Data-driven Gene Regulatory Network Inference based on Classification Algorithms

Sergio Peignier[a], Pauline Schmitt, Federica Calevro

INSA Lyon, INRA
BF2I, UMR0203, F-69621
Lyon, France

[a] sergio.peignier@insa-lyon.fr

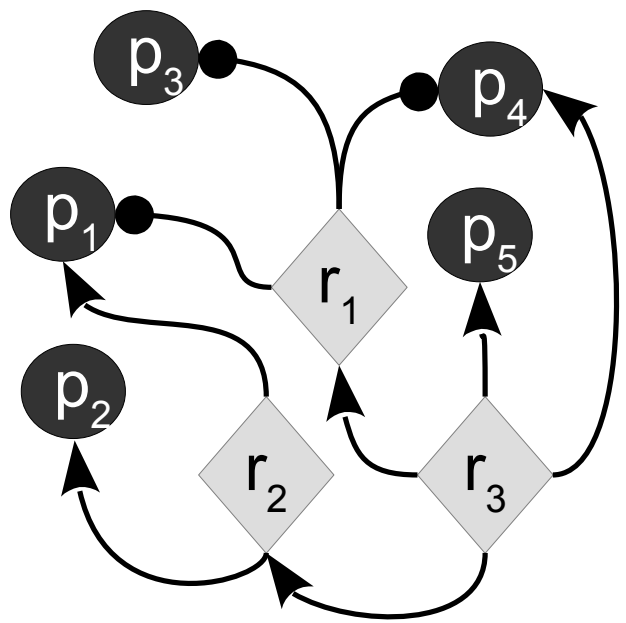
Gene Regulatory Networks (GRNs)

Central Dogma of Molecular Biology

$$Gene \xrightarrow{\text{Transcription}} mRNA \xrightarrow{\text{Translation}} Protein$$

Definition

Set of **interacting molecular regulators** (e.g. transcription factors) **controlling** the **creation** of **gene products** (e.g. mRNA, proteins).



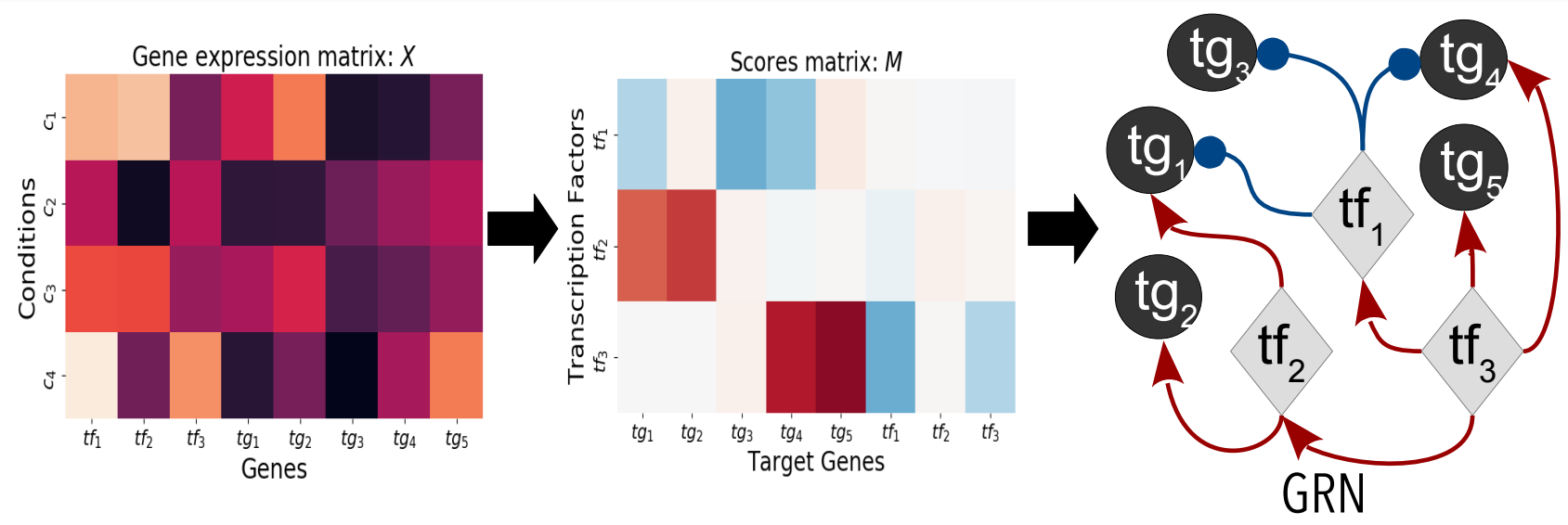
- **Wide range** of **mechanisms**: (e.g., epigenetic, **transcriptional** ...)
- **Important biological role:**
  - Adaptation
  - Differentiation
  - Versatility
  - Morphogenesis ...

