

Predicting green consumer behavior of avoiding single-use plastic bags

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Brown University

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[GitHub Repository](#)

Recap: Goal & Data

Predict Green Customer Behavior

- **avoid** purchasing **new single-use plastic bags**

Public policy study Thomas et al.

- Observational data (N = 3764) with CC-BY-SA 4.0
- Plastic Bag Usage → **Target Variable**
- 11 on Customer & Supermarket → **Feature Variables**



(Poortinga, 2016, "Bags for life")



(Poortinga, 2016, "Single-use plastic bags")

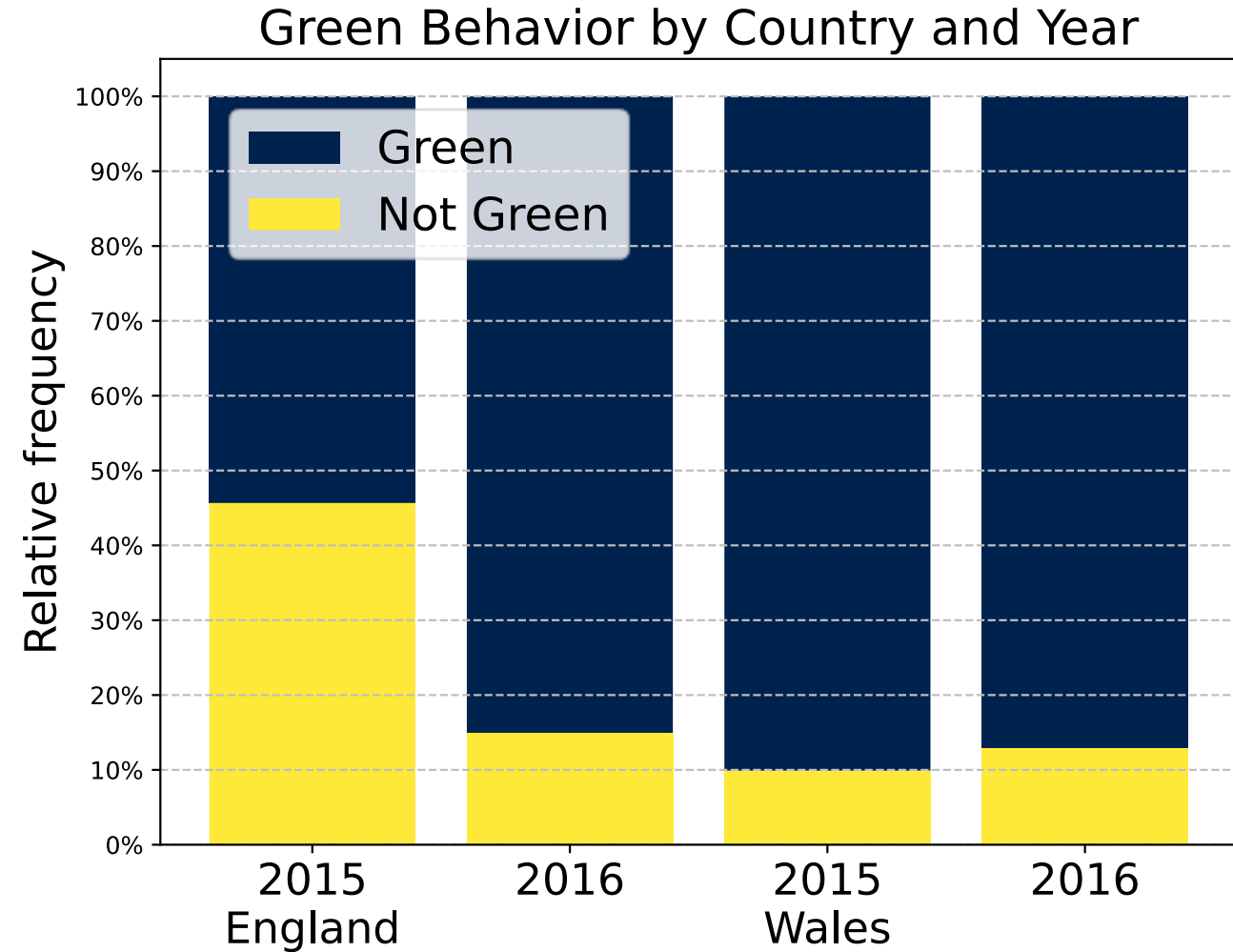
Recap: Model

Classification Model

- $Y = 1$ for “Green”
- No new purchase of SUPB
- **Re-using** a SUPB from home
- One new SUPB, **if reusable bags**

