

1 **NyuWa Genome Resource: Deep Whole**
2 **Genome Sequencing Based Chinese**
3 **Population Variation Profile and Reference**
4 **Panel**

5 **Running title: NyuWa Chinese Population WGS and**
6 **Reference Panel**

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20 Key words: Whole genome sequencing, Chinese population, haplotype reference panel

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22

23 **Abstract**

24 The lack of Chinese population specific haplotype reference panel and whole genome
25 sequencing resources has greatly hindered the genetics studies in the world's largest
26 population. Here we presented the NyuWa genome resource based on deep (26.2X)
27 sequencing of 2,999 Chinese individuals, and constructed NyuWa reference panel of
28 5,804 haplotypes and 19.3M variants, which is the first publicly available Chinese
29 population specific reference panel with thousands of samples. Compared with other
30 panels, NyuWa reference panel reduces the Han Chinese imputation error rate by the
31 range of 30% to 51%. Population structure and imputation simulation tests supported
32 the applicability of one integrated reference panel for both northern and southern
33 Chinese. In addition, a total of 22,504 loss-of-function variants in coding and
34 noncoding genes were identified, including 11,493 novel variants. These results
35 highlight the value of NyuWa genome resource to facilitate genetics research in
36 Chinese and Asian populations.

37

38 **Introduction**

39 Comprehensive catalogues of genetic variation are fundamental building blocks in studying
40 population and demographic history, medical genetics and genotype-phenotype association. Since
41 the first assembly of human genome released in 2003 (International Human Genome Sequencing
42 2004), many large-scale whole genome sequencing (WGS) projects have been launched in
43 Western countries and recently in Asia, and have created large and diverse population genetic
44 variation resources. Constructing haplotype reference panel from these large cohort WGS
45 variation resources is meaningful and cost-effective to facilitate genome-wide association study
46 (GWAS) by imputation of unobserved genotypes into samples that have been assayed using
47 relatively sparse genome-wide microarray chips or low coverage sequencing (Asimit and Zeggini
48 2012; McCarthy et al. 2016). However, as the largest ethnic group in the world, the Chinese
49 specific reference panel is absent.

50 A remarkable milestone of population genome project is the 1000 Genomes Project, which
51 released an important resource of ~7.4X WGS data of 2,504 individuals from 26 populations, and
52 constructed a reference panel (1KGP3) of 5,008 haplotypes at over 88 million variants (Auton et
53 al. 2015). This resource provides a benchmark for surveys of human genetic variation, and has
54 facilitated numerous GWASs through imputation of variants that are not directly genotyped, thus
55 enabling a deeper understanding of the genetic architecture of complex diseases (Timpson et al.
56 2018). Nevertheless, rare and low-frequency variants tend to be population- or sample-specific
57 (Auton et al. 2015), and many disease related variants are very rare and population specific
58 (Maher et al. 2012; Saint Pierre and Genin 2014; Bomba et al. 2017). The GWASs missed a
59 proportion of potential trait-associated variants that were poorly imputed with current reference

60 panels (Asimit and Zeggini 2012; Hoffmann and Witte 2015; Bomba et al. 2017). So, a number of
61 projects have focused on specific populations, attempting to capture the population specific
62 genetic variability and build specific reference panels. For example, the Genome of the
63 Netherlands (GoNL) Project sequenced the whole genomes of 250 Dutch parent-offspring families,
64 found large number of novel rare variants, and constructed a reference panel with 998 haplotypes
65 (Francioli et al. 2014). In addition, based on the GoNL panel, researchers found a rare variant
66 rs77542162 to be associated with blood lipid levels in Dutch population (van Leeuwen et al. 2015).
67 Afterwards there were more such projects including UK10K in United Kingdom population
68 (Walter et al. 2015), SISu in Finnish (Chheda et al. 2017) and GenomeDenmark (Mareddy et al.
69 2017). However, these resources are biased toward European populations. Recently some genomic
70 resources and panels have also been created for Asian populations, including Japanese (Nagasaki
71 et al. 2015), 219 population groups across Asia by GenomeAsia 100K project (GAsP) (Wall et al.
72 2019), and three Singapore populations by SG10K project (Wu et al. 2019). Some studies have
73 also focused on Chinese population, but the sample sizes (Lan et al. 2017; Du et al. 2019) or
74 geographical coverage (Lin et al. 2017) were limited, or genotyping methods were mainly low
75 coverage WGS (1.7X or 0.1X) (Liu et al. 2018a; Cai et al. 2020; Gao et al. 2020). In a most recent
76 study, the China Metabolic Analytics Project (ChinaMAP) has presented deep WGS (40.8X)
77 dataset of 10,588 Chinese individuals mainly involved in metabolic disease (Cao et al. 2020).
78 However, the reference panel is not yet constructed in the study. The Han Chinese population
79 comprises about 1.23 billion people, which is the largest ethnic group in East Asia and in the
80 world, accounting for ~20% of the global human population and ~92% of Mainland Chinese (Xu
81 et al. 2009b). Constructing an integrated, large cohort and high quality Han Chinese population

82 genetic variation database and reference panel is imperative, which will help to understand the
83 population structure, population history, and facilitate genetics studies in the world's largest
84 population.

85 Here we released the genome resource named NyuWa based on high depth (median 26.2X)
86 WGS of 2,999 Chinese individuals from 23 out of 34 administrative divisions in China. NyuWa,
87 or Nüwa, is the mother goddess who was the creator of the human population in Chinese
88 mythology. The NyuWa genome resource includes a total of 71.1M single nucleotide
89 polymorphisms (SNPs) and 8.2M small insertions or deletions (indels), of which 25.0M are novel.
90 More importantly, we constructed the NyuWa reference panel of 5,804 haplotypes and 19.3M
91 variants, which is the first publicly available Chinese population specific reference panel with
92 thousands of samples, and has currently the best performance for imputation of Han Chinese. We
93 also found 1,140 pathogenic variants, 18,711 loss-of-function protein truncating variants (PTVs)
94 and 3,793 long non-coding RNA (lncRNA) splicing variants, of which 11,493 were novel
95 compared with existing genome resources. In a word, NyuWa genome resource can provide useful
96 and reliable support for genetic and disease studies. The NyuWa variant database and imputation
97 server are available at <http://bigdata.ibp.ac.cn/NyuWa/>.

98 **Results**

99 **Large Chinese Population Cohort of Deep WGS Data**

100 The NyuWa genome resource included high-coverage (median depth 26.2X) whole-genome
101 sequences (WGS) of 2,999 different Chinese samples including diabetes and control samples
102 collected from hospitals or physical examination centers. The samples were from 23

103 administrative divisions in China including 17 provinces, 2 autonomous regions and 4
104 municipalities directly under the Central Government (provinces for short, Figure 1A), which can
105 be summarized into several geographical divisions of China (Supplementary information, Table
106 S1). The origins of the samples were referenced to the native places or the provinces where
107 samples were collected. The majority of samples were collected from Shanghai, Guangdong and
108 Beijing (Figure 1A), which all have large incoming population from external provinces and rich
109 sample diversity. The ethnicities for the samples were currently not available. Since national
110 minorities are usually geographically clustered in China and not in our sampling areas, we
111 estimated that the Han Chinese is the overwhelming majority in our samples.

112 Most of the samples were sequenced more than 30X (median 38.9, Supplementary
113 information, Figure S1A). After genome alignment and removal of duplicates, the median of
114 actual genomic coverage is 26.2X (Figure 1B; Supplementary information, Figure S1B). Samples
115 with contamination levels $\alpha \geq 0.05$ were removed (Supplementary information, Figure S1C).
116 Based on the genomic coverage of sex chromosomes, sample sex could be clearly identified
117 except one potential XO type (Figure 1C). The ploidy of chrX for the sample also supported the
118 XO type, which was classified as female. There were in total 1,335 females and 1,664 males in
119 The NyuWa dataset. After identification of close relatives within 3rd degree (Supplementary
120 information, Figure S1D), a maximum of 2,902 independent samples can be obtained in NyuWa
121 dataset.

122 **25.0M Novel Variants were Discovered in NyuWa Resource**

123 SNPs and indels were called and genotyped using GATK cohort pipeline (Ryan Poplin 2017) with

124 human reference genome version GRCh38/hg38 as reference. After site quality filtering, a total of
125 76.4M variant sites were identified, including 2.5M multi-allele sites (Supplementary information,
126 Figure S2A). After splitting of multi-allele sites, the final dataset contained 71.1M SNPs and 8.2M
127 indels (Supplementary information, Figure S2B), including 2.5M SNPs and 0.3M indels from sex
128 chromosomes (Supplementary information, Table S2). The transition-to-transversion ration (Ts/Tv)
129 is 2.107 for all bi-allelic SNPs, which is consistent with previous whole genome studies such as
130 1KGP3 (2.09) (Auton et al. 2015) and UK10K (2.15) (Walter et al. 2015).

