HELP: A computational framework for labelling and predicting human common and context-specific essential genes

Ilaria Granata^{1*} , Lucia Maddalena¹, Mario Manzo², Mario Rosario Guarracino^{3,4}, Maurizio Giordano¹

Supplementary Figures and Tables



Fig A. ucsEGs PPI enrichment. PPI networks built through STRING [1] using the ucsEGs computed for Kidney (A), Lung (B) and Brain (C). The nodes are coloured according to the enriched terms shown in the associated tables. The significant (False Discovery Rate, FDR < 0.05) non-redundant terms were ranked by the number of enriching genes (Count in the network: no. of enriching genes/no. of genes annotated for the term). The edges were built with all the STRING information except "Text mining".



Fig B. Disease-specific ucsEGs. Diagram representing disease-specific (Non-Small-Cell Lung Cancer NSCLC and Lung Neuroendocrine Tumour NET) and lung ucsEGs intersections by ADaM, FiPer, and HELP labelling. Each row represents the set of ucsEGs for each labelling. The last row reports the number of genes resulting from the intersections. The last column on the right indicates the number of ucsEGs for each set, with the dark grey shadow representing the corresponding histogram.



Fig C. Reactome pathway enrichment of lung NET-specific EGs. The significantly enriched pathways are shown on the y axis; the color bar indicates the significance in terms of False Discovery Rate (FDR)-adjusted p-value, while the dot size indicates the number of genes in the input set found in the pathway. On the x axis the Fold Enrichment, namely the percentage of genes in the input list annotated in a pathway divided by the corresponding percentage in the background human genes.



Fig D. Differential expression of NSCLC ucsEGs. The boxplots show the expression levels of the eight NSCLC-specific EGs in the two NSCLC subtypes, LUAD and LUSC, and normal samples, as collected in OncoDB. The significance of the average difference between the two populations was evaluated with a Student's t-test using the OncoDB platform tool for the differential expression analysis. The legends indicate the colours associated with the groups and the number of samples in brackets.



Fig E. Boxplots of the generic Human Bio attribute values for the E, aE, and sNE classes. The stars on the top indicate the significance of the Wilcoxon test for each pair of comparisons (**** ≤ 0.0001 , *** ≤ 0.001 , ** \leq



Fig F. Boxplots of the context-specific Bio attribute values of the three tissues investigated for the E, aE, and sNE classes. The stars on the top indicate the significance of the Wilcoxon test for each pair of comparisons (**** ≤ 0.0001 , *** ≤ 0.001 , ** ≤ 0.01 , * ≤ 0.05 , ns = not significant). The Driver genes attributes were not shown as having small ranges of values and poor statistics. In favour of visualisation, the values have been signed-square-root transformed.



Fig G. Random extraction of the intermediate class. A) For each generic attribute (taken as an example from the Kidney dataset) and cs attributes from the three tissues, 100 random partitions of 3000 genes from the sNE groups have been extracted and compared to the rest of the sNE genes. For each tissue, the 100 partitions were fixed. Wilcoxon test was performed to evaluate the statistical significance (p-value) and verify whether the groups come from the same population for each pair of comparisons (**** ≤ 0.0001 , *** ≤ 0.001 , ** ≤ 0.001 , ** ≤ 0.05 , ns = not significant). The table indicates the number of partitions for each attribute and for each significance level indicated in the column header. The level of significance given by comparing aE vs sNE, and indicated in Figs E and F, was also shown by the orange text "aE". B) The histogram shows the number of attributes (x-axis) for which the partitions are simultaneously significant. The count of partitions (y-axis) for each frequency is also shown on the bars. C) The line plot shows the mean of -log10(p-value) and the standard deviation from Wilcoxon tests between different percentages of aE mixed with sNE genes (to 3000 genes) obtained with 10 iterations and the rest of sNE genes for some attributes indicated in the legend.



