Bag of Naïve Bayes: biomarker selection and classification from Genome-Wide SNP data

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Context

Complex disease, with hypothesized but still not understood genetic origin

Genome Wide Association Study (GWAS)

- $O(10^6)$ Single Nucleotyde Polymorphisms (SNPs)
- $O(10^3)$ case / control individuals
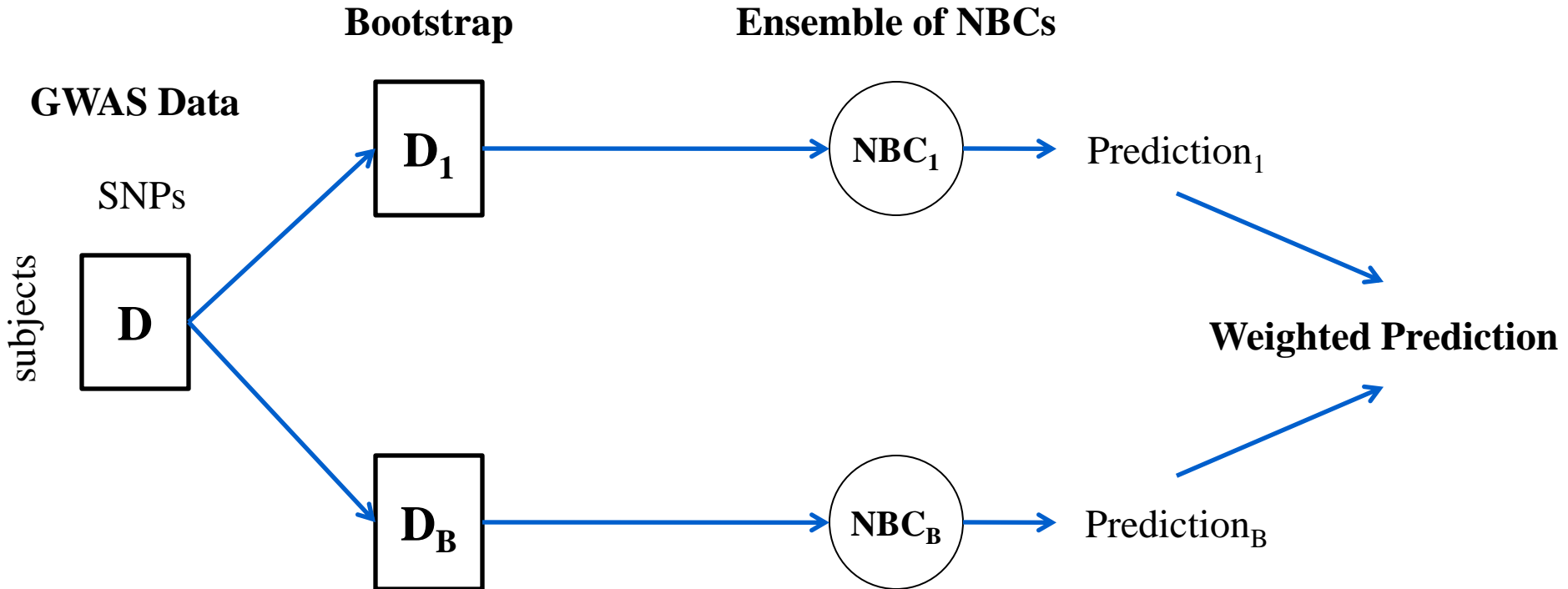
Objectives:

1. Biomarker Selection

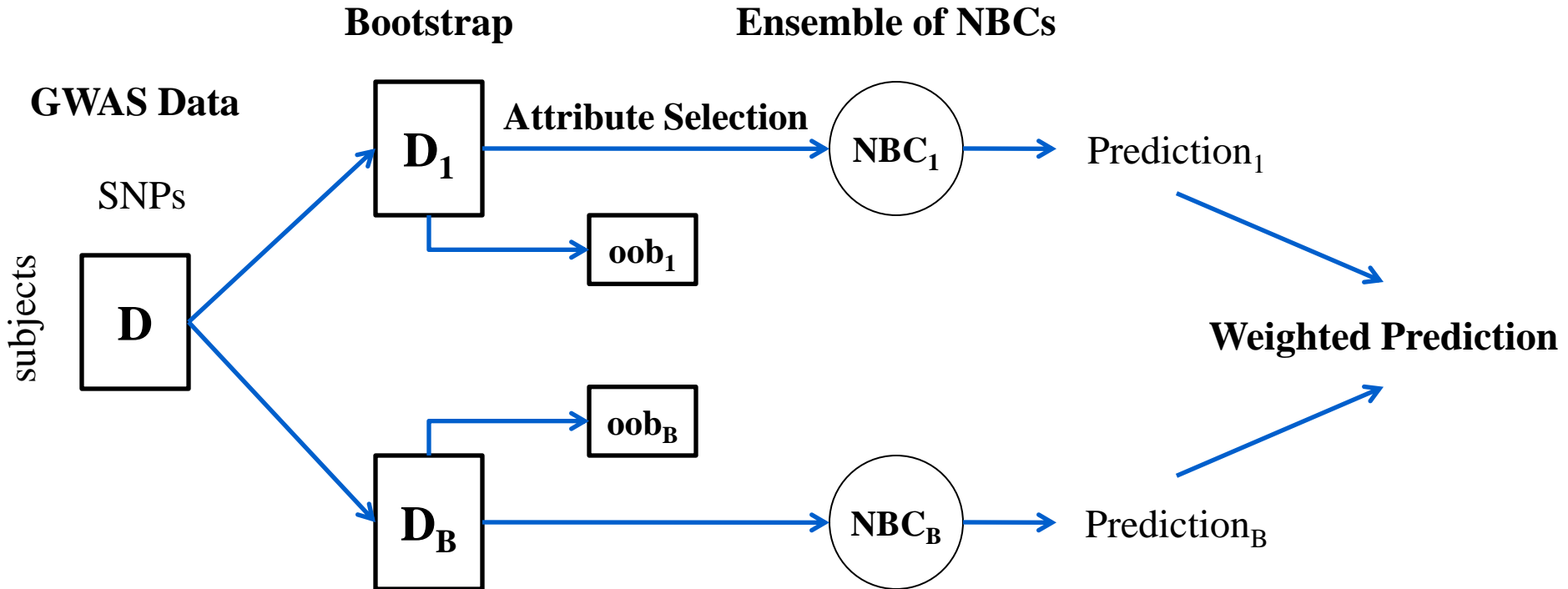2. Classification

Bag of Naïve Bayes (BoNB)

- Both classification and biomarker selection

- Based on Naïve Bayes classification

- Main features:

  a) Ensamble of Naïve Bayes Classifiers (NBC), robustness

  b) Novel strategy for ranking and selecting attributes for each NBC, attribute independence

  c) Permutation-based procedure for biomarker selection, based on marginal utility.
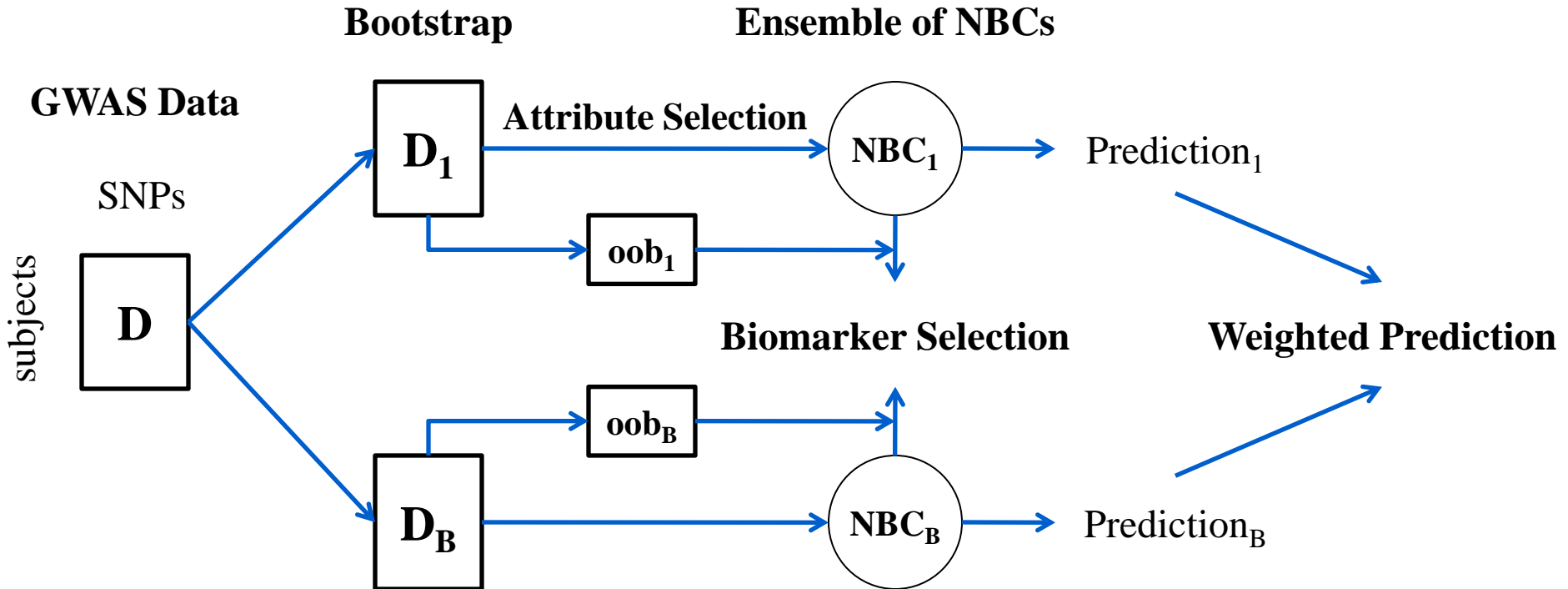
Bagging (Bootstrap AGGregatING)

