Coordinated Epistasis Reveals Symptom-Driven Pathways Towards Major Depressive Disorder

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Major Depressive Disorder (MDD)

5 out of 14 symptoms for a duration of two weeks, including either depressed mood or anhedonia

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Depressed mood Weight loss Waking too early Feeling worthless Lost focus



Loss of joy Weight gain Insomnia Fatigue Suicidal ideation

Complex and polygenic



To identify polygenic pathway leading to MDD



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A model and test for coordinated polygenic epistasis in complex traits

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$y \sim \alpha_i PRS_i + \alpha_j PRS_j + \gamma_{i,j} PRS_i^* PRS_j$

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Testing for CE in MDD



Lifetime MDD in UK Biobank



Lifetime MDD in UK Biobank



MDD in 23&Me summarystatistics predicting in UK Biobank





* = FDR 10%

Are MDD symptoms complex phenotypes with interacting pathways?

CE in MDD symptoms

	γ_{EO}	p_{EO}	$\overline{\gamma}$ chr	p _{chr}
Depressed mood	-1.41E-04	9.76E-01	-2.83E-04	8.77E-15
Anhedonia	5.24E-03	5.34E-01	-1.59E-03	1.73E-08
Weight	1.96E-02	6.25E-02	1.66E-03	5.30E-04
Weight gain	2.83E-02	1.74E-01	3.26E-03	8.75E-08
Weight loss	-9.82E-03	1.89E-01	-2.46E-03	3.3-E-04
Weight change	2.12E-01	1.05E-02	2.51E-03	3.76E-05
Sleep	-9.41E-02	6.98E-02	4.46E-03	1.35E-07
Insomnia	3.71E-03	7.39E-01	1.85E-03	8.04E-03
Hypersomnia	8.71E-03	6.60E-01	1.61E-03	2.04E-04
Early up	-8.95E-02	1.57E-01	-2.52E-03	1.31E-02
Fatigue	2.06E-01	2.83E-02	-1.23E-03	1.13E-06
Worthless	3.21E-02	6.73E-02	-1.09E-03	1.26E-06
Focus loss	3.25E-03	6.82E-01	-2.87E-03	1.22E-11
Suicidal	-3.59E-03	8.14E-01	8.99E-04	2.43E-06

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Characterization of interaction effect estimates







Investigating gamma



i = 11 random chromosomes
j = 11 random chromosomes



Investigating gamma



i = 11 random chromosomes
j = 11 random chromosomes

Chromosome partition

 $y \sim \sum PRS_i \cdot \alpha_i + \sum (PRS_i \cdot PRS_{i+1}) \cdot \gamma_i$

Can we increase CE framework resolution?



Are there symptom interactions towards MDD?



Cross-symptom tests in UK Biobank



Summary

- We identified Coordinated Epistasis (CE) in Major Depressive Disorder and its symptoms.
- We further characterized gamma: it is a distribution.
- We increase resolution and identified symptom-specific pathway interactions driven by loci related to MDD.
- We extend across symptoms and identify symptom-specific pathway interactions towards MDD.











Thank you