

# Monte Carlo Feature Selection and Rough Sets - A New Approach to Combinatorial Modeling in Systems Biology

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# Machine Learning in Bioinformatics and Systems Biology - the CSc perspective

- A well-known paradigm
- Traditionally:
  - usually a small number of cases
  - ability to discern between decision (outcome) classes
  - quality of classification
- Current and forthcoming:
  - very large number of attributes (variables) and ill-defined systems (attributes >> cases)
  - structure of the classifier: which variables and possibly in which order of significance (ranking)
  - local classifiers (no high quality global classifiers)

## Give me...

- ... the most significantly expressed X
  - gene
  - protein
  - binding
  - etc
- but biology is not one parameter science!

# What the life scientist needs and expects

- Changing the focus in biological research:
  - from single to interacting variables (features, attributes)
  - from analytical models (lines, hyperplanes) to descriptive rule models
- Methodology:
  - Monte Carlo feature selection
  - Rule-based learning - the rough set approach
  - Selection of interacting variables
  - Visualization and interpretation
- Examples of questions
  - which histone modifications and in what combinations associate with exon expression
  - which sequences are cleavable by a protease
  - which mutations of RT play a significant role in drug resistance
- Implications and applications

## The setting

- Classification systems (decision tables) where the number of features is  $\gg$  than the number of objects:
  - gene expression profiles of 50 cancer samples - benign and malicious; 1000 genes will be changing expression levels;  $1000 \gg 50$
  - 500 sequences of RT and the clinical outcome on drug resistance; each sequence has 590 aa's, each with 7 physico-chemical properties;  $4130 \gg 500$
- Such systems are often ill-defined and most approaches will not work
  - one may discover artifacts in the data, not valid relationships

# Rough sets - an approach to approximate modeling

Z. Pawlak

# Rough Set in Gene Expression Analysis

Gene	Tissue1 (T1)	Tissue 2 (T2)	Tissue 3 (T3)	Process
$g_1$	+	+	+	A
$g_2$	+	0	-	B
$g_3$	-	+	+	B
$g_4$	0	+	-	A
$g_5$	0	+	-	B
$g_6$	+	+	+	A
$g_7$	+	-	0	A
$g_8$	-	-	+	B



# Rough Set in Gene Expression Analysis

Gene	Tissue1 (T1)	Tissue 2 (T2)	Tissue 3 (T3)	Process
$g_1$	+	+	+	A
$g_2$	+	0	-	B
$g_3$	-	+	+	B
$g_4$	0	+	-	A
$g_5$	0	+	-	B
$g_6$	+	+	+	A
$g_7$	+	-	0	A
$g_8$	-	-	+	B

Equivalence classes:

$\{g_1, g_6\}$  ,  $\{g_2\}$  ,  $\{g_3\}$  ,  $\{g_4, g_5\}$  ,  $\{g_7\}$  ,  $\{g_8\}$

Decision classes:

$\{g_1, g_4, g_6, g_7\}_A$  ,  $\{g_2, g_3, g_5, g_8\}_B$

# Rough Set in Gene Expression Analysis

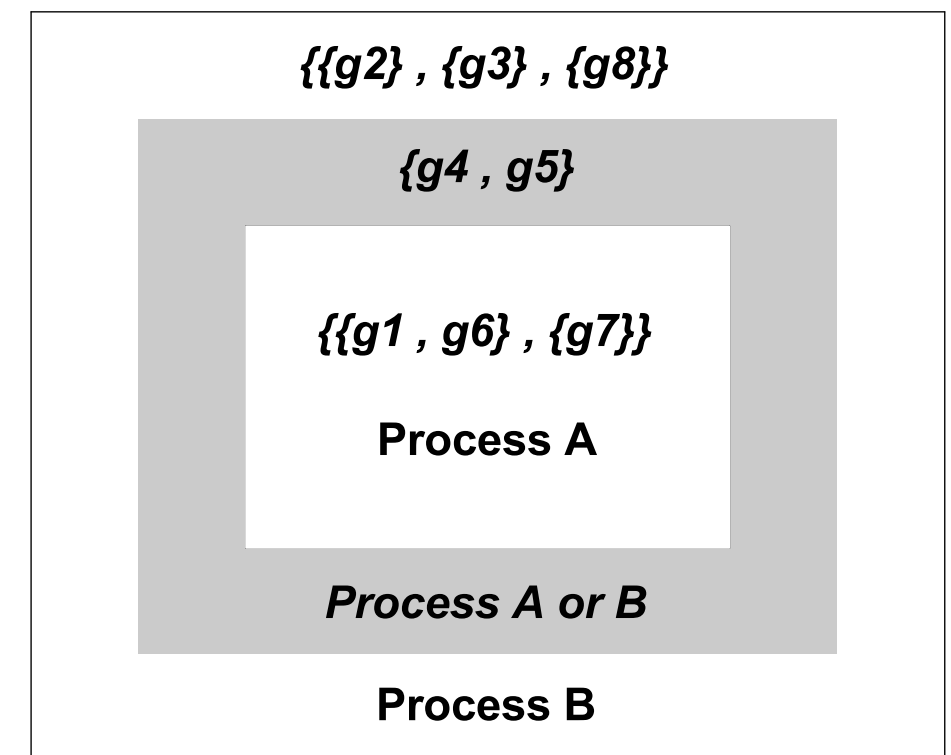
Gene	Tissue1 (T1)	Tissue 2 (T2)	Tissue 3 (T3)	Process
$g_1$	+	+	+	A
$g_2$	+	0	-	B
$g_3$	-	+	+	B
$g_4$	0	+	-	A
$g_5$	0	+	-	B
$g_6$	+	+	+	A
$g_7$	+	-	0	A
$g_8$	-	-	+	B

Equivalence classes:

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Decision classes:

$\{g_1, g_4, g_6, g_7\}_A$  ,  $\{g_2, g_3, g_5, g_8\}_B$



Discernibility matrix modulo decision:

	$g_1$	$g_2$	$g_3$	$g_4$	$g_5$	$g_6$	$g_7$	$g_8$
$g_1$	$\emptyset$							
$g_2$	T2,T3	$\emptyset$						
$g_3$	T1,T3	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$					
$g_4$	$\emptyset$	T1,T2,T3	T1,T3	$\emptyset$				
$g_5$	T1,T3	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$			
$g_6$	$\emptyset$	T2,T3	T1	$\emptyset$	T1,T3	$\emptyset$		
$g_7$	$\emptyset$	T2,T3	T1,T2	$\emptyset$	T1,T2,T3	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	
$g_8$	T1,T2	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	T1,T2,T3	$\emptyset$	T1,T2	T1,T3	$\emptyset$

## Discernibility matrix modulo decision:

	$g_1$	$g_2$	$g_3$	$g_4$	$g_5$	$g_6$	$g_7$	$g_8$
$g_1$	$\emptyset$							
$g_2$	T2,T3	$\emptyset$						
$g_3$	T1,T3	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$					
$g_4$	$\emptyset$	T1,T2,T3	T1,T3	$\emptyset$				
$g_5$	T1,T3	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$			
$g_6$	$\emptyset$	T2,T3	T1	$\emptyset$	T1,T3	$\emptyset$		
$g_7$	$\emptyset$	T2,T3	T1,T2	$\emptyset$	T1,T2,T3	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	
$g_8$	T1,T2	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	T1,T2,T3	$\emptyset$	T1,T2	T1,T3	$\emptyset$

## Discernibility function modulo decision:

$$\begin{aligned}
 f(T1,T2,T3) = & (T2,T3)(T1,T3)(T1,T3)(T1,T2) \\
 & (T1,T2,T3)(T2,T3)(T2,T3) \\
 & (T1,T3)(T1)(T1,T2) \\
 & (T1,T2,T3) \\
 & (T1,T3)(T1,T2,T3) \\
 & (T1,T3) \\
 & (T1,T3)
 \end{aligned}$$

This is a Boolean CD formula that may be simplified

Reduct or prime implicant: {Tissue 1, Tissue 2} , {Tissue1, Tissue 3}

Gene	Tissue1 (T1)	Tissue 2 (T2)	Tissue 3 (T3)	Process
$g_1$	+	+	+	A
$g_2$	+	0	-	B
$g_3$	-	+	+	B
$g_4$	0	+	-	A
$g_5$	0	+	-	B
$g_6$	+	+	+	A
$g_7$	+	-	0	A
$g_8$	-	-	+	B

Gene	Tissue1 (T1)	Tissue 2 (T2)	Tissue 3 (T3)	Process
$g_1$	+	+	+	A
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$g_5$	0	+	-	B
$g_6$	+	+	+	A
$g_7$	+	-	0	A
$g_8$	-	-	+	B

Reduct: {Tissue 1, Tissue 2} , {Tissue1, Tissue 3}

Gene	Tissue1 (T1)	Tissue 2 (T2)	Tissue 3 (T3)	Process
$g_1$	+	+	+	A
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$g_3$	-	+	+	B
$g_4$	0	+	-	A
$g_5$	0	+	-	B
$g_6$	+	+	+	A
$g_7$	+	-	0	A
$g_8$	-	-	+	B

Reduct: {Tissue 1, Tissue 2} , {Tissue1, Tissue 3}

Rules: Tissue1(+) AND Tissue 2(0)  $\Rightarrow$  Process(B)

Tissue1(-) AND Tissue 2(+)  $\Rightarrow$  Process(B)

Tissue1(0) AND Tissue 2(+)  $\Rightarrow$  Process(A) OR Process(B)

Tissue1(+) AND Tissue 2(+)  $\Rightarrow$  Process(A)

Tissue1(+) AND Tissue 2(-)  $\Rightarrow$  Process(A)

Tissue1(-) AND Tissue 2(-)  $\Rightarrow$  Process(B)

Tissue1(+) AND Tissue 3(-)  $\Rightarrow$  Process(B)

