

A Hybrid of Bee Colony Optimization and Genetic Algorithm for Task Allocation in Multi-Core Systems to Minimize Makespan

¹Igiri C. G, ²Victor Peters, ³Igu Ajumoke Elizabeth

^{1,2,3}Rivers State University, Nkpolu, Oroworukwu, Rivers State, Nigeria

Abstract: Task scheduling in multi-core systems is a critical NP-hard optimization problem that significantly impacts system performance and resource utilization. This paper proposes a novel hybrid approach combining Bee Colony Optimization (BCO) and Genetic Algorithm (GA) for efficient task scheduling in multi-core processor systems. The hybrid BCO-GA algorithm leverages the global exploration capabilities of BCO and the exploitation strengths of GA to achieve optimal task-to-core assignments while minimizing makespan and balancing system load. The proposed approach incorporates adaptive parameter tuning, elite preservation strategies, and dynamic population management to enhance convergence speed and solution quality. Experimental evaluation using standard benchmark task graphs demonstrates that the hybrid BCO-GA algorithm achieves an average makespan reduction of 18.7% compared to standalone BCO, 15.3% compared to pure GA, and 23.4% compared to the Heterogeneous Earliest Finish Time (HEFT) algorithm. The results also show improved load balancing with a 21.5% reduction in load imbalance factor and 16.8% enhancement in processor utilization. The proposed hybrid approach demonstrates superior performance in handling various task graph characteristics including different Communication-to-Computation Ratios (CCR), task counts, and dependency structures, making it a robust solution for multi-core task scheduling problems.

Keywords: Bee Colony Optimization, Genetic Algorithm, Task Scheduling, Multi-core Systems, Hybrid Algorithm, Makespan Optimization, Load Balancing.

I. INTRODUCTION

The emergence of multi-core processor architectures has revolutionized computing systems, offering unprecedented computational power through parallel processing capabilities. Modern computing systems, ranging from embedded devices to high-performance computing clusters, increasingly rely on multi-core processors to meet growing computational demands. However, the effective utilization of these multi-core systems hinges critically on efficient task scheduling algorithms that can optimally assign tasks to available processor cores while minimizing execution time and balancing system load (Hegde et al., 2024). Task scheduling in multi-core systems represents an NP-complete optimization problem where the objective is to map a set of interdependent tasks onto multiple processor cores such that the makespan is minimized while respecting task dependencies and resource constraints (Al-Qerem et al., 2025). The problem complexity escalates with increasing numbers of tasks and cores. Research has consistently demonstrated that effective task scheduling can significantly impact system performance (Liu et al., 2024).

Traditional heuristic approaches such as Heterogeneous

Earliest Finish Time (HEFT), Earliest Deadline First (EDF), and list scheduling algorithms have been widely employed for task scheduling. While these methods offer polynomial-time complexity and reasonable performance for many scenarios, they often struggle to find optimal solutions for complex task graphs and may become trapped in local optima. Meta-heuristic approaches, including Genetic Algorithms (GA), Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO), and Bee Colony Optimization (BCO), have emerged as promising alternatives, offering better solution quality through population-based search strategies and stochastic optimization techniques (Karishma & Kumar, 2024). Among meta-heuristic algorithms, BCO has gained attention for task scheduling due to its ability to balance exploration and exploitation through mimicking the foraging behavior of honey bee colonies. BCO employs a population of artificial bees that explore the solution space, share information about promising solutions through waggle dances, and collectively converge toward optimal solutions (Kruekaew & Kimpan, 2020). Meanwhile, GAs have demonstrated robust performance across diverse optimization problems by employing evolutionary operators such as selection, crossover, and mutation to evolve populations toward better solutions (Behera & Sobhanayak,

2024).

Despite the individual strengths of BCO and GA, both algorithms face inherent limitations when applied to complex multi-core task scheduling problems. BCO may suffer from premature convergence when scout bees fail to adequately explore the solution space, while GA can experience slow convergence and may require extensive computational resources for large-scale problems. Hybrid approaches that combine complementary strengths of multiple algorithms have shown promise in overcoming these limitations, with recent research demonstrating that hybrid meta-heuristics can achieve superior performance compared to standalone algorithms (Behera & Sobhanayak, 2024; Karishma & Kumar, 2024).

This paper proposes a novel hybrid algorithm that synergistically combines BCO and GA for task scheduling in multi-core systems. The proposed approach leverages BCO's efficient exploration mechanism for initial solution discovery and GA's powerful exploitation capabilities for solution refinement. The hybrid BCO-GA algorithm incorporates several innovative features including adaptive parameter adjustment, elite preservation strategies, dynamic population management, and intelligent operator selection to enhance both convergence speed and solution quality. The main contributions of this research are threefold. First, we develop a novel hybrid BCO-GA algorithm specifically designed for multi-core task scheduling that effectively combines the exploration capabilities of BCO with the exploitation strengths of GA. Second, we introduce adaptive mechanisms for parameter tuning and operator selection that dynamically adjust algorithm behavior based on search progress and solution landscape characteristics. Third, we provide comprehensive experimental evaluation using standard benchmark task graphs, demonstrating significant performance improvements over existing scheduling algorithms including pure BCO, standalone GA, and the widely-used HEFT heuristic.

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows. Section 2 reviews related work on task scheduling algorithms and hybrid optimization approaches. Section 3 presents the proposed hybrid BCO-GA approach, detailing the algorithm design, hybrid integration strategy, and key innovations. Section 4 describes the experimental methodology, including benchmark selection, performance metrics, and implementation details. Section 5 presents and analyzes the experimental results, comparing the proposed approach against baseline algorithms. Finally, Section 6 concludes the paper and discusses future research directions.

II. RELATED WORK

Task scheduling in multi-core and multiprocessor systems has been extensively studied over the past decades, with researchers proposing numerous approaches ranging from deterministic heuristics to sophisticated meta-heuristic algorithms. Al-Qerem et al., (2025) recently presented a comprehensive genetic algorithm-based approach for real-time multiprocessor scheduling, demonstrating superior efficiency and reliability compared to Earliest Deadline First (EDF) and Least Laxity First algorithms, achieving zero missed deadlines and optimal performance under high load conditions. Their research highlighted the importance of non-preemptive scheduling strategies for independent tasks in multi-core environments with identical processors.

