

# Polymer physics perspective on the chromatin inside cell nuclei





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# Outline

- 1. Chromosomes with **homopolymer models** 
  - Some basics of polymer physics.
  - Equil./Crumpled globules, Chain organization (Random Walk, Space filling), Effects of confinement.
- 2. Chromosomes with **heteropolymer models** 
  - Chromosome structure from Hi-C (Heterogeneous loop model) structure/function relationship
  - Spatiotemporal dynamics of chromatin chain (with an emphasis on chromatin chain organization).

#### KIAS

- Lei Liu (→Zhejiang Univ. Sci. Tech.)
- Ji Hyun Bak ( $\rightarrow$  UC Berkeley)
- Min Hyeok Kim ( $\rightarrow$  Samsung)



#### **Collaborators in chromosome/polymer related projects**

- Hongsuk Kang (NIST)
- Guang Shi (UT Austin)
- Dave Thirumalai (UT Austin)
- Fyl Pincus (UCSB)
- Bae-Yeun Ha (Waterloo Univ.)
- Youngkyun Jung (KISTI)

# **1. Chromosomes with Homopolymers**

### Some basics of polymer physics

$$\beta H_{\text{eff}} = \frac{3}{2} \int_0^L \left(\frac{\partial \mathbf{r}}{\partial s}\right)^2 ds + \frac{B_2}{2!} \int_0^L ds \int_0^L ds' \delta^d[\mathbf{r}(s) - \mathbf{r}(s')] \\ + \frac{B_3}{3!} \int_0^L ds \int_0^L ds' \int_0^L ds'' \delta^d[\mathbf{r}(s) - \mathbf{r}(s')] \delta^d[\mathbf{r}(s') - \mathbf{r}(s'')] + \cdots \\ \frac{3}{2a^2} \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} ((\mathbf{r}_{i+1} - \mathbf{r}_i)^2 - a^2)$$

Good (T>\Theta)  

$$T=\Theta \qquad \text{poor} (T<\Theta)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \int d^{d}r (1 - e^{-\beta u(r)}) \sim a^{3} \left(1 - \frac{\Theta}{T}\right)$$

$$\beta H_{\text{eff}} = \frac{3}{2} \int_{0}^{L} \left(\frac{\partial \mathbf{r}}{\partial s}\right)^{2} ds + \frac{B_{2}}{2!} \int_{0}^{L} ds \int_{0}^{L} ds' \delta^{d}[\mathbf{r}(s) - \mathbf{r}(s')]$$

$$+ \frac{B_{3}}{3!} \int_{0}^{L} ds \int_{0}^{L} ds' \int_{0}^{L} ds'' \delta^{d}[\mathbf{r}(s) - \mathbf{r}(s')] \delta^{d}[\mathbf{r}(s') - \mathbf{r}(s'')] + \cdots$$

$$c(\mathbf{R}) = \int_0^L ds \delta^d[\mathbf{r}(s) - \mathbf{R}] \qquad \qquad = \int d^d \mathbf{R} \int_0^L ds \delta^d[\mathbf{r}(s) - \mathbf{R}] \int_0^L ds' \delta^d[\mathbf{r}(s') - \mathbf{R}] \\ = \int d^d \mathbf{R} c^2(\mathbf{R})$$

$$\beta H_{\text{eff}} = \frac{3}{2} \int_0^L \left(\frac{\partial \mathbf{r}}{\partial s}\right)^2 ds + \frac{B_2}{2!} \int d^d R c^2(R) + \frac{B_3}{3!} \int d^d R c^3(R) + \cdots$$

$$Z = e^{-\beta F} = \int \mathcal{D}[\mathbf{r}(s)] e^{-\beta H_{\text{eff}}} \sim \langle e^{-\beta H_{\text{eff}}} \rangle \ge e^{-\beta \langle H_{\text{eff}} \rangle},$$

