

Artifcial Intelligence Aided Adulteration Detection and Quantifcation for Red Chilli Powder

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Abstract

Food adulteration imposes a significant health concern on the community. Being one of the key ingredients used for spicing up food dishes. Red chilli powder is almost used in every household in the world. It is also common to find chilli powder adulterated with brick powder in global markets. We are amongst the first research attempts to train a machine learning-based algorithms to detect the adulteration in red chilli powder. We introduce our dataset, which contains high quality images of red chilli powder adulterated with red brick powder at different proportions. It contains 12 classes consists of 0%, 5%, 10%, 15%, 20%, 25%, 30%, 35%, 40%, 45%, 50%, and 100% adulterant. We applied various image color space filters (RGB, HSV, Lab, and YCbCr). Also, extracted features using mean and histogram feature extraction techniques. We report the comparison of various classification and regression models to classify the adulteration class and to predict the percentage of adulteration in an image, respectively. We found that for classification, the Cat Boost classifier with HSV color space histogram features and for regression, the Extra Tree regressor with Lab color space histogram features have shown the best performance.

Keywords Food fraud · Machine learning · Computer vision · Image analysis · Food authentication

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Introduction

Food adulteration is an illegal practice of adding cheaper ingredients or fake substances to pure food products to increase their quantity, making them unhygienic to eat. It poses a signifcant health concern, and when consumed, it deprives necessary nutrition in the human body (Manasha and Janani [2016](#page-26-0)). Adulterated foods can cause various health issues ranging from mild to life-threatening, including allergic reactions, skin diseases, loss of vision, cancer, and heart diseases (Bansal et al. [2017](#page-20-0)). Sometimes, it shows immediate side effects in the human body, including vomiting, abdominal pain, and diarrhoea.

Individuals in the food supply chain perform adulteration intentionally to maximize profts. They reduce the food quality to increase its quantity. They put consumers' health in danger for personal economic gains. Adulterants are also used to expand the shelf life. Improper processing of these food items also leads to abdominal pain and food poisoning or other food infections, usually with fever (Nascimento et al. [2017\)](#page-26-1).

Food adulteration also results in economic losses to the countries as it leads to a decrement in consumer demand. It impacts consumer confidence. Food quality assurance efforts are signifcant to make consumers' trust intact. Food adulteration at the production level usually happens due to a lack of monitoring and testing measures (Bansal et al. [2017](#page-20-0)).

Red chilli powder is one of the key ingredients used for spicing up Indian cooking. It is rich in vitamins and minerals. It also comes in several varieties like Kashmiri Chilli powder, Guntur Chilli, ghost pepper, bird-eye Chilli, Byadagi Daggi Chilli, etc. (Jamaluddin et al. [2022](#page-25-0)). The variety of the Chilli powder depends on the type of Chilli used and the process followed for drying and grinding. As it is typically consumed in small amounts, it does not contribute much towards one's diet. Red chilli powder typically constitutes 88% water, 0.3% protein, 1.3% carbohydrates, 0.8% sugar, 0.2% fber, and 0.1% fat and has a Caloric value of 6 Cal. It contains vitamins like vitamin C, vitamin B_6 , vitamin K_1 , and vitamin A (Khan et al. [2019](#page-25-1)). It also contains minerals like potassium and copper. Consumption of red chilli powder has many benefts, such as providing pain relief, promoting weight loss, fighting inflammation, clearing congestion, boosting immunity, preventing stomach ulcers, boosting immunity, etc. (Ayob et al. [2021](#page-19-0); Mi et al. [2022](#page-26-2)). It is not uncommon to fnd Chilli powder adulterated with brick powder in Indian markets. Typically, people identify this kind of adulteration using visual cues like adulterated Chilli powder looks more orangish instead of the rich color of unadulterated Chilli powder.

Artifcial Intelligence enables computers to do tasks that earlier needs human interference. Computer vision is a feld of artifcial intelligence that allows computers to see, understand, and recognize digital content by processing images and videos

(Ma et al. [2016](#page-26-3)). Adulteration in food is detectable by training algorithms on the labelled dataset. Therefore, the need to create a genuine dataset in presence of a domain expert for mapping food images with various percentages/ratios of adulteration or purity is a must. Image Augmentation techniques are used to make the image classifcation-based computer vision model more robust and image pre-processing techniques to improve image quality (Subashini [2010\)](#page-27-0). Various flters including grayscale (Vincent [1993\)](#page-27-1), RGB (Li et al. [2016\)](#page-26-4), HSV (Sadhukhan et al. [2019](#page-26-5)), median smoothening (Vijaykumar et al. [2010](#page-27-2)), adaptive thresholding (Bao and Zhang [2003\)](#page-20-1), Canny edge detection (Sarkar et al. [2022](#page-27-3)), Sobel edge detection (Gao et al. [2010;](#page-22-0) Hussein et al. [2011\)](#page-24-0), and YCrCb (Lakhwani et al. [2015\)](#page-26-6) are used to enhance features in the images. Feature extraction techniques are also used to extract features from the training dataset consisting of images.

Machine learning algorithms enable computers to make informative decisions based on raw data. Deep learning (subset of machine learning) algorithms are able to learn complex features from unstructured data as they mimic the way the human brain works. Researchers have used neural networks containing one or more hidden layers consisting of neurons to extract and learn complex information. Deep learning (DL)-based image recognition methods are spread across various felds. DL is being used to recognize food objects in an image and to recognize possible food allergens in an image (Salim et al. [2021](#page-26-7)). DL also provide food recommendations to the user based on their past choices (content-based fltering for food recommendation) (Bianchini et al. [2016](#page-20-2)). DL is also being used in detecting food adulteration by mixing cheap ingredients in order to maximize the quantity (Goyal et al. [2022](#page-22-1)).

Machine learning is essential to detect food adulteration in an image captured using mobile phone or any other device (Goyal et al. [2022\)](#page-22-1). This will enable the detection of food adulteration even if it is not distinguishable by a human being. Deep learning-based food adulteration detection models are able to be deployed at a large scale as in this digital age major chunk of the population is having smartphones and access to an internet con-nection (Rateni et al. [2017](#page-26-8)). Deep learning models efficiently and precisely can detect food adulterants and their percentage using an image. Recent advances in adulteration detection using DL models for various foods ensures that this methodology is well tested and effective (Calle et al. [2022b](#page-20-3)).

The aim of this study is to detect the adulteration of red chilli powder; adulterated with red brick dust/powder. We have considered various machine learning algorithms for detecting the percentage of adulteration in red chilli powder.

Literature Review

Machine learning (ML) algorithms outperformed the earlier rule-based classical algorithms. ML enables systems to define rules on their own by recognizing hidden

patterns in data. In order to make ML model perform precisely and accurately, there is a need to provide the best suitable and as many features during training the model. Image processing is generally used to improve image quality and extract useful features from an image. Various filters including grayscale, RGB, HSV, median smoothening, adaptive thresholding, canny edge detection, Sobel edge detection, and YCrCb are used to enhance features in the images. Feature extraction using various methods including neural networks is also used to extract various features from the images.

Researchers have trained the Linear Discriminant Analysis (LDA) Classifer on 1080 greyscale images for detecting the quality of wheat seeds into 9 categories with an accuracy of 98.15% by extracting the features using various feature extraction matrices including local similarity numbers (LSN), local similarity patterns (LSP), gray level run length matrix (GLRM), gray level cooccurrence matrix (GLCM), and local binary patterns (LBP) (Pourreza et al. [2012\)](#page-26-9). Various image processing techniques have been applied to differentiate the quality of rice by using various flters including canny edge detection, adaptive thresholding, median smoothing, and grayscale (Pratibha et al. [2017\)](#page-26-10) (Table [1](#page-3-0)). Researchers have designed the automated mango grading system. They used the fuzzy rule-based algorithm by processing video images captured using a CCD camera including background elimination and contour detection using the Graph Contour tracking system. They have predicted the maturity using RFE-SVM and gradation with multi attributes decision method (MADM). They reported an average grading precision rate of 90% (Nandi [2014\)](#page-26-11). Scholars have applied image processing techniques via performing various morphological operations including dilation, erosion, and intensity of border to classify oranges based on maturity level (Carolina and David [2014\)](#page-21-0).

