

Complete Genomes Reveal Signatures of Demographic and Genetic Declines in the Woolly Mammoth

Highlights

- Complete high-quality genomes from two woolly mammoths were sequenced and analyzed
- 40,000-year time difference between samples enabled calibration of molecular clock
- Demographic inference identified two severe bottlenecks in the species' history
- One of the last surviving mammoths had low heterozygosity and signs of inbreeding

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In Brief

Palkopoulou et al. sequenced complete genomes from two woolly mammoths, including one dated to just before the species' extinction. Demographic inference indicates an ancient bottleneck and a decline at the start of the Holocene. Comparative analyses show that the woolly mammoth was subject to reduced genetic variation prior to its extinction.

Complete Genomes Reveal Signatures of Demographic and Genetic Declines in the Woolly Mammoth

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SUMMARY

The processes leading up to species extinctions are typically characterized by prolonged declines in population size and geographic distribution, followed by a phase in which populations are very small and may be subject to intrinsic threats, including loss of genetic diversity and inbreeding [1]. However, whether such genetic factors have had an impact on species prior to their extinction is unclear [2, 3]; examining this would require a detailed reconstruction of a species' demographic history as well as changes in genome-wide diversity leading up to its extinction. Here, we present high-quality complete genome sequences from two woolly mammoths (*Mammuthus primigenius*). The first mammoth was sequenced at 17.1-fold coverage and dates to ~4,300 years before present, representing one of the last surviving individuals on Wrangel Island. The second mammoth, sequenced at 11.2-fold coverage, was obtained from an ~44,800-year-old specimen from the Late Pleistocene population in northeastern Siberia. The demographic trajectories inferred from the two genomes are qualitatively similar and reveal a population bottleneck during the Middle or Early Pleistocene, and a more recent severe decline in the ancestors of the Wrangel mammoth at the end of the last glaciation. A comparison of the two genomes shows that the Wrangel mammoth has a 20% reduction in heterozygosity as well as a 28-fold increase in the fraction of the genome that comprises runs of homozygosity. We conclude that the population on Wrangel Island, which was the last surviving woolly mammoth population, was subject to reduced genetic diversity shortly before it became extinct.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The woolly mammoth is considered to have been one of the most abundant megafaunal species during the Middle to Late Pleistocene, yet along with ~70 other species of large mammals, it became extinct throughout most of its range at the Pleistocene/Holocene transition ~11,000 years ago [4]. A few small, isolated populations persisted into the Holocene on islands off the coasts of Siberia and Alaska that had become isolated from the mainland by rising sea levels [5, 6]. The last known population inhabited Wrangel Island until ~4,000 years ago [7].

We extracted DNA from the remains of ten woolly mammoths from Wrangel Island (Figure 1A) and used shotgun sequencing on a pool of indexed libraries to assess their levels of preservation (see *Supplemental Experimental Procedures* for full details). This allowed us to identify a molar tooth that contained a high proportion of mammoth DNA (~80%; Table S1). With a direct calibrated radiocarbon age of ~4,300 calendar years (Figure 1B; Table S1), this represents one of the most recently dated specimens that has been discovered on the island [7].

We also extracted DNA from a soft tissue sample obtained from a juvenile Siberian mammoth found in the Oimyakon District of Yakutia in northeastern Siberia (Figure 1A) and dated to ~44,800 calendar years ago [8] (Figure 1B). This individual, henceforth referred to as Oimyakon, was a member of the widespread woolly mammoth population that inhabited continental Eurasia during the Late Pleistocene.

We generated double-stranded DNA libraries from extracts of both specimens using uracil-DNA glycosylase treatment to excise uracils, following established protocols [9, 10]. As a reference, we used the genome of the African savanna elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) generated from a 6.8-fold coverage assembly at the Broad Institute (LoxAfr4). This assembly was based on paired-end long Sanger sequencing reads with a range of insert sizes, and optical mapping, allowing the construction of chromosome-length supercontigs. Approximately 76% of the sequences from the Wrangel individual aligned to the reference

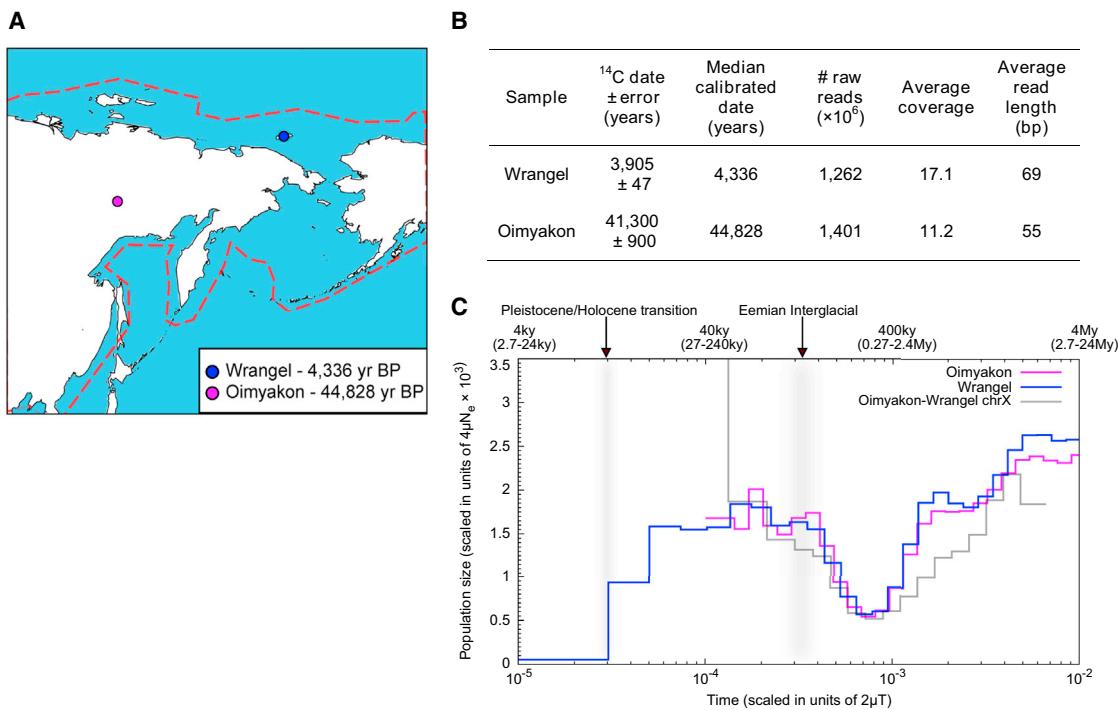


Figure 1. Geographic Location and Dating of Samples, Mapping Statistics of the Two Genomic Libraries, and Inference of Population Size Changes through Time

(A) Map indicating the sites where the mammoth samples were collected. The dashed red line indicates the approximate extent of the Beringia coastline during the last glacial maximum.

(B) Sample dating information and mapping statistics of the two libraries. ¹⁴C date ± error refers to the radiocarbon age of each specimen and associated standard error. Median calibrated date refers to the median estimate of the calibrated radiocarbon date. Average read length (bp) refers to aligned sequences only.

(C) Population size history inferred using the PSMC method. Time is given in units of divergence per base pair on the lower x axis and in years before present on the upper x axis. The latter assumes the substitution rate estimated in this study based on the age difference between the two samples. (The range given in parentheses takes into account the uncertainty of the rate estimate as well as the range of rate estimates obtained from paleontological calibration; see Table 1.) The PSMC curves of the Oimyakon genome and the pseudo-diploid chromosome X are empirically corrected for missing heterozygotes (false negatives = 30%) and are shifted along the x axis so that the former is aligned to the curve of the Wrangel genome and the latter ends at ~24,500 years ago, the average age of the two individuals (which was converted in units of divergence based on the mean substitution rate estimated in this study). The N_e of the PSMC curve of the pseudo-diploid chromosome X was scaled by 0.75. The Eemian interglacial period and the Pleistocene/Holocene transition are indicated by gray vertical bars assuming the mean substitution rate estimated in this study. See also Table S1 and Figure S1.

genome with an average length of 69 bp, yielding 17.1-fold average coverage. For the Oimyakon individual, 64% of sequences aligned and had average lengths of 55 bp, yielding 11.2-fold coverage (Figure 1B). We did not detect an excess of nucleotide misincorporations at the terminal positions of the sequences. Such misincorporations typically derive from cytosine deamination outside of CpG dinucleotides; their absence indicates that uracil excision was effective in both libraries (Figure S1). Phylogenetic analysis of the complete mitochondrial (mt) genomes from both individuals together with previously published woolly mammoth mitochondrial genomes [11] placed the Wrangel individual within mtDNA clade I [12] and the Oimyakon individual within mtDNA clade II [12] (Figure S2). These two mitochondrial clades have been proposed to represent two highly divergent populations or species [11, 13].

We inferred the history of population size changes in the ancestors of the two individuals using the pairwise sequentially Markovian coalescent (PSMC) method [14]. This approach uses the density of heterozygous sites across the diploid genome of

a single individual to infer the distribution of the time to the most recent common ancestor (TMRCA) between the two alleles across all chromosomes. This in turn can be used to infer effective population size (N_e) changes over time since effective population size is inversely proportional to coalescent rate. The estimated population size histories were qualitatively similar for Wrangel and Oimyakon but were offset by a fixed amount (Figure S3A), as might be expected since Oimyakon was around ΔT = 44,828 – 4,336 = 40,492 years older than Wrangel. We inferred the number of missing substitutions per base pair in the Oimyakon genome that would be needed in order for the two populations to have the most concordant curves to be d = 0.0001 (range = 0.00004–0.00015) per base pair (Figure S3C). We then used this estimate to infer a substitution rate per base pair since we know that the rate of accumulation of divergent sites between samples is fully determined by two times the product of the substitution rate and time: d = 2μ(ΔT) [15]. The estimated substitution rate is μ = 1.23 × 10⁻⁹ (range = 0.49 × 10⁻⁹–1.85 × 10⁻⁹) per base pair per year, which is equivalent to 3.83 × 10⁻⁸

Table 1. Dating of Different Events in Years and N_e Estimation Using Alternative Substitution Rate Calibrations

	Substitution Rate (μ)	Recent Bottleneck ^a	Earlier Bottleneck ^b	Wrangel-Oimyakon Split ^c	Wrangel-Oimyakon Split ^d	Wrangel Bottleneck N_e ^e
Mean (μ) ^f	1.23×10^{-9}	12,195	284,553	49,877	53,000–64,000	328
Upper limit (μ) ^f	1.85×10^{-9}	8,108	189,189	41,400	50,000–57,000	218
Lower limit (μ) ^f	0.49×10^{-9}	30,612	714,286	88,077	65,000–93,000	823
Upper limit (μ) ^g	0.6×10^{-9}	25,135	586,486	76,717	61,000–84,000	676
Lower limit (μ) ^g	0.21×10^{-9}	70,541	1,645,946	170,896	91,000–155,000	1,896

^aEstimated time for the recent decline in N_e observed in the PSMC curve of the Wrangel genome.

^bEstimated time for the earlier decline in N_e observed in the PSMC curves of both mammoth genomes.

^cSplit time between the Wrangel and Oimyakon individuals inferred from the PSMC analysis of the pseudo-diploid chromosome X.

^dSplit time between the Wrangel and Oimyakon individuals inferred from the F(A|B) analysis using autosomal data.

^e N_e for the Wrangel population following the recent bottleneck inferred by the PSMC analysis.

^fMean, lower, and upper limit of the range of substitution rates (per bp per year) estimated in this study by lining up the two PSMC curves.

^gUpper and lower limit of the substitution rates (per bp per year) obtained from paleontological calibration, assuming 6.2–17.4 million years for the genetic divergence time between African and Eurasian elephants (see [Supplemental Experimental Procedures](#) for details).

(range = 1.53×10^{-8} – 5.73×10^{-8}) per base pair per generation assuming a generation time of 31 years [16]. Our inference that the substitution rate in mammoths is twice as high as the substitution rate recently estimated in humans using the same method ($\mu = 0.43 \times 10^{-9}$ per base pair per year) [15] may initially seem surprising since earlier studies have suggested that substitution rates in elephants may have been half that between humans and chimpanzees (an apparent factor of four difference) [13, 17]. However, there is substantial statistical uncertainty in all of these estimates, and part of the apparent discrepancy may have nothing to do with the accuracy of our rate estimate in mammoths and instead may reflect a major slowdown in the substitution rate in the hominin lineage [18]. In all of the analyses that follow, we use the PSMC-based point estimate of the substitution rate, which we view as the most accurate available, as this is the most direct estimate of the rate of substitutions that is available over the last tens of thousands of years of mammoth history, which are the main focus of this study. However, to be conservative, we also always quote a range of uncertainty of 0.21×10^{-9} – 1.85×10^{-9} per base pair per year, which is a union of the range of statistical uncertainty around the point estimate (0.49×10^{-9} – 1.85×10^{-9} per base pair per year) as well as an independent estimate of the substitution rate of 0.21×10^{-9} – 0.6×10^{-9} per base pair per year that we obtained based on a more traditional calibration to the paleontological record. Specifically, we assume a genome-wide average genetic divergence time $T_{\text{div}(\text{African-Eurasian})} = 6.2$ – 17.4 million years for African and Eurasian elephants and note that the divergence per base pair between the African savanna elephant genome and Wrangel is $D_{\text{African-Eurasian}} = 0.0074$ per base pair, which gives the substitution rate estimate range via the formula $\mu = D_{\text{African-Eurasian}} / 2T_{\text{div}(\text{African-Eurasian})}$ (see [Supplemental Experimental Procedures](#) for full details).

