

1 **Chromatin features define adaptive genomic regions in a**
2 **fungal plant pathogen**

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15

16 **ABSTRACT**

17 Understanding the complex information stored in a genome remains challenging
18 since multiple connected regulatory mechanisms act at various scales to determine
19 function. Increased comprehension of genome function at scales beyond contiguous
20 nucleotides will help understand genetic diseases, the emergence of pathogenesis,
21 and more broadly the genomics of adaptation. Here we report the analysis of DNA
22 methylation, histone modification, and DNA accessibility in the plant pathogenic
23 vascular wilt fungus *Verticillium dahliae*. Functional analysis details that DNA
24 methylation is restricted to repetitive elements, such as transposable element DNA,
25 but interestingly only some repetitive DNA is methylated. This incomplete DNA
26 methylation is associated with repetitive DNA residing in specific compartments of
27 the genome that were previously defined as Lineage-Specific (LS) regions. These
28 regions are hypervariable between *V. dahliae* isolates and contain genes that
29 support host colonization and adaptive traits. LS regions are associated with H3 Lys-
30 27 methylated histones (H3K27me3), and repetitive DNA within LS regions are
31 more transcriptionally active and have increased DNA accessibility, representing a
32 hybrid chromatin state when compared to repetitive regions within the core
33 genome. We used machine learning algorithms trained on epigenetic and DNA
34 accessibility data to predict LS regions with high recall, identifying approximately
35 twice as much LS DNA in the *V. dahliae* genome as previously recognized.
36 Collectively, these results characterize LS regions in an intermediate chromatin
37 state and provide evidence that links chromatin features and genome architecture
38 to adaptive regions within the genome.

39 INTRODUCTION

40 Genomes are not randomly organized and comprise complex information beyond
41 their linear nucleic acid sequence ¹. While scientific understanding of genome
42 biology continues to grow, significant efforts in the past decade have focused on
43 sequencing new species and additional genotypes of those species ². However, there
44 is a great need to decode the complex information stored in these genomes, to
45 understand genomic responses over various time scales, and ultimately to more
46 fully understand how genotypes lead to phenotypes. With the growing number of
47 high-quality, highly contiguous genome assemblies it is possible to analyze genome
48 organization into chromosomes at high resolution ³. Present day genome
49 organization reflects evolutionary solutions to the challenges of information
50 processing and adaptation; a genome must faithfully pass vast amounts of
51 information across cell-cycles and reproduction, packaged into limited physical
52 space, while achieving correct access to the information in response to
53 developmental, environmental or chemical signals. In addition, there needs to be
54 appreciable stochastic genetic variation to ensure that phenotypic variation is
55 present for unknown future events. Organisms undergoing mainly asexual
56 reproduction face an additional evolutionary constraint as they must generate this
57 genetic variation in the absence of meiotic recombination ⁴. Many economically
58 important fungal plant pathogens are either asexual or undergo more frequent
59 asexual reproduction compared to sexual reproduction ⁵. Interestingly, fungal
60 pathogens are subject to additional evolutionary pressure from their hosts, as host-
61 pathogen interactions create dynamical systems with shifting, yet near-constant
62 selective pressure on the two genomes ⁶. These attributes make plant-fungal
63 interactions a particularly interesting system to study aspects of genome evolution
64 and genome organization ^{7,8}.

65

66 Plant invading microbes use effectors to suppress, avoid or mitigate the plant
67 immune system ^{9,10}. Plants in-turn use a variety of plasma-membrane bound and
68 cytoplasmic receptors to recognize invasion, through recognition of the effector or

69 its biochemical activity, creating a strong selective pressure on the microbe to
70 modify the effector or its function to alleviate recognition ^{11,12}. The plant pathogenic
71 fungus *Verticillium dahliae* causes vascular wilt diseases on hundreds of plant hosts.
72 *V. dahliae* is presumed asexual and generates genomic diversity in the absence of
73 sexual recombination through large-scale chromosome re-arrangements and
74 segmental duplications ¹³⁻¹⁶. The regions undergoing such duplications and re-
75 arrangements are hypervariable between *V. dahliae* isolates, and consequently have
76 been referred to as Lineage-Specific (LS) regions. These LS regions are enriched for
77 *in planta* expressed genes and harbor many effector genes contributing to host
78 infection ^{14,17,18}. Similar non-random genomic arrangement of effectors have been
79 reported across diverse plant pathogenic fungal and oomycete genomes ^{14,19-25}. One
80 summary of these observations is referred to as the two-speed genome, in which
81 repeat-rich regions harboring effectors evolve more rapidly than genes outside
82 these regions ²⁶.

83

84 Previous research in various plant-associated fungi has established a link between
85 posttranslational histone modifications and transcriptional regulation of adaptive
86 trait genes. These genes include effectors that facilitate host infection, and
87 secondary metabolite (SM) clusters that code for genes that produce chemicals
88 important for niche fitness ²⁷. By removing or reducing enzymes responsible for
89 particular repressive histone modifications, such as di- and trimethylation of Lys9
90 and Lys27 residues of histone H3 (H3K9me2/3 and H3K27me2/3), a
91 disproportionately high number of effector and SM cluster genes are derepressed,
92 although a direct role of these marks in transcriptional control was not
93 demonstrated ²⁸⁻³⁰. However, evidence from the fungus *Epichloe festucae* that forms
94 a mutualistic interaction with its grass host *Lolium perenne* indicates that direct
95 transcriptional regulation through histone modification dynamics is possible ³¹.
96 Although there are clear indications that the epigenome (i.e. heritable chemical
97 modifications to DNA and histones not affecting the genetic sequence) plays a role in

98 adaptive gene regulation, additional evidence is needed to fully understand this
99 phenomenon.
100
101 Epigenetic modifications influence chromatin structure, defined as the DNA-RNA-
102 protein interactions giving DNA physical structure in the nucleus ^{32,33}. This physical
103 structure affects how DNA is organized in the nucleus and DNA accessibility.
104 Methylation of H3K9 and H3K27 are hallmarks of heterochromatin; DNA that is
105 tightly compacted in the nucleus ³⁴⁻³⁷. H3K9 methylation is not only associated with
106 controlling constitutive heterochromatin, but also tightly linked with DNA cytosine
107 methylation (mC), which serves as an epigenetic mark contributing to
108 transcriptional silencing ³⁸. A single DNA methyltransferase gene, termed *Dim2*,
109 performs cytosine DNA methylation in the saprophytic fungus *Neurospora crassa* ³⁹.
110 Histone methylation at H3K9 directs DNA methylation by DIM2 through another
111 protein, termed heterochromatin protein 1 (HP1), which physically associates with
112 both DIM2 and H3K9me3 ^{40,41}. Some fungi possess a unique pathway to limit the
113 expansion of repetitive DNA such as transposable elements through repeat-induced
114 point mutation (RIP), a mechanism that specifically mutates repetitive DNA in the
115 genome during meiosis and induces heterochromatin formation ^{42,43}. The mutations
116 occur at methylated cytosines resulting in conversion to thymines (C to T mutation)
117 ⁴⁴. H3K27 methylation is associated with heterochromatin that is thought to be
118 more flexible in its chromatin status and exist as bivalent chromatin that may be
119 either transcriptionally repressed or active depending on developmental stage or
120 environmental cues ⁴⁵⁻⁴⁸. The deposition of H3K27me3 is controlled by a histone
121 methyltransferase that is a member of a complex of proteins termed Polycomb
122 Repressive Complex 2 (PRC2), with orthologs of the core machinery present across
123 many eukaryotes ^{36,49}.
124
125 In addition to heterochromatin playing a role in transcriptional regulation in
126 filamentous fungi, epigenetic marks contributing to chromatin may influence
127 genome evolution ⁵⁰. In *N. crassa*, DNA is physically arranged in the nucleus

128 corresponding to heterochromatic and euchromatic domains, with strong inter- and
129 intra-heterochromatin DNA-DNA interactions reported^{51,52}. Recent experimental
130 evidence using *Zymoseptoria tritici*, a fungal pathogen of wheat, suggests that
131 H3K27me3 promotes genomic instability⁵³. In the oomycete plant pathogens
132 *Phytophthora infestans* and *Phytophthora sojae* a clear association exists between
133 gene-sparse and transposon-rich regions of the genome and the occurrence of
134 adenine N6-methylation (6mA)⁵⁴. Collectively these examples point towards an
135 unexplained connection between the epigenome, genome architecture, and adaptive
136 evolution. To examine the hypothesis that epigenetic modifications influence the
137 adaptive LS regions of *V. dahliae*, we performed a series of genetic, genomic, and
138 machine learning analyses to characterize these regions in greater detail.

139

140 **RESULTS**

141 **DNA cytosine methylation occurs at transposable elements**

142 To understand the role of DNA methylation in *V. dahliae*, whole-genome bisulfite
143 sequencing, in which unmethylated cytosine bases are converted to uracil while
144 methylated cytosines remain unchanged^{55,56}, was performed in the wild-type and a
145 heterochromatin protein 1 deletion mutant ($\Delta hp1$). The overall level of DNA
146 methylation in *V. dahliae* is low, with an average weighted methylation percentage
147 (calculated as the number of reads supporting methylation over the number of
148 cytosines sequenced) at CG dinucleotides of 0.4% (Table 1). The fractional CG
149 methylation level (calculated as the number of cytosine positions with a methylated
150 read over all cytosine positions) is higher, averaged to 9.7% over 10 kb windows.
151 Weighted and fractional cytosine methylation (mC) levels are statistically
152 significantly higher in the WT compared to the $\Delta hp1$ mutant for all cytosine contexts
153 (Table 1, Supplemental Fig. S1A and B). This result is consistent with the
154 requirement of HP1 for DNA methylation in *N. crassa*⁴⁰. To understand DNA
155 methylation in the context of the functional genome, DNA methylation was analyzed
156 over genes, promoters, and transposable elements (TE). Despite statistically
157 significant differences between WT and $\Delta hp1$ for gene and promoter methylation,

158 the bisulfite sequencing data shows virtually no DNA methylation at these two
159 features (Fig. 1A). We attribute the difference to a marginal set of elements having a
160 real difference between the genotypes, but the biological significance is likely
161 negligible (Fig. 1A). In contrast, there is a much higher degree of methylation, and a
162 notable difference between wild-type and $\Delta hp1$ methylation levels at TEs (Fig. 1A,
163 bottom panel), with the average CG methylation level being five times higher in the
164 wild-type strain.

