

Appendix-V

TRL1: Basic scientific principles observed:

Principal of NIR Spectroscopy:

The main principal behind the different methods of spectrophotometry, including NIR spectroscopy, is the Beer-Lambert Law. According to this law, the concentration of a certain chemical compound in a solution determines how much light, whether visible or infrared, this solution will absorb [1].

Working:[2]

1. **Near-Infrared Light:** Near-infrared light is a type of electromagnetic radiation with wavelengths that fall between the visible and mid-infrared regions of the electromagnetic spectrum. It has energy levels that correspond to the vibrational energies of molecular bonds.
2. **Molecular Vibrations:** Molecules consist of atoms bonded together by chemical bonds. These bonds can vibrate and stretch, and these vibrations are specific to the types of bonds and atoms in a molecule. The energy levels of these vibrations correspond to specific frequencies within the NIR range.
3. **Absorption of Light:** When near-infrared light is directed at a sample, some of the light is absorbed by the molecules in the sample. The absorption occurs when the energy of the light matches the energy of molecular vibrations. This absorption results in the reduction of light intensity at specific wavelengths.
4. **Spectral Data:** The transmitted or reflected light is measured and converted into a spectrum, which is a graph that shows the intensity of light as a function of wavelength. The spectrum contains absorption bands that correspond to the molecular vibrations of the sample.
5. **Chemical Information:** By analyzing the positions and intensities of the absorption bands in the NIR spectrum, it is possible to gather information about the types of chemical bonds present in the sample. This information can be used to identify and quantify various components in the sample.

Theoretical models that predict the performance of NIR spectroscopy in grading vegetables:

1. Partial Least Squares (PLS) Regression:

- PLS [3] is a widely used multivariate analysis technique that establishes a linear relationship between the spectral data and the target attributes (e.g., moisture content, sugar levels).
- It creates latent variables (components) that capture the most relevant spectral information related to the attributes.

- The model is trained using a calibration set with known attribute values and their corresponding spectra.
- The accuracy of the model is assessed using validation or cross-validation techniques, and metrics such as root mean square error of prediction (RMSEP) are calculated.

2. Principal Component Analysis (PCA):

- PCA is often used for exploratory data analysis and dimensionality reduction.
- It identifies patterns and variability in the spectral data by transforming it into a set of uncorrelated principal components.
- While PCA [4] itself doesn't directly relate to attribute prediction, it can be followed by regression techniques (like PLS) to build predictive models.

3. Support Vector Machines (SVM):

- SVM is a machine learning algorithm that can be used for classification and regression tasks.
- In the context of NIR spectroscopy, SVM [5] can be trained to predict the attributes of interest based on the spectral data.
- The model is trained using labeled samples, and its accuracy is evaluated using appropriate validation methods.

4. Artificial Neural Networks (ANN):

- ANN is another machine learning approach that can learn complex relationships between input (spectral data) and output (attributes).
- It involves layers of interconnected nodes (neurons) that process the data and make predictions.
- ANN [6] models are trained using labeled data and evaluated using validation or cross-validation.

5. Beer-Lambert Law and Multivariate Calibration:

- The Beer-Lambert Law is a fundamental principle that relates the absorbance of light to the concentration of a substance in a sample.
- In NIR spectroscopy, multivariate calibration [7] methods extend this principle to handle complex mixtures and overlapping spectra.
- These methods include methods like PLS, which use linear combinations of multiple wavelengths to predict properties.

6. Validation and Cross-Validation Techniques:

- Regardless of the specific model used, validation and cross-validation techniques [8],[9] are critical for assessing accuracy.
- These techniques involve dividing the dataset into training and validation subsets to test the model's performance on unseen data.

Laboratory experiments that demonstrate the feasibility of NIR spectroscopy in grading vegetables:

1. Moisture Content Determination:

- Objective: Demonstrate the ability of NIR spectroscopy to estimate moisture[10]content in vegetables.
- Method: Collect NIR spectra from different samples of the same vegetable with varying moisture levels. Use reference methods (e.g., oven drying) to measure actual moisture content. Develop a calibration model (e.g., PLS regression) using the spectral data and reference measurements. Test the model's accuracy by predicting moisture content in new samples.

