# - Supplement - A comprehensive benchmarking of machine learning algorithms and dimensionality reduction methods for drug sensitivity prediction

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# 1 MRMR Quadratic Program

In the main manuscript we present a feature selection based on the minimum-redundancy-maximum-relevance (MRMR) principle [33]. As the presented approach is a greedy heuristic, it is not guaranteed that the selected features provide an optimal solution to the MRMR problem for a given feature number k. Hence, we additionally implemented an MRMR-based feature selection as a quadratic optimization program  $(QP)$ . Let  $F$  denote the set of all potential input features and C the response variable. Furthermore, let  $k$  be the number of features to be selected. To measure the dependence between two variables, the mutual information I is used. Since both, gene expression and IC50 values, are continuous, they must be discretized to calculate their mutual information. To this end, we applied an equal width binning to partition the samples of each feature and each drug response variable into six bins.

The QP can be described as follows: For each feature  $f_i \in F$ , let  $x_i$  be a binary variable that denotes whether  $f_i$ is selected  $(x_i = 1)$  or not  $(x_i = 0)$ . The optimization then selects k features such that the mutual information between features and response is maximized, while the mutual information between selected features is minimized:

$$
\max_{x} \sum_{i=1}^{|F|} x_i \cdot I(C; f_i) - \left(\frac{1}{2} \cdot \sum_{j \neq i} x_i \cdot x_j \cdot \frac{I(C; f_j)}{H(f_j)} \cdot I(f_i; f_j)\right),\tag{1}
$$

such that 
$$
\sum_{i=1}^{|I|} x_i = k
$$
 (2)

Here,  $I(a; b)$  denotes the mutual information of two vectors a and b and  $H(a)$  denotes the entropy of a.

The ILP was solved using the IBM ILOG CPLEX Optimization Studio V12.6.2 for C++ using 32 cores on an Intel Xeon Gold 6248 (2.50GHz) CPU. To keep runtime manageable, we limited F to the set of 100 genes for which the mutual information to the investigated drug was largest. Still, we were only able to compute feature sets with  $k > 5$  features for a subset of drugs and could not compute any sets for  $k > 10$  in a reasonable time  $(< 500$  seconds for a single k on a single training dataset). Figure 1 shows a performance comparison of the greedy heuristic and the QP.



Figure 1: Comparison of QP and heuristic for MRMR feature selection. The average test MSE over all drugs for the best model (i.e., the one with smallest CV MSE) using the respective ML algorithm, feature selection and number of features is shown. As the QP-based features could only be computed for a subset of drugs in the predefined time  $( $500$  seconds for a single k on a single training dataset), results are only shown for this subset$ of drugs. Where the number of drugs was smaller than the complete dataset (179 drugs), the data is labeled with the number of drugs over which the average MSE was computed.

Table 1: Overview of different machine learning publications in the field of drug sensitivity prediction. This table provides a brief characterization of the methodology of each approach and lists the dimension reduction (DR) technique that was applied to derive cell line-based input features. Additionally, it is denoted whether a performance comparison of features obtained through different DR methods was performed in each publication. Table continues on next page.



Publication	Methodology	DR for cell line features	DR comparison
KRL by He et al. $(2018)$ [24]	kernelized rank learning	none	<b>PCA</b>
Rahman and Pal $(2016)$ [25]	(multivariate) random for- est	unknown	
GraphDRP by Nguyen et al. (2022) [26]	graph convolutional neural network	unknown	none
GraphCDR by Liu et al. $(2021)$ [27]	graph neural network with contrastive learning	literature-based, late integration network embedding <sup>*</sup>	none
RAMP by Lee et al. $(2022)$ [28]	Bayesian neural network with contrastive regular- ization	network embedding <sup>*</sup>	none
MOLI by Sharifi-Noghabi et al. (2019) [29]	multi-omics late integra- tion deep neural network	variance-based, late integration network embedding <sup>*</sup>	early in- tegration embedding <sup>*</sup>
NeRD by Cheng et al. $(2022)$ [30]	multi-omics neural net- work	autoencoder, late integration network $embedding^*$	none
GADRP by Wang et al. (2023) [31]	graph convolutional net- work	autoencoder	<b>PCA</b>
mVAEN by Jia et al. $(2023)$ [32]	elastic net	variational autoen- coder	PCA, au- toencoder

Continuation of Table 1.

