

L2.2

Epigenomes

Post-genomics

Genetics

Comparative (phylogenetic conservation indicates conserved function)

Human Genetic Variation (1000 Human Genomes - HapMap)

GWAS – Genome variations – phenotype correlation

Gene expression and phenotype

Functional Genomics

Epigenomics: CpG methylation

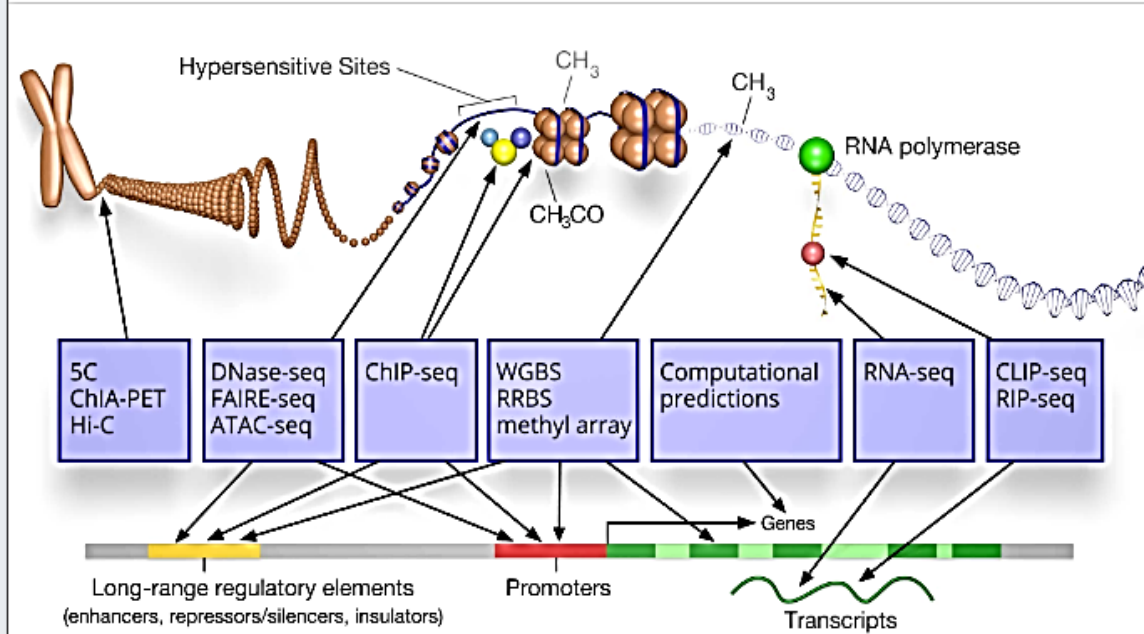
Histone modifications (PTMs)

Chromatin status

Protein-DNA mapping (e.g. Transcription Factors)

Transcriptomics: Coding and noncoding RNAs

ENCODE: Encyclopedia of DNA Elements



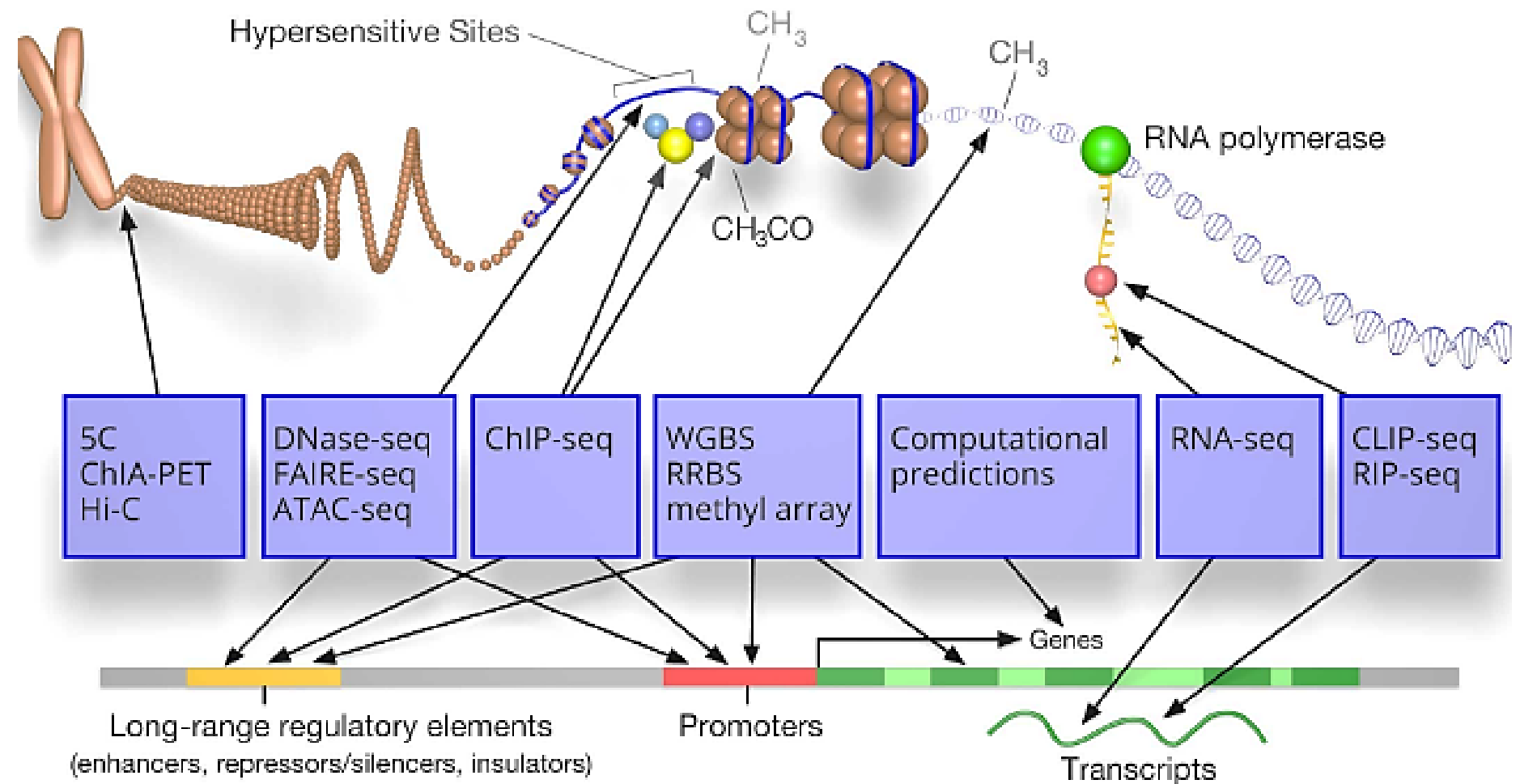
The ENCODE (Encyclopedia of DNA Elements) Consortium is an international collaboration of research groups funded by the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI). The goal of ENCODE is to build a comprehensive parts list of functional elements in the human genome, including elements that act at the protein and RNA levels, and regulatory elements that control cells and circumstances in which a gene is active.

[Get Started](#)

Based on an image by Darryl Leja (NHGRI), Ian Dunham (EBI), Michael Pazin (NHGRI)

- HUMAN
- MOUSE
- WORM
- FLY

ENCODE: Encyclopedia of DNA Elements



Can we access information on chromatin **accessibility** genome-wide ?

Dnase-Seq

FAIRE-Seq (Formaldehyde Assisted Isolation of Regulatory Elements)

ATAC-Seq (Assay for Transposase-Accessible Chromatin)

All these methods are coupled to NGS, but they have been (and still are) also analyzed using microarrays

DNA microarrays

→ ordered arrays of single-stranded DNA probes designed to be complementary to a set of «genomic objects» (exons, promoters, enhancers, all nonrepetitive intergenic spaces, etc.)

Studies on histone modifications, W/E/R proteins, TF, CpG methylation have been made on different kind of « **tiling arrays** ».

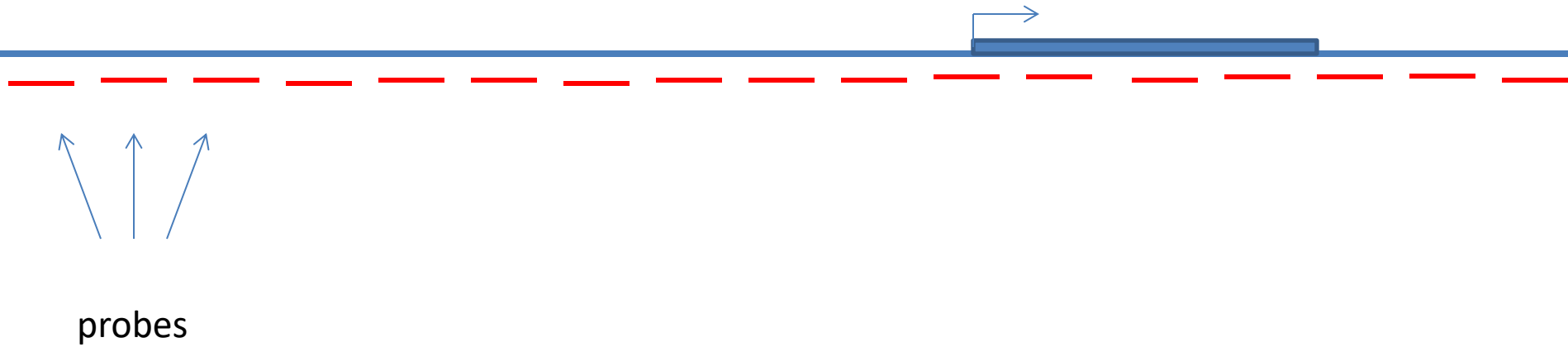
Technologically developed ca. 10 years before NGS, somehow cheaper, at least when NGS was in early phase.

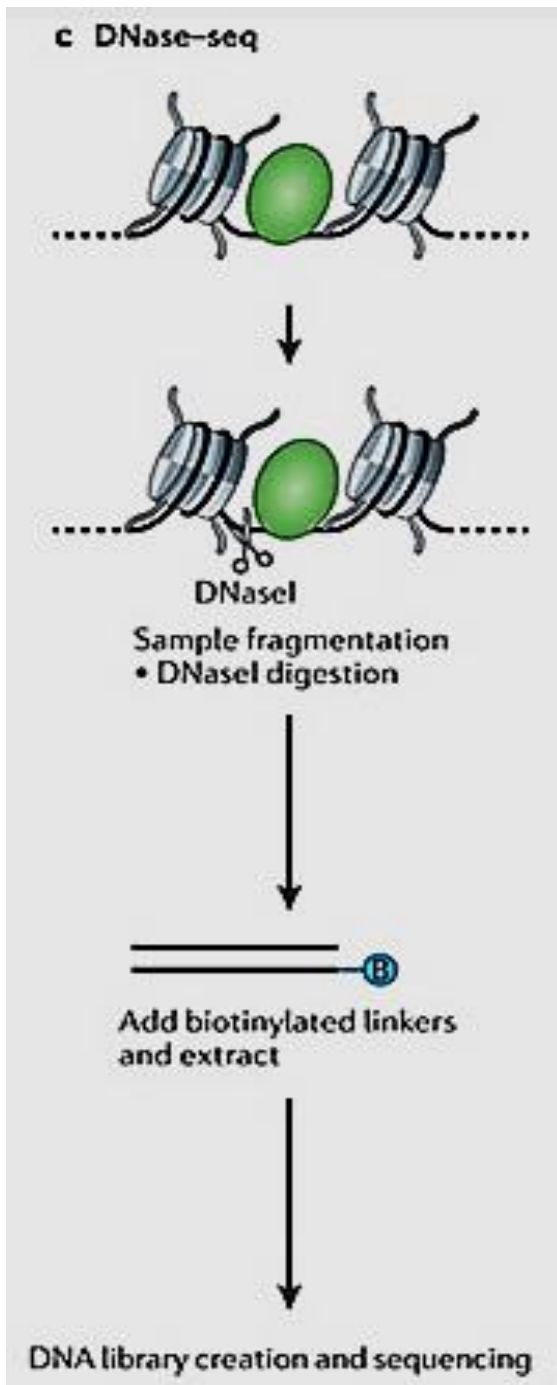
Background help available

DNA microarrays

Tiling microarray

Probes «cover» all the genome, regardless of the annotated function





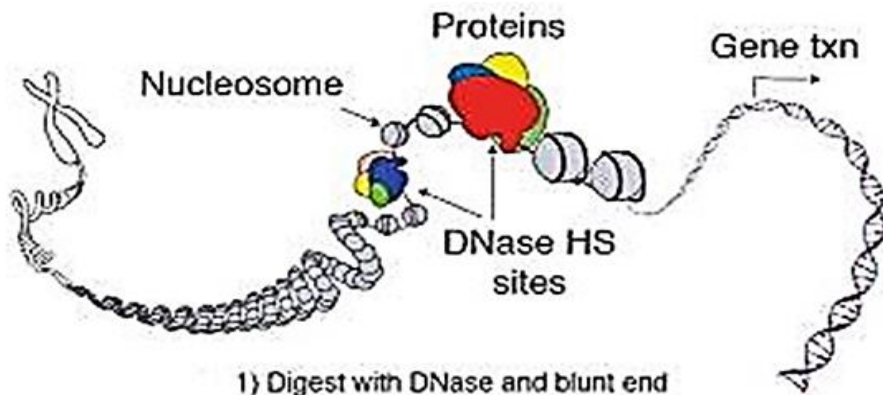
DNase I sensitivity assay

→ DNase-Seq

DNase-seq experiments combine traditional DHS assays with high-throughput sequencing to simultaneously identify all types of regulatory regions genome-wide.

The 5' end of a sequence tag generated by DNase-seq indicates the site of a DNase I digestion event, and regions of enrichment in digestion events are identified as DHS sites, each of which can contain binding sites of multiple factors.