Researchers have trained PLS-DA and LDA models to detect the adulteration of mined beef with pork and viceversa using the dataset consisting of 18 diferent wavelengths of 220 meat samples spread across nine adulteration classes (Ropodi et al. [2015](#page-26-12)). They reported accuracy of 98.48%. Researchers have trained three variants of Partial Least Squares Regression (PLSR) including R-PLSR, A-PLSR, and KM-PLSR with the data retrieved by visible near infrared hyperspectral imaging. They reported an \mathbb{R}^2 score of 0.96 and RMSEP of 2.83% for R-PLSR; R^2 score of 0.97 and RMSEP of 2.61% for A-PLSR; and R^2 score of 0.96 and RMSEP of 3.05% For KM-PLSR (Kamruzzaman et al. [2016](#page-25-2)).

ANN classifier has been used to classify healthy (65% images) and unhealthy nuts (35% images) based on two different sets of features. First consists of 22 original features including 6 texture properties and 16 features extracted using gray level co-occurrence matrix (GLCM) at angles of 0, 45, 90, and 135. The second consists of a feature set obtained from the principal component analysis (PCA) algorithm. They split the dataset into 70:15:15 for training, validation and testing respectively. They reported an accuracy of 81.8% using the first set of features and 100% using the second set of features on the testing dataset (Khosa and Pasero [2014\)](#page-25-3).

Decision tree, random forest, SVM, K-nearest neighbor (KNN), and ANN classifiers have been used to detect white rice adulteration using the dataset containing 330 samples spread across 7 different ratios. They reported that SVM and random forest outperformed other classifiers and are more robust in distinguishing white rice and adulterated mixtures (Lim et al. [2017](#page-26-13)). Scholars have proposed the model based on ANN, PLSR, and PCR algorithms for recognizing milk adulteration using the dataset containing milk samples mixed with bromothymol blue. They used RGB values and luminosity as features (Kobek [2017\)](#page-26-14). MLP classifier has been considered to classify three varieties of rice, the dataset contains 222 images of each variety of rice, a total of 666 images. They used PCA for feature ranking and extracted 41 textural features and 17 morphological features from the images. They obtained the classification accuracy of 55.93 to 84.62% on the test dataset (Fayyazi et al. [2017\)](#page-21-1).

Researchers have applied a window local segmentation algorithm to detect the surface defects in oranges on the dataset comprised of 1191 grey level images of oranges (Rong et al. [2017\)](#page-26-15). Anami et al. [2019](#page-19-1) trained BPNN, SVM, and k-NN classifers to detect paddy adulteration into 7 diferent varieties and then classify it into 5 diferent adulteration levels (10%, 15%, 20%, 25%, and 30%). They extracted color features, GLCM features, and LBP features from RGB images. They also applied PCA and sequential forward foating selection (SFFS) algorithm for feature selection. They reported an accuracy of 41.31% using the BPNN classifer trained on extracted color features, the accuracy of 44.74% when trained on extracted GLCM features, and accuracy of 39.03% when trained on extracted LBP features. They also reported an accuracy of 35.80% using SVM classifer trained on extracted color features, accuracy of 37.00% when trained on extracted GLCM features, and accuracy of 35.00% when trained on extracted LBP features. They also reported an accuracy of 36.40% using k-NN classifer trained on extracted color features, accuracy of 34.40% when trained on extracted GLCM features, and accuracy of 34.71% when trained on extracted LBP features. They found signifcant improvement in performance after applying feature selection algorithms and using combined color-texture features. On Selected features using SFFS algorithm, they reported an accuracy of 91% using BPNN classifer, 86.91% using SVM classifer, and 82.14% using k-NN classifer. On Selected features using PCA algorithm, they reported an accuracy of 93.31% using BPNN classifer, 89.29% using SVM classifer, and 83.66% using k-NN classifer (Anami et al. [2019](#page-19-1)).

Materials and Methods

Sample preparation

Full grown red chilli of variety Bullet Lanka-5 (*Capsi cum annuum* L.) were collected from Kaliachak, Malda (24°86'N 88°01' E). The samples were rinsed with double distilled water, followed by Sun drying $(37 \pm 3 \degree C, \text{rela}$ tive humidity 75–81%, and for consecutive 3 days from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm). The fnal moisture content of the dried samples were 4–5% (dry weight basis) and ash con tent was 4.5%. The dried samples were grinded with mixer grinder (500 W, grinding jar capacity 0.5 L, hybrid motor) for 9 min (3 min per cycle, in total 3 cycles, 18,000 rpm). The fnal product was passed through a screen of 60 mesh, and the undersized powdered samples were considered as pure red chilli powder.

Burnt clay bricks (IS: 1077–1992) were procured from local market, and passed through jaw crusher, the crushed brick powder was passed through a screen of 60 mesh, and the undersized powdered materials were considered as adulterant.

The chilli powder sample was mixed thoroughly with the brick powder (5%, 10%, 15%, 20%, 25%, 30%, 35%, 40%, 45%, and 50%) to prepare a homogeneous mixture of adul terated samples.

Image Acquisition

In total, 12 sets of samples were prepared, 100% pure red chilli powder, 100% brick powder, and 10 sets of adulter ated samples (5–50%). A total of 20 equal sized cells were drawn on the white A4 paper sheet an white A4 paper sheet $(210 \text{ mm} \times 297 \text{ mm}, 80 \text{ gsm})$. The samples were spread over the paper in thin layer. Thus, 20 equal sized cells were there loaded with similar samples (Fig. [1](#page-8-0)). In total, $12 \times 20 = 240$ images were captured.

Each of the cells were captured separately with Realme 8 Pro (Android 11, Realme UI 2.0, Adreno 618, Octa-core, 108 MP, f/1.9, 26 mm (wide), 1/1.52", 0.7 µm, PDAF, 8 MP, f/2.3, 119˚, 16 mm (ultrawide), 1/4.0", 1.12 µm, 2 MP, f/2.4, (macro), 2 MP, f/2.4, (depth)) without fash. The perpendicu lar distance between each of the cells and the camera lens was 15 cm. The schematic diagram for image acquisition has been shown in Fig. [2](#page-8-1) .

Color Space Representation

The color space representation chosen to represent images matters, as it can make ignoring or emphasiz ing certain information easier. For example, in HSV

representation emphasizing color (Hue) is easy and it is also easy to ignore brightness (Value) information. In our study we have explored four different color space representations which are discussed below.

RGB Single RGB pixel consists of intensities of red, green, and blue components of light illuminating that spot in the image. These intensities can take values from 0 to 255. RGB is one of simplest and straight forward ways of representing an image digitally.

HSV Single HSV pixel consists of hue, saturation, and value (brightness) components of light illuminating that spot in the image. This representation is better at modelling the way humans perceive color when compared to RGB. Hue can take values from 0 to 360. Saturation and value can take values from 0 to 100. The formula for conversion from RGB to HSV is given below. The inverse formula can be used for converting the other way around.

$$
R' = \frac{R}{255} \tag{1}
$$

$$
G' = \frac{G}{255} \tag{2}
$$

$$
B' = \frac{B}{255} \tag{3}
$$

$$
C_{max} = \max(R', G', B') \tag{4}
$$

$$
C_{min} = \min(R', G', B') \tag{5}
$$

$$
\Delta = C_{max} - C_{min} \tag{6}
$$

Hue calculation:

$$
0^{0}\Delta = 0
$$

\n
$$
H = \frac{60^{0} \times \left(\frac{G'-B'}{\Delta} \mod 6\right), C_{max} = R'}{60^{0} \times \left(\frac{B'-R'}{\Delta} + 2\right), C_{max} = G'}
$$

\n
$$
60^{0} \times \left(\frac{R'-G'}{\Delta} + 4\right), C_{max} = B'
$$
\n(7)

Saturation calculation:

$$
S = \frac{0}{\frac{\Delta}{C_{max}}}, \frac{C_{max}}{C_{max}} \neq 0
$$
\n(8)

Value calculation:

$$
V = C_{max} \tag{9}
$$

Lab This color space representation represents lightness, and green–red and yellow-blue values of pixels. It is also referred to as L*a*b* color space. It is commonly used for detecting minor variations in color. The L component takes value from 0 to 100, a and b components value from -128 to 128. Conversion from RGB color space (IEC 61,966–2- 1:1999) to the CIE Lab colorspace is carried out using the D65 illuminant function and aperture angle of "2" for the observer (van der Walt [2014\)](#page-27-9).

