Cryo-EM analysis on magnetic beads for scarce macromolecules in heterogeneous samples

Yasuhiro Arimura[1,2 †], Hide A. Konishi[1], Hironori Funabiki[1, 2]

[1] Laboratory of Chromosome and Cell Biology, The Rockefeller University, New York, NY 10065
[2] Correspondence: funabih@rockefeller.edu, yarimura@rockefeller.edu or yarimura@fredhutch.org
† Address after February 1, 2024: Basic Sciences Division, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center, Seattle, WA, USA, 98019-1024

Summary

Here, we introduce Magnetic Isolation and Concentration (MagIC)-cryo-EM, a technique enabling direct structural analysis of targets captured on nanomagnetic beads, thereby reducing the targets' concentration requirement to < 0.0005 mg/ml, which is 100 to 1000-fold lower than conventional cryo-EM methods. Using MagIC-cryo-EM, we characterized structural variations of oocyte-specific linker histone H1.8 associated nucleosomes isolated from interphase and metaphase chromosomes in *Xenopus* egg extract. In combination with Duplicated Selection To Exclude Rubbish particles (DuSTER), a particle curation method that removes low signal-to-noise ratio particles, we also resolved the 3D cryo-EM structures of H1.8-bound nucleoplasmin NPM2, revealing distinct open and closed structural variants. Our approaches offer structural insights into how the chaperone NPM2 interacts with its targets and the cell cycle-dependent regulation of H1.8 association to nucleosomes.

Keywords

MagIC-Cryo-EM, DuSTER, *Xenopus* egg extract, nucleosome, linker histone, H1.8, Nucloplasmin, NPM2

Introduction

Recent advances in cryo-EM technology have enabled the structural characterization of biomolecules isolated from their native conditions (*1*). However, the necessity for high sample concentration restricts its applicability to abundant biomolecules (*2–5*). In the chromatin biology field, for instance, high-resolution structural analyses of chromatin-associated nucleoprotein complexes conventionally rely on their *in vitro* reconstituted complexes with recombinant proteins and nucleosome positioning sequence DNA (*6*, *7*), which may not reflect physiologically relevant conformations. Innovations that allow for structural analysis of low concentration samples are needed to visualize how native protein complexes function on chromosomes in the presence of diverse regulatory factors, such as differing DNA sequences, modifications, and interacting molecules.

The vitrification step of cryo-EM is a major culprit in the high sample requirement. In a conventional plunge vitrification method, 3 µL of aqueous samples greater than 1 mg/mL are typically required to acquire sufficient numbers of particle images on cryo-EM micrographs for 3D structure reconstruction (Table S1) (*8*). This is because most of the target complexes in a liquid sample applied on a cryo-EM grid are removed via blotting to make a thin ice layer suitable for analysis. Several methods are currently available to reduce sample volume/concentration (Table S1). Jet vitrification (*9*) and Spotiton (*10*) require sub-nanoliters of the sample volume, but they still require high-concentration samples. Affinity grids, such as Ni-NTA lipid monolayer grids (*11*), chemically functionalized grids (*12*), antibody-attached grids (*13*), and streptavidin monolayer grids (*14*), are amenable for lower concentration samples (~0.05 mg/mL), but concentrating natively isolated targets to such a level and reproducibly generating the affinity grids remains challenging.

Aiming to reduce sample requirements to levels lower than that for widely used Chromatin immunoprecipitation-sequencing (ChIP-seq) (10-50 ng DNA, Table S1) (*15*), here we developed two cryo-EM methods: Magnetic Isolation and Concentration (MagIC)-cryo-EM, which reduces the sample concentration requirement to lower than 0.0005 mg/mL by enabling direct cryo-EM analysis of target molecules enriched on superparamagnetic nanobeads (Fig. 1A), and the particle curation method, Duplicated Selection To Exclude Rubbish particles (DuSTER), which effectively removes particles with a low signal-to-noise ratio (S/N). Applying these methods to the oocyte-specific linker

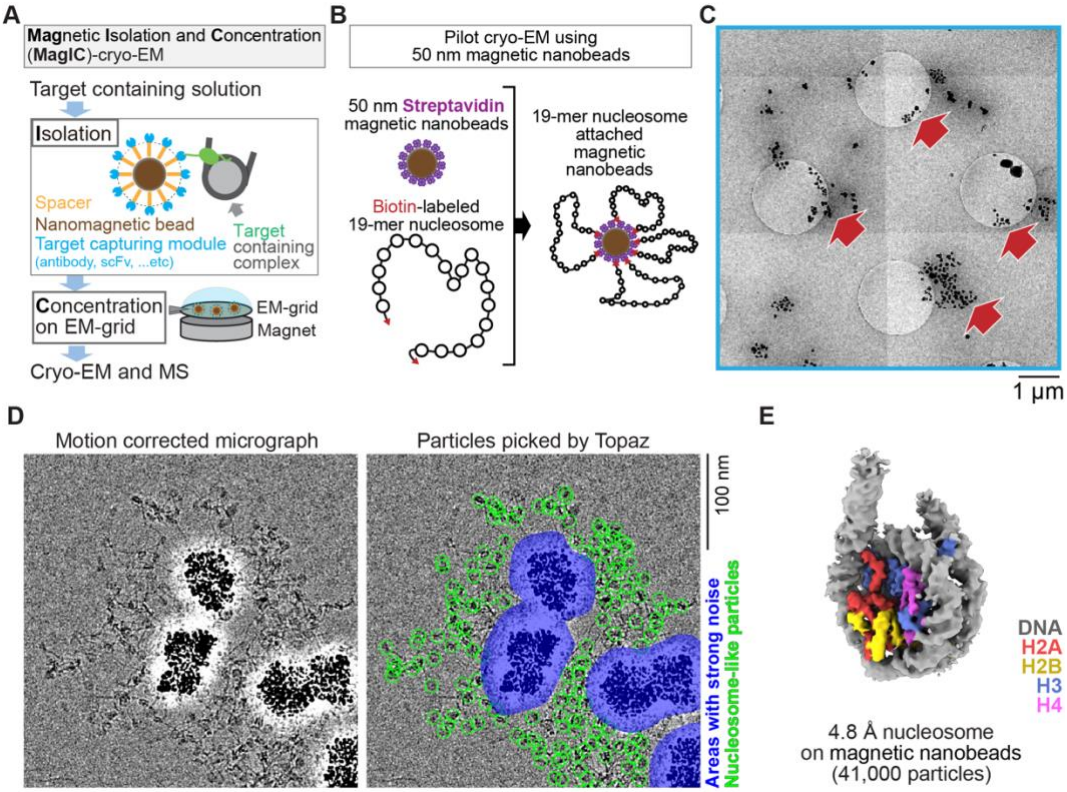


Fig. 1. Single particle cryo-EM analysis of poly-nucleosomes attached to magnetic beads **(A)** Principle of MagIC-cryo-EM. **(B)** Schematic of a pilot cryo-EM experiment on magnetic beads. Biotin-labeled 19-mer nucleosome arrays attached to 50 nm streptavidin-coated magnetic nanobeads were loaded onto the cryo-EM grid. **(C)** Representative intermediate magnification micrographs. The magnetic beads are seen as black dots (red arrows). **(D)** Left; a representative high magnification micrograph. The micrograph was motion-corrected and low-path filtered to 5 Å resolution. Right; green circles indicate the nucleosome-like particles selected by Topaz, and the blue areas indicate the halo-like noises. **(E)** The 3D structure of the nucleosome bound on magnetic beads.

histone H1.8 (also known as B4, H1M, H1oo and H1foo) and its interaction partners (nucleosomes and NPM2) isolated from metaphase and interphase chromosomes, we provide structural insights into the cell cycle regulation of H1.8 stabilization on nucleosomes.

Results

Direct single-particle cryo-EM analysis of nucleosomes attached to 50 nm magnetic beads

Inspired by a report using 200-300 nm superparamagnetic beads directly loaded onto a cryo-EM grid to image viral particles (*16*), we examined the feasibility of commercially available nanobeads for cryo-EM single-particle analysis using nucleosome arrays as pilot targets (Fig. 1B). Among the tested beads, Absolute Mag streptavidin nano-magnetic beads (50 nm, CD Bioparticles) yielded the most promising results, in which beads' motion during data collection was minimum. Nanobeads were easily identified on the grid as black dots in the intermediate-magnification montage map (Fig. 1C), facilitating target identification for subsequent high-magnification data collection. In the high-magnification micrographs, poly-nucleosome fibers were observed around the nanobeads as expected (Fig. 1D). Using nucleosome-like particles selected from 550 micrographs by the machine-learning-based software Topaz (*17*), we successfully determined the 3D structure of the nucleosome at sub-5 Å resolution (Fig. 1E). This result, however, revealed a notable issue; an intense halo-like noise covered a ~30 nm radius around the nanobeads (Fig 1D, blue areas), interfering with the signal from particles that were proximal to the beads.

MagIC-cryo-EM beads enable enrichment and direct cryo-EM analysis of scarce targets

To reduce the effect of the halo-like noise surrounding the nanobeads, protein spacer module was attached to the beads so that the target biomolecules are placed outside the reach of the noise (Fig. 1A). After several rounds of optimization using the in vitro reconstituted H1.8-bound nucleosome as a model target, we chose a spacer module comprising an 11-nm triple helical bundle (3HB) protein (*18*) and four copies of a 60-nm single alpha helix (SAH) protein (*19*) for its effectiveness and its reasonable production yield (Fig. 2A, Figure S1). The distal end of the spacer module was engineered to allow for exchangeable target-capturing modules by the SPYcatcher-SPYtag conjugation (Fig. 2A). We refer to these magnetic nanoparticles coated with the spacer and target-capturing modules MagIC-cryo-EM beads.

To assess the feasibility of the MagIC-cryo-EM beads for structural analysis of a low-concentration target in heterogeneous samples, we isolated H1.8-GFP-bound nucleosomes from a mixture of H1.8-GFP nucleosomes (1.7 nM or 0.00047 mg/mL) and a large excess of nucleosomes (53 nM or 0.012 mg/mL) by anti-GFP nanobody coupled to the MagIC-cryo-EM beads (Fig. 2B and 2C). With a 5-min magnetic capture, the beads were enriched approximately 20-fold on the grid prior to vitrification (Fig. S2). As shown in high-magnification micrographs, the spacer module successfully placed nucleosome-like particles outside the noise surrounding the nanobeads (Fig. 2D). These nucleosome-like particles were efficiently selected by Topaz (*17*) (Fig. 2D right panel). After removing junk particles using decoy classification (*3*, *20–22*) (Fig. S3), an H1.8 density containing nucleosome class was isolated via *ab initio*

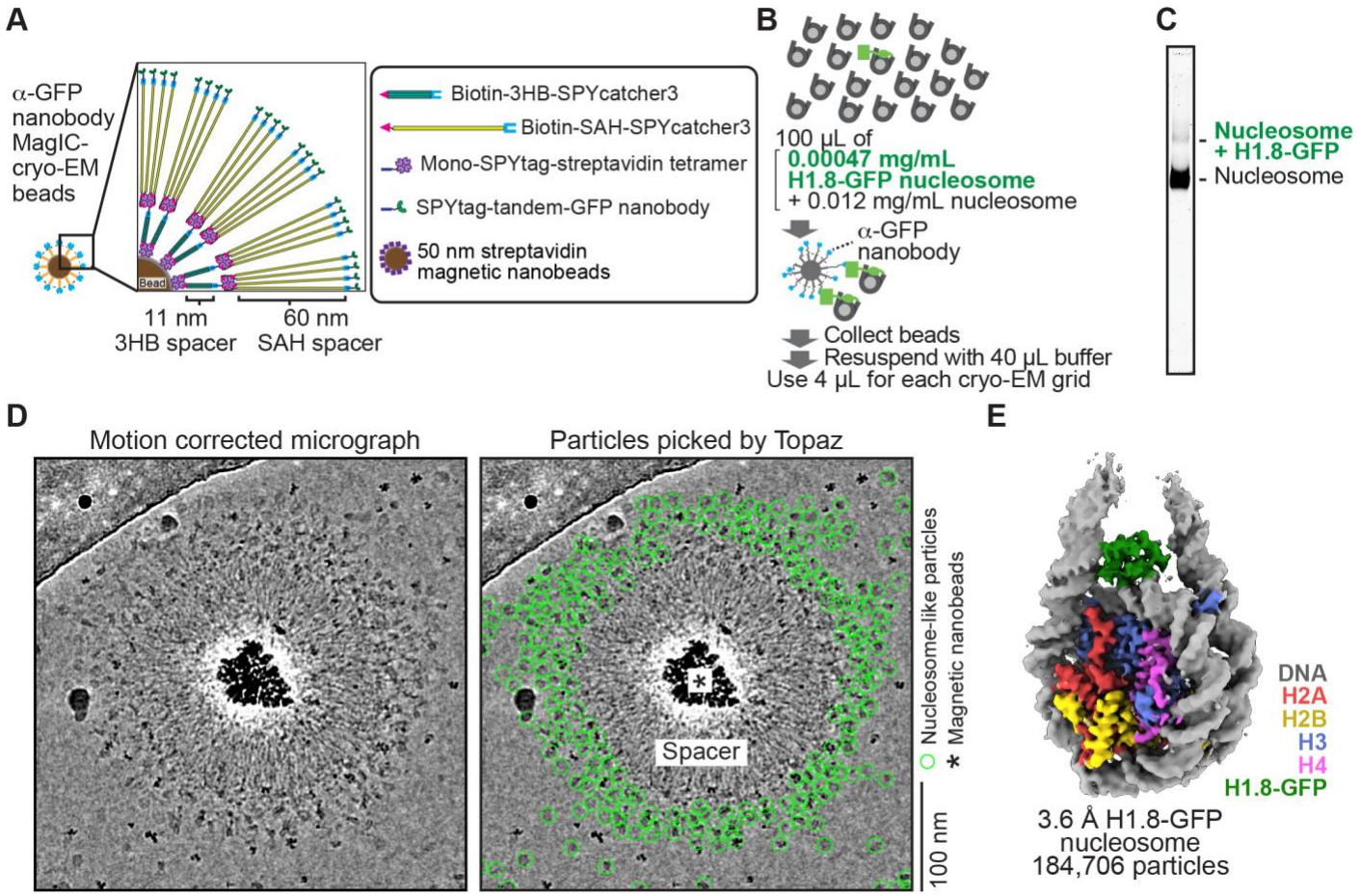


Fig. 2. MagIC-Cryo-EM structural determination of low-quantity and low-purity targets (A) Graphical representation of the MagIC-cryo-EM beads. **(B)** Schematic of MagIC-cryo-EM for *in vitro* reconstituted H1.8-GFP bound nucleosomes isolated from an excess of H1.8-free nucleosomes. **(C)** Native PAGE analysis of H1.8-GFP bound nucleosomes and unbound nucleosomes in the input. DNA staining by SYTO-60 is shown. **(D)** Representative motion corrected micrographs of *in vitro* reconstituted H1.8-GFP nucleosomes captured by MagIC-cryo-EM beads. The micrographs were low-pass filtered to 10 Å resolution. Green circles indicate the nucleosome-like particles picked by Topaz. **(E)** 3D structure of the *in vitro* reconstituted H1.8-GFP-bound nucleosome determined through MagIC-cryo-EM. The pipeline for structural analysis is shown in Fig. S4.

reconstruction and heterogeneous refinement using cryoSPARC (*23*). Among the nucleosome-containing particles, 55.7 % of them were classified as a nucleosome with H1.8 at the on-dyad position (Fig. S3), yielding a final 3D structure at 3.6 Å resolution (Fig. 2E). Notably, this method only required 5 ng of H1.8-GFP-bound nucleosomes (including 2 ng of DNA) per cryo-EM grid, reducing sample requirements by approximately 100 to 1000 times compared to conventional cryo-EM methods.

MagIC-cryo-EM application for ChIP to assess structural features of H1.8 in chromosomes

We next targeted H1.8 in interphase and metaphase chromosomes to evaluate the adaptability of MagIC cryo-EM to ChIP protocols. The linker histone H1 dynamically associates with chromatin and plays a variety of roles in genome organization and regulation (*24–26*). We previously reported that *Xenopus* H1.8 is more stably associated with nucleosomes in metaphase compared to interphase (*3*), and that mitotic H1.8 competes with condensin to increase DNA loop size and shorten chromosome length in *Xenopus* egg extracts (*26*). Despite the high accumulation of H1.8 in the nucleus (Fig. 3B), the amount of nucleosome-associated H1.8 in interphase is reduced to approximately 30% of that in metaphase (*3*). Accordingly, nucleosomes isolated from metaphase chromosomes successfully reconstructed the cryo-EM structure of H1.8 bound at the on-dyad position, in which H1 interacts with the nucleosomal DNA at the dyad axis and both sides of the linker DNA (*27–30*), whereas no H1.8-containing structures were reconstructed from interphase chromosomes (*3*). By enriching H1.8-bound nucleosomes from interphase and metaphase chromosomes using MagIC-cryo-EM, we intended to examine if H1.8 in interphase preferentially associates with nucleosomes in other unstable binding modes (Fig. 3A, model 1), such as at off-dyad positions (*31*, *32*), or if there is an interphase-specific mechanism (by chaperones, for example) that dissociates H1.8 from nucleosomes (Fig. 3A, model 2).

Xenopus sperm nuclei were incubated in egg extracts supplemented with H1.8-GFP to obtain replicated interphase chromosomes and metaphase chromosomes, which were crosslinked and fragmented to generate soluble nucleoprotein complexes (Fig 3B). We confirmed that H1.8-GFP is functional as it rescued the chromosome elongation phenotype

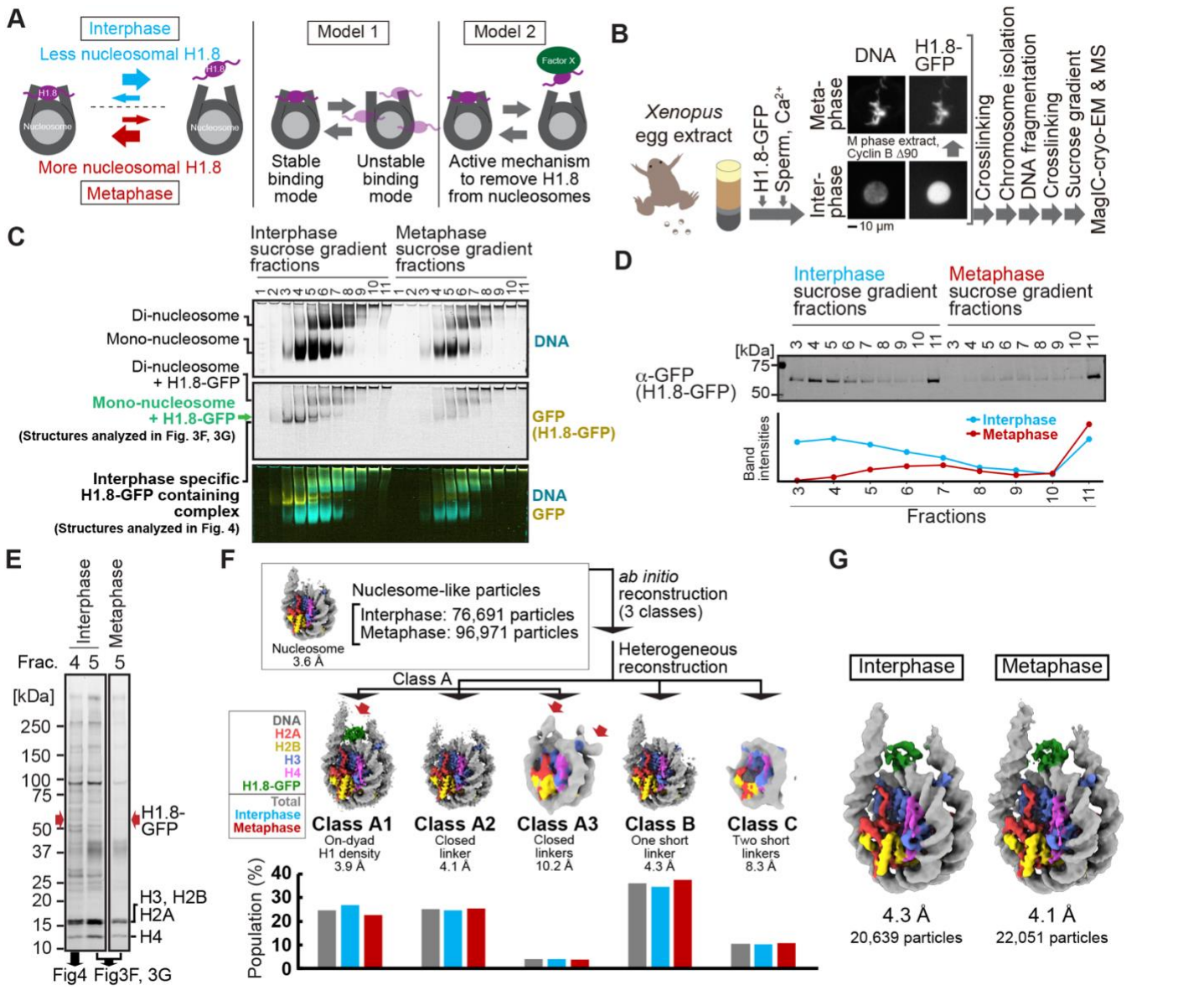


Fig. 3. MagIC-Cryo-EM structural determination of H1.8-bound nucleosomes from interphase and metaphase chromosomes in *Xenopus* egg extract. (A) Models of cell cycle-dependent H1.8 dynamic binding mechanisms **(B)** Experimental flow of MagIC-cryo-EM analysis for GFP-H1.8 containing complexes isolated from chromosomes assembled in interphase and metaphase *Xenopus* egg extract. Fluorescence microscopy images indicate localization of GFP-H1.8 to interphase and metaphase chromosomes. DNA and GFP-H1.8 were detected either by staining with Hoechst 33342 or GFP fluorescence, respectively. **(C)** Native PAGE of fragmented interphase and metaphase chromosome sucrose gradient fractions. GFP-H1.8 and DNA were detected with either GFP fluorescence or SYTO-60 staining, respectively. **(D)** Western blot of GFP-H1.8 in interphase and metaphase chromosome sucrose gradient fractions. GFP-H1.8 was detected using anti-GFP antibodies. **(E)** SDS-PAGE of the sucrose gradient fractions 4 and 5 shown in (C), demonstrating heterogeneity of the samples. Proteins were stained by gel code blue. Red arrows indicate the H1.8-GFP bands. The full gel image is shown in Figure S5A. **(F)** *In silico* 3D classification of interphase and metaphase H1.8-bound nucleosomes isolated from chromosomes in *Xenopus* egg extract. To assess the structural variations and their population of H1.8-bound nucleosomes, *ab initio* reconstruction and heterogenous reconstruction were employed twice for the nucleosome-like particles isolated by the decoy classification. The initial round of *ab initio* reconstruction and heterogenous reconstruction classified the particles into three nucleosome-containing 3D models (A, B, C). Subsequent *ab initio* reconstruction and heterogenous reconstruction on the class A, which has weak H1.8 density, yielded three new nucleosome-containing structures, A1, A2, and A3. 3D maps represent the structural variants of GFP-H1.8-bound nucleosomes. Red arrows indicate extra densities that may represent H1.8. Green densities indicate on-dyad H1.8. The bar graphs indicate the population of the particles assigned to each 3D class in both interphase and metaphase particles (gray), interphase particles (blue), and metaphase particles (red). The numbers of the particles are shown in Fig S6C. The pipeline for structural analysis is shown in Fig. S7. **(G)** Structures of H1.8-bound nucleosomes isolated from interphase and metaphase chromosomes.

caused by H1.8 immunodepletion (Fig. S4) (*26*, *33*). Sucrose density gradient centrifugation was conducted to separate different H1.8-containing complexes, including mono-nucleosome fractions and oligo-nucleosome fractions, as previously described (*3*) (Fig 3C and S5). As we predicted that more H1.8 proteins would associate with nucleosomes in metaphase than in interphase (*3*), we increased the quantities of egg extract and sperm nuclei by 2.5 fold to prepare comparable amounts of H1.8-bound interphase nucleosomes as compared to metaphase (Fig. 3C, fractions 4-11). To ensure

that most nucleosomes isolated through MagIC-cryo-EM were bound by H1.8, we selected the fractions enriched with H1.8-bound mono-nucleosomes (fractions 5 in Fig 3C and 3D), as oligo-nucleosomes (abundant in fractions 6-11) might include H1.8-free nucleosomes. Fraction 4 was excluded for this initial analysis due to the abundant presence of a non-nucleosomal H1.8-containing complex in the interphase sample, migrating below the mono-nucleosome in the native polyacrylamide gel. Of note, these fractions contain highly heterogeneous protein mixtures (Fig. 3E), in which H1.8-GFP is a minor constituent with an estimated concentration at 1-2 nM (0.00025-0.0005 mg/ml of H1.8-bound mono-nucleosomes) (Fig. S5C).

