





Hybrid Machine Learning for Fraud Detection: Balancing Accuracy and Security in Digital Transactions

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ABSTRACT

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Nowadays, frauds would occur by hackers and non-legitimate users, which would create losses for specific users and damage their identity. The kinds of fraud that popularly happen are transaction fraud, card fraud (card not present), phishing, and account takeover. To prevent and minimize the losses, the hybrid model is designed and demanded. The combination of random forests, LightGBM, and Ensemble is used to improve overall performance and accuracy improvement and ensure privacy and security concerns. In this methodology, random forests reduce overfitting, support large datasets, prefer ranked features, are less sensitive to noise, and result in improvement in accuracy. The role of LightGBM is to ensure boosting in speed and memory usage, support large datasets and imbalanced datasets, and ensure reduced false positives and false negatives. The necessity of an ensemble strategy in this scenario is to combine the benefits of random forest and LightGBM, ensure overall performance, and eliminate flagging legitimate transactions as fraudulent. The performance measures are evaluated and compared against the considered models in this domain.

1. INTRODUCTION

There is a scenario from which, most customers would experience identity theft through specific links clicking or loss of amounts by trapping with huge discounts or by valuable gifts. In modern days, many innocent people although they are good at technology usage, are trapped with social benefit aspirations. When using social platforms for their connections with friends, third-party party advertisements and gifts shown would trap with offering huge discounts for purchasing specific items. Customers who see unintended content for the first time may experience a loss of money or loss of identity. The maintenance of the site admin would ask for feedback on the portions of the website. If the customer experiences negative behavior in the sense of loss of money, they would immediately tag that portion with a fraud tag. Future customers would benefit from clicking such advertisements. In this way, the admin of the site controls the portions that appear in the content of the social website/platform. Various machine learning approaches are suggested to classify the unverified portions as fraud or non-fraud. There is another

scenario, where detecting fraud transactions in the history of transactions using machine learning techniques is challenging. From this scenario, the existing hybrid approach would be flexible to new updates as well as tune with upcoming techniques to further the level of security. Among specific machine learning approaches, the hybrid approach is designed to achieve more accuracy, and performance compared to other existing methods.

From Table 1, there is a scope for deriving the hybrid method that have multiple benefits as well as care is taken while designing the principle. From Table 2, trends were highlighted from the introduction of computers to many machine learning models, then the usage of modern technologies such as AI, and Deep learning models, and the current trend is on hybrid methodologies to favor more benefits than other individual approaches. In the evolvement of fraud detection, the assessment of techniques to be applied is demonstrated in Table 3. From Table 3, the machine learning model is considered for fraud detection, able to integrate with new approaches in a flexible manner, and involves moderate complexity.

Table 1. Methods to be used for classification

Method	Advantages	Disadvantages
Decision Trees	Easy to interpret and visualize Handles both numerical and categorical data well	Prone to overfitting Sensitive to noisy data
Random Forest	Reduces overfitting through ensemble learning Handles large datasets effectively	Less interpretable than single decision trees Can be computationally intensive
Support Vector	Effective in high-dimensional spaces	Less effective on very large datasets

Machines	Robust against overfitting in high-dimensional data	Requires careful tuning of parameters
Logistic Regression	Simple and efficient for binary classification Provides probabilities for outcomes	Assumes linear relationship between features and outcome
Naive Bayes	Fast and efficient for large datasets Works well with text classification tasks	Not suitable for complex relationships Assumes independence between features
Neural Networks	Capable of capturing complex patterns Highly flexible and adaptable to various tasks	May perform poorly if this assumption is violated Requires large amounts of data
Ensemble Methods	Combines strengths of multiple models Generally, improves accuracy and robustness	Can be a "black box", making interpretation difficult More complex to implement and tune
Hybrid Machine Learning	Leverages strengths of different models for better accuracy Can reduce false positives effectively	Can be computationally expensive Requires careful design and validation