131 Compared to other public variant repositories including ExAC (Lek et al. 2016), gnomAD
132 (v2 & v3) (Lek et al. 2016), 1KGP3 (Auton et al. 2015), ESP (NHLBI GO Exome Sequencing
133 Project), dbSNP (v150) (Sherry et al. 2001), GAsP (Wall et al. 2019), 90 Han (Lan et al. 2017) and
134 TOPMed (Taliun et al. 2019), the NyuWa dataset discovered 25.0M novel variants, including
135 23.1M SNPs (32.5%) and 1.9M indels (23.3%) (Figure 2A). The ChinaMAP resource (Cao et al.
136 2020) only provided website for variant search, but did not make full variant list available. To
137 estimate the ratio of novel variants compared with ChinaMAP, we used two variant sets for
138 manual comparison. The first set was 230 novel singletons randomly selected from NyuWa dataset
139 (10 per chromosome), and there were only 21.3% variants that also exist in ChinaMAP dataset.
140 Another set was novel variants in 906 cancer related genes collected from ClinGen database and
141 literature (Rehm et al. 2015; Huang et al. 2018; Mirabello et al. 2020). There were a total of 959k
142 novel variants in these genes, and only 27.3% of these variants overlapping with ChinaMAP. We
143 estimated that there were about 73% novel variants remain (~18M) compared with ChinaMAP. As
144 expected, most novel variants were extremely rare, with singletons, doubletons and tripletons
145 accounting for 86.8%, 10.1%, 1.9% of novel variants, respectively (Figure 2A). This is not

146 surprising since rare variants are usually sample- and population-specific (Francioli et al. 2014).
147 The absolute number of novel variants with minor allele frequency (MAF) > 0.1% is still large
148 (77.2k). These variants are frequent enough to be subject to large scale genetic association studies,
149 and may bring new biological discoveries (Piton et al. 2013; Walter et al. 2015). The overall large
150 number of novel variants indicates severe underrepresentation of variants in Chinese population in
151 current genetic studies.

152 On average, a NyuWa sample carries a median number of 3.51M SNPs and 523k indels in
153 autosomes. These numbers are close to East Asia samples in 1KGP3 (3.55M SNPs, 546k indels)
154 (Auton et al. 2015). The detected SNPs and indels with MAF > 0.1% per sample had slightly
155 positive correlation with genomic coverage ($R^2 = 0.075$ and 0.11, respectively) (Supplementary
156 information, Figure S2C and S2D), indicating that the WGS quality can still be improved by
157 increasing sequencing depth to higher than 30X, especially for indels. This could be explained by
158 that although there is sufficient coverage for the whole genome, there are still regions lack
159 coverage randomly or are difficult to amplify, which will be improved by increasing the
160 sequencing depth. The median of MAF < 0.1% SNPs and indels in a genome were 26.4k (0.75%)
161 and 2.57k (0.49%), respectively. The very rare SNPs and indels showed no positive correlation
162 with sequencing depth (Supplementary information, Figure S2E and S2F), probably because the
163 number of rare variants in different samples vary more largely (~±10 %) compared with MAF >
164 0.1% variants (~±1%), and the positive correlation is submerged by the large fluctuation.

165 To evaluate variant discovery by increasing sample size, we randomly down-sampled NyuWa
166 dataset to different sizes with 100 samples intervals, and estimated the total variants and variant
167 increase at different sample sizes (Supplementary information, Figure S2G-J). We found that the

168 number of both SNPs and indels continued to increase with the increasing sample size
169 (Supplementary information, Figure S2G and S2H), but the growth rate decreased, from the initial
170 average increase of 39.4k and 5.7k per sample to the final 13.0k and 1.0k for SNPs and indels,
171 respectively (Supplementary information, Figure S2I and S2J).

172 There were a total of 31.9M variants in protein coding genes, including 857k CDS, 1.10M
173 UTR, 8.60k splicing and 30.0M intron variants (Figure 2B; Supplementary information, Figure
174 S2K and Table S3). For lncRNAs, variants were also annotated with NONCODE v5 (Fang et al.
175 2017), which has the largest collection of lncRNAs. There were in total 4.78M variants in lncRNA
176 exon regions (Figure 2C; Supplementary information, Table S4). Focusing on variants in protein
177 coding exons, among 501k non-synonymous SNPs, 315k were annotated as deleterious by at least
178 two of ten selected prediction algorithms provided by dbNSFP (Liu et al. 2016) (Figure 2D). The
179 number of novel non-synonymous and deleterious SNPs were 149k and 101k, respectively (Table
180 1). Other functional protein coding variants included 311k synonymous SNPs, 15.3k frameshift
181 indels, 12.7k non-frameshift indels, 11.9k stop gains and 613 stop losses (Supplementary
182 information, Table S5). Compared to adjacent frameshift indels, there are more in-frame indels in
183 coding region (Supplementary information, Figure S2L), consistent with previous report (Lek et al.
184 2016).

185 We have designed a companion database (http://bigdata.ibp.ac.cn/NyuWa_variants/) to
186 archive SNPs and indels in NyuWa resource, and to comprehensively catalogue the variants on
187 allele frequencies in our Chinese dataset and external datasets including 1KGP3 and gnomAD v3.
188 Besides, variant quality metrics, genome region annotations, non-synonymous impact prediction,
189 loss-of-function prediction, clinical annotation and pharmacogenomics annotation are also

190 collected and presented.

191 **NyuWa Reference Panel Outperformed Other Publicly 192 Available Panels for Chinese Populations**

193 Genome-wide genotype imputation is a statistical technique to infer missing genotypes from
194 known haplotype information, which is cost-effective for GWAS with SNP arrays when compared
195 with whole exome sequencing (WES) or WGS. NyuWa haplotype reference panel
196 (<http://bigdata.ibp.ac.cn/refpanel/>) was constructed using 19.3M SNPs and indels with minor allele
197 count ≥ 5 (MAC5, approximately MAF $> 0.1\%$) in 2,902 independent samples, including 73.3k
198 non-synonymous and 33.5k deleterious SNPs (Table 1). Compared with 4 other publicly available
199 reference panels including 1KGP3 (Auton et al. 2015), Haplotype Reference Consortium release
200 1.1 (HRC.r1.1) (McCarthy et al. 2016), GAsP (Wall et al. 2019) and TOPMed r2 (Taliun et al.
201 2019), NyuWa reference panel had 3.25M specific variants not included in other panels, including
202 7.05k non-synonymous and 3.32k deleterious SNPs (Table 1). These NyuWa panel specific
203 variants may bring new discoveries in future association studies. To evaluate the imputation
204 performance, array genotyping data for 58 worldwide populations from the Human Genome
205 Diversity Project (HGDP) (Li et al. 2008) were used as a testing dataset. We focused on 16
206 Chinese populations and 11 other Asian populations in HGDP. NyuWa outperformed 1KGP3,
207 HRC.r1.1 and TOPMed r2 in all Chinese populations except Uygur (Figure 3A; Supplementary
208 information, Figure S3A and S3B). This can be explained by that the Uygur population belongs to
209 the Central Asia and was seldom included in our sampled areas. For Han Chinese, imputation with
210 NyuWa reduced the error rate by 38.1%, 50.8% and 30.4% compared with 1KGP3, HRC.r1.1 and

211 TOPMed r2, respectively. NyuWa also achieved better performance in most other East Asian and
212 Northeast Asian populations (Figure 3A; Supplementary information, Figure S3A-D). Not
213 surprisingly, NyuWa did not perform as well as 1KGP3 in Central/South Asian populations in
214 HGDP, which are mainly from Pakistan and historically received substantial gene flow from
215 Central Asia and western Eurasia (Qamar et al. 2002; Majumder 2010). Comparing to GAsP, a
216 newly released reference panel for Asian populations, NyuWa also has advantage in Chinese
217 populations including Han, She, Tujia, Miaozu, Yizu, Tu and Naxi (Figure 3B; Supplementary
218 information, Figure S3C). For Han Chinese, imputation with NyuWa reduced the error rate by
219 33.2% compared with GAsP. Nevertheless, NyuWa performed worse in some of Chinese
220 minorities and the Pakistan Central/South Asian populations, possibly due to the overwhelming
221 proportion of Han population in NyuWa. These results indicated that additional minority samples
222 were needed to improve the imputation performance of certain Chinese minorities. We further
223 compared the number of high-quality imputed variants in total imputed variants among these
224 panels. NyuWa showed the largest number and proportion of high-quality imputed variants ($Rsq >$
225 0.8) across all MAF bins in Chinese and Han Chinese population compared with GAsP and
226 HRC.r1.1 (Figure 3C and 3D). Compared to 1KGP3, NyuWa had larger number of high-quality
227 imputed variants in low MAF regions ($Rsq > 0.8$, $MAF < 0.05$), and similar number in high MAF
228 regions ($MAF > 0.05$) (Figure 3C and 3D). While TOPMed r2 had slightly less numbers in high
229 MAF regions and the largest numbers in low MAF regions, the percentage of high-quality
230 imputed variants were very low in all MAF regions, due to the largest number of total variants (an
231 order of magnitude higher than other 4 panels) (Figure 3C and 3D).

