



# TRAINING SCHOOL 2025

Fundamentals of  
Biodata Analysis with R

📅 December 10-13, 2025

📍 FNS, University of Tirana, Albania

## Supervised learning: Classification

Marta Belchior Lopes

**NOVAMATH**

CENTER FOR MATHEMATICS  
+ APPLICATIONS

**NOVA**  
NOVA SCHOOL OF  
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

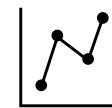
# Where I am



# Where I am



## Biostatistics, Machine Learning and Bioinformatics



- **Precision Medicine**



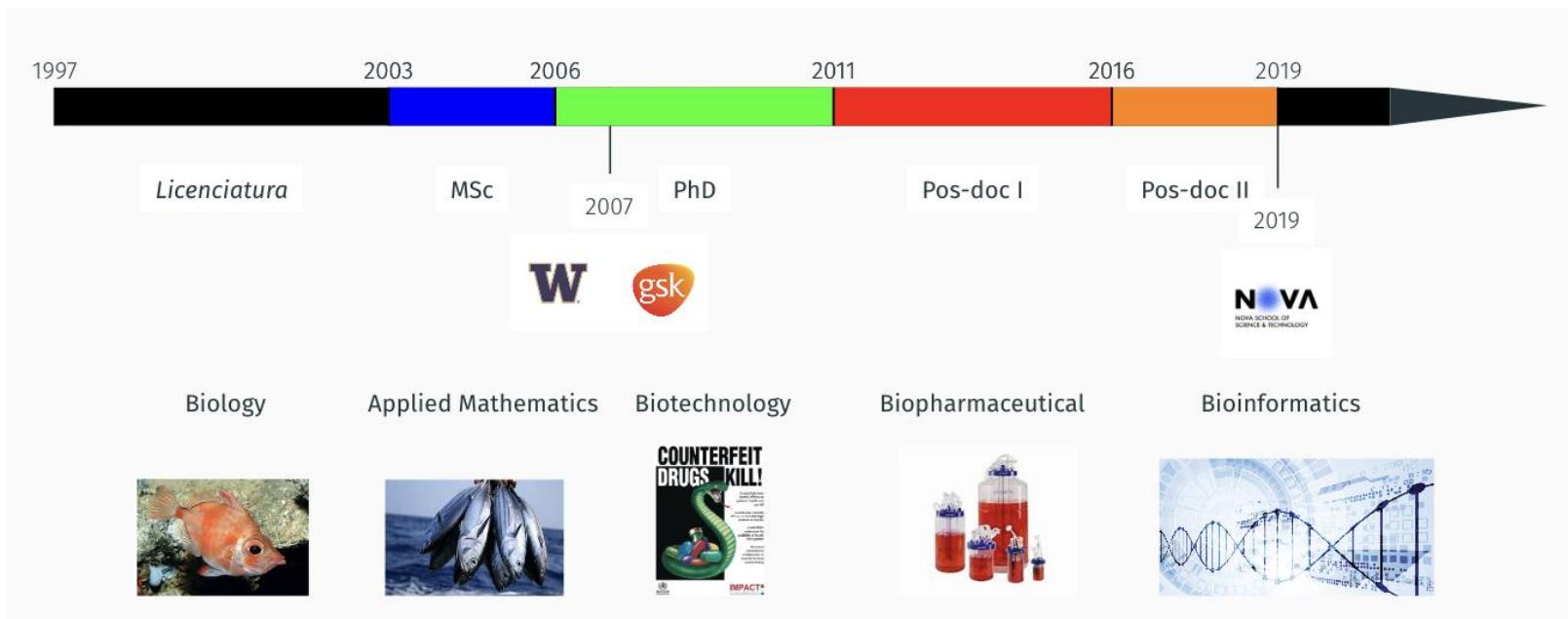
- **Environmental**



- **Ecology**



# My academic and research timeline



# Generalized Linear Models

**Linear regression**

**Multiple linear regression**

- Numerical response
- Numerical and categorical predictors

# Generalized Linear Models

Linear regression

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**Other type of response?**  
(e.g., categorical, count data)

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Generalized Linear Models  
(GLM)

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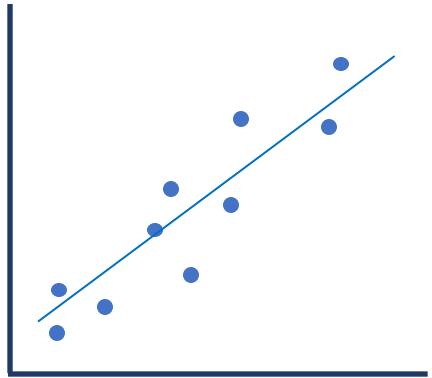


