Optimum sliding mode controller design based on skyhook model for nonlinear vehicle vibration model

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Abstract

In this paper a new type of multi-objective differential evolution employing dynamically tunable mutation factor is used to optimally design non-linear vehicle model. In this way, non-dominated sorting algorithm with crowding distance criterion are combined to fuziified mutation differential evolution to construct multi-objective algorithm to solve the problem. In order to achieve fuzzified mutation factor, two inputs as generation number and population diversity and one output as the mutation factor are used in the fuzzy inference system. The objective functions optimized simultaneously are namely, vertical acceleration of sprung mass, relative displacement between sprung mass and unsprung mass and control force. Optimization processes have been done in two bi- and three objective areas. Comparison of the obtained results with those in the literature has shown the superiority of the proposed method of this work. Further, it has been shown that the results of 3-objective optimization include those of bi-objective one, and therefore it gives more optimum options to the designer.

Keywords: non-linear vehicle model, Pareto, Multi-objective optimization, Differential evolution, Fuzzified mutation

1. Introduction

Suspension system in a typical vehicle is a significant part which affects ride comfort and road holding capability considerably [1]. Generally speaking, there are three types of suspension systems which are namely, passive, semi-active and active [1-3].

Passive suspension is composed of parallel installation of spring and damper between the vehicle body (sprung mass) and wheel-axle assembly (unsprung mass) [2-3]. Active suspension needs an external power source which supplies control force to improve the passive components [3-4]. Semi-active one is in-between the two aforementioned suspensions. This kind of suspension dissipates low level of energy [3] and with its varying damping properties can achieve a better performance than passive one [2]. Active suspensions offer appreciable behavior under different road excitations in comparison with passive and semi-active ones [2, 4]. Therefore several control approaches have been proposed by the researchers in the field of the design of the active suspension such as, optimal control [5], preview control [6], robust control [7-8], neural networks [9], back-stepping control [2], fuzzy control [10-11] and so forth.

Model reference is used to have a real suspension plant go along it [12]. For this purpose, skyhook model has been employed by some authors [13-15] as a theoretical reference model.

Sliding mode control is a useful method to design systems which are robust to external disturbances or parameters uncertainties. It can provide invariability if the bounds of variations are clear and the sliding condition is fulfilled [16]. By choosing a proper sliding surface the appropriate dynamic performance of the system can be achieved [12]. Kim and Ro [17] proposed a method based on the combination of sliding mode control and skyhook model to design active suspensions considering non-linearites.

It should be noted that finding an exact model of a real suspension plant and acceptable estimation of road irregularities are complicated tasks. On the other hand, in the sliding mode control design, the system with uncertainties and disturbances can be stabilized if the bounds of them are plain. Since, road irregularities may change considerably, achieving such bounds seems a difficult task. In order to overcome this shortage, in [12] inertial delay control method has been used to estimate the non-linearities

of suspension system and the outcome of unknown road disturbance.

It is important to notice that there is a good competence to employ global optimization methods for the design of vehicle suspension system [18]. As a matter of fact, there are considerable differences between evolutionary algorithms (EAs) and gradient based optimization method. The performance of gradient based method largely depends on the starting point and the direction of the gradient. Therefore, there is a high probability to get trapped in the local optima [19]. But, in case of EAs, because of the stochastic population based nature of them, the search direction can be changed in such a way to escape the local optima and approach towards the global ones [20]. The nature of EAs qualify them to be used in the multi-objective optimization problems (MOPs). Actually, in MOPs, there are some objective functions which conflict together. Therefore, if one of them improves the other one deteriorates and vice versa. Consequently, there is no unique solution and a set of solutions named Pareto front [21].

There are two principal targets in the optimization process by the EAs [22]:

1. Directing the search process to the true Pareto curve

2. Preventing premature convergence or persevering population diversity

Pareto optimal design of vehicle vibration model can achieve an acceptable trade-off between ride comfort and road holding capability as can be seen in [8, 21, 23-24].

In this paper one of the newly developed methods of EAs named differential evolution [25-26] is used to optimally design the active suspension model [12]. DE is a fast and robust algorithm [27-28]. Further, its performance is considerably dependent on two significant factors, namely mutation and crossover [29-31].

As reported in the literature, high value of mutation factor is effective in global search but low value of that may hasten the convergence speed. Besides, the larger value of crossover probability may increase the diversity of the population but the lower one of that improve the local exploitation [31]. So, tuning the aforesaid factors can improve the performance of DE. In this paper, fuzzy logic [32] is employed to dynamically adjust the mutation factor of DE. In this way, papers such as [33-34] have been done based on the hybrid usage of fuzzy logic and DE to dynamically adapt the mutation factor.

In this paper, a multi-objective differential evolution with dynamically adaptable mutation factor [34] is employed for Pareto optimal design of an active vehicle suspension model [12]. The conflicting objective functions have been chosen as vertical acceleration of sprung mass, relative displacement between sprung mass and unsprung mass, and control force. Furthermore, design variables are chosen as the two important effective factors on the control procedure which will be described later. Multi-objective optimization has been done in 2- and 3-objective areas. Comparison of the obtained results with those in the literature proves the superiority of the results of this work.

