

An illustration featuring two hands, one from the left and one from the right, holding a heart. The heart is composed of three overlapping shapes: a blue circle on the left, a red circle on the right, and a yellow diamond in the center. The background is a light blue gradient with soft, wavy lines. The title text is centered over the heart.

Detecting the Presence of Autism

Sabrina Starr

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01

Introduction



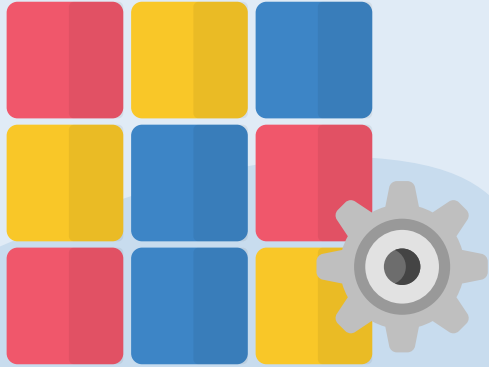
Introduction

NIH describes Autism Spectrum Disorder as being: "A neurological and developmental disorder that affects how people interact with others, communicate, learn, and behave. Although autism can be diagnosed at any age, it is described as a "developmental disorder" because symptoms generally appear in the first two years of life."

02

Background

Background

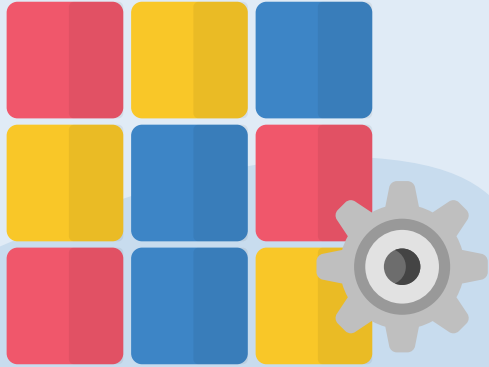


Initially, I decided to make a prediction app for whether or not an individual's offspring may have ASD based off of factors such as family history. This had a few obstacles:

- No way to prove my theory medically after extensive research into medical documentation.
- More sensible to predict the presence of autism in an individual than in their offspring.
- Already had data available to predict solely the present of ASD.

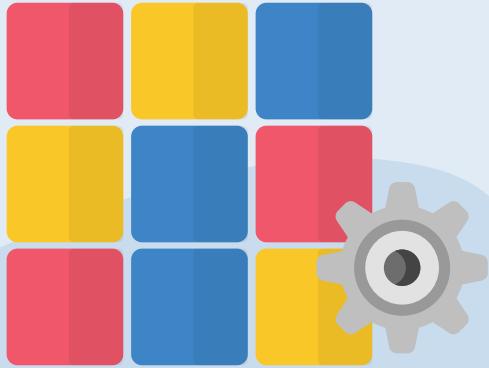
This led to a change in trajectory...

Background Continued ...



- My secondary data became my primary data (SFARI ASD dataset)
- Research was done to determine if this was enough data to predict the presence of autism in an individual– it was

... Background Continued ...



Publications and Studies

- A twin study of autism in Denmark
- Methods for Detection of Parent-of-Origin Effects in Genetic Studies of Case-Parents Triads
- Clinical research: Short test finds autism traits in families
- Elevated Polygenic Burden for Autism Spectrum Disorder Is Associated With the Broad Autism Phenotype in Mothers of Individuals With Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Maternal lifestyle and environmental risk factors for autism spectrum disorders
- Molecular mechanisms underlying neurodevelopmental disorders, ADHD and autism
- There Are Two Types of “Social Emotional Agnosia” in Autism

03

XGBoost

About XGBoost

Used very heavily
in production
environments.



Known for its
speed and
performance.



XGBClassifier import from
the xgboost library-- which
is scikit-learn's API for
XGBClassification.



Is based on
decision trees.



Stands for eXtreme
Gradient Boosting.

04

Process

Process



Data

Load the data from SFARI database.



Features

Get features and labels.



Scale

Scale the features (and dummy the features).



Split

Split the dataset.