YCrCb This color space represents an image using luma, blue-diference, and red-diference chroma components. This representation is perceptually uniform. The luma component varies from 0 to 1. The blue-diference and red-diference components vary from –0.5 to 0.5. The digital version of the below RGB to YCrCb is used in this study.

$$
Y' = 16 + (65.481 \times R' + 128.553 \times G' + 24.996 \times B')
$$
\n(10)

$$
C_B = 128 + (-37.797 \times R' - 74.203 \times G' + 112 \times B')
$$
\n(11)

$$
C_R = 128 + (112 \times R' - 93.786 \times G' - 18.214 \times B') \quad (12)
$$

Feature Extraction

Instead of using images directly we use feature extraction methods for speeding up training and inferencing, ease of model comprehension, improving stability of the model.

Color Histogram This feature extraction method is based on making histogram for each individual channel and concatenating the bin-count values of every channel. 256 was the number of bins picked for RGB, Lab, YCrCb color space images. 360 was the number of bins picked for HSV images. This representation only has color information and it ignores spatial information. This is suitable for our application as we want to be sensitive to the color of the Chilli powder while being insensitive to its geometric distribution.

Channel Mean Value This feature extraction method simply utilizes the mean channel intensities of the image. This is primarily used for providing comparison with color histogram features.

Classifcation Techniques

Classifcation is performed on the extracted features to determine the level of adulteration. The techniques used for classifcation are discussed below.

Fig. 1 Prepared samples spread in thin layer over 20 equal sized cells on an A4 white paper

Fig. 2 Schematic diagram for image acquisition with smartphone

Cat Boost Classifer Cat Boost (Dorogush et al. [2018\)](#page-21-3) classifer is a open-source gradient boosted tree-based classifer method by Yandex. It is highly scalable making it suitable for big data applications. It is also one of the best-known algorithms for performing classifcation on tabular data. This algorithm is implemented using the Cat Boost library. Cat Boost classifer name consist of two words which are "Category" and "Boosting". It works well with the various type of categorical data such as text, image, and audio. It uses ensemble-based learning technique named as Boosting to create an ensemble of well chosen strong and diverse models by combining all weak learners. It relies on the ordering principle and called target based with prior (TBS). It automatically converts categorical data into numerical data using various statistics on combination of categorical features and

combination of categorical and numerical features without using any explicit pre-processing technique. It uses oblivious decision trees, where the same splitting rule is used across all intermediate nodes within the same level of tree. It is a robust classifer as it is less prone to overftting. It also lowers the need for parameter tuning, providing great results using default parameters only. The Oblivious Decision Tree used by CatBoost Classifer has been shown in Fig. [3.](#page-9-0)

Random Forest Classifer Random forest (Breiman [2001\)](#page-20-7) classifer is a model based on an ensemble of decision trees. It uses bagging technique for creating the ensemble. In bagging technique, we have various base learners. Similarly, random forest consist of various decision trees as base learners. We pick some sample of rows (known as row sampling) and features (known as feature sampling) from the dataset various times with replacement to train various decision trees (known as base learners). Then, we use the majority vote on decision trees inference to calculate the prediction and accuracy of Radom Forest Algorithm. That's why, Random Forest Classifer shows low variance while Decision Trees shows high variance. An implementation by the scikit-learn (Pedregosa et al. [2011](#page-26-20)) library is used by us. The working of Random Forest Classifer has been shown in Fig. [4](#page-10-0).

Extra Trees Classifer Extra Trees classifer (Geurts et al. [2006](#page-22-2)) is a variant of the random forest classifer which also shows low variance. Unlike random forest it uses entire dataset instead of subsampling with replacement. It also sometimes uses random splits instead of always picking locally optimum splits like random forest classifier. An implementation of this algorithm is provided by the scikit-learn (Pedregosa et al. [2011](#page-26-20)) library.

Extreme Gradient Boosting Classifier Extreme gradient boosting (Chen and He [2017\)](#page-21-4) is a technique similar to gradient boosting classifer but it utilizes a second-order Taylor approximation making it behave more like Newton–Raphson method rather than gradient descent in function space. It splits the tree level wise (depth wise) (Fig. [5](#page-10-1)). There are various hyper parameters that can be optimized. XGBoost library is used for implementing this classifer.

Light Gradient Boosting Machine Classifer Light gradient boosting machine (Ke et al. [2017](#page-25-5)) classifer is fast, distributed, high performance gradient boosting-based model that uses gradient-based one side sampling and exclusive feature bundling for better performance. It splits the tree leaf wise (best first) (Fig. [6](#page-10-2)). Like XGBoost, there are various hyper parameters that can be optimized. It can lead to overftting which can be minimized by defning the depth for splitting. The LightGBM library is used for implementing this algorithm.

Fig. 3 The oblivious decision tree used by CatBoost classifer

Gradient Boosting Classifer Gradient boosting classifer (Friedman [2001;](#page-22-3) Hastie et al. [2009\)](#page-23-3) algorithm is similar to Ada Boost Classifer with the main diference being this algorithm has a fxed base estimator. It also has a diferentiable loss function and training is done by utilizing the technique of gradient boosting. In Gradient boosting algorithm, suppose we have some function Y(β0, β1). We want to minimize this function by starting with some β0, β1 and keep changing β0, β1 to reduce $Y(β0, β1)$ until we hopefully end up at a minimum.

Repeat until convergence

$$
\beta j := \beta j - \alpha \frac{\partial}{\partial \beta_j} Y(\beta 0, \beta 1) \text{for } j = 0 \text{and } j = 1 \tag{13}
$$

The implementation by scikit-learn library is used (Pedregosa et al. [2011](#page-26-20)).

K Nearest Neighbors Classifer K nearest neighbors (KNN) (Fix and Hodges [1989](#page-22-4)) classifer is a lazy learner that picks the nearest k points and predicts the modal class of the k points. Diferent spatial metrics can be used for picking nearest points (Fig. [7\)](#page-11-0). An implementation of KNN by scikitlearn library is used in this study.

This method may utilize any distance metric like Euclidean distance, Manhattan distance, Minkowski distance, etc. Distance between vectors x_i and y_i in a n-dimensional vector space is given for the above-mentioned metrics below,

$$
D_{Euclidean}(x, y) = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^{n} (x_i - y_i)^2}
$$
 (14)

$$
D_{\text{Manhatian}}(x, y) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} |x_i - y_i| \tag{15}
$$

$$
D_{Minkowski}(x, y) = \left(\sum_{i=1}^{n} \left| x_i^p - y_i^p \right| \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} \text{for some real } p \ge 1
$$
\n(16)

Ridge Classifer Ridge classifer (McDonald [2009](#page-26-21)) method converts output to range -1 to 1 and solves it as a ridge regression problem. One versus all approach is used for multi-class classifcation.

This model converts class 0 into value of -1 and keeps class 1 values unmodifed. Then it applies Ridge regression to model the data (Fig. [8\)](#page-11-1). Then it predicts class 1 for given input if the value of Ridge regression output is greater than 0, otherwise it predicts class 0. Typically, the parameters are optimized either analytically using a formula or estimated using methods based on gradient descent or Newton– Raphson method. Ridge classifer is realized by utilizing the scikit-learn library (Pedregosa et al. [2011](#page-26-20)).

Support Vector Machine Classifer Support vector machine (SVM) classifer uses support vector machine and kernel trick for performing classifcation (Platt [2000](#page-26-22)). One versus rest technique is utilized for multi-classifcation. SVM implementation by scikit-learn is utilized in this study.

This technique utilizes a support vector *w* to describe a hyperplane that nearly separates the two classes (Fig. [9](#page-12-0)), in such a way that the margin between the two classes is large. The support vector is learned by minimizing the following cost function *l*,

$$
l = \lambda \parallel w \parallel + \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \max(0, 1 - y_i(w^T x_i - b))
$$
 (17)

Here, λ is a hyperparameter that determines the trade-off between the size of the margin and the classifcation accuracy. *b* is some real constant, *n* denotes number of inputs, *xi* denotes *i*th input and *yi* denotes *i*th output. The loss function is typically minimized using L-BFGS technique.

Ada Boost Classifer Ada Boost (Freund and Schapire [1997](#page-22-5); Zhu et al. [2006\)](#page-27-10) uses a technique called adaptive boosting for ensembling several decision stumps (weak-learners) into one strong learner. A decision tree with one depth is known as a decision stump. In boosting techniques, there are various sequential base learners, where incorrectly classifed records by frst base learner will pass to the next base learner,

incorrectly classifed records by second base learner will pass to the next base learner and so on. In Ada Boost algorithm (Fig. [10](#page-12-1)), all the base learners are decision trees and weights will decide the sequence of base learners. We calculate either entropy or Gini index of all decision stumps (for each feature) to calculate the updated weights and normalized weights to decide the sequence of all base learners. An implementation by scikit-learn library is utilized (Pedregosa et al. [2011\)](#page-26-20).

