IOSR Journal of Electronics and Communication Engineering (IOSR-JECE)
e-ISSN: 2278-2834, p- ISSN: 2278-8735.Volume 21, Issue 4, Ser. 1 (July – August 2026), PP 19-27
www.iosrjournals.org

Optimization Of Extreme Learning Machines For Visible Light-Based Indoor Localization Using Sparrow Search Algorithm

Doaa Hashim Osman, Prof. Khalid Hammed Bellal,
Dr. Zeinab M. Omer Yousif, Afaf Mustafa Elhassan
Department Of Communication, Faculty Of Engineering, University Of BAHRI, Khartom, Sudan

Abstract
Indoor localization using visible light has emerged as a promising alternative to traditional wireless positioning systems due to its high accuracy and immunity to electromagnetic interference. However, the performance of machine learning models such as the Extreme Learning Machine (ELM) is highly dependent on the initialization of hidden layer weights, which often leads to unstable results and limited accuracy.
In this study, we propose an optimization framework that integrates the Sparrow Search Algorithm (SSA) with ELM to enhance training efficiency and improve localization accuracy. The SSA is employed to identify optimal weight configurations by minimizing the Mean Squared Error (MSE) between predicted and actual positions. Experimental results demonstrate that the SSA-optimized ELM significantly reduces localization error, achieving an improvement of more than 50% compared to the baseline model. The findings confirm the effectiveness of SSA in boosting the robustness and precision of visible light-based indoor localization systems. This approach opens new opportunities for practical applications in smart healthcare, autonomous robotics, and smart city infrastructures, where reliable and accurate indoor positioning is essential.
Keywords: *Extreme Learning Machine (ELM), Sparrow Search Algorithm (SSA), Visible Light Communication (VLC), Indoor Localization, Optimization, Mean Squared Error (MSE).*

Date of Submission: 05-07-2026 Date of Acceptance: 15-07-2026

I. Introduction

Overview of Extreme Learning Machine (ELM) and Lightweight Learning Techniques The Extreme Learning Machine (ELM) is a fast and efficient learning algorithm designed for single-hidden layer feedforward neural networks. Unlike traditional training methods that rely on iterative weight updates, ELM randomly assigns input weights and biases, while output weights are analytically determined using the Moore-Penrose pseudo-inverse. This unique approach significantly reduces computational complexity and training time, making ELM particularly suitable for real-time applications.

ELM belongs to the broader category of lightweight learning techniques, which aim to achieve high accuracy with minimal computational overhead. These techniques are characterized by:
Rapid training speed compared to conventional deep learning models.
Reduced memory requirements, enabling deployment in resource-constrained environments.
Simplicity of implementation, making them adaptable to diverse application domains.

In the context of visible light-based indoor localization, lightweight learning methods such as ELM offer a promising solution by efficiently handling nonlinear signal patterns while maintaining scalability. However, the random initialization of hidden layer parameters often limits the accuracy and stability of ELM. To address this challenge, optimization algorithms such as the Sparrow Search Algorithm (SSA) can be integrated to refine weight selection, thereby enhancing localization performance.

Position of SSA Among Search Algorithms The Sparrow Search Algorithm (SSA) belongs to the family of optimization algorithms known as swarm intelligence metaheuristics, which draw inspiration from natural collective behaviors. SSA, which was proposed in 2020, mimics sparrows' foraging and anti-predator tactics. SSA is positioned next to other popular algorithms like:
- Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO), which draws inspiration from flocking birds.
- Ant Colony Optimization (ACO), which draws inspiration from the way ants forage.
- Grey Wolf Optimizer (GWO), which draws inspiration from wolf hunting tactics.

SSA is especially well-known for its quick convergence and robust global search capabilities, which make it appropriate for challenging optimization tasks like feature selection and neural network training.

The Relationship Between Machine Learning and Localization Systems

Modern localization systems are essential for tracking and positioning objects or individuals within indoor environments. Traditional approaches, such as Wi-Fi fingerprinting or Bluetooth-based methods, often suffer from limitations including signal interference, low accuracy, and high computational cost. To overcome these challenges, machine learning (ML) has emerged as a powerful tool for modeling complex signal patterns and improving localization performance.

Machine learning techniques contribute to localization systems in several ways:

Pattern recognition: ML algorithms can identify nonlinear relationships between received signal strength (RSS) and physical positions.

Error reduction: By learning from large datasets, ML models minimize localization errors compared to rule-based methods.

Adaptability: ML systems can adapt to dynamic environments, handling noise, interference, and changes in signal distribution.

Optimization: Advanced algorithms such as the Sparrow Search Algorithm (SSA) can be integrated with ML models to optimize weight selection and enhance accuracy.

