



## A Modified Grasshopper Optimization Algorithm Combined with CNN for Content Based Image Retrieval

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### ABSTRACT

Nowadays, with huge progress in digital imaging, new image processing methods are needed to manage digital images stored on disks. Image retrieval has been one of the most challengeable fields in digital image processing which means searching in a big database in order to represent similar images to the query image. Although many efficient researches have been performed for this topic so far, there is a semantic gap between human concept and features extracted from the images and it has become an important problem which decreases retrieval precision. In this paper, a convolutional neural network (CNN) is used to extract deep and high-level features from the images. Next, an optimization problem is defined in order to model the retrieval system. Heuristic algorithms such as genetic algorithm (GA) and particle swarm optimization (PSO) have shown an effective role in solving the complex problems. A recent introduced heuristic algorithm is Grasshopper Optimization Algorithm (GOA) which has been proved to be able to solve difficult optimization problems. So, a new search method, modified grasshopper optimization algorithm (MGOA) is proposed to solve modeled problem and to retrieve similar images efficiently, despite of total search in database. Experimental results showed that the proposed system named CNN-MGOA achieves superior accuracy compared to traditional methods.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

With progress in digital imaging and internet usage, the size of images stored on disks is rapidly increasing. Thus, traditional algorithms are unable to manage these big databases and so robust and fast methods are needed. Among the different fields of image processing, image retrieval has achieved more attention during recent years. Image retrieval which means searching in a big database to find nearest images to the query image, has been introduced since 1970 by text-based image retrieval (TBIR) in which, system takes a query text from user and searches images with the text. The concept of an image is more complex than a few words. Therefore, the accuracy of TBIR is low. Although TBIR is still used in such search engine and researches such as Keyvanpour et al. [1] have introduced a retrieval system which uses visual features of images to compare and retrieve. Thus, content-based image retrieval (CBIR)

was invested in 1990. The CBIR has been used in many fields such as medical imaging [2], biodiversity, digital albums, video processing [3], crime preventing and other areas which need image recognition [4-5].

Feature extraction has been an important task in signal processing areas, image, video and speech processing [6-7]. Also, the main part of any image retrieval system is feature extraction. Some low-level features are considered for clustering and retrieving images, mainly color-based features, texture features and shape features. In color-based features, the value of pixels in RGB, HSV and other color spaces are extracted and represented as feature vector of the image. The color is unable to describe the content of an image completely. Thus, acceptable accuracy could not be achieved by using color features individually. So, texture features are needed in order to compare images. Some suitable texture features can be extracted from images by using discrete Fourier transform, wavelet transform, discrete cosine transform or by combining them. Nowadays, retrieval systems usually use a

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mixture of color, texture and shape of images and they can achieve efficient accuracy [8-9]. There is a semantic gap between low-level features (color, shape and texture) and human concept. Thus, it is needed to extract better features to reduce this gap and improve retrieval performance. Although it may be able to extract more complicate low-level features from images, the size of feature vector will increase and retrieval speed will decrease by increasing the computation time. Therefore, it requires extracting appropriate abstracted features to increase retrieval precision with low possible retrieval time. One method which has been proofed to reduce semantic gap, is deep learning [10]. So we use CNN as a successful subfield of deep learning to extract deep and appropriate features.

After extracting features, an efficient algorithm is needed to search among huge amount of features and complete retrieval task. This search can be performed by solving a desired optimization problem. Since engineering optimization tasks have been complex, heuristic algorithms have achieved more attention during recent years. Two basic natural-inspired algorithms are genetic algorithm (GA) and particle swarm optimization (PSO) [11]. Many intelligence particle swarm algorithms have been introduced in recent years such as inclined Planes optimization (IPO) [12], gravitational search algorithm (GSA) and other methods which have been successful in optimization tasks. Grasshopper optimization algorithm (GOA) [13] is one of the new-introduced methods which is able to successfully solve complex optimization problems [13]. In this paper, a modified version of grasshopper optimization algorithm (MGOA) is introduced and is used to retrieve nearest images to query image. Meanwhile, more similar images are represented by minimizing the proposed cost function.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows: related works are presented in section 2. The motivation of this paper is presented in section 3. Deep learning is reviewed in section 4 as theoretical background in which, GOA is presented as well. Section 5 represents the proposed system and experimental result can be observed in section 6. Finally, conclusion is illustrated in section 7.