Build

Build the XGBClassifier.



Review

Calculate the model accuracy and EDA with Plotly.

SFARI Gene Database

SFARI GENE

SFARI Gene is an evolving database for the autism research community that is centered on genes implicated in autism susceptibility.



6 (51)

2 (21)

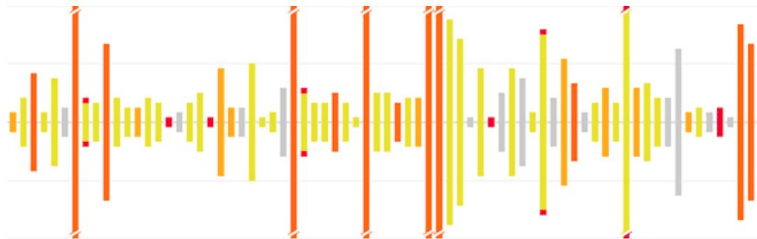
4 (12)

1 (05)

LATEST NEWS SFARI Gene release notes for Q4 2021 [Learn More](#)

Human Gene

The Human Gene module provides researchers around the world with instant access to the most up-to-date information on all known human genes associated with autism spectrum disorders (ASD).



Used Data from SFARI

Only the 'genes,' dataset (for humans) was used, which had the following columns:

- Status (dropped)
- Gene Symbol (dropped)
- Gene Name (dropped)
- Ensembl ID (dropped)
- **Chromosome (dummied)**
- **Genetic Category (dummied)**
- **Gene Score (dummied)**
- **Syndromic (dummied, used as feature)**
- Number of Reports (dropped)

Genetic Categories

- **Rare**
Rare single gene variants, disruptions/mutations, and submicroscopic deletions/duplications directly linked to ASD.
- **Syndromic**
Genes implicated in syndromes in which a significant subpopulation develops symptoms of autism (examples: Angelman Syndrome, Fragile X Syndrome).
- **Association**
Small risk-conferring common polymorphisms identified from genetic association studies in idiopathic ASD.
- **Functional**
Functional candidates not yet genetically linked with ASD.

S

SYNDROMIC

1

CATEGORY 1
(High Confidence)

2

CATEGORY 2
(Strong Candidate)

3

CATEGORY 3
(Suggestive Evidence)

Gene Scores

Syndromic: The syndromic category includes mutations that are associated with a substantial degree of increased risk and consistently linked to additional characteristics not required for an ASD diagnosis.

Category 1 (High Confidence): Each of these genes has been clearly implicated in ASD.

Category 2 (Strong Candidate): Genes with two reported de novo likely-gene-disrupting mutations.

Category 3 (Suggestive Evidence): Genes with a single reported de novo likely-gene-disrupting mutation.

Other Unused Data from SFARI

- Gene cnvs
- Gene scores
- Mouse genes
- Mouse gene cnvs
- Mouse inbred
- Mouse induced
- Mouse rescue

CNVs

CNVs are segments of DNA, typically greater than 1,000 basepairs in length, that vary in number from person to person. These submicroscopic deletions and duplications are increasingly thought to be involved in the pathogenesis of a wide range of human diseases, including neuropsychiatric disorders such as ASD.

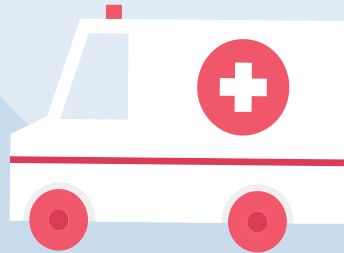
Inbred

Inbred models are studies on animals that exhibit a particular phenotype of interest without carrying a known genetic mutation.



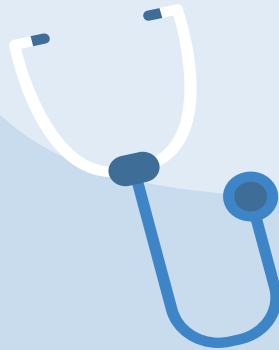
Induced

Induced models are studies on animals in which a particular trait or disorder has been purposefully induced with a biological or chemical agent.