Data-driven GRN Inference

General principle

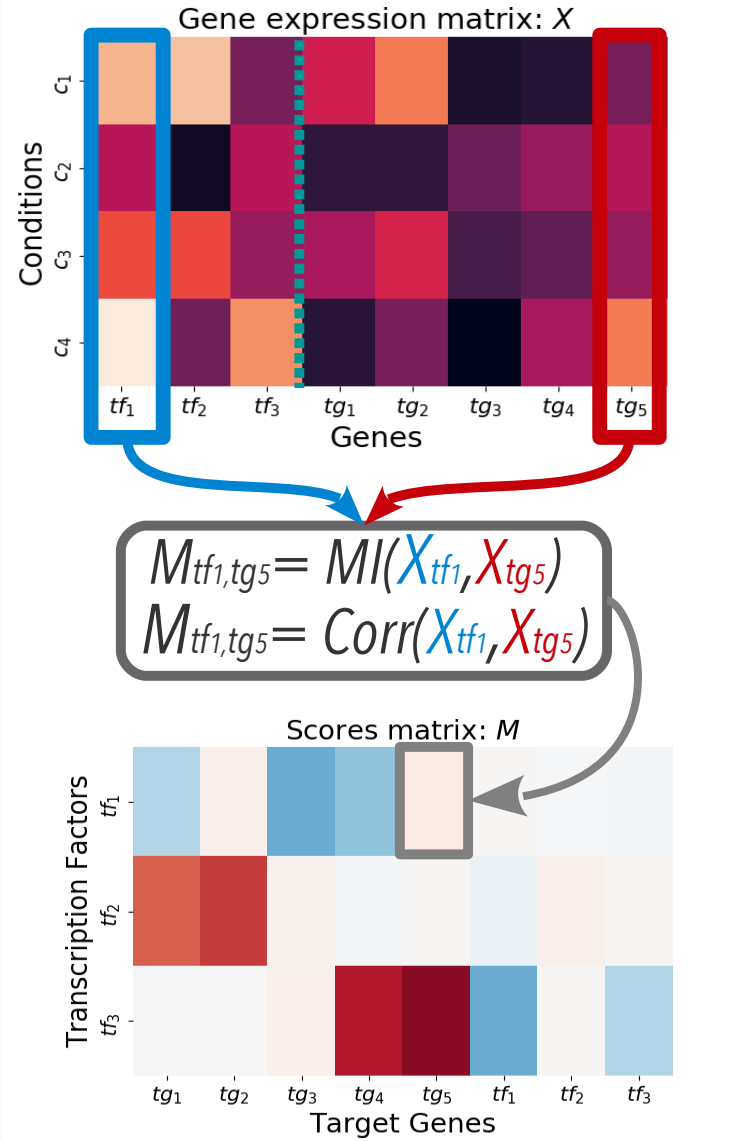
- Based on **high-throughput gene expression data**.
- **Score** possible **links** between:
  - **Regulators**, i.e. **Transcription Factors (TFs)**
  - **Target Genes (TGs)**
- **Select** most **promising links**.

