# **Supplementary Table 1. Number of identified editing sites in the ENCODE data sets** (cytoplasmic PolyA+ RNA)



#### **Supplementary Table 2: Performance of GIREMI in different types of regions** (accuracy measured as 1-% SNPs among predicted editing sites in each category)



\*\*Multiple data set methods - pooled read alignments: GM12878 and YH mapped reads were pooled together, then editing sites were identified using the pooled reads. Thus the results shown here were derived from two data sets. \*\*\* GIREMI (union of results): results of GIREMI for GM12878 and YH data (analyzed separately) were combined. \*Multiple data set methods - Overlap of two data sets: editing sites identified in GM12878 and YH RNA-Seq data separately (see Supplementary Note 3), then GM12878 editing sites were called by requiring their presence in YH.

NOTE: The number of editing sites shown for GIREMI is slightly different from those in Fig. 1 because only one of the 9 randomized trials for SNP exclusion was used (see Fig. 1 legend).

# **Supplementary Table 3: Comparison of GIREMI and the "mutliple data sets" methods on a set of primary human brain tissue RNA-Seq data.**  (sample information in Supplementary Table 5)



\*Multiple data set methods - Overlap of 2 out of 3 data sets: editing sites identified in the 3 RNA-Seq data separately), then for each data set, editing sites were called by requiring their presence in 2 out 3 samples \*\*M

**Supplementary Table 4. Identification of recoding sites by GIREMI or mutual information (MI) alone** (sample IDs same as in Supplementary Table 5).



\*"No. of sites as input to GIREMI" refers to the total number of SNVs (required to have  $\geq$ 5 reads) that were tested by GIREMI (MI followed by GLM) to predict editing sites.

\*\*"No. of sites as input to MI" refers to the number of SNVs that were testable by the MI step, required to have  $\geq$ 5 reads harboring two SNVs.

**Supplementary Table 5. RNA-Seq data obtained from the GTEx project.** Sample IDs are SRR followed by the numeric ID shown. Samples in red were excluded from further analysis because of low sequencing coverage/quality.



**Supplementary Table 6. Number of identified editing sites in the GTEx data sets.** (Samples in red were excluded from further analysis because of low sequencing coverage/quality.)



**GO ID GO Description Tissues with TSE** GO:0045454 cell redox homeostasis Cortex,Frontal cortex,Thyroid<br>Co:0070460 required to their GO:0070469 respiratory chain Frontal cortex,Hippocampus GO:0007059 chromosome segregation Frontal cortex,Hippocampus

**Supplementary Table 7. Gene ontology analysis of genes with tissue-specific editing (TSE).**  All GO categories shown here were associated with a p value less than 0.0001.



### **Supplementary Notes:**

## **Supplementary Note 1 – Predicting RNA editing via mutual information (MI) in GIREMI**

The calculation of mutual information (MI) in GIREMI utilizes (pairs of) reads that harbor two SNVs (SNPs, editing or unknown type) and determines their degree of allelic linkage. As shown in Fig. 1b, MI distributions for combinations of SNPs and editing sites (defined using the genome sequencing data) are readily distinguishable. Thus, MI is an effective measure to discriminate editing sites from SNPs. Fig. 1b shows the MI data for SNP pairs, which is the distribution used in GIREMI for predicting editing sites. In contrast, Supplementary Fig. 1a (upper panel) shows the MI values of SNPs relative to any other SNVs in their neighborhood, some of which may be editing sites. Consistently, we observed a minor peak at lower MI range indicating SNP-editing site pairs. It should be noted that this distribution was not used in GIREMI. We also examined the MI values for editing sites and SNPs located in different types of regions (*Alu*, repetitive non-*Alu*, non-repetitive). It can be appreciated that the MI values are generally similar for different types of editing sites, but those in non-*Alu* regions tend to have a small fraction of sites with higher MI values (Supplementary Fig. 1a, lower panel), suggesting that these editing sites may indeed be SNPs. Similarly, the MI distribution of SNPs also has a pronounced (*Alu* SNPs) or minor (non-*Alu* SNPs) peak near the lower MI range, indicating that they are likely paired with editing sites.