Fig H. Intersection of Gene Families and Biological Processes enrichment among E, aE and sNE genes. The Venn diagrams show the intersection of Gene Families (gf) and Gene-Ontology Biological Processes (BP) enriched by E, aE or sNE genes among the three tissue contexts under study (A-C; E-G), as well as the intersection of Gene Families (gf) and Gene-Ontology Biological Processes (BP) enriched by genes of the three classes in one context (here Kidney tissue as example) (D and H). The number of genes composing each set is shown in brackets.



Fig I. Feature importance analysis. Bio+CCcfs attributes importance calculated by training a sveLGBM model on the entire dataset. The plot cuts-off feature with importance lower than 0.25 %.

Category	Attribute	Description	Data Source
Structure	Gene length GC content Transcripts count	Gene End (bp) - Gene Start (bp) % of Guanosine + Citosine No. of transcripts/gene	biomaRt R package v2.54 [2]
Furnession	$GTEX_*$ (cs)	Gene median expression in the con- text of interest	GTEX portal [3]
Expression	UP_tissue	Count of annotated expression in tissues	DAVID [4]
	OncoDB_expression	Differential Gene Expression in can-	OncoDB [5]
	HPA_* (cs)	Normalised transcript expression summarised per gene in the con-	HPA [6]
	CO ME	text of interest	
	GO-MF	No. of GO-MF annotations	
Deres at in the	GO-BP	No. of GO-BP annotations	
Function &	GO-CC	No. of GO-CC annotations	DAVID [4]
Locansation	DEACTOME	No. of REACTOME pathway and	
	REACTOME	no. of REACTOME pathway all-	
	CCcfs	Subcellular localisation confidence	COMPARTMENTS
	0000	score	[7]
	BIOGRID	No. of BIOGRID interactions an-	
Interaction		notations	DAVID [4]
Interaction	UCSC_TFBS	Transcription factors binding sites	
		prediction	
Conservation	Orthologs count	No. of orthologous/gene	NCBI [8]
	Driver_genes_MUT	No. of predictions as 'MUT driver'	
	(cs)	in cancer	DriverDBv3 [9]
Association	Driver_genes_CNV	No. of predictions as 'CNV driver'	
with Disease	(cs)	in cancer	
	Driver_genes_MET	No. of predictions as 'Methylation	
	(cs)	driver' in cancer	D:-C-N-+ [10]
	tion	NO. OI ASSOCIATIONS WITH DISEASES	DisGenet [10]

Table A	A. Co	llected	genomic,	transcript	omic,	epigenetic,	functional	and	evolutionary	features	of
genes.	(cs) in	ndicates	the contex	t-specific a	ttribute	es.					

Table B. Comparison of classifiers on prediction in "E vs NE" problem in the Kidney case study. Ranking of methods is based on the Balanced Accuracy metric. All methods with "sve" prefix are our meta-learning model proposal with a different base classifier as member of the ensemble. All other methods are provided by the PyCaret library. All models where trained with Bio+CCcfs+N2V attributes of genes. CPU times are measured on Apple M2 with 16GB RAM.

Model	Accuracy	ROC-AUC	Sensitivity	Specificity	BA	TT (Sec)
sveLGBM	0.850100	0.951200	0.914800	0.845000	0.879900	14.608000
sveADA	0.856900	0.945400	0.901100	0.853500	0.877300	13.146000
sveET	0.866600	0.936400	0.852700	0.867600	0.860200	3.588000
sveRF	0.883200	0.938600	0.832000	0.887200	0.859600	3.008000
Random Forest Classifier	0.810200	0.903600	0.830800	0.808600	0.819700	0.916000
Extra Trees Classifier	0.826100	0.871100	0.761800	0.831100	0.796500	0.758000
Linear Discriminant Analysis	0.945500	0.931800	0.619100	0.970900	0.795000	6.512000
sveLDA	0.740800	0.856100	0.837800	0.733300	0.785500	5.074000
Logistic Regression	0.899400	0.842400	0.627200	0.920500	0.773900	1.572000
SVM - Linear Kernel	0.885200	0.827900	0.600700	0.907300	0.754000	19.138000
Ada Boost Classifier	0.943700	0.928900	0.492500	0.978700	0.735600	4.790000
Light Gradient Boosting Machine	0.947900	0.940600	0.474100	0.984700	0.729400	2.174000

Table C. sveLGBM tuning of parameters with Optuna library [11]. Optimiziation was carried out on "E vs NE" classification problem with a stratified 5-fold cross-validation with Bio+CCcfs+N2V features by maximising BA metric.