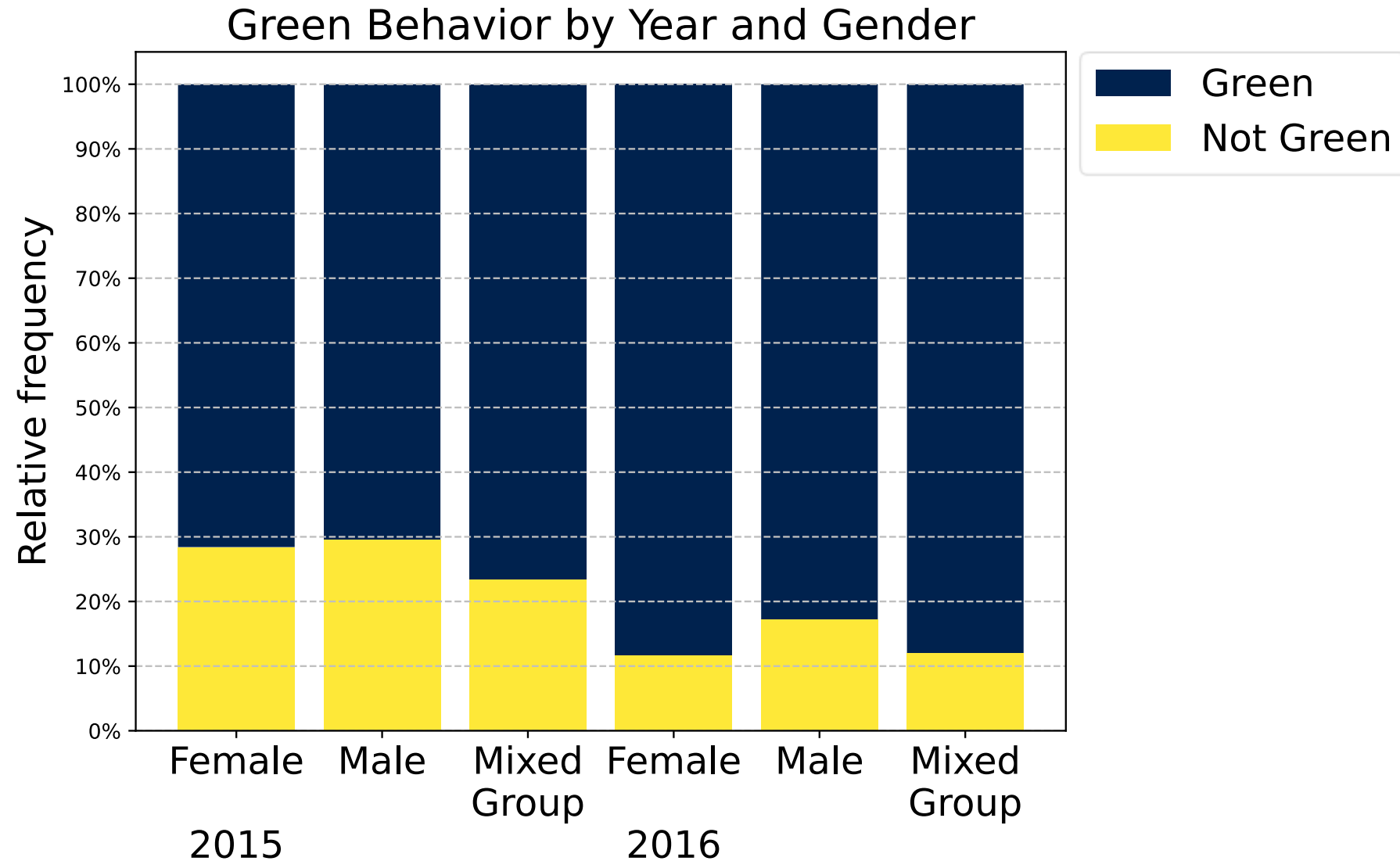
Feature Variables

- Year, Country, Gender, etc.
- + **Interaction Terms**



Recap: EDA

GENDER



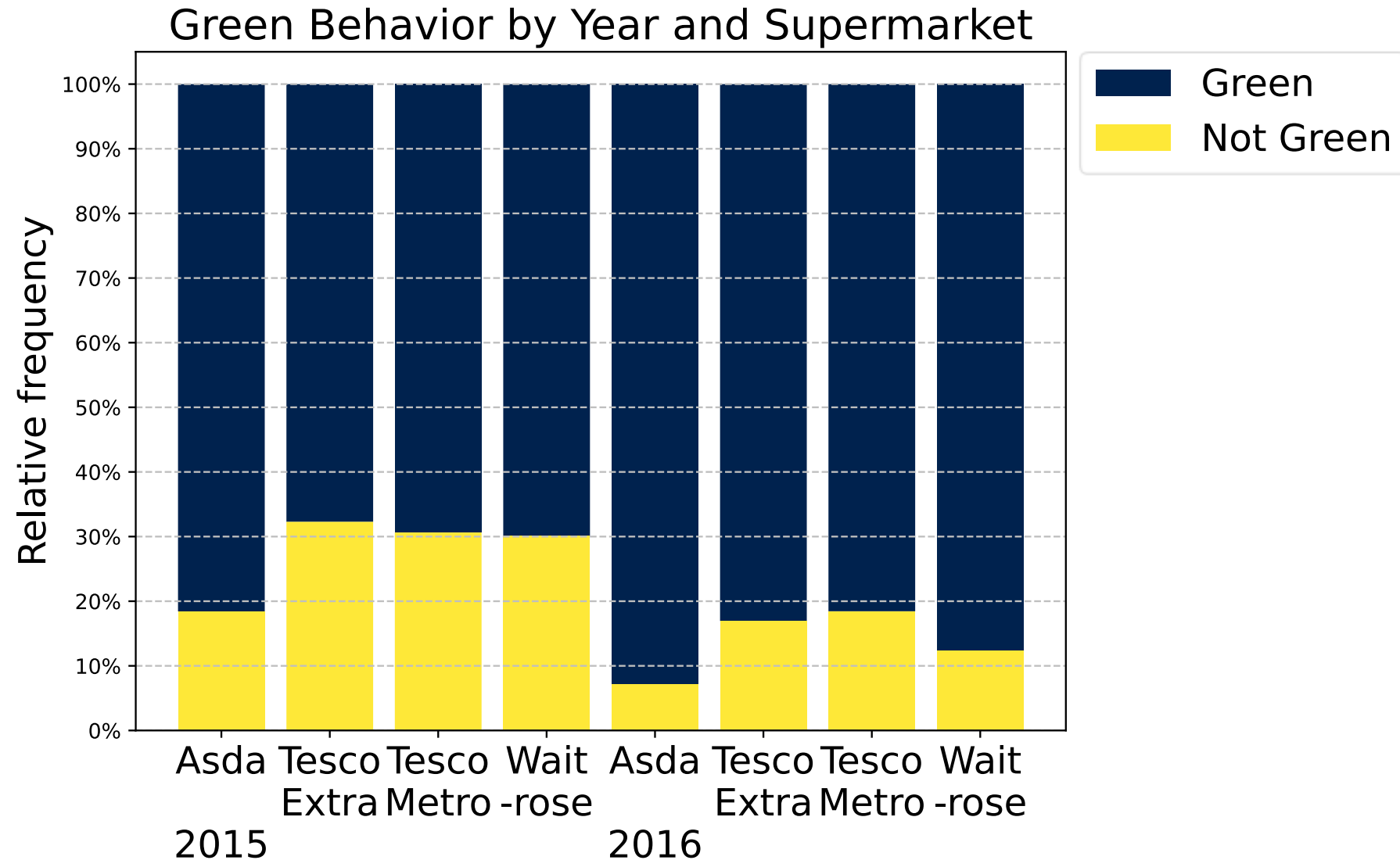
Recap: EDA

BUDGET

MID-CLASS

CITY

PREMIUM



Cross-Validation

I.I.D. & Target **unbalanced**

- Test: **stratified** split 10%
- CV: **stratified** K-Fold (K = 5)
- 10 **random states**

```
for rs in random_states:
    other_set, test_set = stratified_split(10%)
    gridsearchCV(ML_algo,
                  cv = 5,
                  scoring = 'balanced_accuracy')
    gridsearchCV.fit(other_set)
```

ML Algorithms

- Logistic Regression, SVM, Random Forest, KNN,
- Boost Methods: AdaBoost, Gradient Boost, **XGBoost**

Balanced Accuracy

Accuracy score, modified

- **Sensitivity** = $P(\text{predict pos} \mid \text{actually pos})$, true positive rate
- **Specificity** = $P(\text{predict neg} \mid \text{actually neg})$, true negative rate
- $\text{Acc}_{\text{balanced}} = \frac{1}{2} (\text{Sen} + \text{Spe}) = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\text{TP}}{\text{TP} + \text{FN}} + \frac{\text{TN}}{\text{TN} + \text{FP}} \right)$

Baseline

- Always predict **pos** \rightarrow 100% **Sen**, 0% **Spe** \rightarrow 50% Balanced Accuracy
- Always predict **neg** \rightarrow 0% **Sen**, 100% **Spe** \rightarrow 50% Balanced Accuracy

https://scikit-learn.org/stable/modules/model_evaluation.html#balanced-accuracy-score

