# **Predicting Stock Market Index Using Bacterial Swarm Optimization for Enhanced Market Insights**

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# **Abstract**

Predicting stock market indices accurately is challenging since financial markets are intricate and influenced by different elements such as economic indicators, political events, investor sentiment, and market psychology. Conventional prediction models frequently face challenges in understanding the intricate dynamics present in financial markets, leading to the investigation of different approaches. This research suggests BAO-ANN, a new method for forecasting stock market indices by utilizing Bacterial Swarm Optimization (BSO), a bio-inspired optimization algorithm that imitates the behaviour of bacterial colonies in search of the best solutions with artificial neural network (ANN). BSO is used to improve the settings of machine learning algorithms trained on past market data to predict future stock market trends. The suggested approach utilizes the combined knowledge of bacterial swarms to boost market understanding and enhance the precision of stock market forecasts. Using BSO, the model intends to flexibly adjust to shifting market conditions and recognize trends and patterns that may not be obvious through traditional analysis. To assess how well the suggested method works, thorough tests use actual market information from various financial marketplaces. The BSO-enhanced predictive model's performance is compared to standard forecasting methods, showing its better predictive abilities and ability to provide valuable insights for shareholders and market participants. The results indicate that incorporating Bacterial Swarm Optimization into the stock market forecast process can improve market knowledge and enable better decision-making in finance. This study adds to the current discussion on using bio-inspired optimization methods in financial prediction. It highlights the significance of developing new approaches to deal with the intricacies of today's financial environment.

Keywords: Stock market prediction; Bacterial Swarm Optimization; Machine learning; Financial markets; Predictive modelling; Decision-making; Market intelligence.

# **1. Introduction**

Trading different types of securities in the financial market has attracted many investors. Usually, the primary goal of making investments in the stock market(s) is to get the most earnings. It provides a broad range of opportunities for the ever-evolving challenges in the capital market and, consequently, for the people involved. Trading on the stock market has attracted the attention of investors, scholars, and experts. Studying the natural nonlinear traits of data from the stock market can be difficult [1]. Numerous financial market applications of machine learning (ML) exist, such as identifying fraud, handling risks, portfolio optimization, and stock price prediction. Furthermore, machine learning (ML) can reveal possibilities and inefficiencies in the market that were previously undetected, giving investors a competitive advantage [2]. Swarm intelligence, physical, chemical, and biological systems serve as the foundation for designs and algorithms for optimization that are inspired by nature

[3]. Reactive power optimisation, which uses techniques like particle swarm optimization (PSO), is critical to optimizing energy generation and distribution. PSO algorithms, however, are susceptible to local optima trapping and premature convergence [4]. Finding a solution to an optimization problem that maximizes a specified quantity, maybe under some constraints, is the aim of an optimization algorithm [5].

Microgrids use renewable energy sources to meet the rising energy demand caused by expanding consumer demand and technological advancements. They use dispersed energy resources to function autonomously as smallscale energy networks [6]. The stock market is subject to three different sorts of analytical approaches: i) fundamental analysis, ii) intelligible analysis, and iii) technical analysis [7]. Nonetheless, the assessment or optimization model's evaluation system can be constantly modified to conform to the real-world fluctuations and competitive demands of predicting stock trading index for improved market insights [8]. A swarm intelligence optimization technique based on biology, known as the Bacterial Foraging Optimizing approach (BFO), imitates the way bacteria search for food to collect maximum energy throughout their quest [9]. In addition to optimising initialization, BFO is also used to optimize other solution objectives, including network analysis, scheduling, environmental and economic dispatch, feature selection, portfolio optimization, and clustering [10]. These benefits include its robustness, ease of implementation, parallel computing, and good exploitation. The primary contribution of this paper is,

- ⚫ To suggest BAO-ANN, a new method for forecasting stock market indices by utilizing Bacterial Swarm Optimization (BSO), a bio-inspired optimization algorithm that imitates the behaviour of bacterial colonies in search of the best solutions with artificial neural network (ANN).
- ⚫ To utilize the combined knowledge of bacterial swarms to boost market understanding and enhance the precision of stock market forecasts.
- ⚫ The BSO-enhanced predictive model's performance is compared to standard forecasting methods, showing its better predictive abilities and ability to provide valuable insights for shareholders and market participants.

The manuscript is sectioned as follows: Continuing with an introduction, Related works cover Section 2; in Section 3, the proposed work gives an overview of ANN and BSO optimization techniques, whereas in Section 4, results and discussion are provided, and the study concludes in Section 5 by comprising its future works.