The Wrangel and Oimyakon individuals appear to have nearly identical demographic trajectories, once we line up the curves to account for the difference in the ages of the two samples (Figure 1C). In both genomes, we infer a dramatic reduction in N_e during the Middle or Early Pleistocene with a point estimate of 285,000 years ago (range of 189,000–1,646,000 years ago) (Table 1). A similar population bottleneck followed by population

expansion has previously been suggested based on mtDNA data [19]; however, the estimated time of this event was associated with the penultimate interglacial period (the Eemian [20], 116,000–130,000 years ago). The timing of the decline in N_e inferred using PSMC analyses of both genomes, across the entire range of dates obtained by our substitution rate estimates (Table 1), definitively predates the Eemian and thus does not seem to reflect this particular climatic event. Interestingly, ancient horses from Taymyr in Russia exhibit a reverse demographic pattern compared to woolly mammoths, with a demographic expansion at ~280,000 years ago and a decline during the Eemian as inferred using the PSMC analysis [21]. Following the population size recovery, N_e in woolly mammoths appears to have remained comparatively stable until a drastic reduction at ~12,000 years ago in the history of the Wrangel mammoth's genome (8,000–71,000 years; Table 1). Our best estimate for the timing of this steep decline in N_e coincides with the Pleistocene/Holocene transition and the subsequent isolation of Wrangel Island due to rising sea levels [7] and simultaneous disappearance of mammoths from mainland Eurasia [4]. We note that the upper limit of our range of uncertainty for this estimate (up to 71,000 years) is incompatible with the population history of the two woolly mammoths since the most recent decline, inferred in the Wrangel mammoth's genome, appears to have occurred after the death of the Oimyakon individual.

To test the hypothesis that woolly mammoths carrying clade I and II mtDNA haplotypes represented highly divergent populations, we estimated the divergence time of the ancestral populations of the Wrangel and Oimyakon individuals using two independent methods. First, the proportion of sequences mapping to chromosome X suggests that both individuals were males, which allowed us to construct a pseudo-diploid genome by combining their X chromosomes and estimate rates of coalescence between their ancestral populations [14]. The coalescence rate for the pseudo-diploid X chromosome is inferred to have changed over time in a similar manner as for the Wrangel and Oimyakon autosomes until the split of the two populations. The estimated split time dates to just before the death of the Oimyakon individual; after this period the PSMC estimates a sharp increase in N_e to an unmeasurably large size, reflecting

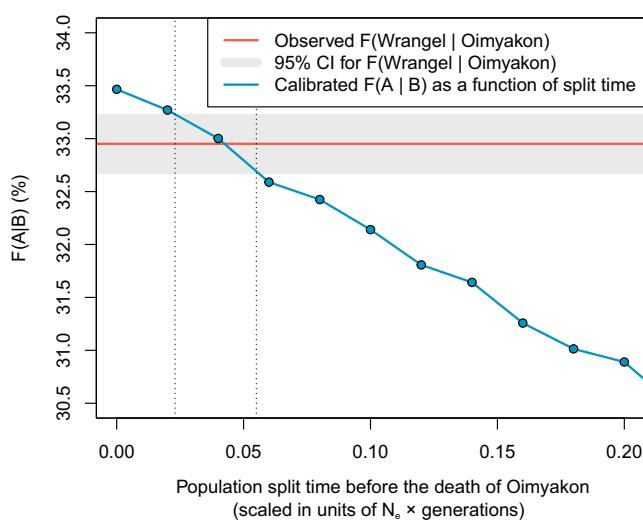


Figure 2. Population Split Time Estimate between the Wrangel and Oimyakon Populations

The probability $F(A|B)$ of observing a derived allele in population A (Wrangel) at a heterozygous site in population B (Oimyakon) is obtained by simulating the history of population B (Oimyakon) as inferred using the PSMC method. Polarization of the alleles was based on the African savanna elephant, which was assumed to carry the ancestral state. The vertical dotted lines indicate the split times between the Wrangel and Oimyakon populations that encompass the confidence interval of the observed $F(\text{Wrangel}|\text{Oimyakon})$. Time on the x axis represents the population split time before the death of the Oimyakon individual and is scaled by N_e and generation time, where N_e indicates the terminal effective population size of the Oimyakon individual as inferred using the PSMC analysis. See also Figure S2.

an absence of detected coalescent events as would be expected if the populations were separated (Figures 1C and S3B). Similarly, the split time (T) between the populations represented by the Oimyakon and Wrangel genomes was estimated at $\sim 50,000$ years ago (range 41,000–171,000 years ago; Table 1), indicating that the Wrangel and Oimyakon populations shared ancestry until shortly before the death of the Oimyakon individual. To further investigate the split time of the ancestral populations, we used an independent approach for estimating population split times that uses the probability of a SNP across the diploid genome that is heterozygous in one population (Oimyakon) being derived in a second population (Wrangel) as a function of population split time [22, 23]. Based on this method, the Wrangel and Oimyakon populations were estimated to have split from each other 53,000–64,000 years ago (range 50,000–155,000 years ago) (Table 1; Figure 2). Overall, these results contrast sharply with those from a previous genomic study based on two low-coverage autosomal genomes. The previous study suggested coalescent times of $\sim 1\text{--}2$ million years between individuals that carried clade I and II mtDNA haplotypes and proposed that these individuals may have represented different species or highly divergent populations [13]. Based on the findings from the two autosomal genomes presented here, we conclude that there are multiple lines of strong evidence against this hypothesis. The observed discordance between nuclear and mtDNA estimates of divergence is not surprising if we consider the biology and natural history of the Elephantidae.

Females are largely non-dispersing, and this tends to produce deeper coalescent times for mtDNA lineages compared to nuclear coalescent dates [24]. Conflicting genetic patterns between nuclear and mtDNA have been observed in modern elephants [25]. Indeed, all extant elephant species exhibit mtDNA coalescent dates that are about as old as the divergence date between mtDNA clades I and II in woolly mammoths [26].

Average autosomal heterozygosity in the Wrangel individual was 1.00 heterozygous site per 1,000 bp (confidence interval [CI] 0.99–1.02), which is 20% lower than the heterozygosity observed in the Oimyakon individual (CI 1.23–1.27 per 1,000 bp; Table S2). This is consistent with results from previous genetic studies [27, 28] indicating a loss of genetic diversity as mammoths became isolated on Wrangel Island and is likely a consequence of a reduced N_e due to the island's small size and estimated low carrying capacity [27]. When compared to genome-wide diversity levels in extant organisms (Figure 3A), we find that heterozygosity in the Wrangel individual was low, but not exceptionally so. Diversity in the Wrangel genome falls close to that observed in humans, bonobos, eastern lowland gorillas, and western chimpanzees, which have also experienced dramatic declines in population size during their history as inferred from PSMC analyses [29]. On the other hand, the Wrangel individual harbored higher genomic diversity than that observed in several other endangered taxa such as lions, tigers, Tasmanian devils, snow leopards [30], and polar bears [31], most of which have experienced recent declines in population size. We speculate that the particularly low heterozygosity in these latter taxa may be partly due to these species all being predators, which typically occur at low population densities and thus have had comparatively small effective population sizes throughout their history.

To examine the genomes for runs of homozygosity (ROHs), we estimated the inferred TMRCA at every position across the genome of each individual using the PSMC method. An extreme excess of ROHs was detected in the Wrangel genome (23.3% of the genome constituted ROHs) compared to the Oimyakon genome (0.83% of the genome constituted ROHs), providing evidence of a small N_e in the recent history of the Wrangel individual (Figures 3B and 3C), consistent with the PSMC results. Most of these regions of low heterozygosity were found to span a few million base pairs and were distributed across all autosomes (Figure S4). ROHs of such length typically occur from background relatedness associated with limited population size in the last dozens of generations rather than due to recent mating of closely related individuals, which would be expected to produce much longer stretches [32]. Thus, we find no evidence of inbreeding in the sense that the parents of the Wrangel individual were particularly close relatives. Instead, it seems likely that the large proportion of ROHs in the Wrangel genome is due to a cumulative effect of recurrent breeding among distant relatives, which is consistent with a small Holocene effective population size on Wrangel Island. Further genomic analyses on additional specimens from Wrangel [7] should be able to resolve this issue and enable detailed reconstruction of population size changes over the Holocene period when Wrangel Island became separated from the mainland. Additional analyses on mammoths representing the last remaining mainland populations in Eurasia and North America would also be valuable in order to shed light

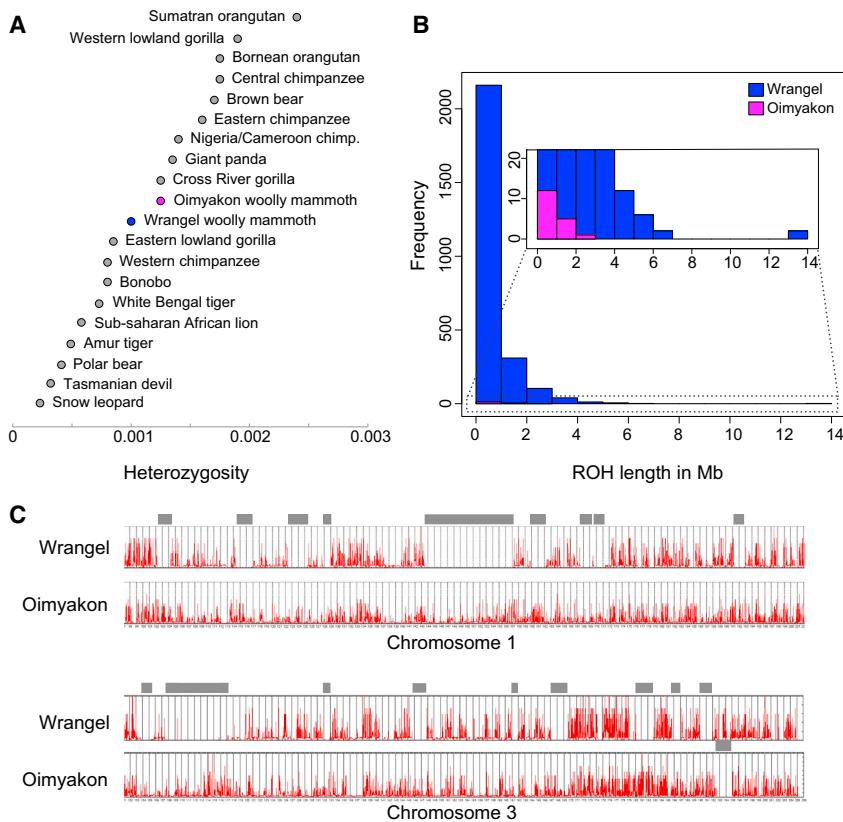


Figure 3. Estimates of Genome-Wide Heterozygosity and Runs of Homozygosity

(A) Comparison of genome-wide heterozygosity estimates in different taxa/populations [29–31] and the two woolly mammoths. See also Table S2.

(B) Histogram of the lengths (in Mb) of runs of homozygosity (ROHs) longer than 0.5 Mb within the Wrangel (blue) and Oimyakon (purple) genomes. The inset shows a magnification with a different y axis scale.

(C) Inferred time to the most recent common ancestor (TMRCA) for the two alleles of a single individual along 106 Mb of chromosome 1 and chromosome 3, with Wrangel on top and Oimyakon at the bottom. The y axis shows the TMRCA, and the x axis shows positions along the chromosome. Gray bars indicate regions longer than 1 Mb that are inferred by the PSMC method to have coalesced recently and represent ROHs. See also Figure S4.

on whether these populations were also subject to reduced genetic variation prior to their extinction at the end of the last glaciation.

Interestingly, the lower heterozygosity in the Wrangel genome can largely be explained by its higher proportion of ROHs. This implies that heterozygosity is similar between regions of the Wrangel genome that are not in ROHs and the Oimyakon genome as a whole, which may seem odd given the high likelihood of genetic drift in the Holocene Wrangel population. We suggest two possible hypotheses that might explain this observation. First, it is possible that positions in the Wrangel genome that are not in ROHs are places where the TMRCA between the Wrangel individual's chromosomes extends all the way back to the time when Wrangel was a part of the mainland (i.e., Berengia). If this is the case, then non-ROH regions should reflect the genetic diversity that existed at the time before N_e declined (as a consequence of the isolation on Wrangel). Alternatively, the observed similarity in diversity may be an effect of the Wrangel genome being of higher quality and/or coverage than the Oimyakon genome, which could have allowed more heterozygous positions to be called in the analyses (due to lower false-negative rates). If this is the explanation, the estimated 20% reduction in the Wrangel genome's diversity may be an underestimate.

In conclusion, our finding of an overall reduced genome-wide diversity in one of the last surviving mammoths constitutes the first direct observation of genetic stochasticity in a species shortly before its extinction. Given that small population sizes in wild animals often lead to reduced individual fitness [33], it

seems plausible that the low genetic variation detected in this study may have had a negative impact on the fitness of the Wrangel Island population and thus may have contributed to its subsequent extinction. The results presented here also highlight the value of sequencing ancient genomes from specimens that predate population declines to establish baseline levels of genome-wide diversity. In conservation biology, this approach can be used to directly quantify the amount of diversity lost in threatened species.

