Denisovan Ancestry in East Eurasian and Native American

2 Populations

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Abstract

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2 Although initial studies suggested that Denisovan ancestry was found only in modern

human populations from island Southeast Asia and Oceania, more recent studies have

suggested that Denisovan ancestry may be more widespread. However, the

geographic extent of Denisovan ancestry has not been determined, and moreover the

relationship between the Denisovan ancestry in Oceania and that elsewhere has not

been studied. Here we analyze genome-wide SNP data from 2493 individuals from

221 worldwide populations, and show that there is a widespread signal of a very low

9 level of Denisovan ancestry across Eastern Eurasian and Native American (EE/NA)

populations. We also verify a higher level of Denisovan ancestry in Oceania than that

in EE/NA; the Denisovan ancestry in Oceania is correlated with the amount of New

Guinea ancestry, but not the amount of Australian ancestry, indicating that recent

gene flow from New Guinea likely accounts for signals of Denisovan ancestry across

Oceania. However, Denisovan ancestry in EE/NA populations is equally correlated

with their New Guinea or their Australian ancestry, suggesting a common source for

the Denisovan ancestry in EE/NA and Oceanian populations. Our results suggest that

Denisovan ancestry in EE/NA is derived either from common ancestry with, or gene

flow from, the common ancestor of New Guineans and Australians, indicating a more

complex history involving East Eurasians and Oceanians than previously suspected.

Keywords: Denisovans; Neanderthals; Archaic admixture; Modern humans.

Significance Statement

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2 Archaic hominins genetically interacted with the ancestors of present-day humans, but

the scope and magnitude of this interaction has not been fully documented. Our study

reveals that ancestry from Denisovans, (an archaic human group identified in the Altai

Mountains of southern Siberia), is prevalent in populations across eastern Eurasia and

the Americas, rather than only in island populations of Southeast Asia and Oceania as

previously reported. We show that the Denisovan ancestry in Eastern Eurasians and

Native Americans is probably derived from either common ancestry with, or ancient

gene flow from, the common ancestor of present-day New Guineans and Australians,

thereby demonstrating a more complex relationship of these human populations than

11 previously suspected.

Introduction

Following the initial description and analysis of a genome sequence from an archaic

human fossil from Denisova Cave in southern Siberia (1), Denisovan admixture was

subsequently found to be limited to populations from eastern Indonesia, the

Philippines, and Near and Remote Oceania (1–3). This finding was quite surprising,

given that the Denisova Cave site is located some 7000 km away from the populations

that currently exhibit Denisovan ancestry, and was interpreted as suggesting that

Denisovan admixture occurred somewhere in the vicinity of island Southeast Asia (2).

However, further studies have indicated that Denisovan ancestry may be more

widespread than initially thought (4). In particular, a recent study inferred low levels

of Denisovan ancestry of about 0.2% in three genome sequences, from a Dai and a

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Han Chinese from East Asia and a Karitiana from South America (5). Moreover, it appears that a genetic adaptation to high altitude in the Tibetan Plateau occurred via introgression from a Denisovan-related population into ancestral Tibetans (6). Overall, these results suggest that Denisovan ancestry is not limited to populations from island Southeast Asia and Oceania, as originally thought. However, only a few populations have been systematically evaluated for signals of Denisovan ancestry; it is not clear if a very low level of Denisovan ancestry is geographically widespread, or rather limited to only a few populations outside of island Southeast Asia and Oceania. An additional question of interest is whether the Denisovan ancestry in these other populations reflects the same admixture event that contributed Denisovan ancestry to island Southeast Asian and Oceanian populations, or a different admixture event. To address these and other questions related to Denisovan ancestry in human populations, we here present a systematic investigation of Denisovan introgression in Eastern Eurasia (defined here to include South Asia, East Asia, Southeast Asia, Central Asia, Siberia, and Oceania) and in Native American populations, hereafter abbreviated as EE/NA. Genome-wide data were collected from worldwide populations and analyzed along with high coverage genomes sequences from a Denisovan (3) and a Neanderthal (5). The analyses we report provide more details concerning the admixture history of modern humans with Denisovans. **Results**

