

# Developing a parsimonius predictor for binary traits in sugar beet (*Beta vulgaris*)

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**Abstract** Insert your abstract here. Include keywords, PACS and mathematical subject classification numbers as needed.

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## 1 Introduction

The primary goal of breeding schemes in farm animals and crops is generally to increase the agricultural output. Production traits are typically quantitative continuous variables (e.g. milk yield in dairy cattle, or per hectare yield in maize and rice). Many traits of importance in plant and animal breeding follow nonetheless a discrete categorical distribution, both ordered (e.g. calving ease in cattle, grain texture in rice) and unordered (e.g. grain pigmentation in rice, coat colour in cattle). A special case is that of binomial traits, which can take up only two different values, like disease resistance/susceptibility or presence/absence of a morphological characteristic.

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Bolting in sugar beet? Root vigor in sugar beet is an example of binomial trait of agronomic importance.

technology  $\rightarrow$  molecular breeding [2]

genomic predictions

The concept of parsimony: when many possible predictors are available, it is useful to select a subset to limit analysis cost and time. Moreover: use the minimum necessary information set, occam razor (check science paper!), and so forth.

As the technology advances, and available predictors grow, not only the prediction precision becomes important, but also the actual cost must be considered.

Sugar beets in particular: we work on root vigor [1].

In this paper we propose statistical methods to highlight and select the most useful predictors given a set. We started on real world data and validated our approach on a XXX dataset. We found that it is possible to strongly reduce the dimension of the predictors set and still achieve high performance.

## 2 Material and methods

Text with citations [4] and [3].

### 2.1 Plant material and SNP genotypes

Root vigor. Available data. SNP technology used, imputation.  
Copypaste from other articles. Dataset description.

### 2.2 Predictor development procedure

we use a two steps approach: - a ranker to rank the various available predictors (SNPs in our case). We used the BOSS algorithm - this is an iterative step. we progressively reduced the predictors set, taking away the laest useful predictor and applying to the resulting subset a ridge logistic regression approach. Thus, we obtained as many performances estimation as the number of original predictors.

#### 2.2.1 Rank of predictors

This explain the BOSS algorithm

#### 2.2.2 Selection of predictors and classification method

We take one predictor out at each iteration You put the model formula for ridge logistic regression

### 2.2.3 Predictive ability

Cross validation: how many times, what fractions. Explanation of error rate and other parameters (ROC?)

## 2.3 Comparison with another method to rank predictors

Another ranker: why use one, and its description. P value and SNP effect (as it is done in GWAS)

## 2.4 Software

R, weka, perl.

## 3 Results

Possible charts: - Precision as a function of the number of predictors. - Break-down of two types of error.

If possible: probability of assignment as a function of predictors, maybe with ROC curve? Maybe in discussion?

## 4 Discussion

General overview why error rates are not evenly distributed? Reminder: it works very well because of LD and H2

### 4.1 SNP effects

Manhattan plot with BOSS weights and weights from the other articles, somehow compared (same chart? two charts? only ten best?).

Do the peaks make sense from the biological perspective?

### 4.2 Relative performance of rankers

why using Pvalues and not other standard rankers (e.g. backward stepwise selection)? Because of the specific nature of the problem

### 4.3 Genotyping strategies and applications to breeding

genotyping strategies: Costs, possible technologies (gbs, snp chip, macroarrays), implications

applications to breeding: why is it important root vigor early detection.  
Other binomial traits (e.g. disease resistance)

## 5 Conclusions

Concluding remarks

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