

# Bat Algorithm Optimization for Fuzzy Rule Base Design of a Fuzzy Controller

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**Abstract—** This paper proposes a new approach to designing fuzzy rule base for a fuzzy controllers using Bat optimization algorithm. The Bat algorithm is one of the most recent swarm intelligence based algorithms that simulates the intelligent hunting behavior of the bats found in nature. The main objective is to optimize the fuzzy rule base of fuzzy controller for dynamic, complex and highly nonlinear systems, respecting the desired performance. To demonstrate the efficiency of the suggested approach, a control of a water bath temperature is selected. Simulation results showed that the proposed approach could be employed as a simple and effective optimization method for achieving optimum determination of fuzzy rule base parameters.

**Keywords-** Fuzzy rule base, Bat algorithm, Fuzzy controller, water bath temperature.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Fuzzy logic excels in imprecise knowledge representation or incomplete [1]. It provides a convenient interface for modeling of natural language, especially linguistic concepts used by experts of a process. It helps manage complex systems in a simple and easily explainable by human expertise. The difficulty of implementation lies in the development of parameters and membership functions. The choice of the membership functions, their number, the defuzzification, or even of the fuzzy inference, is usually arbitrary.

The Design of a fuzzy rule base is the process that led to the formalization in the form of rules and/or learned relations, from a set of examples between the inputs and outputs of a process. In many cases, the structure is determined empirically by choosing a priori the type of relational approximate reasoning, the number of fuzzy sets for each input variable, and taking all possible combinations to build the fuzzy rule base. So, it is important to mention the difficulty of ensuring consistency & interpretability of fuzzy rules, in particular for multivariable systems where the number of rules becomes very high [2].

The adjustment by successive trial of FS parameters is quite long and tedious. Various techniques of optimization and learning fuzzy systems have been developed. First, Neural networks are used for setting parameters of the premises membership functions in [3] and fuzzy rule

consequences in [3]-[5]. After, Gradient descent is used for tuning parameters of the premises and consequences of a FS [6]. After, many improvements have been made using hybridization of fuzzy logic and neural networks [7] - [9].

Another technique of tuning fuzzy systems was the use of metaheuristics, including evolutionary algorithms [10]-[12], and swarm intelligence [13]-[16]. The vast majority of heuristic and metaheuristic algorithms have been derived from the behavior of biological systems and/or physical systems in nature [17]. For example, particle swarm optimization is inspired by social behavior of animals moving in swarm [18], while simulated annealing is based on the annealing process of metals [19]. New algorithms are also emerging recently, including harmony search [20], the firefly algorithm [21], and the Bat algorithm (BA) [17], [22]. The BA technique is introduced by Yang in 2010. It is based on the echolocation behavior of bats. The capability of echolocation of micro-bats is fascinating as these bats can find their prey and discriminate different types of insects even in complete darkness [22]. Bat algorithm was successfully applied to a number of very different problems [23]-[26]. BA is simple to implement and produces good results [26].

This paper presents a simple and effective method using Bat algorithm for designing the fuzzy rule base of a fuzzy controller of type Takagi-Sugeno zero order. Two control problems are considered to study the performance of the proposed algorithm. The remaining of this paper is organized as follows: The structure of fuzzy controller to be optimized is described in the next section. After, the standard BA algorithm is briefly presented in the section III. Section IV explained the method of designing the fuzzy rule base by BA. The test of the effectiveness of the proposed method is made in section V. Finally, the paper is ended by a conclusion.

## II. FUZZY CONTROLLER STRUCTURE

This section describes the fuzzy controller (FC) to be designed in this study. The FC is of type Takagi-Sugeno zero order. The  $i^{th}$  rule, which is denoted as  $R_i$ , is represented in the following form:

$$R_i: \text{If } e(k) \text{ is } A_{i1} \text{ and } \Delta e(k) \text{ is } A_{in}$$

Then  $u(k)$  is  $o_i$  (1)

where  $k$  is the time step,  $e(k)$ ,  $\Delta e(k)$  are the input variables,  $u(k)$  is the fuzzy controller output variable,  $A_{ij}$  is a fuzzy set, and  $o_i$  is a crisp value.  $A_{ij}$  is a fuzzy set which uses a triangular membership function defined by following equation:

$$\mu(x) = \max\left(\min\left(\frac{x-a}{b-a}, \frac{c-x}{c-b}\right), 0\right) \quad (2)$$

where  $a, b$  and  $c$  represent respectively the locations of starting point, peak point and the ending point, for a triangle shaped membership function.