Logistic Regression

No Penalty

L1 Penalty

- `C: np.logspace(-3, 2, 21)`

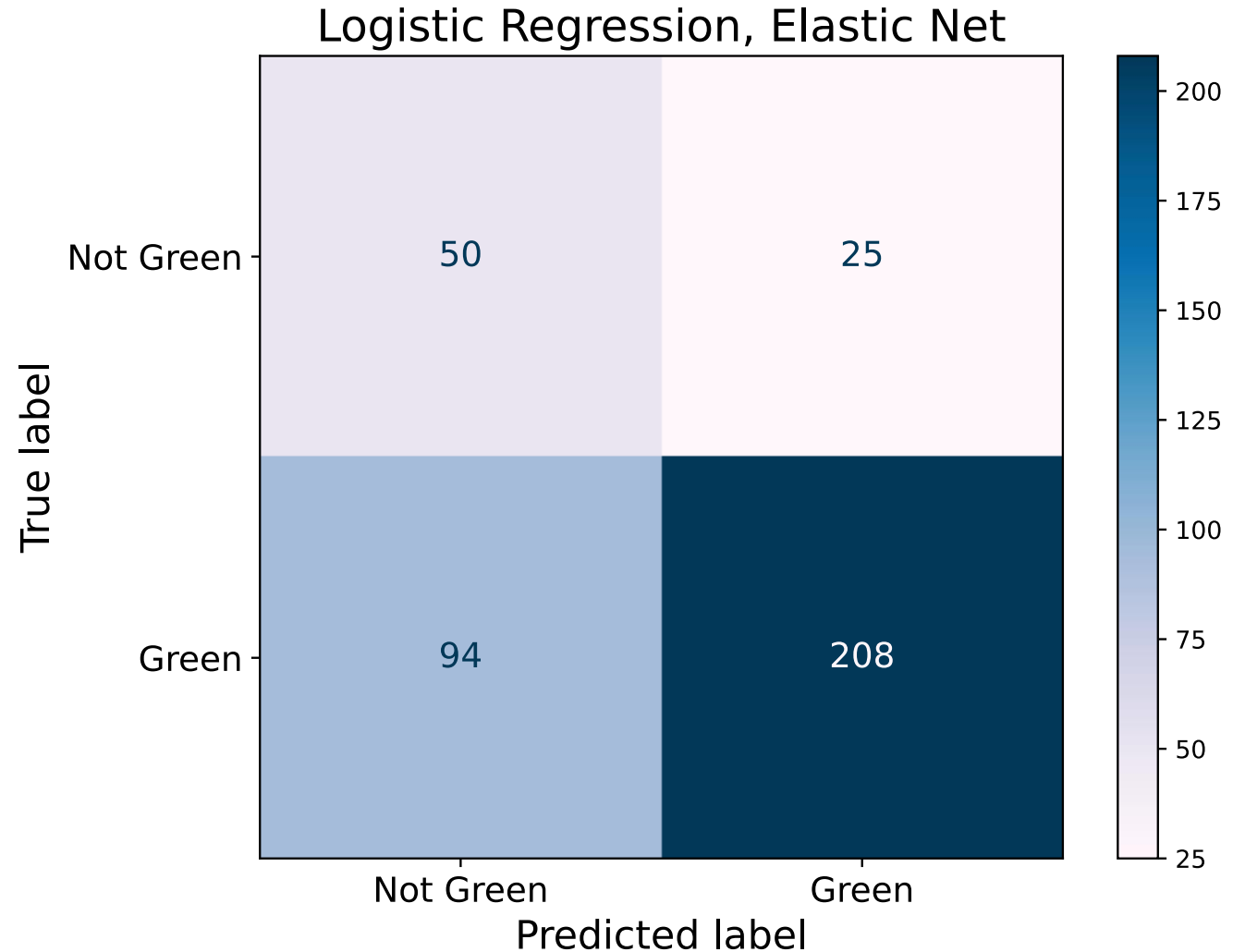
L2 Penalty

- `C: np.logspace(-3, 2, 21)`

Elastic Net

- `C: np.logspace(-3, 2, 21)`

- `l1_ratio: [0.1, 0.2, .., 0.9]`



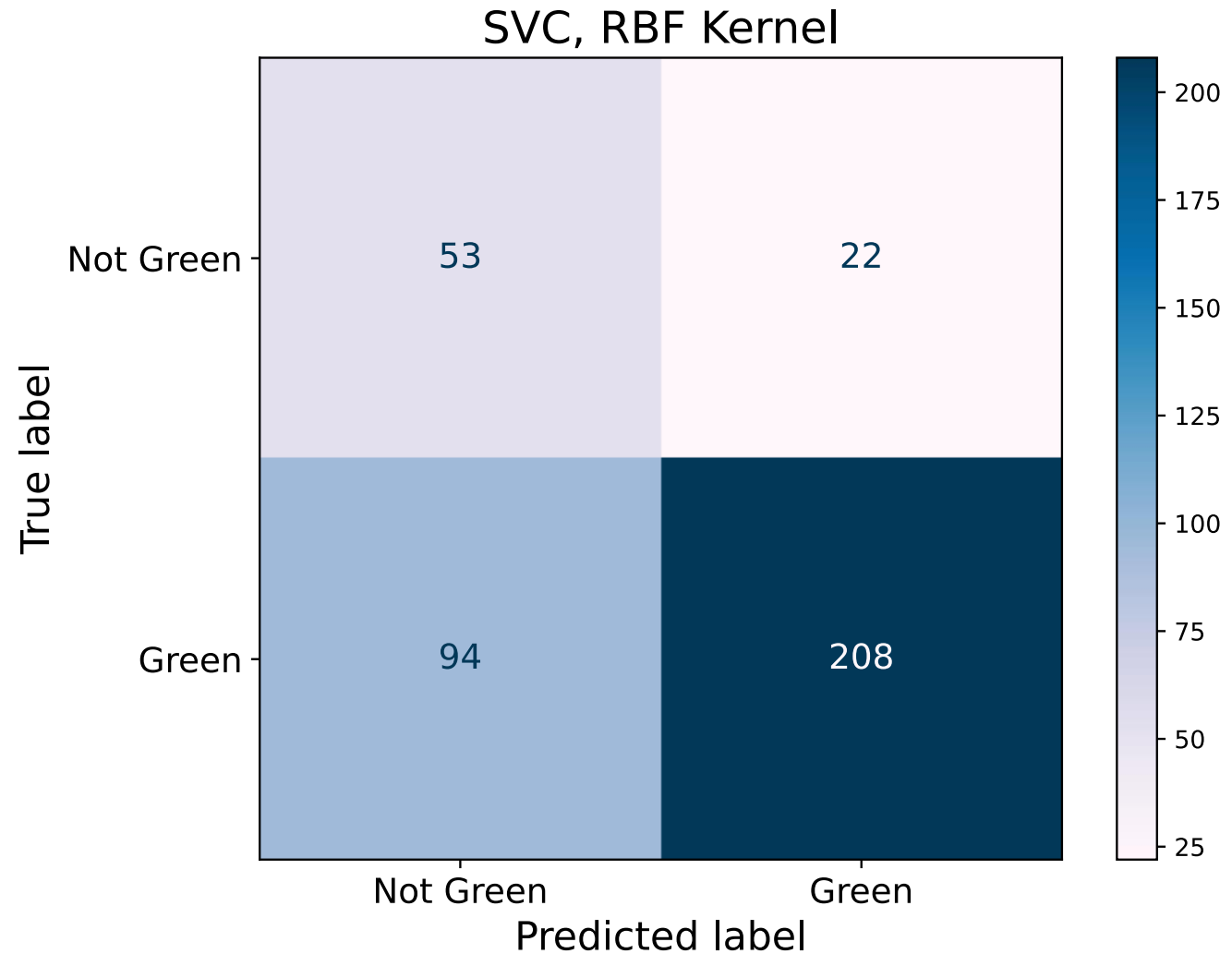
Support Vector Machine

Linear Kernel

- `C: np.logspace(-3, 2, 11)`

Radial Basis Function Kernel

- `C: np.logspace(-3, 2, 6)`
- `gamma: np.logspace(-2, 2, 17)`



Random Forest

`max_features:`

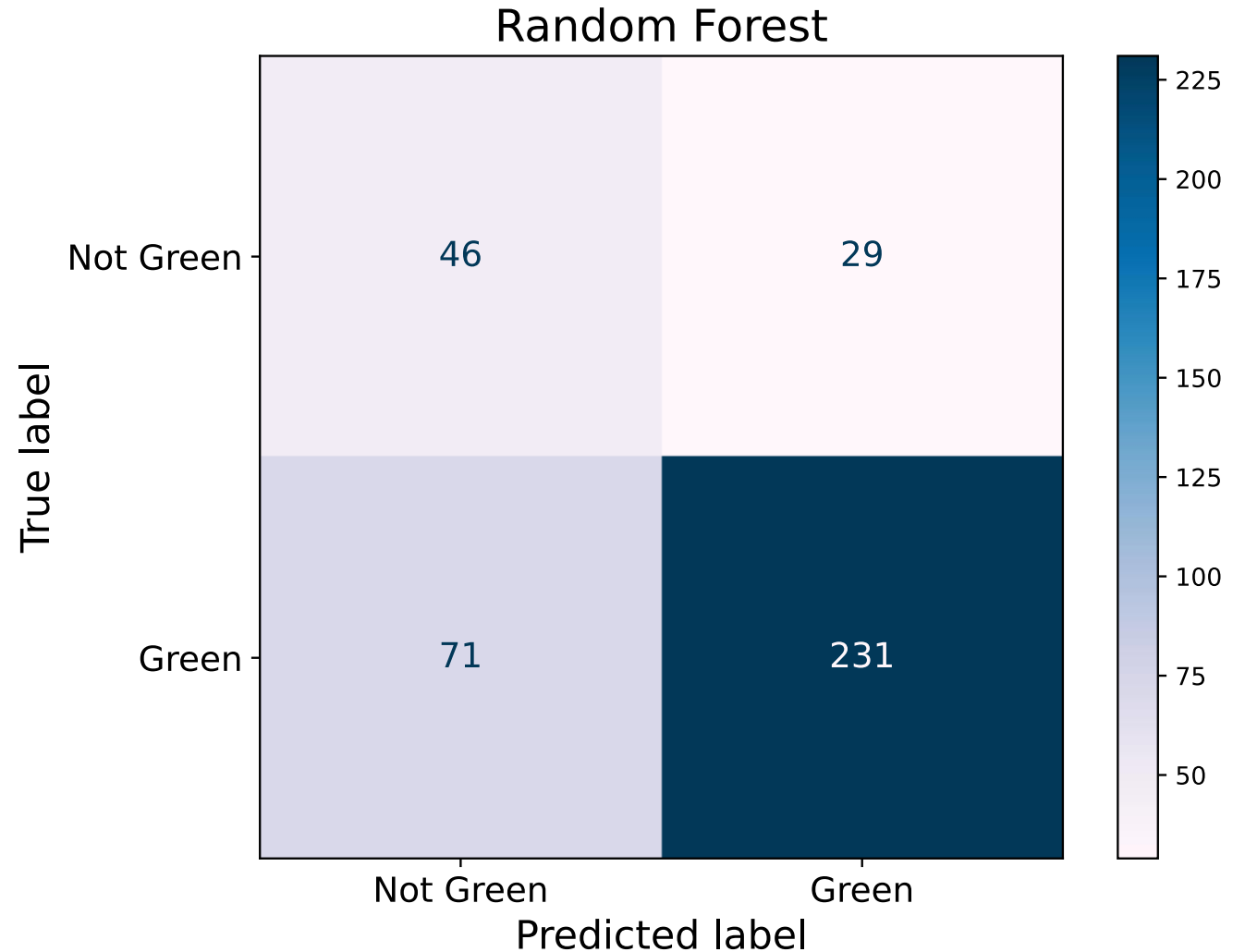
- `[0.3, 0.35, ..., 0.65, None]`

`max_depth:`

- `[3, 4, 5, 6, 8, None]`

