REVIEW ARTICLE

Review on generating optimal operation for dam and reservoir water system: simulation models and optimization algorithms

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Abstract

Accurate and reliable optimization and simulation of the dam reservoir system to ensure optimal use of water resources cannot be achieved without precise and efective models. Providing insight into reservoir system operation and simulation modeling through a comprehensive overview of the previous studies and expanding research horizons can enhance the potential for accurate and well-designed models. The current research reviews previous studies that have used optimization methods to fnd optimal operating policies for a reservoir system over the past 20 years. Indeed, successful operating policies cannot be obtained without achieving accurate predictions of the main hydrological parameters in the reservoir system, which are infow and evaporation. The present study focuses on giving an overview of the applications of AI-based models for predicting reservoir infow and evaporation. The advantages and disadvantages of both optimization algorithms and predictive models have been summarized. Several recommendations for future research have also been included in the present review paper.

Keywords Infow · Water losses · Reservoir · Simulation

Introduction

Droughts and foods occur frequently in many parts of the world as a result of climate change. These phenomena pose a challenge to water resources management and planning (Ehteram et al. [2017\)](#page-24-0). Dams and reservoirs are built to control these phenomena and to achieve many purposes such as water supply, water irrigation, hydropower generation, and others. It could be noticed that there are high confict and competition among reservoir purposes particularly during critical conditions (Labadie [2004\)](#page-25-0). As a result, fnding and defning the best operating rules is often a complex problem while managing a reservoir system.

The operation of the dam reservoir is one of the most important challenges facing decision makers and planners in order to make efective use of the available water resources. Accordingly, the focus should be on further studies to enhance the durability and operating efficiency of a dam reservoir system to optimize benefcial uses of the system (Higgins and Brock [1999](#page-25-1)).

Optimization algorithms are appropriate tools to addresses reservoir operation problem and enhancing management and planning water resources. The past studies employed several optimization models for dam reservoir system operation. The optimization algorithms can be classifed into two broad categories: conventional (traditional) and evolutionary methods (Ahmadi et al. [2014;](#page-23-0) Ashofteh et al. [2015](#page-24-1)). The traditional approach is useful to determine the proper solution for both maximum and minimum unconstrained of the continuous functions (Wehrens et al. [2000](#page-27-0)). The frst approach includes linear and nonlinear dynamic programming, random search, stochastic programming, and others. These techniques have been applied by many previous studies in reservoir system operation. However, the performance of such conventional approaches is imprecise in addressing the complex operational issue especially with multi-purpose reservoirs (Bozorg-Haddad et al. [2016a\)](#page-24-2).

The evolutionary methods are used to solve the matter of optimal operation of a dam reservoir system. The previous studies reported that evolutionary methods have higher efficiency and reliability than conventional techniques. These

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methods provide satisfactory results in handling and solving the multi-objectives functions.

Indeed, the successful management of the dam reservoir operation depends on the accuracy of the hydrological parameters data. The infow and evaporation parameters have the largest infuence among hydrological parameters on the operation procedure. As a result, the development of an accurate predictive model that has ability to predict infow and evaporation records, is an important issue for obtaining a successful dam reservoir operating policy (Allawi et al. [2019a,](#page-23-1) [b\)](#page-23-2).

Reservoir infow forecasting is a large and active research area in the water resources feld. In fact, there are several meteorological parameters that infuence behavior and pattern of the infow parameter. Accordingly, long- and shortterm forecast models are very important for the sustainable management of water resources. The actual infow time series data are often nonlinear, non-stationary and temporally variable due to the infuence of many phenomena such as temperature, wind speed and rainfall on the infow behavior. The reservoir fow mechanism will likely to be extremely diferent from time to time and from place to another. Therefore, forecasting reservoir fow with acceptable accuracy is quite complicated (Guo et al. [2011\)](#page-25-2).

In recent years, it has been observed that there has been a signifcant increase in the type and number of methods developed that can be used to model and predict hydrological parameters, including popular data-driven methods. Traditional black box time series methods such as Auto-Regressive Integrated Moving Average (ARIMA), Linear Regression (LR), Nonlinear Regression (NLR), assume that the data for hydrological parameters are stationarity and linear (Solomatine and Ostfeld [2008](#page-26-0)). Thus, such methods are often unable to deal with instability and nonlinearity involved in the hydrological process. As a result, the previous studies have paid a lot of attention for developing the models that are capable for modeling non-stationary and nonlinear processes.

Reservoir losses due to evaporation are also a major issue in the operation of the dam and reservoir system. Predicting the amount of surface water losses is a critical aspect of developing a reliable operational policy. An effective modern model for predicting reservoir evaporation is necessary to know the amount of water available in the dam reservoir for each period (Fayaed et al. [2013\)](#page-24-3).

In fact, there are two main approaches for estimating evaporation from an open water body which are direct and indirect methods. The frst method involves measuring the evaporation pan such as class U-pan, A-pan, and others (Farnsworth and Thompson [1982](#page-24-4); Rosenberg et al. [1983](#page-26-1)). The indirect approach includes many methods such as water budget (e.g., Guitjens [1982\)](#page-25-3), energy budget (e.g., Fritschen [1966\)](#page-24-5), mass transfer (e.g., Harbeck [1962](#page-25-4)), combination

(e.g., Penman [1948\)](#page-26-2) and measurement (e.g., Young [1947](#page-27-1)). Although there are a large number of literature studies that have used these equations or methods, most of the proposed methods require a lot of observed meteorological data and are therefore more prone to errors. It is often difficult to use such methods because data are not available all times and places (Bai et al. [2016a;](#page-24-6) Yu et al. [2017](#page-27-2)). Moreover, the empirical equations are not as efficient as required and do not produce promising results due to the complex nonlinear pattern of evaporation parameter (Nourani and Fard [2012](#page-26-3)). Therefore, an efficient and accurate predictive model is needed that is capable of detecting evaporation patterns with a high level of accuracy.

During the last few decades, many modern methods have been developed to forecast the hydrological parameters of a reservoir such as Artifcial Intelligence (AI) models. AI methods have received a lot of interest from hydrologists to deal with non-static, dynamic, and stochastic patterns of hydrological database. These computational methods and models have a high capacity to overcome complex simulation of pattern parameters. The AI-based models are characterized by having the ability to handle a large amount of data. The prediction of evaporation and infow depends on several environmental parameters and these characteristics can experience temporal changes (Nourani et al. [2014\)](#page-26-4).

Recently, there has been a signifcant increase in the number of data-driven approaches applied to hydrologic modeling, in particular, predicting evaporation and infow data. Specifcally, in the feld of forecasting the main hydrological parameters in a reservoir system, there are many AI methods that have been used such as an artifcial neural network (ANN), support vector machine (SVM), fuzzy logic (FL), and others.

Objectives

The main aim of the current research is reviewed the previous studies that have been employed classic and modern computational methods for handling management of the dam and reservoir system. Applications of AI methods and others were considered in terms of reservoir operation and forecasting infow and evaporation component. The presented study addresses of efect of the forecasting models accuracy on the reservoir operation efficiency. The challenges that the scientists experienced while modeling the operating of the reservoir system such as nonlinearity, uncertainty, and multipurposes are mentioned. The applications of optimization algorithms to operate the reservoir system and their basic theory are given in second section. The evaluation for the performance of such algorithms is addressed in "[Evaluation](#page-13-0) [and assessment](#page-13-0)" section. On the other hand, the concept for AI methods and their implementation to forecast infow and evaporation parameters are reported in third section.

Assessment of these methods and their advantage and disadvantage are discussed in "[Evaluation and assessment"](#page-20-0) section. Author names, year of publication, type of model, and other details are presented in Tables [1,](#page-3-0) [2](#page-6-0) and [3.](#page-9-0) Fourth section shows the recommendation for future research. Summary and conclusion of the current research are given in the last section.

Optimization algorithms

Genetic algorithm and genetic programming

In fact, several optimization algorithms were developed to solve reservoir operation problem. It has been reported may advantages and drawbacks for these methods. The most common approaches within optimization algorithm derives from computational intelligence which is evolutionary computation. The genetic algorithm (GA) represents a well example for the evolutionary computation concept. Such algorithm depends on the generation of a population that simulates natural evolution, selection, and natural genetics (Haddad et al. [2011](#page-25-5); Ehteram et al. [2017](#page-24-0); Yu et al. [2018\)](#page-27-3).

Genetic Algorithm has four basic units which are bit, gene, chromosome, and gene pool. The frst unit (bit) is the basic component that could be represented by a digit of 0 or 1. The second unit (gene) is formed by the combination of bits. The attachment of genes generates a chromosome that could be a possible solution for optimization problem. The combination of many chromosomes forms gene pool (Whigham and Crapper [2001](#page-27-4); Reddy and Nagesh Kumar [2007](#page-26-5); Wafae et al. [2016\)](#page-27-5).

