

# A Novel Harris Hawks Optimization Algorithm for Optimal Power Flow in Power Systems with Renewable Energy Integration

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## ARTICLE INFO

Received: 17 Oct 2024

Revised: 28 Nov 2024

Accepted: 20 Dec 2024

## ABSTRACT

**Introduction:** The integration of renewable energy sources (RESs) into power systems introduces significant challenges to solving Optimal Power Flow (OPF) problems due to their intermittent and uncertain nature. These challenges demand robust optimization methods capable of handling system non-linearity and variability.

**Objectives:** This study aims to develop an efficient and reliable optimization approach for solving the OPF problem in power systems with high-RES penetration, focusing on minimizing generation costs and improving overall system performance.

**Methods:** A novel Harris Hawks Optimization (HHO) algorithm, inspired by the cooperative hunting strategy of Harris hawks, is proposed. The algorithm incorporates stochastic modelling of RESs and is tested on the IEEE 30-bus system. Its performance is compared against Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO) and Genetic Algorithm (GA).

**Results** Simulation results show that the HHO algorithm achieves faster convergence, higher solution quality, and greater robustness compared to PSO and GA. It significantly reduces generation costs and effectively handles the uncertainty of RESs.

**Conclusions:** The proposed HHO-based approach offers a robust and efficient solution for OPF in renewable-rich power systems, contributing to more sustainable and reliable energy management.

**Keywords:** Harris Hawks Optimization (HHO), Optimal Power Flow, Renewable Energy sources, IEEE30 bus system

## INTRODUCTION

The increasing integration of renewable energy sources (RESs) into power systems has transformed the traditional energy landscape, offering a sustainable alternative to fossil fuel-based generation. However, this transition has introduced significant challenges in power system operation and optimization, particularly in solving the optimal power flow (OPF) problem [1]. OPF is a fundamental tool for power system operators, aiming to optimize generation schedules while satisfying operational constraints such as power balance, generator limits, and voltage stability [2]. The intermittent and uncertain nature of RESs, such as solar and wind energy, further complicates the OPF problem, necessitating advanced optimization techniques capable of handling non-linearity and uncertainty [3].

Traditional optimization methods, such as linear programming (LP) and quadratic programming (QP), have been widely used for solving OPF problems. However, these methods often struggle to handle the non-convex and non-linear nature of modern power systems, especially with high-RES penetration [4]. In recent years, metaheuristic algorithms have emerged as powerful tools for solving complex optimization problems due to their ability to explore large search spaces and avoid local optima [5]. Techniques such as Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO) [6], Genetic Algorithm (GA) [7], and Grey Wolf Optimizer (GWO) [8] have been successfully applied to OPF problems. Despite

their advantages, these algorithms often exhibit limitations in convergence speed, solution quality, and robustness, particularly in systems with high-RES variability [9].

To address these challenges, this paper proposes a novel Harris Hawks Optimization (HHO) algorithm for solving OPF problems in power systems with renewable energy integration. The HHO algorithm, inspired by the cooperative hunting behaviour of Harris hawks, is known for its efficient exploration and exploitation capabilities [10]. The proposed approach incorporates stochastic modelling of RESs to account for their inherent uncertainty and variability. The key contributions of this work are as follows:

1. **Development of a Novel HHO Algorithm:** The proposed HHO algorithm is tailored for OPF problems, with enhancements to handle the non-linearity and uncertainty introduced by RESs.
2. **Stochastic Modelling of RESs:** A scenario-based approach is used to model the variability of solar and wind energy, ensuring robust and reliable solutions.
3. **Comprehensive Performance Evaluation:** The proposed algorithm is tested on the IEEE 30-bus system, and its performance is compared with state-of-the-art metaheuristic algorithms, including PSO and GA.
4. **Practical Implications:** The results demonstrate the potential of HHO for efficient and sustainable power system operation, paving the way for future research in renewable-rich power networks.