## 2. RELATED WORKS

In this section, some researches which use heuristic algorithms for image retrieval are indicated. Jeyakumar et al. [14] proposed a system for medical image retrieval by using Ant Colony Optimization (ACO). They extracted features such as Tamura, Gabor filter features, global texture features and etc. from each image in database. Therefore, totally 199 features were extracted for each image. After that, the ACO was used to select best subset from features in order to decrease the size of

the feature vector. Then similarity measure was performed between the extracted subset of features. They demonstrated that using ACO could help system to choose best features and increase precision. Rashno et al. implemented a CBIR system which extracted color and texture features in which, ACO was used to find the most relevant features from all extracted features. For this task, they considered the minimum number of features which tends to the maximum retrieval accuracy as the cost function. So, they found the path which minimized the cost function by using ACO. They illustrated that the accuracy was increased by using more relevant features by ACO.

Younus et al. [15] presented a CBIR system by combination of K-means clustering and PSO. First they extracted color histogram and moment, co-occurrence matrices and wavelet transform features. Then, they proposed a hybrid clustering algorithm in which, appropriate clusters were determined by PSO. Therefore, the performance of the CBIR system was improved. Kushwaha and Welekar [16] used GA in order to select efficient features from color moment, gray level co-occurrence matrix and edge histogram features. They demonstrated that using optimal features by GA reduced retrieval time and increased precision of retrieval. There are many other researches which use the heuristic methods to select optimal features from large dimension low-level extracted features and reduce the complexity of CBIR systems [17-21].

As a critical view to the works discribed above, it is important to notice that, most of them use color features such as color histogram in and [15], color moment in [16] and so on. Although color features have been important in researches, they are unable to describe images efficiently for databases with image in same colours. So, the use of these approaches is limited to the databases with just color features. Also, these methods use heuristic algorithm to abstract feature vectors. Thus, some features and information will be lost through them.

## 3. THE MOTIVATION

Although many satisfied researches have been done on using the heuristic algorithms on the CBIR systems, most of them have aimed to select best subset of the low-level features. But, human concept is more complicated compared to low level hand crafted features. Thus, deep features are needed to extract high level details of images. In this paper, the features are used by CNN. By extracting features from the last layer of CNN, we achieve high level and low dimensional feature vector for each image. After that, the CBIR system is modeled as an optimization algorithm. Among several numbers of heuristic algorithms, Saremi et al. [13] have proved that the GOA has better performance

to solve either unimodal or multimodal real optimization difficult problems. Thus, we propose a modified GOA algorithm in order to solve the proposed CBIR optimization task. Therefore, the proposed system converts the CBIR to an optimization problem and the modified GOA is used to solve it.

**4. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND**

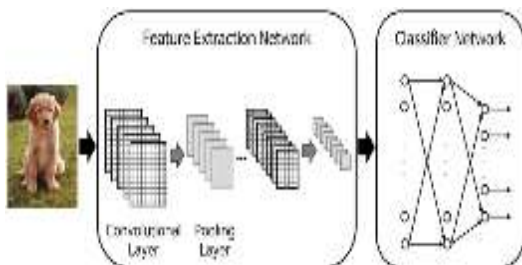
**4. 1. Deep Learning**

Deep learning is a new branch of machine learning in which, system learns to extract deep features through a hierarchical algorithm [10]. Some researches show that the deep learning can be used successfully in image and video processing, pattern recognition and natural language processing [22]. Among many existing deep learning algorithms, convolutional neural network is used in this paper as a common branch of deep learning algorithms; because it has developed exactly for 2D input data and is suitable for image and video processing.

The basic CNN algorithm is AlexNet which has been developed by Alex et al. [23]. It consists of many layers in which, three layers including convolutional layer, pooling layer and fully-connected layer are important. First layer is convolution that includes many filters with learnable coefficients. By convolving each filter with image, a feature map is created. After that, pooling layer is used to reduce the dimension of feature map. After several convolution and pooling layers, three fully-connected layers are considered to convert 2D feature maps to a feature vector and a classifier is usually used to classify input features. Through learning step, coefficients and parameters of the filters are updated to obtain best values. Therefore, the system learns to extract appropriate features from input image. An example of convolutional neural networks for image classification is represented in Figure 1.

