## **RESEARCH ARTICLE**

Microbiome and Host Interactions

# Gut microbiome-based supervised machine learning for clinical diagnosis of inflammatory bowel diseases

Ishan Manandhar,¹ Ahmad Alimadadi,¹ Sachin Aryal,¹ De Patricia B. Munroe,² Bina Joe,¹ and Xi Cheng¹
¹Bioinformatics & Artificial Intelligence Laboratory, Center for Hypertension and Precision Medicine, Program in Physiological Genomics, Department of Physiology and Pharmacology, University of Toledo College of Medicine and Life Sciences, Toledo, Ohio and ²Clinical Pharmacology, William Harvey Research Institute & National Institute of Health Research Barts
Cardiovascular Biomedical Research Centre, Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry, Queen Mary University of London, London, United Kingdom

#### **Abstract**

Despite the availability of various diagnostic tests for inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD), misdiagnosis of IBD occurs frequently, and thus, there is a clinical need to further improve the diagnosis of IBD. As gut dysbiosis is reported in patients with IBD, we hypothesized that supervised machine learning (ML) could be used to analyze gut microbiome data for predictive diagnostics of IBD. To test our hypothesis, fecal 16S metagenomic data of 729 subjects with IBD and 700 subjects without IBD from the American Gut Project were analyzed using five different ML algorithms. Fifty differential bacterial taxa were identified [linear discriminant analysis effect size (LEfSe): linear discriminant analysis (LDA) score > 3] between the IBD and non-IBD groups, and ML classifications trained with these taxonomic features using random forest (RF) achieved a testing area under the receiver operating characteristic curves (AUC) of  $\sim$ 0.80. Next, we tested if operational taxonomic units (OTUs), instead of bacterial taxa, could be used as ML features for diagnostic classification of IBD. Top 500 high-variance OTUs were used for ML training, and an improved testing AUC of  $\sim$ 0.82 (RF) was achieved. Lastly, we tested if supervised ML could be used for differentiating Crohn's disease (CD) and ulcerative colitis (UC). Using 331 CD and 141 UC samples, 117 differential bacterial taxa (LEfSe: LDA score > 3) were identified, and the RF model trained with differential taxonomic features or high-variance OTU features achieved a testing AUC > 0.90. In summary, our study demonstrates the promising potential of artificial intelligence via supervised ML modeling for predictive diagnostics of IBD using gut microbiome data.

**NEW & NOTEWORTHY** Our study demonstrates the promising potential of artificial intelligence via supervised machine learning modeling for predictive diagnostics of different types of inflammatory bowel diseases using fecal gut microbiome data.

Crohn's disease; gut microbiome; inflammatory bowel disease; machine learning; ulcerative colitis

## INTRODUCTION

Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), characterized by chronic gastrointestinal inflammation, has two major clinical presentations, Crohn's disease (CD) and ulcerative colitis (UC). Although exact pathogenesis of IBD is still unknown, one of the potential causes of IBD has been proposed as altered immune response to symbiotic microbiota due to host genome susceptibility (1) and abnormal gut microbiota composition (2–4). Since both CD and UC could lead to mild to serious complications such as *Clostridium difficile* infection (5), extraintestinal fibrosis (6), and intestinal fibrosis (7), early diagnosis is important for ensuring appropriate treatment. Current clinical diagnosis of IBD involves various procedures such as blood tests, colonoscopy, and MRI (8), but

misdiagnosis of IBD, as one of the idiopathic diseases known for nonspecific symptoms (9), is common in clinical practice. For example, IBD can be misdiagnosed with irritable bowel syndrome (10) and diverticular disease (11). Furthermore, timely diagnostic classification of IBD into CD and UC still remains difficult (12–14). Therefore, exploration and development of novel diagnostic approaches for IBD and its subtypes are urgently needed.