\* These approaches use neural networks to derive a lower-dimensional representation of multi-omics cell line features. We listed this as a type of dimension reduction, since it can be seen as an embedded feature extraction. However, based on this definition, any neural network can be interpreted as performing feature extraction, since each hidden layer is technically a lower-dimensional representations of the input features.

ID $\#$ Cell lines Drug name Drug name	$#$ Cell lines ID	
$1003\,$ 808 YK-4-279 Camptothecin $51\,$ $\mathbf{1}$	1239	752
$\sqrt{2}$ 806 $52\,$ 5-Fluorouracil 1073 Epirubicin	1511	752
$\sqrt{3}$ 1032 805 $53\,$ Afatinib BDP-00009066	1866	752
805 $\,4\,$ Taselisib 1561 54 Buparlisib	1873	752
$\bf 5$ 804 PD0325901 1060 $55\,$ Ulixertinib	1908	752
$\boldsymbol{6}$ 804 $56\,$ Linsitinib 1510 AGI-5198	1913	752
$\!\!7$ Sapitinib 1549 804 57 AZD5363	1916	752
8 $58\,$ Luminespib 1559 804 AZD6738	1917	752
9 Alpelisib 1560 804 $59\,$ AZD8186	1918	752
10 <b>SCH772984</b> 1564 804 $60\,$ Osimertinib	1919	752
11 LGK974 1598 804 61 Cediranib	1922	752
12 62 Oxaliplatin 1089 802 Ipatasertib	1924	752
13 $63\,$ GDC0810 Irinotecan 1088 801	1925	752
$14\,$ 64 GSK1904529A 1093 801 GSK2578215A	1927	752
I-BRD9 15 EPZ004777 1237 801 65	1928	752
16 1563 EPZ5676 801 66 Telomerase Inhibitor IX	1930	752
1036 17 PLX-4720 797 67 NVP-ADW742	1932	752
18 1034 773 68 P22077 Staurosporine	1933	$752\,$
773 19 1047 69 <b>UMI-77</b> Nutlin-3a $(-)$	1939	752
$20\,$ 773 $MG-132$ 1862 $70\,$ Sepantronium bromide	1941	752
21 MK-2206 771 $71\,$ MIM1 1053	1996	752
22 1372 771 72 WEHI-539 Trametinib	1997	752
23 770 $73\,$ Palbociclib 1054 BPD-00008900	1998	752
24 770 MK-1775 1179 74 Navitoclax	1011	751
25 Cisplatin 1005 768 $75\,$ Cyclophosphamide	1512	751
26 ABT737 Docetaxel 1007 766 $76\,$	1910	751
27 Pictilisib 1058 766 $77\,$ Afuresertib	1912	751
28 AZD7762 78 1022 764 MIRA-1	1931	751
29 1200 764 79 Savolitinib Fulvestrant	1936	751
30 1017 762 80 WIKI4 Olaparib	1940	751
31 Dasatinib 1079 760 $81\,$ Vinblastine	1004	750
32 82 AZD3759 1915 760 Temozolomide	1375	750
33 83 1012 758 Pevonedistat Vorinostat	1529	750
34 PD173074 1049 758 84 Foretinib	2040	750
35 85 Nilotinib 1013 757 Pyridostatin	2044	750
$757\,$ 86 $36\,$ 1080 Vinorelbine Paclitaxel	2048	750
37 1085 Sorafenib 757 87 Ulixertinib	2047	749
$38\,$ Dabrafenib 1373 757 88 <b>BIBR-1532</b>	2043	749
$757\,$ $89\,$ $39\,$ Lapatinib 1558 MK-8776	2046	749
1786 757 40 AZD4547 90 Talazoparib	1259	748
41 Gemcitabine 1190 756 91 $AMG-319$	2045	747
42 756 92 Bortezomib 1191 $VX-11e$	2096	746
43 Tamoxifen 1199 756 93 LJI308	2107	746
44 Venetoclax 1909 756 94 AZ6102	2109	746
755 45 Wee1 Inhibitor 1046 95 Rapamycin	1084	745
46 Cytarabine 1006 752 96 Uprosertib	2106	745
47 Gefitinib 1010 752 97 GSK591	2110	745
$752\,$ 48 Dactolisib 1057 98 AT13148	2170	745
$752\,$ 49 BMS-536924 1091 99 <b>VE821</b>	2111	744
$752\,$ Dactinomycin $50\,$ Erlotinib 1168 100	1911	740