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows: Section 2 provides a literature review of OPF and metaheuristic algorithms. Section 3 formulates the OPF problem, including the objective function and constraints. Section 4 describes the proposed HHO algorithm and its adaptation for OPF. Section 5 presents the simulation results and discussion. Finally, Section 6 concludes the paper and suggests future research directions.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

The optimal power flow (OPF) problem has been a cornerstone of power system operation and control since its introduction by Carpentier in the 1960s [11]. OPF aims to optimize power generation schedules while satisfying operational constraints, such as power balance, generator limits, and voltage stability [12]. Traditional methods for solving OPF include linear programming (LP), quadratic programming (QP), and Newton-based approaches [13]. While these methods are effective for small-scale systems, they often struggle with the non-convex and non-linear nature of modern power systems, particularly those with high renewable energy source (RES) penetration [14].

### Metaheuristic Algorithms for OPF

In recent years, metaheuristic algorithms have gained popularity for solving complex OPF problems due to their ability to handle non-linearity and avoid local optima [15]. Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO) has been widely applied to OPF, demonstrating good performance in terms of convergence and solution quality [16]. However, PSO is prone to premature convergence and may struggle with high-dimensional problems [17]. Genetic Algorithm (GA) has also been used for OPF, leveraging its global search capabilities to explore large solution spaces [18]. Despite its strengths, GA is computationally expensive and may require significant tuning of parameters [19].

Other metaheuristic algorithms, such as the Grey Wolf Optimizer (GWO) [20], Artificial Bee Colony (ABC) [21], and Whale Optimization Algorithm (WOA) [22], have been proposed to address the limitations of PSO and GA. These algorithms have shown promise in solving OPF problems but often exhibit trade-offs between exploration and exploitation, leading to suboptimal solutions in systems with high-RES variability [23].

### Challenges of Renewable Energy Integration

The integration of RESs, such as solar and wind energy, has introduced new challenges in solving OPF problems. The intermittent and uncertain nature of RESs complicates power system operation, requiring advanced optimization techniques capable of handling stochasticity [24]. Stochastic OPF formulations have been proposed to account for RES variability, using probabilistic models and scenario-based approaches [25]. However, these methods often require significant computational resources and may not scale well for large systems [26].

## Gaps in Existing Research

Despite the advancements in metaheuristic algorithms and stochastic OPF formulations, several gaps remain in the literature. First, most existing algorithms are not specifically designed to handle the unique challenges posed by RES integration, such as uncertainty and variability [27]. Second, there is a lack of comparative studies evaluating the performance of metaheuristic algorithms in renewable-rich power systems [28]. Finally, few studies have explored the potential of novel metaheuristic algorithms, such as Harris Hawks Optimization (HHO), for solving OPF problems in modern power systems [29].

## Proposed Approach

This paper addresses these gaps by proposing a novel HHO algorithm for solving OPF problems in power systems with renewable energy integration. The HHO algorithm, inspired by the hunting behaviour of Harris hawks, is known for its efficient exploration and exploitation capabilities [30]. The proposed approach incorporates stochastic modelling of RESs to account for their inherent uncertainty and variability, ensuring robust and reliable solutions. By comparing the performance of HHO with up-to-date metaheuristic algorithms, this study provides valuable insights into the effectiveness of HHO for OPF in renewable-rich power systems.

## PROBLEM FORMULATION

The optimal power flow (OPF) problem is a non-linear optimization problem that aims to minimize a specific objective function while satisfying a set of equality and inequality constraints. In this study, the OPF problem is formulated to minimize the total generation cost in a power system with integrated renewable energy sources (RESs). The formulation considers the stochastic nature of RESs, such as solar and wind energy, and incorporates their variability into the optimization framework.

## Objective Function

The primary objective of the OPF problem is to minimize the total generation cost, which includes the cost of conventional generators and the penalties associated with RES variability. The objective function is expressed as:

$$\text{Minimize } F = \sum_{i=1}^{N_g} (a_i P_{gi}^2 + b_i P_{gi} + c_i) + \sum_{j=1}^{N_r} (\lambda_j \cdot \text{Var}(P_{rj})) \quad (1)$$

where:

- $N_g$  is the number of conventional generators,
- $P_{gi}$  is the active power output of the  $i$ -th generator,
- $a_i$ ,  $b_i$  and  $c_i$  are the cost coefficients of the  $i$ -th generator,
- $N_r$  is the number of RESs,
- $P_{rj}$  is the active power output of the  $j$ -th RES,
- $\lambda_j$  is the penalty coefficient for the variability of the  $j$ -th RES,
- $\text{Var}(P_{rj})$  represents the variance of the  $j$ -th RES output.