**4. 2. Grasshopper Optimization Algorithm (GOA)**

GOA is a new heuristic optimization algorithm that mimics grasshoppers swarm to solve optimization problem. In nature, these insects fly in a group in which, each grasshopper has a particular distance to the others and their movement can be modeled as Equation (1) [13]



**Figure 1.** Example of a convolutional neural network for classifying images [24]

$$X_i = S_i + G_i + A_i \tag{1}$$

where the position of the i-th grasshopper is  $X_i$ , social interaction is represented by  $S_i$  and  $A_i$  shows the wind influence. Interaction is the main part of this algorithm which is denoted by Equation (2) [13]

$$S_i = \sum_{\substack{1 \leq j \leq N \\ j \neq i}} s(d_{ij}) \hat{d}_{ij} \tag{2}$$

In which,  $d_{ij}$  is distance between the i-th and the j-th grasshopper with unit vector  $\hat{d}_{ij}$ , and  $s$  is function for demonstrating social force, calculating by Equation (3) [13]

$$s(d) = f e^{\frac{-d}{l}} - e^{-d} \tag{3}$$

Where  $f$  is the intensity of attraction,  $l$  is the attractive length scale and  $d$  is distance between the grasshoppers . The behavior of grasshoppers in swarm is shown in Figure 2 (a) and the relationship between distance and  $s$  function is illustrated in Figure 2 (b). Although an appropriate model for grasshopper movement is denoted, for solving optimization problem Equation (4) will be used which is a modified version of grasshopper model to solve the problem more efficiently [13]

$$x_i^d = c \left( \sum_{\substack{1 \leq j \leq N \\ j \neq i}} c \frac{ub_d - lb_d}{2} s(|x_j^d - x_i^d|) \frac{x_j^d - x_i^d}{d_{ij}} \right) + \hat{T}_d \tag{4}$$

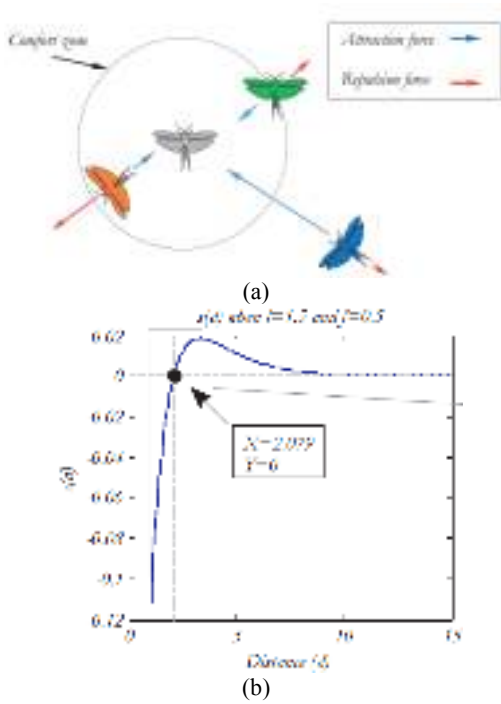
Where  $ub_d$ ,  $lb_d$  and  $\hat{T}_d$  are the upper bound, lower bound and target position in the D-th dimension, respectively. While  $c$  is a volume for controlling exploration and exploitation, it should be decreased by increasing iteration number. An efficient method for reducing  $c$  is using Equation (5) [13].

$$c = cmax - l \frac{cmax - cmin}{L} \tag{5}$$

**5. THE PROPOSED SYSTEM**

**5. 1. Feature Extraction**

The proposed retrieval system consists of two steps: offline training and online retrieval. To extract deep features, AlexNet is considered for training at offline step. This network consists of five convolution layers, three max pooling and three fully-connected layers, while ‘ReLU’ function is used as the activation function. To learn classification for the system, a ‘Softmax’ classifier is considered. After training, the system will be able to classify input images by extracting deep features. Now, we can extract appropriate features from any layer of this network. In this paper, the features are extracted from the ‘fc8’ layer of the CNN. To create a feature vector bank, all images should be fed to the system for saving their feature vectors to the bank, named feature matrix. Therefore, the learned parameters of the CNN and the feature matrix are available after training step to use for online image retrieval.