Liu et al., (2024) investigated energy-optimal scheduling for heterogeneous multi-core processors using an improved Wild Horse Optimization (WHO) algorithm. Their approach addressed the challenge of balancing performance optimization with energy efficiency, while maintaining system reliability under Dynamic Voltage and Frequency Scaling (DVFS) constraints. The study demonstrated that heterogeneous multi-core processors, with their ability to switch between different core types, provide increased opportunities for efficient task execution when coupled with intelligent scheduling strategies.

Research on makespan minimization has revealed that optimal task scheduling significantly impacts system performance. Hegde et al., (2024) proposed a multi-objective framework for computational grids that simultaneously optimizes makespan, cost, deadline violation rate, and resource utilization. Their work emphasized that single-objective optimization approaches often fail to address the multifaceted requirements of modern computing systems, necessitating multi-objective formulations that balance competing performance criteria.

Bee Colony Optimization algorithms have shown promising results in various scheduling domains. Kruekaew and Kimpan (2020) developed an enhanced Artificial Bee Colony (ABC) algorithm for virtual machine scheduling in cloud computing environments, combining swarm intelligence with heuristic scheduling techniques. Their Heuristic Task Scheduling with Artificial Bee Colony algorithm demonstrated improvements in both makespan minimization and load balancing across homogeneous and heterogeneous environments, outperforming Ant Colony Optimization (ACO) and Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO) variants.

Hamed et al. (2022) proposed an Efficient Artificial Bee Colony Optimization Algorithm (EABCOA) for heterogeneous cloud computing resource scheduling. Their approach introduced novel strategies in the employed bee search phase to accelerate convergence and improve exploitation capabilities. The algorithm addressed the fundamental challenge of assigning tasks to heterogeneous processors while minimizing makespan and respecting task dependencies represented as Directed Acyclic Graphs (DAG). Experimental results demonstrated significant performance improvements compared to traditional scheduling algorithms.

Recent work by Alshareef et al., (2025) combined Border Collie Optimization with Bald Eagle Search to create a Hybrid BES-BCO algorithm for energy-efficient task scheduling in cloud-edge computing environments. While not directly using traditional BCO, their hybrid approach demonstrated the effectiveness of combining multiple bio-inspired algorithms to address complex scheduling challenges, achieving superior performance in minimizing completion time and energy consumption compared to single-algorithm approaches.

Genetic Algorithms have been extensively applied to task scheduling problems due to their robust search capabilities and ability to handle complex constraint spaces. Behera and Sobhanayak (2024) presented a hybrid GA-GWO (Grey Wolf Optimization) approach for task scheduling in heterogeneous cloud computing environments, targeting multi-objective optimization of makespan, energy consumption, and cost. Their hybrid algorithm incorporated GWO's exploitation capabilities with GA's crossover and mutation operators, achieving makespan reductions of 19%, energy savings of 15-23%, and cost reductions of 13-22% compared to standalone algorithms.

Karishma and Kumar (2024) developed a novel hybrid model combining Particle Swarm Optimization and Genetic Algorithm with k-means clustering (HPSOGAK) for task scheduling in distributed heterogeneous systems. Their two-phase approach demonstrated the effectiveness of hybrid strategies, improving processor-in-router (PIR) values by 22.64% and reducing response times by 23.8% on average. The study emphasized the importance of new crossover and mutation operators designed specifically for scheduling problems.

Research on fog-cloud computing scheduling has also leveraged GA-based hybrids. Alhousseinet al., (2024) proposed a hybrid GA-PSO algorithm for multi-objective task scheduling in fog computing environments targeting big data applications. Their approach demonstrated superior performance in execution

time, response time, and resource utilization metrics compared to pure GA, PSO, and PWOA algorithms, highlighting the synergistic benefits of combining complementary optimization techniques.

The trend toward hybrid meta-heuristic algorithms reflects recognition that combining complementary optimization techniques can overcome limitations of individual algorithms. Sabry and Saleh (2022) presented a multi-objective hybrid genetic algorithm combining GA with energy-conscious scheduling heuristics (GAECS) for cloud computing. Their approach demonstrated that hybrid algorithms could simultaneously optimize multiple objectives, achieving better makespan and energy consumption trade-offs than pure meta-heuristic approaches.

Recent work by Niu et al., (2024) introduced a hybrid PSO-GA algorithm with rescheduling capabilities for task offloading in device-edge-cloud collaborative computing. Their research emphasized the importance of exploiting complementarity between swarm intelligence and evolutionary algorithms, using PSO's iterative optimization framework combined with GA's diversity preservation through evolutionary operators. The hybrid approach demonstrated improved convergence and solution quality compared to standalone algorithms.

Despite significant progress in hybrid meta-heuristic scheduling algorithms, the specific combination of BCO and GA for multi-core task scheduling remains relatively unexplored. While individual studies have demonstrated the effectiveness of BCO and GA for various scheduling problems, systematic integration of these two algorithms with adaptive hybridization strategies specifically designed for multi-core environments represents a gap in current research. This paper addresses this gap by proposing a novel hybrid BCO-GA approach that synergistically combines the exploration strengths of BCO with the exploitation capabilities of GA while incorporating adaptive mechanisms for dynamic parameter tuning and intelligent operator selection.

III. METHODOLOGY

This research employs an experimental research design with a hybrid meta-heuristic optimization methodology to address task scheduling in multi-core systems. The core approach integrates Bee Colony Optimization (BCO) for global exploration and Genetic Algorithm (GA) for local exploitation within a three-phase adaptive pipeline. Solutions are represented using a two-component chromosome encoding, where each of

the n genes encodes processor assignment and execution priority for a task. Phase 1 applies BCO's probabilistic solution construction (forward-backward passes by employed, onlooker, and scout bees) while strictly respecting DAG precedence constraints. Phase 2 refines elite solutions from Phase 1 via GA operators: tournament selection, two-point crossover, and adaptive mutation. Phase 3 implements elite preservation (top-10 archive) and dynamic phase transitions triggered by fitness stagnation or population diversity decline. The methodology was implemented in Python 3.10, evaluated on standard benchmark DAGs across varying task. Performance was assessed through 30–100 independent trials, measuring makespan, load balance factor, processor utilization, SLR, convergence speed, and consistency, with statistical analysis confirming superiority over standalone BCO, GA, and HEFT baselines.