 $\beta F \leq \beta \langle H_{\text{eff}} \rangle$ 

 $\beta F \leq \beta \langle H_{\text{eff}} \rangle$  $= \frac{3}{2} \left\langle \int_{0}^{L} \left( \frac{\partial \mathbf{r}}{\partial s} \right)^{2} ds \right\rangle + \frac{B_{2}}{2!} \int d^{d}R \left\langle c^{2}(R) \right\rangle + \frac{B_{3}}{3!} \int d^{d}R \left\langle c^{3}(R) \right\rangle + \cdots$  $\approx \frac{3}{2} \left( \frac{R^2}{Na^2} \right) + \frac{B_2}{2!} \langle c \rangle^2 R^d + \frac{B_3}{3!} \langle c \rangle^3 R^d + \cdots$  $\langle c^n \rangle \approx \langle c \rangle^n$  $= \frac{3}{2} \left( \frac{R^2}{Na^2} \right) + \frac{B_2}{2!} \frac{N^2}{R^d} + \frac{B_3}{3!} \frac{N^3}{R^{2d}} + \dots \qquad \langle c \rangle = \frac{N}{R^d}$ Flory free energy







Θ-chain in 3D (Duplantier 1982)

$$\frac{R_0^2}{Na^2} \sim A_0(y) \left( 1 - \frac{493\pi}{33 \times 4} \frac{y}{1 + 44\pi y \log N} \right)$$

where  $A_0(y) = 1 + \frac{16}{33}\pi y + \cdots$  with  $y = (2\pi)^{-3}B_3$ .<sup>34</sup>



 $\langle c 
angle \simeq -rac{B_2}{B_3}$ 



Grosberg et al.. J. Phys. France (1988) 49, 2095 Lieberman-Aiden et al. Science (2009) 326, 289

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Grosberg et al.. J. Phys. France (1988) 49, 2095 Lieberman-Aiden et al. *Science* (2009) 326, 289



genomic distance (s; Mb)

Barbieri et al. PNAS (2012)

denomic distance (s: Mb)



Liu & Hyeon Biophys. J. 110, 2320 (2016).

Flory theorem :

A test (linear) polymer in <u>a "fully equilibrated"</u> homogeneous semi-dilute or concentrated polymer melt, or even in compact globule is expected to be *ideal*, obeying the ideal chain statistics ( $\langle R^2 \rangle \sim s$ ), because of the screening of excluded volume interaction or the compensation between attraction and <u>repulsion</u>. P. J. Flory, J. Chem. Phys. 17, 303 (1949)

Grosberg and Khokhlov, Statistical Physics of Macromolecules (AIP Press, 1994).



# **Physical Origin ?**

# **Reptation time**

$$au_{
m rep} \sim N^{3.4}$$
  
 $N_{
m yeast} = 10^8 \ {
m bp}$   
 $N_{
m human} = 6 \times 10^9 \ {
m bp}$ 

 $\tau_{\rm rep}^{\rm human} \sim 10^6 \times \tau_{\rm rep}^{\rm yeast}$ 

 $au_{\mathrm{rep}} \sim au_{\mathrm{eq}}$ 

 $au_{
m eq} \ll au_{
m cell}$  : equilibrium  $au_{
m eq} \gg au_{
m cell}$  : non-equilibrium



 $\nu = 1/3$ 

*least* 

 $\nu = 1/2$ 

# **Cell cycle time**



- ~ 140 min ~ 2 hrs (yeast)
- ~ 24 hrs (eukaryotes, human)

Grosberg, Nechaev, Shakhnovich. J. Phys. France (1988)

> Rosa & Everaers, PLoS Comp Biol (2008)  $\tau_d \approx \tau_e (L_c/L_e)^3 \approx 500 \text{ yrs}$



Cremer, Cremer, Nat. Rev. Genet. 2, 292 (2001).

