



DNA O-MAP uncovers the molecular neighborhoods associated with specific genomic loci

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eLife Assessment

This study presents a **valuable** new method for probing the DNA and proteins associated with targeted genomic elements in cells. The authors present **solid** evidence that the method can map DNA-DNA interactions for individual loci and can detect enriched proteins at repetitive DNA loci such as telomeres, but benchmarks of the method's resolution and specificity remain **incomplete**. The methodological details of this study will be of particular interest and utility to chromatin biologists.

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Abstract

The accuracy of crucial nuclear processes such as transcription, replication, and repair, depends on the local composition of chromatin and the regulatory proteins that reside there. Understanding these DNA-protein interactions at the level of specific genomic loci has remained challenging due to technical limitations. Here, we introduce a method termed “DNA O-MAP”, which uses programmable peroxidase-conjugated oligonucleotide probes to biotinylate nearby proteins. We show that DNA O-MAP can be coupled with sample multiplexed quantitative proteomics and next-generation sequencing to quantify DNA-protein and DNA-DNA interactions at specific genomic loci.

Introduction

Eukaryotic cells store their genetic material in the form of chromatin, a DNA-protein complex. The function of a eukaryotic DNA locus is executed through the cooperation between its nucleotide sequence and the hundreds of protein factors assembled around it. DNA-protein interactions thus

play a fundamental role in regulating both the genome's structure and message storing functions¹. Therefore, developing methods to decipher DNA-protein interactions in cells has been a focus of technology development efforts for decades². For instance, chromatin immunoprecipitation followed by sequencing (ChIP-seq³), which has emerged as a core technology for epigenomics⁴, surveys the genome-wide binding profile of a target DNA-associated protein. ChIP-seq and related technologies (e.g., DamID⁵, CUT&Tag⁶) have produced an abundance of high-quality datasets that enabled the establishment of database consortia such as ENCODE^{7,8} and IHEC⁹, and significantly accelerated chromatin state annotation efforts^{10,11}. Such methods, which profile DNA-protein interactions through a protein-centric lens, require the *a priori* knowledge of which protein(s) to target and rely on the availability of suitable reagents such as antibodies or genetically engineered cell lines. By targeting a single protein at a time, these methods also inherently ignore the context of protein complexes or transient interactions that may be present at a given locus.

In addition to methods that profile the DNA bound by specific proteins, efforts have been dedicated to addressing the inverse problem—identifying the full collection of proteins assembled on a given DNA locus^{12–15}. Such methods include the foundational proteomics of isolated chromatin segment (PICH) technology, which uses a biotinylated oligonucleotide (oligo) probe to affinity label specific genomic DNA intervals via *in situ* hybridization (ISH)¹⁶. To enhance the stability of probe-chromatin interactions throughout the purification workflow, PICH utilizes oligos containing locked nucleic acid residues¹⁷, which are highly efficient as hybridization probes against repetitive DNA targets but cost-prohibitive to use to target non-repetitive intervals that require dozens to hundreds of probes to produce visible signal¹⁸. As noted in follow-up work, PICH was effective for repeat sequences but would require significant additional work to extend to more complex genomic sequences¹⁹. Additionally, even with the increased stability gained from the use of locked nucleic acid probes, the probe-chromatin hybrids can be difficult to maintain when coupled with stringent purification washes¹⁹, limiting detection sensitivity. As a consequence, an input of one trillion cells was required for one purification and successful identification of proteins interacting with telomeres¹⁶.

To reach a higher degree of enrichment, which is critical for lower abundance DNA targets, an alternative strategy is to directly biotinylate the proteins that occupy a target DNA locus. This biotinylation can be achieved via targeted proximity labeling using promiscuous biotin ligases^{20,21} or the engineered ascorbate peroxidase (APEX/APEX2) enzymes^{22,23}. Since the development of APEX, several methods including C-BERST¹² and GLoPro¹³, have combined APEX with CRISPR genome targeting to endow it with locus specificity. This involves fusing APEX to a catalytically dead RNA-guided nuclease, Cas9 (dCas9) and directing the fusion enzyme to a specific locus of interest by single guide RNAs (sgRNAs). The locus-docked dCas9-APEX biotinylates the neighboring proteins on electrophilic amino acid side chains, such as tyrosine, enabling protein purification and subsequent identification by mass spectrometry (MS). In the case of GLoPro, APEX-based proximity labeling enhanced protein detection sensitivity, reducing the input required for each replicate analysis to ~300 million cells—a 10-fold reduction in cell input compared to PICH, which used 3 billion cells. Nevertheless, a notable limitation of CRISPR-guided proximity labeling is requiring the introduction of the fusion dCas9-APEX enzyme and sgRNAs into a suitable host cell line. Since a successful locus purification canonically requires tens to hundreds of millions of cells, if not more, most current methods aim to create stable cell lines for this purpose. These requirements limit the use of previous locus proteomics methods since efficient and well-tolerated gene delivery remains a major challenge and considerable effort in primary cells²⁴. In addition, the labeling reagents necessary for APEX-based proximity labeling—hydrogen peroxide and biotin phenoxyl radicals—are toxic to cells and living organisms, limiting the use of CRISPR-based proximity labeling to cell lines amenable to genetic engineering. Owing to the large numbers of cells required and the need to maximize sensitivity, previous methods often compared only 1–2 biological replicates^{12,13}. In some cases, this was limited by the use of stable-isotope-based quantification methods that can only multiplex up to three samples per

analysis¹². Thus, an unmet need exists for extensible methods capable of scaling and profiling multiple genomic loci. Moreover, these methods would ideally be capable of scaling and multiplexing comparisons between multiple local proteomes or one local proteome in response to multiple stimuli or perturbations.

We address these pressing technical limitations by introducing DNA O-MAP, a locus purification method that uses oligo-based ISH probes to recruit peroxidase activity to specific DNA intervals. DNA O-MAP builds on our previously introduced RNA O-MAP²⁵ and pSABER²⁶ techniques, which target peroxidase activity to specific RNAs and RNAs/DNA intervals for purification or visualization, respectively. Here, we describe a cost-effective and scalable bulk hybridization and biotinylation workflows capable of processing millions of cells in parallel in just a few days, and demonstrate the recovered material is compatible with sample multiplexed proteomics²⁷. We benchmark the specificity of our approach by recovering telomere-specific DNA binding proteins after targeting telomeric DNA. We further showcase the scalability and sample multiplexing capacity of DNA O-MAP by distinguishing the DNA-associated proteomes around human pericentromeric alpha-satellite repeats, telomeres, and mitochondrial genomes in quadruplicates using tandem mass tags²⁷. Finally, we establish that DNA O-MAP can be used to capture functionally relevant DNA-DNA interactions, read out by DNA sequencing, from intervals as small as 20 kilobases. We anticipate that the flexible targeting, scalable protocol, and robust labeling capabilities provided by DNA O-MAP will lead to its adoption as a platform technology for uncovering locus-specific chromatin interactions.

Results

Design of DNA O-MAP

DNA O-MAP is a molecular profiling methodology that combines the targeting flexibility of oligo-based (ISH) with the ability of horseradish peroxidase (HRP) to catalyze the localized deposition of small biomolecules at sites where it is bound. DNA O-MAP works by recruiting a ‘secondary’ HRP-conjugated oligo to sites where the primary ISH probes are bound. HRP-mediated deposition of biotin at specific genomic sites then enables the pull-down and purification of chromatin associated proteins and DNA from *trans*-interacting genomic loci. As in RNA O-MAP, the specificity of ISH and/or biotinylation can be assessed by microscopy using a small sample of cells immobilized on solid support before the cell pellets enter affinity purification downstream. Importantly, the HRP-conjugated oligo is available via several commercial sources, allowing researchers without the expertise to perform their own conjugations to utilize DNA O-MAP.

DNA O-MAP deploys a scalable in-solution hybridization-biotinylation workflow

During the development of DNA O-MAP, it became clear that performing *in situ* hybridization on samples adhered to solid substrates such as microscope slides or well plates would create significant scaling challenges, both in terms of reagent costs and sample processing time. We addressed these challenges by developing a suspension-based hybridization workflow for cost-efficient genomic labeling (**Figure 1A**). We began with adherent cells grown on multi-layer flasks, each yielding 90-120 million cells, and subsequently released and fixed (4% PFA) in order to be compatible with DNA ISH. Samples can be processed in parallel, thereby increasing the number of samples that could be handled in parallel by one experimentalist. Critically, this approach reduces reagent costs by ~1,000-fold relative to conventional ISH protocols performed on solid substrates, making the labeling of millions or more cells with oligo-based ISH probe sets, including those targeting non-repetitive DNA, cost-feasible.

