



On q -Newton's method for unconstrained multiobjective optimization problems

Shashi Kant Mishra¹ · Geetanjali Panda² · Md Abu Talhamainuddin Ansary³ · Bhagwat Ram⁴

Received: 26 November 2019 / Published online: 28 January 2020
© Korean Society for Informatics and Computational Applied Mathematics 2020

Abstract

In this paper, we present a method of so-called q -Newton's type descent direction for solving unconstrained multiobjective optimization problems. The algorithm presented in this paper is implemented by applying an independent parameter q (quantum) in an Armijo-like rule to compute the step length which guarantees that the value of the objective function decreases at every iteration. The search processes gradually shift from global in the beginning to local as the algorithm converges due to q -gradient. The algorithm is experimented on 41 benchmark/test functions which are unimodal and multi-modal with 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10 and 50 different dimensions. The performance of the proposed method is confirmed by comparing with three existing schemes.

Keywords Optimization · Newton-type methods · q -calculus · Algorithms · Pareto optimality

Mathematics Subject Classification 78M50 · 49M15 · 05A30 · 68Wxx · 58E17

✉ Bhagwat Ram
bhagwatram14@gmail.com

Shashi Kant Mishra
bhu.skmishra@gmail.com

Geetanjali Panda
geetanjali@maths.iitkgp.ernet.in

Md Abu Talhamainuddin Ansary
md.abutalha2009@gmail.com

- ¹ Department of Mathematics, Institute of Science, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, India
- ² Department of Mathematics, Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, India
- ³ Department of Economic Science, Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, India
- ⁴ DST-Centre for Interdisciplinary Mathematical Sciences, Institute of Science, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, India

1 Introduction

Multiobjective optimization has played an important role in solving real-world problems. Most engineering problems require the designer to optimize several conflicting objectives. The objectives are in conflict to each other if an improvement in one objective leads to the deterioration in another. In multiobjective optimization problems, several objective functions have to be minimized simultaneously. In this method, no single point can minimize all objective functions at a time. Therefore, the concept of optimality is replaced with Pareto optimality or efficiency [1]. A point is called Pareto optimal or efficient, if there does not exist a different point with the same or smaller objective function values, such that there is a decrease in at least one objective function value. Multiobjective unconstrained optimization problems have been applications in engineering design [2,3], design [4–6], location science [7], statistics [8], medicine [9–11], and cancer treatment planning [12], etc. There are many new studies on this field to solve the multiobjective unconstrained optimization problems [13–16]. A general solution approach for the multiobjective optimization problem is the scalarization technique which is widely used for computing the proper efficient solutions [17]. This method is free from priori chosen weighting factors or any other form of a prior ranking or ordering information for the different objective functions [18,19]. Several parameter dependent scalarization approaches for solving nonlinear multiobjective optimization problems are discussed in [20]. Scalarization techniques convert the original multiobjective optimization problem into a new single objective optimization problem in such a way that the optimal solution for the new problem is also optimal for the original one. From a practical point of view, the main advantage of this approach is that several fast and reliable methods developed for solving single objective optimization problems can be used to solve multiobjective optimization problems. In multiobjective optimization, one of the most widely used scalarization techniques is the weighting method, which consists of minimizing the weighted sum of different objectives [21]. In general, the weights, which are critical for the methods, are not known in advance for us. Thus, the computational implementations of this technique are not straightforward. Of course, the random choices of the weighting vector do not yield an optimal solution. The extension of the weighting method is for vector optimization [22].

It is well known that the objective functions are minimized rapidly along the descent direction. The q -calculus was first developed by Jackson [23], and the results obtained in [24] rise to generalizations of series, functions and special numbers within the context of the q -calculus [25]. The q -calculus has been one of the research interests in the field of mathematics, physics, and signal processing for the last few decades [24,26]. The q -Newton-Kantorovich method [27] has been developed to solve the system of nonlinear equations such as:

$$|x_1^2 - 4| + e^{7x_2 - 36} - 2 = 0, \quad (1)$$

$$\log_{10} \left(\frac{12x_1^2}{x_2} - 6 \right) + x_1^4 - 9 = 0. \quad (2)$$

With a starting point $x^0 = (2, 5)^T$, the solution $x^* = (\sqrt{3}, \frac{36}{7})^T$ is obtained. But, the classical Newton-Kantorovich method with the same starting point fails because the partial derivative of (1) with respect to the first variable does not exist. This is one of the motivation to use the q -derivative over the classical derivative. The q -derivative has been used in the steepest descent method to solve single objective unconstrained optimization problems [28]. It shows that the generated points are escaped from many local minima and reach to the global minima. Global optimization using q -gradient was further studied in [29], where the parameter q is a dilation that is used to control the degree of the localness of the search. The q -derivative concept has also been used to develop q -least mean squares algorithm given in [30], which shows that the q -derivative takes larger steps to get the optimal solution for $q \in (0, 1)$ when compared to the conventional derivative. Recently, the q -derivative in the gradient of the given function is used to show the local convergent scheme, and then this idea extended to show the global convergence property for single objective unconstrained optimization [31]. The advantages of applying the q -derivative in multiobjective unconstrained optimization problems are given as follows:

1. When $q \neq 1$, the q -gradient vector can make any angle with the classical gradient vector, and the search direction can point in any direction. For example, for the case of the steepest descent method for single objective optimization problems, the descent direction can reduce the zigzag movement to obtain the optimal solution [28].
2. It minimizes the cost for solving multiobjective optimization problems because q -gradient takes the larger steps in the search direction as it evaluates the secant of the function rather than the tangent for the case of classical derivative [30].

To the best of our knowledge, the q -derivative has not been applied in Newton's method to solve multiobjective unconstrained optimization problems so far. In this paper, we apply the q -derivative to compute the q -Hessian which is used to find Newton's search direction, and generalize the algorithm given in [32] and prove the convergence theorem.

The outline of this paper is organized in the following manner: in Sect. 2, some prerequisites related to the multiobjective optimization problems are discussed. In Sect. 3, we present the first-order optimality condition for multiobjective unconstrained optimization using q -derivative, and present Newton's search descent direction. In Sect. 4, we give the algorithm with convergence theorem, and numerical examples are given in Sect. 5. The last section is conclusion.

2 Preliminaries

We address the following multiobjective unconstrained optimization problem (MUOP):

$$\min f(x), \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^n, \quad (3)$$

where $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$, $f(x) = (f_1(x), f_2(x), \dots, f_m(x))$, and $f_j : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is continuously differentiable for $j = 1, \dots, m$. For $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^n$ we denote vector

inequalities as

$$\begin{aligned}
 x = y &\iff x_i = y_i \text{ for all } i = 1, \dots, n, \\
 x \geq y &\iff x_i \geq y_i \text{ for all } i = 1, \dots, n, \\
 x \geq y &\iff x_i \geq y_i \text{ and } x \neq y, \\
 x > y &\iff x_i > y_i \text{ for all } i = 1, \dots, n.
 \end{aligned}$$

The q -derivative ($q \neq 1$) of f_j for $j = 1, \dots, m$ is defined as

$$D_{q,x} f_j(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{f_j(x) - f_j(qx)}{x(1-q)}, & x \neq 0, \\ f'_j(x), & x = 0. \end{cases} \tag{4}$$