GFP nanobody-MagIC-cryo-EM beads treated with the fractions 5 from metaphase and interphase chromosomes were directly applied to grids for cryo-EM analysis. To quantitatively assess the population of the H1-bound modes of interphase and metaphase nucleosomes, we employed *in silico* mixing 3D classification (*3*, *34*). Micrographs of interphase and metaphase MagIC-cryo-EM were mixed and used for particle picking and decoy classification to isolate the nucleosome-containing classes (Fig S6, and S7). Subsequently, particles were classified into three nucleosome-containing 3D models (A, B, C), which were generated by *ab initio* reconstruction (Fig 3F and S6A). Further 3D classification on the class A, which has weak H1.8 density, yielded three new nucleosome-containing structures, A1, A2, and A3 (Fig 3F and S6). Then, the populations of interphase and metaphase particles in each class were assessed (Fig 3F). Only class A1 had an apparent H1.8 density at the on-dyad position of the nucleosome, with 27% and 23% of the nucleosome particles assigned to this class coming from interphase and metaphase conditions, respectively. Although class A2 had linker DNA densities on both sides of the entry/exit sites of the nucleosome in a closed conformation, it did not have a clear H1.8 density. This suggested that the structures of H1.8 in the particles assigned to this class were not uniform, and that the H1.8 density was averaged out during the cryo-EM processing. Class A3, to which 3-4% of the nucleosome particles were assigned, had ambiguous extra densities outside of the on-dyad position (Fig 3F, red arrows), possibly representing H1.8 bound to non-dyad positions. Overall, the relative distributions of these 5 classes are largely similar between interphase and metaphase (Fig. 3F, and S6C), and the structures of H1.8-bound nucleosomes in interphase and metaphase are indistinguishable (Fig. 3G). The results made the model 1 depicted in Fig. 3A unlikely.

MagIC-cryo-EM and DuSTER reconstructed cryo-EM structure of NPM2-H1.8

Although we could not discern structural differences of H1.8-bound mono-nucleosomes from metaphase and interphase samples, we noticed that substantial portions of H1.8 were enriched in sucrose fractions 3-5 isolated from interphase chromosomes but not from metaphase chromosomes (Fig. 3C). As these interphase-specific H1.8 fractions were lighter than mono-nucleosome-containing fractions, we thought that these fractions may contain regulatory proteins that preferentially dissociate H1.8 from nucleosomes in interphase in line with the model 2 (Fig. 3A).

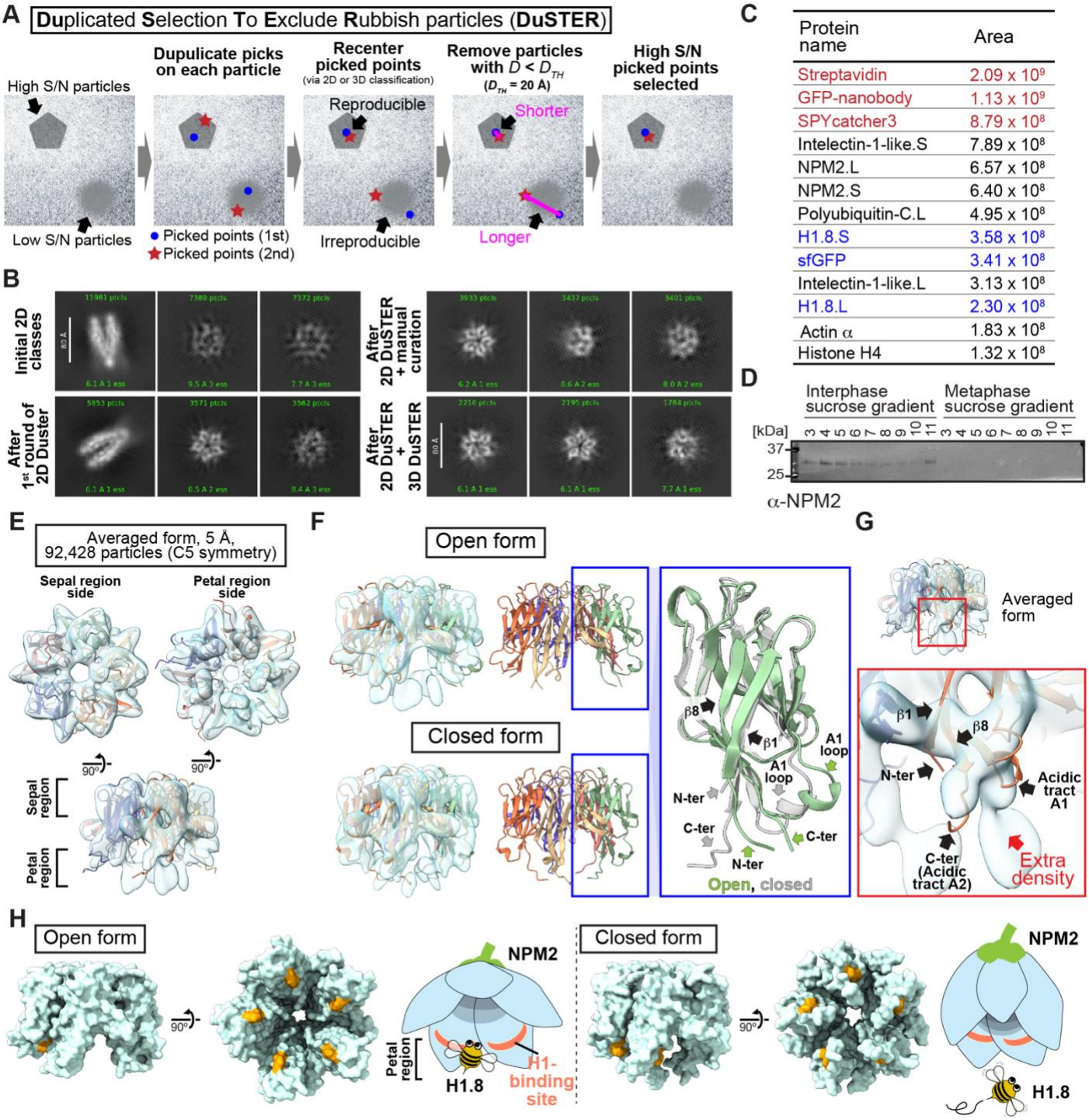
To characterize these interphase-specific fractions, we sought to determine their structural features using MagIC-cryo-EM. However, our initial attempt failed to reconstitute any reasonable 2D or 3D classes of the interphase-specific H1.8-containing complex (Fig S8A), even though Topaz successfully picked most of the 60~80 Å particles present on the MagIC-cryo-EM beads (Fig S8A). This was likely due to their small size; most of the particles did not have a high enough S/N to be properly classified during the 2D and 3D classifications as they were masked by background noises from the ice, graphene, and/or spacer proteins (Fig S8B).

To select particles with high S/N over background noises, we devised the particle curation method DuSTER (Fig 4A). The principle of DuSTER is based on our realization that low S/N ratio particles are not reproducibly recentered during 2D classification (Fig S9). To remove these low S/N ratio particles, DuSTER conducts two independent particle pickings by Topaz so that each particle on the grid has two picked points (Fig 4A, second left panel). These picked points are independently subjected to 2D classification. After recentering the picked points by 2D classification, distances (D) between recentered points from the first picking process and other recentered points from the second picking process are measured. DuSTER keeps recentered points whose D are shorter than the threshold distance (D_{TH}). By setting D_{TH} = 20 Å, 2D classification results were dramatically improved in this sample; a five-petal flower-shaped 2D class was reconstructed (Fig 4B). Repetitive rounds of particle curation using the picked point locations recentered by 2D classification (referred to as 2D DuSTER) successfully reconstituted 2D classes of 60~80 Å complexes (Fig. 4B, S10, and S11). By selecting these 2D classes, an initial 3D model was built (Fig. S11). Using this 3D model, particle curation was revised with 3D DuSTER, which uses 3D classifications for particle recentering with D_{TH} = 15Å (Fig. S12). 3D DuSTER enabled the reconstruction of a 5 Å-resolution 3D structure of the interphase-specific H1.8-containing complex, a small pentameric macromolecule with a diameter of approximately 60 Å (Fig. 4E and S13).

To determine the identity of this complex, MagIC-cryo-EM beads used for isolating the complex were analyzed by mass spectrometry (MS) (Fig 4C). Among the proteins detected by MS, NPM2 (nucleoplasmin) aligned well with the MagIC-cryo-EM result. Western blotting also showed that NPM2 was preferentially enriched in interphase chromatin fractions compared to metaphase (Fig. 4D). In addition, the crystal structure and AlphaFold2 (AF2)-predicted models of *Xenopus* NPM2 matched the MagIC-cryo-EM structure of the interphase-specific H1.8-bound complex (Fig. S14A)(*35*).

Structural variations of NPM2 bound to H1.8

NPM2 is a major chaperone for core histones in oocytes (*36*, *37*). In *Xenopus* eggs, NPM2 replaces sperm protamines with histones upon fertilization, thereby promoting nucleosome assembly on sperm DNA (*38–40*). X-ray crystallography suggested that recombinant *Xenopus* NPM2 forms a pentamer and a decamer (a dimer of pentamers) (*35*). It was also



Protein name	Area
Streptavidin	2.09 x 10^9
GFP-nanobody	1.13 x 10^9
SPYcatcher3	8.79 x 10^8
Intelectin-1-like.S	7.89 x 10^8
NPM2.L	6.57 x 10^8
NPM2.S	6.40 x 10^8
Polyubiquitin-C.L	4.95 x 10^8
H1.8.S	3.58 x 10^8
sfGFP	3.41 x 10^8
Intelectin-1-like.L	3.13 x 10^8
H1.8.L	2.30 x 10^8
Actin α	1.83 x 10^8
Histone H4	1.32 x 10^8

Fig. 4. MagIC-cryo-EM and DuSTER reconstructed cryo-EM structures of interphase-specific H1.8-bound NPM2. (A) Schematic of DuSTER workflow. **(B)** 2D classes before and after particle curation with DuSTER. More 2D classes are shown in Fig. S11 **(C)** MS identification of proteins that cofractionated with H1.8 in sucrose gradient fraction 4 from interphase chromosomes shown in Fig. 3C. Portions of MagIC-cryo-EM beads prepared for cryo-EM were subjected to MS. Proteins shown in red are the proteins that comprise the GPF nanobody-MagIC-cryo-EM beads. Proteins shown in blue represent signals from H1.8-GFP. **(D)** Western blot of NPM2 in the sucrose gradient fractions of interphase and metaphase chromosome fragments. **(E)** 3D cryo-EM structure of NPM2-H1.8. C5 symmetry was applied during structural reconstruction. The complete pipeline is shown in Fig. S11, S12, and S13. **(F)** Structural differences between the opened and closed forms of NPM2. Left panels show cryo-EM maps of the opened and closed forms of NPM2 with H1.8. Middle panels show the atomic models. The right panel shows the zoomed-in view of the open form (green) and closed form (gray) of the NPM2 protomer. In the closed form, β8 runs straight from the sepal side to the petal side. In the open form, the C-terminal portion of β8 is bent outward to the rim. **(G)** Putative H1.8 density (red arrow) in the NPM2-H1.8 structure. **(H)** The NPM2 surface (corresponding to aa 42-44) that contacts the putative H1.8 density is shown in orange. The H1.8-binding sites are accessible in the open form while they are internalized in the closed form. Note that C-terminal acidic tracts A2 and A3 (Fig. S15A) are not visible in the cryo-EM structure but are likely to contribute to H1.8 binding as well in both open and closed forms.

through acidic tracts in its C-terminal tail (*41*). In addition, NPM1 (nucleophosmin), a paralog of NPM2, interacts with H1 (*42*). However, no substrate-bound structure of NPM2 or NPM1 is currently available.

By further analyzing our cryo-EM structure representing the H1.8-bound state of NPM2, we identified its structural variants, classified as open and closed forms (Fig 4F and S14). Due to its structural similarity to a flower, we call the highly acidic putative substrate-binding surface the petal side whereas the other more charge neutral surface the sepal side (Fig. 4E and S14B). The major structural differences between the two forms are found at C-terminal and N-terminal segments of NPM2 core and at the A1 loop (Fig 4E, 4F, and S15). In the closed form, β8 runs straight from the sepal to the petal sides of each pentamer and has an extended C-terminal segment that protrudes past the petal side of the pentamer. In the open form, however, the C-terminal portion of β8 is bent outward to the rim (Fig. 4F). Along with this β8 bending, C-terminal segment, N-terminal segment, and A1 loop are also positioned outward in the open form. The configuration of β1, β8, and A1 loop in the crystal structure of *Xenopus* NPM2 (*35*), the AF2-predicted structure of *Xenopus* NPM2 (*43–45*), and the cryo-EM structure of the bacterially expressed human NPM1(*46*), which were all determined in the absence of their target proteins, is similar to the closed form (Fig S15B-D). Notably, extra cryo-EM densities, which likely represent H1.8, are clearly observed in the open form but much less in the closed form near the acidic surface regions proximal to the N terminus of β1 and the C terminus of β8 (Fig. 4F and 4G). Supporting this idea, the acidic tract A1 (aa 36-40) and A2 (aa 120-140), which are both implicated in recognition of basic substrates such as core histones (*35*, *41*), respectively interact with and are adjacent to the putative H1.8 density (Fig. 4G). In addition, the NPM2 surface that is in direct contact with the putative H1.8 density is accessible in the open form while it is internalized in the closed form (Fig. 4H). This structural change of NPM2 may support more rigid binding of H1.8 to the open NPM2, whereas H1.8 binding to the closed form is less stable and likely occurs through interactions with the C-terminal A2 and A3 tracts, which are not visible in our cryo-EM structures (Fig. 4H).

In the aforementioned NPM2-H1.8 structures, for which we applied C5 symmetry during the 3D structure reconstruction, only a partial H1.8 density could be seen (Fig. 4G). One possibility is that H1.8 structure in NPM2-H1.8 does not follow C5 symmetry. As the estimated size of the NPM2-H1.8 complex is consistent with pentameric NPM2 binding to a single H1.8 (Fig. 3C, 3D, and 4D) (Table S2), applying C5 symmetry during structural reconstruction likely blurred the density of the monomeric H1.8 that binds to the NPM2 pentamer. The structural determination of NPM2-H1.8 with releasing C5 symmetry lowered the overall resolution but visualized multiple structural variants of the NPM2 protomer with different degrees of openness co-existing within a NPM2-H1.8 complex (Fig S16), raising a possibility that opening of a portion of the NPM2 pentamer may affect modes of H1.8 binding. It is also plausible that H1.8 binds to NPM2 in a flexible manner as AF2-predicted structures of the NPM2-H1.8 reproducibly place H1.8 near the A1 acidic tracts without a robust, specific binding mode (Fig S17). Although more detailed structural analyses of the NPM2-substrate complex are subject of future studies, MagIC-cryo-EM and DuSTER revealed structural changes of NPM2 that is bound to H1.8 on interphase chromosomes.

We found that the majority of chromatin-bound H1.8 in interphase existed as a complex with NPM2 rather than with nucleosomes (Fig. 3C and 3D). This contrasts to the reports suggesting that NAP1 is the major H1.8-bound chaperone in *Xenopus* egg extracts (*47*, *48*), while it is consistent with our previous MS analysis that also detected NPM2, but not NAP1, in fractions enriched with nucleosomes in interphase (*3*). Since the amounts of H1.8-associated NAP1 or NPM2 in the egg cytoplasm did not change between interphase and metaphase (Fig. S18), a mechanism must exist such that NPM2 interacts with H1.8 on chromatin specifically in interphase, in line with a model that H1.8-nucleosome interaction is suppressed in interphase by NPM2 on chromatin (Fig. S19). NPM2 may maintain nucleosome-bound H1.8 at a low level in interphase during early developmental cell cycles to support rapid DNA replication, while mitotic induction of H1.8 association with nucleosomes ensures proper chromosome size to facilitate chromosome segregation (*26*) (Fig. S19).

Conclusion

MagIC-cryo-EM offers four significant benefits for the structural analysis of low-abundance biomolecules (Fig. 5). First, the on-bead-cryo-EM approach minimizes preparation steps, which can lead to sample loss, such as target isolation, enrichment, and buffer exchange (e.g., dialysis, concentration, etc.) (Fig. 5A). Second, sample loss during the grid-freezing process is reduced by magnet-based enrichment of the targets on cryo-EM grids (Fig. 5B and S2). Third, the magnetic beads are easily identified in intermediate-magnification montage maps, enabling the selection of areas where targets exist prior to high-magnification data collection (Fig. 1C and Fig. 5C). Fourth, targets are highly concentrated around the beads, ensuring that each micrograph contains more than 100 usable particles for 3D structure determination (Fig. 2D and Fig. 5D).

The DuSTER particle curation method eliminates low S/N particles based on the reproducibility of particle centering during 2D and 3D classifications, even when these procedures fail to classify the low and high S/N particles in separate structural classes (Fig 4). By combining MagIC-cryo-EM and DuSTER, we have successfully determined the sub-nanometer structure and structural variations of the NPM2-H1.8-GFP complex, in which the mass of the ordered region is only 60 kDa. Notably, particle curation by DuSTER does not require human supervision or machine learning, except for determining the distance threshold between repeatedly picked particles. This feature may allow for automating particle curation via DuSTER in the future.

MagIC-cryo-EM and DuSTER approaches hold the potential for targeting a wide range of biomolecules, including small ones, for two main reasons. First, the target-capturing module could be replaced with various other proteins, such as different nanobodies, single-chain variable fragments (scFv), protein A, dCas9, or avidin, to capture a wide range of

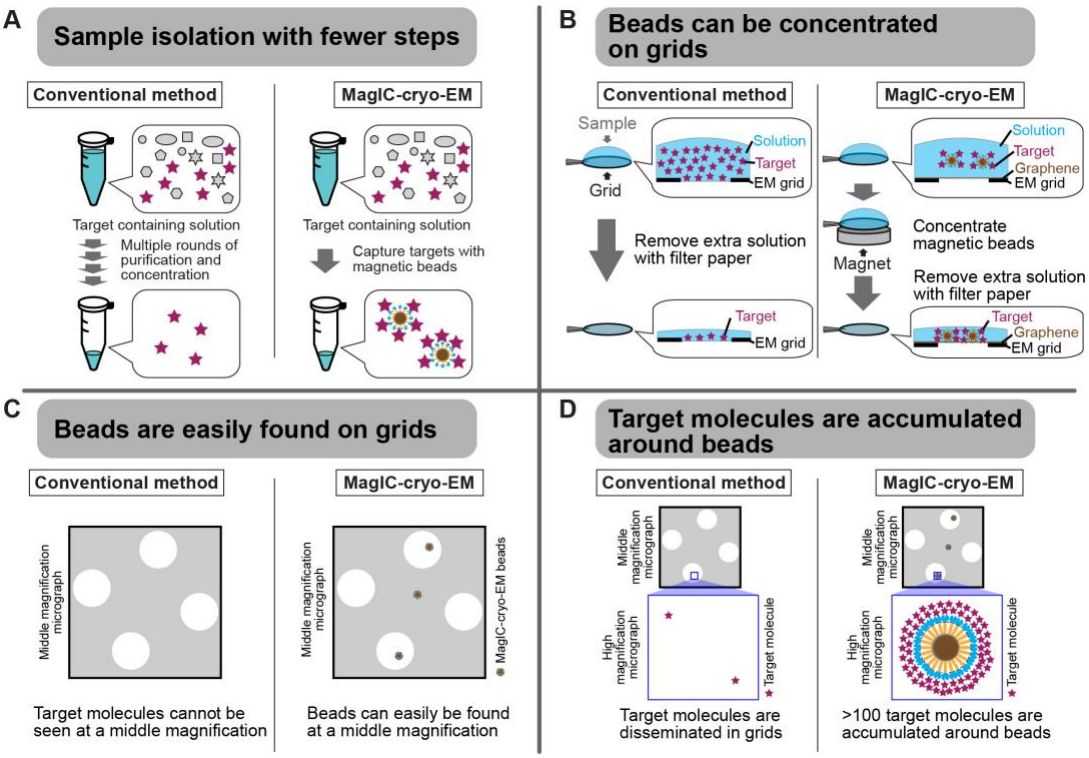


Fig. 5. Advantages of MagIC-cryo-EM over conventional cryo-EM methods. **(A)** The on-bead-cryo-EM approach minimizes preparation steps (for example, target isolation, enrichment, and buffer exchange), which can lead to sample loss. **(B)** Sample loss during the grid-freezing process is reduced by magnet-based enrichment of the targets on cryo-EM grids. **(C)** The magnetic beads are easily identified in intermediate-magnification montage maps, enabling the selection of areas where targets exist prior to high-magnification data collection. **(D)** Targets are highly concentrated around the beads, ensuring that each micrograph contains more than 100 usable particles for 3D structure determination.

biomolecules. Second, the sample requirement for MagIC-cryo-EM is a mere 5 ng per grid, which is comparable to or even lower than the requirements of widely used ChIP-seq (*15*). Coupling next-generation sequencing with MagIC-cryo-EM beads would help the field determine structural features of functionally distinct chromatin regions, such as heterochromatin, euchromatin, transcription start sites, telomeres, and centromeres. The low sample requirement of MagIC-cryo-EM also opens the door to structural analysis using limited specimens, including patient tissues.

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Author Contributions

Conceptualization: YA
Investigation: YA, HAK, HF
Visualization: YA, HAK
Funding acquisition: HF, YA, HAK
Project administration: HF
Writing – original draft: YA, HAK
Writing – review & editing: YA, HAK, HF

Competing interests

YA, HAK, and HF have filed a patent application encompassing aspects of MagIC-cryo-EM (RU 2023-001 / US 63/407,761). HF is affiliated with the Graduate School of Medical Sciences, Weill Cornell Medicine, and Cell Biology Program at the Sloan Kettering Institute.

Data and materials availability

Cryo-EM density maps have been deposited in the EM Data Resource under accession codes EMD-42599 (*in vitro* reconstituted poly-nucleosome), EMD-42598 (*in vitro* reconstituted H1-GFP bound nucleosome), EMD-42594 (*Xenopus* egg extract H1-GFP bound nucleosome structure containing both interphase and metaphase particles), EMD-42596 (interphase *Xenopus* egg extract H1-GFP bound nucleosome), EMD-42597 (metaphase *Xenopus* egg extract H1-GFP bound nucleosome), EMD-43238 (Averaged NPM2-H1.8-GFP structure), EMD- 43239 (open NPM2-H1.8-GFP structure), and EMD- 43240 (closed NPM2-H1.8-GFP structure). The atomic coordinates have been deposited in the

Protein Data Bank under accession codes PDB 8VHI (averaged NPM2-H1.8-GFP structure), PDB 8VHJ (open NPM2-H1.8-GFP structure), and PDB 8VHK (closed NPM2-H1.8-GFP structure). The cryo-EM data will be disclosed upon the publication of this manuscript. The plasmids for generating MagIC-cryo-EM beads were deposited to Addgene under accession codes #214835 (Non tagged Avidin), #214836 (SPYtag-Histag-Avidin), #214837 (SPYtag-GFPnanobody), #214838 (Cys-3HB-SPYcatcher), #214839 (Cys-30nmSAH-SPYcatcher), and #214840 (Cys-60nmSAH-SPYcatcher).

Materials and Methods

Xenopus laevis

Xenopus laevis was purchased from Xenopus 1 (female, 4270; male, 4235). Vertebrate animal protocols (20031 and 23020) approved by the Rockefeller University Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee were followed.