2. Multi-objective Fuzzified Differential Evolution (MFDE)

In general, multi-objective optimization problems (MOPs) can be described as follows [21-22]:

Finding the best set of design variables (X^*) :

$$X^* = \{x_1^*, x_2^*, \dots, x_n^*\}^T$$

to optimize the set of objective functions ($F(X)$):

$$F(X) = \{f_1(X), f_2(X), \dots, f_k(X)\}$$

by satisfying m inequality constraints:

$$g_i(X) \leq 0 \qquad i = 1, 2, \dots, m$$

and p equality constraints:

$$h_j(X) = 0 \qquad j = 1, 2, \dots, p$$

where $X^* \in R^n$ and $F(X) \in R^k$.

It means that a set of objective functions must either be minimized or maximized. But, in case of maximization by multiplying equation (2) by -1 , the problem can be converted into minimization without loss of generality [27]. The respectful reader may refer to [21-22] for more information about Pareto dominance, Pareto optimality, Pareto set and Pareto front.

In differential evolution (DE), two operators, namely, mutation and crossover are exerted to the parents, respectively, to produce offsprings as follows [34]:

$$x_i^G = \left(x_{1,i}^G, x_{2,i}^G, \dots, x_{d,i}^G\right), \ i = 1, 2, \dots, n$$
$$v_i^G = x_{best}^G + F \cdot \left(x_{r_1}^G - x_{r_2}^G\right), \qquad r_1 \neq r_2 \neq i$$

in which, n, G, d, $F \in [0,1]$, $x_{r_1}^G$ and $x_{r_2}^G$ along with x_{best}^G indicate, number of population, number of generation, number of dimension of the search space, mutation factor, two randomly selected disparate vectors and the vector which is randomly selected from the first front of the last generation so far [35], respectively.

$$u_{j,i}^G = \begin{cases} v_{j,i}^G & if \ r_i \leq C_r \ or \ \ j = J_r, \\ & \qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad j = 1,2,\dots,d \\ x_{j,i}^G & Otherwise. \end{cases}$$

(7)

where, r_i is a number randomly chosen from [0, 1]; J_r is employed in equation (7) to insure that $u_i^G \neq x_i^G$ and $C_r \in [0,1]$ represents crossover probability.

Parents and offsprings are joined together using non-dominated sorting algorithm [36] and crowding distance criterion [36]. The results enter to the next generation and the optimization process reiterates.

When algorithm is started by the operator, the initial population is generated randomly. So, this randomly produced population is used as the parents at this time. But, in the next generation, parents are the ones who have entered from the previous generation. And the process goes on.

The goal of the non-dominated sorting algorithm is to assign rank to each individual of the population by comparing it to the others. If the individual dominates them or are non-dominated to them, they enters to the first rank to form first Pareto front. After constructing first rank, the individuals in it are deleted from the population and this process repeats for the remainder of the population to construct other Pareto frontiers.

The purpose of crowding distance criterion is to avoid dense crowding of population in a limited zone to conserve the diversity of the population. In order to achieve this goal, crowding distance criterion appoints a value to each member as the crowding criterion to show the average distance of it with respect to the others. Each members with higher crowding criterion has the higher chance to go to the next generation.

The respectful reader may refer to [36] to find more information about non-dominated sorting algorithm and crowding distance criterion.

As discussed earlier, DE is a swift and robust algorithm, but is has some drawbacks. Although DE is good at global search, it is weak in local search [37]. DE has trouble with premature convergence and population stagnation [38]. Its performance is mostly influenced by its operators (such as mutation factor and crossover probability), therefore in different conditions it may cause difficulty [39].

To overcome the above-mentioned deficiencies, fuzzy logic [32] is employed to dynamically adapt the mutation factor considering two significant parameters mentioned as follows [34]:
1. Number of generation
2. Population diversity

As far as in low number of generation, algorithm needs to find the limitation of global optimum (optima), large step seems proper. As a result, high value of mutation factor may be better. On the other hand, in high number of generation, low value of mutation factor is good to exploit through the search space. Such logic can be used for the population diversity, too. Actually, when population packs together (low value of diversity), low value of mutation factor can be efficacious for fine-tuning through the population. Further, when population diversity is high, larger value of mutation factor may be useful [34].

Consequently, in this work, fuzzy logic considering two significant above-mentioned parameters as inputs, and one output as mutation factor, is used to improve the performance of the differential evolution algorithm. Fuzzy rules employed here are depicted in table 1 [34].

Briefly speaking, fuzzfied mutation obtained here is used in equation (6) instead of conventional one, and the remainder of the procedure carries out as discussed earlier. This methodology is called multi-objective fuzzified differential evolution (MFDE) and applied to Pareto optimal design of active suspension model [12]. The aforementioned methodology is presented in figure 1.