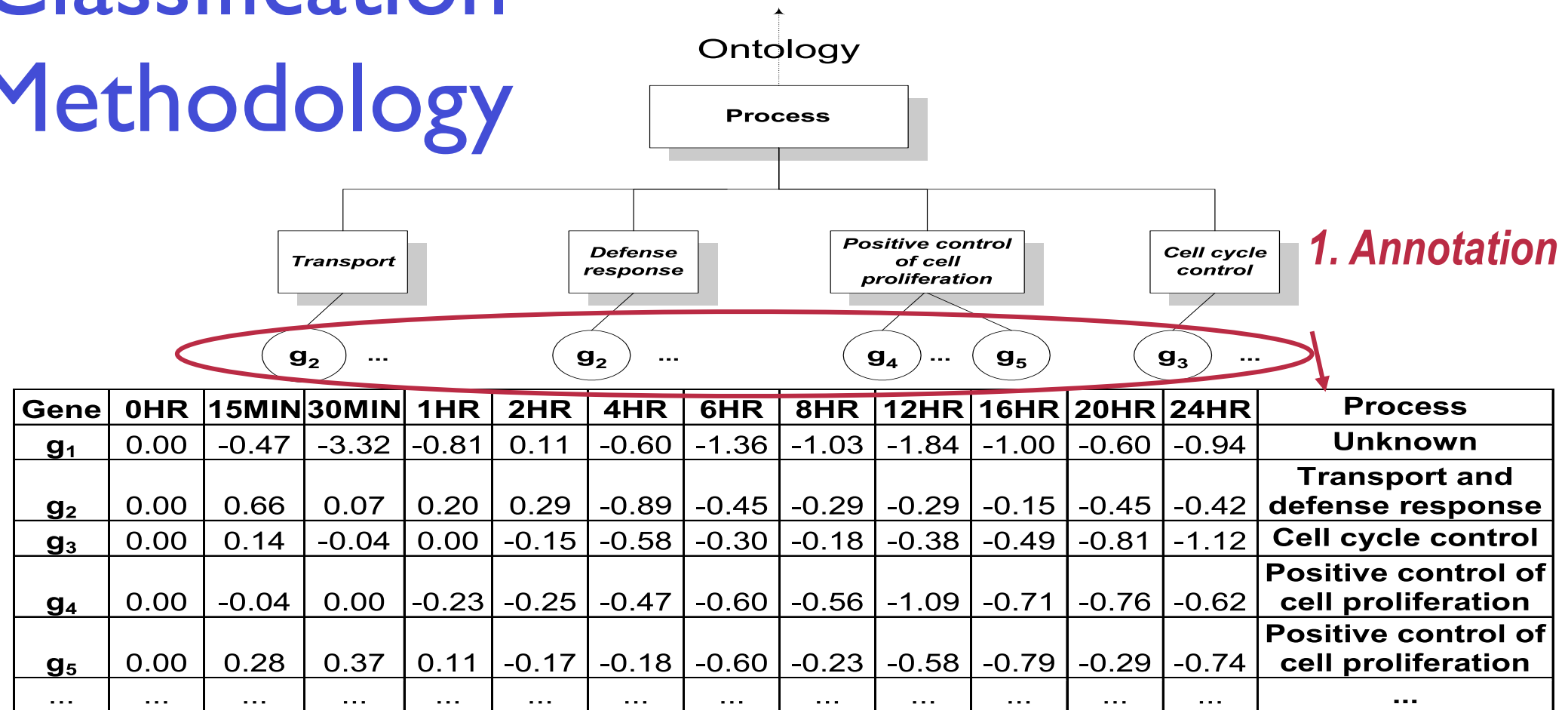
Tissue1(-) AND Tissue 3(+)  $\Rightarrow$  Process(B)

Tissue1(0) AND Tissue 3(-)  $\Rightarrow$  Process(A) OR Process(B)

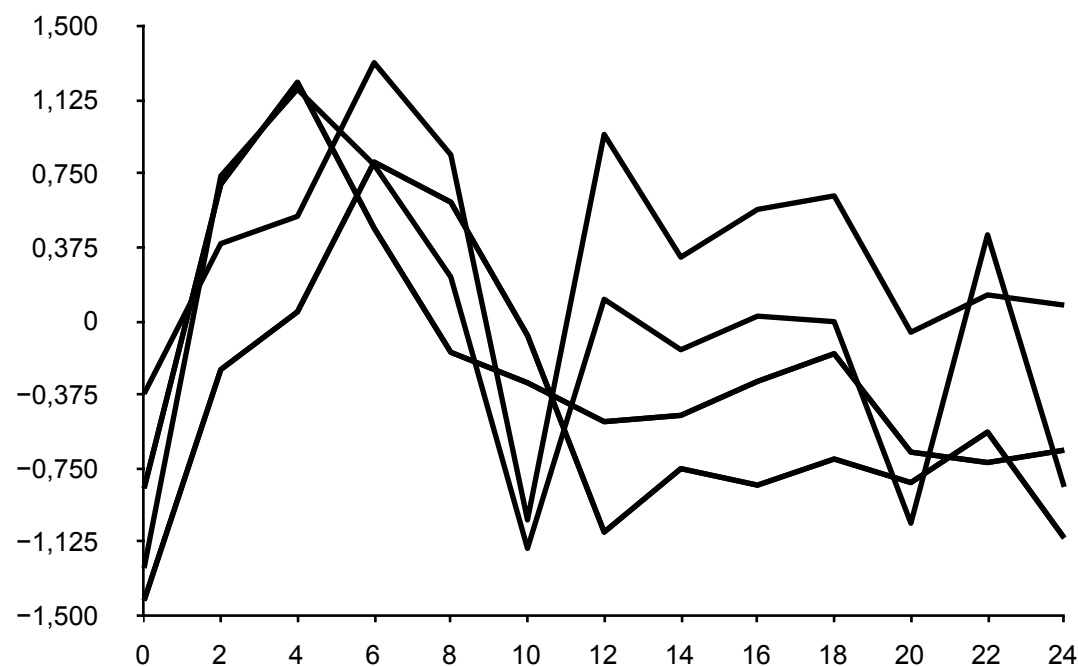
Tissue1(+) AND Tissue 3(+)  $\Rightarrow$  Process(A)

Tissue1(+) AND Tissue 3(0)  $\Rightarrow$  Process(A)

# Classification Methodology



**2. Extracting features for learning**



**3. Inducing minimal decision rules using rough sets**

0 - 4(Increasing) AND 6 - 10(Decreasing)  
AND 14 - 18(Constant) => GO(cell proliferation)

**4. The function of uncharacterized genes is predicted using the rules**





# Rules are generative

- Keep the original coordinates and have no projections:

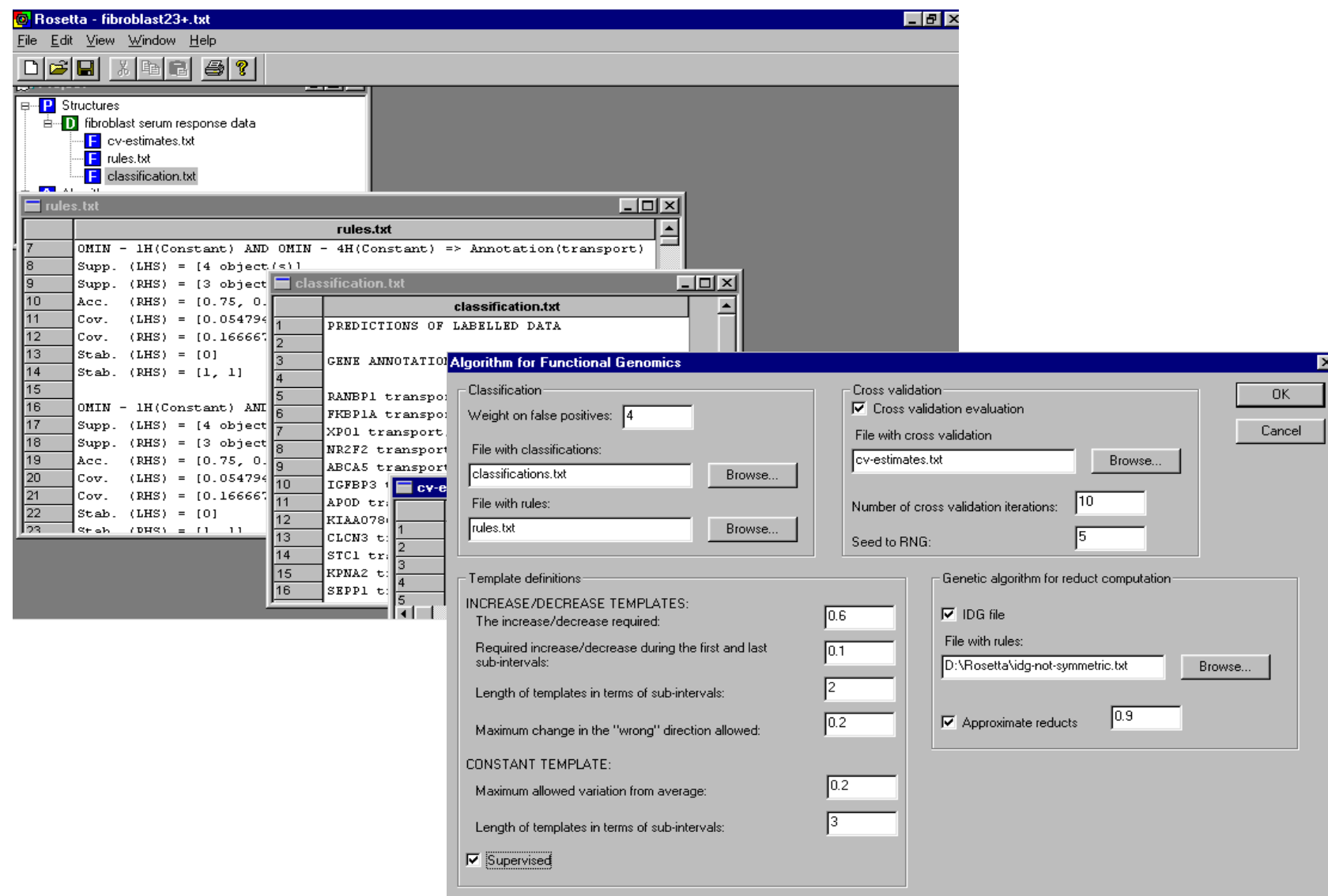
IF (PI0I polarity(-inf, 2.1)) AND ...THEN resistant

IF (PI0I (D or E or H or K or N or Q or R)) AND ...THEN resistant

# And other operations using the Rosetta rough set system

- Rule training
- Cross validation
- Randomization tests, all this in the Rosetta system