#### Chromosomes are confined in space ...



## **Polymers in confinement**



$$\sim \frac{3R^2}{2Na^2} + \frac{B_2}{2} \left(\frac{N}{R^d}\right)^2 R^d + \frac{B_3}{6} \left(\frac{N}{R^d}\right)^3 R^d + \cdots$$

$$R^d \to R_{\parallel} D^2 \text{ (tube)}$$

$$R_{\parallel} \simeq aN \left(\frac{a}{D}\right)^{2/3}$$

$$\rho_{tube} \sim \frac{N}{R_{\parallel} D^2} \sim \text{const}$$

$$R^d \to R_{\parallel}^2 D \text{ (slit)}$$

$$R_{\parallel} \simeq aN^{3/4} \left(\frac{a}{D}\right)^{1/4}$$

$$\rho_{slit} \sim \frac{N}{R_{\parallel}^2 D} \sim N^{-1/2}$$

$$R_{\parallel} \sim R_F f(R_F/D) \sim N \text{ or } N^{3/4}$$

Confinement free energy  

$$\Delta F/k_BT \sim \left(\frac{R_F}{D}\right)^{1/\nu} \sim N\left(\frac{a}{D}\right)^{1/\nu}$$

Daoud & de Gennes, J. Phys. (1977)





#### Cacciuto & Luijten, Nano Lett. (2006) 6, 901

A self-avoiding homopolymer confined inside a spherical shell with varying sizes.





### Implication to genome organization in different organisms





- Confined self-avoiding chain  $(T>\Theta)$
- Chromosomes are not in T>Θ. Protein mediated interactions may be more important for the chromosome compaction.
- For functional reason, chromosomes may effectively be in  $T \leq \Theta$
- Effects of confining near- $\Theta$  chains can be very subtle.
  - Virial coeff's (solvent quality) vary with confining geometry !!

"Compressing Θ-chain in slit geometry" L. Liu, P.A. Pincus, C. Hyeon, *Nano Letters* (2019) 19, 5667-5673

"Near-Θ polymers in a cylindrical space" Y. Jung, C. Hyeon, B.-Y. Ha, *Macromolecules* (2020) 53, 2412-2419

# 2. Chromosomes with heteropolymers

# (Structure)



#### Hi-C map & chromosome structures are <u>cell-type dependent</u>



bioRxiv 10.1101/530519

#### Hi-C map & chromosome structures are <u>cell-type dependent</u>



# Heterogeneous Loop Model (HLM)

$$U_{\mathcal{K}}(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} \frac{k}{2} (\vec{r}_i - \vec{r}_{i-1})^2 + \sum_{i=0}^{N-3} \sum_{j=i+2}^{N-1} \frac{k_{ij}}{2} (\vec{r}_i - \vec{r}_j)^2 = \frac{3}{2} \mathbf{r}^T \mathbf{K} \mathbf{r},$$

$$P(r_{ij}) = 4\pi (\gamma_{ij}/\pi)^{3/2} r_{ij}^2 e^{-\gamma_{ij}r_{ij}^2}$$



$$p_{ij} = \int_0^{r_c} P(r_{ij}) dr_{ij} = \operatorname{erf}(\gamma_{ij} r_c^2) - 2\sqrt{\frac{\gamma_{ij} r_c^2}{\pi}} e^{-\gamma_{ij} r_c^2}$$

$$\gamma_{ij} = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2(\sigma_{ii} + \sigma_{jj} - 2\sigma_{ij})}, & i > 0\\ \frac{1}{2\sigma_{jj}}, & i = 0 \end{cases}$$

