

RDMSim Exemplar: User Guide

January 2021

1 Introduction

The *RDMSim* exemplar represents a simulating environment for a Remote Data Mirroring (RDM) network [1, 2]. It has been designed to help researchers working in the area of self-adaptive systems (SASs) to validate their approaches. The simulator has been designed keeping in view the operational model of the RDM network presented in [2, 3].

In this document, we provide the details of using the *RDMSim* exemplar to perform experiments with self-adaptive decision-making techniques. The document is organized as follows: The second section contains the details about the *RDMSim* package and its download details. In the third section, we provide the details about the architecture of the *RDMSim* exemplar. In the fourth section, we discuss the details of creating custom adaptation logic for the *RDMSim* with the help of a simple adaptation example.

2 RDMSim Package

The RDMSim package is available in the form of a zip file containing the source files of the simulator. It can be downloaded from the following GitLab repository:

<https://gitlab.com/humasamin/rdmsimexemplar>

The *RDMSim* package contains two sub-directories as follows:

1. Source

The Source directory contains the source code of the *RDMSim* simulator. The source code can be executed with the help of Eclipse software.¹ The Source directory contains the following projects:

a) RDMNetwork

RDMNetwork project represents the simulator software for the RDM network. It helps in execution of experiments by running simulations for the RDM.

b) TestRDM

TestRDM project contains a custom adaptation example that uses *RDMSim* exemplar to perform adaptation experiments.

The Source directory also contains a directory *config_log_files*. The *config_log_files* directory contains the configuration and log files for the *RDMSim* exemplar. The configuration file (i.e., *configuration.json*) defines parameter values used by the simulator during experiment execution. The details of the configuration parameters are provided in Table 3. The *log* file (i.e. *log.json*) is used to store the results log of the experiments.

¹www.eclipse.org

2. Jar Files

The *Jar Files* directory contains ***RDMSim.jar***, a Java Archive File for the *RDMSim*. This file supports the *RDMSim* exemplar as a Java library. It also contains ***json-simple.jar***, a file used by the simulator to manage configuration files for the *RDMSim*.

3 RDMSim Architecture

The *RDMSim* exemplar has been developed to facilitate the implementation of a two-layered architecture for a self-adaptive RDM, as shown in Fig 1. The architecture structures a Managing System (based on feedback loop [4]) on top of the Managed System (the *RDMSim*). We next describe each layer.

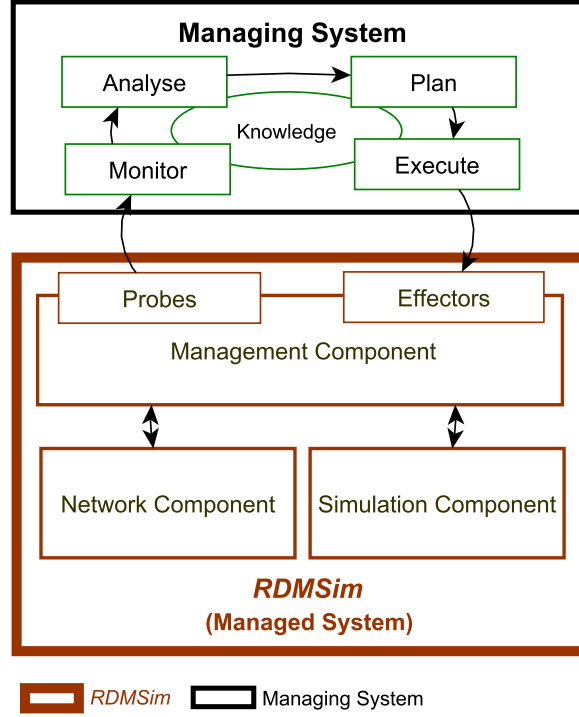


Figure 1: RDMSim Architecture

3.1 Managing System

The Managing System, at the upper layer, is responsible for providing the self-adaptive decision-making logic. A feedback loop is implemented to monitor the environment and managed system, adapting the latter when necessary. The feedback loop consists of Monitor-Analyse-Plan-Execute over a Knowledge base K (MAPE-K) [4]. The MAPE-K loop is considered an architectural blueprint for SASs and is used to perform adaptation decisions on the Managed System (i.e. *RDMSim* in our case). When using the *RDMSim* exemplar, researchers will provide their own decision-making techniques to serve as a Managing System. The Managing System can be based on different techniques such as Multi-Criteria Decision-Making [5], Reinforcement Learning [6], and Evolutionary Computation [7, 8], etc.

