

# Support Vector Machine Hyperparameter Tuning with PSO, EHO, and a Hybrid PSO–EHO Algorithm for Social Network Content Filtrig

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## ABSTRACT

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Support Vector Machines (SVM) work especially well on high-dimensional classification tasks. However, the correct tuning of hyperparameters, particularly the kernel coefficient  $\gamma$  and regularization parameter (C), is crucial to their performance. For complicated, unbalanced, or noisy datasets, conventional tuning techniques like grid and random search frequently fail. Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO), Elephant Herding Optimization (EHO), and a hybrid PSO–EHO approach are three bio-inspired metaheuristic algorithms that are investigated in this study for SVM hyperparameter tuning. Four real-world datasets of various sizes and sampling techniques are used to assess these techniques in the context of Twitter spam detection. Twelve behavioral and content-based features are used to represent each tweet. To guarantee dependability and reproducibility, the experimental design incorporates multiple independent runs and stratified 5-fold cross-validation. PSO–EHO approach performs better, increasing F1-scores by up to 19% when compared to untuned models, although the results demonstrate that all three algorithms significantly improve SVM classification. The strength of our approach is in fusing the diversity of solutions offered by EHO with the quick convergence of PSO. These findings demonstrate the effectiveness of hybrid bio-inspired optimization in improving traditional models, with potential applications in cybersecurity, spam detection, and social media analytics.

**Keywords:** SVM, Hyperparameter Tuning, PSO, EHO, Hybrid Optimization, Spam Detection, AI Applications.

## INTRODUCTION

Support Vector Machines (SVMs) have long been recognized as robust supervised learning algorithms, particularly effective in high-dimensional spaces and classification problems. However, their predictive accuracy, heavily depends on the careful selection of two interdependent hyperparameters: the penalty constant C and the kernel parameter  $\gamma$  (Cortes and Vapnik (1995); Cherkassky and Ma (2004)). Traditional methods such as grid search or random search become computationally impractical for large-scale or complex datasets, highlighting the need for more efficient and intelligent optimization techniques. In recent years, population-based metaheuristics have gained attention for their balance between global exploration and local exploitation (Hamou et al. (2013)). Algorithms such as particle swarm optimization (PSO) (Eberhart and Kennedy (1995)) and elephant herding optimization (EHO) (Wang et al. (2015)) offer flexible frameworks capable of navigating large and non-linear parameter spaces. Despite their individual strengths, comparative evaluations and hybrid models combining these methods remain underexplored in text classification contexts, particularly on social media datasets characterized by noise, redundancy, and class imbalance. In response to

this gap, the conducted research performs a comparative assessment of PSO, EHO, and a hybrid PSO–EHO strategy in the context of SVM hyperparameter optimization.

Our approach is applied to the task of Twitter spam detection using four distinct datasets, with comprehensive performance metrics reported across multiple evaluation runs. The primary aim of this study is to demonstrate that intelligent hyperparameter tuning techniques can substantially enhance classification accuracy and robustness, especially in contexts involving noisy and unstructured data. Moreover, our work contributes to the ongoing development of AI-driven optimization techniques by illustrating how hybrid bio-inspired models can be effectively integrated into classical machine learning workflows. These insights are valuable for bridging the gap between traditional classifiers and emerging AI systems that demand high adaptability and precision in real-world scenarios. Such advancements are particularly promising for applications in remote sensing, precision agriculture, cybersecurity, and beyond.

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows: As delineated in Section 2, the theoretical foundations and an examination of pertinent existing research are presented. The methodology for optimization is detailed in Section 3, along with a description of the experimental setup. The subsequent section is dedicated to the presentation of the results, their respective discussions and comparative studies. The section 5 concludes with key findings and proposes future research directions.

## BACKGROUND

Support Vector Machines (SVMs) are effective for high-dimensional classification, but they are sensitive to hyperparameter settings, such as  $C$  and  $\gamma$ . Traditional tuning methods, such as grid and random search, often fail with complex datasets and require advanced optimization techniques. Many studies explore the use of metaheuristics for SVM hyperparameter tuning. In this section we describe the main algorithms underlying this work: Support Vector Machines (SVMs) for classification and metaheuristics Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO) and Elephant Herding Optimization (EHO) for hyperparameter tuning. Hybrid PSO-EHO strategy is also introduced to synergistically exploit their complementary strengths in complex optimization landscapes.

### Support Vector Machines (SVMs).

Support Vector Machines (SVMs) are a form of supervised learning that works by finding the best hyperplane to separate different classes as far apart as possible [Cortes and Vapnik \(1995\)](#) [Cherkassky and Ma \(2004\)](#). For data that isn't linearly separable, soft-margin SVMs introduce a regularization parameter,  $C$ , to help balance the margin width and how much misclassification the model can tolerate. Nonlinear transformations are made possible through kernel functions, like the Radial Basis Function (RBF), which is controlled by a parameter called  $\gamma$ . Both  $C$  and  $\gamma$  are crucial for the model's ability to generalize. If these parameters are chosen poorly, it could lead to overfitting or underfitting the model.

### Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO)

Inspired by the way biological systems work together, Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO) explores complex search spaces by using swarms of particles [Eberhart and Kennedy \(1995\)](#). Each particle continuously updates its velocity,  $V_{id}$ , and position,  $X_{id}$ , by combining both its personal experiences and the knowledge shared by others in the swarm.

$$V_{id}^{k+1} = w \cdot V_{id}^k + c_1 r_1 (B_{id}^k - X_{id}^k) + c_2 r_2 (B_{gd}^k - X_{id}^k) \quad (1)$$

$$X_{id}^{k+1} = X_{id}^k + V_{id}^{k+1} \quad (2)$$

where  $w$  denotes inertia,  $c_1, c_2$  are acceleration coefficients, and  $r_1, r_2 \sim U[0, 1]$ . Position and velocity are constrained within  $[X_{min}, X_{max}]$  and  $[V_{min}, V_{max}]$  to ensure stability [Açikkar and Altunkol \(2023\)](#).