ACCESSION NUMBERS

All sequence data described herein have been submitted to the European Nucleotide Archive (<http://www.ebi.ac.uk/ena>) and are available under the accession number ENA: ERP008929.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Supplemental Information includes four figures, two tables, and Supplemental Experimental Procedures and can be found with this article online at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.cub.2015.04.007>.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

E.P., A.G., and L.D. conceived and designed the study. H.P., A.G., D.R., and L.D. supervised the study. E.P., J.E., N.R., and A.O. performed the experiments. E.P., S.M., and P.S. processed and analyzed the genetic data with input from H.L., D.R., and L.D. S.V., H.P., A.G., D.R., and L.D. provided samples and reagents. E.P. and L.D. wrote the manuscript with input from all authors.

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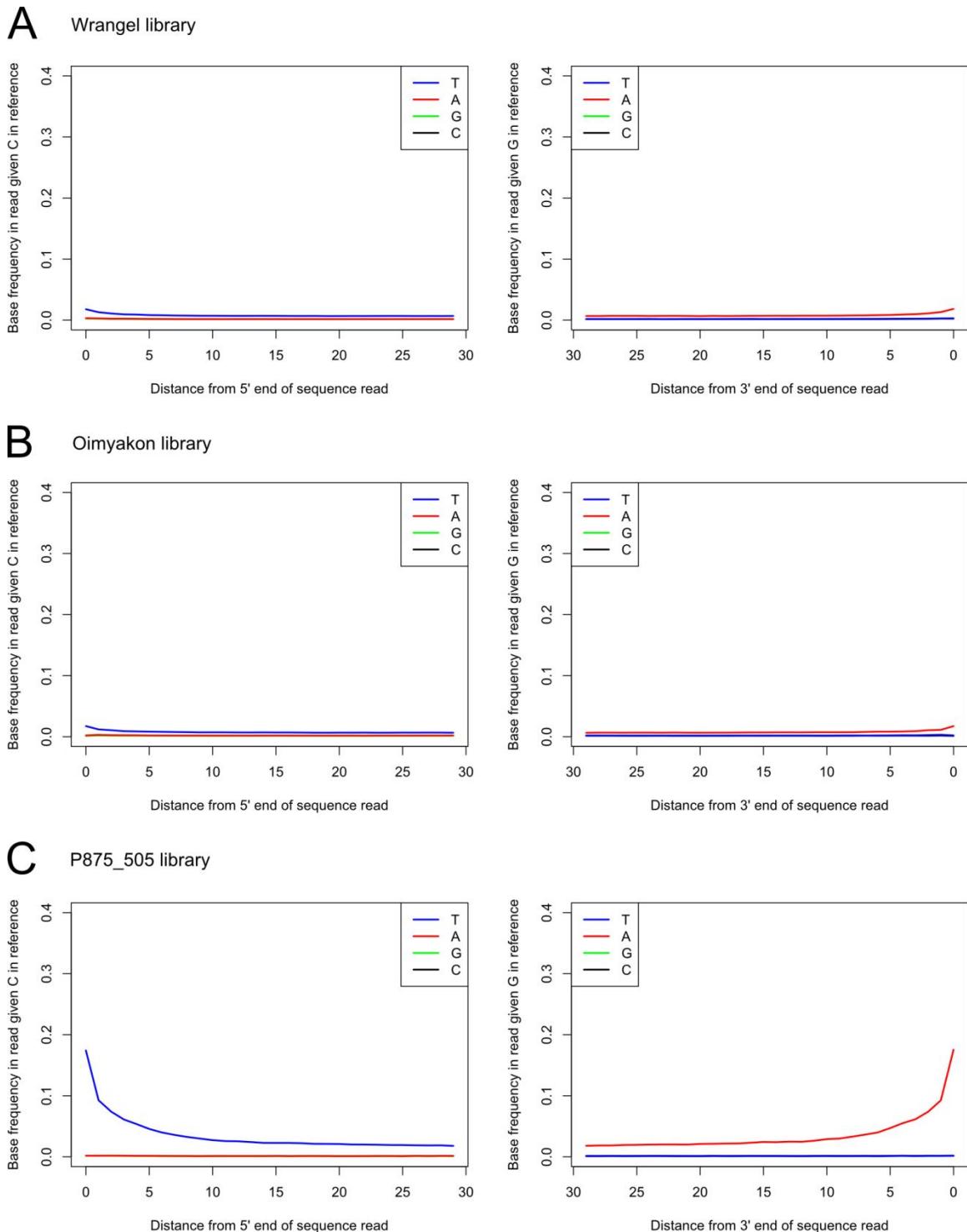
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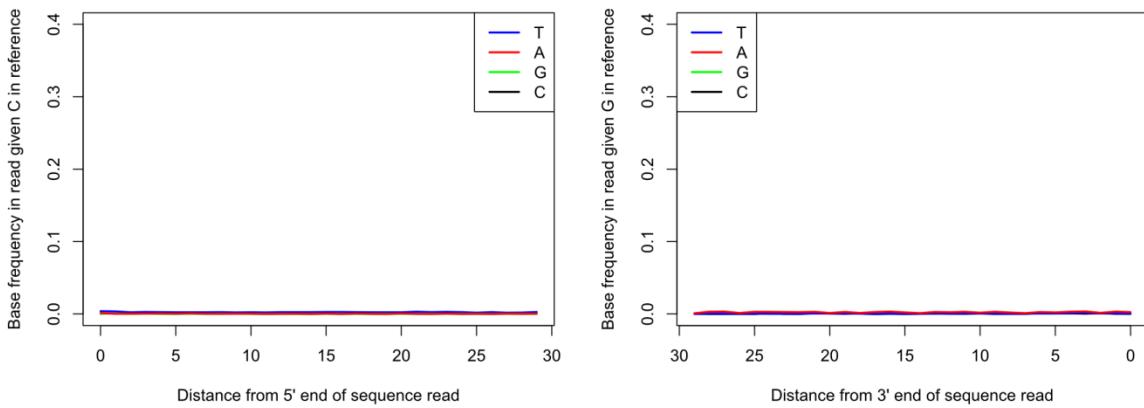
Complete Genomes Reveal Signatures of Demographic and Genetic Declines in the Woolly Mammoth

**Eleftheria Palkopoulou, Swapan Mallick, Pontus Skoglund, Jacob Enk, Nadin Rohland,
Heng Li, Ayça Omrak, Sergey Vartanyan, Hendrik Poinar, Anders Götherström,
David Reich, and Love Dalén**

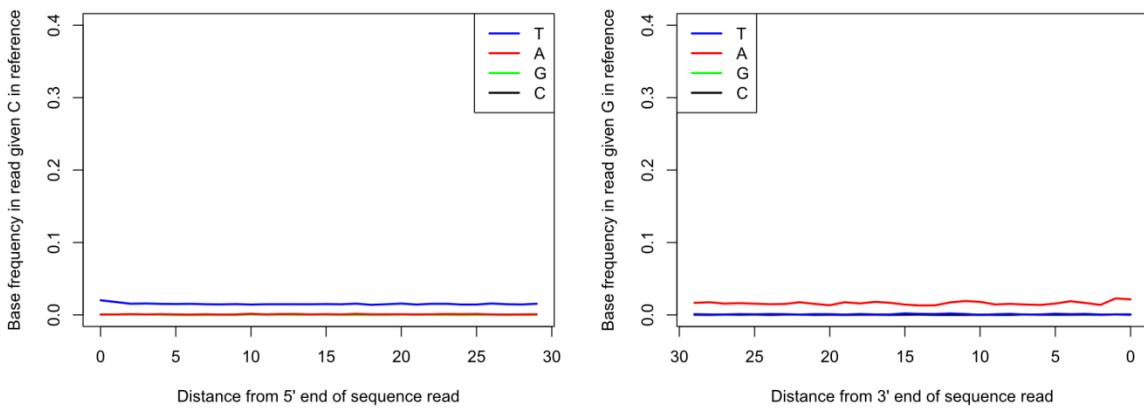
Supplemental Figures



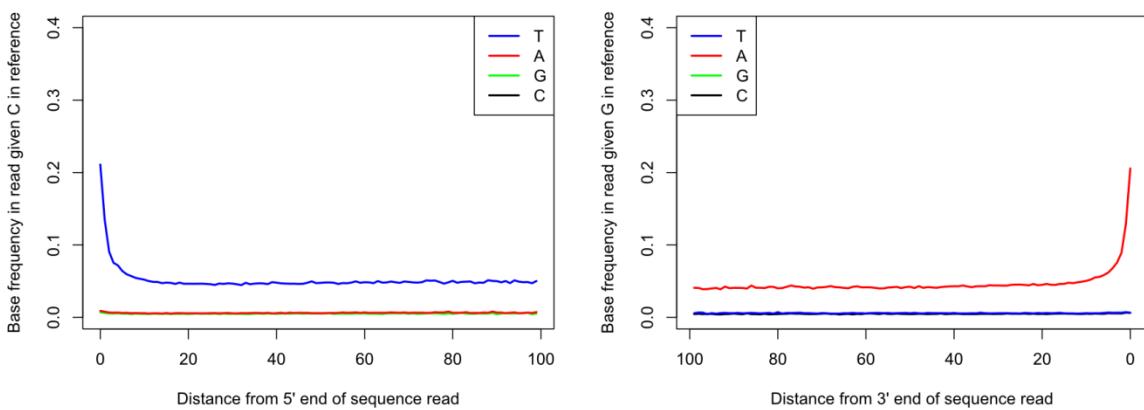
D Wrangel mtDNA reads



E Oimyakon mtDNA reads



F Wrangel CpG reads



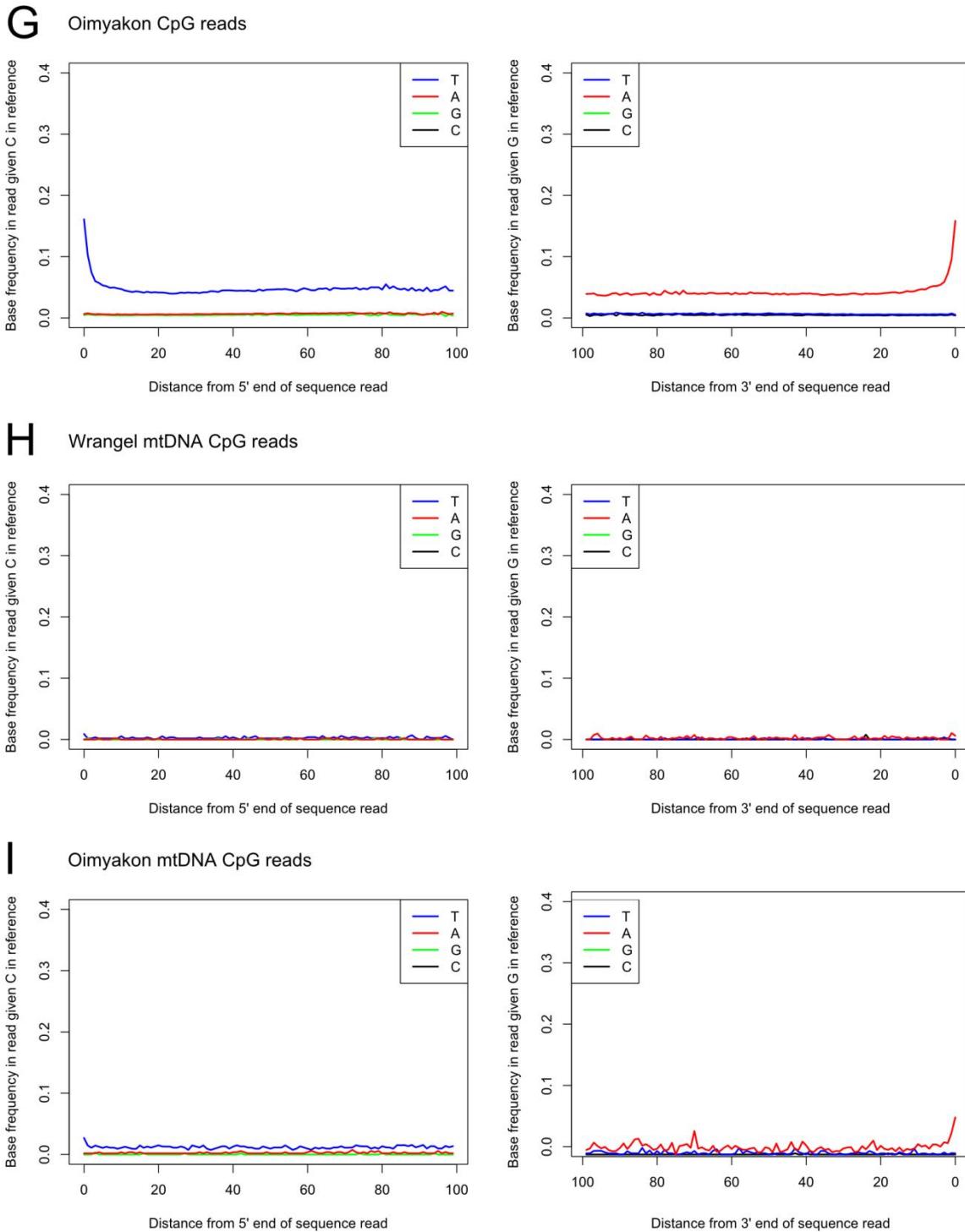


Figure S1. Nucleotide misincorporation patterns of the woolly mammoth DNA libraries.
 (A-B) Damage-derived substitutions in the Wrangel and Oimyakon UDG-treated libraries. (C) Damage-derived substitutions in the non-UDG treated library P875_505.