Table 2. Summary of trends in detection of fraud in decades

Decade	Trend	Description
1980s	Emergence of Computerized Fraud Detection	Computerized systems were introduced for detecting fraudulent transactions, primarily in banking and finance.
1990s	Data Mining Techniques	Specific data mining tools used to analyze large datasets for patterns indicative of fraud, leading to more sophisticated detection systems.
2000s	Machine Learning Algorithms	Machine learning algorithms were increased, such as decision trees and neural networks, to improve accuracy in fraud detection and classification.
2010s	Big Data Analytics	Bigdata tools were enabled to process vast amounts of transaction data in real time, enhancing the ability to detect fraud as it occurs.
2020s	AI and Deep Learning	Specific Deep learning and AI mechanisms were used for more nuanced fraud detection, including anomaly detection and predictive analytics.
	Focus on Identity Theft	Growing concern over identity theft, leading to enhanced measures for protecting personal information and monitoring for fraudulent activities.
	Regulatory Compliance	Increased emphasis on compliance with regulations related to fraud prevention, such as GDPR and PCI DSS, impacts how organizations approach fraud detection.
	Hybrid Approaches	Development of hybrid models that combine multiple machine learning techniques to improve detection rates and reduce false positives.

Table 3. Techniques recommended for fraud detection

Technique	Description	Pros	Cons
Real-Time Monitoring	Systems that analyze transactions as they occur.	Immediate detection of suspicious activities.	Extensive resource consumption, and create many false positives.
Machine Learning Algorithms	Models that learn from historical data to identify fraud patterns. Tailored rules to flag transactions based on specific criteria.	Can adapt to new fraud techniques; improves accuracy over time. Flexibility to adapt to business needs; can quickly address emerging threats.	Takes time for training and involves complexity in tuning. May require continuous updates; risk of missing nuanced fraud patterns.
Address Verification Services	Verifies billing addresses against bank records.	Reduces risk of unauthorized transactions.	May inconvenience legitimate customers; not foolproof against all fraud types.
Behavioral Analytics	Analyzes user behavior to detect anomalies.	Identifies unusual patterns that may indicate fraud.	Requires baseline data; may struggle with legitimate changes in user behavior.
Chargeback Analysis	Monitoring chargebacks to identify potential fraud.	Provides insights into customer behavior and fraud trends.	Would be reactive rather than proactive, and may not fit all types of fraud.
Integration with AML Workflows	Combines fraud detection with anti-money laundering processes.	Streamlines compliance; and enhances overall risk monitoring.	Complexity in integration; may require additional resources and training.
Multi-Factor Authentication	Adds extra verification steps during transactions.	Increases security; and reduces unauthorized access.	Lead to an abandonment of transactions if too cumbersome.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

There are certain studies on fraud detection in financial transactions that cause loss of money for the customer as well as bank too in some cases. To overcome these issues, the studies involved in this domain are analyzed and demonstrated here. Achary and Shelke [1], the usage of machine learning and AI would quickly detect fraud, which enables the taking of necessary steps to prevent the loss of money. The

methodology used to get better accuracy than traditional methods used in this scenario. From Maskale et al. [2], the history of transactions is analyzed and cleaned using data preprocessing and applied using machine learning models. These models' accuracy is computed and compared. The objective is for the number of customers' churning rate to be detected and to provide the best practices to retain those customers. From Gandhi and Gajjar [3], the review is conducted on various domains that increase fraud detection

