

Gradient Boosting for Titanic Data Set

by [Sonjoy Das, PhD](#)

Imports

```
In [1]: import numpy as np
import pandas as pd
# import scipy
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import seaborn as sns

from sklearn.tree import DecisionTreeRegressor

# explicitly require this experimental feature to use IterativeImputer
from sklearn.experimental import enable_iterative_imputer # noqa
# now you can import normally from sklearn.impute
from sklearn.ensemble import RandomForestRegressor
# from sklearn.impute import IterativeImputer
from sklearn.impute import KNNImputer

from sklearn.model_selection import train_test_split
# from sklearn import tree
# from IPython.display import Image
# %matplotlib inline
from sklearn import preprocessing
from sklearn.ensemble import GradientBoostingClassifier
from sklearn.metrics import classification_report, confusion_matrix
from sklearn.metrics import roc_curve, auc, roc_auc_score, RocCurveDisplay
```

Gradient Boosting

You may recall that we last encountered gradients when discussing the gradient descent algorithm in the context of fitting linear regression models. For a particular regression model with n parameters, an $n+1$ dimensional space existed defined by all the parameters plus the cost/loss function to minimize. The combination of parameters and loss function define a surface within the space. The regression model is fitted by moving down the steepest 'downhill' gradient until we reach the lowest point of the surface, where all possible gradients are 'uphill.' The final model is made up of the parameter estimates that define that location on the surface.

Throughout all iterations of the gradient descent algorithm for linear regression, one thing remains constant: The underlying data used to estimate the parameters and calculate the loss function never changes. In gradient boosting, however, the underlying data do change.

Each time we run a decision tree, we extract the residuals. Then we run a new decision tree, using those residuals as the outcome to be predicted. After reaching a stopping point, we add together the predicted values from all of the decision trees to create the final gradient boosted prediction.

Gradient boosting can work on any combination of loss function and model type, as long as we can calculate the derivatives of the loss function with respect to the model parameters. Most often, however, gradient boosting uses decision trees, and minimizes either the residual (regression trees) or the negative log-likelihood (classification trees).

Let's go through a simple regression example using Decision Trees as the base predictors (of course Gradient Boosting also works great with regression tasks). This is called Gradient Tree Boosting, or Gradient Boosted Regression Trees. First, let's fit a `DecisionTreeRegressor` to the training set.

```
In [2]: np.random.seed(42)
X = np.random.rand(100, 1) - 0.5
y = 3*X[:, 0]**2 + 0.05 * np.random.randn(100)
```

```
In [3]: tree_reg1 = DecisionTreeRegressor(max_depth=2, random_state=42)
tree_reg1.fit(X, y)
```

```
Out[3]: ▼ DecisionTreeRegressor
DecisionTreeRegressor(max_depth=2, random_state=42)
```

Now train a second `DecisionTreeRegressor` on the residual errors made by the first predictor:

```
In [4]: y2 = y - tree_reg1.predict(X)
tree_reg2 = DecisionTreeRegressor(max_depth=2, random_state=42)
tree_reg2.fit(X, y2)
```

```
Out[4]: ▼ DecisionTreeRegressor
DecisionTreeRegressor(max_depth=2, random_state=42)
```

Then, we train a third regressor on the residual errors made by the second predictor:

```
In [5]: y3 = y2 - tree_reg2.predict(X)
tree_reg3 = DecisionTreeRegressor(max_depth=2, random_state=42)
tree_reg3.fit(X, y3)
```

```
Out[5]: ▼ DecisionTreeRegressor
DecisionTreeRegressor(max_depth=2, random_state=42)
```

Now we have **an ensemble containing three trees**. It can make predictions on a new instance simply by adding up the predictions of all the trees:

```
In [6]: X_new = np.array([[0.8]])
```

```
In [7]: y_pred = sum(tree.predict(X_new) for tree in (tree_reg1, tree_reg2, tree_reg3))
```

```
In [8]: y_pred
```

```
Out[8]: array([0.75026781])
```

The figure below represents the predictions of these three trees in the left column, and the ensemble's predictions in the right column. In the first row, the ensemble has just one tree, so its predictions are exactly the same as the first tree's predictions. In the second row, a new tree is trained on the residual errors of the first tree. On the right you can see that the ensemble's predictions are equal to the sum of the predictions of the first two trees. Similarly, in the third row another tree is trained on the residual errors of the second tree. You can see that the ensemble's predictions gradually get better as trees are added to the ensemble.

