



Machine Learning for Microbial Genomics,
ECML PKDD 2022

Machine learning for rapid geographical source attribution of *Salmonella* Enteritidis infections

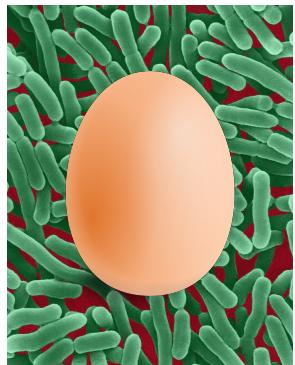
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***Salmonella enterica* subspecies Enteritidis**

Salmonella is a bacterial pathogen which causes diarrhea, fever, abdominal cramps, and, in severe cases, hospitalisation.

The UK has ~8,500 *Salmonella* cases annually, of which ~2,500 are *Salmonella enterica* subspecies Enteritidis.



S. Enteritidis infection is associated with consumption of contaminated foodstuffs, particularly poultry meat and eggs.

National monitoring and vaccination programmes have greatly reduced salmonellosis associated with local food production.

Many clinical *S. Enteritidis* cases identified in the UK are thought to be associated with foreign travel or consumption of imported foodstuffs.

Rapid geographical source attribution of an infecting strain will allow targeted epidemiological follow-up and rapid outbreak resolution.



**UK Health
Security
Agency**

Source attribution to improve outbreak response

Clinical S. Enteritidis Genomes



+

'Recent Reported Travel'



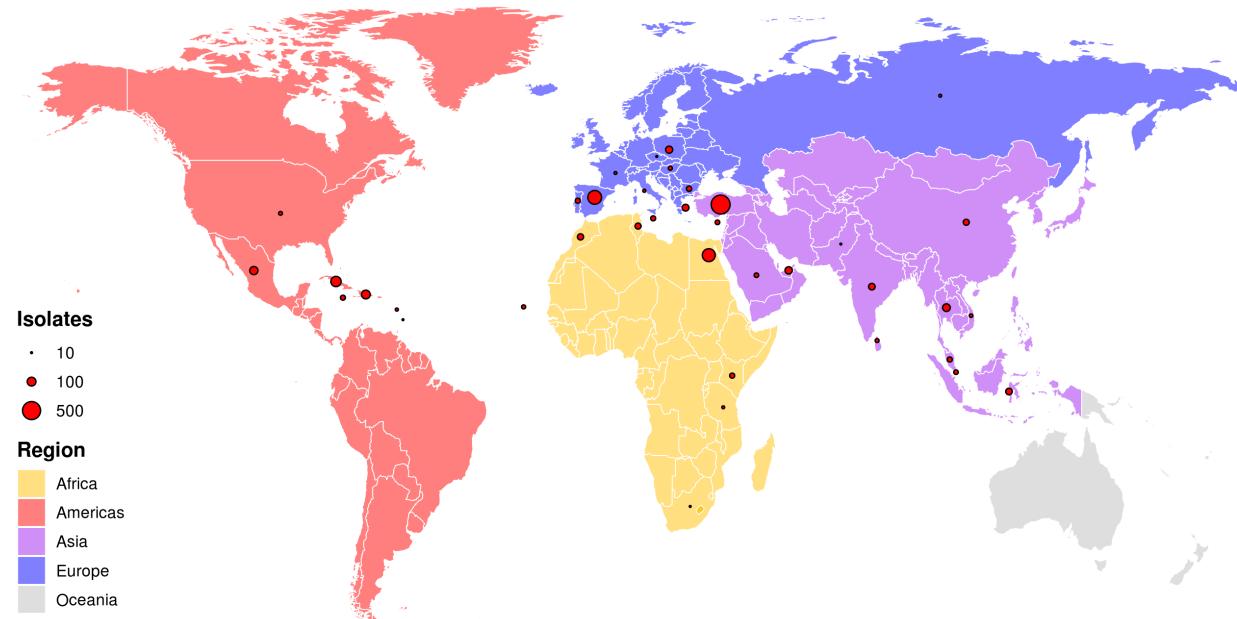
~3,000
2014-2019

Project Aims:

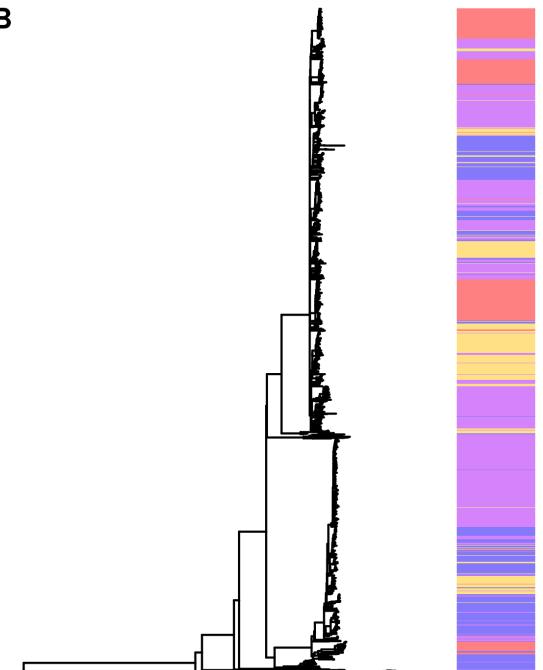
- 1/ Accurately prediction the geographical origin of S. Enteritidis infections
- 2/ Rapidly provide granular information for epidemiologists