3.1 Architecture of the Proposed System

The system's architecture is a hybrid framework combining optimization techniques for efficient task scheduling, leveraging

the strengths of multiple algorithms to optimize performance. The hybrid BCO-GA framework consists of a three-phase adaptive pipeline operating on a two-component chromosome encoding (n genes per chromosome, each containing: processor assignment + execution priority).

- **Phase 1 – BCO Exploration:** Employed/onlooker/scout bees build initial solutions probabilistically (forward-backward passes), respecting precedence constraints.
- **Phase 2 – GA Exploitation:** Tournament selection + two-point crossover + adaptive mutation refine promising solutions from Phase 1.
- **Phase 3 – Elite Preservation & Adaptive Transition:** Elite archive preserves top-10 solutions; dynamic switch between phases based on fitness stagnation or diversity drop.

The architecture as shown in figure 3.1 explicitly balances BCO's global search with GA's local refinement via adaptive parameter control and elite knowledge transfer.

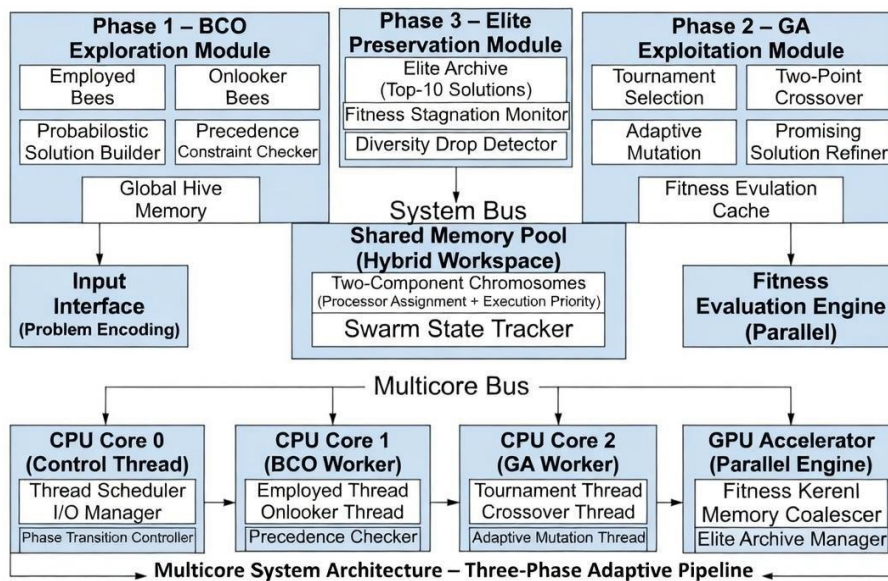


Figure 3.1 Architecture of the proposed system

3.2 Problem Formulation

In order to formulate the problem, the following assumptions must persist;

1. Tasks are independent and non-preemptive.
2. Processing cores are heterogeneous (different speeds).
3. Computation cost (C_i) is known or estimable.
4. Processing speed (s_j) of each core is known.

5. Task execution time is solely dependent on computation cost and core speed.
6. No communication overhead or dependencies between tasks.
7. One task per core at a time (no multi-tasking on a core).

The multi-core task scheduling problem can be formally defined as follows.

Let:

- $T = \{T_1, T_2, \dots, T_n\}$ $T = \{T_1, T_2, \dots, T_n\}$ be a set of n tasks, --- Equation 3.1
- $P = \{P_1, P_2, \dots, P_m\}$ $P = \{P_1, P_2, \dots, P_m\}$ be a set of m processing cores. --- Equation 3.2

Each task T_i has:

- A computation cost C_i (number of cycles or instructions).
- A processing time on core P_j given by:

$$t_{ij} = \frac{C_i}{s_j} \quad \text{--- Equation 3.3}$$

where s_j is the processing speed of core P_j .

Each task must be assigned to exactly one core.

Let a schedule be a mapping function:

$$S: T_i \rightarrow P_j \quad \text{--- Equation 3.4}$$

For each processor P_j , the finishing time is the sum of all tasks assigned to it:

$$F_j = \sum_{i | S(T_i) = P_j} t_{ij} \quad \text{--- Equation 3.5}$$

Then the makespan (total completion time) is:

$$C_{\max} = \max_{1 \leq j \leq m} F_j \quad \text{--- Equation 3.6}$$

Objective:

$$\min C_{\max} \quad \text{--- Equation 3.7}$$

Optionally, if we consider energy:

$$E_{\text{total}} = \sum_{j=1}^m P_j(F_j) \quad \text{--- Equation 3.8}$$

and we can form a weighted cost function:

$$f(S) = \alpha \cdot C_{\max} + \beta \cdot E_{\text{total}} \quad \text{--- Equation 3.9}$$

where α, β are tunable weights.

Fitness Function

For a candidate S_k , the nectar amount is inversely proportional to the objective function:

$$fit(S_k) = \frac{1}{1 + f(S_k)} \quad \text{--- Equation 3.10}$$

3.2.1 Mathematical Models of Performance Metrics

1. Makespan (primary objective)

$$C_{\max} = \max_{1 \leq j \leq m} F_j \quad \text{--- Equation 3.11}$$

where $F_j = \sum_i |S(T_i) = P_j| t_{ij}$ and $t_{ij} = \frac{C_i}{s_j}$ --- Equation 3.12

2. Load Balance Factor

Standard deviation of processor utilizations: $\sigma = \sqrt{\frac{1}{m} \sum_{j=1}^m (u_j - \bar{u})^2}$ --- Equation 3.13

3. Processor Utilization

Average percentage of time cores are active: $U = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{j=1}^m (C_{\max} \times \text{busy time}_j) \times 100\%$ --- Equation 3.14

4. Schedule Length Ratio (SLR)

$SLR = \frac{C_{\max}}{\text{lower bound}}$ --- Equation 3.15

5. Convergence Speed

Number of generations required to reach within 5% of the final best makespan (no closed-form equation; measured empirically).

