

1 **Cancer Stemness Online: A resource for investigating cancer stemness and associations**
2 **with immune response**

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25 **Abstract**

26 Cancer progression involves the gradual loss of a differentiated phenotype and acquisition of
27 progenitor and stem-cell-like features, which are potential culprit in immunotherapy
28 resistance. Although the state-of-art predictive computational methods have facilitated
29 predicting the cancer stemness, currently there is no efficient resource that can meet various
30 requirements of usage. Here, we presented the Cancer Stemness Online, an integrated
31 resource for efficiently scoring cancer stemness potential at bulk and single-cell level. The
32 resource integrates 8 robust predictive algorithms as well as 27 signature gene sets associated
33 with cancer stemness for predicting the stemness scores. Downstream analyses were
34 performed from five different aspects, including identifying the signature genes of cancer
35 stemness, exploring the association with cancer hallmarks, cellular states, immune response
36 and communication with immune cells, investigating the contributions for patient survival
37 and the robustness analysis of cancer stemness among different methods. Moreover, the pre-
38 calculated cancer stemness atlas for more than 40 cancer types can be accessed by users. Both
39 the tables and diverse visualization for the analytical results are available for download.
40 Together, Cancer Stemness Online is a powerful resource for scoring cancer stemness and
41 going deeper and wider in the downstream functional interpretation, including immune
42 response as well as cancer hallmark. Cancer Stemness Online is freely accessible at
43 <http://bio-bigdata.hrbmu.edu.cn/CancerStemnessOnline>.

44 **Keywords:**

45 Cancer stemness, cancer stem cell, single-cell RNA-seq, immunology.

46

47 **Introduction**

48 Although numerous therapeutic modalities have been developed to treat cancer, such as
49 surgery, radiation, chemotherapy and immunotherapy, the risk of cancer recurrence remains
50 high [1]. Cancer progression involves the gradual loss of a differentiated phenotype and
51 acquisition of progenitor and stem-cell-like features [2, 3]. The existence of cancer stem cells
52 (CSCs) has been reported in various cancer types [4]. Cancer stemness has also been reported
53 to be the potential culprit in immunotherapy resistance [5, 6]. A convenient platform
54 providing the markers of cancer stemness and stemness index of patients or cancer cells is
55 critical to understand the potential molecular mechanism and develop useful therapy.

56 Recently, the state-of-art predictive computational methods facilitate to assess the degree
57 of cancer stemness. The majority of methods mainly based on bulk or single-cell
58 transcriptomes to evaluate the stemness of patients or cancer cells. Briefly, these methods can
59 be classified into unsupervised and supervised methods. For example, the commonly used
60 method was single-sample gene set enrichment analysis (ssGSEA) [7], which estimated the
61 stemness score based on the expressions of collected stemness-related gene signatures.
62 Moreover, CytoTRACE was recently developed to predict the differentiation and
63 developmental potential of single cell by assessing the number of detectably expressed genes
64 per cell [8]. Other tools, such as SLICE [9] and SCENT [10] allow researchers to quantify
65 stemness by entropy analysis. StemID [11] assesses stemness of cell types within a
66 population by utilizing tree topology and transcriptome composition.

67 On the other hand, numerous supervised methods were also developed to estimate the
68 stemness. mRNasi is a widely used transcriptome stemness index to evaluate the stemness
69 based on the one-class logistic regression machine learning algorithm [12, 13].
70 StemnessIndex provides an absolute index to evaluate stemness by comparing the relative
71 expression orderings of the stem cell samples and the normal adult samples from different
72 tissues [13]. In addition, StemSC is a stemness index for single cell [14], which represents the
73 percentage of gene pairs with the same relative expression orderings as the reference of
74 embryonic stem cell samples. All these unsupervised and supervised methods provided
75 valuable tools for estimating the stemness for patients or single cells. However, they were
76 scattered across different literature and are difficult to use for researchers with no
77 programming experience.

78 Some webservers or databases have been developed to depict cell stemness or collect stem
79 cell-related data. However, the majority of these resources only focus on stem gene sets,

80 without providing stemness of samples from public data directly. For example, SISTEMA
81 [15] collected a large number of human stem cell transcriptome data to display the expression
82 of stem genes under different cell lines, cell types and pathological conditions. StemMapper
83 [16] collected transcriptome data sets of various stem cells. Currently there is no efficient
84 database that can meet various requirements of users.

85 Therefore, we developed the Cancer Stemness Online ([http://bio-](http://bio-bigdata.hrbmu.edu.cn/CancerStemnessOnline/)
86 [bigdata.hrbmu.edu.cn/CancerStemnessOnline/](http://bio-bigdata.hrbmu.edu.cn/CancerStemnessOnline/)), which is a resource providing the cancer
87 stemness score (CSscore), functional analysis and visualization. To assess the CSscore for
88 bulk or single-cell RNA-seq (scRNA-seq) data, Cancer Stemness Online integrated 5
89 unsupervised and three supervised methods, which evaluated the differentiation level based
90 on transcriptional complexity or similarity to the reference profiles of stem cells. Basic
91 statistical analysis and additional five advanced analyses modules were provided. Cancer
92 Stemness Online is an online platform that does not require registration. It allows users to
93 upload their data for analysis. It provides multiple visualizations of the results for better
94 understanding the stemness. All charts and tables are available for download. Together,
95 Cancer Stemness Online is a powerful resource for estimating cancer stemness and going
96 deeper and wider in the downstream functional interpretation, including immune response as
97 well as cancer hallmarks.

98 **Materials and methods**

99 **Collection of cancer stemness gene sets**

100 For collecting the cancer stemness-related gene sets, we queried the studies published in
101 recent years in PubMed with “cancer stem cell” or “stemness” as keywords. In total, we
102 manually curated 2860 articles and recorded 27 canonical cancer stemness gene sets (Table
103 S1). The number of genes ranged from 5 to 1007 in these gene sets. All gene names have
104 mapped to classical gene symbols.

105 **Quality control**

106 For scRNA-seq data, we removed cells with less than 200 total count and genes expressed in
107 less than 3 cells. Cells with more than 5% mitochondrial gene counts were filtered. For bulk
108 RNA-seq data, samples with no expressed gene were removed. To address the effects of
109 noise and batching of the data, users can use several available tools, such as Seurat [17] and
110 Harmony [18], before uploading it to Cancer Stemness Online.

111 **Calculation of cancer stemness scores**

112 Cancer Stemness Online collected 8 computational methods to evaluate the stemness
113 potential based on multiple principles. These methods were further categorized into
114 ‘unsupervised’ and ‘supervised’ according to the reference of cancer stem cells. On the other
115 hand, mRNAsi [12], StemnessIndex [13] and GSVA [19] were applied to bulk RNA-seq data.
116 CytoTRACE [20], SLICE [21], SCENT [10], StemSC [14] and GSVA [19] were used for
117 scRNA-seq data. To improve the comparability of results, we carried out 0-1 normalization to
118 all CSscores. In addition to the above methods, the CSscores of scRNA-seq data uploaded by
119 users can also be calculated based on StemID [11].

120 **Single-cell trajectory analysis**

121 To analyze the cell pseudotime in scRNA-seq data, we performed ‘Monocle 2’ [22], which
122 uses reversed graph embedding to describe multiple fate decisions in a fully unsupervised
123 manner.

124 **Identification of stemness-related signature**

125 To assess the relevance between CSscores and gene expressions, we calculated the spearman
126 correlation coefficient (SCC). The genes with false discovery rate (FDR) < 0.05 and SCC >
127 0.5 (default) were identified as cancer stemness-related gene signatures.

128 **Functional correlations**

129 To investigate the functions of cell types, we first calculated the single sample gene set
130 enrichment analysis (ssGSEA) score for each cell [19]. The cellular states, immune signatures
131 and cancer hallmarks were considered. In addition, we calculated the spearman correlation
132 coefficient between the CSscores and ssGSEA scores. In bulk data, we calculated the
133 infiltration of immune cells in the sample by ‘cibersort’ function [23]. The spearman
134 correlation coefficients between the CSscores and infiltrations of various immune cells were
135 calculated respectively.

136 **Survival analysis**

137 The clinical information including overall survival and state of samples were uploaded by
138 users. We applied cox proportional hazards regression model to assess the prognosis of all
139 cancer stemness genes, based on their median expression. The K–M survival curves were

140 generated by the ‘survminer’ function with corresponding log-rank P values. For the genes
141 with positive beta of ‘coxph’, we defined them as risky factors, and the negative ones were
142 protective factors.

143 **Cell–cell communications**

144 To further explore the interactions between cancer stem cells and other cells, we identified
145 the cell–cell communications by iTALK (<https://github.com/Coolgenome/iTALK>). The
146 integrated ligand-receptor interactions were collected from CellchatDB [24], celltalkDB [25],
147 ICELLNET [26], iTALK, Nichenet [27], singlecellsignalR [28] and one recent study [29].
148 The union sets of ligand-receptor pairs were integrated in Cancer Stemness Online.

149 **Database implementation**

150 The frontend of Cancer Stemness Online was built with HTML5, JavaScript, and CSS, and it
151 included the jQuery (v3.3.1), Datatable (1.10.25), ECharts (v5.5.1) and D3 (v7.6.1) plugins.
152 The backend of Cancer Stemness Online was powered by eclipse (MARS.2) and was queried
153 via the Java Server Pages with Apache Tomcat container (v6.0) as the middleware. All data
154 in Cancer Stemness Online were stored and managed using eclipse (MARS.2) and it
155 employed Java and R programs to perform online analyses. Cancer Stemness Online has been
156 tested on several popular web browsers, including Google Chrome, Firefox, and Apple Safari.

157 **Results**

158 **Overall architecture of Cancer Stemness Online**

159 The purpose of Cancer Stemness Online is to facilitate the prediction of cancer stemness
160 score (CSscore) of tumor cells or samples. The overall design of Cancer Stemness Online
161 was summarized in **Figure 1**. The platform accepts different types of transcriptomes
162 uploaded by users, such as the bulk RNA-seq and scRNA-seq data (Figure 1A). In addition,
163 the users can also upload the clinical data of the patients. The inputted files can be prepared
164 following the format description.

165 The platform integrated 8 robust computational algorithms to predict the CSscore for each
166 patient or cell. These methods were classified into five unsupervised and three supervised
167 methods (Figure 1B). To facilitate the selection of the methods, we provided practical
168 guidance from two aspects: By Model Type and By Input Type. Next, the server executes the

169 prediction of CSscore with the selected method. The distribution of CSScores, clinical
170 associations, cell trajectory and associations with genetic features will be returned in the
171 results page (Figure 1C). In addition, the downstream module can identify the gene signatures
172 associated with CSScores, cluster the cells based on expressions of gene signatures, survival
173 analysis, and functional prediction and identify the cell-cell communications (Figure 1D).

174 Besides the interactive web interface, Cancer Stemness Online also provided flexible ways
175 to access the annotations cancer stemness scores for available cancer transcriptomes projects
176 (Figure 1E), such as TCGA, ICGC and single-cell transcriptomes from published studies. All
177 the analysis results and visualization modules from the resource can be exported as high-
178 quality images and downloaded for further analysis.

179 **User interface of Cancer Stemness Online**

180 Cancer Stemness Online is an open access online platform for predicting the cancer stemness
181 score for cancer patients or cells. The web interface is freely available and no login is
182 required. The main features of Cancer Stemness Online are the ‘CSscore’ and ‘DownStream’
183 modules (**Figure 2**). The users can start predicting the CSScore from the ‘GET STARTED’
184 button in the homepage or from the ‘CSscore’ module. The server allows users to predict the
185 CSScore by selecting from the model type or input type (Figure 2A). In the By Model Type,
186 five unsupervised and three supervised methods can be selected. In the By Input Type, three
187 methods are suitable for bulk transcriptomes and 6 methods for single-cell transcriptomes.
188 The transcriptomes and clinical information of samples can be uploaded and the users can
189 also leave the email information for further retrieving the results from email (Figure 2B).