Logistic Regression Logistic regression (Kleinbaum and Klein [2002](#page-25-6)) performs binary classifcation using the logistic function applied on a linear regression model to get probabilities (Fig. [11\)](#page-12-2). One versus rest approach is used for

multi-class classifcation. This technique is utilized by us with the help of scikit-learn library (Pedregosa et al. [2011](#page-26-20)).

This technique models the log odds of binary classifcation as a linear combination of the inputs. The probability of true class $p(x)$ associated with input *x* is computed as follows where β_0 and β_1 are trainable parameters,

$$
p(x) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-(\beta_0 + \beta_1 x)}}\tag{18}
$$

The log loss function *l* is used for optimization and parameter estimation. Here, p_k denotes the true class

Regression

$$
l = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} (y_k \ln(p_k) + (1 - y_k) \ln(1 - p_k))
$$
\n(19)

Fig. 7 K nearest neighbors classifier (KNN) **Fig. 8** Ridge classifier

The parameters are usually solved by direct formula or gradient descent-based techniques.

Dummy Classifer This classifcation technique predicts the modal class and is used as a baseline. An implementation by scikit-learn with the 'prior' strategy is utilized by us.

Quadratic Discriminant Analysis (Quadratic Classifer) Quadratic discriminant analysis (Tharwat [2016](#page-27-11)) is a generalization of linear discriminant analysis. This technique is implemented using sckit-learn library in this study. Unlike linear discriminant analysis, this technique does not make the assumption that measurements of each class are identically distributed. This technique utilizes quadratic decision surfaces for performing classifcation (Fig. [12\)](#page-13-0). This technique works for binary classifcation. It can be used for multi-class classifcation using one vs rest technique. This technique works by computing the likelihood ratio and comparing it against some threshold value *t*; based on the comparison the prediction is made. Let μ_0 and μ_1 be the means associated with both classes and Σ_0 and Σ_1 be the covariance matrices associated with both the classes. Then the likelihood ratio *lr* is computed as follows,

$$
l_r = \frac{\sqrt{2\pi |\Sigma_1|^{-1} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}(x-\mu_1)^T \Sigma_1^{-1}(x-\mu_1)\right)}}{\sqrt{2\pi |\Sigma_0|^{-1} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}(x-\mu_0)^T \Sigma_0^{-1}(x-\mu_0)\right)}}
$$
(20)

Classifcation Performance Evaluation

Diferent classifers are trained on 70% of the total data using threefold cross-validation. Then the classifers are evaluated on the remaining 30% test data and metrics like accuracy, precision, recall, *F*1 score, Cohen's kappa (*κ*), Matthew's correlation coefficient (MCC), and ROC-AUC score (receiver operator characteristic curve – area under the curve score) are computed.

The above-mentioned metrics are computed using the formulas presented below, where TP denotes the number of true positive predictions, TN is the number of true negative predictions, FN is the number false negative predictions (i.e., type II error), FP is the number false positive predictions (i.e., type I error), P is the total number of positive tuples, and N is the total number of negative tuples. As we are dealing with multiclass classifcation one vs rest technique is utilized, i.e., the one particular class is treated as positive class and remaining classes are treated as negative class. This is done considering every class as a positive class and the fnal metrics are computed by averaging over metrics computed by treating one class as positive class or by a natural generalization.

$$
Accuracy = \frac{TP + TN}{TP + TN + FN + FP} = \frac{TP + TN}{P + N}
$$
\n(21)

$$
Precision = \frac{TP}{TP + FP}
$$
 (22)

Fig. 9 Support vector machine (SVM) classifer

recall and FPR is defned below. The area under this curve is the AUC score.

$$
FPR = \frac{FP}{N} = \frac{FP}{FP + TN} \tag{27}
$$

Regression Techniques

Different regression models are trained to predict the percentage of chilli powder present in the given observation. Once again, instead of using the image directly the extracted features from the image are used for this purpose.

Ada Boost Regressor Ada boost regressor (Drucker [1997\)](#page-21-5) uses a technique called adaptive boosting for ensembling several decision stumps (weak-learners) into one strong

$$
F_1 \text{Score} = \frac{2TP}{2TP + FP + FN} \tag{24}
$$

$$
\kappa = \frac{2 \times (TP \times TN - FN \times FP)}{(TP + FP) \times (FP + TN) + (TP + FN) \times (FN + TN)}
$$
\n(25)
\n
$$
MCC = \frac{TP \times TN - FP \times FN}{\sqrt{(TP + FP)(TP + FN)(TN + FP)(TN + FN)}}
$$
\n(26)

The ROC curve plots the false positive rate (FPR) against the true positive rate (TPR) as the classifcation threshold is varied, where true positive rate is the same as

Fig. 11 Logistic regression classifer

Fig. 12 Quadratic discriminant analysis (quadratic classifer)

learner. A decision tree with one depth is known as a decision stump. It uses ensemble-based learning technique named as Boosting to create an ensemble of well chosen strong and diverse models by combining all weak learners. An implementation by scikit-learn library is utilized (Pedregosa et al. [2011\)](#page-26-20).

Gradient Boosting Regressor Gradient boosting regression algorithm (Friedman [2001\)](#page-22-3) starts by making a single leaf, instead of a tree or stump. This leaf represents an initial guess for the target feature values of all of the sample. When we predict a continuous value, the frst guess is the average value. Then, Gradient Boosting algorithm builds a tree. Like AdaBoost, this tree is based on the errors made by the previous tree. But unlike Adaboost, this tree is usually larger than a stump. Gradient Boost still restricts the size of the tree. Thus, like AdaBoost, gradient boost builds fxed sized trees based on the previous tree's errors. Also, it scales all trees by the same amount. An implementation by scikit-learn library is utilized (Pedregosa et al. [2011](#page-26-20)).

Light Gradient Boosting Machine Regressor This is an enhancement of the gradient boosting regressor algorithm. LightGBM Regressor is fast, distributed, high performance gradient boosting-based model that uses gradient-based one side sampling and exclusive feature bundling for better performance (Ke et al. [2017](#page-25-5)). It splits the tree leaf wise (best first) (Fig. [6](#page-10-2)). Like XGBoost, there are various hyper parameters that can be optimized. It can lead to overfitting which can be minimized by defining the depth for splitting. The LightGBM library is used for implementing this algorithm.

Extreme Gradient Boosting Regressor Extreme gradient boosting (Chen and He [2017](#page-21-4)) is a technique similar to gradient boosting regression algorithm but it utilizes a second-order

Taylor approximation making it behave more like Newton– Raphson method rather than gradient descent in function space. It splits the tree level wise (depth wise) (Fig. [5](#page-10-1)). There are various hyper parameters that can be optimized. XGBoost library is used for implementing this classifer.

Random Forest Regressor Random forest regressor (Breiman [2001](#page-20-7)) is a model based on an ensemble of decision trees. It uses bagging technique for creating the ensemble. In bagging technique, we have various base learners. Similarly, random forest consists of various decision trees as base learners. We pick some sample of rows (known as row sampling) and features (known as feature sampling) from the dataset various times with replacement to train various decision trees (known as base learners). Then, we use the majority vote on decision trees inference to calculate the prediction and accuracy of radom forest algorithm. An implementation by the scikitlearn (Pedregosa et al. [2011](#page-26-20)) library is used by us. The working of random forest regressor has been shown in Fig. [4](#page-10-0).

Extra Trees Regressor Extra Trees regressor (Geurts et al. [2006](#page-22-2)) is a variant of the random forest regressor which also shows low variance. Unlike random forest it uses entire dataset instead of subsampling with replacement. It also sometimes uses random splits instead of always picking locally optimum splits like random forest regressor. An implementation of this algorithm is provided by the scikit-learn (Pedregosa et al. [2011](#page-26-20)) library.

Cat Boost Regressor Cat boost regressor (Dorogush et al. [2017](#page-21-6)) is a a open-source gradient boosted regression method by Yandex. It is highly scalable making it suitable for big data applications. It is also one of the bestknown algorithms for performing regression on tabular data. This algorithm is implemented using the Cat Boost library. Cat Boost regressor name consist of two words which are "Category" and "Boosting." It works well with the various type of categorical data such as text, image, and audio. It uses ensemble-based learning technique named as Boosting to create an ensemble of well chosen strong and diverse models by combining all weak learners. It automatically converts categorical data into numerical data using various statistics on combination of categorical and numerical features without using any explicit pre-processing technique.

