HOW TO STUDY EPIGENETIC MODIFICATIONS

-- STRATEGIES USING SUV39H1 AS A HALLMARK MODEL FOR EPIGENTIC REGUALTION --

Chromatin comes in different flavors

Different types of chromatin





- constitute ~ 10% of nuclear DNA; telomeres, centromeres, and a considerable fraction of repetitive sequences
- · highly compacted, replicates late in S phase, (transcriptionally inert)

Euchromatin + facultative heterochromatin:

- constitute ~ 90% of nuclear DNA
- less condensed, rich in genes, replicates early in S phase however,
- only small fraction of euchromatin is transcriptionally active
- the rest is transcriptionally inactive/silenced (but can be activated in certain tissues or developmental stages)
- these inactive regions are also known as "facultative heterochromatin"



Chromocenter (aggregates of centromeres = constitutive heterochromatin)

euchromatin

(and facultative heterochromatin)

Post-translational histone modifications can recruit specialized proteins

Example: SUV39H1 and HP1 form heterochromatin at centromeric and telomeric Heterochromatin in flies and vertebrates and SAHFs





histone modifications can reach high levels in cells and can be visualized by immunofluorescence Post-translational histone modifications can recruit specialized proteins

Example: SUV39H1 and HP1 form heterochromatin at centromeric and telomeric Heterochromatin in flies and vertebrates and SAHFs



A historical view: how to understand the enzymatic function of an epigenetic writer Histones can be acetylated – can they be methylated??



Evidence 2 Suv39h genes show high sequence sonservation to a plant gene with proposed histonemethyltransferase activity



Identification of H3 Lys9 methyltransferase activity

Experiment:

Overexpression of myc-tagged-SUV39H1 in Hela cells

Use an antibody to immunoprecipitate SUV39H1 \rightarrow high concentration of SUV39H1

Incubate Immunopreciptate with purified histones and S-adenosyl-[methyl-¹⁴C]-_L-methionin as methyl donor







 The SET domain of the SUV39H1 is required for histone methyltransferase activity and this enzyme methylates H3 at Lys9
 Nature 2001 Mar 1;410(6824):116-20.

> Methylation of histone H3 lysine 9 creates a binding site for HP1 proteins. Lachner M¹, O'Carroll D, Rea S, Mechtler K, Jenuwein T.

Identification of H3 Lys9 methyltransferase activity

Experiment:

Purify histone H3 by reverse-phase-liquid chromatography after HMTassay

Sequence histone H3 and quantify the amount of radioactive per ammino acid

Suv39H1 methylates histone H3 at lysine 9



Identification of other Histone H3 Lys9 methyltransferases

- The SET domain is the conserved catalytic core of histone methyltransferases
- The histone H3 tail has 3 sites for methylation at lysines



Identification of other Histone H3 Lys9 methyltransferases

• The SET domain is the conserved catalytic core of histone methyltransferases



Mutations of some histone methyltransferases → cancer

Post-translational histone modifications can recruit specialized proteins



Problem:

1. How can we detect epigenetic modifications?

-Generation of antibodies that specifically Recognize modified histones (western blotting/Immunifluorescenza)

- Mass spectroscopy

Problem:

- 2. How can locate epigenetic information to Defined regions or genes or promoters, etc?
- -Chromatin immunoprecipitation
 - -A. Detect histone modifications on single genomic site
 - -B. Detect histone modifications on multiple sites or on the entire genome level

1. Generation of antibodies that specifically recognize modified histones



Lysines can be mono-, di- and tri-methyalted An example: H3K9methylation by Suv39h1



1. Generation of antibodies that specifically recognize modified histones



SYNTHESIS OF BRANCHED PEPTIDES FOR ANTIBODY GENERATION



 \rightarrow \rightarrow resembles high concentration of chromatin modification in the nucleus

Generation of polyclonal/monoclonal antibodies

(a)

POLYCLONAL ANTISERUM



Polyclonal antibodies can form lattices with homogeneous, monomeric protein antigens because each antibody can interact with a different epitope on the antigen.

MONOCLONAL ANTIBODY



Monoclonal antibodies do not form lattices with homogeneous, monomeric proteins, because only they can bind to only one epitope on the antigen.