Generalized Linear Models  
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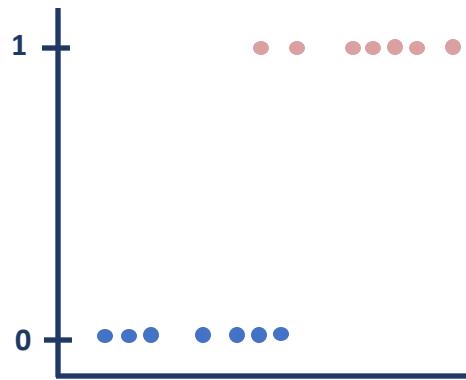
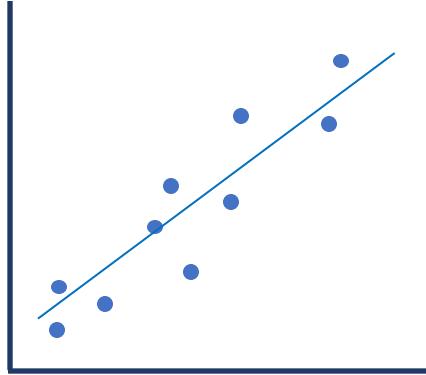


Logistic regression

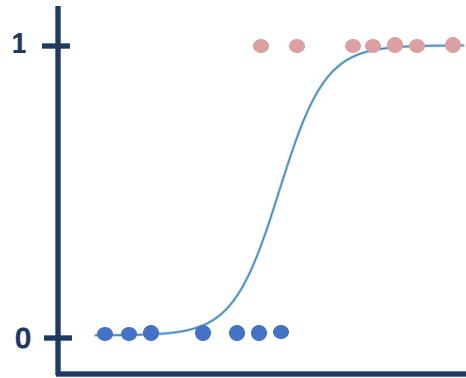
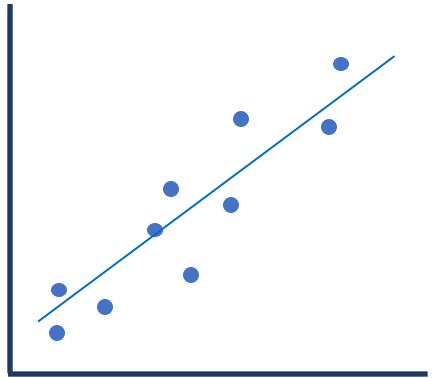
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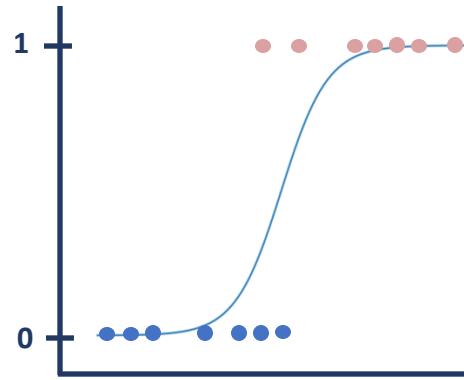
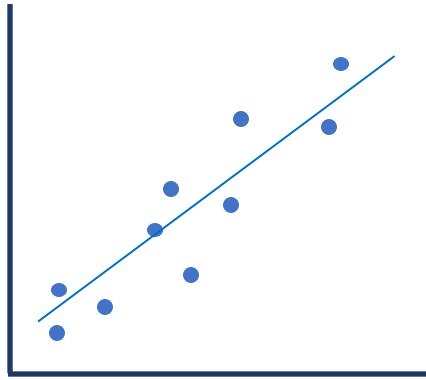
# Logistic regression



# Logistic regression



# Logistic regression



GLM uses a **link** function  $g(\cdot)$

Connects the linear predictor to the expected value of the response variable

# Logistic regression

## The **logit** function

$$\text{logit}(p) = \ln \left( \frac{p}{1 - p} \right) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \dots + \beta_p X_p$$

$p$  is the probability of success (event occurrence)

$1 - p$  is the probability of failure (non-event occurrence)

$\beta_0$  is the intercept term

$X_1, X_2, \dots, X_p$  are the predictor variables

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## The **logistic** function

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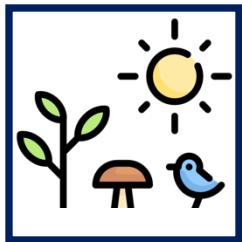
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$$l(\beta_0, \beta) = -\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \left[ y_i \log p_i + (1 - y_i) \log(1 - p_i) \right]$$

# Logistic regression

## BIOLOGY, ECOLOGY & HEALTH

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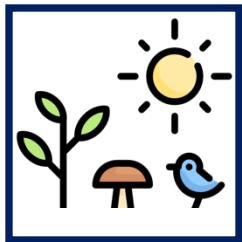


**Presence or absence** of a species in a given *habitat* based on environmental variables (e.g., temperature, humidity, vegetation cover)

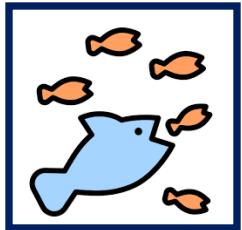
# Logistic regression

## BIOLOGY, ECOLOGY & HEALTH

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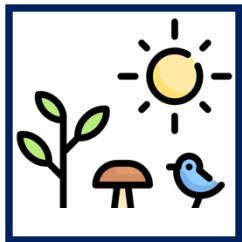


