Discovery of biased orientations of human DNA motif sequences

affecting enhancer-promoter interactions and transcription of genes

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Abstract

Abstract

Chromatin interactions have important roles for enhancer-promoter interactions

(EPI) and regulating the transcription of genes. CTCF and cohesin proteins are located

at the anchors of chromatin interactions, forming their loop structures. CTCF has

insulator function limiting the activity of enhancers into the loops. DNA binding

sequences of CTCF indicate their orientation bias at chromatin interaction anchors –

forward-reverse (FR) orientation is frequently observed. Other DNA binding proteins

such as YY1, ZNF143, and SMARCA4 are also reported to be associated with

chromatin interactions. It is still unclear what proteins are associated with chromatin

interactions and insulator functions.

To find DNA binding motif sequences of transcription factors (TF), such as CTCF,

affecting the interaction between enhancers and promoters of genes and their expression,

first I predicted TF bound in enhancers and promoters using DNA motif sequences of

TF and experimental data of open chromatin regions in monocytes, T cells, HMEC and

NPC, which were obtained from public and commercial databases. Second,

transcriptional target genes of each TF were predicted based on enhancer-promoter

association (EPA). EPA was shortened at the genomic locations of FR or

reverse-forward (RF) orientation of DNA motif sequence of a TF, which were supposed

to be at chromatin interaction anchors and acted as insulator sites like CTCF. Then, the

expression levels of the transcriptional target genes predicted based on the EPA were

compared with those predicted from closed chromatin regions.

Total 96 biased orientations of DNA motifs (64 FR and 52 RF orientations, the

reverse complement sequences of some DNA motifs were also registered in databases,

so the total number was smaller than the number of FR and RF) affected the expression

level of putative transcriptional target genes significantly in monocytes, T cells, HMEC

and NPC in common. For 44 (69%) FR and 28 (54%) RF of 64 FR and 52 RF

orientations of DNA motif sequences in CD4$^+$ T cells, EPI predicted from EPA that was

shortened at the genomic locations of the biased orientation of DNA motif sequence

were overlapped with chromatin interaction data significantly more than other types of

EPAs. Moreover, 43 (72%) FR and 40 (80%) RF of 64 FR and 52 RF orientations of

DNA motifs found in the four cell types in common showed significantly reduced

correlation in expression level of nearby genes separated by the motif sites, implying

that the DNA motifs were associated with insulator functions.

Keywords: transcriptional target genes, gene expression, transcription factors, enhancer,

enhancer-promoter interactions, chromatin interactions, CTCF, cohesin, open chromatin

regions, co-location of transcription factors, homodimer, heterodimer, complex

Background

Chromatin interactions have important roles for enhancer-promoter interactions

(EPI) and regulating the transcription of genes. CTCF and cohesin proteins are located

at the anchors of chromatin interactions, forming their loop structures. CTCF has

insulator function limiting the activity of enhancers into the loops (Fig. 1A). DNA

binding sequences of CTCF indicate their orientation bias at chromatin interaction

anchors – forward-reverse (FR) orientation is frequently observed (Rao et al. 2014; de

Wit et al. 2015; Guo et al. 2015). Other DNA binding proteins such as ZNF143, YY1,

and SMARCA4 (BRG1) are found to be associated with chromatin interactions and EPI

(Bailey et al. 2015; Barutcu et al. 2016; Weintraub et al. 2017). CTCF, cohesin, ZNF143,

YY1 and SMARCA4 have other biological functions as well as chromatin interactions

and EPI. The DNA binding motif sequences of the transcription factors (TF) are found

in open chromatin regions near transcriptional start sites (TSS) as well as chromatin

interaction anchors.

DNA binding motif sequence of ZNF143 was enriched at both chromatin

interaction anchors. ZNF143's correlation with the CTCF-cohesin cluster relies on its

weakest binding sites, found primarily at distal regulatory elements defined by the

'CTCF-rich' chromatin state. The strongest ZNF143-binding sites map to promoters

bound by RNA polymerase II (POL2) and other promoter-associated factors, such as the

TATA-binding protein (TBP) and the TBP-associated protein, together forming a

'promoter' cluster (Bailey et al. 2015).

DNA binding motif sequence of YY1 does not seem to be enriched at both

chromatin interaction anchors (Z-score < 2), whereas DNA binding motif sequence of

ZNF143 is significantly enriched (Z-score > 7; Bailey et al. 2015 Figure 2a). In the

analysis of YY1, to identify a protein factor that might contribute to EPI, (Ji et al. 2015)

performed chromatin immune precipitation with mass spectrometry (ChIP-MS), using

antibodies directed toward histones with modifications characteristic of enhancer and

promoter chromatin (H3K27ac and H3K4me3, respectively). Of 26 transcription factors

that occupy both enhancers and promoters, four are essential based on a CRISPR

cell-essentiality screen and two (CTCF, YY1) are expressed in >90% of tissues

examined (Weintraub et al. 2017). These analyses started from the analysis of histone

modifications of enhancer and promoter marks rather than chromatin interactions. Other

protein factors associated with chromatin interactions and insulator functions may be

found from other researches.

As computational approaches, machine-learning analyses to predict chromatin

interactions have been proposed (Schreiber et al. 2017; Zhang et al. 2017). However,

they were not intended to find DNA motif sequences of TF affecting chromatin

interactions, EPI, and the expression level of transcriptional target genes, which were

examined in this study.

DNA binding proteins involved in chromatin interactions are supposed to affect

the transcription of genes in the loops formed by chromatin interactions. In my previous

analysis, the expression level of human putative transcriptional target genes was

affected, according to the criteria of enhancer-promoter association (EPA) (Fig. 1B)

(Osato 2018). EPA was shortened at the genomic locations of FR orientation of CTCF

binding sites, and transcriptional target genes of each TF bound in enhancers and

promoters were predicted based on the EPA. The EPA affected the expression levels of

putative transcriptional target genes, compared with the expression levels of

transcriptional target genes predicted from promoters (or closed chromatin regions) (Fig.

2A). The expression levels tend to be increased in monocytes and CD4[+] T cells,

implying that enhancers activated the transcription of genes. The expression levels tend

to be decreased in ES and iPS cells, implying that enhancers repressed the transcription

of genes. These analyses suggested that enhancers affected the transcription of genes

significantly, when EPI were predicted properly. Other DNA binding proteins involved

in chromatin interactions, as well as CTCF, may locate at chromatin interaction anchors

with a pair of biased orientation of DNA binding motif sequences, affecting the

expression level of putative transcriptional target genes in the loops formed by the

chromatin interactions. As experimental issues of the analyses of chromatin interactions,

chromatin interaction data are changed, according to experimental techniques, depth of

DNA sequencing, and even replication sets of the same cell type. Chromatin interaction

data may not be saturated enough to cover all chromatin interactions. Supposing these

characters of DNA binding proteins associated with chromatin interactions and avoiding

experimental issues of the analyses of chromatin interactions, here I searched for DNA

motif sequences of TF, affecting EPI and the expression level of putative transcriptional

target genes in monocytes, T cells, HMEC and NPC without using chromatin interaction

data. Then, putative EPI were compared with chromatin interaction and gene expression

data.

Results

Search for biased orientations of DNA motif sequences

Transcription factor binding sites (TFBS) were predicted using open chromatin

regions and DNA motif sequences of transcription factors (TF) collected from various

databases and journal papers (see Methods). Transcriptional target genes were predicted

using TFBS in promoters and enhancers. Enhancer-promoter association (EPA) was

shortened at the genomic locations of DNA binding motif sequence of a TF acting as

insulator such as CTCF and cohesin (RAD21 and SMC3) (Fig. 1B). To find DNA motif

sequences of TF acting as insulator, other than CTCF and cohesin, affecting the

expression level of genes, EPA was shortened at the genomic locations of DNA motif

sequence of a TF, and transcriptional target genes of each TF bound in (i) distal open

chromatin regions (enhancers) and (ii) closed chromatin regions in promoters were

predicted based on the EPA, in order to estimate enhancer activity of each TF. The ratio

of expression level of putative transcriptional target genes of each TF between (i) and

(ii) was calculated. The distribution of the ratios of all TF was compared among

forward-reverse (FR), reverse-forward (RF), and any orientation (i.e. without

considering orientation) of a DNA motif sequence shortening EPA using Mann-Whitney

test, two-sided (p-value $< 10^{-7}$), and the number of TF with significant difference of the

distributions among FR, RF and Any was counted (Fig. 2A). DNA sites of TF

associated with chromatin interactions were found near TSS (Fig. 2B). ZNF143 is

known to bind to promoter of genes establishing looping with distal element bound by

CTCF (Fig. 5) (Bailey et al. 2015). YY1 is multi-functional transcriptional regulator and

is involved in transcriptional activation, repression and initiation (Shrivastava and

Calame 1994; Xi et al. 2007). Most of DNA sites of the TF were found in intergenic and

intron regions of human genome (Fig. 2C). Several hundreds of FR and RF orientations

of DNA motifs of TF were found in monocytes, T cells, human mammary epithelial

cells (HMEC) and neural progenitor cells (NPC). The number of the TF seemed to be

changed, according to the number of DNase-seq reads, since the number of the reads of

monocyte is larger than other three cell types (i.e. more DNA motif sites would be

predicted to some extent, if DNase-seq reads increase). Total 96 of biased (64 FR and

52 RF) orientations of DNA binding motif sequences of TF were found in the four cell

types in common, whereas any orientation of DNA binding motif sequence was not

found (Fig. 3; Table 1; Supplemental material). FR orientation of DNA motif sequences

included CTCF, cohesin (RAD21 and SMC3), YY1 and ZNF143 which are associated

with chromatin interactions and EPI.

