

1 **Modelling double strand break susceptibility to interrogate structural  
2 variation in cancer**

3

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23 **Running head:**

24 Modelling DNA double strand breaks

25

26 **Abstract**

27 **Background:** Structural variants (SVs) are known to play important roles in a  
28 variety of cancers, but their origins and functional consequences are still poorly  
29 understood. Many SVs are thought to emerge via errors in the repair processes  
30 following DNA double strand breaks (DSBs) and previous studies have  
31 experimentally measured DSB frequencies across the genome in cell lines.

32 **Results:** Using these data we derive the first quantitative genome-wide models  
33 of DSB susceptibility, based upon underlying chromatin and sequence features.

34 These models are accurate and provide novel insights into the mutational  
35 mechanisms generating DSBs. Models trained in one cell type can be successfully  
36 applied to others, but a substantial proportion of DSBs appear to reflect cell type  
37 specific processes. Using model predictions as a proxy for susceptibility to DSBs  
38 in tumours, many SV enriched regions appear to be poorly explained by  
39 selectively neutral mutational bias alone. A substantial number of these regions  
40 show unexpectedly high SV breakpoint frequencies given their predicted  
41 susceptibility to mutation, and are therefore credible targets of positive selection  
42 in tumours. These putatively positively selected SV hotspots are enriched for

43 genes previously shown to be oncogenic. In contrast, several hundred regions  
44 across the genome show unexpectedly low levels of SVs, given their relatively  
45 high susceptibility to mutation. These novel ‘coldspot’ regions appear to be  
46 subject to purifying selection in tumours and are enriched for active promoters  
47 and enhancers.

48 **Conclusions:** We conclude that models of DSB susceptibility offer a rigorous  
49 approach to the inference of SVs putatively subject to selection in tumours.

50

51 **Keywords:** Double strand break, cancer, structural variation, chromatin,  
52 modelling

53

54 **Background**

55

56 Structural variation (SV) in tumour genomes is known to play important roles in  
57 disease progression and may be critical in driving the development of certain  
58 cancer types (1–3). However, challenges remain not only in ascertaining accurate  
59 SV calls, as evidenced by the compendium of SV calling algorithms used in many  
60 projects (4–6), but also in predicting their functional impact. Some SVs have  
61 apparently direct consequences; for example, amplification of oncogenes leading  
62 to overexpression, deletion of tumor suppressors leading to dysfunction, and  
63 translocations generating oncogenic fusion proteins (4). Reportedly indirect  
64 consequences of SVs include changes in enhancer targeting, affecting the  
65 expression of nearby genes, or “enhancer hijacking” (7). However, it remains

66 challenging to distinguish the influences of evolutionary selection versus  
67 primary mutation rate in generating the SVs concerned.

68

69 A recent study of whole genome sequencing (WGS) data from breast tumours  
70 identified SV hotspots and putative driver SVs, but could not discern the relative  
71 contributions of mutational bias and selection underlying these hotspots (8).  
72 Resolving the influences of mutational bias versus selective forces has become  
73 critical given that both single nucleotide variant (SNV) and SV mutation rates  
74 vary widely across the genome, in parallel with replication timing and chromatin  
75 structure (9,10). In analyses of tumour SNVs, variants are routinely prioritized  
76 based on algorithms including corrections for estimates of SNV mutation rate  
77 variation (11), but analogous methods are not yet applied to SVs.

78

79 Variable rates of SVs observed across the genome are likely to be affected by  
80 differences in the efficiency of repair of DNA double strand breaks (DSBs). DSBs  
81 can be repaired by homologous recombination (HR) at the G2 and S stages of the  
82 cell cycle and, more commonly, by canonical non-homologous end joining (c-  
83 NHEJ) which operates throughout the cell cycle (12). The c-NHEJ process is error  
84 prone and has been shown to create structural variants initiating carcinogenesis  
85 (13). A third repair process, alternative NHEJ (alt-NHEJ) uses microhomology to  
86 mediate repairs when the c-NHEJ pathway is unavailable, and repair by alt-NHEJ  
87 appears to increase the rate of deletions, insertions, and translocations further  
88 (14). The efficiency of these repair processes is often dependent upon the  
89 chromatin features and nuclear organization present where the damage occurs.  
90 For example, the histone modification H3K36me3, associated with active

91 transcription, recruits the HR pathway, while H4K20me1, a mark of highly  
92 transcribed genes, recruits components of the NHEJ pathway (15). The  
93 associations between DSB repair and the underlying chromatin landscape may  
94 therefore explain the observed correlations between tumour SV rates and  
95 chromatin structure (9).

96

97 Previous studies have also shown DSB formation to be influenced by underlying  
98 chromatin structures and genomic sequences. It has long been known that  
99 certain cytogenetically mapped loci, termed “fragile sites” undergo recurrent  
100 DSBs in cells under replicative stress and in cancer (16). More recent high  
101 throughput sequencing (HTS) based approaches have been developed to profile  
102 DSB rates more precisely within *in vitro* populations of cells (17–25). Three of  
103 these methods, BLESS (18), DSBCapture (22), and BLISS (25) are closely related  
104 and have been used to generate high-resolution maps of endogenous DSBs  
105 occurring in human cell lines, resulting in continuous data reflecting the  
106 propensities for DSBs across all chromosomes. These studies have suggested that  
107 DSBs may preferentially occur within nucleosome-depleted regions, are  
108 correlated with active promoter and enhancer histone modifications, and may  
109 associate with G-quadruplex sites (22,26). Certain studies have also suggested  
110 DSBs to be depleted in some transposon classes and enriched in some simple  
111 repeat classes, and to be unusually frequent in long, late-replicating genes  
112 (18,24). Overall, previous studies have found correlations and enrichments  
113 between DSBs and various inter-correlated chromatin and genomic features,  
114 making it difficult to accurately assess the contribution of any particular feature  
115 to DSB susceptibility. Understanding such contributions can be valuable for

116 understanding the underlying mutational and repair mechanisms. In addition, a  
117 fuller understanding of the relative contributions of many features to DSB  
118 formation can allow reliable predictions of the expected DSB frequency in a given  
119 genomic region.

120

121 Random forests have been used to model a variety of biological phenomena  
122 because they perform well in the presence of inter-correlated input variables  
123 showing non-linear relationships. For example, they have been used to predict  
124 nuclear compartments (27), cancer SNV mutational landscapes (28), and  
125 enhancer-promoter interactions (29). In this study we construct random forest  
126 regression models to generate quantitative measures of the relative importance  
127 of a variety of matched chromatin and other features to DSB susceptibility. We  
128 use multiple, high-resolution DSB profiling datasets to compare modeling  
129 accuracy across several platforms and cell types. The cell types selected have  
130 also been extensively profiled for a variety of chromatin features by the ENCODE  
131 Project (30) and others, allowing well-matched models to be constructed for all  
132 datasets. We demonstrate that these models provide accurate estimates for the  
133 expected rate of DSBs in a given region and can be cross applied between DSB  
134 datasets. In addition the models can be used to explore tumour SV breakpoint  
135 data, to nominate novel regions putatively subject to selection in cancer.

136

## 137 **Results**

138

139 We uniformly processed four DSB datasets from three related platforms  
140 (DSBCapture and BLISS are both based upon modifications to the BLESS

141 protocol) and covering three different cell types, collating matched chromatin  
142 data for each. These datasets include two novel DSB mapping datasets derived  
143 from the K562 erythroleukemia and MCF7 breast cancer cell lines using the  
144 recently developed BLISS method (25) (see Methods) and two previously  
145 published DSB mapping datasets derived from the NHEK keratinocyte cell line  
146 using BLESS and DSBCapture (22) protocols. DSB frequency is defined in each  
147 dataset as the number of unique reads mapping to a given 50kb region, since  
148 each read in a DSBCapture, BLESS, or BLISS experiment represents an exposed  
149 DNA DSB end. Replicate experiments within each dataset were strongly and  
150 significantly correlated (Pearson's  $r = 0.905$  to  $0.992$ ,  $p < 2.2e-16$ ) and were  
151 combined to reduce noise, although random forest models generated from any  
152 single one of the replicates yielded very similar results (see Methods).  
153 Comparisons among DSB profiling datasets showed moderate correlations in  
154 genome-wide DSB frequency between the three cell types as expected ( $r = 0.351$   
155 to  $0.635$ ,  $p < 2.2e-16$ ), shown in Supp Figure 1. All three cell types correspond to  
156 well-characterized ENCODE cell lines, providing numerous matched chromatin  
157 and genomic features exhibiting a range of correlations to DSB (Figure 1), and  
158 are also inter-correlated themselves (Supp Figure 2).

159

## 160 **Accurate models of genome-wide DSB frequency across cell types**

161

162 We modeled DSB frequency at 50kb resolution, using the same ten matched  
163 genomic features from each cell type to construct random forest models (see  
164 Methods): open chromatin assayed by DNase-seq, POL2B binding, CTCF binding  
165 and five histone modifications assayed by ChIP-seq, replication timing assayed

166 by Repli-seq, and RNA-seq. We also included G-quadruplex forming regions as an  
167 additional feature, since these DNA secondary structures are associated with  
168 genomic instability (31). We found strong and significant correlations between  
169 predicted and observed DSB frequency for all four datasets, with Pearson's  
170 coefficients ranging from 0.83 to 0.92 (Figure 2). We also generated a model for  
171 the NHEK DSBCapture dataset using an extended set of 21 features, including  
172 additional histone modifications, histone variants, and nuclear  
173 compartmentalization from Hi-C data (32). This extended model resulted in  
174 better predictive results for a small fraction of the genome (Supp Figure 4, Box  
175 B), and a modestly increased genome-wide Pearson's coefficient between  
176 predicted and observed values (11 feature model  $r = 0.918$ ; 21 feature model  $r =$   
177  $0.922$ ). We conclude that models constructed using the 11 selected genomic  
178 features (Figure 2) provide high predictive accuracy across cell types, with  
179 additional features likely to provide only marginal gains.