Previous studies have shown strong associations of IBD with dysregulated gut microbiota (15, 16). Some studies showed that alteration of gut microbiota involves a reduction of Firmicutes and an enrichment of Proteobacteria in patients with IBD (17–20). Similarly, another study reported reduced abundance of butyrate-producing bacteria, *Roseburia hominis* and *Faecalibacterium prausnitzii*, in



patients with UC (21). Further, the American Gut Project (22) has cataloged microbiome data from a large cohort of humans including those affected with IBD, which therefore serves as a valuable platform for assessing the overall population relationships between microbiota and IBD. In the current study, we sought to not only identify microbial signatures indicative of IBD and its clinical presentations as CD or UC but also to apply gut microbiome features to train machine learning (ML) models. ML, which is a major branch of artificial intelligence (AI), has been used in gastroenterology to detect polyps, lesions, and cancer (23, 24), but to date, has not been applied to detect IBD in clinics. Notably, ML has been used to analyze large-scale metagenomics data (25). In this study, we hypothesized that supervised machine learning (ML) models could be trained with gut microbiome data for diagnostic classifications of IBDs including CD and UC. To test our hypothesis, we obtained stool 16S rRNA sequencing data collected from human subjects diagnosed with IBD through the American Gut Project and trained the large-scale data of bacterial taxa or operational taxonomic units (OTUs) with five different supervised ML models for diagnostic classifications of IBD versus non-IBD and CD versus UC. Our study further demonstrates the promising potential of training supervised ML models using large-scale fecal microbiome data for a convenient diagnostic screening of IBD and its subtypes.

#### **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

### **Data Collection and Processing**

The workflow of data collection, processing, and analysis is summarized in Fig. 1. The 16S rRNA metagenomics data were collected from the American Gut Project (22) using Redbiom (26). Out of a total of 19,978 stool samples (as of February 5, 2020, Qiita study ID: 10317), 934 samples were collected from the participants diagnosed with IBD [ibd = "Diagnosed by a medical professional (doctor, physician assistant)" and 19,044 samples were collected from the

participants with no IBD (ibd = "I do not have this condition"). Out of 19,044 non-IBD samples, 941 samples were randomly selected through random shuffling of all the non-IBD samples, to match the final sample size of the IBD group after quality controlling. For subtype classification experiments, 406 and 179 samples from the participants diagnosed with CD and UC were found, respectively (as of May 28, 2020). Our study excluded the IBD and subtype samples that were marked as either self-diagnosed or not provided. Metadata and BIOM files were obtained using the "redbiom fetch" function with the context "Deblur-Illumina-16S-V4-150nt-780653." The BIOM file was further filtered using the QIIME 2 (27) (v. 2019.10) for quality controlling to remove the samples with a total frequency fewer than 10,000. The OTU table was generated using the filtered BIOM file with the BIOM format tool (28). We obtained a total of 71,199 OTUs for IBD versus non-IBD and a total of 18,627 OTUs for CD versus UC. The 16S microbiome data of stool samples collected from 729 IBD, 700 non-IBD, 331 CD, and 141 UC subjects were eventually used for subsequent analyses. Additional two distinct non-IBD subsets of the randomly selected 713 and 740 non-IBD samples were used for the validation purpose.

#### **Taxonomic Analysis**

The taxonomic assignment was implemented using QIIME 2 with a pretrained Naive Bayes classifier on the Greengenes (v. 13.8) at a 99% similarity threshold for OTU clustering (29). Linear discriminant analysis effect size (LEfSe: https://huttenhower. sph.harvard.edu/galaxy/) was used to identify differentially abundant taxonomic features (30). The LEfSe bar graph and cladogram of taxonomical features with linear discriminant analysis (LDA) score threshold greater than 3.0 were generated.