2. Sugar and Soluble Solids Measurement:

- Objective: Show the potential of NIR spectroscopy to predict sugar content [11] (Brix) and soluble solids in vegetables.
- Method: Prepare vegetable samples with different sugar levels. Acquire NIR spectra and measure Brix using a refractometer. Develop a calibration model to predict Brix from NIR spectra. Validate the model's accuracy and assess its performance across different vegetable types.

3. Defect Detection:

- Objective: Illustrate NIR spectroscopy's ability to detect defects [12] or foreign materials in vegetables.
- Method: Introduce defects (e.g., bruises, insect damage) or foreign materials (e.g., plastics, contaminants) into vegetable samples. Collect NIR spectra from both normal and defective samples. Use classification techniques (e.g., SVM) to differentiate between normal and defective samples based on their spectra.

4. Varietal Differentiation:

- Objective: Showcase how NIR spectroscopy can distinguish between different varieties or cultivars [13] of the same vegetable.
- Method: Obtain samples of different varieties of a vegetable. Measure NIR spectra and analyze the spectral differences between varieties. Apply multivariate analysis (e.g., PCA) to visualize and differentiate varieties based on their spectral patterns.

5. Predicting Shelf Life:

- Objective: Demonstrate the feasibility of NIR spectroscopy in predicting the shelf life or freshness of vegetables.
- Method: Monitor changes in NIR spectra over time as vegetables undergo aging or deterioration. Develop a predictive model that correlates spectral changes with shelf life or quality attributes. Test the model's accuracy in estimating shelf life based on NIR data.

6. Multi-Attribute Grading:

- Objective: Simulate a comprehensive grading process by predicting multiple attributes simultaneously.
- Method: Choose a combination of quality attributes (e.g., moisture, sugar, color) relevant to vegetable grading. Acquire NIR spectra and measure reference values for these attributes. Develop a multivariate calibration model to predict all attributes concurrently.

Basic principle to predict the price of the crop using machine learning:

The basic principle to predict the price of a crop using machine learning involves establishing a relationship between the crop's characteristics (features) and its market price. This is achieved through the training of a machine learning model using historical data, where the model learns patterns and correlations in the data to make accurate price predictions for new or unseen crop instances.

Theoretical models that predict the performance of prediction of price of crop:

1. Bias-Variance Trade-off:

- This model helps to understand the trade-off between bias (underfitting) and variance (overfitting) in the machine learning model.

2. Learning Curves:

- Learning curves illustrate how a model's performance changes as the size of the training dataset increases.

3. Cross-Validation:

- Cross-validation helps estimate the model's performance on unseen data by partitioning the dataset into training and validation sets multiple times.

4. Feature Importance Analysis:

- Various techniques, such as permutation importance or feature importance scores from tree-based models, can help to identify which features have the most influence on the model's predictions.

5. Model Evaluation Metrics:

- Theoretical models of different evaluation metrics (e.g., Mean Squared Error, Root Mean Squared Error, Mean Absolute Error) can help to anticipate how well the model is likely to perform in terms of prediction accuracy.

6. Ensemble Model Behavior:

- Using ensemble methods (e.g., Random Forest, Gradient Boosting), theoretical models can help to understand how combining multiple models can lead to improved prediction performance.

7. Overfitting and Regularization:

- Theoretical models related to overfitting and regularization techniques can help to understand how to balance model complexity and prevent overfitting, which is crucial for accurate predictions.

8. Model Complexity Analysis:

- Theoretical models can help to assess how increasing or decreasing model complexity (e.g., number of hidden layers in a neural network) affects prediction performance.

Laboratory experiments that demonstrate the feasibility of prediction of price of crop using ML:

1. Dataset Preparation:

- Gather historical data on a specific crop's attributes (e.g., quality, quantity, season, location) and corresponding market prices. Ensure the dataset is representative and spans various conditions.
- Divide the dataset into training and testing subsets.

2. Feature Selection and Engineering:

- Identify the most relevant features (attributes) that influences the crop's price prediction.
- Performing any necessary feature engineering, such as encoding categorical variables or scaling numeric features.

3. Model Selection:

- Choosing a machine learning algorithm suitable for regression tasks. Linear Regression, Random Forest, or Gradient Boosting are commonly used models.
- Preparing a baseline model for comparison.

