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A Scheme of Color Image Multithreshold Segmentation Based on Improved Moth-Flame Algorithm

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ABSTRACT A recently developed swarm intelligence algorithm by studying the natural moth's biological behavior is called Moth-Flame Optimization (MFO). The advantages of MFO conclude a simple structure and a robust selection capability. Still, it is easy to be trapped falling into optimal local, and slow search converges. This study suggests a new process improving MFO by hybridizing Lévy flight and logarithmic functions for its formula of flame updating to enhance the optimization performance of the algorithm. In the experimental section, a set of benchmark functions of CEC2013 and the multi threshold image segmentation are used to evaluate the proposed method performance. Compared results of the proposed methods with the different algorithms in the same condition scenarios show that the suggested approach provides better results than the various algorithms in the competitions.

INDEX TERMS Moth-flame algorithm, color image segmentation, multi threshold segmentation, minimum cross-entropy.

I. INTRODUCTION

The synergy of cooperation and competition exists widely in the natural world that are essential factors for the survival of populations [1], e.g., the colony of ants [2], colonies bees [3], flocks of birds [4], even bees related to pollen flowers [5], etc [6]. The individuals are smarter when working in swarms or teams [7], the synergy much higher than the parts that, based on the cooperation, provides the inspiration for intelligent computation [8], [9]. The swarm intelligence (SI) algorithm has implemented synergy by bionic approaches, such as the Genetic Algorithm (GA) [10], Ants and Bees colonies (ACO) [2] and (ABC) [3], Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO) [11], Grey Wolf Optimization (GWO) [12], Cuckoo Search (CS) [13], Differential Evolution (DE) [14], and Parallel particle swarm optimization (PPSO) [15].

Moth-Flame Optimization (MFO) [16] is a new swarm intelligence bionic algorithm that taken the inspiration from natural moth behavior. Due to its excellent performance, the algorithm has been widely used in engineering fields [17], e.g., a confined aquifer parameter inversion, Muskingum model parameter optimization [18], network flow prediction [19], and power system optimal power flow calculation [20].

Moreover, image segmentation is a key step in image analyzing and processing that transforms the original image into a more abstract and compact form, which makes it possible for higher-level image analysis [21]. The expansion of the application field of imaging equipment, the application field of image segmentation, is also expanding, such as in the field of medicine, intelligent transportation, video monitoring, industrial production, and so on [22]. The quality of segmentation directly affects the accuracy of feature extraction, measurement, image recognition, and understanding in image analysis [23].

Among image segmentation algorithms, the threshold segmentation algorithm is widely used because of its simple calculation, high efficiency, and fast speed [24]. The traditional threshold segmentation method is beneficial for the single threshold segmentation [25]. However, for the

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multi threshold segmentation, the traditional multi threshold segmentation algorithm has suffered from increasing complexity computation segmentation time rapidly with the large threshold number [26]. Because it uses the exhaustive search for the best threshold, with the increasing number of thresholds, the amount of calculation will increase rapidly, the operation time becomes more prolonged, and the operation speed becomes slower [27]. The process of searching for the optimal threshold for a given image can be regarded as a constrained optimization problem. The optimal threshold can be obtained by optimizing the objective function. The minimum cross-entropy threshold segmentation is to select the optimal threshold combination based on the minimum cross-entropy [28].

However, with the increasing number of thresholds, the computational complexity also increases exponentially, which directly affects the efficiency of image segmentation [29]. Therefore, a multi-level threshold problem is the extension of the optimum threshold for image segmentation by maximizing the interclass variance that becomes very time-consuming because a large number of iterations required to calculate each class mean and cumulative probability. The SI algorithm is one of the excellent ways to deal with the complicated threshold selection problem by learning from the bionic algorithm to improve the optimization efficiency [30], [31]. A recently developed SI algorithm, MFO has the advantages of a simple structure and a robust selection capability [16], [17]. Still, it is easy to be trapped falling into optimal local, and slow search converges [32]. For these reasons of weaknesses points when dealing with complicated problems, MFO has been further notice paid attention to changing equations and parameters for improving the performance functionality, e.g., the enhanced MFO with mutation strategy (EMFO) [33], chaotic mutative MFO (CMFO) [34]. Especially, MFO had been combined with the Lévy flight for function optimization and engineering design problems [35]. MFO has been applied to the practical issues, e.g., Intelligent identification of facial expressions through the MFO [36]; An unsmooth economic situation emissions dispatch issues by enhanced MFO [37]; and Parameter identification of single-phase inverter with improved MFO [38]. However, as the No-Free-Lunch (NFL) theorem [39] for optimization said, there is a crucial question as to whether there is an optimization algorithm for solving all problems of optimization. It is aiming at these disadvantages of the MFO algorithm, this article considered to improve MFO by hybridizing Lévy flight and logarithmic functions for its formula of flame updating to enhance the optimization performance of the algorithm. The minimum cross-entropy is taken as the optimization objective function, and the improved MFO algorithm is applied to multithreshold color image segmentation. As our knowledge, besides combining MFO with the Lévy flight as the mentioned previous works, we also adapt the inertia weight and logarithmic functions while processing optimization to enhance the converge of the algorithm.

The contributions behind the proposed scheme are highlighted as follows.

- Enhancing MFO by hybridizing Lévy flight and logarithmic functions for its formula of updating flame based on a mutation probability.
- Experimenting evaluating the proposed method performance through testing the selected benchmark functions.
- Applying the new proposed algorithm to solve to the complex of multi threshold color image segmentation.

The rest of the paper is arranged as follows: Section 2 reviews the conical MFO and the statement of the multi threshold color image segmentation problem as the related work. Section 3, which proposes an improvement version of MFO. Section 4 describes the improved MFO for the multi threshold color image segmentation issue. The ending is discussed as the conclusion in Section 5.

II. RELATED WORD

In this section, a new swarm intelligence bionic algorithm called the moth-flame optimization (MFO) that inspiration taken from the moth's flight mode is reviewed in subsection A. And subsection B would report the statement of the multi-threshold color image segmentation problem. The subsections are presented in detail as follows.

A. MOTH-FLAME OPTIMIZATION ALGORITHM

MFO is considered as a novel swarm intelligence optimization algorithm with the inspiration from the moth's flight

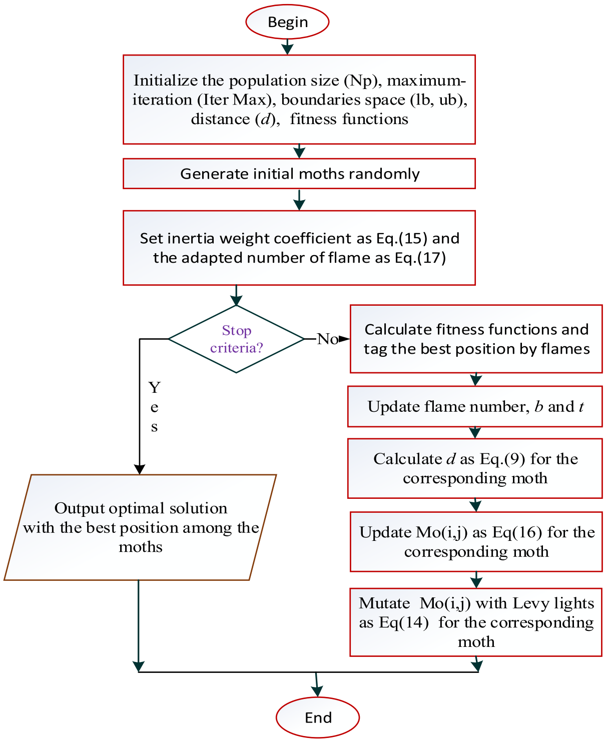

Begin
Initialize the population size (Np), maximum-iteration (Iter Max), boundaries space (lb, ub), distance (*d*), fitness functions
Generate initial moths randomly
Set inertia weight coefficient as Eq.(15) and the adapted number of flame as Eq.(17)
Stop criteria?
No
Yes
Calculate fitness functions and tag the best position by flames
Update flame number, *b* and *t*
Calculate *d* as Eq.(9) for the corresponding moth
Update Mo(i,j) as Eq(16) for the corresponding moth
Mutate Mo(i,j) with Levy lights as Eq(14) for the corresponding moth
Output optimal solution with the best position among the moths
End

FIGURE 1. **Flowchart of the proposed IMFO.**

TABLE 1. The initial rang, dimension, and description of selected test benchmark functions.

