

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY
SCHREYER HONORS COLLEGE

DEPARTMENT OF AEROSPACE ENGINEERING

Parallelized Particle Swarm Optimization for Minimum-Time Satellite Orientation Maneuvers

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Spring 2020

A thesis
submitted in partial fulfillment
of the requirements
for a baccalaureate degree
in Aerospace Engineering
with honors in Aerospace Engineering

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Abstract

Abstract abstract abstract. Abstract? Abstract! Abstract...

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Acknowledgements

To Mr. Scruffles.

Chapter 1

Introduction and Historical Review

1.1 Introduction

Blah blah blah. Here is an example of how to include and cite a figure: see Figure 1.1

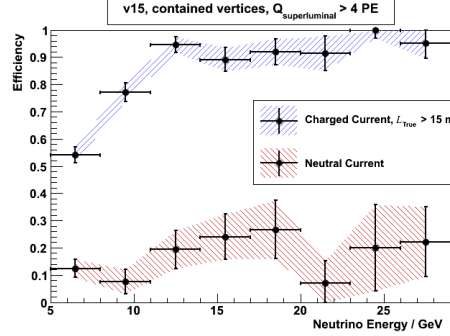


Figure 1.1: Caption to go underneath figure

1.2 Literature Review

Blah blah blah Here's an example of a table: see Table 1.1.

Parameter	Current Best Value
Δm_{21}^2	$7.50^{+0.19}_{-0.20} \times 10^{-3} \text{ eV}^2$
$ \Delta m_{32}^2 $	$2.32^{+0.12}_{-0.08} \times 10^{-5} \text{ eV}^2$
$\sin^2(\theta_{12})$	$0.857^{+0.023}_{-0.025}$
$\sin^2(2\theta_{23})$	> 0.95
$\sin^2(\theta_{13})$	0.098 ± 0.013

Table 1.1: Name of table for caption above table

Here's an example of an equation and some math:

$$U = \begin{pmatrix} c_{12}c_{13} & s_{12}c_{13} & s_{13}e^{i\delta} \\ -s_{12}c_{23} - c_{12}s_{23}s_{13}e^{i\delta} & c_{12}c_{23} - s_{12}s_{23}s_{13}e^{i\delta} & s_{23}c_{13} \\ s_{12}s_{23} - c_{12}c_{23}s_{13}e^{i\delta} & -c_{12}s_{12} - s_{12}c_{23}s_{13}e^{i\delta} & c_{23}c_{13} \end{pmatrix}, \quad (1.1)$$

with $c_{ij} = \cos \theta_{ij}$ and $s_{ij} = \sin \theta_{ij}$.

Here's an example citation: [1].

1.3 Thesis Outline

Impulsive thrust approximations are often used to simplify the analysis of the optimal maneuver between circular orbits. In actuality, spacecraft exhibit finite thrust arcs to perform these orbital transfers. This thesis analyzes these minimum burn time, and thus fuel consumption, thrust arcs

required for these optimal orbital transfers. Requiring two separate numerical integrations, this is computationally extensive. This thesis then seeks to develop methods to drastically reduce the time required for these computations through means of a C++ implementation utilizing Boost libraries and parallelization through OpenMP. Chapter 2 will detail the finite thrust transfer problem solved within this analysis, while Chapter 3 details the implementation details which were used. Chapter 4 then details the results of these implementations, including speedup comparisons and methods to greater improve the probability of the algorithm approaching an optimal solution.

Chapter 2

Problem Statement

2.1 Problem Definition

This thesis analyzes the optimal finite thrust transfer between two circular orbits. A PSO approach is utilized to attempt to find an optimal solution. The development of this problem is derived from [2].

This transfer is developed with respect to an initial circular orbit of radius R_1 and a final circular orbit of radius R_2 subject to the conditions $R_1 > R_2$ where the parameter $\beta = R_2/R_1 > 1$. The inertial reference frame selected for this problem definition is centered at the attracting body. The corresponding coordinate frame definition is as follows: The x axis is aligned with the spacecraft at the initial time t_0 and the y axis is located in the orbital plane. The z axis is determined by the right hand rule of these two basis axes. Within this problem v_r denotes the spacecraft radial velocity, v_θ the horizontal component of velocity, r the radius, and ζ the angular displacement from the x axis. The gravitational parameter of the attracting body is μ_B .