It should be noted that the MI step alone does not render an advantage for predicting SNPs (which is not the goal of GIREMI as an RNA editing predictor). In the GM12878 data, if 50% SNPs were assumed to be unknown, 12,359 SNPs were excluded from the MI calculation due to lack of neighboring SNVs or inadequate reads (< 5) covering the SNP and its neighboring SNVs. A total of 4,815 SNPs were included for MI calculation, among which 1,323 SNPs were incorrectly predicted as RNA editing sites based on their MI values. Thus, 3,492 (72.5%) of the 4,815 SNPs remained to be SNPs. If 30% SNPs were assumed to be unknown, 11,298 SNPs were excluded from the MI calculation due to lack of neighboring SNVs or inadequate reads (<5) covering the SNP and its neighboring SNVs. A total of 2,903 SNPs were included for MI

calculation, among which 740 SNPs were incorrectly predicted as RNA editing sites based on their MI values. Thus, 2,163 (74.5%) of the 2,903 SNPs remained to be SNPs. Overall, SNP prediction using MI alone is obviously not sensitive, nor very accurate.

In general, the requirement of multiple SNV-containing reads in MI calculation suggests that this step alone may have limited sensitivity in pinpointing editing sites that are in isolation from other editing sites or SNPs. Although the vast majority of A-to-I editing sites are located in *Alu* elements and in close proximity with other editing sites, a relatively small number of editing sites, especially those in coding regions, are located in isolation from others. To complement the MI step, GIREMI includes a second-step based on GLM (Online Methods). Importantly, the predicted editing sites by MI were used as training data to drive the GLM parameter estimation. Thus, the GLM is data set-specific and does not rely on pre-parameterization of the model. Overall, GIREMI has better sensitivity and accuracy than another genome-independent editing prediction method (see Supplementary Note 3).

To better understand the sensitivity of GIREMI for isolated editing sites, we examined its prediction of known recoding sites<sup>1</sup>. The analysis is fully described in Supplementary Note 5. Here, we only elaborate on the identification of these sites by the MI method. Overall, GIREMI (combining MI and GLM steps) has a high sensitivity in predicting these recoding sites (Supplementary Note 5). We then examined how many of the recoding sites were identified by the MI step. Among all GIREMI-predicted recoding sites, 74.4% were identifiable in the MI step in at least one sample (Supplementary Table 4). For each sample, an average of 30% of the identified recoding sites were resulted from the MI step, with the rest predicted by the GLM step. It is expected that the sensitivity to recoding sites in the MI step alone is highly dependent on the genetic background and editome profile of a specific sample. We thus examined the type of mismatches paired with the MI-identified recoding sites (i.e., those harbored in the same pairs of reads as the MI-identified recoding sites). As shown in Supplementary Fig. 1e, the recoding sites often had neighboring editing sites (all located in non-repetitive regions), SNPs or un-determined SNVs to enable MI calculation. Thus, some recoding sites are identifiable by MI due to their proximity to other SNVs. Given the limited length of mRNAs (after intron removal by splicing),

it is expected that the sensitivity using the MI calculation alone would be further improved once longer read length and insert size of RNA-Seq libraries become available in the near future.

# **Supplementary Note 2 – Read mapping and variant calling methods to generate input files for GIREMI**

RNA-Seq read mapping is an important first step to generate the necessary input files for GIREMI (i.e., lists of single-nucleotide variants (SNVs) in the reads). For this purpose, different mapping methods can be adopted. For results presented in this paper, we used our previously published mapping strategy that facilitates accurate mapping of reads harboring  $SNVs^2$ . This mapping method reduces errors due to existence of homologous regions in the genome and minimizes mapping bias for the alternative alleles of SNVs in the reads<sup>3</sup>. Importantly, we showed that this stringent mapping approach enables more accurate quantification of editing levels compared to those resulted from nominal mapping methods<sup>3</sup>. To call SNVs from mapped reads, we followed the procedures described in our previous work<sup>2</sup> and implemented a few quality filters that emerged in recent literature of RNA editing analysis<sup>3</sup> (see Online Methods).