`min_samples_split:`

- `[2, 3, ..., 7]`



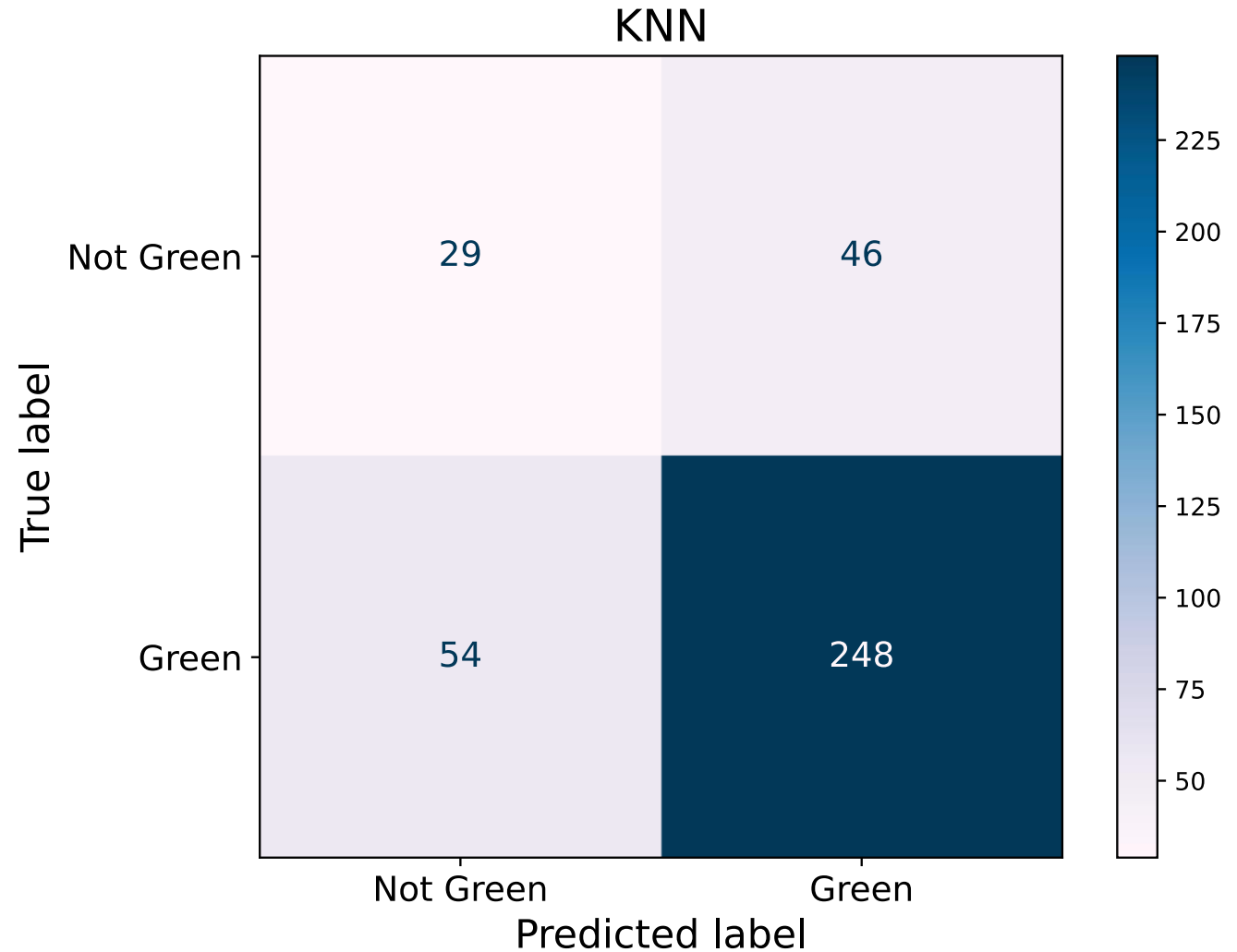
K Nearest Neighbors

`n_neighbors:`

- `[2,3,5,8,9,10,11,12,15,30]`

`weights:`

- `['uniform', 'distance']`
- *`'class_weight' not balanced`*



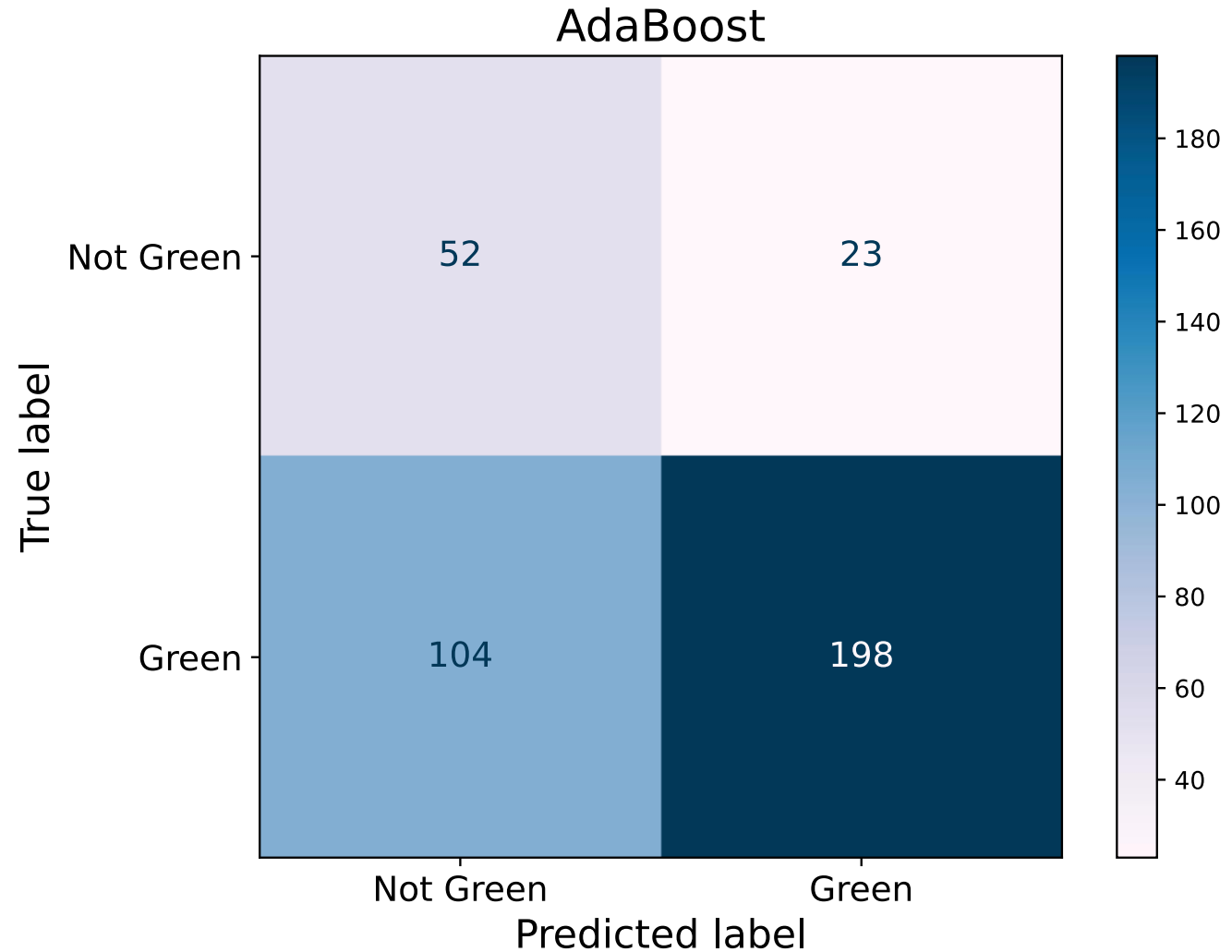
Boost Methods

AdaBoost

- `learning_rate`: [0.3, 0.4, ..., 1.1]
- `n_estimators`: [8, 12, ..., 40]
- `base__max_depth`: [1, 2, 3, 4]

Gradient Boost

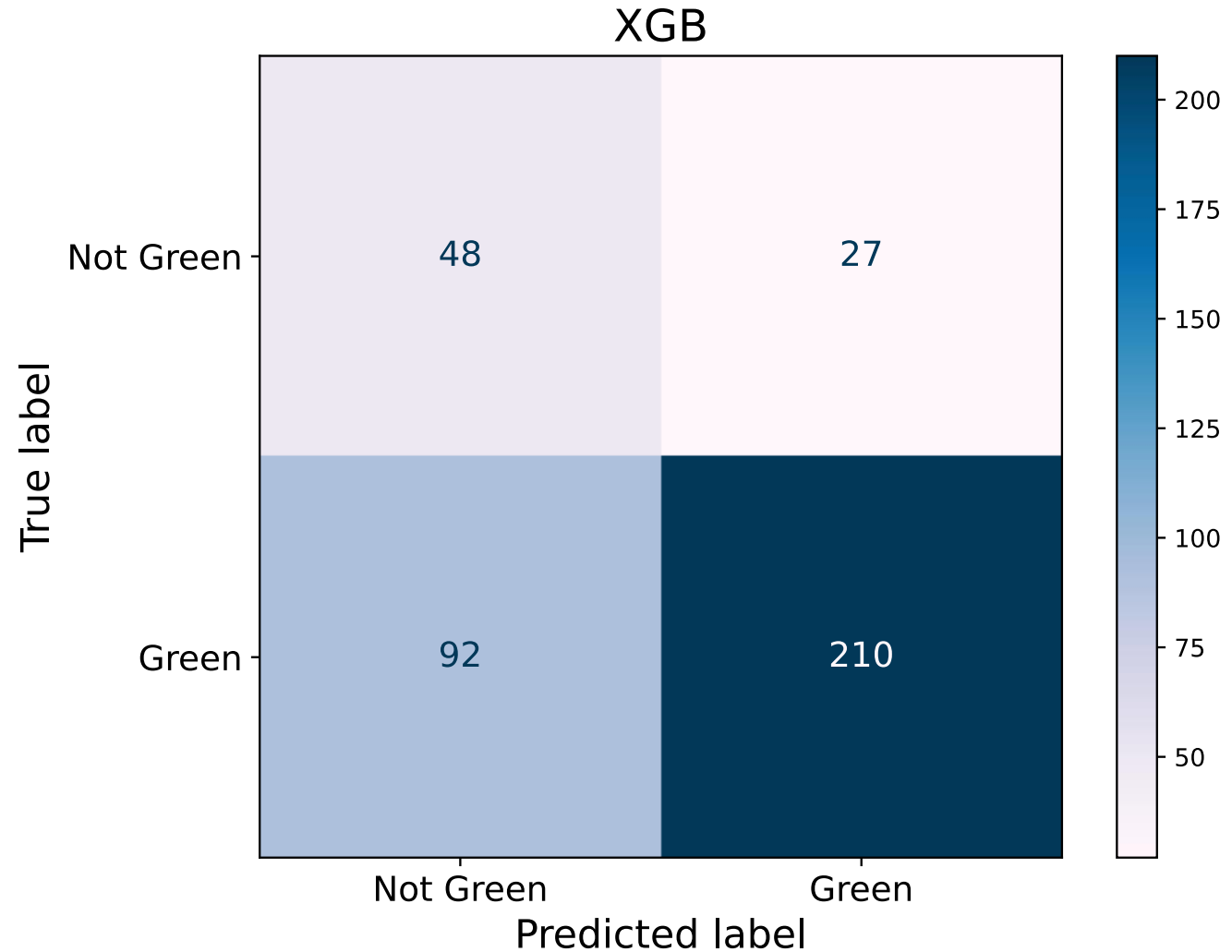
- `learning_rate`: [0.05, 0.1, ..., 0.3]
- `max_features`: [0.1, 0.2, ..., 1.0]
- `max_depth`: [2, 3, ..., 6]