Initial conditions at time t_0 are given by

$$v_r(t_0) = 0 \quad v_\theta(t_0) = \sqrt{\mu_B/R_1} \quad r(t_0) = R_1 \quad \zeta(t_0) = 0 \quad (2.1)$$

And final conditions given by

$$v_r(t_f) = 0 \quad v_\theta(t_f) = \sqrt{\mu_B/R_2} \quad r(t_f) = R_2 \quad (2.2)$$

The problem assumes a transfer trajectory of an initial thrust arc, followed by a coasting arc, and ending with a second thrust arc. Optimization of this problem corresponds to determining the

thrust pointing angle function corresponding to the minimization of propellant consumption subject to the constraints of Eq. (2.2).

Additional assumptions are made to simplify the analysis:

1. Throughout the duration of each thrust arc maximum thrust is generated
2. Each thrust arc pointing angle is represented as a third-degree polynomial as a function of time.

T and c are used to represent the spacecraft thrust level and effective exhaust velocity respectively. The previous assumptions indicate that the thrust-to-mass ratio has the form

$$\frac{T}{m} = \begin{cases} \frac{T}{m_0 - \frac{T}{c}t} = \frac{cn_0}{c - n_0t} & 0 \leq t \leq t_1 \\ 0 & t_1 \leq t \leq t_2 \\ \frac{T}{m_0 - \frac{T}{c}(t_1 + t - t_2)} = \frac{cn_0}{c - n_0(t_1 + t - t_2)} & t_2 \leq t \leq t_f \end{cases} \quad (2.3)$$

m_0 is the initial spacecraft mass and n_0 is the initial thrust to mass ratio at t_0 . The state space equations of motion for the spacecraft are

$$\dot{v} = -\frac{\mu_B - rv_\theta^2}{r^2} + \frac{T}{m} \sin \delta \quad (2.4)$$

$$\dot{v}_\theta = -\frac{v_r v_\theta}{r} + \frac{T}{m} \cos \delta \quad (2.5)$$

$$\dot{r} = v_r \quad (2.6)$$

$$\dot{\xi} = \frac{v_\theta}{r} \quad (2.7)$$

where $\frac{T}{m}$ is given in E.q.(2.3) and δ is the thrust pointing angle represent by a third-order polynomial of time. The state vector used in this problem is $[x_1 \ x_2 \ x_3 \ x_4]^T = [v_r \ v_\theta \ r \ \xi]^T$.

The thrust pointing angle δ is defined as

$$\delta = \begin{cases} \zeta_0 + \zeta_1 t + \zeta_2 t^2 + \zeta_3 t^3 & 0 \leq t \leq t_1 \\ \nu_0 + \nu_1(t - t_2) + \nu_2(t - t_2)^2 + \nu_3(t - t_2)^3 & t_2 \leq t \leq t_f \end{cases} \quad (2.8)$$

The optimum thrust pointing angle coefficients $\{\zeta_0 \ \zeta_1 \ \zeta_2 \ \zeta_3\}$ and $\{\nu_0 \ \nu_1 \ \nu_2 \ \nu_3\}$ are determined by PSO.

During the coasting arc the problem consists of a Keplerian orbit. As such, the semimajor axis a and eccentricity e of the coasting arc can be computed as

$$a = \frac{\mu_B r_1}{2\mu_B - r_1(v_{r1}^2 + v_{\theta1}^2)} \quad (2.9)$$

$$e = \sqrt{1 - \frac{r_1^2 v_{\theta_1}^2}{\mu_B a}} \quad (2.10)$$

Provided that the orbit is elliptic ($a > 0$) the true anomaly at $t_1(f_1)$ can be computed as

$$\sin f_1 = \frac{v_{r1}}{e} \sqrt{\frac{a(1-e^2)}{\mu_B}} \quad \text{and} \quad \cos f_1 = \frac{v_{\theta_1}}{e} \sqrt{\frac{a(1-e^2)}{\mu_B}} - \frac{1}{e} \quad (2.11)$$

and the eccentric anomaly E_1 as

$$\sin E_1 = \frac{\sin f_1 \sqrt{1-e^2}}{1+e \cos f_1} \quad \text{and} \quad \cos E_1 = \frac{\cos f_1 + e}{1+e \cos f_1} \quad (2.12)$$