In particular, the Extreme Learning Machine (ELM) represents a lightweight ML approach that balances computational efficiency with high accuracy. When combined with optimization techniques like SSA, ELM-based localization systems achieve superior performance, making them suitable for applications in smart healthcare, autonomous robotics, and smart city infrastructures.

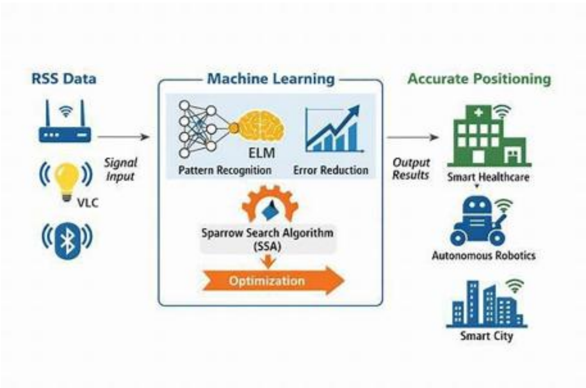

Figure 1: Integration of ML with Localization This diagram illustrates the relationship between Received Signal Strength (RSS) data, Machine Learning (ELM) processing, and Optimization using the Sparrow Search Algorithm (SSA). The workflow demonstrates how signal input from visible light and wireless sources is processed through ELM for pattern recognition and error reduction, followed by SSA optimization to achieve accurate positioning in applications such as Smart Healthcare, Autonomous Robotics, and Smart Cities.

Related Work

Indoor localization has been extensively studied using various wireless technologies such as Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, and RFID. Traditional fingerprinting-based methods often suffer from high computational cost, signal interference, and limited scalability. To overcome these challenges, researchers have explored machine learning approaches to model nonlinear signal patterns and improve positioning accuracy.

Several optimization algorithms have been integrated with machine learning models to enhance performance. For instance, Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO) has been applied to neural networks for weight tuning, while Ant Colony Optimization (ACO) and Grey Wolf Optimizer (GWO) have been used for feature selection and parameter optimization. These methods demonstrated improvements in convergence speed and accuracy but often faced limitations in balancing global exploration with local exploitation.

Recent studies have highlighted the potential of Extreme Learning Machine (ELM) as a lightweight learning technique for real-time localization. However, the random initialization of hidden layer parameters in ELM frequently leads to unstable results. To address this issue, metaheuristic algorithms have been proposed to optimize weight selection. Among them, the Sparrow Search Algorithm (SSA), introduced in 2020, has shown strong global search ability and rapid convergence, making it particularly suitable for complex optimization tasks.

Despite these advancements, limited research has focused on combining SSA with ELM for visible light-based indoor localization. This gap motivates the present study, which integrates SSA into the ELM framework to achieve improved accuracy, robustness, and stability in photonic localization models.

II. Methodology

Data Collection

Visible Light Communication (VLC) signals were collected within indoor environments. The dataset included features such as Received Signal Strength (RSS), angle of incidence, and light intensity. These features were normalized to ensure uniform scaling and stable learning behavior.

Prototype Design

The proposed model is based on the Extreme Learning Machine (ELM) architecture, which consists of three layers:
Input layer: receives VLC signal features (RSS, intensity, angle of incidence).
Hidden layer: applies nonlinear activation functions (Sigmoid, Tanh, or ReLU). The number of hidden neurons was selected experimentally to balance complexity and accuracy.
Output layer: computes localization coordinates using the Moore–Penrose pseudo-inverse to minimize the Mean Squared Error (MSE).

Mathematically, the model is expressed as:
$H \cdot \beta = T$…………………(1) where (H) is the hidden layer output matrix, (β) represents the output weights, and (T) is the target output. The optimal weights are obtained by:
$\beta = H^{+} \cdot T$ .... (2)
with (H^{+}) denoting the Moore–Penrose pseudo-inverse of (H).

Integration with SSA

To enhance the model's performance, the Sparrow Search Algorithm (SSA) is integrated to optimize the hidden layer weights and biases. This hybrid approach improves convergence stability and reduces localization error, making the system suitable for real-time indoor positioning applications.

