# BMI 702: Biomedical Artificial Intelligence

Foundations of Biomedical Informatics II, Spring 2024

Lecture 14: Design of chemical and genetic perturbations, drug repurposing, protein design, emerging uses of generative AI



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### Outline for today's class

**• High-throughput genetic and chemical** perturbations

• Drug repurposing, indication and contra-indication prediction

**• Generative protein design** 

■ Generative AI agents



Words and genes share a correspondence: their **meanings** arise from their **context***.*

Gene perturbation measurements across diverse cell contexts induce **semantics for genes**

(under the right approach)

"apple" is a **polysemic** word…

Google

 $Q$  grow an apple

 $Q$  buy an apple

#### … whose **particular meaning** is resolved via **sentence context**.

Google

- grow an apple Q
- grow an apple tree Q
- grow an apple tree from seed Q
- Q grow an apple tree in a pot
- grow an apple tree indoors Q



- buy an apple Q
- buy an apple watch Q
- buy an apple gift card Q
- buy an apple tv Q



H2AFX is a **pleiotropic** gene…



#### … whose **particular function** is resolved via **cell context**.





While unsupervised learning of word polysemy is common...

corpus Data: of sentence contexts

**Approach:** word embeddings w/ linear semantics

 $king$  - man + woman  $\approx$  queen

unsupervised learning of gene pleiotropy is unsolved

Data: ?

**Approach:** ?

geneA - func1 + func2  $\approx$  geneB

## Our goal for today

Unsupervised learning of gene pleiotropy with applications to therapeutic science



### Data

### Use gene perturbation effect measurements for inferring biological functions



Why perturbation datasets? Alternative data types:

- **Transcriptomics:** gene co-expression is necessary but not sufficient for co-function
- Protein-protein interactions: direct interactions are not necessary for co-function

### Approach: Webster

- Low-dimensional vector embeddings that satisfy three criteria:
	- § Sparse
	- Latents are biologically meaningful
	- Account for redundancy between cell contexts



### Approach: Webster

### Webster learns a dictionary matrix that sparsely approximates gene effects…



Cell context similarity graph

### Overview of Webster

#### **Preprocessing Graph-regularized dictionary learning Objectives**  $\boldsymbol{k}$ Reduce dimensionality Raw fitness data  $\longleftarrow$  Function  $\longrightarrow$  $\times$  **Figure**  $\thickapprox$ γ Contexts D D Standardize cell lines Center gene effects Filter genes by variance  $||Y-DX||_F^2$ Dictionary matrix High-variance Preserve gene similarity genes Genes Function Contexts **Fitness data** Y  $Tr(XL_cX^T)$ Gene-to-function loadings  $||x_i||_0 \leq t$ Preserve cell context similarity

 $Tr(D^TLD)$ 

Output

 $=$  key hyperparameters

## Its key parameters are dictionary size (K) and sparsity on loadings (T)



### Model optimization



Applications to three screens of gene perturbation effects

1) Genotoxic screens

2) Cancer fitness screens

3) Compound sensitivity screens

### Part 1: Genotoxic screens

Olivieri et al. 2020: fitness effect of gene knockout in presence of genotoxins



### Webster approximates the input data matrix…



 $k=10$  $t=2$ 

### … as a product between a dictionary matrix and a loadings matrix



Learned gene-to-function loadings recover biological genesets hidden during model training

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## Latents inferred by the model recapitulate pleiotropy *without prior knowledge*



(hidden during model training!)