Furey 2012, Nat Rev Genet. 13: 840-852



DNase-Seq

1) Digest with DNase and blunt end

DNase HS site



2) Ligate Biotinylated Linker 1



3) MmeI digested, bind to Dynal beads



4) Ligate Linker 2



5) PCR amplification



6) Sequencing using Solexa/Illumina

Song & Crawford 2010
Cold Spring Harbor Protocols

d FAIRE-seq



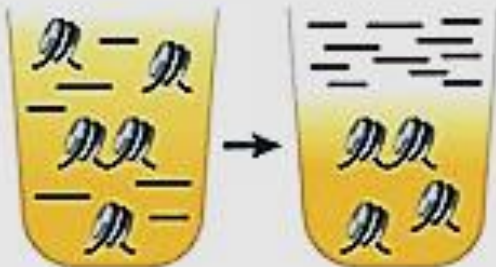
Crosslink proteins and DNA



Sample fragmentation
• Sonication



Phenol-chloroform extraction of DNA

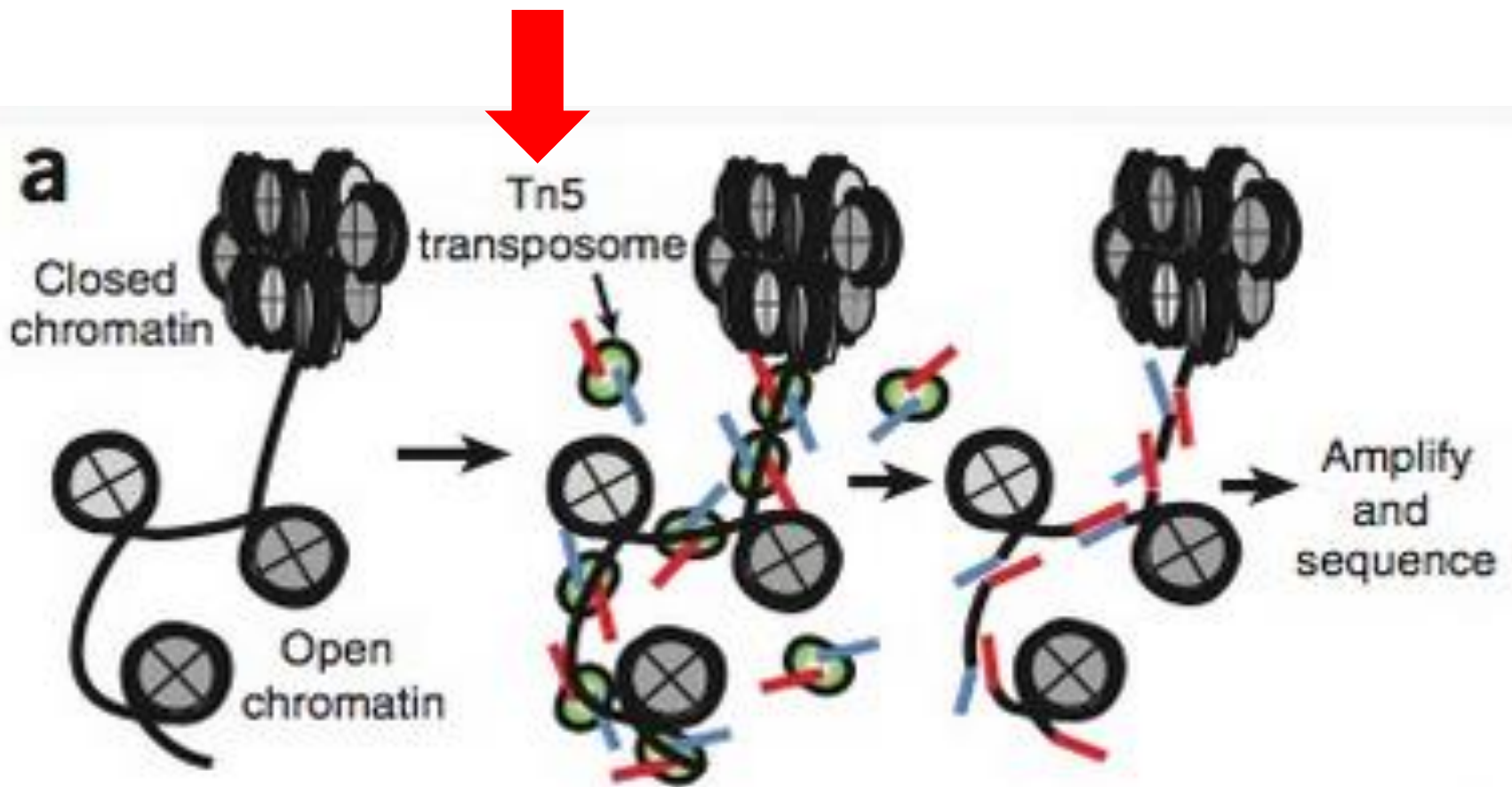


FAIRE-seq

The FAIRE-seq assay starts with formaldehyde crosslinking, similarly to ChIP, but then instead of using an antibody to target specific factors, DNA is sonicated and the extract is subjected to phenol-chloroform extraction. The nucleosome-depleted fraction of DNA is preferentially segregated to the aqueous phase. FAIRE-enriched DNA has been shown to correspond to regulatory regions.

Furey 2012, Nat Rev Genet. 13: 840-852

DNA library creation and sequencing

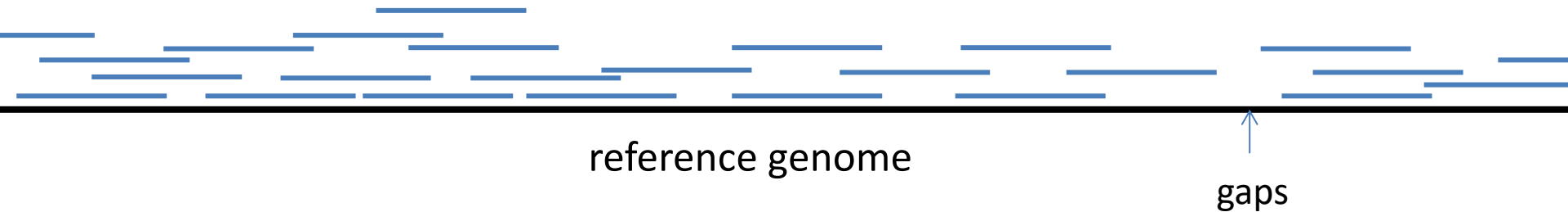


(a) ATAC-seq reaction schematic.

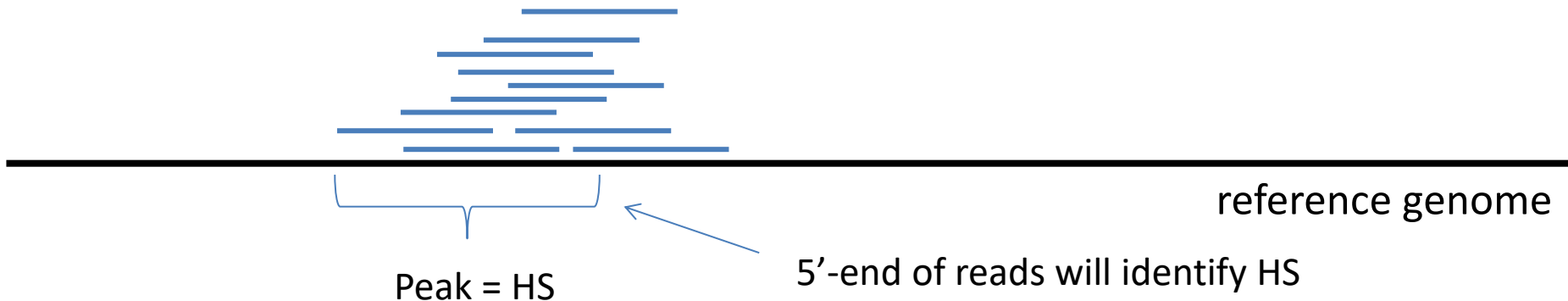
Transposase (green), loaded with sequencing adaptors (red and blue), inserts only in regions of open chromatin (between nucleosomes in gray) and generates sequencing-library fragments that can be PCR-amplified.

Mapping data.

Results are very different from those obtained from NGS on genomic DNA, which are a «probabilistic» distribution of fragments on the reference genome.



