

Can artificial neural networks supplant the polygene risk score for risk prediction of complex disorders given very large sample sizes?

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Genome-wide association studies (GWAS) provide a means of examining the common genetic variation underlying a range of traits and disorders. In addition, it is hoped that GWAS may provide a means of differentiating affected from unaffected individuals. This has potential applications in the area of risk prediction. Current attempts to address this problem focus on using the polygene risk score (PRS) to predict case-control status on the basis of GWAS data. However this approach has so far had limited success for complex traits such as schizophrenia (SZ). This is essentially a classification problem. Artificial neural networks (ANNs) have been shown in recent years to be highly effective in such applications. Here we apply an ANN to the problem of distinguishing SZ patients from unaffected controls. We compare the effectiveness of the ANN with the PRS in classifying individuals by case-control status based only on genetic data from a GWAS. We use the schizophrenia dataset from the Psychiatric Genomics

Consortium (PGC) for this study. Our analysis indicates that the ANN is more sensitive to sample size than the PRS. As larger and larger sample sizes become available, we suggest that ANNs are a promising alternative to the PRS for classification and risk prediction for complex genetic disorders.

Keywords

Genome-wide association study, Single nucleotide polymorphism, Polygenic risk score, Artificial neural network, Complex genetic disorder.

Background

Genome-wide association studies (GWAS) capture common genetic variation in the form of single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) and hence provide a means of investigating the genetic architecture of common heritable traits and disorders. In particular, the case-control GWAS, the most frequent GWAS design, has been used to identify systematic genetic differences between cases and unaffected controls in many complex disorders such as schizophrenia (SZ) [17]. One can also consider the inverse problem; that is, given the genetic profile of an individual, can we predict their case or control status? This has obvious applications in risk prediction in the clinical and public health areas even in the absence of a detailed understanding of the genetic mechanisms involved. But the classification problem is still a challenge. This is due to small effect sizes and the random variation of SNP allele frequencies as a result of finite sample sizes, as well as the polygenic nature of complex genetic disorders.

This classification problem has been addressed (in the context of GWAS) principally

through the use of the polygenic risk score (PRS) ([20], [8], [10]). For a PRS analysis, each individual in a test dataset is assigned a PRS which summarises their risk for the disorder or trait in question. The PRS is calculated by summing up the number of risk alleles the individual possesses for each SNP weighted by its effect size obtained from an independent *training* GWAS association analysis. The SNPs are all treated as independent. Examples are beginning to appear of the use of the PRS in a clinical setting. For example, the PRS has shown potential for screening individuals for breast cancer risk [13] but its clinical utility is currently limited [26]. For complex disorders such as SZ, the proportion of liability explained by the PRS is relatively low (about 7% for SZ, [17]). Thus, the PRS on its own does not have the ability to discriminate effectively between affected and unaffected individuals [11]. In addition, standard independent testing of SNPs for association with traits is restrictive and does not allow for the possibility of identifying joint associations and interactions between SNPs. In addition, it has been suggested that, due to the large number of SNPs used in the analysis, that (even after correction for population stratification) a significant fraction of the signal detected by the PRS is actually due to residual population effects [7].

Genetic classification can be viewed as a pattern recognition problem; a class of problems for which artificial neural networks (ANNs) are particularly well suited. ANNs constitute a specific form of machine learning. The possibility of using machine learning methods for classification in genetics has been considered for over a decade (see, for example [18], [21], [22] for some early reviews). More recently, attention has been drawn to the potential of deep learning, essentially a form of ANN using large numbers of hidden layers [27]. GWAS data present particular challenges for methods such as ANNs, in that the number of features (SNPs) is typically large in comparison with the number of training examples (sample size). Early studies (see, for example [1], [2], [3], [4], [5]), used small sample sizes (typically a few

hundred samples) and in fact only a few tens of SNPs, although clinical covariates were typically included as well. The number of SNPs (9000) used in a recent study ([6]) was comparable to the number used in the work we report here but the sample size was still small (approximately 1800). Here we exploit the large sample sizes now available to investigate the potential of ANNs to predict disease risk on the basis of genetic data alone given a sufficient number of training examples. The use of genetic data alone potentially allows the prediction of risk before disease onset when clinical data are not yet available. The specific dataset that we use is the SZ dataset from the Psychiatric Genomics Consortium (PGC), (containing approximately 64,000 samples), see Methods section.

Results

Sensitivity to Number of SNPs

The results of our analysis are shown in Fig 1 and Table 1 where we have varied the number of SNPs, for different sample sizes (10,000, 30,000, and 64,542). For each sample size we show the variation in performance for different p-value thresholds. Classification efficiency is measured as area under the curve (AUC). The ANN performs better than the PRS when small numbers of SNPs are used in the analysis. However, both methods become comparable as the number of SNPs increases for a given sample size (see Fig 1, plots (a), (b), (c)). Both methods show an improvement in performance that levels off as the number of SNPs increases beyond a certain point.

Sensitivity to Sample Size

Results for our sensitivity to sample size analysis can be seen in Fig 2 and Table 2 where we have varied the sample size for three different numbers of SNPs. Our results indicate a

higher level of performance for the ANN relative to the PRS in Fig 2, plots (a) and (b). This difference in performance increases with increasing sample size. In Fig 2, plot (c) the ANN performs less well for lower sample sizes (10,000, 20,000, and 30,000). For larger sample sizes it outperforms the PRS.

Discussion

We have carried out analyses on the performance of an ANN and the PRS in classifying case-control status using GWAS schizophrenia data. We conducted sensitivity analyses with respect to both number of SNPs and sample size. Before discussing the results, we briefly review the differences between these two approaches to classification. In the PRS approach, an individual in a test dataset is assigned case or control status according to their risk score. The score is calculated by summing the number of risk alleles the individual possesses for each SNP weighted by its effect size. This effect size is obtained from an independent (training) dataset. The SNPs are treated as independent and the score is refined by increasing the number of SNPs in the analysis. The precision with which the effect size is estimated is improved by increasing the sample size in the training dataset. In the ANN, on the other hand, all SNPs are simultaneously taken into account for each sample. The network weights are adjusted accordingly, using the data from the training set and these weights are used to calculate probabilities of class membership in a test dataset. The probabilities are refined by increasing the sample size in the training dataset.

These two approaches are therefore complementary, and while we would expect the performance of both to increase with both sample size and number of SNPs, the behaviour of the two methods as these parameters vary will, in general, differ.

In our sensitivity to number of SNPs analysis (Fig 1, Table 1) the ANN initially performs better

than the PRS. However, the PRS improves more quickly as the number of SNPs increases for a given sample size (see Fig 1, plots (a), (b), (c)). In both cases, the rate of improvement slows as the number of SNPs increases beyond a certain point. We have restricted the analysis to p-value thresholds less than 0.05 (corresponding to approximately 16,000 SNPs for the largest sample size). This is partly for practical reasons (computation time for the ANN). It is also desirable to keep the number of features reasonably small compared to the number of training examples. It is possible that a further improvement in performance may result if the number of SNPs is greatly increased. Our objective here is not to achieve the maximum possible performance but to compare the behaviour of the two methods as the number of SNPs is varied. Performance, on the other hand, does improve as the sample size is increased (for example, at a p-value threshold of 0.05 with overall sample size of 10,000, mean (se) ANN AUC = 0.578 (0.006), mean (se) PRS AUC = 0.584 (0.005), mean (sd) number of SNPs = 9,681 (124), with overall sample size 30,000, mean (se) ANN AUC = 0.617 (0.004), mean (se) PRS AUC = 0.628 (0.004), mean (sd) number of SNPs = 12,184 (109), and with overall sample size of 64,542, mean (se) ANN AUC = 0.661 (0.002), mean (se) PRS AUC = 0.669 (0.002), mean (sd) number of SNPs = 16,054 (154), see Fig 1, plots (a), (b), (c) and Table 1).

Note that the same p-value threshold at the larger sample sizes (for example, Fig 1, plot (c) in comparison to Fig 1 plot (a)) implies an increase in the number of SNPs available for analysis. This means that we cannot make a definitive statement about the behavior of the methods as sample size increases on the basis of the SNP sensitivity analysis above. This issue is addressed explicitly in our second sensitivity analysis where the number of SNPs is kept approximately constant as we vary the sample size.

