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ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS**
FACULTY OF FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING
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**Implementation of Machine Learning
Algorithms within Credit Risk
Modelling**

Master's thesis

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Declaration of Authorship

I, as an author, hereby declare that I wrote and compiled the Master's thesis "*Implementation of Machine Learning Algorithms within Credit Risk Modelling*" independently, using only the resources and literature listed in bibliography.

25th May 2023, Prague

Petr Nguyen

Abstract

TBD

The abstract should concisely summarize the contents of a thesis. Since potential readers should be able to make their decision on the personal relevance based on the abstract, the abstract should clearly tell the reader what information he can expect to find in the thesis. The most essential issue is the problem statement and the actual contribution of described work. The authors should always keep in mind that the abstract is the most frequently read part of a thesis. It should contain at least 70 and at most 120 words (200 when you are writing a thesis). Do not cite anyone in the abstract.

Keywords: machine learning, data science, credit risk, probability of default, loans, mortgages

Abstrakt

TBD

Nutnou součástí práce je anotace, která shrnuje význam práce a výsledky v ní dosažené. Anotace práce by neměla být delší než 200 slov a píše se v jazyce práce (tj. česky, slovensky či anglicky) a v překladu (tj. u anglicky psané práce česky či slovensky, u česky či slovensky psané práce anglicky). Anotace práce by neměla být delší než 200 slov a píše se v jazyce práce (tj. česky, slovensky či anglicky) a v překladu (tj. u anglicky psané práce česky či slovensky, u česky či slovensky psané práce anglicky). V abstraktu by se nemělo citovat.

Klíčová slova: machine learning, data science, kreditní riziko, pravděpodobnost defaultu, úvery, hypotéky

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Acronyms

| | |
|--------------|---|
| ML | Machine Learning |
| HMEQ | Home Equity Data Set |
| PD | Probability of Default |
| LGD | Loss Given Default |
| EAD | Exposure At Default |
| ECL | Expected Credit Loss |
| LR | Logistic Regression |
| GNB | Gaussian Naive Bayes |
| DT | Decision Tree |
| KNN | K–Nearest Neighbors |
| RF | Random Forest |
| GB | Gradient Boosting |
| SVM | Support Vector Machine |
| NN | Neural Network |
| MLP | Multi-Layer Perceptron |
| SFS | Sequential Forward Selection |
| MSE | Mean Squared Error |
| CCP | Cost–Complexity Pruning |
| WoE | Weight–of–Evidence |
| SMOTE | Synthetic Minority Oversampling Technique |
| RFE | Recursive Feature Elimination |
| CDF | Cumulative Distribution Function |
| TP | True Positive |
| FP | False Positive |

- TPR** True Positive Rate
- FPR** False Positive Rate
- TN** True Negative
- FN** False Negative
- MCC** Matthews Correlation Coefficient
- ROC** Receiver Operating Characteristic
- AUC** Area Under the Curve
- KS** Kolmogorov–Smirnov Distance
- ReLU** Rectified Linear Unit
- Tanh** Hyperbolic Tangent
- ADASYN** Adaptive Synthetic Sampling
- GP** Gaussian Process
- EI** Expected Improvement
- SHAP** SHapley Additive exPlanations
- LIME** Local Interpretable Model–Agnostic Explanations
- CPU** Central Processing Unit
- HTML** Hypertext Markup Language

Chapter 1

Introduction

TBD

Chapter 2

Theoretical Background

This chapter provides an in-depth theoretical exposition of credit risk modeling and pertinent machine learning concepts. Fundamental terminologies, a variety of algorithms, and key evaluation metrics for gauging model performance are discussed in detail. Additionally, this chapter explores more specialized topics including ADASYN oversampling techniques for addressing imbalanced datasets, Bayesian Optimization for hyperparameter tuning, Optimal Binning as a data preprocessing step, and Sequential Feature Selection methods to optimize model inputs. This foundational knowledge will inform our subsequent data analysis and modeling process.

2.1 Credit Risk

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According to Gregory (Gregory 2012), credit risk can be defined as the risk that the client may be unable to unwilling to make a payment or fulfil loan contractual obligations.

The main objective in credit risk modelling is to estimate (expected) credit loss, which has 3 components and is defined as follows:

$$ECL = PD \times EAD \times LGD \quad (2.1)$$

where PD is the probability of default indicating likelihood of the client will not meet scheduled loan payments, EAD is the exposure at default is the

amount size that is due to be repaid at the time of default, and *LGD* is loss given default indicating the loss in case of default occurrence (Doumpos *et al.* 2019).

2.1.1 Regulation

Basel II/III

Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS) introduced Capital Accord Basel II and Basel III in 2004 and 2010, respectively (Shakdwipee & Mehta 2017), with a goal to set higher risk management and internal control standards for banks (Witzany 2017). Regarding credit risk modelling, the former Accord introduced two approaches how to model credit risk:

- **Standardized Approach** - The simplest approach which imposes risk weights based on assets based on the external credit ratings from credit rating agencies (CRA's) (Konno & Itoh 2016).
- **Internal Ratings Based (IRB) Approach** - More sophisticated approach which allows to use internal rating systems to assess the parameters such as PD, LGD and EAD (Baesens *et al.* 2016). Such approach is further divided into two sub-approaches:
 - **Foundation IRB approach** - Only PD is internally estimated by a bank, while LGD and EAD are determined by the Basel Accord or provided by the local regulator (Baesens *et al.* 2016).
 - **Advanced IRB approach** - All the parameters, i.e., PD, LGD and EAD are estimated internally by a bank itself and also subject to regulatory satisfaction (Joseph 2013).

IFRS 9

International Accounting Standard Board (IASB) in cooperation with the Financial Accounting Standard Board (FASB) published International Financial Reporting Standard (IFRS) 9 in 2014 in order to replace IAS (International Accounting Standard) 39 (Temim 2016), which incorporates the forward-looking information, i.e., impact of macroeconomic projections on expected credit losses (Porretta *et al.* 2020). IFRS 9 also outlines three-stages approach considering changes in credit quality since initial recognition of the financial asset (Beer-

baum & Ahmad 2015), also known as SICR (Significant Increase In Credit Risk). According to Bellini (Bellini 2019), the stages are defined as follows:

- **Stage 1** - The financial instrument is considered to be in Stage 1 if it has not had a SICR since initial recognition or if it has low credit risk at the reporting date.
- **Stage 2** - The financial instrument is considered to be in Stage 2 if it has experienced a SICR since initial recognition, but it does not have objective evidence of impairment at the reporting date.
- **Stage 3** - The financial instrument is considered to be in Stage 3 if it has objective evidence of impairment at reporting date.

In case of Stage 1, 12-month ECL is calculated, while in case of Stage 2 and Stage 3, lifetime ECL is calculated (Gornjak 2017). While the aim of IFRS 9 regards the financial reporting which should follow a general purpose to provide information to those outside the firm to support decision usefulness, whereas Basel II/III seeks to decrease the frequency and cost of bank failuers and to protect the financial system as whole by limiting the frequency and cost of systemic crises (Beerbaum & Ahmad 2015).

For more information about the differences between IFRS 9 and Basel II/III, please, refer to the study of Beerbaum and Ahmad (Beerbaum & Ahmad 2015).

2.1.2 Credit Scoring

Credit scoring is an assessment of the credit quality of the client which uses techniques for finding the criteria that best discriminate between defaulters and non-defaulters (Bessis 2015). From such perspective, we distinguish two basic types of credit scoring:

Application Scoring

As the name indicates, the application scoring is used to assess the credit-worthiness of the client at the moment of loan application whiuch supports the decision whether a bank should approve or reject the loan application (Baesens *et al.* 2016). The most common variables which are used in application scoring and can be acquired from the loan application are for instance: age, gender, marital status, income, employment status and others (Baesens *et al.* 2016).

Behavioral Scoring

Behavioral scoring takes into account the observed client's recent or past behavior and starts once the loan has been approved (Van Gestel & Baesens 2009). In contrast to application scoring, which is static and takes into account only information from the loan application, behavioral scoring accumulates the information retrieved from the monitoring of the repayments and financial behavior of the client (Van Gestel & Baesens 2009).

2.2 Machine Learning Terminology

In order to avoid confusion and ensure clear understanding in this thesis, it is necessary to provide precise definitions for machine learning terminology that may be easily confused with statistical terminology due to their similar meanings but different naming conventions.

- **Target variable** - Dependent variable, output variable or response variable, which we want to predict or classify (Y).
- **Feature** - Predictor, attribute, independent variable or explanatory variable (X), which we want to use to predict the target variable Y . In tabular data, one feature is represented by one column.
- **instance** - Observation, example, record, data point, case or a row in tabular data.
- **Training** - Fitting process, learning process or estimation of the model's parameters using the training data.
- **Supervised Learning** - Process reflecting the ability of an algorithm to generalize knowledge from the data having with target or label cases, so that the algorithm can be used to predict new (unlabelled) cases (Alloghani *et al.* 2020). In other words, the learning process is supervised by the target variable, hence the model can be used to predict the target variable for new data, either using classification (when having categorical target variable) or regression (when having continuous target variable).
- **Cross-validation** - The data is split into k folds (subsets) and the model is trained k times, each time on $k-1$ folds and evaluated on the remaining fold, in order to obtain reliable estimates of the model generalization error (Tatsat *et al.* 2020), or so called cross-validation score.
- **Overfitting** - Situation, when the model has small error during the training, but also a high test error (Forsyth 2019). The model is too complex and just purely memorizes the data on which is trained on, but cannot generalize well on unseen data.
- **Black-box model** - Models which are very accurate but also are very complex hard to interpret (Pintelas *et al.* 2020).
- **White-box model** - Models which are comprehensible and transparent but usually are less accurate (Pintelas *et al.* 2020).

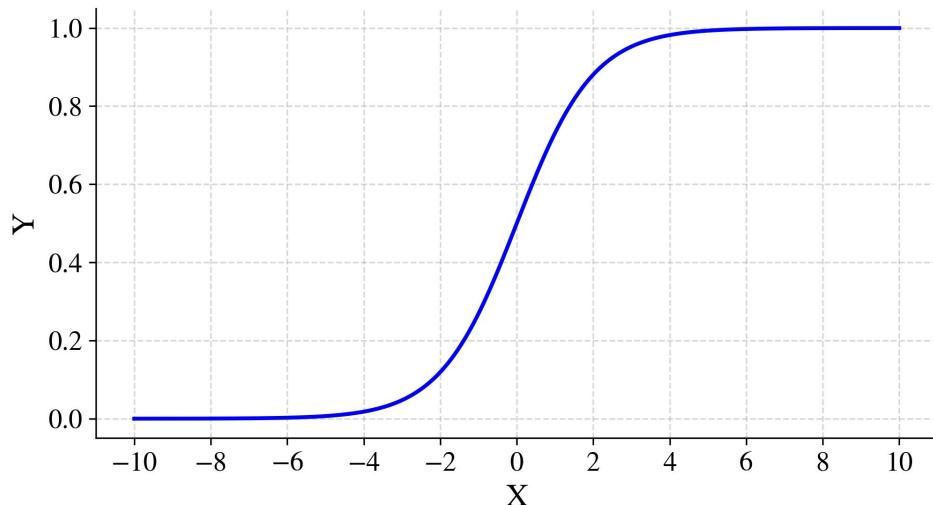
2.3 Algorithms

In this section, several algorithms, which are used in the machine learning implementation, are described. Since the goal is to predict whether or not given client will default, henceforth only (binary) classification algorithms as a part of the supervised learning are described. In other words, regression models and unsupervised learning algorithms are out of the scope of this thesis.

2.3.1 Logistic Regression

Despite the algorithm's name, logistic regression is not a regression algorithm, but rather a classification algorithm as linear regression's target variable is continuous, whereas regarding a logistic regression, the target variable is categorical, or rather dichotomous in case of binary classification (Wendler & Gröttrup 2021). For a probability score prediction, it uses a logistic (sigmoid) function, which maps any real value into a probability and takes a S-shaped curve (Zaidi 2022), as can be seen in Figure 2.1.

Figure 2.1: Logistic Function



Source: Author's simulation in Python

The linear form of the logistic regression with n features can be written as:

$$\ln \left(\frac{P}{1 - P} \right) = \beta_0 + \sum_{i=1}^n \beta_i X_i \quad (2.2)$$

where P is the probability of the occurred event, conditional on the set of given features. Let us denote $Y = 1$ as an observed target instance where the event occurred (e.g., default), then:

$$P = \Pr(Y = 1 | X) \quad (2.3)$$

Therefore, the term within the natural logarithm is the odds or more particularly, the ratio of the probability of the event with respect to the probability of non-event, both conditional on the same set of given features.

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{P}{1 - P} &= \frac{\Pr(Y = 1 | X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)}{1 - \Pr(Y = 1 | X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)} \\ &= \frac{\Pr(Y = 1 | X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)}{\Pr(Y = 0 | X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)} \end{aligned} \quad (2.4)$$

Referring to the previous equations, solving for P , henceforth we get a final equation for computing the probability of occurred event with usage of logistic regression:

$$P = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-\left(\beta_0 + \sum_{i=1}^n \beta_i X_i\right)}} \quad (2.5)$$

Regarding the loss function minimized when estimating the model's parameters, the logistic regression uses the cross-entropy loss function, also known as log loss. This loss function is also used as an evaluation metric for the model's performance, which is further described in Subsection 2.4.6. Let us denote the loss function as $L(y, p)$, where y is the actual target values and p is the predicted probability scores. To this loss function, we can also additionally employ a regularization term C in order to prevent overfitting (Pramoditha 2021) by penalizing the coefficients' magnitudes. We distinguish 3 types of regularization (penalty) types:

- **L1** - Lasso regularization, which takes the absolute value of the coefficients' magnitudes.

$$L(y, p)_{L1} = L(y, p) + C \sum_{j=1}^k |w_j| \quad (2.6)$$

- **L2** - Ridge regularization, which squares the coefficients' magnitudes.

$$L(y, p)_{L2} = L(y, p) + C \sum_{j=1}^k w_j^2 \quad (2.7)$$

- **Elastic Net** - Combination of L1 and L2 regularizations.

$$L(y, p)_{ElasticNet} = L(y, p) + C \sum_{j=1}^k [\alpha |w_j| + (1 - \alpha)w_j^2] \quad (2.8)$$

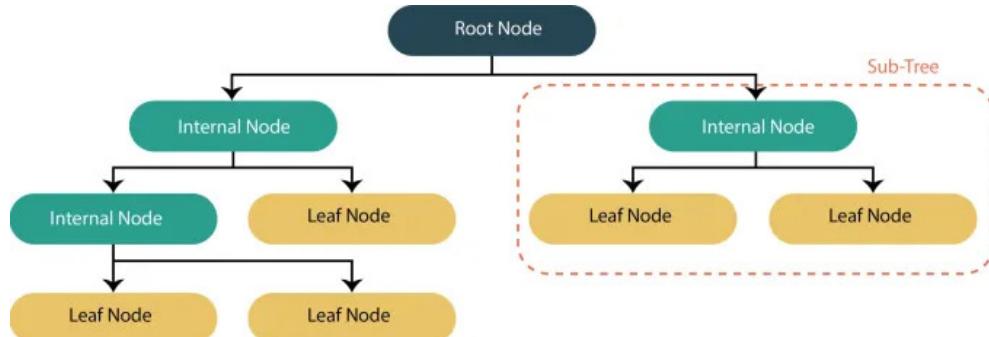
where α indicates the weight of L1 penalty in the *ElasticNet* penalty.

2.3.2 Decision Tree

Decision Tree is a rule-based algorithm which aims to partition the data into smaller and more homogeneous subsets. Such tree contains nodes, which are also visualized in Figure 2.2, namely:

- **Root node** - the topmost node of the tree where the splitting begins.
- **Internal node** - the non-terminal nodes as a result of the split and can be further split into another subsets.
- **Leaf node** - the terminal nodes as a results of the split and cannot be further split into another subsets.

Figure 2.2: Decision Tree's Nodes



Source: (Gauhar 2020)

The splitting process is based on the homogeneity or so called purity of the node with respect to the target variable (Provost & Fawcett 2013). In other words, we want to have the node as pure as possible which means that the node should contain as high proportion of one class as possible. In this case, the node should either contain high proportion of defaulters or non-defaulters, respectively. Such splitting process starts from the root node and continues

until the leaf nodes are pure enough or until the stopping criteria are met. The stopping criteria can be either a maximum depth of the tree, minimum number of observations within the node or minimum number of observations within the leaf node. One way to measure impurity is using Entropy which ranges from 0 to 1 and is defined as:

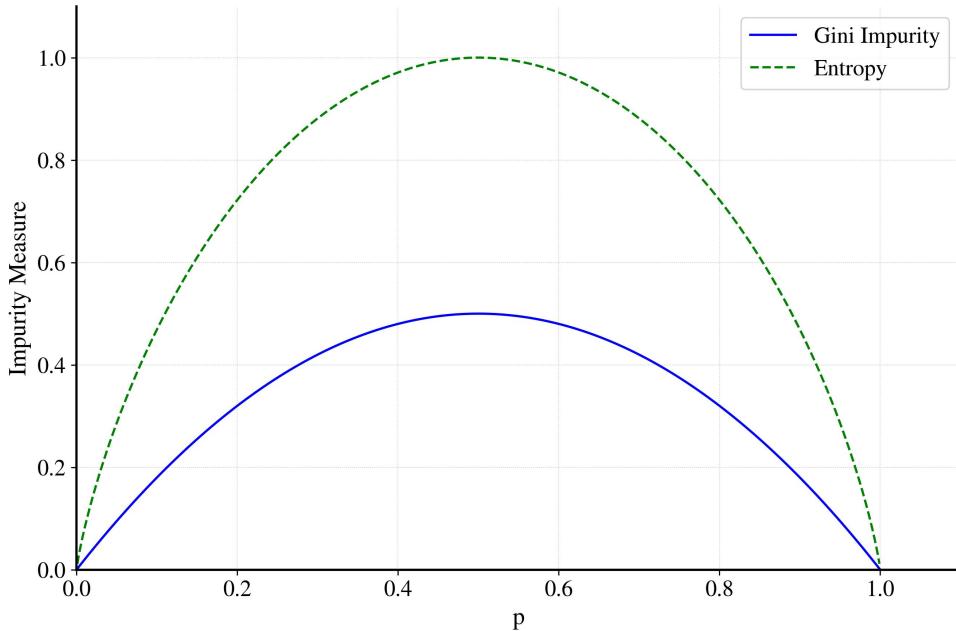
$$E = - \sum_{i=1}^n p_i \log_2 (p_i) \quad (2.9)$$

where p_i is the probability of the occurrence of the event i , or in other words, it is a fraction of the observations belonging to the class i within given node. In credit risk modelling terms, it is a proportion of defaulters within given node and $1 - p_i$ is a proportion of non-defaulters within given sample. The lower Entropy value, the purer the node is, i.e., the more homogeneous the subset is, where the frequency of one class is dominant to other class. Therefore, the goal is to minimize the Entropy value since we want to have the purest nodes as possible, i.e., the nodes where is either a high proportion of defaulters or non-defaulters. However, the Entropy is not the only way to measure the impurity of the node. Another way is using Gini Impurity which ranges from 0 to 0.5 and is defined as:

$$G = 1 - \sum_{i=1}^n p_i^2 \quad (2.10)$$

Both impurity measures are depicted in Figure 2.3 which we want to both of them minimize. Thus, we choose such feature and such rule which result in the lowest impurity measure. Such process is repeated until the stopping criteria are met or until the leaf nodes are pure enough.

Figure 2.3: Gini Impurity vs. Entropy



Source: Author's simulation in Python

After the training, Decision Tree predicts the target variable based on the rules which are stored in the tree. The prediction process starts from the root node and continues until the leaf node is reached. Within the leaf node, the prediction can be either the most frequent class within the node or the probability of the occurrence of the event, i.e., the proportion of defaulters within given node.

2.3.3 Naive Bayes

Naive Bayes is a classification and probabilistic machine learning algorithm which is based on Bayes theorem which is defined as:

$$\Pr(C = c | E) = \frac{\Pr(C = c) \times \Pr(E | C = c)}{\Pr(E)} \quad (2.11)$$

where:

- $\Pr(C = c | E)$ is the posterior probability which is the probability that the target variable C takes on the class of interest c after taking the evidence E .

- $\Pr(C = c)$ is the prior probability of the class c , i.e., the probability we would assign to the class c before seeing any evidence E .
- $\Pr(E | C = c)$ is the probability of seeing the evidence E conditional on the given class c .
- $\Pr(E)$ is the probability of the evidence E .

With regards to the binary classification, we can substitute Y as a target variable instead C , and set of features X which will refer to the set of evidence E , henceforth the probability of Y using the Naive Bayes algorithm can be mathematically expressed as:

$$\Pr(Y | X) = \frac{\Pr(Y) \times \Pr(X | Y)}{\Pr(X)} \quad (2.12)$$

One of the assumptions of this algorithm is the conditional probabilistic independence among the features. Since all the X features' values combinations do not have to appear at all, we assume their independence (Cichosz 2014). Therefore, instead of computing the probability of all features together, conditional on the class event, for each feature X we compute the conditional joint probability of X given the class event. Hence:

$$\Pr(X | Y) = \prod_{i=1}^n \Pr(X_i | Y) \quad (2.13)$$

Furthermore, the second adjustment is applied to the denominator of the Bayes theorem, i.e., $\Pr(X)$ - since such probability is constant over all the values of the class event, we can omit it from the equation. Therefore, the posterior probability of the class event Y conditional on the subset of features X can be expressed as:

$$\Pr(Y | X) = \prod_{i=1}^n \Pr(X_i | Y) \times \Pr(Y) \quad (2.14)$$

During the training process, the Naive Bayes algorithm computes $\Pr(Y)$ and $\Pr(X | Y)$ for each class event Y and each feature X . In terms of default status, it calculates the proportion of defaulters $\Pr(Y = 1)$ and non-defaulters $\Pr(Y = 0)$ within given training sample as well as the proportion of defaulters and non-defaulters within given feature X .

When it comes to the predictions or classification of new instances, we use

the trained Naive Bayes model, i.e., the computed probabilities $\Pr(Y)$ and $\Pr(X | Y)$ for both default and non-default class. Specifically, based on the new instance's features X , we determine the computed $\Pr(Y)$ and $\Pr(X | Y)$ for both classes and afterwards, as a predicted class, we choose such class with the highest posterior probability. In general, the prediction while maximizing posterior probability is given as:

$$\Pr(Y | X) = \operatorname{argmax}_{y \in Y} \Pr(X | Y = y) \times \Pr(Y = y) \quad (2.15)$$

Specifically, in terms of binary classification for prediction of given class, whether it is default or non-default, we can compute the probability of the default event (1) and non-default event (0), and choose the class with the higher probability.

$$\Pr(Y | X) = \max(\Pr(Y = 1 | X), \Pr(Y = 0 | X)) \quad (2.16)$$

where:

$$\Pr(Y = 0 | X) = \Pr(Y = 0) \times \prod_{i=1}^n \Pr(X_i | Y = 0) \quad (2.17)$$

respectively:

$$\Pr(Y = 1 | X) = \Pr(Y = 1) \times \prod_{i=1}^n \Pr(X_i | Y = 1) \quad (2.18)$$

This algorithm works well only if the features are categorical. However, most of the data sets contain continuous features as well. Therefore, we introduce **Gaussian Naive Bayes** algorithm which is suitable for continuous features. Such algorithm assumes that the features follow Normal (Gaussian) distribution, given the class label (Jahromi & Taheri 2017). Assuming the class event $Y = 1$, we can derive probability density function of particular value x of the continuous feature X as:

$$\Pr(X = x | Y = 1) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma_{X|Y=1}^2}} \exp\left(-\frac{(x - \mu_{X|Y=1})^2}{2\sigma_{X|Y=1}^2}\right) \quad (2.19)$$

where $\mu_{X|Y=1}$ and $\sigma_{X|Y=1}$ is the mean and variance of X , respectively, given the the class event $Y = 1$. Afterwards, $\Pr(X = x | Y = 1)$ derived from the Gaussian distribution can be substituted into Equation 2.18.

2.3.4 K-Nearest Neighbors

The goal of K-nearest Neighbors algorithm (henceforth KNN) is to find k instances that are most similar to particular instances y in the n -dimensional space, where n is the number of features. The principle of this algorithm consists in the similarity between the instances as it assumes that the similar instances are close to each other. Based on the predetermined k neighbors, it will predict the class based on the k nearest instances.

There are several ways how to measure the distance. The most used one is the Euclidean distance. Geometrically, it is a straight line between the two points and within two-dimensional space, it can be derived from the Pythagorean theorem, where the hypotenuse is the straight line measuring the distance. In the n -dimensional space, we take the sum the squared differences between the data points x and y , underneath the square root in order to compute the total Euclidean distance.

$$d_{Euclidean}(x, y) = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - y_i)^2} \quad (2.20)$$

Other distance measure is the Manhattan distance measure, which is known as a city block distance, referring to the real-life problems, more particularly in order to reach particular destination, we have to take the path in between the blocks. Mathematically, it is similar to the Euclidean distance, but instead of squared differences, it sums the absolute differences between the data points.

$$d_{Manhattan}(x, y) = \sqrt[p]{\sum_{i=1}^n |x_i - y_i|} \quad (2.21)$$

The last measure is the Minkowski distance which is the generalized form Euclidean or Manhattan distance respectively. It depends on p which represents the order of the norm. Hence, the Euclidean distance has the second order of the norm, whereas Manhattan distance has the first order of the norm.

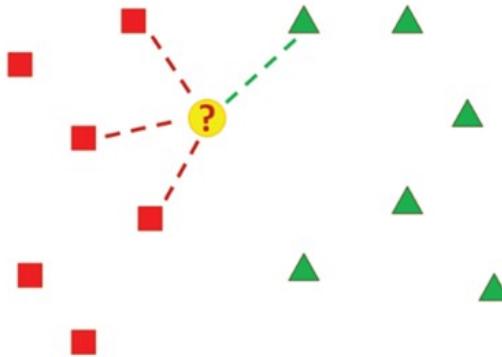
$$d_{Minkowski}(x, y) = \sqrt[p]{\sum_{i=1}^n |x_i - y_i|^p} \quad (2.22)$$

Within the training process, KNN memorizes training instances and afterwards when it encounters a new instance, it tries to search for such training in-

stance(s) which most strongly resembles the new instance (Witten *et al.* 2011). Therefore, After the training process, when it comes to the prediction, the KNN compares the new instance to the training instances, calculates the distances between the the new input and the training instances, and predicts the class based on on the majority voting within the k nearest neighbors, or predicts the probability score as the fraction of positive instances within the k nearest neighbors.

In the following Figure 2.4, let us consider 2-dimensional space and that k is equal to 4, hence we are looking at four nearest neighbors for such new instance. Further, let us consider two classes - red squares and green triangles. By looking at the four nearest neighbors, we can observe that three out of the four nearest neighbors are the red triangles. Therefore, when applying majority voting, KNN would predict such instance as a red triangle, or would predict a probability score of 0.75 for the red triangle.

Figure 2.4: K-Nearest Neighbors with $k = 4$



Source: (Mucherino *et al.* 2009)

2.3.5 Random Forest

Random forest is an ensemble algorithm which is a collection of decision trees where each tree is independently trained on on a bootstrap sample of the training data (Han *et al.* 2011), i.e., on a on a set which is randomly sampled from the training data with replacement and which has the same size as the training data. In such way, each bootstrap sample is unique and can contain duplicates of the original data or does not have to contain all the original data. Another aspect of randomness in such algorithm, particularly in the variability within trees, is the number of features considered for the split at each node. Instead of considering all the features of the length M , it randomly selects a

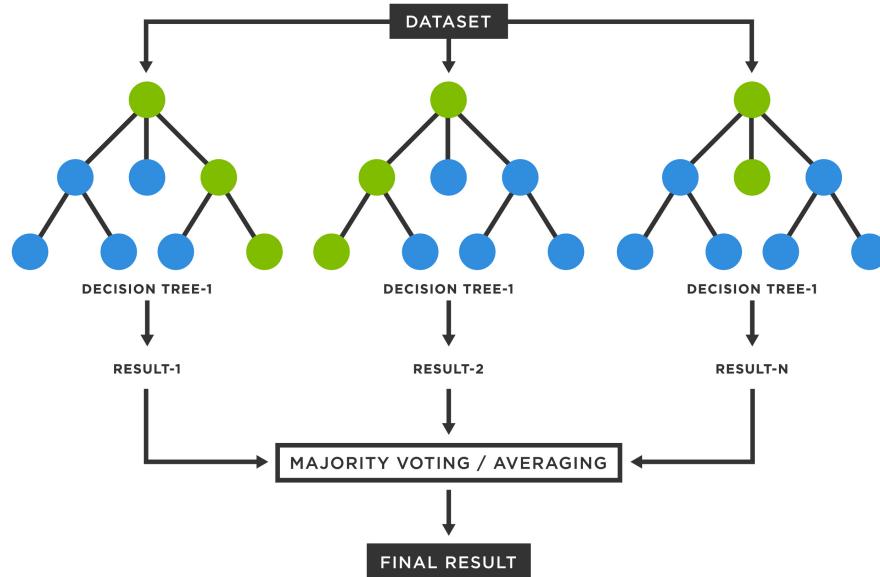
subset of features of the length m (where $m < M$) and chooses the best split from the subset. The training process of individual decision tree is the same as described in Subsection 2.3.2.

Within classifying new instances, the random forest algorithm predicts the class based on the majority voting of the individual decision trees or predicts a probability as an average of the probabilities of the individual decision trees (Malley *et al.* 2011), thus:

$$\Pr(Y = 1 | X) = \frac{1}{B} \sum_{b=1}^B \Pr(Y = 1 | X, T_b) \quad (2.23)$$

where B is the number of trees and T_b is the b -th tree. Such algorithm is depicted on the Figure 2.5 for the visual representation.

Figure 2.5: Random Forest Diagram



Source: (TIBCO-Software 2023)

2.3.6 Gradient Boosting

In contrast to Random Forest whose trees are trained independently, i.e., in a parallel way, Gradient Boosting trains trees are trained in a sequential way, where each tree is trained on the residuals of the previous tree (Ayyadevara

2018), as a sequential building series of dependent weak learners, i.e., decision trees, in order to create a strong learner.

According to Dias (Dias *et al.* 2018), before adding any weak learners, first we need to initialize a model $F_0(x)$ which is a constant value computed by minimizing the sum of the loss function L over all training samples, i.e., we look for such γ constant which minimizes the loss function L , hence:

$$F_0(x) = \arg \min_{\gamma} \sum_{i=1}^n L(y_i, \gamma) \quad (2.24)$$

Then, for $m \in M$, where M is the total number of iterations or the number of tree estimators:

1. Compute pseudo-residuals for each training sample pair (x_i, y_i) as the negative gradient of the loss function L with respect to the prediction $F_{m-1}(x)$ of the previous model $F_{m-1}(x)$, hence:

$$r_{i,m} = - \left[\frac{\partial L(y_i, F(x_i))}{\partial F(x_i)} \right]_{F(x)=F_{m-1}(x)} \quad (2.25)$$

2. Train a weak learner $h_m(x)$ with the training data as features and the pseudo-residuals as the target values $(x_i, r_{i,m})$, and then compute the learning rate γ_m which minimizes the loss function L when adding the weak learner $h_m(x)$ to the previous model $F_{m-1}(x)$, hence:

$$\gamma_m = \arg \min_{\gamma} \sum_{i=1}^n L(y_i, F_{m-1}(x_i) + \gamma h(x_i)) \quad (2.26)$$

3. Update the model $F_m(x)$ by adding the weak learner $h_m(x)$ with the learning rate γ_m , hence:

$$F_m(x) = F_{m-1}(x) + \gamma_m h(x) \quad (2.27)$$

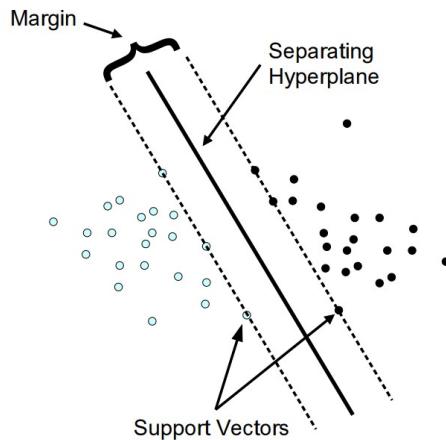
Afterwards, such algorithm outputs the final model $F_M(x)$ as a combination of the initial model and the M weak learners.

2.3.7 Support Vector Machine

Support Vector Machine (henceforth SVM) is machine learning algorithm which can handle both linear and non-linear classification problems and tries to

transform original training data into a higher dimension, where the class points are linearly separable by a (linear) decision boundary, also known as hyperplane (Han *et al.* 2011). In particular, SVM tries to maximize the margin which is the distance between the separating hyperplane and the support vectors, i.e., the training data points which are equally closest and parallel to such hyperplane (Tatsat *et al.* 2020), as shown in Figure 2.6.

Figure 2.6: Support Vector Machine 2D Hyperplane



Source: (Meyer 2015)

The hyperplane can be expressed as follows, where X are the features data, W is the vector of the weights and b is the intercept:

$$W \cdot X + b = 0 \quad (2.28)$$

Thus, the data points which lie above the hyperplane are classified as 1 and otherwise (Hsu & Lin 2002). Moreover, the distance between the hyperplane and any training data point is expressed as $\frac{1}{\|W\|}$, where $\|W\|$ is Euclidean the norm of the weight vector W . In order to maximize the margin, we maximize following term as we want to maximize both sides of below and above the hyperplane, therefore:

$$\min \frac{2}{\|W\|} \quad (2.29)$$

When the data are not linearly separable, SVM transforms the original data points into a higher dimensional space using non-linear mapping function, also known as kernel (Han *et al.* 2011). In general, kernel function for the training tuples (X_i, X_j) can be expressed as:

$$K(X_i, X_j) = \phi(X_i) \cdot \phi(X_j) \quad (2.30)$$

where ϕ is mapping function for high-dimensional projection of the feature space. According to Patle (Patle & Chouhan 2013), the most common kernel functions. where γ and r and d represent the kernel parameters, are:

- d -degree polynomial kernel:

$$K(X_i, X_j) = (1 + X_i \cdot X_k)^d \quad (2.31)$$

- Gaussian radial basis kernel:

$$K(X_i, X_j) = \exp(-\gamma \|X_i - X_j\|^2) \quad (2.32)$$

- Sigmoid kernel:

$$K(X_i, X_j) = \tanh(\gamma X_i \cdot X_j + r) \quad (2.33)$$

In some cases, the data cannot be linearly separable in higher dimensional space, i.e., we need to account for some potential errors, thus we introduce regularization factor C for penalizing the errors ξ . Therefore, in order to maximize the margin as well as to allow for errors, we minimize the following term:

$$\min \frac{1}{2} \|W\| + C \sum_{i=1}^N \xi \quad (2.34)$$

Hence, by minimizing $\frac{1}{2}\|W\|$ we minimize the weights (i.e, maximize the margin), by minimizing ξ we reduce the number of training error, and by tuning C we balance between these two properties (Hsu & Lin 2002).

Note, that SVM does not predict probability scores by default, but rather predicted classes based on the location whether the given data points are above or below the hyperplane. In order to obtain SVM's probabilities. as stated by Lin (Lin *et al.* 2007), the Platt scaling (Platt *et al.* 1999) can be applied as a surrogate model to estimate probability outputs. Particularly, it fits a logistic regression model with true labels as target variable and predictions produced by SVM as features to predict the probability scores. Hence:

$$\Pr(Y|f(x)) = \frac{1}{1 + \exp(A \cdot f(x) + B)} \quad (2.35)$$

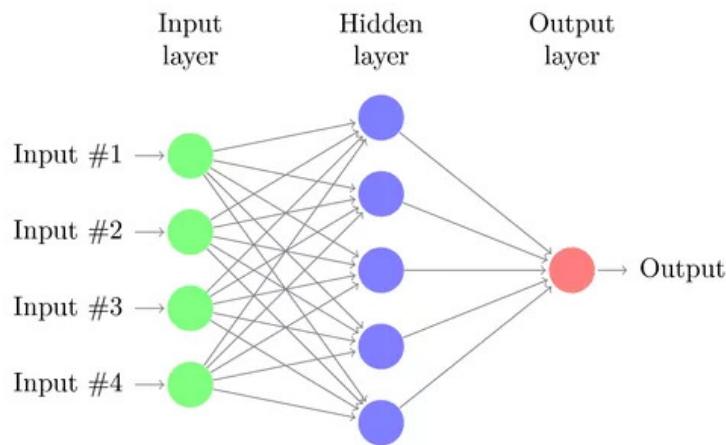
where, A and B are the coefficients of the logistic regression model.

2.3.8 Neural Network

Neural Network is a black–box machine learning algorithm which can handle very complex and non–linear relationship between. It contains several layers where each layer has a certain number of units (neurons). In general, we distinguish 3 type of layers as also visualized in Figure 2.7:

- **Input layer** - The initial layer which contains n units, where n is the number of features within the data set.
- **Output layer** - The final layer which contains m units, where m is the number of classes within the target variable. Since we assume only binary classification algorithms, therefore the output layer contains only one unit.
- **Hidden layer** - The intermediate layer which is always between the two layers - either between the input and output layer or even between other hidden layers.

Figure 2.7: Neural Network Architecture



Source: (Dilmegani 2017)

The most common type of hidden layer is the fully connected layer where each unit is connected to each unit of the previous layer and to each unit in the next layer. Thus, each unit receives the inputs from the previous layer, performs the computation and feed the output to the next layer - such process is called *feed-forward*, hence feed–forward neural networks (Charu 2018). Within the receiving the inputs, let us assume an integration function g which performs a

linear combination of the inputs x and the weights w , and adds a bias term b . Therefore, the output value z of the single unit in hidden layer is calculated as:

$$z = g(X, w) = b + \sum_{m=1}^M w_m x_m \quad (2.36)$$

where M indicates the number of units in the previous layer. Before the output value z is passed to the next layer, it is transformed by an activation function f which is usually a non-linear function. The most common non-linear activation functions are:

- **ReLU** - Rectified Linear Unit (henceforth ReLU) is half-linear function which is rectified from the negative values to zero. The ReLU function is defined as:

$$f(z) = \max(0, z) \quad (2.37)$$

- **Tanh** - Hyperbolic tangent (henceforth Tanh) is another widely used non-linear activation function which reminds of the sigmoid function. The Tanh function is limited to the range between -1 and 1, and is defined as:

$$f(z) = \frac{e^z - e^{-z}}{e^z + e^{-z}} \quad (2.38)$$

- **Sigmoid** - The logistic function was already described in Subsection 2.3.1. Such function is usually used in the last hidden layer before the output layer as it maps the output to the range between 0 and 1, i.e., the predicted probability for binary classification. In terms of z , the sigmoid function is defined as:

$$f(z) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-z}} \quad (2.39)$$

The training of neural network is an iterative process, where within each iteration (also called as epoch), the neural network is fed with the input, pass through the (hidden) layers to the output. The output is then compared with the actual value and the error is calculated. Here comes another property of neural network which is the back-propagation, which updates all the weights and biases starting from the last layer by a small amount until the error is minimized as much as possible (Ayyadevara 2018). The error is then back-propagated through the network and the weights are updated. The process is repeated until the error is minimized.

2.4 Evaluation Metrics

This section focuses on particular measures through which it is possible to determine a predictive power of model in terms of its performance. There are many ways, how to evaluate the model's performance, therefore, only the most common ones and the most relevant are further described. Note, since default prediction regards classification tasks, therefore regression's evaluation metrics are omitted. If not stated otherwise, the higher metric measure, the better the model's performance is.

2.4.1 Confusion Matrix and Derived Metrics

Confusion matrix is a table which summarizes the classification model's performance with respect to the actual classes and predicted classes. It is a square $n \times n$ matrix, where n determines number of classes within the target variable. Let us denote the confusion matrix as $C(f)$ for classification algorithm f . Its elements can be denoted as $c_{i,j}$ where i and j refer to the row and column indices, respectively, or more particularly, i refers to the actual class and j to the class predicted by the classifier f . Each element of the confusion matrix refers to the number of instances corresponding to actual class i and predicted class j (Japkowicz & Shah 2011). For instance, the element $c_{2,1}$ would refer to the number of instances which have the actual class 2 but have been classified as class 1. Mathematically, the confusion matrix can be written as following:

$$C = c_{i,j} = \sum_{l=1}^m [(y_l = i) \wedge (f(x_l) = j)] \quad (2.40)$$

Or either in matrix form as:

$$C_{i \times j} = \begin{bmatrix} c_{1,1} & c_{1,2} & \cdots & c_{1,j} \\ c_{2,1} & c_{2,2} & \cdots & c_{2,j} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ c_{i,1} & c_{i,2} & \cdots & c_{i,j} \end{bmatrix} \quad (2.41)$$

From the given matrix, the diagonal elements represent the numbers of correctly classified instances, whereas the non-diagonal elements represent the numbers of misclassified instances. Further, let us consider a binary classification - hence, the confusion matrix will have a form of 2×2 :

$$C_{2 \times 2} = \begin{bmatrix} c_{1,1} & c_{1,2} \\ c_{2,1} & c_{2,2} \end{bmatrix} \quad (2.42)$$

We can this rewrite confusion matrix, assuming 2 target variable classes *Positive* and *Negative*, as:

$$C_{2 \times 2} = \begin{bmatrix} TP & FN \\ FP & TN \end{bmatrix} \quad (2.43)$$

where:

- TP is the True Positive which refers to the number of instances which corresponds to the actual (*True*) class *Positive* and indeed have been correctly classified as class *Positive*.
- FP is the False Positive which refers to the number of instances which corresponds to the actual (*True*) class *Negative*, but have been incorrectly classified as class *Positive*. In the statistics and hypothesis–testing terms, it can be also called as Type 1 Error.
- FN is the False Negative which refers to the number of instances which corresponds to the actual class *Negative*, but have been incorrectly classified as class *Positive*. In the statistics and hypothesis–testing terms, it can be also called as Type 2 Error.
- TN is the True Negative which refers to the number of instances which corresponds to the actual class *Negative* and indeed have been correctly classified as class *Negative*.