K Nearest Neighbors Regressor This technique utilizes a lazy regressor that predicts the mean (or weighted mean in weighted nearest neighbors) of the k nearest neighbors (Song et al. [2017\)](#page-27-12). It has higher prediction power as compare to linear regression as it takes care of the non-linearity. Implementation from scikit-learn of the KNN regressor algorithm is used in this study.

Linear Regressor This regression technique works by ftting a line of best ft to the data. It uses the mean squared error function as the loss function (Schneider et al. [2010](#page-27-13)). The mean squared error loss (L) is defned as follows,

$$
L = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i}^{N} \left(y_i - \hat{y} \right)^2 \tag{28}
$$

where N is the total number of training points, y_i and \hat{y}_i are the actual output and the estimated output.

Huber Regressor This regressor is similar to a linear regressor however it uses Huber loss instead of standard loss of mean squared error making it more robust when dealing with outliers (Huber and Ronchetti [2009](#page-24-2)). Scikit-learn-based implementation is used in this study. The Huber loss function on residual a with parameter δ is defined as follows:

$$
L_{\delta}(a) = \left\{ \frac{a^2}{2} \text{for } |a| \le \delta, \delta \times \left(|a| - \frac{\delta}{2} \right) \text{otherwise.} \right\} \tag{29}
$$

Bayesian Ridge Regressor This technique adds to the basic linear regressor model an additional L2-regularization term in the loss function (MacKay [1992](#page-26-23)). It also uses Bayesian techniques for determining priors and hyperparameter selection. Scikit-learn-based Bayesian ridge regression implementation is used in this study. L2-regularization term is mathematically defned as follows,

$$
L_2 = \sum_{i}^{N} w_i^2 \tag{30}
$$

where w_i denotes the weight of the ith input parameter out of N total input parameters.

Lasso Regressor This technique adds an L1-regularization term to the loss function of basic linear regression (Ranstam and Cook [2018](#page-26-24)). This gives it the capability making the contributions of certain terms zero. Scikit-learn-based Lasso regression implementation is used in this study. The L1-regularization term is defned similarly to the L2-regularization term as follows,

$$
L_1 = \sum_{i}^{N} |w_i| \tag{31}
$$

Elastic Net Regressor This technique utilizes both L1 and L2 regularization with the basic linear regression model (Hans [2012](#page-23-4)). This gives it capabilities of Lasso and Ridge regression to some degree. Scikit-learn-based elastic net regression is used in this study.

Lasso Least Angle Regressor This technique utilizes the least angle regressor algorithm in lasso mode (Januaviani et al. [2019](#page-25-7)). This provides some guarantees on convergence and is usually preferred over least angle regressor. Scikit-learn-based Lasso least angle regressor is used in this study.

Least Angle Regressor Least angle regressor (LAR) algorithm is a forward-stepwise algorithm for regression related to Lasso regression (Efron et al. [2004\)](#page-21-7). This algorithm works stagewise and does not provide any guarantees on convergence. Scikit-learn-based least angle regressor is used in this study.

Dummy Regressor This regressor predicts the arithmetic mean of the target class. This technique is used only as a baseline.

Regression Performance Evaluation

Diferent regressors are trained on 70% of the total data using threefold cross-validation. Then the regressors are evaluated on the remaining 30% test data and metrics like MAE (mean absolute error), MAPE (mean absolute percentage error), MSE (mean squared Error), R^2 score (Pearson correlation coefficient *R* squared), RMSE (root mean squared error), and RMSLE (root mean squared logarithmic error) are computed.

The above-mentioned metrics are defned below, where N is the number of predictions, \bar{y} is the mean of actual values, y_i is the ith actual value and \hat{y} is the *i*th predicted value.

$$
MAE = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} |y_i - \hat{y}| MAE = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} |y_i - \hat{y}|
$$
(32)

$$
MSE = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} |y_i - \hat{y}|^2 MSE = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} |y_i - \hat{y}|^2
$$
(33)

$$
RMSE = \sqrt{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} |y_i - \hat{y}|^2} RMSE = \sqrt{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} |y_i - \hat{y}|^2}
$$
(34)

$$
R^{2} = 1 - \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{N} (y_{i} - \hat{y})^{2}}{\sum_{i=1}^{N} (y_{i} - \bar{y})^{2}}
$$
(35)

$$
MAPE = \frac{100\%}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \left| \frac{y_i - \hat{y}}{y_i} \right| \tag{36}
$$

$$
RMSLE = \sqrt{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \left(\log(\hat{y} + 1) - \log(y_i + 1) \right)^2}
$$
(37)

Model Development Process

To create the machine learning-based models, frst we created the dataset by capturing the high-quality Images of red chilli powder adulteration with red brick powder at diferent proportions. We constructed 12 classes consist of 0%, 5%, 10%, 15%, 20%, 25%, 30%, 35%, 40%, 45%, 50%, and 100% adulterant. The dataset contains 240 images (20 images per class) spread across 12 classes. We split each $4 \times$ zoom image into 4 segments and applied various image color space flters (RGB, HSV, Lab, and YCbCr). Then, extracted features using mean and histogram feature extraction techniques. We used various classifcation models to classify the adulteration percentage class. We trained Extra Trees Classifer, CatBoost Classifer, Random Forest Classifer, Light Gradient Boosting Machine, Gradient Boosting Classifer, K Neighbors Classifer, Naive Bayes, Decision Tree Classifer, Ridge Classifer, SVM—Linear Kernel, Linear Discriminant Analysis, Logistic Regression, Ada Boost Classifer, Quadratic Discriminant Analysis, Dummy Classifer, and Extreme Gradient Boosting Classifer. Then, we evaluated all the classifcation models by computing various classifcation model performance metrics.

We also used regression models to predict the percentage of adulteration in an image. We trained extra trees regressor, K neighbors regressor, CatBoost regressor, random forest regressor, gradient boosting regressor, extreme gradient boosting, light gradient boosting machine, AdaBoost regressor, least angle regression, Bayesian ridge, ridge regression, linear regression, lasso regression, elastic net, Huber regressor, decision tree regressor, orthogonal matching pursuit, Lasso least angle regression, dummy regressor, and passive aggressive regressor to determine the percentage of red brick powder adulteration in red chilli powder using an image. Then, we evaluated all the regression models by computing various regression model performance metrics. We used various python libraries for implementing these machine learning models including scikit-learn, pandas, NumPy, scikitimage, XGBoost, LGBMBoost, CatBoost, and PyCaret. We used GoogleColab to train all the machine learning models. Also, threefold cross-validation was used during training process for the model to generalize better and prevent overftting. The results of this process are presented and discussed in the following section. The work fow adopted to detect adulterated chilli powder and quantifcation of adulteration has been shown in Fig. [13.](#page-16-0) We have modeled our dataset for performing adulteration quantifcation. The link to the dataset for adulterated red chilli powder with brick powder is<https://doi.org/10.17632/cpm7y44746.1>. The code which was used for performing adulteration quantifcation is available at [https://github.com/arun5309/chilli_adulterati](https://github.com/arun5309/chilli_adulteration_quantification) [on_quantifcation.](https://github.com/arun5309/chilli_adulteration_quantification)

Result and Discussion

The overall experimental results indicate that the combination of color space, feature extraction and prediction techniques adopted in this study yield good results and they do not take too much time to train or make predictions. The experimental results are discussed in detail in the remaining part of this section.

From the outcomes of the experiments carried out summarized in Tables [2–](#page-17-0)[17](#page-25-8) one can see that histogram feature extraction technique consistently outperformed mean feature extraction techniques in majority of cases. With approximately a difference of 0.08–0.3 in term of \mathbb{R}^2 score for regression and by around 30% diference in classifcation accuracy. Also, regression techniques yield better and more useful prediction than classifcation techniques. This being due to classifcation techniques treating all classes representing adulteration ratio as independent and unrelated, in contrast to regression treating it on a spectrum. This is why classifcation models have a prediction accuracy around 90% and regression models can explain about 98% of the variance as inferred from the R^2 score.

