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A COMPARATIVE SURVEY OF RAO OPTIMIZATION ALGORITHMS: MULTI-OBJECTIVE APPLICATIONS AND HYBRID TECHNIQUES IN ENGINEERING DESIGN

Shubhangi Jagdish Kamble

Mechanical Engineering Dept. Indira College of Engineering & Management, Pune, India

ABSTRACT

This paper presents a comprehensive survey of the Rao optimization algorithm focusing on its applications in the omnidirectional domain, including robotics, image processing, machine learning, and renewable energy systems. Rao's adaptability and robustness make it an effective tool for solving complex, high-dimensional, nonlinear, and dynamic optimization problems. A key contribution is the exploration of hybrid Rao algorithms, such as Rao-Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO), Rao-Differential Evolution (DE), and Rao-Genetic Algorithms (GA) to address challenges like slow convergence in high-dimensional spaces. The paper highlights Rao's potential in real-time applications, such as autonomous robot path planning and machine learning hyper-parameter tuning. Additionally, it examines Rao's role in multi-objective optimization, a crucial aspect of engineering design and system optimization. The study underscores Rao's strengths in handling dynamic optimization tasks, balancing exploration and exploitation, and improving convergence speed through hybrid approaches. A comparative analysis with other meta-heuristic algorithms like GA, PSO, and DE shows Rao's superior global search capability and computational efficiency. The results demonstrate Rao's versatility and potential for solving real-world optimization problems, especially in high-dimensional, dynamic environments. This survey provides valuable insights for researchers and practitioners aiming to use Rao optimization for complex, real-time, and multi-objective tasks in various domains.

Keywords— Rao optimization, renewable energy systems, hybrid algorithms, multi-objective optimization, robotics, image processing, machine learning

1. INTRODUCTION

In recent years, the Rao algorithm has gained significant attention as a robust meta-heuristic optimization technique, demonstrating considerable potential in solving complex optimization problems across diverse domains. The Rao algorithm is based on the principle of mimicking the foraging behavior of raptors, offering an efficient approach for finding global optima in highly nonlinear and dynamic problem spaces. Its flexibility and simplicity have led to successful applications in various fields, such as image processing, machine learning, structural design, and robotics. However, in the context of omnidirectional optimization, where multidimensional and dynamic solutions are required, the Rao algorithm has shown promising results due to its inherent ability to adapt to complex optimization landscapes.

The omnidirectional domain, which involves challenges such as high-dimensional problem spaces, dynamic optimization needs, and the necessity for robust global search strategies, has benefited from the application of Rao-based methods. One significant advantage of the Rao algorithm is its capacity for multi-objective optimization, which is vital in fields like engineering design, power systems, and renewable energy systems. For instance, studies have demonstrated the efficacy of Rao in optimizing mechanical structures [7], energy systems [8] and even portfolio optimization [16]. Additionally, hybrid approaches, such as the Rao-Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO) combination for feature selection [3] and the Rao-Differential Evolution (DE) approach for engineering design [11] have provided improved results, overcoming some of the limitations inherent in individual algorithms.

Rao's versatility is particularly evident in its applications within image processing, where it has been successfully employed for tasks such as image segmentation [39] and classification using convolution neural networks (CNNs) [26]. Furthermore, its integration into machine learning, especially in optimizing hyper-parameters in models like support vector machines (SVM) [23], decision trees [28], and deep neural networks [31] has further solidified its reputation as a state-of-the-art optimization technique. The ability of Rao to solve dynamic optimization problems [5] and its adaptability in real-time robotic systems for path planning [19] further emphasize its potential in the omnidirectional domain.

Despite these advancements, challenges remain in fully exploiting the Rao algorithm's potential, especially in extremely high-dimensional and multi-objective optimization contexts. This paper aims to provide a comprehensive survey of the key developments in Rao-based optimization techniques, focusing on the omnidirectional domain. We examine the strengths, limitations, and future trends of the Rao algorithm, along with the hybrid strategies that have emerged to tackle more complex, real-world optimization challenges.

