

# Interpretable ML for biodiversity

An introduction using species distribution models

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#### MAIN GOALS

- 1. How do we produce a model?
- 2. How do we convey that it works?
- 3. How do we talk about how it makes predictions?
- 4. How do we use it to guide actions?

#### THE STEPS

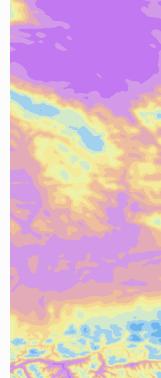
- 1. Get data about species occurrences
- 2. Build a classifier and make it as good as we can
- 3. Measure its performance
- 4. Explain some predictions
- 5. Generate counterfactual explanations
- 6. Briefly discuss ensemble models



... think of SDM as a ML problem? Because they are (and would be better if we accepted this)

... the focus on explainability? We cannot ask people to trust - we must convince

# Introduction





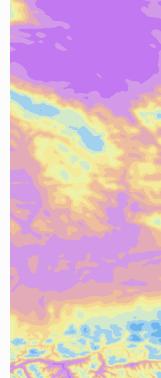






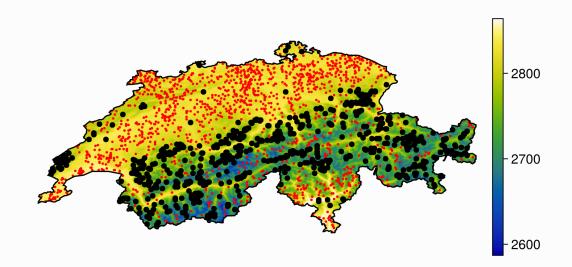


# Validation

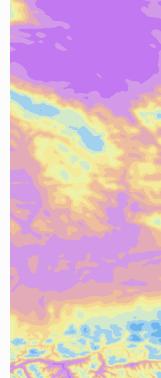


### PSEUDO-ABSENCES

SDM Layer with 45336 Bool cells
 Proj string: +proj=longlat +datum=WGS84 +no\_defs
 Grid size: (239, 543)



# Model setup





 $SDeMo.MultivariateTransform\{MultivariateStats.PCA\} \rightarrow SDeMo.NaiveBayes \rightarrow P(x)$ 

) ≥ 0.5

CROSS-VALIDATION

0.5620979518435002

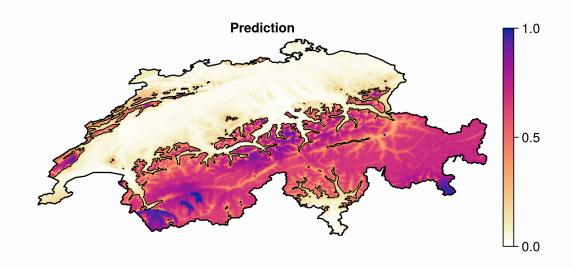
RE-TRAINING

 $SDeMo.MultivariateTransform\{MultivariateStats.PCA\} \rightarrow SDeMo.NaiveBayes \rightarrow P(x)$ 

 $) \ge 0.281$ 

#### **INITIAL PRED**

SDM Layer with 69967 Float64 cells
 Proj string: +proj=longlat +datum=WGS84 +no\_defs
 Grid size: (239, 543)

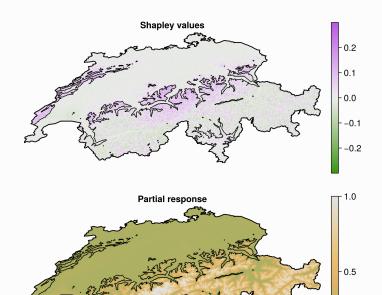


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Why?

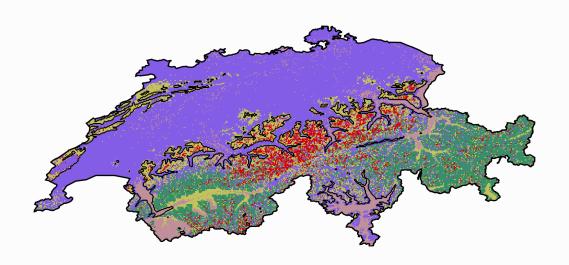


## VISU



### MOSAIC

SDM Layer with 69967 Int64 cells
Proj string: +proj=longlat +datum=WGS84 +no\_defs
Grid size: (239, 543)



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About ensemble models

### UNCERTAINTY

0.6537641876644507

### ADD PRED

SDM Layer with 69967 Float64 cells
 Proj string: +proj=longlat +datum=WGS84 +no\_defs
 Grid size: (239, 543)

## VISU 2

