

# APPLICATION OF PARTICLE SWARM OPTIMIZATION TO ESTIMATE PROJECT DURATION

## PROBLEM STATEMENT:

Project evaluation and review technique, commonly referred to as PERT, is a method used to estimate time taken to complete a project. It is calculated using the formula,

$$T = (T_o + 4 T_m + T_p)/6;$$

Where  $T_o$  is optimistic time,  $T_m$  is most likely time and  $T_p$  is pessimistic time.

This time taken, however need not always be accurate since the optimistic, pessimistic and most likely time taken involve prediction as well.

The problem statement is, given a rough target duration, calculate the optimistic, pessimistic and most likely duration and therefore derive the rough time estimate required to complete the project.

## ALGORITHMIC APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM:

The duration of project is calculated using PERT formula and chosen as the fitness function for PSO which is executed as follows:

- 1) Initialize particles with random position and velocity vectors such that  $\text{position}(\text{optimum}) \leq \text{position}(\text{most likely}) \leq \text{position}(\text{pessimistic})$
- 2) Loop until maximum iteration or reaching target value:

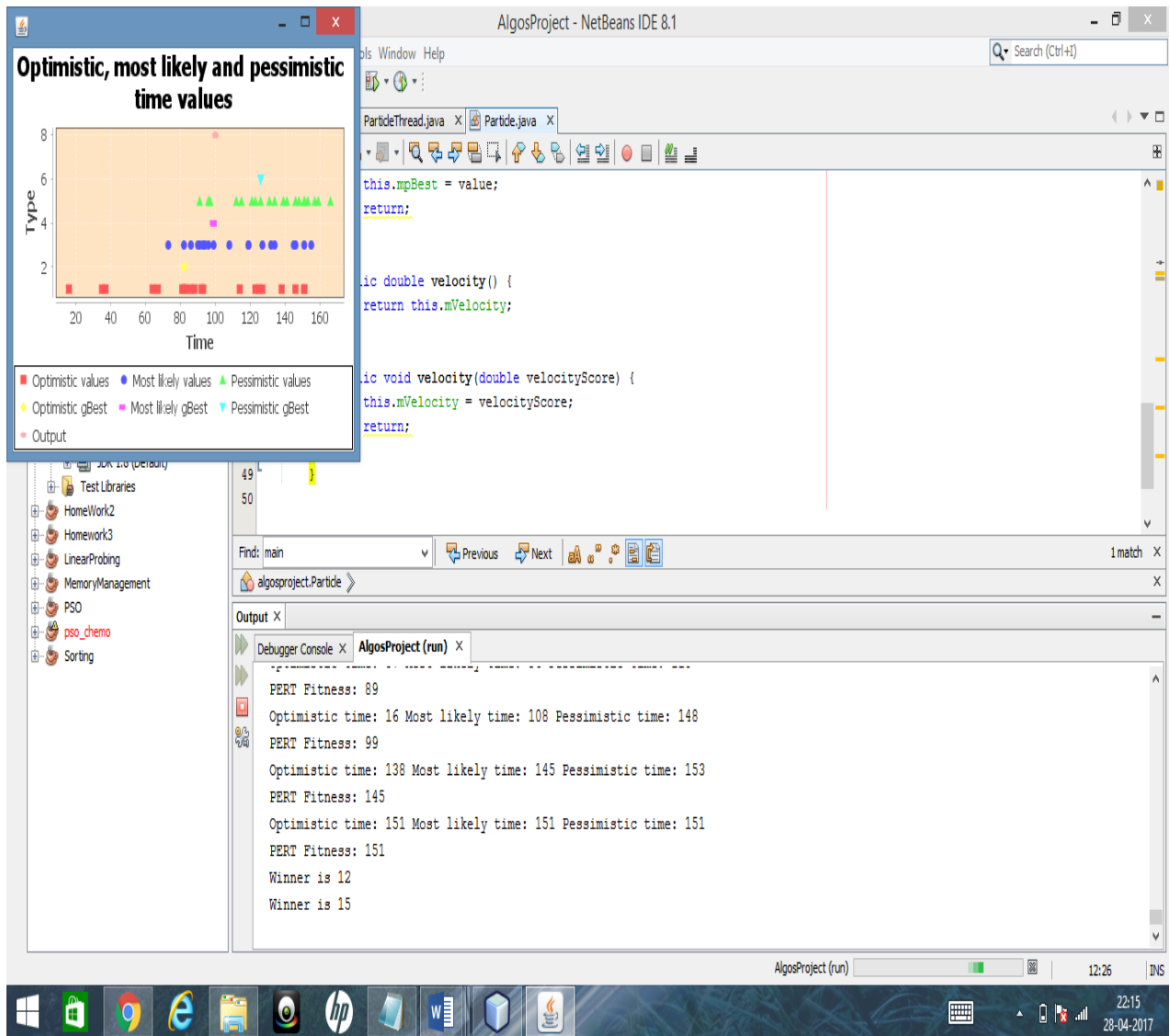
2.1 For each particle X calculate fitness function

2.2 If  $\text{fitness}(X)$  better than  $\text{fitness}(p\text{Best})$  then  $p\text{Best} = X$

2.3 Set the best  $p\text{Best}$  as  $g\text{Best}$

2.4 Update particle velocity and position

## SCREENSHOTS



## RESULT:

The optimistic, pessimistic and most likely values for the project duration can be estimated using particle swarm optimization if a rough target duration is known. It would also tell you how close your PERT analysis formula value is to the estimated target value.

