

## Slope Stability Analysis using Hybrid BPSO-SVM Machine Learning Techniques

### Análise de estabilidade de taludes utilizando técnicas híbridas de aprendizado de máquina BPSO-SVM

### Análisis de estabilidad de taludes mediante técnicas de aprendizaje automático híbridas BPSO-SVM

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Mohit Sheode, Research Scholar, Department of Civil Engineering, Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology, Bhopal 462003, India

<https://orcid.org/0009-0009-5719-5084>

Saurabh Kumar Anuragi, Ph.D Scholar, Department of Civil Engineering, Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology, Bhopal 462003, India

<https://orcid.org/0009-0008-7320-7527>

Kishan, Dharavath. Associate Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology, Bhopal 462003, India

<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1058-3548>

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## Abstract

*Objective:* This study aims to enhance the forecasting performance of slope stability predictions by applying and comparing the Binary Particle Swarm Optimization (BPSO) coupled with Support Vector Machine (BPSO-SVM) models. The objective is to classify the slope status, turning the problem into a classification task.

*Originality/relevance:* The BPSO technique is utilized to select relevant features from the dataset, thereby improving the overall effectiveness of the predictive models.

*Methodology:* The research includes 108 slope stability examples, with the dataset split between 70% training and 30% validation. The dataset comprises seven input parameters: cohesiveness, slope angle, unit weight, angle of internal friction, slope height, pore water pressure coefficient, and factor of safety. To obtain optimal hyper-parameters for the SVM model, Grid Search was exploited. The accuracy of the slope stability predictions given by several models was assessed using receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curves.

*Main results:* It is concluded that the BPSO-SVM model outperforms the standalone SVM and BPSO models, serving as a robust computational tool capable of accurately predicting slope stability.

*Theoretical and methodological contributions:* This research contributes to the evolution of the state of the art on the subject, presenting new constructs that are verified and tested. It introduces new constructs in this new frontier of knowledge.

*Social and executive contributions:* this work demonstrates to organizations the potential and challenges of applying innovative optimization methods in corporate management, resulting in efficiency gains and benefiting both companies and society.

*Keywords:* Support Vector Machine, Binary PSO, Slope Stability, Grid Search, Cross Validation

## Resumo

*Objetivo:* Este estudo visa aprimorar o desempenho da previsão de estabilidade de taludes aplicando e comparando os modelos de Otimização por Enxame de Partículas Binário (BPSO) acoplados a Máquinas de Vetores de Suporte (BPSO-SVM). O objetivo é classificar o estado do talude, transformando o problema em uma tarefa de classificação.

*Originalidade/relevância:* A técnica BPSO é utilizada para selecionar características relevantes do conjunto de dados, melhorando assim a eficácia geral dos modelos preditivos.

*Metodologia:* A pesquisa inclui 108 exemplos de estabilidade de taludes, com o conjunto de dados dividido em 70% para treinamento e 30% para validação. O conjunto de dados compreende sete parâmetros de entrada: coesão, ângulo de inclinação, peso específico, ângulo de atrito interno, altura do talude, coeficiente de pressão da água nos poros e fator de segurança. Para obter os hiperparâmetros ótimos para o modelo SVM, foi utilizada a Busca em Grade. A

acurácia das previsões de estabilidade de taludes fornecidas por diversos modelos foi avaliada utilizando curvas ROC (Receiver Operating Characteristic).

*Principais resultados:* Conclui-se que o modelo BPSO-SVM supera os modelos SVM e BPSO independentes, servindo como uma ferramenta computacional robusta capaz de prever com precisão a estabilidade de taludes.

*Contribuições teóricas e metodológicas:* Esta pesquisa contribui para a evolução do estado da arte sobre o tema, apresentando novos constructos que são verificados e testados. Introduce novos constructos nesta nova fronteira do conhecimento.

*Contribuições sociais e executivas:* este trabalho demonstra às organizações o potencial e os desafios da aplicação de métodos inovadores de otimização na gestão corporativa, resultando em ganhos de eficiência e beneficiando tanto as empresas quanto a sociedade.

*Palavras-chaves:* Máquina de Vetores de Suporte, PSO Binário, Estabilidade de Taludes, Busca em Grade, Validação Cruzada

## Resumen

*Objetivo:* Este estudio busca mejorar el rendimiento de las predicciones de estabilidad de taludes mediante la aplicación y comparación de los modelos de Optimización por Enjambre de Partículas Binarias (BPSO) acoplados a Máquinas de Vectores de Soporte (BPSO-SVM). El objetivo es clasificar el estado de los taludes, convirtiendo el problema en una tarea de clasificación.

*Originalidad/relevancia:* La técnica BPSO se utiliza para seleccionar características relevantes del conjunto de datos, mejorando así la eficacia general de los modelos predictivos.

*Metodología:* La investigación incluye 108 ejemplos de estabilidad de taludes, con un conjunto de datos dividido en un 70% para entrenamiento y un 30% para validación. El conjunto de datos comprende siete parámetros de entrada: cohesión, ángulo de talud, peso unitario, ángulo de fricción interna, altura de talud, coeficiente de presión de agua intersticial y factor de seguridad. Para obtener hiperparámetros óptimos para el modelo SVM, se utilizó la búsqueda en cuadrícula. La precisión de las predicciones de estabilidad de taludes proporcionadas por varios modelos se evaluó mediante curvas ROC (curvas características operativas del receptor).