Enteritidis has a strong phylogeographical signal

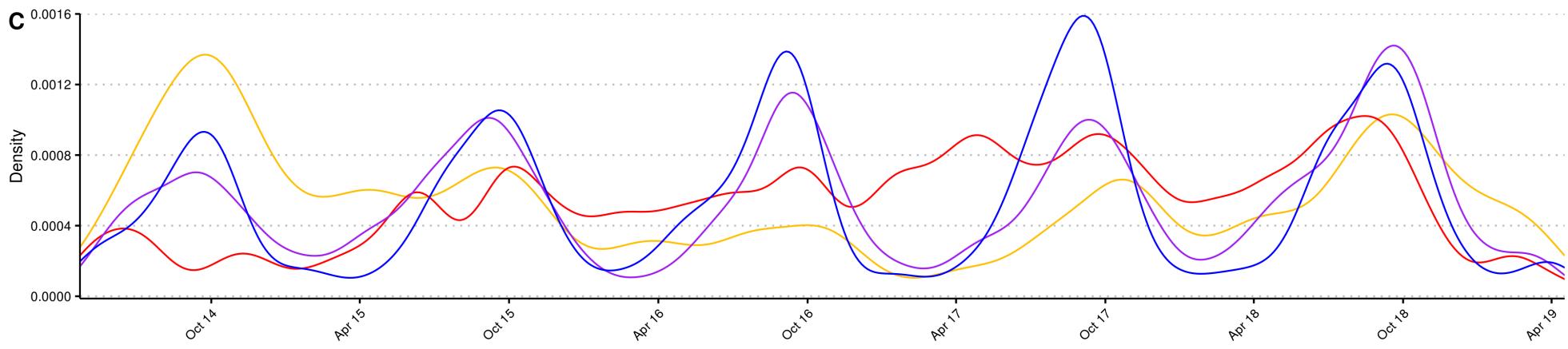
A



B



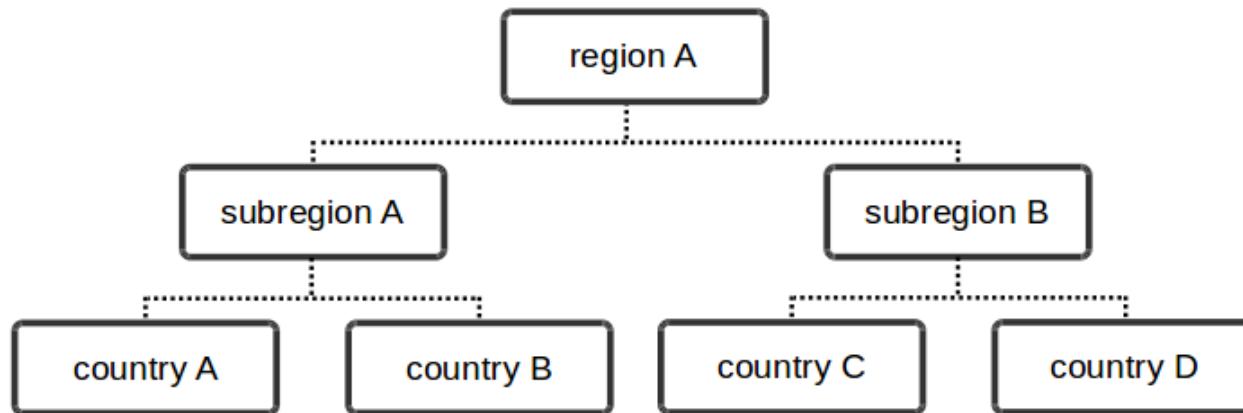
C



Hierarchical Classification using ML

Hierarchical classification is a useful tool for problems which have a discrete class hierarchy, in this case Region → Sub-region → Country.