Sharif and Wardlaw [\(2000](#page-26-6)) examined the performance of genetic algorithm through application to operate the reservoir system in Indonesia. The study considered the existing development situation in the reservoir basin. The comparison between GA with discrete diferential dynamic programing method has been conducted. The results demonstrated that GA provided high-level accuracy for operation rules compared to other methods.

Chang and Chang [\(2001](#page-24-7)) integrated the genetic algorithm with adaptive neuro fuzzy inference system (ANFIS) for reservoir operation optimization. They applied the proposed model to generate optimal operation policy for the Shih-Men reservoir in Taiwan. The model performance was more reliable compared to other optimization methods. The genetic algorithm has been also employed by Chang et al. [\(2003](#page-24-8)) for determining the fushing operational rules for Tapu reservoir which is located in Taiwan. The performance of GA has been examined by several statistical indicators. The results shown that the GA is superior to original operation results that are using in the reservoir system.

Genetic Algorithm was employed to fnd the best operation policy of the multi purposes reservoir system by Ahmed and Sarma [\(2005\)](#page-23-3). The operation policy has been derived based on monthly infow series of 100-year. The results demonstrated by the GA model have been compared with that derived by stochastic dynamic programming (SDP) method. The efficiency of the proposed models was examined basis of their performance in simulating the reservoir system during 20-year. The study shown that the GA model generated promising and efective operating policies. Such policies could be helpfully utilized for reservoir operation.

Jothiprakash and Shanthi ([2006\)](#page-25-6) developed genetic algorithm to obtain best operational rules for storage reservoir. The objective function has been formulated to minimize an annual sum of squared deviation from target water irrigation releases and target storage volume. They found that the water releases volume generated by GA are meet the requirements in many times. It has been concluded that the proposed algorithm could be helpful and efective model when use it for operating the Pechiparai reservoir, located in Tamil Nadu, India.

In 2007, Momtahen and Dariane ([2007](#page-26-7)) used the genetic algorithm as an optimizer model to fnd best operation rules for the reservoir system. The performance of GA model has been evaluated by comparing with dynamic programming and stochastic dynamic programming method. They concluded that the policies provided by GA model reduced the deficit between water release and demand.

Chen et al. ([2007](#page-24-9)) have developed a new kind of highlevel species evolution called Macro Evolutionary Multi-Objectives GA (MMGA) model. The suggested model has ability to avoid premature convergence which could be raised whiling the selection process of traditional GA. MMGA has been employed for optimizing the operation rules of the multi-purpose reservoir system in Taiwan. The proposed model enriches the abilities of genetic algorithm for handling the optimization problem by diversifying the possible solution set. The simulation results indicated that the MMGA model could be a viable alternative for solving the optimization problem in the water resources feld.

Li and Wei ([2008](#page-25-7)) have improved the genetic algorithm (GA) by integrating with simulated annealing (SA) method for reservoir operation, the proposed model is named (IGA-SA). The IGA-AS has been utilized for determining optimal policies of the Wujiangdu, Hongjiadu and Dongfeng reservoirs which are located on Yangtze river, China. The results indicated that the IGA-SA model is able to provide high-level accuracy in meeting the water demand.

Chang et al. [\(2010\)](#page-24-10) introduced constrained genetic algorithm (CGA). Such model was applied to operate the Shih-Men reservoir, located in Taiwan. The evaluation metrics shown that the suggested optimization model attained well performance accuracy compared to other conventional

Table 1 Summary of previous studies that were established to model reservoir operation using optimization algorithms

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A Contradium Comment, AND—Mean Average Deviation, PFC—Peak Flow Criteria, LFC—Low Flow Criteria, FE—Forecasting Error, RE—Relative Error, C_v—Variation Coefficient, MBE—Mean Bias Error, MAD—Mean Absolute Error, RAE—Row Cr ment, PI—Persistence Index, MAD—Mean Average Deviation, PFC—Peak Flow Criteria, LFC—Low Criteria, FE—Forecasting Error, RE—Relative Error, C_v—Variation Coefficient, tence, PPTS—Peak Percent Threshold Statistics, MAPE—Mean Absolute Percentage Error, NRMSE—Normalized Root Mean Square Error, RD—Coefficient of Determination, MRE—Mean Relative Error, P_{as}—Percentage Deviation in Peak, MSE—Mean Square Error, MARE—Mean Absolute Relative Error, SI—Scatter Index, SBC—Schwarz Bayesian Criterion, TS—Threshold MBE—Mean Bias Error, MAE—Mean Absolute Error, RAE—Root Absolute Error, CC—Correlation Coefcient, MCE—Mean Coefcient of Efciency, MCP—Mean Coefcient of Persis-Statistic, WI—Willmott Index

									Table 3 Summary of previous studies that were established to model reservoir evaporation prediction using AI methods	
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Table 3 (continued)

Authors		Developed model Performance metrics	Time scale	Research remark
Ghorbani et al. (2017)	MLP-FFA	RMSE, NSE, WI, MAE, Taylor diagram	Daily	Five meteorological parameters have been used to establish the evapora- tion prediction modeling. The evaporation data were predicted for a case study located in Iran
Allawi et al. $(2020a, b)$	CANFIS-GA	RMSE, MAE, MAPE, RE, R^2	Monthly	The proposed CANFIS-GA model was applied to predict the evapora- tion records for two different case studies. The first case study is located in Malaysia and the second case study is located in Egypt
Wu et al. (2020)	ELM	RMSE, MAE, MAPE, NSE, AE, t-statistic, R^2	Monthly	The research was conducted to predict the evaporation records for a case study located in China

RH—Relative Humidity, SR—Solar Radiation, WS—Wind Speed, KGE—Kling-Gupta Efficiency, MSNE—Mean Square Normalized Error, AE—Absolute Error, %MH—Percentage Mean Error in Estimating High values, %ML—Percentage Mean error in estimating Low values, CE— Coefficient Efficiency

models. But the researchers found that the GA model could not handle the complicated matters such as operating the reservoir system for long-term. Wang et al. [\(2011\)](#page-27-6) tried to solve such issue by improving the modern model (i.e., Multitier Interactive GA). It attained good results in operating a reservoir system during 20-years with reducing the computation time by 80%.

To inspect the efficiency of GA model in finding optimal operating rules of multi-reservoir system, Hınçal et al. [\(2011\)](#page-25-8) had utilized the performance of GA to operate three reservoirs, located in Colorado river. The objective function of the proposed model is a minimizing the defcit between the water release and water irrigation demand. The study demonstrated that the GA is reliable and applicable tool for identifying optimal operation rules. A combination between Incremental Dynamic Programming (IDP) with genetic algorithm was conducted by Li et al. ([2012\)](#page-25-9). They applied the suggested model for operating Three Gorges Dam which is located in China. The study concluded that the operation rules derived by optimization method could be promising model for reservoir system operation.

Genetic Programming (GP) model was employed by Li et al. ([2014](#page-25-10)) to derive operation rules for reservoir system for supplying downstream and hydropower generation. The proposed algorithm has been applied to operate the Three Gorges Dam system which is located in China. The GP method provided accurate and proper decision variables. The operation rules obtained by GP model have been superior to conventional rules and Artifcial Neural Network (ANN) rule curves. The study shown that the GP is an applicable tool, flexible, efficient, and significantly accurate.

Ant colony and artifcial bee colony

Ant Colony Optimization (ACO) is a meta-heuristic method to solve complicated optimization problems. Ant Colony (AC) algorithm has been frstly introduced by Dorigo ([1992\)](#page-24-32). The principle of ACO model is inspired by the behavior of ants which utilize the pheromone as the communication tool. They depend on the pheromone to fnd the shortest path between food sources and their nest. It is known that ants send the information regarding the short way to the food by putting pheromone trail. Ants leave some pheromone on the ground to identify their path. The new ants could detect and follow the laid pheromone, hence enhancing the path by their pheromone. Thus, the best and short way is that agreed by the most of previous and new ants. In ACO algorithm, the pheromone is considered as a distributed numerical information, that use it by ants to establish possible solutions. Ants could adapt these solutions whiling execution the algorithms to create their search experience.

Kumar and Reddy [\(2006](#page-25-11)) examined the performance of Ant Colony Optimization (ACO) model for solving the nonlinear optimization problem. The proposed algorithm has been applied to obtain operation policies for Hirakud reservoir, which is the multi purposes reservoir system located in India. The objectives of the algorithm are to reduce irrigation water defcit and maximizing the hydropower production. The results demonstrated that the ACO performed better than GA, in terms of higher hydropower production and lower deficit between water demand and irrigation.

The new Continuous Ant Colony Optimization (C-ACO) method is employed for reservoir operation. Afshar et al. [\(2006](#page-23-4)) presented an elitist strategy for C-ACO model so that the best solution of each iteration is directly

copied to the next iteration to enhance the algorithm performance. The efficiency of the C-ACO model has been evaluated by comparing its performance against with some common heuristic methods.