165

166 Table 1. Summary of DNA methylation in *Verticillium dahliae* wild-type (WT) and
167 heterochromatin protein 1 deletion mutant ($\Delta hp1$) as measured by whole genome
168 bisulfite sequencing calculated over 10 kb non-overlapping windows.

Genotype	Avg. Weighted mCG	Avg. Weighted mCHG	Avg. Weighted mCHH	Avg. Fraction mCG	Avg. Fraction mCHG	Avg. Fraction mCHH
WT	0.0040	0.0037	0.0034	0.097	0.097	0.088
$\Delta hp1$	0.0030	0.0030	0.0032	0.082	0.083	0.079

169 Avg. Weighted, The average of total methylated cytosines in a given context divided
170 by total cytosines in that context in a 10 kb windows; Avg. Fraction, The total
171 cytosines positions with a read supporting methylation divided by total cytosines in
172 a specific context in a 10 kb window; mCG, methylated cytosine residing next to a
173 guanine; mCHG, methylated cytosine residing next to any base that is not a guanine
174 next to a guanine; mCHH, methylated cytosine residing next to any two bases that
175 are not a guanines.

176

177 To further analyze DNA methylation levels and confirm that the low DNA
178 methylation levels in the wild-type strain are indeed different than those in $\Delta hp1$, CG
179 DNA methylation levels were plotted in 10 kb windows across individual
180 chromosomes. These plots clearly show that DNA methylation is not continuously
181 present across the *V. dahliae* genome, and DNA methylation is significantly different
182 between wild-type and $\Delta hp1$ (Fig. 1B, C). Furthermore, regions in the genome with
183 higher densities of TEs and lower gene numbers have higher levels of DNA
184 methylation, consistent with the global DNA methylation summary (Fig. 1B and C).
185 Interestingly, these results show that while DNA methylation is only present at TEs,
186 not all TEs are methylated, a phenomenon that was previously described as ‘non-
187 exhaustive’ DNA methylation⁵⁷. To further understand this phenomenon, we sought

188 to identify discriminating genomic features that could account for some TEs not
 189 being methylated. The whole-chromosome methylation data suggested a lack of
 190 DNA methylation at previously identified LS regions (Fig. 1C, grey windows). These
 191 LS regions were previously detailed for *V. dahliae*, and are characterized as regions
 192 that are highly variable between isolates of the species, are enriched for actively
 193 transcribed TEs, and contain an increased proportion of genes involved in host
 194 virulence¹³⁻¹⁵. Thus, we tested if DNA sequences at LS regions are less frequently
 195 methylated by comparing weighted mCG levels in 10 kb bins containing at least one
 196 TE for core versus LS regions. This analysis showed significantly more DNA
 197 methylation for core bins, which cannot be accounted for by a simple difference in
 198 the number of TEs in the core and LS regions analyzed (Fig. 1D and E). Higher CG
 199 methylation levels also hold true when analyzed at the level of individual TE
 200 elements (Fig. 1F, numbers of elements in Supplemental Table S1). Collectively,
 201 these analyses demonstrate that DNA methylation occurs almost exclusively at TEs
 202 and, importantly, that not all TEs are methylated. This observation can in part be
 203 explained by mCG differences for TEs in the core versus LS regions.
 204

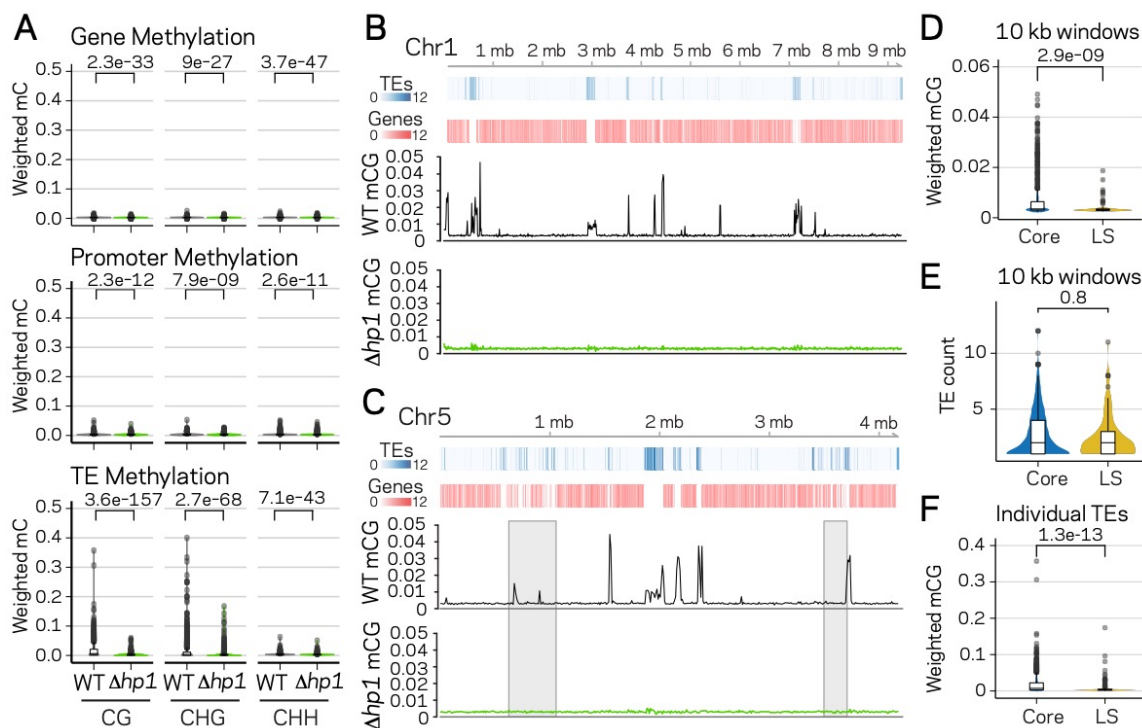


Figure 1. DNA methylation is only present at transposable elements, but not at those present in LS regions. (A) Violin plot of the distribution of DNA methylation levels quantified as weighted methylation over Genes, Promoters and TEs. Cytosine methylation was analyzed in the CG, CHG and CHH sequence context. Methylation was measured in the wild-type (WT) and heterochromatin protein 1 knockout strain ($\Delta h p 1$). (B, C) Whole chromosome plots showing TE and Gene counts (blue and red heatmaps) and wild-type (black lines) and $\Delta h p 1$ (green line) CG methylation as measured with bisulfite sequencing. Data is computed in 10 kilobase non-overlapping windows. (C) Two previously defined LS regions (Faino *et al.* 2016) are highlighted by grey windows. (D) Violin plot of weighted cytosine methylation in 10 kb windows broken into core versus LS location (E) Same as D but plots are for the counts of TEs per 10 kb window. (F) Same as in D but methylation levels were computed at individual TE elements. Statistical differences for indicated comparisons were carried out using non-parametric Mann-Whitney test with associated p-values shown.

205

206 **Transposable element classes have distinct profiles for genomic and** 207 **epigenomic features**

208 To understand the functional status of the various TEs in the genome, DNA-histone
209 modification location data were collected using chromatin immunoprecipitation
210 followed by sequencing (ChIP-seq) against H3K9me3 and H3K27me3, which allows
211 for the identification of DNA interacting with these modified histones.
212 Characteristics of TE sequence, such as GC percentage, composite RIP index (CRI),
213 and TE age, estimated as the Jukes-Cantor distance to the consensus sequence of the
214 specific TE family, were calculated (see methods). To further classify genomic
215 regions as eu- or heterochromatic, we performed an assay for transposase
216 accessible chromatin and sequencing (ATAC-seq)⁵⁸. This method uses a TN5
217 transposase to restrict physically accessible DNA in the nucleus and tags the DNA
218 ends with oligonucleotides for downstream sequencing. Transcriptional activity was
219 assayed using RNA-sequencing. To analyze all of these TE characteristics (variables)
220 at once, dimensional reduction with principle component analysis (PCA) was
221 employed, which facilitates data interpretation on two-dimensions to identify
222 important variables and their relationships within large datasets. The individual TEs
223 were grouped into four broad classes (Type I DNA elements and Type II LTR, LINEs,
224 and Unspecified elements) and analyzed for each measured variable. The first
225 dimension of PCA shows the largest separation of the data points and variables, and
226 largely separates the data based on euchromatin versus heterochromatin features

227 (Fig. 2A, PC1). This is seen by the variables ATAC-seq, %GC, RNA-sequencing,
228 H3K9me3 ChIP, CRI and DNA methylation (mCG) being furthest separated along the
229 x-axis (Fig. 2A). Open chromatin features such as higher ATAC-seq, %GC, and
230 transcriptional activity are positive on the x-axis, with small angles between the
231 vectors, indicating correlation among those variables. Conversely, features
232 associated with heterochromatin, such as H3K9me3 association, DNA methylation
233 and indication of RIP (CRI) are all negative on the x-axis, and the position of their
234 vectors indicates correlation among these variables, and negative correlation to the
235 euchromatin features (Fig. 2A). The second axis discriminates elements based on
236 their H3K27me3 profile and sequence characteristics such as Jukes Cantor (TE age),
237 Identity and Length (Fig. 2A). For the individual element classification, there is a
238 stronger association for the LTR and Unspecified elements with the
239 heterochromatin features (Fig. 2A, grey and red ellipse extending along negative x-
240 axis). Collectively, this multivariate description of TEs identifies those that are more
241 transcribed and open as having lower association with H3K9me3, mCG, and RIP
242 mutation. There are statistically significant differences between the TE types for
243 each of these variables (Supplemental Table S2), and the LTR elements have the
244 highest levels of H3K9me3 and mCG, along with the highest CRI values and lowest
245 %GC, consistent with the mechanistic link between the four variables (Fig. 2B).
246 Interestingly, a bimodal distribution occurs for %GC and CRI within the LTR and
247 Unspecified elements, indicating that some of the LTR elements have undergone RIP
248 and are heterochromatic, while other elements have not been subject to this
249 mechanism (Fig. 2B). This delineation occurs for the Unspecified and LTR elements
250 with a %GC sequence content less than approximately 40%, which have positive CRI
251 values and high H3K9me3 signal (Fig. 2C). A similar distinction is seen with ATAC-
252 seq data that show a clear break around 40% GC content, and elements below this
253 have lower ATAC-seq signal and higher H3K9me3 signal (Fig. 2D). These trends are
254 not observed for the LINE and DNA elements (Supplemental Fig. S2). These results
255 suggest that LTR and Unspecified TE elements exist in two distinct chromatin states
256 in the genome.