#### Supervised Machine Learning

In the classification of IBD versus non-IBD, five different supervised ML algorithms, which are random forest (RF), decision tree (DT), elastic net (EN), support vector machine with radial kernel (SVM), and neural networks (NN), were

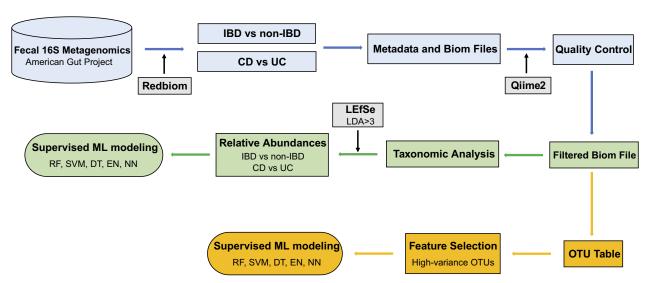


Figure 1. The study workflow of data collection and supervised machine learning experiments. CD, Crohn's disease; DT, decision tree; EN, elastic net; UC, ulcerative colitis; IBD, inflammatory bowel disease; LEfSe, linear discriminant analysis effect size; NN, neural networks; OTU, operational taxonomic units; RF, random forest; SVM, support vector machine with radial kernel.

trained with the features of bacterial taxa or OTUs using the caret R package (31). For the classification of CD versus UC, RF model was trained with the features of bacterial taxa or OTUs. Kernlab (32), randomForest (33), glmnet (34), and rpart (35) were deployed as the assistant R packages. Data splitting into the training (70%) and testing (30%) samples was performed after data shuffling. To reduce the dimensionality of the feature space and computational complexity, OTU-wise variance was computed for each OTU, and the top 500 high-variance OTUs across all the samples were selected for training the ML models. In the training stage, a 10-time repetition of 10-fold cross-validation was applied to assess performances of the ML models using only the training samples. Hyperparameter tuning was performed automatically using caret testing 10 different values for each hyperparameter. In the testing stage, trained ML models were evaluated on the testing samples for the commonly used ML performance parameters: area under the receiver operating characteristic curves (AUC), accuracy, sensitivity, specificity, precision, and F1. The whole procedures, including data shuffling, data splitting, training, and testing, were performed for 50 independent iterations. The average values and standard deviations were computed for all the testing performance parameters collected from the 50 iterations. The box-plot depictions of the values of AUC and accuracy were generated using the ggplot2 package (36) in R.

#### **RESULTS**

## Differential Taxonomic Composition between the IBD and Non-IBD Groups

Significant differences in gut microbiota were observed between the subjects with IBD and those without IBD (Fig. 2). Fifty taxonomic features (LDA > 3.0) were identified to be enriched in either IBD or non-IBD groups [Fig. 2A, Supplemental Table S1 (all Supplemental material is available at https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4420108)]. For example, at the bacterial phylum level, Firmicutes, Verrucomicrobia, and Actinobacteria were more abundant in the IBD group, whereas Bacteroidetes was more abundant in the non-IBD group (Fig. 2A). Increased levels of bacterial genus, including Lachnospira, Morganella, Coprococcus, Blautia, Oscillospira, Dialister, Ruminococcus, Fusobacterium, Bifidobacterium, and Akkermansia, were observed in the IBD group, whereas Pseudomonas, Acinetobacter, Paraprevotella, Stenotrophomonas, Alistipes, and Phascolarctobacterium were more enriched in the non-IBD group (Fig. 2A). The cladogram in Fig. 2B presents the significantly differential taxonomic signatures and their phylogenetic relationships.

# **Supervised ML Models Trained with Taxonomic** Features for Classifying IBD and Non-IBD

Supervised ML models were trained with the 50 differential taxonomic features (Fig. 2A, Supplemental Table S1) for classifying the IBD and non-IBD samples. Table 1 and Fig. 3, A and B, present the performances measures of the five ML models evaluated on the testing samples. RF performed best and achieved a testing AUC of  $\sim$ 0.80, followed by EN ( $\sim$ 0.73), NN ( $\sim$ 0.73), SVM ( $\sim$ 0.73), and DT  $(\sim 0.72)$  (Table 1, Fig. 3A). In terms of testing accuracy, RF

achieved ~72% accuracy in classifying the IBD and non-IBD subjects, followed by DT (~68%), NN (~67%), EN  $(\sim66\%)$ , and SVM  $(\sim66\%)$  (Table 1, Fig. 3B). Overall, RF outperformed other ML models for predictive classifications of IBD versus non-IBD.