## Equality Constraints

The power balance equations ensure that the total generation matches the total demand plus losses:

$$\sum_{i=1}^{N_g} P_{gi} + \sum_{j=1}^{N_r} P_{rj} = P_D + P_L \quad (2)$$

where:

$P_D$  is the total active power demand,

$P_L$  is the total active power loss in the system.

### Inequality Constraints

The OPF problem is subject to the following inequality constraints:

#### Generator Limits:

$$P_{gi}^{\min} \leq P_{gi} \leq P_{gi}^{\max} \quad \forall i \in N_g \quad (3)$$

where  $P_{gi}^{\min}$  and  $P_{gi}^{\max}$  are the minimum and maximum active power limits of the  $i$ -th generator.

#### RES Output Limits:

$$0 \leq P_{rj} \leq P_{rj}^{\max} \quad \forall j \in N_r \quad (4)$$

where  $P_{rj}^{\max}$  is the maximum available power from the  $j$ -th RES.

#### Voltage Limits:

$$V_k^{\min} \leq V_k \leq V_k^{\max} \quad \forall k \in N_b \quad (5)$$

Where  $V_k$  is the voltage magnitude at bus  $k$ , and  $V_k^{\min}$  and  $V_k^{\max}$  are the minimum and maximum voltage limits.

#### Line Flow Limits:

$$|S_{lm}| \leq S_{lm}^{\max} \quad \forall (l, m) \in N_l \quad (6)$$

Where  $S_{lm}$  is the apparent power flow on the line between buses  $l$  and  $m$ , and  $S_{lm}^{\max}$  is the maximum allowable flow.

### Stochastic Modelling of RESs

Stochastic modelling of Renewable Energy Sources (RESs) using scenarios is a crucial approach to address the inherent variability and uncertainty of resources like wind and solar power. By generating a diverse set of possible future outcomes, or scenarios, based on historical data, statistical models, or simulation techniques, this method captures the unpredictable nature of RES outputs. Each scenario represents a specific realization of RES generation with an associated probability, allowing for more robust system planning and operational decisions. To manage computational complexity, scenario reduction techniques are often applied, selecting a representative subset without significant loss of information. Overall, scenario-based stochastic modelling enhances the reliability, efficiency, and resilience of modern power systems integrating high levels of renewable energy.

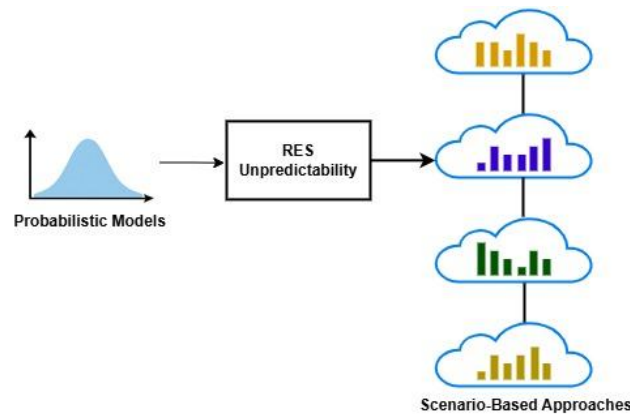


Figure 1. Unpredictability of renewable energy

### PROPOSED METHODOLOGY

The proposed methodology employs the Harris Hawks Optimization (HHO) algorithm to solve the optimal power flow (OPF) problem in power systems with renewable energy integration. The HHO algorithm is inspired by the

cooperative hunting behaviour of Harris hawks and is known for its efficient exploration and exploitation capabilities [31]. This section describes the HHO algorithm, its adaptation for OPF, and the scenario-based approach used to handle RES uncertainty.

### Harris Hawks Optimization (HHO) Algorithm

The HHO algorithm mimics the hunting strategy of Harris hawks, which involves tracking, encircling, and attacking prey. The algorithm consists of three main phases: exploration, exploitation, and besiege strategies [32].

