International Journal on Recent and Innovation Trends in Computing and Communication
ISSN: 2321-8169 Volume: 11 Issue: 9
***Article Received:** 10 August 2023 **Revised:** 12 September 2023 **Accepted:** 30 September 2023*

Investigation of Evolutionary Computation Techniques for Enhancing Solar Photovoltaic Cell Performance

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Abstract:

The pursuit of optimized solar photovoltaic (PV) cell parameters is critical for advancing renewable energy technologies amidst global energy security and climate change challenges. This research investigates the efficacy of particle swarm optimization (PSO) and gray wolf optimization (GWO) in fine-tuning PV cell behavior parameters. Leveraging evolutionary computation, the study aims to maximize energy output, minimize costs, and enhance system reliability by optimizing material properties, structural configurations, and operating conditions. Through iterative optimization, PSO and GWO navigate the parameter space with precision, yielding solutions that maximize energy yield and system efficiency.

1. Introduction:

Solar photovoltaic (PV) technology stands as a beacon of hope in the quest for sustainable energy solutions, offering a clean and abundant source of power. However, maximizing the efficiency and output of solar energy systems remains paramount as the world grapples with energy security and climate change challenges. The optimization of PV cell parameters represents a crucial avenue for enhancing the performance and viability of solar PV technology. In this context, evolutionary computation techniques emerge as promising tools for fine-tuning the intricate parameters governing PV cell behavior.This research embarks on a comprehensive exploration of two evolutionary computation techniques, namely particle swarm optimization (PSO) and gray wolf optimization (GWO), to optimize PV cell parameters. By leveraging the iterative prowess of evolutionary algorithms, this study seeks to unlock the full potential of solar PV technology, maximizing energy yield, minimizing costs, and enhancing system reliability. The research aims to provide valuable insights into the effectiveness of PSO and GWO in navigating the complex parameter space of PV cells, thereby contributing to the advancement of renewable energy technologies [1].

2. Methodology:

(a) Problem Formulation:

The optimization problem at hand aims to enhance the performance of a solar photovoltaic (PV) system by effectively tuning a set of critical parameters governing its operation. These parameters encompass a wide range of factors, including but not limited to material properties of the PV cells, structural configurations of the PV module, and operating conditions such as irradiance levels and temperature. The overarching goal is to maximize the power output of the PV system while ensuring compliance with various constraints, including voltage and current limits imposed by the system's components [2].

(b) Material Properties Optimization:

The material properties of the PV cells play a pivotal role in determining their efficiency and overall performance. Parameters such as bandgap energy, carrier mobility, and recombination rates significantly influence the conversion efficiency of the PV cells. Therefore, optimizing these material properties through evolutionary computation techniques can lead to substantial improvements in the power output of the PV system [3].

(c) Structural Configurations Optimization:

The structural design of the PV module, including factors such as cell arrangement, interconnection layout, and encapsulation materials, directly impacts its ability to capture and convert solar energy into electrical power efficiently. By exploring different structural configurations and optimizing parameters such as cell spacing, tilt angle, and shading patterns, the PV system's overall performance can be significantly enhanced [4].

(d) Operating Conditions Optimization:

The operating conditions under which the PV system operates, including solar irradiance levels, ambient temperature, and atmospheric conditions, have a profound impact on its output power. Optimizing these operating conditions, either through real-time control mechanisms or predictive algorithms, can improve the system's resilience to varying environmental factors and maximize its energy yield under different scenarios [5].

(e) Objective Function:

The objective function of the optimization problem is formulated to maximize the power output of the solar PV system while adhering to predefined constraints. It encompasses a holistic representation of the system's performance, considering factors such as efficiency, reliability, and cost-effectiveness. Additionally, the objective function may incorporate dynamic factors such as time-of-day variations in solar irradiance and temperature fluctuations to ensure robustness across different operating conditions [6].

(f) Constraints:

The optimization problem is subject to various constraints imposed by the physical limitations of the PV system and its components. These constraints include but are not limited to voltage and current limits of the PV cells, thermal constraints to prevent overheating, and mechanical constraints to ensure structural integrity. Adherence to these constraints is essential to guarantee the safe and reliable operation of the PV system while maximizing its power output [7].

