

## Article

# Hybridizing of Whale and Moth-Flame Optimization Algorithms to Solve Diverse Scales of Optimal Power Flow Problem

Mohammad H. Nadimi-Shahraki <sup>1,2,\*</sup>, Ali Fatahi <sup>1,2</sup>, Hoda Zamani <sup>1,2</sup>, Seyedali Mirjalili <sup>3,4,\*</sup>  
and Diego Oliva <sup>5</sup>

- <sup>1</sup> Faculty of Computer Engineering, Najafabad Branch, Islamic Azad University, Najafabad 8514143131, Iran; fatahi.ali.edu@sco.iaun.ac.ir (A.F.); hoda\_zamani@sco.iaun.ac.ir (H.Z.)
- <sup>2</sup> Big Data Research Center, Najafabad Branch, Islamic Azad University, Najafabad 8514143131, Iran
- <sup>3</sup> Centre for Artificial Intelligence Research and Optimisation, Torrens University Australia, Brisbane 4006, Australia
- <sup>4</sup> Yonsei Frontier Lab, Yonsei University, Seoul 03722, Korea
- <sup>5</sup> Departamento de Innovación Basada en la Información y el Conocimiento, Universidad de Guadalajara, CUCEI, Guadalajara 44430, Mexico; diego.oliva@cucei.udg.mx
- \* Correspondence: nadimi@iaun.ac.ir (M.H.N.-S.); ali.mirjalili@gmail.com (S.M.)

**Abstract:** The optimal power flow (OPF) is a practical problem in a power system with complex characteristics such as a large number of control parameters and also multi-modal and non-convex objective functions with inequality and nonlinear constraints. Thus, tackling the OPF problem is becoming a major priority for power engineers and researchers. Many metaheuristic algorithms with different search strategies have been developed to solve the OPF problem. Although, the majority of them suffer from stagnation, premature convergence, and local optima trapping during the optimization process, which results in producing low solution qualities, especially for real-world problems. This study is devoted to proposing an effective hybridizing of whale optimization algorithm (WOA) and a modified moth-flame optimization algorithm (MFO) named WMFO to solve the OPF problem. In the proposed WMFO, the WOA and the modified MFO cooperate to effectively discover the promising areas and provide high-quality solutions. A randomized boundary handling is used to return the solutions that have violated the permissible boundaries of search space. Moreover, a greedy selection operator is defined to assess the acceptance criteria of new solutions. Ultimately, the performance of the WMFO is scrutinized on single and multi-objective cases of different OPF problems including standard IEEE 14-bus, IEEE 30-bus, IEEE 39-bus, IEEE 57-bus, and IEEE118-bus test systems. The obtained results corroborate that the proposed algorithm outperforms the contender algorithms for solving the OPF problem.

**Keywords:** optimization; metaheuristic; whale optimization algorithm; moth-flame optimization; optimal power flow problem



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## 1. Introduction

The most fundamental component of a power system is the ability to provide power demand at the lowest possible operational cost while adhering to various technological, economic, and certain system constraints [1]. The optimal power flow (OPF) plays a vital role as an important tool to discover the optimal decision variables of a power network to minimize intended objectives. Since the introduction of the OPF problem by Carpentier in 1962 [2], many researchers proposed various approaches including quadratic programming [3], nonlinear programming [4], interior point [5], and Newton algorithm [6,7] to solve this nonlinear and non-convex problem. However, these traditional approaches cannot provide competitive results in the case of multi-objective nonlinear functions as they mostly sink into the local optimum. Hence, designing optimizers with effective search

strategies which can deal with such complexities and provide competitive results is still an open issue for solving the OPF problem.

Metaheuristic algorithms are a subset of stochastic algorithms that have been employed for solving complex problems such as feature selection [8–12], engineering [13–26], community detection [27–30], and continuous optimization [31–37] problems. Metaheuristic algorithms employ stochastic techniques to discover the promising areas by exploring the search space in early iterations and improve solutions quality by exploiting the promising areas in the final iterations. The main categorization of the metaheuristic algorithms is depending on the source of inspiration which divides them into the evolutionary and the swarm intelligence (SI) algorithms [38]. The evolutionary algorithms mostly mimic natural biological evolution and reproduction to improve the randomly generated solutions. Genetic algorithm (GA) [39], differential evolution (DE) [40], and evolution strategies (ES) [41] are prominent optimizers inspired by evolutionary concepts. As the evolutionary approach has proven to be a promising procedure, many researchers proposed improved versions of GA and DE algorithms for solving various problems [42–45].

The collective and cooperative behavior of biological organisms including fishes, birds, terrestrial animals, and insects is the basis of developing SI algorithms to solve optimization problems. The particle swarm optimization (PSO) [46] is a well-known SI algorithm that mimics the navigation behavior of bird flocks' for generating solutions in optimization tasks. Dorigo et al. [47] simulated the collective behavior of some ants in nature by proposing the ant colony optimization (ACO) algorithm. The krill herd (KH) algorithm [48] is a successful simulation of the herding behavior of krill individuals which consists of three phases including krill random diffusion, foraging activity, and movement. The grey wolf optimizer (GWO) proposed by Mirjalili et al. [49] is also a SI algorithm based on the pack hierarchy approach to organizing the wolves based on their strength and responsibilities into four groups. The chimp optimization algorithm (ChOA) [50] mimics the social and sexual behavior of chimps to solve optimization problems. Starling murmuration optimizer (SMO) [51] is a recently proposed SI algorithm that models the stunning murmuration of starlings to solve the continuous and engineering optimization tasks. The SMO algorithm proposes a dynamic multi-flock and three search strategies including whirling, diving, and separating to provide the proper diversity throughout the population and strike a balance between search strategies.

The moth-flame optimization (MFO) [52] is a novel SI algorithm that simulates the spiral movement of moths around the light sources at night to perform optimization. Among numerous metaheuristic algorithms, the MFO stands out for its ease of use and low computational complexity. As a result, the MFO is used to solve a broad range of real-world problems, such as feature selection [53–58], and constraint engineering problems [59–66]. The MFO algorithm has an interesting concept of flames to preserve the best solutions, also it has an efficient global search strategy to explore the search space. However, the MFO suffers from weak exploitation and imbalance between search strategies which prevents it from converging toward the promising zone. Conversely, the whale optimization algorithm (WOA) [67] mathematically modeled the humpback whales' hunting behavior using three search strategies. The search strategies proposed in WOA provide sufficient exploitation for different optimization tasks [68–75]. However, they cannot satisfy the needs of the exploration during the complex optimization tasks. Although many metaheuristic algorithms including MFO and WOA have been used to address the OPF problem, they are mostly not scalable or not suitable for handling multi-objective cases.

Therefore, this study is devoted to proposing an effective hybridizing of WOA with a modified MFO algorithm (WMFO) for solving the OPF problem. In this algorithm, first, a population partitioning mechanism is introduced to divide a population between search strategies. Then, the proposed WMFO algorithm is evolved using the WOA and modified MFO movement strategies. A greedy selection operator is considered as the acceptance criteria of the new positions by comparing their previous fitness and the new ones. Moreover, a randomized boundary handling method is used to return the solutions that have

violated the permissible boundaries of search space. Moreover, to bypass the local optimum traps, a self-memory mechanism is defined for each search agent to preserve the best so far experience. Finally, the performance of the proposed WMFO algorithm is evaluated to solve diverse power system scale sizes including the standard IEEE 14-bus, IEEE 30-bus, IEEE 39-bus, IEEE 57-bus, and IEEE 118-bus test systems. The simulation results are compared to seven prominent optimization algorithms including PSO [46], GWO [49], MFO [52], WOA [67], Levy-flight moth-flame optimization (LMFO) [76], chimp optimization algorithm (ChOA) [50], and moth-flame optimizer with sine cosine mechanisms (SMFO) [77]. According to the test results, WMFO outperforms other comparative algorithms in solving different power system scale sizes in both single and multi-objective cases of the OPF problem. The main contributions of this study are summarized as follows.

- Proposing an effective hybridizing of WOA with a modified MFO to solve OPF problems with diverse power system scale sizes.
- Proposing a population partitioning mechanism to divide a population between search strategies.
- Introducing a modification of the canonical MFO using a self-memory mechanism to preserve the best so far experience.
- Applying a randomized boundary handling method to return the solutions that have violated the permissible boundaries.
- Applying a greedy selection operator to assess the acceptance criteria of new solutions.
- The experiments' results prove that the WMFO provides the best results in solving different scales of standard IEEE test systems compared to competitor algorithms.

The paper is organized as follows. A literature overview of the related works is included in Section 2. The formulation and objective functions of the OPF problem are presented in Section 3. The moth-flame and whale optimization algorithms are presented in Section 4. The proposed WMFO algorithm is comprehensively presented in Section 5. A rigorous evaluation of the effectiveness of the WMFO on the OPF problem is provided in Section 6. Statistical analysis is presented in Section 7. Ultimately, Section 8 summarizes the conclusions and suggests future works.

## 2. Related Works

The optimal power flow (OPF) problem is formulated as a complex nonlinear non-convex constrained optimization problem with different objectives and a variety of IEEE bus test systems [78]. Many traditional methods, such as quadratic programming [79], linear and nonlinear programming [4,80], and Newton algorithm [6] have been applied to solve the OPF problem. Although, these methods are not suitable for solving practical systems due to the characteristics of nonlinear functions such as value-point effect and prohibited operating zones. Moreover, increasing the number of system buses intensifies the mentioned complexities and leads the algorithm toward sinking in local minimum solutions [81,82].

Recently, many metaheuristic optimization algorithms such as particle swarm optimization (PSO) [83], ant colony optimization (ACO) [84], shuffled frog leaping (SFL) [85], differential evolution (DE) [86], biogeography-based optimization (BBO) [87], gravitational search algorithm (GSA) [88], firefly algorithm (FA) [89], teaching-learning-based optimization (TLBO) [90], grey wolf optimizer (GWO) [91], ant lion optimizer (ALO) [92], moth-flame optimization (MFO) [93], crow search algorithm (CSA) [94], salp swarm algorithm (SSA) [95], Levy spiral flight equilibrium optimizer (LSFEO) [96], and jellyfish search optimizer (JS) [97], have been applied as significant problem solvers to cope with the weaknesses of the traditional algorithms in solving the OPF problem benchmarks. Moreover, many researchers applied metaheuristic algorithms to solve real power systems [98,99].

Sivasubramani et al. [100] proposed a multi-objective harmony search (MOHS) algorithm to solve the OPF problem. To identify the Pareto optimum front, the MOHS algorithm uses a rapid elitist non-dominated sorting and crowding distance. Then, a fuzzy-based mechanism is performed for selecting a compromise solution from the Pareto set. Improved

particle swarm optimization (IPSO) [101] proposed a pseudo-gradient and the constriction factor to direct the particle's velocity. The purpose of the pseudo-gradient is to identify the particle's orientation so that they may swiftly converge to the best solution. Sinsuphan et al. [102] presented the improved harmony search method (IHS) by proposing a modification of the pitch adjustment rate to solve OPF problems with five standard IEEE test systems including 6-bus, 14-bus, 30-bus, 57-bus, and 118-bus. A hybrid algorithm based on a modified imperialistic competitive algorithm and teaching-learning algorithm named MICA-TLA [103] is proposed for solving the OPF problem. The results of the simulation were tested on the IEEE 30-bus and IEEE 57-bus test systems with various objective functions. In another study, Ghasemi et al. [78] introduced three modified techniques of the imperialistic competitive algorithm (ICA) based on three new actions that may occur to any colony for solving the OPF problem. The introduced techniques were justified in different cases of the IEEE 57-bus test system. Radosavljevic et al. [104] proposed a hybridization of particle swarm optimization and gravitational search algorithms (PSOGSA) to find a proper solution in power systems. The PSOGSA takes advantage of the social thinking of the PSO and the local search ability of the GSA.

An improved artificial bee colony (IABC) [105] optimizer is developed by orthogonal learning (OL) to empower the exploitation ability of the canonical ABC in solving the OPF problem. Fatima Daqaq et al. [106] brought up a multi-objective backtracking search algorithm (MOBSA) to solve the OPF problem. The MOBSA can solve the highly constrained objectives and find the best solution from all Pareto optimal solution set using a fuzzy membership technique integrated into the BSA algorithm. Li et al. [107] proposed a boosted adaptive differential evolution (JADE) with a self-adaptive penalty constraint management approach (EJADE-SP) to find the best solution to the OPF issue. The EJADE-SP algorithm used the crossover rate sorting mechanism to let individuals inherit more good genes, and re-randomizing parameters to sustain the population diversity and the effectiveness of the search. Furthermore, to speed up convergence, the EJADE-SP employs a dynamic population reduction method and a self-adaptive penalty constraint management technique to cope with various constraints. Nadimi et al. [108] brought up the improved grey wolf optimizer (I-GWO) using dimension learning-based hunting (DLH) search strategy. The DLH strategy maintains the diversity and equilibriums between local and global searches by constructing a neighborhood for each wolf. In [109], the slime mold algorithm (SMA) is used to solve the multi-objective OPF. The SMA mimics the oscillation mode of slime mold in nature and utilizes adaptive weights to mimic the process of providing positive and negative feedback in slime mold propagation waves.

Meng et al. [110] introduced a crisscross search-based grey wolf optimizer (CS-GWO) to solve IEEE test systems including 30-bus and 118-bus. The CS-GWO algorithm improved the hunting operation in GWO by incorporating a greedy operator and the horizontal crossover operator was then used to refine the positions of the top three wolves. Moreover, to preserve population variety and prevent premature convergence, the vertical crossover operator is used. Abd el-Sattar et al. [111] proposed an improved salp swarm algorithm (ISSA) for improving the movement strategies in canonical SSA to solve different OPF problems including 30, 57, and 118-bus test systems. ISSA utilizes a random mutation strategy to improve the exploration process and an adaptive process to enhance the exploitation process. In [112], a boosted whale optimization algorithm named EWOA-OPF is developed to boost the global search capability of the WOA in solving the OPF problem by employing Levy motion in the encircling phase and utilizing Brownian motion to work with a canonical bubble-net attack. Kahraman et al. [113] proposed an effective method by introducing a crowding distance-based Pareto archiving strategy to solve the multi-objective OPF problem. Akdag et al. [98] introduced the improved Archimedes optimization algorithm (IAOA) using the dimension learning-based strategy to build a neighborhood and spread the information flow between search agents.

### 3. Optimal Power Flow Problem

The optimal power flow (OPF) is considered a strategic instrument for designing and operating of power networks. The primary objective of OPF is to minimize a predefined objective function, such as the active power generation cost while satisfying the inequality and equality requirements of the system within the specified limitations. The OPF issue is shown mathematically in the following.

#### 3.1. OPF Problem Formulation

The OPF is a non-convex and nonlinear problem that can be represented mathematically as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Min} F(x, u) \\ \text{Subjected to} & \quad g(x, u) = 0, \quad p = 1, 2, \dots, m \\ & \quad h(x, u) \leq 0, \quad p = 1, 2, \dots, j \end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

where  $u$  is a vector that represents the independent (control) variables,  $F$  is the objective function to be optimized,  $x$  is the vector of dependent (state) variables,  $g$  and  $h$  are the equality and inequality constraints,  $m$  and  $j$  indicate the number of equality constraints and the number of inequality constraints, respectively. Moreover, the state variables of OPF represented in Equation (2) consist of slack bus power  $P_{G1}$ , load bus voltage  $V_L$ , transmission line loading  $S_l$ , and generator reactive power output  $Q_G$ ,

$$x = [P_{G1}, V_{L1}, \dots, V_{LNL}, Q_{G1}, \dots, Q_{GNG}, S_{1l}, \dots, S_{INTL}] \tag{2}$$

where  $NL$  indicates the number of load buses,  $NTL$  and  $NG$  are the number of transmission lines and generators, respectively. The control variables represented in Equation (3) are the independent variables including generator active power outputs  $P_G$  (except at the slack bus  $P_{G1}$ ), generator voltages  $V_G$ , transformer tap settings  $T$ , and shunt VAR compensations  $Q_C$ .  $NT$  indicates the number of the regulating transformer and  $NC$  denotes the number of VAR compensator units.

$$u = [P_{G2}, \dots, P_{GNG}, V_{G1}, \dots, V_{GNG}, T_1, \dots, T_{NT}, Q_{C1}, \dots, Q_{CNC}] \tag{3}$$

#### 3.2. Constraints

The OPF problem has equality and inequality constraints that are handled during the optimization process. The representations of both constraints are expressed as follows.