Boost Methods

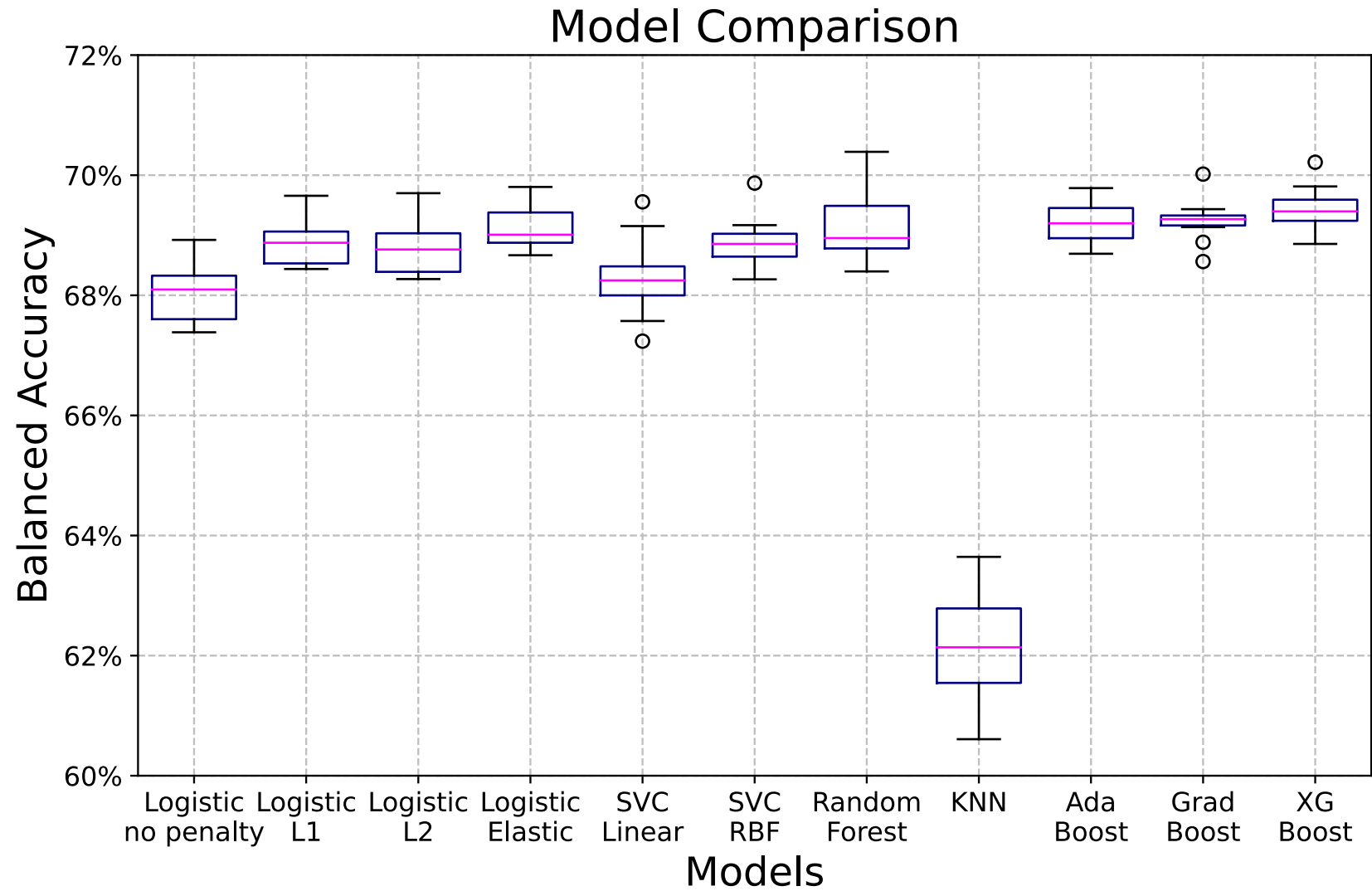
XGBoost

- `learning_rate`:
 - `[0.25, 0.3, ..., 0.55]`
- `max_depth`:
 - `[2, 3, ..., 6]`
- `gamma`:
 - `[0.5, 0.6, ..., 1.2]`
- `n_estimators`:
 - `[10, 12, 16, 20, 24, 30, 35, 40]`