3. Two degree of freedom nonlinear vehicle vibration model

The vehicle model employed here is depicted in figure 2 [12]. The equations of suspension system can be shown as:

$$m_s \ddot{x}_s = -f_s - f_d + u$$
$$m_u \ddot{x}_u = f_s + f_d - f_t - u$$

where m_s, m_u, x_s, x_u and u display nominal sprung mass, nominal unsprung mass, vertical displacement of the sprung mass in relation to its static position, vertical displacement of the unsprung mass in relation to its static position and control force, respectively.

Furthermore,

$$f_s = k_1 \Delta x + k_2 \Delta x^2 + k_3 \Delta x^3$$
$$f_d = c_1 \Delta \dot{x} + c_2 \Delta \dot{x}^2$$

$$f_t = \begin{cases} k_t(x_u - x_r) & if \ k_t(x_u - x_r) < \frac{(m_s + m_u)g}{k_t} \\ 0 & otherwise \end{cases}$$

in which, k_i, $i = 1,2,3$, c_i, $i = 1,2$ and k_t are constants and $\Delta x = x_s - x_u$ is the relative displacement between sprung and unsprung mass. Besides, g is the gravity acceleration.

Supposing $x_1 = x_s$, $x_2 = \dot{x}_s$, $x_3 = x_u$ and $x_4 = \dot{x}_u$, the state equations of motion can be written as follows:

$$\dot{x}_1 = x_2$$
$$\dot{x}_2 = \frac{1}{m_s}(-f_s - f_d + u)$$
$$\dot{x}_3 = x_4$$
$$\dot{x}_4 = \frac{1}{m_u}(f_s + f_d - f_t - u)$$

The aforementioned vehicle model is excited by two road inputs as:

Case 1 [12]:
$$x_r =$$
$$0.05sin(3\pi t)sin(0.3\pi t) + 0.025\cos(0.075\pi t + \frac{\pi}{2})$$
Case 2 [12]:
$$x_r =$$
$$0.05sin(1.5\pi t)sin(0.15\pi t) +$$
$$0.05sin(0.6\pi t)sin(0.03\pi t)$$

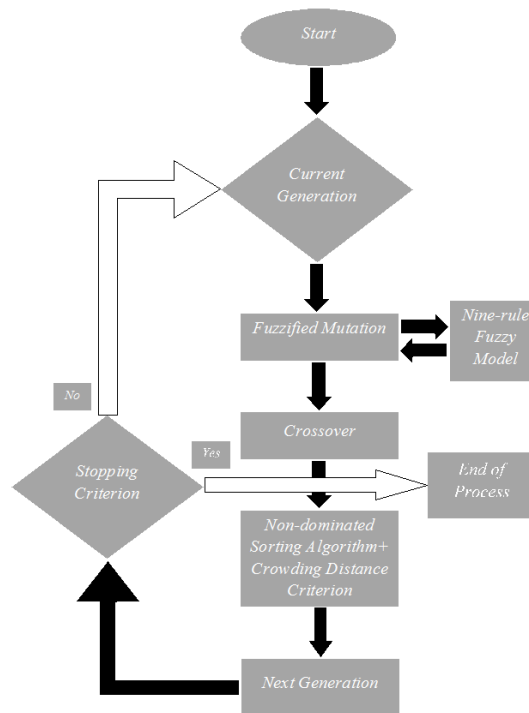These two road profiles are displayed in figures 3-4, respectively.

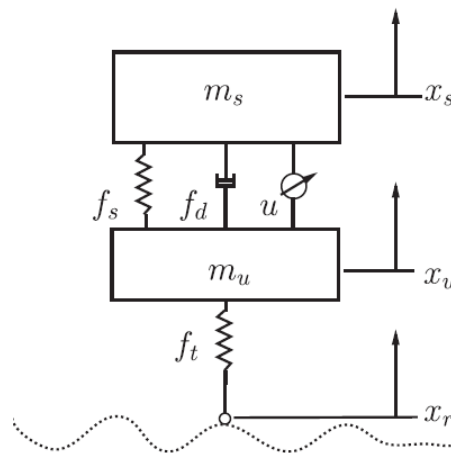**Fig1.** *Schematic diagram of the proposed methodology.*
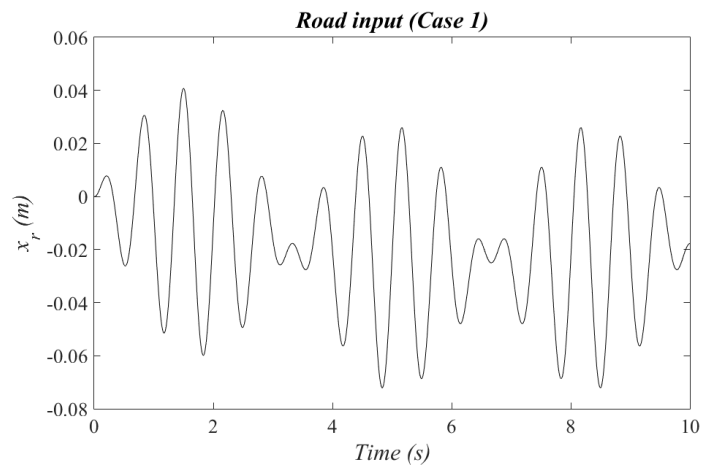