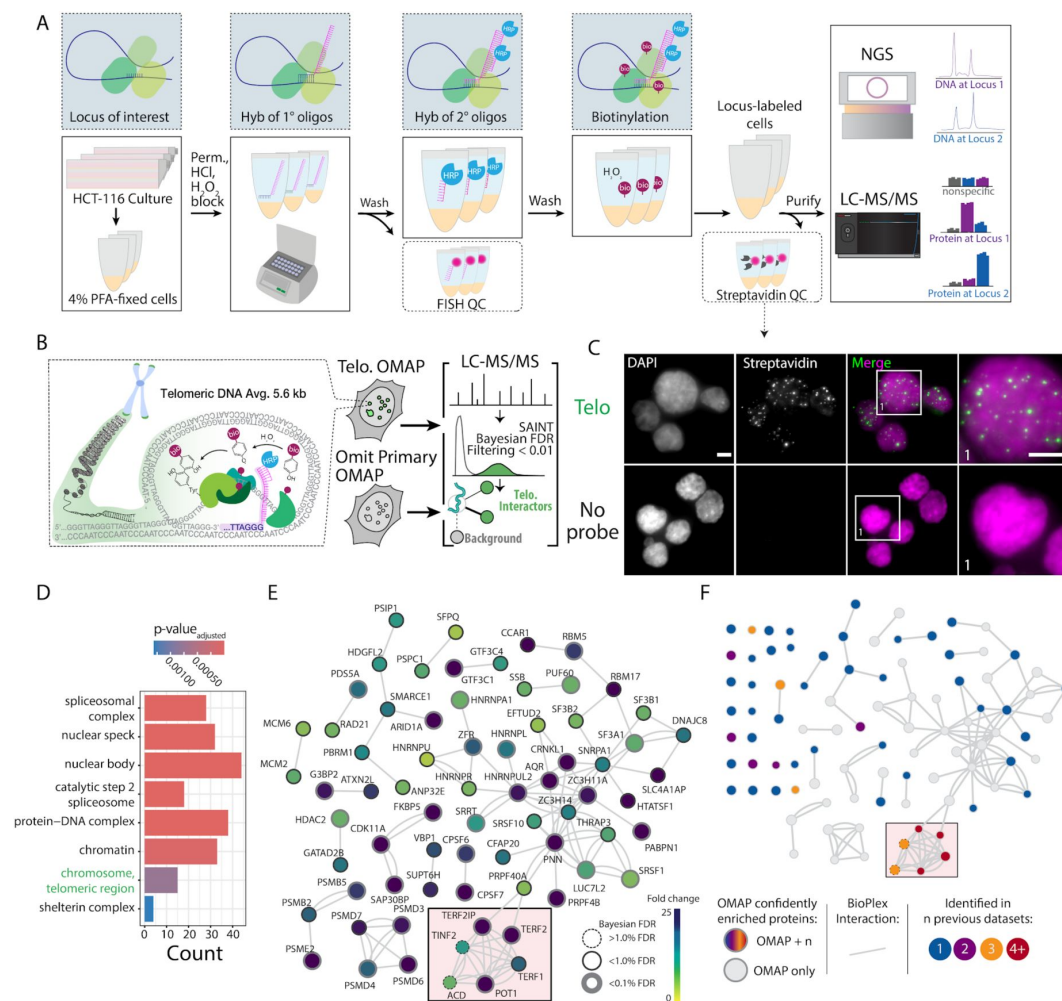


Figure 1.

Overview of DNA O-MAP workflow and label-free quantitative proteomics analysis of telomeres.

A) Schematic of DNA O-MAP. B) Overview of telomere targeted DNA O-MAP experiment. C) Fluorescent microscopy data showing the observed patterns of DNA (DAPI, left) and *in situ* biotinylation detected by staining with fluorescent streptavidin conjugates (middle, left). D) Significant gene sets identified by the Gene Set Enrichment Analysis of the proteins enriched by the telomere probe. E) DNA O-MAP telomeric proteins mapped onto the BioPlex interaction network^{28,29}. The red box highlights shelterin complex proteins. Nodes are colored by the fold-enrichment compared to a no-primary-probe control shown in C, excluding unconnected nodes. F) Telomeric proteins observed in five previous datasets (PICH, C-BERST, CAPLOCUS, CAPTURE, BioID) superimposed onto **Figure 1E**, colored by the number of prior datasets where the protein was present and including unconnected nodes. Scale bars, 5 μ m.

DNA O-MAP reveals the organization of the telomeric proteome

To demonstrate that O-MAP can successfully purify proteins from small genomic viewpoints, we selected human telomeres for initial testing (**Figure 1B**). Mammalian telomeres are several kilobases of tandemly repeated arrays of 5'-TTAGGG-3' hexamers with terminal 3' single-stranded overhangs at the ends of chromosomes³⁰. Telomeric DNA is specifically bound by a proteinaceous cap that protects the natural chromosome ends from being recognized as damaged DNA—the shelterin complex^{31,32}. Shelterin is a six-subunit complex, which is comprised of the telomeric repeat-binding factor 1 (TERF1), telomeric repeat-binding factor 2 (TERF2), protection of telomeres protein 1 (POT1), adrenocortical dysplasia protein homolog (ACD), TERF2-interacting protein 1 (TERF2IP), and TERF1-interacting nuclear factor 2 (TINF2). Due to the unique telomeric sequence and characteristic DNA structure, the shelterin proteins accumulate exclusively at the ends of the chromosomes. Accordingly, this well-defined set of proteins has been widely accepted as goalposts for a successful locus-specific enrichment experiment^{12,13,16}. In the near-diploid HCT-116 cells, telomeres have an average length of 5.6 kb and their cumulative length approximates 0.017% (~500kb) of the human genome³³. Compared to other repetitive elements in the human genome, telomeres are relatively short in HCT-116 cells and thus serve as a rigorous test case for DNA viewpoints of around 500 kb in aggregate across the genome.

We performed a DNA O-MAP experiment in which we either targeted telomeric DNA or omitted the primary hybridization probe (negative control). We purified biotinylated proteins from <60 million cells in three technical replicates followed by imaging of biotinylation and identification of proteins using label-free quantitative proteomics. By streptavidin staining, the punctate fluorescence pattern of biotin-labeled biomolecules closely mimicked telomere FISH, whereas we did not observe patterns of these puncta in the negative control samples (**Figure 1C**). From our label-free proteomics analysis, we identified 163 proteins as significantly enriched at telomeres. As expected, gene set enrichment analysis³⁴ identified significant enrichment of telomeric chromosomal components, chromatin, and protein-DNA complexes (**Figure 1D-E**). Importantly, we identified all six shelterin proteins in the telomere sample and these proteins were completely absent from the control samples. Of the six shelterin proteins, four (TERF1, TERF2, TERF2IP, POT1) passed stringent false-discovery rate control while ACD and TINF2 did not due to low spectral intensity. To benchmark DNA O-MAP, we compared the full set of telomeric proteins to proteins observed in five established telomeric datasets (PICH, C-BERST, CAPLOCUS, CAPTURE, BioID)^{12,14,16,35,36} (**Figure 1F**). We then overlaid each called interactor on direct protein interaction data and found that DNA O-MAP enabled greater coverage of known protein interactors, even those not previously identified as enriched at telomeres by other methods. In addition to shelterins, we identified multiple heterogeneous nuclear ribonucleoproteins (hnRNPs) previously annotated as telomere-associated, including HNRNPA1 and HNRNPU. HNRNPA1 has been demonstrated to displace replication protein A (RPA) and directly interact with single-stranded telomeric DNA to regulate telomerase activity^{37–39}. In addition, HNRNPU belongs to the telomerase-associated proteome⁴⁰ where it binds the telomeric G-quadruplex to prevent RPA from recognizing chromosome ends⁴¹. Taken together, this data supports the effectiveness of DNA O-MAP for sensitively and selectively isolating loci-specific proteomes.