**Predator-prey relationships**, to predict predatory events based on variables such as predator abundance, environmental conditions, prey density

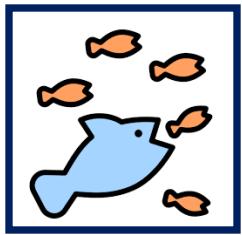
# Logistic regression

## BIOLOGY, ECOLOGY & HEALTH

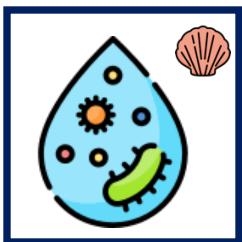
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**Presence or absence** of a species in a given *habitat* based on environmental variables (e.g., temperature, humidity, vegetation cover)



**Predator-prey relationships**, to predict predatory events based on variables such as predator abundance, environmental conditions, prey density



**Contamination events**, based on biological and environmental variables (pollution, contaminant, climate)

# Logistic regression

## BIOLOGY, ECOLOGY & HEALTH

---



**Food safety**, based variables measured by analytical testing in the laboratory

# Logistic regression

## BIOLOGY, ECOLOGY & HEALTH

---



**Food safety**, based variables measured by analytical testing in the laboratory



**Disease presence-absence** in a given population based on e.g., clinical, demographic and environmental variables

# Logistic regression

## BIOLOGY, ECOLOGY & HEALTH

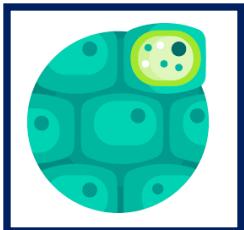
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**Food safety**, based variables measured by analytical testing in the laboratory



**Disease presence-absence** in a given population based on e.g., clinical, demographic and environmental variables



**Disease/cell subtype**, based on molecular variables (e.g., gene expression)

# Logistic regression

## Model training and testing

- Data split into training and test sets

# Logistic regression

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- Train the logistic regression model

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## Model training and testing

- Data split into training and test sets
- Train the logistic regression model
- Make predictions on the test set
- Evaluate the model

# Logistic regression

## Model evaluation

$$\text{accuracy} = \frac{TP + TN}{TP + TN + FP + FN}$$

$$\text{precision} = \frac{TP}{TP + FP}$$

$$\text{recall} = \frac{TP}{TP + FN} \quad \text{FPR} = \frac{FP}{FP + TN}$$

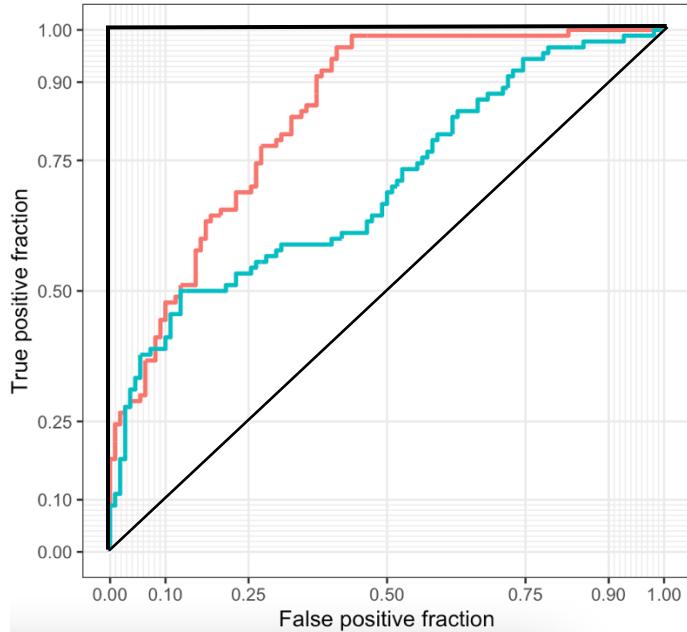
$$F1 = 2 * \frac{\text{precision} * \text{recall}}{\text{precision} + \text{recall}} = \frac{2TP}{2TP + FP + FN}$$

		PREDICTED	
		negative	positive
ACTUAL	negative	True Negative (TN)	False Positive (FP)
	positive	False Negative (FN)	True Positive (TP)

# Logistic regression

## Model evaluation

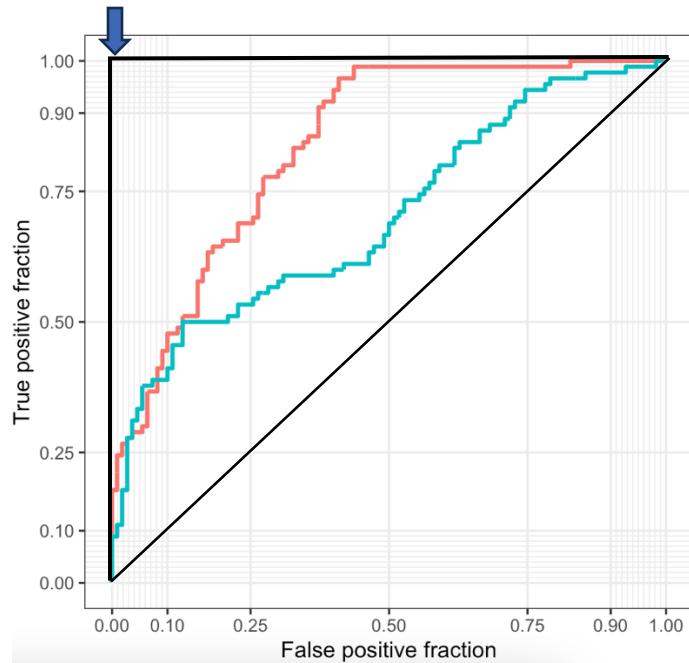
- Receiver Operating Characteristic (**ROC**) curve
- Area under the ROC curve (**AUC**)