190 The results page first returns the job information, such as the Job ID, algorithm and
191 expression profiles (Figure 2C). The predicted CSScores and associations with clinical
192 features (i.e., grade, tumor mutation burden and treatment) will be provided and visualized in
193 the database (Figure 2D). We also provided a ‘Multiple method’ module in the ‘CSscore’
194 page, which allows users to select multiple methods and obtained the integrated rank of
195 samples or cells based on the robust rank aggregation (RRA) algorithm (Figure 2E-G).
196 Moreover, the users can perform additional downstream analyses from the ‘DownStream’
197 module. The users can retrieve the predicted CSScores by inputting the Job ID (Figure 2H).
198 Several parameters can be selected and additional clinical data is optionally uploaded. The
199 new job information will be first provided (Figure 2I) and advanced analysis results will be

200 provided in tables or images (Figure 2J). For example, the genes associated with CSscores
201 will be provided in table and the gene expressions are visualized by heat map. The functional
202 pathways enriched by gene signatures are also provided in table and heat map formats. The
203 clinical survival is performed to evaluate whether the CSscores are associated with survival
204 (Figure 2J). Cell-cell communications and the correlations of CSscores predicted by different
205 methods are also analysed automatically in Cancer Stemness Online. In addition, the
206 predicted CSscores of TCGA, ICGC and single-cell transcriptomes from published studies
207 can be accessed from the 'Data' module (Figure 2K). Users can find additional information
208 from the 'Help' page.

209 **Case study 1: Cancer stemness analysis of bulk transcriptomes**

210 To illustrate the various functionalities of Cancer Stemness Online, we first analysed the bulk
211 transcriptomes of hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) from The Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA)
212 [30]. We predicted the CSscores for each patient based on the StemnessIndex algorithm
213 (**Figure 3**). We found that the majority of the patients were with low CSscores (Figure 3A),
214 although several patients with high cancer stemness. The server also evaluated the
215 associations between CSscores and clinical features. Cancer patients in high grade were with
216 significantly higher CSscores in HCC (Figure 3B). The CSscores of cancer patients were
217 positively correlated with the number of mutations (Figure 3C, $R = 0.14$, $p = 0.011$), which
218 was consistent with previous studies [12, 13, 31]. These results suggested that the CSscore
219 was associated with clinical and genetic features in HCC.

220 Next, we performed advanced analyses based on the 'DownStream' module of Cancer
221 Stemness Online. We identified numerous of genes whose expressions were associated with
222 CSscores in HCC (Figure 3D), including BIRC5 [32], CDC20 [33], PTTG1 [34], and KIF2C
223 [35]. Functional analyses revealed that the 'DNA repair' and 'MYC targets V1' pathways,
224 infiltrations of several immune cells were significantly associated with CSscores of cancer
225 patients (Figure 3D). In particular, cancer patients with high CSscores exhibited significantly
226 higher enrichment scores of 'DNA repair' (Figure 3E, $p < 0.001$) and 'MYC targets V1'
227 (Figure 3F, $p < 0.001$). In addition, there were significantly higher infiltrations of NK cells in
228 cancer patients with low CSscores (Figure 3G, $p < 0.01$). We next evaluated the survival rates
229 of patients with different CSscores and found that patients with higher stemness exhibited
230 significantly poor survival in HCC (Figure 3H, $p = 0.00034$, log-rank test). These results
231 suggested that Cancer Stemness Online not only predicted the cancer stemness accurately,

232 but also provided novel insights into the functional pathways and immune regulation in
233 cancer.

234 **Case study 2: Cancer stemness analysis of single-cell transcriptomes**

235 The development of single-cell sequencing in cancer research has revolutionized our
236 understanding of the biological characteristics within different cancer types [36]. We next
237 analysed the cancer stemness of single-cell transcriptome based on the Cancer Stemness
238 Online server. We obtained the single-cell transcriptome of melanoma from one previous
239 study [37], including 7186 cells from 31 patients. We estimated the CSscores for each cancer
240 cell based on CytoTRACE algorithm embedded in the server (**Figure 4**). We found that large
241 numbers of cells were with higher CSscores in melanoma (Figure 4A). In addition, the
242 pseudotime of cells was estimated by monocle and we found that cells with low pseudotime
243 exhibited significantly higher CSscores (Figure 4B). Immune checkpoint inhibitors (ICI)
244 produce durable responses in some melanoma patients. We found that cells from post
245 treatment were with significantly higher CSscores than those of treatment naive (Figure 4C, p
246 $< 2.2E-16$), suggesting potential immunotherapy resistance [31].

247 In the 'DownStream' module, we first identified numerous genes whose expressions were
248 correlated with CSscores (Figure 4D). We found that the expressions of genes can effectively
249 distinguish the cells with higher or lower CSscores (Figure 4E). For example, BIRC5 was
250 highly expressed in cells with higher CSscores (Figure 4F). Functional pathway and immune
251 regulation analyses revealed that cancer cells with high CSscores exhibited significantly
252 enrichment of DNA repair (Figure 4G, $p < 0.001$) and proliferation (Figure 4H, $p < 0.001$).
253 These results were consistent with previous observations [31, 38, 39]. We also investigated
254 the cell-cell communications based on the ligand-receptor interactions. We found that cancer
255 stem cells communicated with other immune cells via various ligand-receptor interactions
256 (Figure 4I). In particular, interaction between ADAM10-CD44 helps communication between
257 cancer stem cells and T cells (Figure 4I) [40, 41]. All the analysis results visualized on the
258 web interface were available for download.

259 **Discussion**

260 Cancer Stemness Online is a useful resource for scoring cancer stemness and associations
261 with immune response, which integrated 8 robust predictive algorithms. The platform
262 supports different types of input transcriptomes and the output of Cancer Stemness Online

263 provided the tables and images for visualization of the CSscores and associations with
264 clinical features. These results benefit the non-computational biologists to explore the cancer
265 stemness. Cancer Stemness Online encompasses not only diverse functionalities, but also
266 user-friendly operations and visually intuitive interfaces. In addition, recent studies have
267 shown that a high stemness profile in cancer is associated with an inferior immunogenic
268 response [42]. Different types of immune cells can be recruited from tumor-associated stem
269 cells [43-45]. Thus, the ‘DownStream’ module in Cancer Stemness Online provided
270 advanced analysis for investigating the functional pathway and immune regulation in the
271 context of cancer stemness. Overall, Cancer Stemness Online is a user-friendly platform to
272 predict the cancer stemness and explore the functional consequence in cancer.

273 We provided diverse methods to predict the stemness scores for individual sample or cell.
274 To further assist the users selecting the appropriate methods, we first compared the
275 performances of different methods based on both bulk and single cell methods from recent
276 researches [46, 47]. We found that the method ‘StemnessIndex’ might be the most effective
277 for bulk transcriptomes, while ‘CytoTRACE’ might be the most effective one for single-cell
278 transcriptomes (Figure S1). In addition, we have provided a ‘Multiple method’ section
279 module in the ‘CSscore’ page. This module allows users to select multiple methods to predict
280 the stemness scores, and we next obtained the integrated rank of samples or cells based on the
281 robust rank aggregation (RRA) algorithm. The runtimes and correlations between different
282 methods and RRA were provided. Thus, users can integrate the results from multiple methods
283 for downstream analysis.

284 Nevertheless, there are still rooms to improve in the future. Here are a few areas that we
285 plan to expand in the future version of Cancer Stemness Online. (1) improve the coverage of
286 computational methods and cancer stemness gene sets. Currently, 8 computational methods
287 were integrated in Cancer Stemness Online. We plan to cover newly developed algorithms
288 and cancer stemness gene sets in the near future. (2) expand to cover additional genomes and
289 transcriptomes. The server can only predict the CSscores for human transcriptomes, which
290 should consider in the future working for a wider species. With the development of high
291 throughput sequencing technology, additional cancer transcriptomes will be added in the
292 cancer stemness atlas. (3) include additional annotations. We plan to add more functional
293 annotations, such as more immune cells, more pathways and more immunotherapy
294 information.

295 Overall, Cancer Stemness Online is a powerful resource for reducing the barrier to analyse
296 the huge transcriptome data that biomedical researchers face and facilitating the identification
297 of association with cancer immunotherapy response for further mechanistic and functional
298 insights.

299 **Data availability**

300 The web server of Cancer Stemness Online is freely accessible at [http://bio-](http://bio-bigdata.hrbmu.edu.cn/CancerStemnessOnline)
301 [bigdata.hrbmu.edu.cn/CancerStemnessOnline](http://bio-bigdata.hrbmu.edu.cn/CancerStemnessOnline)

302 **Code availability**

303 Code used to perform analyses in this manuscript is available at
304 <https://github.com/ComputationalEpigeneticsLab/CancerStemnessOnline>.

305 **CRedit author statement**

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318 **Competing interests**

319 The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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449 **Figures legends**

450 **Figure 1. Overall architecture of Cancer Stemness Online.** (A), Datasets uploaded by the
451 users, including transcriptomes or clinical information. (B), Robust computational methods
452 embedded in the platform. (C), The basic analysis of cancer stemness in the database. (D),
453 Advanced downstream analysis of the stemness and association with clinical and genetic
454 features. (E), The cancer stemness atlas provided in Cancer Stemness Online.

455 **Figure 2. Interactive web interface of Cancer Stemness Online.** (A), The methods
456 provided in the platform for users, including unsupervised and supervised methods. (B), The
457 data upload page of the platform. (C), Information of the user submitted job. (D), Results for
458 the basic analysis of CSscores for bulk and single-cell transcriptomes. (E), Screen shot for
459 multiple methods selection page. (F), Results for the multiple methods. (G), Method
460 comparison for different methods. (H), Job submission page for the ‘DownStream’ module.
461 (I), Information for the job submitted by users. (J), Results for the advance analysis,
462 including heat map of gene signatures, functional pathways and immune regulation, clinical
463 survival, cell-cell communications and robustness evaluation. (K), The cancer stemness
464 scores across different cancer types provided in the platform.

465 **Figure 3. Cancer stemness analysis of bulk transcriptomes in hepatocellular carcinoma.**
466 (A), Distributions of CSscores across hepatocellular carcinoma patients. (B), StemnessIndex
467 scores of patients in different grades. (C), Scatter plot showing the correlation between
468 StemnessIndex scores and number of mutations in cancer patients. (D), Heat maps showing
469 the expression of gene signatures, activities of cancer hallmark pathways, and infiltration of
470 immune cells. (E), Box plots showing the enrichment scores of DNA repair pathway in
471 patients with high or low StemnessIndex scores. (F), Box plots showing the enrichment
472 scores of MYC targets V1 in patients with high or low StemnessIndex scores. (G), Box plots
473 showing the infiltration of NK cells in patients with high or low StemnessIndex scores. (H),
474 Kaplan–Meier curve for overall survival of patients with high or low StemnessIndex scores.

475 **Figure 4. Cancer stemness analysis of single-cell transcriptomes in melanoma.** (A),
476 Number of cells with different CSscores. (B), tSNE plot showing the cells with different
477 pseudotime and CytoTRACE scores. (C), Distribution of CSscores for cells from post
478 treatment and naive. (D), Heat maps showing the expressions of gene signatures, activities of
479 cancer hallmark pathways or cell states, and immune pathways. (E), tSNE plot showing the
480 distribution of cells based on expressions of gene signatures. (F), tSNE plot showing the

481 distribution of cells coloured by expression of BIRC5. **(G)**, Box plots showing the
482 enrichment scores of DNA repair pathway in cancer cells with high or low CSscores. **(H)**,
483 Box plots showing the enrichment scores of proliferations in cancer cells with high or low
484 CSscores. **(I)**, Cell-cell communications mediated by ligand-receptor interactions.

485

486 **Supplementary material**

487 **Figure S1. Accuracy of cancer stemness methods.** (A), The correlation between CS scores
488 and differentiation days as calculated by the three bulk methods. (B), The correlation between
489 CS scores and differentiation days as calculated by the six single cell methods. The score was
490 calculated using Spearman's correlation coefficient.