Rescue

Rescue animal models are studies on animals that have received either pharmaceutical, genetic, or cell transplant treatments during the course of the study. These treatments have the effect of ameliorating one or more of the associated phenotypes.



05

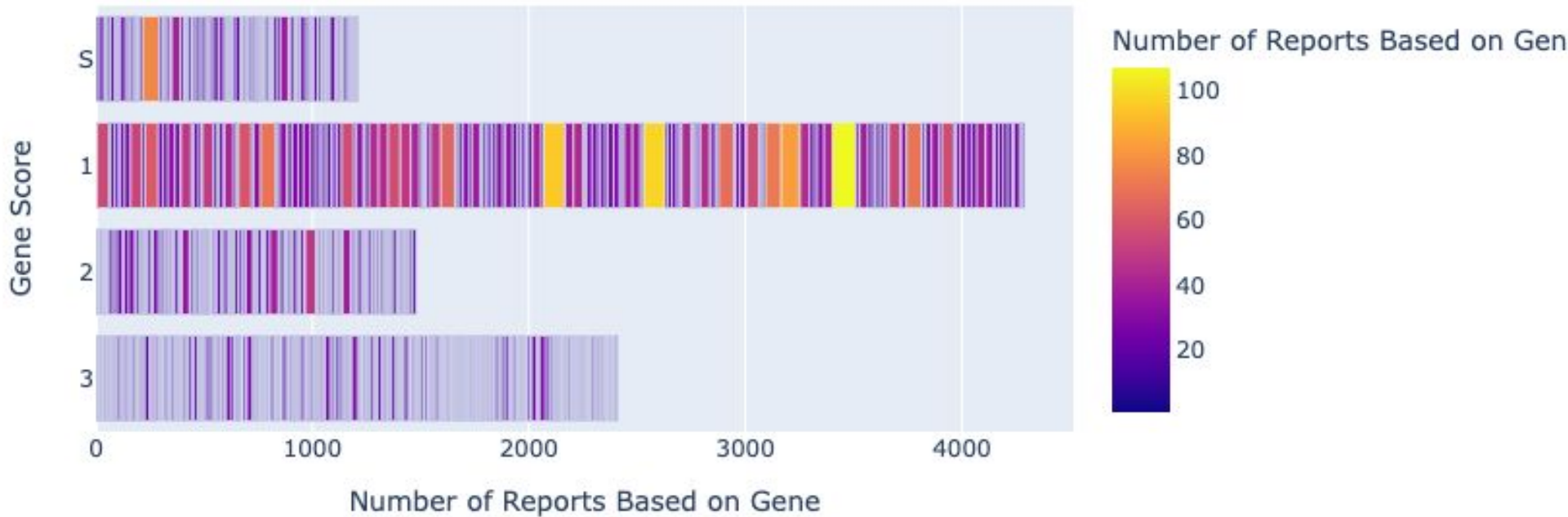