Purification of Biotin-3HB-SPYcatcher003

Biotin-3HB-SPYcatcher003 was bacterially expressed and purified using pQE80-His_{14}-bdSUMO-Cys-3HB-SPYcatcher003. To build the plasmid, a pQE80 derivative vector encoding an N-terminal His-tag was amplified by PCR from pSF1389 [Addgene plasmid # 104962] (*49*). gBlock DNAs encoding *Brachypodium distachyon* SUMO (bdSUMO) (*49*) and a computationally designed monomeric three-helix bundle (*18*) were synthesized by IDT and used as a PCR template. DNA encoding SPYcatcher003 was amplified using pSpyCatcher003 [Addgene plasmid # 133447] (*50*) as a PCR template. DNA fragments were assembled by the Gibson assembly method (*51*). *E. coli* Rosetta (DE3) cells expressing His_{14}-bdSUMO-Cys-3HB-SPYcatcher003 were induced with 1 mM isopropyl-β-D-thiogalactopyranoside (IPTG) at 25 ºC and then resuspended in 100 mL buffer A (8 mM Na_2HPO_4, 2 mM KH_2PO_4, 537 mM NaCl, 2.7 mM KCl, 10 % glycerol, 2 mM β-mercaptoethanol, 1 mM PMSF, 20 mM imidazole with 1x cOmplete Protease Inhibitor Cocktail EDTA-free [Roche]). The cells were disrupted by sonication, and the soluble fraction was collected by centrifugation at 20,000 rpm (46,502 rcf) at 4 ºC for 30 min using a 45Ti rotor in Optima L80 (Beckman Coulter). This fraction was then mixed with Ni-NTA agarose beads (Qiagen). Protein-bound Ni-NTA agarose beads were packed into an Econo-column (bio-rad) and washed with 170 column volumes (CV) of buffer B (8 mM Na_2HPO_4, 2 mM KH_2PO_4, 937 mM NaCl, 2.7 mM KCl, 10 % glycerol, 2 mM β-mercaptoethanol, 1 mM PMSF, 40 mM imidazole with 1x cOmplete EDTA-free Protease Inhibitor Cocktail [Roche], pH 7.4). The beads were further washed with 33 CV of Phosphate-Buffered Saline (PBS: 8 mM Na_2HPO_4, 2 mM KH_2PO_4, 137 mM NaCl, 2.7 mM KCl, pH 7.4) containing additional 5 % glycerol to remove β-mercaptoethanol. The His_{14}-SUMO-tag was cleaved by incubating overnight at 4 ºC with N-terminal His-tagged SENP1 protease, which was expressed and purified using the previously described method with pSF1389 [Addgene plasmid # 104962] (*49*). Ni-NTA agarose beads that bound the cleaved His_{14}-bdSUMO-tag and His_{14}-SENP1 were filtered out using an Econo-column (bio-rad). The cleaved 3HB-SPYcatcher003 with a cysteine residue at the N-terminal was concentrated using Amicon 30K (Millipore), mixed with EZ-link Maleimide-PEG2-Biotin (Thermo A39261), and left at 4 ºC overnight. Biotinylated 3HB-SPYcatcher003 was dialyzed overnight against PBS at 4 ºC. The dialyzed Biotin-3HB-SPYcatcher003 was further purified through a Hi-load Superdex75 16/600 column (Cytiva) and stored at -20 ºC in PBS containing 47.5 % glycerol.

Purification of Biotin-60 nm-SAH-SPYcatcher003 and Biotin-90 nm-SAH-SPYcatcher003

Biotin-30 nm-SAH-SPYcatcher003 and Biotin-60 nm-SAH-SPYcatcher003 were bacterially expressed and purified using pQE80-His_{14}-bdSUMO-Cys-30nm-SAH-SPYcatcher003 and pQE80-His_{14}-bdSUMO-Cys-60 nm-SAH-SPYcatcher003. DNA encoding 30 nm single alpha-helix (SAH) from *Trichomonas vaginalis* was amplified using pCDNA-FRT-FAK30 [Addgene plasmid # 59121] (*19*) as a PCR template. To extend the repeat to the desired length, MluI and AscI sites were inserted at the top and bottom of the DNA segment encoding 30 nm SAH, respectively. Although the target sequences for AscI (GG/CGCGCC) and MluI (A/CGCGT) are distinct, the DNA overhangs formed after the DNA digestion are identical. In addition, the DNA sequence formed by ligating these DNA overhangs translated into Lys-Ala-Arg, which does not disrupt a single alpha-helix. To generate pQE80-His_{14}-bdSUMO-Cys-60 nm-SAH-SPYcatcher3, two DNA fragments were prepared. The longer fragment was prepared by digesting pQE80-His_{14}-bdSUMO-Cys-30 nm-SAH-SPYcatcher003 with XhoI and MluI. The shorter fragment was prepared by digesting pQE80-His_{14}-bdSUMO-Cys-30 nm-SAH-SPYcatcher003 with XhoI and AscI. Target fragments were isolated by agarose gel extraction and ligated to form pQE80-His_{14}-bdSUMO-Cys-60nm-SAH-SPYcatcher003. Repeating these steps, pQE80-His_{14}-bdSUMO-Cys-90 nm-SAH-SPYcatcher003 was also generated.

E. coli Rosetta (DE3) cells expressing His_{14}-bdSUMO-Cys-SAH-SPYcatcher003 were induced with 1 mM IPTG at 18 ºC and then resuspended in 100 mL of buffer A before being disrupted by sonication. The soluble fraction was collected by centrifugation at 20,000 rpm (46,502 rcf) at 4 ºC for 30 min using a 45Ti rotor in Optima L80 (Beckman Coulter) and applied to a HisTrap HP column (Cytiva). The column was washed with 4 column volumes (CV) of buffer B. His_{14}-bdSUMO-Cys-SAH-SPYcatcher003 was eluted from the HisTrap column with buffer D (8 mM Na_2HPO_4, 2 mM KH_2PO_4, 137 mM NaCl, 2.7 mM KCl, 5 % glycerol, 200 mM imidazole [pH 7.4]). The eluted His_{14}-bdSUMO-Cys-SAH-SPYcatcher003 was mixed with His_{14}-SENP1 and dialyzed against PBS containing 5 % glycerol at 4 ºC overnight. The dialyzed protein was applied to the HisTrap HP column (Cytiva) to remove the cleaved His_{14}-bdSUMO-tag and His_{14}-SENP1. The cleaved SAH-SPYcatcher003 was further purified through a MonoQ 5/50 column (Cytiva). The purified SAH-SPYcatcher003 with a cysteine residue at the N-terminus was concentrated with Amicon 10K (Millipore), mixed with EZ-link Maleimide-PEG2-Biotin (Thermo A39261), and placed overnight at 4 ºC. The biotinylated SAH-

SPYcatcher003 was dialyzed against PBS at 4 ºC overnight. The dialyzed Biotin-SAH-SPYcatcher003 was purified through a Hi-load Superdex200 16/600 column (Cytiva) and stored at -20 ºC in PBS containing 47.5 % glycerol.

Purification of Mono-SPYtag-avidin tetramer

Mono-SPYtag-avidin tetramer was purified using a modified version of the method described by Howarth et al. (*52*). pET21-SPY-His_6-tag streptavidin and pET21-streptavidin were generated by using pET21a-Streptavidin-Alive [Addgene plasmid # 20860] (*52*) as a PCR template. SPY-His_6-tag streptavidin and untagged avidin were expressed individually in *E. Coli* BL21(DE3) as inclusion bodies by inducing with 1 mM IPTG at 37 ºC. The cells expressing the proteins were resuspended in 100 mL of buffer E (50 mM Tris-HCl, 1 mM EDTA) and disrupted by sonication. Insoluble fractions were collected by centrifugation at 20,000 rpm at 4 ºC for 30 min using a 45Ti rotor in Optima L80 (Beckman Coulter). The insoluble pellets were washed by resuspending them in 50 ml of buffer E and re-collecting them through centrifugation at 20,000 rpm at 4 ºC for 30 min using a 45Ti rotor in Optima L80 (Beckman Coulter). The washed insoluble pellets were resuspended in 8 mL of 6 M guanidine HCl (pH 1.5) and dialyzed against 200 ml of 6 M guanidine HCl (pH 1.5) overnight at 4 ºC. The denatured proteins were collected by centrifugation at 20,000 rpm at 4 ºC for 30 min using a 45Ti rotor in Optima L80 (Beckman Coulter). Protein concentrations in soluble fractions were estimated based on the absorbance at 260 nm. Denatured SPY-His_6-tag streptavidin and untagged streptavidin were mixed at a 1:2.9 molar ratio and rapidly refolded by diluting them with 250 mL of PBS at 4 ºC. After 6 h of stirring at 4 ºC, aggregated proteins were removed by centrifugation at 20,000 rpm at 4 ºC for 30 min using a 45Ti rotor in Optima L80 (Beckman Coulter). The supernatant was mixed with 62.7 g of solid ammonium sulfate and stirred overnight at 4 ºC. Insolubilized proteins were removed with centrifugation at 20,000 rpm at 4 ºC for 30 min using a 45Ti rotor in Optima L80 (Beckman Coulter). The supernatant was loaded into the HisTrap HP column (Cytiva). Refolded avidin tetramers were eluted from the column by a linear gradient of imidazole (10 mM to 500 mM) in PBS. The peak corresponding to mono-SPY-His-tagged streptavidin tetramer was collected and concentrated using Amicon 10K (Millipore). The concentrated mono-SPY-His_6-tagged streptavidin tetramer was further purified through Hiload superdex75 (Cytiva) and stored at -20 ºC in PBS containing 47.5 % glycerol.

Purification of SPYtag-GFP nanobody

MagIC-cryo-EM beads were optimized by testing three different GFP nanobodies: tandem GFP nanobody, GFP enhancer nanobody, and LaG (llama antibody against GFP)-10 (Fig. S1). To express SPYtag-GFP nanobodies, plasmids pSPY-GFP nanobody were built. The plasmid has a pQE80 backbone, and the DNA sequences that encode His_{14}-bdSUMO-SPYtag-GFP nanobody were inserted into the multiple cloning sites of the backbone. DNA encoding tandem GFP nanobody was amplified from pN8his-GFPenhancer-GGGGS4-LaG16 [Addgene plasmid # 140442](*53*). DNA encoding GFP enhancer nanobody (*54*) was amplified from pN8his-GFPenhancer-GGGGS4-LaG16. DNA encoding the LaG10 nanobody was amplified from a plasmid provided by Dr. Michael Rout (*55*). GFP nanobodies were expressed at 16 ºC in *E. coli* Rosetta (DE3) by IPTG induction. The cells expressing His_{14}-bdSUMO-SPYtag-GFP nanobody were resuspended with 100 mL buffer A and disrupted by sonication. The soluble fraction was collected with centrifugation at 20,000 rpm (46,502 rcf) at 4 ºC for 30 min using a 45Ti rotor in Optima L80 (Beckman Coulter) and applied to the HisTrap HP column (Cytiva). The protein was eluted from the column with a step gradient of imidazole (50, 200, 400 mM) in buffer F (50 mM Tris-HCl (pH 8), 100 mM NaCl, 800 mM Imidazole, 5 % Glycerol). The eluted His_{14}-bdSUMO-SPYtag-GFP nanobody was mixed with His_{14}-SENP1 and dialyzed against PBS containing 5 % glycerol at 4 ºC overnight. The dialyzed protein was applied to the HisTrap HP column (Cytiva) to remove the cleaved His_{14}-bdSUMO-tag and His_{14}-SENP1. The cleaved SPYtag-GFP-nanobody was concentrated with Amicon 10K (Millipore). The concentrated SPYtag-singular GFP nanobody was further purified through Hiload superdex75 (Cytiva) and stored at -20 ºC in PBS containing 47.5 % glycerol.

Purification of H1.8-GFP

To purify *Xenopus laevis* H1.8-superfolder GFP (sfGFP, hereafter GFP), pQE80-His_{14}-bdSUMO-H1.8-GFP was generated by replacing bdSENP1 in pSF1389 vector to H1.8-GFP. Using this plasmid, His_{14}-bdSUMO-H1.8-GFP was expressed in *E. Coli* Rosetta (DE3) at 18 ºC with 1 mM IPTG induction. The soluble fraction was collected through centrifugation at 20,000 rpm (46,502 rcf) at 4 ºC for 30 min using a 45Ti rotor in Optima L80 (Beckman Coulter) and applied to the HisTrap HP column (Cytiva). His_{14}-bdSUMO-H1.8-GFP was eluted from the column with a linear gradient of imidazole (100 mM to 800 mM) in PBS. The fractions containing His_{14}-bdSUMO-H1.8-GFP were collected, mixed with SENP1 protease, and dialyzed overnight against PBS containing 5 % glycerol at 4 ºC. The SENP1-treated sample was then applied to a Heparin HP column (Cytiva) and eluted with a linear gradient of NaCl (137 mM to 937 mM) in PBS containing 5 % glycerol. The fractions containing H1.8-GFP were collected and concentrated using Amicon 30K (Millipore) before being applied to a Hiload Superdex200 16/600 column (Cytiva) in PBS containing 5 % glycerol. The fractions containing H1.8-GFP were collected, concentrated using Amicon 30K (Millipore), flash-frozen, and stored at -80 ºC.

Purification of *X. laevis* histones

All histones were purified using the method described previously (*56*). Bacterially expressed *X. laevis* H2A, H2B, H3.2, and H4 were purified from inclusion bodies. His-tagged histones (H2A, H3.2, and H4) or untagged H2B expressed in bacteria were resolubilized from the inclusion bodies by incubation with 6 M guanidine HCl. For His-tagged histones, the solubilized His-tagged histones were purified using Ni-NTA beads (Qiagen). For untagged H2B, the resolubilized histones were purified using a MonoS column (Cytiva) under

denaturing conditions before H2A-H2B dimer formation. To reconstitute the H3–H4 tetramer and H2A–H2B dimer, the denatured histones were mixed at an equal molar ratio and dialyzed to refold the histones by removing the guanidine. His-tags were removed by TEV protease treatment, and the H3–H4 tetramer and H2A–H2B dimer were isolated through a HiLoad 16/600 Superdex 75 column (Cytiva). The fractions containing the H3–H4 tetramer and H2A–H2B dimer were concentrated using Amicon 10K, flash-frozen, and stored at −80 °C.

Preparation of *in vitro* reconstituted poly-nucleosome

pAS696 containing the 19-mer of the 200 bp 601 nucleosome positioning sequence was digested using HaeII, DraI, EcoRI, and XbaI. Both ends of the 19-mer of the 200 bp 601 DNA were labeled with biotin by Klenow fragment (NEB) with biotin-14-dATP (*57*). The nucleosomes were assembled with the salt dialysis method (*57*). Purified DNAs were mixed with H3-H4 and H2A-H2B, transferred into a dialysis cassette, and placed into a high salt buffer (10 mM Tris-HCl [pH 7.5], 1 mM EDTA, 2 M NaCl, 5 mM β-mercaptoethanol, and 0.01 % Triton X-100). Using a peristaltic pump, the high salt buffer was gradually exchanged with a low salt buffer (10 mM Tris-HCl [pH 7.5], 1 mM EDTA, 50 mM NaCl, 5 mM β-mercaptoethanol, 0.01 % Triton X-100) at roughly 2 ml/min overnight at 4 °C. In preparation for cryo-EM image collection, the dialysis cassette containing the sample was then placed in a buffer containing 10 mM HEPES-HCl (pH 7.4) and 30 mM KCl and dialyzed for 48 h at 4 °C.

Native PAGE and SDS-PAGE

For the native PAGE for nucleosome (Fig 3C), 15 µL of nucleosome fractions were loaded onto a 0.5x TBE 6 % native PAGE gel. For the native PAGE for nucleosomal DNA (Fig S6B), 15 µL of nucleosome fractions were mixed with 1 µL of 10 mg/mL RNaseA (Thermo Scientific) and incubated at 55 °C for 30 min. To deproteinize and reverse-crosslink DNA, RNaseA treated samples were then mixed with 1 µL of 19 mg/ml Proteinase K solution (Roche) and incubated at 55 °C for overnight. Samples were loaded to 0.5x TBE 6 % native PAGE. Native PAGE gels were stained by SYTO-60 to detect DNA. SYTO-60 and GFP signals were scanned on a LI-COR Odyssey. For SDS-PAGE analysis (Fig S6B), 20 µL of nucleosome fractions were mixed with 5 µL of 4x SDS-PAGE sample buffer (200 mM Tris- HCl pH 6.8, 8 % SDS, 40 % glycerol, 10% β-mercaptoethanol) and boiled for 10 min at 96 °C. Samples were loaded to a 4 %–20 % gradient gel (Bio-Rad, # 5671095).

Western blot

For the western blot of nucleosome fractions (Fig 3D), 20 µL of nucleosome fractions were mixed with 5 µL of 4x SDS-PAGE sample buffer and boiled for 10 min at 96 °C. Samples were loaded to a 4 %–20 % gradient gel (Bio-Rad, # 5671095).

For the H1.8-GFP complementation assay (Fig S5), 2 µL egg extract samples were added to 38 µL of 1x SDS-PAGE sample buffer (50 mM Tris- HCl pH 6.8, 2 % SDS, 10 % glycerol, 2.5 % β-mercaptoethanol) and boiled for 5 min at 96°C. Samples were mixed by vortex and spun at 13,200 rpm for 1 min before gel electrophoresis. 10 µL out of 40 µL samples were separated in 4–20 % gradient gel (Bio-Rad, # 5671095).

The SDS-PAGE gels were transferred into the western blot cassette and transferred to a nitrocellulose membrane (Cytiva, # 10600000) with 15 V at 4 °C overnight. The transferred membranes were blocked with Intercept TBS Blocking Buffer (LI-COR Biosciences, # 927-60001). Primary and secondary antibodies were diluted in Intercept TBS Antibody Diluent (LI-COR Biosciences, #927-65001). For Fig. S4A, as primary antibodies, mouse monoclonal antibody against GFP (Santa Cruz Biotechnology, # sc-9996, 1:1000 dilution) and rabbit polyclonal antibody against *X. laevis* H1.8 (*58*) (final: 1 µg/mL) were used. For Fig. S18, as primary antibodies, rabbit polyclonal antibody against *X. laevis* H1.8 (*58*), rabbit polyclonal antisera against *X. laevis* NAP1 (1:500 dilution) (*59*), NPM2 (1:500 dilution) (*60*), and rabbit polyclonal antibody against phosphorylated histone H3 Thr3 (MilliporeSigma, # 07-424, 1:5000 dilution) were used. NAP1 and NPM2 antibody are kind gifts of David Shechter. As secondary antibodies, IRDye 800CW goat anti-rabbit IgG (LI-COR, # 926-32211; 1:10,000) and IRDye 680RD goat anti-mouse IgG (LI-COR, # 926-68070; 1:15,000) were used. The images were taken with Odyssey M Infrared Imaging System (LI-COR Biosciences).

Immunoprecipitation (IP) assay in Xenopus egg extract

For the IP assay (Fig. S18), antibody against rabbit IgG, in-house purified from pre-immune rabbit serum by HiTrap Protein A HP (# 17040301), and antibody against *X. laevis* H1.8 (# RU2130) were conjugated to Protein-A coupled Dynabeads (Thermo Fisher Scientific, # 10001D) at 20 µg/mL beads at 4 °C for overnight on a rotator. rIgG and H1.8 antibody beads were crosslinked using 5 mM BS3 (Thermo Fisher Scientific, # A39266) resuspended in PBS (pH 7.4) at room temperature for 30 min and quenched by 50 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.4) resuspended in PBS (pH 7.4) at room temperature for 20-30 min on a rotator. All antibody beads were washed extensively using wash/coupling buffer (10 mM K-HEPES (pH 8.0) and 150 mM KCl), followed by sperm dilution buffer (10 mM K-HEPES (pH 8.0), 1 mM $MgCl_2$, 100 mM KCl, 150 mM sucrose). The beads were left on ice until use.

Interphase egg extract (30 µL) was prepared by incubating at 20 °C for 60 min after adding $CaCl_2$ (final: 0.4 mM) and cycloheximide (final: 100 µg/mL) to fresh CSF egg extract. Mitotic egg extract (CSF egg extract, 30 µL) was also incubated at 20 °C for 60 min without any additives. After 60 min incubation, each mitotic and interphase egg extract was transferred to antibody-conjugated beads (10 µL) after removing sperm dilution buffer on a magnet stand (Sergi Lab Supplies, Cat# 1005). Beads-extract mixtures were mixed and incubated on ice for 45 min with flicking tubes every 15 min. After 45 min, beads were collected using a magnet stand at 4 °C and washed 3 times with beads wash buffer (sperm dilution buffer supplemented 1x cOmplete EDTA-free protease inhibitor cocktail (Roche, # 4693132001), 1x PhosSTOP (Roche, # 4906845001), and 0.1 % (v/v) Triton-X

(BIO-RAD, # 1610407)). Beads are resuspended in 20 µL of 1x SDS sample buffer and loaded 10 µL out of 20 µL to a SDS-PAGE gel. Methods for SDS-PAGE and western blot are described above.

Trial MagIC-cryo-EM with poly-nucleosome (used in Fig 1)
A total of 60 fmol of Absolute Mag streptavidin nano-magnetic beads (CD bioparticles: WHM-X047, 50 nM size) were mixed with 100 µL of EM buffer A (10 mM HEPES-KOH [pH 7.4], 30 mM KCl, 1 mM EGTA, 0.3 ng/µL leupeptin, 0.3 ng/µL pepstatin, 0.3 ng/µL chymostatin, 1 mM Sodium Butyrate, 1 mM beta-glycerophosphate, 1 mM $MgCl_2$, 2% trehalose, 0.2 % 1,6-hexanediol). The beads were collected by incubation on two pieces of 40 x 20 mm N52 neodymium disc magnets (DIYMAG: D40x20-2P-NEW) at 4 ºC for 30 min and then resuspended in 120 µL of EM buffer A. Next, 60 µL of 34 nM nucleosome arrays formed on the biotinylated 19-mer 200 bp 601 DNA were mixed with the beads and rotated at 20 ºC for 2 h. To remove unbound nucleosomes, the biotin-poly-nucleosome-bound nano-magnetic beads were collected after 40 min of incubation on the N52 neodymium disc magnets and then resuspended in 300 µL EM buffer containing 10 µM biotin. A 100 µL portion of the biotin-poly-nucleosome-bound nano-magnetic beads solution was incubated on the N52 neodymium disc magnets for 30 min and then resuspended in 20 µL EM buffer A. Finally, 3 µL of biotin-poly-nucleosome-bound nano-magnetic beads solution was added onto a glow-discharged Quantifoil Gold R 1.2/1.3 300 mesh grid (Quantifoil). The samples were vitrified under 100% humidity, with a 20-sec incubation and 5-sec blotting time using the Vitrobot Mark IV (FEI).

The grid was imaged on a Talos Arctica (Thermo Fisher) equipped with a 200 kV field emission gun and K2 camera. A total of 657 movies were collected at a magnification of x 72,000 (1.5 Å/pixel) using super-resolution mode, as managed by SerialEM (*61*). Movie frames are motion-corrected and dose-weighted patch motion correction in CryoSPARC v3 with output Fourier cropping fac½ 1/2 (*23*). Particles were picked by Topaz v0.2.3 with around 2000 manually picked nucleosome-like particles as training models (*17*). Picked particles were extracted using CryoSPARC v3 (extraction box size = 200 pixel). 2D classification of extracted particles was done using 100 classes in CryoSPARC v3. Using 2D classification results, particles were split into the nucleosome-like groups and the non-nucleosome-like groups. Four 3D initial models were generated for both groups with ab initio reconstruction in CryoSPARC v3 (Class similarity = 0). One nucleosome-like model was selected and used as a given model of heterogeneous reconstruction with all four of the "decoy" classes generated from the non-nucleosome-like group. After the first round of 3D classification, the particles assigned to the "decoy" classes were removed, and the remaining particles used for a second round of 3D classification using the same settings as the first round. These steps were repeated until more than 90 % of particles wer classified as a nucleosome-like class. To isolate the nucleosome class that has visible H1.8 density, four to six 3D references were generated with ab initio reconstruction of CryoSPARC v3 using purified nucleosome-like particles (Class similarity = 0.9). Refined particles were further purified with the heterogeneous refinement using an H1.8-visible class and an H1.8-invisible class as decoys. The classes with reasonable extra density were selected and refined with homogeneous refinement. The final resolution was determined with the gold stand FSC threshold (FSC = 0.143).

Preparation of *in vitro* reconstituted mono-nucleosome and H1.8-GFP bound mono-nucleosome
The 193 bp 601 DNA fragment was amplified by a PCR reaction (*62*, *63*). The nucleosomes were assembled with the salt dialysis method described above. The reconstituted nucleosome was dialyzed into buffer XL (80 mM PIPES-KOH [pH 6.8], 15 mM NaCl, 60 mM KCl, 30 % glycerol, 1 mM EGTA, 1 mM $MgCl_2$, 10 mM β-glycerophosphate, 10 mM sodium butyrate). H1.8-GFP was mixed with nucleosome with a 1.25 molar ratio in the presence of 0.001 % poly L-glutamic acid (wt 3,000-15,000) (Sigma-Aldrich) and incubated at 37 ºC for 30 min. As a control nucleosome sample without H1.8-GFP, the sample without H1.8-GFP was also prepared. The samples were then crosslinked adding a 0.5-time volume of buffer XL containing 3 % formaldehyde and incubating for 90 min on ice. The crosslink reaction was quenched by adding 1.7 volume of quench buffer (30 mM HEPES-KOH (pH 7.4), 150 mM KCl, 1 mM EGTA, 10 ng/µL leupeptin, 10 ng/µL pepstatin, 10 ng/µL chymostatin, 10 mM sodium butyrate, 10 mM β-glycerophosphate, 400 mM glycine, 1 mM $MgCl_2$, 5 mM DTT). The quenched sample was layered onto the 10-25 % linear sucrose gradient solution with buffer SG (15 mM HEPES-KOH [pH 7.4], 50 mM KCl, 10-22 % sucrose, 10 µg/ml leupeptin, 10 µg/ml pepstatin, 10 µg/ml chymostatin, 10 mM sodium butyrate, 10 mM β-glycerophosphate, 1 mM EGTA, 20 mM glycine) and spun at 32,000 rpm (max 124,436 rcf) and 4 ºC for 13 h using SW55Ti rotor in Optima L80 (Beckman Coulter). The centrifuged samples were fractionated from the top of the sucrose gradient. The concertation of H1.8-GFP bound nucleosome in each fraction is calculated based on the 260 nm light absorbance detected by Nanodrop 2000 (Thermo Scientific).