About the fuzzy rule base, the decision on the number of fuzzy rules is a very important issue because it plays a very important role in fuzzy control systems. Unfortunately, there is no systematic and effective procedure for selecting the number of the most appropriate rules, except for some proposals. A reasonable number of fuzzy rules, without losing too much information about the system to be controlled must be carefully obtained.

For flexibility of the implementation of fuzzy controller, the universe of discourse of inputs and output is limited to a range of  $[-1, 1]$ , determined by the normalization of inputs and output [27]. To do this, the scale factors are used to have the desired dynamics.

This paper proposes a fuzzy rule base composed of only three enabled rules, extracted from analysis expressed as follows:

**R<sub>1</sub>**: If  $e(k)$  is  $N(-1, a_1, a_2)$  and  $\Delta e(k)$  is  $N(-1, b_1, b_2)$   
 then  $u(k) = o_1$ .

**R<sub>2</sub>**: If  $e(k)$  is  $Z(a_1, a_2, a_3)$  and  $\Delta e(k)$  is  $Z(b_1, b_2, b_3)$   
 then  $u(k) = o_2$ .

**R<sub>3</sub>**: If  $e(k)$  is  $P(a_2, a_3, 1)$  and  $\Delta e(k)$  is  $P(b_2, b_3, 1)$   
 then  $u(k) = o_3$ .

where  $e(k)$  is the difference between the desired output and the measured output of the controlled system.  $N, Z$  and  $P$  are fuzzy sets of input variables, and  $o_1, o_2, o_3$  are real values of fuzzy controller output.

In the inference mechanism, the AND in the fuzzy rule is implemented by the algebraic product in the theory of fuzzy logic (according to Larsen). Thus, given a set of input data  $\vec{x} = (e, \Delta e)$ , the degree of activation  $\gamma_i(\vec{x})$  of Rule  $i$  is calculated by:

$$\gamma_i(\vec{x}) = \mu_{A_i}(e(k)) \cdot \mu_{B_i}(\Delta e(k)) \quad (3)$$

If there are  $n_r$  rules in fuzzy controller, the resulting output of the set of rules is given by the average of weighted individual outputs as follows:

$$u = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n_r} \gamma_i(\vec{x}) \cdot o_i}{\sum_{i=1}^{n_r} \gamma_i(\vec{x})} \quad (4)$$

where  $o_i$  is the value of the conclusion of the  $i^{th}$  rule.

In this paper, the optimization of the fuzzy controller includes the determination of all parameters of each fuzzy rule.

### III. BAT ALGORITHM

Bat algorithm is a metaheuristic optimization algorithm developed by Xin-She Yang in 2010 [22]. The algorithm is based on echolocation of micro-bats with varying pulse rates of emission and loudness. Bats use sonar echoes to detect and avoid obstacles: they determine the size of an object, how far away they are, how fast they are travelling and even their texture, all in split in a second. After hitting and reflecting, bats transform their own pulse to useful information to gauge how far away the prey is. Bats are using wavelengths, that vary from range  $[0.7, 17]$  mm or inbound frequencies  $[20,500]$  kHz. By implementation, pulse frequency and rate has to be defined. Pulse rate can be simply determined from range 0 to 1, where 0 means there is no emission and by 1, bats are emitting maximum [28], [29], [30].

In order to transform these behaviors of bats to algorithm, Yang used three generalized rules [22]:

- 1) All bats use echolocation to sense distance, and they also guess the difference between food/prey and background barriers in some magical way.
- 2) Bats fly randomly with velocity  $v_i$  at position  $x_i$  with a fixed frequency  $f_{min}$ , varying wavelength  $\lambda$  and loudness  $A_0$  to search for prey. They can automatically adjust the wavelength of their emitted pulses and adjust the rate of pulse emission  $r$  from  $[0, 1]$ , depending on the proximity of their target.
- 3) Although the loudness can vary in many ways, we assume that the loudness varies from a positive large value  $A_0$  to a minimum constant value  $A_{min}$ .

The initial position  $x_i$ , velocity  $v_i$  and frequency  $f_i$  are initialized for each bat. For each time step  $t$ , the movement of the virtual bats is given by updating their velocity and position using the following equations:

$$f_i = f_{min} + (f_{max} - f_{min}) \cdot \rho \quad (5)$$

$$v_i^j(t) = v_i^j(t-1) + [x_{g_{best}}^j - x_i^j(t-1)] \cdot f_i \quad (6)$$

$$x_i^j(t) = x_i^j(t-1) + v_i^j(t) \quad (7)$$

where  $\rho \in [0,1]$  indicates randomly generated number, and  $x_{g_{best}}^j$  represents current global best solutions.