ATAC-Seq will give only fragments from open regions



Reads alignment to **reference genome**, count hits at each position

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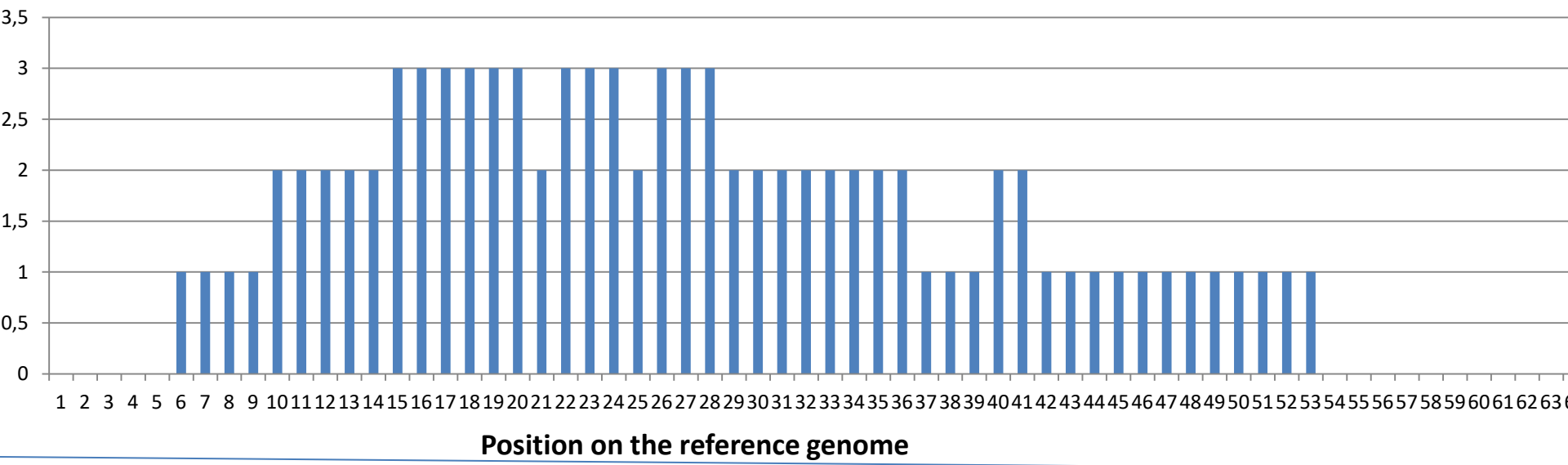
tgggactgactggctg
  caaatcaatcatgg
    atcatgggactgact
      gcatgcaaatcaatc
        cattgcatgcaaatc
          tgatcgctgactgc
  
```

reads

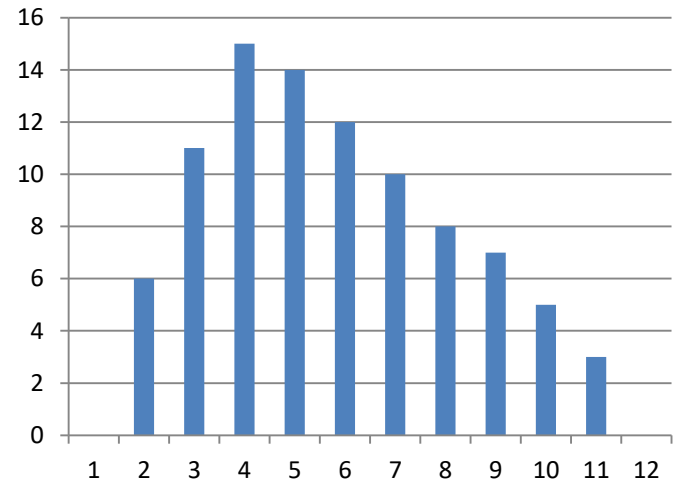
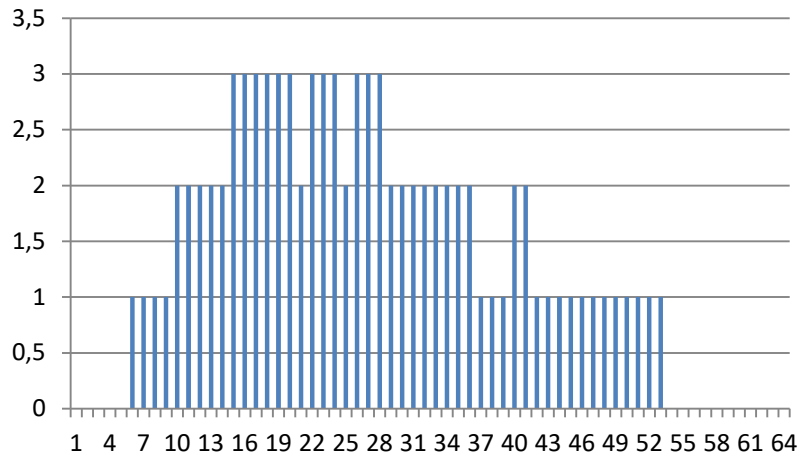
atccgtcattgcatgcaaatcaatcatgggactgactggctgatcgctgactgctgcagtcgca

Counts/nucleotide:

00000011112222233333323332333222222211122111111111100000000000



In order to simplify calculation, often nucleotides are grouped in **bins** of 5, 10 or more



Bins=5bp



A 150 Kb part of chromosome 19

Histone PTMs are studied genome-wide using ChIP-Seq or **ChIP-on-chip** *What is this?*

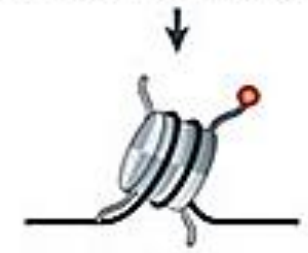
Very **specific antibodies** are available, which not only recognize subtle differences (e.g. symmetric *versus* nonsymmetric arginine dimethylation) but also the peptide context in which PTM occurs (i.e. the exact aminoacid that is modified).

facultative

b Histone modification ChIP-seq



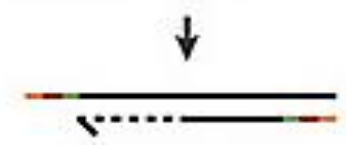
Crosslink proteins and DNA



Sample fragmentation
• MNase digestion



Immunoprecipitate and then purify DNA



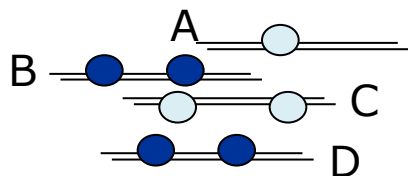
Amplify, if few cells
• Nano-ChIP-seq
• LinDA

DNA library creation and sequencing

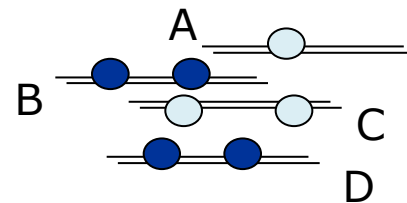
Identification of PTM by ChIP-Seq

test cells

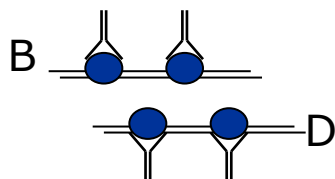
Cross-link
fragment



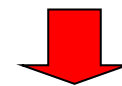
● modified
○ unmodified



Fragmented chromatin immunoprecipitated
using antibody to specific PTM



Reverse cross-link and DNA purified



None or pre-immune IgG



Go to NGS protocol



Reads alignment and peak finder

Histone code means **multiple** PTMs

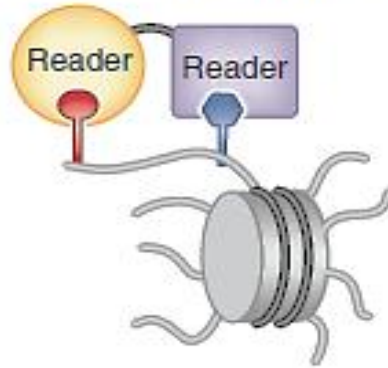
a

Effect of multiple PTMs



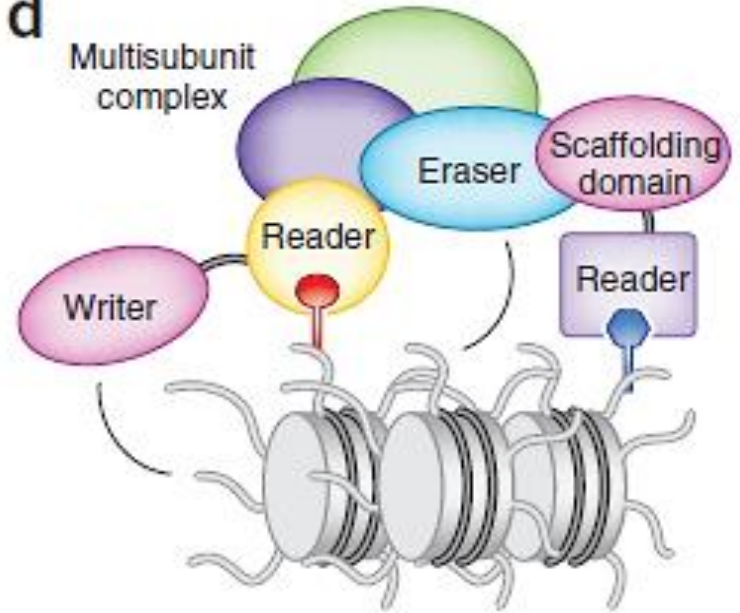
b

Combinatorial readout in *cis*



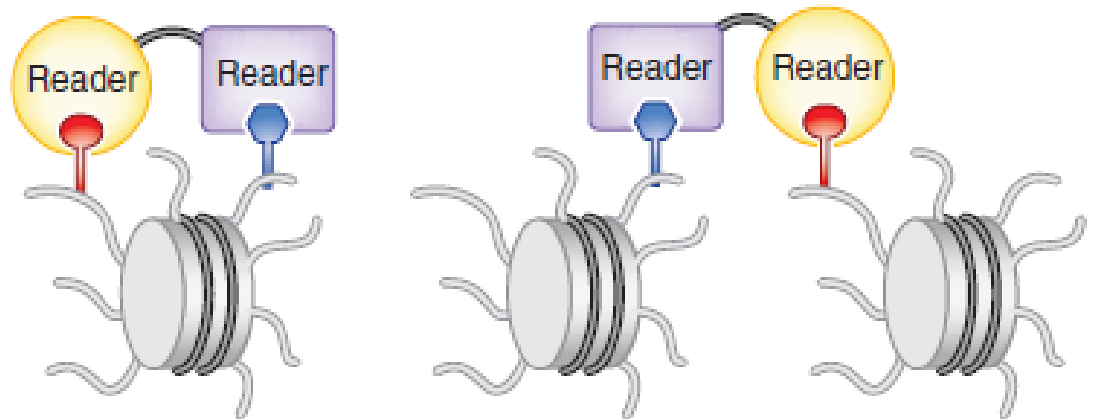
d

Multisubunit complex



c

Combinatorial readout in *trans*

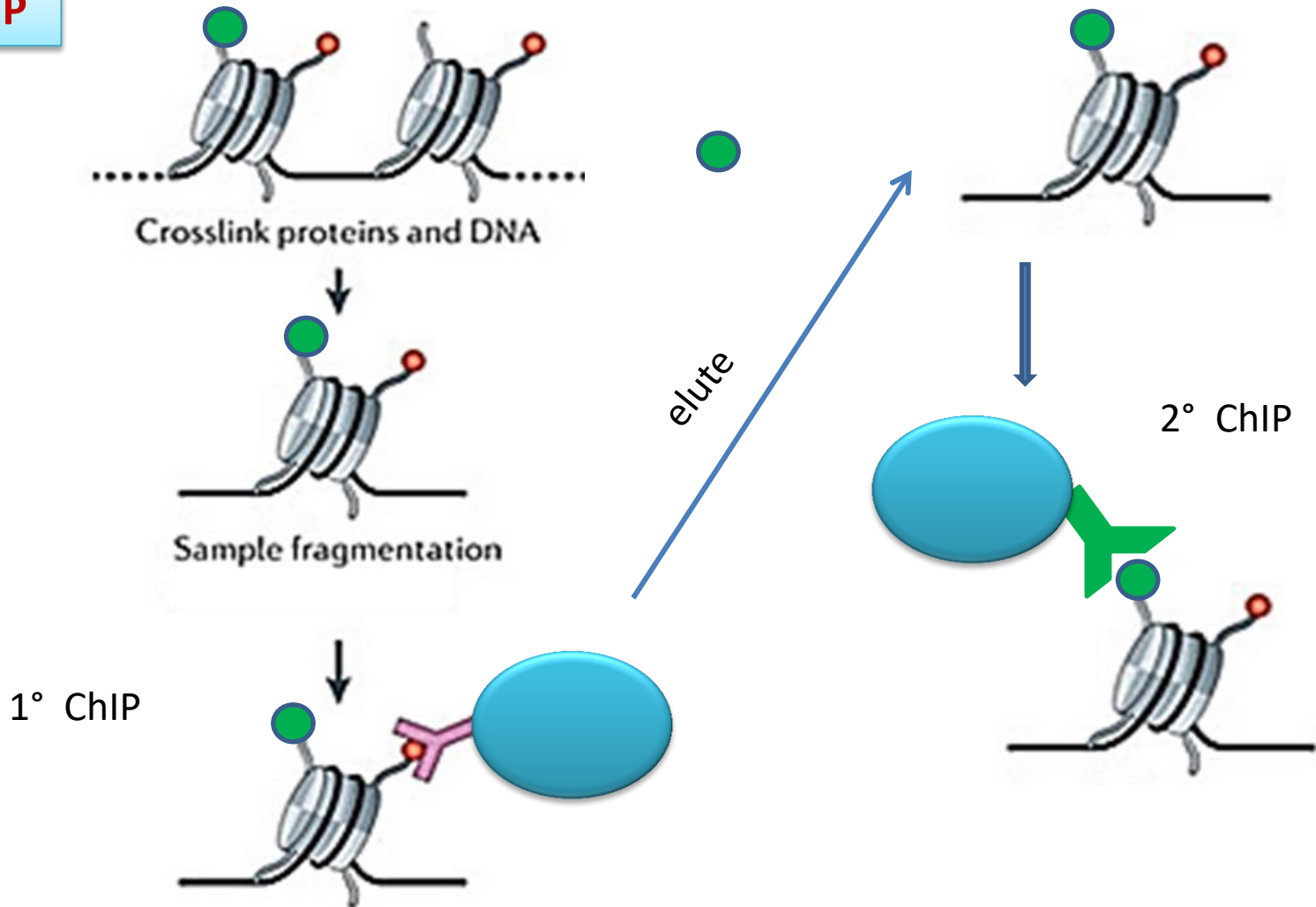


Intranucleosomal

Internucleosomal

How can we be sure that several proteins are co-present on the same allele ?

Re-ChIP



Let us take a look of one of the first papers published, reporting PTMs analysis genome-wide using NGS (Illumina-Solexa first version)

High-Resolution Profiling of Histone Methylations in the Human Genome

Artem Barski,^{1,3} Suresh Cuddapah,^{1,3} Kairong Cui,^{1,3} Tae-Young Roh,^{1,3} Dustin E. Schones,^{1,3} Zhibin Wang,^{1,3} Gang Wei,^{1,3} Iouri Chepelev,² and Keji Zhao^{1,*}

¹Laboratory of Molecular Immunology, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, NIH, Bethesda, MD 20892, USA

²Department of Human Genetics, Gonda Neuroscience and Genetics Research Center, University of California, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA 90095, USA

³These authors contributed equally to this work and are listed alphabetically.

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DOI 10.1016/j.cell.2007.05.009

SUMMARY