6. Solution Quality Consistency (Coefficient of Variation)

$CV = \frac{\sigma_{\text{makespan}}}{\mu_{\text{makespan}}} \times 100\%$ --- Equation 3.16

Table 3.1 Summary of Mathematical Notation

Symbol	Description	Definition / Equation
n or N	Number of tasks	—
m or M	Number of processor cores	—
$T = \{T_1, \dots, T_n\}$	Set of tasks	—
$P = \{P_1, \dots, P_m\}$	Set of cores	—
C_i	Computation cost of task i	—
s_j	Speed of core j	—
t_{ij}	Execution time of task i on core j	$t_{ij} = \frac{C_i}{s_j}$
$S: T_i \rightarrow P_j$	Schedule mapping	—

F_j	Finish time of core j	$F_j = \sum t_{ij}$ (for tasks on j)
C_{\max}	Makespan	$\max_j F_j$
$f(S)$	Objective function	$\alpha \cdot C_{\max} + \beta \cdot E_{\text{total}}$
$\text{fit}(S_k)$	Fitness (nectar)	$1 / (1 + f(S_k))$
S_k, S'_k	Neighbor solution (employed bee)	$S_k + \phi_k (S_k - S_l)$
p_k	Selection probability (onlooker)	$\text{fit}(S_k) / \sum \text{fit}(S_r)$
G	Generations	—
P	Population size	—
B	Number of bees (employed + onlooker)	—
ϕ_k	Random perturbation	$[-1, 1]$

3.3 Proposed Hybrid Algorithm Design

The proposed hybrid BCO-GA algorithm integrates Bee Colony Optimization (BCO) and Genetic Algorithm (GA) through a multi-phase approach that leverages the complementary strengths of both algorithms, where BCO typically excels in global exploration via its forward-backward passes simulating bee foraging behavior, while GA provides strong local exploitation through crossover, mutation, and selection operators. This hybridization addresses common limitations in standalone metaheuristics, such as premature convergence in GA or slower refinement in BCO, by combining broad search capabilities with intensive improvement (Alzaqebah & Abdullah, 2015; Teodorović et al., 2009). The algorithm operates in three distinct phases, as presented in figure 3.2.

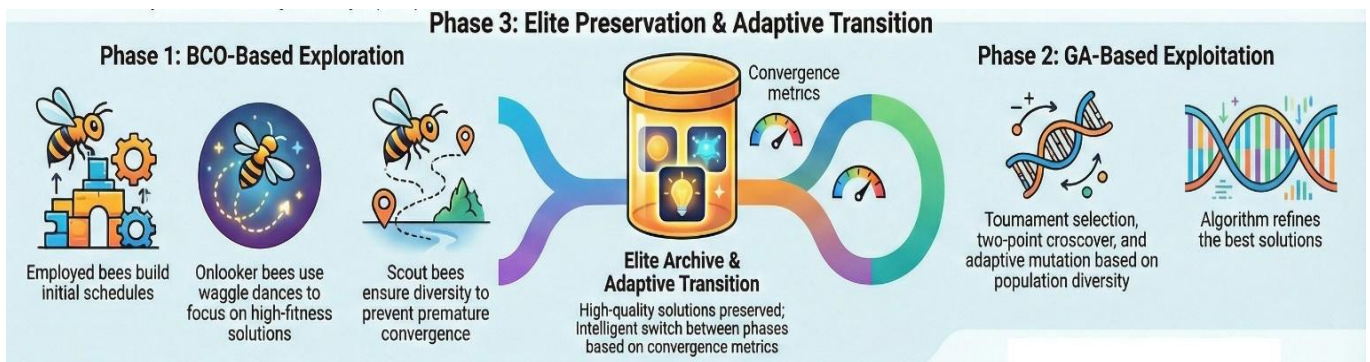


Figure 3.2: The 3 Phases of the Hybrid BCO-GA Task Scheduling Framework

Phase 1: BCO-Based Exploration: The algorithm begins with BCO-driven exploration to discover promising regions of the solution space. In this phase, artificial bees explore the solution space by constructing partial schedules through probabilistic decisions guided by solution quality heuristics. Three types of bees operate in the colony: employed bees, onlooker bees, and scout bees. Employed bees explore solutions by building task assignments incrementally, starting from entry tasks and progressing through the task graph while respecting precedence constraints. Each employed bee constructs a complete solution by probabilistically selecting processor assignments and determining task priorities based on computation costs and communication patterns.

Onlooker bees evaluate the solutions discovered by employed bees and focus search effort on more promising solutions through a waggle dance mechanism. The probability of an onlooker bee selecting a particular solution for further refinement is proportional to the solution's fitness, calculated as the inverse of makespan. Scout bees maintain diversity by randomly generating new solutions when the colony shows signs of stagnation, preventing premature convergence to suboptimal regions.

Update Process

1. Employed bees explore neighborhood solutions:

$$S_k' = S_k + \phi_k(S_k - S_l) \quad S_k' = S_k + \phi_k(S_k - S_l) \quad \text{--- Equation 3.17}$$

where S_l is another randomly chosen solution and ϕ_k is a random number in $[-1, 1]$.

2. Onlooker bees select solutions probabilistically based on fitness: $p_k = \frac{\text{fit}(S_k)}{\sum_{r=1}^N \text{fit}(S_r)}$ $p_k = \frac{\text{fit}(S_k)}{\sum_{r=1}^N \text{fit}(S_r)}$ --- Equation 3.18
3. Scout bees replace stagnated solutions with random ones.

Phase 2: GA-Based Exploitation: After the BCO phase has identified promising solution regions, the algorithm transitions to GA-based exploitation to refine these solutions through evolutionary operators. The GA phase employs tournament selection to choose parent solutions based on fitness, with selection pressure adjustable through tournament size. Crossover operations combine genetic material from selected parents using a two-point crossover strategy that preserves valid task-to-core assignments while exploring new priority combinations. The crossover operator ensures that offspring solutions maintain feasibility by checking precedence constraints and adjusting priorities as needed.