Most purines are recycled rather than degraded. HGPRT can recycle hypoxanthine and guanine to be used in DNA replication

HAT Medium (hypoxanthine-aminopterin-thymidine medium) is a selection medium for mammalian cell culture, which relies on the combination of aminopterin, a drug that acts as a powerful folate metabolism inhibitor by inhibiting dihydrofolate reductase, with hypoxanthine (a purine derivative) and thymidine (a deoxynucleoside) which are intermediates in DNA synthesis. The trick is that aminopterin blocks DNA de novo synthesis, which is absolutely required for cell division to proceed, but hypoxanthine and thymidine provide cells with the raw material to evade the blockage (the "salvage pathway"), provided that they have the right enzymes, which means having functioning copies of the genes that encode them. HGPRT: inactivates aminopterin → rescue of DNA replication

HAT medium is often used for preparation of monoclonal antibodies. This process is called Hybridoma technology. Laboratory animals (e.g., mice) are first exposed to an antigen against which we are interested in isolating an antibody. Once splenocytes are isolated from the mammal, the B cells are fused with HGPRT negative, immortalized myeloma cells using polyethylene glycol or the Sendai virus. Fused cells are incubated in the HAT medium. Aminopterin in the medium blocks the de novo pathway. Hence, unfused myeloma cells die, as they cannot produce nucleotides by de novo or salvage pathway. Unfused B cells die as they have a short lifespan. In this way, only the B cell-myeloma hybrids survive. These cells produce antibodies (a property of B cells) and are immortal (a property of myeloma cells). The incubated medium is then diluted into multiwell plates to such an extent that each well contains only 1 cell. Then the supernatant in each well can be checked for desired antibody. Since the antibodies in a well are produced by the same B cell, they will be directed towards the same epitope, and are known as monoclonal antibodies.

Cloning hybridomas from fusion Plate at limiting dilution (<1 cell/well) in 96 well plates. Allow clones to expand.

Expand positive well and test for production of antibody of desired specificity in culture supernatant



Cloning hybridomas from fusion Plate at limiting dilution (<1 cell/well) in 96 well plates.

Allow clones to expand.

Expand positive well and test for production of antibody of desired specificity in culture supernatant



-Purification ofantibody-Validation of antibody

Validation of antibodies



Obtaining evidence for the specificity of histone modifying enzymes \rightarrow in cells



In Suv39h dn cells, H3K9me2 and H3K9me2 are still present. Suv39h1 is a H3K9 specific HMTase that is required to establish the TRI-METHYLATION of H3K9 in mammalian cells

Note, that in the absence of H3K9me3, H3K9me1 is localized at DAPI rich regions

Detector

 x^+



magnet

particles accelerated into

magnetic field

In a typical MS procedure proteins are ionized, for example by bombarding it with electrons. This may cause some of the sample's molecules to break into charged fragments.

These ions are then separated according to their mass-to-charge ratio, typically by accelerating them and subjecting them to an electric or magnetic field:

lons of the same mass-to-charge ratio will undergo the same amount of deflection. lons with different mass-to-change ratio will show different deflection

→mono-methylated H3K9 has different defection that di- \rightarrow or tri-methylated H3K9

The ions are detected by a mechanism capable of detecting charged particles, such as an electron multiplier. Results are displayed as spectra of the relative abundance of detected ions as a function of the mass-to-charge ratio.

The molecules in the sample can be identified by correlating known masses to the identified masses or through a characteristic fragmentation pattern.

MS

2. Studying histone modifications by mass spectroscopy



Digestion of fraction containing histones with proteases creates a "library" of small peptides that are derived from histones: **Protease=Trypsin Trypsin cleaves after every Lysine (K) and Arginine (R)**

IMPORTANT: we know already All proteins and the amminoacid sequence of all proteins of a cell!!! That means we can predict all possible small peptide sequences that result from a trypsin cleavage



Different mass/charge ratio



PROBLEM:

1.Trypsin cleavage after K is not complete because me2 or me3 on some Ks block cutting by Trypsin

2. Many cleavages \rightarrow small heterogeneous peptides \rightarrow difficult to analyze

SOLUTION: In vitro Proprionylation of unmodified or mono-methylated K prevents trypsin cleavage. Now Trypsin can only cut after Arginine. This allows a uniform Cleavage of histone tails





The method allows to quantify the numbers of H3K9me0, H3K9me1 H3K9me2 and H3K9me3 in a sample \rightarrow We can calculate the % of each histone modification in the given sample.