Results for our sensitivity to sample size analysis can be seen in Fig 2 and Table 2 where we have varied the sample size for three different sets of SNPs obtained from different p-value

thresholds in a reference dataset. The maximum threshold used was 0.015 corresponding to approximately 3500 SNPs. The reason for this restriction was computation time for the ANN. It is likely that performance will improve further if a larger number of SNPs is used, however our objective here was to compare the behaviour of the two methods as sample size is varied, rather than to achieve optimum performance. Our results indicate a higher level of performance for the ANN relative to the PRS in Fig 2, plot (a) with 661 SNPs (mean) and plot (b) with 1,377 SNPs (mean). This difference in performance increases with increasing sample size. In Fig 2, plot (c), with 3,531 SNPs (mean), the ANN performs more poorly for lower sample sizes (10,000, 20,000, and 30,000). For larger sample sizes it begins to outperform the PRS.

Conclusions

there are two basic parameters that we can consider when we are carrying out this type of analysis: the number of SNPs and the sample size. We find that the performance of the PRS is more sensitive to the number of SNPs, while the ANN is more sensitive to the sample size. We emphasize that the ANN architecture used here has been minimal (one hidden layer, two hidden nodes). In particular, the architecture has not been specifically optimised for this dataset and our results therefore have general validity. There is considerable scope for further development with regard to the optimisation of the architecture in order to further improve the ANN's performance on this dataset.

Performance in terms of computation time has also not been optimised (see Supporting Information (SI) for details) since we do not regard this as a critical issue at this stage of development. Training times are therefore relatively long, in contrast to the PRS which requires only an association analysis on the training dataset to obtain the odds ratios

required to compute the scores. Significant reductions in computation time should be achievable by optimisation of for example, step-size and (in particular) parallelisation. An important issue for ANNs (and machine learning methods in general) is the dissemination of the results. (This is straightforward in the case of the PRS, since all that is required is the list of SNPs used and the associated odds ratios.) All the information for the trained network is available, in principle, in the list of SNPs and the list of network weights and biases; however this information is difficult to use and interpret in practice and it is desirable to have a complete end-to-end pipeline available. This is beyond the scope of the present work, but we plan to develop such a pipeline in the next phase of this project.

In summary, we have presented here an alternative potential approach to the current method of choice, the PRS for case-control classification. Our analysis indicates that the ANN outperforms the PRS at large sample sizes and will therefore prove a promising alternative to the PRS for the very large sample sizes that are now becoming available.

The results we have presented here are a proof-of-concept. Our ANN requires further optimisation to maximise performance. The system will also require further optimisation for speed in order to handle larger numbers of SNPs. In addition, a fully developed pipeline will be required in order for the system to be easily useable by the wide community. These issues will be addressed in the next phase of this work.

Methods

Data

We use the PGC SZ data (Ripke et al. [17]). Of the total of 43 datasets analysed in [17] we have been granted access to 40, representing 84.1% of the total case-control data originally

analysed (67,184 of 79,845 samples), (86.7% of the cases (29,689 of 34,241), 82.2% of the controls (37,495 of 45,604)). Each of these datasets has been imputed using the 1000 Genomes Project reference panel [19] and quality control (QC) has been applied to these individual datasets prior to our accessing the data. We use the datasets that have been subjected to a light QC (best guess genotypes based on imputation, SNP missing rate <2%) in order to maximise the overlap of SNPs between the datasets as we are performing a mega analysis rather than a meta-analysis. These datasets have approximately 7,000,000 variants each, see SI Table S1. These data have been made available by the PGC, see Acknowledgements for details of how to access these data.

Data Quality Control, Filtering and Principal Component Analysis

We merged all 40 datasets using the PLINK 1.9 software [14] command -merge-list. This resulted in a dataset consisting of approximately 14,000,000 variants and 67,184 samples (29,689 cases, 37,495 controls). Next, non-SNP variants were removed, SNP missingness (>0.01) and individual missingness (>0.02) filtering was carried out, and related samples were removed (random removal of one individual from pairs of related samples with cases preferentially retained). Additional SNP QC was then carried out. This resulted in what we refer to as the *Mega* dataset consisting of approximately 2,000,000 variants (not all imputed SNPs were present in all 40 datasets). The dataset consisted of 64,542 samples (28,707 cases, 35,835 controls), see Table 3. This *Mega* dataset was used as the basis for all subsequent analyses. In addition to filtering steps for SNPs and samples being carried out as part of the QC it was necessary to conduct principal component analyses (PCAs) in order to adjust association analyses for population stratification that is present in this merged dataset. For a

PCA the dataset was pruned using Plink 1.9 [14] (indep-pairwise 50 5 0.1) and regions of known long-range high linkage disequilibrium (LD) were removed [16]. The PCA analysis was then carried out using the software SmartPCA [15] on the resulting pruned dataset.

Association Findings for Mega Datasets

As we are conducting a mega analysis here and Ripke et al. [17] conducted a meta-analysis we carried out a comparison of top significant results between the two approaches for reference. We conducted an association analysis on the *Mega* dataset, including the first 10 PCs. Ripke et al. identified 128 LD independent SNPs that exceeded genome-wide significance ($p\text{-value } 5 \times 10^{-8}$). For each of these 128 top hits, an associated locus was defined as the physical region containing SNPs correlated at $r^2 > 0.6$ with each of the 128 index SNPs. Of these 128 top hit regions, 111 are associations on chromosomes 1 to 22 (we are not considering sex chromosomes here) and are bi-allelic SNPs, the other 17 are either on the sex chromosomes (3 on chrX) and/or are not bi-allelic SNPs (14 indels). For each of these 111 regions we identified whether or not we had a SNP included in these regions in our *Mega* dataset, resulting in 95 SNP regions that overlap with Ripke et al. [17] (86%). Of these 95 overlapping regions, we identified 39 (41%) that contained a SNP in our analysis that also had a $p\text{-value} \leq 5 \times 10^{-8}$ in our mega association analysis. See Figs S1-S4 in SI for further details. Broadly speaking our results are consistent with those of Ripke et al. [17].

Artificial Neural Networks

In this section we briefly review the principles of artificial neural networks, as used for classification. An ANN consists of a number of interconnected neurons, or nodes, each of

which processes information and passes it to other nodes in the network. There is an input layer which receives its inputs from the user and an output layer which delivers the outputs. In general, there will be one or more intermediate hidden layers; this is the architecture of the network (see Fig 3). In the course of training, both inputs and outputs are specified and the ANN adjusts the network weights in order to achieve the best fit to the data. In this way the ANN learns to recognise patterns. In our application, the inputs are the SNP genotypes for each individual. There is a single output node - the probability of the case or control status of each individual.

The complexity of the behaviour of the ANN increases with the number of hidden nodes and hidden layers. Since in this study we are primarily interested in the general question of the performance of the ANN on large genetic datasets (and not on optimisation with respect to a particular disorder), we used a simple architecture with a single hidden layer consisting of two hidden nodes. The network is trained on a subset of the cases and controls. After training, the network is tested on an independent subset to assess its accuracy in predicting case/control status. We use the Skynet ANN for all analyses [9]. See SI for further details on the computational performance of this ANN.

Analysis Plan

All supervised learning classification problems incorporate two distinct steps. The first step, *feature selection*, involves determining the inputs that will be used to compute the classification. The second step, *training*, involves allocating appropriate weights to the selected features by using a training dataset in which both features and class labels are supplied. The trained classifier then uses these weights to classify new, previously unseen instances.