From such confusion matrix, we can derive several metrics which are further described on the following pages:

Accuracy

Such metric ranges from 0 to 1 and it describes in relatives terms how many instances the model has correctly predicted. Thus, the goal is to minimize the number of False Positives and False Negatives, or in credit risk modelling terms, number of defaulters which the model has classified as non–defaulters and number of non–defaulters which the model has classified as defaulters. However, Accuracy is inappropriate metric for evaluation when having imbalanced class,

i.e., where the distribution of the target variable is skewed. In such case, the model can achieve a relatively high Accuracy even though it is not able to predict the minority class correctly (Brownlee 2021), thus it would lead to the misleading results. This is the case of the credit risk modelling, when the loan portfolio often have a lot of non-defaults and few defaults. Therefore, it is deemed appropriate to consider other metrics when having imbalanced class.

$$\text{Accuracy} = \frac{TP + FN}{TP + TN + FP + FN} \quad (2.44)$$

Recall

Such metric is also known as True Positive Rate (TPR) or Sensitivity, which also ranges from 0 to 1, and it describes in relative terms how many actual *Positive* instances the model has correctly predicted out of all the actual *Positive* instances. Thus, the goal is to minimize the number of False Negatives, i.e., number of defaulters which the model has classified as non-defaulters. A lower value of recall could therefore indicate that either the model is not able to predict correctly the *True* classes resulting in low number of True Positives and/or high number of False Negatives. Recall metric is useful when having imbalanced class and should be used instead of accuracy metric as it measures the model's ability to correctly identify instances of the minority class (i.e., defaults). Mathematically based on the confusion matrix elements, it can be computed as:

$$\text{Recall} = \frac{TP}{TP + FN} \quad (2.45)$$

Precision

This metric describes in relative terms how many predicted *Positive* instances are actually *Positive* out of all the predicted *Positive* instances. Thus, the goal is to minimize the number of False Positives, i.e., number of non-defaulters which the model has classified as defaulters. A lower value of precision could therefore indicate that either the model is not able to predict correctly the *True* classes (low number of True Positives) or its prediction of *True* classes is noisy (high number of False Positives). Precision is another metric which should be used instead of Accuracy when having imbalanced class as it measures the model's ability to correctly identify instances of the minority class while minimizing false positives (i.e., non-default instances which the

model has classified as default). Similarly, Precision also ranges from 0 to 1 and can be derived from the confusion matrix as follows:

$$Precision = \frac{TP}{TP + FP} \quad (2.46)$$

F1 Score

F1 score incorporates both Recall and Precision into a single value and takes on values between 0 and 1 as well. It is defined as a weighted harmonic mean of these two metrics (Brabec *et al.* 2020) (where both Recall and Precision have uniform weights), and the goal is to minimize False Positives and False Negatives at the same time as within Accuracy. Nevertheless, F1 score is deemed as more appropriate metric when dealing with imbalanced class as it provides more balanced evaluation of model's performance in imbalanced data sets compared to Accuracy.

$$F1 = \frac{2 \times Precision \times Recall}{Precision + Recall} = \frac{2 \times TP}{2 \times TP + FP + FN} \quad (2.47)$$

Matthews Correlation Coefficient

The drawback of Recall, Precision and F1 score is they are asymmetric measures, i.e., they do not take into account the True Negatives. Therefore, such metrics' values will differ if we swap the positive and negative classes (Chicco & Jurman 2020), e.g., class 1 would indicate non-default and vice versa. In order to overcome such drawback, Matthews Correlation Coefficient can be used as it is symmetric and it takes into account all the four elements of the confusion matrix as well as it captures imbalanced class issue. Methodologically, Matthews Correlation Coefficient is defined as a discretization of Pearson correlation for the case of binary variables (Boughorbel *et al.* 2017). Pearson correlation coefficient is defined as:

$$r(x, y) = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})(y_i - \bar{y})}{\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})^2} \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \bar{y})^2}} \quad (2.48)$$

Thus, assuming that x is the vector of True labels and y is the vector of predictions, the Matthews Correlation Coefficient can be defined as:

$$MCC = \frac{TP \times TN - FP \times FN}{\sqrt{(TP + FP)(TP + FN)(TN + FP)(TN + FN)}} \quad (2.49)$$

Matthews correlation coefficient ranges from -1 to 1, where 1 indicates perfect model's predictions, -1 indicates that model misclassifies all the instances and 0 indicates that model's predictions are not better than random guessing.

2.4.2 ROC Curve and AUC

ROC Curve

In order to derive Area Under the Curve (henceforth AUC), first we need to define Receiver Operating Characteristics (henceforth ROC) curve. ROC curve is two-dimensional visualization of the model performance and shows trade-off between True Positive Rate (TPR) and False Positive Rate (FPR) based on varying the given threshold (Han *et al.* 2011). The former metric was already described in Section 2.4.1, the latter refers to the ratio of the number of *Negative* instances which are classified as *Positive* to the total number of the actual *Negative* instances, hence:

$$FPR = \frac{FP}{TN + FP} \quad (2.50)$$

In order to construct ROC curve, we need to sort the instances by the predicted probability scores and based on the given probability score, we set a threshold - what will be above the threshold will be classified as *True* instance and what is below the threshold will be classified as *False* instance. Thus, each probability score threshold produces a different confusion matrix and hence, different TPR and FPR values (Fawcett 2006). Thus, if the probability is 1, the threshold will be 1 as well and hence:

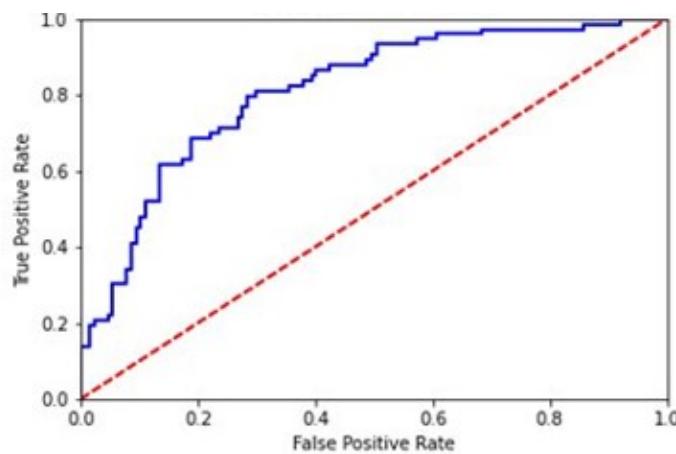
- TPR will be 0 because there is no probability which is higher than 1 and hence, everything will be classified as *Negative* which will result into TP of 0, and subsequently into TPR of 0 as well.
- FPR will be 0, too - since everything will be classified as *Negative*, therefore FP will be 0 which implies FPR to be 0, too.

On the other hand, if the probability is 0, the threshold will be 0 as well and hence:

- TPR will be 1 because there is no probability which is lower than 0 and hence, everything will be classified as *Positive* which will result into FN of 0, and subsequently into TPR of 1.
- FPR will be 1, too - since everything will be classified as *Positive*, therefore TN will be 0 which implies FPR to be 1.

Thus, based on each threshold, the TPR and FPR will be to coordinates for single point within the graph and based on such points, we can construct the ROC curve, which can be depicted in Figure 2.8. Note that the diagonal line represents a random model which randomly guesses the *Positive* class half the time in such way, that FPR and TPR are the same, i.e., 0.5 (Fawcett 2006). Logically, a decent model should perform better than the random model, thus it the ROC curve should be above the diagonal line. Intuitively, the best possible theoretical model would have TPR of 1 and FPR of 0, meaning that all the *True* actual classes should be predicted as *True* and all the *False* actual classes should not be classified as *True*. Within the ROC curve, the given curve reaches the left top corner which corresponds to the coordinates of TPR and FPR .

Figure 2.8: ROC Curve



Source: Author's results in Python.

AUC

AUC is basically the representation of ROC curve as a single number as it aggregates the performance on all possible thresholds ranging from 0 to 1.

AUC can be interpreted as the probability that the randomly chosen actual *True* instance is ranked higher than the randomly chosen actual *False* instance (Janitza *et al.* 2013). As the AUC is an area present underneath the ROC curve, mathematically, it can be computed with the definite integral where x is the given threshold:

$$AUC = \int_0^1 TPR(FPR^{-1}(x)) dx \quad (2.51)$$

Since ROC curve is a probability curve, thus it is considering distribution curve of TP and distribution curve of TN , separated by particular threshold - hence, TP would have probability scores above the given thresholds, whereas TN would have probability scores below the threshold. If these curves do not overlap, meaning the model can perfectly distinguish between the *Positive* and *Negative* values, therefore the AUC would be 1 and the ROC curve would reach the left top corner. However, this idealistic situation does not occur in the practice at all, but rather the two distributions are overlapping since the misclassification of the classes takes the place. The bigger overlap, the lower AUC is. If the distributions are completely overlapping, it implies the AUC of 0.5, meaning that the model cannot distinguish between the *Positive* and *Negative* classes, which is the worst scenario. On the other hand, if the distributions are totally opposite (meaning that the TP instances would have probability scores below the given threshold, whereas the TN instances would have probability scores above the given threshold), the AUC would be 0 since the model is predicting the *Positive* actual classes instead of *Negative* and vice versa (Narkhede 2018).

2.4.3 Kolmogorov-Smirnov Distance

The Kolmogorov-Smirnov (KS) Distance is non-parametric metric for assessing discriminant power of a model as it measures distance between the cumulative distribution functions (henceforth CDF) between two classes, and is quantified as a maximum vertical absolute difference between such two CDF's (Adeodato & Melo 2016). In credit risk modelling terms, we can express KS as follows:

$$\text{Kolmogorov Smirnov} = \max_{0 \leq t \leq 1} |F_D(t) - F_{ND}(t)| \quad (2.52)$$

where F_D and F_{ND} are the cumulative distribution functions of default and non-default cases, respectively, and t is the probability score threshold which ranges between 0 and 1. F_D and F_{ND} are defined as follows:

$$F_D(t) = \frac{1}{M_D} \sum_{i=1}^{M_D} I[f(x_i) \leq t] \quad (2.53)$$

$$F_{ND}(t) = \frac{1}{M_{ND}} \sum_{i=1}^{M_{ND}} I[f(x_i) \leq t] \quad (2.54)$$

where M_D and M_{ND} refer to the number of default and non-default cases, respectively, and I is the indicator function which is equal to 1 if the condition is true and 0 otherwise (Doumpos *et al.* 2019).

2.4.4 Somer's D

The Somers' D is a metric which is part of the Kendall family of ranking measures. Particularly, assuming X-Y pairs, a Kendall's τ_a is defined as:

$$\tau(X, Y) = E[\text{sign}(X_i - X_j)\text{sign}(Y_i - Y_j)] \quad (2.55)$$

Equivalently, Kendall's τ_a can be defined as the difference between the probability that the two X-Y pairs are *concordant* and the probability that they are *discordant*. X-Y pair is concordant if the larger of the X values is paired with the larger of the Y values, i.e., $X_i < X_j$ and $Y_i < Y_j$. In contrast, X-Y pair is discordant if the larger of X values is associated with smaller of Y values or vice versa, i.e., $X_i < X_j$ and $Y_i > Y_j$, or $X_i > X_j$ and $Y_i < Y_j$ (Newson 2002). Therefore, Somers' D can be defined as the difference between the two conditional probabilities of concordance and discordance, given that the two X values are unequal (Newson 2014) as follows:

$$D(Y | X) = \frac{\tau(X, Y)}{\tau(X, X)} \quad (2.56)$$

In case of a binary classification, X values would represent *True* labels and Y values would represent predicted probability scores as rank vectors. Such metric ranges from -1 to +1 (likewise as Matthews correlation coefficient +1). Thus, the higher value of Somers' D, the model's better ability to distinguish between borrowers who are likely to default and those who are not.

2.4.5 Brier Score Loss

Methodologically, Brier Score Loss is calculated in the same way as Mean Squared Error (henceforth MSE). However, Brier Score Loss is applied to the predicted probabilities (i.e., assumes that the target variable is dichotomous) (Comotto 2022), whereas MSE is rather used in regression tasks where is no assumption regarding the continuous target variable. Henceforth, Brier Score Loss is defined as a mean squared error between the *True* labels (y) and the predicted probabilities (\hat{y}) as follows:

$$\text{Brier Score Loss} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2 \quad (2.57)$$

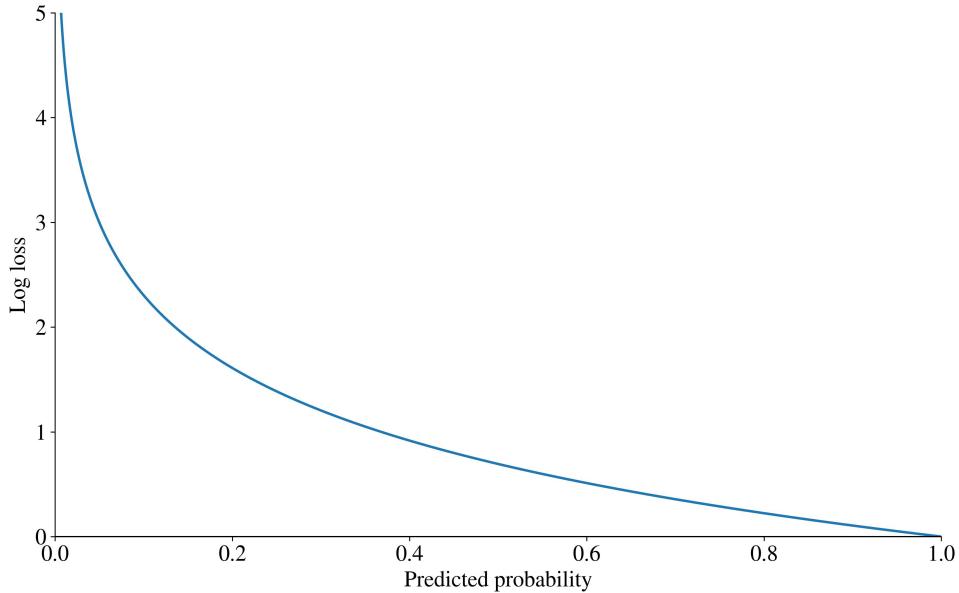
Brier Score Loss ranges from 0 to 1, where the ideal scenario would be Brier Score Loss of 0 - in such case, the model would be perfect predictive power.

2.4.6 Log Loss

Log loss, also known as logistic loss or cross-entropy loss, is a loss function metric which takes *True* labels and predicted probabilities as an input and then minimize the difference between these two in a logarithmic function's form. Particularly, it indicates how close the predicted probabilities are to the corresponding *True* labels. The more predicted probabilities diverges from the actual value, the more the log loss function penalizes the model's performance (Dembla 2020).

$$\text{Log Loss} = -\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N y_i \ln(p_i) + (1 - y_i) \ln(1 - p_i) \quad (2.58)$$

Logically, the lower Log loss value, the better performance of the model is. As depicted in Figure 2.9, we can observe the closer the predicted probability is closer to 1 with respect to the actual target class being equal to 1, the more is the log loss function closer to 0 which is desired in terms of model's performance.

Figure 2.9: Log Loss Function for $Y = 1$ 

Source: Author's simulation in Python

2.5 ADASYN Oversampling

Since this thesis pertains to the data set of defaulted loans, which target variable distribution is heavily skewed, it is needed to emphasize the imbalanced class issue, i.e., the class is strongly imbalanced as the frequency distribution of the majority class is significantly higher than the frequency distribution of the minority class. In case of defaulted loans, the majority class would be non-default status and the minority class would be default status. This can cause serious degradation in model's performance as most of the models assume well-balanced class distributions, hence such models would be biased towards the majority class and would not be able to predict the minority class accurately (Prati *et al.* 2009).

To overcome this issue, one would use Random Undersampling or Random Oversampling to deal with the class imbalanced issue. The former randomly eliminates majority class instances whereas the latter randomly duplicates minority class instances. However, both have particular drawbacks, as the random under-sampling may lead to a significant loss of information, and random oversampling is lead to the high degree of repetition of minority instances. Both then could lead to model's overfitting and deterioration in model's perfor-

mance (He & Ma 2013). This might be a significant issue when the target variable distribution is heavily imbalanced - assume that we have a data set of 1,000 instances where 990 instances belongs to majority class and 10 instances to minority class. If we perform random undersampling in order to balance the target variable distribution, we would have to remove 980 instances and end up with undersampled data set of 20 instances, which is not acceptable for model training. On the other hand, if we perform random oversampling, we would end up with 1,980 instances, where 980 instances would be the same as in the original data set, which would lead to the model's overfitting.

Therefore, the Adaptive Synthetic Sampling (henceforth ADASYN) technique is used for oversampling the minority class in this thesis. ADASYN generates synthetic instances of the minority class based on the nearest neighbors of the minority class instances. Such approach is more effective than Synthetic Minority Oversampling Technique (henceforth SMOTE) which also uses nearest neighbors to generate synthetic instances of minority class, however, ADASYN generates more synthetic instances which are hard-to-learn by K-Nearest Neighbors given the density distributions, whereby SMOTE generates synthetic instances uniformly for each minority class instance. (He *et al.* 2008).

In other words, ADASYN generates more synthetic instances in regions where the density of the majority class within K nearest neighbors of minority instance is higher and fewer synthetic instances in regions where the density is lower, thereby ADASYN focuses on generating more hard-to-learn minority instances. Thereby, it makes easier for the machine learning model to learn the decision boundary between the minority and majority classes and boost the model's performance by focusing on hard-to-learn instances (He *et al.* 2008).

Before oversampling algorithm's execution, first we need to calculate the number of instances of minority class to be synthetically generated in order to balance the target variable distribution. The number of instances to be generated G is calculated as follows:

$$G = (m_l - m_s) \times \beta \quad (2.59)$$

where m_l is the number of majority class instances, m_s is the number of minority class instances and β indicates the desired ratio between the numbers of majority and minority class instances after oversampling.

Then, for each minority class instance x_i , using K -Nearest Neighbors with Euclidean distance calculate the ratio r_i as:

$$r_i = \frac{\delta_i}{K} \quad (2.60)$$

where δ_i is the number of majority class instances within the K nearest neighbors of x_i . In such case, higher r_i indicates dominance of the majority class in given specific neighborhood of x_i (Nian 2018). Subsequently, all the r_i ratios are normalized as:

$$\hat{r}_i = \frac{r_i}{\sum_{i=1}^{m_s} r_i} \quad (2.61)$$

In such way that sum of all the normalized \hat{r}_i ratios is equal to 1. Hence, we can denote \hat{r}_i as the density distribution.

$$\sum_{i=1}^{m_s} \hat{r}_i = 1 \quad (2.62)$$

Finally, the oversampling process is initialized. For each minority class instance x_i , calculate the number of instances to be synthetically generated based on the respective density distribution \hat{r}_i and the total number of instances to be synthetically generated G . Thus, for the minority classes with higher density, it generates more synthetic instances, since those instances are hard-to-classify by the K-Nearest Neighbors.

$$G_i = G \times \hat{r}_i \quad (2.63)$$

Further, for each minority class instance x , generate G_i synthetic instances s_i as follows:

$$s_i = x_i + (x_{zi} - x_i) \times \lambda \quad (2.64)$$

where x_{zi} represents the randomly chosen minority class instance within the K nearest neighbors for x_i , and $\lambda \in [0, 1]$ is a random number.

2.6 Optimal Binning

In the context of data preprocessing, it is crucial to consider the most appropriate feature transformation method that optimizes the performance of machine learning models. Although common approaches such as dummy encoding, standardization, logarithmic transformation, and normalization are widely used, they may not always be suitable for a given data set due to the presence of certain characteristics. For instance, dummy encoding (also known as one-hot encoding) may not be suitable for categorical features with a large number of categories as it could lead to the curse of dimensionality, therefore, it may result in the decrease of model's performance (Bera *et al.* 2021). Standardization may not be appropriate for features with a large number of outliers as it may result in a loss of information.

Therefore, alternative approaches such as discretization or binning are increasingly being used. Binning is a categorization process to transform a continuous variable into a small set of groups or bins (Zeng 2014). This approach enables the identification of outliers within bins and reduce their impact, and additionally, it can capture missing values without requiring the removal or imputation of such values.

In this thesis, we employ the `BinningProcess` from the `optbinning` module in Python for an optimal binning of both numeric and categorical features with respect to the target variable, developed by Guillermo Navas-Palencia (Navas-Palencia 2020). This approach involves grouping the values of a continuous variable into discrete intervals, or "bins", based on their relationship with the target variable. Similarly, for categorical features, the approach involves grouping the categories based on their relationship with the target variable. In general, the optimal binning is solved by iteratively merging an initial granular discretization until imposed constraints are satisfied. Particularly, the optimal binning process consists of two phases - pre-binning process (for generating initial granular discretization) and subsequent optimization (for satisfying imposed constraints). The former phase usually uses decision tree to generate initial split points to create pre-bins which are further merged while maximizing Information Value (also known as Jeffreys' divergence) while accounting for the constraints. As Navas-Palencia states (Navas-Palencia 2020), Such constraints are:

- **Creation of separate bins for missing values:** Since missing values

can have a significant impact on the target variable, hence is important to create a separate bin for them.

- **Minimum bin size constraint:** At least 5 % of the total number of instances should be observed within given bin. Such constraint ensures a bin's representativeness.
- **Each bin should have at least one instance of each target class:** Application of such constraint allows to compute divergence measure.

Thus, using the optimal binning process, the goal is to maximize discriminatory power among bins, i.e., divergence measure. For more information about optimal binning, please refer to (Navas-Palencia 2020).

After the binning process, the bins as categorical values need to be encoded into numeric values. The most common approach in credit risk modelling is Weight-of-Evidence (henceforth WoE) encoding. The WoE is a commonly used measure of the strength of association between a binary target variable and an independent variable. According to Witzany (Witzany 2017), the WoE of categorical value c can be expressed as the change between the overall log odds ratio and the log odds ratio given the value c , hence:

$$WoE(c) = \ln(\Pr(c | Y = 0)) - \ln(\Pr(c | Y = 1)) \quad (2.65)$$

Assuming feature X and its respective bin b_i , thus $b_i \in X$, we can express WoE in terms of b as follows:

$$WoE_{X,b} = \ln\left(\frac{\Pr(X = b | Y = 0)}{\Pr(X = b | Y = 1)}\right) \quad (2.66)$$

According to Navas-Palencia (Navas-Palencia 2020), the WoE for bin i can be also computed as:

$$WoE_i = \ln\left(\frac{r_i^{ND}/r_T^{ND}}{r_i^D/r_T^D}\right) \quad (2.67)$$

where r_i^{ND} is the number of non-default instances in given bin i , r_i^D is the number of default instances in the given bin i , r_T^{ND} is the total number of non-default instances in whole sample and r_T^D is the total number of default instances in whole sample. Thus, positive WoE value indicates larger distribution of non-defaults, i.e. higher likelihood of non-default, while negative WoE value indicates larger distribution of defaults, i.e., higher likelihood of default.

2.7 Hyperparameter Bayesian Optimization

Most of the machine learning models are configured by a set of hyperparameters which are not learned during the training process but need to be set beforehand. Such hyperparameters' values must be carefully chosen and considerably impact model's performance (Bischl *et al.* 2023). It is needed to point that the difference between parameter and hyperparameter - while parameter value is learnt during the training process from the data, on the other hand, hyperparameter value is set before the training process and cannot be learnt from the data (Owen 2022). In case of logistic regression, the parameters are estimated coefficients and intercept, while the hyperparameters are for instance regularization parameter, optimization solver etc.

Thus, it is recommended to select optimal hyperparameter values instead of relying on default hyperparameters. Nonetheless, selecting optimal hyperparameter values can be very challenging, especially when there are many hyperparameters to tune. Fortunately, in machine learning practice already exist several methods how to choose the best hyperparameters' values. The most common ones are Grid Search and Random Search. The former approach tries all the possible combinations of hyperparameters' values from predetermined hyperparameter space, which can be very computationally expensive, when the number of hyperparameters is large (Marinov & Karapetyan 2019), when the space of hyperparameter's values is too wide or when the data set is too large. Regarding the latter approach, instead of trying all the possible combinations from the grid, it randomly selects samples of hyperparameters combinations. Although such approach can be less computationally expensive, it does not guarantee to find the global optimum. Another issue pertaining to both approach is that they do not consider any information from previous iterations and rather check all possible hyperparameter combinations or randomly select hyperparameter combinations, respectively.

The compromise for such drawbacks is hyperparameter tuning with Bayesian Optimization, which is able to find the best hyperparameters' values in less time and with less computational resources than Grid Search and also, it leads to better model's performance than Random Search despite the longer optimization time (Drahokoupil 2022). Bayesian Optimization is a hyperparameter tuning method which uses information from previous iterations in order to make more informed decision about which hyperparameters' values to try next.

The main property of hyperparameter tuning is the objective function which we want to optimize (i.e., maximize or minimize in case of a score and loss, respectively), which input is the hyperparameters' values and the output is the score or loss. However, the objective function is not known beforehand and is very computationally expensive to evaluate.

Therefore, Bayesian Optimization uses a surrogate function which is the approximation and probability representation of the objective function. The most common surrogate function is the Gaussian Process (henceforth GP) which is able to produce accurate approximations as well as the uncertainty around the approximations (Wang 2020). According to Owen (Owen 2022), GP is utilized as the prior for the objective function along the posterior, which we want to update. In other words, the prior captures the initial belief about the objective function, while the posterior is the updated distribution combining the prior belief and the observed evaluations of the objective function, i.e., it reflects the current belief about the objective function, hence the relation between the hyperparameters' values and the score or loss. GP is the generalization of the normal distribution and describes the distribution over functions (not the distribution of a random variable), hence the objective function f follows a normal distribution with noise as:

$$y = f(x) + \epsilon \quad (2.68)$$

Let us denote $f_{1:n} = \{f(x_1), f(x_2), \dots, f(x_n)\}$ as a set of n observations of the objective function, where $m(x_{1:n})$ is the mean function and K is the covariance kernel. Hence, such set follows normal distribution as well:

$$f_{1:n} \sim N(m(x_{1:n}), K) \quad (2.69)$$

Henceforth, the distribution of prediction generated by GP also follows normal distribution as:

$$p(y | x, D) \mid N(y | \mu^*, \sigma^{*2}) \quad (2.70)$$

where μ^* and σ^{*2} can be analytically derived from the K kernel, and D represents observed data regarding the previously evaluated iterations of hyperparameters' values.

Furthermore, Bayesian Optimization also employs acquisition function which accounts for which set of hyperparameters should be used in the next iteration (Owen 2022). Particularly, the next hyperparameters' set is chosen based on the location where the acquisition function is maximized. The most common

acquisition function is the Expected Improvement (henceforth EI), which is according to Owen (Owen 2022) defined as follows assuming that $\sigma(x) \neq 0$:

$$EI(x) = (\mu(x) - f(x^+)) \times \Phi(Z) + \sigma(x) \times \phi(Z) \quad (2.71)$$

where $\sigma(x)$ is the uncertainty, $\mu(x)$ is the expected performance which are both captured by surrogate model. $f(x^+)$ indicates the current best value of the objective function, $\Phi(Z)$ and $\phi(Z)$ are the cumulative distribution function and probability density function of the standard normal distribution, respectively. Moreover, EI allows to balance between exploration and exploitation, where the former refers to the searching for the unknown regions where the objective function may have higher values, i.e., the hyperparameters' values which have not been evaluated yet, while the latter refers to the searching near the best observed values of the objective function, i.e., near by the hyperparameters' values which have been evaluated already. Referring to Owen (Owen 2022), higher expected performance $\mu(x)$ compared to the current best value $f(x^+)$ will favor the exploitation process, whereby a very high uncertainty $\sigma(x)$ will support exploration process.

2.8 Forward Sequential Feature Selection

Instead of using all the features in data set, we use only the subset of the most relevant ones, which can further reduce the dimensionality of data set, boost model performance, save computational resources and reduce overfitting. Such process is called feature selection and can be defined as the process of detecting the most relevant features and discarding the noisy redundant ones. (Bolón-Canedo *et al.* 2015).

With respect to the target variable, we distinguish 2 most common types of feature selection approaches: (1) filter methods and (2) warapper methods. Using the former approach, the feature selection is independent on a machine learning model itself, but rather is performed using univariate statistical tests, such as correlation measures, Chi-square test, Fisher score and others (Kaushik 2016), and chooses those ones with the highest or lowest values. This approach is used when we prefer lower computational cost and faster feature selection process, but since it does not take into account the model itself, it does not have to able to select the features which would be optimal for particular model. Re-

garding the latter approach, the feature selection is based on a specific machine learning model and follows a greedy search approach by evaluating all the possible combinations of features against the evaluation metric criteria (Verma 2020). Although, such approach is very computationally expensive, it is able to select the optimal features for a particular model.

The most common wrapper method for feature selection is Recursive Feature Elimination (henceforth RFE). Such method takes a machine learning model as an base estimator, fit the model on whole set of features, computes and ranks their coefficients or feature importances, eliminates the least important features and repeats the process until the desired number of features is reached (Brownlee 2020) or until the stop criteria is met. However, the drawback of RFE is that it always requires feature importances or coefficients to compute, which is not suitable for models which do not produce any coefficients nor feature importances, such as KNN or Naive Bayes. Therefore, this approach is not implemented in this thesis.

Instead, the feature selection is performed with Sequential Feature Selection (henceforth SFS). Such method is iteratively adding (or removes) features the set sequentially. Hence, there are two approaches, Forward SFS and Backward SFS. The former approach keeps adding features to the set until the desired number of features is reached, while the latter approach starts with the whole set of features and removes them until the desired number of features is reached. In this thesis, Forward SFS is used since it was way more computationally efficient than Backward SFS within author's analysis. In particular, Forward SFS starts with an empty set of features and afterwards, variant features are sequentially added until the desired number of features is reached or until the addition of extra features does not reduce the criterion (Verma 2021). According to Scikit-learn's documentation (scikit-learn 2023a), at each stage, SFS chooses the best feature to add based on the cross-validation score.

2.9 Theoretical Summary

In this chapter, we have introduced the theoretical background of the thesis. In particular, in Section 2.1, we have described the traditional credit risk parameters, i.e., PD, LGD, and EAD, as well as the credit risk regulation regarding Basel II/III and IFRS 9, and also scoring methods, namely application and behavioral scoring. Pertaining to the machine learning part, its terminology has been introduced in order to avoid any misunderstanding in the following chapters Section 2.2.

Furthermore, as classification algorithms, following 8 algorithms have been described in Section 2.3 and are also employed in empirical analysis of this thesis: Logistic Regression, Decision Tree, Gaussian Naive Bayes, KNN, Random Forest, Gradient Boosting, SVM and Neural Network.

For assessment of model's performance, we have defined following metrics in Section 2.4, which are used in empirical analysis of this thesis: Accuracy, Precision, Recall, F1 score, Matthews Correlation Coefficient, AUC, Kolmogorov–Smirnov Distance, Somers' D, Brier Score Loss and Log Loss.

Moreover, another advanced machine learning techniques have been presented, particularly, ADASYN oversampling for dealing with imbalanced, i.e., skewed distribution of the target variable (Section 2.5), Optimal Binning for data preprocessing using discretization with respect to the target variable (Section 2.6), Bayesian Optimization for hyperparameter tuning of models (Section 2.7), and lastly, Forward Sequential Feature Selection for selecting subsets of optimal features (Section 2.8). All these techniques are employed in empirical analysis of this thesis as well.

Chapter 3

Literature Review

In this thesis, our objective is to explore the application and implementation of machine learning in credit scoring. We will examine relevant studies in two areas: machine learning applications specifically related to credit scoring and machine learning implementations in various other domains. The aim is to identify machine learning techniques from non-credit scoring contexts that could potentially be useful in credit scoring. We will evaluate the impact of these techniques through hypothesis testing.

Regarding studies related to machine learning in credit scoring, we will analyze not only the research focused on the data set used in this thesis, but also studies that involve different data sets. This comprehensive approach is intended to develop a broader understanding and facilitate the discovery of valuable insights and methodologies that can be applied across various data sets in the credit scoring field.

It is a known fact that the distribution of the default status is imbalanced in the credit scoring domain, since the non-default cases are overpresented compared to the default cases. Several studies have already address such issue. For instance, Owusu and others (Owusu *et al.* 2023) employed ADASYN oversampling on the peer-to-peer loans data from American Lending Club, which exhibited an improvement in the model's performance in comparison to other benchmark studies. Another way to address such imbalance issue is changing the classification cut-off point. By default, the cut-off point is set to 0.5, which means that if the predicted probability score exceeds the threshold, it will be classified as default and vice versa. Kazemi and others (Kazemi *et al.* 2023) demonstrated that utilization of the customized cut-off points leads to a more

accurate classification compared to the default threshold value of 0.5, based on German and Australian credit data sets available to the public in the UCI machine learning data repository.

Whether to choose transparent, white–box model such as logistic regression or a complex, black–box model such as ensemble models or neural network depends on various factors, such as type of the data set, sample size, data preprocessing techniques, hyperparameter tuning, or even a software used to implement the model. While Teply and Polena (Teply & Polena 2020) suggest that Logistic Regression is the best performing model on peer-to-peer loans data from Lending Club, Aniceto and others (Aniceto *et al.* 2020) demonstrate that the ensemble models, namely Random Forest and AdaBoost, outperformed the Logistic Regression on a large Brazilian bank’s loan data set.

In this thesis, a data set of US home equity loans (HMEQ) is analyzed, which is further described in Subsection 4.2.1. Regarding the studies pertaining to the HMEQ data set, the study of Aras (Aras 2021) and the study of Zurada (Zurada *et al.* 2014) are deemed to be the most relevant to this thesis.

With respect to the former study, the author performed imputation of missing values with mode and mean, respectively, and for an evalutation, author used test size of size 596 instances. Author also performed an oversampling on the training set using Random Oversampling in order to balance the default status distribution. Regarding the fitted models which are also used in this thesis, author used KNN, Random Forest (RF), SVM, Decision Tree (DT), Gaussian Naive Bayes (GNB) and Logistic Regression (LR). Such models were also tuned using Grid Search method with 10–fold cross validation.

Within the evalutation, author assessed Accuracy (Acc.), Recall (Rec.), Precision (Prec.), F1 and Matthews Correlation Coefficient (MCC) metrics. The particular results are summarized in Table 3.1. Since the default distribution is imbalanced on the test set, the most relevant metrics are F1 and MCC. As can be seen, only three models exceeded the 0.8 and 0.75 threshold for F1 and MCC, respectively, namely KNN, RF and SVM. Whereas Gaussian Naive Bayes and Logistic Regression performed poorly as they did not even exceed 0.5 threshold for F1 and MCC, respectively. However, it is not appropriate to compare the computed the metrics with the results of this thesis, since the test set size is not the same, and the data preprocessing and modelling is different as well.

Table 3.1: Evaluation Results (Aras 2021)

| Model | Acc. | Rec. | Prec. | F1 | MCC |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| KNN | 0.953 | 0.789 | 0.980 | 0.874 | 0.853 |
| RF | 0.930 | 0.789 | 0.858 | 0.822 | 0.779 |
| SVM | 0.926 | 0.756 | 0.869 | 0.809 | 0.766 |
| DT | 0.898 | 0.683 | 0.792 | 0.734 | 0.674 |
| GNB | 0.795 | 0.480 | 0.504 | 0.492 | 0.364 |
| LR | 0.705 | 0.691 | 0.381 | 0.491 | 0.334 |

Source: (Aras 2021)

If we rank the models by each computed metric descendingly, we can explicitly derive a rank score as an average of the ranks. Based on the rank scores, we can then rank the models, as shown in Table 3.2. As can be seen, KNN dominantly outperformed all the models across all the metrics, while the black–box models such as Random Forest and SVM performed also performed well but not as well as KNN. On the other hand, Gaussian Naive Bayes and Logistic Regression performance exhibited very unsatisfactory performance. Therefore, according to Aras, one would expect that KNN and the black–box models (Random Forest and/or SVM) would perform well on the HMEQ data set.

Table 3.2: Evaluation Results - Ranked (Aras 2021)

| Model | Acc. | Rec. | Prec. | F1 | MCC | Score | Rank |
|-------|------|------|-------|----|-----|-------|------|
| KNN | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| RF | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| SVM | 3 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 2.6 | 3 |
| DT | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| GNB | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| LR | 6 | 3 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 5.4 | 6 |

Source: Ranking of (Aras 2021)

The latter study pertains to the research conducted by Zurada and others (Zurada *et al.* 2014). Likewise Aras, they also analyzed various classification models, but only relevant ones to this thesis are further discussed. Namely, the authors trained Neural Network (NN), Decision Tree (DT), Support Vector Machine (SVM), K–Nearest Neighbors (KNN) and Logistic Regression (LR), using Weka software. Authors did not mention which imputation technique

did they use, nor the data split ratio (i.e., the test size used for an evulation), but likewise Aras, they conducted a hyperparameter tuning using Grid Search with 10-fold cross validation.

The evaluation results are depicted in Table 3.3, namely the computed metrics such as Accuracy (Acc.), Recall (Rec.) and AUC. As can be seen, KNN model, which was the best one in case of Zurada's study, yielded a very deteriorated performance, while Logistic regression still performed badly. On the other, Neural Network was the best performing model as a black–box model. Surprisingly, also Decision Tree showcased relatively high performance in contrast to Zurada's study, where Decision Tree's performance was quite weak.

Table 3.3: Evaluation Results (Zurada *et al.* 2014)

| Model | Acc. | Rec. | AUC |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| NN | 0.869 | 0.590 | 0.863 |
| DT | 0.889 | 0.548 | 0.844 |
| SVM | 0.848 | 0.346 | 0.810 |
| KNN | 0.791 | 0.334 | 0.826 |
| LR | 0.836 | 0.304 | 0.794 |

Source: (Zurada *et al.* 2014)

The same insights can be derived from ranking the results in the same way as in Zurada's study, as shown in Table 3.4. Hence, one would expect that Neural Network would perform well on the HMEQ data set, while Logistic Regression's performance would be unsatisfactory.

Table 3.4: Evaluation Results - Ranked (Zurada *et al.* 2014)

| Model | Acc. | Rec. | AUC | Score | Rank |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|------------|--------------|-------------|
| NN | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1.33 | 1 |
| DT | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1.67 | 2 |
| SVM | 3 | 3 | 4 | 3.33 | 3 |
| KNN | 5 | 4 | 3 | 4.00 | 4 |
| LR | 4 | 5 | 5 | 4.67 | 5 |

Source: Ranking of (Zurada *et al.* 2014)

Although, both Zurada and Aras ranked the Logistic Regression as the worst performing model and SVM was ranked according to them as the third best

model, they did not agree on the ranking of Decision Tree and KNN models. Such a disagreement can be attributed to the fact they both used different data preprocessing techniques, as well as different hyperparameters' spaces for fine tuning the models and probably also different softwares, random seed, and data split. We also need to account for a relatively small sample size of the HMEQ data set, which can lead to a high variance in the results. Therefore, several steps and procedures are applied in this thesis in order to ensure the reliable and robust results and estimates, which are further described in Section 4.4.

3.1 Hypotheses

In this section, we formulate the hypotheses, which are partially derived from the literature review discussed above and are further tested in Chapter 5, i.e., rejected or not rejected, based on the empirical analysis regarding the machine learning implementation in Chapter 4.

Hypothesis #1: *The recalibration of the model enhances model performance on HMEQ data set.*

The study of de Hond and others (de Hond *et al.* 2023) focuses on the model re-training (recalibration) in order to improve the model performance, based on the health record data from Leiden University Medical Center and Amsterdam University Medical Center for a prediction of readmissions or deaths after ICU discharge. Such effect is being achieved by either re-training the model on the and newest additional data, hence by increasing the sample size within the model training, we expect the model's predictive power to be enhanced. Such approach is further discussed in Subsection 4.4.4 and assessed in Subsection 4.5.1.

Hypothesis #2: *Either Neural Network or KNN model outperforms all the models on HMEQ data set.*

Based on the studies of Aras (Aras 2021) and Zurada and others (Zurada *et al.* 2014), the highest ranked models in terms of performance were KNN and Neural Network, respectively. These two models outperformed the traditional Logistic Regression, and in case of Aras, KNN also outperformed Decision Tree, Gaussian Naive Bayes, SVM and even Random Forest. Therefore, we expect

that at least one of those two models will outperform all the other models on the HMEQ data set.

Hypothesis #3: *Black-box models perform better than the white-box models on HMEQ data set.*

Following the Section 2.2, there is a trade-off between the model performance and the interpretability, where the black–box models are more complex and less interpretable, but also more accurate, while the white–box models are less complex and more interpretable, but also less accurate (Pintelas *et al.* 2020). With respect to the algorithms described in Section 2.3, we deem Logistic Regression as a white–box model, since it is interpretable thanks to the estimated coefficients which can indicate the strength and direction impact of each feature on the target variable adjusting for all other features (Park 2013). Another white–box model is a Guassian Naive Bayes as it is based on the Bayes theorem and Gaussian distribution, thus only prior probabilities and conditional means and variances need to be computed per each feature according to Equation 2.18 and Equation 2.19. Decision Tree can be considered as a white–box model, assuming that that the decision tree is small (Goethals *et al.* 2022), i.e., if the tree is not too deep and wide, which enhace the comprehensible interpretation of the model.

One would say that KNN is a white–box model, since it just looks for k closest neighbours around given data point. However, the interpretation of the model might not be straightforward if the k is large and/or when having higher number of features which increases the dimensionality, as the model might be too complex. According to Loyala (Loyola-Gonzalez 2019), KNN is considered as a black–box model since it is highly dependent on the distance function which might bias the classification results and change in a distance function can lead to different outcomes. Therefore, we consider KNN as a black–box model. Regarding the rest of the models, they are deemed as black–box models due to the following reasonings:

- **SVM** - Very complex mathematical operations involved in such algorithm make it difficult to interpret the model (Loyola-Gonzalez 2019).
- **NN** - The more layers and units within each layer does the neural network have, the less transparent and comprehensible the model is (Bathaei 2017).