Fig2. Non-linear vehicle model [12].
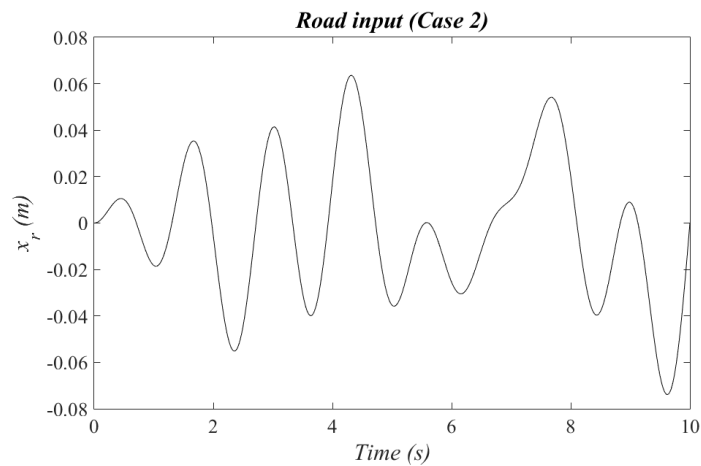
Fig3. Road input case 1 [12].

Fig4. Road input case 2 [12].

Table 1. Fuzzy rule-based system used here [34]

Output of fuzzy system is Mutation Factor		Diversity		
		Low	Medium	High
Number of Generation	Low	(…) Medium	(…) High	(…) Very High
	Medium	(…) Low	(…) Medium	(…) High
	High	(…) Very Low	(…) Low	(…) Medium

(…): Mutation Factor must be

3.1 The skyhook reference model

The popular conceptual skyh+ook model is seen in figure 5 [12, 17]. It is important to notice that since the tire is about ten times stiffer than the suspension spring, it is possible to approximate road input with the displacement of the unsprung mass (more information can be found in [17]). Therefore the equation of motion of the skyhook model can be written as follows [12]:

$$m_{sm}\ddot{x}_{sm} = -k_s(x_{sm} - x_{um}) - c_s(\dot{x}_{sm} - \dot{x}_{um}) - c_{sky}\dot{x}_{sm}$$

since $x_{um} = x_u = x_3$:

$$m_{sm}\ddot{x}_{sm} = -k_s(x_{sm} - x_3) - c_s(\dot{x}_{sm} - x_4) - c_{sky}\dot{x}_{sm}$$

Whrere $c_{sky}, m_{sm}, k_s, m_{um}, k_s, c_s, x_{sm}$ and x_{um} are, namely, skyhook linear damper coefficient, sprung mass, unsprung mass, linear spring coefficient, linear damper coefficient, vertical displacement of the sprung mass of the skyhook reference model in relation to its static position and vertical displacement of the unsprung mass of the skyhook reference model in relation to its static position.

3.2 The sliding surface and control design

When the sliding happens, the system precedes the skyhook model. By selecting sliding surface, the controller is modeled [12].

Therefore, the sliding surface is chosen as:

$$\sigma = x_2 + z, \qquad z(0) = -x_2(0)$$

where

$$\dot{z} = -\frac{1}{m_{sm}}\left[-k_s(x_1 - x_3) - c_s(x_2 - x_4) - c_{sky}x_2\right]$$

By using equation (21), reaching phase is deleted. Variable z helps the system follow the reference model [12].

Control force, u, is divided into two parts, namely, u_{eq} and u_n to deal with known terms and uncertainty, respectively.

Differentiating equation (21) gets:

$$\dot{\sigma} = \frac{1}{m_s}(-f_s - f_d + u) - \frac{1}{m_{sm}}\left[-k_s(x_1 - x_3) - c_s(x_2 - x_4) - c_{sky}x_2\right]$$

By defining lumped uncertainty as $e = -f_s - f_d$, the above equation can be written as:

$$\dot{\sigma} = \frac{1}{m_s}e + \frac{1}{m_s}u - \frac{1}{m_{sm}}\left[-k_s(x_1 - x_3) - c_s(x_2 - x_4) - c_{sky}x_2\right]$$

In fact, e is defined based on the uncertainty and road disturbance.

As talked before,

$$u = u_{eq} + u_n$$

in which,

$$u_{eq} = \frac{m_s}{m_{sm}}\left[-k_s(x_1 - x_3) - c_s(x_2 - x_4) - c_{sky}x_2\right] - m_sK\sigma$$

where K is positive.