Discoveries

Overall

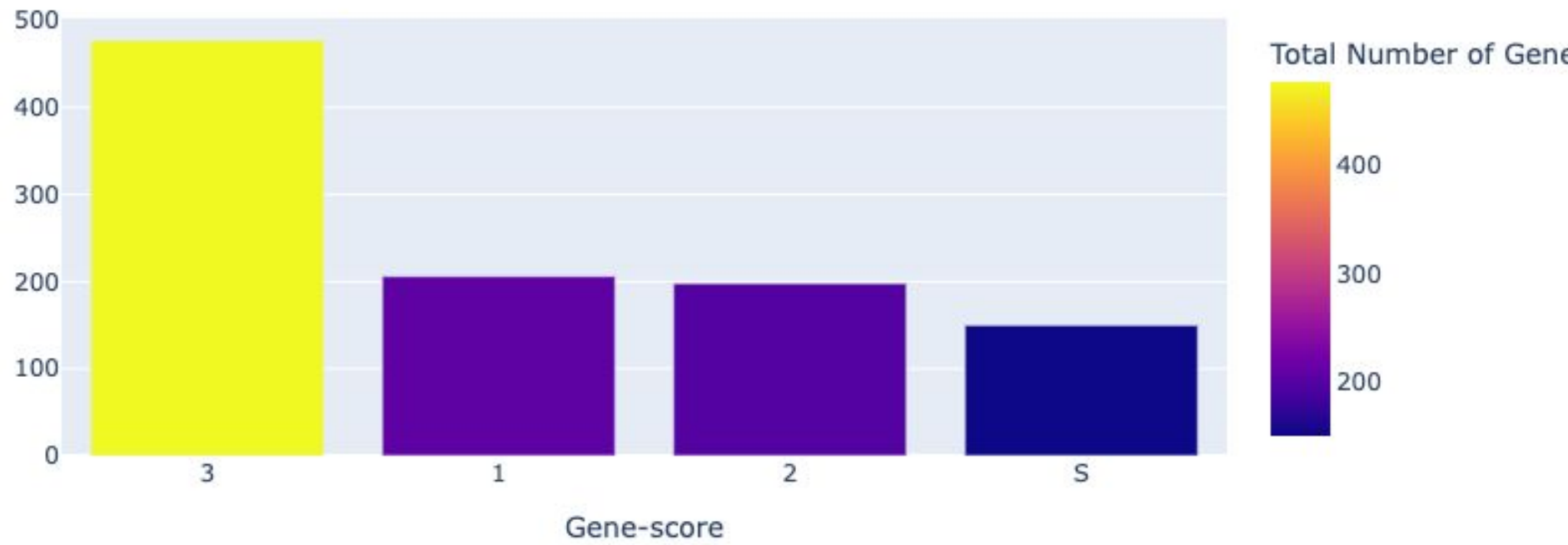
There were 793 syndromic cases, and 239 non-syndromic cases.

There were 477 score 3 genes, 206 score 1 genes, 198 score 2 genes, and 150 actual syndromic genes.

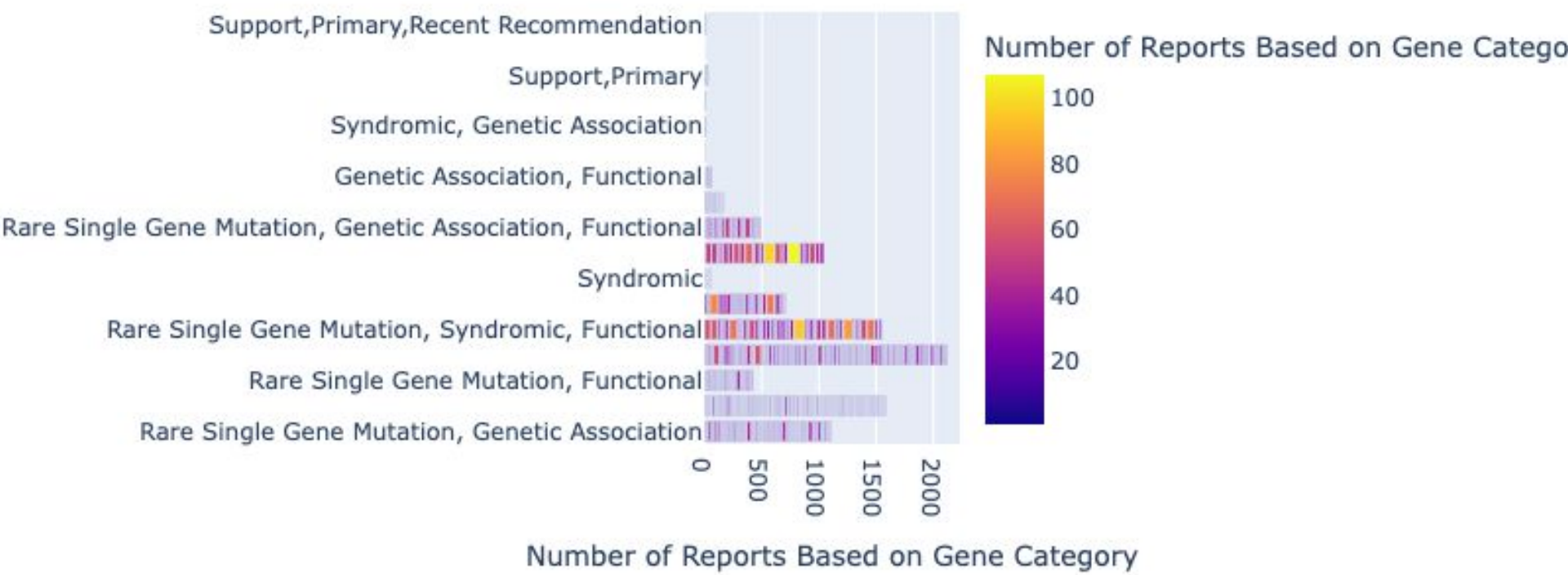
Number of Reports Based on Gene vs. Gene Score