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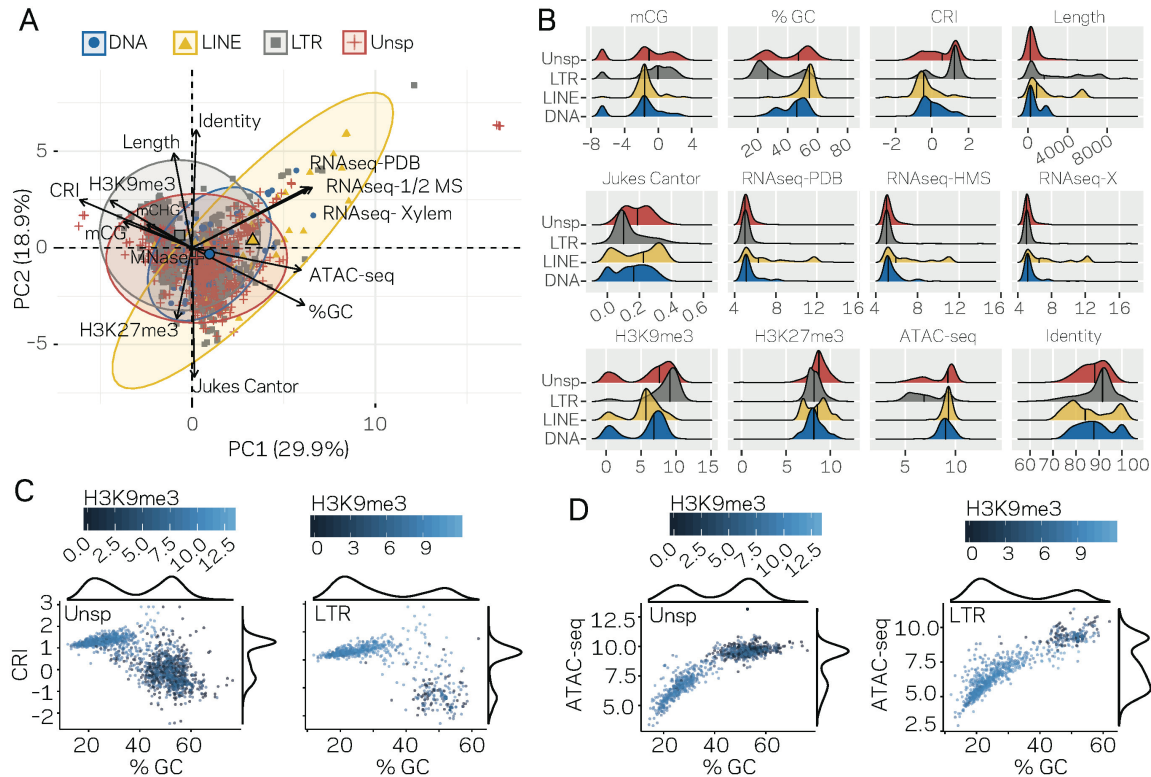


Figure 2. Individual TE families have distinct epigenetic and physical compaction profiles. (A) Principle component analysis for 14 variables measured for each individual TE. Each vector represents one variable, with the length signifying the importance of the variable in the dimension. The relationship between variables can be determined by the angle connecting two vectors. For angles $<90^\circ$, the two variables are correlated, while those $>90^\circ$ are negatively correlated. Each individual element is shown and highlighted by color and symbol as indicated by the key. Colored ellipses show the confidence interval for the four families along with a single large symbol to show the mean position for the four families. mCG, weighted CG DNA methylation; mCHG, weighted CHG DNA methylation; CRI, Composite RIP index; %GC, percent GC sequence content; Identity, Nucleotide identity as percent identity to the consensus TE sequence of a family; Length, element length; Jukes Cantor, Jukes Cantor corrected distance as proxy of TE age; RNAseq, RNA-sequencing reads from (PDB), half strength MS (HMS) or tomato xylem sap (Xylem) grown fungus expressed as variance stabilizing transformed \log_2 values (see methods for details); H3K9me3, \log_2 (TPM+1) values of mapped reads from H3K9me3 ChIP-seq; H3K27me3, \log_2 (TPM+1) values of mapped reads from H3K27me3 ChIP-seq; ATAC-seq, \log_2 (TPM+1) values for mapped reads from Assay for transposase accessible chromatin. **(B)** Ridge plots showing the distribution of the individual TE families per variable. The median value is shown as a solid black line in each ridge. Variables same as in A except for mCG, \log_2 (weighted cytosine DNA methylation + 0.01). **(C)** Scatter plot for %GC versus CRI values for individual TE elements shown as points. The two plots are for TEs characterized as Unspecified (Unsp) or LTR, labeled in the upper left corner. Each point is colored according to \log_2 (TPM+1) values from H3K9me3 ChIP-seq, scale shown above each plot. A density plot is shown for both variables on the opposite side from the labeled axis. **(D)** Same as in C, but the y-axis is now showing the \log_2 (TPM+1) values from ATAC-seq.

259 **Transposable element location significantly influences the epigenetic and DNA**
 260 **accessibility profile**

261 To further dissect the relationship between epigenetic modifications, chromatin
 262 status and genomic location, pair-wise comparisons were made for all TEs in core
 263 versus LS regions. All measured variables, except TE length, are significantly
 264 different for TEs in the core versus LS regions (Supplemental Fig. S3). Further
 265 division of the TEs indicated that the LTR and Unspecified elements showed the
 266 greatest differences for core versus LS measurements (Fig. 3A), demonstrating that
 267 the major driver of core versus LS differences are driven by the LTR and Unspecified
 268 elements. The bimodal distribution for %GC, CRI, H3K9me3, and ATAC-seq can be
 269 accounted for in part by core versus LS separation (Fig. 3B, red versus grey).
 270 Collectively, the status of the LS TE elements can be characterized as devoid of DNA