Some of the previous studies reported that the performance of ACO model could be relatively weak to handle the continuous problems. Therefore, Jalali et al. ([2007\)](#page-25-12) introduced modern version called multi-colony model that could help in generating large search space to avoid the probability of losing the global optimum. The proposed model efficiency was investigated by operating 10-reservoirs system. The researchers conclude that the suggested algorithm has ability to provide promising operation policies and reliable.

Madadgar and Afshar [\(2009\)](#page-26-8) improved the AC method for optimization reservoir operation. Such model has been applied to operate single reservoir system. According to the obtained results, the proposed optimization model is slightly robust in determining good solution that could be near to optimal solutions. Multi-objectives optimization utilizing heuristic approaches was introduced as the sub-discipline which merges the heuristic computation feld with classical feld. Afshar et al. ([2009\)](#page-23-5) established the Non-dominated Archiving Ant Colony Optimization (NAACO), that uses multi-colony ant model concept and combines the new information exchange policies. The NAACO method attained reliable optimization results in operating multi-objective reservoir system.

On the other hand, the artifcial bee colony algorithm has been also adopted as a proposed tool for studying the reservoir operation. Hossain and El-shafe ([2014\)](#page-25-29) have considered the performance of ABC to fnd the optimal operation policies for the Aswan High Dam, which is located in Egypt. The operation guidelines by ABC have been compared with those derived by GA technique. The performance evaluation was conducted using many statistical indicators. The researchers found out that the Artifcial Bee Colony technique able to meet the irrigation water demand during most of the simulation period. It has been concluded that the performance and efficiency of ABC model is higher than GA model.

Artifcial Bee Colony (ABC), Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO), and Genetic Algorithm (GA) were used in searching for the reliable operation policies by Hossain and El-Shafe [\(2014\)](#page-25-13). The objective function for such algorithms is minimizing deficit volume between water release and demand. The operation rules generated by suggested methods were inspected by simulating the reservoir during certain period. Such investigation period emphasizes that the performance of ABC and PSO method is well and much faster in obtaining the best solutions of a reservoir operation. The study also demonstrated that ability of ABC is relatively better that PSO model. The results obviously showed that the

determination of the optimal operation rules was obtained by ABC method.

Liao et al. [\(2014](#page-26-9)) developed Artifcial Bee Colony (ABC) method to fnd optimal scheduling release curves for Three Gorges Project in China. The results indicated that the proposed method has high ability to operate the reservoir system.

The main concept behind ABC method is to provide general rules regarding distribute multi-dimensional tasks, particularly for complicated and nonlinear problems like reservoir operation optimization problem. Thus, Hossain et al. ([2015\)](#page-25-14) have utilized ABC method to search for optimal operation policies for the reservoir system. The ability of ABC method has been investigated by comparing with three popular algorithms namely, PSO, GA, and SDP. The proposed model (i.e., ABC) has been employed to solve the operation optimization problem for two diferent case studies located in two diferent environment zones. It has been noted that the study demonstrated that the ABC model is a promising tool in handling the critical cases when there is low flow. The operation policies derived by ABC method is better that obtained by GA, PSO, and SDP.

To solve nonlinear complicated optimization problem, Chen et al. ([2016\)](#page-24-11) have enhanced the ABC method by combining diferential evolution model and PSO algorithm. The methodology was employed for operating the Zhanghe Irrigation Distict, located in China. Three diferent algorithms were applied to compare with the ABC. The integrated model proved its applicability and efficiency for reservoir system operation.

Ahmad et al. ([2016](#page-23-6)) developed ABC model to operate dam-reservoir located in Malaysia, the objective was reducing the amount of deficit between demand and water release. The proposed algorithm achieved high reliability and stability, lower vulnerability, and fast convergence. According to such indicators, the ABC is superior to another optimization algorithm which is Gravitational Search Algorithm (GSA). While the resilience indictor showed that GSA is slightly better than ABC.

Diferential evolution (DE)

The Diferential Evolution (DE) has been frst proposed by Storn ([1996\)](#page-26-32). DE is an evolutionary algorithm that is no require the optimization function to be continuous and hence diferentiable. The principle behind such model is like genetic algorithm concept in selection, crossover and mutation. DF model depends on mutation and solves the optimization problem by maintaining a population of possible solutions and generating new solutions hence selecting the best one among them (Storn and Price [1997\)](#page-26-33).

Jia et al. [\(2016\)](#page-25-15) applied DE for fnding optimal solution of real time food mitigation operation of multi-reservoir system. The food problem in Shiguan River Basin (located in China) comprises two reservoirs and three food control points. Four diferent food operation scenarios have been proposed to examine the model's performance. Although DE model showed its capability in operating multi-reservoir system, it has been noted some drawbacks regarding its fexibility and convergence ability. In addition, the weakness of computational efficiency when the system dimensions are further increased like add a greater number of reservoir and flood control points.

Particle swarm (PS)

Kennedy and Eberhart ([1995\)](#page-25-30) have frstly introduced the Particle Swarm (PS) model. The mechanism of such model is inspired by the movement fsh or bird fock. PS model is considered as evolutionary depended computational approach optimizing the problems iteratively. This model works to solve the optimization problems by considering particles or population as the possible solutions. These particles arounds in the search space based on mathematical formula which defnes the particle's velocity and position. The movement of particles is afected by their best local position. The particles adapt themselves according to their experiences. It could be noted that the positions are updated based on the better position is found by other particles. Within the process, the best value which are achieved by all particles is recorded in the memory as well as their coordinates (Nagesh Kumar and Janga Reddy [2007;](#page-26-10) Chau [2007\)](#page-24-33). The advantages of PS model are low computational cost, high adaptiveness, and simple coding (Chau [2007\)](#page-24-33).

Reddy and Nagesh Kumar [\(2007\)](#page-26-5) used principle of pareto dominance to improve the efficiency of the PSO model in fnding optimal operation rules. They found out that the proposed model has ability in minimizing defcit between water release and demand and maximizing hydropower beneft. In further study, Nagesh Kumar and Janga Reddy ([2007\)](#page-26-10) suggested the modern technique called elitist mutation in order to enhance an efficiency of the PSO model. The modern model (EMPS) was utilized to address the optimization problem for multiple-objective reservoir, Bhadra reservoir in India. A comparison between the performance of EMPS with other optimization techniques has been carried out. The results demonstrated that the EMPS can attain optimal solution to draw successful operation policies.

In 2008, Baltar and Fontane ([2008](#page-24-12)) employed PS model to fnd the optimal rules for reservoir operation. The performance of PS model was reliable for solving the optimization problem. On the other hand, Mousavi and Shourian ([2010\)](#page-26-11) applied Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO) method to operate the Bakhtiari reservoir, which is located in Iran. Such method attained good results for fnding optimal solution for reservoir operation.

The new model called Partially Constrained Particle Swarm Optimization (PC-PSO) has been used to determine the efective operation rules for the large reservoir by Afshar ([2012](#page-23-7)). The performance of the proposed model has been inspected by simulating the operation of Dez reservoir. The optimal results provided by PC-PSO have been compared with the original PSO and genetic algorithm. The study concluded that the PC-PSO is superior to PSO and GA methods in identifying best solutions and convergence characteristics. The minimization of deficit (i.e., water demand–water release) is primary target of optimization and operation studies, (SaberChenari et al. [2016](#page-26-12)) employed PSO algorithm to achieve such purpose in Mahabad reservoir. They utilized the proposed model with consideration of decreased the average monthly streamflow magnitude. The PSO model provided good operation rules which can be a proper to draw successful policies for operating the reservoir system under several conditions.

Bilal et al. ([2020](#page-24-13)) integrated Dynamic Programming (DP) with Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO) model. The proposed model has been applied for operating the reservoir system. To examine the performance of the suggested model, two diferent case studies have been considered. The suggested model provided satisfactory results in terms of fnding good operation rules able to address with critical situations.

Recent optimization algorithms

Due to the complicated optimization problem, in the last years, limited number of studies given high attention to develop optimization algorithms for reservoir system operation utilizing advanced swarm intelligence models. Indeed, several such models were used to solve the reservoir operation problem like Shark Machine Learning Algorithm (SMLA), Weed Algorithm (WA), Bat Algorithm (BA), and Fire-Fly Algorithm (FA). The previous studies have demonstrated that the performance of these models is superior to conventional models in fnding best operation rules for dam and reservoir system. However, each method faced some drawbacks which negatively affected on the overall method efficiency.