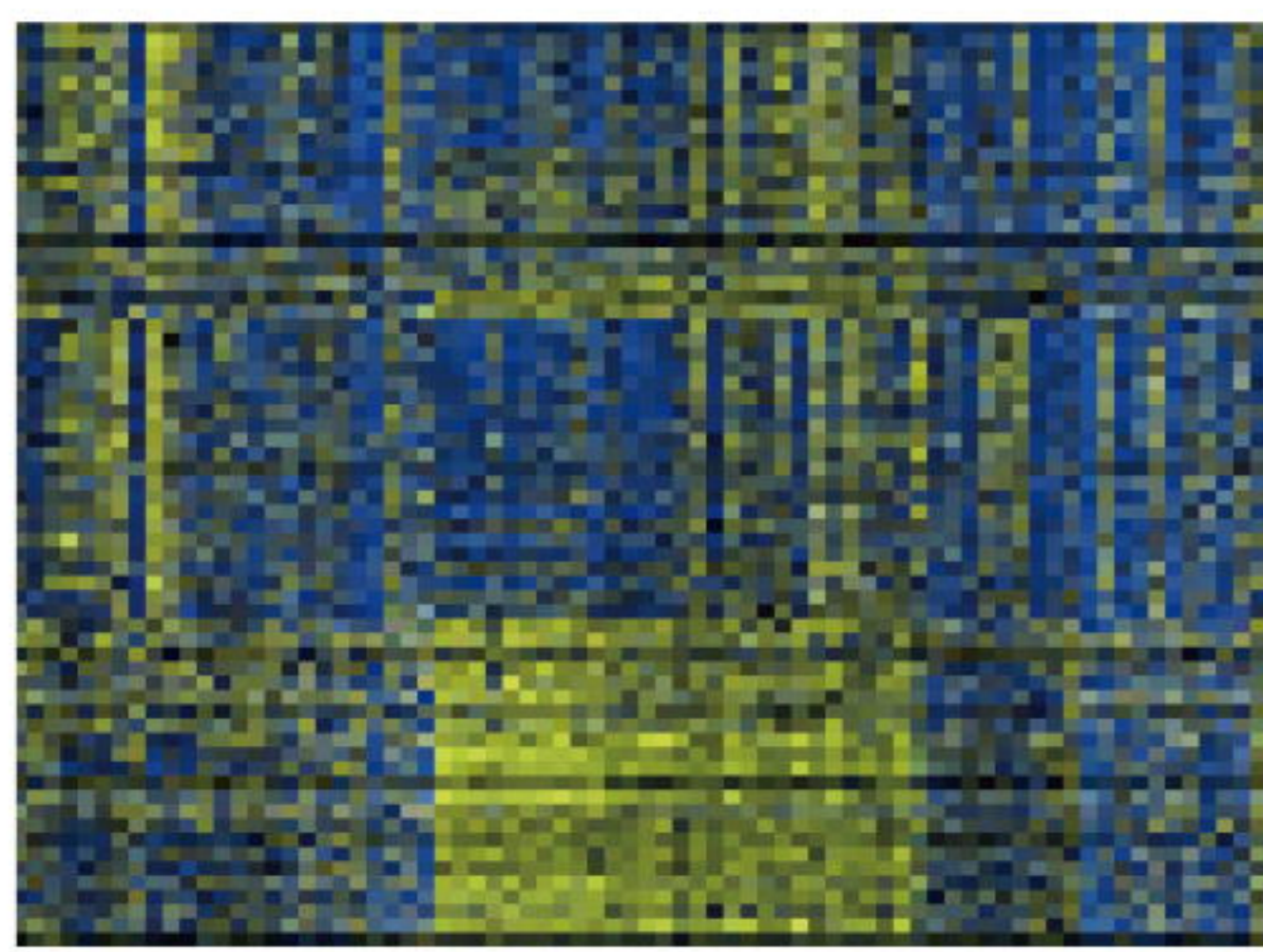
491 **Table S1. Stemness marker gene sets used in this study.**

492

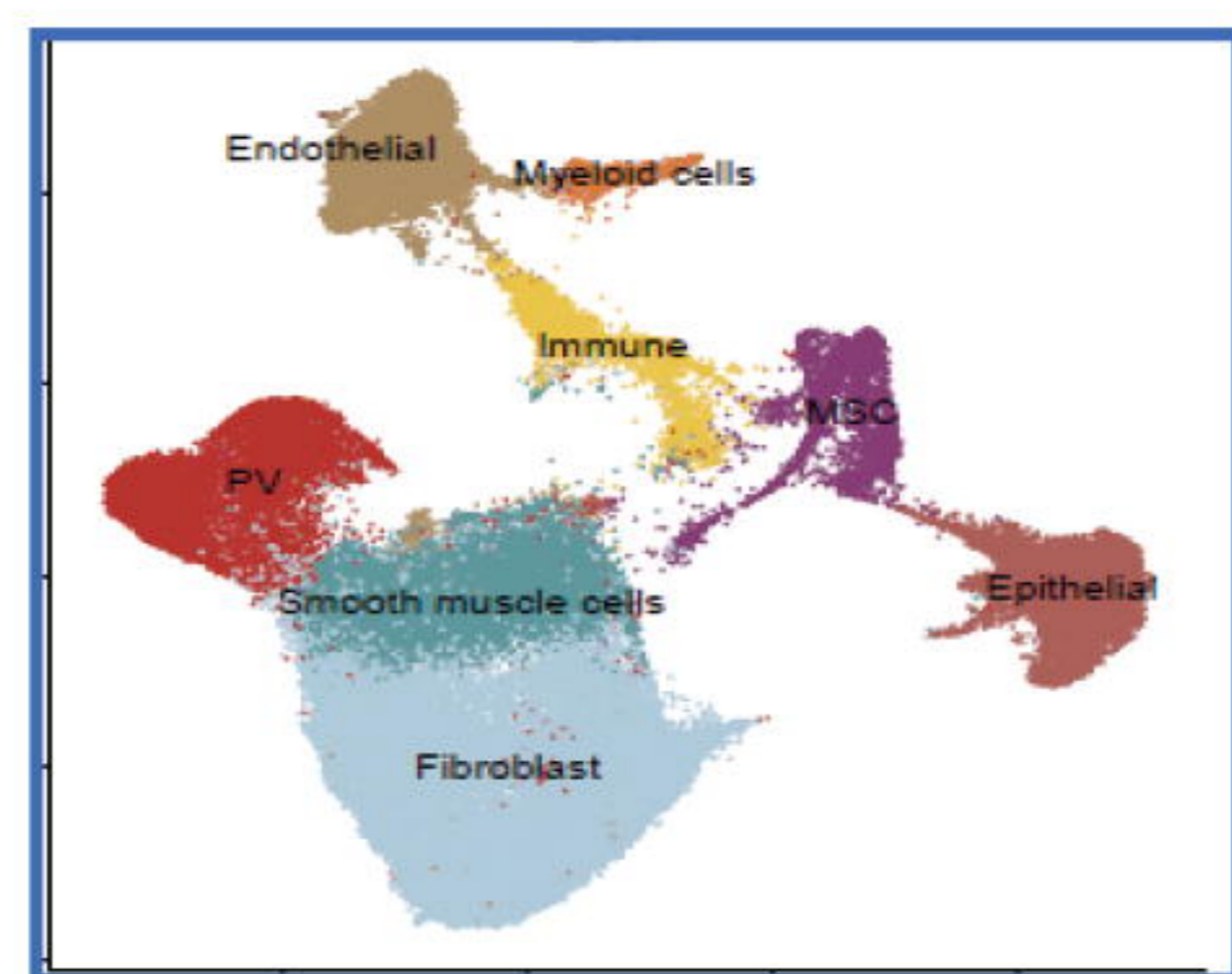
A

Uploaded data by users

Bulk RNA-seq



Single cell RNA-seq



Clinical information



B

Embedded programs in webserver

Unsupervised

- CytoTRACE
- SLICE
- SCENT
- StemID
- GSVA

Supervised

- mRNAsi
- StemSC
- StemnessIndex

Eight embedded methods



Datasets

Methods

Cancer Stemness Online

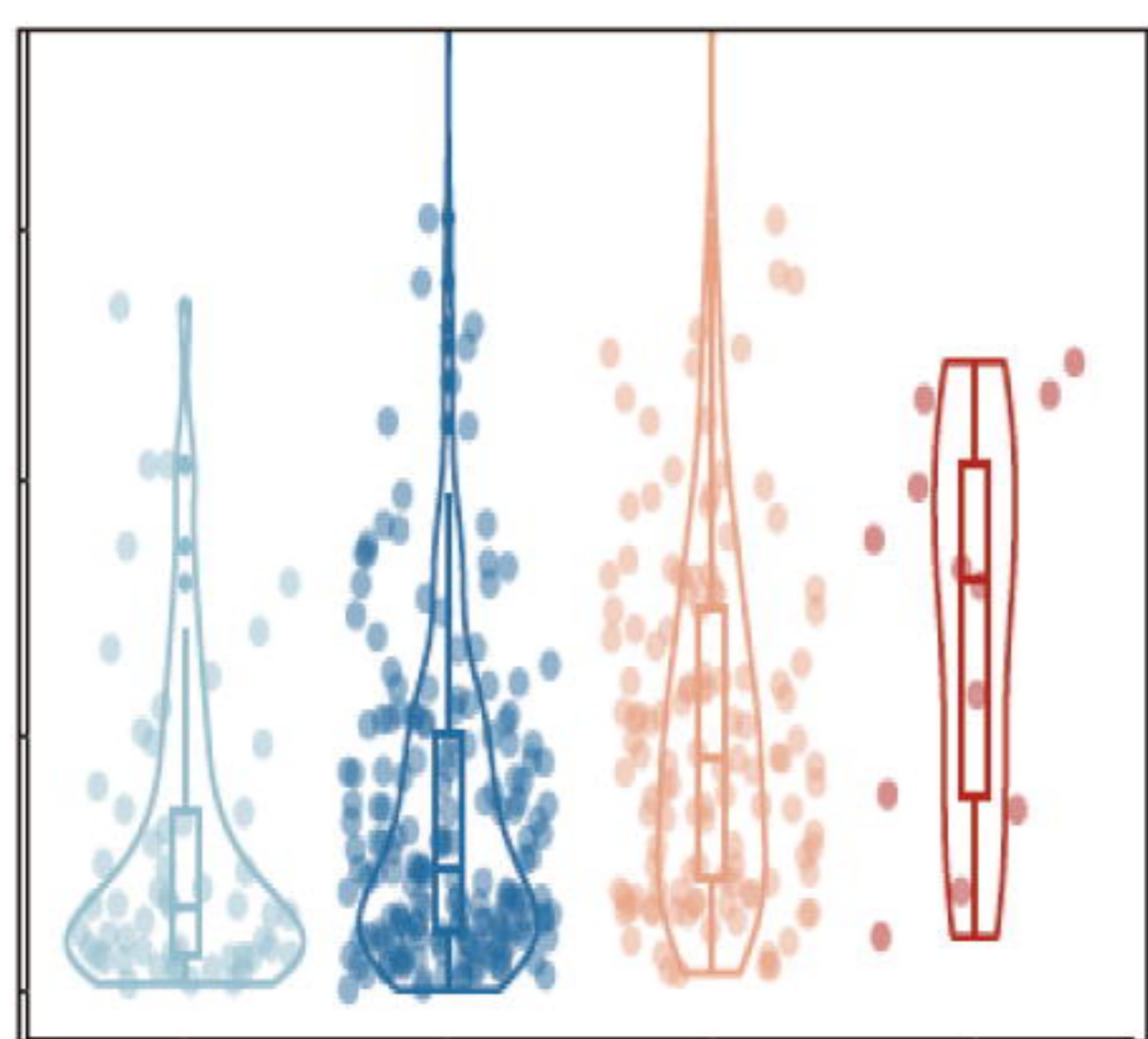
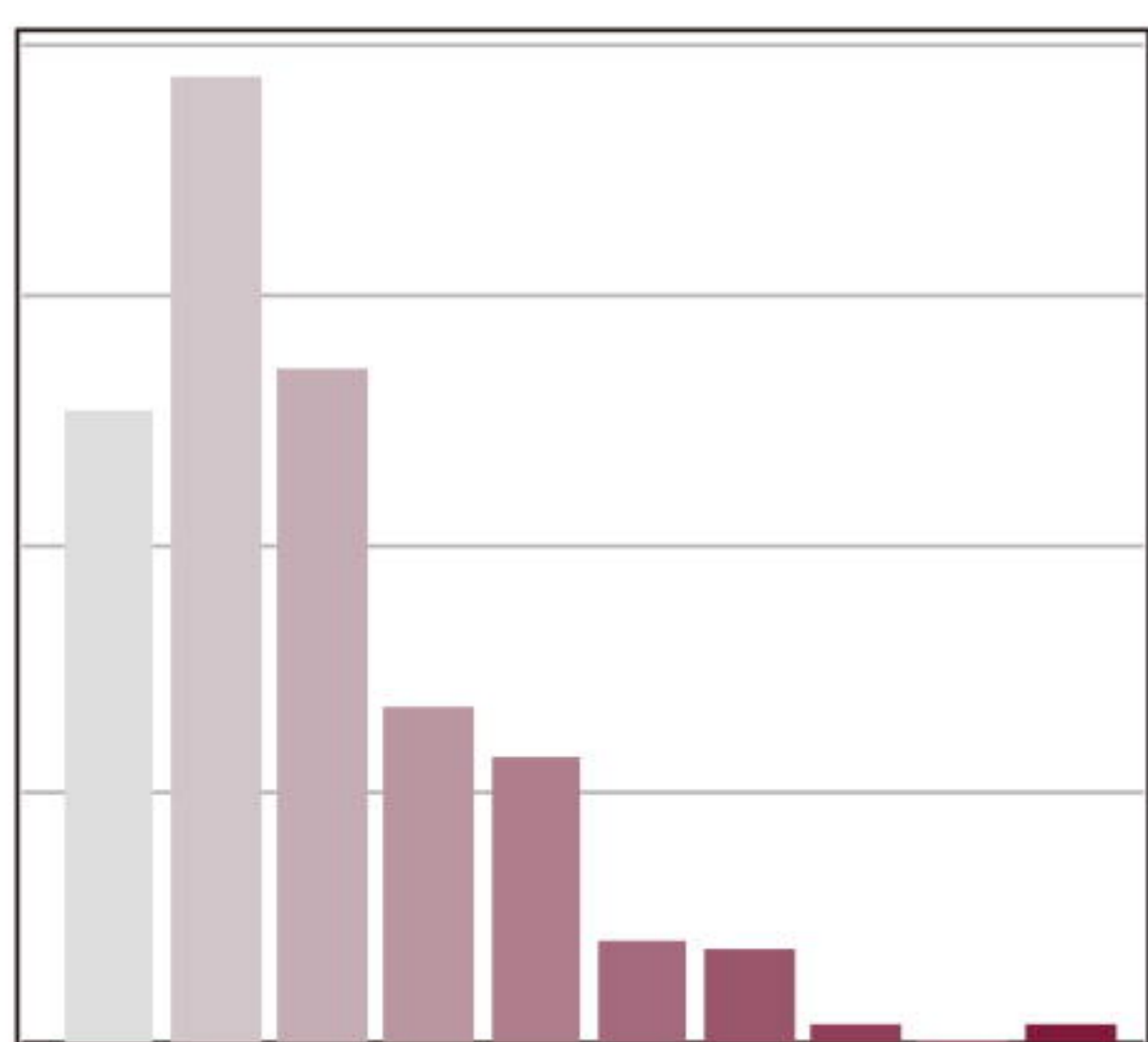
Analyses