<http://www.lcb.uu.se/tools/rosetta/>



# Classification: quality versus interpretability

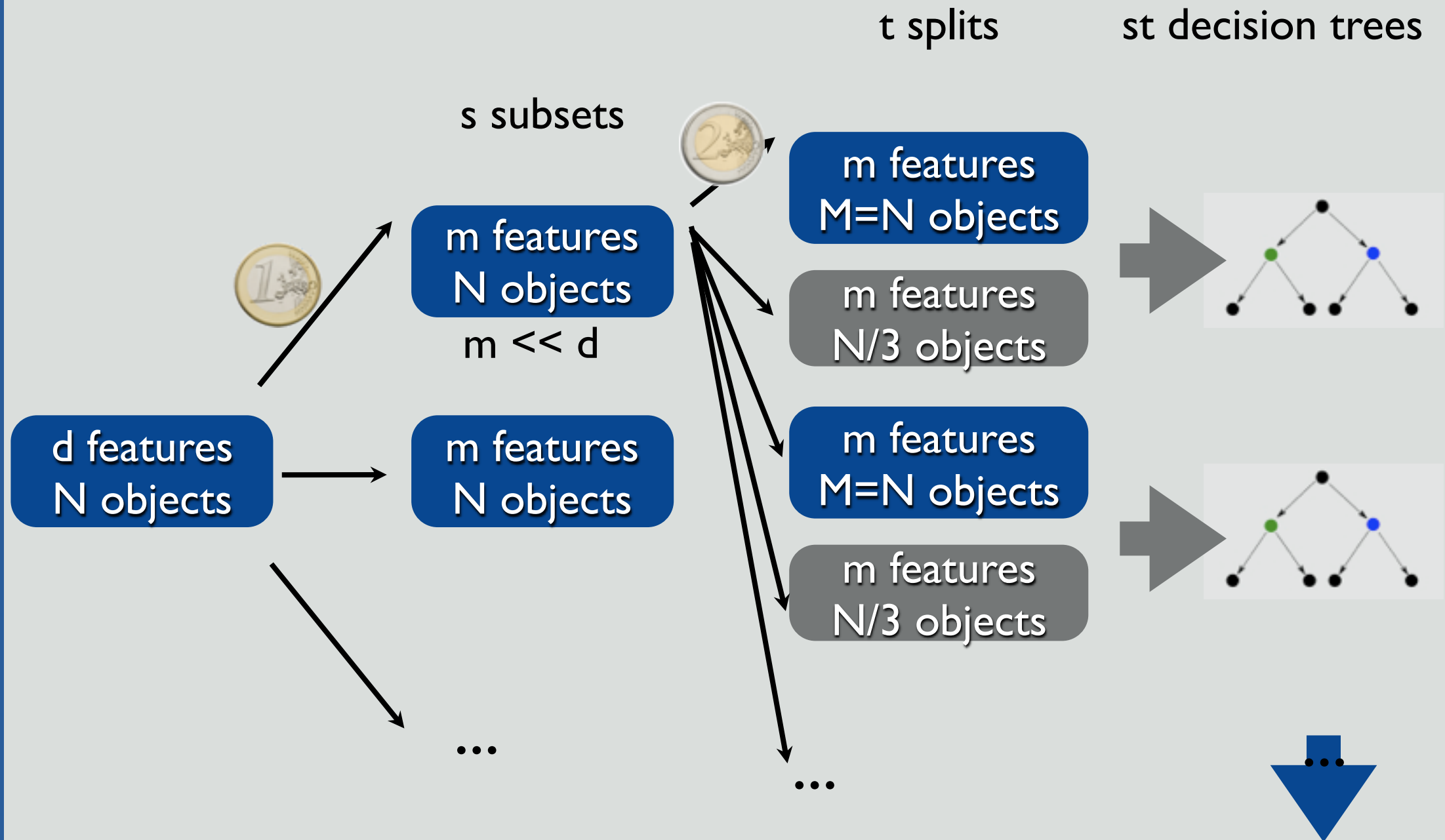
- Traditionally: quality of classification
- Our view: the structure and interpretation of the model in the original (untransformed) language of the experiment:
  - significant features and their ranking
  - easily interpretable results -> networks of interacting features

Transformed	Preserved
neural networks	decision trees
Support Vector Machines	rough sets
linear regression	fuzzy sets
...	...

# Model structure rather than classification ability

- The combined approach of Monte Carlo Feature Selection and Rosetta:
  - features are significance-ranked,
  - models are based on the original coordinates, human legible and have a structure that is amenable to interpretation
  - an novel approach to systems biology
- How:
  - Feature selection
  - rule-based modeling
  - networks of interdependent features
- But: there may be many interacting pairs, triplets, etc, features

# Monte Carlo Feature Selection



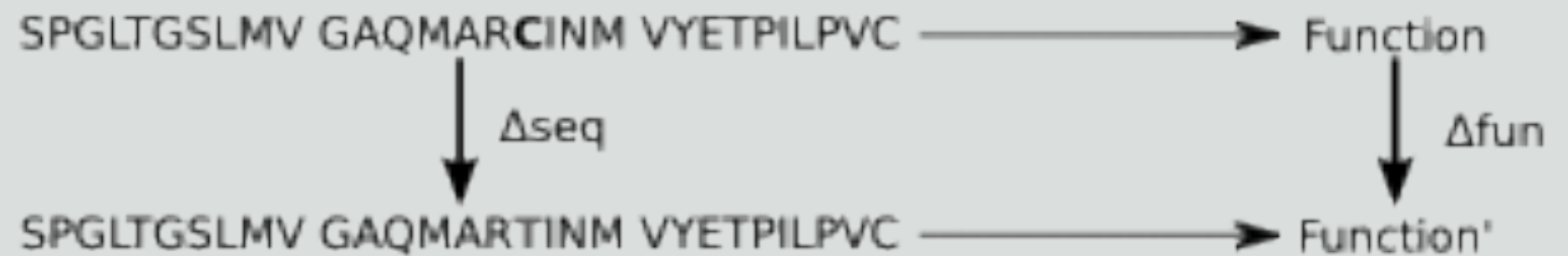
Informal analogy: MCFS = signal amplifier

$s$  increases until the subsequent rankings converge enough

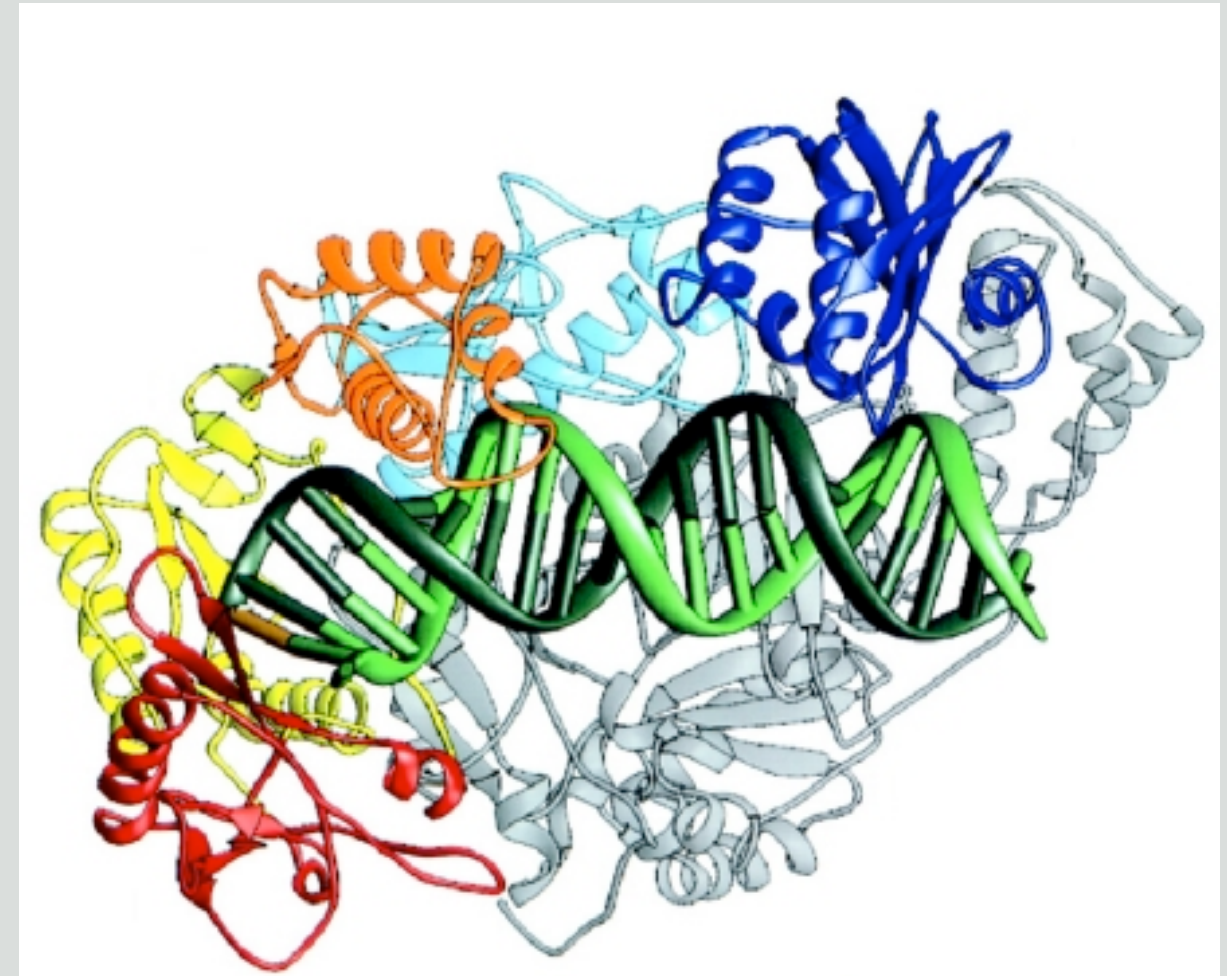
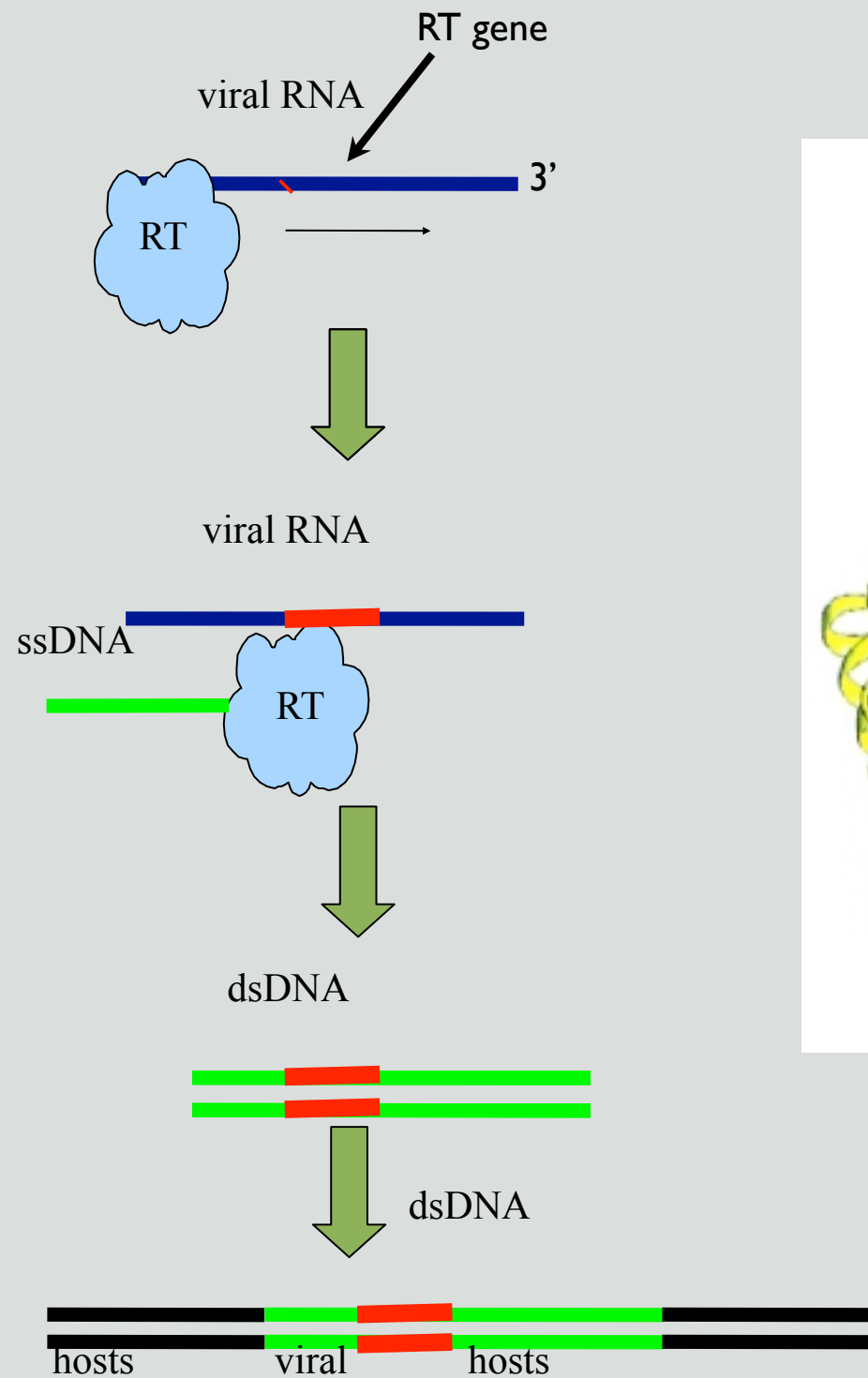
randomization test  $\Rightarrow$  p-value