Series	Description of the problems	Dimension	Range	f_{min}
A	**Unimodal benchmark functions**			
1	$f_1(x) = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2$	30	[-100, 100]	0
2	$f_2(x) = \sum_{j=1}^n (\sum_{i=1}^n x_j)^2$	30	[-100, 100]	0
3	$f_3(x) = \max_i\{\lvert x_i\rvert, 1 \leq i \leq n\}$	30	[-100, 100]	0
4	$f_4(x) = \sum_{i=1}^{n-1}[100 \times (x_{i+1} - x_i^2)^2 + (x_i - 1)^2]$	30	[-100, 100]	0
B	**Multimodal benchmark functions**			
5	$f_5(x) = \sum_{i=1}^n -x_i \sin(\sqrt{\lvert x_i\rvert})$	30	[-500, 500]	0
6	$f_6(x) = \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i^2 - 10\cos(2\pi x_i) + 10)$	30	[-5.12, 5.12]	0
7	$f_7(x) = -20\exp(-0.2\sqrt{\frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2)}$ - $\exp(\frac{1}{n}\cos(2\pi x_i)) + 20 + e))$	30	[-32,32]	0
8	$f_8(x) = \frac{1}{4000}\sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2 - \prod_{i=1}^n \cos(\frac{x_i}{\sqrt{i}}) + 1$	30	[-600, 600]	0
9	$f_9(x) = \frac{\pi}{n}(10\sin(\pi y_1) + \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - 1)^2(1 + 10\sin^2(\pi y_{i+1}))$ $+ \sum_{i=1}^n u(x_i, 10, 100, 4)$ $y_i = 1 + \frac{x_i+1}{4}$ $u(x_i, a, k, m) = \begin{cases} k(x_i - a)^m & x_i > a \\ 0 & -a < x_i < a \\ k(-x_i - a)^m & x_i < -a \end{cases}$	30	[-50, 50]	0
10	$f_{10}(x) = 0.1(\sin^2(3\pi x_i) + \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - 1)^2(1 + \sin^2(3\pi x_i + 1))$ $+(x_n - 1)^2(1 + \sin^2(2\pi x_n))) + \sum_{i=1}^n u(x_i, 5, 100, 4)$	30	[-50, 50]	0
C	**Fixed-dimension multimodal benchmark functions**			
11	$f_{11}(x) = (\frac{1}{500} + \sum_{j=1}^{25} \frac{1}{j + \sum_{i=1}^2 (x_1 - a_{ij})^6})^{-1}$	2	[-65,65]	1
12	$f_{12}(x) = \sum_{i=1}^{11}(a_i - \frac{x_i(b_i^2 + b_i x_2)}{b_i^2 + b_i x_3 + x_4})$	4	[-5,5]	0.0003
13	$f_{13}(x) = 4x_1^2 - 2.1x_1^4 + \frac{1}{3}x_1^6 + x_1x_2 - 4x_2^2 + 4x_2^4$	2	[-5,5]	-1.0316
14	$f_{14}(x) = (x^2 - \frac{5.1}{4\pi^2}x_1^2 + \frac{5}{\pi}x_1 - 6)^2$ $+10(1 - \frac{1}{8\pi})\cos x_1 + 10$	2	[-5,5]	0.3980
15	$f_{15}(x) = (1 + (x_1 + x_2 + 1)^2$ $\times(19 - 14x_1 + 3x_1^2 - 14x_2 + 6x_1x_2 + 3x_2^2)$ $\times(30 + (2x_1 - 3x_2)^2$ $\times(18 - 32x_1 + 12x_1^2 + 48x_2 - 36x_1x_2 + 27x_2^2))$	2	[-2,2]	3
16	$f_{16}(x) = -\sum_{i=1}^4 c_1 \times \exp(-\sum_{j=1}^3 a_{ij}(x_j - p_{ij})^2)$	3	[1,3]	-3.860
17	$f_{17}(x) = -\sum_{i=1}^4 c_1 \times \exp(-\sum_{j=1}^6 a_{ij}(x_j - p_{ij})^2)$	6	[0,1]	-3.320
18	$f_{18}(x) = -\sum_{i=1}^5((X - a_i)(X - a_i)^T + c_i)^{-1}$	4	[0,10]	-10.15320
19	$f_{19}(x) = -\sum_{i=1}^7((X - a_i)(X - a_i)^T + c_i)^{-1}$	4	[0,10]	-10.4028
20	$f_{20}(x) = -\sum_{i=1}^{10}((X - a_i)(X - a_i)^T + c_i)^{-1}$	4	[0,10]	-10.53630
D	**Composite benchmark functions**			
21	f$_{21}(x) =$ $f_1, \ldots, f_{10}$=Sphere function $[\delta_1, \ldots, \delta_{10}] = [1, \ldots, 1]$ $[\lambda_1, \ldots, \lambda_{10}] = [\frac{5}{100}, \ldots, \frac{5}{100}]$	10	[-5,5]	0
22	f$_{22}(x) =$ $f_1, \ldots, f_{10}$=Griewank function $[\delta_1, \ldots, \delta_{10}] = [1, \ldots, 1]$ $[\lambda_1, \ldots, \lambda_{10}] = [\frac{5}{100}, \ldots, \frac{5}{100}]$	10	[-5,5]	0
23	f$_{23}(x) =$ $f_1, \ldots, f_{10}$=Rastrigin function $[\delta_1, \ldots, \delta_{10}] = [1, \ldots, 1]$ $[\lambda_1, \ldots, \lambda_{10}] = [1, \ldots, 1]$	10	[-5,5]	0

TABLE 2. Test results of the proposed IMFO, MFO and GWO algorithms for selected 23 functions.

Test Func.	MFO			GWO			IMFO		
	Best	Mean	Std:	Best	Mean	Std:	Best	Mean	Std:
1	2.83E-10	6.87E-10	7.01E-08	**2.38E-12**	8.92E-10	7.04E-08	2.79E-12	**3.36E-11**	1.40E-07
2	5.82E-03	1.45E+00	1.32E+00	8.42E-03	2.53E+00	3.00E+00	1.30E-04	1.57E-01	5.01E-04
3	4.07E-04	1.51E-01	2.09E-01	3.19E-04	1.45E-01	1.67E-01	**1.13E-04**	1.35E-01	9.10E-02
4	2.60E-14	3.10E-09	2.62E-04	9.01E-15	2.58E-02	1.87E-02	**5.15E-16**	6.20E-09	5.24E-04
5	4.48E-02	2.04E+01	6.66E-02	3.64E-02	2.04E+01	6.53E-02	1.66E-03	1.99E+01	8.74E-02
6	8.41E-02	2.13E+01	9.88E-01	6.01E-02	1.89E+01	2.07E+00	2.07E-04	2.49E+00	**9.66E-01**
7	5.68E-04	2.35E-01	1.24E-01	1.99E-01	5.86E+01	2.77E+01	**1.69E-05**	2.04E-01	1.52E-01
8	2.70E-02	9.32E+00	4.35E+00	4.60E-01	1.38E+02	2.97E+01	**4.85E-04**	5.84E+00	3.68E+00
9	3.39E-01	8.55E+01	4.53E+00	4.56E-01	1.39E+02	3.99E+01	**8.36E-04**	1.01E+01	8.16E-02
10	3.35E-01	8.59E+01	7.43E+00	5.71E-01	1.74E+02	3.49E+01	1.07E-03	1.28E+01	6.12E+00
11	1.62E+01	4.39E+03	3.33E+02	7.09E+00	2.59E+03	5.30E+02	8.69E-02	1.05E+03	3.49E+02
12	5.26E-02	4.55E-01	2.71E-01	5.17E-02	2.77E-01	1.48E-01	1.02E-01	1.23E-01	-1.86E-01
13	4.87E-05	5.64E-01	1.14E-01	3.87E-03	1.69E+00	3.23E-01	**9.37E-05**	1.13E+00	**2.26E-01**
14	3.28E-01	9.42E+01	7.17E+00	**5.26E-03**	1.71E+02	2.98E+01	2.68E-02	3.23E+01	3.54E+00
15	4.08E-01	1.13E+02	6.84E+00	5.01E-01	1.63E+02	1.71E+01	2.70E-02	3.25E+01	4.24E+00
16	-7.42E-03	2.57E+00	4.60E-01	-1.15E-01	3.44E+01	1.25E+01	**-1.37E-04**	1.65E+00	-3.73E-01
17	-3.07E-02	8.64E+00	4.62E-01	-2.21E-02	7.84E+00	4.39E-01	**-2.31E-04**	2.78E+00	**4.32E-01**
18	**-6.16E-02**	3.37E+02	**4.84E+00**	-5.71E-01	3.58E+02	5.81E+01	-3.22E-02	3.88E+02	2.74E+01
19	-1.65E+01	4.28E+03	4.23E+02	-8.23E+00	2.76E+03	6.70E+02	**-5.82E-02**	7.02E+02	4.58E+02
20	-1.67E+01	3.97E+03	3.71E+02	-8.54E+00	2.51E+03	7.96E+02	**-8.34E-02**	1.01E+01	4.21E+02
21	4.42E-01	2.04E+02	1.54E+01	5.05E-01	2.47E+02	1.46E+01	1.68E-02	2.02E+02	1.53E+01
22	4.40E-01	2.04E+02	5.13E+00	5.28E-01	2.54E+02	1.11E+01	**1.68E-02**	2.02E+02	5.08E+00
23	3.16E-01	1.47E+02	4.42E+01	5.61E-01	2.36E+02	2.93E+01	**1.20E-02**	1.45E+02	4.37E+01
win	15	17	14	15	14	17	-	-	-
lose	6	5	6	8	8	5	-	-	-
draw	2	1	3	0	1	0	-	-	-

mode known as lateral positioning in nature [16]. The optimization process of the MFO algorithm can be abstractly understood as two behaviors of the moth searching for flame and its abandoning flame [33]. Over iterations of the optimization process, moths and flames are manipulated with the simulated formula to update their positions. The moth is the actual search subject in the search space, and the flame is the best location so far. Therefore, if the moth finds a better solution, each moth searches for and updates the flame near the marked flame. The moth can get its optimal solution through this process. The set Mo of the moth is expressed as follows:

$$Mo = \begin{bmatrix} Mo_{1,1} & Mo_{1,2} & \ldots & Mo_{1,d} \\ Mo_{2,1} & Mo_{2,2} & \ldots & Mo_{2,d} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ Mo_{n,1} & Mo_{n,2} & \ldots & Mo_{n,d} \end{bmatrix} \tag{1}$$

where n is the number of moths, and d is the number of variables (dimension). The fitness value MF of the moth is expressed as follows:

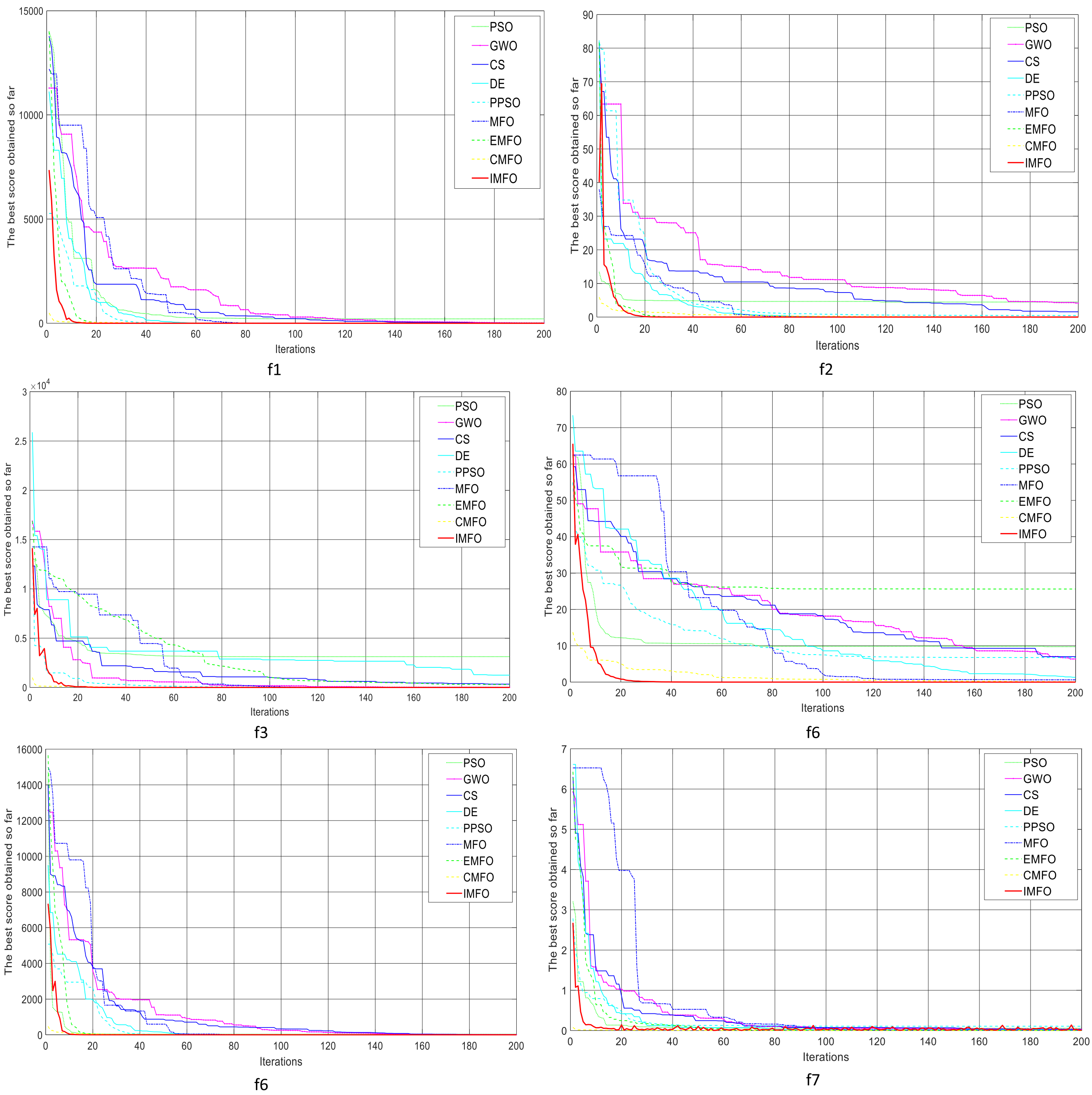
$$\mathrm{MF} = \left[MF_1 \quad MF_2 \quad \cdots MF_n \right]^T \tag{2}$$