232 To optimize imputation performance, we also combined NyuWa reference panel with 1KGP3

233 panel using the reciprocal imputation strategy (Huang et al. 2015). The combined panel (NyWa +
234 1KGP3) included 5,406 samples and 40.2M variants, which improved imputation in all tested
235 Asian populations (Figure 3A; Supplementary information, Figure S3). The imputation accuracy
236 was obviously improved by about 10% for Chinese minorities of Mongolian, Dai, Daur, Xibo, Tu,
237 Oroqen and Uygur, and outperformed GAsP in more Chinese minority populations (Figure 3B).
238 For Chinese and Chinese Han population, NyWa+1KGP3 could impute more high-quality
239 variants ($R_{sq} > 0.8$) across all MAF bins, with significant increase in low MAF variants ($MAF <$
240 0.01) (Figure 3C and 3D). In brief, NyWa+1KGP3 is an excellent alternative of NyWa.

241 **Applicability of One Integrated Reference Panel for Both 242 Northern and Southern Chinese**

243 Due to the awareness of north-south genetic differences in Han Chinese people (Xu et al. 2009a;
244 Chiang et al. 2018), we asked if it is adequate to use one integrated reference panel for both north
245 and south Han populations. To answer this question, we analyzed NyWa dataset from the
246 perspective of population structure and imputation simulation tests.

247 In order to verify the ethnic authenticity of NyWa samples, principal component analysis
248 (PCA) of 200 randomly selected NyWa samples together with 1KGP3 samples showed that
249 NyWa samples were clustered together with 1KGP3 Han Chinese samples (Supplementary
250 information, Figure S4A and S4B), indicating that NyWa samples are truly Chinese samples and
251 little batch effect is observed. Y chromosome analysis of male samples in NyWa population
252 showed that majority (77.5%) of Y-chromosome haplogroups was O group, which is the dominant
253 group in Han Chinese population. The following groups were C (9.0%) and N (7.5%). The Y

254 haplogroup distribution was consistent with previous analysis of Chinese populations (Yan et al.
255 2014) (Supplementary information, Figure S5A). The distribution of Y haplogroups in different
256 provinces were shown in Supplementary information, Figure S5B.

257 We then analyzed ancestral components of NyuWa samples. Cross validation of
258 ADMIXTURE analysis for NyuWa with 1KGP3 East Asia samples showed that $K = 3$ best
259 matched the structure of East Asia populations (Figure 4A; Supplementary information, Figure
260 S6). Consistent with CHB (Han Chinese in Beijing, China) and CHS (Southern Han Chinese)
261 samples in 1KGP3, the most predominant component in NyuWa samples was the ancestral
262 component 1 (red). In the view of sample origins, a clear difference between people in north and
263 south provinces was that south people have more proportion of ancestral component 3 (blue,
264 Figure 4B), which was also the case between CHB and CHS samples in 1KGP3. The component 3
265 was also the major ancestral component for Dai (CDX) and Vietnamese (KHV) people (Figure 4A
266 and 4B). The component 2 (green) was the major ancestral component for Japanese (JPT) people,
267 and was minor in Chinese samples (Figure 4A and 4B).

268 The above ADMIXTURE results indicated that north and south Chinese share two major
269 ancestral components, and are different at the proportions of these components, which is
270 consistent with the historical migration and partial mix within the past two to three millennia (Wen
271 et al. 2004; Chen et al. 2009). Using primary component analysis (PCA), we found that the
272 primary component 1 (PC1) of NyuWa samples represented the trend of north to south
273 differentiation (Figure 4C), which is consistent with previous studies for Han and Chinese
274 minorities (Chiang et al. 2018; Liu et al. 2018a; Cao et al. 2020). Other PCs does not show
275 differentiation between north and south (Supplementary information, Figure S7A). We observed

276 that variants with high absolute weights in PC1 also showed high AF differences between
277 ancestral components 1 and 3 (Supplementary information, Figure S7B). F_{st} , another analysis for
278 genetic differentiation between north and south NyuWa samples classified with the classic
279 geographical demarcation of Qinling Mountains-Huaihe River, also showed that north-to-south
280 differential sites are also different between ancestral components 1 and 3 (Supplementary
281 information, Figure S7C). These results showed that the genetic differences already existed
282 between the ancestries 1 and 3, which is consistent with the partial mix of ancestry components.
283 Collectively, since north and south Chinese share the same major ancestral components, we reason
284 that one integrated reference panel is applicable for both north and south Han Chinese.

285 To test the speculation, we divided samples from NyuWa reference panel into different north
286 or south subsets based on sample positions on PC1, which represents differentiation between north
287 and south (Figure 4C). North/south Han Chinese specific panels were then constructed using these
288 sample subsets, and imputation error rates were compared on independent public datasets
289 including north Han Chinese (Han North China in HGDP) and south Han Chinese (CHS, Chinese
290 Han South in 1KGP3). As expected, given the same sample sizes, the north or south matched
291 specific panels had lower imputation error rates than unmatched panels (Figure 4D). Panels with
292 randomly selected samples had intermediate error rates. Increasing panel sizes always reduced
293 error rates, no matter added samples are matched or unmatched (Figure 4D; Supplementary
294 information, Figure S8A). The error rates of the integrated panel were always the lowest. The
295 imputation results for Han Chinese Beijing (CHB) samples in 1KGP3 also showed lower error
296 rates for panels with larger sizes (Supplementary information, Figure S8B), while the differences
297 between north and south panels were not obvious, probably because there are also many south

298 samples in CHB (Supplementary information, Figure S4B). Another classification way using
299 geographical demarcation of Qinling Mountains-Huaihe River showed similar results
300 (Supplementary information, Figure S8C&D). These results confirmed the applicability of one
301 integrated panel for both northern and southern Chinese.

302 We also explored whether there is a difference in the introgression level of Denisovan and
303 Neanderthal ancestries between north and south NyuWa populations (Supplementary information,
304 Figure S9). No obvious north-south difference was found, suggesting that the introgression of
305 Denisovan and Neanderthal ancestries occurred before the split time of north and south ancestral
306 populations, which is far before the current population mix. Also we found no samples with high
307 Denisovan ancestry (>3%) like that in Melanesians and Aeta (Wall et al. 2019). The top 10 highest
308 Denisovan ancestry samples were from Shanghai (5), Beijing (2), Guangdong (1), Shaanxi (1) and
309 Xinjiang (1), ranging from 0.42-0.45%.

310 **Clinical Annotations for Variants**

311 To demonstrate the value of NyuWa resource in improving human health, we further evaluated the
312 utility of NyuWa in disease genetic studies and medical applications. We annotated all the variants
313 with ClinVar (Landrum et al. 2018), and found 1,140 pathogenic variants (Supplementary
314 information, Figure S10A and S10B). As expected, most of the pathogenic variants were
315 singletons or rare variants in NyuWa and public datasets (Figure 5A). Each sample had a median
316 of 4 homozygous pathogenic variants and 7 heterozygous pathogenic variants (Supplementary
317 information, Figure S10C). We noticed that there were 32 pathogenic variants with allele
318 frequency (AF) > 1% (Figure 5A and Supplementary information, Data S1). Pathogenic variants

319 are usually rare, especially for rare diseases, and pathogenic variants with high AFs may relate to
320 common diseases, or their pathogenicity are subject to further examinations. We also found some
321 variants annotated as conflicting interpretations of pathogenicity by ClinVar showing specific
322 higher AFs in NyuWa resource (Figure 5B and Supplementary information, Data S1). For example,
323 taking AF 1% as threshold, two variants rs182677317 and rs369849556 were annotated as
324 conflicting for a rare disease ciliary dyskinesia, while the high AFs (> 1%) in NyuWa dataset
325 suggested these variants may not be pathogenic (Figure 5C). These results showed that variant
326 AFs in NyuWa dataset can provide additional reference to assist study of disease related variants.