$$\sigma_{ij}[=\langle \delta r_i \delta r_j \rangle] = (\mathbf{K}^{-1})_{ij}$$



 $p_{ij} \leftrightarrow \sigma_{ij} \leftrightarrow k_{ij}$ 

Liu et al. Biophys. J. (2019) 117, 613-625



Finn et al. Methods (2017) 123, 47

Giorgetti et al. Cell (2014) 157, 950

$$U_{\text{HLM}}(\mathbf{r}) = U_{\mathcal{K}}(\mathbf{r}) + U_{\text{nb}}(\mathbf{r}) \quad \dots \text{ Eq.(1)}$$
$$U_{\text{nb}}(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_{ij} \chi_{t_i, t_j} u_{\text{LJ}}(r_{ij}), \quad u_{\text{LJ}}(r) = \epsilon \left[ \left(\frac{a}{r}\right)^{12} - 2\left(\frac{a}{r}\right)^6 \right] \Theta(r_c - r)$$
$$\epsilon = 0.45k_BT \quad \epsilon_{\theta} = 0.34k_BT \quad (B_2 \approx 0)$$



#### Variability in the HLM-generated ensemble for a 10 Mb-region of chr5 in GM12878.



## Structural origin of gene expression (cell type dependence)



## Chromosome in different phases along the cell cycle



500 kb-res. single cell Hi-C, Chr19 of mESCs

Liu et al. Biophys. J. (2019) 117, 613-625

Repressed domains, respectively (Fig. 1d, solid circles; Ex Fig. 3d). These scaling behaviours were conserved acr in each domain from the centroid of these positions in the domain from the centroid of these positions in the domain rvsdggesting that the different packaging behaviours are cha

#### Boettiger et al. Nature, (2016) 529, 418-422.



y chrompson econformation c lated to the size measurements ion to different size-scaling pr vpes of epigenetic domains also eristics (Extended Data Fig. 3e bromatin was folded within selected two large chromatin heasured the  $R_p$  of internal reg mains, hereafter referred to as ig. 5c; Extended Data Table). mains showed a self-similar org ainsexhibited scaling behaveou or the whole epigenetic domains rast, we did not observe such a the Repressed chromatin dom o, right) and Antennapedia (Ex , the  $R_{\rm g}$  values grew rapidly as ckly saturated, such that subdou th of the length of the parent do e Rzovalues. 1000 enia distalhsebdomain traverse Cattoni et al. Nat. Commun., (2017) 8. 1753 me physical space, suggesting a within these Repressed domai



(under review)

#### Intermixing between two different epigenetic domains







# 3. Chromosomes with heteropolymers (Dynamics)

# **Chromosome dynamics from a heteropolymer model**

#### MiChroM (Di Pierro et al., PNAS (2016) 113, 12168)



**Table 2.** The monomer type dependent parameter  $\alpha$  of MiChroM (in the unit of  $k_B T$ ).

	B3	B2	B1	NA	A1	A2
B3	-0.341230	-0.329350	-0.336630	-0.349490	-0.266760	-0.301320
B2		-0.330443	-0.321726	-0.282536	-0.258880	-0.281154
B1			-0.342020	-0.209919	-0.262513	-0.286952
NA				-0.255994	-0.225646	-0.245080
A1					-0.268028	-0.274604
A2						-0.299261

#### Liu et al. *PLoS Comp. Biol.* (2018) 14:e1006617 40



- Loci diffusion
- Spatial correlation
- Chain relaxation dynamics
- Effect of activities



monomer size,  $a \sim 50 \text{ kb}$ N = 2712 R<sub>s</sub> = 30 a  $\phi = 0.1$ 

Brownian dynamics simulation  $\tau_{\rm BD} = 3\pi \eta a^3 / k_B T \approx 50 \text{ ms}$ 

 $\eta = 7 \text{ cP}$ (nuclear viscosity)

# Sub-diffusive dynamics of chromatin loci





$$\begin{split} \text{MSD} &\sim t^{\beta} \\ &\sim R(s)^2 \sim s^{2\nu} \quad \text{for } t^{\beta/\nu} \\ &\sim D(s) \times t \sim (D_o/s) \times t \\ &\sim t^{1-\beta/(2\nu)} \end{split}$$