(D-E) Damage-derived substitutions in the mtDNA reads of the UDG-treated libraries.

(F-G) Damage-derived substitutions in reads with CpG dinucleotides from the UDG-treated libraries. (H-I) Damage-derived susbsitutions in mtDNA reads with CpG dinucleotides from the UDG-treated libraries.

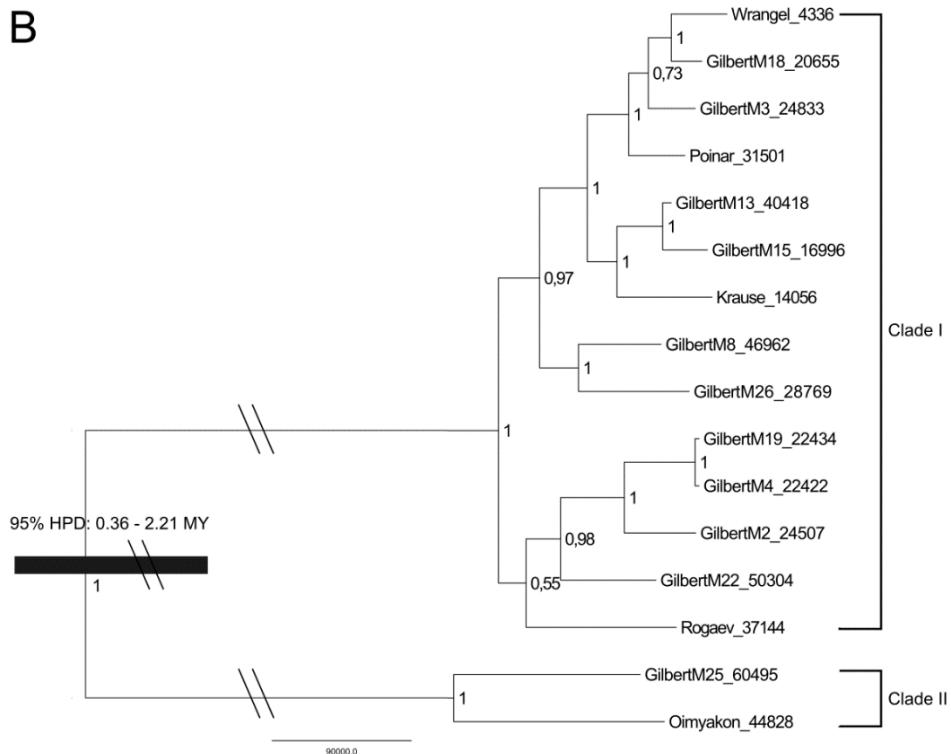
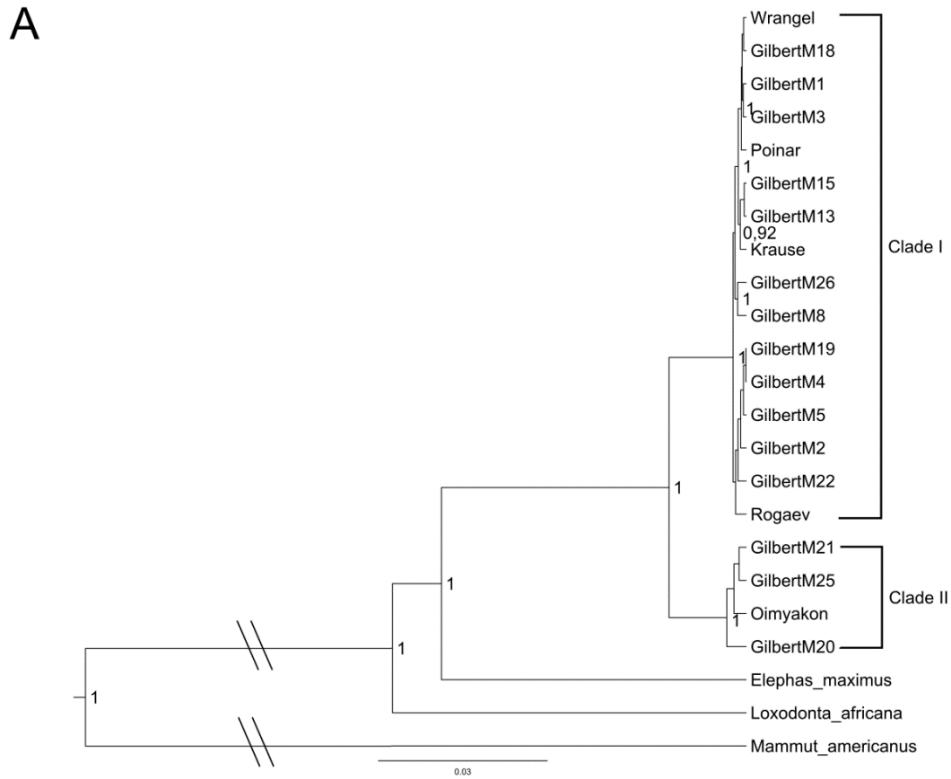
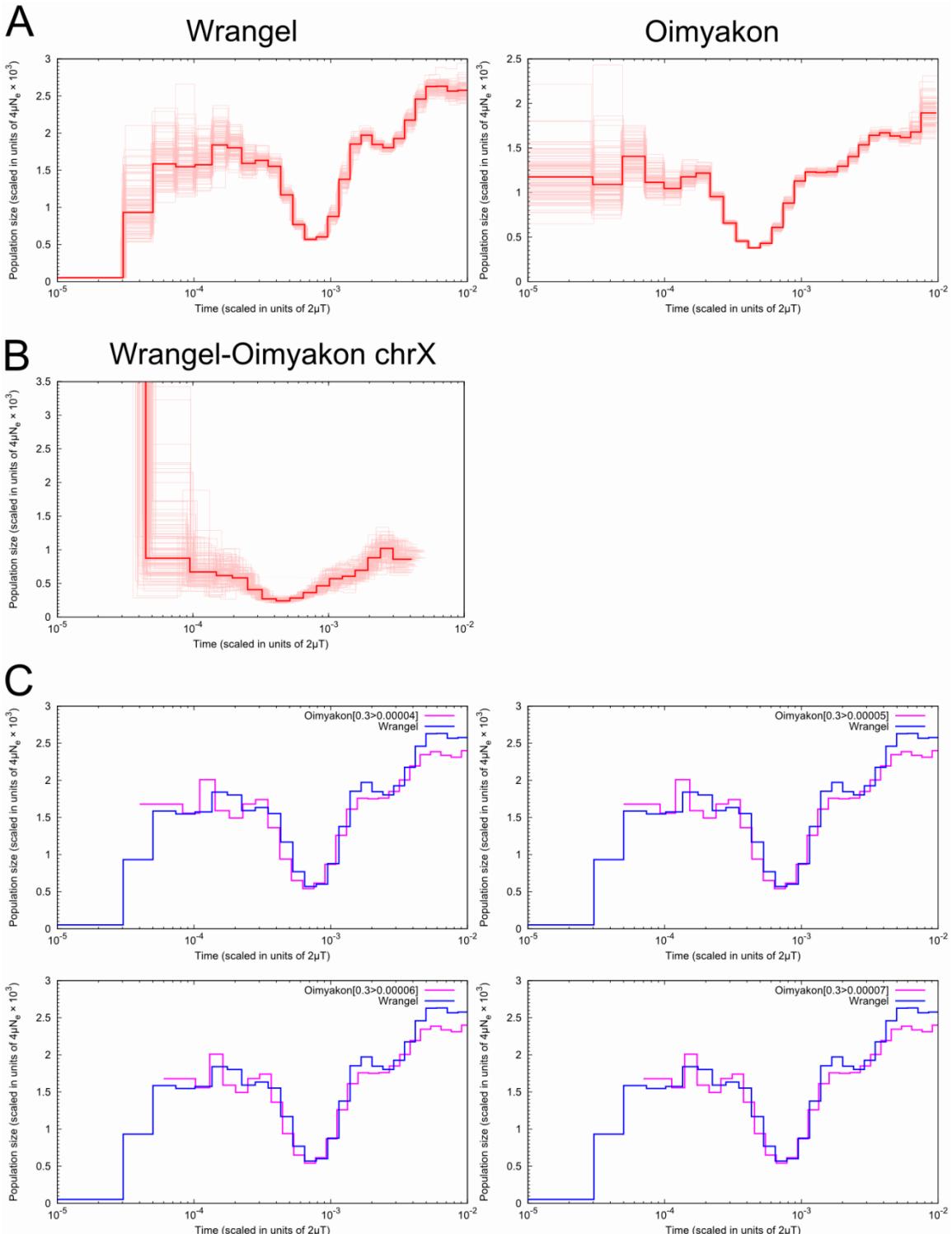


Figure S2. Mitochondrial DNA clade membership of the two woolly mammoths.

(A) Bayesian phylogeny of complete mt genomes from 20 woolly mammoths, an Asian elephant, an African savanna elephant and a mastodon. (B) Dated phylogeny of complete mt genomes from 16 woolly mammoths with finite radiocarbon dates. The median calibrated date of each mitochondrial genome sequence is shown next to the tip label. The black bar represents the 95% highest posterior density of the nodal age estimate. Bayesian posterior probabilities are shown. Branches with crossed lines on them indicate that they have been shortened for illustrative purposes. Mitochondrial DNA clades I and II are indicated.