Run the below cell to develop a visual representation.

```
In [9]: def plot_predictions(regressors, X, y, axes, label=None, style="r-", data_style="b.",
    x1 = np.linspace(axes[0], axes[1], 500)
    y_pred = sum(regressor.predict(x1.reshape(-1, 1)) for regressor in regressors)
    plt.plot(X[:, 0], y, data_style, label=data_label)
    plt.plot(x1, y_pred, style, linewidth=2, label=label)
    if label or data_label:
        plt.legend(loc="upper center", fontsize=16)
    plt.axis(axes)

plt.figure(figsize=(11,11))

plt.subplot(321)
plot_predictions([tree_reg1], X, y, axes=[-0.5, 0.5, -0.1, 0.8], label="$h_1(x_1)$",
plt.ylabel("$y$", fontsize=16, rotation=0)
plt.title("Residuals and tree predictions", fontsize=16)

plt.subplot(322)
plot_predictions([tree_reg1], X, y, axes=[-0.5, 0.5, -0.1, 0.8], label="$h(x_1) = h_1(x_1)$",
plt.ylabel("$y$", fontsize=16, rotation=0)
plt.title("Ensemble predictions", fontsize=16)

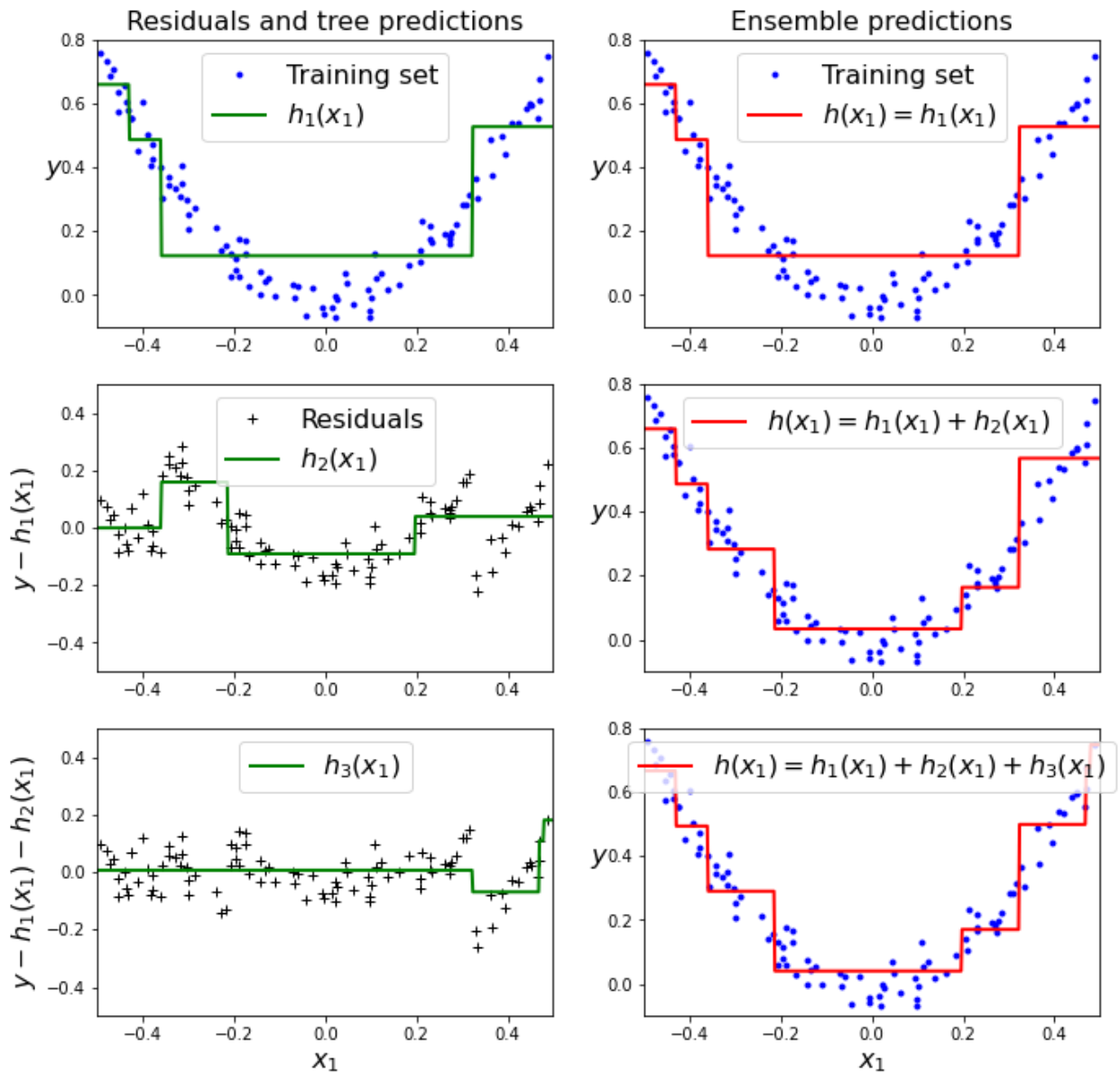
plt.subplot(323)
plot_predictions([tree_reg2], X, y2, axes=[-0.5, 0.5, -0.5, 0.5], label="$h_2(x_1)$",
plt.ylabel("$y - h_1(x_1)$", fontsize=16)

plt.subplot(324)
plot_predictions([tree_reg1, tree_reg2], X, y, axes=[-0.5, 0.5, -0.1, 0.8], label="$h_2(x_1) + h_1(x_1)$",
plt.ylabel("$y$", fontsize=16, rotation=0)

plt.subplot(325)
plot_predictions([tree_reg3], X, y3, axes=[-0.5, 0.5, -0.5, 0.5], label="$h_3(x_1)$",
plt.ylabel("$y - h_1(x_1) - h_2(x_1)$", fontsize=16)
plt.xlabel("$x_1$", fontsize=16)

plt.subplot(326)
plot_predictions([tree_reg1, tree_reg2, tree_reg3], X, y, axes=[-0.5, 0.5, -0.1, 0.8], label="$h_3(x_1) + h_2(x_1) + h_1(x_1)$",
plt.xlabel("$x_1$", fontsize=16)
plt.ylabel("$y$", fontsize=16, rotation=0)

#save_fig("gradient_boosting_plot")
plt.show()
```