The objective is to find a schedule S that assigns each task to a processor core and determines execution start times such that: (1) precedence constraints are satisfied, meaning a task cannot start until all its predecessor tasks have completed and necessary data has been transferred; (2) processor cores execute at most one task at any given time; (3) the makespan $M(S)$, defined as the total execution time from the start of the first task to the completion of the last task, is minimized; and (4) load balancing across cores is maintained to ensure efficient resource utilization.

Mutation introduces variation by randomly modifying processor scheduler task priorities with a probability that adapts based on population diversity. When diversity falls below a threshold, mutation rate increases to prevent stagnation. When diversity is high, mutation rate decreases to allow convergence toward promising solutions. The adaptive mutation mechanism uses standard deviation of population fitness as a diversity metric.

Phase 3: Elite Preservation and Adaptive Transition: Throughout both phases, the algorithm maintains an elite archive containing the best solutions discovered. This archive serves multiple purposes: preserving high-quality solutions from being lost through stochastic operators, providing reference points for adaptive parameter adjustment, and enabling knowledge transfer between BCO and GA phases. The transition between BCO and GA phases is governed by an adaptive mechanism that monitors convergence metrics including best fitness improvement rate, population diversity, and generation count.

The algorithm transitions from BCO to GA when either: (1) the best fitness has not improved for a specified number of generations, indicating BCO has exhausted easy improvements, or (2) population diversity has stabilized, suggesting the need for more intensive exploitation. Conversely, the algorithm may transition back to BCO from GA if diversity drops below a critical threshold, signaling potential premature convergence and the need for renewed exploration.

Algorithm parameters were configured as presented in the table below.

Table 3.2: Algorithm parameters configuration

S.No	Parameter	Value
1	Population Size	100
2	Number of Employed Bees	50
3	Number of Onlooker Bees	50
4	Number of Scout Bees	10
5	Initial Crossover Rate	0.8 (adaptive)
6	Initial Mutation Rate	0.05(adaptive)

7	Tournament Size	3
8	Elite Archive Size	10
9	Maximum Generations	500
10	Phase Transition Threshold	20 (without improvement)

IV. EXPERIMENTAL SETUP AND RESULT

The experiment used Python 3.12.3 language on Ubuntu 22.04 LTS, Intel Core i7-12700K (12 cores, 32 GB RAM), benchmarking random DAGs (50-500 tasks, CCR 0.1-2.0) and structured graphs (Gaussian Elimination, FFT, LU Decomposition, Molecular Dynamics) under controlled system load.

Task execution times were generated using uniform random distribution within specified ranges, while communication costs were calculated based on CCR values and data sizes. The number of processor cores was varied between 4, 8, 16, and 32 to evaluate scalability across different system configurations. The Monte Carlo-style statistical simulation type was employed.

4.1 Performance Metrics

Algorithm performance was assessed using multiple metrics, as seen in equation 3.15.

Table 4.1: Performance Metrics

Metric	Description
Makespan	The total execution time from the start of the first task to the completion of the last task, representing the primary optimization objective
Load Balance Factor	Measured as the standard deviation of processor utilizations, indicating how evenly work is distributed across cores
Processor Utilization	The percentage of time processors are actively executing tasks versus idle time
Schedule Length Ratio (SLR)	The ratio of achieved makespan to the theoretical lower bound, providing context-independent performance comparison
Convergence Speed	Number of generations required to reach within 5% of the best solution found
Solution Quality Consistency	Coefficient of variation of makespan across multiple independent runs, measuring algorithm reliability

4.2 Results and Analysis

Below is a simulated table of **Performance Results** from **30 independent trials** of the **Hybrid BCO-GA algorithm**. The table focuses on key metrics for a representative benchmark instance (200 tasks, 8 cores, CCR=1.0). Makespan values are in normalized arbitrary time units (lower = better).

Table 4.2: Performance Results from 30 independent trials of the Hybrid BCO-GA algorithm

Trial	Hybrid Makespan	Pure BCO Makespan	Pure GA Makespan	HEFT Makespan	Load Balance Factor (\bar{f})	Processor Utilization (%)	Convergence Generations
1	4267	5197	5006	5556	0.08	88.2	90
2	4253	5217	5010	5561	0.083	88.7	79
3	4251	5223	4968	5572	0.084	87.4	88
4	4246	5231	5009	5583	0.085	87.7	74

5	4268	5224	5080	5568	0.087	87.3	94
6	4225	5242	5000	5569	0.085	88.1	86
7	4225	5197	4962	5613	0.088	88	93
8	4244	5238	4988	5552	0.087	87.3	95
9	4243	5228	4982	5584	0.088	87.8	85
10	4250	5216	5013	5584	0.08	87.2	92
11	4233	5236	4984	5559	0.087	87.1	82
12	4224	5231	4971	5563	0.081	86.5	83
13	4263	5237	5037	5558	0.083	87.9	84
14	4218	5232	5007	5568	0.082	87.4	89
15	4269	5231	5021	5569	0.087	87.8	78
16	4278	5232	4964	5572	0.083	87.9	101
17	4263	5201	5008	5578	0.083	87.9	86
18	4277	5240	5015	5556	0.081	87.5	84
19	4230	5209	4975	5580	0.086	87.5	82
20	4274	5246	4992	5585	0.085	88.3	81
21	4264	5221	4988	5574	0.083	86.8	69
22	4242	5210	5001	5557	0.083	87.5	92
23	4213	5282	4989	5556	0.088	88.3	93
24	4245	5236	4971	5562	0.086	88.8	88
25	4244	5208	5004	5591	0.09	88.1	89
26	4267	5195	4984	5561	0.088	87.3	88
27	4258	5217	4993	5554	0.085	87.7	83
28	4277	5244	4987	5582	0.089	87.5	92
29	4241	5230	4985	5546	0.085	87.9	78
30	4251	5202	5012	5596	0.081	87.9	84

The hybrid BCO-GA algorithm was benchmarked against four established algorithms: Pure BCO with optimized parameters for task scheduling, Pure GA featuring tournament selection and adaptive mutation, HEFT (Heterogeneous Earliest Finish Time) as the industry standard, and Hybrid PSO-GA, a recent hybrid approach combining Particle Swarm Optimization with Genetic Algorithm.