Therefore equation (24) is written as follow:

$$\dot{\sigma} = \frac{1}{m_s}e - K\sigma + \frac{1}{m_s}u_n$$

It is supposed that:

$$u_n = -\hat{e}$$

in which $\hat{e}$ is the estimation of the uncertainty e.

As a result:

$$\dot{\sigma} = -K\sigma + \frac{1}{m_s}e - \frac{1}{m_s}\hat{e}$$

The estimation error can be defined as:

$$\tilde{e} = e - \hat{e}$$

Substituting equation (30) into (29) yields:

$$\dot{\sigma} = -K\sigma + \frac{1}{m_s}\tilde{e}$$

The key idea in control is to use the system information in the recent past to obtain an estimate of the uncertainty and then to use the opposite of it in control to negate the effect of the uncertainty.

In inertial delay control (IDC), the data of the recent past of the system is employed to achieve an estimation of the uncertainty. Then the opposite of that is used in control design to nullify the effect of the uncertainty [12].

$$\tilde{e} = G_f(s)e$$

in which $G_f(s)$ is a first order filter defined as:

$$G_f(s) = \frac{1}{1 + \tau s}$$

where τ is a positive and small constant.

By observing equation (31), it can be written as:

$$e = m_s(\dot{\sigma} + K\sigma) + \tilde{e}$$

Substituting equation (32) in (33) and the result in (34) gives:

$$\hat{e} = \frac{m_s}{\tau}\sigma + \frac{m_sK}{\tau}\int_0^t \sigma dt$$

Performing the same procedure for equation (30) yields:

$$\dot{\tilde{e}} = \frac{1}{\tau}\tilde{e} + \dot{e}$$

If $\dot{e} = 0$, $\tilde{e}$ converges to zero asymptotically. If not, it is ultimately bounded. The respectful reader for more information about the IDC-based control and the stability proof may refer to [12].

4. Multi-objective Pareto optimization of a non-linear vehicle model using multi-objective differential evolution with fuzzified mutation

In this section, multi-objective optimization of a non-linear vehicle model [12] based on the methodology proposed here has been done. The

objective functions used here to be minimized simultaneously, are, namely, vertical acceleration of sprung mass ($\ddot{x}_s \left(\frac{m}{s^2}\right)$), relative displacement between sprung and unsprung mass ($\Delta x\,(m)$), and control force $\left(u\,(N)\right)$. The design variables are chosen as the factors effective on the control procedure design indicted by K and $\tau\,(s)$. The optimal design process has been done in two areas which are bi- and 3-objective optimization. The values of fixed parameters and the bounds of design variables are shown in table 2.

4-1 Bi-objective optimization of the non-linear vehicle vibration model

In this subsection, two different pairs out of three possible pairs of objective as ($\ddot{x}_s$, Δx) and ($\ddot{x}_s$, u) are used to be minimized separately. A population of 80 individuals with 240 generations are employed to optimally design the vehicle model using a crossover probability of 0.9 and the fuzzified adaptable mutation factor discussed earlier [34] in two optimization processes separately for two road profiles. The obtained Pareto fronts are shown in figures 6-9. As readily seen through these figures, improving one of the objective functions leads to deteriorating the other one and vice versa. It means that choosing a set of objectives based on the Pareto

fronts equals to the best possible couple of them. On the other hand, the couple which do not follow the mentioned rule, locate the point inferior to the Pareto fronts. Such locations are in the top/right sides of the figures 6-9.

In the Pareto font curves, points C_1, C_2, C_1' and C_2' are the points with the significant optimal concept. As easily seen in figures 6 and 8, points C_1 and C_1' show considerable improvements in $\ddot{x}_s$ in comparison with B_1 and B_1' (the points having lowest values in Δx), but negligible deterioration in Δx. The same comparison between C_2 and C_2' with A and A′, in figures 7 and 9, shows worthwhile improvements in control force, but trivial increase in other objective. Therefore, points C_1, C_2, C_1' and C_2' are trade-off points in the their related Pareto frontiers. Further, point D (suggested by [12]) locate in the top/right sides (inferior area) of figures 6, 8-9 and the Pareto fronts are superior to it. Besides in figure 7, the Pareto front includes point D, and as a result this point is non-dominated to the others in the curve. The values of objective functions and their associated design variables of points A, A′,B_1, B_2, B_1', B_2', C_1, C_2, C_1', C_2' and D are depicted in table 3.

Briefly, bi-objective optimization offers several optimal solutions which can be used by the designer. But, more optimal choices can be obtained by the 3-objective optimization simultaneously described in the next subsection.