In the limit as $q \rightarrow 1$ or $x \rightarrow 0$, the q -derivative reduces to the classical derivative. Suppose the partial derivatives of $f_j : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, for $j = 1, \dots, m$ exist. For $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$, consider an operator $\epsilon_{q,i}$ on f_j as

$$(\epsilon_{q,i} f_j)(x) = f_j(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_{i-1}, qx_i, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_n). \tag{5}$$

The q -partial derivative ($q \neq 1$) of f_j for $j = 1, \dots, m$ at x with respect to x_i for $i = 1, \dots, n$ is

$$D_{q,x_i} f_j(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{f_j(x) - (\epsilon_{q,i} f_j)(x)}{(1-q)(x_i)}, & x_i \neq 0, \\ \frac{\partial f_j}{\partial x_i}, & x_i = 0. \end{cases} \tag{6}$$

We denote

$$g_j(x) = \nabla f_j(x) = (g_1^j(x), g_2^j(x), \dots, g_n^j(x))^T,$$

where $g_i = \frac{\partial f_j}{\partial x_i}$ for $i = 1, \dots, n, j = 1, \dots, m$. The Jacobian of the function f_j for $j = 1, \dots, m$ is the q -partial derivative of $\nabla f_j(x)$, which is given as:

$$D_q \nabla f_j(x) = \begin{bmatrix} D_{q,x_1} g_1^j(x) & D_{q,x_2} g_1^j(x) & \dots & D_{q,x_n} g_1^j(x) \\ D_{q,x_1} g_2^j(x) & D_{q,x_2} g_2^j(x) & \dots & D_{q,x_n} g_2^j(x) \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ D_{q,x_1} g_n^j(x) & D_{q,x_2} g_n^j(x) & \dots & D_{q,x_n} g_n^j(x) \end{bmatrix}_{n \times n}. \tag{7}$$

In short, we write $D_q \nabla f_j(x) = [D_{q,x_i} g_i(x)]_{n \times n}, \forall i = 1, \dots, n$, and $j = 1, \dots, m$. The matrix $D_q \nabla f_j(x)$ is not necessarily a symmetric matrix. For example, let $f : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a function defined by

$$f(x) = 3x_1^2 - 5x_1x_2^3. \tag{8}$$

Then,

$$\nabla f(x) = [6x_1 - 5x_2^3, -15x_1x_2^2]^T,$$

and

$$D_q \nabla f(x) = \begin{bmatrix} 6 & -5(1 + q + q^2)x_2^2 \\ -15x_2^2 & -15(1 + q)x_1x_2 \end{bmatrix},$$

which is not symmetric. A point $x^* \in X$ is a Pareto optimum, if there is no $y \in X$ for which $f_j(y) \leq f(x^*)$, $j = 1, \dots, m$, and $f(y) \neq f(x^*)$. The point $x^* \in X$ is a weak Pareto optimum, if there is no $y \in X$ for which $f_j(y) < f(x^*)$, $j = 1, \dots, m$. Let \mathbb{R}_{++} be the set of strictly positive real numbers. Assume that $X \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ is an open set and $f_j : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $j = 1, \dots, m$ is given function. The directional derivative of f_j , where $j = 1, \dots, m$ at $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ in the direction $d \in \mathbb{R}^n$ is defined as

$$f'_j(x; d) = \lim_{\alpha \rightarrow 0} \frac{f_j(x + \alpha d) - f_j(x)}{\alpha}, \quad \forall j = 1, \dots, m. \tag{9}$$

For $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $\|x\|$ denotes the Euclidean norm in \mathbb{R}^n . Norm of a matrix $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ is $\|A\| = \max \frac{\|Ax\|}{\|x\|}$, $x \neq 0$. We say $d \in \mathbb{R}^n$ as a descent direction for f_j at x , if for all $j = 1, \dots, m$, $d^T \nabla f_j(x) < 0$. Thus, d is a descent direction of f at x , if there exists $\alpha_0 > 0$ such that $f_j(x + \alpha d) < f_j(x)$ for all $\alpha \in (0, \alpha_0]$. A point $x^* \in \mathbb{R}^n$ is said to be an efficient point of (MUOP), if there does not exist $y \in \mathbb{R}^n$ such that $f_j(y) \leq f_j(x^*)$, $j = 1, \dots, m$. This means that point x^* is weak efficient point of f_j , if there does not exist $d \in \mathbb{R}^n$ such that $g_j(x^*)^T d < 0$ for all $j = 1, \dots, m$. The next proposition due to [32] establishes the relationship between the properties of being a critical and an optimal point.

Proposition 1 *Let f_j , $j = 1, \dots, m$, be a continuously differentiable on $X \subset \mathbb{R}^n$. Then,*

1. *If x^* is locally weak Pareto optimal, then x^* is a critical point for f_j .*
2. *If $f_j \in \mathbb{R}^m$ is convex, and x^* is a critical for f_j , then x^* is a weak Pareto optimal.*
3. *If $f_j \in C^2(\mathbb{R}^n, \mathbb{R}^m)$, and Hessian matrices are positive definite for all $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$, and if x^* is critical point for all f_j , then x^* for all $j = 1, \dots, m$, is a Pareto optimal.*

The idea of our proposed algorithm is very straightforward: choose an initial guess x^0 and check if part 1 of Proposition 1 holds. If not, compute a Newton search direction and make a suitable step length from x^0 along Newton search direction, which results a new point and the algorithm is repeated in this way.

3 On q -Newton type descent direction

We now proceed to present the q -Newton descent direction for multiobjective unconstrained optimization problem. For any point $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$, we denote $d_{Nq}(x)$, the Newton direction as the optimal solution of the following problem:

$$\begin{cases} \min & \max_{j=1,\dots,m} g_j(x)^T d_{Nq}(x) + \frac{1}{2} \bar{d}_{Nq}(x)^T D_q \nabla f_j(x) d_{Nq}(x) \\ \text{subject to} & d_{Nq}(x) \in \mathbb{R}^n. \end{cases} \tag{10}$$

We consider the symmetric counter part \bar{D}_q of D_q as

$$\bar{D}_q = \frac{1}{2}(D_q + D_q^T). \tag{11}$$

In addition to this, $D_q \nabla f_j, j = 1, \dots, m$ may not be positive definite for some q . Here, we assume the symmetric counter part $\bar{D}_q \nabla f_j, j = 1, \dots, m$, and the positive definiteness of $\bar{D}_q \nabla f$ is in the vicinity of x^* . The optimal value of problem (10) is given as:

$$\theta(x) : \inf_{d_{Nq} \in \mathbb{R}^n} \max_{j=1,\dots,m} g_j(x)^T d_{Nq} + \frac{1}{2} d_{Nq}^T \bar{D}_q \nabla f_j(x) d_{Nq}. \tag{12}$$

For multiobjective optimization, Newton search direction [32] is obtained by minimizing the maximum of quadratic term, which is given as:

$$d_{Nq}(x) : \arg \min_{d_{Nq} \in \mathbb{R}^n} \max_{j=1,\dots,m} g_j(x)^T d_{Nq} + \frac{1}{2} d_{Nq}^T \bar{D}_q \nabla f_j(x) d_{Nq}. \tag{13}$$

The problem (10) is a non-smooth problem, but it also involves quadratic approximation of each objective function.