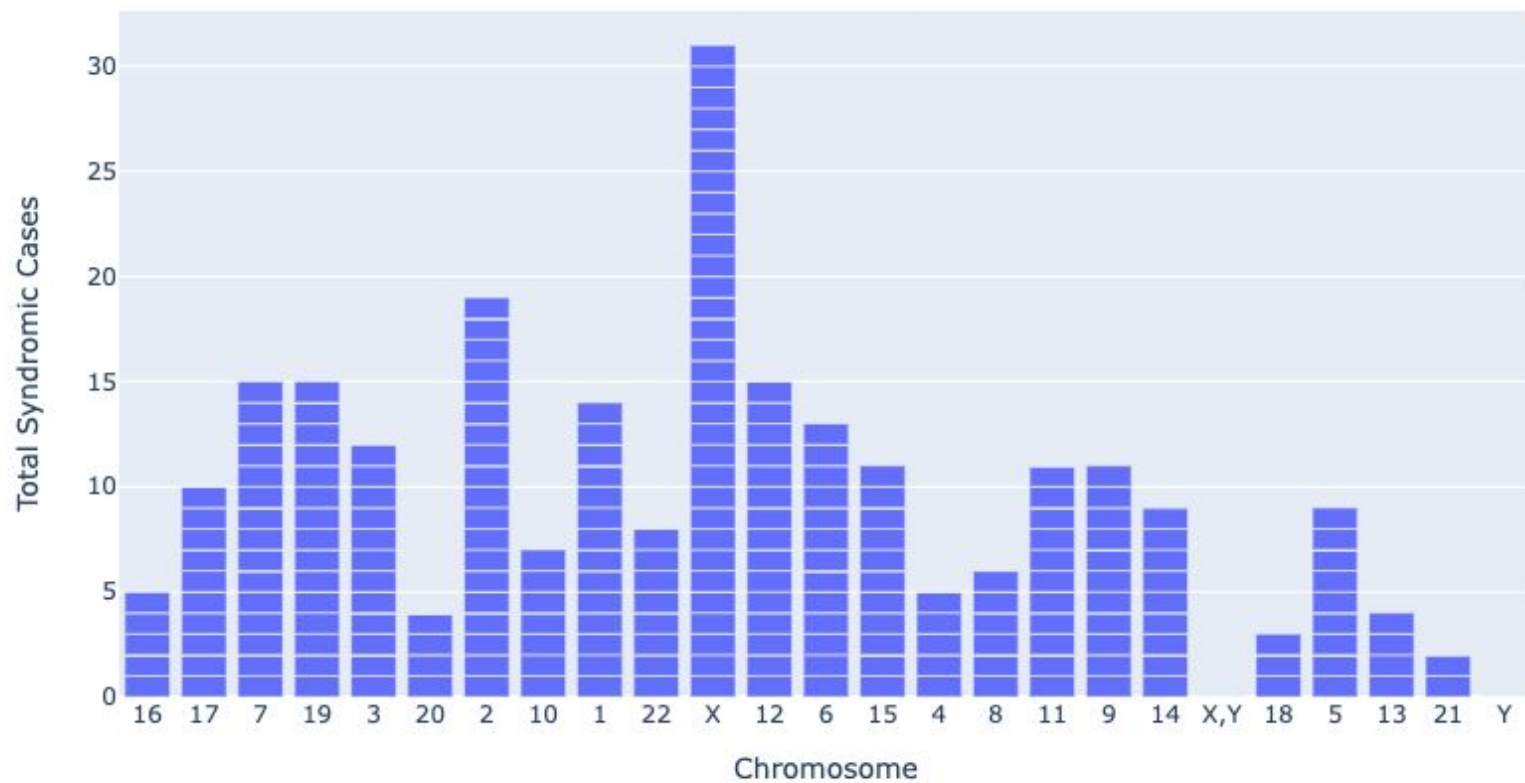
Number of Genes Based on Gene-score



Number of Reports Based on Gene Category



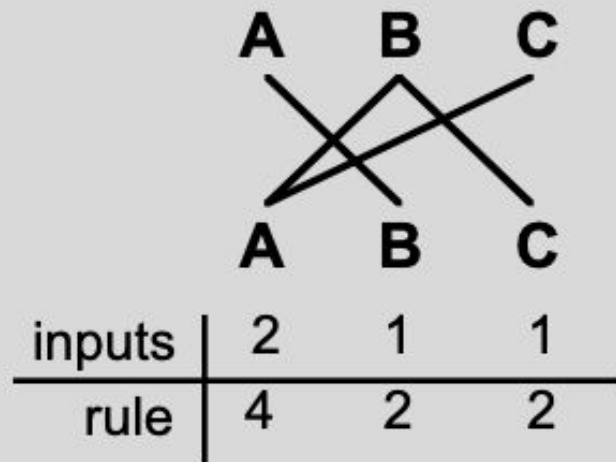
Most Syndromic Chromosome Mutation



Most Common Chromosome Mutation



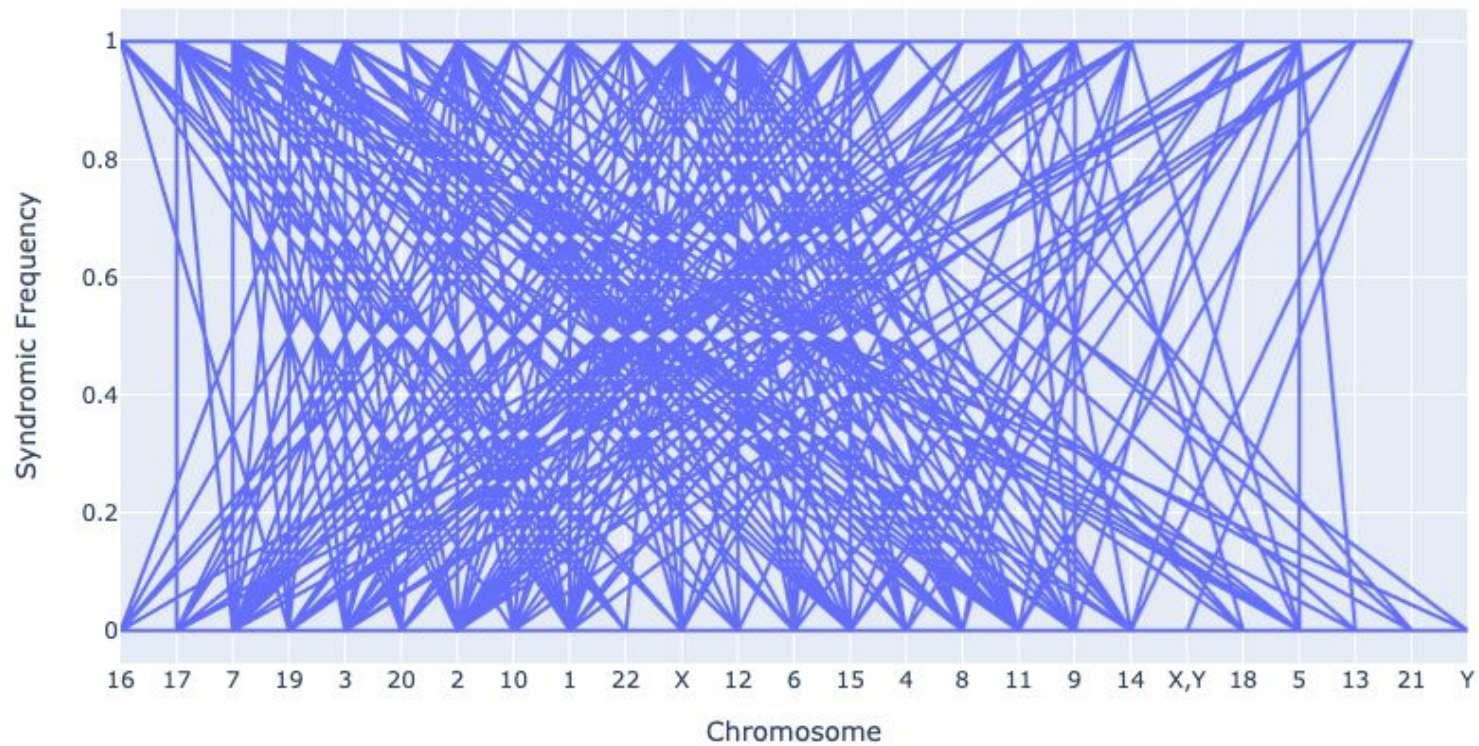
Wiring and rules



Basis for rules:

1. A activates B
2. B activates A and C
3. C inhibits A

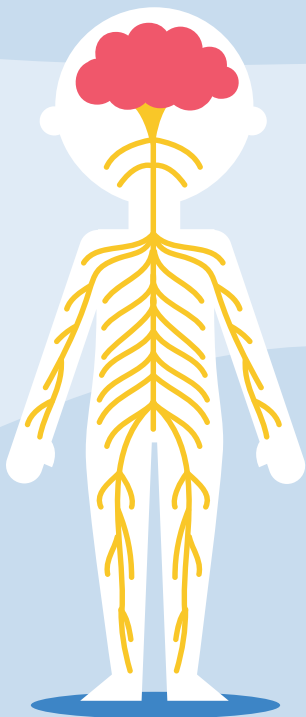
Chromosome vs. Syndromic Frequency



06

Closing

Discovery Summary