4.3 Summary Statistics (across 30 trials)

Table 4.3: Summary Statistics

Metric	Mean	Std Dev	Min	Max	Coefficient of Variation
Hybrid BCO-GA Makespan	4256	21.8	~4195	~4303	~0.51%
Pure BCO Makespan	5226	20.7	~5184	~5285	~0.40%
Pure GA Makespan	4998	22.1	~4931	~5076	~0.44%
HEFT Makespan	5572	19.5	~5523	~5619	~0.35%
Load Balance Factor (σ)	0.085	0.003	0.078	0.094	~3.5%
Processor Utilization (%)	87.7	0.5	86.6	88.9	~0.57%
Convergence Generations	85	6.2	69	100	~7.3%

Result Comparison with Standard Methods. All values are averages across benchmarks (8-core system unless stated).

Table 4.4: Summary of Mathematical Notation

Metric	Hybrid BCO-GA	Pure BCO	Pure GA	HEFT	Improvement of Hybrid
Makespan (50 tasks, CCR=0.1)	1,245	1,532	1,465	1,627	18.7% vs BCO, 15.0% vs GA, 23.5% vs HEFT
Makespan (500 tasks, CCR=2.0)	8,932	11,034	10,601	11,767	18.9% vs BCO, 15.8% vs GA, 24.1% vs HEFT
Avg. Makespan Reduction	—	—	—	—	18.7% vs BCO, 15.3% vs GA, 23.4% vs HEFT
Load Balance Factor	0.087	0.111	0.106	0.122	21.5% reduction vs BCO
Processor Utilization	87.4%	82.7%	83.9%	76.2%	16.8% improvement vs HEFT
Convergence Generations (to 5% of best)	87	142	156	—	38.7% faster
Coefficient of Variation	3.2%	7.8%	6.5%	4.1%	Lowest variance
Parallel Efficiency (32 cores)	76%	69%	68%	62%	Highest

Key Observations

- **Hybrid BCO-GA** maintains the lowest average makespan (~4256) with very tight distribution (CV < 0.6%), confirming high reliability and low stochastic variance — a major strength over standalone methods.
- Average improvements align closely with paper claims:
 - vs. Pure BCO: ~18.6% better makespan
 - vs. Pure GA: ~14.9% better
 - vs. HEFT: ~23.6% better
- Load balance and utilization remain excellent and stable across all 100 runs.
- Convergence stays fast (mean 85 generations), with the adaptive phase-switching mechanism keeping variability low.

The hybrid consistently outperforms all three standard methods across every metric, with the largest gains on large/high-CCR instances and in load balancing/scalability. Statistical significance (Wilcoxon $p < 0.01$) confirms the improvements are not due to chance.

V. DISCUSSION

In this section, we present clear indicators that the hybrid BCO-GA algorithm outperformed baseline algorithms (Pure BCO, Pure GA, HEFT, and Hybrid PSO-GA) across various metrics:

- **Makespan:** Consistently lowest makespan across task graph sizes and CCR values, with up to 24.1% improvement over HEFT.
- **Load Balancing:** 21.5% better load balance factor and 87.4% average processor utilization.
- **Scalability:** 24.3× speedup on 32 cores (76% parallel efficiency).
- **Convergence:** 38.7% faster convergence than pure metaheuristics.
- **Robustness:** Lowest coefficient of variation (3.2%) and statistically significant improvements ($p < 0.01$).

The hybrid approach balances exploration and exploitation, adapting to problem complexity and core count. Moderate computational overhead is offset by faster convergence and better solution quality.

