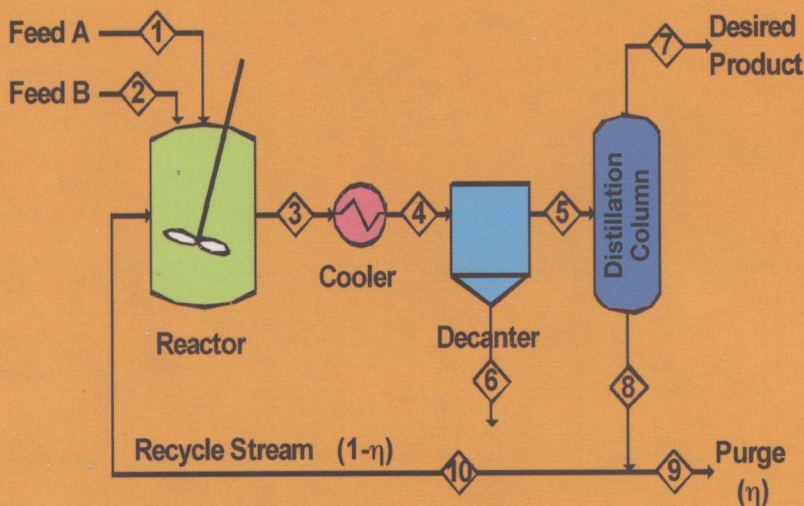


Advances in Process Systems Engineering – Vol. 1

MULTI-OBJECTIVE OPTIMIZATION

Techniques and Applications in
Chemical Engineering



Gade Pandu Rangaiah

editor

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National University of Singapore



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Preface

Optimization is essential for reducing material and energy requirements as well as the harmful environmental impact of chemical processes. It leads to better design and operation of chemical processes as well as to sustainable processes. Many applications of optimization involve several objectives, some of which are conflicting. Multi-objective optimization (MOO) is required to solve the resulting problems in these applications. Hence MOO has attracted the attention of several researchers, particularly in the last ten years.

It is my pleasure and honor to edit this first book on MOO with focus on chemical engineering applications. Although process modeling and optimization has been my research interest since my doctoral studies around 1980, my interest and research in MOO began in 1998 when Prof. S.K. Gupta, Prof. A.K. Ray and I initiated collaborative work on the optimization of a steam reformer. Since then, we have studied optimization of many industrial reactors and processes that need to meet multiple objectives. I am thankful to both Prof. S.K. Gupta and Prof. A.K. Ray for the successful collaboration over the years.

The first chapter of the book provides an introduction to MOO with a realistic application, namely, the alkylation process optimization for two objectives. The second chapter reviews nearly 100 chemical engineering applications of MOO since the year 2000 to mid-2007. The next 5 chapters are on the selected MOO techniques; they include (1) review of multi-objective evolutionary algorithms in the context of chemical engineering, (2) multi-objective genetic algorithm and simulated

annealing as well as their jumping gene adaptations, (3) surrogate-assisted multi-objective evolutionary algorithm, (4) interactive MOO in process design, and (5) two methods for ranking the Pareto solutions.

The final 6 chapters present a broad range of MOO applications in chemical engineering including a few in biochemical engineering. They cover gas-phase refrigeration systems for liquefied natural gas, feed optimization to a residue catalytic cracker in a petroleum refinery, process design for multiple economic and/or environmental objectives, emergency response optimization around chemical plants, developing gene networks from gene expression data, and multi-product microbial cell factory. In these applications, the models employed are detailed, and the scenarios and data are realistic.

Each of the chapters in the book was contributed by leading researchers in MOO techniques and/or its applications. Brief resume and photo of each of the contributors to the book, are provided on the enclosed CD-ROM. Each chapter in the book was reviewed anonymously by at least two experts and/or other contributors. Of the submissions received, only those considered to be useful for education and/or research were revised by the respective contributor(s), and the revised submission was finally reviewed for presentation style by the editor or one of the other contributors. I am grateful to my colleague, Dr. S. Lakshminarayanan, who coordinated the anonymous review of chapters co-authored by me and also provided constructive comments on the first chapter.