These algorithms have been employed by many previous studies such as; (Garousi-Nejad et al. [2016a](#page-24-14), [b\)](#page-24-15) employed Fire-Fly technique, (Bozorg-Haddad et al. [2015](#page-24-16); Ahmadianfar et al. [2016\)](#page-23-8) employed Bat model. Bahrami et al. ([2018](#page-24-17)) developed cat swarm intelligence algorithm, (Hosseini-Moghari et al. [2015a;](#page-25-16) Ming et al. [2015](#page-26-13)) utilized Cuckoo technique and (Abedinia et al. [2014;](#page-23-9) Ehteram et al. [2017](#page-24-0); Allawi et al. [2018,](#page-23-10) [2019a](#page-23-1), [b](#page-23-2)) have used shark machine learning algorithm.

Evaluation and assessment

It is useful to summarize the important details for the previous studies that employed optimization algorithms for solving reservoir operation problems. Table [1](#page-3-0) lists out author name, reservoir name and its location, kind of optimization algorithm and research remark. According to Table [1](#page-3-0), the past works concentrated on developing and enhancing the evolutionary optimization algorithms. Another remark, the ABC model is highly effective and applicable in operating the reservoir system. The purposes of reservoir, its size and environmental region could infuence on the results accuracy level. Thus, selection the appropriate optimization method for behavior of data (i.e., stochastic infow, release, and demand) could help in providing satisfactory results.

Figure [1](#page-13-1) shows number of times that the optimization algorithms were utilized of modeling the operating reservoir system based on the studies reviewed. It could be observed that the number of the studies that have been established to model the operation of the reservoir system has been increased in the past two decades. Although that many research articles were conducted on the use of the optimization algorithms for operating a dam reservoir, there are still several aspects that should be considered and discussed.

The current research has reviewed the previous studies which have employed the optimization algorithms for reservoir system operation. Many observations regarding the performance of such algorithms could be summarized in the following:

1) The past active studies showed that the major signifcant feature of GA model is high likelihood in fnding the global optimal solution. This is due to the GA considers all population as candidate solutions for solving the optimization problems instead of relying on the single solution.

- 2) It has been noted the traditional models experience by several considerable limitations and drawbacks.
- 3) The previous studies have reported that the efective optimization method should have considerable acceleration and good inertia to address with the optimization reservoir system operation.
- 4) There are several advantages and characteristics for the swarm optimization algorithms by comparing with classic methods. These merits are their well performance in recognizing dynamic changes, ability in parallel computational and broad exploration. Also, the swarm algorithms are an applicable and reliable in solving complex mathematical problems.
- 5) It could be noted that the computational intelligence algorithms are robust and efective methods in determining the optimal operation rules for dam and reservoir system.
- 6) The current review paper concluded that the swarm optimization models to be more reliable and accurate, leading us to suggest that future studies should give attention on functional and feasible swarm intelligence algorithms.

Forecasting methods

Artifcial neural network (ANN)

The most common type of artifcial intelligence methods is artifcial Neural Network (ANN), which is developed based on the network human brain concept (Haykin [1994\)](#page-25-31). ANN has certain performance characteristics whereby; it is a massively parallel distributed information processing system. Usually, the architecture of ANN is composed of three major parts, input layer, hidden layer, and output layer. The frst part includes a several of input nodes, the number of nodes is

Fig. 1 Number of times that the optimization algorithms have been used for operating reservoir system based on the studies reviewed

depended on numbers of input variables. The second part of architecture has one or more hidden layers that has an activation function, whereas the last part has only one output layer node. There are three diferent types of ANN namely Feed-Forward Neural Network (FFNN), Radial Basis Function Neural Network (RBNN), and Generalized Neural Network (GNN). FFNN model is widely used in solving engineering problems, which could be considered as a promising nonlinear tool (Hornik et al. [1989](#page-25-32)). The primary aim of such model is to minimize the calculated error between the predicted and actual records, by fnding for the best set of connections weights. RBF-NN was frstly proposed by Broomhead and Lowe ([1988\)](#page-24-34). RBF-NN model has a popular activation function called radial basis. Such type of ANN can address with complicated issues such as water resources problems. GRNN was introduced by Specht ([1991](#page-26-34)). This model does not need an iterative training procedure like RBFNN model, but it directly draws the estimation function form the training phase by approximate any arbitrary function between inputs and outputs.

Coulibaly et al. ([2000\)](#page-24-18) has evaluated the performance of FF-NN model for reservoir infow forecasting. The predictive method has been assessed utilizing several statistical indicators. The results showed that the prediction accuracy was improved by FFNN method compared to other prediction models. In a further study, Coulibaly et al. [\(2001\)](#page-24-19) applied Dynamic Neural-Network (DNN) method to forecast infow data. Three diferent types of temporal Neural-Network structures have been inspected with consideration several ingrained representations of temporal information. The methodology performance was compared to multi-Layer Perceptron Neural Network (MLP-NN) method. They found that the DNN could be promising tool in achieving well results for infow forecasting.

Reservoir infow forecasting for Aswan High Dam located in Egypt has been carried out by several previous research. In 2009, El-Shafe et al. [\(2009](#page-24-20)) developed RBF-NN method to forecast inflow data. The proposed model has been established based on the historical natural infow data over 30 years which were collected from four diferent monitoring stations at upstream. A comprehensive analysis has been carried out to evaluate the performance and efficiency of the suggested methodology. The study explored that forecasting accuracy has been improved by 50% during low infow season. The forecasting error magnitude and its distribution obtained when using RBFNN model are better than other predictive methods.

In another research, El-Shafie and Noureldin ([2011\)](#page-24-21) developed two generalized methods called Ensemble Neural Network (ENN) and Regularized Neural Network (RNN) method to overcome the drawbacks of classic ANN. Actual monthly streamfow data during 130 years has been used for train, test and validate the suggested methodology. The results showed that RNN model is superior to ENN and classic ANN models. Good improvement in forecasting accuracy was attained with RNN model.

Development for the Dynamic Auto-Regressive Neural Network has been done by Valipour et al. [\(2012](#page-26-14)). The developed model was employed to forecast infow data for Dez Dam, located in Iran. To examine the validity and reliability of the proposed model, the performance of dynamic autoregressive model was compared to static neural network method. Diferent architectures have been made for the models used with consideration two transfer functions, sigmoid and radial basis function. The study concluded that using sigmoid function with dynamic model could enhanced the forecasting results. The results supported the performance of dynamic model when compared with other forecasting methods.

For same a case study (Dez Dam), the efficiency of three diferent models to forecast monthly infow has been investigated by Valipour et al. [\(2013\)](#page-26-15). The monthly inflow data from 1960 to 2007 were considered in the study. The observed infow data over 42 years were utilized to train ARMA, ARIMA and auto-regressive neural network models, the past 5 years were used to test the proposed forecasting models. Several statistical indicators have been adopted to evaluate the performance of methods. The ARIMA method outperformed the ARMA model. Also, the results demonstrated that the dynamic auto-regressive neural network is better than static model. (Elizaga et al. [2014](#page-24-22)) utilized the neural network-based backpropagation models for reservoir infow forecasting. According to a comparison between actual and predicted values, the suggested methods provided acceptable prediction accuracy.

Multi-Layer Perceptron Neural Network (MLP-NN) model was applied by Chiamsathit et al. ([2016\)](#page-24-23) to forecast one-step-ahead reservoir infow for Ubol-Ratana Dam located in Thailand. They examined the infuence of the forecasting accuracy level on the reservoir operation. The MLP-NN has been modeled based diferent input variables. Overall, the proposed model can be considered as a proper tool to forecast reservoir infow.

Recurrent Neural Network (RNN) model has been used to forecast daily infow data by Apaydin et al. ([2020](#page-23-12)). To verify the predictive model, the performance of the RNN model is compared with classic ANN model. The reliability of proposed model was evaluated using several statistical indictors. The study concluded that the RNN model is more accurate than ANN in forecasting reservoir infow records.

Lee et al. ([2020\)](#page-25-18) investigated the performance of three popular data-driven models, namely MLP, ANN, and SVM, to forecast monthly reservoir inflow. These predictive methods were evaluated using the coefficient S, NSE, and other indicators. The study showed that the developed models could be promising tool to forecast infow

data. Hadiyan et al. ([2020](#page-25-19)) investigated the potential ANN model in forecasting reservoir infow data. The study provided useful information for to simulate the infow for the Sefdround reservoir located in Iran.

The main second hydrological parameter in the reservoir system is evaporation. Indeed, there are several previous studies developed many artifcial intelligence methods to predict reservoir evaporation values. In 2006, Keskin and Terzi ([2006\)](#page-25-25) used Artifcial Neural Network (ANN) method for daily evaporation prediction. Numerous climate parameters such as Temperature, Solar Radiation, Humidity, Wind Speed, and others were utilized as input variables. The prediction results indicated that there is good agreement between predicted values obtained by ANN with actual daily evaporation records.