Table 1: Probe Functions

Function	Description
Topology getCurrentTopology()	Returns the current topology for the network.
int getBandwidthConsumption()	Returns the bandwidth consumption of the network.
int getActiveLinks()	Returns the number of active links.
int getTimeToWrite()	Returns the time to write data for the network.
Monitorables getMonitorables()	Returns the values for all the monitorable metrics.

Table 2: Effector Functions

Function	Description
void setNetworkTopology(int timestep, Topology selectedTopology)	To set the network topology at a particular timestep.
void setActiveLinks(int active_links)	to set the number of active links for the network.
void setTimeToWrite(double time_to_write)	To set the time to write data for the network.
void setBandwidthConsumption(double bandwidth_consumption)	To set bandwidth consumption for the network.
void setCurrentTopology(Topology current_topology)	To set topology for the network.

3.2 Managed System

RDMSim represents the Managed System and provides probes and effectors that can be used by the Managing System to interact with the simulator. Probes are used to monitor information (M in MAPE) whereas the effectors are used to execute the adaptation decisions (E in MAPE) on the Managed System.

Next, we present the architecture of the Managed System implemented as Java Packages for the *RDMSim* software. The components in the architecture for *RDMSim*, presented in Fig. 1, are as follows:

1) Management Component:

The Management Component acts as a bridge between the Managing System and other internal components of the *RDMSim*. It provides an implementation of probes and effectors to be used by the Managing System. The functions provided by the probes and effectors are used to both monitor the status of the RDM (i.e. cost, reliability and performance) and also change the network topology and different network parameters according to the decision made, as described in Table 1 and 2 respectively.

2) Network Component:

The Network Component provides an implementation of the main physical elements of the RDM. These elements include the number of mirrors (i.e. servers) and the network links that represent a fully connected network of mirrors. As an example, for 25 mirrors, a network of 300 links will be created. The users of *RDMSim* can change the number of mirrors to create a custom RDM network for their experiments. The Network Component also provides an implementation of the monitorables and topologies for the network. Specifically, in the *RDMSim*, we provide an implementation of three monitorables:

Mon1-Active Network Links: provides the current active network links to measure the reliability of the RDM. The RDM will provide a higher level of reliability with a larger number of active links.

Mon2-Bandwidth Consumption: provides the current bandwidth consumption to measure the operational cost for the RDM in terms of inter-site network traffic. Operational costs will be increased for the RDM with a higher amount of bandwidth consumed. Bandwidth Consumption is measured in GigaBytes per second.

Mon3-Time to Write Data to mirrors: measures the performance of the network in terms of writing time to maintain multiple copies of data on each remote site. A big writing time leads to reduction of performance of the RDM. Time to Write Data is measured in milliseconds.

For the communication between the mirrors, we consider synchronous mirroring [9, 2]. During synchronous mirroring, sequential writing is performed to prevent data loss [9]. In sequential writing, the primary mirror (i.e. the sender) waits for an acknowledgement (known as a *handshake*) regarding the receipt and writing of data from the secondary mirror (i.e. the receiver). This process is performed for each active link on the communication path between the mirrors. Therefore, the time to write data is computed as $Total\ Writing\ Time = (\alpha * number\ of\ active\ links) * Time\ to\ Write\ Data\ Unit^2$. Here, α represents a fraction of active links to constitute the communication path between mirrors. α can have a value of greater than zero and less than and equal to one. For our experiments, we have set $\alpha = 1$.

Similarly, the bandwidth consumption is also dependent on the number of active links. More active links imply more data transmission, which leads to a higher bandwidth consumption [9]. Hence, we compute the Bandwidth Consumption as $Total\ Bandwidth\ Consumed = number\ of\ active\ links * Bandwidth\ per\ link^3$.

3) Simulation Component:

The Simulation Component includes the implementation of the uncertainty scenarios that represent the different dynamic environmental conditions that the RDM can face, and which will be simulated. It allows the setting of the simulation properties, such as the number of simulation runs and the chosen uncertainty scenario(s) to be executed by the *RDMSim*.

