Accurate and scalable multi-disease classification from adaptive immune repertoires

Running title: Scalable Multi-Disease Classification

Natnicha Jiravejchakul[a,b,i], Ayan Sengupta[c,i], Songling Li[a,b], Debottam Upadhyaya[c], Mara A. Llamas-Covarrubias[d],

Florian Hauer[c], Soichiro Haruna[b], and Daron M. Standley[a,b]

[a]Department of Systems Immunology, Immunology Frontier Research Institute (IFReC), The University of Osaka,

3-1 Yamadaoka, Suita, Osaka, 565-0871, Japan

[b]Department of Genome Informatics, Research Institute for Microbial Diseases (RIMD), The University of Osaka,

3-1 Yamadaoka, Suita, Osaka, 565-0871, Japan

[c]MyImmune Corporation, 251 Little Falls Drive, Wilmington, DE 19808, United States

[d]Department of Human Host Defense, Comprehensive Education and Research Center for Infectious Diseases

(CiDER), 1-10 Yamadaoka, Suita, Osaka, 565-0871, Japan

[i]Denotes that these authors contributed equally to this work

*Corresponding author: standley@biken.osaka-u.ac.jp

Summary

Background Machine learning models trained on paratope-similarity networks have shown superior accuracy

compared with clonotype-based models in binary disease classification. However, the computational demands of

paratope networks hinder their use on large datasets and multi-disease classification.

Methods We reanalyzed publicly available T cell receptor (TCR) repertoire data from 1,421 donors across 15 disease

groups and a large control group, encompassing approximately 81 million TCR sequences. To address computational

bottlenecks, we replaced the paratope-similarity network approach (Paratope Cluster Occupancy or PCO) with a new

Fast Approximate Clustering Techniques (FACTS) pipeline, which is comprised of four main steps: (1) high-

dimensional vector encoding of sequences; (2) efficient clustering of the resulting vectors; (3) donor-level feature

construction from cluster distributions; and (4) gradient-boosted decision tree classification for multi-class disease

prediction.

Findings FACTS processed 10^7 sequences in under 120 CPU hours. Using only TCR data, and evaluated with 5-fold

cross-validation, it achieved a mean ROC AUC of 0.99 across 16 disease classes. Compared with the recently reported

Mal-ID model, FACTS achieved higher donor-level classification accuracy for BCR (0.840 vs. 0.740), TCR (0.882

vs. 0.751), and combined BCR+TCR datasets (0.904 vs. 0.853) on the six-class Mal-ID benchmark. FACTS also

preserved biologically meaningful signals, as shown by unsupervised t-SNE projections revealing distinct disease-

associated and potentially age-associated clusters.

Interpretation Paratope-based encoding with FACTS-derived features provides a scalable and biologically grounded

approach for adaptive immune receptor (AIR) repertoire classification. The resulting classifier achieves superior

multi-disease diagnostic performance while maintaining interpretability, supporting its potential for clinical and
population-scale health profiling.

Funding This study was supported by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) KAKENHI
[JA23H034980], the Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED) [JP25am0101001], and the
Kishimoto Foundation Fellowship.

Research in context

Evidence before this study

T and B cell receptor (TCR and BCR) repertoires encode lifelong immunological memory and antigen-specific
responses, making them valuable biomarkers for disease diagnosis and prediction. Existing machine learning (ML)
models for adaptive immune receptor (AIR) repertoires often rely on clonotype-based representations, which limit
shared receptor detection between donors and thus reduce cross-individual disease signature detection. Most models
also lack robust multi-disease, population-scale performance. Our previous work showed that representing repertoires
as paratope-similarity networks increased the fraction of shared receptors between donors and improved disease
classification. However, their computational complexity has limited their scalability for the large datasets required in
multi-disease classification.

Added value of this study

We introduce FACTS, a unified ML framework integrating paratope similarity with scalable sequence encoding.
Applied to TCR repertoires from 1,421 donors across 15 diseases and one control group, FACTS maintained high
performance while efficiently processing 81 million sequences on standard CPU infrastructure. Compared to Mal-ID,
our paratope-encoded method achieved significantly higher donor-level accuracy and revealed biologically
meaningful disease- and potentially age-associated patterns.

Implications of all the available evidence

FACTS offers high accuracy, and interpretability for multi-disease classification, bringing AIR repertoire-based
diagnostics closer to clinical translation and potentially guiding precision immunotherapy and immune-based
therapeutic discovery for a wide range of diseases.

1 Introduction

B and T lymphocytes generate diverse antigen receptors through somatic V(D)J gene recombination[1,2]. The resulting
B-cell receptors (BCRs) and T-cell receptors (TCRs), collectively known as adaptive immune receptors (AIRs), record
a lifelong molecular record of antigen encounters. AIRs can be profiled through a routine blood draw, followed by
standard sequencing, offering a minimally invasive, hypothesis-free source of disease biomarkers that can detect
immune perturbations before clinical symptoms appear. AIR repertoire analysis, therefore, holds promise for early
and personalized disease detection, prognosis, and the discovery of immune-based therapeutics[3,4].