The above problem will be a quadratic convex programming problem, if every objective function is strongly convex. Therefore, such problem always has a unique minimizer, which is presented as:

$$P(x) : \begin{cases} \min & \Gamma(x) \\ \text{subject to} & g_j(x)^T d_{Nq}(x) + \frac{1}{2} d_{Nq}^T \bar{D}_q \nabla f_j(x) d_{Nq}(x) \leq \Gamma(x), \quad 1 \leq j \leq m, \\ & (\Gamma(x), d_{Nq}) \in \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^n. \end{cases}$$

Thus,

$$\Gamma(x) : \arg \min_{d_{Nq} \in \mathbb{R}^n} \max_{j=1,\dots,m} g_j(x)^T d_{Nq} + \frac{1}{2} d_{Nq}^T \bar{D}_q \nabla f_j(x) d_{Nq}. \tag{14}$$

Also, note that for $m = 1$, the Newton direction $d_{Nq}(x)$ becomes the classical Newton direction for scalar optimization problems.

For $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$, necessary condition for Pareto optimality is given in [1], and defined for steepest descent like methods for multiobjective case in [33,34], which is modified as:

$$\Re(\bar{D}_q \nabla f_j(x)) \cap (-\mathbb{R}_{++}^m) = \phi, \quad \forall j = 1, \dots, m. \tag{15}$$

Note that $P(x)$ has unique solution, which can be obtained using Karush-Kuhn-Tucker (KKT) optimality conditions. The Lagrange function of problem $P(x)$ is:

$$L(\Gamma, d_{Nq}; \lambda) = \Gamma(x) + \sum_{j=1}^m \lambda_j \left(g_j(x)^T d_{Nq} + \frac{1}{2} d_{Nq}^T \bar{D}_q \nabla f_j(x) d_{Nq} - \Gamma(x) \right), \tag{16}$$

where $\lambda_j \geq 0$ are Lagrange multipliers. The corresponding KKT optimality conditions for $P(x)$ are given as:

$$\sum_{j=1}^m \lambda_j (g_j(x)^T + \bar{D}_q \nabla f_j(x) d_{Nq}(x)) = 0, \tag{17}$$

$$\sum_{j=1}^m \lambda_j = 1, \tag{18}$$

$$\lambda_j \geq 0, \quad g_j(x)^T d_{Nq}(x) + \frac{1}{2} d_{Nq}(x)^T \bar{D}_q \nabla f_j(x) d_{Nq}(x) \leq \Gamma(x), \quad \forall j = 1, \dots, m, \tag{19}$$

$$\lambda_j \left(g_j(x)^T d_{Nq}(x) + \frac{1}{2} d_{Nq}^T \bar{D}_q \nabla f_j(x) d_{Nq}(x) - \Gamma(x) \right) = 0, \quad \forall j = 1, \dots, m. \tag{20}$$

Suppose $d_{Nq}(x)$ satisfies (17)–(20) with Lagrange multipliers λ_j , where $j = 1, \dots, m$. The optimal value of $P(x)$ is $\Gamma(x)$. In particular, from (17), we obtain following:

$$d_{Nq}(x) = - \left[\sum_{j=1}^m (\bar{D}_q \nabla f_j(x)) \right]^{-1} \sum_{j=1}^m \lambda_j g_j(x)^T. \tag{21}$$

Theorem 1 For any noncritical point $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$, the Newton direction $d_{Nq}(x)$, as defined in (21) is a descent direction at x .

Proof Note that, from (14), for $d_{Nq}(x) = 0$, we have $\Gamma(x) \leq 0$. Suppose x is not a critical point of $f_j, \forall j = 1, \dots, m$, then we must have

$$\Re(\bar{D}_q \nabla f_j(x)) \cap (-\mathbb{R}_{++}^m) \neq \emptyset, \quad \forall j = 1, \dots, m.$$

Thus, there exists $d(x) \in \mathbb{R}^n$ such that $g_j(x)^T d_{Nq}(x) < 0, \forall j = 1, \dots, m$. Replacing $d(x)$ by $\gamma d_{Nq}(x)$ for any $\gamma \in (0, 1)$, we get

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma(x) &\leq \max_{j=1,\dots,m} g_j(x)^T \gamma d(x) + \frac{1}{2} \gamma d(x)^T \bar{D}_q \nabla f_j(x) \gamma d(x) \\ &= \gamma \max_{j=1,\dots,m} g_j(x)^T d(x) + \frac{1}{2} d(x)^T \bar{D}_q \nabla f_j(x) d(x). \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, for $\gamma > 0$, $\max_{j=1,\dots,m} g_j(x)^T d_{Nq}(x) + \frac{1}{2} d_{Nq}(x)^T \bar{D}_q \nabla f_j(x) d_{Nq}(x)$ is negative, that is, $\Gamma(x) < 0$. Since $\bar{D}_q \nabla f_j(x)$ is positive definite matrix, and $d_{Nq}(x) \neq 0$, then

$$g_j(x)^T d_{Nq}(x) < g_j(x)^T d_{Nq}(x)^T \bar{D}_q \nabla f_j(x) d_{Nq}(x) \leq \Gamma(x) < 0. \tag{22}$$

Thus, $g_j(x)^T d_{Nq}(x) < 0, \forall j = 1, \dots, m$. Thus, $d_{Nq}(x)$ is a descent direction. This completes the proof. □

Remark 1 We say that x^* is a critical point of f_j where $j = 1, \dots, m$ if and only if $\Gamma(x^*) = 0$, and $d_{Nq}(x^*) = 0$.

Theorem 2 Let function $d_{Nq} : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ given by (21) be a bounded on compact sets and $\Gamma : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ given by (14), then $|\Gamma(x) - \Gamma(y)| < \epsilon, \forall x, y \in X$.

Proof Let $Y \subset X$ be a compact set for any $x \in X$, and we have $\Gamma(x) \leq 0$ due to part 1 in Lemma 3.2 of [32], then

$$g_j(x)^T d_{Nq}(x) + \frac{1}{2} d_{Nq}(x)^T \bar{D}_q \nabla f_j(x) d_{Nq}(x) \leq 0.$$

We obtain

$$-\frac{1}{2} d_{Nq}(x)^T \bar{D}_q \nabla f_j(x) d_{Nq}(x) \geq g_j(x)^T d_{Nq}(x). \tag{23}$$

Note that f_j is twice continuously differentiable, and its all q -Hessians are positive definite due to (11), so there exists κ and $\lambda > 0$ such that

$$\kappa = \max_{x \in Y, j=1,\dots,m} \|g_j(x)\|, \tag{24}$$

and

$$\lambda = \min_{y \in Y, \|\theta\|=1} \theta^T \bar{D}_q \nabla f_j(y) \theta, \tag{25}$$

where $j = 1, \dots, m$. Combining (23)–(25) and using Cauchy–Schwartz inequality, for $x \in Y$, and $j = 1, \dots, m$, we get

$$\lambda d_{Nq}(x)^T d_{Nq}(x) \leq \|g_j(x)\| \|d_{Nq}(x)\| \leq \kappa \|d_{Nq}(x)\|. \tag{26}$$

Therefore,

$$\|d_{Nq}(x)\| = \frac{1}{\lambda} \kappa, \tag{27}$$

for all $y \in Y$. As any point in Y is in the interior of a compact subset of Y , then it suffices to show that continuity of $\Gamma(x)$ on an arbitrary compact set $Y \subset X$. For $y \in Y$, and $\phi_{y,j} : Y \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, where $j = 1, \dots, m$ such that

$$\zeta \rightarrow g_j(\zeta)^T d_{Nq}(y) + \frac{1}{2} d_{Nq}(x)^T \bar{D}_q \nabla f_j(\zeta) d_{Nq}(y). \tag{28}$$

The family $\{\psi_{y,j}\} \in Y, j = 1, \dots, m$ is equi-continuous.

$$\Gamma(\zeta) \leq \max_{j=1, \dots, m} g_j(\zeta)^T \gamma d_{Nq}(y) + \frac{1}{2} \gamma d_{Nq}^T(y) \bar{D}_q \nabla f_j(\zeta) \gamma d_{Nq}(y),$$

that is,

$$\Gamma_y(\zeta) \leq \phi_y + |\Gamma_y(\zeta) - \Gamma_y(y)| + \epsilon.$$

Thus, $|\Gamma(\zeta) - \Gamma(y)| < \epsilon$. Interchanging the roles of ζ and y , we conclude that Γ is continuous on X .

