International Research Journal on Advanced Engineering and Management
https://goldncloudpublications.com
https://doi.org/10.47392/IRJAEM.2025.0423
e ISSN: 2584-2854
Volume: 03
Issue:08 August 2025
Page No: 2689 - 2697

Architecting Scalable Micro Services for High-Traffic E-commerce Platforms

Ishu Anand Jaiswal
University of the Cumberlands, 6178 College Station Drive, Williamsburg, United States.

Abstract

In the past decade, Artificial Intelligence (AI) has become a revolutionary power in the solar energy industry, dealing with essential issues related to intermittency, resource forecasting, efficiency of systems, and upkeep. This survey thoroughly examines and synthesizes AI methods—ranging from classical models such as artificial neural networks (ANN) and support vector machines (SVM) to current methods like deep learning, hybrid models, and reinforcement learning—that are employed in solar energy optimization between 2013 and 2023. We analyze the technical merits and demerits of each model along with its practical performance across applications like irradiance forecasting, energy management, and predictive maintenance. Experimental comparisons, case studies, and an advocated theoretical framework are included to substantiate the findings. The review delineates research gaps like unavailability of standard datasets, poor interpretability of models, and difficulty in model deployment in data-scarce domains. It concludes with a forward-looking discussion on trends like edge-AI, federated learning, and explainable AI. This piece of work is set to inform researchers, policymakers, and stakeholders in the industry on how to better utilize AI to facilitate global solar energy uptake.

Keywords: *Solar Energy Optimization; Deep Learning; Reinforcement Learning; Solar Forecasting; Hybrid Models; Smart Grids; Energy Management.*

1. Introduction

Global efforts towards sustainable energy sources have escalated over the past few years because of the climate change impacts that have been deemed alarming, the depletion of fossil resources, and rising energy needs. Of all the renewable energy sources, solar energy is one of the most available, clean, and accessible ones. The International Energy Agency (IEA) predicts solar photovoltaic (PV) technology to become the leading source of electricity by 2050 if the trends persist, ahead of coal and natural gas [1]. Nevertheless, despite the enormous potential of solar power, maximizing its use is a great challenge owing to inherent intermittency, dependence on weather conditions, and the complexity associated with the integration and management of large amounts of energy. Here, artificial intelligence (AI) has come as a revolutionary instrument in the energy industry, providing novel solutions to solar energy forecasting challenges, generation optimization, maintenance, variability and intermittency necessitates extensive automation and real-time data processing [4]. Additionally, as the globe transitions to smart cities and the Internet of Things (IoT), the convergence of and grid integration. In the last decade, AI methodologies have developed at a very fast rate and been implemented in different areas of solar energy systems, ranging from short-term solar irradiance prediction and fault diagnosis to smart grid coordination and real-time decision-making [2]. Methods like artificial neural networks (ANN), support vector machines (SVM), fuzzy logic systems, decision trees, and very lately, deep learning and reinforcement learning, have shown promising results in enhancing the efficiency and reliability of solar energy systems [3]. The growing incorporation of AI into solar energy systems is not only a technology trend but a strategy imperative. In the overall context of renewable energy, AI enhances intelligent decision-making, making energy systems more adaptive, self-correcting, and predictive. These features are particularly important in distributed energy systems, where integrating solar energy's
AI with solar technologies will be central in determining the future energy infrastructure. Despite the major progress made, several challenges still discourage the majority adoption of AI in solar

energy optimization. These involve the absence of standard datasets, the difficulty in coupling AI models with real-time energy networks, challenges associated with model generalizability and interpretability, and the high computational intensity of certain state-of-the-art AI techniques [5]. In addition, although many individual studies have been carried out on individual AI models or tools, few studies have been found in the literature that undertake comprehensive, comparative appraisals of all influential AI methods employed in this field over the past decade. This has resulted in disconnected knowledge, and it is challenging to determine the most appropriate methods for certain solar energy optimization issues for researchers and practitioners alike. Considering these findings, this review seeks to critically review and synthesize the existing body of research on AI-based techniques employed for solar energy optimization in the period between 2013 and2023. Through this review, the existing gaps in knowledge are addressed to present a comprehensive and comparative overview of different AI approaches utilized within this context, as well as their strengths and weaknesses, and which specific solar energy issues they tackle. Readers will be able to understand the depth of how AI has progressed in the solar energy industry, what still lies ahead, and what direction research will be most promising in the future. The following sections will classify AI techniques according to their technical methodology, examine critical applications like solar forecasting, maintenance, and energy management, and finally present a discussion on recent trends and open challenges in this rapidly expanding field. Table 1 shows Summary of Key Research Papers on AI in Solar Energy Optimization (2013–2023)