DNA O-MAP enables multiplexed detection of locus proteomes

We next evaluated the utility of DNA O-MAP to quantitatively delineate locus-specific proteomes. We integrated sample multiplexing quantitative^{27,43,44} proteomics downstream of DNA O-MAP to enable spectral quantification of all samples simultaneously (**Figure 2A**). In our experimental design, we selected three well-characterized DNA loci with distinct protein occupants in the human genome: 1) telomeres, 2) peri-centromeric alpha satellite repeats; 3) the mitochondrial genome (**Figure 2B**). Centromeres are epigenetically defined chromosomal loci where kinetochore proteins assemble for spindle microtubule attachment to ensure equal

chromosome segregation during cell division^{45,46}. Human centromeres are located within the AT-rich alpha satellite repeats, which are higher-order repeats composed of 171-base-pair monomeric units^{47,48}. Due to the sequence independence of centromeres, we utilized a previously described probe^{26,49} that targets a subset of alpha satellite repeats to represent centromeres, hereafter denoted as the ‘Pan Alpha Sat.’ probe. The predicted genome-wide binding profile⁵⁰ of the pan-alpha probe closely overlaps with centromeres (**Figure S1**). Mitochondria are intracellular organelles of eukaryotic cells with their own genome (mtDNA). The mtDNA is a circular double-stranded DNA molecule of about 16.6 kb, located in the mitochondrial matrix associated with the inner membrane^{51,52}. To demonstrate the locus-specificity of biotinylation using the new oligo/oligo pools, we performed DNA O-MAP in human HCT-116 cells with a co-hybridization of both fluorescent oligos and HRP oligos in order to observe fluorescent *in situ* hybridization (FISH) and *in situ* biotinylation signals in the same cell. Biotinylation patterns of the pan-alpha, telomere, and mtDNA probes showed strong concordance with FISH (**Figure 2C**). To quantify the local proteomes corresponding to each of these biotinylated patterns, we prepared replicate (n=4) samples for each probe and control. After *in situ* HRP-mediated labeling, we performed thermal reversal of fixation of cells prior to lysis, enrichment of biotinylated proteins⁵³, tryptic digestion, and labeling with isobaric TMTpro barcodes²⁷. We note that artificial lysine alkylation due to cellular fixation with PFA may affect TMTpro labeling of protein, thus we tracked artificial lysine modifications during mass spectrometric analysis to ensure minimal effects of alkylation on protein quantification (1.38% of lysines were alkylated).

In total we quantified 3,055 proteins across all four conditions (**Figure 2D–E**). We observed consistent proteome enrichment by principal component analysis and correlation analyses, with tight clustering of replicates (**Figure 2D–E**, **S2**). Based on Human Protein Atlas annotations⁵⁴, we observed significant enrichment of mitochondrial proteins with the mtDNA-probe proteomes and proteins from nuclear locations such as nuclear speckles, nucleoplasm, and nucleoli enriched by the telomere and pan-alpha probes (**Figure 2F**, **S3**). Notably, the pan-alpha probe enriched proteins from the nucleoli, consistent with the known nucleoli-centromere associations⁵⁵; chromosomal passenger complex member AURKB, consistent with the centromeric localization of AURKB in early mitosis to ensure faithful chromosome segregation^{62,63} and the localization of chromosomal passenger complex members to pericentromeric heterochromatin^{56,57}. We also observed pericentromeric enrichment of spindle and chromosomal segregation associated proteins TPX2⁵⁸ and KIF20A⁵⁹ (**Figure S3**, **S4**).

Next, we explored the enrichment of several multi-unit protein complexes across the examined loci. To dissect the differences between enriched proteomes for each probe, we chose a subset of proteins of interest and measured the fold change of the two nuclear targets compared to mitochondria. RNA Polymerase I,II,III subunits were all higher in the nuclear probes than mitochondria, however in contrast to RNA Polymerase II and III, POLR1 proteins are significantly enriched in pan-alpha compared to telomere (**Figure 2G**). This enrichment is likely due to clustering of centromeres around nucleoli^{60,61}, the location of ribosomal RNA synthesis by RNA Polymerase I. Conversely, mitochondrial RNA Polymerase POLRMT abundance was significantly lower in the nuclear probe proteomes compared to the mitochondrial probe proteome (log2 Pan-Alpha Sat./Mito.= -2.51; log2 Telomere/Mito.= -1.88). Similarly, we observed enrichment of mtDNA-packaging nucleoid components⁴² with the mtDNA probes (TFAM, SSBP1, POLG, POLRMT, Lon, ATAD3A/B, and PHB/PHB2; **Figure 2G–H**). As above, we observed consistent enrichment of shelterin components at telomeres (**Figure 2I**). We also observed CENP-A nucleosomal complexes enriched in the pan-alpha proteomes (**Figure 2J**). Histones were enriched with our nuclear probes and a subset (H2A1C, H2AX, and H4C1) were significantly enriched by the pan-alpha probe compared to the telomere probe (**Figure S4**). We also observed enrichment of catenins CTNNB1 and CTNND1 at telomeres (**Figure S3**). The transcription factor CTNNB1 has been observed at the transcriptional start site of *hTERT* where it regulates *hTERT* expression⁶⁴. The *hTERT* gene is located in the subtelomeric region of chromosome 5 (chr5:1,253,167-1,295,068) and expressed in HCT-116 cells⁶⁵. Collectively, these results

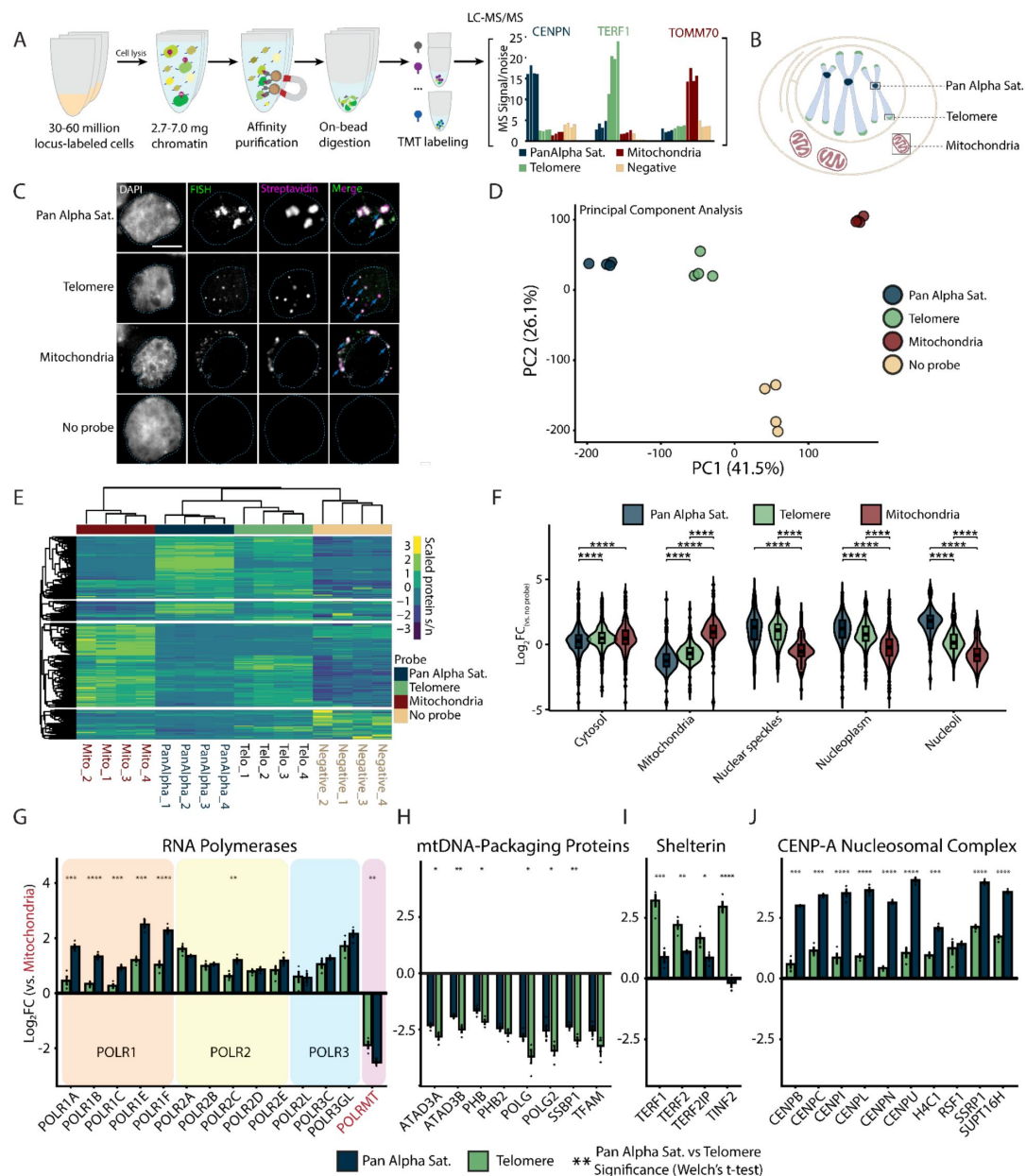


Figure 2.