##### 3.2.1. Equality Constraints

The balance between active and reactive power flow is maintained by the equality constraints consisting of a set of nonlinear power flow formulations represented in Equations (4) and (5).

$$P_{Gi} - P_{Di} = |V_i| \sum_{j=1}^{NB} |V_j| (G_{ij} \cos \delta_{ij} + B_{ij} \sin \delta_{ij}) \tag{4}$$

$$Q_{Gi} - Q_{Di} = |V_i| \sum_{j=1}^{NB} |V_j| (G_{ij} \sin \delta_{ij} - B_{ij} \cos \delta_{ij}) \tag{5}$$

where  $NB$  denotes the number of buses,  $P_{Gi}$  and  $P_{Di}$  are the generator active power and demand active power.  $Q_{Gi}$  and  $Q_{Di}$  are the generator reactive power and demand reactive power.  $B_{ij}$  and  $G_{ij}$  represent susceptance and conductance. Moreover,  $\delta_{ij}$  represents the phase difference of voltages between bus  $i$  and bus  $j$ .

### 3.2.2. Inequality Constraints

The inequality constraints which are the operating limits for OPF problem limited by the lower and upper bounds are represented as follows:

- Generator constraints

$$P_{Gi}^{min} \leq P_{Gi} \leq P_{Gi}^{max}; \quad i = 1, \dots, NG \tag{6}$$

$$Q_{Gi}^{min} \leq Q_{Gi} \leq Q_{Gi}^{max}; \quad i = 1, \dots, NG \tag{7}$$

$$V_{Gi}^{min} \leq V_{Gi} \leq V_{Gi}^{max}; \quad i = 1, \dots, NG \tag{8}$$

- Transformer tap setting constraints

$$T^{min} \leq T_i \leq T^{max}; \quad i = 1, \dots, NT \tag{9}$$

- Shunt VAR compensator constraints

$$Q_{ci}^{min} \leq Q_{ci} \leq Q_{ci}^{max}; \quad i = 1, \dots, NC \tag{10}$$

- Line power flow constraints

$$S_{Li} \leq S_{Li}^{max}; \quad i = 1, \dots, NTL \tag{11}$$

### 3.2.3. Inequality Constraints Handling

Although the control variables are constrained by themselves, the dependent variables' inequality constraints including  $S_L$ ,  $V_L$ ,  $P_{G1}$ , and  $Q_G$  are appended to the objective function as a quadratic penalty term to maintain the dependent variables in their acceptable limits and to reject any impracticable solution. The expanded objective function may be represented mathematically as follows [114]:

$$Penalty = \lambda_P (P_{G1} - P_{G1}^{lim})^2 + \lambda_V \sum_{i=1}^{NL} (V_{Li} - V_{Li}^{lim})^2 + \lambda_Q \sum_{i=1}^{NG} (Q_{Gi} - Q_{Gi}^{lim})^2 + \lambda_S \sum_{i=1}^{NTL} (S_{Li} - S_{Li}^{lim})^2 \tag{12}$$

where  $\lambda_V$ ,  $\lambda_P$ ,  $\lambda_S$ , and  $\lambda_Q$  are the penalty factors. The initially specified factors are  $10^6$  for both load bus voltage ( $\lambda_V$ ) and power generation output at the slack bus ( $\lambda_P$ ),  $10^3$  for line loading ( $\lambda_S$ ), and  $10^4$  for generator reactive power ( $\lambda_Q$ ). In this paper, the limit of the variable  $x$  is denoted by the symbol  $x^{lim}$ , which can be defined using Equation (13), where  $r$  is a random number in the intervals 0 and 1.

$$x^{lim} = \begin{cases} x^{max} - 0.25 \times (x^{max} - x^{min}) \times r, & \text{if } x > x^{max} \\ x^{min} - 0.25 \times (x^{max} - x^{min}) \times r, & \text{if } x < x^{min} \end{cases} \tag{13}$$

### 3.3. OPF Objective Functions

In this work, two objectives are investigated to address the OPF problem: an economic problem, which refers to the reduction of overall fuel costs in power production, and a practical challenge of minimizing the voltage deviation.

#### 3.3.1. Case 1: Minimization of Total Fuel Cost

Total fuel cost is formulated as a minimization problem with the single-objective function. The quadratic function approximates the relationship between fuel expense (\$/h) and produced electricity (MW), based on Equation (14), where  $f_l$  refers to the total cost of

generation (\$/h).  $a_i$ ,  $b_i$ , and  $c_i$  are the cost coefficients of the  $i$ -th generator. All load buses are confined to 0.95 to 1.05 p.u. voltage range

$$f_1 = \sum_{i=1}^{NG} (a_i + b_i P_{Gi} + c_i P_{Gi}^2) \tag{14}$$

### 3.3.2. Case 2: Total Fuel Cost and Voltage Deviation Minimization

The goal of this objective function is to minimize both the cost of fuel and the voltage deviation simultaneously. This objective function’s mathematical expression is as follows:

$$f_2 = \sum_{i=1}^{NG} (a_i + b_i P_{Gi} + c_i P_{Gi}^2) + W_v \sum_{i=1}^{NL} |V_i - 1| \tag{15}$$

where  $W_v = 200$  represents the weighting factor. To effectively address the multi-objective issue, Equation (15) is a single equation that incorporates two weighted objectives.

## 4. Preliminaries

This section presents the concepts and mathematical models of moth-flame optimization and whale optimization algorithm in detail.

### 4.1. Moth-Flame Optimization (MFO)

The MFO is a prominent algorithm that mimics the spiral motion of moths around light sources at night. This behavior comes from a navigation mechanism called transverse orientation which helps moths to fly a long distance in a straight path by preserving a constant angular relationship with the moon. For far light sources like the moon, the transverse orientation plays a navigation role for moths. However, when it comes to relatively closer artificial light sources, the transverse orientation causes the moths to follow a deadly spiral path around the light source. The MFO algorithm is a simulation of this behavior of moths facing artificial lights. Hence, moths and flames are two fundamental concepts used in the MFO algorithm. In this algorithm, the moths are the main search agents which can be represented by matrix  $M(t)$  as follows.

$$M(t) = \begin{bmatrix} m_{11} & \cdots & m_{1d} & \cdots & m_{1D} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ m_{i1} & \cdots & m_{id} & \cdots & m_{iD} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ m_{N1} & \cdots & m_{Nd} & \cdots & m_{ND} \end{bmatrix} \tag{16}$$

where  $m_{id}$  is the value of  $d$ -dimension of  $i$ -th moth,  $N$  indicates the total number of moths that explore the  $D$ -dimensional search space in each iteration. Additionally, it is expected that there is a vector containing the corresponding fitness of each moth, as shown below.

$$OM(t) = \begin{bmatrix} OM_1(t) \\ OM_2(t) \\ \vdots \\ OM_N(t) \end{bmatrix} \tag{17}$$

As mentioned earlier, flames are the second basic concept of the MFO algorithm, which leads the moths toward promising areas discovered in the previous iterations. Theoretically, the moths fly around their corresponding flames in a spiral path, which can be formulated in Equation (18),

$$M_i(t) = D_i(t) \times e^{bk} \times \text{Cos}(2\pi k) + F_j(t) \tag{18}$$

$$D_i(t) = |F_c(t) - M_i(t)| \tag{19}$$

where  $M_i(t)$  represents the position of  $i$ -th moth in iteration  $t$ , the  $D_i$  denotes the linear distance between  $M_i$  and its corresponding flame ( $F_c$ ) which is formulated in Equation (19),  $b$  indicates the logarithmic helix shape constant defined spiral,  $k$  is a random value in  $[-1, 1]$ , and  $F_j$  is the  $j$ -th flame's position. Considering a unique flame for each moth ensures that the algorithm does not sink into the local optimum during the early iterations. Whereas the algorithm converges toward the promising zones by decreasing the number of flames using Equation (20), where  $t$  denotes the current iterations,  $N$  represents the total number of population and  $MaxIt$  determines the maximum number of iterations. Hence, in this algorithm  $j$  equals to  $Flame_{Num}$ .

$$Flame_{Num}(t) = round\left(N - t \times \frac{N - 1}{MaxIt}\right) \tag{20}$$

#### 4.2. Whale Optimization Algorithm (WOA)

The humpback whales' hunting behavior in nature is mathematically modeled in the WOA [67]. Humpback whales are mainly considered to be predators that surround and capture their prey using the bubble-net hunting strategy. In this algorithm, the best position discovered so far is designated as the prey position  $X^*$  that guides other search agents toward a promising area during the exploitation phase. Encircling prey, spiral bubble-net attacking to enhance local search, and searching for prey to enhance global search are the three techniques of whales that are formulated in the WOA algorithm based on the following definitions [115].

Encircling prey: Humpback whales can detect and surround the position of prey. The WOA considers the current best whale  $X^*$  is close to the target prey since it is impossible to determine the location of the global optimum solution a priori. In the next phase, the positions of other whales are changed toward the  $X^*$  based on Equations (21) and (22),

$$Dis(X^*, X_i) = |C_i(t) \times X^*(t) - X_i(t)| \tag{21}$$

$$X_i(t + 1) = X^*(t) - A_i(t) \times Dis(X^*, X_i) \tag{22}$$

where,  $Dis(X^*, X_i)$  specifies the distance between the prey and the  $i$ -th whale in the current iteration,  $A$  and  $C$  indicate coefficient values computed based on Equations (23) and (24).

$$A(t) = 2 \times a(t) \times r - a(t) \tag{23}$$

$$C_i(t) = 2 \times r \tag{24}$$

where  $a$  decreases from 2 to 0 throughout the iterations using Equation (25). Moreover,  $r$  generates a random value in the intervals 0 and 1.

$$a(t) = 2 - t \times \left(\frac{2}{MaxIt}\right) \tag{25}$$

Bubble-net attacking: A mathematical model of humpback whale bubble-net strategy (exploitation) has been developed using two methodologies named shrinking encircling mechanism and spiral updating position which are formulated in Equation (26),

$$X_i(t + 1) = \begin{cases} X^*(t) - A(t) \times Dis(X_r, X_i) & \text{if } p < 0.5 \\ Dis(X^*, X_i) \times e^{bl} \times \cos(2\pi l) + X^*(t) & \text{if } p \geq 0.5 \end{cases} \tag{26}$$

where  $p$  denotes a random value generated in  $[0, 1]$ . If the value of  $p$  is found to be smaller than 0.5, the position of  $X_i$  changes using a shrinking encircling mechanism. On the other hand, a spiral updating technique is used if the value of  $p$  is found to be greater than or equal to 0.5.  $A$  denotes a random variable generated in  $[-a, a]$ , where  $a$  decreases from 2 to 0 throughout the iterations.  $Dis(X^*, X_i)$  denotes the distance of  $i$ -th search agent and

the prey in the spiral updating position,  $b$  denotes a constant value, and  $l$  denotes a random value in the range  $[-1, 1]$ .

Searching for prey: To emphasize the exploration ability of the algorithm (when  $|A| \geq 1$ ), a whale's location is updated using Equation (27), in which a random whale is chosen rather than the best whale discovered so far.

$$X_i(t+1) = X_r(t) - A \times Dis(X_r, X_i) \quad (27)$$

where,  $X_r(t)$  represents the position of a randomly chosen whale in the current iteration and  $Dis(X_r, X_i)$  indicates the distance between  $i$ -th whale and  $X_r$ .

## 5. Proposed Algorithm

The ability to strike a balance between exploitation and exploration abilities is a crucial feature for any SI algorithm. As discussed earlier, the concept of the flame introduced in the MFO algorithm is regarded as an effective approach for maintaining the balance between exploration and exploitation by linearly decreasing the number of flames throughout the iterations. However, MFO inherently suffers from inefficient exploitation ability which results in stagnating in far from promising areas or premature convergence into local optima. On the other hand, the experimental results [116] reveal that the WOA benefits from efficient exploitation ability, while its exploration and the balance between search strategies are not sufficient to handle complex real-world problems, especially in the OPF problem. Therefore, this study is devoted to proposing a hybridization of whale and moth-flame optimization (WMFO) to effectively solve the OPF problem. The proposed WMFO introduces a population partitioning mechanism, movement strategies, randomized boundary handling, and a greedy selection operator.

Suppose the matrix  $X_{ND}(t) = \{\vec{X}_1(t), \dots, \vec{X}_i(t), \dots, \vec{X}_N(t)\}$  as a finite set of positions in iteration  $t$  such that the vector  $\vec{X}_i(t) = [x_{i1}, \dots, x_{id}, \dots, x_{iD}]$  denotes the position of  $i$ -th individual in the  $D$ -dimensional search space. In the first iteration, the matrix  $X_{ND}(t)$  is initiated using Equation (28),

$$x_{id} = rand_d \times (Ub_d - Lb_d) + Lb_d \quad (28)$$

where  $x_{id}$  is the value of  $d$ -dimension,  $rand_d$  is a random number between intervals 0 and 1, and  $ub_d$  and  $lb_d$  are the upper bound and lower bound for  $d$ -dimension. For the rest of the iterations, the matrix  $X_{ND}(t)$  is updated using movement search strategies in the proposed WMFO algorithm. Algorithm 1 presents the WMFO pseudo-code.

**Definition 1 (Population partitioning mechanism).** Given  $Pop = \{Pop_{MFO}, Pop_{WOA}\}$  is a finite set of two distinct subpopulations  $Pop_{MFO}$  and  $Pop_{WOA}$  with predefined capacity  $\kappa$ . First, the members of the population are shuffled using a discrete uniform distribution and then divided between two matrices  $Pop_{MFO}$  and  $Pop_{WOA}$  such that  $Pop_{MFO} = \{X_1 \dots X_\kappa\}$  and  $Pop_{WOA} = \{X_{\kappa+1} \dots X_N\}$ , where  $N$  represents the number of population. In this mechanism, each subpopulation evolves independently which causes the individuals to explore the search space from different perspectives. Hence, the flow of improper information is slowed down within the population and decreases the risk of premature convergence.

