

# PLS-models in Practice: sparse and sparse group extensions

Lecture 3/3

MSc Health Data Analytics – Computational epidemiology – February 11, 2021

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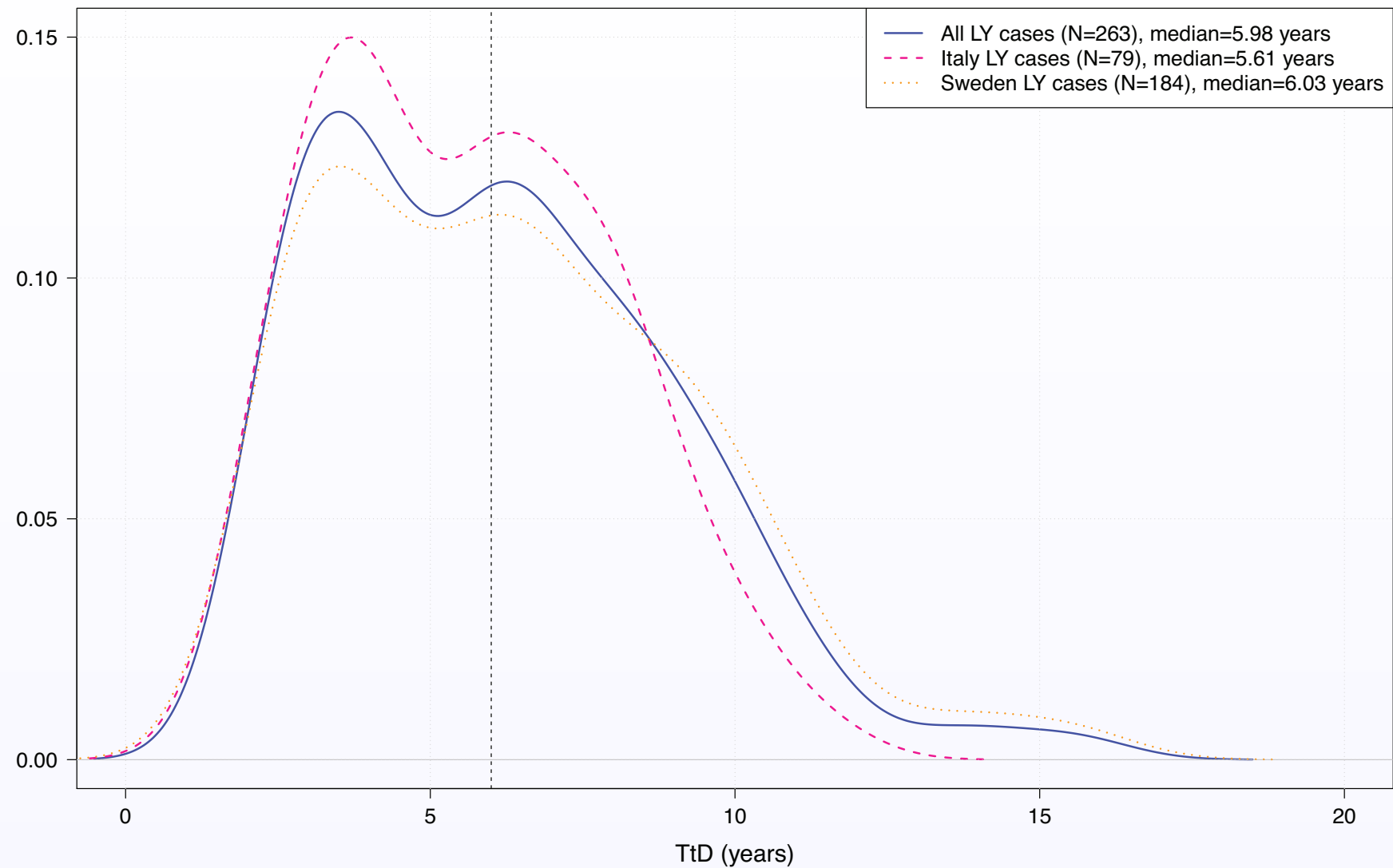
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## Lymphoma cases by subtypes and *TtD*

- EnviroGenoMarkers: a multi-OMIC study of NHL
  - Two contributing cohorts: EPIC Italy, and NHSDS
  - Transcriptomics, Proteomic (N=28) data available
- Four subtypes were identified:
  - B-cell Chronic Lymphatic Leukemia (BCLL): 14.8%
  - Diffuse Large B-cell Lymphoma (DLBCL): 15.6%
  - Follicular Lymphoma (FL): 14.4%
  - Multiple Myeloma (MM): 27.4%
- Study population:

Subtype	<i>TtD</i> <6	<i>TtD</i> >6	Total
BCLL	15	24	<b>39</b>
DLBCL	18	23	<b>41</b>
FL	18	20	<b>38</b>
MM	42	30	<b>72</b>
Others	41	32	<b>73</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>263</b>