Preparation of GFP nanobody attached MagIC-cryo-EM beads
A total of 25 fmol of Absolute Mag streptavidin nanomagnetic beads (CD Bioparticles: WHM-X047) were transferred to a 0.5 mL protein LoBind tube (Eppendorf) and mixed with 200 pmol of inner spacer module protein (biotin-3HB-SPYcatcher003 or biotin-60nm-SAH-SPYcatcher003, see Fig. S2 for the detail) in 200 µL of EM buffer A (10 mM HEPES-KOH [pH 7.4], 30 mM KCl, 1 mM EGTA, 10 ng/µL leupeptin, 10 ng/µL pepstatin, 10 ng/µL chymostatin, 1 mM Sodium Butyrate, and 1 mM beta-glycerophosphate) and the mixture was incubated at 4 ºC for 10 h. To wash the beads, the mixture was spun at 13,894 rpm (16,000 rcf) at 4 ºC for 10 min using the SX241.5 rotor in an Allegron X-30R centrifuge (Beckman Coulter). The beads that accumulated at the bottom of the tube were resuspended in 200 µL of EM buffer A. Subsequently, 200 pmol of mono-SPYtag-avidin tetramer was added to the beads in 200 µL of EM buffer A, and the mixture was incubated at 4 ºC for 10 h. Again, the beads were washed by collecting them via centrifugation and resuspending them

in 200 µL of EM buffer A. This washing step was repeated once more, and 800 pmol of outer spacer module protein (biotin-30 nm-SAH-SPYcatcher003, biotin-60 nm-SAH-SPYcatcher003 or biotin-90 nm-SAH-SPYcatcher003, see Fig. S2 for the detail) were added and incubated at 4 ºC for 10 h. The beads were washed twice and resuspended with 25 µL of EM buffer A. 20 µL of this mixture was transferred to a 0.5 ml protein LoBind tube and mixed with 640 pmol of SPYtag-GFP nanobody and incubated at 4 ºC for 10 h. The beads were washed twice and resuspended with 25 µL of EM buffer A.

Graphene grids preparation

Graphene grids were prepared using the method established by Han et al. (*64*) with minor modifications. Briefly, monolayer graphene grown on the copper foil (Grolltex) was coated by polymethyl methacrylate (Micro chem, EL6) with the spin coat method. The copper foil was removed by 1 M of ammonium persulfate. The graphene monolayer coated by polymethyl methacrylate was attached to gold or copper grids with carbon support film (Quantifoil) and baked for 30 min at 130 ºC. The polymethyl methacrylate was removed by washing with 2-butanone, water, and 2-propanol on a hotplate.

Optimization of the spacer module length by the MagIC-cryo-EM of *in vitro* reconstituted H1.8-GFP bound nucleosome (used in Fig S2)

To prepare the MagIC-cryo-EM beads capturing H1.8-GFP bound mono-nucleosome, 4 fmol of GFP nanobody-attached MagIC-cryo-EM beads with different spacer lengths were mixed with 100 nM (28 ng/µL) of *in vitro* reconstituted crosslinked H1.8-GFP bound mono-nucleosome in 100 µL of PBS containing 15~30 % glycerol and incubated at 4 ºC for 12 h. To wash the beads, the beads were collected with centrifugation at 13,894 rpm (16,000 rcf) at 4 ºC for 20 min using SX241.5 rotor in Allegron X-30R (Beckman Coulter) and resuspended with 200 µL of PBS containing 15~30 % glycerol. This washing step was repeated once again, and the beads were resuspended with 100 µL of EM buffer C (10 mM HEPES-KOH [pH 7.4], 30 mM KCl, 1 mM EGTA, 10 ng/µL leupeptin, 10 ng/µL pepstatin, 10 ng/µL chymostatin, 1 mM sodium butyrate, 1 mM β-glycerophosphate, 1.2 % trehalose, and 0.12 % 1,6-hexanediol). This washing step was repeated once again, and the beads were resuspended with 100~200 µL of EM buffer C (theoretical beads concentration: 20~40 pM).

To vitrify the grids, a plasma-cleaned graphene-coated Quantifoil gold R1.2/1.3 400 mesh grid (Quantifoil) featuring a monolayer graphene coating (*64*) was held using a pair of sharp non-magnetic tweezers (SubAngstrom, RVT-X), which could be affixed to the Vitrobot Mark IV (FEI). Subsequently, 4 µL of MagIC-cryo-EM beads capturing H1.8-GFP-nucleosomes were applied to the grid. The grid was then incubated on the 40 x 20 mm N52 neodymium disc magnets for 5 min within a high-humidity chamber to facilitate magnetic bead capture. Using the gold grid is essential to avoid magnetizing the grids during this magnetic incubation step. Once the capture was complete, the tweezers anchoring the grid were attached to the Vitrobot Mark IV (FEI), and the grid was vitrified by employing a 2-second blotting time at room temperature under conditions of 100% humidity.

To vitrify the grids, 4 µL of the samples were applied to plasma-cleaned graphene-coated Quantifoil gold R1.2/1.3 300-mesh grids (Quantifoil). The grid was then incubated on the 40 x 20 mm N52 neodymium disc magnets for 5 min and vitrified using the Vitrobot Mark IV (FEI) with a 2-sec blotting time at room temperature under 100% humidity. We found that gold grids are suitable for MagIC-cryo-EM, whereas copper grids worsened the final resolution of the structures presumably due to magnetization of the copper grids during the concentration process which then interfered with the electron beam and caused the grid to vibrate during data collection (Fig S1, Test 7).

The vitrified grids were loaded onto the Titan Krios (ThermoFisher), equipped with a 300 kV field emission gun and a K3 direct electron detector (Gatan). A total of 1890 movies were collected at a magnification of x 64,000 (1.33 Å/pixel) using super-resolution mode, as managed by SerialEM (*61*).

The analysis pipeline is described in Fig. S3. Movie frames were corrected for motion using MotionCor2 (*65*) installed in Relion v4 (*66*) or patch motion correction implemented in CryoSPARC v4. Particles were picked with Topaz v0.2 (*67*), using approximately 2000 manually picked nucleosome-like particles as training models. The picked particles were then extracted using CryoSPARC v4 (extraction box size = 256 pixels) (*23*). Nucleosome-containing particles were isolated through decoy classification using heterogeneous reconstruction with one nucleosome-like model and four decoy classes generated through ab initio reconstruction in CryoSPARC v4. CTF refinement and Bayesian polishing were applied to the nucleosome-containing particles in the Relion v4 (*66*, *68*). To isolate the nucleosome class with visible H1.8 density, four 3D references were generated through ab initio reconstruction in CryoSPARC v4 using purified nucleosome-like particles (Class similarity = 0.9). These four 3D references were used for heterogeneous reconstruction. Two of the classes had strong H1.8 density. Using the particles assigned in these classes, non-uniform refinement was performed in CryoSPARC v4. The final resolution was determined using the gold standard FSC threshold (FSC = 0.143).

MagIC-cryo-EM of *in vitro* reconstituted H1.8-GFP bound nucleosome using the mixture of the H1.8-GFP bound and unbound nucleosomes (shown in Fig 2)

A total of 0.5 fmol of GFP-singular nanobodies conjugated to 3HB-60nm-SAH magnetic beads were mixed with 1.7 nM (0.5 ng/µL) of H1.8-GFP bound nucleosome and 53 nM (12 ng/µL) of H1.8-free nucleosome in 100 µL of buffer SG (15 mM HEPES-KOH [pH 7.4], 50 mM KCl, 12% sucrose, 1x LPC, 10 mM Sodium Butyrate, 10 mM β-glycerophosphate, 1 mM EGTA) containing approximately 17 % sucrose. The mixture was then incubated at 4 ºC for 10 h. To wash the beads, they were collected by centrifugation at 13,894 rpm (16,000 rcf) at 4 ºC for 20 min using the SX241.5 rotor in an Allegron X-30R centrifuge (Beckman Coulter). Subsequently, the beads were resuspended in 200 µL of EM buffer C. This washing step was repeated twice, and the beads were finally

resuspended in approximately 80 µL of EM buffer C, resulting in a theoretical bead concentration of 6.25 pM.

To vitrify the grids, 4 µL of the samples were applied to plasma-cleaned graphene-coated Quantifoil gold R1.2/1.3 300-mesh grids (Quantifoil). The grid was then incubated on the 40 x 20 mm N52 neodymium disc magnets for 5 minutes and vitrified using the Vitrobot Mark IV (FEI) with a 2-sec blotting time at room temperature under 100 % humidity. The vitrified grids were loaded onto the Titan Krios (ThermoFisher), equipped with a 300 kV field emission gun and a K3 direct electron detector (Gatan). A total of 1890 movies were collected at a magnification of x 64,000 (1.33 Å/pixel) using super-resolution mode, as managed by SerialEM (*61*).

The analysis pipeline is described in Fig. S3. Movie frames were corrected for motion using MotionCor2 (*65*), which was installed in Relion v4 (*66*). Particles were picked with Topaz v0.2.3 (*67*), using approximately 2000 manually picked nucleosome-like particles as training models. The picked particles were then extracted using CryoSPARC v4 (extraction box size = 256 pixels) (*23*). Nucleosome-containing particles were isolated through decoy classification using heterogeneous reconstruction with one nucleosome-like model and four decoy classes generated through ab initio reconstruction in CryoSPARC v3.3. CTF refinement and Bayesian polishing were applied to the nucleosome-containing particles in Relion v4 (*66*, *68*). To isolate the nucleosome class with visible H1.8 density, four 3D references were generated through ab initio reconstruction in CryoSPARC v3.3 using purified nucleosome-like particles (Class similarity = 0.9). These four 3D references were used for heterogeneous reconstruction. Two of the classes had strong H1.8 density. Using the particles assigned in these classes, non-uniform refinement was performed in CryoSPARC v3.3. The final resolution was determined using the gold standard FSC threshold (FSC = 0.143).

Assessment of the efficiency of the magnetic concentration of the MagIC-cryo-EM on cryo-EM grid (shown in Fig S2)

A plasma-cleaned graphene-coated Quantifoil copper R1.2/1.3 400 mesh grid (Quantifoil) was held using non-magnetic Vitrobot tweezers (SubAngstrom). Subsequently, 4 µL of 12.5 pM GFP-nanobody attached MagIC-cryo-EM beads were applied to the grid. The grid was then incubated on the 40 x 20 mm N52 neodymium disc magnets for 5 min within a high-humidity chamber. As a control experiment, several grids were frozen by omitting the magnetic incubation steps. Once the capture was complete, the tweezers anchoring the grid were attached to the Vitrobot Mark IV (FEI), and the grid was vitrified by employing a 2-sec blotting time at room temperature under conditions of 100% humidity. The vitrified grids were subjected to cryo-EM to collect 8 x 8 or 9 x 9 montage maps at x2,600 magnification on Talos Arctica to capture the whole area of each square mesh. The efficiency of the magnetic concentration of the MagIC-cryo-EM beads was quantitatively assessed by counting the percentage of holes containing MagIC-cryo-EM beads and counting the average number of MagIC-cryo-EM beads per hole. For the quantification, 11 square meshes with 470 holes were used for the condition without magnetic concentration. For the condition with 5 min incubation on magnets, 11 square meshes with 508 holes were used. The boxplots and the scatter plots were calculated by the seaborn.boxplot and seaborn.stripplot tools in the Seaborn package (*69*) and visualized by Matplotlib (*70*). Outlier data points that are not in 1.5 times of the interquartile range, the range between the 25th and 75th percentile, were excluded.

Functional assessment of H1.8-GFP in *Xenopus* egg extract (Shown in Fig S4)

The functional replaceability of H1.8-GFP in *Xenopus* egg extracts was assessed through whether H1.8-GFP could rescue the chromosome morphological defect caused by depletion of endogenous H1.8. Mitotic chromosome morphology and length were assessed through the previously described method (23) with some modifications.

The cytostatic factor (CSF)-arrested metaphase *Xenopus laevis* egg extracts were prepared using the method as described (*71*). Anti-rabbit IgG (SIGMA, Cat# I5006) and rabbit anti-H1.8 custom antibodies (*26*) (Identification# RU2130) were conjugated to Protein-A coupled Dynabeads (Thermo Fisher Scientific, # 10001D) at 250 µg/ml beads at 4 °C for overnight on a rotator. IgG and H1.8 antibody beads were crosslinked using 4 mM BS3 (Thermo Fisher Scientific, # A39266) resuspended in PBS (pH 7.4) at room temperature for 45 min and quenched by 50 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.4) resuspended in PBS (pH 7.4) at room temperature for 20-30 min on a rotator. All antibody beads were washed extensively using wash/coupling buffer (10 mM K-HEPES (pH 8.0) and 150 mM KCl), followed by sperm dilution buffer (10 mM K-HEPES (pH 8.0), 1 mM $MgCl_2$, 100 mM KCl, 150 mM sucrose). After the two rounds of depletion at 4 °C for 45 min using 2 volumes of antibody-coupled beads on a rotator, the beads were separated using a magnet (Sergi Lab Supplies, Cat# 1005). For the complementation of H1.8, 1.5 µM of recombinantly purified H1.8 or H1.8-GFP was supplemented into H1.8-depleted CSF egg extract.

To assess chromosome morphology in the metaphase chromosomes with spindles, 0.4 mM $CaCl_2$ was added to CSF-arrested egg extracts containing *X. laevis* sperm (final concentration 2000/µL) to cycle the extracts into interphase at 20 °C for 90 min. To induce mitotic entry, half the volume of fresh CSF extract and 40 nM of the non-degradable cyclin BΔ90 fragment were added after 90 min and incubated at 20 °C for 60 min.

Metaphase spindles for fluorescent imaging were collected by a published method (*72*). 15 µL metaphase extracts containing mitotic chromosomes were diluted into 2 mL of fixing buffer (80 mM K-PIPES pH 6.8, 1 mM $MgCl_2$, 1 mM EGTA, 30 % (v/v) glycerol, 0.1 % (v/v) Triton X-100, 2 % (v/v) formaldehyde) and incubated at room temperature for 5 min. The fixed samples were layered onto a cushion buffer (80 mM K-PIPES pH 6.8, 1 mM $MgCl_2$, 1 mM EGTA, 50 % (v/v) glycerol) with a coverslip (Fisher Scientific, Cat# 12CIR-1.5) placed at the bottom of the tube and centrifuged at 5,000x *g* for 15 min at 16 °C in a swinging bucket rotor (Beckman Coulter, JS-5.3 or JS-7.5). The coverslips were recovered and fixed with pre-chilled methanol (–20 °C) for 5

min. The coverslips were extensively washed with TBST (TBS supplemented 0.05% Tween-20) and then blocked with antibody dilution buffer (AbDil; 50 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.5, 150 mM NaCl, 2 % BSA, 0.02 % NaN_3) at 4 °C for overnight.

Individualized mitotic chromosome samples were prepared as described previously (*26*). 10 µL of metaphase extracts containing mitotic chromosomes were diluted into 60 µL of chromosome dilution buffer (10 mM K-HEPES pH 8, 200 mM KCl, 0.5 mM EGTA, 0.5 mM $MgCl_2$, 250 mM sucrose), mixed by gentle flicking, and incubated at room temperature for 8 min. Diluted samples were transferred into 3 mL of fixing buffer (80 mM K-PIPES pH 6.8, 1 mM $MgCl_2$, 1 mM EGTA, 30 % (v/v) glycerol, 0.1 % (v/v) Triton X-100, 2 % (v/v) formaldehyde), mixed by inverting tubes, and incubated for total 6 min at room temperature. Similar to mitotic chromosome preparation, the fixed samples were subjected to sucrose cushion centrifugation (7,000x *g* for 20 min at 16 °C) using a swinging bucket rotor (Beckman, JS-7.5). Coverslips were recovered, fixed with pre-chilled methanol (–20 °C) for 5 min, extensively washed with TBST, and then blocked with AbDil buffer at 4 °C overnight.

For immunofluorescene microscopy, primary and secondary antibodies were diluted in AbDil buffer. Coverslips were incubated in primary antibody solution at room temperature for 60 min and secondary antibody at room temperature for 45 min. DNA was stained using NucBlue™ Fixed Cell ReadyProbes™ Reagent (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Cat# R37606) following manufacture's protocol. Coverslips were extensively washed using TBST between each incubation and sealed on the slide glass using ProLong™ Diamond Antifade Mountant (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Cat# P36965). For primary antibodies, mouse monoclonal antibody against α-tubulin (MilliporeSigma, Cat# T9026, 1:1000 dilution) and rabbit polyclonal antibody against *X. laevis* CENP-A (*73*) (Identification# RU1286), 1:1000 dilution). For secondary antibodies, mouse IgG was detected using Cy™3 AffiniPure $F(ab')_2$ Fragment Donkey Anti-Mouse IgG (H+L) (Jackson ImmunoResearch, Cat# 715-166-150; 1:500 dilution) and rabbit IgG was detected using Cy™5 AffiniPure Donkey Anti-Rabbit IgG (H+L) (Jackson ImmunoResearch, Cat# 711-175-152; 1:500 dilution).

The immunofluorescence imaging was performed on a DeltaVision Image Restoration microscope (Applied Precision), which is a widefield inverted microscope equipped with a pco. edge sCMOS camera (pco). Immunofluorescence samples were imaged with 1 µm z-sections using a 60× Olympus UPlan XApo (1.42 NA) oil objective, and were processed with a iterative processive deconvolution algorithm using the Soft-WoRx (Applied Precision).

For chromosome length measurements, the length of individualized mitotic chromosomes were manually traced on a single maximum intensity slice using segmented line tool in Fiji software (ver. 2.9.0). Data was summarized using R (ver. 4.2.2) and visualized as SuperPlots (*74*) using ggplot2 package in R and RStudio (ver. RSTUDIO-2023.09.1-494). For the representative images in Fig. S4, max projection images were prepared in Fiji using z-stuck function. For the visibility, the brightness and contrast of representative images were adjusted using GIMP software (ver. 4.2.2). Adjustment was done using a same setting among all images.

<u>Fractionation of chromosomes isolated from *Xenopus* egg extracts (Used for Fig 3, 4)</u>

Nucleosomes were isolated from *Xenopus* egg extract chromosomes using the previously described method (*3*). To prevent the spontaneous cycling of egg extracts, 0.1 mg/ml cycloheximide was added to the CSF extract. H1.8-GFP was added to the CSF extract at a final concentration of 650 nM, equivalent to the concentration of endogenous H1.8 (*75*). For interphase chromosome preparation, *Xenopus laevis* sperm nuclei (final concentration 2000/µL) were added to 5 mL of CSF extracts, which were then incubated for 90 min at 20 ºC after adding 0.3 mM $CaCl_2$ to release the CSF extracts into interphase. For metaphase sperm chromosome preparation, cyclin B Δ90 (final concentration 24 µg/mL) and 1 mL of fresh CSF extract were added to 2 ml of the extract containing interphase sperm nuclei prepared using the method described above. To make up for the reduced H1.8-nucleosome formation in interphase, we used 5 ml of egg extracts for preparing interphase chromosomes and 2 mL of extracts for metaphase chromosomes. The extracts were incubated for 60 min at 20 ºC, with gentle mixing every 10 min. To crosslink the *Xenopus* egg extracts chromosomes, nine times the volume of ice-cold buffer XL (80 mM PIPES-KOH [pH 6.8], 15 mM NaCl, 60 mM KCl, 30 % glycerol, 1 mM EGTA, 1 mM $MgCl_2$, 10 mM β-glycerophosphate, 10 mM sodium butyrate, 2.67 % formaldehyde) was added to the interphase or metaphase extract containing chromosomes, which was further incubated for 60 min on ice. These fixed chromosomes were then layered on 3 mL of fresh buffer SC (80 mM HEPES-KOH [pH 7.4], 15 mM NaCl, 60 mM KCl, 1.17 M sucrose, 50 mM glycine, 0.15 mM spermidine, 0.5 mM spermine, 1.25x cOmplete EDTA-free Protease Inhibitor Cocktail (Roche), 10 mM beta-glycerophosphate, 10 mM sodium butyrate, 1 mM EGTA, 1 mM $MgCl_2$) in 50 ml centrifuge tubes (Falcon, #352070). The tubes were spun at 3,300 (2,647 rcf) rpm at 4 ºC for 40 min using a JS 5.3 rotor in an Avanti J-26S centrifuge (Beckman Coulter). Pellets containing fixed chromosomes were resuspended with 10 mL of buffer SC, layered on 3 ml of fresh buffer SC in 14 mL centrifuge tubes (Falcon, #352059), and spun at 3,300 (2,647 rcf) rpm at 4 ºC for 40 min using a JS 5.3 rotor in an Avanti J-26S centrifuge (Beckman Coulter). The chromosomes were collected from the bottom of the centrifuge tube and resuspended with buffer SC. Chromosomes were pelleted by centrifugation at 5,492 rpm (2,500 rcf) using an SX241.5 rotor in an Allegron X-30R centrifuge (Beckman Coulter). The chromosome pellets were resuspended with 200 µL of buffer SC. To digest chromatin, 0.6 and 0.3 U/µL of MNase (Worthington Biochemical Corporation) were added to interphase and metaphase chromosomes, respectively. Then, $CaCl_2$ was added to a final concentration of 7.4 mM, and the mixture was incubated at 4 ºC for 4 h. The MNase reaction was stopped by adding 100 µL MNase stop buffer B (80 mM PIPES-KOH (pH 6.8), 15 mM NaCl, 60 mM KCl, 30% glycerol, 20 mM EGTA, 1 mM $MgCl_2$, 10 mM β-glycerophosphate, 10 mM sodium butyrate, 3.00 % formaldehyde). The mixtures were incubated on ice for

1 h and then diluted with 700 µL of quench buffer (30 mM HEPES-KOH (pH 7.4), 150 mM KCl, 1 mM EGTA 1x LPC, 10 mM sodium butyrate, 10 mM β-glycerophosphate, 400 mM glycine, 1 mM $MgCl_2$, 5 mM DTT). The soluble fractions released by MNase were isolated by taking supernatants after centrifugation at 13,894 rpm (16,000 rcf) at 4 ºC for 30 min using an SX241.5 rotor in an Allegron X-30R centrifuge (Beckman Coulter). The supernatants were collected and layered onto a 10-22 % linear sucrose gradient solution with buffer SG (15 mM HEPES-KOH [pH 7.4], 50 mM KCl, 10-22 % sucrose, 10 µg/mL leupeptin, 10 µg/mL pepstatin, 10 µg/mL chymostatin, 10 mM sodium butyrate, 10 mM β-glycerophosphate, 1 mM EGTA, 20 mM glycine) and spun at 32,000 rpm (max 124,436 rcf) and 4 ºC for 13 h using an SW55Ti rotor in an Optima L80 centrifuge (Beckman Coulter). The samples were fractionated from the top of the sucrose gradient. The concentration of H1.8 in each fraction was determined by western blot. 15 µL of each sucrose gradient fraction was incubated at 95 ºC with 1 % sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS) and applied for SDS-PAGE with a 4-20 % gradient SDS-PAGE gel (Bio-rad). The proteins were transferred to a nitrocellulose membrane (Cytiva) from the SDS-PAGE gel using TE42 Tank Blotting Units (Hoefer) at 15 V, 4 ºC for 4 h. As primary antibodies, 1 µg/mL of mouse monoclonal Anti-GFP Antibody sc-9996 (Santa Cruz Biotechnology) and as secondary antibodies, IR Dye 800CW goat anti-mouse IgG (Li-Cor 926-32210; 1:15,000) were used. The images were taken with an Odyssey Infrared Imaging System (Li-Cor). The existence of the H1.8-GFP bound nucleosomes was confirmed by native PAGE. 15 µL of each sucrose gradient fraction was applied for a 6 % x0.5 TEB native PAGE gel. The DNA was stained with SYTO-60 (Invitrogen S11342: 1:10,000). The images of SYTO-60 signal and GFP signal were taken with an Odyssey Infrared Imaging System (Li-Cor).

MagIC-cryo-EM of H1.8-GFP bound nucleosomes isolated from chromosomes assembled in *Xenopus* egg extract (used in Fig 3)

Tween 20 was added to a final concentration of 0.01% to the 350 µL of fraction 5 from the interphase or metaphase sucrose gradient fractions shown in Fig. 4 and S5. These samples were then mixed with 1 fmol of GFP nanobody-conjugated MagIC-cryo-EM beads. The mixture was incubated at 4 ºC for 10 h. The beads were washed four times with EM buffer C containing 0.01 % Tween 20, as described above. Finally, the beads were resuspended in approximately 80 µL of EM buffer C containing 0.001 % Tween 20.

To vitrify the grids, 4 µL of the samples were applied to plasma-cleaned graphene-coated Quantifoil gold R1.2/1.3 300-mesh grids (Quantifoil). The grid was then incubated on the 40 x 20 mm N52 neodymium disc magnets for 5 minutes and vitrified using the Vitrobot Mark IV (FEI) with a 2-second blotting time at room temperature under 100 % humidity. The vitrified grids were loaded onto the Titan Krios (ThermoFisher), equipped with a 300 kV field emission gun and a K3 direct electron detector (Gatan). A total of 677 movies for the interphase and 965 movies for the metaphase were collected at a magnification of x 64,000 (1.33 Å/pixel) using super-resolution mode, as managed by SerialEM (*61*).