Without considering the difference of orientation of DNA binding motif

sequences, 175 of biased orientations of DNA binding motif sequences of TF were

found in the four cell types in common. As a reason for the increase of the number (175)

from 96, a TF or an isoform of the same TF may bind to a different DNA binding motif

sequence according to cell types and/or in the same cell type. About 50% or more of

alternative splicing isoforms are differently expressed among tissues, indicating that

most alternative splicing is subject to tissue-specific regulation (Das et al. 2007; Wang

et al. 2008; Chen and Manley 2009). The same TF has several DNA binding motif

sequences and in some cases one of the motif sequences is almost the same as the

reverse complement sequence of another motif sequence of the same TF. I previously

found that a complex of TF would bind to a slightly different DNA binding motif

sequence from the combination of DNA binding motif sequences of TF composing the

complex in *C. elegans* (Tabuchi et al. 2011). The difference of binding specificity of

pairs of transcription factors was reported (Jolma et al. 2015). Cofactors also contribute

to alter binding specificity of transcription factors (Ansari and Peterson-Kaufman 2011;

Slattery et al. 2011; Merabet and Mann 2016). These increase the variety and number of

DNA binding motif sequences of a TF.

Comparison with chromatin interaction data

To examine whether the biased orientations of DNA motif sequences is associated

with chromatin interactions, enhancer-promoter interactions (EPI) predicted based on

enhancer-promoter associations (EPA) were compared with chromatin interaction data.

HiChIP chromatin interaction data for $CD4^+$ T cells were used (Mumbach et al. 2017).

EPI predicted based on EPA were compared with three replications (B2T1, B2T2, and

B3T1) of HiChIP chromatin interaction data in $CD4^+$ T cells respectively. The

resolutions of HiChIP chromatin interaction data and EPI were adjusted to 5kb. EPI

were predicted based on three types of EPA: (i) EPA shortened at the genomic locations

of FR or RF orientation of DNA motif sequence of a TF acting as insulator sites such as

CTCF, (ii) EPA shortened at the genomic locations of DNA motif sequence of a TF

without considering their orientation, and (iii) EPA without being shortened by the

genomic locations of a DNA motif sequence. Total 201 biased orientations [133 (49%)

FR and 90 (43%) RF of 273 FR and 211 RF] of DNA motif sequences in T cells, which

included CTCF, cohesin (RAD21 and SMC3), ZNF143, and YY1 in three replications

(B2T1, B2T2, and B3T1) showed a significantly higher ratio of EPI overlapped with

HiChIP chromatin interactions (more than 1,000 counts for each interaction) in EPA (i)

than the other types of EPA (ii) and (iii) in T cells (Table 2). When comparing EPI

predicted based on only EPA (i) and (iii) with the chromatin interactions, total 390

biased orientations [261 (96%) FR and 199 (94%) RF of 273 FR and 211 RF] of DNA

motif sequences in T cells showed a significantly higher ratio of EPI predicted based on

EPA (i) overlapped with the chromatin interactions than EPI predicted based on EPA

(iii) (Table 2; Supplemental material). The difference between EPI predicted based on

EPA (i) and (ii) seemed to be difficult to distinguish using the chromatin interaction data

and the statistical test in some cases. However, as for the difference between EPI

predicted based on EPA (i) and (iii), a larger number of biased orientations of DNA

motif sequences was found to be correlated with chromatin interaction data. Chromatin

interaction data were obtained from different samples from DNase-seq, open chromatin

regions, so individual differences may exist. (Mumbach et al. 2017) suggested that

individual differences of chromatin interactions were larger than those of open

chromatin regions. Most of biased orientations of DNA motif sequences (95%) were

found to be correlated with chromatin interactions, when comparing EPI predicted

based on EPA (i) and (iii) with HiChIP chromatin interactions.

For HMEC, in situ Hi-C data was available from 4D nucleome data portal, so the

chromatin interaction data was compared with putative EPI. Total 222 biased

orientations [155 (50%) FR and 108 (40%) RF of 310 FR and 269 RF] of DNA motif

sequences in HMEC, which included CTCF, cohesin (RAD21 and SMC3), ZNF143,

and YY1 showed a significantly higher ratio of EPI overlapped with in situ Hi-C

chromatin interactions (more than one count for each interaction, i.e. all interactions) in

EPA (i) than the other types of EPA (ii) and (iii) in HMEC (Supplemental material).

When comparing EPI predicted based on only EPA (i) and (iii) with the chromatin

interactions, total 406 biased orientations [268 (86%) FR and 230 (86%) RF of 310 FR

and 269 RF] of DNA motif sequences in HMEC showed a significantly higher ratio of

EPI predicted based on EPA (i) overlapped with the chromatin interactions than EPI

predicted based on EPA (iii) (Supplemental material). There were six replications of

experimental data of in situ Hi-C data of HMEC, but other replications included much

smaller number of chromatin interaction data. The HiChIP chromatin interaction data in

T cells was expected to be enriched with enhancer-promoter interactions, since it used

H3K27ac antibody to collect chromatin interactions. In situ Hi-C data include all types

of chromatin interactions, so in situ Hi-C data seemed to include much smaller number

of enhancer-promoter interactions, compared with the HiChIP data. Therefore, other

replications of in situ Hi-C data with a smaller number of chromatin interactions will

not be available for this analysis.

Promoter capture Hi-C data of NPC was downloaded and analyzed in the same

way as T cell and HMEC ('GSE86189_npc.po.all.txt.bz2' file) (Jung et al. 2019). Total

109 biased orientations [61 (28%) FR and 60 (25%) RF of 205 FR and 241 RF] of DNA

motif sequences in NPC, which included CTCF, cohesin (RAD21 and SMC3), ZNF143,

and YY1 showed a significantly higher ratio of EPI overlapped with promoter capture

Hi-C chromatin interactions (more than one count for each interaction, i.e. all

interactions) in EPA (i) than the other types of EPA (ii) and (iii) in NPC (Supplemental

material). When comparing EPI predicted based on only EPA (i) and (iii) with the

chromatin interactions, total 186 biased orientations [99 (48%) FR and 103 (43%) RF of

205 FR and 241 RF] of DNA motif sequences in NPC showed a significantly higher

ratio of EPI predicted based on EPA (i) overlapped with the chromatin interactions than

EPI predicted based on EPA (iii) (Supplemental material). All three types of chromatin

interaction data (HiChIP, in situ Hi-C and promoter capture Hi-C) identified known TF

associated with chromatin interactions (CTCF, RAD21, SMC3, ZNF143 and YY1) in

three cell types (T cells, HMEC and NPC). For monocyte, Hi-C data was available, but

it was not analyzed, due to the low resolution of chromatin interactions (50kb). The

ratio of biased orientations of DNA motifs of TF, where EPI were significantly more

overlapped with chromatin interactions in EPA (i) than EPA (ii) and (iii), was the

highest in H3K27ac HiChIP chromatin interaction data, which were enriched with

enhancer-promoter interactions. By adjusting the parameters of the comparison, the

ratio may be more increased for the comparison with HiChIP chromatin interaction

data.

Moreover, to examine the enhancer activity of EPI, the distribution of expression

level of putative target genes of EPI was compared between EPI overlapped with

HiChIP chromatin interactions and EPI not overlapped with them. Though the target

genes of EPI were selected from top 4,000 transcripts (genes) in terms of the expression

level of all transcripts (genes) excluding transcripts not expressed in T cells, target

genes of EPI overlapped with chromatin interactions showed a significantly higher

expression level than EPI not overlapped with them, suggesting that EPI overlapped

with chromatin interactions activated the expression of target genes in T cells. Almost

all (99%) FR and RF orientations of DNA motifs showed a significantly higher

expression level of putative target genes of EPI overlapped with chromatin interactions

than EPI not overlapped. When a biased orientation of DNA motif showed a

significantly higher expression level of putative target genes of EPI overlapped with

chromatin interactions than EPI not overlapped, '1' was marked with in the tables of

comparison between EPI and HiChIP chromatin interactions in Supplemental material.

DNA motifs showing a significantly lower expression level or not showing significant

difference of expression level were not observed in this analysis. HiChIP data were

produced using H3K27ac antibody, so chromatin interactions acting as repressor would

not be identified. For in situ Hi-C and promoter capture Hi-C data in HMEC and NPC,

the significant difference of expression level of putative target genes of EPI was

observed in a small percentage (less than 1%).