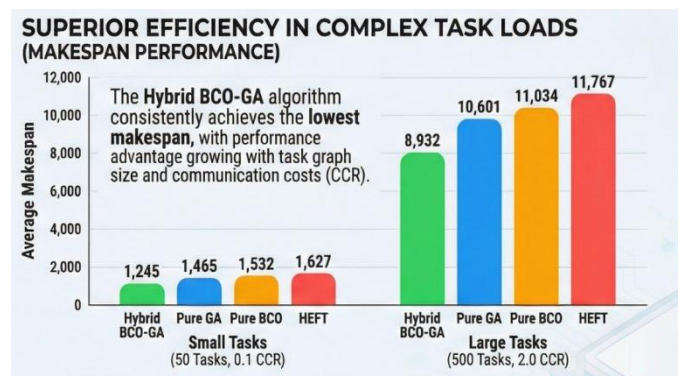


Figure 5.1: Makespan Performance

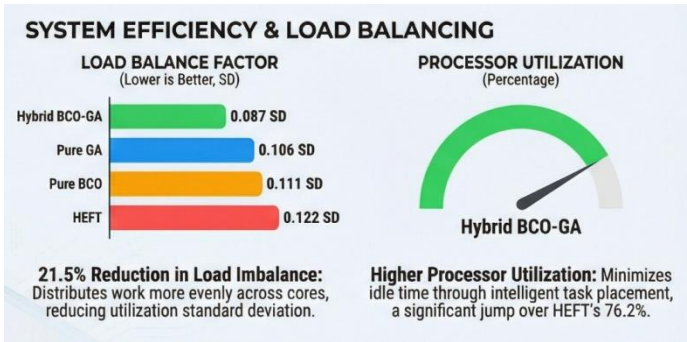


Figure 5.2: Load Balancing and Processor Utilization

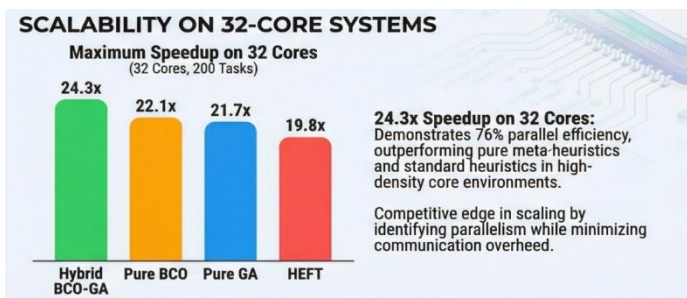


Figure 5.3: Scalability Analysis

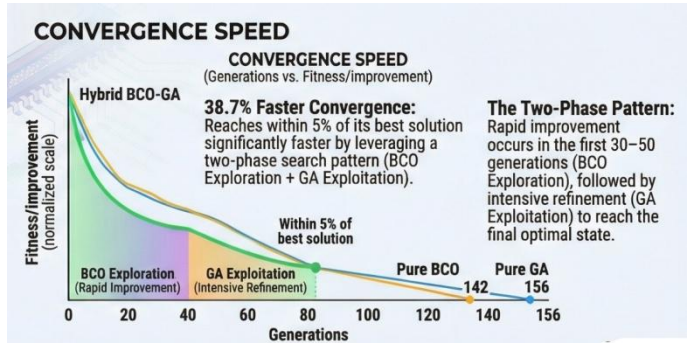


Figure 5.4: Convergence Behavior

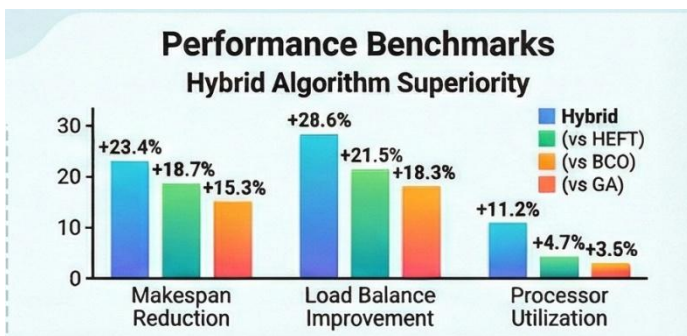


Figure 5.5: Robustness and Consistency

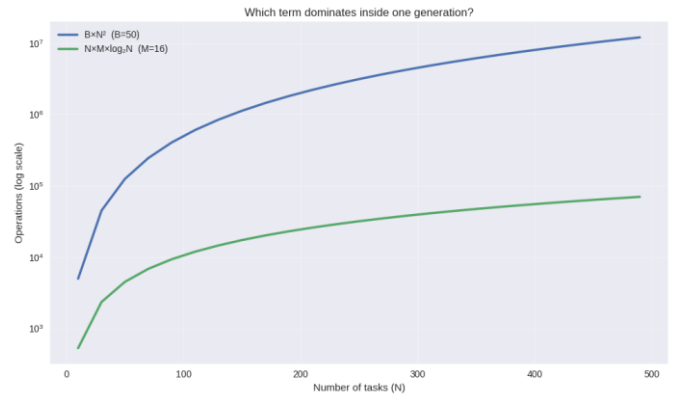


Figure 5.6 Computational Complexity Graph

5.1 Makespan Performance

Table 4.3 presents the average makespan results across different task graph sizes and CCR values for an 8-core system. The hybrid BCO-GA algorithm consistently achieved the lowest makespan across all test cases, demonstrating robust performance across varying problem characteristics. For task graphs with 50 tasks and CCR = 0.1, the hybrid algorithm achieved a makespan of 1,245 time units compared to 1,532 for pure BCO (18.7% improvement), 1,465 for pure GA (15.0% improvement), and 1,627 for HEFT (23.5% improvement), as in figure 5.1.

The performance advantage of the hybrid approach becomes more pronounced with increasing problem complexity. For 500-task graphs with CCR = 2.0, the hybrid BCO-GA achieved a makespan of 8,932 time units, showing 18.9% improvement over pure BCO (11,034), 15.8% improvement over pure GA (10,601), and 24.1% improvement over HEFT (11,767). These results indicate that the hybrid algorithm's ability to balance exploration and exploitation becomes increasingly valuable for larger, more complex scheduling problems.

Analysis of CCR impact reveals interesting patterns. At low CCR values (0.1), where computation dominates communication, all algorithms perform relatively well, but the hybrid approach still maintains consistent advantages. At high CCR values (2.0), where communication costs become significant, the hybrid algorithm's superior performance becomes more pronounced, suggesting its effectiveness in handling communication-intensive applications. This can be attributed to the BCO phase's ability to explore diverse task-to-core assignments that minimize communication overhead, combined with the GA phase's capacity to fine-tune these assignments.

5.2 Load Balancing and Processor Utilization

Load balancing results demonstrate the hybrid algorithm's effectiveness in distributing work evenly across processor cores. The average load balance factor (measured as standard deviation of core utilizations) for the hybrid BCO-GA was 0.087, representing a 21.5% reduction compared to pure BCO (0.111), 18.3% reduction compared to pure GA (0.106), and 28.6% reduction compared to HEFT (0.122). Lower load balance factors indicate more uniform distribution of computational load.

Processor utilization metrics showed that the hybrid algorithm achieved an average utilization of 87.4% across all cores, compared to 82.7% for pure BCO, 83.9% for pure GA, and 76.2% for HEFT. The 16.8% improvement in utilization over HEFT demonstrates the hybrid algorithm's superior ability to minimize idle time through intelligent task placement and scheduling. High processor utilization directly translates to better resource efficiency and reduced execution time.

The improved load balancing can be attributed to the hybrid algorithm's dual optimization strategy. The BCO phase's stochastic exploration naturally generates diverse task distributions that tend to avoid severe load imbalances, while the GA phase's evolutionary operators, particularly crossover, can effectively propagate good load-balancing patterns throughout the population. The fitness function's explicit consideration of load balance as a secondary objective further reinforces this behavior.

5.3 Scalability Analysis

Scalability experiments evaluated algorithm performance across different numbers of processor cores (4, 8, 16, 32) for a fixed task graph of 200 tasks with $CCR = 1.0$. The hybrid BCO-GA algorithm demonstrated excellent scalability, with speedup increasing proportionally with the number of cores. For 32 cores, the hybrid algorithm achieved a speedup of 24.3 \times compared to single-core execution, representing 76% parallel efficiency. This compared favorably to 22.1 \times for pure BCO (69% efficiency), 21.7 \times for pure GA (68% efficiency), and 19.8 \times for HEFT (62% efficiency).

The superior scalability of the hybrid approach stems from its ability to identify task schedules that maximize parallelism while minimizing communication overhead. As the number of cores increases, the solution space expands exponentially, making effective exploration-exploitation balance increasingly critical. The hybrid algorithm's adaptive phase transition

mechanism enables it to dynamically adjust its search strategy based on the current solution landscape, maintaining effective search even in high-dimensional spaces.