We begin by splitting the data into two non-overlapping subsets: training and test. The majority of the data (approximately 90%) is allocated to the training dataset. We perform additional SNP QC filtering (see Part 2, Table 3) independently on the training and test datasets. We conduct a PCA on the training dataset. We then carry out an association analysis correcting for PCs on the training dataset. We select SNPs (based on the association analysis and LD clumping in order to determine independent signals). These SNPs are the features for the classification step. For classification via the PRS the odds ratios (ORs) from the association analysis on the training dataset are supplied, as well as the SNP genotypes of the test dataset. We use the R statistical package PRSice [23] to compute the PRS. For classification in the ANN, the full genotype information for the selected SNPs for both the training and test datasets is required but not the ORs. This is the main difference in the information that is supplied to these classification methods. Based on the information that has been provided for the PRS a score is calculated for each sample in the test dataset which consists of the genotype data for the selected SNPs. In the case of the ANN the training genotypes are used to compute the network weights using the training data. These weights are then used to calculate class membership probabilities for each of the samples in the test dataset. See Figs S5-S8 in SI for details on the workflow. In order to examine the stability of the methods and to get error bounds we created ten independent training and test datasets as follows. We split the dataset into ten random disjoint subsets. Each of these ten is used as a test dataset with its corresponding training dataset consisting of the other nine datasets combined. This ensures that all test datasets are independent of each other and each is independent of their associated training dataset.

Comparison of Performance

A standard method for assessing the performance of a classifier is the AUC and we employ this here. All AUCs are calculated in R [24] using the package pROC [25].

Sensitivity to number of SNPs

The aim here is to compare the performance of both methods as we vary the number of SNPs. We examine the performance for three different sample sizes. We randomly select 10,000 (30,000 or use all of the *Mega* dataset) samples from the *Mega* dataset. We then split this dataset into ten disjoint subsets as described above. Each of these ten subsets is considered in turn as a test dataset with the remaining subsets its corresponding training dataset. This gives us ten replicates and enables us to compute a standard error (se) on the results. The ten test datasets are independent of each other by construction and each test dataset is also independent of its corresponding training dataset. For each replicate we carry out QC on the test and training dataset independently as described above. We then conduct an association analysis on the training dataset to obtain p-values for the SNPs. We then use these p-values to clump the SNPs at different levels of significance with results grouped based on LD (`-clump` command in plink). This ensures independence of the SNPs. As the significance level increases the number of SNPs yielded also increases allowing us to examine the behavior of the methods as we vary the number of SNPs.

Sensitivity to Sample Size

The aim here is to compare the performance of both methods as we vary the number of samples. We examine the performance for three different p-value thresholds. In order to maintain approximately the same number of SNPs as we vary the sample size it is necessary to

generate a reference set of SNPs from an independent subset of the *Mega* dataset. We randomly select 10,000 samples from the *Mega* dataset. We then conduct QC and PCA and an association analysis on this subset of data. We obtain three reference lists of SNPs at p-value thresholds: 0.002, 0.005, and 0.015 and the resulting SNPs are also clumped to ensure independence of signals. These yield SNP sets of size 677, 1,411, and 3,608, respectively. We then use the remaining 54,542 samples of the *Mega* dataset to create ten disjoint subsets as described previous section. For each replicate we carry out QC on the test and training dataset independently as described above. We then conduct an association analysis on the training dataset. This provides the ORs necessary for the PRS. The SNPs to be used in the analysis are selected from the reference list. Note that not all SNPs in the reference list will be present due to QC, particularly at lower sample sizes, but these variations are small, see Table 2. This allows us to examine the behavior of the methods as we vary the sample size using an approximately fixed number of SNPs.

Ethics declarations

Ethics approval and consent to participate

Not applicable.

Consent for publication

Not applicable.

Competing interests

Not applicable.

Availability of data and materials

The data that support the findings of this study are available from the Psychiatric Genomics Consortium [<http://www.med.unc.edu/pgc>]. Restrictions apply to the availability of these data, permission required from the Psychiatric Genomics Consortium.

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Authors' Contributions

CP and EAH conceived the idea, performed the analysis and wrote the paper. MG provided critical feedback and helped shape the research, analysis and manuscript. Members of the Schizophrenia Working Group of the Psychiatric Genomics Consortium provided access to the data used for the analysis. All listed members of the Schizophrenia Working Group of the Psychiatric Genomics Consortium had the opportunity to comment on the manuscript and approved the manuscript.

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	<i>P-value threshold</i>	<i>SNPs Mean (sd)</i>	<i>Reps</i>	<i>ANN Mean (se)</i>	<i>PRS Mean (se)</i>
Sample Size 10,000	0.001	368 (19)	10	0.554 (0.004)	0.549 (0.007)
	0.005	1378 (29)	10	0.572 (0.006)	0.570 (0.006)
	0.010	2481 (35)	10	0.584 (0.007)	0.576 (0.005)
	0.015	3481 (53)	10	0.578 (0.006)	0.579 (0.004)
	0.020	4439 (63)	10	0.583 (0.006)	0.581 (0.005)
	0.035	7123 (69)	10	0.586 (0.005)	0.583 (0.005)
	0.050	9681 (124)	10	0.578 (0.006)	0.584 (0.005)
Sample Size 30,000	0.001	770 (29)	10	0.599 (0.002)	0.578 (0.003)
	0.005	2253 (42)	10	0.611 (0.003)	0.599 (0.004)
	0.010	3686 (46)	10	0.617 (0.003)	0.610 (0.004)
	0.015	4936 (63)	10	0.616 (0.004)	0.615 (0.004)
	0.020	6100 (70)	10	0.617 (0.002)	0.618 (0.004)
	0.035	9286 (106)	10	0.616 (0.004)	0.623 (0.003)
	0.050	12184 (109)	10	0.617 (0.004)	0.628 (0.004)
Sample Size 64,542	0.001	1727 (20)	10	0.653 (0.001)	0.625 (0.002)
	0.005	3985 (35)	10	0.661 (0.002)	0.645 (0.002)
	0.010	5914 (87)	10	0.661 (0.002)	0.652 (0.002)
	0.015	7536 (108)	10	0.658 (0.002)	0.655 (0.002)
	0.020	8979 (117)	10	0.661 (0.002)	0.659 (0.002)
	0.035	12764 (146)	10	0.659 (0.002)	0.665 (0.002)
	0.050	16054 (154)	10	0.661 (0.002)	0.669 (0.002)

Table 1: Sensitivity to Number of SNPs. The results presented in this table are also to be found in Fig 1.

	<i>Sample Size</i>	<i>SNPs Mean (sd)</i>	<i>Reps</i>	<i>ANN Mean (se)</i>	<i>PRS Mean (se)</i>
<i>P-value threshold 0.002 ~661 SNPs</i>	10000	652 (5)	10	0.541 (0.004)	0.533 (0.007)
	20000	655 (4)	10	0.564 (0.004)	0.552 (0.004)
	30000	663 (4)	10	0.576 (0.004)	0.559 (0.004)
	40000	667 (3)	10	0.575 (0.008)	0.563 (0.003)
	50000	665 (3)	10	0.580 (0.002)	0.561 (0.003)
	54542	665 (3)	10	0.583 (0.003)	0.563 (0.002)
<i>P-value threshold 0.005 ~1,377 SNPs</i>	10000	1333 (9)	10	0.552 (0.007)	0.545 (0.005)
	20000	1366 (9)	10	0.563 (0.005)	0.557 (0.004)
	30000	1381 (8)	10	0.578 (0.003)	0.565 (0.003)
	40000	1388 (5)	10	0.586 (0.003)	0.571 (0.003)
	50000	1386 (6)	10	0.588 (0.002)	0.569 (0.003)
	54542	1386 (7)	10	0.589 (0.003)	0.571 (0.002)
<i>P-value threshold 0.015 ~3,531 SNPs</i>	10000	3469 (24)	10	0.546 (0.011)	0.553 (0.005)
	20000	3508 (15)	10	0.558 (0.003)	0.568 (0.004)
	30000	3539 (18)	10	0.572 (0.003)	0.578 (0.003)
	40000	3557 (11)	10	0.586 (0.002)	0.581 (0.002)
	50000	3554 (13)	10	0.589 (0.004)	0.585 (0.003)
	54542	3557 (11)	10	0.595 (0.003)	0.584 (0.002)

Table 2: Sensitivity to Sample Size. The results presented in this table are also to be found in

Fig 2.

