

# VARMOLE: A BIOLOGICALLY DROP-CONNECT DEEP NEURAL NETWORK MODEL FOR PRIORITIZING DISEASE RISK VARIANTS AND GENES



Nam D. Nguyen<sup>1,3</sup>, Ting Jin<sup>2,3</sup>,  
Daifeng Wang<sup>2,3,\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Computer Science,  
Stony Brook University, Stony Brook,  
NY 11794, USA

<sup>2</sup>Department of Biostatistics and  
Medical Informatics, University of  
Wisconsin-Madison, WI 53726, USA

<sup>3</sup>Waisman Center, University of  
Wisconsin-Madison, WI 53705, USA



# MOTIVATION

GWAS found many genetic variants associated with diseases

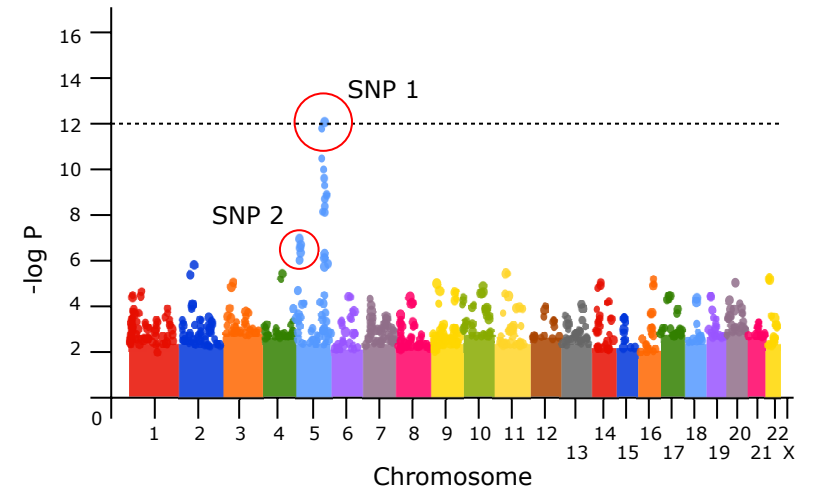
Molecular mechanism from variants to diseases are still unclear

