

Optimise the Performance of Solar Irradiance Forecasting Using the Grid Search and Recursive Estimation Method

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Abstract: This paper provides an enhanced technique for forecasting solar irradiance by combining the Recursive Estimation Method for Signal Decomposition with Bidirectional Long Short-Term Memory (BiLSTM) networks intended for predictive modelling. With solar power becoming an increasingly important part of India's green energy program, it is imperative to accurately forecast solar irradiance in order to maximise resource utilisation. The suggested RE-BiLSTM framework performs better than standalone models like LSTM, GRU, and BiLSTM as well as the CEEMDAN-BiLSTM model hybrid during different times of day (15, 30, and 60 minutes) and in different seasons (summer, monsoon, autumn, and winter). Evaluation measures like R², MAE, and RMSE show that the proposed model consistently has lower error rates and higher prediction accuracy, especially over shorter time periods. The method's strength is demonstrated by the comparative analysis, which shows that the forecasting errors are more than 50% lower than those of the other models. According to these results, the RE-BiLSTM model has the potential to improve solar irradiance forecasting and help India incorporate solar energy into its energy infrastructure.

Keywords: Synergistic, Intrinsic mode function, solar irradiation, time step ahead, renewable energy

1. INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

Electricity is an important resource for both homes and businesses. In the past, it was made from non-renewable sources like coal, natural gas, and oil [1]. India's population is expected to reach 1.5 billion by 2030. As people depend more on these limited resources, electricity prices go up, and there are worries about energy security and long-term sustainability [2]. In addition, mining, processing, and burning fossil fuels cause a lot of damage to the environment, including deforestation, soil erosion, groundwater contamination, ocean acidification, and air pollution. To ensure a sustainable energy future, we need to either add to or completely switch to renewable energy sources like solar, wind, hydro, and geothermal power [3–4].

Over the past decade (2013 to 2023), India ranked 5th globally in installed solar capacity for electricity generation, trailing behind Germany, Japan, the USA, and China (Figure 1). However, in recent years (2022 to 2023), India has surpassed both Germany and Japan to become the 3rd largest producer of solar electricity (Figure 2), despite having a lower installed capacity [5]. India's recent success in solar power generation can be attributed, in part, to advancements in solar irradiance forecasting. However, solar power generation is inherently affected by factors like cloud cover, humidity, and atmospheric particles. These factors can cause significant fluctuations in energy output, creating difficulties for grid operators in keeping supply and demand in balance [6].

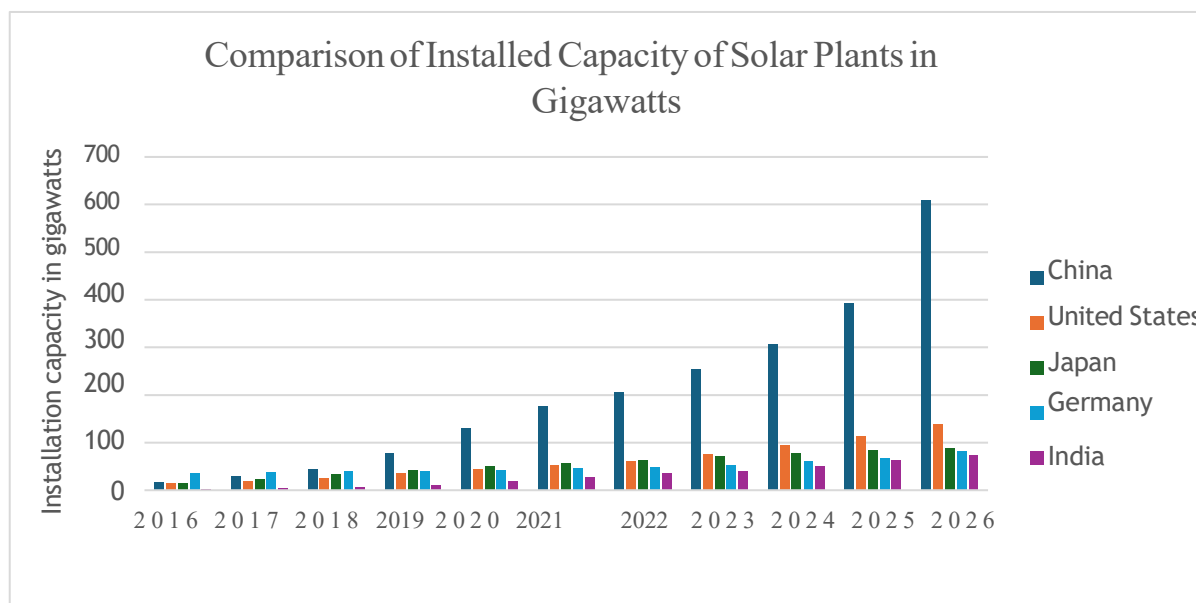


Figure 1. Comparison of top 5 countries with most installed capacity of solar plants

To deal with these problems, it is very important to make accurate predictions. The main goal of solar irradiance forecasting is to figure out the Global Horizontal Irradiance (GHI). GHI is an important measure of the total solar radiation hitting a flat surface, including both direct sunlight and diffuse radiation. To make solar energy systems work better, it's important to be able to accurately predict GHI. This is because GHI helps us figure out how much energy a solar panel will make at any given time. Solar farm operators can use this information to plan how much energy to produce, keep storage systems running smoothly, and keep the grid reliable. Also, accurate GHI forecasts are important for lowering energy costs, adding solar energy to the grid, and moving India closer to its renewable energy goals. [7–8]

Because accurate forecasting is so important, different ways have been used to guess how much solar energy will hit the Earth. Physical and statistical models, which are traditional methods, have been helpful but don't always work well with solar data that has complex, irregular patterns. Machine learning (ML) models have become a better way to solve these problems in the last few years. They can find these detailed patterns and change to changes in the weather. ML models can find trends, seasonal changes, and other things that affect solar irradiance by looking at a lot of old data. This makes forecasts more accurate. [9] Breaking down the time series data into its parts can be very helpful for making predictions more accurate. Decomposition separates complicated data into simpler pieces, like trends and cycles. This makes it easier to look at each piece on its own. This method lets us model the different patterns that affect solar irradiance more accurately, which makes all of our predictions more accurate. Using decomposition with ML can help us better understand the underlying behaviors in solar irradiance and improve the accuracy of the forecasts.

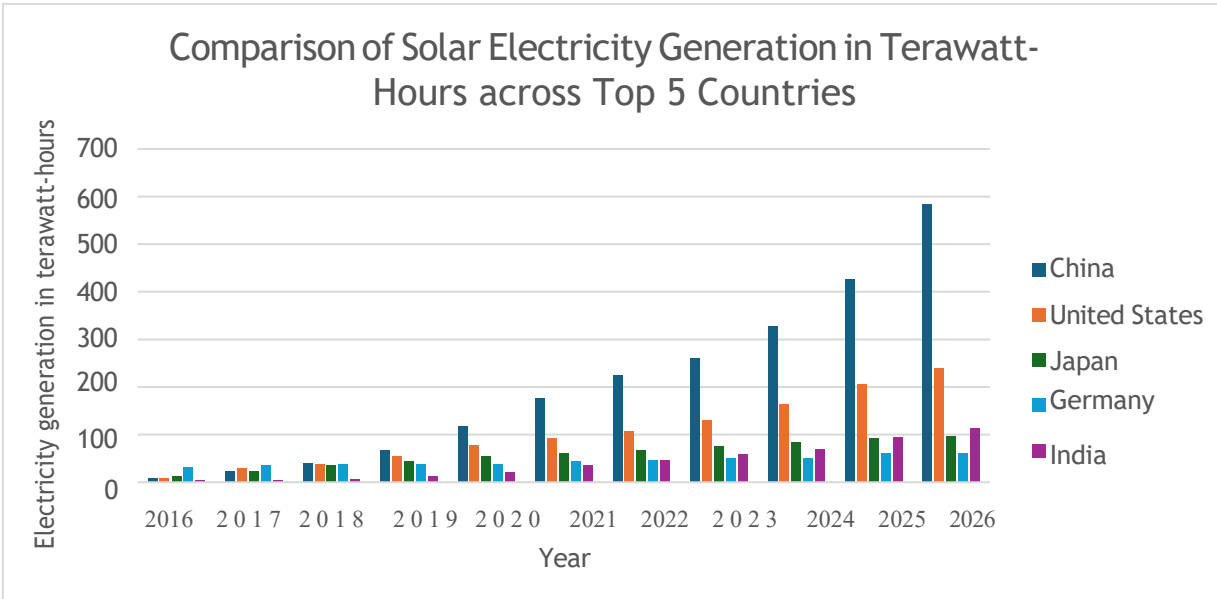


Figure 2. Comparison of top 5 countries with highest amount of solar electricity generation

Table I shows the background of this study. This study aims to create a synergistic method for estimating GHI by combining Recursive Estimation for signal decomposition with a Bidirectional Long Short-Term Memory (BiLSTM) network and prediction. This will improve accuracy and speed up calculations [11].

