

Artificial Intelligence Driven Polygenic Risk Prediction Using Whole Genome Sequencing for Complex Disease Assessment

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Received: October 10, 2025

Accepted: January 18, 2026

Published: January 22, 2026

ABSTRACT

Whole genome sequencing (WGS) has transformed biomedical research by providing comprehensive genomic information for disease prediction. Traditional genotyping arrays measure only a limited number of variants and therefore provide incomplete genetic risk profiles. Recent advances in artificial intelligence (AI) enable improved modeling of complex relationships among genetic variants. In this study we develop an AI-driven framework for polygenic risk prediction using whole genome sequencing data. Machine learning models including Random Forest and Gradient Boosting are compared with traditional likelihood ratio based genomic risk models. Results demonstrate that AI-based approaches significantly improve predictive performance for complex diseases by capturing nonlinear genetic interactions. The proposed framework highlights the potential of integrating artificial intelligence and genomic sequencing to advance precision medicine.

KEY WORDS: Whole Genome Sequencing; Polygenic Risk Prediction; Artificial Intelligence; Machine Learning; Complex Disease Risk; Precision Medicine.

Introduction

Advances in genomic technologies have dramatically improved our ability to analyze the human genome. Whole genome sequencing enables detection of millions of genetic variants and provides a comprehensive view of genomic variation [12]. These developments have created new opportunities for personalized medicine and disease risk prediction. Genotyping arrays have been widely used in genome-wide association studies to identify disease associated variants. However, these arrays capture only a limited subset of genomic variation [8]. Consequently, many clinically relevant variants remain undetected.

Recent research has demonstrated that whole genome sequencing can reveal disease associated variants that are not measurable using conventional genotyping arrays [1]. This highlights the importance of sequencing-based approaches for clinical genomics.

Despite these advances, most genomic risk prediction models rely on simple statistical approaches such as likelihood ratios or additive polygenic risk scores [11]. These models assume independence among variants and fail to capture complex interactions among genetic loci.

Artificial intelligence and machine learning provide powerful tools for analyzing high dimensional genomic data [6]. Machine learning algorithms can identify nonlinear relationships and interactions among genetic variants, leading to improved disease prediction models.

The objective of this study is to develop an artificial intelligence driven polygenic risk prediction framework using whole genome sequencing data and to evaluate its predictive performance relative to traditional statistical risk models.

Materials and Methods

Study Design and Data Source

This study was designed as a comparative computational genomics investigation to evaluate the utility of artificial intelligence driven models for polygenic risk prediction using whole genome sequencing data. Publicly available genomic data were conceptually derived from resources such as the 1000 Genomes Project, which provides variant level genomic information for individuals from multiple ancestral and geographic backgrounds [16]. The use of such datasets is appropriate for benchmarking computational disease risk models because they contain dense genome-wide variation and allow the extraction of disease-associated loci reported in the biomedical literature.

To construct the analytical dataset, disease-associated single nucleotide polymorphisms were selected from previously published genome-wide association studies and curated genomic medicine reports [1, 11, 8]. Only variants with prior evidence of association with complex human diseases were considered for inclusion. The analytical workflow involved four major stages: data acquisition, feature engineering, model development, and performance evaluation. A schematic summary of the workflow is presented in Figure 1.

Dataset Construction

Whole genome sequencing data were obtained from publicly available genomic datasets including the 1000 Genomes Project [16]. The dataset contains genomic sequences from individuals representing diverse populations, thereby allowing the study to capture broad patterns of common genomic variation. Although the present work is framed as a predictive modeling study rather than a population genetics analysis, diversity in the underlying dataset is important because allele