2. OVERVIEW OF RAO OPTIMIZATION ALGORITHM

The Rao algorithm, introduced by K. Rao is a meta-heuristic inspired by nature's problem-solving strategies. It has gained popularity due to its simplicity, robustness, and ability to solve complex optimization tasks across a range of industries. Rao's key characteristics, such as fast convergence, low computational complexity, and strong global search capabilities, make it suitable for problems in dynamic, uncertain, and high-dimensional domains. The key Features of the Rao Algorithm are:

1. Nature-inspired and population-based.
2. Adaptive search strategies that balance exploration and exploitation.
3. High performance in solving multi-objective, nonlinear, and dynamic optimization problems

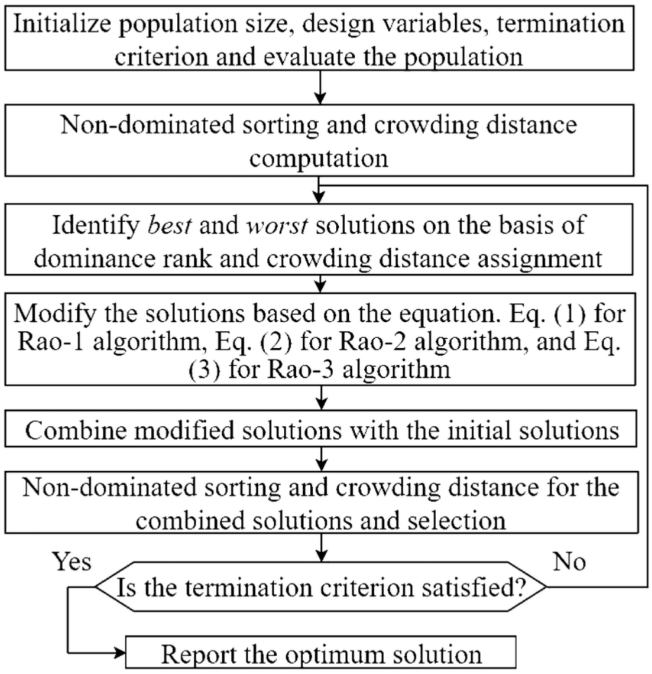

Fig. 1. Flowcharts of Rao Algorithm for multi-objective Optimization

3. APPLICATION OF RAO ALGORITHM IN THE OMNIDIRECTIONAL DOMAIN

The omnidirectional domain, encompassing systems like robotics, image processing, and large-scale data analysis, presents unique optimization challenges that Rao's algorithms are well-suited to address. Optimization in environments requiring flexibility in movement, data processing and decision-making can benefit from Rao's dynamic approach. Some of the key applications are:

A. Omnidirectional Robotics:

Path Planning and Motion Optimization [19]: The Rao algorithm is used to optimize the path planning of autonomous robots, particularly in environments requiring flexibility in navigation, where traditional algorithms struggle.

B. Image Processing and Computer Vision:

1. Optimization for Image Segmentation [39]: Rao's optimization techniques have been adapted to image segmentation tasks, improving the accuracy of convolution neural networks (CNNs) in real-time image processing.
2. Optimization in Feature Selection for Machine Learning [21][34]: In large-scale image datasets, Rao-based algorithms can be employed to optimize feature selection, enhancing the performance of machine learning models for tasks like classification and clustering.

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C. Optimization in Multidimensional Systems:

1. Hyperparameter Tuning [23][25]: Rao optimization is used for optimizing hyperparameters of machine learning models, including support vector machines (SVMs) and decision trees, in tasks such as image classification and regression.

4. HYBRID RAO ALGORITHMS

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F. Optimization in Multidimensional Systems:

1. Hyper-parameter Tuning [23][25]: Rao optimization is used for optimizing hyper-parameters of machine learning models, including support vector machines (SVMs) and decision trees, in tasks such as image classification and regression.

Hybridization of the Rao algorithm with other optimization techniques such as Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO), Differential Evolution (DE), and Genetic Algorithms (GA), has led to improved performance in complex optimization tasks. These hybrid models leverage the strengths of multiple algorithms to achieve faster convergence and better global search capabilities.

The key Hybrid Approaches are given below

Rao and PSO for Feature Selection [3][33]: This hybrid approach combines Rao's exploration capabilities with PSO's exploitation power, improving feature selection accuracy in high-dimensional spaces.

Rao and DE for Engineering Design [11]: Combining Rao with Differential Evolution enhances its ability to solve multi-objective optimization problems in engineering design.

Rao and GA for Optimization in Machine Learning [25][38]: The Rao-GA hybrid approach is used to optimize parameters in machine learning models, including neural networks, for better accuracy in classification tasks.