Correlation of expression level of gene pairs separated by a DNA motif sequence

To examine the effect of biased orientations of DNA motif sequences on gene

expression, I compared the expression level of protein-coding genes the most closely

located to upstream and downstream of biased orientations of DNA motif sequences in

human genome. Closely located genes are expected to show correlation of gene

expression among tissues (Xie et al. 2007). When a biased orientation of DNA motif

sequence acts as insulator (e.g. CTCF), the correlation of gene expression level would

be reduced. Among 96 biased (64 FR and 52 RF) orientations of DNA motifs found in

common in monocytes, T cells, HMEC, and NPC, top 20 were selected in ascending

order of the median correlation coefficient of expression level of the closest gene pairs

of the DNA motif that was observed in more than 50 genomic locations. The number of

genomic locations was relatively small, when ubiquitously expressed genes among 53

tissues and DNA motif sites near the genes were eliminated with coefficient of variance

< 90 (see Methods). Pairs of genes near all 20 motifs showed a distribution of

significantly lower correlation of gene expression level than all pairs of genes, and

included known DNA binding motif sequences of TF associated with chromatin

interactions such as CTCF, RAD21, and SMC3 (Fig. 4) (Mann-Whitney test, p-value <

0.01). Of 96 biased orientations of DNA motifs found in common in the four cell types,

43 (72%) FR and 40 (80%) RF of 60 FR and 50 RF with variable expression data of

nearby genes among 53 tissues showed a distribution of significantly lower correlation

of gene expression of the closest genes of the DNA motifs than the correlation of all

pairs of neighbor genes (Mann-Whitney test, p-value < 0.05) (Table 3). The DNA

motifs included known DNA binding motif sequences of TF associated with chromatin

interactions such as CTCF, RAD21, SMC3, YY1 and ZNF143. Though the number of

DNA motif sites was reduced, compared with all DNA motif sites of a TF, DNA motif

sites examined for biased orientation in EPA showed a distribution of significantly

lower correlation of expression level of gene pairs separated by the sites (33 (60%) FR

and 36 (77%) RF of 55 FR and 47 RF orientations of DNA motifs of TF with variable

expression data of nearby genes) (Supplemental material). Some DNA motif sites of

biased orientations of DNA motifs were found from genomic regions not including

known DNA motifs of TF associated with chromatin interactions such as CTCF,

RAD21, SMC3, YY1 and ZNF143, and located in significantly lower correlation of

expression level of gene pairs. Significantly lower correlation of gene expression tend to

be observed in DNA motifs with relatively a large number of genomic sites (Median

number of sites of statistically significant DNA motifs is 656 and 479 for FR and RF

respectively, and not significant DNA motifs is 122 and 115 for FR and RF respectively.

p-value = 0 and < 10^{-10} for FR and RF respectively, Mann-Whitney test). Many DNA

motifs showed significantly lower correlation of gene expression, so I wondered there

may be a possibility that when we take a small number of gene pairs randomly (about

hundreds as the same as the number of DNA motif sites), the correlation of gene pairs

might be significantly low occasionally. However, the possibility that happen was low

and less than expectation from p-value threshold by computer simulation.

Co-location of biased orientations of DNA motif sequences

To examine the association of biased orientations of DNA binding motif

sequences of TF, co-location of the DNA binding motif sequences within 200bp to each

other was analyzed in monocytes, T cells, HMEC, and NPC. The number of genes with

the same pairs of DNA binding motif sequences in upstream and downstream of the

genes in EPA was counted, and the pairs of DNA binding motif sequences found in

more than 100 genomic regions were listed (Table 4; Supplemental material). Majority

of pairs of DNA motif sites were overlapped with more than 1bp, but the same tendency

was found in the analysis of DNA motif sites of all TF (Supplemental material). As

already known, CTCF was found with cohesin RAD21 and SMC3 (Table 4). Top 30

pairs of FR and RF orientations of DNA motifs overlapped or co-localized were shown

(Table 4). Total number of unique pairs of DNA motifs overlapped or co-localized

(counted based on gene symbols, not motif IDs) was 404 (FR) and 662 (RF) in

monocytes, consisting of 177 (39% of all FR) and 218 (43% of all RF) unique DNA

motifs. Only ten overlapping or co-location of DNA motifs of TF were found in the four

cell types in common, including pairs of CTCF, RAD21, SMC3 and YY1. This implied

that most of overlapping and co-location of DNA motifs of TF act in cell-type-specific

manner (Supplemental material). Pairs of biased orientations of DNA binding motifs of

TF tend to be overlapped, and relatively a small number of motifs were co-localized in

upstream and downstream of genes. Overlapping DNA motifs act as DNA binding sites

of several TF simultaneously or competitively (Ackerman et al. 1991; Yoon and

Chikaraishi 1992; Ansari and Peterson-Kaufman 2011; Slattery et al. 2011; Chatterjee et

al. 2012; He et al. 2015; Kin et al. 2016; Merabet and Mann 2016). CTCF and cohesin

have also been reported to act cooperatively with other TF and protein such as Klf4 and

Brd2 (Wei et al. 2013; Hsu et al. 2017). Klf4 recruits cohesin to the Oct4 enhancer

region. BRD2 supports boundary (insulator) activity of CTCF. The analysis of 457

ChIP-seq data sets on 119 human TFs showed that secondary motifs were detected in

addition to the canonical motifs of the TFs, indicating tethered binding and co-binding

between multiple TFs (Wang et al. 2012a). The authors observed significant position

and orientation preferences between many co-binding TFs. Overlapping DNA motif

sites of TF found in this study may not be artifact, but biologically functional. Though

repeat sequences in human genome were masked, more than a hundred of pairs of DNA

motif sites overlapped at hundreds or thousands upstream and downstream regions of

genes.

Discussion

To find DNA motif sequences of transcription factors (TF) affecting the

expression level of human putative transcriptional target genes, DNA motif sequences

were searched from open chromatin regions of monocytes, T cells, HMEC and NPC.

Total 96 biased [64 forward-reverse (FR) and 52 reverse-forward (RF)] orientations of

DNA motif sequences of TF were found in the four cell types in common, whereas any

orientation (i.e. without considering orientation) of DNA motif sequence of TF was not

found to affect the expression level of putative transcriptional target genes, suggesting

that enhancer-promoter association (EPA) shortened at the genomic locations of FR or

RF orientation of DNA motif sequence of a TF is effective for the prediction of

enhancer-promoter interactions (EPI).

At first, EPI were compared with chromatin interactions (Hi-C) in monocytes.

Using open chromatin regions overlapped with ChIP-seq experimental data of histone

modification of an enhancer mark (H3K27ac), the ratio of EPI not overlapped with

Hi-C was reduced. (Phanstiel et al. 2017) also reported that there was an especially

strong enrichment for loops with H3K27 acetylation peaks at both ends (Fisher's Exact

Test, $p = 1.4 \times 10^{-27}$). However, the total number of EPI overlapped with chromatin

interactions was also reduced using H3K27ac peaks, so more chromatin interaction data

would be needed to obtain reliable results in this analysis. As an issue of experimental

data, data for chromatin interactions and open chromatin regions were obtained from

different samples and donors, so individual differences would exist in the data. The

resolution of chromatin interaction data used in monocytes was about 50kb, thus the

number of chromatin interactions was relatively small (72,284 at 50kb resolution with a

cutoff score of CHiCAGO tool > 1 and 16,501 with a cutoff score of CHiCAGO tool >

5) ('PCHiC_peak_matrix_cutoff0.txt.gz' file was downloaded from 'Promoter Capture

Hi-C in 17 human primary blood cell types' website https://osf.io/u8tzp/files/). To

examine the difference of the numbers of EPI overlapped with chromatin interactions,

according to the three types of EPAs, the number of chromatin interactions should be

large enough.

As HiChIP chromatin interaction data were available in $CD4^+$ T cells, biased

orientations of DNA motif sequences of TF were examined in T cell. The resolutions of

chromatin interactions and EPI were adjusted to 5kb by fragmentation of genome

sequences. The number of unique HiChIP cis (i.e. in the same chromatin) chromatin

interactions was 19,926,360 at 5kb resolution, 666,149 at 5kb resolution with chromatin

interactions (more than 1,000 counts for each interaction), and 78,209 at 5kb resolution

with chromatin interactions (more than 6,000 counts for each interaction). As expected,

the number of EPI overlapped with chromatin interactions was increased, and 133 FR

and 90 RF orientations of DNA motif sequences of TF showed a statistical significance

in EPI predicted based on EPA shortened at the genomic locations of the DNA motif

sequence, compared with the other types of EPAs or EPA not shortened. HiChIP

analysis used H3K27ac antibody to capture chromatin interactions and identified twenty

millions of chromatin interactions, but the number of peaks of ChIP-seq data of

H3K27ac is usually less than a hundred thousand. There seems to be much difference of

the number of H3K27ac sites between HiChIP and ChIP-seq, so ChIP-seq of H3K27ac

may not cover all H3K27ac sites. For HMEC, in situ Hi-C chromatin interaction data

were available, the number of unique in situ Hi-C cis chromatin interactions was

121,873,642 at 3kb resolution. All chromatin interaction data were used for this analysis

to compare EPI with chromatin interactions. For NPC, the number of unique promoter

capture Hi-C cis chromatin interactions was 9,436,689 at 5kb resolution. All chromatin

interaction data were utilized for analysis.

When forming a homodimer or heterodimer with another TF, TF may bind to

genome DNA with a specific orientation of their DNA binding sequences (Fig. 5). From

the analysis of biased orientations of DNA motif sequences of TF, TF forming

heterodimer would also be found. If the DNA binding motif sequence of only the mate

to a pair of TF was found in EPA, EPA was shortened at one side, which is the genomic

location of the DNA binding motif sequence of the mate to the pair, and transcriptional

target genes were predicted using the EPA shortened at the side. In this analysis, the

mate to both heterodimer and homodimer of TF can be used to examine the effect on the

expression level of transcriptional target genes predicted based on the EPA shortened at

one side. Biased orientations of DNA motif sequences may also be found in

forward-forward or reverse-reverse orientation.