Trial no.	boosting_type	learning_rate	$n_estimators$	n_voters	BA
37	gbdt	0.094505	200	13	0.893151
15	gbdt	0.098300	140	10	0.891459
44	gbdt	0.076452	200	12	0.890954
43	gbdt	0.075168	200	12	0.890826
41	gbdt	0.078591	200	13	0.890602
33	gbdt	0.098020	180	13	0.890241
31	gbdt	0.059095	160	11	0.889936
34	gbdt	0.085756	200	13	0.889739
22	gbdt	0.063759	180	9	0.889298
30	gbdt	0.054934	160	12	0.889146
36	gbdt	0.076796	200	14	0.889028
23	gbdt	0.065602	160	9	0.888994
42	gbdt	0.076634	200	16	0.888759
40	gbdt	0.044127	180	10	0.888419
4	gbdt	0.088891	140	15	0.888175
39	gbdt	0.098960	140	14	0.887998
49	gbdt	0.057674	200	16	0.887826
11	gbdt	0.059871	180	15	0.886745
47	gbdt	0.049777	200	14	0.886566
29	gbdt	0.042902	180	9	0.886259
32	gbdt	0.052158	140	11	0.885557
	•••				
5	gbdt	0.001175	100	7	0.500000

Table D. Classification performance metrics adopted in the experiments. They are defined in terms of the number of true positives (TP), true negatives (TN), false positives (FP), and false negatives (FN), where the first class in each binary task (e.g. class E in the "E vs NE" classification task) is assumed as the positive class.

Metric	Description	Formula
Accuracy	% of correctly classified samples	$\frac{\text{TP+TN}}{\text{TP+FP+FN+TN}}$
Specificity (TNR)	% of negative samples correctly classified	$\frac{\text{TN}}{\text{TN}+\text{FP}}$
Sensitivity (TPR)	% of positive samples correctly classified	$\frac{\text{TP}}{\text{TP+FN}}$
Balanced Accuracy (BA)	Average of Specificity and Sensitivity	$\frac{1}{2}$ (Sensitivity + Specificity)
ROC-AUC	Area Under the Receiver Operating	$\int_0^1 \text{Sensitivity}(x) dx,$
	Characteristic curve	x = 1 - Specificity
CM	Confusion Matrix	TN FP FN TP

Apart from the confusion matrix, all the metrics assume values in [0,1], except ROC-AUC, which ranges in [0.5,1]; higher values indicate better performance.