A Local Classifier per Node (LCN) approach was adopted¹



This generates a separate probability score per level of the hierarchy:

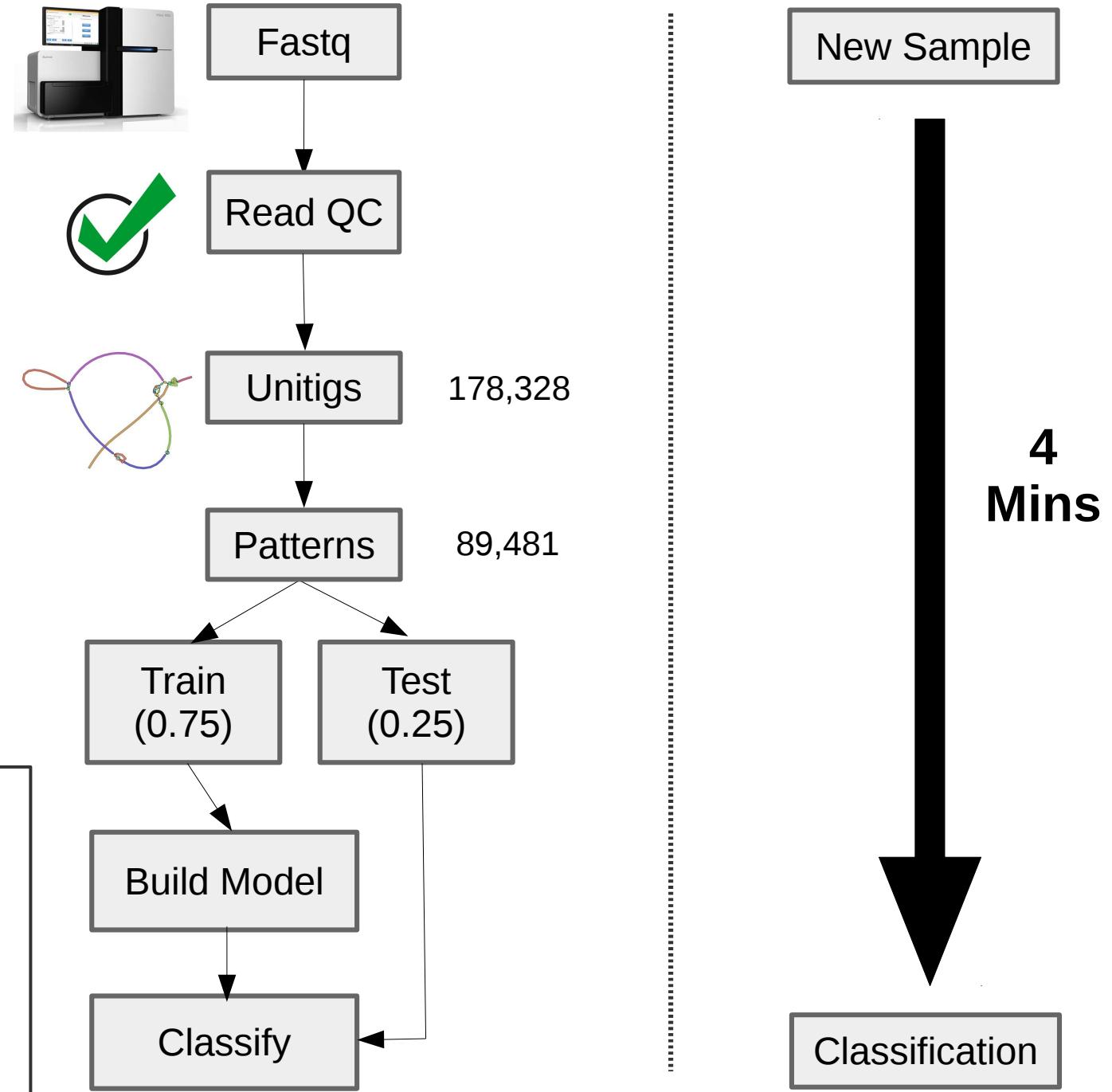
Europe	Southern Europe	Spain
0.9	0.7	0.3