# Logistic regression

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# Logistic regression



## Penguin species (Palmer Archipelago)

Horst AM, Hill AP, Gorman KB (2020). palmerpenguins: Palmer Archipelago (Antarctica) penguin data. R package version 0.1.0.



- bill\_length\_mm
- flipper\_length\_mm
- body\_mass\_g

# Logistic regression

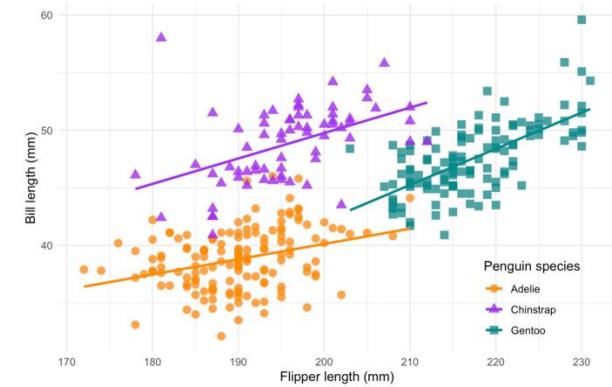
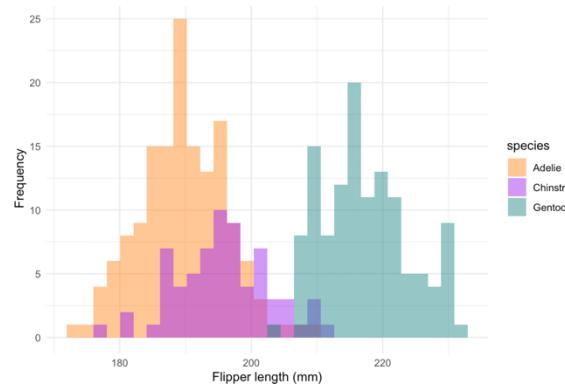
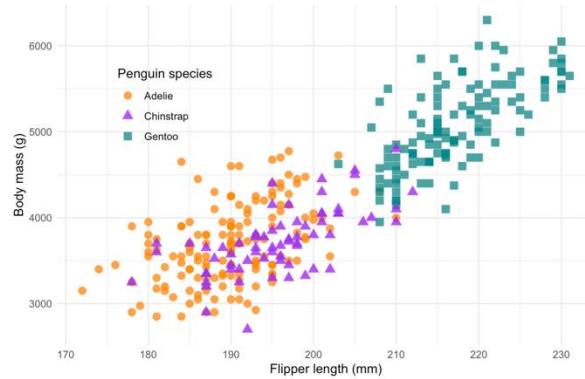


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- bill\_length\_mm
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# Logistic regression



## Penguin species (Palmer Archipelago)

- Create a binary outcome variable “IsGentoo”
- Partition the data into a training and a test set
- Build a binary logistic regression with multiple predictor variables
- Make predictions on the test set
- Evaluate the model using the confusion matrix and AUC

# Logistic regression



## Penguin species (Palmer Archipelago)

```
# Install packages and load the penguins dataset
install.packages("caret")
install.packages("pROC")
install.packages("palmerpenguins")

library("palmerpenguins")
data("penguins")
dim(penguins)
head(penguins, 10)
penguins <- na.omit(penguins) # remove rows with missing values

# Create a binary outcome variable, TRUE if species is Gentoo
penguins$IsGentoo <- ifelse(penguins$species == "Gentoo", 1, 0)

# Partition the data into a training set and a test set, preserving class distribution
set.seed(123) # For reproducibility
library("caret")
partition <- createDataPartition(penguins$IsGentoo, p = 0.7, list = FALSE)
train_data <- penguins[partition, ]
test_data <- penguins[-partition, ]

# Create a binary logistic regression model with multiple predictor variables
model <- glm(IsGentoo ~ bill_length_mm + flipper_length_mm + body_mass_g,
              data = train_data, family = binomial)

# Make predictions on the test set
test_predictions <- predict(model, newdata = test_data, type = "response")
```

