The search process of a PSO algorithm should be a process consisted of both contraction and expansion so that it could have the ability to escape from local minima, and eventually find good enough solutions.

A New Era:
Neural Networks Society Becomes Computational Intelligence Society

At its meeting in Savannah, Georgia on February 14th, the IEEE Technical Activities Board voted overwhelmingly in favor of the Neural Networks Society’s motion to change its name to the COMPUTATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SOCIETY. To become official, the name needs to be approved by the Board of Directors which is expected to meet on June 20, 2004. As many of you may remember, the motion to change NNS’s name originated with the unanimous resolution adopted by the ADCOM at its meeting in Washington, DC last November. Effective fall 2004 upon approval, only the new name of the Society will be featured in our promotional flyers, on the periodicals’ front covers, and in the renewal materials.

I’m sure you are delighted with the change! The new name is more descriptive and inclusive than the old one which only covered a fraction of the Society’s scope. In the new name of Computational Intelligence we have encompassed technologies of neural networks, fuzzy systems, evolutionary computations, and other biologically and linguistically motivated computational paradigms. With the change, the profile of our publications and conference efforts, which include such events as the World Congress on Computational Intelligence, will be more appropriately labeled and represented.

As a part of its mission, the Society is also promoting activities in emerging fields such as data mining, bio-informatics, computational finance, computational neuroscience, autonomous mental development, intelligent systems applications and other related areas. Activities in all technical areas are coordinated by one of the Society’s eight Technical Committees (TC): Neural Networks, Fuzzy Systems, Evolutionary Computation, Emergent Technologies, Financial Engineering, Bioinformatics and Bioengineering, Intelligent Systems Applications, and Autonomous Mental Development.

The Society highly encourages its members to participate in its TCs, which serve as forums for the exchange of valuable technical information, the dissemination of ideas and the initiation of new topical trends. It is at this level of involvement where ideas and topics are incubated for special sessions of conferences, new workshops and seminars, and special issues of our journals. Accordingly, our existing TCs will benefit from new members, new insights, and new initiatives. Your involvement can really make a difference for the Society, and please remember that we are all volunteers dedicated to the promotion of the exciting field of the computational intelligence. Dr. Gary Yen, VP for Technical Activities (gary@okstate.edu), or one of the TC Chairs would be delighted to hear from you if you plan to get involved.
The NNS offers its members an amazing range of technical involvement. It publishes three Transactions as well as the NNS Newsletter, organizes three Conferences and when the need arises, it offers specialized conferences, symposia and workshops. The intellectual property that the Society has created and continually produces is of both impressive quality and quantity. The NNS also supports educational opportunities for its members through its multimedia tutorials program, and the student travel grants and summer research programs. Other activities include sponsorship of the Distinguished Lecturer Program, Technical Field Awards, Best Paper Awards, Pioneer Awards, and Meritorious Service Award. The Society’s newest project offers special opportunities for women in computational intelligence. All of our members are invited to take full advantage of these attractive opportunities.

New activities can also be initiated within the local territorial entities of our Society called Chapters. To become involved in a Chapter, a member needs to contact the appropriate regional Chapter Chair. If no Chapter has been established in your area, you may create one by collecting 12 signatures of existing NNS members and contacting Dr. Vin Piuri, VP for Membership, at piuri@dit.unimi.it.

Our members are not only encouraged to involve themselves in work within the Technical Committees, or Chapters. The Society also needs more volunteers to run its business. We need people for our Standing Committees, such as Education, Multimedia Tutorials, Standards and other committees. In addition, as is the case of other IEEE entities, the Neural Networks Society also elects its governing body called Administrative Committee (ADCOM). This year’s election to the ADCOM will again be held in September. I strongly encourage you to vote in the elections. The ballot will include names of candidates put forward by the NNS Nomination Committee. However, your name can also be added to the voting ballot after a petition with 15 supporting signatures of NNS members is submitted to the President by August 1 this year.

As you can see, the Society offers all its members opportunities to get involved, active and participating at the technical level or in our self-governance. We need you, our members, in your support, time and talent, and I am eagerly awaiting your participation in our Society, your contribution to the field, and the further advancement of the society as a whole. For more information, please check our website at www.ieee-nns.org, check this Newsletter, or contact a Society Officer or Committee/Chapter chair. Last but not least, I would appreciate your comments, suggestions or questions directed to me at j.zurada@ieee.org.