4. Model Training:

- Train the selected machine learning model(s) using the training subset of the dataset.
- Tune hyper parameters to optimize the model's performance, using techniques like grid search or random search.

5. Model Evaluation:

- Use the testing subset of the dataset to evaluate the model's performance.
- Calculate relevant metrics such as Mean Squared Error (MSE), Root Mean Squared Error (RMSE), Mean Absolute Error (MAE), and R-squared.

6. Comparative Analysis:

- We Compare the performance of different machine learning algorithms by considering multiple models.
- Assessing the model's performance and compares to a baseline model .

7. Feature Importance Analysis:

- Determining the importance of different features in the model's predictions.
- Visualizing feature importances to understand which attributes contribute the most to price prediction.

8. Overfitting Assessment:

- Investigating whether the model exhibits signs of overfitting by comparing its performance on the training and testing datasets.

9. Visualizations:

- Creating visualizations that demonstrate the model's predictions against actual market prices over time.
- Plotting predicted prices and actual prices to visually assess the model's accuracy.

what is the basic principle to find the geo-location of nearest market which is giving highest price:

The basic principle to find the geo-location of the nearest market which is giving the highest price is to use geospatial technology. Geospatial technology is the use of geographic information systems (GIS) and other technologies to collect, store, analyze, and visualize spatial data.

Theoretical models that predict the performance to find the geolocation of nearest market which is giving highest price:

1. K-Nearest Neighbours (KNN):

- KNN is a simple algorithm that identifies the k-nearest data points to a given input point.
- In this context, **KNN** identify the k-nearest markets based on distance (geolocation) and price.
- The performance can be assessed by comparing the predicted nearest markets to the actual highest price market.

2. Regression Models:

- Regression models can predict the price at different market locations based on geolocation and other attributes.
- The model's performance can be evaluated using metrics like Mean Squared Error (MSE) or Root Mean Squared Error (RMSE) to measure prediction accuracy.

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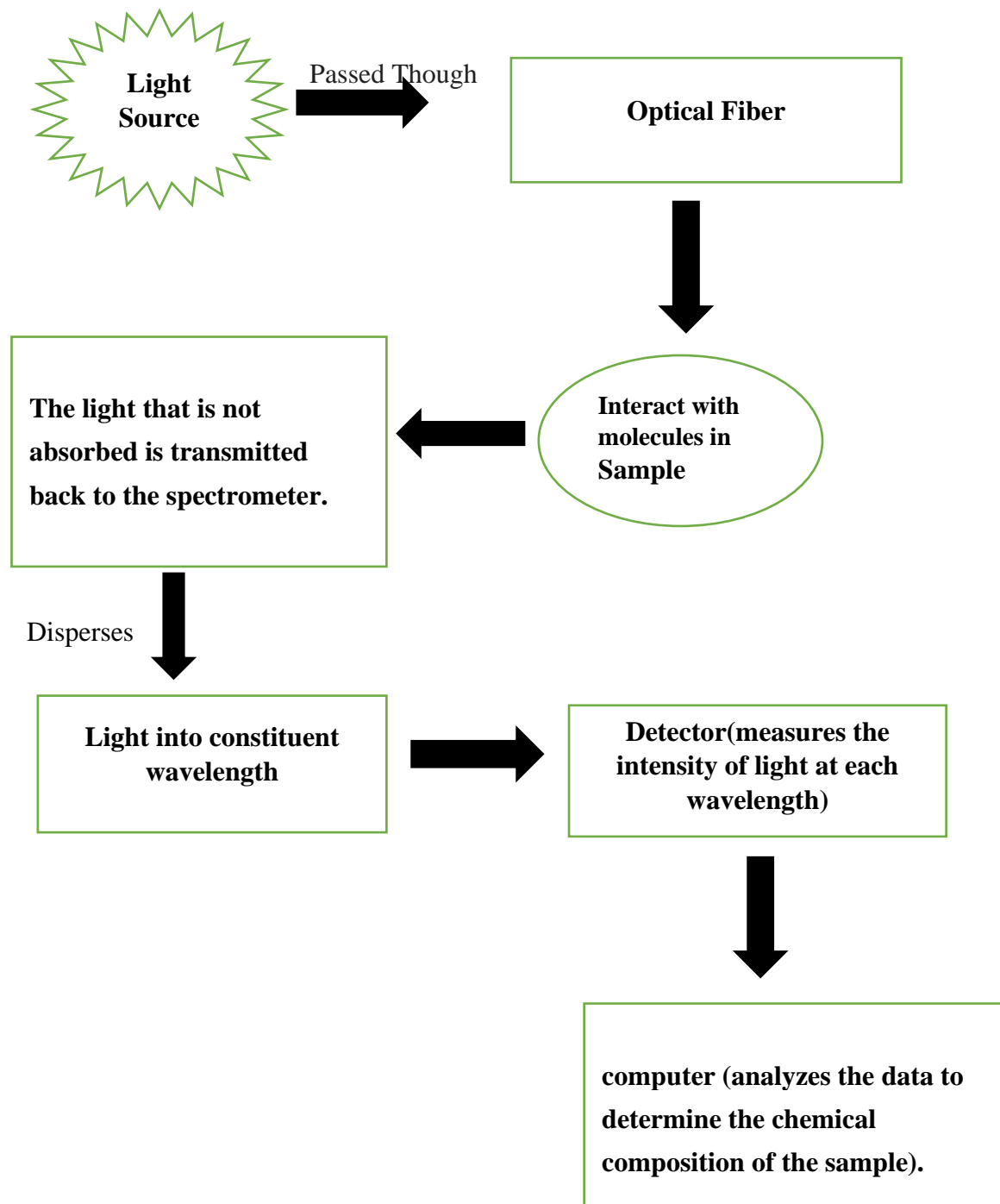
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TRL2: Technology concept formulated:

Working of Optical Fibre NIR Spectroscopy:

- 1. Light Source:** The light source emits near-infrared light. This source could be a tungsten-halogen lamp, light-emitting diode (LED), or laser diode. The emitted light covers a range of near-infrared wavelengths.
- 2. Sample:** The sample is the material being analyzed. It could be a liquid, solid, or gas. The near-infrared light interacts with the molecules in the sample, leading to absorption or reflection at specific wavelengths.
- 3. Optical Fiber:** Optical fibers are thin, flexible strands made of glass or plastic that transmit light through multiple internal reflections. They serve as light guides, delivering the emitted near-infrared light from the source to the sample and then collecting the transmitted or reflected light from the sample to the detector.
- 4. Sample Compartment/Cuvette:** This is where the sample is placed for analysis. It could be a cuvette (a small container for holding liquids) or a specialized compartment for solids or gases. The sample compartment is designed to ensure that the light interacts with the sample in a controlled manner.
- 5. Beam Splitter:** In some setups, a beam splitter may be used to direct the incoming light from the source into two paths one that interacts with the sample and another that serves as a reference. The reference beam helps to compensate for variations in the intensity of the light source.
- 6. Detector:** The detector measures the intensity of the transmitted or reflected light at different near-infrared wavelengths. Common types of detectors used in NIR spectroscopy include photodiodes and photomultiplier tubes. The detector generates an electrical signal that corresponds to the light intensity.
- 7. Spectrometer:** In more advanced setups, a spectrometer may be used to disperse the transmitted or reflected light into its different wavelengths (spectrum). The spectrometer allows for more detailed analysis of the spectral features and can enhance the resolution and accuracy of the measurement.
- 8. Data Acquisition System:** This system collects and processes the signals from the detector. It converts the analog signals into digital data that can be analyzed by a computer.
- 9. Data Analysis Software:** Specialized software is used to analyze the obtained spectral data. It compares the sample spectrum with reference spectra of known compounds and performs mathematical algorithms, such as chemometric methods, to identify and quantify the components present in the sample.
- 10. Calibration Standards:** These are samples with known compositions that are used to calibrate the instrument and validate the measurement accuracy. Calibration standards are crucial for creating accurate predictive models.
- 11. Chemometric Models:** These are mathematical models that are developed to correlate the spectral data with the composition of the sample. Chemometric techniques, such as

principal component analysis (PCA) and partial least squares (PLS), are used to extract meaningful information from the complex spectral data.