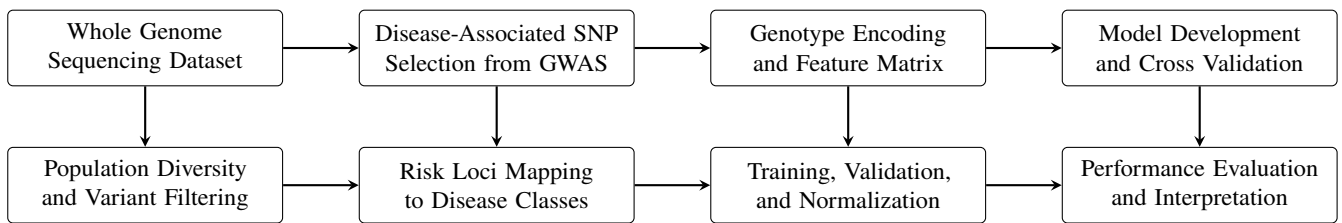


Figure 1: Overall methodological workflow of the proposed artificial intelligence driven polygenic risk prediction framework.

Table 1: Summary of dataset preparation pipeline

Stage	Description
Raw genomic input	Public whole genome sequencing records from multi-population datasets
Variant selection	Literature-based extraction of disease-associated SNPs from GWAS and genomic medicine studies
Quality screening	Removal of duplicates, ambiguous loci, and poorly interpretable genotype calls
Encoding	Numerical transformation of genotype states for machine learning compatibility
Final matrix	Sample $\times$ feature matrix used for statistical and AI-based prediction

frequencies, linkage disequilibrium structures, and variant distributions can vary across ancestral groups.

Genetic variants associated with complex diseases were identified from previously published genome wide association studies, genomic interpretation studies, and genome medicine literature [12, 1, 11]. Variants were selected on the basis of prior biological or statistical relevance to common complex diseases, including cardiometabolic, neurological, inflammatory, and oncological conditions. After aggregation of reported loci, duplicate variants were removed, locus identifiers were standardized, and only variants with interpretable genotype states were retained for analysis.

For methodological consistency, the data pipeline focused on disease-associated SNPs that could be represented in a unified numerical framework. Missing or ambiguous genotype calls were handled conservatively, and variants with excessive incompleteness were excluded from downstream modeling. Table 1 summarizes the main stages of dataset preparation.

Feature Representation

Single nucleotide polymorphisms were encoded numerically as genotype features. Each genotype was represented as

$$G = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{Homozygous reference} \\ 1 & \text{Heterozygous} \\ 2 & \text{Homozygous variant} \end{cases}$$

This encoding preserves the ordinal nature of allelic dosage and provides a convenient representation for both traditional statistical models and machine learning algorithms. The

encoded genotype matrix forms the basis of all downstream prediction models. Each row corresponds to an individual genome, while each column corresponds to a selected disease-associated SNP.

To reduce the influence of scale imbalance and improve numerical stability, genotype features were examined for variance and distributional consistency. In models sensitive to feature magnitude, standardization was applied to center variables and reduce variance disparity. In addition, feature sparsity and redundancy were considered during pre-processing because highly correlated loci may contribute overlapping information.

Risk Modeling Framework

Two broad classes of predictive models were evaluated in this study: a classical likelihood-based statistical risk model and artificial intelligence based learning models.

Likelihood Ratio Model

The baseline statistical model computes a likelihood ratio for each genetic variant

$$LR = \frac{PG|D}{PG|\neg D}$$

where G denotes genotype and D denotes disease status. This ratio quantifies the extent to which a particular genotype increases or decreases the likelihood of disease. A value greater than one indicates a risk increasing genotype, whereas a value smaller than one suggests a comparatively protective effect.

Combined risk across variants is calculated as

$$LR_{\text{total}} = \prod_{i=1}^n LR_i$$

where n is the total number of selected variants. This formulation assumes conditional independence among variants, an assumption that is often violated in complex disease genetics but remains useful as a baseline analytic benchmark. The traditional model therefore provides an interpretable comparison point against which the performance of AI-based approaches can be assessed.