The analysis pipeline is described in Fig. S6. Movie frames were corrected for motion using MotionCor2 (*65*), which was installed in Relion v4 (*66*). The micrographs for interphase and metaphase MagIC-cryo-EM were combined and subjected to particle picking. Particles were picked with Topaz v0.2.3 (*67*), using approximately 2000 manually picked nucleosome-like particles as training models. The picked particles were then extracted using CryoSPARC v4 (extraction box size = 256 pixels) (*23*). Nucleosome-containing particles were isolated through decoy classification using heterogeneous reconstruction with one nucleosome-like model and four decoy classes generated through ab initio reconstruction in CryoSPARC v4. CTF refinement and Bayesian polishing were applied to the nucleosome-containing particles in Relion v4 (*66*, *68*). To isolate the nucleosome class with visible H1.8 density, three 3D references were generated through ab initio reconstruction in CryoSPARC v4 using purified nucleosome-like particles (Class similarity = 0.9). This step was repeated for the class with weak H1.8 density (Class A). Non-uniform refinement was performed in CryoSPARC v4 for each class. Subsequently, to isolate the H1.8-bound nucleosome structures in interphase and metaphase, the particles were separated based on their original movies. Using these particle sets, the 3D maps of the interphase and metaphase H1.8-bound nucleosomes were refined individually through non-uniform refinement in CryoSPARC v4. The final resolution was determined using the gold standard FSC threshold (FSC = 0.143).

Isolation of interphase-specific H1.8-GFP containing complex by MagIC-cryo-EM (used in Fig. 4)

Tween20 was added to a final concentration of 0.01% to 350 µL of fraction 4 from the interphase sucrose gradient fractions shown in Figure 3. The sample was then mixed with 1 fmol of GFP nanobody-conjugated MagIC-cryo-EM beads. The mixture was incubated at 4 ºC for 10 h. The beads were washed four times with EM buffer C containing 0.01% Tween 20, as described above. Finally, the beads were resuspended in approximately 80 µL of EM buffer C containing 0.001 % Tween 20. The resuspended MagIC-cryo-EM beads solution was subjected to the MS and cryo-EM.

Mass spectrometry of interphase-specific H1.8-GFP containing complex isolated by MagIC-cryo-EM beads (used in Fig. 4)

For the MS analysis, 20 µL of the resuspended solution containing the MagIC-cryo-EM beads isolating interphase-specific H1.8-GFP containing complex was incubated at 95 °C for 10 minutes to reverse the crosslink. The 20 µL of the interphase sucrose gradient fraction 4 was also incubated at 95 °C. The samples were then applied to an SDS-PAGE (4 %–20 % gradient gel) from Bio-Rad. The gel was stained with Coomassie Brilliant Blue G-250 (Thermo Fisher). The corresponding lane was cut into pieces approximately 2 mm x 2 mm in size. The subsequent destaining, in-gel digestion, and extraction steps were carried out as described (*76*). In brief, the cut gel was destained using a solution of 30 % acetonitrile

and 100 mM ammonium bicarbonate in water. Gel pieces were then dehydrated using 100 % acetonitrile. Disulfide bonds were reduced with dithiothreitol, and cysteines were alkylated using iodoacetamide. Proteins were digested by hydrating the gel pieces in a solution containing sequencing-grade trypsin and endopeptidase LysC in 50 mM ammonium bicarbonate. Digestion proceeded overnight at 37 °C. The resulting peptides were extracted three times with a solution of 70 % acetonitrile and 0.1 % formic acid. These extracted peptides were then purified using in-house constructed micropurification C18 tips. The purified peptides were subsequently analyzed by LC-MS/MS using a Dionex 3000 HPLC system equipped with an NCS3500RS nano- and microflow pump, coupled to an Orbitrap ASCEND mass spectrometer from Thermo Scientific. Peptides were separated by reversed-phase chromatography using solvent A (0.1 % formic acid in water) and solvent B (80 % acetonitrile, 0.1 % formic acid in water) across a 70-min gradient. Spectra were recorded in positive ion data-dependent acquisition mode, with fragmentation of the 20 most abundant ions within each duty cycle. MS1 spectra were recorded with a resolution of 120,000 and an AGC target of 2e5. MS2 spectra were recorded with a resolution of 30,000 and an AGC target of 2e5. The spectra were then queried against a *Xenopus laevis* database (*75*, *77*), concatenated with common contaminants, using MASCOT through Proteome Discoverer v.1.4 from Thermo Scientific. The abundance value for each protein is calculated as the average of the 3 most abundant peptides belonging to each protein (*78*). All detected proteins are listed in Table S4. The keratin-related proteins that were considered to be contaminated during sample preparation steps and the proteins with less than 5% coverage that were considered to be misannotation were not shown in Fig 4 C.

Cryo-EM of interphase-specific H1.8-GFP containing complex isolated by MagIC-cryo-EM beads (used in Fig. 4)

To vitrify the grids, 4 µL of the resuspended solution containing the MagIC-cryo-EM beads isolated interphase-specific H1.8-GFP containing complex were applied to plasma-cleaned in-house graphene attached Quantifoil gold R1.2/1.3 300-mesh grids (Quantifoil). The grid was then incubated on the 40 x 20 mm N52 neodymium disc magnets for 5 min and vitrified using the Vitrobot Mark IV (FEI) with a 2-sec blotting time at room temperature under 100 % humidity. The vitrified grids were loaded onto the Titan Krios (ThermoFisher), equipped with a 300 kV field emission gun and a K3 direct electron detector (Gatan). At a magnification of x 105,000 (0.86 Å/pixel), 4,543 movies were collected. At a magnification of x 105,000 (1.08 Å/pixel), 1,807 movies were collected.

The pipeline to generate the initial 3D model is described in Fig. S11. Movie frames are motion-corrected and dose-weighted patch motion correction in CryoSPARC v4 with output Fourier cropping factor 1/2 (*23*). Particles picking with Topaz v0.2 (*67*) were repeated twice to assign two picked points for each protein particle on micrographs. Training of Topaz was performed individually for each picked particle set using the same approximately 2000 manually picked particles as training models. The particles in these two picked particle sets were then extracted using CryoSPARC v4 (extraction box size = 185.8 Å) (*23*). These two extracted particle sets were individually applied to 2D classification in CryoSPARC v4 (600 classes). These 2D classifications did not generate any reasonable 2D classes of interphase-specific H1.8-GFP containing complex that was expected from the particle images on the original motion-corrected micrographs. All particles from two individual particle sets after the 2D classification were applied to the 'Remove Duplicate Particles' tool in CryoSPARC v4 using the 'Remove Duplicates Entirely' option (Minimum separation distance: 20Å). The particles that were reproducibly centered in each particle set, and were the particles used in further downstream processing, were sorted as 'rejected particles'. The 'rejected particles' were applied to the Particle Sets Tool in CryoSPARC v4 to split them into two individual particle sets. 2D DuSTER, including particle re-centering, particle extraction, and particle splitting steps, was repeated seven times. After seven rounds of 2D DuSTER, the particles were manually curated by removing the 2D classes with unreasonable sizes or shapes for the interphase-specific H1.8-GFP containing complex. The 2D images of removed classes are shown in Fig S11. After manual curation, the particles were further cleaned by an additional four rounds of 2D DuSTER. The particles were further cleaned by the Class Probability Filtering Tool in CryoSPARC v4. 2D classification was performed twice for one of the cleaned particle sets. The particles whose 2D class probability scores were lower than 0.3 in both replicates of 2D classification were removed. The redundant 2D classifications were necessary to prevent unintentional loss of high S/N particles.The duplicated class probability filtering was repeated six times. Using the filtered particles, 2D classification was performed twice. The high-resolution classes with reasonable protein-like features were manually selected from both 2D classification results. To prevent unintentional contamination of low S/N particles, the 92,382 particles that were selected in both 2D classification runs were used for ab initio 3D reconstruction (C5 symmetry applied). The 3D structure was highly similar to NPM2, and we were convinced that the interphase-specific H1.8-GFP containing complex is NPM2-H1.8-GFP complex.

The pipeline for the particle cleaning using 3D DuSTER is described in Fig. S12. After seven rounds of 2D DuSTER for the particles picked by Topaz, decoy 3D classification was employed to remove nucleosomes and GFP complexed with GFP-nanobody. The nucleosome 3D model was generated by ab initio 3D reconstruction using the particles assigned to nucleosome-like 2D classes. The 3D model of GFP complexed with GFP-nanobody was modeled from the crystal structure of the complex (PDB ID: 3k1k) (*54*) using EMAN2 (*79*). Noise 3D models were generated by ab initio 3D reconstruction using the low S/N particles that were removed during 2D DuSTER. Using these models and the initial 3D model of NPM2-H1.8-GFP, heterogeneous 3D refinement was performed twice in CryoSPARC v4. To prevent unintentional loss of high S/N particles, particles that were assigned to the nucleosome and GFP complexed with GFP-nanobody class in both heterogeneous 3D refinement

results were removed. By using the Remove Duplicate Particles and Particle Sets tools in CryoSPARC v4, the particles in picked particle set 2 that corresponded to the particles cleaned by decoy classification were selected. Using both picked particle sets, heterogeneous 3D refinement of CryoSPARC v4 was performed individually. Using the same procedure as 2D DuSTER, the particles that were reproducibly centered in each particle set were selected (Minimum separation distance: 15 Å). 3D DuSTER was repeated six times. To conduct 3D DuSTER more comprehensively, 3D refinements were performed for each picked particle set three times. Particle curation based on the distance was performed for all nine combinations of these 3D refinement results, and this comprehensive 3D DuSTER was repeated once again. Using the particles in picked particle set 1 after 3D DuSTER, 2D classification was performed twice. The noise classes were manually selected from both 2D classification results. To prevent unintentional loss of high S/N particles, particles that were assigned to the noise class in both 2D classification runs were removed. This duplicated 2D classification and manual selection was repeated twice. During the 2D classification, 2D classes that represent GFP-nanobody were found. To remove the particles, duplicated decoy 3D classification was employed once again. The remaining 162,995 particles were used for the 3D structure reconstruction.

The pipeline for 3D structure reconstruction using the particle curated by 3D DuSTER is described in Fig. S13. Using the 162,995 particles after the 3D DuSTER, *ab initio* 3D reconstruction (5 classes, C5) was performed five times. The particles assigned to the NPM2-like classes were selected. To prevent unintentional loss of high S/N particles, particles that were assigned to the noise class in all five *ab initio* 3D reconstruction runs were removed. For the 'averaged' NPM2 structure, a single 3D map was built by ab initio 3D reconstruction (1 class, C5) using the remaining 92,428 particles. The 3D map was refined by local refinement using the particles after symmetry expansion. For the structural variants of the NPM2, particles were split into the 2 classes by ab initio 3D reconstruction (2 class, C5). The ab initio 3D reconstruction (3 class, C5) was performed again for each class, and the particles were manually split into the 3 groups to generate 'open,' 'half-open,' and 'closed' NPM2 structures.

The initial atomic model of *Xenopus laevis* NPM2 pentamer was built by ColabFold v1.5.5, which implements AlphaFold2 and MMseqs2 (*43–45*). The full-length *Xenopus laevis* NPM2 pentamer structure was docked on the cryo-EM maps by the Dock-in-map tool in Phenix v1.21(*80*). The atomic coordinates of the disordered regions were removed. The atomic model was refined using the Starmap v1.2.15 (*81*). The refined models were further refined using the real-space refinement in Phenix v1.21(*80*).

For reconstituting the 3D maps without applying symmetry, the particles used for reconstituting 'open,' 'half-open,' and 'closed' NPM2 structures were applied to the manual picking tool in cryoSPARC to remove the 3D alignment information attached to the particle images. The particle images were extracted and applied to the ab initio 3D reconstruction (1 class, C1).

AlphaFold2 prediction of the NPM2-H1.8 complex structure

The AF2 models of the *Xenopus laevis* NPM2-H1.8 complex were built by ColabFold v1.5.5, by submitting five NPM2 and one H1.8 amino acid sequence as input (*43–45*).

3D structure visualization

All 3D structures, including cryo-EM density maps, cartoon depictions, and surface depictions with electrostatic potential, were visualized by the UCSF ChimeraX software (*82*).

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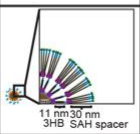
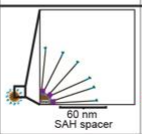
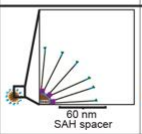
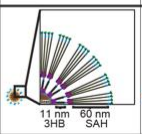
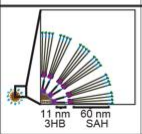
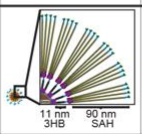
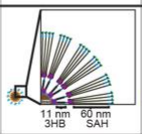
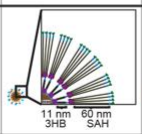
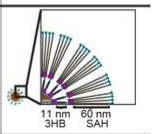
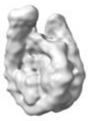
	Test 1	Test 2	Test 3	Test 4	Test 5	Test 6	Test 7	Test 8	Test 9 (Shown in Fig. 2)
Input sample	H1.8-GFP nucleosome	H1.8-GFP nucleosome	H1.8-GFP nucleosome	H1.8-GFP nucleosome	H1.8-GFP nucleosome	H1.8-GFP nucleosome	H1.8-GFP nucleosome + nucleosome	H1.8-GFP nucleosome + nucleosome	H1.8-GFP nucleosome + nucleosome
Inner spacer module	**11 nm 3HB**	**60 nm SAH**	**60 nm SAH**	**11 nm 3HB**	**11 nm 3HB**	**11 nm 3HB**	**11 nm 3HB**	**11 nm 3HB**	**11 nm 3HB**
Outer spacer module	**30 nm SAH**	Not used	Not used	**60 nm SAH**	**60 nm SAH**	**90 nm SAH**	**60 nm SAH**	**60 nm SAH**	**60 nm SAH**
Target capturing module	Tandem GFP nanobody	GFP nanobody (LaG94-10)	GFP nanobody (LaG94-10)	GFP nanobody (LaG94-10)	GFP nanobody (LaG94-10)	GFP nanobody (LaG94-10)	GFP nanobody (GFP enhancer)	GFP nanobody (GFP enhancer)	GFP nanobody (GFP enhancer)
Grid	Quantifoil gold R1.2/1.3 + graphene	Quantifoil gold R1.2/1.3 + graphene	Quantifoil gold R1.2/1.3 + graphene	Quantifoil gold R1.2/1.3 + graphene	Quantifoil gold R1.2/1.3 + graphene	Quantifoil gold R1.2/1.3 + graphene	Quantifoil **copper** R1.2/1.3 + graphene	Quantifoil gold R1.2/1.3 + graphene	Quantifoil gold R1.2/1.3 + graphene
Microscope	Talos Arctica 200 kV	Talos Arctica 200 kV	Titan Krios 300 kV	Talos Arctica 200 kV	Titan Krios 300 kV	Titan Krios 300 kV	Talos Arctica 200 kV	Talos Arctica 200 kV	Titan Krios 300 kV
Detector	K2 (Gatan)	K2 (Gatan)	K2 (Gatan)	K2 (Gatan)	K3 (Gatan)	K3 (Gatan)	K2 (Gatan)	K2 (Gatan)	K3 (Gatan)
Beads									
3D structure	7.3 Å	4.5 Å	9.8 Å	4.6 Å	4.1 Å	4.0 Å	 8.4 Å	4.7 Å	3.8 Å 3.6 Å (Polished)

Fig. S1. Optimization of the MagIC-cryo-EM beads. Spacer modules attached to the 50-nm magnetic beads were optimized to cover intense halo-like noises formed by the beads. The *in vitro* reconstituted H1.8-GFP bound nucleosomes were used for MagIC-cryo-EM optimization with various versions of the spacer modules. The cartoons depict the beads and spacer length of each experiment. The critical parameters are colored with red. The bottom 3D maps are the cryo-EM structures determined in each experiment. For the sub-5 Å resolution structure determinations using the 300 kV microscope, layers of the of 11 nm 3HB spacer and 60 nm SAH spacer are required on the paramagnetic nanobeads (Test 1, 3 and 5). For the sub-5 Å resolution structure determinations using the 200 kV microscope, the inner layers with the 11 nm 3HB spacer and mono-SPYtag avidin tetramer can be omitted because the noise signals are weaker in the 200 kV microscope then that in 300 kV microscope (Test 2 and 3).

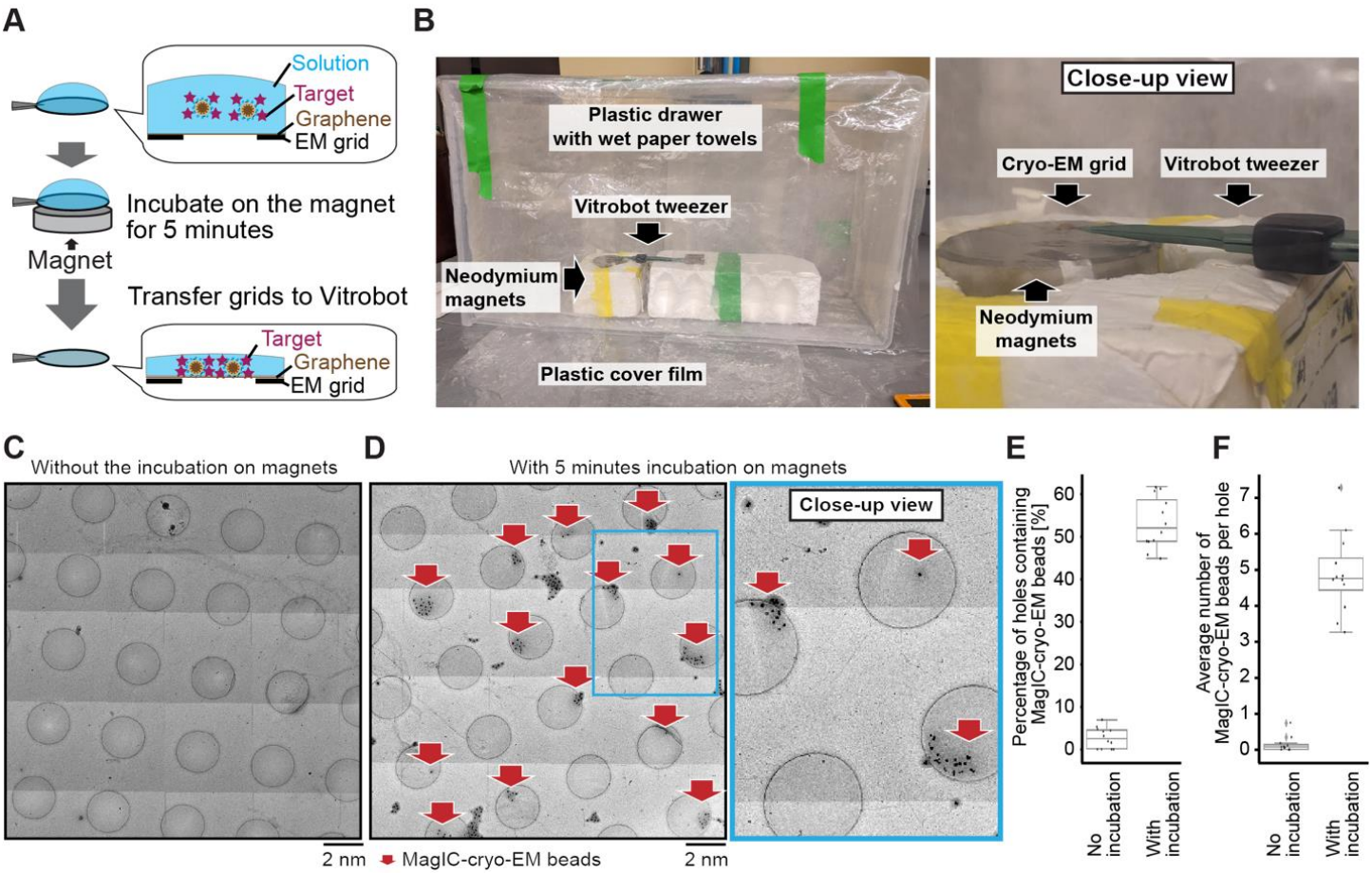


Fig. S2. Efficient concentration of the MagIC-cryo-EM beads on the cryo-EM grids by magnets. (A) Schematics of the magnetic beads enrichment on cryo-EM grids. **(B)** A handmade humidity chamber used for the 5 min incubation of the cryo-EM grids on the magnet. The humidity chamber was assembled using a plastic drawer. Wet tissues are attached to the side walls of the chamber, which is sealed with a plastic cover to maintain high humidity. Two pieces of neodymium magnets are stacked. A graphene grid is held by a non-magnetic vitrobot tweezer (crafted by Mark Ebrahim at SubAngstrom) and placed on the magnets. 4 µL of sample is applied on the grid and incubated for 5 min. **(C)** Micrograph montage of the grids without using magnetic concentration. A 4 µL of 12.5 pM of the GFP-nanobody-MagIC-cryo-EM beads was applied on the graphene-coated Quantifoil R 1.2/1.3 grid and vitrified without incubation on a magnet. **(D)** Micrograph montage of the grids without using magnetic concentration. A 4 µL of 12.5 pM of the GFP-nanobody-MagIC-cryo-EM beads was applied on the graphene-coated Quantifoil R 1.2/1.3 grid and vitrified with 5 min incubation on two pieces of 40 x 20 mm N52 neodymium disc magnets (DIYMAG: D40x20-2P-NEW). **(E)** Quantitative analysis of the percentage of holes containing MagIC-cryo-EM beads. Each data point represents the percentage of holes containing MagIC-cryo-EM beads on each square mesh. **(F)** Quantitative analysis of the average number of MagIC-cryo-EM beads per hole. Each data point represents the average number of MagIC-cryo-EM beads per hole on each square mesh. For figure S2E and S2F. The box plots and the scatter plots were calculated by the seaborn.boxplot and seaborn.stripplot tools in Seaborn package (*69*) and visualized by Matplotlib (*70*). The top sides of the boxes indicate the 25th percentile. The midlines in the boxes indicate the 50th percentile. The bottom sides of the boxes indicate the 75th percentile. Upper and lower whisker indicate the maximum and lowest values in the dataset, excluding outliers. For the quantification, 11 square meshes with 470 holes without magnetic concentration and 11 square meshes with 508 holes with 5 min incubation on magnets were used.

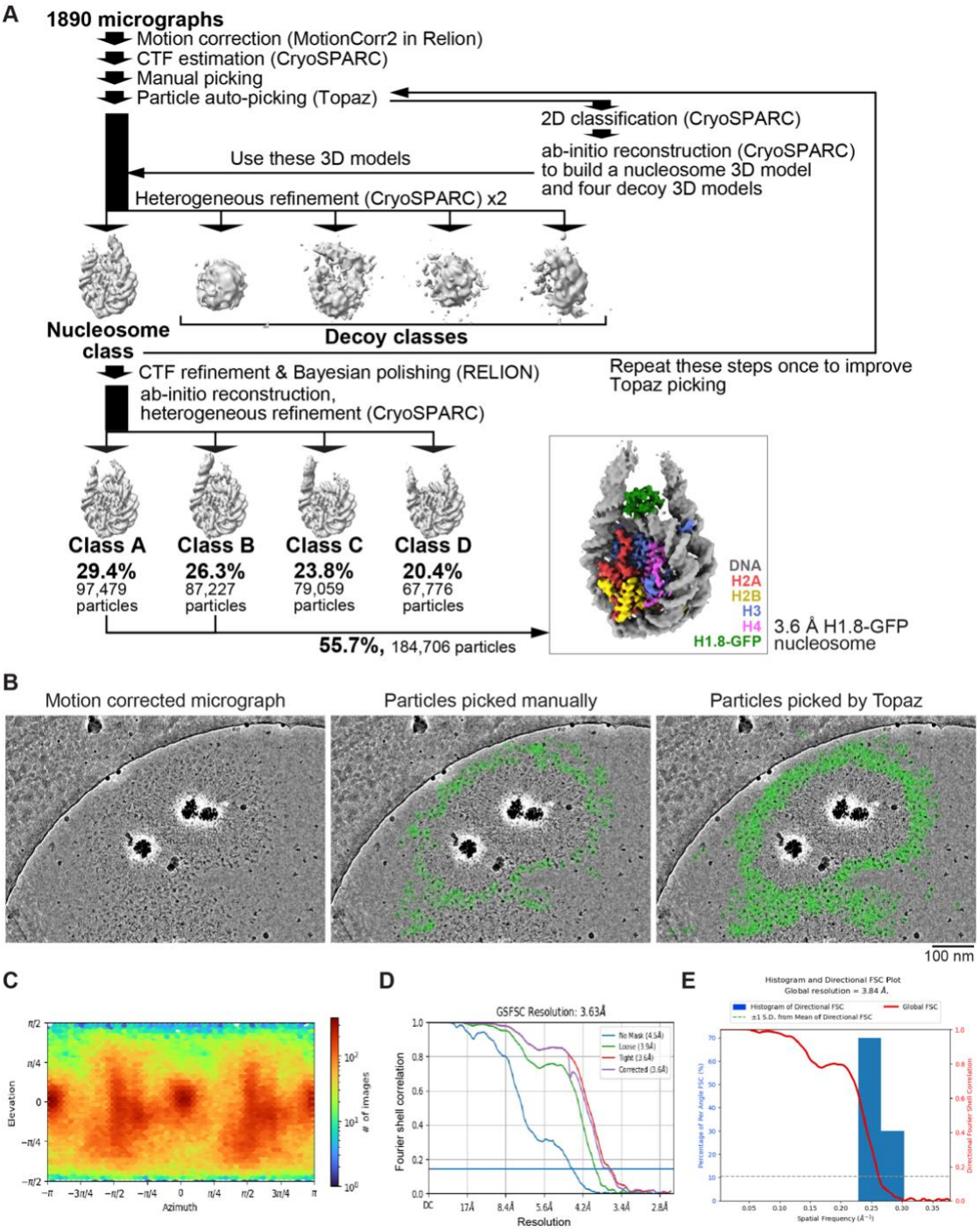


Fig. S3. MagIC-cryo-EM single particle analysis of *in vitro* reconstituted H1.8-GFP bound nucleosome. **(A)** The single particle analysis pipeline for the MagIC-cryo-EM of the *in vitro* reconstituted H1.8-GFP-bound nucleosomes. Non-nucleosome or noisy particles were removed by heterogeneous refinement with decoy 3D classes (decoy classification). Using the particles assigned to the nucleosome class, another round of heterogeneous refinement was performed to isolate the classes with apparent H1.8 densities. The particles assigned to the classes A and B were mixed, and the 3D structure of the H1.8-GFP-bound nucleosome was determined at 3.63 Å resolution. **(B)** Comparison between manually picked particles used to train Topaz (middle panel) and the particles picked by Topaz (right panel). Green circles indicate the picked particles. **(C)** Particle orientation of cryo-EM structure of the H1.8-GFP bound nucleosome. **(D)** Gold-standard Fourier Shell Correlation (FSC) curve of the H1.8-GFP nucleosome. The final resolutions of the cryo-EM maps were determined by the gold-standard with a threshold of 0.143. **(E)** 3D FSC curve of the H1.8-GFP nucleosome.