The PSO parameter ΔE represents the variation in eccentric anomaly throughout the coasting arc. Therefore, the eccentric anomaly at t_2 is $E_2 = E_1 + \Delta E$. True anomaly can be thus determined utilizing the results of Eq. (2.12)

$$\sin f_2 = \frac{\sin E_2 \sqrt{1-e^2}}{1-e \cos E_2} \quad \text{and} \quad \cos f_2 = \frac{\cos E_2 - e}{1-e \cos E_2} \quad (2.13)$$

Furthermore, the coasting time interval t_{co} can be calculated through Kepler's law as

$$t_{co} \triangleq t_2 - t_1 = \sqrt{\frac{a^3}{\mu_B}} [E_2 - E_1 - e(\sin E_2 - \sin E_1)] \quad (2.14)$$

The results from Eqs. (2.9, 2.10, and 2.13) provide the initial conditions required to numerically integrate the spacecraft equations of motion for the second thrust arc beginning at time t_2 . These initial conditions for the second thrust arc are computed as

$$v_{r2} = \sqrt{\frac{\mu_B}{a(1-e^2)}} e \sin f_2 \quad (2.15)$$

$$v_{\theta 2} = \sqrt{\frac{\mu_B}{a(1-e^2)}} (1 + e \cos f_2) \quad (2.16)$$

$$r_2 = \frac{a(1-e^2)}{1+e \cos f_2} \quad (2.17)$$

$$\xi_2 = \xi_1 + (f_2 - f_1) \quad (2.18)$$

Integrating the second thrust arc with these initial conditions over the second thrust arc time duration will yield the final orbital characteristics.

This system depends on the eight coefficients representing the thrust pointing angles of the first and second thrust arcs, $\{\zeta_0 \ \zeta_1 \ \zeta_2 \ \zeta_3\}$ and $\{\nu_0 \ \nu_1 \ \nu_2 \ \nu_3\}$ respectively, and the time intervals for the

first coast arc $\Delta t_1 \triangleq t_1$, the coasting arc, Δt_{co} , and the second coast arc $\Delta t_2 \triangleq t_f - t_2$. These 11 unknowns are sought to be chosen to minimize the objective function

$$J = \Delta t_1 + \Delta t_2 \quad (2.19)$$

Optimizing the unknown coefficients to minimize 2.19 corresponds to the minimization of propellant consumption. Minimizing propellant consumption results in a maximization of the final-to-initial mass ratio given by

$$\frac{m_f}{m_0} = \frac{m_0 - \frac{T}{c}\Delta t_1 - \frac{T}{c}\Delta t_2}{m_0} = 1 - \frac{n_0}{c}(\Delta t_1 + \Delta t_2) \quad (2.20)$$

The coasting arc is required to be elliptic, therefore any particles with $a \leq 0$ are assigned an infinite value.

Since Δt_{co} can be computed using ΔE , the eccentric anomaly variation replaces the coasting time interval in the problem's 11 unknown parameters. Each particle in the swarm thus consists of the following

$$\chi = [\zeta_0 \quad \zeta_1 \quad \zeta_2 \quad \zeta_3 \quad \nu_0 \quad \nu_1 \quad \nu_2 \quad \nu_3 \quad \Delta t_1 \quad \Delta E \quad \Delta t_2]^T \quad (2.21)$$

To enforce the constraints set forth in Eq. (2.2) three penalty terms are added to the objective function Eq. (2.19).

$$\tilde{J} = \Delta t_1 + \Delta t_2 + \sum_{k=1}^3 \alpha_k |d_k| \quad (2.22)$$

where

$$d_1 = v_r(t_f) \quad d_2 = v_\theta(t_f) - \sqrt{\frac{\mu_B}{R_2}} \quad d_3 = r(t_f) - R_2 \quad (2.23)$$

A maximum acceptable error of 10^{-3} is used and the α_k coefficients assigned as

$$\alpha_k = \begin{cases} 100 & |d_k| > 10^{-3} \\ 0 & |d_k| < 10^{-3} \end{cases} \quad (2.24)$$

2.2 Canonical Units Definition

This problem employs a canonical set of units to simplify the analysis. One distance unit (DU) is defined as the radius of the initial orbit, and one time unit (TU) defined such that $\mu_B = 1 \frac{DU^3}{TU^2}$. The unknown coefficients are thus sought within the following ranges

$$\begin{aligned} 0 \text{ TU} \leq t_1 \leq 3 \text{ TU} \quad 0 \leq \Delta E \leq 2\pi \quad 0 \text{ TU} \leq \Delta t_2 \leq 3 \text{ TU} \\ -1 \leq \xi_k \leq 1 \quad -1 \leq \nu_k \leq 1 \quad (k = 0, 1, 2, 3) \end{aligned} \quad (2.25)$$

The effective exhaust velocity c is set to $0.5 \frac{DU}{TU^2}$ and the initial thrust-to-mass ratio set to $0.2 \frac{DU}{TU^2}$.