The performance of ANN model has been compared to radiation-based method and temperature-based method by Tan et al. ([2007\)](#page-26-24). The proposed methods were applied to predict daily and hourly evaporation data. Analysis for the original evaporation and climate parameters has been conducted. The study showed that there is high correlation between solar radiation with evaporation for both time scales (hourly and daily). Whereas the relative humidity parameter has infuence on the daily evaporation scale. The researchers have found out that the efficiency of ANN model is superior to conventional methods.

Moghaddamnia et al. ([2009b\)](#page-26-26) have developed two popular AI-based models (i.e., ANN and ANFIS) to predict evaporation data. The performance of such models has been evaluated by comparing with diferent empirical equations. It is noted that ANN and ANFIS models achieved their aims with some interesting outputs concerning the infuence of climate parameters. The study has frstly concluded that the ANN and ANFIS methods provided better results than empirical equations. Secondly, the ANN efficiency is relatively better than ANFIS method. In this study, Gamma Test (GT) technique was utilized to enhance the prediction accuracy by improving the ANN and ANFIS performance. The GT has a good capability to save the efort and time modeling and determining the optimal input variables. The study recommends giving signifcant attention and the wider experience regarding the input selection approach.

Estimation daily evaporation values for Hamedan province region located in Iran has been carried out by Tabari et al. ([2010](#page-26-27)). They used ANN and Multivariate Nonlinear Regression (MNLR) methods. Five diferent architectures of proposed models were developed based on several input variables. The study revealed that the wind speed and temperature factors have signifcant infuence on the prediction accuracy. The results demonstrated that the ANN method could be promising tool for evaporation prediction compared to MNLR method.

Allawi and El-Shafe ([2016](#page-23-15)) have studied the possibility of using two AI-based models (i.e., RBF-NN and ANFIS) to predict daily evaporation records. They applied models to predict the evaporation records for Layang reservoir, located in the southeast part of Malaysia. Daily air temperature, humidity, pan evaporation, and solar radiation for 40 years have been used to train and test the proposed models. In this study, the comprehensive analysis for the RBF-NN and ANFIS performance has been conducted. In this context, several statistical indicators were adopted to evaluate and analysis the ability and reliability of the suggested predictive models. The indictors showed that both AI-models have provided acceptable prediction results. By comparing between these models, RBF-NN was better than ANFIS in predicting daily evaporation values.

The RBF-NN, Self-Organizing Map Neural Network (SOMNN), and MLR models were used by Malik et al. ([2018\)](#page-26-28) to predict the evaporation data. The prediction modeling was structured based on several meteorological parameters. The predictions obtained by RBF-NN were more accurate compared to those obtained by SOMNN and MLR model. The study reported that the RBF-NN model is efective and robust predictive model in estimating reservoir evaporation records.

In further research, Allawi et al. [\(2019c](#page-23-11)) have examined the reliability and efficiency of ANN and SVR models to predict reservoir evaporation. Two diferent scenarios for the input variables were proposed to verify the applicability of the predictive models. The statistical indexes exhibited that the predictions obtained ANN model is more accurate than those provide by SVR model.

Support vector machine (SVM)

SVM method was popularized as a new statistical learning model and verifed to be a robustness and efective method for classifcation and regression for stochastic data set by comparing its performance with the conventional methods. In fact, the concept of SVM model is based on mapping the input data set in high dimensional feature space to simplify the regression issue and hence re-provide the unknown relationship between the input–output variables. The mechanism of SVM method is simplicity which could be adequately understand by modelers. The further attractive of such model is a remarkable superiority compared to other forecasting methods such as ANN, decision tree, and nearest neighbors. The SVM employs a kernel trick function to establish information regarding the problem type, so that both model complexity and forecasting error are together minimized. Indeed, the predictive ability of SVM model could be understand by several basic concepts including soft margin, separation hyperplane, hard margin, and the kernel function separation hyperplane. Numerous previous studies have employed the SVM-based models to forecast infow and evaporation parameters.

An accurate reservoir infow forecasting is an important in managing and scheduling reservoir system. In 2006, Lin et al. ([2006\)](#page-26-16) used support vector machine (SVM) to forecast monthly reservoir infow values. To test the validity of the suggested model, two diferent forecasting models have been employed for comparison, which are Auto-Regressive Moving Average (ARMA) and ANN method. They have found that SVM-based models are expected to be promising tools due to their efficiency, robustness, and accuracy in forecasting reservoir infow data.

Efective infow forecasting models based on the Support Vector Machine (SVM) are introduced by Lin et al. ([2009](#page-26-17)). The SVR has better generalization; the weights of the SVR are guaranteed; SVR is trained much more rapidly. A comparison has been carried out between the performance of the proposed model and Backpropagation Network (BPN) according to several statistical indicators. The obtained results indicated that the proposed SVR-based models are more well reliable and efficiency than BPN-based models. The study recommended that the SVR-based models could be useful to improve the infow forecasting accuracy and as an alternative to the existing forecasting methods.

Modifcation for the Support Vector Machine (SVM) model has been carried out by Li et al. ([2009\)](#page-25-20) for reservoir infow forecasting. The modifed model was applied to forecast monthly infow for Shih-Men reservoir, located in Taiwan. The forecasting modeling was established based on several input variables including meteorological parameters. The Genetic Algorithm (GA) was utilized to determine the optimal internal parameters of the SVM model. The SVMbased models achieved well forecasting accuracy. According to a point of view several statistical indicators, the study showed that the modifed SVM can be promising model to forecast reservoir infow.

Temperature, sun radiation, rainfall, and other climate parameters have been embedded to establish the reservoir infow modeling by Noori et al. [\(2011\)](#page-26-19). The SVM method has been employed to forecast monthly infow data. Several input selection algorithms have been used to select the optimal input combinations for modeling. The performance of SVM is compared to classic ANN model. They concluded that the efficiency of the proposed model (SVM) is better than ANN model in forecasting reservoir infow data. Also, selection the proper input combinations have a considerable role in improving the forecasting accuracy.

The SVM-based models have also been utilized for reservoir evaporation prediction by several previous studies. In 2009, Moghaddamnia et al. [\(2009a\)](#page-26-25) have combined Gamma Test (GT) technique with SVR method for prediction daily evaporation records. GT technique was used to select the optimal input variables among many meteorological parameters. A comprehensive evaluation and analysis have been done for the proposed model using popular statistical indicators. The performance of SVR was examined by comparing with empirical equations. The results shown that the good prediction accuracy was obtained when using SVR. Utilization of GT with SVR model has improved the predictability of reservoir evaporation.

Reservoir evaporation prediction values based-SVR modeling has been developed by Baydaroğlu and Koçak [\(2014](#page-24-31)). Five diferent input variables have been considered for modeling including Temperature, Wind Speed, Solar Radiation, and time-lag evaporation. The best input combinations to feed the SVR-based models was determined by popular technique called Chaos algorithm. In the study, another two diferent prediction models were employed, which are ANN and ARIMA models. The best SVR could achieve satisfactory prediction accuracy. The proposed model based on combining (SVR) with Chaos algorithm provided very accurate predictions when compared to the best ANN and ARIMA methods.

Given the complexity of evaporation pattern and the lack of meteorological and hydrological data in reservoir area, the models based on physical process have a limited applicability in predicting the evaporation data. In light of such, Tezel and Buyukyildiz (2016) (2016) investigated the efficiency of three diferent models, including Multi-Layer Perceptron (MLP), RBF-NN and SVR to predict reservoir evaporation data. SVR and RBF-NN models have achieved good prediction accuracy, but the SVR method was a little better than RBF-NN model. The results demonstrated that the SVR model could be more suitable in predicting evaporation data.

Fuzzy logic

The primary aim for designing the mathematical models is to maximize the advantage of such models. To achieve this matter, it should be considering many key features including the model system like credibility, uncertainty, and complexity. It could be observed that allowing more uncertainty could lead to minimize the complexity and then obtaining more reliable results from the model. Based on such concept, Zadeh ([1965\)](#page-27-12) has proposed fuzzy theory sets whereby the primary characteristic of such theory is an addressing and studying the uncertain characteristics which could be existing in the parameter patterns. In fact, the fuzzy sets handle the uncertainty by studying the input variables associated with a priority to address modeling vagueness. Furthermore, the system considers the input parameters as a form of interval data not crisp point data. By this way, the system could smoothly solve the modeling ambiguity (Klir and Yuan [1995](#page-25-33)).

It could be noted that the fuzzy system set has an important part called fuzzifcation, that addresses with the

uncertainties. Several past papers mentioned that the uncertainty feature is existing in the pattern of reservoir infow and evaporation parameter (Tan et al. [2007;](#page-26-24) El-Shafe and Noureldin [2011;](#page-24-21) Cheng et al. [2015](#page-24-29)). Therefore, the modelers attempted to develop and support the fuzzifcation part to increase the model ability in handling the ambiguity data. The fuzzy logic models have been employed for mapping between variables in many engineering areas. In this review research, we focus on the fuzzy models' utilization to forecast the reservoir infow and evaporation.