		SNPs	Cases	Controls	Samples
Merged Datasets		13,802,094	29,689	37,495	67,184
PART 1	SNP QC				
	SNPs only, no indels, --snps-only	-865,628	-	-	-
	SNP call rate < 0.99, --geno 0.01	-10,917,525	-	-	-
	Individual QC				
	Individual call rate < 0.98, --mind 0.02	-	-216	-193	-409
	*Relatedness PI-HAT > 0.2, --genome	-	-766	-1,467	-2,233
	Remaining	2,018,941	28,707	35,835	64,542
PART 2	SNP QC				
	SNP call rate < 0.99, --genp 0.01	-3,650	-	-	-
	Diff missing cases and controls > 0.02	0	-	-	-
	HWE – controls $\leq 10e^{-6}$	-5,815	-	-	-
	HWE – cases $\leq 10e^{-10}$	-16	-	-	-
	MAF < 0.01	-2,912	-	-	-
Mega Dataset	Remaining	2,006,548	28,707	35,835	64,542

Table 3: Quality Control. Part 1 and Part 2 QC filters applied to the 40 merged datasets.

Part 2 filters are applied to the training and test datasets. *Analysis is conducted on a pruned dataset, same pruning applied as for PCA analysis. Pairs of related samples with a PI-HAT > 0.2 are identified and one individual is removed from the pair with cases preferentially retained. Analysis is repeated on remaining samples to again check for relatedness.

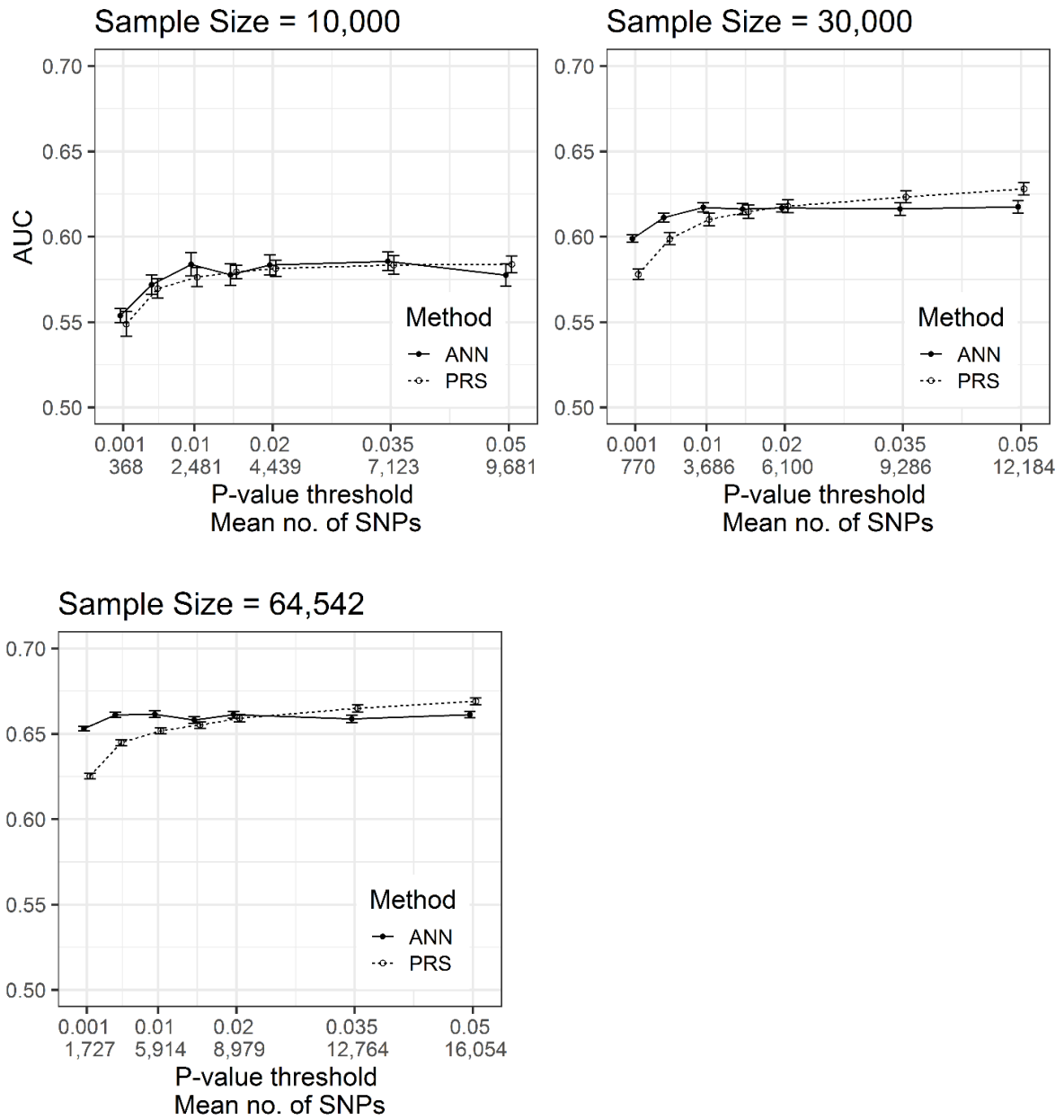


Figure 1: Sensitivity to Number of SNPs. The results presented in this figure are also to be found in Table 1.

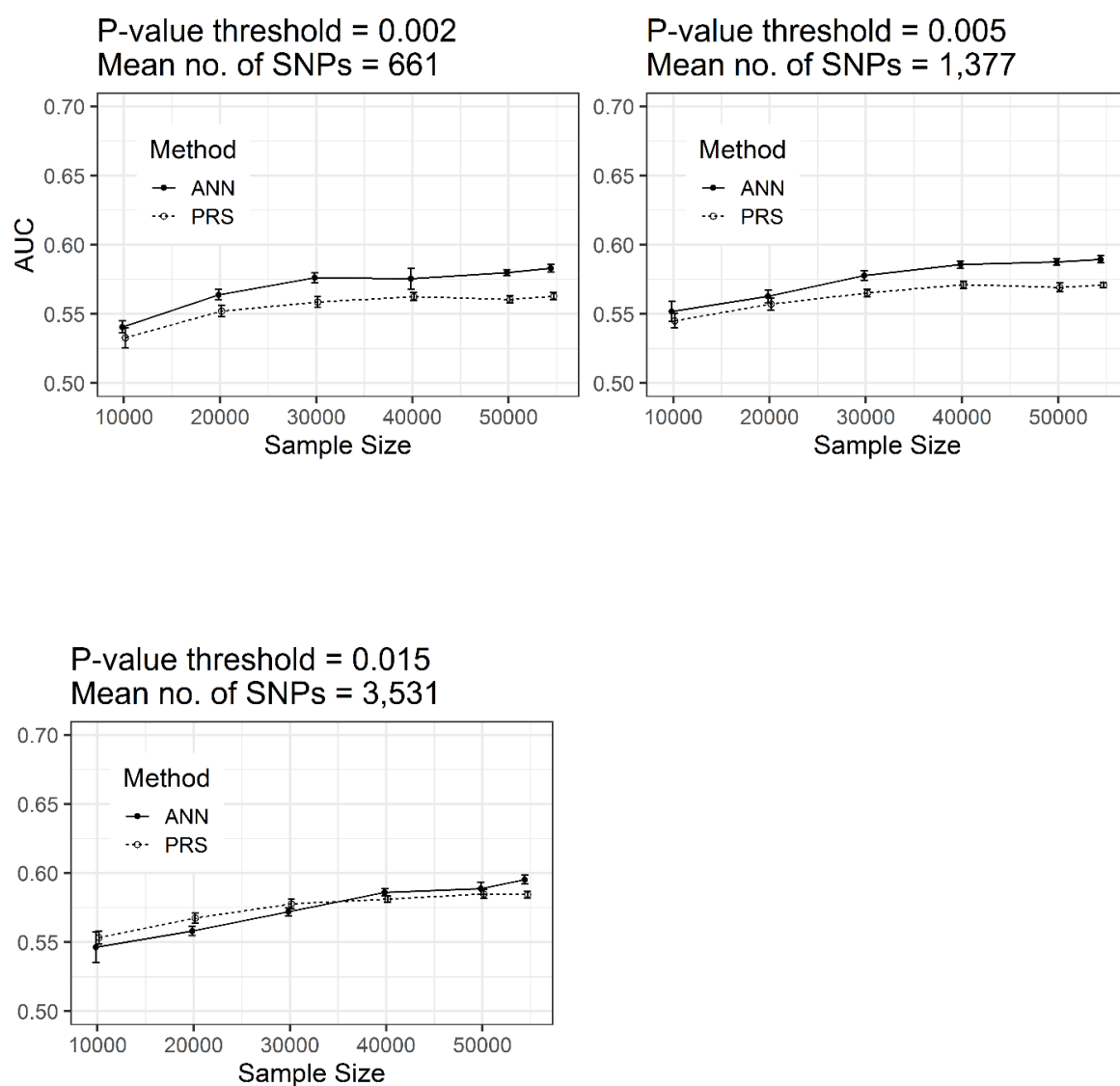


Figure 2: Sensitivity to Sample Size. The results presented in this figure are also to be found in Table 2.