GIREMI can also be applied to SNVs identified using alternative read mapping and variant calling methods. As an example, we used another read mapping strategy  $(BWA<sup>4</sup>)$  that is often applied in RNA-Seq analysis. In addition, we adopted a popular variant calling method (the GATK tool<sup>5</sup>) to analyze these data. The specific procedures we used were very similar to those described in<sup>6</sup>. As shown in Supplementary Fig. 2, we observed that the false positive rate using the nominal mapping strategy and GATK variant calling was somewhat higher than using our previous method described above, although the difference is not large. This more relaxed mapping and variant calling strategy led to prediction of higher numbers of editing sites.

Overall, it is highly recommended that stringency in read mapping and variant calling is practiced for any methods that predict RNA editing sites in RNA-Seq data, including GIREMI.

# **Supplementary Note 3 – Comparison of results from GIREMI and other methods**

We compared GIREMI-predicted editing sites with those resulted from two other approaches (Supplementary Table 2). The first is the nominal method that utilizes whole-genome sequencing data to distinguish RNA editing from SNPs (the "genome-aware" method). The second approach calls RNA editing using RNA-Seq data from multiple samples $<sup>6</sup>$  (the "multiple data sets"</sup> method). It does not necessitate genome sequence data and essentially requires a predicted editing site be present in multiple data sets. To conduct a fair comparison, we used the same read mapping and artifact-filtering procedures as used for GIREMI (Online Methods). In addition, to apply the "multiple data sets" method to the GM12878 data, at least one other RNA-Seq data set must be included. For this purpose, we used another deeply sequenced lymphoblast RNA-Seq data set (YH data) that also has matched genome sequencing data<sup>7</sup>. Two alternative implementations of the "multiple data sets" method were carried out as proposed in the original paper<sup>6</sup>. The first is to call GM12878 editing sites by requiring their presence in the YH data. The second is to pool the reads from the two samples and predict RNA editing sites using the same method as for individual samples. To compare with this data-pooling mode in a fair manner, we simply combined the results of the 2 data sets predicted by GIREMI (note these results were still identified from individual data set). In all analyses, either 30% or 50% of SNPs of the corresponding cell line was assumed to be unknown since almost all SNPs in both cell lines are already included in dbSNP. This procedure enables an unbiased performance evaluation resembling realistic cases where genome data were not available. As shown in Supplementary Table 2, editing sites predicted by GIREMI overlapped considerably with those from the genome-aware method. Results from GIREMI had higher % overlap (relative to genome-aware), %AG and accuracy (calculated as 1 - %SNPs among predicted editing sites) compared with the "multiple data sets" method, especially for editing sites in non-*Alu* regions. Thus, the above evaluations showed that GIREMI outperforms the existing genome-independent method.

As another performance evaluation, we analyzed a panel of primary human brain tissue RNA-Seq data (Supplementary Table 3) using GIREMI and the "multiple data sets" methods. These data sets were obtained from the GTEx database, with their IDs shown in Supplementary Tables 5 and 6. We analyzed 3 cerebellum data sets as an example, which mimics typical individual labbased projects where a small number of samples were collected at modest depth. Each of the 3 data sets was analyzed separately by GIREMI. However, since the "multiple data sets" method