327 We also assessed the allele frequencies of known pharmacogenomic loci from ADME core
328 genes (<http://pharmaadme.org/>) that may affect the efficacy and safety of drugs in different China
329 provinces and worldwide regions (Supplementary information, Data S2). We found some variants
330 with obvious AF differences in different regions of China, as well as in different populations
331 worldwide (Figure 5D). For instance, isoniazid, a drug recommended by World Health
332 Organization (WHO) in the treatment of tuberculosis (TB), is metabolized primarily by the NAT2
333 (N-Acetyltransferase 2) enzyme. *NAT2*12* refers to rs1208, and the reference allele A dampens
334 the enzyme activity (Vatsis et al. 1991). The homozygous reference genotype will cause drug
335 accumulation and poisoning, while heterozygous and homozygous alternative genotypes have less
336 toxic side effects (Toure et al. 2016). We detected consistently high AFs (near 100%) of *NAT2*12*
337 in different China provinces and East Asians, while relatively lower frequencies in other
338 populations (Figure 5D). This suggested that testing the *NAT2*12* genotype before using isoniazid
339 for Chinese is not as necessary as for other populations. For other examples, the AFs were not
340 close to 0% or 100%, and vary in different China provinces (Figure 5D), hence it is recommended

341 to take genetic tests before using certain drugs for individualized treatment.

342 We also checked cancer risk loci (Sud et al. 2017) in different regions (Data S2). It is

343 generally known that there are racial differences in cancer susceptibility and survival, and the

344 genetic factors are very important (Ozdemir and Dotto 2017). We also detected obvious AF

345 differences between Chinese and other populations in many cancer susceptibility loci (Figure 5E).

346 **Loss-of-Function Variants of Protein-coding Genes and** 347 **LncRNA Genes**

348 Human loss-of-function variants have profound effects on gene function, and are informative for

349 clinical genome interpretation. We first screened high confidence loss-of-function

350 protein-truncating variants (PTVs), especially novel variants. We found 18,711 PTVs in 7,696

351 genes, in which most PTVs were singletons (Figure 6A and 6B), in line with PTV data from

352 ExAC (67% singletons) (Lek et al. 2016). There were 9,994 novel PTVs found in NyuWa dataset,

353 and 1,381 PTVs can be imputed by NyuWa reference panel (Table 1). The number of homozygous

354 PTVs were 21 (Figure 6B, Supplementary information, Figure S10D). For each sample, there was

355 a median of 24 homozygous PTVs and 58 heterozygous PTVs (Supplementary information,

356 Figure S10E). We detected 1,138 PTVs in 385 of 906 cancer related genes, in which 636 are novel.

357 Focusing on 9 well studied cancer-associated genes (*BRCA1*, *BRCA2*, *TP53*, *MEN1*, *MLH1*,

358 *MSH2*, *MSH6*, *PMS1* and *PMS2A*) (Wall et al. 2019), there were 5 novel PTVs and 48 known ones

359 in *BRCA2*, *BRCA1*, *PMS1*, *TP53* and *MSH6* (Figure 6C). Both *BRCA1* and *BRCA2* are involved in

360 maintenance of genome stability, specifically the homologous recombination pathway for DNA

361 double-strand break repair. Inherited mutations in *BRCA1* and *BRCA2* confer increased lifetime

362 risk of developing breast or ovarian cancer. There were 10 known PTVs in *BRCA1* and *BRCA2*, in

363 which 9 have been annotated as pathogenic and related to breast-ovarian cancer in ClinVar

364 (Landrum et al. 2018), and 1 has not been collected in dbSNP yet. The uncollected and novel

365 PTVs in *BRCA1* and *BRCA2* may also increase the risk of breast and ovarian cancer.

366 Since lncRNAs do not contain consensus CDS regions, for possible lncRNA loss-of-function

367 variants, splicing variants become the most important class. Splicing variants may cause intron

368 retention or exon skipping, and greatly change the lncRNA sequence and structure (Ulitsky et al.

369 2011). 230 lncRNA genes were reported to affect cell growth after CRISPR editing at lncRNA

370 splicing sites (Liu et al. 2018b), suggesting the importance of lncRNA splicing variants for

371 lncRNA functions. A total of 3,793 splicing variants in 3,544 lncRNA genes were found in NyuWa

372 dataset (Figure 6D), including 1,454 splicing variants in 1,287 Ensembl lncRNA genes and

373 another 2,339 splicing variants in 2,257 NONCODE lncRNA genes (Supplementary information,

374 Figure S10F and S10G). Each sample had a median of 61 homozygous and 91 heterozygous

375 lncRNA splicing variants (Supplementary information, Figure S10H). Among 230 lncRNA genes

376 reported to be essential for cell growth (Liu et al. 2018b), we found 22 splicing variants in 20

377 lncRNA genes. The proportion of AF > 0.1% lncRNA splicing variants were relatively smaller in

378 the 20 essential lncRNA genes compared with all lncRNA splicing variants (Figure 6E and 6F),

379 suggesting that splicing variants can really affect functions of these lncRNAs. In general, the

380 loss-of-function variants for both protein-coding and non-coding genes identified in NyuWa

381 dataset may be associated with disease causing or trait tendency, which will provide novel insights

382 into disease and genetic studies.

383 **Discussion**

384 Chinese population accounts for about 20% of the global human population, with 56 ethnic groups
385 and great diversity of disease types. Constructing a comprehensive genome resource platform of
386 Chinese population empowers medical genetics discoveries in the world's largest population, and
387 also contributes to the diversity of worldwide human genetic resource. Here we presented the
388 NyuWa resource of large cohort deep WGS data for Chinese population, and constructed a
389 companion database to comprehensively catalogue the variants. The 25.0M novel variants
390 identified in NyuWa resource will greatly benefit studies of human diseases, especially for
391 Chinese people. Although ChinaMAP has also published a resource of Chinese population, the
392 variant data files were not available for downloading. By comparing of manually selected variants,
393 we estimated ~18M variants would remain novel after subtracting variants in ChinaMAP.

394 Another important contribution of this work is that the NyuWa resource filled the blank of
395 WGS based haplotype reference panel for Chinese population. Previously, the most commonly
396 used imputation panels were constructed by the 1KGP3 (Auton et al. 2015) and HRC (McCarthy
397 et al. 2016). The recently released TOPMed reference panel included the largest number of
398 haplotypes (Taliun et al. 2019) so far. However, imputation performance of these panels for
399 Chinese and East Asian populations are limited, as East Asian samples are underrepresented. In
400 addition, large number of genome variants are population- or sample-specific, especially for rare
401 variants, imputation of which can be challenging (Carmi et al. 2014). Our NyuWa reference panel
402 contains 19.3M variants (approximately MAF > 0.1%) with 3.25M specific variants not included
403 in other panels, which contains a large proportion of low frequency alleles. The imputation
404 performance of NyuWa outperformed that of 1KGP3, HRC and TOPMed for Chinese population

405 (Figure 3A; Supplementary information, Figure S3A-B). Furthermore, the combined reference
406 panel of NyuWa and 1KGP3 outperformed 1KGP3, HRC and TOPMed for nearly all the Asians
407 (Figure 3A; Supplementary information, Figure S3). Compared to GAsP, a newly public Asian
408 reference panel (Wall et al. 2019), NyuWa also has advantage in Chinese populations including
409 Han, She, Tujia, Miaozi, Yizu, Tu and Naxi, and possesses larger number of high quality imputed
410 variants ($R_{sq} > 0.8$) across all MAF bins. However, due to the lack of samples from certain
411 Chinese minority populations, the performance of NyuWa reference panel can still be improved by
412 including more minority samples in the future.

413 We also found that the genetic differences between north and south Chinese are consistent
414 with differences between two major ADMIXTURE components, suggesting that the north-south
415 differences mainly result from partial population mix in recent history. In the ADMIXTURE
416 results, the difference was mainly the proportion of north Han like component (ancestry 1, red)
417 and south Dai or Vietnamese like component (ancestry 3, blue) (Figure 4A and 4B). The north
418 samples have very large proportion of component 1 and small component 3, while component 3
419 reaches to about a half in the south samples. This population structure implies a partial mix of two
420 ancestral components of north and south, which is also consistent with the history of China. The
421 earliest center of Chinese civilization located in the central to north of China, ranging from Henan
422 to Shaanxi. Starting from the Eastern Zhou Dynasty, the Chinese territory expanded greatly,
423 especially to the south. Then the foundation of unitary multiethnic country beginning at Qin and
424 Han Dynasty facilitated the mix of early Chinese population with south ancestral populations. The
425 mix has still not achieved equilibrium up to now. Despite the lack of native place identities for
426 many samples in NyuWa resource, we could still detect a clear difference between north and south

427 Chinese samples, indicating that the hospitals collecting these samples were good approximations.

428 An ideal reference panel for a population needs to cover all major ADMIXTURE
429 components in the population. Each major component is required to have sufficient and balanced
430 sample size to cover most haplotypes in the component. As described above, both north and south
431 Han Chinese consist of the same two major components, though the proportions of these
432 components are different. So the same reference panel that cover these major components can be
433 used to impute both north and south Han populations. Imputation tests using north or south subset
434 panels confirmed the speculation. These results are based on the current sample size. In future
435 when sample size is large enough, which panel works better still depends on the specific situation.