Load and Explore Data

Now that you have solid understanding of Gradient Boosting in the regression scenario, let's apply the same algorithm to a classification problem. Specifically, the Titanic dataset and predicting survival.

Use pandas read csv to load in the Titanic data set into a dataframe called df.

Note: In this case you can use `dropna()` to just throw away any incomplete rows. For the purpose of simple illustration, we may disregard them but obviously in the real world we need to be much more careful and decide how to handle incomplete observations. Here, we will **not** disregard them.

```
In [10]: df = pd.read_csv('titanic.csv')
df.head()
```

	PassengerId	Survived	Pclass	Name	Sex	Age	SibSp	Parch	Ticket	Fare	Cabin
0	1	0	3	Braund, Mr. Owen Harris	male	22.0	1	0	A/5 21171	7.2500	NaN
1	2	1	1	Cumings, Mrs. John Bradley (Florence Briggs Th...	female	38.0	1	0	PC 17599	71.2833	C85
2	3	1	3	Heikkinen, Miss. Laina	female	26.0	0	0	STON/O2. 3101282	7.9250	NaN
3	4	1	1	Futrelle, Mrs. Jacques Heath (Lily May Peel)	female	35.0	1	0	113803	53.1000	C123
4	5	0	3	Allen, Mr. William Henry	male	35.0	0	0	373450	8.0500	NaN

```
In [11]: df.shape
```

```
Out[11]: (891, 12)
```

```
In [12]: df.info()
```

```
<class 'pandas.core.frame.DataFrame'>
RangeIndex: 891 entries, 0 to 890
Data columns (total 12 columns):
#   Column          Non-Null Count  Dtype
---  -
0   PassengerId     891 non-null    int64
1   Survived        891 non-null    int64
2   Pclass          891 non-null    int64
3   Name            891 non-null    object
4   Sex             891 non-null    object
5   Age             714 non-null    float64
6   SibSp           891 non-null    int64
7   Parch           891 non-null    int64
8   Ticket          891 non-null    object
9   Fare            891 non-null    float64
10  Cabin           204 non-null    object
11  Embarked        889 non-null    object
dtypes: float64(2), int64(5), object(5)
memory usage: 83.7+ KB
```

```
In [13]: df.describe().T
```

```
Out[13]:
```