21 Relationship of present-day humans and archaic hominins

We assembled a dataset which, after quality filtering, consisted of 2493 individuals

from 221 populaions, all genotyped on the Affymetrix Human Origins Array (8). 1 After merging the human data with the chimpanzee, Denisovan, and Neanderthal 2 genome sequences, there were nearly 600,000 SNPs for analysis. To investigate the 3 relationship of the diverse present-day human populations relative to archaic hominins, 4 we carried out Principal Component Analysis (PCA) (9) on the chimpanzee, 5 Neanderthal and Denisovan data, and projected the modern human samples onto the 6 plane defined by the top two eigenvectors. The human samples all appear at the center 7 of the plot (Fig. S1A); magnification of the central portion of the plot shows that 8 humans separate into three clusters relative to archaic hominins and chimpanzees: 9 African, Oceanian and other Non-African (Fig. S1B). To more clearly visualize the 10 patterns, we plotted the mean of eigenvectors 1 and 2 for each of the 221 modern 11 12 human populations (Fig. 1A). The first eigenvector separates the Africans from non-Africans and shows that the non-Africans are clearly closer to archaic hominins 13 than are the Africans. The second eigenvector suggests closer genetic affinity between 14 Oceanians and Denisovan than between other populations and Denisovan. There is a 15 clear cline of Denisovan-related ancestry in Oceanian with Australians and New 16 Guineans having the most Denisovan ancestry (Fig. S2). The Mamanwa, from the 17 Philippines, are also involved in this cline, which is consistent with previous findings 18 that the Mamanwa are related to Australians and New Guineans, and Denisovan 19 admixture occurred in a common ancestral population of the Mamanwa, Australians, 20 and New Guineans (2). 21

Additional Archaic Ancestry in EE/NA Populations

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PCA is a descriptive analysis that is useful for indicating potential admixture events, 1 but cannot be used to prove that admixture occurred. We therefore applied formal 2 tests to document potential admixture between archaic hominins and modern humans. 3 Since EE/NA populations have on average inherited more archaic ancestry than West 4 Eurasian populations (7), we computed f_4 statistics (8, 10) of the form 5 $f_4(Yoruba, Archaic; French, X)$, in which X is an EE/NA population. A significantly 6 positive statistic (Z-score> 2) is evidence that EE/NA possesses more Archaic (either 7 Neanderthal or Denisovan) alleles than does the French population. Significantly 8 positive statistics (Z-score> 6) are obtained for all Oceanian populations, which are 9 much higher than those for other EE/NA populations, indicating more archaic 10 ancestry in Oceanians s (Fig. 1B and Table S3). Moreover, there are more Denisovan 11 12 than Neanderthal alleles shared with the Oceanian and Mamanwa populations (Fig. 1B), although Neanderthal ancestry is also elevated, probably because signals of 13 Denisovan and Neanderthal ancestry are difficult to distinguish in this analysis. In 14 addition to the Oceanian populations, many additional EE/NA populations exhibit 15 significant Z-scores (> 2), indicating they have more archaic alleles than the French 16 population has. However, unlike the Oceanian populations, the inferred amounts of 17 Denisovan and Neanderthal alleles are approximately the same in these EE/NA 18 populations (Fig. 1B). It is thus not clear from this analysis if the additional archaic 19 ancestry in these EE/NA populations reflects Neanderthal ancestry, Denisovan 20 ancestry, or both. In order to increase the power of these tests, we combined the data 21 from the East Asian, Siberian, and native American populations, and obtained 22