## Time to Diagnosis ( $TtD$ ) distribution in LY cases



$\Rightarrow TtD=6$  years is close to the median value

## Benchmark screening model

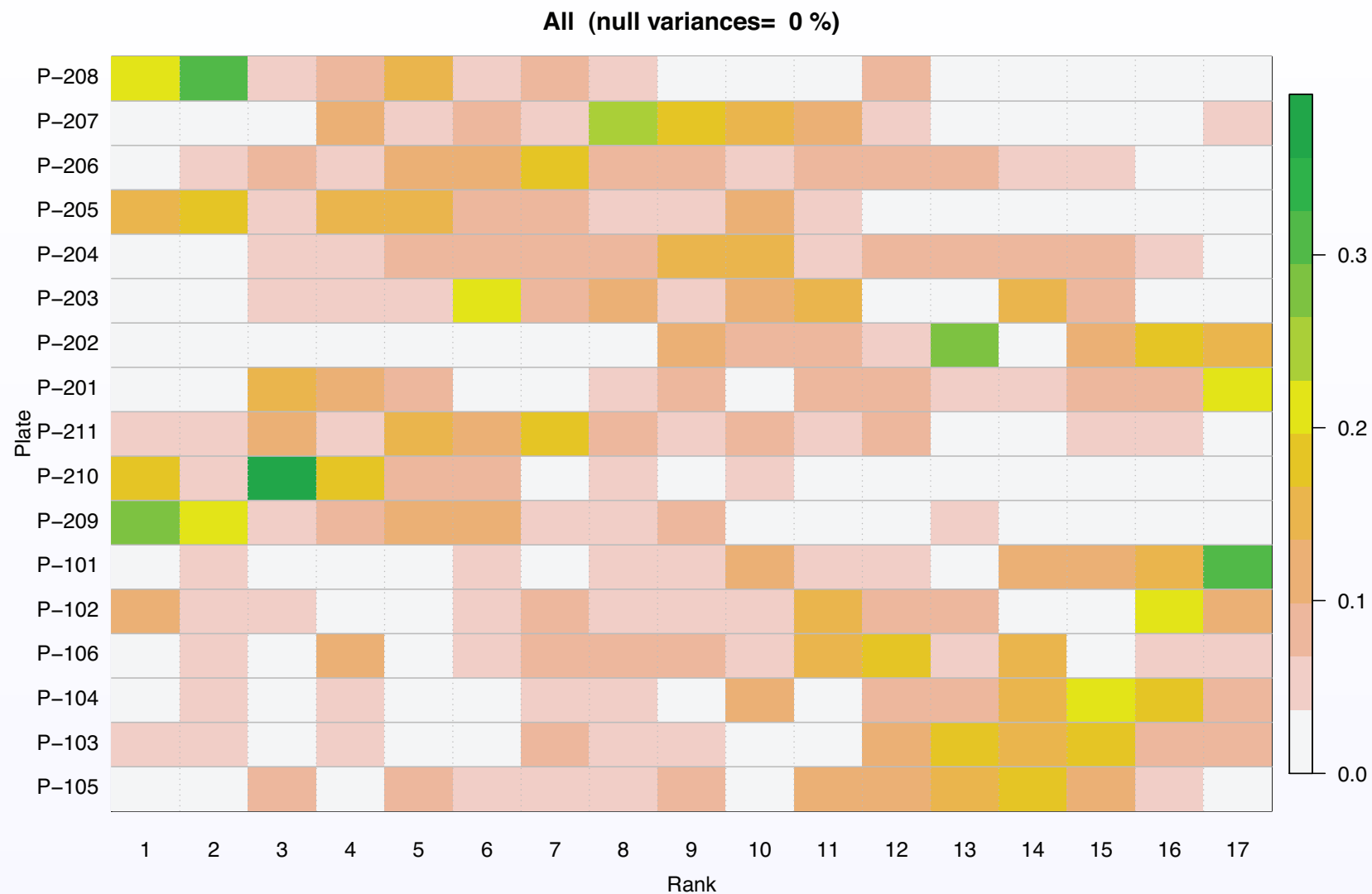
- Univariate exploration of OMICs data accounting for nuisance variation
- Formulation, for individual  $i$ :
  - Variable of interest:  $X^i$  (Ca/Co)
  - Predictors:  $Y^i$ , Expression levels
  - Fixed effects:  $FE^i$
  - Random Effect variables:  $u^{A^i}$ , where  $A^i$  are nuisance variables

$$Y^i \sim \alpha + \beta_1 X^i + \beta_2 FE^i + u^{A^i} + \epsilon^i$$

$\Rightarrow$  random intercept model

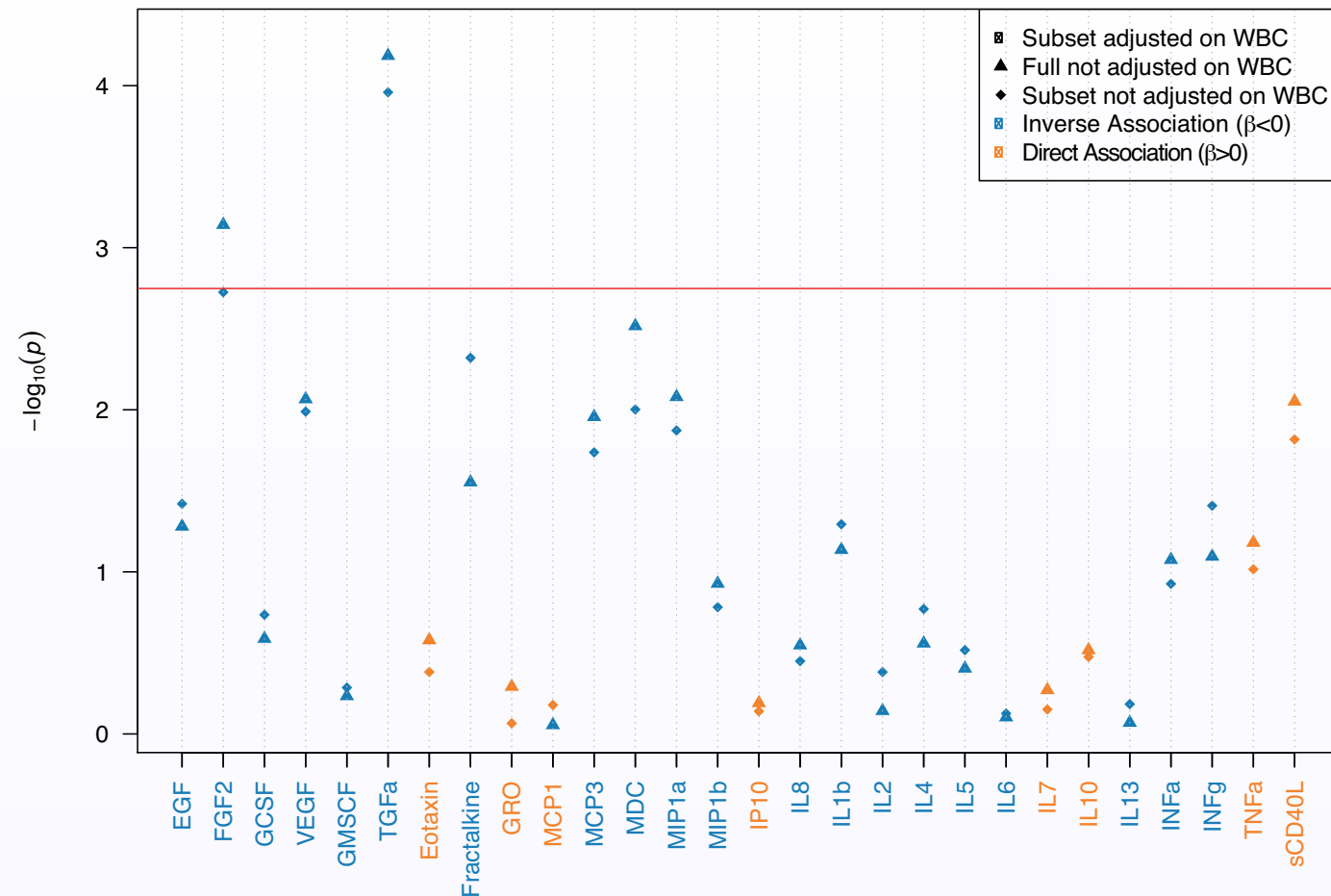
- Methodology: likelihood ratio test
  - Run the model with and without the variable of interest ( $X^i$ ).  
Compare both models  
 $\Rightarrow$  for each protein/probe we obtain a p-value testing the association between the probe and the disease status/or exposure

