

1 **Title** Inferring polygenic negative selection underlying an individual trait as a distribution of  
2 fitness effects (DFEs) from GWAS summary statistics

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4 **Short title** Inferring a DFE corresponding to a single complex trait from GWAS summary  
5 statistics

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13 **Abstract**

14 There has been rising interest in exploiting data from genome-wide association studies (GWAS)  
15 to detect a genetic signature of natural selection acting on a given phenotype. However,  
16 current approaches are unable to directly estimate the distribution of fitness effects (DFE), an  
17 established property in population genetics that can elucidate genomic architecture pertaining  
18 to a particular focal trait. To this end, we introduce ASSESS, an inferential method that exploits  
19 the Poisson Random Field (PRF) to model selection coefficients from genome-wide allele count  
20 data, while jointly conditioning GWAS summary statistics on a latent distribution of phenotypic  
21 effect sizes. This probabilistic model is unified under the assumption of an explicit relationship  
22 between fitness and trait effect to yield a DFE. To gauge the performance of ASSESS, we  
23 enlisted various simulation experiments that covered a range of usage cases and model  
24 misspecifications, which revealed accurate recovery of the underlying selection signal. As a  
25 further proof-of-concept, ASSESS was applied to an array of publicly available human trait data,  
26 whereby we replicated previously published empirical findings from an alternative  
27 methodology. These demonstrations illustrate the potential of ASSESS to satisfy an increasing  
28 need for powerful yet convenient population genomic inference from GWAS summary  
29 statistics.

## 30 **Author Summary**

31 The growth of genome-wide association studies (GWAS) over the past decade has provided a  
32 wealth of resources for uncovering the genomic architecture underlying complex traits,  
33 including the footprint of selection. Currently, there are computational tools for inferring  
34 natural selection whereby GWAS results are leveraged to conduct a binary test for overall  
35 presence, estimate a correlated property, or summarize polygenic selection strength with a  
36 single statistic. However, a methodology that exploits GWAS data to estimate the distribution  
37 of fitness effects (DFE), which is the most direct measurement for the genetic impact of natural  
38 selection acting on a complex trait, does not currently exist. To this end, we constructed an  
39 approach to directly infer the DFE, wherein per-site selection coefficients specifically associated  
40 with a focal trait are aggregated across the genome. This implementation is designed to  
41 explicitly model an entire genome-wide set of summary statistics output from a GWAS rather  
42 than the individual-level input data, which offers computational efficiency and convenience as  
43 well as alleviates privacy concerns. We expect this to be a promising development given the  
44 further accumulation of GWAS results and investigators seeking more sophisticated analyses  
45 into the relationship between genetics and traits.

## 46 **Introduction**

47 A central focus of human genetics is to elucidate the genomic foundation of complex traits.  
48 Genome-wide association studies (GWAS), which deploy a regression analysis that maps  
49 phenotypes against genotypes, have been a long-standing approach to accomplish this task.  
50 Conducting a GWAS typically produces summary statistics for each genetic site, such as an  
51 estimated effect size of the genetic variant on the trait of interest as well as an associated  
52 standard error in this estimated value [1]. A GWAS typically aims to reveal key genetic  
53 contributors by isolating loci with large estimated effect sizes and relatively low standard error,  
54 yet most traits are found to be highly polygenic with predominantly small effect sizes. While  
55 such results do not quite fulfill the aspirations initially intended when GWAS were first  
56 performed over a decade ago, there is still much information contained within the data that can  
57 be exploited to gain broader knowledge about genomic processes [2,3]. Therefore, GWAS  
58 research has shifted towards developing alternative and downstream methods that consider  
59 the full set of variant associations with a focal trait to address questions of genomic  
60 architecture, population genetics, and evolutionary ecology [4,5].

61 One application that is of widespread interest is to utilize allele sample frequencies of  
62 single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) to unveil a signature of selection underpinning a  
63 polygenic trait [6–16]. Currently, available tools are designed for binary classification of overall  
64 presence versus absence, or indirect quantification of genome-wide fitness by parameterizing a  
65 proxy property such as the correlation between allele frequency and true effect size. However,  
66 a desirable alternative would be to instead directly estimate the distribution of fitness effects  
67 (DFE), which is a frequency histogram that consolidates locus-specific selection coefficients  
68 throughout the genome [5,17]. As a fundamental concept in evolutionary genetics, the DFE  
69 borrows from a long-standing theoretical basis to allow a clearer understanding of population  
70 dynamics. Specifically, it is a composite that reflects magnitude and direction of selection,  
71 genomic architecture, mutation rates and patterns, demographic history, and other molecular  
72 ecology processes. Detection of the DFE marginalized to an individual phenotype of interest,  
73 particularly beyond targeted segments such as coding regions, then can be informative to  
74 adaptation, mutational load, mutational target, and lethality. Such insight is relevant to



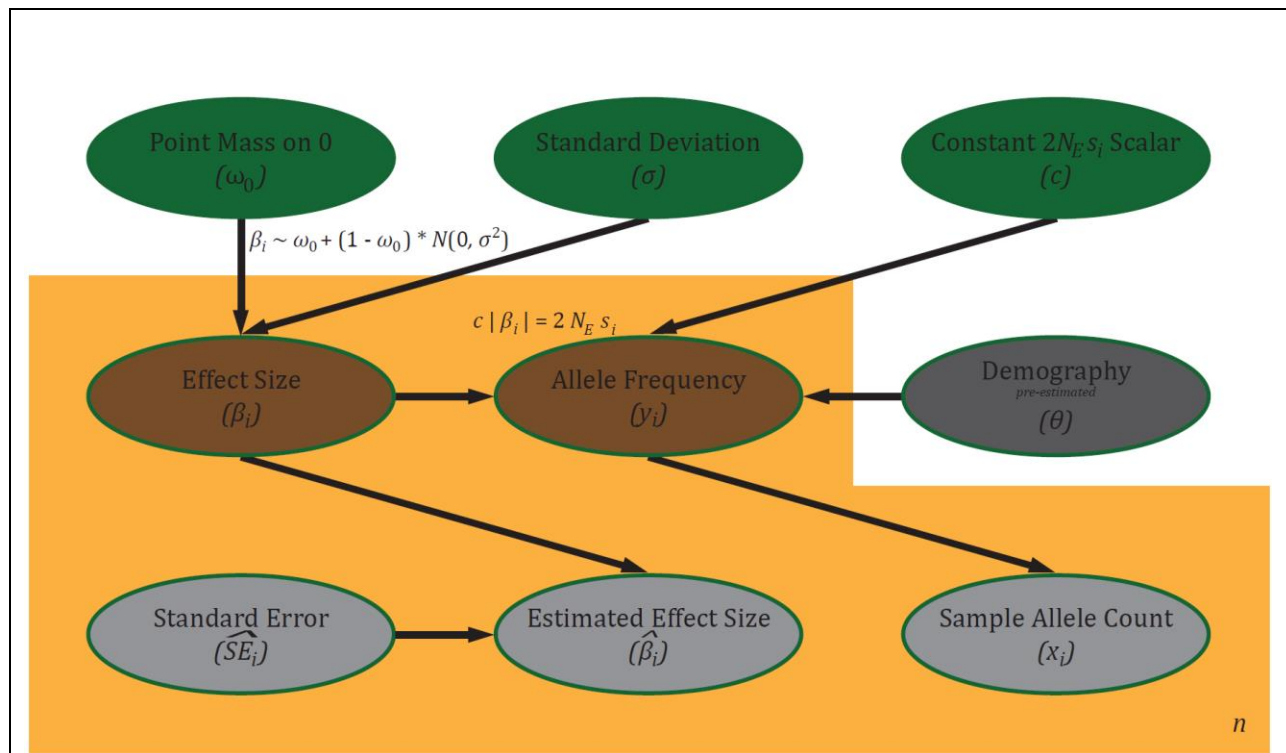
75 elucidating the manner and speed with which evolution proceeds, predicting the trajectory of  
76 future variants, and comparing traits, independently structured lineages, and environmental  
77 conditions.

78           In contrast to tools that require the same individual-level genotypes and phenotypes  
79 employed as input for a GWAS, many techniques now typically take advantage of the summary  
80 statistics resulting from a GWAS that often are already publicly available. This provides much  
81 greater accessibility and convenience, not the least of which a substantial decrease in  
82 computational expense [18]. Notably, some methods indirectly utilize GWAS summary statistics  
83 to stringently subset the input data, thereby discarding the vast majority of information [19,20],  
84 but a much more desirable alternative would be to explicitly incorporate an entire set of  
85 genetic markers with a joint probabilistic model that unites evolutionary processes with  
86 genomic architecture [5,21,22]. A promising avenue to achieve this objective is the Poisson  
87 Random Field (PRF), which uses diffusion approximation to model allele counts for a given  
88 sample size conditional on parameterizations of demography and selection [23–26]. This  
89 calculation yields an expected site frequency spectrum that can be treated as a probability  
90 distribution for independent SNP data, as has been previously done to estimate a generalized  
91 DFE among coding regions [27]. Importantly, the assumption of independence between loci  
92 consequently does not address the influence of linkage disequilibrium (LD). However, while it  
93 would be ideal to explicitly model the full relationship among markers, such an endeavor would  
94 be too computationally intensive for practical implementation. Conversely, the PRF acts as a  
95 useful yet principled approximation by ignoring LD and thus allowing a composite likelihood  
96 across sites while still permitting maximum likelihood estimation of relevant parameters. This  
97 composite likelihood approach offers the large benefit of exploiting genomic-scale data  
98 efficiently, including integrating with a simple and computationally inexpensive model of GWAS  
99 summary statistics and true effect sizes. Additionally, the PRF is optimized for very weak  
100 selection coefficients, particularly at a scale much lower than typically explored for  
101 investigations of this nature.

102           Motivated by this potential to obtain a genome-wide DFE from modeling SNP-specific  
103 selection coefficients with the PRF, we present ASSESS (Association Summary Statistics for

104 Estimating Selection among Sites) as a Python2 module for inferring trait-specific fitness effects  
105 from observed genome-wide allele sample frequency and GWAS summary statistic data per  
106 SNP. In this article, we introduce our likelihood-based model, represent its power and  
107 robustness through various *in silico* validations, and further illustrate its proof-of-concept with  
108 an empirical investigation. Importantly, we exhibit the ability of ASSESS to retain accuracy  
109 under several cases of model misspecification, including LD causing correlation structures  
110 within both allele count and estimated effect size input data vectors, and assumption violations  
111 of the genomic architecture. Subsequently, we demonstrate ASSESS usage on open-access  
112 GWAS datasets derived from the UK Biobank. These analyses exemplify the promising potential  
113 of ASSESS to obtain greater understanding of how natural selection regulates highly polygenic  
114 quantitative traits and disease.

## 115 **Results**



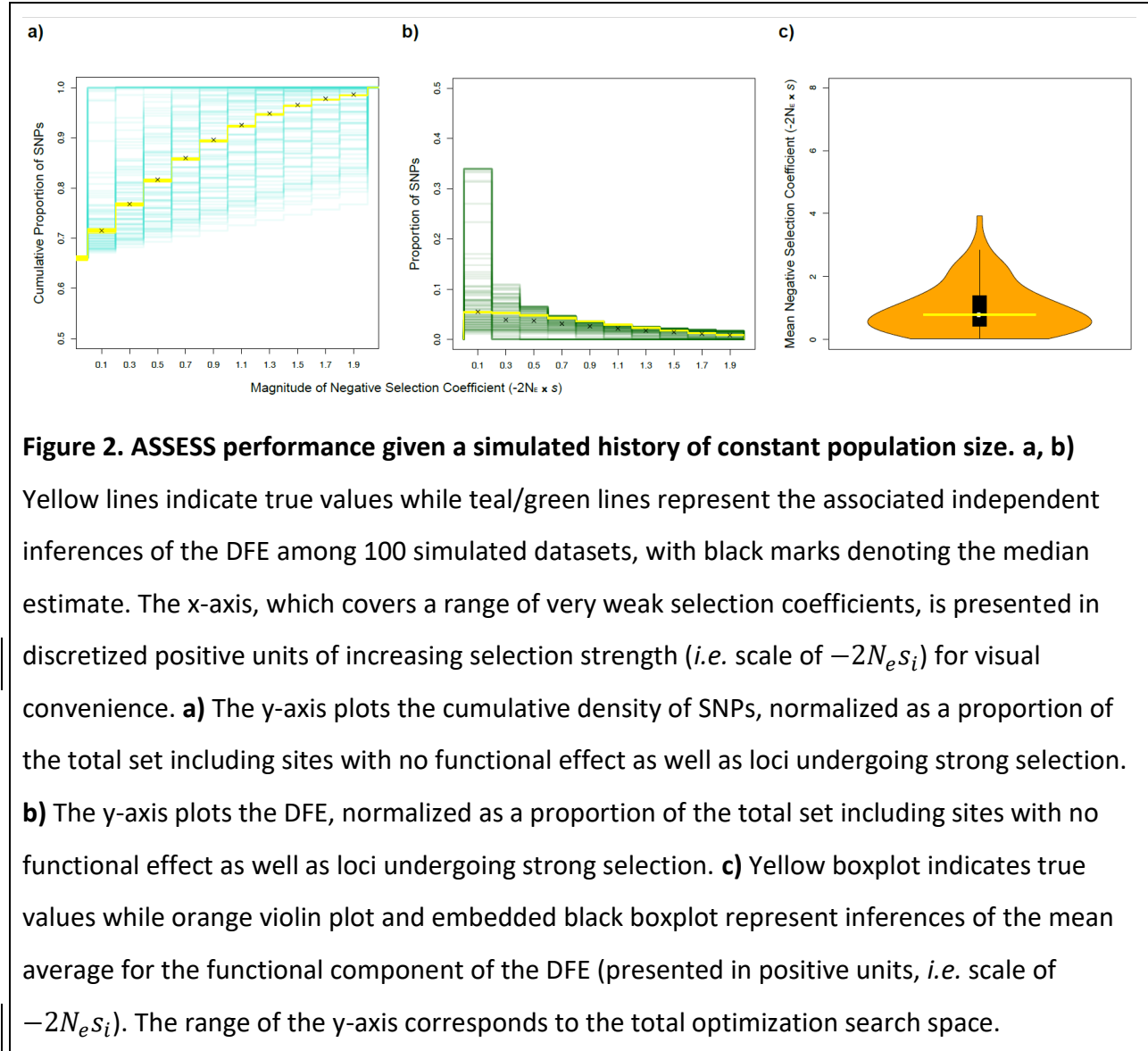
**Figure 1. Probabilistic graphical model of ASSESS inferential framework.** Free parameters of interest are in green, latent variables are in brown, and observed values are in gray (with demography “observed” in the sense that it is pre-estimated). The proportion of functional sites

is controlled by the mixture component  $\omega_0$ , with non-zero true effect sizes ( $\beta_i$ ) modeled by a normal distribution centered on zero and standard deviation parameterized by  $\sigma$ . The GWAS summary statistic  $\hat{\beta}_i$  is then, assuming a normal distribution, informed by  $\beta_i$ , which is numerically integrated, along with the GWAS-derived  $\widehat{SE}_i$ . Allele count ( $x_i$ ) is conditional on the population-scaled selection coefficient, which is converted from  $\beta_i$  via  $c$ , under the PRF with demographic specifications separately inferred against the data, generically notated here as  $\theta$ . Notably, due to the direct relationship between selection and effect size,  $c$  is irrelevant for SNPs with zero effect on the trait of interest. Additionally, usage of the PRF here allows integration of the true population-level allele frequency ( $y_i$ ).

116 **ASSESS joins population genetic theory with a quantitative model of genomic architecture to**  
117 **estimate a DFE corresponding to a complex trait (model description)**

118 ASSESS directly captures a trait-specific DFE by deploying the PRF to model selection  
119 coefficients against sample allele counts, while simultaneously leveraging GWAS summary  
120 statistics to inform  $\beta_i$ , the true effect size on a particular phenotype by an individual SNP  $i$   
121 (Figure 1). The input, which favorably is sourced from only two dataset types that generally are  
122 easily accessible, is exploited to infer three parameters: 1)  $\omega_0$ , a weighted point-mass on zero  
123 that is informed by a Laplacian prior; 2)  $\sigma$ , standard deviation for a Gaussian normal distribution  
124 with a mean of zero; and 3)  $c$ , a genome-wide constant that governs the linear relationship  
125 between the DFE and true effect size ( $2N_e s_i = c|\beta_i|$ ) [28]. The quantities of  $\omega_0$  and  $\sigma$  comprise  
126 a mixture model for  $\beta_i$  [29–31], which acts as a latent variable and thus is numerically  
127 integrated within the likelihood equation. Assuming fitness consequences are entirely  
128 dependent on the impact of a genetic site onto a trait,  $c$  is then a scalar that transforms the  
129 genome-wide distribution of  $\beta_i$  into population-scaled selection coefficients. Notably, the sign  
130 for  $c$  indicates either positive or negative selection ubiquitously among analyzed  
131 polymorphisms (*i.e.* larger phenotypic effects, regardless of directionality, translate to stronger  
132 fitness effects, which are exclusively beneficial or purifying for a given dataset); here, we focus  
133 solely on negative  $c$  following the rationale that new mutations are deleterious when stabilizing  
134 selection acts on a polygenic trait, which we perceive to be the most conventional scenario. As  
135 a result of this simplified structure for the DFE,  $\omega_0$  signifies the proportion of loci that are of

136 zero consequence to the phenotype in both functional effect and fitness, while  $\frac{\sigma \times c \times \sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{\pi}}$   
 137 represents the expected selection strength across non-neutral markers given that the  
 138 distribution of  $\beta_i$  is folded into the half-normal distribution of the DFE.



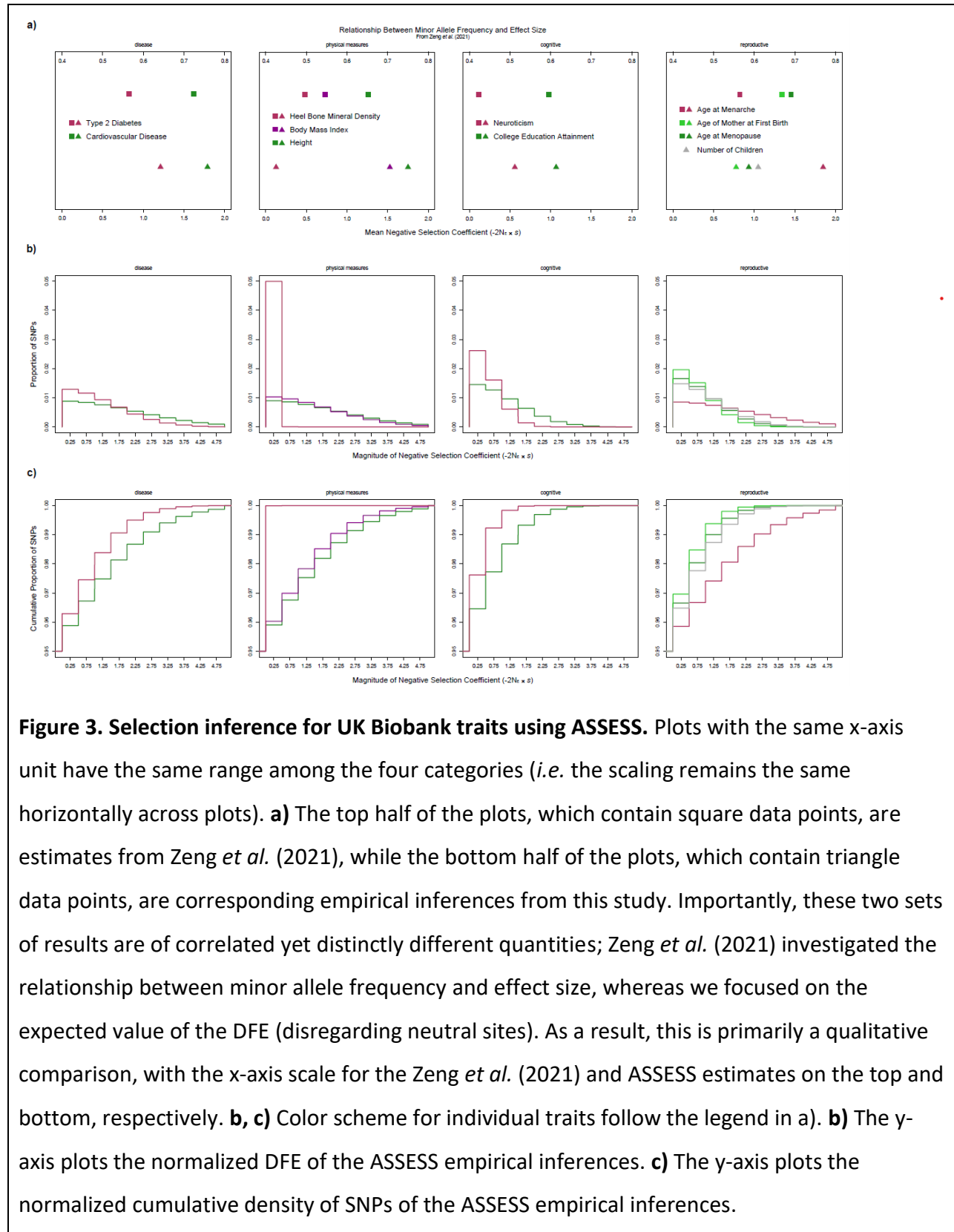
139 **ASSESS can robustly recover the true DFE**

140 To test the performance of ASSESS, we conducted *in silico* experiments against simulated DNA  
 141 sequences and GWAS summary statistics (Table S1). We find no bias in the median DFE inferred  
 142 amid 100 datasets (Figure 2). There is noticeable variance across the estimates, which is driven  
 143 especially from a few outliers. However, this is within the context of an extremely high

144 resolution in selection magnitude, *i.e.*  $|2N_e s_i| < 2.0$ , with most error occurring in the weakest  
145 bin of  $|2N_e s_i| < 0.2$ . Evaluation against additional simulation sets (Table S1) reveal that these  
146 favorable results are largely maintained regardless of: tuning parameterization (Figure S1);  
147 genomic processes such as recombination rate, mutation rate, and coefficient of allele  
148 dominance (Figure S2); sampling of individuals for both allele counts and GWAS summary  
149 statistics (Figure S3); assumption violations in how the latent true effect size is obtained (Figure  
150 S4); and single-population instantaneous size changes across three discrete epochs (Figure S5).  
151 Particularly notable is that simulations that challenge our assumption of a direct linear  
152 relationship between selection and effect size, including incurring decreased heritability and  
153 variance due to environmental effects, reflected no noticeable difference in the results (Figures  
154 S4 – S5). Likewise, uncertainty in the demographic background appeared to have no impact on  
155 the analysis (Figure S5). Together, these exercises demonstrate consistent behavior in  
156 uncovering the DFE throughout an array of conditions, suggesting the promise of ASSESS to  
157 reach valuable conclusions when exposed to real data.