# Logistic regression



## Penguin species (Palmer Archipelago)

```
## Evaluate the model

# Convert probabilities to class labels (threshold = 0.5)
test_labels <- ifelse(test_predictions > 0.5, TRUE, FALSE)

confusion_matrix <- table(Predicted = test_labels,
                           Actual = test_data$IsGentoo)
print(confusion_matrix)

# Compute the AUC (Area Under the ROC Curve)
library(pROC)
roc_obj <- roc(test_data$IsGentoo, test_predictions) # probs from glm
auc_value <- auc(roc_obj)
auc_value

plot(roc_obj, main = "ROC Curve")
```



# Logistic regression

## Penguin species (Palmer Archipelago)

```
> summary(model)
```

Call:

```
glm(formula = IsGentoo ~ bill_length_mm + flipper_length_mm +  
  body_mass_g, family = binomial, data = train_data)
```

Coefficients:

	Estimate	Std. Error	z value	Pr(> z )	
(Intercept)	-1.230e+02	3.201e+01	-3.844	0.000121	***
bill_length_mm	3.340e-01	1.693e-01	-1.973	0.048492	*
flipper_length_mm	5.631e-01	1.610e-01	3.498	0.000469	***
body_mass_g	4.954e-03	2.086e-03	2.376	0.017518	*

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Signif. codes: 0 ‘\*\*\*’ 0.001 ‘\*\*’ 0.01 ‘\*’ 0.05 ‘.’ 0.1 ‘ ’ 1

(Dispersion parameter for binomial family taken to be 1)

Null deviance: 308.835 on 233 degrees of freedom

Residual deviance: 25.393 on 230 degrees of freedom

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AIC: 33.393
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$$\text{bill\_length} = 45 \text{ mm}$$

$$\text{flipper\_length} = 220 \text{ mm}$$

$$\text{body\_mass} = 5500 \text{ g}$$

$$\log\left(\frac{p}{1-p}\right) = 13.1 \rightarrow p = 0.99$$

# Logistic regression

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$$\log\left(\frac{p}{1-p}\right) = 13.1 \rightarrow p = 0.99$$

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flipper\_length = 195 mm

body\_mass = 5500 g

$$\log\left(\frac{p}{1-p}\right) = -0.98 \rightarrow p = 0.27$$

# Summary

- **Logistic regression** for binary outcome variables
- **Examples** of application in Biology, Ecology and Health
- **Mathematical** formulation and interpretation
- **R code** example



# TRAINING SCHOOL 2025

Fundamentals of  
Biodata Analysis with R

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## Dimensionality reduction and feature selection

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# Dimensionality reduction

## Why reducing data dimension?

- Not all features are important (e.g., less impact on the outcome or noise features)
- High number of features increase model complexity → need to simplify
- Measuring can be expensive and time-consuming

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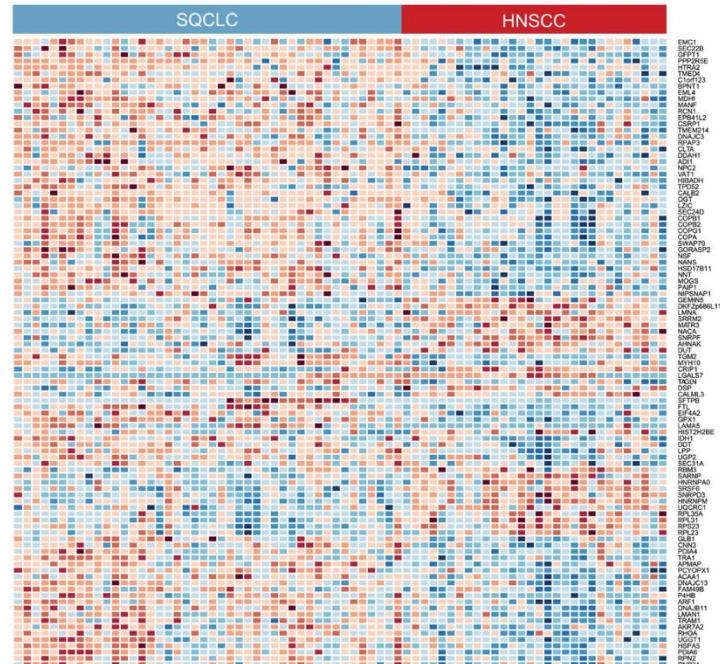
## FEATURE SELECTION