**Algorithm 1.** The pseudocode of the proposed WMFO algorithm**Input:** Dimension size ( $D$ ), Maximum iterations ( $MaxIt$ ), and Number of search agents ( $N$ ).**Output:** The global best solution.

```

1. Begin
2.   Initialize the population
3.   Set the self-memory mechanism for each search agent using Definition 2.
4.   Calculating the fitness values.
5.   Set  $t = 1$ .
6.   While  $t \leq MaxIt$ 
7.     Constructing two subpopulations  $Pop_{MFO}$  and  $Pop_{WOA}$  using Definition 1.
8.     If  $t = 1$  then
9.       Constricting the matrix flames by ascending ordered the fitness values.
10.    Else
11.      Updating  $F(t)$  and  $OF(t)$  by the sorted search agents from matrices  $F(t)$  and  $X(t)$ .
12.    End If
13.    For  $i = 1: N$ 
14.      If  $i \in Pop_{MFO}$  then
15.        Computing the  $Flame_{Num}(t)$  using Equation (20).
16.        If  $i \leq Flame_{Num}(t)$ 
17.          Computing  $D_i$  based on Equation (19).
18.          Updating the new position of  $X_i(t+1)$  using Equations (18).
19.        Else
20.          Computing  $\delta_i(t)$  based on Equation (31).
21.          Updating the new position of  $X_i(t+1)$  using Equations (30).
22.        End If
23.      Else
24.        If  $p < 0.5$  then
25.          If  $|A| \geq 1$  then
26.            Updating the new position of  $X_i(t+1)$  using Equation (27).
27.          Else
28.            Updating the new position of  $X_i(t+1)$  using Equation (22).
29.          End If
30.        Else
31.          Updating the new position of  $X_i(t+1)$  using Equation (26).
32.        End If
33.      End If
34.      Checking and applying randomized boundary handling using Equation (32).
35.      Computing the fitness values, and updating  $X_{best_i}$  based on Definition 2.
36.    End for
37.    Applying the greedy selection operator using Equation (33).
38.    Updating the global best solution.
39.     $t = t + 1$ .
40.  End while

```

**Movement strategies:** The WMFO employs two movement strategies for evolving subpopulations  $Pop_{WOA}$  and  $Pop_{MFO}$ . The subpopulation  $Pop_{WOA}$  is updated using the WOA movement strategies while subpopulation  $Pop_{MFO}$  is updated based on the modified MFO movement strategy.

**WOA movement strategies:** The WMFO employs the canonical WOA's movement strategies to update the positions of subpopulation  $Pop_{WOA}$  using Equation (29), where  $X_i(t+1)$  represents the next position of  $i$ -th search agent and  $i \in Pop_{WOA}$ .

$$x_i(t+1) = \begin{cases} \text{Encircling prey defined in Equation(12)} & p_i < ||A| < 1 \\ \text{Search for prey defined in Equation(17)} & p_i < ||A| \geq 1 \\ \text{Bubble-net attacking defined in Equation(16)} & p_i \geq 0.5 \end{cases} \quad (29)$$

Modified MFO movement strategy: The proposed WMFO evolves the subpopulation  $Pop_{MFO}$  using Equation (30), where  $b$  is the constant value,  $k$  is a random value between intervals  $[-1, 1]$ , and  $F_j$  denotes the  $j$ -th flame such that index  $j$  is computed using Equation (20).  $\delta_i(t)$  is computed using Equation (31), where  $Xbest_i$  is the position of the self-memory mechanism defined using Definition 2.

$$X_i(t + 1) = \delta_i(t) \times e^{bk} \times \text{Cos}(2\pi k) + F_j(t), \text{ where } i \in Pop_{MFO} \tag{30}$$

$$\delta_i(t) = |F_c(t) - X_i(t)| + \left( \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N Xbest_i \right) - X_i(t) \tag{31}$$

**Definition 2 (Self-Memory mechanism).** Let  $SM = \{SM_1 \dots SM_i \dots SM_N\}$  is a finite set of  $N$  search agents' memories. The  $SM_i$  is denoted by  $SM_i = (Xbest_i, Fbest_i)$ , where  $Xbest_i$  represents the best position of  $X_i$  so far acquired, and  $Fbest_i$  denotes the fitness of  $Xbest_i$ . In the first iteration,  $Xbest_i(t = 1) \leftarrow X_i(t = 1)$  and  $Fbest_i(t = 1) \leftarrow OX_i(t = 1)$ . For the remaining iterations ( $t > 1$ ),  $X_i$  and  $Fbest_i$  are updated based on the best so far solution obtained by each  $X_i$ .

Randomized boundary handling: The canonical MFO and WOA use a simple mechanism for boundary limiting which assigns a value equal to its corresponding lower bound ( $lb_d$ ) if the  $d$ -th dimension of a search agent is less than the value of  $lb_d$ . Conversely, a value equal to the corresponding upper bound ( $ub_d$ ) is given to the  $d$ -th dimension of a search agent if it is found to be greater than  $ub_d$ . Although this boundary limiting method works efficiently for linear and convex problems, it leads the algorithm toward stagnation in the case of multi-objective nonlinear functions such as the OPF problem. Hence, to avoid stagnation, a randomized-based variable boundary limiting is introduced in the proposed WMFO based on Equation (32), where  $x_{id}$  denotes the value of  $d$ -th dimension of  $i$ -th search agent, and  $r$  is a random value between intervals 0 and 1.

$$x_{id}(t) = \begin{cases} lb_d + 0.25 \times (ub_d - lb_d) \times r, & \text{if } x_{id}(t) < lb_d \\ ub_d - 0.25 \times (ub_d - lb_d) \times r, & \text{if } x_{id}(t) > ub_d \end{cases} \tag{32}$$

Greedy selection operator: WMFO employs the selection operator to evaluate the acceptance criteria of new solutions by comparing the fitness of new solutions  $OX(t + 1)$  with the fitness of previous population  $OX(t)$  using Equation (33).

$$X_i(t + 1) = \begin{cases} X_i(t + 1) & OX_i(t + 1) < OX_i(t) \\ X_i(t) & OX_i(t + 1) \geq OX_i(t) \end{cases} \tag{33}$$

### 6. Experimental Evaluation

In this section, first, a sensitivity analysis is conducted on the modified MFO, WOA, and the proposed WMFO to investigate the exploration and exploitation abilities. Then, the numerical efficiency of the proposed WMFO is scrutinized using simulation studies carried out on two scenarios based on five IEEE bus test systems consisting of IEEE 14-bus, IEEE 30-bus, IEEE 39-bus, IEEE 57-bus, and IEEE 118-bus test systems, where MATPOWER [117] is used for load flow calculation. The acquired results are then compared with five well-known metaheuristic algorithms including particle swarm optimization (PSO) [46], grey wolf optimizer (GWO) [49], moth-flame optimization (MFO) [52], whale optimization algorithm (WOA) [67], chimp optimization algorithm (ChOA) [50], and two enhanced variants of MFO, Levy-flight moth-flame optimization (LMFO) [76], and synthesis of MFO with sine cosine mechanisms (SMFO) [77]. The parameters of the competitor algorithms were set the same as the recommended settings in their works, which are reported in Table 1.

**Table 1.** Parameter of the comparative algorithms.

Algorithm	Parameter Settings
PSO	$c_1 = c_2 = 2$
KH	$V_f = 0.02, D_{max} = 0.005, N_{max} = 0.01, Sr = 0.$
GWO	$a$ linearly decreases from 2 to 0.
MFO	$a$ decreases linearly from $-1$ to $-2, b = 1.$
WOA	$\alpha$ parameter is linearly decreased from 2 to 0, $b = 1.$
LMFO	$v$ and $\mu$ are normal distributions, $\beta = 1.5, \Gamma$ is the gamma function.
ChOA	$f$ parameter is decreased linearly from 2 to 0.
SMFO	$r_4 =$ random number between interval (0, 1).
WMFO	$\alpha$ is decreased linearly from 2 to 0, $b = 1.$

The proposed WMFO and other comparative algorithms were run 20 times separately on Intel Core i7 (2.60 GHz) and 24 GB of RAM using MATLAB R2020 to ensure that all comparisons are fair. The maximum number of iterations (*MaxIt*) and population size were set to  $(D \times 10^4)/N$  for the sensitivity analysis tests, where  $D$  and  $N$  are dimensions of the problem and 100, respectively. For the IEEE bus test systems, the *MaxIt* and  $N$  are set to 200 and 50, respectively. The best values of control variables (DVs) and objective variables are tabulated in Tables 2–11, Tables A1 and A2.

**Table 2.** Control variables for the IEEE 14-bus test system on case 1.

DVs	PSO	GWO	MFO	WOA	LMFO	ChOA	SMFO	WMFO
$P_{G1}$ (MW)	195.499	191.895	194.443	193.935	215.178	189.794	206.344	194.365
$P_{G2}$ (MW)	31.977	37.655	36.729	35.937	34.071	35.853	34.560	36.778
$P_{G3}$ (MW)	40.733	15.809	29.014	36.013	0.000	41.195	0.000	28.834
$P_{G6}$ (MW)	0.000	21.333	0.000	0.933	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.011
$P_{G8}$ (MW)	0.000	1.956	8.037	1.445	22.240	2.326	29.121	8.233
$V_{G1}$ (p.u)	1.060	1.060	1.060	1.060	1.035	1.060	1.060	1.060
$V_{G2}$ (p.u)	1.040	1.039	1.039	1.040	1.012	1.047	1.039	1.039
$V_{G3}$ (p.u)	1.012	1.006	1.015	1.007	0.953	1.015	1.003	1.015
$V_{G6}$ (p.u)	1.060	1.013	1.060	1.031	1.060	1.060	1.041	1.060
$V_{G8}$ (p.u)	1.060	1.056	1.060	1.052	1.060	0.940	1.035	1.060
$T11_{(4-7)}$ (p.u)	1.039	0.985	1.003	1.002	0.946	1.100	1.064	1.003
$T12_{(4-9)}$ (p.u)	0.900	1.019	0.900	1.100	1.058	1.100	1.047	0.903
$T15_{(5-6)}$ (p.u)	0.900	1.026	0.972	0.970	0.900	0.900	0.957	0.971
$QC14$ (MVAR)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Cost (\$/h)	8095.642	8100.988	<b>8078.659</b>	8087.270	8162.053	8142.158	8122.122	8078.679
$P_{loss}$ (MW)	9.209	9.648	9.223	9.262	12.489	10.168	11.026	9.221
VD (p.u)	0.278	0.118	0.356	0.108	0.239	0.264	0.115	0.354

**Table 3.** Control variables for the IEEE 14-bus test system on case 2.

DVs	PSO	GWO	MFO	WOA	LMFO	ChOA	SMFO	WMFO
P <sub>G1</sub> (MW)	205.123	184.105	194.901	189.739	190.829	204.696	182.242	195.220
P <sub>G2</sub> (MW)	32.777	34.041	36.797	31.960	58.715	38.495	34.560	36.878
P <sub>G3</sub> (MW)	31.416	20.645	29.824	32.847	0.000	1.655	0.000	29.290
P <sub>G6</sub> (MW)	0.000	7.109	0.000	0.061	0.000	25.637	0.000	0.000
P <sub>G8</sub> (MW)	0.000	21.749	6.828	13.211	20.101	0.191	29.121	6.989
V <sub>G1</sub> (p.u)	1.060	1.060	1.060	1.053	1.060	1.060	1.060	1.060
V <sub>G2</sub> (p.u)	1.040	1.038	1.040	1.030	1.039	1.039	1.039	1.040
V <sub>G3</sub> (p.u)	1.001	1.007	1.010	1.008	0.988	0.974	1.003	1.010
V <sub>G6</sub> (p.u)	1.047	1.015	1.015	1.021	1.060	1.060	1.041	1.015
V <sub>G8</sub> (p.u)	1.060	1.008	1.004	1.040	1.060	1.060	1.035	1.008
T <sub>11(4-7)</sub> (p.u)	0.913	1.045	1.025	1.073	1.039	1.100	1.064	1.031
T <sub>12(4-9)</sub> (p.u)	1.100	0.916	0.940	0.983	0.930	0.900	1.047	0.941
T <sub>15(5-6)</sub> (p.u)	0.906	0.957	1.003	0.995	0.960	0.900	0.957	1.002
Q <sub>C14</sub> (MVAR)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Cost (\$/h)	8103.609	8100.701	8082.392	8095.677	8227.748	8143.173	8122.122	<b>8082.128</b>
P <sub>loss</sub> (MW)	10.317	8.649	9.349	8.817	10.645	11.674	11.026	9.379
VD (p.u)	0.194	0.058	0.060	0.070	0.292	0.199	0.115	0.062

**Table 4.** Control variables for the IEEE 30-bus test system on case 1.

DVs	PSO	GWO	MFO	WOA	LMFO	ChOA	SMFO	WMFO
P <sub>G1</sub> (MW)	185.334	170.079	177.281	181.154	166.251	197.128	180.892	177.196
P <sub>G2</sub> (MW)	50.787	53.235	48.725	48.852	45.597	27.445	38.396	48.833
P <sub>G5</sub> (MW)	19.956	23.965	21.495	23.650	25.905	16.876	22.191	21.298
P <sub>G8</sub> (MW)	10.000	18.641	21.375	16.626	14.278	19.484	18.945	20.975
P <sub>G11</sub> (MW)	16.327	11.604	11.598	10.282	19.346	20.934	12.474	12.022
P <sub>G13</sub> (MW)	12.000	14.957	12.000	12.338	21.624	12.770	20.008	12.142
V <sub>G1</sub> (p.u)	1.100	1.064	1.083	1.083	1.066	1.059	1.072	1.082
V <sub>G2</sub> (p.u)	1.064	1.047	1.064	1.065	1.033	1.048	1.053	1.064
V <sub>G5</sub> (p.u)	1.020	1.014	1.032	1.032	0.955	0.990	1.019	1.032
V <sub>G8</sub> (p.u)	0.996	1.022	1.036	1.031	0.990	0.978	1.020	1.036
V <sub>G11</sub> (p.u)	0.950	1.087	1.082	1.096	1.098	1.041	1.077	1.095
V <sub>G13</sub> (p.u)	1.053	1.050	1.059	1.060	1.067	1.038	1.037	1.054
T <sub>11(6-9)</sub> (p.u)	1.100	0.959	1.042	1.026	1.074	0.912	1.029	1.052
T <sub>12(6-10)</sub> (p.u)	0.900	1.029	0.900	1.025	0.913	0.996	0.997	0.919
T <sub>15(4-12)</sub> (p.u)	1.100	1.066	0.980	0.987	0.939	1.030	0.970	0.977
T <sub>36(28-27)</sub> (p.u)	0.930	0.953	0.971	1.016	0.959	0.944	0.979	0.971
Q <sub>C10</sub> (MVAR)	5.000	0.358	0.969	2.829	1.803	2.495	0.349	3.336
Q <sub>C12</sub> (MVAR)	0.000	4.125	0.000	3.423	4.793	2.410	0.761	0.214
Q <sub>C15</sub> (MVAR)	0.000	2.599	0.000	2.804	2.168	3.829	0.566	4.409
Q <sub>C17</sub> (MVAR)	5.000	1.673	5.000	0.790	1.631	4.839	0.218	4.705
Q <sub>C20</sub> (MVAR)	5.000	4.198	5.000	1.717	0.840	2.457	0.910	2.777
Q <sub>C21</sub> (MVAR)	0.000	0.894	0.000	2.030	2.738	2.556	1.125	3.222
Q <sub>C23</sub> (MVAR)	0.521	0.934	5.000	3.253	1.132	2.446	0.097	3.011
Q <sub>C24</sub> (MVAR)	1.211	1.245	4.927	0.758	1.178	1.023	0.619	3.917
Q <sub>C29</sub> (MVAR)	0.000	2.348	2.269	3.605	1.567	3.215	0.326	2.032
Cost (\$/h)	806.917	803.375	800.647	801.883	812.235	818.495	806.361	<b>800.603</b>
P <sub>loss</sub> (MW)	11.004	9.082	9.075	9.502	9.601	11.236	9.506	9.066
VD (p.u)	0.548	0.346	0.880	0.496	0.363	0.238	0.345	0.875