The first part of this paper looks at the research that has already been done on predicting solar irradiance. It does this by looking at different methods that have been used and finding areas where this study can fill in the gaps. In Section 2 (Methodology), the research's methodology is explained in detail. This includes how data was collected, cleaned, normalized, split into seasonal subsets, and broken down using CEEMDAN. This part also talks about the model synthesis process, which involves modeling and training baseline models (LSTM, GRU, and BiLSTM) on different datasets. The proposed model (RE-BiLSTM) is then created and trained on the intrinsic mode functions (IMFs) that are created after breaking down the datasets. Section 3 (Architecture of the proposed model), Section 4 (evaluation of model performance and Parameter Tuning), and Section 5 (comparative analysis) look at how well the models predict things using performance metrics like RMSE, MAE, and R-squared, with a focus on how accurate the GHI predictions are. In Section 6 (Conclusion), the research results are summed up, the limitations are talked about, and possible directions for future research are given.

TABLE I. SUMMARY OF EXISTING LITERATURE

Ref	Forecasting Model(s)	Model Type	Region & period of Dataset	Objective	Outcome
[1]	ANFIS, Multi-Linear Regression (MLR)	ML (ANFIS), Statistical (MLR)	Abuja, Nigeria (2010-2021)	To compare the performance e of MLR and ANFIS in forecasting solar radiation in Abuja, Nigeria.	ANFIS model outperformed MLR, showing better results for predicting solar radiation with $R^2= 0.4345$, RMSE= 0.1133.

[2]	Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs)	ML	Folsom, CA, USA (2014-2016)	To improve short-term irradiance forecasting using CNN models and an image processing block for sun localization on edge computing device	Sun localization improved forecasting accuracy for all CNN models, reducing RMSE by up to 13.75% for MobileNetV2, and achieved real time performance on FPGA.
[3]	Attention-Based BiLSTM, LSTM	ML	Kuwait (2008-2020)	To develop a BiLSTM framework with attention mechanisms for predicting solar irradiance under various weather conditions (sunny and cloudy).	Attention-based BiLSTM outperformed BiLSTM and LSTM models with RMSE values of 4.24 (sunny) and 20.95 (cloudy), showing better accuracy in short-term solar irradiance forecasting.
[4]	Multilayer perceptron neural network	ML	Douala, Cameroon (2019-2020)	To optimize the prediction of solar irradiance across Central Africa by considering climatic variables like temperature, wind speed, humidity and air pressure.	Model achieved an R^2 value of 98.883% when its predictions were compared with actual measurements, indicating its high accuracy.

[5]	Bayesian Optimized Attention-Dilated Long Short-Term Memory	ML	Douala, Cameroon (2020)	To introduce a novel approach to predicting short-term solar irradiance forecasting using advanced data pre-processing and deep learning technique	The proposed model achieved sMAPE of 0.6564, nRMSE of 0.2250, and RMSE of 22.9445.
[6]	WGAN Model	ML (Hybrid WGAN & LSTM)	Douala, Cameroon (2020)	To improve the accuracy of solar irradiance forecasting using a novel framework that integrates CEEMDAN and WGAN-LSTM model.	MAE, MAPE, and RMSE values decreased by 3.51%, 6.11%, and 2.25%, respectively, for the four seasons (Spring, Autumn, Summer, Winter) compared to LSTM-WGAN
[7]	Multi-Layer Perceptron (MLP), Long Short Term Memory (LSTM), and Gated Recurrent Unit (GRU)	ML	Bajhol, Solan, Himachal Pradesh, India (2010-2021)	To develop a smart prediction system for estimating daily global solar irradiance for a remote area without access to a weather station.	All models demonstrated comparable performance, with a mean square error of approximately 0.017 kWh/m ² /day ³ . The MLP model proved to be the most efficient due to its reduced parameter count and faster training time.

[8]	Modified Sine-Cosine Algorithm Convolutional Long Short-Term Memory (MSCA-CLSTM)	ML (CNN-LSTM), Optimization algorithm	Columbus, Detroit, and San Antonio, (2018)	To enhance prediction accuracy for GHI and improve solar energy forecasting.	The proposed model was accurate in forecasting solar irradiance, with RMSE Values of 0.0414, 0.0413 and 0.0524 for columbous, Detroit and San Antonio
[9]	Convolutional Long Short Term Memory (CLSTM)	ML	Oahu, Hawaii (2010-2011)	To develop an adaptable and robust system for predicting solar energy that can handle sensor failures and adapt to changes in the sensor quantity.	The model achieved prediction skills between 7.4% and 41% compared to the baseline, varying based on geographical region and forecasting timeframe.
[10]	CNN	ML	Palaiseau, France (2018)	To improve short-term solar energy prediction using sky images and permit more effective incorporation of solar energy into the energy supply	The accuracy of the model was assessed using MSE. The 10- minute forecast skill based on MSE reached 40%. Incorporating historical data from the same day improved the skill score by 10%.

The main contribution of this study is given as:

- 1) Studied the literature part of solar irradiance forecasting
- 2) Investigate the impact of dataset granularities on the performance of machine learning models in multistep short term solar irradiance forecasting, three datasets with different granularities (15,30 and 60 minutes) will be used to predict solar irradiance for the location of Mohali and partial autocorrelation function is used to find the appropriate time lag for the model.

- 3) Three standalone Machine learning models (GRU, LSTM, BiLSTM) and a hybrid model (CEEMDAN-BiLSTM) is built in this manuscript and in contrast to CEEMDAN, Recursive Estimation Method is used which generate fewer frequency band after decomposition of data for effective analysis and forecasting.
- 4) An evaluation of the four models is done for each multi horizon forecasts using RMSE(W/m²), MAE(W/m²) and R² as performance metrics.
- 5) Moreover, this research evaluates the accuracy of the proposed model using qualitative analysis, measuring its performance as a percentage and assessing its effectiveness across various weather conditions and types of days.

This manuscript implements the Recursive Estimation Method with deep learning model to forecast solar irradiance component. Recursive Estimation extract the hidden characteristics of time series data and generate lesser number of IMFs compared to CEEMDAN. To optimize the hidden parameters of the deep learning model, grid search algorithm is utilized.

2. Pre-Processing Techniques Used

This part gives a detail about the theory and method adopted for this study

2.1 Recursive Estimation Method

The input time series data is in its raw form, which means it has a lot of random, non-smooth, and fluctuating information. Researchers in the past used the EMD family to break down time series data, but it had problems with mode mixing and instability. EEMD tried to fix this by using a cubic spine to average the upper and lower envelopes. In addition, the advanced EMD signal analysis method adds random noise to each trial, which makes it more complicated and raises the noise level [12–13].

This study uses an adaptive recursive method that is similar to the EMD signal analysis method. In this case of iterative filtering, we find the moving average of a time series data set $y(p)$; $p \in Q$ by multiplying or convolving it with a low filtering value. If $y(p)$ is a random value from the input time series and the moving mean of the series is $\beta(y)$, then [14]

$$\beta(y(p)) = \int_{-n}^n x(p+t)\beta(t)dt \quad (1)$$

Where $\beta(t)$ is the mean of average filter and $\beta(t) = \frac{s+1-|n|}{|s+1|^2}; t \in [-1,1]$

In this signal decomposition technique, the input time series $y(p)$ is convolution with low filtering value provides the operator (y)

The decomposed part of y_s , is calculated by the operator $\varphi_{1,m}(y_m)$ given as" [15]

$$\varphi_{1,m}(y_m) = y_{m-1,m}y(m) = y_{m+1} \quad (2)$$

Furthermore, the intrinsic mode function using iterative filtering is generated by [16]

$$imf_1 = \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \varphi_{1,m}(y_m) \quad (3)$$

This process is repeated until reached the signal reached to at least one maxima or minima

2.2 CEEMDAN

CEEMDAN is a flexible data decomposition method that decomposes data into a limited quantity of intrinsic mode function (IMF) components with distinct time intervals by adding white noise with opposite signs in the decomposition process, effectively solving the problems of modal mixing and excessive residual noise in EMD and EEMD [30] as showing in Figure 3.

1) Add n times Gaussian white noise to the data to be broken down $x(t)$ to obtain a set of data $x_i(t)$, i is a number between 1 and n [17]

$$x_i(t) = x(t) + \bar{w}v_i(t) \quad (4)$$

where, $\bar{w}$ is the Gaussian noise coefficient; $v_i(t)$ represents the i -th Gaussian noise.

2) Execute EMD decomposition on $x_i(t)$ to acquire the first IMF component C_1^i , and the average amount $\bar{C}_1(t)$ of the resulting n components C_1^i is used as the first IMF component decomposed by CEEMDAN [18]

$$\bar{C}_1(t) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n C_1^i(t) \quad (5)$$

$$r_1(t) = x(t) - \sum_{i=1}^n c_i(t) \quad (6)$$

Where $r_1(t)$ is the residual obtained after the initial decomposition

3) Add Gaussian noise to the residual $\bar{r}_1(t)$ to acquire a new set of data, and repeat step 2 to obtain the second IMF component of the CEEMADN decomposition $\bar{c}_2(t)$ and the residual $\bar{r}_2(t)$ [19-20]

4) Repeat step 2 and 3 until the residual obtained cannot be decomposed anymore.