Results

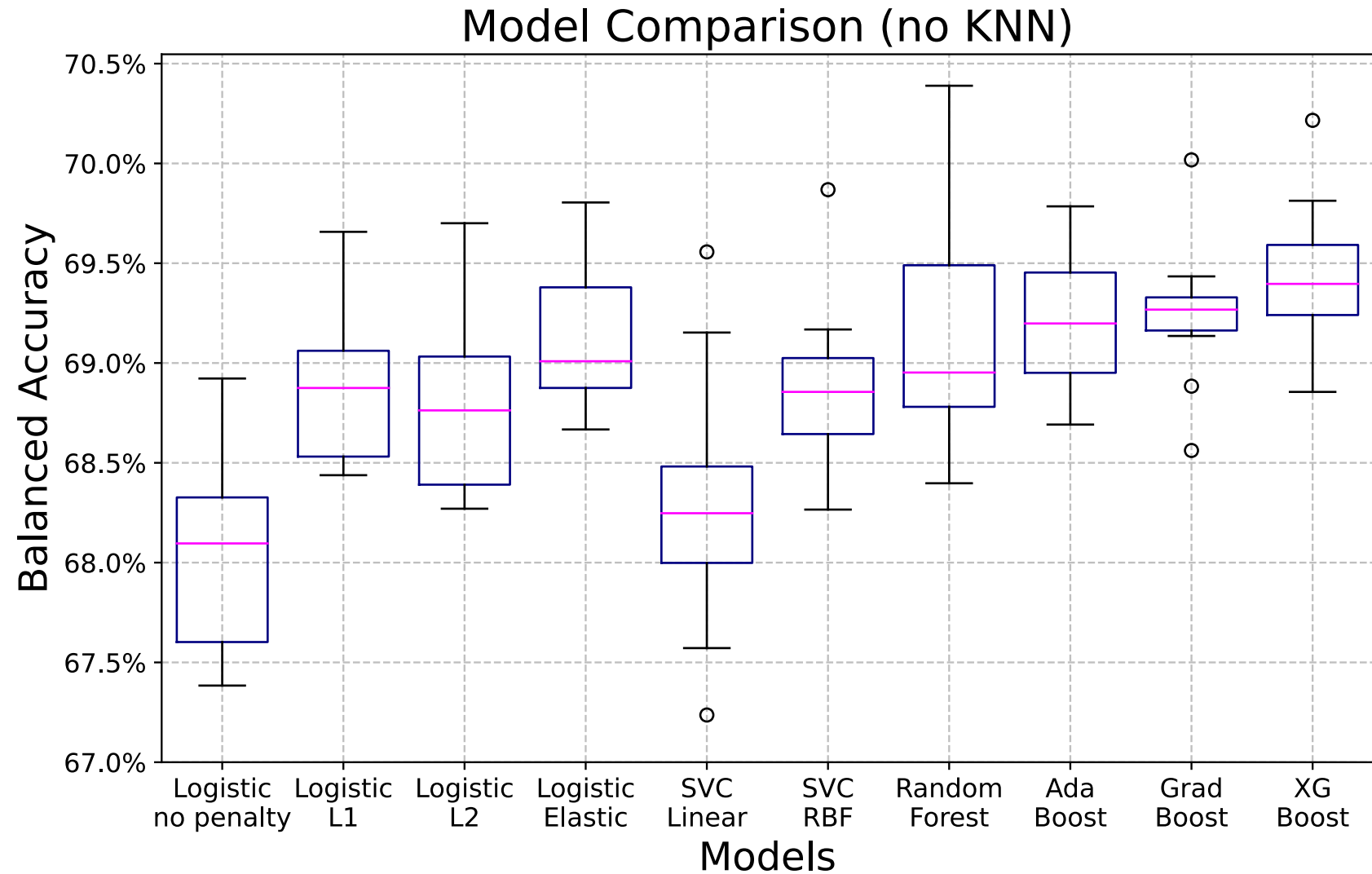
KNN Class Weight



Results

XGB best

All within 68% - 69.5%

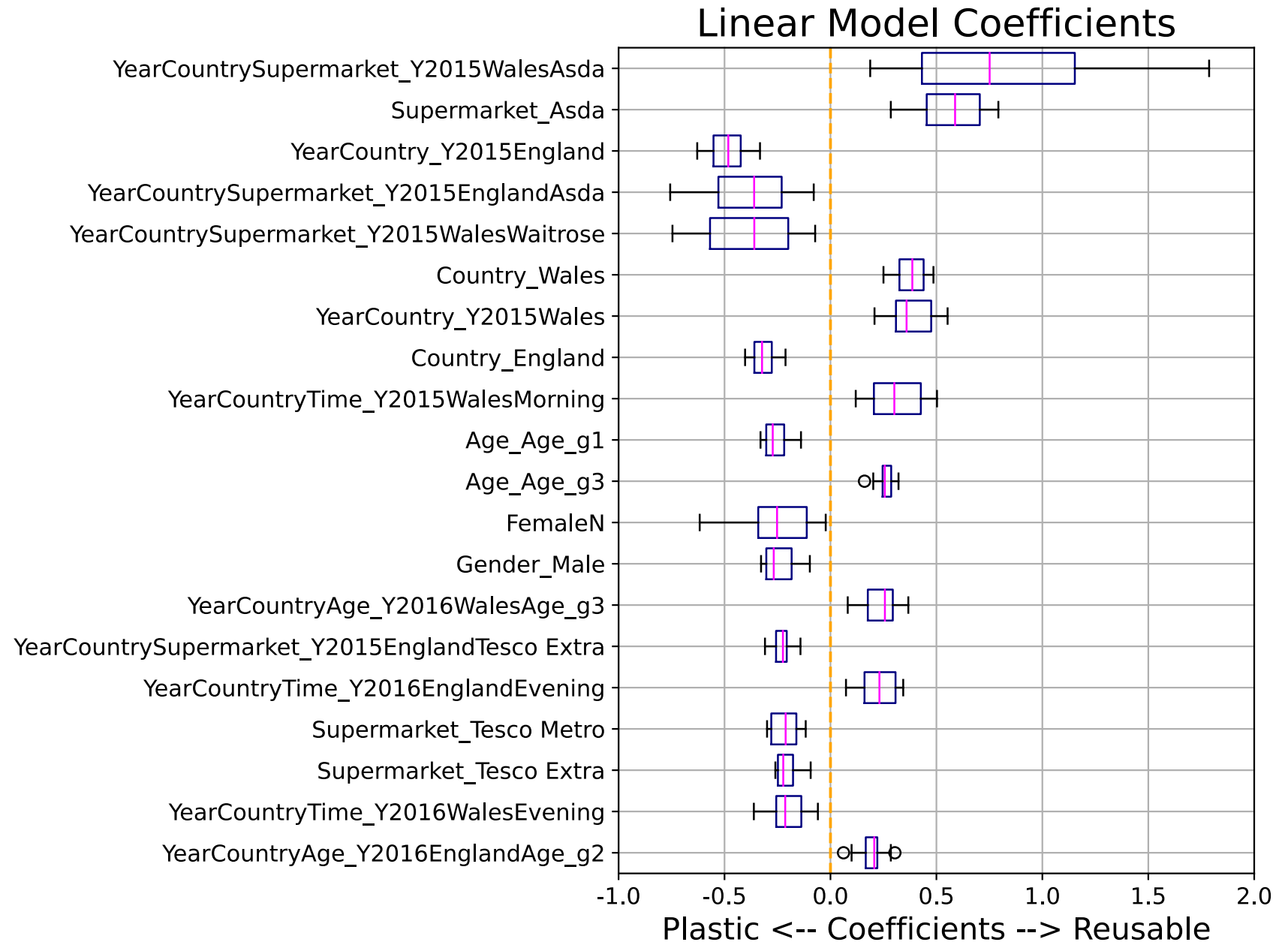


Feature Importance

Global Importance

Logistic Regression

L2 penalty

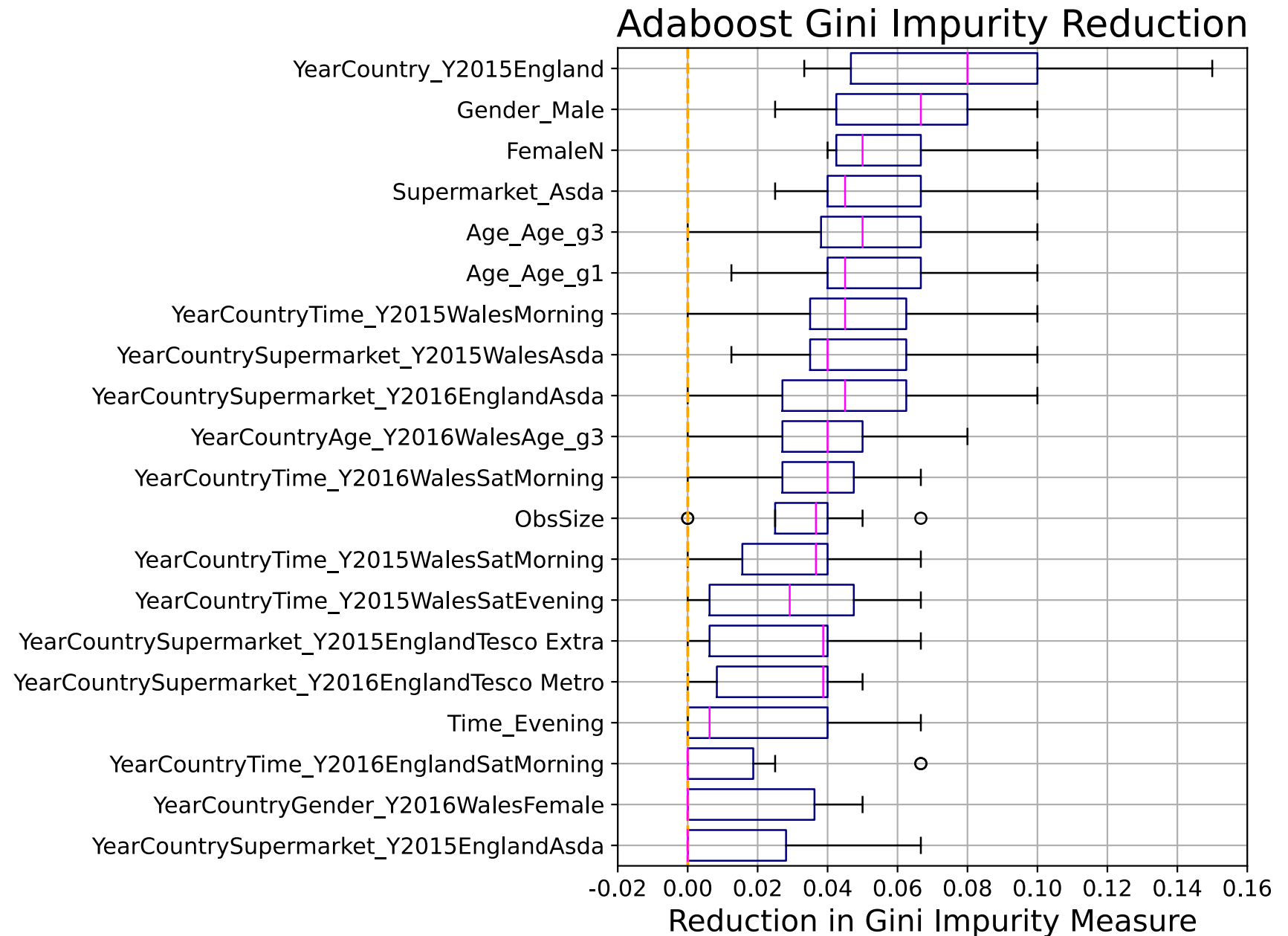


Feature Importance

Global Importance

AdaBoost

Mean Decrease in
Gini Impurity



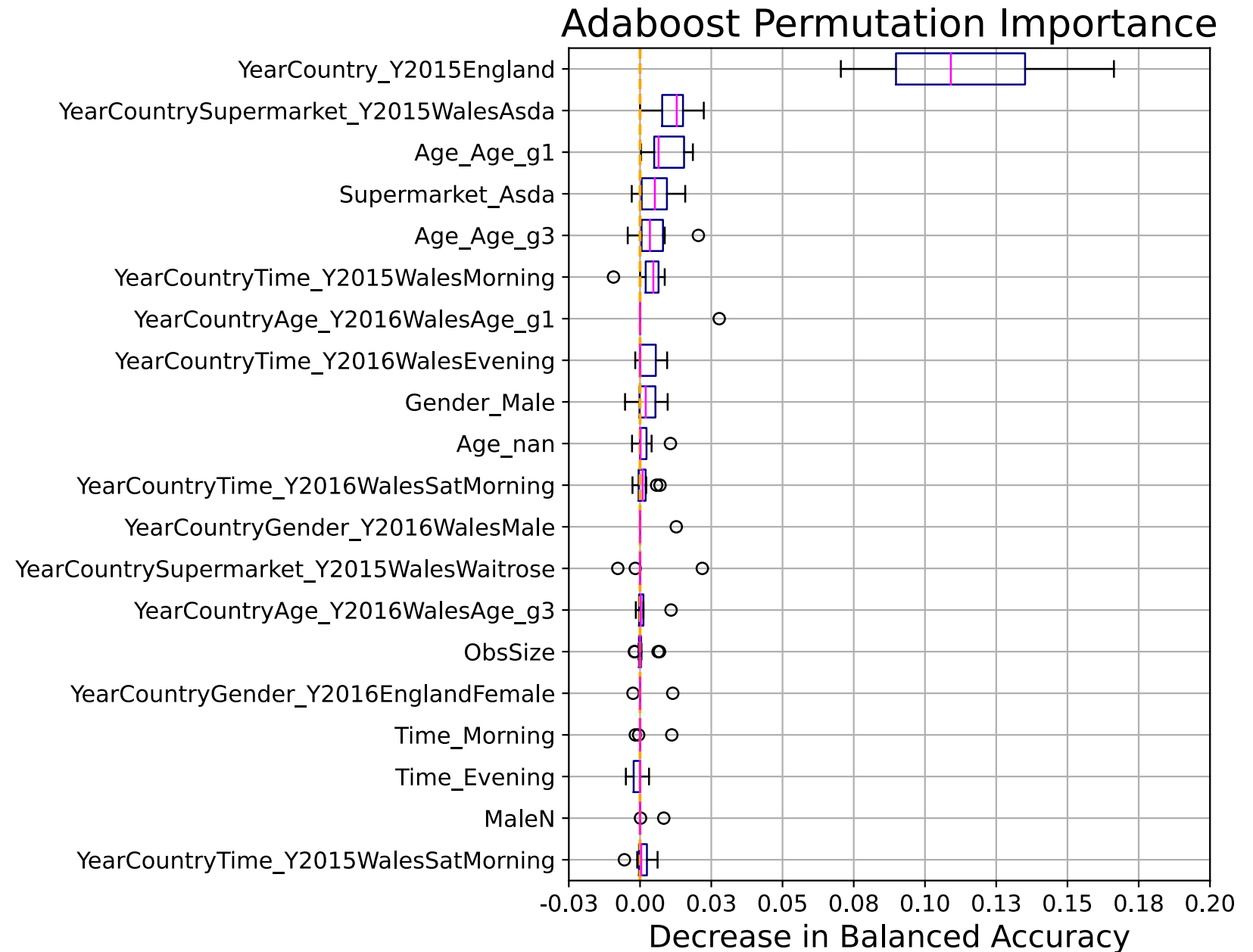
Feature Importance

Global Importance

AdaBoost

Permutation Score

Balanced Accuracy

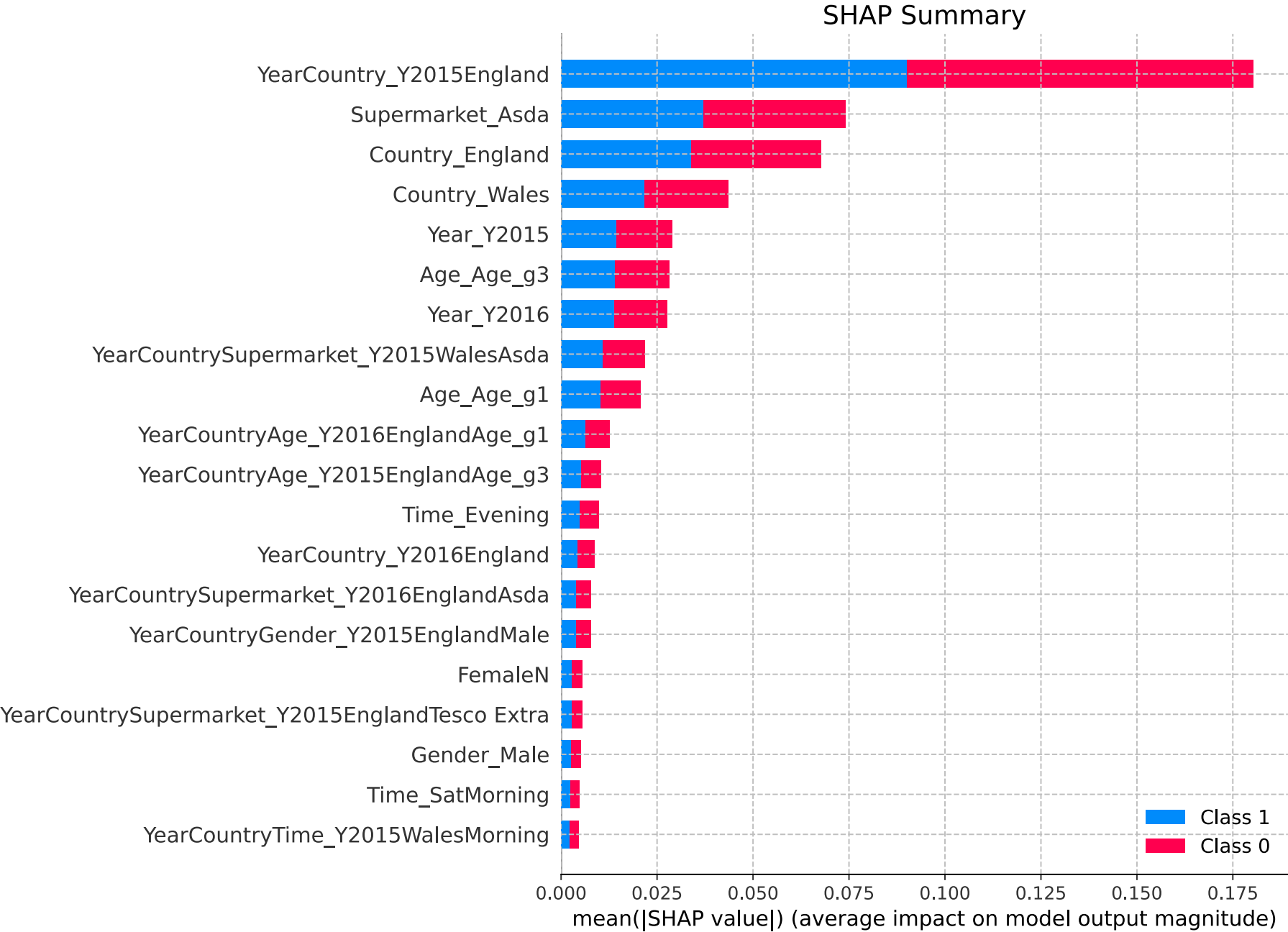


Feature Importance

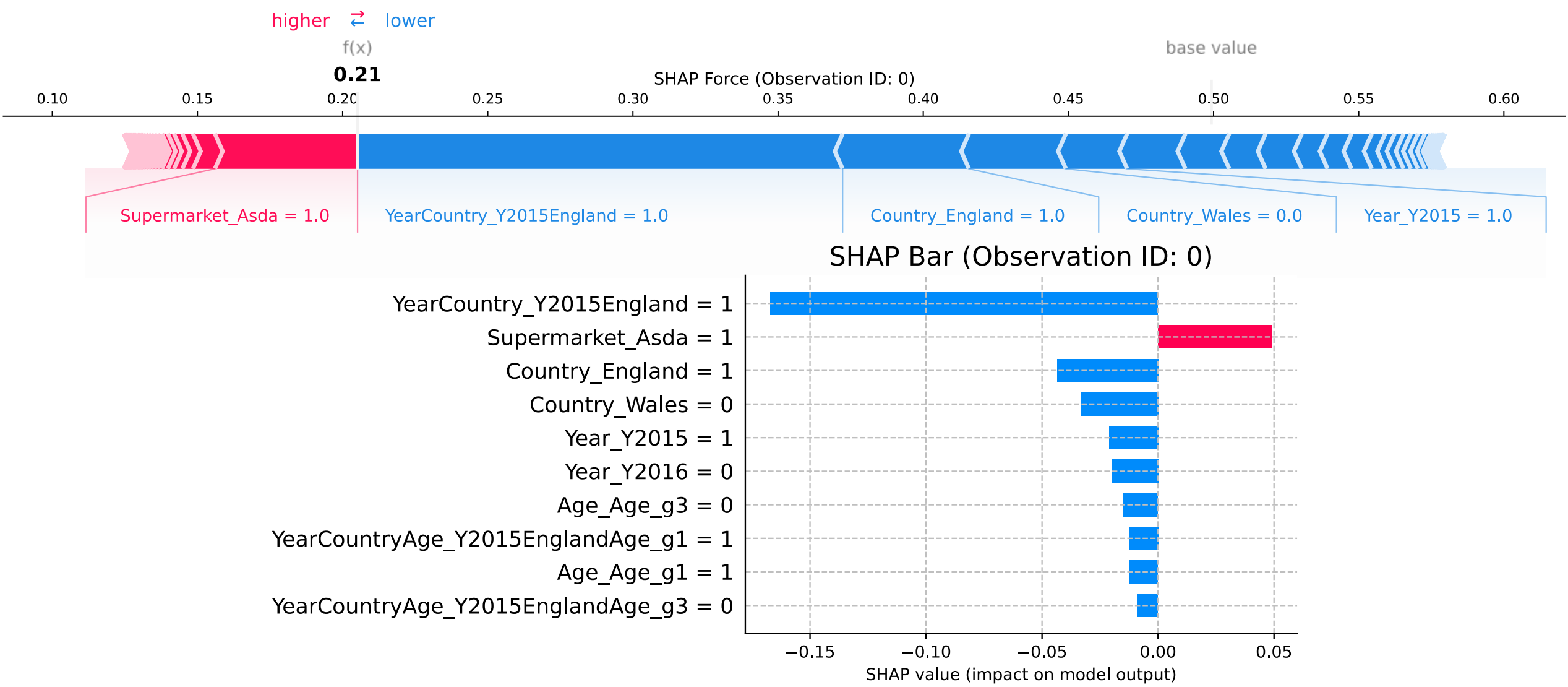
Global Importance

Random Forest

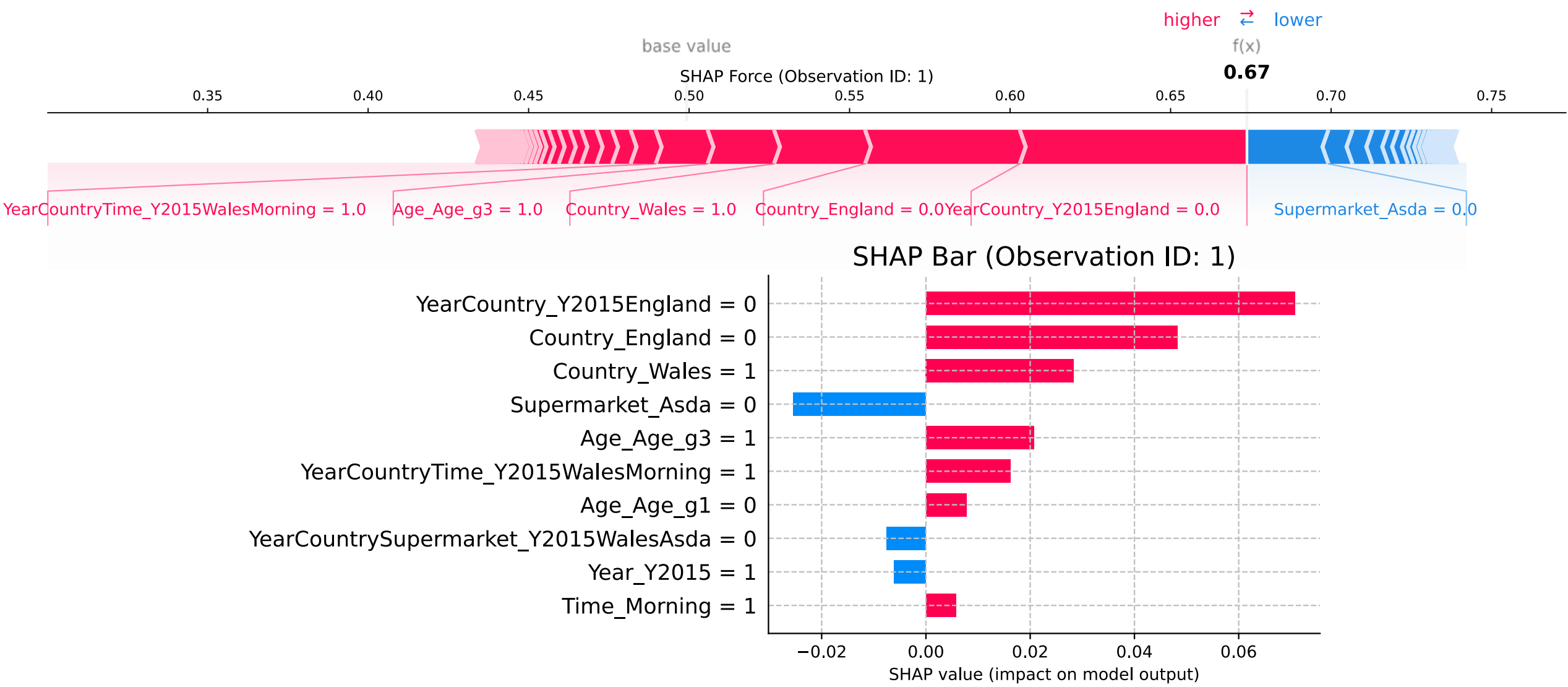
Average SHAP score



SHAP Local Feature Importance



SHAP Local Feature Importance



Outlook



(Poortinga, 2016, "Single-use plastic bags")

References

1. Cho, Renee. "Plastic, Paper or Cotton: Which Shopping Bag is Best?" *Earth Institute, Columbia University*, 30 April 2020, URL: <https://news.climate.columbia.edu/2020/04/30/plastic-paper-cotton-bags/>. Accessed 9 October 2021.