In recent years, machine learning (ML) has emerged as a powerful approach for identifying disease-specific signatures from AIR repertoires, as reviewed by Mhanna *et al.*[5]. While binary classifiers have been effective in distinguishing cohorts of patients with specific disease from healthy donors, such models do not reflect the complexity of the immune system, which responds to diverse pathogens and disease conditions. Multi-disease classification, as exemplified by the recently introduced Mal-ID program on 6 disease/healthy classes, is thus both more realistic and clinically relevant than previous models[6]. However, training such ML models requires larger and more heterogeneous datasets, increasing computational demands and making efficiency a critical factor for clinical translation.

Most existing ML models rely on clonotype-based repertoire representations in which sequences that share the same V-gene and possess identical, or highly similar, complementarity-determining region 3 (CDR3) sequences are grouped together[3,7]. Due to the immense diversity of BCRs and TCRs, the proportion of clonotypes shared between donors is extremely low. Studies report approximately 1-6% overlap in IGH clonotypes and around 8-13% in TCRβ clonotypes across healthy donors[8,9]. This sparsity limits the generalizability and sensitivity of clonotype-centric ML approaches.

Paratope-based representations address this limitation by focusing on receptor residues likely to interact with antigens or peptide-MHC complexes[10,11]. This avoids combining categorial germline gene annotations with continuous amino acid sequences and extends analysis beyond CDR3 to include CDR1 and CDR2, enabling statistically robust sequence comparisons. Notably, paratope clusters are typically antigen- and epitope-specific. In prior work, grouping BCRs by paratope similarity (80% sequence identity and 90% alignment coverage) yielded clusters in which more than 95% of antibodies recognized the same antigen, with epitope-specific neutralizing antibodies co-clustering as well[12]. Paratope similarity networks were shown to provide superior features for binary disease classification, outperforming state-of-the-art clonotype-based models such as DeepRC and immuneML[13]. However, constructing such networks requires all-against-all similarity comparison, limiting scalability to datasets with fewer than 10^6 sequences.

In this study, we developed a scalable paratope-based feature construction pipeline to enable multi-disease classification across large AIR datasets. We replaced computationally intensive paratope similarity graphs with an efficient sequence encoding and clustering strategy called Fast Approximate Clustering Techniques (FACTS). To validate FACTS, we reanalyzed publicly available TCR repertoire data from 1,421 donors across 15 disease groups and one large control group. Compared to our previous method, Paratope Cluster Occupancy (PCO), FACTS dramatically reduced computational time while maintaining high classification performance, achieving a mean five-fold ROC AUC of 0.99. On the six-class Mal-ID benchmark, FACTS using only TCR data achieved an accuracy of 88.2%, which is slightly higher than the 85.3% accuracy of the Mal-ID model that used both BCR and TCR data. Moreover, unsupervised embedding projections revealed disease- and demographic-associated clusters, supporting FACTS as a robust, scalable, and interpretable framework for repertoire-based diagnostics with potential for clinical and population-scale applications.

2 Methods

Dataset curation and preprocessing

Adaptive immune receptor (AIR) sequencing data from a total of 1,421 donors were obtained from publicly available studies spanning 16 disease groups, including healthy individuals, patients with autoimmune disease, infectious disease, cancer, and vaccinated donors. Data for healthy donors, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection, influenza vaccination, coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), and type 1 diabetes (T1D) were sourced from the Mal-ID public dataset[6] (Supplementary Table S1). Samples labeled as "HIV-negative" were excluded from the healthy donor group in our study. Data for the remaining 10 disease groups, as well as additional healthy donors, were obtained from 12 published studies[14-25] (Supplementary Table S1). No original sequencing data were generated in this study, and ethical approval for secondary analysis was not required by the authors' institution.

Paratope extraction

In the first step of the FACTS pipeline, paratope regions were extracted from raw AIR sequences using ANARCI[26], with residue numbering assigned according to the IMGT scheme[27]. For each BCR and TCR sequence, paratopes were defined as all positions within CDR1, CDR2, and CDR3, concatenated to form a single pseudo-sequence used in all downstream encoding and clustering steps.

Sequence encoders

Following paratope extraction, each pseudo-sequence was transformed into a fixed length embedding using a protein language model. An encoder for TCR sequence was developed by adopting a Transformer-based encoder-only architecture trained on large-scale, publicly available AIR datasets. Training employed the masked language modelling (MLM) objective from BERT[28], in which random amino acid tokens are masked, and the model is optimized to predict the missing residues. For the TCR encoder model, weights were initialized from ESM-2[29] and fine-tuned on TCR datasets using paratope-focused sequence inputs. The resulting "MyImmune" TCR encoder generated dense vector embeddings for each paratope pseudo-sequence, which were subsequently used for clustering and classification. By default, FACTS uses IgBert[30] for encoding BCR sequences.