rates and increase protection on customer interests in making secure payments over digital transactions. From Akash et al. [4], demonstrated many methodologies for financial fraud detection. Effective protection schemes as well as by combining a few methodologies for efficient financial transactions are provided to safeguard the organizational resources. According to Tatineni [5], the integration of ML approaches with blockchain technology avoids easy fraudulent activity. This integration improves traceability as well as secure financial transactions. From Ismail, M.M., Haq [6], the demonstration of various ML approaches with AI, are compared for accuracy. The random forest against other classifiers is evaluated and found random forest has having best accuracy. From Kajol et al. [7], demonstrated the motivators for the adoption of digital technology such as fast accomplishment, security, comfort, and others. The challenges also identified such as training, cost, complexity, and others that would stop from expansion of adoption. From Abad-Segura and González-Zamar [8], demonstrates the publications that have recently in the domain of banking, and financial-related transactions. In this, oxford students have done many publications in this domain. This signifies the importance of financial transactions today. From Ushadevi [9], the differences between mobile transaction banking and traditional banking are demonstrated. The revolution in usage of applications of many banks in India made paperless, and easy to do tasks in terms of depositing as well as fund transfer. From Westermeier [10], the European countries suffer from technology, political, and economic issues. When individual data is transformed into application data, where the customer can perform transactions. This became base for more insights to perform any trending analysis.

From Aburbeian and Fernández-Veiga [11], demonstrated two level layers which are MFA and ML techniques. There are ML models such as Random Forest, Logistic regression, and other models that were used, and their accuracies are evaluated. This system validates authentication and increases security measures. From Kajol and Singh [12], the users in India status on digital transactions is reported that male members have more ideas on digital awareness, and challenges listed in this study. This survey is done by imposing a set of questionnaires to a few samples to know the digital awareness of our Indian people. From Liu et al. [13], demonstrated the fintech research in terms of adoption, and its development. There were many articles published in this domain. Mostly, classification is one popular approach against 5 measures that showcase current status and future analysis. From Salam et al. [14], the challenges in the banking sector faced during the pandemic are highlighted and are minimized with the increase in mobile banking applications with security and user comfort. Most people's lives are safe and threats is minimized using mobile banking applications, and usage of them are increased thereafter. From Pereira et al. [15], demonstrated avoiding and minimizing cyberbullying using normalization of data preprocessing, then a decision tree algorithm with sophistication, and also used PSO for forecasting financial marketing. these models are compared and recommended network models with feature extraction for achieving more accuracy and efficiency. From Gaur and Verma [16], demonstrated advertisements, and necessary steps to promote the usage of digital and mobile financial applications in Haryana. The initiations that government agencies, NGO firms, to invest and service agencies provide effective services. From Malagatti et al. [17], demonstrated the various

tools and assessments to increase digital platform usage awareness. The objective of Fintech is to assess the usage of digital platforms using techniques such as correlation, regression, and Few tests. From Kotni and Botta [18], demonstrated the people's patterns of Visakhapatnam City who perform digital transactions, and their demographics. This reports people are less usage of cash but make use of mostly digital platforms for money transactions. The union budget initiations for deep awareness on digital literacy. From Al-Hashedi and Magalingam [19], demonstrated the articles published during specific periods in which most are done on bank fraud, and insurance fraud, using popular method SVM, then followed other models such as random forest, and naive Bayesian. From Dama et al. [20], demonstrated the various models that minimize the false positives in fraudulent activities. This system focused on detecting unusual patterns as well as able to detect new types of vulnerabilities also effectively. From Al Marri and AlAli [21], the fraudulent tasks were detected using many ML techniques, and their accuracies were compared. Their challenges are addressed in this study. From West et al. [22], demonstrated various approaches that were used to detect fraud behavior. In this, traditional and automated processes are analyzed, and compared. From Ali et al. [23], demonstrated the type of fraud called credit card fraud, and its detection using famous methods such as Support vector machines and Neural network approaches. Many articles are studied and explored their gaps and restrictions for further future development. The other studies represent storage and distribution of load in which Dey and Sangaraju [24] demonstrated the issues of using local, global load balancing strategies for the distribution of workload among the available entities over the cloud and Dey and Sangaraju [25] demonstrated effective mechanisms for evaluating the performance of load balancing involved over the cloud usage. In regard to work of Talukder et al. [26], the combination of methods used and integrated are such as Decision Trees, Random Forests, Multilayer perceptron, K-nearest neighbor, and instant hardness threshold approach together. Their performances, and accuracies when compared in which proposed hybrid approach produces too far better result but complexity, and lack of appropriate links among the strategies is the drawback of this model. In the view of Btoush et al. [27], the considered models from machine learning and deep learning are used and ensemble approaches such as stacking and resampling are applied. The best method which produces better accuracy, and performance is taken and yields higher F1-score than others used in the evaluation but considering many methods results complexity of the process.