Histone modifications are implicated in influencing gene expression. We have generated high-resolution maps for the genome-wide distribution of 20 histone lysine and arginine methylations as well as histone variant H2A.Z, RNA polymerase II, and the insulator binding protein CTCF across the human genome using the Solexa 1G sequencing technology. Typical patterns of histone methylations exhibited at promoters, insulators, enhancers, and transcribed regions are identified. The monomethylations of H3K27, H3K9, H4K20, H3K79, and H2BK5 are all linked to gene activation, whereas trimethylations of H3K27, H3K9, and H3K79 are linked to repression. H2A.Z associates with functional regulatory elements, and CTCF marks boundaries of histone methylation domains. Chromosome banding patterns are correlated with unique patterns of histone modifications. Chromosome breakpoints detected in T cell cancers frequently reside in chromatin regions associated with H3K4 methylations. Our data provide new insights into the function of histone methylation and chromatin organization in genome function.

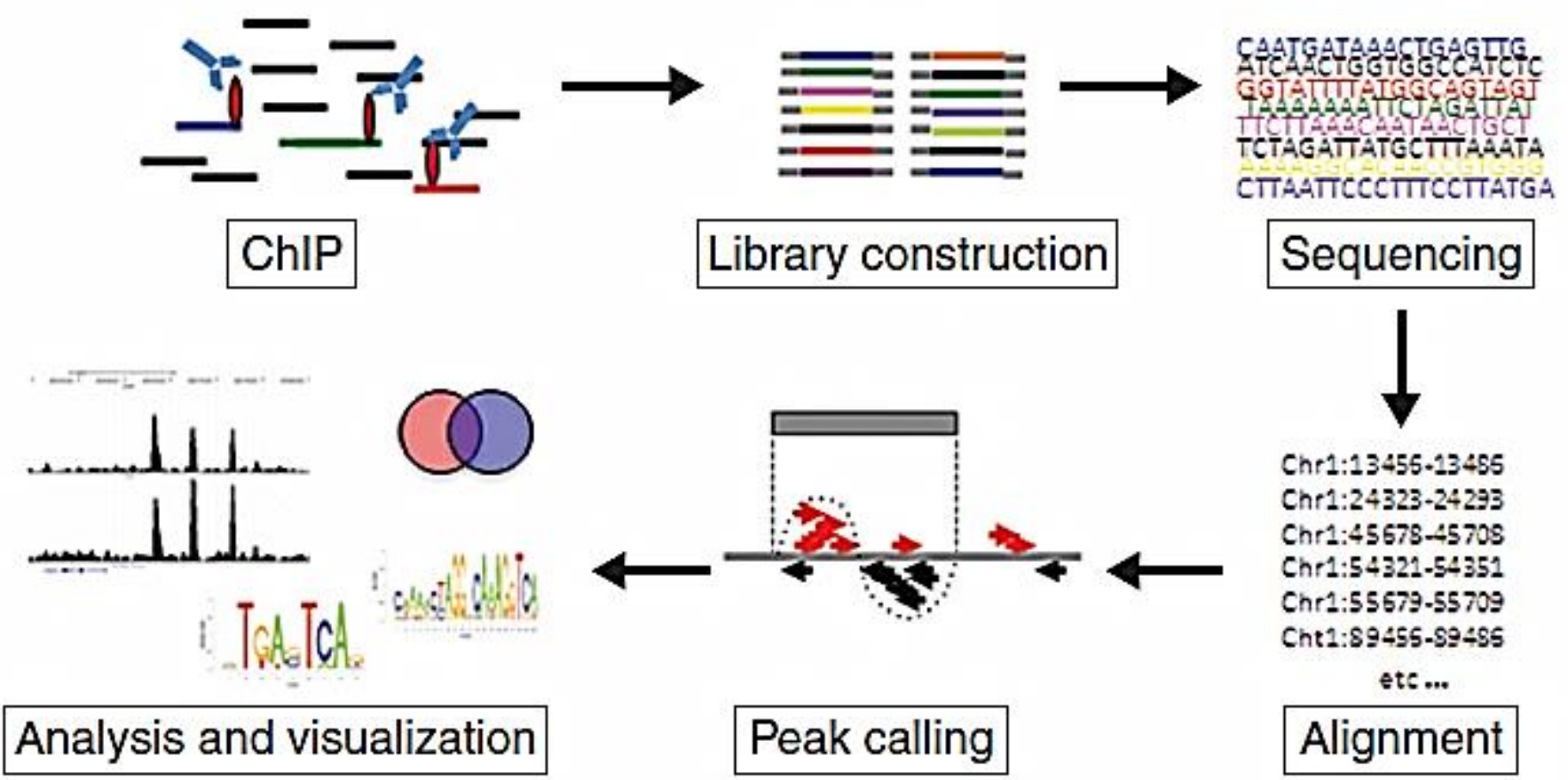
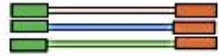


Figure 1. Flow scheme of the central steps in the ChIP-seq procedure.

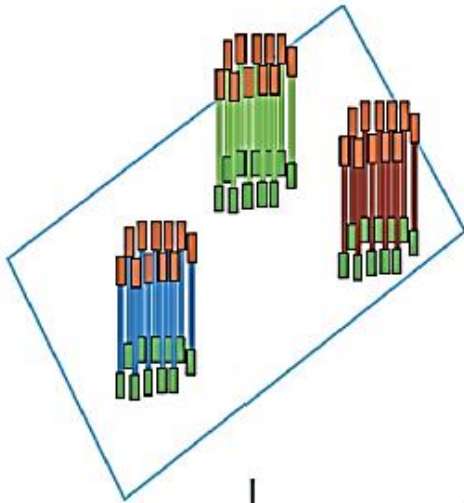
ChIP DNA



1. End repair
2. Adaptor ligation
3. Amplification (17x)



Cluster generation



Analysis on Solexa 1G Genome Analyzer

Image processing and base calling

Map to genome

What is «end repair» ?

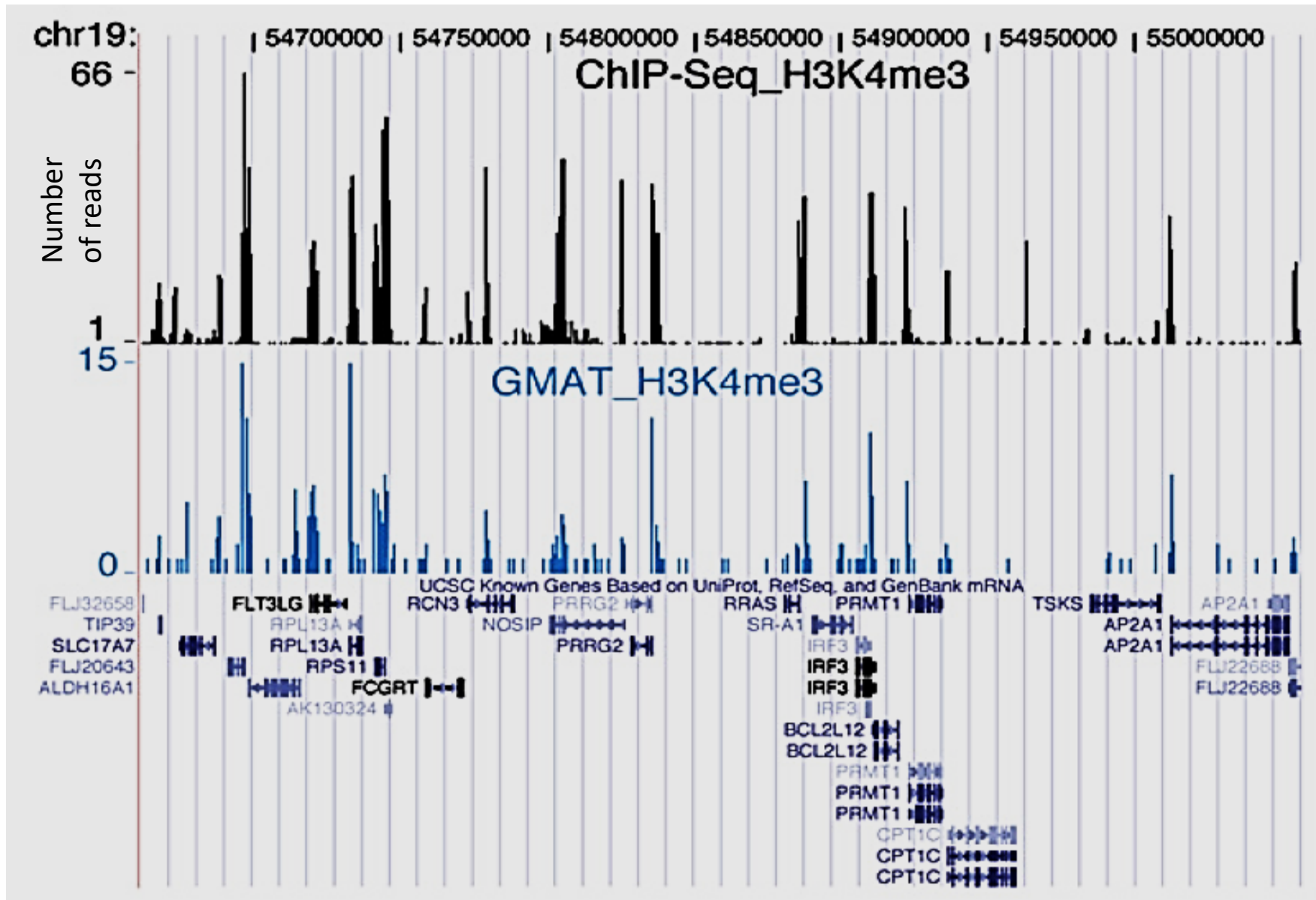
What is Solexa ?

Technology allowing sequencing of DNA on solid surfaces .

It was acquired by Illumina and applied to their NGS technology.

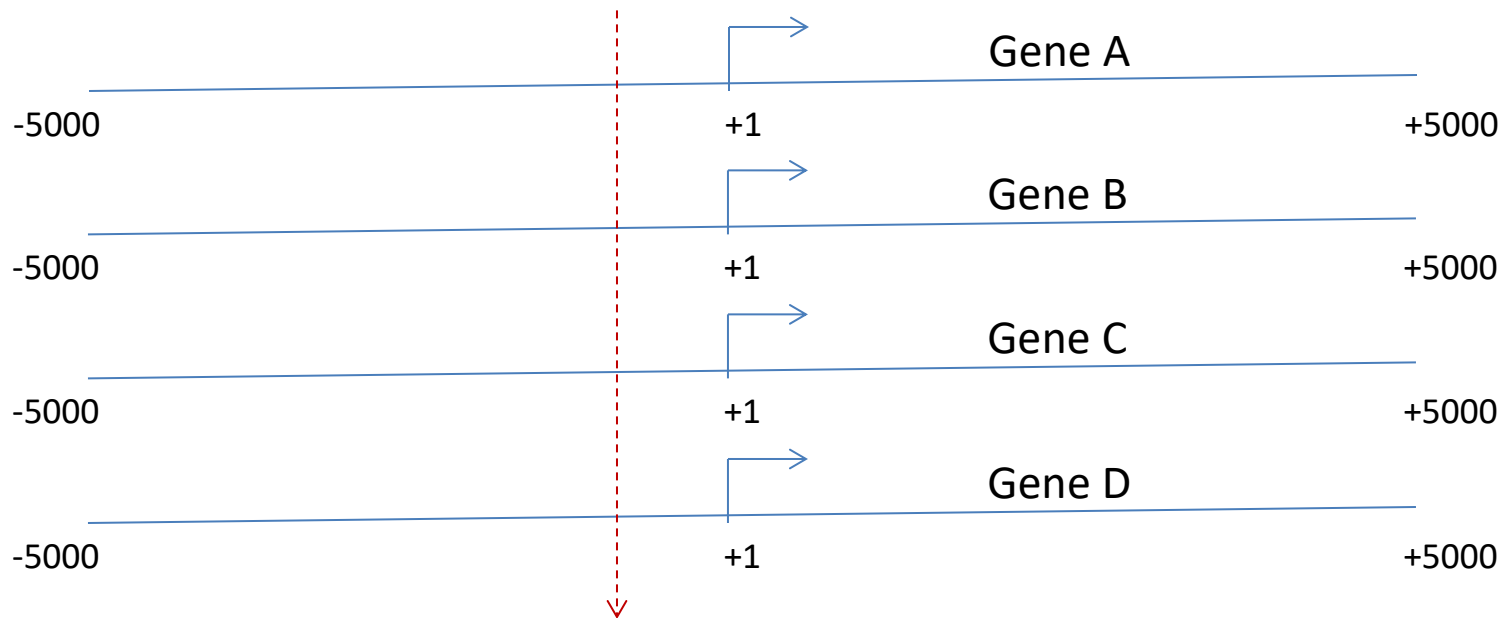
And map global:

Genome browser



Data are then collected from many similar position. In the figure, all RefSeq genes are taken into account and frequencies aligned using the TSS as central point, in a window of 5Kbp.

Then, the frequency of counts from each position is calculated over the entire set of genes and plotted.



$F(n)$ (the frequency of each nucleotide call)

Frequency representation

ChIP-Seq using anti-RNA
Polymerase II (Pol II) antibody

ChIP-Seq using anti-H3
dimethyl-lysine 4 antibody

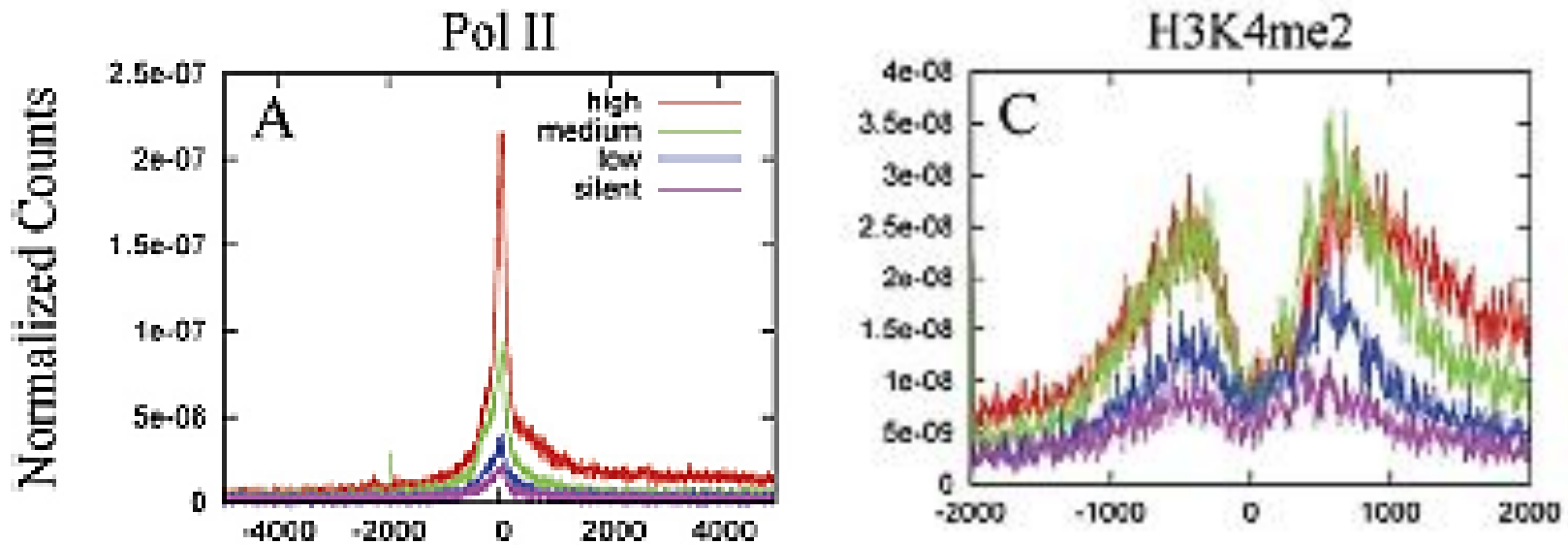
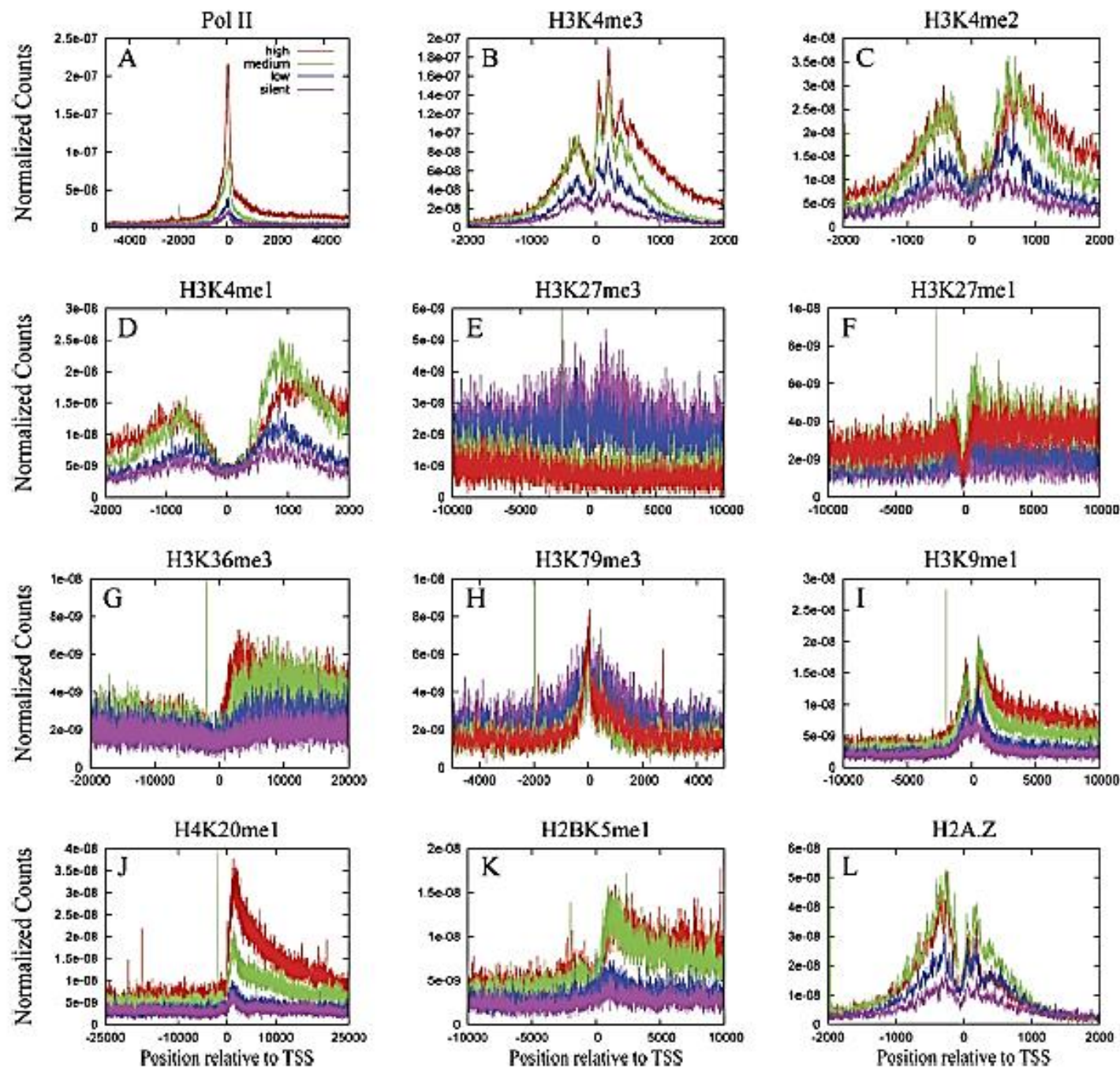


Figure 2. Histone Methylation near Transcription Start Sites

(A)–(L) Profiles of the histone methylation indicated above each panel across the TSS for highly active, two stages of intermediately active and silent genes are shown. Twelve thousand human genes were separated into twelve groups of one thousand genes according to their **expression level** (as measured on Affymetrix microarrays): **High** – **Medium** – **Low** - **Silent**



Expression

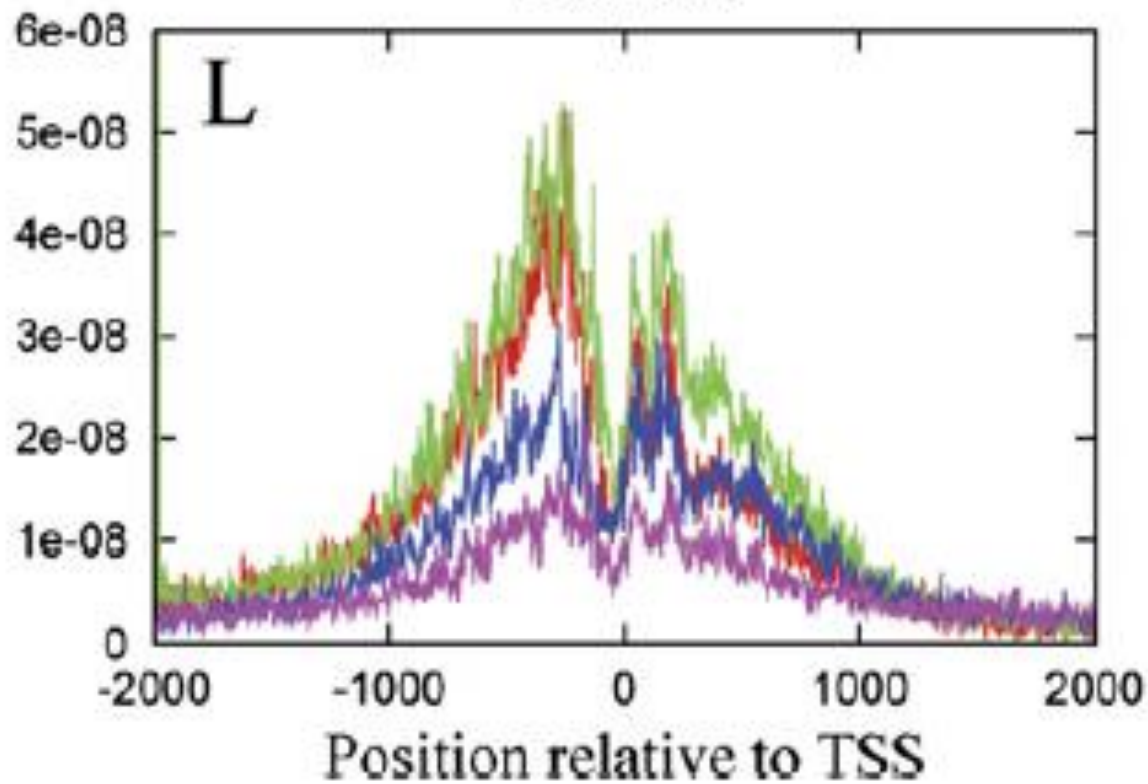
high

medium

low

silent

H2A.Z



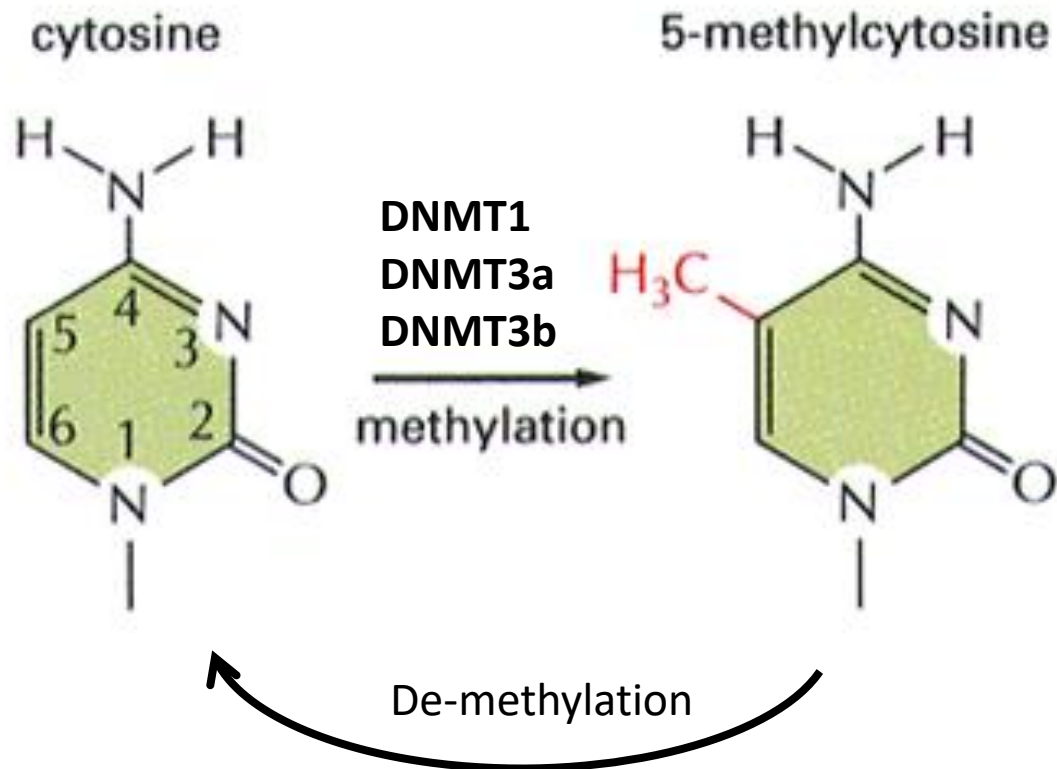
Expression

- high
- medium
- low
- silent

CpG methylation

- a. **Cytosine-5-methylation** (+hydroxymethylation) is the only epigenetic modification concerning the DNA in higher organisms
- b. It occurs mostly at **CpG** dinucleotide (also at CpNpG in some cases, e.g. in plants and *see later in next chapter*)