## Proteomics: Estimation of the random effects



⇒ P-208/209/210 lead to higher variances

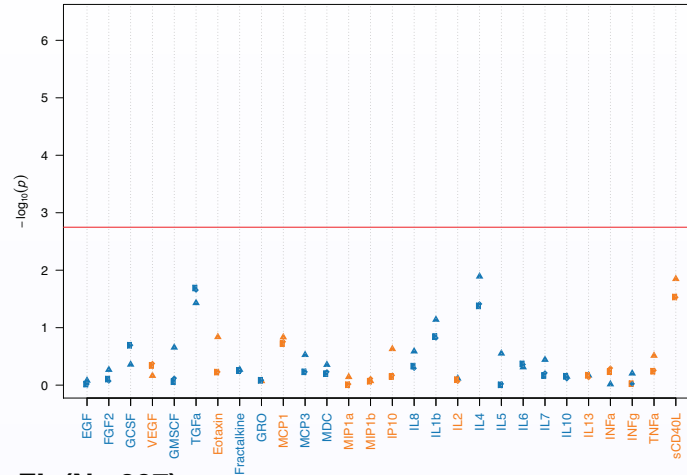
## Analysis of all BCL cases



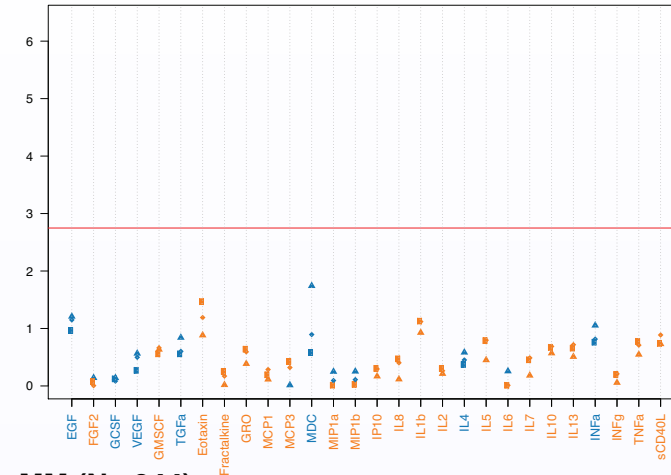
⇒ Two Bonferroni significant associations involving FGF2 & TGF $\alpha$   
⇒ weak effect of WBC adjustments

# Histological subtype analyses

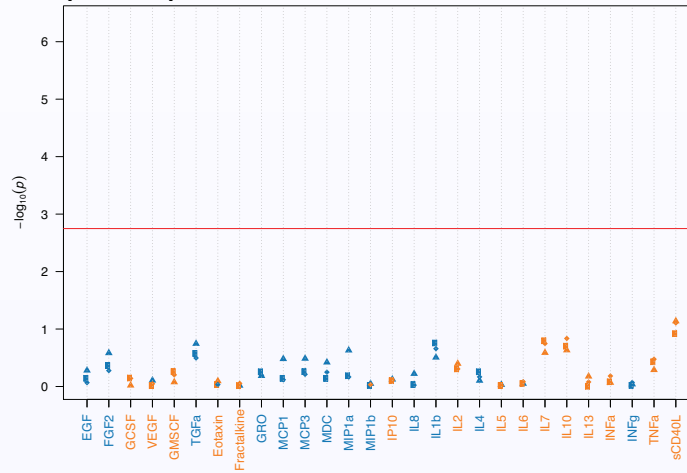
CLL (N= 310)



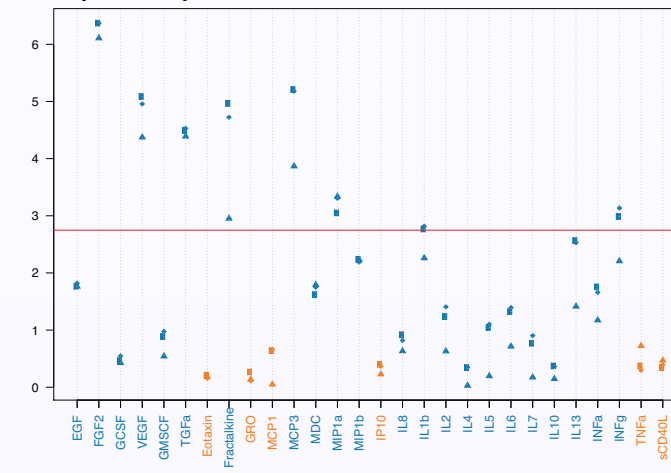
DLBCL (N= 312)



