

# Global Optimization as Applied to Electromagnetic Engineering – Fundamentals and Representative Applications

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## Abstract

In the last decades, thanks to the growing computational capabilities, optimization techniques based on evolutionary algorithms (EAs) have received great attention and they have been successfully applied to a wide number of optimization problems in engineering and science. As a matter of fact, EAs have shown many attractive features suitable for dealing with large, complex, and nonlinear problems. More specifically, they are hill-climbing algorithms which not require the differentiation of the cost function, which is a “must” for gradient-based methods. Moreover, a-priori information can be easily introduced, usually in terms of additional constraints on the actual solution, and they can directly deal with real values as well as with a coded representation of the unknowns (e.g., binary coding). As regards to the architecture of their implementation, EAs can be effectively hybridized with deterministic procedures and are suitable for parallel computing.

Despite several positive advantages, many times EAs are used as “black-box” tools without an adequate knowledge of their peculiarities and functionalities. Therefore, sub-optimal solutions can be obtained or the achievement of reliable solutions prevented.

In this talk, a review of EA-based approaches for electromagnetic engineering is presented. Starting from the theoretical framework of EAs and the state-of-the-art, some meaningful examples of EA-based approaches for electromagnetic engineering are reported to show the capabilities, but also current limitations, of these techniques. Finally, some indications on future trends of EA-based techniques are envisaged and the key-role of EAs within the new design paradigm called “System-by-Design” is pointed out.

**Andrea Massa** received the “laurea” degree in Electronic Engineering from the University of Genoa, Genoa, Italy, in 1992 and Ph.D. degree in EECS from the same university in 1996. From 1997 to 1999, he was an Assistant Professor of Electromagnetic Fields at the Department of Biophysical and Electronic Engineering (University of Genoa). From 2001 to 2004, he was an Associate Professor at the University of Trento. Since 2005, he has been a Full Professor of Electromagnetic Fields at the University of Trento, where he currently teaches electromagnetic fields, inverse scattering techniques, antennas and wireless communications, wireless services

and devices, and optimization techniques. At present, Prof. Massa is the director of the ELEDIA Research Center at the University of Trento with a staff of more than 25 researchers. Moreover, he is Adjunct Professor at Penn State University (USA) and he has been Visiting Professor at the Missouri University of Science and Technology (USA), at the Nagasaki University (Japan), at the University of Paris Sud (France), at the Kumamoto University (Japan), and at the DigiTEo (Paris – France).

Prof. Massa serves as Associate Editor of the “IEEE Transaction on Antennas and Propagation” and Associate Editor of the “International Journal of Microwave and Wireless Technologies” and he is member of the Editorial Board of the “Journal of Electromagnetic Waves and Applications”, and a permanent member of the “PIERS Technical Committee” and of the “EuMW Technical Committee”. He has been appointed in the Scientific Board of the “Società Italiana di Elettromagnetismo (SIEm)” and elected in the Scientific Board of the Interuniversity National Center for Telecommunications (CNIT). Recently Prof. Massa has been appointed by the National Agency for the Evaluation of the University System and National Research (ANVUR) as a member of the Recognized Expert Evaluation Group (Area 09, ‘Industrial and Information Engineering’) for the evaluation of the researches at the Italian University and Research Center in the period 2004-2010. Moreover, he has been appointed as the Italian Member of the Management Committee of the COST Action TU1208 “Civil Engineering Applications of Ground Penetrating Radar”.

His research activities are mainly concerned with direct and inverse scattering problems, propagation in complex and random media, analysis/synthesis of antenna systems and large arrays, design/applications of WSNs, cross-layer optimization and planning of wireless/RF systems, semantic wireless technologies, material-by-design (metamaterials and reconfigurable-materials), and theory/applications of optimization techniques to engineering problems (telecommunications, medicine, and biology).

Prof. Massa published more than 500 scientific publications among which about 250 on international journals and more than 270 in international conferences where he presented more than 50 invited contributions. He has organized 45 scientific sessions in international conferences and has participated to several technological projects in the European framework (10 EU Projects) as well as at the national and local level with national agencies (40 Projects/Grants).

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