The book will be useful to researchers in academic and research institutions, to engineers and managers in process industries, and to graduates and senior-level undergraduates. Researchers and engineers can use it for applying MOO to their processes whereas students can utilize it as a supplementary text in optimization courses. Each of the chapters in the book can be read and understood with little reference to other chapters. However, readers are encouraged to go through the introduction chapter first. Many chapters contain several exercises at the end, which can be used for assignments and projects. Some of these and the applications discussed within the chapters can be used as projects in

optimization courses at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. The book comes with a CD-ROM containing many programs and files, which will be helpful to readers in solving the exercises and/or doing the projects.

I am thankful to all contributors to this book and anonymous reviewers for their collaboration and cooperation. In particular, I am grateful to Prof. S.K. Gupta and Prof. J. Thibault for several suggestions, which enhanced the book. Thanks are also due to Ms. H.L. Gow and Mr. K.W. Tjan from the World Scientific, for their suggestions and cooperation in preparing this book. It is my pleasure to acknowledge the contributions of my research fellow (Dr. A. Tarafder) and postgraduate students (J.K. Rajesh, P.P. Oh, B.S. Mohanakkannan, Y. Li, Y.M. Lee, N. Bhutani, N. Agrawal, F.C. Lee, Masuduzzaman, E.S.Q. Lee and N.M. Shah), to our studies on MOO applications in chemical engineering over the years and thus to this book in some way or other. I thank the Department of Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering and the National University of Singapore for encouraging and supporting my research over the years by providing ample resources including research scholarships.

Finally, and very importantly, I am grateful to my wife (Krishna Kumari) and daughters (Jyotsna and Madhavi) for their loving support, encouragement and understanding not only in preparing this book but in everything I pursue.

Contents

Preface	v
Chapter 1 Introduction	1
<i>Gade Pandu Rangaiah</i>	
1.1 Process Optimization	1
1.2 Multi-Objective Optimization: Basics	4
1.3 Multi-Objective Optimization: Methods	8
1.4 Alkylation Process Optimization for Two Objectives	13
1.4.1 Alkylation Process and its Model	13
1.4.2 Multi-Objective Optimization Results and Discussion	16
1.5 Scope and Organization of the Book	18
References	23
Exercises	25
Chapter 2 Multi-Objective Optimization Applications in Chemical Engineering	27
<i>Masduzzaman and Gade Pandu Rangaiah</i>	
2.1 Introduction	28
2.2 Process Design and Operation	29
2.3 Biotechnology and Food Industry	30
2.4 Petroleum Refining and Petrochemicals	40
2.5 Pharmaceuticals and Other Products/Processes	41
2.6 Polymerization	48
2.7 Conclusions	48
References	52

Chapter 3	Multi-Objective Evolutionary Algorithms: A Review of the State-of-the-Art and some of their Applications in Chemical Engineering	61
	<i>Antonio López Jaimes and Carlos A. Coello Coello</i>	
3.1	Introduction	61
3.2	Basic Concepts	62
3.2.1	Pareto Optimality	63
3.3	The Early Days	63
3.4	Modern MOEAs	65
3.5	MOEAs in Chemical Engineering	68
3.6	MOEAs Originated in Chemical Engineering	68
3.6.1	Neighborhood and Archived Genetic Algorithm	69
3.6.2	Criterion Selection MOEAs	70
3.6.3	The Jumping Gene Operator	72
3.6.4	Multi-Objective Differential Evolution	73
3.7	Some Applications Using Well-Known MOEAs	75
3.7.1	TYPE I: Optimization of an Industrial Nylon 6 Semi-Batch Reactor	75
3.7.2	TYPE I: Optimization of an Industrial Ethylene Reactor	76
3.7.3	TYPE II: Optimization of an Industrial Styrene Reactor	76
3.7.4	TYPE II: Optimization of an Industrial Hydrocracking Unit	77
3.7.5	TYPE III: Optimization of Semi-Batch Reactive Crystallization Process	78
3.7.6	TYPE III: Optimization of Simulated Moving Bed Process	79
3.7.7	TYPE IV: Biological and Bioinformatics Problems	80
3.7.8	TYPE V: Optimization of a Waste Incineration Plant	81
3.7.9	TYPE V: Chemical Process Systems Modelling	81
3.8	Critical Remarks	83
3.9	Additional Resources	84
3.10	Future Research	84
3.11	Conclusions	85
	Acknowledgements	85
	References	86

