Organization and Regulation of Human Genome

June 8-10, 2016 ENCODE 2016 Meeting

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The Genetic Variants Associated with Human Diseases Are Mostly Non-coding





- A total of ~13% of the human genome likely devoted to enhancer function, while ~1% to promoter function, in at least one of the 111 cell/tissue types investigated.
 Approximately 5% of each cell type's genome is marked by signatures associated with cis regulatory elements signatures.
- Enhancers with coordinated activity patterns across tissues are enriched for common gene functions and human phenotypes, suggesting that they represent coordinately regulated modules.
- Regulatory motifs are enriched in tissue-specific enhancers, enhancer modules and DNA accessibility footprints, providing an important resource for gene-regulatory studies.
- Genetic variants associated with diverse traits show enrichments of biochemical signatures in trait-relevant tissues, providing an important resource for understanding the molecular basis of human disease.

Questions left unanswered



- What mechanisms allow enhancers to target specific genes from a distance?
- What target genes do the enhancers have in different cell types?

A model for step-wise activation of enhancers



Reviewed by Zaret & Carroll, Genes & Dev 2011; Calo & Wysocka, Mol Cell 2013; Ren and Yue, 2015

Example: chromatin contact between Sox2 and its enhancer



Allelic RNA-seq analysis identified the Sox2 enhancer



Chromatin interactions play a role in regulation of Sox2 gene expression by a distal enhancer



Investigating long-range chromatin interactions using 4C-seq



Long-range chromatin interaction of Sox2 enhancer/ promoter interactions validated by 4C-seq



Yan, Chen, Rivera, unpublished

Sox2 enhancer/promoter interactions validated by FISH



Tristin Liu, unpublished



Genome-wide analysis of chromatin interactions



TADs are generally invariant across diverse tissues and cell types



Disruption of TADs Leads to Genetic Disorders in Humans



Two Models for TAD Formation



ARTICLE

doi:10.1038/nature09380

Mediator and cohesin connect gene expression and chromatin architecture

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Identify long-range chromatin interactions



Jin, Li, et al. Nature 2013

Promoter capture Hi-C



Similar protocols have been reported by Peter Fraser, Doug Higgs, Rickard Sandberg labs

Jung, Schmitt, unpublished

Promoter capture Hi-C generates high-resolution promoter-centered interaction maps with low cost



Promoter capture Hi-C: genome-wide with low sequencing cost

Jung, Schmitt, unpublished

Capture Hi-C in multiple human cell/tissue types identify long-range promoter interactions

hESC	Early embryonic cell types	Ectoderm	Endoderm	Mesoderm
(H1)	(H1-derived cell types)	(Somatic tissue samples isolated from donors)		
	Mesendoderm (ME)	Hippocampus (HC)	Esophagus (EG)	Adrenal gland (AD)
-	Mesenchymal stem cell (MSC)	Dorsolateral	Fibroblasts (IMR90)	Aorta (AO)
	Neural progenitor cells (NPC)	prefrontal cortex (DLPFC)	Lung (LG)	Gastric tissue (GA)
	Trophoblast-like cells (TB)		Liver (LI)	Left heart ventricle (LV)
27 cell/tissue types 5.5 billion uniquely mapped monoclonal capture HiC (cHiC) reads 6 core hisotne modification marks RNA-seq samples RNA-seq samples			Pancreas (PA)	Right heart ventricle (RV)
			Small bowel (SB)	Right heart atrium (RA)
			Sigmoid colon (SG)	Ovary (OV)
			Thymus (TH)	Psoas (PO)
			Bladder (BL)	Spleen (SX)
				FAT (FT)
				Lymphoblast (LCL)

In collaboration with Jamie Thomson (U. Wisconsin), Shin Lin (Stanford) and Yiing Lin (Wash U) Leung, D., Jung, I., Rajagopal, N., et al., Nature (2015) Schultz, MD., He, Y., et al., Nature (2015)

