# Modified Iterative Algorithm for Solving Optimal Control Problems 

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#### Abstract

In this paper, the study of problems in optimal control is very important in our day life and their applications can be studied in many disciplines based on mathematical modeling physics, chemistry and economy. Because of the complexity of most applications, optimal control problems are solved numerically. New techniques for achieving an approximate solution to optimal control problems are considered. They are based upon B-spline polynomials approximation with state parameterization method. New useful property of B-spline polynomials is first derived then, it is utilized to propose a modified restarted technique to reduce the number of unknown parameters with fast convergence. Furthermore, it can be proved that with special knot sequence, the B-spline basis are exactly Bernstein polynomials. The objective of the present work is to propose an approximate technique for solving linear and nonlinear optimal control problems is presented. The algorithm modifies previous works to certain optimal control problems and is depended on a Bernstein series expansion of state parameterization. The differential expressions from the constraint and the cost index as well as the boundary conditions are reduced into algebraic equations. The technique starts from initial trajectory is based on the boundary conditions then new iterative method with the help Bernstein polynomials and produces satisfactory convergence with small number of unknown parameters. The applicability of the proposed algorithm is illustrated on four linear and nonlinear optimal control problems. The comparison with other works is also included in this paper.


## Keywords

Bernstein Polynomials (BEPs), Optimal Control Problems (OCPs), Parameterization Technique

## 1. Introduction

The study of problems in optimal control is very important in our day life. The application of optimal control problems can be studied in many disciplines based on mathematical modeling physics, chemistry, and economy [1-3]. Because of the complexity of most applications, optimal control problems are solved numerically. Various numerical methods have been proposed to solve (OCPs). In [4] Yousef Edrisi studied the solution of OCPs using collocation method using B-spline functions. Authors of [5] presented a numerical solution of OCPs with aid of state parameterization technique. Different numerical algorithms for treating OCPs have been introduced by utilizing the orthogonal functions. The
complexity of the OCPs is decreased by reducing it to an algebraic system of equation, for example, B -spline polynomials [6], generalized Laguerre polynomials [7], Chebyshev polynomials [8-10] as well as third kind Chebyshev wavelets functions [11], Boubaker polynomials [12]. Special attention is given to find the approximate solution of OCPs using BEPs. These polynomials have already been utilized for solving OCPs [13] and integral equation [14]. In [15], authors have constructed orthonormal BEPs and applied them to solve integral equations.

The approach in the current paper based on BEPs expansion for solving OCPs. These polynomials introduced by [16-17]. In [17], Mohson, applied the operational matrices of BEPs and proposed a numerical solution of fractional optimal control problems while Safaie and Farahi in [16]
solved delay fractional OCP with the aid of BEPs. For the historical development of BEPs properties and their
applications, the reader can be referred to [19-20].

## 2. Bernstein Polynomials: Definition and Properties

### 2.1. Definition of BEPs

The general form of BEPs of degree in $n$ of the interval $(0,1)$ is defined by:

$$
B_{i}^{n}(t)=\binom{n}{i} t^{i}(1-t)^{n-i} 0 \leq i \leq n
$$

where $\binom{n}{i}=\frac{n!}{i!(n-i)!}$.
That is:
a) linear BEPs $B_{i}^{1}(t)$ where:

$$
B_{0}^{1}(t)=1-t, B_{1}^{1}(t)=t
$$

b) Quadratic BEPs $B_{0}^{2}(t)$ where:

$$
B_{0}^{2}(t)=(1-t)^{2}, B_{1}^{2}(t)=2 t(1-t), B_{2}^{2}(t)=t^{2}
$$

c) Cubic BEPs $B_{i}^{3}(t)$ where:

$$
B_{0}^{3}(t)=(1-t)^{3}, B_{1}^{3}(t)=3 t(1-t)^{2}, B_{2}^{3}(t)=3 t^{2}(1-t), B_{3}^{3}(t)=t^{3}
$$