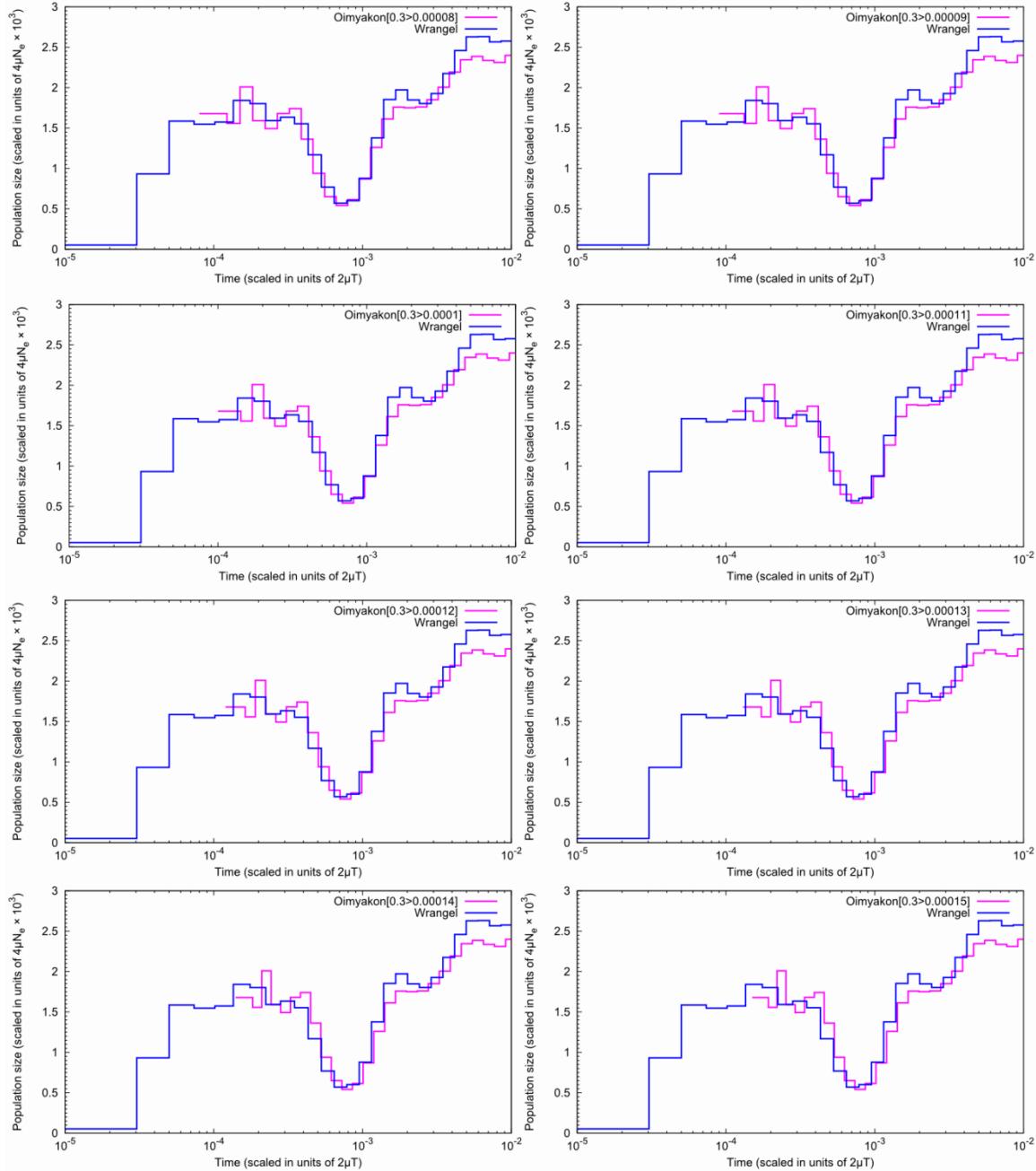
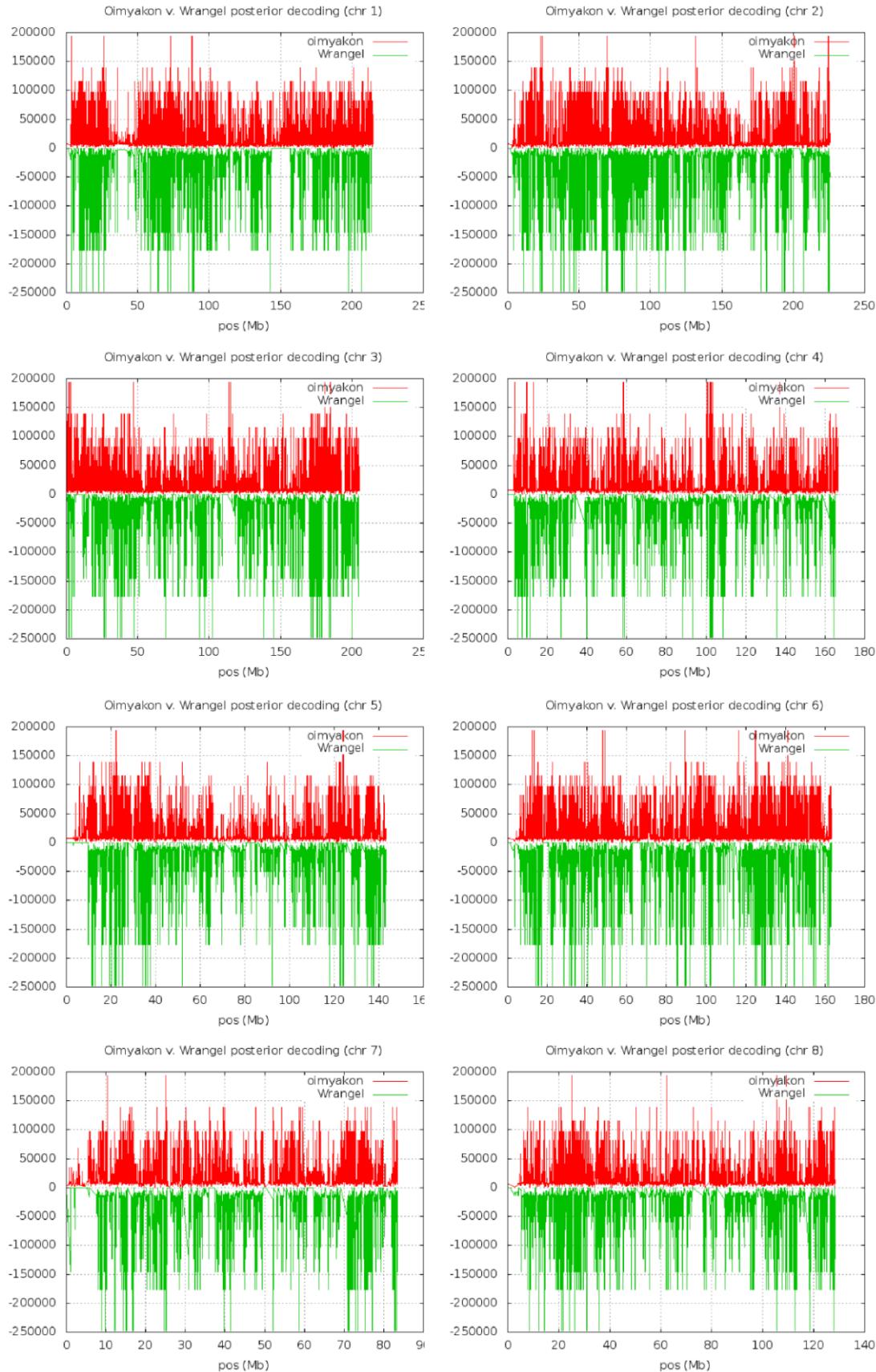
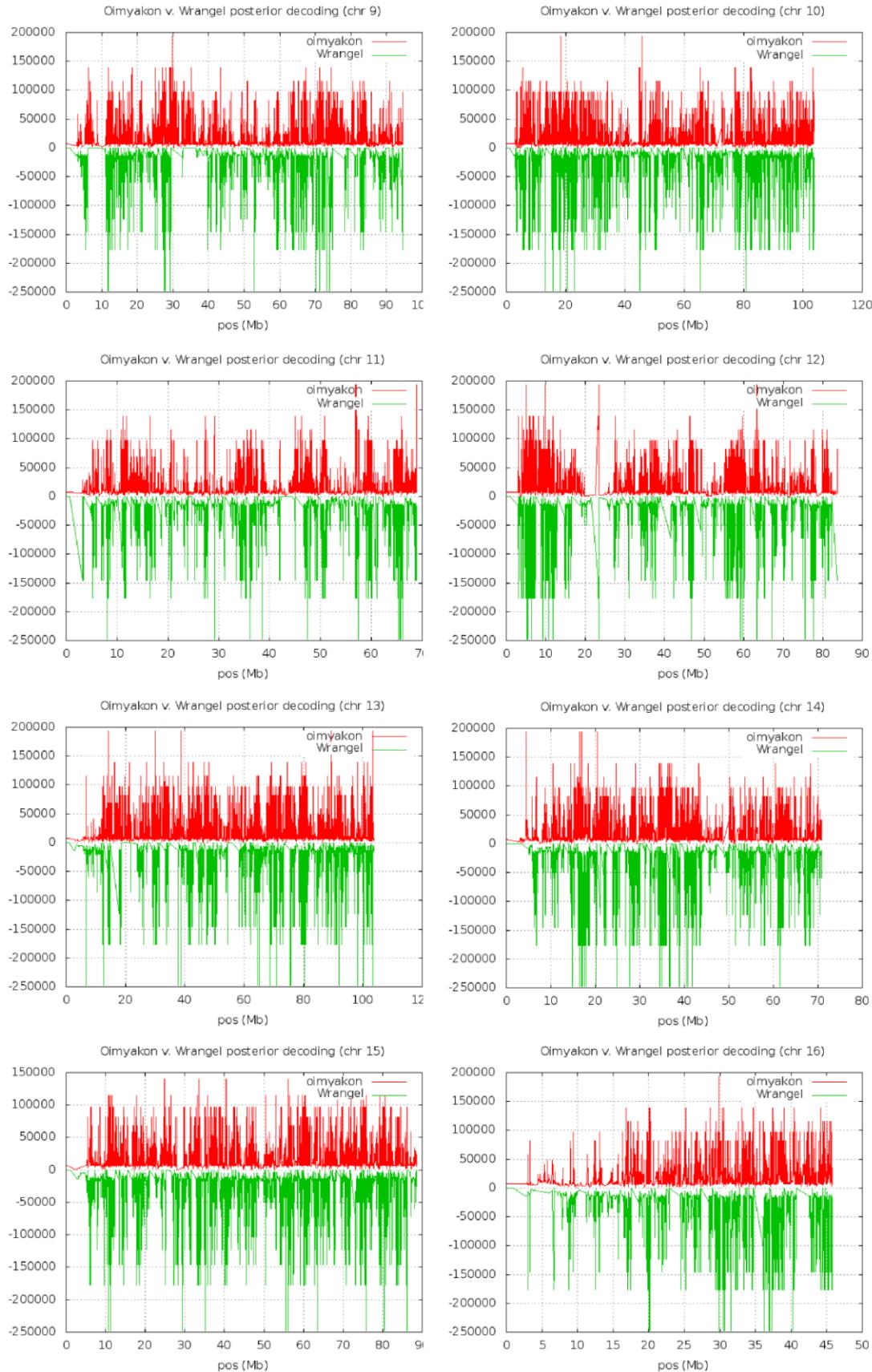
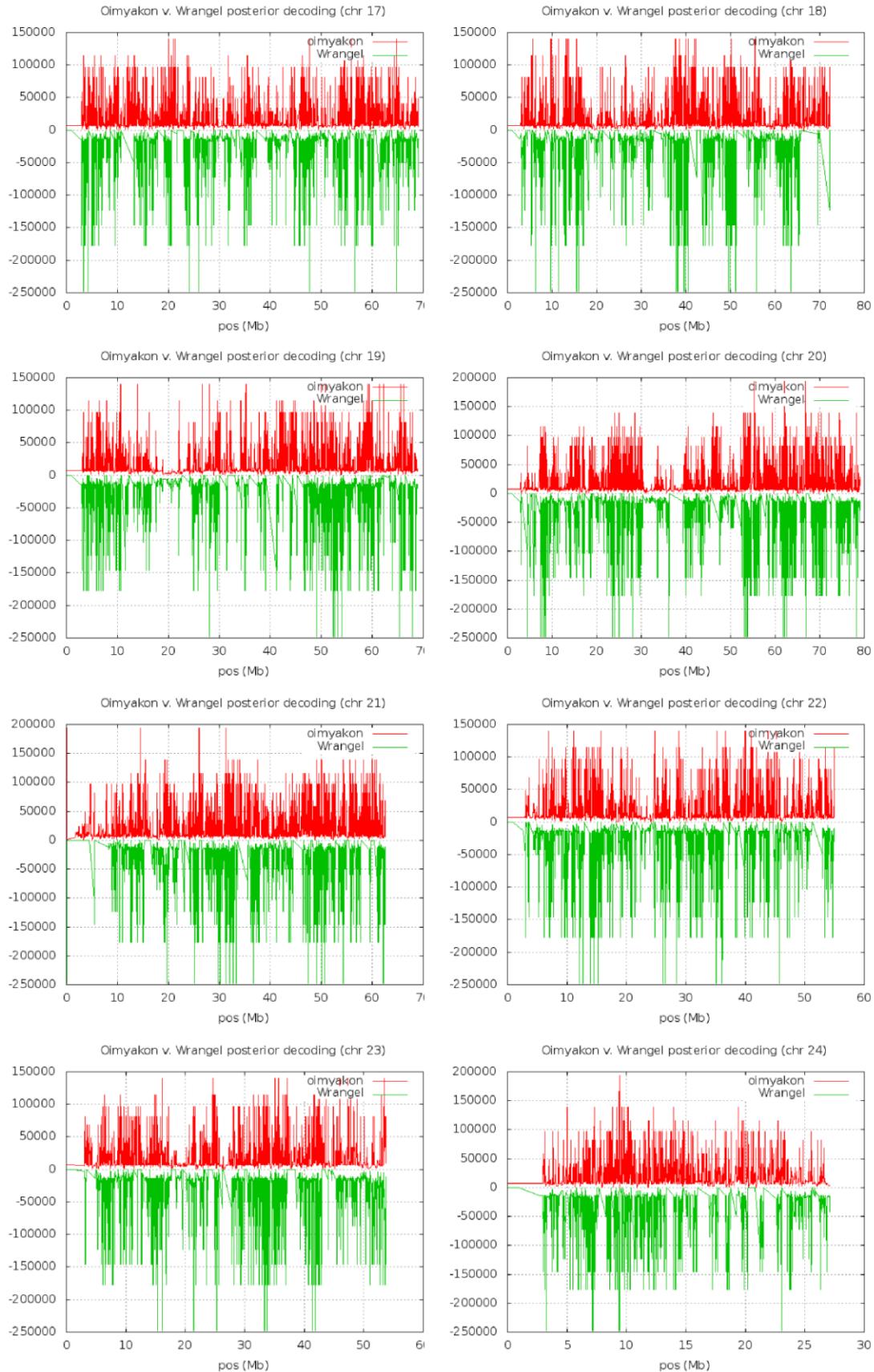


Figure S3. PSMC estimates of the Wrangel genome, Oimyakon genome and Wrangel-Oimyakon chromosome X. Time on the lower x-axis is given in units of divergence per base pair. Population size on the y-axis is given in units of $4\mu N_e \times 10^3$. (A) Thick red lines represent the PSMC estimate of each genome and thin red lines represent

the curves from 100 rounds of bootstrap analyses. **(B)** The thick red line represents the PSMC estimate of the Wrangel-Oimyakon pseudo-diploid chromosome X and the thin red lines represent the curves from 100 rounds of bootstrap analyses. **(C)** PSMC estimates of the two genomes plotted together with the Oimyakon curve shifted along the x-axis until its population history was lined up with that of the Wrangel genome ($d=0.00004 - 0.00015$). An empirical false negative rate of 30% was applied on the Oimyakon curve to correct for missing heterozygotes due to its lower coverage.