This completes the proof. □

4 On q -Newton unconstrained multiobjective algorithm and convergence

On the basis of theory described in previous section, we present the algorithm of q -Newton unconstrained multiobjective algorithm for solving (MOUP) using q -derivative. We examine $\Gamma(x)$ to obtain the Newton direction $d_{Nq}(x)$ at each non-critical point. The step length is determined by means of inexact Armijo condition with backtracking line search method. The algorithm for finding a critical/Pareto front is given below.

We now present the convergence theorem of Algorithm 1. Observe that if Algorithm 1 terminates after a finite number of iterations, then it terminates at a Pareto critical point. The following theorem is the modification of [35].

Theorem 3 *Let f_j be continuously differentiable on a compact set $X \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ for $j = 1, \dots, m$ and $\{x^k\}$ be the sequence by $x^{k+1} = x^k + \alpha_k d_{Nq}(x^k)$ given in Algorithm 1, and α_k satisfies*

$$f_j(x^{k+1}) - f_j(x^k) \leq c\alpha_k \sum_{j=1}^m \lambda_j^k (g_j(x^k))^T d_{Nq}(x^k), \tag{29}$$

Algorithm 1: q -Newton Unconstrained Multiobjective Algorithm

Choose $x^0 \in X \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$, error of tolerance $\epsilon > 0$, fix $q \in (0, 1)$, small positive number δ such that $0 < \delta < 1$, θ_j^k is the angle between $g_j(x^k)$ and $d_{Nq}(x^k)$;

```

for  $k=0,1,2,\dots$  do
    Compute  $\Gamma(x^k)$ , and  $d_{Nq}(x^k)$ ;
    for  $j = 1, \dots, m$  do
        if  $\cos^2(\theta_j^k) \geq \delta$  then
            then choose appropriate step length  $\alpha_k$  such that  $x^k + \alpha_k d_{Nq}(x^k) \in X$  and satisfies (29)
            and (31).
        end
        if  $\cos^2(\theta_j^k) < \delta$  then
            choose appropriate step length  $\alpha_k$  such that  $x^k + \alpha_k d_{Nq}(x^k) \in X$  and satisfies (29).
        end
    end
    Set  $x^{k+1} = x^k + \alpha_k d_{Nq}(x^k)$ ;
    if  $\Gamma(x^{k+1}) < \epsilon$  or  $\|g_j^{k+1}\| < \epsilon$  then
        stop;
    end
end
    
```

for all $j = 1, \dots, m$. Suppose that $L_0 = \{x \in X : f(x) < f(x^0)\}$ is bounded and convex, where $x^0 \in X$ is an initial guess point. The function $f_j(x)$ is bounded below for at least one $j \in \{1, \dots, m\}$. Then, the accumulation point of $\{x^k\}$ is a critical point of x^* of (MOUP).

Proof We have

$$f_j(x^{k+1}) - f_j(x^k) \leq c\alpha_k \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_j^k (g_j(x^k))^T d_{Nq}(x^k).$$

Since $\sum_{j=1}^m \lambda_j^k = 1$, and $\lambda_j^k \geq 0$, then

$$f_j(x^{k+1}) - f_j(x^k) \leq c\alpha_k \max_{j=1,\dots,m} ((g_j(x^k))^T d_{Nq}(x^k)).$$

Since $\bar{D}_q \nabla f_j(x)$ is positive definite, then

$$f_j(x^{k+1}) - f_j(x^k) < c\alpha_k \max_{j=1,\dots,m} ((g_j(x^k))^T d_{Nq}(x^k) + \frac{1}{2} d_{Nq}(x^k)^T \bar{D}_q \nabla f_j(x) d_{Nq}(x^k)) = c\alpha_k \Gamma(x^k).$$

We obtain

$$f_j(x^{k+1}) < f_j(x^0) + c \sum_{i=0}^k \alpha_i \Gamma(x^i) \quad \text{for all } j = 1, \dots, m.$$

Fix one j_1 from $j = 1, \dots, m$ for which $f_j(x)$ is bounded below such that $f_{j_1}(x) > -\infty$ for all $x \in X$. Also, $\{f_{j_1}(x^k)\}$ is monotonically decreasing sequence which is bounded below where $f_{j_1}(x^*) > -\infty$. Thus,

$$f_{j_1}(x^0) - f_{j_1}(x^{k+1}) > -c \sum_{i=0}^k \alpha_i \Gamma(x^i).$$

Taking $k \rightarrow \infty$ in the above inequality to get following:

$$c \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \alpha_i (-\Gamma(x^i)) < f_{j_1}(x^0) - f_{j_1}(x^*) < \infty \tag{30}$$

We already know that $\Gamma(x^i) \leq 0$ for all i , and $c \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \alpha_i (-\Gamma(x^i))$ is finite. Thus, we obtain $c\alpha_k(-\Gamma(x^k)) \rightarrow 0$ as $k \rightarrow \infty$. Since the step length is bounded above so $\alpha_k \rightarrow \infty$ for some k implies L_0 unbounded which is contradiction to the assumption. If $\alpha_k \geq \beta$ for all k and for some $\beta > 0$, then we get $-\Gamma(x^k) \rightarrow 0$ as $k \rightarrow \infty$. Note that L_0 is bounded sequence, and has at least one accumulation point. Let $\{P_1^*, P_2^*, \dots, P_r^*\}$ be the set of accumulation points $\{x^k\}$. Since P_s^* is an accumulation point for every $s \in \{1, 2, \dots, r\}$, and Γ is a continuous function, then $\Gamma(P_s^*)$ is a critical point of f for every $s \in \{1, 2, \dots, r\}$.

This completes the proof. □

Theorem 4 *Let f_j be a continuously differentiable on a compact set $X \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ for every $j = 1, \dots, m$, and $\{x^k\}$ be the sequence by $x^{k+1} = x^k + \alpha_k d_{Nq}^k(x^k)$, and given that*

1.
$$c_2 \sum_{j=1}^m \lambda_j^k (g_j(x^k))^T d_{Nq}(x^k) \leq \sum_{j=1}^m \lambda_j^k g_j(x^{k+1}) d_{Nq}(x^k), \tag{31}$$

2. g_j are Lipschitz for all $j = 1, \dots, m$, and
3. $\cos^2 \theta_j^k \geq \delta$ for some $\delta > 0$, for all $j = 1, \dots, m$, where θ_j^k is the angle between $d_{Nq}(x^k)$ and $g_j(x^k)$.

Then, every accumulation point of $\{x^k\}$ generated by Algorithm 1 is a weak efficient solution of (MOUP).