3. PROPOSED METHODOLOGY

In this, the proposed system consists of Random Forest, Light GBM, and Ensemble approaches for securing expected performance and better accuracy. In this, Figure 1 demonstrates the module's interaction that involves the History of transactions as a dataset, validation that the customer is the right real entity, data preprocessing on the unstructured transactions, applying a hybrid model for training to produce output is fraud or non-fraud, and evaluation of metrics for assessing the effectiveness of the model, Figure 2 depicts the ER Model that consists of significant entities and their activities to be used, and Figure 3 represents the flow of activities for efficient fraud detection that involve

functionalities such as validation, flagging the fraud transaction, scrutinizing using rules and scoring system, usage of MFA for further level of increasing security, and applying of compliance, and auditing. The PS1 and PS2 represent Hybrid approach logic and ensemble approach definitions.

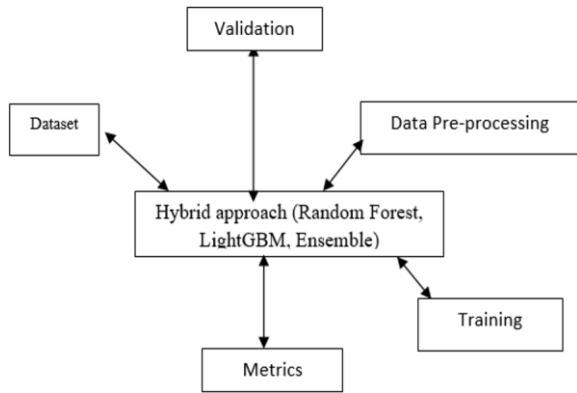


Figure 1. Modules of hybrid approach for fraud detection

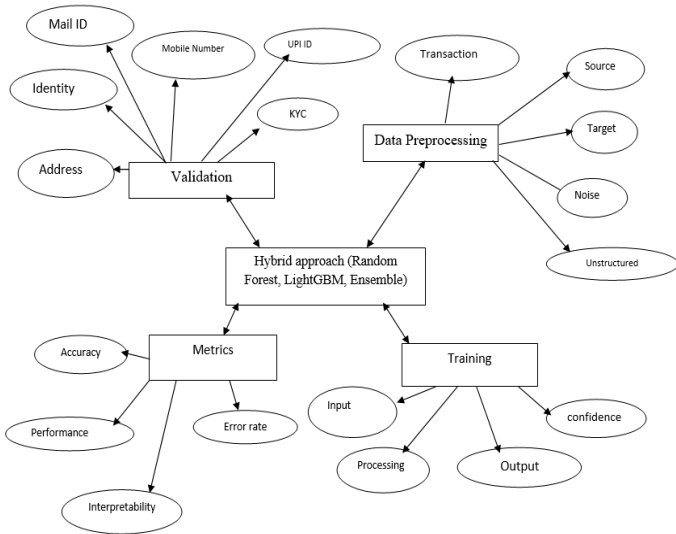


Figure 2. ER model of hybrid approach for fraud detection

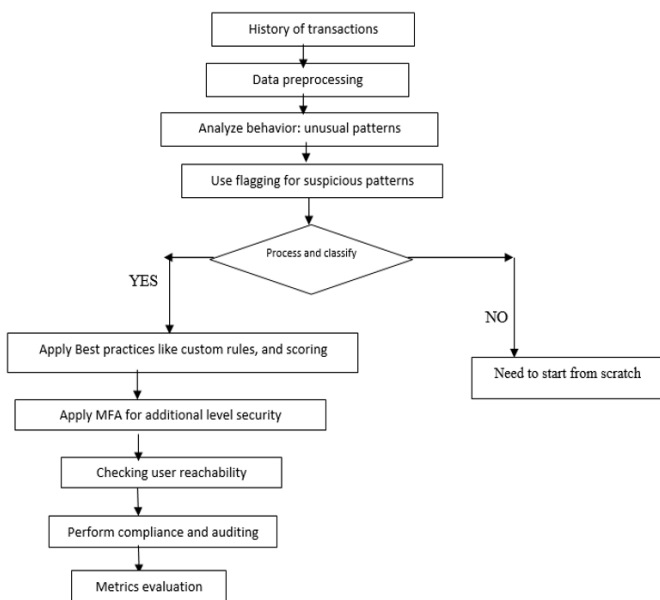


Figure 3. Flow of activities in the hybrid model for fraud detection

The PS1 demonstrates on hybrid model that involves both the machine learning methods such as random forest and LightGBM. The data preprocessing is applied before the model is applied. The significant parameters are applied to determine the fraud intensity. The output of these models would be given to the ensemble approach stacking for refined and better measures.

The PS2 demonstrates on meta-model approach, and uses hyper parameters for training and testing. The prediction would result in better accuracy and expected performance.

PS1: Pseudo_Procedure
Hybrid_Approach_fraud_detection(Transactions):

Input: Transactions

Output: Classification as Fraud or Non-Fraud

Step1: History of transactions

Step2: Data preprocessing for cleaning and forming them in structured content

Step3: Checking validation level, highest level includes MFA for increased security

Step4: Analyze the hyperparameters such as speed of performing transactions, device change, number of logins failed attempts, multiple payment types, previous fraudulent behavior history, etc.