Components:

- **Light source:** Tungsten halogen lamps, deuterium lamps, and diode lasers.
- **Optical fiber:** Fused silica or sapphire.
- **Detector:** photomultiplier tube (PMT) or an avalanche photodiode (APD).
- **Amplifier:** The amplifier increases the intensity of the light signal that is transmitted through the optical fiber. This is important for detecting even very small amounts of chemicals in the sample.
- **Filter:** The filter removes unwanted wavelengths of light from the light signal. This can improve the signal-to-noise ratio of the spectrum.
- **Computer software:** The computer software is used to control the spectrometer, analyze the data, and store the data. The software may also be used to generate reports and graphs.

Working of price prediction:

Predicting the price of vegetables based on the output generated by a grading system involves considering various parameters that influence market value and consumer demand.

1. **Quality Grading Parameters:** The output of the grading system itself can provide valuable parameters.
2. **Season and Time of Year:** The season and time of year can impact the supply and demand for certain vegetables. Prices may vary based on whether a particular vegetable is in season or not.
3. **Weather and Climate Conditions:** Weather and climate conditions during the growing season can affect crop yield and quality. Extreme weather events or unusual climate patterns can lead to shortages or excess supply, impacting prices.
4. **Geographical Location:** Prices can vary based on the geographical region and local market conditions. Some areas might have higher demand due to cultural preferences or specific culinary practices.
5. **Disasters and Contingencies:** Natural disasters, disease outbreaks, or other unforeseen events can disrupt supply chains and affect prices.

After the collection of data set required for price prediction .We will Perform all the machine learning models which is suitable for dataset. Based on the performance metrics of the model we can analyse the appropriate model for the price prediction.

Location Mapping:

Predicting the local markets with the reasonable prices for farmers involves a combination of data analysis, geographic information systems (GIS), and market dynamics understanding. Here's a methodology that can help in this context:

1. Data Collection:

- Gather geolocation data of various markets where the crop is sold. Obtain latitude and longitude coordinates for each market.
- Collect up-to-date market price information for the crop from each market.

2. User Location Input:

- Obtain the geolocation (latitude and longitude) of the user's current location through GPS or other location-based services.

3. Distance Calculation:

- Calculate the distances between the user's location and the geolocations of all the markets. Use spatial analysis techniques such as Euclidean distance or Haversine distance for accurate distance calculations.

4. Market Price Comparison:

- Compare the market prices for the crop from each market within a certain distance from the user's location.
- Identify the market with the highest price for the crop.

5. Geolocation Mapping:

- Plot the user's location and the locations of the nearby markets on a geographic map using geolocation mapping tools or libraries.
- Highlight the market with the highest price using a different marker or color.

6. Visualization and User Interface:

- Display the geolocation map with the market markers to the user through a mobile app or web interface.
- Provide additional details such as market names, distances, and prices in the map interface.
- If desired, integrate navigation services to provide the user with directions to reach the selected market.

TRL3: Experimental proof of concept:

1. Quality Grading with Optical Fibre NIR Spectroscopy:

In this part of the proof of concept, we are simulating the process of using optical fiber NIR spectroscopy to assess the quality. While the actual implementation might involve collecting spectral data from real vegetables, in the experimental setup:

- **Setup:** We would use synthetic data that mimics the spectral characteristics of tomatoes with different qualities (Grade-A, Grade-B, Grade-C).
- **Execution:** Simulate the process of collecting spectral measurements from the synthetic tomatoes.
- **Outcome:** Demonstrate the ability to differentiate tomato quality based on simulated spectral data.

2. Mobile App for Geolocation and Pricing:

This aspect of the proof of concept involves simulating a mobile app interface that takes inputs and predicts market prices.

- **Setup:** Develop a mock mobile app interface with input fields for season, temperature, and weather conditions.
- **Execution:** Simulate user input by entering values for these inputs. Introduce a simulated location for the user.
- **Outcome:** Showcase the simulated mobile app's ability to take inputs and determine user location.

3. Algorithm for Geolocation Prediction:

This component of the proof of concept deals with predicting the geolocation of the nearest market offering the highest price:

- **Setup:** Implement a simplified version of the K-Nearest Neighbors (KNN) algorithm.