436 The current knowledge and guidelines about medical genomics are mainly from Eurocentric
437 genetic and genomic resources, and may miss information about non-European ancestry. Our
438 study provides a large and high-quality WGS resource for Chinese populations, which will help to
439 examine the effect of known genetic variants on disease susceptibility and drug responses, and
440 benefit clinical investigations in the future. The identification of loss-of-function variants for both
441 protein-coding and lncRNA genes in this study expands the catalogue of loss-of-function variants
442 in nature. When combined with phenotype information, this resource will provide important
443 biological insights into gene functions.

444 **Methods**

445 **DNA extraction and library preparation**

446 Genomic DNA was extracted and sequenced by WuXi AppTec Co., Ltd. according to the standard
447 protocols of Illumina on HiSeq X10 platform or NovaSeq 6000. The sequencing reads were

448 paired-end 150 nt and the target depth is 30X. Sequencing quality was checked with FastQC
449 v0.11.3 (<http://www.bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/fastqc>). Adaptor sequences and low
450 quality bases were removed with Trimmomatic v0.36 (Bolger et al. 2014).

451 **Variant calling**

452 The variant calling pipeline followed GATK (Ryan Poplin 2017) Best Practices Workflows
453 Germline short variant discovery (SNPs + Indels) joint genotyping cohort mode. In brief, the raw
454 sequencing reads were mapped to human reference genome assembly 38 with BWA-MEM v0.7.15
455 (Li and Durbin 2010). Picard (<http://broadinstitute.github.io/picard/>) was used to sort bam and
456 mark duplicates. Mapping quality was check by qualimap v2.1.2 (Okonechnikov et al. 2016).
457 Indels were realigned and bases were recalibrated with GATK v3.7. Variants were called for each
458 sample using GATK HaplotypeCaller in ‘GVCF’ mode. GATK GenotypeGVCFs was then used to
459 identify variants for all samples in the cohort. Then GATK VQSR was applied for SNPs and indels
460 with truth sensitivity filter levels 99.7 and 99.0, respectively. Variants were then annotated with
461 annovar v2018-04-16 (Wang et al. 2010).

462 **Sample and site filtering**

463 Duplicate sequencing data for same persons were removed. verifyBamID2 (Zhang et al. 2020)
464 version 1.0.6 was used to check the contamination. Samples with contamination level alpha >= 0.05
465 were removed. Sex of each sample was inferred by two ways. Based on whole genome and
466 chromosome coverage results reported by qualimap, the coverage of X and Y chromosomes were
467 divided by the whole genome coverage. The relative coverage of (X, Y) of male is expected to be
468 (0.5, 0.5), and that of female is expected to be (1, 0). The ploidy of non-PAR region of X

469 chromosome were estimated by BCFtools v1.5 (<https://samtools.github.io/bcftools/bcftools.html>)

470 guess-ploidy module. Males are haploid while females are diploid.

471 To filter low quality sites, variants with VQSR not passed were removed. Additional filters

472 were applied to further exclude low quality variants. Sites with genotype quality (GQ) < 10 in >

473 50% samples were removed. For Y chromosome, sites were removed if GQ < 10 in > 50% male

474 samples, or GQ >= 10 in > 10% female samples. Sites with no ALT allele in GQ >= 10 samples

475 were also removed. Variants were further filtered with a Hardy-Weinberg Equilibrium (HWE) p

476 value < 10^{-6} in the direction of excessive heterozygosity or ExcessHet > 54.69 in the INFO

477 column calculated by GATK. Multi-allele sites were split using BCFtools norm module.

478 Some analyses required removal of close relatives. 3rd degree or closer relationships were

479 identified with the combination of kinship coefficient (Φ) and probability of zero

480 identity-by-descent (IBD) sharing (π_0) (Manichaikul et al. 2010) calculated by plink (Chang et al.

481 2015). The k-degree relationship was defined as $2^{-k-1.5} < \Phi < 2^{-k-0.5}$. For the 1st degree relationships,

482 parent-offspring was defined as $\pi_0 < 0.1$ and full sibling if $\pi_0 > 0.1$. $\Phi > 2^{-1.5}$ represents

483 monozygotic twin or sample replicates. Relationships more than 3rd degree were treated as

484 unrelated. To determine the list of excluded close relatives, samples with more relatives were

485 excluded with priority, and a maximum of 2,902 unrelated samples were kept.

486 **Haplotype phasing**

487 Sequencing reads based haplotype phasing for each sample was carried out with HAPCUT2 (Edge

488 et al. 2017). The local phased sets were then incorporated in population-based phasing of 2,999

489 samples using SHAPEIT4 (Delaneau et al. 2019) version 4.1.2 with parameter '--use-PS 0.0001'.

490 The information from family trios or duos were converted to phasing scaffold data and used by
491 SHAPEIT4 with '--scaffold' option. Sites with missing call rate greater than 10% were removed.
492 Sites with minor allele count < 2 (MAC2) were also removed. There were no samples with
493 missing call rate greater than 10%. No additional reference panel was used. Only chromosome
494 1-22 and X were phased and each chromosome was phased separately. For X chromosome, the
495 pseudo-autosomal regions (PARs) and non-PAR were divided and phased separately. For samples
496 with haploid X chromosome in non-PAR regions (male), the heterozygous genotypes were
497 converted to missing before phasing using SHAPEIT4.

498 **Reference panel**

499 The 2,902 independent samples were extracted from phased data above. Sites with minor allele
500 count < 5 (MAC5) in the independent sample set were also removed. The final list included 2,902
501 samples and 19,256,267 variants. Phased genotypes were then converted to m3vcf format as
502 imputation reference file using Minimac3 (Das et al. 2016) v2.0.1. The hg38 version of 1KGP3
503 reference panel was generated similarly with MAC5 sites.

504 To further improve imputation performance, a combined panel of NyuWa with 1KGP3 panel
505 was generated using the reciprocal imputation strategy (Huang et al. 2015). The missed variants in
506 each panel were imputed with the other with Minimac4 (Das et al. 2016), and the results were
507 combined to form a new panel with all samples and union of variants in NyuWa and 1KGP3 panel.
508 The combined panel had 40,196,029 variants in total.

509 **Imputation performance**

510 The chromosome 2 of HGDP data was used to test imputation performance for NyuWa, 1KGP3,

511 GAsP, HRC.r1.1, TOPMed and NyuWa+1KGP3 reference panels. Bi-allele SNPs that exist in all
512 panels were selected. Then every 1 out of 10 of the selected SNPs were masked to evaluate the
513 imputation accuracy. Phasing and imputation of GAsP HRC.r1.1 and TOPMed panel were run on
514 respective web servers. Phasing and imputation of NyuWa, 1KGP3 and NyuWa+1KGP3 panels
515 were run locally with Eagle2 (Loh et al. 2016) and Minimac4, respectively. Imputation error rate
516 was computed for each population as the genotype discordance rate of the masked SNPs. In
517 addition, for Chinese and Han Chinese samples in HGDP dataset, we compared the Rsq statistic
518 for total imputed variants in different MAF bins (MAF: <=0.01, 0.01-0.05, 0.05-0.2, and 0.2-0.5).

519 The imputation error rates of reference panels constructed with sample subsets of NyuWa
520 reference panel were evaluated the same way as NyuWa panel. The 1KGP3 CHS and CHB test
521 samples were already phased, and every 1 out of 10 of the selected SNPs were masked to evaluate
522 the imputation error rates. The samples in the North or South specific panels were divided based
523 on ranks of sample positions on PC1 from PCA or geographical demarcation of Qinling
524 Mountains-Huaihe River (Supplementary information, Table S1).

525 **Population structure analysis**

526 NyuWa 2,902 independent samples and 1KGP3 data were merged by extracting overlapped
527 bi-allelic autosomal SNPs. SNPs with missing rate of more than 10% or MAF less than 0.05 were
528 excluded. Linkage equilibrium (LD) was removed by thinning the SNPs to no closer than 2kb
529 using plink. Furthermore, 27 known long-range LD regions were removed according to previous
530 studies (Price et al. 2008; Tang et al. 2008; Wu et al. 2019). The resulted dataset included 901,455
531 SNPs. The merged data were then used in principal component analysis (PCA) and ADMIXTURE

532 by extracting samples of interest in each analysis. PCA was carried out using plink. ADMIXTURE
533 were carried out using ADMIXTURE Version 1.3.0 (Alexander et al. 2009). For each K, the
534 analysis was repeated 4 to 8 times with different seeds, and the one with the highest value of
535 likelihood was chosen. For ADMIXTURE result display when K > 2, dimensions were reduced to
536 1-dimension by tSNE and samples were ordered by tSNE values.