Another critical element of the MFO algorithm is flame. The set of the flame is represented by matrix FL as follows:

$$FL = \begin{bmatrix} FL_{1,1} & FL_{1,2} & \ldots & FL_{1,d} \\ FL_{2,1} & FL_{2,2} & \ldots & FL_{2,d} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ FL_{n,1} & FL_{n,2} & \ldots & FL_{n,d} \end{bmatrix} \tag{3}$$

In this matrix, n is the number of moths, and d is the number of variables (dimension). The matrix FF represents the fitness value of the flame:

$$\mathrm{FF} = \left[FF_1 \quad FF_2 \quad \cdots FF_n \right]^T \tag{4}$$



f1

f2

f3

f6

f6

f7

FIGURE 2. Comparison of convergence curves of the best values the proposed IMFO with the other algorithms, such as the PSO [11], GWO [12], CS [13], DE [14], PPSO [15], MFO [16], EMFO [33], CMFO [34] for chosen functions: f1, f2, f3, f4, f6, and f7.

The moth-flame optimization algorithm is approximately to find the global optimal triple

$$MFO = (I, P, T) \tag{5}$$

In the formula, I is the function of random moth number and corresponding fitness value. The primary function P makes the moth move in the solution space. It receives the matrix Mo and returns the updated Mo, which can be expressed as follows:

$$I : \emptyset \rightarrow \{Mo, MF\}, \quad P : Mo \rightarrow Mo \tag{6}$$

The T function is a termination condition function. If the termination condition is met, the T function returns true; otherwise, it returns false. The initial solution is generated by function I, and the objective function value is calculated. The P function runs iteratively until the T function returns true. Update the position of each moth relative to the flame using the following equation:

$$Mo_i = S(Mo_i, FL_j) \tag{7}$$

where Mo_i is the ith moth, FL_j is the jth flame, S is a spiral function.

TABLE 3. Test results of the proposed IMFO, PPSO and PSO algorithms for selected 23 functions.

Test Func.	PSO			PPSO			**IMFO**		
	Best	*Mean*	*Std.*	*Best*	*Mean*	*Std.*	*Best*	*Mean*	*Std.*
1	9.25E-07	6.45E-04	1.61E-03	6.55E-11	**2.79E-08**	8.03E-08	**2.82E-15**	3.40E-08	1.42E-07
2	2.80E-03	1.99E+00	4.26E+00	4.52E-03	8.19E-01	3.64E+00	**1.32E-04**	1.58E-01	**5.06E-03**
3	6.10E-01	4.28E+02	7.40E+02	3.01E+01	5.68E-01	1.68E+03	1.14E-04	1.37E-01	9.20E-02
4	1.50E-03	1.05E-01	2.19E+00	5.70E-06	**9.53E-06**	3.15E-05	5.21E-13	6.27E-08	**5.30E-05**
5	1.54E-02	2.02E+01	8.80E-02	6.18E-02	2.02E+01	7.74E-02	1.67E-03	2.01E+01	8.83E-02
6	4.42E-03	4.28E+00	1.25E+00	1.63E-02	3.95E+00	7.65E-01	**2.09E-04**	2.51E+00	**9.76E-01**
7	2.07E-03	1.54E+00	1.67E+00	**1.45E-03**	2.52E+00	9.02E-01	1.70E-03	2.06E-01	1.53E-01
8	1.80E-02	1.54E+01	7.56E+00	**2.45E-04**	2.95E+00	1.86E+00	4.90E-04	5.90E+00	3.71E+00
9	2.35E-02	2.12E+01	7.74E+00	7.34E-02	1.72E+01	2.54E+00	8.44E-04	1.02E+01	**8.25E-02**
10	3.60E-02	3.13E+01	1.00E+01	8.20E-02	2.01E+01	6.05E+00	**1.08E-03**	1.30E+01	6.18E+00
11	5.94E-01	9.13E+02	3.12E+02	5.70E-02	5.32E+02	1.77E+02	8.78E-02	1.06E+03	**3.52E+02**
12	7.36E-01	1.10E+03	2.25E+02	3.29E+00	1.16E+03	1.67E+02	1.03E-01	1.25E+03	1.88E+02
13	4.25E-04	**8.33E-01**	**2.08E-01**	3.28E-03	1.11E+00	2.07E-01	**9.46E-05**	1.14E+00	2.29E-01
14	2.95E-02	3.60E+01	8.14E+00	**3.46E-03**	2.19E+01	1.91E+00	2.70E-03	3.27E+01	3.57E+00
15	3.00E-02	3.64E+01	9.14E+00	1.17E-01	3.58E+01	4.25E+00	2.73E-03	3.29E+01	4.29E+00
16	-1.29E-03	1.69E+00	6.03E-01	-1.13E-03	1.01E+00	2.49E-01	**-1.39E-04**	1.66E+00	3.77E-01
17	-2.55E-03	3.11E+00	4.86E-01	-1.01E-02	3.07E+00	3.76E-01	-2.34E-04	2.81E+00	4.37E-01
18	-2.86E-01	3.85E+02	4.48E+01	-7.46E-01	3.18E+02	4.01E+01	**-3.26E-02**	**3.92E+02**	**2.77E+01**
19	-7.34E-01	8.47E+02	3.67E+02	**-2.98E-01**	3.99E+02	2.44E+02	-5.88E-02	7.09E+02	4.62E+02
20	-9.42E-01	6.35E+02	3.83E+02	-3.78E+00	6.30E+02	3.13E+02	**-8.42E-02**	1.02E+01	4.26E+02
21	1.65E-01	2.11E+02	9.84E+00	7.58E-01	2.27E+02	1.18E+01	**1.69E-02**	2.04E+02	1.54E+01
22	1.64E-01	2.10E+02	1.01E+01	5.23E-01	1.87E+02	9.16E+00	**1.69E-02**	2.04E+02	5.13E+00
23	1.70E-01	1.88E+02	5.76E+01	**4.15E-01**	1.48E+02	2.59E+01	1.21E-02	1.47E+02	4.42E+01
win	14	16	15	13	15	14	-	-	-
lose	6	5	8	8	7	8	-	-	-
draw	3	2	0	2	1	1	-	-	-

The helix should satisfy the following three conditions: the starting point is the moth, the endpoint is flame, and the floating range does not exceed the search space. Based on these three points, the logarithmic helix function of MFO algorithm is defined as follows:

$$S\left(Mo_i, FL_i\right) = D_i \bullet e^{bt} \bullet \cos\left(2\pi t\right) + FL_j \tag{8}$$

$$D_i = \left|FL_j - Mo_j\right| \tag{9}$$

where, D_i is the distance between the i^{th} moth and the j^{th} flame; b is a constant defining the logarithmic helix; t is the random number between $[-1, 1]$, indicating the proximity between the next position of the moth and the flame (t = 1 is the closest to the flame, t = − 1 is the farthest from the flame). Indicates the closeness of the moth's next position to the flame (t = 1 is the closest to the flame, t = −1 is the farthest from the flame). In order to explore the solution space globally and ensure the fast convergence speed of the MFO algorithm, an adaptive updating mechanism of flame number is proposed to reduce the number of flames adaptively in the iteration process. The formula for updating flame number is as follows:

$$F^N = round(N - t\frac{N-1}{T}) \tag{10}$$

where, N is the maximum number of flames; t is the current number of iterations; T is the maximum number of iterations.

B. MINIMUM CROSS-ENTROPY FOR MULTI THRESHOLD

The multithreshold segmentation of color image plays a significant role in many areas of application, such as in the field of medicine, intelligent transportation, video monitoring, industrial production, and so on [24]. The threshold-based scheme is one of the powerful image segmentation algorithms by choosing a few thresholds to distinguish the target from the surrounding pixels [23]. For example, the bi-level

TABLE 4. Test results of the proposed IMFO, DE and EMFO algorithms for selected 23 functions.