180

181 Variable importance metrics for these models reveal consistent trends in the  
182 most influential features in DSB frequency prediction (Figure 2,E-H). Replication  
183 timing is the most important feature across all three models with early  
184 replication associated with high DSB regions and late replication with low DSB  
185 (Figure 3C), in agreement with previous studies (33). In addition, the histone  
186 modifications H3K36me3 and H3K9me3 (demarcating active genes and gene-  
187 poor heterochromatin respectively) emerge as informative features, with  
188 H3K36m3 enriched in high DSB regions and H3K9me3 in low DSB regions  
189 (Figure 3C). This is consistent with observations that structural variants  
190 disproportionately accumulate within the early replicating, relatively gene rich

191 regions of the genome in cancer, and are relatively depleted in late replicating  
192 heterochromatin (9,10). DNase-seq open chromatin ranks second in three  
193 datasets and fourth in the MCF7 model and is also the most important feature for  
194 predicting DSB peaks in the study of Mourad et al. (34) in which they do not  
195 include replication timing. The influence of G-quadruplex forming regions is  
196 notably variable, ranking as a relatively important feature in the NHEK datasets,  
197 but having little and no predictive value in the K562 and MCF7 datasets. RNA-seq  
198 is not a strong predictor of DSB susceptibility although DNase-seq peaks are  
199 often found at the promoter regions of active genes. This suggests that open  
200 chromatin at transcriptionally active genes and associated regulatory elements  
201 (reflected in DNase-seq, H3K4me3 and POL2B binding), rather than  
202 transcription per se, is the dominant influence on DSB frequency. CTCF binding  
203 also appears to be an informative variable, genome-wide in all models, though it  
204 binds at sites constituting a very small fraction of the genome. Given the critical  
205 roles of CTCF in chromatin architecture and regulation (32), there has been  
206 intense interest in the causes and effects of structural variants disrupting CTCF  
207 binding sites (35,36).

208

209 **Influential features underlying DSB frequency differ between genomic loci  
210 and cell types**

211

212 Beyond the general, genome-wide trends described above, we see differences in  
213 the behavior of certain classes of loci. These are evident as regions departing  
214 from the linear relationship between observed and predicted DSB frequency  
215 seen for the majority of the genome (Figure 3A; Supp Fig 4). Deeper exploration

216 of the relationships between underlying genomic features and DSB frequency  
217 reveals diagnostic features for these discrepant classes. One class of loci (Figure  
218 3, Box A) shows unusually low values for both predicted and observed DSB  
219 frequencies, and is enriched for H3K9me3 marked heterochromatin and low  
220 sequence mappability (Figure 3B). These regions are likely to correspond to  
221 repeat-rich regions near centromeres and on the short arms of acrocentric  
222 chromosomes, which are problematic for read mapping algorithms (37). Another  
223 class of H3K9me3 heterochromatin enriched loci shows higher DSB predictions  
224 than observed, in spite of high mappability values (Figure 3, Box B). This class of  
225 regions is absent in DSB datasets generated by the BLISS protocol (Figure 2), so  
226 these aberrant predictions may reflect technical and methodological differences  
227 between datasets. In any case, it is clear that model predictions may reasonably  
228 be expected to be less accurate in heterochromatic regions.

229

230 The similarities in relative variable importance across datasets (Figure 2)  
231 suggest that many features have a similar influence on DSB frequency in each of  
232 the three cell types. Thus, a model trained in one cell type might generalize well  
233 to another cell type and allow us to generate predictive DSB frequency profiles  
234 for model cell lines currently lacking high resolution DSB data. We cross-applied  
235 models and found models trained in one cell type often performed well in  
236 another (Figure 4). For example, a model trained in NHEK cells could be used to  
237 predict DSB frequencies in K562 cells (inputting K562 genomic features) with  
238 high accuracy (Pearson's  $r = 0.85$  correlation; Figure 4). This offers a substantial  
239 improvement over the base correlation ( $r = 0.63$ ) between NHEK and K562  
240 observed DSB profiles. We measured the correlation of observed and predicted

241 DSB frequencies across all nine model and feature combinations and always  
242 found correlations ( $r = 0.58$  to  $0.85$ ) that improved on the base correlations ( $r =$   
243  $0.38$  to  $0.63$ ) seen between the observed DSB datasets (Figure 4). These  
244 improvements echo the similarities in variable importance between cell types  
245 (Figure 2). The moderate correlations between DSB across cell types  
246 demonstrate that a substantial proportion of DSB susceptibility across the  
247 genome is cell type specific, which is consistent with the established cell type  
248 specific properties of many SV breakpoint regions in tumours, such as common  
249 fragile sites (38). Furthermore the larger performance gap in models for cell  
250 lines with altered variable rankings indicates that DSB mechanisms may differ  
251 across cell types and may not be completely captured via epigenomic features.

252

### 253 **Tumour SV breakpoints possess variable susceptibility to DSBs**

254

255 Keratinocytes are considered to be the cell type of origin for mucosal and  
256 cutaneous carcinomas, particularly squamous cell carcinomas (39), and NHEK  
257 cells are often used in the literature as a model for these cancers. Similarly, MCF7  
258 cells and K562 cells have been used extensively as models for breast and blood  
259 cancers respectively. This motivated us to ask how the DSB models for these  
260 three cell types relate to the patterns of SV breakpoints observed in squamous  
261 cell carcinomas, blood cancers, and breast tumours.

262

263 A number of large structural variant (SV) collections have been established for a  
264 variety of tumour types, and each possesses advantages and shortcomings. The  
265 International Cancer Genome Consortium (ICGC) provides high resolution SV

266 calls based upon whole genome sequencing (WGS) for 2,146 patients across 17  
267 cohorts (40), but sample cellularities, sequencing depths and SV calling methods  
268 vary across cancer cohorts, and are expected to affect results (Supp Figure 6).  
269 The Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA) produced consistently processed copy number  
270 variant (CNV) calls from SNP chip data for 23,084 patients across 33 cohorts  
271 (Supp Figure 7). However, breakpoint resolution is much lower than calls based  
272 upon WGS, and copy neutral SVs such as inversions and translocations are  
273 absent. We analyzed ICGC and TCGA data as pancancer datasets, combining all  
274 cancer types together, but also as three cancer type subgroups. TCGA subgroups  
275 comprised a squamous cell carcinoma subgroup, a blood cancers subgroup  
276 including two blood cancers, and breast cancer as a separate group (see  
277 Methods). Similar ICGC subgroups were formed (from cohorts independent of  
278 TCGA), but with the squamous cell carcinoma subgroup replaced with a  
279 carcinoma subgroup, which includes seven carcinoma cancer studies excluding  
280 breast cancer (see Methods).

281

282 Analogously to the DSB datasets, we determined the number of tumour SV  
283 breakpoints per 50kb region for each of the ICGC and TCGA SV datasets (see  
284 methods) and compared these to the DSB predictions from our models. In ICGC  
285 data overall we saw low correlations between the number of SV breakpoints and  
286 DSB predictions (Supp Figure 8 and Supp Figure 9). Restricting our analysis to  
287 ICGC enriched SV breakpoint regions, or ESBs for the purpose of this manuscript  
288 (50kb regions with SV breakpoint counts in the top 5% genome-wide, see  
289 Methods), increased the agreement with DSB model predictions. Significant  
290 increases in NHEK and MCF7 model predictions were seen for pancancer,

291 carcinoma, blood, and breast tumour ESBs and in K562 model predictions for all  
292 cancer subsets except blood ESBs (Figure 5). The significant increase in DSB  
293 model predictions seen for carcinoma ESBs indicates that DSB susceptibility  
294 (captured in the models) may shape the SV landscape of these cancer types. We  
295 also see a significant increase in DSB predictions for TCGA blood cancer ESBs,  
296 but not for any other subgroups in TCGA data (Supp Figure 10). However, as  
297 mentioned, TCGA data is of low resolution and not suitable for accurate  
298 breakpoint detection.

299

300 Certain classes of relatively simple SVs (deletions, duplications, inversions,  
301 translocations) are often the product of one or two DSBs, while more complex  
302 intrachromosomal rearrangements can be difficult to classify accurately, and  
303 may have origins in poorly understood phenomena such as chromothripsis (41).  
304 Indeed, even for simple SVs there may be some ambiguity, with an unknown  
305 fraction arising by mechanisms that may not involve a DSB. For example,  
306 insertions can arise from transposon activity, and duplications from replication  
307 slippage (42). However, even if many SV breakpoints do not arise from DSBs, we  
308 might reasonably expect to see shifts to higher median DSB model prediction  
309 values for many simple SV classes. We determined ESBs as above for ICGC-  
310 annotated SV classes across all ICGC tumour types to examine their DSB  
311 frequency predictions, compared to non-ESBs, 50kb regions that do not attain SV  
312 breakpoint counts in the top 5% with at least one tumour SV breakpoint  
313 detected. Overall, the models show significant elevations for ESBs covering all SV  
314 classes except insertions (Figure 5). Insertions may be less influenced by DSB  
315 susceptibility because they may occur via transposable element activity rather

316 than through DNA damage and repair pathways. Crosetto et al. (18) find an  
317 enrichment of satellite repetitive elements in regions enriched for DSB in cells  
318 exposed to aphidicolin. However, regions that undergo DSB under replicative  
319 stress, as induced by aphidicolin, may differ from DSB regions under normal cell  
320 growth conditions.

321

### 322 **Interrogating tumour SV data at common fragile sites with DSB models**

323

324 The predicted DSB frequencies from our models and ICGC tumour SV breakpoint  
325 frequencies differ in their scaling and distributions and are not directly  
326 comparable. However, it is of interest to identify outlier regions, where model  
327 predictions and observed tumour SV breakpoint rates diverge most, since these  
328 regions may include loci under selection in tumours. We developed a novel  
329 metric, the d-score, to measure this divergence between expectations given a  
330 DSB model and observed SV breakpoint rates in tumours. In brief, this metric  
331 relies on fitting known distributions to the observed SV breakpoint dataset and  
332 to the predicted DSB dataset. Based upon the known distributions we then  
333 transform the observed SV counts and predicted DSB values to p-values,  
334 reflecting the probability that each value is drawn from the fitted distribution  
335 (see Methods). For each 50kb region in the genome the difference between the  
336 SV breakpoint log p-value and the predicted DSB log p-value is the d-score.  
337 Regions with unexpectedly high d-scores contain more SV breakpoints than  
338 expected, given our model, whereas regions with unusually low d-scores contain  
339 fewer SV breakpoints than expected.

