

# Interpreting Accuracy: A Comprehensive Analysis of AI Models for Liver Disease Diagnosis.

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**Abstract**— It is critical to make a timely diagnosis of liver disease to avoid fatal health complications. The use of AI-based diagnosis systems can help in the early detection of such liver diseases based on health parameters. However, the use of such systems is not yet widely accepted by medical practitioners due to their complex nature and inability to comprehend the rationale behind the outcomes. In this research article, we attempted to identify the relationship between interpretability and accuracy in machine learning models applied for diagnosing liver disease using a variety of models, such as Logistic Regression, KNN, decision tree, XGBoost, and random forest. We performed a thorough evaluation of a dataset of liver patients and analyzed traditional performance metrics, such as accuracy, recall, precision, and F1 score, to provide a thorough insight into the diagnostic capabilities of each model. Moreover, we use SHAP (SHapley Additive exPlanations) values to decipher the underlying characteristics that propel the predictions of the models. The goal of this interpretability analysis is to clarify the decision-making process and provide important clinical practitioner insights. By carefully analyzing interpretability and accuracy, we hope to uncover possible trade-offs and offer insightful advice for using these models in actual healthcare environments. This work has immediate implications for clinical practice in addition to adding to the growing body of knowledge in medical diagnostics and machine learning. The information provided here aims to improve patient care and outcomes by strengthening the validity and efficacy of liver disease diagnosis.

**Keywords**— *Decision Support System, Explainable AI, SHAP, Liver disease diagnosis.*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Liver disease continues to be a major global health concern, affecting healthcare systems and public health significantly. Effective clinical management and intervention of liver disorders depend critically on fast and accurate diagnosis. The incorporation of machine learning techniques has yielded encouraging outcomes in enhancing diagnostic procedures in recent times. These algorithms can deliver precise and rapid evaluations of liver function by utilizing large datasets and intricate algorithms.

But as these models get more complex, their decision-making processes also need to get more transparent and interpretable. It is crucial to comprehend the reasoning behind a specific forecast in vital medical applications. To ensure that medical practitioners can rely on and act upon

these models' predictions with confidence, a thorough examination that examines both the models' accuracy and interpretability is required.

This study involves a thorough evaluation of several machine learning models, such as logistic regression, k-NN, decision trees, XGBoost, and random forests, that are frequently used in medical diagnosis. Our main goals are as follows: first, we assess these models' recall, accuracy, precision, and F1 score using a dataset of liver patients to gain a thorough grasp of their diagnostic potential. Secondly, we utilize the most recent explainability methods, namely SHAP (SHapley Additive exPlanations) values, to reveal the fundamental elements affecting the models' forecasts.

We seek to clarify any possible trade-offs between these two vital aspects of AI in the context of liver disease diagnosis by closely examining the models' interpretability and accuracy. With the ultimate goal of improving the accuracy and efficiency of liver disease diagnostics, this research aims to offer insights that are both academically fascinating and immediately applicable to clinical practice.

## II. LITERATURE REVIEW

AI has become a valuable tool in the prediction of diseases, particularly Liver disease, within the healthcare domain. The following literature review integrates findings from various studies to highlight the importance of accuracy and interpretability in AI models for a liver disease prognosis.

In a recent study by Hafsa Kibria and colleagues (2022), an ensemble approach for Liver disease prediction combined the strengths of random forest (RF) and XGBoost algorithms using a soft voting classifier. The model achieved an accuracy of 90% and an F1 score of 89%, showcasing the potential of machine learning models in disease diagnosis. Furthermore, this study emphasized the significance of model interpretability, a crucial aspect in healthcare applications.[1]

Deepti Sisodia (2018) explored the use of various classification algorithms, including Decision Tree, Support Vector Machine (SVM), and Naive Bayes, for Liver Disease detection. The Naive Bayes classifier exhibited an accuracy of 76.30%, demonstrating the viability of machine learning in disease identification. This finding reinforces the importance of choosing the most suitable algorithm for specific datasets.[2]

Premanand Singh (2021) emphasized data preprocessing, feature selection, and the application of the XGBoost classifier in Liver Disease prediction, achieving an accuracy of 78.91%. The study highlighted the necessity of addressing noisy data and optimizing model hyperparameters to enhance prediction accuracy.[3]