**Figure 2.** Grasshoppers behavior in swarm (a) and diagram of s(d) function (b) [13]

In the online image retrieval step, a query image which is asked by user goes through the trained CNN. The last layer’s values of CNN for query image are extracted as query feature vector. So, similar images to the query image should be found from database and represented for user. For this task, the retrieval system is formulated as an optimization problem. In order to solve this problem, a heuristic model is proposed to search and retrieve by using modified GOA.

**5. 2. Modified GOA** Although a multidimensional fitness function can be described to retrieve some images, to reduce computation cost and required time, one dimensional function is proposed and then K best particles represent K images in order to retrieve. In addition, the GOA is used for continuous variables while we need a discrete algorithm because of the discrete indexes of images. Thus, we convert variables to discrete. Meanwhile, each discrete grasshopper refers an image index in database. As a fitness function, a simple Euclidian distance is considered between query image features and the features presented by grasshoppers as:

$$F(i) = \sum_{i=1}^d \|r - v(i)\| \tag{6}$$

In which,  $d$  refers to the number of dimensions of images, Query feature vector is demonstrated by  $r$  and  $v(i)$  represents  $i$ -th feature vector in the feature matrix. The parameter  $i$  is the index of image in database which is a rounded situation of  $i$ -th grasshopper.

$$i = [j + 0.5] \tag{7}$$

In which,  $[.]$  indicates integer part and  $j$  is the place of grasshopper in the GOA.

As same as other heuristic algorithms, exploration and exploitation in the GOA is important to perform a proper search in feasible space and find the best answer which minimizes the fitness function. We propose grasshoppers model as follow:

$$x_i = \begin{cases} 10 * rand * m_i & \text{if } l \gg \theta \\ m_i & \text{if } l < \theta \end{cases} \tag{8}$$

In which,  $m_i$  is as same as Equation (4) where  $d$  is considered to be one.

$$m_i = c \left( \sum_{j=1}^N c \frac{ub-lb}{2} s(|x_j - x_i|) \frac{x_j - x_i}{d_{ij}} \right) + \hat{T}_d \tag{9}$$

In Equation (8),  $rand$  is a random normal variable belongs to  $[0, 1]$ . Thus,  $10*rand$  provides random number between 0 and 10. The parameter  $\theta$  is a volume that controls the trade-off between exploration and exploitation. This causes appropriate search and exploration when iteration number is less than  $\theta$  and exploits for best answer in next iterations. When this modified GOA converges to best solution, we select  $k$  best grasshoppers in last iteration as the  $k$  nearest images to the query image. Pseudo code of the proposed retrieval system is presented as follow.

Pseudo code for image retrieval with modified GOA

- A: Offline step
  1. Resize all images in each database, fed them to the CNN and start training.
  2. Save optimum parameters.
  3. Creating feature matrix by feeding all images to the trained CNN.
- B: Offline retrieval
  1. Resize the query images to 224×224 and fed it to the CNN.
  2. Extract query features from fc-8.
  3. Initialize MGOA
    - Distribute particles randomly
    - Cmax=2; Cmin=0.004; max-iteration=100;  $\theta = 0.25.l$
  4. Calculate the fitness of all particles using eq.6
  - While  $l < \text{max-iter}$  , Do:
    - 5.Sort particles
    6. Update  $c$  using eq.5
    7. Compute  $m_i$  for each particle.
    8. If  $l < \theta$ 
      - Update each particle position by  $x_i = 10 * rand * m_i$
      - else
      - update each particle position by  $x_i = m_i$
    - end
  9. Return particles to boundaries if they left.
  - End while
  10. Select K best particle which achieved in last iteration.
  11. Round K best position by  $i = [j + 0.5]$
  12. Represent images which their number is illustrated by K best particles.

## 6. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

**6.1. Evaluation Metrics** Precision and recall are two important metrics in most retrieval systems which are commonly used in researches. Precision means percent of the true retrieved images among K retrieved images and recall is defined as percent of the true retrieved images between total relevant images in database.

$$\text{precision} = \frac{\text{number of relevant retrieved image}}{\text{number of image retrieved}} \quad (10)$$

$$\text{recall} = \frac{\text{number of relevant retrieved image}}{\text{total number of relevant image in dataset}} \quad (11)$$

Although these metrics have been used much for evaluating retrieval systems, two better measures which are a combination of precision and recall are used in this paper to illustrate the performance of the system completely [25].