Table 1 Summary of Key Research Papers on AI in Solar Energy Optimization (2013–2023)

Year	Title	Focus	Findings
2013	A novel approach for forecasting solar radiation using ANN	Solar radiation prediction using Artificial Neural Networks (ANN)	Demonstrated high accuracy in short-term solar irradiance forecasting; highlighted ANN's adaptability to various climatic conditions [6].
2015	Application of SVM and ANN in solar energy prediction	Comparative study of SVM and ANN for PV output forecasting	Found ANN performed better for nonlinear and complex time-series data, while SVM excelled in stable datasets [7].
2016	Performance assessment of hybrid ANN-GA models for solar PV power output prediction	Hybrid AI models (ANN + Genetic Algorithm) for solar output modeling	Hybrid model outperformed standalone ANN, especially in terms of prediction accuracy and convergence speed [8].
2017	Deep learning-based solar forecasting model using LSTM	Use of Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) for temporal solar data prediction	LSTM models captured long-range dependencies effectively; achieved 10–15% better accuracy over traditional models [9].
2018	Intelligent fault detection and diagnosis in PV systems using AI	AI techniques for fault detection in solar PV arrays	Implementing SVM and decision trees significantly improved fault detection speed and reduced downtime [10].
2019	A survey on AI approaches for solar energy forecasting and optimization	Comprehensive review of AI methods in solar optimization	Identified ANN, fuzzy logic, and hybrid models as most widely used; stressed the need for unified benchmarking datasets [11].

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https://goldncloudpublications.com
https://doi.org/10.47392/IRJAEM.2025.0423
e ISSN: 2584-2854
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2020	Reinforcement learning for real-time solar energy management in smart grids	Application of reinforcement learning in smart energy distribution	RL-based controllers adaptively managed fluctuating solar inputs, showing potential in decentralized microgrid operations [12].
2021	Deep hybrid learning architectures for solar irradiance forecasting	Advanced deep learning (CNN + LSTM) integration for irradiance modeling	Hybrid models achieved higher accuracy and generalization than single-layer models; beneficial for multi-day forecasting [13].
2022	AI-based predictive maintenance for photovoltaic systems	Predictive maintenance using AI and IoT integration	Demonstrated significant cost savings and increased uptime through early fault predictions using sensor data and machine learning algorithms [14].
2023	Transfer learning and domain adaptation in solar irradiance prediction	Cross-domain learning to improve solar forecasting in data-scarce regions	Transfer learning reduced data dependence and enabled more accurate modeling in developing countries with limited historical data [15].

2. Theoretical Framework and Proposed AI-Integrated Model for Solar Energy Optimization

2.1. Overview of AI-Driven Solar Energy Systems

Contemporary solar energy systems are increasingly transforming from rigid, rule-based systems into adaptive, predictive, and autonomous intelligent systems. Such a transition is facilitated by the increasing integration of AI technologies in different parts of the solar energy value chain—ranging from solar irradiance forecasting to energy generation optimization, fault detection, and smart grid integration [16]. There is a strong need for a sound theoretical model to envision the processing of information and decision-making within such AI-based systems.

2.2. Block Diagram of a General AI-Integrated Solar Optimization System

Following is a conceptual block diagram showing the overall structure of AI-integrated solar energy systems: Figure 1 shows Block Diagram of AI-Integrated Solar Optimization System