For the local search part, once a solution is selected among the current best solutions, a new solution for each bat is generated locally using random walk:

$$x_i^{new} = x_i^{old} + \sigma \cdot A_{mean}^{old} \quad (8)$$

Where,  $\sigma \in [0,1]$  is a random number and represents direction and intensity of random-walk.  $A_{mean}^{old}$  is the average loudness of all the bats.

Based on these approximations and idealization, the basic steps of the Bat Algorithm (BA) can be summarized as the following pseudo code [17]:

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Objective function  $f(x)$ ,  $x = (x_1, \dots, x_d)^T$ 
Initialize the bat population  $x_i$  and  $v_i$  for  $i = 1, n$ 
Define pulse frequency  $Q_i \in [Q_{min}, Q_{max}]$ 
Initialize pulse rates  $r_i$  and the loudness  $A_i$ 
while ( $t < T_{max}$ ) // number of iterations
    Generate new solutions by adjusting frequency, and
    updating velocities and locations/solutions
    if ( $rand(0,1) > r_i$ )
        Select a solution among the best solutions
        Generate a local solution around the best
solution
    end if
    Generate a new solution by flying randomly
    If ( $rand(0,1) < A_i$  and  $f(x_i) < f(x)$ )
        Accept the new solutions
    Increase  $r_i$  and reduce  $A_i$ 
    end if
    Rank the bats and find the current best
end while
Post process results and visualization
    