In Victor Chang's work (2022), various machine learning algorithms, such as Naive Bayes, J48 decision tree, and random forest, were compared for Liver Disease classification. The results varied depending on the dataset and algorithm choice, underlining the need to select the most appropriate algorithm for a given dataset.[4]

Talha Alam and colleagues (2019) stressed the significance of early Liver Disease prediction using methods like random forest and artificial neural networks. While addressing study limitations, the research suggested future exploration of unstructured data and other medical domains for prediction.[5]

Additionally, in another study by Deepti Sisodia (2018), the accuracy of Naive Bayes in Liver Disease prediction was reaffirmed, with an accuracy rate of 76.30%. The research highlighted the potential for expanding the use of machine learning in diagnosing various diseases.[6]

In a study led by Usama Ahmed (2022), a fused model for Liver Disease prediction integrated machine learning techniques with fuzzy logic. This approach achieved an impressive accuracy of 94.87%, highlighting the potential for improving accuracy by combining different machine learning methods and fuzzy rules.[7]

Finally, Piyush Agarwal's research (2018) explored the utilization of iris images for Liver Disease diagnosis through machine learning. The RF classifier achieved an accuracy of 89.63%, demonstrating the potential for non-invasive and automatic Liver Disease diagnosis.[8]

Collectively, these studies underscore the potential of machine learning models in Liver Disease prediction, with varying levels of accuracy. They emphasize the critical role of algorithm selection, data preprocessing, and feature engineering in model accuracy. Furthermore, the incorporation of explainable AI techniques enhances model interpretability, making the predictions more reliable for medical practitioners. These findings provide valuable insights into the application of machine learning in healthcare and the importance of accurate and interpretable models for disease prediction and diagnosis.

### III. DATASET DESCRIPTION

The Liver Disease Prediction Dataset utilized in this look at comprises 7,904 records of patients with liver conditions and 3,173 statistics of sufferers without liver illnesses. This dataset changed into sourced globally from individuals bothered with liver disorders. Within the dataset, the 'Selector' characteristic serves because the magnificence label, categorizing individuals into two agencies: liver patients (Class 1) and non-sufferers (Class 2). Notably, people elderly 90 years and above are recorded as being of age "ninety". The dataset encompasses 10 variables: age, gender, overall bilirubin, direct bilirubin, overall proteins, albumin, A/G ratio, SGPT, SGOT, and Alkphos.

Attribute Information:

#### 1. Age

#### 2. Gender

#### 3. TB Total Bilirubin

#### 4. DB Direct Bilirubin

#### 5. Alkphos Alkaline Phosphatase

#### 6. Sgpt Alamine Aminotransferase

#### 7. Sgot Aspartate Aminotransferase

#### 8. TP Total Proteins

#### 9. ALB Albumin

#### 10. A/G Ratio Albumin and Globulin Ratio

11. Selector field used to split the data into two sets (labelled by the experts) 1 Liver Patient, 2 Mon Liver Patient

	Age of the patient	Total Bilirubin	Direct Bilirubin	Alkphos Alkaline Phosphatase	Sgpt Alamine Aminotransferase	Sgot Aspartate Aminotransferase	Total Proteins	ALB Albumin	A/G Ratio Albumin and Globulin Ratio	Result
count	30689.000000	30043.000000	30130.000000	28695.000000	30153.000000	30228.000000	30228.000000	30197.000000	30132.000000	30691.000000
mean	44.107205	3.370319	1.528042	289.075364	81.488641	111.469679	6.480237	3.130142	0.943467	1.285882
std	15.981043	6.255522	2.869582	238.537589	182.158850	280.851078	1.081980	0.792281	0.323164	0.451841
min	4.000000	0.400000	0.100000	63.000000	10.000000	10.000000	2.700000	0.900000	0.300000	1.000000
25%	32.000000	0.800000	0.200000	175.000000	23.000000	26.000000	5.800000	2.800000	0.700000	1.000000
50%	45.000000	1.000000	0.300000	209.000000	35.000000	42.000000	6.600000	3.100000	0.900000	1.000000
75%	55.000000	2.700000	1.300000	298.000000	62.000000	88.000000	7.200000	3.800000	1.100000	2.000000
max	90.000000	75.000000	19.700000	2110.000000	2000.000000	4928.000000	9.600000	5.500000	2.800000	2.000000

Fig 1: Visualization of all the attributes- Liver Disease Prediction

## IV. METHODOLOGY

This study assesses multiple machine learning algorithms on the Liver Disease Prediction Dataset to gauge their efficacy regarding Precision, Recall, F-1 Score, Train Accuracy, and Test Accuracy. The objective is to pinpoint the optimal algorithm and delve into its strengths, employing diverse interpretability techniques to gain deeper insights into model behavior and decision-making mechanisms.