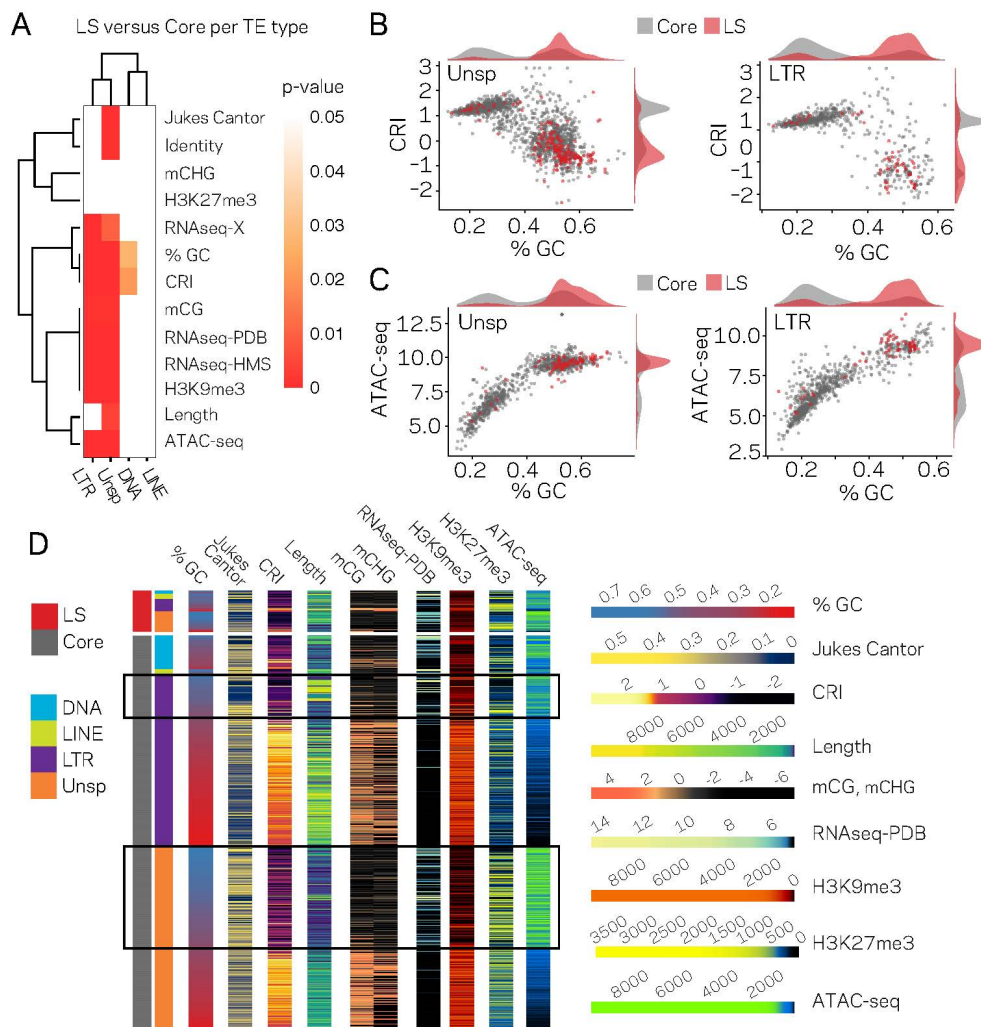


Figure 3. The LTR and Unspecified elements have significantly different chromatin profiles based on core versus LS location. (A) Heatmap comparing core versus LS values within the four TE classifications for the variable listed to the right. Plot colored based on p-values from Wilcoxon rank sum test. P-values ≥ 0.05 are colored white going to red for p-value $\cong 0$. (B) Scatter and density plots similar to those shown in Figure 2c except the individual TE points are colored by core (grey) versus LS (red) location. The density plots are also constructed based on the two groupings (C) Similar to B, with the y-axis now showing the \log_2 (TPM+1) values from ATAC-seq (D) Multiple grouped heatmaps for ten variables collected for each TE. Each row represents a single element and the same ordering is used across all plots. The LS elements are grouped at the top, indicated by the red bar at the top left, and the core elements are grouped below, indicated by the grey bar at the left. Elements are further grouped by the four classifications indicated by the color code shown to the left. Within each element group, the elements are ordered by descending GC content. The scale for each heatmap is shown at the right. % GC, percent GC sequence content; Jukes Cantor, corrected distance as proxy of TE age; CRI, Composite RIP index; Length, element length; mCG and mCHG, \log_2 (weighted cytosine DNA methylation+0.01) for CG and CHG respectively; RNAseq-PDB, variance stabilizing transformed \log_2 RNA-sequencing reads from PDB grown fungus; H3K9me3 and H3K27me3 and ATAC-seq, TPM values of mapped reads H3K9me3 ChIP-seq, H3K27me3 ChIP-seq, or Assay for transposase accessible chromatin respectively. Black boxes highlight LTR and Unsp elements in the core that have euchromatin profiles.

271

272 and H3K9 methylation, low RIP signal, generally higher than 50% GC content, higher
273 levels of H3K27me3, more open with ATAC-seq signal, and higher transcription
274 levels (Fig. 3D). The core versus LS location is not sufficient to fully explain the
275 chromatin status, as there are many elements located in the core genome that share
276 a similar profile with the LS elements (Fig. 3D, elements highlighted in black boxes),
277 but as an ensemble, the core elements are statistically different than those found at
278 LS regions.

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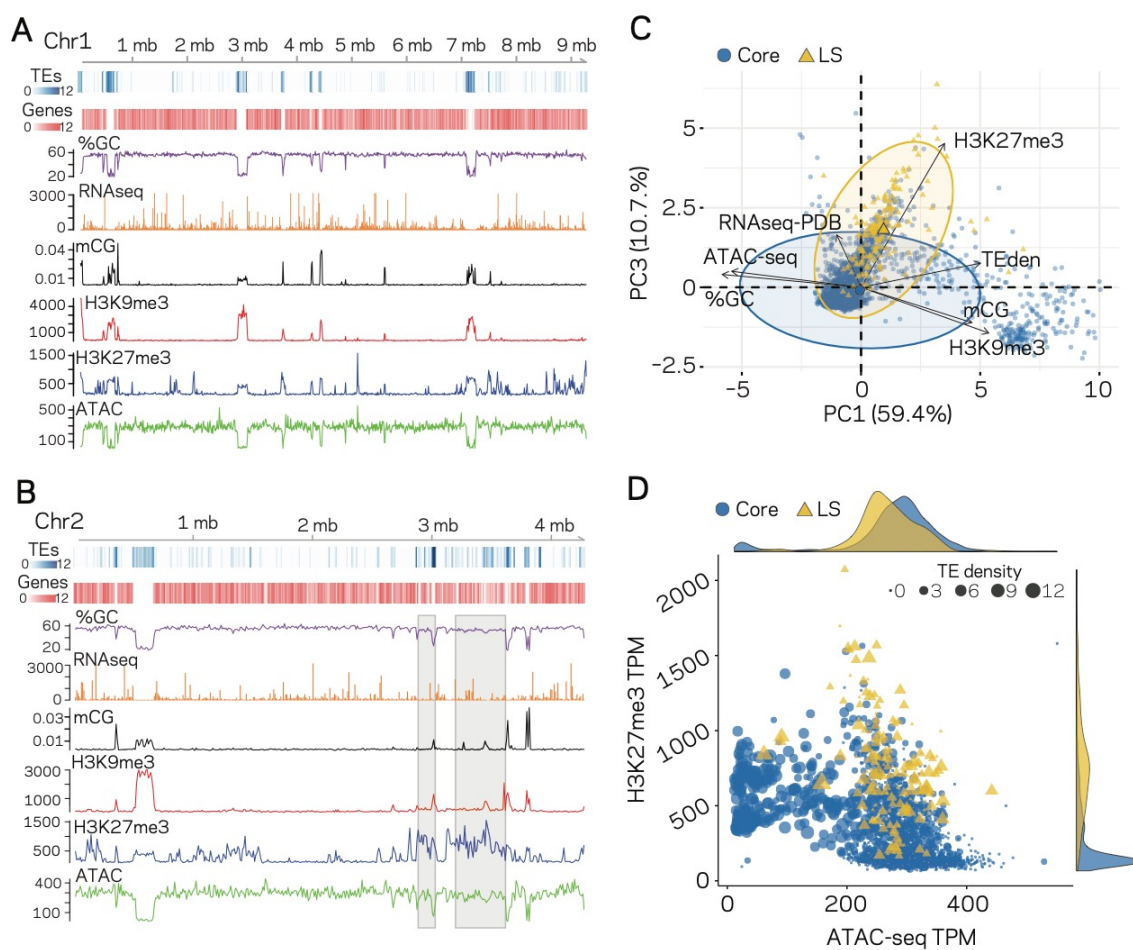
280 **Significantly different chromatin status between core and LS regions extends** 281 **to larger DNA segments**

282 The analysis of TEs in the genome clearly shows that a subpopulation of elements
283 that occur in the previously defined LS regions have different epigenetic
284 modifications and physical openness compared to those in the core genome. LS
285 regions are significant for *V. dahliae* biology as they code many proteins which
286 support host infection. To capture a more global view of core versus LS regions, the
287 genome was analyzed using 10 kb non-overlapping windows, revealing the same
288 global patterns along the linear chromosome sequence; regions with high TE
289 density tend to have lower %GC content, higher DNA and H3K9 methylation and a

290 lack of ATAC-seq reads. The distribution of H3K27me3 appears more complicated.
291 This mark overlaps with that of DNA and H3K9 methylation, as nearly all regions
292 with these two modifications also have H3K27me3, yet we observed additional
293 regions that contain only H3K27me3 and lack DNA and H3K9 methylation (Fig. 4A).
294 The regions that contain DNA methylation and H3K9me3 are nearly identical and
295 for simplicity refer to these regions going forward as being marked by H3K9me3.
296 Interestingly, regions marked by H3K27me3 that lack H3K9me3 have more open
297 DNA than region with H3K27me3 also containing H3K9me3 (Fig. 4A, ATAC). This is
298 apparent for the LS regions that appear to have increased H3K27me3 signal, lack
299 H3K9me3 and are less open than the genomic background but not as closed as the
300 regions marked by H3K9me3 (Fig. 4B, regions marked by grey boxes). PCA was
301 again employed to combine the variables into a single analysis, with the first
302 dimension explaining nearly 60% of the variation in the data (Fig. 4C). The first
303 dimension largely captures the variables describing euchromatin versus
304 heterochromatin, such that ATAC-seq and %GC are furthest separated on the x-axis
305 from H3K9me3, DNA methylation and TE density (Fig. 4C). Interestingly, the DNA
306 segments classified as core are mostly associated with this separation across the
307 first-dimension (Fig. 4C). The second and third dimensions of the PCA explained a
308 similar amount of variation in the data; 14.4% and 10.7%, respectively. Data from
309 the RNA-seq experiment contributed nearly all the information to the second
310 dimension (Supplemental Fig. S4), while the H3K27me3 ChIP-seq data contributed
311 most of the information in the third dimension (Supplemental Table S3).
312 Interestingly, when this third dimension is considered, we observe a strong
313 separation of the core from the LS regions (Fig. 4C, y-axis), suggesting that the LS
314 regions of the genome are less defined by DNA openness, and DNA or H3K9
315 methylation but more by H3K27me3 and transcriptional activity.

316 Our observations can be summarized into a genome-wide model; for the core
317 genome, regions with higher TE density have low ATAC-seq signal (closed DNA) and
318 elevated H3K9me3 signal and thus represent the heterochromatic regions (Fig. 4D,
319 cluster of large blue dots plotted at middle left). Core genomic regions that are gene-
320 rich have a higher ATAC-seq and lower H3K9me3 signal, and represent the

321 euchromatic portion of the genome (Fig. 4D, cluster of small blue dots plotted in the
 322 lower-middle section). The LS regions are a hybrid of the two that contain high TE
 323 density and higher H3K27me3 signal but have higher ATAC-seq signals when
 324 compared with similar TE containing regions in the core genome (Fig. 4D, cluster of
 325 large yellow triangles plotted in the middle). This simple model of the genome
 326 accounts for many of the phenomena described here, and links the epigenome,
 327 physical genome and functional genome.
 328



329

Figure 4. Epigenome and physical DNA characteristics collectively define core and LS regions. (A and B) Whole chromosomes plots showing TE and gene counts over 10 kb genomic windows, blue and red heatmaps respectively. The %GC content is shown in purple, RNA-seq shown in orange, CG cytosine DNA methylation shown in black, H3K9me3 and H3K27me3 ChIP-seq shown in red and blue respectively, and ATAC-seq shown in green. Values are those previously described. (B) Two LS regions are highlighted with a grey window. (C) Principle component analysis for seven variables at each 10 kb window. Dimension 1 and 3 are plotted and collectively explain ~70% of the variation in the data. The individual symbols are colored by genomic location with core (blue circles) and LS (yellow triangles). Colored ellipses show the confidence interval for the core and LS elements with a single large symbol to show the mean. (D) Scatter plot of the 10 kb windows colored for core and LS location by ATAC-seq data (TPM, x-axis) and H3K27me3 (TPM, y-axis). The size of each symbol is proportional to the TE density shown in the upper right corner. The density plot of each variable is shown on the opposite axis.