Table 2: Overview of all investigated drugs from the GDSC2 dataset with available IC50s for at least 600 cell lines. Only the 50 drugs with most cell lines were used to train neural networks. Table continues on next page.

Continuation of Table 2.

	Drug name	ID	$#$ Cell lines		Drug name	ID	$#$ Cell lines
101	<b>GNE-317</b>	1926	738	141	Topotecan	1808	728
102	Crizotinib	1083	737	142	Teniposide	1809	728
103	Uprosertib	1553	735	143	Mitoxantrone	1810	728
104	Entinostat	1593	735	144	Dactinomycin	1811	728
105	Alisertib	1051	730	145	Fludarabine	1813	728
106	Mirin	1048	728	146	Podophyllotoxin bromide	1825	728
107	Obatoclax Mesylate	1068	728	147	Gallibiscoquinazole	1830	728
108	Oxaliplatin	1806	728	148	Elephantin	1835	728
109	PRIMA-1MET	1131	728	149	Sinularin	1838	728
110	Niraparib	1177	728	150	LY2109761	1852	728
111	Fulvestrant	1816	728	151	$OF-1$	1853	728
112	BMS-345541	1249	728	152	$MN-64$	1854	728
113	XAV939	1268	728	153	KRAS (G12C) Inhibitor-12	1855	728
114	AZD5438	1401	728	154	Dinaciclib	1180	727
115	AZD2014	1441	728	$155\,$	<b>AZD1208</b>	1449	727
116	AZD1332	1463	728	156	LCL161	1557	727
117	Ruxolitinib	1507	728	157	IWP-2	1576	727
118	Leflunomide	1578	728	158	I-BET-762	1624	727
119	<b>VE-822</b>	1613	728	159	$RVX-208$	1625	727
120	WZ4003	1614	728	160	<b>GSK343</b>	1627	727
121	CZC24832	1615	728	161	AZD5153	1706	727
122	PFI3	1620	728	162	CDK9 <sub>-5576</sub>	1708	727
123	PCI-34051	1621	728	163	CDK9 <sub>-5038</sub>	1709	727
124	$Wnt-C59$	1622	728	164	PAK <sub>5339</sub>	1730	727
125	OTX015	1626	728	165	TAF1_5496	1732	727
126	ML323	1629	728	166	IGF1R <sub>-3801</sub>	1738	727
127	Entospletinib	1630	728	167	Nelarabine	1814	727
128	PRT062607	1631	728	168	<b>ULK1<sub>4989</sub></b>	1733	726
129	AGI-6780	1634	728	169	Dihydrorotenone	1827	726
130	Picolinici-acid	1635	728	170	Sabutoclax	1849	726
131	<b>ERK_2440</b>	1713	728	171	AZ960	1250	725
132	<b>ERK_6604</b>	1714	728	172	IAP <sub>-5620</sub>	1428	$725\,$
133	<b>IRAK4_4710</b>	1716	728	173	Eg5_9814	1712	724
134	JAK1_8709	1718	728	174	AZD5991	1720	724
135	VSP34_8731	1734	728	175	Ibrutinib	1799	724
136	Selumetinib	1736	728	176	Vincristine	1818	722
137	<b>JAK_8517</b>	1739	728	177	GSK2606414	1618	721
138	Zoledronate	1802	728	178	AZD5582	1617	716
139	Acetalax	1804	728	179	Docetaxel	1819	669
140	Carmustine	1807	728				



Table 3: Overview of all hyperparameters that were investigated for the training of neural networks.