To predict the percentage of adulteration, we found that Extra Tree regressor was best performing with an R^2 score of 0.9812 and 0.9837 for YCbCr and Lab color spaces histogram features respectively. The YCbCr and Lab color spaces have similar performance characteristics in case of regression for histogram features, with around $0.98 \, R^2$ score as seen from Tables [11](#page-22-6) and Table [13.](#page-23-5) The HSV and RGB color spaces perform slightly worse in regression when using histogram feature extraction technique. Around, 0.97 and 0.96 R^2 respectively as seen from Tables [15](#page-24-3) and Table [17.](#page-25-8) Performance of RGB and YCbCr color space is somewhat worse than Lab for channel mean value-based features. With $R²$ scores of 0.87, 0.86, and 0.9 respectively as seen from Tables [16](#page-24-4), [10](#page-21-8), and [12.](#page-22-7) However, HSV perform signifcantly worse than other color spaces for regression using channel mean value features. With an R^2 of 0.61 as seen in [Table 14](#page-23-6) $R²$ score of regression methods with different color spaces for grading chilli powder images is reported in Fig. [14](#page-25-9).

To classify the adulteration class, we found that Cat Boost classifer was best performing with an Accuracy of 0.9049 and 0.908 for YCbCr and HSV color spaces histogram features respectively. Also, YCbCr and Lab have similar performance characteristics. With a classifcation accuracy score of around 60% for channel mean value features and 90% score for histogram-based features as seen from Tables [2,](#page-17-0) [3,](#page-18-0) [4](#page-18-1), and [5](#page-19-4). HSV has similar performance Charteristics to YCbCr and Lab when it comes to histogram features (accuracy score of around 90%) but it performs signifcantly worse when it comes to channel mean value features (accuracy score of 44%) as seen from Table [6](#page-19-5) and Table [7](#page-20-8). RGB performs somewhat worse than other color spaces when histogram features (around 87% classifcation accuracy from Table [8](#page-20-9)) are used but surprisingly outperforms YCbCr and Lab color spaces by a small margin (approximately 63% classifcation accuracy from Table [9](#page-21-9)) when channel mean value features are used. Classifcation accuracy of classifers with diferent color spaces for grading chilli powder images is reported in Fig. [15.](#page-25-10) Figure [16](#page-26-25) shows the confusion matrix related to the image grading of red chilli powder adulteration with red brick powder. Most of the images are predicted correctly by the classifer, and a few images were misclassifed, with a difference of 5% adulteration in actual and predicted classes.

One can infer from Tables [10](#page-21-8), [11](#page-22-6), [12](#page-22-7), [13,](#page-23-5) [14,](#page-23-6) [15,](#page-24-3) [16,](#page-24-4) and [17](#page-25-8) the tree-based algorithms and KNN are the regressors with the best performance across color space and feature extraction methods. There are only minor variations in their performance characteristics and achieving best scores on all the regression experiments. Other regressors perform somewhat or signifcantly worse than the regressors mentioned previously.

Once again, the tree-based algorithms perform well in classifcation algorithms as seen from Tables [2](#page-17-0) to Table [9.](#page-21-9) With Ada boost being a notable exception, which performs slightly worse than SVM. These results aren't surprising as these algorithms have great success when dealing with tabular data. KNN, SVM, logistic regression and naive Bayes algorithms lag slightly behind the tree-based algorithms in terms of performance. Quadratic and linear discriminant analysis classifers had a good success when it came to classifcation based on channel mean value-based features often outperforming the classifers (including tree-based ones) mentioned earlier.

Most of these algorithms are fast to train and can be trained in a few seconds on datasets of this size and hardware confguration used in this study as seen from Tables [2](#page-17-0)[–17.](#page-25-8) This indicates that these algorithms can be deployed on low-end devices in real-time scenarios and these would still yield decent results. However, CatBoost, LightGBM, and gradient boosted trees took much longer to train than other algorithms. These anomalies can be explained by stating that these three algorithms do not utilize hardware acceleration (which they were designed to take advantage of) in our benchmarks rather than having inefficiencies in the design of these algorithms.

The methods employed in this study perform nearly as well as other methods employed in the literature (Jahanbakhshi et al. [2021b\)](#page-24-5), while consuming little computational resources for both training and inferencing. This show cases the practicality and utility of the methods employed in this study especially in situations with low computational resources and lack of advanced scientifc equipment. For example, performing adulteration quantifcation of chilli powder using a low end smartphone.

Tree-based techniques outperformed most other techniques in both regression and classifcation. KNN closely followed the tree-based techniques in terms of performance in both regression and classifcation. SVM, logistic

Fig. 13 The work fow adopted to detect adulterated chilli powder and quantifcation of adulteration

regression, naive Bayes classifer, and linear and quadratic discriminant analysis had good performance in case of classifcation, although discriminant analysis-based methods were only successful when using channel mean valuebased features for classifcation.

We also saw that regression-based techniques were more successful than classifcation-based techniques for solving this problem. The reason being strictly grouping percentage of classifcation into bins isn't a very good idea in practice and for this particular application small amounts of errors are acceptable in practice. This is clear when we compare Tables [10](#page-21-8)[–17](#page-25-8) with Tables [2–](#page-17-0)[9](#page-21-9).

The Lab and YCbCr color spaces had a good performance overall and produced stable results. The RGB color space had moderate performance and stability although it produced a few surprisingly good results. The HSV had performance comparable to that of Lab and YCbCr but it was the most unstable among the four color spaces and had a few performance

Model	Accuracy	AUC	Recall	Prec	F1	Kappa	MCC	TT (Sec)
Quadratic discriminant analysis	0.6043	0.9389	0.5994	0.5981	0.5927	0.568	0.5697	0.03
Linear discriminant analysis	0.5859	0.9252	0.5733	0.5841	0.5726	0.5472	0.5495	0.0233
Extra trees classifier	0.5583	0.8966	0.5531	0.5535	0.5484	0.5177	0.5191	0.6067
CatBoost classifier	0.5445	0.9197	0.539	0.5401	0.5345	0.5027	0.5043	9.3333
Logistic regression	0.5414	0.9101	0.5303	0.5666	0.5289	0.4986	0.5014	1.71
Random forest classifier	0.5276	0.8985	0.5223	0.5156	0.5131	0.4842	0.4858	0.6467
Light gradient boosting machine	0.5138	0.8887	0.5077	0.525	0.5118	0.4691	0.4703	0.6467
K neighbors classifier	0.4985	0.8613	0.4933	0.5007	0.4875	0.4524	0.4546	0.1667
Extreme gradient boosting	0.4985	0.8825	0.4921	0.4996	0.4816	0.4515	0.4529	0.7621
Decision TREE CLASSIFIER	0.4969	0.7257	0.4921	0.4963	0.4933	0.4509	0.4517	0.0267
Gradient boosting classifier	0.4801	0.8825	0.4708	0.4786	0.4756	0.4321	0.433	1.3933
Naive Bayes	0.3712	0.814	0.3688	0.3713	0.3276	0.314	0.3216	0.0233
Ridge classifier	0.3205	0.0	0.3068	0.1739	0.2029	0.2555	0.2748	0.0267
Ada Boost classifier	0.2117	0.6577	0.204	0.1827	0.1415	0.1366	0.1689	0.1333
SVM—linear kernel	0.1596	0.0	0.157	0.1313	0.0738	0.0822	0.1103	0.0833
Dummy classifier	0.0874	0.5	0.0833	0.0076	0.0141	0.0	0.0	0.02

Table 2 Evaluation of classifers in terms of accuracy, AUC score, recall, precision, F1 score, Kappa, MCC, and TT (Sec) with YCbCr mean features in the testing phase

dips. This clearly highlights that the choice of color space is extremely important when performing analysis on chilli powder. As the distinction between chilli powder and brick powder is made primarily based on color.

Overall, from the results of extensive experimentation carried out in this study one can infer that histogram-based feature technique outperforms channel mean value-based feature extraction, YCbCr and Lab color spaces outperform HSV and RGB, tree-based algorithms have best performance characteristics across the board and training time isn't a signifcant factor for datasets of this size with modern computational resources. It is also clear that regression techniques are more suitable than classifcation for quantifying amount of adulteration in red chilli powder. It is clear from these results that the approach taken in this study is a promising one for adulteration quantifcation. However, further research is needed to extend this result into adulteration quantifcation problems on other foods.