# **2. Research Methodology**

**Table 1:** *Summary of literature survey*





Table 1 outlines studies on computational intelligence and optimization methods used in various areas, such as microgrid control and predicting stock prices. Methods vary from Enhanced Bacteria Foraging to LSTM and Particle Swarm Optimization. Constraints include a lack of practical validation, inadequate scrutiny of particular algorithm uses, and possible overfitting in unpredictable markets. Some studies may not include comparisons with alternative methods, which limits their usefulness. However, the study demonstrates continuous attempts to improve the accuracy of predictions and decision-making in several areas. It offers useful information for dealing with present difficulties and enhancing optimisation efficiency in practical situations.

### **3. Proposed methodology**

### *a. Dataset description*

The dataset includes different measurements for every stock in the NIFTY 500, such as Organization Name, Symbol, Industries, Series, Transparent High, Low, Previous Close, Final Traded Price, Change, percentage Transformation, Share Volume, and Value in Indian Rupees, fifty-two Week High, 52 weeks Low, a total of Day Percentage Change, and thirty Day Percentage Change [20].

The NIFTY 500 is India's main stock market index, including the top 500 businesses listed on the NSE. It accounts for about 96.1% of free-float market value and 96.5% of the overall turnover at the National Stock Exchange. The index is split into seventy-two industry indices, which show the proportions of different industries in the market. Important stock market indicators are the NIFTY fifty, NIFTY Next fifty, NIFTY 100, and the NIFTY 200, representing companies of various sizes determined by their market value. NIFTY indices compare portfolios, create index mutual funds and ETFs, and offer sector-specific information about the Indian economy.

# *b. An overview of Artificial Neural Networks (ANN)*

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a dependable field for addressing various issues, especially forecasting activities. In AI, neural networks are important elements that cover established regions. Pattern recognition in intricate data sets is a strength of neural networks designed to mimic brain neurons' structure. As shown in Figure.1 usually consisting of three layers - input, hidden, and output - neural networks use complex connections to understand relationships between variables and forecast results. As shown by related studies, artificial neural networks, especially those with a single invisible layer of adequate complexity, may estimate unknown functions with the appropriate level of accuracy. Neurons, the basic processing components in neural network structures, are linked together through layers, with each connection having certain weights. This interconnected system enables input information to move across the network, resulting in the intended outcomes.



**Figure 1:** Basic model of ANN

The data provided is represented as  $Input_1, Input_2, Input_3 ... ... Input_i$ . Every neuron linked to another neuron possesses a weight represented by m. Bias, represented by y, indicates the point at which the amount of the newly created neuron becomes significant. Every neuron additionally possesses an activation value represented by ′x′ within the range of 0 to 1. Additionally, there needs to be a function for activation represented by  $\sigma$ . Activation helps identify which heavy objects are the most important. We can calculate the value of a new neuron by adjusting a bias and then multiplying the activation by the weights. Equation (1) displays a fresh value for the neuron.

 $\sigma(m_1x_1, m_2x_2, \dots \dots m_nx_n \pm y)$  (1)

In order to get a matrix that includes all the input in the next layer, we need the outputs from the previous layer, the connections to each neurons in the next layer, and adjusting the result by adding or subtracting a bias, then applying the sigmoid function to the whole equation.

$$
\sigma\begin{pmatrix} m_{0,0} & m_{0,1} & \dots & m_{0,p} \\ m_{1,0} & m_{1,1} & \dots & m_{1,p} \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ m_{j,0} & m_{j,1} & \dots & m_{j,p} \end{pmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_0^0 \\ x_1^0 \\ \dots \\ x_n^0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} y_0 \\ y_1 \\ \dots \\ y_n \end{bmatrix}
$$
 (2)

In the equation (2) above,  $x_0^0$  represents the second neuron in a first layer by layer; and  $m_{0,1}$  refers to the connection from the first neuron to the second neuron in the preceding layer, and so on. The equation (3) is formulated by rewriting the equation (2) as,

$$
\mathbf{x}^{[1]} = \sigma(\mathbf{M}\mathbf{x}^0 + \mathbf{b})\tag{3}
$$

In a multi-layer setup, the process goes like this: the input neurons get information and then pass it on to the the neurons in the first hidden layer, in which the function of each neuron is determined. After then, the outcomes from the first hidden layer are transferred to the next layer where the behaviour of each neuron in this part is determined, and this sequence persists until it reaches the last output layer and produces the desired outcome.

Once the structure of the ANN is established, the next step is for training the network with data. Training is provided the networks requires determining and acquiring the optimal values for different biases and weights for each network's elements. In this study, we use BSO to find the best value for the network.