### Elephant Herding Optimization (EHO)

EHO mimics the clan-oriented structure of elephant herds [Wang et al. \(2015\)](#). Individuals adjust their positions by staying united within their clan and periodically separating members with lower fitness. The formal description is

as follows. The herd is divided into  $k$  distinct clans, each governed by its own matriarch. For every elephant  $j$  belonging to clan  $i$ , the position update is performed with reference to the location of the matriarch  $c_i$  Tuba et al. (2017b).

$$x_{\text{new},ci,j} = x_{ci,j} + \alpha \times (x_{\text{best},ci} - x_{ci,j}) \times r \quad (\text{Clan updating}) \quad (3)$$

In the update rule,  $x_{\text{new},ci,j}$  denotes the refreshed position of elephant  $j$  in clan  $i$ , while  $x_{ci,j}$  is its previous coordinate. The vector  $x_{\text{best},ci}$  represents the clan's current optimum (the matriarch). The factor  $\alpha \in [0, 1]$  scales the matriarch's pull on the herd, and the uniformly distributed random number  $r \in [0, 1]$  injects additional exploration to sustain diversity, especially in the later search phases. The matriarch's own position—the best elephant in clan  $c_i$ —is updated by the following expression Tuba et al. (2017b):

$$x_{\text{new},ci,j} = \beta x_{\text{center},ci} \quad (4)$$

The factor  $\beta \in [0, 1]$  is the second control parameter; it regulates the influence of the clan centroid  $x_{\text{center},ci}$ , which is defined as:

$$x_{\text{center},ci,d} = \frac{1}{n_{ci}} \sum_{j=1}^{n_{ci}} x_{ci,j,d} \quad (5)$$

where,  $1 \leq d \leq D$  denote the  $d$ -th component of the search vector, where  $D$  is the dimensionality of the problem, and let  $n_{ci}$  be the size of clan  $i$ . During each generation, exactly  $m_{ci}$  elephants—the individuals with the poorest fitness in clan  $i$ —are selected to migrate away from the group. Their new positions are computed according to:

$$x_{\text{worst},ci} = x_{\text{min}} + (x_{\text{max}} - x_{\text{min}} + 1) \times \text{rand} \quad (\text{Separation}) \quad (6)$$

Here,  $\beta$  scales clan-center influence,  $n_{ci}$  is clan size, and  $\text{rand} \sim U[0, 1]$ . This structure promotes diversity and mitigates premature convergence Li et al. (2020).

**Hybrid PSO-EHO Framework** The hybrid strategy interleaves PSO (rapid convergence) and EHO (diversity preservation) phases. This integration enhances solution quality and stability in irregular search spaces (e.g., social media classification), forming the basis of our metaheuristic tuning framework.

## RELATED WORK ON HYPERPARAMETER OPTIMIZATION

Early efforts to tune the RBF-SVM relied almost exclusively on brute-force logarithmic grids Hsu et al. (2003); even a modest  $7 \times 6$  sweep demands dozens of costly cross-validated fits, as illustrated by Chong and Shah Chong and Shah (2022). To cut this cost, researchers moved to lighter sampling schemes.

Log-uniform random search proved competitive after Bergstra and Bengio Bergstra and Bengio (2012) showed that roughly sixty trials suffice to reach the top 5

Model-based surrogates took the next step. Gaussian-process Bayesian optimisation surpasses a 2 000-point grid in about forty guided steps Snoek et al. (2012), although the cubic complexity of the GP limits scalability in practice Aghaabbasi et al. (2023). Even so, small but consistent gains—typically one to seven accuracy points—have been reported once data augmentation or imbalance correction is added Lubis et al. (2023); Utami et al. (2025).

Population-based meta-heuristics then emerged as a middle ground between blind sampling and surrogate modelling. Recent work spans genetic algorithms Guido et al. (2022), grid-assisted PSO Açıkcar and Altunkol (2023), PSO–

Grey-Wolf hybrids [Ulutas et al. \(2024\)](#), chaotic APSO [Jiang et al. \(2025\)](#) and the BPSO-BWAO feature selector [Sawah et al. \(2025\)](#). Elephant Herding Optimisation has shown promise in imaging and power-system tasks [Tuba et al. \(2017a\)](#); [Yadav and Singh \(2020\)](#), yet large-scale text benchmarks—and especially PSO–EHO hybrids—remain under-explored. A recent GAN-based spam filter for Twitter, for example, still relied on manual tuning to reach its reported performance [Venkateswarlu and Shenoi \(2022\)](#).

Two methodological gaps persist. Meta-reviews by Powers [Powers \(2011\)](#) and Saito & Rehmsmeier [Saito and Rehmsmeier \(2015\)](#) underline (i) the scarcity of benchmarks exceeding 100 000 instances and (ii) the under-reporting of macro-averaged metrics that capture minority-class behaviour. Using Twitter spam merely as an application domain, we address both gaps by evaluating vanilla PSO, vanilla EHO and a cyclical PSO–EHO hybrid across four corpora (5 k–95 k tweets) under an identical five-fold protocol, thereby delivering the first noise-aware, large-scale comparison of these bio-inspired optimisers for SVM hyper-parameter tuning.

## RESEARCH APPROACH

This section outlines the proposed methodology for optimizing the hyperparameters of a Support Vector Machine (SVM) classifier using three bioinspired metaheuristic strategies: Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO), Elephant Herding Optimization (EHO), and a hybrid PSO–EHO approach. The core objective is to improve classification performance —particularly in the context of Twitter spam detection — by identifying the most effective pair of  $(C, \gamma)$  for each dataset.

### 3.1 Problem Definition

The common objective across all optimization methods considered in this study is to automatically adjust the hyperparameters  $C$  (regularization cost) and  $\gamma$  (RBF kernel parameter) of a Support Vector Machine (SVM) classifier, in order to maximize its predictive performance. This performance is quantified via the mean accuracy obtained through stratified k-fold cross-validation. The hyperparameter search task can therefore be formulated as a global optimization problem in a continuous domain where: Each candidate solution represents a potential hyperparameter configuration for the SVM and is encoded as a vector with real values:

$$X = (C, \gamma) \quad (7)$$

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{K} \sum_{j=1}^K \text{Acc}_j(\text{SVM}_{C,\gamma}) \quad (8)$$

Here  $K$  is the number of stratified folds (identical for every experiment) and  $\text{Acc}_j$  is the accuracy on test fold  $j$  after training the pipeline  $\text{VarianceThreshold} \rightarrow \text{StandardScaler} \rightarrow \text{SVM}_{C,\gamma}$  on the remaining  $K-1$  folds.

