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# CLASSIFYING CLINICALLY ACTIONABLE GENETIC MUTATIONS

CHEONGYU CHYE – DSI 13 – CAPSTONE PROJECT

# OUR PROBLEM STATEMENT

- Cancer is a top public health issue<sup>1</sup>:
  - Globally, about 1 in 6 deaths is due to cancer
  - One in every 4-5 people in Singapore may develop cancer in their lifetime
- Today, clinical pathologists can perform genomic sequencing on a patient's tumour sample to determine if it carries mutations that could aid in treatment, or clinical trials<sup>2</sup>
- Once these genes and mutations (variations) have been identified, clinical pathologists manually review related biomedical literature to classify the mutations – this process is tedious and time consuming
- **Our problem statement: to build a model that can help to automate this classification**
  - Metrics: balanced (weighted) accuracy and F1 scores, micro-average AUC
  - Success measure: beat baseline accuracy (0.287) by  $\geq 10\%$

Sources:

<sup>1</sup> - <https://www.nccs.com.sg/patient-care/cancer-types/cancer-statistics>, <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/cancers>

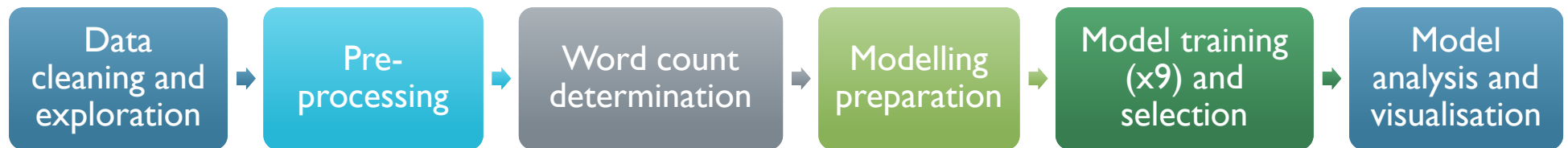
<sup>2</sup> - <https://www.mskcc.org/cancer-care/diagnosis-treatment/diagnosing/role-pathology>

# THE CHALLENGE ...

3,321 Training Samples	The incidence of breast cancer is increasing in China in recent decades, and familial breast cancer accounts for 5–10% of the total patients in Chinese women. Germline mutations in breast cancer susceptibility genes, BRCA1 (MIM# 113705) and BRCA2 (MIM# 600185), are responsible for only approximately 10% of Chinese breast cancer families [Liede and Narod, 2002]; ...	+	CHEK2	+	H371Y	=	9
	An unselected series of 310 colorectal carcinomas, stratified according to microsatellite instability (MSI) and DNA ploidy, was examined for mutations and/or promoter hypermethylation of five components of the WNT signaling cascade [APC, CTNNB1 (encoding β-catenin), AXIN2, TCF4, and WISP3] and three genes indirectly affecting this pathway [CDH1 (encoding E-cadherin), PTEN, and TP53]. APC and TP53 mutations were each present more often in microsatellite-stable (MSS) tumors ...	+	AXIN2	+	Q1537R	=	7
986 Test Samples	Mycosis fungoides and Sézary syndrome are primary cutaneous T cell malignancies derived from CD4+ skin-homing T cells 1, 2. Mycosis fungoides cases with limited skin involvement have a favorable prognosis; however, the median survival time for cases with cutaneous tumors and generalized erythroderma is approximately 4 years, and patients with Sézary syndrome fare even worse ...	+	WNT4	+	E216G	=	?
	Regulated progression through the cell cycle requires sequential expression of a family of proteins called cyclins. Upon their induction, cyclins form complexes with specific cyclin-dependent kinases (CDKs), creating active holoenzymes that phosphorylate target proteins that are required for cell-cycle progression. Induction of the proto-oncogene cyclin D1, and its binding to ...	+	GJB3	+	E183K	=	?