340

341 Common fragile sites (CFSs) have long been studied for their unusual properties  
342 of generating SVs, both in normal cells and in cancer (38). These regions undergo  
343 frequent DSBs in tumours and have been well studied in terms of their genomic  
344 context, relationship to replication timing and origins, and correlations with  
345 particular chromatin states (43). They tend to occur within large genes, in G-  
346 negative chromosomal bands with high DNA flexibility, are unusually late  
347 replicating (44), and it is thought that their instability derives from  
348 transcription-associated replication stress (38). CFSs only exist in modest  
349 numbers and are defined at low resolution (by cytogenetic bands or gene loci);  
350 they therefore provide an interesting, though challenging, test set of regions to  
351 examine d-score performance.

352

353 We examined predicted (NHEK model) DSB frequencies at 294 50kb regions  
354 coinciding with annotated CFS gene loci across the genome, in comparison to  
355 regions associated with all annotated genes, and regions associated with putative  
356 cancer driver genes (Figure 6C). Although significant shifts to higher frequencies  
357 are seen for the driver gene sets for predicted DSB frequencies, the CFSs do not  
358 show a similar increase, most likely because the model predicts DSB in early  
359 replicating regions, and CFS tend to be late-replicating. Thus, the dominant  
360 features influencing DSB susceptibility genome-wide do not appear to drive the  
361 elevated DSB rates at CFSs, consistent with CFS instability involving replicative  
362 stress (38). However, CFS d-scores show a significant shift above the distribution  
363 for all genes and above the driver gene sets as well (Figure 6D). This result is  
364 replicated in the MCF7 BLISS model examined in conjunction with ICGC breast  
365 cancer SV breakpoints (Sup Figure 11). We conclude that the d-score, a measure

366 of relative DSB enrichment, offers a robust metric for the classification of regions  
367 showing unusual SV breakpoint rates in tumours.

368

369 **Identification of hot and cold spots for structural variant breakpoints in**  
370 **tumours**

371

372 We have developed a classification of regions of interest within ICGC tumour  
373 cohorts based upon the d-score metric. We call regions with significantly more  
374 SV breakpoints than expected, or SV hotspots, cancHpredL (cancer high,  
375 predicted low), and regions with fewer SV breakpoints than expected, or SV  
376 coldspots, cancLpredH (cancer low, predicted high) (see Methods). Figure 6  
377 depicts these classes of regions in d-score plots of ICGC SV breakpoint data. Many  
378 previous studies have predicted oncogenic SV hotspots simply as regions  
379 repeatedly rearranged in cancers. Here we refine such predictions by assessing  
380 these raw SV breakpoint frequencies relative to the predicted susceptibility of  
381 each region to breakage. It is not possible to predict coldspot regions without a  
382 model of expected DSB frequency, and to our knowledge SV breakpoint coldspots  
383 have not been studied before.

384

385 We also define a class of regions possessing both high predicted DSB values and  
386 high SV breakpoint frequencies (cancHpredH), corresponding to regions  
387 showing unusually high SV frequencies on the background of high susceptibility  
388 to DSBs. Finally, we define a fourth class of regions that have predicted DSB rates  
389 close to zero but high SV breakpoint frequencies (cancHpredL2). In principle,  
390 these regions are a class of SV hotspots but, as shown in Figure 3B, they are likely

391 to be repetitive, heterochromatic, and enriched for artifacts (false positives and  
392 negatives in SV breakpoint) due to their association with low mappability.

393

394 We examined a range of functional annotation enrichments in the four classes of  
395 regions using circular permutation to assess significance (see Methods; Figure  
396 6). The annotations included two putative cancer gene sets, 260 genes from the  
397 Cancer5000 dataset (45) and 561 genes from the COSMIC collection (46)). We  
398 also included a set of 15,415 super enhancers (47), common fragile sites, and  
399 chromatin states from ENCODE chromHMM analysis (48). Notably, the majority  
400 of genes in both cancer sets are predicted to be oncogenic based on unexpectedly  
401 high and functionally significant SNV (rather than SV) loads and are not  
402 necessarily expected to occupy regions with higher levels of SV breakpoints. In  
403 fact, both gene sets demonstrate significant enrichments in the cancHpredL class  
404 of hotspot regions (Figure 6D), although RefSeq genes do not, suggesting that  
405 these genes may also frequently be altered in cancer through SV. The  
406 cancHpredL regions are also significantly depleted in active chromatin regions,  
407 such as promoters, enhancers, and insulator regions, most likely because these  
408 types of regions do not have low predicted DSB. The high susceptibility  
409 cancHpredH regions occupy gene-rich areas of the genome (enriched for known  
410 RefSeq genes) including both cancer genes sets, and for active promoters, strong  
411 enhancers, and insulators. This is consistent with reports that CTCF bound  
412 insulator elements suffer recurrent mutations in tumours. Likewise, the  
413 cancLpredH class of coldspot regions occupy gene rich neighbourhoods, active  
414 promoters, and strong enhancers (Figure 6), suggesting some genes and distal  
415 regulatory regions may have experienced purifying selection in tumours.

416

417 Given the discrepancies mentioned above between ICGC and TCGA experimental  
418 platforms, data analysis, and sample cohorts, we do not expect strong agreement  
419 between ICGC and TCGA derived SV datasets. Indeed, the correlation between  
420 them is low (Spearman's rho of 0.099,  $p < 2.2e-16$ ), and the pancancer ESBs from  
421 either set do not significantly overlap ( $p < 0.99$ , see methods). However, the  
422 cancLpredH class is again enriched in active promoter and strong enhancer  
423 regions, in accordance with the results based upon ICGC SV data (Sup Figure 12).

424

425 We again wanted to test the utility of DSB random forest models applied to  
426 different cell types by testing the accuracy of predictions made by a model  
427 trained in one cell type given features for a different cell type, as in Figure 4.  
428 Instead of looking at the correlation between the observed and predicted DSB  
429 scores across the genome, we examined the overlap between cancHpredL,  
430 cancHpredH, and cancLpredH 50kb regions for the MCF7 model versus the  
431 NHEK model, using the MCF7 model as the truth set. Subsets of 50kb regions for  
432 each model were derived from MCF7 features and ICGC breast cancer SV  
433 breakpoints; only the training data for the models differ. We found a significant  
434 overlaps between all three categories of d-score subsets, with 595/662  
435 cancHpredL, 255/785 cancHpredH, and 253/594 cancLpredH regions detected  
436 via the NHEK model ( $p < 2.2e-16$ ), demonstrating that a given model can be used  
437 to detect regions of interest in various cell types.

438

439 **Functional annotation of regions of interest**

440

441 We closely examined the ten 50kb regions with the highest (cancHpredL) d-  
442 scores to uncover genes that might be reclassified as oncogenic due to a higher  
443 than expected SV breakpoint frequency in cancer. Likewise, we investigated the  
444 ten regions with the lowest d-scores (cancLpredH), which we predict to be under  
445 purifying selection, for signals of potential functionality. For this analysis we  
446 used the NHEK model predictions paired with ICGC carcinoma SV breakpoints.

447

448 Nine out of ten regions with the highest d-scores overlap a gene, and four  
449 overlap COSMIC genes. *CHEK2* and *CDKN2A* are known tumor suppressors, and  
450 *TMPRSS2* and *ERG* is frequently involved in translocation events forming fusion  
451 oncogenes in certain cancers. For example, it fuses with *TMPRSS2* in most  
452 prostate cancers, with *EWS* in Ewing's sarcoma, and with *FUS* in AML. Two  
453 adjacent 50kb regions on *chr17q12* overlap *GRB7* and *IKZF3*. *GRB7* encodes a  
454 protein that interacts with epidermal growth factor receptor (*EGFR*), a well-  
455 known proto-oncogene, and *IKZF3* is a zinc finger protein and transcription  
456 factor involved in B lymphocyte regulation and differentiation as well as  
457 chromatin remodeling. This region also corresponds to a known fragile site  
458 *FRA17A* (49). Of the ten regions with the lowest d-scores, seven overlap a known  
459 gene and two known oncogenes. The oncogene, *CDC27*, or cell division cycle 27,  
460 encodes a component of the *APC* and has been shown to interact with other  
461 mitotic checkpoint proteins. It is highly conserved and may be necessary for cell  
462 survival. There is also a non-coding RNA found on chr2 in the centromeric  
463 region, *LOC654342*, which overlaps an H3K27ac peak, and may be acting as a  
464 regulatory element.

465

466 **Discussion**

467

468 Recent *in vitro* studies of DSB frequency in cell lines have suggested that a  
469 variety of underlying genomic features are associated with DSB susceptibility.  
470 We have shown that accurate models of genome-wide DSB frequency can be  
471 built from a modest number of such features, with replication timing, open  
472 chromatin, and marks of active promoter or enhancer regions associated with  
473 increased DSBs. Although active regulatory regions often harbor actively  
474 transcribed genes, it appears that chromatin accessibility at these sites rather  
475 than transcription itself determines DSB propensity. The variable importance  
476 metrics also show certain features to be more influential in particular cell types,  
477 with CTCF and H3K36me3 having more predictive power in MCF7 than in NHEK  
478 or K562. Not only are DSB patterns cell type specific, but the factors influencing  
479 those patterns also depend on cell type, suggesting different mutational  
480 mechanisms at play. As a matter of course, our models' accuracies decline when  
481 applied to cell lines other than the training set, but they still generate reasonable  
482 DSB frequency predictions, with correlations between 0.57 and 0.83 to the  
483 observed data, which are large improvements over a simple inference. Since  
484 chromatin features influence mutation patterns and are cell type specific, it will  
485 be important to use mutational propensity profiles for matched cell types in  
486 future cancer studies.

487

488 Our models of genome-wide DSB susceptibility predict DSB frequencies for all  
489 50kb loci, and reflect the established correlations between replication timing and  
490 DSB frequency (50) as well as tumour SV rates (9,10). A recent complementary

491 study has shown that 84,946 high confidence peaks of NHEK DSBCapture signal  
492 (22), marking small (median: 391bp) sites of unusually high DSB susceptibility,  
493 can be accurately classified from control sites using underlying genomic features  
494 (34). Consistent with our results, this binary classifier suggested prominent roles  
495 for DNase accessible regulatory sites and CTCF binding, and recapitulated many  
496 of the patterns reported by Lensing et al (2016). However, the model of Mourad  
497 et al (2018) omitted replication timing and does not provide quantitative  
498 predictions of DSB susceptibility across the genome.