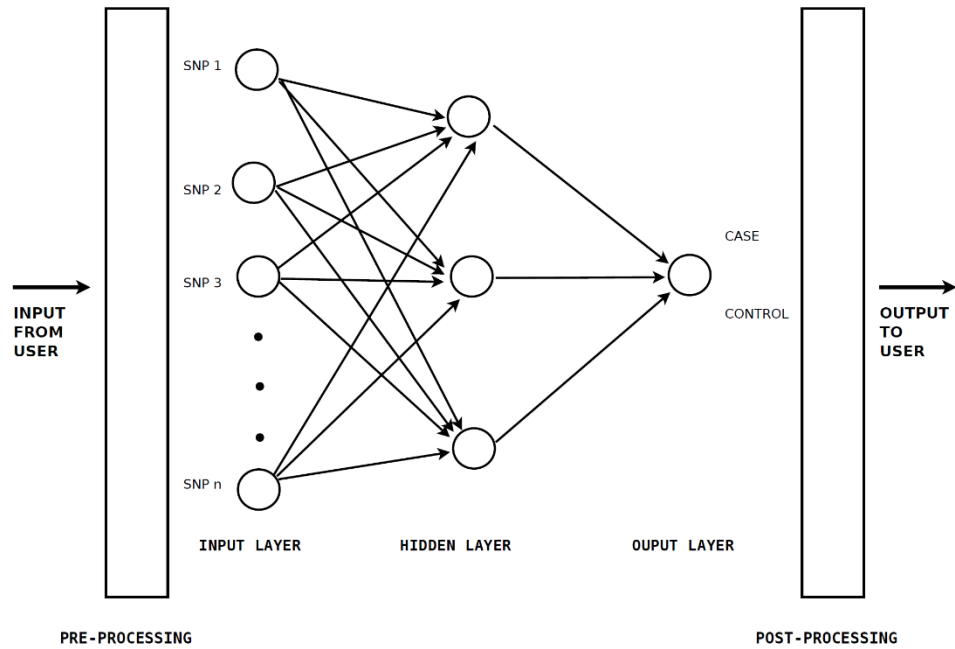


Figure 3: Artificial Neural Network Architect

Supporting Information for:

Can artificial neural networks supplant the polygene risk score for risk prediction of complex disorders given very large sample sizes?

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2. *Members and their affiliations appear in this Supplementary Information.*

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	Dataset	Cases	Controls	Samples	.bg Variants
1	scz cims eur-qc	71	69	140	7,176,582
2	scz zhh1 eur-qc	191	190	381	5,204,976
3	scz pews eur-qc	150	236	386	7,292,337
4	scz lie2 eur-qc	137	269	406	7,886,295
5	scz swe1 eur-qc	221	214	435	6,047,632
6	scz msaf eur-qc	327	139	466	7,955,321
7	scz port eur-qc	346	216	562	6,408,457
8	scz lacw eur-qc	157	466	623	7,549,844
9	scz edin eur-qc	368	284	652	7,484,683
10	scz ersw eur-qc	322	332	654	8,132,615
11	scz caws eur-qc	424	306	730	6,122,240
12	scz top8 eur-qc	377	403	780	7,451,253
13	scz munc eur-qc	437	351	788	6,508,392
14	scz cati eur-qc	409	392	801	6,612,133
15	scz buls eur-qc	195	608	803	7,340,965
16	scz asrb eur-qc	509	310	819	7,651,487
17	scz lie5 eur-qc	509	389	898	7,506,231
18	scz umes eur-qc	197	713	910	7,709,209
19	scz denm eur-qc	492	458	950	7,643,941
20	scz umeb eur-qc	375	584	959	8,130,401
21	scz uclo eur-qc	521	494	1,015	5,670,555
22	scz 3m eur-qc	186	930	1,116	7,121,806
23	scz dubl eur-qc	272	860	1,132	7,398,573
24	scz cou3 eur-qc	540	693	1,233	7,781,847
25	scz ucla eur-qc	705	637	1,342	7,642,714
26	scz egcu eur-qc	239	1,177	1,416	7,978,592
27	scz aber eur-qc	720	699	1,419	6,214,060
28	scz i6 eur-qc	361	1,082	1,443	7,933,222
29	scz aarh eur-qc	883	873	1,756	7,809,181
30	scz swe6 eur-qc	1,094	1,219	2,313	8,129,242
31	scz gras eur-qc	1,086	1,232	2,318	7,770,108
32	scz irwt eur-qc	1,309	1,022	2,331	7,521,232
33	scz ajsz eur-qc	896	1,595	2,491	7,794,461
34	scz pewb eur-qc	641	1,892	2,533	7,425,737
35	scz boco eur-qc	1,847	2,170	4,017	7,408,363
36	scz clo3 eur-qc	2,150	2083	4,233	7,961,221
37	scz s234 eur-qc	2,077	2,341	4,418	7,771,960
38	scz swe5 eur-qc	1,801	2,617	4,418	8,061,512
39	scz mgs2 eur-qc	2,681	2,653	5,334	7,543,555
40	scz clm2 eur-qc	3,466	4,297	7,763	7,419,981
	Total Included*	29,595	36,205	67,184	

Table S1: PGC Datasets Included in Analysis. *Datasets not available for inclusion in this analysis that were analysed originally in Ripke et al. 2014 [1]: scz jr (includes Johnson and Johnson and Roche cases), scz lktu eu, and scz pa eur. .bg stands for best guess.