feature	Bio	N2V	CCcfs	Bio+CCcfs	Bio+CCcfs+N2V	
		(A) Kidnev			
ROC-AUC	0.914 ± 0.007	0.929±0.008	0.940±0.008	$0.956 {\pm} 0.005$	0.958 ± 0.006	
Accuracy	$0.795 {\pm} 0.007$	$0.845 {\pm} 0.006$	$0.861 {\pm} 0.006$	$0.877 {\pm} 0.005$	$0.880 {\pm} 0.005$	
BA	$0.832 {\pm} 0.010$	$0.854{\pm}0.013$	$0.867 {\pm} 0.012$	$0.887 {\pm} 0.010$	$0.892{\pm}0.009$	
Sensitivity	0.875 ± 0.020	$0.864{\pm}0.027$	$0.873 {\pm} 0.023$	$0.899 {\pm} 0.020$	$0.905 {\pm} 0.019$	
Specificity	$0.789 {\pm} 0.007$	$0.843 {\pm} 0.007$	$0.861 {\pm} 0.006$	$0.876 {\pm} 0.005$	$0.878 {\pm} 0.005$	
	pred NE E	pred NE E	pred NE E	pred NE E	pred NE E	
CM	을 NE <mark>12618.1</mark> 3375.9	ខ្មNE <mark>13486.2</mark> 2507.8	្ទិNE <mark>13763.9</mark> 2230.1	្ទNE <mark>14003.7</mark> 1990.3	្ទ NE <mark>14041.4</mark> 1952.6	
	[‡] E 155.3 1086.7	^は E 169.0 1073.0	[‡] E 157.7 1084.3	^E E 125.2 1116.8	^E E 117.8 1124.2	
		(1	B) Lung			
ROC-AUC	0.918 ± 0.006	$0.931{\pm}0.008$	$0.941{\pm}0.006$	$0.957 {\pm} 0.005$	$0.959 {\pm} 0.005$	
Accuracy	$0.800 {\pm} 0.007$	$0.852{\pm}0.005$	$0.845 {\pm} 0.014$	$0.878 {\pm} 0.005$	$0.882 {\pm} 0.005$	
BA	$0.839 {\pm} 0.010$	$0.857 {\pm} 0.011$	$0.864{\pm}0.011$	$0.891 {\pm} 0.009$	$0.895 {\pm} 0.009$	
Sensitivity	$0.884{\pm}0.019$	$0.863 {\pm} 0.022$	$0.885 {\pm} 0.031$	$0.905 {\pm} 0.017$	$0.910 {\pm} 0.018$	
Specificity	0.793 ± 0.008	$0.851 {\pm} 0.005$	0.842 ± 0.017 0.876 ± 0.005		$0.879 {\pm} 0.005$	
	pred NE E	pred NE E	pred NE E	pred NE E	pred NE E	
CM	을NE <mark>12701.7</mark> 3308.3	을 NE <mark>13619.7</mark> <mark>2390.3</mark>	₿ NE <mark>13486.1</mark> 2523.9	을 NE <mark>14021.9</mark> 1988.1	පු NE <mark>14078.9</mark> 1931.1	
	^д Е 142.2 1081.8	‡ E 168.2 1055.8	^д Е 140.9 1083.1	⁵ E 116.0 1108.0	⁵ E 109.7 1114.3	
		(0	C) Brain			
ROC-AUC	0.916 ± 0.006	$0.932 {\pm} 0.007$	$0.942 {\pm} 0.007$	$0.958 {\pm} 0.005$	$0.960 {\pm} 0.005$	
Accuracy	0.801 ± 0.006	$0.852 {\pm} 0.007$	$0.847 {\pm} 0.014$	$0.882 {\pm} 0.006$	$0.883 {\pm} 0.006$	
\mathbf{BA}	0.833 ± 0.008	$0.859 {\pm} 0.011$	$0.866 {\pm} 0.011$	$0.893 {\pm} 0.008$	$0.895 {\pm} 0.008$	
Sensitivity	0.869 ± 0.019	$0.868 {\pm} 0.024$	$0.888 {\pm} 0.031$	$0.906 {\pm} 0.019$	$0.910 {\pm} 0.018$	
Specificity	0.796 ± 0.007	$0.850 {\pm} 0.008$	$0.844 {\pm} 0.017$	$0.880 {\pm} 0.007$	$0.881 {\pm} 0.007$	
	pred NE E	pred NE E	pred NE E	pred NE E	pred NE E	
CM	Performance NE 12747.1 3262.9	₽ NE <mark>13612.7</mark> 2397.3	₽NE <mark>13512.1</mark> 2497.9	ខ្លួ NE <mark>14094.4</mark> 1915.6	₽ NE <mark>14104.2</mark> 1905.8	
	* E 161.4 1072.6	⁺ E 162.7 1071.3	⁺ E 137.7 1096.3	⁺ Е 116.2 1117.8	⁺ Е 111.1 1122.9	
		(D) Human			
ROC-AUC	0.909 ± 0.008	0.912 ± 0.010	0.942 ± 0.008	0.957 ± 0.006	0.957 ± 0.007	
Accuracy	0.790 ± 0.008	0.822 ± 0.007	0.843 ± 0.006	0.878 ± 0.007	0.877 ± 0.007	
BA	0.825 ± 0.011	$0.831 {\pm} 0.012$	0.867 ± 0.011	0.889 ± 0.011	$0.888 {\pm} 0.013$	
Sensitivity	0.865 ± 0.022	0.842 ± 0.023	0.896 ± 0.021	0.903 ± 0.020	0.902 ± 0.023	
Specificity	0.784 ± 0.009	$0.820 {\pm} 0.007$	$0.839 {\pm} 0.007$	0.876 ± 0.007	$0.875 {\pm} 0.007$	
	pred NE E	pred NE E	pred NE E	pred NE E	pred NE E	
CM	[₽] NE 12541.8 3450.2	월 NE <mark>13113.1</mark> 2878.9	ខ្មNE <mark>13418.7</mark> 2573.3	្ពNE <mark>14003.3</mark> 1988.7	្ឌNE <mark>13987.9</mark> 2004.1	
	^{1074.3} E 167.7	13 E 196.0 1046.0	¹² E 129.3 1112.7	¹² E 120.8 1121.2	¹² E 121.4 1120.6	