- **Execution:** Apply the KNN algorithm to predict the geolocation of the nearest market with the highest price based on the simulated user inputs and location.
- **Outcome:** Showcase the algorithm's ability to predict the location of the highest-price market.

Expected Results and Conclusion:

- **Expected Results:** At the end of the experiment, we would have simulated data-driven outputs from the optical fiber NIR spectroscopy process, simulated user inputs and a predicted market location and price based on the KNN algorithm.
- **Conclusion:** The experimental proof of concept demonstrates how optical fiber NIR spectroscopy, a mobile app, and a geolocation prediction algorithm can work together to assist farmers in making informed decisions about selling their tomatoes.

TRL4: Technology validated in lab:

1. Optical Fibre NIR Spectroscopy System:

- The optical fibre NIR spectroscopy system itself needs to be validated in the laboratory.
- This involves testing the performance of NIR sensors, light sources, and optical components to ensure accurate spectral data collection.
- Calibration experiments using samples with known quality attributes can help establish the relationship between spectral data and quality parameters (moisture, sugar levels, etc.).
- Validating the system's ability to differentiate between different quality grades of vegetables based on the collected spectral data.

2. Grading Algorithm and Models:

- The algorithms and models used for grading vegetables based on the collected spectral data need to be validated.
- Train and validate the models using a representative dataset of vegetables with varying quality attributes.
- Assess the accuracy of the grading system in categorizing vegetables into correct quality grades.

3. Pricing Algorithm and Prediction:

- The algorithm used for providing accurate pricing information based on the quality grades needs validation.
- Validate the algorithm's ability to correlate quality grades with market prices using historical data.
- Test the accuracy of price predictions for different quality levels and crop types.

4. Mapping and Geo-location:

- The geo-location and mapping technology used to identify the nearest location with the highest price needs validation.
- Validate the accuracy of geolocation services in determining the user's current location.
- Validate the algorithm used to identify and display the nearest market with the highest price for a specific crop.

5. Mobile App Integration:

- Validate the integration of the entire system within a mobile app.
- Test the usability and functionality of the app's user interface for inputting data and receiving pricing and location information.

TRL5: Technology validated in application environment:

1. **NIR Spectroscopy Field Testing:** we have taken NIR Spectroscopy setup to actual fields or agricultural environments to conduct tests on a larger scale. This validates the technology's performance under conditions that more closely resemble real-world scenarios.
2. **Mobile App Field Testing:** The mobile app will be tested in the field with real users (farmers) to ensure it functions effectively in practical settings. Feedback from users might lead to refinements.
3. **Price Prediction Algorithm Calibration:** The machine learning algorithm's parameters have been fine-tuned based on data gathered from field tests, making the price predictions more accurate and relevant to real-world conditions.
4. **Grading Algorithm Validation:** The grading algorithm's performance will be further verified in real fields, ensuring that it accurately categorizes vegetables' quality based on their spectral data.

TRL6: Technology demonstrated in application environment:

1.Spectral Data Collection and Grading:

- Set up the optical fiber NIR spectroscopy system in a controlled environment.
- Collect spectral data from various vegetables, including their quality attributes.
- Implement and showcase the grading algorithm that categorizes vegetables into quality grades based on spectral data.

2. Mobile App Interface and Data Input:

- Develop a functional mobile app with an intuitive user interface.
- Provide fields for users to input data such as season, temperature, and location.
- Display a user-friendly interface that shows the input parameters.

3. Price Prediction and Mapping:

- Implement the pricing prediction model that takes grading results and input parameters as inputs.
- Display predicted prices for different quality grades of vegetables on the mobile app.
- Showcase the integration of geolocation services to determine the user's current location.

4. Nearest Market Mapping:

- Demonstrate how the app identifies the nearest markets using geolocation data.
- Highlight the algorithm that selects the market with the highest price for the specific quality grade.
- Display a visual map with markers indicating the selected market.

5. Usability Testing and Feedback:

- Engage potential users, such as farmers or stakeholders, to interact with the app.
- Collect feedback on the app's ease of use, accuracy of price predictions, and mapping functionality.

6. Realistic Scenario Simulations:

- Create realistic scenarios involving different vegetables, seasons, and locations.

- Demonstrate how the system provides accurate grading, pricing, and mapping in various scenarios.