**Table 5.** Control variables for the IEEE 30-bus test system on case 2.

DVs	PSO	GWO	MFO	WOA	LMFO	ChOA	SMFO	WMFO
P <sub>G1</sub> (MW)	173.480	174.013	173.985	168.666	171.232	155.248	178.513	175.843
P <sub>G2</sub> (MW)	43.026	46.959	49.523	44.514	38.975	57.231	46.094	49.016
P <sub>G5</sub> (MW)	15.000	17.424	21.804	17.430	22.792	22.097	16.834	21.631
P <sub>G8</sub> (MW)	35.000	23.676	24.165	26.330	34.996	15.663	12.699	21.454
P <sub>G11</sub> (MW)	15.045	10.321	11.402	14.309	11.636	12.245	17.606	12.524
P <sub>G13</sub> (MW)	12.000	20.915	12.344	21.756	13.386	29.274	22.149	12.888
V <sub>G1</sub> (p.u)	1.061	1.042	1.037	1.031	1.088	1.095	1.031	1.037
V <sub>G2</sub> (p.u)	1.041	1.017	1.022	1.011	1.063	1.065	1.019	1.022
V <sub>G5</sub> (p.u)	0.965	1.006	1.017	1.013	0.985	1.032	1.013	1.018
V <sub>G8</sub> (p.u)	0.999	1.007	1.005	1.011	1.004	1.038	1.011	1.005
V <sub>G11</sub> (p.u)	1.021	1.087	1.015	0.999	1.029	1.100	1.021	1.022
V <sub>G13</sub> (p.u)	1.004	0.997	0.991	1.034	0.974	0.998	1.032	0.988
T <sub>11(6-9)</sub> (p.u)	0.982	1.079	1.028	0.944	0.994	1.009	0.974	1.038
T <sub>12(6-10)</sub> (p.u)	0.934	0.900	0.902	0.964	0.944	1.100	0.994	0.909
T <sub>15(4-12)</sub> (p.u)	0.900	0.937	0.958	0.999	0.969	0.975	0.957	0.945
T <sub>36(28-27)</sub> (p.u)	0.910	0.952	0.953	0.962	0.926	0.964	0.957	0.967
Q <sub>C10</sub> (MVAR)	5.000	2.589	4.982	1.410	1.133	0.710	2.620	4.425
Q <sub>C12</sub> (MVAR)	1.542	1.939	5.000	3.910	1.639	1.287	2.337	4.302
Q <sub>C15</sub> (MVAR)	0.000	3.941	5.000	0.968	0.328	1.149	1.765	4.366
Q <sub>C17</sub> (MVAR)	2.581	3.195	0.000	2.721	3.766	1.844	0.174	3.383
Q <sub>C20</sub> (MVAR)	5.000	2.230	5.000	3.906	0.062	0.992	2.305	4.971
Q <sub>C21</sub> (MVAR)	0.000	0.706	5.000	3.812	4.257	3.796	1.748	4.720
Q <sub>C23</sub> (MVAR)	0.000	0.886	4.971	3.241	4.469	1.658	2.220	4.716
Q <sub>C24</sub> (MVAR)	0.500	1.806	5.000	2.301	1.264	3.802	2.149	4.960
Q <sub>C29</sub> (MVAR)	0.000	1.448	0.726	2.995	4.999	0.126	1.888	2.335
Cost (\$/h)	810.931	807.675	804.289	809.505	809.345	813.642	810.816	<b>804.209</b>
P <sub>loss</sub> (MW)	10.151	9.908	9.822	9.604	9.617	8.357	10.496	9.956
VD (p.u)	0.241	0.156	0.097	0.153	0.355	0.375	0.191	0.099

**Table 6.** Control variables for the IEEE 39-bus test system on case 1.

DVs	PSO	GWO	MFO	WOA	LMFO	ChOA	SMFO	WMFO
P <sub>G30</sub> (MW)	350.000	299.173	350.000	257.596	323.881	200.843	311.593	349.822
P <sub>G32</sub> (MW)	800.000	621.557	550.354	503.557	799.727	572.434	473.799	555.955
P <sub>G33</sub> (MW)	300.000	466.940	542.065	460.115	300.000	593.647	692.449	554.105
P <sub>G34</sub> (MW)	650.000	604.773	536.948	513.761	328.112	250.000	591.664	532.170
P <sub>G35</sub> (MW)	300.000	626.021	550.194	586.473	587.869	750.000	458.573	572.003
P <sub>G36</sub> (MW)	523.141	412.707	563.518	703.548	569.564	495.903	524.071	551.385
P <sub>G37</sub> (MW)	700.000	586.306	700.000	635.870	691.991	700.000	632.776	699.703
P <sub>G38</sub> (MW)	900.000	859.885	899.994	833.644	900.000	837.224	828.653	864.790
P <sub>G39</sub> (MW)	1200.000	1185.663	940.277	1195.788	1111.916	1200.000	1066.161	957.922
V <sub>G30</sub> (p.u)	0.940	1.029	1.038	1.049	0.996	1.060	1.059	1.028
V <sub>G31</sub> (p.u)	1.060	0.981	0.940	1.037	1.060	0.940	1.059	0.988
V <sub>G32</sub> (p.u)	1.060	1.026	1.050	1.048	0.940	0.967	1.059	1.007
V <sub>G33</sub> (p.u)	0.940	0.981	1.033	1.041	0.941	1.060	1.059	1.010
V <sub>G34</sub> (p.u)	1.060	1.019	0.991	1.052	0.940	1.060	1.059	1.036
V <sub>G35</sub> (p.u)	0.940	0.997	1.060	1.028	0.940	0.940	1.059	1.024
V <sub>G36</sub> (p.u)	0.940	1.006	1.053	1.048	0.940	0.940	1.059	1.027
V <sub>G37</sub> (p.u)	1.060	0.997	0.985	1.049	1.020	1.060	1.059	1.030
V <sub>G38</sub> (p.u)	1.060	1.007	1.060	1.036	1.060	1.060	1.059	1.038
V <sub>G39</sub> (p.u)	0.996	1.054	1.011	1.043	1.060	1.060	1.059	1.020
T <sub>(12-11)</sub> (p.u)	1.100	0.966	0.981	1.004	1.100	0.981	1.006	1.024
T <sub>(12-13)</sub> (p.u)	0.986	0.926	1.024	1.025	1.100	1.100	1.007	1.049
T <sub>(6-31)</sub> (p.u)	0.900	1.047	1.055	0.999	0.988	1.100	0.992	1.008
T <sub>(10-32)</sub> (p.u)	0.900	1.003	0.947	0.993	1.097	1.100	1.012	0.997
T <sub>(19-33)</sub> (p.u)	1.100	1.081	1.012	1.039	1.100	0.900	1.008	1.035
T <sub>(20-34)</sub> (p.u)	0.900	1.056	1.100	1.000	1.100	1.021	1.001	1.042
T <sub>(22-35)</sub> (p.u)	1.100	1.053	0.964	1.021	1.100	1.100	1.013	1.010
T <sub>(23-36)</sub> (p.u)	1.100	1.068	0.984	1.007	1.100	1.100	0.998	1.020
T <sub>(25-37)</sub> (p.u)	1.012	1.098	1.094	1.041	1.100	1.015	0.992	1.053
T <sub>(2-30)</sub> (p.u)	1.100	1.037	1.014	0.999	1.100	1.005	1.017	1.033
T <sub>(29-38)</sub> (p.u)	1.026	1.052	1.006	0.996	1.082	1.100	1.008	1.025
T <sub>(19-20)</sub> (p.u)	1.100	0.969	0.962	1.033	1.062	0.900	1.010	0.958
Q <sub>C29</sub> (MVAR)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Cost (\$/h)	36,981.452	35,808.008	34,492.315	35,922.544	36,563.136	37,126.977	35,341.994	<b>34,486.183</b>
P <sub>loss</sub> (MW)	51.401	41.320	52.646	44.020	48.151	46.760	43.924	49.901
VD (p.u)	1.070	0.897	0.778	0.728	1.102	0.866	1.142	0.756

**Table 7.** Control variables for the IEEE 39-bus test system on case 2.

DVs	PSO	GWO	MFO	WOA	LMFO	ChOA	SMFO	WMFO
P <sub>G30</sub> (MW)	100.000	297.380	348.903	292.284	138.518	109.618	313.654	349.732
P <sub>G32</sub> (MW)	300.000	704.308	552.833	569.712	476.085	566.034	632.536	560.992
P <sub>G33</sub> (MW)	750.000	641.764	523.129	596.531	300.000	750.000	567.150	542.973
P <sub>G34</sub> (MW)	650.000	634.137	523.843	579.320	650.000	250.000	586.266	555.768
P <sub>G35</sub> (MW)	387.945	411.939	509.422	588.745	750.000	667.111	578.945	543.045
P <sub>G36</sub> (MW)	750.000	570.735	485.428	629.124	750.000	750.000	581.488	561.926
P <sub>G37</sub> (MW)	700.000	687.822	692.822	626.683	700.000	700.000	538.703	699.785
P <sub>G38</sub> (MW)	900.000	738.345	879.590	698.947	900.000	566.939	889.166	850.778
P <sub>G39</sub> (MW)	1200.000	1101.308	1114.155	1064.504	1200.000	1200.000	957.452	974.999
V <sub>G30</sub> (p.u)	0.978	1.051	0.951	1.060	0.940	0.940	1.050	1.014
V <sub>G31</sub> (p.u)	0.940	0.942	1.060	1.060	1.060	0.940	1.046	1.036
V <sub>G32</sub> (p.u)	0.940	0.958	1.025	1.037	0.940	0.940	1.051	0.991
V <sub>G33</sub> (p.u)	0.940	0.957	1.060	1.060	0.962	0.940	1.055	1.025
V <sub>G34</sub> (p.u)	0.940	0.944	1.060	1.060	0.940	0.940	1.057	1.009
V <sub>G35</sub> (p.u)	0.940	1.005	1.060	1.031	0.940	0.940	1.049	1.022
V <sub>G36</sub> (p.u)	0.940	0.962	0.964	1.057	0.940	0.940	1.049	1.001
V <sub>G37</sub> (p.u)	1.003	1.040	0.940	1.060	1.060	1.060	1.054	1.014
V <sub>G38</sub> (p.u)	1.060	1.011	1.005	1.043	1.003	1.060	1.048	1.016
V <sub>G39</sub> (p.u)	1.060	1.038	1.000	1.050	1.060	1.060	1.057	1.034
T <sub>(12-11)</sub> (p.u)	1.052	1.043	1.100	1.004	1.100	1.073	1.026	1.036
T <sub>(12-13)</sub> (p.u)	0.900	0.960	1.095	1.001	1.016	1.100	1.026	1.034
T <sub>(6-31)</sub> (p.u)	1.100	1.075	0.900	0.968	0.957	1.100	1.016	0.976
T <sub>(10-32)</sub> (p.u)	1.100	1.050	0.958	0.994	1.100	1.100	1.013	1.028
T <sub>(19-33)</sub> (p.u)	1.100	1.093	0.991	1.009	1.100	1.100	1.020	1.025
T <sub>(20-34)</sub> (p.u)	1.100	1.076	0.901	0.998	0.964	1.012	1.014	1.062
T <sub>(22-35)</sub> (p.u)	1.100	1.041	0.982	1.018	1.100	1.100	1.025	1.026
T <sub>(23-36)</sub> (p.u)	1.100	1.098	1.100	1.005	1.100	1.100	1.027	1.060
T <sub>(25-37)</sub> (p.u)	1.100	1.050	1.100	1.000	1.023	0.997	1.024	1.063
T <sub>(2-30)</sub> (p.u)	1.100	1.017	1.095	1.003	1.100	1.100	1.025	1.051
T <sub>(29-38)</sub> (p.u)	1.026	1.053	1.079	1.003	1.100	0.900	1.010	1.045
T <sub>(19-20)</sub> (p.u)	0.994	1.031	1.099	1.016	1.100	1.100	1.012	0.981
Q <sub>C29</sub> (MVAR)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Cost (\$/h)	38,567.704	35,870.151	34,778.575	35,357.817	38,340.538	39,072.094	35,230.798	<b>34,487.119</b>
P <sub>loss</sub> (MW)	65.046	47.469	48.904	40.613	60.761	45.849	43.839	48.666
VD (p.u)	0.710	0.815	0.910	0.744	0.740	0.575	1.267	0.740

**Table 8.** Control variables for the IEEE 57-bus test system on case 1.

DVs	PSO	GWO	MFO	WOA	LMFO	ChOA	SMFO	WMFO
P <sub>G2</sub> (MW)	100.000	10.462	0.000	89.554	91.789	100.000	62.134	31.694
P <sub>G3</sub> (MW)	62.925	85.489	0.000	99.348	0.000	0.000	101.918	73.736
P <sub>G6</sub> (MW)	0.000	91.293	98.134	78.181	99.506	31.546	19.291	38.736
P <sub>G8</sub> (MW)	550.000	460.703	502.738	457.512	550.000	550.000	504.151	540.937
P <sub>G9</sub> (MW)	20.462	41.838	100.000	72.223	100.000	33.520	95.817	62.545
P <sub>G12</sub> (MW)	410.000	406.884	410.000	321.495	410.000	365.943	315.627	355.065
V <sub>G1</sub> (p.u)	1.100	1.078	1.078	1.053	1.100	1.100	1.043	1.063
V <sub>G2</sub> (p.u)	1.093	1.063	1.061	1.036	1.100	1.100	1.042	1.055
V <sub>G3</sub> (p.u)	1.078	1.053	1.037	1.050	1.100	1.100	1.026	1.063
V <sub>G6</sub> (p.u)	1.022	1.066	1.045	1.047	1.100	1.100	1.045	1.058
V <sub>G8</sub> (p.u)	1.014	1.064	1.027	1.051	1.100	1.100	1.024	1.065
V <sub>G9</sub> (p.u)	1.034	1.047	1.005	1.037	1.100	1.080	1.032	1.051
V <sub>G12</sub> (p.u)	1.100	1.065	1.009	1.066	1.096	1.100	1.047	1.070
T <sub>(4-18)</sub> (p.u)	0.900	0.934	1.100	1.065	1.100	1.097	1.027	1.036
T <sub>(4-18)</sub> (p.u)	1.100	1.060	1.038	1.054	1.100	1.100	1.048	1.087
T <sub>(21-20)</sub> (p.u)	0.900	1.075	1.100	1.047	1.100	1.100	1.050	1.045
T <sub>(24-25)</sub> (p.u)	1.100	1.008	1.100	1.054	1.008	1.100	1.046	0.940
T <sub>(24-25)</sub> (p.u)	1.100	0.966	0.953	1.046	1.100	1.100	1.046	1.083
T <sub>(24-26)</sub> (p.u)	1.100	1.063	0.987	1.043	1.100	1.100	1.023	1.068
T <sub>(7-29)</sub> (p.u)	0.900	1.041	1.025	1.040	1.100	1.100	1.030	1.053
T <sub>(34-32)</sub> (p.u)	1.100	1.030	1.032	0.990	1.100	1.100	1.029	1.050
T <sub>(11-41)</sub> (p.u)	0.948	0.993	0.900	1.030	0.900	1.100	1.017	1.076
T <sub>(15-45)</sub> (p.u)	1.100	0.989	0.986	1.005	1.100	1.100	0.951	1.004
T <sub>(14-46)</sub> (p.u)	0.950	0.983	0.947	0.936	1.100	0.911	0.948	1.005
T <sub>(10-51)</sub> (p.u)	1.090	1.044	0.929	0.975	1.100	1.100	0.952	0.962
T <sub>(13-49)</sub> (p.u)	1.100	0.935	1.011	1.039	0.900	1.100	1.043	1.061
T <sub>(11-43)</sub> (p.u)	1.064	1.041	0.929	1.054	1.100	1.100	0.973	0.975
T <sub>(40-56)</sub> (p.u)	0.900	0.941	0.906	1.053	0.925	0.980	1.017	0.953
T <sub>(39-57)</sub> (p.u)	0.904	1.069	1.100	1.010	0.900	1.100	1.043	1.046
T <sub>(9-55)</sub> (p.u)	1.006	1.029	1.015	1.046	1.100	1.100	1.034	1.002
Q <sub>C18</sub> (MVAR)	30.000	10.357	30.000	24.559	30.000	30.000	28.745	23.532
Q <sub>C25</sub> (MVAR)	30.000	8.904	15.632	11.975	30.000	30.000	16.930	26.438
Q <sub>C53</sub> (MVAR)	0.000	26.296	22.477	24.151	0.000	3.213	17.094	14.162
Cost (\$/h)	42,587.218	42,406.446	41,397.039	41,304.894	43,811.737	42,863.921	42,863.673	<b>39,359.123</b>
P <sub>loss</sub> (MW)	26.541	20.653	29.513	27.094	24.790	25.028	26.688	31.796
VD (p.u)	2.002	1.453	1.215	1.471	2.060	2.368	1.229	1.511