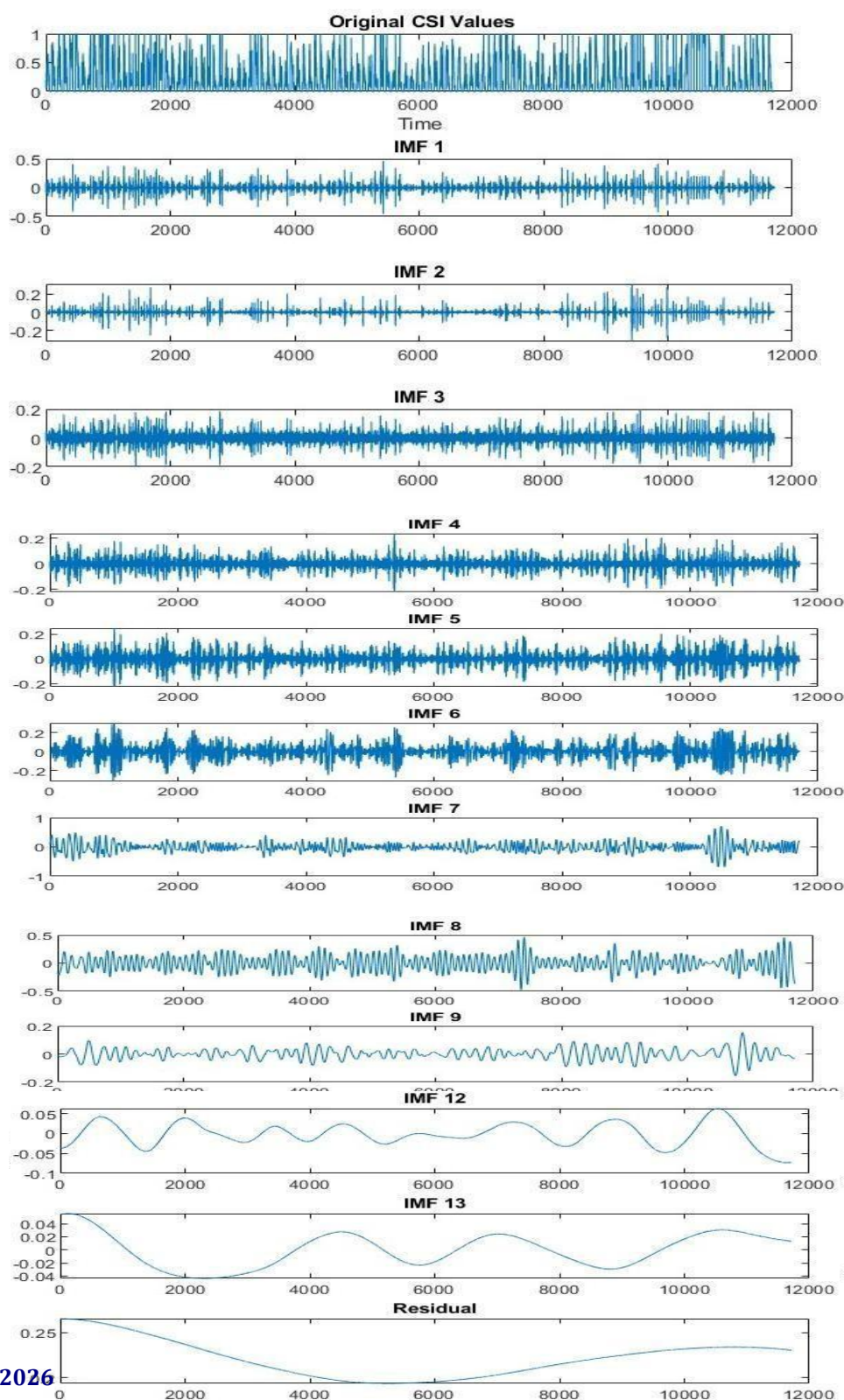


Figure 3. Decomposition of time series data using CEEMDAN

2.3 Deep Learning Network Used

Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks are a type of recurrent neural network (RNN) commonly used in deep learning. They are designed to capture long-term dependencies, making them particularly effective for sequence prediction tasks. Unlike traditional RNNs, LSTMs incorporate feedback connections, allowing them to process entire sequences rather than just individual data points, like images. This architecture makes LSTMs well-suited for applications such as speech recognition and machine translation as shown in Figure 4. Due to their ability to retain and utilize information over extended timeframes, LSTMs have demonstrated exceptional performance across a wide range of tasks [21-22].

2.3.1 Logic Behind LSTM

The core component of an LSTM model is a memory cell, referred to as the "cell state," which preserves information over time. Represented as a horizontal line in the diagram below, the cell state functions like a conveyor belt, allowing data to pass through seamlessly without alterations.

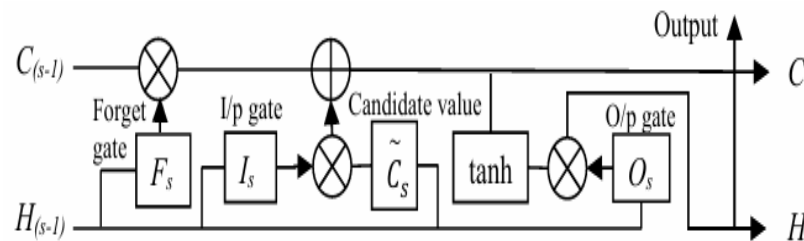


Figure 4 LSTM Cell Units Architecture

In an LSTM model, the cell state can be updated by adding or removing information, which is controlled by specialized gates. These gates regulate the flow of data in and out of the cell, ensuring efficient information management. The process relies on pointwise operations and a sigmoid neural network layer to facilitate this regulation.

Traditional RNNs face challenges such as vanishing and exploding gradients, which can lead to instability. To address this, LSTM networks were developed, incorporating a dedicated memory unit known as the cell. Each unit makes decisions based on the current input, past output, and stored memory, allowing it to update its state and produce a new output effectively. The design of LSTM allows to maintain previous data while also maintain fostering relationship between successive datasets and it is used for wind, solar and financial time series prediction. LSTM having a three gate and one tanh layer. The main thing in the LSTM is having a one basic variable C_t which store information from previous stage and smoothly flow across the network and forget gate is responsible for selecting or discarding the information. The mathematical formulation is described as [23]

$$f_{s_t} = \rho(Z_{fr}[q_{t-1}, X_t] + \beta_{f_s}) \quad (7)$$

The incoming information is absorbed into the cell state using input gate of the LSTM and Mathematically it can be represented as [24]

$$input_t = \rho(Z_{in}[q_{t-1}, X_t] + \beta_{in}) \quad (8)$$

The mathematically representation of new state which is generate by tanh layer it is represented

$$C_t = \tanh(Z_c[q_{t-1}, X_t] + \beta_c) \quad (9)$$

Using three equations the previous cell state value is updated and mathematically represented as [25]

$$C_t = f_{s_t} \times C_{t-1} + input_t * C_t \quad (10)$$

The final output is obtained from the output gate according to the cell state and mathematically represented as [26-27]

$$output_t = \rho(Z_o[q_{t-1}, X_t] + \beta_o) * \tanh(C_t) \quad (11)$$

Where ρ and q_t represent the activation function and hidden state at time t , Z and β shows the weight and bias of the cell state respectively.

2.4 BiSLTM

BiLSTM, or Bidirectional Long Short-Term Memory, is a neural network that processes information in both forward and backward directions. Instead of encoding a sequence in just one direction, it captures context from both past and future words by running two LSTMs simultaneously as shown in Figure 5. At each timestep, the outputs from both directions are combined, allowing the model to better understand the relationships between words within a sequence [28]

This architecture learns from the historical and future time series data to improve the output accuracy. Figure 5 shows BiLSTM architecture [29]

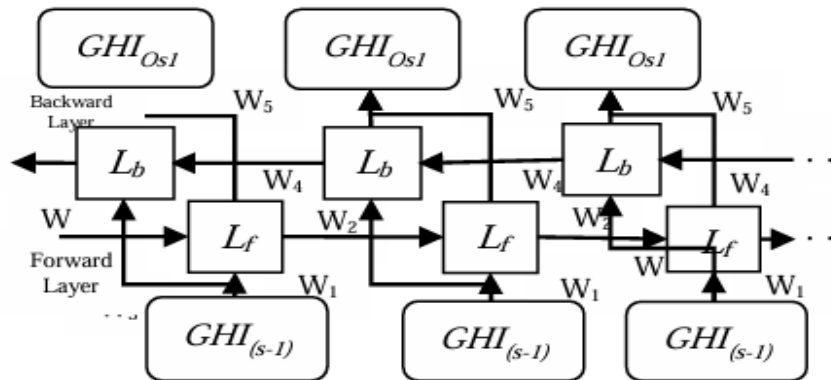


Figure 5 BiLSTM cell Architecture

As shown in Figure 5 the forward propagation measures the solar GHI value using previous dataset value while future solar GHI value is used by the backward propagation to map with past solar GHI. The output of the BiLSTM is represented as [30]

$$forward[h_t] = forward[LSTM(q_{t-1}, X_t)] t \in [1, P] \quad (12)$$

$$backward[h_t] = backward[LSTM(q_{t-1}, X_t)] t \in [P, 1] \quad (13)$$

$$output_t^b = \mu forward(h_t) + \vartheta(back(h_t)) \quad (14)$$

$forward[h_t]$ and $backward[h_t]$ are the solar GHI value at time t while $output_t^b$ represents the output value and P represent the length of the source data.

3 Architecture of the proposed Model

There are four steps in the processing of proposed architecture as shown in Figure 6. The first step is to check the quality of the input data. The second step is to break it down using the Recursive

The fourth step is to combine the models.