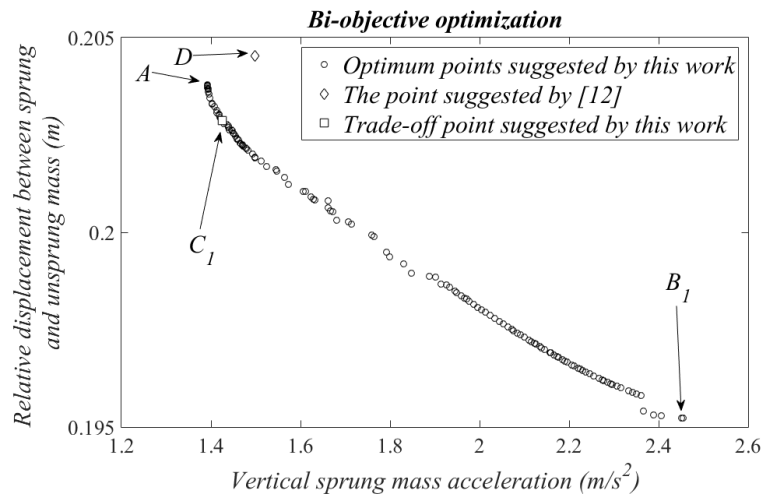**Fig5.** Conceptual skyhook model [12].

Fig6. Pareto front of vertical sprung mass acceleration and relative displacement between sprung and unspring mass resulted by bi-objective optimization for case 1.

Fig7. Pareto front of vertical sprung mass acceleration and control force resulted by bi-objective optimization for case 1.
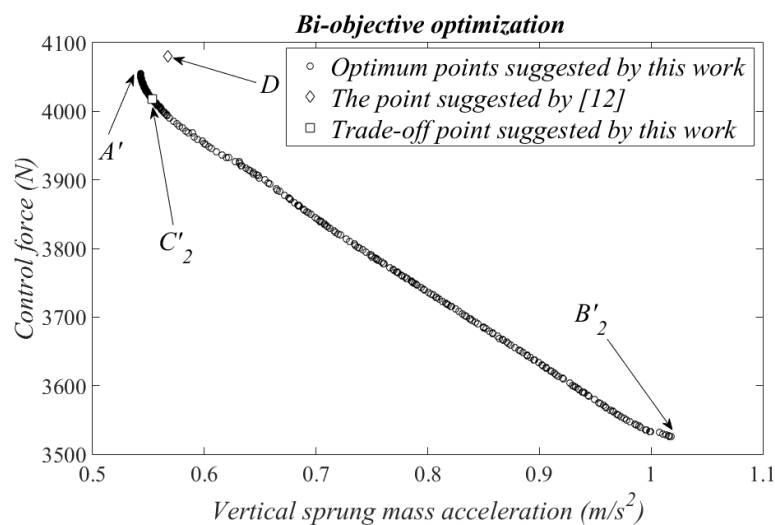

Fig8. Pareto front of vertical sprung mass acceleration and relative displacement between sprung and unspring mass resulted by bi-objective optimization for case 2.
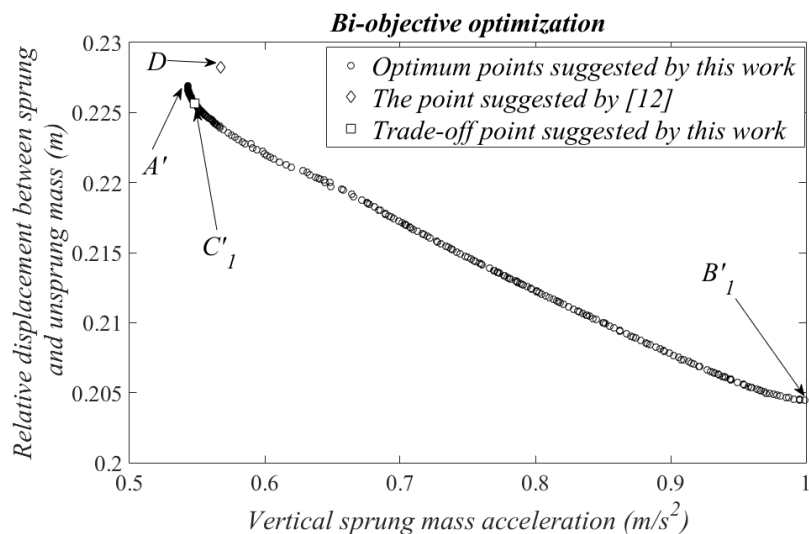
Fig9. Pareto front of vertical sprung mass acceleration and control force resulted by bi-objective optimization for case 2.

Table 2. The values of fixed parameters and the bounds of design variables

	m_s	m_u	k_1	k_2	k_3	k_t	c_1	c_2	m_{sm}	k_s	c_s	c_{sky}	g	K	τ
Suspension system's parameter	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
Skyhook model's parameter	----	----	----	----	----	----	----		✓	✓	✓	✓	----	----	----
Design variable	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	✓	✓
Parameter value	240 kg	50 kg	12394 N/m	-73696 N/m^2	3170400 N/m^3	150000 N/m^2	1385.4 Ns/m	524.28 Ns^2/m^2	240 kg	15000 N/m^2	1860 Ns/m	30000 Ns/m	9.81 m/s^2	----	----
Lower bound	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	0	0 s
Upper bound	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	1000	1 s

4-2 three-objective optimization of the non-linear vehicle vibration model

In this subsection, a 3-objective optimization instead of two separate bi-objective optimization (for each road input) has been done. All of the three objective are used together to be optimized simultaneously. A population of 80 individuals with 240 generations are adopted to optimally design the vehicle model using a crossover probability of 0.9 and the fuzzified adaptable mutation factor described earlier [34] for each road profile.