*Resultados principales:* Se concluye que el modelo BPSO-SVM supera a los modelos SVM y BPSO independientes, sirviendo como una herramienta computacional robusta capaz de predecir con precisión la estabilidad de taludes.

*Contribuciones teóricas y metodológicas:* Esta investigación contribuye a la evolución del estado del arte en el tema, presentando nuevos constructos verificados y probados. Introduce nuevos constructos en esta nueva frontera del conocimiento.

*Contribuciones sociales y ejecutivas:* Este trabajo demuestra a las organizaciones el potencial y los desafíos de aplicar métodos de optimización innovadores en la gestión corporativa, lo que resulta en mejoras de eficiencia y beneficia tanto a las empresas como a la sociedad.

*Palabras clave:* Máquina de Vectores de Soporte, PSO Binario, Estabilidad de Taludes, Búsqueda en Cuadrícula, Validación Cruzada

### Highlights of the Study:

- The study focuses on improving slope stability prediction accuracy using a hybrid model combining Binary Particle Swarm Optimization (BPSO) with Support Vector Machine (SVM).
- BPSO is employed to select relevant features from a dataset of 108 slope stability examples, which are divided into 70% for training and 30% for validation.
- The analysis considers seven key parameters: cohesiveness, slope angle, unit weight, angle of internal friction, slope height, pore water pressure coefficient, and factor of safety.
- The study reformulates slope stability analysis as a classification problem, aiming to classify the slope status effectively.
- Grid Search is utilized to determine optimal hyper-parameters for the SVM model.
- The effectiveness of the slope stability prediction models is evaluated using receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curves.
- The BPSO-SVM model demonstrates superior performance compared to standalone SVM and BPSO models, proving to be a reliable tool for accurate slope stability prediction.
- The research emphasizes the significance of integrating advanced computational techniques in geotechnical engineering to address traditional modeling limitations.
- The study acknowledges the growing need for effective slope stability analysis due to increasing slope failures and their economic and social impacts.

### 1. Introduction

Predicting slope stability accurately is a significant challenge due to the complex nature of soil's physical properties. The increase in slope failures, which lead to substantial economic and social losses, has caught the attention of researchers and engineers. It is crucial to analyze and stabilize slopes in order to mitigate or prevent such damages, requiring a thorough

understanding of the underlying mechanisms responsible for slope failures. Nevertheless, extensive efforts have been dedicated to minimizing losses through the use of numerical and analytical modelling techniques, which enable precise predictions and facilitate appropriate actions [1]. The finite element approach and the limit equilibrium method are the two most used methods for studying slope stability. These strategies are critical for assessing slope stability and making choices that promote safety while mitigating hazards [2–10]. However, they depend on linear connection models, which may not account for non-linear deformations. The sliding surface is assumed to achieve the final state of failure at the same time, regardless of the slip surface's real stress conditions [11–15]. To overcome this constraint, numerous studies have merged the strength reduction approach with finite element analysis for slope stability analysis [16–18]. This integrated method seeks to calculate the factor of safety by including a failure condition to assess if the system achieves limit equilibrium. As a consequence, doing slope stability analysis using traditional approaches requires a thorough knowledge, sophisticated modeling techniques, and a large quantity of experimental data.

In current years, intelligent computational techniques have been widely used in geotechnical applications such as landslide susceptibility assessment [19–22], foundation analysis [23–27], predicting pile foundation bearing capacity [28, 29], predicting soil physical properties [30–32], soil quality assessment [33, 34], and liquefaction assessment [35–37]. Meanwhile, amazing results were achieved by expanding the available slope parameters for slope stability prediction using supervised learning approaches. Numerous studies have documented the use of support vector machines (SVM) in geotechnical engineering and shown that it outperformed other machine learning approaches [38–41]. Similarly, Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO) has been effectively used to a variety of geotechnical engineering challenges. Both of these modeling techniques need just a few user-defined parameters and produce global minima [42–46]. However, PSO has flaws such as premature convergence and a lack of variety, which limit its capacity to identify global optima. It is sensitive to parameter adjustments and has difficulty with limited tasks. PSO lacks problem-specific information and scalability in high-dimensional domains, however upgrades and adjustments have been suggested to address these constraints. Furthermore, it has been shown that the support vector

machine (SVM) may be used as part of a hybrid model with other machine learning approaches to reliably forecast slope stability. For example, Xue et al. [47] used PSO-SVM and GS-SVM hybrid models to enhance slope stability prediction by determining the appropriate SVM parameters. The findings confirmed the usefulness of PSO-SVM in this setting. Similarly, Xinhua Xu. [48] effectively used a hybrid model integrating least square support vector machine (LSSVM) and particle swarm optimization (PSO) to improve the forecast capabilities of slope stability analysis. Other techniques, such as using cloud models [49], Monte Carlo simulation [50], and comparing SVM to other models like ANN, have further shown SVM's promise in slope stability prediction. Furthermore, changes to algorithms such as the gravitational search algorithm (GSA) have resulted in better performance. Despite these advances, it is critical to choose an appropriate approach for slope deformation prediction, since each of the methods discussed above has limits and downsides.