330

331

332 **Machine learning predicts more lineage-specific genomic regions than**
333 **previously considered**

334 Given that a clear model emerges that links the epigenome and physical openness of
335 DNA with adaptive regions of the genome, we assessed the extent to which these
336 features can predict core or LS regions. Stimulated by our observations (Fig. 4), we
337 used ATAC-seq, RNA-seq, H3K27me3, TE density, and H3K9me3 along with the
338 binary classification of the 10 kb windows as core or LS for machine learning. Four
339 supervised machine learning algorithms were used to train (i.e. learn) on 80% of the
340 data (2890 regions), while the remaining 20% (721 regions) were used for
341 prediction (i.e. test), using a 10-fold cross validation repeated three times. Assessing
342 the classifier's performance using area under the receiver operating characteristic
343 (auROC) curve suggested excellent results ranging from 0.94 to 0.95, with a value of
344 1 being perfect prediction (Fig. 5A). While auROC is the *de facto* standard for
345 machine learning performance⁵⁹, it is not appropriate for assessing predictive
346 performance of binary classification problems when the two classes are heavily
347 skewed as it overestimates performance due to the high number of true negatives⁶⁰.
348 This is the case for our analysis in which the test set (721 regions) contains only 33
349 of the known LS regions (4.6%). To more accurately assess model performance,
350 precision-recall curves were employed as these do not use true negatives, and are
351 therefore less influenced by skewed binary classifications⁶¹. All four algorithms

352 consistently outperformed a random classifier, with the boosted classification tree
353 (BCT) and stochastic gradient boosting (GMB) algorithms having the same highest
354 area under the precision-recall curve of 0.52 (Fig. 5B). However, the confusion
355 matrix indicated that the BCT model only identified 13 of the 33 LS regions (Table
356 2), resulting in poor recall (Table 3). In contrast, the other three models did identify
357 most of the known LS regions (high recall), but had lower precision caused by the
358 high rate of false positives (Table 2 and 3). The Matthews correlation coefficient
359 (MCC), an analogous measure to accuracy but more appropriate for unbalanced
360 binary classification, indicated that the GMB and random forest (RF) models
361 performed the best (Table 3).
362

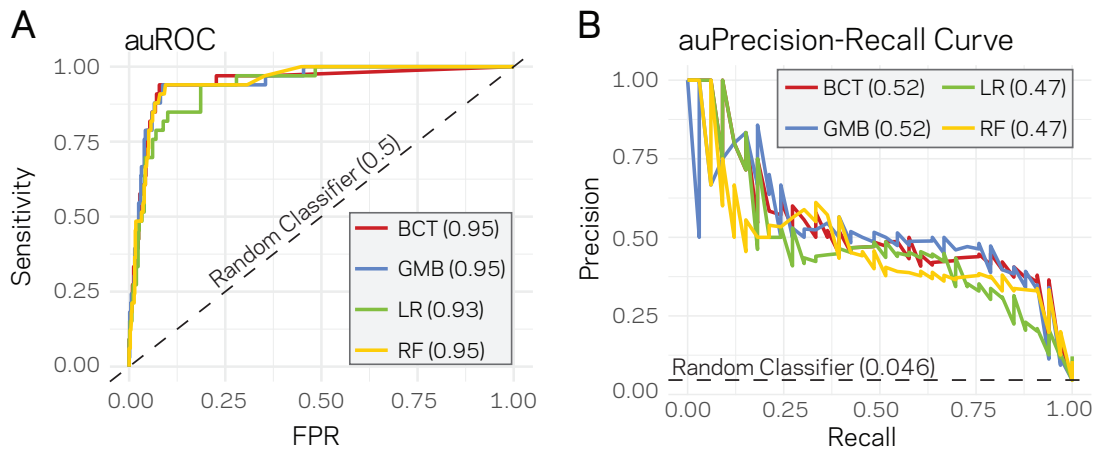


Figure 5. Supervised machine learning can predict LS regions based on epigenome and physical genome characteristics. (A) Area under the Response operator curve (auROC) plotting sensitivity and false positive rate (FPR) for four machine learning algorithms, BCT- Boosted classification tree; GMB- stochastic gradient boosting; LR- logistic regression; RF- random forest. The auROC scores are shown next the algorithm key in the grey box. The black dotted line represents the performance of a random classifier. Perfect model performance would be a curve through point (0,1) in the upper left corner. (B) Area under the Precision-Recall curve for the same four models shown in A. Area under the curves are shown in the figure key in the grey box. The black dashed line shows the performance of a random classifier, calculated as the TP / (TP + FN). Perfect model performance would be a curve through point (1,1) in the upper right corner.

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370 Table 2. Confusion Matrix for LS versus core prediction in *V. dahliae*

		Known	
		Core	LS
LR	Predicted Core	638	7
	Predicted LS	50	26
GMB	Predicted Core	645	5
	Predicted LS	43	28
BCT	Predicted Core	672	20
	Predicted LS	16	13
RF	Predicted Core	623	2
	Predicted LS	65	31

371 LR, Logistic Regression; GMB, Stochastic Gradient Boosting; BCT, Boosted
 372 Classification Tree; RF, Random Forest; Core, regions of the genome defined as core;
 373 LS, regions of the genome defined as Lineage Specific.

374

375 Table 3. Assessment values for the four tested machine learning algorithms used to
 376 classify genomic regions.

Models	Precision	Recall	MCC	F1	F2
LR	0.34	0.79	0.49	0.48	0.63
GMB	0.39	0.85	0.55	0.54	0.69
BCT	0.45	0.39	0.39	0.42	0.40
RF	0.32	0.94	0.52	0.48	0.68

377 LR, Logistic Regression; GMB, Stochastic Gradient Boosting; BCT, Boosted
 378 Classification Tree; RF, Random Forest; MCC, Matthews Correlation Coefficient.

379

380 The results indicate that the machine learning algorithms are well-suited to identify
 381 the previously known LS regions in the test data at a high rate. Additionally, the
 382 algorithms identified a relatively large number of regions as LS that were previously
 383 classified core. The original classification of core and LS in *V. dahliae* was based on
 384 presence/absence variations identified from genomic information of only few
 385 strains^{14,15}. Consequently, we reasoned that regions here classified as LS by the
 386 machine learning algorithms could be genuine LS regions that were originally
 387 missed due to the limited diversity of the *V. dahliae* represented by the strains
 388 sequenced. The two best models from the initial testing, GMB and RF, predicted a
 389 total of 96 and 81 regions as LS respectively, suggesting there could be 2 to 3 times
 390 more LS DNA than previously identified. To improve the genome-wide estimate and

391 to further assess the robustness of machine learning for LS region prediction, we re-
392 ran the GMB and RF algorithms on 15 new training-test splits, independently
393 training and predicting on each set (see methods for details). This approach nearly
394 saturated the genome, providing multiple predictions per window and only 124 of
395 the 3611 regions were missed (Supplemental Fig. S5). The average MCC
396 performance estimate of the GMB and RF classifiers were 0.53 and 0.48 over the 15
397 runs, and our results indicate consistent performance across the independent
398 predictions (Fig. 6A, Supplemental Fig. S6, Supplemental Table S4 and S5). The GMB
399 classifier predicted a total of 285 of the 10 kb regions as LS, while the RF classifier
400 predicted 388 (Supplemental Table S6 and S7). The LS predictions for the two
401 models were in agreement for 280 regions, which is 98% of the GMB predictions
402 and 72% of those from the RF (Fig. 6B), overall showing high agreement between
403 the two classifiers. Consensus predictions were generated from the two classifiers if
404 a region was predicted as LS by both models, and a conservative joining step was
405 employed in which a single predicted core region was called LS if it was flanked by
406 LS predictions on both sides (see methods). This resulted in a total of 280 regions
407 predicted as LS by both classifiers and an additional 41 regions due to the joining. In
408 total, this new classification nearly doubles the total amount of LS regions compared
409 with the original observations^{14,15}. The original classification of LS regions in *V.*
410 *dahliae* clustered in four larger regions^{14,15}. We were interested to understand the
411 physical genomic location of the originally identified and the newly predicted LS
412 regions. The results of the individual classifiers reveal that the new regions are also
413 not randomly dispersed across the genome (Supplemental Fig. S7). The consensus
414 prediction from the two classifiers identified the large blocks of LS regions from the
415 original observations, along with new clusters of LS regions such as those on
416 chromosomes 4, 6, and 8 (Fig. 6C and 6D). Importantly, the newly defined set of LS
417 regions supports a clearer separation of the LS regions from the core regions
418 (Supplemental Fig. S8). Collectively, these analyses suggest that the machine
419 learning algorithms can be used to predict new LS regions based on epigenetic and
420 physical DNA accessibility data. The identification of potentially new LS regions

421 missed in the original classification provides new avenues to identify proteins
 422 important for host infection and adaptation. These results support that genome
 423 structure is influencing genome function, demonstrates a machine learning
 424 approach for predictive biology, and advances our biological understanding of
 425 genome function.