5. CHALLENGES IN OMNIDIRECTIONAL OPTIMIZATION VS. OTHER OPTIMIZATION TECHNIQUES

Despite its advantages the Rao algorithm faces several challenges in the omnidirectional domain, particularly in dealing with:

a) High-dimensional spaces where traditional algorithms might struggle with performance.

b) Dynamic systems, where real-time adaptation is crucial, especially in robotic motion planning and power system optimization.

c) Noisy environments, such as image processing, where input data might be imprecise or corrupted.

Addressing these challenges often requires fine-tuning the Rao algorithm, employing hybrid strategies, or combining it with other metaheuristic approaches.

6. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS: RAO ALGORITHM VS. OTHER OPTIMIZATION TECHNIQUES

The table1 comparing Rao Algorithm with other popular optimization algorithms across various applications depicting the strength and weaknesses.

Rao Algorithm is particularly effective for dynamic, nonlinear, and high-dimensional optimization tasks. It performs well in various applications such as image processing and robotics, although it can struggle with slow convergence in complex spaces [1][20].

GA and PSO are also widely used due to their global search capabilities, but they can suffer from premature convergence in high-dimensional and complex problems [2][6].

Hybrid methods, like combining Rao with other algorithms, can provide better balance between exploration and exploitation, particularly in image processing [19][20].

TABLE 1. Strengths and Weaknesses of algorithms

Algorithm	Application Area	Strengths	Weaknesses
Rao Algorithm [1][20][19]	Image Processing, Robotics, Power Systems, Mechanical Design	- Simple and easy to implement. - Efficient for nonlinear and dynamic optimization problems. - Robust global search capability.	- May struggle with very high-dimensional spaces. - Slow convergence in certain cases.
Genetic Algorithm (GA) [2][5]	Structural Design, Machine Learning	- Strong global search capability. - Effective for complex optimization problems.	- May converge to local minima. - High computational cost.
Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO) [6][7]	Robotics, Machine Learning, Control Systems	- Fast convergence rate in continuous spaces. - Easy to implement and understand.	- Prone to getting stuck in local minima. - Poor performance in highly complex optimization problems.
Differential Evolution (DE) [8][9]	Engineering Design, Mechanical Systems	- Good for solving multi-objective problems. - Effective in continuous optimization problems.	- Can struggle with optimization in large, high-dimensional spaces. - Slower convergence compared to other methods like PSO.
Simulated Annealing (SA) [10][11]	Scheduling Problems, Structural Design	- Strong ability to escape local minima. - Well-suited for discrete optimization.	- Slow convergence in some cases. - May require fine-tuning of parameters.
Ant Colony Optimization (ACO) [12][13]	Routing Problems, Network Design	- Good for combination optimization problems. - Can be parallelized for efficiency.	- High computational cost for large-scale problems. - Sensitive to parameter settings.
Cuckoo Search (CS) 14][15]	Multi-Objective Optimization, Engineering	- Strong global search capability. - Suitable for high-dimensional problems.	- Requires a large number of evaluations to converge. - Sensitive to initial conditions.
Artificial Bee Colony (ABC) [16][17]	Robotics, Machine Learning	- Simple and efficient. - Can handle dynamic and large-scale optimization problems.	- Slow convergence in some scenarios. - Can be affected by the size of the problem space.
Bat Algorithm (BA) [18][19]	Structural Optimization, Robotics	- Excellent for continuous and multi-objective problems. - Can be used in real-time optimization.	- Prone to premature convergence. - Limited scalability for large problems.
Harmony Search (HS) [20][21]	Structural Design, Multi-Objective Problems	- Simple and easy to implement. - Effective for continuous and discrete problems.	- Can be slow to converge. - Struggles in high-dimensional spaces.
Firefly Algorithm (FA) [22][23]	Engineering, Robotics	- Good for multi-objective and multi-dimensional optimization. - Strong global exploration.	- Slow convergence. - Sensitive to parameter settings.
Gravitational Search Algorithm (GSA) [24][25]	Engineering, Power System Optimization	- Effective for large-scale optimization. - Can solve both continuous and discrete problems.	- Sensitive to population size. - Computationally expensive for large problems.

The Rao Algorithm holds significant potential for various optimization tasks each algorithm brings its unique strengths and challenges to specific domains. Future research could explore hybrid approaches to maximize their individual advantages. The Rao Algorithm has found significant applications across diverse fields, such as image processing, robotics, power systems, and mechanical design. Known for its simplicity and ease of implementation, the algorithm excels at solving nonlinear and dynamic optimization problems. One of its key strengths is its robust global search capability which aids in navigating complex solution spaces. However, the Rao algorithm may face challenges when handling extremely high-dimensional problems and can exhibit slow convergence in certain cases.