	count	mean	std	min	25%	50%	75%	max
PassengerId	891.0	446.000000	257.353842	1.00	223.5000	446.0000	668.5	891.0000
Survived	891.0	0.383838	0.486592	0.00	0.0000	0.0000	1.0	1.0000
Pclass	891.0	2.308642	0.836071	1.00	2.0000	3.0000	3.0	3.0000
Age	714.0	29.699118	14.526497	0.42	20.1250	28.0000	38.0	80.0000
SibSp	891.0	0.523008	1.102743	0.00	0.0000	0.0000	1.0	8.0000
Parch	891.0	0.381594	0.806057	0.00	0.0000	0.0000	0.0	6.0000
Fare	891.0	32.204208	49.693429	0.00	7.9104	14.4542	31.0	512.3292

```
In [14]: df.describe(include=[object]).T
```

```
Out[14]:
```

	count	unique	top	freq
Name	891	891	Braund, Mr. Owen Harris	1
Sex	891	2	male	577
Ticket	891	681	347082	7
Cabin	204	147	B96 B98	4
Embarked	889	3	S	644

Print the levels of the categorical data using 'select_dtypes'.

```
In [15]: dfo = df.select_dtypes(include=['object'])
print(f"\ndfo.shape: {dfo.shape}\n")

#get levels for all variables
vn = pd.DataFrame(dfo.nunique()).reset_index()
vn.columns = ['Categorical_Feature', 'LevelsCount']
vn.sort_values(by=['LevelsCount'], ascending =False)

dfo.shape: (891, 5)
```

```
Out[15]:
```

	Categorical_Feature	LevelsCount
0	Name	891
2	Ticket	681
3	Cabin	147
4	Embarked	3
1	Sex	2

Another way to do it is to use `df.describe(include=[object]).T` as follows.

```
In [16]: (df.describe(include=[object]).T).sort_values(by=['unique'], ascending =False)
```

Out[16]:

	count	unique	top	freq
Name	891	891	Braund, Mr. Owen Harris	1
Ticket	891	681	347082	7
Cabin	204	147	B96 B98	4
Embarked	889	3	S	644
Sex	891	2	male	577

Print the null values for each column in the dataframe.

```
In [17]: #Counts of null values
def count_null_values(data):
    na_df=pd.DataFrame(data.isnull().sum().sort_values(ascending=False).reset_index())
    na_df.columns = ['VarName', 'NullCount']
    na_df = na_df[(na_df['NullCount']>0)]

    return na_df
```

```
In [18]: count_null_values(df)
```

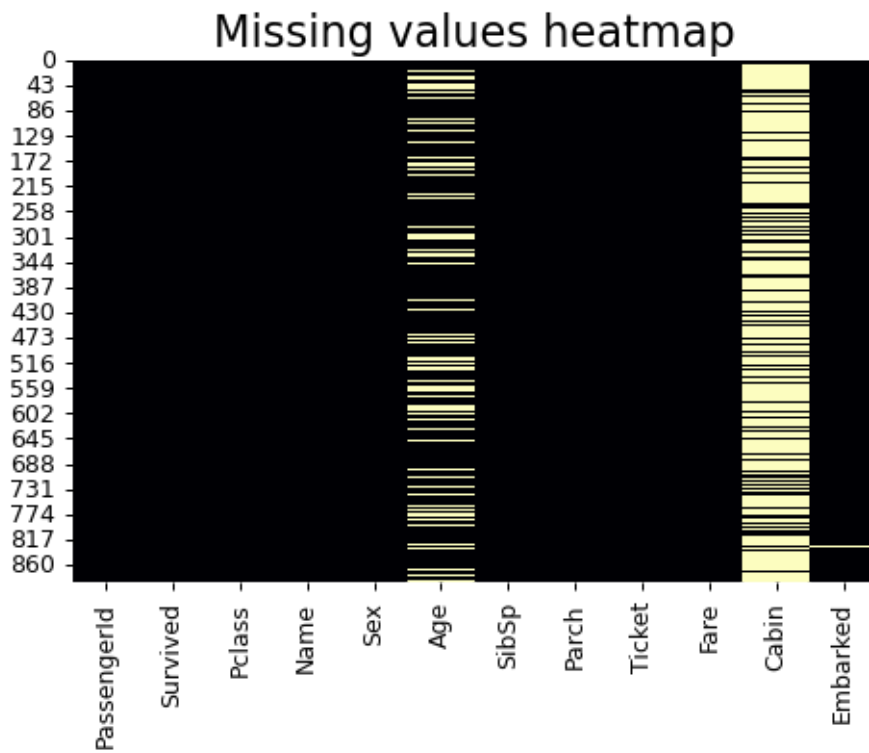
Out[18]:

	VarName	NullCount
0	Cabin	687
1	Age	177
2	Embarked	2

Draw missing values heatmap for visualization.