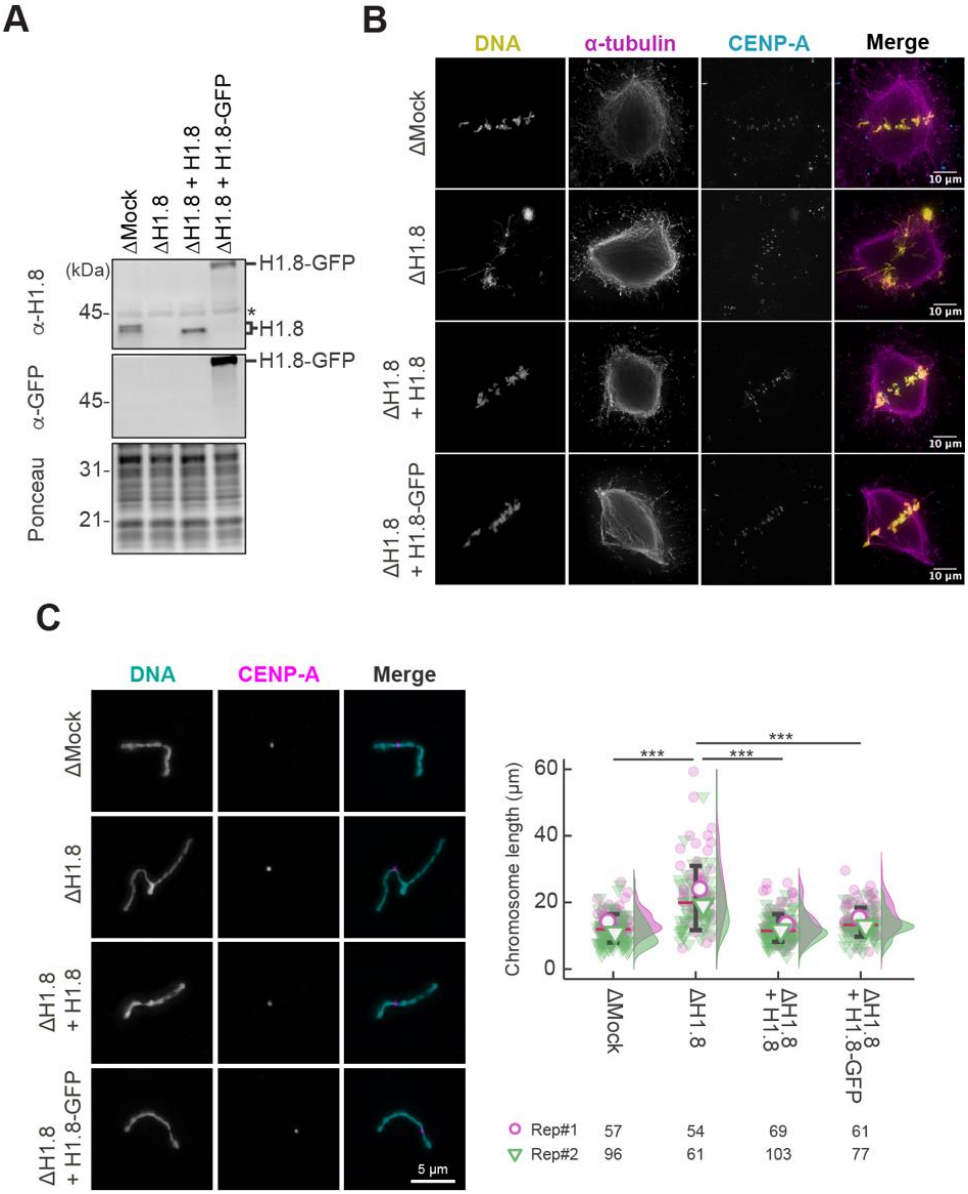


Fig. S4. Functional assessment of H1.8-GFP in *Xenopus* egg extract. (A) Western blots to show the depletion efficiency of the endogenous H1.8 and complementation of recombinant non-tag H1.8 and H1.8-GFP in *Xenopus* egg extract. The asterisk indicates a non-specific cross-reacting band. **(B)** Representative fluorescence images of metaphase chromosomes with spindles in Mock- (ΔMock), endogenous H1.8-depleted *Xenopus* egg extract (ΔH1.8), and recombinant H1.8 or recombinant H1.8-GFP supplemented endogenous H1.8-depleted *Xenopus* egg extracts (ΔH1.8+H1.8 or ΔH1.8+H1.8-GFP, respectively). Misaligned metaphase chromosome phenotype caused by H1.8 depletion was rescued in H1.8 or H1.8-GFP supplemented *Xenopus* egg extracts. **(C)** Left; representative fluorescence images of individualized metaphase chromosomes. Elongated chromosome morphology caused by H1.8 depletion was rescued in H1.8 or H1.8-GFP supplemented *Xenopus* egg extracts. Scale bar, 5 µm. Right; quantification of chromosome length visualized by SuperPlots. Data distribution of the length of each individual chromosome from two biological replicates (purple and green) is shown as jitter plot with half violin plot. Each mark (purple open circle and green open inverted triangle) represents the average length of chromosomes from a single replicate. Bar represents median (red) and SD (black) of two biological replicates. Given the result that dataset is not normal distribution, confirmed by Shapiro-Wilk normality test, each p-value was calculated using Welch's t-test. ***, $p < 0.001$. The number of individualized chromosomes analyzed in each condition for each replicate is indicated at the bottom of the figure.

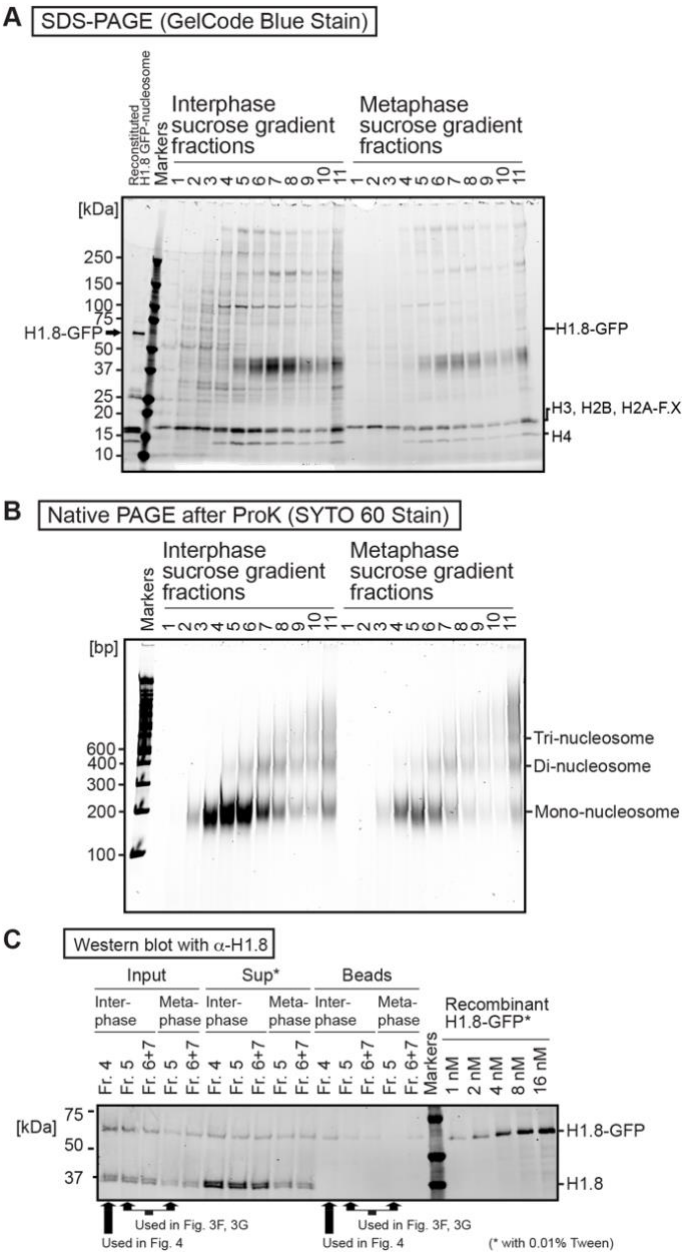


Fig. S5. Sucrose gradient fractions of the fragmented interphase and metaphase chromosomes formed in *Xenopus* egg extract. (A) Sucrose density gradient centrifugation fractionations of MNase-treated interphase and metaphase chromosomes formed in *Xenopus* egg extract. SDS-PAGE analysis was done by applying 15 µL samples to 4–20 % Criterion TGX Precast Midi Protein Gel (BioRad 5671095) and ran at 200 V for 40 min. GelCode Blue staining is shown. **(B)** Native PAGE analysis of DNA lengths of the sucrose gradient fractions shown in A. 15 µL samples were treated with protease K and RNaseA and applied to 6 % native PAGE gel with x0.5 TBE and ran at 150 V for 80 minutes. **(C)** Western blot of the sucrose gradient fractions used for the MagIC-cryo-EM. H1.8-GFP and endogenous H1.8 were detected by antibody for H1.8. 'Input' lanes indicate the sucrose gradient fractions before isolating H1.8-GFP-containing complexes with MagIC-cryo-beads. 'Sup' lanes indicate the unbound fractions after the isolation by MagIC-cryo-beads. 'Beads' lanes indicate the MagIC-cryo-beads isolating H1.8-GFP-containing complexes. 'Recombinant H1.8-GFP' lanes indicate purified H1.8-GFP with known concentrations. The samples for 'Sup' and 'Recombinant H1.8-GFP' lanes contained 0.01 % Tween20, which increased the western blot signals presumably by reducing the sample absorption to the tubes and tips side wall.

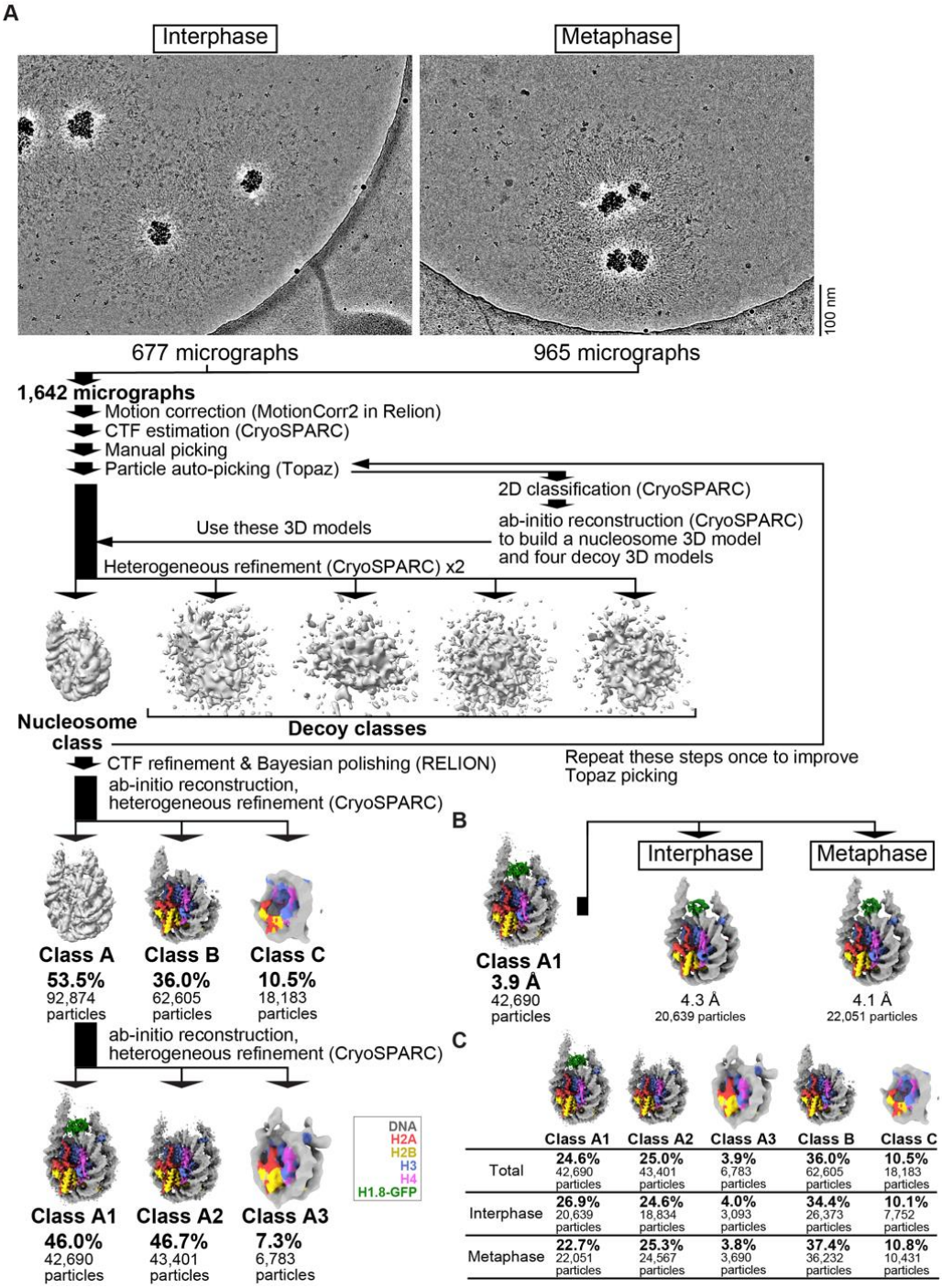


Fig. S6. Single particle analysis pipeline for the MagIC-cryo-EM of the interphase and metaphase H1.8-GFP bound nucleosomes formed in *Xenopus* egg extract (A) Single particle analysis and in silico mixing 3D classification pipeline for the MagIC-cryo-EM. **(B)** To identify the cell-cycle-dependent feature of the H1.8-GFP bound nucleosomes, the 42,690 particles assigned to the class A1 (on-dyad H1 bound class) particles were split into 20,639 particles originating from interphase and 22,051 particles originating metaphase, respectively. By performing non-uniform refinement in cryoSPARC individually, 3D structures of interphase and metaphase H1.8-GFP bound nucleosomes formed in *Xenopus* egg extract were reconstituted. Notable structural difference was not observed between interphase and metaphase H1.8-GFP bound nucleosome structures. **(C)** *In silico* 3D classification of interphase and metaphase H1.8-bound nucleosomes isolated from chromosomes in *Xenopus* egg extract. 3D maps represent the structural variants of GFP-H1.8-bound nucleosomes.

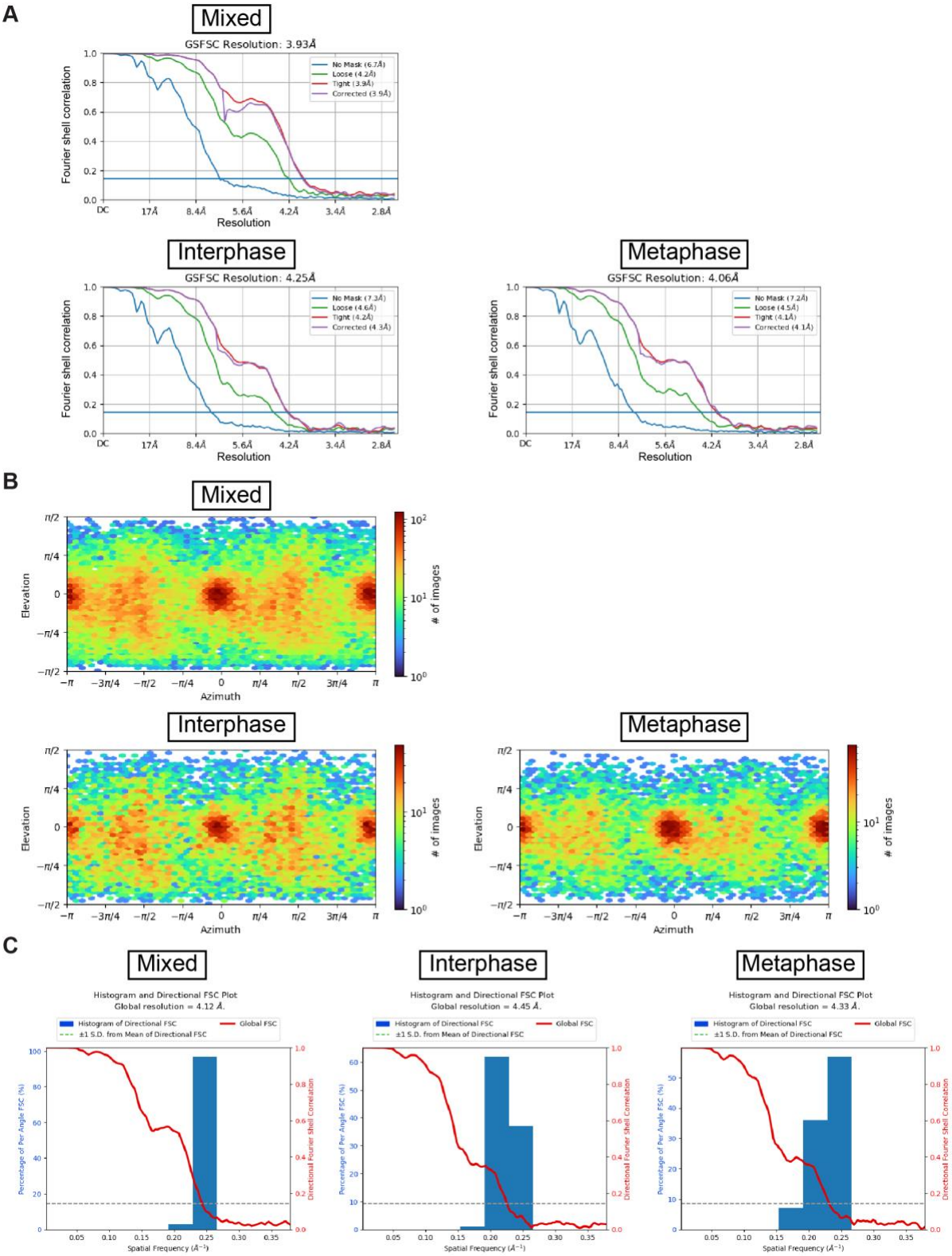


Fig. S7. Quality assessments of the MagIC-cryo-EM 3D maps of the interphase and metaphase H1.8-GFP-bound nucleosomes (A) Gold-standard FSC curves of the interphase and metaphase H1.8-GFP-bound nucleosomes. The final resolutions of the cryo-EM maps were determined by the gold-standard with a threshold of 0.143 **(B)** Particle orientation of cryo-EM structure of the interphase and metaphase H1.8-GFP-bound nucleosomes. **(C)** 3D FSC of the interphase and metaphase H1.8-GFP-bound nucleosomes.

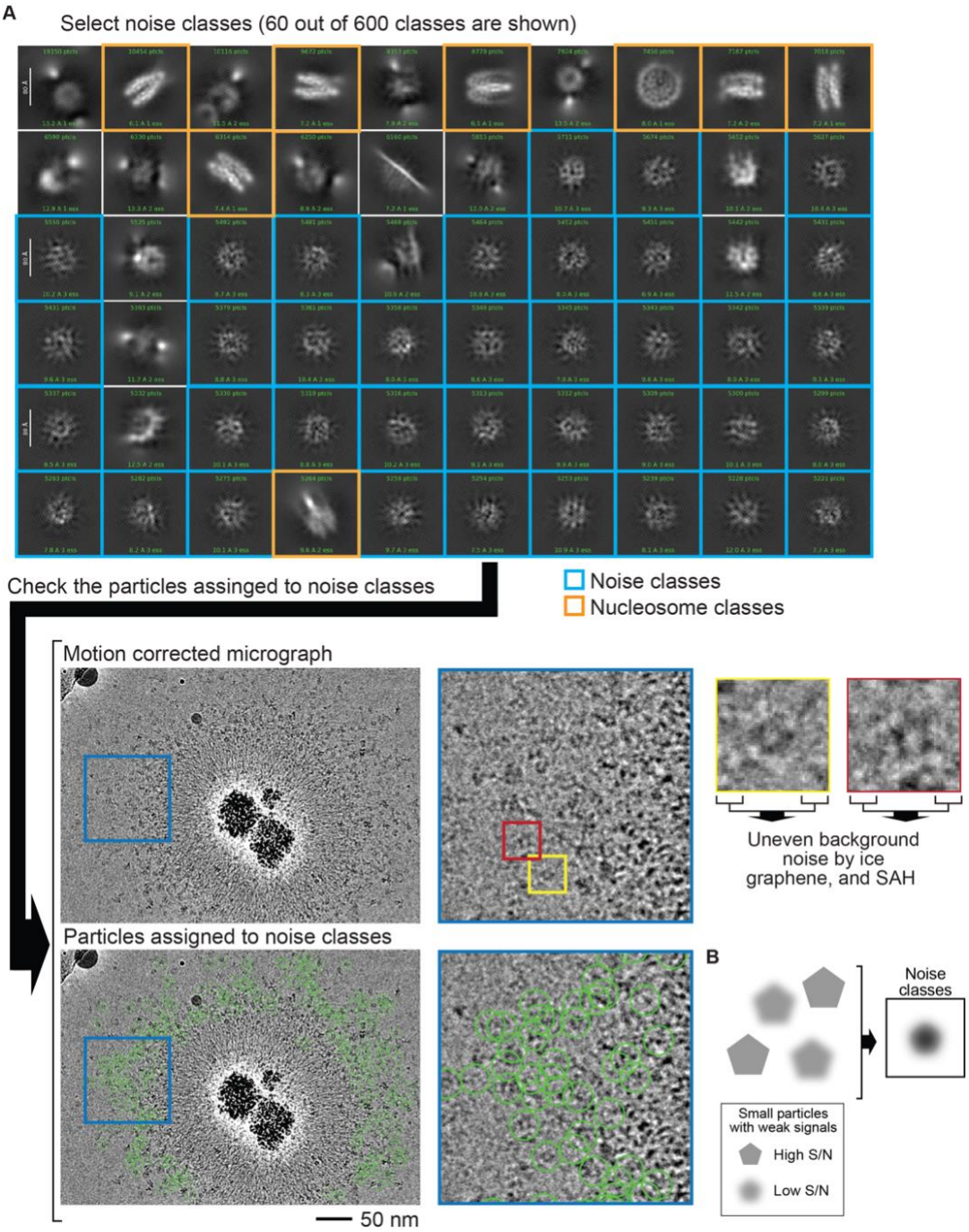


Fig. S8. The fraction with the interphase-specific GFP-H1.8 containing complex had many particles with low S/N by cryo-EM. (A) The sucrose gradient fraction enriched with interphase-specific GFP-H1.8 containing complex (fraction 4 in Fig.3C) was subjected for MagIC-cryo-EM analysis. Initial 2D classification based on particles picked by Topaz generated only noise 2D classes (outlined with blue in the top panel) beside obvious nucleosome classes (outlined with orange in the top). Although 2D classes seem noisy, many of the original pick points marked apparent protein particles on the original motion-corrected micrograph (bottom). This suggests that these particle images were not properly aligned during 2D classification due to the low S/N of these particles. Uneven background noises were likely generated by uneven ice thickness, graphene and the SAH spacer proteins on MagIC-cryo-EM beads. **(B)** Graphical presentation of how noise 2D classes were generated. Although Topaz picked target protein particles on micrographs, many small target particles do not have strong enough S/N to be properly aligned during 2D classification.