**Table 9.** Control variables for the IEEE 57-bus test system on case 2.

DVs	PSO	GWO	MFO	WOA	LMFO	ChOA	SMFO	WMFO
P <sub>G2</sub> (MW)	100.000	55.119	3.429	93.357	63.160	37.888	21.130	52.209
P <sub>G3</sub> (MW)	63.293	59.842	70.482	58.211	103.774	0.280	122.517	52.716
P <sub>G6</sub> (MW)	0.000	96.368	0.000	74.407	100.000	0.265	76.490	75.108
P <sub>G8</sub> (MW)	550.000	489.750	512.399	389.447	516.516	550.000	492.233	487.844
P <sub>G9</sub> (MW)	0.000	96.737	99.880	64.941	100.000	78.621	46.536	76.647
P <sub>G12</sub> (MW)	410.000	369.730	410.000	340.034	118.879	410.000	317.585	373.824
V <sub>G1</sub> (p.u)	1.100	1.063	0.900	1.002	1.100	1.100	1.016	1.023
V <sub>G2</sub> (p.u)	1.100	1.040	0.900	0.988	1.100	1.100	1.012	1.004
V <sub>G3</sub> (p.u)	1.100	1.038	0.963	0.996	1.100	1.100	1.028	1.012
V <sub>G6</sub> (p.u)	1.100	1.064	1.021	0.985	1.100	1.100	1.010	1.006
V <sub>G8</sub> (p.u)	1.100	1.066	1.092	0.992	1.100	1.100	1.004	1.011
V <sub>G9</sub> (p.u)	1.056	1.039	1.033	0.981	1.033	1.083	1.005	0.999
V <sub>G12</sub> (p.u)	1.041	1.042	1.013	1.008	0.944	1.100	1.027	1.025
T <sub>(4-18)</sub> (p.u)	0.900	1.049	0.900	0.954	0.900	1.100	1.003	1.011
T <sub>(4-18)</sub> (p.u)	1.100	1.069	0.964	1.033	1.100	1.100	1.040	0.993
T <sub>(21-20)</sub> (p.u)	0.900	0.995	1.100	1.004	0.921	1.100	1.016	0.970
T <sub>(24-25)</sub> (p.u)	1.100	1.014	1.087	0.946	1.068	1.004	0.967	1.000
T <sub>(24-25)</sub> (p.u)	1.100	1.033	1.100	0.935	1.100	1.100	1.024	1.030
T <sub>(24-26)</sub> (p.u)	1.100	1.056	1.032	0.978	0.900	1.100	1.036	1.005
T <sub>(7-29)</sub> (p.u)	1.041	1.004	1.054	0.926	1.100	1.100	1.014	0.961
T <sub>(34-32)</sub> (p.u)	1.100	1.054	1.028	0.958	1.032	1.100	1.026	1.010
T <sub>(11-41)</sub> (p.u)	1.100	0.963	0.900	1.035	1.100	0.968	1.010	0.934
T <sub>(15-45)</sub> (p.u)	0.990	0.957	0.962	0.991	1.100	1.100	1.010	0.966
T <sub>(14-46)</sub> (p.u)	1.100	0.961	0.900	0.951	0.900	0.930	1.019	1.006
T <sub>(10-51)</sub> (p.u)	1.100	1.059	1.100	0.935	0.900	1.100	1.038	0.992
T <sub>(13-49)</sub> (p.u)	0.900	0.972	0.900	1.038	0.900	1.100	1.004	0.990
T <sub>(11-43)</sub> (p.u)	0.995	1.035	0.973	0.979	1.100	1.100	0.924	0.928
T <sub>(40-56)</sub> (p.u)	1.100	1.031	1.084	1.038	0.900	1.009	1.026	0.968
T <sub>(39-57)</sub> (p.u)	0.900	0.944	0.900	0.916	0.900	1.100	1.024	1.007
T <sub>(9-55)</sub> (p.u)	1.100	0.985	1.100	0.900	1.100	1.100	1.018	0.991
Q <sub>C18</sub> (MVAR)	0.000	20.364	30.000	20.613	30.000	12.894	23.425	22.512
Q <sub>C25</sub> (MVAR)	30.000	18.170	23.406	11.099	30.000	30.000	26.679	20.411
Q <sub>C53</sub> (MVAR)	30.000	1.597	30.000	28.007	5.027	0.000	24.255	25.778
Cost (\$/h)	42,465.231	41,979.049	42,289.258	42,215.003	47,041.031	42,975.547	43,721.203	<b>41,811.734</b>
P <sub>loss</sub> (MW)	23.207	44.435	32.944	35.483	42.904	24.779	39.153	51.366
VD (p.u)	1.833	1.186	1.307	1.533	2.383	2.204	1.760	0.909

**Table 10.** Summary results of the IEEE 118-bus test system on case 1.

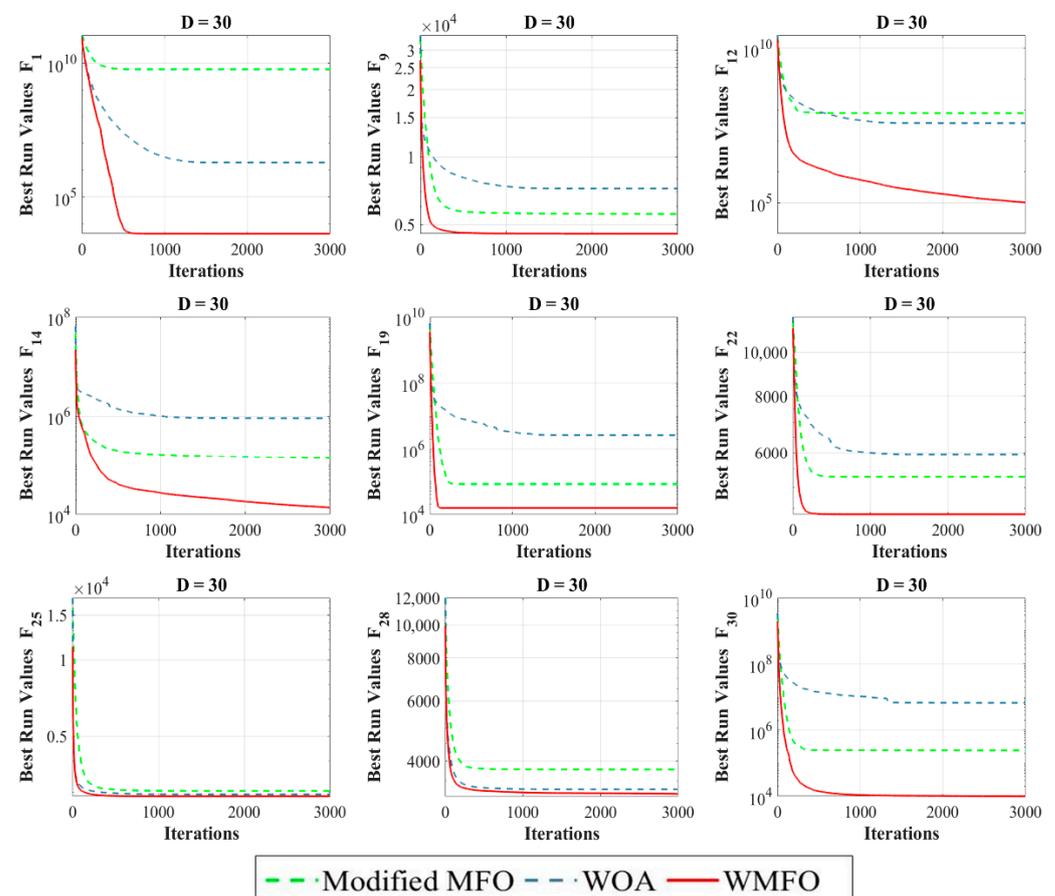
DVs	PSO	GWO	MFO	WOA	LMFO	ChOA	SMFO	WMFO
Cost (\$/h)	163,509.345	151,775.538	14,8925.660	145,495.166	173,485.645	150,735.185	139,808.042	<b>136,452.876</b>
Ploss (MW)	174.036	88.617	139.276	79.658	123.261	126.529	57.310	105.637
VD (p.u)	3.406	1.616	1.721	2.819	1.431	4.212	1.505	2.280

**Table 11.** Summary results of the IEEE 118-bus test system on case 2.

DVs	PSO	GWO	MFO	WOA	LMFO	ChOA	SMFO	WMFO
Cost (\$/h)	162,577.805	146,190.125	143,148.753	143,067.030	159,753.193	150,749.192	139,773.974	<b>136,147.702</b>
Ploss (MW)	164.015	125.125	103.421	102.091	134.400	131.863	67.651	104.699
VD (p.u)	3.259	1.482	1.996	0.629	1.694	3.263	0.482	0.933

6.1. Impact Analysis of Hybridizing WOA and Modified MFO

The exploration and exploitation abilities of the WOA, modified MFO, WMFO are investigated on several test functions selected from the CEC 2018 benchmark suite [118]. The first function  $F_1$  is a unimodal function, which can be employed to assess the exploitation ability of the algorithms. The test function  $F_9$  is a multimodal function with many local optima, that is employed to investigate the exploration ability. Test functions 12, 14, and 19 are hybrid and 22, 25, 28, and 30 are composition functions that are suitable for evaluating the algorithms' ability to prevent local optima and to strike balance between exploration and exploitation. The plotted convergence of these functions is presented in Figure 1.



**Figure 1.** The convergence curves of algorithms in solving CEC benchmark functions.

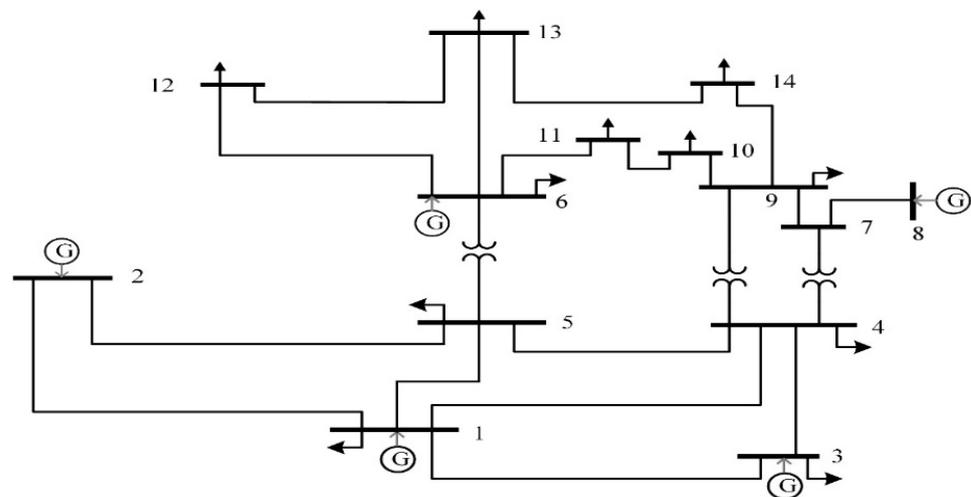
Analyzing convergence behavior of the test function  $F_1$  shows that the convergence trend of the modified MFO is hampered by local optimum after the initial iterations, while the WOA maintained its descent slope till the half of iterations, which shows its better exploitation ability compared to the modified MFO. On the contrary, the proposed WMFO converges toward the global solution by effectively exploiting the search space in the early iterations. The test function  $F_9$  shows that the modified MFO has better exploration than the WOA, and the proposed hybridization of WOA and modified MFO achieves superior results by effectively exploring the search space. The convergence behavior of hybrid and composition functions reveals that although WOA and modified MFO cannot maintain the balance between their search strategies, the proposed hybridization of them maintains the balance between exploitation and exploration and bypasses the local optimum effectively.

## 6.2. IEEE Bus Test Systems

The IEEE 14-bus, IEEE 30-bus, IEEE 39-bus, IEEE 57-bus, and the IEEE 118-bus test systems are employed to test the simulation effect of the WMFO for solving the OPF problem in two different Cases of single and multi-objective.

### 6.2.1. IEEE 14-Bus Test System

The IEEE 14-bus test system is regarded as the first test system for evaluating the performance of the WMFO. Figure 2 illustrates the IEEE 14-bus test system, which consists of five generator buses, three transformers, nine load buses, and 20 transmission lines. The bus data, limitations, and cost coefficients are presented in [119]. The transformer tap's minimum and maximum boundaries are set to 0.9 and 1.1 p.u. The lower and upper limit voltages for all generator buses have been set at 0.94 and 1.06 p.u.



**Figure 2.** The one-line diagram for the IEEE 14-bus system.

To establish an effective comparison, Tables 2 and 3 present the detailed outcomes of the objective functions, transmission losses, and active and reactive power outputs of generators for both Cases 1 and 2. Moreover, Figure 3 illustrates the convergence behavior of the obtained fitness of the algorithms over the course of iterations on the IEEE 14-bus standard test system. As illustrated in Table 2, in terms of overall cost, both MFO and WMFO provide superior outcomes than other algorithms. For Case 2, Table 3 shows that the WMFO's results are superior to those of other algorithms.

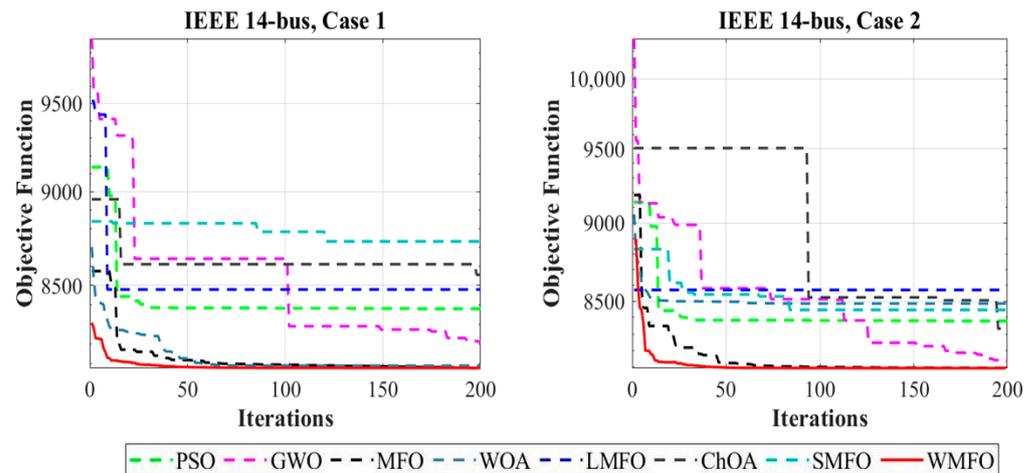


Figure 3. Convergence curves for the IEEE 14-bus test system.

### 6.2.2. IEEE 30-Bus Test System

Figure 4 depicts a single-line diagram of the IEEE 30-bus test system. Six generators are used on buses 1, 2, 5, 8, 11, and 13, and on lines 6–9, 6–10, 4–12, and 28–27 there are four transformers installed. The branch, bus, and generator data are taken from [120]. The minimum and maximum limits of the transformer tap are adjusted to 0.9 and 1.1 p.u. The shunt VAR compensations have lower and upper values of 0.0 and 0.05 p.u. For all generator buses, the lower and upper limit voltages have been adjusted to 0.95 and 1.1 p.u. Tables 4 and 5 illustrate the optimal control variable values including total cost of fuel, voltage deviations, and power loss for Cases 1 and 2. Figure 5 shows the obtained fitness' convergence trait for both Cases. It is clear to observe that WMFO provides the minimum total fuel cost of 800.603 (\$/h) and 804.209 (\$/h) for Case 1 and Case 2.