Refer to this [article](#) or this [one](#) about a way how we can draw missing values heatmap.

```
In [19]: # Ref: For cmap --> https://seaborn.pydata.org/tutorial/color_palettes.html
fig, ax = plt.subplots(dpi = 90)
sns.heatmap(df.isnull(), cmap="magma", cbar = False).set_title("Missing values heatmap")
```



Handling missing values of `Embarked`.

```
In [20]: df.Embarked.value_counts(dropna = False)
```

```
Out[20]: S      644
         C      168
         Q       77
         NaN       2
         Name: Embarked, dtype: int64
```

Since `Embarked` has only two missing values, we will fill the missing values by its `mode` that is the most frequently occurring element in a series.

```
In [21]: df.Embarked.mode()
```

```
Out[21]: 0      S
         Name: Embarked, dtype: object
```

```
In [22]: df.Embarked.fillna(df.Embarked.mode()[0], inplace = True)
```

```
In [23]: df.Embarked.value_counts(dropna = False)
```

```
Out[23]: S      646
         C      168
         Q       77
         Name: Embarked, dtype: int64
```

```
In [24]: count_null_values(df)
```

```
Out[24]:
```

	VarName	NullCount
0	Cabin	687
1	Age	177

As the feature `Cabin` has a lot of missing values (687 out of 891), we will drop this feature.

We can impute the `Age` column by using one of the advanced imouting schemes such as `scikit-learn`'s `KNNImputer` (re: [sklearn.impute.KNNImputer](#)) class or `IterativeImputer` class (re: [sklearn.impute.IterativeImputer](#)) or the `missingpy` package. In this work, we chose `KNNImputer`.

Before imputing the `Age` column, we will one-hot-encode the categorical variables since because most of these imputers needs data to be numerical.

Create dummy features for the categorical features and add those to the `df` dataframe. Make sure to also remove the original categorical columns from the dataframe. Also, drop `'PassengerId'`, `'Name'`, `'Cabin'`, and `'Ticket'` since they are not useful for prediction.

```
In [25]: dfo.columns
```

```
Out[25]: Index(['Name', 'Sex', 'Ticket', 'Cabin', 'Embarked'], dtype='object')
```

```
In [26]: df = pd.DataFrame(df.drop(dfo.columns,
                                   axis = 1)).merge(pd.get_dummies(dfo.drop(['Name',
                                   'Cabin',
                                   'Ticket'],
                                   axis = 1)),
                                   left_index=True,
                                   right_index=True).drop(['PassengerId'],
                                                            axis = 1)

print(f"\ndf.shape: {df.shape}\n")
df.head()

df.shape: (891, 11)
```

```
Out[26]:
```

	Survived	Pclass	Age	SibSp	Parch	Fare	Sex_female	Sex_male	Embarked_C	Embarked_Q
0	0	3	22.0	1	0	7.2500	0	1	0	0
1	1	1	38.0	1	0	71.2833	1	0	1	0
2	1	3	26.0	0	0	7.9250	1	0	0	0
3	1	1	35.0	1	0	53.1000	1	0	0	0
4	0	3	35.0	0	0	8.0500	0	1	0	0

```
In [27]: count_null_values(df)
```

```
Out[27]:
```

	VarName	NullCount
0	Age	177

Impute the missing values of `'Age'` using `'KNNImputer'`.

We will plot the histogram of `Age` **before** and **after** imputation. Let us save the `Age` column before imputation. We will also save the `Sex_male` column, which we will as `hue` parameter in `seaborn`'s `.histplot`.

```
In [28]: data_Age_Sex = df[['Age', 'Sex_male']]
```

```
In [29]: imputer = KNNImputer(n_neighbors=5, weights="distance")
df = pd.DataFrame(imputer.fit_transform(df), columns = df.columns)
```