Tamm PRL (2015) 114:178102 Shinkai et al. PLoS Comp. Biol. (2016) Liu et al. PLoS Comp. Biol. (2018) 14:e1006617 Diffusion exponent is determined by the chain organization exponent

$$\beta = \frac{2\nu}{2\nu + 1} \xrightarrow[]{\nu = 1/3}{\text{SF}} 0.4$$
$$\xrightarrow[]{\nu = 1/2}{\text{RW}} 0.5$$



Liu et al. PLoS Comp. Biol. (2018) 14:e1006617

# **Relaxation dynamics**



$$\begin{split} \rho(\vec{r},t) &= \sum_{i}^{N} \delta(\vec{r}_{i}-\vec{r}) \\ (\vec{R}) &= \frac{1}{N} \int d^{3}\vec{r} \left\langle \rho(\vec{r},0)\rho(\vec{r}+\vec{R},t) \right\rangle \\ &= \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i}^{N} \sum_{j}^{N} \int d^{3}\vec{r} \left\langle \delta(\vec{r}_{i}-\vec{r})\delta(\vec{r}_{j}-\vec{r}-\vec{R}) \right\rangle \\ &= \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i}^{N} \sum_{j}^{N} \left\langle \delta(\vec{r}_{j}-\vec{r}_{i}-\vec{R}) \right\rangle \\ &= \int \frac{d^{3}\vec{k}}{(2\pi)^{3}} \left[ \left\langle \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i}^{N} e^{-\vec{k}\cdot\vec{r}_{i}(0)} \sum_{j}^{N} e^{\vec{k}\cdot\vec{r}_{j}(t)} \right\rangle \right] e^{-\vec{k}\cdot\vec{R}} \\ &= \underbrace{\prod_{i=K}^{N} \frac{d^{3}\vec{k}}{(2\pi)^{3}}}_{i=F_{k}(t)} \end{split}$$

$$F_k(t) = \left\langle \left\langle \frac{1}{N} \sum_m e^{i\vec{k}\cdot\vec{r}_m(t+t_0)} \sum_n e^{-i\vec{k}\cdot\vec{r}_n(t_0)} \right\rangle_{|\vec{k}|} \right\rangle_{t_0}$$

# **Relaxation dynamics**









Zidovska et al. PNAS (2013)

# Effects of activity on loci diffusion

Activities inside cell nuclei.

DNA polymerase RNA polymerase Cohesin (Loop extrusion)

*vectorial, force dipole, ... at small scales* Bruinsma et al. Biophys. J. (2014), 106, 1871

But, beyond a certain spatiotemporal scale, activities may be randomized and deemed isotropic w/o correlation in the 'interphase'

 $T_a = 2 \times T$ 

$$\gamma \dot{x} = -\partial_x U(\{\mathbf{r}\}) + \xi(t)$$
$$\langle \xi(t)\xi(t')\rangle = 2\gamma k_B T_a \delta(t-t')$$

Smrek & Kremer, PRL 118, 098002 (2017).

# Effects of activity on loci diffusion



Passive

#### stronger isotropic white noise on active loci

Active









Liu et al. PLoS Comp. Biol. (2018) 14:e1006617



# Effects of activity on chain relaxation







- Chromosome structure and dynamics using homopolymers
   P(s) ~ s<sup>-γ</sup>: equilibrium/crumpled globule, reptation, slow dynamics due to confinement
- HiC data-based <u>heteropolymer model</u> to study chromoosome structure and dynamics
- Chain organization of chromosome at intermediate length scale and its dynamical behaviors are determined by the SF organization (v=1/3) of chromatin chain.
- Effects of "biological activity" on the interphase chromatin organization and dynamics. (Only the low frequency modes are affected).

 $W_p \sim k_B T/\text{ps} \gg W_a \sim 20 k_B T/10 \text{ms}$   $N_p W_p \gg N_a W_a$  (for interphase)