2.3 PSO Algorithm

2.3.1 General Overview

Particle Swarm Optimization is a class of algorithm that employs statistical methods to attempt to locate optimal solutions that minimize an objective function, often denoted J , in the global search space. The algorithm was originally designed to model the behavior of flocks of birds or schools of fish but has been adapted to solve a variety of mathematical problems. PSO is an effective method in scenarios where no analytical solution can be found and the optimal solution is unknown.

The potential solutions for PSO algorithms exist within an n dimensional space where n represents the number of unknown parameter values. Within this n dimensional space there is likely to be a variety of local minima in which the swarm, and thus solution, may converge on. As such, one is not guaranteed to find an optimal solution to a problem with a PSO algorithm. Indeed, in many cases it is impossible to know what the true global optimum is. This requires running the algorithm many times to increase the probability of finding a near-optimum solution. For many problems, this may require large computational efforts and extensive time. Reducing the time required for the execution of PSO algorithms allows more runs in a shorter duration, thus probabilistic increasing the chance of a near-optimal solution quicker. This opportunity was one of the core concepts explored within this thesis.

The algorithm consists of a swarm of particles, each initially containing randomly assigned values in the search space for each unknown parameter. These parameter values are referred to as a particles position, with each parameter also having a corresponding velocity. A given number of iterations is set, each in which each particle is evaluated for its fitness as defined by the objective function J . Following each iteration, each of the particles' parameters' position is updated with its velocity terms, and velocity updated based on a variety of factors

1. How far each of the particle's parameters differs from the global best particle ever recorded's parameters
2. How far each of the particle's parameters differs from the parameters of its historical personal best values
3. Its current velocity, where velocity refers to the rate of change of a particle's position in the search space per iteration

This process continues for the set number of iterations. The global best particle, i.e. set of unknown parameters, found within the PSO algorithm is thus the solution. Psuedocode for the algorithm is as follows

Algorithm 1 General PSO Algorithm

```

Set Lower and Upper bounds on position and velocity
for particle in Swarm do
    Assign initial position values for each particle
end for
for iteration in Num Iterations do
    for particle in Swarm do
        Evaluate objective function  $J$ 
    end for
    Record best set of parameters each particle has achieved  $\leftarrow pBest$ 
    Record best overall position as global best  $\leftarrow gBest$ 
    for particle in Swarm do
        Update particle velocity based on  $pBest$ ,  $gBest$ , and current velocity
        if  $v_i(k) < \text{velocity lower bound}$  then
             $v_i(k) = \text{velocity lower bound}$ 
        else if  $v_i(k) > \text{velocity upper bound}$  then
             $v_i(k) = \text{velocity upper bound}$ 
        end if
        Update particle Position
        if  $p_i(k) < \text{position lower bound}$  then
             $p_i(k) = \text{position lower bound}$ 
             $v_i(k) = 0$ 
        else if  $p_i(k) > \text{position upper bound}$  then
             $p_i(k) = \text{position upper bound}$ 
             $v_i(k) = 0$ 
        end if
    end for
end for
Use  $gBest$  as solution
  
```

2.3.2 Finite Thrust Arc Implementation

The Finite Thrust Arc problem explored within this thesis was implemented using the 11 unknown parameters in equation Eq. (2.21) and corresponding objective function Eq. (2.22). Position and velocity bounds for the PSO algorithm are given by Eq. (2.25). Particle position updating uses the standard form

$$p_i = p_i + v_i \quad (2.26)$$

i ranges from 1 to the 11 unknowns.

Velocity updating is implemented as

$$v_i = v_i c_i + c_c(pBest_i - p_i) + c_s(gBest - p_i) \quad (2.27)$$

where the three accelerator coefficients are defined as

$$c_i = \frac{(1 + rand(0, 1))}{2} \quad c_c = 1.49445(rand(0, 1)) \quad c_s = 1.49445(rand(0, 1)) \quad (2.28)$$

and $rand(0, 1)$ is a uniformly distributed random number generated between 0 and 1.