For mathematical convenience, $B_{i}^{n}(t)$ is equal to Zero if $i<0$ or $i<n$.
The derivative of the $n^{t h}$ degree BEPs are polynomials of degree $n-1$ and are given by:

$$
\begin{equation*}
D B_{i}^{n}(t)=n\left(B_{i-1}^{n-1}(t)-B_{i}^{n-1}(t)\right) \tag{1}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $D \equiv \frac{d}{d t}$.
it is important in numerical formulation of the problem using the basis for $n \geq 1$ with the following useful degree elevation property:

$$
\begin{equation*}
B_{i-1}^{n-1}(t)=\frac{1}{2}\left[(n-i) B_{i}^{n}(t)+(i+1) B_{i+1}^{n}(t)\right] \tag{2}
\end{equation*}
$$

The values of BEFs at the end points are:

$$
B_{i}^{n}(0)=\left\{\begin{array}{c}
1, i=0 \\
0, i=1,2, \ldots, n
\end{array} \text { and } B_{i}^{n}(1)=\left\{\begin{array}{c}
0 i=0,1, \ldots, n-1 \\
1 i=n
\end{array}\right.\right.
$$

### 2.2. Function Approximation

A square integrable functions $f(t)$ in $(0,1)$ can be expressed in terms of the BEPs basis:

$$
\begin{equation*}
f(t)=\sum_{c=0}^{n} c_{i} B_{i}^{n}(t)=c^{T} Q(t) \tag{3}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $c^{T}=\left[c_{0}, c_{1}, \ldots, c_{n}\right]$ and $Q(t)=\left[B_{0}^{n}(t), B_{1}^{n}(t), \ldots, B_{n}^{n}(t)\right]^{T}$.

### 2.3. New Property of BEPs

The following proposition presents the relationship between BEPs and the power of $t$.
Proposition: the power basis $\left\{t^{i}\right\}_{i=0}^{s}$ can be rewritten in terms of Bernstein through the following relation:

$$
\begin{equation*}
t^{n}=\left[B_{n-1}^{n-1}(t)-\frac{1}{n} B_{n-1}^{n}(t)\right] \tag{4}
\end{equation*}
$$

For $n=2,3, \ldots . i$, where $1=B_{01}+B_{11} t=B_{11}$.
Proof:
In order to establish the validity of this proposition since we have:

$$
B_{k}^{n}(t)=\sum_{i=k}^{n}(-1)^{i-k}\binom{n}{1}\binom{i}{k} t^{i}
$$

therefore;

$$
B_{n-1}^{n-1}(t)=\sum_{i=n-1}^{n-1}(-1)^{i-n+1}\binom{n-1}{i}\binom{i}{n-1} t^{i}
$$

or $B_{n-1}^{n-1}(t)=-1^{n-1-n+1}\binom{n-1}{n-1}\binom{n-1}{n-1} t^{n-1}$ :

$$
\begin{equation*}
\text { that is } B_{n-1}^{n-1}(t)=t^{n-1} \tag{5}
\end{equation*}
$$

Now,

$$
\begin{gather*}
B_{n-1}^{n}(t)=\sum_{i=n-1}^{n}(-1)^{i-n+1}\binom{n}{i}\binom{i}{n-1} t^{i} \\
=\binom{n}{n-1}\binom{n-1}{n-1} t^{n-1}-\binom{n}{n-1} t^{n} \\
\text { That is } B_{n-1}^{n}(t)=n t^{n-1}-n t^{n} \tag{6}
\end{gather*}
$$

From (5) and (6) one can get:

$$
B_{n-1}^{n}(t)-\frac{1}{n} B_{n-1}^{n}(t)=t^{n-1}-\frac{1}{n}\left(n t^{n-1}-n t^{n}\right)
$$

Or:
$B_{n-1}^{n-1}(t)-\frac{1}{n} B_{n-1}^{n}(t)=t^{n}$ which is the required result.

## 3. Outline of the Method

### 3.1. The Problem Statement

Find the optimal control $u(t)$ which minimizes the cost function:

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathrm{J}=\int_{0}^{1} F(t, x(t), u(t)) d t \tag{7}
\end{equation*}
$$

Subject to:
a) state equation defined by:

$$
\begin{equation*}
u(t)=f(t, x(t), \dot{x}(t) \tag{8}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $x():.[0,1] \rightarrow R$ is the state variable.
$u():.[0,1] \rightarrow R$ is the control variable.
$f$ : is a real valued continuously differentiable function.
b) initial condition $x(0)=x_{0}$ and final condition:

$$
\begin{equation*}
x(1)=x_{1} \tag{9}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $x_{0}$ and $x_{1}$ are states given in $R$.