As a consequence, other methodologies are required for more accurate slope stability forecasts. Taking into account the superior performance of SVM and the constraints of PSO, an attempt has been made to study the possible usage of an improved SVM with Binary Particle Swarm Optimization (BPSO) in building a prediction function for determining slope status using available parameters. In addition, a comparison of SVM and BPSO-SVM is performed to evaluate the models' prediction capabilities. The SVM is a machine learning methodology developed by Vapnik [51] that is well-known for its ability to generate statistical predictions and categorization. It has been popular among academics owing to its user-friendliness, solid features, and great performance. While SVM has been extensively utilized in several disciplines, including neurology, bioinformatics, finance, and meteorology. However, there is still need for further research into its potential uses in civil engineering outside geotechnical engineering. Despite some successful efforts, SVM outperformed the Artificial Neural Network (ANN) method, indicating that it is a viable technology for civil engineering applications. As a result, further study is needed to uncover the potential of SVM in civil engineering and investigate its capabilities in the sector.

## 2. Support Vector Machines

An inner product function defines the nonlinear transformation used by the Support Vector Classifier (SVC), a machine learning algorithm that maps the input space into a higher-dimensional feature space. The theoretical underpinnings of SVC are based on linear separability, decision boundaries, and margin maximization. Vapnik and Chervonenkis (1963) [52] developed the concept of the Vapnik-Chervonenkis (VC) dimension, which provided the foundation for understanding SVC's generalization performance. The VC dimension measures the capacity or complexity of a hypothesis space, which is the set of decision boundaries that a learning algorithm may learn. In the context of SVC, the VC dimension reflects the greatest number of points that may be fractured or completely separated by the algorithm's learnt decision boundary. comprehension SVC's generalization performance requires a comprehension of the VC dimension. It offers a theoretical basis for examining the trade-off between model complexity and the capacity to generalize successfully to new data.

Boser et al. (1992) [53] introduced kernel functions, which enhanced SVC's capacity to handle non-linearly separable data. Cortes and Vapnik (1995) [51] developed the Support Vector Classifier (SVC) formulation, demonstrating its capacity to discover optimum separating hyperplanes with greatest margins by incorporating two terms, namely slack variable  $\xi$  and penalty factor  $C$ . The slack variable  $\xi$  represents the standard deviation of a data pattern from the ideal state, while the penalty factor  $C$  determines the trade-off between the amount of misclassifications in training data.

The decision functions for different conditions are:

For Linearly Separable:

$$y_i[(w^T x_i) + b] - 1 \geq 0 \quad (1)$$

For Linearly Inseparable:

$$y_i[(w^T x_i) + b] \geq 1 - \xi_i \quad (2)$$

To minimize,

$$\frac{1}{2} w^T w + C \sum_{i=1}^N \xi_i \quad (3)$$

For Non-linear Classification:

Linear Kernel:

$$k(x_i x_j) = x_i^T x_j \quad (4)$$

Polynomial Kernel:

$$k(x_i x_j) = (Yx_i^T + r)^d, Y > 0 \quad (5)$$

Radial Basis Function (RBF):

$$k(x_i x_j) = e^{(Y||x_i - x_j||^2)}, Y > 0 \quad (6)$$

Sigmoid Kernel :

$$k(x_i x_j) = \tan(Yx_i^T x_j + r) \quad (7)$$

Where  $w$  is an adaptive weight factor,  $x$  is an input vector,  $b$  is bias and  $w^T x$  is an inner product of  $w$  and  $x$  and  $Y$ ,  $r$  and  $d$  are kernel parameters.

Numerous research have focused on improving SVC training and performance. Platt (1999) [54] presented a sequential minimum optimization approach to increase the efficiency of training large-scale datasets. Joachims (2006) [55] proposed the Budgeted Support Vector Machine, which reduced training time by picking a subset of support vectors. Additional research has looked at the use of parallel computing, distributed learning, and active learning approaches to speed up training and enhance scalability. From its theoretical roots to its implementations in a variety of fields, SVC has shown exceptional performance and adaptability. While issues like as parameter tuning and scalability persist, continuing research seeks to solve these limits and improve the algorithm's performance. Understanding SVC's advances and future prospects allows academics to contribute to its continuous development and explore its possibilities in tackling complicated classification challenges.

### 3. Binary PSO

Binary Particle Swarm Optimization (BPSO) is an optimization technique that solves binary optimization issues. In binary optimization issues, the aim is to determine which binary

string optimizes or minimizes a particular objective function. Binary PSO is a heuristic approach to simulating the behavior of a swarm of particles in a multidimensional search space. In Binary PSO, particles represent locations in a binary space, with each element of a particle's position vector having only the values 0 or 1. In other words,  $x_i \in B^{n \times x}$  or  $x_{ij}$  can only be 1 or 0. The location of a particle is updated by flipping one or more bits in the particle's binary string representation. This essentially moves the particle around various corners of a hypercube in the binary search space. The flipping of bits might cause the particle to move closer or further away from the ideal solution.