Well-known paradigm: Simple, accurate, computationally efficient

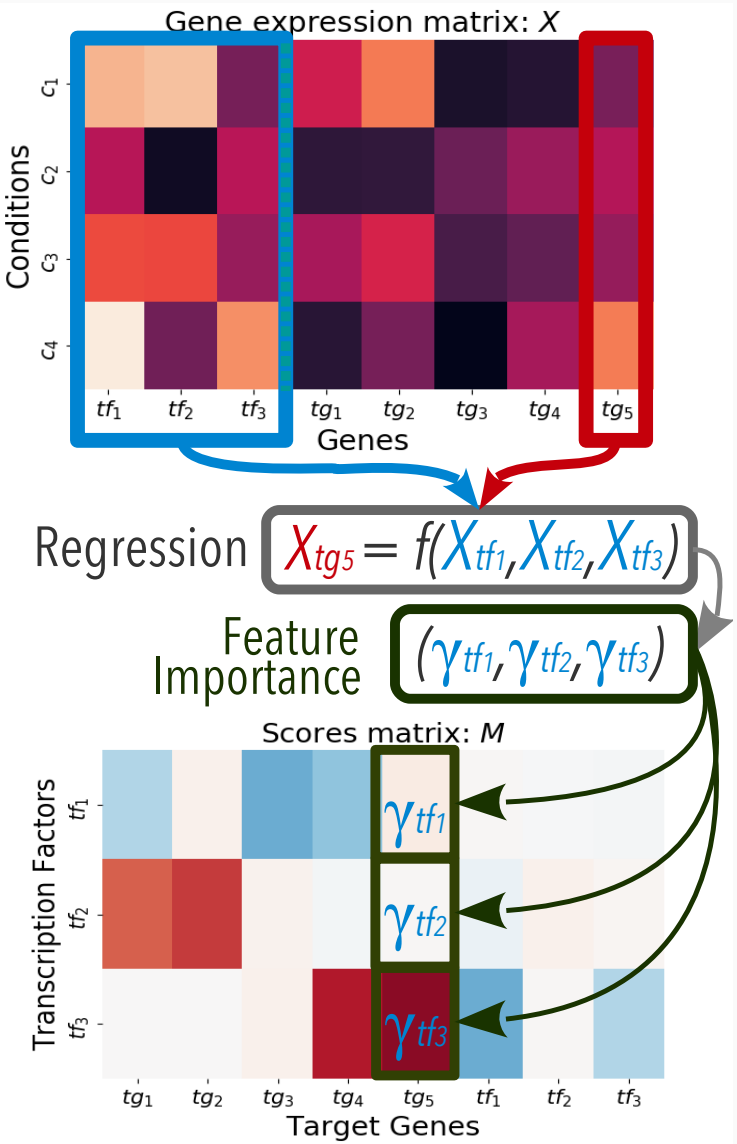


Data-driven Inference Families

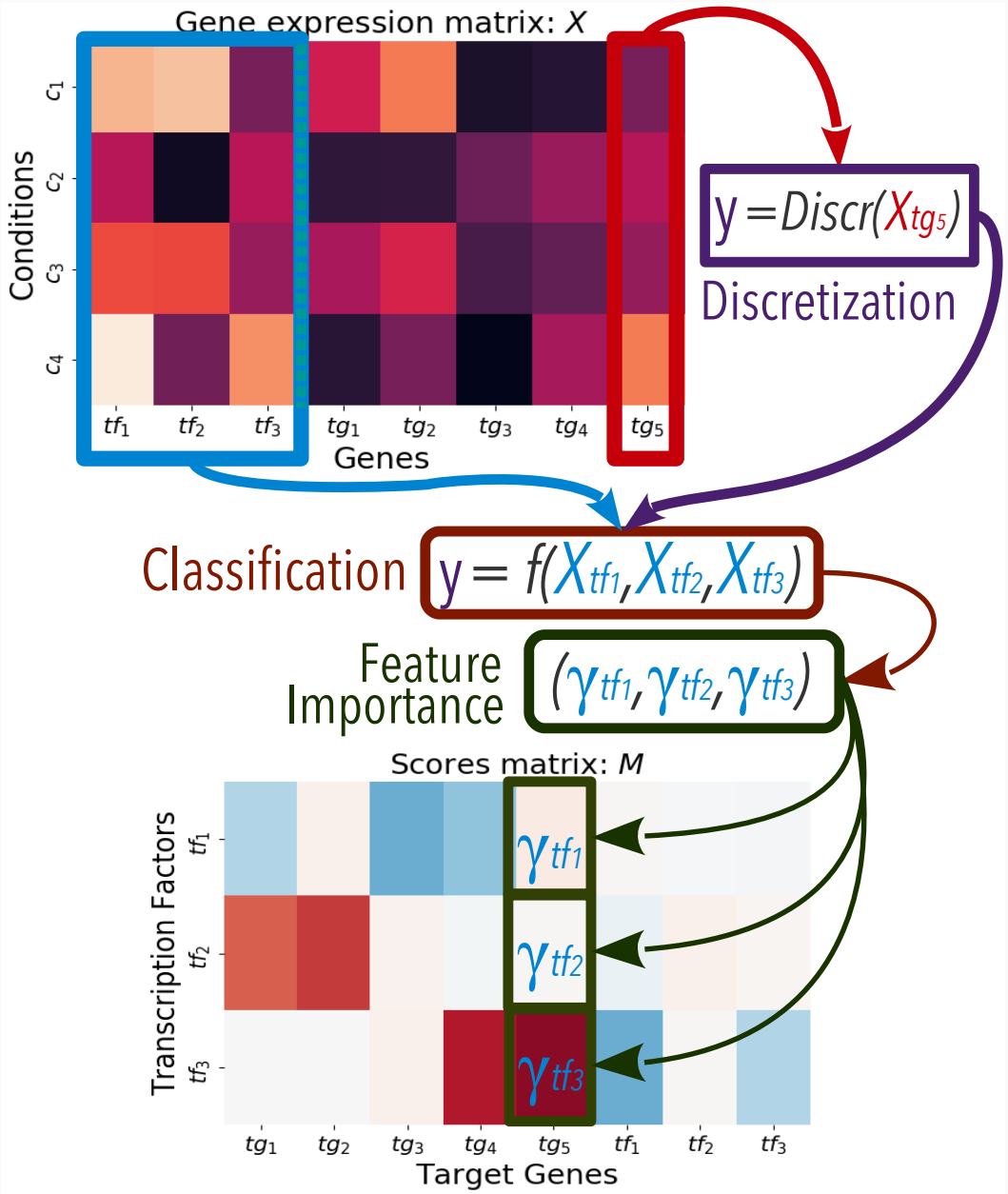
Correlation | Mutual Information



Regression Methods

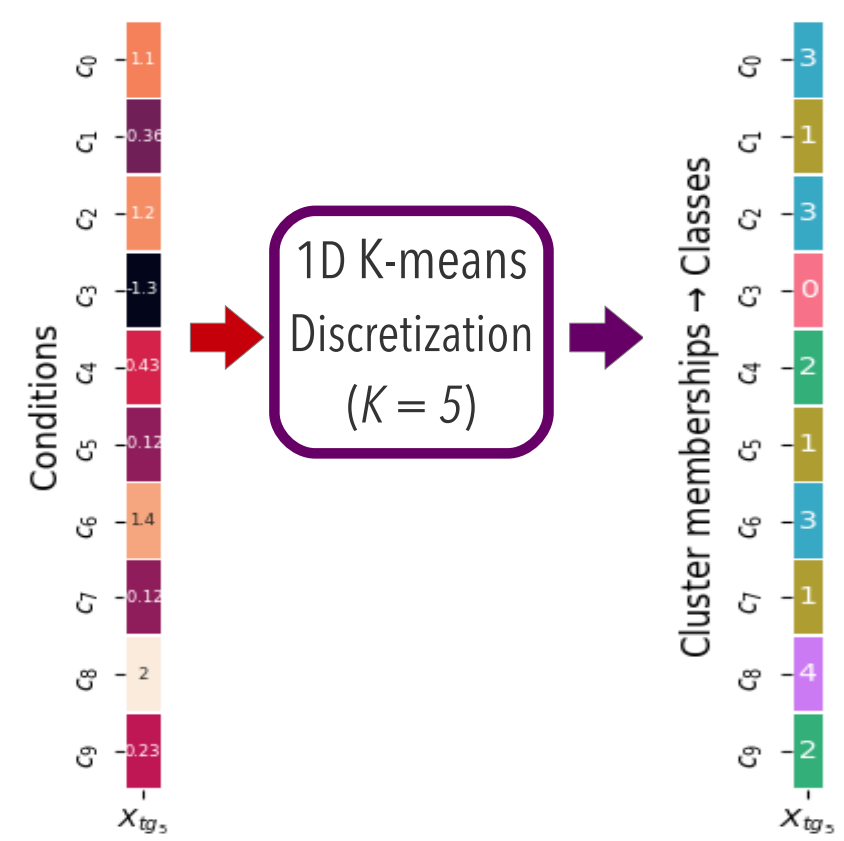


Classification-based GRN Inference

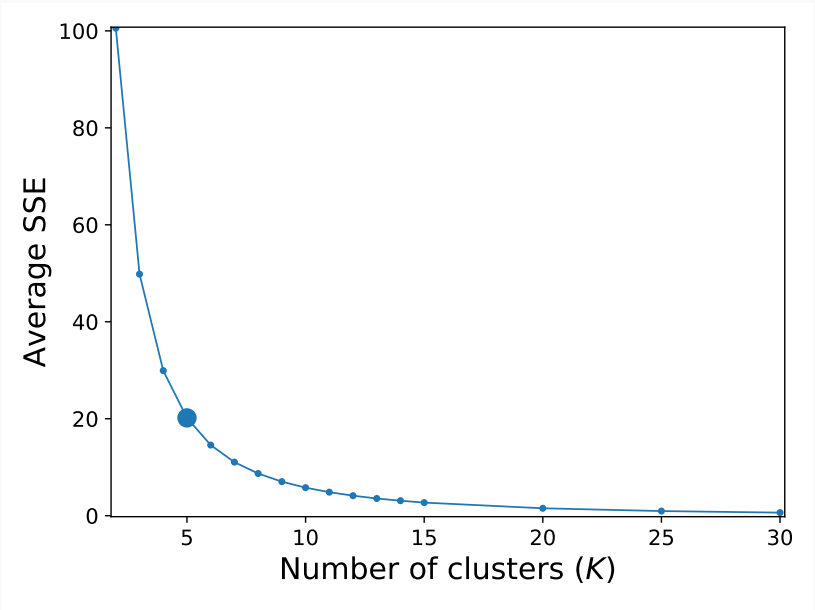


Target gene expression discretization

- K-means $\rightarrow$ Discretize TG exp.
- Cluster membership $\rightarrow$ Class