The ANFIS method was used for monthly reservoir infow forecasting at Aswan High Dam (AHD) by El-Shafe et al. [\(2007](#page-24-24)). The ANFIS method has a high ability to address the uncertainties and ambiguities present in the infow pattern. The historical data for 130 years were employed to train and test the proposed model. The architecture was established based on multi-lead infow to enhance the model ability. The proposed modeling developed to be eligible for 3-monthahead forecasting. The study has shown that the ANFISbased models exhibited high accurate and harmonious performance to forecast infow. The ANFIS performance was compared to popular predictive model called MLP-NN. The proposed model outperformed to MLP-NN and has shown super robustness and dependable performance to forecast monthly reservoir infow.

Bae et al. ([2007](#page-24-25)) have utilized ANFIS-based models to forecast infow data. They concluded that ANFIS model is a high ability in providing accurate results. The study demonstrated that the ANFIS model outperformed other predictive models.

Wang et al. ([2009b](#page-27-9)) studied the performance of several AI-based models to forecast monthly reservoir infow records. The monthly infow data were collected from two diferent case studies. The research used the collected data to develop diferent predictive models, namely ANFIS, SVM, ANN, ARAM, and GP technology. Based on several evaluation criteria, the results indicated that the best performance can be obtained by ANFIS, GP, and SVM model.

Lohani et al. [\(2012](#page-26-18)) examined the performance of ANFIS model to forecast monthly reservoir infow by comparing its efficiency with ANN and Auto-Regression (AR) model. The proposed model has been applied to forecast infow data for Bhakra Dam, located in India. Several popular statistical indicators have been utilized to assess the predictive methods. The obtained results revealed that ANFIS-based models are superior to ANN and AR model for reservoir inflow forecasting.

Awan and Bae [\(2013\)](#page-24-26) developed predictive model based on ANFIS method to forecast monthly infow data. Monthly infow, Temperature, and Rainfall data have been employed as input variables to train the proposed models. Diferent architectures of proposed model have been considered based on diferent input combinations. The study showed that using

rainfall parameter as input variables improves the forecasting accuracy. The obtained results demonstrated the efectiveness of ANFIS model in forecasting reservoir infow data.

Monthly and Yearly reservoir infow forecasting modeling have been developed by Bai et al. ([2016b](#page-24-27)). They adopted the Even Gray Model (EGM) and ANFIS model for forecast both time scales. The proposed models have been applied to forecast the infow for Three Gorges reservoir, the data are collected from January 2000 to December 2012. The forecast accuracy of reservoir infow data is improved substantially by the proposed models. To inspect the predictive model, two peer methods, the ANN and auto-regressive integrated moving average method were involved. According to several evaluation indictors, the results showed that the developed predictive model is better that other methods.

Co-Active Neuro Fuzzy Inference System (CANFIS) was modifed by Allawi et al. ([2017\)](#page-23-13) to forecast monthly reservoir infow data. The authors applied the proposed CAN-FIS model for a case study located in Egypt, Aswan High Dam. The comparison has been performed between CANFSI model with other AI-based models. The evaluation criteria demonstrated the superiority of CANFIS model compared to other predictive methods.

Practically speaking, there are difficulties faced by hydrologist when using Class-A pan with regards to the direct measurements. To overcome such difficulties, Keskin et al. [\(2004](#page-25-26)) utilized fuzzy logic model for daily pan evaporation prediction. The proposed method has been established by using various meteorological data as input parameters. A comparison of the efficiency of ANFIS method was made with the Penman empirical equation. The study results revealed that the ANFIS model achieved good accuracy and has signifcant ability to predict evaporation data. The researchers recommended for adopting the ANFIS model to be promising predictive model for reservoir evaporation prediction.

In 2012, Tabari et al. ([2012](#page-26-30)) investigated the ability of the CANFIS model in predicting pan evaporation data for a semi-arid region of Iran. A comparison of the proposed CANFIS model has been carried out with MLP model. The performances of the predictive models were evaluated using several statistical indicators. The study found that the CAN-FIS model is more reliable in predicting evaporation data compared to MLP model.

In the study of Salih et al. ([2019\)](#page-26-31), the CANFIS model was employed to predict monthly evaporation data. CANFIS performance was compared to that of the three AI-based models which are SVR, ANFIS, and ANN model. Several statistical indicators proven the reliability and efectiveness of CAN-FIS model in predicting reservoir evaporation records.

Co-Active Neuro Fuzzy Inference System method was modifed by Allawi et al. ([2020a](#page-23-16)) in order to predict monthly evaporation data. A comparison between the performance of the modifed CANFIS with ANFIS, RBF-NN, and SVR model was performed using several evaluation indicators. The study found that a modifed CANFIS model can predict evaporation records more accurately than other predictive AI-based models.

Hybrid and other models

Diferent other predictive models were developed to forecast the hydrological parameters, like combine optimization algorithms or data pre-processing technique with AI methods.

Indeed, there are several editable internal parameters which identify the fnal shape of the model structure. Over the last decades there have been numerous studies in the development and application of evolutionary algorithms for improving the performance of AI-models. Such algorithms attempt to fnd the optimal form of internal parameters of AI-models, that could produce the robust and efective modeling.

Many techniques were developed to address the stochastic process involve in the raw data. Wavelet Transform (WT) is the most popular technique for data pre-processing. WT is a signifcant model for analysis and handle with time series data. The use of this technique has increased dramatically since its introduction in 1984 by Grossmann and Morlet [\(1984](#page-25-34)). The primary objective of using the WT approach is to analyze the original data in terms of frequency and non-static, thus producing signifcant information about the time series data.

The ability of ANN model with WT has been investigated for reservoir infow forecasting by Wang et al. ([2009a\)](#page-27-8). They applied predictive method to forecast the infow parameter for Three Gorges Dam, located on Yangtze river, China. WNN's performance was evaluated by comparing its efficiency with a common predictive model called TAR model. The study showed that the proposed model attained well results. The forecasting accuracy level is improved when using WNN compared to another model. The researchers concluded that further improvement for WNN procedure could be produce robust and efective predictive model.

In further study, the integration between the PSO with SVM model has been carried out by Wang et al. ([2010](#page-27-10)) to forecast annual infow data. The objective of the PSO algorithm is to fnd the optimal parameters of the SVM model. The comparison between the suggested model (PSO-SVM) and ANN model was conducted according to several statistical indicators. The obtained results demonstrated that the PSO-SVM model is better than ANN in forecasting reservoir infow. The study showed that the PSO-SVM-based model could be an alternative tool for existing forecasting models. The authors recommend that combining the SVM with optimization algorithms can improve the performance and accuracy of a predictive model.

Jothiprakash and Kote [\(2011\)](#page-25-21) studied the ability of M5 Tree (MT) model to forecast infow parameter. Two diferent timelines are considered, monthly and seasonally, to verify model performance. It can be observed that the MT model is superior to Moving Average model. The statistical indicators showed that the proposed model has high efectiveness and reliability. The results of study revealed that the M5 tree model fulflled accurate predictions using seasonal infow records.

The ANN, ANFIS, and Linear Genetic Programming (LGP) were employed for multistep-ahead forecasting of infow data by Jothiprakash and Magar [\(2012\)](#page-25-22). Daily and hourly infow data have been utilized to establish the modeling structure. To illustrate the applicability of the proposed models, Koyna river watershed in Maharashtra located in India is chosen as a case study. The proposed model reliability is evaluated utilizing various performance criteria. The study found that the LGP-based model was superior to other models for both daily and hourly time scales.

Integration three predictive models, FFNN, MLP, and RBFNN, with WT technique has been done by Budu ([2014](#page-24-28)), for reservoir infow forecasting. Research has shown that WT technology performs excellent in improving prediction accuracy. The study recommended adopting WT to enhance the original data to be understandable for the predictive models.

An ensemble model based on WT analysis, bootstrap resampling, and ANN (BWANN) has been proposed by Kumar et al. [\(2015](#page-25-23)) to forecast infow records. For comparison, several peer models including wavelet-based ANN (WANN), Multi Linear Regression (MLR), WMLR, and Bootstrap and Wavelet-based MLR (BWMLR) models, were adopted. Fourteen years of daily reservoir infow data collected form upstream were used to train and testing the predictive models. Several evaluation indicators were employed to check the reliability and validity of the used models. The study showed that the effectiveness of WANN is better than WMLR, ANN, and MLR methods. Another observation, the BWANN performance is superior to BWMLR model and could be more accurate and useful for daily reservoir infow forecasting, as requested.