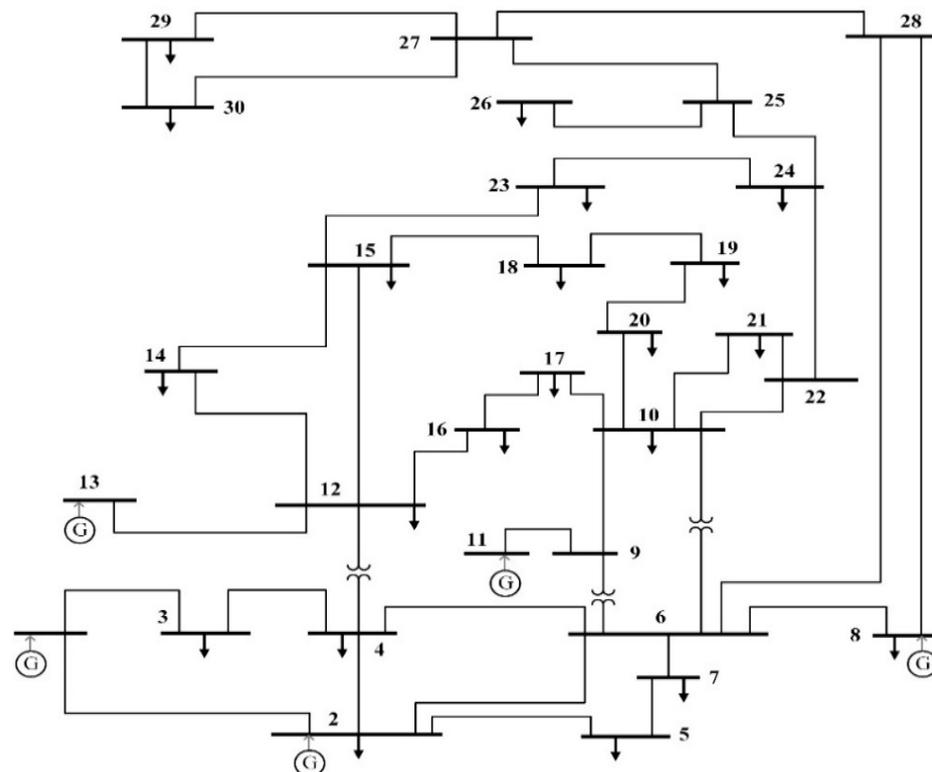


Figure 4. The one-line diagram for the IEEE 30-bus test system.

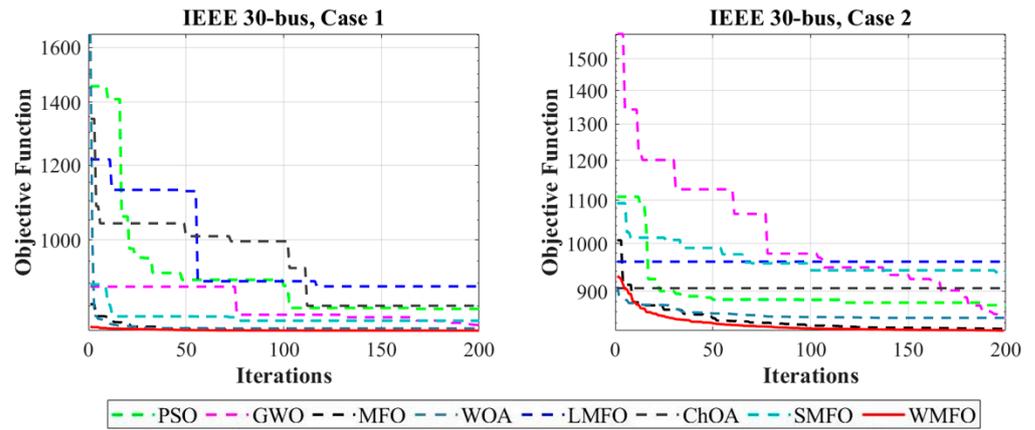


Figure 5. Convergence curves for the IEEE 30-bus test system.

### 6.2.3. IEEE 39-Bus Test System

This test system contains ten generators on buses 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, and 39, and twelve transformers between buses 12–11, 12–13, 6–31, 10–32, 19–33, 20–34, 22–35, 23–36, 25–37, 2–30, 29–38, and 19–20, as shown in Figure 6. The bus data, branch data, and cost coefficients are taken from MATPOWER [117]. For all generator buses, the lower and upper limit voltages are considered to be 1.06 and 0.94. The minimum and maximum limits of the transformer tap are adjusted to 0.9 and 1.1 p.u. The tabulated results in Tables 6 and 7 prove the superiority of the WMFO in minimizing the total fuel cost to 34,486.183 for Case 1 and 34,487.119 for Case 2. The convergence trait of WMFO, canonical MFO, and the other competitor algorithms are depicted in Figure 7.

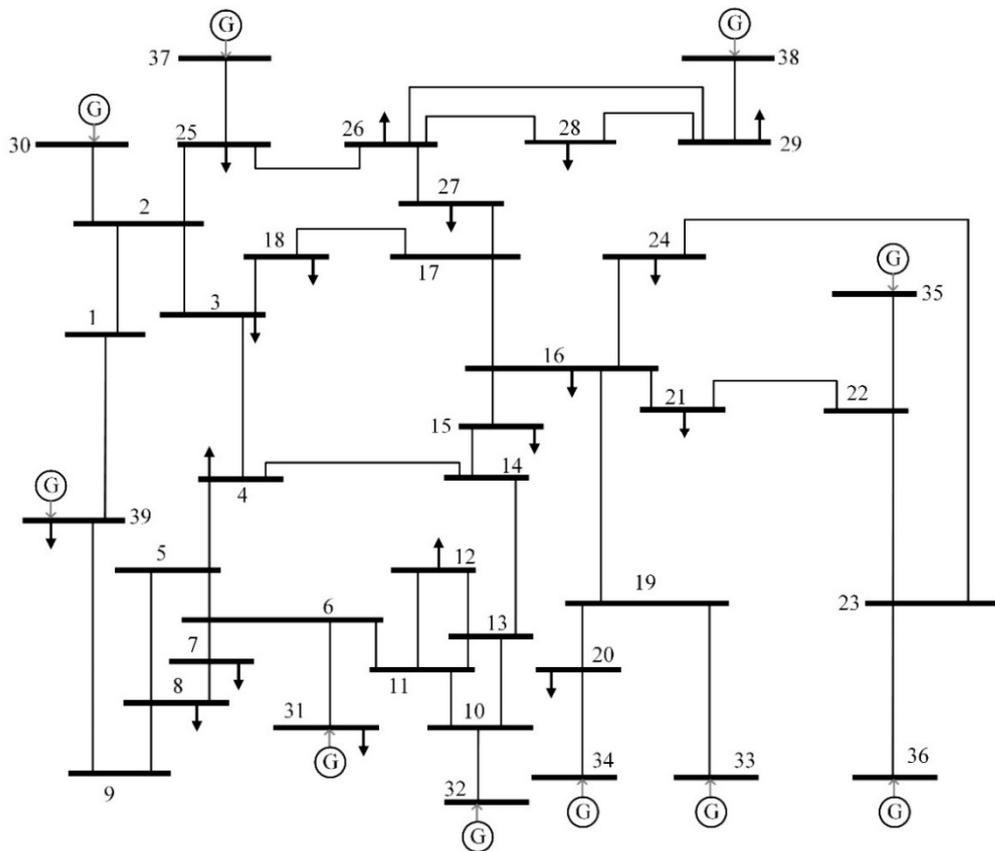


Figure 6. The one-line diagram for the IEEE 39-bus test system.

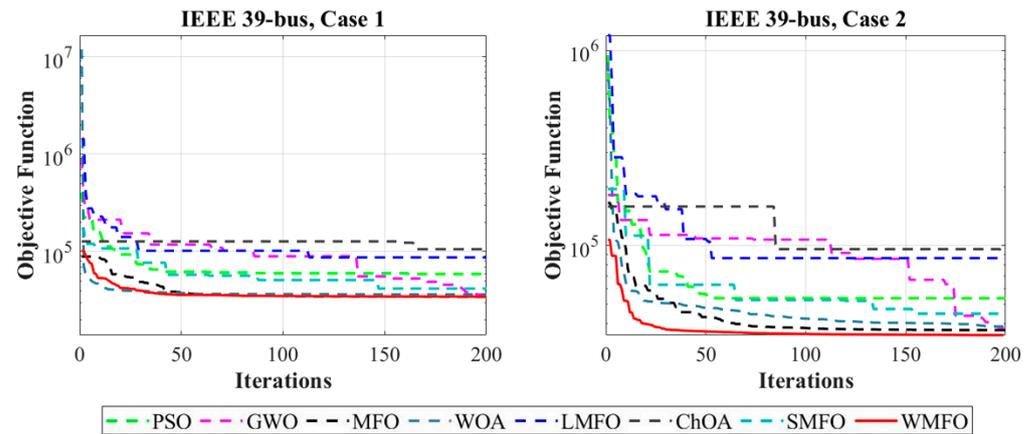


Figure 7. Convergence curves for the IEEE 39-bus test system.

#### 6.2.4. IEEE 57-Bus Test System

The IEEE 57-bus test system is depicted in Figure 8, and it has seven generators at the buses 1, 2, 3, 6, 8, 9, 12, and 15 branches under load tap setting transformer branches and 80 transmission lines. Shunt reactive power sources are located at buses 18, 25, and 53. The upper bounds and lower bounds of real power generations and the cost coefficients are presented in [121]. The upper and lower bounds for voltages of tap setting transformer variables and all generator buses are considered to be 1.1–0.9 in p.u. Shunt reactive power sources have maximum and lowest values of 0.0 and 0.3 in p.u. The voltages of all load buses have maximum and minimum values of 1.06 and 0.94 in p.u. Tables 8 and 9 indicate that the best fuel cost values gained using the proposed WMFO are 39,359.123 (\$/h) for Case 1 and 41,811.734 (\$/h) for Case 2, which are significantly lower than the best fuel cost results obtained by comparative algorithms. The convergence traits of the best fuel cost acquired by the algorithms for this test system are illustrated in Figure 9.

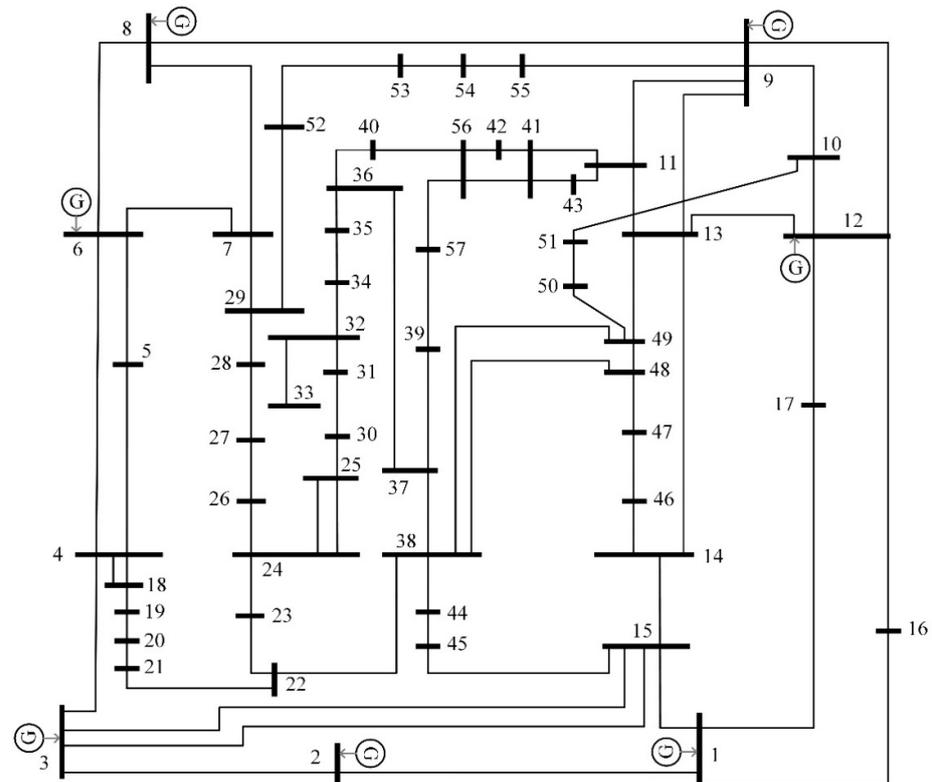
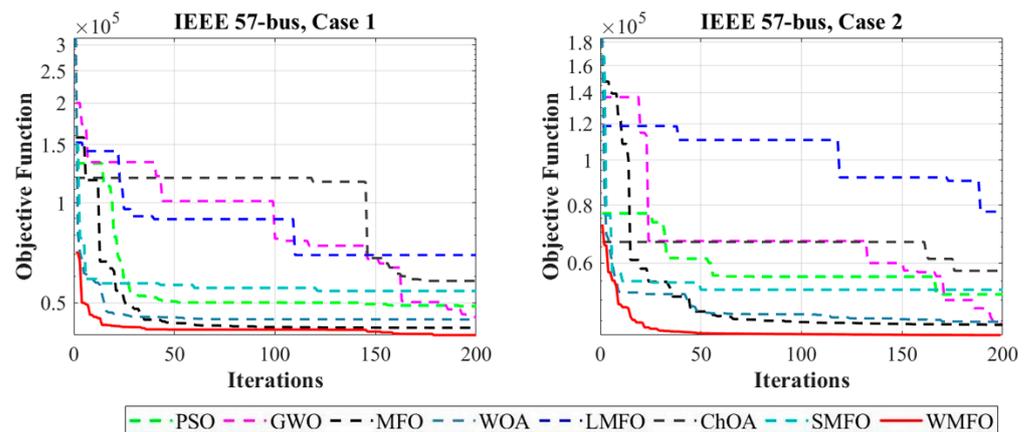


Figure 8. The one-line diagram for the IEEE 57-bus test system.



**Figure 9.** Convergence curves for the IEEE 57-bus test system.

### 6.2.5. IEEE 118-Bus Test System

The ability of the proposed WMFO in solving a larger power system is evaluated by the IEEE 118-bus test system. The cost coefficients, branch, and bus data are taken from MATPOWER [117]. This bus test system contains 54 generators, 186 branches, 9 transformers, 2 reactors, and 12 capacitors. This system contains 129 control variables in total, as follows: there are 54 generator active powers and bus voltages are available, as well as nine transformer tap settings and twelve shunt capacitors reactive power injections. The voltage limit for all buses is 0.94 to 1.06 p.u. Transformer tap settings are tested in the range of 0.90–1.10 p.u. Shunt capacitors' available reactive powers vary from 0 to 30 MVAR. As Cases 1 and 2 in this experiment include too many design factors, the summary of the results is reported in Tables 10 and 11, while the detailed results of MFO, WMFO, and the proposed WMFO are tabulated in Tables A1 and A2 in Appendix A. The results tabulated in Tables 10 and 11 reveal that the WMFO provides the best fuel cost values. The cost value for Case 1 is 136,452.876 (\$/h) and for Case 2 is 136,147.702 (\$/h), which are significantly lower than the results acquired by competitor algorithms. Figures 10 and 11 also show the single-line diagram of the IEEE 118-bus test system and the convergence curves of the algorithms' acquired fitness.