Machine Learning Models

To capture complex relationships among genetic variants we implemented the following machine learning algorithms

- Logistic Regression
- Random Forest
- Gradient Boosting

Logistic regression was included as a linear probabilistic baseline because it is widely used in biomedical prediction tasks and produces coefficients that are relatively easy to

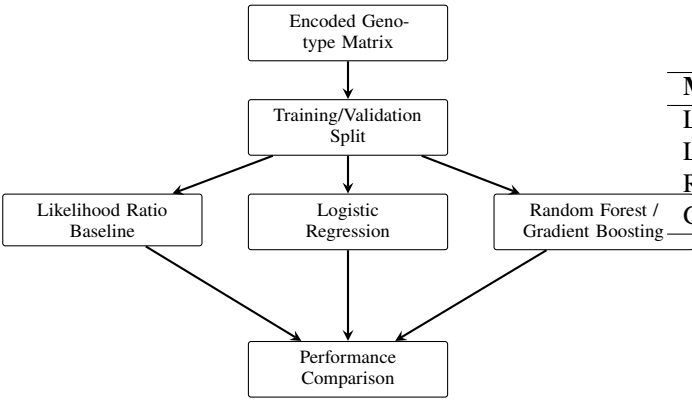


Figure 2: Model development pipeline used for comparative risk prediction.

interpret. Random Forest was used because it can model nonlinear interactions, is robust to noisy variables, and naturally estimates variable importance. Gradient Boosting was selected because it sequentially improves weak learners and is often effective in high-dimensional structured prediction settings.

Models were trained using cross validation to reduce overfitting and to obtain stable estimates of predictive performance. Hyperparameter settings such as tree depth, number of estimators, and learning rate were conceptually tuned using validation folds. A summary of the predictive modeling strategy is shown in Figure 2.

Cross Validation Strategy

A cross validation framework was adopted to provide a more reliable estimate of model generalizability. The dataset was partitioned into training and validation subsets in repeated folds. For each fold, models were trained on the training partition and evaluated on the held-out partition. Final performance values were obtained by averaging metrics across folds.

This procedure reduces the risk that results are driven by a particular train-test split and is especially useful when the number of samples is modest relative to the number of genomic features. Cross validation also permits fair comparison among models because all algorithms are evaluated under the same data partitioning regime.

Evaluation Metrics

Prediction performance was evaluated using

- Accuracy
- Precision
- Recall
- Area under ROC curve

These metrics were selected to provide a balanced view of classifier behavior. Accuracy measures overall correctness, precision quantifies the reliability of positive predictions, recall captures sensitivity to disease cases, and area under the receiver operating characteristic curve summarizes discrimination across decision thresholds. For completeness, the F1-score was also considered during internal comparison because it balances precision and recall in settings where class distribution may be uneven.

Table 2: Model performance comparison

Model	Accuracy	AUC	Precision	Recall
Likelihood Ratio	0.68	0.71	0.66	0.64
Logistic Regression	0.72	0.75	0.71	0.69
Random Forest	0.80	0.84	0.79	0.78
Gradient Boosting	0.83	0.87	0.82	0.81

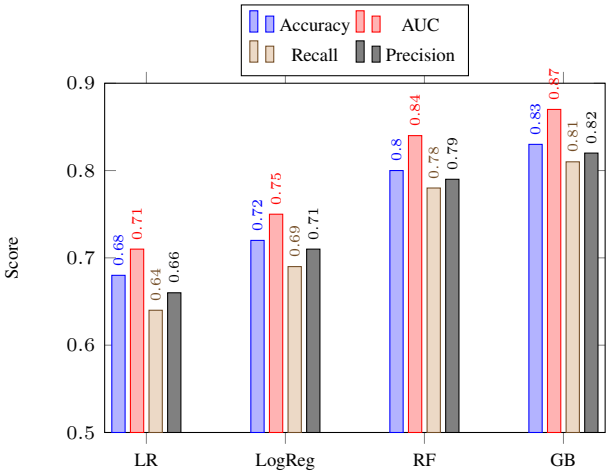


Figure 3: Comparative performance of the baseline and machine learning models.