FL (N= 307)



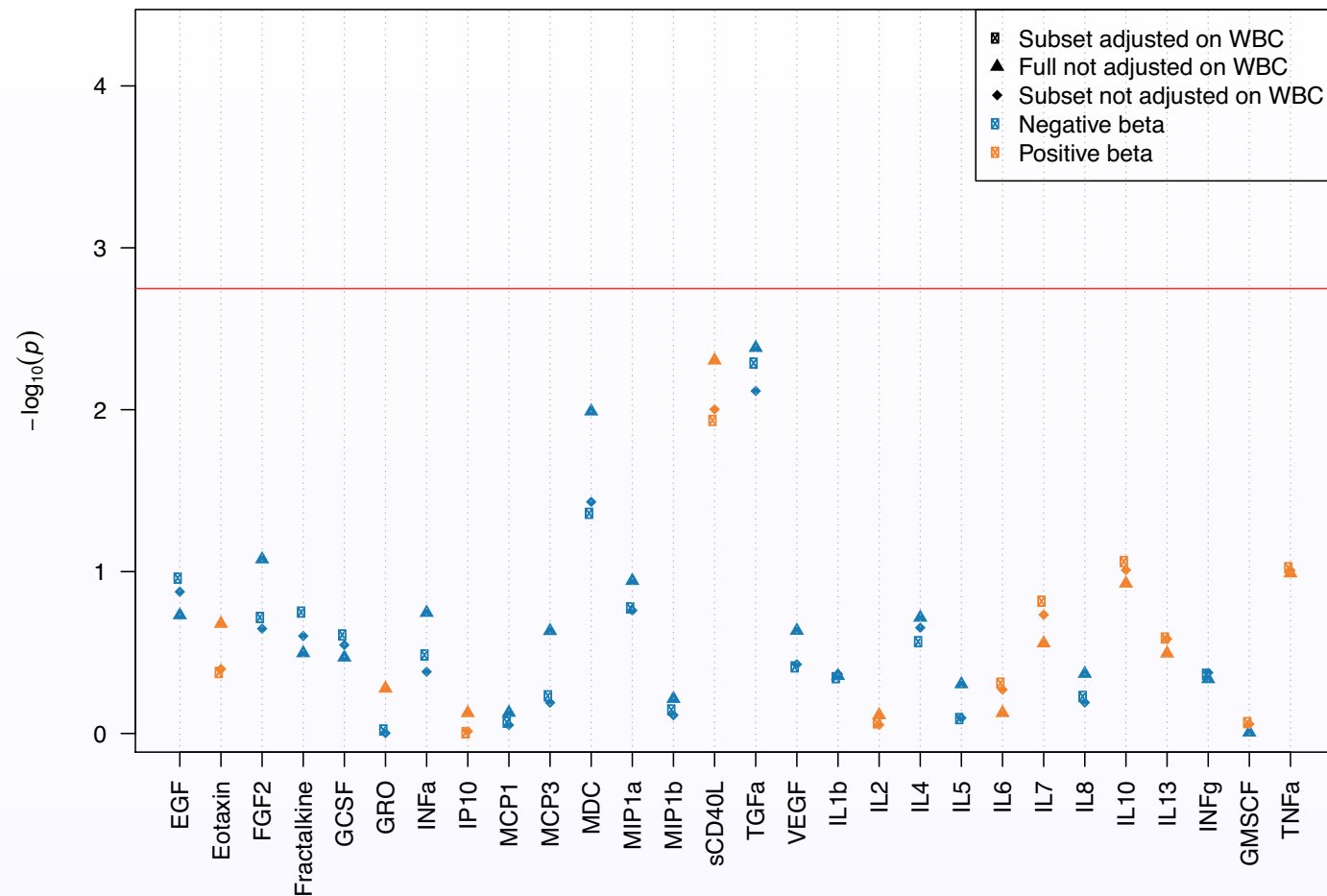
MM (N= 344)



⇒ 8 (strong) and inverse associations for MM

⇒ no association for the other subtypes

## All BCL excluding MM



⇒ Both BCL-related associations lose significance upon exclusion of MM cases

⇒ MM may have driven the BCL associations



## PLS analyses: Rationale and plan

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- The 28 proteins can be classified in three functional groups
  - Growth Factors (N=6)
  - Chemokines (N=10)
  - Cytokines (N=12)
- Research questions
  - Do proteins jointly concur to BCL (and subtypes) onset?
  - Is the functional grouping relevant to the disease?
  - Are there groups (and proteins within each group) more associated to disease?

One Million \$ question:  $\Rightarrow$  How can we use PLS?

## PLS analyses: Rationale and plan

- The 28 proteins can be classified in three functional groups
  - Growth Factors (N=6)
  - Chemokines (N=10)
  - Cytokines (N=12)
- Additional versions of PLS:
  - Sparsity achieved through penalisation
  - Grouping signals a priori (e.g. pathways, genes)

► sparse PLS components (sPLS)

$$C^k = u_1 \times X_1 + \underbrace{u_2}_{=0} \times X_2 + \underbrace{u_3}_{=0} \times X_3 + \dots + u_p \times X_p$$

► group PLS components (gPLS)

$$C^k = \overbrace{\underbrace{u_1}_{=0} X_1 + \underbrace{u_2}_{=0} X_2}^{\text{module}_1} + \overbrace{\underbrace{u_3}_{\neq 0} X_3 + \underbrace{u_4}_{\neq 0} X_1 + \underbrace{u_5}_{\neq 0} X_5}_{\text{module}_2} \dots \overbrace{\underbrace{u_{p-1}}_{=0} X_{p-1} + \underbrace{u_p}_{=0} X_p}_{\text{module}_K}$$

► sparse group PLS components (sgPLS)

$$C^k = \overbrace{\underbrace{u_1}_{=0} X_1 + \underbrace{u_2}_{=0} X_2}^{\text{module}_1} + \overbrace{\underbrace{u_3}_{\neq 0} X_3 + \underbrace{u_4}_{=0} X_4 + \underbrace{u_5}_{=0} X_5}_{\text{module}_2} \dots \overbrace{\underbrace{u_{p-1}}_{=0} X_{p-1} + \underbrace{u_p}_{=0} X_p}_{\text{module}_K}$$

## PLS analyses: Rationale and plan

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Two Million \$ question: which models????