### Latents are biologically meaningful

geneA - func1 + func2  $\approx$  geneB

### **H2AFX - End Joining + Fanconi Anemia ≈ RAD51B**



 $=$  cell context (treatment)

### Part 2: Cancer fitness screens



## Pleiotropic genes obey linear semantics in the latent space

### **SHOC2 ≈ Activated KRAS + Activated NRAS + EGFR Signaling + FGFR Signaling**





### Joint embedding space of genes and functions



### It captures interpretable processes in cancer



### Part 3: Compound sensitivity screens



Modeling compound sensitivity profiles as mixtures of functions learned from CRISPR

### Modeling compounds as mixtures of latent functions

Reference-query projection



- Modeling compounds as mixtures of functions learned from CRISPR signatures with high similarity represent useful and previously unrecognized connections
	- between two proteins operating in the same pathway
	- between a small-molecule and its protein target
	- between two small-molecules of similar function but structural dissimilarity
- Such a catalog of connections can serve as a functional look-up table of compounds to predict sensitivity and genotoxic profiles and to inform therapeutic use

### Compounds' mechanisms of action

### Compounds are embedded nearby gene functions, reflecting their mechanism of action



### Key takeaways

- Analogously to word semantics, genes can be modeled as distributions over latent bio functions
	- Sparse learning is an effective strategy for learning bio functions from high-dimensional chemical and genetic perturbations
	- New perturbations can be **projected** into learned space



 $geneA$  - func1 + func2  $\approx$  geneB

## https://depmap.org/webster



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Because most repositioned drugs have already passed the early phases of development and clinical testing, they can potentially win approval in less than half the time and at one-quarter of the cost.



12-16 years, ~\$1 billion to \$2 billion

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### Therapeutic use prediction

Comprehensive knowledge graph of 17,080 clinically-recognized diseases

Process various therapeutic tasks, such as indication and contraindication prediction, in a unified formulation



## TxGNN: Mechanistic view of drug effects



Li et al., Graph Representation Learning in Biomedicine and Healthcare. Nature Biomedical Engineering, 2022

### TxGNN

To model this mechanistic view, we need to ground the model in known mechanisms of diseases and drug effects



### Dataset: PrimeKG



## Setting: Baseline approach

Random split across known drug-disease pairs



- Train Drug-Disease Pair
- Test Drug-Disease Pair
- Treatment candidate **A 100 A**
- Molecular underpinnings
- **Existing treatments**
- Target disease Drug
- - Other node types



#### **Scenario A**

- Many known treatments
- Rich molecular underpinnings  $\bullet$

### In this setting, existing methods perform well



### How about other settings?



No treatments  $=$  No links between disease and any drug nodes Poorly characterized mechanisms = Sparse local neighborhoods

## Performance in other settings



#### **Scenario B**

- No existing treatments
- Poorly characterized mechanisms
- Challenging to predict

.. Need better disease embeddings -- Is there an inductive bias (biological rationale) that can be incorporated into the ML model?

Disease embeddings are less meaningful because so many relationships are unknown



### Approach: TxGNN



## TxGNN: Transfer learning across diseases



(1) identify similar diseases

(2) leverage disease similarities

• Once trained, TXGNN can perform zero-shot inference on new diseases without additional parameters or fine-tuning on ground truth labels

.... Treatment candidate, to predict



**Existing treatments** 

• Many known treatments

Molecular underpinnings

- Known molecular understanding
- "Easy" to predict





- No known treatments
- Poor molecular understanding
- "Hard" to predict



• TxGNN improves over existing methods, with up to 49.2% higher accuracy in indication and 35.1% higher accuracy in contraindication



Zero-Shot Prediction of Therapeutic Use with Geometric Deep Learning and Clinician Centered Design, medRxiv, 2023

• TxGNN's novel predictions are consistent with off-label prescription decisions made by clinicians in a large healthcare system



Zero-Shot Prediction of Therapeutic Use with Geometric Deep Learning and Clinician Centered Design, medRxiv, 2023

• TxGNN can also predict therapeutic use for recent FDA approvals



### AI-clinician collaboration

"Will clozapine treat unipolar depression? What is the disease treatment mechanism?"