Clustering of sequence embeddings

To group similar paratope embeddings, MiniBatchKMeans, a memory- and time-efficient variant of k-means, was applied using the scikit-learn[31] implementation with k ranging from 100 to 1,000. A batch size of 1,024 was used, and initial centroids were seeded with the k-means++ initializer to improve stability. Clustering quality was assessed across the k range using inertia (within-cluster sum of squares) and silhouette coefficient scores[32]. MiniBatchKMeans scales approximately as $O(N \log k)$ per pass through the dataset, enabling efficient clustering of tens of millions of paratope embeddings without prohibitive computational cost.

Construction of donor-level features

Following clustering, donor-level feature vectors were generated by aggregating cluster membership data. For each donor, the frequency distribution of clustered paratope embeddings was computed as the proportion of sequences assigned to each cluster. Inter-cluster mutual information was also calculated. This produced a fixed-length vector representing each donor's immune repertoire, which served as input for downstream classification. Mathematical details of how the donor-level features are defined, was reported in the previous study[13].

Classification models and statistical analysis

All classification models were trained using the XGBoost[33] implementation in soft probability mode. Model performance was assessed using five-fold cross-validation with donor-level stratification to prevent donor overlap between folds. Evaluation metrics included accuracy, ROC AUC, macro-averaged F1 score (macro F1), sensitivity, and specificity. Paired AUC values were compared using the Wilcoxon signed-rank test. Ninety-five percent confidence intervals (CIs) for performance metrics were calculated via bootstrap resampling (n = 10,000 iterations).

Benchmarking sequence encoders

MyImmune TCR encoder was benchmarked against several open-source protein and immune receptor language models, including TCRBert[34], ESM-2[29], ProtTrans[35], SCEPTR[36], and UniTCR[37]. For BCR sequences, six publicly available encoders; IgBERT[30], AntiBERTa2[38], AntiBERTy[39], ESM-2[29], ProtTrans[35], and AbLang[40], were evaluated. Details of each encoder are provided in Supplementary Table S3. Each model was integrated into our pipeline using identical clustering and classification procedures, differing only in the embedding step. Benchmarking was performed on TCR and BCR datasets from the Mal-ID cohort[6] (499 donors for TCR, and 550 donors for BCR), across five disease classes and one healthy control group.

3 Results

Scalable paratope-based classification pipeline

We developed a scalable machine learning framework to classify AIR repertoire data using paratope-derived sequence features. Previously, these features were computed by combining paratope clusters with a paratope similarity graph, denoted Paratope Cluster Occupancy (PCO)[13] (Figure 1a). To avoid the all-against-all comparisons required for graph construction, we modified the workflow: sequences were first encoded as vectors, then efficiently clustered using these vector representations. We term this approach Fast Approximate Clustering Techniques (FACTS) (Figure 1b).

The pipeline begins with the extraction of paratope regions from BCR or TCR sequences, represented as pseudo-sequences composed of the concatenated CDR1, CDR2, and CDR3. These sequences are encoded, and the resulting embeddings are clustered using k-means (k = 50-500). A silhouette coefficient score[32] is used to determine a good starting point for choosing the number of clusters k. Donor-level feature vectors are constructed from cluster frequency