# Supervised ML Models Trained with High-Variance OTU Features for Classifying IBD and Non-IBD

Next, we examined if OTUs, instead of bacterial taxa, could be used for diagnostic classification of IBD. The five ML models above were trained with the top 500 high-variance OTU features across all the samples. Slight testing performance improvements were observed in DT, EN, RF, and SVM (Table 2, Fig. 3, C and D). Surprisingly, the performance of NN significantly decreased to ~0.41 AUC and  $\sim$ 63% accuracy (Table 2, Fig. 3, C and D). Overall, by any performance measure, RF still performed best, with the highest outcomes represented by  $\sim 0.82$  AUC and  $\sim 74\%$ accuracy (Table 2). Using another two distinct subsets of 713 (subset 1) and 740 (subset 2) non-IBD samples with 729 IBD samples for RF modeling, similar testing performances of ~0.84 AUC and ~76% accuracy confirmed the above results (Supplemental Fig. S1 and Supplemental Table S2).

# Taxonomic Analysis and Supervised ML Modeling for Classifying CD and UC

We next examined if the two IBD subtypes, CD and UC, could be differentially classified using the above approaches. A total of 117 bacterial taxa (LDA > 3.0) were identified to be significantly differential between CD and UC (Fig. 4A, Supplemental Table S3). For example, multiple bacterial genera, such as Bifidobacterium, Pseudomonas, Proteus, Lactobacillus, Enterococcus, Acinetobacter, Serratia, Corynebacterium, Streptococcus, Eubacterium, and Arcobacter, were significantly enriched in the UC group, whereas Lachnospira, Coprococcus, Bacteriodes, Akkermansia, Oscillospira, Ruminococcus, Parabacteroides, Prevotella, Fusobacterium, Roseburia, Sutterella, Providencia, Dialister, Alistipes, and Gemmiger were more abundant in the CD group (Fig. 4A). The cladogram (LDA > 4.0) shown in Fig. 4B distinctly presented the overall differential taxa and their phylogenetic relationships.

The RF model was reimplemented using either the differential taxonomic features or the top 500 high-variance OTU features for classifying the subjects with CD and UC. Table 3 and Fig. 5 present the performance measures of the trained RF model evaluated on the testing CD and UC samples. Impressively, the RF models trained with either taxonomic features or OTU features achieved ~0.91 AUC and  $\sim 0.92$  AUC, respectively (Table 3, Fig. 5A). In terms of testing accuracy, both models achieved ~83% accuracy of differentiating CD and UC (Table 3, Fig. 5B). Due to the imbalanced ratio of the numbers of the UC and CD samples, 331 CD samples were randomly divided into two subsets of 165 (subset 1) and 166 (subset 2) CD samples for RF modeling with 141 UC samples; similar testing performances of ~0.91 AUC and ~83% accuracy confirmed the above results (Supplemental Fig. S2 and Supplemental Table S4).