Atlas

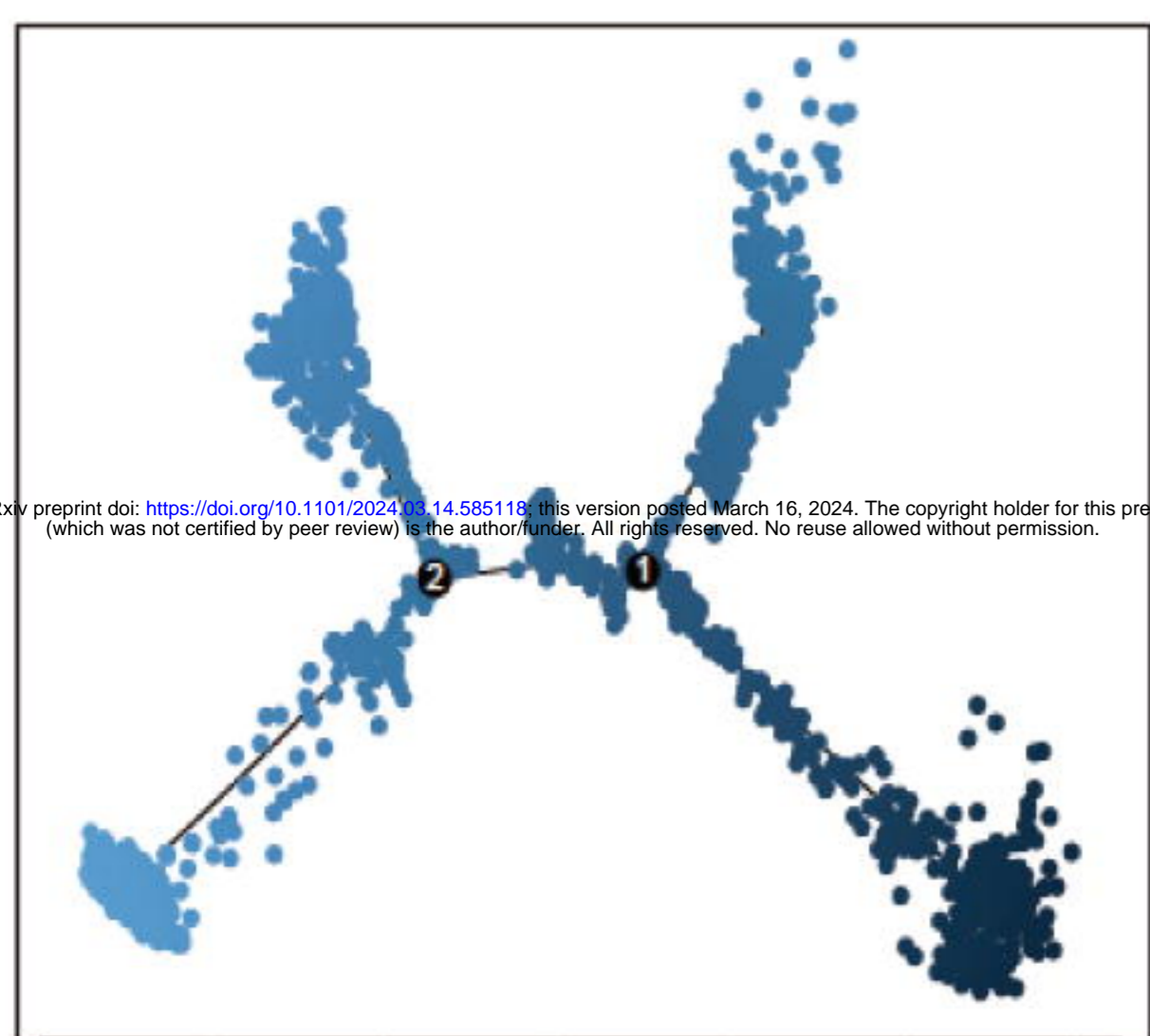
C

CSscore analysis

- Distributions
- Clinical association

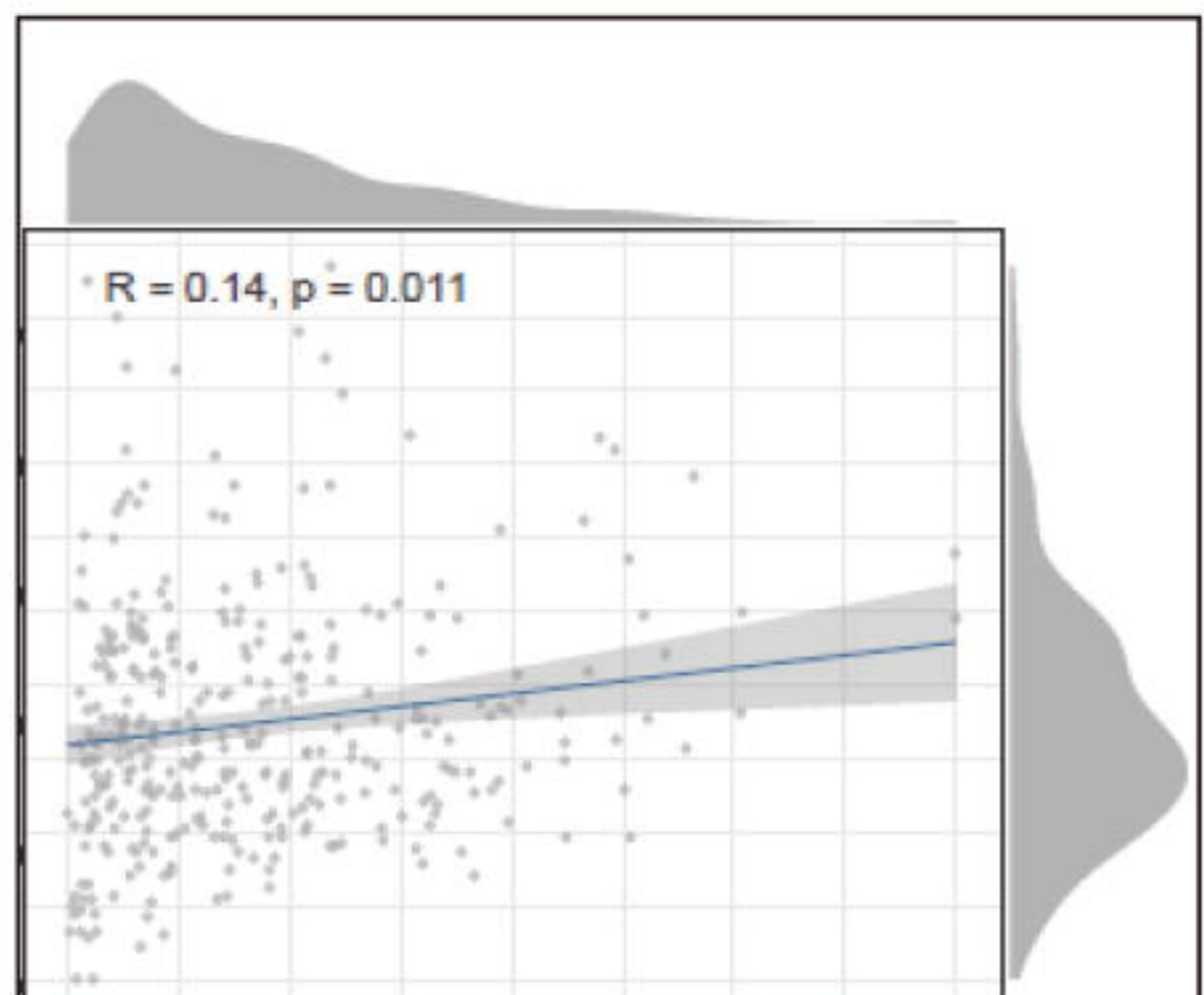


- Cell trajectory analyses



Pseudotime and CSscore

- Associations with genetics