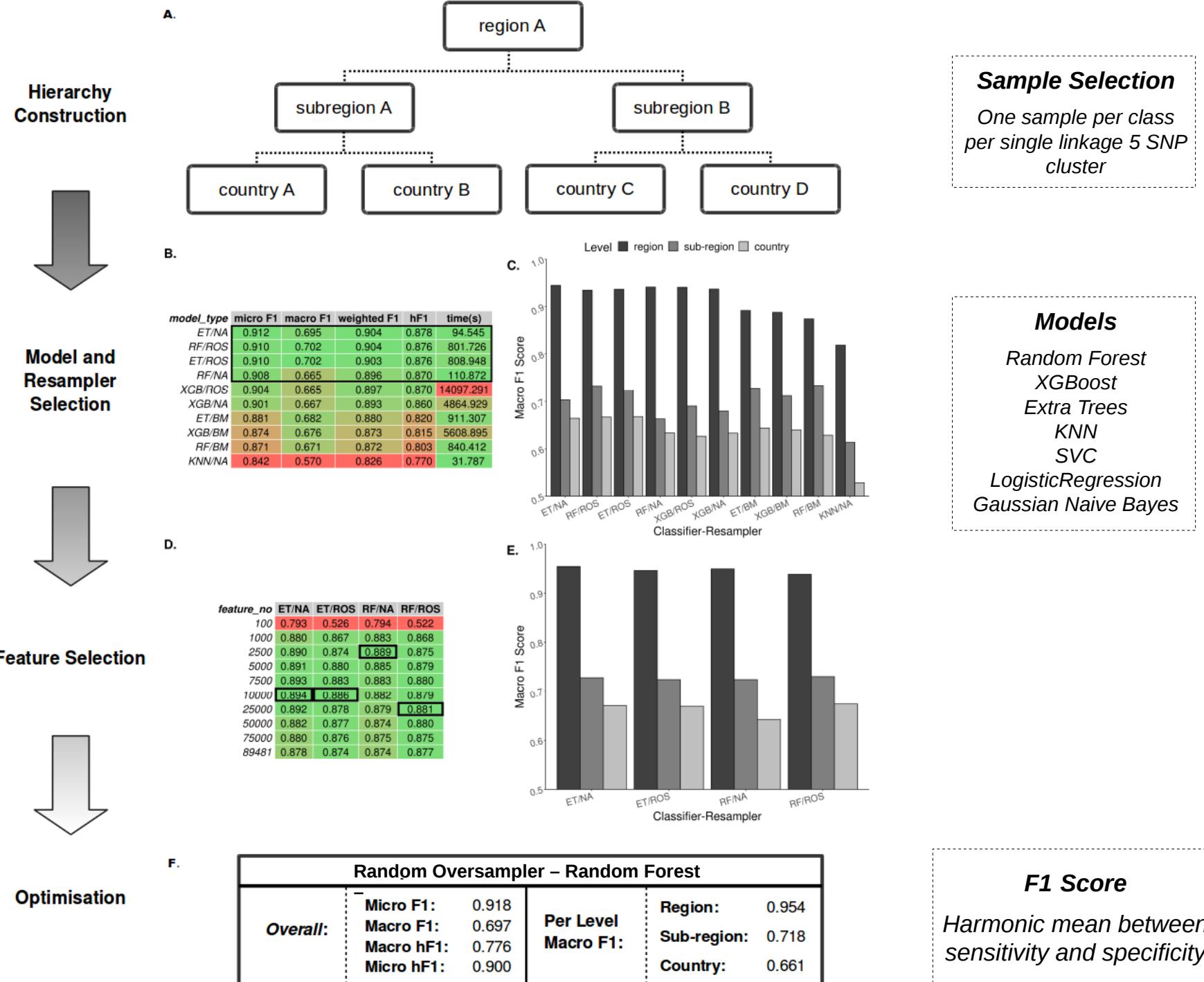


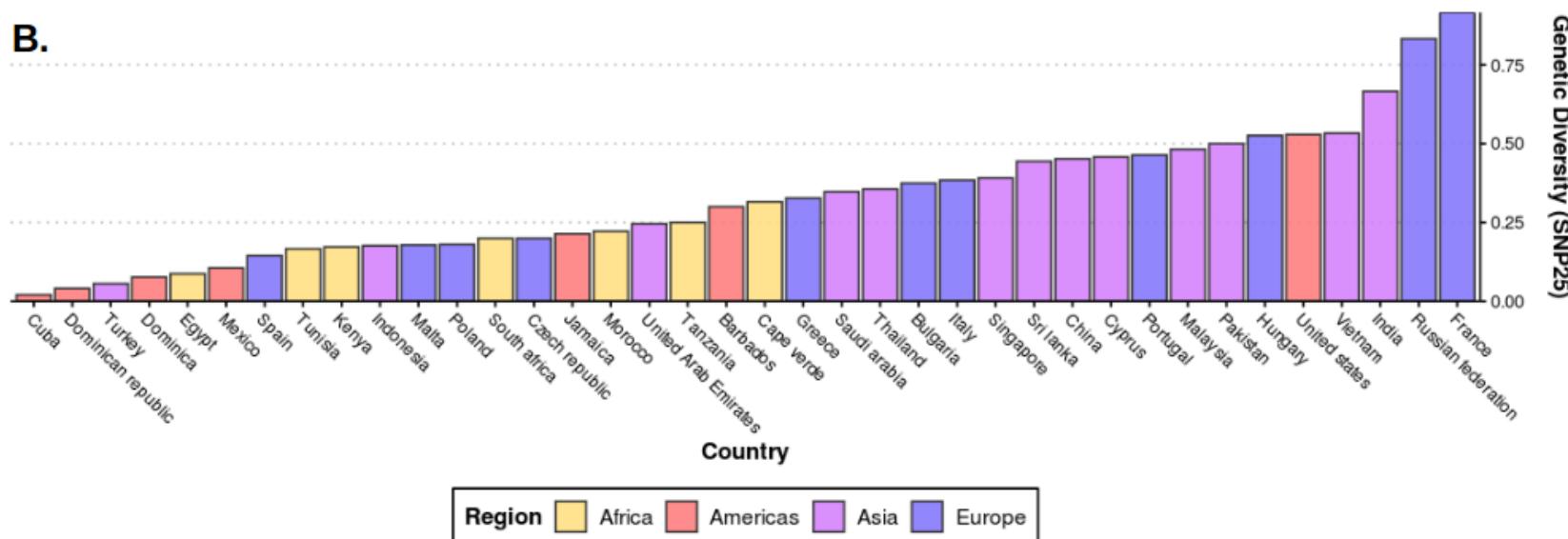