In general, DNA motif sequences of TF were searched from genome sequences

using position weight matrix or position frequency matrix and allowing mismatch of

DNA sequences under a certain threshold. However, the change of the threshold

affected the result of analyses and it seems to be difficult to find the best parameter

setting to reduce false-positive and false-negative predictions of DNA biding sites of TF.

Therefore, firstly, to obtain a robust result in this study, position weight matrixes of

DNA motifs were converted into consensus DNA sequences including degenerated sites,

which consist of A, T, G, C, R, Y, M, K, S, W, B, H, V, D, and N letters. This does not

need parameter setting in the search for DNA motif sequences, and is the same as k-mer

analysis of DNA motif sequences of TF. Thought the number of genomic regions

matched with a DNA motif sequence was decreased, about 200 FR and RF orientations

of DNA motif sequences of TF were found, and the number of any orientation of DNA

motif sequences was quite small, suggesting that false-positive prediction of DNA

biding sites of TF was reduced. However, the length of the consensus DNA sequences

of some TF is relatively long. When the core DNA binding sequence of a TF is short (5

or 6 bp), it may be strict to find perfect matches of the long consensus DNA sequence in

genome sequences, not allowing a mismatch of a DNA sequence.

Secondly, protein interaction quantitation (PIQ) tool was used to find DNA motif

sites of TF (Sherwood et al. 2014). PIQ predicts DNA motifs sites of TF by reducing

noise of DNase-seq data, and the comparison of the result of prediction with ChIP-seq

data revealed that PIQ showed a better performance than other tools and digital genome

footprinting (DNase-DGF). The results of prediction of DNA motif sites of TF using

PIQ in this study showed an increase of biased orientations of DNA motif sequences of

TF, reducing the number of any orientation of DNA motif sequences of TF. The number

of DNA motif sites of TF was expected to increase, compared with the above method to

use consensus DNA sequences of TF. However, the number of DNA motif sites was

almost the same or slightly decreased, compared with the result of consensus DNA

sequences, suggesting that PIQ increases true positive prediction of DNA motif sites,

reducing false positive prediction.

To estimate enhancer activities of DNA motifs of TF, the expression level of

putative transcriptional target genes of a TF was compared between DNA motifs of TF

in distal open chromatin regions (enhancers) and closed chromatin regions in promoters.

Previously, the expression level was compared between distal open chromatin regions

and open chromatin regions in promoters. However, it would be easy to understand the

comparison of DNA motif sites of a TF between distal open chromatin regions and

closed chromatin regions to estimate the enhancer activity of TF. The number of DNA

motif sites in closed chromatin regions was large, so the number in closed chromatin

regions in promoter was used.

It has been reported that CTCF and cohesin-binding sites are frequently mutated

in cancer (Katainen et al. 2015). Some biased orientations of DNA motif sequences

would be associated with chromatin interactions and might be associated with diseases

including cancer.

The analyses in this study revealed novel characters of DNA binding motif

sequences of TF involved in chromatin interactions, insulator function and potentially

forming a homodimer, heterodimer or complex with other TF, affecting the

transcriptional regulation of genes.

Methods

Search for biased orientations of DNA motif sequences

To identify transcription factor binding sites (TFBS) from open and closed chromatin regions, TRANSFAC (2019.2), JASPAR (2018), UniPROBE (2018), high-throughput SELEX, transcription factor binding sequences of ENCODE ChIP-seq data, and HOCOMOCO version 9 and 11 were used to predict insulator sites (Wingender et al. 1996; Newburger and Bulyk 2009; Portales-Casamar et al. 2010; Xie et al. 2010; Zhao and Stormo 2011; Jolma et al. 2013; Kheradpour and Kellis 2014; Kulakovskiy et al. 2018). TRANSFAC (2019.2) was used to analyze enhancer-promoter interactions, since these data were sufficient to identify biased orientations of DNA motif sequences of TF with less computational time, reducing the number of any orientation of DNA motif sequences of TF. To reduce false positive prediction of DNA motif sites of TF in open chromatin regions, protein interaction quantitation (PIQ) tool was used with 12,249 position frequency matrices converted from DNA motifs of vertebrate TF in the above databases and DNase-seq data from GEO database (GSM1024791 $CD14^+$ monocytes; GSM665812 $CD4^+$ T cell; GSM736634 Human mammary epithelial cell, HMEC; GSM878615 Neural progenitor cell, NPC) (Sherwood et al. 2014). To predict DNA motif sites of TF from closed chromatin regions, another method was used. Position weight matrices of vertebrate transcription factor binding sequences were converted into DNA consensus sequences considering degenerated sites using convert matrix in RSAT website (van Helden 2003). Transcription factor binding

sequences of vertebrate TF were used for further analyses. Transcription factor binding

sequences were searched from each narrow peak of DNase-seq data in repeat-masked

hg19 genome sequences using Match tool in TRANSFAC with similarity score cutoff of

1 after transforming the DNA consensus sequences of TF into position frequency

matrixes for Match search (Kel et al. 2003). Repeat-masked hg19 genome sequences

were downloaded from UCSC genome browser (http://genome.ucsc.edu/,

http://hgdownload.soe.ucsc.edu/goldenPath/hg19/bigZips/hg19.fa.masked.gz).   TF

corresponding to transcription factor binding sequences were searched computationally

and manually by comparing their names and gene symbols of HGNC (HUGO Gene

Nomenclature Committee) -approved gene nomenclature and 31,848 UCSC known

canonical   transcripts

(http://hgdownload.soe.ucsc.edu/goldenPath/hg19/database/knownCanonical.txt.gz), as

transcription factor binding sequences were not linked to transcript IDs such as UCSC,

RefSeq, and Ensembl transcripts.

Target genes of a TF were assigned when its TFBS was found in DNase-seq

narrow peaks in promoter or extended regions for enhancer-promoter association of

genes (EPA). Promoter and extended regions were defined as follows: promoter regions

were those that were within distance of ±5 kb from transcriptional start sites (TSS).

Promoter and extended regions were defined as per the following association rule,

which is the same as that defined in Figure 3A of a previous study (McLean et al. 2010):

the single nearest gene association rule, which extends the regulatory domain to the

midpoint between the TSS of the gene and that of the nearest gene upstream and

downstream without the limitation of extension length. Extended regions for EPA were

shortened at the genomic locations of DNA binding sites of a TF that was the closest to

a transcriptional start site, and transcriptional target genes were predicted from the

shortened enhancer regions using TFBS. Furthermore, promoter and extended regions

for EPA were shortened at the genomic locations of forward–reverse (FR) orientation of

DNA binding sites of a TF. When forward or reverse orientation of DNA binding sites

were continuously located in genome sequences several times, the most internal (i.e.

closest to a transcript) forward–reverse orientation of DNA binding sites were selected.

The genomic positions of genes were identified using 'knownGene.txt.gz' file in UCSC

bioinformatics sites (Karolchik et al. 2014). The file 'knownCanonical.txt.gz' was also

utilized for choosing representative transcripts among various alternate forms for

assigning promoter and extended regions for EPA. From the list of transcription factor

binding sequences and transcriptional target genes, redundant transcription factor

binding sequences were removed by comparing the target genes of a transcription factor

binding sequence and its corresponding TF; if identical, one of the transcription factor

binding sequences was used. When the number of transcriptional target genes predicted

from a transcription factor binding sequence was less than five, the transcription factor

binding sequence was omitted.

Repeat DNA sequences were searched from the hg19 version of the human

reference genome using RepeatMasker (Smit, AFA & Green, P RepeatMasker at

http://www.repeatmasker.org) and RepBase RepeatMasker Edition

(http://www.girinst.org).

For gene expression data, RNA-seq reads mapped onto human hg19 genome

sequences were obtained from UCSF-UBC human reference epigenome mapping

project RNA-seq reads with poly-A of naive $CD4^+$ T cells (GEO: GSM669617).

FPKMs of the RNA-seq data were calculated using RSeQC (Wang et al. 2012b). For

monocytes,   Blueprint   RNA-seq   FPKM   data

('C0010KB1.transcript_quantification.rsem_grape2_crg.GRCh38.20150622.results')

were   downloaded   from   Blueprint   DCC   portal

(http://dcc.blueprint-epigenome.eu/#/files). RNA-seq reads with poly-A of human

mammary epithelial cells (HMEC) in Encyclopedia of DNA Elements at UCSC

(http://genome.ucsc.edu/encode/,

'wgEncodeCshlLongRnaSeqHmecCellPapAlnRep1.bam' file) and H1 derived neural

progenitor cell (NPC) (GEO: GSM915326, Encode: ENCFF529SIO) were used. Based

on log2-transformed FPKM, UCSC transcripts were arranged in descending order of

expression level, and top 4,000 transcripts were selected in each cell type.