feature importance ranking

# First case: modeling protein function



# Reverse transcription



after: Huifang H. et al., 1998

- One of the major targets in anti-HIV therapies
- High error rate (no proof-reading activity)



# When and how HIV-1 RT is susceptible to drugs?

- Which aa (positions) in the Reverse Transcriptase contribute to (changing) drug susceptibility?
- And, in what combinations?





# The learning data set

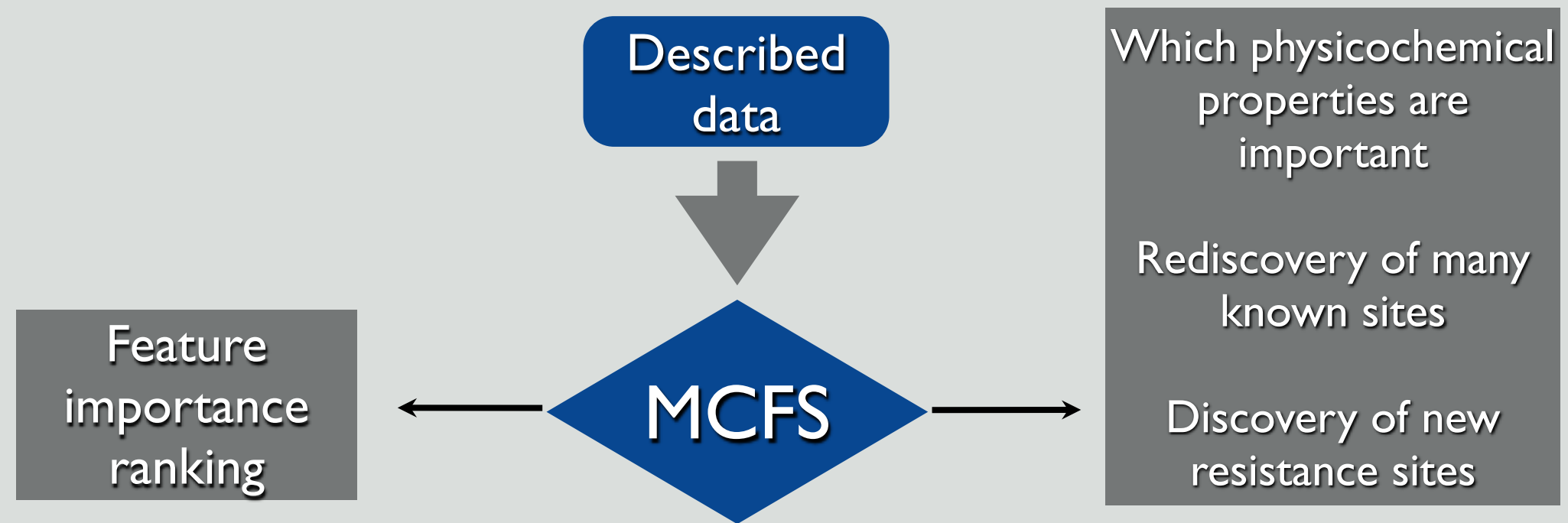
Data pre-processing: alignment and removal of highly incomplete sequences.

For each of the analyzed drugs label it with lab results:  
susceptible, moderate, resistant

```
pispiapvpv klkpgmdgpk ... meqegkisri gpenpyntpi wild-type  
  
pispiapvpv klkpgmdgpk ... meqegkisri gpenryntpi susceptible  
.....  
pispiapvpv klkpgmdgpk ... meqegkisri gpqnpyntpi susceptible  
pispiapvpv klkprmdgpk ... meqegkisri gpenpyntpi moderate  
.....  
pispiapvpv klkpgmdgpk ... meqegkisri gpenpyntpi moderate  
pispiapvpv klkpgvdgpk ... meqegkisri gpenpyntpi resistant  
.....  
pispiapvpv klkvgmdgpk ... meqegkisri gpenpyntpi resistant
```

source: <http://hivdb.stanford.edu>

# Methodology



- *Monte Carlo feature selection and interdependency discovery*, Draminski M, Rada-Iglesias A, Enroth S, Wadelius C, Koronacki J, Komorowski J. *Bioinformatics*, 2008 Jan 1;24(1):110-7; *Advances in Machine Learning* 2010, 11:371-385.



# Results - importance rankings

## Resistance to Abacavir

Rank	Site	Property	Score	Prevalence	Status	
1	P184	E sol. wat.	104.39	0.57	Known for NRTIs (abacavir, didanosine, lamivudine)	*
8	P210	freq. helix	66.11	0.26	Known for NRTIs (abacavir, stavudine, tenofovir, zidovudine)	*
12	P41	isoel. point	41.61	0.4	Known for NRTIs (abacavir, didanosine, stavudine, tenofovir, zidovudine)	*
16	P215	E oct-wat.	34.39	0.54	Known for NRTIs (abacavir, didanosine, stavudine, tenofovir, zidovudine)	*
27	P67	vdW vol.	18.34	0.11	Known for NRTIs (abacavir, stavudine, tenofovir, zidovudine)	*
32	P151	freq. turn	14.55	0.04	Known for NRTIs (abacavir, didanosine, lamivudine, stavudine, zidovudine)	*
33	P75	vdW vol.	14.12	0.09	Known for other NRTIs (stavudine)	+
36	P74	polarity	13	0.11	Known for NRTIs (abacavir, didanosine, tenofovir)	*
37	P219	freq. helix	12.79	0.27	Known for other NRTIs (didanosine, stavudine, zidovudine)	+
39	P118	E oct-wat.	12.48	0.17	Known but considered unimportant	*
41	P44	vdW vol.	12.18	0.1	Known for other NRTIs (tenofovir)	+
49	P43	freq. helix	10.61	0.14	Unknown	+++
54	P116	freq. helix	9.77	0.03	Unknown	+++
59	P115	isoel. point	9.36	0.03	Known for NRTIs (abacavir)	*