### A. Machine Learning Algorithms

#### 1. Logistics Regression

The Linear Regression (LR) approach serves as a pivotal set of rules facilitating the probabilistic portrayal of binary variables. This technique, typically hired as a type device, adeptly discerns relationships between attributes and the likelihood of unique consequences. Particularly noteworthy is its application in scientific prognosis, where it effectively correlates specific symptoms and traits to envision potential illnesses or conditions.

#### 2. Random Forest

Random Forest (RF) stands as an exemplary boosting method inside machine studying. It operates through parallel ensemble methods, in which base beginners are simultaneously generated. Each base learner is provided with a distinct pattern of records, yielding person outputs. Subsequently, leveraging the predictions of these base newbies, a very last prediction is formulated using a vote-casting classifier. RF constructs several decision timbers and amalgamates their outputs to yield a heightened stage of precision and stability in prediction tasks.

#### 3. XGBoost

XGBoost, a *powerful* set of rules in machine mastering, iteratively constructs and merges models to shape an ensemble version. Initially, it computes the residuals' mistakes for each

observation from a pre-present model. Utilizing those errors as a foundation, a brand new version is crafted to count on and address these residual discrepancies. Subsequently, the predictions derived from this new model are included in the ensemble, similarly improving its predictive abilities. This iterative procedure iterates, continuously refining the ensemble's performance.

#### 4. SVC

Support Vector Classification is a potent AI tool frequently employed for classification tasks involving structured data, often stored in CSV (Comma-Separated Values) files. SVC proves invaluable in scenarios involving datasets with high dimensions, where the precise delineation of classes through an optimal hyperplane is paramount.

#### 5. Decision Tree

Decision tree algorithms are hierarchical structures used for classification and regression tasks in machine learning. They recursively partition the data based on features, selecting the split that maximally reduces impurity or variance at each node.

#### 6. KNN

K-Nearest Neighbors represents a trustworthy supervised learning set of rules employed throughout classification and regression endeavors. Within KNN, the prediction for a unique facts point hinges upon the majority magnificence or the common value derived from its k closest buddies inside the feature space. Typically, similarity is classed through distance metrics like the Euclidean distance. Notably, KNN adopts a non-parametric technique, abstaining from presumptions approximately the inherent information distribution, thereby providing versatility across diverse datasets.

#### B. Interpretability

Interpretability in machine learning refers to the effortlessness with which individuals can understand and trust the decisions made by a model. Models with high interpretability, such as decision trees and linear regression, provide clear and instinctive insights into the factors driving their forecasts, making them valuable in domains where transparency and explanation are crucial, like healthcare and finance. Conversely, complex models like deep neural networks often sacrifice interpretability for performance, presenting challenges in understanding their inner workings and decision-making processes. Balancing interpretability and predictive accuracy is a fundamental consideration in the application of machine learning algorithms, as it impacts stakeholders' ability to comprehend, validate, and act upon model predictions.

#### C. Performance Parameter

These are the quality parameters which are required for the classification of liver disease.

$$\text{Accuracy} = \frac{Tp+Tn}{Tp+Tn+Fp+Fn} * 100 \quad (1)$$

$$\text{Precision} = \frac{Tp}{Tp+Fp} \quad (2)$$

$$\text{Recall} = \frac{Tp}{Tp+Fn} \quad (3)$$

$$F1 - \text{score} = \frac{2*Precision*Recall}{Precision+Recall} \quad (4)$$

In the context wherein Tp represents proper positives, Tn represents real negatives, Fp represents false positives, and Fn represents false negatives, numerous key performance metrics are utilized for comparing class models. Accuracy quantifies the percentage of correctly expected times of each liver disease and non-liver disorder patient out of the overall affected person information. Precision measures the fraction of accurately anticipated liver disease patients out of all sufferers expected to have a liver disorder, whether or not efficaciously or incorrectly. Recall calculates the proportion of accurately predicted liver disease sufferers out of the full quantity of sufferers virtually stricken with liver disorder. The F1 rating offers a weighted common of precision and recall, providing a balanced assessment of a model's overall performance by thinking about each false positive and false negative.