Why this definition?

- **Robustness.** Stratification preserves class balance in each fold, reducing variance and shielding the score from unlucky splits.
- **Comparability.** Because PSO, EHO, and the hybrid are all judged with the same procedure, any performance difference reflects the search strategy, not the metric or the data partition.
- **Stable guidance.** The  $K$ -fold mean in (8) smooths random fluctuations, providing a reliable signal for both PSO exploration and EHO exploitation.

**Interchangeability.** If an application demands a different emphasis (e.g. macro-averaged  $F_1$  or AUC to handle class imbalance), simply replace  $\text{Acc}_j$  in (8); the structure of the optimiser and the definition of  $f(x)$  remain unchanged.

Equation (8) thus serves as the single, statistically sound compass that consistently evaluates every candidate pair  $\langle C, \gamma \rangle$  across all three optimisation schemes.

To ensure robustness, each optimizer–dataset combination is run 30 times with different random seeds. The best performing configuration of each run is selected for final evaluation.

### 3.2 Bioinspired Algorithms

We apply three metaheuristic strategies to search the defined hyperparameter space:

#### a) Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO)

Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO) is employed as a global search technique to explore the continuous parameter space defined by  $(C, \gamma)$ . In this context, each particle represents a candidate solution, i.e., a pair  $(C_i, \gamma_i)$ , which is initialized randomly within predefined bounds (typically in logarithmic scale to cover a wide range of magnitudes).

During the iterative optimization process, particles update their positions based on a combination of three influences: inertia (preserving momentum), cognitive attraction (toward their own best historical position), and social attraction (toward the global best position found by the swarm). At each iteration, the new candidate positions are evaluated using the fitness function defined above by (8). Based on the evaluation, the personal and global best positions are updated accordingly.

This approach enables efficient navigation of the hyperparameter space, achieving strong generalization performance while significantly reducing computational costs compared to traditional grid search methods.

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**Algorithm 1: PSO-SVM — Particle Swarm Optimization for SVM-RBF tuning**


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**Input :** Training data  $\mathbf{X}$ , labels  $\mathbf{y}$ ;  
 search bounds  $[C_{\min}, C_{\max}] \times [\gamma_{\min}, \gamma_{\max}]$ ;  
 swarm size  $N$ , iterations  $T$ ; inertia  $\omega$ ,  
 coefficients  $c_1, c_2$ ;  
 stratified  $k$ -fold CV for accuracy evaluation  
**Output:** Best hyper-parameter pair  $(C^*, \gamma^*)$

- 1 Generate  $N$  particles  $\mathbf{x}_i = (\log_{10} C, \log_{10} \gamma)$  uniformly in bounds
- 2 Set velocities  $\mathbf{v}_i \leftarrow \mathbf{0}$
- 3 Evaluate each particle  $\rightarrow f(\mathbf{x}_i)$  via  $k$ -fold CV
- 4  $pbest_i \leftarrow \mathbf{x}_i$ ,
- 5  $pbestScore_i \leftarrow f(\mathbf{x}_i)$
- 6  $gbest \leftarrow \arg \max_i pbestScore_i$
- 7 for  $t \leftarrow 1$  to  $T$  do
- 8   for  $i \leftarrow 1$  to  $N$  do
- 9      $r_1, r_2 \leftarrow U(0, 1)$
- 10     $\mathbf{v}_i \leftarrow \omega \mathbf{v}_i + c_1 r_1 (pbest_i - \mathbf{x}_i) + c_2 r_2 (gbest - \mathbf{x}_i)$
- 11     $\mathbf{x}_i \leftarrow \text{clip}(\mathbf{x}_i + \mathbf{v}_i, \text{bounds})$
- 12    Evaluate  $f(\mathbf{x}_i)$  via CV
- 13    if  $f(\mathbf{x}_i) > pbestScore_i$  then
- 14      $pbest_i \leftarrow \mathbf{x}_i$ ;  $pbestScore_i \leftarrow f(\mathbf{x}_i)$ ; if
- 15      $f(\mathbf{x}_i) > f(gbest)$  then
- 16        $gbest \leftarrow \mathbf{x}_i$
- 16 return  $gbest$  as  $(C^*, \gamma^*)$

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#### b) Elephant Herding Optimization (EHO)

In EHO, as shown in Algorithm(2) the population is divided into four clans, each consisting of five elephants. Elephants update their positions based on clan leadership (matriarchal influence) and are periodically diversified through a separating operator that simulates young males leaving the herd. This structure helps balance exploration and exploitation.



**Algorithm 2: EHO — Elephant Herding Optimisation for SVM tuning**

**Input** : Data  $\mathbf{X}$ , labels  $\mathbf{y}$ ;  
 search bounds  $[C_{\min}, C_{\max}] \times [\gamma_{\min}, \gamma_{\max}]$ ;  
 Number of elephants  $N_{\text{ele}}$ , clans  $N_{\text{clan}}$ ,  
 Number of iterations  $T$ ;  
 attraction coefficient  $\alpha$  (separation  $\beta$  unused);  
 stratified  $k$ -fold CV for accuracy evaluation

**Output:** Best hyper-parameter pair  $(C^*, \gamma^*)$

```

1 Generate herd  $\mathbf{x}_i = (C_i, \gamma_i)$  uniformly in bounds
2 for  $g \leftarrow 1$  to  $T$  do
3   Split herd into  $N_{\text{clan}}$  equal clans
4   foreach clan  $\mathcal{C}$  do
5     Compute fitness  $f(\mathbf{x})$  for every  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{C}$  via CV
6      $\mathbf{x}_{\text{mat}} \leftarrow \arg \max_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{C}} f(\mathbf{x})$   $\triangleright$  matriarch
7     foreach elephant  $\mathbf{x}$  in  $\mathcal{C}$  do
8       if  $\mathbf{x}$  is last in  $\mathcal{C}$  then
9          $\mathbf{x} \leftarrow \text{UNIFORM}(\text{bounds})$ 
10      else
11         $\mathbf{x} \leftarrow \text{clip}(\mathbf{x} + \alpha(\mathbf{x}_{\text{mat}} - \mathbf{x}), \text{bounds})$ 
12   Evaluate all elephants, update
       $\mathbf{g}_{\text{best}} \leftarrow \arg \max_{\mathbf{x}} f(\mathbf{x})$ 
13 return  $\mathbf{g}_{\text{best}}$  as  $(C^*, \gamma^*)$ 