### 3.2. Solution Scheme

A robust technique for finding an approximate solution to optimal control problem in this subsection. First we start with the following approximation by:

$$
\begin{equation*}
x^{1}(t)=\left(a_{0} B_{0}^{1}(t)+a_{1} B_{1}^{1}(t)\right) \tag{10}
\end{equation*}
$$

Using the initial condition: $x(0)=a_{0} B_{0}^{1}(0)+a_{1} B_{1}^{1}(0)$
final condition: $x(1)=a_{0} B_{0}^{1}(1)+a_{1} B_{1}^{1}(1)$
Eq. (4) leads to $x_{0}=a_{0}$ and $x_{1}=a_{1}$.
After substituting these values into eq (10) one can get:

$$
x^{1}(t)=x_{0} B_{0}^{1}(t)+x_{1} B_{1}^{1}(t)
$$

or $x^{1}(t)=x_{0}+\left(x_{1}-x_{0}\right) t$.
The optimal control $u(t)$ can be obtained from eq. (8) to obtain:

$$
\begin{equation*}
u^{1}(t)=f\left(t, x^{1}(t), \dot{x}^{1}(t)\right) \tag{11}
\end{equation*}
$$

The functional J can be evaluated using eq. (7) to get:

$$
J^{1}=\int_{0}^{1} F\left(t, x^{1}(t), u^{1}(t) d t\right.
$$

Now the next approximation $x^{2}(t), u^{2}(t), J^{2}(t)$ is calculated in the next step as below:

$$
\begin{gathered}
x^{2}(t)=x(t)^{1}+a_{2}\left[-\frac{1}{2} B_{1}^{2}(t)\right. \\
u^{2}=F\left(t, x^{2}(t), \dot{x}^{2}(t)\right) \\
J^{2}=\int_{0}^{1} F\left(t, x^{2}(t), u^{2}(t)\right)
\end{gathered}
$$

By continuing the procedure, the $\mathrm{n}^{\text {th }}$ approximated solution for $x(t), u(t)$ will be as follows:

$$
\begin{gathered}
x^{n+1}(t)=x^{n}(t)+a_{n+1}\left[B_{n}^{n}(t)-\frac{1}{n+1} B_{n}^{n+1}(t)-B_{n-1}^{n-1}(t)+\frac{1}{n} B_{n-1}^{n}(t)\right] \\
u^{n+1}=F\left(t, x^{n+1}(t), \dot{x}^{n+1}(t)\right) \\
J^{n+1}=\int_{0}^{1} F\left(t, x^{n+1}(t), u^{n+1}(t) d t\right.
\end{gathered}
$$

It is useful to give the following algorithm which summarizes the proposed method.
The algorithm:
For the accuracy of the solution choose $\in>0$.
Step 1: Let $n=1$ and put $x(t)^{1}=x^{0}(t)+\left(x^{1}+x^{0}\right) B_{1}^{1}(t), \omega^{1}(t)=J^{1}\left(x^{1}(0)\right)$.

$$
x^{2}(t)=x^{1}(t)+a_{2}\left[-\frac{1}{2} B_{1}^{2}(t)\right]
$$

and $\omega^{2}(t)=J\left(x^{2}().\right)$.
Step 2: let $n=2 \rightarrow n+1$.

$$
x^{n+1}(t)=x^{n-1}(t)+a_{n+1}\left[B_{n}^{n}(t)-\frac{1}{n+1} B_{n}^{n+1}(t)-B_{n-1}^{n-1}(t)+\frac{1}{n} B_{n-1}^{n}(t)\right]
$$

and $\omega^{n}(t)=J\left(x^{n}(0)\right)$.
Step 3: If $\left|\omega^{n}-\omega^{n-1}\right|<\in$ then stop, otherwise go to step 2.

