

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**HYPERPARAMETER TUNING IN
DEEP LEARNING USING NSGA-III:
A MULTI-OBJECTIVE
PERSPECTIVE**

ABDUL RAHMAN BIN MOHAMAD ROM

Thesis submitted in fulfilment
of the requirements for the degree of
Doctor of Philosophy
(Computer Science)

Faculty of Computer and Mathematical Science

November 2025

ABSTRACT

The rapid advancement of Deep Learning (DL) has introduced critical challenges in optimizing model performance while managing computational constraints. Traditional hyperparameter tuning methods such as manual search, grid search, and random search are inefficient and computationally expensive, failing to address real-world trade-offs among conflicting objectives. This thesis proposes and implements a novel framework: the Multi-Objective NSGA-III-DL model, wherein the Non-Dominated Sorting Genetic Algorithm III (NSGA-III) is directly infused into the deep learning optimization process. This integration enables simultaneous optimization of three pivotal objectives: model accuracy, F1-score, and model size—constituting a multi-objective optimization problem that remains underexplored in contemporary DL research. The proposed Multi-Objective NSGAIII-DL framework is benchmarked against six baseline optimization strategies—manual search, grid search, random search, Bayesian optimization, particle swarm optimization, and standard genetic algorithms using MNIST and CIFAR-10 datasets. Experimental results demonstrate that Multi-Objective NSGAIII-DL consistently dominates in composite performance metrics across various model architectures. For the MNIST dataset, Multi-Objective NSGAIII-DL achieves superior scores in MLP (2.9669), LeNet (2.9884), and CNN (2.9882) architectures; for CIFAR-10, it leads in MLP (2.0439), LeNet (2.2835), and CNN (2.4348) configurations. These findings underscore its adaptability across architectures of varying complexity and dataset difficulty. Multi-Objective NSGAIII-DL effectively navigates high-dimensional hyperparameter spaces, yielding Pareto-optimal solutions that strike an effective balance between accuracy and F1-score while minimizing model size. The framework reduces dependence on manual expertise and mitigates the biases inherent in conventional tuning methods. Detailed convergence analysis further reveals Multi-Objective NSGAIII-DL's superior optimization trajectory, characterized by more rapid and stable convergence towards optimal trade-offs. This research provides a robust methodological advancement for deploying efficient, scalable DL models in resource-constrained environments such as edge computing and embedded systems. The findings establish Multi-Objective NSGAIII-DL as a powerful, automated approach to multi-objective hyperparameter optimization, significantly enhancing the efficiency, adaptability, and practicality of deep learning systems.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Firstly, I wish to express my deepest gratitude to Allah S.W.T. for granting me the strength, perseverance, and opportunity to embark on this PhD journey and successfully complete this challenging yet rewarding endeavor.

My heartfelt appreciation goes foremost to my beloved family. To my dearest mother, , thank you for your endless love, prayers, and sacrifices. Your unwavering belief in me has been the foundation of my strength. To my loving wife, Noor Nadhirah Md Hassan, your patience, understanding, and steadfast support have been my anchor throughout this journey. To my newborn son, Idris bin Abdul Rahman, your arrival filled my life with renewed purpose and joy, inspiring me to persevere until the very end.

This work is also dedicated to the loving memory of my late father, Mohamad Rom bin Tamjis, who passed away just four days after my viva. Though you are no longer with me, your guidance, prayers, and sacrifices continue to illuminate my path. Every accomplishment I achieve stands as a tribute to your enduring love.

I wish to extend my sincere gratitude to my supervisors, whose mentorship and expertise have profoundly shaped this research. To Associate Professor Dr. Shafaf Ibrahim, your insightful guidance, encouragement, and unwavering support have been invaluable in refining the quality and direction of this work. To my former supervisor, Professor Dr. Nursuriati Jamil, thank you for your initial guidance and mentorship during the formative stages of this study, your influence laid the academic foundation upon which this research stands. To my co-supervisor, Dr. Ahmad Firdaus Ahmad Fadzil, I am deeply grateful for your constructive feedback, technical insights, and steadfast support throughout this journey.

My sincere appreciation also goes to my extended family for their continuous encouragement, as well as to my colleagues and friends whose companionship, advice, and moral support have made this journey both meaningful and memorable.

Lastly, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all those who have contributed directly or indirectly to the completion of this thesis. Your kindness, encouragement, and support have been truly invaluable.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
CONFIRMATION BY PANEL OF EXAMINERS	ii
AUTHOR'S DECLARATION	iii
ABSTRACT	iv
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	v
TABLE OF CONTENTS	vi
LIST OF TABLES	x
LIST OF FIGURES	xv
LIST OF SYMBOLS	xix
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xx
CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Introduction	1
1.2 Problem Statements	3
1.3 Research Questions	5
1.4 Research Objectives	5
1.5 Research Scope	7
1.6 Significance of Research	7
1.7 Thesis Outline	8
CHAPTER 2 LITERATURE REVIEW	10
2.1 Introduction	10
2.2 DL Research based on Benchmark Datasets	12
2.2.1 MNIST	12
2.2.2 CIFAR-10	13
2.3 DL Architectures	16
2.3.1 Convolutional Neural Network (CNN)	20
2.3.2 Multilayer Perceptron (MLP)	22
2.3.3 LeNet	23
2.4 Hyperparameters	24

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This chapter begins with the discussion about background of study, problem statements, research objectives, scope of research, and significant of research of the Hyperparameter Tuning via Multi-Objective Evolutionary Algorithm in the Deep Learning.

1.1 Introduction

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Deep Learning (DL) advancements have had and continue to have a significant impact on scientific research and industry. The implementation of DL to real-life problems has been studied by researchers in many domains of areas including medicine (Agarwal & Godavarthi, 2023; Awan et al., 2023; Kumar & Kumar, 2023), stock market prediction (Wu et al., 2023), agriculture (Li et al., 2024; Mehta et al., 2023), and many others. The acceleration of advancement in DL has been contributed by a few factors such as access to massive data, hardware capability in the computation, and novel algorithms (Azfar et al., 2022; Taye, 2023). Even though the adaptation of DL to the advancement of technology is becoming more relevant, there are many fields of research that are ongoing to fill the gap in DL. As previously mentioned, the implementation of DL algorithm required high computing power to solve classification, clustering, regression, and generation tasks in various fields.

The computational power required to implement DL models varies depending on the specific domain and scenario. In some cases, DL models need to be implemented on low computing device as in (Akhter et al., 2024; Heo et al., 2024), while other situations may require different types of hardware. In many cases, the process of training DL models require high computing complexity Yang, 2024; Yu et al., 2024). Thus, the gap between the technical capabilities of low computing power devices, and the performance of DL algorithms still exist. To narrow down the gap between the technical capabilities and the performance of DL algorithm, optimizing of DL algorithm is required.