537 **F_{st} between south and north of China**

538 SNP-level fixation index (F_{st}) between north and south of China was calculated using the Weir and
539 Cockerham's estimator (Weir and Cockerham 1984) integrated in VCFtools (Danecek et al. 2011).
540 North and south of China were divided according to the classic demarcation of Qinling
541 Mountains-Huaihe River (Supplementary information, Table S1). Henan, Jiangsu, Anhui were
542 excluded because the Huaihe River flows through these provinces. Shanghai was also excluded for
543 the possibility that there may be too many individuals from other provinces.

544 **Introgression of Denisovan and Neanderthal ancestry**

545 Estimation of Denisovan and Neanderthal ancestry followed methods in GAsP (Wall et al. 2019).
546 In brief, Neanderthal and Denisovan genomes were downloaded from
547 <http://cdna.eva.mpg.de/neandertal/altai/AltaiNeandertal/VCF/> and
548 <http://cdna.eva.mpg.de/neandertal/altai/Denisovan/>. Human ancestral sequences were downloaded
549 from ftp://ftp.ensembl.org/pub/release-99/fasta/ancestral_alleles/. Potential
550 Neanderthal/Denisovan SNPs were filtered by the following criteria. 1. The REF allele matched
551 the ancestral allele; 2. Neanderthal/Denisovan genotype was homozygous ALT allele; 3.
552 Denisovan/Neanderthal genotype was homozygous REF allele; 4. ALT allele was not found in

553 YRI, GWD, MSL or ESN samples in 1KGP3. Then, for each NyuWa sample, the number of
554 Neanderthal/Denisovan SNP alleles were counted. To correct background, linear models were fit
555 for both Neanderthal and Denisovan SNPs based on allele counts and ancestry percentage in
556 GAsP results. Supposing SNPs called in NyuWa and GAsP were independent for
557 Neanderthal/Denisovan SNPs, allele counts were scaled to make the median of NyuWa samples
558 equal to the average of GAsP HAN samples. The ancestry proportion for each sample was then
559 determined by the linear model using scaled allele count.

560 **Y chromosome analysis**

561 Genotypes of male chrY SNPs in NyuWa dataset were lift over to hg19 using CrossMap (Zhao et
562 al. 2014). Y chromosomal haplogroups were inferred using yHaplo
563 (<https://github.com/23andMe/yhaplo>) (Poznik 2016). Besides, file of primary tree structure
564 (y.tree.primary.2016.01.04.nwk), file of preferred SNP names (preferred.snpNames.txt) and file of
565 phylogenetically informative SNPs (isogg.2016.01.04.txt) were used.

566 MEGA X (Kumar et al. 2018) were used to construct a phylogenetic tree based on neighbor
567 joining (NJ) method with 50 bootstrap. FigTree v1.4.4 (<https://github.com/rambaut/figtree/releases>)
568 was used to colour the tree and label main branches manually.

569 **Protein-truncating variants (PTVs) and lncRNA** 570 **loss-of-function splicing variants**

571 PTV analysis followed methods in GAsP (Wall et al. 2019). In brief, stop gain, frameshift and
572 splicing sites were selected according to ensGene annotation by annoVar (Wang et al. 2010).
573 Splicing variants are variants within 2-bp away from an exon/intron boundary that disrupt the

574 GT-AG boundary pattern. Then multiple filters were applied. Variants out of Genome In A Bottle
575 (GIAB) high confidence regions were excluded. Stop gain or frameshift variants in the last exon
576 or the last 50 nt in the second last exon were excluded. Variants in exons with non-classic splice
577 sites were also removed. Splicing variants that locate in introns length < 15 nt or UTRs were
578 excluded. Stop gain and splicing variants with phyloP100way vertebrate rankscore < 0.01 were
579 excluded. Additional filters were applied to filter high quality PTVs. Only variants with GQ >= 20,
580 DP > 7 and ALT DP > DP*0.2 were kept. Only variants affecting transcripts that within top 50%
581 of gene expression in GTEx (Ardlie et al. 2015) were kept. A total of 9,526 PTVs in 4666 genes
582 were obtained.

583 Loss-of-function variants were also predicted using LOFTEE v 1.0.3
584 (<https://github.com/konradjk/loftee>). A total of 16,910 High confidence loss-of-function variants in
585 canonical transcripts were identified. These variants covered most (7,725) of previously identified
586 PTVs. The results were then combined to get the union set of PTVs.

587 For lncRNA splicing variants, Ensembl annotation was used first. Splicing variants were
588 filtered similar to PTVs except that the phyloP100way conservation filter was not applied. The
589 remaining splicing variants in NONCODE annotation were also filtered similarly, with GTEx
590 expression replaced with expression data downloaded from NONCODE database.

591 Data access

592 The datasets generated and/or analysed during the current study are available at
593 <http://bigdata.ibp.ac.cn/NyuWa/>.

594 Acknowledgments

595 We thank Weiwei Zhai for thoughtful discussions and valuable comments on the population

596 structure analysis.

597 **Funding**

598 This work was supported by the Strategic Priority Research Program of the Chinese Academy of
599 Sciences [XDA12030100 and XDB38040300]; the National Key R&D Program of China
600 [2017YFC0907503 and 2016YFC0901002]; National Natural Science Foundation of China
601 [91940306, 31871294, 31701117 and 31970647].

602 **Author Contributions**

603 T.X. and S.H. conceptualized and supervised the project. P.Z., H.L., Y.L., J.W., Y.N., Q.K., Y.S.
604 and H.Z. conducted analysis. Y.W. and T.X. contributed to sample collection and data generation.
605 P.Z., H.L., Y.Z., Q.K. and T.S. made the web server and database. P.Z., H.L., Y.N., and S.H.
606 drafted the manuscript, and all the primary authors reviewed, edited, and approved manuscript.

607 **Disclosure Declaration**

608 The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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794

795 **Figure Legends**

796 **Figure 1. Overview of NyuWa dataset**

797 (A) Distribution of samples in NyuWa resource. Samples were assigned to provinces based on the
798 native places or hospitals where samples were collected. The map was downloaded from the
799 standard map service website (<http://bzdt.ch.mnr.gov.cn/>).

800 (B) The distribution of WGS mean genomic coverage after genome alignment and removal of
801 duplicates.

802 (C) Sex of each sample inferred by sex chromosome coverage and ploidy of chrX non-PAR region
803 estimated by BCFtools guess-ploidy. Results were consistent for all samples except one with no
804 chrY coverage and haploid chrX. The special sample was putative XO type and classified as
805 female.

806

807 **Figure 2. Variants statistics in NyuWa resource**

808 (A) Number of variants detected in different bins of allele counts or frequencies. Variants were
809 classified as known or novel based on public resources including ExAC, gnomAD v2 & v3,
810 1KGP3, ESP, dbSNP, TOPMed, 90 Han and GAsP. INS: small insertion, DEL: small deletion.

811 (B) Number (upper) and novel rate (lower) of variants in different RefSeq annotation regions.

812 (C) Number (upper) and novel rate (lower) of variants in different NONCODE annotation regions.

813 (D) Number of non-synonymous SNPs predicted as deleterious by different number of 10 selected
814 prediction algorithms (SIFT, Polyphen2 HDIV & HVAR, LRT, MutationTaster, FATHMM,
815 PROVEAN, MetaSVM, MetaLR and M-CAP) provided by dbNSFP. The novel variants are based
816 on results in (A).

817

818 **Figure 3. Performance of NyuWa haplotype reference panel**

819 (A) Fold change (FC) of imputation error rate in different Asia populations in HGDP dataset

820 between 1KGP3 panel and NyuWa (left) or NyuWa+1KGP3 (right) panel. Lower fold change

821 values represent better performance in NyuWa or NyuWa+1KGP3 panels. EA: East Asian; NEA:

822 North East Asian; CA: Central Asian; CSA: Central South Asian. Significances of error rate

823 differences were calculated by chi-squared test. *: $p < 0.05$; **: $p < 0.01$; ***: $p < 0.001$.

824 (B) Fold change of imputation error rate between GAsP panel and NyuWa (left) or

825 NyuWa+1KGP3 (right) panel. Colors representing regions in (A) and (B) are consistent.

826 (C-D) Number (upper) and proportion (lower) of high-quality ($R_{sq} > 0.8$) variants imputed for All

827 Chinese populations (C) and Han Chinese population (D) in HGDP dataset. Variants were grouped

828 in different MAF intervals.

829

830 **Figure 4. Chinese population structure based on NyuWa dataset**

831 (A) ADMIXTURE analysis of NyuWa samples with East Asia samples in 1KGP3. Number of

832 ancestries $K = 3$ best fits the model. Different colors represent different ancestry components.

833 CHB: Han Chinese in Beijing, China; CHS: Southern Han Chinese; CDX: Chinese Dai in

834 Xishuangbanna, China; JPT: Japanese in Tokyo, Japan; KHV: Kinh in Ho Chi Minh City,

835 Vietnam.

836 (B) Proportion of ancestry components in different provinces. The ancestry components and colors

837 are consistent with (A). 1KGP3 East Asia populations (CHB, CHS, CDX, JPT and KHV) were

838 also shown.

