

Method		CIBERSORT			RPC			QP		
		proportion predict			proportion predict			proportion predict		
		HCC	control	preg	HCC	control	preg	HCC	control	preg
Truth	HCC	18	9	0	17	10	0	14	13	0
	control	7	25	0	7	25	0	3	29	0
	preg	0	1	16	0	1	16	0	0	17

Supplementary Table S1: Classification confusion matrices based on real data using different reference-based methods. HCC: hepatocellular carcinoma patients. control: healthy, unpregnant control people. preg: healthy pregnant women. Cibersort: using tissue proportions solved from Cibersort for prediction. RPC: using tissue proportions solved from Robust Partial Correlations for prediction. QP: using tissue proportions solved from Quadratic Programming procedure for prediction. Cibersort predicted accuracy: 0.78. RPC predicted accuracy: 0.76. QP predicted accuracy: 0.79.

**Supplementary Figure S1:** Boxplot of classification accuracies for NMF and QP under different noise level and sample size. NMF: Non-negative matrix factorization (NMF) approach. QP: using tissue proportions solved from Quadratic Programming procedure for prediction.  $N$  represent the total sample size used in simulation. 3-fold cross validation was conducted. A, low noise level; B, medium noise level; C, high noise level.

**Supplementary Figure S2:** Boxplot of classification accuracies for multiple methods in simulations. QP: using tissue proportions solved from Quadratic Programming procedure for prediction. OLS: using tissue proportions directly solved from Ordinary Least Square without constraint in QP. QP high var: using a ‘high-noise reference’ as the reference in the QP step to solve tissue proportions, then use the solved proportions for prediction. QP random: using a ‘randomly shuffled reference’ as the reference in the QP step to solve tissue proportions, then use the solved proportions for prediction. A, low noise level; B, medium noise level; C, high noise level.

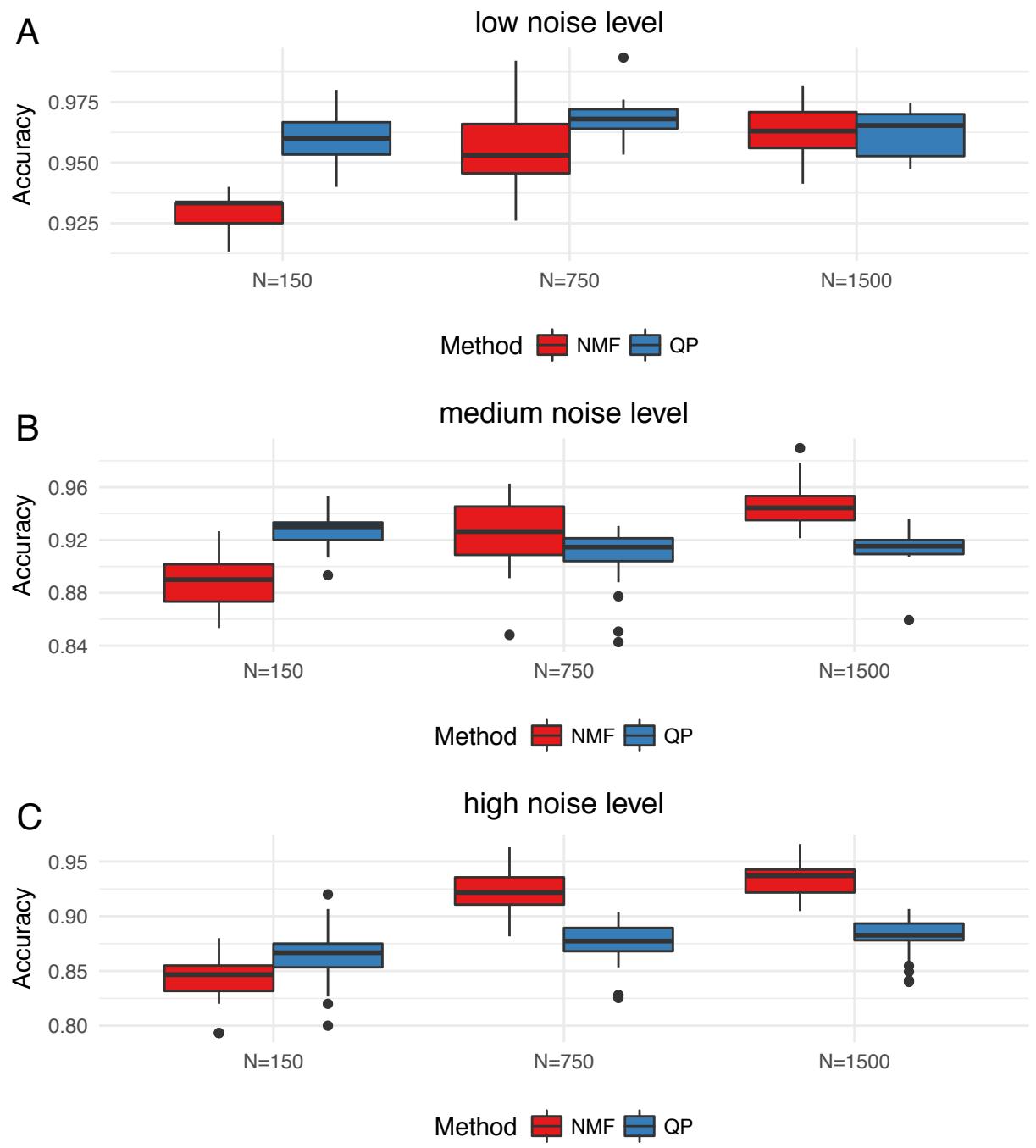
**Supplementary Figure S3:** Boxplot of classification accuracies for multiple reference-based methods in simulations. QP: using tissue proportions solved from Quadratic Programming procedure for prediction. RPC: using tissue proportions solved from Robust Partial Correlations for prediction. CBS: using tissue proportions solved from Cibersort for prediction. True prop: using true tissue proportions for prediction. A, low noise level; B, medium noise level; C, high noise level.