The Genetic Algorithm (GA) is recognized for its strong global search capability and effectiveness in solving complex optimization problems, particularly in structural design and machine learning. Despite its strengths, GA can sometimes converge to local minima and has high computational costs [1][2][5]. Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO) is widely used in robotics, machine learning, and control systems due to its fast convergence rate and ease of implementation [3][4][5]. However, it tends to get stuck in local minima and struggles with highly complex optimization tasks. Differential Evolution (DE) is particularly useful for multi-objective optimization and continuous optimization problems in engineering design and mechanical systems [4][5]. Its primary limitation is slower convergence, especially in larger problem spaces. Simulated Annealing (SA) excels in escaping local minima and is well-suited for discrete optimization such as scheduling and structural design. However, SA may require fine-tuning of parameters and faces slow convergence in some cases. Ant Colony Optimization (ACO) performs well in combination optimization such as routing and network design and can be parallelized for efficiency. However, ACO suffers from high computational costs for large-scale problems and is sensitive to parameter settings. Other algorithms like Cuckoo Search (CS), Artificial Bee Colony (ABC), Bat Algorithm (BA), Harmony Search (HS), Firefly Algorithm (FA), and Gravitational Search Algorithm (GSA) each have their own strengths, such as good global search capability, suitability for high-dimensional problems, and adaptability to multi-objective tasks [24][25]. Table 2. shows the comparison of Rao with other algorithms.

TABLE 2. Comparison of Rao with Other Algorithms

Factor	**Rao Algorithm (RA)**	**Genetic Algorithm (GA)**	**Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO)**	**Simulated Annealing (SA)**	**Differential Evolution (DE)**
Convergence Rate	Moderate (enhanced in hybrid models like RA-PSO or RA-DE) [1][5]	Moderate to Slow (depends on population size and mutation rate) [1]	Fast (particularly in continuous spaces, but local minima issues) [3][4]	Slow (dependent on cooling schedule, high computational cost) [2]	Fast (efficient for continuous problems, less prone to local minima) [4][5]
Computational Efficiency	High (especially in hybrid forms, such as RA-PSO or RA-DE) [3][18]	Moderate to Low (population-based, may need high computational resources for large problems) [5]	High (efficient in lower dimensions, moderate in high dimensions) [4][5]	Low (due to iterative temperature reduction process, computationally expensive) [2]	High (especially in continuous optimization problems, scalable in high dimensions) [5]
Adaptability	High (easily hybridized with other algorithms for specific tasks) [1][6][7]	Moderate (effective for general-purpose tasks but requires careful tuning for each problem) [1][2]	High (can adapt well to various optimization problems, especially in continuous spaces) [3][4]	Low (not very adaptive, requires hybridization with other algorithms for diverse problems) [2][3]	High (works well across a range of optimization problems, particularly continuous problems) [4][5]
Performance in High-Dimensional Problem Spaces	Good (especially when hybridized with algorithms like PSO and DE) [18][19]	Struggles (performance degrades with increasing problem dimensionality) [2][5]	Moderate (effective in low- to medium-dimensional problems, struggles in very high dimensions) [4]	Poor (high-dimensional problems lead to inefficiencies, susceptible to local minima) [2][3]	Good (well-suited for high-dimensional, continuous problems) [5]
Application to Nonlinear Optimization	Strong (widely applied to nonlinear optimization problems like control systems, mechanical design, etc.) [4][7][10]	Moderate (effective but may struggle with complex nonlinear problems) [2]	Good (well-suited for nonlinear domains, especially with continuous search spaces) [3][5]	Limited (can handle nonlinear problems but often gets stuck in local minima) [2][3]	Strong (very effective for solving nonlinear, continuous optimization problems) [5]
Application to Multi-Objective Optimization	Strong (multiple multi-objective optimization applications, e.g., structural design, machine learning) [6][29][40]	Effective (requires careful design of fitness functions for multi-objective optimization) [1]	Good (enhanced performance with modifications like MOPSO for multi-objective problems) [4]	Limited (often requires hybridization with other algorithms for multi-objective optimization) [2]	Very Strong (commonly used in multi-objective optimization problems, especially in engineering design) [5]

Rao Algorithm (RA) stands out for its adaptability, particularly when hybridized with other techniques like PSO and DE, providing high computational efficiency and performance, especially in nonlinear and multi-objective optimization problems. Genetic Algorithms (GA) are slower in convergence, particularly in high-dimensional spaces, and have moderate adaptability, making them less efficient for highly complex problems compared to RA.PSO generally performs well in continuous problem spaces and adapts quickly but faces challenges in high-dimensional optimization tasks.