Legend: Clinical Text   Gene   Variation   Class

## OUR APPROACH – AT A GLANCE



# WHAT WE NOTICED



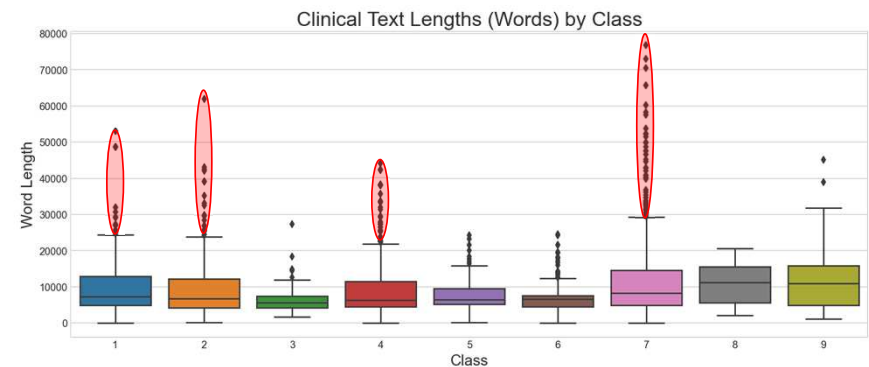
We have very imbalanced classes  
(especially class 7)

Average # of words

**9,543**

Maximum # of words

**76,708**



We decided not to remove any of the outliers given the importance  
of retaining as many words as possible for training our models