The first step is to check the quality of the input data and get rid of any negative or zero values. It also gets rid of data that corresponds to a solar zenith angle greater than 80 degrees, which is an error in the instrumentation. It also uses a clear sky index normalization technique. The second step uses the adaptive iterative filtering method to break the data down into important IMFs and the partial autocorrelation function to find the right time lags. The third step is to use the time lag IMFs on the Bi-LSTM model. Finally, the original clear sky index value is rebuilt by taking the average of each subseries.



Figure 6. Architecture of the Proposed Model

standalone models (12 models per interval).

In addition to these standalone models, the study employs a CEEMDAN-BiLSTM framework. The decomposed components (intrinsic mode functions and residual) of the CSI time series for each season and each temporal resolution are used as inputs to separate BiLSTM models, with each component modelled independently. For each season and resolution, 14 BiLSTM models are trained on the decomposed data, totaling 168 models (56 models per temporal resolution). Predictions from the 56 models of each temporal resolution are aggregated to reconstruct the original CSI time series for each season, enabling the framework to capture intricate multi-scale patterns within the data and improve forecasting accuracy.

Hyperparameter tuning for all 204 models (36 standalone and 168 CEEMDAN-BiLSTM) is performed using a random search algorithm. This ensures the identification of optimal network configurations, such as the number of units, learning rate, batch size, and epochs, thereby enhancing model performance and computational efficiency.

3.1 Dataset Description and its processing Using CSI

The dataset for this research was obtained from the National Solar Radiation Database (NSRDB) and focuses on the region of Sas Nagar (Mohali), Punjab, India, located at a latitude of 30.70471 and a longitude of 76.717866 [31]. The data spans the years 2018 and 2019, with seasonal divisions as follows:

- Summer: March 1, 2018 - May 31, 2018
- Monsoon: June 1, 2018 - September 30, 2018
- Autumn: October 1, 2018 - November 30, 2018
- Winter: December 1, 2018 - February 28, 2019

To analyze the impact of temporal granularity on forecasting performance, the research considers three different temporal resolutions: 15 minutes, 30 minutes, and 60 minutes. The 15-minute resolution offers the highest granularity, capturing more detailed variability in the solar irradiance data, which can enhance short-term forecasting accuracy. However, this comes with increased computational demands due to a larger dataset size. In contrast, the 60-minute resolution smooths high-frequency variations, making it more suited for identifying broader trends while reducing computational requirements. The 30-minute resolution strikes a balance between these two extremes, capturing intermediate levels of detail and computational efficiency. The dataset includes Clear sky Global Horizontal Irradiance (Clear sky GHI), representing the theoretical maximum solar irradiance on a clear day, and Global Horizontal Irradiance (GHI), the actual measured irradiance. From these, the Clear sky Index (CSI) is derived as the ratio of GHI to Clear sky GHI, providing a measure of atmospheric conditions and cloud cover (Equation 15). Each seasonal dataset for the three temporal resolutions consists of four columns: Timestamp, indicating the specific time of each data point; Clear sky GHI; GHI; and CSI, which serves as the primary input for the forecasting models.

$$CSI(t) = \frac{GHI(t)}{ClearskyGHI(t)} \quad (15)$$

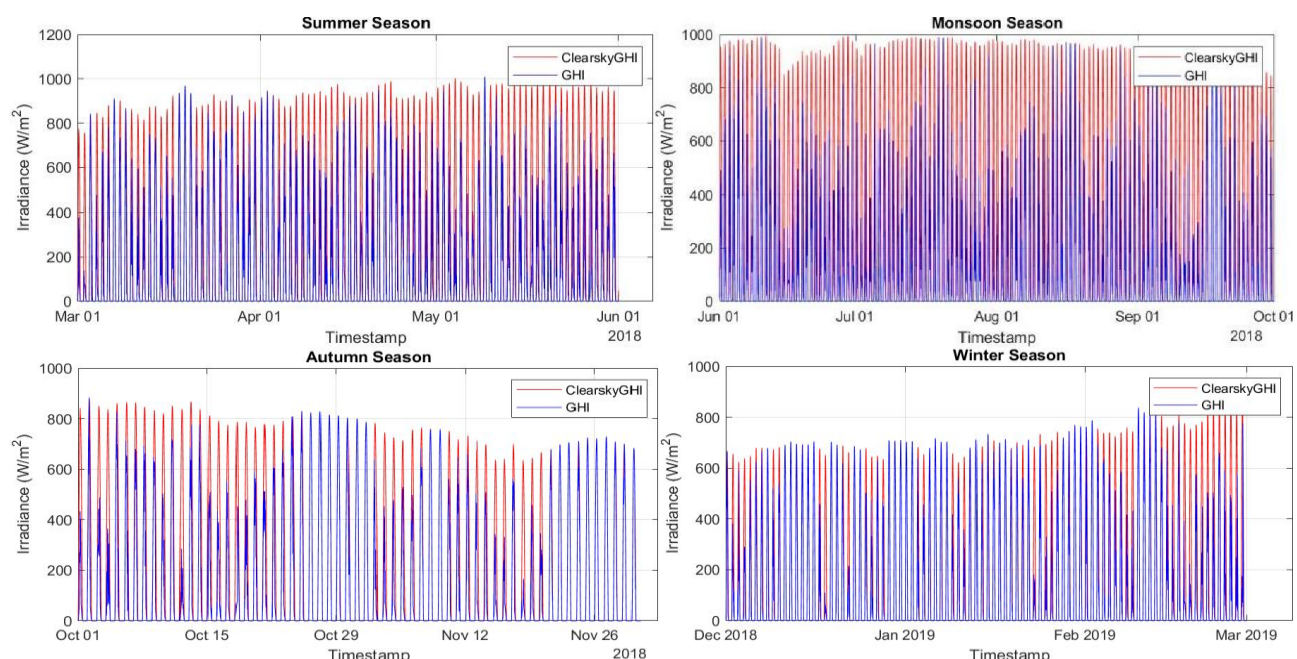


Figure 7. A Plot of GHI and Clear sky GHI values for 15-minute interval data

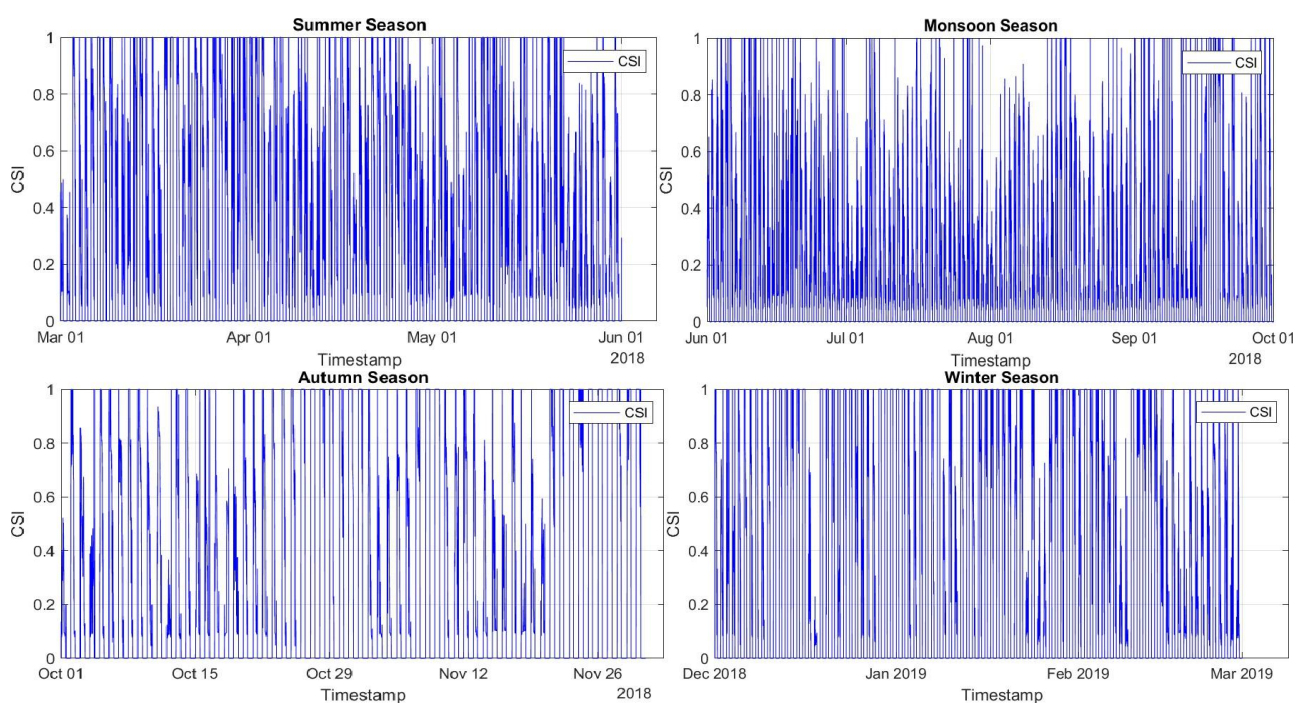


Figure 8. A Plot of CSI values for 15-minute interval data

TABLE II. CHARACTERISTICS OF SOLAR IRRADIANCE DATA ACROSS THE THREE TEMPORAL RESOLUTIONS

Metric	15-Minute Interval	30-Minute Interval	60-Minute Interval
Number of data points	35040	17520	8760
Training data points	28032	14016	7008
Testing data points	7008	3504	1752
Mean Clear sky GHI	256.59	238.34	238.32
Mean GHI	135.21	197.99	197.69
Mean CSI	0.25704	0.40972	0.41063

Figure 7 and 8 illustrate the seasonal variability in the 15-minute dataset. Figure 7 plots Clear sky GHI and GHI, showing the relationship between theoretical and actual solar irradiance, while Figure 8 depicts the corresponding CSI values, highlighting atmospheric effects across the seasons. TABLE II summarizes key metrics for the 15-minute, 30-minute, and 60-minute datasets. It includes the number of data points, the split into training (80%) and testing (20%) sets, and the mean values of Clear sky GHI, GHI, and CSI.