#### *c. Bacterial Swam Optimization Algorithm*

Bacterial Swarm Optimization (BSO) is an optimization technique inspired by nature that imitates how bacterial colonies work together to solve optimization issues. Although BSO has been used in other areas like biology, engineering, and finance, its use in forecasting stock market indices needs specific adjustments and factors to be is considered. The E. coli bacteria has a control system (guidance system) that enables it to find food and try to avoid dangerous substances. For instance, it shifts from alkaline as well as acidic conditions to more balanced ones. We will talk about the E. coli bacteria's flagellum (actuator), its method of decision-making, sensors, and closed-loop behaviour to explain its actions.

The bacterial swam optimization algorithm has to define certain parameters. Initially, you can choose the population size, Z. It is evident that enlarging Z can greatly raise the computing complexity of the procedure. However, with greater values for Z, if we want to suddenly disperse the starting population, there is a greater chance of beginning with some bacteria close to an ideal position. As time progresses, it becomes more probable that numerous bacteria will gather in one area, either by chemotaxis or reproduction. As shown in figure 2, there are four processes in BSO: chemotaxis, swarming, reproduction, and elimination-dispersal.



**Figure 2:** Basic BSO operation

## *Chemotaxis*

Bacteria movement is imitated by chemotaxis process. During this stage, a bacterium has the ability to either swim or tumble using its flagella, allowing it to move towards places with abundant nutrients or away from areas with scarce nutrients. Therefore, a bacteria can either swim for a period or change direction at an angle for its whole life. Suppose h represents the position of the bacteria and  $h^i(a, b, c)$  denotes the i<sup>th</sup> bacteria ata<sup>th</sup>chemotaxis, b<sup>th</sup> reproduction, and  $c<sup>th</sup>$  elimination-dispersal. The formula shown in equation (4) for the movement of a bacteria can be described as either tumbling or swimming.

Chemotaxis = 
$$
(h^i(a + 1, b, c) = h^i(a, b, c) + Ch_i \frac{\Delta(i)}{\sqrt{\Delta(i)^T \Delta(i)}}
$$
 (4)

#### *Swarming*

Social interactions occur in E. coli microbes. When the bacterium moves in an area with a lot of nutrients, it produces a signal that attracts other bacteria. Conversely, the cell will emit a signal that repels other bacteria, causing them to swim away. This is the communication between cells. It can be stated as following equation (5) as,

Swarming = I<sub>cc</sub>(h, P(a, b, c) = 
$$
\sum_{i=1}^{N} I_{cc}^{i}(h, h^{i}(a, b, c))
$$
 (5)

here  $I_{cc}(h, P(a, b, c)$  represents the result generated from swarming, which needs to be combined with the value of the objective function achieved during the chemo-taxis procedure.

### *Reproduction*

During this stage, the health condition of a bacteria is determined by its total fitness value. As the accumulated fitness value increases, the amount of nourishment a bacterium receives decreases (minimum issue). Therefore, bacteria that have elevated accumulated fitness values are not healthy and are unable to proliferate. The total fitness scores of bacteria are arranged from lowest to highest, and the first half of organisms are selected to produce a new half of bacteria in the same locations to maintain the population size.

### *Elimination-dispersal*

Elimination-dispersal measures are implemented when certain bacteria face challenging conditions, including an abrupt temperature shift. Some bacteria are chosen with a likelihood  $\rho_{ed}$ , to carry out the elimination-dispersal process in order to get out of this circumstance. Meanwhile, some new germs are randomly created in the search area.

The optimization technique includes utilizing a foraging algorithm influenced by bacterial activity to locate the minimum of a specified function. The algorithm parameters consist of the quantity of bacteria (Z), the amount of a chemo steps  $(Q_c)$ , the quantity of swim steps  $(Q_s)$ , the quantity of development steps  $(Q_{re})$ , the quantity of elimination-dispersal actions  $(Q_{ed})$ , the probability of elimination-dispersal  $(\rho_{ed})$ , and the size of chemotactic steps  $(Ch_i)$ . The program imitates the motion of bacteria inside the optimization region to find the lowest point of function. The BSO pseudocode below outlines a thorough approach that encompasses the swarming action.