### V. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

We comprehensively analysed and compared the performance of various machine learning models based on critical evaluation metrics including Precision, Recall, F-1 Score, and Accuracy. Additionally, to enhance the interpretability of our findings, we apply SHapley Additive exPlanations (SHAP) methodology. By leveraging SHAP, we delve deeper into understanding the rationale behind the model predictions, thereby elucidating the intricate relationships between input features and model outcomes. Through this combined approach, our research aims to provide actionable insights into the performance and explainability of machine learning models across diverse domains, facilitating informed decision-making processes.

Random Forest and XGBoost demonstrate exceptional performance with near-perfect precision (1.00), extremely high recall (0.999), and nearly flawless F1 scores (0.999). These models also exhibit outstanding accuracy (0.9997 and 0.9984, respectively). The Decision Tree also performs well with a precision of 0.62, recall of 0.71, and an F1-Score of 0.67, achieving an accuracy of 0.82. The Support Vector Classifier (SVC) shows a balanced performance with a precision of 0.80, a recall of 0.51, and an F1-Score of 0.62, resulting in an accuracy of 0.82. Logistic Regression, while providing a decent overall K-Nearest Neighbours (KNN) performs well with high precision (0.90) and respectable recall (0.89), resulting in an F1-Score of 0.90 and an accuracy of 0.94. In summary, accuracy of 0.73, demonstrates room for improvement in terms of precision (0.56) and recall (0.20).

Random Forest and XGBoost are the top-performing models, closely followed by Decision Tree and SVC, while Logistic Regression and KNN show competitive performance.

TABLE I  
COMPARISON OF RESULTS OF ML ALGORITHMS FOR LIVER DISEASE PREDICTION

Algorithm	Precision	Recall	F-1 Score	Accuracy
Logistic Regression	0.562	0.198	0.293	0.727

Random forest	1.0	0.998	0.999	0.999
Decision Tree	0.624	0.712	0.665	0.821
SVC	0.8	0.510	0.622	0.824
XGBoost	1.0	0.997	0.998	0.998
KNN	0.902	0.891	0.896	0.940

The SHAP Summary Plot, derived from the Violin Distribution showcased in the subsequent plots, provides a comprehensive portrayal of each feature's influence and density across the entire test set, offering a global perspective on their impact.

Through vivid visualization, this plot showcases the distribution of feature values, with colors indicating the intensity of these values. Specifically, red regions denote high feature values, while blue regions signify low values. By providing this insightful representation, our analysis enables a deeper understanding of the relative importance and contribution of each feature towards model predictions, thus enhancing the interpretability and transparency of our results.

The analysis is based on key metrics derived from the Receiver Operating Characteristic (ROC) curve, including the Area Under the Curve (AUC), sensitivity, specificity, and accuracy. The results highlight the diverse efficacy of each model in handling liver disease prediction tasks. Logistic Regression exhibits modest performance with an AUC of 0.5628, indicating slightly better-than-random discrimination. However, its low sensitivity (0.1981) and specificity (0.2930) signify limitations in correctly identifying both positive and negative instances of liver disease, though its overall accuracy remains moderate at 0.7276. In contrast, Random Forest and XGBoost demonstrate exceptional discrimination capabilities with AUCs of 1.0, indicating perfect classification. Both models achieve near-perfect sensitivity, specificity, and accuracy, showcasing robustness in distinguishing between diseased and non-diseased cases. Decision Tree and Support Vector Classifier (SVC) fall in between, exhibiting moderate discriminative power with AUCs of 0.6248 and 0.8, respectively.