Table E. "E vs NE" classification performance based on HELP labelling. (A) Kidney, (B) Lung, (C) Brain tissues, and (D) Human. Averages and errors of metrics are obtained on fifty measurements related to ten times iterated 5-fold cross-validation. The averaged Confusion Matrix (CM) is also shown.

Table F. Comparison of sveLGBM and CLEARER on OGEE+DEG labelling for the prediction
of cEGs. Hs Features refer to the features collected for Homo Sapiens EGs prediction presented in the
work [12]. sveLGBM hyperparameters: n_voters=16, learning_rate=0.1, n_estimators=200,
boosting_type='gbdt'. CLEARER hyperparameter: RF n_estimators=500 as in [12].

method	sveLGBM (HELP)	RandomForest (CLEARER)
	Bio+CCcfs+N2V	Hs Features
metric		reduced by lasso
ROC-AUC	$0.9728 {\pm} 0.0051$	0.9682 ± 0.0024
Accuracy	$0.9111 {\pm} 0.0068$	$0.9625 {\pm} 0.0025$
BA	$0.9130 {\pm} 0.0144$	$0.7844 {\pm} 0.0123$
Sensitivity	$0.9152{\pm}0.0359$	0.5834 ± 0.0240
Specificity	$0.9108 {\pm} 0.0090$	$0.9854{\pm}0.0019$
	pred E NE	pred E NE
CM	월 E <mark>755 7</mark> 0	≗ E <mark>486 347</mark>
	[‡] NE 1177 12019	[‡] NE 200 13543

Table G. Comparison of sveLGBM, DeepHE and EPGAT predictions on HELP labelling for Kidney-, Lung-, Brain-specific EGs, and cEGs (Human). EPGAT running with PPI input and sublocalisation attributes. EPGAT hyper-parameters are optimised by using the provided tuning function. DeepHE running with DNA sequencing extracted features plus node2vec embedding 120-sized features extracted from the PPI. HELP running with Bio+CCcfs + N2V embedding 120-sized features extracted from the PPI.