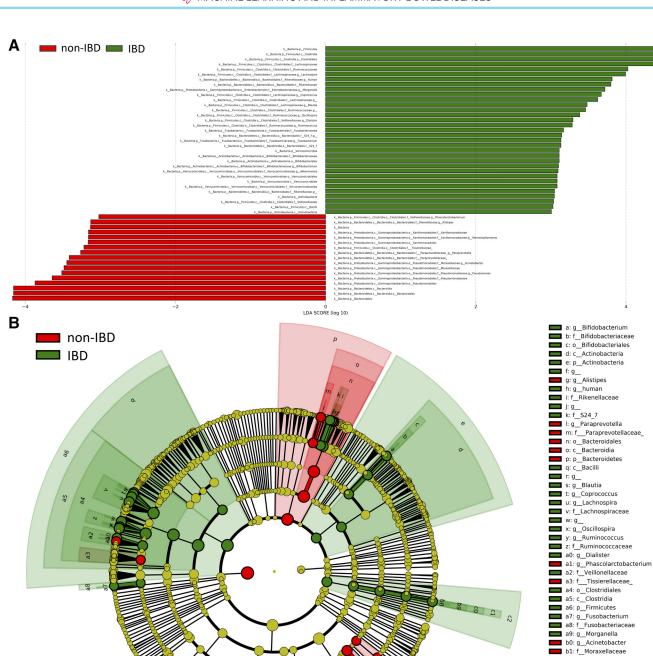


Figure 2. Differential bacterial taxa between the inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) and non-IBD groups. A: linear discriminant analysis effect size (LEfSe) bar plot (LDA > 3.0) showing enriched taxa in different groups. B: cladogram (LDA > 3.0) showing differential taxa with their phylogenetic relationships.

# DISCUSSION

Unlike routine invasive procedures such as colonoscopies and endoscopies, our study provides a noninvasive approach of gut microbiome-based machine learning classifications for a convenient and efficient diagnostic screening of IBD and its subtypes. To our knowledge, our study demonstrates

the promising potential of utilizing fecal gut microbiome data to distinguish between subjects with IBD and those without IBD as well as between CD and UC. Despite that the gut microbiome composition and diversity can vary greatly among individuals of different characteristics such as sex, age, diet habit, residential area, and health condition (37–39), the ability to distinguish between gut physiology and

b2: g\_Pseudomonas
b3: f\_Pseudomonadaceae
b4: o\_Pseudomonadales
b5: g\_Stenotrophomonas
b6: f\_Xanthomonadaceae
b7: o\_Xanthomonadales
b8: g\_Akkermansia
b9: f\_Verrucomicrobiaceae
c0: o\_Verrucomicrobiae
c1: c\_Verrucomicrobia

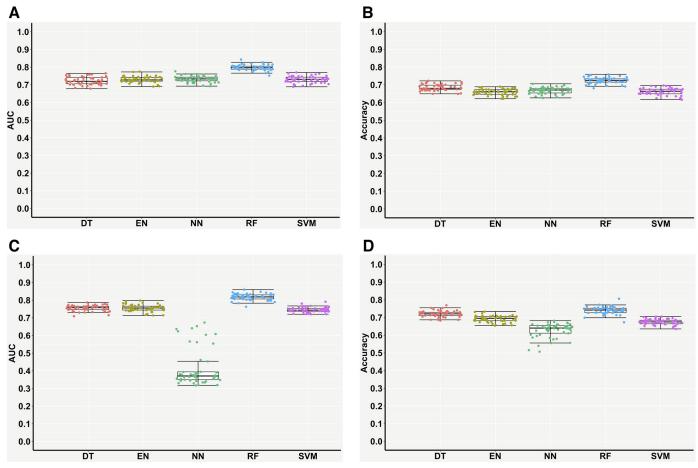


Figure 3. Performance measures of supervised machine learning models for classifying subjects with inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) and those without IBD (non-IBD) using gut microbiome features. Differential taxonomic features: area under the receiver operating characteristic curve (AUC) (A) and accuracy (B); high-variance OTU features: AUC (C) and accuracy (D). Each point in the box plot represents each performance measure in one iteration (total 50 iterations). OTU, operational taxonomic units.

pathophysiology in the host solely by assessing gut microbiota compositions as presented in the current work is to be viewed as a significant advancement. The ML models developed here represent a robust and generalized diagnostic screening tool, which is applicable across a wide range of human populations.