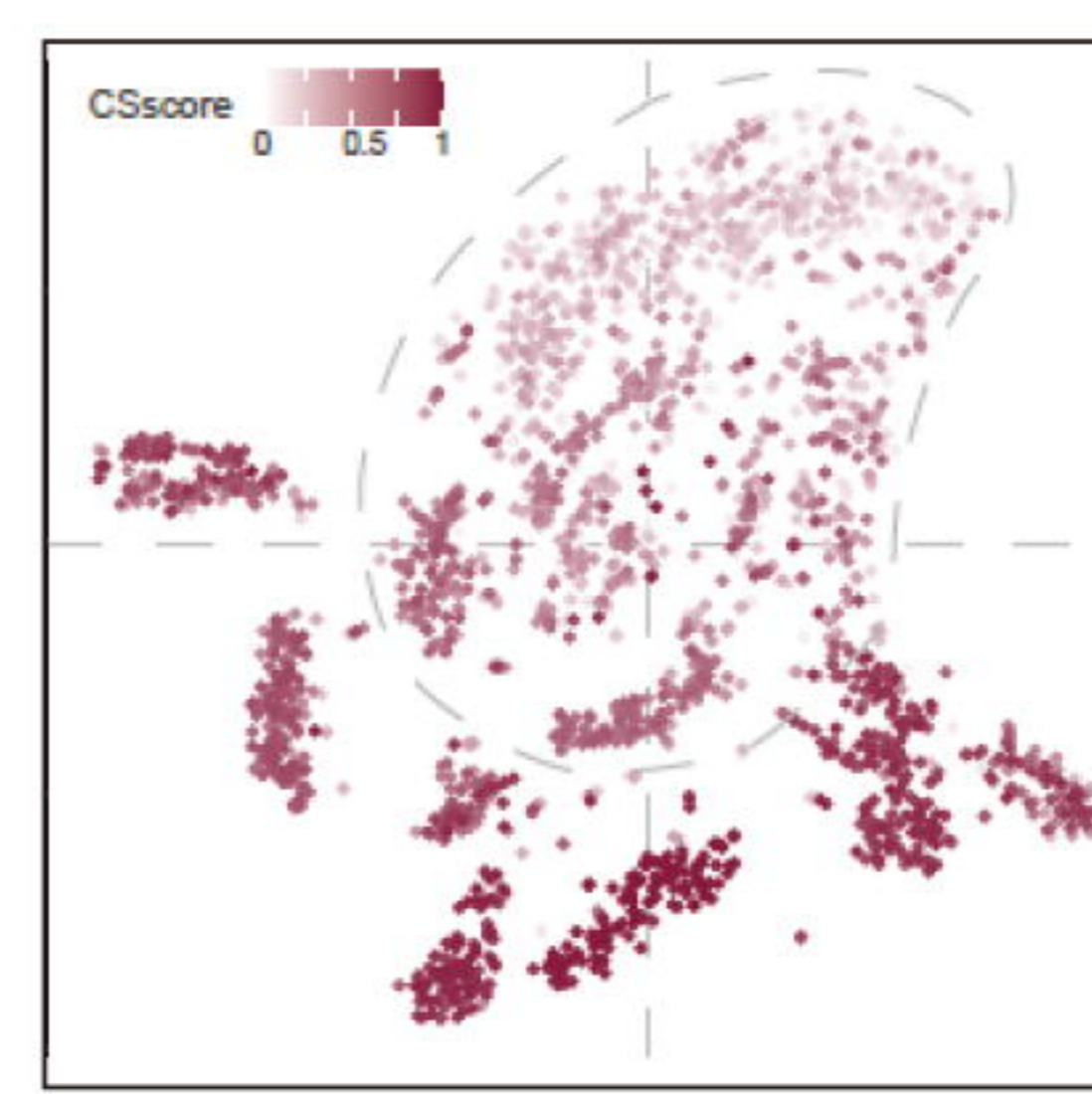
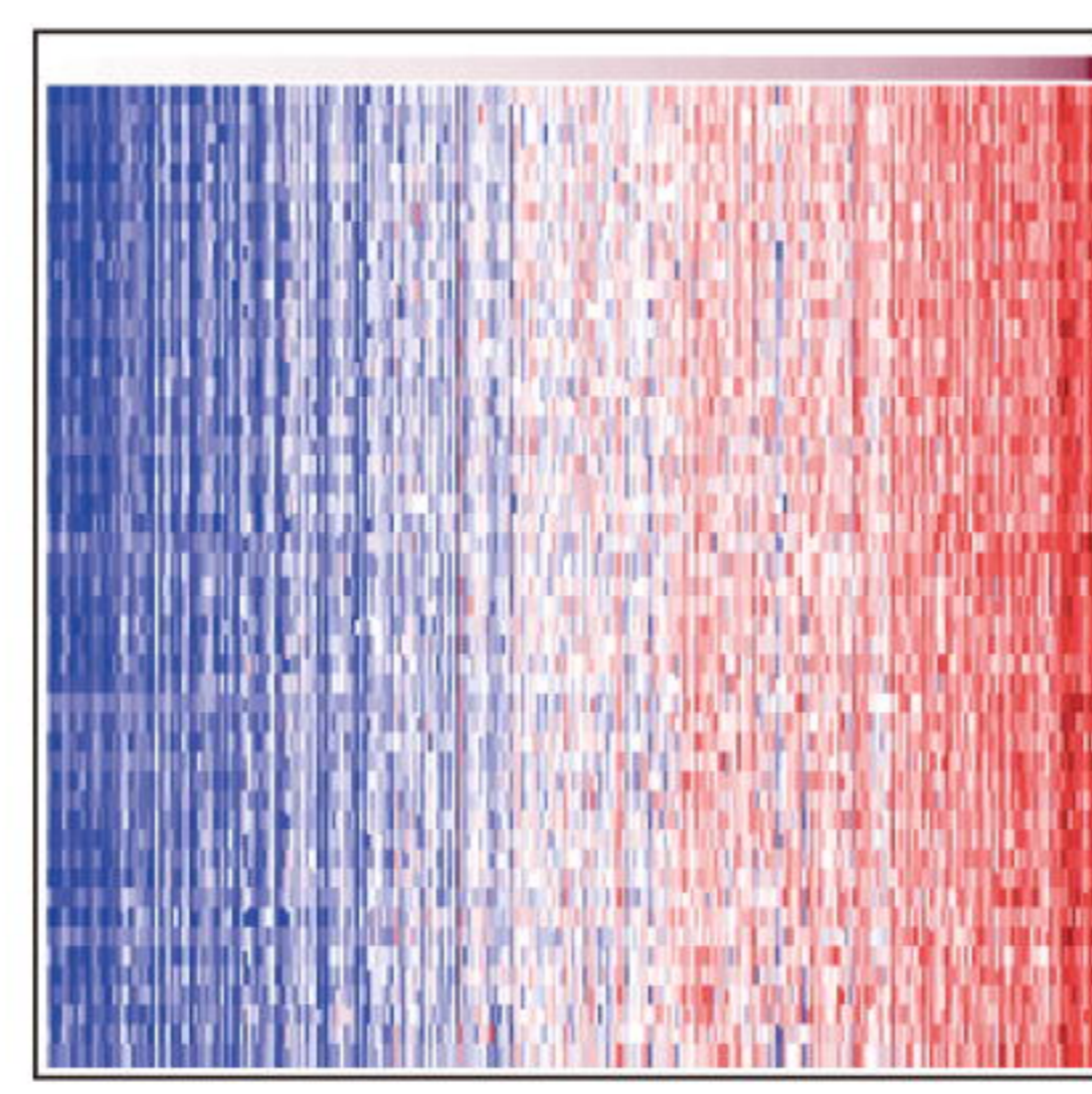
Mutation frequency
TMB
Age
...

Basic analyses

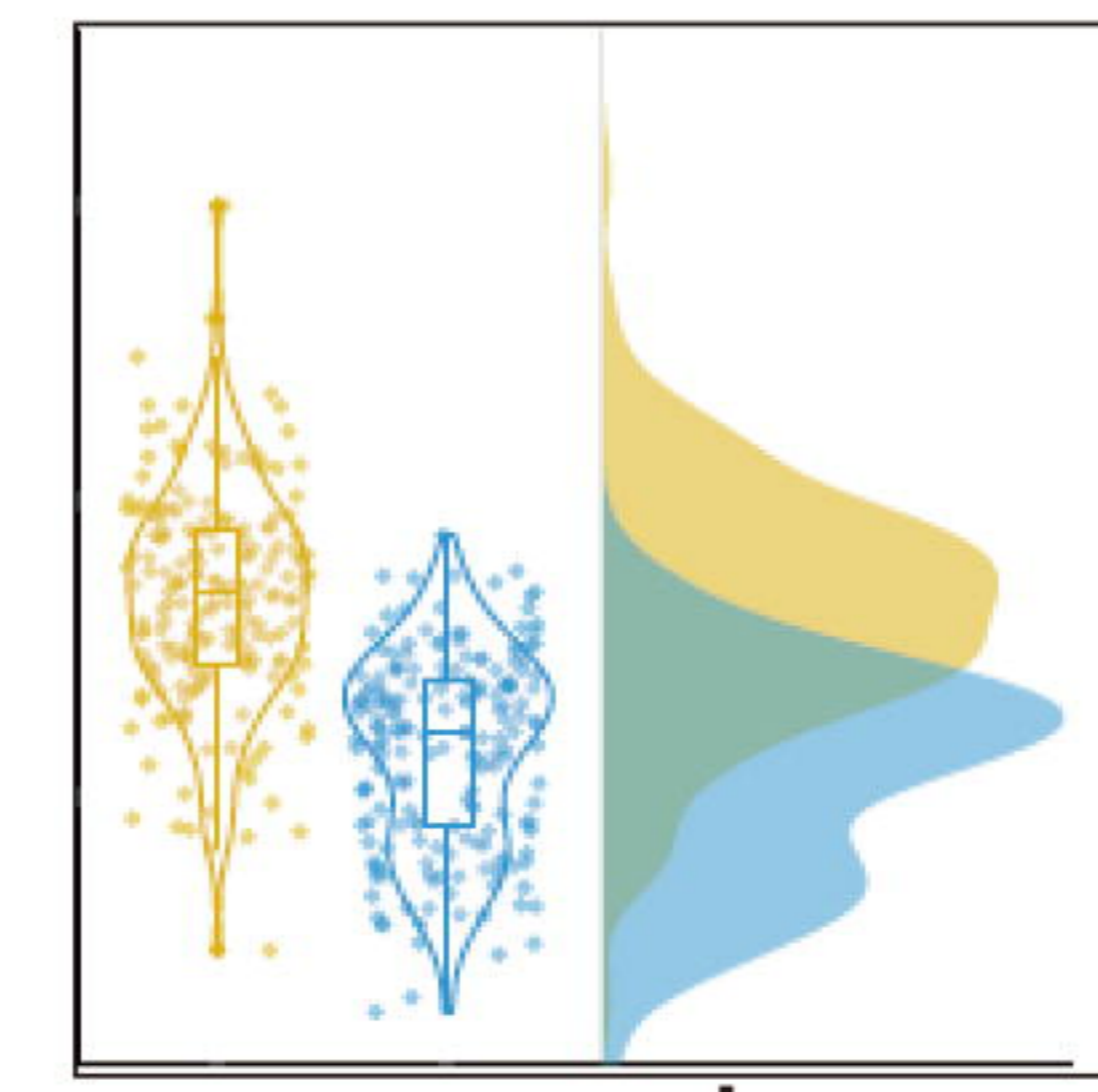
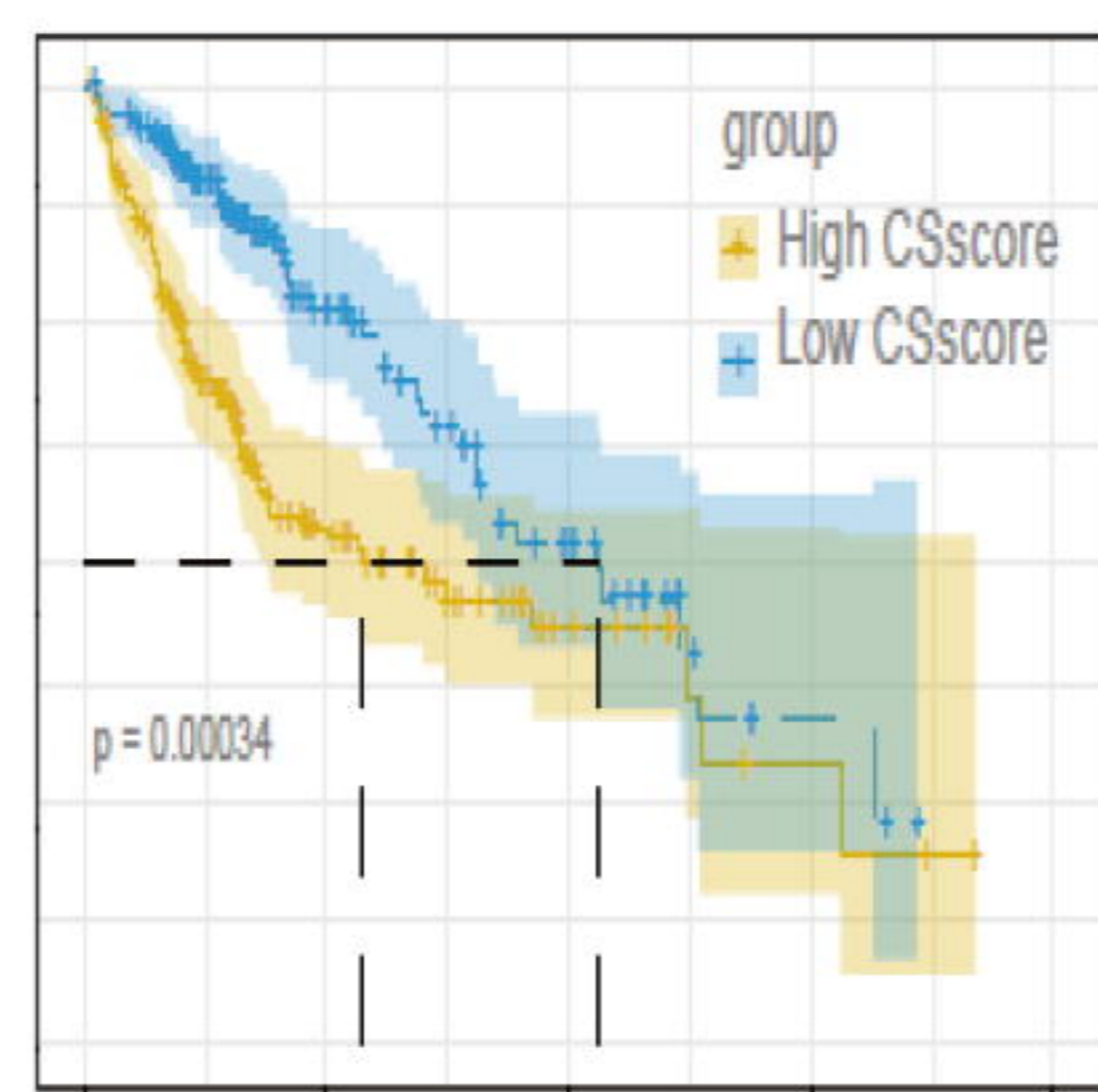