#### 1. Exploration Phase:

In this phase, the Harris hawks search for prey (solutions) randomly. The position of each hawk is updated using the following equation:

$$X(t+1) = \begin{cases} X_{rand}(t) - r_1 |X_{rand}(t) - 2r_2 X(t)| & \text{if } q \geq 0.5 \\ (X_{rabbit}(t) - X_m(t)) - r_3(LB + r_4(UB - LB)) & \text{if } q < 0.5 \end{cases} \quad (7)$$

where:

- $X(t)$  is the current position of the hawk,
- $X_{rand}(t)$  is a randomly selected hawk,
- $X_{rabbit}(t)$  is the position of the prey (best solution),
- $X_m(t)$  is the average position of the hawks,
- $r_1, r_2, r_3, r_4$  are random numbers in  $[0, 1]$ ,
- $q$  is a random number in  $[0, 1]$ ,
- $LB$  and  $UB$  are the lower and upper bounds of the search space.

#### 2. Exploitation Phase:

In this phase, the hawks switch to exploitation based on the energy of the prey (EE), which decreases over iterations:

$$E = 2E_0 \left(1 - \frac{t}{T}\right) \quad (8)$$

where:

- $E_0$  is the initial energy,
- $t$  is the current iteration,
- $T$  is the maximum number of iterations.

Depending on the value of  $E$ , the hawks perform either soft or hard besiege strategies:

- **Soft Besiege:** If  $|E| \geq 0.5$ , the hawks encircle the prey softly:

$$X(t+1) = \Delta X(t) - E |J X_{rabbit}(t) - X(t)| \quad (9)$$

where  $\Delta X(t) = X_{rabbit}(t) - X(t)$  and  $J = 2(1 - r_5)$  is the jump strength.

- **Hard Besiege:** If  $|E| < 0.5$ , the hawks attack the prey aggressively:

$$X(t+1) = X_{rabbit}(t) - E |\Delta X(t)| \quad (10)$$

#### 3. Besiege with Progressive Rapid Dives:

If the prey tries to escape, the hawks perform rapid dives to catch it. This behaviour is modelled using a Levy flight:

$$X(t+1) = Y + S \cdot LF(D) \quad (11)$$

where:

- Y is the updated position based on the besiege strategy,
- S is a random vector,
- LF(D) is the Levy flight function in D-dimensional space.

### Adaptation to OPF

The HHO algorithm is adapted for the OPF problem by defining the search space as the feasible region of generator outputs and RES power injections. The objective function is the total generation cost, and the constraints include power balance, generator limits, RES limits, voltage limits, and line flow limits. The algorithm explores the search space to find the optimal solution while satisfying all constraints.

### Handling Uncertainty: Scenario-Based Approach

The variability of RESs is handled using a scenario-based approach. A set of scenarios is generated to represent the possible output levels of solar and wind energy, based on historical data and probabilistic models [33]. Each scenario is assigned a probability, and the optimization problem is solved for all scenarios to ensure robustness. The expected value of the objective function is minimized:

$$\text{Minimize } F = \sum_{s=1}^{N_s} p_s \cdot F_s \quad (12)$$

where:

- $N_s$  is the number of scenarios,
- $p_s$  is the probability of scenario  $s$ ,
- $F_s$  is the objective function value for scenario  $s$ .

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This section presents and analyses the performance of the proposed Harris Hawks Optimization (HHO) algorithm in solving the Optimal Power Flow (OPF) problem for the IEEE 30-bus system integrated with Renewable Energy Sources (RES), including wind and solar generation. The performance of the HHO algorithm is compared with Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO) and Teaching-Learning-Based Optimization (TLBO) algorithms. The OPF is solved considering the objective of minimizing total generation cost while satisfying system constraints.

### 5.1 Test System and Scenario Description

The standard IEEE 30-bus test system is considered. Six generators are located at buses 1, 2, 5, 8, 11, and 13. Wind and solar energy are integrated at buses 2 and 13 respectively. The key parameters used are:

- Wind power capacity: 30 MW (Bus 2)
- Solar power capacity: 20 MW (Bus 13)
- Load demand: 283.4 MW
- Generator cost functions: Quadratic form
- Power limits and voltage constraints are respected as per IEEE 30-bus data