#### 158 **ASSESS maintains accuracy in the face of severe genomic architecture misspecification**

159 To further challenge the robustness of ASSESS, we included a set of simulations that  
160 incorporated additional assumption violations. Specifically, the underlying distribution of effect  
161 sizes was governed by an exponential distribution rather than a Gaussian normal, which is also  
162 an additional stress to our modeling of selection and effect size (Table S1). Moreover, we  
163 performed a set of inferences wherein the informed prior on  $\omega_0$  was misspecified. This  
164 experiment yielded some bias from the deployment of the exponential distribution (Figure S6),  
165 especially in comparison to the previous efforts. However, there is no change in the median  
166 error, and the overall variance has noticeably decreased, though the minimum error has also  
167 increased (Figure S6d). Additionally, ASSESS accommodated the *a priori* inaccuracy in  $\omega_0$  in  
168 excellent fashion, with no visible difference in the estimates. This exercise, which combined a  
169 dynamic demographic history along with several ASSESS model misspecifications regarding LD,  
170 effect of selection on phenotype, and genomic architecture, provided a formidable test to  
171 demonstrate the potential utility of ASSESS for real data.



173 For our empirical application, we contextualized our empirical analysis against the estimates  
174 produced by Zeng *et al.* (2021), which we find to be the most similar implementation to ASSESS.  
175 However, though Zeng *et al.* (2021) explored a parameter correlated with fitness effects, their  
176 inferred property is nonetheless fundamentally different, thus a direct quantitative comparison  
177 is not possible. To this end, we selected two traits, specifically one under very strong selection  
178 and one under very weak selection based on the Zeng *et al.* (2021) inference, for a qualitative  
179 comparison of rank order per each of four UK Biobank trait categories. In three of the four  
180 categories, our findings are in agreement regarding which trait is under strong or weak  
181 selection (Figure 3). For the category of physical measures, we also added BMI due to its  
182 historical comparisons with height (*e.g.* [12]), and likewise found congruence with Zeng *et al.*  
183 (2021), as well as the conventional thought, in its inferred fitness effects relative to height.  
184 Hence, while a precise comparison to previously published results is difficult, this  
185 approximation via ranks nevertheless suggests general concordance.

186 To better explore the inconsistency between the two studies for the category of  
187 reproductive phenotypes, we analyzed four datasets in total; this includes number of children,  
188 which although not part of Zeng *et al.* (2021), we decided to report since it is the most direct  
189 measurement of fitness. While the relative relationship between the estimates for first birth  
190 and menopause ages are quite similar, there is a strong disparity in the inference for age at  
191 menarche. However, it is important to consider that the parameter detected by Zeng *et al.*  
192 (2021) had a moderate correlation with selection strength, thus it is not expected to exactly  
193 reproduce a ranking of selection intensities. This is especially relevant here since the  
194 uncertainty estimated for the reproductive traits were overlapping in Zeng *et al.* (2021).  
195 Additionally, their methodology intended for a much different selection regime than is  
196 operated by ASSESS, with their study targeting selection coefficients up to three orders of  
197 magnitude greater than the resolution ASSESS is best suited (*i.e.*  $|2N_e s_i| < 2.0$ ). Furthermore,  
198 the inherently complex nature of reproduction combined with its intimate ties to fitness  
199 possibly incurs greater sensitivity to methodological differences and thus produces much more  
200 variance in results. Interestingly, the fitness effects detected for number of children is quite  
201 moderate in magnitude (a very close approximation to the average among all traits), which



202 perhaps exemplifies its high dimensionality to the point of effectively representing all traits  
203 simultaneously.

## 204 **Discussion**

205 This study illustrates the potential of ASSESS to detect genome-wide selection coefficients  
206 associated with a complex polygenic trait of interest. Our *in silico* experiments demonstrate  
207 that ASSESS remains robust across a range of tuning parameterizations, data properties, and  
208 genomic architectures, including a plethora of flagrant model misspecifications. In particular,  
209 we discover that in spite of the strict linear relationship enforced between selection coefficient  
210 and effect size, ASSESS behavior is stable amid more dynamic simulation models whereby the  
211 true trait effect distribution has a likely more realistic transformation into the DFE. In particular,  
212 decreasing the genotype-phenotype correlation and level of heritability showcased the ability  
213 of ASSESS to tolerate extrinsic forces influencing trait expression. We posit that the  $2N_e s_i =$   
214  $c|\beta_i|$  relationship allows the  $c$  parameter to “absorb” various confounding factors that are not  
215 addressed by our model, thus the simple linear regression of the true selection coefficient  
216 against the true functional impact sufficiently captures the DFE from the observed data. This is  
217 perhaps supported by previous work that demonstrated decoupling between environmental  
218 effects and the DFE [32]. Moreover, this may also have assisted in resolving the differing  
219 distribution type for the effect sizes.

220 A major advantage of ASSESS is its usage of the PRF, which allows efficient computation  
221 due to its assumption of independent sites. However, this creates a major concern of the  
222 confounding effects from LD, which are inherently ignored by ASSESS due to this property of  
223 the PRF. Specifically, there are two avenues by which linkage can disrupt the underlying signal  
224 in the data: 1) the population genetic portion of the model – individual sites under selection  
225 induce an impact on allele frequencies for neighboring neutral SNPs, though negative selection  
226 should have a much less profound effect than a selective sweep signature; and 2) the genomic  
227 architecture portion of the model – non-causal genetic markers in close proximity to functional  
228 polymorphisms have an artificially inflated correlation with phenotypic values, thereby  
229 incurring error in the GWAS estimation of effect size. Fortunately, favorable conclusions from  
230 the simulation tests, all of which incorporated these two types of LD consequences, alleviate



231 this factor. This is especially exemplified in the trials that varied recombination rates across a  
232 total span of two orders of magnitude. However, the inflated variance among replicates,  
233 especially within the weakest selection bin, may indeed be from the influence of linkage; this  
234 could be less problematic though for cases wherein the proportion of functional sites is  
235 relatively low.

236       Importantly, different combinations of parameter values can conceptually produce  
237 | similar DFEs. For example, lowering  $\omega_0$  could largely offset decreasing  $\sigma$ , and likewise reducing  
238 | the intensity of the effect size architecture can be compensated by magnifying magnitudes of  $c$ .  
239 While the structure of the probabilistic model as informed by the allele counts and GWAS  
240 summary statistics should theoretically resolve these separate properties, including  
241 disentangling the effect size architecture from the DFE, the information may not be strong  
242 enough to tractably uncover these values; notably, this may be an avenue whereby LD has a  
243 particularly prominent effect. Indeed, we experienced preliminary difficulties in this regard,  
244 | hence our informed prior with respect to  $\omega_0$ . While this is less than desirable, we found that  
245 | the degrees of freedom had to be more limited, and we expect that polygenicity can be  
246 reasonably attained *a priori* for many datasets. Importantly, while individual estimates can be  
247 obtained for  $\sigma$  and  $c$ , these are probably not interpretable under the inferential framework of  
248 ASSESS due to its simplifying assumptions; as previously alluded, these parameters may be  
249 | capturing unintended signals in service of ASSESS optimizing  $2N_e s_i$ , thus are unreliable  
250 individually.

251       Interestingly, the quantity inferred by ASSESS deviates from a traditional perspective of  
252 the DFE. Our method of course has the feature of extracting a marginalized distribution, which  
253 is specified to a putative trait, from a theoretical aggregate of generalized fitness effects, which  
254 is a more commonplace construction of the DFE. Beyond this though, the modeling framework  
255 of ASSESS incurs additional atypical elements. First, whereas the target of obtaining the DFE is  
256 usually confined to a genomic subset, ASSESS is designed to be agnostic to type of genomic  
257 region and thus potentially genome-wide. However, the inference is ultimately dataset-  
258 dependent, thus wholly conditional on the site selection of the SNP chip that was used to  
259 generate GWAS data, which may not be entirely representational. Moreover, while

260 ascertainment bias from allele frequency differences can be corrected within ASSESS, the  
261 impact of fixed mutations cannot be accommodated since our approach only operates on  
262 polymorphisms. As a result, the ASSESS DFE is partial to sites presently segregating within the  
263 collected data, therefore it cannot be interpreted as completely representing the predictive  
264 probability of generating fitness effects. Notably, while this elicits an omission of stronger  
265 negative selection coefficients, the focus on extremely small fitness consequences pairs well  
266 with the resolution of the PRF (*i.e.*  $2N_e s_i < 2.0$ ). Our implementation then is able to discover a  
267 signature that can be challenging to capture on a highly polygenic scale and thereby may have  
268 been overlooked by other approaches. Interestingly, this heightened sensitivity to nuanced  
269 signals perhaps offers a compelling exploration of the genome under a more omnigenic  
270 perspective (*i.e.* one that considers contribution to a trait from a much greater mass of  
271 peripheral genes).

272 On that note, pleiotropy is another major consideration in the interpretation of our DFE.  
273 In particular, correlated traits would invoke a high overlap of the set of associated variants, thus  
274 ASSESS is potentially capturing a somewhat compounded DFE that describes several related  
275 traits. This begs the question of the exact definition of a trait, especially within the context of  
276 pleiotropy [11]. Theoretically, if the overall phenotype could be deconstructed into a suite of  
277 perfectly independent traits, then ASSESS is effectively aiming to discover the proportional  
278 contribution of each of these partitions to the absolute DFE. In practice though, traits are  
279 effectively an arbitrary artificial construction. To that end, a potentially interesting application  
280 of ASSESS then could be to compare estimated DFEs from seemingly related traits to reflect  
281 differences in pleiotropic effects. Similarly, inferences on the same trait from different  
282 populations could gain new insight for trait evolution.

283 A promising avenue to further develop this approach in a future implementation is to  
284 employ the simulation pipeline developed here coupled with a machine learning framework.  
285 This could allow a much greater level of complexity, such as incorporating pleiotropic  
286 interactions, environmental effects, positive selection with purifying selection, and temporal  
287 changes in phenotype optimum. Importantly, a simulation-based machine learning application  
288 could also possibly allow estimates of the individual parameters that define our DFE, including

289 without a prior on the proportion of functional sites. These individual quantities can be of great  
290 interest with: 1) offering insight into mutational target size; 2) disentangling scenarios of  
291 increased polygenicity of weaker selection from decreased polygenicity of stronger selection;  
292 and 3) describing the relationship between selection and genomic architecture. Regardless,  
293 ASSESS demonstrates a promising and interesting application of the PRF to leverage GWAS  
294 summary statistics in a convenient and efficient manner for illuminating the genomic  
295 architecture of complex traits.

## 296 **Methods**

### 297 **Likelihood-based Model**

298 The baseline framework is a straightforward combination of the PRF for frequency changes of  
299 biallelic polymorphisms in response to selection and drift [23,24] and a sparse linear model for  
300 a complex trait that has been widely used in quantitative genetics [29–31] (Figure 1). These two  
301 components are linked by an assumed functional relationship between each site’s population-  
302 scaled selection coefficient,  $S_i = 2N_e s_i$ , and the corresponding true effect size,  
303  $\beta_i$ :  $S_i = f(\beta_i; c) = c|\beta_i|$ , wherein  $c$  is a free parameter that controls the scale of the linear  
304 relationship [28].

305 For the observed allele count,  $x_i$ , we deploy a standard PRF model that fits  $S_i$   
306 conditional on a pre-estimated single-population demographic history with instantaneous  
307 change among discrete epochs of constant size. This approach implies binomial sampling of  $x_i$   
308 given a true population-level allele frequency  $y_i$ , which is integrated over. For the purposes of  
309 this paper, however, we treat the calculation of the PRF density function:

$$310 \quad (1) \quad Q(x_i | \beta_i, c) = \int P(x_i | y_i) P(y_i | S_i = f(\beta_i; c) = c|\beta_i|) dy_i,$$

311 as a “black box” and execute it numerically given a discretization of 1,000 grid points using code  
312 borrowed from LASSIE [27]. For every possible  $x_i$  value, the density function  $Q(x_i | \beta_i, c)$  is  
313 solved over a fine grid of  $\beta_i$  values and subsequently obtained by a table lookup per SNP.  
314 Notably, this calculation of  $Q(x_i | \beta_i, c)$  allows for controlling uncertainty in the ancestral allele,  
315 akin to LASSIE. To address missing data, sampling level can subsequently be down-projected  
316 through the hypergeometric distribution [33,34].

317 To account for the GWAS process, we suppose that the resulting estimated effect size,  
 318  $\hat{\beta}_i$ , represents sampling from a Gaussian normal distribution whose mean equals the true value  
 319  $\beta_i$  [13,30,35] with standard deviation given by the estimated standard error,  $\widehat{SE}_i$ :

$$320 \quad (2) \quad P(\hat{\beta}_i | \beta_i, \widehat{SE}_i) = N(\hat{\beta}_i | \beta_i \times \delta_i, \widehat{SE}_i^2),$$

321 wherein  $\delta_i$  is the standard deviation for the number of alternative alleles per sample in the case  
 322 that  $\hat{\beta}_i$  and  $\widehat{SE}_i$  were obtained from standardized genotypes and thus  $\beta_i$  needs to be scaled  
 323 proportionally ( $\delta_i$  defaults to a value of 1 otherwise). We further employ a sparsity-inducing  
 324 “spike and slab” prior distribution for the true  $\beta_i$ , with a mixture coefficient for the weighted  
 325 point-mass at zero,  $\omega_0$ , and variance,  $\sigma^2$ , for the zero-centered Gaussian normal component:

$$326 \quad (3) \quad P(\beta_i | \omega_0, \sigma) = \omega_0 I(\beta_i = 0) + (1 - \omega_0) N(\beta_i | 0, \sigma^2) I(\beta_i \neq 0),$$

327 wherein  $I$  denotes an indicator function.

328 Combining these equations and assuming conditional independence of the population  
 329 genetic data ( $x_i$ ), as in most applications of the PRF, as well as the quantitative genetic data  
 330 (represented by the GWAS summary statistics  $\hat{\beta}_i$  and  $\widehat{SE}_i$ ) given the true value of  $\beta_i$ , we obtain  
 331 the likelihood function at a single locus  $i$ :

$$332 \quad (4) \quad L_i(\omega_0, \sigma, c; x_i, \hat{\beta}_i, \widehat{SE}_i) = P(x_i, \hat{\beta}_i | \omega_0, \sigma, c, \widehat{SE}_i) \\
 = \int P(\beta_i | \omega_0, \sigma) P(\hat{\beta}_i | \beta_i, \widehat{SE}_i) Q(x_i | \beta_i, c) d\beta_i \\
 = \int \left[ \omega_0 N(\hat{\beta}_i | \beta_i = 0, \widehat{SE}_i^2) Q(x_i | \beta_i = 0, c) \right. \\
 \quad \left. + (1 - \omega_0) N(\beta_i | 0, \sigma^2) N(\hat{\beta}_i | \beta_i, \widehat{SE}_i^2) Q(x_i | \beta_i, c) \right] d\beta_i \\
 = \omega_0 N(\hat{\beta}_i | \beta_i = 0, \widehat{SE}_i^2) Q(x_i | \beta_i = 0, c) \\
 \quad + (1 - \omega_0) \int N(\beta_i | 0, \sigma^2) N(\hat{\beta}_i | \beta_i, \widehat{SE}_i^2) Q(x_i | \beta_i, c) d\beta_i.$$

333 We approximate the integral over  $\beta_i$  numerically using the Gauss-Legendre quadrature rule,  
334 with nodes and weights scaled by  $3 \times \sigma$ . A genome-wide set of  $n$  markers, whereby  $x = \{x_i\}$   
335 corresponds with  $\hat{\beta} = \{\hat{\beta}_i\}$  and  $\widehat{SE} = \{\widehat{SE}_i\}$ , then yields the full likelihood function:

336 (5) 
$$L(\omega_0, \sigma, c; x, \hat{\beta}, \widehat{SE}) = \prod_{i=1}^n L_i(\omega_0, \sigma, c; x_i, \hat{\beta}_i, \widehat{SE}_i).$$

337 Therefore, the likelihood function has three total free parameters, two of which ( $\omega_0$  and  $\sigma$ )  
338 define the prior distribution over the true effect size, and the third of which ( $c$ ) defines the  
339 scale of the relationship between the true effect size and selection coefficient.

340 The commonly utilized platform to procure the genotypes considered in GWAS is the  
341 SNP chip, which tends to overrepresent variants segregating at higher minor allele frequency.  
342 Such ascertainment bias could be even further exacerbated by the SNP calling protocol or  
343 discordance in population structure between the samples informing the SNP chip design and  
344 GWAS individuals. To accommodate this, we make use of an importance weighting strategy.  
345 Here,  $p(x)$  represents the target distribution of relative frequencies over all possible minor  
346 allele counts given a reference panel, which for our empirical application is represented by  
347 complete genome sequences. Moreover,  $q(x)$  represents the distribution of all possible minor  
348 allele counts for loci present within the GWAS data, upon which we are forced to operate  
349 despite our desire to exploit  $p(x)$  since our model depends on summary statistics.  
350 Nevertheless, we can estimate the expected value for any function of interest,  $f(x)$ , under the  
351 target distribution:

352 (6) 
$$E[f(x)] \approx \sum_{i=1}^n f(x_i) \times \frac{p(x_i)}{q(x_i)} = \sum_{i=1}^n w_i \times f(x_i),$$

353 wherein  $w_i = \frac{p(x_i)}{q(x_i)}$  is derived for each possible minor allele count prior to optimization.

354 Therefore, casting the per-site log likelihood as  $f(x_i)$ , we obtain:

355 (7) 
$$\log L_p(\omega_0, \sigma, c; x, \hat{\beta}, \widehat{SE}) \approx \sum_{i=1}^n w_i \times \log L_i(\omega_0, \sigma, c; x_i, \hat{\beta}_i, \widehat{SE}_i),$$

356 with  $w_i$  down-projected through the hypergeometric distribution in cases of incomplete  
357 individual sampling, as done for  $Q(x_i | \beta_i, c)$ .