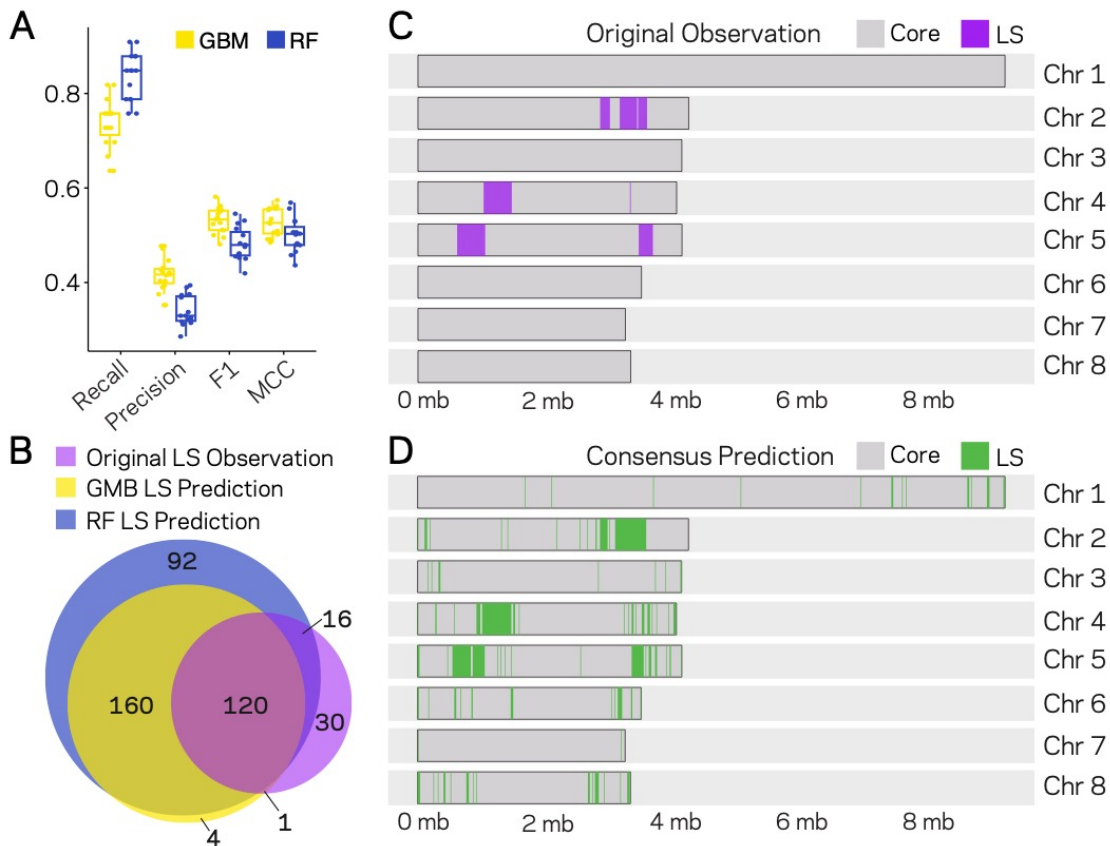


Figure 6. Machine Learning predictions for genome-wide LS content. (A) Two machine learning algorithms, Stochastic Gradient Boosting (GMB) and Random Forest (RF), were used to predict LS regions from 15 independent training-test splits. For each split, 80% of the data were used to train and the remaining 20% were used for prediction. Classifier performance was measured for each of the 15 trials, and summarized as a boxplot with each trial represented as a point. (B) Venn diagram showing the overlap between the results of the two classifiers and the original observations of LS regions (Faino et al. 2016). Each slice of the diagram shows the number of LS regions predicted, see methods for additional details. (C and D) Schematic representation of the eight chromosomes (labeled on right) of *V. dahliae* strain JR2. Each chromosome was divided into 10 kb windows for prediction. Regions classified as core are shown in grey and LS as their indicated color. (C) Original observations of core and LS regions, grey and purple respectively. The five main LS regions can be seen on chromosome 2, 4 and 5. (D) The consensus model predictions for core and LS regions shown in grey and green respectively. The consensus predictions were those made by both the GMB and RF model (in total 280). Regions predicted as LS were joined if they were interrupted by a single window of Core prediction, adding an additional 41 LS regions for a final number of 321 LS regions in the *V. dahliae* JR2 genome.

426 **DISCUSSION**

427 Significant efforts to detail genomes of filamentous pathogens, to understand
428 variation within species, and to a lesser extent to examine epigenetic modifications,
429 have increased our understanding genome function in this important group of
430 organisms ^{16,54,62}. Understanding pathogen genome evolution is of great interest to
431 help combat emerging pathogens, and to broaden our knowledge of genome biology
432 beyond model eukaryotes. Here we present a detailed analysis of the epigenome and
433 physical DNA accessibility of the vascular wilt pathogen *V. dahliae* and link these
434 analyses to previous characterizations of genomic regions contributing to host
435 colonization and adaptation ¹³⁻¹⁶. A clear picture emerges in which the core genome
436 is organized into heterochromatic and euchromatic regions. The heterochromatin is
437 characterized by a high density of TEs with low GC content, high levels of DNA and
438 H3K9 methylation, low DNA accessibility and clear signatures of RIP mutations at
439 repetitive sequences. The euchromatin regions are opposite in all characteristics,
440 and this collective description is consistent with previous research in many other
441 eukaryotic genomes ^{32,63,64}. Interestingly, we provide evidence that previously
442 defined LS regions of the genome, characterized for their role in contributing to host
443 infection, exist in an intermediate chromatin state, having higher TE density than
444 the euchromatic regions, yet are devoid of DNA and H3K9 methylation.
445 Furthermore, LS regions have higher DNA accessibility than the core
446 heterochromatic regions and are more transcriptionally active, but they are less
447 accessible than the ‘true’ euchromatic gene-rich core regions. Notably, LS regions
448 are characterized as having a strong association with H3K27me3, similar to the
449 discovery that SM gene clusters are enriched at H3K27me3 regions in *F.*
450 *graminearum* ²⁹. Our results demonstrate that LS regions are by definition not
451 heterochromatic, as they are far more accessible than the true heterochromatin, and
452 yet they typically contain many heterochromatin features. We note previous
453 descriptions of contradictory heterochromatin states ⁶⁵, and the broad possible
454 chromatin states that may characterize a genome ³³. However, few previous

455 analyses have assessed the relationship between DNA and histone modifications
456 with DNA accessibility in light of biological function of genomic adaptation.

457

458 Our results support the hypothesis that chromatin structure underlies genome
459 function. More specifically that chromatin modifications and DNA accessibility
460 contribute to genome evolution, not just via transcriptional control but also
461 regarding the architecture of the genome⁵⁰. Along with the described associations,
462 we were able to predict LS regions using machine learning. The results of running
463 four machine learning algorithms trained on H3K9 and H3K27 methylation, RNA-
464 sequencing, TE density and DNA accessibility data, shows these variables could be
465 used to classify DNA segments as core versus LS with high recall (i.e. sensitivity).
466 The RF model showed the highest recall, correctly classifying 31 of the previously
467 observed 33 LS regions in spite of their skewed presence in the data at nearly 1:20
468 LS to core. The precision assessment of the algorithms was low because each model
469 classified regions as LS that were originally observed as core, statistically termed
470 false positives. However, the original observations represent operational
471 classification based on then available data. Consensus predictions based on the two
472 highest performing models extended the boundaries of the previous LS regions and
473 identified new potentially clustered LS regions. Thus, the use of machine learning
474 can extend our knowledge of biology and identify novel genomic regions to search
475 for as of yet uncharacterized genes with important adaptive roles. Collectively, we
476 interpret our results to indicate a strong link between the epigenome, physical DNA
477 accessibility and the occurrence of LS regions in *V. dahliae*. Our findings however
478 have limited inference on causation versus association, an important area for future
479 research. If there is a causative relationship between genome structure and function
480 it is interesting to consider who drives whom- do the LS regions dictate altered
481 chromatin or does altered chromatin dictate LS formation?

482

483 It is currently not possible to extend our machine learning predictions to additional
484 filamentous pathogen genomes, as the necessary data are not currently publicly
485 available. However, for many filamentous plant pathogens it is clear that genome

486 variation on multiple scales, from SNPs to large structural variation, are not
487 uniformly distributed in the genome²⁹. Recent reports from the fungal pathogen *Z.*
488 *tritici* addressed the role of genome stability and H3K27me3 during asexual
489 reproduction^{53,66}. During experimental evolution, individual strains of *Z. tritici*
490 readily lose accessory chromosomes. The authors observed that a mutant lacking
491 the enzyme responsible for H3K27me3 showed less accessory chromosome loss and
492 concluded that H3K27me3 destabilizes chromosome structure⁵³. However,
493 accessory chromosome losses were clearly biased in their individual frequency and
494 changes were not reported for core chromosomes, despite H3K27me3 being found
495 at high levels on accessory and regions of core chromosomes⁶⁷. Therefore, the
496 observed genome destabilization requires additional determinants in conjunction
497 with H3K27me3 which remain to be discovered. Results presented here suggest that
498 DNA and histone methylation marks and physical DNA accessibility are important
499 additional determinants to distinguish accessory and LS regions of the genome.
500 However, we acknowledge that our model does not strictly differentiate all LS
501 region in the *V. dahliae* genome, as there are LS and core regions that have very
502 similar overall chromatin profiles, and therefore these features alone are not
503 sufficient. One factor that could explain part of this discrepancy is that LS formation
504 is likely not fully deterministic. Evolution is a stochastic process, and it seems
505 unlikely that LS formation can be described in absolute terms. Rather, it is more
506 likely to be a probabilistic process, in which specific chromatin and physical status
507 increases the likelihood for formation and maintenance of LS regions. The results
508 presented here offer an exciting new link between the epigenome, physical DNA
509 accessibility and adaptive genome evolution.

510

511 **METHODS**

512 **Fungal growth and strain construction**

513 *V. dahliae* strain JR2 (CBS 143773) was used for experimental analysis⁶⁸. The strain
514 was maintained on potato dextrose agar (PDA) (Oxoid, Thermo Scientific, CM0139)
515 and grown at 22°C in the dark. For liquid grown cultures, conidiospores were

516 collected from PDA plates after approximately two weeks and inoculated into flasks
517 containing the desired media at a concentration of 2×10^4 spores per mL. Media used
518 in this study include PDA, half-strength Murashige and Skoog plus vitamins (HMS)
519 (Duchefa-Biochemie, Haarlem, The Netherlands) medium supplemented with 3%
520 sucrose and xylem sap (abbreviated, X) collected from greenhouse grown tomato
521 plants of the cultivar MoneyMaker. Liquid cultures were grown for four days in the
522 dark at 22°C and 160 RPM. The cultures were strained through miracloth ($22 \mu\text{m}$)
523 (EMD Millipore, Darmstadt, Germany), pressed to remove liquid, flash frozen in
524 liquid nitrogen and ground to powder with a mortar and pestle. Samples were
525 stored at -80°C if required prior to nucleic acid extraction.