If you like to try other imputer, you can refer to this [article](#) for a simple illustration on `IterativeImputer` and this [one](#) for `missingpy` package.

```
In [30]: ## Introduce IterativeImputer with an estimator
## imp = IterativeImputer()
# imp = IterativeImputer(estimator=RandomForestRegressor(),
#                         initial_strategy = 'most_frequent', max_iter = 20)
## Fit to the dataset containing missing values
# imp.fit(df)
## Transform the dataset containing missing values
# df1 = pd.DataFrame(imp.transform(df), columns = df.columns)
```

Now, plot the histogram of `Age` **before** and **after** imputation. We have already save the `Age` column data before imputation in `data_Age_Sex` dataframe.

```
In [31]: plt.figure(figsize = (12,6), dpi = 100)

#----- Before imputation ----
ax = plt.subplot(121)
fig = sns.histplot(data=data_Age_Sex, x="Age", hue="Sex_male", multiple="dodge", shrink=.8)
ax.set_title("Before imputation", color='blue', fontsize=18)
ax.tick_params(labelsize=14)
ax.set_ylim(top=90)

# Ref: https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/how-to-change-seaborn-legends-font-size-location/
# for legend text
plt.setp(fig.get_legend().get_texts(), fontsize='14')
# for legend title
plt.setp(fig.get_legend().get_title(), fontsize='14')

# Ref: https://stackoverflow.com/questions/3899980/how-to-change-the-font-size-on-a-matplotlib-figure
for item in ([ax.xaxis.label, ax.yaxis.label]):
    item.set_fontsize(14)

#----- After imputation ----
ax = plt.subplot(122)
fig = sns.histplot(data=df, x="Age", hue="Sex_male", multiple="dodge", shrink=.8)
ax.set_title("After imputation", color='blue', fontsize=18)
ax.tick_params(labelsize=14)
ax.set_ylim(top=90)

# for legend text
plt.setp(fig.get_legend().get_texts(), fontsize='14')
# for legend title
plt.setp(fig.get_legend().get_title(), fontsize='14')

for item in ([ax.xaxis.label, ax.yaxis.label]):
    item.set_fontsize(14)

plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```



```
random_state = 1,  
stratify = y_train)  
# 0.125 x 0.8 = 0.1
```

Apply the standard scaler to the `X_train` matrix.

Scale the data after train/test split. Apply the `scaler.transform` obtained from the train split on the test set.

```
In [36]: scaler = preprocessing.StandardScaler().fit(X_train)  
  
# Scale the X_train  
X_train = scaler.transform(X_train)  
  
# Scale the X_val  
X_val = scaler.transform(X_val)  
  
# Scale the X_test  
X_test = scaler.transform(X_test)
```

Run the cell below to test multiple learning rates in your gradient boosting classifier.

```
In [37]: learning_rates = [0.05, 0.1, 0.25, 0.5, 0.75, 1]  
for learning_rate in learning_rates:  
    gb = GradientBoostingClassifier(n_estimators=20,  
                                    learning_rate = learning_rate,  
                                    max_features=2,  
                                    max_depth = 2, random_state = 0)  
  
    gb.fit(X_train, y_train)  
    print(f"Learning rate: {learning_rate}")  
    print(f"Accuracy score (training): {round(gb.score(X_train, y_train),3)}")  
    print(f"Accuracy score (val): {round(gb.score(X_val, y_val),3)}")  
    print(f"Gap in score: {round(gb.score(X_train, y_train)-gb.score(X_val, y_val),3)}")
```

```
Learning rate: 0.05
Accuracy score (training): 0.831
Accuracy score (val): 0.753
Gap in score: 0.079
```

```
Learning rate: 0.1
Accuracy score (training): 0.838
Accuracy score (val): 0.764
Gap in score: 0.074
```

```
Learning rate: 0.25
Accuracy score (training): 0.828
Accuracy score (val): 0.787
Gap in score: 0.042
```

```
Learning rate: 0.5
Accuracy score (training): 0.857
Accuracy score (val): 0.787
Gap in score: 0.071
```

```
Learning rate: 0.75
Accuracy score (training): 0.873
Accuracy score (val): 0.775
Gap in score: 0.098
```

```
Learning rate: 1
Accuracy score (training): 0.873
Accuracy score (val): 0.775
Gap in score: 0.098
```

Apply the best learning rate to the model fit and predict on the testing set. Print out the confusion matrix and the classification report to review the model performance.