Conclusion

Many models and features extraction techniques have been compared and it is clear that these techniques can be used for efficiently in the detecting and quantifying the percentage of brick powder present in given chilli powder sample. Utilizing feature extraction techniques instead of utilizing the entire image makes our method suitable for large-scale and mobile application. The use of simple statistical machine learning algorithms instead of deep learning algorithms makes the model size smaller as well. In this study many image

processing and ML techniques were employed and compared for performing adulteration quantifcation of chilli powder. To classify the adulteration class, we found that Cat Boost classifer was best performing with an accuracy of 0.9049 and 0.908 for YCbCr and HSV color spaces histogram features respectively. To predict the percentage of adulteration, we found that Extra Tree regressor was best performing with an R^2 score of 0.9812 and 0.9837 for YCbCr and Lab color spaces histogram features respectively. The results achieved were comparable to that of other results found in the literature employing DL (deep learning) methods. Evidencing that the methodology adopted in this study is viable, efficient, and especially suited for use in low resource and mobile environments. In the future a mobile application can be made for utilizing this technology in a more accessible manner.

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Table 3 Evaluation of classifers in terms of accuracy, AUC score, recall, precision, F1 score, kappa, MCC, and TT (Sec) with YCbCr histogram features in the testing phase

Model	Accuracy	AUC	Recall	Prec	F1	Kappa	MCC	TT (Sec)
Extra trees classifier	0.9049	0.9933	0.9031	0.9106	0.904	0.8962	0.8968	0.6567
CatBoost classifier	0.9049	0.9943	0.9034	0.9106	0.9044	0.8962	0.8967	613.72
Random forest classifier	0.8957	0.9912	0.8939	0.9006	0.895	0.8861	0.8866	0.8633
Light gradient boosting machine	0.8681	0.9904	0.8662	0.8764	0.8675	0.856	0.8569	8.1033
Extreme gradient boosting	0.8481	0.988	0.8347	0.8576	0.8465	0.8378	0.8321	10.2476
Gradient boosting classifier	0.8237	0.982	0.8219	0.8327	0.8235	0.8075	0.8083	36.3733
K neighbors classifier	0.822	0.9742	0.8193	0.8288	0.8194	0.8057	0.8068	0.2967
Naive Bayes	0.7638	0.9593	0.7643	0.7725	0.7627	0.7422	0.7433	0.07
Decision tree classifier	0.7424	0.8595	0.741	0.7538	0.7406	0.7188	0.72	0.16
Ridge classifier	0.5429	0.0	0.5249	0.6535	0.4903	0.4993	0.5151	0.0467
SVM—linear kernel	0.4998	0.0	0.4972	0.4815	0.4262	0.454	0.4868	0.23
Linear discriminant analysis	0.4478	0.8165	0.4438	0.4594	0.4463	0.3974	0.3989	0.21
Logistic regression	0.4295	0.9165	0.4012	0.3889	0.3296	0.3729	0.4044	1.31
Ada Boost classifier	0.293	0.708	0.2768	0.2331	0.2246	0.2216	0.319	0.85
Quadratic discriminant analysis	0.2807	0.6071	0.2751	0.2804	0.2648	0.2139	0.2173	0.13
Dummy classifier	0.092	0.5	0.0833	0.0085	0.0155	0.0	0.0	0.0733

Table 4 Evaluation of classifers in terms of accuracy, AUC score, recall, precision, F1 score, kappa, MCC, and TT (Sec) with Lab mean features in the testing phase

Data Availability All the data used in the manuscript are available in the tables and fgures.

Code Availability Not applicable.

Declarations

Competing interests The authors declare no competing interests.

Ethics Approval Not applicable.

Consent to Participate All authors has given their full consent to participate.

Consent for Publication All authors has given their full consent for publication.

Conflict of Interest Tanmay Sarkar declares that she has no confict of interest. Tanupriya Choudhury declares that she has no confict of interest. Nikunj Bansal declares that he has no confict of interest. VR Arunachalaeshwaran declares that she has no confict of interest. Mars Khayrullin declares that she has no confict of interest. Mohammad

Model	Accuracy	AUC	Recall	Prec	F1	Kappa	MCC	TT (Sec)
Extra trees classifier	0.9003	0.9942	0.9	0.9054	0.8979	0.8912	0.8921	0.68
CatBoost classifier	0.8988	0.9954	0.8986	0.9044	0.8961	0.8895	0.8905	398.6767
Light gradient boosting machine	0.888	0.9922	0.8877	0.8985	0.8886	0.8778	0.8786	5.5433
Extreme gradient boosting	0.8823	0.9878	0.8812	0.8976	0.8815	0.8739	0.8734	6.9874
Random forest classifier	0.8757	0.9924	0.8747	0.879	0.8733	0.8644	0.8652	0.7867
Gradient boosting classifier	0.8435	0.9843	0.8426	0.8656	0.8459	0.8293	0.8308	25.63
K neighbors classifier	0.8206	0.9697	0.8193	0.8299	0.8185	0.8042	0.8053	0.2967
Linear discriminant analysis	0.8052	0.9762	0.8049	0.8171	0.8016	0.7874	0.7892	0.2167
Naive Bayes	0.7485	0.9598	0.7475	0.7678	0.7455	0.7255	0.7275	0.0967
Decision tree classifier	0.7347	0.8554	0.7337	0.7441	0.7338	0.7105	0.7116	0.1233
Ridge classifier	0.6227	0.0	0.6128	0.6524	0.5881	0.5877	0.5953	0.0867
Logistic regression	0.5645	0.9253	0.5516	0.6	0.5091	0.5235	0.539	1.22
SVM-linear kernel	0.4752	0.0	0.4706	0.5496	0.4396	0.428	0.4726	0.2333
Ada boost classifier	0.2745	0.7175	0.2645	0.2259	0.2011	0.206	0.2911	0.7067
Quadratic discriminant analysis	0.2699	0.6019	0.2682	0.2932	0.2667	0.2036	0.2063	0.1233
Dummy classifier	0.0874	0.5	0.0833	0.0076	0.0141	0.0	0.0	0.07

Table 5 Evaluation of classifers in terms of accuracy, AUC score, recall, precision, F1 score, kappa, MCC, and TT (Sec) with Lab histogram features in the testing phase

Table 6 Evaluation of classifers in terms of accuracy, AUC score, recall, precision, F1 score, kappa, MCC, and TT (Sec) with HSV mean features in the testing phase

Ali Shariati declares that he has no confict of interest. Jose Manuel Lorenzo declares that he has no confict of interest.

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Table 7 Evaluation of classifers in terms of accuracy, AUC score, recall, precision, F1 score, kappa, MCC, and TT (Sec) with HSV histogram features in the testing phase

Model	Accuracy	AUC	Recall	Prec	F1	Kappa	MCC	TT (Sec)
CatBoost classifier	0.908	0.995	0.9095	0.9115	0.9065	0.8995	0.9001	722.9233
Light gradient boosting machine	0.8973	0.993	0.8981	0.9012	0.8968	0.8878	0.8883	10.9167
Extreme gradient boosting	0.8955	0.9908	0.8915	0.9005	0.8845	0.8857	0.8782	11.2163
Extra trees classifier	0.8819	0.9903	0.8825	0.8857	0.8811	0.871	0.8715	0.6867
Random forest classifier	0.8742	0.9899	0.8761	0.8768	0.8732	0.8627	0.8631	0.9233
Gradient boosting classifier	0.8497	0.9851	0.8508	0.857	0.8495	0.8359	0.8366	54.7067
K neighbors classifier	0.8282	0.9825	0.8306	0.8383	0.8245	0.8125	0.8138	0.3833
Decision tree classifier	0.7622	0.8699	0.7643	0.777	0.7587	0.7403	0.7421	0.1967
Naive Bayes	0.7516	0.9492	0.7547	0.7608	0.7474	0.7286	0.7302	0.1067
Linear discriminant analysis	0.7516	0.9657	0.755	0.7632	0.7511	0.7287	0.73	0.2733
Ridge classifier	0.6058	0.0	0.5967	0.6943	0.5632	0.569	0.5806	0.12
SVM—linear kernel	0.5874	0.0	0.5786	0.6567	0.546	0.5493	0.5725	0.27
Logistic regression	0.5153	0.9212	0.4944	0.5078	0.4467	0.4688	0.4886	1.5033
Quadratic discriminant analysis	0.2684	0.6003	0.2662	0.3228	0.2682	0.2007	0.2037	0.1033
Ada Boost classifier	0.2377	0.6356	0.2407	0.1556	0.162	0.1578	0.2928	1.15
Dummy classifier	0.0982	0.5	0.0833	0.0096	0.0176	0.0	0.0	0.0733