526 The *Δhp1* strain was constructed as previously described⁶⁹. Briefly, the genomic
527 DNA regions flanking the 5' and 3' HP1 coding sequence were amplified (*left border*,
528 For. Primer, 5'-GGTCTTAAUGACCTGAAGAATCGAGCAAGGA and
529 Rev. primer, 5'-GGCATTAAUATGAAAGCACCGGGATTTTTCT; *right border*,
530 For. Primer, 5'-GGACTTAAUATGCTGTTGGGAGGCAGAATAA
531 Rev. primer, 5'-GGGTTTAAUCCACGTAGATGGAGGGGTAGA). The PCR products were cloned
532 in to the pRF-HU2 vector system⁷⁰ using USER enzyme following manufactured
533 protocol (New England Biolabs, MA, USA). Correctly ligated vector was transformed
534 into *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* strain AGL1 used for *V. dahliae* spore
535 transformation⁶⁹. Colonies of *V. dahliae* growing on hygromycin B selection after 5
536 days were moved to individual plates containing PDA and hygromycin B. Putative
537 transformants were screened using PCR to check for deletion of the HP1 sequence
538 (For. Primer, 5'- AATCCCGCAAGGGAAAAGAGAC and Rev. primer, 5'-
539 CGTGTGCTTTGTCTTCTGACCA) and the integration of the hygromycin B sequence (For.
540 Primer, 5'- TGGAATATGCCACCAGCAGTAG and Rev. primer, 5'- GGAGTCGCATAAGGGAGAGCG) at
541 the specific locus.

542

543 **Bisulfite sequencing and analysis**

544 The wild-type *V. dahliae* strain and *Δhp1* were grown in liquid PDA for three days,
545 flash frozen and collected as described earlier. Extracted DNA was sent to the

546 Beijing Genome Institute (BGI) for bisulfite conversion, library construction and
547 Illumina sequencing. Briefly, the DNA was sonicated to a fragment range of 100-300
548 bp, end-repaired and methylated sequencing adapters were ligated to 3' ends. The
549 EZ DNA Methylation-Gold kit (Zymo Research, CA, USA) was followed according to
550 manufacturer guidelines for bisulfite conversion of non-methylated DNA. Libraries
551 were paired-end 100bp sequenced on an Illumina HiSeq 2000.

552

553 Whole-genome bisulfite sequencing reads were analyzed using the BSMAP pipeline
554 (v. 2.73) and methratio script ⁷¹. The results were partitioned into CG, CHG and CHH
555 cytosine sites for analysis. Only cytosine positions containing greater than 4
556 sequencing reads were included for analysis. Methylation levels were summarized
557 as weighted methylation percentage, calculated as the number of reads supporting
558 methylation over the number of cytosines sequenced or as fractional methylation,
559 calculated as the number of methylated cytosines divided by all cytosine positions
560 ⁷². For fractional methylation, a cytosine was considered methylated if it was at least
561 5% methylated from all the reads covering that cytosine. As such, weighted
562 methylation captures quantitative aspects of methylation, while fractional
563 methylation is more qualitative. Weighted and fractional methylation were
564 calculated over intervals described in the text, including genes, promoters (defined
565 as the 300 bp upstream of the translation start site), transposable elements and 10
566 kb windows. For each feature, weighted and fractional methylation were calculated
567 from the sum of the mapped reads or the sum of the positions, respectively, over the
568 analyzed region. Two sample comparisons were computed using base R ⁷³ to
569 compute the non-parametric Mann-Whitney U test (equivalent to the two-sample
570 Wilcoxon rank-sum test). Principle component analyses were computed in R using
571 the packages FactoMineR (v 1.42) ⁷⁴ and factoextra (v 1.0.5) ⁷⁵.

572

573 **Transposable element annotation**

574 Repetitive elements were identified in the *V. dahliae* stains JR2 genome assembly ⁶⁸
575 as well as in three other high-quality *V. dahliae* genome assemblies ¹⁶ using a

576 combination of LTRharvest⁷⁶ and LTRdigest⁷⁷ followed by *de novo* identification of
577 RepeatModeler⁷⁸. Briefly, LTR sequences were identified (recent and ancient LTR
578 insertions) and subsequently filtered, e.g. for occurrence of primer binding sites or
579 for nested insertions (see procedure outlined by Campbell and colleagues for details
580⁷⁹). Prior to the *de novo* prediction with RepeatModeler, genome-wide occurrences
581 of the identified LTR elements are masked. Predicted LTR elements and the *de novo*
582 predictions from RepeatModeler were subsequently combined, and the identified
583 repeat sequences of the four *V. dahliae* strains were clustered using vsearch (80%
584 sequence identity, search on both strands; v 2.4.4)⁸⁰. A non-redundant *V. dahliae*
585 repeat library that contained consensus sequences for each cluster (i.e. repeat
586 family) was constructed by performing multiple sequence alignments using MAFFT
587 (v7.271)⁸¹ followed by the construction of a consensus sequence as described by
588 Faino et al.¹⁵. The consensus repeat library was subsequently manually curated and
589 annotated (Wicker classification⁸²) using PASTEC (default databases and settings;
590 search in the reverse-complement sequence enabled)⁸³, which is part of the REPET
591 pipeline (v2.2)⁸⁴, and similarity to previously identified repetitive elements in *V.*
592 *dahliae*^{68,85}. The occurrence and location of repeats in the genome assembly of *V.*
593 *dahliae* strain JR2 were determined using RepeatMasker (v 4.0.7; sensitive option).
594 The Repeatmasker output was post-processed using ‘One code to find then all’⁸⁶
595 which supports the identification and combination of multiple matches (for instance
596 due to deletions or insertions) into combined, representative repeat occurrences.
597 We only further considered matches to the repeat consensus library, and thereby
598 excluded simple repeats and low-complexity regions. To estimate divergence time
599 of TEs, each individual copy of a transposable element was aligned to the consensus
600 of its family using needle, which is part of the EMBOSS package⁸⁷. Sequence
601 divergence between the TEs and the TE-family consensus was corrected using the
602 Jukes-Cantor distance, with a correction term that accounts for insertions and
603 deletions^{88,89}. The composite RIP index (CRI) was calculated as previously
604 described⁴³. Briefly, CRI was determined by subtracting the RIP substrate from the
605 RIP product index, which are defined by dinucleotide frequencies as follows: RIP

606 product index = (TpA / ApT) and the RIP substrate index = (CpA + TpG/ ApC + GpT).
607 Positive CRI values indicate the analyzed sequences were subjected to the RIP
608 process. For TE analysis, elements that are less than 100 bp were removed.

609

610 **RNA-sequencing and analysis**

611 *V. dahliae* strain JR2 (CBS 143773) was grown in triplicate liquid media PDB, HMS
612 and xylem sap as described. RNA extraction was carried out using TRIzol (Thermo
613 Fisher Science, Waltham, MA, USA) following manufacturer guidelines. Following
614 RNA re-suspension, contaminating DNA was removed using the TURBO DNA-free kit
615 (Ambion, Thermo Fisher Science, Waltham, MA, USA) and RNA integrity was
616 estimated by separating 2 μ L of each sample on a 2% agarose gel and quantified
617 using a Nanodrop (Thermo Fisher Science, Waltham, MA, USA) and stored at -80°C.
618 Library preparation and sequencing was carried out at BGI. Briefly, mRNA were
619 enriched based on polyadenylation purification and random hexamers were used
620 for cDNA synthesis. RNA-sequencing libraries were constructed following end-
621 repair and adapter ligation protocols and PCR amplified. Purified DNA fragments
622 were single-end 50bp sequenced on an Illumina HiSeq 2000.

623

624 Reads were mapped to the *V. dahliae* stain JR2 genome assembly⁶⁸ using STAR (v
625 2.6.0) with settings (`--sjdbGTFfeatureExon exon, --sjdbGTFtagExonParentTranscript`
626 `Parent, --alignIntronMax 400, --outFilterMismatchNmax 5, --outFilterIntronMotifs`
627 `RemoveNoncanonical`)⁹⁰. Mapped reads were quantified using the
628 `summarizeOverlaps` and variance stabilizing transformation (`vst`) features of
629 DESeq2⁹¹. For TE analysis, the coordinates of the annotated TEs were used as
630 features for read counting. To perform RNAseq analysis over whole genome 10 kb
631 regions, raw mapped reads were summed over 10 kb bins using bedtools (v 2.27)⁹¹
632 and converted to Transcripts Per Million (TPM) and averaged over the three reps
633 for analysis.

634

635

636

637 **Chromatin immunoprecipitation and sequencing and analysis**

638 *V. dahliae* strain JR2 was grown in PDB and materials was collected as described.