The binary PSO method starts by randomly creating a population of particles, then initializes their locations and velocities. The fitness function is then computed for each particle, and the optimal placements of both individual particles and the whole swarm are changed appropriately. The swarm best location is the position of the particle with the highest fitness function value throughout the whole population. Next, the velocity and location of each particle are updated using the following equation:

$$V_{[i,j]} = w * V_{[i,j]} + c1 * rand1 * (p_{best[i,j]} - x_{[i,j]}) + c2 * rand2 * (g_{best[j]} - x_{[i,j]}) \quad (8)$$

$$x_{[i,j]} = 1, \text{ if } rand(0) < sigmoid(V_{[i,j]}) \\ x_{[i,j]} = 0, \text{ otherwise}$$

where  $V_{[i,j]}$  is the velocity of the  $j^{\text{th}}$  dimension of the  $i^{\text{th}}$  particle,  $w$  is the inertia weight,  $c1$  and  $c2$  are the cognitive and social learning factors,  $rand1$  and  $rand2$  are random numbers between 0 and 1,  $p_{best[i,j]}$  is the best position of the  $i^{\text{th}}$  particle in the  $j^{\text{th}}$  dimension, and  $g_{best[j]}$  is the best position of the swarm in the  $j^{\text{th}}$  dimension. The sigmoid function is used to convert the velocity into a probability of flipping the bit from 0 to 1.

The BPSO defines velocities and particle trajectories based on whether each bit is set to 1 or 0. For example, a velocity  $V_{ij}(t)$  of 0.3 means that the corresponding bit has a 30% probability of being set to 1 and a 70% chance of being set to 0. To guarantee that velocities are perceived as probabilities, they are usually limited to the range  $[0, 1]$ . There are many techniques for normalizing velocities such that  $V_{ij}$  is between 0 and 1. One popular method is to divide each  $V_{ij}$  by the greatest velocity,  $V_{max,j}$ . If  $V_{max,j}$  is big and the real velocity  $V_{ij}(t) \ll$

$V_{\max,j}$  for all time steps, the range of velocities decreases, reducing the probability of a position changing to bit 1. For example, if  $V_{\max,j} = 10$  and  $V_{ij}(t) = 5$ , the normalized velocity  $V'_{ij}(t)$  is 0.5, implying a 50% likelihood that  $x_{ij}(t+1) = 1$ . Using this normalization strategy might cause early convergence to inferior solutions since it restricts the algorithm's exploration abilities.

The velocity normalization is obtained by using sigmoid function,

$$V_{ij}(t) = \text{sig}(V_{ij}(t)) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-V_{ij}(t)}} \quad (9)$$

Using (9), the position update changes to

$$x_{ij}(t+1) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } r_{ij}(t) < \text{sig}(V_{ij}(t+1)) \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (10)$$

Where  $r_{ij}$  is a uniform random number in the range  $[0,1]$ . The more detailed expressions can be referred at [56].