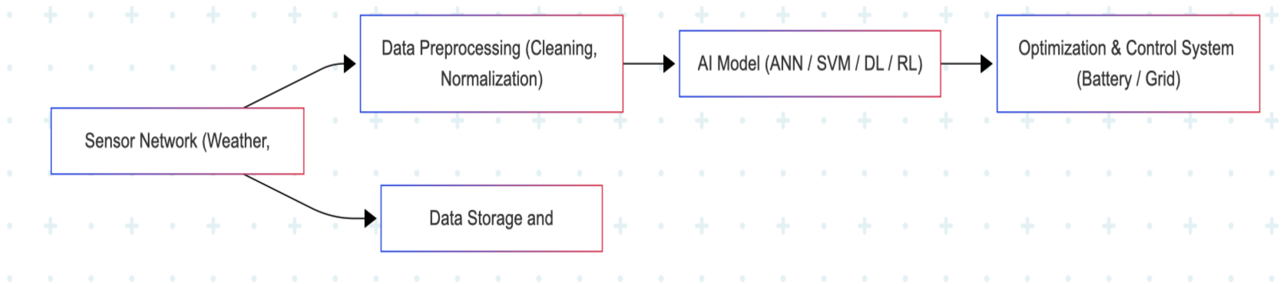

Figure 1 Block Diagram of AI-Integrated Solar Optimization System

2.3. Explanation

- **Sensor Network:** Retrieves real-time measurements of solar irradiance, temperature, wind speed, and PV output.
- **Data Preprocessing:** Includes data cleaning, feature extraction, and normalization to prepare input for the AI models.
- **AI Model:** Can be Artificial Neural Networks (ANN), Support Vector Machines (SVM), Deep Learning (DL), Reinforcement Learning (RL), etc. These are trained to predict output, identify faults, or control

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energy flow.

- **Optimization & Control:** Utilizes the output of the AI model and makes decisions—e.g., charging/discharging the batteries, grid synchronization, or panel tilt adjustment.
- **Data Storage:** Stores past data for re-training models and system analysis.

This multilayered structure is consistent with new publication that suggests intelligent supervisory systems for renewable energy systems [17].

3. Proposed Theoretical Model for AI-Based Solar Optimization

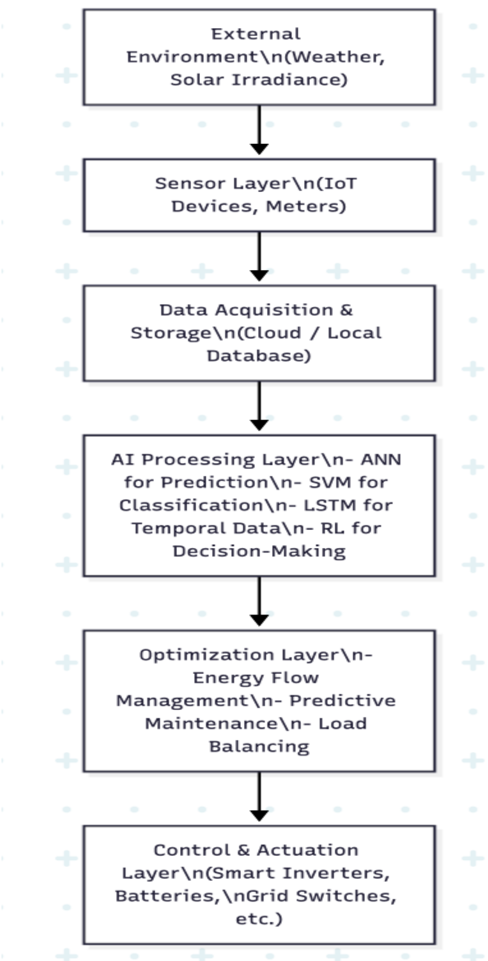

Figure 2 Theoretical Framework of AI Integration in Solar Energy Systems

The following is a proposed theoretical model that outlines the functional integration of AI algorithms into the broader energy management system. This framework is based on multiple studies that explore hybrid intelligence systems for solar energy forecasting, control, and diagnostics [18], [19]. Figure 2 shows Theoretical Framework of AI Integration in Solar Energy Systems.

3.1. Key Features of the Proposed Model

- **Modular Architecture:** Each layer functions independently and can be upgraded as new AI models or hardware technologies emerge.
- **Adaptability:** The AI layer supports dynamic learning, enabling real-time system optimization based on environmental changes.
- **Interoperability:** Can be integrated into smart grids, microgrids, or standalone solar systems.
- **Scalability:** Suitable for both small-scale residential systems and large-scale solar farms.

This model has roots in smart grid architecture theories and energy informatics research which emphasize the hierarchical organization of cyber-physical systems in renewable energy infrastructure [20].