Probing GNN Explainers: A Rigorous Theoretical and Empirical Analysis of GNN Explanation Methods, *AISTATS* 2022

Extending the Nested Model for User-Centric XAI: A Design Study on GNN-based Drug Repurposing, *IEEE VIS* 2022 (Best Paper Award) Identification of Disease Treatment Mechanisms through the Multiscale Interactome, Nature Communications 2021

### Clinician-centered AI design



Zero-shot prediction of therapeutic use with geometric deep learning and clinician centered design, medRxiv, 2023 Probing GNN Explainers: A Rigorous Theoretical and Empirical Analysis of GNN Explanation Methods, *AISTATS* 2022 Extending the Nested Model for User-Centric XAI: A Design Study on GNN-based Drug Repurposing, *IEEE VIS* 2022 (Best Paper Award) Identification of Disease Treatment Mechanisms through the Multiscale Interactome, Nature Communications 2021

## Usability study with end users

Compared to a no-explanation baseline in terms of user answer accuracy, exploration time, user confidence, and user agreement across a spectrum of usability questions



Zero-Shot Prediction of Therapeutic Use with Geometric Deep Learning and Clinician Centered Design, medRxiv, 2023 Extending the Nested Model for User-Centric XAI: A Design Study on GNN-based Drug Repurposing, IEEE VIS 2022 (Best Paper Award) <sub>48</sub>

### http://txgnn.org

 $\bullet\bullet\bullet$  $\ddot{}$ **RO** TxGNN Explorer  $\times$  $\leftarrow$ A Not Secure | txgnn.org  $\rightarrow$ C ⇧

#### **R**<sup>2</sup> TxGNN Explorer

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Zero-Shot Prediction of Therapeutic Use with Geometric Deep Learning and Clinician Centered Design, medRxiv, 2023

## Emerging pathogens

The traditional approach of iterative development, experimental testing, clinical validation, and approval of new drugs are not feasible

A more realistic strategy relies on drug repurposing, requiring us to identify clinically approved drugs that have a therapeutic effect in COVID-19 patients



Network Medicine Framework for Identifying Drug Repurposing Opportunities for Covid-19, *PNAS* 2021

### How to represent COVID-19? Map SARS-CoV2 targets to the human interactome



Network Medicine Framework for Identifying Drug Repurposing Opportunities for Covid-19, *PNAS* 2021

### COVID-19 disease module



Gordon et al., Nature 2020 expressed 26 of the 29 SARS-CoV2 proteins and used AP-MS to identify 332 human proteins to which viral proteins bind

Network Medicine Framework for Identifying Drug Repurposing Opportunities for Covid-19, *PNAS* 2021



Density

Full Interactome



#### Key Insight: subgraphs **Alzheimer's Alzheimer's**



### Idea: Use the paradigm of embeddings to operationalize the concept of closeness in pharmacological space

Network Medicine Framework for Identifying Drug Repurposing Opportunities for Covid-19, *PNAS* 2021

### Computational setup

- Proxy for ground-truth information:
	- **Monitor drugs under clinical trials**
	- § Capture the medical community's assessment of drugs with potential COVID-19 efficacy **Predictions Finalized**



<sup>54</sup> Network Medicine Framework for Identifying Drug Repurposing Opportunities for Covid-19, *PNAS* 2021

### Embedding space



## **D1 D2 D3 D4 D5 P1 P2 P3 A1 A2 A3 A4** Results: COVID-19 Repurposing



Individual ROC we test each pipeline's ability to recover drugs currently in clinical trials for COVID-19

> The best individual ROC curves are obtained by the GNN methods

The second-best performance is provided by the proximity P3. Close behind is P1 with  $AUC = 0.68$  and  $AUC = 0.58$ De<br>
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Diffusion methods offer ROC between 0.55-0.56

### Final Prediction Model – Part #1



## Final Prediction Model – Part #2

### **Methods**



- Repurposing strategies focus on drugs previously approved for other pathogens, or on drugs that target the human proteins to which viral proteins bind.
- Most approved drugs do not target directly disease proteins but bind to proteins in their network vicinity
- § [Yildirim, Nature Biotech. 2007]
- Identify drug candidates that have the potential to perturb the network vicinity of the COVID-19 disease module.
- Implement 3 Network Repurposing Methods.





Network Diffusion 5 pipelines



Al Prioritization 4 pipelines

### Final Prediction Model – Part #3 **A3**

**Dank Aggregation Algorithm:** Maximize the number of **pair of the number of**  $\alpha$ pairwise agreements between the final ranking and each input ranking.

e com<br>ne as The combined performance of the AI methods is 0.87, the same as A3.