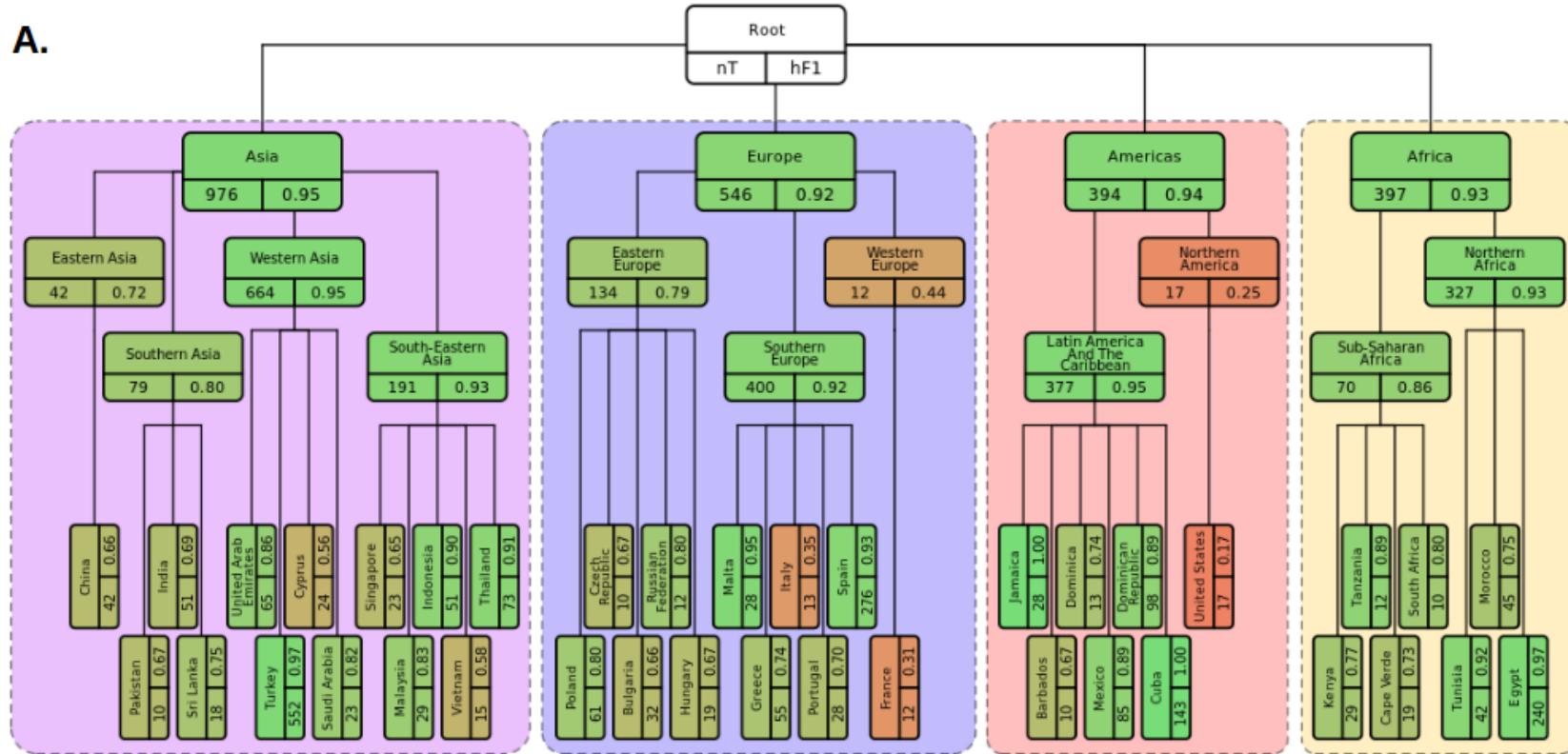
Input Data