Significant gut microbiota alterations were observed between the subjects with IBD and those without IBD (Fig. 2). Main gut dysbiosis features, as reported previously (17, 40, 41), were represented by increased levels of Firmicutes and decreased levels of Bacteroidetes in subjects with IBD (Fig. 2A, Supplemental Table S1). We also observed enriched phyla

Verrucomicrobia and Actinobacteria in the IBD group (Fig. 2A, Supplemental Table S1), which is consistent with previous reports (17, 42, 43). Moreover, at the bacterial family level, more abundant Fusobacteriaceae and Veillonellaceae were previously reported to be associated with IBD (40, 44) and also found in our study (Fig. 2A, Supplemental Table S1). Lachnospiraceae was previously reported to be less abundant in patients with IBD (17, 45), whereas our studies showed its increased abundance in the IBD group (Fig. 2A, Supplemental Table S1). As different subtypes of IBD can have similar symptoms, but they require different diagnostic standards, we further investigated and compared gut microbiota signatures

Table 1. Performance measures of supervised ML models for classifying the subjects with IBD and those without IBD using differential taxonomic features

Models	AUC	Accuracy	Sensitivity	Specificity	Precision	F1
DT	0.72 ± 0.02	$0.68 \pm 0.02$	$0.80 \pm 0.06$	0.57 ± 0.06	$0.64 \pm 0.02$	0.71±0.02
EN	$0.73 \pm 0.02$	$0.66 \pm 0.02$	$0.82 \pm 0.05$	$0.50 \pm 0.06$	$0.62 \pm 0.02$	$0.70 \pm 0.02$
NN	$0.73 \pm 0.02$	$0.67 \pm 0.02$	$0.75 \pm 0.06$	$0.59 \pm 0.06$	$0.64 \pm 0.02$	$0.69 \pm 0.02$
RF	$0.80 \pm 0.01$	$0.72 \pm 0.02$	$0.80 \pm 0.03$	$0.64 \pm 0.03$	$0.69 \pm 0.02$	$0.74 \pm 0.02$
SVM	$0.73 \pm 0.02$	$0.66 \pm 0.02$	$0.74 \pm 0.08$	$0.59 \pm 0.08$	$0.74 \pm 0.02$	$0.68 \pm 0.03$

Values are presented as means ± SD calculated from 50 independent iterations. AUC, area under the receiver operating characteristic curve; DT, decision tree; EN, elastic net; IBD, inflammatory bowel disease; ML, machine learning; NN, neural networks; RF, random forest; SVM, support vector machine with radial kernel.



Table 2. Performance measures of supervised ML models for classifying the subjects with IBD and those without IBD using the top 500 high-variance OTU features

Models	AUC	Accuracy	Sensitivity	Specificity	Precision	F1
DT	0.75 ± 0.02	0.72 ± 0.02	0.81±0.04	$0.63 \pm 0.04$	$0.68 \pm 0.02$	0.74 ± 0.02
EN	$0.75 \pm 0.02$	$0.69 \pm 0.02$	$0.77 \pm 0.05$	$0.62 \pm 0.06$	$0.66 \pm 0.02$	$0.70 \pm 0.02$
NN	$0.41 \pm 0.10$	$0.63 \pm 0.04$	$0.80 \pm 0.22$	$0.46 \pm 0.18$	$0.60 \pm 0.03$	$0.66 \pm 0.11$
RF	$0.82 \pm 0.02$	$0.74 \pm 0.02$	$0.84 \pm 0.03$	$0.64 \pm 0.04$	$0.70 \pm 0.02$	$0.76 \pm 0.02$
SVM	$0.74 \pm 0.01$	$0.67 \pm 0.02$	$0.77 \pm 0.06$	$0.58 \pm 0.06$	$0.64 \pm 0.02$	$0.70 \pm 0.02$

Values are presented as means ± SD calculated from 50 independent iterations. AUC, area under the receiver operating characteristic curve; DT, decision tree; EN, elastic net; IBD, inflammatory bowel disease; ML, machine learning; NN, neural networks; OTU, operational taxonomic units; RF, random forest; SVM, support vector machine with radial kernel.