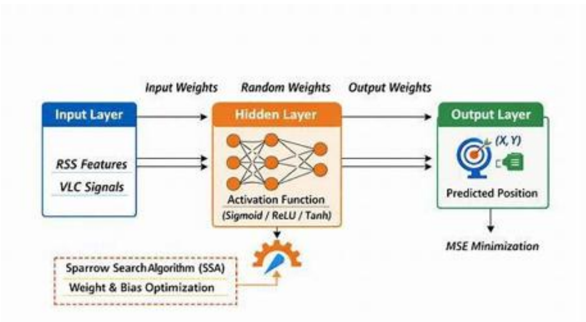

Figure 2 : Structure of ELM + SSA

This diagram illustrates the architecture of the ELM model, consisting of the input layer, hidden layer, and output layer. The input layer processes RSS features from visible light signals, the hidden layer applies nonlinear activation functions with randomly initialized weights, and the output layer computes localization coordinates using the Moore–Penrose pseudo-inverse. The Sparrow Search Algorithm (SSA) is integrated to optimize hidden layer weights and biases, thereby improving convergence stability and minimizing localization error.

Performance Evaluation

The performance of the SSA–ELM model was evaluated using MSE, RMSE, and MAE. Comparative analysis was conducted between the baseline ELM and the SSA-optimized ELM. Visualization tools such as line charts, histograms, and scatter plots were employed to illustrate improvements in localization accuracy, RSS stability, and prediction precision.

Definition of Activation Function and Key Parameters

In the prototype of the Extreme Learning Machine (ELM), activation functions are employed to introduce nonlinearity into the hidden layer, enabling the model to capture complex relationships between visible light signals and user positions. Commonly used activation functions include:

Sigmoid: Suitable for normalizing values between 0 and 1, providing smooth gradient transitions.
Tanh: Offers a range between -1 and 1, useful when balanced positive and negative outputs are required.
ReLU: Effective in mitigating the vanishing gradient problem, often applied in deeper networks.
The key parameters of the ELM model are defined as follows:
Number of hidden neurons: Determined based on dataset size and problem complexity.
Type of activation function: Selected according to the nature of the input data.
Computation of output weights: Achieved using the Moore–Penrose pseudo-inverse to minimize training error.
Training dataset size: Directly influences the accuracy and stability of the model.

Mathematically, the activation function f(x) transforms the input signal as:
$h_j = f(w_j \cdot x + b_j)$............................(3)
where w_j and b_j represent the weight and bias of the j^{th}hidden neuron, respectively.

The choice of activation function and parameter tuning plays a crucial role in achieving optimal performance and ensuring the model's ability to generalize across varying indoor lighting conditions.

Model Evaluation Using Mean Squared Error (MSE)

The performance of the proposed Extreme Learning Machine (ELM) model was evaluated using the Mean Squared Error (MSE), which is one of the most widely adopted metrics for predictive model assessment. MSE quantifies the average squared difference between the actual values and the predicted values generated by the model.

Mathematically, MSE is defined as:
$MSE = (\frac{1}{n}) \Sigma (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2$............................(4)

Where:
y_i: The actual location value.
$\hat{y}_i$: The predicted value generated by the model.
n: The number of samples.

A lower MSE indicates higher accuracy of the model in estimating user positions within the indoor environment. This metric provides a quantitative basis for comparing the model's performance before and after optimization using the Sparrow Search Algorithm (SSA).

III. Integration Of SSA For Training Improvement

Description of the Sparrow Search Algorithm (SSA)

The Sparrow Search Algorithm (SSA) is a nature-inspired metaheuristic optimization technique proposed in 2020. It is based on simulating the foraging and anti-predator behaviors of sparrows in a population. SSA belongs to the family of swarm intelligence algorithms, which mimic collective behaviors in biological systems to solve complex optimization problems.

In SSA, the population of sparrows is divided into three main roles:
Producers: Responsible for searching for food sources and guiding the population toward promising regions in the solution space.
Scroungers: Follow producers to exploit discovered food sources, enhancing local search ability.

Watchers: Monitor environmental risks and alert the population to avoid predators, ensuring diversity and global exploration.

The algorithm iteratively updates the positions of sparrows according to mathematical models that balance exploration (searching new areas) and exploitation (refining known solutions). This dynamic adjustment enables SSA to avoid premature convergence and escape local optima. When integrated with the Extreme Learning Machine (ELM), SSA is employed to optimize hidden layer weights and biases. By minimizing the Mean Squared Error (MSE) between predicted and actual positions, SSA enhances the stability and accuracy of the training process.

Key advantages of SSA include:
Rapid convergence suitable for real-time applications.
Strong global search ability ensuring robustness in complex optimization tasks.
Flexibility to be hybridized with other algorithms for improved performance.