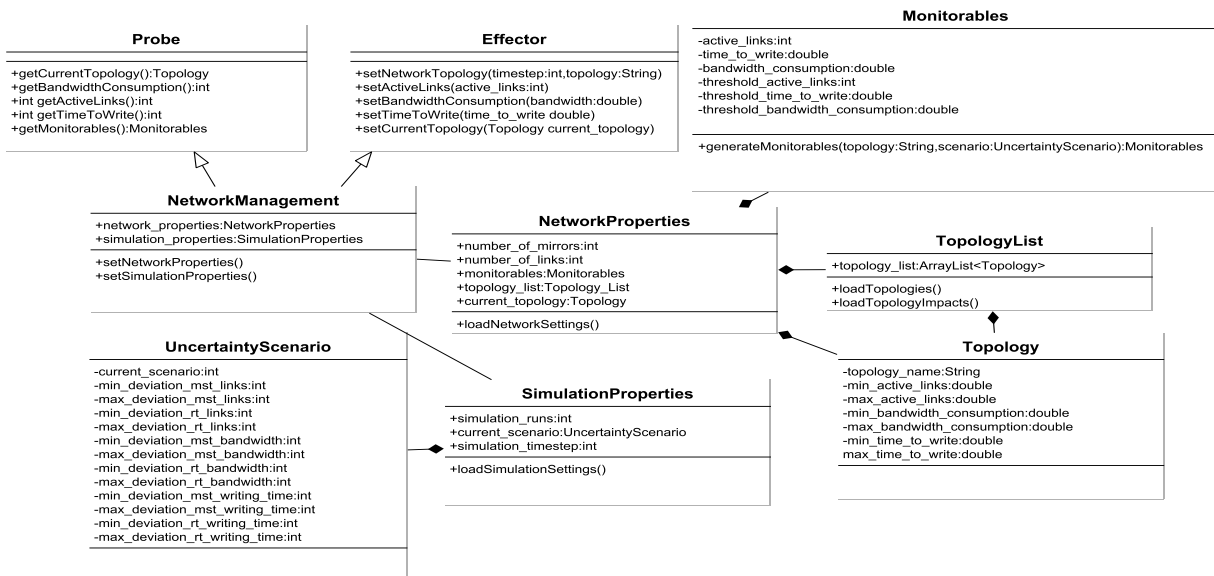


Figure 2: RDMSim Class Diagram

A partial class diagram representing the elements of the Management Component, Network Component and Simulation Component is shown in Fig 2. The *NetworkManagement* class along with the *Probe* and *Effector*

²To implement realistic impacts, we vary the time between 10 to 20 milliseconds

³To implement realistic impacts we vary the Bandwidth per link between 20 to 30 GBps

effector interfaces provides an implementation of the Management Component. The classes *NetworkProperties*, *Monitorables*, *Topology* and *TopologyList* are part of the Network Component and provide an implementation of the corresponding features of the RDM. The *SimulationProperties* and *UncertaintyScenario* classes are part of the Simulation Component, and are used to implement the functionalities related to the simulations to be executed.

4 Custom Adaptation Example

In order to develop a custom adaptation logic, the *RDMSIM* simulator provides the interfaces of Probe and Effector. The Probe and Effector functions can be used to implement the MAPE-K feedback loop to support self-adaptation. The Probe helps in monitoring of the data about the number of active links, bandwidth consumption and performance of the network in the form of time to write data. The Effector helps in setting the network topology and tuning of the network settings such as changing number of active links etc.

Next, a step by step example of writing a custom adaptation logic is presented.

4.1 Example

We provide a simple adaptation example that performs adaptations by switching between the topologies of Minimum Spanning Tree (MST) and Redundant Topology (RT) using the effector [10]. The data about the monitorable metrics such as number of active links, bandwidth consumption and time to write is data gathered by using the probing functions.

Step: 1 Create a Java Project

First of all, create a new Java Project in Eclipse IDE using the following steps:

Click on File -> New -> Project -> Java Project

Name the project as *TestRDM* and Click Finish as shown in Fig 3.