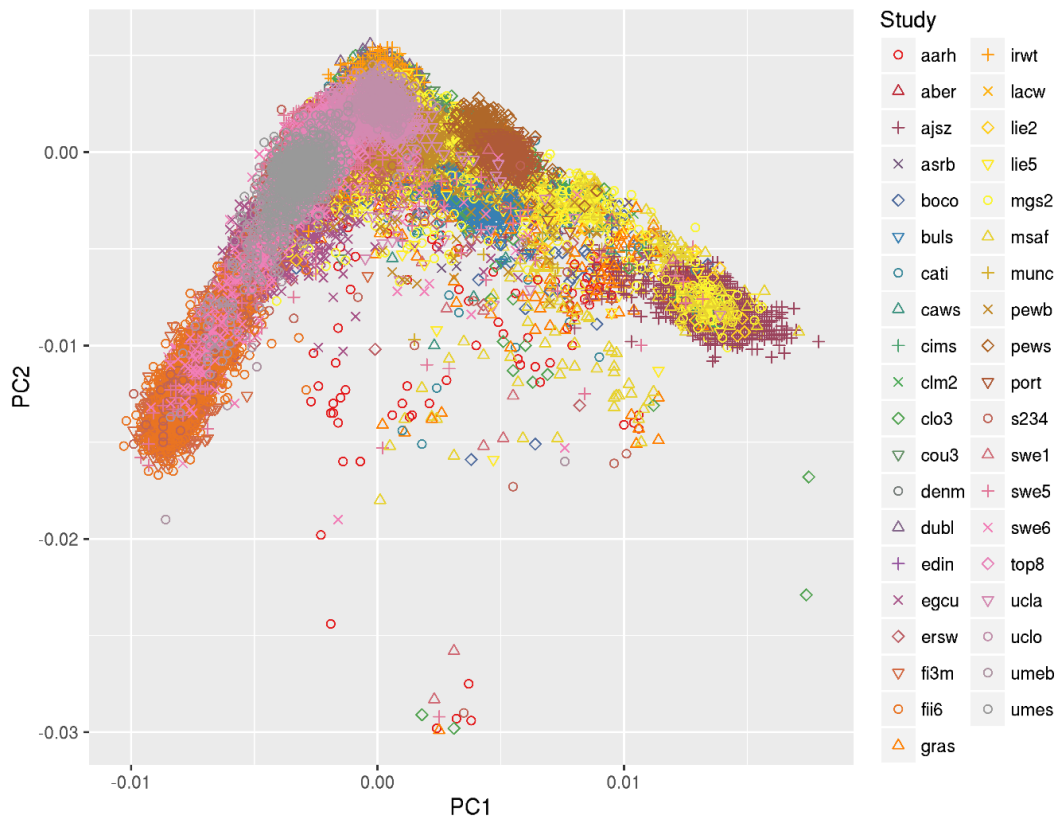


Figure S1: PC1 vs PC2 for Mega Dataset

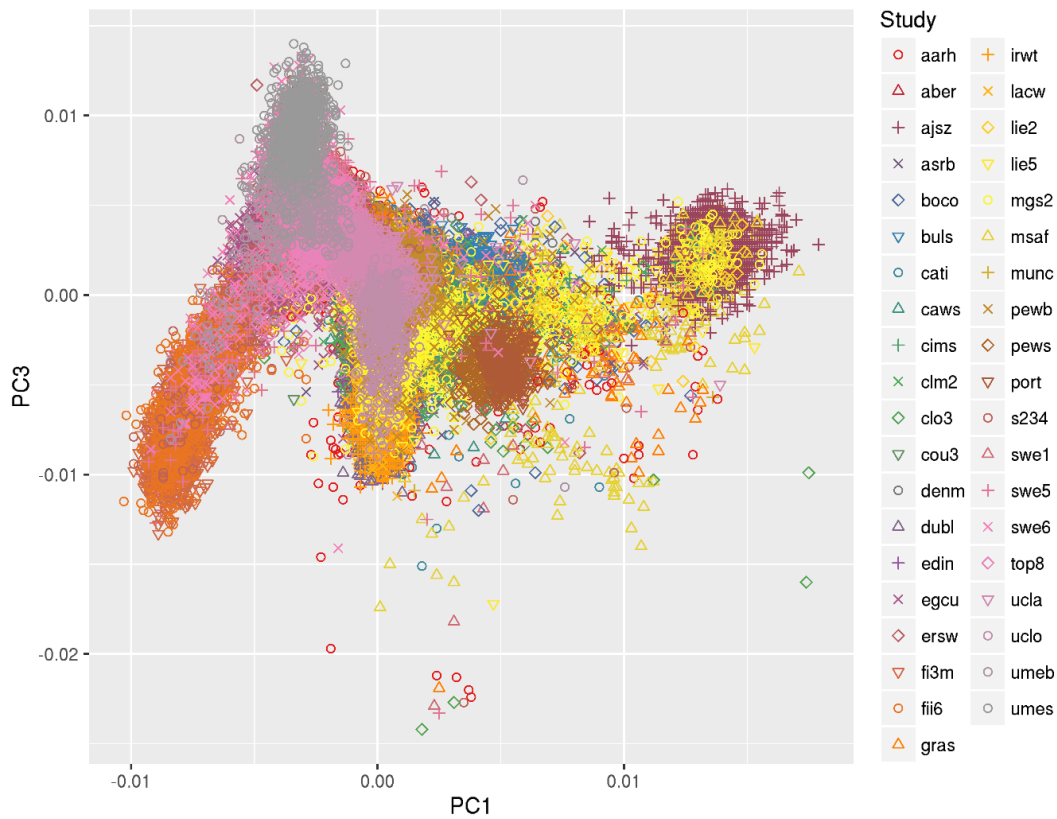


Figure S2: PC1 vs PC3 for Mega Dataset

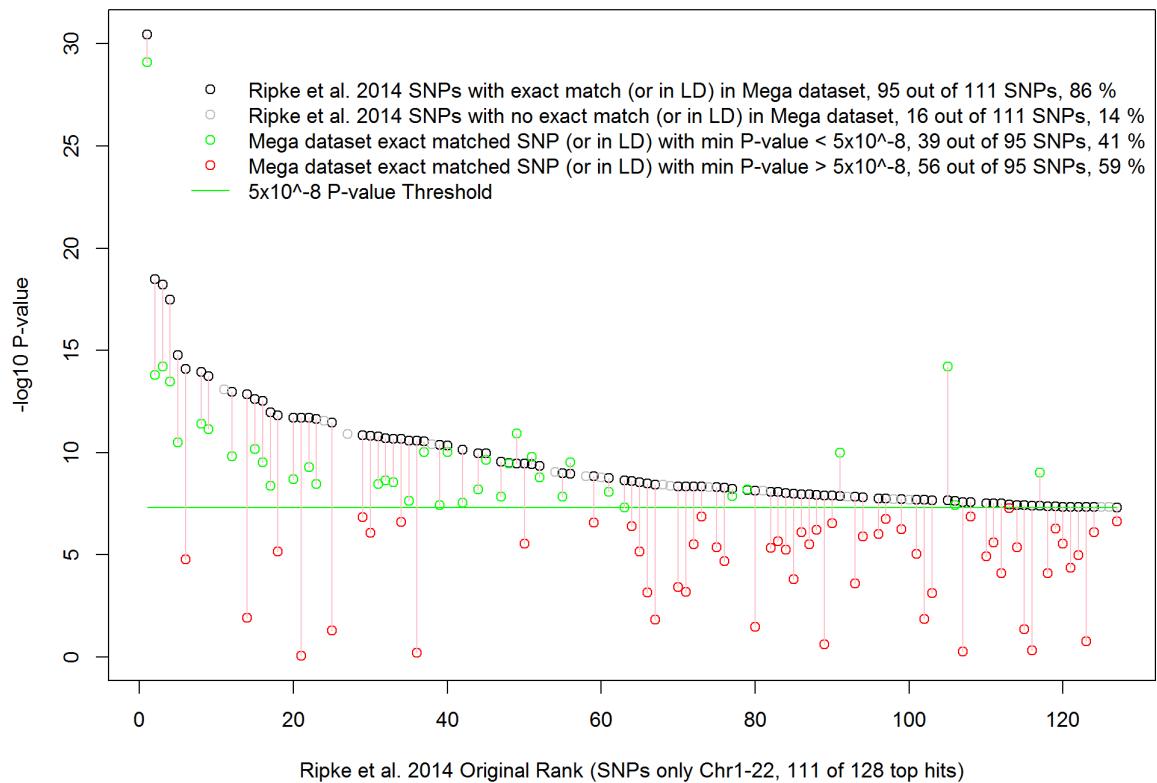


Figure S3: Comparison with Ripke et al. 2014. Comparison of Ripke et al 2014 [1] meta analysis results with mega analysis results here for the Mega dataset.

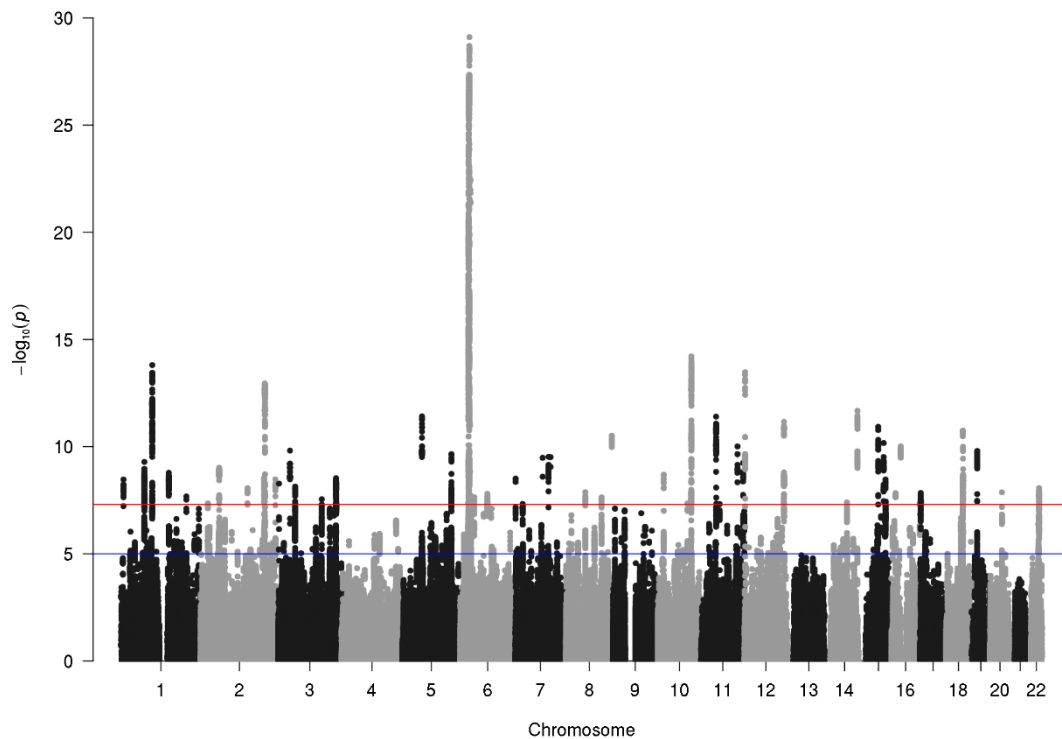


Figure S4: Mega dataset association analysis results.