180 distributions and inter-cluster mutual information. These features are then used to train gradient-boosted decision tree
181 models for multi-class disease classification.
182
The use of FACTS qualitatively improved the scalability compared with PCO (Figure 2). Two PCO implementations
were tested: one using an exact all-against-all comparison and one using an MMSEQS[41]-based approximation[13]. Even
with MMSEQS acceleration, PCO runtimes increased quadratically with input size ($R^2 = 0.9997$). In contrast, FACTS
scaled linearly when using a small number of clusters: at $k = 50$, runtime increased to 115 ms per 1,000 sequences (R^2
$= 0.9957$); at $k = 500$, runtime rose to 1,158 ms per 1,000 sequences ($R^2 = 0.9195$), reflecting the added cost of inter-
cluster comparisons. Processing 5 million sequences required approximately 1.9 CPU-hours using FACTS, compared
to about 324 CPU-hours with MMSEQS-accelerated PCO. This demonstrated an approximate 170-fold improvement
in efficiency and scaled linearly with increasing data size.
191
Robust multi-disease TCR repertoire classification achieved with encoded paratope features
To assess classification performance, we reanalyzed publicly available TCR repertoire data comprising 1,421 donors
across 16 disease classes (Supplementary Table S1). The classifier achieved a mean ROC AUC of 0.9885 in five-fold
cross-validation (Figure 3a; Supplementary Table S2). Per-disease AUCs were consistently high, with the lowest
observed for healthy controls (0.95), while all other disease classes were greater than 0.98 (Figure 3b). The model
obtained an accuracy of 81.77% (0.8177 ± 0.0090) with high specificity (0.9866 ± 0.0007) and moderately high
sensitivity (0.7785 ± 0.0203) (Figure 3c; Supplementary Figure S1).
199
We further evaluated FACTS on the Mal-ID cohort to enable a direct comparison with the Mal-ID framework (499
donors for TCR and 550 donors for BCR dataset, five disease classes, and one healthy control group). We trained
separate models for each input type; BCR, TCR, and combined BCR+TCR. Using overall donor-level accuracy, our
method outperformed Mal-ID for all input types: BCR (84% vs 74%), TCR (88.2% vs 75.1%), and combined
BCR+TCR (90.4% vs 85.3%) (Figure 3d). ROC AUCs for the Mal-ID subset were as follows: 0.9718 (BCR), 0.9781
(TCR), and 0.9824 (BCR+TCR) (Supplementary Figure S2). Importantly, our TCR-only model achieved accuracy
comparable to Mal-ID's combined-input model. This represents a high-impact reduction in input requirements for
FACTS. By relying only on TCR data, equivalent performance can be obtained with less data, lowering both the cost
and complexity of diagnosis in practical use cases.
209
Benchmarking dense encoders for multi-disease classification
We next evaluated the performance of our in-house trained TCR encoder, along with multiple publicly available
sequence encoders, on the MAL ID dataset. For this evaluation, we varied only the encoder, keeping the rest of the
classification pipeline unchanged. For BCR only models, the pipeline with IgBERT as sequence encoder achieved
the highest performance (accuracy: 82.0% ± 3.7%; ROC AUC: 0.9736 ± 0.0092), outperforming Antiberta2,
AntiBERTy, ESM-2, ProtTrans, and AbLang. For TCR only models, the training pipeline with our TCR encoder
achieved the highest performance (accuracy: 0.8819 ± 0.0562; ROC AUC: 0.9781 ± 0.0111; F1 score: 0.8576 ±

0.0644), outperforming TCRBert, ProtTrans, ESM-2, and SCEPTR (Table 1). These results highlight the strength of

dense encoders for immune receptor modeling and demonstrate that our TCR encoder establishes a strong new

baseline for this task.

Encoded paratope representations capture biologically meaningful structures of TCR repertoires

To assess biological relevance, we visualized donor-level embeddings from encoded TCR paratope sequences using

t-SNE. In the full dataset (1,421 donors, 16 disease classes), projections showed clear separation between disease

groups, indicating that paratope-based features capture disease-specific immune signatures (Figure 4a; Supplementary

Figure S3). An interactive 3D tSNE plot is provided as Supplementary Table S4. From this analysis, a batch effect

was observed in the autoimmune hepatitis (AIH) dataset (Supplementary Figure S4), likely reflecting differences in

experimental protocols among publicly available studies, as detailed in Supplementary Note S1.

Restricting the analysis to the Mal-ID TCR subset (n = 499 donors), which was collected and processed using a

standardized protocol, obvious batch effects were reduced and while strong disease group separation was maintained

(Figure 4Bb; Supplementary Table S4). Our model consistently achieved high classification accuracy and ROC AUC

values when applied to either the full 1,421-donor dataset or the Mal-ID subset, demonstrating the robustness of the

approach across diverse data sources (Supplementary Table S2).

Beyond disease classification, the learned feature space preserved biologically meaningful structures. Unsupervised

t-SNE projection revealed a clustering pattern suggestive of age associations, particularly among SLE and healthy

donors, where older individuals ($Z < 5$) and younger individuals ($Z > 5$) clustered separately. Statistically significant

age differences were found within both healthy controls and SLE donors (Figure 4c). Similar, although not statistically

significant, trends were observed in other disease groups, suggesting that paratope features capture clinically relevant

immune signatures beyond discrete disease classification.

4 Discussion

In the field of immunology, ML has primarily been applied to molecular-level problems such as MHC allele

prediction[42] and TCR clustering[43]. In the latter case, paratopes, comprising the CDR1, CDR2, and CDR3 regions,

represent AIR residues capable of directly interacting with antigens. Previous work has shown that paratope sequences

can reflect convergent immune responses across individuals[13], and that BCR clusters are highly antigen- and epitope-

specific[12]. Other studies have demonstrated that antibodies binding the same epitope converge in paratope space and

can be identified using deep learning predictors such as ParaPred[44] and structure-aware tools like Ab-Ligity[45].