- **RF, GBM** - Such ensemble models consist out of multiple decision trees, which are combined together to form a more complex model. Therefore, the interpretation of such models is not straightforward.

Therefore, we expect that the black–box models will outperform the white–box models on the HMEQ data set in overall.

Hypothesis #4: *The longer execution time of a model, the better performance on HMEQ data set.*

Although, the research paper’s objective of Wu and others (Wu *et al.* 2018) does not directly regard the relationship between the training (execution) time and the model performance, but rather the accuracy of indoor localization techniques in two different environments. However, such study also inspects the evaluation of Bayes Net, SVM and Random Forest models, including their execution time. As shown in Table 3.5, we can observe that there is a trade-off between model performance and the execution time, as the SVM has the highest accuracy and moderate execution time, while the Bayes Net has the lowest accuracy, but also the shortest execution time. Therefore, we expect a positive association between the execution time and the model performance.

Table 3.5: Accuracy vs. Execution Time (Wu *et al.* 2018)

| Model | Acc. | Time (seconds) |
|-----------|-----------------|----------------|
| Bayes Net | 0.8521 / 0.8474 | 0.56 / 1.15 |
| SVM | 0.9328 / 0.9590 | 1.79 / 3.21 |
| RF | 0.9070 / 0.9574 | 4.92 / 8.84 |

Source: (Wu *et al.* 2018)

Hypothesis #5: *The main default drivers are the debt and/or delinquency features on HMEQ data set.*

In the study of Zurada and others (Zurada *et al.* 2014), the authors also inspected the significance of features in order to reduce the dimensionality. In particular, the authors employed both correlation analysis with the target variable as well as ranking according to information gain. In this case, the most significant features are debt–to–income ratio, number of derogatory public records and number of delinquent credit lines. Thus, these features are expected to be the most important indicators when predicting a default.

Chapter 4

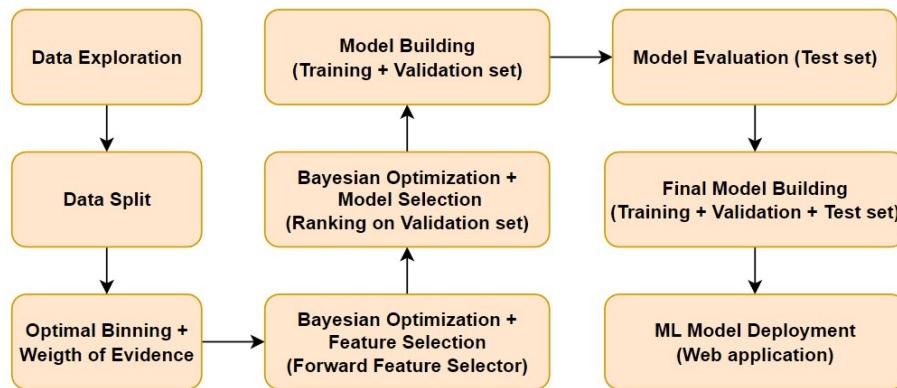
Empirical Analysis - Machine Learning Implementation

This chapter focuses on the main part of this thesis, particularly on the practical example of machine learning implementation. The machine learning framework deployed in this thesis is shown in Figure 4.1.

- **Data Exploration** - Focus on the exploration of the data in order to infer some insights about the data quality, distribution of the variables, statistical testing or association analysis.
- **Data Split** - Focus on the splitting of the data which are used separately in different tasks such as model training, hyperparameter tuning, feature selection, model selection and model evaluation.
- **Optimal Binning and WoE Encoding** - Focus on the optimal binning and the WoE encoding of the features as the main part of the feature preprocessing.
- **Feature Selection** Focus on the feature selection in order to reduce the dimensionality of the data and to improve the performance of the machine learning models - each input model is tuned with Bayesian Optimization.
- **Model Selection** -Focusd on the model selection in order to find the best model based on the ranking - each input model is tuned with Bayesian Optimization on the subsets of selected features.
- **Model Recalibration (Evaluation)** - Focus on the recalibration of the final model by re-training it on the joined training and validation sets, which will be further evaluated.

- **Model Evaluation** - Focus on the evaluation of the final model on the unseen data from test set in order to assess model's predictive power.
- **Model Recalibration (Deployment)** - Focus on the final recalibration of the final model by re-training it on the joined training, validation and test sets, which will be further deployed into a production.
- **Model Deployment** - Focus on the deployment of the final model into a production as a web application.

Figure 4.1: Machine Learning Framework



Source: Author's Framework

4.1 Repository and Environment Structure

The whole machine learning implementation as the scope of this thesis is done mainly using Python Programming Language and further with collaboration of Git and HTML. The whole repository can be found in the separate appendix or is available on the GitHub repository https://github.com/petr-ngn/FFU_VSE_Masters_Thesis_ML_Credit_Risk_Modelling. The repository structure is shown in Figure 4.2.

Figure 4.2: Repository Structure

```

|--- data
|   |--- interim_dat.csv
|   |--- preprocessed_data.csv
|   |--- raw_data.csv
|
|--- flask_app
|   |--- inputs
|       |   |--- inputs_flask_app_dict.pkl
|
|   |--- templates
|       |   |--- index.html
|       |   |--- results.html
|
|   |--- static
|
|   |--- app.py
|
|--- models
|   |--- feature_preprocessing
|   |--- feature_selection
|   |--- model_selection
|   |--- objects_FINAL
|
|--- plots
|--- Masters_Thesis.ipynb
|--- README.md
|--- requirements.yml

```

Source: Author's results at GitHub

- **data** - directory containing the raw data, partially preprocessed data (`interim`) and the final preprocessed data.
- **flask_app** - directory containing the Flask application which is used for the deployment of the model. Particularly, it contains the `app.py` file which is the main back-end file of the application, the `templates` and `static` subdirectories which contain the front-end HTML files for

the application, and the `inputs` subdirectory which contains the input dictionary for the application (such as the trained model, threshold, final features etc.).

- `models` - directory containing the the subdirectories of the trained and fitted objects for features preprocessing, feature selection and model selection, including the final objects used in deployment.
- `plots` - directory containing the plots generated within the main Python notebook.
- `Masters_Thesis.ipynb` - main Python notebook containing the main part of the machine learning Implementation, such as exploratory analysis, data preprocessing, training and evaluation of the models.
- `README.md` - README file containing the description of the repository.
- `requirements.yml` - file containing the list of the required packages and their specific versions used in this project.

This particular solution is developed in Python version 3.10.9 and these are the main packages and modules used in this project:

- `NumPy, Pandas` - for data manipulation and analysis.
- `Matplotlib, Seaborn` - for data visualization.
- `Scipy` - for statistical analysis.
- `OptBinning` - for optimal binning of features with respect to the target.
- `ImbLearn` - for handling imbalanced data using oversampling.
- `Scikit-learn` - for feature selection, model selection and model evaluation.
- `Scikit-optimize` - for more advanced hyperparameter optimization.
- `Flask` - for deployment of the model as web application.

To replicate this solution, one may download this repository as a zip file or either can clone this repository using Git to the local repository. Before running any files or scripts, it is important to set the environment for such project using the file `requirements.yml`. This can be done by running the following command in the Anaconda terminal which will create the new environment with the name `FFU_VSE_Masters_Thesis` and install all the required packages:

```
>> conda env create -n FFU_VSE_Masters_Thesis -f requirements.yml
```

Be aware of your current path directory in your terminal. In order to install the file `requirements.yml`, you need to define a path to the directory, where such file is located. To achieve this, the user has to either change the path in the terminal using `cd` command, insert the path directory before the `requirements.yml` in terminal, or to copy the file `requirements.yml` to the current path directory. The following code shows the former approach:

```
>> cd C:\Users\ngnpe\FFU_VSE_Masters_Thesis_ML_Credit_Risk_Modelling  
>> conda env create -n FFU_VSE_Masters_Thesis -f requirements.yml
```

To preserve the reproducibility of this solution and consistency of the results, the random seed is instantiated to `42`, so for instance data split, model optimization or training would be deterministic and not totally random everytime when replicating the solution.

Some `Scikit-learn` or `Scikit-optimize` objects have optional argument `n_jobs` which utilizes the number of CPU cores used during the parallelizing computation. Such argument is set to `-1`, hence all the processors are used in order to speed up the training or optimization process.

4.2 Data Exploration

This section is focused on exploration of the analyzed loan data set, particularly on data set description, distribution analysis and association analysis, in order to infer potential valuable insights and which can be used in the pre-processing or modelling part.

4.2.1 Data Set Description

The analyzed data set pertains to the HMEQ data set which contains loan application information and default status of 5,960 US home equity loans. Such data set was acquired from Credit Risk Analytics website (Baesens *et al.* 2016). Since this data set regards the loan application scoring data, using macroeconomic or other external data is omitted due to the data set characteristics as well as modelling with behavioral scoring. Thus our goal is to predict whether the loan applicant will or would default based on provided information from the loan application.

As can be seen in Table 4.1, the data set contains 13 columns, 12 features and 1 target variable **BAD** indicating whether the loan was in default (1) or not (0). Amongst the 12 features, there are 10 numeric features and 2 categorical features, namely **REASON** which contains 2 categories - Debt consolidation (**DebtCon**) and Home improvement (**HomeImp**), and **JOB** which contains following categories - Administration (**Office**), Sales, Manager (**Mgr**), Professional Executive (**ProfExe**), Self-employed (**Self**), and Other.

Table 4.1: Data Set Columns

| Variable | Description | Data type |
|----------|---|-------------|
| BAD | Default status | Boolean |
| LOAN | Requested loan amount | numeric |
| MORTDUE | Loan amount due on existing mortgage | numeric |
| VALUE | Value of current underlying collateral property | numeric |
| REASON | Reason of loan application | categorical |
| JOB | Job occupancy category | categorical |
| YOJ | Years of employment at present job | numeric |
| DEROG | Number of derogatory public reports | numeric |
| DELINQ | Number of delinquent credit lines | numeric |
| CLAGE | Age of the oldest credit line in months | numeric |
| NINQ | Number of recent credit inquiries | numeric |
| CLNO | Number of credit lines | numeric |
| DEBTINC | Debt-to-income ratio | numeric |

Source: (Baesens *et al.* 2016)

After the initial data inspection, data does not contain any duplicates but does contain missing values, which are summarized in Table 4.2. Most of the missing values are observed within the feature DEBTINC with 1,267 missing observations, whereas columns indicating default status (BAD) or requested loan amount (LOAN) do not contain any missing values, which is expected as the bank should have the available information about their loans whether they have defaulted or not, and since this data set pertains to the application scoring, when applying for a loan, an applicant should always fill out the requested loan amount.

Table 4.2: Missing Values Summary

| Variable | # NA's | % NA's |
|----------|--------|---------|
| BAD | 0 | 0.00 % |
| LOAN | 0 | 0.00 % |
| MORTDUE | 518 | 8.69 % |
| VALUE | 112 | 1.88 % |
| REASON | 252 | 4.23 % |
| JOB | 279 | 4.68 % |
| YOJ | 515 | 8.64 % |
| DEROG | 708 | 11.88 % |
| DELINQ | 580 | 9.73 % |
| CLAGE | 308 | 5.17 % |
| NINQ | 510 | 8.56 % |
| CLNO | 222 | 3.72 % |
| DEBTINC | 1267 | 21.26 % |

Source: Author's results in Python

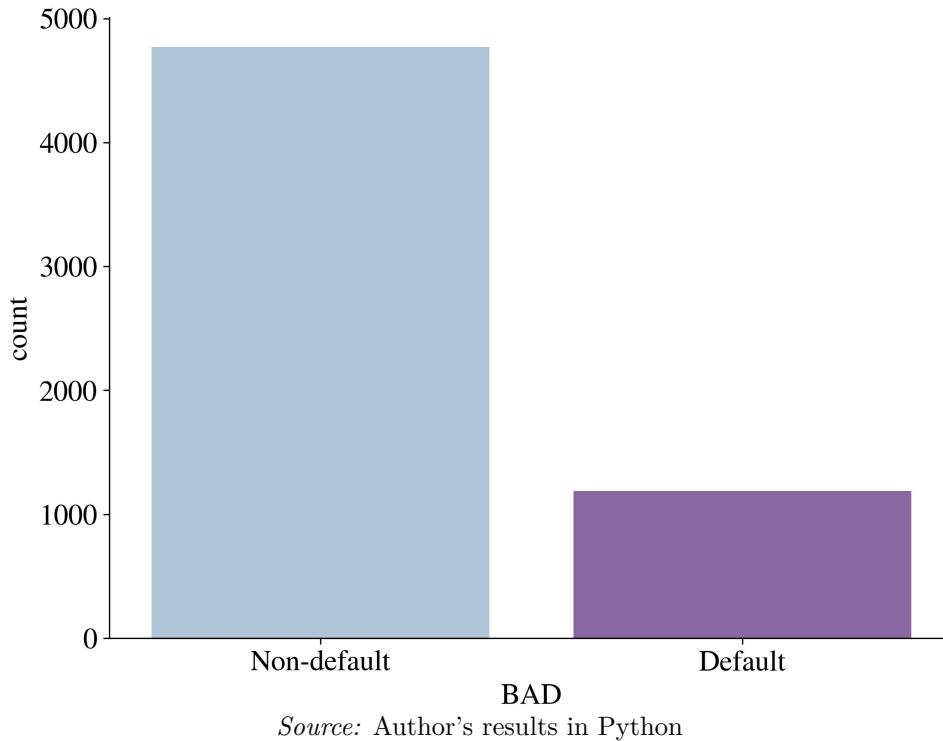
4.2.2 Distribution Analysis

In this subsection, we inspect the distribution of our variables, including the target variable and the features. Such distribution inspection may help us to identify outliers, and other potential issues with the data set.

Default Distribution

Regarding the the target variable distribution, from the Figure 4.3 we can observe that the default status distribution is heavily imbalanced, as most of the loans have not defaulted yet. Particularly, 80.05% of the observations have been labelled as non-default (4,771 observations) and 19.95% observations labelled as default (1,189 observations). This may cause problems in the modelling part, as the model may be biased towards the majority class, i.e., the non-default class. Such imbalanced class issue will be further treated in Subsection 4.3.1.

Figure 4.3: Default Distribution



Numeric Features' Distribution

Regarding the numeric features, it can be observed that most of them exhibit a positive skewness and contain outliers, as illustrated in Figure 4.4, which depicts the conditional distribution of the numeric features with respect to the default status via boxplots.

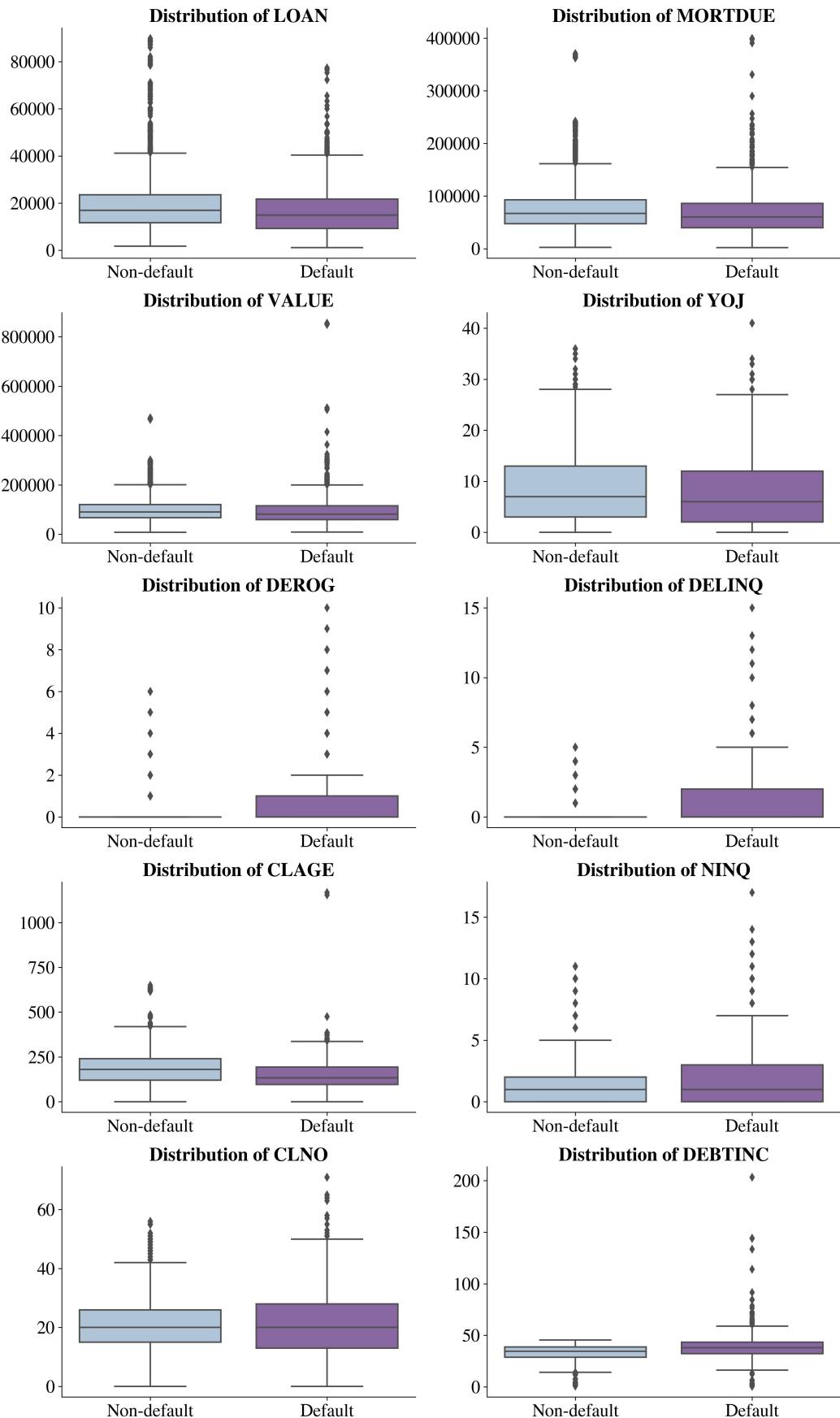
All the outliers appear to be valid, indicating that they have not arisen due to data entry errors. This can be attributed to the non-negative nature of all the numeric features, which makes it impossible to have negative values for features such as the number of years at present job or the number of delinquent credit lines, among others. Additionally, the maximum values of the given features are not unrealistically high, further corroborating the validity of the outliers. However, it is necessary to treat these outliers as they can bias a model's weights or coefficients, particularly in the case of logistic regression or neural networks. Outliers can also jeopardize distance calculations in the case of KNN, or in general, affect the position and orientation of the decision boundary. Such factors can lead to overfitting and inaccurate and biased predictions. A detailed explanation of the outlier treatment is provided in Subsection 4.3.2.

Concerning the target variable, it can be observed that there are some dif-

ferences in the distribution shapes of `DEROG` and `DELINQ`, which exhibit less skewness and lower dispersion for non-default cases as compared to default cases. Since both features indicate negative information about delinquency, it is expected that a higher value for these features would increase the likelihood of loan default. Referring to the feature `DEBTINC`, it does not exhibit any extreme values for non-default cases, but some extreme values are present for default cases. From this, it can be inferred that if the debt-to-income ratio is too high, indicating that the applicant's income is not sufficient to cover their debt, the loan is more likely to end in default. The association between the default status and the numeric features is further investigated in Section 4.2.3.

Since the features are positively skewed a lot, they do not follow Guassian (normal) distribution. Additionally, Shapiro–Wilk test is conducted in order to assessed whether the features' distributions are significantly different from a normal distribution. According to such test, all the numeric features' distributions do not follow normal distribution on 1% statistical significance level. For a reference, see Table A.1 in Appendix A.

Figure 4.4: Conditional Distribution of Numeric Features



Source: Author's results in Python

Due to the fact that the boxplots do not capture the missing values occurred in given features, it is also important to inspect the numbers and proportions of missing values in each feature, conditional on the default status. As can be seen in Table 4.3, n_0 refers to the number of missing values in given feature for non-default cases, n_1 refers to the number of missing values in given feature for default cases. N_0 and N_1 refer to the total number non-default cases and default cases respectively, therefore n_0/N_0 refers to the proportion of missing values in given feature for non-default cases, and n_1/N_1 refers to the proportion of missing values in given feature for default cases.

Pertaining to the feature DEBTINC, we can observe a significant difference in the number of missing values between the default and non-default cases. Out of all defaulted loans, 66.11 % had missing debt-to-income ratio, whereas only 10.08 % out of all non-defaulted loans had missing debt-to-income ratio. Therefore, there could be a strong association between the missing debt-to-income ratio and the default.

Similarly, the table depicts a significant difference with respect to VALUE as 0.15 % had missing collateral property value out of all non-defaulted loan, and 8.92 % defaulted loans had missing collateral property value. It can be inferred that loan applicants who withhold information on their collateral property value or debt-to-income ratio are more likely to default on their loans. This may be due to negative information that they are trying to conceal, such as an excessively high debt or low income, or a low collateral property value. Such associations are further investigated in Section 4.2.3.

Table 4.3: Numeric Features NA's Summary

| Feature | n_0 | n_1 | n_0/N_0 | n_1/N_1 |
|---------|-------|-------|-----------|-----------|
| LOAN | 0 | 0 | 0 % | 0 % |
| MORTDUE | 412 | 106 | 8.64 % | 8.92 % |
| VALUE | 7 | 105 | 0.15 % | 8.83 % |
| YOJ | 450 | 65 | 9.43 % | 5.47 % |
| DEROG | 621 | 87 | 13.02 % | 7.32 % |
| DELINQ | 508 | 72 | 10.65 % | 6.06 % |
| CLAGE | 230 | 78 | 4.82 % | 6.56 % |
| NINQ | 435 | 75 | 9.12 % | 6.31 % |
| CLNO | 169 | 53 | 3.54 % | 4.46 % |
| DEBTINC | 481 | 786 | 10.08 % | 66.11 % |

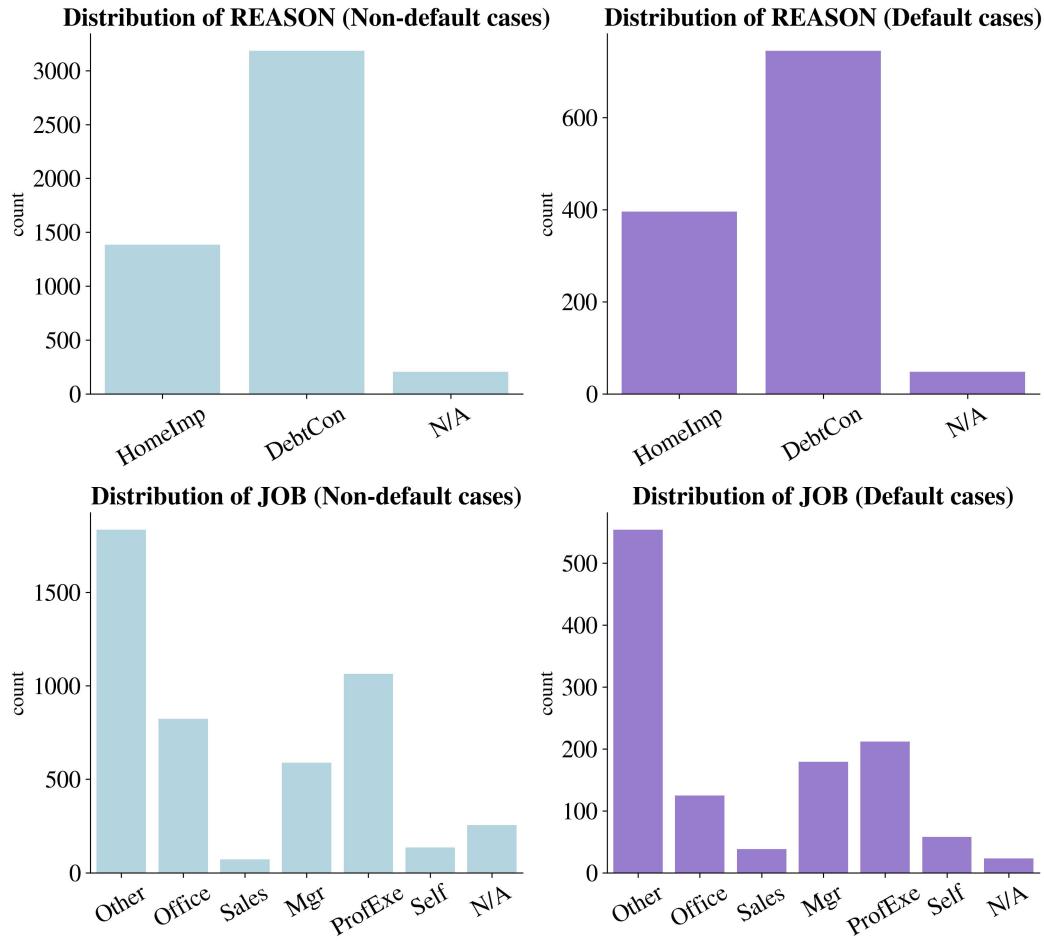
Source: Author's results in Python

Categorical Features' Distribution

Regarding the distribution of categorical features, the data set includes 2 nominal features, namely **REASON** and **JOB**. The conditional distribution of categorical features on the default status is visualized using barplots in Figure 4.5. The plot indicates that most loan applicants applied for debt consolidation, while most job occupancies were labeled as **Other**.

With respect to the default status, there appears to be no significant difference between the default and non-default cases in terms of the relative distribution of the **REASON** feature. However, a slight difference is observed between the default and non-default cases in terms of the relative distribution of the **JOB** feature. Specifically, the categories **Office**, **ProfExe**, and **N/A** exhibit a relatively higher proportion of non-default cases than default cases. Hence, a moderate association between the **JOB** feature and the default status is possible, as further investigated in Section 4.2.3.

Figure 4.5: Conditional Distribution of Categorical Features



Source: Author's results in Python

4.2.3 Association Analysis

In this subsection, we aim to examine potential relationships between the variables by analyzing their associations. Firstly, we investigate the association between the default status and the features. Subsequently, we explore the association among the features themselves.

Association between default status and numeric features

To measure the association between the target variable and the numeric features, we use the Point-Biserial correlation coefficient, which is the Pearson's product moment correlation coefficient between a continuous variable and a dichotomous variable (Kornbrot 2014). This coefficient ranges from -1 to +1

and can be used to assess the strength and direction of the relationship between a continuous variable and a binary variable. The formula for computing this coefficient is as follows:

$$r_{pb,X} = \frac{\mu(X|Y=1) - \mu(X|Y=0)}{\sigma_X} \sqrt{\frac{N(Y=1) \times N(Y=0)}{N(N-1)}} \quad (4.1)$$

Here, $\mu(X|Y=1)$ and $\mu(X|Y=0)$ represent the means of the given numeric feature X conditional on the default status and non-default status, respectively, while σ_X denotes the standard deviation of X . The values of $N(Y=1)$ and $N(Y=0)$ indicate the number of observations with default status and non-default status, respectively, and N represents the total number of observations within the feature X .

The following Table 4.4 displays the computed Point-Biserial coefficient for each numeric feature with respect to the default status, along with its statistical significance. The results show that features such as DEROG, DELINQ, and DEBTINC are moderately and positively associated with the default status at the 1% statistical significance level. These findings support the observations made in Section 4.2.2 regarding the positive associations of these features with the default status. It can be inferred that these features may serve as important predictors in the model.

Table 4.4: Point–Biserial Correlation - Numeric Features vs. Default

| Feature | Coefficient | Significance |
|---------|-------------|--------------|
| LOAN | -0.075 | *** |
| MORTDUE | -0.048 | *** |
| VALUE | -0.030 | ** |
| YOJ | -0.060 | *** |
| DEROG | 0.276 | *** |
| DELINQ | 0.354 | *** |
| CLAGE | -0.170 | *** |
| NINQ | 0.175 | *** |
| CLNO | -0.004 | |
| DEBTINC | 0.200 | *** |

*: $p < 0.10$, **: $p < 0.05$, ***: $p < 0.01$

Source: Author's results in Python

Association between default status and categorical features

In order to measure the strength of the relationship between the dichotomous default status and categorical variables, we employ Cramer's V, which ranges from 0 to 1 and is defined as:

$$CV_X = \sqrt{\frac{\chi^2}{N(k-1)}} \quad (4.2)$$

As noted in Section 4.2.2, the association between the default status and **REASON** is weak, as evidenced by the Cramer's V value being close to zero. Conversely, the association between the default status and **JOB** is slightly stronger, as the categories **Office**, **ProfExe**, and **N/A** exhibit a higher proportion of non-default cases than default cases. Both **REASON**'s and **JOB**'s associations with default status are statistically significant at the 1% significance level.

While statistical significance is important, it does not necessarily indicate that a feature is a strong predictor of the target variable. Ultimately, the usefulness of a feature in predicting the target variable is determined by the performance metrics of the model.

Table 4.5: Cramer's V Association - Categorical Features vs. Default

| Feature | Coefficient | Significance |
|---------|-------------|--------------|
| REASON | 0.038 | *** |
| JOB | 0.120 | *** |

*: $p < 0.10$, **: $p < 0.05$, ***: $p < 0.01$

Source: Author's results in Python

Association between default status and missing values

Given that the loan data set contains missing values, it is necessary to examine whether the missingness is associated with the default status. One possible approach is to encode the feature with missing values as a binary variable, where 1 indicates the presence of a missing value and 0 otherwise.

To quantify the strength of association between the two binary variables, the Phi coefficient is used, which is defined as:

$$\phi_X = \sqrt{\frac{\chi^2}{n}} \quad (4.3)$$

In line with the finding regarding the DEBTINC and VALUE in Section 4.2.2, there is a strong and statistically significant association between the missing debt-to-income ratio and default status, and a moderate and statistically significant association between the missing collateral property value and default status, as shown in Table 4.6. Therefore, we can anticipate that these features will be crucial indicators in default prediction. Further details on feature selection are presented in Subsection 4.4.2.

Table 4.6: Phi Correlation Coefficient - NA's vs. Default

| Feature | Coefficient | Significance |
|---------|-------------|--------------|
| LOAN | 0.000 | |
| MORTDUE | 0.003 | |
| VALUE | 0.254 | *** |
| REASON | 0.004 | |
| JOB | 0.064 | *** |
| YOJ | 0.056 | *** |
| DEROG | 0.070 | *** |
| DELINQ | 0.061 | *** |
| CLAGE | 0.030 | ** |
| NINQ | 0.039 | *** |
| CLNO | 0.018 | |
| DEBTINC | 0.547 | *** |

*: $p < 0.10$, **: $p < 0.05$, ***: $p < 0.01$

Source: Author's results in Python

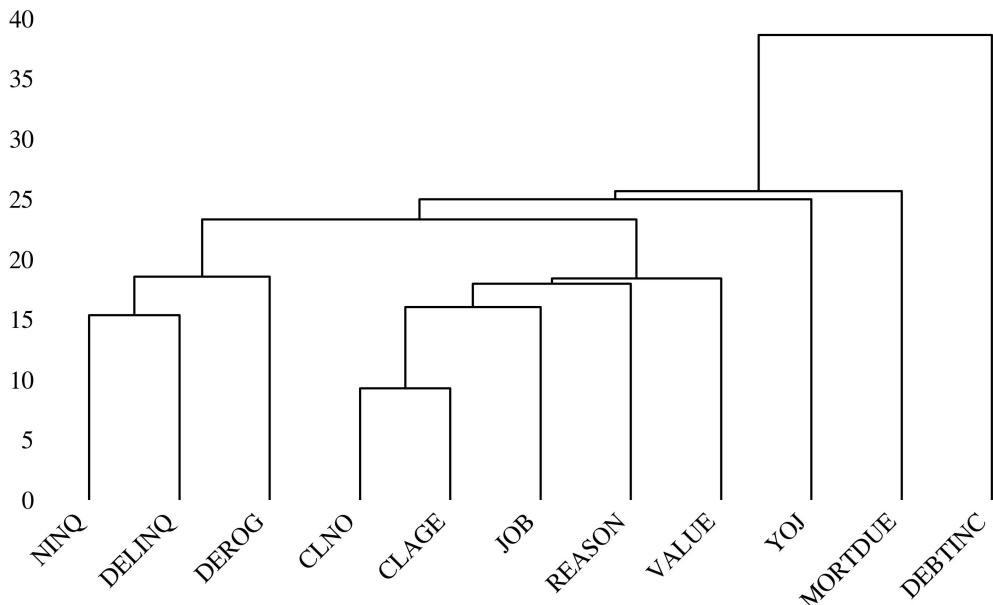
Missing Values Association

Additionally, it is imperative to investigate the relationship between missing values and default status, as well as the interrelationship between the missing values themselves. A common approach to identifying patterns of missing data in a data set is through the use of a dendrogram, which clusters variables hierarchically based on the occurrence of missing values. This method groups variables into clusters based on the similarity of their missing value patterns, such that variables with comparable patterns of missingness are clustered to-

gether. Conversely, variables with dissimilar patterns of missingness are placed in separate clusters. The dendrogram is constructed by merging the two closest clusters iteratively until all variables are in the same cluster. The distance between the clusters at each step of the merging process is shown on the y-axis of the dendrogram, and the order in which the variables are merged is displayed on the x-axis.

In Figure 4.6, the hierarchical clustering of the data set's variables is illustrated, excluding the default status and requested loan amount feature **LOAN**, as these variables do not contain any missing values. As depicted in the dendrogram, the **CLNO** and **CLAGE** features have the most similar patterns of missing values occurrences. Therefore, it can be inferred that a significant number of loan applicants tend to omit information regarding their number of credit lines (**CLNO**) and the age of their most recent credit line (**CLAGE**) when submitting their loan applications.

Figure 4.6: Nullity Dendrogram

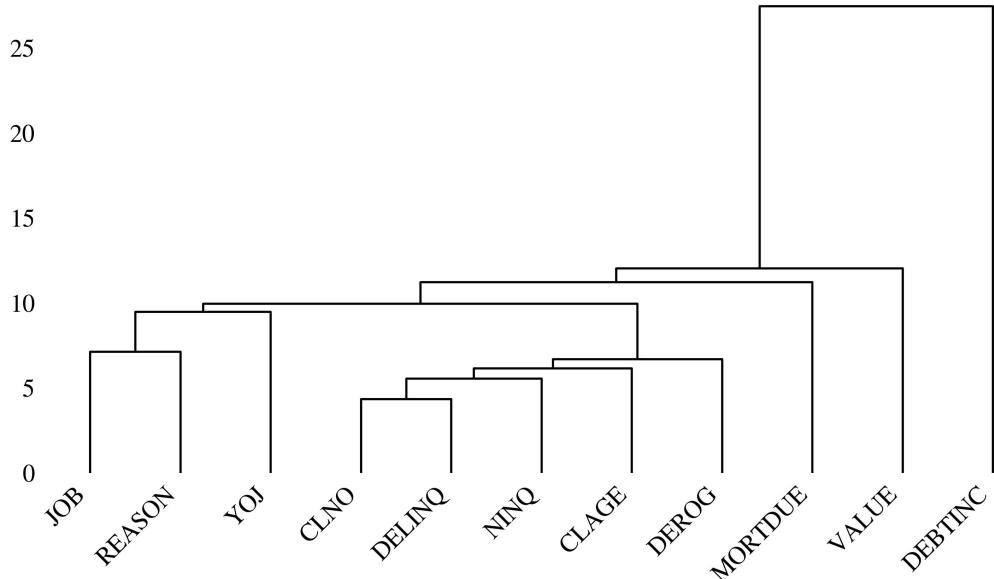


Source: Author's results in Python

Note that the target variable is imbalanced, therefore, the dendrogram depicted in Figure 4.6 is not representative for the default cases. Therefore, we can also inspect the dendrogram for the default cases only, as shown in Figure 4.7. As can be seen, the hierarchy has changed compared the hierarchy in Figure 4.6. It can be observed that a significant number of loan applicants tend to omit information regarding their number of credit lines (**CLNO**) and

the number of delinquent credit lines (**DELINQ**) when submitting their loan applications. Especially regarding the second feature, this might indicate a common delinquency problem among the applicants and thus, higher probability of default.

Figure 4.7: Nullity Dendrogram (default cases)



Source: Author's results in Python

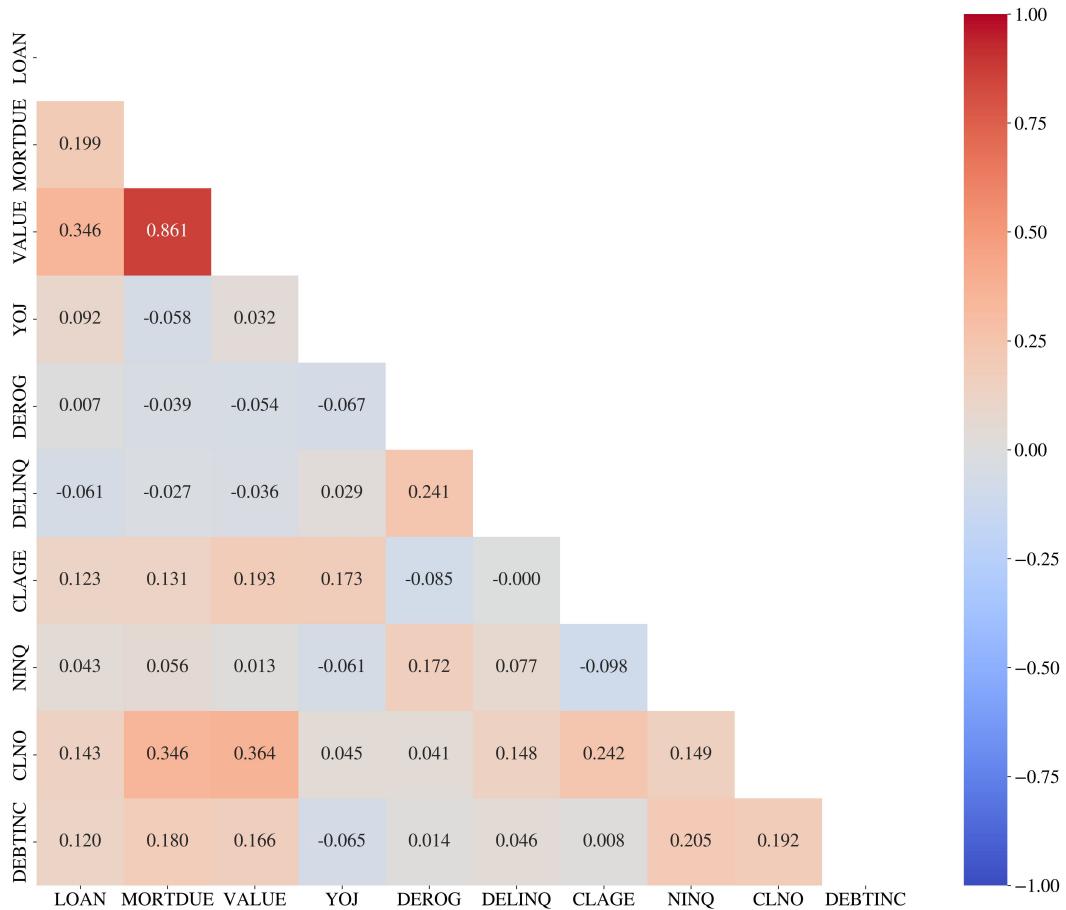
Multicollinearity Analysis

To quantify the association between the numerical features, Pearson correlation coefficient is often used. However, it is highly sensitive to outliers and makes assumptions regarding the normal distribution and linear relationship between variables. Consequently, Spearman correlation coefficient is utilized as an alternative, as it is a non-parametric measure that does not make any assumptions regarding the distribution of variables or the linearity of their relationship. The Spearman correlation coefficient is defined as follows:

$$\rho_{spearman} = 1 - \frac{6 \sum_{i=1}^n d_i^2}{n(n^2 - 1)} \quad (4.4)$$

In the Figure 4.8, we can observe a very strong correlation between the **MORTDUE** and **VALUE** features. Such multicollinearity can cause problem in predictions na model's overfitting. Therefore, a feature selection is recommended - such selection is further described in Subsection 4.4.2.

Figure 4.8: Spearman Correlation Matrix



Source: Author's results in Python

Regarding the association between categorical features, namely REASON and JOB, the Cramer's V coefficient is used. The Cramer's V coefficient results in a value of 0.149 while being statistically significant 1% statistical significance level, thus we observe a weak association between the two features.

4.3 Data Preprocessing

In this section, the process of preprocessing data is described as the crucial step in the machine learning modelling. Particularly, the the process of dividing data for various tasks, oversampling due to the imbalanced class issue, discretization of features and Weight-of-Evidence transformation are further discussed and described.

4.3.1 Data Split and ADASYN Oversampling

To ensure appropriate model training and unbiased evaluation, it is necessary to split data into separate sets for various purposes. Specifically, the data set is split into three sets: (1) training set for training the model, perform feature selection or hyperparameter tuning, (2) validation for hyperparameter tuning, and (3) test set for assess the model performance on the unseen data (Subasi 2020). In this thesis, the data is plit into training, validation and test sets in ratio of 70:15:15, which ensures sufficient amount of data for training, hence the model would be able to generalize well, while keeping the validation and test sets large enough to provide reliable evaluation of the model's performance.

The data is split using stratified split to preserve the default status distribution, which is highly imbalanced. Stratification ensures that the distribution of defaults and non-defaults remains the same across all sets, thereby avoiding overfitting and data leakage. Using stratification, each set had 80 % non-defaults and 20 % defaults. This method enables accurate prediction since the model is trained and evaluated on the same population (Igareta 2021). However, stratification alone may not be sufficient for dealing with imbalanced classes. Therefore, ADASYN oversampling is performed as described in Section 2.5. Note that ADASYN oversampling is performed on the training set only after the split to avoid data leakage and biased evaluation.