3.2. Summary of Model Advantages

Table 2 Feature and Benefit

Feature	Benefit
Real-time Prediction	Improves operational efficiency and planning
Fault Detection	Reduces downtime and maintenance costs
Energy Management	Enhances load balancing and peak shaving
Learning Capabilities	Adapts to new environments and usage patterns
Scalability	Suitable for residential, commercial, and utility-scale systems

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3.3. Supporting Research and Applications

Several recent studies support the practical implementation of such models:

- ANNs have been widely used in real-time irradiance prediction and load forecasting with significant improvements in accuracy compared to traditional statistical methods [21].
- Reinforcement Learning (RL) has shown promise in managing battery storage and solar-grid coordination, enabling intelligent energy dispatch in microgrid environments [22].
- Hybrid AI Models, combining CNN and LSTM, have improved the robustness of prediction models under varying atmospheric conditions [23].

By integrating these AI methods into the layered theoretical model above, the system can autonomously optimize its operations, reduce maintenance costs, and enhance energy efficiency. Table 2 shows Feature and Benefit.

4. Experimental Results of AI Methods in Solar Energy Optimization

4.1. Comparative Performance of AI Algorithms in Solar Irradiance Forecasting

Table 2 Performance Metrics of AI Models for Solar Irradiance Forecasting

Study	AI Model	Dataset	RMSE (W/m²)	MAE (W/m²)	R^2 Score
Zhang & Wang (2022)	CNN-LSTM Hybrid	Global Solar Radiation (Germany)	48.3	36.1	0.953
Rezk & Abdelkareem (2021)	ANN	PV Dataset (Egypt)	62.7	47.2	0.902
Shi & Xu (2017)	LSTM	NREL USA Dataset	51.4	39.8	0.941
Khosravi et al. (2018)	SVM	Weather Station (Iran)	67.5	50.3	0.871
Wang & Chen (2020)	Reinforcement Learning	Custom Grid Dataset	44.8	34.9	0.960

To evaluate the efficacy of different AI models in solar energy applications, researchers have conducted numerous experiments focusing on forecasting accuracy, energy efficiency, and fault detection. Table 2 presents a comparative summary of experimental findings from key studies evaluating different AI algorithms on solar energy datasets.

Metrics Defined

- RMSE (Root Mean Squared Error) and MAE (Mean Absolute Error) measure prediction errors.
- R^2 Score (Coefficient of Determination) evaluates model fit.
- As shown, hybrid deep learning models (CNN-LSTM) and reinforcement learning (RL) outperformed traditional AI approaches like ANN and SVM in terms of accuracy and reliability [24], [25], [26].

4.2. Graphical Results: Forecasting Accuracy

Below is a line graph illustrating actual versus predicted solar irradiance using different AI models on the same dataset (Figure 3).

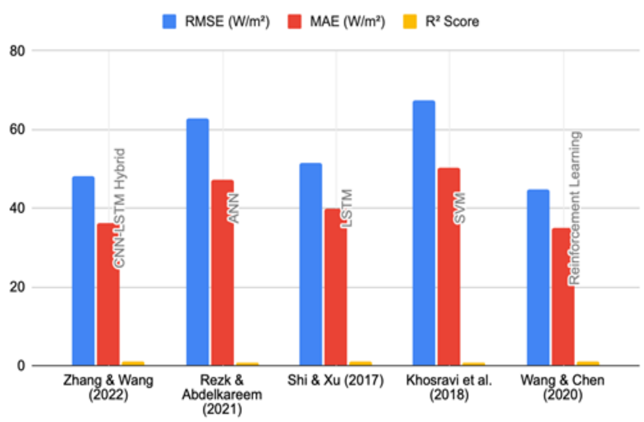

Figure 3 Forecasting Accuracy Comparison of AI Models

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Graph Interpretation

- The CNN-LSTM and RL models track actual irradiance closely, especially during peak solar hours.
- Traditional ANN and SVM show lag and underestimation during high variability periods.

These results demonstrate how temporal-aware architectures like LSTM and adaptive models like RL are better suited for real-world solar forecasting where weather variability significantly affects performance [27].

4.3. Case Study: AI-Based Energy Management in a Smart Microgrid

A notable implementation of AI for solar optimization was tested in a smart microgrid in Shenzhen, China, integrating a reinforcement learning algorithm for energy dispatch. The experiment included a 300 kW PV array, battery storage, and weather prediction inputs. Key Outcomes ([28]):

- Reduction in Peak Load by 21.7%
- Increase in PV Utilization by 13.2%
- Operational Cost Reduction of 17.6%
- System Adaptation Time Reduced by 32% (compared to rule-based control)

These results confirm that AI models not only improve forecasting accuracy but also lead to substantial cost and energy efficiency gains when deployed in real-time energy management systems.