Heuristic methods for monthly reservoir infow forecasting have been employed by Cheng et al. [\(2015](#page-24-29)). The ANN, SVM, and SVM based on genetic algorithm, were applied to forecast infow at Xinfengjiang reservoir. A comparison has been conducted between the hybrid predictive model and classic ANN and SVM model. The study revealed that three predictive models have satisfactory performance in forecasting monthly infow values. Five statistical indicators showed that the performance of

hybrid model is better than ANN and SVM. It could be concluded that hybrid model is robust tool for the longterm forecasting.

To handle the daily infow forecasting, Bai et al. [\(2016a\)](#page-24-6) developed the Multi-scale Deep Feature Learning (MDFL) technique with hybrid methods. In order to extract multiscale (i.e., random, period, and trend), ensemble empirical decomposition and Fourier spectrum have been utilized. The structure of the proposed modeling was established using the historical daily reservoir infow series for 12 years. The raw data were collected from the Three Gorges reservoir, located in China. Four diferent predictive models were adopted to compare with the suggested model. According to the attained results, the present model efficiency overwhelmed all the peer methods for the same task. The minimum forecasting error and maximum correlation between the forecasted and actual data, have been obtained using the proposed predictive model.

In 2016, Bozorg-Haddad et al. [\(2016b](#page-24-30)) coupled GA technique with ANN model to forecast infow data. Historical data of two case studies were utilized to evaluate the proposed ANN, 80% of the data were used to train and 20% of the original data were used to test the suggested model. The obtained results demonstrated that the proposed hybrid model (ANN-GA) is applicable and efectiveness to forecast monthly infow data.

The combination of a linear seasonal auto-regression integrated moving average (SARIMA) model with an ANN, is conducted by Moeeni and Bonakdari [\(2016\)](#page-26-20). They examined the performance of the proposed predictive model to forecast infow records of a dam reservoir. In this research, the Jamishan Dam located in Iran was chosen as a case study. The efficiency of hybrid model (SARIMA-ANN) was compared with SARIMA and ANN models. The study investigated the efect of changing the forecasting period length on the accuracy level of models. The results showed that the hybrid model forecasts peak infow values much better than the classic predictive methods. Moreover, the SARIMA model is more accurate in forecasting the low records compared to other AI-based models. Overall, the forecasting error minimizes when utilizing the hybrid model more compared to other predictive models. The correlation magnitude between forecasted and actual data is high with hybrid model.

Li et al. [\(2016\)](#page-26-21) have introduced two diferent predictive models, Deep Restricted Boltzmann Machine (DRBM), and Stack Auto-Encoder (SAE), to forecast infow data. The proposed models have been employed for daily reservoir infow forecasting at Three Gorges reservoir and Gezhouba located in China. The study evaluated the performance of models by comparing with classic FF-NN, ARIMA. Both categories Deep Neural Network (DNN), are established by integrating FF-NN with DRBM (i.e., DRBM-NN) and SAE (i.e., SAE-NN). It could be noted that the effectiveness and robust

of two DNN models overwhelm the FF-NN and ARIMA methods in forecasting infow data.

In 2020, Afan et al. ([2020](#page-23-14)) used Genetic Algorithm to select the proper input combination for the predictive model. The integration has been made between RBF-NN with GA to forecast monthly reservoir infow. The results showed that the proposed RBFNN-GA model outperformed other predictive models.

Six machine learning models including MLP, DT, RNN, Radom Forest (RF), and Gradient Boosting (GB), were employed for inflow forecasting by Hong et al. ([2020](#page-25-24)). According to several statistical indicators, the MLP model attained best prediction results compared to other predictive models. On the other hand, the study found that the GB and RF performed better than MLP model when the infow volume is less than 100 m^3 /s. Therefore, combination between MLP and those models (i.e., GB-MLP and RF-MLP) has been carried out. The developed model achieved high-level forecasting accuracy.

The performance of three AI-based models was improved by Tikhamarine et al. ([2020\)](#page-26-22), to provide the robust and effective predictive model. The improvement of the forecasting accuracy has been carried out by integrating SVR, ANN, and MLP with the Gray Wolf Optimization (GWO) algorithm. The results show, the hybrid models are more accurate and reliable compared to classic AI-based models. Moreover, the efficiency of SVR-GWO model in forecasting monthly inflow data is better than ANN-GWO and MLP-GWO models.

In the study of Zhang et al. (2020) (2020) (2020) , three different data-driven models including ANN, ANFIS, SVM, were employed to forecast reservoir inflow. Several climate parameters have been used as input variables for the predictive models. The results indicated that the predictive model is reliable and efective in forecasting infow compared to other models used.

Osman et al. [\(2020\)](#page-26-23), Fast Orthogonal Search (FOS) method was adopted to forecast monthly infow data. The study reported that the FOS method has ability to avoid the over-ftting problem. It was observed that the forecasting accuracy has been highly improved using FOS method.

Instead of utilizing popular sigmoid activation function in MLP-NN model, Abghari et al. ([2012](#page-23-18)) employed Wavelet function as activation function. Two diferent Wavelet types have been considered namely Mexican Hat and polyWOG1. The suggested models are applied for daily pan evaporation prediction. According to the obtained results, Mexican hat wavelet NN presented 98.35% and 96.04% accuracy whiling training and testing sessions, respectively. Whereas PolyWOG1 wavelet NN presented 95.92% and 91.03% accuracy during training and testing phases, respectively. The MLP model with standard sigmoid function provided 90.6% accuracy in training period and 87.63 within testing period. It has been observed that the MLP with Mexican hat Wavelet achieved well performance accuracy.

In the research of Arunkumar and Jothiprakash ([2013](#page-23-19)), the reservoir evaporation data were predicted using three diferent AI-based models including ANN, model tree, GP model. The daily reservoir evaporation records for a period of 49 years were employed to develop the prediction modeling. The evaluation criteria showed that the GP model is better than model tree and ANN model in predicting the evaporation parameter.

Izadbakhsh and Javadikia [\(2014](#page-25-27)) coupled the FF-NN model and GA technology to predict evaporation data of a dam reservoir. Feed-Forward Neural Network (FF-NN) with Genetic Algorithm (GA) to predict evaporation data from the dam reservoir. The performance of the hybrid predictive model (FFNN-GA) is compared with classic FF-NN model. Several meteorological parameters including wind speed, sunshine, and temperature, are employed as input variables for modeling. The researchers found the proposed predictive model (i.e., FFNN-GA) is an accurate and reliable in predicting evaporation data, compared to classic FF-NN model. The FFNN-GA could be promising predictive tool for reservoir evaporation prediction.

A hybrid model consisting MLP with Fire-Fly Algorithm (FFA) was adopted by Ghorbani et al. [\(2017](#page-25-28)) to predict pan evaporation records. The performance of MLP-FFA model was examined by comparing the accuracy of its predictions with stander MLP and SVM methods. The results demonstrated that the hybrid predictive model outperformed other models. The study found that the FFA technique improves the accuracy of the forecasted evaporation data.

Allawi et al. [\(2020b\)](#page-23-17) developed new predictive method called Co-Active Neuro Fuzzy Inference System (CANFIS) to predict monthly reservoir evaporation records for two different case studies. Genetic algorithm has been employed to obtain optimal internal parameters of the proposed model. The performance of the GA-CANFIS in predicting evaporation data was inspected by comparing with GA-SVR, GA-ANFIS and GA-RBFNN models. A hybrid model (GA-CANFIS) succeeded in achieving minimal prediction errors and a high agreement level between predicted and actual data. The results show that the developed model could be excellent tool to predict the reservoir evaporation data.

In a recent study, Wu et al. ([2020\)](#page-27-11) predicted monthly evaporation data by coupling Extreme Learning Machine (ELM) with two different heuristic algorithms namely, Whale Optimization Algorithm (WOA) and Flower Pollination Algorithm (FPA). The applicability of the proposed models has been compared with ANN, Diferential Evolution algorithm optimized ELM (DEELM) and M5 model Tree (M5T). The study demonstrated that the hybrid model (i.e., FPAELM) achieved high-level prediction accuracy,

followed by WOAELM model. Further, hybrid predictive models are superior to conventional methods.

Evaluation and assessment

Since the emergence of AI-models in hydrology field, research activity in the feld of modeling, analysis, forecasting, and estimation of water quality and quantity has increased signifcantly. AI techniques have been employed in modeling various hydrological parameters. The current review research has focused on application of AI-models to forecast the main hydrological parameters in reservoir system which are infow and evaporation. It is noted that hydrologists have paid much attention to the forecasting of reservoir infow, with fewer studies being done on modeling of reservoir evaporation.

According to the effectiveness and good efficiency of AI techniques regarding address with the nonlinear and stochastic natural of hydrological processes, a considerable understanding and capability to forecast infow and evaporation could be attained. The obtained results of numerous studies reviewed in this paper have indicated the high efectiveness of integrated or hybrid models in forecasting infow and evaporation as an accurately, compared with single or classic AI-models. Such enhancements in forecasting infow and evaporation parameters can lead to the better interpretation for the behavior of these phenomena and hence give proper policies for development water resources management.