DNA O-MAP reveals distinct features of the sub-proteomes at peri-centromeric alpha satellites, telomeres, and the mitochondrial genome.

A) Workflow of DNA O-MAP integrated with sample multiplexing quantitative proteomics B) Schematic of the three DNA loci examined in the TMT16plex experiment: peri-centromeric alpha satellites, telomeres, and mitochondrial genomes. C) Co-localization of DNA FISH and the streptavidin staining of the proteins biotinylated by DNA O-MAP targeting the peri-centromeric alpha satellites, telomeres, and mitochondrial genomes. Scale bar: 5 μ m. D) Principal component analysis of scaled intensities of proteins enriched by the pan-alpha probe, telomere probe, mitochondrial genome oligo pool, and no-primary-probe control. E) Unsupervised hierarchical clustering of scaled intensities of proteins enriched by the pan-alpha probe, telomere probe, mitochondrial genome oligo pool, and no-primary-probe control. F) Log₂ fold change of proteins compared to no-primary-probe control, grouped by HPA subcellular location. Significance calculated based on Welch's t-test for pairwise comparisons (****: p-value < 0.0001). G-J) Log₂ fold change of proteins compared to mitochondrial probe enriched proteins for the RNA Polymerases (G), mtDNA nucleoid packaging proteins⁴² (H), Shelterin (I), and CENP-A nucleosomal complexes (J). Significance calculated based on Welch's t-test for pairwise comparisons (p-value: * < 0.05, ** < 0.01, *** < 0.001, **** < 0.0001).

demonstrate the sensitivity and subcompartment specificity of DNA O-MAP and highlight how coupling quantitative proteomics with DNA O-MAP can distinguish differential compartment components even for ubiquitous chromatin constituents like histones.

DNA O-MAP can uncover DNA-DNA interactions from non-repetitive DNA loci

Beyond repetitive regions in the human genome, we explored whether DNA O-MAP can recover material from small, single-copy DNA intervals. To this end, we designed an experiment in which we performed *in situ* biotinylation followed by chromatin extraction, affinity purification, and sequencing (**Figure 3A**). The human genome is folded into thousands of chromatin loops where two loci on the same chromosome are tethered to each other (**Figure 3B**). The anchors of the loops are bound by the insulator protein CTCF. The ring-shaped cohesin protein complex is thought to often stall at CTCF-bound sites while dynamically moving along the genome, creating contact domains of preferential DNA-DNA interaction⁶⁶. In HCT-116 cells, these contacts between chromatin loop anchors have been captured genome-wide with *in situ* Hi-C⁶⁷. Normally present in two copies per genome, these 20–25 kb loop anchor intervals are considerably less abundant than telomeres.

We first evaluated whether DNA O-MAP can specifically biotinylate loop anchors with microscopy by a co-hybridization of both fluorescent oligos and HRP oligos at four anchors: chr3 left (chr3:187,729,712-187,749,712), chr3 right (chr3:188,939,711-188,964,711), chr19 left-2 (chr19:33,425,000-33,450,000), and chr19 right (chr19:33,750,000-33,775,000). DNA O-MAP specifically biotinylated the biomolecules proximal to these small DNA intervals, as observed in the co-localizing patterns of FISH and streptavidin staining in the same cells (**Figure 3C**). We next evaluated whether DNA O-MAP could recover the DNA interactions originally discovered by Hi-C. We targeted a pair of intervals with high contact frequency—chr3 left and chr3 right anchors, one non-looping interval (chr10:123,187,984-123,207,984), and no-primary-probe control. We performed DNA O-MAP to biotinylate these DNA intervals, subjected the labeled cells to chromatin solubilization and desthiobiotin purification, and sequenced the eluate DNA. As expected, all three probed DNA intervals were highly enriched compared with other genomic regions, indicating efficient purification of the loci (**Figures 3D**, **S5A**). Furthermore, chr3 left and chr3 right anchors reciprocally recovered each other, indicating that DNA O-MAP was able to recover known DNA interactions mediated by proteins. In contrast, the non-looping chr10 anchor did not enrich any other peak except itself (**Figure S5B**). Lastly, in the cells that received no primary oligos, no pronounced enrichment was observed genome wide (**Figure S5B**).

To examine the multiplexability and reproducibility of DNA O-MAP, we simultaneously targeted three chromatin loop anchors: chr3 left, chr10 right (chr10:123,957,984-123,977,984), and chr19 right anchors in duplicates and subjected the cell pellets to purification and DNA sequencing. All three targeted anchors, chr3 left, chr10 right, and chr19 right anchors were successfully enriched (**Figures 3E–F**, **S6A**), whereas no pronounced enrichment was observed in the no-primary-probe controls genome-wide (**Figure S6B**). Furthermore, chr10 left (contacting chr10 right), chr19 left-1, and chr19 left-2 (both contacting chr19 right) were also efficiently recovered, accurately matching the Hi-C contact maps and the signals from two replicates was consistent (**Figure 3E–F**). These imaging and genomics data demonstrate that DNA O-MAP is capable of labeling small, single-copy DNA intervals with high specificity.

Discussion

By combining the versatility of hybridization-based genome targeting with robustness of proximity biotinylation, DNA O-MAP offers a scalable approach to study DNA-associated proteomes through a locus specific lens. The liquid-phase hybridization-biotinylation workflow

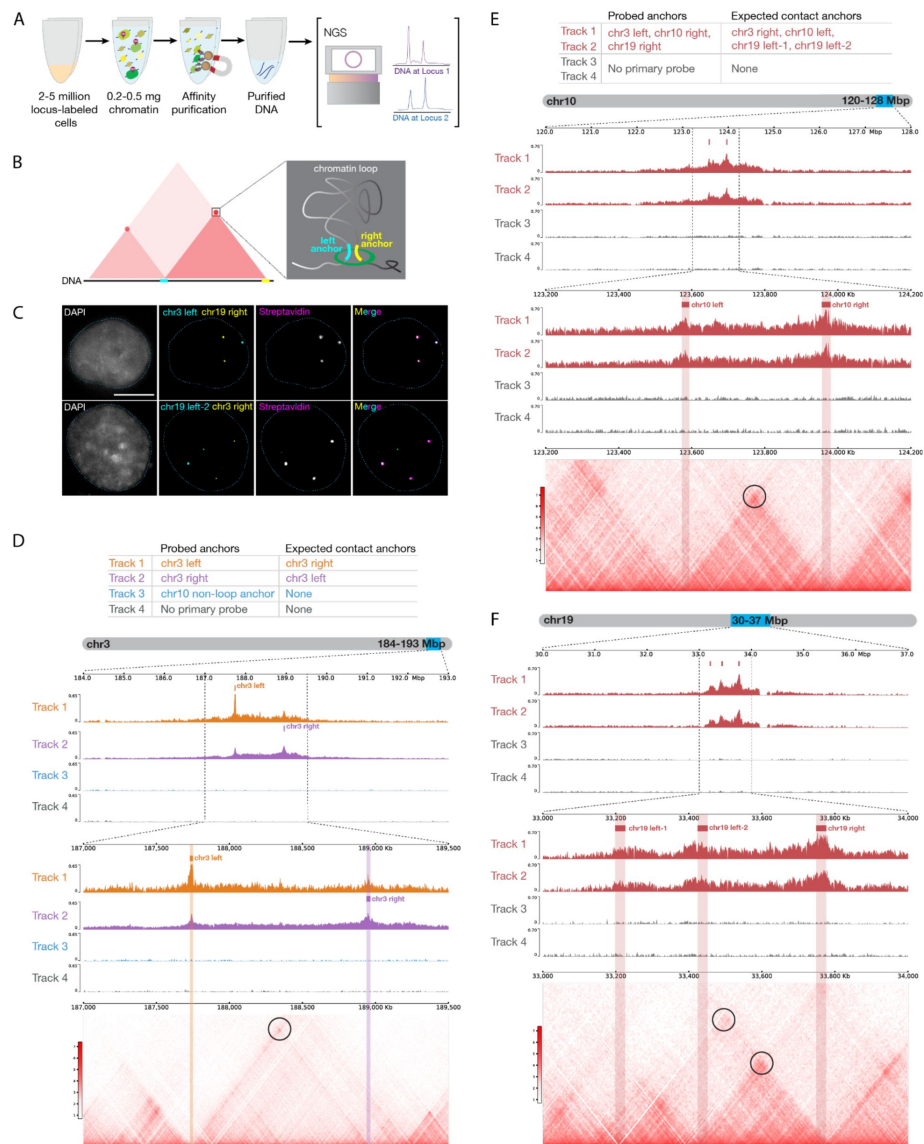


Figure 3.