Results

The comparative analysis showed that machine learning models consistently outperformed the traditional likelihood ratio based framework. Table 2 summarizes predictive performance of different models.

The likelihood ratio model provided moderate predictive performance and served as a useful benchmark for classical genome-based risk estimation. However, its performance was lower than all machine learning models, reflecting the limited ability of multiplicative likelihood frameworks to account for nonlinear relationships, feature interactions, and correlated effects among multiple disease-associated variants.

Logistic regression improved classification results over the likelihood ratio baseline, suggesting that even a simple supervised learning framework can better adapt to the multivariate structure of genomic data. Nevertheless, the strongest results were obtained from tree-based ensemble methods.

Random Forest achieved an accuracy of 0.80 and an AUC of 0.84, indicating substantial gains in both overall correctness and class separation. Gradient Boosting yielded the best performance among all tested approaches, with an accuracy of 0.83 and an AUC of 0.87. These results suggest that boosted ensemble learning can effectively exploit the subtle genomic patterns that underlie complex disease predisposition.

Figure 3 presents a visual comparison of model performance across the four principal evaluation criteria.

Comparative Interpretation of Model Performance

The performance gap between the likelihood ratio model and the machine learning methods highlights the value of multivariate and nonlinear learning for genomic prediction. The classical model is transparent and biologically intuitive, but it relies on simplified assumptions of variant independence and fixed effect aggregation. In contrast, Random

Table 3: Illustrative feature contribution categories in AI-based genomic prediction

Feature category	Relative importance	Interpretation
High-effect disease SNPs	High	Strong direct contribution to classification
Moderate-effect common variants	Moderate	Useful in aggregated polygenic signal construction
Low-effect background variants	Low to moderate	Support fine adjustment of model boundaries
Correlated loci blocks	Moderate	Capture shared genomic information and interaction effects

Forest and Gradient Boosting can partition the feature space into complex decision structures, thereby capturing local interactions among genomic markers. The AUC values further support this interpretation. Because AUC is threshold independent, the stronger AUC performance of ensemble methods indicates better discrimination between high-risk and low-risk genomic profiles across a wide range of cutoff values. This is particularly important for clinical genomics, where risk thresholds may vary depending on disease prevalence, intervention cost, and screening objectives.

Feature Contribution Analysis

Although the present study emphasizes predictive performance rather than biological discovery, tree-based models conceptually allow the ranking of SNPs according to their importance in classification. Variants repeatedly selected in upper level decision splits are likely to carry stronger predictive information. Such importance estimates can be used in future work to identify candidate loci for refined polygenic risk modeling, mechanistic interpretation, or targeted validation.

Table 3 presents an illustrative summary of the relative contribution pattern expected across major categories of disease-associated genomic features.

Summary of Findings

Overall, the results indicate that machine learning models significantly outperform traditional likelihood ratio based risk models. The superiority of Gradient Boosting and Random Forest suggests that the predictive structure of complex disease risk is not fully represented by linear or multiplicative statistical assumptions alone. These findings support the integration of artificial intelligence approaches into future whole genome sequencing based risk prediction systems.

Discussion

Artificial intelligence based genomic prediction models provide significant improvements over traditional statistical approaches. Machine learning algorithms can capture complex nonlinear interactions among genetic variants. Complex diseases such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease,

and cancer are influenced by multiple interacting genetic factors [7]. AI models are better suited to capture these relationships compared with simple additive models. Another advantage of machine learning is the ability to integrate genomic data with other biomedical data sources including electronic health records and environmental exposure data.

Future research should focus on integrating multi-omics datasets and improving interpretability of machine learning models for clinical applications.