- c. Methylation of CpG is observed at regulatory regions of **silenced** genes
- d. Hypermethylation is observed through the inactive X chromosome
- e. Housekeeping genes (constitutively expressed) show unmethylated **CpG islands** at promoters

Important: Cytosine methylation is common in Mammals and Plants, but is not used in the same way in *S. cerevisiae* and *C. elegans*



1. Oxidative pathway (Tet enzymes)
2. Dilution (DNMT1 off during repeated cell division)

CpG methylation (hypermethylation, meaning that a region containing several CpG dinucleotides show several methylations) is usually associate with **silencing**. Possible mechanisms:

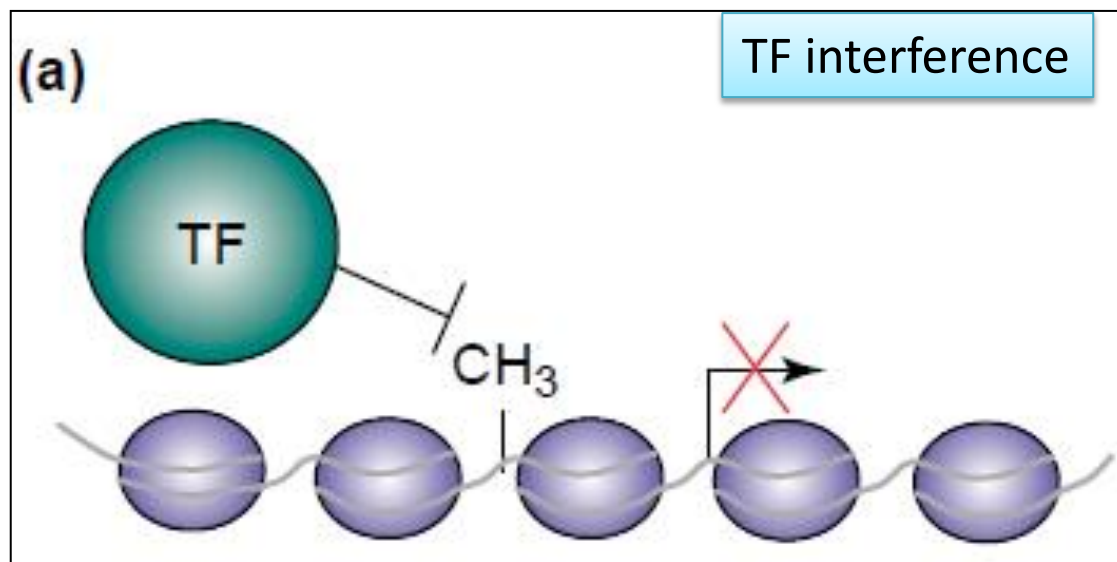


Figure 2. Mechanisms of DNA-methylation-mediated repression.

(a) DNA methylation in the cognate DNA-binding sequences of some (*not many, ndr*) transcription factors (TF) can result in inhibition of DNA binding. By blocking activators from binding targets sites, DNA methylation directly inhibits transcriptional activation

Methyl-CpG binding proteins

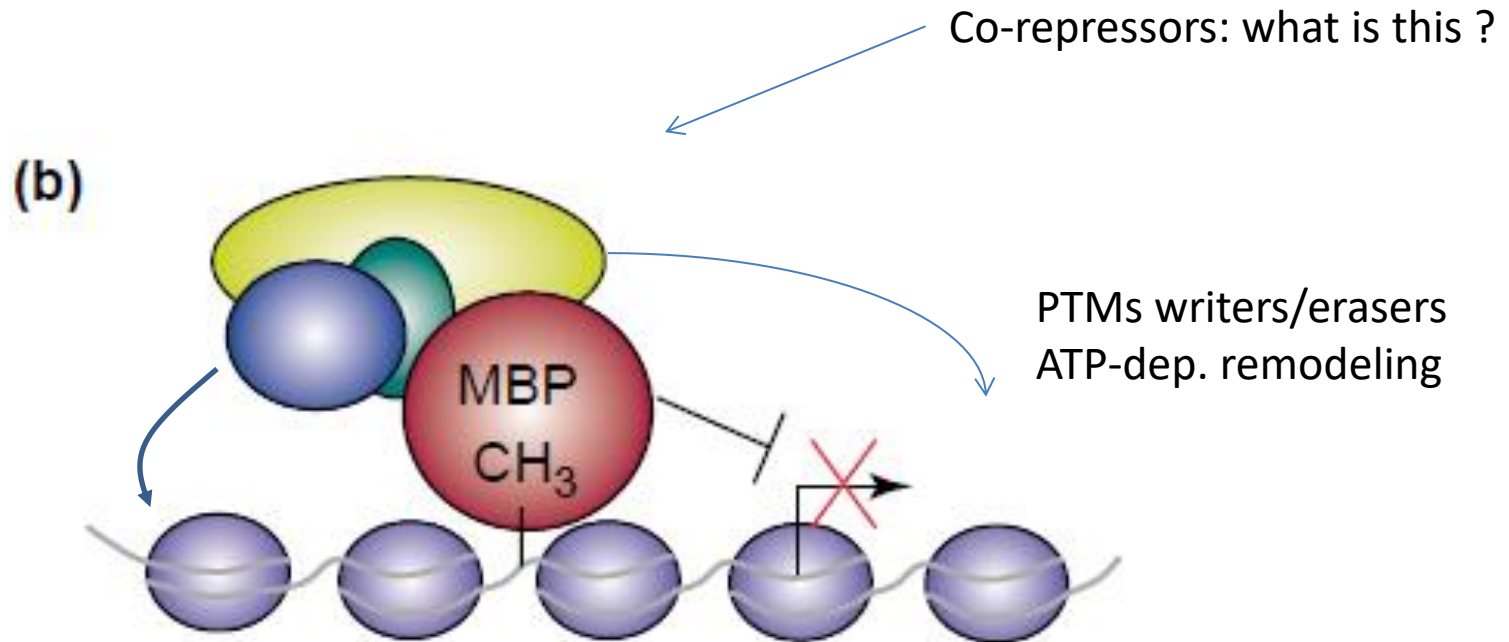
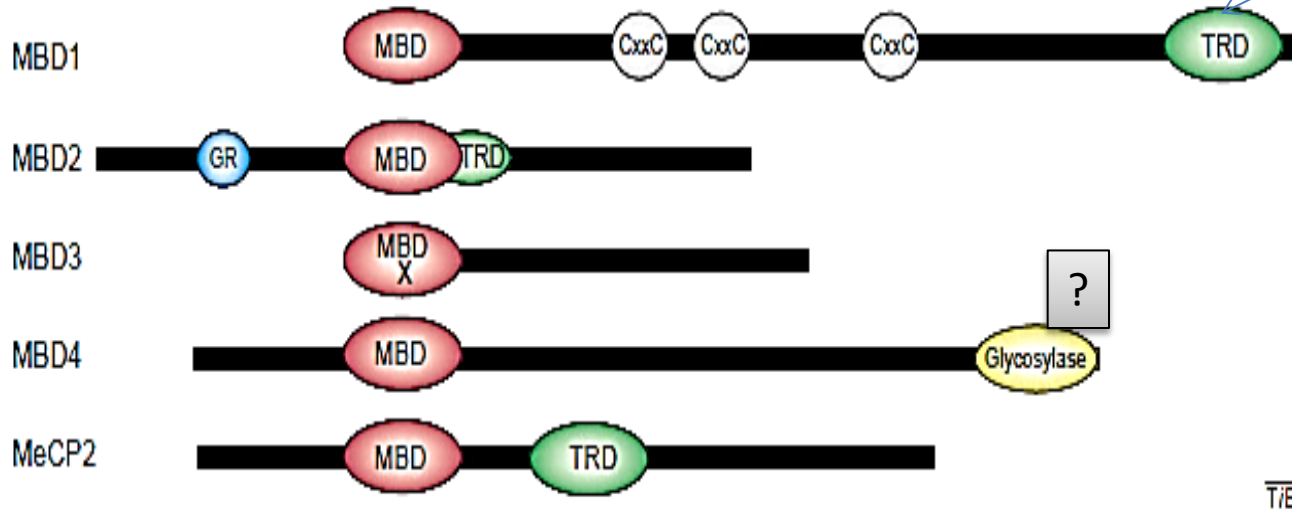


Figure 2. Mechanisms of DNA-methylation-mediated repression.

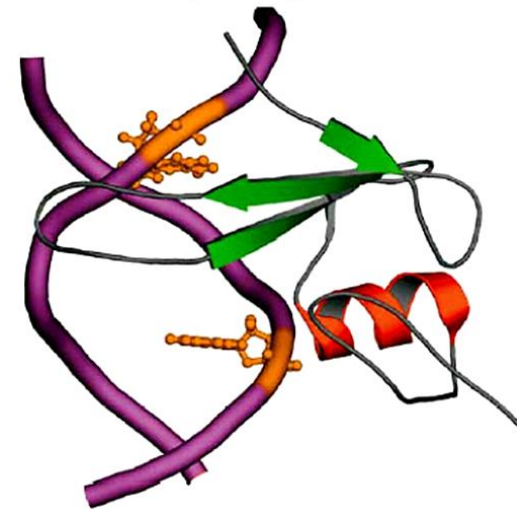
(b) Methyl-CpG-binding proteins (MBPs) directly recognize methylated DNA and recruit **co-repressor molecules** to silence transcription and to modify surrounding chromatin

Methyl DNA binding proteins have common and specific domains



How do we define a «transcriptional repressor domain?»

MBD-mCpG complex



TiBS

A family of **methyl-CpG-binding proteins** (MBPs). Six mammalian MBPs have been characterized so far:

1. MBD1 uses its methyl-binding domain (MBD) to bind methylated DNA sequences. In addition, MBD1 contains three zinc-binding domains (CxxC), one of which binds specifically to non-methylated CpG dinucleotides, and a C-terminal transcriptional repression domain (TRD).
2. MBD2 possesses an MBD that overlaps with its TRD domain, and a GR repeat at its N terminus.
3. MBD3 contains a well-conserved MBD domain that does not recognize methylated DNA owing to crucial amino acid changes.
4. MBD4 binds methylated DNA through an MBD domain and has a C-terminal glycosylase domain that is important for its function in DNA repair.
5. MeCP2 is the founding member of the MBD protein family and contains a conserved MBD domain and an adjacent TRD domain.
6. The sixth protein, Kaiso, is unrelated and is not shown here.

From Klose & Bird, 2006, TiBS 31: 89-97.

CpG - Cytosine methylation

is a dynamic mark

Enzymes that catalyze methylation are SAM-dependent enzymes:

DNMT1 – maintenance enzyme

DNMT3a - } *de novo* methyl-transferases
DNMT3b - }

DNMT3L is a similar gene that encodes a nonenzymatic protein, that has cofactor and regulator roles. It binds to unmethylated H3K4 .

DNMT3L also interacts with HDAC1.

A fourth homologue DNMT2 has little activity toward DNA, higher with RNA.

CpG methylation

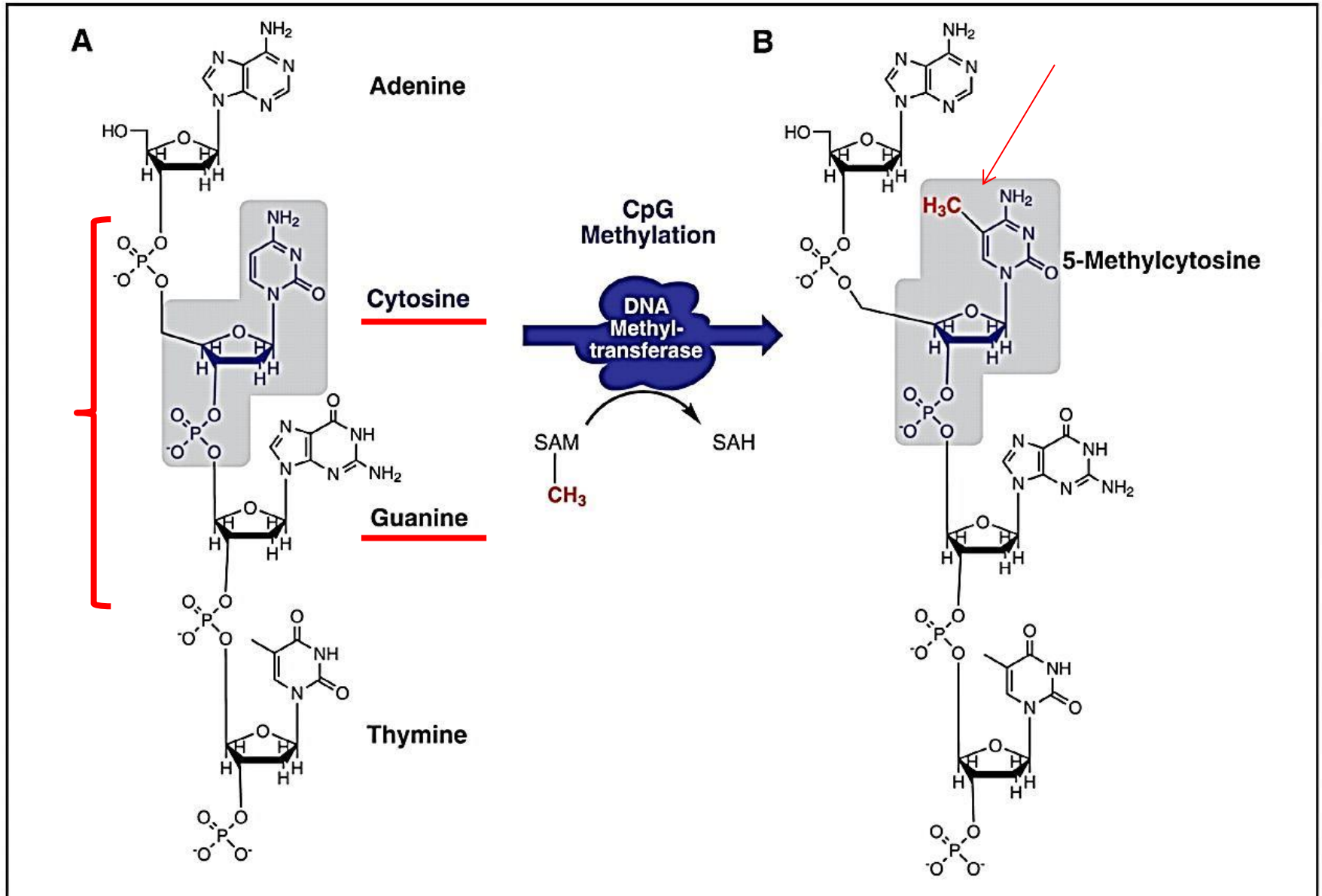


Figure 1 | **Potential pathways for DNA demethylation.**

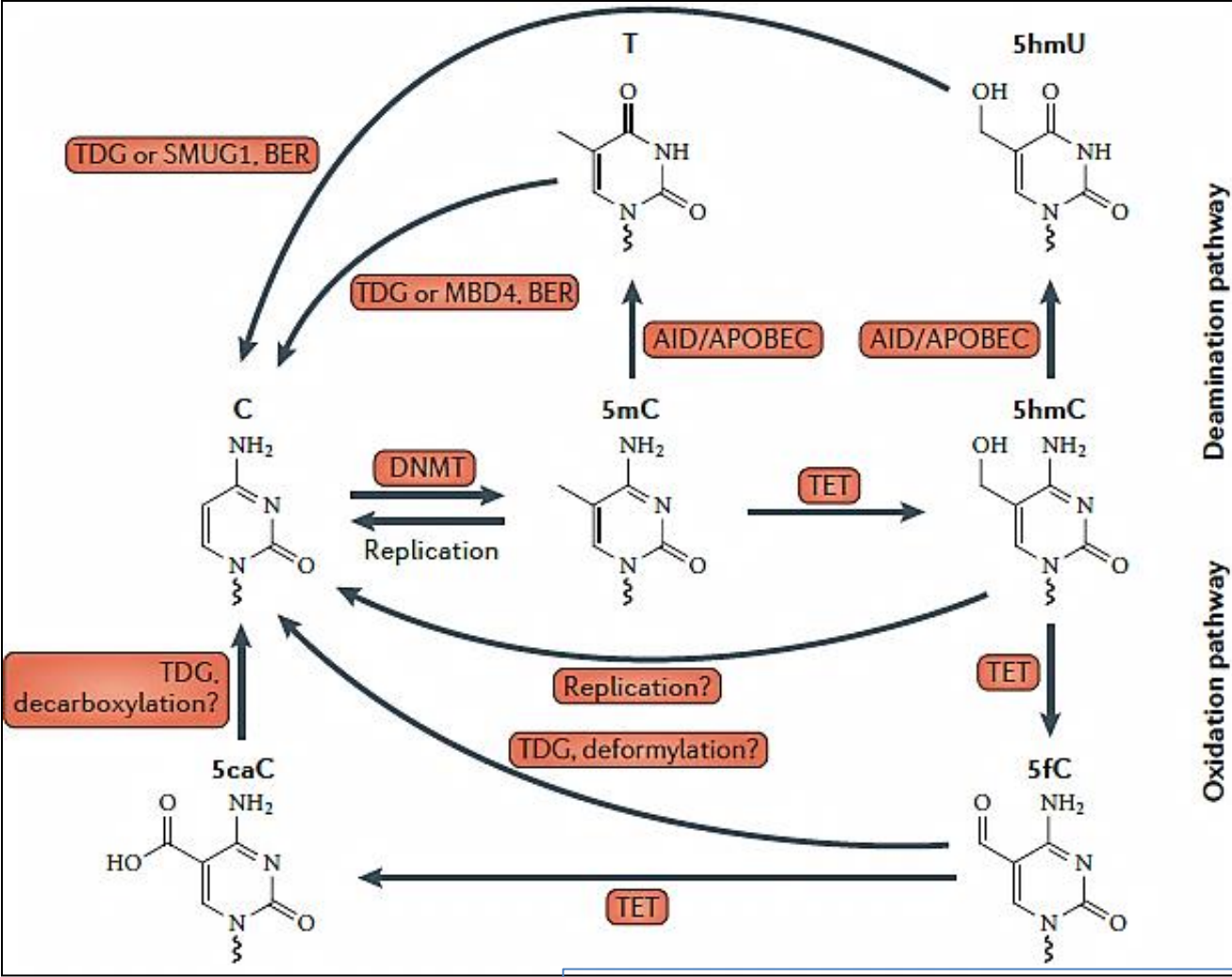
1. **Passive** or «dilution»

2. **Active** with 5-hydroxymethylcytosine as an intermediate:

2.1 Deamination of either 5mC or 5hmC by cytidine deaminase APOBEC produces mismatches that are recognized by DNA glycosylases, producing an abasic site that is then repaired by the base excision repair (BER) machinery.

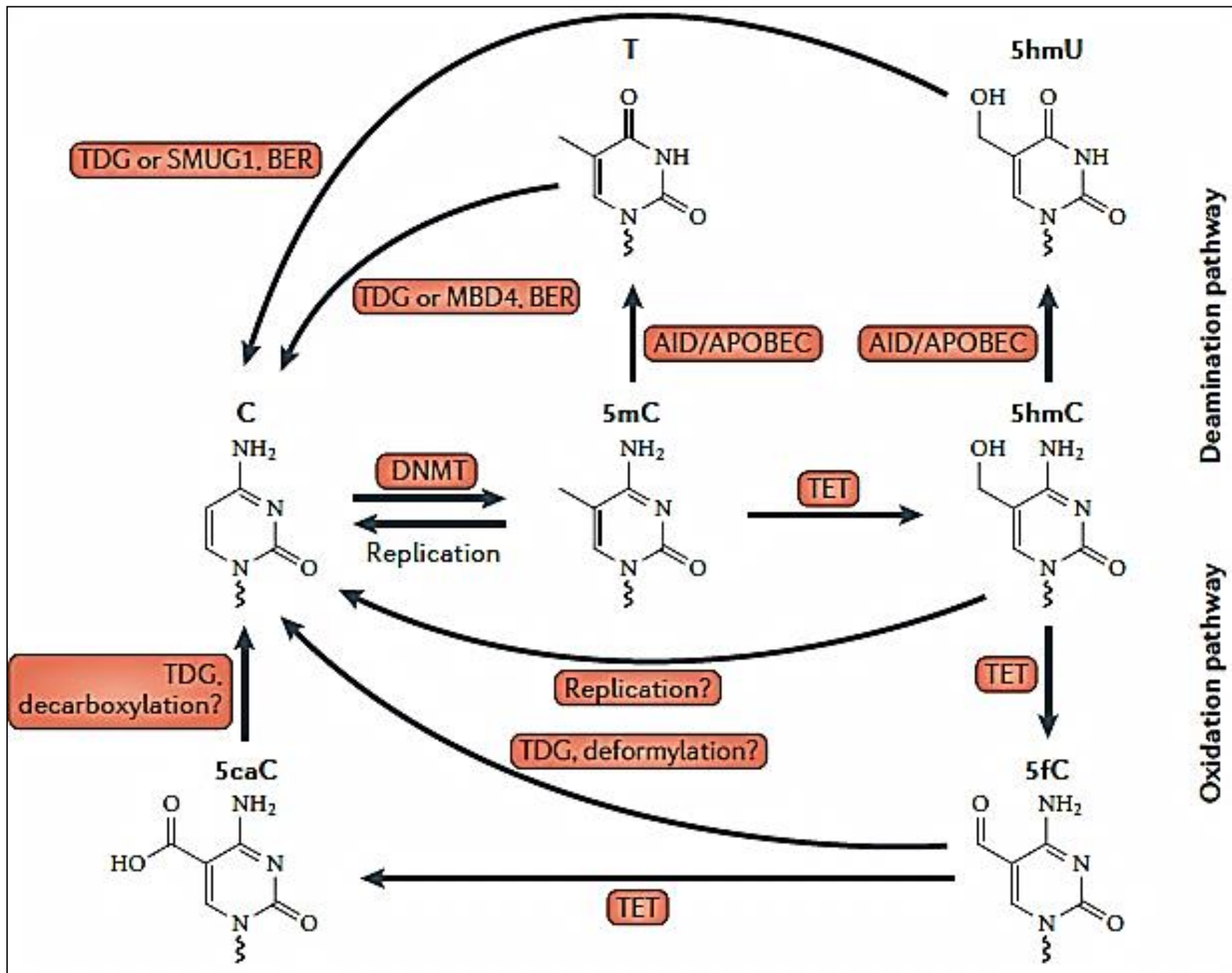
2.2 5hmC is further oxidized to 5-formylcytosine (5fC) and 5-carboxylcytosine (5caC) by TET enzymes. Decarboxylation of 5caC may convert these intermediates directly back to cytosine.

2.3 Thymine DNA glycosylase (TDG) has been shown to cleave 5fC and 5caC, again implicating the BER pathway in DNA demethylation.



Branco et al., Nat Rev Genet. (2012) 13: 7-13.

5hmU, 5-hydroxymethyluracil; DNMT, DNA methyltransferase; MBD4, methyl-CpG-binding domain protein 4; SMUG1, strand-selective monofunctional uracil-DNA glycosylase 1.



How to measure CpG methylation

1. Methylation-sensitive restriction enzymes
 1. HpaII*/MspI (CCGG)
 2. SmaI*/XmaI (CCCGGG)
 3. McrBC – recognize 2 methylated (G/A)pC (50-1000bp apart)

2. Bisulfite conversion (Methyl-C is not modified , C is converted to U)
 1. Enzymatic analysis (e.g. Cobra-next slide)
 2. Cloning alleles and Sanger sequencing

Most common methods to detect CpC methylation are based on **bisulfite**, which converts C (but not methyl-C) to Uridine. Uridine in DNA is then replaced by T in the following PCR. Conservation of C (in the case of methyl-C) or change in T are subsequently detected (simplest) by restriction site analysis, as in the **example** that follows:

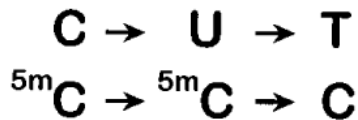
Single CpG analysis

COBRA - Combined Bisulfite Restriction Analysis

Bisulfite-PCR

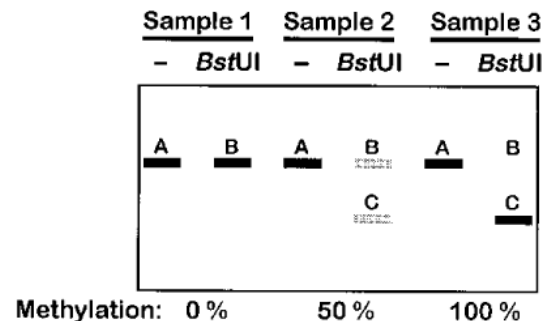
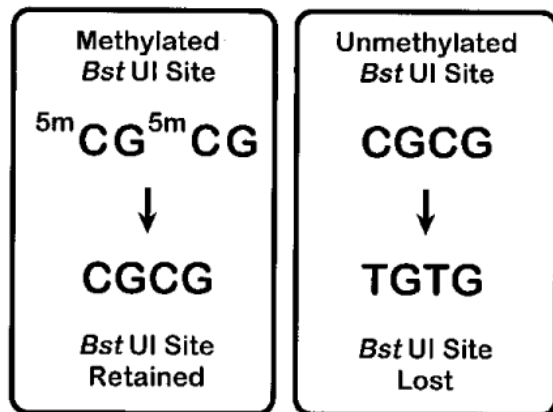


Quantitation



Restriction Digestion
PAGE Gel
Oligo Hybridization
Phosphorimager Quantitation

Example:



$$\% \text{ Methylation} = 100 \times \left(\frac{C}{B + C} \right)$$

Is it possible to study DNA CpG methylation genome-wide ?

Approach I

- 1) DNA immunoprecipitation using an Ab against 5-methyl-cytosine
- 2) DNA immunoprecipitation using tagged-MBD

followed by hybridization to microarrays or NGS

Approach II

Bisulfite conversion of the whole genomic DNA,

followed by NGS (WGBS)

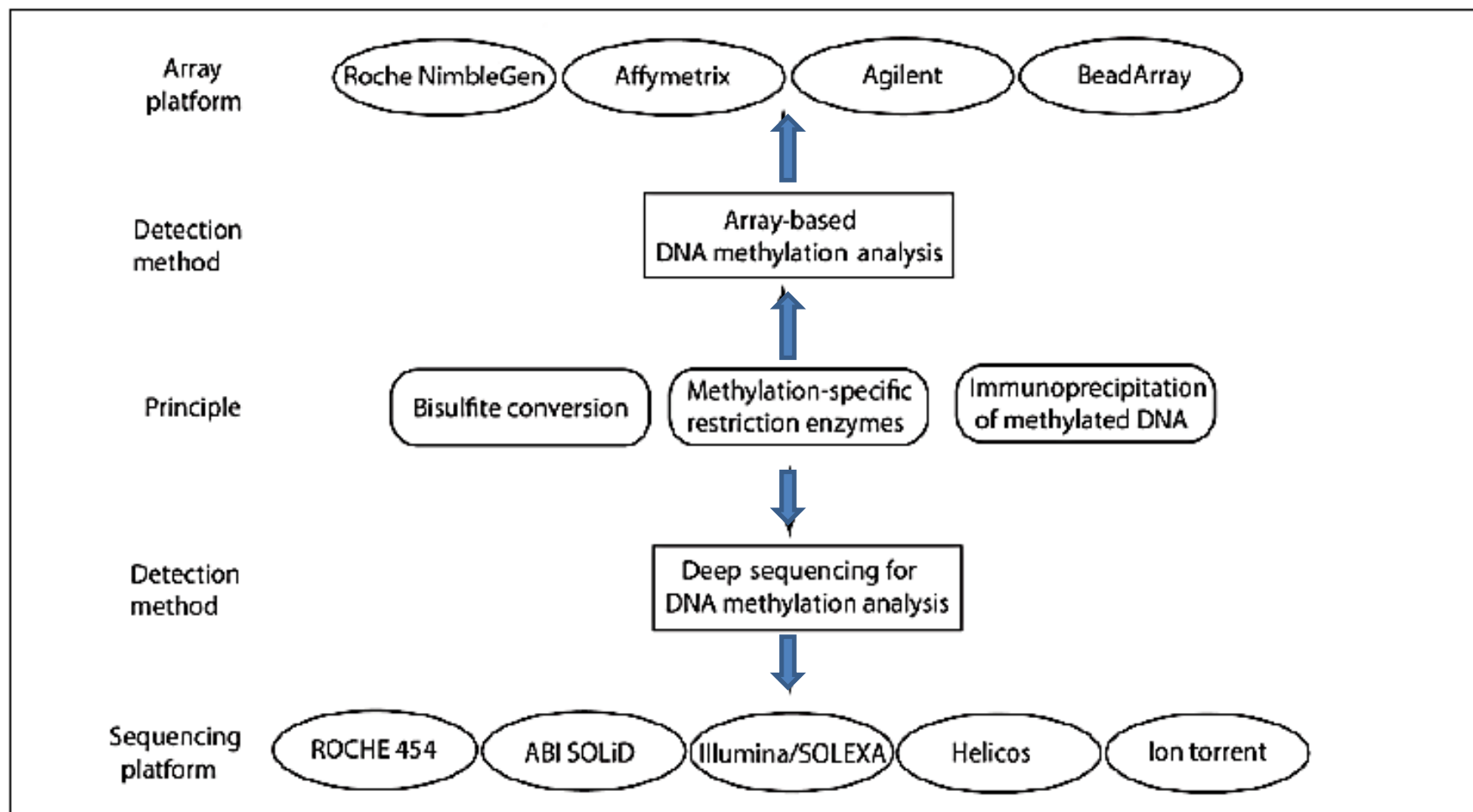


Figure 1. Methods for genome-wide DNA methylation analysis. Bisulfite-converted DNA, DNA methylation-specific immunoprecipitation methods, and DNA partitions generated by methylation-specific restriction enzymes can be used for both array-based and high-throughput deep sequencing-based genome-wide DNA methylation analysis. There are several different choices for both array platforms and sequencing technologies that can be used for DNA methylation analysis.

On microarrays...

Anti-5—methylcytosine capture

DNA Methylation Workflow

Input DNA containing
in vivo methylated islands



Green=input

Red=methylated



Green = input sample

Red = methylation enriched sample



1. Lyse cells and shear DNA with sonication
2. Capture and enrich by IP with methylation-specific antibody

3. Release enriched fragment pool
4. Amplify and label DNA fragments

5. Hybridize to microarray for detection
Methylation (Red) / Input (Green) Ratio