839 (C) Top 2 primary components (PC1 & 2) of NyuWa samples. Each point represents a sample.

840 Samples were marked by provinces and areas of China. PC1 represents the difference of north and
841 south Chinese.

842 (D) Imputation error rates of two test datasets representing north (Han N. China in HGDP, upper)
843 and south (CHS in 1KGP3, lower) Han Chinese. Each point represents a reference panel
844 constructed with a certain sample subset of NyuWa reference panel. The color of red represents
845 North (N) specific panels from samples in the left part of PC1 shown in (C), while blue represent
846 South (S) specific panels in the right part of PC1. The gray triangles represent reference panels
847 with randomly (R) selected samples. The numbers 1k and 1.5k represent the proportions 1/3 and
848 1/2 of the 2902 total samples in NyuWa panel. Dotted lines represent addition of more samples.

849

850 **Figure 5. Annotation of variants.**

851 (A) Allele count and frequency distribution for ClinVar pathogenic variants.

852 (B) Allele count and frequency distribution for ClinVar variants annotated as conflicting
853 interpretations of pathogenicity.

854 (C) Allele frequencies of two variants in different repositories. The two variants were annotated by
855 ClinVar as conflicting interpretations of pathogenicity for ciliary dyskinesia. TotalFreq: the AF of
856 all samples in the corresponding dataset; EAS: East Asian; AMR: American; AFR: African; EUR:
857 European; SAS: South Asian; NFE: Non-Finnish European; FIN: Finnish; ASJ: Ashkenazi Jewish;
858 AMI: Amish; Oth: Other.

859 (D) Allele frequencies of known pharmacogenomic loci (row) that vary in different populations or
860 regions (column). For NyuWa dataset, only provinces with sample sizes ≥ 20 were shown. CHB:

861 Han Chinese in Beijing, China; CHS: Southern Han Chinese; CDX: Chinese Dai in
862 Xishuangbanna, China; JPT: Japanese in Tokyo, Japan; KHV: Kinh in Ho Chi Minh City,
863 Vietnam.

864 (E) Allele frequencies of known cancer risk loci (row) that vary in different populations or regions
865 (column). For NyuWa dataset, only provinces with sample sizes ≥ 20 were shown. The AF color
866 bar is consistent with (D).

867

868 **Figure 6. Predicted loss-of-function variants in NyuWa dataset**

869 (A) Allele count and frequency distribution for protein truncating variants (PTVs).
870 (B) Number of protein truncating variants (PTVs) grouped by novel, known, heterozygous and
871 homozygous.
872 (C) Known and novel PTVs in selected cancer associated genes identified in NyuWa dataset.
873 (D) Number of lncRNA splicing variants grouped by novel, known, heterozygous and
874 homozygous.
875 (E) Allele count and frequency distribution for lncRNA splicing variants.
876 (F) Allele count and frequency distribution for lncRNA splicing variants in 230 lncRNA genes
877 reported to be essential for cell growth.

878 **Tables**

879 **Table 1. Number of total and new variants in NyuWa resource and reference panel.**

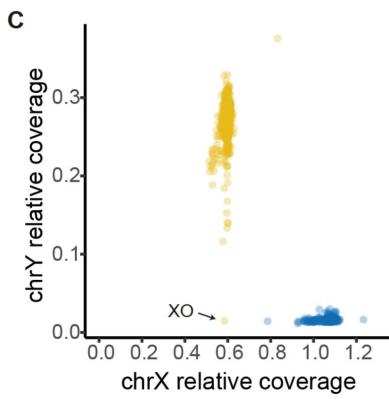
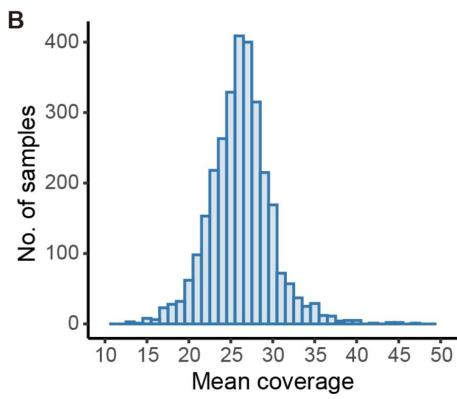
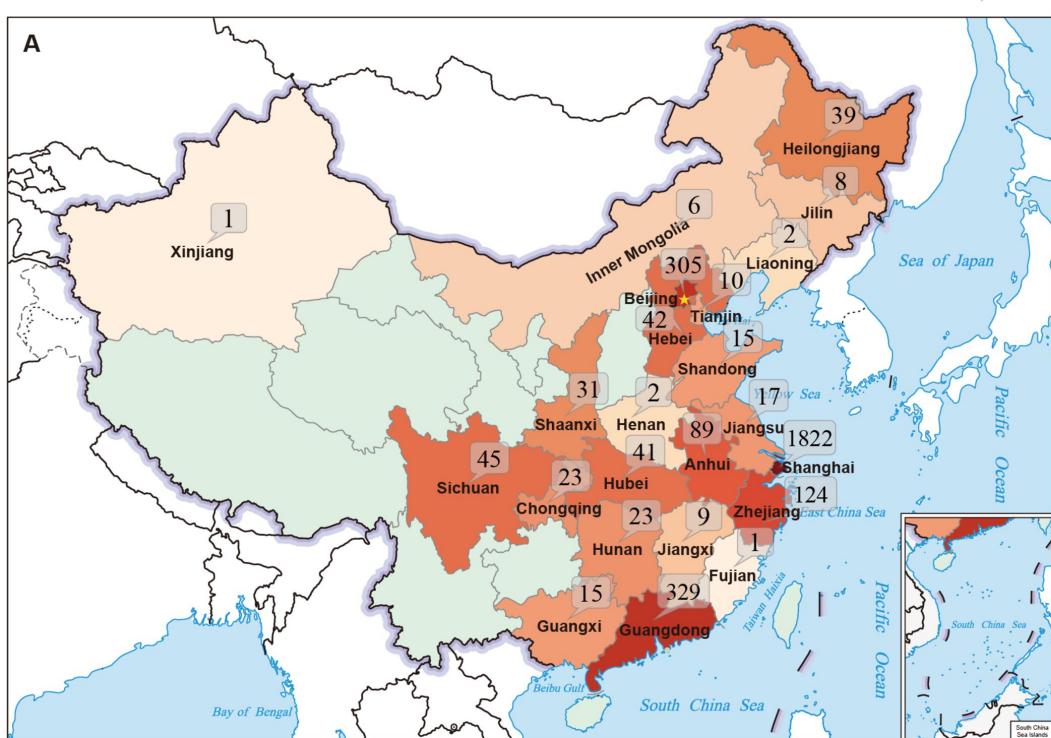
Type	All variants ^a		Reference panel ^b	
	Total	Novel ^c	Total	Specific ^d
All	79,226,351	25,014,646	19,256,267	3,246,071
Non-synonymous	500,966	149,343	73,260	7,048
Non-synonymous deleterious	315,016	101,407	33,526	3,323