The expression level of transcriptional target genes predicted based on EPA

shortened at the genomic locations of DNA motif sequence of a TF was compared with

the expression level of transcriptional target genes predicted from closed chromatin

regions in promoters. For each DNA motif sequence shortening EPA, transcriptional

target genes were predicted using DNA binding motif sequences of vertebrate TF in

TRANSFAC database, and the ratio of expression level of putative transcriptional target

genes of each TF was calculated between EPA and closed chromatin regions in

promoters. The distribution of the ratios of all TF was compared among forward-reverse

(FR), reverse-forward (RF), and any orientation (i.e. without considering orientation) of

a DNA motif sequence shortening EPA using Mann-Whitney test, two-sided (p-value <

10^{-7}). Other parameters for the analysis were that the number of transcriptional target

genes of a TF was more than 50, and the number of TF (not insulator TF) to predict

transcriptional target genes was more than 50. The number of DNA motif sites of TF

(insulator TF) shortening EPA was more than 100. When a DNA motif sequence of a TF

shortening EPA showed a significant difference of expression level of putative

transcriptional target genes among FR, RF or any orientation, the DNA motif sequence

was listed.

Comparison with chromatin interaction data

550   For comparison of EPA with chromatin interactions (HiChIP) in CD4$^+$ T cells,

'GSM2705049_Naive_HiChIP_H3K27ac_B2T1_allValidPairs.txt',

'GSM2705050_Naive_HiChIP_H3K27ac_B2T2_allValidPairs.txt', and

'GSM2705051_Naive_HiChIP_H3K27ac_B3T1_allValidPairs.txt' files were

downloaded from Gene Expression Omnibus (GEO) database (GSM2705049,

GSM2705050 and GSM2705051). The resolutions of chromatin interaction data and

EPI were adjusted to 5kb before their comparison. Chromatin interactions with more

than 6,000 and 1,000 counts for each interaction were used in this study.

558   Enhancer-promoter interactions (EPI) were predicted using three types of EPAs in

monocytes: (i) EPA shortened at the genomic locations of FR or RF orientation of DNA

motif sequence of a TF, (ii) EPA shortened at the genomic locations of any orientation

(i.e. without considering orientation) of DNA motif sequence of a TF, and (iii) EPA

without being shortened by a DNA motif sequence. EPI predicted in the three types of

EPAs in common were removed. First, EPI predicted based on EPA (i) were compared

with chromatin interactions. The resolution of chromatin interaction data used in this

study was 1-5kb, so EPI were adjusted to 5kb before their comparison. The number and

ratio of EPI overlapped with chromatin interactions were counted. Second, EPI were

predicted based on EPA (ii), and EPI predicted based on EPA (i) were removed from the

EPI. The number and ratio of EPI overlapped with chromatin interactions were counted.

Third, EPI were predicted based on EPA (iii), and EPI predicted based on EPA (i) and

(ii) were removed from the EPI. The number and ratio of EPI overlapped with

chromatin interactions were counted. The number and ratio of the EPI were compared

two times between EPA (i) and (iii), and EPA (i) and (ii) (binomial distribution, p-value

< 0.025 for each test, two-sided, 95% confidence interval).

For comparison of EPA with chromatin interactions (in situ Hi-C) in HMEC,

'HMEC_4DNFI97O9SAZ.pairs.gz' file was downloaded from 4D nucleome data portal

(http://data.4dnucleome.org). The genomic positions of chromatin interactions were

converted into hg19 version of human genome using liftOver tool

(http://hgdownload.soe.ucsc.edu/downloads.html#liftover). The resolutions of

chromatin interaction data and EPI were adjusted to 3kb before their comparison. All

chromatin interactions were used for analysis. For comparison of EPA with chromatin

interactions (promoter capture Hi-C) in NPC, 'GSE86189_npc.po.all.txt.bz2' file was

downloaded from GEO database (GSE86189). The resolutions of chromatin interaction

data and EPI were adjusted to 5kb before their comparison. All chromatin interactions

were used for analysis.

Putative target genes for the analysis of EPI were selected from top 4000

transcripts in term of the expression level. The expression level of putative target genes

of EPI overlapped with HiChIP chromatin interactions was compared with EPI not

overlapped with them. For each FR or RF orientation of DNA motif, EPI were predicted

based on EPA and the overlap of EPI with chromatin interactions was examined. When

a putative transcriptional target gene of a TF in an enhancer was found in both EPI

overlapped with a chromatin interaction and EPI not overlapped with, the target gene

was removed. The distribution of expression level of putative target genes was

compared using Mann-Whitney test, two-sided (p-value < 0.05).

Correlation of expression level of gene pairs separated by a DNA motif sequence

To examine the correlation of expression level of genes pairs separated by a DNA

motif sequence, gene expression data among 53 tissues were obtained from

'GTEx_Analysis_2016-01-15_v7_RNASeQCv1.1.8_gene_median_tpm.gct.gz' file in

GTEx database (https://gtexportal.org/home/). The correlation of log2-transformed gene

expression level was analyzed based on protein-coding transcripts of RefSeq (RefSeq

ID with 'NM_'). The same genomic location of RefSeq transcripts was removed. DNA

motifs overlapped with RefSeq transcripts were eliminated. Genes closest to DNA

motifs and other genes were analyzed using BEDOPS closest-features (Neph et al.

2012). Mann-Whitney test was performed using R.

Co-location of biased orientations of DNA motif sequences

Co-location of biased orientations of DNA binding motif sequences of TF was examined. The number of genes with the same pair of DNA motifs of biased orientations of DNA motifs of TF in upstream and downstream of genes in EPA was counted, and the pairs of DNA motifs found in more than 100 genomic regions were listed.

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Figures

Web links to original figures.

Figure 1. (A) Figure 1. Enhancers and their features. (Shlyueva et al. 2014)

https://static-content.springer.com/esm/art%3A10.1038%2Fnrg3682/MediaObjects/415

76_2014_BFnrg3682_MOESM18_ESM.ppt

Graphical Abstract (de Wit et al. 2015)

https://marlin-prod.literatumonline.com/cms/attachment/7d219941-8398-4373-9ac9-8bf

92c5eba1d/fx1.jpg

(B) Supplementary Figure 2. Computationally-defined regulatory domain (McLean et al.

2010)

https://static-content.springer.com/esm/art%3A10.1038%2Fnbt.1630/MediaObjects/415

87_2010_BFnbt1630_MOESM11_ESM.pdf

Figure 4. The Role of CBS Location and Orientation in CTCF-Mediated Genome-wide

DNA Looping (Guo et al. 2015)

https://marlin-prod.literatumonline.com/cms/attachment/297a06ad-7568-483e-9904-9ae

2af081251/gr4.jpg

Figure 1. Chromatin interactions and enhancer-promoter association. (A) Forward–

reverse orientation of CTCF-binding sites are frequently found in chromatin interaction

anchors. CTCF can block the interaction between enhancers and promoters limiting the

activity of enhancers to certain functional domains (Rao et al. 2014; Shlyueva et al.

2014; de Wit et al. 2015; Guo et al. 2015). (B) Computationally-defined regulatory

domains for enhancer-promoter association (McLean et al. 2010). The *single nearest*

gene association rule extends the regulatory domain to the midpoint between this gene's

TSS and the nearest gene's TSS both upstream and downstream. Enhancer-promoter

association was shortened at the genomic locations of forward-reverse orientation of

DNA binding motif sequence of a transcription factor (e.g. CTCF in the figure).

Figure 2. Identification of DNA sites of TF from open chromatin regions and characteristics of DNA sites. (A) Comparison of expression level of putative transcriptional target genes. The median expression levels (FPKM) of target genes of the same transcription factor binding sequences were compared between closed chromatin regions (or promoters) and enhancer-promoter association (EPA) shortened at the genomic locations of forward-reverse orientation of DNA motif sequence of CTCF

in monocytes. The distribution of expression levels was changed according to four

criteria of EPA (see Method) (Osato 2018). Red dots show the median expression level

of target genes was higher significantly (Mann-Whitney test) based on the EPA than

closed chromatin regions, and blue dots show the median expression level of target

genes was lower significantly based on the EPA than closed chromatin regions. The

expression level of target genes predicted based on the EPA tend to be higher than

closed chromatin regions, implying that transcription factors acted as activators of target

genes. (B) Distribution of DNA sites of TF near TSS. ZNF143 and YY1 tend to locate

near TSS, and CTCF tend to be found more from distant regions than around TSS. (C)

Distribution of DNA sites of TF in human genome. Most of DNA sites were found from

intergenic and intron regions. YY1 are known to be at TSS in the first exon of genes,

associated with transcriptional activation, repression and initiation. YY1 is

multi-functional transcriptional regulator (Shrivastava and Calame 1994; Xi et al. 2007)

Figure 3. Biased orientations of DNA motif sequences of transcription factors affecting the transcription of genes. Biased orientations of DNA motif sequences of transcription factors. Total 96 (64 FR and 52 RF) of biased orientations of DNA binding motif sequences of transcription factors were found to affect significantly the expression level of putative transcriptional target genes in monocytes, T cells, HMEC and NPC in common, whereas any orientation (i.e. without considering orientation) of DNA binding motif sequence was not found to affect the expression level significantly.

Figure 4. Genes separated by predicted DNA binding sites of biased orientations of DNA motifs of TFs are less correlated in gene expression. Top 20 TF are shown according to ascending order of median correlation coefficient. Correlation coefficient between neighboring gene pairs is shown in terms of probability density (A) and cumulative distribution (B). Brown line (All), correlation between all neighboring genes; gray shading in (A) and red line (random) in (B), correlation between randomly chosen gene pairs; Purple line (no_CTCF), correlation between gene pairs not separated by predicted CTCF sites.