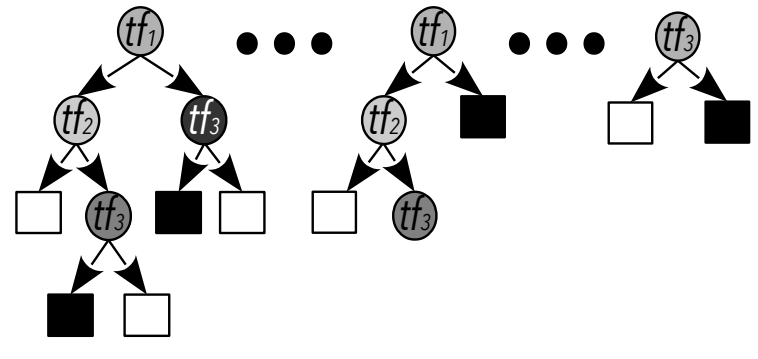


- Avg. SSE between gene exp. and cluster centers for different values of K.
- Elbow for $k = 5$ clusters.



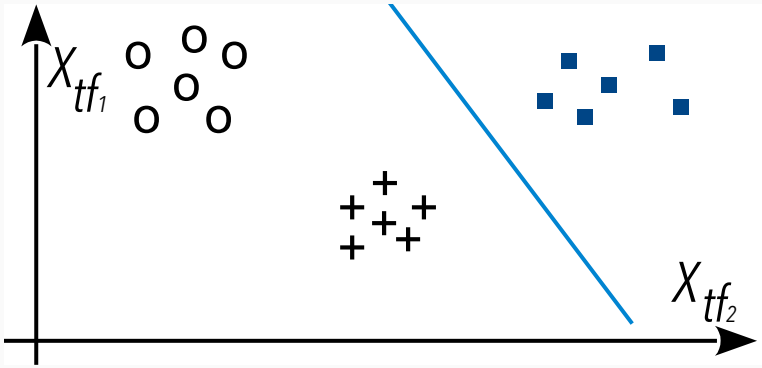
Classification Algorithms

Ensemble of decision trees[1]



- Random Forest (**RF**)
- Extremely Randomized Trees (**XRT**)
- AdaBoost (**AB**)
- Gradient Boosting (**GB**)

Support Vector Machine (SVM)[1]



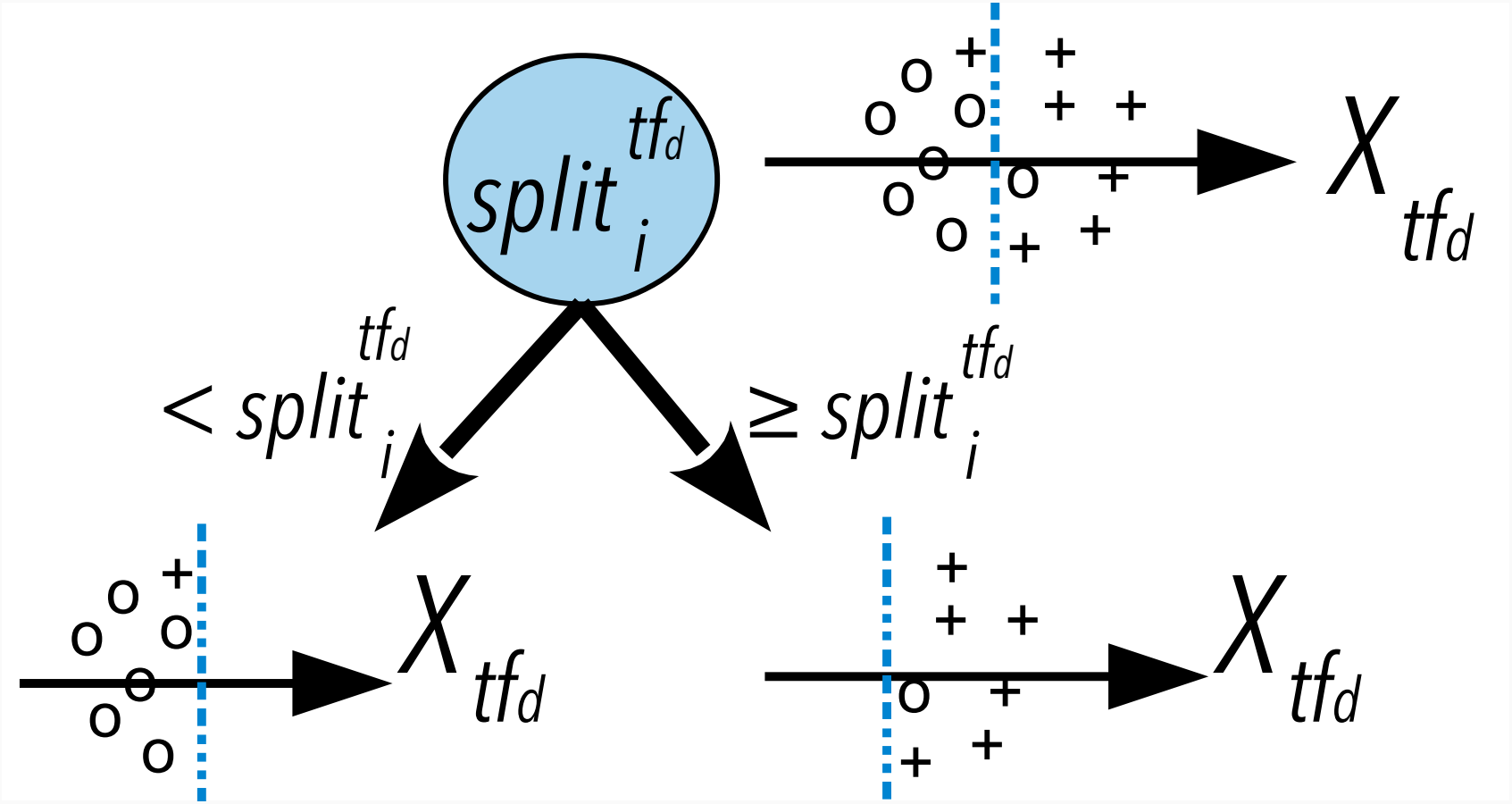
- One-vs-All linear multi-class **SVM**

[1] Implementations from **scikit-learn** (Python 3.7)