### 358 Expectation-Maximization (EM) Algorithm

359 In the presence of observed values from  $\beta$ , the complete-data log likelihood function (CLL) for  
 360 the baseline model can be expressed in terms of two sufficient statistics,  $S_0$  and  $T^2$ :

361 (8)  $\log P(x, \beta, \hat{\beta}; \omega_0, \sigma, c, \widehat{SE})$

$$= S_0 \log \omega_0 + (n - S_0) \log(1 - \omega_0) - (n - S_0) \log \sigma - \frac{T^2}{2\sigma^2} + \sum_{i=1}^n \log Q(x_i | \beta_i, c) + Z,$$

362 wherein  $Z$  is a quantity that does not depend on the free parameters.  $S_0$  represents the  
 363 number of SNPs with effect sizes exactly equal to zero and  $T^2$  represents the sum of squares for  
 364 the  $\beta_i$  values:

365 (9)  $S_0 = \sum_{i=1}^n I(\beta_i = 0); \quad T^2 = \sum_{i=1}^n \beta_i^2.$

366 In this complete-data case, simple closed-form expressions are derived for maximum  
 367 likelihood estimates (MLEs) of  $\omega_0$  and  $\sigma^2$ :

368 (10)  $\widehat{\omega}_0 = \frac{S_0}{n}; \quad \widehat{\sigma}^2 = \frac{T^2}{n - S_0}.$

369 To curb potential identifiability issues stemming from the trade-off between these free  
 370 parameters of our DFE construction, we deploy a Laplacian prior distribution on  $\log \omega_0$ :

371 (11)  $\omega_0 \propto e^{-|\log(\omega_0 - a)|/b},$

372 wherein  $a$  is the *a priori* expected value of  $\log \omega_0$  and  $b$  is a scale parameter positively related  
 373 to the variance of  $\log \omega_0$ . This then transforms the CLL:

374 (12)  $\log P(x, \beta, \hat{\beta}; \omega_0, \sigma, c, \widehat{SE})$

$$= S_0 \log \omega_0 + (n - S_0) \log(1 - \omega_0) - (n - S_0) \log \sigma - \frac{T^2}{2\sigma^2} + \sum_{i=1}^n \log Q(x_i | \beta_i, c)$$

$$- B |\log(\omega_0 - a)| + Z,$$

375 wherein  $B = \frac{1}{b}$ , which acts as a penalty in log space for departure from  $a$ .

376 In the usual way, an EM algorithm can be obtained by iteratively computing expected  
 377 values of  $S_0$  and  $T^2$  (E step) and selecting values of  $\omega_0$  and  $\sigma^2$  that maximize the expected CLL  
 378 (M step). To achieve the expected values, Bayes' rule is applied at each site:

$$379 \quad (13) \quad \langle S_{0,i} \rangle = \frac{\omega_0 N(\hat{\beta}_i | \beta_i=0, \widehat{SE}_i^2) Q(x_i | \beta_i=0, c)}{P(x_i, \hat{\beta}_i | \omega_0, \sigma, c, \widehat{SE}_i)};$$

$$380 \quad \langle T^2_i \rangle = \frac{(1-\omega_0) \int \beta_i^2 N(\beta_i | 0, \sigma^2) N(\hat{\beta}_i | \beta_i, \widehat{SE}_i^2) Q(x_i | \beta_i, c) d\beta_i}{P(x_i, \hat{\beta}_i | \omega_0, \sigma, c, \widehat{SE}_i)},$$

381 with all sites subsequently summed, such that  $\langle S_0 \rangle = \sum_{i=1}^n \langle S_{0,i} \rangle$  and  $\langle T^2 \rangle = \sum_{i=1}^n \langle T^2_i \rangle$ ; notably,  
 382 the denominators here simply represent the per-site likelihood. For the MLE of  $\omega_0$ , due to our  
 383 Laplacian prior, a modification must be employed in the following two cases:

$$384 \quad (14) \quad \widehat{\omega}_0 = \frac{S_0 - B}{n - B} \text{ when } \log \omega_0 > a \quad \text{and} \quad \widehat{\omega}_0 = \frac{S_0 + B}{n + B} \text{ when } \log \omega_0 < a$$

385 With all three calculations of  $\widehat{\omega}_0$  being potential maxima, given that  $B > 0$ , then  $\frac{S_0 - B}{n - B} < \frac{S_0}{n} <$

386  $\frac{S_0 + B}{n + B}$  and therefore the global maximum is:  $\frac{S_0 - B}{n - B}$  when  $\log\left(\frac{S_0 - B}{n - B}\right) > a$ ;  $\frac{S_0}{n}$  when  $\log\left(\frac{S_0}{n}\right) = a$ ;

387  $\frac{S_0 + B}{n + B}$  when  $\log\left(\frac{S_0 - B}{n - B}\right) < a$ ; or whichever form of  $\widehat{\omega}_0$  maximizes  $\log L_p(\omega_0, \sigma, c, \alpha_0, \lambda; x, \hat{\beta}, \widehat{SE})$

388 when the previous three conditions are not met. For implementation purposes, calculated  
 389 values are forced to user-defined bounds when these are exceeded (typically  $0.0 < \omega_0 < 1.0$ ).

390 To produce a MLE of  $c$ , which requires a numerical method, an update at each EM iteration is  
 391 accomplished simply by a single step of gradient ascent, leading to a “generalized” EM  
 392 algorithm.

### 393 ***In Silico* Experiments**

394 To simulate test datasets, we developed a pipeline that exploits the software packages SLiM3  
 395 [36], msPrime [37], and simGWAS [38] to respectively generate DNA sequences, an initialized  
 396 stable state of panmixia wherein only genetic drift occurs, and summary statistics. Specifically,  
 397 SLiM3 simulated  $y_i$  values given a single-population history of either equilibrium or  
 398 instantaneous size change across three epochs. For computational tractability, recombination  
 399 and mutation rates were respectively set to  $1.5e - 7$  and  $1.25e - 7$  (excepting certain trials  
 400 wherein one of these genomic properties was evaluated), which is one order of magnitude

401 greater than accepted values for humans [39], with population size and temporal parameters  
402 correspondingly downscaled one order of magnitude from values relevant to human  
403 demography. Additionally, the coefficient of dominance equaled 0.5 for both neutral and  
404 selected alleles, barring individual tests wherein different values were tested (Figure S2; Table  
405 S1). To procure selection coefficients, which are specified as individual-level rates in SLiM3  
406 versus population-scaled for ASSESS, draws were made from our “spike and slab” prior (except  
407 | our single experiment utilizing an exponential distribution; Figure S6) assuming  $s_i = \frac{c|\beta_i|}{2N_e}$  with  
408 | the three free parameters pre-defined (Table S1) as well as  $N_e = 1,000$  due to the  
409 | aforementioned downscaling from human demography. Importantly for the three-epoch  
410 | scenario, the true value for the population-scaled DFE (along with  $\sigma$  and  $c$ , regardless of  
411 | generating value) is obscured since  $s_i$  is conditional on this reference  $N_e$  scalar, which  
412 | represents a coarse approximation because of mutations randomly emerge throughout  
413 | population size shifts over time. To address this,  $S_i$  was calculated from equally weighting  $N_0$   
414 | with the harmonic mean size during the trajectory of demographic change, hence creating a  
415 | known DFE in the unit consistent with ASSESS estimates. For runtime efficiency, a single shared  
416 | pool of 10,000 independent sequences equal in length was curated per experimental group  
417 | (Table S1), from which there was a random subset of 1,000 to construct each of the 100  
418 | individual constituent datasets.

419         Afterward, msPrime recapitated neutral mutations segregating within a stable-size  
420 | panmictic population prior to the emergence of a selected trait, thus allowing SLiM3 to  
421 | efficiently bypass an incredibly long and resource-intensive burn-in period. With a complete  
422 | genomic segment of population-level frequencies established, 100 diploid individuals  
423 | (notwithstanding examinations of other sampling levels; Figure S3; Table S1) were randomly  
424 | chosen to elicit  $x_i$  values, with monomorphisms pruned from the data and derived states  
425 | beyond the oldest allele present coded the same so as to follow infinite sites. Notably, this  
426 | simulation effort caused  $\omega_0$ ,  $\sigma$ , and  $n$  to be governed stochastically, and in fact in a directional  
427 | fashion from the *a priori* input values due to selection intensities eliciting differential fixation  
428 | rates (*i.e.* mutations with stronger negative selection are more likely to be lost, thus inflating



429 |  $\omega_0$  and deflating  $\sigma$ ;  $\omega_0$  also drastically increases simply from the neutral sites introduced by  
430 | this recapitation procedure). Consequently, true values could only be retrieved *post-hoc*.

431 |         Values for  $\beta_i$  were then calculated under two alternative models for the relationship  
432 | between selection and effect size (Figures S4 – S6; Table S1), yielding two distinct datasets  
433 | (though sharing identical allele count data). The first is based on the BayesS method, wherein  $\beta_i$   
434 | is calculated from the population-level allele frequency and this correlation is parameterized,  
435 | thereby phenotypic contributions are naïve to selection coefficients (at least explicitly) but  
436 | account for an environmental role [12]. Here, we simplified two of the parameters to be more  
437 | aligned with ASSESS for the purpose of simulation efficiency: 1) the relationship between the  
438 | variance of SNP effects and allele frequency was fixed to a constant specified *a priori* rather  
439 | than randomly drawn per site, akin to the parameterization of gene-trait association from [40];  
440 | and 2) the common variance factor was set to a value such that the variance for the Gaussian  
441 | component, given the mean of allele counts for markers under selection throughout the  
442 | dataset, was equal to our *a priori* specification for  $\sigma^2$ . The second strategy follows the seminal  
443 | framework presented in [40] as modified by [41], wherein  $\beta_i$  derives from a more complex  
444 | process that also incorporates heritability alongside all the variables already utilized in ASSESS  
445 | and BayesS (*i.e.* fitness, allele frequency, and coupling between genetic variation and trait  
446 | value). Notably, neither of these permit an exact equivalency for  $c$ , and likewise incur a  
447 | different interpretation for  $\sigma$ , due to assumption differences from ASSESS (which are further  
448 | exacerbated by linkage).

449 |         The final stage of this procedure involved simGWAS assigning summary statistics  
450 | conditional on  $\beta$ ,  $x$ , and GWAS sample size specifications (Table S1). Importantly, this approach  
451 | | considers covariance effects on  $\hat{\beta}_i$  between adjacent loci, thus accounting for the influence of  
452 | LD on the GWAS estimation process. However, this entailed computational restrictions, which  
453 | was resolved by employing a sliding window with internal boundaries at every fourth  
454 | polymorphism under selection from the first (*e.g.* 5<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, etc.) up to the penultimate  
455 | selected site per chromosomal segment. This paradigm allowed for overlapping sections, the  
456 | absence of which would omit linkage dynamics at the edges, with at least two and up to five  
457 | markers with functional effect for each simGWAS run.

## 458 **Empirical Application**

459 Allele counts were retrieved from the 1000 Genomes phase 3 release while GWAS summary  
460 statistics, which were derived from the UK Biobank, were obtained from the lab website of  
461 Alkes Price [42]. This manner of data collection from two separate sources, wherein sample  
462 frequencies that are likely omitted from the GWAS study can instead be leveraged at higher  
463 resolution from an open-source repository containing many anonymized individuals across the  
464 whole genome, is what we envision to be most typical case. Given the drastic difference in  
465 amount of sites, non-intersecting loci between the two sets were culled and the discarded  
466 allele counts were used as part of the data for *a priori* demographic inference, a default feature  
467 of ASSESS. Notably, this independence in the data vector curation is not explicitly accounted for  
468 by the likelihood function, but this ought to be a rather minor consideration as long as the two  
469 data sources match in reference population.

## 470 **ASSESS Specifications**

471 When implementing ASSESS, the underlying demography was correctly specified for all  
472 simulated scenarios apart from the single instance that explicitly investigated uncertainty in  
473 single-population size change history (Figure S5). Here, as well as for the entirety of the  
474 empirical application, epoch length (in units of 10,000 intervals with temporal length  $1e - 4$ )  
475 | and relative  $N_E$  parameters were pre-estimated with a three-epoch instantaneous size change  
476 | model utilizing LASSIE's PRF implementation as called by ASSESS. This was executed against  
477 SNPs without GWAS summary statistics combined with polymorphisms within the lowest 10%  
478 | quantile of  $|\hat{\beta}_i|$  values. Aside from the *in silico* tests that directly stressed one of the following  
479 | listed variables (Figure S1; Table S1), the tuning details for every inferential undertaking were as  
480 follows: search range for  $\sigma$  set automatically to  $\frac{1}{4}$  a  $\log_{10}$  unit below and  $\frac{3}{4}$  a  $\log_{10}$  unit above  
481 | the standard deviation of  $\hat{\beta}$  (the rationale for skewing the distribution higher in value is that a  
482 | significant proportion of lower value  $\hat{\beta}$  is expected to be captured by  $\omega_0$ ); search range for  $c$   
483 | confined by the negative inverse of the upper bound for  $\sigma$  and 0.0 (thus the upper bound for  
484 the standard deviation of the functional component of the DFE, if it were hypothetically an  
485 unfolded normal distribution, is 1.0); 41 nodes symmetrically centered at zero, as governed by

486 | the Gauss-Legendre quadrature rule, for numerical integration of  $\beta_i$ ; step size scalar of  
487 |  $1.0e - 06$  for gradient ascent of  $c$ ; tolerance level of  $2.220446049250313e - 09$ , for which  
488 | when improvement of  $\log \mathcal{L}$  is not greater than, optimization concludes and parameter values  
489 | are estimated according to the local optimum; 50 maximum iterations of calculating  $\log \mathcal{L}$  for  
490 | simulated data, and 10 maximum iterations of calculating  $\log \mathcal{L}$  for empirical data, at which  
491 | point optimization concludes and parameter values are estimated according to the local  
492 | optimum; and 5 independent replicates of optimization cycles to approach a global maximum.  
493 | For the simulation experiments, the Laplacian prior expected value for  $\omega_0$  was always set to the  
494 | correct value except for the single instance that tested this assumption (Figure S6; Table S1); for  
495 | the empirical application, this was set to 0.95 in the interest of approximating the polygenicity  
496 | detected from Zeng et al. (2021).

497 **Figure Legend**

498 **Figure 1. Probabilistic graphical model of ASSESS inferential framework.** Free parameters of  
499 interest are in green, latent variables are in brown, and observed values are in gray (with  
500 demography “observed” in the sense that it is pre-estimated). The proportion of functional sites  
501 is controlled by the mixture component  $\omega_0$ , with non-zero true effect sizes ( $\beta_i$ ) modeled by a  
502 normal distribution centered on zero and standard deviation parameterized by  $\sigma$ . The GWAS  
503 summary statistic  $\hat{\beta}_i$  is then, assuming a normal distribution, informed by  $\beta_i$ , which is  
504 numerically integrated, along with the GWAS-derived  $\widehat{SE}_i$ . Allele count ( $x_i$ ) is conditional on the  
505 population-scaled selection coefficient, which is converted from  $\beta_i$  via  $c$ , under the PRF with  
506 demographic specifications separately inferred against the data, generically notated here as  $\theta$ .  
507 Notably, due to the direct relationship between selection and effect size,  $c$  is irrelevant for SNPs  
508 with zero effect on the trait of interest. Additionally, usage of the PRF here allows integration of  
509 the true population-level allele frequency ( $y_i$ ).

510 **Figure 2. ASSESS performance given a simulated history of constant population size. a, b)**

511 Yellow lines indicate true values while teal/green lines represent the associated independent  
512 inferences of the DFE among 100 simulated datasets, with black marks denoting the median  
513 estimate. The x-axis, which covers a range of very weak selection coefficients, is presented in  
514 discretized positive units of increasing selection strength (*i.e.* scale of  $-2N_e s_i$ ) for visual  
515 convenience. **a)** The y-axis plots the cumulative density of SNPs, normalized as a proportion of  
516 the total set including sites with no functional effect as well as loci undergoing strong selection.  
517 **b)** The y-axis plots the DFE, normalized as a proportion of the total set including sites with no  
518 functional effect as well as loci undergoing strong selection. **c)** Yellow boxplot indicates true  
519 values while orange violin plot and embedded black boxplot represent inferences of the mean  
520 average for the functional component of the DFE (presented in positive units, *i.e.* scale of  
521  $-2N_e s_i$ ). The range of the y-axis corresponds to the total optimization search space.

522 **Figure 3. Selection inference for UK Biobank traits using ASSESS.** Plots with the same x-axis  
523 unit have the same range among the four categories (*i.e.* the scaling remains the same  
524 horizontally across plots). **a)** The top half of the plots, which contain square data points, are

525 estimates from Zeng *et al.* (2021), while the bottom half of the plots, which contain triangle  
526 data points, are corresponding empirical inferences from this study. Importantly, these two sets  
527 of results are of correlated yet distinctly different quantities; Zeng *et al.* (2021) investigated the  
528 relationship between minor allele frequency and effect size, whereas we focused on the  
529 expected value of the DFE (disregarding neutral sites). As a result, this is primarily a qualitative  
530 comparison, with the x-axis scale for the Zeng *et al.* (2021) and ASSESS estimates on the top and  
531 bottom, respectively. **b, c)** Color scheme for individual traits follow the legend in a). **b)** The y-  
532 axis plots the normalized DFE of the ASSESS empirical inferences. **c)** The y-axis plots the  
533 normalized cumulative density of SNPs of the ASSESS empirical inferences.

534 **Figure S1. ASSESS performance across a range of optimization tuning parameterizations.** The  
535 pictorial representation follows the same legend/structure as Figure 2. **d)** Blue violin plot and  
536 embedded black boxplot represent the Euclidean distance between estimated and true DFE, a  
537 goodness-of-fit metric that allows differences in overall sensitivity to be easily observed. The  
538 inferential application from Figure 2 is placed here as well for comparison.

539 **Figure S2. ASSESS performance across a range of genomic parameterizations.** The pictorial  
540 representation follows the same legend/structure as Figure S1.

541 **Figure S3. ASSESS performance across a range of sampling regimes.** The pictorial  
542 representation follows the same legend/structure as Figure S1.

543 **Figure S4. ASSESS performance across SNP effect parameterizations.** Importantly, the  
544 alternative simulation model included here is much more highly parameterized and thus better  
545 accommodates realistic data. Moreover, added here are further analyses that varied generating  
546 values conferring a non-genetic impact, *i.e.* degree of heritability and extent that allele  
547 frequency corresponds to phenotype (Table S1). The continued success accomplished here  
548 validates ASSESS being agnostic to environmental effects and generally robust to model  
549 misspecification. The pictorial representation follows the same legend/structure as Figure S1. **e)**  
550 Yellow violin plot represents the distribution for simulated genome-wide estimated effect sizes,  
551 which includes non-functional loci. The x-axis is presented in discretized absolute value units,  
552 while the y-axis plots the proportion of SNPs from the total set of sites. Importantly, the

553 disparity between the plots, particularly the distinctive distribution shapes on substantially  
554 different x-axis scales, depicts integrally different underlying functional relationships between  
555 selection and functional effect, providing a strong testing ground for ASSESS assumption  
556 violations.

557 **Figure S5. ASSESS performance given a simulated history of size change.** Importantly, in  
558 addition to employing a scenario of demographic shifts, this dataset also utilized alternative  
559 DFE parameter values (notably at a decreased overall intensity) and GWAS sampling levels  
560 (Table S1). Estimates were performed under both the original and alternative simulation  
561 models. Moreover, included here is an additional inferential effort wherein demography was  
562 not correctly configured and instead pre-estimated from a subset of the data. Notably, due to  
563 differences in parameterizing the selection coefficient between ASSESS and the simulator  
564 (population-scaled versus rate, respectively), there was ambiguity over how to reconcile  
565 estimates with true values against a non-equilibrium population size, hence previous simulation  
566 experiments utilizing a constant size to avoid this artifact. An explanation regarding how the  
567 population size scaling factor was derived is in the Methods. The pictorial representation  
568 follows the same legend/structure as Figure S1. **e)** This is the assumed demographic model  
569 prior to rescaling, with units in diploid individuals and number of generations. \* The first epoch  
570 is generically set to 100 generations after rescaling, with a deeper neutral coalescent history  
571 accommodated by msPrime recapitation. To compare, the constant size history assumed  
572 10,000 diploid individuals for 5,000 generations prior to rescaling and recapitation.

573 **Figure S6. ASSESS robustness given misspecification of the DFE.** This investigation, which  
574 utilized the demographic history of fluctuating population size as previously employed,  
575 challenged the genomic architecture underlying ASSESS by governing the simulated selection  
576 coefficients with an exponential distribution (Table S1). Estimates were performed under both  
577 the original and alternative simulation models, which (especially with the latter case) in  
578 conjunction with the altered distribution type, also violates the ASSESS assumption of a linear  
579 functional relationship between effect sizes and the DFE. Furthermore, inferences were  
580 additionally made with an incorrect prior for the point mass on zero. The pictorial  
581 representation follows the same legend/structure as Figure S1.