→ Improve **model performance, interpretability** and **efficiency**

# Feature selection

## Examples

- ### • **Genomics and Proteomics** in disease modeling

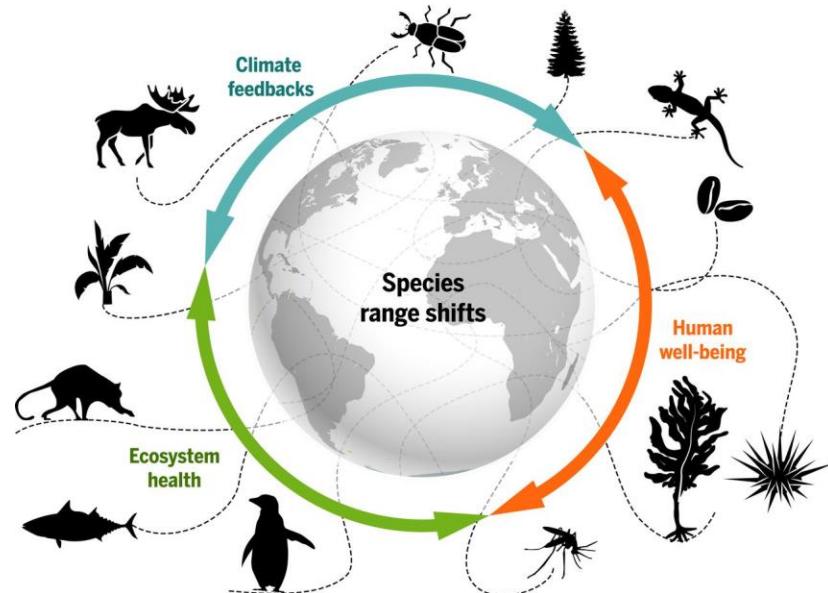


EMBO Mol Med (2018)10:e8428

# Feature selection

## Examples

- **Genomics and Proteomics** in disease modeling
- **Ecological** studies
  - Species distribution
  - Biodiversity

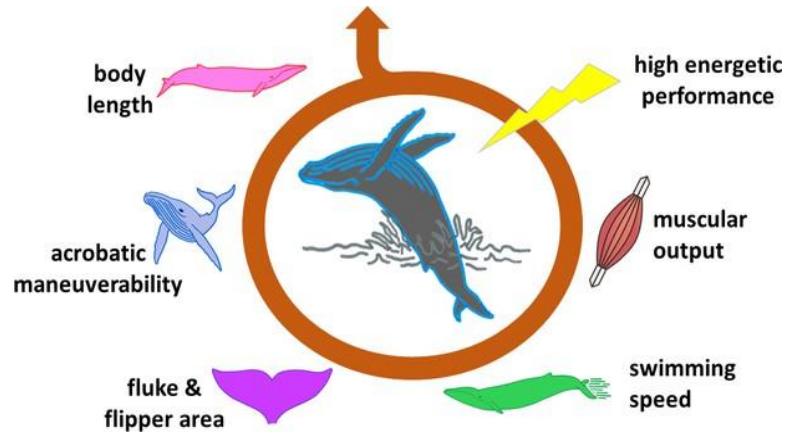


Science 355, eaai9214 (2017)

# Feature selection

## Examples

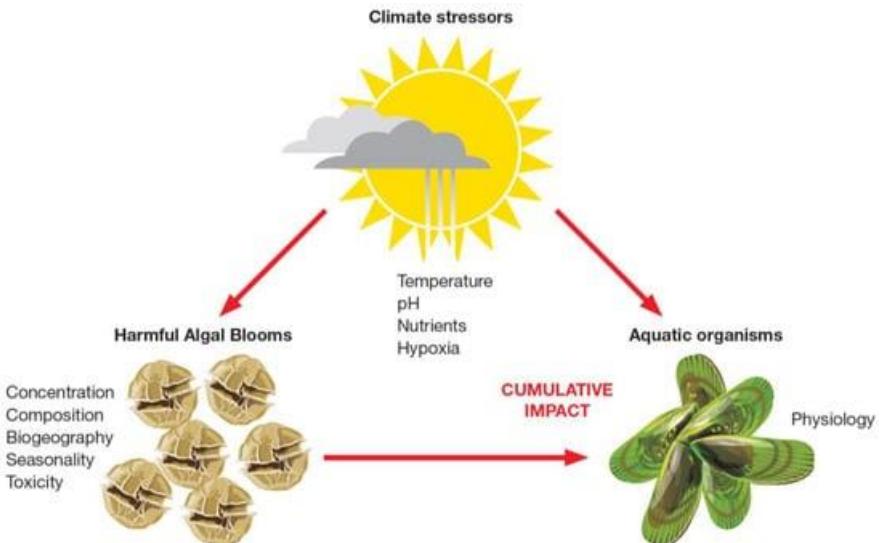
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- **Ecological** studies
  - Species distribution
  - Biodiversity
  - Behaviour ecology



# Feature selection

## Examples

- **Genomics and Proteomics** in disease modeling
- **Ecological** studies
- **Toxicology** studies



Toxins 2022, 14, 341

# Feature selection

## Strategies

- **Filter** methods: independent of the learning algorithm used for model building (e.g., statistical properties of the variables)
- **Wrapper** methods: evaluate feature subsets using a learning algorithm and select features based on the performance of the algorithm
- **Embedded** methods: combine feature selection and model training, selecting features as part of the model-building process

# Feature selection

## Filter methods

- Independence on the learning algorithm, and used as a **preprocessing** step
- Computationally **efficient**
- Features assessed based on **statistical** measures

# Feature selection

## Filter methods

- Univariate (unsupervised and supervised)
  - Variance
  - Correlation
  - Mutual information
  - Chi-square test
  - Analysis of variance (ANOVA)

# Feature selection

## Filter methods

- Univariate (unsupervised and supervised)
  - Variance
  - Correlation
  - Mutual information
  - Chi-square test
  - Analysis of variance (ANOVA)
- Multivariate
  - Correlation-based