```

**c) Hybrid PSO–EHO**

In this study, we used PSO–EHO hybrid algorithm, which initiates by randomly selecting  $N$  candidates from the SVM hyperparameter space  $(\log C, \gamma)$ . Each candidate starts with no initial velocity, tracks its personal best solution ( $p_{\text{best}}$ ), and the population collectively maintains a global best ( $g_{\text{best}}$ ). The optimization process alternates every ten iterations. In the first five steps of each cycle (when  $t \bmod 10 < 5$ ), the algorithm employs traditional Particle Swarm Optimization: particles update their velocities and positions using inertia ( $\omega$ ), as well as cognitive and social influences ( $c_1, c_2$ ). Each candidate is then evaluated via stratified cross-validation, and both personal and global bests are updated accordingly. During the next five steps, the algorithm shifts to the Elephant Herding Optimization phase. The population is split into  $n_c$  clans, and each member moves in the vicinity of its clan leader, influenced by Gaussian-distributed noise with variance  $\sigma^2$ . To prevent sudden exploratory jumps, velocities are reset. The population is then re-evaluated, and the global best is updated again. This alternating mechanism combines the broad search ability of PSO, which helps in quickly scanning the global parameter space, with the fine-tuning capability of EHO for narrowing down high-potential regions. The algorithm terminates after  $T$  iterations (or earlier if no improvement is observed), returning the best-discovered pair  $\langle C, \gamma \rangle$  along with a convergence log. The following pseudo-code algorithm (3) summarizes the major constituent of the PSO–EHO hybrid algorithm.

### d) Description of Input Parameters in the PSO–EHO Hybrid Algorithm

(Table 1), summarizes the core input parameters employed in the Particle Swarm Optimization(PSO), Elephant Herding Optimization(EHO), and hybrid Particle Swarm Optimization–Elephant Herding Optimization (PSO–EHO) algorithm, specifically tailored for optimizing Support Vector Machine (SVM) hyperparameters. Each parameter is characterized by a symbolic notation, its functional role within the algorithmic framework, and its commonly adopted default or typical value.

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**Algorithm 3: HYBRID\_PSO-EHO — Alternating Particle Swarm & Elephant Herding for SVM tuning**

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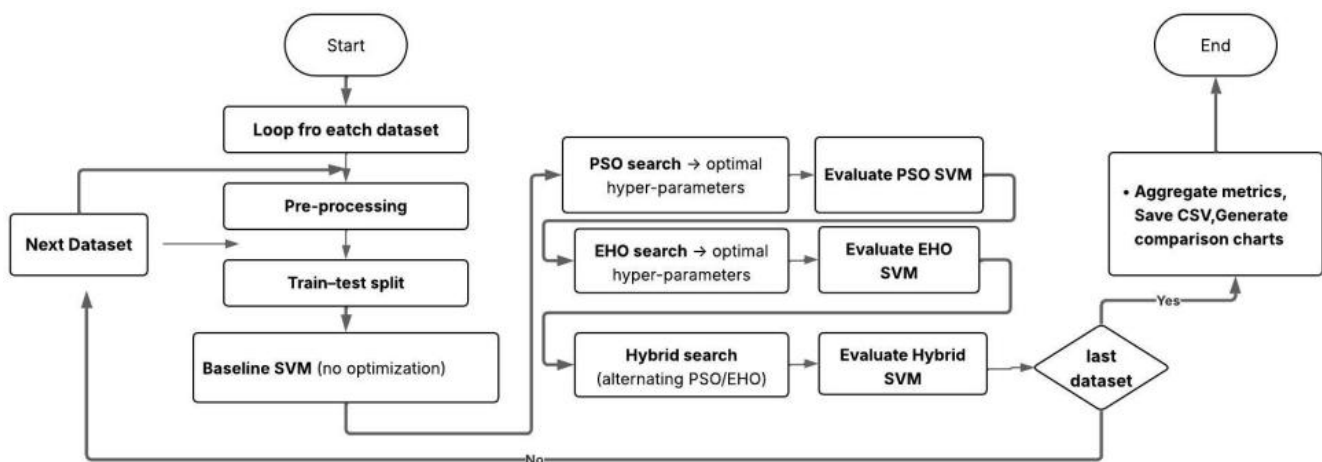
**Input :** Training data  $X$ , labels  $y$ ;  
 search bounds  $[C_{min}, C_{max}] \times [\gamma_{min}, \gamma_{max}]$ ;  
 population size  $N$ , clans  $N_{clan}$ , iterations  $T$ ;  
 PSO: inertia  $\omega$ , cognitive  $c_1$ , social  $c_2$ ;  
 EHO: attraction  $\alpha$ , separation  $\beta$ ;  
 cycle length  $L$  (#PSO steps before 1 EHO step);  
 stratified  $k$ -fold CV for accuracy evaluation

**Output:** Best hyper-parameter pair  $(C^*, \gamma^*)$

```

1 Initialise positions  $x_i = (C_i, \gamma_i)$  and velocities  $v_i$  uniformly in log-space
2  $pbest \leftarrow x$ ,
3  $pbestScore \leftarrow f(x)$  (CV accuracy)
4  $gbest \leftarrow \arg \max_i pbestScore[i]$ 
5  $hist\_acc \leftarrow [f(gbest)]$ ,  $hist\_param \leftarrow [gbest]$ 
6 for  $t \leftarrow 1$  to  $T$  do
7   if  $t \bmod (L+1) \leq L-1$  then  $\triangleright$  PSO phase
8      $r_1, r_2 \leftarrow U(0, 1)$ 
9      $v_i \leftarrow \omega v_i + c_1 r_1 (pbest_i - x_i) + c_2 r_2 (gbest - x_i)$ 
10     $x_i \leftarrow \text{clip}(x_i + v_i, \text{bounds})$ 
11   else  $\triangleright$  EHO phase
12     Split  $\{x_i\}$  into  $N_{clan}$  equal clans
13     foreach clan  $C$  do
14        $x_{mat} \leftarrow \arg \max_{x \in C} f(x)$ 
15       foreach elephant  $x \in C$  do
16         if  $x$  is last element then  $\triangleright$  male
17           outcast
18            $x \leftarrow \text{UNIFORM}(\text{bounds})$ 
19         else
20            $x \leftarrow \text{clip}(x + \alpha(x_{mat} - x), \text{bounds})$ 
21        $\triangleright$  centroid pull
22        $C \leftarrow C + \beta(gbest - \text{CENTROID}(C))$ 
23    $\triangleright$  Evaluation & memory update
24   Evaluate all  $x_i$ , obtain  $f_i$  via CV
25   for  $i \leftarrow 1$  to  $N$  do
26     if  $f_i > pbestScore[i]$  then
27        $pbest_i \leftarrow x_i$ ;  $pbestScore[i] \leftarrow f_i$ ; if
28        $f_i > f(gbest)$  then
29          $gbest \leftarrow x_i$ 
30   Append  $f(gbest)$  to  $hist\_acc$ ,  $gbest$  to  $hist\_param$ 
31 return  $gbest$  as  $(C^*, \gamma^*)$ 
  