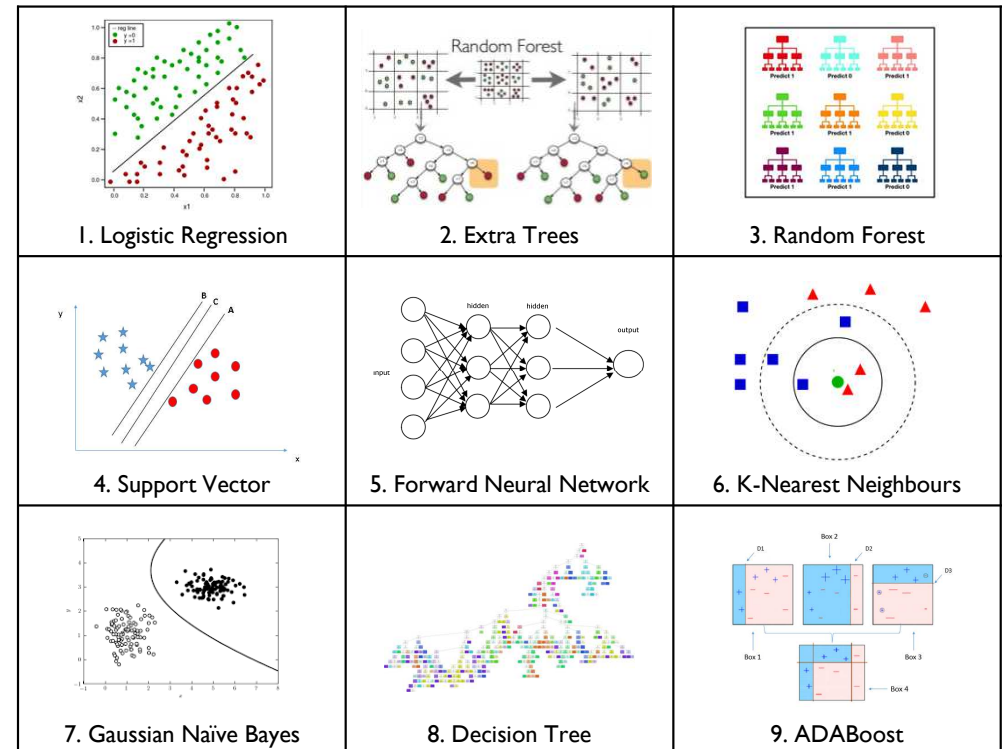


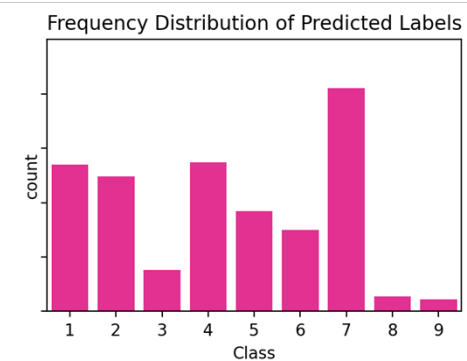
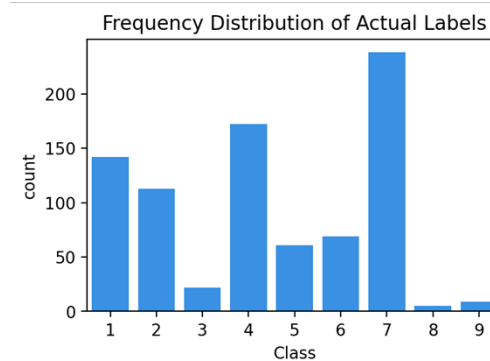
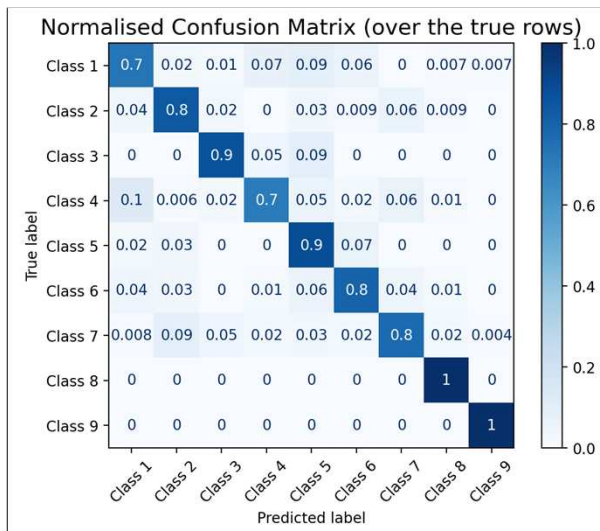


# HOW WE BUILT OUR MODEL

- The key steps we took
  - We addressed our imbalanced classes – by creating more samples for selected classes (using ADASYN)
  - We made our model more generalisable – by ‘pivoting’ our data to reduce the number of features to just 1,800 (using PCA)
  - We systematically searched for the right model parameters – by identifying optimal parameters for 9 different candidates and ranking their performance
- We built a model consisting of a logistic regression classifier trained on weighted word counts

Best Performing Classifiers (1=Best)

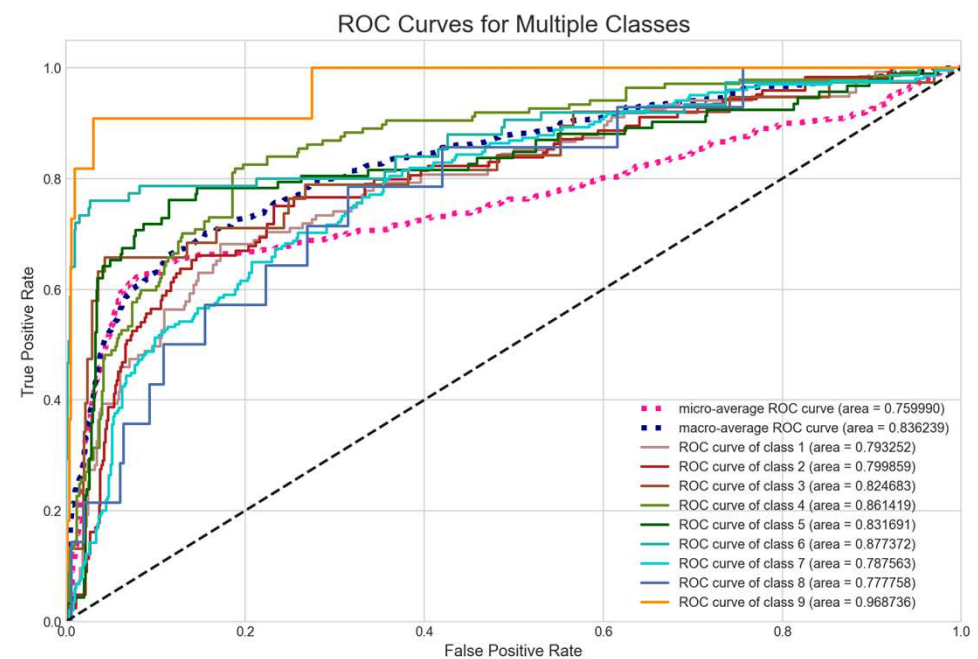




## HOW DID OUR MODEL DO?

- Correctly predicts an average of ~54% of actual positives across all classes
- Has an average F1 score of ~62% for each class (weighted by the number of true instances of each class)
- Has an average AUC score of ~76% across all classes