639 Approximately 400 mg ground material was resuspended in 4 ml ChIP Lysis buffer

640 (50 mM HEPES-KOH pH7.5, 140 mM NaCl, 1 mM EDTA, 1% Triton X-100, 0.1%

641 NaDOC) and dounced 40 times in a 10 cm³ glass tube with tight fitting pestle on 800

642 power with a RZR50 homogenizer (Heidolph, Schwabach, Germany), followed by

643 five rounds of 20 seconds sonication on ice with 40 seconds rest between rounds

644 with a Soniprep 150 (MSE, London, UK). Samples were redistributed to 2 ml tubes

645 and pelleted for 2 min at max speed in tabletop centrifuge. The supernatants were

646 combined, together with 20 µl 1M CaCl₂ and 2.5µl MNase, and after 10 minutes of

647 incubation in a 37°C water bath with regular manual shaking, 80 µl 0.5M EGTA was

648 added and tubes were put on ice. Samples were pre-cleared by adding 40 µl Protein

649 A Magnetic Beads (New England Biolabs, MA, United States) and rotating at 4°C for

650 60 min, after which the beads were captured, 1 ml fractions of supernatant were

651 moved to new 2 ml tubes containing 5 µl H3K9me3 or H3K27me3 antibody

652 (ActiveMotif ; #39765 and #39155) respectively and incubated overnight with

653 continuous rotation at 4°C. Subsequently, 20 µl protein-A magnetic beads were

654 added and incubated for 3 hours at 4°C, after which the beads were captured on a

655 magnetic stand and subsequently washed with 1 ml wash buffer (50 mM Tris HCl

656 pH 8, 1 mM EDTA, 1% Triton X-100, 100 mM NaCl), high-salt wash buffer (50 mM

657 Tris HCl pH 8, 1 mM EDTA, 1% Triton X-100, 350 mM NaCl), LiCl wash buffer (10

658 mM Tris HCl pH8, 1 mM EDTA, 0.5% Triton X-100, 250 mM LiCl), TE buffer (10 mM

659 Tris HCl pH 8, 1mM EDTA). Nucleosomes were eluted twice from beads by addition

660 of 100µl pre-heated TES buffer (100 mM Tris HCl pH 8, 1% SDS, 10 mM EDTA, 50

661 mM NaCl) and 10 minutes incubation at 65°C. 10mg /ml 2µl Proteinase K (10mg

662 /ml) was added and incubated at 65°C for 3 hours, followed by chloroform clean-up.

663 DNA was precipitated by addition of 2 volumes 100% ethanol, 1/10th volume 3 M

664 NaOAc pH 5.2 and 1/200th volume 120 mg/ml glycogen, and incubated overnight at

665 -20°C. Sequencing libraries were prepared using the TruSeq ChIP Library

666 Preparation Kit (Illumina) according to instructions, but without gel purification and

667 with use of the Velocity DNA Polymerase (BioLine, Luckenwalde, Germany) for 25
668 cycles of amplification. Single-end 125bp sequencing was performed on the Illumina
669 HiSeq2500 platform at KeyGene N.V. (Wageningen, the Netherlands).

670

671 Reads were mapped to the reference JR2 genome, using BWA-mem with default
672 settings⁹². For CHIP and ATAC-seq mapping, three regions of the genome were
673 masked due to aberrant mapping, possibly owing to sequence similarity to the
674 mitochondrial genome (chr1:1-45000, chr2:3466000-3475000, chr3:1-4200). This
675 is similar to what is described as blacklisted regions in other eukaryotic genomes⁹³.
676 The raw mapped reads were counted either over the TE coordinates or 10 kb
677 intervals for the two separate analyses. The raw mapped reads were converted to
678 TPM and the average of the two replicates was used for analysis.

679

680 **Assay for Transposase-Accessible Chromatin (ATAC)-sequencing and analysis**

681 The *V. dahliae* strain JR2 (CBS 143773) was grown in PDB liquid media as described.
682 Mycelium was collected, filtered, rinsed and flash frozen in liquid nitrogen. The
683 ATAC-seq procedure was carried out mainly as described previously⁹⁴. Nuclei were
684 collected by resuspending ground mycelium in 5 mL of ice-cold Nuclei Isolation
685 Buffer (NIB) (100 mM NaCl, 4mM NaHSO₄, 25mM Tris-HCl, 10mM MgSO₄, 0.5mM
686 EDTA, 0.5% NP-40 including protease inhibitors added at time of extraction, 2 mM
687 Phenylmethanesulfonyl fluoride (PMSF), 100 μM Leupeptin, 1 μg/mL Pepstatin, 10
688 μM E-64). The homogenate was layered onto 10-mL of an ice-cold sucrose-Ficoll
689 gradient (bottom layer 5mL of 2.5M sucrose in 25mM Tris-HCl, 5mL 40% Ficoll 400
690 (GE Biosciences Corporation, NJ, USA)). Nuclei were separated into the lower phase
691 by centrifugation at 2000g for 30 min at 4°C. The upper layer was discarded and the
692 lower phase (~4mL) moved to another collection tube containing 5mL of ice-cold
693 NIB. Nuclei were pelleted at 9000g for 15 min at 4°C and re-suspended in 3 mL of
694 NIB. The integrity of the nuclei and their concentration in the solution were
695 estimated by DAPI staining (DAPI Dilactate 5mg/mL, used at a 1/2000 dilution for
696 visualization) and counted on a hemocytometer. A total of 200,000 nuclei were

697 transferred to a 1.5mL microfuge tube, and nuclei pelleted at 13000g for 15 min at
698 4°C and resuspended in the transposition reaction (20uL of 2x Nextera reaction
699 buffer, 0.5uL of Nextera Tn5 Transposase, 19.5 uL of nuclease-free H₂O) (Illumina,
700 Nextera DNA library Preparation kit FA-121-1030) and the reaction was carried out
701 for 5 minutes at 37°C. The reaction was halted and fragmented DNA purified using a
702 MinuElute PCR purification kit (Qiagen, MD, USA). The eluted DNA was amplified in
703 reaction buffer (10uL of transposased DNA, 10uL nuclease-free H₂O, 2.5uL forward
704 PCR primer (5'-AATGATACGGCGACCACCGAGATCTACACTCGTCGGCAGCGTCAGATGTG), 2.5uL
705 reverse PCR primer
706 (CAAGCAGAAGACGGCATAACGAGATTTCTGCCTGTCTCGTGGGCTCGGAGATGT) and 25uL
707 NEBnext High-Fidelity 2x PCR Master Mix (New England Biolabs, MA, United
708 States)) using thermo-cycler conditions described in ⁹⁴ for a total of 9 cycles.
709 Amplified library was purified using the MinElute PCR Purification Kit (Qiagen, MD,
710 USA) and paired-end 100 bp sequenced on an Illumina HiSeq4000.

711

712 Reads were mapped to the reference JR2 genome with the described blacklisted
713 regions masked, using BWA-mem with default settings ⁹². The mapped reads were
714 further processed to remove duplicates reads arising from library prep and
715 sequencing using Picard toolkit *markDuplicates* ⁹⁵. The mapped reads were counted
716 either over the TE coordinates or 10 kb intervals for the two separate analyses using
717 bedtools *multicov* (v 2.27) ⁹⁶. The reads were converted to TPM values and those
718 numbers used for analysis.

719

720 **Machine Learning and assessment**

721 The machine learning algorithms were implemented using the classification and
722 regression training (caret) package in R ^{73,97}. The full set of genomic data was used
723 to create a data frame comprising the genome in 10 kb segments as rows and the
724 individual collected variables as columns. The regions were classified as core or LS
725 based on the previous observations ¹⁵. For initial model assessment and parameter
726 tuning, the data were split into 80% for training and 20% used for testing (i.e.

727 prediction), and the proportion of core and LS regions were kept approximately
728 equal in the two splits. For parameter tuning, repeated cross-validation of 10-fold 3-
729 times was used and the best model was selected based on accuracy. Four algorithms
730 were used- logistic regression, random forest, stochastic gradient boosting, and
731 boosted classification tree. The model for all algorithms was classification = ATAC-
732 seq_{TPM} + ChIP-H3K27me3_{TPM} + ChIP-H3K9me3_{TPM} + TE_{density} + PDB-RNAseq_{TPM}.
733 Logistic regression was run using method *glm*, family *binomial*. Random forest was
734 run using method *rf* and tuneGrid [*mtry*= (1,2,3)]. The Stochastic Gradient Boosting
735 was implemented with method *gbm* and tuneGrid [*interaction.depth*=(1,5,10),
736 *n.trees*=(50,500,1000), *shrinkage*=(0.001, 0.01), *n.minobsinnode*=(1,5)]. The Bosted
737 Classification Tree was implemented unusing method *ada* and tuneGrid [*iter*=(100,
738 1000, 3000), *maxdepth*=(1,5,20), *nu*=(0.01)]. Models were assessed using standard
739 metrics for data retrieval, with receiver operating and precision-recall curves
740 generated using package PRROC ⁹⁸.

741

742 To saturate the genome in predictions, a total of 15 new training test splits (80:20)
743 were generated, again maintaining the genome-wide proportion of core and LS
744 regions in data set. The random forest and stochastic gradient boosting classifiers
745 were used, based on their highest performance from the initial test. The settings
746 were picked based on best performance from initial testing: random forest, method
747 *rf* and tuneGrid [*mtry*=3]; stochastic gradient boosting, method *gbm* and tuneGrid
748 [*interaction.depth*=(5), *n.trees*=(500), *shrinkage*=(0.01), *n.minobsinnode*=(5)]. The
749 predictions for each of the 15 runs were assessed using the precision, recall and
750 MCC metrics. For each genomic region, a consensus designation was assigned based
751 on the highest occurrence of core versus LS prediction across the 15 trials. This was
752 done independently between the two models. A region was finally classified as LS or
753 core based on the majority classification across the 15 trails. For regions that had an
754 equal number of core and LS predictions, the regions were designated as core to be
755 conservative. A final high confidence LS consensus designation was determined for
756 each genomic region if it was predicted LS by both models. Regions predicted LS by
757 only one of the models were designated core. A conservative joining approach was

758 used so that a single core region would be called LS if it were flanked by two LS
759 regions. This added 41 genomic regions (410 kb) to the LS genome.

760

761 **DATA ACCESS**

762 The sequencing data for this project are accessible from the National Center for
763 Biotechnology Information (NCBI) Sequence Read Archive (SRA) under BioProject
764 PRJN592220.

765

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774

775 **DISCLOSURE DECLARATION**

776 The authors declare no competing interests.

777

778 **SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL**

779 Supplemental Fig S1

780 Supplemental Fig S2

781 Supplemental Fig S3

782 Supplemental Fig S4

783 Supplemental Fig S5

784 Supplemental Fig S6

785 Supplemental Fig S7

786 Supplemental Fig S8

787

788

789 Supplemental Table S1

790 Supplemental Table S2

791 Supplemental Table S3

792 Supplemental Table S4

793 Supplemental Table S5
794 Supplemental Table S6
795 Supplemental Table S7
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