significantly higher signals of archaic ancestry (Z-score =3.12 for Neanderthal and 1 3.64 for Denisovan, compared to the average single population Z-scores of $2.79\pm$ 2 0.07 for Neanderthal and 3.17 ± 0.08 for Denisovan). To ensure that our results are 3 not influenced by the choice of African (Yoruba) and European (French) reference 4 populations used in this f_4 analysis, we repeated the analysis with different reference 5 populations and obtained similar results (Fig. S3). 6 We further computed the statistic $f_4(Yoruba, X; Neanderthal, Denisovan)$ 7 which compares the genetic affinity of present-day non-Africans with different 8 archaic hominins (Fig. 2). Positive values of this f_4 statistic indicate excess sharing of 9 Denisovan alleles (relative to Neanderthals); negative values indicate excess sharing 10 of Neanderthal alleles, and values near zero indicate equivalent amounts of alleles 11 12 shared with Denisovans and Neanderthals. We obtain larger values in Oceanians than in other non-Africans, which is consistent with the observations based on the PCA 13 and on formal tests of admixture. The largest values are observed in New Guineans, 14 Australians, and some populations from Remote Oceania (Table S4), consistent with 15 previous results (2). Negative values are observed in most non-African populations, 16 indicating sharing of more Neanderthal than Denisovan alleles in these populations. 17 Moreover, larger values are observed in East Asians than in West Eurasians, 18 suggesting most East Asians share more alleles with Neanderthal than West Eurasians 19 do. Native Americans are generally more similar to West Eurasians in the patterns of 20 allele sharing, suggesting that either Native Americans have the same amount of allele 21 sharing with Neanderthal as West Eurasians do, or Native Americans shared more 22

1 Neanderthal alleles than West Eurasians and additionally share a small amount of

Denisovan alleles. This procedure was repeated using different African populations in

3 the f_4 statistics and similar results were obtained (Fig. S4).

Denisovan ancestry in Oceanians

5 Denisovan ancestry in Oceanians has been documented previously (1–3). To verify

and extend these previous results, we analyzed a larger set of Oceanian populations

that were genotyped on a different platform, and also utilized the high-coverage

archaic genomes (3, 5).

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Following previous methods (8, 11), we used a ratio of f_4 statistics to estimate 9 the admixture proportion of Denisovans $(p_D(X))$ in Oceanians (see SI). Since 10 Oceanians retain both Denisovan and Neanderthal ancestry, we used Han Chinese to 11 control for the Neanderthal ancestry in Oceanians, under the assumption that Han and 12 Oceanians share a similar number of Neanderthal alleles. To evaluate the validity of 13 this assumption, we examined the $f_4(Yoruba, Han; Neanderthal, X)$ and 14 $f_4(Yoruba, Han; Denisovan, X)$ statistics for each Oceanian population X. If Han 15 and the X possess similar amounts of Neanderthal alleles, then any changes in the two 16 17 statistics will be driven by the varying amount of their Denisovan alleles. The two statistics will thus have a linear relationship with an intercept close to (0,0). However, 18 if the amount of Neanderthal alleles differs in the two populations, then the linear 19 model will not cross at the point of origin. Empirically, these two sets of f_4 statistics 20 are indeed linearly correlated ($R^2 = 0.99$; Fig. S5) and the intercept for the linear 21 22 model fitting the data is near (0,0), indicating that Han and Oceanians are similarly

close to Neanderthal. (see SI). 1 The highest $p_D(X)$ value is observed in Australians and New Guineans 2 $(0.034\pm0.002 \text{ and } 0.034\pm0.005 \text{ respectively})$ (Fig. 3A), which is consistent with 3 previous results (2) and suggests Denisovan introgression into the common ancestor 4 of Australians and New Guineans. We also observed high amounts (>3%) of 5 Denisovan ancestry in Bougainville, as observed previously (2), and in Santa Cruz, a 6 population from Remote Oceania which was not analyzed previously. This latter 7 result is in keeping with previous observations of extraordinarily high frequencies and 8 diversity of mtDNA and Y-chromosome haplogroups of New Guinean origin in Santa 9 Cruz (12, 13), which suggest high amounts of New Guinean ancestry (and thereby 10 Denisovan ancestry) in Santa Cruz. All other Oceanian populations have Denisovan 11 12 ancestry ranging from 0.9-3%. It was shown previously that Denisovan ancestry in Oceanian groups (other than 13 Australia and New Guinea), as well as in eastern Indonesia, was likely to be an 14 indirect consequence of admixture with New Guineans, as the Denisovan ancestry in 15 these other Oceanian and eastern Indonesian groups is proportional to their New 16 Guinea ancestry (2). We observe a similar correlation for the 17 Oceanian populations 17 (excluding Australia and New Guinea) in the present study (Fig. 3B). However, given 18 that Australia and New Guinea share common ancestry, it is possible that the 19 Denisovan ancestry in these Oceanian populations was contributed by admixture from 20 21 Australia or from the ancestral Australia-New Guinea population, rather than directly from New Guinea; these possibilities were not examined in previous studies. We 22