P(0.5), precision at 50% recall (i.e. precision after retrieving  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the relevant images)

P(1), precision at 100% recall (i.e. precision after the retrieving all of the relevant images)

Since using precision and recall separately is not meaningful, using a combination of them is efficient to represent the performance of the systems. Also, the evaluation is more accurate when the number of retrieved images increases. Therefore, reported performance is more reliable when these metrics are used. When P(1) is computed, the number of retrieved images is equal to the number of all images in relevant category.

**6.2. Databases** Three well-known and widely used databases are selected to evaluate the proposed method compared to other state-of-the-art methods. The first one is Corel database that consists of 1000 images in 10 classes including African people, beach, monuments, buses, dinosaurs, elephants, flowers, horses, mountains and food [26]. Another database is Amsterdam Library of Object Images (ALOI) which includes 4608 images in 64 classes of color object images [27]. For each object in ALOI database, there are several images from different views and rotations. Thus, using this database is useful to evaluate robustness of the system against rotation. Another database is MPEG-7 [28] which has been widely used in image recognition and retrieval and consists of 1400 images in 70 classes, where each class includes shape similar images. Thus, it can be used for evaluating retrieval systems against shape similarities. As mentioned above, these three databases are used in this paper and numerical results are shown in next subsection.

**6.3. Numerical Results** In order to compare the proposed method with other early methods, the obtained

results for P(0.5), P(1) on Corel database for the proposed method, fc8 features and fused features of different CNN's [29], sparse IDWT [30], HMMD-HDWT [8], multiresolution color and texture features (MCTF) [31], wavelet-based color histogram (WBCH) [32], generalized Gaussian density and Kullback-Leibler distance (GGD and KLD) [33], wavelet-based features for color texture classification (WFCTC) [34], color layout descriptor (CLD) [35], dominant color descriptor (DCD) [36], scalable color descriptor (SCD) [37], Padua point (PP) and histogram intersection (HI) [25] are listed in Table 1 and the average of converge curves of the proposed system for three databases can be found in Figure 4 which is plotted by computing average of converge curves in all images of each database. It can be observed in Figure 4 that the proposed modified GOA algorithm converges efficiently on different databases.

Observing Table 1, it can be seen that the proposed method has achieved 91.54% of P(0.5) and 89.97% of P(1), while the best operation between other methods is 89.98% of P(0.5) and 89.46% of P(1) for sparse-IDWT. Thus, the performance of the proposed system is better than the others. Another considerable point is the size of feature vector which is equal to 10 for the proposed method on Corel, while it is equal to 64 for sparse-IDWT. Since the size of feature vector has a direct relation with the speed of the algorithm, it can be noticed that the proposed system provides a fast retrieval.

Such results for ALOI database are listed in Table 2; in which, it can be observed that the proposed system has achieved 96.69% of P(0.5) which is the best among other methods, despite of achieving 79.56% of P(1) which is less than sparse-IDWT and more than other methods.

**TABLE 1.** The experimental results on Corel database

Type	Size of Feature Vector	P(0.5) %	P(1) %
The proposed method	10	91.54	89.97
Sparse-IDWT	64	89.98	89.46
HMMD-HDWT	3×64	41.45	35.44
MCTF	92	75.43	71.34
WBCH	512	80.35	76.25
GGD& KLD	18	65.79	62.35
WFCTC	384	47.21	40.23
CLD	12	57.79	41.82
DCD	32	48.64	36.37
SCD	11×121	43.63	33.65
PP30	496	38.56	28.65
HI	1024	40.21	29.92

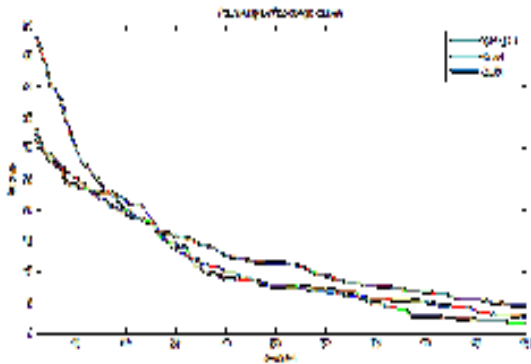
Simulation results on MPEG-7 database is illustrated in Table 3 in which, it is observed that the best score of P(0.5) and P(1) is achieved in 92.25 and 80%, respectively by the proposed method. The best results after the proposed method is achieved by HI whose vector size is 1024, while the proposed method with better performance has feature vector with size of 70.