More recently, ML methods have been applied to systems-level problems, including disease classification from AIR

repertoire data. Previously, we showed that paratope networks enabled robust binary disease classification,

outperforming clonotype-based methods. However, paratope networks require extensive computational resources,

precluding their application to larger datasets. In the present study, we introduce FACTS, a much more scalable,
framework for multi-disease classification using AIR sequences. By reversing the order of clustering and similarity
comparison in our previous pipeline, we improved training runtime without apparent loss in accuracy. Rather than
computing pairwise similarities first, we encoded sequences into vector representations, then performed clustering in
this reduced space. We also introduced our own MyImmune TCR paratope encoder, which out-performed alternatives
in the context of disease classification. The embeddings, generated using protein language models trained on natural
amino acid sequences, captured biochemical and structural properties. Such embeddings have recently been used in
various immune repertoire analyses[30,34,38,39,45]. MiniBatchKMeans clustering was then applied to group encoded
paratope sequences, enabling efficient processing of up to hundreds of millions of sequences. Donor-level features
were derived from cluster frequency distributions and inter-cluster mutual information, which were subsequently used
for classification.
264
Benchmarking demonstrated that the MyImmune TCR paratope encoder further enhanced classification performance.
Compared with multiple publicly available TCR protein language models, MyImmune consistently achieved the
highest accuracy in classification of MAL-ID dataset, reinforcing the value of paratope-aware representation learning
in repertoire-based diagnostics. Notably, using only TCR input, FACTS achieved accuracy comparable to a Mal-ID
model that used both TCR and BCR input. This finding further suggests that reliable classification may be achievable
using data from only one receptor type, which could significantly reduce diagnostic costs. Taken together, the
integration of FACTS and the MyImmune encoder produced a fast, scalable, and highly accurate pipeline for immune
repertoire-based disease classification.
273
When applied to a larger TCR dataset of 1,421 donors spanning 16 disease classes, the FACTS framework
demonstrated consistently strong classification performance, although batch effects were in the AIH dataset, which
likely reflects variability in experimental protocols across the cohorts. Despite this, FACTS achieved high
classification accuracy not only in the large, heterogeneous dataset, but also in the smaller, more homogeneous
dataset where experimental protocols were more consistent and batch effects were minimal. This consistency
across diverse conditions indicates that our model is robust against batch effects. These findings emphasize the
importance of validating diagnostic models using well-matched, prospectively collected clinical datasets under
standardized conditions to ensure reliability in real-world applications. Overall, our findings show that paratope-
encoded representations, when combined with the FACTS pipeline and MyImmune encoder, enable accurate, scalable,
and biologically meaningful classification of immune repertoires, supporting their potential for clinical translation and
population-scale immune profiling.
285
Contributors
N.J., A.S., F.H., and D.M.S. conceived and designed the study.
A.S., S.L., D.U., and M.A.L. acquired the data and performed the formal analysis.
N.J., A.S., H.S., and D.M.S. contributed to the result interpretation and critical discussion.

N.J. and D.M.S. drafted the original manuscript and prepared the figures and tables.

All authors contributed to the manuscript revision, reviewed the final version, and approved it for submission.

Data sharing statement

All AIR-seq datasets used in this study are publicly available, and no individual-level data were collected

specifically for this investigation. The source and access information for each dataset are detailed in Supplementary

Table S1. This study was not subject to an institutional protocol and did not require participant consent. Processed

donor-level feature matrices will be made available upon submission.

Declaration of interests

A.S. and F.H. are employees and shareholders of MyImmune Corporation. D.M.S. is a shareholder in MyImmune

Corporation. All other authors declare no competing interests.

Acknowledgements

We thank all members of the Systems Immunology Lab at Osaka University for their helpful discussions and

support. This work was supported by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) KAKENHI Grant

[JA23H034980], the Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED) Grant [JP25am0101001], and

the Kishimoto Foundation Fellowship (N.J.).

Reference

1.   Schatz DG, Swanson PC. V(D)J recombination: mechanisms of initiation. *Annu Rev Genet* 2011; **45**: 167–

202.

2.   Victora GD, Nussenzweig MC. Germinal centers. *Annu Rev Immunol* 2012; **30**: 429–57.

3.   Emerson RO, DeWitt WS, Vignali M, et al. Immunosequencing identifies signatures of cytomegalovirus

exposure history and HLA-mediated effects on the T cell repertoire. *Nat Genet* 2017; **49**(5): 659–65.

4.   Robins HS, Campregher PV, Srivastava SK, et al. Comprehensive assessment of T-cell receptor beta-chain

diversity in alphabeta T cells. *Blood* 2009; **114**(19): 4099–107.

5.   Mhanna V, Bashour H, Lê Quý K, et al. Adaptive immune receptor repertoire analysis. *Nature Reviews*

Methods Primers 2024; **4**(1): 6.