# Feature selection

## Wrapper methods

- **Dependence** on the learning algorithm
- **Iterative** process
- **Model performance** metrics as criterion (e.g., accuracy)
- Computationally **expensive** (inadequate for high-dimensional data)

# Feature selection

## Wrapper methods

- **Dependence** on the learning algorithm
- **Iterative** process
- **Model performance** metrics as criterion (e.g., accuracy)
- Computationally **expensive** (inadequate for high-dimensional data)
  - Forward selection
  - Backward elimination
  - Recursive feature elimination

# Feature selection

## Embedded methods

- Combined **feature selection** and **model training**
- More **efficient** than wrapper methods
  - L1 regularization (LASSO)
  - Tree-based methods

# Feature selection

## Embedded methods

- Combined **feature selection** and **model training**
- More **efficient** than wrapper methods
  - L1 regularization (LASSO)
  - Tree-based methods

## Sparse logistic regression

$$l(\beta_0, \boldsymbol{\beta}) = -\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \left[ y_i \log \pi_i + (1 - y_i) \log(1 - \pi_i) \right] + \lambda F_\alpha(\boldsymbol{\beta})$$

$$F_\alpha(\boldsymbol{\beta}) = \left( \alpha \|\boldsymbol{\beta}\|_1 + \frac{1-\alpha}{2} \|\boldsymbol{\beta}\|_2^2 \right), \quad \boldsymbol{\beta} = (\beta_1, \dots, \beta_p)$$

Elastic net & LASSO

# Feature selection

**Single-cell gene expression** data from gliomas

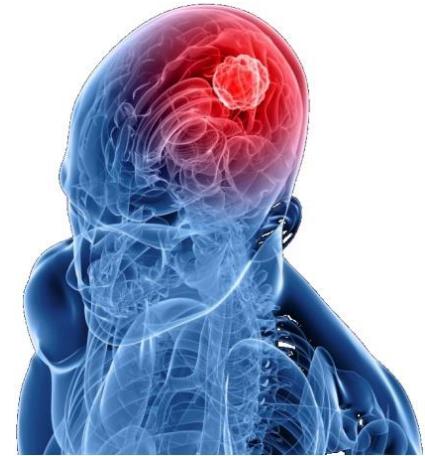
**Gliomas** – the most common brain tumors



# Feature selection

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**Intertumoral heterogeneity**