Important: The analysis is not limited to H3K9 \rightarrow other histone modifications can be quantified in the same analysis

MS

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Different mass/charge ratio



Suv39h1 and Suv39h2 ensure H3K9me3. H3K9me1 is a preferred substrate for Suv39h1/h2 Suv39h1/h2 methylate H3K9me1 Until reaching the tri-methylated state



1. Identifying the enzymatic activity of a histone modifying enzymes

2. Identification of "modifiable" amminoacids in histone tails

3. Functional link between histone modifications

4. Defining the ENTIRE epigenetic status of a cell type (for example: differentiated/stem cell)

5. Quantitative information on histone modifications (%)

HOW CAN EPIGENTIC READERS BE IDENTIFIED? Identifying methyl-H3 binding proteins

• histone peptide pulldown assay:



a = candidate approach → identify by Western blotting b = unbiased approach → identify by Mass Spec

What are the target sites for Suv39h1 and H3K9me???

Using the peptide pull-down assay, it was found that Lys9-methylated H3 binds to heterochromatin protein 1 (HP1)



Pull-down assay:

-Couple modified histone Tail-peptides (methylated, or unmethylated) to resin -Incubate with recominant -³⁵S-labelled HP1 -Wash resin -Elute bound proteins, run gel and make radiography

- HP1 is a protein previously identified to be enriched in and important for heterochromatin assembly
- Lys9-methylated H3 binds to HP1 via the chromodomain motif in HP1

Lys9-methylated H3 binds to the conserved motif called chromodomain

Bannister et al, Nature, 2001

What are the target sites for Suv39h1 and H3K9me???

• What protein domain is interacting with H3K9me?





Pull-down assay:

-Couple modified histone Tail-peptides (methylated, or unmethylated) to resin -Incubate with recominant -³⁵S-labelled mutant versions of HP1 -ΔC; ΔCS; ΔH -Wash resin -Elute bound proteins, run gel and make radiography

Lys9-methylated H3 binds to the conserved motif called chromodomain

Bannister et al, Nature, 2001

Where does Suv39h1 act in a cell ???

IMMUNOFLUORESCENCE \rightarrow MACROSCOPIC ANALYSIS → Localization of protein across large regions of DNA



myc-SUV39H1: myc-epitope tagged Suv39H1

Loss of Suv39h1/h2 causes delocalization Of HP1 from chromocenters

Chromocenters are subnuclear regions where Multiple centromeres aggregate

Chromocenters are DAPI intense regions and represent tightly packed heterochromatin

> Over-expression of SUV39H1 in Hela cells causes an accumulation of HP1. Is there a link between Suv39h1 – H3K9me3 and HP1??

> > Melcher et al, MCB, 2000

HP1

DNA

What are the target sites for Suv39h1 and H3K9me???



Another evidence for HP1 and Suv39h interaction came from Drosophlla

- back to early genetics studies in *Drosophila*:
 Su(var) 2-5 (gene) codes for
 - Su(var) 2-5 (gene) codes for heterochromatin protein 1
 - Su(var) 2-5 shows similar phenotype like Su(var)3-9
 - HP1 in Drosophila is localized to the chromocenter

SUV39h HMTase activity is important to build constitutive heterochromatin



Loss of Suv39h1 expression results in delocalization of HP1 from chromocenters

Re-expression of Suv39h1 rescues Localization of HP1 to chromocenters

Re-expression of Suv39h1 that Contains an enzymatic dead mutation (H324L) in does not rescue the localization of HP1 to chromo centers

→The enzymatic activity of Suv39h1 Is required for recruitment of HP1 to chromocenters

Site specific methylation of the H3 tail has different functions



What are the target sites for Suv39h1 and H3K9me???

CHROMATIN IMMUNOPRECIPITATION \rightarrow DETAILLED ANALYSIS \rightarrow Localization of protein at a defined region - sequence

The combination of Immunoprecipitation methods and PCR analysis allows to define the histone code at defined sequences. PCR primers define the site of analysis in the genome



EXAMPLE: Pericentric heterochromatin in mouse cells

А

CHROMATIN IMMUNOPRECIPITATION



B Formaldehyde will crosslink amino or imino groups within 2Å, for example:

COOH

°0

н

2. Cross linking followed by sonication (fragmentation of chromatin)



Chromatin is bulky → needs to be cut into small pieces to become soluble

3. Immunoprecipitation (IP)

The protein of interest is immunoprecipitated together with the crosslinked DNA: Modified histones; epignetic writers, epigentic readers