Feature Importance | Decision Tree based

Impurity gain (e.g., GINI, Entropy) for the *i*-th **split** along **feature** X_{tf_d}

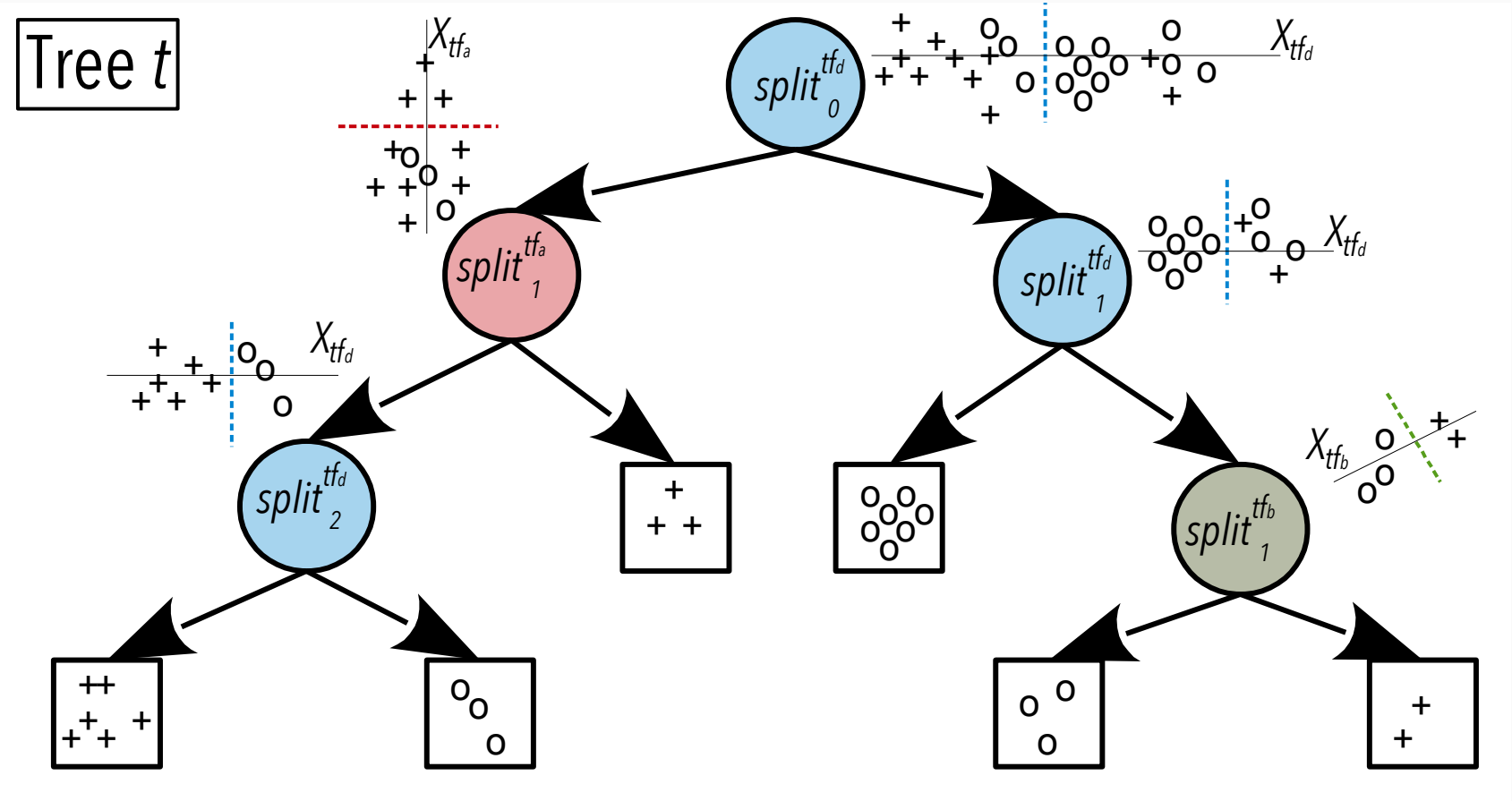
$$\delta(split_i^{tf_d})$$



Feature Importance | Decision Tree based

Importance of **feature** X_{tf_d} for tree t