A detailed look at the main portion of the PSO psuedocode is shown below

Algorithm 2 Main Finite Thrust Transfer PSO Algorithm

```

for iteration in Num Iterations do
  for particle in Swarm do
    Numerically integrate first thrust arc using state-space equations 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, and 2.7
    Compute initial conditions for second thrust arc using equations 2.9, 2.10, and 2.13
    Numerical integrate second thrust arc using state-space equations
    Evaluate  $\tilde{J}$  (2.22) numerically integrated second thrust arc values and penalty terms 2.23
    and penalty coefficients 2.24
  end for
  for particle in Swarm do
    Update particle velocity with equation 2.27
    Check velocity bounds
    Update particle Position with equation 2.26
    Check position bounds
  end for
end for
Use  $gBest$  as solution

```

2.4 Reducing Computational Time

2.4.1 Problem Selection

The finite thrust arc problem explored within this thesis was chosen as a benchmark as a PSO algorithm requiring lots of computational resources. Particles within this problem require lots of execution time for two main reasons

1. Each particle requires two numerical integrations, one for the initial thrust arc and one for the second
2. Many potential solutions within the global search space do not converge during these numerical integrations. This drastically reduces integrations integration step sizes in an attempt to meet the specified integration tolerances, massively increasing the computational complexity.

Additionally, this problem required a non-trivial 11 unknowns. This broad 11 dimensional search space necessitates a comparatively large swarm population size in the search for optimal

values. This combination of individual particles requiring lots of execution with the desired swarm population size makes the problem explored within this thesis was sufficient in evaluating potential speedup methods.

2.4.2 Parallelization

The conditions referenced within section 2.4.1 make the finite thrust transfer problem a good candidate for parallelization. Within each iteration, each particle is evaluated for its value of the objective function J . This contains the computationally heavy numerical integrations. Within this section of the PSO algorithm, each particle is evaluated independently. As such, parallel processing can be used to evaluate multiple particles within the swarm simultaneously. Only after each iteration is complete and position and velocity updating occurs do the particles become dependent on each others' results. Since the updating portion of the algorithm is not computationally expensive, a large potential benefit can be gained from parallellizing the inter-iteration computations. A simplified version of the parallelized algorithm is shown below.

Algorithm 3 Simplified parallel PSO Implementation

```

for iteration in Num Iterations do
  for particle in Swarm do
    Evaluate objective function  $J$ 
  end for
  Update particle velocity based on  $pBest$ ,  $gBest$ , and current velocity
  Update particle position
end for

```

}

in parallel

Chapter 3

Methodology

3.1 Particle Swarm Optimization Overview

3.2 Problem Implementation

Stuff detailing the general rk-dopri-5 algorithm goes here

3.2.1 MATLAB

MATLAB implementation details go here e.g. ODE45, etc.

3.2.2 C++ Single Threaded

Details about Boost libraries, timers, etc. go here

3.2.3 C++ Parallelization

Details about OpenMP go Test

Chapter 4

Results

4.1 Numerical Results

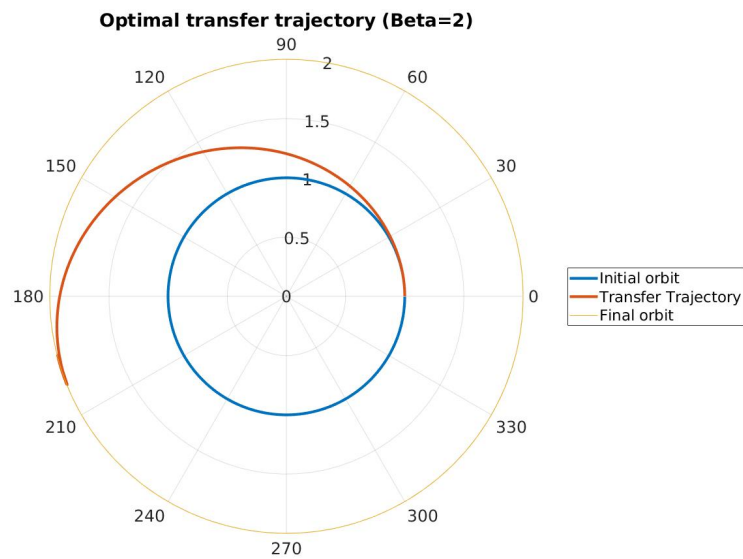


Figure 4.1: Numerically computed optimal transfer trajectory, $\beta = 2$.