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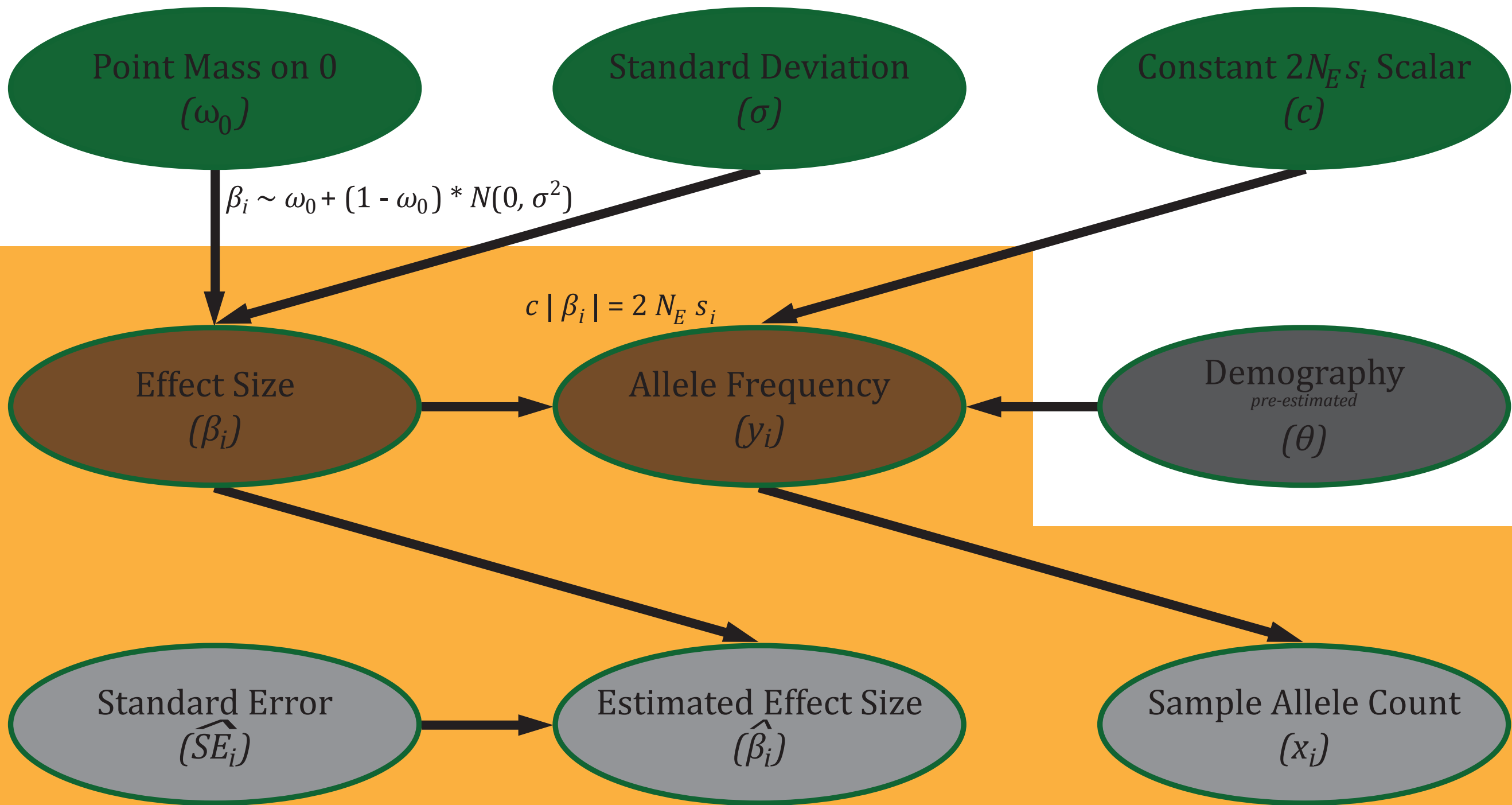
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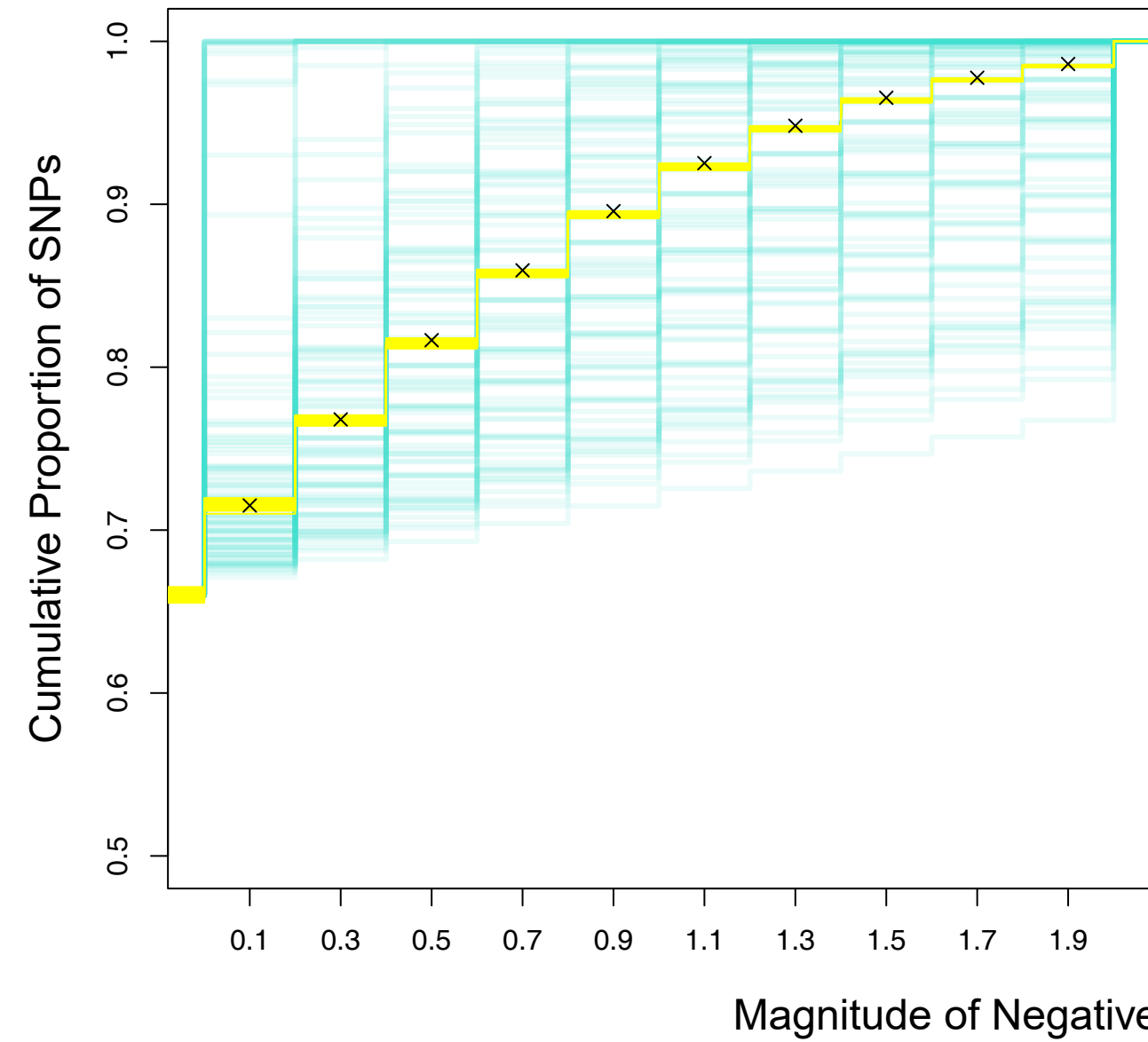
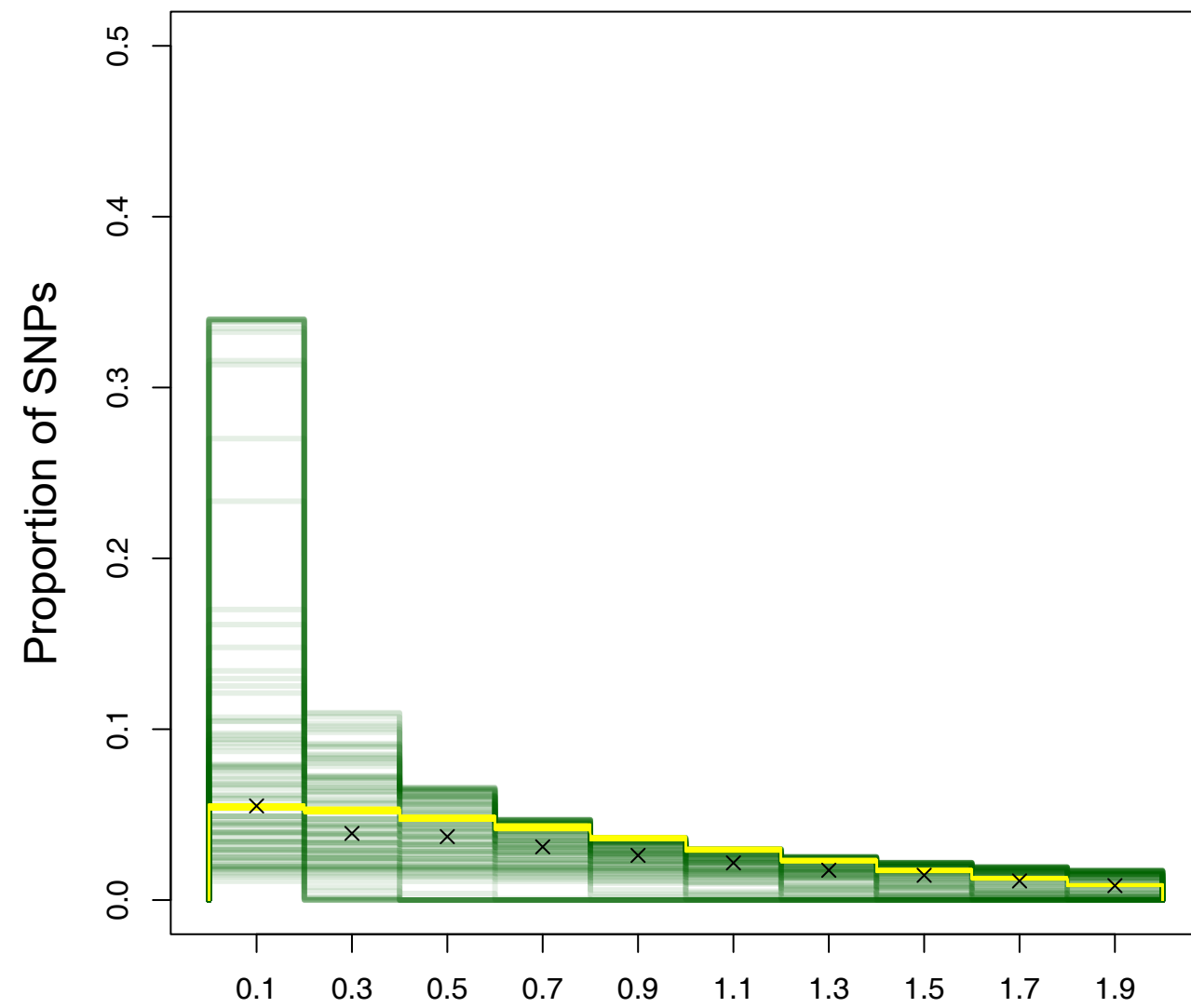
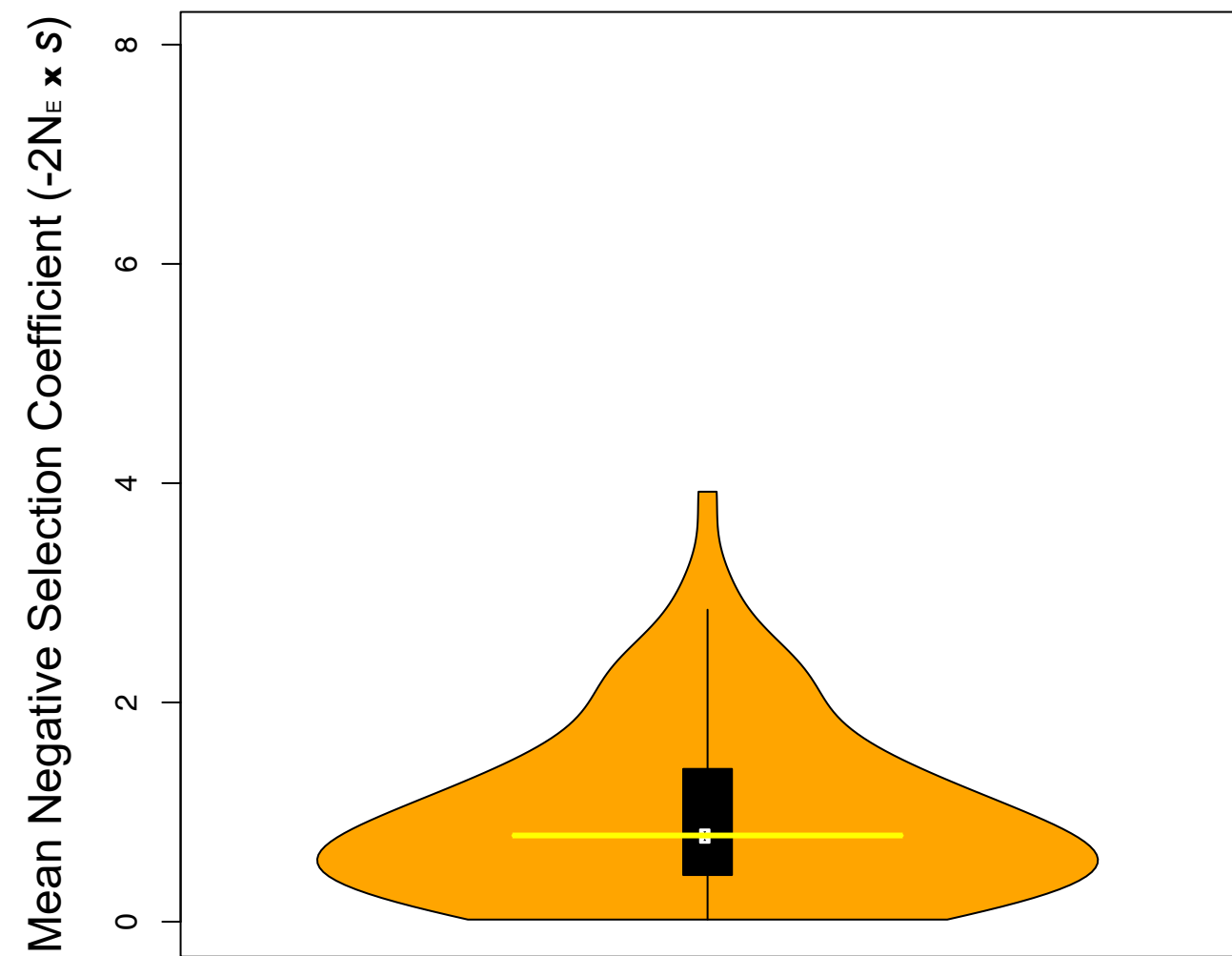
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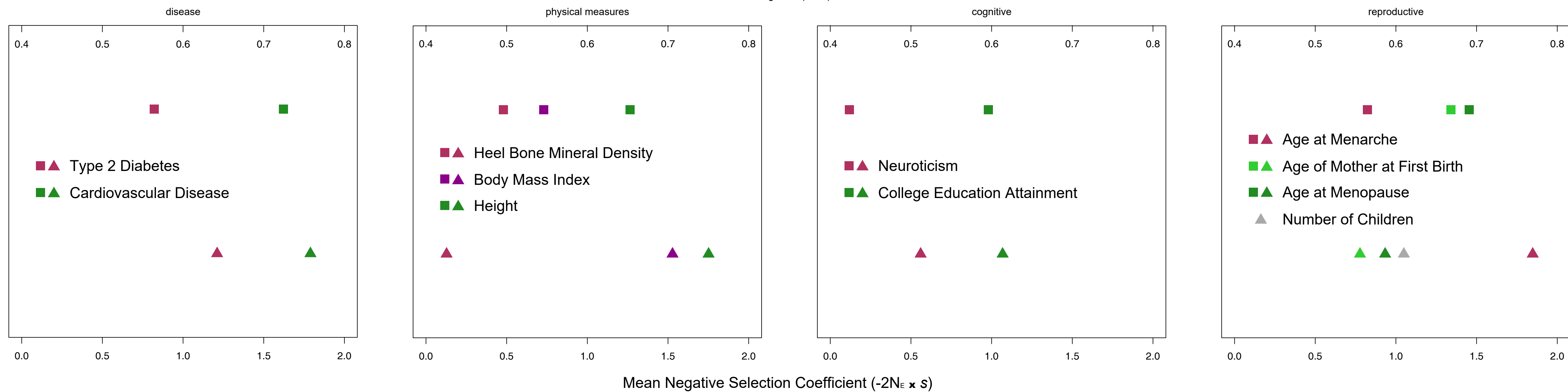




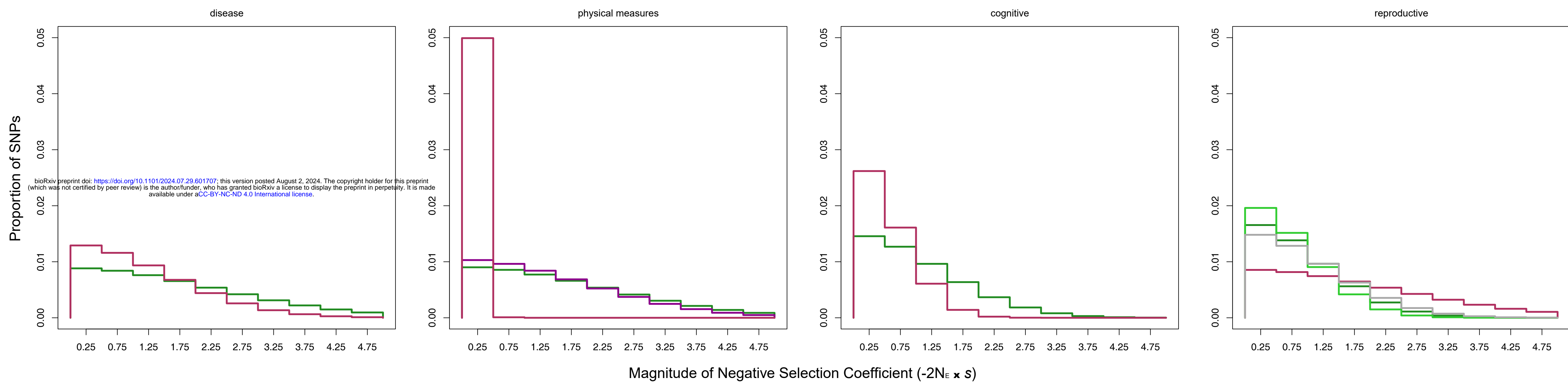
**a)****b)****c)**

a)

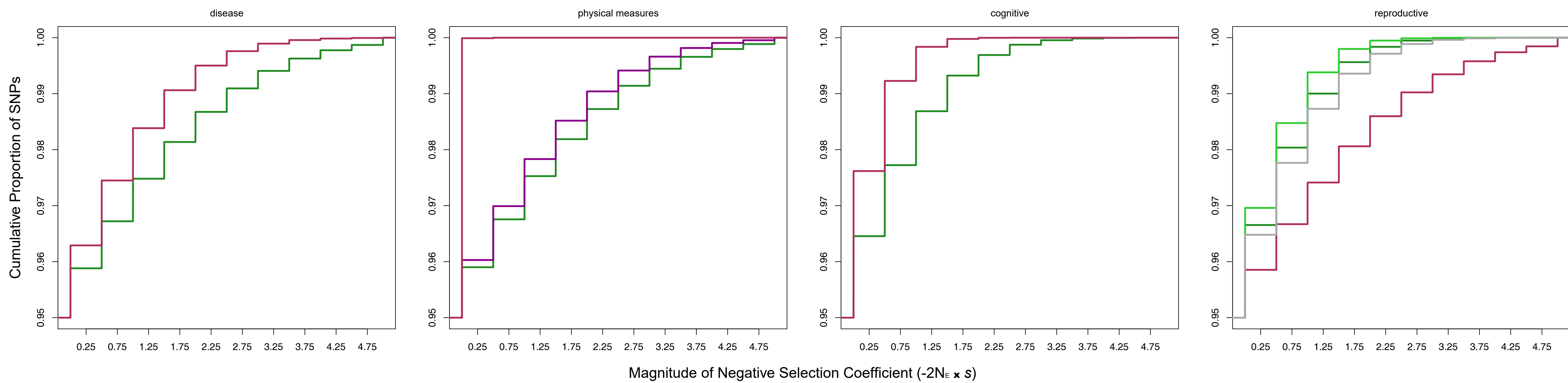
## Relationship Between Minor Allele Frequency and Effect Size