Chapter 4	Multi-Objective Genetic Algorithm and Simulated Annealing with the Jumping Gene Adaptations	91
	<i>Manojkumar Ramteke and Santosh K. Gupta</i>	
4.1	Introduction	92
4.2	Genetic Algorithm (GA)	93
4.2.1	Simple GA (SGA) for Single-Objective Problems	93
4.2.2	Multi-Objective Elitist Non-Dominated Sorting GA (NSGA-II) and its JG Adaptations	99
4.3	Simulated Annealing (SA)	106
4.3.1	Simple Simulated Annealing (SSA) for Single-Objective Problems	106
4.3.2	Multi-Objective Simulated Annealing (MOSA)	107
4.4	Application of the Jumping Gene Adaptations of NSGA-II and MOSA to Three Benchmark Problems	108
4.5	Results and Discussion (Metrics for the Comparison of Results)	110
4.6	Some Recent Chemical Engineering Applications Using the JG Adaptations of NSGA-II and MOSA	119
4.7	Conclusions	120
	Acknowledgements	120
	Appendix	121
	Nomenclature	126
	References	127
	Exercises	129
Chapter 5	Surrogate Assisted Evolutionary Algorithm for Multi-Objective Optimization	131
	<i>Tapabrata Ray, Amitay Isaacs and Warren Smith</i>	
5.1	Introduction	132
5.2	Surrogate Assisted Evolutionary Algorithm	134
5.2.1	Initialization	135
5.2.2	Actual Solution Archive	136
5.2.3	Selection	136
5.2.4	Crossover and Mutation	136

5.2.5	Ranking	137
5.2.6	Reduction	137
5.2.7	Building Surrogates	138
5.2.8	Evaluation using Surrogates	140
5.2.9	k-Means Clustering Algorithm	140
5.3	Numerical Examples	141
5.3.1	Zitzler-Deb-Thiele's (ZDT) Test Problems	142
5.3.2	Osyczka and Kundu (OSY) Test Problem	145
5.3.3	Tanaka (TNK) Test Problem	146
5.3.4	Alkylation Process Optimization	146
5.4	Conclusions	147
	References	148
	Exercises	150
Chapter 6	Why Use Interactive Multi-Objective Optimization in Chemical Process Design? <i>Kaisa Miettinen and Jussi Hakanen</i>	153
6.1	Introduction	154
6.2	Concepts, Basic Methods and Some Shortcomings	155
6.2.1	Concepts	155
6.2.2	Some Basic Methods	158
6.3	Interactive Multi-Objective Optimization	161
6.3.1	Reference Point Approaches	163
6.3.2	Classification-Based Methods	164
6.3.3	Some Other Interactive Methods	170
6.4	Interactive Approaches in Chemical Process Design	171
6.5	Applications of Interactive Approaches	171
6.5.1	Simulated Moving Bed Processes	172
6.5.2	Water Allocation Problem	176
6.5.3	Heat Recovery System Design	178
6.6	Conclusions	181
	References	182
	Exercises	187

Chapter 7	Net Flow and Rough Sets: Two Methods for Ranking the Pareto Domain <i>Jules Thibault</i>	189
7.1	Introduction	190
7.2	Problem Formulation and Solution Procedure	193
7.3	Net Flow Method	196
7.4	Rough Set Method	203
7.5	Application: Production of Gluconic Acid	211
	7.5.1 Definition of the Case Study	211
	7.5.2 Net Flow Method	213
	7.5.3 Rough Set Method	220
7.6	Conclusions	230
	Acknowledgements	231
	Nomenclature	231
	References	232
	Exercises	235
Chapter 8	Multi-Objective Optimization of Multi-Stage Gas-Phase Refrigeration Systems <i>Nipen M. Shah, Gade Pandu Rangaiah and Andrew F. A. Hoadley</i>	237
8.1	Introduction	238
8.2	Multi-Stage Gas-Phase Refrigeration Processes	241
	8.2.1 Gas-Phase Refrigeration	241
	8.2.2 Dual Independent Expander Refrigeration Process for LNG	243
	8.2.3 Significance of ΔT_{\min}	245
8.3	Multi-Objective Optimization	246
8.4	Case Studies	247
	8.4.1 Nitrogen Cooling using N_2 Refrigerant	248
	8.4.2 Liquefaction of Natural Gas using the Dual Independent Expander Process	256
	8.4.3 Discussion	267
8.5	Conclusions	267