Web links to original figures.

Figure 5. Schematic representation of chromatin interactions involving gene promoters

(Bailey et al. 2015).

https://www.nature.com/articles/ncomms7186/figures/5

Figure 5. Schematic representation of chromatin interactions involving gene promoters.

ZNF143 contributes the formation of chromatin interactions by directly binding the

promoter of genes establishing looping with distal element bound by CTCF (Bailey et al.

2015).

Tables

Table 1. Biased orientations of DNA binding motif sequences of transcription factors in

monocytes, T cells, HMEC and NPC. TF: DNA binding motif sequences of

transcription factors.

Forward-reverse orientation

TF	P-value	TF	P-value	TF	P-value
AHR	0	MYC	0	**ZNF143**	0
ARNT	0	MYCN	0	ZNF740	0
ARNTL	7.96E-08	MZF1	0	ZNF770	6.51E-08
ATF2	3.09E-14	NFY	1.72E-11	ZNF84	0
ATF3	2.22E-15	NFYB	0		
BCL	0	NONO	0		
BHLHE41	5.55E-14	NRF1	1.63E-11		
CREB3L1	0	OVOL2	0		
CTCF	0	PLAG1	0		
CXXC1	0	PLAGL1	0		
E2F	0	**RAD21**	0		
E2F1	0	REST	0		
EGR1	0	RFX1	0		
EGR3	0	SIN3A	0		
EGR4	0	SIX5	0		
ELF1	0	**SMC3**	0		
ELF2	5.74E-13	SP2	1.04E-11		
ELK3	3.33E-15	TFAP2A	0		
ELK4	6.19E-11	TFAP2B	2.22E-16		
ERG	0	TFAP2C	0		
ETS	0	TP73	0		
ETS1	0	USF1	0		
ETV7	2.31E-08	XBP1	0		
HEY2	0	**YY1**	0		
HIC1	0	YY2	0		
HINFP	6.46E-14	ZBTB33	0		
INSM1	2.22E-16	ZBTB7A	0		
KLF4	0	ZFP62	0		
KLF7	9.07E-09	ZFX	0		
MAX	0	ZIC1	0		

Reverse-forward orientation

TF	P-value	TF	P-value
AP1	0	RFX2	0
ARNT	1.26E-11	RFX5	0
ATF3	0	RUNX3	0
BHLHE40	8.88E-16	SP1	0
CREB1	0	SP2	0
CTCF	0	SP4	0
E2F	2.32E-13	SPDEF	0
E2F3	0	SREBF2	0
EFNA2	6.61E-11	STAT	0
EGR1	0	TATA	0
EGR2	0	TFAP2B	2.00E-15
ETS1	0	TFAP2C	0
FLI1	1.05E-13	TFCP2L1	0
FLI1:FIGLA	0	USF1	7.55E-10
FOS	0	YBX1	0
GMEB2	0	**YY1**	0
HIF1A	0	YY2	0
KLF4	0	ZBTB33	0
MITF	0	ZBTB7B	0
MYB	0	ZNF100	6.22E-14
MYC	0	**ZNF143**	0
MYCN	0	ZNF432	0
MZF1	0		
NFKB1	0		
NFYA	2.31E-13		
NR3C1	0		
NRF1	0		
OSR2	0		
PBX3	0		
PLAG1	2.78E-14		

Table 2. Comparison of enhancer-promoter interactions (EPI) with chromatin

interactions in T cells. The upper tables show the number of biased orientations of DNA

motifs, where a significantly higher ratio of EPI, which were predicted based on

enhancer-promoter association (EPA) (i) overlapped with HiChIP chromatin interaction

data than the other types of EPA (ii) and (iii). The middle tables show 133 FR and 90

RF orientations of DNA motifs in T cells found in common among B2T1, B2T2 and

B3T1 replications in the upper table. The lower table shows that among 64 FR and 52

RF biased orientations of DNA motifs found in common in monocytes, T cell, HMEC

and NPC, 44 (69%) FR and 28 (54%) RF were matched with the analysis of HiChIP for

three types of EPA. TF: DNA binding motif sequence of a transcription factor. Score: –

$\log_{10}$ (p-value). Score 1: Comparison of EPA shortened at the genomic locations of FR

or RF orientation of DNA motif sequence [EPA (i)] with EPA not shortened [EPA (iii)].

Score 2: Comparison of EPA shortened at the genomic locations of FR or RF orientation

of DNA motif sequence [EPA (i)] with EPA shortened at the genomic locations of any

orientation of DNA motif sequence [EPA (ii)].

1. Comparison of EPI with HiChIP data among three EPA (i), (ii) and (iii)

Replication of HiChIP data	Total no. (FR + RF) of DNA motifs	No. of FR DNA motifs	No. of RF DNA motifs
B2T1	226	153	101
B2T2	221	149	98
B3T1	237	160	109
DNA motifs found in common among replications			
B2T1 and B2T2	212	141	95
B2T1 and B3T1	212	143	93
B2T2 and B3T1	208	138	93
B2T1, B2T2 and B3T1	201	133	90

2. Comparison of EPI with HiChIP data between two EPA (i) and (iii)

Replication of HiChIP data	Total no. (FR + RF) of DNA motifs	No. of FR DNA motifs	No. of RF DNA motifs
B2T1	395	262	205
B2T2	398	264	204
B3T1	394	263	203
DNA motifs found in common among replications			
B2T1 and B2T2	394	262	202
B2T1 and B3T1	391	261	202
B2T2 and B3T1	392	262	200
B2T1, B2T2 and B3T1	390	261	199

732 Forward-reverse (FR)

TF	Score 1	Score 2	TF	Score 1	Score 2	TF	Score 1	Score 2
AHR	38.81	13.41	ETS2	208.78	13.99	MNT	215.63	8.00
ARNTL	155.78	1.96	ETV1	153.32	7.02	MTF1	323.31	14.21
ATF1	323.31	15.00	ETV3	140.11	14.58	MXI1	323.31	70.98
ATF3	323.31	35.22	ETV5:EVX1	145.48	17.33	MYC	84.79	24.93
BCL	153.72	3.52	ETV5:HES7	8.76	8.74	MYCN	165.16	25.87
CREB	90.91	2.32	ETV5:TCF3	203.52	5.90	MZF1	81.83	2.29
CREB3	323.31	38.74	FOXN4	73.43	5.59	NFKB1	279.24	14.27
CREB3L1	323.31	27.96	FOXO1:ELK3	323.31	43.51	NFKB1:NFKB1	323.31	13.79
CTCF	323.31	3.50	GABPA	197.57	20.39	NFY	323.31	3.42
CTCFL	174.90	2.09	GABPA:GABPB1	142.28	6.10	NONO	323.31	9.24
CXXC1	69.92	3.30	GCM2	13.68	18.80	NR2C2	323.31	3.64
E2	323.31	20.15	GDNF	286.73	3.15	NRF1	45.13	30.75
E2F	122.12	21.87	GMEB1	136.68	10.56	OVOL2	323.31	31.61
E2F1	43.22	2.85	HIC1	223.55	4.56	PATZ1	101.85	9.30
EGR1	79.09	3.79	HIF1A	241.47	1.71	PLAG1	177.90	11.02
EGR2	176.69	4.53	HOXB2:ETV1	102.22	2.42	PURA	196.04	17.98
EGR3	85.25	34.18	ID2	323.31	14.52	R	22.49	3.99
EHF	323.31	8.66	INSM1	193.85	15.87	**RAD21**	258.21	4.81
ELF1	203.38	3.86	JUN:JUNB	275.78	6.48	RBAK	267.43	11.25
ELF2	227.62	7.83	JUNB:JUN	202.73	5.07	RELA	323.31	4.68
ELF5	323.31	8.76	KLF	252.10	8.35	RFX1	159.78	17.05
ELK1:TBX21	126.46	8.41	KLF15	323.31	22.56	RFX4	323.31	35.28
ELK1:TEF	323.31	7.99	KLF17	87.51	14.77	RFX5	323.31	26.52
ELK4	117.83	4.81	KLF2	90.74	15.34	SAP1	124.23	14.63
ENO1	80.42	3.13	KLF4	209.71	9.38	**SMC3**	222.09	1.76
EPAS1	65.43	7.76	KLF7	229.95	11.96	SP1	235.48	29.09
ERF	207.67	6.25	LHX8	244.38	2.95	SP2	94.11	9.54
ERG	199.81	25.70	MAX	323.31	8.35	SP4	14.30	6.31
ETS	196.80	1.63	MAZ	109.42	3.37	SPDEF	179.39	16.81
ETS1	308.00	3.92	MBD2	8.41	1.95	SPIC	323.31	28.49