Multiomics help to understand molecular mechanism

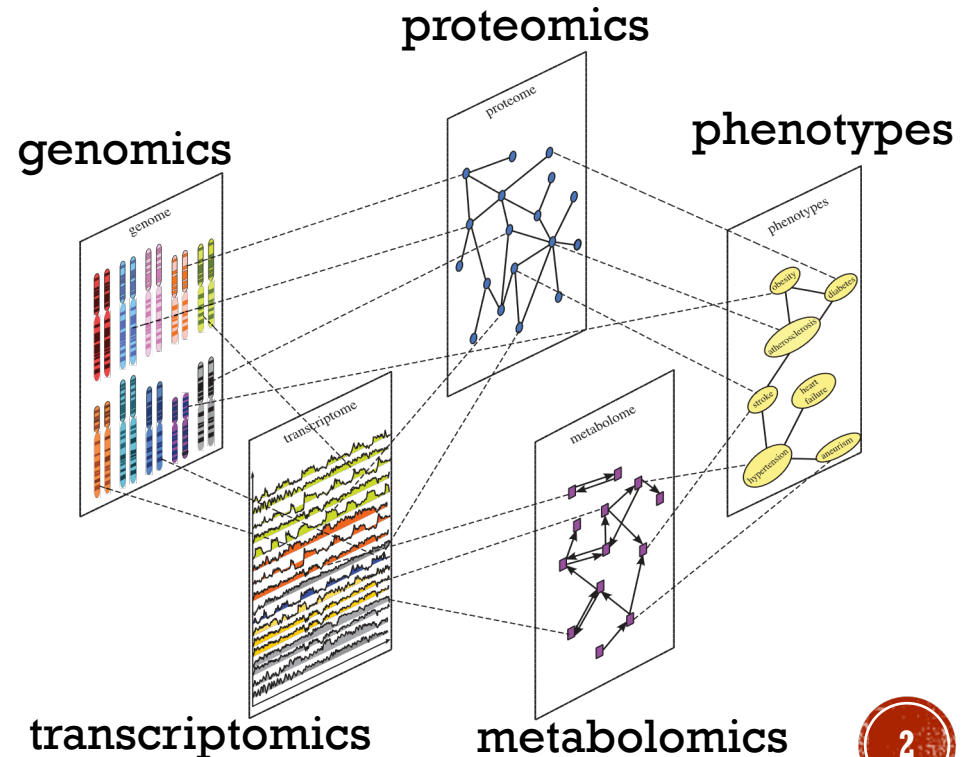
- Gene regulation, functional genomics



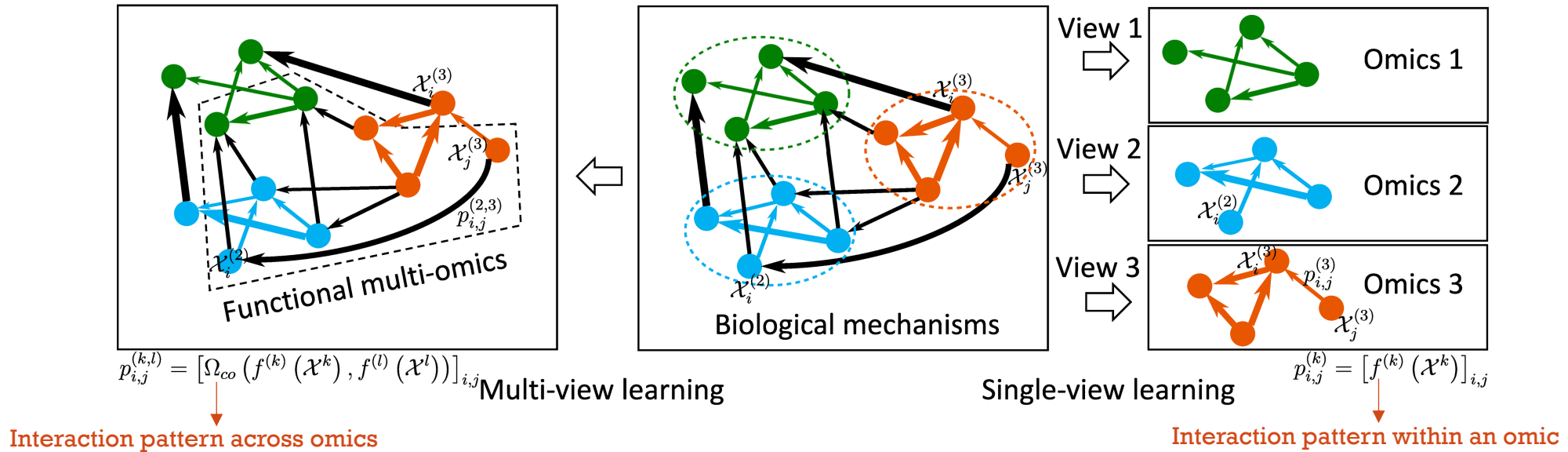
How to integrate multiomics and find causal variants & genes & networks for disease



<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:GWAS-%C3%9Cbersicht.svg>



# MULTIVIEW LEARNING FOR UNDERSTANDING FUNCTIONAL MULTI-OMICS



- For example, gene regulation can relate to
  1. Genomics; e.g., SNPs
  2. Transcriptomics; e.g., genes
  3. Proteomics; e.g., transcription factors (TFs)