#### 4. Analysis Data Visualization and Preprocessing

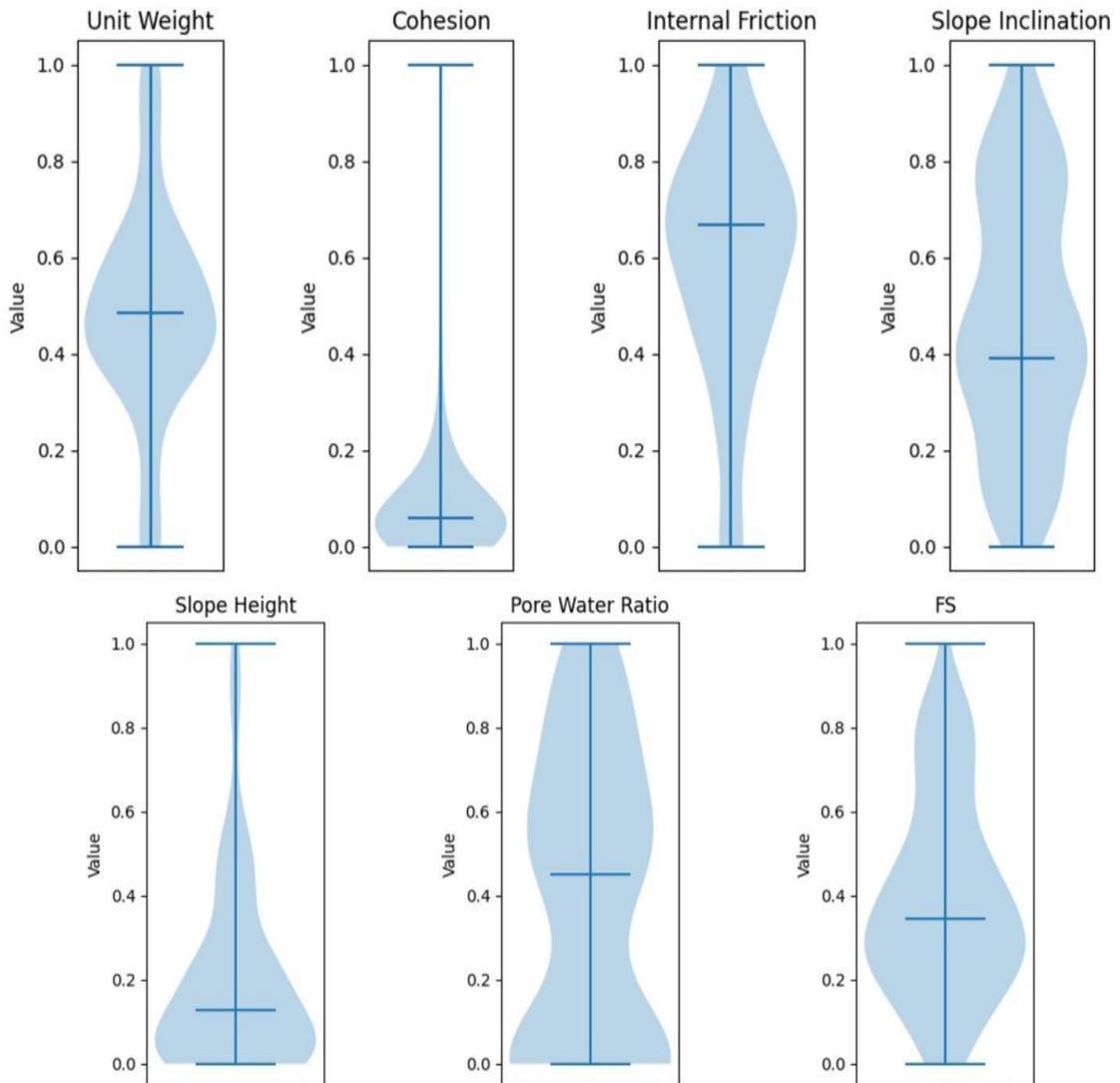
The major goal of the presented work is to improve the performance of the SVM model by optimizing its parameters for a given dataset. Furthermore, a comparison is made between SVM and BPSO-SVM. The dataset used in this investigation comes from [57]. The dataset includes unit weight ( $Y$ ), cohesion ( $c$ ), angle of internal friction ( $\phi$ ), slope angle ( $\beta$ ), height ( $H$ ), pore water pressure coefficient ( $ru$ ), factor of safety ( $FS$ ), and slope status ( $S$ ) (stable or unstable). The  $FS$  is a comprehensive instrument for analyzing the stability of a slope. It entails computing the slope's sliding resistance to its sliding force, which is directly proportional to the soil's shear strength. In this research work, the slope status is represented as a binary value, with '1' indicating stable and '0' unstable. The present study uses BPSO for feature optimization and SVM for predicting status. The Table 1 provides statistical insights, such as standard

deviation, minimum, mean, maximum, average, variance, and count. These metrics help to understand the variation, central tendencies, and sample size of the data points within the study.

**Table 1**  
Description of Dataset

index	Y (kN/m <sup>3</sup> )	C (kPa)	ϕ (°)	β (°)	H (m)	ru
Standard deviation	3.68	22.40	11.25	9.67	47.37	0.17
min	12.00	0.00	0.00	16.00	3.60	0.00
mean	20.01	14.58	26.25	33.44	44.28	0.19
max	28.44	150.05	45.00	53.00	214.00	0.50
Average	19.96	10.48	26.63	33.26	40.73	0.21
Variance	12.53	116.73	116.57	90.23	1845.94	0.03
count	108.00	108.00	108.00	108.00	108.00	108.00

The Violin plots of the dataset are given in Fig. 1. The violin plot shows the distribution and density of a dataset across categories or groupings. The breadth of the violin at each position represents the density of data at that location. The violin's thicker sections symbolize high-density zones, while the thinner parts represent low-density places. The horizontal line within the violin reflects the data's median value.



**Fig. 1.** Violin Plots showing distribution of slope cases

The SVM model's hyper-parameters are calculated using Grid Search CV, whilst the BPSO-SVM hyper-parameters are achieved by trial-and-error to attain the best AUC, as shown in Tables 2 and 3, respectively.

**Table 2**  
SVM Parameters Utilized for Grid Search

<b>Kernels</b>	<b>Parameters Range</b>
RBF	C = [1,10,20,30,40,50,60,70,80,90,100]; gamma = [0.01,0.1,1,10]
Poly	C = [1,10,20,30,40,50,60,70,80,90,100] ; degree = [1,2,3,4,5,6]
Linear	C = [1,10,20,30,40,50,60,70,80,90,100]

Table 2 summarizes the different kernel types and parameter ranges employed in a machine learning experiment. Kernels are critical components of machine learning algorithms, especially Support Vector Machines (SVMs), which are used for classification tasks. Different kernel functions influence the decision boundary and hence the model's performance. For complete investigation, the parameter values for several kernel functions are selected at random. Table 3 show the set of parameters used in the BPSO method. In this study, we used acceleration coefficients  $c_1=c_2=2$ , 50 particles, 500 iterations, 0.9 inertia weight, and alpha values ranging from 0.1 to 0.9.