Pareto fronts for each road inputs are depicted in figures 10-13. It seems that some points are in these figures which dominate others. But, when observed from the view of all three objective, all optimum points are non-dominated to each other. It can be readily seen through the figures that the results of 3-objective subsume the ones of bi-objective optimizations. In fact, the Pareto fronts achieved by bi-objective optimizations form the bounding lines of each planes obtained by the 3-objective optimization in such a way that no solution exits superior to such borderlines.

It is time to propose a point as the trade-off one from the view of all the objective functions. Points A and A′ are chosen as the trade-offs amongst all the optimum points due to using control force in the suspension system. As a matter of fact, employing such force helps suspension system have proper $\ddot{x}_s$. Therefore, reaching a solution having lowest value of $\ddot{x}_s$ considering the control force may play the role of the trade-off design point. Of course, there are several

points in each plane with different characteristics that can be used by the designer in various conditions. As a matter of fact, such kind of multi-objective optimization give a wide range of area of optimum modeling to the designer to use for the proper condition.

Time response behaviors of the points A, A′ and D are presented in figures 14-15. Based on the table 3, it can be found that the area covered under the curves

resulted by A and A′ are lower than the one of point D. This fact shows the improvement in the values of vertical acceleration of sprung mass by using methodology of this work.

Whatever discussed earlier, in this and former subsection, proves the superiority of the proposed method of this work. In fact, the results obtained here would not have been found without the use of Pareto optimization procedure of this work.

Table 3. values of the objective functions and their associated values of design variables of optimum points of this work / the one of [12]

	K	$\tau\ (s)$	$\ddot{x}_s\ \left(\frac{m}{s^2}\right)$	$\Delta x\ (m)$	u (N)
A	18.24123	0.054834	1.39266	0.203785	4291.759
A'	10.09178	0.099094	0.543047	0.22691	4054.901
B_1	3.024461	0.340162	2.454501	0.195222	4154.106
B_2	0.025427	0.999517	1.399673	0.204075	4286.258
B_1'	0.91846	0.999525	0.999312	0.204473	3532.692
B_2'	0.503078	0.999139	1.01779	0.204785	3526.25
C_1	12.83386	0.061148	1.425465	0.202871	4299.880
C_2	66.72541	0.075006	1.466695	0.204431	4263.94
C_1'	7.951234	0.119386	0.548142	0.22565	4029.499
C_2'	7.878231	0.136905	0.553127	0.225080	4017.729
D^*	200	0.01	1.49858	0.204526	4247.061
D^{**}	200	0.01	0.567434	0.228246	4080.086

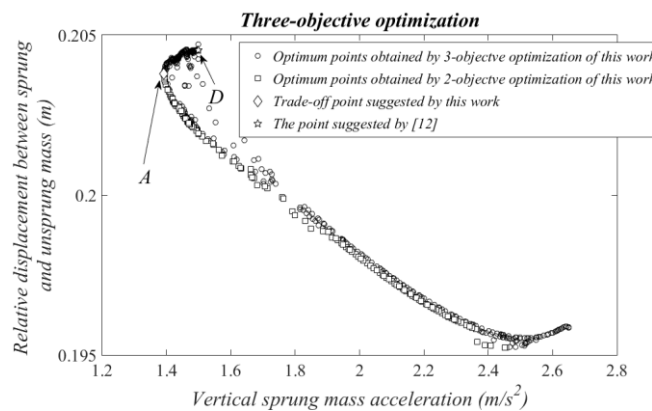D*: Point D in case 1, D**: Point D in case 2.

Fig10.   Pareto front of vertical sprung mass acceleration and relative displacement between sprung and unsprung mass resulted by 3-objective optimization for case 1.
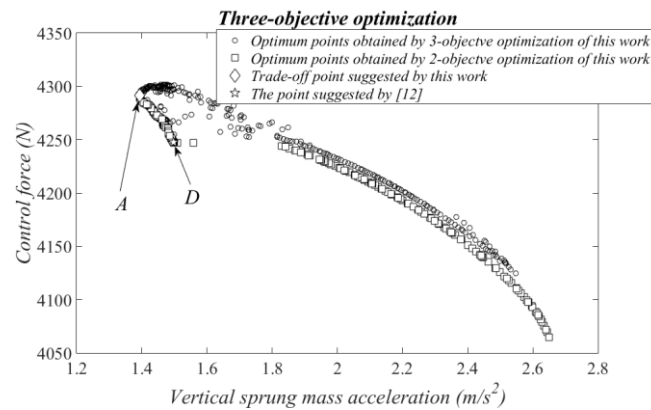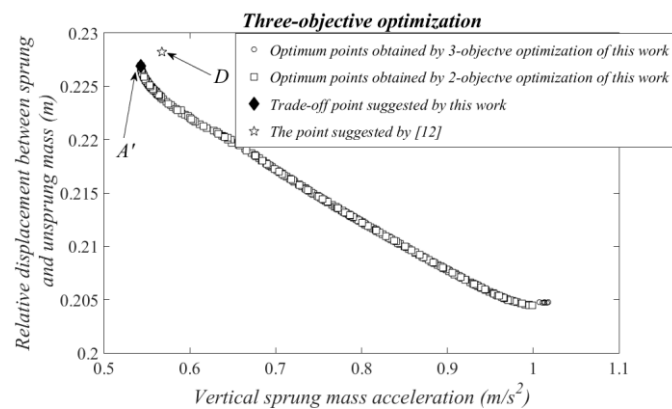
Fig11.   Pareto front of vertical sprung mass acceleration and control force resulted by 3-objective optimization for case 1.