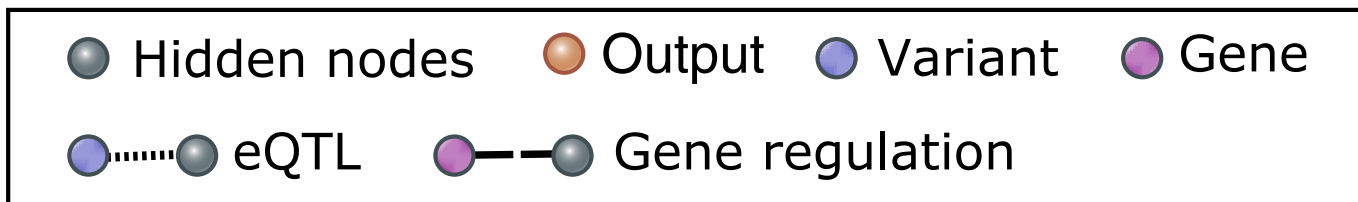
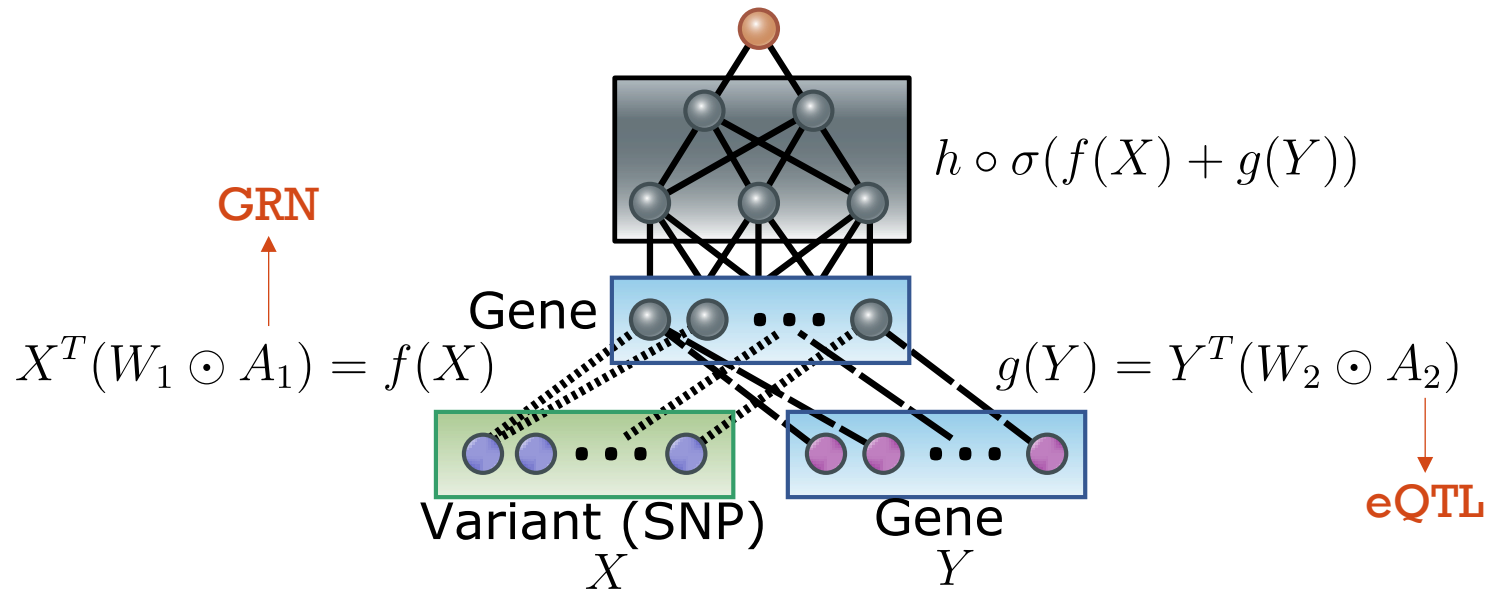


Cross-talk patterns:

$\Omega_{co}(f^{(1)}, f^{(3)})$ : SNPs break TF binding sites

$\Omega_{co}(f^{(2)}, f^{(3)})$ : TFs control gene expression

$\Omega_{co}(f^{(1)}, f^{(2)})$ : SNPs associate with gene expression



## VARMOLE

- Input form 2 views,  $X, Y$  (SNPs & genes)
- First layer embed  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  – gene regularoty network (GRN) and eQTL