Step5: For the random forest method, set up the number of trees, and maximum depth level

Step6: Divide the dataset into training and testing

Step7: Train the random forest methodology over the training set

Step8: Apply prediction on the testing set

Step9: Evaluate the measures such as accuracy, precision, recall, and F-Score

Step10: Apply the refined dataset over LightGBM method

Step11: Apply preprocessing as before random forest

Step12: Define hyperparameters, and define new features if required from existing features

Step13: Divide the refined set into training, and testing

Step14: Define the learning rate, and number of leaves in the training

Step15: Apply prediction on testing set

Step16: Evaluate the measures such as accuracy, precision, recall, and F-Score

Accuracy = $\frac{\text{True Positives} + \text{True Negatives}}{\text{Total Number of Cases}}$
 True Positives (TP): The number of correctly identified relevant data points
 True Negatives (TN): The number of correctly identified irrelevant data points
 Total Number of Cases: The sum of true positives, true negatives, false positives, and false negatives.

In PS1, there are modules such as data preprocessing to eliminate the inconsistencies, Random Forests to achieve performance, and reduce overfitting, LightGBM in which speed and memory usage optimal are applied for identifying fraud behavior such as involved Fraud or non-Fraud. In this, evaluated the False Positives, and False Negatives.

PS2: Pseudo_Procedure
Ensemble_fraud_detection(Models):

Input: Models

Output: Performance

Step1: Load the refined dataset after random forest, and LightGBM

Step2: Apply data preprocessing

Step3: Apply stacking for meta-model use, and predictions

Step4: Divide the refined dataset into training and Testing

Step5: Train using Stacking

Step6: Do a prediction on using testing

Step7: Evaluate the measures such as accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-Score

Accuracy= True Positives+True Negatives/ Total Number of Cases

Precision = TP / (TP + FP)

Recall = TP / (TP + FN)

F1-Score = 2 * (Precision * Recall) / (Precision + Recall)

Error rate= Number of either (False Positives, False Negatives) predictions

From PS2, Ensemble strategy stacking is considered. In this, Combined methodology is applied, and produces measures such as F1-score, Recall, and Precision.