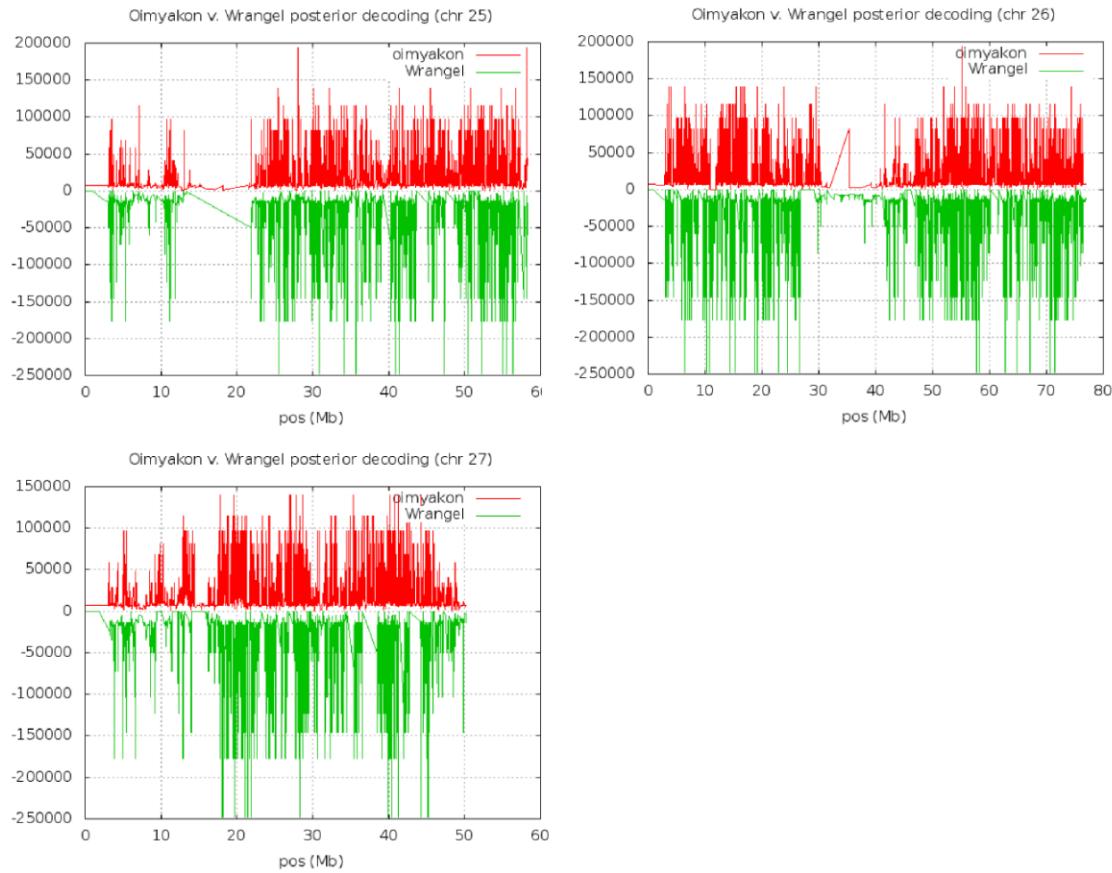


Figure S4. Distribution of the inferred TMRCA for the two alleles of chromosomes 1-27 of each individual. The Oimyakon individual is shown in red and the Wrangel individual in green.

Table S1: Specimen information and summary of data from individuals from Wrangel Island that were pooled for shotgun-sequencing.

Extraction No	¹⁴ C age	Material	# raw reads ($\times 10^6$)	% mapped	% clonal	Total mapped reads
E460B	4400±40	Tusk	6.85	80.91	1.31	5469674
E461B	4389±46	Bone	6.14	39.12	1.58	2363681
E462B	4370±40	Tusk	13.07	0.35	0.20	45564
E463B	4260±75	Molar	5.27	8.11	0.84	423965
E464B	4210±70	Molar	16.48	68.11	1.82	11020619
E465B	4120±110	Tusk	4.77	10.68	1.17	503660
E466B	3920±40	Tusk	5.58	18.27	0.85	1011026
E467B	3905±47	Molar	9.61	77.45	1.70	7317141
E468B	3730±40	Tusk	6.34	16.95	0.64	1067848
E469B	3685±60	Molar	5.19	17.54	1.45	897036
E460C	4400±40	Tusk	5.77	86.47	1.96	4891320
E461C	4389±46	Bone	5.61	13.65	0.87	758942
E462C	4370±40	Tusk	6.17	0.57	0.26	34970
E463C	4260±75	Molar	4.86	8.76	0.85	422129
E464C	4210±70	Molar	5.31	72.44	1.32	3796066
E465C	4120±110	Tusk	3.87	13.76	16.56	444308
E467C	3905±47	Molar	6.81	80.51	1.37	5407532
E468C	3730±40	Tusk	6.34	16.51	5.01	994459

Extraction numbers B and C refer to two different DNA isolation protocols that were used for each specimen (see Supplemental Experimental Procedures).

Table S2: Heterozygosity estimates per 1,000 base pairs.

mlRho autosomes				mlRho chrX				
	θ	CI (θ)	ϵ	CI (ϵ)	θ	CI (θ)	ϵ	CI (ϵ)
Wrangel	1.00	0.99-1.02	0.504	0.501-0.508	0.439	0.272-0.661	0.357	0.296-0.426
Oimyakon	1.25	1.23-1.27	0.558	0.554-0.563	0.225	0.088-0.457	0.296	0.217-0.391

(θ): population mutation rate which approximates heterozygosity under the infinite sites model.

(ϵ) : sequencing error estimated by mlRho.

CI: confidence interval.

Supplemental Experimental Procedures

Sample description, radiocarbon dating

The Wrangel specimen is a molar collected by one of us (Sergey Vartanyan) on Wrangel Island (70° - 72° N and 178° - 177° W; Figure 1A). Radiocarbon dating at the University of Arizona (Tucson, USA) using accelerator mass spectrometry (AMS) had previously produced an uncalibrated age of $3,905 \pm 47$ radiocarbon years [S1] (AA 40665). This specimen has already been characterized for 741bp of mitochondrial DNA including part of the cytochrome b gene (CytB), two tRNA genes (tRNA-Thr and tRNA-Pro) and the first hypervariable part of the control region (CR1) [S2] as well as for four microsatellite markers [S3].

The Oimyakon specimen is soft tissue (skin) from the remains of a woolly mammoth calf found in the Oimyakon district, Yakutia (63.50° N 142.75° W; Figure 1A) [S4]. This specimen was collected from the Cerpolex/Mammuthus collection in Khatanga, Russia. Skin from the remains of the calf was dated with AMS to an uncalibrated age of $41,300 \pm 900$ radiocarbon years BP [S4] (GrA-30727). This specimen has already been characterized for 743bp of mitochondrial DNA including part of the cytochrome b gene (CytB), two tRNA genes (tRNA-Thr and tRNA-Pro) and the first hypervariable part of the control region (CR1) [S5].

Both radiocarbon dates were calibrated in OXCAL [S6] v. 4.2 with the IntCal 13 calibration curve [S7]. The median calibrated date corresponds to 4,336 (99.7% posterior range: 4,147 – 4,523) years for the Wrangel specimen and 44,828 (99.7% posterior range: 42,753 – 48,045) years for the Oimyakon specimen (Figure 1B).

DNA extraction, library preparation and sequencing

Wrangel specimen

In an initial screening experiment we performed shotgun-sequencing of ten individuals with the most recent radiocarbon dates from our sample collection from Wrangel Island to determine their level of endogenous DNA (Table S1). We generated two DNA extracts from each specimen following two methods and using 50 mg of bone powder for each extraction method: *i*) a modified version of protocol C in Yang *et al.* [S8] as described in Brace *et al.* [S9] (extraction numbers B in Table S1) and *ii*) protocol C in [S10] (extraction numbers C in Table S1) with the following modifications: PB buffer (Qiagen) was used as binding buffer instead of L2 and EB (Qiagen) was used to elute DNA instead of 1X TE buffer. A 362bp fragment of the mitochondrial DNA was amplified using primers mam_15038F and mam_15401R [S11] to assess successful DNA yield. Negative controls were always included in extraction and amplification sets. All specimens amplified successfully for the targeted DNA region with the first extraction method while two specimens failed to yield amplifiable DNA with the second extraction method. We prepared indexed double-stranded libraries from the positive DNA extracts including water controls and following the protocol for multiplexed sequencing by Meyer & Kircher [S12], using AmpliTaq Gold® (Life technologies) for the indexing PCR. Indexed libraries were purified with magnetic beads (Agencourt AMPure XP, Beckman Coulter) and their concentration was measured using a high-sensitivity DNA chip on the Bioanalyzer 2100 (Agilent). Finally, all indexed libraries were pooled in equimolar concentrations and sequenced in one lane of an Illumina HiSeq 2500 flowcell with a paired-end 2x100bp setup in RapidRun mode.

We processed reads as described in the following section (sequence processing and alignment) and estimated the percentage of reads that aligned to the African elephant reference genome and the percentage of clonal reads for each library. Table S1 shows that libraries built from each of the two extracts from the same specimen yielded similar levels of endogenous DNA (no significant differences according to pairwise t-tests for percentage of mapped reads depending on extraction protocol, $P = 0.38$). Three specimens contained fractions of endogenous DNA higher than 50% with low percentage of clonal reads and the specimen with the youngest date (E467) was chosen for deeper whole genome sequencing.

We prepared a new library from 20ul of the E467C DNA extract using the same double-stranded library protocol [S12] as the one used for the screening experiment described above. Treatment with the USER enzyme (New England Biolabs) was performed during blunt-end repair to excise uracil residues [S13, S14] and a high-fidelity polymerase AccuPrimeTM Pfx (Life technologies) was used for the indexing PCR. Six independent amplifications were performed for indexing (using six different indexes as suggested by Meyer & Kircher [S12] to avoid a downstream failure of Illumina's image analysis software), which were then pooled. Purification of the pooled library was performed with magnetic beads (Agencourt AMPure XP, Beckman Coulter) and its concentration was measured using a high-sensitivity DNA chip on the Bioanalyzer 2100 (Agilent). Sequencing was performed on 8 lanes of the Illumina HiSeq 2500 flowcell with a paired-end 2x100bp setup in HighOutput mode. All pre-PCR DNA analyses described above were performed in a dedicated ancient DNA laboratory at the Swedish Museum of Natural History in Stockholm.

Oimyakon specimen

180mg of soft tissue (skin) were subsampled from the Oimyakon specimen. DNA extraction was performed following the protocol described in [S15] with some modifications: *i*) the subsample was pre-washed for 1.5h in 0.5M EDTA (pH 8.0) with agitation at room temperature, *ii*) following overnight incubation of the pellet with EDTA at room temperature, digestion was performed at 55°C for 5h, *iii*) extraction of the digested supernatant was performed using phenol:chloroform:isoamyl alcohol (PCI 25:24:1) in the first step and chloroform:isoamyl alcohol (25:1) in the second step of extraction, *iv*) the DNA extract was finally concentrated using a 30kDA Amicon centrifuge filter (Millipore) at 10k x g and washed four times with 0.1X TE buffer.

The DNA extract was purified using a MinElute column (QIAGEN). 20µL of the purified extract were then converted to a double-stranded, UDG-treated (with the USER enzyme mix) Illumina sequencing library [S12, S14]. The library was double-indexed using the P5 and P7 indexing primers [S14] and purified with MinElute columns (QIAGEN). Re-amplification was performed in a total of 18 reactions followed by a size-selection with gel-electrophoresis using low melting point agarose for inserts > 40bp. Excised bands were purified with the QiaQuick Gel Purification kit (QIAGEN) without applying heat during the melting of the agarose to not over-represent GC rich regions [S16]. The purified library was then re-amplified and sequenced on 7 lanes of an Illumina HiSeq 2500 platform with a paired-end 2 x 100bp single-index setup. All pre-PCR sample manipulation was performed in dedicated ancient DNA laboratory facilities at the McMaster Ancient DNA Center. DNA analyses following indexing of the DNA library

were performed at Harvard Medical School and sequencing was performed at Illumina, San Diego, USA.

Sequence processing and alignment

The reads were processed with HiSeq Control Software 2.0.12.0/RTA 1.17.21.3 and Bcl to Fastq conversion was performed using bcl2Fastq v1.8.3 from the CASAVA 1.8 software suite. Reads were sorted according to their indexes. SeqPrep 1.1 (<https://github.com/jstjohn/SeqPrep>) was used to remove adapters and merge paired end reads. Adapter sequences were trimmed by searching for a ≥ 10 nt overlap between the end of each read and the adapter sequence allowing up to 0.02 mismatching bases of good quality (>13) in the overlapping region and requiring a minimum of 0.87 matching bases in the overlapping region. Forward and reverse reads were merged into single reads if they overlapped for at least 15nt allowing up to 0.02 mismatching bases of good quality (>13) and requiring a minimum of 0.9 matching bases in the overlapping region. A minor modification to the source code was performed to ensure that the quality score of bases in the merged region are the best one of the two possibilities, rather than the aggregate. Merged reads with length shorter than 30bp were discarded.

In the following steps, we used BWA [S17] version 0.7.8 and SAMtools [S18] version 0.1.19. BWA's index command was used to index the African savanna elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) genome (LoxAfr4; downloaded from <ftp://ftp.broadinstitute.org/distribution/assemblies/mammals/elephant/loxAfr4/>) that was used as the reference genome. Merged reads were mapped against the reference genome using parameters -l 16500 -n 0.01 -o 2, which deactivate seeding, allow more

substitutions and permit up to two gaps (instead of one), using BWA's 'aln' algorithm to construct suffix arrays. Alignments were built using BWA's 'samse' command, and converted to BAM format using SAMtools, prior to coordinate sorting. Unmapped reads were filtered out and SAMtools' 'rmdup' was used to remove duplicates with the '-s' option.