Test Func.	DE			EMFO			**IMFO**		
	Best	*Mean*	*Std.*	*Best*	*Mean*	*Std.*	*Best*	*Mean*	*Std.*
1	1.85E-06	1.29E-03	3.21E-03	1.31E-10	2.19E-08	**1.91E-08**	**2.85E-15**	3.43E-08	1.43E-07
2	5.47E-03	3.83E+00	8.52E+00	**8.90E-04**	1.48E+00	7.27E+00	1.33E-04	1.60E-01	**5.11E-03**
3	1.22E+00	8.55E+02	1.48E+03	6.02E+01	1.00E+00	3.35E+03	**1.15E-04**	1.38E-01	9.29E-02
4	2.99E-03	2.09E-01	4.38E+00	1.14E-05	1.90E-05	1.00E-05	**5.26E-13**	6.33E-08	**5.35E-05**
5	2.91E-02	2.03E+01	8.76E-02	1.22E-01	2.04E+01	6.65E-02	1.69E-03	2.03E+01	8.92E-02
6	8.64E-03	6.04E+00	1.52E+00	3.23E-02	5.38E+00	5.54E-01	2.11E-04	2.54E+00	9.86E-01
7	4.12E-03	2.88E+00	3.19E+00	2.90E-02	4.84E+00	1.65E+00	**1.72E-05**	2.08E-01	1.55E-01
8	3.55E-02	2.49E+01	1.14E+01	**8.08E-07**	1.35E-04	**1.05E-04**	4.95E-04	5.96E+00	3.75E+00
9	4.61E-02	3.23E+01	1.54E+01	1.46E-01	2.43E+01	4.99E+00	8.53E-04	1.03E+01	8.33E-02
10	7.10E-02	4.96E+01	1.39E+01	1.63E-01	2.72E+01	5.93E+00	**1.09E-03**	1.31E+01	6.24E+00
11	1.10E+00	7.66E+02	2.71E+02	2.62E-02	4.37E+00	2.05E+00	8.87E-02	1.07E+03	3.56E+02
12	1.37E+00	9.57E+02	2.61E+02	6.47E+00	1.08E+03	1.46E+02	1.04E-01	1.26E+03	1.90E+02
13	7.55E-04	5.28E-01	1.87E-01	6.47E-03	1.08E+00	1.85E-01	9.56E-05	1.15E+00	2.31E-01
14	5.63E-02	3.94E+01	1.27E+01	**6.65E-02**	1.11E+01	2.40E-01	2.73E-03	3.30E+01	3.61E+00
15	5.72E-02	4.00E+01	1.40E+01	2.32E-01	3.87E+01	4.21E+00	2.76E-03	3.32E+01	4.33E+00
16	-2.45E-03	1.72E+00	8.28E-01	-2.13E-03	3.54E-01	1.21E-01	**-1.40E-04**	1.68E+00	**3.81E-01**
17	-4.86E-03	3.40E+00	5.35E-01	-1.99E-02	3.32E+00	**3.15E-01**	-2.36E-04	2.84E+00	4.41E-01
18	**-5.39E-03**	3.77E+02	6.19E+01	-1.46E+00	2.44E+02	5.24E+01	-3.29E-02	3.96E+02	2.80E+01
19	-1.41E+00	9.85E+02	2.71E+02	-5.37E-01	8.95E+01	2.58E+01	-5.94E-02	7.16E+02	4.67E+02
20	-1.80E+00	1.26E+03	**2.41E+02**	-7.48E+00	1.25E+03	2.00E+02	**-8.51E-02**	1.03E+01	4.30E+02
21	3.13E-01	2.19E+02	4.24E+00	1.50E+00	2.50E+02	8.17E+00	**1.71E-02**	2.06E+02	1.56E+01
22	3.11E-01	2.17E+02	1.51E+01	1.03E+00	1.71E+02	1.32E+01	**1.71E-02**	2.06E+02	5.18E+00
23	3.28E-01	2.30E+02	7.11E+01	8.98E-01	1.50E+02	7.66E+00	1.22E-02	1.48E+02	4.46E+01
win	11	13	12	10	8	7	-	-	-
lose	7	8	10	9	7	8	-	-	-
draw	3	2	1	4	7	7	-	-	-

thresholding problem just has to select one limit to classify objects and surroundings into two classes, which is quickly applied. However, multilevel thresholding is more prevalent in problem-solving activities such as mixed-type text interpretation and color image segmentation [40]. Threshold processing is a practical tool for the segmentation of images. Single threshold image segmentation can only be considered an actual design problem, whereas multi thresholds can be viewed as a multi-objective programming optimization problem [28]. Multi threshold image segmentation is to use the threshold vector T $= \{t_1, t_2, \ldots, t_K\}$ composed of K thresholds to divide the image I into $K+1$ region $\{C_0, C_1, \ldots, C_K\}$. The minimum cross entropy segmentation method is used to select the global optimal threshold vector T^*. The optimal threshold T^* needs to be satisfied as the following expression.

$$T^* = argmin\{f\ (t_1, \ldots, t_K)\} \tag{11}$$

where f is the objective function for the multiple thresholds for image segmentation. Finding the target vector with the minimum fitness value T^* is the best threshold vector obtained from the image. The implementation process of the multi-threshold image segmentation can be regarded as a single objective optimization problem. The optimization process combined with the swarm intelligence optimization algorithm is actually the optimal threshold combination to solve the fitness function of minimum cross-entropy multi-threshold segmentation.

TABLE 5. Test results of the proposed IMFO, CS and CMFO algorithms for selected 23 functions.

Test Func.	CS			CMFO			**IMFO**		
	Best	*Mean*	*Std.*	*Best*	*Mean*	*Std.*	*Best*	*Mean*	*Std.*
1	5.64E-10	1.34E-09	1.16E-10	5.96E-12	1.75E-09	**6.81E-10**	**2.85E-12**	3.43E-11	1.43E-07
2	1.15E-02	2.75E+00	2.63E+00	**1.67E-02**	4.91E+00	5.99E+00	**1.33E-04**	1.60E-01	**5.11E-04**
3	7.01E-04	1.67E-01	3.27E-01	5.26E-04	1.55E-01	2.43E-01	**1.15E-04**	1.38E-01	**9.29E-02**
4	5.15E-14	1.23E-13	**3.09E-14**	1.75E-14	5.16E-02	3.68E-02	**5.26E-16**	6.33E-09	5.35E-04
5	8.80E-02	2.10E+01	4.57E-02	7.12E-02	2.09E+01	4.32E-02	1.69E-03	2.03E+01	**8.92E-02**
6	1.68E-01	4.01E+01	1.01E+00	1.20E-01	3.53E+01	3.17E+00	**2.11E-04**	2.54E+00	9.86E-01
7	1.12E-03	2.66E-01	9.69E-02	3.98E-01	1.17E+02	5.53E+01	1.72E-05	2.08E-01	**1.55E-01**
8	5.36E-02	1.28E+01	5.03E+00	9.20E-01	2.71E+02	5.57E+01	**4.95E-04**	5.96E+00	3.75E+00
9	6.78E-01	1.61E+02	8.98E+00	9.12E-01	2.68E+02	7.98E+01	**8.53E-04**	1.03E+01	8.33E-02
10	6.69E-01	1.59E+02	8.74E+00	**1.14E-02**	3.36E+02	6.37E+01	1.09E-03	1.31E+01	6.24E+00
11	3.24E+01	7.73E+03	3.18E+02	1.41E+01	4.14E+03	7.12E+02	**8.87E-02**	1.07E+03	3.56E+02
12	**3.31E-03**	7.87E-01	3.56E-01	1.47E-03	4.31E-01	1.09E-01	1.04E-01	1.26E-01	**1.90E-01**
13	3.64E-06	**8.67E-04**	8.12E-04	7.65E-03	2.25E+00	4.19E-01	**9.56E-05**	1.15E+00	2.31E-01
14	6.54E-01	1.56E+02	1.08E+01	1.05E+00	3.09E+02	5.61E+01	2.73E-03	3.30E+01	3.61E+00
15	8.14E-01	1.94E+02	9.44E+00	9.99E-01	2.94E+02	2.99E+01	**2.76E-03**	3.32E+01	4.33E+00
16	-1.47E-02	3.49E+00	5.46E-01	-2.29E-01	6.72E+01	2.46E+01	-1.40E-04	1.68E+00	3.81E-01
17	-6.11E-02	1.45E+01	4.92E-01	-4.40E-02	1.29E+01	4.46E-01	**-2.36E-04**	2.84E+00	4.41E-01
18	-1.20E+00	2.85E+02	6.94E+01	**-1.11E-03**	3.27E+02	8.87E+01	-3.29E-02	3.96E+02	2.80E+01
19	**-3.83E-02**	**1.79E+00**	3.89E+02	-1.64E+01	**4.82E+00**	**8.83E+00**	-5.94E-02	7.16E+02	4.67E+02
20	-3.33E+01	7.93E+03	3.20E+02	-1.70E+01	5.00E+03	1.17E+03	**-8.51E-02**	1.03E+01	4.30E+02
21	8.67E-01	2.06E+02	1.56E+01	9.94E-01	2.92E+02	1.40E+01	1.71E-02	2.06E+02	1.56E+01
22	**8.64E-01**	2.06E+02	5.18E+00	**1.04E-03**	3.07E+02	1.71E+01	2.71E-02	2.06E+02	5.18E+00
23	6.20E-01	1.48E+02	4.46E+01	1.11E+00	3.27E+02	1.48E+01	**1.22E-02**	1.48E+02	**4.46E+01**
win	13	15	13	10	11	10	-	-	-
lose	7	6	8	9	7	8	-	-	-
draw	3	2	2	4	5	5	-	-	-

III. ENHANCING MOTH-FLAME ALGORITHM

This section presents the proposed improving MFO algorithm (IMFO) by modifying with three factors, i.e., hybridizing with the Lévy flight, adapting weight, and descending curvilinear strategy. The presentation is split into two subsections: the proposed part and the experimental results and discussion part in detail as follows.

A. IMPROVING MOTH-FLAME OPTIMIZATION ALGORITHM

In order to improve MFO algorithm (IMFO), the updating formula of flame and moth is modified with three factors, i.e., hybridizing with the Lévy flight, adapting weight, and descending curvilinear strategy. The suggested scheme of enhancing the optimization algorithm is described details as beginning with hybridizing with the Lévy flight as follows.