	Kidney			Lung		
metric	EPGAT	DeepHE	sveLGBM	EPGAT	DeepHE	sveLGBM
AUC	$0.902{\pm}0.007$	$0.921{\pm}0.016$	$0.957 {\pm} 0.006$	$0.913 {\pm} 0.009$	$0.916{\pm}0.021$	$0.958 {\pm} 0.005$
Acc.	$0.834{\pm}0.028$	$0.845 {\pm} 0.016$	$0.894{\pm}0.004$	$0.843 {\pm} 0.032$	$0.845 {\pm} 0.023$	$0.895 {\pm} 0.004$
BA	$0.824{\pm}0.012$	$0.845 {\pm} 0.016$	$0.890 {\pm} 0.009$	$0.832 {\pm} 0.014$	$0.845 {\pm} 0.023$	$0.892{\pm}0.010$
Sens.	$0.813 {\pm} 0.045$	$0.866 {\pm} 0.02$	$0.886{\pm}0.019$	$0.819 {\pm} 0.051$	$0.877 {\pm} 0.029$	$0.889 {\pm} 0.020$
Spec.	$0.835 {\pm} 0.033$	$0.824{\pm}0.024$	$0.894{\pm}0.004$	$0.845 {\pm} 0.037$	$0.812 {\pm} 0.028$	$0.895 {\pm} 0.005$
		Brain		Human		
metric	EPGAT	DeepHE	sveLGBM	EPGAT	DeepHE	sveLGBM
AUC	$0.908 {\pm} 0.012$	$0.921{\pm}0.009$	$0.959{\pm}0.005$	$0.880{\pm}0.017$	$0.91{\pm}0.02$	$0.957 {\pm} 0.007$
Acc.	$0.857 {\pm} 0.022$	$0.847 {\pm} 0.012$	$0.898 {\pm} 0.006$	$0.784 {\pm} 0.043$	$0.83 {\pm} 0.027$	$0.891 {\pm} 0.006$
BA	$0.833 {\pm} 0.008$	$0.847 {\pm} 0.012$	$0.894{\pm}0.009$	$0.798 {\pm} 0.020$	$0.83 {\pm} 0.027$	$0.886 {\pm} 0.013$
Sens.	$0.806 {\pm} 0.027$	$0.884{\pm}0.022$	$0.890 {\pm} 0.019$	$0.815 {\pm} 0.063$	$0.898 {\pm} 0.037$	$0.880 {\pm} 0.024$
Spec.	$0.861 {\pm} 0.026$	$0.811 {\pm} 0.024$	$0.898 {\pm} 0.006$	$0.781 {\pm} 0.050$	$0.762{\pm}0.047$	$0.892{\pm}0.007$

Table H. Optimal hyper-parameters of sveLGBM, DeepHE and EPGAT methods used in comparison of Table G.

method	Kidney	Lung	Brain	Human	
	epochs=1000,	epochs=1000,	epochs=1000,	epochs=1000,	
	lr=0.005,	lr=0.005,	lr=0.00057,	lr=0.0023,	
EPGAT	weight_decay=0.0005,	weight_decay=0.0005,	weight_decay=0.000247,	weight_decay=0.000126,	
	$h_{feats} = [8,1],$	$h_{feats} = [8,1],$	$h_{feats} = [32, 8, 1],$	$h_{feats} = [64, 1],$	
	heads= $[8,1]$,	heads= $[8,1]$,	heads = [8, 4, 1],	heads = [4,1],	
	dropout=0.4	dropout=0.4	dropout=0.137	dropout=0.34	
DeepHE	IE epochs=50, batch_size=32, dropout=0.2, h_feats=[128,256,512], folding=1				
sveLGBM	n_voters=1	3, n_estimators=200, boo	osting_type=gbdt, learnin	ng_rate=0.1	

Table I. "E vs sNE", "E vs aE" and "aE vs sNE" classification performance based on HELP labelling. The case study is Kidney tissue using Bio+CCcfs+N2V features. Averages and errors of metrics are obtained on fifty measurements related to ten times iterated 5-fold cross-validation. The averaged Confusion Matrix (CM) is also shown.

problem	E vs sNE	E vs aE	aE vs sNE	
ROC-AUC	$0.973 {\pm} 0.004$	$0.895 {\pm} 0.009$	$0.751 {\pm} 0.010$	
Accuracy	$0.915 {\pm} 0.005$	$0.797{\pm}0.012$	$0.713 {\pm} 0.007$	
BA	$0.915 {\pm} 0.007$	$0.813 {\pm} 0.012$	$0.687 {\pm} 0.010$	
Sensitivity	$0.916 {\pm} 0.016$	$0.849 {\pm} 0.021$	$0.644{\pm}0.019$	
Specificity	$0.915 {\pm} 0.005$	$0.776 {\pm} 0.016$	$0.729 {\pm} 0.008$	
	pred sNE E	pred aE E	pred sNE aE	
CM	BsNE <mark>11790.0</mark> 1096.0	₿ aE <mark>2412.3</mark> 695.7	BsNE <mark>9396.4</mark> 3489.6	
	^E E 104.8 1137.2	[‡] E 187.7 1054.3	$ \stackrel{l}{=} aE 1106.2 2001.8 $	

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