- B bootstrap replicates, sampled with replacement from D
- B Naive Bayes Classifiers, each trained on a D_b
- Outcome: average of the B predictions

NBC attribute selection (SNPs)

- Ranking: training error when SNP is used as single attribute

- Selection: top ranked, uncorrelated SNPs ($r^2 < 0.1$ if $dist < 1$ Mb)

- Number of selected attributes increased, as long as classification accuracy increases on the Out-Of-Bag (OOB) sets

Biomarker Selection

- Random permutation of the genotype of NBC attributes in OOBs

- Measure decrease in accuracy on OOBs

- Wilcoxon signed-rank test for significance
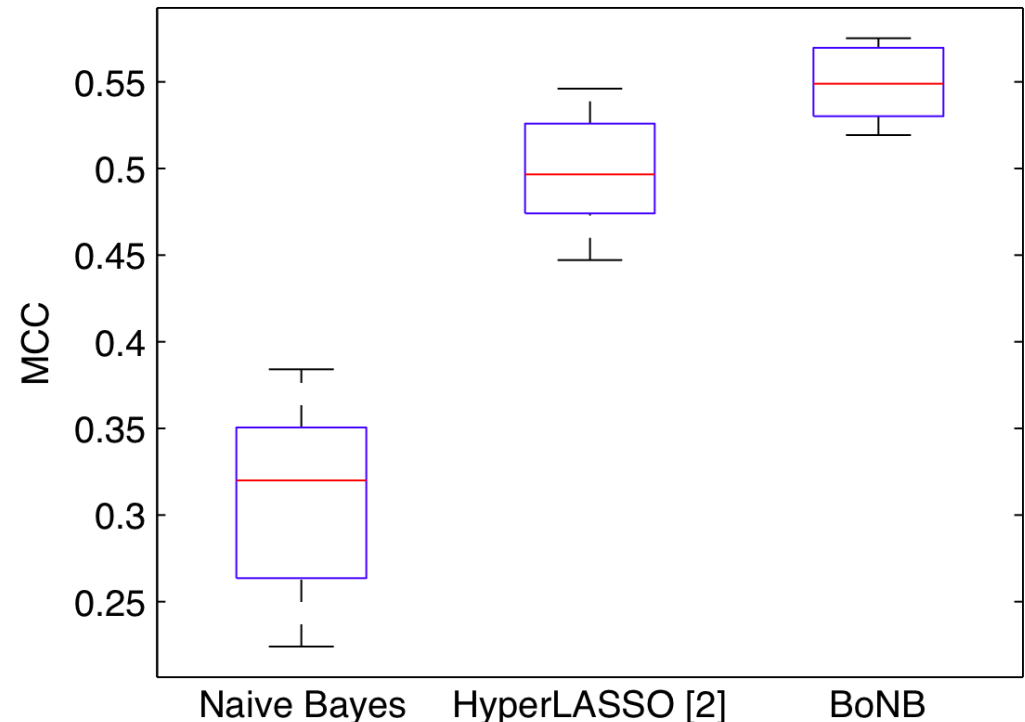
Results

WTCCC case / control study on Type 1 Diabetes

- 458376 SNPs, 1963 T1D cases, 2938 controls

Biomarker Selection

rs ID	chr	gene
rs6679677	1	RSBN1
rs9273363	6	MHC region
rs3101942	6	MHC region
rs492899	6	MHC region
rs6936863	6	MHC region
rs805301	6	MHC region
rs9275418	6	MHC region
rs2856688	6	MHC region

Predictive accuracy

Matthews Correlation Coefficient

Conclusions

- BoNB effective for both classification and biomarker selection

- Advantages of bagging:
    - Higher generalization ability
    - Sound and principled procedure for biomarker selection

- Advantages of Naïve Bayes:
    - No pre-specified model of genetic effect
    - Seamless handling of missing values