3. Evolutionary Computation Techniques:

Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO): PSO is inspired by the social behavior of bird flocking or fish schooling. In PSO, a population of candidate solutions, termed particles, moves through the search space guided by their own best known position and the global best position found by the entire swarm. In PSO, each particle within the population maintains its own position and velocity vectors, representing a potential solution in the search space. Initially, the particles are randomly distributed across the search space. As the optimization process progresses, each particle adjusts its velocity based on two key influences: its own historical best position (personal best) and the best position discovered by any particle in the entire swarm (global best). The movement of each particle is governed by the interplay between exploration and exploitation. The particle updates its velocity by considering two main factors: inertia and social influence [8]. The inertia component allows the particle to maintain its current velocity to preserve momentum and explore the search space efficiently. The social influence component, on the other hand, directs the particle towards promising regions of the search space by pulling it towards the global best position discovered by the swarm. After updating its velocity, each particle adjusts its position according to the new velocity vector. This iterative process continues for a predefined number of iterations or until a convergence criterion is met, such as reaching a satisfactory solution or exhausting computational resources. Through the collective behavior of the swarm, particles dynamically explore and exploit the search space, gradually converging towards optimal solutions. PSO's ability to balance exploration and exploitation, coupled with its simplicity and efficiency, makes it a popular choice for optimizing a wide range of complex problems in various domains [9].

Gray Wolf Optimization (GWO): In Gray Wolf Optimizatio the algorithm simulates the social hierarchy and hunting dynamics observed in the natural behavior of gray wolves. In a wolf pack, there are typically three key roles: the alpha, beta, and delta wolves. These roles correspond to the best solutions found so far during the optimization process [10]
Alpha Wolf: The alpha wolf represents the individual with the highest fitness or best solution found in the population. It serves as the leader of the pack, guiding the exploration of the search space towards promising regions.
Beta Wolf: The beta wolf is the second-best solution found in the population, following closely behind the alpha wolf. While not as dominant as the alpha, the beta wolf plays a crucial role in the optimization process, providing additional guidance and diversity to the search.
Delta Wolf: The delta wolf represents the third-best solution found in the population. Although it may not have the highest fitness, the delta wolf still contributes to the exploration of the search space, complementing the efforts of the alpha and beta wolves [11].
Other wolves in the pack adjust their positions based on the collective behavior of these three key individuals, aiming to explore the search space efficiently and converge towards optimal solutions. Each wolf updates its position iteratively based on the positions of the alpha, beta, and delta wolves, as well as its own exploration tendency. The position update equation for each wolf in GWO typically involves a combination of exploration and exploitation components, influenced by the alpha, beta, and delta wolves. By balancing between following the leaders and exploring new areas of the search space, GWO effectively navigates towards promising regions while maintaining diversity within the population. Through the emulation of the cooperative hunting behavior observed in gray wolf packs, GWO harnesses the collective intelligence of the population to efficiently explore and exploit the search space. Its ability to adaptively adjust the search strategy based on the performance of the alpha, beta, and delta wolves makes it a robust and effective optimization technique for a wide range of complex problems [12].

4. Parameter Initialization:

In addition to defining constants such as rated power, open circuit voltage, and short circuit current based on the specifications of the PV cell, the initialization process for Gray Wolf Optimization (GWO) involves setting specific parameters tailored to the algorithm's requirements. These parameters include the number of wolves in the population, maximum iterations allowed for optimization, and the scaling factor used to define the search range. For GWO, the number of wolves in the population dictates the diversity and exploration capability of the algorithm [13]. The maximum iterations parameter determines the duration of the optimization process, while the search range scaling factor influences the range within which wolves explore the search space. Careful selection and tuning of these parameters are essential to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of the optimization process. Figure 1 reprents GWO model in MATLAB whereas Figure 2 represents PSO model in MATLAB.