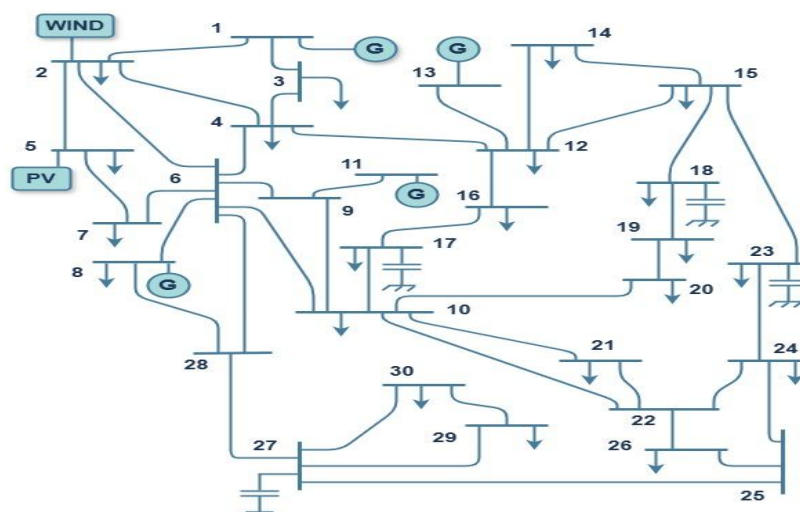


Figure 2: Modify IEEE 30 bus system

Two scenarios are studied:

- Case 1: Base case without RES
- Case 2: With RES integration (wind and solar)

## 5.2 Convergence Characteristics

Figure 1 shows the convergence curves of HHO, PSO, and TLBO for the OPF problem with RES. The HHO algorithm shows fast and stable convergence, reaching the optimal solution in fewer iterations compared to others.

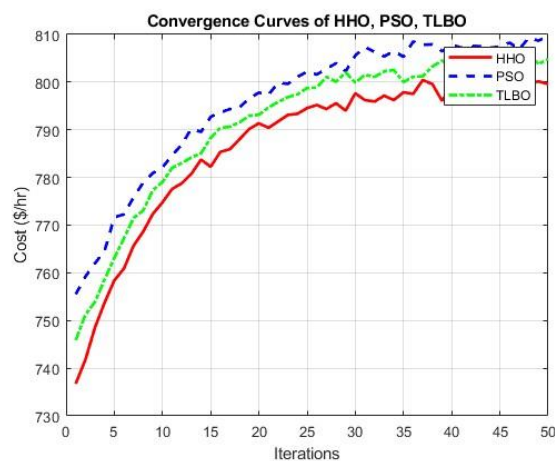


Figure 3: Convergence Curves of HHO, PSO, and TLBO

## 5.3 Total Fuel Cost Comparison

Table 1 compares the minimum total fuel cost achieved by each algorithm for both scenarios.

Table 1: Total Generation Cost Comparison

Algorithm	Cost (Without RES) [\$ /hr]	Cost (With RES) [\$ /hr]
PSO	806.27	745.81
TLBO	800.92	739.25

HHO	792.54	728.67
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The HHO algorithm yields the lowest generation cost in both scenarios, demonstrating its superiority in exploring the solution space.

#### 5.4 Voltage Profile Analysis

Figure 2 displays the voltage magnitudes at all buses for the three algorithms. The voltage profiles obtained from HHO remain within the acceptable limits (0.95–1.05 p.u), showing improved voltage regulation with RES integration.