Lévy flight is introduced here as a kind of random walk, which is characterized by a large number of short-distance walks and a small number of long-distance jumps. It can be used to simulate random or pseudo-random natural phenomena. Since it is difficult to implement the original formula, we generally use the improved planning mode, which is expressed as follows.

$$\mathrm{Levy}(\beta) \sim \frac{\mu}{|\gamma|^{1/\beta}} \tag{12}$$

Lévy can be computed by components of Lévy flight; $\mu \sim N(0,\sigma^2)$; $\gamma \sim N(0, 1)$.

$$\sigma = \left\{ \frac{\Gamma(1+\beta) sin(\pi\beta/2)}{\beta\Gamma\left[(1+\beta)/2\right] 2^{(\beta-1)/2}} \right\}^{\frac{1}{\beta}} \tag{13}$$

The application of Lévy flight to the MFO algorithm is implemented through updating the position of moths relative to the

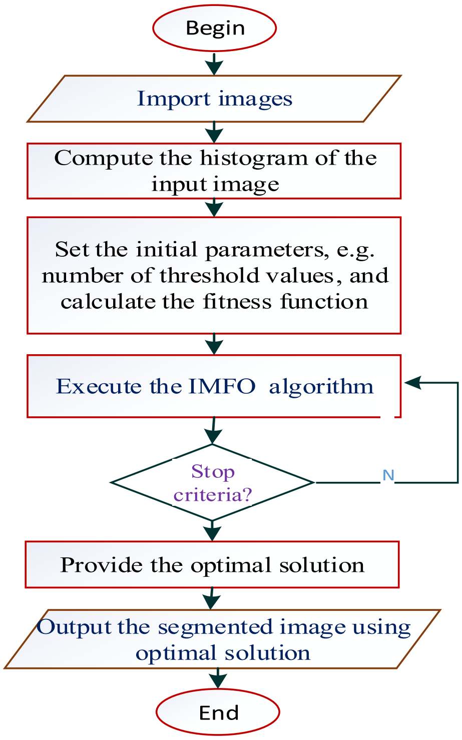

Begin
Import images
Compute the histogram of the input image
Set the initial parameters, e.g. number of threshold values, and calculate the fitness function
Execute the IMFO algorithm
Stop criteria?
N
Provide the optimal solution
Output the segmented image using optimal solution
End

FIGURE 3. Flow chart of multi threshold image segmentation using the IMFO.

flame in Eq.(7) is figured out as follows.

$$Mo_i = Mo_i \circledast \text{Levy}(\beta) \tag{14}$$

where, $\circledast$ is the point multiplication operation. Additionally, because of the MFO algorithm, the updating mechanism of the moth position is realized by logarithmic helix function. Still, this function only defines the moth flying to the flame, which makes the moth fall into the local optimum easily while dealing with complicated problems, and there are some deficiencies in the global optimization. The adaptive weight method used in this article reduces the value of the adaptive weight when the moth looks for the optimal solution near the flame, which can enhance the searching ability of the moth near the optimal solution and improve the local optimization ability of the moth. Thus, the logarithmic helix function of the MFO algorithm used in Eq.(8) also can be enhanced for the speed converge in optimization processing by adding the inertia weight adaption.

The specific calculation formula of adaptive weight w is as follows:

$$w = 1 + \sin(\pi + \frac{\pi t}{2T}) \tag{15}$$

Therefore, the original formula of position Eq.(8) is changed by modifying as follows.

$$S\,(Mo_i, FL_i) = D_i \bullet e^{bt} \bullet \cos\,(2\pi t) + wFL_j \tag{16}$$

The adaptive weight w is multiplied by the jth flame FL_j, when the moth approaches the flame, the value of w will decrease, which improves the moth's local optimization ability and avoids the moth missing the optimal solution.

Moreover, because there are a large number of random states in the swarm behavior of moths, it needs to be tested repeatedly, which leads to the time-consuming of the algorithm. The updating mechanism of flame number is changed from linear descent to curvilinear descent, which improves the convergence speed of the adaptive flame number and the convergence speed of the algorithm. The updated formula of the number of adaptive flames F^N is as follows.

$$F^N = round(\frac{T}{t + (T/N)}) \tag{17}$$

where, N is the maximum number of flames; t is the current number of iterations; T is the maximum number of iterations. Algorithm 1 lists the pseudo-code of the proposed IMFO.

Algorithm 1 Pseudo-Code of the IMFO

```
Initialization:
Initialize the position of moths and the parameters
Iteration:
1: while iteration<max_iteration do
2:Update the flame by Eq. (10)
3: Update inertia weight coefficient by Eq. (15)
4: MF=Fitness function(Mo)
5: if iteration=1
6:    Sor t the first population of moths and tag the best position by flames
7: else
8:    Sort the other population of moths and update the other flames
9: end if
10:   for $i = 1 : n$ do
11:       for $j = 1 : d$ do
12:           Update $b$ and $t$ as Eq.(8)
13:           Update the distance $d$ with the Eq. (9)
14:           According to the conditions, the position of the moth updated by Eq. (16)
15:       end for
16:   end for
17:   Update the position of the current search agent with the Eq. (14)
18:   iteration=iteration+1
19:   end while
Output:
Global optimal value and global optimal solution
```

The detailed steps of the IMFO optimization algorithm are summarized based on the above discussed as follows.

Step 1: Set the initialization space, generate population n for moths randomly, the maximum number of iterations, calculate the fitness function, tag the best locations by flames, and S set to a spiral function.

Step 2: Update the parameter b and t using Eq. (8); Calculate D for the corresponding moths Eq.(9); Sort and assign flame Eq.(2). Update the moth Eq.(7).

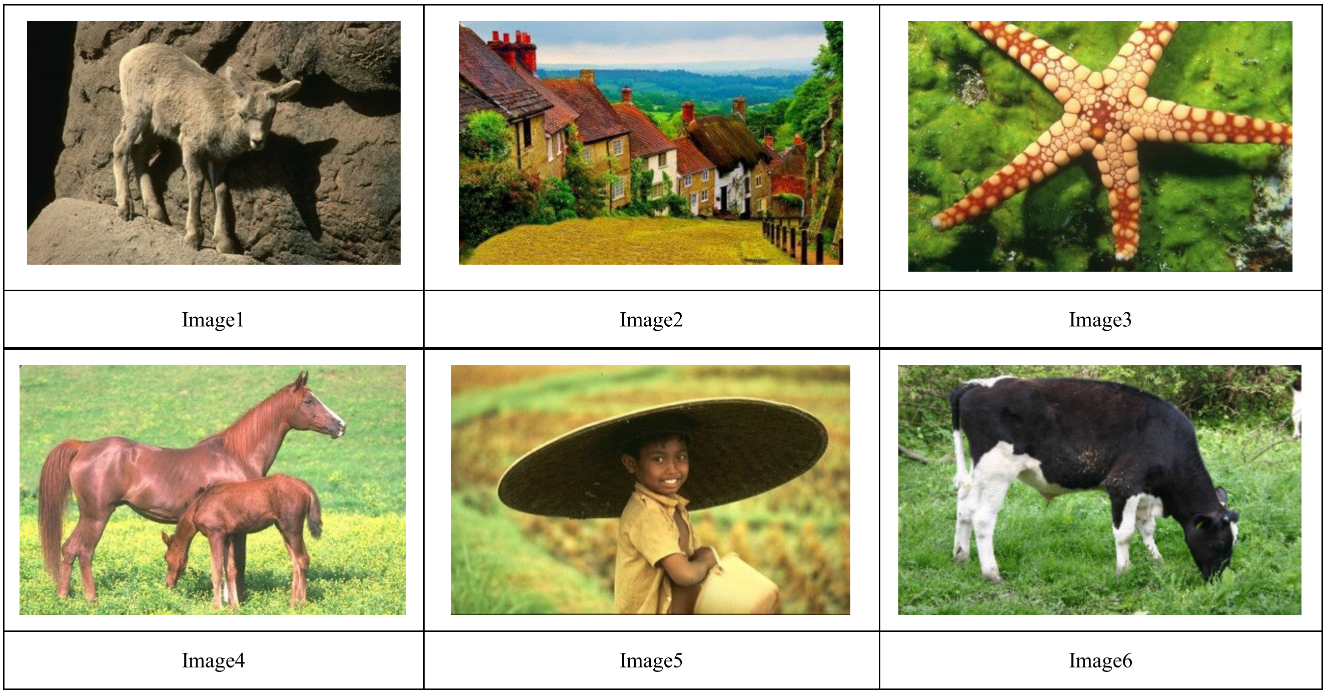


FIGURE 4. Selected original images.

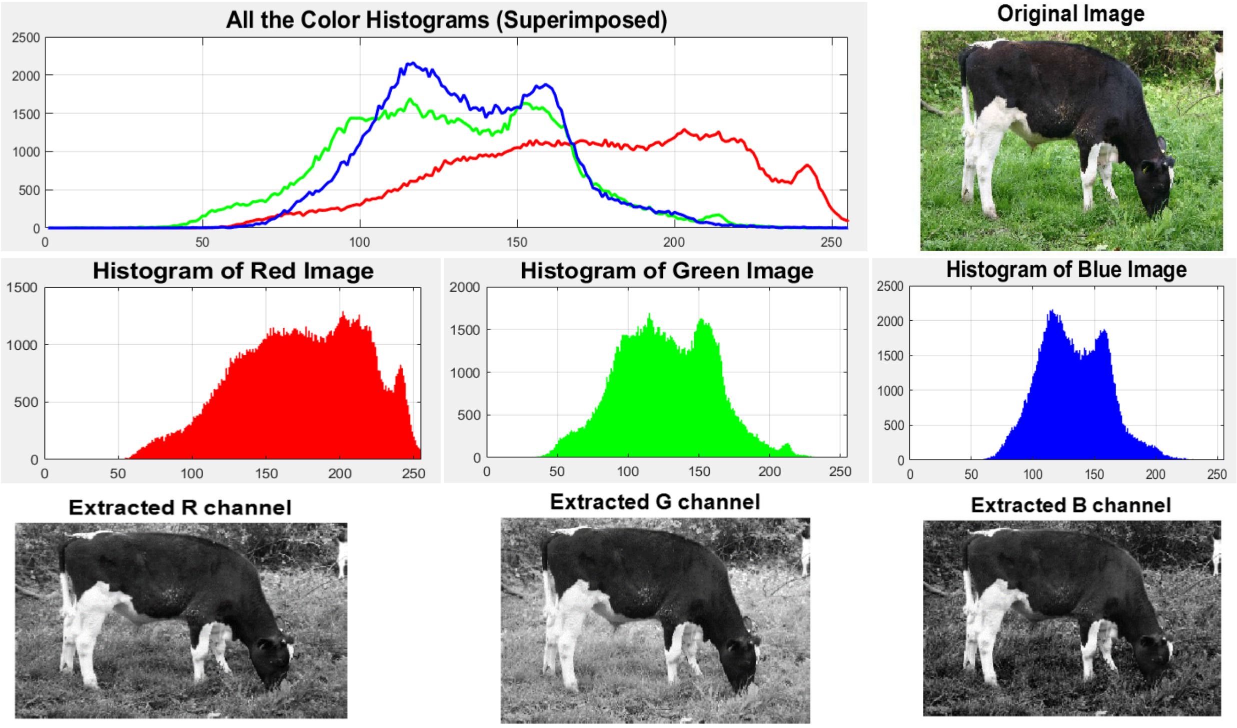


FIGURE 5. Visually obtained three channels (RGB) of the proposed IMFO for the image 06.

Step 3: Calculate adaptive weight Eq.(15); Update the S function Eq.(16); Compute the components of Lévy flight: μ, σ, and γ in Eq (13) for calculation of Eq.(12); Update the new moths with Eq.(14).