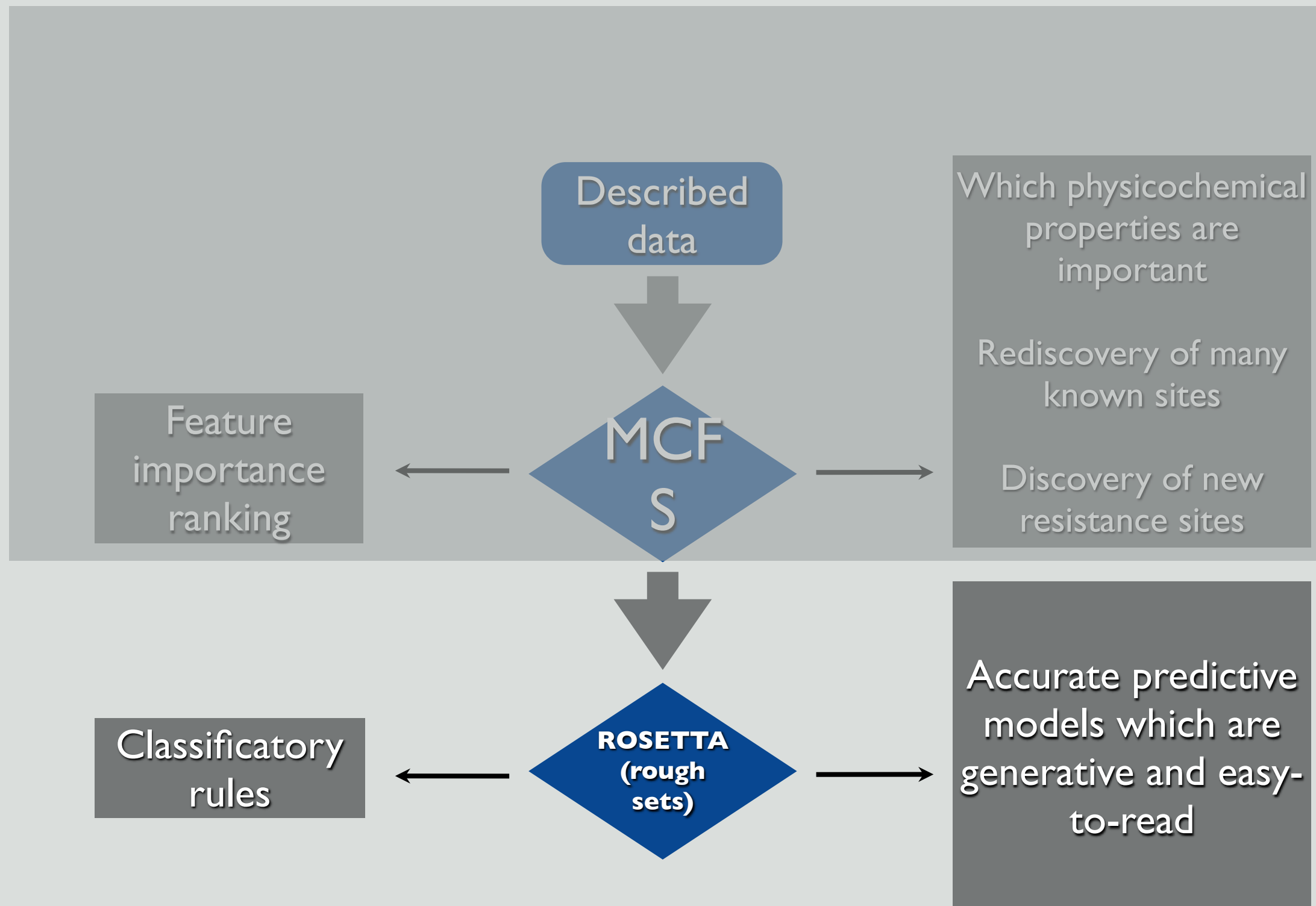
# Results - importance rankings

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# From features to models



Handbook of Data Mining and Knowledge Discovery, W. Klösgen and J. Zytkow (eds.), ch. D.2.3, Oxford University Press. ISBN 0-19-511831-6



# HIV RT

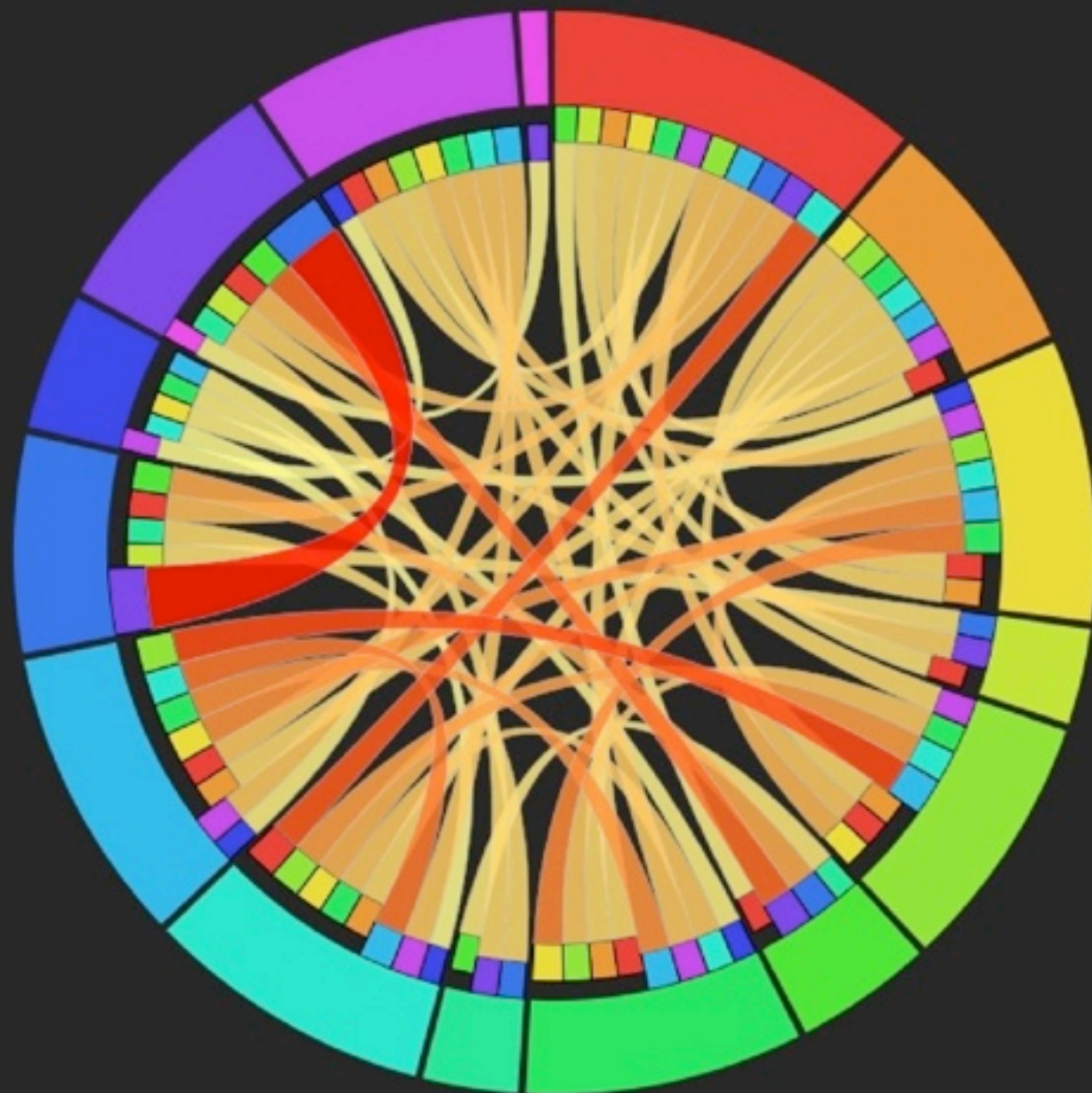
Critical positions : 65, 215, 151, 185, 210, 122

All are among with the selected sites mentioned in the article.

Three of them also show the mentioned top-scoring property.

Decision : "SUSCEPTIBLE" | filtering value : 95 [Select current rules](#)

Attribute : P122\_ZIMJ680104|\*:1.72000|



)),P151\_CRAJ730103([\*:0.12500)),P184\_RADA880102([\*:0.07000)),P184\_CRAJ730103([\*:0.09500)),P215  
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0)),P122\_ZIMJ680104([1.72000;\*)P151\_GRAR740102([\*:2.40000)),P184\_FAUJ880103([\*:0.93000)),P215  
3500)),P184\_ZIMJ680104([-0.11000;44.00000)),P210\_FAUJ880103([\*:44.00000)),P215\_GRAR740102([\*:1  
00)),P184\_CHAM820102([\*:0.13000)),P215\_GRAR740102([\*:1.20000)),  
0)),P184\_CHAM820102([\*:0.13000)),P215\_GRAR740102([\*:1.20000)),  
00)),P184\_CHAM820102([\*:0.13000)),P215\_GRAR740102([\*:1.20000)),  
)),P118\_CRAJ730103([\*:44.00000)),P184\_FAUJ880103([\*:0.93000)),P215\_GRAR740102([\*:1.20000)),  
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)),P184\_FAUJ880103([\*:0.93000)),P215\_GRAR740102([\*:1.20000)),  
0;\*)P184\_ZIMJ680104([-0.11000;44.00000)),P215\_GRAR740102([\*:1.20000)),  
8000)),P215\_GRAR740102([\*:1.20000)),  
-00)),P215\_GRAR740102([\*:1.20000)),  
00)),P215\_GRAR740102([\*:1.20000)),  
)),P70\_RADA880102([0.04000;\*)P184\_FAUJ880103([\*:0.93000)),P215\_GRAR740102([\*:1.20000)),  
00)),  
00)),  
000)),  
P151\_CRAJ730103([\*:0.12500)),P181\_FAUJ880103([1.23500;46.02000)),P215\_GRAR740102([\*:1.20000))



# HIV-RT

Critical positions : 122, 184, 215, 135, 74, 70, 228

All except 70 are among the selected positions in the article

Three of them also show the mentioned top-scoring property.