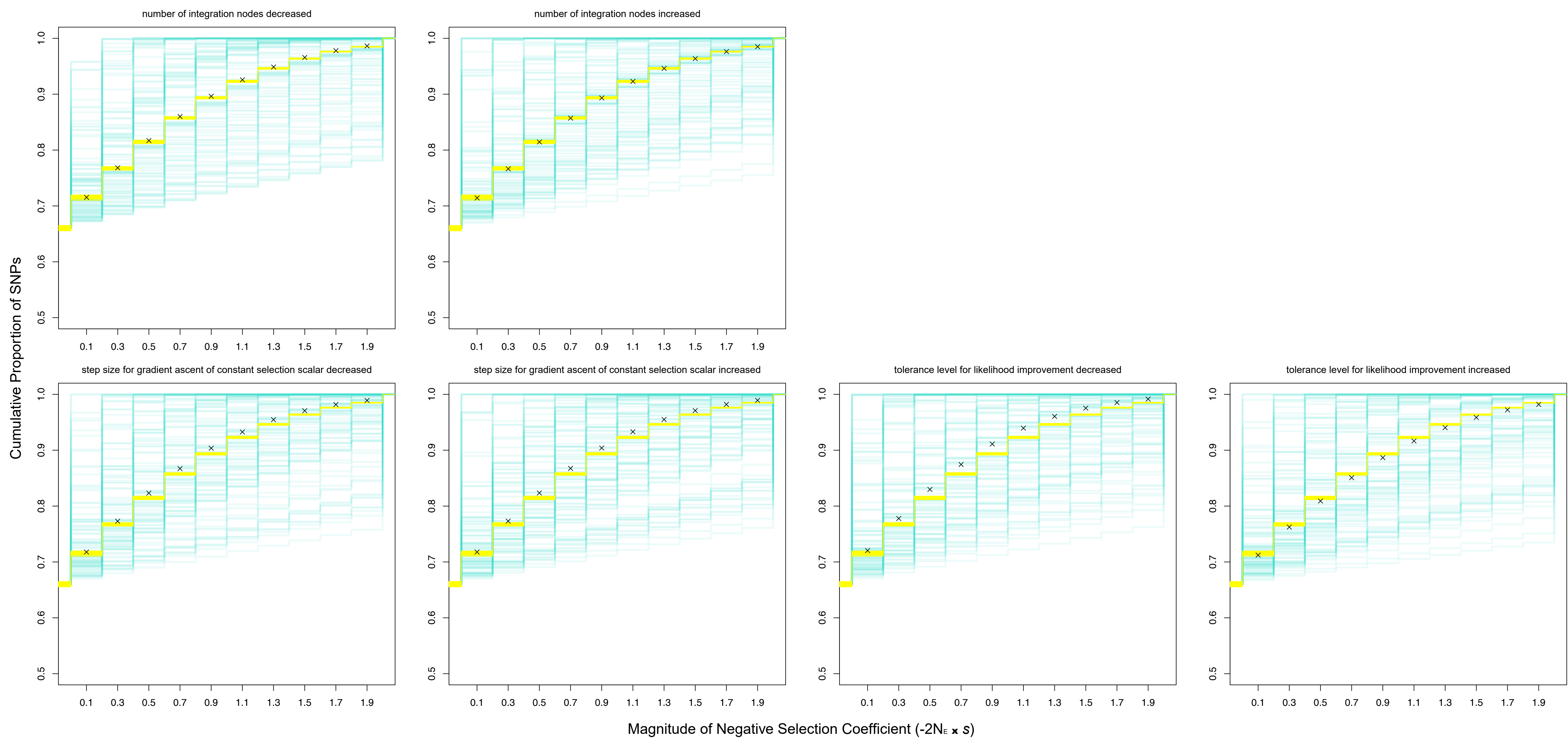
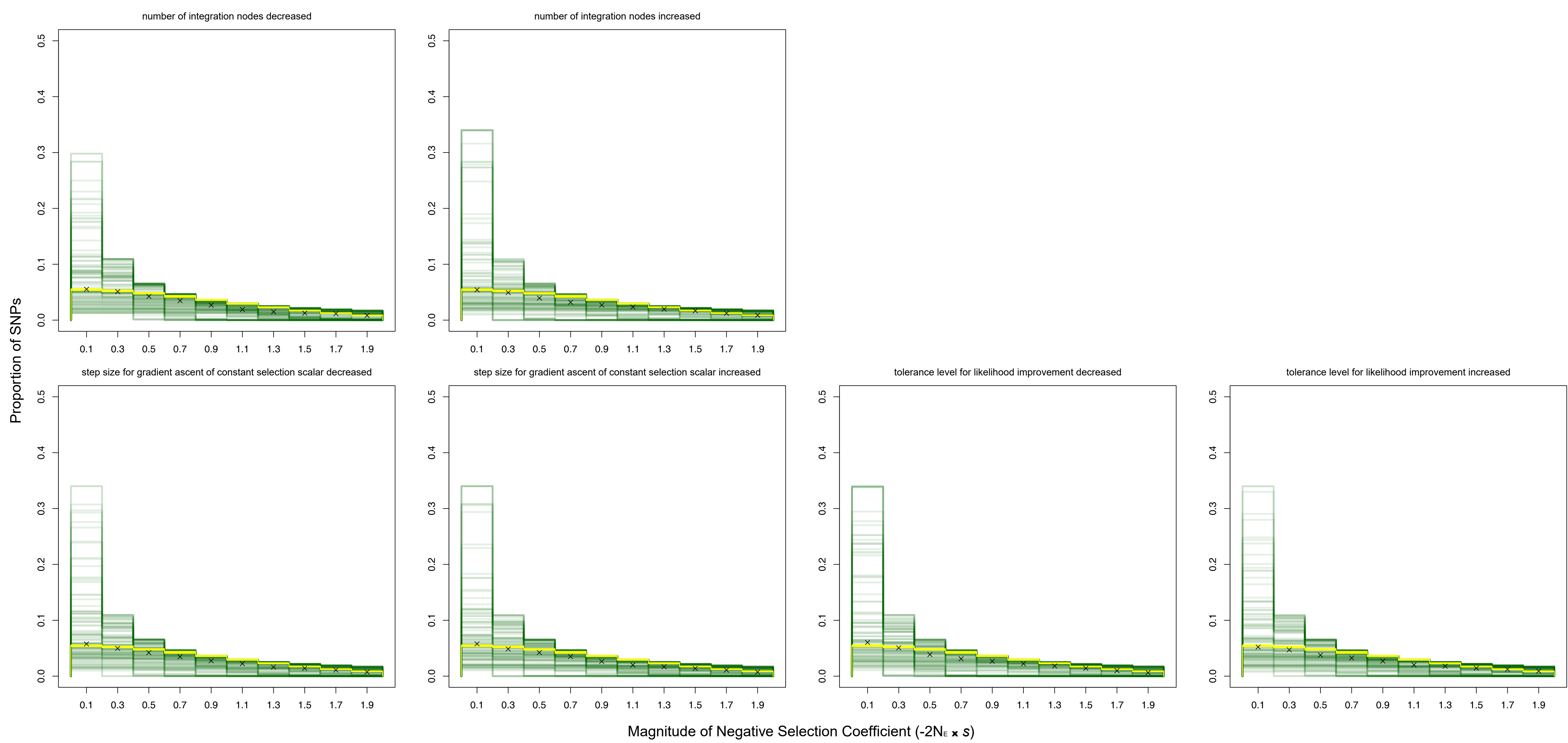
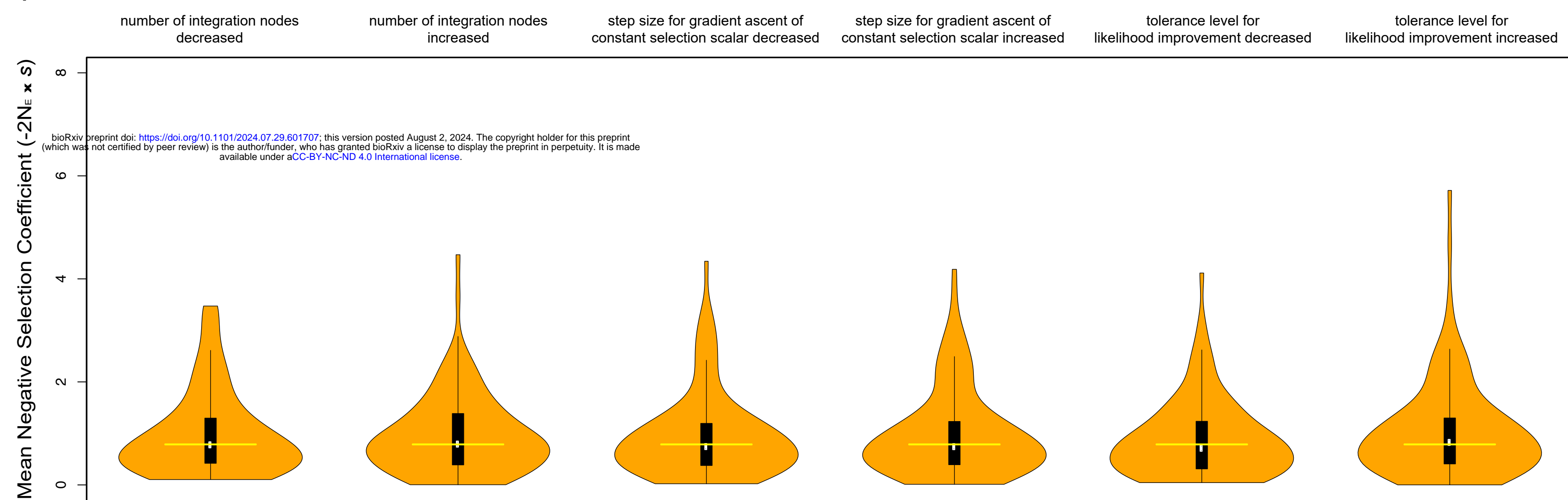
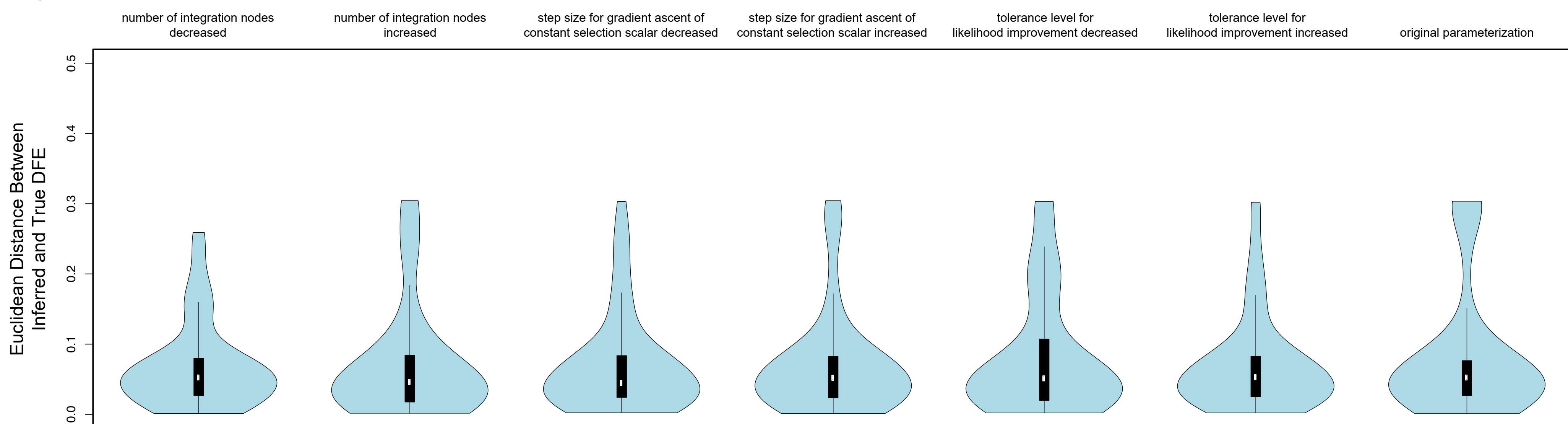
From Zeng *et al.* (2021)

b)

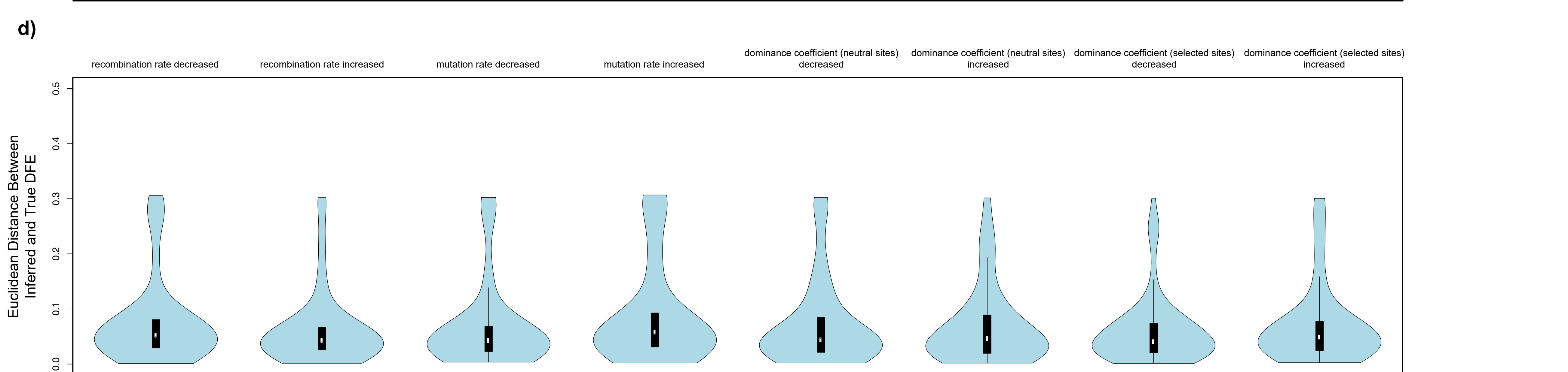
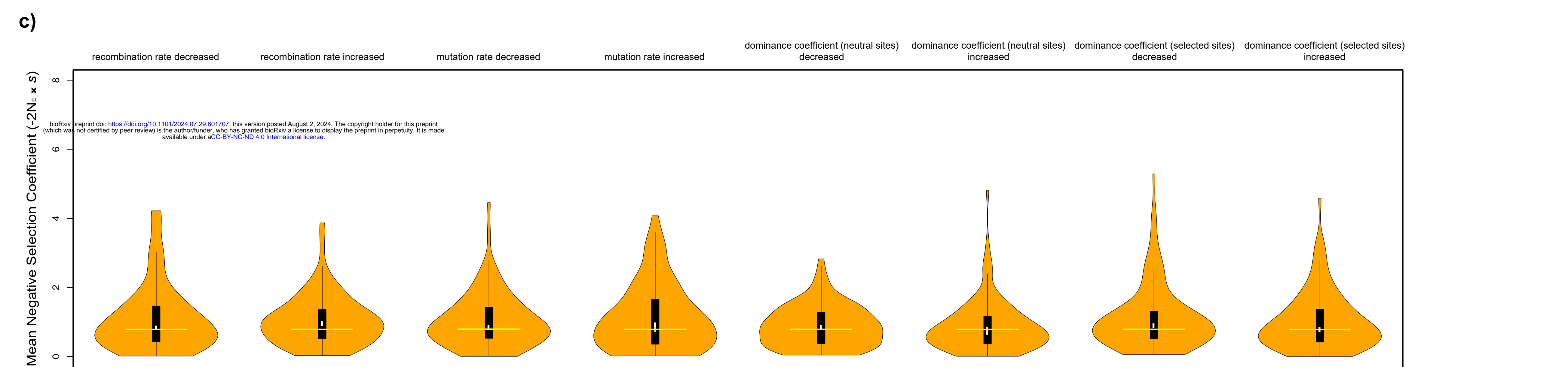
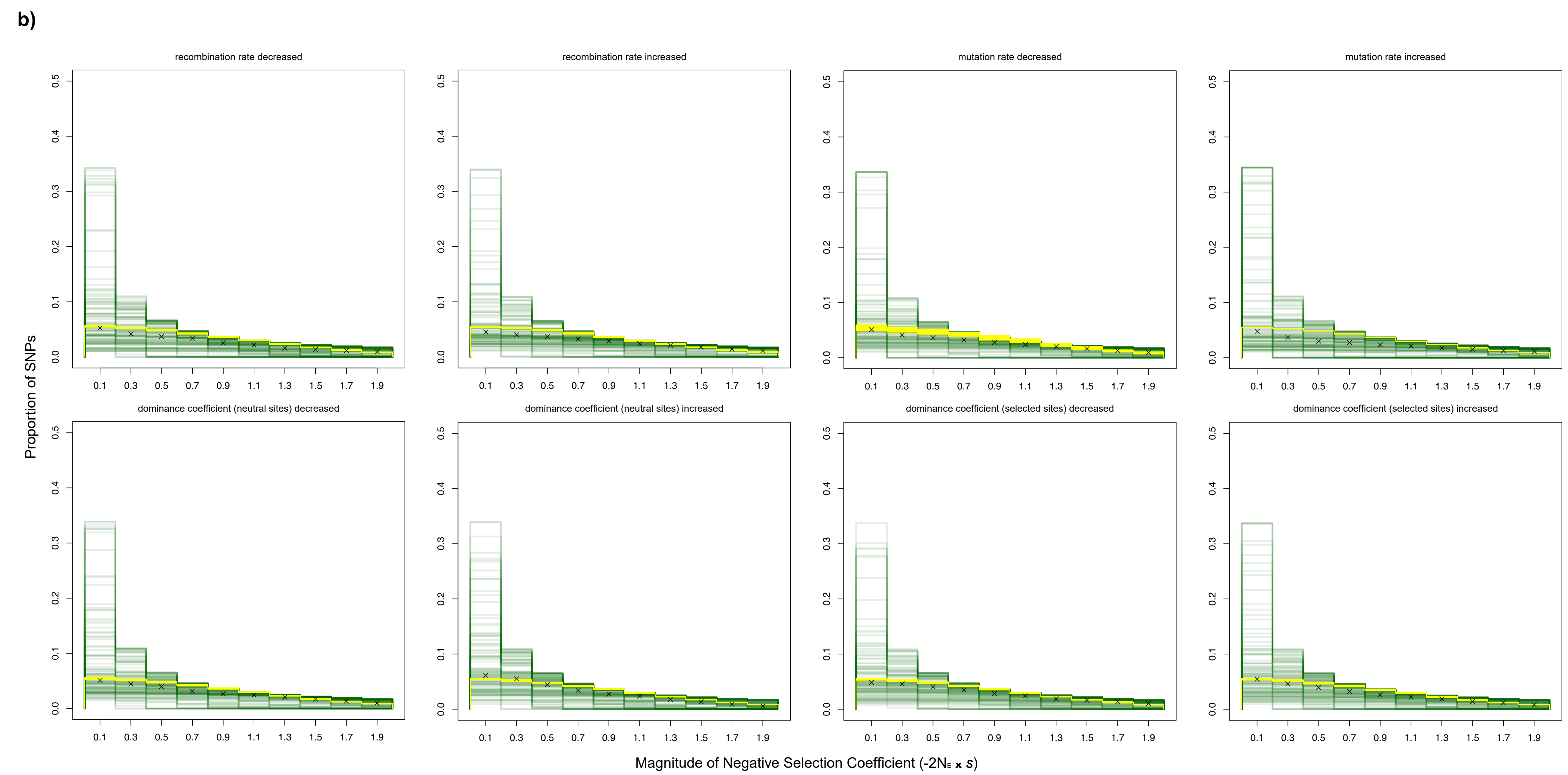
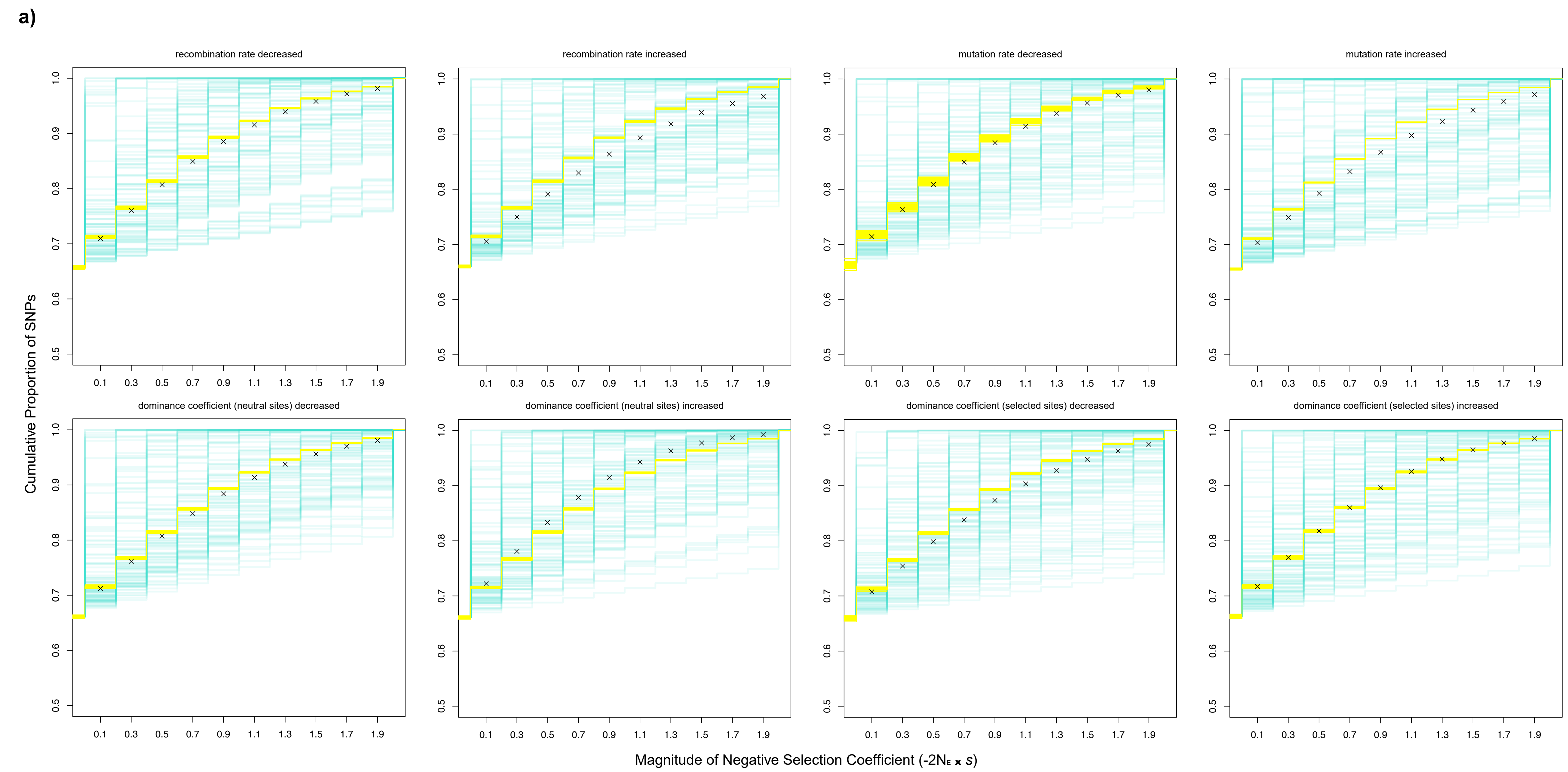


