( Q \)-bit as shown in Fig. 1. Note that crossover and mutation operators are not used in QEA.

5. Go back to Step 2 and repeat

Go back to Step 2 and repeat until a termination condition is satisfied.

4 EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

4.1 Experimental Settings

The proposed DMQEA was compared with MQEA, MQEA-PS, and NSGA-II. To evaluate the performance of algorithms, we employed seven DTLZ functions as benchmark functions. The number of variables for each DTLZ function was set to 9 for DTLZ1, 16 for DTLZ2 to DTLZ6, and 26 for DTLZ7. Parameters for DMQEA, MQEA-PS, MQEA, and NSGA-II were equally set and given in Table 1. Belief measure (\( \xi = 0.25 \)) for MQEA-PS and DMQEA was used. As the preferred objectives, two objectives among the five objectives in DTLZ functions were selected. The preference degrees or the degrees of consideration for five objectives was set as \( f_1 : f_2 : f_3 : f_4 : f_5 = 1 : 10 : 1 : 10 : 1 \). The normalized weights from the pairwise comparison matrix were calculated as (0.0435, 0.435, 0.0435, 0.435, 0.0435).

Table 1: Parameter setting of MQEA, MQEA-PS, and DMQEA for DTLZ functions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Algorithms</th>
<th>Parameters</th>
<th>Values</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MQEA</td>
<td>The population size (( N = n \cdot s ))</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MQEA-PS</td>
<td>No. of generations</td>
<td>3000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DMQEA</td>
<td>Subpopulation size(s)</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No. of subpopulations (s)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No. of multiple observations</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The rotation angle (( \Delta \theta ))</td>
<td>0.23π</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSGA-II</td>
<td>The population size (N)</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No. of generations</td>
<td>3000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mutation probability</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.2 Performance Metrics

Two performance metrics, the size of dominated space and the diversity, were employed to evaluate the performances of MQEA, MQEA-PS, DMQEA, and NSGA-II (Zitzler, 1999). The size of dominated space, \( \hat{S} \), is defined by the hypervolume of the finally obtained global population. The quality of the obtained global population is high if this space is large. The diversity, \( \hat{D} \), is to evaluate the spread of nondominated solutions, which is defined as follows (Li et al., 2004):

\[
\hat{D} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{N_0} (f_k^{(\max)} - f_k^{(\min)})}{\sqrt{\frac{1}{N_0} \sum_{i=1}^{N_0} (d_i - \bar{d})^2}}
\]

where \( N_0 \) is the set of nondominated solutions, \( d_i \) is the minimal distance between the \( i \)-th solution and the nearest neighbor, and \( \bar{d} \) is the mean value of all \( d_i \), \( f_k^{(\max)} \) and \( f_k^{(\min)} \) represent the maximum and minimum objective function values of the \( k \)-th objective, respectively. A larger value means a better diversity of the nondominated solutions.

4.3 Results

The proposed DMQEA generated the optimized solutions concentrated on the selected preferred objectives, \( f_2 \) and \( f_1 \). The hypervolume and diversity of MQEA, MQEA-PS, DMQEA, and NSGA-II are summarized in Tables 2. The results in Table 2 are averaged ones by repeating the simulation 50 times.

For statistical analysis, \( t \)-test was employed to statistically compare the performance metrics of algorithms. The \( t \)-test is a statistical hypothesis test in which the test statistic follows a \( t \) distribution if the null hypothesis \( H_0 \) is supported. If the null hypothesis \( H_0 \) is rejected, the alternative hypothesis is supported. \( t \)-test was used to determine whether two comparison groups were significantly different from each other. The \( t \)-test was carried out with the two-tailed test. Tables 3 show \( t \)-value (and \( p \)-value) for the hypervolume with MQEA, MQEA-PS, and NSGA-II.
5 CONCLUSION

In this paper, dual multiobjective quantum-inspired evolutionary algorithm (DMQEA) was proposed by introducing secondary objectives in addition to primary objectives. The proposed DMQEA had the dual-stage of dominance check for the primary and secondary objectives. The secondary objectives are to maximize global evaluation values and crowding distances of the solutions. The global evaluation of a solution was carried out by the fuzzy in-
tegal of the partial evaluation values with respect to the fuzzy measures representing user’s preference for objectives. By employing the secondary objectives-based nondominated sorting in each archive generation process, DMQEA could generate the preferable and diverse solutions. For the performance comparisons among MQEA, MQEA-PS, DMQEA, and NSGA-II, seven DTLZ functions were used as benchmark functions, and hypervolume and diversity were employed as performance metrics. The experimental results confirmed that the proposed DMQEA was able to generate more optimized solutions for the preferred objectives compared with the other algorithms.

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