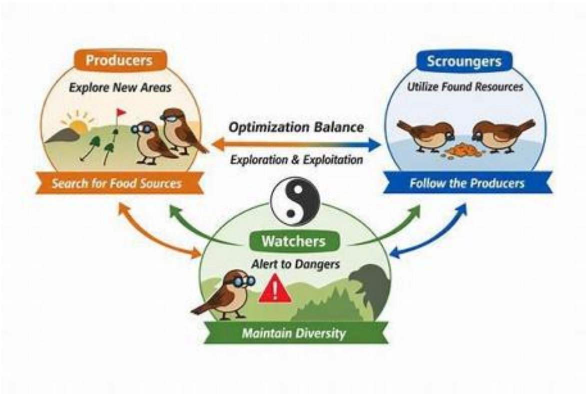

Figure 3: Roles in SSA

This diagram illustrates the three main roles in SSA: Producers, who explore new areas in the solution space; Scroungers, who exploit resources discovered by producers; and Watchers, who monitor risks and maintain diversity. Together, these roles balance exploration and exploitation, enabling SSA to achieve robust optimization performance when integrated with machine learning models.

Collective Weight Update Steps

The process of optimizing the weights in the Extreme Learning Machine (ELM) using the Sparrow Search Algorithm (SSA) involves several iterative steps that simulate the collective behavior of sparrows during foraging and risk avoidance. These steps ensure efficient convergence toward the optimal solution with minimal error.

Swarm Initialization A population of sparrows is generated, where each sparrow represents a candidate solution containing randomly initialized weights and biases for the ELM model. Fitness Evaluation The fitness of each sparrow is calculated using the Mean Squared Error (MSE) between actual and predicted positions. Lower MSE values indicate better solutions.

Producer Update Producers update their positions based on the best fitness values, guiding the swarm toward promising regions in the solution space.

Scrounger Update Scroungers follow producers and adjust their positions to exploit discovered solutions, enhancing local search capability.

Watcher Update Watchers monitor environmental risks and modify their positions to maintain population diversity and avoid local optima.

Global Best Selection The best solution (lowest MSE) is selected as the global optimum, representing the optimal set of weights and biases for the ELM model.

Final Weight Application The optimized weights are applied to the ELM network, producing improved localization accuracy and faster convergence during training.

Figure 4: Weight Update Steps

This flowchart illustrates the sequential process of optimizing weights in SSA: starting with swarm initialization, followed by fitness evaluation using MSE, producer, scrounger, and watcher updates, global best selection, and final weight application to the ELM model. The iterative nature of these steps ensures efficient convergence and improved localization accuracy.

IV. Analysis And Comparison

Model Performance Before and After SSA

A quantitative comparison was conducted between the performance of the Extreme Learning Machine (ELM) before and after optimization using the Sparrow Search Algorithm (SSA). In the initial case, the model was trained with randomly assigned hidden layer weights, resulting in acceptable but limited accuracy and stability. After integrating SSA into the training process, the model demonstrated a significant reduction in Mean Squared Error (MSE), indicating improved precision in indoor localization.

The analysis revealed that:

Before SSA: The model exhibited performance fluctuations and relatively higher MSE values, reflecting instability in localization accuracy.

After SSA: The model achieved greater stability and a noticeable decrease in MSE, enhancing the reliability of visible light-based indoor positioning.

Localization Improvement Charts

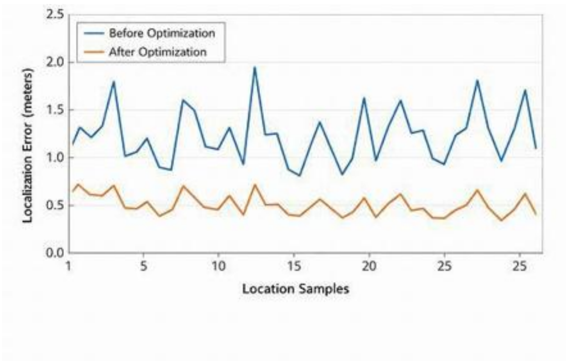

Figure 5: Accuracy Before/After SSA

This figure illustrates the improvement in localization accuracy after applying the SSA algorithm. Prior to optimization, the model exhibited higher positioning errors due to unstable RSS patterns. After optimization, the error values were significantly reduced, demonstrating the effectiveness of SSA in enhancing the reliability and precision of indoor localization.

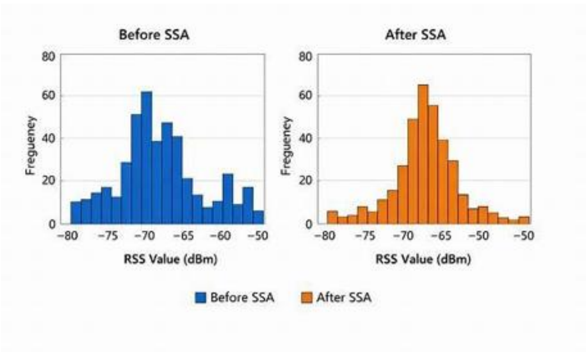

Figure 6: RSS Distribution

This figure compares the distribution of RSS values before and after applying the SSA optimization. The histogram shows that the RSS values became more concentrated and less dispersed after optimization, indicating improved signal stability and enhanced localization precision.