499

500 We used our genome-wide models of DSB susceptibility to interrogate the largest  
501 tumour SV breakpoint collections and found surprising levels of agreement, such  
502 that SV breakpoint enriched regions often show shifts to higher predicted DSB  
503 susceptibility. In spite of variable sample sizes, the classes of simple SV likely to  
504 arise by one or two DSBs (deletions, duplications, inversions, translocations)  
505 showed significant increases in predicted DSB susceptibility. The NHEK model  
506 best predicted the patterns of DSB susceptibility in tumours, showing genome-  
507 wide elevations of predicted DSBs for all of these SV classes relative to control  
508 regions. Thus, the chromatin-mediated DSB susceptibility captured in the model  
509 may shape the landscape of SV recurrence in these classes.

510

511 There are many reasons why one might expect a much poorer agreement  
512 between the predictions of in vitro DSB frequency models and the patterns of SV  
513 breakpoints observed in tumour sequencing studies. The available collections of  
514 SV breakpoints in tumours are far from perfect, and even the best ICGC data  
515 suffer large variations in sample size, sample heterogeneity, sequencing depths

516 and SV calling methods across tumour cohorts. In addition, fundamental aspects  
517 of tumour biology (cellular heterogeneity, disrupted repair pathways, chromatin  
518 alterations etc.) are expected to place distinct limits on the agreement we can see  
519 with the DSB patterns seen in cell lines. Evidence is also emerging that there are  
520 important properties of the mutational landscape in tumours that are unlikely to  
521 be captured by in vitro model systems. For example, a recent study of intra-  
522 tumour diversification in colorectal cancer suggests that most mutations occur  
523 during the final clonal expansion of these tumours, resulting from mutational  
524 processes that are absent from normal colorectal cells (51). Enhanced rates of  
525 DSB formation have also been observed in vitro at cryptic replication origins  
526 activated by oncogene-induced replication stress, though these cryptic sites  
527 seem to explain only a minority of SV breakpoints (<8%) across a variety of  
528 TCGA tumour types (52). Given the many known and possible differences  
529 between in vitro DSB model predictions and observed tumour SV breakpoints, it  
530 is remarkable that significant agreement is found on any level.

531

532 There is great interest in 'hotspot' genomic regions harbouring recurrent SVs in  
533 tumours, on the basis that such regions may be under positive selection,  
534 conferring a proliferative or survival advantage to tumour cells. However,  
535 rigorous inference of selection requires a proxy for the expected rate of  
536 recurrence within such regions. Using model predictions as this proxy we have  
537 produced refined hotspot predictions, reflecting SV breakpoint frequencies  
538 relative to the predicted susceptibility of each region. Since our predictions of  
539 DSB susceptibility are genome-wide it was also possible to predict coldspot  
540 regions, regions possessing unexpectedly low SV breakpoint rates given model

541 predictions, and putatively subject to negative or purifying selection in tumours.  
542 If selection in tumours is prominent in driving SV breakpoint frequencies away  
543 from DSB model predictions, we might expect hotspot and coldspot regions to  
544 show unusual functional enrichments. Multiple caveats apply to the annotations  
545 examined but analysis using the NHEK model shows that ICGC carcinoma  
546 hotspots are enriched for putative oncogenes. Coldspots occupy gene-rich  
547 neighbourhoods but are also enriched in active promoters and strong  
548 enhancers, and insulators, indicating regulatory regions that may have  
549 experienced purifying selection in tumours.

550

## 551 **Conclusions**

552

553 When inferring selection on single nucleotide variants it is standard practice to  
554 make comparisons between the observed variant frequencies and the  
555 frequencies expected, according to a model of single nucleotide mutation rates.  
556 We have developed models of DSB mutation rates that can be used to generate  
557 expected SV breakpoint frequencies and illuminate regions with significant  
558 deviations from these expectations. This approach provides statistically rigorous  
559 protocols to prioritize novel loci putatively under selection in tumours,  
560 generating testable hypotheses for further experimental studies.

561

562

## 563 **Methods**

564

565 *Derivation of DSB data in the K562 and MCF7 cell lines*

566 DSB profiles were generated with an adapted version of the Breaks labeling *in*  
567 *situ* and sequencing protocol (25), in which DSB ends are labeled with a dsDNA  
568 BLISS adapter in cell suspensions of 1 million cells. Afterwards the published  
569 protocol is followed with only minor modifications. Labeled DSBs are selectively  
570 amplified using T7-driven linear amplification, after which sequencing libraries  
571 are generated and sequenced with single-end 1x75 v2 chemistry on an Illumina  
572 NextSeq 500. Raw sequencing reads were demultiplexed by Illumina's  
573 BaseSpace, after which FASTQ files were downloaded and processed as  
574 described in Yan et al. 2017 (SRA accession SRP150602). In brief, reads with the  
575 expected prefix of 8nt UMI and 8nt sample barcode sequence were filtered using  
576 SAMtools and *scan for matches*, allowing at most one mismatch per barcode.  
577 Trimmed reads were then aligned to GRCh37 using bwa mem, and reads with  
578 mapping scores below 30 were discarded. Next, PCR duplicates were identified  
579 by searching for proximal reads (within 30bp of the reference genome) with at  
580 most two mismatches in the UMI sequence, which were then grouped and  
581 collapsed into a single break location. Finally, we generated .bed files with DSB  
582 locations and the number of unique UMIs indicating that location.

583

584 *Generating random forest models*

585 We downloaded ten tracks from ENCODE for multiple chromatin marks,  
586 replication timing, open chromatin, several DNA binding proteins, and  
587 nucleosome pull-downs from the UCSC genome browser (53). We used G-  
588 quadruplex data generated by Chambers et al, (GSE63874). In their study, they  
589 make separate .bedgraph files available with the G-quadruplex density for each  
590 strand. We used the sum of the plus and minus strands in our analysis. The list of

591 bigwig files used for each cell line along with their sources and graphical labels is  
592 in Supplementary Table 1. We used the bigWigAverageOverBed tool from the  
593 kentUtils tool library to produce average signal per 50kb in non-overlapping  
594 windows across hg19 for each track. We combined the results to a single matrix  
595 per cell line composed of 61,903 rows, one for each 50kb bin, and 11 columns,  
596 one for each chromatin or genomic feature. These feature matrices are available  
597 in supplementary data and scatter plots of each feature with the NHEK  
598 DSBCapture data are shown in Supplementary Figure 3.

599

600 For the extended model in Supplementary Figure 4, we downloaded an  
601 additional nine features from the UCSC genome browser (53), which were  
602 processed in the same way as the ten ENCODE features used in the primary  
603 feature matrix. We also downloaded .hic files for NHEK, K562, and HMEC cells  
604 generated from Rao, et al. (GSE63525). We used their custom toolbox, Juicer, to  
605 calculate eigenvectors per chromosome, and generated 50kb resolution  
606 eigenvector profiles using the bedGraphToBigWig and bigWigAverageOverBed  
607 tools from kentUtils. The figure labels and sources for these data are in  
608 Supplementary Table2, and the extended feature matrices are in supplementary  
609 data.

610

611 We generated DSB frequency scores from each of four HTS DSB profiling  
612 datasets: two in NHEK cells, one for K562, unpublished, and one for MCF7,  
613 unpublished. As mentioned in the results, two replicates for each of two DSB HTS  
614 profiling methods, DSBCapture and BLESS, were available from Lensing et al.  
615 (22). We took the average per 50kb of the replicates to create an NHEK

616 DSBCapture profile and an NHEK BLESS profile. We combined three replicates of  
617 MCF7 BLISS data (via a sum operation) to serve as our MCF7 DSB profile. A  
618 fourth MCF7 BLISS dataset is available, but we excluded it from our analysis  
619 because it had a distinctly lower correlation to the other three datasets (0.90-  
620 0.92 as opposed to 0.97-0.99). These scores are available as supplementary files.

621

622 We used the randomForest package in R to generate random forest models with  
623 500 trees and five OOB permutations per tree (options ntree=500, nPerm=5). To  
624 calculate variable importance, we used the importance command within the  
625 randomForest package ([https://cran.r-  
626 project.org/web/packages/randomForest/index.html](https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/randomForest/index.html)), which calculates the  
627 average prediction error rate (MSE) for each datapoint (50kb bin) across all  
628 trees in the random forest. Then, for each feature variable, the values are  
629 randomly permuted and the MSE for each 50kb bin is calculated again. The final  
630 variable importance score is the average difference in MSE before and after the  
631 permutation, normalized by the standard deviation of these differences. Because  
632 many features are inter-correlated, their importance measures were very  
633 similar. Therefore, in order to determine a consistent ranking of features'  
634 importance values, we generated ten random forest models per dataset and  
635 calculated the average and standard deviation of importance across the ten  
636 models.

637 Although random forest models are not susceptible to overfitting, to confirm that  
638 our models were not overfit to the DSB data, we also generated a random forest  
639 model for the NHEK DSBCapture dataset, holding out one third of the data as the  
640 test set and training the model on the remaining two thirds. This model showed

641 0.93 Pearson's correlation between the predictions and the observed data for the  
642 training set, similar to the model trained on the full dataset (Sup Figure 5).

643

644 *Determining tumour ESBs and their predicted DSB scores*

645 To determine SV DSB rates in from TCGA data, we downloaded CNV data from  
646 TCGA (54), which came from Affymetrix SNP 6.0 arrays processed by the  
647 DNAcopy R-package ([https://docs.gdc.cancer.gov/Data/PDF/Data\\_UG.pdf](https://docs.gdc.cancer.gov/Data/PDF/Data_UG.pdf)).  
648 DNAcopy generates a set of continuous segments, outputting regions with little  
649 or no copy number change, so we filtered these, defining segments with a CN  
650 ratio >1 as amplifications and ratios < -1 as deletions. The segments were lifted  
651 from hg38 to hg19 using UCSC's liftOver tool. For each CNV, we counted a single  
652 DSB to occur in a 50kb bin if either or both ends of the segment overlapped the  
653 bin. The TCGA-BLOOD group includes the two blood cancer cohorts: acute  
654 myeloid leukemia (LAML) and lymphoid neoplasm diffuse large B-cell lymphoma  
655 (DLBC), while the TCGA-SCCA group includes three squamous cell carcinomas:  
656 cervical squamous cell carcinoma and endocervical adenocarcinoma (CESC),  
657 head and neck squamous cell carcinoma (HNSC), and lung squamous cell  
658 carcinoma (LUSC). The BRCA group includes only the TCGA breast cancer cohort  
659 (BRCA), and the PANC group includes all 33 cancer types, shown in  
660 Supplementary Figure 7. Counts for various groups and CNV types are available  
661 as Supplementary Files.