Unitig

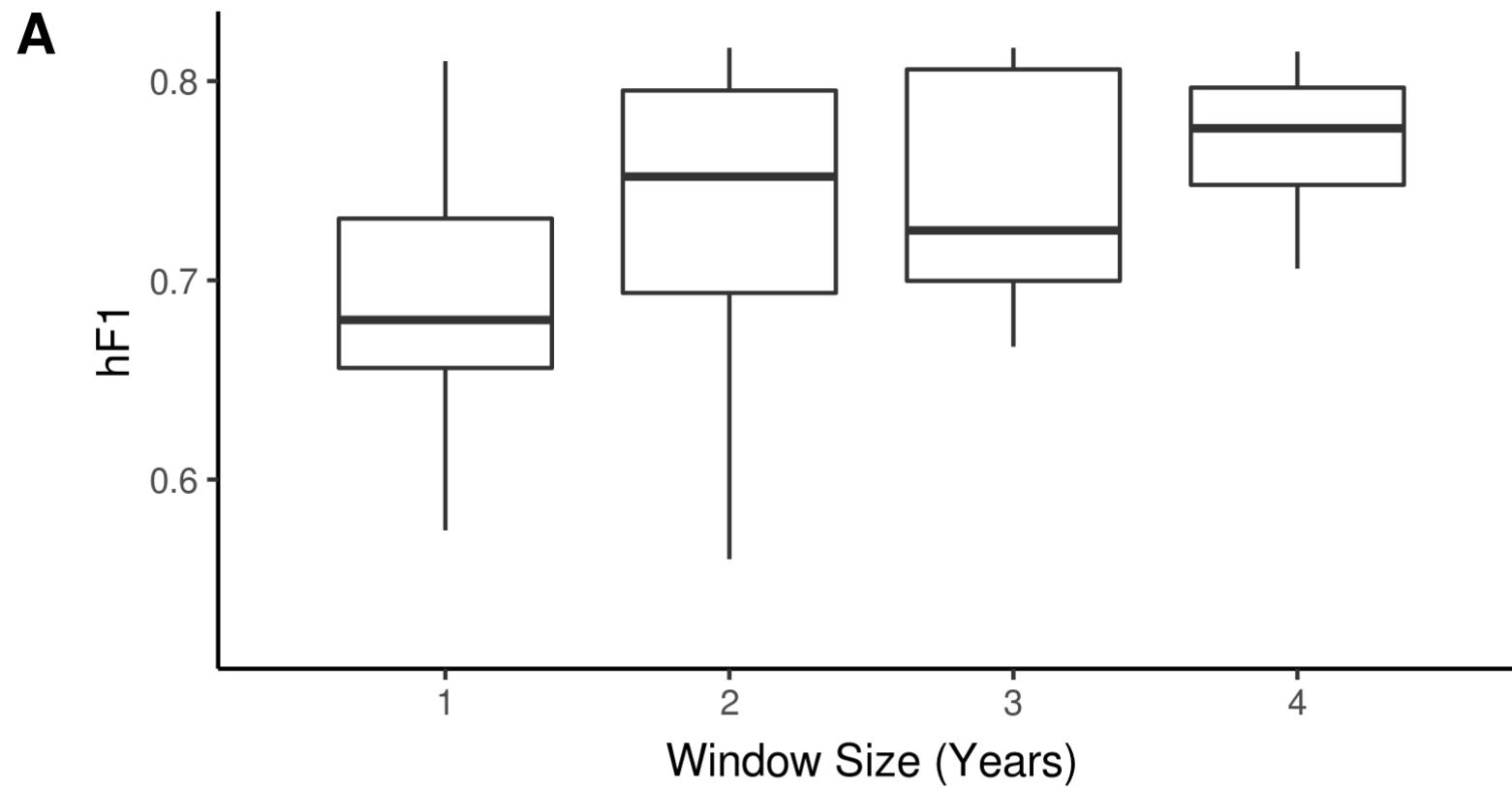
A sequence representing the strings resulting from compaction of k-mers along maximal paths with non-branching nodes in a *de Bruijn* graph