1 evaluated these alternative possibilities by the statistic

 $f_4(Yoruba, X; NewGuinea, Australia)$, and found that Oceanians share significantly

more alleles with New Guineans than with Australians (Table S5). These results

suggest that Denisovan ancestry in Oceanians is likely to derive from recent

admixture with New Guineans, rather than admixture with Australians or the common

ancestor of Australians and New Guineans.

Denisovan introgression in East/South Asian, Siberian and Native

8 American populations

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9 To detect Denisovan introgression in EE/NA populations, we computed the ratio of

two f_4 statistics ($R_D(X)$): $f_4(Yoruba, Denisovan; French, X)$ and

11 $f_4(Yoruba, Neanderthal; French, X)$, for each EE/NA population. Populations with

 $R_D(X) > 1$ are likely to have Denisovan ancestry (see SI). Before we applied the

approach to empirical data, we evaluated the performance of this statistic via

simulations (see SI and Fig. S6). For simulated populations with Denisovan ancestry,

we always observed large ratios $(R_D(X) > 1)$, while small ratios $(R_D(X) < 1)$ were

obtained for simulated populations without Denisovan ancestry (Fig. S7). We then

computed $R_D(X)$ for all EE/NA populations exhibiting significant admixture signals

with Denisovans and/or Neanderthals in formal admixture tests (Fig. 1B and Table

S3). As expected, we observed large ratios $(R_D(X) > 1)$ in all Oceanian populations

(Fig. 4). Variable results were obtained for the other EE/NA populations, with $R_D(X) > 1$

1 observed in several populations, including most Native American populations (Fig.

4). Overall, this analysis indicates that there are EE/NA populations outside Oceania

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with a clear signal of Denisovan ancestry. Similar results are obtained with the use of different reference populations (Table S6). Is this presumptive Denisovan ancestry in EE/NA populations from the same admixture event that contributed Denisovan ancestry to Oceanian populations, or does it rather represent a separate admixture event (or events) between modern humans and Denisovans? We postulated that if it reflects the same event that contributed Denisovan ancestry to Oceanians, then the amount of Denisovan ancestry in EE/NA populations should be correlated with the amount of New Guinean ancestry. Because the estimated amount of Denisovan ancestry is quite small in EE/NA populations, and difficult to distinguish from Neanderthal ancestry, we instead compared the overall amount of archaic admixture in EE/NA populations (as a fraction of that in New Guinean), which is calculated by the ratio of $f_4(Yoruba, Denisovan; French, X)$ f_4 (Yoruba, Denisovan; French, NewGuinean), the statistic $f_4(Yoruba, NewGuinean; French, X)$. These two values are significantly correlated (Fig. 5A, Pearson $R^2 = 0.23$, $p = 2.5 \times 10^{-3}$). However, this analysis could be confounded by admixture between East Asians and New Guineans, which has occurred as a consequence of the Austronesian expansion (14, 15) and perhaps other population movements. We therefore removed the East Asian populations and repeated the analysis just for Siberians and Native Americans, and obtained an even higher correlation (Fig. 5B, Pearson $R^2 = 0.54$, $p = 3.8 \times 10^{-6}$). Thus, archaic ancestry in EE/NA populations is significantly correlated with their New Guinea ancestry, suggesting that the Denisovan ancestry in EE/NA and Oceanian populations

reflects the same admixture event.