662 We downloaded available WGS SV calls from the ICGC Data Portal  
663 (<https://dcc.icgc.org/projects>). As with the TCGA CNV, a single DSB was counted  
664 per 50kb bin if either one or two ends of a SV overlapped the region. The ICGC  
665 pancancer group contains SVs from 17 cancer studies, shown in Supplementary

666 Figure 6. The carcinoma group contains all available carcinoma cancer studies,  
667 excluding breast cancer: early onset prostate cancer (EOPC-DE), liver cancer  
668 (LIRI-JP), pancreatic cancer (PACA-CA, PAEN-AU, PAEN-IT), prostate cancer  
669 (PRAD-CA, PRAD-UK), and skin adenocarcinoma (SKCA-BR). The ICGC blood  
670 group contains chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLLE-ES) and malignant  
671 lymphoma (MALY-DE), and the breast group contains breast cancer studies  
672 (BRCA-EU and BRCA-FR). A table of DSB counts per 50kb broken up by group  
673 and SV type is in supplementary data.

674

675 We determined enriched SV breakpoint regions (ESBs) per cohort or SV type  
676 grouping by ranking the 50kb bins by the number of DSB, excluding regions with  
677 no DSB in the group, and using the number of DSB in the top 5% as the cutoff. All  
678 50kb regions with a DSB count greater than or equal to the cutoff were  
679 designated ESBs. We used a Wilcoxon ranked sum test (R `wilcox.test` command)  
680 to test for significant increase in the predicted DSB values for ESBs compared to  
681 all other regions, and we excluded regions in which no DSB were found in any  
682 cancer study since these are likely to be unmappable or blacklisted regions.

683

684 The correlation between TCGA and ICGC pancancer SV breakpoint counts was  
685 calculated using Spearman's rho and excluding 50kb regions with no SV  
686 breakpoints in either the TCGA or ICGC datasets. The top 5% ESBs were found  
687 for each dataset, with 2,839 regions found in TCGA and 3,072 in ICGC, and the  
688 significance of the overlap was calculated using a hypergeometric test (R  
689 command `phyper` with  $q=177$ ,  $m=2,839$ ,  $n=61,903-2,839$ , and  $k=3,072$ ).

690

691 *Calculating d-scores*

692 We used the R package `fistdistrplus` (55) to determine the distributions with the  
693 best fit to the DSB prediction values and the SV breakpoint frequencies. We used  
694 a likelihood maximization test (`method="mle"`) and the BIC (Bayesian  
695 Information Criterion) measure of goodness of fit to choose the best distribution.  
696 We tested a lognormal, log-logistic, gamma, normal, and an exponential  
697 distribution, and fitted the distributions to the bulk of the SV breakpoint or DSB  
698 prediction data. We excluded 50kb regions with breakpoint frequencies greater  
699 than six times the interquartile range from the median in order to exclude  
700 extreme outliers. While we aimed to emphasize the fit of the tails of our data's  
701 distributions, including these outliers resulted in poorly fitting distributions to  
702 the bulk of the real data. Once we found the best of the three candidate model  
703 distributions, we assigned a p-value to each 50kb bin from the fitted distribution  
704 (using the `plnorm`, `pllogis`, or `pgamma` functions in R) which represent the  
705 probability of seeing a given breakpoint frequency or DSB prediction or greater  
706 in the known distribution. The actual and fitted distributions and quantile-  
707 quantile plots are shown in Supplementary Figures 13 and 14.

708

709 Next, for each 50kb bin, we calculated the difference in log p-values between the  
710 predicted DSB and the actual SV breakpoints, called d-scores. Using the  
711 `fistdistrplus` R package again, we determined the best-fit distribution for the d-  
712 scores, choosing between a t-distribution, a normal, and a Cauchy distribution.  
713 Again, we used a maximum likelihood method and the BIC measurement and  
714 excluded extreme outliers. In all cases, a t-distribution with four degrees of  
715 freedom ( $df=4$ ) was the best fit, so each 50kb bin was assigned a p-value from

716 this distribution according to its d-score. The histograms and quantile-quantile  
717 plots of the d-scores and fitted distributions are shown in Supplementary Figure  
718 15.

719

720 *Calculating gene set and chromatin domain enrichments*

721 We used the d-score p-values to categorize regions into informative subsets,  
722 using the R command `qt(p=0.01, df=4, lower.tail=FALSE)` to determine the d-  
723 score cutoffs. The `cancHpredL` class of regions have d-scores in the upper one  
724 percentile ( $> 3.75$ ), and the `cancLpredH` have d-scores in the lower one  
725 percentile ( $< -3.75$ ). The `cancHpredH` class has d-scores in the 40<sup>th</sup> to 70<sup>th</sup>  
726 percentiles and SV breakpoint frequencies or DSB predictions with p-values less  
727 than 0.01, so these regions have significantly (p-value  $< 0.01$ ) high SV  
728 breakpoints or DSB predictions but insignificant d-scores (p-value  $< 0.6$ ). The  
729 `cancHpredL2` class consists of regions with SV breakpoint p-values less than  
730 0.01, and DSB predictions less than 0.5 for the NHEK models and less than 0.001  
731 for the MCF7 model.

732 We used a binomial test to measure the significance of overlaps between sets  
733 when comparing results from the MCF7 model and the NHEK model applied to  
734 ICGC breast cancer data and MCF7 cell line features (R command `binom.test`).

735

736 We used the R package `regioneR` (56) to compute the overlap significance  
737 between each set of regions and various genome and chromatin annotation files.  
738 A list of annotation sets and their original sources are in Supplementary Table 2.  
739 We matched Cancer5000 genes and Cosmic gene lists to RefSeq gene names in  
740 order to get their genome coordinates, so the cancer gene lists are RefSeq gene

741 subsets. The super enhancer set (SEA) came from A549 cells, derived from a lung  
742 carcinoma (47). Common fragile sites (CFS) were collected from NCBI's gene  
743 archive by searching for "common fragile site" or "fragile site" within human  
744 genes. Many fragile sites are annotated by chromosome band but do not have  
745 exact coordinates; we filtered these out because they are low resolution. The  
746 chromHMM (48) annotation came from the UCSC genome browser. We tested  
747 enrichment of the NHEK states with the NHEK model d-score classes and the  
748 HMEC track, from primary mammary epithelial cells, with the MCF7 model's d-  
749 score classes. The regioneR package performs random circular permutation of  
750 regions of interest and then computes the number of overlaps between the  
751 permuted set and a second set of regions. The p-value represents how often,  
752 over the course of the permutations, the two sets overlap to the same extent that  
753 they do without any permutation. We used 1,000 iterations to achieve a  
754 maximum p-value of 0.001.

755

## 756 **Declarations**

757

### 758 *Ethics Approval*

759 Approval for access and use of ICGC variant data was obtained from the ICGC  
760 Data Access Compliance Office. Use of TCGA CNV does not require ethics  
761 approval.

762

### 763 *Consent for Publication*

764 Not applicable

765

766 *Availability of data and materials*

767 All analysis was done using GRCh37 as the reference genome. The raw BLISS  
768 sequencing data is available on SRA with accession SRP150602. All scripts and  
769 commands used to do this analysis are available on github  
770 ([https://github.com/TracyBallinger/dsb\\_model](https://github.com/TracyBallinger/dsb_model)). In addition, we have made  
771 ipython notebooks for the figures used in this manuscript to ease reproducibility  
772 and allow further exploration of the data, also available on github. All  
773 supplementary files are available for download at  
774 <https://datashare.is.ed.ac.uk/handle/10283/3103>.

775

776 *Competing Interests*

777 The authors declare they have no competing interests.

778

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786

787 *Authors' Contributions*

788 BB and RM generated the BLISS DSB profiles. SG developed the BLISS alignment  
789 pipeline and generated .bed files of DSB profiles. TB performed all subsequent

790 data analysis and produced figures. TB and CS wrote the manuscript. NC and CS  
791 supervised the project. TB, BB, NC, and CS edited the final manuscript.

792

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796

797

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961

962 **Figure Legends**

963

964 **Figure 1:** DSB frequency and genomic features display similar patterns. The  
965 tracks show DSBCapture profiles in NHEK cells, BLESS profiles in NHEK cells,  
966 BLISS in K562 cells, and BLISS in MCF7 cells. All tracks are at 50kb resolution  
967 over a representative region of chromosome 1, with a variety of chromatin and  
968 sequence features to illustrate the similarities between them. Numbers in

969 parenthesis are the spearman's rho between the associated track and the NHEK  
970 DSBCapture 1 dataset.

971

972 **Figure 2:** Accurate models of DSB frequency built from chromatin and sequence  
973 features. Panels A-D show random forest regression model predictions built  
974 upon eleven genomic features at 50kb resolution compared to observed DSB  
975 frequencies for four datasets: NHEK DSBCapture, NHEK BLESS, K562 BLISS, and  
976 MCF7 BLISS. The y-values reflect the sequencing depth of each dataset. The  
977 models' predictions are all highly correlated with the observed data, as shown by  
978 the noted Pearson's correlations ( $p < 2.2\text{e-}16$  for each dataset). Panels E-H show  
979 the predictive features ranked by variable importance, a measure of how useful a  
980 particular feature is for the model (see methods).

981

982 **Figure 3:** Modelling accuracy and the polarity of genomic features. A) NHEK  
983 DSBCapture 50kb regions data is split into three distinct groups with differing  
984 modelling accuracies. Panels B and C show the values of the model features for  
985 the two boxes, A and B, and for group C, which contains randomly chosen points  
986 along the spectrum of DSB frequency values for the majority of the genome. The  
987 columns are ordered by observed DSB frequency, shown on the top row, and the  
988 rows for features used to build the model (the third to second to last row) are  
989 ordered by average variable importance. The number of 50kb regions in each  
990 group is shown in parenthesis above each heatmap. Each feature was  
991 normalized, setting the 1<sup>st</sup> to 99<sup>th</sup> quantiles to values between 0 and 1, with high  
992 outliers (in the top percentile) set to 1.1. B) Group A has high H3K9me3 and low  
993 mappability scores, indicative of heterochromatin and repetitive sequence, while

994 B has feature patterns that closely match low DSB values in group C. C) For most  
995 of the genome, high H3K9me3 corresponds to low DSB regions, and high, or  
996 early, replication timing values and open chromatin values signify high DSB  
997 regions.