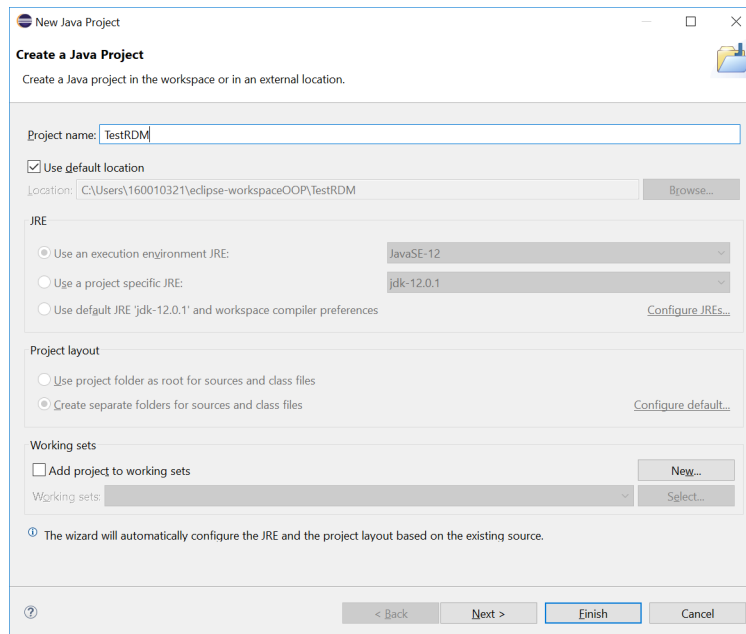


Figure 3: Create New Project

Step: 2 Adding the RDMSim to buildpath of the project

Right click on the *TestRDM* project in the Project Explorer pane – Select *Build Path* – Select *Configure Build Path* as shown in Fig. 4.

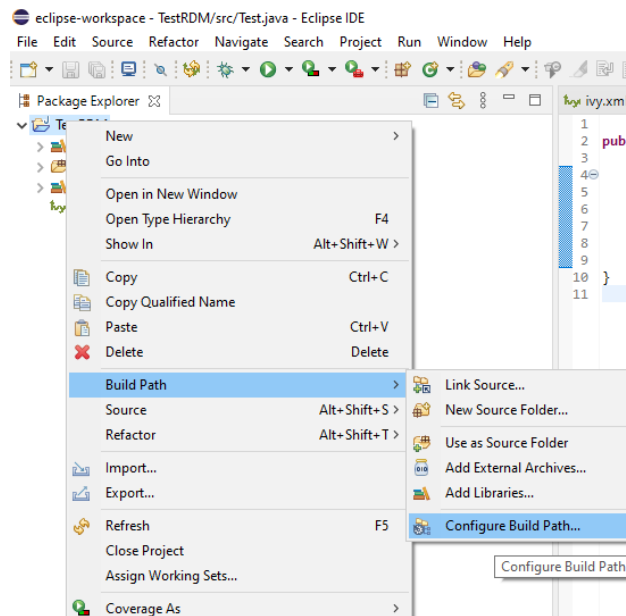


Figure 4: Add RDMSim to the project

A properties dialog box will be displayed as shown in Fig 5.

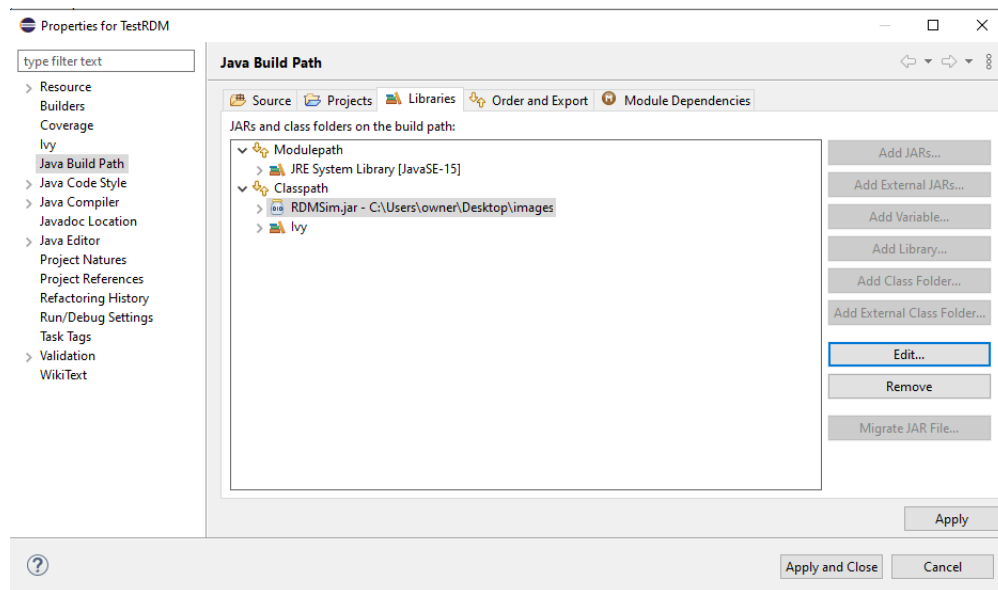


Figure 5: Properties Dialog

Go to *Libraries* tab and click on *Add External JARs* and add *RDMSim.jar* to the project from the Jar

Files directory of the *RDMSim* package. Click on *Apply and Close*⁴.