Proof From Theorem 3, we observe that every accumulation point of $\{x^k\}$ is a critical point of f_j , where $j = 1, \dots, m$. Let x^* be an accumulation point of $\{x^k\}$. Fix one j_0 from $j = 1, \dots, m$ for which $g_{j_0}(x^*) = 0$, then x^* will be a weak efficient solution. From part 2 of Theorem 4, g_j are Lipschitz continuous for all $j = 1, \dots, m$. Thus, there exists $L_j > 0$ such that $\|g_j(x) - g_j(y)\| \leq L_j \|x - y\|$ for $j = 1, \dots, m$. Form Cauchy-Schwartz inequality, we have

$$\begin{aligned} (g_j(x^{k+1}) - g_j(x^k))^T d_{Nq}(x^k) &\leq \|g_j(x^{k+1}) - g_j(x^k)\| \|d_{Nq}(x^k)\| \\ &\leq L_j \|x^{k+1} - x^k\| \|d_{Nq}(x^k)\| \\ &\leq L_j \alpha_k \|d_{Nq}(x^k)\|^2, \end{aligned}$$

Since $L = \max L_j$, where $j = 1, 2 \dots, m$, then

$$\left(g_j(x^{k+1}) - g_j(x^k)\right)^T d_{Nq}(x^k) \leq L\alpha_k \left\|d_{Nq}(x^k)\right\|^2.$$

Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} L\alpha_k \left\|d_{Nq}(x^k)\right\|^2 &\geq \max_{j=1, \dots, m} \left(g_j(x^{k+1}) - g_j(x^k)\right)^T d_{Nq}(x^k) \\ &\geq \sum_{j=1}^m \lambda_j^k \left(g_j(x^{k+1}) - g_j(x^k)\right)^T d_{Nq}(x^k). \end{aligned}$$

From part 1 of Theorem 4, we get

$$\begin{aligned} L\alpha_k \left\|d_{Nq}(x^k)\right\|^2 &\geq (c_2 - 1) \sum_{j=1}^m \lambda_j^k g_j(x^k)^T d_{Nq}(x^k) \\ &\geq (c_2 - 1) \max_{j=1, \dots, m} g_j(x^k)^T d_{Nq}(x^k). \end{aligned}$$

This implies

$$\alpha_k \geq \frac{c_2 - 1}{L\|d_{Nq}(x^k)\|^2} \max_{j=1, \dots, m} g_j(x^k)^T d_{Nq}(x^k).$$

Since $\max_{j=1, \dots, m} g_j(x^k)^T d_{Nq}(x^k) < 0$, then

$$\alpha_k \left(\max_{j=1, \dots, m} g_j(x^k)^T d_{Nq}(x^k)\right) \leq \frac{c_2 - 1}{L\|d_{Nq}(x^k)\|^2} \left(\max_{j=1, \dots, m} g_j(x^k)^T d_{Nq}(x^k)\right)^2,$$

that is,

$$-c_1\alpha_k \left(\max_{j=1, \dots, m} g_j(x^k)^T d_{Nq}(x^k)\right) \geq \frac{c_1(c_2 - 1)}{L\|d_{Nq}(x^k)\|^2} \min_{j=1, \dots, m} \left(g_j(x^k)^T d_{Nq}(x^k)\right)^2.$$

Since $(g_j(x^k)^T d_{Nq}(x^k))^2 = (g_j(x^k)^T)^2 (d_{Nq}(x^k))^2 (\cos^2 \theta_j^k)$, then

$$-c_1\alpha_k \left(\max_{j=1, \dots, m} g_j(x^k)^T d_{Nq}(x^k)\right) \geq \frac{c_1(1 - c_2)}{L} \min_{j=1, \dots, m} [\|g_j(x^k)\|^2 \cos^2(\theta_j^k)],$$

where θ_j^k is the angle between $g_j(x^k)$ and $d_{Nq}(x^k)$. We follow the same process done in Theorem 3.

$$\begin{aligned} \infty > f_{j_1}(x^0) - f_{j_1}(x^{k+1}) &\geq -c_1 \sum_{i=0}^k \alpha_i \max_{y \in Y, j=1, \dots, m} (g_j(x^i))^T d_{Nq}(x^i) \\ &= \sum_{i=0}^k \alpha_i \left(-c_1 \max_{y \in Y, j=1, \dots, m} (g_j(x^i))^T d_{Nq}(x^i) \right). \end{aligned}$$

Taking $k \rightarrow \infty$, we get

$$\infty > f_{j_1}(x^0) - f_{j_1}(x^*) \geq \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \alpha_i \left(-c_1 \max_{j=1, \dots, m} (g_j(x^i))^T d_{Nq}(x^i) \right).$$

Since $-c_1 \max_{j=1, \dots, m} g_j(x^i)^T d_{Nq}(x^i) > 0$, then

$$\alpha_k (-c_1 \max_{j=1, \dots, m} (g_j(x^k))^T d_{Nq}(x^k)) \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } k \rightarrow \infty.$$

We also have

$$\frac{c_1(1 - c_2)}{L} \min_{j=1, \dots, m} [\|g_j(x^k)\|^2 \cos^2 \theta_j^k] \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } k \rightarrow \infty.$$

Since $\cos^2 \theta_j^k > \delta$ for $j = 1, \dots, m$, then $\min_{j=1, \dots, m} \|g_j(x^k)\|^2 \rightarrow 0$ as $k \rightarrow \infty$. Fix any j_0 from $j = 1, \dots, m$ such that $\|g_{j_0}(x^k)\|^2 \rightarrow 0$ as $k \rightarrow \infty$. Since $\|g_{j_0}(x^k)\|$ is a continuous function, and $\|g_{j_0}(x^k)\| \rightarrow 0$ as $k \rightarrow \infty$, then $g_{j_0}(x^*) = 0$ for every accumulation points x^* of $\{x^k\}$. Thus, x^* is a local weak efficient solution.

This completes the proof. □

Remark 2 Algorithm 1 is also applicable to non-convex functions. It is important to note that weak efficient solution of any multiobjective unconstrained optimization problem is not unique. Thus, if Algorithm 1 is executed with any initial point, then the users may obtain any one out of these weak efficient points while shifting the descent direction from global to local rapidly due to q -gradient. All three assumptions of Theorem 4 should be satisfied for every accumulation point of the sequence $\{x^k\}$ to be a weak efficient point of (MOUP), otherwise accumulation point becomes critical point if assumptions of Theorem 3 is satisfied.

5 Numerical examples

In this section, Algorithm 1 is verified and compared with existing methods using some numerical problems from different sources. MATLAB (2019a) code is developed for Algorithm 1. To avoid unbounded solutions, the following subproblem is solved:

$$\bar{P}(x^k) : \begin{cases} \min & \Gamma(x^k) \\ \text{subject to} & g_j(x^k)^T d_{Nq}(x) + \frac{1}{2} d_{Nq}^T \bar{D}_q \nabla f_j(x) d_{Nq}(x^k) \leq \Gamma(x^k), \\ & lb \leq x^k + d_{Nq} \leq ub, \\ & (\Gamma(x^k), d_{Nq}) \in \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^n, \end{cases}$$

where $j = 1, \dots, m$, lb and ub are lower and upper bounds of x . Solution of $\bar{P}(x^k)$ is not a descent direction, if $\bar{D}_q \nabla f_j(x^k)$ is not positive definite for all j . In such cases, an approximation $\tilde{D}_q \nabla f_j(x^k) = \bar{D}_q \nabla f_j(x^k) + E(x^k)$ is used, where $E(x^k)$ is a diagonal matrix obtained using modified Cholesky factorization algorithm developed in [36]. The subproblem $\bar{P}(x^k)$ is solved using MATLAB function ‘*fmincon*’ with ‘*Algorithm interior point*’, ‘*Specified Objective Gradient*’, ‘*Specified Constraint Gradient*’. Also, $|\Gamma(x^k)| < 10^{-5}$ or maximum 200 iterations is considered as stopping criteria.