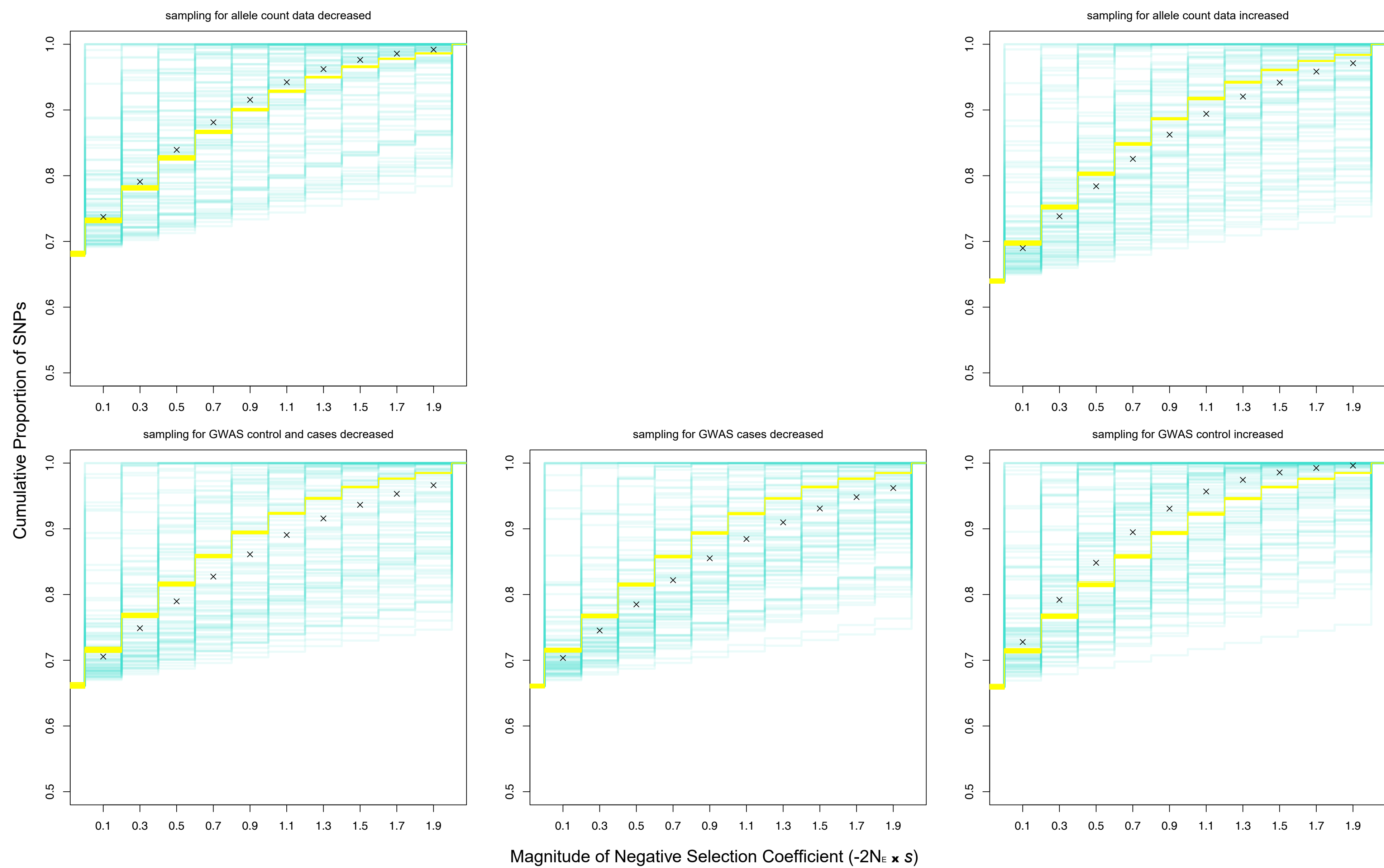
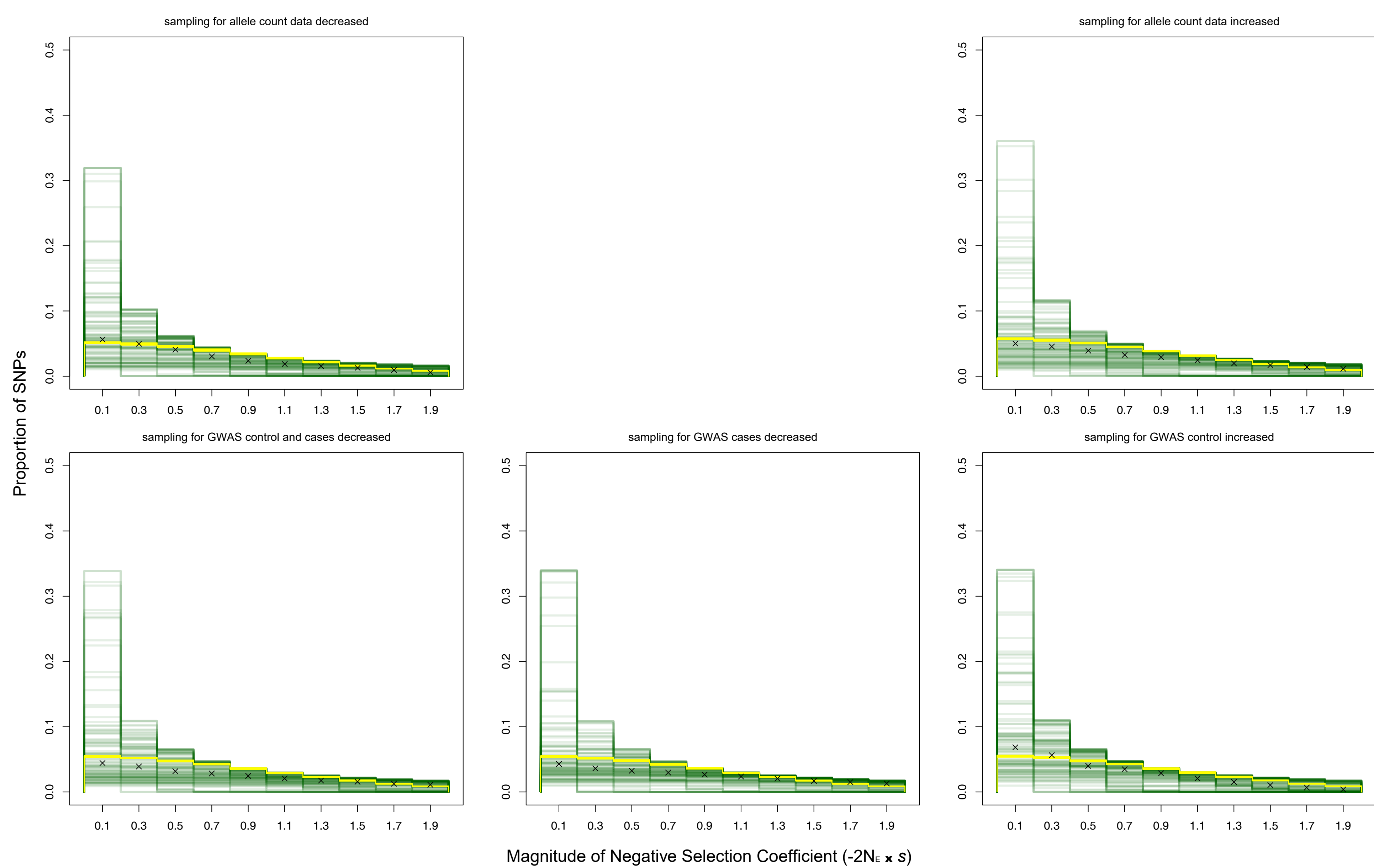
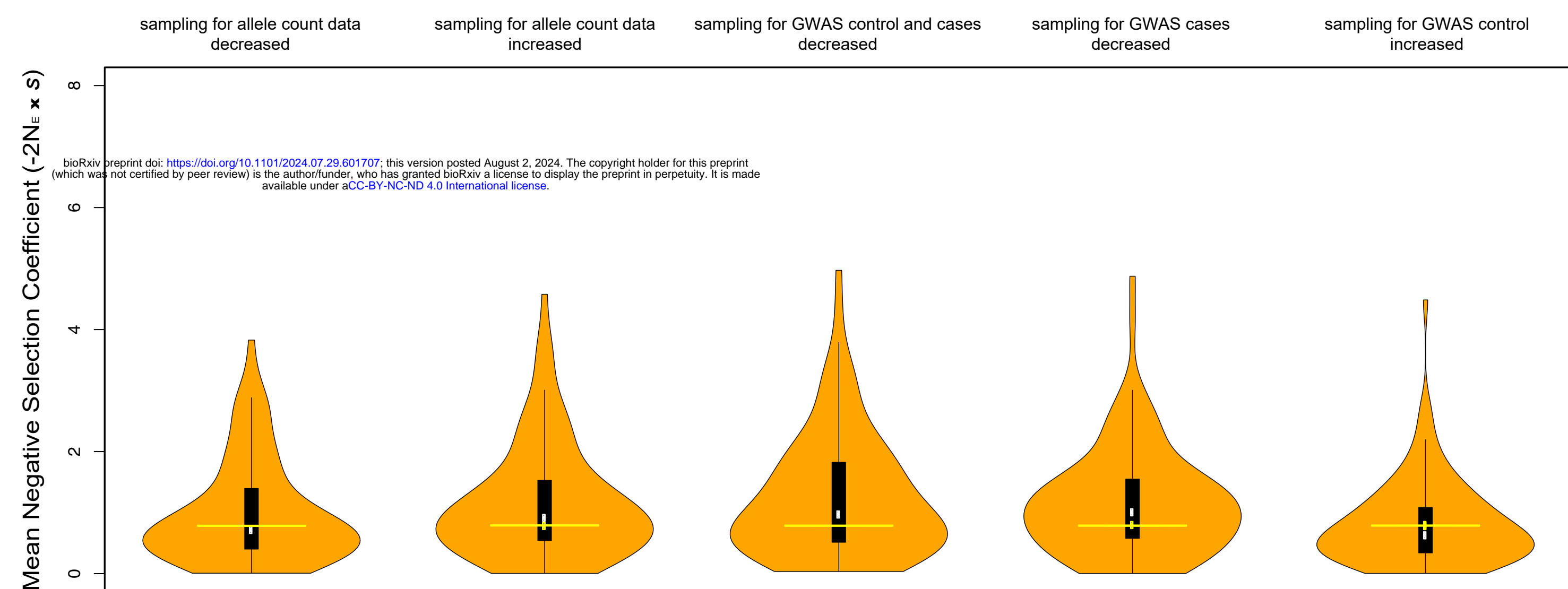
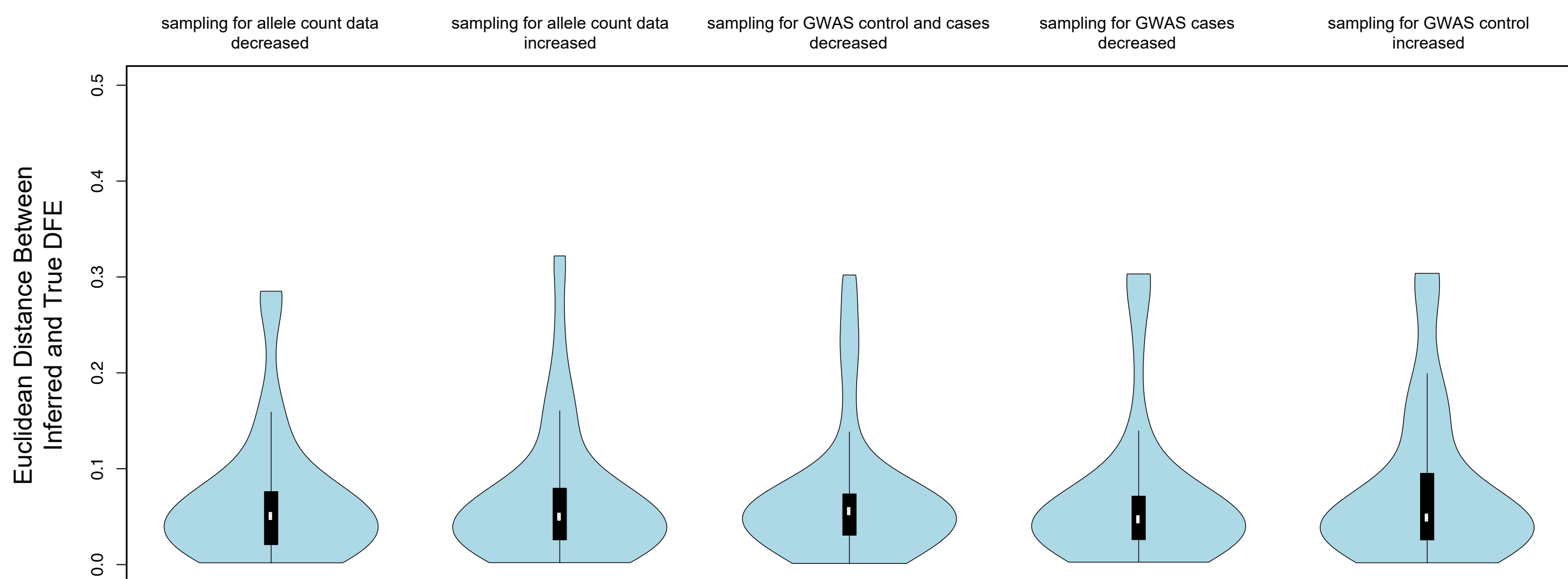
c)