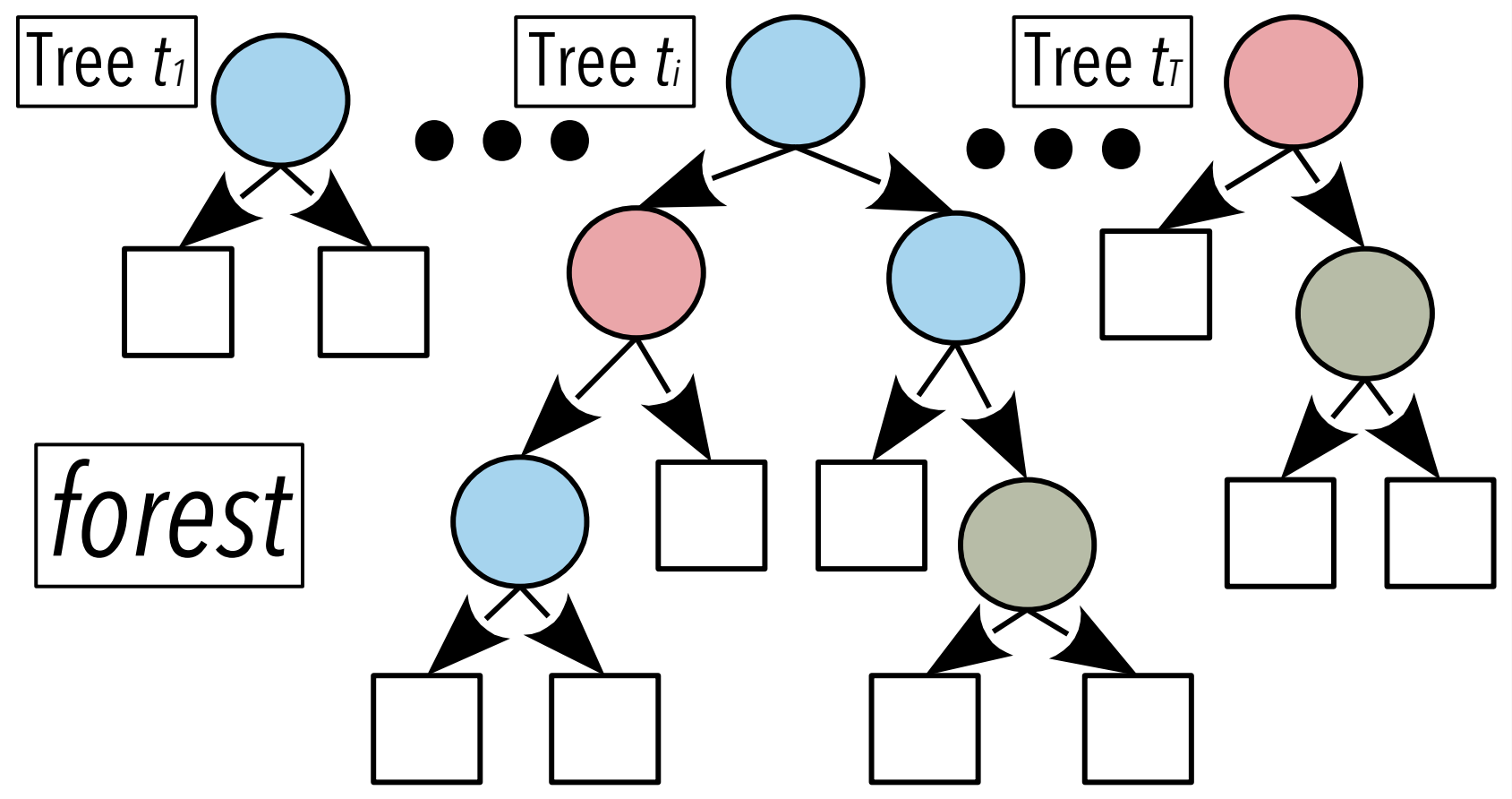
$$\gamma_t^{tf_d} = \sum_i \delta(split_i^{tf_d})$$



Feature Importance | Decision Tree based

Importance of **feature** X_{tf_d} for a *forest* , i.e., **set of trees**

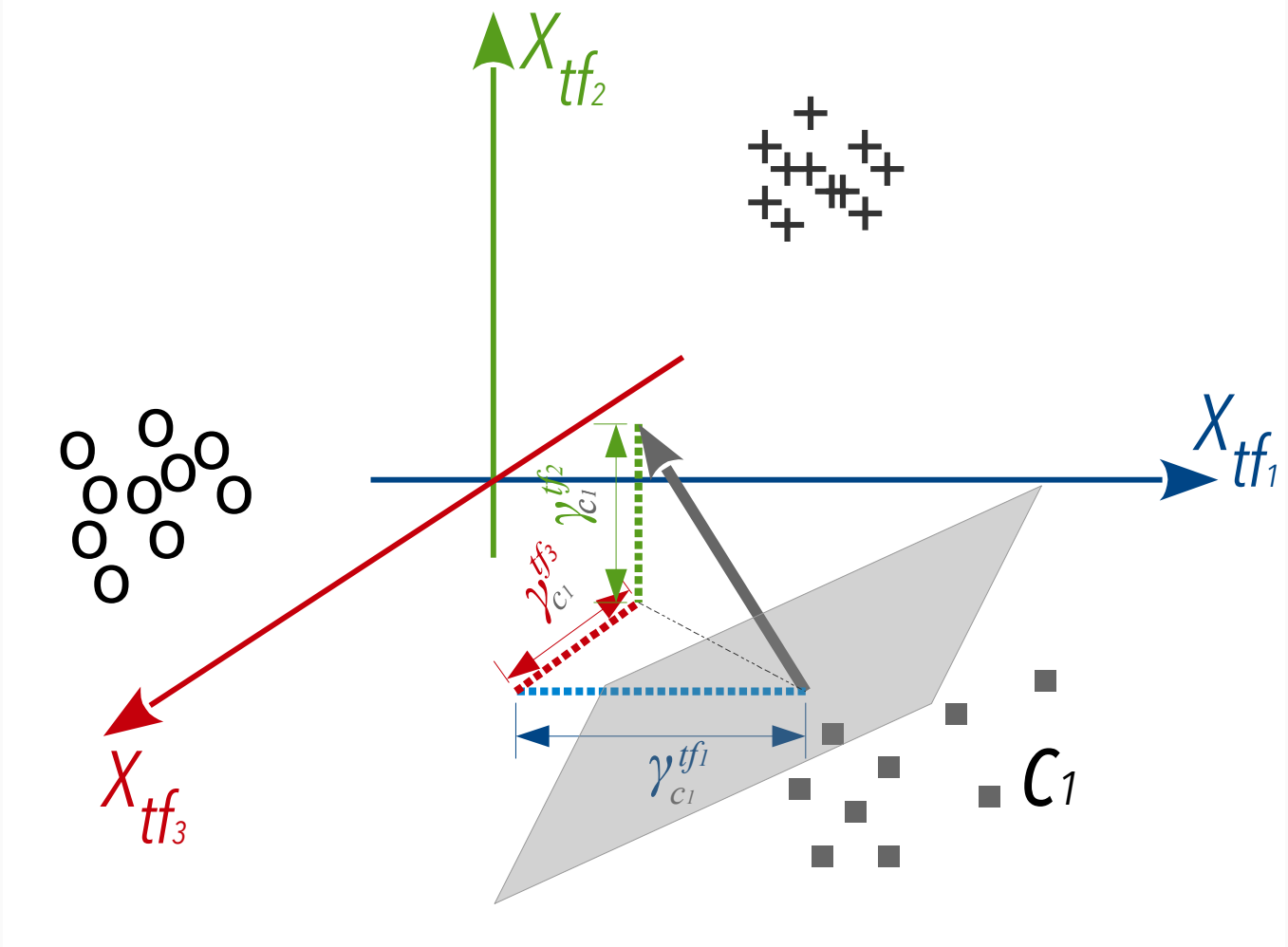
$$\gamma^{tf_d} = \frac{\sum_{t \in forest} \gamma_t^{tf_d}}{|forest|}$$