## PLS analyses: Rationale and plan

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- Research questions
  - Do proteins jointly concur to BCL (and subtypes) onset? – (s)PLS
  - Is the functional grouping relevant to the disease? – gPLS
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Two Million \$ response

## PLS analyses: Rationale and plan

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  - Do proteins jointly concur to BCL (and subtypes) onset? – (s)PLS
  - Is the functional grouping relevant to the disease? – gPLS
  - Are there groups (and proteins within each group) more associated to disease? – sgPLS
- Analytical Plan: all PLS variants to analyse
  - All BCL
  - Each subtype separately
  - In cases only: the time to diagnosis

## gPLS: Penalty function and calibration

- For each component:

$$\min_{||u||=1, ||v||=1} \sum_{k=1}^K \sum_{l=1}^L \underbrace{||X^{(k)T} Y^{(l)} - u^{(k)} v^{(l)T}||_F^2}_{\text{covariances between } k^{th} \text{ and } l^{th} \text{ block}} + P_{\lambda_1}(u) + P_{\lambda_2}(v)$$

where

$$P_{\lambda_1}(u) = \lambda_1 \sum_{k=1}^K \sqrt{p_k} \underbrace{||u^{(k)}||_2}_{\text{loadings of } k^{th} \text{ block in X}} \quad P_{\lambda_2}(v) = \lambda_2 \sum_{l=1}^L \sqrt{q_l} \underbrace{||v^{(l)}||_2}_{\text{loadings of } l^{th} \text{ block in Y}}$$

- Penalisation adapts to the number of variables in each group ( $p_k, q_l$ )
- Calibration: Number of selected groups in  $X$  and  $Y$  via cross-validation using MSEP

## sgPLS: Penalty function and calibration

- For each component:

$$\min_{||u||=1, ||v||=1} \sum_{k=1}^K \sum_{l=1}^L \underbrace{||X^{(k)T} Y^{(l)} - u^{(k)} v^{(l)T}||_F^2}_{\text{covariances between } k^{th} \text{ and } l^{th} \text{ block}} + P_{\lambda_1}(u) + P_{\lambda_2}(v)$$

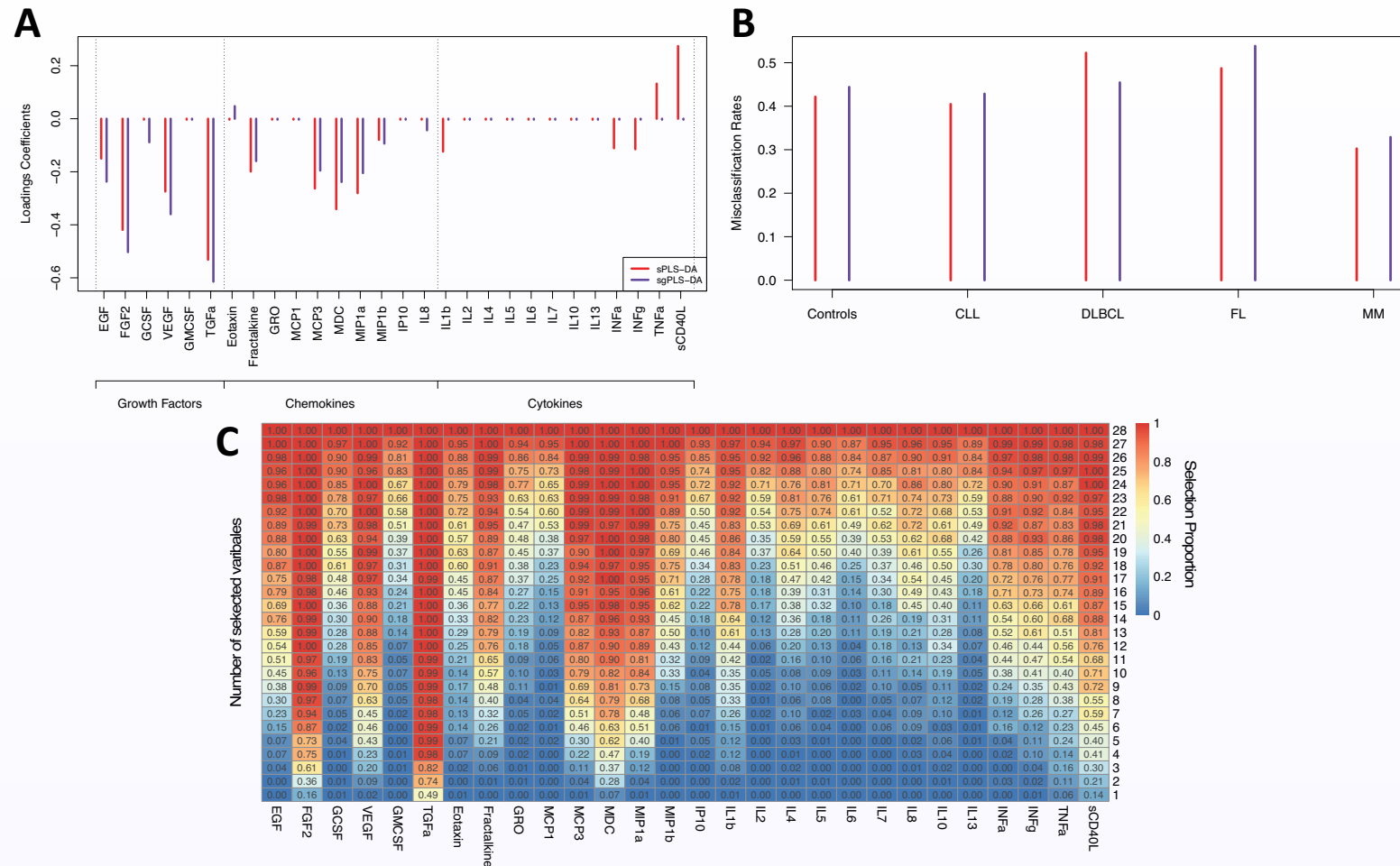
- Adding a LASSO penalty within each group:

$$P_{\lambda_1}(u) = \lambda_1 \sum_{k=1}^K \sqrt{p_k} ||u^{(k)}||_2 + \underbrace{\alpha_1 \lambda_1 ||u||_1}_{\text{sparsity in } X}$$

$$P_{\lambda_2}(v) = \lambda_2 \sum_{l=1}^L \sqrt{q_l} ||v^{(l)}||_2 + \underbrace{\alpha_2 \lambda_2 ||v||_1}_{\text{sparsity in } Y}$$