TRL7: System Model or Prototype (MVP) demonstration in actual user case scenario:

In the context of the project involving the grading system using NIR spectroscopy and geo-location mapping to find the nearest market with the highest crop price, the demonstration of a System Model or Minimum Viable Prototype (MVP) in an actual user case scenario signifies a critical milestone in technology development. Here's how the MVP has been demonstrated in a real-world user case scenario:

1. Prototype Development:

- A functional MVP of the grading system has been developed, integrating the NIR spectroscopy grading mechanism and the geo-location mapping component.
- The prototype includes the hardware setup for NIR spectroscopy measurement, data processing algorithms, and the geo-location mapping interface.

2. User Engagement and Participation:

- Farmers, who are the primary end-users, have been actively involved in the demonstration process.
- Participating farmers have been provided access to the prototype to assess its effectiveness and relevance to their daily operations.

3. Real Crop Grading and Market Exploration:

- Farmers have been guided through the process of using the MVP to assess the quality of their harvested crops using NIR spectroscopy.
- The geo-location mapping feature has enabled farmers to input their location and receive recommendations for nearby markets with the highest crop prices.

4. Hands-On Interaction:

- Farmers have interacted with the system, scanned their crops using NIR spectroscopy, and received real-time grading results.
- They have given the location as input and explored the geo-location map to identify markets offering the best prices for their crops.

5. Market Decision Support:

- Farmers have utilized the system's recommendations to decide where to sell their crops based on quality assessment and price predictions.
- User feedback on the system's accuracy, usability, and decision-making support has been actively collected.

6. Usability Testing and Feedback Collection:

- Farmers' interactions with the MVP have been observed and documented to identify any usability challenges or user experience issues.
- Feedback forms, surveys, or interviews have been conducted to gather insights into the system's strengths and areas for improvement.

7. Data Collection and Validation:

- The MVP's grading predictions and geo-location recommendations have been compared to actual market prices and locations.
- The accuracy of the system's crop grading and market price predictions has been quantitatively evaluated.

8. User Satisfaction and Decision Outcomes:

- Farmers' overall satisfaction with the technology's ability to assist in crop grading and market selection has been assessed.
- The economic outcomes of users decisions based on the system's recommendations have been measured.

9. Refinements and Iterations:

- Insights gained from user interactions, feedback, and outcomes have guided refinements and improvements to the system's algorithms, mapping accuracy, and user interface.

TRL8: System complete and qualified:

1. **Fully Functional System:** Our system is complete, fully functional, and capable of grading vegetables using NIR Spectroscopy, predicting prices based on various parameters, and suggesting markets to farmers.
2. **User Validation:** Extensive user validation has been carried out with farmers, and the system's accuracy and usability have been thoroughly tested and verified. User feedback has been integrated to make final refinements.
3. **Machine Learning Optimization:** The machine learning model used for price prediction has been optimized to deliver highly accurate results based on real-world data and user feedback.
4. **Reliable Market Suggestions:** The system consistently provides reliable market suggestions to farmers, ensuring they can make informed decisions about where to sell their produce.

TRL9: Actual system proven in commercial environment:

1. **Commercial Deployment:** Our system has been successfully deployed and used by farmers in real commercial agricultural environments. It's being actively utilized as a practical tool to help farmers grade their vegetables, predict prices, and make market decisions.
2. **Continuous Improvement:** Feedback from farmers and users in the commercial environment is being collected and used to continuously improve the system's performance, accuracy, and user experience.
3. **Market Impact:** The system's positive impact on farmers' decision-making and profitability is evident, and it's contributing to better market choices and optimized pricing strategies.
4. **Sustained Operations:** The system is operating seamlessly and reliably, with ongoing technical support and updates as needed to ensure its continued functionality.

In addition to this data, we can also need to provide data on the commercial success of the system. This data could include:

- 1) The number of farmers or vendors who are using the system.
- 2) The amount of money that the farmers or vendors are saving by using the system.
- 3) The satisfaction of the farmers or vendors with the system.
- 4) The impact of the system on the quality of the vegetables.
- 5) The impact of the system on the price of the vegetables.

By providing this data, we can demonstrate that your project has reached the highest level of maturity and that it is a successful commercial product.