Feature Importance | One-vs-all linear SVM

$\gamma_c^{tf_d}$: **Importance** of **feature** X_{tf_d} for **class** c **linear SVM** $\rightarrow$

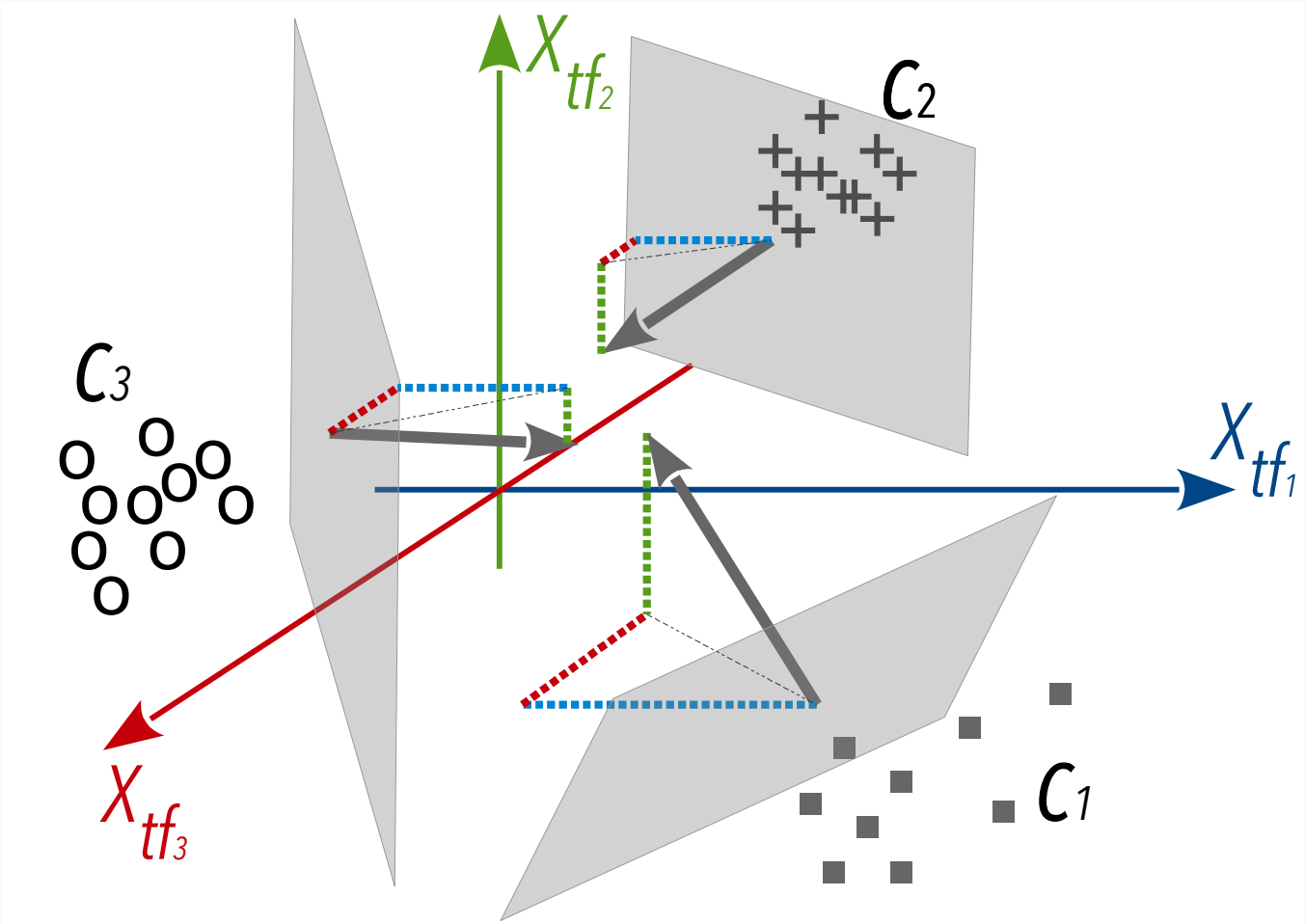
Norm of the **separating hyperplane orthogonal vector**



Feature Importance | One-vs-all linear SVM

Importance of **feature** X_{tf_d} for a **set** C of **one-vs-all linear SVM**

$$\gamma^{tf_d} = \frac{\sum_{c \in C} \gamma_c^{tf_d}}{|C|}$$



Evaluation Setup

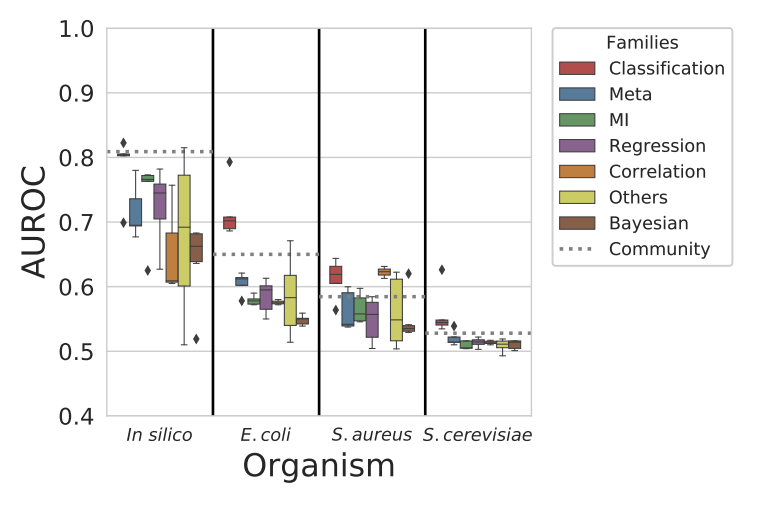
- **Evaluation protocol** designed by **[Marbach et al. 2012]**
- **Standard evaluation measures**: **AUROC** and **AUPR**
- **Impact** of **7 pre-processing techniques**.
- DREAM5 **Benchmark datasets**