Decision : "INTERMEDIATE" | filtering value : 95

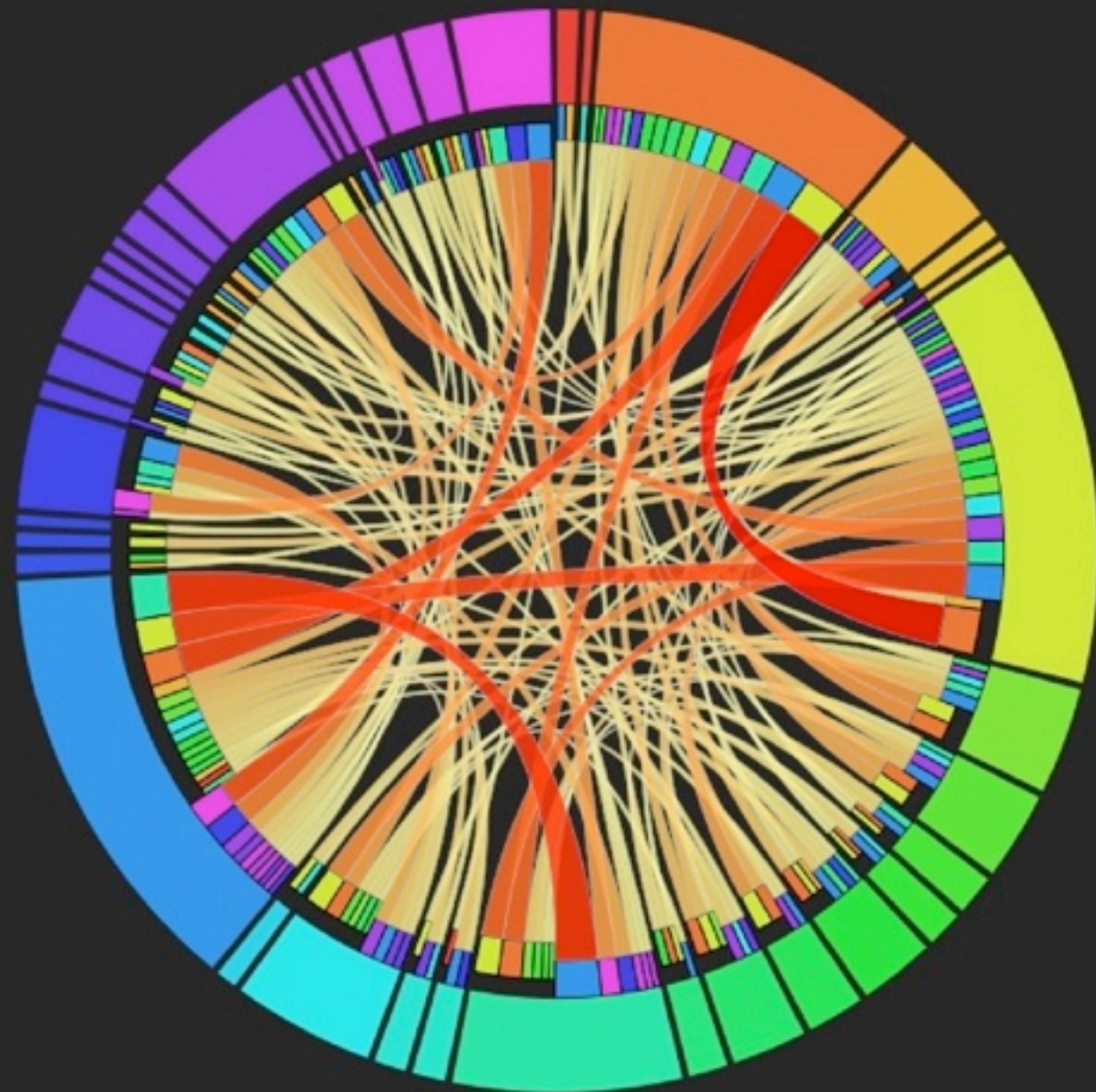
Select current rules

Attribute : P135\_CRAJ730103|m0.01500:0.09500|

## Rules :

LHS

P70\_CRAJ730103([\*:0.02500)),P122\_ZIMJ680104([\*:1.72000)),P135\_CRAJ730103([-0.01500;0.09500)),P74\_BURA740101([\*:0.02000)),P122\_ZIMJ680104([\*:1.72000)),P135\_CRAJ730103([-0.01500;0.09500)),P74\_BURA740101([\*:0.02000)),P122\_ZIMJ680104([\*:1.72000)),P135\_CRAJ730103([-0.01500;0.09500)),P74\_CHAM820102([\*:0.14000)),P122\_ZIMJ680104([\*:1.72000)),P135\_CRAJ730103([-0.01500;0.09500)),P74\_CHAM820102([\*:0.14000)),P122\_ZIMJ680104([\*:1.72000)),P135\_CRAJ730103([-0.01500;0.09500)),P74\_CRAJ730103([\*:0.01500)),P122\_ZIMJ680104([\*:1.72000)),P135\_CRAJ730103([-0.01500;0.09500)),P





# HIV-RT

Critical positions : 75, 210, 181, 43, 184, 135, 118

All except are among the selected positions in the article

One of them also show the mentioned top-scoring property.

Decision : "RESISTANT" | filtering value : 95 [Select current rules](#)

Attribute : P184\_FAUJ880103|0.93000:\*

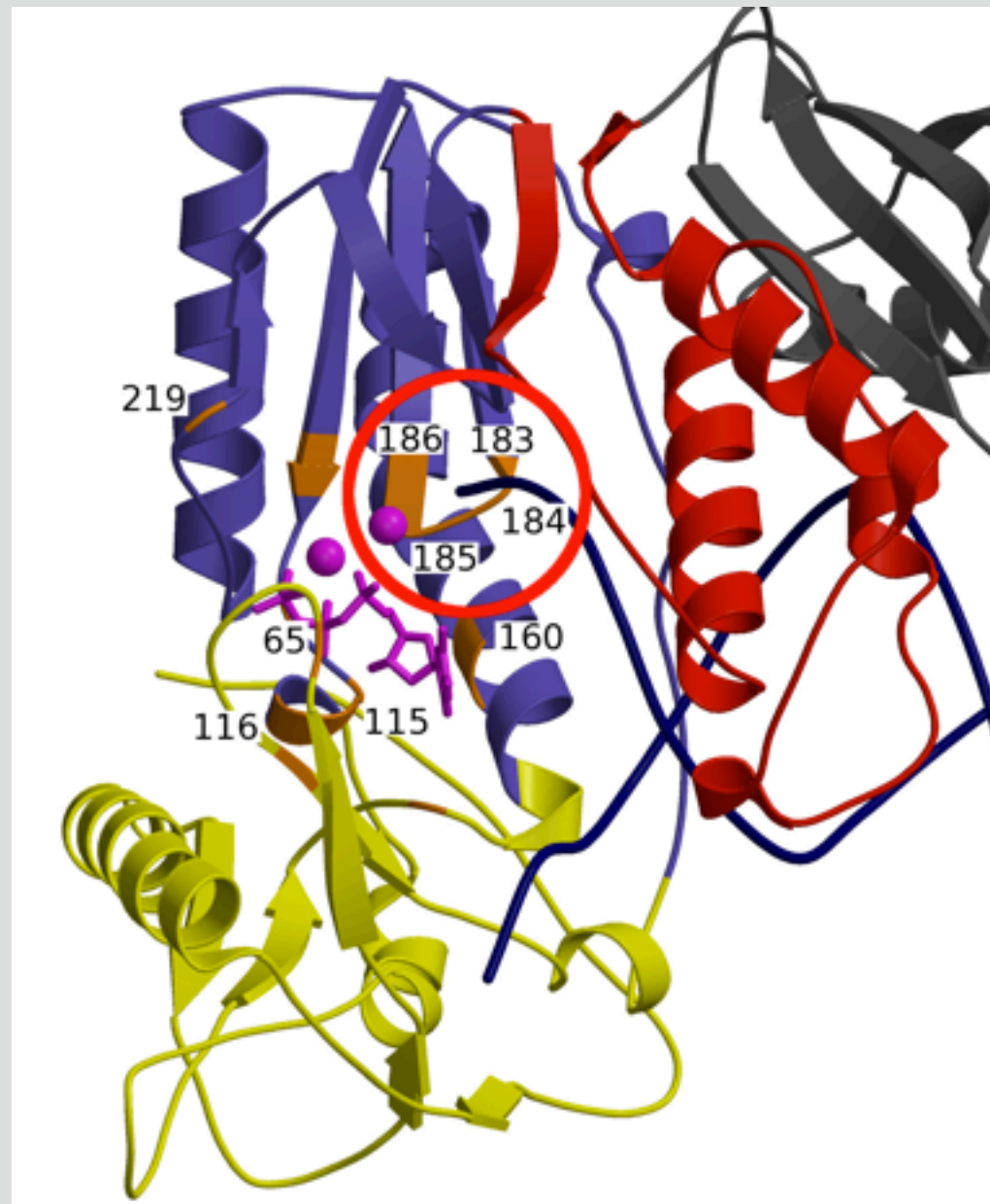
## Rules :

LHS

P43\_ZIMJ680104([5.30500;\*]),P75\_GRAR740102([\*:0.10000)),P184\_BURA740101([0.02000;\*]),P210\_ZI  
P43\_ZIMJ680104([5.30500;\*]),P75\_GRAR740102([\*:0.10000)),P184\_CHAM820102([0.13000;\*]),P210\_ZI  
P43\_ZIMJ680104([5.30500;\*]),P75\_GRAR740102([\*:0.10000)),P184\_RADA880102([0.07000;\*]),P210\_ZI  
P43\_ZIMJ680104([5.30500;\*]),P75\_GRAR740102([\*:0.10000)),P184\_FAUJ880103([0.93000;\*]),P210\_ZIM  
P43\_FAUJ880103([0.90500;\*]),P75\_GRAR740102([\*:0.10000)),P184\_GRAR740102([\*:-0.10000)),P210\_Z  
P43\_FAUJ880103([0.90500;\*]),P75\_GRAR740102([\*:0.10000)),P151\_ZIMJ680104([\*:44.00000)),P184\_GI  
P43\_FAUJ880103([0.90500;\*]),P75\_GRAR740102([\*:0.10000)),P184\_RADA880102([0.07000;\*]),P184\_FA  
P43\_FAUJ880103([0.90500;\*]),P75\_GRAR740102([\*:0.10000)),P151\_ZIMJ680104([\*:44.00000)),P184\_FA  
P74\_FAUJ880103([0.50000;\*]),P75\_GRAR740102([\*:0.10000)),P118\_GRAR740102([\*:0.35000)),P184\_ZI



# Conclusions after 3D mapping



For the indicated sites - in vitro testing recommended.

# Results

1. Physicochemical property/site rankings.
2. Re-discovery and discovery of several sites.
3. Networks of interdependencies between physicochemical properties.
4. Validation: literature and 3D structure.
5. Ultimate validation: wet-lab experiments.



# Shadowing

- **Shadowing** occurs when two or more variables (features) in the system carry at least partially the same information correlated with the decision attribute.

