Reviewer’s report

Title: Application of a Modular Relief Framework for Ranking Genetic Predictors of Disease

Version: 2 Date: 25 April 2012

Reviewer: Casey Greene

Reviewer’s report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

The paper becomes substantially more interesting with MoRF code and examples provided under an open source license through a collaborative version control system (e.g. bitbucket or github). Without this MoRF seems to be a theoretical construct, which does not differ substantially from the normal Relief pseudocode, except that names are provided for various operations. Then the only advance is SWRF*, which provides a small (though statistically significant) improvement in performance, and MoRF is dramatically oversold in the manuscript.

The authors should provide source code for their Modular Reilef Framework via a commonly used version control system (github, bitbucket, etc.) that allows people to easily use existing MoRF operators and contribute back their own MoRF operators (class comparators, local difference functions, global difference functions, neighbor weighting function). If "MoRF allows easy development of new Relief algorithms by specifying different interchangeable functions for the component terms" then it is critical that MoRF be made available to the community. It is important that MoRF include the comparators/functions used as part of this paper (those used for ReliefF, SURF*, SWRF*).

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.