Step: 3 Adding Configuration file to Project

Go to the Source folder of the *RDMSim* package and copy the *config-log-files* folder. Right click on the root of the *TestRDM* project in the Project Explorer pane and paste.

Now, the *RDMSim* exemplar is ready to be used as part of the *TestRDM* project. Next, we describe the step by step usage of the *RDMSim* exemplar by writing our own adaptation logic.

Step: 4 Loading Configuration Settings and Instantiation of Probe and Effector

The first step in implementing the custom adaptation logic is to load the configuration settings for the experiment from the *configuration.json* file and instantiation of the Probe and Effector components. The Probe and Effector components will enable the communication between our *TestRDM* program and *RDMSim*. This can be done by using the *NetworkManagement* class in your program as follows:

```
NetworkManagement network_management=new NetworkManagement();
Probe probe=network_management.getProbe();
Effector effector=network_management.getEffector();
```

The *NetworkManagement* class is responsible for loading the configuration parameters and instantiating the Probe and Effector instances. The configuration settings include the parameters like number of simulation time steps, the number of mirrors for the RDM network, number of active links and uncertainty scenario to be considered for the experiments. The details of the configuration parameters is provided in Table 3.

For this example, we consider an RDM network of 25 mirrors having 300 links in total to create a fully-connected network. We have set the other configuration parameters considering this infrastructure. The values provided in the configuration file can be considered as the default values that are set considering the expert knowledge provided in [3]. These values can be changed according to the experiments' requirements.

Once the Probe and Effector are instantiated, the Probe and Effector functions can be used to monitor the *RDMSim* network and apply the adaptations using the functions provided in Table 1 and 2 respectively.

Step: 5 Monitoring of the RDMSim network using Probe functions

In order to monitor the *RDMSim* network, we can use the probe functions provided in Table 1. For example, to get the values of all the monitorable metrics for a particular simulation time step we can use the *getMonitorables()* function as follows:

```
Monitorables m=probe.getMonitorables();
```

Step: 6 Performing Adaptations on the RDMSim network using Effector functions

In order to perform adaptations on the network, we can use the Effector functions provided in Table 2. For example, to change the network topology at a particular timestep, we can use the *setNetworkTopology()* function as follows:

```
effector.setNetworkTopology(10,"mst");
```

It will set the Minimum Spanning Tree (MST) topology for the network at the simulation timestep 10.

Next, we present a step by step implementation of a simple MAPE-K feedback loop using the code provided in Steps 4 to 6.

⁴Please also add the *json-simple.jar* file as an External Jar

Table 3: Configuration Settings

Configuration Parameter	Value Type	Value Range	Description
time_steps	Integer	0 to Valid Integer Range	It represents the total number of simulation time steps (simulation runs).
mirror_number	Integer	5 to 30000	It represents the number of mirrors in the RDM Network.
link_threshold	Double	0 to 100	Represents the percentage satisfaction threshold for active links.
bandwidth_threshold	Double	0 to 100	Represents the percentage satisfaction threshold for bandwidth consumption.
writing_times_threshold	Double	0 to 100	Represents the percentage satisfaction threshold for time to write data.
topologies	List of String values	[mst,rt]	Represents the list of topology names. We have defined two topologies Minimum Spanning Tree (mst) and Redundant Topology (rt).
topology_active_links	List representing the range: [min, max]	min: 0 to 100 percent of total number of links max: 0 to 100 percent of total number of links	Represents the range (min, max) for the active links for the specific topology. For example: mst_active_links:[min,max]
topology_bandwidth_consumption	List representing the range: [min, max]	min: 0 to 100 percent of total bandwidth max: 0 to 100 percent of total bandwidth	Represents the range (min, max) for the bandwidth consumption for the specific topology.
topology_writing_time	List representing the range: [min, max]	min: 0 to 100 percent of total time to write max: 0 to 100 percent of total time to write	Represents the range (min, max) for the time to write data for the specific topology. For example: mst_writing_time:[min,max]
current_scenario	Integer	0 to 6	Represents the uncertainty scenario to be executed by the RDM Simulator. 0 represents the stable scenario. 1 to 6 represents the detrimental scenarios 1 to 6.
deviation_scenario_scenario_topology_monitorable	List representing the deviation range: [min, max]	0 to 100	Represents the percentage deviation range for the monitorable metric for the current scenario under a specific topology. For example: deviation_scenario_0_mst_links:[min,max]