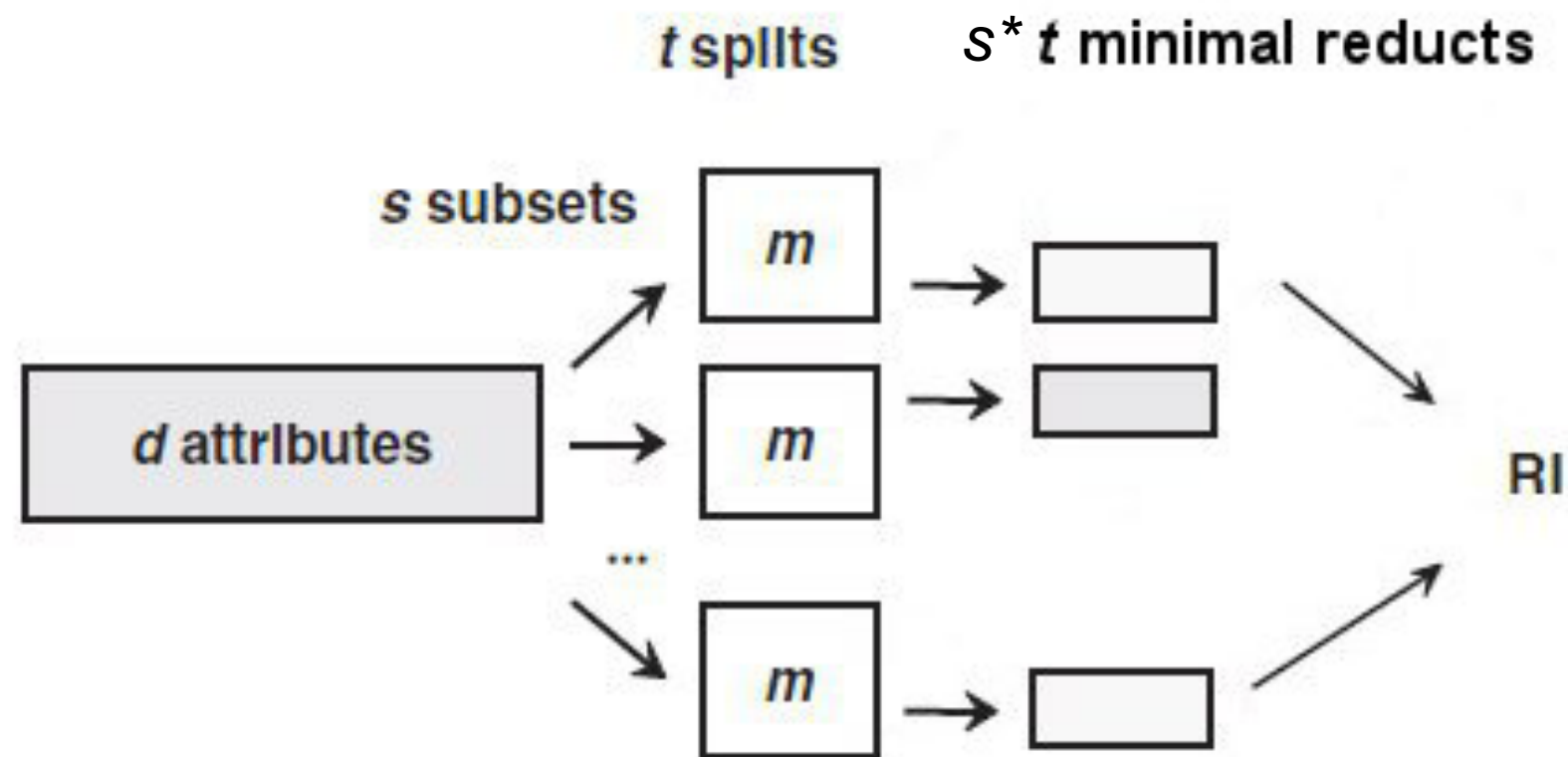
Patient	Fat ratio	Weight	Height	Risk of heart disease
Patient no 1	low	low	medium	low
Patient no 2	low	high	tall	low
Patient no 3	high	high	medium	high

- To determine the risk, measure **Fat ratio** and **Weight**, or **Fat ratio** and **Height**. Therefore, Weight shadows Height and vice versa.

# How to deal with shadowing

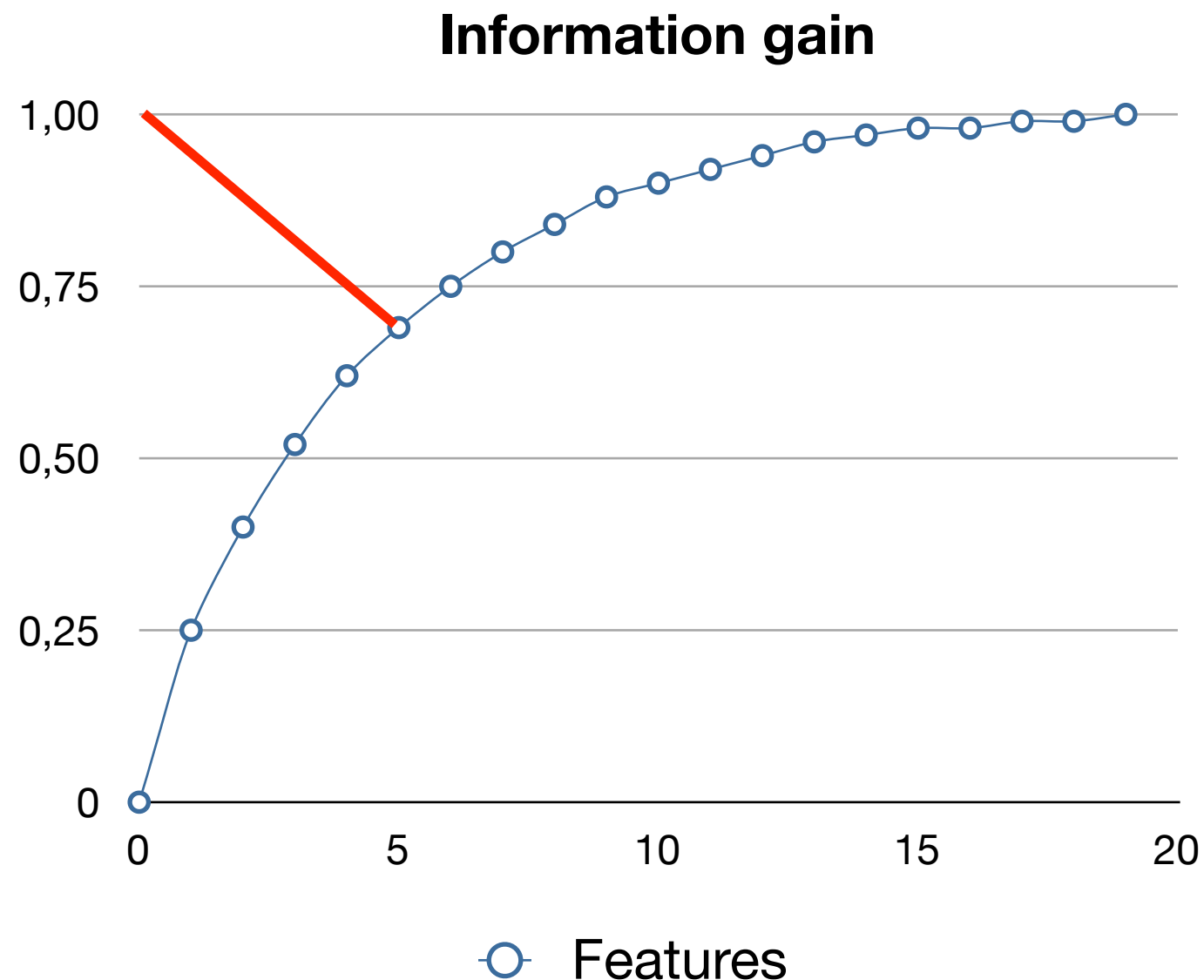
- Proposal:
  - instead of computing decision trees compute random reducts
  - if efficiency is the issue, replace the randomization step with ROC-based selection

# The Random Reduct algorithm (RR)



# Cut-off point calculation

- MCFS and Random Reducts use simple Permutation Tests for cut-off point calculation (decision is made basing on p-values)
- Random Reducts has so called *fast option*



# Simulation Data Preparation

- Generate data with features correlated to the decision on different levels
- Add copies of some of the features to the dataset (fully shadowing features)

# MCFS and RR comparison in terms of shadowing

MCFS results		RR results	
Feature ID	Correlation to decision	Feature ID	Correlation to decision
F1	72,07%	F1	72,07%
F2	69,41%	F2	69,41%
F5	67,20%	F3	69,41%
F6	65,74%	F4	67,20%
F7	61,13%	F5	67,20%
F8	59,68%	F6	65,74%
F10	57,93%	F8	59,68%
F12	53,61%	F7	61,13%
F11	53,66%	F9	57,93%
F14	51,94%	F10	57,93%
F15	49,33%	F11	53,66%
F16	48,89%	F12	53,61%
F17	46,01%	F13	51,94%
F19	45,47%	F14	51,94%
F20	42,93%	F16	48,89%
F22	40,35%	F15	49,33%
F23	36,35%	F17	46,01%
F24	37,21%	F18	45,47%
F25	35,28%	F19	45,47%



# Biological data tests

The tests have been performed on a virus protein sequences dataset containing over 4000 features and 752 objects

	<b>MCFS (10k projections, 30 permutations)</b>	<b>RR (10k projections, 30 permutations)</b>	<b>RR (10k projections, fast option - 1 iteration)</b>	<b>RR (10k projections, fast option - 6 iterations)</b>
<b>Time of evaluation</b>	60,345 s	21,642 s	497 s	1207 s
<b>Number of features</b>	305	1847	1163	22
<b>Accuracy of the model</b>	95,1%	97,1%	95,3%	91,8%
<b>Speed Difference</b>		2.787x	121.418x	49.99x

# Summary of the methodology

- MCFS/RR to select ranked and significant features
- Rule-based model to provide a legible model
- If model not accurate for all outcomes, choose locally accurate ones
- RR to remove shadowing and run very efficiently

# Conclusions

- The structure (features and rules) of a classifier is more important to explaining the modeled phenomenon (outcome, decision) than its numerical qualities (accuracy, AUC)
- Generative property allows constructing chimeric cases and biological validation
- A new approach to network (system) biology
  - Pairs of interacting features extracted from the rules give a well-defined systems (differential) view of the features that determine the outcome