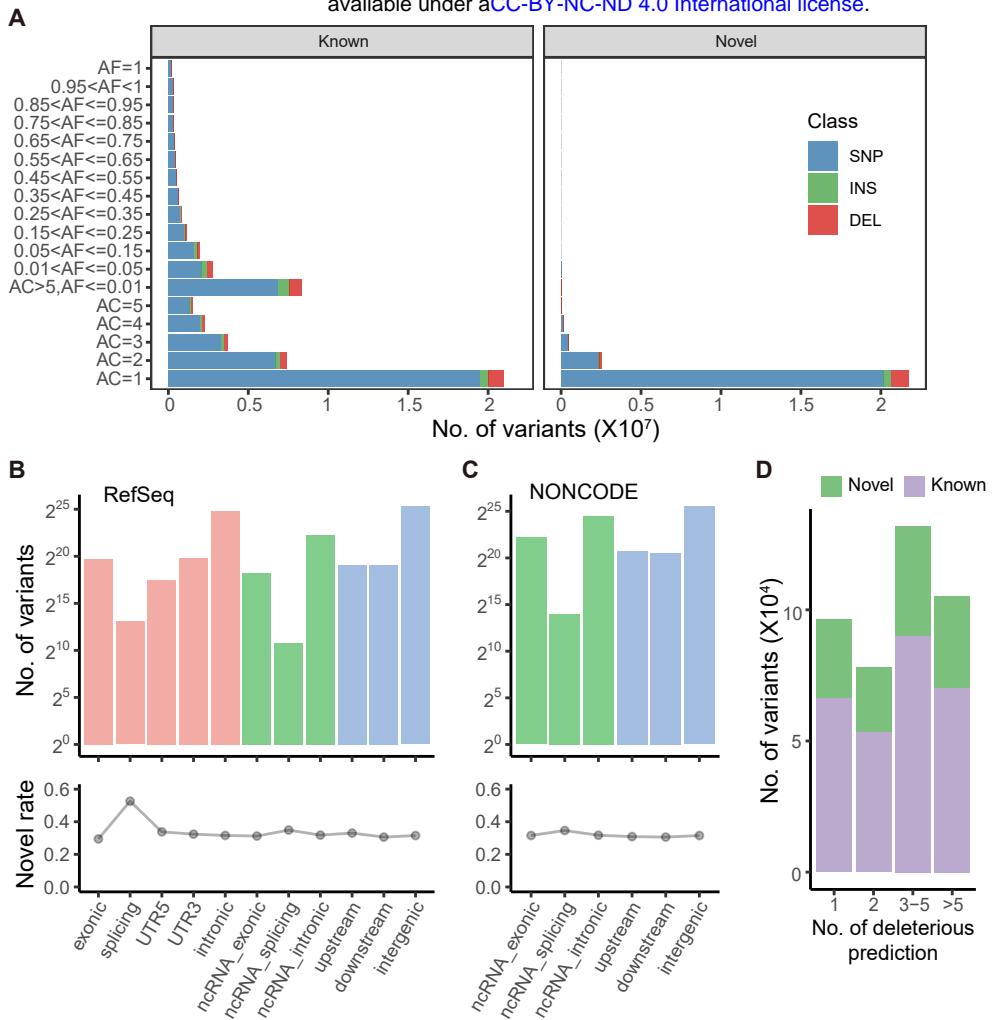
PTV	18,711	9,994	1,381	334
lncRNA splicing	3,793	1,499	743	80

880 a. All variants refers to variants in NyuWa resource.
881 b. Reference panel refers to variants in NyuWa reference panel.
882 c. Novelty of variants was compared with dbSNP, 1KGP3, gnomADV2.1, EXAC, ESP,
883 gnomADV3, TOPMed, 90 Han and GAsP
884 d. Variants in the other 4 public available haplotype reference panels (1KGP3, HRC.r1.1, GAsP
885 and TOPMed) were excluded.

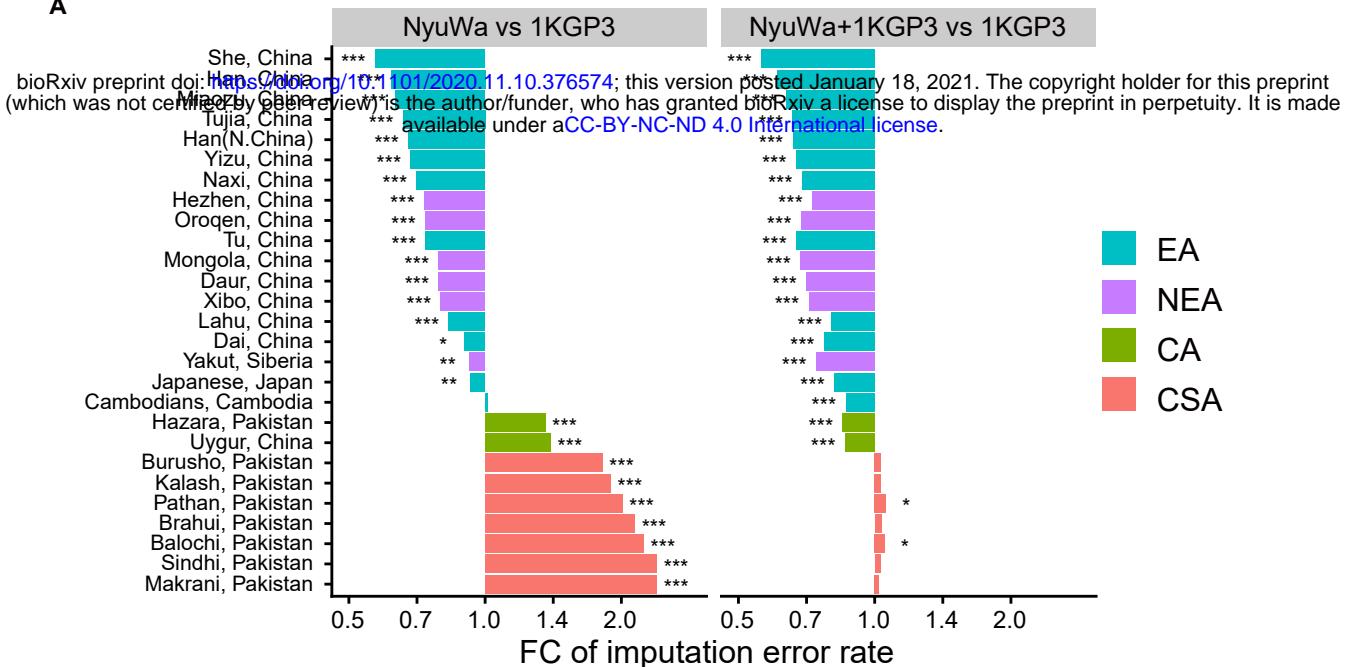
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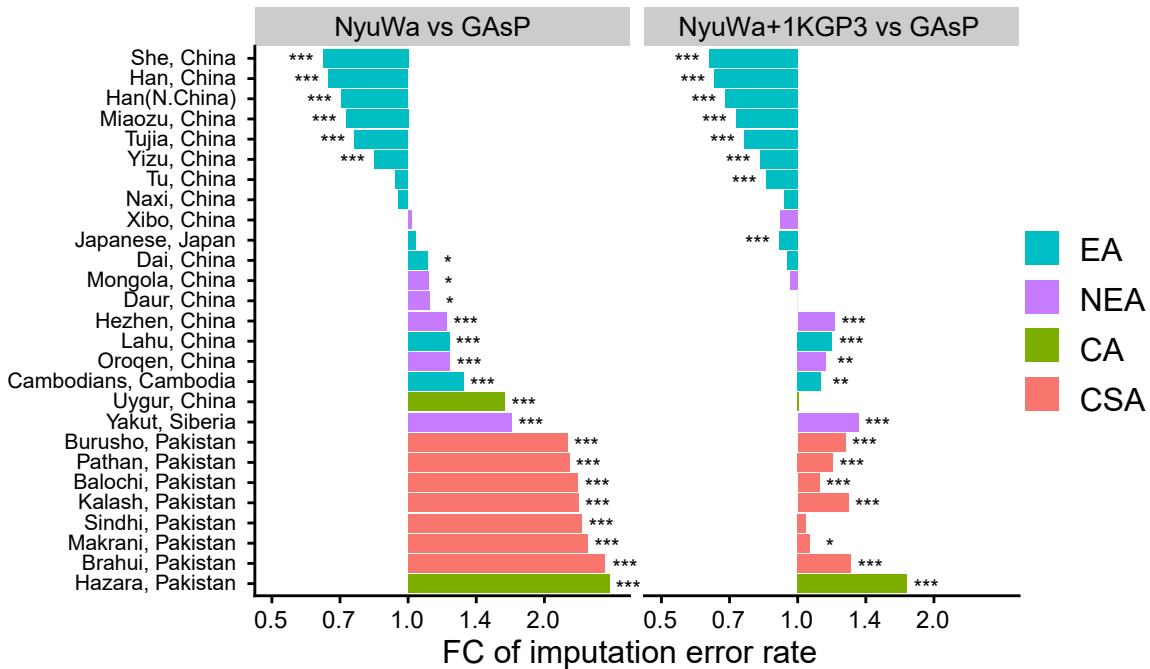




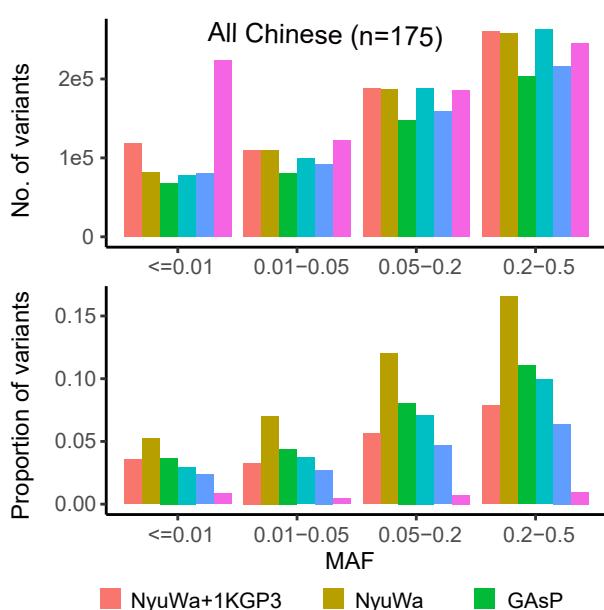
A



B



C



D