**Supplementary Figure S4:** Scatterplots of NMF estimated reference methylation levels versus true reference methylation levels in all 14 tissues in simulation. Spearman’s correlation is shown in each panel.

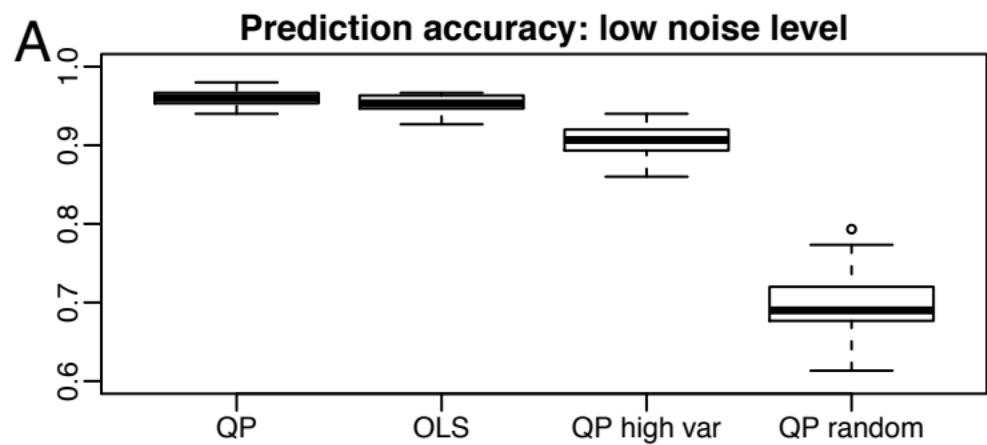
**Supplementary Figure S5:** Scatterplots of NMF estimated tissue proportions versus true tissue proportions in all 14 tissues in simulation. Spearman’s correlation is shown in each panel.

**Supplementary Figure S6:** Boxplot of real data solved tissue proportions for all 14 tissues, respectively, among 3 groups. One panel for each tissue.

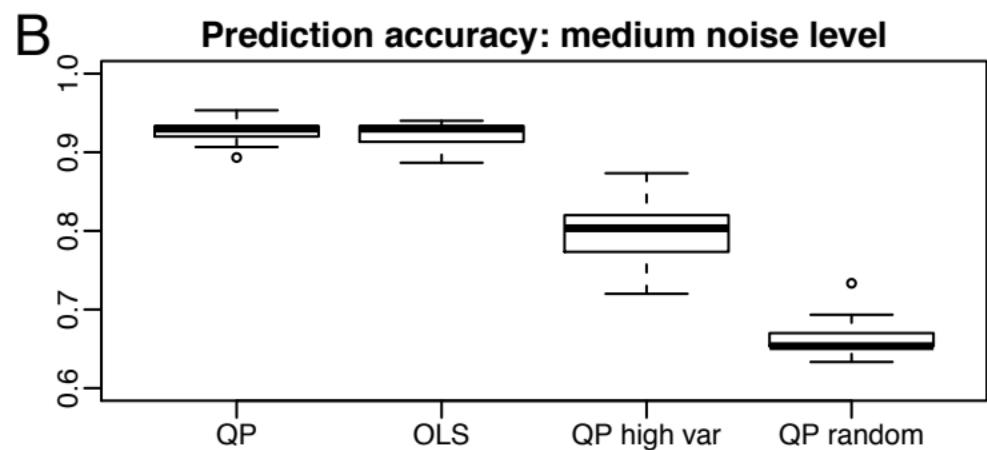
**Supplementary Figure S7:** Scatterplots of NMF estimated reference methylation levels versus true reference methylation levels in all 14 tissues in real data from Sun K et al. PNAS 2015. Spearman’s correlation is shown in each panel.



### **Prediction accuracy: low noise level**



### **Prediction accuracy: medium noise level**



### **Prediction accuracy: high noise level**