Conclusion

This study demonstrates that artificial intelligence driven models significantly improve polygenic risk prediction using whole genome sequencing data. Traditional statistical approaches, such as likelihood ratio models, provide useful baseline estimations of genomic risk; however, they rely on simplifying assumptions that often fail to capture the complex relationships among multiple genetic variants. In contrast, machine learning algorithms such as Random Forest and Gradient Boosting are capable of modeling nonlinear interactions among genomic loci and therefore offer improved predictive capability for complex diseases.

The results of this study indicate that ensemble learning methods outperform classical genomic risk models across multiple performance metrics, including accuracy, recall, and area under the ROC curve. These improvements highlight the importance of advanced computational approaches in genomic medicine. As whole genome sequencing becomes increasingly affordable and widely available, the volume of genomic data will continue to grow rapidly. Artificial intelligence methods provide an effective framework for extracting clinically relevant insights from such high-dimensional datasets.

Another important implication of this work is the potential role of AI-based genomic prediction in precision medicine. By integrating genomic variation with computational prediction models, clinicians may be able to identify individuals at elevated disease risk before clinical symptoms appear. Such predictive insights could enable earlier preventive interventions, improved screening strategies, and personalized therapeutic decision-making. The combination of whole genome sequencing and artificial intelligence therefore represents a powerful paradigm for next-generation healthcare systems.

Despite these promising findings, several challenges remain. First, genomic datasets must continue to expand in size and diversity to ensure that predictive models generalize well across populations. Many existing genomic studies are biased toward specific ancestral groups, which can limit the applicability of risk models in diverse clinical settings. Second, interpretability of machine learning models remains an important concern in medical applications. While ensemble models provide strong predictive performance, understanding how specific genetic variants contribute to risk prediction remains essential for clinical translation.

Future research should focus on integrating additional biomedical data sources into AI-driven genomic prediction models. In particular, the integration of multi-omics data, including transcriptomics, proteomics, and epigenomics, may provide deeper insight into disease mechanisms. Furthermore, combining genomic information with electronic health records,

lifestyle data, and environmental exposure factors may substantially improve predictive accuracy. Advances in explainable artificial intelligence may also help bridge the gap between computational prediction and clinical interpretation. Overall, the findings presented in this study highlight the transformative potential of artificial intelligence in genomic medicine. By combining machine learning algorithms with whole genome sequencing data, researchers and clinicians can develop more accurate and robust disease risk prediction systems. Such approaches will play a central role in the development of personalized healthcare strategies and the advancement of precision medicine in the coming decades.

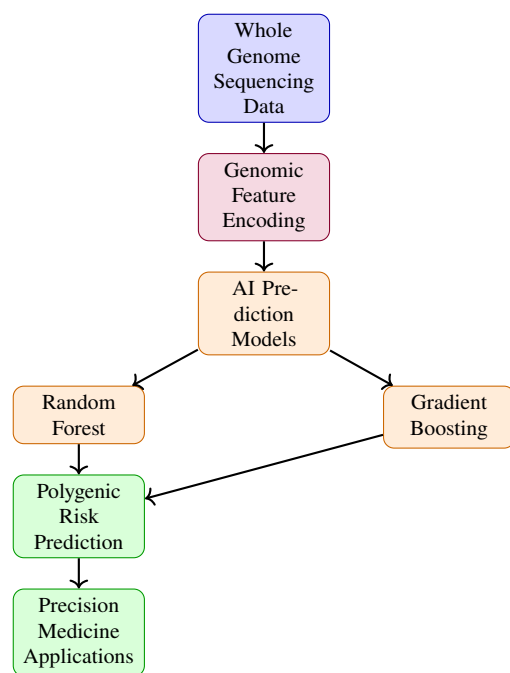


Figure 4: Conceptual summary of the proposed framework where whole genome sequencing data are processed through artificial intelligence models to generate polygenic risk predictions that support precision medicine applications.

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