→ From variants (& gene regulations) to gene expression

- Other fully connected hidden layers:  $h$ ;

→ From gene expression to phenotypes

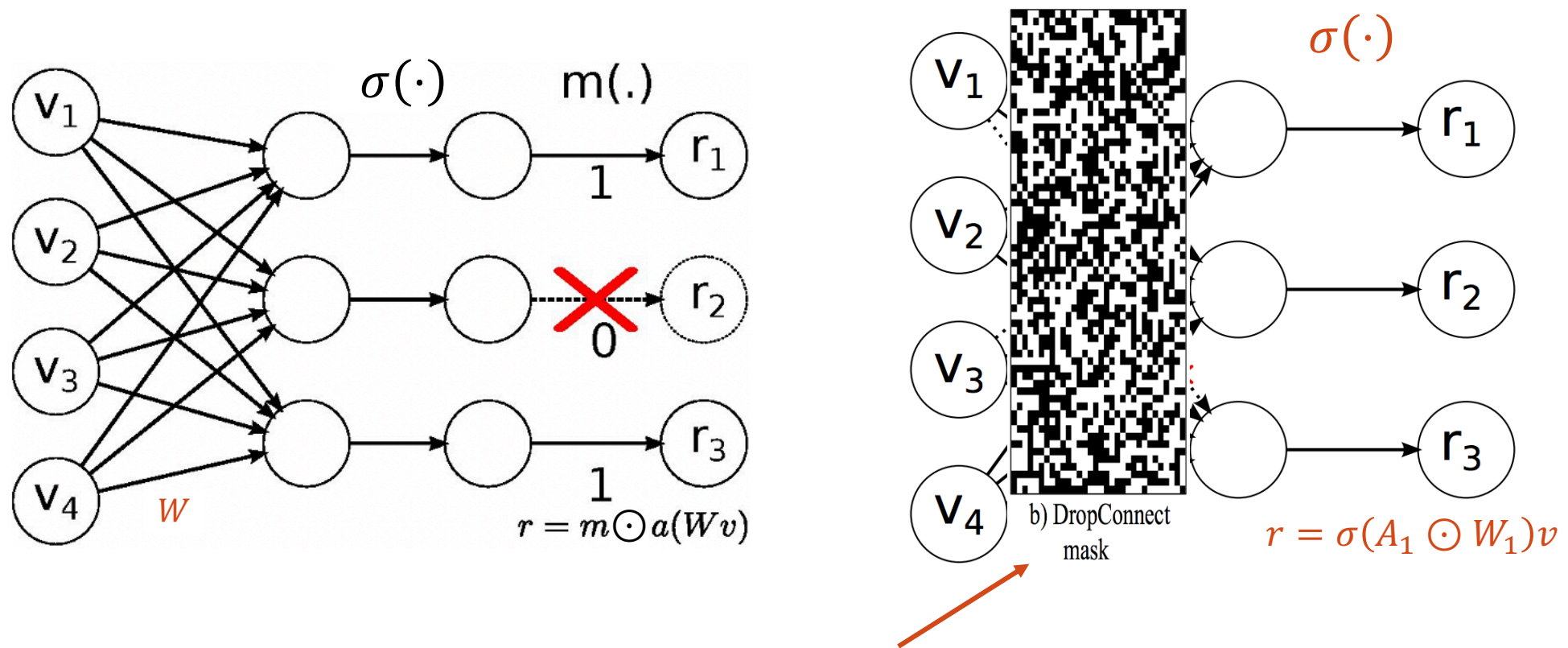
- Softmax classification layer:  $o = \delta \left( h \circ \sigma(f(X) + g(Y)) \right)$ ;

- The Cross-Entropy:  $L(o, \hat{o}) = -\frac{1}{n \sum_{i=1}^n y_i \log(\hat{y}_i)}$