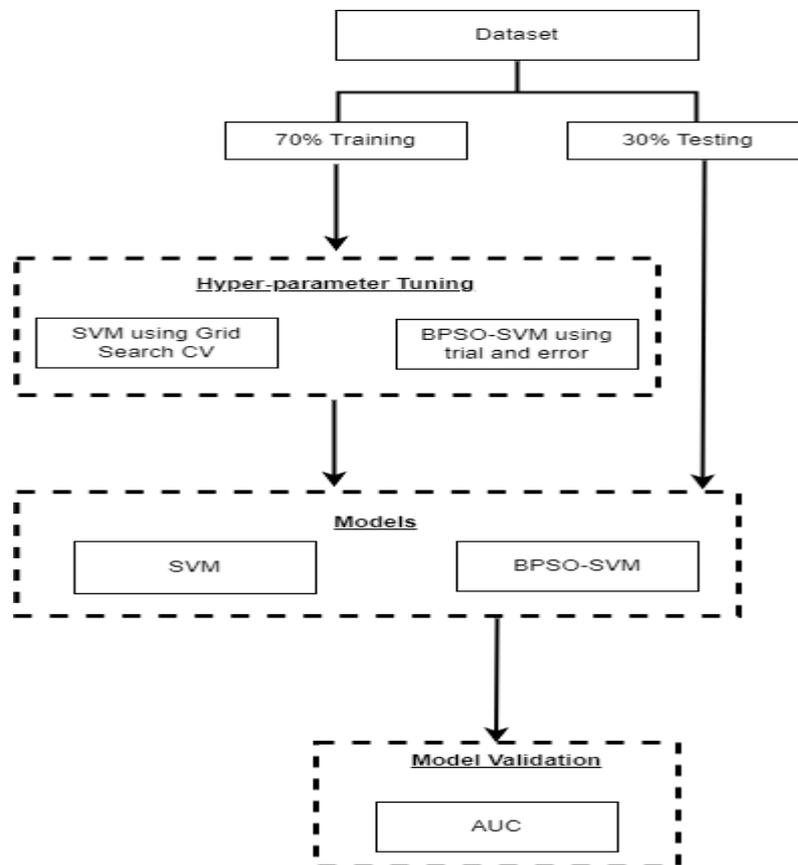
**Table 3**  
Utilized Parameters in the BPSO Model

<b>Parameters</b>	<b>Values</b>
Acceleration coefficients (c1,c2)	[2,2]
Inertia Weight (w)	0.9
Number of dimensions (k)	7
Number of particles (n_particles)	50
Iterations (iter)	500
alpha	[0.1,0.2,0.3,0.4,0.5,0.6,0.7,0.8,0.9]

The aforementioned seven parameters ( $Y,c,\phi,\beta,H,ru,FS$ ) are used as input parameters while status is the output for the model. Before the datasets were trained, each parameter of the dataset is normalized between 0 and 1 using (11).

$$y_{normalization} = \frac{x - x_{min}}{x_{max} - x_{min}} \quad (11)$$

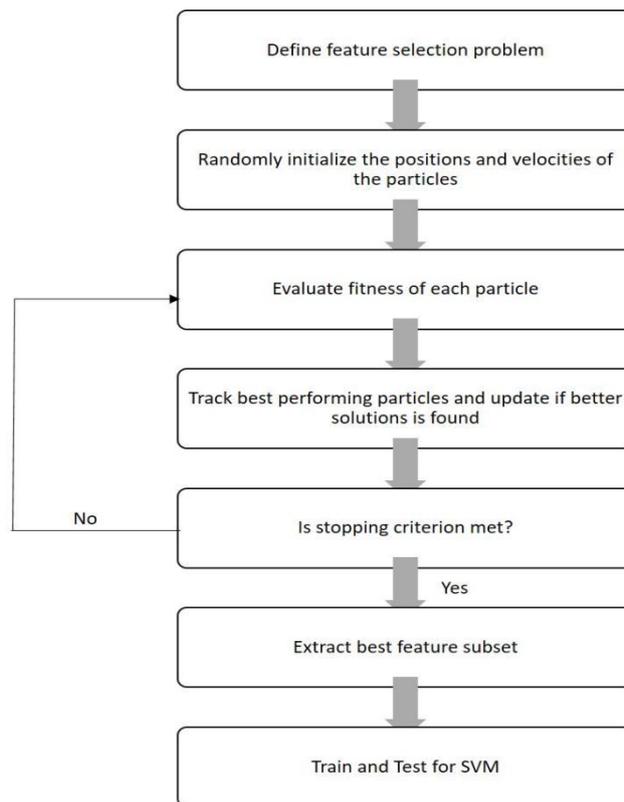
Where,  $y$  is a normalized input parameter,  $x$  is the original input parameter, and  $x_{max}$  and  $x_{min}$  are the maximum and minimum values, respectively. In SVM classification, the dataset is split 70:30, with 70% for training and 30% for testing. Following that, both SVM and BPSO-SVM models undergo extensive hyper-parameter adjustment. Following that, models are built using the found optimum hyper-parameters for both the SVM and BPSO-SVM techniques. These models are validated using the Receiver Operating Characteristic (ROC) curve, which is an important method for measuring and comparing model performance. Fig. 2 shows a flow chart of the process.