In Python, the data are divided and oversampled using a custom function `data_split()`. This function first employs the `train_test_split()` function from the `scikit-learn` module to split the data into training, validation, and test sets with a stratification technique. Next, the `ADASYN()` class from the `imblearn` module is used to oversample the training set. This is achieved by generating synthetic instances of the minority class based on the five nearest neighbors and Euclidean distance.

However, the `ADASYN()` class from `imblearn` is not designed to handle missing values or categorical features encoded as character. To overcome this limitation, the following approach is taken:

1. Separate the categorical and numeric features;
2. Impute the missing values with arbitrary values:
 - Categorical features: string '`N/A`';
 - Numeric features: number `999999999999999` - such value is chosen since it is highly unlikely to be present in the data set.
3. Convert the categorical features into dummy variables;
4. Join the numeric features with the dummy variables;
5. Perform the oversampling on the joined data set;
6. Convert the dummy variables back into categorical features;
7. Retrieve back the missing values:
 - Categorical features: replace string '`N/A`' with `np.nan`;
 - Numeric features: for each feature X if its value exceeds the its original maximum value, then replace it with `np.nan`;

The following Table 4.7 shows the default distribution of the individual sets before and after oversampling. The default distribution in training set after ADASYN oversampling is balanced, while the default distribution remains the same across the validation and test sets, which is desirable due to stratification.

Table 4.7: Data Split Summary

| Set | # instances | % defaults | % non-defaults |
|------------------------|-------------|------------|----------------|
| Training | 4,171 | 19.95 % | 80.05 % |
| Training (oversampled) | 6,437 | 48.13 % | 51.87 % |
| Validation | 895 | 20.00 % | 80.00 % |
| Test | 894 | 20.00 % | 80.00 % |

Source: Author's results in Python

Since ADASYN increases the sample size by generating, i.e., adding new instances into the sample, it may have an impact on the distribution of the

features. After the inspection in Python, it have no significant impact on the numeric features as the distributions before and after ADASYN oversampling do not differ that much. However, pertaining to the categorical features, a significant impact of ADASYN oversampling can be observed as can be seen in Table 4.8 and Figure 4.9, respectively, which depict the distribution of categorical features on the subsample of default cases within the training set, particularly distribution before and after the oversampling. As such, n_B and n_A refer to the number of default cases within given category before and after oversampling, respectively, N_B and N_A represents the total number of default cases before and after oversampling, respectively.

Within the **REASON** feature, we can observe a significant increase the proportion of defaulted clients who applied for a loan due to the debt consolidation (**DebtCon**) among all the defaulters after an oversampling - particularly, the ratio has increased by 12.20 percentage points. On the other hand, the proportion of defaulted clients who applied for a loan due to the home improvement (**HomeImp**) has decreased by 9.69 percentage points, indicating lower distribution of such clients in the oversampled set. Regarding the **JOB** feature, we can observe a substantial increase in the proportion in the of defaulted managers (**Mgr**) among all the defaulters after oversampling by 38.75 percentage points. On the other hand, the proportion of defaulted clients who are labelled as **Others** has decreased by 17.16 percentage points.

Table 4.8: ADASYN Impact on Categorical Features' Distribution

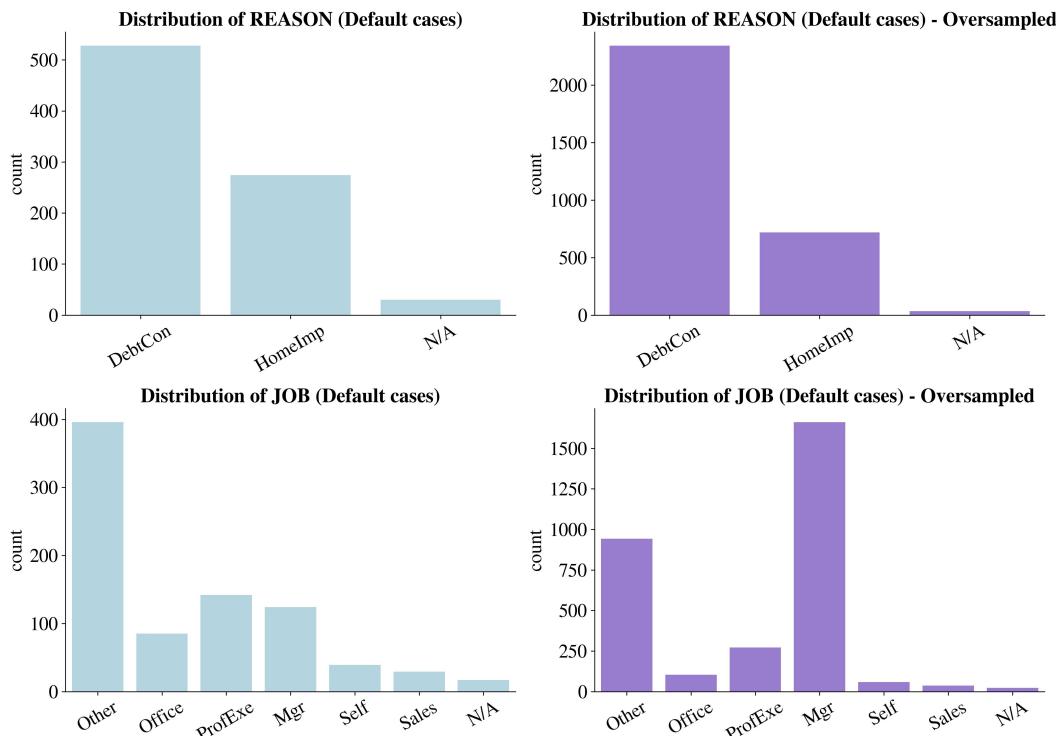
| Features | Category | n_B | n_A | n_B/N_B | n_A/N_A | Diff. |
|----------|----------|-------|-------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| REASON | DebtCon | 528 | 2,344 | 63.46 % | 75.66 % | 12.20 p.p. |
| REASON | HomeImp | 274 | 720 | 32.93 % | 23.24 % | -9.69 p.p. |
| REASON | N/A | 30 | 34 | 3.61 % | 1.10 % | -2.51 p.p. |
| JOB | Mgr | 124 | 1,662 | 14.9 % | 53.65 % | 38.75 p.p. |
| JOB | Other | 396 | 943 | 47.6 % | 30.44 % | -17.16 p.p. |
| JOB | ProfExe | 142 | 272 | 17.07 % | 8.78 % | -8.29 p.p. |
| JOB | Office | 85 | 104 | 10.22 % | 3.36 % | -6.86 p.p. |
| JOB | Self | 39 | 58 | 4.69 % | 1.87 % | -2.82 p.p. |
| JOB | Sales | 29 | 36 | 3.49 % | 1.16 % | -2.33 p.p. |
| JOB | N/A | 17 | 23 | 2.04 % | 0.74 % | -1.30 p.p. |

Source: Author's results in Python

Such findings regarding the significant increases in the proportion of default

cases regarding the `DebtCon` and `Mgr` categories are given to the nature of ADASYN oversampling. As explained before, ADASYN generates more synthetic default class instances in the neighborhood of such default instances, which are hard-to-learn for ADASYN. In other words, ADASYN creates more default instances for such default instances where the density of the non-default class is relatively high in given default instance's neighborhood. Therefore, default instances which either are managers or applied for a loan due to the debt consolidation are difficult-to-learn for ADASYN, thus ADASYN replicates more instances with such characteristics, hence this results in a higher proportion of default cases in the oversampled set for such category.

Figure 4.9: ADASYN Impact of Categorical Features' Distribution



Source: Author's results in Python

4.3.2 Optimal Binning and Weight-of-Evidence

As already described in Section 2.6, the optimal binning is employed as a data preprocessing step in this thesis. Particularly, we employ `BinningProcess` class from the `optbinning` module in Python - such class optimally discretizes the continuous features into interval bins and optimally groups categorical features' categories into sub-group categories with respect to the target variable while maximizing Information Value, and afterwards such bins are encoded using WoE (Navas-Palencia 2020). Besides discretizing and grouping, it also creates special bins for capturing missing values.

In this thesis, this data preprocessing step is wrapped into a custom function `woe_binning()` in Python. First, the `BinningProcess` class is fitted on the training set only in order to avoid data leakage, while it learns the split points for binning, event rates, WoE coefficients etc., and afterwards, such fitted `BinningProcess` class is used to transform training, validation and test set.

The following Figure 4.10 depicts the distribution of WoE bins for each feature. It can be observed that binning captures either linear, non-linear, monotonic, or non-monotonic relationships between the default status and the numeric features in terms of WoE. Regarding the `DELINQ` feature, a monotonic relationship can be observed, where the higher number of delinquent credit lines, the lower the WoE coefficient, indicating a larger distribution of defaults with respect to non-defaults in the given bin. Thus, the higher the number of delinquent credit lines, the higher the likelihood of defaulting in terms of WoE.

A non-linear relationship can be observed with respect to the `YOJ` feature, where the WoE coefficient is positive for applicants who have recently started working at their new job (i.e., number of years at the present job is less than 1) and for applicants who have been working at their current job for a relatively long time (i.e., number of years at the present job is higher than 19). Thus, applicants who have been working for a longer time have stable income and are more creditworthy and less likely to default. Regarding applicants who have recently started working at their new job, it is possible that they are less likely to default since the `YOJ` feature does not capture the applicant's total number of years of work experience, but only the number of years at the present job. Thus, in the given data set, applicants who have recently started working at their new job have a relatively higher total number of years of work experience,

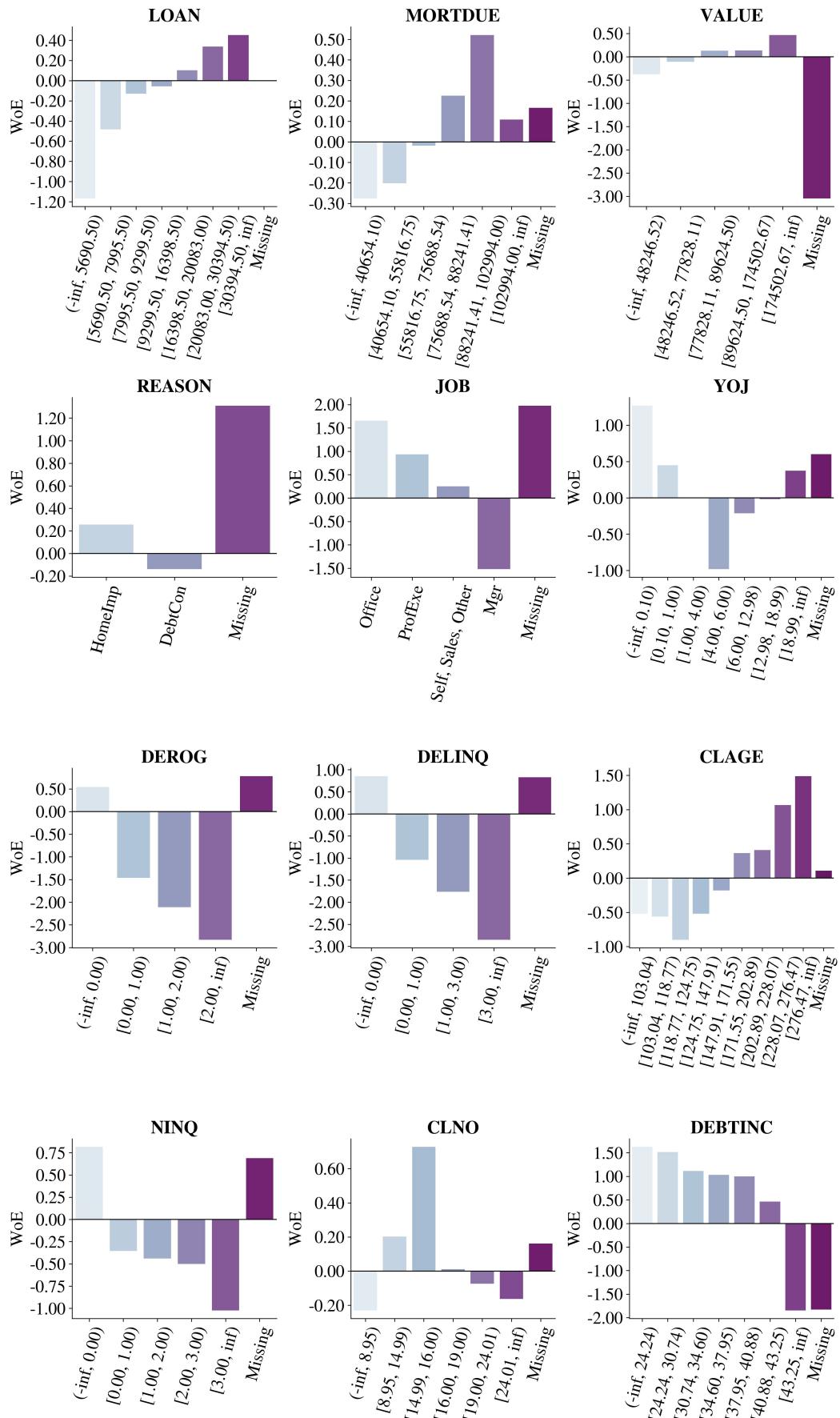
making them more creditworthy and less likely to default. On the other hand, for applicants who have been working at their present job between 1 and 19 years, the WoE coefficient is negative. This relationship seems to be complex and can be influenced by other factors not present in the data set, such as the applicant's age, total number of years of work experience, education, etc.

As already mentioned numeric and categorical features contain a separate bin capturing missing values, which can be a useful indicator when training a model. This is evident in the DEBTINC feature, where the bin capturing missing values has the most negative WoE coefficient, indicating that there is a larger distribution of defaulters compared to non-defaulters. This finding was already raised in Section 4.2.3 in terms of the strong and statistically significant association between the default status and the missing values in DEBTINC.

Within the JOB feature, specifically regarding the Mgr category, we can observe the direct impact of ADASYN oversampling as already described by Table 4.8. Since ADASYN generated more default class instances for original default instances who are managers, this results in higher default rate within such job category, thus to the larger distribution of defaulters compared to non-defaulters, which is quantified in the negative WoE value.

QUESTION FOR SUPERVISOR: should I also decribe the WoE distribution for other features as well or is this sufficient?

Figure 4.10: WoE Bins Distribution



Source: Author's results in Python

4.4 Modelling

Once the data are finally preprocessed, the next step regards the modelling part which includes hyperparameter tuning, feature selection, model selection and model building.

In Python, 8 different machine learning models from **Scikit-learn** module are used for the default status prediction, which were already described in Section 2.3, namely:

- **Logistic Regression** - `LogisticRegression()`
- **Decision Tree** - `DecisionTreeClassifier()`
- **Gaussian Naive Bayes** - `GaussianNB()`
- **K-Nearest Neighbors** - `KNeighborsClassifier()`
- **Random Forest** - `RandomForestClassifier()`
- **Gradient Boosting** - `GradientBoostingClassifier()`
- **Support Vector Machine** - `SVC()`
- **Multi-Layer Perceptron (Neural Network)** - `MLPClassifier()`
 - Henceforth, we will refer to Neural Network as **MLP**.

4.4.1 Hyperparameter Bayesian Optimization

In this thesis, hyperparameter tuning of models is performed using Bayesian Optimization as described in Section 2.7. In Python, a custom function, `bayesian_optimization()`, is implemented to perform hyperparameter tuning using Bayesian Optimization. This function utilizes `BayesSearchCV` class from the **Scikit-optimize** module, with a 10-fold stratified cross-validation scheme and 50 iterations, while maximizing the F1 score. As a surrogate function, Gaussian Process is used (scikit-learn 2023h). The use of `BayesSearchCV` with stratified cross-validation in the hyperparameter tuning process provides a robust and reliable approach to selecting the optimal hyperparameters for the model, while the incorporation of Bayesian Optimization enables the efficient exploration of the hyperparameter space. By maximizing the F1 score, the hyperparameters selected through this process will result in a model with improved performance. Note, that the hyperparameter tuning is performed

solely on training set in order to preserve the independence of the validation and test set, and avoid the information/data leakage as well.

For each model, the Bayesian Optimization algorithm performs 50 iterations while searching for the best hyperparameters values that maximize the F1 score. Within each iteration, a 10-fold stratified cross-validation is conducted to evaluate the model's cross-validation F1 score. Moreover, for each model, we specify the hyperparameter space, i.e., particular hyperparameters to be tuned and their possible ranges which the hyperparameter can take. The ranges are specified using `Integer` class to define interval of integers, `Real` to define interval of float numbers, and `Categorical` to define a list of possible (categorical) values. Note that not all the available hyperparameters are tuned, but only the most relevant due to the time complexity of the Bayesian Optimization algorithm. The definition of hyperparameter space for each model is described further in the following subsubsections.

Logistic Regression

The first hyperparameter `Intercept` allows to specify whether the intercept should be estimated or not. C is the regularization strength, and it is used to specify the regularization penalty, i.e., the hyperparameter `Penalty`. If the penalty is set to *ElasticNet*, we can also tune $L1$ ratio, which refers to the α parameter in Equation 2.8. Moreover, the `Class weight` hyperparameter is a hyperparameter which allows to assign higher importance to the minority class instances during the training process.

Furthermore, `Solver` hyperparameter is used to specify which optimization algorithm should be used to estimate the coefficients' values. According to Hale (Hale 2019), Scikit-learn provides five solvers for Logistic Regression, namely *lbfgs* (Limited-memory Broyden-Fletcher-Goldfarb-Shanno) which approximates the second derivative matrix updates with gradient evaluations, *liblinear* (Library for Large Linear Classification) which uses coordinate descent algorithm, *newton-cg*, *sag* (Stochastic Average Gradient descent) as a variation of gradient descent and incremental aggregated gradient approaches using random sample of previous gradient values, and *saga* as an extension of *sag* which allows $L1$ regularization. For more information, please refer to the Scikit-learn documentation regarding Logistic Regression (scikit-optimize 2023). The last hyperparameter of Logistic Regression to tune in this thesis is the `Intercept`.

scaling which allows to scale the intercept.

Table 4.9: Logistic Regression - Hyperparameter Space

| Hyperparameter | Space |
|-------------------|--|
| Intercept | True, False |
| C factor | $<1 \times 10^{-6}, 5>$ |
| Penalty | L1, L2, Elastic Net, None |
| Solver | lbfgs, liblinear, newton-cg, sag, saga |
| Class weight | None, balanced |
| L1 ratio | $<0, 1>$ |
| Intercept scaling | True, False |

Source: Author's results in Python

Decision Tree

The first hyperparameter of Decision Tree is the **Criterion** which allows to specify the function to measure the quality of a split - either Gini or Entropy impurity function. Another important hyperparameter is the **Max depth** which allows to specify the maximum depth of the tree. The last hyperparameter is the **Max features** which allows to specify the number of features to consider when looking for the best split (scikit-learn 2023g). Note, that **Max features** has a variable range of values depending on the number of features which is dependent on the number of features selected during feature selection (where the feature are iteratively selected and the model is trained and evaluated on each iteration).

Table 4.10: Decision Tree - Hyperparameter Space

| Hyperparameter | Space |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Criterion | Gini, Entropy |
| Max depth | $<1, 10>$ |
| Max features | $<1, \text{len}(X.\text{columns})>$ |

Source: Author's results in Python

Gaussian Naive Bayes

In case of Gaussian Naive Bayes, the only hyperparameter to tune is the **Variance smoothing** which allows to specify the portion of the largest vari-

ance of all features to be added to variances for calculation stability (scikit-learn 2023d), in order to smooth out the variances of each feature in case when the variance is zero.

Table 4.11: Gaussian Naive Bayes - Hyperparameter Space

| Hyperparameter | Space |
|--------------------|--|
| Variance smoothing | $<1 \times 10^{-9}, 1 \times 10^{-6}>$ |

Source: Author's results in Python

K–Nearest Neighbors

In KNN, it is crucial to specify the number of neighbors to consider during the classification process, which is depicted in the `# neighbors` hyperparameter. Further, it is needed to select optimal distance measure, i.e., Euclidean, Manhattan or Minkowski as described in Subsection 2.3.4 - such selection refers to the `Metric` hyperparameter. Pertaining to the Minowski distance, we tune also the `Norm order` hyperparameter which allows to specify the power parameter within the distance calculation. Last but not least, KNN also allows to tune the `Weights` hyperparameter which allows to specify the weight function used in prediction - either uniform or distance. With the former function, all the points within each neighborhood are weighted uniformly and with the latter approach, the points are weighted inversely with respect to their distance. (scikit-learn 2023e).

Table 4.12: K–Nearest Neighbors - Hyperparameter Space

| Hyperparameter | Space |
|----------------|---------------------------------|
| # neighbors | $<5, 20>$ |
| Metric | Euclidean, Manhattan, Minkowski |
| Norm order | $<1, 5>$ |
| Weights | Uniform, Distance |

Source: Author's results in Python

Random Forest

In the Random Forest, we tune the number of base trees which are trained in parallel way in the ensemble, i.e., the `# estimators` hyperparameter. Sim-

ilarly to Decision Tree, Random Forest allows to select the optimal split measure, i.e., Gini, Entropy or additionaly even Log Loss, which is depicted in the **Criterion** hyperparameter. Likewise Decision Tree, Random Forest also allows to specify the maximum depth of the tree as well as the the number of features to consider when looking for the best split, i.e., the **Max depth** hyperparameter and **Max features**, respectively. The **Bootstrap** hyperparameter allows to specify whether bootstrap samples are used when training the tree estimators. Similarly to Logistic Regression, Random Forest also has the **Class weight** hyperparameter which allows to specify the weight of each class in the classification process - *balanced* function takes the target variable to adjust the weights which are inversely proportional to class frequencies, whereas *subsample balanced* does almost the same, but the weights are computed based on the bootstrap samples. Last but not least, Random Forest also allows to tune the **CCP alpha** hyperparameter which allows to specify the complexity parameter used for Minimal Cost-Complexity Pruning (CCP), in order to reduce the size of the tree estimators and avoid overfitting by removing subtrees from the tree estimators which do not improve the performance (scikit-learn 2023c).

Table 4.13: Random Forest - Hyperparameter Space

| Hyperparameter | Space |
|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| # estimators | $<100, 1000>$ |
| Criterion | Gini, Entropy, Log Loss |
| Max depth | $<1, 10>$ |
| Max features | $<1, \text{len}(\mathbf{X.columns})>$ |
| Bootstrap | True, False |
| Class weight | None, balanced, subsample balanced |
| CCP alpha | $<1 \times 10^{-12}, 0.5>$ |

Source: Author's results in Python

Gradient Boosting

Likewise Random Forest, Gradient Boosting also allows to tune the number of base trees which are trained in sequential way in the ensemble, i.e., the **# estimators** hyperparameter, as well as the maximum depth of the tree and the number of features to consider when looking for the best split, i.e., the **Max depth** hyperparameter and **Max features**, respectively. Is it also need to tune the **Learning rate** hyperparameter which shrinks the contribution of each

tree in order prevent overfitting. We can also select the optimal loss function of Gradient Boosting (**Loss** hyperparameter), either Log Log Loss or Exponential loss function - in the latter case, the model is equivalent to AdaBoost algorithm (scikit-learn 2023b). Moreover, the **Criterion** hyperparameter allows to specify measurement method of the split quality, i.e., MSE or Friedman MSE which improves the MSE with Friedman scores (scikit-learn 2023b).

Table 4.14: Gradient Boosting - Hyperparameter Space

| Hyperparameter | Space |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| # estimators | $<100, 1000>$ |
| Max depth | $<1, 10>$ |
| Max features | $<1, \text{len}(X.\text{columns})>$ |
| Learning rate | $<0.0001, 0.2>$ |
| Loss | Log Loss, Exponential |
| Criterion | MSE, Friedman MSE |

Source: Author's results in Python

Support Vector Machine

Likewise Logistic Regression, SVM also allows to tune the **C** hyperparameter for the regularization, as well as the **Kernel** hyperparameter which specifies the kernel type to be used in the algorithm in order to map the data into higher dimensional space in order to find the optimal hyperplane which separates the classes. If the kernel is d -degree polynomial, we can also tune the **Degree** hyperparameter which specifies the degree of the polynomial kernel function. SVM also has the **Class weight** hyperparameter which assigns the weights to the input data based on the class frequencies in order to balance the classes.

Table 4.15: Support Vector Machine - Hyperparameter Space

| Hyperparameter | Space |
|----------------|----------------------------|
| C factor | $<1 \times 10^{-6}, 5>$ |
| Kernel | Linear, Poly, RBF, Sigmoid |
| Degree | $<1, 10>$ |
| Class weight | balanced, None |

Source: Author's results in Python

Multi-Layer Perceptron

Regarding the MLP, we use one hidden layer where we tune the number of units as represented by the **Hidden layer size** hyperparameter. We also tune the **Activation function** applied in the hidden layer, namely Logistic, ReLU, Tanh which were already described in Subsection 2.3.8, and further Identity which is just a linear activation function, hence $f(z) = z$. Regarding the optimization algorithm which refers to **Solver** hyperparameter, we can choose between *lbfgs*, *sgd* (Stochastic Gradient Descent) and *adam* (Adaptive Moment Estimation). The **Learning rate** can be either constant (i.e, 0.001), inversely scaled, i.e., gradually and inversely decreased with and inverse scaling exponent t (where t refers to the time step, by default $t = 0.5$), or adaptive, i.e., the learning rate is kept constant as long as the training loss keeps decreasing, otherwise it is divided by 5 (scikit-learn 2023f).

Table 4.16: Multi Layer Perceptron - Hyperparameter Space

| Hyperparameter | Space |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| Hidden layer size | <5, 500> |
| Activation function | Identity, Logistic, Tanh, ReLU |
| Solver | Adam, sgd, lbfgs |
| Learning rate | Constant, Adaptive, Invscaling |

Source: Author's results in Python

4.4.2 Sequential Feature Selection

As the feature selection approach, Forward Sequential Feature Selection (henceforth SFS) is employed in order to choose the optimal set of features as described in Section 2.8. Within machine learning implementation, instead of fitting Forward SFS only with one model, Forward SFS is fitted for each input model in order to obtain the best subsets of features for each model, assuming the importance of each features varies across the models. Instead of using input models with default hyperparameters, each model is tuned with Bayesian Optimization in order to obtain the optimal hyperparameters for each model, which would further improve the performance of each model within SFS and therefore, it would lead to the more optimal selection of features. The custom feature selection algorithm is stated in Algorithm 1, thus, when having n input models, it returns n subsets of optimal features, one per each model:

Algorithm 1 Feature Selection Algorithm

```

1: for  $model \in models$  do
2:    $optimized\_model \leftarrow \text{BAYESIANOPTIMIZATION}(model)$ 
3:    $best\_features \leftarrow \text{FORWARDSFS}(optimized\_model)$ 
4: end for
```

Particularly, each input model is first tuned on the training set with Bayesian Optimization with 50 iterations and 10-fold stratified cross validation (in order to preserve the target variable distribution across the folds) while maximizing the F1 score - within author's machine learning implemenation, his custom function `bayesian_optimization()` is used. Once the model is tuned, the Forward SFS is fitted with such tuned model on the same training set with 10-fold stratified cross validation while maximizing the F1 score. Instead of selecting the fixed number of features, Scikit-learn's `SequentialFeatureSelector` class allows to set a stop criterion (`tol` parameter) which stops adding features if the objective score function is not increasing at least by `tol` between two consecutive feature additions (scikit-learn 2023a). Such paramaeter is set to the value which is close to zero, therefore the feature selection stops when the objective score function is not increasing anymore.

Such feature selection algorithm is wrapped into author's custom function `SFS_feature_selection()`. This function iteratively prints the process of the feature selection as can be seen in Figure 4.11, including the current step (Bayesian Optimization or Feature Selection), the execution time in minutes,

and the selected features per each model. Since we have 8 input models, we get 8 optimal subsets of features.

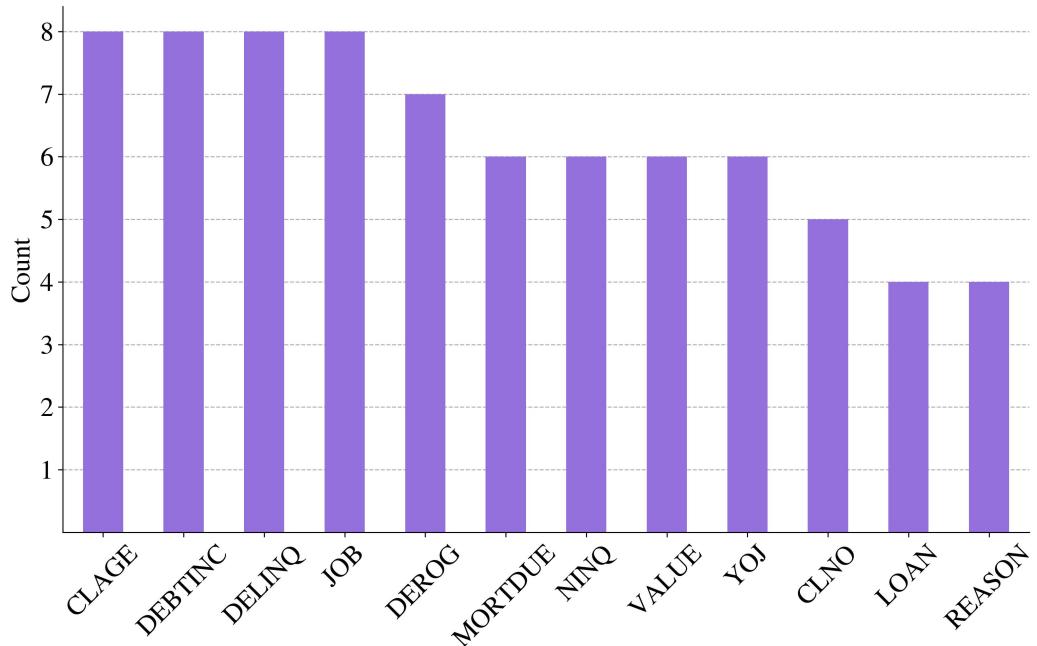
Figure 4.11: Feature Selection Print Statement

```
-----  
----- 2/8 -----  
----- FEATURE SELECTION WITH DT -----  
-----  
  
1/4 ... Starting Bayesian Optimization on the whole set of features  
2/4 ... Bayesian Optimization finished  
3/4 ... Starting Forward Sequential Feature Selection  
4/4 ... Forward Sequential Feature Selection with finished  
  
Execution time: 0.8622 minutes  
  
9 features selected: VALUE, JOB, YOJ, DEROG, DELINQ, CLAGE, NINQ, CLNO, DEBTINC  
  
-----  
-----  
  
-----  
----- 3/8 -----  
----- FEATURE SELECTION WITH GNB -----  
-----  
  
1/4 ... Starting Bayesian Optimization on the whole set of features  
2/4 ... Bayesian Optimization finished  
3/4 ... Starting Forward Sequential Feature Selection  
4/4 ... Forward Sequential Feature Selection with finished  
  
Execution time: 0.4152 minutes  
  
6 features selected: MORTDUE, JOB, DELINQ, CLAGE, NINQ, DEBTINC  
  
-----  
-----
```

Source: Author's results in Python

The following Figure 4.12 depicts the recurrence of the selected features. As can be seen, features such as CLAGE, DEBTINC, DELINQ and JOB were selected by each model. On the other hand, features such as LOAN and REASON were selected only four times. Therefore, it can be expected that such features which were selected every time will have significant impact in predictions.

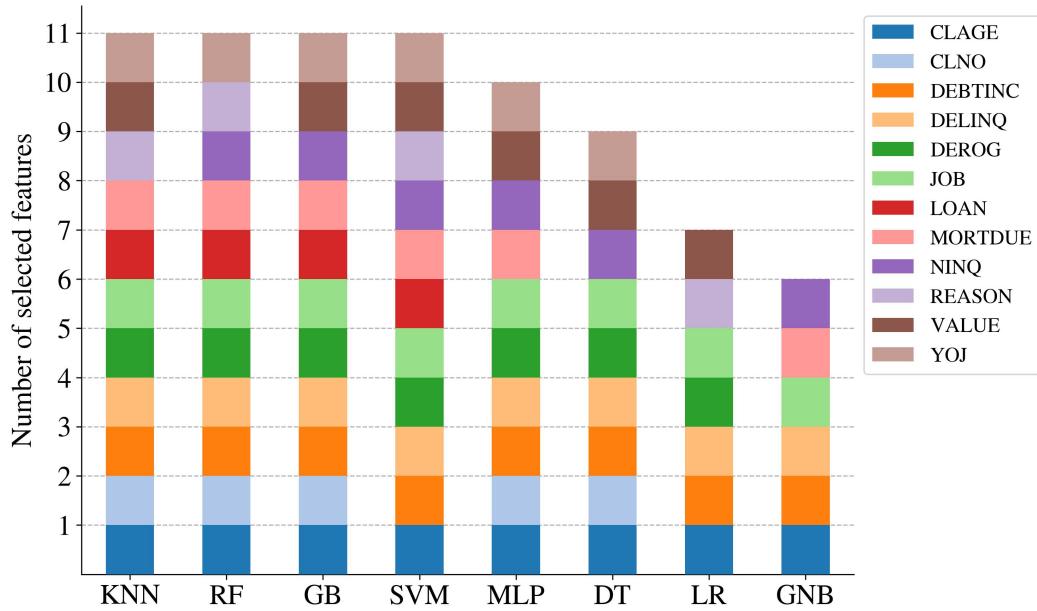
Figure 4.12: Recurrence of Selected Features



Source: Author's results in Python

According to Figure 4.13, models such as KNN, Random Forest, Gradient Boosting and SVM chose almost all the features as only one feature was eliminated. On the other hand, Gaussian Naive Bayes chose only 6. It seems to be that most of the features are important as each model has selected a higher amount of features. It is evident the more complex black–box models require more features in contrast to transparent models such as Logistic Regression or Gaussian Naive Bayes.

Figure 4.13: Distribution of Selected Features per Model



Source: Author's results in Python

4.4.3 Model Selection

In combination with the pre-selected subsets of features, the next step regards the selection of the final model which will be further used within an evaluation and the deployment. The algorithm process is described in Algorithm 2 below:

Algorithm 2 Model Selection Algorithm

```

1: for model ∈ models do
2:   for features ∈ features_subsets do
3:     optimized_model ← BAYESIANOPTIMIZATION(model, features)
4:     for metric ∈ evaluation_metrics do
5:       performance ← EVALUATION(optimized_model, metric)
6:     end for
7:   end for
8: end for

```

Therefore, each input model is tuned on each subset of features selected within feature selection on the training set and subsequently, the optimized model is evaluated on the validation set. Thus, when having n input models and m subsets of selected features, we get $n \times m$ tuned models. $m \leq n$ because we exclude duplicated subset of selected features which can occur when more than one model choose the same subset(s) of features. Since there are 8 input

models and 8 unique subsets of selected features, the total number of tuned models is 64.

Metrics Space

When evaluating classification models using class-based metrics such as F1 score, Precision, Recall, Accuracy, Matthews Correlation Coefficient, a default classification threshold of 0.5 is often used. This threshold separates predicted classes based on whether the predicted probability score is higher or lower than 0.5. However, in real-world use cases, the 0.5 classification threshold may not be appropriate and according to (Esposito *et al.* 2021), such threshold is not appropriate when having imbalanced data. Therefore, it is recommended to calculate an optimal threshold rather than relying on the default one. For such case, the Youden index is employed which is derived from ROC curve and enables the selection of an optimal classification threshold value. The Youden index searches for the threshold that maximizes the sum of True Positive Rate and True Negative Rate, decreased by 1 (Fluss *et al.* 2005), thus:

$$J = TPR + TNR - 1 \quad (4.5)$$

Mathematically, the optimal threshold using Youden index is derived as follows:

$$T_{opt} = \operatorname{argmax}_{t \in [0,1]} (J) \quad (4.6)$$

In Python, the `roc_curve` function from **Scikit-learn** returns False Positive Rate instead of the True Negative Rate. Nevertheless, we can derive the True Negative Rate from False Positive Rate as follows:

$$TNR = 1 - FPR \quad (4.7)$$

Therefore:

$$T_{opt} = \operatorname{argmax}_{t \in [0,1]} (TPR + (1 - FPR) - 1) \quad (4.8)$$

Note, that the optimal threshold is calculated based on the training set and henceforth is applied within the evaluation on validation set.

In order to ensure a more comprehensive and unbiased evaluation of a model's performance, it is recommended to consider multiple metrics rather than relying on a single metric alone. This approach provides a more generalized overview

of the model's performance across different aspects and helps to prevent any bias towards a single metric. To accomplish this, models can be ranked based on their performance on each individual metric, where a higher score or a lower loss indicates a better model, resulting in a higher rank for that metric. Subsequently, for each metric, the ranking of the models is determined, and the final ranking is calculated as a weighted average of these individual rankings. The weights have been set expertly and are summarized in Table 4.17.

Specifically, the highest weight (1.5) is assigned to the F1 score, which provides a balanced measure of a model's performance with respect to both False Positives and False Negatives. This metric is commonly used in classification tasks, particularly in imbalanced data sets, such as the validation set in our case, which has not been oversampled. In addition to the F1 score, higher weight is assigned to the Recall score as well (1.2), which is a metric that penalizes False Negatives. False Negatives occur when the model predicts a negative result (i.e., no default) for an instance that is actually positive (i.e., default). In the context of loan applications, one may prefer to reject a loan applicant who would not have defaulted (False Positive) rather than approving the application of a client who would have defaulted (False Negative). Therefore, it is appropriate to give higher weight to Recall in order to reduce the likelihood of False Negatives. Henceforth, the weights are assigned to different metrics based on their relevance to the models' ranking, with the highest weight given to F1 score and additional weight given to Recall to ensure that False Negatives are minimized.

Table 4.17: Model Ranking Weights

| Metric | Weight |
|----------------------------------|--------|
| F1 score | 1.5 |
| Recall | 1.2 |
| Precision | 1 |
| Accuracy | 1 |
| AUC | 1 |
| Somers' D | 1 |
| Kolmogorov Smirnov | 1 |
| Matthews Correlation Coefficient | 1 |
| Brier Score Loss | 1 |

Source: Author's results in Python

Particularly, for each model a rank score is calculated in order to determine the final rank. The lower rank score indicates better model performance. For particular model M , the rank score as weighted sum of the individual ranks as follows:

$$\text{RankScore}_M = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^k r_i \times w_i}{\sum_{i=1}^k w_i} \quad (4.9)$$

where k is the number of metrics used to evaluated the model M , r_i is the rank order of i -th metric for given model M and w_i is the weight assigned to the i -th metric. Such metric lies in interval $< 1, k >$, where 1 would indicate a perfect model performance across the all metrics.

Model Selection Results

The custom function `model_selection()` iteratively prints the process of the model tuning and evaluation on each subset of features, in order to keep the track of such process as it is depicted in Figure 4.14. Particularly, it prints which model on which features is being tuned and evaluated, exeuction time, optimal threshold, F1 score on the validation set and the best hyperparameters.

Figure 4.14: Model Selection Print Statement

```
-----  
----- 56/64 -----  
----- BAYESIAN OPTIMIZATION OF SVM -----  
----- WITH FEATURES SELECTED BY MLP -----  
-----  
1/2 ... Starting Bayesian Optimization on the subset of features (10 features):  
    MORTDUE, VALUE, JOB, YOJ, DEROG, DELINQ, CLAGE, NINQ, CLNO, DEBTINC  
2/2... Bayesian Optimization finished  
  
Execution time: 22.0695 minutes  
  
F1 Score on Validation set: 0.7102272727272726  
  
Optimal classification threshold: 0.6477  
  
Tuned hyperparameters of SVM:  
  
C: 4.999999999999999  
break_ties: False  
cache_size: 200  
class_weight: balanced  
coef0: 0.0  
decision_function_shape: ovr  
degree: 1  
gamma: scale  
kernel: rbf  
max_iter: -1  
probability: True  
random_state: 42  
shrinking: False  
tol: 1.102507160381566e-09  
verbose: False  
  
-----  
-----
```

Source: Author's results in Python

The final output of the function `model_selection()` is table which summarizes the model's computed metrics as depicted in Table 4.18. As can be seen, the best models in terms of ranking are the Gradient Boosting models which in general have the highest score metrics and the lowest loss metrics. On the other hand, the worst-performing models are Gaussian Naive Bayes models.

