

# Loop Extruding Enzymes in Interphase: Dynamic Folding of Chromatin Domains

#### Carolyn Lu Professor Leonid Mirny Maxim Imakaev, Geoffrey Fudenberg

### Characterizing Chromosomal Contacts: Contact maps and scalings

#### Contact maps

#### Contact probability scalings:

distance

many contacts

(contact probability vs. separation distance)



few contacts

### **TADs:** Topologically Associated Domains



- Regions of increased interaction
- Decreased interaction across boundaries



- Within TAD slope in log-log of contact probability over distance in kb is -0.5
- Between TADs slope goes from around -0.5 at closer distances to -1.0 at further

# What mechanisms can define TADs and TAD boundaries consistent with experimental data?

## **Methods: Polymer simulations**

Experimental



Simulation



# **Previously explored models:**



## thick-thin stiff-flexible











### SMCs as loop-extruding proteins

Hinge а Arm Walker B Walker A Head C motif

Alipour, Elnaz, and John F. Marko. "Self-organization of domain structures by DNA-loopextruding enzymes." *Nucleic acids research* 40.22 (2012): 11202-11212.



Anton Goloborodko & Leonid Mirny (Unpublished)

# Basic kinetic model of SMC Loop Extrusion



# SMC loop extrusion + boundary $\rightarrow$ TAD boundaries?

TAD boundaries have been shown to be highly bound by a number of key epigenetic regulators.

Hypothesis: Boundaries which halt SMC loop extrusion or release SMC loops can in turn create TAD boundaries



# **Complications of the kinetic model**

1. What happens when a loop meets a boundary?



2. What happens when a loop meets another loop?



### Kinetic SMC model: Loop-boundary behavior



### Kinetic SMC model: loop-loop behavior





# Four variations on the basic kinetic model of SMC loop extrusion

Since details of SMC loop extrusion are unknown, we tested a number of possible variations:

- Boundary stalling and loop-loop stalling (stalling/stalling)
- Long boundary stalling and loop-loop stalling (long-stalling/stalling)
- Boundary release and loop-loop crossing (release/crossing)
- Boundary release and loop-loop stalling (release/stalling)

### SMC extrusion kinetic Model 1: Boundary stalling and loop-loop stalling



### SMC extrusion kinetic model 1: Contact Map (stall/stall)

#### Simulated TADs



#### **Experimental TADs**



# **Stall-stall: Scalings**



# SMC extrusion kinetic Model 2: Long boundaries and loop-loop stalling



Point boundary stall/stall



# Long boundary: Contact maps

Loop density 20



#### Long boundary: Scalings



# SMC extrusion Model 3: Boundary release and loop crossing



Point boundary stall/stall



### **Release/cross: Contact map**

#### Simulated TADs



**Experimental TADs** 



# **Release/cross: Scalings**







# SMC extrusion Model 4: Boundary release and loop stalling



Model 3: release/cross



### **Release-stall: Contact map**



**Experimental TADs** 



# **Release-stall: Scalings**







# Comparison of models











# **Conclusions and Discussion**

- Our models of SMC loop extrusion can reproduce some features of TAD contact maps but do not completely reproduce TAD scalings
- Details of SMC behavior strongly affect simulated contact maps and scalings
  - Release at boundaries / stalling between loops best reproduced experimental data
- Further biological experiments are necessary to determine detailed mechanisms of SMC action & TAD formation

Thanks to PRIMES alum/MIT student Boryana Doyle, awesome mentors Geoffrey Fudenberg and Maxim Imakaev, Prof. Leonid Mirny, and MIT PRIMES.