DNA O-MAP efficiently labels single-copy chromatin loop anchors.

A) Workflow of DNA O-MAP integrated with biotin purification sequencing B) Schematic of a pair of chromatin loop anchors on a hypothetical Hi-C map and 3-dimensional space C) DNA FISH and the streptavidin staining of the proteins biotinylated by DNA O-MAP targeting anchors of chromatin loops on chromosome 3 and chromosome 19 D) Table listing the three anchors (Track 1-3) and no-primary-probe control (Track 4) biotinylated by DNA O-MAP and their expected anchors in contact in each track (top). Desthiobiotin purification sequencing signals across the 9-Mb region on chromosome 3 corresponding to the chr3 chromatin loop (middle). Desthiobiotin purification sequencing signals and pairwise contact map at 5-kb resolution across the 2.5-Mb region on chromosome 3 corresponding to the chr3 chromatin loop. Black circle on the contact map indicates the presence of a loop. (bottom). E) Table listing the three chromatin loop anchors (Track 1-2) and no-primary-probe controls (Track 3-4) biotinylated by DNA O-MAP in duplicates and their expected anchors in contact in each track (top). Desthiobiotin purification sequencing signals across the 8-Mb region on chromosome 10 corresponding to the chr10 chromatin loop targeted (middle). Desthiobiotin purification sequencing signals and pairwise contact map at 5-kb resolution across the 1-Mb region on chromosome 10 corresponding to the chr10 chromatin loop. Black circle on the contact map indicates the presence of a loop. (bottom). F) Desthiobiotin purification sequencing signals across the 7-Mb region on chromosome 19 corresponding to the chr19 chromatin loops targeted (top). Desthiobiotin purification sequencing signals and pairwise contact map at 5-kb resolution across the 1-Mb region on chromosome 19 corresponding to the chr19 chromatin loops. Black circles on the contact map indicate the presence of loops (bottom).

allows for efficient processing of samples and is compatible with both proteomic and genomic readouts. Integration with multiplexed quantitative proteomics enables simultaneous analysis of multiple loci or conditions, increasing data completeness and throughput. Label-free analysis of the telomeres shows strong concordance of labeling with in-situ hybridization and recapitulates previous similar proteomic datasets. Our tri-locus experiment was able to differentiate proteins with a quantitative profile suggesting general nuclear location from those specifically associated with telomeres and peri-centromeres. DNA O-MAP's ability to target single-copy loci, as evidenced by the chromatin loop anchor experiments, opens up possibilities for studying protein-mediated DNA interactions at a finer resolution than previously possible.

O-MAP has now been shown to be a highly flexible technology for the exploration of biomolecular interactions with RNAs²⁵ and DNA loci. Using oligos to target the DNA locus, DNA O-MAP can be theoretically adapted for use in any sample types amenable to *in situ* hybridization, including cultured cells, tissue sections, and primary tissue samples^{26,50,68}. As the purification tag is decoupled from the probe oligos, labeled chromatin fragments can undergo stringent washes to achieve efficient purification with minimal background. Moreover, without the need to genetically modify the biological system at hand, the probes in this dataset alone could be used to explore telomeric remodeling in cancer cells³⁶, spindle-associated proteome dynamics at the pericentromere⁶⁹, and molecular drivers of hetero- or euchromatin formation⁷⁰ at nearly any locus in the human genome (O-MAP probes can feasibly cover >99% of the human genome)^{50,68}.

While this work has laid the foundation for generalized and extensible locus proteomics, further work will be required to achieve the sensitivity required for small, single copy locus proteomics. By taking a comparative quantitative approach, we remove the need to pre-define the local context of probe localization, but experimental design is critical and novel interactors likely need further validation to confirm their co-localization at a given locus (e.g., with imaging/FISH). With developments in automation and instrument sensitivity, DNA O-MAP has the potential to expand to locus specific post-translational modifications and be used for large-scale chromatin perturbation screens. We anticipate that DNA-OMAP will have broad utility for research questions seeking to understand the intricate relationships between DNA sequence, chromatin structure, and cellular function.

Methods

Cell culture and fixation

Colorectal cancer HCT-116 cells were grown in ATCC-formulated McCoy's 5A Medium Modified (ATCC 30-2007) supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum and 100 U/ml Penicillin-Streptomycin at 37°C in a humidified atmosphere of 5% CO₂. For each purification, 20 million HCT-116 cells were seeded into one T-500 flask (Thermo Scientific 132867) to culture for 36-48 hours to reach 90–120 million cells. Before collection, cells were briefly rinsed once with Dulbecco's phosphate buffered saline (DPBS) and then incubated with 25 ml of TrypLE Express Enzyme (Gibco 12604-021) at 37°C for two minutes or until loosely attached. The cell suspension was collected into two 50 ml conical tubes and the T-500 flask was rinsed with DPBS. The wash was combined with the cell suspension and centrifuged at 300 G for 5 minutes. After a DPBS wash to remove remaining TrypLE, cells were fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde (wt/vol) (Electron Microscopy Sciences 15710) in PBS in suspension at room temperature for 10 minutes with rotation, followed by 125 mM Glycine quenching for 5 minutes at room temperature with rotation and 15 minutes on ice. Fixed cells were collected by centrifugation at 350G for 5 minutes, and stored in fresh DPBS at 4°C until liquid-phase hybridization. Fixed cells were used within 3-5 days.

Primary oligo probes

Primary oligos targeting the human alpha satellite repeat and telomere were purchased as individually column-synthesized DNA oligos from Integrated DNA Technologies. Probe sets targeting mtDNA (chrM:1-16,569), chr3 left anchor (chr3:187,729,712-187,749,712), chr3 right anchor (chr3:188,939,711-188,964,711), chr10 non-looping anchor (chr10:123,187,984-123,207,984), chr10 right anchor (chr10:123,957,984-123,977,984), and chr19 right anchor (chr19:33,750,000-33,775,000) were designed using PaintSHOP⁶⁸ and ordered in oPool format from Integrated DNA Technologies. More than 300 primary oligos were designed to cover each single-copy DNA interval to ensure a sufficient number of probes at the locus for FISH. The sequences of the oligo and oligo pools used are listed in Supplementary Dataset 1.

Primer exchange reaction (PER)

To extend primary oligos with PER concatemers, reactions were set up as previously described⁷¹ in 100 μ l-volume containing 10 mM MgSO₄, 300 μ M dATP/dCTP/dTTP mix, 100 nM Clean.G hairpin, 80 U/ml Bst DNA Polymerase, Large Fragment (NEB M0275L), 1 μ M hairpin, and 1 μ M primary oligos in PBS. To verify the length of primary oligos, the reactions were assessed with denaturing polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis. Primary oligos extended to 300-500 nucleotides were used in hybridizations downstream. Unpurified reactions were dehydrated using vacuum concentrators and stored dry at -20°C until hybridization.

In-solution hybridization and biotinylation of cell pellets

Oligo hybridizations were performed on cells in solution for the cost-effectiveness of primary and secondary oligos. Fixed cells were split into 6×10^7 cell aliquots in 1.5 ml microcentrifuge tubes. All washes and buffer exchanges were performed as follows: centrifuging at 350G for 3.5 minutes or until pelleted, pouring away used buffers from the pellets, adding new buffers, and gentle shaking or low speed vortexing to dislodge cell pellets into tiny clusters or cell suspensions for incubations or washes. Cells in fresh wash buffer were rotated on a low speed nutator for 5 minutes.