3.2 Data Decomposition & optimal parameter selection

Solar irradiance data is inherently non-linear and influenced by multiple factors, including daily and seasonal cycles, atmospheric conditions, and short-term weather variations. These factors introduce complex patterns within the irradiance signal, making it challenging for forecasting models to perform accurately when relying on raw, untreated data. By decomposing solar irradiance data into distinct components, we can better isolate the behaviors at different timescales. For instance, a daily oscillation due to the Earth's rotation might be separated from more erratic, short-term variations caused by transient clouds or changes in atmospheric particles. This process allows each component to be analyzed individually, improving the accuracy and stability of forecasts, as each component can be modelled with more precision.

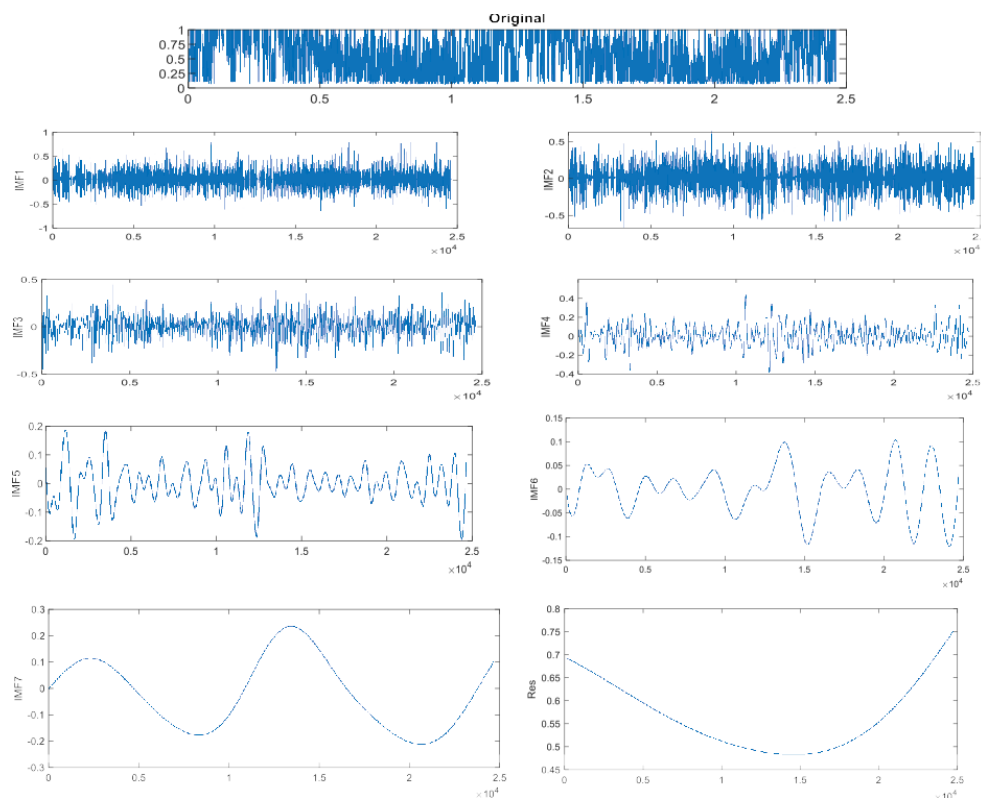


Figure 9. Decomposition of Monsoon data using IF

These parameters are applied to the CSI time series across all four seasonal subsets—summer, monsoon, autumn, and winter at three different temporal resolutions: 15 minutes, 30 minutes, and 60 minutes. This ensures that each dataset, irrespective of the time interval, is decomposed into its respective IMFs and residual term. The result of the IF decomposition for monsoon season is shown in Figure 9. As we discussed earlier, this forecasting is done for 15, 30 and 60 minutes ahead respectively. So, it is highly typical to select the hyperparameters and time lags of the all developed models. After performing the decomposition, the generated IMFs and

its suitable time lag is decided by partial autocorrelation function.

In this research, Those IMFs having a correlation function greater than 0.95 selected for the input features data. In this case, IMF1, IMF3 and residual full fill the confidence level up to 20-time lags while IMF4, IMF6 and IMF7 full fill the time lags up to 10, 12 and 12 which having a confidence level up to 0.95. Furthermore, IMF4 and IMF5 having proper time lags up to 15 and 6 respectively.

Moreover, to optimize the hyperparameters of deep learning model, grid search algorithm is used. Some parameters are selected by default like as learning rate which is 0.2 and other observations are selected by performing experimental work like as learning rate is 0.1 (0.0001-0.1), adam optimizer (sgdm, rmsprop, adam), epoch value is 300(100-500) and hidden units are 90 (70-150). Furthermore, the white noise selected for the CEEMDAN decomposition technique is 0.2 and no. of epoch equal to 500.

3.3 Performance Metrics

To evaluate the forecasting performance of the developed models, two standard metrics were employed: Root Mean Square Error (RMSE), Mean Absolute Error (MAE), and coefficient of determination (R^2) given in Equation no.16 to 18. These metrics were calculated using the predicted Global Horizontal Irradiance (GHI), obtained by transforming the predicted Clear sky Index (CSI) into GHI through multiplication with the corresponding Clear sky GHI values, and the actual measured GHI values. This transformation ensures that the performance metrics reflect the models' ability to predict actual irradiance values rather than the CSI directly. RMSE measures the square root of the average squared differences between the predicted (GHI_{pred}) and actual (GHI_{actual}) GHI values. The formula for RMSE is expressed as:

$$RMSE = \sqrt{\frac{1}{n} \left(\sum_{i=1}^n (GHI_{pred} - GHI_{actual})^2 \right)} \quad (16)$$

Here, n represents the total data samples, and i indexes each sample. MAE on the hand, calculates the mean magnitude of the absolute differences between estimated and observed GHI values. It is given by:

$$MAE = \frac{1}{l} \sum_{i=1}^l |GHI_{actual,i} - GHI_{pred,i}| \quad (17)$$

This metric provides a clear understanding of the mean forecasting error, irrespective of its direction, and is less affected by outliers compared to RMSE. R^2 is a statistical metric that measures the percentage of variation in the observed GHI data that the model's predictions successfully capture. It is defined as:

$$R^2 = 1 - \frac{\sum_{i=1}^l (GHI_{actual,i} - GHI_{pred,i})^2}{\sum_{i=1}^l (GHI_{actual,i} - \text{mean}GHI_{actual,i})^2} \quad (18)$$

Where $\bar{GHI}_{actual}$ is the mean of the actual GHI values. R^2 provides insight into how well the model captures the variability in the actual data, with values closer to 1 indicating better performance. Together, these metrics offer a comprehensive evaluation of the models' forecasting capabilities, with lower RMSE and MAE values indicating improved performance in predicting solar irradiance.

4. Evaluation of Model Performance & Parameter Tuning

No criteria or constraints exist regarding the selection of hyperparameters in the literature survey. The hyperparameter may be selected by adjusting the parameter values within a defined range. The Research uses the grid search method to derive hyperparameters for the models from the training and Validation datasets. Table III illustrates the selection of a hyperparameter within a certain range. Figure 10 illustrates the process flowchart for the hyperparameter selection operation.

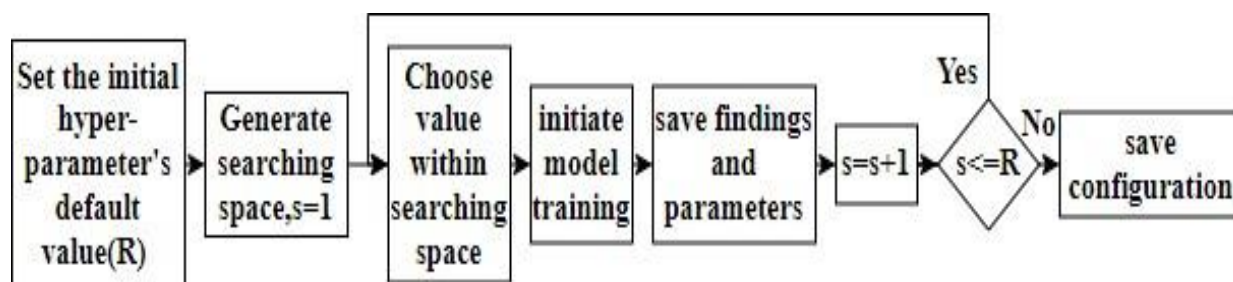


Figure 10. Flow diagram of process of hyper- parameter selection

The rules for choosing hyperparameters are as follows:

- Set the initial hyperparameter's default value.
- Choose the appropriate activation function.
- Select the ideal batch count and epoch value.
- Choose a suitable optimizer.
- Select the suitable hidden unit value.
- Choose the ideal drop rate.