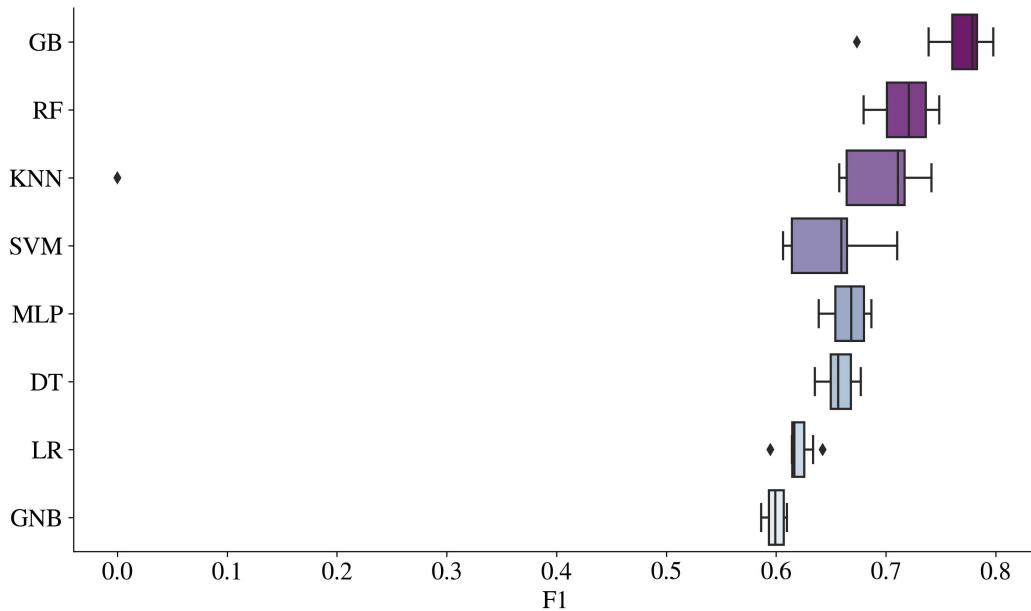
Table 4.18: Model Selection Results

| Tuned model | FS model | # Features | Exec. Time | Thresh. | F1 | Prec. | Rec. | Acc. | AUC | SD | KS | MCC | BS | Log Loss | Score | Rank |
|-------------|----------|------------|------------|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|----------|-------|------|
| GB | MLP | 10 | 738.19 | 0.4955 | 0.7809 | 0.7853 | 0.7765 | 0.9128 | 0.9515 | 0.9030 | 0.7751 | 0.7265 | 0.0666 | 0.2487 | 3.48 | 1 |
| GB | KNN | 11 | 767.90 | 0.5072 | 0.7978 | 0.7912 | 0.8045 | 0.9184 | 0.9587 | 0.9175 | 0.7989 | 0.7467 | 0.0687 | 0.4135 | 3.82 | 2 |
| GB | SVM | 11 | 904.84 | 0.5053 | 0.7896 | 0.8155 | 0.7654 | 0.9184 | 0.9555 | 0.9109 | 0.7961 | 0.7397 | 0.0718 | 0.3486 | 4.17 | 3 |
| GB | GB | 11 | 686.26 | 0.4132 | 0.7799 | 0.7778 | 0.7821 | 0.9117 | 0.9543 | 0.9086 | 0.7989 | 0.7247 | 0.0703 | 0.3372 | 4.29 | 4 |
| GB | RF | 11 | 802.55 | 0.4973 | 0.7775 | 0.7841 | 0.7710 | 0.9117 | 0.9541 | 0.9081 | 0.7961 | 0.7225 | 0.0669 | 0.2803 | 4.37 | 5 |
| RF | KNN | 11 | 356.24 | 0.4725 | 0.7486 | 0.7326 | 0.7654 | 0.8972 | 0.9226 | 0.8452 | 0.7109 | 0.6843 | 0.0923 | 0.3232 | 8.66 | 6 |
| GB | DT | 9 | 719.92 | 0.4729 | 0.7675 | 0.7697 | 0.7654 | 0.9073 | 0.9407 | 0.8814 | 0.7556 | 0.7096 | 0.0808 | 0.4693 | 8.87 | 7 |
| RF | GB | 11 | 310.63 | 0.4517 | 0.7385 | 0.7135 | 0.7654 | 0.8916 | 0.9200 | 0.8400 | 0.7123 | 0.6709 | 0.0886 | 0.3135 | 9.47 | 8 |
| RF | MLP | 10 | 397.42 | 0.4761 | 0.7357 | 0.7181 | 0.7542 | 0.8916 | 0.9179 | 0.8358 | 0.7081 | 0.6679 | 0.0879 | 0.3084 | 10.39 | 9 |
| GB | LR | 7 | 1008.69 | 0.4362 | 0.7388 | 0.7000 | 0.7821 | 0.8894 | 0.9219 | 0.8438 | 0.7081 | 0.6706 | 0.0886 | 0.3925 | 10.79 | 10 |
| ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| DT | MLP | 10 | 54.19 | 0.5000 | 0.6427 | 0.6374 | 0.6480 | 0.8559 | 0.8133 | 0.6266 | 0.5810 | 0.5524 | 0.1254 | 2.0008 | 50.38 | 55 |
| GNB | GB | 11 | 23.04 | 0.1829 | 0.5970 | 0.4893 | 0.7654 | 0.7933 | 0.8531 | 0.7063 | 0.5810 | 0.4880 | 0.1310 | 0.6461 | 50.50 | 56 |
| GNB | KNN | 11 | 22.98 | 0.3588 | 0.6093 | 0.5219 | 0.7318 | 0.8123 | 0.8479 | 0.6957 | 0.5698 | 0.5024 | 0.1367 | 0.6686 | 50.81 | 57 |
| GNB | DT | 9 | 23.11 | 0.2241 | 0.6063 | 0.5095 | 0.7486 | 0.8056 | 0.8467 | 0.6935 | 0.5768 | 0.4991 | 0.1316 | 0.6370 | 50.85 | 58 |
| GNB | MLP | 10 | 23.11 | 0.2194 | 0.6013 | 0.5000 | 0.7542 | 0.8000 | 0.8493 | 0.6986 | 0.5768 | 0.4930 | 0.1319 | 0.6360 | 50.99 | 59 |
| DT | GNB | 6 | 53.14 | 0.5000 | 0.6354 | 0.6284 | 0.6425 | 0.8525 | 0.8187 | 0.6375 | 0.5838 | 0.5430 | 0.1251 | 2.1679 | 51.74 | 60 |
| GNB | GNB | 6 | 23.05 | 0.4787 | 0.5950 | 0.5039 | 0.7263 | 0.8022 | 0.8356 | 0.6711 | 0.5559 | 0.4835 | 0.1470 | 0.5280 | 54.53 | 61 |
| LR | GNB | 6 | 95.14 | 0.4561 | 0.5948 | 0.5121 | 0.7095 | 0.8067 | 0.8379 | 0.6758 | 0.5531 | 0.4831 | 0.1319 | 0.4180 | 54.97 | 62 |
| GNB | SVM | 11 | 22.91 | 0.1991 | 0.5885 | 0.4872 | 0.7430 | 0.7922 | 0.8425 | 0.6850 | 0.5712 | 0.4756 | 0.1345 | 0.6721 | 55.15 | 63 |
| GNB | RF | 11 | 23.25 | 0.3413 | 0.5864 | 0.4943 | 0.7207 | 0.7966 | 0.8288 | 0.6577 | 0.5545 | 0.4720 | 0.1486 | 0.7040 | 57.85 | 64 |

Source: Author's results in Python

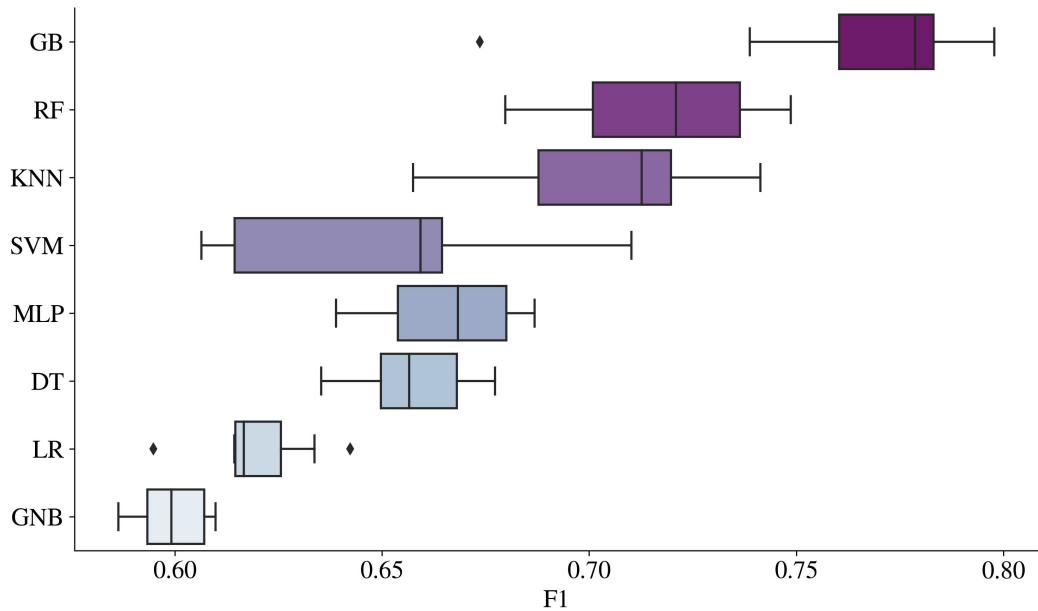
In order to gain a more detailed understanding of the model selection results, the distribution of computed metrics is plotted. In Figure 4.15, the F1 score distribution is visualized for each input model. An outlier can be observed in KNN where the F1 score is 0.

Figure 4.15: F1 Score Distribution



Source: Author's results in Python

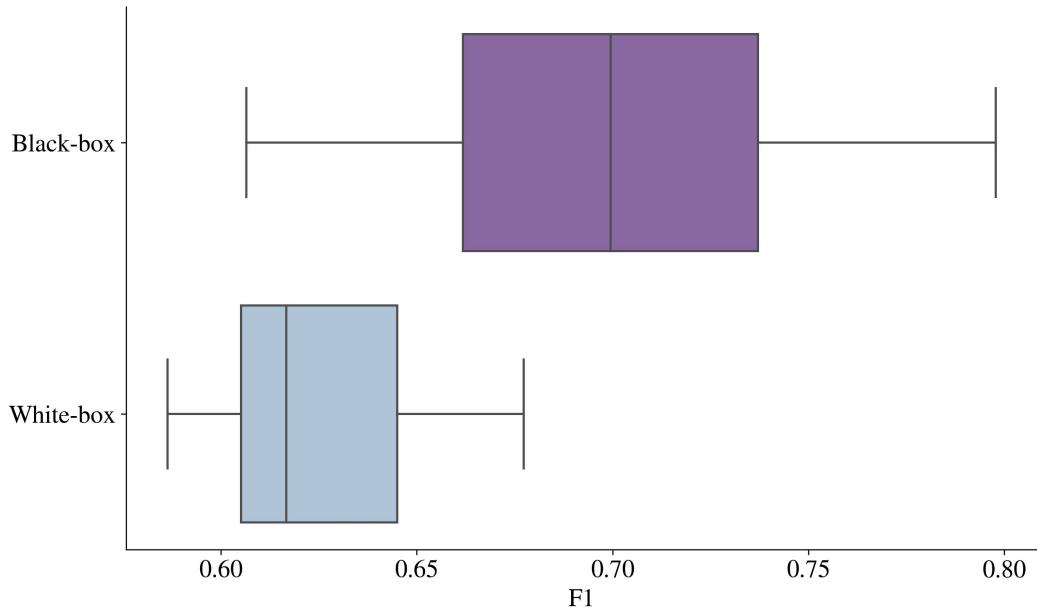
Such outlier is removed in Figure 4.16 to gain a more general insight into the F1 score distribution. It can be observed that Gradient Boosting models have the highest F1 scores of around 80 %. Another tree ensemble model, Random Forest, is performing well as the second best. However, more transparent models such as Logistic Regression and Naive Bayes are performing poorly, having F1 scores around 60 %.

Figure 4.16: F1 Score Distribution - *without outlier*

Source: Author's results in Python

As depicted in Figure 4.17, it visualizes the distribution of F1 score (without the outlier) across the model type. Although, both score distributions overlap, it is evident, that black–box models outperform white–box model in terms of F1 score in overall as expected.

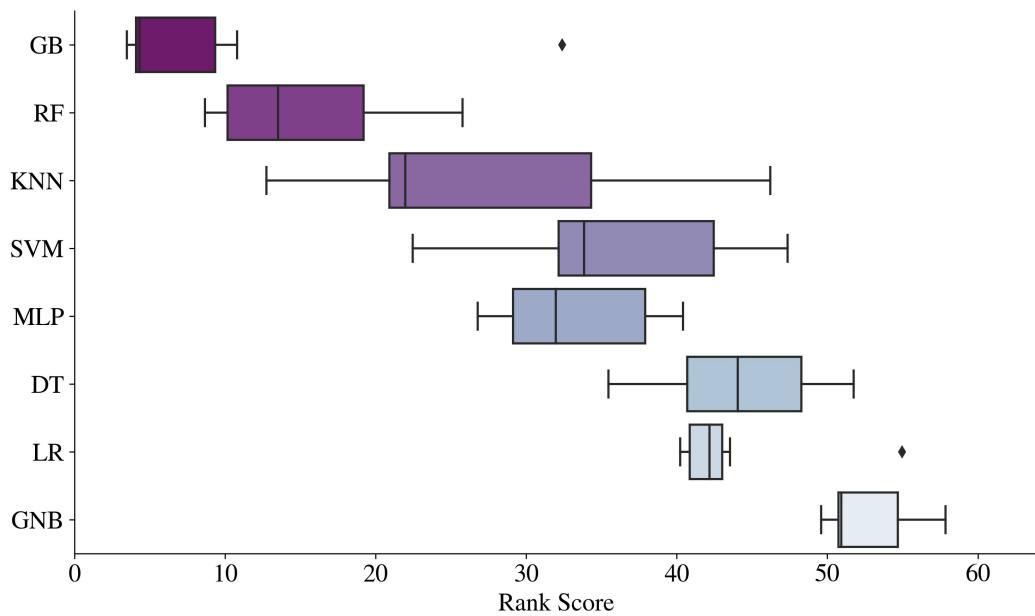
Figure 4.17: F1 Score Distribution (Black-box/White-box dimension) - *without outlier*



Source: Author's results in Python

We can also consider not only F1 score but also other metrics, which is quantified in the rank score calculated according to Equation 4.9. As shown in Figure 4.18, we can observe that the order of models ranked by the rank score is identical as the order of the models ranked by F1 score in Figure 4.15. Hence, across all the metrics, the Gradient Boosting perform the best in overall while Gaussian Naive Bayes does not perform well at all.

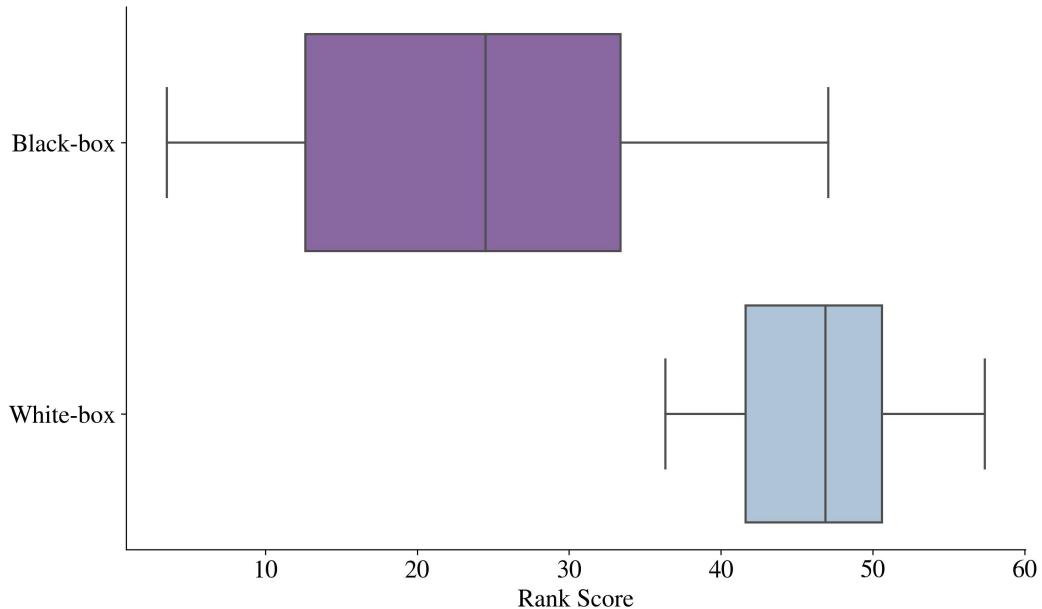
Figure 4.18: Rank Score Distribution



Source: Author's results in Python

As expected, also, the black-box models are ranked higher than the white-box models according to the rank score as shown in Figure 4.19. This is evident also from Table 4.18 where the black-box models, namely Gradient Boosting and Random Forest, dominated amongst the first 10 ranked models.

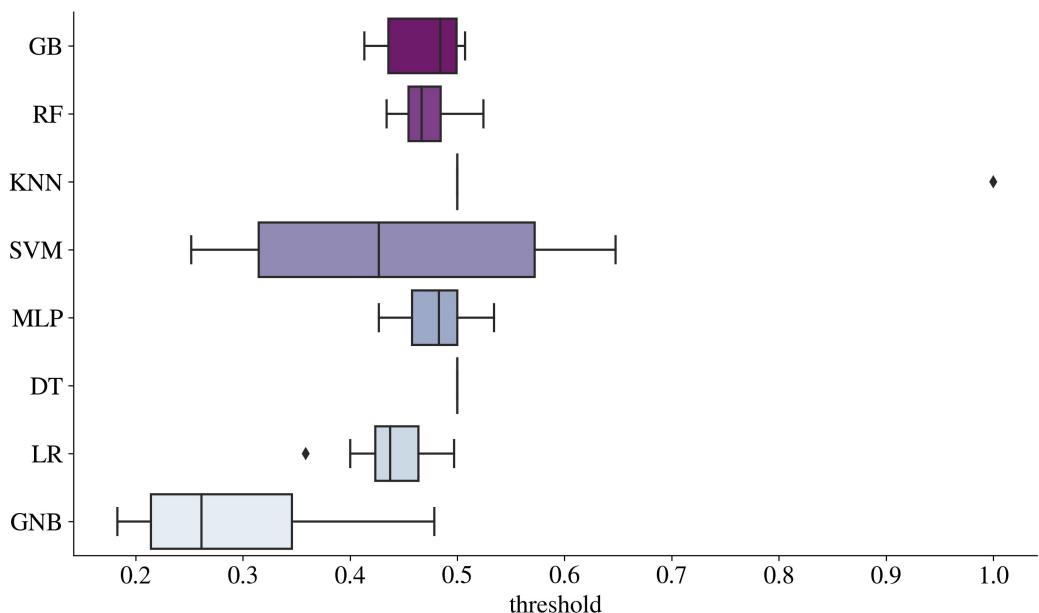
Figure 4.19: Rank Score Distribution (Black-box/White-box dimension)



Source: Author's results in Python

The optimal threshold distribution for each base model is presented in Figure 4.20. We can observe an outlier in KNN having a threshold value of 1, which explains the F1 score outlier found previously in Figure 4.15.

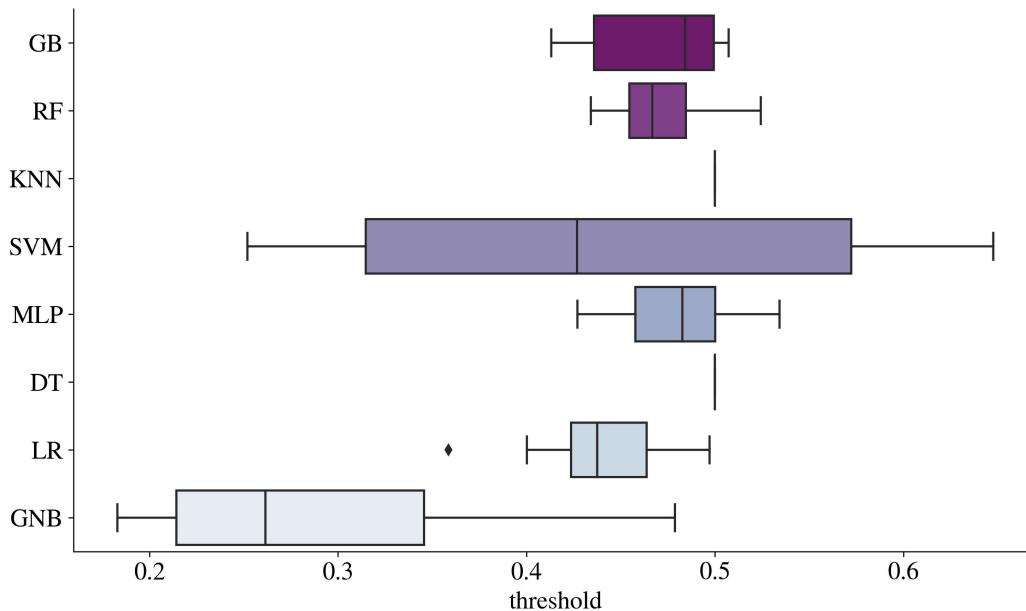
Figure 4.20: Threshold Distribution



Source: Author's results in Python

In order to obtain a better insight into the distribution of optimal thresholds, the outlier in KNN is excluded, resulting in the threshold distribution depicted in Figure 4.21. The optimal threshold values are mostly distributed below 0.5, indicating that the models are generally more conservative. The most conservative model is Gaussian Naive Bayes, which has a median threshold value around 0.25.

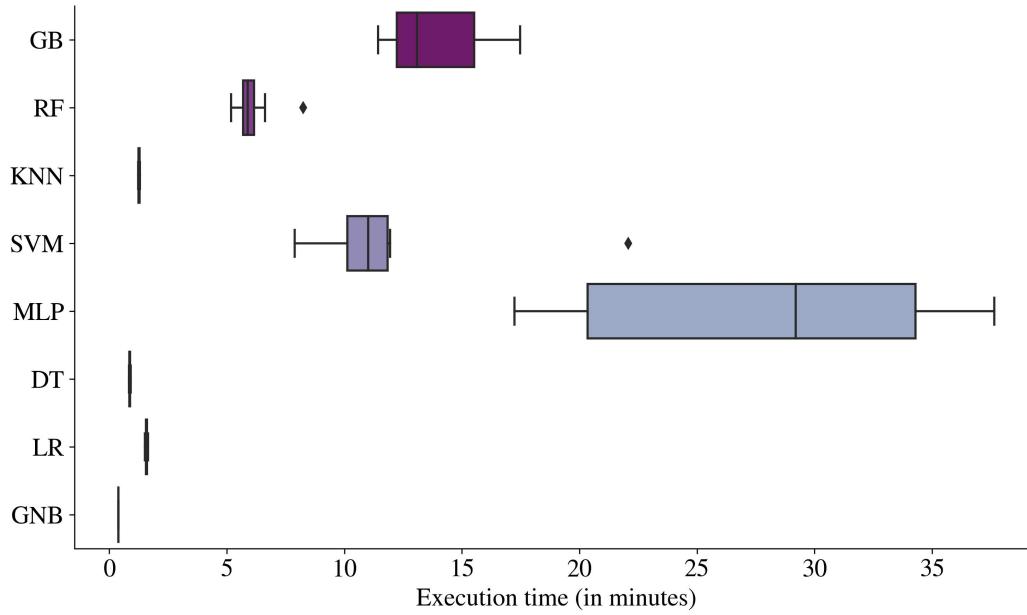
Figure 4.21: Threshold Distribution - *without outlier*



Source: Author's results in Python

Upon examining the execution time of each model, it can be observed that the transparent and non-complex models such as Logistic Regression, Gaussian Naive Bayes, or even Decision Tree, which take around only 1 minute to optimize themselves, also perform poorly, as already inspected in Figure 4.16. Conversely, the most time-consuming models are undoubtedly the Neural Network models, which take around 30 minutes to optimize themselves. Other time-consuming models include Gradient Boosting and Support Vector Machine, which take around 13 and 11 minutes to optimize themselves, respectively. This finding suggests that longer execution time does not necessarily lead to better performance, as the Neural Network models are significantly outperformed by several other models.

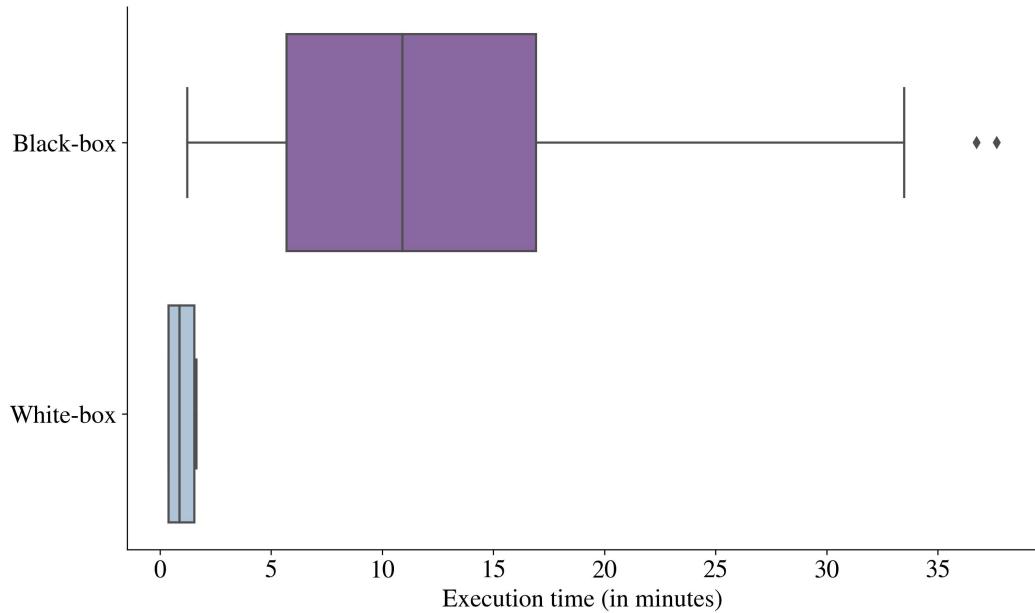
Figure 4.22: Execution Time Distribution



Source: Author's results in Python

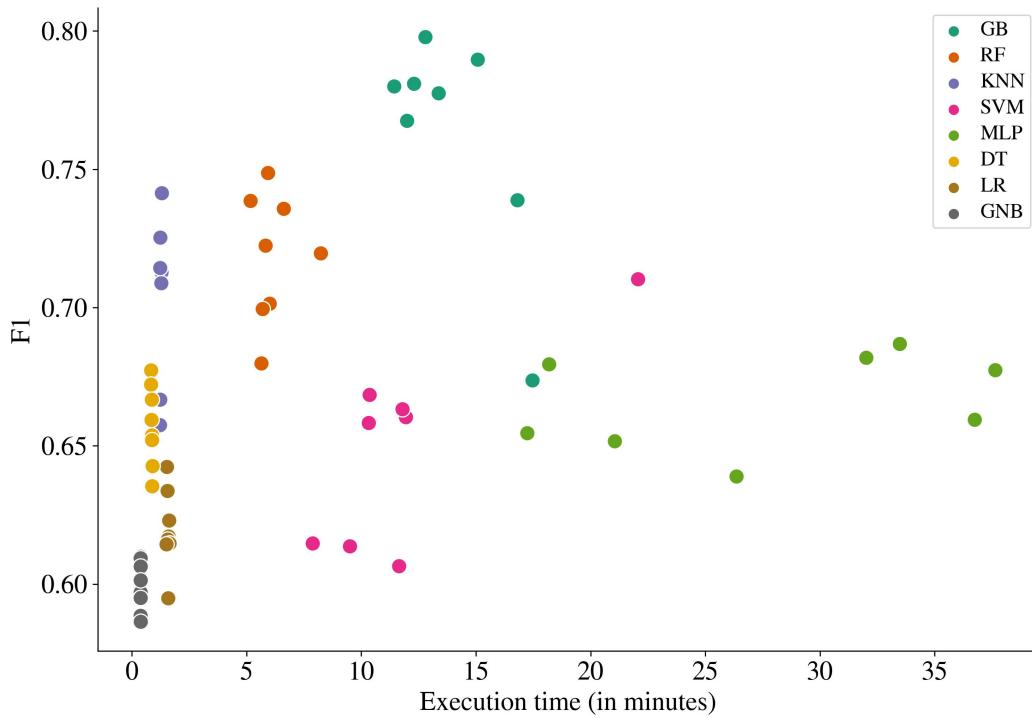
We can inspect the execution time from another perspective as shown in Figure 4.23. It can be observed that black-box models take a significant amount of time to optimize than the white-box models which is given due to the complexity of the black-box models. Further we can notice that some of the black-box models took only few minutes to optimized themselves. This corresponds to KNN models and it can be attributed to the small sample size as of data set as well as lower data set dimensionality (i.e., low number of features) and further given the lower number of k neighbors (which is constrained to 10 at most as depicted in Table 4.12).

Figure 4.23: Execution Time Distribution (Black-box/White-box dimension)



Source: Author's results in Python

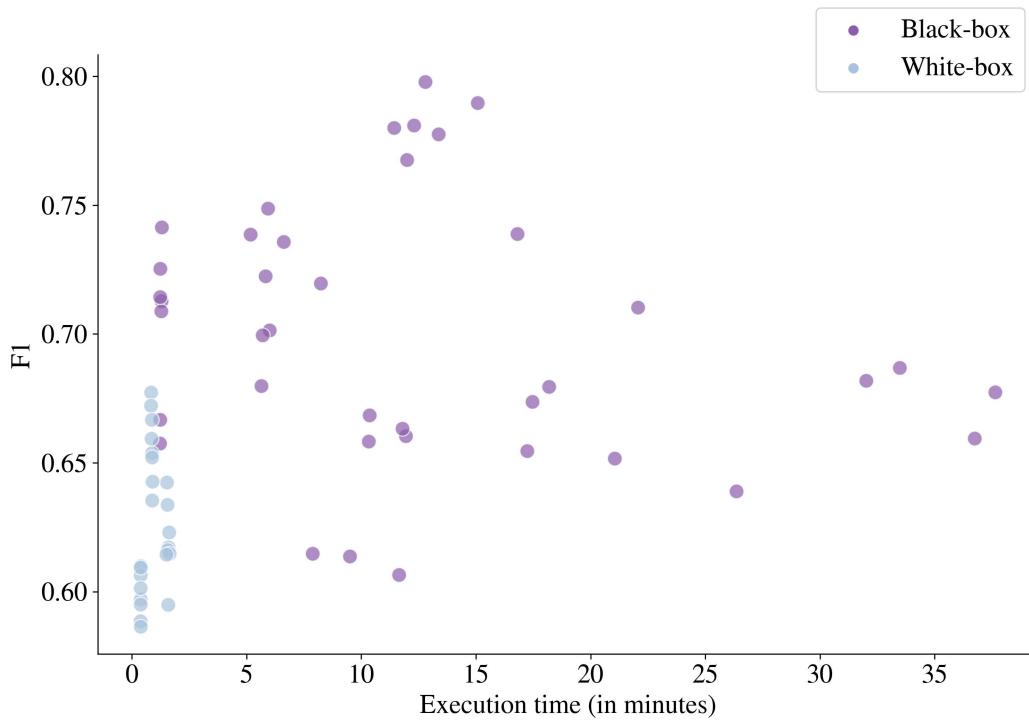
The execution time and the F1 score are inspected together using a scatterplot, as shown in Figure 4.24. A cluster of non-complex and transparent models, such as Logistic Regression, Gaussian Naive Bayes, and Decision Tree, can be observed around the vertical line near 0 execution time. These models are quick to optimize, but their F1 scores are generally low. Further, their variance in execution time is quite low, regardless of the feature subset they are optimized on. On the other hand, the Neural Network models always perform poorly, regardless of the length of the execution time. Furthermore, the variance of the F1 scores is quite low for these models, indicating that the execution time does not have a significant impact on the F1 score in the case of Neural Networks.

Figure 4.24: Execution Time vs. F1 Scatterplot - *without outlier*

Source: Author's results in Python

Such separation of the black-box and white-box models is more evident from Figure 4.25 where the white-box models points are light blue-colored and the black-box models are purple-colored. While the score of white-box models seems to be constant regardless the execution time length, the points of black-box models are more dispersed across the execution time–F1 score dimension.

Figure 4.25: Execution Time vs. F1 Scatterplot (Black-box/White-box dimension) - *without outlier*



Source: Author's results in Python

To summarize this subsection, the best and final model is the **Gradient Boosting Classifier** which was optimized on the subset of features selected by **MLP** - both the model information and its final hyperparameters' values are described in Table 4.19. Such model is then used in the next modelling steps, including the recalibration, evaluation and deployment.

Table 4.19: Final Model Information

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Final Model | Gradient Boosting |
| FS Model | Multi-Layer Perceptron |
| Final Features | MORTDUE, VALUE, JOB, YOJ, DEROG, DELINQ, CLAGE, NINQ, CLNO, DEBTINC |
| Threshold | 0.4955 |
| F1 | 0.7809 |
| # estimators | 1,000 |
| Criterion | Friedman MSE |
| Max depth | 10 |
| Max features | 1 |
| Loss | Log loss |
| Learning rate | 0.0150 |

Source: Author's results in Python

4.4.4 Model Recalibration

In order to ensure that the final model performs well on unseen data, it is common practice to employ the recalibration approach, which involves re-training the model on both the training and validation sets. By doing so, the sample size used for training is increased. As such, the retraining (or so called recalibration) model lead (or are expected to lead) to markedly improved model performance (de Hond *et al.* 2023). The recalibrated model is then used to evaluate the performance of the final model on the test set, which is the ultimate measure of a model's performance.

In addition to recalibrating the final model, it is crucial to recalibrate the threshold value for assigning class labels based on predicted probabilities. The optimal threshold value can be determined using the training and validation sets. Such threshold is recalibrated based on the training and validation set. In this thesis, the optimal threshold value is found to be **0.45109**, which is then used for evaluating the final model's performance on the test set. By recalibrating the threshold value, the model's performance is further improved, resulting in more accurate predictions. After the recalibration process, we can observe that the model is more conservative as its optimal classification threshold has decreased. The impact on the model's performance is further assessed in Subsection 4.5.1.

Moreover, the recalibration process helps to mitigate overfitting issues, which occur when the model is only trained on the training set. By incorporating the validation set into the training process, the recalibrated model can better generalize to new data and improve its overall performance on the test set. The inclusion of the validation set during the recalibration process does not cause any data leakage issues since this set was already used during model selection to evaluate each model's performance. Therefore, using the validation data for recalibration is a sound practice that helps to ensure the reliability and accuracy of the final model.

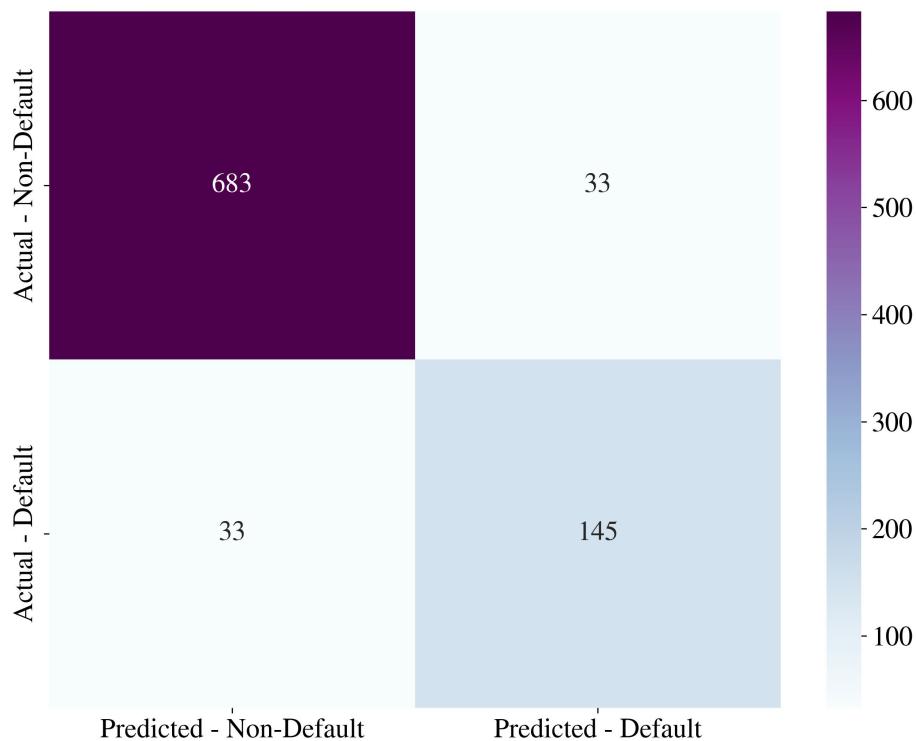
4.5 Model Evaluation

After recalibrating the model and threshold, the final step in evaluating the model's performance is to test it on previously unseen data, specifically the test set. This evaluation is critical to determine whether the model can generalize well to new data beyond the training, feature selection, and model selection phases. During the evaluation, the recalibrated classification threshold of 0.45109, determined in the model recalibration process, is also used.

4.5.1 Model Performance Assessment

In Figure 4.26, the confusion matrix for the final model, based on the test set and using the recalibrated threshold, is presented. The matrix shows that the model is generalizing well, having correctly predicted 145 defaults and misclassified only 33 defaults and further, correctly predicted 683 non-defaults and misclassified only 33 non-defaults. Such a result indicates that the model is a good fit for the data and can provide useful predictions for the problem at hand.

Figure 4.26: Confusion Matrix



Source: Author's results in Python

In order to obtain a better understanding of the model's performance on previously unseen data, we computed several metrics that were used during the model selection process. These metrics are presented in Table 4.20. The results indicate that the model performs well on the unseen data, with most of the scores metrics around 80 % to 90 %. Furthermore, the loss metrics are relatively low, indicating that the model can effectively distinguish between defaults and non-defaults. Overall, these results suggest that the model is performing well and is suitable for predicting defaults. The results suggest that the model has a good balance between correctly identifying defaults and non-defaults, as well as minimizing false positives and false negatives. This further confirms the model's ability to accurately predict defaults.

Table 4.20: Metrics Evaluation

| Metric | Value |
|------------------|--------|
| F1 | 0.8146 |
| Precision | 0.8146 |
| Recall | 0.8146 |
| Accuracy | 0.9262 |
| AUC | 0.9564 |
| Somers' D | 0.9128 |
| KS | 0.7915 |
| MCC | 0.7685 |
| Brier Score Loss | 0.0594 |
| Log Loss | 0.2163 |

Source: Author's results in Python

The following Table 4.21 shows the impact of recalibration on the model's performance metrics. M_{NR} denotes the final model which was not recalibrated at all (i.e., was trained only on the training set), whereas M_R denotes the recalibrated model (i.e., trained on the joined training and validation set). Respectively, M_{NR} uses its threshold computed bas on the training set (0.4955), and M_R uses its threshold computed on the joined training and validation set(0.45109). As can be seen, the recalibration indeed has a positive impact on the metrics evaluation as all the metric scores have increased, while the metric loss functions decreased. We can observe the most significant decrease in the Log Loss function, which decreased by 8.09 %, while the objective function F1 score has increased by 3.30 % thanks to to increase in both Precision and

Recall. Therefore, the recalibration process is deemed desired and appropriate in terms of model's performance.

Table 4.21: Recalibration Impact on Metrics Evaluation

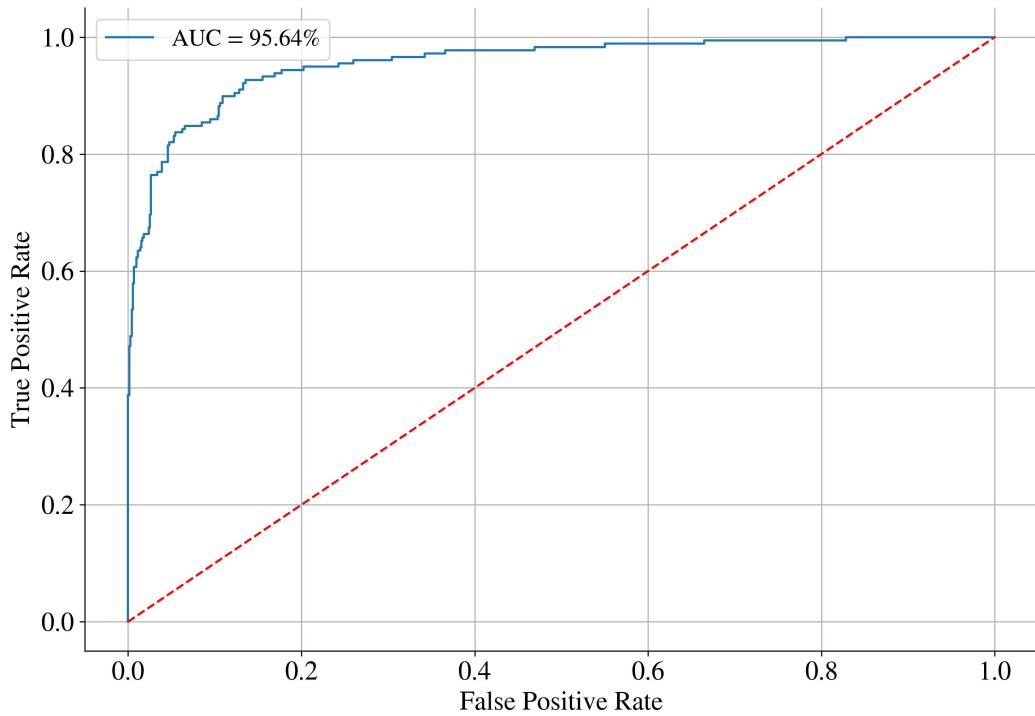
| Metric | M_{NR} | M_R | Diff. |
|------------------|----------|--------|---------|
| F1 | 0.7886 | 0.8146 | 3.30 % |
| Precision | 0.8023 | 0.8146 | 1.53 % |
| Recall | 0.7753 | 0.8146 | 5.07 % |
| Accuracy | 0.9172 | 0.9262 | 0.98 % |
| AUC | 0.9518 | 0.9564 | 0.48 % |
| Somers' D | 0.9037 | 0.9128 | 1.01 % |
| KS | 0.7845 | 0.7915 | 0.89 % |
| MCC | 0.7373 | 0.7685 | 4.23 % |
| Brier Score Loss | 0.0632 | 0.0594 | -6.11 % |
| Log Loss | 0.2353 | 0.2163 | -8.09 % |

Source: Author's results in Python

To further evaluate the performance of the (recalibrated) model, we can visualize the ROC curve, as presented in Figure 4.27. The curve illustrates the trade-off between the true positive rate and the false positive rate at various classification thresholds. An ideal ROC curve should have an area under the curve (AUC) value of 100 %, indicating a perfect classifier, while a random classifier would have an AUC of 50 %.

From the curve, we observe that the AUC value of the model is 95.55 %, indicating a high degree of accuracy in distinguishing between defaults and non-defaults. The curve covers most of the area under the diagonal line, indicating that the model is performing well in differentiating the two classes. Therefore, the results suggest that the model is performing well and is capable of accurately identifying potential defaulters.