$$
\omega^{n}(t)=J\left(x^{n}(.)\right)
$$

## 4. Application Examples

The following examples are considered to illustrate the efficiency of the proposed algorithm.
Example (1)
This example clarifies the following concepts:
Find the optimal state and optimal control based on minimizing the performance index:

$$
\mathrm{J}=\int_{0}^{1}\left(x(t)-\frac{1}{2} u(t)^{2}\right) d t, 0 \leq t \leq 1
$$

subject to $u(t)=\dot{x}(t)+x(t)$ with the condition $x(0)=0, x(1)=\frac{1}{2}\left(1-\frac{1}{e}\right)^{2}$.
The exact solution for the state $x(t)$ and the control $u(t)$ is:

$$
\begin{gathered}
x(t)=1-0.5 e^{t-1}-0.8160603 e^{-t} \\
u(t)=1-e^{t-1}
\end{gathered}
$$

and $J_{\text {exact }}=0.08404562020$.
Start with the initial approximation to be $x^{1}(t)=0.199788 * B_{1}^{1}(t)$.
The optimal state and control variables can be approximated with the aide of our algorithm are achieved as:
For $n=1: x^{2}(t)=0.199788 B_{1}^{1}(t)+0.204561 B_{1}^{2}(t)$.

$$
u^{2}(t)=0.608927 B_{0}^{1}(t)-0.009563 B_{1}^{1}(t)+0.20451 B_{1}^{2}(t)
$$

For $\mathrm{n}=2: x^{3}(t)=0.188337 B_{1}^{1}(t)+0.210397 B_{1}^{2}(t)+0.011654 B_{2}^{2}(t)-$

$$
0.003885 B_{2}^{3}(t)
$$

$$
u^{3}(t)=0.608927 B_{0}^{1}(t)-0.044323 B_{1}^{1}(t)+0.192915 B_{1}^{2}(t)+0.046617 B_{2}^{2}(t)-0.003885 B_{2}^{3}(t)
$$

$$
\begin{gathered}
\text { Forn }=3: x^{4}(t)=0.188134 B_{1}^{1}(t)+0.210397 B_{1}^{2}(t)+0.009018 B_{2}^{2}(t)-0.003006 B_{2}^{3}(t)+0.002636 B_{3}^{3}(t)- \\
0.000659 B_{3}^{4}(t) \\
u^{4}(t)=0.608927 B_{0}^{1}(t)-0.052435 B_{1}^{1}(t)+0.196826 B_{1}^{2}(t)+0.054526 B_{2}^{2}(t)-0.038156 B_{2}^{3}(t)+0.002636 B_{3}^{3}(t) \\
-0.000659 B_{3}^{4}(t) b 88 B_{3}^{4}(t)
\end{gathered}
$$

The approximate results are obtained by the proposed algorithm with $n=1,2,3$ and compared our results by results of Mehne [21]. Our results have almost better accuracy. Total information are listed in Table 1 which illustrates the optimal values for the functional J with different iterations.

Table 1. Results of the functional J.

| Iteration | Our method | Error | Mehne method [21] | Error |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1 | 0.08401526011 | $3.047 \times 10^{-5}$ | 0.05332622101 | $3.0 \times 10^{-2}$ |
| 2 | 0.08402489318 | $2.073 \times 10^{-5}$ | 0.0840152600 | $3.0 \times 10^{-2}$ |
| 3 | 0.08402519637 | $2.0424 \times 10^{-5}$ | 0.8402496180 | $2.0 \times 10^{-2}$ |

Note that, the optimum values $a_{1}, a_{2}, a_{3}$ for minimizing the functional $J$ are:

$$
a_{2}=-0.409139, a_{3}=0.011654, \text { and } a_{4}=0.002636
$$

The primacy of present algorithm compared with Mehme method is clear in this example because by the same number of iteration n , the present algorithm error are lower.

Example (2)
Consider the non-linear control system which consists of minimizing:

$$
\int_{0}^{1} u^{2}(t) d t
$$

subject to $u(t)=x \dot{(t)}-x^{2}(t) \sin t, x(0)=0, x(1)=0.5$.
The initial approximation in this example is:

$$
x^{1}(t)=0.5 * B_{1}^{1}(t)
$$

For $n=1$.

$$
\begin{gathered}
x^{2}(t)=0.5 B_{1}^{1}(t)-0.0189 B_{1}^{2}(t) \\
u^{2}(t)=0.4622 B_{0}^{1}(t)+0.5378 B_{1}^{1}(t)-\sin (1)\left[0.5 B_{1}^{1}(t)-0.0189 B_{1}^{2}(t)\right]^{2}
\end{gathered}
$$