Figure 2: Average test MSEs for each ML method. This figure depicts the test MSEs averaged over all drugs for each combination of DR algorithm, ML method and number of input features. Each plot corresponds to one ML method, where the x-axis denotes the number of input features, the y-axis denotes the mean test MSE and the coloring represents the different DR techniques. Boosting trees, elastic nets and random forests were applied to all 179 drugs in the GDSC2 dataset for which IC50s for more than 600 cell lines were available. For neural networks, models were only trained on the 50 drugs with most available cell lines (c.f. Figure 2).



Figure 3: Figure continues on next page.



Figure 3: Average test MSEs for each DR algorithm. This figure depicts the test MSEs averaged over all drugs for each combination of DR algorithm, ML method and number of input features. Each plot corresponds to one DR algorithm, where the x-axis denotes the number of input features, the y-axis denotes the mean test MSE and the coloring represents the different ML methods. Boosting trees, elastic nets and random forests were applied to all 179 drugs in the GDSC2 dataset for which IC50s for more than 600 cell lines were available. For neural networks, models were only trained on the 50 drugs with most available cell lines (c.f. Figure 2).



Figure 4: Average test MSEs for the 50 drugs with most cell lines. This figure depicts the test MSEs averaged over the 50 drugs with most cell lines (c.f. Table 2) for each ML algorithm (A) and DR method (B). The x-axis denotes the number of input features, the y-axis denotes the mean test MSE and the coloring represents the different ML algorithms or DR techniques. Boosting trees, elastic nets and random forests were applied to all 179 drugs in the GDSC2 dataset for which IC50s for more than 600 cell lines were available were. For neural networks, models were only trained on the 50 drugs with most available cell lines.



Figure 5: Average test MSEs for each ML method for 50 drugs with most cell lines. This figure depicts the test MSEs averaged over the 50 drugs with most cell lines (c.f. Table 2) for each combination of DR algorithm, ML method and number of input features. Each plot corresponds to one ML method, where the x-axis denotes the number of input features, the y-axis denotes the mean test MSE and the coloring represents the different DR techniques.



Figure 6: Figure continues on next page.



Figure 6: Average test MSEs for each DR algorithm for 50 drugs with most cell lines. This figure depicts the test MSEs averaged over the 50 drugs with most cell lines (c.f. Table 2) for each combination of DR algorithm, ML method and number of input features. Each plot corresponds to one DR algorithm, where the x-axis denotes the number of input features, the y-axis denotes the mean test MSE and the coloring represents the different ML methods.



Figure 7: Best-performing models for each drug and number of input features using only FS methods. Sub-figure A and B, respectively, show how often each ML algorithm and FS method yielded the smallest test MSE after performing a hyperparameter tuning (5-fold CV) to determine the best performing model for each combination of drug, ML algorithm, FS method and number of input features. Sub-figure C shows how many times a given combination of ML algorithm and FS method yielded the best results. Subfigures D to F depict the same results, but only the feature number yielding the smallest test MSE for each drug is shown.



Figure 8: Runtime comparison GPU vs. CPU. This Figure shows the duration of training neural networks (inputs generated using MRMR FS) using either GPU or CPU (c.f. runtime analysis in results section of main manuscript). Runtimes are given in seconds and the median runtime is shown in the purple/orange box (mean runtimes are 5.95 for GPU and 4.65s for CPU).

# 2 Analyses using a multi-omics and multi-drug deep-learning approach by Chiu et al.

To investigate the impact of different dimension reduction (DR) procedures on a state-of-the-art method for drug sensitivity prediction and to compare the performance of this method to the ML algorithms discussed in the main manuscript, we performed several analyses using a multi-omics multi-drug deep-learning approach by Chiu et al. [17]. In the following, we will briefly present their approach and then describe the details of our analyses, including the used data, models, and DR techniques. Finally, we discuss the analysis results.

### 2.1 The approach by Chiu et al.

Chiu et al. developed a multi-omics deep neural network (DNN) for drug sensitivity prediction that predicts the IC50 of multiple drugs simultaneously. The inputs consist of gene expression values and binary mutation data for one cell line. Using one expression-autoencoder and one mutation-autoencoder, these inputs are projected into a lower dimension of  $k = 64$  features each. The autoencoders were pre-trained using data from tumor samples obtained from The Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA, https://www.cancer.gov/tcga). The pre-trained encoders are then connected to a DNN with drug-specific output nodes. The entire model was trained and evaluated using cell line data from the Cancer Cell Line Encyclopedia (CCLE) [34].