Cells were rinsed once with fresh phosphate buffer saline (PBS), and permeabilized in PBS-0.5% TritonX-100 (Sigma T8787) for 10 minutes with nutation. After a PBS-0.1% Tween20 (PBS-T) (Sigma T2287) wash, permeabilized cells were incubated in 0.1 N hydrochloric acid (HCl) for 5 minutes. After a PBS-T wash to remove acid, cells were incubated in PBS-T-0.5% hydrogen peroxide to block endogenous peroxidases. After a 2X saline sodium citrate-0.1% Tween20 (2X SSC-T) wash to remove acid, cells were incubated in 2X SSC-T-50% formamide for 20 minutes at 60°C on a Thermomixer C dry block (Eppendorf 2231001005). Cells were exchanged into primary hybridization buffer (Hyb1) comprising 2X SSC-T, 50% (vol/vol) formamide, 10% (wt/vol) dextran sulfate, 0.4 $\mu\text{g}/\mu\text{l}$ RNase A, and $\sim 1 \mu\text{M}$ extended primary oligos (resuspended dry, unpurified PER reactions). The cell-Hyb1 mixture was distributed into PCR strip tubes at 1×10^7 - 1.5×10^7 cells in 100 μL volumes. The cells were denatured and primary oligos were hybridized to the genome in the PCR strip tubes in a thermocycler using the cycling protocol: 78°C 3 minutes, 37°C ∞ incubating overnight for more than 18 hours.

The next day, cells were rinsed with 60°C 2X SSC-T into 1.5 ml microcentrifuge tubes, followed by two 2X SSC-T buffer exchanges to remove residual Hyb1. Cell pellets were then washed in 1 ml 2X SSC-T at 60°C , followed by two two-minute washes in 2X SSC-T at room temperature. Fully washed cell pellets were exchanged into 1 ml PBS, and then exchanged into 100 nM secondary HRP oligo that map to the PER concatemer sequence on the primary oligo (custom synthesis by Integrated DNA Technologies or Bio-Synthesis Inc) in PBS. Secondary hybridization was performed at 37°C with nutation for one hour. Cell pellets underwent three 5-minute washes in 1 ml PBS-T at 37°C with nutation. Fully washed cells were incubated in 5 μM desthiobiotin tyramide (Iris Biotech LS-1660) and 1 mM hydrogen peroxide in PBS-T for 5 minutes at room temperature with nutation. To

quench the HRP activity, biotinylated cells were washed twice in 10 mM sodium ascorbate and 10 mM sodium azide in PBS-T for 5 minutes at room temperature with nutation. Quenched cells were washed with PBS to remove residual sodium azide. After sampling cells for quality control, the cell pellets were stored dry in -80°C until chromatin solubilization and affinity purification.

Microscopy-based quality control assays for hybridization and biotinylation

We routinely sample cells along the workflow of preparing AP-MS or NGS samples to monitor the locus specificity of primary oligo hybridization. To assess the quality of primary oligo hybridization, we sampled roughly 5% of fully washed cells from primary hybridization to a new 1.5 ml tube. Cells were incubated with 400 nM fluorescent oligos in PBS at 37°C for an hour with nutation. Hybridized cells underwent three washes in 1 ml PBS-T at 37°C with nutation to remove unbound fluorescent oligos. Washed cells were immobilized on glass slides with Slowfade Gold Antifade Mountant with DAPI (Thermo Fisher S36938) and coverslips for confocal imaging of FISH signal.

We assessed the quality of biotinylation specificity for all samples entering the proteomics or genomics workflow. Roughly 5% of fully quenched cells were sampled into a new 1.5 ml tube and incubated with 0.5-1 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ Alexa Fluor 647-streptavidin (Thermo Fisher S32357) in PBS-T, 1% bovine serum albumin at 37°C for 30 minutes with nutation. Stained cells underwent four washes in 1 ml PBS-T at 37°C with nutation to remove unbound Alexa Fluor 647-streptavidin conjugate. Washed cells were immobilized on glass slides with Slowfade Gold Antifade Mountant with DAPI and coverslips for confocal imaging of Alexa-Fluor 647-streptavidin signals.

Confocal microscopy

Confocal imaging was performed using a Yokogawa CSU-W1 SoRa spinning disc confocal device attached to a Nikon ECLIPSE Ti2 microscope. Excitation light was emitted at 30% of maximal intensity from 405 nm, 488 nm, 561 nm, or 640 nm lasers housed inside of a Nikon LU-NF laser unit. Laser excitation was delivered via a single-mode optical fiber into the CSU-W1 SoRa unit. Excitation light was directed through a microlens array disk and a SoRa spinning disk containing 50 μm pinholes to the rear aperture of a 100x N.A. 1.49 Apo TIRF oil immersion objective lens by a prism in the base of Ti2. Emission light was collected by the same objective and directed by a prism in the base of Ti2 back into the SoRa unit, where it was relayed by a 1x lens (conventional imaging) or 2.8x lens (super-resolution imaging) through the pinhole disk and then directed to the emission path by a quad-band dichroic mirror (Semrock Di01-T405/488/568/647-13X15X0.5). Emission light was then spectrally filtered by one of four single-bandpass filters (DAPI:Chroma ET455/50M; ATTO488: Chroma ET525/36M; ATTO565:Chroma ET605/50M; Alexa Fluor 647: Chroma ET705/72M) and focused by a 1x relay lens onto an Andor Sona 4.2B-11 camera with a physical pixel size of 11 μm , resulting in an effective resolution of 110 nm (conventional), or 39.3 nm (super-resolution). The Sona was operated in 16-bit mode with rolling shutter readout and exposure times of 70-300 ms.

FISH-biotinylation co-localization experiment

Fixed cells were split into 5e6 cell aliquots in 1.5 ml microcentrifuge tubes. Primary hybridization and washes were performed similarly to described in the in-solution hybridization and biotinylation of cell pellets with fewer cells. Fully washed cell pellets were exchanged into a secondary co-hybridization buffer containing 30 nM of fluorescent oligos and 100 nM of HRP-oligos in PBS, instead of solely HRP-oligos, for simultaneous hybridization of both species. After washes and biotinylation, the pellets were stained with 0.5-1 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ Alexa-Fluor 647-streptavidin. Cells were immobilized on glass slides with Slowfade Gold Antifade Mountant with DAPI and coverslips for confocal imaging of both FISH and Alexa-Fluor 647-streptavidin signals.

Affinity Purification and sample preparation for proteomics

Biotinylated cell pellets were removed from -80°C to thaw at room temperature. Each cell pellet was resuspended in roughly 0.9 ml of lysis buffer consisting of 1% SDS and 200 mM EPPS with protease inhibitors (Roche 11836170001). The cell mixture was boiled at 95°C for 30 minutes. The boiled cell mixture was sonicated at 4°C using a Covaris LE-220 focused ultrasonicator with the following protocol: 300W peak incident power, 50% duty factor, 200 cycles per burst, with a treatment time of 420 seconds in 1-ml milliTUBEs with AFA fiber (Covaris 520135). The sonicated cell mixture was boiled for a second time at 95°C for 30 minutes. The boiled lysates were cleared by centrifuging at 21130 G for 30 minutes in an Eppendorf 5424 Microcentrifuge at room temperature. The supernatants were transferred to a fresh 1.5-ml tube. To prevent any remnants of cell debris, the supernatants were cleared for a second time by centrifuging at 21130 G for 30 minutes and the supernatants were transferred to a fresh 1.5-ml tube. The supernatants were stored in -80°C until protein quantification.

The cleared cell lysates were quantified using the Pierce BCA Protein Assay Kit (Thermo Fisher 23225). Pierce Streptavidin Magnetic Beads (Thermo Fisher 88817) were washed using 1% SDS, 200 mM EPPS lysis buffer three times before use. From each labeled cell pellet, 2.17 milligrams of protein was used to couple with 500 μg of streptavidin beads in a Protein Lo-Bind tube (Eppendorf EP022431081). The lysates were incubated with the bead slurry for one hour at room temperature with nutation allowing biotinylated proteins to bind. The coupled beads were collected and separated from the flow-through using a magnetic rack (Sergi Lab Supplies 1005a). After the flow-through was removed, the beads underwent the following washes: 2% SDS with 20 mM EPPS twice, 0.1 M Na_2CO_3 , 2 M urea, and 1 M KCl with 20 mM EPPS twice. All washes were performed as follows: after immobilizing the beads on a magnetic rack for 5 minutes, the supernatant was removed, and the beads were resuspended in the new wash buffer and incubated for 5 minutes with nutation. Finally, the beads were rinsed once with 20 mM EPPS to remove the excess salt.