**Fig. 2.** Methodology of the Study

Fig. 3 shows the sequential process of BPSO-SVM, which was built with the goal of improving SVM's effectiveness. This augmentation is accomplished by simultaneously

completing two tasks: choosing relevant feature subsets from a dataset and improving SVM parameters. Each particle in the BPSO component represents a possible feature subset. The particle's positional vector, which operates in the binary domain (0 or 1), determines whether a given characteristic is present (1) or absent (0). Each subset's classification accuracy is evaluated using a fitness function. Notably, the fitness function that yields better accuracy is used to evaluate solutions and update particle locations. This iterative technique helps to uncover feature subsets that make a substantial contribution to accurate categorization. SVM is used after picking the best-performing subgroup. The improved parameters from BPSO are then used to train and evaluate the data using the tuned SVM to get better classification results.



**Fig. 3.** Flow Chart of the BPSO-SVM model

### 5. Results and Discussion

Initially, SVM is applied to the dataset using several kernel functions, including linear, polynomial, and rbf. Table 4 shows the best hyper-parameters for each SVM kernel as derived using Grid Search Cross-Validation (CV). Given the Grid Search CV score, the best hyper-parameters for the SVM-rbf kernel are  $C = 20$  and  $\gamma = 0.1$ , with a CV score of 0.96. For SVM-poly, the best settings are  $C = 1$  and  $\text{degree} = 1$ , with a CV score of 0.946. Finally, for SVM-linear, the optimal hyper-parameter is  $C = 10$ , which corresponds to a CV score of 0.92.

**Table 4**  
Optimal Hyperparameters Obtained for SVM using Grid Search

<b>Kernels</b>	<b>Optimal Hyperparameters</b>	<b>Grid Search CV Score</b>
RBF	$C = 20, \gamma = 0.1$	0.96
Poly	$C = 1, \text{Degree} = 1$	0.946
Linear	$C = 10$	0.92

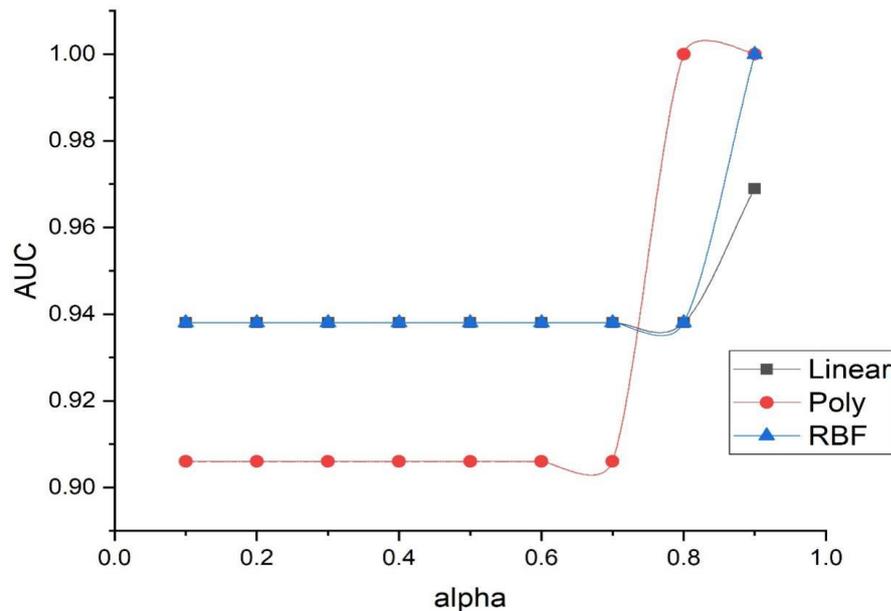
Subsequently, we then used the Binary Particle Swarm Optimization (BPSO) technique to optimize the dataset parameters. This entailed a trial-and-error procedure for fine-tuning the BPSO hyper-parameters to improve the SVM model's performance. The primary goal of the BPSO was to attain the maximum AUC value for the BPSO-SVM model at various alpha levels. Table 5 shows the ideal alpha value that resulted in the lowest cost for each kernel function of SVM. The Table 5 also includes information on the dataset's chosen features for the best SVM hyperparameters.

**Table 5**  
Features Selected by BPSO Model for Optimal Alpha Values with Different SVM Kernels

<b>Kernels</b>	<b>alpha</b>	<b>Best Cost</b>	<b>Selected Features</b>
RBF	0.9	0.0429	Y,c,ru,FS
Poly	0.9	0.0286	Y,c,H,ru,FS
Linear	0.9	0.0433	Y,c,φ,H,ru,FS

The cost in the BPSO framework relates to a numerical value supplied to the fitness function that is presently being optimized. The basic goal of BPSO is to reduce costs, which