Acknowledgements	269
Nomenclature	269
References	270
Exercises	271
Chapter 9 Feed Optimization for Fluidized Catalytic Cracking using a Multi-Objective Evolutionary Algorithm	277
<i>Kay Chen Tan, Ko Poh Phang and Ying Jie Yang</i>	
9.1 Introduction	278
9.2 Feed Optimization for Fluidized Catalytic Cracking	279
9.2.1 Process Description	279
9.2.2 Challenges in the Feed Optimization	282
9.2.3 The Mathematical Model of FCC Feed Optimization	283
9.3 Evolutionary Multi-Objective Optimization	284
9.4 Experimental Results	288
9.5 Decision Making and Economic Evaluation	292
9.5.1 Fuel Gas Consumption of Reactor 72CC	293
9.5.2 High Pressure (HP) Steam Consumption of Reactor 72CC	295
9.5.3 Rate of Exothermic Reaction or Energy Gain	296
9.5.4 Summary of the Cost Analysis	297
9.6 Conclusions	298
References	298
Chapter 10 Optimal Design of Chemical Processes for Multiple Economic and Environmental Objectives	301
<i>Elaine Su-Qin Lee, Gade Pandu Rangaiah and Naveen Agrawal</i>	
10.1 Introduction	302
10.2 Williams-Otto Process Optimization for Multiple Economic Objectives	304
10.2.1 Process Model	305
10.2.2 Objectives for Optimization	308
10.2.3 Multi-Objective Optimization	309

10.3	LDPE Plant Optimization for Multiple Economic Objectives	314
10.3.1	Process Model and Objectives	314
10.3.2	Multi-Objective Optimization	317
10.4	Optimizing an Industrial Ecosystem for Economic and Environmental Objectives	320
10.4.1	Model of an IE with Six Plants	322
10.4.2	Objectives, Results and Discussion	325
10.5	Conclusions	334
	Nomenclature	335
	References	335
	Exercises	336
Chapter 11	Multi-Objective Emergency Response Optimization Around Chemical Plants	339
	<i>Paraskevi S. Georgiadou, Ioannis A. Papazoglou, Chris T. Kiranoudis and Nikolaos C. Markatos</i>	
11.1	Introduction	340
11.2	Multi-Objective Emergency Response Optimization	342
11.2.1	Decision Space	342
11.2.2	Consequence Space	343
11.2.3	Determination of the Pareto Optimal Set of Solutions	343
11.2.4	General Structure of the Model	345
11.3	Consequence Assessment	345
11.3.1	Assessment of the Health Consequences on the Population	345
11.3.2	Socioeconomic Impacts	349
11.4	A MOEA for the Emergency Response Optimization	349
11.4.1	Representation of the Problem	349
11.4.2	General Structure of the MOEA	349
11.4.3	Initialization	350
11.4.4	“Fitness” Assignment	350
11.4.5	Environmental Selection	352
11.4.6	Termination	352
11.4.7	Mating Selection	352
11.4.8	Variation	353

11.5 Case Studies	353
11.6 Conclusions	358
Acknowledgements	359
References	359
Chapter 12 Array Informatics using Multi-Objective Genetic Algorithms: From Gene Expressions to Gene Networks	363
<i>Sanjeev Garg</i>	
12.1 Introduction	364
12.1.1 Biological Background	364
12.1.2 Interpreting the Scanned Image	367
12.1.3 Preprocessing of Microarray Data	368
12.2 Gene Expression Profiling and Gene Network Analysis	369
12.2.1 Gene Expression Profiling	370
12.2.2 Gene Network Analysis	371
12.2.3 Need for Newer Techniques?	377
12.3 Role of Multi-Objective Optimization	378
12.3.1 Model for Gene Expression Profiling	378
12.3.2 Implementation Details	380
12.3.3 Seed Population based NSGA-II	381
12.3.4 Model for Gene Network Analysis	382
12.4 Results and Discussion	386
12.5 Conclusions	395
Acknowledgments	396
References	396
Chapter 13 Optimization of a Multi-Product Microbial Cell Factory for Multiple Objectives – A Paradigm for Metabolic Pathway Recipe	401
<i>Fook Choon Lee, Gade Pandu Rangaiah and Dong-Yup Lee</i>	
13.1 Introduction	402
13.2 Central Carbon Metabolism of <i>Escherichia coli</i>	405

13.3 Formulation of the MOO Problem	408
13.4 Procedure used for Solving the MIMOO Problem	410
13.5 Optimization of Gene Knockouts	413
13.6 Optimization of Gene Manipulation	415
13.7 Conclusions	422
Nomenclature	424
References	426
Index	429