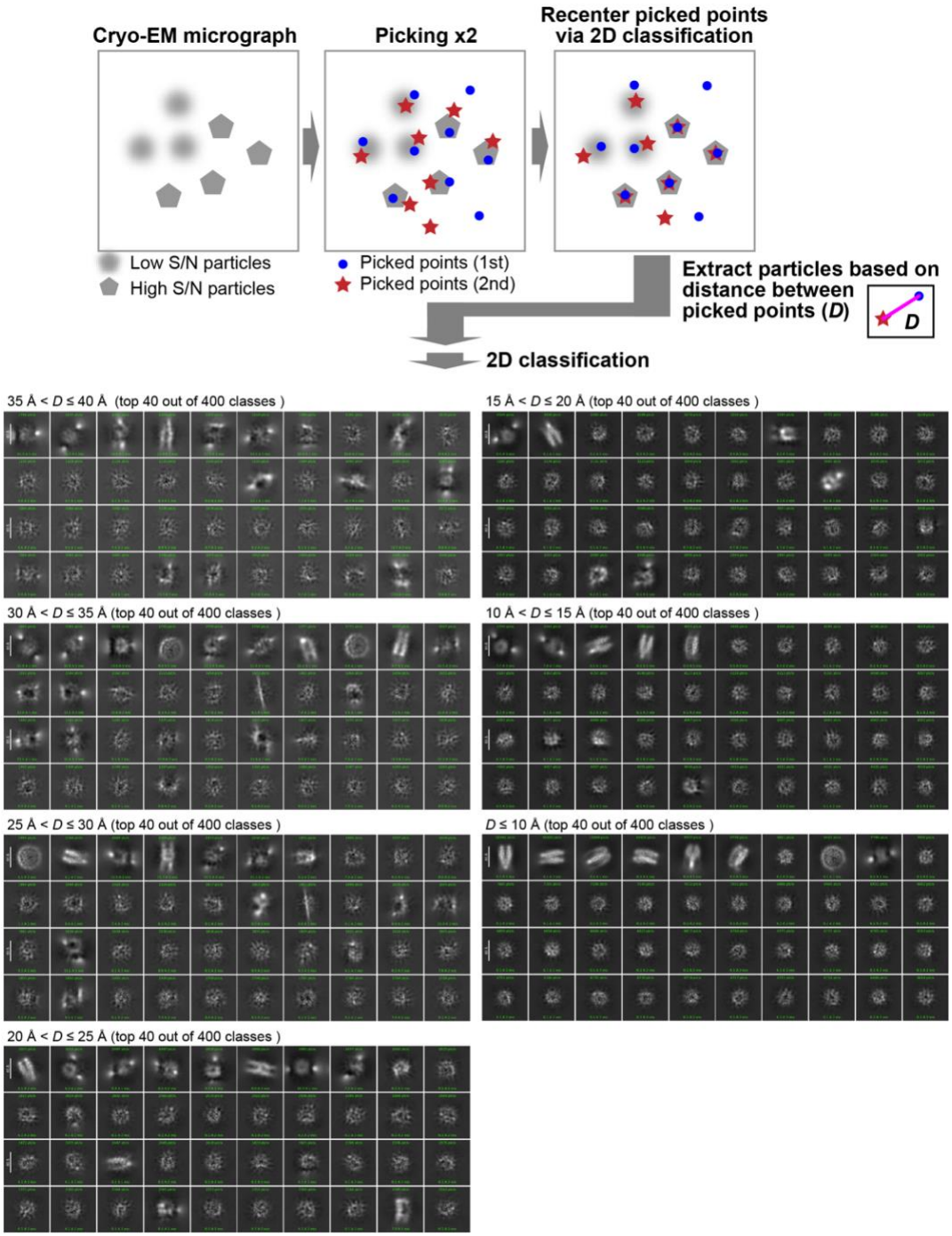


Fig. S9. Reproducible particle centering after 2D classification as a criterion for particles with high S/N. The sucrose gradient fraction enriched with interphase-specific GFP-H1.8 containing complex (fraction 4 in Fig.3C) was isolated and analyzed by MagIC-cryo-EM. The initial particle locations assigned by particle picking software are updated during 2D to align the multiple images on a 2D map and place the reconstituted 2D map at the center of the reconstituted 2D space. To assess the reproducibility of particle centering during 2D classification, particle picking was repeated and subjected to the 2D classification individually. Particle images were sorted based on the distance *D* between a recentered picked point from the first picking set and another re-centered picked point from the second picking set. The sorted particle images were again applied to 2D classification. Particle images with $D > 20$ Å, which were not reproducibly recentered, generated noise 2D classes. In contrast, particle images with $D \leq 20$ Å, which were reproducibly recentered, generated 2D classes with less background noises.

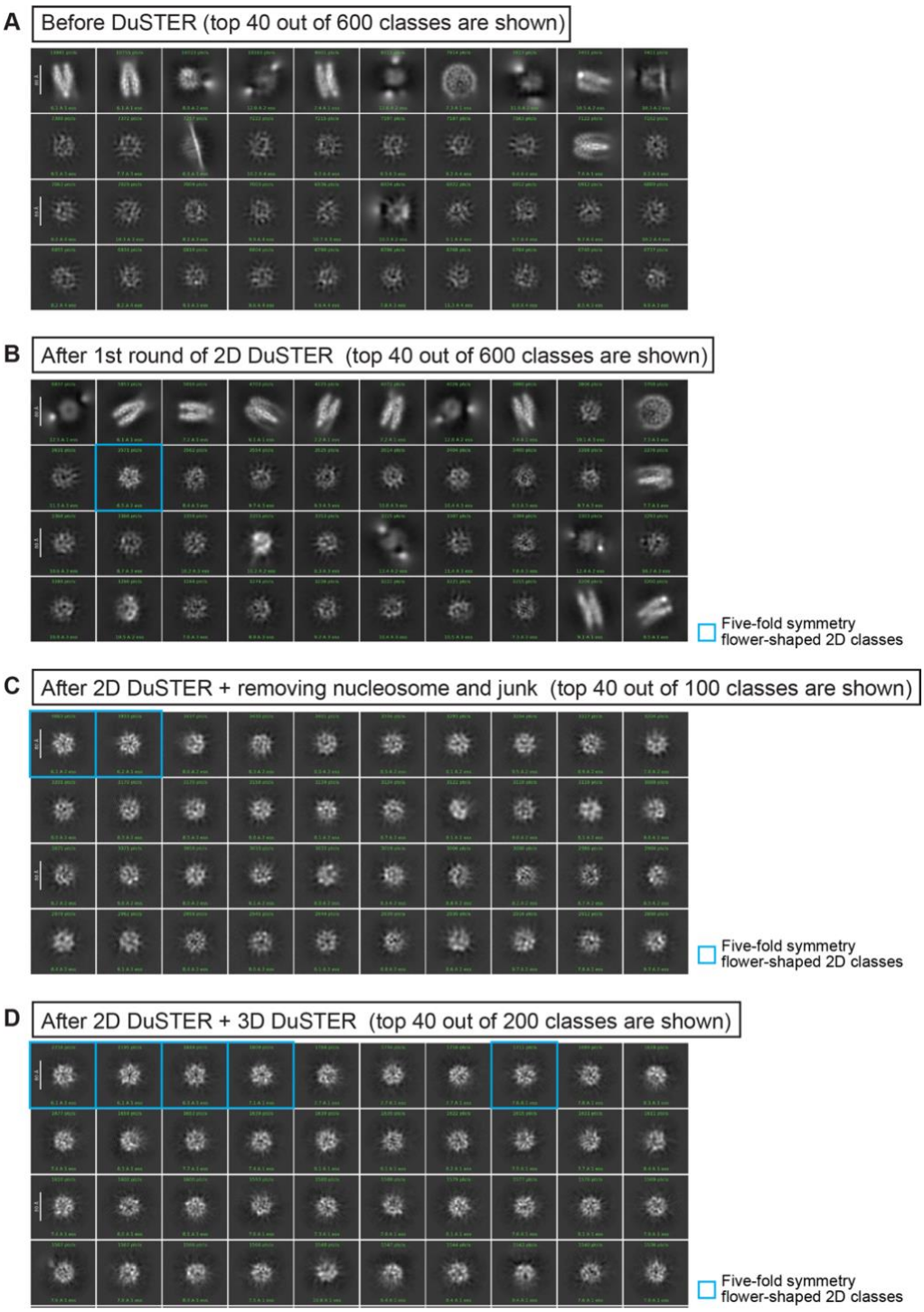


Fig. S10. 2D classes before and after DuSTER.

Application of DuSTER particle curation method to the sucrose gradient fraction enriched with interphase-specific GFP-H1.8 containing complex (fraction 4 in Fig.3C), isolated and analyzed by MagIC-cryo-EM. **(A)** A 2D classification result of the particles picked by Topaz without particle curation with DuSTER. Beside obvious nucleosome classes, no reasonable 2D classes were observed before the DuSTER curation. **(B)** 2D classification of the particle after the single round of 2D DuSTER. Five-fold symmetry flower-shaped 2D classes (outlined with cyan) are observed. **(C)** 2D classification of the particles after seven rounds of 2D DuSTER and manual curation of non-target complex classes. Detailed pipeline is described in Fi.g S11. **(D)** 2D classification of the particles after the completion of 2D DuSTER and 3D DuSTER. Detailed pipeline is described in Fig S12.

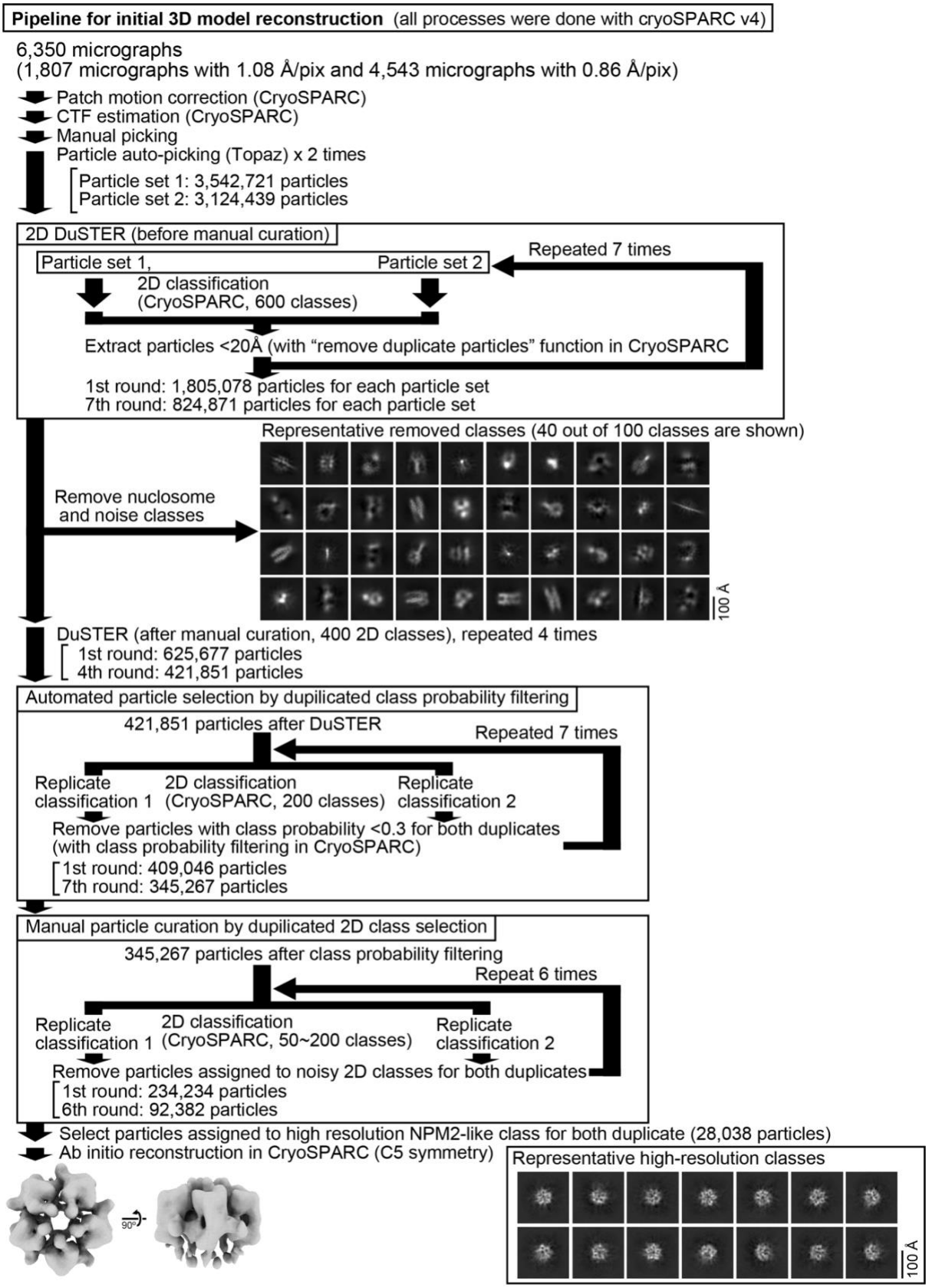


Fig. S11 Pipeline for 2D DuSTER for reconstructing a 3D initial model of the interphase-specific H1.8-containing complex (NPM2-H1.8) that is used as a template of 3D DuSTER
Please refer to the materials and methods section for a detailed description.

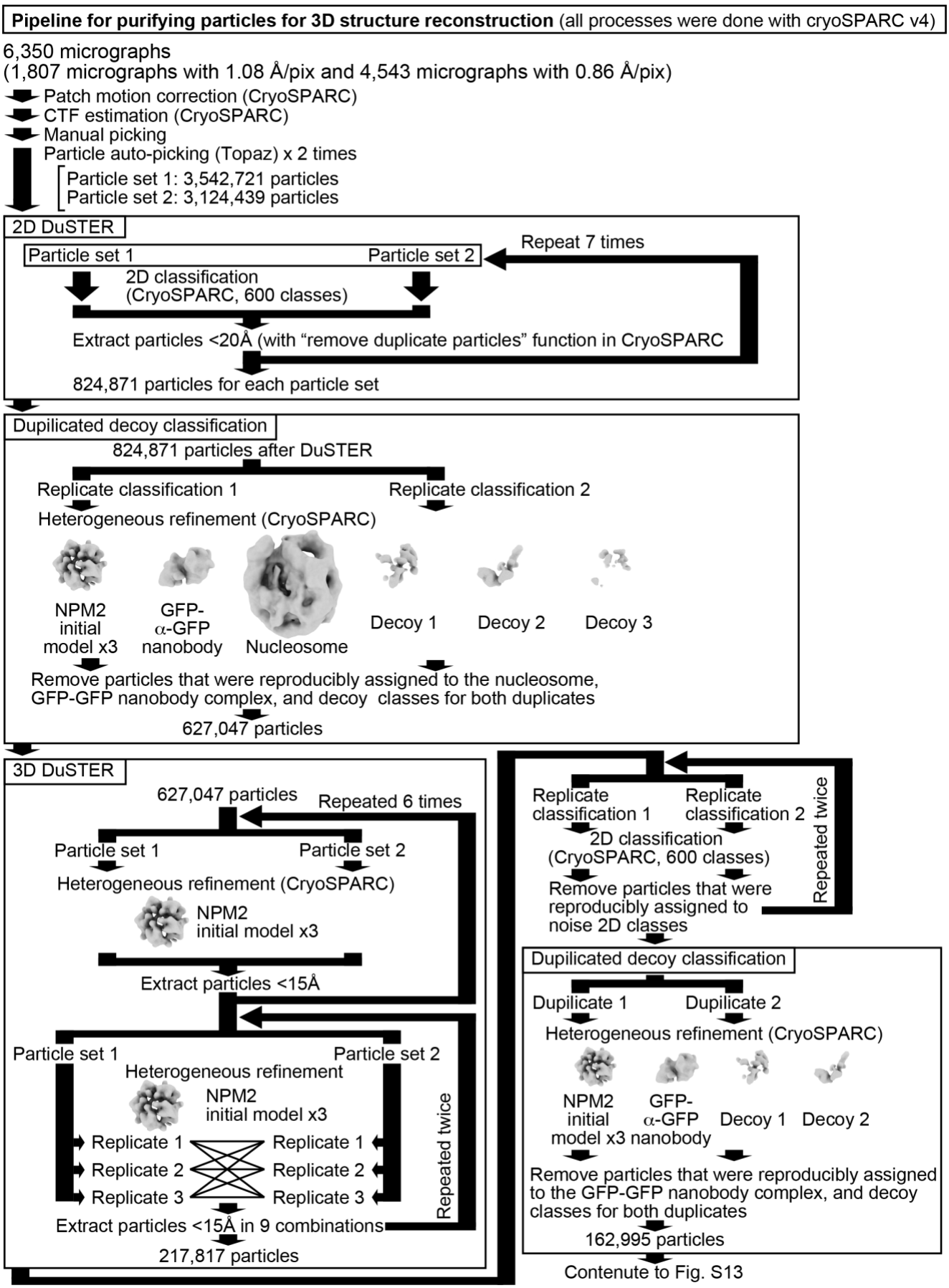


Fig. S12. Pipeline for 3D DuSTER Please refer to the materials and methods section for a detailed description.

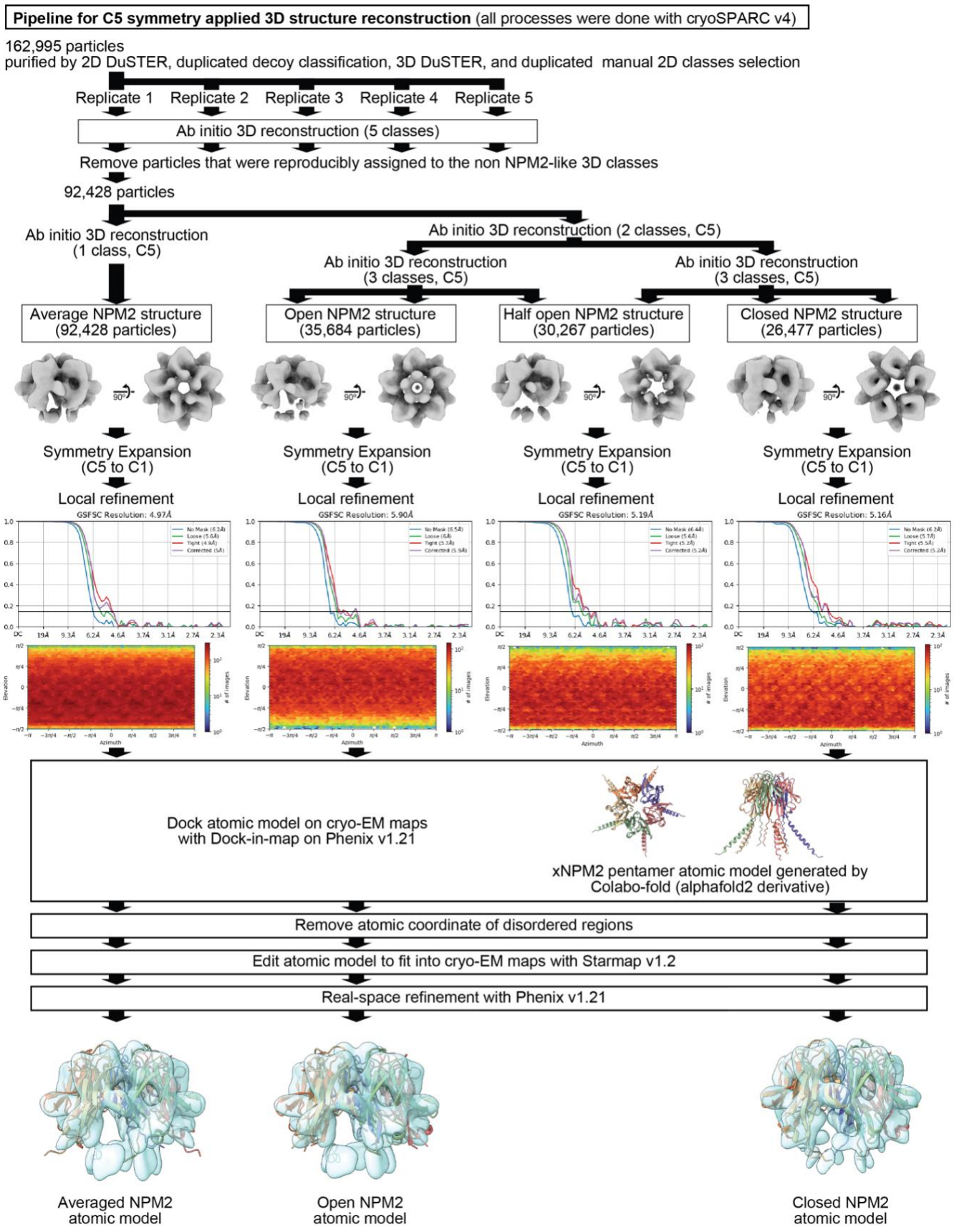


Fig. S13. Pipeline for 3D structure determination of the interphase-specific H1.8-containing complex (NPM2-H1.8) Please refer to the materials and methods section for a detailed description.

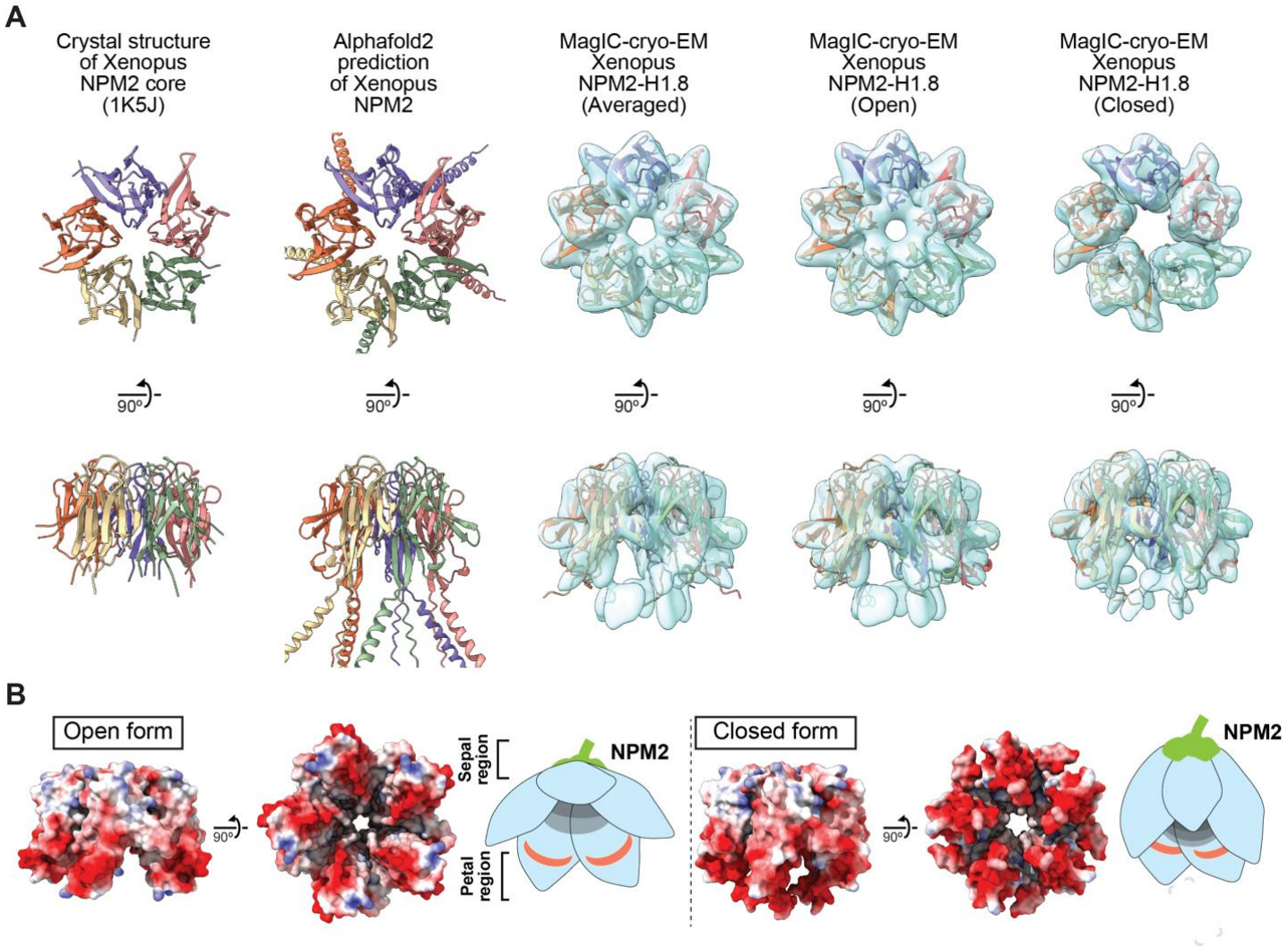


Fig. S14. Cryo-EM maps and atomic models of NPM2-H1.8 (A) The structural comparison of the crystal structure of the pentameric NPM2 core (PDB ID: 1K5J), and AF2 predicted structure of the pentameric NPM2 core, and MagIC-cryo-EM structures of NPM2-H1.8. The MagIC-cryo-EM structures indicate NPM2 in the NPM2-H1.8 complex forms pentamer. **(B)** Surface electrostatic potential and accessibility of the open form and the closed form of NPM2. Due to its structural similarity to a flower, the acidic putative substrate-binding surface was termed the petal side, whereas the other more neutral surface was termed the sepal side.