4.Decrosslinking of PFA crosslinked chromatin and and purification of the DNA





CHROMATIN IMMUNOPRECIPITATION (ChIP) \rightarrow DETAILLED ANALYSIS \rightarrow Localization of protein at a defined region - sequence



Cell model system: i.e. Wild-type or Suv39 dn cells that grow in cell culture dish 1. Crosslink chromatin (treatment of cells with Paraformaldehyde

2. Sonicate crosslinked cells

3. Incubate chromatin fragments with antibodies raised against H3K9me3

4. Recover antibody-chromatin complexes using a resin that binds to the constant region of antibodies

5. Elute chromatin at high salt concentration and revert crosslinks at high temperature

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8. Measure the amount of immunoprecipitated DNA In control versus Suv39h dn cells

METHODS:

Quantitative PCR: design PCR oligos to amplify defined sequences in immunoprecipitates. Per PCR reaction only one Locus can be examined by real-time PCR

What are the target sites for Suv39h1 and H3K9me???

CHROMATIN IMMUNOPRECIPITATION FOLLOWED BY QUANTITTIVE PCR



Design PCR oligos that amplify major and minor satellite repeats

EXAMPLE: Pericentric heterochromatin in mouse cells

Min/Maj F1...: forward primer in unique region

CHROMATIN IMMUNOPRECIPITATION (ChIP) COUPLED WITH PCR → H3K9me3 is enriched at pericentric (major+minor) repeats in mouse cells

Major satellite repeats

Minor satellite repeats

H3-K9

H3-K9





PCR amplification of major/minor satellite Repeats after ChiP using Antibodies that are specific for H3K9me1; H3K9me3; H3K9me3

Suv39h1 is required for imposition of H3K9me3 at pericentric repeats

Lack of SUV39h HMTase activity results in genomic instability





A knock-out model system for Suv39h1 and Suv39h2 - Loss of Suv39h1/2: smaller body size

Fibroblasts from Suv39h1/2 null mice are aneuploidy

Lack of SUV39h HMTase activity results in genomic instability



Genomic instability in Suv39h1/2 mice increases

wt

pieen

N1H2

SUV39h HMTase activity is essential for fidelity in mitosis/meiosis



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ChIP on ChIP: Analysis of epigenetic information across a high number of genomic sites in the genome



Measure Green/Red ratio







	p36.31 p3	36.13 p35.3 p34.3	9 p34.1 p32.3	p31.3 p31.1	p22.3 p	21.3 p21.1 p13.2 p	1 p13.2 p11.1 q12 q21.1 q21.			q25.3 q31.2	q32.1 q32.3	q42.11 q42.2 q43 q4
	4	32,480 kb	í.	32,500 kb	1	32,520 kb	124 kb	32,540 kb	1	32,560 kb	1	32,580 kb
I3K4me3_control_chr1	(D - 179)											
l3K4me3_treat_chr1	(D - 179)	1	1.0.000			(m., - 0.) (1 k . (m. (mmt 1)))		1				
I3K4me3_peaks.bed		-						-				
13K4me3_peaks.subpeaks.bed								-				
hg19refGene		ŧ		+++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++				(+II-)	• • •	· · · · ·	+ -)	
			KHDRE	3S1					TME	M39B		KPNA6

ChIP on ChIP: Analysis of epigenetic information across a high number of genomic sites in the genome



Advantage: low tech, cheap Disadvantage: low resolution, no data on number of molecules – just proportions; laborious to reach a good genome coverage

Already outdated → state of the art: ChIP seq

ChIP seq: Analysis of epigenetic information on the single nucleotide level → GENERATION OF GENOME WIDE EPIGENTIC MAPS



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METHODS:

Massive parallel sequencing of immunoprecipitated DNA Permits to obtain epigenetic information on the single nucleotide level

ChIP seq: Analysis of epigenetic information on the single nucleotide level → GENERASTION OF GENOME WIDE EPIGENTIC MAPS



READY FOR MASSIVE PARALLEL SEQEUNCING

ChIP seq: Analysis of epigenetic information on the single nucleotide level → GENERASTION OF GENOME WIDE EPIGENTIC MAPS

Illumina Massively Parallel Sequencing https://www.illumina.com/company/videohub/pfZp5Vgsbw0.html HiSeq 2000 the series

The heart of the Illumina Massive Parallel Sequencer is the "FLOW-CELL". A surface with millions of small wells that allow thousands of Sanger-sequencing reaction In parallel = "massive parallel sequencing". In each well a SINGLE MOLECULE of DNA Is amplified and sequenced