Table III Hyperparameter Selection

Model	Hyper parameter	Hyper parameter search space	Optimized values
CNN-BiLSTM - MLP	Hidden unit 1	[100-800]	200
	Hidden unit 2	[100-600]	200
	Activation function	[ReLU, Tanh]	ReLU
	Epochs	[50-200]	100
	Optimizer	[Adam, RMSprop]	Adam
	Batch count	[10-12]	12
	Drop rate	[0.1-0.3]	[0.1]

Several key findings emerge from the performance analysis of the four models (LSTM, GRU, BiLSTM, and the proposed model) for solar irradiance forecasting across the different temporal resolutions (15 minutes, 30 minutes, and 60 minutes), based on the chosen performance metrics (RMSE, MAE, and R^2). Across all temporal resolutions and seasons, the proposed model consistently outperforms the baseline models (LSTM, GRU, and BiLSTM). This is evident in the significantly lower RMSE and MAE values observed in TABLE IV, TABLE V, TABLE VI, as well Figure 11. This indicates smaller prediction errors. Furthermore, the proposed model achieves consistently superior coefficients of determination, signifying better correlation between the predicted and actual solar irradiance. At the shortest resolution of 15 minutes, where real-time precision is essential, the proposed model excels in providing highly accurate forecasts. Its performance is particularly crucial in scenarios requiring immediate adjustments in energy management. At 30-minute and 60-minute resolutions, the proposed model continues to maintain its advantage, reflecting its adaptability to longer prediction horizons, which are critical for mid-term planning and operational efficiency. It can also be observed from the tables (IV, V, and VI) and Figure 11 that as the temporal resolution increases (longer intervals), RMSE and MAE values increase across all models due to the greater challenges of forecasting over longer periods. However, the proposed model exhibits smaller error increases relative to the other models, highlighting its robustness. The line graphs in Figure 11 particularly suggest that the proposed model exhibits more consistent performance across seasons and resolutions compared to other models, as evidenced by its relatively stable and consistent trend lines.

TABLE IV. PERFORMANCE OF MODELS ON 15-MINUTES INTERVAL DATASET

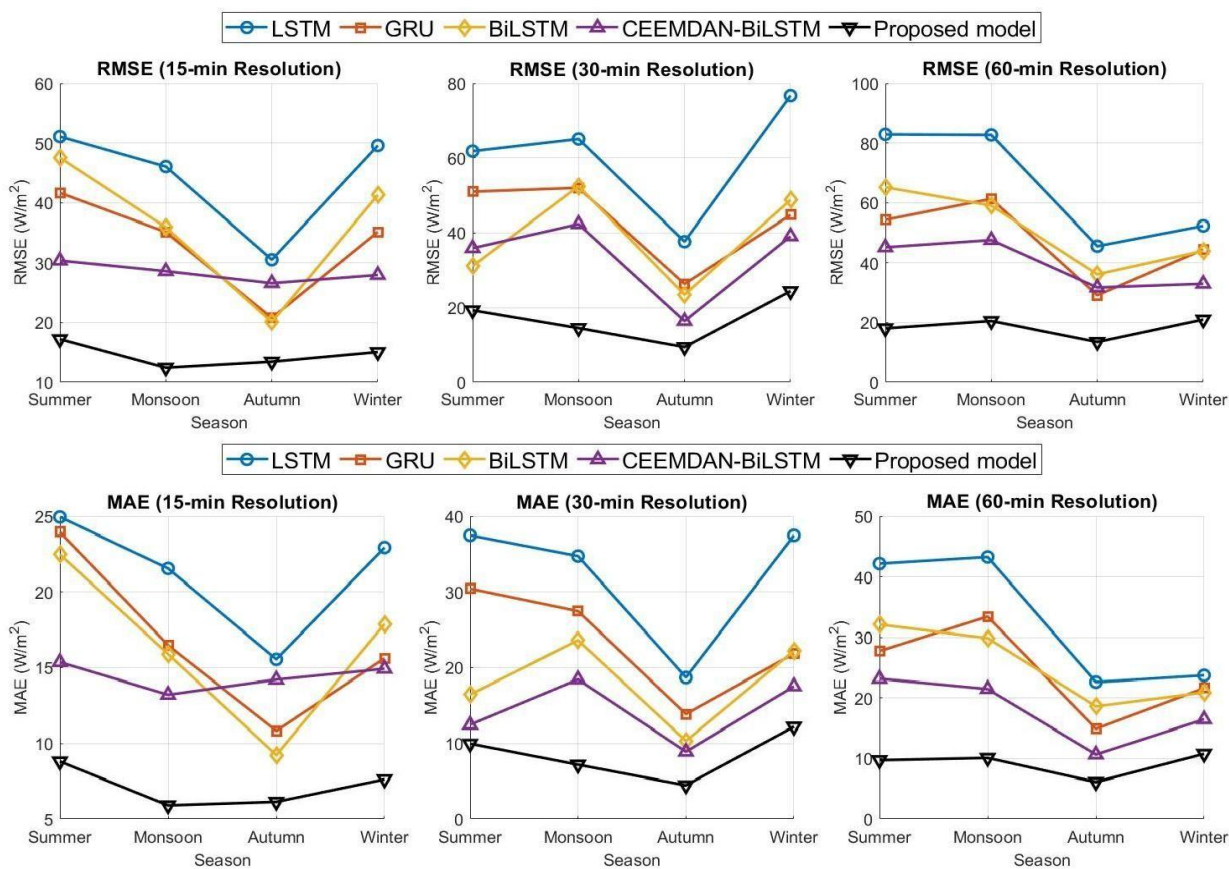
Season	Metric	LSTM	GRU	BiLSTM	CEEMDAN-BiLSTM	Proposed model
Summer	RMSE (W/m ²)	51.0722	41.6473	47.5331	30.397	17.2154
	MAE (W/m ²)	24.9475	23.9565	22.4817	15.366	8.8139
	R ²	0.9370	0.9581	0.9455	0.9678	0.9865
Monsoon	RMSE (W/m ²)	46.0453	35.1494	35.9152	28.625	12.4371
	MAE (W/m ²)	21.5483	16.4811	15.8998	13.214	5.9090
	R ²	0.9447	0.9678	0.9664	0.9786	0.9928
Autumn	RMSE (W/m ²)	30.5402	20.7928	20.1106	26.617	13.4384
	MAE (W/m ²)	15.5490	10.8291	9.2289	14.214	6.1432
	R ²	0.9834	0.9923	0.9928	0.9734	0.9921
Winter	RMSE (W/m ²)	49.5688	35.1796	41.2955	27.987	15.0521
	MAE (W/m ²)	22.9329	15.6239	17.8917	14.928	7.6343
	R ²	0.9371	0.9683	0.9563	0.9781	0.9914

TABLE V. PERFORMANCE OF MODELS ON 30-MINUTES INTERVAL DATASET

Season	Metric	LSTM	GRU	BiLSTM	CEEMDAN-BiLSTM	Proposed model
Summer	RMSE (W/m ²)	61.8157	50.9507	31.1728	35.9504	19.2949
	MAE (W/m ²)	37.4705	30.4270	16.4457	12.4703	9.9806
	R ²	0.9696	0.9794	0.9823	0.9889	0.9987
Monsoon	RMSE (W/m ²)	65.0686	51.9759	52.4080	42.341	14.5291
	MAE (W/m ²)	34.7327	27.4660	23.6262	18.459	7.2013
	R ²	0.9507	0.9686	0.9680	0.9718	0.9918
Autumn	RMSE (W/m ²)	37.6838	26.3815	23.5040	16.413	9.4352
	MAE (W/m ²)	18.7025	13.8776	10.3271	8.914	4.4778
	R ²	0.9706	0.9856	0.9886	0.9895	0.9977
Winter	RMSE (W/m ²)	76.6995	44.7700	48.7576	39.121	24.4423
	MAE (W/m ²)	37.4598	21.8686	22.2396	17.541	12.2198
	R ²	0.8788	0.9587	0.9510	0.9678	0.9780

TABLE VI. PERFORMANCE OF MODELS ON 60-MINUTES INTERVAL DATASET

Season	Metric	LSTM	GRU	BiLSTM	CEEMDAN-BiLSTM	Proposed model
Summer	RMSE (W/m ²)	82.8872	54.3387	65.1527	45.2342	18.0663
	MAE (W/m ²)	42.1662	27.7331	32.1259	23.1783	9.7405
	R ²	0.8590	0.9394	0.9129	0.9653	0.9813
Monsoon	RMSE (W/m ²)	82.7020	61.2982	59.0378	47.6532	20.5380
	MAE (W/m ²)	43.2704	33.4394	29.8709	21.4789	10.1229
	R ²	0.9212	0.9567	0.9599	0.9751	0.9879
Autumn	RMSE (W/m ²)	45.5948	29.1866	36.1977	31.7820	13.4948
	MAE (W/m ²)	22.61850	14.9211	18.6199	10.6781	6.1387
	R ²	0.9574	0.9825	0.9731	0.9864	0.9917
Winter	RMSE (W/m ²)	52.3332	44.4760	44.0148	33.0276	21.0125
	MAE (W/m ²)	23.7315	21.6395	20.9187	16.4781	10.7993
	R ²	0.9365	0.9541	0.9551	0.9623	0.9796