Constructing long-range promoter-centered interactome maps



Herranz, D., et al., Nature Medicine (2014)

 Number of interactions in 27 tissues: ~700k unique ones
Resolution: 5.4kb
Average interaction distance:
238kb average distance



- E: Enhancer
- O: Other regions

Jung, Schmitt, unpublished

Validation of the indentified interactions by eQTL discovered in lymphoblastoid cell lines

eQTLs (expression quantitative trait loci) : Identification of genomic loci that contribute to variation in gene expression

eQTLs from lymphoblastoid cell lines with 462 individuals (Lappalainen, T. *et al* Nature 2013)



Jung, Schmitt, unpublished

Promoter capture Hi-C identifies a known target genes for a SNP linked to human obesity risk



"The identified long-range promoter interactions can be useful to reveal distal target genes of disease associated SNPs"

Promoter-centered interactome maps suggest putative t arget genes for neural disorder SNPs



Toward a better understanding of noncoding GWAS SNPs



in transcriptional programs?

Acknowledgments

TAD discovery

- Jesse Dixon, MD/ PhD (now Fellow at Salk)
- Sid Selvaraj, PhD

Chromatin Interaction Maps

- Anthony Schmitt
- Inkyung Jung, Ph.D.
- Jian Yan, Ph.D.
- Tristin Liu
- Fulai Jin, Ph.D. (now Ass. Prof. @ Case Western)
- Yan Li, Ph.D. now Ass. Prof. @ Case Western)





Acknowledgements

Past

Postdoctoral Fellows

Zirong Li Tae Hoon Kim (U. Texas, Dallas) Kun Wang David Hawkins (U of Washington) Andrea Local Fulai Jin (Case Western Reserve U.) Celso Espionoza Feng Yue (Penn State U.) Yin Shen (UCSF) **Tingting Du** Yan Li (Case Western Reserve U) Wei Xie (Tsinghua University, China) Danny Leung (HKUST)

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Challenges in deciphering the function of noncoding sequences

- A substantial fraction of the noncoding variants are suspected to act by affecting gene regulation, but advancing this hypothesis requires a deeper understanding of the gene regulatory processes in human cells;
- The *cis* regulatory sequences in the human genome remain to be clearly defined
- There is an insufficient molecular understanding of the interplays among signaling pathways, transcription factors, chromatin regulators, chromatin structure and *cis* regulatory sequences



Multidimensional Genomic Analysis Enabled by Next-gen Sequencing Technologies



Chromatin signatures of cis elements



Topological Associating Domains (TADs)

- TADs are stable during cellular differentiation and between cell types (Dixon et al., Nature 2012; Dixon et al. Nature 2015)
- TADs are evolutionarily conserved (Dixon et al., Nature 2012)
- TADs have been independently observed in flies (Sexton et al. Cell 2012; Hou et al, Mol Cell 2012) and other species, using a variety of approaches (5C, Nora et al., Nature 2012)
- TADs correspond to DNA replication domains (Hope ... Ren, Gilbert, Nature 2014). They disappear in mitosis but reestablishes in G1 (Naumova et al. 2014)
- Partitioning of the genome into TADs provides a structural understanding of how enhancers come into contact with their target promoters (Nora et al. Nature 2012; Lupiáñez, et al. Cell 2015; Nerandra et al, Science 2015)

An Insulator-binding Protein, CTCF, is Enriched at TAD Boundaries





Lobanenkov, 1993; Felsenfeld, 1999



Kim .. Ren, 2007; Cuddapah .. Zhao, 2009



Depletion of CTCF Protein in Cells Leads to Increased Inter-TAD Interactions While Reduced Intra-TAD Interactions



Orientation of CTCF Binding Sites is Critical For Local Chromatin Organization



In collaboration with Tom Maniatis and Qiang Wu groups

Guo et al., Cell 2015