Figure 1. Affinity-based isolation of methylated DNA. A representative example of one method for isolation and enrichment of methylated DNA. Methylated regions of the genome (mDIP) from a genomic DNA sample are isolated with a monoclonal antibody to 5-methylcytosine. Isolated DNA is purified, Cyanine 5-labeled, and competitively hybridized against similarly Cyanine 3-labeled "input" genomic DNA onto a single microarray. Arrays are washed, scanned, and analyzed with Feature Extraction software. Relative DNA methylation levels for each probe/CpG Island are reflected in changes in Cyanine 5/Cyanine 3 ratios.

2007 – the first methylome paper was made by 5-me-C IMPT followed by hybridization on microarray containing several probes for each gene promoter known at that time.

Distribution, silencing potential and evolutionary impact of promoter DNA methylation in the human genome

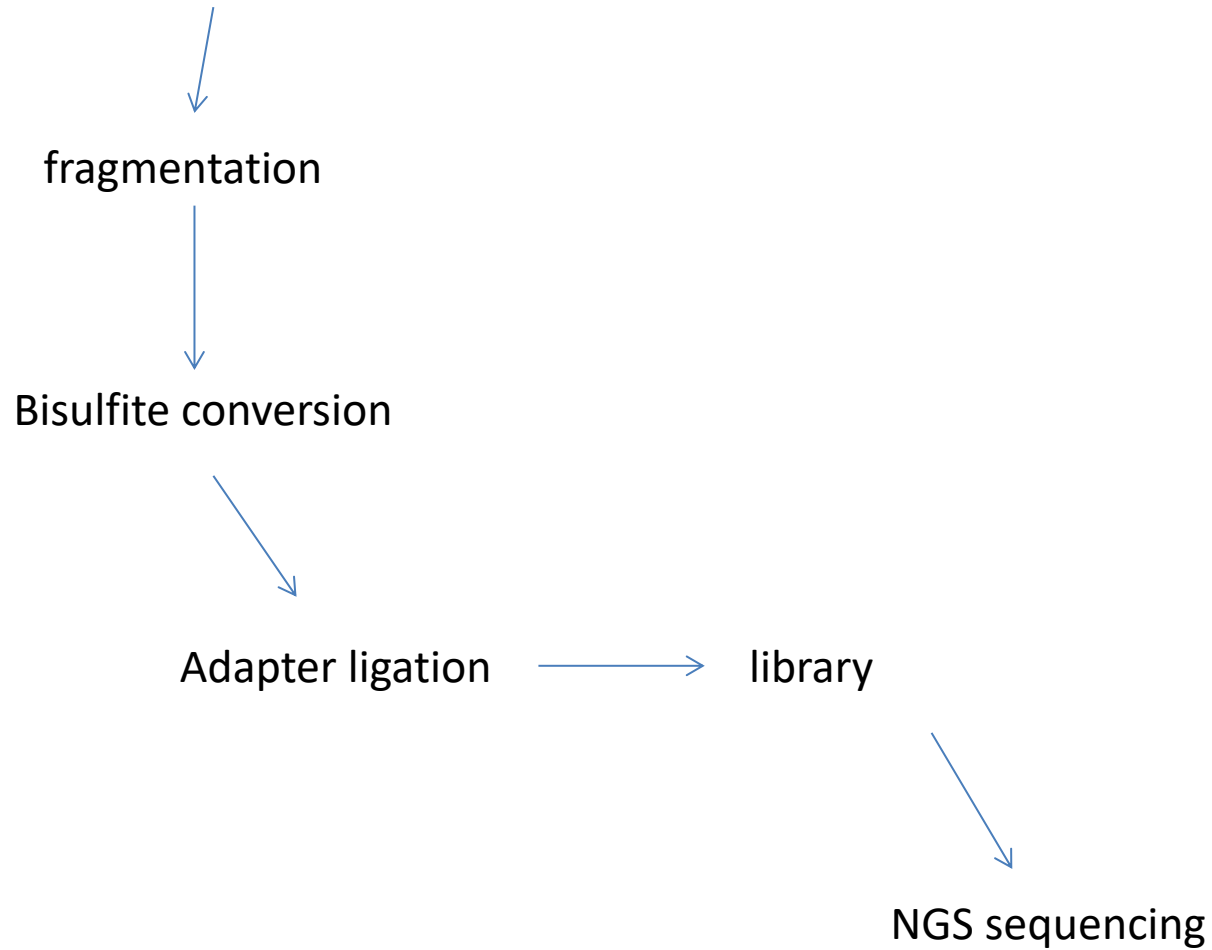
Michael Weber¹, Ines Hellmann^{2,3}, Michael B Stadler¹, Liliana Ramos⁴, Svante Pääbo², Michael Rebhan¹ & Dirk Schübeler¹

To gain insight into the function of DNA methylation at *cis*-regulatory regions and its impact on gene expression, we measured methylation, RNA polymerase occupancy and histone modifications at 16,000 promoters in primary human somatic and germline cells. We find CpG-poor promoters hypermethylated in somatic cells, which does not preclude their activity. This methylation is present in male gametes and results in evolutionary loss of CpG dinucleotides, as measured by divergence between humans and primates. In contrast, strong CpG island promoters are mostly unmethylated, even when inactive. Weak CpG island promoters are distinct, as they are preferential targets for *de novo* methylation in somatic cells. Notably, most germline-specific genes are methylated in somatic cells, suggesting additional functional selection. These results show that promoter sequence and gene function are major predictors of promoter methylation states. Moreover, we observe that inactive unmethylated CpG island promoters show elevated levels of dimethylation of Lys4 of histone H3, suggesting that this chromatin mark may protect DNA from methylation.

Bisulfite

Whole genome

DNA purification from samples



Whole genome methylation by bisulfite modification is **very difficult** !

....remember that CpG methylation is stochastic, every cell has its own profile

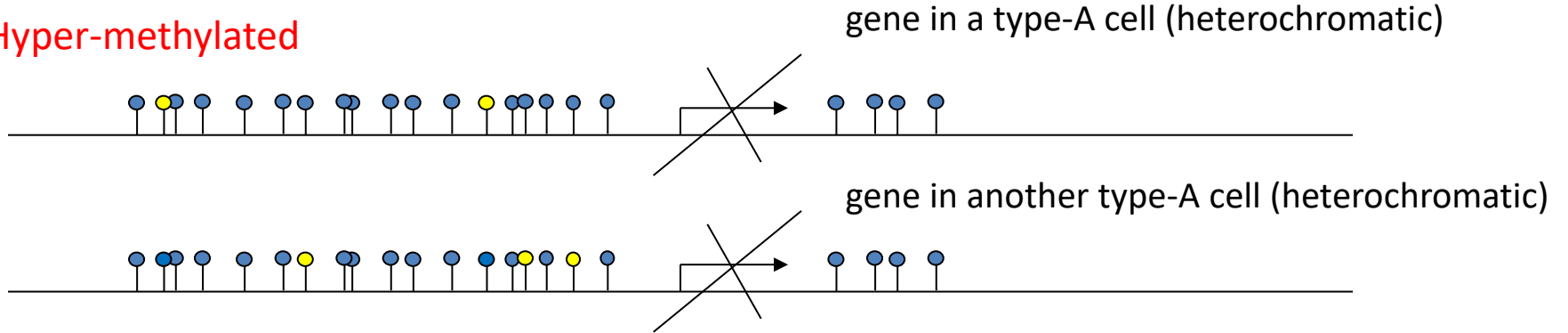
Very **redundant** sequencing is needed

Aligning database should contain all possible variations

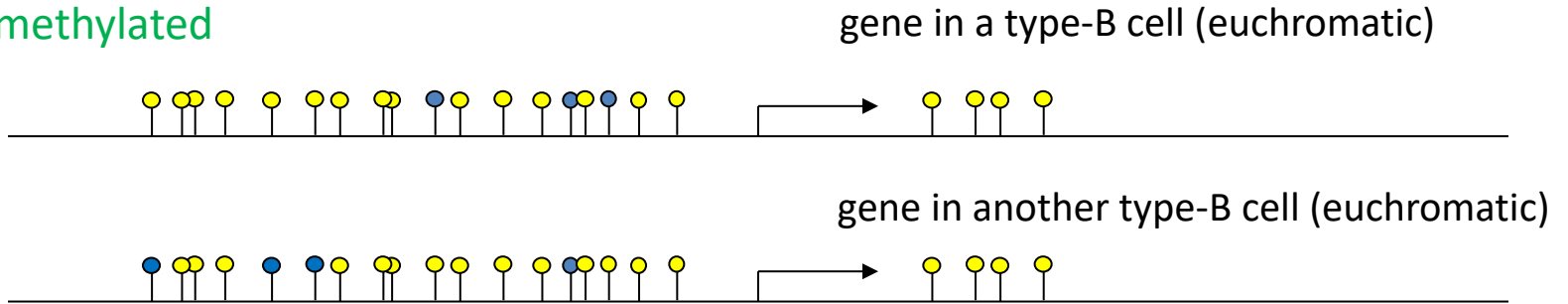
Reduced versions are possible:



Warning! – CpG methylation is not site-specific

Hyper-methylated



Hypo-methylated



-  unmethylated CpG
-  methylated CpG

Since CpG methylation of a given DNA fragment is different from cell to cell, sequencing needs either cloning + Sanger or NGS.

E.g. (Sanger sequencing) :

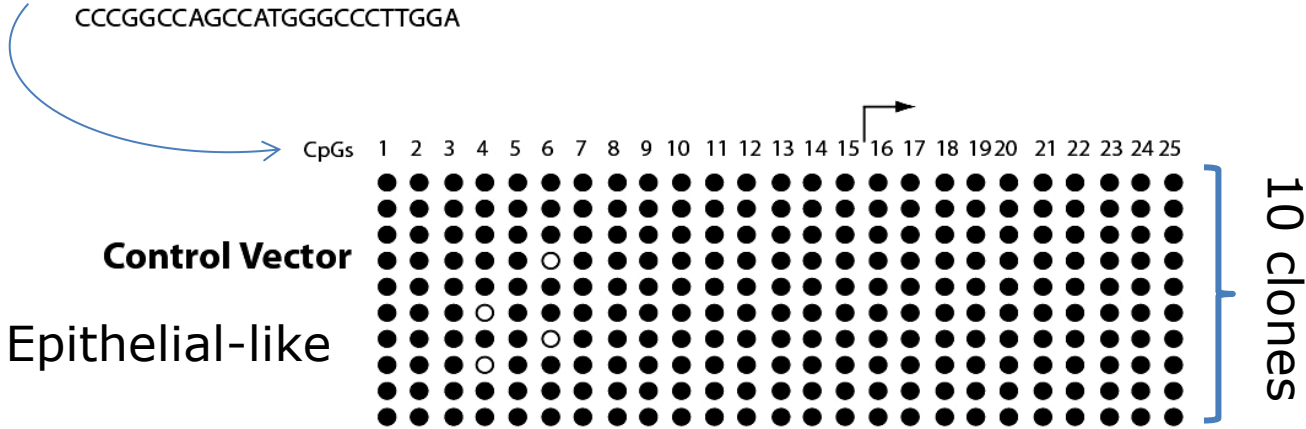
- 1) extract DNA from cells
- 2) bisulfite treatment
- 3) PCR the fragment using “side” primers
- 4) **clone** individual fragment in a plasmid vector
- 5) sequence a representative number of clones (if Sanger)

E-Cadherin gene promoter

Example