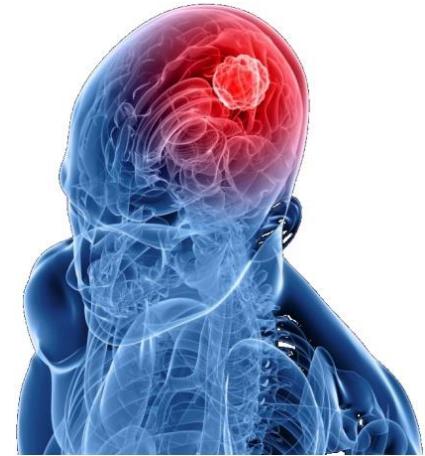


- Astrocytoma
- Oligodendroglioma
- Glioblastoma

# Feature selection

**Single-cell gene expression** data from gliomas

**Gliomas** – the most common brain tumors

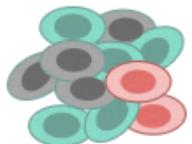


**Intertumoral heterogeneity**



- Astrocytoma
- Oligodendroglioma
- Glioblastoma

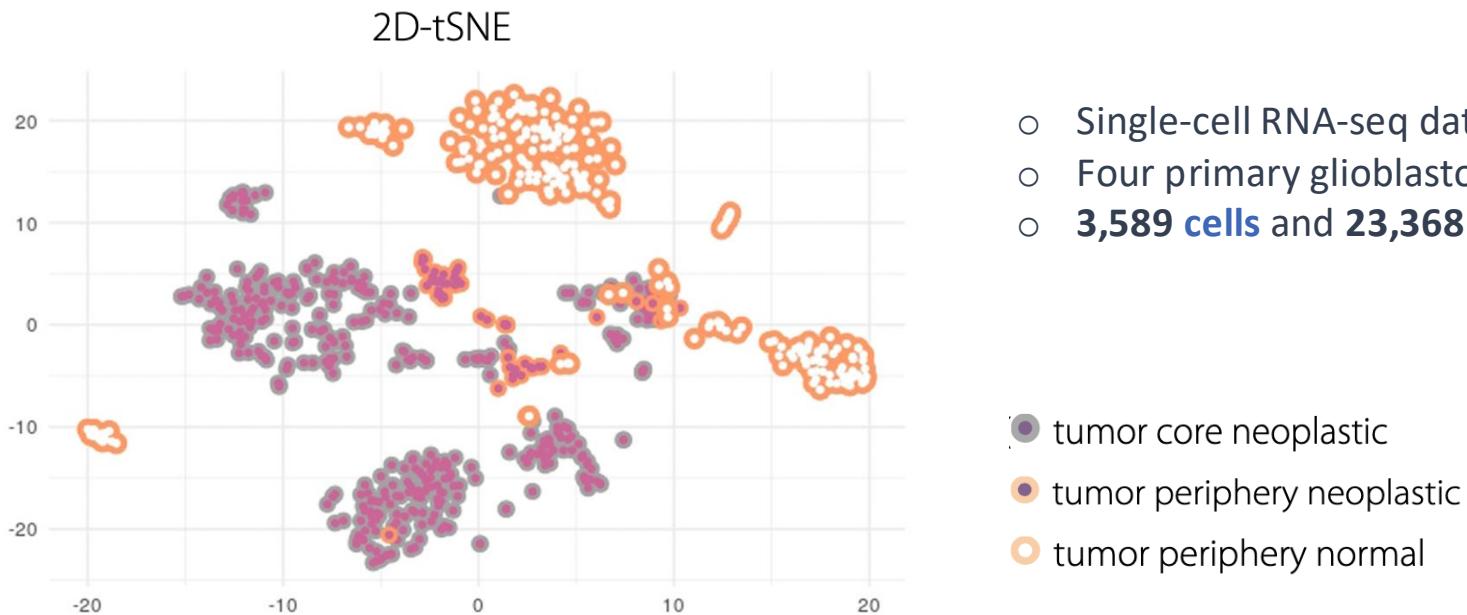
**Intratumoral heterogeneity**



**Therapy failure and tumor relapse**

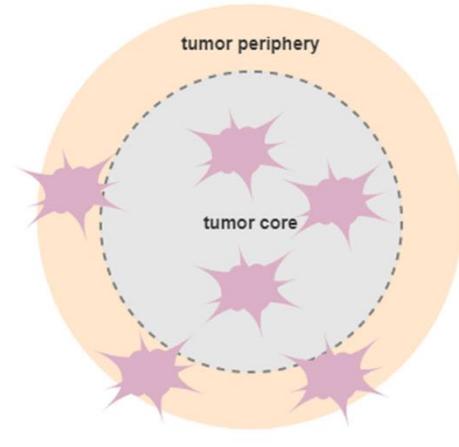
# Feature selection

## Glioblastoma single-cell gene expression data



# Feature selection

## Glioblastoma single-cell gene expression data



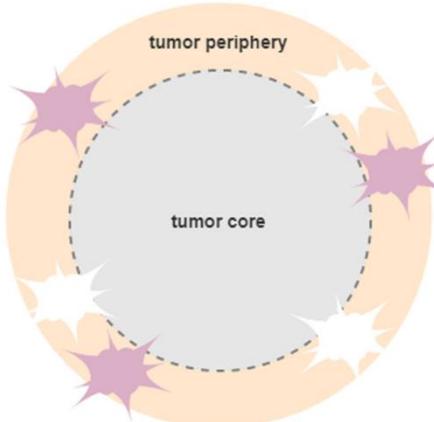
Model I  
T-core vs. T-periphery



tumor core neoplastic: class 1



tumor periphery neoplastic: class 0



Model II  
T-periphery vs. N-periphery



tumor periphery neoplastic: class 1



tumor periphery: class 0

- **Sparse logistic regression**
- **Elastic net penalty**

# Feature selection

## Glioblastoma single-cell gene expression data

### Model performance

Classes	Vars	Miscl		AUC	
		Train	Test	Train	Test
I - T-core vs. T-periphery	83	10	7	0.97	0.94
II - T-periphery vs. N-periphery	85	3	4	0.99	0.96

# Feature selection

## Glioblastoma single-cell gene expression data

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### Genes selected

Model I - T-core vs. T-periphery

<b>*ATP1A2</b>	<b>CLDN10</b>	<b>ECHDC2</b>	<b>FGFR3</b>	<b>GRM3</b>
<b>HERC6</b>	<b>HIF3A</b>	<b>HSPB8</b>	<b>NPL</b>	<b>PCSK1N</b>
<b>PPM1K</b>	<b>*PRODH</b>	<b>SCG3</b>	<b>SPARCL1</b>	<b>TMSB10</b>

Model II - T-periphery vs. N-periphery

<b>ADAMTS3</b>	<b>ADAMTSL1</b>	<b>*ANXA1</b>	<b>COL28A1</b>	<b>CRNDE</b>
<b>*EGFR</b>	<b>EMP1</b>	<b>F2R</b>	<b>GNG5</b>	<b>HES6</b>
<b>HLA-A</b>	<b>HOXB3</b>	<b>HSPB6</b>	<b>*HTRA1</b>	<b>ID3</b>
<b>*IFI44L</b>	<b>IGFBP2</b>	<b>IQCE</b>	<b>LINC00475</b>	<b>MGLL</b>
<b>PSPH</b>	<b>*PTGDS</b>	<b>SEC61G</b>	<b>SPOCK1</b>	<b>VIM</b>

# Summary

- **Need** for data dimensionality reduction
- **Methods** for feature selection
- **Embedded** feature selection
- **Example** of application in Biomedicine