- Varmole:  $\min L(o, \hat{o}) + \|W\|_1$

# DROP-CONNECT

- Drop-out and drop-connect are 2 simple but effective regularization techniques

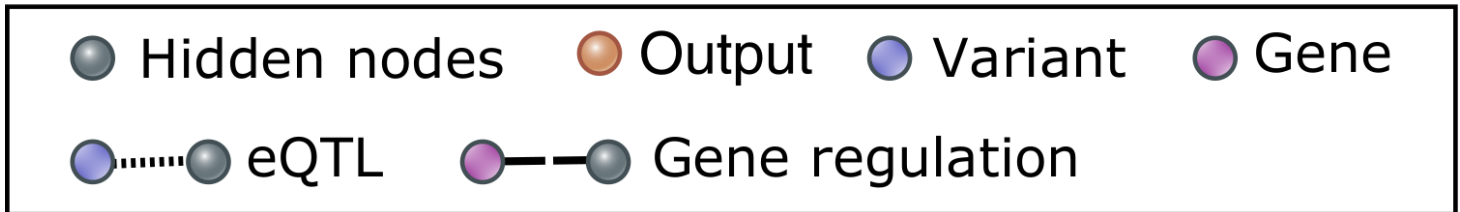
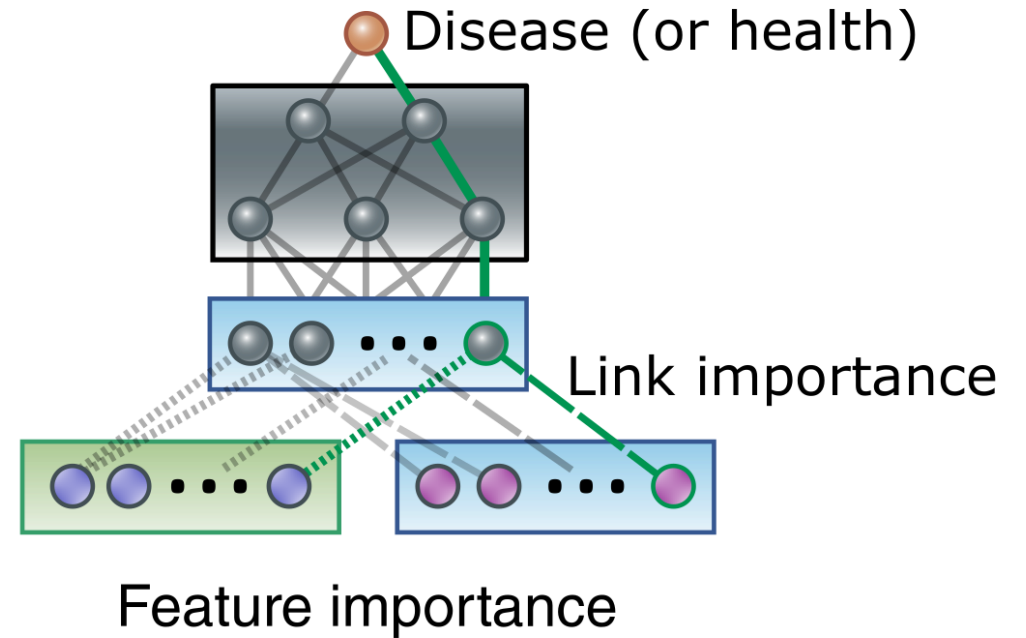


The drop-connect mask is GRN or eQTL ( $A_1$  or  $A_2$ )

# Interpret with Integrated gradient

## INTERPRETATION: PRIORITIZATION VIA INTEGRATED GRADIENTS

- Given a model  $F$ , an input  $x$ , and the output  $F(x)$  of the model for input in question, an attribution method returns the 'relevance' of each input feature  $i$  to the output