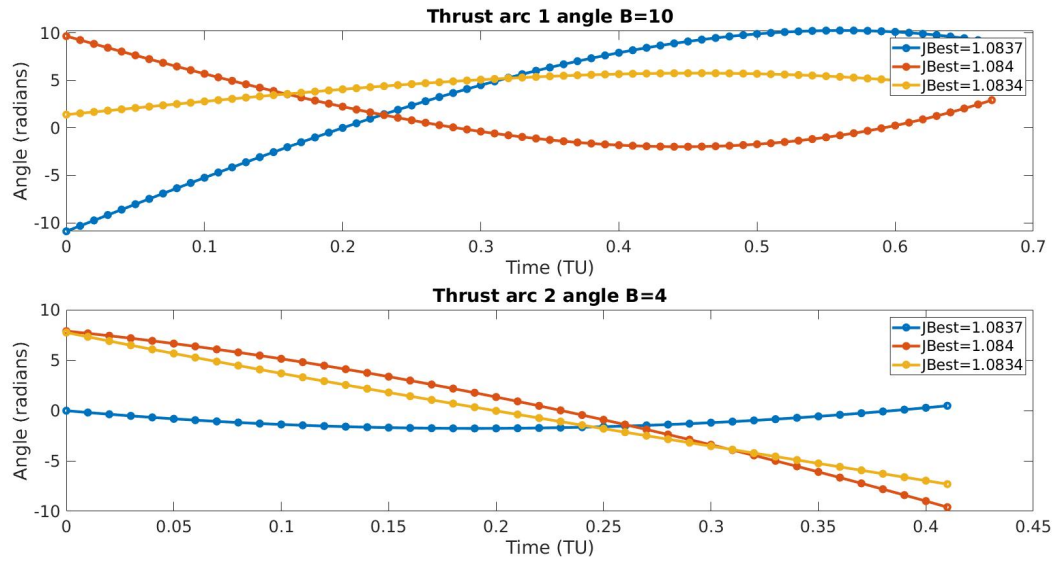


Figure 4.2: Numerically computed thrust-angle time histories for optimal $\beta = 2$ solutions