Downstream analysis

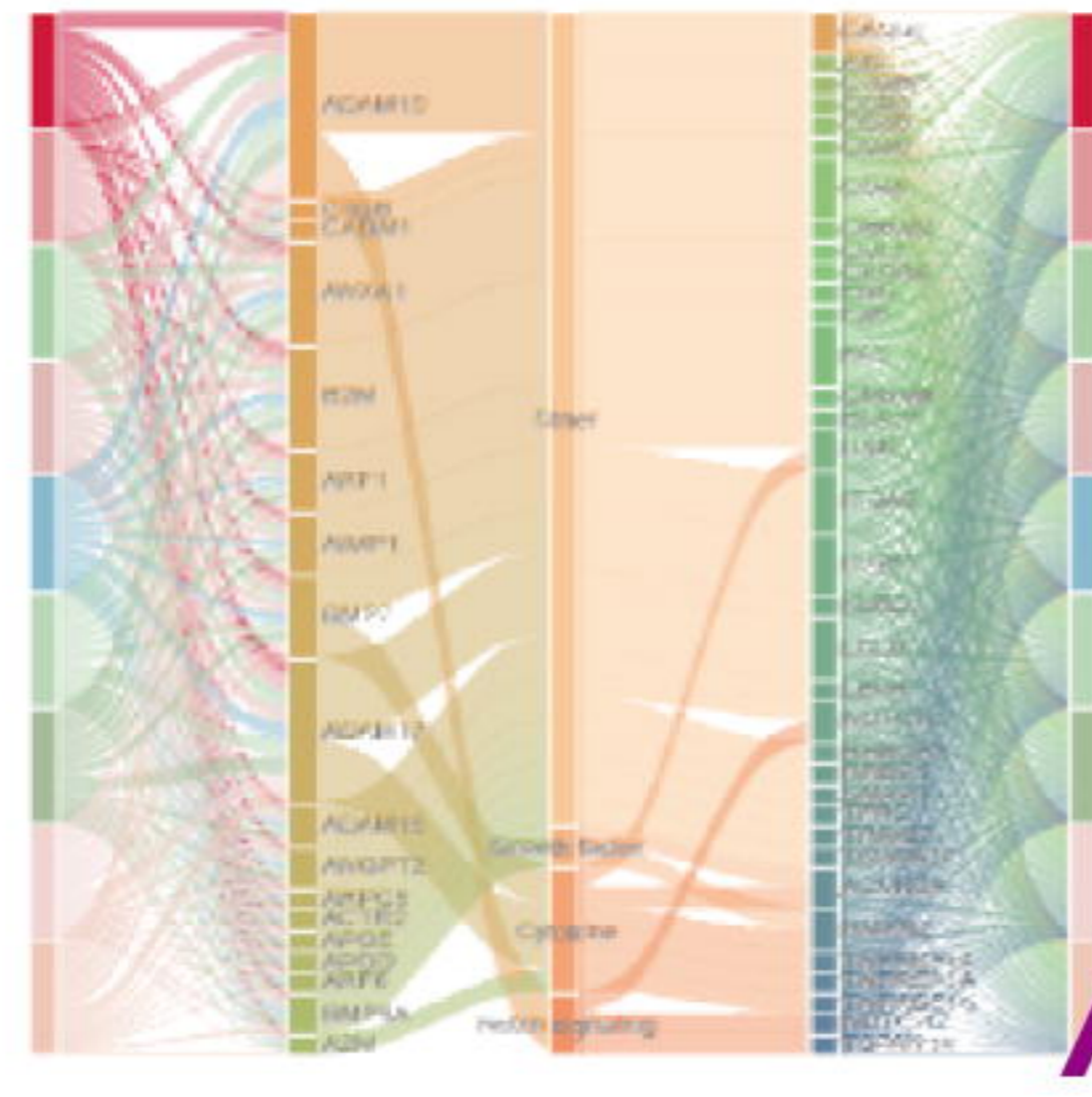
- Signature
- Cluster



- Survival
- Functions



- Cell-cell communications



Cancer hallmarks
Cell states
Cancer immunity
...

Advanced analyses



Cancer stemness atlas

☐ Bulk RNA-seq

☐ ACC(Adrenocortical Cancer)

☐ TCGA

☐ mRNAsi

☐ StemnessIndex

☐ GSVA



☐ BLCA(Bladder Cancer)

☐ BOCA(Bone Cancer)

☐ BRCA(Breast Cancer)

☐ CESC(Cervical Cancer)

☐ single-cell RNA-seq

☐ GBM(Glioblastoma)

☐ GSE84465

☐ CytoTRACE

☐ SCENT

☐ SLICE

☐ StemID

☐ StemSC

20000 patients

200000 cells

CSscore landscape



☐ EPN(Ependymoma)

☐ PRAD(Prostate Cancer)



A Select method to assess stemness scores

- By Model Type**
The methods are categorized into 'Unsupervised' and 'Supervised' according to the calculation model type.
- Unsupervised methods**
- CytoTRACE
 - SLICE
 - SCENT
 - StemID
 - StemSC
 - StemnessIndex

- By Input Type**
Users can choose method by the type of uploading data.
- Bulk**
- mRNAsi
 - StemnessIndex
 - GSVA
- Single cell**
- StemID
 - StemSC
 - GSVA

E Multiple methods

- Multiple method**
Upload data and choose methods to assess stemness scores
- Single cell
 - Bulk
 - Supervised method
 - Unsupervised method

B Upload datasets

Click to view example

Expression profile Sample information

C Job overview Job information

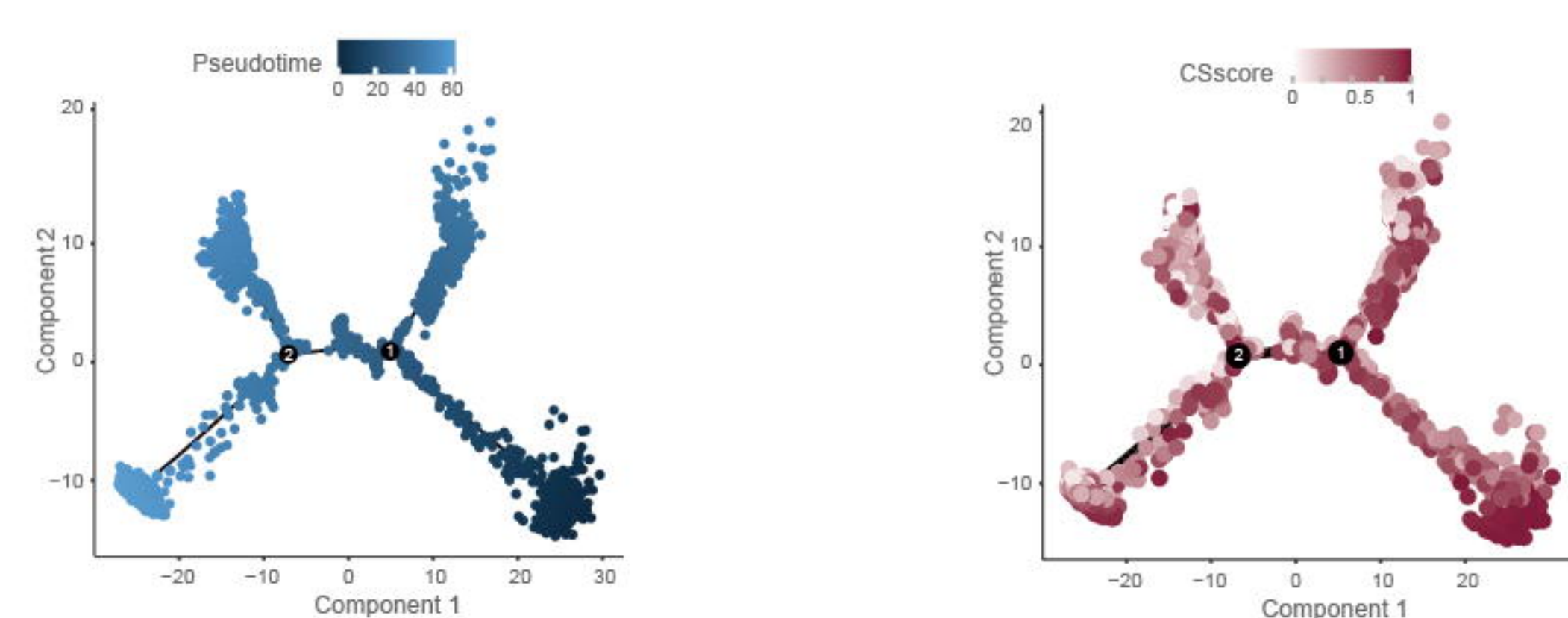
Job ID	CytoTRACE example
Algorithm	CytoTRACE
Expression file	GSE115978_TPM.txt <input type="button" value="Download"/>