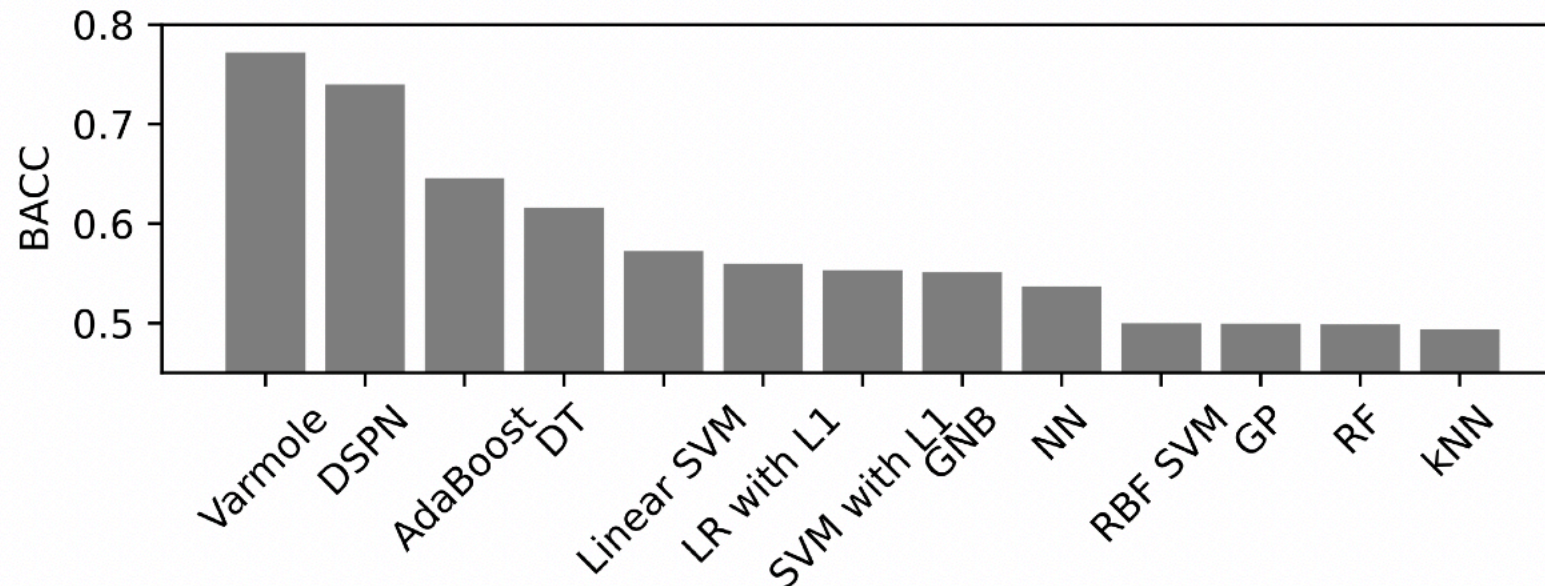


$$\boxed{\text{IntegratedGrads}_i(x)} ::= (x_i - x'_i) \times \int_{\alpha=0}^1 \frac{\partial F(x' + \alpha \times (x - x'))}{\partial x_i} d\alpha$$

Importance score of feature  $i$  of input  $x$

# APPLICATION FOR SCHIZOPHRENIA

- Dataset:
  - RNA-seq gene expression & genotype data (dosage) for 487 schizophrenia (scz) vs. 891 non-scz human brain samples (front cortex)
  - Embedding GTEx eQTLs & PsychENCODE GRN for human brain front cortex
  - → 127304 SNPs, 2598 genes



# PRIORITIZED GENE FUNCTIONS & REGULATORY LINKS FOR SCHIZOPHRENIA

- A list of enriched functions (FDR<0.05) from prioritized genes:
  - neuron development
  - axon guidance
  - cell adhesion
  - calcium signaling
  - response to external stimulus
  - NMDA receptor
  - insulin secretion
- Prioritized SNP-gene pairs
  - SNP-gene pairs on the interacting enhancers and promoters (Hi-C) have significantly higher importance scores ( $p < 5e-5$ )
  - Potential regulatory roles of prioritized SNPs to genes via enhancers