Step 4: If the number of iterations reaches the maximum or the optimal position meets the convergence conditions, the algorithm is terminated, and the search result is the output: the globally optimal moth position and

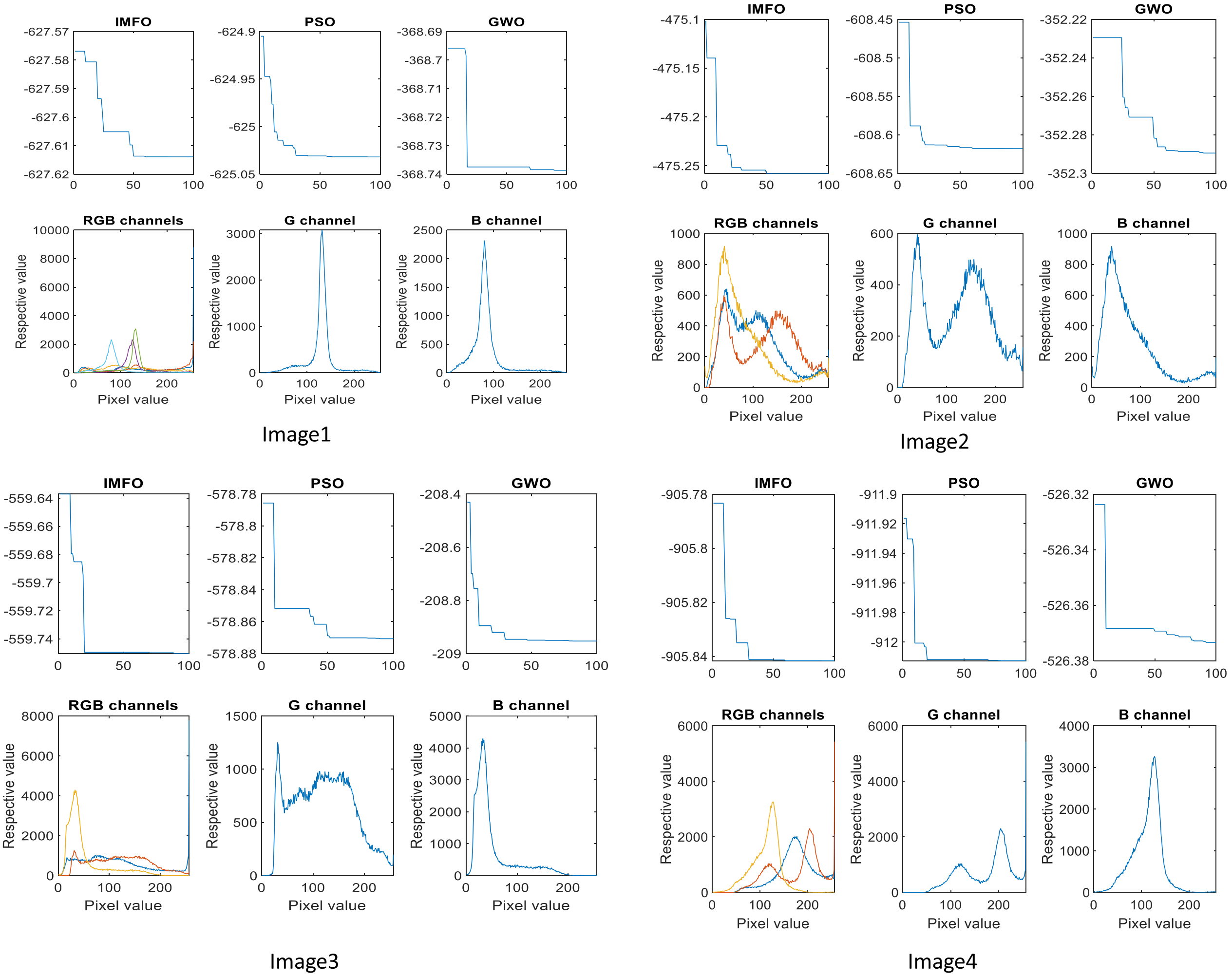


FIGURE 6. Comparison of the suggested IMFO scheme with the methods of the PSO [28], and GWO [40] and the three channels (RGB) visually derived for images 01 to 04 with thresholds set at 8.

its corresponding fitness function value. Otherwise, return to Step 2.

Figure 1 shows the flowchart of the proposed IMFO algorithm.

B. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In order to assess the possible well efficiency of the proposed IMFO algorithm, we use the chosen samples from the test suite CEC2013 [41] for certain benchmark functions. The reasons for only selecting twenty-three functions from CEC2013, 14 [41], [42] is because of the test suit have varieties functions of categories, e.g., the unimodal, multimodal, fixed-dimension modal, and composite benchmark functions. We selected several functions from each of the classes for presenting features in the guarantee of varieties of benchmark functions. The selected twenty-three functions are to give easily and fitly in a page layout presentation. Literatures [41], [43] give complete access to the test suites at CEC2013 that consists of some types of test models (A, B, C, and D as listed in Table1) for real number optimization functions. The selected functions include four unimodal test functions (f1-f4), six multi-modal test functions (f5-f10), ten fixed-dimension multimodal benchmark functions (f11-f20) and three sample composition functions (f21-f23).

The experimental results obtained from the proposed IMFO algorithm are compared in literature with various algorithms, e.g., the PSO [11], PPSO [15], CS [13], DE [14], MFO [16], GWO [12], EMFO [33], CMFO [34] algorithms. In order to allow the comparison of different algorithms, all values for the fitness function are reduced to the same minimum. Which one of the intelligent algorithms, competitive algorithm can typically consider a lower, optimal global cost, it would be the better one.

Table 1 lists the initialization range of boundary space, dimension, and description test benchmark functions.

Parameter settings for the optimization algorithms randomly initialize the number of solutions to 80, and each solution is set to Dim., of dimensions, and the search space range (for example, of aspect is −100 to 100) range as (Dim., and range listed in Table 1).

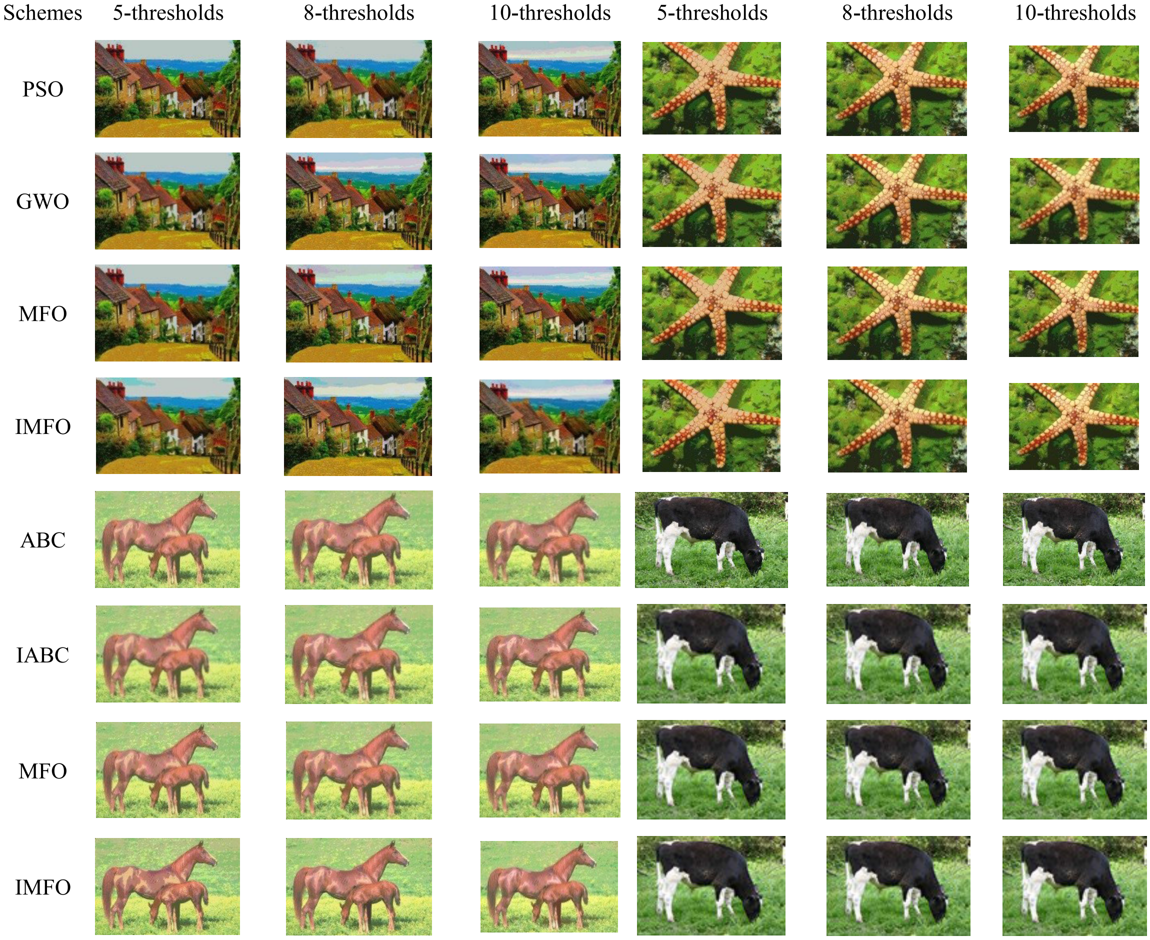


FIGURE 7. Comparison of graphs obtained under different threshold values.

The maximum number of iterations is 200. For a fair comparison, each algorithm is run 21 times. The parameter b is set 1 for the IMFO, EMFO, CMFO, and original MFO algorithms. The variable a is set 2 to 0 for the GWO algorithm. The weight w is placed 0.9 to 0.4, and parameterc_1, and c_2 are set to 1.49455 for the PSO and PPSO algorithms. α is set to a range of 0.08 to 0,13, β is set to 0.99, and γ is set to a variety of 3 to 5 for the CS algorithm. F is set to a range of 0.6 to 0.9, and cr is set to 0.2 for the DE algorithm.

Some experimental and comparative experiments are implemented to evaluate the proposed IMFO performance that is presented in detailed experimental data in Tables 2-5, and Figure 2.

In order to comprehensively assess the performance of the proposed IMFO algorithm, we recorded the best value, mean, and standard deviation of the optimization functions for the algorithm run 21 times. The smaller the value obtained by the algorithm, the better the optimization results.

The data tables about obtained results of the algorithms are the statistical obtained results, e.g., the optimal best value, average values, and standard deviation of the optimal values for test functions are compared algorithms to reflect the performance of the proposed algorithm. The consumed times of running optimization algorithms for the test functions are also considered to generate a statistic. The summarized symbols are "win", "lose", and "draw" that presented means as the comparison between the proposed IMFO with the other algorithms in paired for the best, lose, or draw. For example, if the best value of the obtained results of the IMFO for test function 1 is smaller (minimum function) than the PSO algorithm, the "win" is counted for adding 1, otherwise, the symbol of "lose" is counted one or the "draw" is counted one if it equals.