```
In [38]: gb = GradientBoostingClassifier(n_estimators=20,
                                         learning_rate = 0.25,
                                         max_features=2, max_depth = 2,
                                         random_state = 0)

gb.fit(X_train, y_train)
y_pred = gb.predict(X_test)
```

```
In [39]: print(classification_report(y_test, y_pred))
```

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0.0	0.81	0.89	0.85	110
1.0	0.79	0.67	0.72	69
accuracy			0.80	179
macro avg	0.80	0.78	0.79	179
weighted avg	0.80	0.80	0.80	179

```
In [40]: cm = pd.DataFrame(confusion_matrix(y_test, y_pred))
cm.columns = ['Predicted 0', 'Predicted 1']
cm.index = ['Actual 0', 'Actual 1']
cm
```

Out[40]:

	Predicted 0	Predicted 1
Actual 0	98	12
Actual 1	23	46

Calculate the ROC for the model as well.

```
In [41]: plt.figure(figsize = (5,5), dpi = 90)

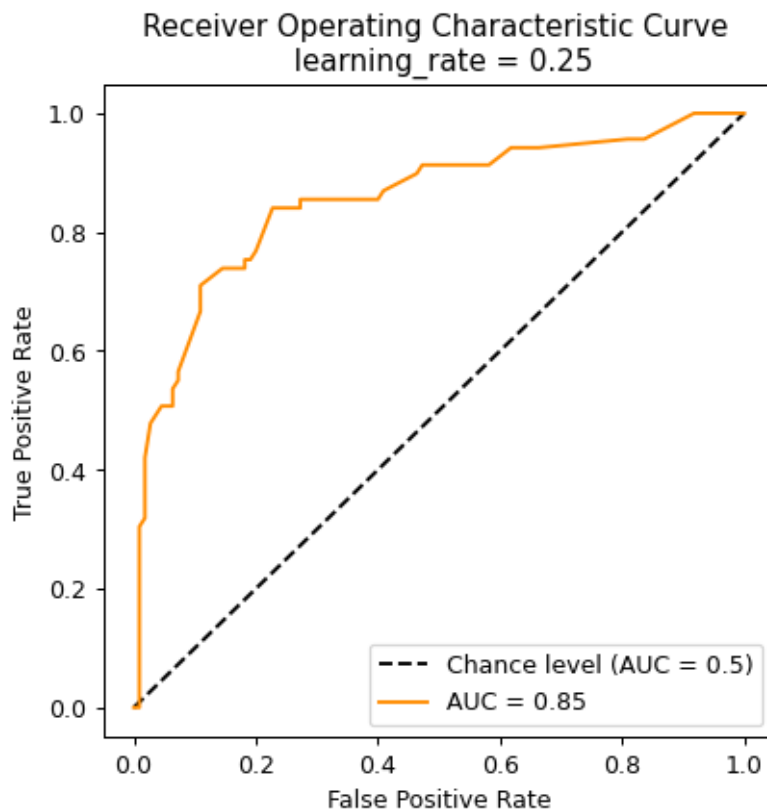
ax = plt.subplot(111)

y_score = gb.decision_function(X_test)
roc_auc_area = roc_auc_score(y_test, y_score)

# Ref: https://scikit-learn.org/stable/auto_examples/model_selection/plot_roc.html
ax.plot([0,1], [0,1], "k--", label=f"Chance level (AUC = 0.5)")

# Ref: https://scikit-learn.org/stable/auto_examples/miscellaneous/plot_display_ob
fpr, tpr, _ = roc_curve(y_test, y_score)
roc_display = RocCurveDisplay(fpr=fpr,
                              tpr=tpr).plot(ax=ax, color="darkorange",
                                              label = f"AUC = {round(roc_auc_area,2)}")

plt.legend()
plt.xlabel("False Positive Rate")
plt.ylabel("True Positive Rate")
plt.title('Receiver Operating Characteristic Curve \n learning_rate = 0.25')
plt.show()
```



```
In [42]: feature_importance = gb.feature_importances_

# make importances relative to max importance
feature_importance = 100.0 * (feature_importance / feature_importance.max())[ :30]
```

```
sorted_idx = np.argsort(feature_importance)[:30]

pos = np.arange(sorted_idx.shape[0]) + .5

plt.figure(figsize=(6,6))
plt.barh(pos, feature_importance[sorted_idx], align='center')
plt.yticks(pos, X.columns[sorted_idx], fontsize = 12)
plt.xlabel('Relative Importance', fontsize = 12)
plt.suptitle('Variable Importance', fontsize = 18)
plt.show()
```