- Calibration: Number of selected groups in  $X$  and  $Y$  via cross-validation and the components sparsity parameter (not the number of variables)

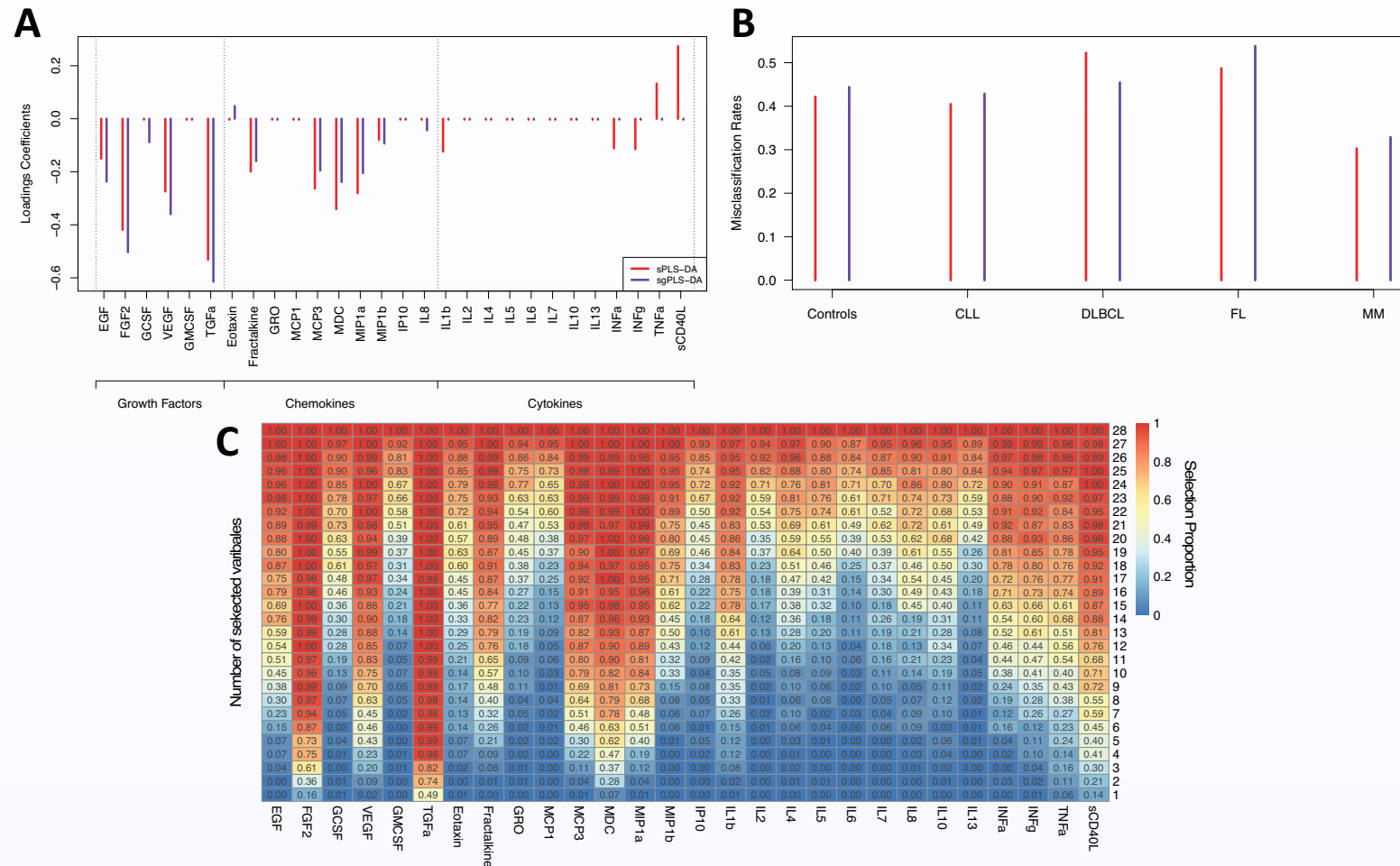
# PLS analyses: All BCL



- sPLS mainly selects variables in GF and chemokines groups
- Two cytokines proteins selected with larger loadings (TNF- $\alpha$ , sCD40)
- sgPLS selects the two groups with more non zero loadings