between two major subtypes of IBD, CD and UC. Surprisingly, the comparison of CD versus UC showed significantly more taxonomic differences than the comparison between IBD and non-IBD (Fig. 2 and Fig. 4). Several bacterial phyla, such as Firmicutes, Bacteroidetes, Verrucomicrobia, Cyanobactetria, and Fusobacteria, were more abundant in CD than UC (Fig. 4A, Supplemental Table S3). Enriched Actinobacteria and Bifidobacterium were reported in patients with UC (46-48), and we observed the same associations in our UC group (Fig. 4A, Supplemental Table S3). Increased Deltaproteobacte-ria, a bacterial class of sulfate-reducing bacteria, was previously reported in patients with UC (49, 50), whereas we observed more abundant Deltaproteobacteria in the CD group (Fig. 4A, Supplemental Table S3). Therefore, although not all of the taxa are consistent with previous reports, our study takes into account the overall composition and has detected overall gut microbiome signatures, which are associated with IBD and its subtypes. These are more meaningful when one considers that bacteria have quorum-sensing properties whereby they are interdependent on each other for adjusting their individual compositions based on their immediate environmental milieu in the gut. Moreover, as gut microbiota is a highly variable and dynamic feature, individual or a few statistical disease-associated bacterial taxa may not be reliable biomarkers for diagnostic applications. For example, an altered Firmicutes/Bacteroidetes ratio was reported to be associated with several diseases (51–53), but the ratio can greatly change with aging (54) and diets (55), and the altered ratio can relate to several coexisting disease conditions in a single individual, and thus a targeted diagnostic indication of a specific disease

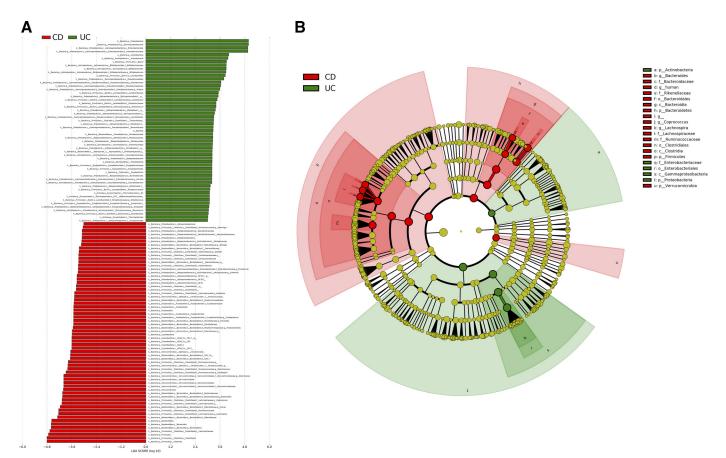


Figure 4. Differential bacterial taxa between the Crohn's disease (CD) and ulcerative colitis (UC) groups. A: linear discriminant analysis effect size (LEfSe) bar plot (LDA > 3.0) showing enriched taxa in different groups. B: cladogram (LDA > 4.0) showing differential taxa with their phylogenetic relationships.

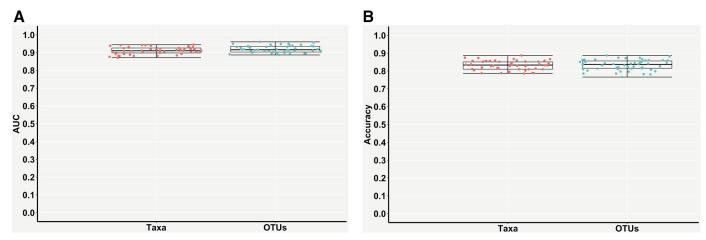


Figure 5. Performance measures of the random forest (RF) models for classifying Crohn's disease (CD) and ulcerative colitis (UC) groups using differential taxonomic features or the top 500 high-variance OTU features. A: area under the receiver operating characteristic curve (AUC). B: accuracy. Each point in the box plot represents each performance measure in one iteration (total 50 iterations). OTU, operational taxonomic units.

cannot simply rely on alterations in only a few taxa of gut microbiota. Therefore, we examined gut microbiome-based supervised ML modeling for evaluating its diagnostic potential of IBD and its subtypes over a significant amount of diverse population with distinct characteristics, such as sex and age. We tested the capacity of supervised ML models for differentiating subjects with IBD and those without IBD based on their gut microbiota features, and our results indicate that ML modeling could achieve  $\sim$ 0.82 AUC for diagnostic classifications of IBD and non-IBD (Table 2).