#### 2.2 Data processing

To apply the approach by Chiu et al. to the GDSC data and to compare its performance to that of other ML models, we prepared the data as follows:

- Gene expression data: We employ the same gene expression data as described in the main manuscript.
- Mutation data: We generated a binary mutation matrix  $M_{cells \times genes}$ , where each entry  $M_{c,g}$  denotes whether gene g is mutated in cell line  $c (M_{c,g} = 1)$  or not  $(M_{c,g} = 0)$ . We obtained coding point mutations of the GDSC cell lines from v99 of the COSMIC cell line project (file: CellLinesProject GenomeScreensMutant v99 GRCh37.tsv). In accordance with Chiu et al., we did not consider synonymous mutations.
- Drug response data: We employ the same drug response data as described in the main manuscript. However, since the model by Chiu et al. makes predictions for multiple drugs simultaneously, it requires data where each investigated cell line provides IC50 values for each investigated drug. In the GDSC, not all cell lines have been screened against all drugs. To determine a maximal but complete subset of cell lines and drugs for our analyses, we applied an integer linear program (ILP) that we previously described in Supplement 1 of [11]. This ILP determined a set consisting of 600 cell lines and 170 drugs.

• Splitting into training and test data: We randomly split the 600 cell lines with available expression, mutation, and drug response data into a training set  $(80\%)$  and a test set  $(20\%).$ 

## 2.3 Model architecture and hyperparameters

- Approach by Chiu et al.: We used the same model architecture and hyperparameters that Chiu et al. employ in their code (https://github.com/chenlabgccri/DeepDR). However, we did not only investigate a dimension reduction to  $k = 64$  features for each omics-type but different feature numbers between 1 and 500 (c.f. Supplementary Figure 9). Additionally, we investigated the performance when either the expression-encoder or the mutation-encoder was omitted from the model. Note that both the CCLE and TCGA data employed by Chiu et al. measure gene expression using RNA-seq, while the GDSC used in our manuscript relies on microarrays. Consequently, pre-training using TCGA data was not possible for our analyses, so we used the training samples for pre-training instead. According to Chiu et al., TCGA pretrained models resulted in the best performance, but even using randomly initialized encoders outperformed all comparable analyses without pre-training [17]. Consequently, pre-training using the training cell lines should outperform most comparable alternatives including random initialization, when TCGA pre-training is not possible.
- Elastic net and random forest: We trained drug-specific elastic net and random forest models using the same training and test cell lines as described in Section 2.2. We tuned the same hyperparameters as described in the main manuscript (see Table 1) using a 5-fold cross-validation on the training data.

# 2.4 Investigated DR approaches:

In addition to the autoencoders employed by Chiu et al., we investigated two further DR methods:

- Principal component analysis  $(PCA)$ : We performed PCA on the gene expression data as described in the main manuscript.
- Correlation-based feature selection: For the gene expression features, we employed the same correlationbased feature selection as described in the main manuscript using Pearson correlation coefficients (PCC). Since the mutation data is not continuous but binary (c.f. Section 2.2), we used Matthew's correlation coefficient (MCC) instead of PCC for this data: For each drug, we selected the  $k$  genes with the highest absolute MCC between the mutation profile of each gene and the binarized IC50 values of the corresponding cell lines. IC50 values were binarized using drug-specific thresholds obtained from a procedure described in [2].
- Multi-drug feature sets: Since the approach by Chiu et al. is a multi-drug model, we cannot use drug-specific feature sets but need one feature set for all drugs. Since PCA does not make use of any drug response values, it yields the same features for all investigated drugs, which can directly be used by the approach of Chiu et al. However, we slightly adapted the correlation-based methods presented above: We generated feature sets of different sizes by subsequently including the top 1,2,...,f most correlated features for each drug, as long as the size of resulting feature sets did not exceed 500. For gene expression data, we were able to include the top  $f = 13$  most correlated features for each drug, resulting in 13 feature sets (feature numbers 71, 116, 151, 191, 226, 261, 296, 323, 357, 396, 422, 454, 487). For mutation data, we were only able to include the top  $f = 4$  most correlated features for each drug, resulting in four feature sets (feature numbers 136, 253, 364, 454). Since some features are among the top features for multiple drugs, the size of the resulting sets is not necessarily a multiple of the drug number (170).