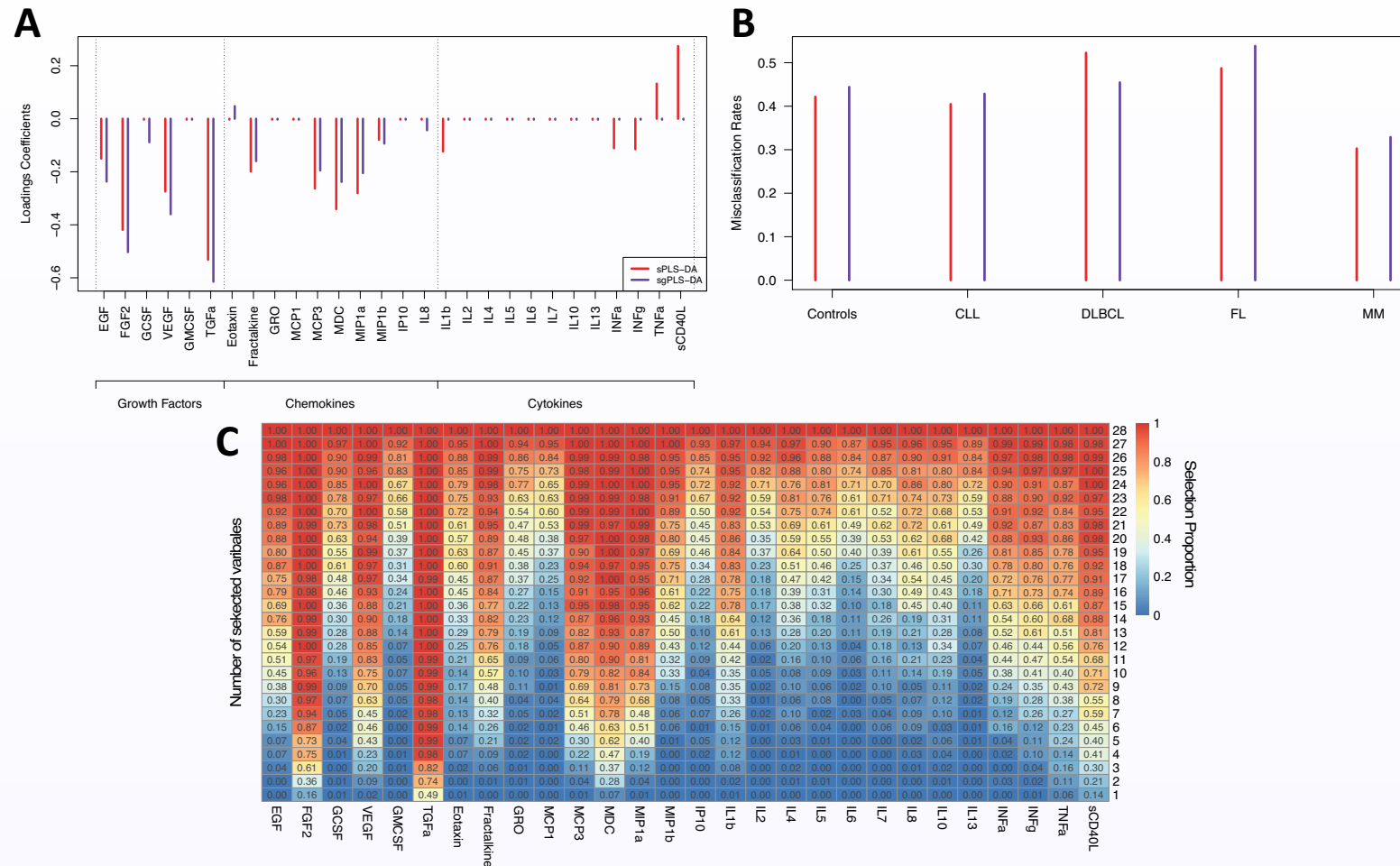


## PLS analyses: All BCL



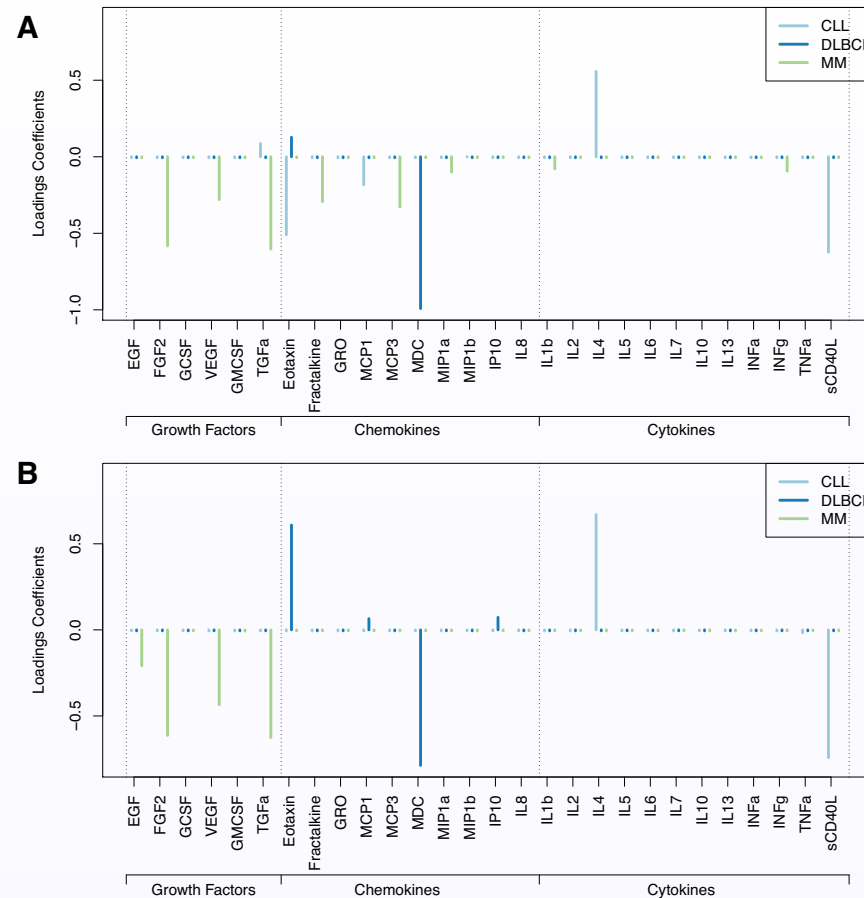
- sPLS and sgPLS yield comparable misclassification rates (unimportant exclusion of cytokines)
- Better misclassification rates for MM

# PLS analyses: All BCL



- Assessing the sensitivity to calibration via stability analyses
- The largest loadings are the first and most frequently selected (sPLS)