MAPE-K loop implementation

Create a Java Class in the *TestRDM* project and name it *MAPE_KLoop* using the following steps:

Right Click on TestRDM project--> New -->Class

The *MAPE_KLoop* class will be used to implement the phases (Monitor,Analyse,Plan and Execute) of the MAPE-K feedback loop. Copy and Paste the following code in the MAPE_KLoop class.

```
import rdm.management.Probe;
import rdm.management.Effector;
import rdm.management.NetworkManagement;
import rdm.network.Monitorables;
import rdm.network.Topology;

public class MAPE_KLoop {

    Probe probe;
    Effector effector;

    public MAPE_KLoop(Probe probe, Effector effector)
    {
        this.probe=probe;
        this.effector=effector;
    }
    //Monitor the network using probe functions
    public void monitor(int simulation_timestep)
    {
        Monitorables m=probe.getMonitorables();
        analysisAndPlanning(simulation_timestep, m);
    }

    //Analysis and planning for the adaptation
    public void analysisAndPlanning(int simulation_timestep,Monitorables m)
    {
        String selected_topology;

        if (probe.getBandwidthConsumption()>m.getThresholdBandwidthConsumption()
        ||probe.getTimeToWrite()>m.getThresholdTimeToWrite())
        {
            selected_topology="mst";
            execute(simulation_timestep,selected_topology);
        }
        else if(probe.getActiveLinks()>m.getThresholdActiveLinks())
        {
            selected_topology="rt";
            execute(simulation_timestep,selected_topology);
        }
        else
        {
            selected_topology="rt";
        }
    }
}
```

```

        execute(simulation_timestep,selected_topology);
    }
}

//Execute the adapatation using functions of the effector
public void execute(int simulation_timestep,String selected_topology)
{
    effector.setNetworkTopology(simulation_timestep,selected_topology);

}

public void run(int simulation_timestep)
{
    monitor(simulation_timestep);
}
}

```

The phases of MAPE-K loop are implemented as follows:

1. Monitor Phase

We have implemented the *monitor()* function in the class to implement the monitor phase of MAPE-K loop. The *monitor()* function calls the *getMonitorables()* function to get the values of all the monitorable metrics at a particular simulation time step.

2. Analyse and Plan Phases

We have provided the *analysisAndPlanning()* function to implement the analyse and plan phase of the MAPE-K feedback loop. In our simple example, we are selecting the topology randomly at each time step. This can be implemented using more intelligent decision-making algorithms such as Reinforcement Learning [11] and Evolutionary Computation techniques [3, 7].

3. Execute Phase

Once the topology is selected, the adaptations are performed using the Effector functions provided in Table 2. We use the *setNetworkTopology()* function to set the topology at a particular time step as shown in the *execute()* function of the *MAPE_KLoop* class

Run the MAPE-K loop at each Simulation Time Step

In order to run the MAPE-K loop at each simulation timestep, create an object of the *MAPE_K* class and execute the feedback loop by calling the *run()* function of the *MAPE_K* class at each simulation time step.

For this purpose, create a new class named *Test*. Copy and Paste the following code to it.

```

import rdm.management.Effector;
import rdm.management.NetworkManagment;
import rdm.management.Probe;
import rdm.management.RDMSimulator;

public class Test {
public static void main(String[] args) {

```

```

//Step: 1 Load the configuration settings
NetworkManagment nm=new NetworkManagment();

//Step: 2 Instantiate the probe and effector
Probe probe=nm.getProbe();
Effector effector=nm.getEffector();

//Step 3: Instantiate the mape-K feedback loop
MAPE_KLoop loop=new MAPE_KLoop(probe,effector);

//Run simulation for the number of simulation runs defined to execute the feedback loop
for(int timestep=0;timestep<NetworkManagment.simulation_properties.getSimulationRuns();
timestep++)
{
    //start the feedback loop
    loop.run(timestep);
}
RDMSimulator.displayResults(args);
}
}

```

4.2 Executing the program

Step: 1

In order to execute the program, first of all set the configuration parameter values in the *configuration.json* file as shown in Fig 6. You can open the file by doubling clicking on the *configuration.json* file in the Project Explorer pane.