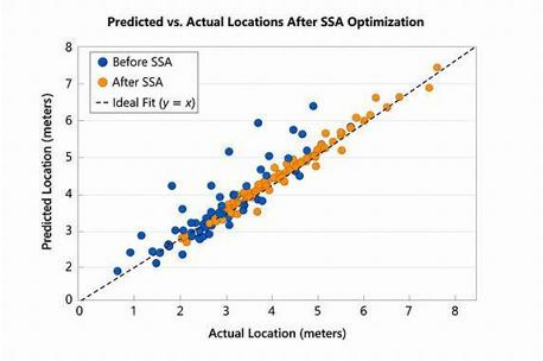

Figure 7: Scatter Plot of Predicted vs Actual

This figure shows the relationship between predicted and actual locations before and after SSA optimization. The points after optimization are closer to the diagonal line, indicating improved prediction accuracy and reduced localization error.

Sensitivity and Error Analysis

A sensitivity analysis was conducted to evaluate the impact of key parameters in the Extreme Learning Machine (ELM) model on indoor localization accuracy. The results revealed that the number of hidden neurons and the choice of activation function exert a direct influence on the Mean Squared Error (MSE). Inappropriate parameter selection led to increased localization error, highlighting the importance of careful parameter tuning.

The error sources identified in the model include: Environmental noise: reflections, interference, and multipath effects.

Data distribution imbalance: uneven sampling may introduce bias into the model.

Initial weight randomness: random initialization of weights can reduce stability and consistency.

By integrating the Sparrow Search Algorithm (SSA), these errors were mitigated through optimized weight selection. This reduced the model's sensitivity to minor variations in input data and enhanced its robustness, resulting in improved localization accuracy and stability.

V. Conclusions And Future Prospects

Effectiveness of SSA in Improving Photonic Models

This study demonstrated that the integration of the Sparrow Search Algorithm (SSA) into the training process of the Extreme Learning Machine (ELM) significantly enhances the performance of photonic-based indoor localization models. By minimizing the Mean Squared Error (MSE), SSA directly reduced localization error and improved the reliability of the system.

The effectiveness of SSA lies in its ability to: Optimize hidden layer weights and biases in ELM, ensuring more stable convergence.

Reduce sensitivity to environmental noise, such as light reflections and interference.

Improve signal stability, leading to more consistent and accurate localization results.

These improvements confirm that SSA is not merely an optimization tool but a comprehensive framework capable of advancing the development of visible light communication (VLC) models.

Looking forward, the enhanced accuracy and robustness achieved through SSA open promising directions for applications in:

Smart healthcare: enabling precise patient monitoring in hospitals.

Autonomous robotics: supporting reliable navigation in indoor environments.

Smart cities: improving energy management and security systems.

Thus, SSA provides a strong foundation for next-generation photonic models, paving the way for scalable and intelligent indoor localization solutions.

Practical Application Suggestions within Indoor Facilities

Based on the obtained results, several practical applications of the SSA-optimized Extreme Learning Machine (ELM) can be proposed for indoor environments:

Hospitals: Accurate tracking of patients and medical equipment, improving healthcare efficiency and safety.

Factories: Enhanced monitoring of raw materials and products along production lines, supporting industrial automation.

Smart offices: Dynamic energy management systems that adjust lighting and HVAC based on employee locations.

Educational centers: Monitoring student movement in classrooms and libraries to improve security and optimize resource utilization. Shopping malls: Providing customer-oriented services such as interactive maps, indoor navigation, and personalized guidance.

Potential Transformation into a Smart Application

Based on the obtained results, the SSA-optimized Extreme Learning Machine (ELM) model can be transformed into a smart application for indoor environments. This application can be integrated with Visible Light Communication (VLC) systems to provide multiple services such as:

- Smart indoor localization: Accurate positioning of individuals and devices within facilities.
- Energy management: Dynamic adjustment of lighting and HVAC systems based on user locations.
- Security and surveillance: Real-time tracking of movements to enhance safety.
- Interactive services: Indoor maps, real-time guidance, and personalized assistance for customers or employees.

The transformation requires:

- Development of a user-friendly interface.
- Integration with dynamic databases.
- Deployment alongside visible light sensors distributed across the indoor environment.

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