4. RESULTS

Table 4 demonstrates on expected measure intensity, Table 5 represents measure values, Table 6 denotes measures of performance evaluation, and Table 7 involves error rates of considered methods. Figure 4 denotes the effectiveness of the models from which hybrid model has more satisfying measures, Figure 5 denotes measures involved in performance evaluation, and Figure 6 depicts on which model has minimum error rates, that decides to choose best model.

The implication of Table 4 is that a hybrid model defined and derived would experience extraordinary results compared to other considered individual models.

Table 4. Metrics intensity against specific metrics

Technique	Accuracy	Performance	Interpretability	Error Rate	Cost
Random Forest	High	Good for large datasets	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Support Vector Machine (SVM)	High	Good, but slower with large datasets	Low	Low	High
Logistic Regression	Moderate to High	Fast	High	Moderate	Low
Neural Networks	Very High	High, but resource-intensive	Low	Low	High
XGBoost	Very High	Fast and efficient	Moderate	Low	Moderate to High
Hybrid Approach (RF, LightGBM, Ensemble)	Very High	Very efficient	Moderate	Very Low	Moderate

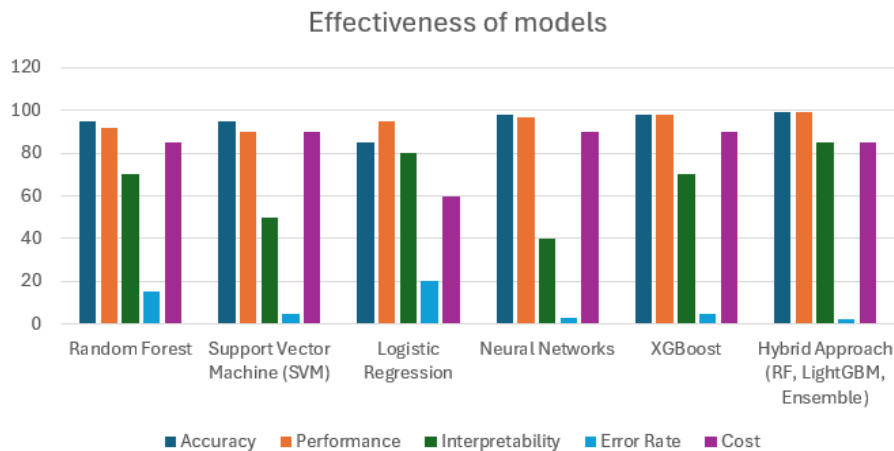


Figure 4. Effectiveness of models against the hybrid method for fraud detection

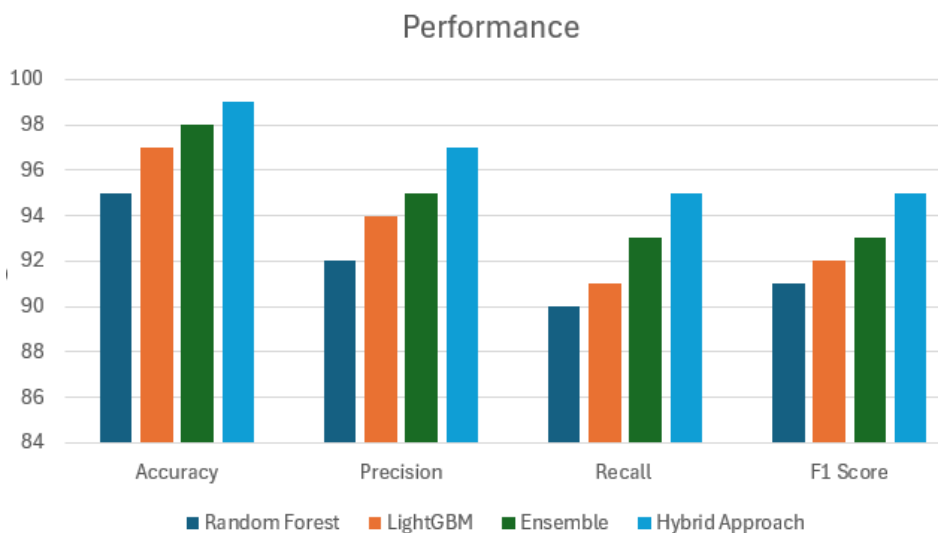


Figure 5. Performance of considered models separately against combined

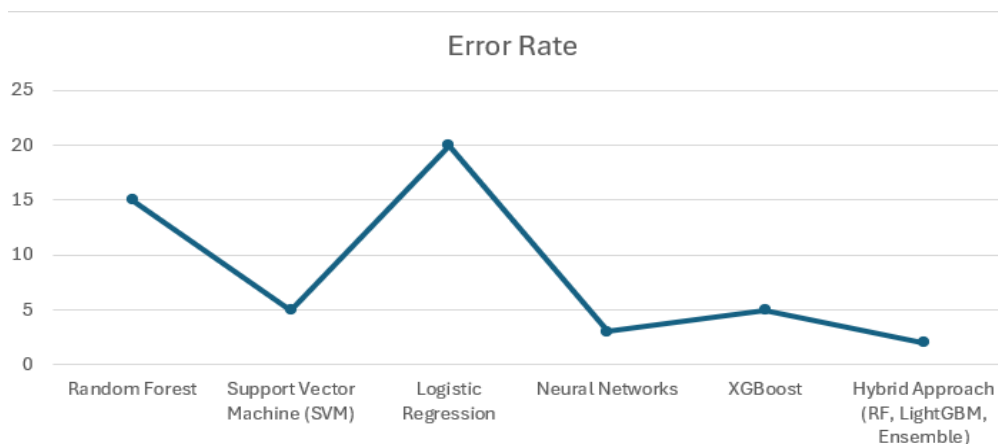


Figure 6. Error rate of considered models

Table 5. Comparison of metrics against the considered models

Technique	Accuracy	Performance	Interpretability	Error Rate	Cost
Random Forest	95	92	70	15	85
Support Vector Machine (SVM)	95	90	50	5	90
Logistic Regression	85	95	80	20	60
Neural Networks	98	97	40	3	90
XGBoost	98	98	70	5	90
Hybrid Approach (RF, LightGBM, Ensemble)	99	99	85	2	85

Table 6. Specific performance metrics against individual methods of hybrid model

Model	Accuracy	Precision	Recall	F1 Score