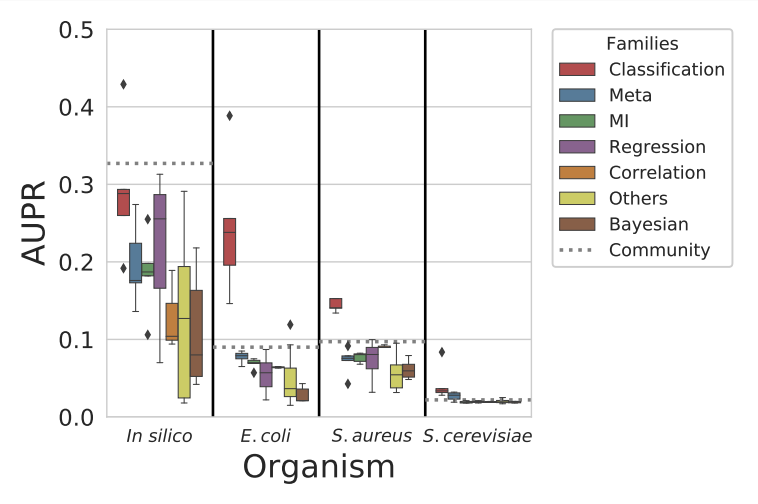
Dataset	# condit.	$\|TGs\|$	$\|TFs\|$
In Silico	805	1,643	195
S. aureus	160	2,810	99
E. coli	805	4,511	334
S. cerevisiae	536	5,950	333

- Comparison w.r.t. **36 methods**

Paradigm	# Methods
Community	1
MI	5
Meta	5
Regression	8
Correlation	3
Bayesian	6
Others	8

Results: Comparison with other Paradigms

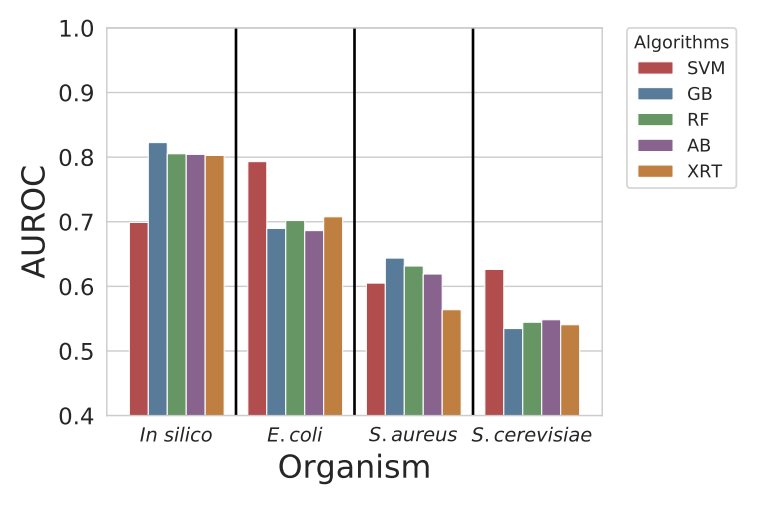


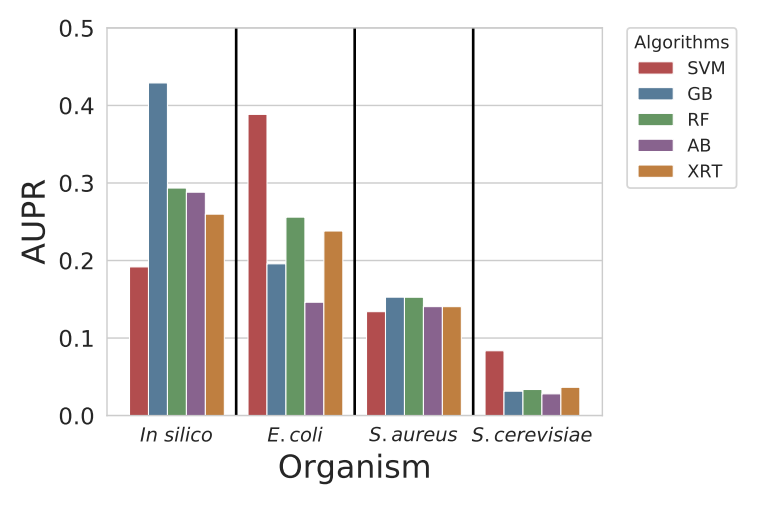


Paradigm	Avg. AUROC	Avg. AUPR
Classification	**0.67**	**0.18**
Community	0.64	0.13
Others	0.58	0.06
MI	0.60	0.09
Meta	0.60	0.09
Regression	0.59	0.09
Correlation	0.59	0.08
Bayesian	0.56	0.05

- **Best AUROC** and **AUPR** on avg.
- **Surpass community** results
- **Good results** for **all datasets**

Results: Classification Methods Comparison





- No ever-winning method.
- Analogous phenomenon reported in [Marbach et al. 2012]

Conclusion

Summary

- **Classification** methods **outperform** other **families** on avg.
- Interesting **complementary tool** for the **community**

Implementation

- **GReNaDIne Python package**:

Gene Regulatory Network Data-driven Inference

- **GitLab repository**:

`gitlab.com/bf2i/grenadine`

- **Documentation**:

`grenadine.readthedocs.io`

`pip install GReNaDIne`