D Results for different methods

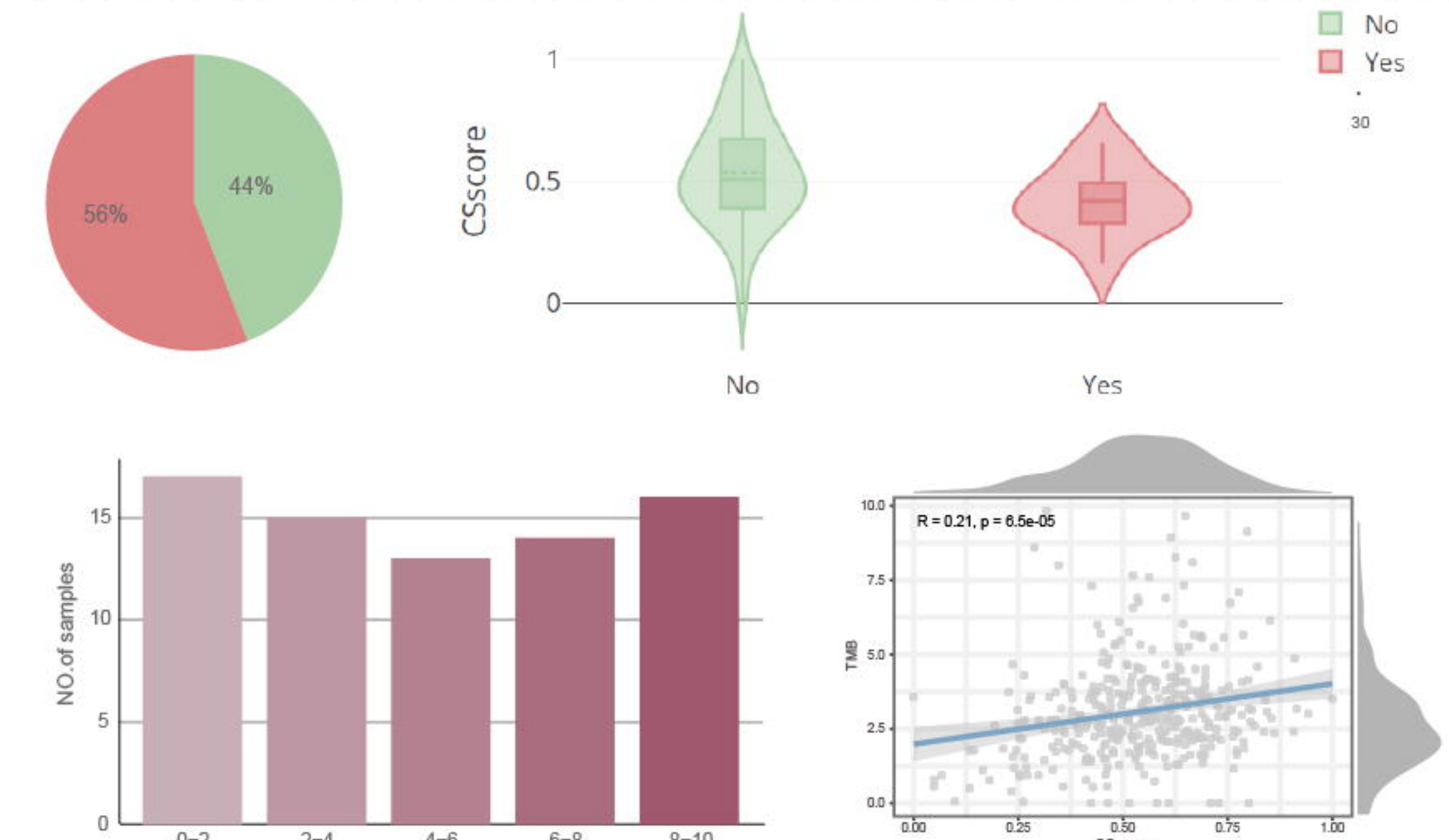
Cancer stemness score

Cells	CSscore
Cell_1	1
Cell_2	0.9542

Single-cell trajectory analysis



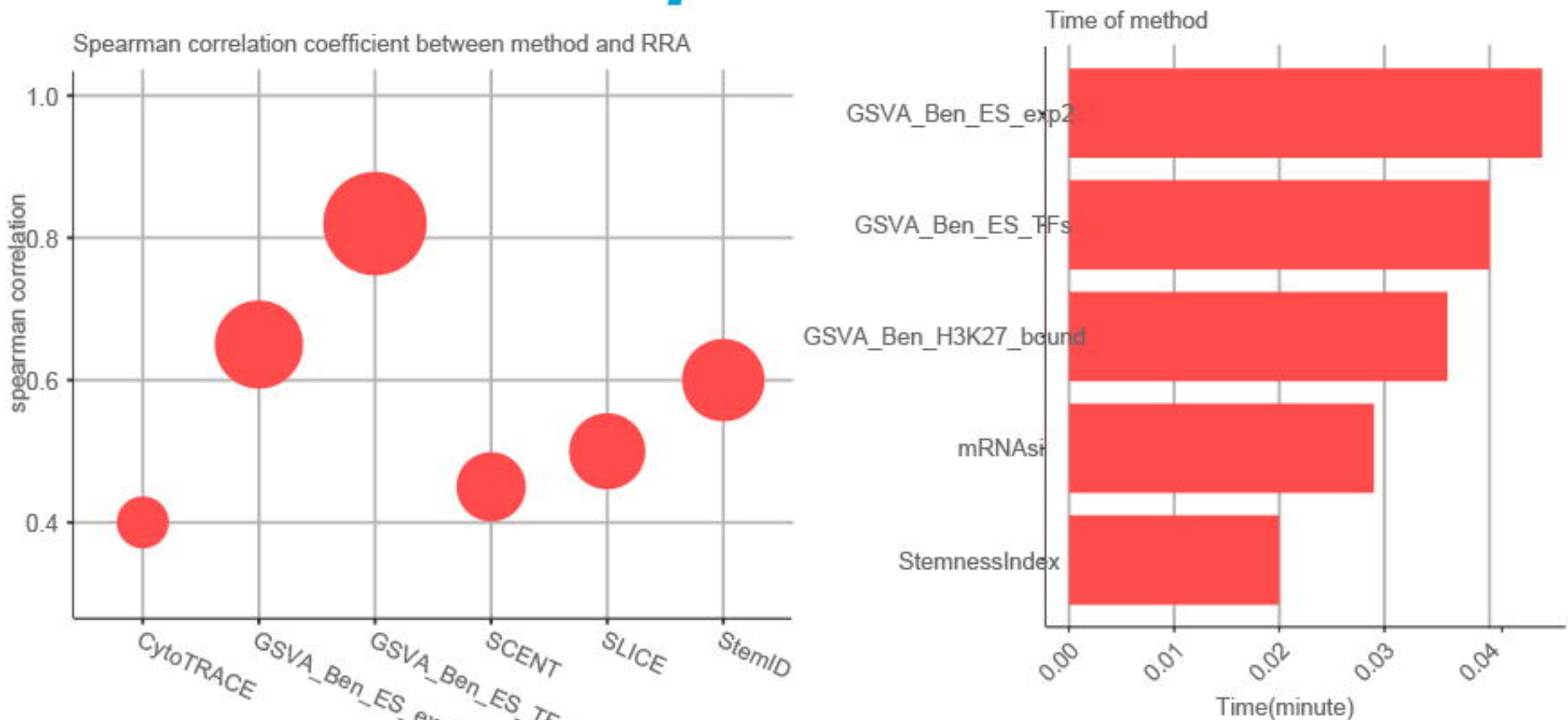
Clinical feature analysis



F Results for multiple methods

Sample	StemnessIndex	mRNAsi	GSVA_Ben	RRA_p	RRA_rank
sample_1	1	0.806	1	0.94	0.06
sample_2	0.763	0.93	0.98	0.24	0.76

G Method comparison



H Downstream analysis

Job ID

Threshold for stemness signature

Clinical data (optional)

Click to view example

I Job overview Job information

Job ID	StemnessIndex example
Algorithm	StemnessIndex
Expression file	TCGA_LUAD.txt <input type="button" value="Download"/>

J Results for gene signatures function and cell communications

Gene	R value	P value	FDR	Detail
LPIN3	0.5393	4.5802e-39	1.3878e-35	<input type="button" value="Detail"/>
ARGFX	0.504	1.45e-05		<input type="button" value="Detail"/>

Function analysis

Cancer Hallmark

Cell Type	R value	P value	FDR	Detail
Eosinophils	0.63	4.5e-9	1.3e-3	<input type="button" value="Detail"/>
Neutrophils	0.73	3.1e-05		<input type="button" value="Detail"/>

Survival analysis

P value (cox regression)	0.016
Beta value	-1.152
P value (log rank)	0.0034

Communications to immune cells

Sending Cell Type	Ligand	Receiving Cell Type	Receptor	Function	Score
CancerStemCell	MIF	CAF	ZNRF3	Checkpoint	3.33
T cell	B2M	NK cell	LRP1	Chemokine	3.10

Robustness evaluation

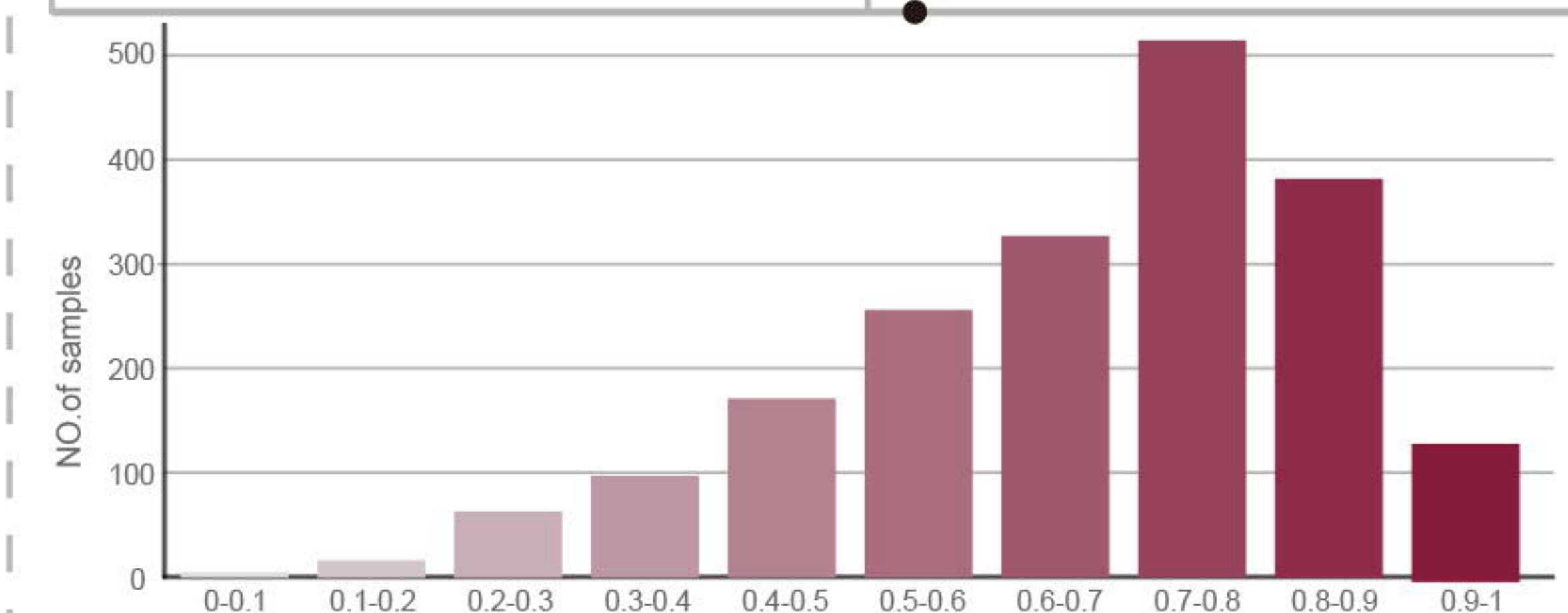
Sample	StemnessIndex	Supervised_mRNAsi	Supervised_GSVA
sample_1	1	0.806	1
sample_2	0.763	0.93	0.98