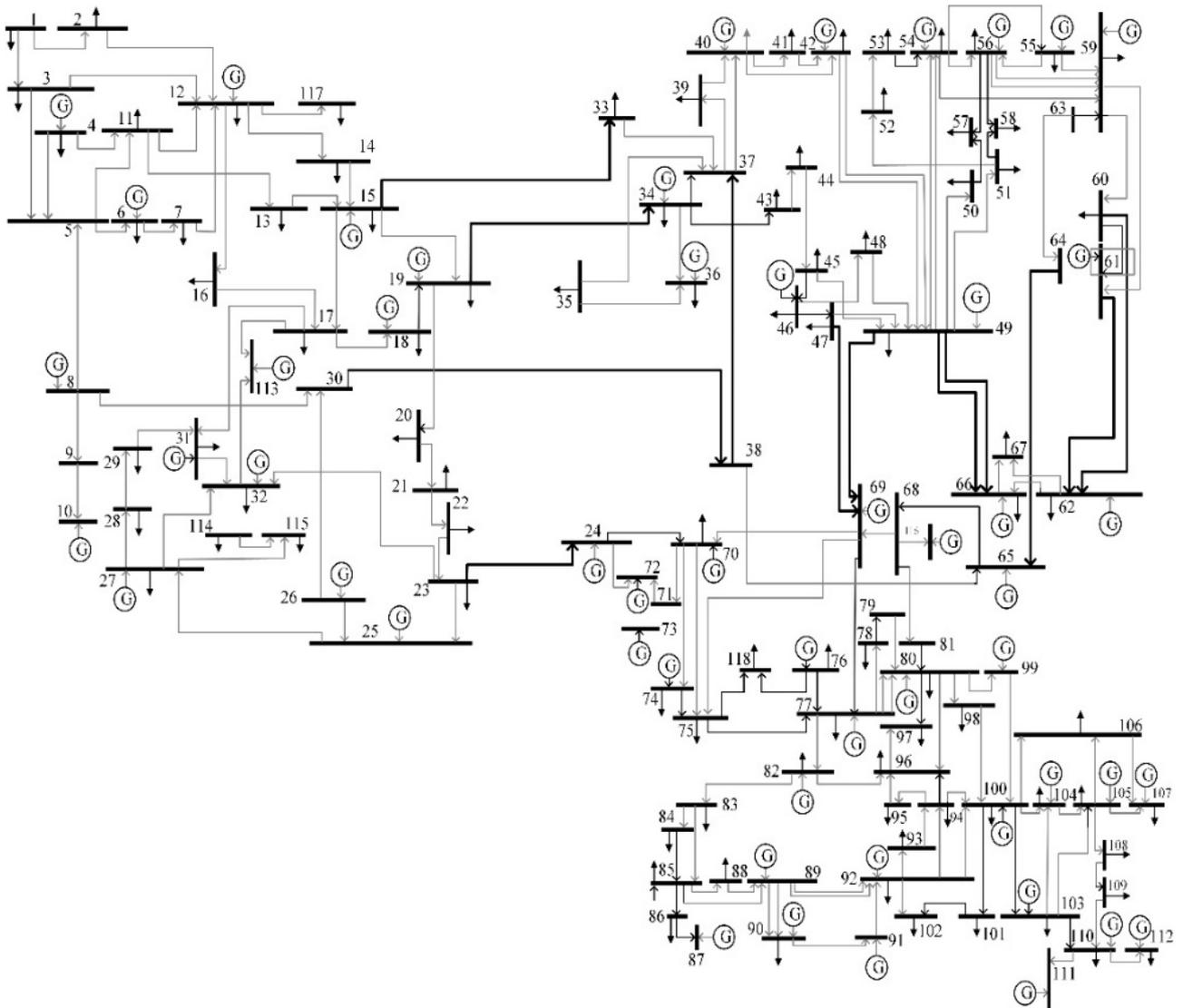


Figure 10. The one-line diagram for IEEE 118-bus test system.

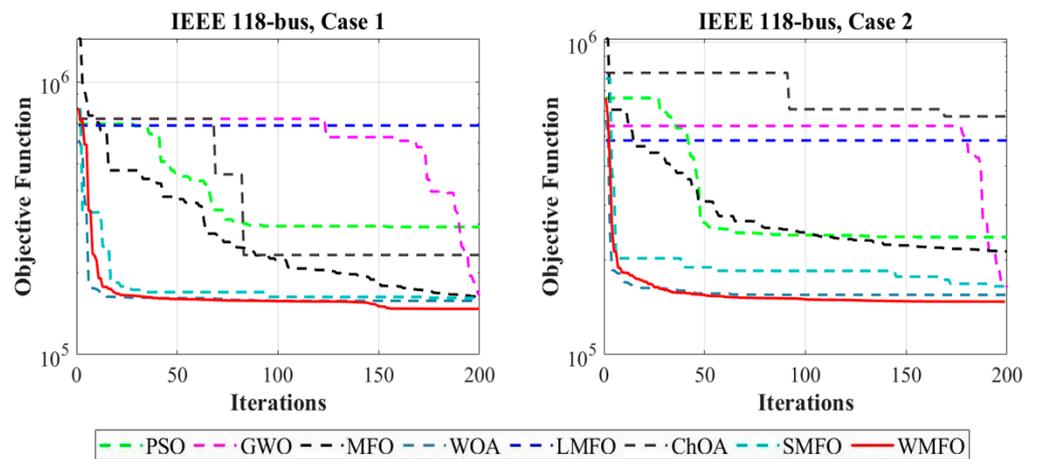


Figure 11. Convergence curves for the IEEE 118-bus test system.

### 7. Statistical Analysis

The algorithms are ranked based on their performance in minimizing the cost function of different OPF problems for both cases 1 and 2. The results are illustrated in the radar graph in Figure 12.

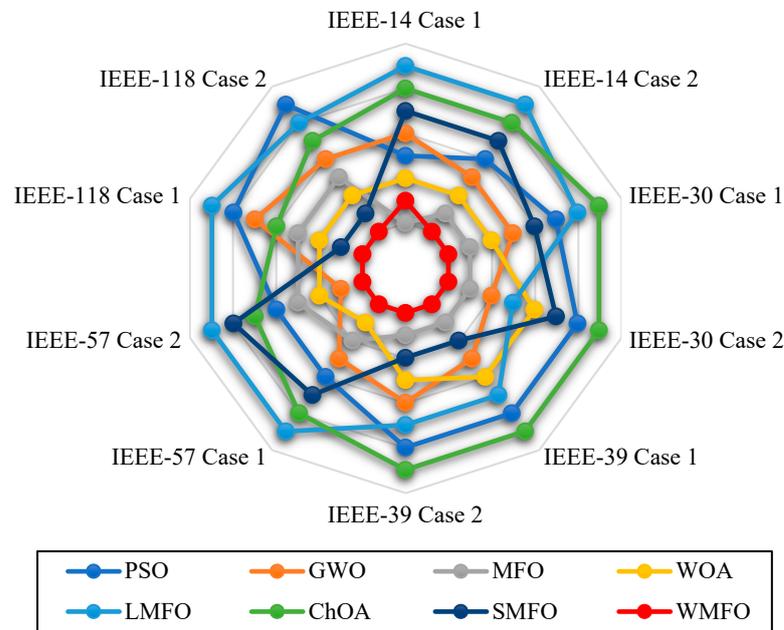


Figure 12. The rank of algorithms in solving the OPF problems.

The percentage of fuel cost reduction gained by the proposed and comparative algorithms for each bus test system is illustrated in Figure 13 in comparison with the average cost for the bus test systems. It shows that the WMFO can reduce the total cost of all problems by 38.26% more than the average of competitor algorithms.

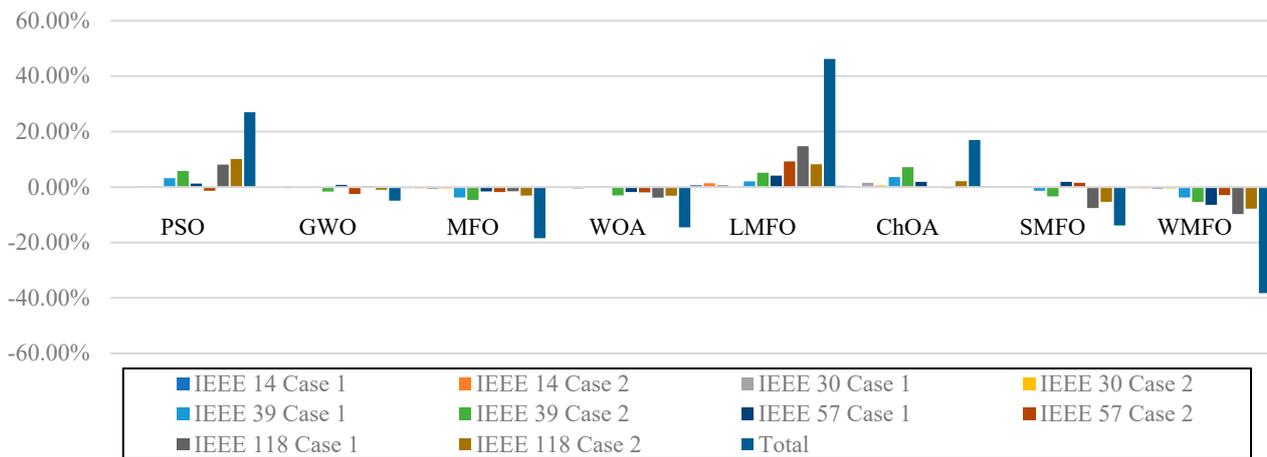


Figure 13. The percentage of cost reduction in comparison with the average cost of each bus test system.

### 8. Conclusions and Future Works

This paper proposed an effective hybridizing of whale and moth-flame optimization algorithms (WMFO) to solve the optimal power flow (OPF) problem. The population is equally partitioned among two algorithms using the population partitioning mechanism. A self-memory mechanism is defined for each search agent to preserve their best experiences and update their positions based on the average best-experienced position of the whole

population. Moreover, randomized boundary handling is introduced to effectively apply the boundary limiting conditions. Furthermore, the WMFO employs a greedy selection operator to evaluate the acceptance criteria of new positions. The impact analysis on convergence curves shows that the WMFO explores the search space in the first iterations, then it keeps improving the quality of the solution in the course of iterations. This convergence behavior reveals that the WMFO inherits the exploitation of the WOA, while it takes advantage of the explorative movements of the modified MFO. The effectiveness and scalability of the proposed algorithm in solving the OPF problem have been assessed and investigated on the IEEE 14-bus, 30-bus, 39-bus, 57-bus, and 118-bus test systems to optimize the OPF's single and multi-objective functions within the limits of the system. The obtained results are then compared against five well-known metaheuristic algorithms and two improved variations of the MFO to validate the results. The comparison of results reveals that the proposed WMFO outperforms competitor algorithms in solving single and multi-objective problems in various power system scale sizes by reducing the total cost 38.26% more than the average of the total cost gained by the competitor algorithms. The maximum amount of cost reduction compared to the average value of contender algorithms is 14,820.55 (\$/h) gained by the WMFO on the IEEE 118-bus test system Case 1. Furthermore, the average amount of reduced cost gained by the WMFO on ten different OPF problems equals 33,722.24 (\$/h) or 295 million dollars a year, which shows the economic viability of the proposed method in solving the OPF problem. In future research, WMFO can be employed to solve various problems in power systems such as FACTS devices and electrical load forecasting.

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**Conflicts of Interest:** The authors declare no conflict of interest.

## Appendix A

Tables A1 and A2 present the complete results of the total fuel cost (cost), power losses (ploss), and voltage deviation (*VD*) for Cases 1 and 2 on the IEEE-118 bus test system.