998

999 **Figure 4:** DSB models improve predictions for non-model cell types. Models  
1000 trained using a dataset from one cell type were used to generate predictions for a  
1001 different cell type, given the matched features. The dark blue lines mark the  
1002 Pearson's correlation between the two cell types. The cell type used to train the  
1003 model is indicated by the colour of the bar, and the cell type on which the model  
1004 is being applied is shown on the x-axis. In all cases, the random forest model  
1005 greatly improves the predictions from a naïve inference, with a 1.3-1.8 fold  
1006 improvement in correlation.

1007

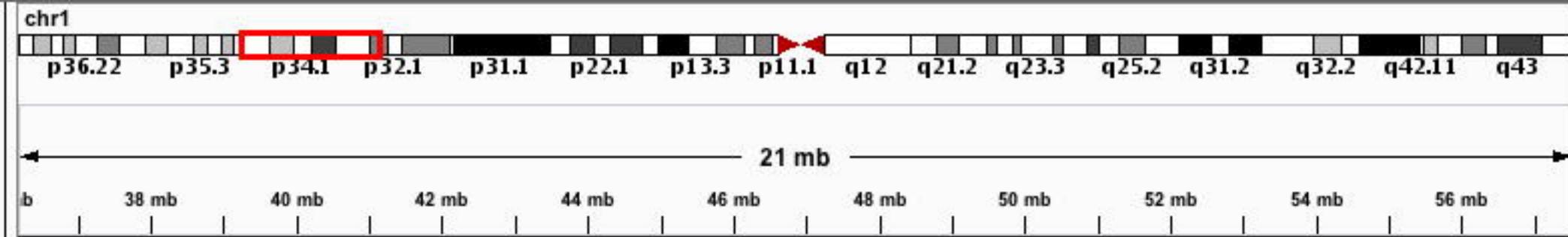
1008 **Figure 5:** Regions enriched for cancer SV breakpoints (ESBs) display a  
1009 significant increase in DSB frequency across cancer types. A-C) The regions with  
1010 ICGC SV breakpoint frequencies in the top 5% are shown with their predicted  
1011 DSB values as violin plots for each of the three cell type models: NHEK, K562, and  
1012 MCF7. ICGC cohorts are shown all together (pancancer), and split into three  
1013 cancer categories: carcinoma, blood, and breast cancers (see methods). D-F)  
1014 ICGC SV breakpoint counts separated by SV type, and the top 5% of ESBs are  
1015 shown with their predicted DSB values as violin plots. The numbers following  
1016 the x-axis labels are SV breakpoint count cut-offs for the top 5% ESBs, and the  
1017 numbers in parenthesis are the number of 50kb regions that meet the cut-off.  
1018 For example, there are 225 50kb regions with more than two SV breakpoints in

1019 blood cancers. Stars indicate significantly higher values in DSB predictions for  
1020 the ESBs relative to non-ESBs for each category, as determined by a Wilcox  
1021 ranked sum test (\* for  $p \leq 0.05$ , \*\* for  $p \leq 0.01$ , \*\*\* for  $p \leq 1e-3$ , and \*\*\*\* for  
1022  $p \leq 1e-4$ ).

1023

1024 **Figure 6:** Inference of positively and negatively selected SV regions. A) The  
1025 predicted DSB frequencies for regions overlapping RefSeq genes, two sets of  
1026 cancer consensus genes, and common fragile sites (CFS) are shown as violin  
1027 plots. The stars represent significantly higher values in the region subsets,  
1028 compared to genomic regions that do not overlap the given annotation set, using  
1029 a Wilcox ranked sum test. B) The same regions as in a), but with d-score values, a  
1030 measure of the deviation of the observed breakpoint frequencies from the  
1031 predicted or expected DSB frequencies. C) Observed SV breakpoint frequencies  
1032 for ICGC carcinomas (excluding breast cancer) with predicted DSB frequencies  
1033 from the NHEK DSBCapture model. Each point represents a 50kb region and is  
1034 coloured by its d-score. Regions were split into high (cancHpredL) and low  
1035 (cancLpredH) d-score categories (d-score p-value  $< 0.01$ ), a cancHpredH  
1036 category, representing regions with d-scores near zero, and a cancHpredL2  
1037 category, representing low mappability regions (see methods). D) Each category  
1038 was tested for enrichment of various annotations using circular permutation  
1039 (see methods). The yellow dotted line marks  $p < 0.01$  significance, and the  
1040 numbers in parenthesis indicate the number of 50kb regions in each category,  
1041 out of 61,903 in total.

1042



NHEK DSBCapture 1

NHEK BLESS 1  
(0.831)

K562 BLISS  
(0.702)

MCF7 BLISS  
(0.711)

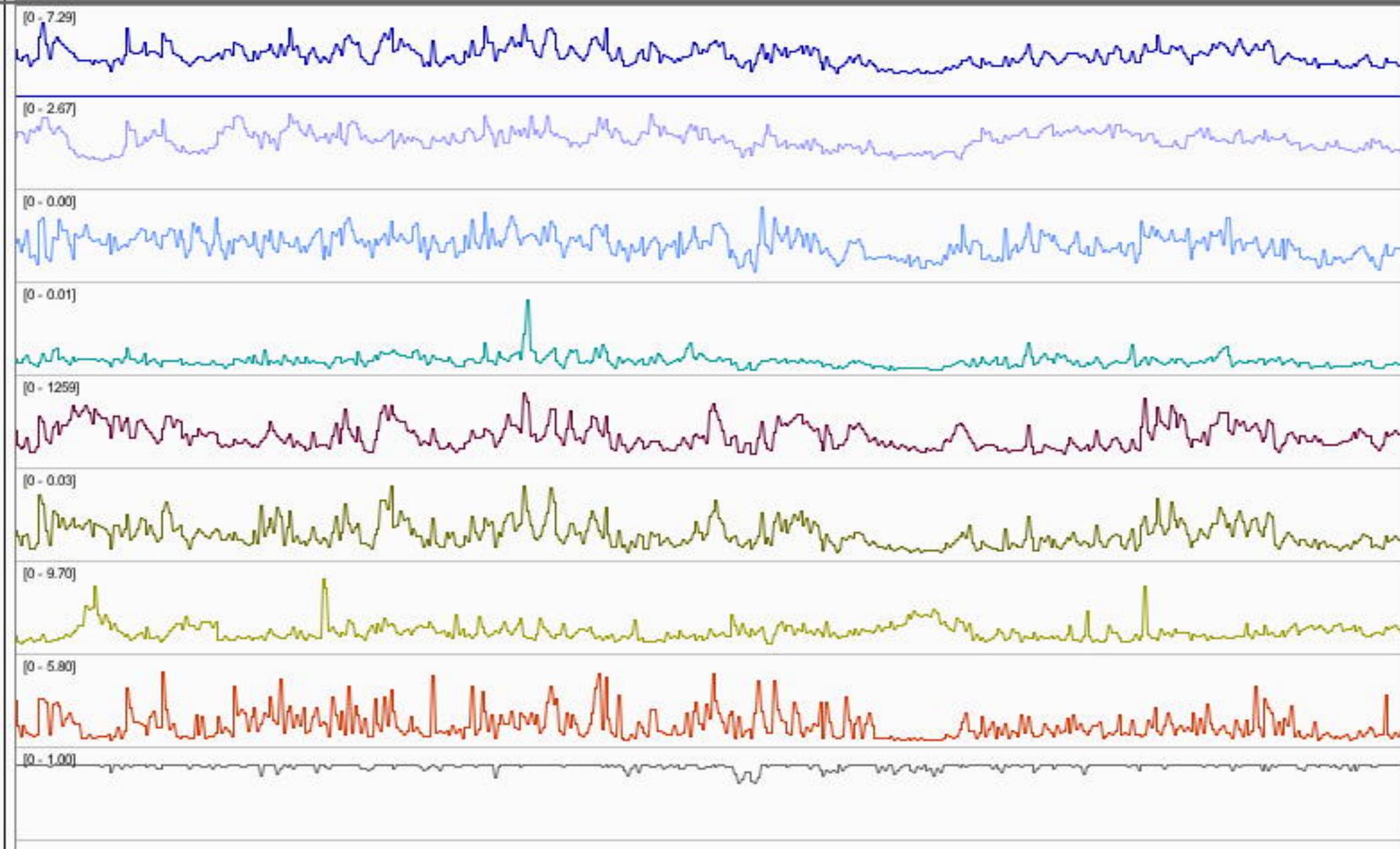
Repli-Seq NHEK  
(0.708)

DNase NHEK  
(0.863)

H3k9me3 NHEK  
(-0.104)

CTCF NHEK  
(0.778)