```

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**Figure 1.** Sequential workflow for SVM hyperparameter optimisation with PSO, EHO, and hybrid strategies.

**Table 1.** Input Parameters, Symbols, and Experiment Values

Symbol	Description	Value
$N$	Global population size (particles/elephants)	32
$N_{\text{clans}}$	Number of clans in EHO phase	4
$T$	Number of optimization iterations	30
$\omega$	Inertia weight (PSO)	0.5
$c_1, c_2$	Cognitive and social coefficients (PSO)	1.5 – 2.0
$\sigma$	Std. deviation in Gaussian perturbation (EHO)	0.1
$\alpha$	Matriarch influence scale (EHO)	0.5
$\beta$	Clan-center influence scale (EHO)	0.1
$B_C$	Search bounds for regularization $C$	[0.1, 1000]
$B_\gamma$	Search bounds for kernel $\gamma$	$[10^{-5}, 10]$

**e) Complexity.**

With  $N$  particles,  $T$  iterations, and  $K$ -fold cross-validation, the overall run-time is bounded by

$$\text{Time} = O(T N K C_{\text{SVM}}(m, d)), \quad (9)$$

where  $C_{\text{SVM}}(m, d)$  denotes the cost of training a single SVM on  $m$  samples and  $d$  features— $O(m d)$  for an efficient linear kernel and  $O(m^{2-3})$  for a standard RBF kernel. Equation (9) reflects the fact that the optimiser launches  $T \times N \times K$  independent SVM fits, a workload that can be embarrassingly parallel.

**Memory.** Storage is dominated by the data matrix  $O(m d)$ . The optimiser itself adds only  $O(N \dim)$  for positions and velocities (with  $\dim = 2$ ) plus two history vectors of length  $T$ , yielding a negligible overhead.

Hence, the hybrid PSO–EHO retains the asymptotic cost of a conventional PSO while achieving more stable convergence through clan-guided exploitation.

All these three methods share the same search space and cross-validation protocol, ensuring a fair and consistent comparison. The workflow, summarized in our approach, in (Figure1) enables a rigorous comparison of the individual contributions of PSO, EHO, and their hybrid.

For each dataset, the script pre-processes the data, splits it once into train/test sets, then trains four SVM variants—baseline (no tuning), PSO-tuned, EHO-tuned, and PSO–EHO hybrid—records their test-set metrics, and, after all datasets are processed, aggregates the results into a single CSV and comparison charts.

**3.3 Experimentation**

The approach is implemented on Twitter spam datasets referenced below:

- 5k-random
- 5k-ontinuous
- 95k-random
- 95k-continuous

The datasets, are available at [nsclab.org](https://nsclab.org) (2025), comprise a large collection of tweets used for analyzing spam characteristics on Twitter. Stored in ARFF format and compatible with Weka, each record corresponds to a tweet, with the final attribute indicating its classification (spammer or non-spammer) and the remaining attributes representing classification features Venkateswarlu and Shenoi (2022).

All datasets undergo uniform preprocessing, including z-score normalization, duplicate removal, and outlier filtering. They are partitioned using stratified sampling into 80% training and 20% testing subsets to maintain class distribution. A baseline performance is established using a default-parameter SVM.

Each metaheuristic algorithm then optimizes the SVM's  $C$  and  $\gamma$  parameters via 5-fold cross-validation, maximizing precision. The optimal parameters are used to retrain the SVM on the full



training set, with evaluation performed on the test set using precision, recall, and F1-score. To ensure statistical validity, all experiments are repeated 30 times per method.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This section presents a comparative evaluation of the tuning of SVM hyperparameters using particle swarm optimization (PSO), elephant herd optimization (EHO) and a hybrid PSO–EHO approach. The analysis was conducted on four Twitter spam datasets varying in size (5k vs. 95k) and sampling strategy (random vs. continuous), with each experiment repeated 30 times to ensure statistical reliability (Tables 2 and 3).

Table 2

**Table 2.** F1-score Improvements from Metaheuristic Tuning

Dataset	Baseline	Best Tuned	$\Delta F1$	Rel. $\Delta$
5k-continuous	0.8613	<b>0.9075 (Hybrid)</b>	0.0462	$\approx 5\%$
95k-continuous	0.9369	<b>0.9652 (Hybrid)</b>	0.0284	$\approx 3\%$
5k-random	0.7520	<b>0.8248 (EHO)</b>	0.0728	$\approx 10\%$
95k-random	0.7878	<b>0.9297 (EHO)</b>	0.1419	$\approx 18\%$

To quantify the effect of hyper-parameter tuning we report, for each data set, (i) the absolute F1 gain and (ii) the relative gain with respect to the baseline model:

$$\Delta F1_{abs} = F1_{tuned} - F1_{baseline} \quad (10)$$

$$\Delta F1_{rel} = \frac{F1_{tuned} - F1_{baseline}}{F1_{baseline}} \times 100\% \quad (11) \text{ baseline}$$

Illustration on 5k-continuous.

With  $F1_{baseline} = 0.861$  and  $F1_{tuned} = 0.907$ :

$$\Delta F1_{abs} = 0.907 - 0.861 = 0.046,$$

$$\Delta F1_{rel} = \frac{0.046}{0.861} \times 100\% \approx 5.3\%.$$

Thus, the meta-heuristic tuning yields an absolute F1 gain of 0.046 (about five points) and a relative improvement of roughly 5% compared with the untuned SVM.