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However, there are (at least) two potential alternate scenarios that could explain 2 these results. First, Denisovan admixture could have occurred in a population that was 3 ancestral to both EE/NA and Oceanian populations; second, admixture could have 4 occurred in a population that was ancestral specifically to Mamanwa, Australians, and 5 New Guineans (as suggested previously (2)), followed by a back-migration from New 6 Guinea to mainland East Asia. This putative back-migration would then have spread 7 both New Guinea and Denisovan ancestry throughout East Asia and Siberia, and 8 ultimately to the Americas. To distinguish between these two scenarios, we repeated 9 the previous analysis but substituted Australians for New Guineans, comparing the 10 archaic admixture in EE/NA populations (as a fraction of that in Australians) to the 11 statistic $f_4(Yoruba, Australian; French, X)$. The results are virtually identical to 12 those obtained with New Guineans as the comparison (Fig. 5C, 5D). Moreover, 13 whereas Oceanian populations are more closely related to New Guineans than to 14 Australians, EE/NA populations are equally related to Australians and New Guineans 15 (Table S5). These results indicate that the archaic ancestry in EE/NA populations is 16 shared with the common ancestor of Australians and New Guineans, and hence 17 reflects the same admixture event.

Discussion

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Our analyses demonstrate that, in addition to being prevalent in Oceanian populations, 20

Denisovan introgression is present in East Eurasian and Native American populations,

even though the amount of Denisovan alleles in these latter populations is relatively

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small. These results thus confirm and extend previous studies suggesting Denisovan ancestry outside of Oceania (4-6). In particular, as found previously (2), Denisovan ancestry in Oceania is highly correlated with New Guinea ancestry. This suggests that these populations have either shared ancestry or contact with New Guinea that is more recent than the Denisovan admixture event. However, previous studies did not exclude the possibility that more ancient shared ancestry with New Guinean (after the Denisovan admixture event but before the divergence between New Guinean and Australian) explains the correlated signals of Denisovan and New Guinean ancestry in Oceania. Another potential explanation would be migrations from Australian rather than New Guinean, which could still produce a significant correlation between Denisovan and New Guinean ancestry as a consequence of the genetic relationship of Australians and New Guineans. To test these other possibilities, we compared amounts of Denisovan and Australian ancestry in Oceanian populations, and found that New Guinean ancestry does indeed provide a better explanation for the Denisovan ancestry in these Oceanian populations than does Australian ancestry (Table S5). Our results also show a consistent signal of a low-level of Denisovan ancestry outside of Oceania, in populations of East Eurasia and the Americas. Although this signal does not reach significance in all populations (Fig. 4), given how widespread the signal is, it seems most reasonable to assume that all EE/NA populations probably do harbor some Denisovan ancestry. As with Oceanian populations, the Denisovan ancestry in EE/NA populations is correlated with their New Guinean ancestry.

However, unlike Oceanian populations, the Denisovan ancestry in EE/NA populations 1 is equally correlated with their Australian ancestry, and moreover EE/NA populations 2 are just as closely related to Australians as they are to New Guineans (Fig. 5). 3 There are (at least) two potential scenarios that could account for these results. 4 First, there was introgression from a population related to Denisovans into a modern 5 human population that was ancestral to all EE/NA and Oceanian populations. After 6 the separation of the ancestral EE/NA and Oceanian populations, subsequent 7 migration(s) then brought other modern human ancestry into the ancestors of EE/NA 8 9 (but not Australian or New Guinean) populations, thereby "diluting" Denisovan ancestry in EE/NA populations. This scenario has two important consequences. First, 10 it means that the introgression between Denisovans and modern humans did not 11 12 necessarily occur in island Southeast Asia as postulated previously (2), but instead could have occurred closer to the vicinity of Denisova Cave, in southern Siberia. 13 Second, identifying the source(s) of the other modern human ancestry in EE/NA 14 populations would be of great interest for further understanding the genetic history of 15 human populations. 16 The second scenario that could explain the different amounts of Denisovan 17 ancestry in Oceanians vs. EE/NA populations would be that Denisovan introgression 18 occurred specifically in a population ancestral to Australians, New Guineans, and the 19 Mamanwa, as hypothesized previously (2). After the Denisovan admixture, but before 20 21 the divergence of Australians and New Guineans, there would then have been a back-migration from Oceania to mainland East Asia, which would have contributed 22

both Denisovan and shared Australian/New Guinea ancestry to the ancestors of

present day EE/NA populations. While we are not aware of any previous suggestions

of such a back-migration from archaeological, anthropological, or genetic evidence,

we also are not aware of any evidence that would disprove such a back-migration.