Step: 2

Once the configuration parameters are set, run the program by clicking on the run button.⁵ It will display the graphs showing the satisfaction levels of the monitorables and the results log per time step as shown in Fig 7.

A complete coded example for *TestRDM* is provided as part of the *RDMSim* package.

⁵Make sure the VM arguments are set

```

configuration.json - Notepad
File Edit Format View Help
{
    "time_steps": 100,
    "mirror_number": 25,

    "link_threshold": 35,
    "bandwidth_threshold": 40,
    "writing_times_threshold": 45,

    "topologies": ["mst", "rt"],

    "mst_active_links": [8, 58],
    "rt_active_links": [50, 83],

    "current_scenario": 0,

    "deviation_scenario_0_mst_links": [0, 0],
    "deviation_scenario_0_mst_bandwidth_consumption": [0, 0],
    "deviation_scenario_0_mst_writing_time": [0, 0],
    "deviation_scenario_0_rt_links": [0, 0],
    "deviation_scenario_0_rt_bandwidth_consumption": [0, 0],
    "deviation_scenario_0_rt_writing_time": [0, 0],

    "deviation_scenario_1_mst_links": [9, 12],
    "deviation_scenario_1_mst_bandwidth_consumption": [0, 0],
    "deviation_scenario_1_mst_writing_time": [0, 0],
    "deviation_scenario_1_rt_links": [0, 0],
    "deviation_scenario_1_rt_bandwidth_consumption": [0, 0],
}

```

Figure 6: Configuration File

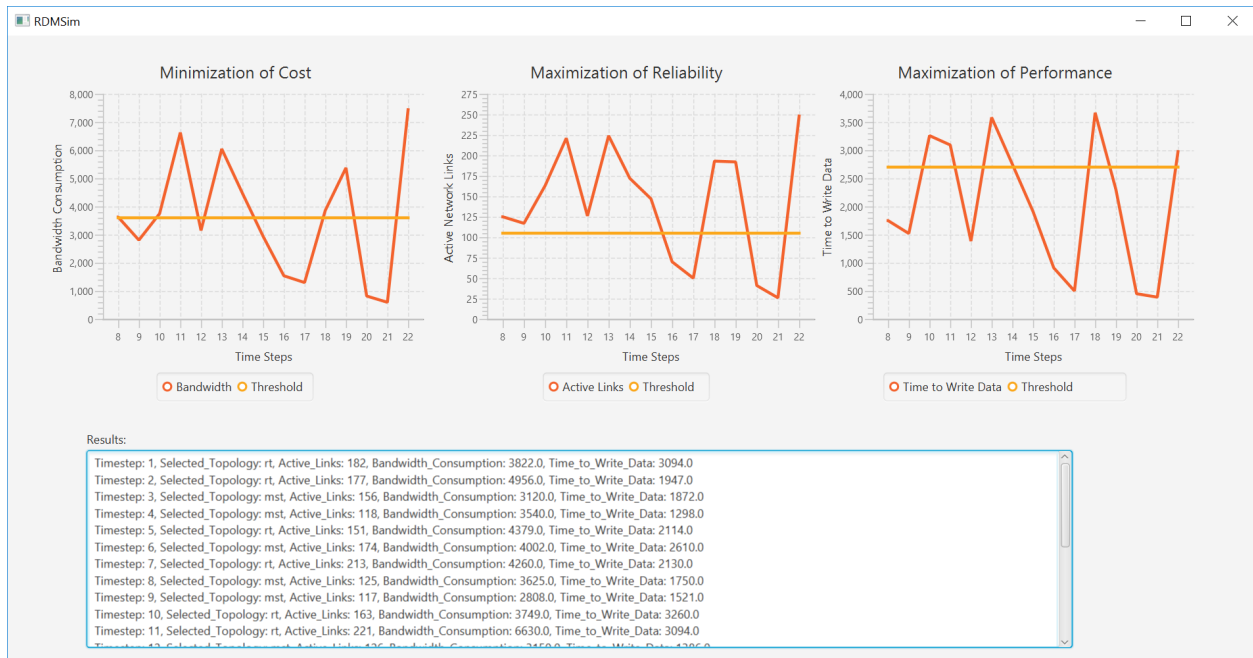


Figure 7: Graphical User Interface

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