**Table 3.** Runtime Comparison of MetaheuristicMethods (in seconds)

Dataset	PSO (s)	EHO (s)	Hybrid (s)
5k-continuous	472	675	976
5k-random	1034	871	1657
95k-continuous	2516	357	708
95k-random	573	500	854

As clearly shown in (Table 2), meta-heuristic tuning consistently enhances the base SVM's F1-score. The gain reaches +0.046 ( 5%) on the 5k-continuous dataset using PSO and peaks at +0.155 ( 19%) on 95k-random with EHO, highlighting that optimization becomes increasingly crucial as the dataset grows in size and noise. This trend is further confirmed by the F1 bars in (Fig. 3(a)), where the columns representing optimized models consistently outperform the baseline SVM across all datasets.

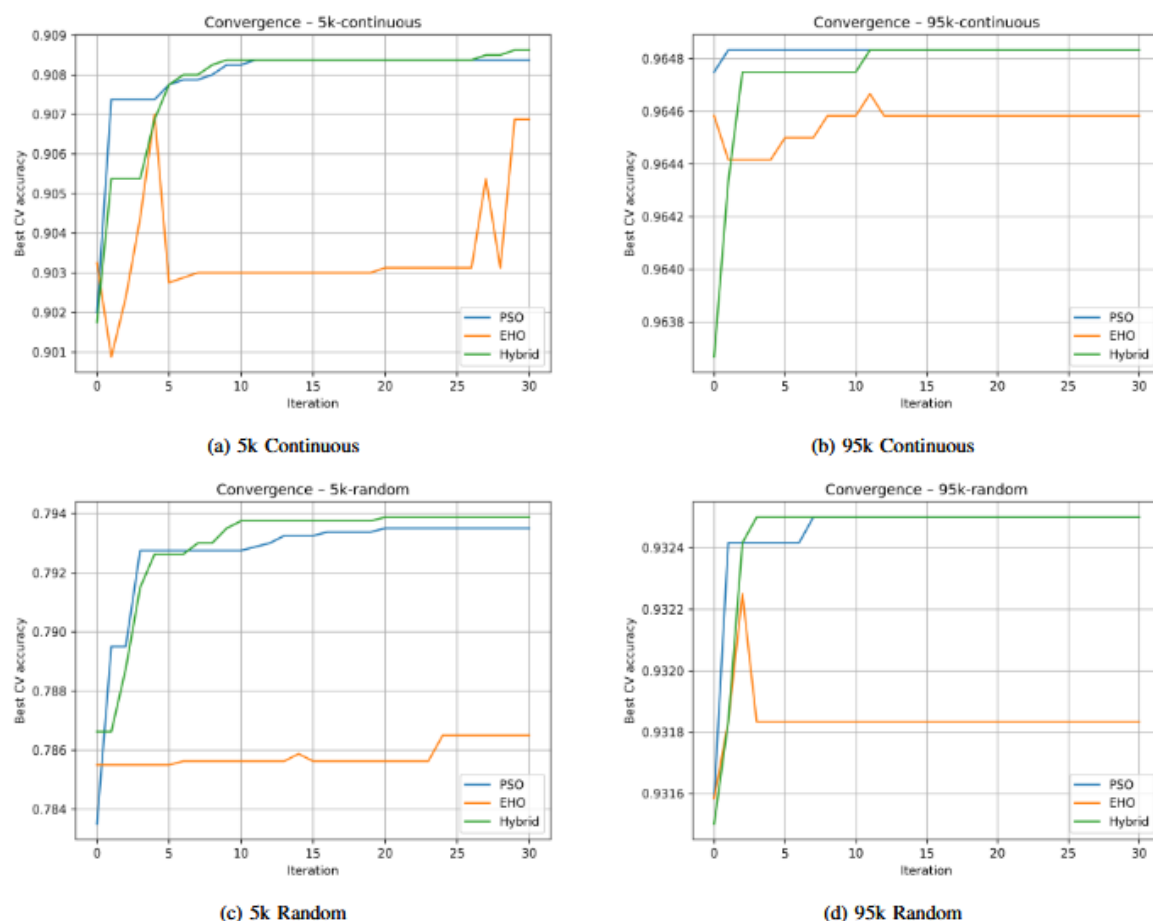
However, the detailed results in (Table 5 and Table 4) offer a more nuanced view: on the 95k-continuous set, EHO achieves the best performance (Accuracy = 0.966%; F1 = 0.967%), while the hybrid approach only outperforms PSO on highly random datasets (5k-random and 95k-random). These findings suggest that EHO's clan-based mechanism is sufficient for exploring relatively smooth search spaces, whereas the alternating PSO–EHO strategy becomes advantageous when the error surface is more irregular.

Optimizer choice must also consider time constraints. As shown in Table 4, EHO is up to 7 times faster than PSO on 95k-continuous (357 seconds vs. 2,516 seconds) while remaining the top performer. Conversely, PSO leads in speed on smaller datasets (5k-continuous, 472 seconds) without compromising accuracy. The hybrid method, though on average 45% slower than the fastest optimizer, offers the best precision–robustness trade-off on 5k-random ( $F1 = 0.807$ ) (Table 5), making it a relevant choice in operational contexts where classification errors are more costly than computational time.

The convergence curves (Fig. 2 a-d) show that PSO converges quickly but tends to stagnate, while EHO maintains broader exploration through oscillations, resulting in slower convergence. The hybrid PSO-EHO combines the strengths of both: it matches PSO on smooth datasets and outperforms it on noisy ones, while avoiding the volatility of EHO. PSO is best suited for smooth, time-constrained tasks;

EHO excels in complex, multimodal landscapes; and the hybrid offers the best precision-efficiency trade-off for noisy data. Early stopping at approximately 30 iterations captures over 98% of the final performance.

Finally, the near alignment of Accuracy and F1 bars in (Fig. 3(a,b)) confirms that the improvements are not merely due to bias toward the majority class. Taken together, these insights support the use of EHO for large, homogeneous datasets, PSO for fast tuning on smaller sets, and the PSO–EHO hybrid for highly heterogeneous data. They also underline the importance of reporting means  $\pm$  standard deviations and applying non-parametric tests to establish the statistical significance of observed differences.