The number of aligned reads representing the fraction of endogenous DNA was equal to ~76% for the Wrangel library and ~64% for the Oimyakon library (without a mapping quality threshold). The estimated percentage of clonal reads was ~19% for Wrangel and ~30% for Oimyakon. The distribution of insert size in base pairs of the Wrangel library displays a higher average compared to the insert size of the Oimyakon library. On average, we recovered the complete genome sequence of the Wrangel individual at 17.1-fold coverage and of the Oimyakon individual at 11.2-fold coverage.

Mitochondrial genome sequence and phylogeny

We added a previously published woolly mammoth complete mitochondrial genome [S19] (GenBank accession number: DQ188829.2) to the African elephant reference genome, in order to recover both nuclear and mitochondrial (mt) DNA sequences from the two samples. Since BWA [S17] was used for alignments to the circular mt reference genome, we added 240 of the first base pairs to the end of the mt reference genome in order to facilitate mapping and avoid reduced coverage at the beginning and end of the mt genome [S20]. In total, 33,180 reads aligned to the mt genome resulting in an average 222-fold coverage for the Wrangel individual. For the Oimyakon individual, the total number of aligned reads was equal to 33,735, providing an average 299-fold coverage of

the mtDNA genome. The average length of the mtDNA reads was 150.8bp and 119.2bp for the Oimyakon and Wrangel library respectively. Both distributions were skewed towards longer read lengths compared to the length distribution of the nuclear DNA reads. We found that the difference between the length distributions of the mtDNA and nuclear reads is due to SAMtools' 'rmdup' function, which removes duplicates based on either the 5' or 3' position of the reads and retains the longest read. This leads to inflated length distribution for loci with deep coverage, such as the mitochondrion. Using an alternative script for removing duplicates based on both 5' and 3' position of the reads, and randomly retaining a read, removes the inflation effect on the length distribution of the mtDNA reads (data not shown).

We used SAMtools' [S18] (v. 0.1.19) 'mpileup' command and the 'vcf2fq' command from vcftools.pl to generate mtDNA consensus sequences filtering out bases with quality below 30 and positions with root-mean-squared mapping quality below 30. We further applied a filter on read depth with a minimum of 10-fold and maximum of 600-fold coverage (based on the average coverage estimated for both libraries). The consensus sequences of the Wrangel and Oimyakon individuals were aligned to previously published complete woolly mammoth mitochondrial genomes [S15, S19, S21-S23] (accession numbers: EU155210, DQ188829, EU153446, EU153448, EU153450, EU153451, EU153453, DQ316067, EU153444, EU153445, EU153447, EU153449, EU153452, EU153454 - EU153458), the complete mitochondrial genome of a mastodon (*Mammut americanus*; EF632344) and two modern mitochondrial genomes from an African elephant (*Loxodonta africana*; DQ316069) and an Asian elephant (*Elephas maximus*; DQ316068) using ClustalW [S24] with default parameters built in the software

Geneious [S25] v.5.5.7. Bayesian phylogenies were constructed in BEAST v1.8.0 [S26] for two datasets: *i*) including all woolly mammoth mt genomes together with the mt genomes of the mastodon and the African and Asian elephants and *ii*) including woolly mammoth genomes with finite radiocarbon dates. For dataset (*ii*), which included only intraspecific mt genome sequences, a dated phylogeny was constructed in BEAST using the age of each sequence as tip-date to internally calibrate the molecular clock of the genealogy. Radiocarbon dates from all previously published mt genomes and the two new mt genomes were calibrated in OXCAL [S6] v. 4.2 with the IntCal 13 calibration curve [S7] and their median calibrated dates were used as tip-dates in BEAST. Woolly mammoth mt genome sequences belonging to mtDNA clade I or II were assigned to two groups and the highest posterior density (HPD) of the sequence divergence time between the two clades was estimated based on the inferred rate of molecular evolution. MrModeltest2 [S27] was used to select the best-fitting model of sequence evolution (GTR+I+G for dataset [*i*] and HKY+I+G for a dataset [*ii*]). Analyses were run under a constant-size coalescent tree prior for 50,000,000 iterations sampling every 5,000 generations. Convergence was checked in Tracer [S28] v1.6 with the first 10% of the samples discarded as burn-in.

From the topologies of both phylogenetic trees (Figure S2) we show that the Wrangel individual belonged to mtDNA clade I [S11, S21] (haplogroups C+D+E in [S5]) in agreement with all other specimens from Wrangel Island that have been previously analysed for their mtDNA [S2, S3]. The Oimyakon individual on the other hand, was found to belong to mtDNA clade II [S11, S21] (haplogroup A in [S5]). Using the dates of the mt genomes as internal calibration points in BEAST we dated the coalescence

between the two mtDNA clades at 1.12 million years (MY) with a 95% HPD of 0.36-2.21 MY. This estimate of divergence time is similar to that reported by a previous study that used mt genomes with tip-calibration [S21] (95% HPD: 0.38-2.43 MY). However, both these estimates are much older than the split time reported by another more recent study [S29] (95% credibility interval: 156-261 thousand years ago) that used a larger sample size of dated mtDNA sequences that were 741bp long. This discrepancy could be related to the lack of temporal signal for tip calibration in the complete mt genomes dataset [S30, S31] in contrast to the larger dataset with dated mtDNA sequences [S29]. Sequencing of additional complete mtDNA genomes from a wider temporal range should resolve this issue.

DNA damage analyses

Ancient DNA (aDNA) is characterized by nucleotide misincorporations, in particular C to T and G to A substitutions, which mainly derive from cytosine deamination [S32]. The frequency of these nucleotide misincorporations has been found to be elevated at the 5' end (C to T changes) and 3' end (G to A changes) of the reads sequenced from double-stranded libraries due to single-stranded overhanging ends and nicks in aDNA molecules [S13]. Uracils, the result of cytosine deamination, were removed from both DNA extracts using uracil DNA glycosylases (UDG) in the USER enzyme mix (New England Biolabs) prior to library preparation. In contrast, the pooled libraries in our initial shotgun sequencing experiment were not treated with UDG. We used PMDtools [S33] v.0.53 to assess the damage profiles of our libraries. Figures S1A-B show that the UDG-treated libraries exhibit only a small residual signal of nucleotide misincorporations at the 5' and 3' end of the sequences, whereas the non-treated libraries exhibit significantly higher

nucleotide misincorporation rates towards the terminal positions (Figure S1C). When looking at the damage patterns of the mtDNA, no signal of damage is observed in the UDG-treated Wrangel library (Figure S1D). The slightly elevated but constant rate of nucleotide misincorporations across the mtDNA reads displayed by Oimyakon (Figure S1E) most likely represents real substitutions rather than damage-derived substitutions since Oimyakon is phylogenetically grouped within mtDNA clade II and the mtDNA reference used for alignment belongs to mtDNA clade I (Figure S2).

We restricted the damage analysis to nucleotides in CpG context and noticed as expected that UDG-treatment was less efficient in this case, especially towards the 5' and 3' end of the molecules (misincorporation rate up to 20%; Figures S1F-G). This is due to deaminated methylated cytosines, which result in thymine residues and thus cannot be repaired by UDG-treatment [S13]. Further, the estimated elevated misincorporation rate across the reads (~5%) probably reflects real substitutions given the divergence time between woolly mammoths and African elephant (4.2-9MY) [S34], which was used as a reference, and the fact that the mutation rate in CpG dinucleotides is higher compared to cytosines in a non-CpG context [S35]. We do not observe the same damage pattern when restricting the analysis to nucleotides in a CpG context in the mtDNA (Figures S1H-I), which can be explained by the fact that CpG methylation does not occur in the mtDNA [S13].

Sex identification

The specimen from Wrangel Island consists of a single molar [S1] and thus morphological sex determination was not possible. Similar issues prevented sex

determination of the Oimyakon calf remains due to absence of the posterior body part and genitalia [S4]. In order to determine the sex of these two individuals, we could estimate the ratio of reads aligning to chromosomes X and Y [S36]. However, the absence of an elephant Y-chromosome sequence in the African savanna elephant genome (LoxAfr4) used as reference means that we could not use this method. As an alternative method, we counted the number of reads that mapped against chromosome X (17805622 and 15063126 for Wrangel and Oimyakon, respectively) and compared it to the number of reads that mapped against chromosome 8 (30356668 and 24870030, respectively), which has comparable size to that of chromosome X (~120Mb and ~128Mb respectively). For individuals carrying two X chromosomes, we do not expect to find a significant difference between the proportion of reads mapped against chromosome X and chromosome 8. We normalized by the length of the reference sequences and found that the number of reads that mapped to chromosome X is $\sim 63\% = (17805622 / 120050768) / (30356668 / 128409435)$ and $\sim 65\% = (15063126 / 120050768) / (24870030 / 128409435)$ for Wrangel and Oimyakon respectively, of what would be expected based on the chromosome 8 observation. This finding strongly suggests that these two individuals carried only one X chromosome and therefore were both likely to be males.

Genome-wide heterozygosity

We estimated autosomal heterozygosity using mlRho's v.2.7 [S37] population mutation rate (θ) estimate, which approximates expected heterozygosity under the infinite sites model. We filtered out bases with quality below 30, reads with mapping quality below 30 and positions with root-mean-squared mapping quality below 30. High or low coverage in some regions can result from structural variation that can create erroneous mapping to

the reference genome leading to observed false heterozygous sites. In order to avoid this problem, we applied a filter on coverage excluding sites with depth lower than 1/3 and higher than 2 times the estimated average coverage for each library. The maximum likelihood approach implemented in mlRho has been shown to provide unbiased estimates of average within-individual heterozygosity at high coverage [S37, 38]. Therefore, we did not correct for the lower coverage of the Oimyakon genome, 11.2-fold versus the 17.1-fold coverage of the Wrangel genome, in our comparison of autosomal heterozygosity between the two individuals. The estimates from mlRho reveal lower levels of autosomal heterozygosity for the Wrangel individual than the Oimyakon individual (Table S2) despite coverage discrepancies.

We also calculated heterozygosity in chromosome X using mlRho with the same filters as described above for the autosomes. Since chromosome X is in haploid state in males, we did not expect to find any heterozygous sites (excluding sequencing errors and remaining damage-derived misincorporations on CpG sites) in the chrX sequence of the two individuals assumed to be males. The estimated number of heterozygous sites was 4.39 (confidence interval [CI]: 2.72-6.61) and 2.25 (CI: 0.88-4.57) per 10,000bp in the X chromosome of the Wrangel and Oimyakon individual respectively (Table S2). These estimates are lower than the respective autosomal heterozygosity estimates and at the same order of magnitude but not lower than the estimated sequencing error in chromosome X. To look into this further, we assessed whether heterozygosity estimates varied across chromosome X by calculating regional heterozygosity per 10kb windows. We called a consensus sequence for chromosome X using SAMtool's [S18] (version 0.1.19) 'mpileup' command and the 'vcf2fq' command from vcftools filtering out bases

with the same quality and coverage filters as described above. We then used seqtk's (<https://github.com/lh3/seqtk>) 'comp' tool to estimate the number of heterozygous sites per 10kb non-overlapping windows and found that certain regions of chromosome X contain higher numbers of heterozygous sites compared to the rest of the chromosome in both individuals, especially at the beginning and end of chromosome X. Interestingly, the positions of high-heterozygosity regions observed on the Wrangel chromosome X match with those on the Oimyakon chromosome X. We suspect that regions of high heterozygosity correspond to recombining regions (known as pseudo-autosomal regions (PAR) and non-recombining homologous regions between chromosomes X and Y [S39]. We therefore conclude that the estimated average heterozygosity across chromosome X is elevated due to the inclusion of heterozygous sites between chromosome X and Y at homologous regions. Remaining heterozygous sites distributed across the X chromosome most likely represent sequencing errors and remaining damage-derived misincorporations on CpG sites.

Genetic divergence between the two mammoths and the African savanna elephant

We estimated the sequence divergence between the Oimyakon and Wrangel individuals as well as between each one of them and the African savanna elephant reference genome. We called sequences for all autosomes using a majority calling rule that required at least 3-fold coverage at each position. This approach was used to alleviate potential biases from differences in coverage between the two samples. We computed the probability that the two mammoth sequences were different per base pair and the probability that each mammoth sequence was different from the African savanna elephant sequence per base pair using *i*) all substitutions, *ii*) only tranversions to exclude CpG sites with post-mortem

damage. Based on this method, we detect 3,520,698 high-quality SNPs between the Wrangel and Oimyakon genomes. Using all substitutions, we find that the divergence of the Wrangel and Oimyakon individuals to the African elephant reference genome is 0.74%, and 0.71% respectively, similar to previous divergence estimates from low-coverage genome-wide data [S40]. Using only transversions, these estimates correspond to 0.22% and 0.21% respectively. The sequence divergence between the Wrangel individual and the Oimyakon individual is 0.16%, similar to the heterozygosity observed in the Oimyakon individual (Table S2; 0.05% when using only transversions).