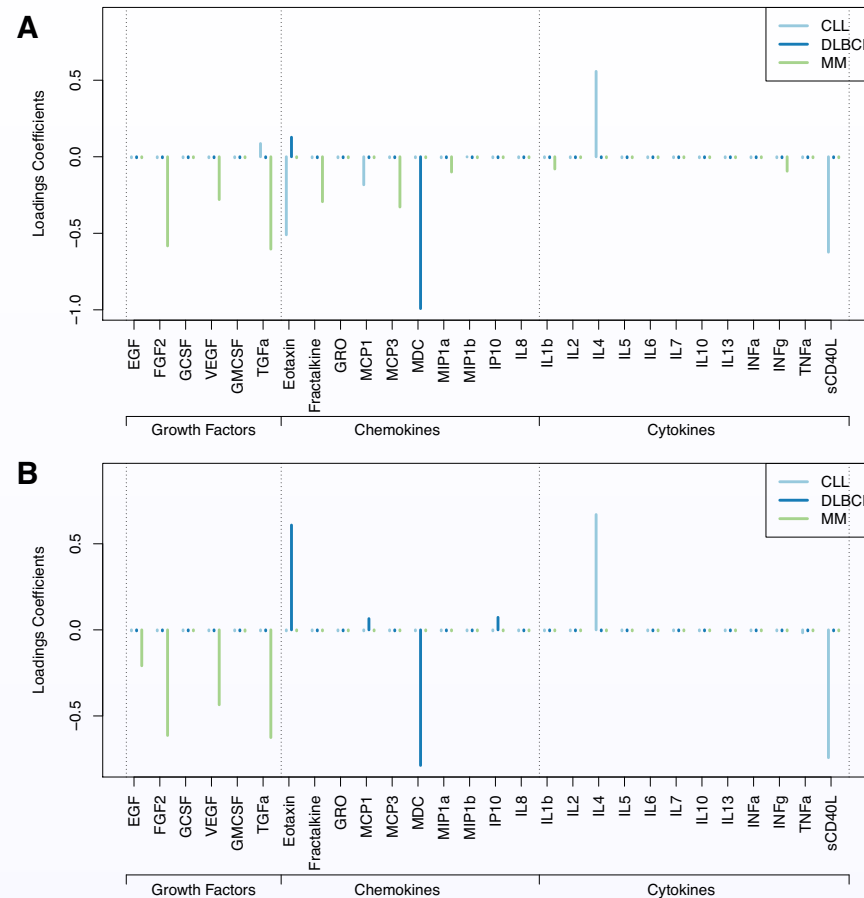
# PLS analyses: subtype analyses



sPLS analyses select:

- **MM**: proteins mainly in chemokines and growth factors
- **CLL**: chemokines and cytokines (though only 2/12 proteins)
- **DLBCL**: 2 chemokines are selected

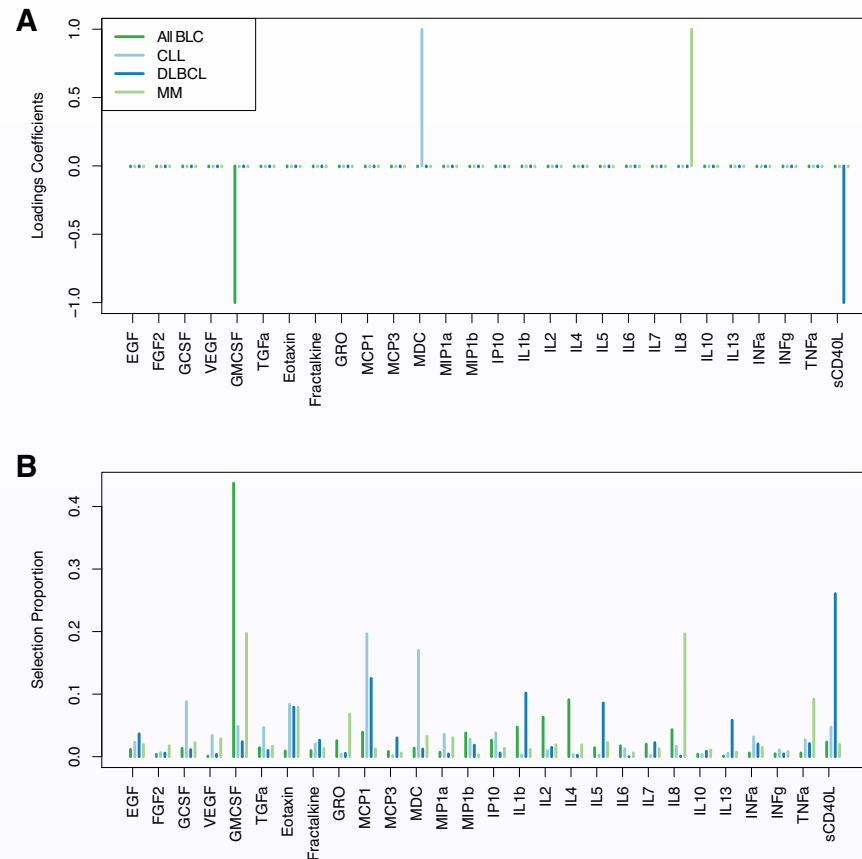
# PLS analyses: subtype analyses



sgPLS analyses select:

- **MM:** growth factors and within the group the same variables as sPLS
- **CLL:** cytokines and both the sPLS proteins
- **DLBCL:** Chemokines are selected (including the the 2 sPLS proteins)

## Cases-only analyses



sPLS analyses of TtD (continuous outcome) selects:

- A single and specific protein for each subtype
- For all BCL, GMCSF is mostly selected, for other subtypes, several candidates compete
- For DLBCL, sCD40 seem to be more frequently selected.

## Wrap-up summary

- PLS analyses were able to identify associations the were not detected by univariate models
  - ⇒ these potential markers were supported by external biological evidence
- Inclusion of groups allows to account for correlations across proteins and select the most informative sets of predictors
  - ⇒ contribution to the sparsity and interpretability of the results
- Limitation: sensitivity to the grouping strategy
  - ⇒ grouping is defining a prior hypothesis
- Extensions:
  - s-g-sg-PLS can accommodate large block of data (e.g. gene expression)
  - OMICs integration via sgsPLS
  - Computational Optimisation: bigPLS

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London**



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