# FUTURE WORK

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Single cell data integration

Cell-type gene regulatory networks



Additional omics

Epigenomics (e.g., ATAC-seq)



Deeper phenotypes

Imaging, behavior

# THANK YOU!

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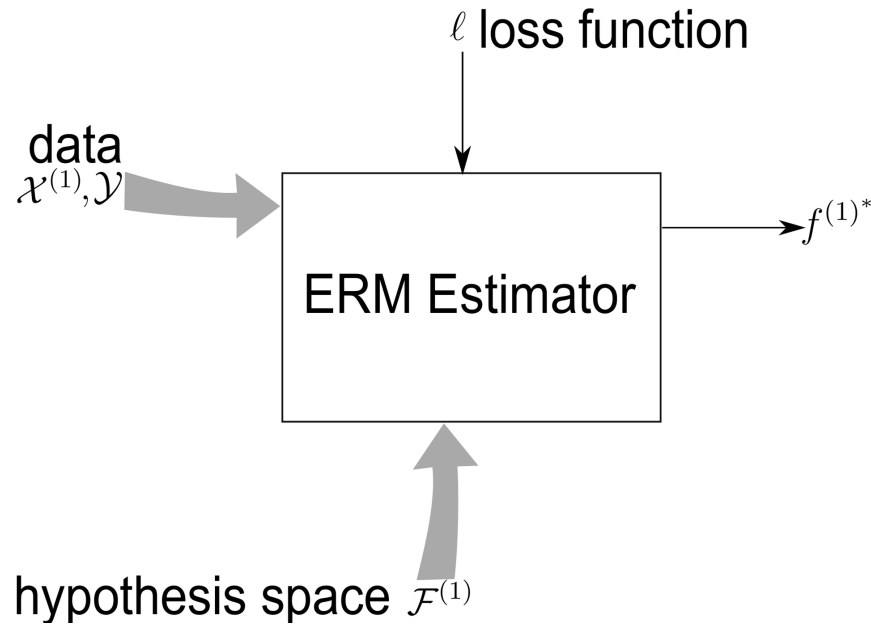


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Q&A

# EMPIRICAL RISK MINIMIZATION (ERM) FOR SINGLE-VIEW LEARNING

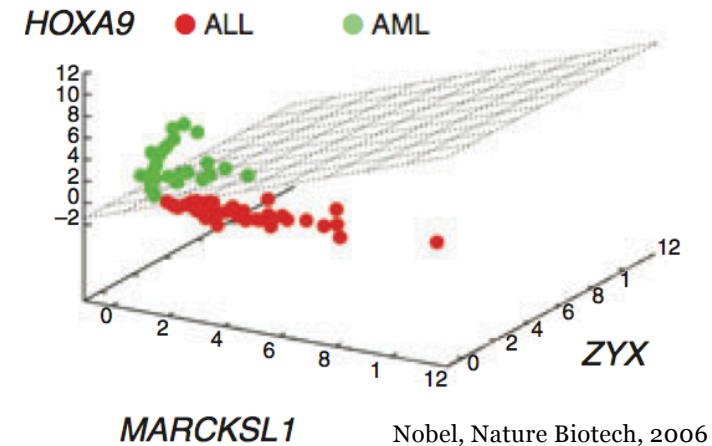


$$R(f) = \frac{1}{|S|} \sum_{(x_i, y_i) \in S} \ell(f(x_i), y_i)$$

$$f^* \in \operatorname{argmin}_f \{R(f) + \lambda \Omega(f)\}$$

Regularize  $f$  by biological knowledge  $\Omega$  (e.g., rules)

- e.g., Leukemia patient classification
  - $y_i$ : Acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) vs. Acute myeloid leukemia (AML)
  - $x_i$ : gene expression
  - $f$ : SVM (with  $l$  is a hinge loss)



# EMPIRICAL RISK MINIMIZATION FOR MULTI-VIEW LEARNING (MV-ERM)