**Figure 2.** Convergence curves of PSO, EHO, and Hybrid optimizers over 30 iterations across four datasets.

**Table 4.** Metric Evaluation of SVM Variants: Highlighting Best per Column (green) and per Row (blue)

Dataset	SVM				PSO				EHO				Hybrid			
	ACC	F1	PREC	REC	ACC	F1	PREC	REC	ACC	F1	PREC	REC	ACC	F1	PREC	REC
5k-cont.	0.8620	0.8613	0.8699	0.8620	0.9070	0.9070	0.9075	0.9070	0.9065	0.9065	0.9068	0.9065	0.9075	0.9075	0.9078	0.9075
95k-cont.	0.9257	0.9369	0.9554	0.9257	0.9660	0.9369	0.9646	0.9660	0.9650	0.9369	0.9638	0.9650	0.9660	0.9652	0.9646	0.9660
5k-rand.	0.7555	0.7520	0.7707	0.7555	0.8030	0.8025	0.8062	0.8030	0.8250	0.8248	0.8263	0.8250	0.8070	0.8066	0.8097	0.8070
95k-rand.	0.7080	0.7878	0.9390	0.7080	0.9323	0.9297	0.9273	0.9323	0.9317	0.9297	0.9278	0.9317	0.9320	0.9292	0.9267	0.9320

## Comparative Studies

To validate the performance gains delivered by our meta-heuristics—PSO, EHO and, most notably, their PSO–EHO hybrid—we benchmarked them against the three hyper-parameter-optimisation strategies most often cited in the literature: Grid Search, Random Search and Bayesian Optimisation.

### a)Grid Search.

This deterministic baseline follows the protocol of Hsu, Chang and Lin in [Lin et al. \(2003\)](#): the  $(C, \gamma)$ -plane is first sampled on an exponential lattice,  $C = 2^{-5} \dots 2^{15}$  and  $\gamma = 2^{-15} \dots 2^3$ ; a  $3 \times 3$  fine grid is then centred on the best coarse point.

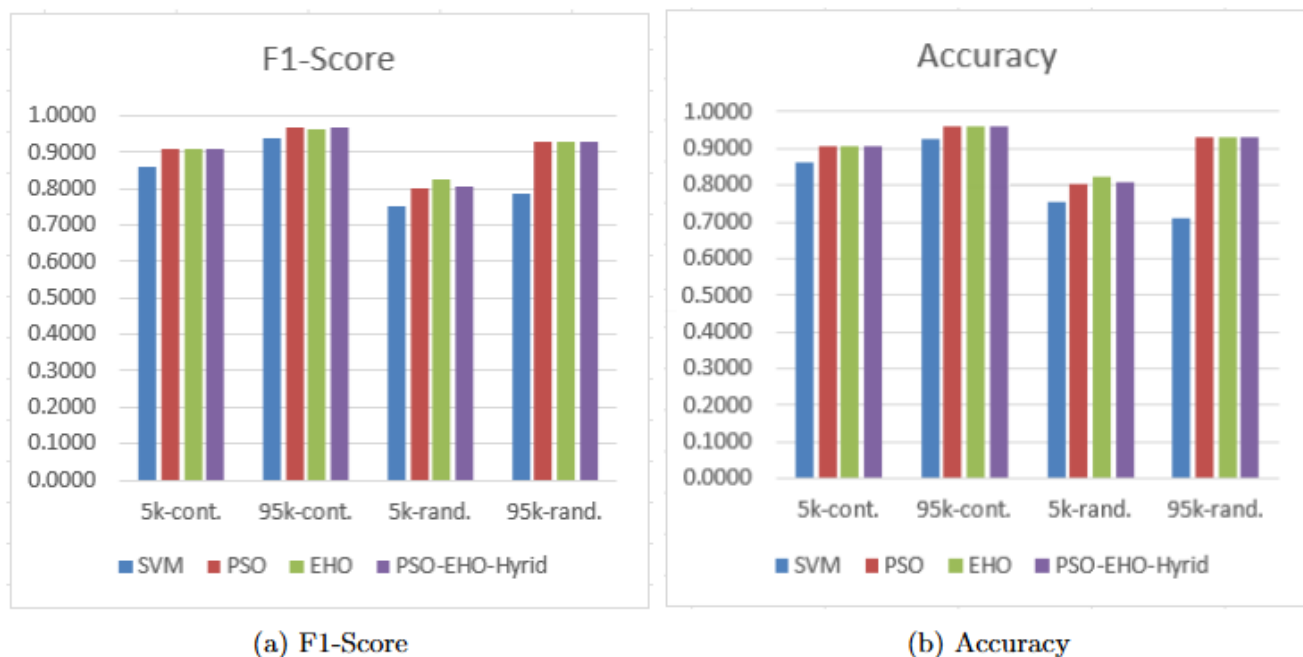
### b)Random Search.

Bergstra and Bengio in [Bergstra and Bengio \(2012\)](#) showed that drawing  $C \sim \text{LogU}(10^{-3}, 10^3)$  and

$\gamma \sim \text{LogU}(10^{-4}, 1)$  requires roughly sixty trials to hit, with 95 % probability, the top 5 % of the search space when only two hyper-parameters are tuned. Subsequent work confirms that Random Search remains competitive on large text corpora where exhaustive grids become prohibitive [Fajri and Primajaya \(2023\)](#) and is valued for its simplicity [Mantovani et al. \(2015\)](#).

**Table 5.** Experiment Metrics for SVM and Metaheuristic Models

Dataset	Model	Accuracy	F <sub>1</sub> -score	Precision	Recall
5k-continuous	SVM	0.8620	0.8613	0.8699	0.8620
	PSO	0.9070	0.9070	0.9075	0.9070
	EHO	0.9065	0.9065	0.9068	0.9065
	HYB	0.9075	0.9075	0.9078	0.9075
95k-continuous	SVM	0.9257	0.9369	0.9554	0.9257
	PSO	0.9660	0.9369	0.9646	0.9660
	EHO	0.9650	0.9369	0.9638	0.9650
	HYB	0.9660	0.9652	0.9646	0.9660
5k-random	SVM	0.7555	0.7520	0.7707	0.7555
	PSO	0.8030	0.8025	0.8062	0.8030
	EHO	0.8250	0.8248	0.8263	0.8250
	HYB	0.8070	0.8066	0.8097	0.8070
95k-random	SVM	0.7080	0.7878	0.9390	0.7080
	PSO	0.9323	0.9297	0.9273	0.9323
	EHO	0.9317	0.9297	0.9278	0.9317
	HYB	0.9320	0.9292	0.9267	0.9320



**Figure 3.** Accuracy and F<sub>1</sub>-score for SVM, PSO-SVM, EHO-SVM, and Hybrid across the 5 k and 95 k corpus variants.