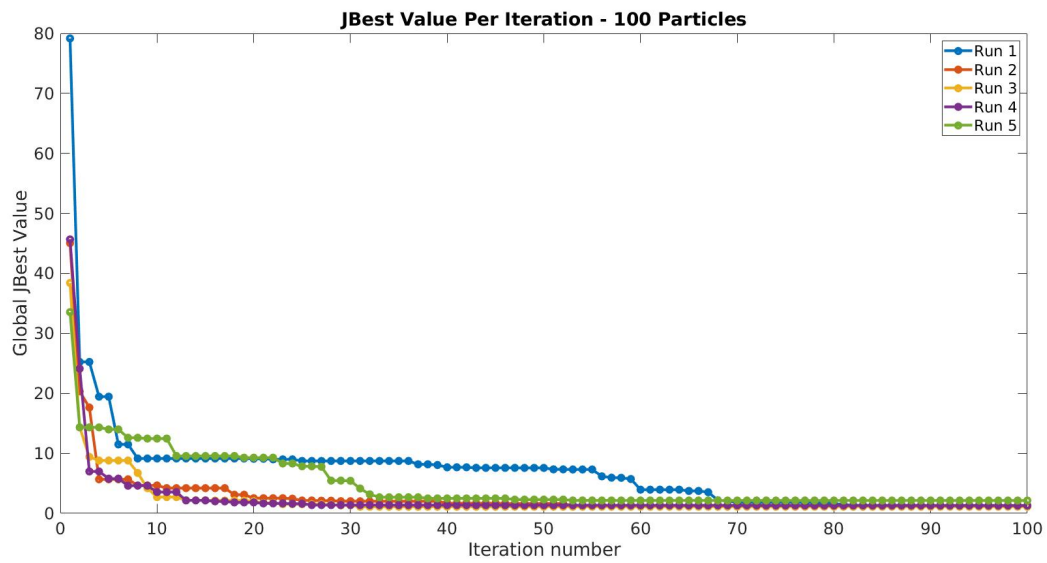


Figure 4.3: Global Best J Value Per Iteration: 100 Particles over 100 iterations

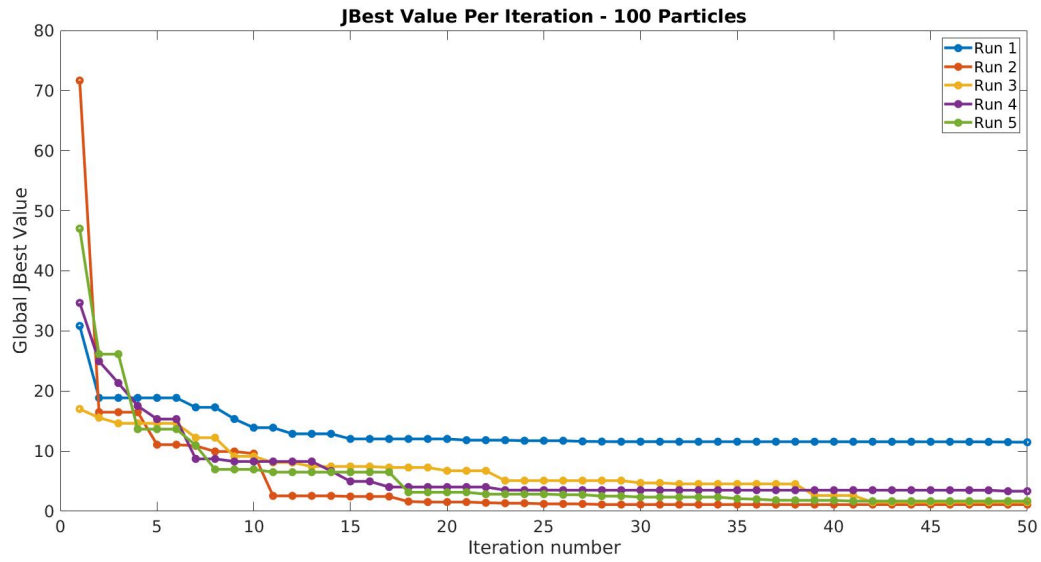


Figure 4.4: Global Best J Value Per Iteration: 110 Particles over 100 iterations

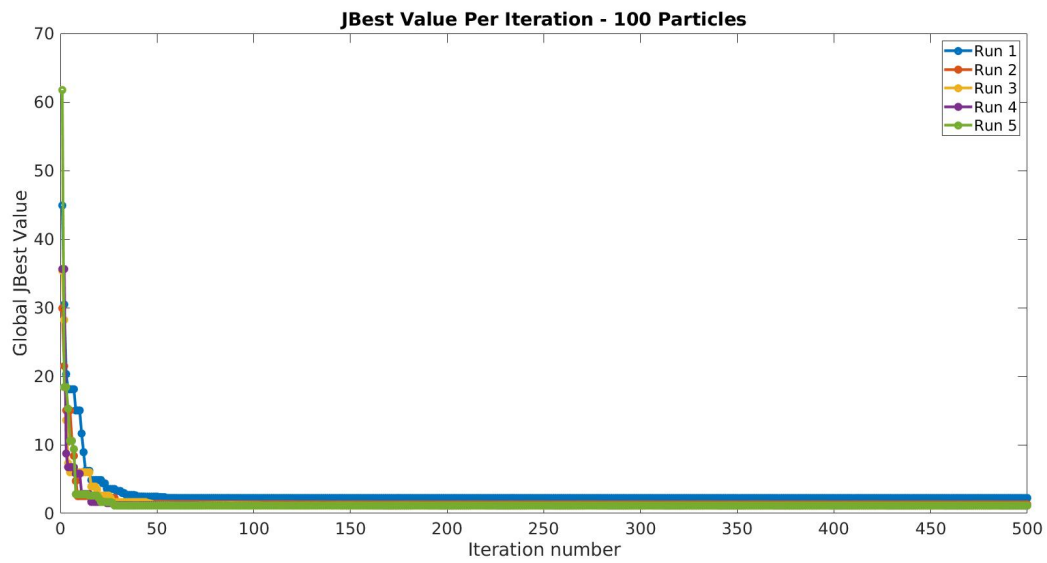


Figure 4.5: Global Best J Value Per Iteration: 110 Particles over 500 iterations

4.2 Rehydration Results

25% Rehydration	$\delta_J < .1\%$		$\delta_J < 1\%$		$\delta_J < 5\%$	
	J_{avg}	% Change	J_{avg}	% Change	J_{avg}	% Change
$n_{iter} = 5$	1.347	44.177%	1.54	36.179%	1.438	40.406%
$n_{iter} = 10$	1.421	41.11%	1.379	42.851%	1.594	33.941%
$n_{iter} = 20$	1.331	44.840%	1.652	31.538%	1.503	37.712%