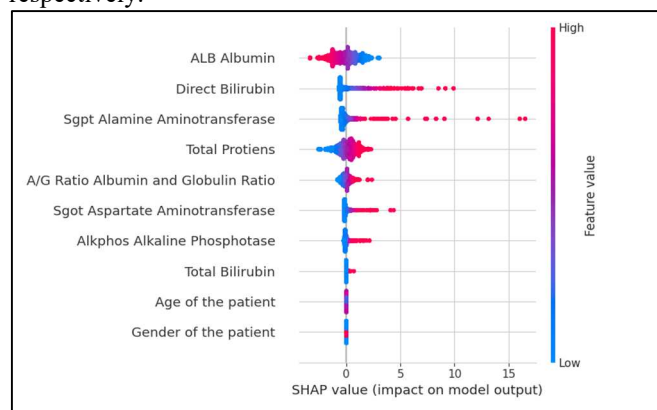


Fig 2: Visual Representation of Logistic Regression

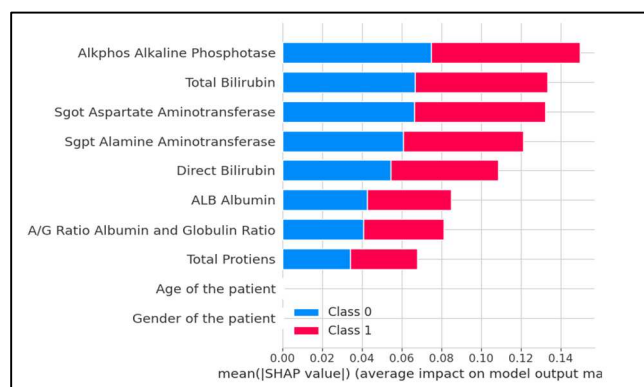


Fig 3: Visual Representation of Random Forest

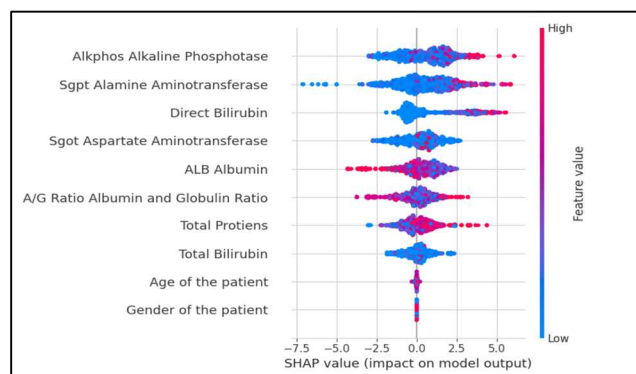


Fig 4: Visual Representation of XGBoost

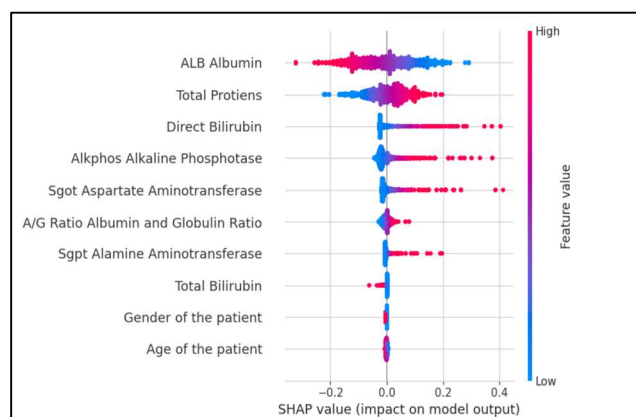


Fig 5: Visual Representation of KNN

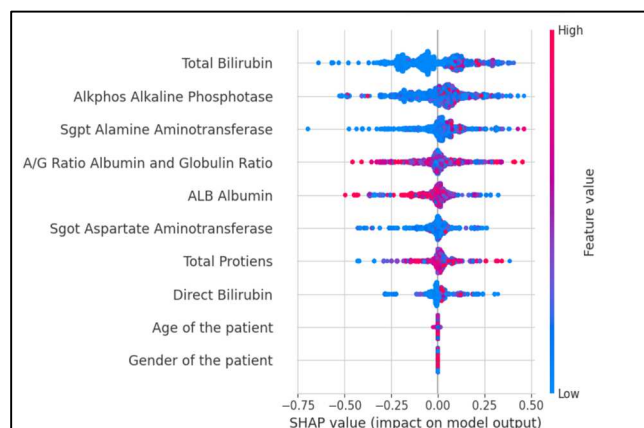


Fig 6: Visual Representation of Decision Tree



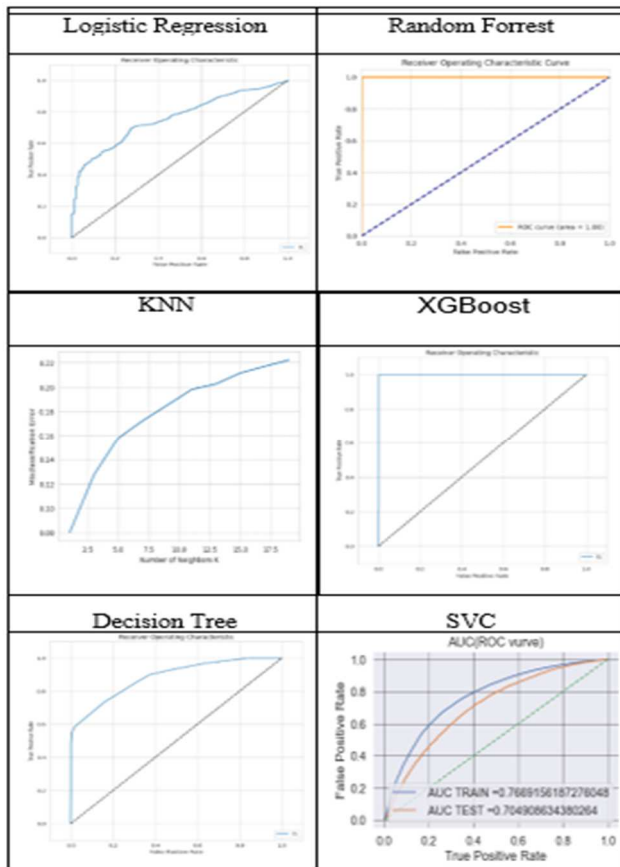


Fig 7: ROC curve, AUC Curve

While Decision Tree shows improved sensitivity compared to Logistic Regression, SVC boasts higher accuracy and specificity, indicating its effectiveness in correctly identifying non-diseased cases. These findings underscore the importance of selecting appropriate machine learning techniques for medical diagnosis, with ensemble methods like Random Forest and XGBoost emerging as promising candidates for liver disease prediction due to their superior performance in discriminating between positive and negative cases.

The following are SHAP waterfall plots, visual representations that depict the incremental impacts of individual features on the prediction outcomes.