Figure 4.27: ROC Curve



Source: Author's results in Python

4.5.2 Model Explainability

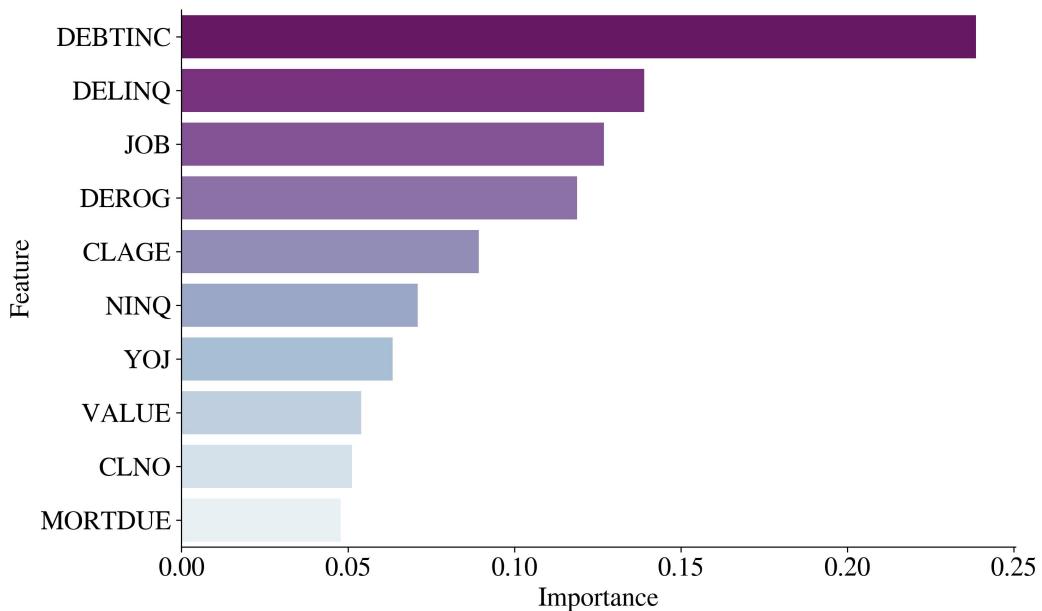
To gain insights into the impact of the features used in the final model, we can inspect the feature importances of the final model, which is a part of family of tree ensemble algorithms. As the name indicates, it is the score value representing the importance of the features, i.e., the higher score, the more important the feature is. Basically, it is the measure of how much a feature contributes to the overall performance of the model. Overall, the feature importance plot provides valuable insights into the factors that are most important in predicting loan defaults. It can be used to identify which features are contributing the most to the model's accuracy and to guide future feature selection efforts. According to Bonaccorso (Bonaccorso 2020), feature importance is the measure proportional to the impurity reduction that a particular feature allows us to achieve, and is defined as:

$$\text{FI}(\bar{x}^{(i)}) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^L \frac{n(j)}{M} \delta I_j^i \quad (4.10)$$

where $\text{FI}(\bar{x}^{(i)})$ refers to the feature importance of the feature i , $n(j)$ is the number of samples reaching the node j , δI_j^i represents the impurity reduction at node j after the splitting using the feature j , M is total number of samples in the data set used to built the model, and N refers to the number of tree estimators used within an ensemble model.

The following Figure 4.28 depicts the feature importances of all the selected features on which the model was trained. The two most important features used in the final model are **DEBTINC** and **DELINQ**, which are crucial delinquency indicators in determining whether a borrower would be able to repay their loan. These two features have a significant impact on the model's ability to accurately predict loan defaults, with high feature importance scores. This is also in line with the findings from the exploratory analysis, WoE distribution or feature selection.

Figure 4.28: Feature Importance



Source: Author's results in Python

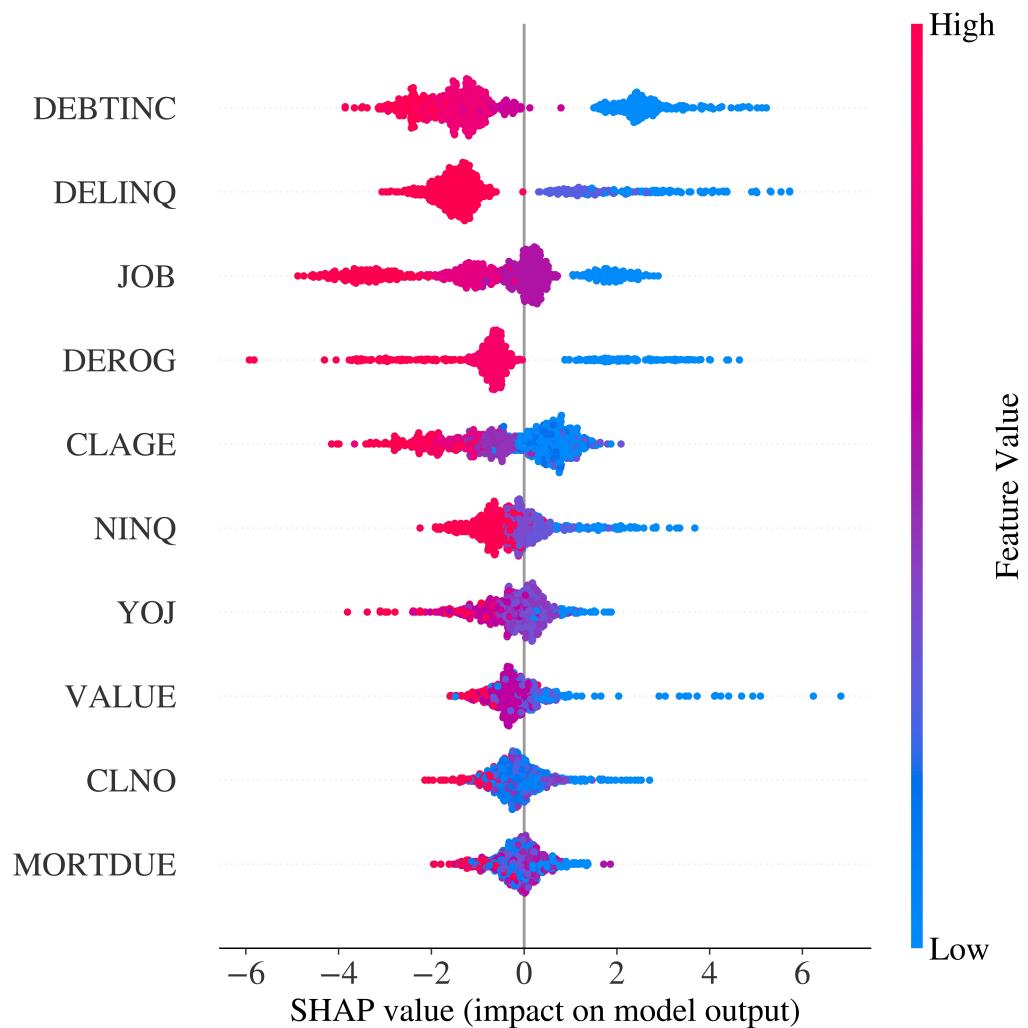
Thus, understanding the impact of individual features on model performance can be useful in identifying areas for improvement, as well as in identifying the most significant factors that drive loan defaults. By focusing on these important features, lenders and policymakers can better understand and address the underlying factors that contribute to default risk, ultimately leading to better lending decisions and improved outcomes for borrowers and lenders alike.

To gain further insights into the impact of the features on the final model's predictions, the SHapley Additive exPlanations (henceforth SHAP) values can be calculated. Particularly, the SHAP value is defined as the mean marginal contribution of each feature value across all possible values in the feature space, while considering feature importance (Bhattacharya 2022). The following Figure 4.29 depicts SHAP summary plot which provides a clear visualization of the contribution each feature makes to a prediction and global explainability of the model predictions. Each dot in the plot represents a feature and its corresponding SHAP value. The color of the dot represents the feature's value, with red indicating high values and blue indicating low values. The position of the dot on the x-axis represents the impact of the feature on the prediction, with features on the right-hand side contributing more positively to the prediction, and features on the left-hand side contributing more negatively.

Since our data points are encoded in WoE values, the higher (the more positive) value, the larger distribution of non-defaulters compared to defaulters, and vice versa, the lower (the more negative) value, the larger distribution of defaulters compared to non-defaulters. For the most important features, we can observe that the blue values (negative WoE values) and red values (positive WoE values) are quite separable. Negative WoE values are positively contributing to the predictions, and the positive WoE values are negatively contributing to the predictions. This means that the more negative the WoE value, the more likely the borrower is to default, and vice versa.

Overall, the SHAP summary plot provides a valuable tool for interpreting and understanding the complex decision-making process of the final model. The plot enables us to examine the impact of individual features on the model's output and helps us to identify which features are most influential in the model's decision-making process. By understanding the relative importance of each feature, we can gain deeper insights into the creditworthiness assessment process and make more informed decisions in the lending industry.

Figure 4.29: SHAP Summary Plot



Source: Author's results in Python

4.6 Machine Learning Deployment

This section describes the process of taking a trained machine learning model and making it available for use in the real world. It involves taking the model from a development environment and integrating it into a production environment where it can be used to make predictions or decisions based on new data. In this thesis, the machine learning model is deployed as web application using Flask and HTML.

4.6.1 Final Model Recalibration

Before deploying the model in a production setting, a meticulous process is undertaken to ensure optimal performance. This involves conducting a final recalibration of the model using the entire data set, comprising the training, validation, and test sets. The purpose of this recalibration is to fine-tune the model parameters, thereby maximizing its ability to generalize and yield accurate predictions.

The test set, which has been employed previously during the model evaluation phase, is incorporated into the recalibration process without any risk of data leakage. By including the test set, the sample size for training is expanded, thereby increasing the model's capacity to generalize effectively.

Upon completion of the recalibration, the final classification threshold for deployment is determined to be **0.3358**. This value is derived from a comprehensive analysis of the training, validation, and test sets, which ensures that the model's generalization capabilities are further enhanced for optimal performance in real-world applications.

4.6.2 Flask and HTML Web Application

In this case, the machine learning model is deployed into a web application using Flask and HTML. The application is temporarily deployed on the Cloud server on the **PythonAnywhere** platform and is accessible here: <http://ml-credit-risk-app-petrngn.pythonanywhere.com/>. However, the application will be shut down after the thesis defense and will not be available online anymore due to the budget reasons. Nevertheless, the code for the application

is available in the GitHub repository, and the application can be run locally using any Python compiler.

Furthermore, prior to deployment, we need to prepare several Python inputs for the web application, including:

- **Model** - the final model recalibrated on the training, validation and test set.
- **Threshold** - the final classification threshold recalibrated on the training, validation and test set.
- **Features** - the final features used in the final model.
- **Data Frame** - the input tabular object used in the web application to store the loan applicant's inputs.
- **Optimal Binning Transformator** - fitted `BinningProcess` object for binning and WoE-encoding of the loan applicant's inputs.
- **WoE Bins** - a set of bins and WoE values used for mapping the WoE values to missing values.
- **LIME explainer** - fitted `LimeTabularExplainer` object for local explainability of model's prediction.

Such inputs required for the machine learning application are exported in the `.pkl` format using the `dill` module. This format allows for efficient and easy-to-use serialization and deserialization of the inputs. The pickled file is then loaded directly into the Flask application.

For the back-end of the web application, Flask is used to deploy the machine learning model. The Flask application is written in the `app.py` file, which is stored in the `flask_app` directory. The front-end of the web application is coded in HTML, with CSS and JavaScript elements used to enhance the user interface.

The web application first renders a HTML page, as shown in Figure 4.30. This page contains a loan application form, in which the user or the loan applicant fills in the respective field values that correspond to the features on which the machine learning model was trained. The form is designed to capture the necessary information required for the model to make a prediction about the loan applicant's application. Note that not all fields in the loan application form need to be filled out. This is because the missing values in certain features

may indicate a higher risk of default. Conversely, one may choose to impose a restriction on the form, requiring all fields to be filled out. However, this could result in a lower number of received applications from delinquent clients, as they may not have all the necessary information to complete the form.

Figure 4.30: Flask Web Application Form

Default Prediction Application

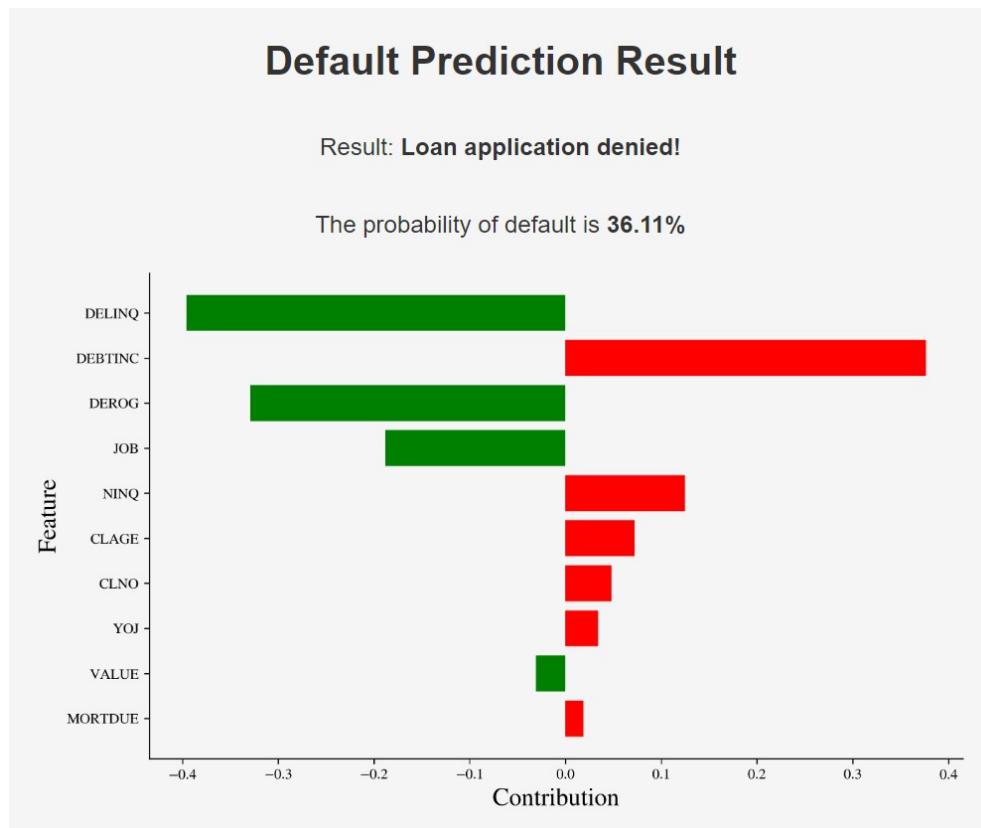
Author: Petr Nguyen

| | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Amount due on existing mortgage: | Current property value: |
| <input type="text" value="12000"/> | <input type="text" value="500000"/> |
| Job occupancy: | Number of years at present job: |
| <input type="text" value="Office worker"/> | <input type="text" value="5"/> |
| Number of major derogatory reports: | Number of delinquent credit lines: |
| <input type="text" value=""/> | <input type="text" value="0"/> |
| Age of the oldest credit line (in months): | Number of recent credit inquiries: |
| <input type="text" value="72"/> | <input type="text" value="2"/> |
| Number of credit lines: | Debt-to-income ratio: |
| <input type="text" value="6"/> | <input type="text" value="45"/> |
| <input type="button" value="Submit"/> | |

Source: Author's results in Python

Once, the loan application form is submitted, the web application uses the pickled input to transform the data from the loan application form and use it in the recalibrated model in order to get the result, whether the given loan applicant would repay his loan based on predetermined threshold. The result is then displayed in the web application, as shown in Figure 4.31. Particularly, the web application returns whether the loan application would be denied or approved based on the model's output and also the probability score of default.

Figure 4.31: Flask Web Application - Prediction Result



Source: Author's results in Python

Besides the prediction results, it also displays the Local Interpretable Model-Agnostic Explanations (henceforth LIME) of the black-box model with respect to the inputs submitted within the form. LIME focuses on the local explainability of the black box model around the black-box prediction as it generates a new data set consisting of perturbed samples around the given prediction and then trains a surrogate linear model on the new data set. Such local interpretable, surrogate model should be a good approximation of the black box model in the vicinity of the given prediction, i.e., the local interpretable model

is then used to explain the prediction of the black box model (Ribeiro *et al.* 2016).

The LIME explanation of input instances x is given as follows:

$$\xi(x) = \arg \min_{g \in G} L(f, g, \pi_x) + \Omega(g) \quad (4.11)$$

where f is the original black–box model, g is the surrogate model, L is the loss functions measuring how far is the explanation $\xi(x)$ far from the prediction produced by black–box model f , and $\Omega(g)$ is the complexity of the surrogate model g .

The explanation is given in terms of the feature importance, which is represented by the magnitude of the feature’s coefficient in the local interpretable model. The higher the magnitude of the coefficient, the more important the feature is in the prediction of the black box model. Therefore, as it is shown in Figure 4.31, the red bars indicate positive contribution to the probability of default whereas green bars indicate negative contribution to the probability of default. In other words, The features with red bars indicate that the client would not probably repay his loan and vice versa. The contributions’ magnitudes are in line with the findings from feature importance or SHAP values which is focused on the global explainability of the black–box model (not local explainability), that features such as debt–to–income ratio (**DEBTINC**) or number of delinquent credit lines (**DELINQ**) have the largest impact of the probability default. Particularly, a high value of debt–to–income ratio causes higher probability default, whereas no delinquent credit lines leads to the lower probability default.

Chapter 5

Summary of Results

In this chapter, we assess the hypotheses stated in Section 3.1 based on the results derived from machine learning implementation described in Chapter 4. Moreover, in response to the outcomes derived from this thesis, we proffer suggestions for subsequent studies. These recommendations, shaped by our findings, serve as a roadmap to guide future investigations within this field.

5.1 Hypotheses’ Testing

Result #1: *The recalibration of the model DOES enhances model performance on HMEQ data set.*

We fail to reject the **Hypothesis #1** because all we observe improvements across the metrics within evaluation on test set when the final model was re-trained on the joined training and validation set instead solely on the training set. In particular, all the score metrics and loss metrics have increased and decreased, respectively, as can be seen in Table 4.21. Hereby, we can confirm that the recalibration of the model truly boost the model predictive power on HMEQ data set.

Result #2: *Neural Network and KNN model DO NOT outperform all the models on HMEQ data set.*

We reject the **Hypothesis #2** as the final model, which is the best performing, is the Gradient Boosting model as described in Table 4.19. KNN was also outperformed by the Random Forest and in case of Neural Network, it was outperformed by SVM as well as can be seen in Figure 4.18. If we aggregate

the model selection results by looking the highest rank per each model, we can observe that the best KNN model had the 11th highest rank, while Neural Network (MLP) exhibited unsatisfactory performance with the 22nd highest rank as can be seen in Table 5.1. Therefore, our results are not in line with the outcomes of respective studies (Aras 2021; Zurada *et al.* 2014) which reported that Neural Network and KNN model outperformed all the models on HMEQ data set, respectively.

Table 5.1: Max–Aggregated Ranks of Models

| Model | Rank |
|-------|------|
| GB | 1 |
| RF | 6 |
| KNN | 11 |
| SVM | 19 |
| MLP | 22 |
| DT | 33 |
| LR | 40 |
| GNB | 55 |

Source: Author's results in Python

Result #3: *Black–box models DOES perform better than the white–box models on HMEQ data set.*

We fail to reject the **Hypothesis #3** as the black–box models truly outperformed the white–box models as can be seen in Figure 4.19 which depicts the distribution of ranks for both black–box and white–box models. Most of the white–box models were ranked in the bottom half within the model selection, whereas the 10 best performing models consisted out of black–box models only, namely Gradient Boosting and Random Forest. Even though that some black–box models' performances were weak and other white–box models exhibited relatively high ranks, we can still conclude that the black–box models outperformed the white–box models on average as the median of the black–box models' ranks is lower than the white–box models' median.

Result #4: *The longer execution time of a model DOES NOT indicate better performance on HMEQ data set.*

We reject the **Hypothesis #4** as according to Figure 4.22, even though

the Neural Network (MLP) model had the longest execution time on average, it underperformed several models such as Gradient Boosting, Random Forest, KNN and SVM which took significantly less time to execute. The same can be observed from Figure 4.24, where Neural Network performed poorly regardless the length of the execution time.

Result #5: *Debt and delinquency features ARE the main default drivers on HMEQ data set.*

We fail to reject the **Hypothesis #5** according to Figure 4.28 which depicts the feature importance of the final model (Gradient Boosting). As can be seen, the most important features are debt-to-income ratio DEBTINC and number of delinquent credit lines DELINQ. Based on the SHAP values depicted in Figure 4.29, we can observe that the negative values of DEBTINC and DELINQ positively contribute to the model's predictions of the target variable, whereas the positive values negatively contribute to the model's predictions. In other words, the higher value of such features, the higher probability of default and vice versa. Since the features' values are encoded as WoE, the negative WoE values indicates larger distribution of defaulters compared to non-defaulters in given bins. Based on the WoE bins distribution in Figure 4.10, we can observe negative WoE values for bins where the debt-to-income ratio is extremely high or is missing. Regarding to the number of delinquent credit lines, we can observe a negative WoE value for bin corresponding to the relatively high number of delinquent credit lines. Therefore, if the loan applicant has either high or missing debt-to-income ratio and/or relatively high number of delinquent credit lines, he would be likely to default.

5.2 Key Findings

5.3 Contributions

5.4 Recommendations

Despite the complexity of the custom machine learning solution applied in this thesis, and the hundreds of hours invested by the author, it still has its

limitations and drawbacks. We aim to address these issues in this section and provide suggestions for future studies.

1. **Use more relevant and actual data** - Given the nature of the data set analyzed in this thesis, it might not be the most relevant for the current market situation.
2. **Use bigger data** - Since the real bank data sets often contain hunders of thousands or even millions of instances, and the number of features can be in hundreds or even higher, it would be beneficial to use bigger data sets to train the models on.
3. **Use behavioral scoring data** - The data set used in this thesis is based on the application data only, however, the behavioral scoring data is often used in the real-world applications as well. Therefore, it would be also beneficial to use another external data such as macroeconomic data for estimation of lifetime PD and therefore provide more reliable estimates.
4. **ML Development in Cloud** - This machine learning solution applied in this thesis was developed solely on the local machine while being limited by computational resources. Therefore, we recommend to use cloud computing services such as Amazon Web Services, Databricks or Google Cloud Platform to develop the machine learning solution in the cloud and therefore utilize the full potential of the cloud computing. This also allows for using more efficient libraries when working with data such as PySpark.
5. **Use TensorFlow or PyTorch for NN development** - In this thesis, we used Neural Network from `Scikit-learn` module. Howeover, in ML engineering, the Neural Networks are mostly developed using TensorFlow or Keras modules which are more efficient and provide more flexibility.
6. **Django for ML deployment** - Although Flask is a great tool for ML deployment, it is not suitable for production environment. Therefore, we recommend to use Django framework for ML deployment as it is more suitable for production environment.
7. **ML implementation in other credit risk modelling components** - Besides applying ML prediction models in credit risk for default prediction (i.e., PD), it would be also beneficial to apply ML models in other credit risk modelling components such as LGD and EAD, ECL or even for macroeconometric forecasting.

8. **Hyperparameter Optimization with Optuna** - In this thesis, we used Bayesian Optimization for hyperparameter optimization. However, there are more efficient methods such as Bayesian Optimization which can be implemented using Optuna library.
9. **H2O ML library** - H2O is a machine learning library which is more efficient than **Scikit-learn** and provides more flexibility. Therefore, it would be beneficial to use H2O library for ML development.

Chapter 6

Conclusion

TBD

Recap of theoretical background (credit risk definition, ML terminology, ML algorithms, evaluation and other topics).

Hypotheses and literature review

Recap of the ML framework and repository structure / Dataset description / findings from distribution and association analysis.

Data preprocessing - data split, ADASYN, optbinning.

Bayesian Optimization - approach -> Feature selection algorithm

Model selection algorithm - ranking, weights, youden index, distribution analysis, final model

recalibration for evaluation -> evaluation / model performance + model explainability

model deployment - web application / application form / prediction result / local explainability

Hypotheses results + key findings + future recommendations

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Appendix A

Additional Figures and Tables

TBD

Table A.1: Normality Test - Shapiro–Wilk

| Feature | Shapiro-Wilk | Significance | Result |
|---------|--------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| LOAN | 0.8519 | *** | Not normally distributed |
| MORTDUE | 0.8802 | *** | Not normally distributed |
| VALUE | 0.81 | *** | Not normally distributed |
| YOJ | 0.9078 | *** | Not normally distributed |
| DEROG | 0.336 | *** | Not normally distributed |
| DELINQ | 0.4578 | *** | Not normally distributed |
| CLAGE | 0.9346 | *** | Not normally distributed |
| NINQ | 0.6909 | *** | Not normally distributed |
| CLNO | 0.9665 | *** | Not normally distributed |
| DEBTINC | 0.8272 | *** | Not normally distributed |

Source: Author's results in Python

Appendix B

Source Codes

B.1 Python Notebook Code (`Masters_Thesis.ipynb`)

```
1 import warnings  
2  
3 warnings.filterwarnings("ignore")  
4  
5 import os  
6 import numpy as np  
7 import pandas as pd  
8 import matplotlib
```

B. Source Codes

```
9 import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
10 from matplotlib import ticker
11 import seaborn as sns
12 import time
13 import math
14 import missingno
15 from itertools import combinations
16
17 from scipy.stats import chi2_contingency, ks_2samp, pointbiserialr, somersd
18 from imblearn.over_sampling import ADASYN
19
20 from optbinning import BinningProcess
21
22 from sklearn.model_selection import train_test_split, StratifiedKFold
23 from sklearn.feature_selection import SequentialFeatureSelector
24 from sklearn.metrics import (
25     accuracy_score,
26     recall_score,
27     precision_score,
28     f1_score,
29     matthews_corrcoef,
30     brier_score_loss,
31     confusion_matrix,
32     roc_curve,
33     roc_auc_score,
```

B. Source Codes

```
34     log_loss,
35 )
36
37
38 from sklearn.linear_model import LogisticRegression
39 from sklearn.tree import DecisionTreeClassifier
40 from sklearn.naive_bayes import GaussianNB
41 from sklearn.ensemble import RandomForestClassifier, GradientBoostingClassifier
42 from sklearn.neighbors import KNeighborsClassifier
43 from sklearn.svm import SVC
44 from sklearn.neural_network import MLPClassifier
45
46 from skopt import BayesSearchCV
47 from skopt.space import Real, Categorical, Integer
48 import shap
49
50 import lime
51 import dill
52
53 data = pd.read_csv("./data/raw_data.csv")
```

B.1.1 Data Exploration

```
1 data.info()
```

```
2 no_duplicates = data.duplicated(subset = [col for col in data.columns if col != 'BAD']).sum()
3 print(f"Duplicates check: {no_duplicates} duplicated rows.")
4
5
6
7 def categorical_numeric_vars(df: pd.DataFrame, target:str = "BAD") -> tuple[list, list]:
8
9     cat_vars = [col for col in df.columns if df[col].dtypes == "O" and col != target]
10    num_vars = [col for col in df.columns if col not in cat_vars + [target]]
11
12    print(f"Categorical features: {', '.join(cat_vars)}")
13    print(f"Numeric features: {', '.join(num_vars)}")
14
15    return (cat_vars, num_vars)
16
17 cat_vars, num_vars = categorical_numeric_vars(data)
18
19
20 def default_distribution_plot(df, target="BAD", export=True):
21
22     matplotlib.rcParams["mathtext.fontset"] = "stix"
23     matplotlib.rcParams["font.family"] = "STIXGeneral"
24
25     # Replacing the Booleans with non-default/default strings for visualization
26     df_plot = df[[target]].copy().replace({0: "Non-default", 1: "Default"})
```

```
27
28     # Figure's initialization
29     fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(8, 6))
30
31     # Default distribution
32     sns.countplot(data=df_plot, x=target, palette="BuPu",
33                     order=list(df_plot[target].unique()[:-1], ax=ax)
34
35     # Increase the fontsize for xlabel and ylabel
36     ax.set_ylabel(ax.yaxis.label.get_text(), fontsize=17)
37     ax.set_xlabel(ax.xaxis.label.get_text(), fontsize=17)
38
39     # Increase the fontsize for xticks and yticks
40     plt.xticks(fontsize=17)
41     plt.yticks(fontsize=17)
42
43     # Removing upper and right axes spines
44     ax.spines["top"].set_visible(False)
45     ax.spines["right"].set_visible(False)
46
47     plt.tight_layout()
48
49     # Exporting plot
50     if export:
51         os.makedirs("./plots/", exist_ok=True)
```

```
52     plt.savefig(f"./plots/Default_Distribution.jpg", dpi=300)
53
54 plt.show()
55
56 default_distribution_plot(data)
57
58
59 def numeric_distribution_plot(df: pd.DataFrame, num_vars: list,
60                               plot_type: str, target: str = "BAD",
61                               export: bool = True):
62
63     def custom_int_formatter(x, pos):
64         return f"{x:.0f}"
65
66     #Possible plot types
67     plot_types = {"boxplot": sns.boxplot,
68                   "violinplot": sns.violinplot,
69                   "histogram": sns.histplot}
70
71     #Plot type parameter check
72     if plot_type not in plot_types.keys():
73         plot_types = ', '.join([key for key in plot_types.keys()])
74         raise ValueError(f"Invalid plot type. Please, select one of these available plot types: {plot_types}")
75
76
```

```
77     matplotlib.rcParams["mathtext.fontset"] = "stix"
78     matplotlib.rcParams["font.family"] = "STIXGeneral"
79
80     #Plot either boxplots or violinplots
81     if plot_type in ["boxplot", "violinplot"]:
82
83         #replace 0/1's with (Non)-default texts for visualization's sake.
84         df_plot = df.copy()
85         df_plot[target] = df_plot[target].replace({0: "Non-default", 1: "Default"})
86
87         #Figure's and axes' initialization
88         fig, axs = plt.subplots(nrows = 5, ncols = 2, figsize = (12, 20))
89
90         for ax, var in zip(axs.ravel(), num_vars):
91
92             #Boxplot/violinplot
93             plot_types[plot_type](data = df_plot, x = target, y = var, ax = ax,
94                                 palette = "BuPu", order = ["Non-default", "Default"])
95
96             ax.set_title(f"Distribution of {var}", size = 19, fontweight = "bold")
97             ax.tick_params(axis = "both", which = "major", labelsize = 18)
98             ax.set(xlabel = None)
99             ax.set(ylabel = None)
100            ax.spines["top"].set_visible(False)
101            ax.spines["right"].set_visible(False)
```

```
102         ax.yaxis.set_major_formatter(matplotlib.ticker.FuncFormatter(custom_int_formatter))
103
104     plt.tight_layout()
105
106     #Exporting the plots
107     if export:
108         os.makedirs("./plots/", exist_ok = True)
109         plt.savefig(f"./plots/Numeric_Features_Distribution_{plot_type.capitalize()}s.jpg", dpi = 300)
110         plt.show()
111
112
113     #Plot histograms
114     elif plot_type == "histogram":
115         def integer_formatter(x, pos):
116             return f"{int(x)}"
117
118     #Figure's and axes' initialization
119     fig, axs = plt.subplots(nrows = len(num_vars), ncols = 2, figsize = (12, 25))
120
121     #Column index
122     col_ind = 0
123     # Axis index
124     # (if the value is even, the plot will be located on the left side, otherwise on the right side)
125     axis_count = 0
126
```

```
127     for ax in axs.ravel():
128
129         #Accessing the feature name.
130         var = num_vars[col_ind]
131
132         #Subsetting the data based on the feature.
133         var_series = df[var]
134
135         # Calculating the bin size for given feature ensuring that both conditional plots
136         # (left and right) will have the same number of bins.
137         # Using rule of thumb (Scott, 1979)
138         # https://stackoverflow.com/questions/33458566/how-to-choose-bins-in-matplotlib-histogram
139
140         R = var_series.max() - var_series.min() #Range of the feature's values
141         n = len(var_series) #Number of feature's values
142         sigma = var_series.std() #Standard deviation of the feature's values
143
144         #Number of bins
145         no_bins = int(R*(n**(.5))/((3.49*sigma)))
146
147         # The left side (even axis_count) depicts the features' distribution
148         # conditional on the non-default cases.
149         if axis_count % 2 == 0:
150             #Subsetting the data for non-default cases only.
151             df_subset= df.query(f"{target} == 0")
152             #Number of missing values within given feature
```

```
152     no_missings = df_subset[var].isna().sum()
153     # Percentage of missing values within subset of given feature
154     # (i.e., percentage of missing values of given feature within the non-default cases)
155     pct_missings = no_missings / df_subset.shape[0] * 100
156
157     # Histogram with kernel density function
158     # binrange to ensure that both left and right plot will have the same data range.
159     plot_types[plot_type](data = df_subset, x = var, ax = ax, bins = no_bins,
160                           binrange = ((var_series.min(), var_series.max())),
161                           kde = True, color = "lightblue")
162
163     ax.set_title(f"Distribution of {var} (Non-default cases)", size = 17, fontweight = "bold")
164     ax.tick_params(axis = "both", which = "major", labelsize = 15, rotation = 30)
165     ax.set(xlabel = None)
166     ax.set_ylabel(ax.get_ylabel(), fontsize=15)
167     ax.xaxis.set_major_formatter(ticker.FuncFormatter(integer_formatter))
168     ax.spines["top"].set_visible(False)
169     ax.spines["right"].set_visible(False)
170
171     # Inserting a text box with an information about the missing values.
172     ax.text(0.7, 0.9, f"Number of NA's: {no_missings} ({pct_missings:.1f}%)",
173             horizontalalignment = "center", verticalalignment = "center",
174             fontsize = 14,
175             transform = ax.transAxes, bbox = dict(facecolor = "pink", alpha = 0.3))
176
```

```
177     # The right side (odd axis_count) depicts the features' distribution
178     # conditional on the default cases.
179 else:
180     #Subsetting the data for default cases only.
181     df_subset = df.query(f"{target} == 1")
182     #Number of missing values within given feature
183     no_missings = df_subset[var].isna().sum()
184     # Percentage of missing values within subset of given feature
185     # (i.e., percentage of missing values of given feature within the default cases)
186     pct_missings = no_missings / df_subset.shape[0] * 100
187
188     # Histogram with kernel density function
189     # binrange to ensure that both left and right plot will have the same data range.
190     sns.histplot(data = df_subset, x = var, ax = ax, bins = no_bins,
191                   binrange = ((var_series.min(), var_series.max())),
192                   kde = True, color = "mediumpurple")
193
194     ax.set_title(f"Distribution of {var} (Default cases)", size = 17, fontweight = "bold")
195     ax.tick_params(axis = "both", which = "major", labelsize = 15, rotation = 30)
196     ax.set(xlabel = None)
197     ax.set_ylabel(ax.get_ylabel(), fontsize=15)
198     ax.xaxis.set_major_formatter(ticker.FuncFormatter(integer_formatter))
199     ax.spines["top"].set_visible(False)
200     ax.spines["right"].set_visible(False)
```

```
202     #Inserting a text box with an information about the missing values.
203     ax.text(0.7, 0.9, f"Number of NA's: {no_missings} ({pct_missings:.1f}%)",
204             horizontalalignment = "center", verticalalignment = "center",
205             fontsize = 14,
206             transform = ax.transAxes, bbox = dict(facecolor = "pink", alpha = 0.3))
207
208     #Proceeding with the next feature
209     col_ind += 1
210
211     #Switching to the left/right side of the figure
212     axis_count +=1
213
214     plt.tight_layout()
215
216     #Exporting the plots
217     if export:
218         os.makedirs("./plots/", exist_ok = True)
219         plt.savefig(f"./plots/Numeric_Features_Distribution_{plot_type.capitalize()}s.jpg", dpi = 300)
220
221     plt.show()
222
223
224 numeric_distribution_plot(data, num_vars, plot_type = "boxplot")
225 numeric_distribution_plot(data, num_vars, plot_type = "violinplot")
226 numeric_distribution_plot(data, num_vars, plot_type = "histogram")
```

```
227
228
229 def normality_test(data: pd.DataFrame, num_vars: list) -> pd.DataFrame:
230
231     from scipy.stats import shapiro
232
233     output_df = pd.DataFrame(columns = ["Feature", "Shapiro-Wilk", "Significance", "Result"])
234
235     for i, col in enumerate(num_vars):
236         temp_df = data.copy()
237         temp_df = temp_df[temp_df[col].notna()].copy()
238
239         output_df.loc[i, "Feature"] = col
240
241         shapiro_stat, shapiro_p = shapiro(temp_df[col])
242         shapiro_significance_stars = "***" if shapiro_p < 0.01 else "**" if shapiro_p < 0.05 \
243                         else "*" if shapiro_p < 0.1 else ""
244         shapiro_significance_result = "Normally distributed" if shapiro_p > 0.05 \
245                         else "Not normally distributed"
246
247         output_df.loc[i, "Shapiro-Wilk"] = round(shapiro_stat,4)
248         output_df.loc[i, "Significance"] = shapiro_significance_stars
249         output_df.loc[i, "Result"] = shapiro_significance_result
250
251     return output_df
```

```
252
253
254 normality_test(data, num_vars)
255
256
257 def num_na_table(df: pd.DataFrame, num_vars: list, target: str = "BAD") -> pd.DataFrame:
258     output_df = pd.DataFrame(index = num_vars,
259                               columns = ["# of NA's (Y=0)", "# of NA's (Y=1)", "% of NA's (Y=0)", "% of NA's (Y=1)"])
260     for num in num_vars:
261         output_df.loc[num, "# of NA's (Y=0)"] = df.query(f"{target} == 0")[num].isna().sum()
262         output_df.loc[num, "# of NA's (Y=1)"] = df.query(f"{target} == 1")[num].isna().sum()
263
264         pct_nd = df.query(f"{target} == 0")[num].isna().sum()/df.query(f"{target} == 0").shape[0] * 100
265         pct_d = df.query(f"{target} == 1")[num].isna().sum()/df.query(f"{target} == 1").shape[0] * 100
266         output_df.loc[num, "% of NA's (Y=0)"] = pct_nd
267         output_df.loc[num, "% of NA's (Y=1)"] = pct_d
268
269     return output_df
270
271 num_na_table(data, num_vars)
272
273
274 def categorical_distribution_plot(df: pd.DataFrame, cat_vars: list,
275                                   target: str = "BAD", export: bool = True):
```

```
277     #Figure's and axes' initialization
278     fig, axs = plt.subplots(nrows = len(cat_vars), ncols = 2, figsize = (11, 10))
279
280     #Column index
281     col_ind = 0
282     # Axis index
283     # (if the value is even, the plot will be located on the left side, otherwise on the right side)
284     axis_count = 0
285
286     matplotlib.rcParams["mathtext.fontset"] = "stix"
287     matplotlib.rcParams["font.family"] = "STIXGeneral"
288
289     for ax in axs.ravel():
290
291         #Accessing the feature name
292         var = cat_vars[col_ind]
293         # Subsetting the data based on the feature with subsequent replacing missing values
294         # with N/A's strings (for visualization's sake).
295         var_target_df = df[[var, target]].copy().fillna("N/A")
296
297         #If the feature has some missing values, put the N/A category at the end of the plot.
298         if var_target_df.query(f"{var} == 'N/A'").shape[0] != 0:
299             categories = [cat for cat in var_target_df[var].unique() if cat != "N/A"] + ["N/A"]
300         else:
301             categories = var_target_df[var].unique()
```

```
302
303     # The left side (even axis_count) depicts the features' distribution
304     # conditional on the non-default cases.
305     if axis_count % 2 == 0:
306
307         sns.countplot(data = var_target_df.query(f"{target} == 0"), x = var,
308                         ax = ax, order = categories, color = "lightblue")
309
310         ax.set_title(f"Distribution of {var} (Non-default cases)", size = 19, fontweight = "bold")
311         ax.tick_params(axis = "both", which = "major", labelsize = 18)
312         ax.tick_params(axis = "x", rotation = 30, which = "major", labelsize = 18)
313         ax.set(xlabel = None)
314         ax.set_ylabel(ax.get_ylabel(), fontsize=15)
315         ax.spines["top"].set_visible(False)
316         ax.spines["right"].set_visible(False)
317
318
319     # The right side (odd axis_count) depicts the features' distribution
320     # conditional on the default cases.
321     else:
322
323         sns.countplot(data = var_target_df.query(f"{target} == 1"), x = var,
324                         ax = ax, order = categories, color = "mediumpurple")
325
326         ax.set_title(f"Distribution of {var} (Default cases)", size = 19, fontweight = "bold")
```

```
327         ax.tick_params(axis = "both", which = "major", labelsize = 18)
328         ax.tick_params(axis = "x", rotation = 30, which = "major", labelsize = 18)
329         ax.set_ylabel(ax.get_ylabel(), fontsize=15)
330         ax.set(xlabel = None)
331         ax.spines["top"].set_visible(False)
332         ax.spines["right"].set_visible(False)
333
334     #Proceeding with the next feature
335     col_ind += 1
336
337     #Switching to the left/right side of the figure
338     axis_count += 1
339
340 plt.tight_layout()
341
342 #Exporting the plots
343 if export:
344     os.makedirs("./plots/", exist_ok = True)
345     plt.savefig(f"./plots/Categorical_Features_Distribution.jpg", dpi = 300)
346
347 plt.show()
348
349
350 categorical_distribution_plot(data, cat_vars)
351
```

```
352
353 def cat_na_table(df: pd.DataFrame, cat_var: str, target: str = "BAD") -> pd.DataFrame:
354     temp_df = df.copy()
355     temp_df[cat_var] = temp_df[cat_var].fillna("N/A")
356     output_df = pd.DataFrame(index = list(temp_df[cat_var].unique()),
357                               columns = ["# (Y=0)", "# (Y=1)", "% (Y=0)", "% (Y=1)"])
358
359     for cat in output_df.index:
360         output_df.loc[cat, "# (Y=1)"] = temp_df.query(f"{target} == 1 and {cat_var} == '{cat}'").shape[0]
361         output_df.loc[cat, "# (Y=0)"] = temp_df.query(f"{target} == 0 and {cat_var} == '{cat}'").shape[0]
362         pct_d = round(output_df.loc[cat, "# (Y=1)"]/temp_df.query(f"{target} == 1").shape[0], 4)* 100
363         pct_nd = round(output_df.loc[cat, "# (Y=0)"]/temp_df.query(f"{target} == 0").shape[0], 4)* 100
364         output_df.loc[cat, "% (Y=1)"] = pct_d
365         output_df.loc[cat, "% (Y=0)"] = pct_nd
366
367     return output_df
368
369 cat_na_table(data, "JOB")
370 cat_na_table(data, "REASON")
371
372 def point_biserial_corr_table(data: pd.DataFrame, num_features, target = 'BAD') -> pd.DataFrame:
373
374     output_df = pd.DataFrame(columns = ['Feature', 'Point-Biserial Correlation', 'Significance'])
375     for i, col in enumerate(num_features):
376
```

```
377     temp_df = data[data[col].notna()].copy()
378     coef, p_value = pointbiserialr(temp_df[target], temp_df[col])
379     output_df.loc[i, 'Feature'] = col
380     output_df.loc[i, 'Point-Biserial Correlation'] = round(coef, 3)
381
382     significance_stars = '***' if p_value <= 0.01 else '**' if p_value <= 0.05 else \
383         '*' if p_value <= 0.1 else ''
384     output_df.loc[i, 'Significance'] = significance_stars
385
386     return output_df
387
388
389 point_biserial_corr_table(data, num_vars)
390
391
392 def cramer_v_table(data: pd.DataFrame, cat_features, target = 'BAD') -> pd.DataFrame:
393
394     output_df = pd.DataFrame(columns = ['Variable #1', 'Variable #2', "Cramer's V", 'Significance'])
395
396     pairs = list(combinations(cat_features + [target], 2))
397
398     pairs = [sorted(pair) for pair in pairs]
399
400     pairs = sorted(pairs)
```

```
402     for i, pair in enumerate(pairs):
403         temp_df = data.copy()
404         temp_df = temp_df[temp_df[pair[0]].notna()]
405         temp_df = temp_df[temp_df[pair[1]].notna()]
406
407         cross_tab = pd.crosstab(temp_df[pair[0]], temp_df[pair[1]])
408         chi2, p_value, *_ = chi2_contingency(cross_tab, correction = False)
409
410         N = cross_tab.sum().sum()
411         k = min(cross_tab.shape)
412         cr_v = np.sqrt((chi2/N) / (k-1))
413
414         significance_stars = '***' if p_value <= 0.01 else '**' if p_value <= 0.05 else \
415                         '*' if p_value <= 0.1 else ''
416
417         output_df.loc[i, 'Variable #1'] = pair[0]
418         output_df.loc[i, 'Variable #2'] = pair[1]
419         output_df.loc[i, "Cramer's V"] = round(cr_v, 3)
420
421         significance_stars = '***' if p_value <= 0.01 else '**' if p_value <= 0.05 else \
422                         '*' if p_value <= 0.1 else ''
423         output_df.loc[i, 'Significance'] = significance_stars
424
425     return output_df
426
```

```
427
428 cramer_v_table(data, cat_vars)
429
430
431 def phi_correlation(var1, var2) -> float:
432
433     cross_tab = pd.crosstab(var1, var2)
434
435     chi2, p_value, *_ = chi2_contingency(cross_tab)
436     n = cross_tab.sum().sum()
437
438     phi = np.sqrt(chi2/n)
439
440     return phi
441
442
443 def na_phi_corr_table(data: pd.DataFrame, target = 'BAD') -> pd.DataFrame:
444
445     output_df = pd.DataFrame(columns = ['Feature', 'Phi Correlation', 'Significance'])
446
447     for i, col in enumerate(data.drop(target, axis = 1).columns):
448         na_indicator = [1 if pd.isnull(i) else 0 for i in data[col]]
449         cross_tab = pd.crosstab(data[target], na_indicator)
450         chi2, p_value, *_ = chi2_contingency(cross_tab)
451         n = cross_tab.sum().sum()
```

```
452
453     phi = np.sqrt(chi2/n)
454     significance_stars = '***' if p_value <= 0.01 else '**' if p_value <= 0.05 else \
455         '*' if p_value <= 0.1 else ''
456
457     output_df.loc[i, 'Feature'] = col
458     output_df.loc[i, 'Phi Correlation'] = round(phi, 3)
459     output_df.loc[i, 'Significance'] = significance_stars
460
461     return output_df
462
463 na_phi_corr_table(data)
464
465
466 def spearman_corr_matrix_plot(df: pd.DataFrame, num_var: list, export: bool = True):
467
468     #Figure's initialization
469     plt.figure(figsize = (16,13))
470     matplotlib.rcParams['mathtext.fontset'] = 'stix'
471     matplotlib.rcParams['font.family'] = 'STIXGeneral'
472
473     #Corelation matrix heatmap
474     heatmap = sns.heatmap(df[num_var].corr(method = "spearman"), vmin = -1, vmax = 1,
475                           mask = np.triu(np.ones_like(df[num_var].corr())),
476                           annot = True, cmap = "coolwarm", fmt = ".3f",
477                           xticklabels = num_var, yticklabels = num_var,
```

```
477             annot_kws={"size": 19})  
478  
479     plt.xticks(fontsize = 19)  
480     plt.yticks(fontsize = 19)  
481  
482     cbar = heatmap.collections[0].colorbar  
483     cbar.ax.tick_params(labelsize=19)  
484  
485     plt.tight_layout()  
486  
487 #Exporting the plots  
488 if export:  
489     os.makedirs("./plots/", exist_ok = True)  
490     plt.savefig(f"./plots/Spearman_Correlation_Matrix_Numeric_Features.jpg", dpi = 300)  
491  
492     plt.show()  
493  
494  
495 spearman_corr_matrix_plot(data, num_vars)  
496  
497  
498 def na_dendrogram(df:pd.DataFrame, export:bool = True, plot_suffix:str = ""):  
499  
500     matplotlib.rcParams['mathtext.fontset'] = 'stix'  
501     matplotlib.rcParams['font.family'] = 'STIXGeneral'
```

```
502
503 #True/False values indicating whether a column has some NA's.
504 na_columns_indicators = df.describe(include = "all").T["count"] < df.shape[0]
505 #Filtering the column names having NA's.
506 na_columns = df.columns[na_columns_indicators]
507 #Subsetting the data based on the NA's columns.
508 final_df_dendrogram = df[na_columns]
509
510 #Plotting the dendrogram
511 missingno.dendrogram(final_df_dendrogram, orientation = "top", figsize = (10, 6), fontsize = 11)
512 #plt.title("Dendrogram of variables having NA's", size = 13, fontweight = "bold")
513 plt.yticks(fontsize=17)
514 plt.xticks(rotation=45, fontsize=17)
515
516 plt.tight_layout()
517
518 #Exporting the plot
519 if export:
520     os.makedirs("./plots/", exist_ok = True)
521     plt.savefig(f"./plots/NA_Dendrogram{plot_suffix}.jpg", dpi = 300)
522
523 plt.show()
524
525 na_dendrogram(data)
526 na_dendrogram(data[data['BAD'] == 1], plot_suffix = "_defaults")
```