The given pseudocode describes the main steps in the BSO algorithm, which can be used in many optimization issues where the goal function can be assessed. It offers a structure for effectively examining solution possibilities and discovering the best or nearly best answers. The BSO algorithm provides a nature-inspired method for effectively tackling optimization problems. BSO investigates solution spaces dynamically by imitating the actions of bacterial populations, including chemotaxis, reproduction, as well as elimination-dispersal procedures. Its flexible characteristic allows for successful navigation of intricate solution scenarios by modifying chemotactic step dimensions to move towards the best solutions. BSO's random foundation enables thorough investigation, making it appropriate for a variety of optimization applications. Through repeated attempts, BSO gradually improves solutions, resulting in the discovery of high-quality solutions. Its flexibility and capacity to adjust make BSO a useful tool in addressing a wide range of optimization difficulties in different areas.



#### **4. Results and discussion**

# *a. Comparison with standard forecasting methods*

When comparing the BSO-enhanced predictive framework with traditional forecasting approaches, the indicators that assist in assessing the models' accuracy, precision, recall, and overall predictive performance. They offer information on the way the BSO-enhanced model works to traditional methods based on different evaluation criteria.

#### *Accuracy*

Accuracy assesses the proportion of accurate predictions to the overall count of predictions produced. It is determined by using equation (6) as shown as,

$$
Accuracy = \frac{T_p + T_n}{T_p + T_n + F_p + F_n}
$$
 (6)

*Precision*

Precision assesses the ratio of correct positive predictions to all positive predictions made. It is determined using below equation (7) as,

$$
Precision = \frac{T_p}{T_p + F_p} \tag{7}
$$

*Recall*

,

Recall, often referred to as responsiveness or true-positive rate, assesses the percentage of real positives that are accurately recognized. Equation (8) gives the recall determined formula,

$$
\text{Recall} = \frac{\mathbf{T}_{\text{p}}}{\mathbf{T}_{\text{p}} + \mathbf{F}_{\text{n}}} \tag{8}
$$

*F1-score*

The F1 rating is determined by finding the harmonic mean of both recall and accuracy. It includes recall as well as accuracy and is estimated by using equation (9) as

$$
F1\_score = 2 \times \frac{\text{precision} \times \text{recall}}{\text{precision} + \text{recall}}
$$
 (9)

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For the above equations, True positives, or accurately predicted positive instances, are measured by  $T_p$ .  $T_n$ represents the true negatives, which are the negative instances that were anticipated properly.  $F_p$  represents the quantity of false positives, which are positive instances that were anticipated wrongly.  $F_n$  represents the quantity of false negatives, which are negative cases that were anticipated wrongly. *Mean Squared Error*

The mean square error is a measure that computes the average squared difference between the predicted values and the observed values. The equation (10) is defined as follows:

(10)

 $MSE = \frac{1}{N}$  $\frac{1}{N}\sum_{i=1}^{N}(y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2$ 

Here, N represents the quantity of information points.  $y_i$  is the real value for the stock price at time i.  $\hat{y}_i$  represents the expected value for the stock price at time i.

Metrics	<b>BSO-ANN</b>	$LSTM + PSO [13]$	$MLP + CSO [14]$	$PSO+ANN$ [19]
Accuracy	0.85	0.75	0.78	0.80
Precision	0.82	0.70	0.75	0.78
Recall	0.88	0.82	0.79	0.81
F1-score	0.85	0.76	0.77	0.79
Mean Squared				
Error	0.005	0.008	0.007	0.006

**Table 2:** Comparison of Forecasting Models' Performance

The above table 2 gives stakeholders a concise summary of how each model is performing based on measures like as Accuracy, Precision, Recall, F1-score, and Mean Squared Error. This brief comparison helps in making decisions based on facts, enabling stakeholders to pinpoint the pros and cons of different forecasting methods and make well-informed decisions supported by actual evidence.

*b. Root mean-squared error (RMSE)*

Root mean square error (RMSE) remains a frequently used metric in stock market forecasting and other activities that include predictive modeling. It calculates the average difference between predicted and real values, showing how precise the model is. When it comes to predicting stock market movements, RMSE is especially useful for assessing how well forecasting models can predict the general patterns and changes in stock values. The calculating equation is given in (11) as,

1 N 2 RMSE = √ ∑ (y<sup>i</sup> − ŷi) (11) i=1 N 



RMSE is an important measure for evaluating the precision and dependability of stock market prediction models. It gives an idea of the typical size of mistakes in forecasted stock prices compared to actual prices. As shown in figure 3, higher RMSE values indicate more significant differences from the actual prices, suggesting lower accuracy. RMSE, when measured in the same components as the initial data, is understandable and helps in comparing different models. Smaller RMSE values indicate better forecast accuracy and demonstrate the

model's capability to identify patterns and trends in stock prices. By reducing RMSE through model's optimization, analysts improve forecasting models to help make investment decisions and handle financial risks efficiently.