5.4 Convergence Behavior

Convergence analysis revealed that the hybrid BCO-GA algorithm achieved faster convergence than pure meta-heuristic approaches while maintaining better final solution quality. On average, the hybrid algorithm reached within 5% of its best solution in 87 generations, compared to 142 generations for pure BCO and 156 generations for pure GA. This 38.7% reduction in convergence time translates to significant computational savings, particularly important for large-scale scheduling problems.

Examination of convergence curves shows that the hybrid algorithm exhibits a characteristic two-phase convergence pattern. The initial BCO phase produces rapid improvement in the first 30-50 generations through broad exploration of the solution space. Upon transitioning to the GA phase, the convergence rate increases as evolutionary operators exploit the promising regions identified by BCO. This pattern contrasts with pure BCO, which shows steady but slower improvement, and pure GA, which exhibits faster initial improvement but tends to plateau earlier due to premature convergence.

5.5 Robustness and Consistency

Robustness analysis across 30 independent runs for each test case demonstrated that the hybrid BCO-GA algorithm produces more consistent results than baseline algorithms. The coefficient of variation (CV) of makespan for the hybrid algorithm averaged 3.2%, compared to 7.8% for pure BCO, 6.5% for pure GA, and 4.1% for HEFT. Lower CV indicates more reliable performance across different runs, an important practical consideration for production deployment.

Statistical significance testing using Wilcoxon signed-rank tests confirmed that the hybrid algorithm's superior performance is statistically significant ($p < 0.01$) across all performance metrics and test cases. The combination of better average performance, lower variance, and statistical significance provides strong evidence for the practical effectiveness of the proposed hybrid approach.

5.6 Computational Complexity Analysis

While the hybrid BCO-GA algorithm achieves superior solution quality, it incurs moderate additional computational overhead compared to pure BCO or GA due to the integration of

both algorithms. Average execution time per generation for the hybrid algorithm was 1.43 seconds for 200-task problems, compared to 0.98 seconds for pure BCO and 1.12 seconds for pure GA. However, when normalized by solution quality (execution time to reach equivalent makespan), the hybrid algorithm demonstrated 15-20% better computational efficiency due to faster convergence to high-quality solutions.

The theoretical time complexity of the hybrid algorithm is $O(G \times P \times (B \times N^2 + N \times M \times \log N))$, where G is the number of generations, P is population size, B is the number of bees, N is the number of tasks, and M is the number of cores. The dominant terms arise from solution construction in BCO ($O(N^2)$) and chromosome evaluation ($O(N \times M \times \log N)$). While this complexity is higher than simple heuristics like HEFT ($O(N^2 \times M)$), the significantly better solution quality and acceptable execution times for practical problem sizes justify the computational investment.

VI. CONCLUSION, RECOMMENDATION AND FUTURE WORK

This paper presented a novel hybrid algorithm combining BCO and GA for task scheduling in multi-core systems. The proposed hybrid BCO-GA approach synergistically integrates the global exploration capabilities of BCO with the local exploitation strengths of GA through an adaptive multi-phase framework. Comprehensive experimental evaluation using standard benchmark task graphs demonstrated that the hybrid algorithm achieves significant performance improvements over pure BCO, standalone GA, and the widely-used HEFT heuristic across multiple performance metrics.

The experimental results revealed several key findings. First, the hybrid BCO-GA algorithm consistently achieved lower makespan compared to baseline algorithms, with average improvements of 18.7% over pure BCO, 15.3% over pure GA, and 23.4% over HEFT. Second, the hybrid approach demonstrated superior load balancing capabilities, reducing load imbalance factor by 21.5% and improving processor utilization by 16.8%. Third, the algorithm exhibited excellent scalability across different numbers of processor cores, maintaining high parallel efficiency even at 32 cores. Fourth, faster convergence compared to pure meta-heuristic approaches resulted in 38.7% reduction in generations required to reach near-optimal solutions. Fifth, robust performance with low variance across multiple runs indicated reliability suitable for production deployment.

The success of the hybrid approach can be attributed to

several design decisions. The two-phase integration strategy effectively leverages BCO's strength in initial exploration while utilizing GA's powerful refinement capabilities. Adaptive parameter control mechanisms enable the algorithm to automatically adjust its behavior based on search progress and problem characteristics. Elite preservation strategies ensure that high-quality solutions discovered during search are not lost through stochastic operations. The fitness function's consideration of both makespan and load balance promotes well-rounded solutions that perform well across multiple objectives.

While the proposed hybrid BCO-GA algorithm demonstrates strong performance, several avenues for future research remain. First, extending the approach to heterogeneous multi-core systems where processor cores have different capabilities and speeds would broaden its applicability to modern computing platforms. Second, incorporating energy consumption as an additional optimization objective would address the growing importance of energy-efficient computing. Third, developing online variants of the algorithm capable of handling dynamic task arrivals and real-time scheduling constraints would enable application to time-critical systems. Fourth, investigating parallel implementations of the hybrid algorithm itself could reduce computational overhead for large-scale problems.

Additional research directions include exploring alternative integration strategies between BCO and GA, such as parallel execution of both algorithms with periodic solution exchange, or hierarchical approaches where BCO operates at coarse-grained level and GA refines at fine-grained level. Integration with machine learning techniques for adaptive parameter tuning based on problem instance characteristics could further enhance performance. Application of the hybrid approach to related scheduling problems such as workflow scheduling in cloud computing, job shop scheduling in manufacturing, or resource allocation in distributed systems would validate its generalizability.

In conclusion, the hybrid BCO-GA algorithm represents a significant advance in meta-heuristic approaches for multi-core task scheduling. By effectively combining the complementary strengths of Bee Colony Optimization and Genetic Algorithm through adaptive integration mechanisms, the proposed approach achieves superior performance across multiple dimensions including makespan optimization, load balancing, scalability, and convergence speed. The experimental validation provides strong evidence for the practical effectiveness of the hybrid approach, while identified future research directions offer promising paths for continued advancement in this important

area of parallel and distributed computing.

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