needs more than 1 data set, we conducted three types of comparisons. First, each of the 3 data sets was also analyzed separately by this method. Then, editing sites for each data set were called by requiring their presence in at least one of the other two RNA-Seq data sets. Second, since this method will obviously benefit from availability of a large number of data sets for comparison, we also expanded the number of comparison data sets to 17 (all data sets from sub-regions of brain, Supplementary Table 6). Overall, it can be appreciated that GIREMI largely outperforms the "multiple data sets" method in sensitivity and %AG, although it only uses one data set whereas the latter method uses 3 or 17 data sets. While GIREMI favors A-to-G changes by nature, the facts that the "multiple data sets" method yielded very low %AG in certain regions (e.g., non-repetitive) and sites common to both methods had much higher %AG suggest that the "multiple data sets" method produced limited results. In the third type of evaluation, the 3 data sets were pooled together (a mode of the "multiple data sets" method) to increase statistical power for editing prediction. To enable a fair comparison, GIREMI's results on the 3 data sets were combined. In addition, to be equivalent to the "multiple data sets" method, GIREMI was also applied to the pooled data sets. The latter method ignores the distinction of individual data sets and treats them as a whole. It applies to biological replicates of the same experiment, but is disadvantageous if comparisons of editomes across samples are desirable. In general, the sensitivity of any method should increase with deeper sequencing data, which was observed for both methods. In this case, the inputs to GIREMI were essentially the output of the "multiple data sets" method since they were applied to the same pooled data set (mapped and filtered in exactly the same way) and both excluded public dbSNPs. Thus, GIREMI outputs a subset of the input, but dramatically increases the accuracy of the results (much improved %AG especially for non-*Alu* regions) (Supplementary Table 3). Since the 3 data sets used here had very low sequencing depth (Supplementary Table 6), statistical power was a limiting factor and data pooling rendered an overriding advantage. In contrast, in Supplementary Table 2, the "union of results" of GIREMI already outperformed the data-pooling mode of the "multiple data set" method, largely due to the very high sequencing depth of the GM12878 and YH data sets.

In summary, GIREMI represents a substantial improvement over the existing method, given its higher accuracy, sensitivity and its advantageous applicability to single data set. We recommend applying GIREMI to individual data sets if given high sequencing depth or, even with low

sequencing depth, if the data sets represent different types of samples to be compared against each other. In addition, GIREMI can be easily applied to pooled data sets or comparative analysis across multiple samples, to achieve higher sensitivity. For example, if multiple biological replicates are available and sequencing depth is modest, we recommend using GIREMI on pooled data sets combining the replicates.

#### **Supplementary Note 4 – GIREMI performance in different types of genomic regions**

We evaluated the accuracy of predicted editing sites in different types of regions: *Alu*, non-*Alu*repetitive, non-repetitive, synonymous, non-synonymous etc (Supplementary Tables 2 and 3), as it is known that existing methods have very different performance for different types of regions with non-*Alu* sites most challenging to predict<sup>6</sup>. In Supplementary Table 2, we used (1 - % known SNPs among predicted editing sites) to represent accuracy since the genome for GM12878 is known. The accuracy of GIREMI for non-*Alu* sites is lower than *Alu* sites in general. For example, when assuming 30% of GM12878 genomic SNPs were unknown to dbSNP, we had nearly perfect accuracy for *Alu* sites (both coding and non-coding). For non-*Alu* repetitive and non-repetitive regions, GIREMI had an average accuracy of 85% and 75% respectively for non-coding editing sites, but both higher than those of the "multiple data sets" method. The accuracy of GIREMI is reduced if a large fraction (e.g. 50% in Supplementary Table 2) of SNPs of the specific sample is unknown. However, given the rapidly expanding public SNP databases owing to large-scale genome sequencing efforts, it is highly likely that only a minor fraction of SNPs is unknown for a particular sample. The performance of GIREMI in non-*Alu coding* regions is discussed below.

### **Supplementary Note 5 – GIREMI performance for coding sites**

Current methods for editing identification suffer from low sensitivity and low accuracy for coding sites. On an initial analysis, the accuracy of GIREMI is also low with the average being 28% for synonymous and non-synonymous coding sites in non-repetitive regions (Supplementary Table 2). Nevertheless, this level of accuracy for non-repetitive coding sites is better than that of the "multiple data sets" method.