For $n=2$.

$$
x^{3}(t)=0.4837 B_{1}^{1}(t)-0.01075 B_{1}^{2}(t)+0.0163 B_{2}^{2}(t)-0.005433 B_{2}^{3}(t)
$$

$$
\begin{aligned}
u^{3}(t)= & 0.4622 B_{0}^{1}(t)+0.5052 B_{1}^{1}(t)-0.02445 B_{1}^{2}(t)+0.0489 B_{2}^{2}(t)-\sin (t)\left[0.4837 B_{1}^{1}(t)-0.01075 B_{1}^{2}(t)\right. \\
& \left.+0.0163 B_{2}^{2}(t)-0.005433 B_{2}^{3}(t)\right]^{2}
\end{aligned}
$$

For $n=3$.

$$
\begin{gathered}
x^{4}(t)=0.4837 B_{1}^{1}(t)-0.01075 B_{1}^{2}(t)+2.1159 B_{2}^{2}(t) \\
-0.7053 B_{2}^{3}(t)-2.0996 B_{3}^{3}(t)-0.5249 B_{3}^{4}(t)
\end{gathered}
$$

$$
\begin{gathered}
u^{4}(t)=0.4622 B_{0}^{1}(t)+6.804 B_{1}^{1}(t)-3.17385 B_{1}^{2}(t) \\
-8.3495 B_{2}^{2}(t)+2.799467 B_{2}^{3}(t) \\
-\sin (t)\left[0.4837 B_{1}^{1}(t)-0.01075 B_{1}^{2}(t)+2.1159 B_{2}^{2}(t)-0.7053 B_{2}^{3}(t)-2.0996 B_{3}^{3}(t)-0.5249 B_{3}^{4}(t)\right]^{2}
\end{gathered}
$$

The optimum values $a_{1}, a_{2}$ and $a_{3}$ for minimizing the functional $J$ are:
$a_{2}=0.0378, a_{3}=0.0163$., and $a_{4}=-2.0996$.
The value of $J=0.2005$ for $n=1,2,3$.
Example (3)
The proposed method in this example is applied to the following problem.

$$
\mathrm{J}=\frac{1}{2} \int_{0}^{1}\left(3 x(t)^{2}+u(t)^{2}\right) d t
$$

subject to $u(t)=x(t)+x(t), x(0)=0, x(1)=2$.
The initial approximation in this example is $x^{1}(t)=2 * B_{1}^{1}(t)$.
For $n=1: x^{2}(t)=2 B_{1}^{1}(t)-0.714286 B_{1}^{2}(t)$.

$$
u^{2}(t)=0.571429 B_{0}^{1}(t)+5.428571 B_{1}^{1}(t)-0.714286 B_{1}^{2}(t)
$$

For $n=2$.

$$
\begin{gathered}
x^{3}(t)=1.611111 B_{1}^{1}(t)-0.519841 B_{1}^{2}(t)+0.388889 B_{2}^{2}(t)-0.129621 B_{2}^{3}(t) \\
u^{3}(t)=0.571429 B_{0}^{1}(t)+3.261511 B_{1}^{1}(t)-1.103041 B_{1}^{2}(t) \\
+1.555289 B_{2}^{2}(t)-0.129621 B_{2}^{3}(t)
\end{gathered}
$$

For $n=3$.

$$
\begin{gathered}
x^{4}(t)=1.611111 B_{1}^{1}(t)-0.519841 B_{1}^{2}(t)+0.179812 B_{2}^{2}(t) \\
-0.059937 B_{2}^{3}(t)+0.209077 B_{3}^{3}(t)-0.052269 B_{3}^{4}(t) \\
u^{4}(t)=0.571429 B_{0}^{1}(t)+3.634211(t)-0.789391 B_{1}^{2}(t) \\
+2.183612 B_{2}^{2}(t)-0.059937 B_{2}^{3}(t)-0.069723 B_{3}^{3}(t)-0.052269 B_{3}^{4}(t)
\end{gathered}
$$

The optimum values $a_{1}, a_{2}$ and $a_{3}$ for minimizing the functional $J$ are $a_{2}=1.4280, a_{3}=0.3888, a_{4}=0.2091$. The comparison among the BEPs algorithm with $\mathrm{n}=1,2,3$ beside Mehne method [21] are listed in Table 2 and the exact value for the cost is $\mathrm{J}=6.1586$.