Illumina offers the most potent massive sequencing instruments – leader on the market

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pfZp5Vgsbw0

ChIP seq: Analysis of epigenetic information on the single nucleotide level → GENERASTION OF GENOME WIDE EPIGENTIC MAPS

CLUSTER AMPLIFICATION:



Flow cell contains surface with millions of wells

→Each well contains beads mounted with 2 species of oligonucleotides that hybridize with adaptor oligos of DNA library

→DNA library will be loaded onto the flow cell in a determined concentration:

ONLY ONE MOLECULE OF DNA WILL BE PROCESSED FOR SEQUENCING IN A SINGLE WELL

CLUSTER AMPLIFICATION:

-making DNA library (~300bp fragments) -ligation of adapters A and B to the fragments Common ends Common ends 1. DNA 1 well in a flow-cell with billions of wells Flow cell 1 well, covered with millions of 2 types of oligos

- complementary primers are ligated to the surface
- pairing with ChiP ed ssDNA at random position in the well of the flow cell

CLUSTER AMPLIFICATION:

Bridge amplification: takes place on surface of beads (each bead is mounted with 2 species of oligos; each oligo can hybridize to a DNA library fragment): initiation



On the surface: complementary oligos

CLUSTER AMPLIFICATION:



Illumina Sequencing Technology Robust Reversible Terminator Chemistry Foundation

In each round of sequencing a fluorescently labelled ddNTP will be used for sequencing. ddATP carries different fluorphor than ddTTP, etc..



Illumina: massive parallel sequencing:

sequencing by synthesis: "reverible terminator" nucleotides blocked + fluorescently labeled

- 1. Synthesis = incorporation of fluorescent nucleotide: blocking synthesis
- 2. 4. Scanning of fluorescent signal
- 3. dye cleavage + elimination
- 4. wash step

1. Synthesis = incorporation of fluorescent nucleotide: blocking synthesis READ LENGTH: ca: 150nt from each primer (2x150nt = 300nt)

Illumina: paired end sequencing increases information content

After 1° strand sequencing, A1 anneals to A1 in nanowell-->DNA synthesis --> template strand cleaved off \rightarrow new strand sequenced

https://www.y outube.com/w atch?v=9YxExT SwgPM

Data analysis: obtained sequence reads are aligned along genomic DNA sequence → high number of reads necessary to obtain full sequence coverage

Sequence derived from one amplified cluster

Data analysis: obtained sequence reads are aligned along genomic DNA sequence → high number of reads necessary to obtain full sequence coverage

Reference genome

BIOINFORMATICS ANALYSIS:

Mapping ChIP seq reads agins the human genomic sequence

Goldberg et al., Cell, 140: 678-691. 2010

Mapping the epigenetic landscape enables to define "key rules" to define the epigenetic code of active and silent genes

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Cell model system: i.e. Wild-type or Suv39 dn cells that grow in cell culture dish

1. Crosslink chromatin (treatment of cells with Paraformaldehyde

Paraformaldehyde (PFA) is a polymer of formaledyde, And covalently links NH2 groups of biomolecules

Example of crosslinking reaction

2. Sonicate crosslinked cells →DNA breaks in a random manner until reaching a size of ca. 250–500nt

3. Incubate chromatin fragments with antibodies that are specific for modified histones (i.e. H3K9me3) or chromatin modifying enzymes (i.e. Suv39h1); another sample with a non-specific, control antibody

4. Recover antibody-chromatin complexes using a resin that binds to the constant region of antibodies

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METHODS:

A. PCR: design PCR oligos to amplify defined sequences in immunoprecipitates. Per PCR reaction only one locus can be examined by real-time PCR

B. ChIP on ChiP:

Immunoprecipitated DNA from control and Suv39h dn cells are labeled with nucleotides that are fluorescently labeled (555nm emission fluorofoer or 488 nm emission fluorphore. Samples are mixed and hybridized to an array that contains spotted DNA probes that cover a large fraction of the genome. 488/555 nm ratio is measured → relative enrichment of histone modification at thousands of genomic sites in control/Suv39h dn cells

B. ChIP Seq:

Immunoprecipitated DNA is sequenced by massive parallel Sequencing. Control vs. Suv39h dn cells reveals enrichment of H3K9me3 at the ENTIRE genome level. single nucleotide levels