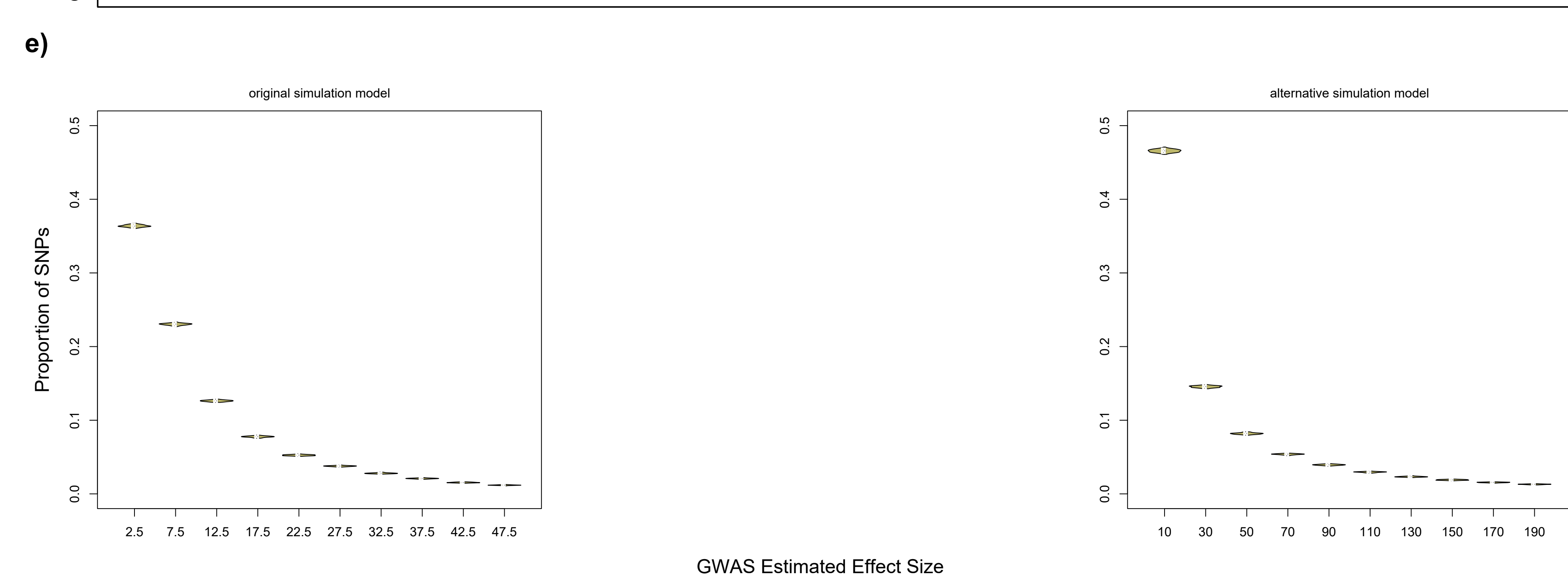
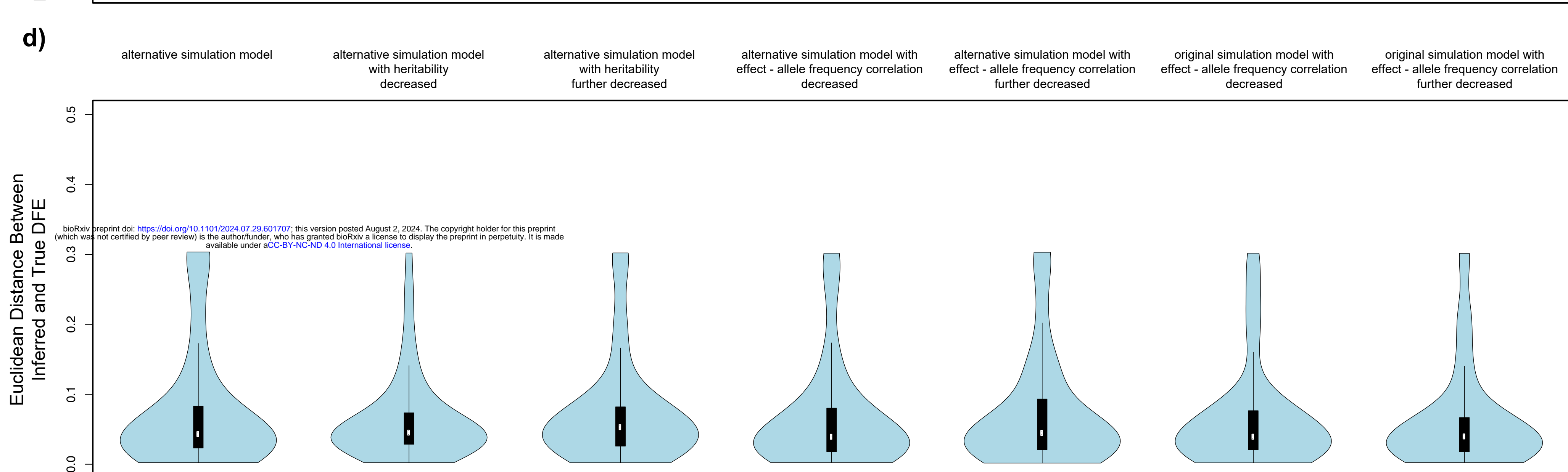
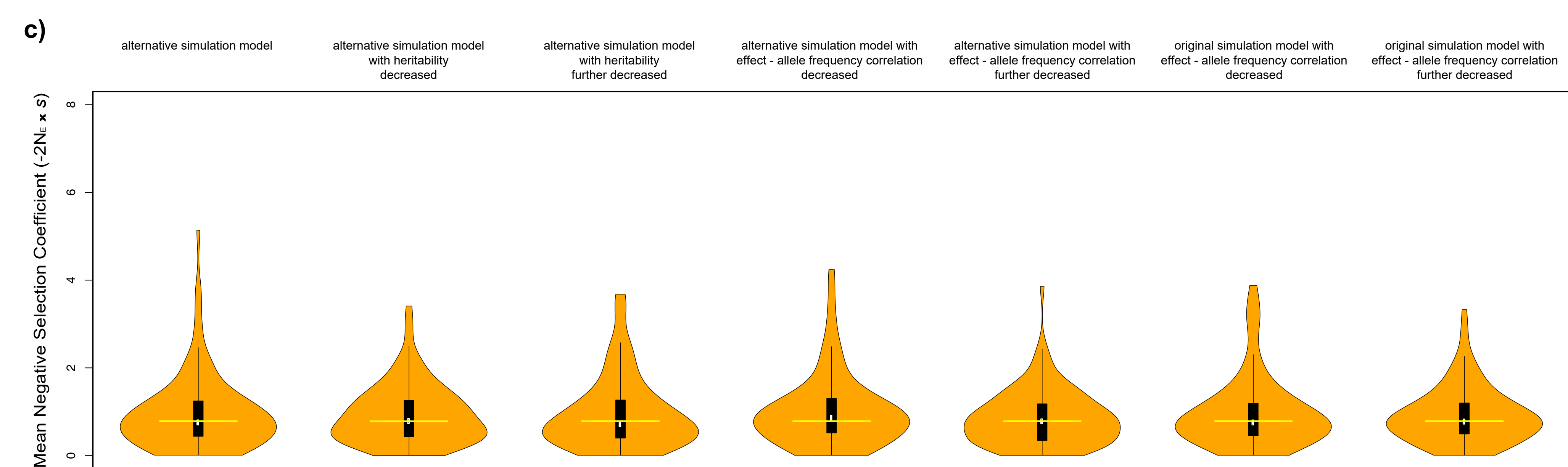
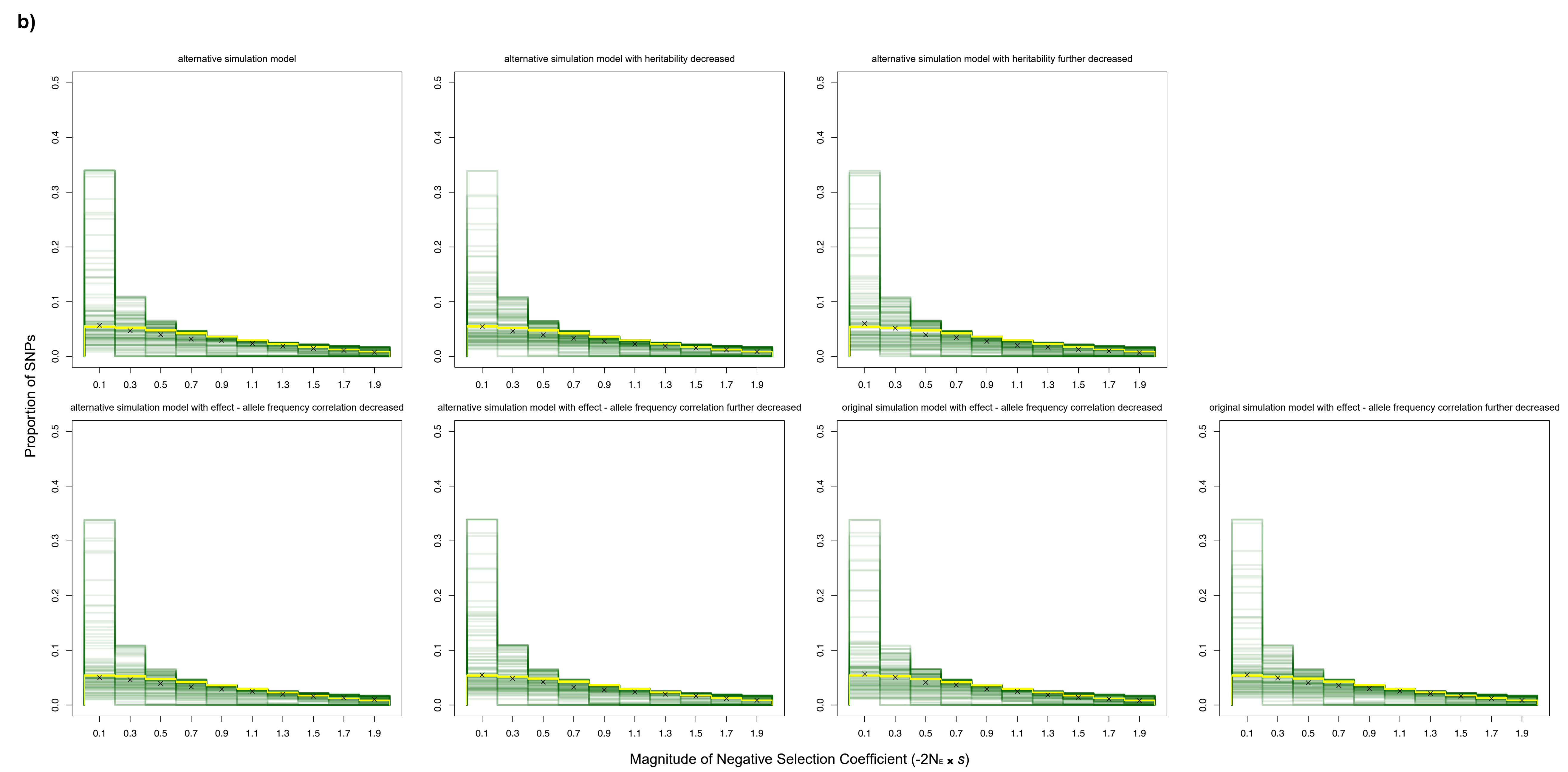
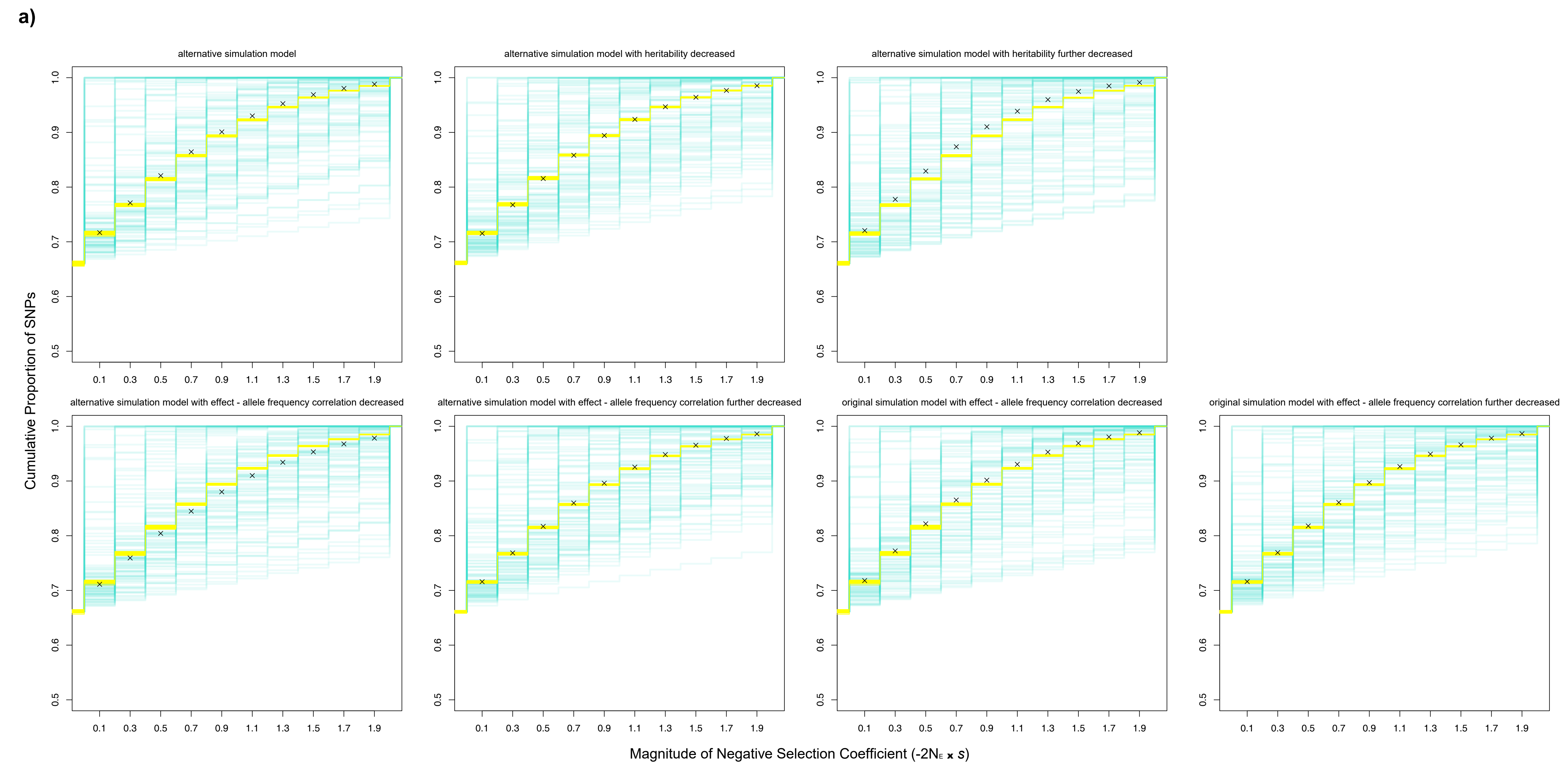


**a)****b)****c)****d)**

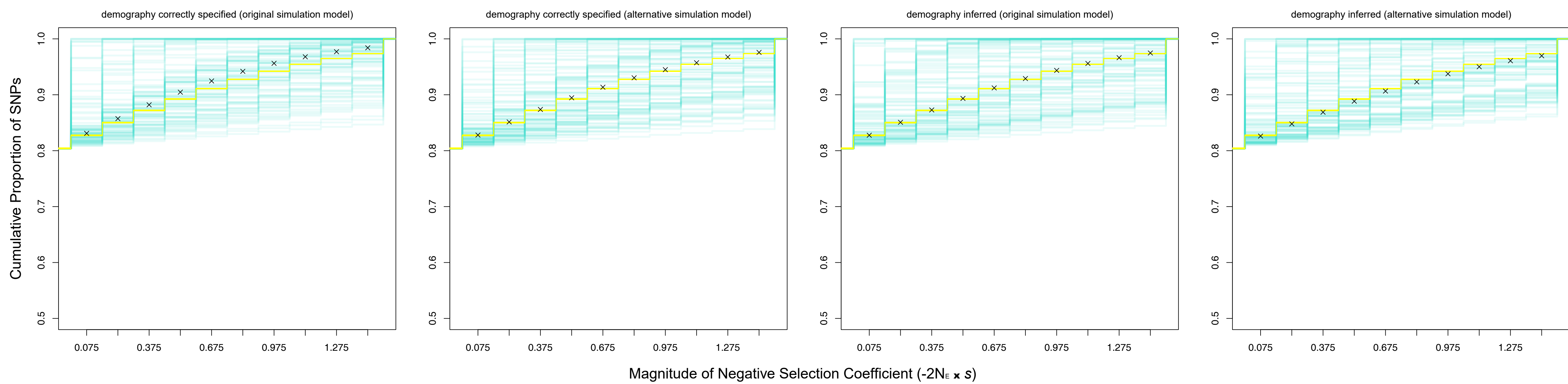
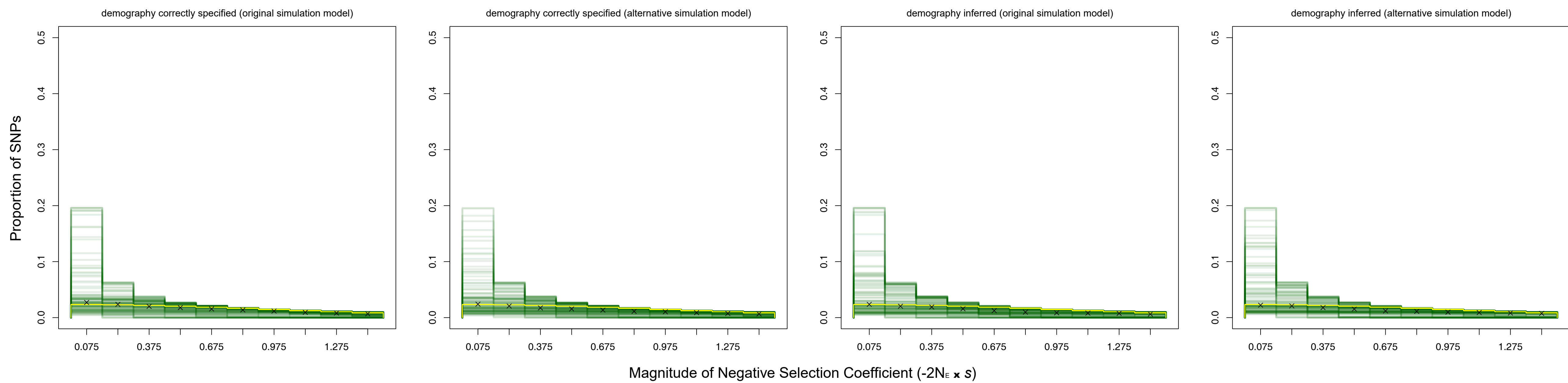
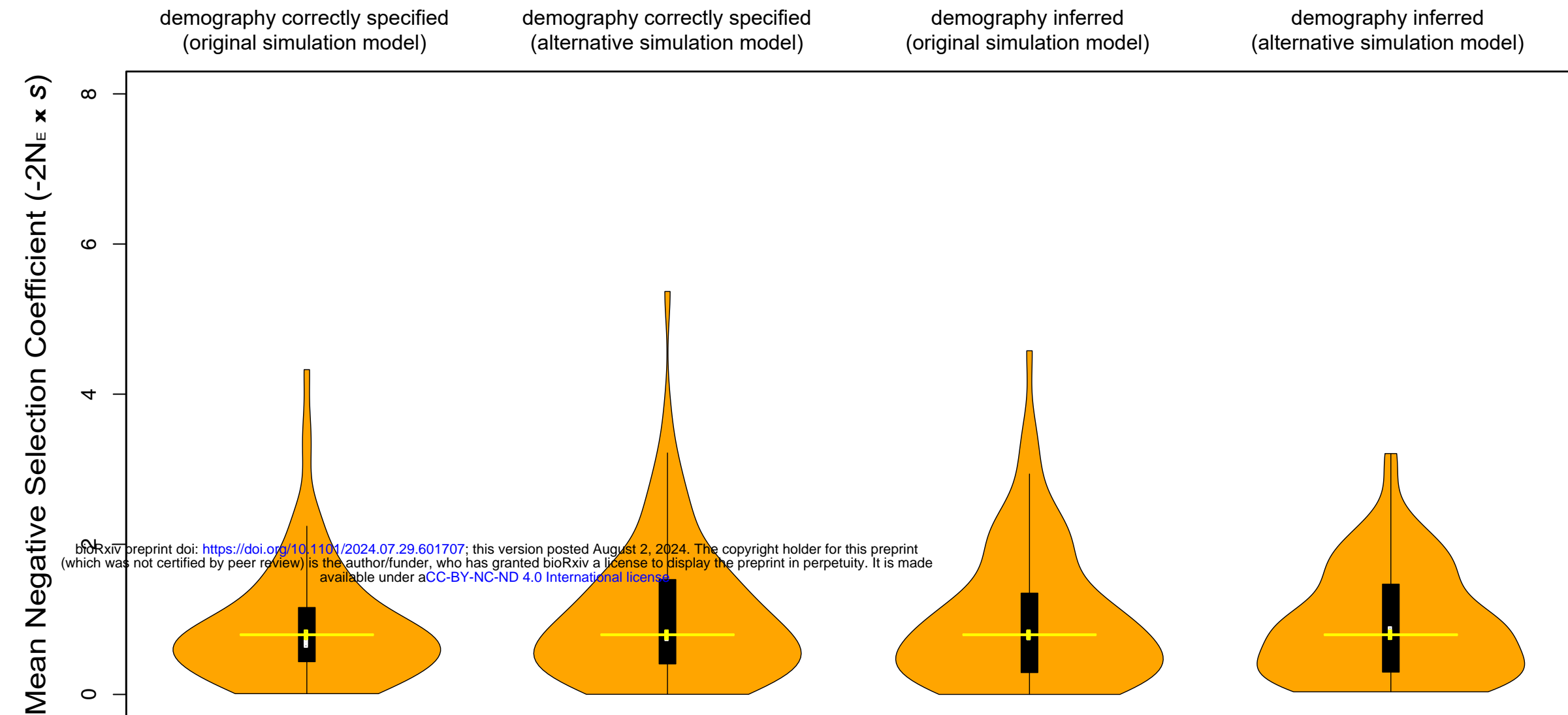
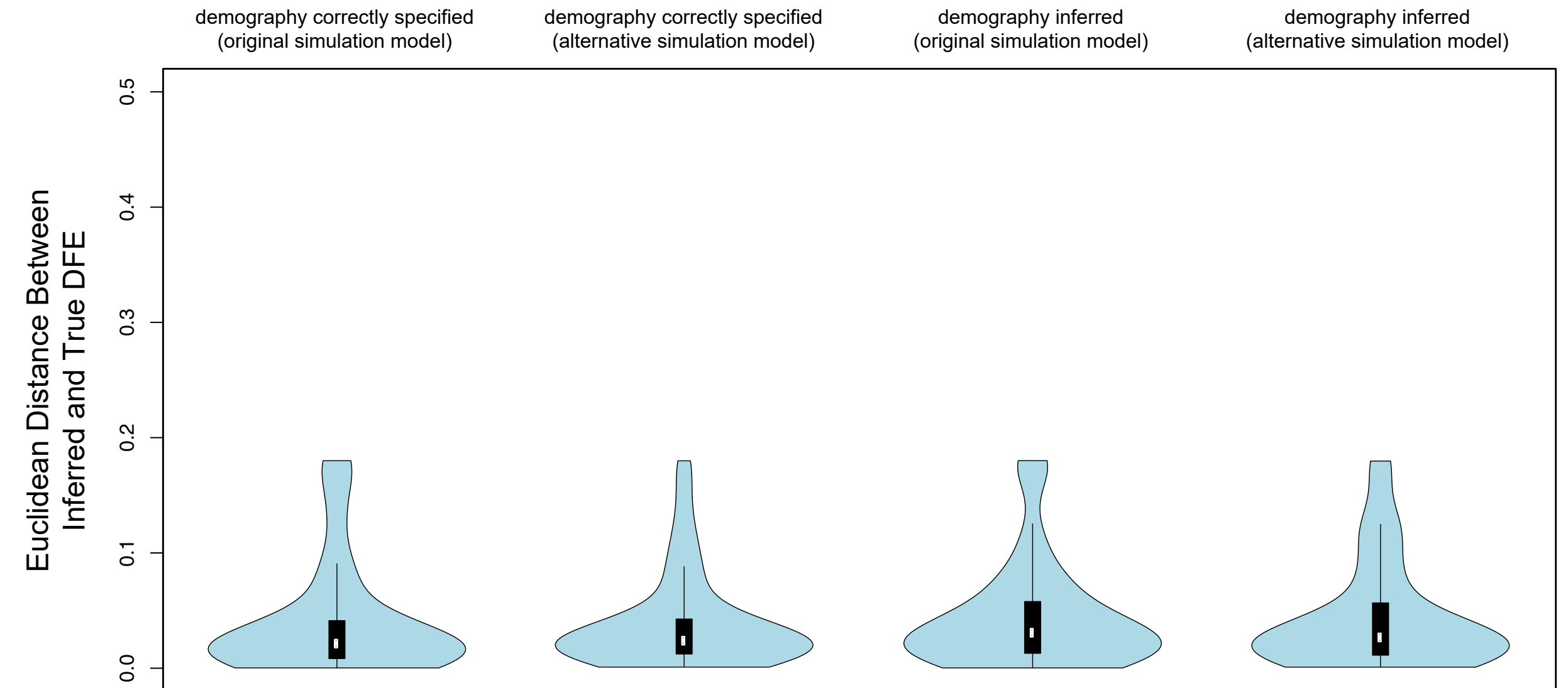
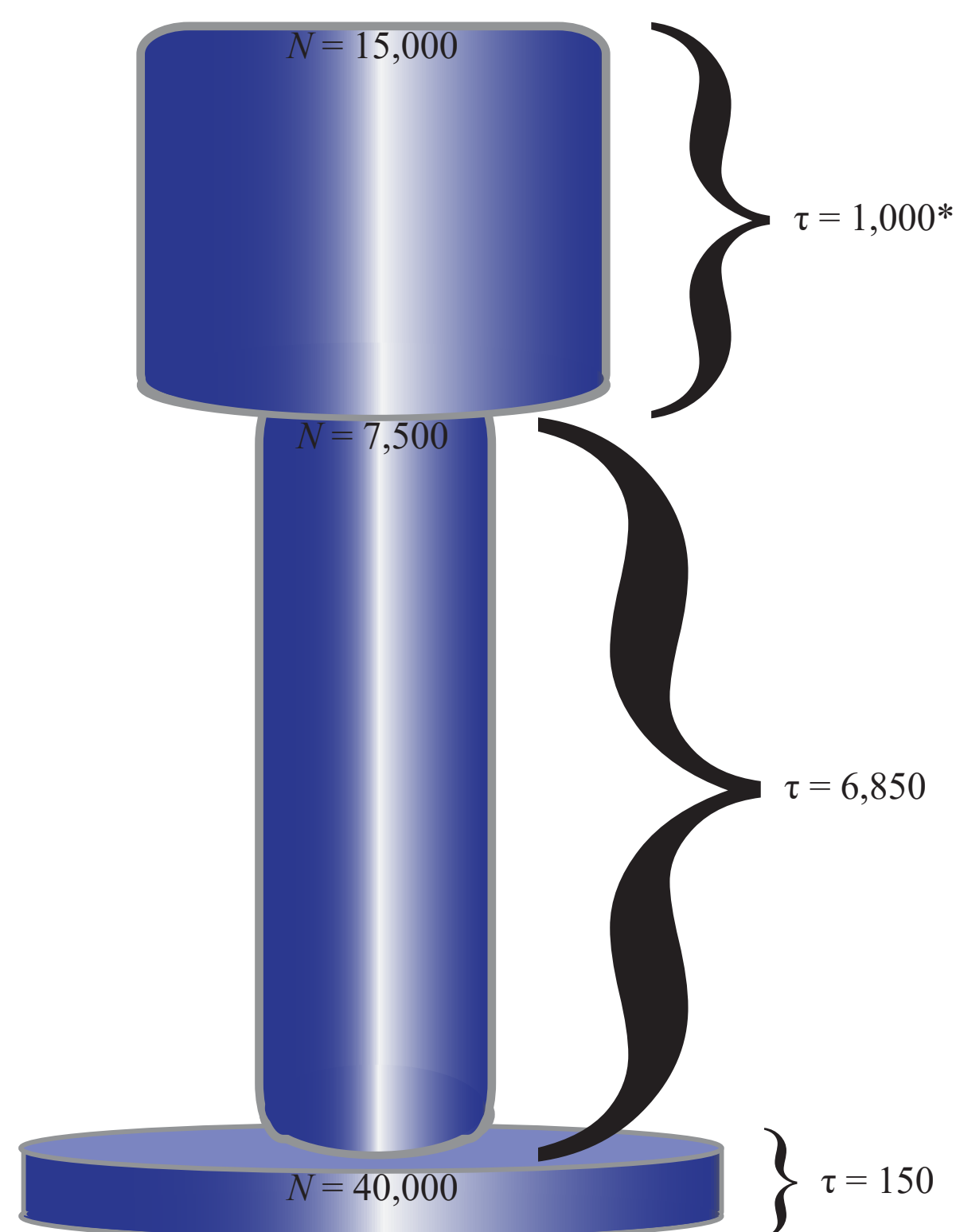