Observed from Tables 2 to 5, the results show that the proposed IMFO has a number of the "wins" that are more than the PSO, MFO, DE, CS, WGO, and PPSO. However, the figures for the IMFO are not more significant than the EMFO and CMFO algorithms much.

The execution consumed times of the proposed algorithm running for the test functions are also considered to generate a statistic. As added multiple the moth position vector with the Lévy flight operator, the time running is also affected that caused the executing test functions, especially for the unimodal, and fixed modal benchmark functions have the time consumption executing longer than the previous one. However, for the complicated test functions like the

TABLE 6. The metric of evaluation parameters used to measure segmented image results.

	Parameters	Formulas	Remarks
1.	*MSE and PSNR*	$MSE = \frac{1}{MN}\sum_{x=1}^{M}\sum_{y=1}^{N}[I(x,y) - I'(x,y)]^2$; $PSNR = 20\log_{10}\frac{255}{\sqrt{MSE}}$	MSE is a metric of the deviation, between actual and expected values. $PSNR$ is the ratio between maximum signal and the noise obtained from MSE.
2.	*SSIM*	$SSIM(xx \in I, yy \in I') = \frac{(2\mu_{xx}\mu_{yy} + c_1) \times (2\sigma_{xx,yy} + c_2)}{(\mu_{xx}^2 x + \mu_{vv}^2 y + c_1) \times (\sigma_x^2 + \sigma_{vv}^2 + c_2)}$	$SSIM$ *is* a parameter of structural similarity between the original image and the segmented image. where: μ_{xx} and μ_y are the average gray levels of the original image and the segmented image respectively; σ_x^2 and σ_y^2 are the variances of the two images respectively; σ_{xy} is the covariance of the original image and the segmented image; c_1 and c_2 are constants.
3	FSIM	$\text{FSIM} = \frac{\sum_{x\in\Omega} S_L(x) \times PC_m(x)}{\sum_{x\in\Omega} PC_m(x)}$	$FSIM$ is a parameter of the feature similarity that is an index to evaluate image quality based on phase consistency and spatial gradient feature of the image. Where: Ω is the whole spatial domain of the image; $S_L(x)$ is used to evaluate the image similarity; $PC_m(x)$ is the phase similarity.
4	*EPI*	$EPI = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{m}\lvert G_{R1} - G_{R2}\rvert}{\sum_{i=1}^{m}\lvert G_{R1} - G_{R2}\rvert}$	EPI is an Edge retention coefficient that represents the ability of the filter to preserve the horizontal or vertical edges of the image after processing. The higher the value, the stronger the retention ability. The numerator part represents the parameters after filtering, and the denominator represents the parameters before filtering; where m is the number of image pixels; G_{R1} and G_{R2} are the gray values of left and right or upper and lower adjacent pixels respectively.

TABLE 7. Comparison of the obtained results of the optimization of the proposed IMFO scheme with the PSO, MFO, GWO, ABC, IABC schemes for multilevel image segmentation based on a metric of the PSNR.

Image	threshold	*PSNR*					
		PSO	GWO	MFO	ABC	IABC	**IMFO**
Image1	5	28.90297	28.88233	28.88295	**29.03561**	28.87216	28.93651
	8	30.88260	30.76298	30.74016	30.63679	30.79367	**30.90804**
	10	31.58761	31.62937	31.34181	31.09397	31.59563	**31.66930**
	12	31.87878	31.99239	31.80178	31.49900	31.94559	**32.00227**
Image2	5	29.57887	29.57887	**29.58762**	29.23925	29.57850	29.56536
	8	31.68925	31.86244	31.77791	30.98924	**31.91567**	31.87192
	10	32.36551	32.56902	32.39916	31.52746	32.51123	**32.61501**
	12	32.76274	32.97623	32.83233	32.16131	32.78393	**33.00080**
Image3	5	30.87890	30.8789	30.87866	30.49437	30.88013	**30.88640**
	8	33.45137	33.50686	33.48056	32.82658	33.51200	**33.59921**
	10	34.20608	**34.50588**	34.02068	33.36215	34.38188	34.45018
	12	34.75214	34.99056	34.72816	33.64132	34.80053	**35.03611**
Image4	5	**31.29500**	31.29015	31.29174	30.97254	31.29071	31.29185
	8	**32.89962**	32.89555	32.87188	32.22659	32.88825	32.86529
	10	33.19552	**33.38643**	33.20282	32.53222	33.28118	33.34261
	12	33.47538	33.54890	33.42869	32.69779	33.54831	**33.54948**
Image5	5	31.46847	31.46843	31.43929	31.11899	**31.47216**	31.47114
	8	34.83435	34.88032	34.87776	33.57890	34.80603	**34.91311**
	10	36.02319	36.38910	35.84885	34.48454	36.16735	**36.56246**
	12	36.71580	37.35114	36.94982	35.61768	36.91715	**37.54162**
Image6	5	31.02476	31.01885	31.02031	30.75351	31.02692	**31.04430**
	8	33.65560	33.71741	33.59673	32.78215	33.74083	**33.79716**
	10	34.55400	34.69403	34.22598	33.54275	34.74308	**34.81645**
	12	35.22347	35.36996	35.07352	34.33831	35.25926	**35.56532**

category of the composite and multimodal functions, the time running use of the proposed IMFO is as long as the other algorithms such as the EMFO, CMFO, and shorter than PPSO.

TABLE 8. Comparison of the obtained results of the optimization of the proposed IMFO scheme with the PSO, MFO, GWO, ABC, IABC schemes for multilevel image segmentation based on a metric of the SSIM.

Image	threshold	*SSIM*					
		PSO	GWO	MFO	ABC	IABC	**IMFO**
Image1	5	0.87378	0.87326	0.87328	**0.87801**	0.87305	0.87478
	8	0.90936	0.90720	0.90717	0.90611	0.90783	**0.90985**
	10	0.91904	0.92044	0.91713	0.91235	0.91944	**0.92093**
	12	0.92319	**0.92486**	0.92309	0.91741	0.92357	0.92478
Image2	5	0.89382	0.89382	0.89379	0.88813	0.89383	**0.89393**
	8	**0.91991**	0.91959	0.91971	0.91310	0.91978	0.91956
	10	0.92695	0.92948	0.92693	0.91712	0.92890	**0.93034**
	12	0.93247	0.93593	0.93377	0.92564	0.93193	**0.93604**
Image3	5	0.88034	0.88034	0.88049	0.87528	0.88036	**0.88071**
	8	0.92033	0.92126	0.92100	0.91163	0.92105	**0.92179**
	10	0.92964	**0.93401**	0.92971	0.91831	0.93225	0.93337
	12	0.93630	**0.93970**	0.93845	0.92382	0.93679	0.93967
Image4	5	**0.88811**	0.88797	0.88803	0.88277	0.88797	0.88800
	8	**0.92353**	0.92339	0.92303	0.91016	0.92322	0.92296
	10	0.92868	**0.93192**	0.92871	0.91706	0.93001	0.93105
	12	0.93351	0.93424	0.93252	0.91895	**0.93463**	0.93445
Image5	5	**0.86320**	0.86288	0.86267	0.85887	0.86289	0.86285
	8	0.90469	**0.90524**	0.90451	0.89324	0.90477	0.90489
	10	0.91882	0.92017	0.91677	0.90540	0.91967	**0.92175**
	12	0.92769	0.93174	0.92972	0.91700	0.92862	**0.93396**
Image6	5	0.90214	0.90223	0.90179	0.89707	0.90237	**0.90261**
	8	0.93465	0.93576	0.93537	0.92547	0.93574	**0.93614**
	10	0.94362	0.94522	0.94250	0.93440	0.94496	**0.94583**
	12	0.94925	0.95107	0.94974	0.94255	0.95022	**0.95234**

Figure 2 shows the comparison of convergence curves of the best values the proposed IMFO with the other algorithms, such as the PSO, MFO, GWO, CS, DE, PPSO, EMFO, and CMFO for chosen functions: f1, f2, f3, f4, f6, and f7. It can be seen that the proposed IMFO produces faster convergence than the other algorithms in comparative experiments for the selected test functions.

IV. THE IMFO FOR MULTITHRESHOLD IMAGE SEGMENTATION

The traditional multithreshold segmentation algorithms faced the computation problem; complicated time increases rapidly with whenever the number of thresholds increased. The intelligent optimization algorithm must be combined with the optimal threshold vector. In order to solve this problem well, the improved MFO algorithm is applied to the multithreshold image segmentation, where minimal cross-entropy is taken as the objective function for optimization.

A. MULTITHRESHOLD IMAGE SEGMENTATION USING IMFO

Assume that n thresholds for an original image can be divided into the various groups *T(n+1)*. Let $t_1, t_2, \ldots, t_n$.be n thresholds of the image regions with $class_1 \in \{0, \ldots, t_1\}$, $class_2 \in \{t_1, \ldots, t_2\}$, …, $class_{n+1} \in \{t_n, \ldots, L\}$. The objective function [28] for the optimal n thresholds is formulated as follows.

$$\begin{aligned}\left\{t_1^*, \ldots, t_n^*\right\} = \; & argmin\left\{f\left(t_1, \ldots, t_n\right)\right\} \\ & Subject\ to\ 0 < t_1 < t_2 < \ldots < t_n < L\end{aligned} \tag{18}$$

where $\left\{t_1^*, \ldots, t_n^*\right\}$ are optimal obtained results from n thresholds; $f\left(t_1, \ldots, t_n\right)$ is the objective function for the optimization of the multilevel image segmentation with optimum threshold values. The minimum cross-entropy scheme is used to determine the appropriate thresholds for image segmentation. The cross-entropy measures the theoretical distance of information for two on the same set of probability distributions [44]. Let $P\left\{p_1, p_2, \ldots, p_n\right\}$, and $Q\left\{q_1, q_2, \ldots, q_n\right\}$ be two probabilistic distributions. The cross-entropy can be expressed for two distributions of the P and Q as follows.

$$\mathrm{D}\left(P, Q\right) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} p_i \log \frac{p_i}{q_i} \tag{19}$$

The threshold values can be calculated based on optimizing the cross-entropy between the threshold version and the original image. The feature extraction of the image I_s is figured out as follows.

$$I_s\left(x, y\right) = \begin{cases} u\left(1, t\right), & I\left(x, y\right) < t \\ u\left(t, L+1\right), & I\left(x, y\right) \geq t \end{cases} \tag{20}$$

TABLE 9. Comparison of the obtained results of the optimization of the proposed imfo scheme with the PSO, MFO, GWO, ABC, IABC schemes for multilevel image segmentation based on a metric of the FSIM.