Improvement for proximity pipelines:  $0.70 \rightarrow 0.72$ .

Combined diffusion pipelines have lower performance (0.54 vs 0.56, for D1, D2, and D4).

Combining all 12 pipelines, gives AUROC=0.89, the highest of any individual or combination-based pipelines,

Individual pipelines offer complementary information harnessed by the combined ranking.



### Combined ROC



### Predicted Druga **Candidates**

86 drugs selected from the top 10% of the rank list.

Respiratory drugs (e.g., theophylline, montelukast).

Cardiovascular systems (e.g., verapamil, atorvastatin).

Antibiotics used to treat viral (e.g., ribavirin, lopinavir), parasitic (e.g., hydroxychloroquine, ivermectin, praziquantel), bacterial (e.g., rifaximin, sulfanilamide), mycotic (e.g., fluconazole), and mycobacterial (e.g., isoniazid) infections.

Immunomodulating/anti-inflammatory drugs (e.g., interferon-β, auranofin, montelukast, colchicine)

Anti-proteasomal drugs (e.g., bortezomib, carfilzomib)

Less obvious choices: aminoglutethimide, melatonin, levothyroxine, calcitriol, selegiline, deferoxamine, mitoxantrone, metformin, nintedanib, cinacalcet, and sildenafil.



# of Clinical trials from ClinicalTrials.gov

Joseph Loscalzo

 $(4)$ 

Hydralazine Gemfibrozil Ruxolitinib Propranolol Carbamazepine





Network Medicine Framework for Identifying Drug Repurposing Opportunities for Covid-19, *PNAS* 2021

## Experimental validation of predictions



National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratories (NEIDL)





#### Ranked lists of drugs

#### New algorithms:

Prioritizing Network Communities, *Nature Communications* 2018 Subgraph Neural Networks, *NeurIPS* 2020 Graph Meta Learning via Local Subgraphs, *NeurIPS* 2020

Results: 918 compounds screened for their efficacy against SARS-CoV-2 in VeroE6 cells:

- **37 had a strong effect** being active over a broad range of concentrations
- 40 had a weak effect on the virus
- § An order of magnitude higher hit rate among top 100 drugs than prior work

Network Medicine Framework for Identifying Drug Repurposing Opportunities for Covid-19, *PNAS* 2021

### Results: Network drugs

- 76/77 drugs that successfully reduced viral infection do not bind proteins targeted by SARS-CoV-2:
	- These drugs rely on network-based actions that cannot be identified by docking-based strategies



58/77 drugs with positive experimental outcome are among top 750 ranked drugs Network drugs (D3)

Strong

### L14 Quick Check

### **https://forms.gle/B5PBaa2DCTLZpEqh8**

#### **BMI 702: Biomedical Artificial Intelligence**

Foundations of Biomedical Informatics II. Spring 2024

Ouick check quiz for lecture 14: Design of chemical and genetic perturbations, drug repurposing, protein design, emerging uses of generative AI.

Course website and slides: https://zitniklab.hms.harvard.edu/BMI702



#### First and last name\*

Your answer

Harvard email address \*

Your answer

Go to http://txgnn.org and examine predictions for rheumatoid arthritis. Our evaluation will focus on disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARDs), which is a class of drugs indicated for the treatment of several inflammatory arthritides, including rheumatoid arthritis, as well as for the management of other connective tissue diseases and some cancers. Answer the following four questions.

1) What is the predicted rank of sulfasalazine, a common conventional DMARD?

2) What is the predicted rank of methotrexate, another common DMARD?

3) Give two examples of reasoning paths (meta-paths) used by the algorithm to relate rheumatoid arthritis with sulfasalazine. Comment the results.

4) Give two examples of reasoning paths (meta-paths) used by the algorithm to relate rheumatoid arthritis with methotrexate. Comment the results. Examine meta-paths that use this template: Disease-Drug-Gene/Protein-Drug.

Your answer

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