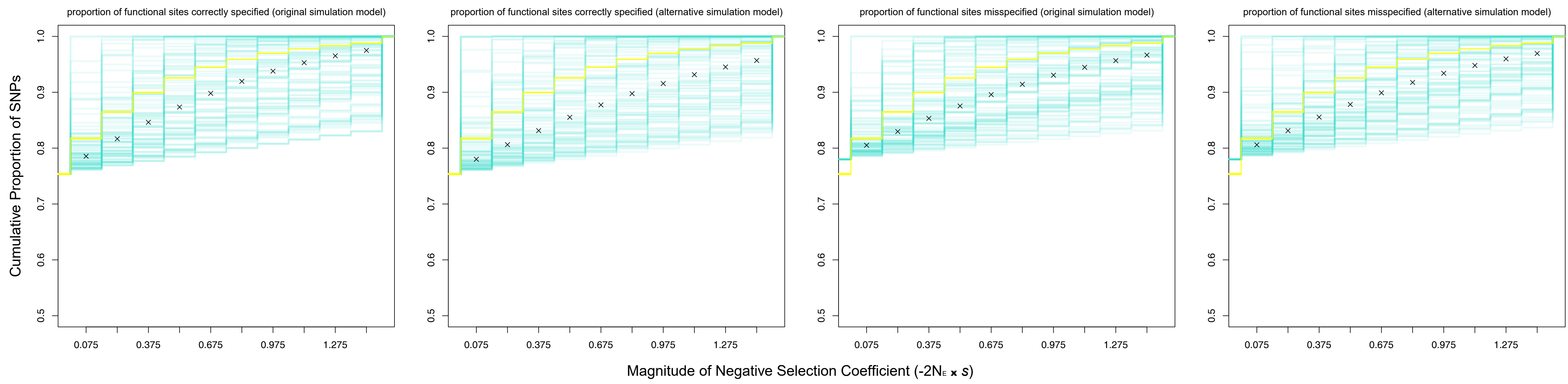
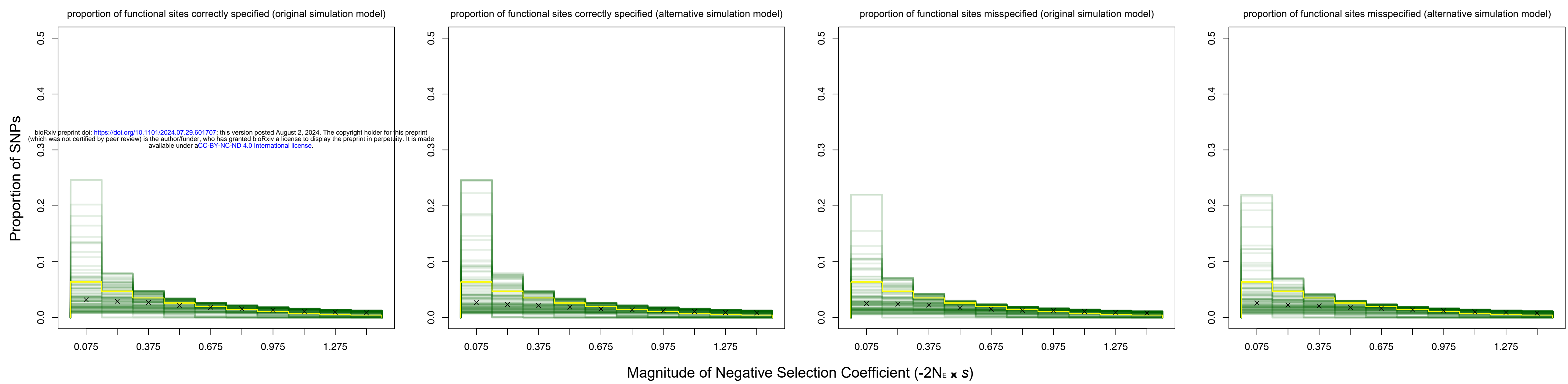
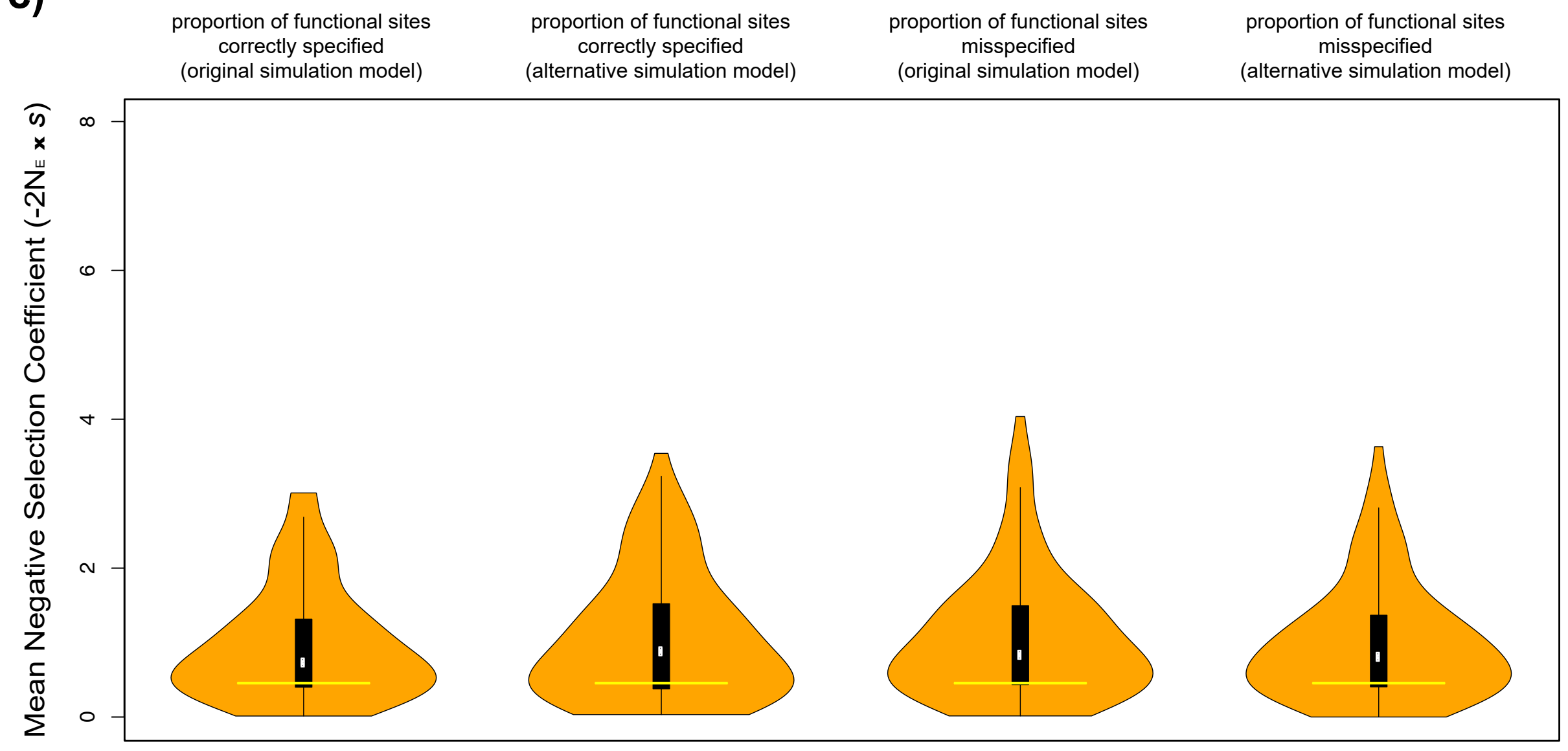
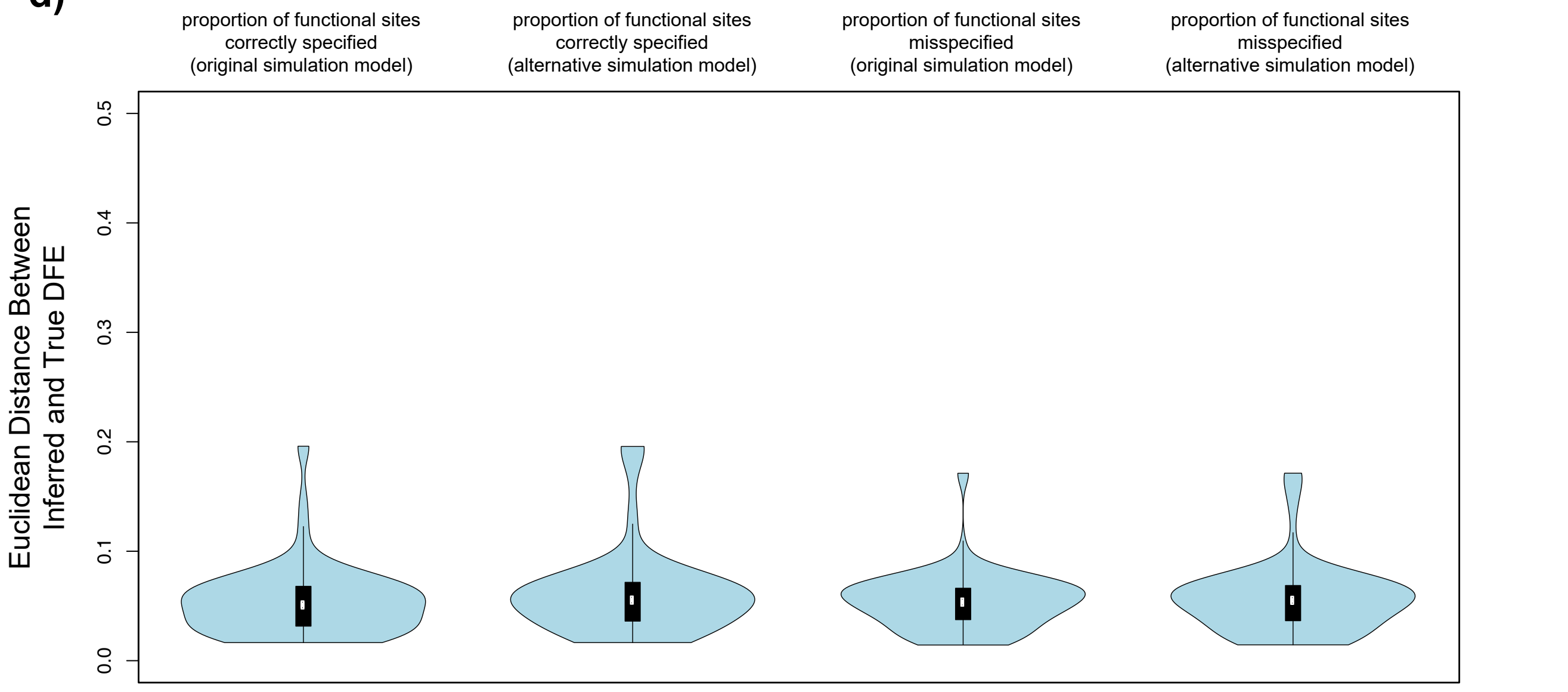


**a)****b)****c)****d)**





**a)****b)****c)****d)****e)**

**a)****b)****c)****d)**

**Table S1. Specifications for *In Silico* Experiments.**

|   |  |                         |
|---|--|-------------------------|
| <u>original application</u><br>(Figure 1)   |  |                         |
| $\omega_0 = 0.05$   | $\sigma = 0.1$   | $c = -10.0$             |
| length of each independent sequence<br>= 25 KB  | gene-trait coupling = 1.0  |                         |
| sample size for GWAS control = 5,000  | sample size for GWAS case = 5,000  |                         |
| <i>each additional simulated dataset for Figures S2 – S4 follows these same specifications<br/>except when stated otherwise</i> |  |                         |
| <u>experiment on resolution of numerical integration in ASSESS</u><br>(Figure S1)   |  |                         |
| additional inferential application with<br>decreased number of $\beta_i$ nodes = 20   | additional inferential application with<br>increased number of $\beta_i$ nodes = 100       |                         |
| <u>experiment on step size for gradient ascent of constant selection scalar in ASSESS</u><br>(Figure S1)                        |  |                         |
| additional inferential application with<br>decreased step size scalar = $1.0e - 8$  | additional inferential application with<br>increased step size scalar = $1.0e - 4$         |                         |
| <u>experiment on tolerance level for log likelihood improvement in ASSESS</u><br>(Figure S1)                                    |  |                         |
| additional inferential application with<br>decreased likelihood tolerance = $1.0e - 13$   | additional inferential application with<br>increased likelihood tolerance = $1.0e - 5$     |                         |
| <u>experiment on recombination rate in simulations</u><br>(Figure S2)   |  |                         |
| additional dataset with decreased<br>recombination rate = $1.5e - 8$  | additional dataset with increased<br>recombination rate = $1.5e - 6$                       |                         |
| <u>experiment on mutation rate in simulations</u><br>(Figure S2)  |  |                         |
| additional dataset with decreased<br>mutation rate = $1.25e - 8$  | additional dataset with increased<br>mutation rate = $1.25e - 6$                           |                         |
| <u>experiment on coefficient of allele dominance in simulations</u><br>(Figure S2)  |  |                         |
| additional dataset with decreased<br>dominance coefficient for neutral sites = 0.2  | additional dataset with increased<br>dominance coefficient for neutral sites = 0.8         |                         |
| additional dataset with decreased<br>dominance coefficient for selected sites = 0.2   | additional dataset with increased<br>dominance coefficient for selected sites = 0.8        |                         |
| <u>experiment on sampling of individuals for allele count data in simulations</u><br>(Figure S3)                                |  |                         |
| additional dataset with decreased<br>total allele counts = 100 ( <i>i.e.</i> 50 diploids)                                       | additional dataset with increased<br>total allele counts = 500 ( <i>i.e.</i> 250 diploids) |                         |
| <u>experiment on sampling of individuals for GWAS summary statistics in simulations</u><br>(Figure S3)                          |  |                         |
| additional dataset with   | additional dataset with  | additional dataset with |

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| decreased GWAS control<br>= 500 and cases = 500   | decreased GWAS<br>cases = 500   | increased GWAS<br>control = 50,000  |
| <u>experiment on alternative simulation model</u><br><i>(Figure S4)</i>   |   |   |
| additional dataset with<br>simulation model based on<br>Lohmueller (2014)<br>and heritability = 0.9                                     | additional dataset with<br>simulation model based on<br>Lohmueller (2014)<br>and heritability = 0.7                             | additional dataset with<br>simulation model based on<br>Lohmueller (2014)<br>and heritability = 0.5 |
| additional dataset with simulation model<br>based on Lohmueller (2014),<br>heritability = 0.9,<br>and gene-trait coupling = 0.75        | additional dataset with simulation model<br>based on Lohmueller (2014),<br>heritability = 0.9,<br>and gene-trait coupling = 0.5 |   |
| additional dataset with<br>gene-trait coupling = 0.75   | additional dataset with<br>gene-trait coupling = 0.5  |   |
| <u>experiment on demographic history of instantaneous population size change</u><br><i>(Figure S5)</i>                                  |   |   |
| $\omega_0 = 0.2$  | $\sigma = 0.2$  | $c = -5.0$  |
| length of each independent<br>sequence = 250 KB   | heritability = 0.3  | gene-trait coupling = 0.9   |
| sample size for GWAS control = 6,744  | sample size for GWAS case = 2,479   |   |
| <u>experiment on misspecified DFE shape in simulations and Laplacian prior of <math>\omega_0</math> in ASSESS</u><br><i>(Figure S6)</i> |   |   |
| $\lambda = 0.1$   | $c = -5.0$  |   |
| common variance factor = 0.2  |   |   |
| length of each independent<br>sequence = 250 KB   | heritability = 0.3  | gene-trait coupling = 0.9   |
| sample size for GWAS control = 6,744  | sample size for GWAS case = 2,479   |   |
| Laplacian prior of $\omega_0 = 0.753$ (versus 0.780)  |   |   |