### 2.5 Results

The results of our analyses are shown in Supplementary Figures 9 to 11. Several observations can be made (see main manuscript for further discussion):

• Models based on the approach by Chiu et al. with autoencoders perform worse than all other approaches for most  $k \leq 50$ . Potentially, these models fail to learn in the number of training epochs chosen by Chiu et al. (100 epochs for autoencoders, 50 epochs for final model) and, consequently, only predict the mean IC50 over all drugs and training cell lines.

- All models based on the approach by Chiu et al. have noticeable discrepancies in the mean test MSE for different k (i.e., the curve shape in Figure 9 is unstable). A similar phenomenon was also observed for neural networks in our analyses (c.f. Figure 1 in the main manuscript and Figures 2 to 6 in this Supplement). This might again be caused by network training not converging in the set number of training epochs or by the optimization not being able to leave a local minimum.
- Expression features outperform mutation features for all models (i.e., the models by Chiu et al., elastic nets, and random forests).
- Elastic nets and random forests using mutation features seem to be unable to learn since the test MSE does barely vary across different k.
- Using PCA instead of autoencoders strongly improves the performance of models based on the approach by Chiu et al. for small k. Using correlation-based expression features results in the best test MSEs out of all models based on the approach by Chiu et al.
- Elastic net and random forest models using expression-based features significantly outperform all other models.



Figure 9: Performance of the approach by Chiu et al. in comparison to other models. This figure depicts the results of applying the prediction approach by Chiu et al. [17] and some variations of it to 170 drugs from the GDSC. Additionally, the performance of single-drug elastic nets and random forests trained on the same data is shown. The x-axis denotes the number of input features of each data type, the y-axis denotes the mean test MSE averaged over all drugs, and the coloring represents the different approaches. Note that for the multi-omics model by Chiu et al. (Chiu, Auto ( $Exp + Mut$ )), the number of features is twice as large as denoted by the x-axis, since two omics types are used. The legend lists all approaches using the following abbreviations: EN elastic net, RF - random forest, Auto - autoencoder, Corr - correlation. In brackets, each model's data types are specified: Exp - gene expression, Mut - mutation.



Figure 10: Performance comparison the approach by Chiu et al. to models with different ML/DR methods. Each sub-figure depicts a comparison of test MSEs for two model types, where the MSE for one type is divided by the MSE of the other: Sub-figures A and B compare the test MSE of the approach by Chiu et al. for each drug and k to the MSE of drug-specific elastic nets (EN) and random forests  $(RF)$ , respectively. Both EN and RF were trained using correlation-based gene expression features. Sub-figures C and D compare the test MSE of the approach by Chiu et al. to adapted versions of their approach using PCA or correlation-based features instead of autoencoders, respectively. Note that for the multi-omics model by Chiu et al. (Chiu Auto ( $Exp + Mut$ )), the number of features is twice as large as denoted by the x-axis, since two omics types are used.<br>
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Figure 11: Performance comparison of gene expression and mutation features. Each sub-figure depicts a comparison of test MSEs for two model types, where the MSE for one type is divided by the MSE of the other. One model type uses gene expression features, the other uses mutation features. Sub-figures A shows results for elastic nets, sub-figure B shows results for random forests, and sub-figure C shows results for the approach by Chiu et al. employing either only the expression encoder or only the mutation encoder.



Figure 12: Comparison of  $C_{\text{max}}$  values and maximum tested drug concentrations. This figure depicts the  $C_{\text{max}}$ concentrations for 60 drugs from GDSC1 (A) and 47 drugs from GDSC2 (B) in comparison to the maximum screened concentrations (which are used to determine the screened drug concentration ranges by repeated dilution) as provided by the GDSC. The  $C_{\text{max}}$  concentrations were obtained from [35] and denote the peak plasma concentration of a drug after administering the highest clinically recommended dose.

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