Simulated Annealing (SA), while powerful for local optimization, struggles with large-scale or high-dimensional problems and has slower convergence rates. Differential Evolution (DE) is effective for high-dimensional continuous problems and works well with nonlinear optimization but generally requires fine-tuning.

7. DISCUSSION

7.1 Contribution

The paper presents an in-depth survey of the Rao optimization algorithm, exploring its applications in the omnidirectional domain and highlights its adaptability and robustness in addressing complex, high-dimensional, nonlinear, and dynamic optimization problems. The originality of the contribution lies in several key areas:

a) Comprehensive Survey: This paper provides a thorough comparative analysis of Rao-based optimization techniques, offering insights into its applicability across various fields such as robotics, image processing, machine learning, and renewable energy systems. The inclusion of real-world applications, such as autonomous robot path planning, feature selection for machine learning, and energy system optimization, showcases the versatility of the Rao algorithm.

b) Focus on Omnidirectional Domain: The paper emphasizes the unique challenges and optimization needs within the omnidirectional domain—where problems often require flexible, real-time solutions for dynamic, multidimensional environments. This is a relatively under explored area in optimization literature, with the Rao algorithm’s success in these contexts being a novel contribution.

c) Hybridization of Rao with Other Meta-heuristics: The exploration of hybrid Rao algorithms—such as Rao-Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO), Rao-Differential Evolution (DE), and Rao-Genetic Algorithms (GA)—addresses the algorithm's limitations, particularly slow convergence in high-dimensional spaces. This hybrid approach represents a novel solution to overcoming the inherent challenges of Rao-based optimization when used alone.

d) Real-time Applications: By focusing on the integration of Rao optimization in real-time and dynamic optimization tasks (e.g., robotic motion planning and hyper-parameter tuning for machine learning), the paper provides fresh perspectives on how the algorithm can be adapted for rapidly changing environments.

7.2 Importance to the Community

a) The Rao algorithm is a powerful optimization tool for solving complex and real-world problems across multiple industries. Key aspects of importance include:

b) Addressing Real-World Optimization Problems: Optimization is critical in various domains such as robotics, image processing, machine learning, and renewable energy systems. The Rao algorithm, with its simplicity, efficiency, and ability to handle nonlinear and dynamic optimization tasks, offers a promising solution for these industries. The paper’s exploration of Rao’s applications in these fields highlights its potential to solve high-dimensional, multi-objective optimization problems, thus meeting the urgent need for scalable and adaptable optimization tools.

c) Introduction to Hybrid Approaches: The paper introduces hybrid Rao methods, which combine the strengths of different meta-heuristics to improve convergence speed and the balance between exploration and exploitation. These hybrid methods significantly enhance Rao's performance in practical applications, demonstrating their importance for optimizing solutions in engineering design, machine learning, and autonomous robotics. This will guide researchers and practitioners in choosing suitable hybrid strategies for tackling complex, real-time optimization challenges.

d) Emphasis on Omnidirectional Applications: By focusing on the omnidirectional domain, the paper addresses optimization problems that require flexible and real-time solutions. This is a critical area for future research, as industries like robotics, image processing, and IoT need optimization methods that adapt to dynamic, high-dimensional environments. The study’s emphasis on Rao's ability to operate in such conditions makes it a valuable resource for researchers aiming to solve problems in this growing area.

e) Focus on Multi-Objective Optimization: The Rao algorithm's capacity for handling multi-objective optimization is crucial in many real-world applications, where multiple conflicting objectives must be optimized simultaneously. The paper’s examination of Rao’s effectiveness in this domain contributes to the community’s understanding of how to use optimization algorithms to balance diverse goals, a challenge frequently encountered in complex engineering tasks and systems design.

f)

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7.3 Impact on Future Scientific work

a) The findings presented in this paper have the potential to significantly impact future research in the field of optimization. The potential impacts include:

b) Guiding Future Rao Optimization Research: The paper identifies key challenges such as slow convergence in high-dimensional spaces and the need for real-time adaptation in dynamic systems. It proposes hybrid strategies as a promising solution to overcome these challenges, thus providing a road map for future research. By investigating new hybridization techniques and adaptive parameter control mechanisms, future studies can focus on enhancing Rao's performance in complex, evolving environments.