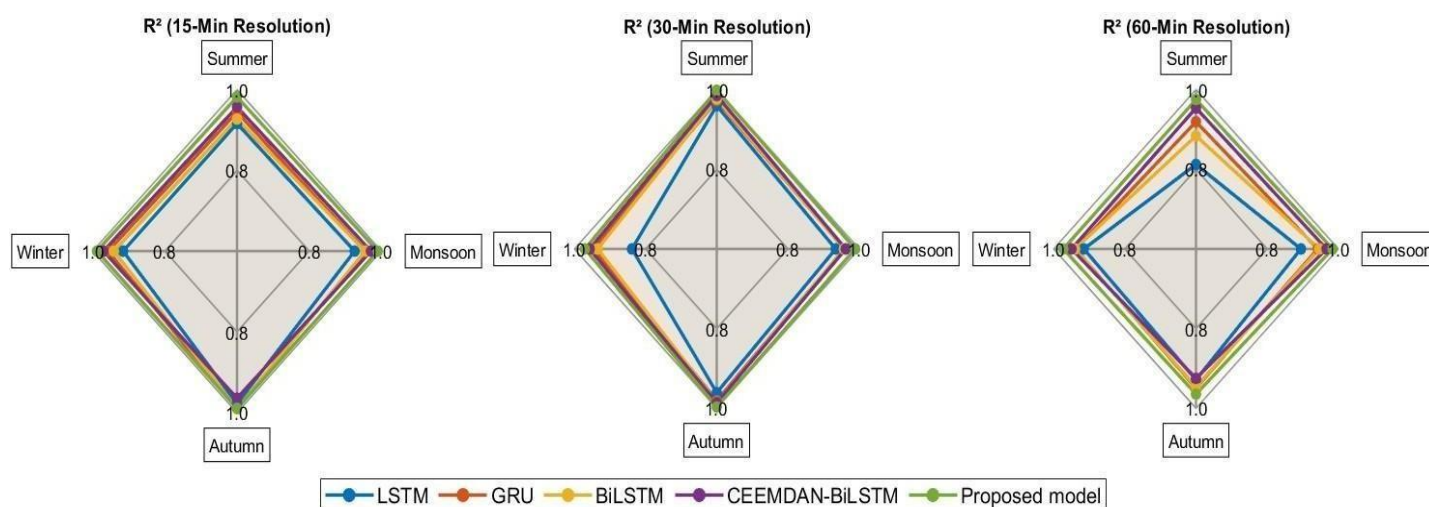


Figure 11. Comparison of model performance (RMSE, MAE and R^2) across all resolutions and seasons

4.1 Standalone Models

As per results in Table IV to VI, the performance of BiLSTM is better in all aspects like as in seasons wise and in interval wise. For example, for an autumn season of 60 minutes ahead, the BiLSTM model observe lower RMSE (31.78 W/m^2), MAE (10.67 W/m^2) and higher R^2 (0.986) compared to LSTM (RMSE = 45.59 W/m^2 ; MAE = 22.61 W/m^2 ; $R^2 = 0.95$) and GRU (RMSE = 29.18 W/m^2 ; MAE = 14.92 W/m^2 ; $R^2 = 0.95$), but one important thing should be noted that the structure of LSTM and GRU is simpler as comparison to BiLSTM. The comparison of GRU and LSTM declare that GRU is perform better in all seasons like as in Monsoon seasons for 15 minutes ahead, GRU performance (RMSE = 35.14 W/m^2 ; MAPE = 16.48 W/m^2 ; $R^2 = 0.96$) and LSTM (MAPE = 46.04 W/m^2 ; RMSE = 21.48 W/m^2 ; $R^2 = 0.94$). overall, the performance of BiLSTM is better as comparison to other standalone models.

4.2 Hybrid and Standalone models

The result of CEEMDAN-BiLSTM model indicated that its performance is better as comparison to standalone models (GRU, LSTM, BiLSTM). CEEMDAN decompose the input time series into 13 IMFs for different-2 seasonal datasets. Forecasting of each IMFs by BiLSTM increase the execution time but it improves accuracy of the forecasting model. In the case of summer seasons for 15 minutes, the CEEMDAN-BiLSTM model achieve lower (RMSE = 30.39 W/m^2 ; MAE = 15.36 W/m^2 ; $R^2 = 0.96$) compared to best standalone model BiLSTM i.e. (RMSE = 47.53 W/m^2 ; MAE = 22.48 W/m^2 ; $R^2 = 0.94$). Similar results obtained for other seasons for different-2-time step ahead.

4.3 CEEMDAN-BiLSTM vs Proposed Model (Recursive Estimation-BiLSTM Model)

From the previous discussion, it is understood that CEEMDAN-BiLSTM perform better in all aspects, but after some advance experimental study, proposed model which is a combination of Recursive Estimation and BiLSTM perform excellent in all time step ahead and in seasons. For a one case of 15 minutes ahead, the proposed model achieves lowest (RMSE = 17.21 W/m^2 ; MAE = 8.81 W/m^2 ; $R^2 = 0.98$) compared to CEEMDAN-BiLSTM which having a RMSE (30.39 W/m^2), MAE (15.36 W/m^2) and R^2 (0.96). Similar results can be observed for all seasons and time step ahead. Furthermore, proposed model reduces the no. of IMFs by 50% which decrease the time execution, complexity and improve the results.

5. Comparative Analysis

To further quantify the performance enhancement of the proposed model, a comparative analysis is conducted involving the calculation of the percentage reduction in RMSE and MAE for each competing model (LSTM, GRU, BiLSTM, and CEEMDAN-BiLSTM) compared to the proposed model, as defined in Equations 19 and 20. Specifically, for each metric, the process involves dividing the difference between the competing model's value and the proposed model's value by the competing model's value and then multiplying by 100 to obtain the percentage reduction. To assess the proposed model's performance across different time horizons, the average percentage reduction in MAE is calculated across all seasons for each temporal resolution (Equation 19). This provides an overview of the model's improvement across various forecast intervals within each season. Additionally, to evaluate the model's effectiveness across different seasons, the average percentage reduction in MAE is calculated across all temporal resolutions for each season (Equation 20). This comparative analysis does not only quantify the superior performance of the proposed model, but it also indicates which temporal resolutions and seasons where the competing models are least effective in forecasting solar irradiance, emphasizing the critical need for the proposed model in those scenarios. These scenarios occur at temporal resolutions or during seasons where the percentage reduction in error is particularly high.

$$\Delta RMSE = \frac{RMSE_{model} - RMSE_{proposed\ model}}{RMSE_{model}} \times 100\% \quad (19)$$

$$\Delta MAE = \frac{MAE_{model} - MAE_{proposed\ model}}{MAE_{model}} \times 100\% \quad (20)$$

$$\Delta \overline{\overline{\overline{MAE}}}_{across\ intervals} = \frac{1}{Number\ of\ season} \sum_{seasons} (\Delta MAE_{across\ seasons}) \quad (21)$$

$$\Delta \overline{\overline{\overline{MAE}}}_{across\ seasons} = \frac{1}{Number\ of\ intervals} \sum_{intervals} (\Delta MAE_{across\ intervals}) \quad (22)$$

TABLE VII. PERCENTAGE IMPROVEMENT IN RMSE OF PROPOSED MODEL OVER COMPETING MODELS

Model	Metric	15-min (%)	30-min (%)	60-min (%)
LSTM	Summer	66.29	68.79	78.19
	Monsoon	73.00	77.66	75.17
	Autumn	56.00	74.97	70.39
	Winter	69.62	68.12	59.85
GRU	Summer	58.68	62.13	66.72
	Monsoon	64.62	72.06	66.50
	Autumn	34.20	64.23	53.71
	Winter	57.23	51.14	52.75
BiLSTM	Summer	63.78	47.21	72.25
	Monsoon	65.41	54.89	49.34
	Autumn	33.23	56.02	62.75
	Winter	63.56	54.36	52.27
CEEMDAN-BiLSTM	Summer	43.38	46.36	60.09
	Monsoon	56.55	65.64	56.91
	Autumn	49.49	42.50	57.57
	Winter	46.26	37.53	36.40

TABLE VIII. PERCENTAGE IMPROVEMENT IN MAE OF PROPOSED MODEL OVER COMPETING MODELS

Model	Metric	15-min (%)	30-min (%)	60-min (%)
LSTM	Summer	64.67	73.36	76.90
	Monsoon	72.58	79.28	76.60
	Autumn	60.50	76.06	72.87
	Winter	66.73	67.37	54.48
GRU	Summer	63.18	67.21	64.86
	Monsoon	65.74	73.78	69.74
	Autumn	43.28	67.70	58.88
	Winter	51.15	44.15	50.10
BiLSTM	Summer	60.82	39.41	69.68
	Monsoon	62.83	51.74	66.13
	Autumn	33.45	56.68	67.03
	Winter	57.32	45.14	48.36
CEEMDAN-BiLSTM	Summer	42.62	19.96	57.98
	Monsoon	55.26	60.99	52.89
	Autumn	56.80	49.80	42.48
	Winter	48.90	30.36	34.45

TABLE IX. INTERVAL-BASED PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT OF PROPOSED MODEL

Temporal Resolution	% Reduction in	LSTM	GRU	BiLSTM	CEEMDAN-BiLSTM
15 minutes	RMSE	66.73	53.68	56.50	48.92
	MAE	66.12	55.84	53.61	50.90
30 minutes	RMSE	72.89	62.39	53.12	47.76
	MAE	74.02	63.21	48.24	40.28
60 minutes	RMSE	70.90	59.42	58.15	52.24
	MAE	70.21	60.90	62.80	46.95