Fig12.   Pareto front of vertical sprung mass acceleration and relative displacement between sprung and unsprung mass resulted by 3-objective optimization for case 2.
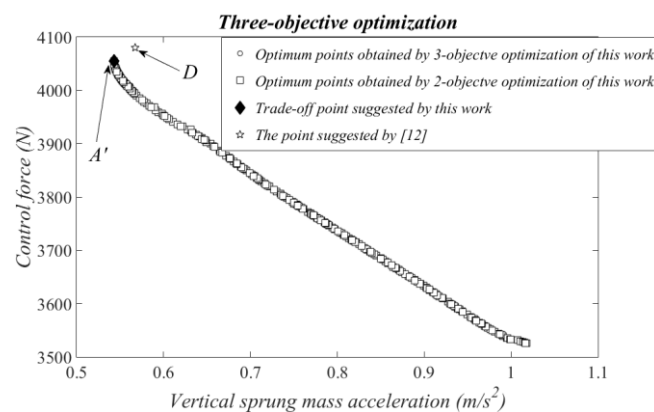

Fig13.   Pareto front of vertical sprung mass acceleration and control force resulted by 3-objective optimization for case 2.
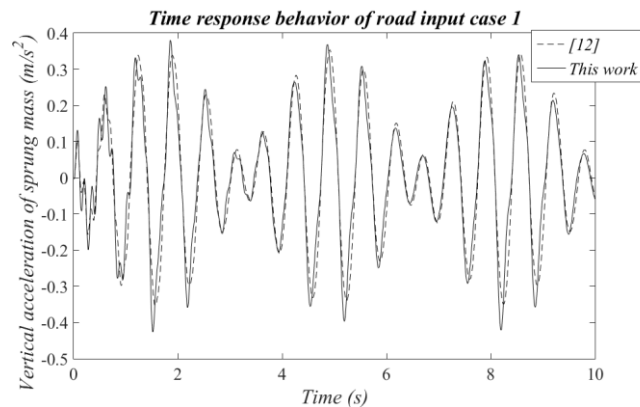
Fig14. Comparison of time response behaviors of vertical sprung mass acceleration obtained by point A (this work) and D [12].
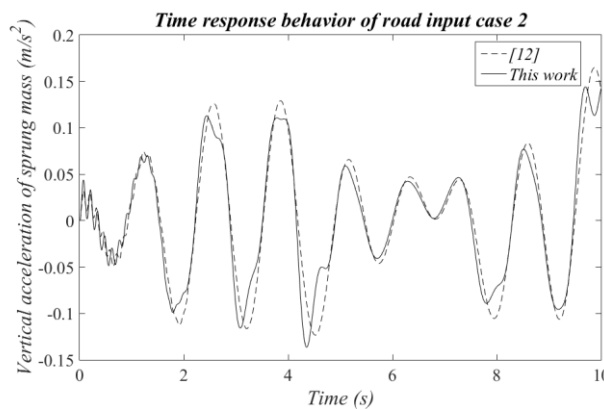

Fig15. Comparison of time response behaviors of vertical sprung mass acceleration obtained by point A′ (this work) and D [12].

5- Conclusion

A new version of multi-objective differential evolution with fuzzified mutation is applied to optimally design non-linear vehicle model excited by two different road profiles. Fuzzy inference system is employed to dynamically adapt the mutation factor using generation number and population diversity as inputs and mutation factor as output to construct nine-rule fuzzy model. Three objective functions are chosen to be optimized simultaneously, and are, namely, vertical sprung mass acceleration, relative displacement between sprung and unsprang mass and control force. The optimization processes have been done both in 2- and 3-objective area in terms of Pareto frontiers. Some important trade-offs have been found through the Pareto optimal design. Further, it has been shown that the results of 3-objectve optimization contains those of 2-objectve. In fact the results of bi-objective optimization locate on the boundary of the ones of 3-objective optimization, and it can provide more optimal choices for the designers. Further, comparison of the results of this work with those in the in the literature has been shown the

superiority of the proposed methodology of this paper.

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