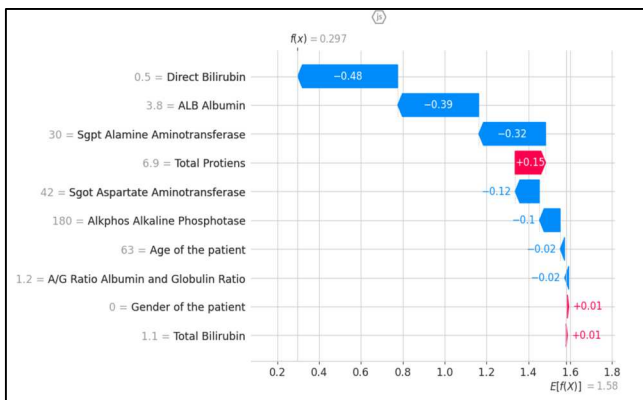


Fig 8: SHAP waterfall plots for Logistic Regression

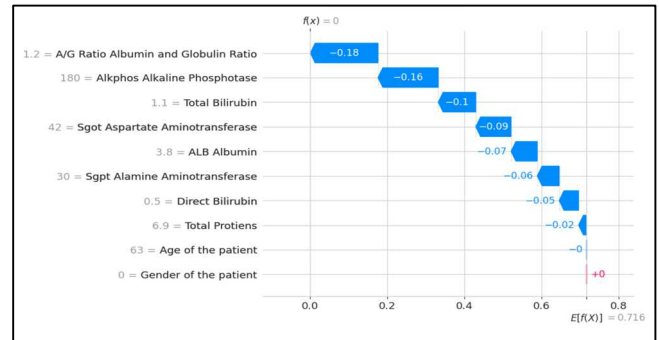


Fig 9: SHAP waterfall plots for Random Forest

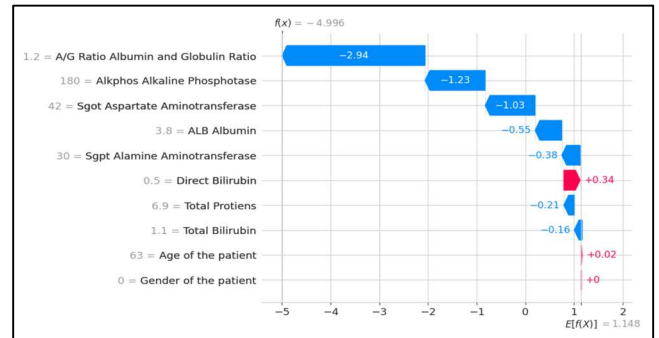


Fig 10: SHAP waterfall plots for XGBoost

Each visualization offers a detailed analysis illustrating the impact of features on the final prediction. Positive values indicate features that contribute to higher outcomes, while negative values signify features that contribute to lower outcomes.

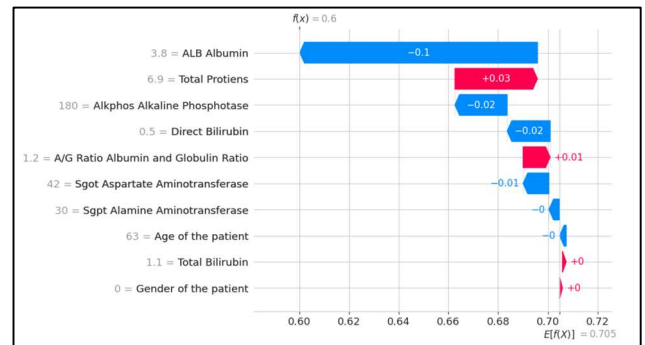


Fig 7: SHAP waterfall plots for KNN

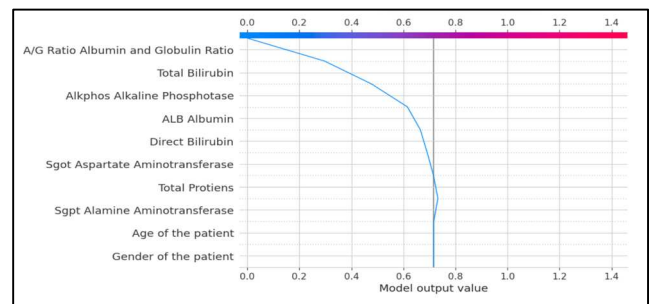


Fig 8: SHAP waterfall plots for Decision Tree

These visual representations provide clear insights into the complex relationship between features and predictions, thereby fostering a more profound comprehension of the

model's decision-making process and improving its interpretability.

Interpretability in liver disease prediction is crucial for both medical professionals and patients to comprehend the underlying factors influencing diagnosis and prognosis. Leveraging SHAP plots in the analysis of liver disease prediction models yields valuable insights into the significance of various features. For instance, a high positive SHAP score associated with 'Bilirubin levels' may indicate its substantial impact on predicting liver disease severity. Conversely, a negative SHAP score for 'Albumin levels' might suggest that higher albumin levels could potentially lower the risk of liver disease. By interpreting these SHAP plots, clinicians can identify key risk factors and tailor treatment strategies or lifestyle interventions accordingly, aiming to mitigate the progression of liver disease. This level of openness promotes a team-based approach to healthcare, empowering patients to actively participate in their health decisions and enabling customized treatment strategies aligned with their unique risk factors. Furthermore, the clarity provided by SHAP plots enhances the trust and acceptance of predictive models in clinical practice, reinforcing the doctor-patient relationship and advancing the effectiveness of liver disease prediction and prevention efforts.

## VI. CONCLUSION

The integration of SHAP plots in liver disease prediction offers an important leap forward in improving the interpretability and transparency of predictive models. Through the elucidation of feature impacts, medical professionals gain invaluable insights into the factors driving liver disease prognosis, enabling them to tailor treatment strategies and lifestyle interventions more effectively. Moreover, the clarity provided by SHAP plots fosters a collaborative approach to patient care, empowering individuals to actively participate in their health management. By strengthening the trust and acceptance of predictive models in clinical practice, SHAP plots contribute to advancing liver disease prediction and prevention efforts, ultimately improving patient outcomes and bolstering the efficacy of healthcare interventions.

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