8





# CAN WORD EMBEDDINGS IMPROVE OUR MODEL?

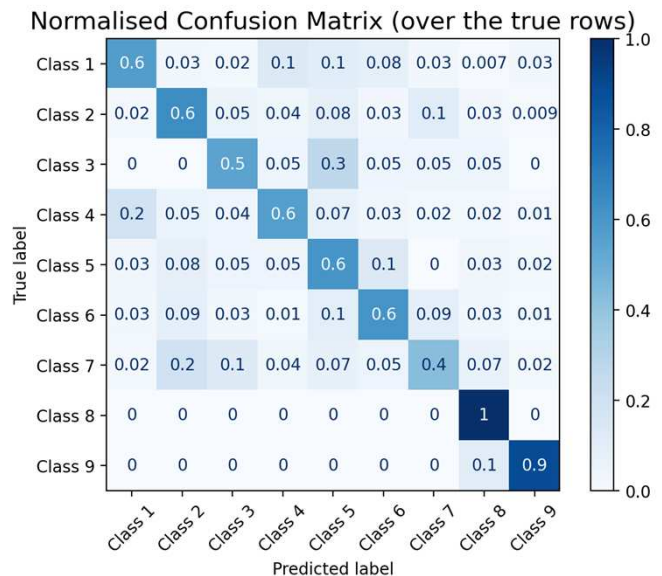
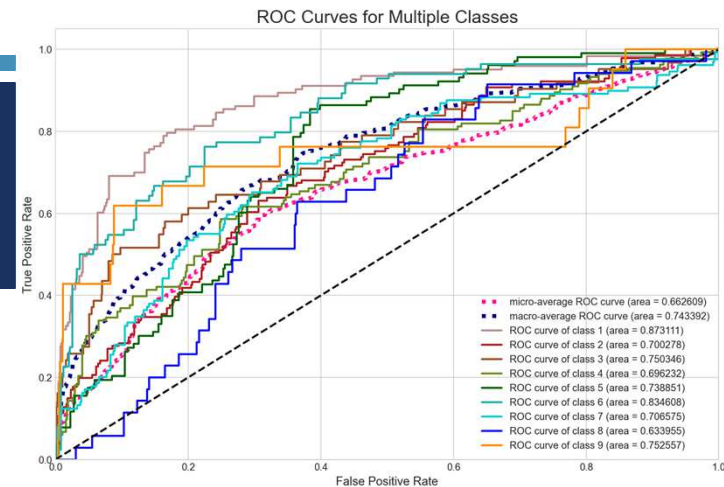
- The problem: we have too many features to begin with (~76k) because we are creating a feature for every unique word in all the training text
- The idea: use word embeddings which are representations of text in an n-dimensional space (100 dimensions in our case)
- The hope: we can train a model faster and achieve higher accuracy

unselected series colorectal carcinoma  
stratify accord microsatellite instability msi  
dna ploidy examine promoter  
hypermethylation five component wnt signal  
cascade apc cttnb encode catenin axin tcf  
...



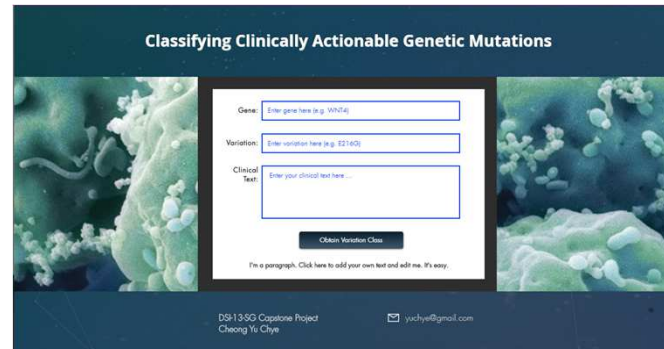
Text Instance	100-dimensional word embeddings									
	1	2	3	...	99	100				
1	1.624678	-0.914357	-0.074222	...	0.997731	-0.449048				
2	1.724697	-0.940365	-0.251819	...	1.002514	-0.585488				
3	1.692799	-0.932071	-0.164691	...	0.950496	-0.45507				
4	1.70435	-0.86725	-0.223373	...	1.00146	-0.539933				
5	1.677125	-0.908731	-0.161353	...	0.99578	-0.496753				
...	...	...	...	...	...	...				