**TABLE 2.** The experimental results on ALOI database

Type	Size of feature vector	P(0.5) %	P(1) %
The proposed method	<b>64</b>	<b>96.69</b>	79.56
Sparse-IDWT	64	89.99	<b>89.89</b>
HMMD-HDWT	3×64	82.29	66.68
MCTF	92	81.60	63.33
WBCH	512	61.59	50.11
GGD& KLD	18	64.73	55.29
WFCTC	384	43.03	30.45
CLD	12	19.49	17.56
DCD	32	50.21	41.87
SCD	11×121	53.21	43.55
PP30	496	37.79	7.71
HI	1024	36.26	6.77

**TABLE 3.** The experimental results on MPEG-7 database

Type	Size of feature vector	P(0.5) %	P(1) %
The proposed method	<b>70</b>	<b>92.25</b>	<b>80.00</b>
Sparse-IDWT	64	59.41	58.31
HMMD-HDWT	3×64	70.41	53.90
MCTF	92	66.23	46.68
WBCH	512	39.69	30.21
GGD& KLD	18	40.23	35.40
PP30	496	77.77	37.21
HI	1024	88.34	57.56



**Figure 4.** The average converge curves of the proposed method on Corel, ALOI and MPEG-7 databases in 100 iterations

## 7. CONCLUSION

In this paper, a new method for image retrieval was proposed which consists of a convolutional neural network and a proposed modified GOA, to search in database efficiently and retrieve images that are similar to query image. The proposed method was evaluated on three common databases, Corel, ALOI and MPEG-7; then two important metrics including P(0.5) and P(1) which are a combination of precision and recall, were calculated. Experimental results showed that the proposed system has achieved superior performance despite of small size of feature vector in comparison to some other state-of-the-art methods. This means that, using CNN as an appropriate kind of deep learning algorithms causes extracting meaningful, proper and high level features from images, and by using the proposed modified GOA, retrieving similar images could be robustly performed.

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Grasshopper Optimization

امروزه با پیشرفت‌های چشم‌گیر در تصویربرداری دیجیتال، نیازمند روش‌های نوین برای پردازش تصاویر ذخیره شده روی دستگاه‌های حافظه می‌باشیم. یکی از زمینه‌های چالش برانگیز در این زمینه، بازیابی تصویر است که به معنی جست‌وجو و یافتن تصاویری مشابه تصویر تقاضا در میان پایگاه‌داده‌های بزرگ است. با وجود تحقیقات کارآمدی که در این حوزه انجام شده است، وجود فاصله‌ی معنایی میان ادراک بصری و ویژگی‌های استخراج شده از تصاویر، به عنوان مانعی مهم در دستیابی به دقت بالای بازیابی شناخته می‌شود. در این مقاله، ویژگی‌های عمیق و سطح بالا از تصاویر با استفاده از شبکه عصبی کانولوشن عمیق (CNN) استخراج شده و سپس مسأله‌ی بازیابی به عنوان یک مسأله‌ی بهینه‌سازی تعریف می‌شود. الگوریتم‌های ابتکاری از قبیل الگوریتم ژنتیک (GA) و الگوریتم هوش جمعی ذرات (PSO) در حل مسأله‌های مشکل بهینه‌سازی، به خوبی عمل کرده‌اند. یکی از روش‌های اخیر که در حل مسائل موفق عمل کرده است، الگوریتم بهینه‌سازی ملخ است (GOA). بنابراین یک روش جست‌وجوی جدید به عنوان حل مسأله‌ی بهینه‌سازی تعریف شده برای بازیابی، الگوریتم ویرایش یافته‌ی بهینه‌سازی ملخ (MGOA)، معرفی شده است و بنابراین برخلاف جست و جوی کامل در میان پایگاه داده، از این روش به عنوان جست و جو و بازیابی استفاده شده است. نتایج شبیه‌سازی نشان می‌دهد مدل پیشنهادی از دقت بالاتری نسبت به سایر روش‌های مرسوم برخوردار است.

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