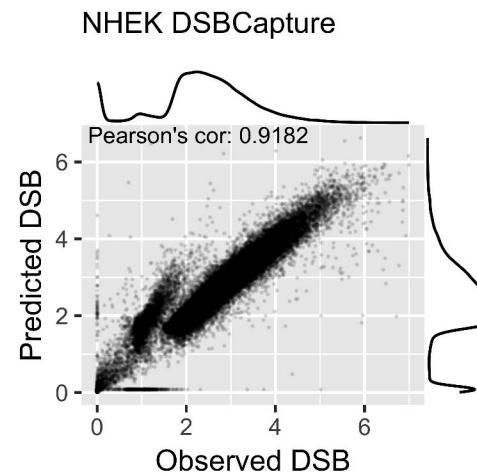
Mapability



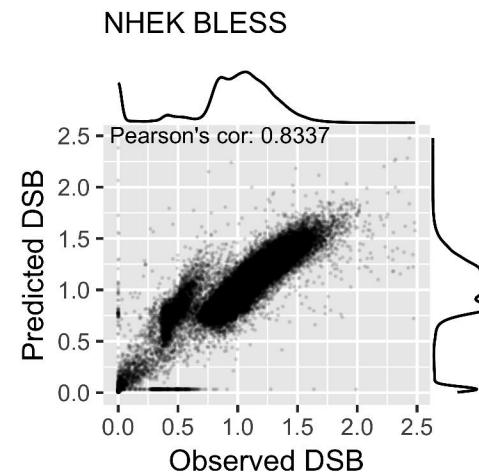
RefSeq Genes



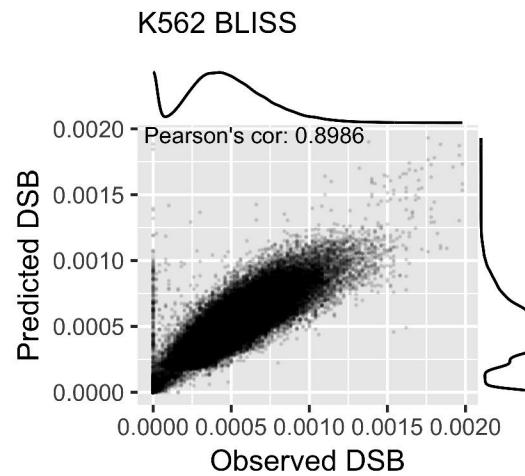
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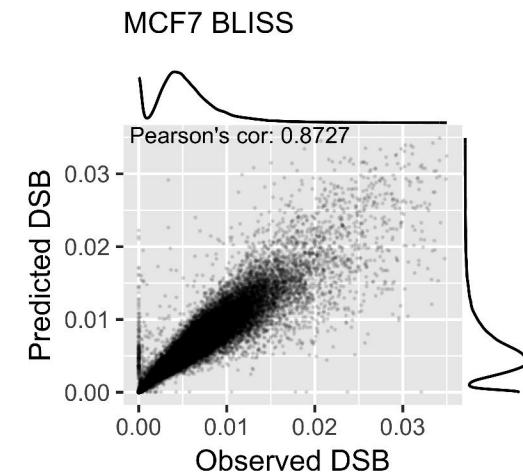
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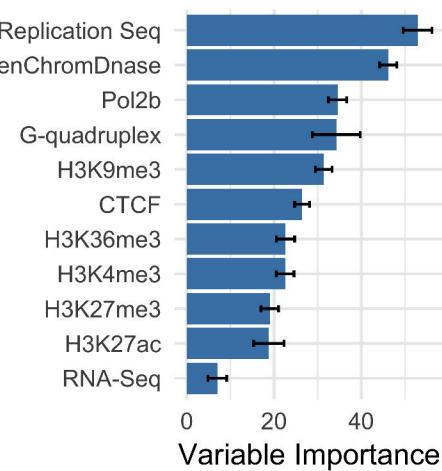
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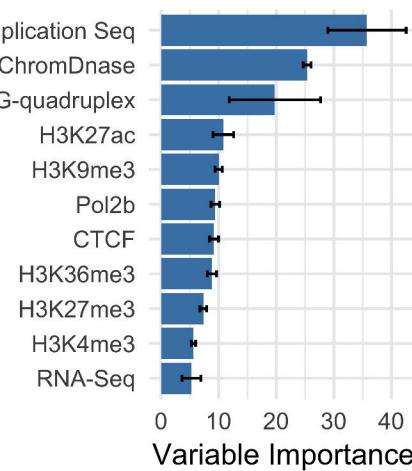
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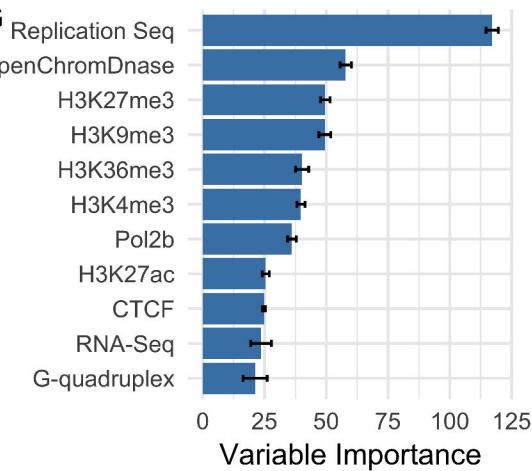
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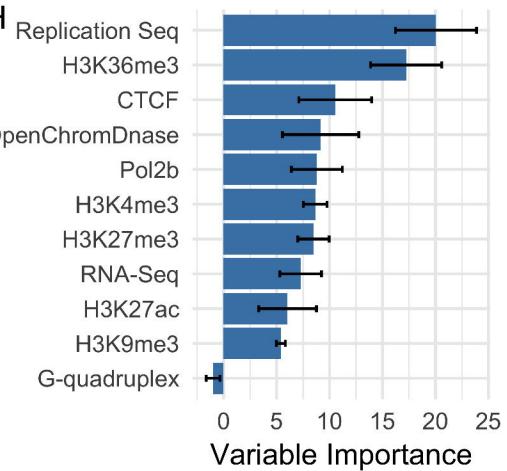
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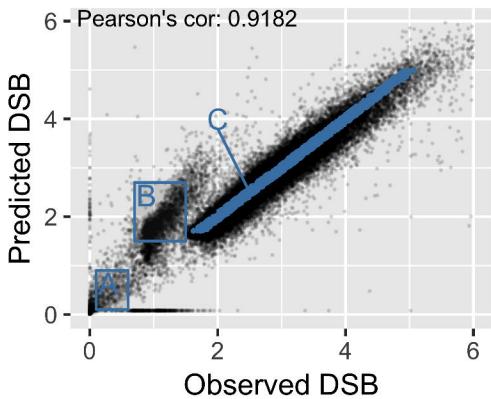
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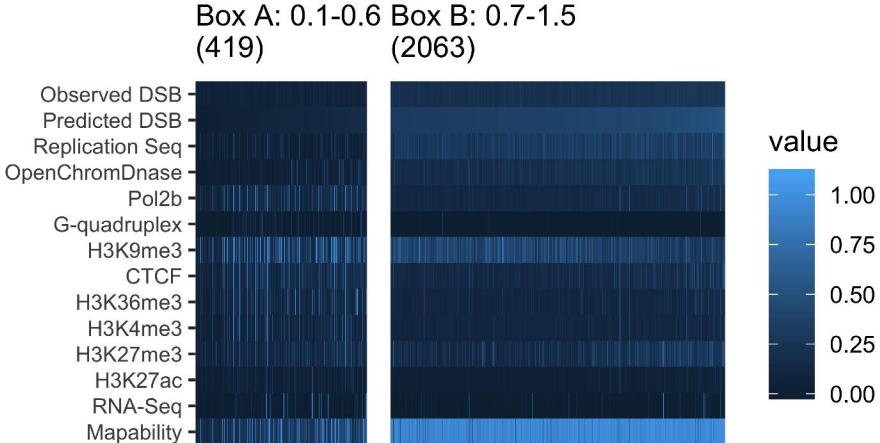
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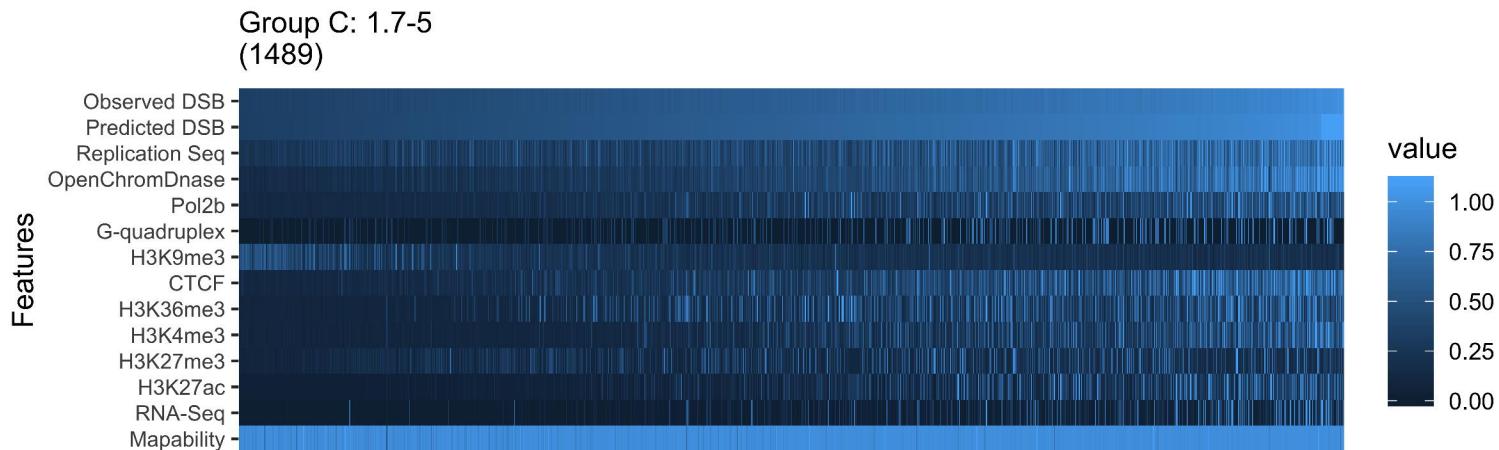
A