6.   Zaslavsky ME, Craig E, Michuda JK, et al. Disease diagnostics using machine learning of B cell and T cell

receptor sequences. *Science* 2025; **387**(6736): eadp2407.

7.   Chen Y, Ye Z, Zhang Y, et al. A Deep Learning Model for Accurate Diagnosis of Infection Using

Antibody Repertoires. *J Immunol* 2022; **208**(12): 2675–85.

8.   Briney B, Inderbitzin A, Joyce C, Burton DR. Commonality despite exceptional diversity in the baseline

human antibody repertoire. *Nature* 2019; **566**(7744): 393–7.

9.   Nikolich-Zugich J, Slifka MK, Messaoudi I. The many important facets of T-cell repertoire diversity. *Nat*

Rev Immunol 2004; **4**(2): 123–32.

10.   Richardson E, Galson JD, Kellam P, et al. A computational method for immune repertoire mining that
identifies novel binders from different clonotypes, demonstrated by identifying anti-pertussis toxoid antibodies.
MAbs 2021; **13**(1): 1869406.

11.   Xu Z, Li S, Rozewicki J, et al. Functional clustering of B cell receptors using sequence and structural
features. *Molecular Systems Design & Engineering* 2019; **4**(4): 769–78.

12.   Saputri DS, Ismanto HS, Nugraha DK, et al. Deciphering the antigen specificities of antibodies by
clustering their complementarity determining region sequences. *mSystems* 2023; **8**(6): e0072223.

13.   Xu Z, Ismanto HS, Saputri DS, et al. Robust detection of infectious disease, autoimmunity, and cancer
from the paratope networks of adaptive immune receptors. *Brief Bioinform* 2024; **25**(5).

14.   Pothuri VS, Hogg GD, Conant L, et al. Intratumoral T-cell receptor repertoire composition predicts overall
survival in patients with pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma. *Oncoimmunology* 2024; **13**(1): 2320411.

15.   Formenti SC, Rudqvist NP, Golden E, et al. Radiotherapy induces responses of lung cancer to CTLA-4
blockade. *Nat Med* 2018; **24**(12): 1845–51.

16.   Wu L, Zhu J, Rudqvist NP, et al. T-Cell Receptor Profiling and Prognosis After Stereotactic Body
Radiation Therapy For Stage I Non-Small-Cell Lung Cancer. *Front Immunol* 2021; **12**: 719285.

17.   Zuckerbrot-Schuldenfrei M, Aviel-Ronen S, Zilberberg A, Efroni S. Ovarian cancer is detectable from
peripheral blood using machine learning over T-cell receptor repertoires. *Briefings in Bioinformatics* 2024; **25**(2):
bbae075.

18.   Komech EA, Pogorelyy MV, Egorov ES, et al. CD8+ T cells with characteristic T cell receptor beta motif
are detected in blood and expanded in synovial fluid of ankylosing spondylitis patients. *Rheumatology (Oxford)*
2018; **57**(6): 1097–104.

19.   Shugay M, Bagaev DV, Turchaninova MA, et al. VDJtools: Unifying Post-analysis of T Cell Receptor
Repertoires. *PLoS Comput Biol* 2015; **11**(11): e1004503.

20.   Luoma AM, Suo S, Wang Y, et al. Tissue-resident memory and circulating T cells are early responders to
pre-surgical cancer immunotherapy. *Cell* 2022; **185**(16): 2918–35.e29.

21.   Robert L, Tsoi J, Wang X, et al. CTLA4 blockade broadens the peripheral T-cell receptor repertoire. *Clin
Cancer Res* 2014; **20**(9): 2424–32.

22.   Yusko E, Vignali M, Wilson RK, et al. Association of Tumor Microenvironment T-cell Repertoire and
Mutational Load with Clinical Outcome after Sequential Checkpoint Blockade in Melanoma. *Cancer Immunol Res*
2019; **7**(3): 458–65.

23.   Schultheiß C, Simnica D, Willscher E, et al. Next-Generation Immunosequencing Reveals Pathological T-
Cell Architecture in Autoimmune Hepatitis. *Hepatology* 2021; **73**(4): 1436–48.

24.   Zhang Y, Zhu Y, Wang J, et al. A comprehensive model based on temporal dynamics of peripheral T cell
repertoire for predicting post-treatment distant metastasis of nasopharyngeal carcinoma. *Cancer Immunol
Immunother* 2022; **71**(3): 675–88.

25.   Aterido A, López-Lasanta M, Blanco F, et al. Seven-chain adaptive immune receptor repertoire analysis in
rheumatoid arthritis reveals novel features associated with disease and clinically relevant phenotypes. *Genome Biol*
2024; **25**(1): 68.

26.   Dunbar J, Deane CM. ANARCI: antigen receptor numbering and receptor classification. *Bioinformatics*
2016; **32**(2): 298–300.