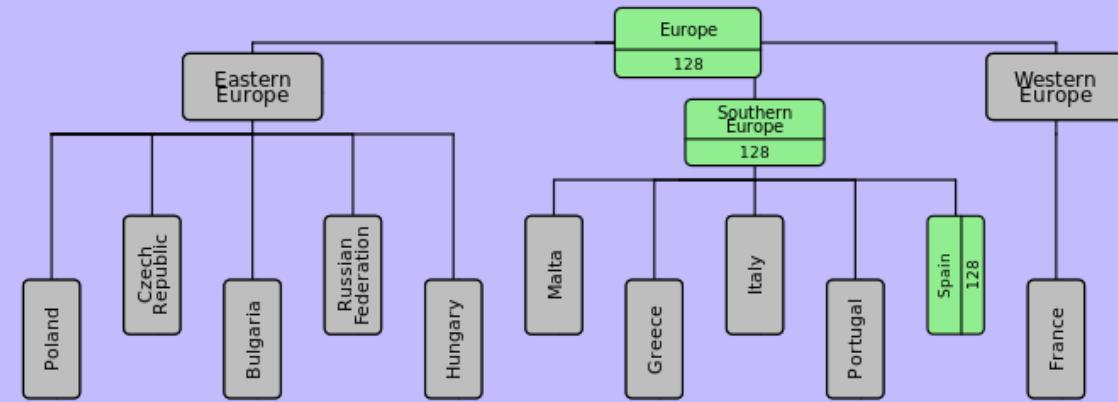




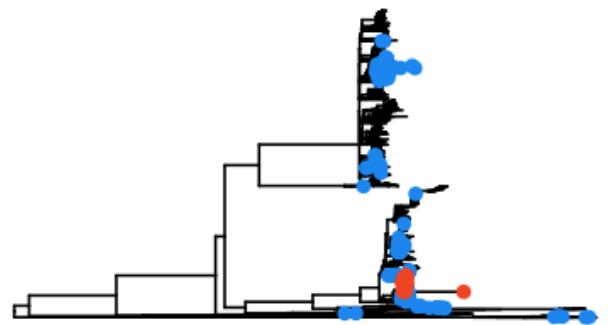
Robust Subsequent Year Prediction



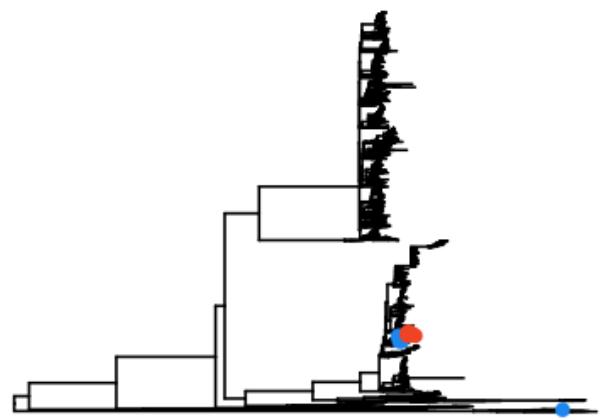
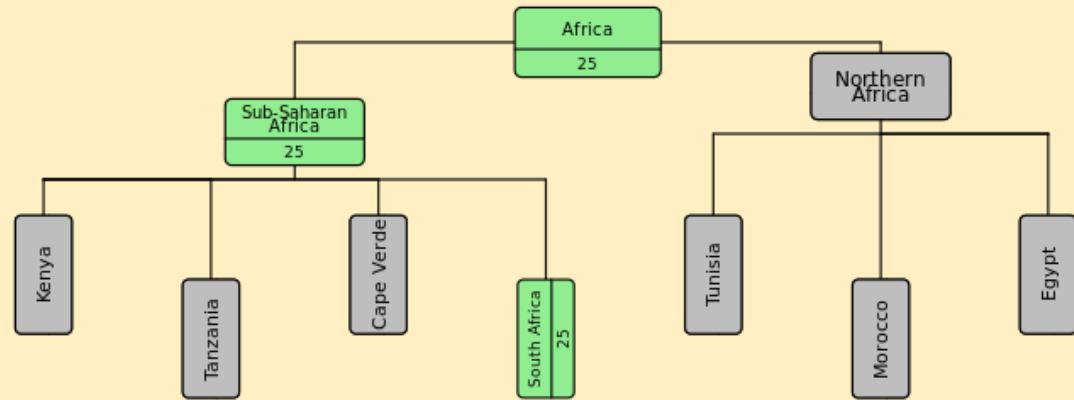
Spain [n = 128, hF1 = 1.00]



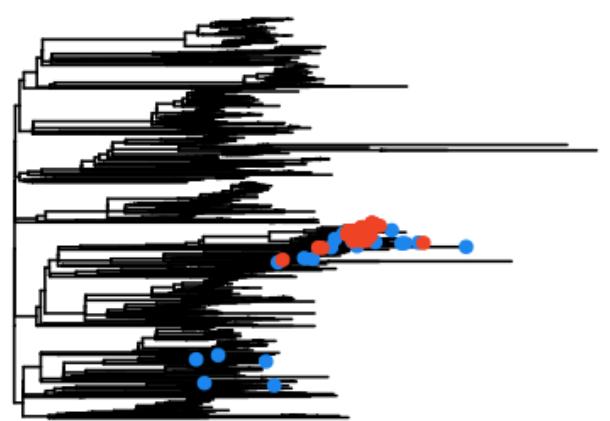
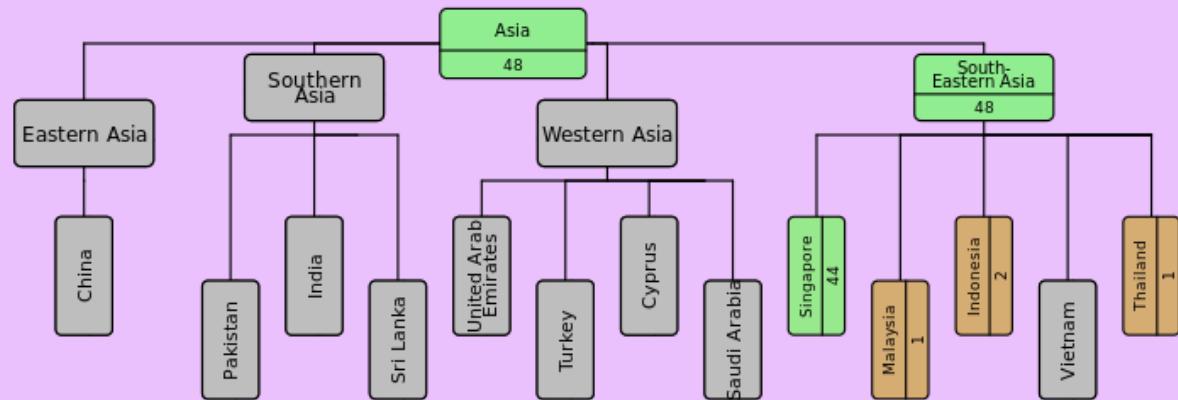
Dataset • UKHSA • Public