Table 8 Evaluation of classifers in terms of accuracy, AUC score, recall, precision, F1 score, kappa, MCC, and TT (Sec) with RGB mean features in the testing phase

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Table 9 Evaluation of classifers in terms of accuracy, AUC score, recall, precision, F1 score, kappa, MCC, and TT (Sec) with RGB histogram features in the testing phase

Model	Accuracy	AUC	Recall	Prec	F1	Kappa	MCC	TT (Sec)
CatBoost classifier	0.868	0.9905	0.8659	0.8782	0.8675	0.8558	0.8569	966.5133
Extra trees classifier	0.865	0.9914	0.8622	0.873	0.8648	0.8525	0.8533	0.75
Random forest classifier	0.8512	0.9883	0.8489	0.8596	0.8511	0.8374	0.8383	1.39
Light gradient boosting machine	0.8358	0.9831	0.8343	0.8405	0.8349	0.8207	0.8213	14.1967
Gradient boosting classifier	0.8129	0.9746	0.81	0.8237	0.8132	0.7956	0.7967	69.7867
Extreme gradient boosting	0.8098	0.9737	0.8057	0.8123	0.7962	0.7767	0.7660	17.8931
K neighbors classifier	0.7745	0.972	0.7723	0.7899	0.7718	0.7537	0.7556	0.4867
Linear discriminant analysis	0.75	0.9703	0.7488	0.7598	0.7484	0.7269	0.728	0.2233
Naive Bayes	0.7223	0.9376	0.7182	0.7399	0.7232	0.6966	0.6986	0.1333
Decision tree classifier	0.7086	0.8412	0.7079	0.7183	0.708	0.6819	0.6828	0.3267
Ridge classifier	0.5061	$0.0\,$	0.479	0.5443	0.4515	0.4582	0.4706	0.1067
SVM—linear kernel	0.4188	$0.0\,$	0.4073	0.5153	0.373	0.3652	0.4231	0.3467
Ada Boost classifier	0.2562	0.6983	0.2352	0.1915	0.1848	0.1807	0.2642	1.35
Logistic regression	0.2561	0.9002	0.228	0.1405	0.1387	0.1772	0.2185	2.09
Quadratic discriminant analysis	0.2039	0.5642	0.1959	0.2131	0.1943	0.1283	0.1306	0.1167
Dummy classifier	0.0997	0.5	0.0833	0.0099	0.0181	0.0	0.0	0.08

Table 10 Evaluation of regression models in terms of MAE, MSE, RMSE, R^2 score, RMSLE, MAPE, and TT (Sec) with YCbCr mean features in the testing phase

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Table 11 Evaluation of regression models in terms of MAE, MSE, RMSE, R^2 score, RMSLE, MAPE, and TT (Sec) with YCbCr histogram features in the testing phase

Model	MAE	MSE	RMSE	R^2	RMSLE	MAPE	TT (Sec)
Extra trees regressor	2.1769	11.6405	3.3825	0.9812	0.1204	0.0348	1.76
CatBoost regressor	2.5993	13.6621	3.6558	0.9778	0.3543	0.037	91.151
Random forest regressor	2.5417	15.2997	3.8891	0.975	0.1602	0.04	5.662
K neighbors regressor	2.5556	19.0567	4.3392	0.9702	0.0653	0.0419	0.105
Light gradient boosting machine	2.4302	22.7591	4.2808	0.965	0.1167	0.0363	1.577
Gradient boosting regressor	2.9527	20.9606	4.3647	0.9631	0.2412	0.0443	3.944
Extreme gradient boosting	2.8861	24.3909	4.5173	0.9544	0.14	0.0436	4.595
AdaBoost regressor	4.4586	29.8909	5.4586	0.9518	0.0821	0.0721	1.614
Decision tree regressor	2.2847	32.3619	5.4586	0.945	0.117	0.0339	0.126
Bayesian ridge	5.1162	45.6186	6.6611	0.9286	0.4707	0.0726	1.432
Huber regressor	5.4408	49.1674	6.9946	0.9211	0.4873	0.079	0.334
Passive aggressive regressor	6.7361	70.5732	8.3542	0.8865	0.5047	0.0994	0.095
Ridge regression	9.5593	127.3591	11.2576	0.7989	0.8578	0.122	0.033
Orthogonal matching pursuit	6.3151	162.3748	10.5511	0.7577	0.6502	0.0753	0.046
Elastic net	19.0872	660.7388	25.5695	-0.0206	1.2135	0.1919	0.035
Lasso regression	19.09	661.0854	25.5763	-0.0211	1.2136	0.1919	0.025
Lasso least angle regression	19.09	661.0854	25.5763	-0.0211	1.2136	0.1919	0.288
Dummy regressor	19.09	661.0854	25.5763	-0.0211	1.2136	0.1919	0.021
Linear regression	30.6232	80,367.0216	155.2462	$-108,6006$	0.9654	0.2551	0.366

Table 12 Evaluation of regression models in terms of MAE, MSE, RMSE, R^2 score, RMSLE, MAPE, and TT (Sec) with Lab mean features in the testing phase

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Table 13 Evaluation of regression models in terms of MAE, MSE, RMSE, R^2 score, RMSLE, MAPE, and TT (Sec) with Lab histogram features in the testing phase

Table 14 Evaluation of regression models in terms of MAE, MSE, RMSE, *R*² score, RMSLE, MAPE, and TT (Sec) with HSV mean features in the testing phase

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Table 15 Evaluation of regression models in terms of MAE, MSE, RMSE, R^2 score, RMSLE, MAPE, and TT (Sec) with HSV histogram features in the testing phase

Model	MAE	MSE	RMSE	R^2	RMSLE	MAPE	TT (Sec)
Extra trees regressor	2.2381	14.1152	3.6526	0.9782	0.2944	0.0319	2.495
K neighbors regressor	1.9757	15.423	3.8429	0.9756	0.1737	0.0295	0.138
CatBoost regressor	2.7265	19.5153	4.2678	0.9691	0.4541	0.0357	117.64
Light gradient boosting machine	2.8227	23.4071	4.7183	0.9653	0.4628	0.0379	2.32
Gradient boosting regressor	3.0338	26.4167	4.9095	0.9604	0.3651	0.0419	5.485
Random forest regressor	2.7994	27.5393	5.104	0.9574	0.4176	0.0375	7.854
AdaBoost regressor	4.8365	36.0875	5.9019	0.9409	0.1221	0.075	2.369
Extreme gradient boosting	3.1642	43.6663	6.1759	0.9376	0.3396	0.0431	5.943
Bayesian ridge	5.0717	49.0621	6.8461	0.9276	0.5146	0.0707	2.585
Huber regressor	5.8692	54.2342	7.3361	0.9162	0.5555	0.0821	0.699
Decision tree regressor	2.4923	59.528	6.7441	0.904	0.2214	0.037	0.165
Passive aggressive regressor	7.7442	101.7538	10.0096	0.8455	0.7437	0.1	0.185
Ridge regression	9.6755	157.2631	12.4519	0.7671	0.9823	0.1092	0.052
Elastic net	19.5026	685.0945	25.9764	-0.0074	1.2572	0.1933	0.043
Lasso regression	19.5426	688.1162	26.0344	-0.012	1.2579	0.1937	0.04
Lasso least angle regression	19.5426	688.1162	26.0344	-0.012	1.2579	0.1937	0.031
Dummy regressor	19.5426	688.1162	26.0344	-0.012	1.2579	0.1937	0.022
Orthogonal matching pursuit	8.993	2242.1225	29.4821	-1.6718	0.758	0.0811	0.059
Linear regression	24.7118	5902.9842	60.3507	-8.6954	1.1621	0.25	0.415
Least angle regression	315,576.3561	28, 234, 355, 243, 531, 117	1,946,846.6327	$-4,4190,243,518.9504$	5.0148	922.3563	0.296

Table 16 Evaluation of regression models in terms of MAE, MSE, RMSE, R^2 score, RMSLE, MAPE, and TT (Sec) with RGB mean features in the testing phase

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Fig. 14 The confusion matrix is related to the image grading of red chilli powder adulteration with red brick powder

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Fig. 15 Performance of classifers with various color spaces for channel mean value and histogram features in grading red chilli powder

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Fig. 16 Performance of regression methods with various color spaces for channel mean value and histogram features in grading red chilli powder

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