The washed streptavidin beads were resuspended in 50 μl of 5 mM TCEP, 200 mM EPPS, pH 8.5 for a 20-minute on-bead protein reduction. The proteins were alkylated on-bead using 10 mM iodoacetamide for one hour in the dark. Then DTT was added to the final concentration of 5 mM to quench the alkylation for 15 minutes. The beads were rinsed twice with 200 mM EPPS for on-bead digest. Assuming 20 μg of eluate protein, 200 ng LysC (Wako) was added to the beads in a 50- μl volume and incubated for 16 hours with vortexing. The next day, 200 ng of trypsin (Promega V5113) was added to the beads and incubated for six hours at 37°C at 200 rpm. After digestion, the peptide-containing supernatant was collected in a fresh 0.5-ml Protein Lo-Bind tube. The beads were rinsed once with 100 μl 50% acetonitrile, 5% formic acid and the wash was combined with the peptides. Peptides were desalted via the stop and go extraction (StageTip)⁷² method and dried in a vacuum concentrator.

For label free telomere-enriched samples, one sample consisted of HCT-116-Rad21-mAID cells⁷³. For samples intended to be multiplexed, dried, desalted peptides were reconstituted in 4 μl of 200 mM EPPS, pH 8.5. The peptides were labeled using 25 μg of TMTpro 16plex Label Reagents (Thermo Fisher A44520) at 33.3% acetonitrile for one hour at room temperature. The labeling reaction was quenched with the addition of 1 μl of 5% hydroxylamine and incubated at room temperature for 15 minutes. The pooled sample was acidified using formic acid and peptides were desalted using a StageTip cartridge. Peptides were eluted in 70% acetonitrile, 1% formic acid and dried by vacuum centrifugation.

Mass Spectrometry Data Acquisition Methods and Analysis

Samples were resuspended in 5% acetonitrile/2% formic acid prior to being loaded onto an in-house pulled C18 (Thermo Accucore, 2.6 \AA , 150 μm) 30 cm column. Peptides were eluted over 180 min gradients running from 96% Buffer A (5% acetonitrile, 0.125% formic acid) and 4% buffer B

(95% acetonitrile, 0.125% formic acid) to 30% buffer B. Sample eluate was electrosprayed (2700 V) into a Thermo Scientific Orbitrap Eclipse mass spectrometer for analysis. High field asymmetric waveform ion mobility spectrometry (FAIMS) was set at “standard” resolution, 4.6 L/min gas flow, and 3 CVs: -40/-60/-80 were used. MS1 scans were conducted at 120,000 resolving power with a 50 ms max injection time, and the AGC target set to 100%. Peaks from the MS1 scans were filtered by intensity (minimum intensity $>5 \times 10^3$), charge state ($2 \leq z \leq 6$), and detection of a monoisotopic mass (monoisotopic precursor selection, MIPS). Dynamic exclusion was used, with a duration of 90 s, repeat count of 1, mass tolerance of 10 ppm, and the “exclude isotopes” option checked. For each MS1, 8 data-dependent MS/MS scans were collected. MS/MS scans were conducted in the linear ion trap with the “rapid” scan rate, 50 ms max injection time, AGC target set to 200%, CID collision energy of 35% with 10 ms activation time, and 0.5 m/z isolation window. For TMTPro labelled samples, an MS3 scan was also included in the method. Unless otherwise noted in the methods, the real-time search filter was enabled⁴³. Using a human fasta downloaded from Uniprot, fixed modifications for the TMTpro mass (+304.207146) were added to n-terminal residues and lysines. Carbamidomethyl (+57.021464) was added for cysteines. Oxidation (+15.9949) was added as a variable modification on methionines. Missed cleavages were set to maximum of 1. “TMT mode” was enabled and thresholds of 1 and 0.05 for Xcorr and dCn respectively were used as minimums to trigger SPS-MS3 scans. SPS ions were set to 10 and MS3 scans were performed at a resolving power of 50,000, with an HCD collision energy of 45%, AGC of 200%, with a maximum injection time of 200 ms.

Label-free mass spectrometry data was analyzed with MSFragger⁷⁴ search algorithm searched against a full human protein database with forward and reverse protein sequences. Fixed modifications included Carbamidomethyl (+57.021464) on cysteines. Variable modifications included were Oxidation (+15.9949) on methionine and formylation (+27.994915) on lysines. Peptides up to 2 missed cleavages were included. Peptide spectral matches and proteins were filtered to a 1% false discovery rate using Percolator⁷⁵.

Multiplexed raw mass spectrometry data was analyzed using the Comet⁷⁶ search algorithm, searched against a full human protein database with forward and reverse protein sequences (Uniprot 10/2020). Precursor monoisotopic peaks were estimated using the Monocle package. Fixed modifications included TMTpro (+304.207146) on n-terminal residues and lysines and Carbamidomethyl (+57.021464) on cysteines. Variable modifications included were Oxidation (+15.9949) on methionine and formylation (+27.994915) on lysines. Peptides up to 2 missed cleavages were included. Peptide spectral matches and proteins were filtered to a 1% false discovery rate using the rules of parsimony and protein picking. Protein quantification was done using signal-to-noise estimates of reporter ions. Samples were column normalized for total protein concentration. After filtering for contaminants, we performed a two-sided t-test comparing each O-MAP condition using Benjamini-Hochberg adjusted p values (i.e. q-values). Log2 fold changes of the mean of the biological replicates were also calculated for each biological condition. Human Protein Atlas⁵⁴ subcellular locations were downloaded and the “main location” was assigned to each protein with a supported or enhanced reliability level. SAINT scores and interaction false discovery rates were calculated with the SAINTexpress software^{77,78}. Significant hits were those with a SAINT calculated FDR less than 1%⁷⁹. BioPlex interaction networks were accessed through the online BioPlex Explorer⁸⁰ (<https://bioplex.hms.harvard.edu/>). Networks were imaged using Cytoscape 3.10.02⁸¹. Protein complex members were accessed through CORUM⁸². Gene set enrichment analysis was performed with clusterProfiler⁸³ and fgsea⁸⁴ packages.

Preparation of soluble chromatin for affinity purification followed by next generation sequencing

For confirmation of single-copy O-MAP labeling, loop anchor-biotinylated pellets of 10-20 million cells were removed from -80°C to thaw at room temperature. Each cell pellet was resuspended in an SDS lysis buffer consisting of 1% SDS and 200 mM EPPS with protease inhibitors. The cell mixture was sonicated at 4°C using a Covaris LE-220 focused ultrasonicator with the following protocol: 300W peak incident power, 15% duty factor, 200 cycles per burst, with a treatment time of 20-30 minutes in 130- μl microTUBEs with AFA fiber (Covaris 520077). After the samples had returned to room temperature, the sheared fixed chromatin was transferred to fresh 1.5-ml Protein Lo-Bind tubes and centrifuged at 21130 G for 10 minutes to pellet cellular debris. The supernatants were transferred to a new set of tubes. The cleared chromatin samples were quantified using the Pierce BCA Protein Assay Kit (Thermo Fisher 23225). Next, 50 μl of sheared chromatin was sampled for reverse crosslinking, DNA extraction, and gel electrophoresis to verify that a significant amount of DNA had been sheared to <700 base pairs. A sample of 10 μg sheared chromatin was reserved and stored at -20°C as immunoprecipitation input. 200 μg of chromatin was used to couple with 200 μg of streptavidin beads for one hour in a Protein Lo-Bind tube at room temperature with nutation. The coupled beads were collected and separated from the flow-through using a magnetic rack. After the flow-through was removed, the beads underwent the following washes:

- 2% SDS with 20 mM EPPS
- 2% SDS with 20 mM EPPS
- High Salt Buffer containing 500 mM NaCl, 1 mM EDTA, 50 mM of HEPES pH7.5, 0.1% sodium deoxycholate, and 1% TritonX-100
- LiCl Buffer containing 250 mM LiCl, 1 mM EDTA, 10 mM Tris-HCl pH 8.0, and 0.5% of IGEPAL CA-630
- TE Buffer with 10 mM Tris and 1 mM EDTA
- TE Buffer with 10 mM Tris and 1 mM EDTA

The washes were performed as follows: briefly spin and immobilize the beads on a magnetic rack, pipette out the supernatant as much as possible, resuspend the beads in 0.8 ml of wash buffer, and incubate for 5 minutes with nutation. The washed beads were resuspended in 300 μl of reverse crosslinking buffer containing 300 mM NaCl, 300 mM Tris-HCl pH 8.0, and 1 mM EDTA. Both the eluate beads and the input chromatin were incubated at 65°C for 16 hours for reverse crosslinking. The next day, 4 μl of 20 mg/ml proteinase K (Roche 3115836001) was added to the eluates and inputs and incubated at 50°C for 2 hours to cleave away proteins. The DNA was isolated from the mixture using phenol chloroform extraction followed by ethanol precipitation. Before sequencing library generation, the precipitated DNA was further purified using SPRI beads. The purified DNA was used to generate next-generation sequencing libraries using the NEBNext Ultra II DNA Library Prep Kit for Illumina (NEB E7645S) and NEBNext Multiplex Oligos for Illumina Index Primers Set 1 and 3 (NEB E7335S, E7710S) and PCR-amplified for 15 cycles. The sequencing libraries were quantified using the Qubit 4 fluorometer and library sizes were quantified using the D1000 ScreenTape assay (Agilent 5067-5582) on the TapeStation 4200 automated electrophoresis platform.