- The outcome: the best-trained alternative model had **lower** scores than our baseline model
- The conclusion: our baseline model is still a better choice



# WEB DEPLOYMENT

- A web-based WIX front-end was built to facilitate real-time predictions (<https://yuchye.wixsite.com/dsi-l3-capstone>)
  - Users can obtain the predicted variation class based on gene, variation and clinical text inputs
- The front-end builds a HTTP POST request that is sent to a Flask web application that is hosted on a PythonAnywhere server
  - Our baseline model has been deployed as a stand-alone Python file which is executed on-the-fly



WIX

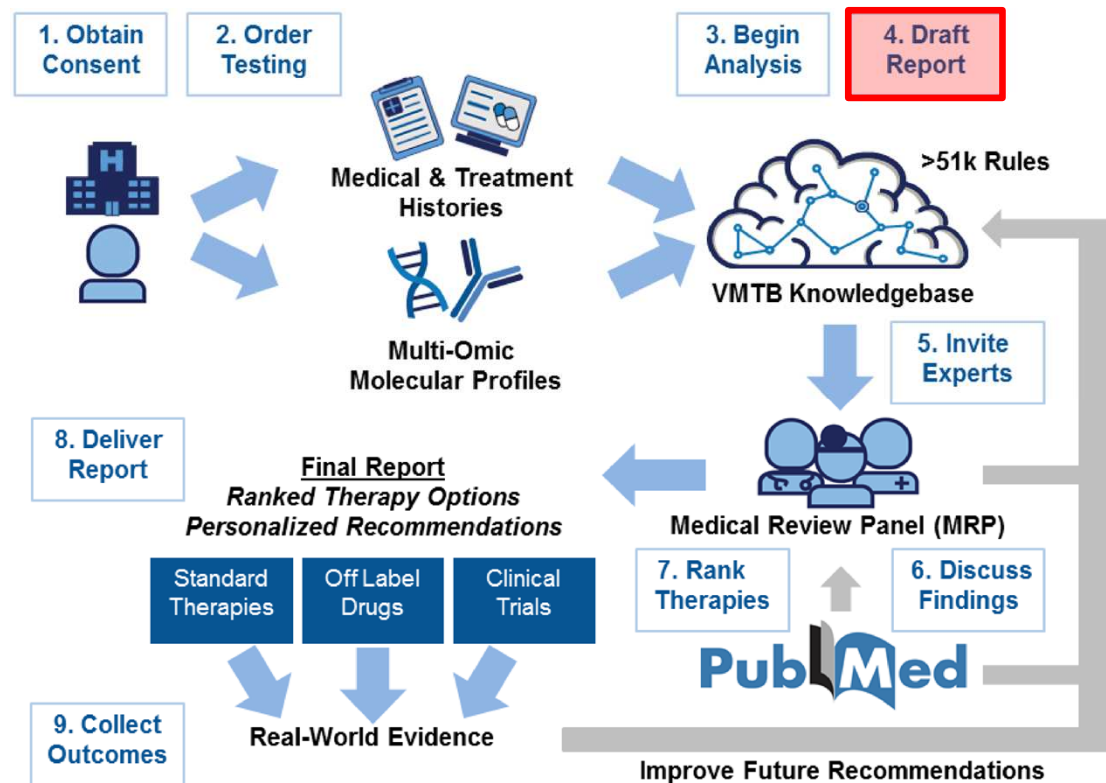
1. HTTP POST Request  
(gene, variation,  
clinical text)

2. HTTP Response  
(predicted class)



## HOW OUR MODEL CAN BE USED IN FUTURE

- Model predictions can be incorporated into reports that a molecular tumour board can use to make decisions on treatment



Source: JAMIA Open, Volume 2, Issue 4, December 2019, Pages 505–515, <https://doi.org/10.1093/jamiaopen/ooz045>