27.   Lefranc MP, Pommie C, Ruiz M, et al. IMGT unique numbering for immunoglobulin and T cell receptor
variable domains and Ig superfamily V-like domains. *Dev Comp Immunol* 2003; **27**(1): 55–77.

28.   Devlin J, Chang M-W, Lee K, Toutanova K. BERT: Pre-training of Deep Bidirectional Transformers for
Language Understanding, 2019.

29.   Lin Z, Akin H, Rao R, et al. Evolutionary-scale prediction of atomic-level protein structure with a language
model. *Science* 2023; **379**(6637): 1123–30.

30.   Kenlay H, Dreyer FA, Kovaltsuk A, Miketa D, Pires D, Deane CM. Large scale paired antibody language
models. *PLOS Computational Biology* 2024; **20**(12): e1012646.

31.   Pedregosa F, Varoquaux G, Gramfort A, et al. Scikit-learn: Machine learning in Python. *Journal of*
Machine Learning Research 2011; **12**: 2825–30.

32.   Monshizadeh M, Khatri V, Kantola R, Yan Z. A deep density based and self-determining clustering
approach to label unknown traffic. *Journal of Network and Computer Applications* 2022; **207**: 103513.

33.   Chen T, Guestrin C. XGBoost: A scalable tree boosting system. Proceedings of the 22nd ACM SIGKDD
International Conference on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining. San Francisco, CA, USA: Association for
Computing Machinery; 2016. p. 785–94.

34.   Wu KE, Yost KE, Daniel B, et al. TCR-BERT: learning the grammar of T-cell receptors for flexible
antigen-binding analyses. Proceedings of the 18th Machine Learning in Computational Biology Meeting. —:
PMLR; 2023. p. 194–229.

35.   Elnaggar A, Heinzinger M, Dallago C, et al. ProtTrans: Towards Cracking the Language of Life's Code
Through Self-Supervised Deep Learning and High Performance Computing. *IEEE Transactions on Pattern Analysis*
and Machine Intelligence 2021; —(—): 1–.

36.   Nagano Y, Pyo AGT, Milighetti M, et al. Contrastive learning of T cell receptor representations.
Cell Systems 2025; **16**(1).

37.   Gao Y, Dong K, Gao Y, et al. Unified cross-modality integration and analysis of T-cell receptors and T-cell
transcriptomes by low-resource-aware representation learning. *Cell Genomics* 2024; **4**(5): 100553––.

38.   Barton J. Enhancing Antibody Language Models with Structural Information (AntiBERTa2-CSSP).
(preprint/discussion); 2023.

39.   Ruffolo JA, Gray JJ, Sulam J. Deciphering antibody affinity maturation with language models and weakly
supervised learning. *arXiv preprint* 2021.

40.   Olsen TH, Moal IH, Deane CM. AbLang: an antibody language model for completing antibody sequences.
Bioinformatics Advances 2022; **2**(1): vbac046.

41.   Steinegger M, Soding J. MMseqs2 enables sensitive protein sequence searching for the analysis of massive
data sets. *Nat Biotechnol* 2017; **35**(11): 1026–8.
42.   Hoof I, Peters B, Sidney J, et al. NetMHCpan, a method for MHC class I binding prediction beyond
humans. Immunogenetics 2009; 61(1): 1–13.
43.   Sidhom J-W, Larman HB, Pardoll DM, Baras AS. DeepTCR is a deep learning framework for revealing
sequence concepts within T-cell repertoires. Nature Communications 2021; 12(1): 1605.
44.   Liberis E, Velickovic P, Sormanni P, Vendruscolo M, Lio P. Parapred: antibody paratope prediction using
convolutional and recurrent neural networks. *Bioinformatics* 2018; **34**(17): 2944–50.
45.   Wong WK, Robinson SA, Bujotzek A, et al. Ab-Ligity: identifying sequence-dissimilar antibodies that
bind to the same epitope. *MAbs* 2021; **13**(1): 1873478.
408
409

410 **Legends**
411

Figure 1. Scalable paratope-based classification pipelines for immune repertoire data.
(**a**) The original paratope cluster occupancy (PCO) framework. After TCR/BCR sequencing, paratope regions
(CDR1, CDR2, and CDR3) are defined and clustered. A paratope similarity network is constructed via all-against-
all comparisons of paratope sequences, and donor-level features are derived from both clusters and networks. These
features are then used to train a classification model. (**b**) The proposed fast approximate clustering techniques
(FACTS). Instead of pairwise comparison, paratope sequences are first encoded into vector embeddings before
clustering. Donor-level features are constructed from cluster frequencies and inter-cluster relationships. This
reordering avoids the computational cost of paratope graph construction and enables scalable training of
classification models.
421