```

#### IV. DESIGNING FUZZY RULE BASE OF FUZZY CONTROLLER USING BAT ALGORITHM

In this section, we propose to use Bat algorithm for designing a reduced fuzzy rule base of a fuzzy controller of type Takagi-Sugeno zero order, in order to obtain better performances of the system to control.

##### A. Optimization Procedure

We can summarize the optimization procedure of the fuzzy controller using Bat algorithm through the following steps:

1. Generation of an initial population of solutions characterizing the controller settings.
2. For all solutions:
  - Evaluate the objective function.
  - Classify obtained solutions according to their fitness.
  - Construction of a new population by updating process of frequencies, velocities and solutions.

The step 2 is repeated until a maximum number of iterations is performed. After the process of evolution, the final iteration of the algorithm consists of the well-adjusted solution who provide best solution.

The inclusion of design constraints in the optimization process helps to preserve the semantics of fuzzy rules. For that, the constraints on the limits of the parameter vector to be identified, and limits on the control variables are imposed.

##### B. Parameters's Vector Representation of Fuzzy Controller

The parameter vector (solution)  $x$  of the fuzzy controller has nine parameters. These parameters represent the starting point locations, the pic point, and end point, for a triangular membership function belonging to the inputs of a fuzzy controller and fuzzy singleton for its release.

$$\text{So } x = [a_1 \ a_2 \ a_3 \ b_1 \ b_2 \ b_3 \ o_1 \ o_2 \ o_3] \quad (9)$$

While respecting the following constraint:

$$\begin{cases} a_1 < a_2 < a_3 \\ b_1 < b_2 < b_3 \\ o_1 < o_2 < o_3 \end{cases} \quad (10)$$

##### C. Generation of Initial Population of solutions

Initial population is randomly generated from real-valued vectors with dimension  $d$  and number of bats  $n$ , by taking into account lower and upper boundaries. In this study,  $d = 9$ .

$$x_i^j = x_{min}^j + rand(0,1) * (x_{max}^j - x_{min}^j) \quad (11)$$

where  $i = 1, n; j = 1, d$  and  $x_{min}^j$  and  $x_{max}^j$  are lower and upper boundaries for dimension  $j$  respectively.

#### V. APPLICATION

The test of effectiveness of the Bat algorithm is illustrated to generate fuzzy rule base of fuzzy controller of type Takagi-Sugeno zero order for control of water bath temperature.

##### A. Water bath temperature control system

The objective of this section is to control the temperature of a water bath. The structure of the process is given by the diagram of the Fig. 1.

The goal of this simulation is to control the temperature of a water bath system given by the following equation [31]:

$$\frac{dy(t)}{dt} = \frac{u(t)}{C} + \frac{Y_0 - y(t)}{RC} \quad (12)$$

where  $y(t)$  is the system output temperature in °C;  $u(t)$  is heating flowing inward the system;  $Y_0$  is initial temperature;  $C$  is the equivalent system thermal capacity; and  $R$  is the equivalent thermal resistance between the system borders and surrounding.

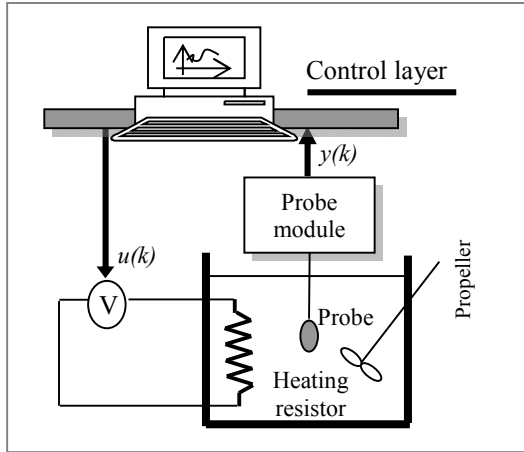


Fig. 1. Process Structure

Assuming that  $R$  and  $C$  are essentially constant, we rewrite the system in Eq. (12) into discrete-time form with some reasonable approximation:

$$y(k+1) = e^{-\alpha T_s} \cdot y(k) + \frac{\beta}{\alpha} \frac{(1 - e^{-\alpha T_s})}{1 + e^{0.5y(k)-40}} u(k) + (1 - e^{-\alpha T_s}) Y_0 \quad (13)$$

Where  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are some constant values describing  $R$  and  $C$ . The system parameters used in this example are:  $\alpha = 1.0015 \times 10^{-4}$ ,  $\beta = 8.67973 \times 10^{-3}$  and  $Y_0 = 25.0$  (°C), which were obtained from a real water bath plant in The input  $u(k)$  is limited between 0v and 5v. The sampling period is  $T_s = 30$  sec.

In the first part of simulation, the controller objective is to generate a control  $u(k)$  allows the system to track the reference trajectory given by:

$$y_{ref} = \begin{cases} 35^\circ\text{C} & \text{for } k \leq 40 \\ 55^\circ\text{C} & \text{for } 40 < k \leq 80 \\ 75^\circ\text{C} & \text{for } 80 < k \leq 120 \end{cases} \quad (14)$$

The 120 models applies are selected from the input-output characteristic to cover the space Entire benchmark yield.

TABLE I  
 BA Control parameters values

Parameter	Designation	value
$n$	Population size	20
$ng$	Number of generation	100
$f_{min}$	Minimum frequency	0
$f_{max}$	Maximum frequency	1
$A$	Loudness	0.5
$r$	Pulse rate	0.5

The proposed approach is applied to optimize a fuzzy controller of type Takagi-Sugeno zero-order of water-bath system. As in a previous study [16], the fitness function for

performance evaluation is defined to be the sum of absolute error:

$$SAE = \sum_k |y_{ref}(k) - y(k)| \quad (15)$$

where  $y_{ref}(k)$  and  $y(k)$  are the reference output and the actual output of the simulated system, respectively.

The Bat algorithm parameters used in this study are given in Table I.

Figure 2 shows the evolution of the performance index during the execution of the algorithm.

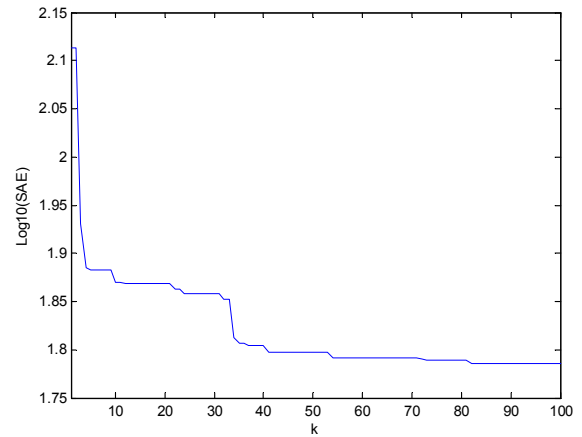


Fig.2. Evolution of the Fitness Function.

The fuzzy rule base obtained after optimization using Bat algorithm is as follows:

- $R_1$ : if  $e$  is  $N(-1, -0.55, 0.5)$  and  $\Delta e$  is  $N(-1, -0.85, -0.15)$  then  $\Delta u = -1.02$
- $R_2$ : if  $e$  is  $Z(-0.55, 0.5, 0.96)$  and  $\Delta e$  is  $Z(-0.85, -0.15, 0.56)$  then  $\Delta u = 0.24$
- $R_3$ : if  $e$  is  $P(0.5, 0.96, 1.00)$  and  $\Delta e$  is  $P(-0.15, 0.56, 1.00)$  then  $\Delta u = 1.23$

The control system will be calculated by the following formula:

$$u(k) = u(k-1) + G_{\Delta u} \cdot \Delta u(k) \quad (15)$$

Where  $\Delta u$  is the command increment,  $G_{\Delta u}$  is the scale factor of the variation of control.

The Figure 3 shows the response of the system and the generated command. We can see that the new approach gives a good convergence to the desired trajectory.

To test the robustness of the optimized controller, the trajectory of the reference was changed. We define:

$$y_{ref} = \begin{cases} 34^\circ\text{C} & \text{for } k \leq 30 \\ (34 + 0.5 * (k - 30))^\circ\text{C} & \text{for } 30 < k \leq 50 \\ (44 + 0.8 * (k - 50))^\circ\text{C} & \text{for } 50 < k \leq 70 \\ (60 + 0.5 * (k - 70))^\circ\text{C} & \text{for } 70 < k \leq 90 \\ 70^\circ\text{C} & \text{for } 90 < k \leq 120 \end{cases} \quad (16)$$

The tracking performance of the proposed approach is shown in fig. 4. The results show that the Bat algorithm is able

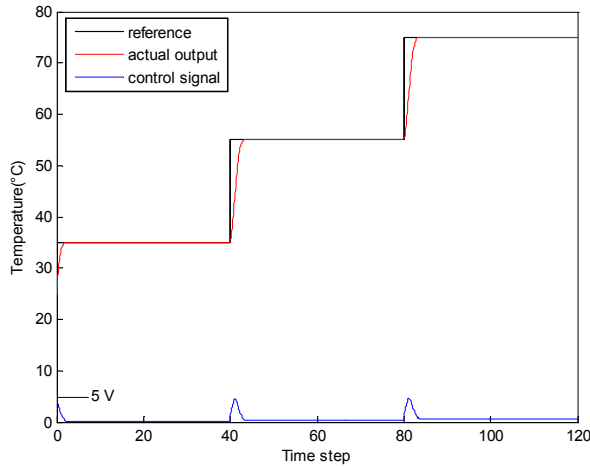


Fig.3. Water bath temperature results for nominal parameters.

to design an optimized fuzzy rule base of fuzzy Takagi-Sugeno controller of type zero order that gives a good tracking of trajectory.

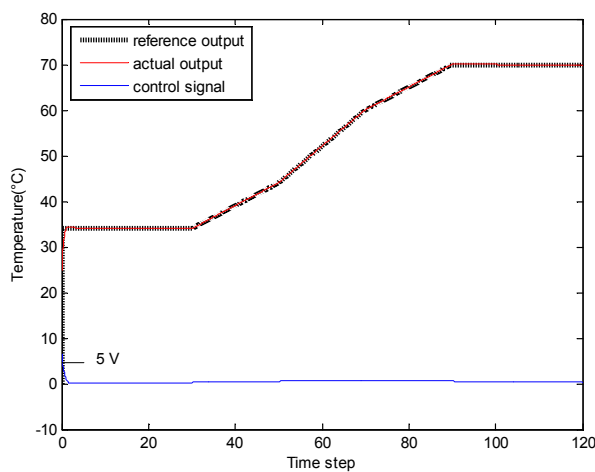


Fig.4. Test of robustness changing the model of reference

TABLE II  
 COMPARISON OF DIFFERENT METHODS OF OPTIMIZATION FOR WATER BATH TEMPERATURE PROBLEM

Method	Rule number	SAE
ACO[32]	9	130.2
EGA[33]	9	109.7
HGAPSO[34]	9	98.1
RCACO[16]	9	63.6
HEGATS [35]	3	54.42
HPSOTS [36]	3	62.7
BA	3	60.78

Table II shows the results of EGA, ACO, HGAPSO, RCACO, HEGATS and HPSOTS, for the same design problem [16]. These results show that the average error of BA is smaller than the most of the algorithms.

## VI. CONCLUSION

This paper proposes a new approach based in using of Bat algorithm for designing fuzzy rule base of fuzzy controller of type Takagi-Sugeno zero order. This algorithm adjusts fuzzy rule parameters automatically, using characteristics of intensification of Bat algorithm. The fuzzy rule base is composed of three rules extracted from analysis, and a triangle membership function for the fuzzification. To demonstrate the effectiveness of the presented approach, a control of water bath temperature is selected. Simulation results show that the proposed approach presented here is a powerful tool for the control of nonlinear systems.

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