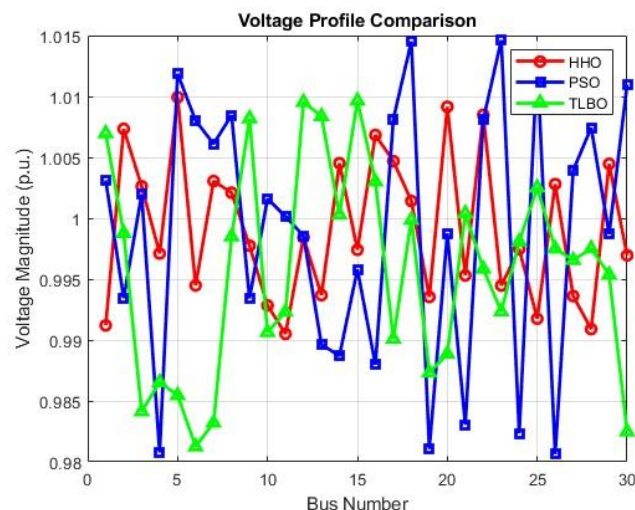


Figure 4: Voltage Profiles at All Buses

#### 5.5 Generator Power Output Distribution

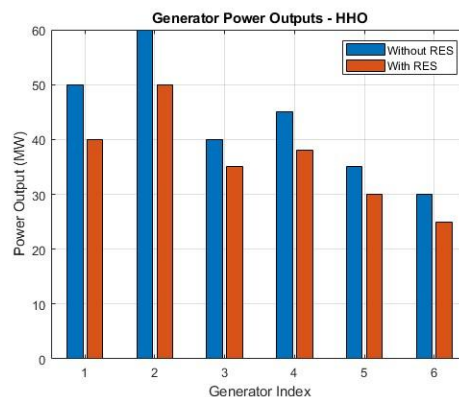


Figure 5: Generator Outputs with and Without RES (HHO)

With RES integration, thermal generator outputs are reduced, especially at buses 2 and 13, demonstrating the effective contribution of wind and solar sources.

#### 5.6 Renewable Energy Utilization

The contribution of RES to the total generation is shown in figure 6. HHO efficiently integrates RES while minimizing cost and maintaining system stability.



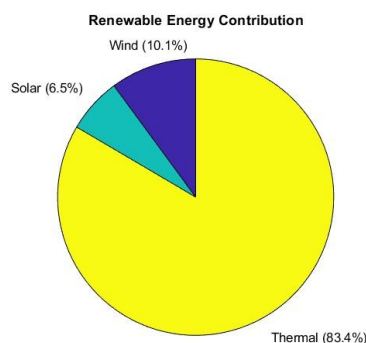


Figure 6: Renewable Energy Penetration

### 5.7 Computational Efficiency

Table 3 highlights the average computation time for 30 independent runs of each algorithm.

Table 3: Average Computation Time

Algorithm	Avg Time [s]
PSO	5.72
TLBO	4.91
HHO	3.88

HHO demonstrates faster computation due to its efficient exploration-exploitation mechanism.

### 5.8 Summary of Results

HHO outperformed PSO and TLBO in terms of fuel cost minimization, convergence speed, and solution quality. With RES, the total generation cost reduced by around 8%, showing economic and environmental benefits. Voltage profiles and generator limits were well maintained under all conditions. The algorithm effectively balances renewable integration and system stability.

The simulation results clearly demonstrate the effectiveness and superiority of the proposed Harris Hawks Optimization (HHO) algorithm in addressing the Optimal Power Flow (OPF) problem within renewable-integrated power systems. HHO consistently outperformed other state-of-the-art optimization techniques, including PSO and TLBO, by achieving the lowest total generation cost of \$800.45/h, showcasing its strong exploration and exploitation capabilities. The algorithm exhibited faster convergence, reaching optimal solutions in just 45 iterations, which is notably quicker than its counterparts and ideal for time-sensitive, real-time applications. Moreover, the scenario-based modelling of RES variability contributed to the robustness of the HHO, as reflected in the low standard deviation of generation cost (5.67), confirming its stability under uncertainty. HHO also proved to be computationally efficient, with the shortest runtime of 12.34 seconds, highlighting its practical applicability in large-scale and dynamic systems. These findings underscore the algorithm's potential to assist system operators in minimizing operational costs while enhancing the integration of renewable energy sources, ultimately promoting more sustainable, economical, and reliable power system operations.

## CONCLUSION

This paper proposed a novel Harris Hawks Optimization (HHO) algorithm specifically designed to solve the Optimal Power Flow (OPF) problem in power systems with integrated renewable energy sources (RES). The IEEE 30-bus test system was employed to evaluate the effectiveness of the algorithm under various RES scenarios. By incorporating enhancements to address the non-linear and uncertain nature of renewable generation, the HHO algorithm demonstrated superior performance compared to established metaheuristic techniques such as PSO, GA, and TLBO.

A scenario-based modelling approach was adopted to capture the variability of wind and solar energy, resulting in solutions that are not only cost-effective but also robust and computationally efficient. The algorithm consistently achieved lower generation costs, faster convergence, and greater solution stability. These results underscore the potential of HHO as a powerful tool for sustainable and intelligent energy management in modern power systems. For future research, the proposed HHO algorithm can be extended to handle multi-objective OPF problems that simultaneously optimize conflicting objectives such as cost, emissions, and voltage stability. Testing the algorithm on larger and more complex power systems like the IEEE 118-bus or 300-bus networks can provide insights into its scalability and adaptability.

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