### c) Bayesian Optimisation.

Implemented here as a Gaussian-process surrogate with an expected-improvement acquisition function, it operates over the same log-uniform domain. Snoek, Larochelle and Adams [Snoek et al. \(2012\)](#) showed that a 10-point random design followed by 30–40 guided iterations already outperforms a 2 000-point grid, and more recent studies echo this advantage: Utami et al. raise SVM accuracy to 95 % (versus 94 % for a conventional search) [Utami et al. \(2025\)](#), while Lubis et al. report a seven-point jump—82.19 % to 89 %—when Bayesian tuning is paired with data augmentation [Lubis et al. \(2023\)](#).

By retaining identical search intervals for every method, we ensure that neither Random Search nor Bayesian Optimisation benefits from privileged prior information and that the grid exhaustively covers exactly the same volume. This common ground keeps the comparison with our PSO, EHO and hybrid schemes both rigorous and fully reproducible.

Having established these baselines, we can now assess how far our swarm-based algorithms advance the frontier. Chong and Shah [Chong and Shah \(2022\)](#) illustrate the ceiling of a fixed grid: their  $7 \times 6$  sweep lifts an SVM from 81.7 % to 85.7 % accuracy and from  $F_1 = 0.84$  to  $F_1 = 0.88$ —about a four-point gain—while a carefully tuned Naïve Bayes improves by only one accuracy point and 3.5 F1 points.

- PSO raises the 5k-continuous set to  $F_1 = 0.91$  (+5 pts).
- EHO lifts the 95k-continuous corpus to 96.6 % accuracy and  $F_1 = 0.97$  (+11 and +8 pts).
- The hybrid reaches  $F_1 = 0.94$  on the noisy 95k-random corpus (+5.5 pts over the best grid result).

Table 6 contrasts literature-reported absolute F1-point improvement ranges for classical SVM hyperparameter search methods (Grid, Random, Bayesian) with the best F1 scores and corresponding relative gains delivered by our bio-inspired optimizers (PSO, EHO, Hybrid), where  $\Delta F_{1rel}$  is computed as equation (11).

**Table 6.** F1-Score gains from classical hyperparameter search methods (literature ranges, absolute points) versus observed gains from our bio-inspired optimizers.

Dataset	Baseline F1-Score	Expected $\Delta$ F1 (literature ranges) <sup>a</sup>			Observed gains (Bio, this study)	
		Grid Search	Random Search	Bayesian Optimisation	Best Bio F1-Score (Alg.)	$\Delta$ F1 rel.
5k-continuous	0.8613	+4 pts	+3–4 pts	+1–7 pts	<b>0.9075</b> (Hybrid)	<b>+5.4%</b>
95k-continuous	0.9369	+4 pts	+3–4 pts	+1–7 pts	<b>0.9652</b> (Hybrid)	<b>+3.0%</b>
5k-random	0.7520	+4 pts	+3–4 pts	+1–7 pts	<b>0.8248</b> (EHO)	<b>+9.7%</b>
95k-random	0.7878	+4 pts	+3–4 pts	+1–7 pts	<b>0.9297</b> (EHO)	<b>+18.0%</b>

<sup>a</sup> Ranges denote typical absolute F1-point improvements reported across published SVM-RBF studies using the indicated method. Grid Search generally yields modest, reproducible gains; Random Search often matches Grid within a few points using fewer evaluations; Bayesian optimisation can add 1–7 points depending on data scale, augmentation, and class balance.

<sup>b</sup> Relative Bio gains are computed as  $\Delta F1_{rel} = \frac{F1_{tuned} - F1_{base}}{F1_{base}} \times 100\%$ .

In summary, Grid Search provides a solid deterministic reference, Random Search a lightweight alternative, and Bayesian optimisation a modest incremental step. Yet it is our bio-inspired swarms—capable of roaming the full, continuous (C,  $\gamma$ ) landscape—that secure up to +15 F1 points and +11 accuracy points, improvements that are decisive when tackling large, noisy text-classification tasks.

## CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

Hyperparameter optimization is critical to improving SVM predictive performance. In this work we applied bio-inspired metaheuristics—PSO, EHO, and a cyclical PSO–EHO hybrid—to tune the key VM-RBF hyperparameters (C,  $\gamma$ ) under a unified evaluation pipeline. Experiments on four Twitter spam datasets show that all three methods outperform the untuned baseline, with the hybrid strategy achieving gains approaching 19% in F1 on highly imbalanced data. To contextualize these gains, we compared against canonical SVM tuning strategies (grid Search, random Search, and Bayesian optimization) under identical log-scale bounds: a fixed logarithmic grid raised SVM accuracy only from 81.7% to 85.7% and F1-score from 0.84 to 0.88 (about a four-point lift), and even Bayesian optimization—which often adds 1–7 points depending on data scale, augmentation, and class balance—remains modest by comparison. Our swarm-based algorithms advance the frontier substantially: PSO reaches F1 = 0.91 on 5k-continuous (+5 pts), EHO attains 96.6% accuracy and F1 = 0.97 on 95k-continuous (+11 and +8 pts), and the hybrid achieves F1 = 0.94 on the noisy 95k-random corpus (+5.5 pts over the best grid result and ~18–19% relative to baseline (equation 11)). Table 6 summarises these comparative gains, showing that while grid Search, random Search, and Bayesian optimization provide useful but limited improvements, population-based bio-optimizers can secure up to +15 absolute F1-Score points and +11 accuracy points on large, noisy text-classification tasks.

Future work will investigate GPU acceleration, multilingual model extensions, additional EHO-based and other hybrid search strategies, budget-adaptive swarm sizing, real-time/streaming adaptation, and joint optimisation of extended SVM settings (class weights, kernel mixtures, feature selection) to further enhance performance and deployment readiness.

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## RESULTS

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## DISCUSSION

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