DNA sequencing and data analysis

The libraries were mixed and sequenced pair-ended at 50-bp read length on an Illumina NextSeq 2000 sequencer to depths of 14.1-351.8 million reads per eluate sample and 3.14-16.45 millions reads per input sample using the NextSeq 1000/2000 P2 Reagents (100 Cycles) kit (Illumina 20046811). Reads were demultiplexed and adapters were removed using Cutadapt⁸⁵. Trimmed reads were mapped to the reference genome (GRCh38) using Bowtie2 version 2.5.3 with the

parameter `-X 1000` keeping reads with a `MAPQ >= 30`⁸⁶[86](#). Duplicate reads were removed using Picard 3.1.1⁸⁷[87](#). Eluate reads were normalized to input reads using DeepTools⁸⁸[88](#) bamCompare with the following parameters: `-binSize 20 -normalizeUsing BPM -smoothLength 60 -extendReads 150`. Normalized data were visualized using Coolbox 0.3.9⁸⁹[89](#).

Data Availability

The mass spectrometry proteomics data have been deposited to the ProteomeXchange⁹⁰[90](#) Consortium via the MassIVE with the data set identifier PXD054080. Sequencing data will be deposited to Gene Expression Omnibus before formal acceptance for publication. All primary data associated with the manuscript will be made available upon request.

Author Contributions

Y.L., C.D.M., B.J.B., and D.K.S. conceived and designed the project. Y.L., C.D.M., M.K., T.A.P., R.F., C.H., S.A., A.F.T., and E.K. performed experiments. Y.L., C.D.M., and C.K.C. performed computational analyses. Y.L., C.D.M., B.J.B., and D.K.S. wrote the manuscript. All authors edited and reviewed the manuscript. D.M.S., B.J.B., and D.K.S. supervised the work.

Competing Interest Statement

D.K.S. is a collaborator with Thermo Fisher Scientific, Genentech, Calico Labs, and AI Proteins. C.K.C., A.F.T., E.K., D.M.S., and B.J.B. have filed a patent application covering aspects of this work. B.J.B. is listed as an inventor on patent applications related to the SABER technology related to this work.

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Editors

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- (1) The mapping of 3D contacts for 20 kb regions using proximity labeling is beautiful.
- (2) The use of in situ hybridization will probably improve background and specificity.
- (3) The use of fixed cells should prove enabling and is a strong alternative to similar, living cell methods.

Weaknesses:

- (1) A major drawback to the experimental approach of this study is the "multiplexed comparisons". Using the mtDNA as a comparator is not a great comparison - there is no reason to think the telomeres/centrosomes would look like mtDNA as a whole. The mito proteome is much less complex. It is going to provide a large number of false positives. The

centromere/telomere comparison is ok, if one is interested in what's different between those two repetitive elements. But the more realistic use case of this method would be "what is at a specific genomic element"? A purely nuclear-localized control would be needed for that. Or a genomic element that has nothing interesting at it (I do not know of one). You can see this in the label-free work: non-specific, nuclear GO terms are enriched likely due to the random plus non-random labeling in the nucleus. What would a Telo vs general nucleus GSEA look like? (GSEA should be used for quantitative data, no GO). That would provide some specificity. Figures 2G and S4A are encouraging, but a) these proteins are largely sequestered in their respective locations, and b) no validation by an orthogonal method like ChIP or Cut and Run/Tag is used.

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I would like to see a Telo vs nuclear control and a Centromere vs nuc control. One could then subtract the background from both experiments, then contrast Telo vs Cent for a proper, rigorous comparison. However, I realize that is a lot of work, so rewriting the manuscript to better and more accurately reflect what was accomplished here, and its limitations, would suffice.

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(5) Comments like "Compared to other repetitive elements in the human genome...." appear to circumvent the fact that this method is still (apparently) largely limited to repetitive elements. Other than Glopro, which did analyze non-repetitive promoter elements, most comparable methods looked at telomeres. So, this isn't quite the advancement you are implying. Plus, the overlap with telomeric proteins and other studies should be addressed. However, that will be challenging due to the controls used here, discussed above.

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Reviewer #2 (Public review):

Summary

Liu and MacGann et al. introduce the method DNA O-MAP that uses oligo-based ISH probes to recruit horseradish peroxidase for targeted proximity biotinylation at specific DNA loci. The method's specificity was tested by profiling the proteomic composition at repetitive DNA loci

such as telomeres and pericentromeric alpha satellite repeats. In addition, the authors provide proof-of-principle for the capture and mapping of contact frequencies between individual DNA loop anchors.

Strengths

Identifying locus-specific proteomes still represents a major technical challenge and remains an outstanding issue (1). Theoretically, this method could benefit from the specificity of ISH probes and be applied to identify proteomes at non-repetitive DNA loci. This method also requires significantly fewer cells than other ISH- or dCas9-based locus-enrichment methods. Another potential advantage to be tested is the lack of cell line engineering that allows its application to primary cell lines or tissue.

Weaknesses

The authors indicate that DNA O-MAP is superior to other methods for identifying locus-specific proteomes. Still, no proof exists that this method could uncover proteomes at non-repetitive DNA loci. Also, there is very little validation of novel factors to confirm the superiority of the technique regarding specificity.

The authors first tested their method's specificity at repetitive telomeric regions, and like other approaches, expected low-abundant telomere-specific proteins were absent (for example, all subunits of the telomerase holoenzyme complex). Detecting known proteins while identifying noncanonical and unexpected protein factors with high confidence could indicate that DNA O-MAP does not fully capture biologically crucial proteins due to insufficient enrichment of locus-specific factors. The newly identified proteins in Figure 1E might still be relevant, but independent validation is missing entirely. In my opinion, the current data cannot be interpreted as successfully describing local protein composition.

Finally, the authors could have discussed the limitations of DNA O-MAP and made a fair comparison to other existing methods (2-5). Unlike targeted proximity biotinylation methods, DNA O-MAP requires paraformaldehyde crosslinking, which has several disadvantages. For instance, transient protein-protein interactions may not be efficiently retained on crosslinked chromatin. Similarly, some proteins may not be crosslinked by formaldehyde and thus will be lost during preparation (6).

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Significance of the Findings:

The study by Liu et al. presents a novel method, DNA-O-MAP, which combines locus-specific hybridisation with proximity biotinylation to isolate specific genomic regions and their

associated proteins. The potential significance of this approach lies in its purported ability to target genomic loci with heightened specificity by enabling extensive washing prior to the biotinylation reaction, theoretically improving the signal-to-noise ratio when compared with other methods such as dCas9-based techniques. Should the method prove successful, it could represent a notable advancement in the field of chromatin biology, particularly in establishing the proteomes of individual chromatin regions - an extremely challenging objective that has not yet been comprehensively addressed by existing methodologies.

Strength of the Evidence:

The evidence presented by the authors is somewhat mixed, and the robustness of the findings appears to be preliminary at this stage. While certain data indicate that DNA-O-MAP may function effectively for repetitive DNA regions, a number of the claims made in the manuscript are either unsupported or require further substantiation. There are significant concerns about the resolution of the method, with substantial biotinylation signals extending well beyond the intended target regions (megabases around the target), suggesting a lack of specificity and poor resolution, particularly for smaller loci. Furthermore, comparisons with previous techniques are unfounded since the authors have not provided direct comparisons with the same mass spectrometry (MS) equipment and protocols. Additionally, although the authors assert an advantage in multiplexing, this claim appears overstated, as previous methods could achieve similar outcomes through TMT multiplexing. Therefore, while the method has potential, the evidence requires more rigorous support, comprehensive benchmarking, and further experimental validation to demonstrate the claimed improvements in specificity and practical applicability.

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