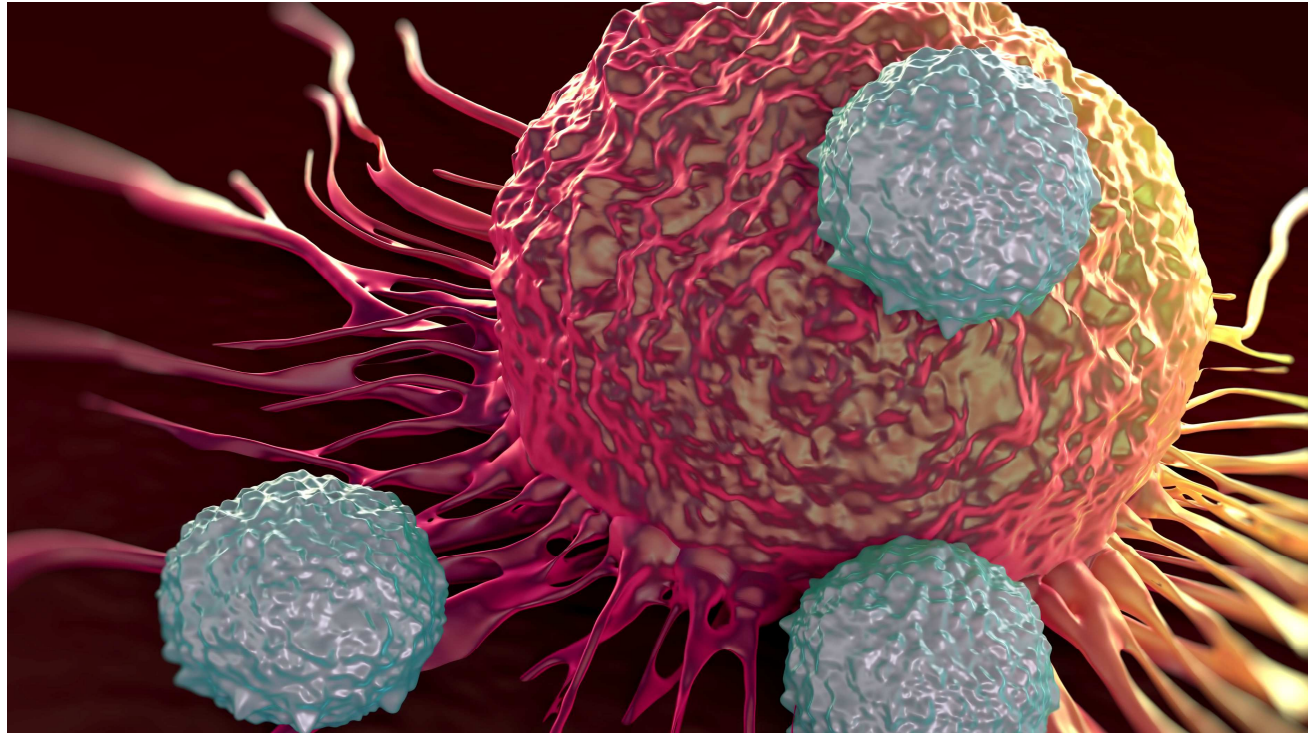
## LIMITATIONS & RISKS

- Limitations
  - Character replacement approach – removal of potentially important characters
    - E.g. “E-cadherin” → “e cadherin”, “ $\beta$ -catenin” → “catenin”, “TP53” → “tp”
  - Subjective oversampling – a better approach may exist
  - Lack of biomedical context – significance or relatedness of keywords may not have been fully accounted for
  - Limited processing power and memory – we could not carry out a complete search for best classifier parameters
- Risks
  - No way to independently validate whether the predictions are correct

## CONCLUSION

- We have successfully built a model that can help to automate the classification of biomedical literature relating to cancer mutations
- The model comprises a logistic regression classifier trained on weighted word counts
- Clinical pathologists can use the model to accelerate the classification process
- The model can help to reduce the time it takes to bring relevant therapies or clinical trials to patients





THANK YOU

[YUCHYE@GMAIL.COM](mailto:YUCHYE@GMAIL.COM)