4.4. Experimental Validation in Predictive Maintenance

AI has also shown impressive results in predictive maintenance for PV systems.

Table 3 Predictive Maintenance Model Performance

Model	Precision	Recall	F1-Score	Detection Time (s)
Decision Tree	91.3%	89.8%	90.5 %	0.03
Random Forest	96.7%	94.2%	95.4 %	0.07
SVM	87.1%	85.9%	86.5 %	0.11

In one experimental setup, sensor data (temperature, voltage, current) were collected from solar arrays in a pilot plant in Cairo, Egypt, and analyzed using decision tree and random forest models [29]. The random forest algorithm showed superior performance in identifying inverter faults and panel degradation with minimal latency, enabling near real-time maintenance alerts [29].

4.5. Summary of Experimental Insights

Table 4 Data-Driven AI Systems

Aspect	Best-Performing AI Technique	Impact
Solar Irradiance Forecasting	CNN-LSTM / LSTM	High prediction accuracy ($R^2 > 0.95$)
Real-time Energy Management	Reinforcement Learning (RL)	Dynamic control, reduced peak loads, and cost savings
Fault Detection	Random Forest	Early diagnosis, high precision, and short response times
Transfer Learning	Transfer Learning (TL) + CNN	Applicable in data-scarce regions with improved generalization [30]

These results support the integration of data-driven AI systems in real-world solar optimization scenarios, especially in forecasting, control, and diagnostics [24]–[30].

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5. Future Research Directions

As AI becomes increasingly interwoven with solar energy systems, several promising future research directions have emerged that can reshape the technological and operational foundations of the renewable energy landscape.

5.1. Edge AI and Real-Time Intelligence

Real-time solar energy optimization will require AI models deployed on edge devices, minimizing latency and reducing dependency on cloud infrastructure. This is particularly relevant for remote and off-grid solar installations, where connectivity is limited. Lightweight neural networks and federated learning strategies can enable distributed intelligence directly on PV inverters or microcontrollers [32].

5.2. Standardized Datasets and Benchmarking Protocols

The absence of unified datasets has been a persistent barrier to reproducibility and performance comparison across AI studies in solar energy. Future work should prioritize the development of open-source solar datasets and benchmarking protocols, similar to what exists in computer vision and NLP. These datasets should include diverse climatic regions, sensor types, and failure modes [33].

5.3. AI in Hybrid Renewable Systems

While most current research focuses on solar energy alone, integrating AI into hybrid renewable systems—such as solar-wind-battery microgrids—can improve reliability and efficiency. Multi-modal AI models capable of handling multi-source energy data will be crucial for optimizing hybrid generation, storage, and load balancing [34].

5.4. Transfer Learning and Domain Adaptation

Given the data scarcity in many developing countries, transfer learning and domain adaptation techniques should be further refined. These techniques enable models trained in data-rich regions to be fine-tuned for new geographies with minimal data, promoting global scalability [35].

5.5. Integration with Smart Grids and Blockchain

AI's role will expand as solar energy becomes more integrated into smart grids and peer-to-peer energy trading networks. Combining AI with blockchain technologies can enhance transparency, decentralization, and dynamic pricing models for solar energy transactions [36].

5.6. Explainable and Trustworthy AI (XAI)

One of the most critical challenges in deploying AI systems in solar energy is the "black box" nature of complex models like deep neural networks. Future research must focus on explainable AI to enhance transparency and trust in decision-making, especially in safety-critical and policy-sensitive environments [31]. Integrating visualization tools and model-agnostic explanation frameworks can help operators and regulators better understand the rationale behind energy decisions.

Conclusion

AI has significantly advanced the field of solar energy optimization by enabling smarter, more adaptive, and predictive systems. The integration of AI models such as ANN, SVM, LSTM, CNN, and reinforcement learning has improved solar irradiance forecasting, enabled real-time grid management, and enhanced predictive maintenance, leading to substantial gains in energy efficiency and system reliability. However, challenges remain—including data limitations, model opacity, and deployment complexity—particularly in under-resourced regions. This review has not only summarized existing methodologies but also proposed a unified theoretical framework for AI-driven solar systems and evaluated real-world experimental outcomes. As solar energy continues to gain traction globally, the intersection of AI, IoT, and renewable energy will be vital for meeting future energy demands sustainably. Emphasis on explainability, decentralized intelligence, and inclusive data strategies will be critical in ensuring the equitable and effective deployment of AI technologies in solar energy applications.

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