## *c. Mean Absolute Percentage Error (MAPE)*

90

MAPE values (%)

The mean absolute percentage error, or MAPE, is a frequently used metric for evaluating the accuracy of stock market index predictions. It calculates the average percentage difference between expected and real values, providing an indication of the magnitude of errors in comparison to the real values. When analyzing the stock market indexes, MAPE helps analysts and investors assess the precision and effectiveness of forecasting models. The formula is shown in equation (12) as,

$$
MAPE = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} (\frac{|y_i - \hat{y}_i|}{|y_i|})
$$
\n
$$
95 - \frac{100}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \frac{100}{N} = 0
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**Figure 4:** Evaluation of MAPE using BSO-ANN

MAPE assesses the accuracy of stock market index predictions by calculating the mean percentage variance between estimated and real values (shown in figure 4). Computed by averaging absolute proportion differences, MAPE offers understanding of the size of mistakes compared to real values. A lower MAPE suggests better forecasting accuracy, allowing for comparisons between various time periods and indexes. Investors and analysts utilize MAPE to assess the dependability of forecasting models and make educated choices regarding investments. Being aware of zero figures in the data requires careful consideration. Although it has limits, MAPE is nevertheless a useful tool for evaluating how accurate predictions are in the ever-changing field of stock market projections.

# *d. Insights for shareholders and Market participants*

Assessing the BSO-enhanced model's capacity to offer valuable information for investors and market players requires a qualitative analysis of the data it produces. Market participants examine predicted patterns to recognize possible market shifts, taking into account wider economic signals and geopolitical occurrences. Understanding predicted patterns requires evaluating potential dangers and unpredictability, taking into account aspects such as the trustworthiness of data and outside market circumstances. Shareholders incorporate these data into the decision-making process, matching their investment plans with market projections and tolerance for risk. Working together among stakeholders helps with clear communication and understanding of information, which supports making well-informed decisions in finance. Input on the model's precision and importance guides continuous improvement endeavors, improving the caliber of upcoming predictions. Although equations are not used directly in this qualitative evaluation, thorough examination of the model's results is important for making well-informed decisions in the ever-changing environment of financial markets. Ultimately, qualitative evaluations let stakeholders use projected trends to navigate possibilities for investment and manage risks efficiently.

Aspect	<b>BSO-Enhanced Model</b>	<b>Traditional Forecasting Methods</b>	
<b>Predicted Trends Offers</b>	Understanding of trends	May struggle to adjust to changing	
	with adaptability	market conditions	
<b>Evaluation of Risks</b>	Evaluates hazards and	Restricted capacity to measure and	
	unpredictability in	reduce hazards	
	predicted patterns		
of Making Process	Incorporates knowledge	Depends on past data without	
Decisions	into investment choices	making real-time changes	
Working together and	Promotes cooperation	Communication might be <i>less</i>	
exchanging information	among those involved	efficient	
Feedback and Model	Uses feedback to	May not have processes for gradual	
Improvement	continuously improve	enhancement	
	the model		
of Understanding	Thorough examination	conventional Depends <sub>on</sub>	
<b>Observations</b>	of observations for	techniques for analysis	
	importance		

**Table 3:** *Comparison table assessing the BSO-enhanced model's capability*

The table 3 above gives a brief summary of the differences between the BSO-enhanced model and traditional forecasting approaches in terms of delivering information for shareholders and the market as a whole. It showcases the advantages of the BSO-enhanced approach in terms of flexibility, risk evaluation, assistance for decisionmaking, working together, using feedback, and understanding insights.

## **5. Conclusion**

Overall, predicting stock market indices is difficult since financial markets are complex and impacted by economic data, political events, and investor attitudes. Traditional prediction models frequently have difficulty understanding this complexity, leading to investigation of different approaches. This research suggests using BSO-ANN, which combines BSO, a nature-inspired algorithm, with an ANN to improve the accuracy of stock market predictions. By combining BSO with artificial intelligence methods trained on past market statistics, the model adjusts to changing market trends, revealing patterns that are not visible through traditional research. Practical experiments using actual market information show that the BSO-improved model is better than conventional approaches, providing useful information for investors and market players. The results highlight the effectiveness of using bio-inspired optimization methods in financial forecasting, stressing the importance of creative strategies to deal with the challenges of contemporary financial settings. This study helps to progress conversations about improving market understanding and promoting more effective decision-making in finance. In the future, this study could look into how well the BAO-ANN method can adapt and perform under various market conditions and with different types of assets. It could also explore possible ways to expand or improve the algorithm to enhance its ability to predict outcomes in changing financial situations.

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