**Table A1.** Control variables for IEEE 118-bus test system on case 1.

DVs	PSO	GWO	MFO	WOA	LMFO	ChOA	SMFO	WMFO	DVs	PSO	GWO	MFO	WOA	LMFO	ChOA	SMFO	WMFO	DVs	PSO	GWO	MFO	WOA	LMFO	ChOA	SMFO	WMFO
P <sub>G01</sub>	0.00	64.61	0.00	42.12	55.09	30.56	41.86	12.41	P <sub>G100</sub>	352.00	212.36	350.90	28.97	224.60	131.85	154.56	123.13	V <sub>G74</sub>	0.94	1.01	0.98	1.05	0.94	0.94	1.03	0.96
P <sub>G04</sub>	0.00	37.23	99.83	53.86	61.84	14.75	44.80	32.27	P <sub>G103</sub>	0.00	11.40	32.12	91.42	112.88	0.00	60.21	24.70	V <sub>G76</sub>	0.94	0.99	0.94	1.05	0.97	0.94	1.03	0.94
P <sub>G06</sub>	100.00	14.99	0.08	18.90	50.86	56.14	46.69	20.95	P <sub>G104</sub>	0.00	47.64	0.00	44.95	43.75	17.11	43.96	78.19	V <sub>G77</sub>	0.94	0.98	0.99	1.05	1.01	0.94	1.03	0.98
P <sub>G08</sub>	0.00	39.51	93.28	65.03	67.76	100.00	45.34	20.95	P <sub>G105</sub>	100.00	70.31	89.32	64.77	6.06	34.77	45.44	57.77	V <sub>G80</sub>	0.95	0.98	1.00	1.05	1.04	0.94	1.03	0.99
P <sub>G10</sub>	550.00	164.00	354.16	214.58	531.54	105.48	241.72	347.96	P <sub>G107</sub>	100.00	56.25	99.91	42.42	29.96	58.88	44.74	16.53	V <sub>G85</sub>	0.94	0.97	1.01	1.05	0.97	0.94	1.03	0.99
P <sub>G12</sub>	0.00	88.06	185.00	105.57	4.99	18.03	73.94	53.33	P <sub>G110</sub>	100.00	71.90	0.00	34.62	23.25	15.80	45.19	6.96	V <sub>G87</sub>	0.94	1.06	1.02	1.05	1.00	1.06	1.03	0.97
P <sub>G15</sub>	0.00	21.63	100.00	46.00	19.97	36.45	44.28	35.70	P <sub>G111</sub>	136.00	42.29	19.69	36.64	92.56	136.00	59.28	72.44	V <sub>G89</sub>	0.94	0.96	1.06	1.05	0.97	0.94	1.03	1.02
P <sub>G18</sub>	0.00	64.86	4.37	50.99	13.58	23.80	45.73	46.25	P <sub>G112</sub>	0.00	37.87	21.73	84.41	17.90	0.00	21.72	36.05	V <sub>G90</sub>	0.94	1.01	0.95	1.05	1.02	0.94	1.03	1.00
P <sub>G19</sub>	100.00	34.69	0.00	54.74	37.06	100.00	45.20	53.02	P <sub>G113</sub>	100.00	35.50	97.00	83.11	94.38	28.47	27.09	0.90	V <sub>G91</sub>	0.94	0.98	0.94	1.05	1.01	0.94	1.03	0.97
P <sub>G24</sub>	100.00	82.09	99.31	68.14	66.28	36.52	44.61	5.78	P <sub>G116</sub>	100.00	64.50	100.00	55.01	30.80	48.29	35.89	3.11	V <sub>G92</sub>	0.94	0.96	1.01	1.04	1.02	0.94	1.03	0.96
P <sub>G25</sub>	320.00	300.74	3.82	184.34	164.74	213.22	143.96	201.05	V <sub>G01</sub>	0.94	1.04	0.99	1.05	1.04	0.94	1.03	0.95	V <sub>G99</sub>	1.06	0.95	1.06	1.05	1.06	0.94	1.03	0.97
P <sub>G26</sub>	0.00	280.83	267.17	254.02	43.61	414.00	166.36	155.66	V <sub>G04</sub>	0.94	1.04	1.04	1.05	1.02	0.94	1.03	0.97	V <sub>G100</sub>	1.05	0.99	1.06	1.05	1.04	0.95	1.03	0.97
P <sub>G27</sub>	100.00	46.41	85.57	11.98	99.47	48.49	45.45	36.28	V <sub>G06</sub>	0.94	1.04	1.01	1.05	0.94	0.94	1.03	0.97	V <sub>G103</sub>	1.06	1.00	1.06	1.05	0.94	0.94	1.03	0.96
P <sub>G31</sub>	0.00	68.74	2.61	40.13	96.70	0.00	42.96	4.39	V <sub>G08</sub>	0.94	1.04	1.02	1.04	1.03	0.94	1.03	0.95	V <sub>G104</sub>	1.06	1.00	1.05	1.05	0.97	0.94	1.03	0.97
P <sub>G32</sub>	100.00	74.67	100.00	46.11	75.54	16.23	44.31	71.24	V <sub>G10</sub>	0.94	1.01	1.06	1.05	0.98	0.94	1.03	1.00	V <sub>G105</sub>	1.06	1.00	1.05	1.05	0.99	0.94	1.03	0.96
P <sub>G34</sub>	0.00	70.09	0.00	59.56	93.08	0.00	43.55	16.43	V <sub>G12</sub>	0.94	1.04	1.01	1.05	1.01	0.94	1.03	0.97	V <sub>G107</sub>	1.06	0.96	1.05	1.05	1.02	0.94	1.03	0.97
P <sub>G36</sub>	100.00	17.41	0.00	12.26	33.96	84.18	43.67	51.16	V <sub>G15</sub>	0.94	1.03	0.95	1.05	1.02	0.94	1.03	0.96	V <sub>G110</sub>	0.97	1.00	1.06	1.05	0.98	0.94	1.03	0.95
P <sub>G40</sub>	0.00	26.45	0.00	64.41	43.93	0.00	44.80	11.68	V <sub>G18</sub>	0.94	1.03	0.95	1.05	1.00	0.94	1.03	0.97	V <sub>G111</sub>	0.94	1.00	1.06	1.05	0.99	0.94	1.03	0.95
P <sub>G42</sub>	100.00	39.00	0.00	47.07	99.25	100.00	44.53	52.68	V <sub>G19</sub>	0.94	1.03	0.94	1.05	1.06	0.94	1.03	0.96	V <sub>G112</sub>	0.94	0.97	1.05	1.05	0.94	0.94	1.03	0.97
P <sub>G46</sub>	0.00	27.18	0.00	45.34	14.75	37.60	47.46	18.87	V <sub>G24</sub>	1.06	0.98	1.06	1.05	1.00	0.94	1.03	0.96	V <sub>G113</sub>	1.06	1.04	1.00	1.05	0.97	1.06	1.03	0.97
P <sub>G49</sub>	304.00	252.50	79.30	39.12	14.06	125.87	132.11	153.77	V <sub>G25</sub>	0.94	1.02	0.99	1.05	1.06	1.06	1.03	0.99	V <sub>G116</sub>	0.94	1.02	0.95	1.05	1.02	0.94	1.03	0.96
P <sub>G54</sub>	0.00	131.18	0.00	84.17	127.81	60.17	66.54	48.11	V <sub>G26</sub>	0.94	0.99	1.05	1.05	0.98	0.94	1.03	0.95	T <sub>(5-8)</sub>	0.90	1.05	0.96	0.98	1.00	0.90	0.99	0.93
P <sub>G55</sub>	0.00	73.77	10.99	32.22	31.57	65.34	39.92	10.04	V <sub>G27</sub>	1.06	0.96	1.06	1.04	1.03	0.94	1.03	0.97	T <sub>(25-26)</sub>	1.10	0.98	1.10	1.00	0.98	0.90	0.99	0.96
P <sub>G56</sub>	100.00	31.10	89.60	11.27	22.91	21.83	44.46	8.19	V <sub>G31</sub>	1.06	1.04	1.06	1.05	1.05	0.94	1.03	0.97	T <sub>(17-30)</sub>	1.08	0.97	1.10	0.97	0.96	0.91	0.99	0.95
P <sub>G59</sub>	255.00	53.32	190.08	63.82	220.23	255.00	113.21	145.94	V <sub>G32</sub>	1.06	1.00	1.06	1.05	1.04	0.94	1.03	0.97	T <sub>(37-38)</sub>	1.10	1.02	1.09	0.97	1.05	0.90	0.99	0.98
P <sub>G61</sub>	0.00	135.93	141.72	139.13	208.93	154.85	111.81	203.45	V <sub>G34</sub>	0.94	1.03	0.97	1.05	0.96	0.94	1.03	0.97	T <sub>(59-63)</sub>	0.90	0.93	1.08	0.98	0.98	0.90	0.99	0.96
P <sub>G62</sub>	0.00	46.40	16.69	17.45	44.19	28.02	45.36	6.64	V <sub>G36</sub>	0.94	1.03	0.96	1.05	0.95	0.94	1.03	0.97	T <sub>(61-64)</sub>	0.90	1.05	1.10	1.01	1.02	0.90	0.99	0.94
P <sub>G65</sub>	491.00	148.41	235.54	256.80	155.54	477.67	219.99	82.58	V <sub>G40</sub>	1.06	1.03	1.05	1.05	0.95	0.94	1.03	0.97	T <sub>(65-66)</sub>	1.10	1.08	1.10	0.98	1.05	0.90	0.99	0.94
P <sub>G66</sub>	0.00	209.28	373.11	96.29	100.68	281.97	223.00	418.30	V <sub>G42</sub>	1.06	0.95	1.04	1.05	0.97	0.94	1.03	0.96	T <sub>(68-69)</sub>	0.90	1.05	1.01	0.97	1.00	0.90	0.99	0.96
P <sub>G70</sub>	0.00	44.31	0.00	59.05	63.46	26.56	11.86	3.44	V <sub>G46</sub>	0.94	1.01	1.04	1.05	0.96	0.94	1.03	0.97	T <sub>(80-81)</sub>	0.90	1.04	1.10	0.97	1.00	0.90	0.99	1.03
P <sub>G72</sub>	100.00	44.11	67.24	78.47	39.00	18.02	43.47	18.93	V <sub>G49</sub>	0.94	1.01	1.00	1.05	1.00	0.94	1.03	0.98	Q <sub>C34</sub>	30.00	21.77	0.01	22.49	4.40	0.00	13.38	3.22
P <sub>G73</sub>	0.00	68.18	99.95	73.98	3.24	0.00	45.28	66.04	V <sub>G54</sub>	0.94	1.06	0.97	1.06	1.04	0.94	1.03	0.99	Q <sub>C44</sub>	0.00	18.85	29.45	10.55	17.12	14.40	13.30	8.79
P <sub>G74</sub>	100.00	14.66	99.99	71.86	72.35	16.81	43.95	33.65	V <sub>G55</sub>	0.94	1.05	0.96	1.05	1.01	0.94	1.03	0.98	Q <sub>C45</sub>	30.00	16.31	28.08	19.31	18.25	22.61	13.66	4.34

**Table A1.** *Cont.*

DVs	PSO	GWO	MFO	WOA	LMFO	ChOA	SMFO	WMFO	DVs	PSO	GWO	MFO	WOA	LMFO	ChOA	SMFO	WMFO	DVs	PSO	GWO	MFO	WOA	LMFO	ChOA	SMFO	WMFO
P <sub>G76</sub>	18.28	41.35	99.57	22.96	32.15	92.85	43.12	23.57	V <sub>G56</sub>	0.94	1.05	0.96	1.05	1.03	0.94	1.03	0.99	Q <sub>C46</sub>	0.00	17.45	30.00	23.65	14.28	11.35	13.72	6.12
P <sub>G77</sub>	100.00	46.45	100.00	78.44	91.88	0.00	39.43	38.63	V <sub>G59</sub>	1.06	1.03	0.94	1.05	1.04	0.95	1.03	0.98	Q <sub>C48</sub>	0.00	12.20	30.00	4.60	14.70	5.29	13.61	5.98
P <sub>G80</sub>	0.00	215.54	146.32	396.90	255.43	119.63	236.19	353.31	V <sub>G61</sub>	1.06	1.00	0.99	1.05	1.03	0.94	1.03	1.00	Q <sub>C74</sub>	0.00	11.73	0.00	21.50	6.69	30.00	13.01	3.79
P <sub>G85</sub>	100.00	58.26	0.14	64.12	34.89	33.52	41.19	86.79	V <sub>G62</sub>	1.03	0.98	1.00	1.05	1.06	0.94	1.03	0.99	Q <sub>C79</sub>	30.00	6.07	26.74	19.22	4.82	0.00	13.51	2.65
P <sub>G87</sub>	0.00	24.56	7.76	5.81	68.01	33.57	26.31	3.27	V <sub>G65</sub>	0.99	1.04	1.06	1.05	1.06	0.94	1.03	0.96	Q <sub>C82</sub>	0.00	18.03	15.08	7.22	5.79	0.00	12.00	24.38
P <sub>G89</sub>	0.00	158.60	9.25	99.62	283.50	448.59	309.44	472.55	V <sub>G66</sub>	0.94	0.97	1.02	1.05	1.03	1.06	1.03	0.99	Q <sub>C83</sub>	30.00	6.81	24.15	17.97	29.76	0.00	13.69	3.70
P <sub>G90</sub>	0.00	24.03	83.68	30.95	5.69	0.00	45.23	1.92	V <sub>G69</sub>	0.94	1.04	1.03	1.05	0.96	0.94	1.03	1.02	Q <sub>C105</sub>	0.00	27.37	29.98	4.61	20.85	0.00	13.28	10.70
P <sub>G91</sub>	0.00	97.95	0.00	38.51	28.19	75.11	27.07	33.07	V <sub>G70</sub>	0.94	1.01	1.01	1.05	0.95	0.94	1.03	0.96	Q <sub>C107</sub>	30.00	9.14	8.54	16.33	25.22	30.00	13.43	20.65
P <sub>G92</sub>	0.00	15.20	76.97	12.85	49.10	0.00	44.40	14.04	V <sub>G72</sub>	1.06	1.02	0.96	1.05	1.03	1.06	1.03	0.97	Q <sub>C110</sub>	0.00	10.30	0.00	3.97	28.94	7.47	13.08	16.87
P <sub>G99</sub>	100.00	61.67	0.00	65.21	24.45	100.00	45.00	47.50	V <sub>G73</sub>	0.94	0.98	1.06	1.05	0.95	1.06	1.03	0.95									
FinalResults			PSO			GWO			MFO			WOA			LMFO			ChOA			SMFO				WMFO	
Cost(\$/h)			163,509.345			151,775.538			148,925.660			145,495.166			173,485.645			150,735.185			139,808.042				136,452.876	
Ploss(MW)			174.036			88.617			139.276			79.658			123.261			126.529			57.310				105.637	
VD(p.u.)			3.406			1.616			1.721			2.819			1.431			4.212			1.505				2.280	

**Table A2.** Control variables for IEEE 118-bus test system on case 2.

DVs	PSO	GWO	MFO	WOA	LMFO	ChOA	SMFO	WMFO	DVs	PSO	GWO	MFO	WOA	LMFO	ChOA	SMFO	WMFO	DVs	PSO	GWO	MFO	WOA	LMFO	ChOA	SMFO	WMFO
P <sub>G01</sub>	0.00	57.84	60.17	43.01	68.83	4.06	45.57	25.74	P <sub>G100</sub>	326.76	110.07	100.59	219.25	195.63	238.11	157.14	244.89	V <sub>G74</sub>	0.94	0.96	0.99	1.01	0.96	1.06	1.01	0.98
P <sub>G04</sub>	100.00	36.57	78.29	49.14	28.98	4.56	44.93	3.78	P <sub>G103</sub>	0.00	46.40	43.62	97.84	73.44	16.88	62.67	23.28	V <sub>G76</sub>	0.94	0.95	0.94	1.01	1.02	1.05	1.01	0.95
P <sub>G06</sub>	100.00	28.51	100.00	55.06	73.16	93.97	45.31	90.21	P <sub>G104</sub>	100.00	62.83	0.00	25.98	2.93	11.88	44.75	4.78	V <sub>G77</sub>	0.94	0.98	1.00	1.01	0.99	1.03	1.01	0.99
P <sub>G08</sub>	100.00	19.96	100.00	69.46	69.90	9.43	0.00	55.55	P <sub>G105</sub>	0.00	96.25	0.36	33.38	51.34	94.50	45.39	39.56	V <sub>G80</sub>	0.94	1.02	1.00	1.02	0.95	1.06	1.01	1.01
P <sub>G10</sub>	550.00	60.71	0.00	219.72	528.60	422.01	248.23	413.30	P <sub>G107</sub>	100.00	33.93	0.00	67.55	95.62	33.75	44.13	9.23	V <sub>G85</sub>	0.94	0.97	1.03	1.01	0.97	1.04	1.01	1.00
P <sub>G12</sub>	185.00	115.20	16.37	41.13	14.71	180.35	0.00	68.89	P <sub>G110</sub>	5.78	92.71	100.00	81.61	20.44	20.58	45.89	13.17	V <sub>G87</sub>	0.94	1.02	1.06	1.01	0.95	1.06	1.01	0.99
P <sub>G15</sub>	100.00	70.54	79.95	63.44	40.72	25.52	0.00	25.01	P <sub>G111</sub>	136.00	59.56	64.09	27.27	51.50	90.67	60.80	88.73	V <sub>G89</sub>	0.94	1.02	1.02	1.01	1.05	1.06	1.01	1.04
P <sub>G18</sub>	0.00	54.97	0.00	49.78	60.39	45.73	44.00	67.91	P <sub>G112</sub>	100.00	28.64	100.00	56.25	99.46	27.99	46.44	62.58	V <sub>G90</sub>	0.94	0.99	1.04	1.02	1.00	1.03	1.01	0.99
P <sub>G19</sub>	0.00	42.55	1.76	21.53	14.82	41.17	45.17	67.25	P <sub>G113</sub>	0.00	64.66	12.13	25.56	88.60	17.01	0.00	17.71	V <sub>G91</sub>	1.00	1.04	1.06	1.02	0.97	1.06	1.01	1.00
P <sub>G24</sub>	0.00	75.15	0.14	76.70	58.76	8.05	43.51	7.07	P <sub>G116</sub>	0.00	31.04	16.46	11.94	16.28	61.60	44.25	44.25	V <sub>G92</sub>	0.99	0.99	1.01	1.01	1.05	1.05	1.01	0.99
P <sub>G25</sub>	320.00	130.84	115.65	216.52	236.86	115.59	141.84	25.35	V <sub>G01</sub>	1.04	1.02	0.98	1.01	0.96	1.06	1.01	0.98	V <sub>G99</sub>	1.06	1.05	1.06	1.01	1.05	1.06	1.01	1.02
P <sub>G26</sub>	0.00	238.78	199.93	173.87	93.81	31.05	188.05	307.37	V <sub>G04</sub>	1.06	1.04	0.99	1.01	0.97	1.05	1.01	0.99	V <sub>G100</sub>	1.06	1.02	0.99	1.01	0.98	1.06	1.01	1.00
P <sub>G27</sub>	2.75	23.98	0.00	0.00	55.24	43.77	45.79	11.52	V <sub>G06</sub>	1.06	1.02	0.99	1.02	0.97	1.06	1.01	0.99	V <sub>G103</sub>	1.06	1.05	0.97	1.01	1.02	1.06	1.01	0.99
P <sub>G31</sub>	0.00	41.53	0.00	42.33	31.19	44.28	47.60	12.03	V <sub>G08</sub>	0.94	0.96	0.94	1.02	0.97	1.06	1.01	0.98	V <sub>G104</sub>	1.06	1.03	0.94	1.01	0.94	1.06	1.01	0.99
P <sub>G32</sub>	100.00	36.64	58.15	37.03	99.96	31.23	46.17	27.29	V <sub>G10</sub>	0.94	1.02	0.96	1.01	0.95	1.06	1.01	1.00	V <sub>G105</sub>	1.06	1.04	0.94	1.02	0.98	1.06	1.01	0.98



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