TF	Score 1	Score 2		TF	Score 1	Score 2
STAT	84.60	1.69		ZNF322	120.49	11.55
STAT1	323.31	5.38		ZNF325	69.42	2.74
TCF12	111.44	16.79		ZNF408	214.73	2.22
TCF3	323.31	14.05		ZNF467	127.21	4.64
TEAD4:ETV4	226.28	5.90		ZNF479	226.76	3.26
TFAP2A	25.86	20.26		ZNF48	106.17	9.88
TFAP2B	90.03	6.10		ZNF511	84.74	9.87
TFAP2C	169.60	8.55		ZNF553	93.45	9.17
TFAP4	93.98	2.36		ZNF555	232.83	7.63
TFE3	139.21	16.71		ZNF624	235.50	3.84
TP73	198.45	7.75		ZNF672	266.64	10.80
TR4	39.01	4.97		ZNF675	323.31	5.81
USF1	194.06	3.56		ZNF676	323.31	16.54
VEZF1	134.36	3.49				
XBP1	323.31	44.58				
XRCC5:XRCC6	132.56	3.92				
YY1	62.59	5.30				
ZBED6	183.14	20.23				
ZBTB17	48.37	7.27				
ZBTB26	151.91	16.84				
ZBTB5	120.19	9.58				
ZBTB7A	52.89	30.58				
ZFX	13.33	14.55				
ZFY	36.57	4.04				
ZIC3	266.75	10.54				
ZIC4	17.27	9.30				
ZNF140	323.31	4.99				
ZNF143	323.31	35.38				
ZNF165	323.31	7.80				
ZNF25	281.69	7.72				

736 Reverse-forward (RF)

TF	Score 1	Score 2		TF	Score 1	Score 2		TF	Score 1	Score 2
ARNT	323.31	14.12		MAX	304.34	8.64		TFE3	95.23	10.59
ARNT2	41.41	42.78		MLXIPL	64.44	10.74		THAP1	127.72	5.07
ASCL2	138.15	6.41		MUSCLE	23.05	3.47		**YY1**	323.31	9.92
ATF3	323.31	14.64		MYB	323.31	17.68		YY2	47.49	2.61
ATF4	323.31	25.14		MYBL1	316.23	23.27		ZBTB33	90.29	7.78
ATF7	79.30	4.96		MYC	323.31	12.23		ZBTB45	323.31	57.08
BCLAF1	148.24	8.52		MZF1	200.49	22.73		ZBTB7A	89.19	16.19
BHLHE40	323.31	12.42		NFY	209.97	3.22		ZBTB7B	43.90	23.59
CDCA7L	84.72	8.42		NFYA	323.31	11.75		ZFP64	147.00	13.59
CREB3	206.55	11.07		NHLH1	105.19	4.42		ZIC3	42.65	15.39
CREB3L1	323.31	7.63		NR1H3	323.31	9.38		ZNF100	27.67	4.75
CREB3L2	67.51	7.98		NR3C1	43.16	8.31		**ZNF143**	63.03	9.69
CTCF	240.61	4.56		OSR2	111.77	14.65		ZNF148	213.77	18.93
E2F	78.16	7.07		RFX1	323.31	22.99		ZNF16	323.31	47.43
E2F1	124.10	15.73		RXRA	146.30	15.11		ZNF37A	310.67	14.79
E2F3	65.67	8.85		SALL1	277.84	1.91		ZNF410	140.45	13.57
E2F6	165.75	30.69		SCRT2	301.48	9.60		ZNF419	247.63	11.25
EFNA2	255.01	10.95		SMAD6	259.24	7.43		ZNF429	87.05	32.39
ELK3	143.48	7.57		SP100	20.75	7.99		ZNF436	323.31	11.48
EP300	121.01	10.90		SP2	294.86	2.59		ZNF468	21.12	7.67
ETV5:CLOCK	42.10	7.29		SP4	110.94	19.63		ZNF557	299.44	9.58
GLIS2	37.40	17.34		SPDEF	185.85	14.35		ZNF575	39.45	14.38
GMEB2	323.31	7.81		SPZ1	323.31	9.87		ZNF586	260.73	6.18
HES1	88.18	9.46		SREBF1	67.27	15.74		ZNF611	279.80	15.65
HES7	166.52	14.60		SREBF2	297.27	1.62		ZNF616	189.53	30.98
HIVEP1	323.31	4.90		TAF1	252.27	17.47		ZNF692	202.47	2.33
HOXB2:ELK1	217.94	11.92		TATA	2.16	4.02		ZNF727	214.01	17.22
IRC900814	323.31	4.89		TFAP2A	20.17	29.15		ZNF770	300.52	4.71
KLF4	213.35	9.49		TFAP2B	29.46	12.62		ZNF773	150.45	8.84
KLF8	323.31	17.42		TFAP2C	112.10	51.21		ZSCAN21	323.31	5.55

739 Forward-reverse (FR)   Reverse-forward (RF)

TF	Score 1	Score 2
AHR	38.81	13.41
ARNTL	155.78	1.96
ATF3	323.31	35.22
BCL	153.72	3.52
CREB3L1	323.31	27.96
CTCF	323.31	3.50
CXXC1	69.92	3.30
E2F	122.12	21.87
E2F1	43.22	2.85
EGR1	79.09	3.79
EGR3	85.25	34.18
ELF1	203.38	3.86
ELF2	227.62	7.83
ELK4	117.83	4.81
ERG	199.81	25.70
ETS	196.80	1.63
ETS1	308.00	3.92
HIC1	223.55	4.56
INSM1	193.85	15.87
KLF4	209.71	9.38
KLF7	229.95	11.96
MAX	323.31	8.35
MYC	84.79	24.93
MYCN	165.16	25.87
MZF1	81.83	2.29
NFY	323.31	3.42
NONO	323.31	9.24
NRF1	45.13	30.75
OVOL2	323.31	31.61
PLAG1	177.90	11.02

TF	Score 1	Score 2
RAD21	258.21	4.81
RFX1	159.78	17.05
SMC3	222.09	1.76
SP2	94.11	9.54
TFAP2A	25.86	20.26
TFAP2B	90.03	6.10
TFAP2C	169.60	8.55
TP73	198.45	7.75
USF1	194.06	3.56
XBP1	323.31	44.58
YY1	62.59	5.30
ZBTB7A	52.89	30.58
ZFX	13.33	14.55
ZNF143	323.31	35.38

TF	Score 1	Score 2
ARNT	323.31	14.12
ATF3	323.31	14.64
BHLHE40	323.31	12.42
CTCF	240.61	4.56
E2F	78.16	7.07
E2F3	65.67	8.85
EFNA2	255.01	10.95
GMEB2	323.31	7.81
KLF4	213.35	9.49
MYB	323.31	17.68
MYC	323.31	12.23
MZF1	200.49	22.73
NFYA	323.31	11.75
NR3C1	43.16	8.31
OSR2	111.77	14.65
SP2	294.86	2.59
SP4	110.94	19.63
SPDEF	185.85	14.35
SREBF2	297.27	1.62
TATA	2.16	4.02
TFAP2B	29.46	12.62
TFAP2C	112.10	51.21
YY1	323.31	9.92
YY2	47.49	2.61
ZBTB33	90.29	7.78
ZBTB7B	43.90	23.59
ZNF100	27.67	4.75
ZNF143	63.03	9.69

Table 3. Correlation of expression level of gene pairs separated by a DNA motif site

among 53 tissues. Pairs of genes separated by 64 FR and 52 RF orientations of DNA

motifs of TF found in common in monocytes, T cells, HMEC and NPC were analyzed

to find significantly lower correlation of their expression level than the correlation of all

pairs of genes. Score: $-\log_{10}$ (*p*-value) of Mann-Whitney test. Median correlation:

median correlation coefficient of expression level of nearby gene pairs separated by a

DNA motif. The median correlation coefficient of expression level of all pairs of nearby

genes is 0.17. # DNA site: number of DNA motif sites of TF separating gene pairs with

expression data. Ubiquitously expressed genes with coefficient of variance < 90 and a

DNA motif site nearby were not used for statistical test, so the number of DNA site is

relatively small. The results using all genes were shown in Supplemental material. All

DNA motif sites of a TF were used including DNA motif sites examined for biased

orientation in EPA. The results using only biased orientation of DNA motif sites

examined in this study were shown in Supplemental material.

Forward-reverse (FR)   Reverse-forward (RF)

TF	Score	Median correlation	# DNA site
AHR	1.80	0.12	520
ARNT	1.35	0.09	141
ATF2	1.40	0.11	166
ATF3	3.61	0.11	795
BHLHE41	2.02	0.07	118
CREB3L1	2.88	0.05	127
CTCF	6.02	0.09	837
E2F	3.73	0.10	444
E2F1	3.79	0.11	868
EGR1	2.97	0.10	391
ELF1	4.86	0.10	714
ELF2	3.88	0.11	781
ELK3	1.86	0.12	547
ELK4	2.44	0.11	663
ETS	3.34	0.11	523
ETS1	4.27	0.11	687
ETV7	3.68	0.11	662
HIC1	1.65	0.11	380
HINFP	1.33	0.09	258
KLF4	2.00	0.13	718
MYC	3.86	0.11	762
MYCN	2.36	0.11	583
MZF1	1.74	0.10	261
NFYB	2.97	0.10	264
NRF1	2.21	0.11	640
PLAG1	2.93	0.10	503
PLAGL1	2.55	0.10	414
RAD21	6.08	0.09	852
REST	4.35	0.11	920
RFX1	2.38	0.08	81
SIN3A	3.31	0.11	813
SMC3	6.18	0.09	625
SP2	2.30	0.12	738
TFAP2A	4.17	0.11	767
TFAP2C	2.13	0.11	470
USF1	4.24	0.10	628
XBP1	6.65	0.07	379
ZBTB33	4.90	0.10	701
ZBTB7A	2.82	0.10	485
ZFP62	2.95	0.11	565
ZFX	2.69	0.11	581
ZIC1	4.47	0.11	829
ZNF770	3.38	0.08	271