Table 2. The values of cost functional J in example 3.

| Iteration | Our method | Error | Mehne method [21] | Error |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1 | 6.19047619 | 0.0318762 | 6.1905 | 0.0319 |
| 2 | 6.177513228 | 0.01891323 | 6.1775 | 0.0189 |
| 3 | 6.174827155 | 0.016227 | 6.1753 | 0.0167 |

Example (4)
The proposed method in this example is applied to the following problem:

$$
\mathrm{J}=\int_{0}^{1}\left(x(t)^{2}+u(t)^{2}\right) d t
$$

subject to $u=\dot{x}, x(0)=0, x(1)=0.5$.
The initial approximation in this example is:

$$
x^{1}(t)=0.5 * B_{1}^{1}(t)
$$

For $n=1$.

$$
\begin{gathered}
x^{2}(t)=0.5 B_{1}^{1}(t)-0.056818 B_{1}^{2}(t) \\
u^{2}(t)=0.386364 B_{0}^{1}(t)+0.613636 B_{1}^{1}(t)
\end{gathered}
$$

For $n=2$.

$$
x^{3}(t)=0.470833 B_{1}^{1}(t)-0.042235 B_{1}^{2}(t)+0.029167 B_{2}^{2}(t)-0.009722 B_{2}^{3}(t)
$$

$$
u^{3}(t)=0.386364 B_{0}^{1}(t)+0.555303 B_{1}^{1}(t)-0.043750 B_{1}^{2}(t)+0.087500 B_{2}^{2}(t)
$$

For $n=3$.

$$
\begin{gathered}
x^{4}(t)=0.470833 B_{1}^{1}(t)-0.042235 B_{1}^{2}(t)+0.016516 B_{2}^{2}(t) \\
-0.005520 B_{2}^{3}(t)+0.012606(t)-0.003151 B_{3}^{4}(t) \\
u^{4}(t)=0.386364 B_{0}^{1}(t)-0.593111 B_{1}^{1}(t)-0.024842 B_{1}^{2}(t) \\
+0.137922 B_{2}^{2}(t)-0.016807 B_{3}^{3}(t)
\end{gathered}
$$

Table 3 illustrates the present algorithms The results for this example in comparison with results obtained by Mehne [21]. further the optimal values for performance index $J$ are also compared with the exact solution while the exact state and control solution as well as the actual value for $J$ are Note that, the actual solution of this problem is:

$$
\begin{gathered}
x(t)=\frac{e\left(e^{t}-e^{-t}\right)}{2\left(e^{2}-1\right)}, u(t)=\frac{e\left(e^{t}+e^{-t}\right)}{2\left(e^{2}-1\right)} \text { and } \\
J_{\text {exact }}=0.30232588214
\end{gathered}
$$

The comparison among the BEPs algorithm with $n=1,2,3$ beside Mehne method [21] are listed in Table 3.
Table 3. The values of cost functional J in example 4.

| Iteration | Our method | Error | Mehne method [21] | Error |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1 | 0.3285984848 | $3.379 \times 10^{-4}$ | 0.333333333 | $5.0 \times 10^{-3}$ |
| 2 | 0.3267489571 | $2.1814 \times 10^{-4}$ | 0.3285984848 | $3.4 \times 10^{-3}$ |
| 3 | 0.3226487064 | $2.03089 \times 10^{-4}$ | 0.3284769571 | $2.1 \times 10^{-4}$ |

Note that the optimum values $a_{2}, a_{3}, a_{4}$ for minimizing the functional $J$ are $a_{2}=0.113636, a_{3}=0.029167$, and $a_{4}=$ 0.012606 .

## 5. Conclusion

A modification is proposed to the state parameterization technique by introducing accelerating iterative algorithm for solving optimal control problem with the aid of BEPs functions with only unknown coefficient must be evaluated in each approximation. A new resulted modification solution was constructed which based upon novel property of (BEPs) functions. The examples illustrated the reliability of the algorithm devoted in this paper.

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