B.1.2 Data Preprocessing

```
1 def data_split(
2     df: pd.DataFrame,
3     test_size: float,
4     validation_size: float,
5     seed: int,
6     num_vars,
7     cat_vars,
8     oversampling: str = "None",
9     target: str = "BAD",
10) -> tuple[pd.DataFrame, pd.Series, pd.DataFrame, pd.Series, pd.DataFrame, pd.Series]:
11
12     # Separating the target variable (Y) and the features (X)
13     Y = df[target]
14     X = df.drop(target, axis=1)
15
16     # Stratified split into training set, validation set and test set
17     X_temp, X_test, y_temp, y_test = train_test_split(
18         X, Y, stratify=Y, test_size=test_size, random_state=seed
19     )
20     X_train, X_valid, y_train, y_valid = train_test_split(
21         X_temp, y_temp, stratify=y_temp, test_size=validation_size, random_state=seed
22     )
23
```

```
24 # ADASYN Oversampling
25 if oversampling == "ADASYN":
26
27     # ADASYN initialization
28     adasyn = ADASYN(random_state=seed, n_jobs=-1)
29
30     # Temporary imputing of missing values
31     # (separately for categorical and numeric features)
32     # ADASYN cannot work with NA's, thus we replace them with arbitrary values.
33     X_train_imputed = pd.concat(
34         (
35             X_train[cat_vars].copy().fillna("NAN"),
36             X_train[num_vars].copy().fillna(999999999999999),
37         ),
38         axis=1,
39     )[X_train.columns].copy()
40
41     # Dummy encoding of categorical features
42     # ADASYN cannot work with categorical features, thus we need to encode them.
43     for cat in cat_vars:
44         X_cat_dummies = pd.get_dummies(X_train_imputed[[cat]])
45         X_train_imputed = X_train_imputed.drop(cat, axis=1)
46         X_train_imputed = pd.concat((X_train_imputed, X_cat_dummies), axis=1)
47
48     # Oversampling on the training set.
```

```
49     X_train_final, y_train_final = adasyn.fit_resample(
50         X_train_imputed, pd.DataFrame(y_train)
51     )
52
53     # Converting dummies back into the original categorical features.
54     for cat in cat_vars:
55         X_train_final[cat] = (
56             X_train_final.loc[
57                 :, [col for col in X_train_final.columns if cat in col]
58             ]
59             .idxmax(axis=1)
60             .str.replace(f"{cat}_", "")
61         )
62
63     X_train_final = X_train_final.drop(
64         [col for col in X_train_final.columns if f"{cat}_" in col], axis=1
65     )
66
67     # Replacing the NA's strings back to NA's with respect to the categorical features.
68     X_train_final = X_train_final.replace({"NAN": np.nan})
69
70     # Replacing back the missing values (999999999999) with NA's in such case
71     # whether the value is exceeding the maximum value of given numeric feature before imputing.
72     for num in num_vars:
73         max_value = X_train[num].max()
74         X_train_final[num] = X_train_final[num].apply(
```

```
74         lambda x: np.nan if x > max_value else x
75     )
76
77     y_train_final = y_train_final[target]
78
79     X_train_final = X_train_final.reindex(columns=X_train.columns)
80
81     return X_train_final, y_train_final, X_valid, y_valid, X_test, y_test
82
83 # No oversampling
84 else:
85
86     return X_train, y_train, X_valid, y_valid, X_test, y_test
87
88
89 seed = 42
90 test_size = 0.15
91 validation_size = test_size/(1 - test_size)
92
93 (
94     X_train,
95     y_train,
96     X_valid,
97     y_valid,
98     X_test,
```

```
99     y_test,
100 ) = data_split(data, test_size, validation_size, seed, num_vars, cat_vars, oversampling="ADASYN")
101
102 (
103     X_train_orig,
104     y_train_orig,
105     X_valid_orig,
106     y_valid_orig,
107     X_test_orig,
108     y_test_orig,
109 ) = data_split(data, test_size, validation_size, seed, num_vars, cat_vars)
110
111
112 def print_data_info(**kwargs):
113
114     for name, _set in kwargs.items():
115
116         no_dashes = 50
117         no_dashes_name_left = int((no_dashes - len(name) - 1)/2)*"-"
118         no_dashes_name_right = f"{{(no_dashes - len(name) - len(no_dashes_name_left)) - 2)*'-'}}"
119
120         data_info = f"{{_set['features'].shape[0]}} instances, {{_set['features'].shape[1]}} features"
121         no_dashes_data_info_left = int((no_dashes - len(data_info) - 1)/2)*"-"
122         no_dashes_data_info_right = f"{{(no_dashes - len(data_info) - len(no_dashes_data_info_left)) - 2)*'-'}}",
123         pct_d = np.sum(_set['target']) / _set['target'].shape[0]*100:
```

```
124     pct_nd = np.sum(_set['target'] == 0) / _set['target'].shape[0]*100
125     target_info = f"Default: {pct_d:.2f}% | Non-default: {pct_nd:.2f}%" 
126     no_dashes_target_info_left = int((no_dashes - len(target_info) - 1)/2)*"-"
127     length_dashes_target_info_right = (no_dashes - len(target_info) - len(no_dashes_target_info_left)) - 2
128     no_dashes_target_info_right = f'{length_dashes_target_info_right*"-"}'
129
130
131     print(no_dashes*"-")
132     print(f'{no_dashes_name_left} {name} {no_dashes_name_right}')
133     print(f'{no_dashes_data_info_left} {data_info} {no_dashes_data_info_right}')
134     print(f'{no_dashes_target_info_left} {target_info} {no_dashes_target_info_right}')
135     print(no_dashes*"-", "\n")
136
137 print_data_info(Training = {'features': X_train, 'target': y_train},
138                  Validation = {'features': X_valid, 'target': y_valid},
139                  Test = {'features': X_test, 'target': y_test})
140
141
142 def woe_binning(
143     x_train_set: pd.DataFrame,
144     y_train_labels: pd.Series,
145     cat_vars: list,
146     export: bool = True,
147     **kwargs,
148 ) -> tuple[dict, pd.DataFrame]:
```

```
149  
150     binning_path = "./models/feature_preprocessing"  
151     final_objects_path = "./models/objects_FINAL"  
152  
153     # Initializing the binning process object.  
154     bn = BinningProcess(  
155         variable_names=list(x_train_set.columns),  
156         categorical_variables=cat_vars  
157     )  
158  
159     # Fitting the binning on training set.  
160     bn.fit(x_train_set, y_train_labels)  
161  
162     # DataFrame including binned categories' information.  
163     bins_woe = pd.DataFrame()  
164  
165     for i in x_train_set.columns:  
166  
167         var = bn.get_binned_variable(i).binning_table.build()  
168         var = var[~var["Bin"].isin(["Special", "Totals"])]  
169         var["Variable"] = i  
170  
171         bins_woe = pd.concat((bins_woe, var))  
172  
173     bins_woe = bins_woe.loc[:, ~bins_woe.columns.isin(["JS"])]
```

```
174
175     if export:
176         for save_path in [binning_path, final_objects_path]:
177             os.makedirs(save_path, exist_ok=True)
178             bn.save(f"{save_path}/binning_woe_object.h5")
179             bins_woe.to_csv(f"{save_path}/woe_bins.csv",
180                             index = False)
181
182     # Transforming both training set and test set
183     # based on the fitted training binning.
184     def woe_bin_transform(bn_fit, x_set):
185         x_set_binned = bn_fit.transform(x_set, metric="woe")
186         x_set_binned.index = x_set.index
187
188         return x_set_binned
189
190     X_binned_sets = {"X_train_binned": woe_bin_transform(bn, x_train_set)}
191     x_set_copy = X_binned_sets["X_train_binned"].copy()
192
193     for col in x_set_copy.columns:
194         na_woe = (bins_woe
195                    .query('Variable == @col and Bin == "Missing"')["WoE"]
196                    .values[0]
197                    )
198         x_set_copy.loc[x_train_set[col].isna(), col] = na_woe
```

```
199     X_binned_sets["X_train_binned"] = x_set_copy
200
201     for name, x_set in kwargs.items():
202         X_binned_sets[f"{name}_binned"] = woe_bin_transform(bn, x_set)
203         x_set_copy = X_binned_sets[f"{name}_binned"].copy()
204         for col in x_set_copy.columns:
205             na_woe = (bins_woe
206                         .query('Variable == @col and Bin == "Missing"')
207                         ["WoE"]
208                         .values[0])
209             x_set_copy.loc[x_set[col].isna(), col] = na_woe
210         X_binned_sets[f"{name}_binned"] = x_set_copy
211
212     return (X_binned_sets, bins_woe, bn)
213
214
215 X_binned_sets, woe_bins, binning_transformator = woe_binning(X_train, y_train, cat_vars,
216                                                               X_valid = X_valid, X_test = X_test)
217 X_train_binned, X_valid_binned, X_test_binned = (xset for i, xset in X_binned_sets.items())
218
219 X_binned_sets_orig, woe_bins_orig, binning_transformator_orig = woe_binning(X_train_orig, y_train_orig,
220                               export = False, cat_vars,
221                               X_valid = X_valid_orig,
222                               X_test = X_test_orig)
223 X_train_binned_orig, X_valid_binned_orig, X_test_binned_orig = (xset for i, xset in X_binned_sets_orig.items())
```

```
224
225
226 def prep_data_export(features: tuple, labels: tuple,
227                     ind_sets: tuple = ("Training", "Validation", "Test"),
228                     csv_name:str = '') -> pd.DataFrame:
229
230     df_list = []
231
232     #Join each pair of features and labels data, assign to it a set indicator,
233     # append to the list and then,
234     # transform that list into a data frame (and export it).
235     for feat, lab, ind in zip(features, labels, ind_sets):
236
237         temp = pd.concat((lab, feat), axis = 1)
238         temp["set"] = ind
239         df_list.append(temp)
240
241     dfs = [df for df in df_list]
242
243     final_df = pd.concat(dfs, axis = 0).sort_index()
244
245     if len(csv_name) != 0:
246         os.makedirs("./data/", exist_ok = True)
247         final_df.to_csv(f"./data/{csv_name}.csv", index = False)
```

```
249     return final_df
250
251
252 interim = prep_data_export((X_train_binned, X_valid_binned, X_test_binned),
253                             (y_train, y_valid, y_test),
254                             ("Training", "Validation", "Test"),
255                             csv_name = "interim_data")
256
257
258 def categorical_distribution_plot_OS(df_orig: pd.DataFrame, df_os, cat_vars: list,
259                                     target: str = "BAD", class_val = 1, export: bool = False):
260
261     #Figure's and axes' initialization
262     fig, axs = plt.subplots(nrows = len(cat_vars), ncols = 2, figsize = (14, 10))
263
264     #Column index
265     col_ind = 0
266     #Axis index (if the value is even, the plot will be located on the left side, otherwise on the right side)
267     axis_count = 0
268
269     matplotlib.rcParams['mathtext.fontset'] = 'stix'
270     matplotlib.rcParams['font.family'] = 'STIXGeneral'
271
272     class_title_name = 'Default' if class_val == 1 else 'Non-Default'
273
```

```
274     for ax in axs.ravel():
275
276         #Accessing the feature name
277         var = cat_vars[col_ind]
278         # Subsetting the data based on the feature with subsequent replacing missing values#
279         # with N/A's strings (for visualization's sake).
280         var_target_df_orig = df_orig[[var, target]].copy().fillna("N/A")
281         var_target_df_os = df_os[[var, target]].copy().fillna("N/A")
282
283         #If the feature has some missing values, put the N/A category at the end of the plot.
284         if var_target_df_orig.query(f"{var} == 'N/A'").shape[0] != 0:
285             categories_orig = [cat for cat in var_target_df_orig[var].unique() if cat != "N/A"] + ["N/A"]
286         else:
287             categories_orig = var_target_df_orig[var].unique()
288
289         #If the feature has some missing values, put the N/A category at the end of the plot.
290         if var_target_df_os.query(f"{var} == 'N/A'").shape[0] != 0:
291             categories_os = [cat for cat in var_target_df_os[var].unique() if cat != "N/A"] + ["N/A"]
292         else:
293             categories_os = var_target_df_os[var].unique()
294
295         # The left side (even axis_count) depicts the features' distribution
296         # conditional on the non-default cases.
297         if axis_count % 2 == 0:
```

```
299     sns.countplot(data = var_target_df_orig.query(f"{target} == {class_val}"), x = var,
300                     ax = ax, order = categories_orig, color = "lightblue")
301
302     ax.set_title(f"Distribution of {var} ({class_title_name} cases)", size = 19, fontweight = "bold")
303     ax.tick_params(axis = "both", which = "major", labelsize = 18)
304     ax.tick_params(axis = "x", rotation = 30, which = "major", labelsize = 18)
305     ax.set(xlabel = None)
306     ax.set_ylabel(ax.get_ylabel(), fontsize=18)
307     ax.spines["top"].set_visible(False)
308     ax.spines["right"].set_visible(False)
309
310
311 #The right side (odd axis_count) depicts the features' distribution conditional on the default cases.
312 else:
313
314     sns.countplot(data = var_target_df_os.query(f"{target} == {class_val}"), x = var,
315                   ax = ax, order = categories_os, color = "mediumpurple")
316
317     ax.set_title(f"Distribution of {var} ({class_title_name} cases) - Oversampled",
318                 size = 19, fontweight = "bold")
319     ax.tick_params(axis = "both", which = "major", labelsize = 18)
320     ax.tick_params(axis = "x", rotation = 30, which = "major", labelsize = 18)
321     ax.set_ylabel(ax.get_ylabel(), fontsize=18)
322     ax.set(xlabel = None)
323     ax.spines["top"].set_visible(False)
```

```
324         ax.spines["right"].set_visible(False)
325
326     #Proceeding with the next feature
327     col_ind += 1
328
329     #Switching to the left/right side of the figure
330     axis_count += 1
331
332 plt.tight_layout()
333
334 #Exporting the plots
335 if export:
336     os.makedirs("./plots/", exist_ok = True)
337     plt.savefig(f"./plots/Categorical_Features_Distribution_OS_{class_title_name}.jpg", dpi = 300)
338
339 plt.show()
340
341
342 categorical_distribution_plot_OS(pd.concat((X_train_orig, y_train_orig), axis = 1),
343                                 pd.concat((X_train, y_train), axis = 1),
344                                 cat_vars, class_val = 1, export = True)
345
346 df_temp = pd.DataFrame(columns = ['Feature', 'Category', '# (Y=1)', '# (Y=1) - Oversampled',
347                           '% (Y=1)', '% (Y=1) - Oversampled'])
348 i = 0
```

B. Source Codes

```
349 orig_temp_df = pd.concat((X_train_orig, y_train_orig), axis = 1).copy()
350 temp_df = pd.concat((X_train, y_train), axis = 1).copy()
351 for cat_var in cat_vars:
352     orig_temp_df[cat_var] = orig_temp_df[cat_var].fillna("N/A")
353     temp_df[cat_var] = temp_df[cat_var].fillna("N/A")
354
355 for category in orig_temp_df[cat_var].unique():
356     df_temp.loc[i, 'Feature'] = cat_var
357     df_temp.loc[i, 'Category'] = category
358
359     count_d = orig_temp_df.query(f"{cat_var} == '{category}' and BAD == 1").shape[0]
360     count_d_os = temp_df.query(f"{cat_var} == '{category}' and BAD == 1").shape[0]
361     df_temp.loc[i, '# (Y=1)'] = count_d
362     df_temp.loc[i, '# (Y=1) - Oversampled'] = count_d_os
363
364     pct_d = df_temp.loc[i, '# (Y=1)'] / orig_temp_df.query("BAD == 1").shape[0]
365     pct_d_os = df_temp.loc[i, '# (Y=1) - Oversampled'] / temp_df.query("BAD == 1").shape[0]
366     df_temp.loc[i, '% (Y=1)'] = round(pct_d * 100, 2)
367     df_temp.loc[i, '% (Y=1) - Oversampled'] = round(pct_d_os * 100, 2)
368     i += 1
369
370 df_temp['rel diff'] = df_temp['% (Y=1) - Oversampled'] - df_temp['% (Y=1)']
371 df_temp.reindex(df_temp['rel diff'].abs().sort_values(ascending=False).index)
```

```
374
375 def numeric_distribution_plot_OS(df_orig: pd.DataFrame, df_os: pd.DataFrame, num_vars: list,
376                                     plot_type: str, target: str = "BAD", class_val = 1,
377                                     export: bool = True):
378
379     #Possible plot types
380     plot_types = {"boxplot": sns.boxplot,
381                   "violinplot": sns.violinplot
382                 }
383
384     #Figure's and axes' initialization
385     fig, axs = plt.subplots(nrows = len(num_vars), ncols = 2, figsize = (11, 45))
386
387     #Column index
388     col_ind = 0
389     #Axis index (if the value is even, the plot will be located on the left side, otherwise on the right side)
390     axis_count = 0
391
392     matplotlib.rcParams['mathtext.fontset'] = 'stix'
393     matplotlib.rcParams['font.family'] = 'STIXGeneral'
394
395     class_title_name = 'Default' if class_val == 1 else 'Non-Default'
396
397     for ax in axs.ravel():
398
```

```
399     #Accessing the feature name
400     var = num_vars[col_ind]
401
402     # The left side (even axis_count) depicts the features' distribution
403     # conditional on the non-default cases.
404     if axis_count % 2 == 0:
405
406         plot_types[plot_type](data = df_orig.loc[df_orig[target] == class_val], y = var, ax = ax,
407                               color = "lightblue")
408
409         ax.set_title(f"Distribution of {var} ({class_title_name} cases)", size = 17)
410         ax.tick_params(axis = "both", which = "major", labelsize = 15)
411         ax.tick_params(axis = "x", rotation = 30, which = "major", labelsize = 15)
412         ax.set(xlabel = None)
413         ax.set_ylabel(ax.get_ylabel(), fontsize=15)
414         ax.spines["top"].set_visible(False)
415         ax.spines["right"].set_visible(False)
416
417     #The right side (odd axis_count) depicts the features' distribution conditional on the default cases.
418     else:
419
420         plot_types[plot_type](data = df_os.loc[df_os[target] == class_val], y = var, ax = ax,
421                               color = "mediumpurple")
422
423         ax.set_title(f"Distribution of {var} ({class_title_name} cases) - Oversampled", size = 17)
```

```
424         ax.tick_params(axis = "both", which = "major", labelsize = 15)
425         ax.tick_params(axis = "x", rotation = 30, which = "major", labelsize = 15)
426         ax.set_ylabel(ax.get_ylabel(), fontsize=15)
427         ax.set(xlabel = None)
428         ax.spines["top"].set_visible(False)
429         ax.spines["right"].set_visible(False)
430
431     #Proceeding with the next feature
432     col_ind += 1
433
434     #Switching to the left/right side of the figure
435     axis_count += 1
436
437 plt.tight_layout()
438
439 #Exporting the plots
440 if export:
441     os.makedirs("./plots/", exist_ok = True)
442     plt.savefig(f"./plots/Numeric_Features_Distribution_{plot_type.capitalize()}s.jpg", dpi = 300)
443
444 plt.show()
445
446
447 numeric_distribution_plot_OS(pd.concat((X_train_orig, y_train_orig), axis = 1),
448                             pd.concat((X_train, y_train), axis = 1), num_vars,
```

```
449                     plot_type = "violinplot", export = False)
450
451 def woe_bins_plot(bins_woe: pd.DataFrame, export: bool = True):
452
453     matplotlib.rcParams['mathtext.fontset'] = 'stix'
454     matplotlib.rcParams['font.family'] = 'STIXGeneral'
455
456
457     fig, axs = plt.subplots(nrows = 4, ncols = 3, figsize = (13, 22))
458
459     for i, ax in zip(bins_woe["Variable"].unique(), axs.ravel()):
460
461         temp = bins_woe.loc[bins_woe["Variable"] == i]
462         sns.barplot(x = temp.index, y = "WoE", data = temp, ax = ax, palette = "BuPu")
463         ax.axhline(y = 0, color = "black", linewidth = 1)
464
465
466         cat = False
467
468         for j in temp["Bin"]:
469             if isinstance(j, np.ndarray):
470                 cat = True
471                 break
472
473         if cat == False:
474             labels = list(temp["Bin"])
```

```
474
475     elif cat == True:
476         temp_bins = [k if type(k) == str else str(list(k)) for k in temp["Bin"]]
477         labels = [k.replace("[", "").replace("]", "").replace("'", "") for k in temp_bins]
478
479         ax.set_title(i, size = 20, fontweight = "bold")
480         ax.set_xticklabels(labels, rotation = 75, size = 19)
481         ax.set_yticklabels(['%.2f' % y for y in ax.get_yticks()], size = 19)
482         ax.set_xlabel(ax.get_xlabel(), fontsize=19)
483         ax.set_ylabel(ax.get_ylabel(), fontsize=19)
484
485         ax.spines["top"].set_visible(False)
486         ax.spines["right"].set_visible(False)
487
488
489     fig.tight_layout()
490
491
492     if export:
493         os.makedirs("./plots/", exist_ok = True)
494         plt.savefig(f"./plots/WoE_Distribution.jpg", dpi = 300)
495
496     plt.show()
497
498
```

```
499 woe_bins_plot(woe_bins)
```

B.1.3 Modelling

```
1 models_dict = {
2     "LR": LogisticRegression(random_state = seed, n_jobs = -1),
3     "DT": DecisionTreeClassifier(random_state = seed),
4     "GNB": GaussianNB(),
5     "KNN": KNeighborsClassifier(n_jobs = -1),
6     "RF": RandomForestClassifier(random_state = seed, n_jobs = -1),
7     "GB": GradientBoostingClassifier(random_state = seed),
8     "SVM": SVC(probability = True, random_state = seed),
9     "MLP": MLP(random_state = seed)
10 }
11
12
13 def bayesian_optimization(model, x_train: pd.DataFrame, y_train:
14                             pd.Series, seed: int, objective_function: str = "f1"):
15
16     estimator = model
17
18     #Adjustment of max_features hyperparameter within the final model selection.
19     max_features = len(x_train.columns)
20
```

```
21 #Defining a searching space of possible ranges of hyperparameters, given the model.
22
23 if type(model) == type(RandomForestClassifier()):
24
25     search_space = {
26         "n_estimators": Integer(100, 1000),
27         "criterion": Categorical(["gini", "entropy", "log_loss"]),
28         "max_depth": Integer(1, 10),
29         "max_features": Integer(1, max_features),
30         "class_weight": Categorical(["balanced", "balanced_subsample", None]),
31         "bootstrap": Categorical([True, False]),
32         "ccp_alpha": Real(0.00000000001, 0.5, prior="log-uniform"),
33     }
34
35
36
37 elif type(model) == type(GradientBoostingClassifier()):
38
39     search_space = {
40         "n_estimators": Integer(100, 1000),
41         "loss": Categorical(["log_loss", "exponential"]),
42         "max_depth": Integer(1, 10),
43         "learning_rate": Real(0.0001, 0.2, prior="log-uniform"),
44         "max_features": Integer(1, max_features),
45         "criterion": Categorical(["friedman_mse", "squared_error"]),
46     }
```

```
46         }
47
48
49
50     elif type(model) == type(LogisticRegression()):
51
52         search_space = {
53             "fit_intercept": Categorical([True, False]),
54             "C": Real(0.000001, 5, prior = "log-uniform"),
55             "penalty": Categorical(["l1", "l2", "none", "elasticnet"]),
56             "solver": Categorical(["lbfgs", "liblinear", "newton-cg", "sag", "saga"]),
57             "class_weight": Categorical(["balanced", None])
58         }
59
60
61         for solver in ["lbfgs", "liblinear", "newton-cg", "sag", "saga"]:
62             if solver == "lbfgs" or solver == "newton-cg":
63                 search_space["penalty"] = Categorical(["l2", "none"])
64             elif solver == "sag":
65                 search_space["penalty"] = Categorical(["l2", "elasticnet"])
66                 search_space["l1_ratio"] = Real(0, 1, prior = "uniform")
67             elif solver == "liblinear":
68                 search_space["penalty"] = Categorical(["l1", "l2", "none", "elasticnet"])
69                 if search_space["penalty"] == "l2":
70                     search_space["dual"] = Categorical([True, False])
71                     if search_space["fit_intercept"]:
```

```
71         search_space["intercept_scaling"] = Real(0.1, 100.0, prior="log-uniform")
72     else:
73         search_space["penalty"] = Categorical(["l1", "l2", "none", "elasticnet"])
74         search_space["l1_ratio"] = Real(0, 1, prior = "uniform")
75         search_space["solver"] = Categorical(["saga"])
76
77
78
79
80 elif type(model) == type(SVC()):
81     search_space = {
82         "C": Real(0.000001, 5, prior = "log-uniform"),
83         "kernel": Categorical(["linear", "poly", "rbf", "sigmoid"]),
84         "degree": Integer(1, 10),
85         "class_weight": Categorical(["balanced", None])
86     }
87
88
89 elif type(model) == type(MLPClassifier()):
90     search_space = {
91         "hidden_layer_sizes": Integer(5, 500),
92         "activation": Categorical(["logistic", "identity", "tanh", "relu"]),
93         "solver": Categorical(["lbfgs", "sgd", "adam"]),
94         "learning_rate": Categorical(["constant", "invscaling", "adaptive"]),
95     }
```

B. Source Codes

```
96
97
98
99     elif type(model) == type(DecisionTreeClassifier()):
100
101         search_space = {
102             "criterion": Categorical(["gini", "entropy"]),
103             "max_depth": Integer(1, 10),
104             "max_features": Integer(1, max_features),
105         }
106
107
108
109     elif type(model) == type(GaussianNB()):
110
111         search_space = {
112             "var_smoothing": Real(1e-9, 1e-6, prior = "log-uniform")
113         }
114
115
116
117     elif type(model) == type(KNeighborsClassifier()):
118
119         search_space = {
120             'n_neighbors': Integer(5, 20),
```

```
121         'weights': Categorical(['uniform', 'distance']),  
122         'metric': Categorical(['minkowski', 'manhattan', 'euclidean']),  
123         'p': Integer(1, 5)  
124     }  
125  
126  
127 #Initialization of the stratified 10-fold cross validation.  
128 stratified_cv = StratifiedKFold(n_splits = 10, shuffle = True, random_state = seed)  
129  
130 # Initialization of the Bayesian Optimization.  
131 # using the stratified 10-fold cross validation and given model,  
132 # while maximizing the objective function F1 score.  
133 bayescv = BayesSearchCV(estimator = estimator,  
134                         search_spaces = search_space,  
135                         scoring = objective_function, cv = stratified_cv,  
136                         n_jobs = -1, n_iter = 50,  
137                         random_state = seed)  
138  
139 #Fitting the Bayesian optimization algorithm on the training data.  
140 bayescv.fit(x_train, y_train)  
141  
142 #Outputs the model with the best tuned hyperparameters with respect to F1 score.  
143 return bayescv.best_estimator_  
144  
145
```

B. Source Codes

```

146 def SFS_feature_selection(x_train:pd.DataFrame , y_train:pd.Series ,
147                           models_dict:dict , seed:int , objective_function: str = "f1",
148                           sfs_method: str = 'forward' , export:bool = True) -> pd.DataFrame:
149
150     #Printing output settings and functions
151     dashes = 115 * "-"
152     count = 1
153
154     def print_FS(name: str , dashes: str ,
155                  count: int , models_dict: dict):
156
157         print(dashes)
158         order = f"{count}/{len(models_dict.keys())}"
159         no_dashes_left = int((len(dashes) - len(order) - 1)/2)*"-"
160         no_dashes_right = f"{{(len(dashes) - len(order) - len(no_dashes_left) - 2)*'-'}}"
161         print(f'{no_dashes_left} {order} {no_dashes_right}')
162         print(dashes)
163
164         text_ = f"FEATURE SELECTION WITH {name.upper()}"
165
166         no_dashes_left_ = int((len(dashes) - len(text_) - 1)/2)*"-"
167         no_dashes_right_ = f"{{(len(dashes) - len(text_) - len(no_dashes_left_) - 2)*'-'}}"
168         print(f'{no_dashes_left_} {text_} {no_dashes_right_}')
169         print(dashes)
170         print(dashes , "\n")

```

```
171
172     def print_FS_exec_time(time, number_features: int,
173                             selected_feats: list, dashes: str):
174
175         print(f'    Execution time: {round(time, 4)} minutes', '\n')
176         print(f'    {number_features} features selected: {", ".join(selected_feats)}', '\n')
177         print(dashes)
178         print(dashes, '\n')
179         print()
180
181
182 #Definitions of paths for exported files
183 opt_models_path = "./models/feature_selection/opt_models"
184 feat_select_path = "./models/feature_selection/feat_select_objects"
185 df_feat_select_path = "./models/feature_selection"
186
187 # Empty list for storing all the models with their tuned hyperparameters,
188 # number of features selected, and names of selected features.
189 models_feats_list = []
190
191 # For each model, tune its hyperparameters using Bayesian Optimization.
192 # Then use the tuned model for feature selection using Forward Sequential Feature Selector,
193 # while maximizing an objective function F1 Score.
194 for model_name, model in models_dict.items():
195
```

```
196     print_FS(model_name, dashes, count, models_dict)
197
198     start = time.time()
199     print("    1/4 ... Starting Bayesian Optimization on the whole set of features")
200
201     #Tuning the hyperparameters of the model using Bayesian Optimization.
202     tuned_model = bayesian_optimization(model, x_train, y_train, seed, objective_function)
203
204     print("    2/4 ... Bayesian Optimization finished")
205
206     #Initialization of the stratified 10-fold cross validation.
207     stratified_cv = StratifiedKFold(n_splits = 10, shuffle = True, random_state = seed)
208
209     print(f"    3/4 ... Starting {sfs_method.capitalize()} Sequential Feature Selection")
210
211     # Initialization of the Forward Sequential Feature Selector 10-fold Cross Validation
212     # in order to select the optimal number of features
213     # based on the model with tuned hyperparameters and maximizing F1 score function.
214     # Instead of selected a fixed number of features, we use an auto selection which stops adding features
215     # when the objective function (F1) is not incremented by at least "tol"
216     # between two consecutive feature additions.
217
218     sfs = SequentialFeatureSelector(tuned_model, n_features_to_select = "auto",
219                                     direction = sfs_method, scoring = objective_function,
220                                     cv = stratified_cv, n_jobs = -1, tol = 0.0000000000000001)
```

B. Source Codes

```
221     sfs.fit(x_train, y_train)
222
223     print(f"    {4/4} ... {sfs_method.capitalize()} Sequential Feature Selection with finished", "\n")
224     end = time.time()
225
226     #Extracting the final selected features and number of the selected features.
227     selected_feats = x_train.columns[sfs.get_support()].tolist()
228     number_features = len(selected_feats)
229
230     print_FS_exec_time((end - start)/60, number_features, selected_feats, dashes)
231
232     #Exporting both fitted tuned model and feature selection object.
233     if export:
234         for save_path, export_obj, save_name in zip([opt_models_path, feat_select_path],
235                                                     [tuned_model, sfs],
236                                                     ["FS_tuned", "SFS_with"]):
237
238             os.makedirs(save_path, exist_ok = True)
239             with open(f'{save_path}/{save_name}_{model_name}.h5', "wb") as save_obj:
240                 dill.dump(export_obj, save_obj)
241
242     #Appeding all the model's information from both Bayesian Optimization an Sequential Feature Selection.
243     models_feats_list.append([model_name, #name of the tuned base model
244                             number_features, #number of selected features
245                             selected_feats, #list of selected features' names
```

```
246                         (end - start)/60 #execution time
247                     ])
248
249         count += 1
250
251     # Storing all the models with their tuned hyperparameters,
252     # number of features selected, and names of selected features.
253     feat_sel_cols = ["model_name",
254                       "n_features", "final_features", "execution_time"]
255
256     feat_sel = pd.DataFrame(models_feats_list, columns = feat_sel_cols)
257
258     # Exporting the data frame storing all the models' information
259     # from both Bayesian Optimization an Sequential Feature Selection.
260     if export:
261         with open(f"{df_feat_select_path}/feat_selection_df_ORIGINAL.pkl", "wb") as feat_select_df_save:
262             dill.dump(feat_sel, feat_select_df_save)
263
264     return feat_sel
265
266
267 feat_selection_df = SFS_feature_selection(X_train_binned, y_train, models_dict, seed)
268
269
270 def selected_features_recurrence(df: pd.DataFrame, export: bool = True):
```

```
271
272     matplotlib.rcParams['mathtext.fontset'] = 'stix'
273     matplotlib.rcParams['font.family'] = 'STIXGeneral'
274
275     df_plot = (
276         pd.get_dummies(df["final_features"])
277             .apply(pd.Series)
278             .stack()
279             )
280         .sum(level = 0)
281         .sum()
282         .reset_index()
283         .rename(columns = {"index": "Model", 0: "Count"})
284         .sort_values("Count", ascending = False)
285     )
286
287     fig, ax = plt.subplots(nrows = 1, ncols = 1, figsize = (11, 7))
288
289
290
291     df_plot.plot.bar(x = "Model", y = "Count", color = "mediumpurple",
292                     legend = False, ax = ax, zorder = 2)
293
294     ax.grid(which = "major", axis = "y", linestyle = "--", zorder = 0)
295
```

```
296     # set title and axis labels
297     #plt.title("Recurrence of the selected features", size = 13, fontweight = "bold")
298     #plt.xlabel("Features", size = 14)
299     plt.xlabel(None)
300     plt.ylabel("Count", size = 20)
301     plt.yticks(range(1, df_plot['Count'].max() + 1), size = 20)
302     plt.xticks(size = 20, rotation = 45)
303
304     plt.legend().set_visible(False)
305
306     #Removing upper and right axes spines
307     axes = plt.gca()
308     axes.spines["top"].set_visible(False)
309     axes.spines["right"].set_visible(False)
310
311     plt.tight_layout()
312
313     if export:
314         os.makedirs("./plots/", exist_ok = True)
315         plt.savefig(f"./plots/Recurrence_Selected_Features.jpg", dpi = 300)
316
317     plt.show()
318
319
320 selected_features_recurrence(feat_selection_df)
```

B. Source Codes

```
321
322 def selected_features_dist(df: pd.DataFrame, export: bool = True):
323
324     matplotlib.rcParams['mathtext.fontset'] = 'stix'
325     matplotlib.rcParams['font.family'] = 'STIXGeneral'
326
327     df_plot = (
328         pd.concat(
329             (
330                 df[["model_name"]],
331                 pd.get_dummies(
332                     df["final_features"]
333                     .apply(pd.Series)
334                     .stack()
335                 )
336                 .sum(level=0)
337             ),
338             axis=1
339         )
340         .copy()
341     )
342
343     df_plot["totals"] = df_plot.drop("model_name", axis=1).sum(axis=1)
344     df_plot = (
345         df_plot
```