Computation

All calculations using the PGC data were carried out on the Lisa cluster which is part of the Dutch national e-infrastructure, where a repository of the data is maintained.

Computations were performed on the E5-2650 v2 nodes, each of which has 870Gb of scratch space, 64 Gb of memory, 20Mb of cache and clock speed 2.6 GHz. Each node supports 16 cores and up to 15 computations can be run simultaneously on each node. In practice, due to memory requirements at various points in the pipeline only one run at a time was carried out on a given node.

Approximate computation times on this hardware for the ANN (in serial mode) were as follows:

At the lower end of the analyses described (sample size approximately 10,000, number of SNPs approximately 1,300), run time was approximately 28 minutes, standard deviation 10 minutes as measured over 10 runs. At the upper end (sample size approximately 54,000, number of SNPs approximately 16,000) run time was approximately 3,530 minutes, standard deviation 620 minutes as measured over 10 runs.

Computation time was observed to vary approximately linearly with both sample size and number of SNPs over the range considered.

Workflow

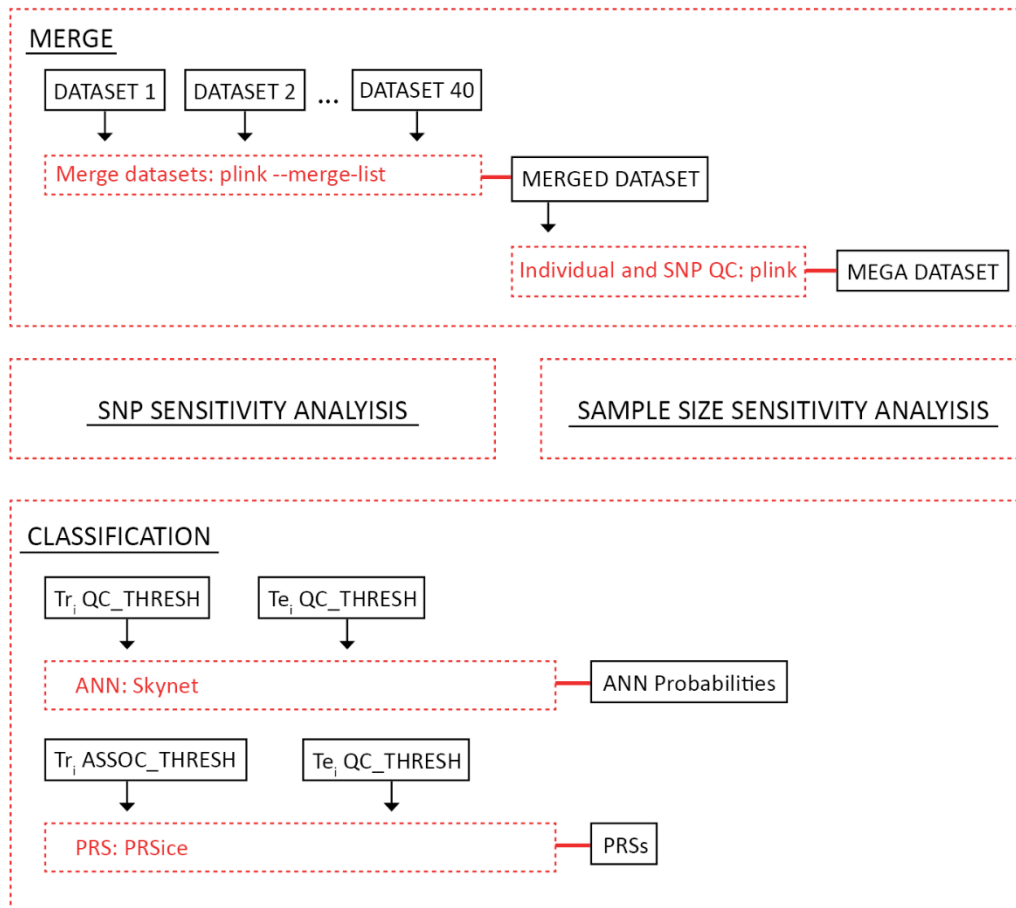


Figure S5: Overall workflow for all analyses

SNP SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS

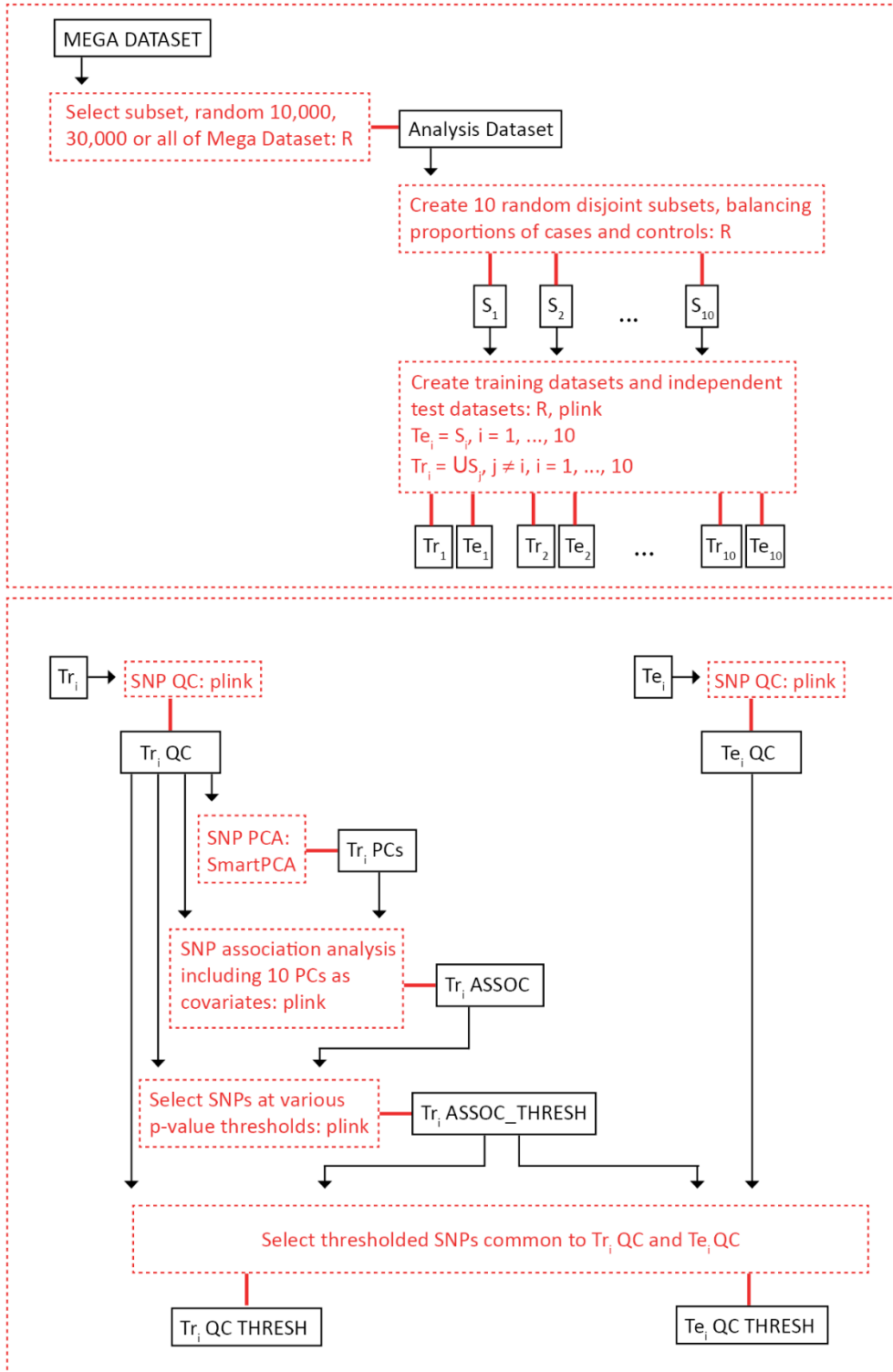


Figure S6: Workflow for SNP sensitivity analysis

SAMPLE SIZE SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS

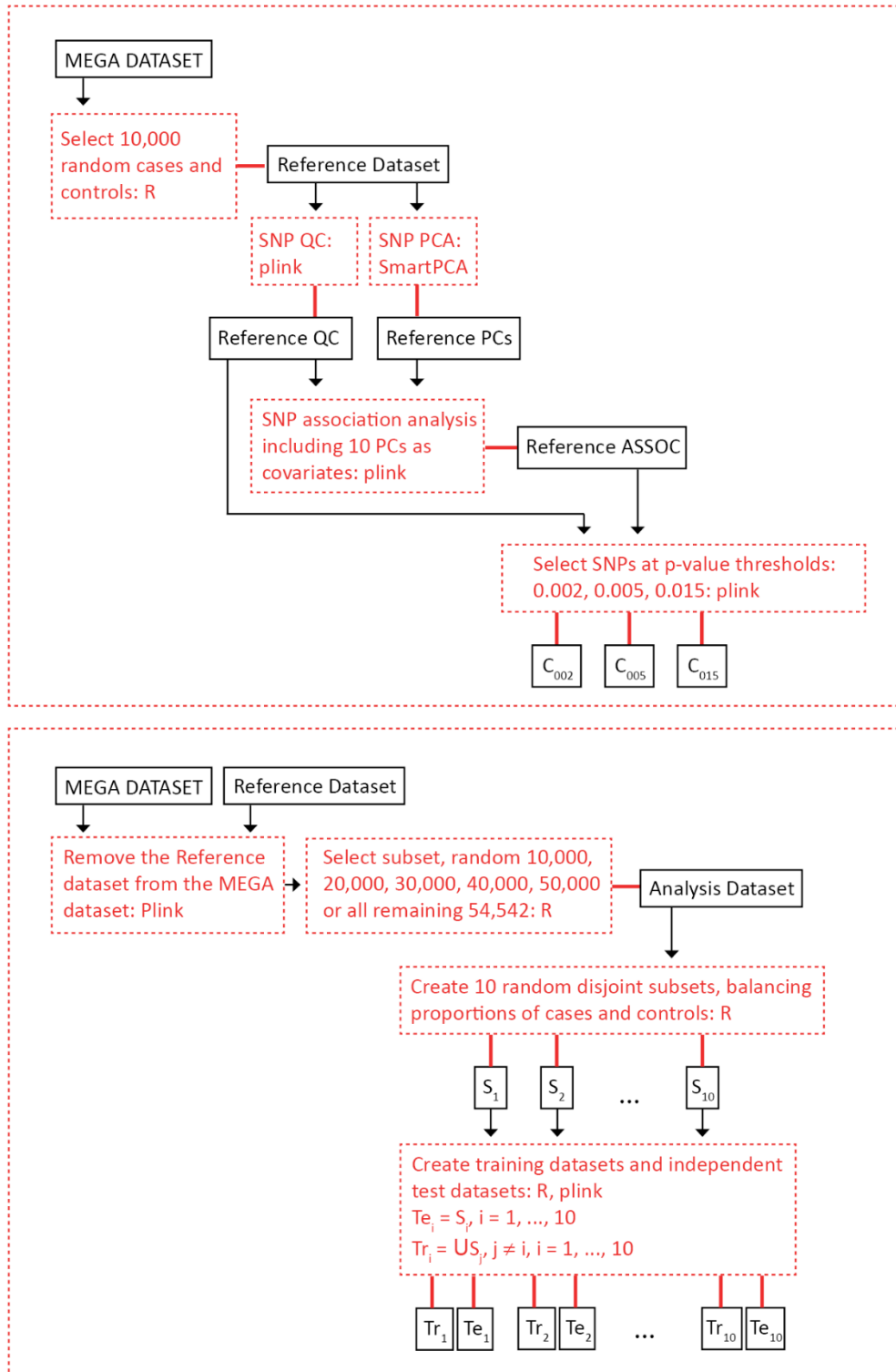


Figure S7: Workflow for Sample Sensitivity Analysis: Creating SNP sets and train and test datasets to be prepared for the ANN and PRS

SAMPLE SIZE SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS Cont'd

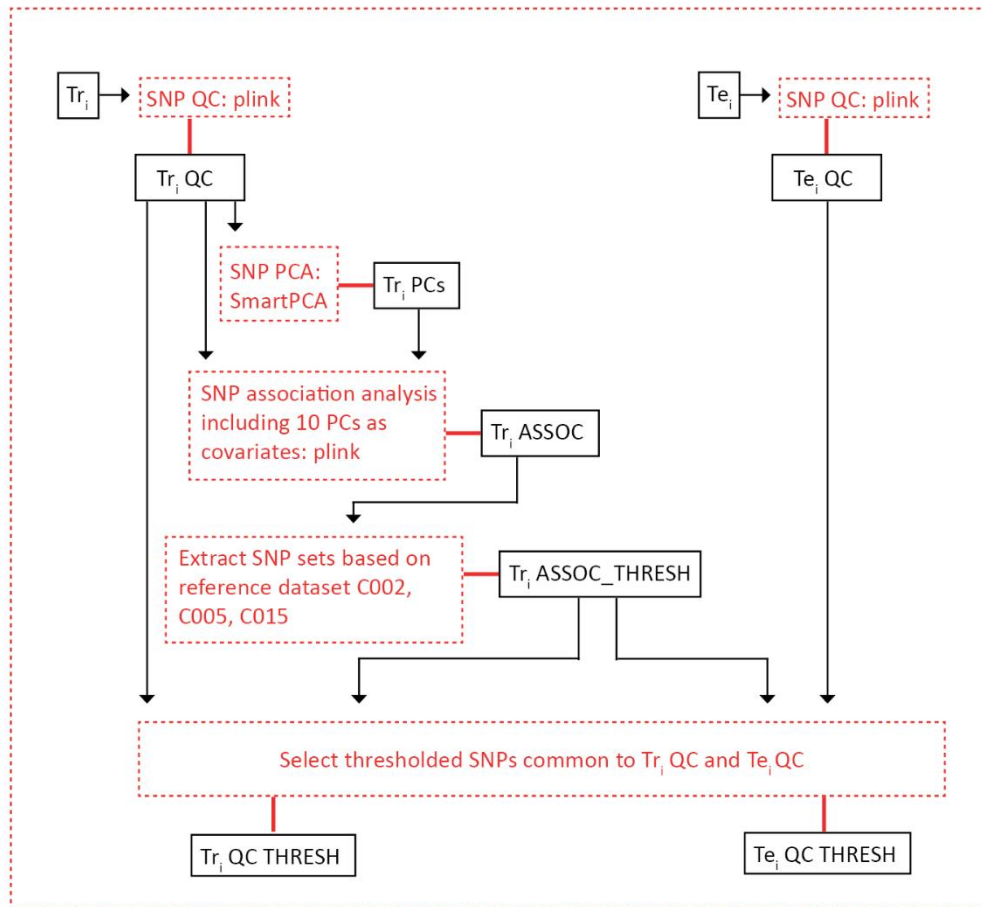


Figure S8: Workflow for Sample Sensitivity Analysis: Creating train and test datasets for the ANN and PRS

References

[1] Schizophrenia Working Group of the Psychiatric Genomics Consortium. Biological insights from 108 schizophrenia-associated genetic loci. Nature 511, 421427 (2014).

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