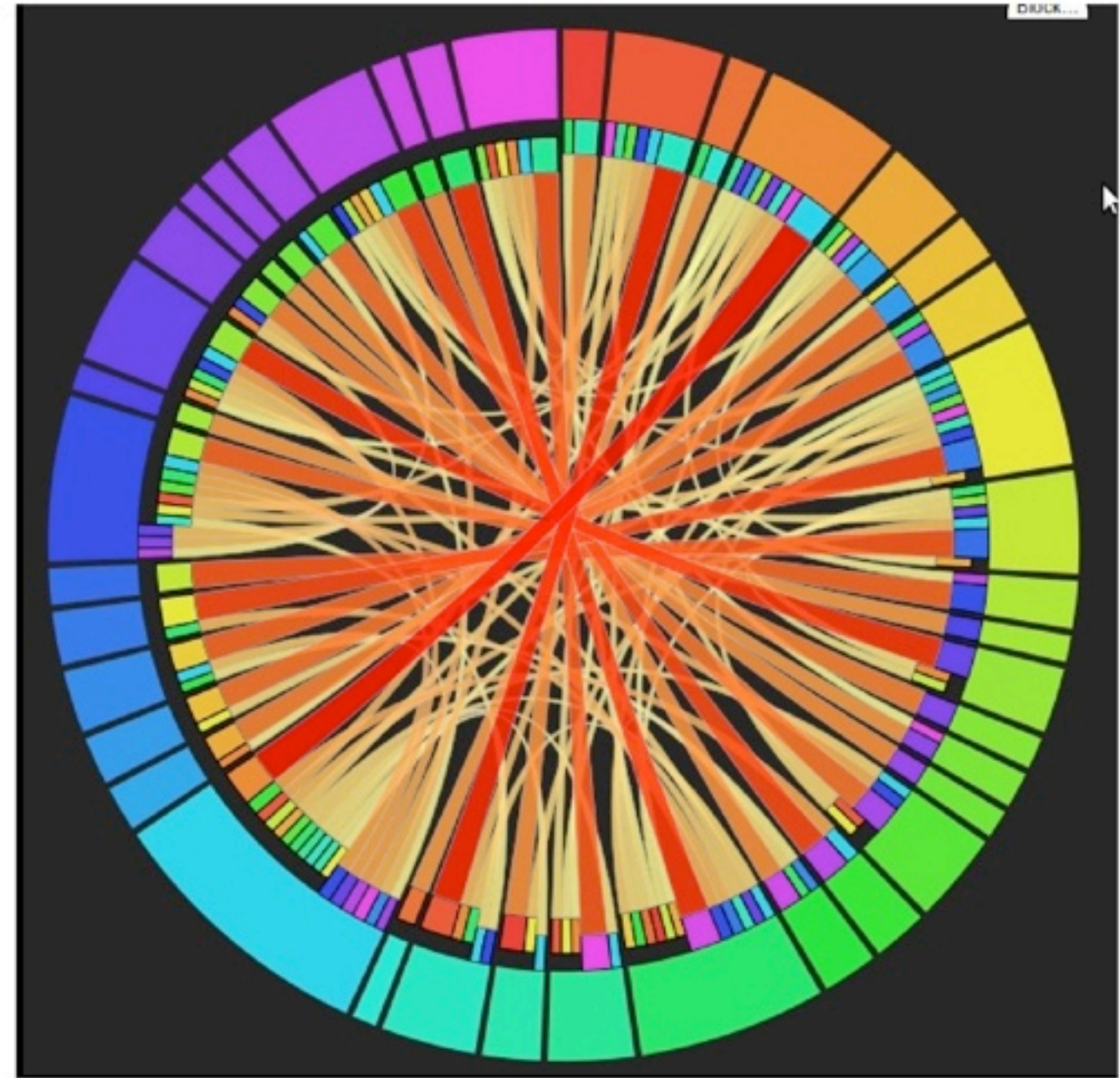
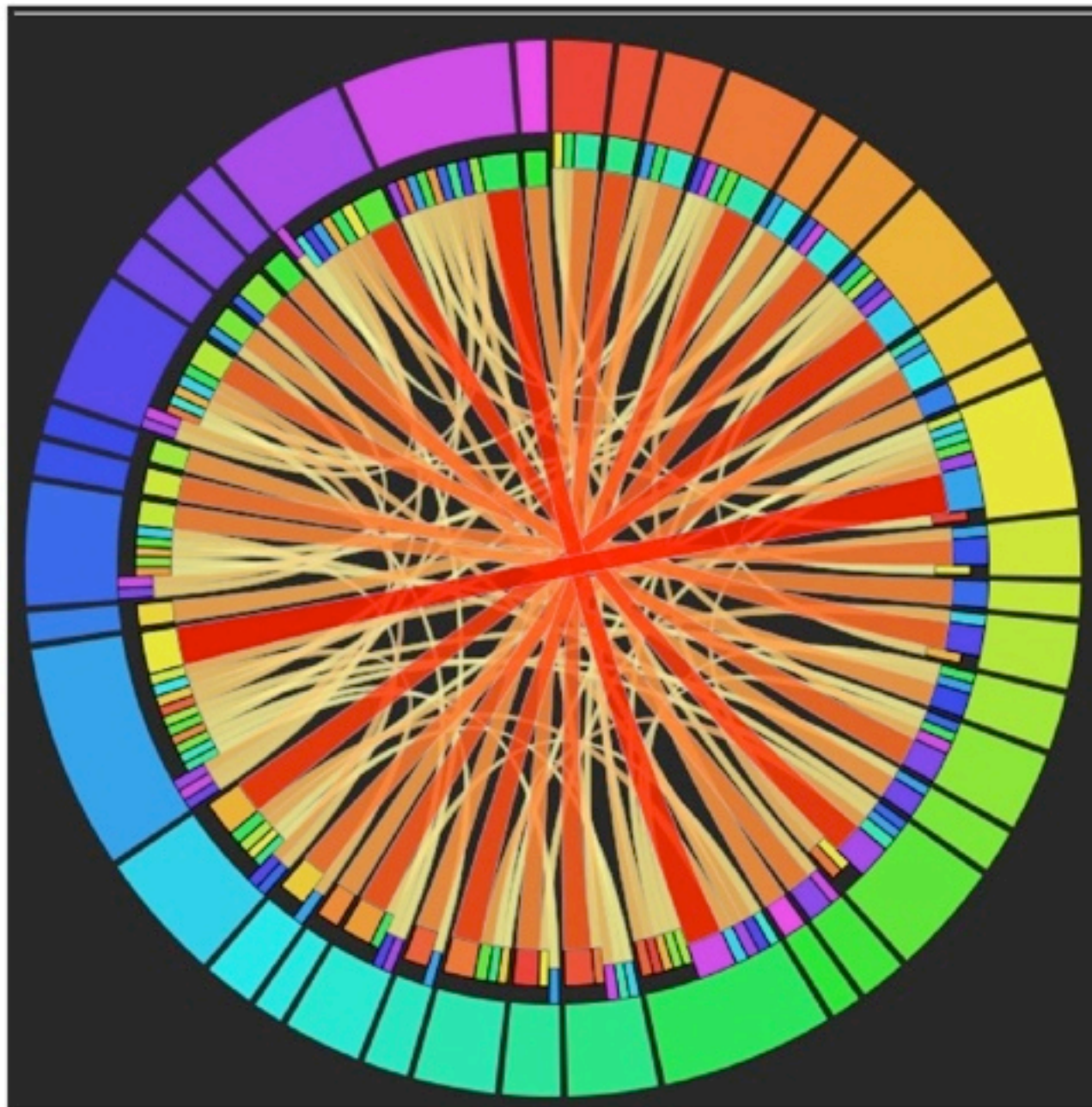
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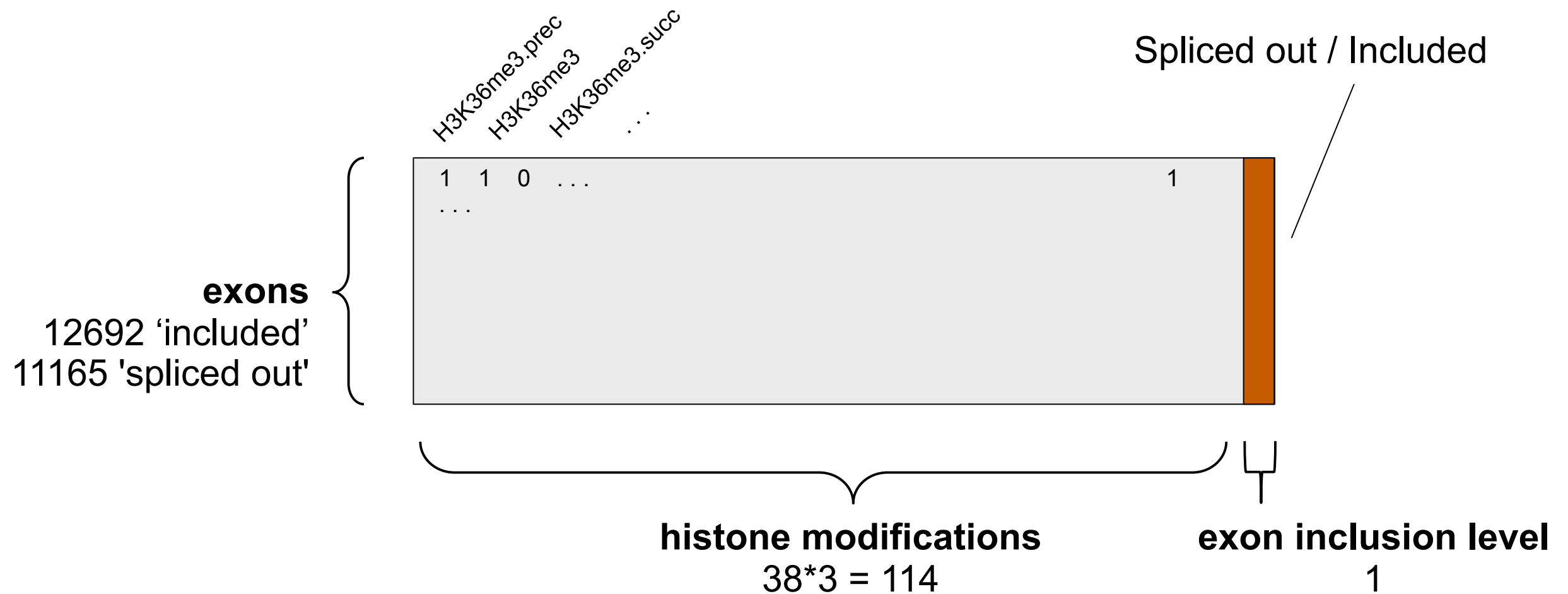


# Test on artificial data

The related attributes are on the opposite side of the circle



# Another classification problem



## A sample rule:

**IF** H2BK5me1.prec=1 **AND** H2BK5me1.succ=1 **AND** H3K4me1.succ=0 **AND** H3K36me3.prec=0 **AND** H3K36me3.succ=0 **AND** H4K20me1.prec=1 **AND** H4K91ac.prec=1 **THEN** Inclusion\_level='Spliced out'