Table 4.1: Rehydration results for a 25% population reset

33% Rehydration	$\delta_J < .1\%$		$\delta_J < 1\%$		$\delta_J < 5\%$	
	J_{avg}	% Change	J_{avg}	% Change	J_{avg}	% Change
$n_{iter} = 5$	1.371	43.18%	1.475	38.872%	1.412	41.484%
$n_{iter} = 10$	1.364	43.47%	1.558	35.433%	1.473	40.448%
$n_{iter} = 20$	1.412	41.48%	1.531	36.552%	1.578	34.604%

Table 4.2: Rehydration results for a 33% population reset

50% Rehydration	$\delta_J < .1\%$		$\delta_J < 1\%$		$\delta_J < 5\%$	
	J_{avg}	% Change	J_{avg}	% Change	J_{avg}	% Change
$n_{iter} = 5$	1.58	34.52%	1.469	39.12%	1.425	40.94%
$n_{iter} = 10$	1.396	42.15%	1.306	45.88%	1.473	38.96%
$n_{iter} = 20$	1.373	43.10%	1.39	42.40%	1.33	44.88%

Table 4.3: Rehydration results for a 50% population reset

4.3 Speedup

4.3.1 MATLAB

Num Particles	Num Particles	Num Iterations	Time (s)
25	25	250	30.527
25	25	500	39.15
25	25	1000	68.88
50	50	250	30.527
50	50	500	80.4246
50	50	1000	141.151
100	100	250	95.956
100	100	500	152.22
100	100	1000	306.732
150	150	250	161.3
150	150	500	195.87
150	150	1000	388.03
200	200	250	157.061
200	200	500	251.575
200	200	1000	457.55

Table 4.4: MATLAB Numerical Results - Wall Clock Time

4.3.2 C++ Single Threaded

Num Particles	Time (s)	% Speedup to MATLAB	X faster than MATLAB
25	1.732	94.32633406	17.62528868
25	2.39	93.89527458	16.38075314
25	3.92	94.30894309	17.57142857
50	2.96	90.30366561	10.31317568
50	3.26	95.94651388	24.6701227
50	5.695	95.96531374	24.78507463
100	6.659	93.060361	14.40997147
100	7.21	95.2634345	21.11234397
100	11.83	96.14321297	25.92831784
150	7.26	95.49907006	22.21763085
150	12.64	93.54674018	15.4960443
150	16.68	95.7013633	23.26318945
200	7.77	95.05287754	20.21377091
200	11.423	95.45940574	22.02354898
200	21.06	95.39722435	21.72602089

Table 4.5: C++ Single Threaded Speedup Results - Wall Clock Time

4.3.3 C++ OpenMP

Num Particles	Time (s)	% Speedup: MATLAB	% Speedup: 1 Thread	X faster than MATLAB
25	1.78	94.16909621	-2.771362587	17.15
25	3.4	91.31545338	-42.25941423	11.51470588
25	5.23	92.40708479	-33.41836735	13.17017208
50	2.81	90.7950339	5.067567568	10.86370107
50	4.77	94.06897889	-46.3190184	16.86050314
50	8.51	93.9709956	-49.42932397	16.58648649
100	5.71	94.04935595	14.2513891	16.80490368
100	6.6	95.66417028	8.460471567	23.06363636
100	11.73	96.17581472	0.8453085376	26.14936061
150	4.92	96.94978301	32.23140496	32.78455285
150	9.77	95.01199775	22.7056962	20.04810645
150	13.93	96.41007139	16.48681055	27.85570711
200	5.88	96.25623166	24.32432432	26.71105442
200	10.46	95.84219418	8.4303598	24.05114723
200	22.42	95.09998907	-6.457739791	20.40811775

Table 4.6: OpenMP Speedup Results - Wall Clock Execution Time

References

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