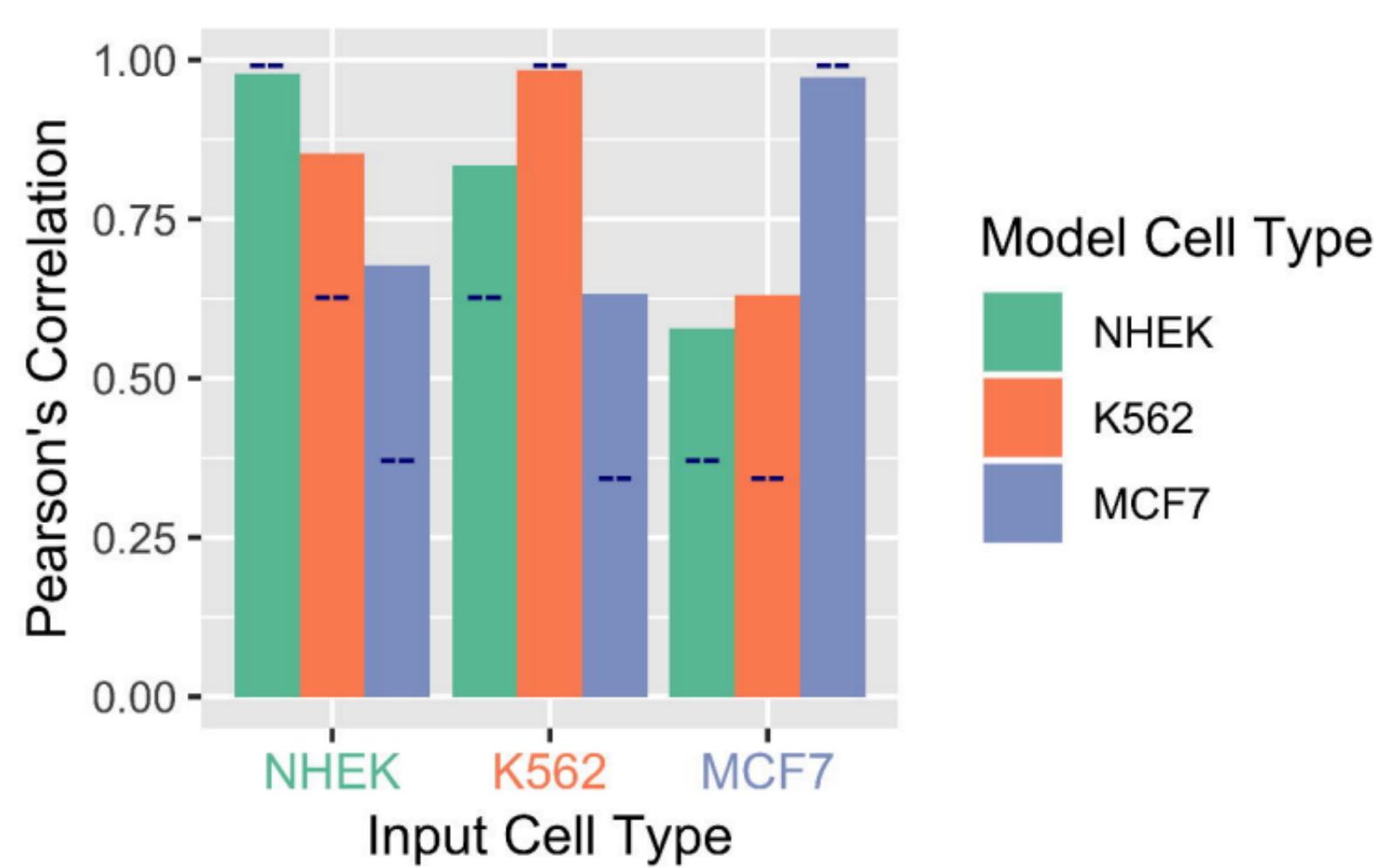


B



C





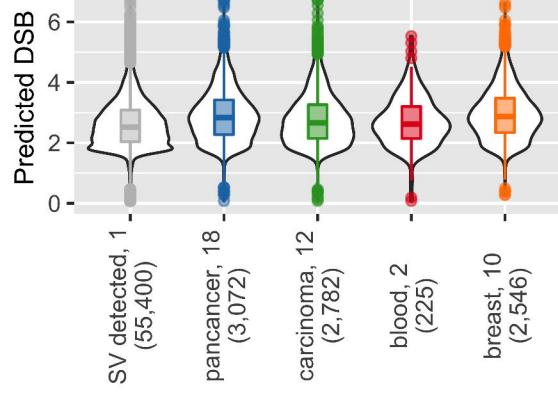
A

## ICGC enriched SV breakpoint regions (ESBs), top 5%

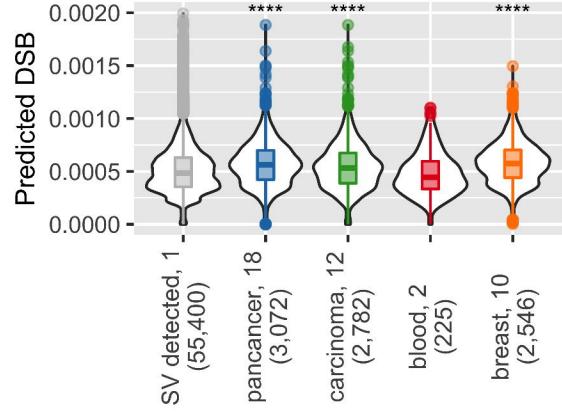
B

C

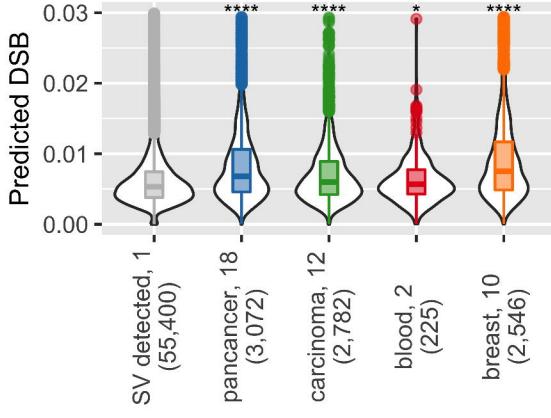
NHEK



K562

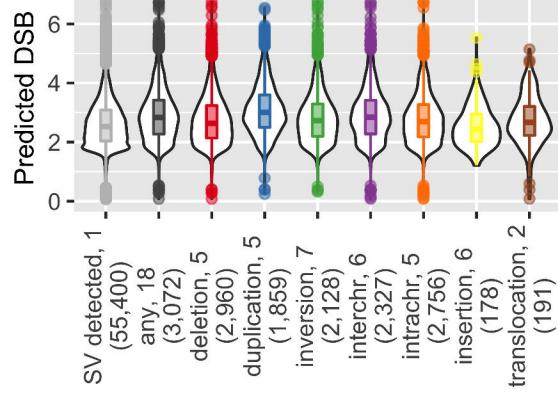


MCF7



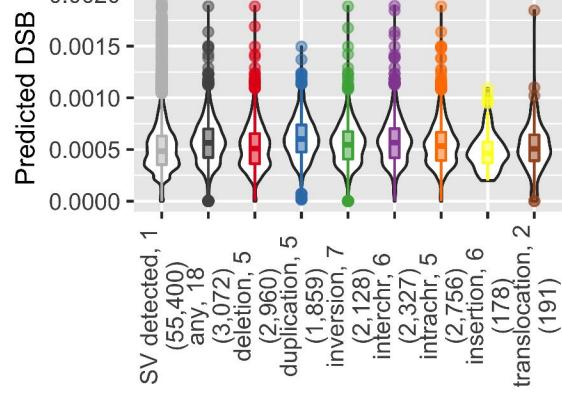
D

NHEK



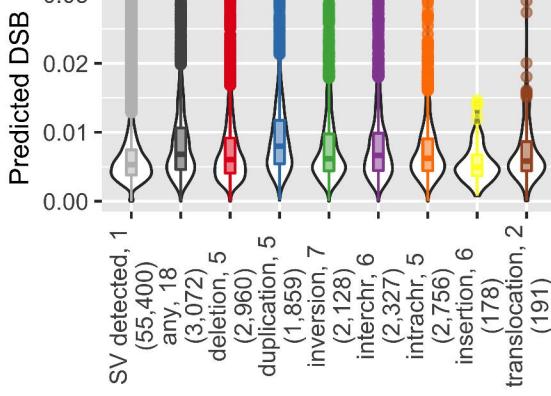
E

K562



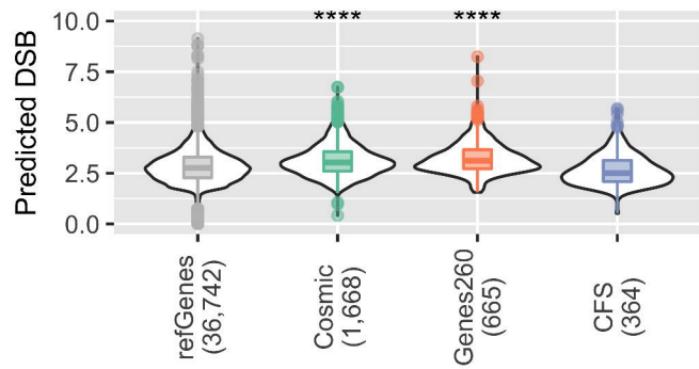
F

MCF7

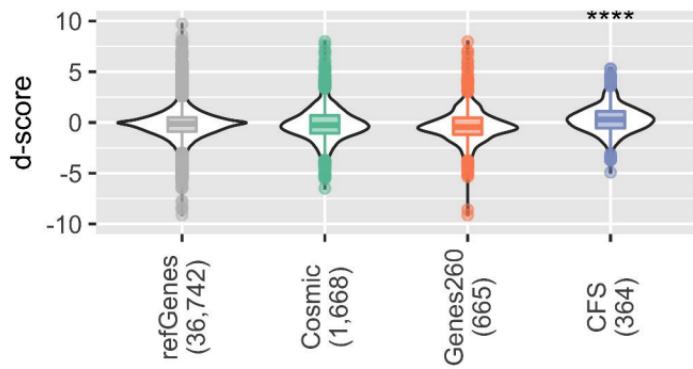


# NHEK model with ICGC carcinomas

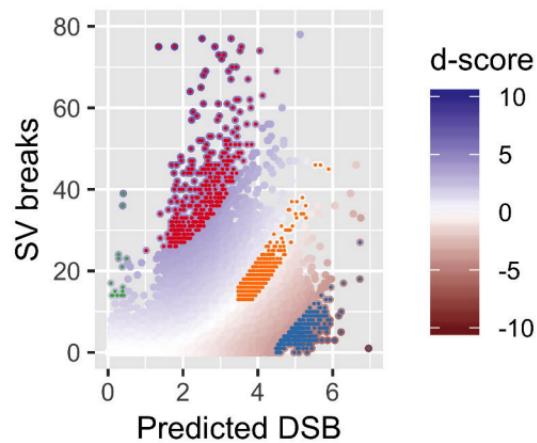
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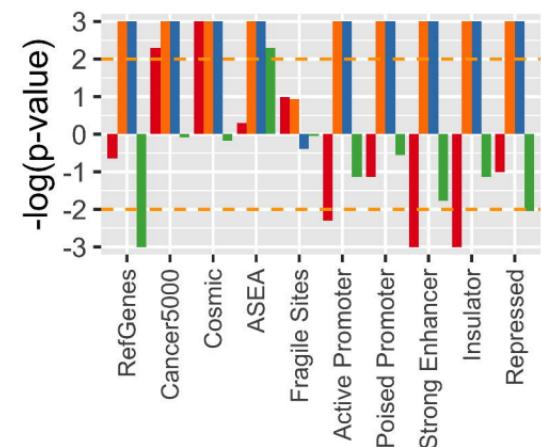
B



C



D



Annotation Set

- cancHpredL (440)
- cancHpredH (657)
- cancLpredH (411)
- cancHpredL2 (16)