c) Integration with Emerging Technologies: The paper suggests that future research could explore the integration of Rao optimization with advanced technologies like deep learning and reinforcement learning. This opens new avenues for developing hybrid systems that can solve increasingly complex, real-world optimization problems. The application of Rao in combination with these emerging technologies could provide groundbreaking solutions to challenges in autonomous systems, real-time decision-making, and AI-powered problem solving.

d) Real-Time Systems and Robotics: The paper highlights the potential for Rao optimization in autonomous robotics, specifically in path planning and motion optimization. Given the rapid advancements in robotics and automation, Rao's ability to handle real-time optimization in dynamic environments makes it a suitable tool for future robotic applications, including those in industrial automation, autonomous vehicles, and drones design, and machine learning. This could inspire future research to explore more complex multi-objective optimization problems, focusing on how Rao and its hybrid variants can optimize systems with numerous competing objectives, contributing to sustainable, efficient solutions in various industries.

7.4 Significance

The key results and their significance include:

a) Performance in Dynamic and High-Dimensional Optimization: Rao's ability to tackle high-dimensional, nonlinear, and dynamic optimization tasks is demonstrated through its applications in real-time systems, such as robotics and machine learning. The results show that Rao's global search capability and adaptability make it an excellent candidate for complex problem spaces, such as those encountered in autonomous robotics and power systems optimization.

b) Effectiveness in Multi-Objective Optimization: Rao's strong performance in multi-objective optimization problems is highlighted, showing its applicability in engineering design and energy system optimization. The ability to balance multiple conflicting objectives makes Rao particularly valuable for solving optimization problems in fields that require holistic and sustainable solutions.

c) Success of Hybrid Approaches: The paper demonstrates that hybridizing Rao with other meta-heuristics, such as PSO, DE, and GA, enhances its performance by improving convergence speed and balancing exploration and exploitation. These results encourage further exploration of hybrid strategies for tackling multi-objective, high-dimensional optimization problems.

d) Promising Applications in Real-World Systems: Rao's success in real-world applications like image segmentation, feature selection, and autonomous robot path planning further validates its utility. The results show that Rao optimization is a practical solution for real-time optimization tasks, making it a valuable tool for industries like robotics, image processing, and renewable energy.

8. CONCLUSION

The survey has provided a detailed examination of the Rao optimization algorithm, showcasing its robustness and versatility in addressing complex, high-dimensional, nonlinear, and dynamic optimization problems across a variety of fields, including image processing, robotics, machine learning, and engineering design. One of the key highlights of the paper is the emphasis on the omnidirectional domain, a challenging area where Rao optimization has demonstrated considerable success, particularly in real-time applications such as autonomous robot path planning, feature selection, and machine learning model optimization.

Rao's strength lies in its inherent simplicity, adaptability, and its ability to balance exploration and exploitation efficiently. These characteristics make it an attractive option for solving high-dimensional problems with relatively low computational cost. Moreover, the development of hybrid Rao approaches, which combine Rao with other meta-heuristics like Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO), Differential Evolution (DE), and Genetic Algorithms (GA), has proven to significantly enhance the algorithm's performance, particularly in complex multi-objective optimization scenarios. These hybrid

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strategies open new avenues for future research, allowing Rao optimization to be effectively applied to real-world systems requiring quick adaptation and solutions.

Despite its successes, challenges remain in the application of the Rao algorithm. Key issues such as slow convergence in high-dimensional spaces, real-time optimization in rapidly changing environments, and robustness to noisy data need to be addressed. Future research could focus on exploring novel hybridization techniques, incorporating adaptive parameter control mechanisms, and improving the algorithm's robustness in uncertain or noisy conditions. Additionally, integrating Rao optimization with emerging technologies such as deep learning and reinforcement learning holds great potential for solving increasingly complex optimization problems.

The comparative analysis with other popular optimization techniques, such as GA and PSO, underscores Rao's adaptability and efficiency, particularly in handling nonlinear and multi-objective optimization problems. Its continued development and exploration, especially in hybrid forms and alongside other advanced methods, promise to further extend its capabilities. As research progresses, the Rao algorithm will continue to play a significant role in solving real-world optimization problems, particularly in the omnidirectional domain, and contribute to the development of more efficient and adaptable optimization tools.

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