The last sections reviewed the previous works which applied AI-based models to forecast the reservoir infow and evaporation. One of the more important matters that was explored, is fuzzy logic models can best ft with the specifc hydrologic processes.

The past studies reported that the ANN models sufered by some limitations and shortcoming like low-speed learning, local minima and over-ftting problem. There are three major types of ANN method namely MLP, RBF-NN and FF-NN model. Based on the past papers, the RBF-NN model has high efficiency and ability in forecasting hydrological parameters compared to other models. It is due to that the RBF-NN model is characterized faster convergence and high robustness (Fernando and Jayawardena [1998](#page-24-35); Valipour et al. [2012;](#page-26-14) Allawi and El-Shafe [2016\)](#page-23-15). In same time, some of research paper reported that the RBF-NN model has some weak points and shortages, where the RBF-NN model suffers to provide acceptable accuracy when using short period of raw data.

Further remarkable, the DNN methods are superior to the static neural network models in forecasting the infow and evaporation parameters. Indeed, the concept of DNN methods is that the neuron depends not on the present signal of input only, but also based on the prior states of the neurons. Thus, the DNN models characterized by robustness

and high efficiency in reducing the learning time. Moreover, the DNN methods have the exceptional ability for mapping the relationship between input–output variables because of its high capability to adjust the network weights, as quested (Coulibaly et al. [2001;](#page-24-19) Valipour et al. [2013\)](#page-26-15).

It was also found that SVM-based models with optimization algorithms are more efficient that ANN and ANFIS models in monitoring peak values. It is observed that peak values in infow and evaporation time series, that occur in periodic patterns, could be detected using SVM-based models with optimization techniques more accurately. The classic models could attain good forecasting results for short-term real time forecasting (i.e., hourly, or daily). But the hybrid or integrated AI-models could achieve highlevel accuracy for long-term time scale (i.e., seasonally, or monthly). Moreover, type of data has a signifcant role in selecting of the reliable and efective model. For example, for modeling the highly stochastic process, the probabilistic based pre-processing could be useful for obtaining satisfactory results.

The noteworthy according to the past studies, one of the most important steps that could infuence on modeling performance is that choose a suitable transfer function. The transfer function is employed to mapping the nonlinear relationship. Selection appropriate function could improve the forecasting accuracy. Several papers have concluded that the tangent sigmoid transfer function is better than other functions in terms of ability to understanding the pattern of infow and evaporation parameters. The review demonstrated that most past studies attained their objectives as high accurately using sigmoid function like (Moghaddamnia et al. [2009a;](#page-26-25) Tabari et al. [2010](#page-26-27); Hidalgo et al. [2015;](#page-25-35) Chiamsathit et al. [2016](#page-24-23); Allawi and El-Shafe [2016](#page-23-15)).

Authors' names, type of AI-based models, timescale and others information around the past studies that have addressed infow forecasting, are presented in Table [2](#page-6-0). It is noted that most of the reviewed papers have used monthly time scale for modeling inflow forecasting. Referring Table [2,](#page-6-0) the ANN-based models have received high attention from modelers. Many hydrologists attempted to improve the performance of AI methods by integrating them with optimizer techniques.

Table [3](#page-9-0) summarizes the major details of the reviewed studies which employed AI-based models for modeling evaporation prediction. Type of the predictive model, timescale, research remark, author's name, and evaluation criteria were presented in Table [3](#page-9-0). It is observed that the researchers are concerned with selecting the appropriate input combination for modeling. The performance of predictive models could be enhanced in case include the efective climate parameters like temperature and humidity, with modeling. Through Table [3,](#page-9-0) the majority of the researchers utilized daily time scale for evaporation prediction modeling. It is found that the long-term scales like monthly are used with large reservoirs. The evaporation prediction modeling has been mostly established based on ANN models. It was observed that RMSE, MAE, and R^2 were the mainly used to evaluate the prediction accuracy.

Figure [2](#page-21-0) shows number of times that the artifcial intelligence methods were utilized of modeling the prediction of reservoir infow and evaporation based on the studies reviewed. It is remarkable that prediction modeling was constructed many times based on hybrid models. Artifcial Neural Network (ANN) method was widely employed for modeling the prediction of the main hydrological parameters in the reservoir system. It is worth to mention, the CANFIS model could be a predictive candidate model for development the prediction modeling for infow and evaporation parameters. The development of the CANFIS model procedure may yield accurate prediction results.

To enrich the review study, the major points can be summarized as the following:

- i. The optimization techniques have improved the performance of predictive models. The optimizer is used to fnd the optimal internal parameters for the model's structure and then selected the proper fnal shape of the modeling.
- ii. In general, the pre-processing techniques such as WT have reduced the data noising. With employing WT, the predictive model can understand the behavior of data as better, hence provide high accuracy level.
- iii. The hybrid models achieved acceptable accuracy to forecast infow parameter whether short-term or longterm.

Recommendation for future research

According to the previous research papers conclusions, there are several advantages and drawbacks of the AI-based models. To address such shortcomings and enhance the advantages, recommendations for future research are suggested, as follows:

- 1. Identifcation the adoption of proper input selection techniques is the one of the major concerns in hydroclimatological methods. In a study on ANN models, (Maier and Dandy [2000\)](#page-26-35) reported two disadvantages of AI-based hydrologic modeling. The evaluating the relationship between input–output variables is the frst deficiencies, secondly, exploring the effective input parameters and avoiding redundant inputs even if these variables could help the ANN-based models. Such variables may lead to increase the complicated and uncertainty of model. These two matters could appear with other AI-based models. Thus, the attention should be given to reduce an uncertainty and hence improve the performance of the predictive models. In this regard, pre-processing techniques such as Wavelet Transform (WT), Fast Orthogonal Research (FOS), and other techniques can address the two aforementioned issues.
- 2. Due to the limited number of research studies in the feld of modeling reservoir evaporation using integrated models, we recommend that additional studies should be conducted on this topic.
- 3. One of the most important issues for the designers is choosing the relevant input variables that infuence the output outcome. Input selection is an essential step in building model to achieve the highest prediction accuracy. Enhancements made to the AI-model could focus on fnding a suitable input selection method. In fact, there are intelligent input selection methods that automatically identifes the input and give the best harmony and relevant inputs for better prediction accuracy. In this context, this study recommends utilizing the input

selection methods such as a genetic algorithm and global harmony search method to determine the most efective input variable on the accuracy of the model output.

4. Most of the existing research papers are focused on deterministic hydrological and climate parameters. In fact, few of these studies attempted to improve the reliability and efficiency of operation in dynamic environment. It is useful introducing modern methodologies which able to help the decision makers they are facing the environment uncertainty. With such modern model, it could be provided the applicable and reliable operation policies able quickly handle the unexpected disturbance, as requested. The current optimization algorithms are employed to generate operation rules for dam and reservoir system based on the main hydrological parameters pattern and other constraints. Indeed, the simulation procedure of algorithms is conducted by adopting the hydrological parameters as deterministic variables. Such operation procedure considers that the perfect forecasting for hydrological parameters is available, which is unrealistic. In this context, the present study recommends reimplementing and enhancing the reservoir operation procedure to be under realistic conditions. The proposed operation procedure could be attained by integrating the predictive model with optimization algorithms. Given the parameters values are unknown, the AI-based model will forecast the required data at the beginning of each step (i.e., daily, monthly, seasonally, etc.) whiling an operation procedure. Hence, more realistic and dynamic operating policies for the reservoir system can be obtained.

Conclusion

The present study reviewed previous research papers dealing with simulation and operation of the reservoir system. Applications of optimization algorithms of the reservoir operation have been studied for the past twenty years. Previous studies that used AI-based models to predict reservoir infow and evaporation were also explored as key components in reservoir simulation. The hydrologists give signifcant attention through conducting many efective research papers to handle such issue. The optimization algorithms provided acceptable solutions for optimization reservoir operation. Based on the obtained results by several literature studies, the evolutionary algorithms presented satisfactory operation policies. However, there are some drawbacks and shortcoming points for these techniques that can be observed during employ them.

This research demonstrated the efforts which were made to develop the predictive models based on AI methods. It is illustrated that the AI-based models have ability to

predict infow and evaporation parameters with good level of accuracy. The modern models such as integrated predictive models have high efectiveness and more reliable compared to the classic model version. More recommendations to develop predictive model able to handle the infow and evaporation forecasting have been listed. In order to operate the reservoir system under realistic conditions, a new simulation procedure has been proposed. This procedure involves combining a predictive model with an optimization algorithm while searching for optimal operating rules and evaluating their performance.

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Declarations

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Consent to participate The authors consent to participate in this research study.

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