It is important to note that weak efficient solution of a multiobjective optimization problem is not unique. Thus, if the users start at any initial point and execute the algorithm, then user may reach at one of weak efficient points. The weighting method is one of the most attractive procedures for solving multiobjective optimization problems. This is due to the fact that it reduces the original problem to a family of scalar minimization problems. We first verify the steps of Algorithm 1 for obtaining a critical point with the following example:

Example 1 Consider the multiobjective optimization problem:

$\min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^2} (f_1(x), f_2(x))$, where

$$f_1(x) = \begin{cases} (x_1 - 1)^3 \sin \frac{1}{x_1 - 1} + (x_1 - 1)^2 + x_1(x_2 - 1)^4, & \text{if } x_1 \neq 1, \\ (x_2 - 1)^4, & \text{if } x_1 = 1. \end{cases}$$

$$f_2(x) = x_1^2 + x_2^2.$$

Note that $\frac{\partial^2 f_1}{\partial x_i^2}$; ($i = 1, 2$) does not exist at a point $(1, 1)^T$, which indicates that f_1

is not twice differentiable. Thus, second order sufficient condition can not be applied to justify the existence of the minimizer as in the case of higher order numerical optimization methods. Further, the Newton’s algorithm can not be applied. But, the q -derivative can be applied as described below. For $q \neq 1$,

$$\bar{D}_q \nabla f_1(1, 1) = \begin{bmatrix} 3(q - 1) \sin \frac{1}{q-1} & \frac{(q-1)^3}{2} \\ \frac{(q-1)^3}{2} & 4(q - 1)^2 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Note that $\bar{D}_q \nabla f_1(1, 1)$ is positive definite when the principal minors are positive, that is,

$$3(q - 1) \sin \frac{1}{q - 1} > 0,$$

and

$$\det(\bar{D}_q \nabla f_1(1, 1)) = 12 \sin \frac{1}{q-1} - \frac{(q-1)^3}{4} > 0.$$

In particular one may observe that, for

$$q \in (0, 1) \cap \left(1 + \frac{1}{2k\pi}, 1 + \frac{1}{(2k+1)\pi} \right),$$

where $k \in \mathbb{Z}^-$, the above two inequalities hold. Therefore, for this selection of q , $\bar{D}_q \nabla f_1(1, 1)$ is positive definite. We have solved the problem using Algorithm 1 with approximation $x^0 = (1.6, 1.5)^T$, initial parameters $q = 0.93$, $c_1 = 10^{-4}$, $c_2 = 0.9$, $\delta = 10^{-3}$ and error of tolerance $\epsilon = 10^{-5}$. We obtain $f(x^0) = (f_1(x^0), f_2(x^0)) = (0.6750, 4.81)^T$, $g_1(x^0) = (2.1491, 0.5814)^T$,

$$g_2(x^0) = (3.0880, 2.8950)^T, \bar{D}_q \nabla f_1(x^0) = \begin{bmatrix} 4.4794 & 0.3634 \\ 0.3634 & 2.9585 \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } \bar{D}_q \nabla f_2(x^0) =$$

$\begin{bmatrix} 1.93 & 0 \\ 0 & 1.93 \end{bmatrix}$. Both $\bar{D}_q \nabla f_1(x^0)$ and $\bar{D}_q \nabla f_2(x^0)$ are positive definite and hence solution of $P(x^0)$ is a descent direction of f . Solution of $P(x^0)$ is obtained as $\Gamma(x^0) = -0.5438$ and $d_{Nq}(x^0) = (-0.4685, -0.1390)^T$. Since $\cos^2(\theta_1^0) = 0.9994 > \delta$ and $\cos^2(\theta_2^0) = 0.7991 > \delta$ with $\alpha_0 = 1$ satisfying (29) and (31), then the next iterating point is given as $x^1 = x^0 + \alpha_0 d_{Nq}(x^0) = (1.1315, 1.3610)^T$. Clearly, we have $f(x^1) = (0.0387, 3.1327)^T < f(x^0)$. The final solution is obtained as $x^* = (1.0365, 1.0412)^T$ after 5 iterations, using the stopping criteria $|\Gamma(x^k)| < 10^{-5}$. This can also be verified that x^* is an approximate weak efficient solution of f by weighted sum method with weight $w = (1, 0)$.

Generate approximate Pareto front The multiobjective optimization problems have no single isolated minimum point but a set of efficient points. We consider a multi-start technique to generate an approximate Pareto front. A set of 100 uniformly distributed random points is collected between lb and ub and the proposed algorithm is executed at every initial point. The approximate Pareto front generated by Algorithm 1 is compared with the weighted sum method using the following two test problems [37]:

$$(BK1) : \min \quad (x_1^2 + x_2^2, (x_1 - 5)^2, (x_2 - 5)^2), \\ \text{subject to } -5 \leq x_1, x_2 \leq 10,$$

and

$$(IM1) : \min \quad (2\sqrt{x_1}, x_1(1 - x_2) + 5), \\ \text{subject to } 1 \leq x_1 \leq 4, 1 \leq x_2 \leq 2.$$

The single objective q -Newton method developed in [31] is used to solve single-objective optimization problems in the weighted sum method. We have considered

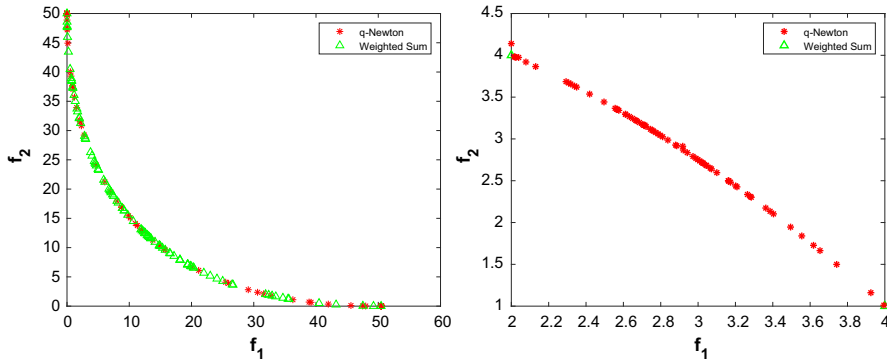


Fig. 1 Approximate Pareto fronts of BK1 and IM1

weights $(1, 0)$, $(0, 1)$, and 98 different random positive weights. The approximate Pareto fronts of the test problems (BK1) and (IM1) are provided in Fig. 1. One can observe that Algorithm 1 provides approximate Pareto fronts for both (BK1) and (IM1). But, the weighted sum method fails to generate the approximate Pareto front in (IM1).