Random Forest	95	92	90	91
LightGBM	97	94	91	92
Ensemble	98	95	93	93
Hybrid Approach	99	97	95	95

Table 7. Error rate against the considered models

Technique	Error Rate
Random Forest	15
Support Vector Machine (SVM)	5
Logistic Regression	20
Neural Networks	3
XGBoost	5
Hybrid Approach (RF, LightGBM, Ensemble)	2

The implication of Table 5 analyzes the measures such as interpretability in terms of understanding and tuning, Error rate in terms of wrong predictions, time taken to complete the process is denoted by performance, and cost to implement, perfectness of the mechanism is described with evaluated values. From Table 6, the specific measures are described such as precision, recall, and F1-score, and are found good compared against individual models. From Table 7, the method that has a minimum error rate would be the best approach, and ensure reduced false positives, and effective detection rate.

5. CONCLUSION

The intensity of fraudulent behavior and patterns is identified with utmost accuracy, and overall performance is ensured using a hybrid approach. Although there are some fraud types that frequently occur, prevention is possible to the maximum extent when that is detected using a sophisticated approach. Hence, the combination of Random Forest, in which

better accuracy is ensured and overfitting is avoided, then uses LightGBM in which optimal performance is ensured. The good choice is picked using an ensemble strategy called stacking. In this, the approaches considered are Random Forest, Support Vector Machines, Logistic Regression, Neural Networks, and XGBoost. Their effectiveness is described in terms of interpretability, cost-effectiveness, fault tolerance in terms of error rate, and optimality. In the future, the evaluation may be sustainable, and the mechanism may transform into a readymade or built-in tool for assessing whether the transaction is fraudulent or not.

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