Image	threshold	*FSIM*					
		PSO	GWO	MFO	ABC	IABC	**IMFO**
Image1	5	0.92547	0.92538	0.92515	**0.92614**	0.92507	0.92589
	8	0.94940	0.94842	0.94796	0.94630	0.94871	**0.94954**
	10	0.95780	0.95771	0.95459	0.95293	0.95719	**0.95807**
	12	0.96015	**0.96147**	0.95914	0.95719	0.96127	0.96136
Image2	5	0.93647	0.93647	0.93650	0.93106	0.93647	**0.93651**
	8	0.95453	0.95499	0.95462	0.94919	**0.95522**	0.95467
	10	0.95872	0.96013	0.95853	0.95250	0.95954	**0.96073**
	12	0.96173	0.96345	0.96224	0.95771	0.96221	**0.96381**
Image3	5	0.91768	0.91768	0.91789	0.91374	0.91771	**0.91801**
	8	0.94948	0.95066	0.95012	0.94086	0.95052	**0.95093**
	10	0.95604	**0.95947**	0.95561	0.94693	0.95820	0.95912
	12	0.96119	0.96419	0.96258	0.95046	0.96169	**0.96424**
Image4	5	**0.93398**	0.93384	0.93392	0.93074	0.93384	0.93386
	8	0.95699	**0.95705**	0.95508	0.94808	0.95691	0.95668
	10	0.96056	**0.96296**	0.96129	0.95247	0.96137	0.96256
	12	0.96372	0.96446	0.96392	0.95410	0.96465	**0.96507**
Image5	5	**0.87714**	0.87682	0.87642	0.87320	0.87682	0.87687
	8	0.91847	0.91933	0.91849	0.90567	0.91877	**0.91938**
	10	0.93325	0.93385	0.93102	0.91754	0.93411	**0.93667**
	12	0.94255	0.94732	0.94493	0.93006	0.94350	**0.95031**
Image6	5	0.92420	0.92416	0.92404	0.92155	0.92425	**0.92437**
	8	0.95136	0.95161	0.95079	0.94402	0.952270	**0.95255**
	10	0.95886	0.959070	0.95556	0.95043	**0.96066**	0.96026
	12	0.96399	0.96373	0.96193	0.95793	0.96395	**0.96622**

where I is the original image (with $z(i)$ is its histogram); $i = 1, 2, \ldots, L$, L is a gray level); t is the threshold value for extracting feature image I, and u is calculated as follows.

$$u(a, b) = \sum_{i=a}^{b-1} iz(i) / \sum_{i=a}^{b-1} z(i) \tag{21}$$

Then the cross-entropy can be rewritten as expression follows.

$$\mathrm{D}(t) = \sum_{i=1}^{t-1} iz(i)\, log\left(\frac{i}{u(1,t)}\right) + \sum_{i=t}^{L} iz(i)\, log\left(\frac{i}{u(t, L+1)}\right) \tag{22}$$

Also, its expression can be expressed as follows.

$$\mathrm{D}(t) = \sum_{i=1}^{L} iz(i) \log(i) - \sum_{i=1}^{t-1} iz(i) \log(u(1,t)) - \sum_{i=t}^{L} iz(i) \log(u(t, L+1)) \tag{23}$$

The extension with the case of the n thresholds can apply obtained multilevel image feature extraction that can be expressed as follows.

$$\mathrm{D}(t_1, \ldots, t_n) = \sum_{i=1}^{L} iz(i)\, log(i) - \sum_{i=1}^{t_1-1} iz(i)\, log(u(1,t_1)) - \sum_{i=t_1}^{t_2-1} iz(i)\, log(u(t_1, t_2)) - \sum_{i=t_n}^{L} iz(i)\, log(u(t_n, L+1)) \tag{24}$$

The minimum cross-entropy determines the optimal threshold values, in which adding $t_0 = 1$, $t_{n+1} = L + 1$, and then the objective function can be redefined as follows.

$$\mathrm{f}(t_1, \ldots, t_n) = -\sum_{k=0}^{n} \sum_{i=t_k}^{t_{k+1}-1} iz(i) \log(u(t_k, t_{k+1})) \tag{25}$$

The optimal n thresholds $\{t_1^*, \ldots, t_n^*\}$ by the MCET can be calculated as follows. $\{t_1^*, \ldots, t_n^*\} = argmin\{f(t_1, \ldots, t_n)\}$. The IMFO algorithm for image segmentation is illustrated with flowchart steps, as shown in Figure 3.

B. EXPERIMENTAL DATA OF MULTITHRESHOLD IMAGE SEGMENTATION

Six color images are selected from the library to test the efficiency of the proposed scheme for the segmentation of

TABLE 10. Comparison of the obtained results of the optimization of the proposed imfo scheme with the PSO, MFO, GWO, ABC, IABC schemes for multilevel image segmentation based on a metric of the EPI.

Image	threshold	*EPI*					
		PSO	GWO	MFO	ABC	IABC	**IMFO**
Image1	5	0.92035	0.91882	0.91768	**0.93505**	0.91753	0.91951
	8	0.95478	0.95056	0.95144	**0.95707**	0.95114	0.95543
	10	0.96993	0.96812	0.96649	0.96276	0.97011	**0.97035**
	12	0.97581	0.97711	0.97501	0.96871	0.97522	**0.97727**
Image2	5	0.93451	0.93451	0.93631	**0.93729**	0.93442	0.93702
	8	**0.95843**	0.95421	0.95585	0.94682	0.95392	0.95566
	10	0.96396	0.96858	0.96117	0.95660	0.96649	**0.96937**
	12	0.96678	**0.97573**	0.97128	0.96435	0.97321	0.97535
Image3	5	0.86218	0.86218	0.86247	0.86148	0.86223	**0.86251**
	8	0.91790	0.91884	0.91769	0.91015	0.91765	**0.92019**
	10	0.96396	0.96858	0.96117	0.95660	0.96649	**0.96937**
	12	0.94778	0.95143	0.94864	0.92899	0.94839	**0.95125**
Image4	5	0.97134	0.97253	0.97243	**0.97578**	0.97270	0.97219
	8	0.98346	0.98384	0.98558	0.98416	0.98348	**0.98840**
	10	0.99136	**0.99556**	0.99346	0.99036	0.99446	0.99339
	12	0.99764	0.99677	**0.99989**	0.99144	0.99824	0.99925
Image5	5	**0.85950**	0.85865	0.85821	0.87061	0.85843	0.85932
	8	0.89521	0.89580	0.89497	0.89356	**0.89707**	0.89644
	10	0.91684	0.91407	0.91023	0.90790	0.91739	**0.91786**
	12	0.92987	0.93426	0.93229	0.92056	0.93486	**0.93939**
Image6	5	0.95977	0.95966	0.95951	0.95196	0.95972	**0.96019**
	8	0.98706	0.98767	0.98765	0.97760	0.98750	**0.98899**
	10	0.99247	0.99507	0.99523	0.98735	0.99382	**0.99603**
	12	0.99947	1.00014	1.00129	0.99218	1.00154	**1.00347**

multilevel thresholds [45], [46]. The threshold values of the three (RGB) channels as three color components: red, green, and blue, and the threshold values are set at 5, 8, 10, and 12. Figure 4 lists the chosen picture color with separate bands (RGB) with each color image, with it being a multidimensional, multimodal model. The optimal objective function value is equal to the sum of the best objective function values of the three components. The parameter setting for the IMFO and the metaheuristic optimization algorithms are the same conditions for the experiment, e.g., the population size of all algorithms is set to 100, the maximum number of iterations is 200, the threshold number is $K = 3, 5, 8$; be set to 1 for the IMFO and MFO, $C_1 = C_2 = 1.5$ for the PSO, and the inertia weight coefficient is from 0.9 to 0.2. For GWO, the parameter setting is the same as the original algorithm $a \in [0, 2]$, $b = 1, l \in [-1, 1]$. Each algorithm runs 20 times on six images, and the average value of the segmentation index is taken.

The findings obtained from the proposed IMFO multithreshold image segmentation scheme as an interface attribute extraction are contrasted with the methods of the PSO [28], GWO [40], Artificial bee colony algorithm (ABC)[47], Improved artificial bee colony (IABC) [46], and MFO [46], schemes, respectively. Channels of the color image, then the segmented results are concatenated to form the segmented image finally.

Figure 5 displays some visually segmented images. Figure 6 demonstrates the integration of the proposed IMFO scheme with the three channels visually derived (RGB) for image 06 with thresholds set at 5. This figure also shows the analysis of IMFO scheme convergence in comparison with methods PSO, and GWO schemes. Through using different optimization algorithms in comparison means that the accuracy of the segmented image has increased with threshold changes by the proposed IMFO scheme. It is seen that the suggested IMFO scheme can deliver the coverage faster than the PSO scheme and the GWO scheme. Figure 7 depicts the image channels visually extracted (RGB) in comparison of graphs obtained under different threshold values PSO, GWO, and ABC schemes.

In order to assess the quality of the segmented image of the results obtained from the experiment, metrics of PSNR and SSIM, FSIM, and *EPI* are used to perform a comprehensive evaluation of the various algorithms in comparison. Table 6 lists the metric of evaluation parameters used to measure segmented image results.

Tables 7 to 10 list the comparison of the obtained results of the optimization of the proposed IMFO scheme with the

PSO, ABC, MFO, GWO, IABC schemes for the multilevel image segmentation based on the several aspects, e.g., PSNR, SSIM, FSIM, and EPI metrics The higher rating of the *PSNR, SSIM, FSIM, EPI* parameters, the better segmented multi-threshold results are, and the accuracy and visibility of the segmented image are as good as the original image for visible. In Tables of 7 to 10, the best values of the thresholds of the images are highlighted. From the data values from the tables, we can see that the number highlight of the six color images obtain similar segmented results belongs to the proposed scheme. Typically defines more than the other opposing algorithms, the suggested IMFO algorithm. Overall, the proposed IMFO algorithm is accurate and feasible in the resolution of the multilevel image segmentation problem.

V. CONCLUSION

In this article, we proposed a new method of enhancing the Moth-Flame Optimization (MFO) algorithm by adjusting the flame-update positioning mode based on hybridizing the Lévy flight, adding inertia weight, and polynomial iteration feature to increase the algorithm's optimization efficiency. The improved MFO algorithm (IMFO) has been applied to the multithreshold image segmentation problem, with its minimum cross-entropy threshold segmentation method has been used to experiment. In the experimental portion, the proposed IMFO scheme outputs are evaluated using a selected series of CEC2013 benchmark functions and the multithreshold image segmentation to test the suggested scheme performance. The comparison of the results of the proposed IMFO scheme with the various algorithms in the literature under the same case situations shows that the recommended solution produces better performance than the different competing algorithms.

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