Comparison with three existing schemes Algorithm 1 (q -QN) is compared with quasi-Newton methods for multiobjective optimization problems developed in [35] (QN1), [38] (QN2), and [39] (QN3). A set of bound constrained test problems are collected from different sources, and solved using these methods. All algorithms are executed, and computational details are provided in Table 1. In this table, ‘ It ’, ‘ $\#F$ ’ and ‘ $\#G$ ’ denote total number of iterations, function evaluations, and gradient evaluations, respectively. Total Hessian count in Algorithm 1 is equal to ‘ It ’. In (QN2) and (QN3), total gradient evaluations is equal to ‘ It ’. One can observe from Table 1 that Algorithm 1 takes less number of iterations than other methods in most cases (the lowest number of iterations are indicated by bold numbers). In view of Table 1, we can also see that (q -QN) has a significant improvement over (QN1), (QN2) and (QN3) relative to the number of objective function evaluations, and gradient evaluations for most of the cases. The methods (QN1), (QN2) and (QN3) update the positive definite Hessians for all f_j , where $j = 1, \dots, m$, but in method (q -QN), we solve subproblem of (MOUP) by updating q -Hessian generated by q -derivative, which takes larger steps to get the weak efficient solutions/critical point. Hence, the q -Newton method uses better approximations of objective functions than (QN1), (QN2) and (QN3) for solving the sub-problem. Thus, from the numerical results, (q -QN) is superior to other existing methods presented in this paper.

6 Conclusion

In this paper, the q -calculus is used in the Newton’s method for solving multiobjective unconstrained optimization problems for which existence of second order partial derivatives at every point is not required. We have given the algorithm and proved its

Table 1 Computation details

Problem	Source	(m, n)	q-QN		QN1		QN2		QN3			
			I_t	#F	#G	I_t	#F	#G	I_t	#F	I_t	#F
BK1	[37]	(2, 2)	200	200	200	200	318	300	562	692	200	300
DD1a	[40]	(2, 5)	237	237	237	421	542	502	427	522	425	552
DD1b	[40]	(2, 5)	390	428	428	613	2430	2057	1757	1764	1664	1672
DG01	[37]	(2, 1)	192	430	430	197	725	725	268	268	277	277
FDSa	[32]	(3, 5)	465	484	467	1712	3609	2297	728	835	795	1198
FDSb	[32]	(3, 10)	511	529	511	4134	9146	5428	1009	1241	1837	3771
FDSc	[32]	(3, 50)	598	648	598	3718	12968	5633	1766	2151	2339	3254
GE5	[41]	(3, 3)	315	1503	1486	281	643	643	337	457	287	798
Hil	[42]	(2, 2)	321	1398	1076	334	1663	1282	474	742	649	1478
IKK1	[37]	(3, 2)	176	176	176	266	267	266	1290	1920	232	232
IM1	[37]	(2, 2)	177	681	681	109	1765	1765	310	310	311	311
Jin1a	[43]	(2, 2)	200	200	200	200	200	200	316	946	200	200
Jin1b	[43]	(2, 10)	200	200	200	300	300	300	660	732	300	300
Jin1c	[43]	(2, 20)	200	200	200	212	1004	1004	929	929	300	300
KW2	[44]	(2, 2)	305	1435	1298	386	1560	1416	547	684	1348	1729
lovison1	[45]	(2, 2)	200	200	200	300	599	385	268	310	273	364
lovison3	[45]	(2, 2)	625	1417	1162	343	1683	1178	992	1026	957	1217
lovison4	[45]	(2, 2)	287	370	370	348	828	679	360	467	374	511
lovison5	[45]	(3, 3)	1938	3005	2675	803	2556	2125	732	935	1047	1416

Table 1 continued

Problem	Source	(m, n)	q-QN		QN1		QN2		QN3	
			I_t	#F	I_t	#G	I_t	#F	I_t	#F
lovisom6	[45]	(3, 3)	1589	2856	835	2468	1764	4782	1305	3162
LRS1	[37]	(2, 2)	200	200	200	200	300	300	200	300
mhhm1	[37]	(3, 1)	184	184	252	184	280	280	248	271
mhhm2	[37]	(3, 2)	199	199	322	199	357	357	342	368
MLF1	[37]	(2, 1)	147	250	128	250	542	542	173	173
MLF2	[37]	(2, 2)	170	1354	172	1348	1782	1808	1230	1286
MOP1	[37]	(2, 1)	200	200	217	200	317	317	208	308
MOP3	[37]	(2, 2)	311	803	344	746	704	786	500	1495
MOP5	[37]	(3, 2)	104	315	118	209	118	119	160	160
MOP7	[37]	(3, 2)	200	200	928	200	1074	1079	851	851
PNR1	[46]	(2, 2)	467	467	336	467	683	757	294	538
PNR2	[46]	(2, 2)	362	561	452	442	1079	1327	369	574
PNR3	[46]	(2, 2)	408	408	374	408	814	869	273	509
PNR4	[46]	(2, 2)	364	643	421	465	1099	1422	435	690
PNR5	[46]	(2, 2)	377	702	441	496	1077	1449	474	731
SK1	[37]	(2, 1)	122	289	120	289	280	280	127	195
SK2	[37]	(2, 4)	543	1276	782	858	1813	2672	1277	1506
SP1	[37]	(2, 2)	200	200	459	200	589	589	367	482
SSFYY1	[37]	(2, 2)	200	200	200	200	300	300	200	300
SSFYY2	[37]	(2, 1)	244	324	262	324	403	403	252	334
VFM1	[37]	(3, 2)	191	191	196	191	289	291	196	292
ZLT1	[37]	(3, 10)	200	200	200	200	300	300	200	300

convergence. The sequence provided by the method converges quadratically, and the Newton direction is chosen in the vicinity of the solution. Moreover, the quadratic convergence in case of second derivatives is Lipschitz continuous. The q -gradient enables the search to be carried out in a more diverse set of directions. Numerical results show that the proposed method is more efficient as compared with the other methods for solving multiobjective unconstrained optimization problems.

Acknowledgements We are grateful to the editors and anonymous referees for their valuable comments and detailed suggestions which helped to improve the quality of this paper. This research was supported by the Science and Engineering Research Board (Grant No. DST-SERB-MTR-2018/000121) and the University Grants Commission (IN) (Grant No. UGC-2015-UTT-59235).