TABLE X. SEASONAL-BASED PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT OF PROPOSED MODEL

	% Reduction in	LSTM	GRU	BiLSTM	CEEMDAN-BiLSTM
Summer	RMSE	71.09	62.51	61.08	49.94
	MAE	71.64	65.08	56.64	40.19
Monsoon	RMSE	75.28	67.39	56.55	59.70
	MAE	69.81	56.62	52.39	49.69
Autumn	RMSE	67.12	50.71	50.00	49.85
	MAE	76.15	69.75	60.23	56.38
Winter	RMSE	65.20	53.71	57.73	40.06
	MAE	62.86	48.47	50.27	37.90

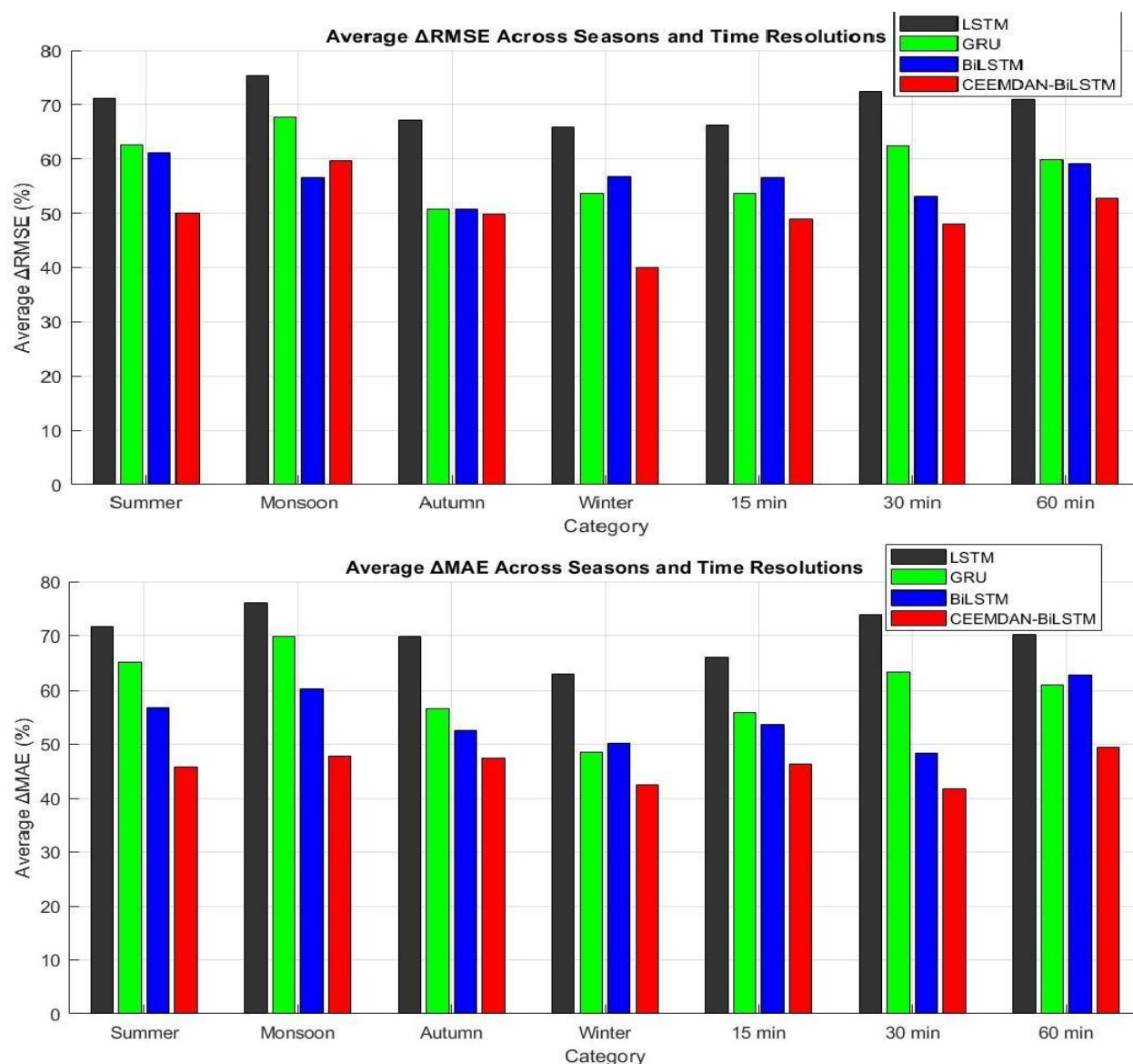


Figure 12. Average Percentage Improvement (RMSE and MAE) Across Seasons and Time Resolutions

It can be observed from TABLE VII to TABLE X and Figure 12 that the proposed RE-BiLSTM model consistently demonstrates superior performance across all temporal resolutions and seasons, significantly outperforming the competing models (LSTM, GRU, BiLSTM, and CEEMDAN-BiLSTM). For instance, the proposed model achieves the highest percentage reduction in RMSE and MAE, particularly at the 30-minute resolution, where LSTM and GRU struggle the most. At this resolution, the proposed model reduces RMSE by 72.9% compared to LSTM and 62.4% compared to GRU, highlighting its robustness in handling intermediate-term forecasts. Similarly, at the 60-minute resolution, where BiLSTM shows the highest percentage reduction in RMSE (indicating its ineffectiveness for longer-term forecasts), the proposed model maintains its accuracy with a 70.9% reduction in RMSE compared to LSTM and 59.4% compared to GRU. This underscores the proposed model's ability to handle both short-term and long-term forecasting challenges effectively. Furthermore, the proposed model excels in seasons with high variability, such as summer and monsoon, where competing models exhibit significant errors. For example, during the monsoon season, the proposed model reduces MAE by 72.6% compared to LSTM and 65.7% compared to GRU,

demonstrating its ability to adapt to complex weather patterns. Even in relatively stable seasons like autumn and winter, the proposed model maintains its lead, with MAE reductions of 76.2% and 62.9%, respectively, compared to LSTM. These results highlight the proposed model's consistent performance across all seasons, making it a reliable choice for solar irradiance forecasting under varying conditions. Overall, the proposed RE-BiLSTM model offers a substantial improvement in forecasting accuracy, with error reductions exceeding 50% across all temporal resolutions and seasons compared to the competing models. This superior performance underscores its potential for enhancing solar energy management and grid integration, particularly in regions with high seasonal variability like India.

6. Comparison with previous models

Author & Ref. No.	Place	Proposed model design	Result
Toshinwal et al. (2021) [32]	Gangtok	XGBD-DNN	RMSE= 51.35W/m ²
Tong et al. (2022) [33]	Hawaii, oak Ridge	CEEMDAN-Encoding Technique	RMSE =32.67W/m ² MAE= 21.07W/m ²
R.k.Srivastava et al. (2024) [14]	New Delhi	CNN-BiLSTM-MLP	Average Result RMSE= 16.58W/m ² MAE= 12.31W/m ² R ² = 0.9523
Anuj Gupta (2023)[20]	New Delhi	CEEMDAN-BiLSTM	Average Result RMSE =31.774W/m ² R ² = 0.967
This work	Sas Nagar (Mohali)	RECURSIVE ESTIMATION-GRID SEARCH ALGORITHM	Average Results RMSE=14.53W/m ² . MAE=7.12W/m ² , R ² =0.9907

7. CONCLUSION

This research presents a novel approach to forecasting solar irradiation using a combination of IF for signal decomposition and a BiLSTM model for predictive modelling. The proposed model demonstrated superior performance compared to baseline models (LSTM, GRU, and BiLSTM) and a one hybrid model (CEEMDAN-BiLSTM) across multiple temporal resolutions (15 minutes, 30 minutes, and 60 minutes) and seasonal variations (summer, monsoon, autumn, and winter).

- a. This research encompassed Iterative filtering divided the time series data into several IMFs or subseries.
- b. Suitable time lag of each subseries using PACF is presented in the manuscript
- c. Hyperparameters of the proposed model is selected using grid search optimization
- d. The model performance is measured on different-different time horizon (15, 30, 60 minutes ahead) forecast at a granularity of 15 minute.
- e. The proposed model performance is better in all aspect as comparison to other developed models.

The Key findings of this research show that the proposed IF-BiLSTM framework consistently achieved lower Root Mean Square Error (RMSE), Mean Absolute Error (MAE), and higher coefficients of determination (R^2) values, indicating more accurate and reliable forecasts.

The proposed model outperforms the competing models across all temporal resolutions, particularly at the 15-minute resolution, where its real-time prediction accuracy is crucial for energy management. As temporal resolution increases, all models face increasing challenges, but the proposed model maintains its robustness with a smaller increase in error, showing consistent performance across seasons. Moreover, the comparative analysis revealed that the proposed model reduced forecasting errors by more than 50% compared to the baseline models, especially during seasons with high variability, such as summer and monsoon. This demonstrates its potential for enhancing solar power management, optimizing grid integration, and supporting India's green energy goals. Prospective research goals include exploring the integration of weather data and incorporating advanced optimization techniques to further optimize the model's accuracy and adaptability.

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