The overall most reported gene score is gene score number 1 (high confidence).

The most common gene score in those with ASD based on this dataset is gene score 3 (suggestive evidence).

The main gene mutated in individuals with **syndromic** ASD tends to be the X gene.

There are multiple chromosomes with multiple syndromic chromosome frequencies.

The most common **overall** mutated gene in the dataset is gene number 2.

The rare, syndromic, functional gene category had the highest number of reports.

Future Exploration

23andMe

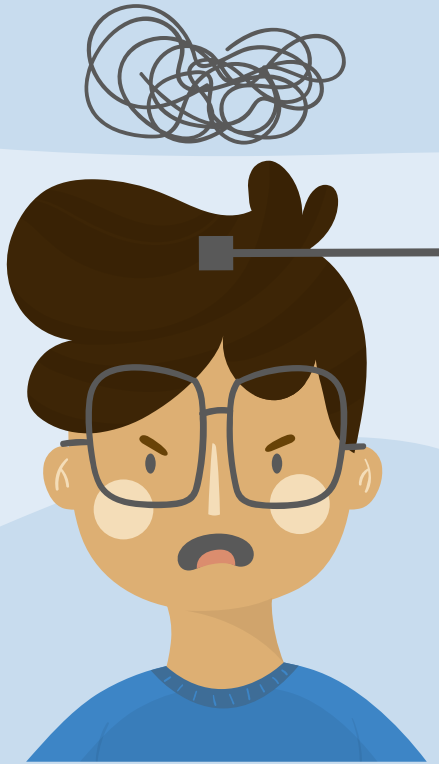
Building an app that could use gene data from 23andMe to tell someone rather or not they have ASD.

Ancestry.com

Building an app that could use gene data from Ancestry.com to tell someone rather or not they have ASD.

Further EDA

Answering deeper questions about Autism Spectrum Disorder that came to surface.



Sources

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Thank you! Questions?

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