References

1. Luc, D.T.: Theory of Vector Optimization. Lecture Notes in Economy and Mathematical Systems. Springer, New York (1989)
2. Eschenauer, H., Koski, J., Osyczka, A.: Multicriteria Design Optimization. Springer, Berlin (1990)
3. Kasperska, R., Ostwald, M., Rodak, M.: Bi-criteria optimization of open cross section of the thin-walled beams with flat flanges. *Proc. Appl. Math. Mech.* **4**, 614–615 (2004)
4. Jüschke, A., Jahn, J., Kirsch, A.: A bicriterial optimization problem of antenna design. *Comput. Optim. Appl.* **7**, 261–276 (1997)
5. Fu, Y., Diwekar, U.M.: An efficient sampling approach to multiobjective optimization. *Ann. Oper. Res.* **132**, 109–134 (2004)
6. Shan, S., Wang, G.G.: An efficient pareto set identification approach for multiobjective optimization on black-box functions. *J. Mech. Design* **127**, 866–874 (2005)
7. Carrizosa, E., Conde, E., Muñoz-Márquez, M., Puerto, J.: Planar point-objective location problems with nonconvex constraints: a geometrical construction. *J. Glob. Optim.* **6**, 77–86 (1995)
8. Carrizosa, E., Frenk, J.B.G.: Dominating sets for convex functions with some applications. *J. Optim. Theory Appl.* **96**, 281–295 (1998)
9. Kiran, K.L., Lakshminarayanan, S.: Treatment planning of cancer dendritic cell therapy using multi-objective optimization. *IFAC Proc. Vol.* **42**, 109–116 (2009)
10. Petrovski, A., McCall, J., Sudha, B.: Multi-objective optimization of cancer chemotherapy using swarm intelligence. In: Taylor, N.K. (ed.) *AISB Symposium on Adaptive and Emergent Behaviour and Complex Systems*. UK Society for AI (2009)
11. Kiran, K.L., Jayachandran, D., Lakshminarayanan, S.: Multi-objective optimization of cancer immunotherapy. In: Lim, C.T., Goh, J.C.H. (eds.) *13th Int. Conf. Biomed. Eng.*, pp. 1337–1340. Springer, Singapore (2009)
12. Baesler, F.F., Sepúlveda, J.A.: Multi-objective simulation optimization for a cancer treatment center. In: *Proceeding of Winter Simulation Conference*, pp. 1401–1404. IEEE, USA (2001)
13. Qu, S.J., Liu, C., Goh, M.: Nonsmooth multiobjective programming with quasi-Newton methods. *Eur. J. Oper. Res.* **235**, 503–510 (2014)
14. Qu, S.J., Goh, M., Wu, S.Y.: Multiobjective DC programs with infinite convex constraints. *J. Glob. Optim.* **59**, 41–58 (2014)
15. Qu, S.J., Zhou, Y.Y., Zhang, Y.L., Wahab, M.I.M., Zhang, G., Ye, Y.Y.: Optimal strategy for a green supply chain considering shipping policy and default risk. *Comput. Ind. Eng.* **131**, 172–186 (2019)
16. Huang, R., Qu, S., Yang, X., Liu, Z.: Multi-stage distributionally robust optimization with risk aversion. *J. Ind. Manag. Optim.* (2019). <https://doi.org/10.3934/jimo.2019109>
17. Geoffrion, A.M.: Proper efficiency and the theory of vector maximization. *J. Math. Anal. Appl.* **22**, 618–630 (1968)
18. Jahn, J.: Scalarization in vector optimization. *Math. Program* **29**, 203–218 (1984)
19. Luc, D.T.: Scalarization of vector optimization problems. *J. Optim. Theory Appl.* **55**, 85–102 (1987)
20. Eichfelder, G.: Scalarizations for adaptively solving multi-objective optimization problems. *J. Comput. Optim. Appl.* **44**, 249–273 (2009)
21. Miettinen, K.: *Nonlinear Multiobjective Optimization*. Kluwer Academic, Boston (1999)

22. Drummond, L.M.G., Maculan, N., Svaiter, B.: On the choice of parameters for the weighting method in vector optimization. *Math. Program* **111**, 201–216 (2008)
23. Jackson, F.H.: On q -functions and a certain difference operator. *Trans. Roy. Soc. Edinburg.* **46**, 253–281 (1909)
24. Ernst, T.: The history of q -calculus and a new method (Licentiate Thesis). U.U.D.M, Report (2000). <http://www.math.uu.se/thomas/Lics.pdf>
25. Jackson, F.H.: On q -definite integrals. *Quart. J. Pure Appl. Math.* **41**, 193–203 (1910)
26. Ernst, T.: A method for q -calculus. *J. Nonlinear Math. Phys.* **10**, 487–525 (2003)
27. Rajković, P.M., Marinković, S.D., Stanković, M.S.: On q -Newton–Kantorovich method for solving systems of equations. *Appl. Math. Comput.* **168**, 1432–1448 (2005)
28. Sterroni, A.C., Galski, R.L., Ramos, F.M.: The q -gradient vector for unconstrained continuous optimization problems. In: Hu, B., Morasch, K., Pickl, S., Siegle, M. (eds.) *Oper. Res. Proc.*, pp. 365–370. Springer, Heidelberg (2010)
29. Gouvêa, E.J.C., Regis, R.G., Soterroni, A.C., Scarabello, M.C., Ramos, F.M.: Global optimization using q -gradients. *Eur. J. Oper. Res.* **251**, 727–738 (2016)
30. Al-Saggaf, U.M., Moinuddin, M., Arif, M., Zerguine, A.: The q -least mean squares algorithm. *Signal Process.* **111**, 50–60 (2015)
31. Chakraborty, S.K., Panda, G.: Newton like line search method using q -calculus. *International Conference on Mathematics and Computing*. In: Giri, D., Mohapatra, R.N., Begehr, H., Obaidat, M. (eds.) *Communications in Computer and Information Science* 655, pp. 196–208. Springer, Singapore (2017)
32. Fliege, J., Drummond, L.M.G., Svaiter, B.F.: Newton’s method for multiobjective optimization. *SIAM J. Optim.* **20**, 602–626 (2009)
33. Drummond, L.M.G., Svaiter, B.F.: A steepest descent method for vector optimization. *J. Comput. Appl. Math.* **175**, 395–414 (2005)
34. Fliege, J., Svaiter, B.F.: Steepest descent methods for multicriteria optimization. *Math. Methods Oper. Res.* **51**, 479–494 (2000)
35. Ansary, M.A.T., Panda, G.: A modified quasi-Newton method for vector optimization problem. *Optimization* **64**, 2289–2306 (2015)
36. Schnabel, R.B., Eskow, E.: A revised modified cholesky factorization algorithm. *SIAM J. Optim.* **9**, 1135–1148 (1999)
37. Huband, S., Hingston, P., Barone, L., While, L.: A review of multiobjective test problems and a scalable test problem toolkit. *IEEE T. Evolut. Comput.* **10**, 477–50 (2006)
38. Qu, S., Goh, M., Chan, F.T.S.: Quasi-Newton methods for solving multiobjective optimization. *Oper. Res. Lett.* **39**, 397–399 (2011)
39. Povalej, Ž.: Quasi-Newton’s method for multiobjective optimization. *J. Comput. Appl. Math.* **255**, 765–777 (2014)
40. Das, I., Dennis, J.E.: Normal-boundary intersection: a new method for generating pareto optimal points in nonlinear multicriteria optimization problems. *SIAM J. Optim.* **8**, 631–657 (1998)
41. Eichfelder, G.: An adaptive scalarization method in multiobjective optimization. *SIAM J. Optim.* **19**, 1694–1718 (2009)
42. Hillermeier, C.: *Nonlinear Multiobjective Optimization: A Generalized Homotopy Approach*. Springer, Basel (2001)
43. Jin, Y., Olhofer, M., Sendhoff, B.: Dynamic weighted aggregation for evolutionary multi-objective optimization: Why does it work and how?. In: Spector, L. (ed.) *Proceedings of the Genetic and Evolutionary Computation Conference*. pp. 1042–1049, Morgan Kaufmann Publishers, United States (2001)
44. Kim, I.Y., de Weck, O.L.: Adaptive weighted sum method for bi-objective optimization. *Struct. Multidiscip. O.* **29**, 149–158 (2005)
45. Lovison, A.: A synthetic approach to multiobjective optimization (2010). [arXiv:1002.0093](https://arxiv.org/abs/1002.0093)
46. Preuss, M., Naujoks, B., Rudolph, G.: Pareto set and EMOA behavior for simple multimodal multiobjective functions. In: Runarsson, T.P., Beyer, H.G., Burke, E., Guervós, J.J.M., Whitley, L.D., Yao, X. (eds.) *Parallel Problem Solving from Nature-PPSN IX*, pp. 513–522. Springer, Berlin (2006)