In prior reports, data of histological and endoscopic findings (56), genomic database (57), and gut microbiota (58-60) have been used to train ML models for IBD diagnosis. For example, ML models were trained with gut microbiota data from pediatric stool samples of 67 subjects with IBD and 24 subjects without IBD and achieved an AUC of 0.83 (61). However, most of these studies had limited sample size to rigorously train and validate the reliability of ML predictive diagnostics, especially over a diverse population distribution. In contrast, our study trained and tested ML models with a significant number of individual samples (729 subjects with IBD and 700 subjects without IBD) to develop a robust ML diagnostic screening tool. Another recent study applied unsupervised ML approaches for identifying and quantifying taxon co-occurrence patterns for diagnosing subjects with IBD (62). It should be noted that our study used nonnormalized bacterial taxonomic or OTU data for ML modeling, as we aimed to test the capacity and adaptability of ML models trained with raw microbiome data to classify

and predict new unknown samples without requiring repeated processing of the previous samples with the new samples in future.

Currently, there is still limited evidence regarding the performance and reliability of ML classification and diagnosis of IBD subtypes. A previous study, which trained supervised ML models with bacterial genus and OTU data collected from only 20 patients with CD and 19 patients with UC, achieved 0.79 AUC and 0.72 AUC, respectively (63). In our study, we performed the RF training and testing on a significant number of human samples (331 subjects with CD and 141 subjects with UC) and achieved significantly better prediction performances of >0.90 AUC (Table 3). It should be noted that we only used the fecal metagenomics data of the patients with IBD who were indicated to be diagnosed by a medical profession (doctor, physician assistant) in the database of the American Gut Project, but we could not rule out the possibility of misdiagnosed IBD cases. Even so, our study still demonstrates the promising potential of applying gut microbiome-based supervised ML approaches for diagnostic differentiation of clinical IBDs. Interestingly, we found that the RF model performed best not only for the IBD versus non-IBD classification but also for the CD versus UC classification, which is consistent with pervious observations that RF performed well in metagenomebased classification (64-66).

In summary, using newly identified distinct gut microbiota signatures in IBD and its subtypes, CD and UC, our study demonstrates the promising potential of using large-

Table 3. Performance measures of the RF models for classifying CD and UC using differential taxonomic features or the top 500 high-variance OTU features

Features	AUC	Accuracy	Sensitivity	Specificity	Precision	F1
Taxa	0.91±0.02	0.83 ± 0.03	0.85±0.03	0.79 ± 0.06	0.90 ± 0.02	0.88±0.02
OTUs	0.92+0.02	0.83 + 0.03	0.85±0.04	0.80 + 0.06	0.90 + 0.03	0.88±0.02

Values are presented as means ± SD calculated from 50 independent iterations. AUC, area under the receiver operating characteristic curve; CD, Crohn's disease; OTU, operational taxonomic units; RF, random forest; UC, ulcerative colitis.



scale gut microbiota data, as a noninvasive approach, to train supervised ML models for efficient diagnostic screening of different types of clinical IBD.

## **GRANTS**

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## **DISCLOSURES**

No conflicts of interest, financial or otherwise, are declared by the authors.

## **AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS**

X.C. conceived and designed research; I.M. and X.C. performed experiments; I.M. and X.C. analyzed data; I.M. and X.C. interpreted results of experiments; I.M. prepared figures; I.M. drafted manuscript; I.M., A.A., S.A., P.B.M., B.J., and X.C. edited and revised manuscript; I.M., A.A., S.A., P.B.M., B.J., and X.C. approved final version of manuscript.

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