Using the genetic divergence between the Wrangel mammoth and the African savanna elephant estimated above (0.74%) and assuming a genome-wide average genetic divergence time between African and Eurasian elephants $T_{\text{div(African-Eurasian)}}$, we can estimate the substitution rate. Rohland et al. [S34] estimated the relative population split time between African and Eurasian elephants ($\tau_{\text{Afr-Eur}} = T_{\text{Afr-Eur}}\mu$) and relative effective population size of their ancestral population ($\theta_{\text{Afr-Eur}} = 4N_{\text{Afr-Eur}}\mu g$) in terms of coalescent units, where $T_{\text{Afr-Eur}}$ is the population split time in years, μ is the mutation rate per year, $N_{\text{Afr-Eur}}$ is the effective population size in individuals and g is the generation time in years. We used these relative estimates to calculate the ratio of genetic divergence time divided by the population split time $T_{\text{div(Afr-Eur)}}/T_{\text{Afr-Eur}} = 1 + (\theta_{\text{Afr-Eur}}/2\tau_{\text{Afr-Eur}})$. Specifically, we used the 90% confidence intervals of these parameters to take into account the uncertainty in their estimate and derived a ratio equal to 1.48 – 1.93. Assuming a population split time $T_{\text{Afr-Eur}} = 4.2 – 9$ million years (based on the paleontological record as justified in [S34]) the genetic divergence time is equal to 6.2 – 17.4 MY. Using this time range to calibrate the molecular clock, we obtain a range of substitution rates equal to $0.21 \times 10^{-9} – 0.6 \times 10^{-9}$

per bp per year (Table 1). This paleontological calibration was used as a more conservative approach for the subsequent inferences of demographic parameters, along with the novel PSMC-based substitution rate and its range of uncertainty estimated in this study (described in detail in the following section).

PSMC and population split time analyses

Inference of population size changes over time

We used the Pairwise Sequential Markovian Coalescent (PSMC) model [S41] to reconstruct the population history of each woolly mammoth individual. This method implements a hidden Markov Model to infer changes in the density of heterozygous sites across the diploid genome of a single individual. Regions of low heterozygosity reflect recent coalescent events while regions of high heterozygosity reflect more ancient coalescent events. The rate of coalescent events in each segment is then informative about changes in effective population size through time since the rate of coalescence is inversely proportional to effective population size. Consensus sequences were generated for all autosomes of both genomes using SAMtool's [S18] (version 0.1.19) 'mpileup' command and the 'vcf2fq' command from vcfutils.pl. Filters for base quality, mapping quality and root-mean-squared mapping quality below 30, and depth below 1/3 and higher than 2-times the average coverage estimated for each library were applied. The PSMC method was used with default parameters (64 atomic time intervals: 4+25*2+4+6, for each of which parameters are estimated with 28 free interval parameters) to infer the distribution of the time to the most recent common ancestor (TMRCA) between the two copies of each chromosome from each individual across all autosomes. Bootstrapping

was performed by splitting long chromosomes to short segments using default parameters and PSMC was run 100 times by sampling with replacement from those segments. The inference of effective population size (N_e) changes across time from the original PSMC analysis and each bootstrap analysis was then plotted for each genome (Figure S3A). The PSMC curves for the Wrangel and Oimyakon genomes appear to capture a similar, at least qualitatively, population history until their recent past. The inferred history includes a considerable decrease in N_e at some time in the past followed by population recovery. Subsequently, the Oimyakon population size seems to have remained relatively stable over time, with only minor changes in N_e . On the other hand, the Wrangel population crashes rather suddenly to significantly low N_e after a time period of relative stability.

Substitution rate estimation using the PSMC curves

The PSMC curves from diploid genomes of dated individuals with considerably different ages that are assumed to have originated from the same ancestral population can be used to scale time on the x-axis from divergence units to years. From this scaling, we can derive the substitution rate. Both the Wrangel and Oimyakon individuals have finite radiocarbon dates with an age difference of 40,500 years. Moreover, the inferred population size over time estimated by the PSMC of the Wrangel genome is similar to that of the Oimyakon genome (excluding the recent past; Figure S3A). We plotted the PSMC curves of both genomes simultaneously and gradually shifted the Oimyakon curve away from the origin across the x-axis until both curves lined up. The divergence (d) estimated from the shift of the Oimyakon curve on the x-axis should be equal to $2\mu(\Delta T)$, where ΔT is the age difference of the two genomes in generations and μ the population substitution rate. Figure S3C shows that the Oimyakon curve was shifted to the right

along the x-axis until the two curves roughly lined up for $d = 10^{-4}$ (range = 4×10^{-5} – 1.5×10^{-4}). It should be noted that because the coverage of the Oimyakon genome is lower than that of the Wrangel genome (11.2-fold versus 17.1-fold), we applied a correction for missing heterozygotes [S41] that was empirically estimated (false negatives [FN] = 30%) when plotting the PSMC curve for the Oimyakon genome. Using this method we obtained an estimate of 1.23×10^{-9} substitutions per nucleotide per year (range = 0.49×10^{-9} – 1.85×10^{-9}), which is equivalent to 3.83×10^{-8} substitutions per nucleotide per generation (range = 1.53×10^{-8} – 5.73×10^{-8}) assuming 31 years per generation [S34].

Assuming the substitution rate estimated above and generation time = 31 years [S34], we rescaled N_e on the y-axis of the PSMC curves to investigate the effective population size at different stages of the woolly mammoth's history. During the earlier bottleneck, N_e is estimated to have dropped to ~3,000 individuals (approximate range based on the range of uncertainty from the PSMC-based and paleontological calibration: 2,000 - 19,000 individuals; Table 1) whereas maximum N_e after recovery reached ~13,000 individuals (approximate range: 9,000 – 76,000 individuals; Table 1). The effective population size on Wrangel Island following the bottleneck is estimated at 328 individuals (218 – 823 individuals based on the PSMC-inferred range of substitution rates). This is lower than earlier inferences of N_e from microsatellite data (posterior 95% CI: 1,000-8,300) [S42] but within the range of the estimated carrying capacity of the island (149-819 individuals) [S2]. Assuming the paleontological calibration, the N_e on Wrangel Island following the bottleneck is estimated at 676 – 1,896 individuals (Table 1), a range which appears to be too high given the estimated carrying capacity of the island. The relatively large N_e predating the earlier bottleneck reflects a few coalescent events per time unit compared to

the time periods before and after. This feature could be interpreted as a true increase in effective population size or could be explained by population structure involving separation and admixture, which would inflate estimates of effective population size. The latter scenario could be possible given that primitive woolly mammoth morphology first appears in the fossil record at about 700,000 years ago, replacing its predecessor *Mammuthus trogontherii* [S43].

Testing for Inbreeding

We plotted the inferred time to the most recent common ancestor (TMRCA) at every position of the genome from the posterior decoding of the PSMC [S20, S41]. Regions with low levels of heterozygosity (runs of homozygosity) reflect recent common ancestry while regions with high numbers of heterozygous sites reflect more ancient ancestry. More, as well as longer, regions of low heterozygosity were detected on the Wrangel genome compared to the Oimyakon genome (Figures 3B-C), indicating that the Wrangel individual shares common ancestors within the last dozens of generations. Figure S4 illustrates the distribution of the TMRCA across all autosomes with the longest stretch of recent ancestry extending ~13Mb along chromosome 1 in the Wrangel genome. Overall, 23.3% of the Wrangel genome was inferred to have coalesced in the most recent bin in contrast to 0.83% of the Oimyakon genome.

Population split time

Since both individuals were predicted to be males (see sex identification section for more details), their X chromosome sequences are naturally phased and can therefore be combined to build a pseudo-diploid genome. Because the PSMC infers the TMRCA

between two alleles carried by one individual across its genome, this method can be used in a similar way to infer the TMRCA between two haploid genomes from two populations [S41]. The inferred population size history of the pseudo-diploid genome can then be studied to investigate the relationships of the two populations. The inferred N_e parameter is inversely proportional to the rate of coalescences between the two chromosomes, and thus we expect inferred N_e to be very large for periods where the ancestral populations were isolated from each other. We extracted the X chromosome consensus sequences of the Wrangel and Oimyakon individuals as described in the genome-wide heterozygosity section. We then merged the two haploid X chromosome sequences into a pseudo-diploid sequence, suppressing heterozygous sites that were called in each consensus and masking the first 10MB at the beginning of the chromosome to exclude the recombining PAR region. Sites that differed between the two consensus sequences were marked as “heterozygous” in the pseudo-diploid chromosome X. We applied the PSMC method on the pseudo-diploid chromosome X to estimate changes in the N_e parameter over time. Originally, default parameters of the PSMC model (64 discrete intervals: 4+25*2+4+6; as described above for the autosomes) were used. However, we found that the number of free interval parameters (1+25+1+1) led to overfitting and we thus decided to reduce them by using 49 discrete intervals (6+4+3+13*2+4+6). We also performed a bootstrap analysis by splitting the pseudo-diploid chromosome X to short segments using 5MB segments and PSMC was run 100 times by sampling with replacement from those segments (Figure S3B).

Figure 1C shows the PSMC output from the pseudo-diploid chromosome X compared to the Wrangel genome and Oimyakon genome. The PSMC curve of the pseudo-diploid X

chromosome was scaled to 0.75 as expected for the effective population size of chromosome X relative to that of autosomes, assuming no sex differences in dispersal and variance of reproductive success. In elephants, these factors are known to be sex-biased, where most females have high reproductive success and do not disperse while males disperse but very few are successful at mating [S44-S47]. Although sex-biased dispersal and reproductive success could affect the X-chromosome:autosome N_e ratio so that it deviates from 0.75 [S34, S48], the use of an alternative N_e ratio would shift the pseudo-diploid X-chromosome PSMC curve along the y-axis and therefore not affect its time scale and subsequent inference of population split time. The PSMC curve of the pseudo-diploid chromosome X was also empirically corrected for missing heterozygotes (FN = 30%) and shifted away from the origin on the x-axis so that it ends at ~24,500 years ago, the average age of the two individuals. This time point was scaled in divergence units based on the substitution rate estimated in this section. If we exclude the very recent and ancient past, where PSMC has lower power for inference due to few coalescent events and errors from segmental duplications respectively [S41], we notice that the population history of the pseudo-diploid chromosome X agrees well with the histories inferred from the two diploid genomes. The PSMC curve of chromosome X deviates from the other two curves just before the time of the death of the Oimyakon individual, indicating population separation. Inferred N_e reaches nearly infinity at this point since no more coalescent events can happen after the death of the Oimyakon individual (~45,000 years BP), suggesting no or little genetic differentiation between the two populations. To investigate this further we used an extension of the PSMC method on the pseudo-diploid X chromosome that estimates the split time (T), assuming no

coalescent events since divergence [S49]. To avoid underestimation of the split time, we used fewer discrete intervals ($20+4*5$). The inferred split time scaled in $2\mu T$ was estimated at 6.2×10^{-5} . Assuming the substitution rate estimated in this section, the split time corresponds to $\sim 50,000$ ($= 25,295 + 24,582$ years, the average age of the two individuals). The estimated range of split times taking into account the uncertainty in the PSMC-based inference of substitution rates and the paleontological calibrations corresponds to $41,000 - 171,000$ years, again indicating a very recent split for the two populations (Table 1).

In addition to the X-chromosome-based population divergence time estimation, we investigated an independent approach based on discovering heterozygous sites in an individual B and estimating the probability $F(A/B)$ that a second individual A carries the derived allele at a single randomly chosen chromosome [S50]. This is based on the rationale that when two populations diverge, they start to accumulate mutations that will not, assuming complete isolation, be present in other populations.

We ascertained heterozygote positions in the Oimyakon individual that passed our quality filters (base and mapping quality above 30, genotype quality above 40, filtering out sites that surrounded an indel [-5bp/+5bp]), and estimated the probability that a randomly sampled chromosome from the Wrangel individual would carry the derived allele, which was polarized using the African elephant genome. We found 633,613 such informative sites after excluding all transitions, and computed a standard error for $F(A/B)$ using a weighted block jackknife over 516 contiguous blocks of 5Mb. We estimate $F(\text{Wrangel} | \text{Oimyakon}) = 32.95 \pm 0.14\%$, which is close to the theoretical expectation of 1/3 if A and B are from a single constant size population. When transitions are included, we estimate a

very similar $F = 33.26\% \pm 0.13\%$ from a total of 2,063,264 informative sites. We focus on transversions here both to avoid lingering effects of post-mortem damage in CpG context, and also since transversions have a slower mutation process, and are thus less likely to be affected by homoplasies in the elephant genome.

Randomly sampling a single gene copy effectively makes population size fluctuations in the population of individual *A* irrelevant to the inference, and we are left with accounting for genetic drift in the lineage leading to individual *B*. To calibrate the F -statistic to the population size history of Oimyakon, we simulated the population size trajectory inferred using PSMC, for 100 regions each of 30Mb. Finding the intersection between the empirical value and the expected decay of $F(A/B)$ as a function of split time, we find that Oimyakon diverged from the population lineage leading to Wrangel at most $t = 0.055$ time units (measured in N_0 generations, where N_0 is the terminal population size) prior to the death of the Oimyakon individual (Figure 2). This time falls in the second PSMC interval of Oimyakon's history, which corresponds well to the inferred time of cessation of coalescences between the X-chromosomes of Wrangel and Oimyakon. Assuming the substitution rate estimated in this section, the population split time is approximately 8,000 – 19,000 years prior to the death of the Oimyakon mammoth, which corresponds to 53,000 – 64,000 years ago. The obtained range of split times using the PSMC-inferred range of substitution rates and the paleontological calibrations is equal to 5,000 – 48,000 years and 17,000 – 110,000 years prior to the death of the Oimyakon mammoth, respectively (Table 1).

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