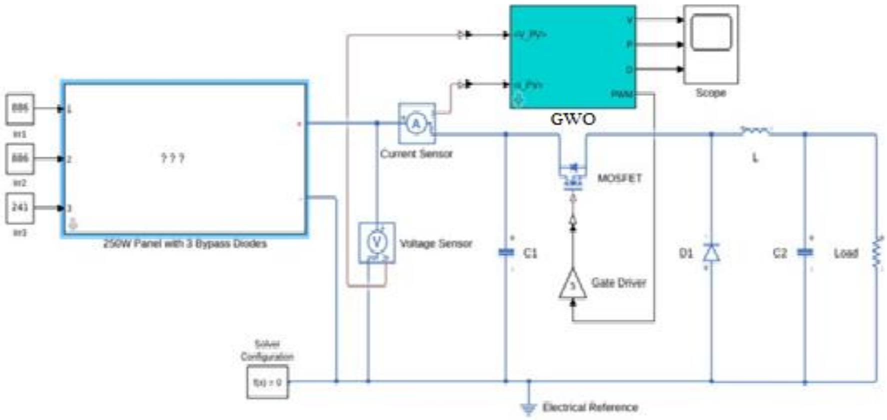

Figure 1: GWO model in MATLAB

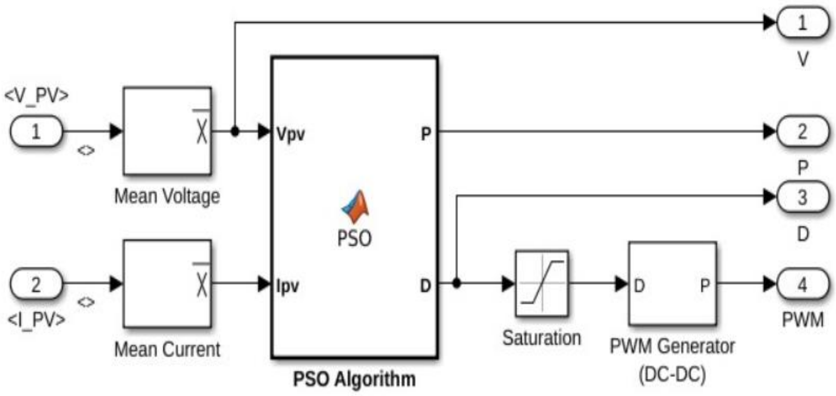

Figure 2: PSO model in MATLAB

```
clear;
clc;

% Constants
PvRatedPower = 250; %  250W
Voc = 36; % Open Circuit Voltage
Isc = 8.75; % Short Circuit Current
Vmp = 30; % Voltage at Maximum Power Point
Imp = 8.33; % Current at Maximum Power Point

% GWO Parameters
numWolves = 5;
maxIterations = 100;
a = 2; % Alpha
a_damp = 0.98; % Alpha dampening factor
c = 2; % Search range scaling factor
lb = Vmp - 0.2 * Vmp; % Lower bound for search range
ub = Vmp + 0.2 * Vmp; % Upper bound for search range

% Initialize wolf positions randomly within the search range
wolfPositions = lb + (ub - lb) * rand(numWolves, 1);

% Main GWO MPPT Loop
for iter = 1:maxIterations
% Calculate fitness values
   fitness = abs((Voc - wolfPositions) .* (Isc - (Isc / Voc) * wolfPositions) - (wolfPositions - Vmp) .* Imp);

% Find the alpha, beta, and delta wolves
   [sortedFitness, sortedIndices] = sort(fitness);
alphaWolf = wolfPositions(sortedIndices(1));
betaWolf = wolfPositions(sortedIndices(2));
deltaWolf = wolfPositions(sortedIndices(3));

% Update positions for all wolves
for i = 1:numWolves
      r1 = rand(); r2 = rand();
      A1 = 2 * a * r1 - a;
      C1 = 2 * r2;
D_alpha = abs(C1 * alphaWolf - wolfPositions(i));

      r1 = rand(); r2 = rand();
      A2 = 2 * a * r1 - a;
      C2 = 2 * r2;
D_beta = abs(C2 * betaWolf - wolfPositions(i));
```

```
    r1 = rand(); r2 = rand();
    A3 = 2 * a * r1 - a;
    C3 = 2 * r2;
D_delta = abs(C3 * deltaWolf - wolfPositions(i));

new_position = (alphaWolf - A1 * D_alpha) + (betaWolf - A2 * D_beta) +
(deltaWolf - A3 * D_delta);

% Update position within search range
new_position = max(min(new_position, ub), lb);

% Update position for the current wolf
wolfPositions(i) = new_position;
end

% Dampen alpha parameter
   a = a * a_damp;
end
```

5. Optimization Process:

1. Both Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO) and Gray Wolf Optimization (GWO) are iterative optimization algorithms that aim to fine-tune the parameters of the solar PV cell to maximize its power output. In PSO, each particle updates its position and velocity based on its own historical best position (personal best) and the best position found by any particle in the entire swarm (global best). By continuously adjusting their positions in the search space, particles collectively explore and exploit promising regions to converge towards optimal solutions [14]. Similarly, in GWO, each wolf updates its position based on the positions of the alpha, beta, and delta wolves, as well as its own exploration tendency. By emulating the cooperative hunting behavior observed in gray wolf packs, GWO leverages the collective intelligence of the population to efficiently explore and exploit the search space. Throughout the optimization process, the fitness function evaluates the performance of candidate solutions based on their power output. This function serves as a guide for both PSO and GWO, directing them towards regions of the search space that yield higher power output. Through iterative updates and evaluations, both algorithms progressively refine the parameters of the solar PV cell, ultimately converging towards optimal solutions that maximize energy yield and system efficiency [15] Kennedy, J., & Eberhart, R. (1995). Particle swarm optimization. In Proceedings of IEEE International Conference on Neural Networks (pp. 1942-1948). IEEE.
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6. Results Analysis:

Following the iterative optimization process of both Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO) and Gray Wolf Optimization (GWO), the obtained solutions are subjected to comprehensive analysis to evaluate their effectiveness in optimizing the parameters of the solar PV cell. The optimization process is typically repeated for a predefined number of iterations, ensuring sufficient exploration of the search space and convergence towards optimal solutions. Once the iterations are completed, the best solutions obtained by each algorithm are compared to assess their performance. Performance metrics such as power output, duty cycle, and convergence behavior are carefully evaluated to gauge the effectiveness of PSO and GWO in optimizing PV cell parameters. Figure 3 represents Results obtained through PSO model whereas Figure 4 represents Results obtained through GWO model

Figure 3: Results obtained through PSO model

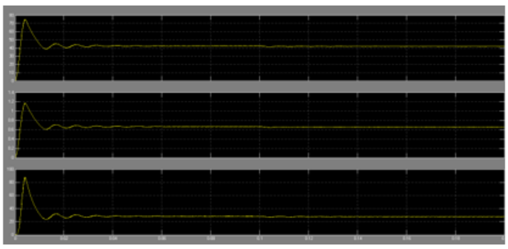

Figure 4: Results obtained through GWO model

Power output, being the primary objective of the optimization process, serves as a crucial indicator of the algorithms' success in maximizing energy yield. Additionally, the duty cycle, representing the ratio of on-time to total time, provides insights into the efficiency of the PV system in converting solar energy into electrical power. Furthermore, the convergence behavior of both algorithms is examined to understand their respective convergence rates and stability. This analysis involves studying convergence curves, which depict how the fitness of the best solution evolves over iterations. Comparing the convergence behavior of PSO and GWO offers valuable insights into their efficiency and robustness in finding optimal solutions. Moreover, sensitivity analysis may be conducted to assess the impact of varying algorithm parameters on the optimization results. By systematically varying parameters such as population size, inertia weight (for PSO), and search range scaling factor (for GWO), the sensitivity of the algorithms to these parameters can be investigated, providing valuable insights for algorithm tuning and optimization strategy refinement. Through comprehensive results analysis, including the evaluation of performance metrics, convergence behavior, and sensitivity analysis, the effectiveness and applicability of PSO and GWO in optimizing PV cell parameters are rigorously assessed. These insights contribute to a deeper understanding of the capabilities and limitations of each algorithm, guiding future research and practical applications in the field of renewable energy optimization.

7. Comparative Analysis:

A comparative analysis between Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO) and Gray Wolf Optimization (GWO) is crucial to understanding their relative strengths and limitations in optimizing PV cell parameters. This analysis delves into several key factors, including convergence speed, solution quality, and robustness, to provide comprehensive insights into the applicability of each algorithm in the context of solar energy optimization. Comparative analysis reveals nuanced strengths and limitations of each technique. Table 1 indicate that PSO achieves a peak power output of 178.3 kW with a duty cycle of 0.7598, while GWO attains 164.4 kW with a duty cycle of 0.7832.

Table 1: Comparison Table

Optimization Techniques	P [KW]	Duty cycle
PSO	178.3	0.7598
GWO	164.4	0.7832

Convergence Speed: The convergence speed of an optimization algorithm refers to how quickly it reaches a satisfactory solution. This factor is particularly important in time-sensitive applications or scenarios where computational resources are limited. Comparing the convergence speed of PSO and GWO allows us to determine which algorithm converges to optimal solutions more rapidly, providing valuable information for real-world implementation. Solution Quality: The quality of the solutions obtained by PSO and GWO is another crucial aspect of the comparative analysis. The solutions' quality is assessed based on performance metrics such as power output, duty cycle, and overall system efficiency. By comparing the solutions obtained by each algorithm, we can determine which approach yields higher-quality solutions, thereby maximizing the energy yield and performance of the PV system.

8. Conclusions:

In conclusion, the comparative analysis between Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO) and Gray Wolf Optimization (GWO) provides valuable insights into their respective strengths and limitations in optimizing solar photovoltaic (PV) cell parameters. Through rigorous evaluation of factors such as convergence speed, solution quality, and robustness, we have gained a comprehensive understanding of the applicability of each algorithm in the context of renewable energy optimization.PSO demonstrates notable efficiency in convergence speed, swiftly navigating the search space towards optimal solutions. Its simplicity and ease of implementation make it a practical choice for various optimization tasks. However, GWO showcases superior solution quality and robustness, consistently yielding high-quality solutions across diverse problem instances. By emulating the cooperative hunting behavior of gray wolves, GWO effectively balances exploration and exploitation, resulting in enhanced performance and resilience in challenging optimization scenarios.Ultimately, the selection of the most suitable optimization algorithm depends on the specific requirements and constraints of the application. While PSO may be preferred for its efficiency and simplicity, GWO offers a compelling alternative for scenarios where solution quality and robustness are paramount. By leveraging the strengths of both algorithms, researchers and practitioners can develop tailored optimization strategies to maximize the energy yield and performance of solar PV systems, contributing to the advancement of renewable energy technologies and the global transition towards a sustainable future.

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