B. Source Codes

```
346     .sort_values(by="totals", ascending=False)
347     .drop("totals", axis=1)
348 )
349
350 fig, ax = plt.subplots(nrows=1, ncols=1, figsize=(11, 7))
351
352 colors = plt.cm.tab20.colors
353
354 df_plot.plot(
355     x="model_name",
356     y=[col for col in df_plot.columns if col != "model_name"],
357     kind="bar",
358     stacked=True,
359     figsize=(10, 6),
360     ax=ax,
361     color=colors,
362     zorder=3
363 )
364
365 ax.grid(which="major", axis="y", linestyle="--", zorder=0)
366 #plt.title("Distribution of Selected Features", size=15, fontweight="bold")
367 plt.xlabel(None)
368 plt.ylabel("Number of selected features", size=19)
369 plt.xticks(size=19, rotation=0)
370 plt.yticks(range(1,
```

```
371             df_plot[[col for col in df_plot.columns if col != "model_name"]].sum(axis=1).max() + 1,
372             size=19)
373     plt.legend(bbox_to_anchor=(1, 1), fontsize=14)
374
375     # Removing upper and right axes spines
376     axes = plt.gca()
377     axes.spines["top"].set_visible(False)
378     axes.spines["right"].set_visible(False)
379
380     plt.tight_layout()
381
382     if export:
383         os.makedirs("./plots/", exist_ok=True)
384         plt.savefig(f"./plots/Selected_Features_Distribution.jpg", dpi=300)
385
386     plt.show()
387
388
389 selected_features_dist(feat_selection_df)
390
391
392 def remove_duplicated_selected_feats(df:pd.DataFrame, export:bool = True) -> pd.DataFrame:
393
394     df_feat_select_path = "./models/feature_selection"
395
```

```
396     #Filtering indices of duplicated selected features
397     feat_duplicated_ind = (
398         df["final_features"]
399             .apply( lambda x: " ".join(x))
400             .duplicated(keep = False)
401             .values
402     )
403
404     if sum(feat_duplicated_ind) != 0:
405         #Keeping the model which was the fastest to execute and drop the others
406         duplicated_models = (
407             df[feat_duplicated_ind]
408                 .sort_values("execution_time")
409                 .reset_index(drop = True)
410         )
411
412         drop_models = (
413             duplicated_models
414                 .loc[1:, 'model_name']
415                 .values
416         )
417
418         keep_model = duplicated_models.head(1)[ "model_name" ].values[0]
419
420         models_name_join = ', '.join(duplicated_models[ "model_name" ].tolist())
```

```
421
422     final_feat_selection_df = (
423             df[~df["model_name"].isin(drop_models)]
424             .reset_index(drop = True)
425         )
426
427     filter_row = (final_feat_selection_df["model_name"] == keep_model)
428     final_feat_selection_df.loc[filter_row, "model_name"] = models_name_join
429
430 else:
431     final_feat_selection_df = df.copy()
432
433 if export:
434     with open(f"{df_feat_select_path}/feat_selection_df_FINAL.pkl", "wb") as feat_select_df_save:
435         dill.dump(final_feat_selection_df, feat_select_df_save)
436
437
438
439 feat_selection_df_FINAL = remove_duplicated_selected_feats(feat_selection_df)
440
441
442 metrics_weights = {
443     "descending_rank": {
444         "F1": 1.5,
445         "Recall": 1.2,
```

```
446                     "Precision": 1,
447                     "Accuracy": 1,
448                     "AUC": 1,
449                     "Somers D": 1,
450                     "KS": 1,
451                     "MCC": 1
452                 },
453
454             "ascending_rank": {
455                 "Brier Score Loss": 1,
456                 "Log Loss": 1
457             }
458         }
459
460
461     def calc_opt_threshold(model, x:pd.DataFrame, y:pd.Series) -> float:
462
463         y_scores = model.predict_proba(x)[:, 1]
464
465         fpr, tpr, thresholds = roc_curve(y, y_scores)
466
467         youden_index = tpr + (1 - fpr) - 1
468         threshold = thresholds[np.argmax(youden_index)]
469
470     return threshold
```

```
471
472
473
474 def model_selection(x_train:pd.DataFrame, y_train:pd.Series,
475                 x_val:pd.DataFrame, y_val:pd.Series,
476                 models_dict:dict, feat_sel:pd.DataFrame,
477                 seed:int, metrics_weights:dict,
478                 target:str = "BAD", objective_function: str = "f1",
479                 export:bool = True) -> pd.DataFrame:
480
481
482     #Printing output settings functions
483     dashes = 115 * "-"
484     count = 1
485
486     def print_model_selection(name: str, fs_name: str, feat_sel: pd.DataFrame,
487                             models_dict: dict, dashes: str, count: int):
488
489         print(dashes)
490
491         order = f"{count}/{len(models_dict.keys())*feat_sel.shape[0]}"
492         no_dashes_left = int((len(dashes) - len(order) - 1)/2)*"-"
493         no_dashes_right = f"{{(len(dashes) - len(order) - len(no_dashes_left) - 2)*'-'}}"
494
495         print(f"{no_dashes_left} {order} {no_dashes_right}")
```

```
496
497     print(dashes)
498
499     text_ = f"BAYESIAN OPTIMIZATION OF {name.upper()}"
500     text__ = f"WITH FEATURES SELECTED BY {fs_name.upper()}"
501
502     no_dashes_left_ = int((len(dashes) - len(text_) - 1)/2)*"="
503     no_dashes_right_ = f"{{(len(dashes) - len(text_) - len(no_dashes_left_) - 2)*'-'}}"
504     no_dashes_left__ = int((len(dashes) - len(text__)- 1)/2)*"="
505     no_dashes_right__ = f"{{(len(dashes) - len(text__) - len(no_dashes_left__)- 2)*'-'}}"
506
507     print(f"{no_dashes_left_} {text_} {no_dashes_right_}")
508     print(f"{no_dashes_left__} {text__} {no_dashes_right__}")
509     print(dashes)
510     print(dashes, "\n")
511
512
513     def exec_time_model_selection(name: str, opt_mod, time, evs_list: list,
514                                     threshold: float, dashes: str):
515
516         print(f"    Execution time: {round(time, 4)} minutes", "\n")
517         print(f"    {objective_function.capitalize()} Score on Validation set: {evs_list[0]}", "\n")
518         print(f"    Optimal classification threshold: {round(threshold, 4)}", "\n")
519         print(f"    Tuned hyperparameters of {name}: ", "\n")
520         for hyp, val in opt_mod.get_params().items():
```

```
521         print(f"          {hyp}: {val})")
522     print("")
523     print(dashes, "\n")
524
525 #Path to save the model selection data frame.
526 model_selection_path = "./models/model_selection"
527
528 #Metrics space.
529 metrics = {
530     "F1": f1_score,
531     "Precision": precision_score,
532     "Recall": recall_score,
533     "Accuracy": accuracy_score,
534     "AUC": roc_auc_score,
535     "Somers D": somersd,
536     "KS": ks_2samp,
537     "MCC": matthews_corrcoef,
538     "Brier Score Loss": brier_score_loss,
539     "Log Loss": log_loss
540 }
541
542 #Metrics categorization
543 probs_evs = ["AUC", "Brier Score Loss"]
544 class_evs = ["Precision", "Recall", "F1", "Accuracy", "MCC"]
```

```
546     #List for storing the results of the model selection.
547     tuned_list = []
548
549
550     #For each model, optimize it on the each subset of optimal features on training set
551         # and then evaluate it on validation set with filtered features (using set of several metrics).
552     for model_name, model in models_dict.items():
553
554         for _, row in feat_sel.iterrows():
555
556             #Model name and feature selection method.
557             fs_name = row["model_name"]
558
559             #Final features
560             final_features = row["final_features"]
561
562             #Filtered training and validation sets based on the final features.
563             X_train_filtered = x_train[final_features]
564             X_val_filtered = x_val[final_features]
565
566             print_model_selection(model_name, fs_name, feat_sel, models_dict, dashes, count)
567             n_f = len(final_features)
568             print(f"      1/2 ... Starting Bayesian Optimization on the subset of features ({n_f} features):")
569             print(f'                  {" ".join(final_features)}')
```

```
571         start = time.time()
572
573     #Bayesian Optimization
574     tuned_model = bayesian_optimization(model, X_train_filtered, y_train, seed, objective_function)
575
576     end = time.time()
577
578     #Optimal threshold calculation
579     threshold = calc_opt_threshold(tuned_model, X_train_filtered, y_train)
580
581     #Predicted probabilities and classes on validation set (using optimal threshold)
582     y_val_scores = tuned_model.predict_proba(X_val_filtered)[:, 1]
583     y_val_preds = pd.Series(y_val_scores).apply(lambda x: 1 if x > threshold else 0)
584
585     #List for storing calculated evaluation metrics.
586     evs_list = []
587
588     #Metrics calculation on validation set.
589     for metric_name, metric in metrics.items():
590         if metric_name in probs_evs:
591             evs_list.append(metric(y_val, y_val_scores))
592         elif metric_name in class_evs:
593             evs_list.append(metric(y_val, y_val_preds))
594         elif metric_name == 'Log Loss':
595             evs_list.append(metric(y_val, tuned_model.predict_proba(X_val_filtered)))
```

```
596         elif metric_name == "Somers D":
597             evs_list.append(metric(y_val, y_val_scores).statistic)
598         elif metric_name == "KS":
599             X_Y_concat = pd.concat((y_val, X_val_filtered), axis = 1)
600             X_Y_concat["prob"] = y_val_scores
601             evs_list.append(metric(X_Y_concat.loc[X_Y_concat[target] == 1, "prob"],
602                                 X_Y_concat.loc[X_Y_concat[target] == 0, "prob"]).statistic)
603
604     #Storing the results of the model selection.
605     tuned_list.append([model_name,
606                         fs_name,
607                         tuned_model,
608                         len(final_features),
609                         final_features,
610                         (end - start)/60,
611                         threshold] +
612                         evs_list
613                         )
614
615     #Exporting the final tuned model in .h5 format
616     if export:
617         os.makedirs(model_selection_path, exist_ok = True)
618         os.makedirs(f"{model_selection_path}/models", exist_ok = True)
619
620         with open(f"{model_selection_path}/models/{model_name}_with_{fs_name}.h5", "wb") as mod_save:
```

```
621         dill.dump(tuned_model, mod_save)

622

623

624     print("      2/2... Bayesian Optimization finished", "\n")

625

626     exec_time_model_selection(model_name, tuned_model, (end - start)/60, evs_list, threshold, dashes)

627

628     count += 1

629

630 #Model selection data frame.

631 model_sel_cols = ["tuned_model_name", "fs_model_name",
632                     "sfs_object", "n_features",
633                     "final_features", "execution_time",
634                     "threshold"] + list(metrics.keys())

635

636 model_selection_df = pd.DataFrame(tuned_list, columns = model_sel_cols)

637

638 #Ranking the models based on the evaluation metrics and the provided weights.

639 for dict_name, metric_weight_dict in metrics_weights.items():

640

641     #Ranking each metric.

642     for metric in metric_weight_dict.keys():

643

644         # Ranking the models whether the metric is ascending or descending
645         # (score metrics are descending, loss metrics are ascending).
```

```
646         order = True if dict_name == "ascending_rank" else False
647
648     #Ranking
649     model_selection_df[f"{metric}_rank"] = (
650             model_selection_df[[metric]]
651             .rank(ascending = order)
652         )
653
654     #Accessing individual ranking metrics columns.
655     ranked_cols = [rank for rank in model_selection_df.columns if "_rank" in rank]
656
657     unnested_metric_weights = {k: v for in_dict in metrics_weights.values() for k, v in in_dict.items()}
658
659
660     for i, row in model_selection_df[ranked_cols].iterrows():
661
662         numerator = sum([row[col] * unnested_metric_weights[col.split("_")[0]] for col in ranked_cols])
663         denominator = sum(unnested_metric_weights.values())
664
665         model_selection_df.loc[i, "avg_rank"] = numerator / denominator
666
667
668     model_selection_df['final_rank'] = model_selection_df['avg_rank'].rank(ascending = True)
669
670     #Ordering the model selection data frame based on the final ranking.
```

```
671 model_selection_df = (
672     model_selection_df
673     .drop(ranked_cols, axis = 1)
674     .sort_values("final_rank")
675     .reset_index(drop = True)
676 )
677
678 #Exporting the model selection data frame.
679 if export:
680     with open(f"{model_selection_path}/model_selection_df.pkl", "wb") as model_select_df_save:
681         dill.dump(model_selection_df, model_select_df_save)
682
683 return model_selection_df
684
685
686
687 model_selection_df = model_selection(X_train_binned, y_train, X_valid_binned, y_valid,
688                                     models_dict, feat_selection_df_FINAL, seed, metrics_weights)
689
690 (
691     model_selection_df
692     .loc[(model_selection_df
693           .loc[:, ~model_selection_df
694           .columns
```

```
696         .isin(["final_features"]))
697     .groupby("tuned_model_name")["final_rank"]
698     .idxmin(),
699 ~model_selection_df
700 .columns
701 .isin(["final_features"]))
702 .sort_values("final_rank")
703 )
704
705
706 def plot_models_metrics(df: pd.DataFrame, metric: str, group_by: str = "tuned_model_name",
707                         plot_name: str = "", export:bool = True):
708
709     matplotlib.rcParams["mathtext.fontset"] = "stix"
710     matplotlib.rcParams["font.family"] = "STIXGeneral"
711
712     plt.figure(figsize = (10, 6)) # Increase the figsize values to make the plot bigger
713     sns.boxplot(data = df, x = metric, y = group_by, palette = "BuPu_r")
714
715     axes = plt.gca()
716     axes.spines["top"].set_visible(False)
717     axes.spines["right"].set_visible(False)
718     axes.set(ylabel = None)
719
720     # Increase the fontsize for xticks and yticks
```

```
721     plt.xticks(fontsize = 17)
722     plt.yticks(fontsize = 17)
723
724     # Increase the fontsize for x and y axis labels
725     if metric == "execution_time":
726         plt.xlabel(f"Execution time (in minutes)", fontsize = 17)
727     else:
728         plt.xlabel(metric, fontsize = 17)
729
730     plt.tight_layout()
731
732     if export:
733         os.makedirs("./plots/", exist_ok=True)
734         plot_name_save = metric.upper() if len(plot_name) == 0 else plot_name.upper()
735         plt.savefig(f"./plots/{plot_name_save}_Distribution.jpg", dpi=300)
736
737     plt.show()
738
739
740 plot_models_metrics(model_selection_df, "F1")
741 plot_models_metrics(model_selection_df[model_selection_df["F1"]>model_selection_df["F1"].min()],
742                      "F1", plot_name = "F1_wo_outliers")
743
744 plot_models_metrics(model_selection_df, "threshold")
```

```
745 plot_models_metrics(model_selection_df[model_selection_df["threshold"] < model_selection_df["threshold"].max()]
    ],
    "threshold", plot_name = "threshold_wo_outliers")
747
748 plot_models_metrics(model_selection_df, "execution_time")
749
750 for col in ["Precision", "Recall", "Accuracy", "AUC", "Somers D", "KS", "MCC", "Brier Score Loss", "Log Loss"]:
751     plot_models_metrics(model_selection_df, col, export = "_" .join([col]))
752
753
754 def scatter_metrics_plot(df: pd.DataFrame, metric_1: str, metric_2: str,
755                         plot_name: str = "", export: bool = True):
756
757     matplotlib.rcParams["mathtext.fontset"] = "stix"
758     matplotlib.rcParams["font.family"] = "STIXGeneral"
759
760     plt.figure(figsize = (10, 7))
761     plot_df = df.copy()
762     sns.scatterplot(data = plot_df, x = metric_1, y = metric_2,
763                      hue = "tuned_model_name", palette = "Set2", s = 100, alpha = 0.7)
764     axes = plt.gca()
765     axes.spines["top"].set_visible(False)
766     axes.spines["right"].set_visible(False)
767
768     # Increase the fontsize for xticks and yticks
```

```
769     plt.xticks(fontsize=18)
770     plt.yticks(fontsize=18)
771
772     if metric_1 == "execution_time":
773         metric_xlabel = "Execution time (in minutes)"
774     else:
775         metric_xlabel = metric_1
776
777     if metric_2 == "execution_time":
778         metric_ylabel = "Execution time (in minutes)"
779     else:
780         metric_ylabel = metric_2
781
782     # Increase the fontsize for x and y axis labels
783     plt.xlabel(metric_xlabel, fontsize = 18)
784     plt.ylabel(metric_ylabel, fontsize = 18)
785
786     plt.legend(bbox_to_anchor = (1.2, 1.1), fontsize = 18) # Increase the fontsize for the legend
787     plt.tight_layout()
788
789     if export:
790         os.makedirs("./plots/", exist_ok = True)
791         plt.savefig(f"./plots/Scatterplot_{metric_1}_{metric_2}{plot_name}.jpg", dpi = 300)
792
793     plt.show()
```

```
794
795
796 scatter_metrics_plot(model_selection_df, "execution_time", "F1")
797 scatter_metrics_plot(model_selection_df[model_selection_df["F1"] > model_selection_df["F1"].min()],
798                      "execution_time", "F1", plot_name = "_wo_outliers")
799
800
801 def print_final_model(df: pd.DataFrame, model_order: int = 0):
802
803     final_model_path = "./models/model_selection/models"
804
805     with open(os.path.join(final_model_path, f"{final_model_name}_with_{fs_model_name}.h5"), "rb") as mod_load:
806         final_model = dill.load(mod_load)
807
808     final_model_name = df.loc[model_order, "tuned_model_name"]
809     fs_model_name = df.loc[model_order, "fs_model_name"]
810     final_features = df.loc[model_order, "final_features"]
811     final_threshold, final_hyperparameters = df.loc[model_order, "threshold"], final_model.get_params()
812
813     #Final model
814
815     print(f"Final model: {final_model_name.upper()}")
816     print(f"Final model trained on features selected by: {fs_model_name.upper()}")
817     print(f"Final subset of features: {', '.join(final_features)}")
818     print(f"The final threshold: {final_threshold}")
```

```
819 print("Final hyperparameters:")
820
821 for hp_name, hp_value in final_hyperparameters.items():
822     print(f"{'{len('Final hyperparameters:')} + 2) * '}'{hp_name}: {hp_value}")
823
824
825 print_final_model(model_selection_df)
826
827
828 def data_filter_join(hyp_tuning_df: pd.DataFrame, x_train: pd.DataFrame,
829                      x_valid: pd.DataFrame, x_test: pd.DataFrame,
830                      y_train: pd.Series, y_valid: pd.Series,
831                      model_order:int = 0) -> tuple[pd.Series, pd.DataFrame]:
832
833     #Final features
834     final_features = [feat for feat in hyp_tuning_df.loc[model_order, "final_features"]]
835
836     #Joined training and validation labels.
837     y_train_valid = pd.concat((y_train, y_valid))
838
839     #Filtered joined training and validation set based on final features.
840     x_train_valid_filtered = pd.concat((x_train, x_valid))[final_features]
841
842     #Filtered test set based on final features.
843     x_test_filtered = x_test[final_features]
```

```
844     return (y_train_valid, x_train_valid_filtered, x_test_filtered)
845
846
847 (
848     y_train_valid,
849     X_train_valid_binned_filtered,
850     X_test_binned_filtered
851 ) = data_filter_join(model_selection_df, X_train_binned, X_valid_binned, X_test_binned, y_train, y_valid)
852
853
854 preprocessed = prep_data_export((X_train_valid_binned_filtered, X_test_binned_filtered),
855                                 (y_train_valid, y_test),
856                                 ("Training_Validation", "Test"),
857                                 csv_name = "preprocessed_data")
858
859
860 def final_model_fit_eval(hyp_tuning_df: pd.DataFrame,
861                         x_fit: pd.DataFrame, y_fit: pd.Series,
862                         model_order: int = 0,
863                         save_model: bool = True):
864
865     final_model_path = "./models/model_selection/models"
866     output_path = "./models/objects_FINAL"
867
868     final_model_name = hyp_tuning_df.loc[model_order, "tuned_model_name"]
```

```
869     fs_model_name = hyp_tuning_df.loc[model_order, "fs_model_name"]
870
871     #Final model
872     with open(os.path.join(final_model_path, f"{final_model_name}_with_{fs_model_name}.h5"), "rb") as mod_load:
873         final_model = dill.load(mod_load)
874
875     #Fitting the final model on the joined training and validation set
876     final_model.fit(x_fit, y_fit)
877
878     if save_model:
879         with open(f"{output_path}/final_model_eval.h5", "wb") as mod_save:
880             dill.dump(final_model, mod_save)
881
882     return final_model
883
884
885 final_model_eval = final_model_fit_eval(model_selection_df, X_train_valid_binned_filtered, y_train_valid)
886
887 def get_final_features(model_selection_df: pd.DataFrame, model_order: int = 0) -> tuple[float, list]:
888
889     final_features = model_selection_df.loc[model_order, "final_features"]
890
891     return final_features
892
893
```

```
894 final_features = get_final_features(model_selection_df)
895
896 opt_threshold = calc_opt_threshold(final_model_eval, X_train_valid_binned_filtered, y_train_valid)
```

B.1.4 Evaluation

```
1 def conf_mat(model, X: pd.DataFrame, y: pd.Series, threshold: float) -> pd.DataFrame:
2
3     y_scores = pd.Series(model.predict_proba(X)[:, 1])
4     y_preds = y_scores.apply(lambda x: 1 if x > threshold else 0)
5
6     confm = pd.DataFrame(
7         confusion_matrix(y, y_preds),
8         columns = ["Predicted - Non-Default", "Predicted - Default"],
9         index = ["Actual - Non-Default", "Actual - Default"]
10    )
11
12     return confm
13
14
15
16
17 def conf_mat_plot(conf_matrix: pd.DataFrame, export:bool = True):
18
```

```
19     matplotlib.rcParams["mathtext.fontset"] = "stix"
20     matplotlib.rcParams["font.family"] = "STIXGeneral"
21
22     plt.figure(figsize = (9, 7))
23     #plt.title("Confusion matrix", size = 13, fontweight = "bold")
24
25
26     ax = sns.heatmap(conf_matrix, annot=True, cmap = "BuPu", fmt = "g", annot_kws = {"size": 18})
27
28     cbar = ax.collections[0].colorbar
29     cbar.ax.tick_params(labelsize = 18) # Set fontsize for color bar
30
31     plt.xticks(size = 18)
32     plt.yticks(size = 18)
33
34     plt.tight_layout()
35
36
37     if export:
38         os.makedirs("./plots", exist_ok=True)
39         plt.savefig(f"./plots/Confusion_Matrix.jpg", dpi=300)
40     plt.show()
41
42
43 conf_mat_plot(conf_matrix)
```

```
44
45 def evaluation_metrics(model, X: pd.DataFrame, y: pd.Series,
46                         threshold: float, target: str = "BAD") -> pd.DataFrame:
47
48     metrics = {
49         "F1": f1_score,
50         "Precision": precision_score,
51         "Recall": recall_score,
52         "Accuracy": accuracy_score,
53         "AUC": roc_auc_score,
54         "Somers D": somersd,
55         "KS": ks_2samp,
56         "MCC": matthews_corrcoef,
57         "Brier Score Loss": brier_score_loss,
58         "Log Loss": log_loss
59     }
60
61
62     probs_evs = ["AUC", "Brier Score Loss"]
63     class_evs = ["Precision", "Recall", "F1", "Accuracy", "MCC"]
64     evs_list = []
65
66     y_scores = model.predict_proba(X)[:, 1]
67     y_preds = pd.Series(y_scores).apply(lambda x: 1 if x > threshold else 0)
68
```

```
69     for metric_name, metric in metrics.items():
70         if metric_name in probs_evs:
71             evs_list.append([metric_name, metric(y, y_scores)])
72         elif metric_name in class_evs:
73             evs_list.append([metric_name, metric(y, y_preds)])
74         elif metric_name == "Log Loss":
75             evs_list.append([metric_name, metric(y, model.predict_proba(X))])
76         elif metric_name == "Somers D":
77             evs_list.append([metric_name, metric(y, y_scores).statistic])
78         elif metric_name == "KS":
79             X_Y_concat = pd.concat((y, X), axis = 1)
80             X_Y_concat["prob"] = y_scores
81             evs_list.append([metric_name, metric(X_Y_concat.loc[X_Y_concat[target] == 1, "prob"],
82                                              X_Y_concat.loc[X_Y_concat[target] == 0, "prob"]).statistic])
83
84     evaluation_df = pd.DataFrame(evs_list, columns = ["Metric", "Score"])
85
86     return evaluation_df
87
88
89 evaluation_metrics(final_model_eval, X_test_binned_filtered, y_test, opt_threshold)
90
91
92 def ROC_curve_plot(model, X: pd.DataFrame, y: pd.Series, export:bool = True):
93
```

```
94     matplotlib.rcParams["mathtext.fontset"] = "stix"
95     matplotlib.rcParams["font.family"] = "STIXGeneral"
96
97     y_pred = model.predict_proba(X)[:, 1]
98     fpr, tpr, _ = roc_curve(y, y_pred)
99     auc = roc_auc_score(y, y_pred)
100    plt.figure(figsize = (10, 7))
101    plt.plot(fpr,tpr,label = f"AUC = {auc*100:.2f}%")
102    plt.plot([0, 1], [0, 1], "r--")
103    plt.ylabel("True Positive Rate", size = 18)
104    plt.xlabel("False Positive Rate", size = 18)
105    plt.xticks(size = 18)
106    plt.yticks(size = 18)
107    plt.legend(prop={'size': 16})
108    #plt.title("ROC curve", size = 13, fontweight = "bold")
109    plt.grid()
110    axes = plt.gca()
111    axes.spines["top"].set_visible(False)
112    axes.spines["right"].set_visible(False)
113
114
115    plt.tight_layout()
116
117    if export:
118        os.makedirs("./plots/", exist_ok = True)
```

```
119     plt.savefig(f"./plots/ROC_curve_FINAL.jpg", dpi = 300)
120     plt.show()
121
122
123 ROC_curve_plot(final_model_eval, X_test_binned_filtered, y_test)
124
125
126 def feature_importance_plot(model, features: list, export:bool = True):
127
128     matplotlib.rcParams["mathtext.fontset"] = "stix"
129     matplotlib.rcParams["font.family"] = "STIXGeneral"
130
131     importances = model.feature_importances_
132
133     plot_df = pd.DataFrame({"Feature": features, "Importance": importances})
134     plot_df = plot_df.sort_values("Importance", ascending = False)
135
136     plt.figure(figsize = (10, 6))
137     sns.barplot(plot_df, x = "Importance", y = "Feature", palette = "BuPu_r")
138     #plt.title("Feature Importances", fontsize = 15, fontweight = "bold")
139
140     axes = plt.gca()
141     axes.spines["top"].set_visible(False)
142     axes.spines["right"].set_visible(False)
143
```

```
144     axes.xaxis.label.set_size(18)
145     axes.yaxis.label.set_size(18)
146     plt.xticks(fontsize = 18)
147     plt.yticks(fontsize = 18)
148
149     plt.tight_layout()
150
151     if export:
152         os.makedirs("./plots/", exist_ok = True)
153         plt.savefig(f"./plots/Feature_Importances.jpg", dpi = 300)
154
155     plt.show()
156
157
158 feature_importance_plot(final_model_eval, final_features)
159
160
161 def GBC_SHAP_plot(model, X: pd.DataFrame, export: bool = True):
162
163     matplotlib.rcParams["mathtext.fontset"] = "stix"
164     matplotlib.rcParams["font.family"] = "STIXGeneral"
165
166
167     explainer = shap.TreeExplainer(model, model_output = "probability", data = X)
168
```

```
169 shap_values = explainer.shap_values(X)
170
171 #Scaling the SHAP values in order to be between -1 and 1.
172 #max_abs_shap = np.max(np.abs(shap_values))
173 #scaled_shap_values = shap_values / max_abs_shap
174
175 # Set plot size here
176 plot_size = (16, 12)
177
178 # Create a summary plot and specify the plot_size
179 # Set plot size
180 plot_size = (8, 8)
181
182 # Create a summary plot and specify the plot_size
183 summary_plot = shap.summary_plot(shap_values,
184                                 X.values,
185                                 feature_names = X.columns,
186                                 show = False,
187                                 plot_size = plot_size,
188                                 color_bar = True)
189
190 # Increase fontsize of labels and ticks
191 plt.gca().xaxis.label.set_size(18)
192 plt.gca().yaxis.label.set_size(18)
193 plt.xticks(fontsize = 18)
```

```
194 plt.yticks(fontsize = 18)
195
196 # Find the colorbar object and modify its fontsize
197 colorbar = plt.gcf().get_axes()[-1]
198 colorbar.tick_params(labelsize = 18)
199 colorbar.set_ylabel("Feature Value", fontsize = 18) # Increase fontsize of the "Feature Value" label
200
201 plt.tight_layout()
202
203 if export:
204     os.makedirs("./plots/", exist_ok = True)
205     plt.savefig(f"./plots/SHAP_summary_plot.jpg", dpi = 1200)
206
207 plt.show()
208
209
210 GBC_SHAP_plot(final_model_eval, X_test_binned_filtered)
211
212
213 def final_model_fit_deploy(final_model, X: tuple, y: tuple, final_features: list,
214                             target = "BAD", export: bool = True):
215
216     df_list = []
217     output_path = "./models/objects_FINAL"
```

```
219 #Joining the features and labels from training, validation and test sets.
220 for feat, lab in zip(X, y):
221     temp = pd.concat((lab, feat), axis = 1)
222     df_list.append(temp)
223 dfs = [df for df in df_list]
224
225 #Final model fit.
226 final_df = pd.concat(dfs, axis = 0).sort_index()
227 X_final = final_df[final_features]
228 y_final = final_df[target]
229
230 final_model.fit(X_final, y_final)
231
232 #Exporting the final model.
233 if export:
234     with open(f"{output_path}/final_model_deploy.h5", "wb") as mod_save:
235         dill.dump(final_model, mod_save)
236
237 #Final classification threshold
238 final_threshold = calc_opt_threshold(final_model, X_final, y_final)
239
240 return (final_model, final_threshold)
241
242 (
243     final_model_deployment, final_threshold_deployment
```



```
269  
270 lime_explainer = lime_explanation(pd.concat((X_train_valid_binned_filtered, X_test_binned_filtered)))  
271  
272  
273 flask_app_input_export(woe_bins = woe_bins,  
274                         binning_transformator = binning_transformator,  
275                         final_model = final_model_deployment,  
276                         threshold = final_threshold_deployment,  
277                         final_features = final_features,  
278                         categorical_features = cat_vars,  
279                         input_df = pd.DataFrame(columns = X_train_binned.columns),  
280                         lime_explainer = lime_explainer)
```

B.2 Back-end: Flask Web Application Code (app.py)

```
1 import warnings  
2  
3 warnings.filterwarnings("ignore")  
4 from flask import Flask, render_template, request  
5 import pandas as pd  
6 import numpy as np  
7 import os  
8 import lime
```

```
9 import dill
10 import matplotlib
11 import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
12
13
14 app = Flask(__name__)
15
16
17 current_dir = os.path.dirname(os.path.abspath(__file__))
18 input_file_path = os.path.join(current_dir, "inputs", "inputs_flask_app_dict.pkl")
19
20 with open(input_file_path, "rb") as f:
21     inputs = dill.load(f)
22
23 lime_explainer = inputs["lime_explainer"]
24
25 def lime_plot(input, model, lime_explainer):
26     def custom_lime_plot(exp, pos_color: str = "red", neg_color: str = "green"):
27
28         fig, ax = plt.subplots()
29         vals = [i[1] for i in exp.as_list()[:-1]]
30         names = [
31             i[0].split(" <=")[0].split("< ")[-1].split(" >")[0] for i in exp.as_list()
32         ][:-1]
33         feat_dict = {
```

```
34     "JOB": "Job occupancy",
35     "REASON": "Reason of loan application",
36     "LOAN": "Requested loan amount",
37     "MORTDUE": "Amount due on existing mortgage",
38     "VALUE": "Current property value",
39     "YOJ": "Years at present job",
40     "DEROG": "# of major derogatory reports",
41     "DELINQ": "# of delinquent credit lines",
42     "CLAGE": "Age of the oldest credit line",
43     "NINQ": "# of recent credit inquiries",
44     "CLNO": "# of credit lines",
45     "DEBTINC": "Debt-to-income ratio",
46 }
47 names = [feat_dict[i] for i in names]
48 colors = [pos_color if x > 0 else neg_color for x in vals]
49 pos = np.arange(len(vals)) + 0.5
50
51 ax.barh(pos, vals, align="center", color=colors)
52 ax.set_yticks(pos)
53 ax.set_yticklabels(names)
54
55 return fig
56
57 plt.rcParams["font.family"] = "Segoe UI"
58
```

```
59 exp = lime_explainer.explain_instance(
60     data_row=input, predict_fn=model.predict_proba
61 )
62
63 fig = custom_lime_plot(exp)
64 fig.set_size_inches(11, 9)
65
66 ax = plt.gca()
67 ax.spines["right"].set_visible(False)
68 ax.spines["top"].set_visible(False)
69 ax.set_ylabel("Feature", fontsize=21, color="#6c6c6c")
70 ax.set_xlabel("Contribution", fontsize=21, color="#6c6c6c")
71 ax.tick_params(axis="x", labelsize=20)
72 ax.tick_params(axis="y", labelsize=20)
73
74 plt.title("")
75 for xticklabel, yticklabel in zip(ax.get_xticklabels(), ax.get_yticklabels()):
76     xticklabel.set_color("#6c6c6c")
77     yticklabel.set_color("#6c6c6c")
78
79 fig.savefig(
80     os.path.join(current_dir, "static", "lime_explanation.png"),
81     format="png",
82     bbox_inches="tight",
83     dpi=300,
```

```
84     transparent=True ,  
85 )  
86 plt.close(fig)  
87  
88  
89 @app.route("/")  
90 def home():  
91     features = inputs["final_features"]  
92     categorical_features = inputs["categorical_features"]  
93     return render_template(  
94         "index.html" , variables=features , categorical_features=categorical_features  
95     )  
96  
97  
98 @app.route("/predict" , methods=["POST"])  
99 def predict():  
100    (  
101        woe_bins ,  
102        woe_binning ,  
103        model ,  
104        threshold ,  
105        final_features ,  
106        categorical_features ,  
107        input_df ,  
108    ) = (input for _ , input in inputs.items())
```

```
109
110     for feature in input_df.columns:
111         if feature in final_features:
112             if feature in categorical_features:
113                 input_df.loc[0, feature] = (
114                     str(request.form[feature]) if request.form[feature] else np.nan
115                 )
116             elif feature == "LOAN":
117                 input_df.loc[0, feature] = (
118                     int(request.form[feature]) if request.form[feature] else np.nan
119                 )
120             else:
121                 input_df.loc[0, feature] = (
122                     float(request.form[feature]) if request.form[feature] else np.nan
123                 )
124         else:
125             input_df.loc[0, feature] = np.nan
126
127     input_df_woe = woe_binning.transform(input_df, metric="woe")
128
129     for feature in input_df_woe.columns:
130         na_woe = woe_bins.query('Variable == @feature and Bin == "Missing"')[
131             "WoE"
132         ].values[0]
133         input_df_woe.loc[input_df[feature].isna(), feature] = na_woe
```

```
134  
135     input_df_woe_FINAL = input_df_woe[final_features]  
136     pred_score = model.predict_proba(input_df_woe_FINAL)[:, 1]  
137  
138     result = [  
139         "Loan application denied" if i > threshold else "Loan application approved"  
140         for i in pred_score  
141     ]  
142  
143     lime_plot(input_df_woe_FINAL.iloc[0], model, lime_explainer)  
144  
145     return render_template(  
146         "results.html",  
147         prediction=round(pred_score[0] * 100, 2),  
148         predicted_class=result[0],  
149     )  
150  
151  
152 if __name__ == "__main__":  
153     app.run(debug=True)
```

B.3 Front-end: HTML Code

B.3.1 Application Form (`index.html`)

```
1 <!DOCTYPE html>
2 <html>
3   <head>
4     <style>
5       body {
6         font-family: Arial, sans-serif;
7         background-color: #f3f3f3;
8         color: #444;
9       }
10      form {
11        margin: 20px auto;
12        padding: 30px;
13        background-color: #ffffff;
14        border: 1px solid #e6e6e6;
15        box-shadow: 2px 2px 15px rgba(0, 0, 0, 0.1);
16        max-width: 700px;
17        border-radius: 5px;
18      }
19      h1 {
20        text-align: center;
21        color: #333;
```

```
22         margin-bottom: 20px;
23     }
24
25     p {
26         text-align: center;
27         color: #666;
28         margin-bottom: 30px;
29     }
30
31     label {
32         display: block;
33         margin-bottom: 5px;
34         color: #555;
35     }
36
37     input[type="number"] ,
38     select {
39         padding: 10px 20px;
40         font-size: 16px;
41         border: 1px solid #ccc;
42         border-radius: 4px;
43         width: 100%;
44         box-sizing: border-box;
45         margin: 10px 0;
46         transition: border 0.3s;
```

```
47     }
48
49     input[type="submit"] {
50         background-color: #4caf50;
51         color: white;
52         padding: 12px 30px;
53         border: none;
54         border-radius: 4px;
55         cursor: pointer;
56         margin-top: 30px;
57         width: auto;
58         transition: background-color 0.3s;
59         display: block;
60         margin-left: auto;
61         margin-right: auto;
62     }
63
64     input[type="submit"]:hover {
65         background-color: #45a049;
66     }
67
68     select:hover,
69     input[type="number"]:hover,
70     select:focus,
71     input[type="number"]:focus {
```

```
72     border-color: #4caf50;
73 }
74 .form-grid {
75   display: grid;
76   grid-template-columns: repeat(2, 1fr);
77   gap: 20px;
78 }

79 .form-grid > div {
80   grid-column: span 1;
81 }
82 </style>
83 </head>
84 <body>
85   <h1>Default Prediction Application</h1>
86   <p><b>Author:</b> Petr Nguyen</p>
87   <form method="POST" action="/predict">
88     <div class="form-grid">
89       {% for variable in variables %}
90         <div>
91           {% if variable == 'JOB' %}<br>
92             <label for="JOB">Job occupancy:</label>
93             <select name="JOB">
94               <option value=""></option>
95               <option value="Mgr">Manager</option>
```

```
97         <option value="Office">Office worker</option>
98         <option value="ProfExe">Professional/Executive</option>
99         <option value="Sales">Sales</option>
100        <option value="Self">Self-employed</option>
101        <option value="Other">Other</option>
102    </select>
103    <br />
104    {% elif variable == 'REASON' %}
105    <label for="REASON">Reason of loan application:</label>
106    <select name="REASON">
107        <option value=""></option>
108        <option value="DebtCon">Debt Consolidation</option>
109        <option value="HomeImp">Home Improvement</option>
110    </select>
111    <br />
112    {% elif variable == 'LOAN' %}
113    <label for="LOAN">Requested loan amount:</label>
114    <input type="number" name="LOAN" min="0" required /><br />
115    {% elif variable == 'MORTDUE' %}
116    <label for="MORTDUE">Amount due on existing mortgage:</label>
117    <input type="number" name="MORTDUE" min="0" /><br />
118    {% elif variable == 'VALUE' %}
119    <label for="VALUE">Current property value:</label>
120    <input type="number" name="VALUE" min="0" /><br />
121    {% elif variable == 'Y0J' %}
```

```
122     <label for="YOJ">Number of years at present job:</label>
123     <input type="number" name="YOJ" min="0" step="0.1" /><br />
124     {% elif variable == 'DEROG' %}
125     <label for="DEROG">Number of major derogatory reports:</label>
126     <input type="number" name="DEROG" min="0" /><br />
127     {% elif variable == 'DELINQ' %}
128     <label for="DELINQ">Number of delinquent credit lines:</label>
129     <input type="number" name="DELINQ" min="0" /><br />
130     {% elif variable == 'CLAGE' %}
131     <label for="CLAGE">Age of the oldest credit line (in months):</label>
132     <input type="number" name="CLAGE" min="0" /><br />
133     {% elif variable == 'NINQ' %}
134     <label for="NINQ">Number of recent credit inquiries:</label>
135     <input type="number" name="NINQ" min="0" /><br />
136     {% elif variable == 'CLNO' %}
137     <label for="CLNO">Number of credit lines:</label>
138     <input type="number" name="CLNO" min="0" /><br />
139     {% elif variable == 'DEBTINC' %}
140     <label for="DEBTINC">Debt-to-income ratio:</label>
141     <input type="number" name="DEBTINC" min="0" step="0.0000001" /><br />
142     {% endif %}
143     </div>
144     {% endfor %}
145   </div>
146   <input type="submit" value="Submit" />
```

```
147     </form>
148   </body>
149 </html>
```

B.3.2 Application Results (`results.html`)

```
1 <!DOCTYPE html>
2 <html>
3   <head>
4     <title>Default Prediction - Result</title>
5     <style>
6       body {
7         font-family: "Segoe UI", Tahoma, Geneva, Verdana, sans-serif;
8         background-color: #f5f5f5;
9         color: #333;
10      }
11      h1 {
12        text-align: center;
13        color: #4c4c4c;
14        font-size: 2.5em;
15        margin-top: 50px;
16      }
17      p {
18        text-align: center;
```

```
19     color: #6c6c6c;
20     font-size: 1.5em;
21     margin-top: 50px;
22 }
23 .box {
24     background-color: #ccc;
25     width: 200px;
26     height: 200px;
27     display: flex;
28     justify-content: center;
29     align-items: center;
30     font-size: 24px;
31     font-weight: bold;
32     text-align: center;
33     text-decoration: none;
34     color: #333;
35 }
36 img {
37     max-width: 100%;
38 }
39 </style>
40 </head>
41 <body>
42     <h1>Default Prediction Result</h1>
43     <p>Result: <b>{{predicted_class}}!</b></p>
```

```
44     <p>The probability of default is <b>{{ prediction }}%</b></p>
45
46     
48
49 </body>
</html>
```