K Atlas of CSscore across cancer types

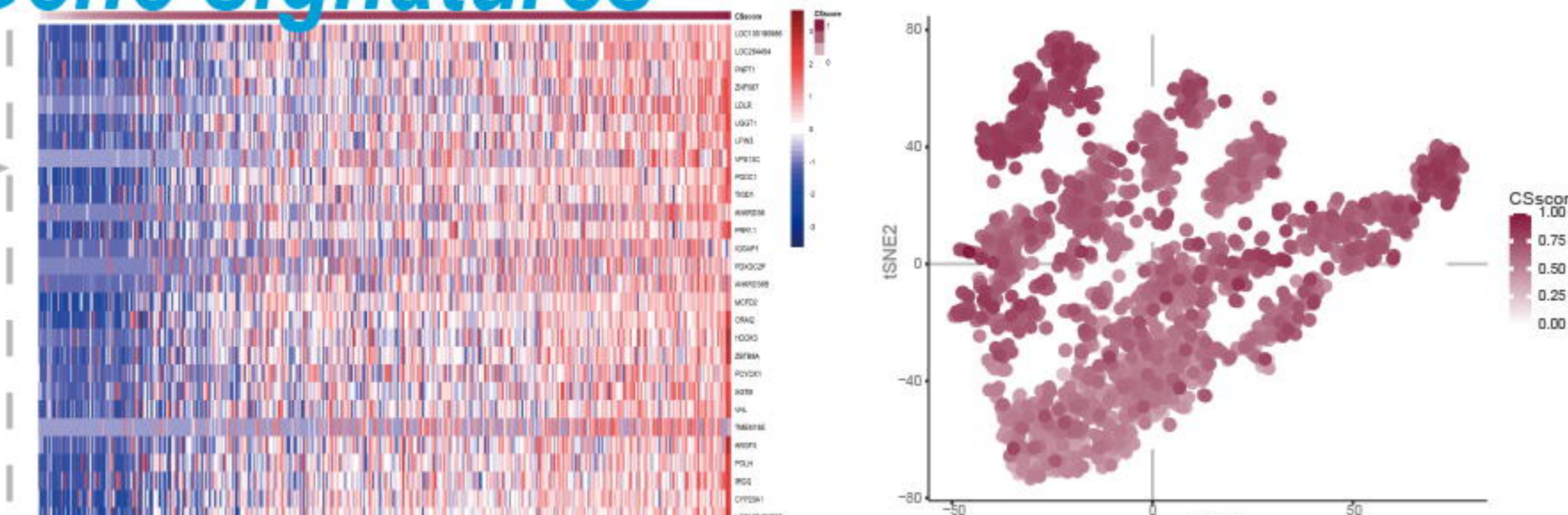
- Bulk RNA-seq
 - ACC(Adrenocortical Cancer)
 - TCGA
 - mRNAsi
 - StemnessIndex
 - GSVA
 - BLCA(Bladder Cancer)
 - BOCA(Bone Cancer)
 - BRCA(Breast Cancer)
 - CESC(Cervical Cancer)
- single-cell RNA-seq
 - GBM(Glioblastoma)
 - GSE84465
 - CytoTRACE
 - SCENT
 - SLICE
 - StemID
 - StemSC
 - EPN(Ependymoma)
 - PRAD(Prostate Cancer)

Result

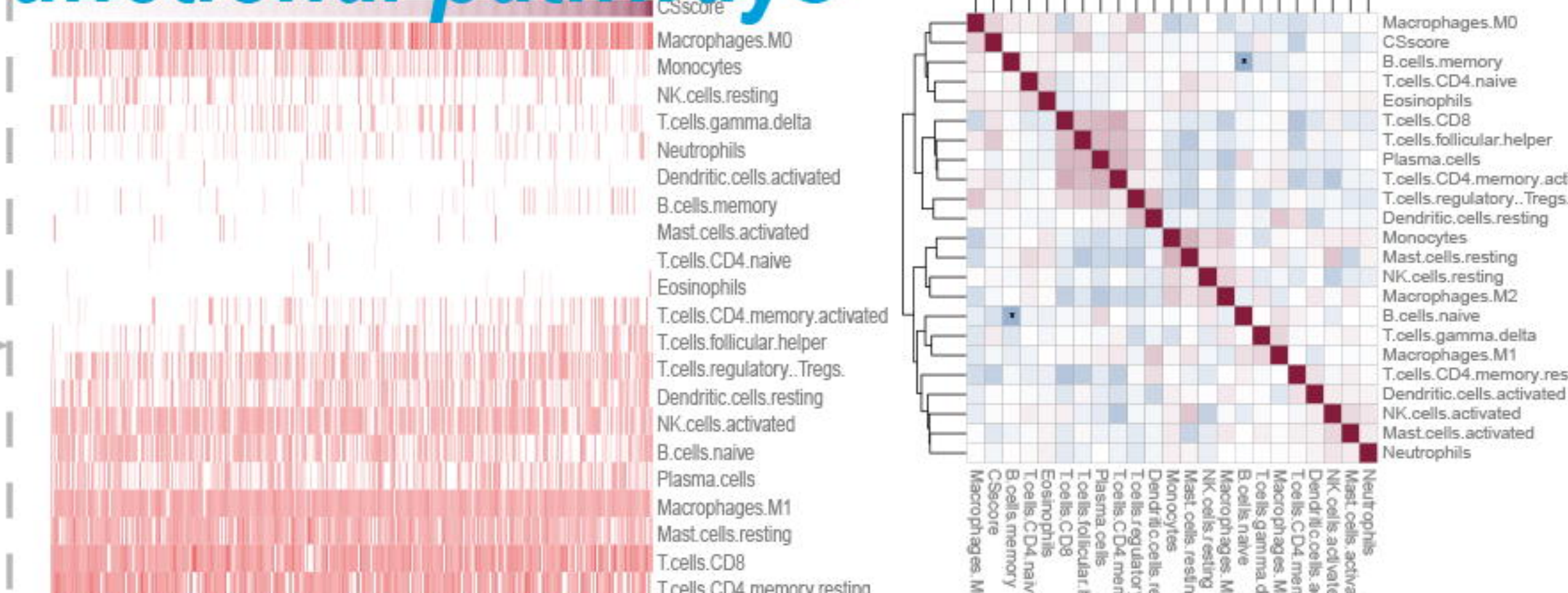
Sample	CSscore
sample_1	1
sample_2	0.85



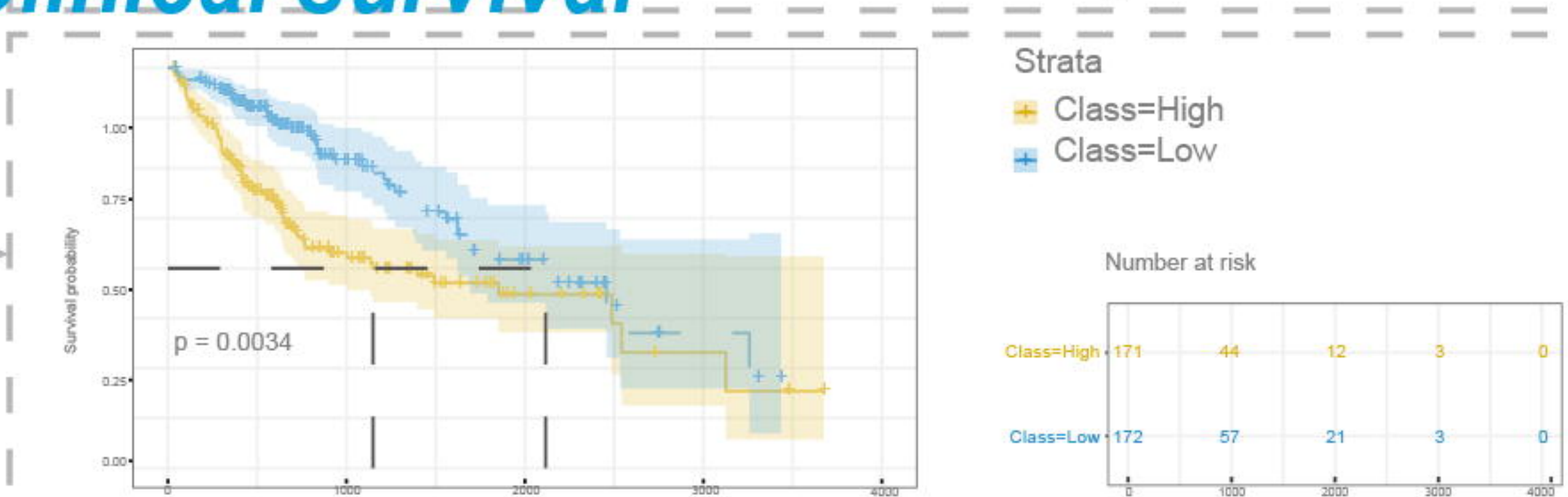
Gene signatures



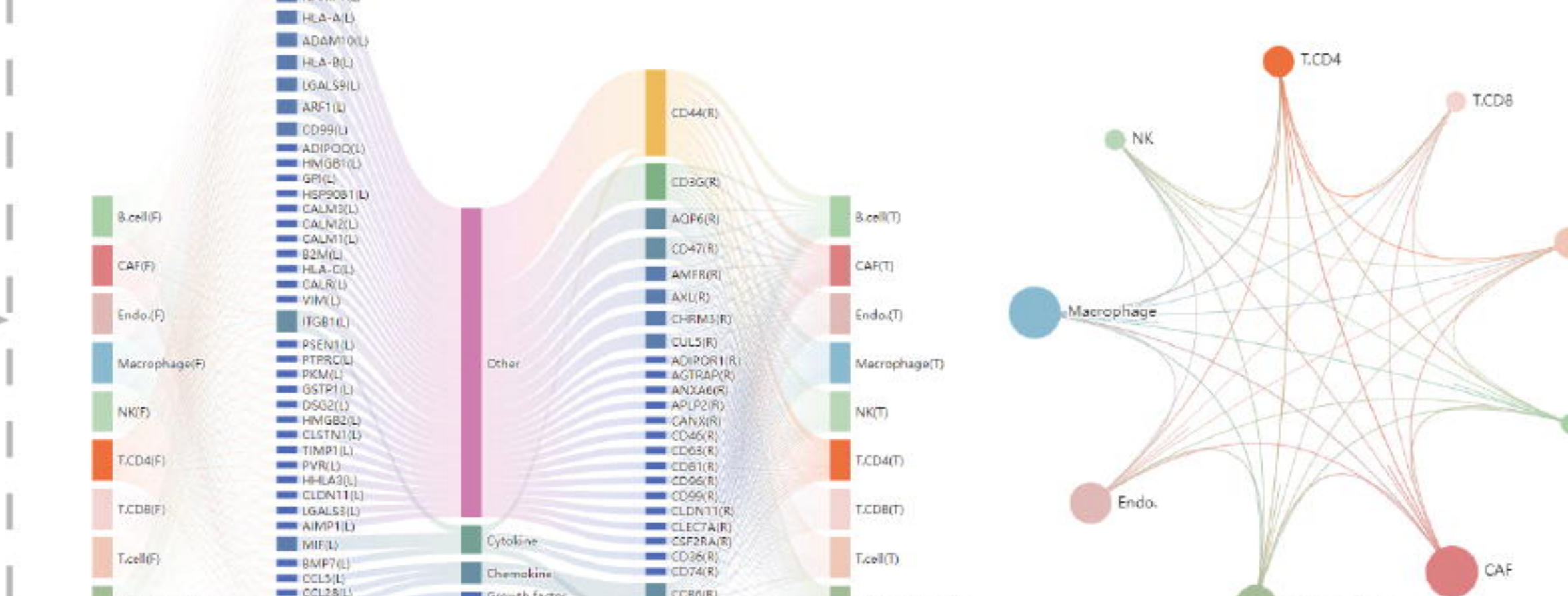
Functional pathways



Clinical survival



Cell-cell communications



Robustness evaluation