2. Edgington, Tom. "Plastic or paper: Which bag is greener?" *BBC*, 28 January 2019. URL: <https://www.bbc.com/news/business-47027792>. Accessed 9 October 2021.
3. Lavelle-Hill, R., Goulding, J., Smith, G., Clarke, D.D. and Bibby, P.A., 2020. "Psychological and demographic predictors of plastic bag consumption in transaction data". *Journal of Environmental Psychology*, 72, p.101473. doi: [10.1016/j.jenvp.2020.101473](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jenvp.2020.101473)
4. Poortinga, Wouter, Sautkina, Elena, Thomas, Gregory O. and Wolstenholme, Emily 2016. "The English plastic bag charge: Changes in attitudes and behaviour". [Project Report]. *Welsh School of Architecture, School of Psychology, Cardiff University*. URL: <https://orca.cardiff.ac.uk/94652/>
5. Poortinga, Wouter and Whitmarsh, Lorraine (2018). "The English plastic bag charge and behavioural spillover". [Data Collection]. *Colchester, Essex: UK Data Archive*. [10.5255/UKDA-SN-852642](https://beta.ukdataservice.ac.uk/datacatalog/studies/study?id=105255)
6. Thomas GO, Sautkina E, Poortinga W, Wolstenholme E and Whitmarsh L (2019) "The English Plastic Bag Charge Changed Behavior and Increased Support for Other Charges to Reduce Plastic Waste". *Front. Psychol.* 10:266. doi: [10.3389/fpsyg.2019.00266](https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2019.00266)
7. Thompson, Claire, "Paper, Plastic or Reusable?" *Stanford Magazine*, September 2017. URL: <https://stanfordmag.org/contents/paper-plastic-or-reusable>. Accessed 9 October 2021.
8. UNEP (2018). *SINGLE-USE PLASTICS: A Roadmap for Sustainability* (Rev. ed., pp. vi; 6) ISBN: 978-92-807-3705-9. URL: <https://www.unep.org/resources/report/single-use-plastics-roadmap-sustainability>

Any questions?

Thank you very much!!
More in the [Repo](#)!

Appendix

Logistic Regression

No Penalty

L1 Penalty

- `C: np.logspace(-3, 2, 21)`

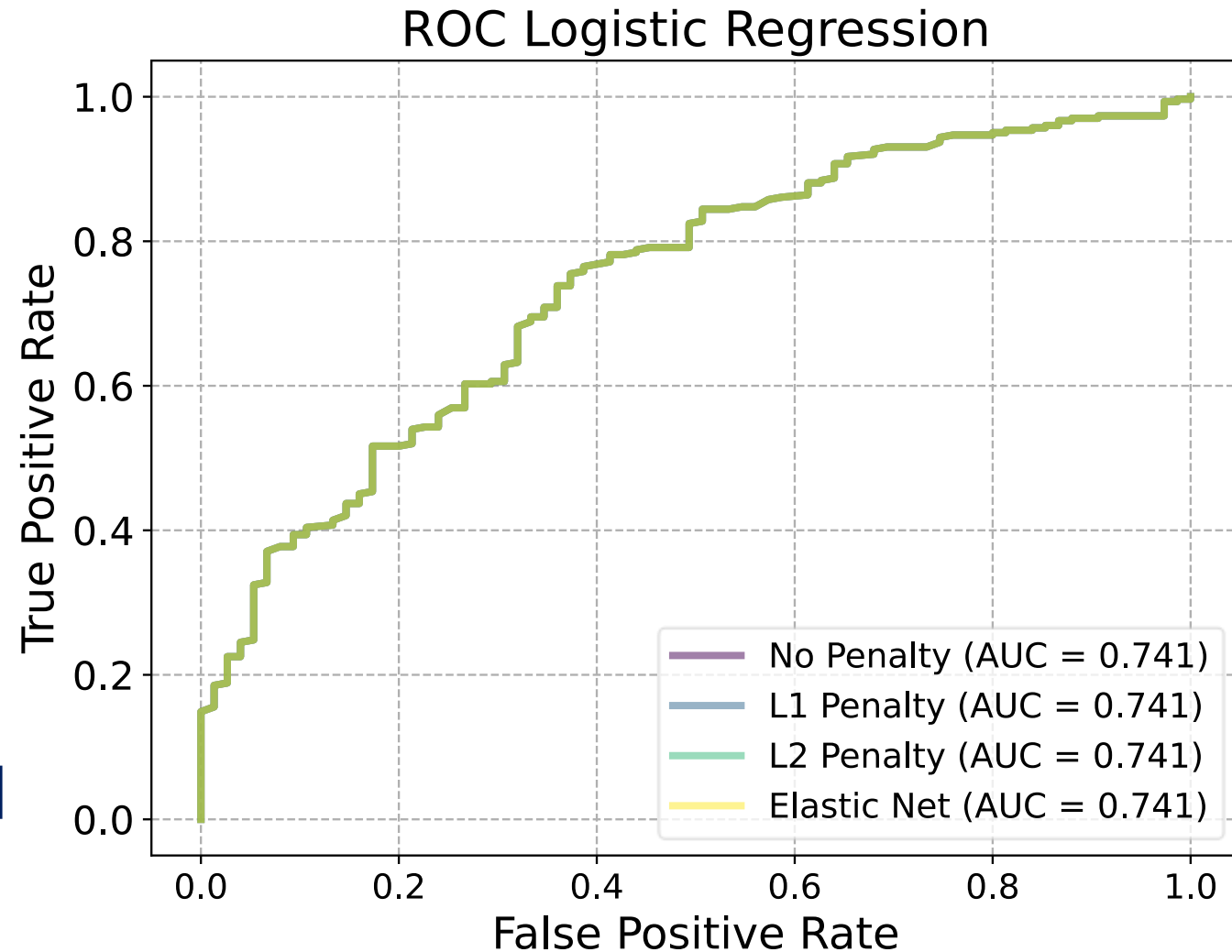
L2 Penalty

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Elastic Net

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SHAP Matplotlib Color

Cannot change the colormap when matplotlib == True

<https://github.com/slundberg/shap/issues/62>