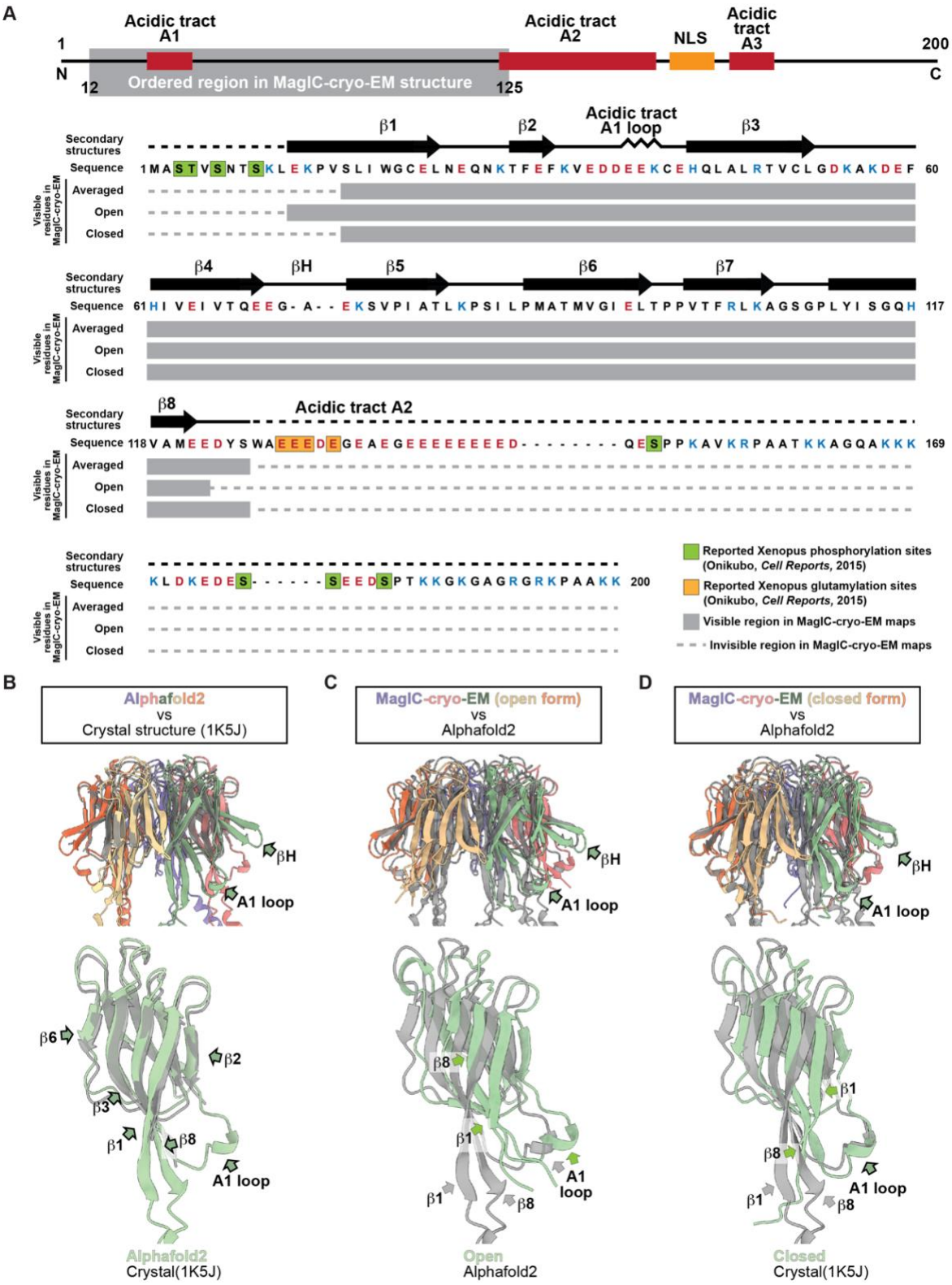


Fig. S15. Structural feature of the NPM2-H1.8 isolated from interphase chromatin (A) Secondary structures of *Xenopus* NPM2. Amino Acid sequence alignment of the NPM1 and NPM2. The green and orange highlights indicate the *Xenopus* NPM2 phosphorylation sites and glutamylation sites identified by Onikubo et. al (*60*). Secondary structure assignments are based on the atom structure model for the averaged 3D structure of the NPM2-H1.8 complex. Predicted amino residues visible in cryo-EM density in this study are highlighted with gray bars. **(B)** Structural comparison of NPM2 structural variants.

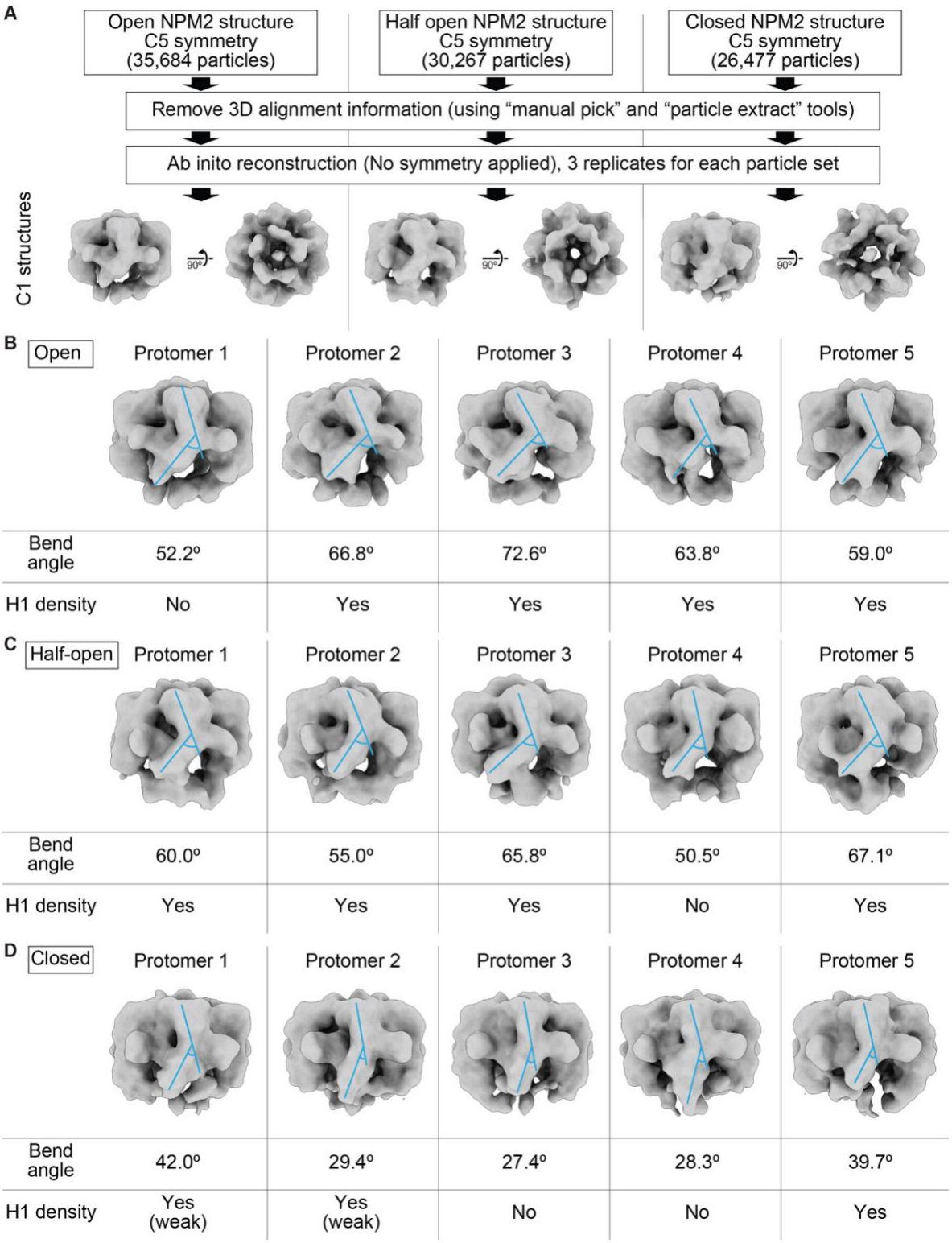


Fig. S16. Asymmetric structures of NPM2-H1.8 without applying C5 symmetry. (A) Pipeline to reconstitute C1 symmetry NPM2-H1.8 structures. **(B-D)** Structural features of the open (B), half open (C), and closed (D) NPM2-H1.8 structures without applying C5 symmetry. Blue lines indicate the angles of the sepal and petal domains used for measuring the bend angles of each protomer. The bending is critical in forming the open-form NPM2 structures and increases the accessibility of the H1 binding sites. The bend angles and the bindings of the H1 densities are not consistent in each protomer, suggesting that NPM2 protomers with various openness co-exist in a single NPM2-H1.8 complex.

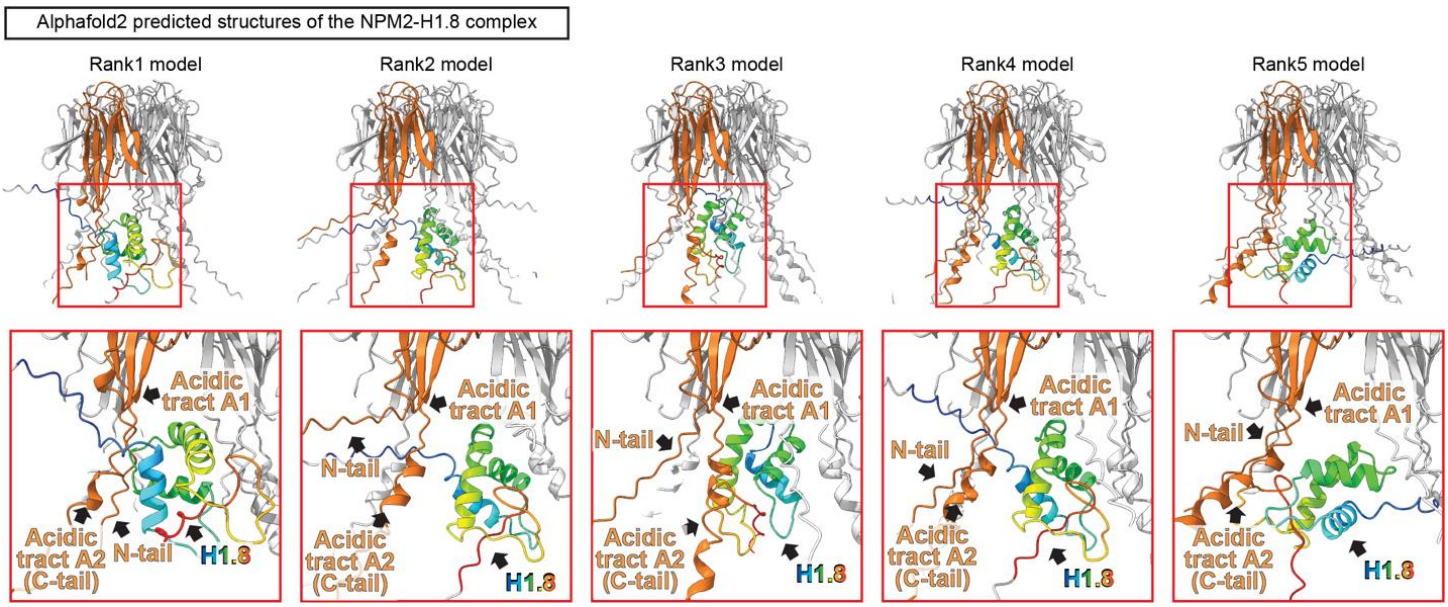


Fig. S17. AF2 predicted models of NPM2-H1.8 structure. The atomic models of *Xenopus laevis* NPM2 pentamer complexed with a single *Xenopus laevis* H1.8 were built by ColabFold v1.5.5, which implements AF2 and MMseqs2 (*43–45*). In each panel, H1.8 is colored in rainbow. An NPM2 protomer, which has direct interaction with H1.8, is colored orange, and the remaining NPM2 protomers are colored gray. While H1.8 binds to the petal side of the NPM2, the H1.8 orientations are not uniform in the models, suggesting that multiple binding modes of H1.8 can exist. All AF2-predicted NPM2 pentamer structures are closed form.

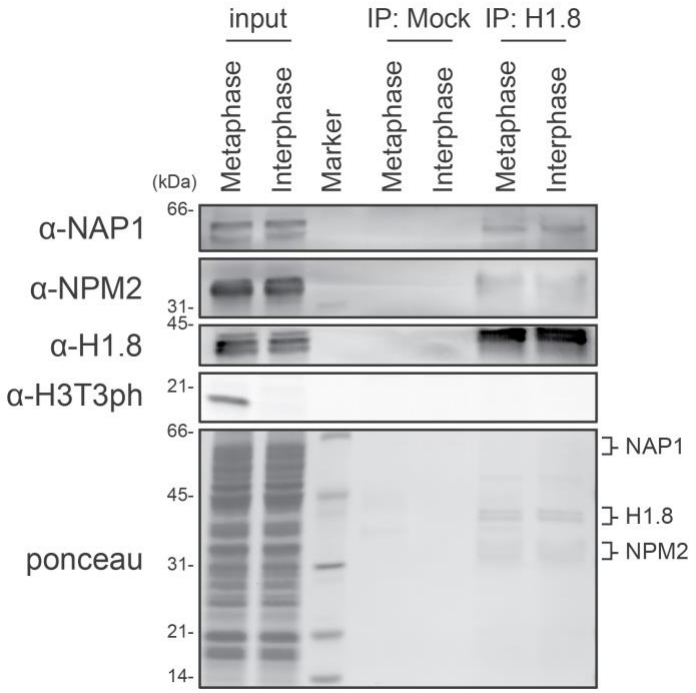


Fig. S18. Cell cycle-independent H1.8 binding to NAP1 and NPM2 in the *Xenopus* egg cytoplasm. H1.8 was immunoprecipitated from Xenopus CSF (metaphase) extracts or interphase extracts and analyzed by western blotting. Antibodies against phosphorylated histone H3 Thr3 H3T3ph) were used as a marker for M phase. Amounts of NAP1 and NPM2 co-immunoprecipitated with anti-H1.8 antibodies did not change between metaphase and interphase. An example of two reproducible results is shown.

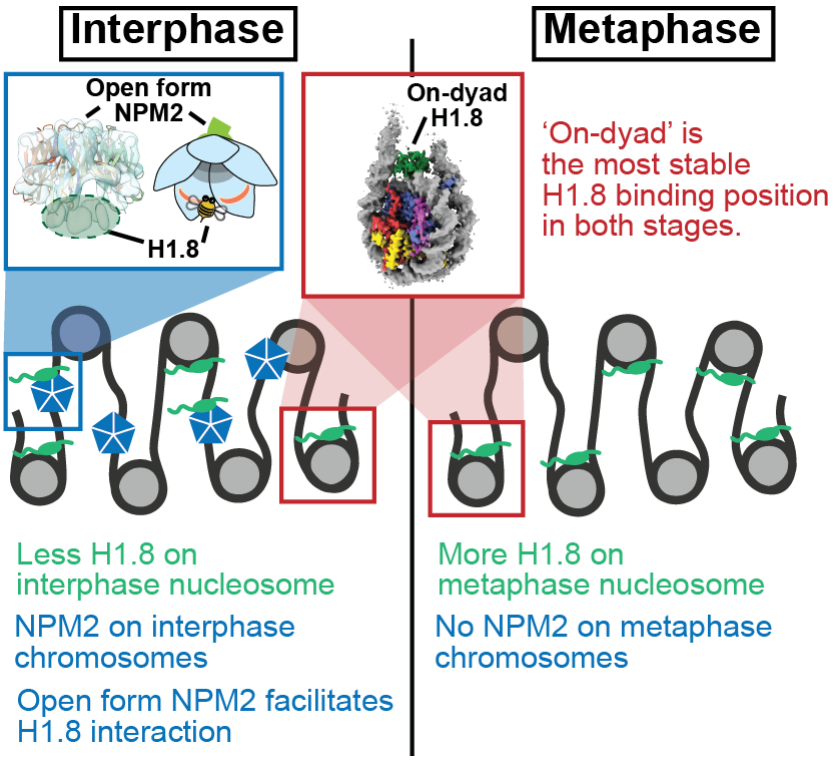


Fig. S19. Model of the mechanism that regulates amount of the H1.8 in interphase and metaphase nucleosome.

Table S1. Sample requirements for the MagIC-cryo-EM and other biological approaches.
To enable the structural analysis of the native protein complexes, we aimed to reduce the sample requirement of cryo-EM to that of ChIP-seq.

Methods	Purity	Concentration	Volume	Amount	Advantage	Disadvantage
Cryo-EM (conventional)	Purified	0.5 ~ 5.0 mg/mL	3 ~ 4 μL/grid	> 10 μg/sample	simple	High concentration of sample is required
Cryo-EM (Jet vitrification)	Purified	4 mg/mL	0.001 μL/grid	>4 ng/sample	Very low volume of sample is required	High concentration of sample is required
Cryo-EM (Affinity grid)	Crude	0.05 mg/mL	3 ~ 4 μL/grid	> 1 μg/sample	Sample can be isolated and concentrated on grid	The maximum sample volume is limited
ChIP-seq	Crude	-	-	10 ~ 50 ng DNA	Sample can be isolated and concentrated by beads	
SDS-PAGE (CBB stain)	Crude	0.005 ~ 0.100 mg/mL	1~20 μL/lane	> 30 ng/band		
MagIC-cryo-EM	Crude	< 0.0005 mg/mL	1 ~ 2000 μL	> 5 ng (2 ng DNA) /grid	Sample can be isolated and concentrated by beads	cryo-EM data collection points are selected manually.
SDS-PAGE (Silver stain)	Crude	0.0001 ~ 0.001 mg/mL	1~20 μL/lane	> 1 ng/band		

Table S2. Expected mass of the NPM2-H1.8-GFP complex.
Sucrose gradient elution volume indicates that the NPM2-H1.8-GFP complex is smaller than mono-nucleosome (around 230 kDa). Only the NMP2 pentamer complexed H1.8-GFP monomer (166 kDa) reasonably explains the sucrose gradient result.

Table S2.1 Molecular wight of the components

Name	Molecular wight (Da)
NPM2 monomer	21,917
NPM2 pentamer	109,587
NPM2 decamer	219,175
H1.8-GFP	56,704

Table S2.2 Molecular wight of the complexes

Name	Molecular wight (Da)
NPM2 pentamer + H1.8-GFP monomer	166,291
NPM2 pentamer + H1.8-GFP pentamer	393,107
NPM2 decamer + H1.8-GFP monomer	275,878
NPM2 decamer + H1.8-GFP pentamer	502,694
Nucleosome (193bp DNA)	228,111

Table S3. Statistics of the cryo-EM structures.

Sample name	Nucleosome in polynucleosome attached on magnetic beads	*in vitro* reconstituted H1.8-GFP nucleosome MagIC-cryo-EM	Interphase H1.8-GFP nucleosome MagIC-cryo-EM	Metaphase H1.8-GFP nucleosome MagIC-cryo-EM	Interphase & metaphase mixed H1.8-GFP nucleosome MagIC-cryo-EM	Interphase H1.8-GFP-NPM2 MagIC-cryo-EM		
Deta collection								
Microscope	Talos Arctica	Titan Krios	Titan Krios	Titan Krios	-	Titan Krios		
Magnification	25,000	53,000	53,000	53,000	-	64,000 / 81,000		
Voltage (kV)	200	300	300	300	-	300		
Camera	Gatan K2 Summit	Gatan K3	Gatan K3	Gatan K3	-	Gatan K3		
Electron exposure (e–/Å^2)	34.4	45.45	45.45	45.45	-	45.3 / 51.92		
Defocus range (μm)	-1.5 ~ -2.5	-2 ~ -3.5	-2 ~ -3.5	-2 ~ -3.5	-	-2.0 ~ -3.5 / -1.5 ~ -3.5		
Pixel size (Å)	1.5	1.32	1.32	1.32	-	1.08 / 0.86		
Micrographs	734	1,890	677	965	-	1,807 / 4,543		
Data prosessing						Avaraged	Open	Closed
Particle images (no.)	41,000	184,706	20,639	22,051	42,690	92428	35684	26477
Symmetry imposed	C1	C1	C1	C1	C1	C5	C5	C5
Map resolution (FSC=0.143)	4.8	3.6	4.3	4.1	3.9	5.0	5.9	5.2
EMDR ID	EMD-42599	EMD-42598	EMD-42596	EMD-42597	EMD-42594	EMD-43238	EMD-43239	EMD-43240
Atomic models						Avaraged	Open	Closed
Chains						5	5	5
Atoms						8535 (Hydrogens: 4245)	4315 (Hydrogens: 0)	4290 (Hydrogens: 0)
Residues						Protein: 550 Nucleotide: 0	Protein: 555 Nucleotide: 0	Protein: 550 Nucleotide: 0
Water						0	0	0
Ligands						0	0	0
Bonds (RMSD)								
Length (Å) (# > 4σ)						0.006 (15)	0.003 (0)	0.003 (0)
Angles (°) (# > 4σ)						0.699 (10)	0.758 (5)	0.884 (0)
MolProbity score						1.98	2.22	2.16
Clash score						14.32	22.71	26.17
Ramachandran plot (%)								
Outliers						0	0	0
Allowed						4.63	5.5	3.7
Favored						95.37	94.5	96.3
Rama-Z (Ramachandran plot Z-score, RMSD)								
whole (N = 540)						-2.46 (0.30)	-2.90 (0.29)	-1.28 (0.33)
helix (N = 0)						— (—)	-3.48 (0.84)	-1.84 (1.07)
sheet (N = 160)						-1.74 (0.46)	-1.27 (0.35)	-0.38 (0.31)
loop (N = 380)						-1.71 (0.24)	-2.21 (0.26)	-1.10 (0.33)
Rotamer outliers (%)						0	0	0
Cβ outliers (%)						NA	NA	NA
Peptide plane (%)								
Cis proline/general						33.3/0.0	28.6/0.0	33.3/0.0
Twisted proline/general						0.0/0.0	0.0/0.0	0.0/1.0
CaBLAM outliers (%)						2.83	1.87	3.77
ADP (B-factors)								
Iso/Aniso (#)						4290/0	4315/0	4290/0
min/max/mean								
Protein						311.84/446.13/375.67	250.02/795.91/470.81	343.54/628.84/480.26
Nucleotide						—	—	—
Ligand						—	—	—
Water						—	—	—
Occupancy								
Mean						1	1	1
occ = 1 (%)						100	100	100
0 < occ < 1 (%)						0	0	0
occ > 1 (%)						0	0	0
Lengths (Å)						82.08, 83.16, 62.64	84.24, 85.32, 58.32	79.92, 81.00, 69.12
Angles (°)						90.00, 90.00, 90.00	90.00, 90.00, 90.00	90.00, 90.00, 90.00
Supplied Resolution (Å)						6	6	6
Resolution Estimates (Å)						Masked // Unmasked	Masked // Unmasked	Masked // Unmasked
d FSC (half maps; 0.143)						— // —	— // —	— // —
d 99 (full/half1/half2)						8.5/—/— // 8.5/—/—	8.1/—/— // 8.1/—/—	8.3/—/— // 8.3/—/—
d model						7.7 // 7.7	8.5 // 8.5	7.7 // 7.7
d FSC model (0/0.143/0.5)						4.3/6.2/18.9 // 4.3/6.2/2.6	5.5/6.3/18.2 // 5.5/6.3/18.2	5.0/6.1/12.2 // 5.0/6.1/11.3
Map min/max/mean						-9.459459459	-10.46511628	-15.15151515
CC (mask)						0.67	0.67	0.69
CC (box)						0.79	0.75	0.8
CC (peaks)						0.56	0.56	0.62
CC (volume)						0.66	0.67	0.69
Mean CC for ligands						—	—	—
PDB ID						8VHI	8VHJ	8VHK