TF	Score	Median correlation	# DNA site
AP1	3.87	0.11	744
ARNT	2.95	0.10	453
ATF3	4.34	0.10	665
BHLHE40	2.49	0.07	155
CREB1	1.79	0.11	303
CTCF	5.96	0.09	721
E2F	3.95	0.10	663
E2F3	4.05	0.09	616
EFNA2	3.51	0.10	543
EGR1	2.58	0.10	428
EGR2	1.39	0.13	747
ETS1	3.75	0.11	667
FLI1:FIGLA	5.41	0.08	428
FOS	3.51	0.11	777
GMEB2	1.36	0.09	310
HIF1A	2.34	0.11	448
KLF4	2.21	0.12	744
MITF	3.14	0.10	419
MYC	4.85	0.10	704
MYCN	2.79	0.10	507
NFKB1	1.59	0.11	342
NFYA	2.15	0.10	229
NRF1	2.01	0.12	615
OSR2	1.99	0.12	301
PBX3	2.20	0.11	253
RFX2	2.12	0.09	168
RFX5	3.03	0.05	75
RUNX3	2.01	0.11	241
SP1	2.73	0.11	725
SP2	2.15	0.12	1090
SP4	2.33	0.11	479
SPDEF	5.29	0.07	449
TFAP2B	3.42	0.11	855
TFAP2C	2.05	0.11	576
TFCP2L1	1.45	0.13	362
YBX1	1.34	0.13	160
YY1	2.23	0.01	50
ZBTB33	3.44	0.11	886
ZBTB7B	2.27	0.13	892
ZNF143	2.26	0.07	81

Table 4. Top 30 of co-location and overlapping biased orientations of DNA binding

motif sequences of transcription factors in monocytes. Co-location and overlapping

DNA motif sequences of CTCF with another biased orientation of DNA motif sequence

were shown in a separate table. Motif 1,2: DNA binding motif sequences of

transcription factors. No.: the number of genes with both Motif 1 and Motif 2 in

upstream and downstream of genes in EPA (< 1 Mb distance from TSS of genes). Total

number of genes is 30,523.

Forward-reverse (FR)

Motif 1	Motif 2	No.	Mean of distances between motifs (nt)	Median of distances between motifs (nt)	Mean of distances from TSS (nt)	Median of distances from TSS (nt)	Interquartile range of distance from TSS (nt)
FOS	JUN	3332	0.00	0	43202.95	18085	5524 - 48583
CTCF	**SMC3**	2876	0.01	0	34606.92	13716	3073 - 39471
FOSL2	JUN	2807	0.00	0	40389.84	17365	5424 - 45251
FOSB	FOSL2	2644	0.00	0	44302.93	17867	5633 - 47209
EGR1	EGR2	2397	0.00	0	14578.21	1251	247 - 11473
CTCF	**RAD21**	2352	0.00	0	33492.68	12913	2824 - 37672
RAD21	**SMC3**	2343	0.02	0	33572.80	14302	3856 - 37159
ATF3	FOSL2	2322	0.00	0	42784.04	17841	5366 - 48236
FOSL2	JUNB	2305	0.02	0	42884.36	17867	5706 - 46515
ETS2	ETSLIKE	2205	0.00	0	37660.66	15765	4146 - 41462
FOS	JUNB	2151	0.00	0	38403.20	16367	4849 - 44736
IRF	IRF4	1962	0.00	0	40794.41	15872	3969 - 45946
FOSL2	SMARCC1	1945	0.00	0	42429.69	17369	5094 - 46586
EGR1	WT1	1941	0.16	0	12485.23	427	93 - 5394
FOSB	JUN	1808	0.02	0	36648.74	16705	5156 - 40309
ATF3	JUN	1713	0.02	0	38101.24	17119	5294 - 43559
JUN	TFAP2A	1628	0.00	0	42262.97	18017	5089 - 47094
FOSL2	TFAP2A	1628	0.00	0	36606.38	16201	4949 - 41948
BACH2	SMARCC1	1462	0.16	0	38673.02	14778	4060 - 41262
ELF1	ETS1	1459	0.00	0	37056.72	14346	3370 - 40339
CHD2	E2F	1429	0.00	0	19220.38	1579	329 - 16257
JUN	NR3C1	1262	0.00	0	35052.17	14418	3844 - 38534
USF1	USF2	1260	0.00	0	25188.91	4726	413 - 24699
BACH2	JUNB	1238	0.15	0	36252.37	15302	4462 - 39393
BACH2	FOSB	1184	0.22	0	37190.80	14778	4038 - 41262
ETSLIKE	GABPA	1164	0.00	0	32352.24	11683	2356 - 36919
CTCF	CTCFL	1151	0.00	0	30252.04	11606	2229 - 34539
NR5A1	NR5A2	1133	0.00	0	41171.86	12243	2488 - 43136
ATF3	BACH2	1094	0.18	0	35659.16	13605	3821 - 39756
ETS2	GABPA	1092	0.06	0	27250.24	12184	2858 - 32196

773 Reverse-forward (RF)

Motif 1	Motif 2	No.	Mean of distances between motifs (nt)	Median of distances between motifs (nt)	Mean of distances from TSS (nt)	Median of distances from TSS (nt)	Interquartile range of distance from TSS (nt)
EGR1	EGR3	3012	0.00	0	17005.00	709	149 - 10393
NR1I2	NR1I3	2932	0.00	0	49622.84	20548	5924 - 58436
ZIC1	ZIC3	2871	0.07	0	21511.64	3092	434 - 19128
EGR	WT1	2612	0.04	0	9949.38	396	102 - 4266
FOS	FOS:JUN	2512	0.01	0	37200.80	15466	4438 - 42373
EGR	EGR3	2293	0.17	0	11634.92	532	135 - 6044
MAFG	NFE2L1:MAFG	2272	0.03	0	34641.56	16917	5284 - 42097
KLF10	SP1	2233	0.00	0	9778.94	297	73 - 3077
EGR	EGR2	2160	0.16	0	10502.76	490	129 - 5227
KLF3	SP3	2036	0.00	0	6974.78	246	63 - 1447
KLF1	SP3	1771	0.00	0	7748.42	264	66 - 1829
KLF10	SP3	1734	0.00	0	7275.48	222	58 - 1320
KLF7	SP4	1639	0.00	0	12521.62	309	58 - 4894
KLF1	SP1	1574	0.05	0	6780.46	245	61 - 1438
AP1	JUNB	1572	0.05	0	34158.07	15451	4746 - 40315
EGR1	WT1	1543	0.31	0	12742.28	444	111 - 5553
EGR1	SP1:SP3	1393	0.08	0	7789.54	307	91 - 1886
FOS:JUN	JUNB	1386	0.14	0	33012.80	14245	3900 - 37988
SP1	SP3	1372	0.00	0	8845.31	293	77 - 1816
EHF	ELF1	1366	0.02	0	41217.39	13357	2842 - 43178
CTCF	RXRA	1362	0.00	0	29981.33	10937	2100 - 31407
AP1	FOS	1327	0.03	0	33225.52	13455	3503 - 37399
ATF1	ATF3	1215	0.00	0	23125.06	3798	342 - 21091
ELK1	ZNF200	1156	0.05	0	22200.49	2883	181 - 17610
SP1	SP4	1137	0.00	0	7371.85	215	63 - 1232
EHF	ELF3	1134	0.00	0	36296.46	10912	596 - 37318
MEIS2	TGIF1	1018	0.00	0	47677.15	17654	3273 - 49233
KLF3	SP1	1017	0.06	0	6514.33	226	60 - 994
SPI1	ZNF200	913	0.06	0	10962.81	425	85 - 6046
AP1	FOS:JUN	860	0.09	0	50412.92	24217	7302 - 60018

776 FR orientation of CTCF

Motif 1	Motif 2	No.	Mean of distances between motifs (nt)	Median of distances between motifs (nt)	Mean of distances from TSS (nt)	Median of distances from TSS (nt)	Interquartile range of distance from TSS (nt)
CTCF	SMC3	2876	0.01	0	34606.92	13716	3073 - 39471
CTCF	RAD21	2352	0.00	0	33492.68	12913	2824 - 37672
CTCF	CTCFL	1151	0.00	0	30252.04	11606	2229 - 34539
CTCF	ZBTB7A	470	0.27	0	23227.96	7065	745 - 23496
CTCF	E2F	123	0.81	0	7913.36	222	61 - 1997
CTCF	WT1	120	0.00	0	3543.72	114	44 - 375
CTCF	MYC	110	2.30	0	31289.45	11948	2887 - 33972

779 RF orientation of CTCF

Motif 1	Motif 2	No.	Mean of distances between motifs (nt)	Median of distances between motifs (nt)	Mean of distances from TSS (nt)	Median of distances from TSS (nt)	Interquartile range of distance from TSS (nt)
CTCF	RXRA	1362	0.00	0	29981.33	10937	2100 - 31407
CTCF	CTCFL	429	0.00	0	25171.22	9834	1859 - 24741
CTCF	RAD21	337	0.00	0	38829.91	17973	6117 - 45749
CTCF	ZIC1	126	1.40	0	35480.65	10286	2316 - 29380
CTCF	ZIC3	108	0.00	0	30219.32	10904	4463 - 31037

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