To further evaluate our method, we asked whether GIREMI could identify known coding sites with high sensitivity. For this purpose, we used a list of high quality recoding sites reported in previous work (Table S1 and S2 of Pinto et al  $2014<sup>1</sup>$ ). We focused on the GTEx data sets (human primary tissue RNA-seq, Supplementary Table 5) for this evaluation due to tissue-specificity of the recoding sites. As shown in Supplementary Table 4, we identified a total of 43 (91.5% sensitivity) out of the 47 recoding sites that had at least 5 total reads in  $\geq 1$  sample. Note that not all recoding sites in<sup>1</sup> were testable in this analysis since they did not have adequate read coverage  $(\geq 5$  as required), possibly due to the relatively low sequencing depth of the GTEx RNA-seq data and/or tissue-specificity of the related genes. For each sample, the sensitivity in detecting recoding sites varies, with an average sensitivity of 71.4%.

Since the sensitivity of GIREMI in detecting known coding sites is high, we examined whether applying an additional filter on non-*Alu* coding sites to retain only known sites could increase the accuracy without compromising sensitivity greatly. For example, among the 66 coding sites in non-repetitive regions predicted by GIREMI in GM12878 data (Supplementary Table 2, 30% of SNPs assumed unknown), 12 were included in databases of known or predicted editing sites $8.9$ . Among these 12 sites, 4 were genomic SNPs. Thus, with a filter to retain only sites in editing databases, the accuracy of GIREMI for non-repetitive coding sites is increased to 67%. If 50% of genomic SNPs were assumed unknown, this accuracy is 80%. The presence of SNPs in predicted sites after applying such a filter is possibly due to false positives existing in the public editing databases themselves. Alternatively, it suggests an interesting observation that SNPs in one sample could be editing sites in another. With this filter, the sensitivity is somewhat reduced. In the above example, 19 of the initially predicted 66 sites were not SNPs, thus likely true editing sites, 8 of which were retained after filtering. Overall, since the number of non-repetitive coding sites is relatively small and their inclusion in public databases seems to be saturating, we recommend directly using GIREMI results for this type of sites if a high sensitivity is desired, but filtering to retain for sites in editing databases to achieve higher accuracy.

#### **Supplementary Note 6 – Variation of editomes across human individuals**

As shown in the main text, editing sites common to many individuals were associated with relatively high editing levels (Supplementary Fig. 10b). These data argue against the possibility that these sites are randomly occurring transcriptome innovations. Rather, common editing sites should be associated with certain advantage such that evolution has preserved their prevalence in the population. To this end, two possibilities exist with the first being that these editing sites themselves are adaptive changes in the RNA that render functional fitness. Alternatively, editing at these positions is the consequence (or by-products) of an adaptive function executed, for example, by the ADAR enzymes that are known to have additional roles beyond RNA editing<sup>10</sup>. The level of sequence conservation of regions immediately flanking common editing sites may provide a clue to distinguish the two hypotheses. Higher conservation in such regions is more likely associated with functional significance of the editing sites themselves. In contrast, if ADAR's non-editing function is adaptive and evolutionarily preserved, sequence conservation of the immediate neighborhood of the editing sites themselves may not be high, given the predominant specificity of ADAR enzymes to dsRNA structures instead of RNA sequences. Indeed, the conservation profile of common editing sites is similar to that of non-TSE sites and lower than that of TSEs (Fig. 2b vs. 2d). Thus, it is highly likely that common editing sites in general are not enriched with functional editing sites, although it is important to note that a subset of functional sites, such as the TSEs, does exist. Overall, our data support the hypothesis that many common RNA editing sites are likely by-products of the RNA editing machinery carrying out functions to mediate other aspects of gene expression. Evolutionary selection to preserve the other regulatory functions led to an apparent preservation of the RNA editing sites across the population.

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