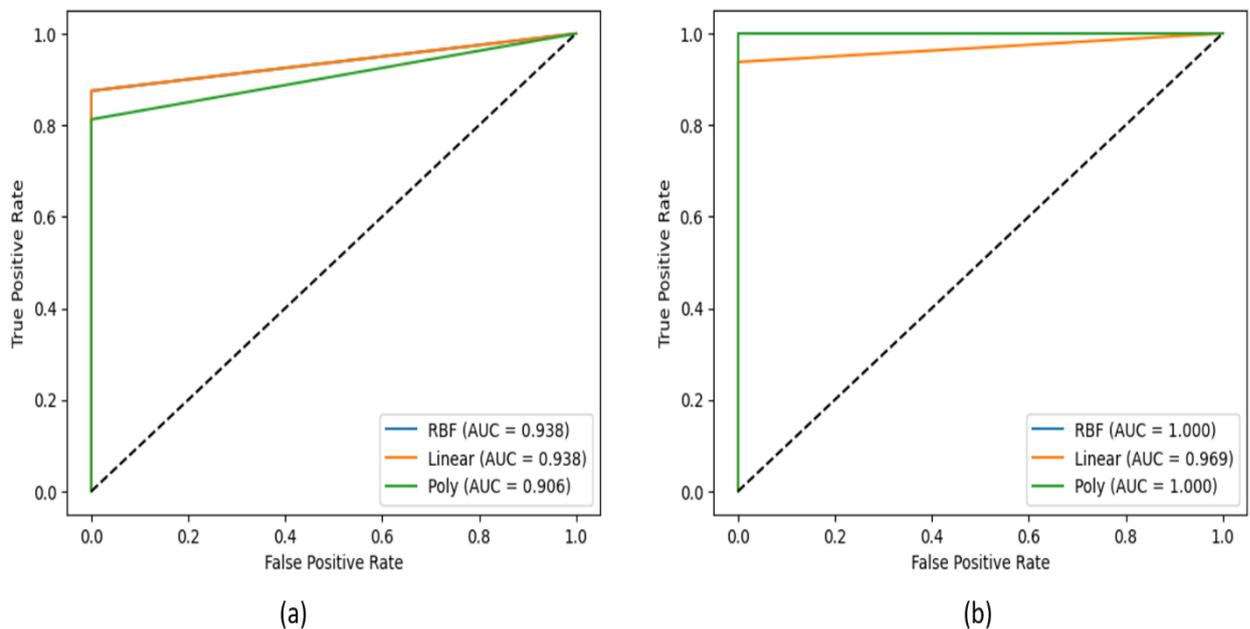
entails identifying the solution that offers the best feasible result based on the issue criteria. BPSO used four features (Y,c,ru,FS) from a dataset to get the optimal cost of 0.0429 for the SVM-rbf model. Similarly, SVM-linear finds six features (Y,c,φ,H,ru,FS) with the best possible cost of 0.0433. In SVM-poly, a collection of five features (Y,c,H,ru,FS) results in a better outcome with a best cost of 0.0286. The selection of features, which leads to their respective optimum costs, is consistently accomplished with an alpha value of 0.9. Fig. 4 depicts the oscillations in AUC for the BPSO-SVM model across a variety of alpha values. Notably, SVM-rbf and SVM-poly achieve equal results (AUC = 1.00), outperforming SVM-linear (AUC = 0.969) at an ideal alpha value of 0.9.



**Fig. 4.** AUC Variations of the BPSO-SVM Model Across Different Alpha Values

The performance comparison of SVM and BPSO-SVM models is illustrated in Fig. 5 through ROC curves. These graphs represent the trade-off between the true positive rate and the false positive rate, demonstrating the BPSO-SVM model's improved performance in terms of classification accuracy and discriminating capabilities over the traditional SVM technique. The findings in Fig. 5a reveal that both the rbf and linear kernels performed equally in terms of

AUC (SVM-rbf = 0.938 and SVM-linear = 0.938), demonstrating their equivalent discriminative powers. Both kernels outperformed the poly kernel (SMV-poly = 0.906), suggesting that the poly kernel may have limited ability to capture the dataset's complexity. However, Fig. 5b shows that the rbf and poly kernels displayed comparable levels of efficacy (SVM-rbf = 1.00 and AUCSVM-poly = 1.00), outperforming the linear kernel (SMV-linear = 0.969) not only in terms of AUC but also in best cost, as shown in Table 5. This suggests that the rbf and poly kernels were better at generating higher AUC values while reducing the cost function, making them good options for the SVM model.



**Fig. 5.** Comparing ROC Curves for Different Kernel Functions: (a) SVM with Optimal Hyperparameters, and (b) BPSO-SVM Model with Feature Optimization

It is observed that there is a significant improvement in the performance of the BPSO-SVM model when utilizing the 'Poly' kernel. This improvement was demonstrated by an AUC of 1.00 and a best cost value of 0.0286. These results highlight the efficacy of the BPSO optimization approach in enhancing the model's predictive capabilities.

## 6. Conclusion

This work proposes a hybrid model that combines Support Vector Machine (SVM) and Binary Particle Swarm Optimization (BPSO) to improve predicting performance. The BPSO-SVM model combines these two revolutionary approaches, with SVM focusing on structural minimization rather than error reduction, and BPSO being used to choose appropriate dataset parameters for increased forecasting accuracy.

In this strategy, BPSO is used to choose the best feature subset for training the SVM model. The goal of BPSO is to increase the accuracy of the SVM model. The method starts with a population of particles, each representing a possible feature subset. Particles alter their placements via iterative updates depending on their own fitness, the fitness of their neighbors, and the fitness of the globally best particle. The method ends when it reaches a stopping condition, such as a predetermined maximum number of iterations or a minimum change in particle fitness.

The findings show that the BPSO-SVM model is a reliable computational tool for predicting slope stability. Furthermore, the simulated results show that BPSO-SVM has greater classification accuracy than SVM alone. These findings illustrate the potential and significance of BPSO-SVM as a unique technique to slope stability evaluation that merits development and support.

### Data availability

Data will be made available on request.

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