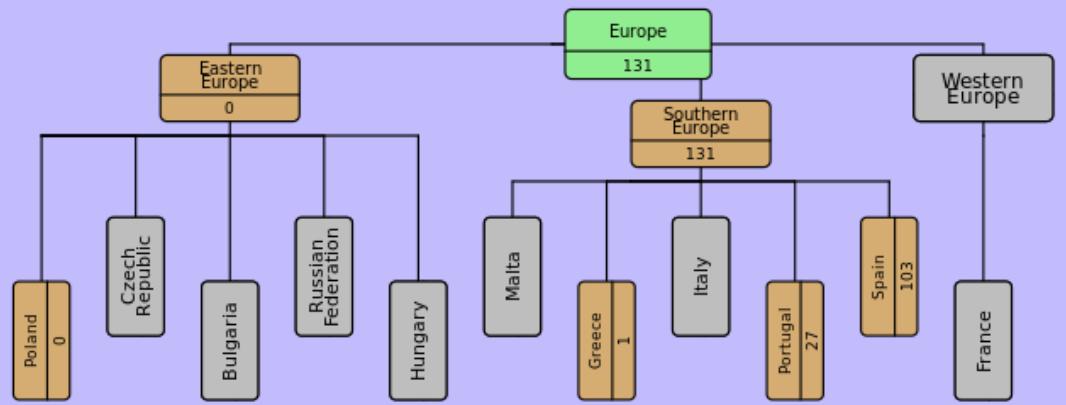
South Africa (NCBI) [n = 25, hF1 = 1.00]



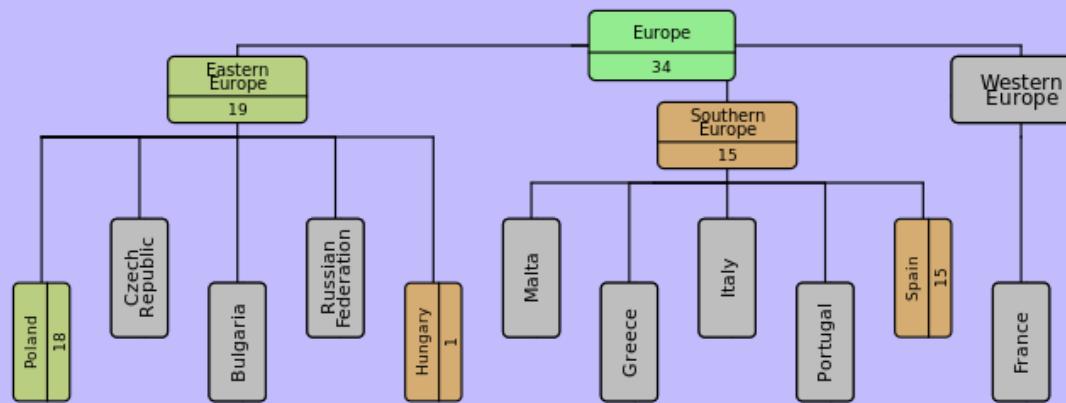
Singapore (NCBI) [n = 48, hF1 = 0.97]



Poland [n = 131, hF1 = 0.33]



Poland (NCBI) [n = 35, hF1 = 0.68]



Summary

Benefits

- Hierarchical classifiers can accurately and granularly predict geographical source of *S. Enteritidis*.
- From raw data to classification in <4 minutes.
- Models are robust to both temporal perturbations and novel data.

Limitations

- The model can only predict countries for which we have data, new datasets are needed.
- They do not always identify the ultimate source of the sample (i.e. food supply chains are complex).

Acknowledgements



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(Addenbrooks)

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BRISTOL



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BMJ Yale

Hierarchical machine learning predicts geographical origin of *Salmonella* within four minutes of sequencing

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