It thus seems that at present these two scenarios are equally plausible

explanations for our results. In any event, the inescapable conclusion is that

Denisovan ancestry is more widespread in modern human populations than thought

previously to be the case, and moreover human genetic history must consequently

also be more complicated than previously believed. Mapping the segments of

Denisovan ancestry in modern human populations, as has been done for Neanderthal

ancestry (5, 16, 17), should provide more insights into the history and consequences

of the interactions between Denisovans and modern humans.

Materials and Methods

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We genotyped 168 individuals from 20 populations of Oceania and Southeast Asia

with the Affymetrix Human Origins Array (8). An additional 2890 samples from 236

worldwide modern human populations, and high coverage sequences of two archaic

hominins (Altai Neanderthal, $52 \times (5)$ and Denisovan, $31 \times (3)$) were merged into

the dataset. Principal component analysis was performed with EIGENSOFT (18)

version 5.0.1. We performed PCA on chimpanzee and archaic hominin data, and then

projected modern humans. Formal tests for archaic admixture in modern humans was

performed by f_4 statistics (8, 10). Admixture proportions were estimated by an

- 1 f_4 ratio (8, 11). More details of the materials and methods can be found in supporting
- 2 information.

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Figure Legends

2 Fig. 1. The relationships among modern human populations relative to archaic

3 humans.

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4 (A) PCA of 221 populations projected onto the top two eigenvectors defined by

Neanderthal, Denisovan and chimpanzee. The mean values of eigenvectors 1 and 2

are plotted for each population. (B) Formal admixture tests suggest a substantial

7 number of EE/NA and Oceanian populations inherited significantly more archaic

8 ancestry than West Eurasian populations. We used f_4 statistics of the form

 $f_4(Yoruba, Archaic; French, X)$ to test admixture between archaic humans and

modern human populations. A Z-score larger than 2 was set as the threshold for

determining if admixture is significantly greater than zero.

Fig. 2. Archaic introgression in modern humans is prevalent and varies across

13 different geographic regions.

14 The sharing of Neanderthal and Denisovan alleles with each non-African population

15 was measured by f_4 statistics of the form

16 $f_4(Yoruba, X; Neanderthal, Denisovan)$. An excess of allele sharing with

Denisovan yields positive values while an excess with Neanderthal yields negative

values. The heat plot values indicated on the map are valid only for regions covered

by our samples.

20 Fig. 3. Denisovan ancestry in Oceanians.

- 1 (A) Estimated Denisovan ancestry in Oceanian populations. (B) Denisovan ancestry
- 2 in Oceanians is highly correlated with their New Guinean ancestry.
- 3 Fig. 4. Widespread Denisovan ancestry in EE/NA populations.
- 4 Values of the $R_D(X)$ ratio are plotted for all EE/NA populations which give
- 5 significant signals of admixture with Neanderthal or Denisovan in formal tests; values
- 6 greater than one (dashed line) are indicative of Denisovan ancestry.
- 7 Fig. 5. Denisovan introgression in EE/NA populations is correlated with their
- 8 genetic affinity with Oceanians.
- 9 Genetic affinity is measured by $f_4(Yoruba, New Guinean; French, X)$. We
- 10 observed a significant correlation between Denisovan ancestry and New Guinea
- ancestry with (A) $R^2 = 0.23$ ($p = 2.5 \times 10^{-3}$) for all EE/NA populations with
- 12 $R_D(X) > 1$, and (B) $R^2 = 0.54$ ($p = 3.8 \times 10^{-6}$) when we remove East Asians.
- 13 Significant correlations were also observed when New Guinean was replaced by
- 14 Australian with (C) $R^2 = 0.19$ ($p = 6.7 \times 10^{-3}$) and (D) $R^2 = 0.48$ (p =
- 15 2.0×10^{-5}) when we remove East Asians.