Figure 2. Runtime comparison between PCO and FACTS pipelines.
CPU time (in seconds) is plotted against the number of sequences processed for four methods. The original PCO
pipeline using exact paratope similarity (PCO_Exact, red stars) shows quadratic runtime scaling with input size due
to its all-against-all comparison step. A faster variant using MMseqs2 (PCO_MMSeqs, orange circles) improves
efficiency but still scales nonlinearly. In contrast, the FACTS approach achieves near-linear scaling, with FACTS
configured for 50 clusters (blue squares) and 500 clusters (purple triangles) showing minimal runtime increase over
5 million sequences. The FACTS pipeline achieves up to ~170-fold speedup compared to the exact PCO method,
making it suitable for large-scale repertoire analysis.
430

Figure 3. Encoded paratope features enable accurate multi-disease classification of TCR repertoires. (**a**)
Receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve showing overall performance of the paratope-based classifier on a
1,421-donor dataset comprising 16 disease classes, including healthy controls. The model achieved a mean ROC
AUC of 0.99 with consistent performance across five cross-validation folds. (**b**) One-vs-rest ROC curves for each

individual class showing a robust performance across all disease classes. **(c)** Confusion matrix from one of the five
cross-validation folds, illustrating donor-level classification results across the 16 disease classes. Disease labels
corresponding to each class ID are provided in Supplementary Table S1. **(d)** Comparative performance between our
paratope-based model (MyImmune) and the original clonotype-based Mal-ID framework on the Mal-ID cohort,
consisting of 550 donors for BCR and 499 donors for TCR dataset across six disease classes. Accuracy was
computed as donor-level classification accuracy, representing the proportion of correctly classified donors.
441
Figure 4. Encoded TCR paratope representations reveal disease- and age-associated structure.
(**a**) t-SNE projection of donor-level TCR paratope embeddings across 1,421 donors from 16 disease classes. (**b**) t-
SNE projection of the encoded TCR paratope sequences from the Mal-ID cohort at donor level (n = 499 donors, 6
disease classes). (**c**) Age association across clusters for each disease group in the Mal-ID cohort. Donors clustered
along the third t-SNE axis (Z) based on age, with older individuals enriched in the $Z < 5$ region and younger donors
in $Z > 5$. Statistical comparisons between clusters were performed using unpaired t-tests; **** indicates $p < 0.0001$.
448
449 **Table 1. Sequence encoders form multi-disease classification**
450 Accuracy, AUROC, and F1 score (mean ± standard deviation) are shown for each encoder using the FACTS
451 pipeline on the Mal-ID cohort (550 donors for BCR and 499 donors for TCR dataset across 6 disease classes).
452
453

BCR Encoders	Accuracy	AUROC	F1 score
IgBert	**0.8400 ± 0.0306**	**0.9718 ± 0.0073**	**0.8386 ± 0.0386**
Antiberta2	0.7920 ± 0.0497	0.9693 ± 0.0080	0.7809 ± 0.0241
AntiBERTy	0.7500 ± 0.0173	0.9555 ± 0.0108	0.7546 ± 0.0132
ESM-2 8M	0.7440 ± 0.0522	0.9501 ± 0.0158	0.7407 ± 0.0526
ProtTrans	0.7360 ± 0.0371	0.9537 ± 0.0108	0.8057 ± 0.0514
ESM-2 150M	0.7320 ± 0.0228	0.9473 ± 0.0063	0.7281 ± 0.0369
ESM-2 650M	0.7000 ± 0.0283	0.9386 ± 0.0076	0.7031 ± 0.0366
AbLang	0.6940 ± 0.0207	0.9398 ± 0.0030	0.6880 ± 0.0403

TCR Encoders	Accuracy	AUROC	F1 score
MyImmune Encoder	**0.8819 ± 0.0562**	**0.9781 ± 0.0111**	**0.8576 ± 0.0644**
TCRBert	0.8578 ± 0.0453	0.9735 ± 0.0108	0.8201 ± 0.0533
ESM-2 8M	0.8439 ± 0.0552	0.9755 ± 0.0104	0.8153 ± 0.0586
ProtTrans	0.8438 ± 0.0458	0.9715 ± 0.0110	0.8057 ± 0.0514
SCEPTR: Large model	0.8438 ± 0.0375	0.9747 ± 0.0121	0.8135 ± 0.0425
ESM-2 150M	0.8318 ± 0.0595	0.9742 ± 0.0103	0.7969 ± 0.0673
SCEPTR: Beta-chain only model	0.8317 ± 0.0282	0.9727 ± 0.0105	0.7905 ± 0.0241
SCEPTR: Default model	0.8238 ± 0.0452	0.9709 ± 0.0111	0.7902 ± 0.0597
UniTCR	0.6875 ± 0.0594	0.9299 ± 0.0121	0.6163 ± 0.0777