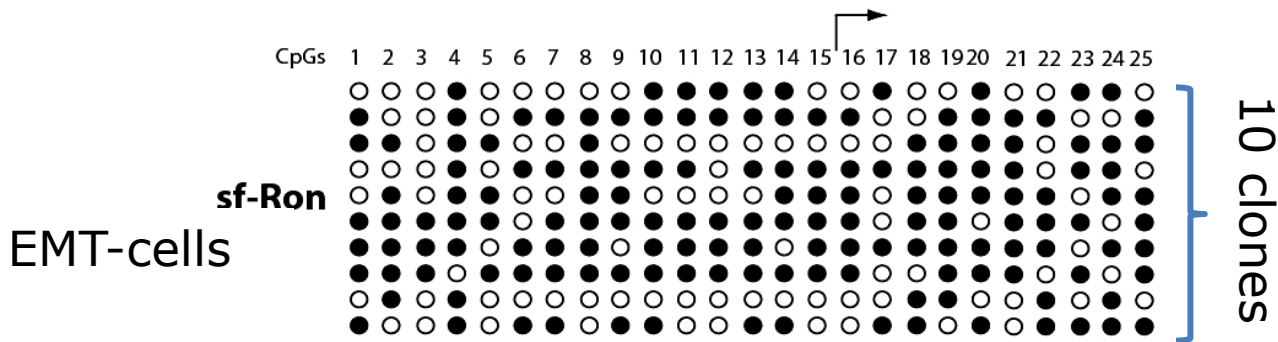
TSS

AGACCCTAGCAACTCCAGGCTAGAGGGTCACCGCGTCTATGCGAGGCCGGGTGGGCGGGCCGTCAGCTCCGCCCTG
 GGGAGGGGTCCGCGCTGCTGATTGGCTGTGGCCGGCAGGTGAACCCTCAGCCAATCAGCGGTACGGGGGGCGGTG
 CTCCGGGGCTCACCTGGCTGCAGCCACGCACCCCTCTCAGTGGCGTCGGAAGTCAAAGCACCTGTGAGCTTGCG
 GAAGTCAGTTCAGACTCCAGCCCCGCTCCAGCCCCGGCCCGACCCGACCCGACCCGGCGCCTGCCCTCGCTCGGCGTC
 CCCGGCCAGCCATGGGCCCTTGGA



○ methylated

● unmethylated



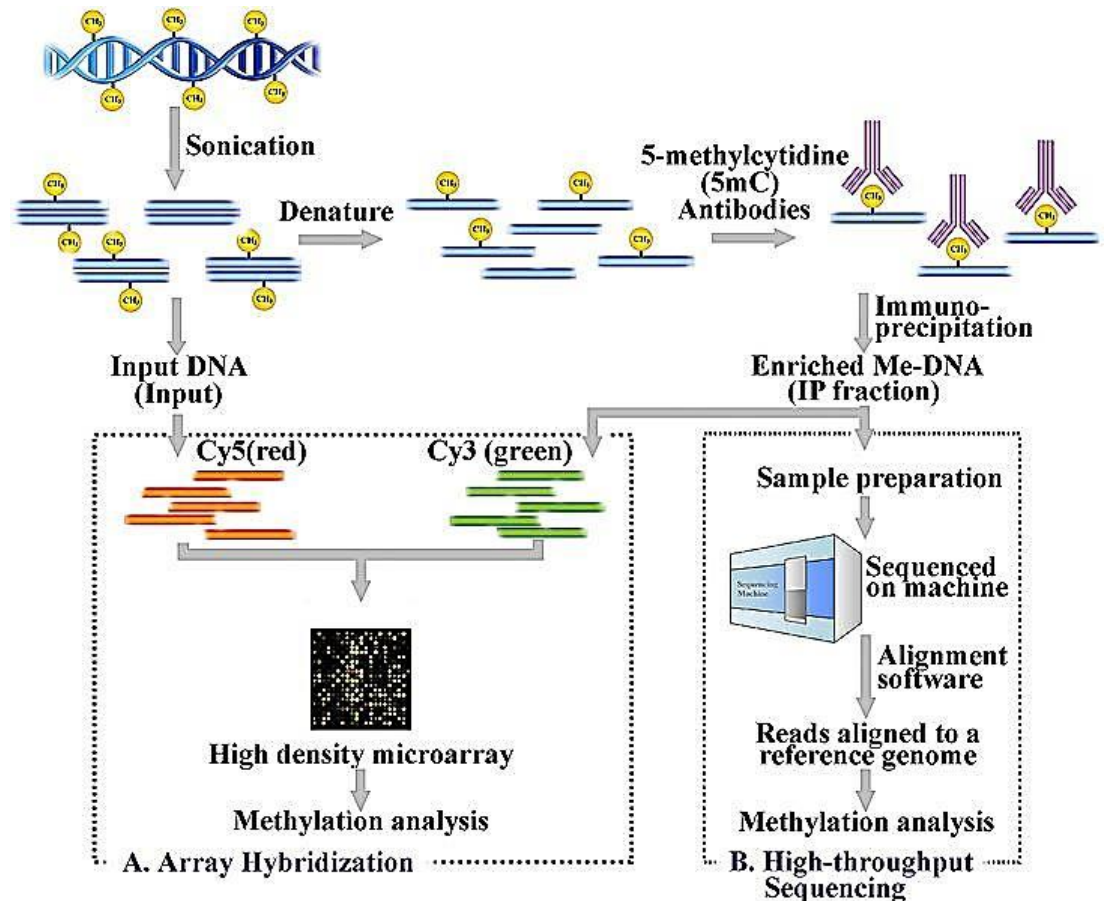
RRBS = reduced representation bisulfite sequencing

1

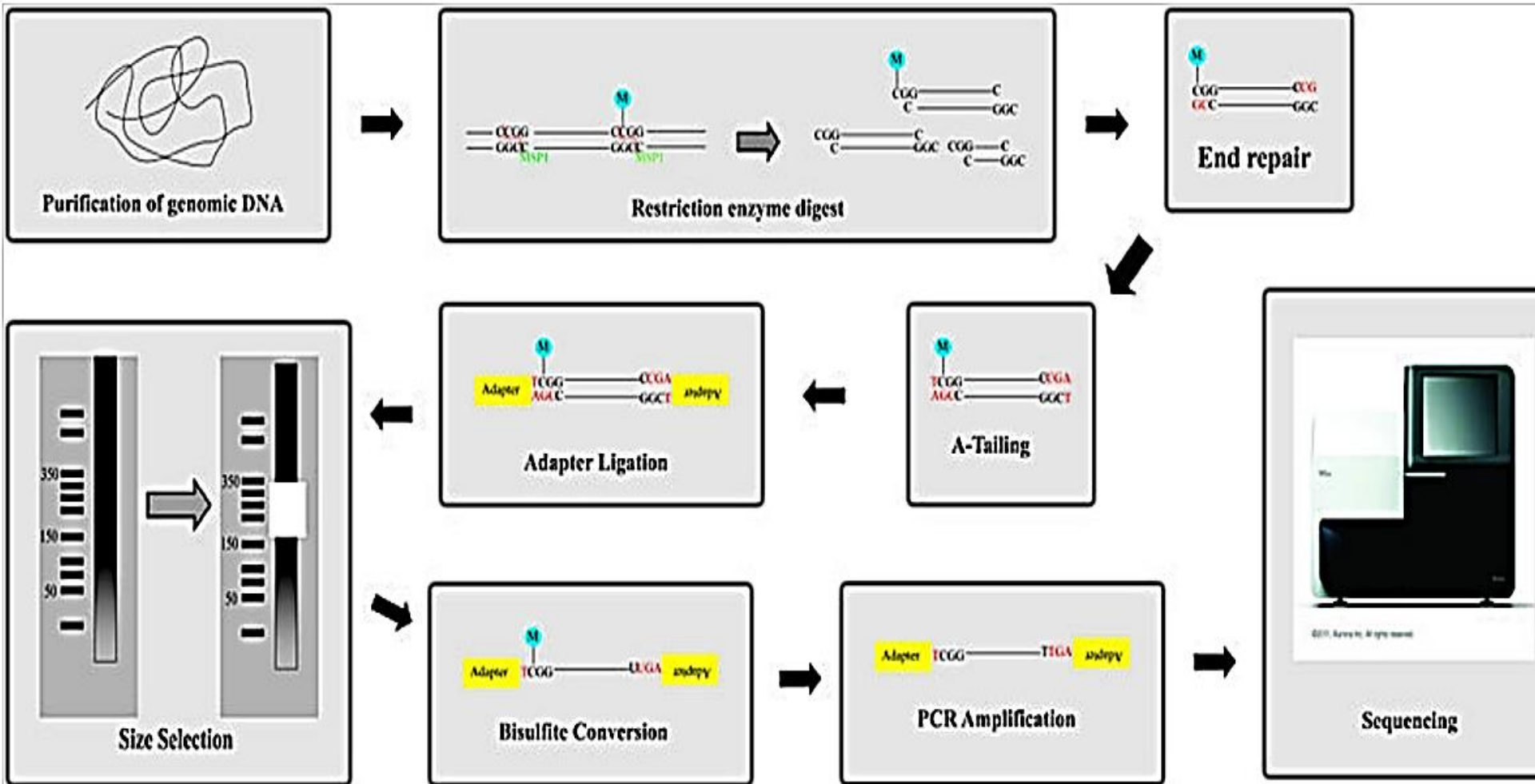
DNA cut with methylation-specific enzymes will enrich a 200-300 bp fraction of hyper-methylated DNA. This fraction is used to produce library → NGS

2

Or affinity-purified (MeDIP) methylated DNA fragments analyzed:



RRBS scheme



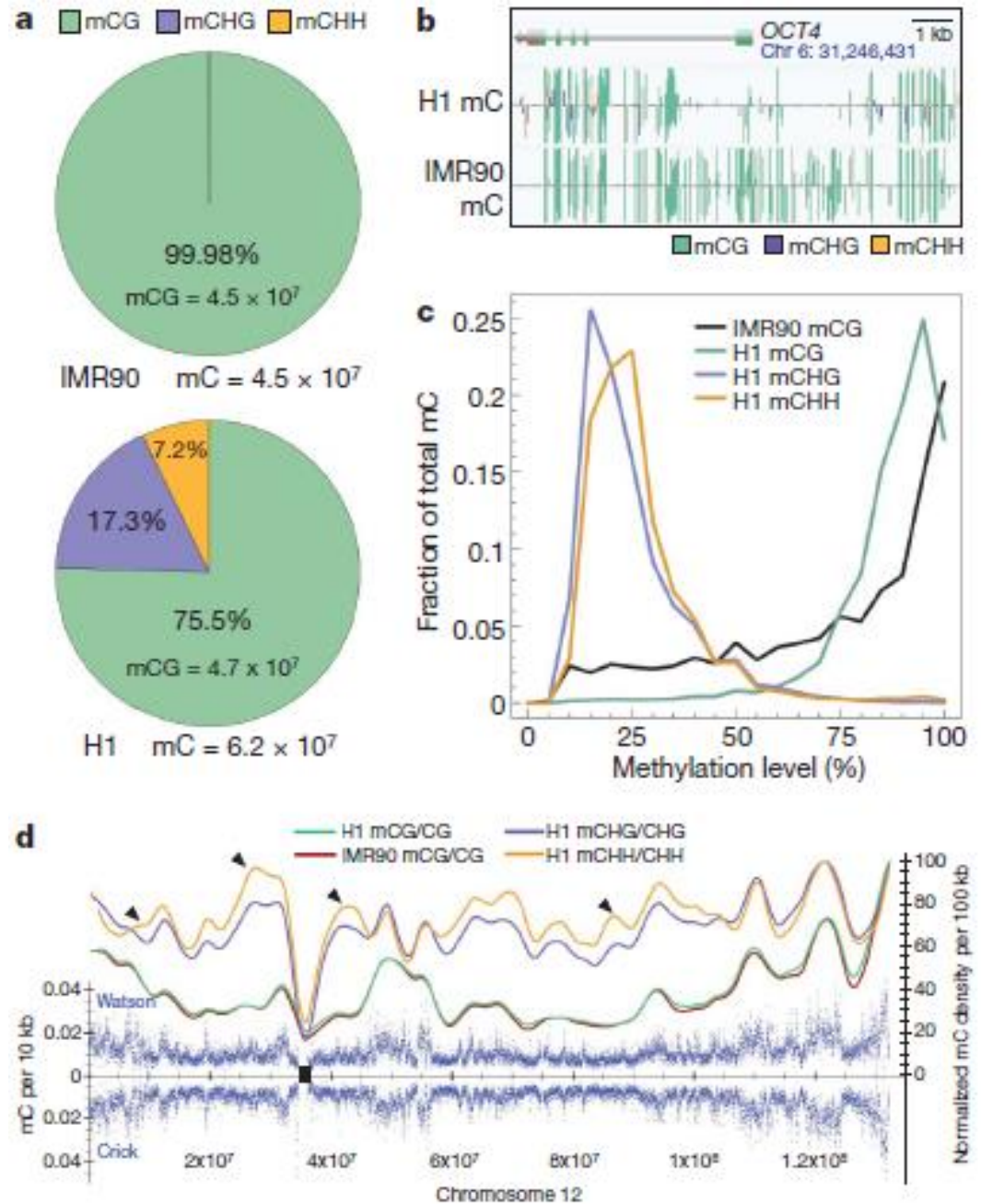
Human DNA methylomes at base resolution show widespread epigenomic differences

Ryan Lister^{1*}, Mattia Pelizzola^{1*}, Robert H. Downen¹, R. David Hawkins², Gary Hon², Julian Tonti-Filippini⁴, Joseph R. Nery¹, Leonard Lee², Zhen Ye², Que-Minh Ngo², Lee Edsall², Jessica Antosiewicz-Bourget^{5,6}, Ron Stewart^{5,6}, Victor Ruotti^{5,6}, A. Harvey Millar⁴, James A. Thomson^{5,6,7,8}, Bing Ren^{2,3} & Joseph R. Ecker¹

DNA cytosine methylation is a central epigenetic modification that has essential roles in cellular processes including genome regulation, development and disease. Here we present the first genome-wide, single-base-resolution maps of methylated cytosines in a mammalian genome, from both human embryonic stem cells and fetal fibroblasts, along with comparative analysis of messenger RNA and small RNA components of the transcriptome, several histone modifications, and sites of DNA–protein interaction for several key regulatory factors. Widespread differences were identified in the composition and patterning of cytosine methylation between the two genomes. Nearly one-quarter of all methylation identified in embryonic stem cells was in a non-CG context, suggesting that embryonic stem cells may use different methylation mechanisms to affect gene regulation. Methylation in non-CG contexts showed enrichment in gene bodies and depletion in protein binding sites and enhancers. Non-CG methylation disappeared upon induced differentiation of the embryonic stem cells, and was restored in induced pluripotent stem cells. We identified hundreds of differentially methylated regions proximal to genes involved in pluripotency and differentiation, and widespread reduced methylation levels in fibroblasts associated with lower transcriptional activity. These reference epigenomes provide a foundation for future studies exploring this key epigenetic modification in human disease and development.

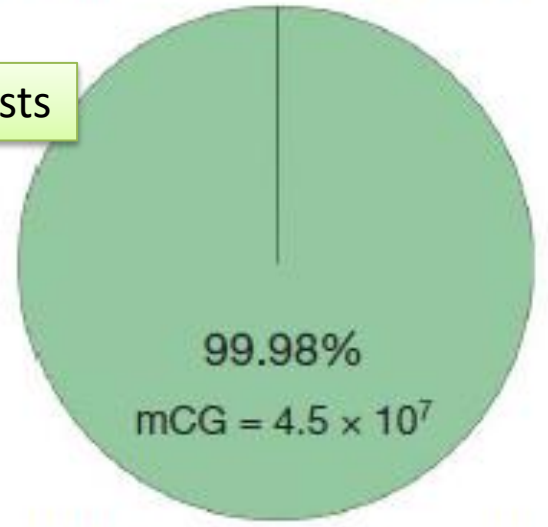
H1 are human embryonic stem cells

IMR90 are fetal lung fibroblasts



a mCG mCHG mCHH

IMR90 are fetal lung fibroblasts

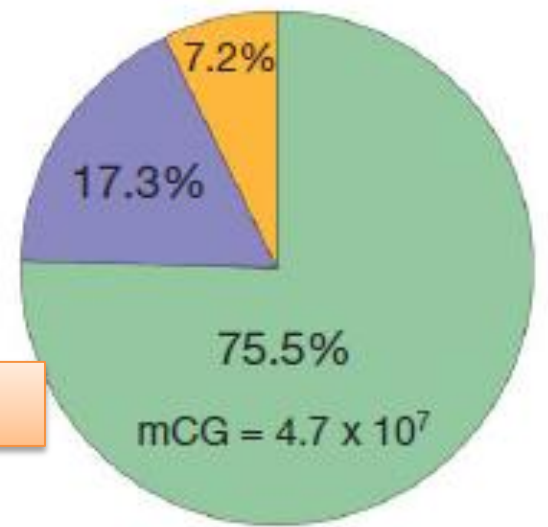


IMR90 mC = 4.5×10^7

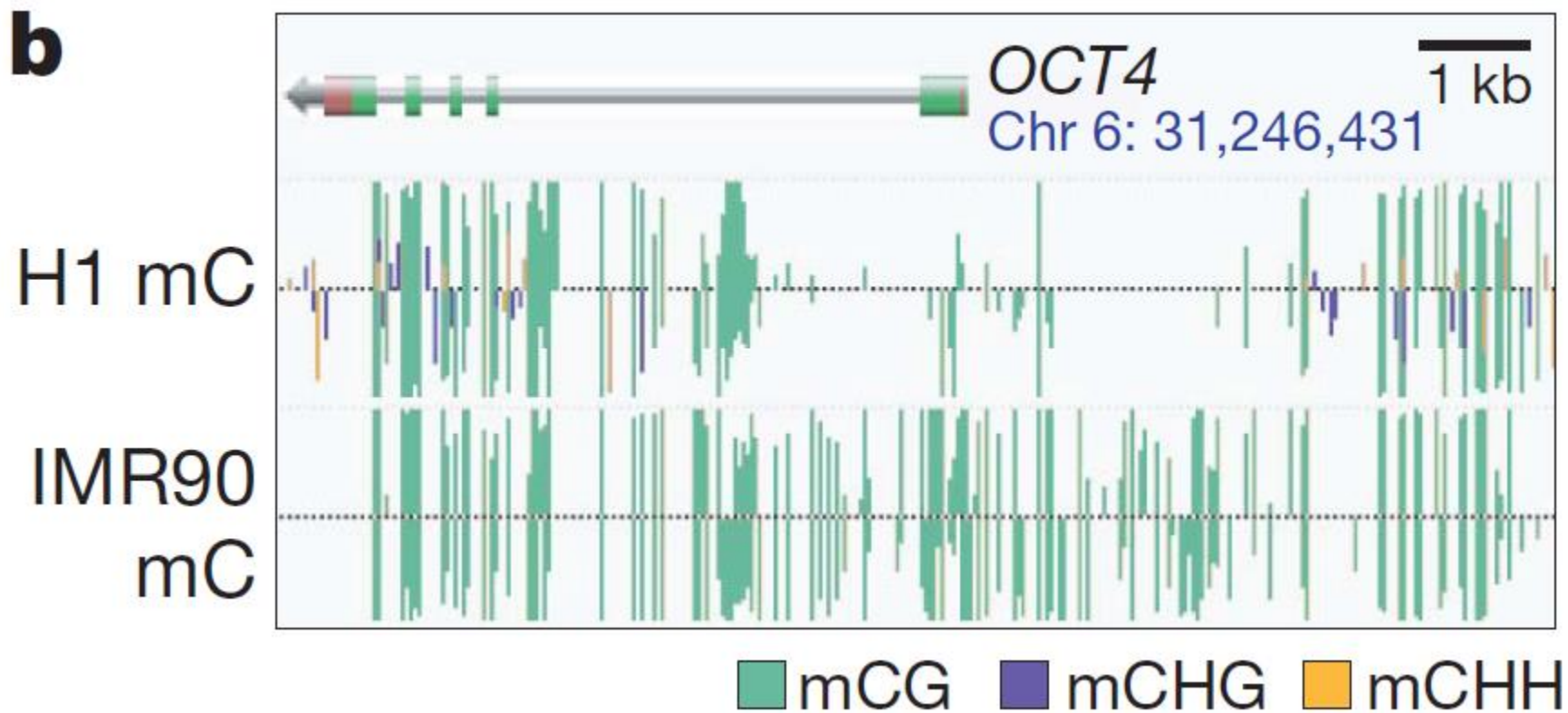
Figure 1 | Global trends of human DNA methylomes.

a, The percentage of methyl-cytosines identified for H1 and IMR90 cells in each sequence context.

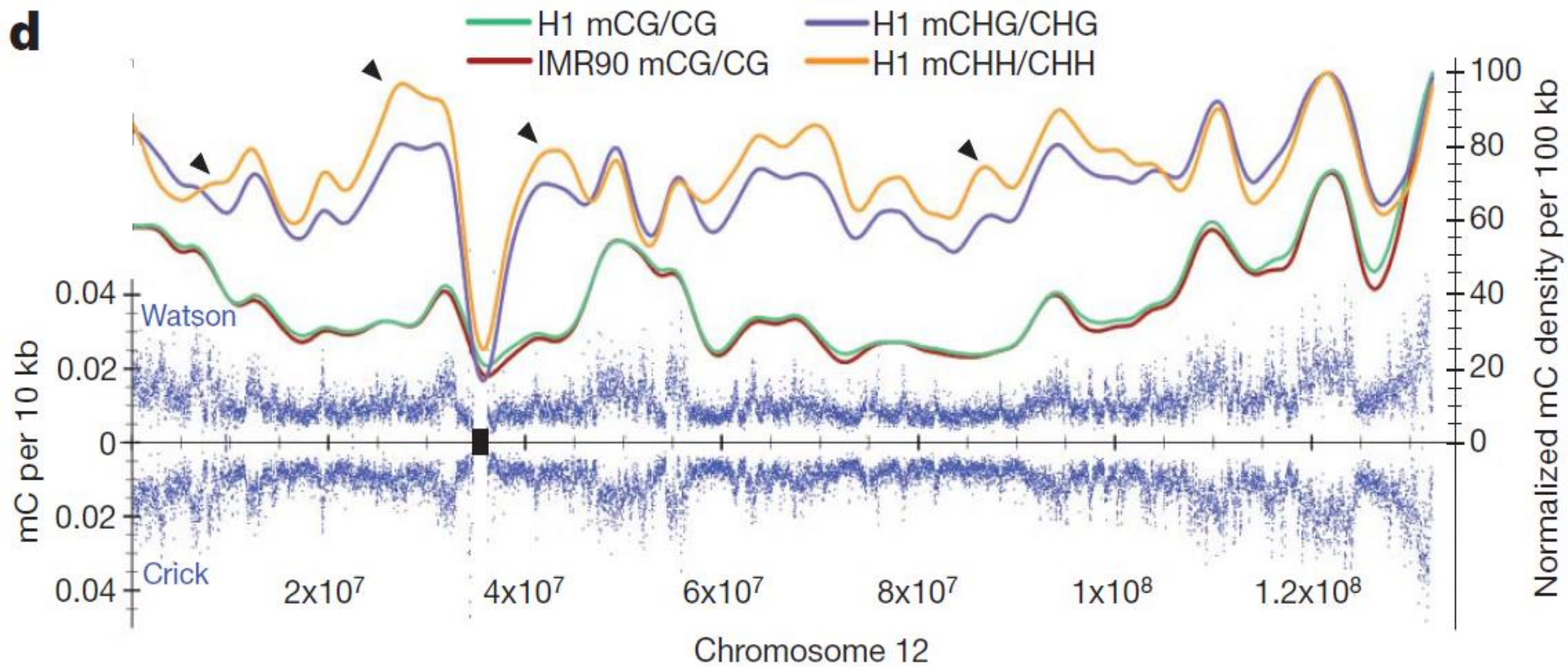
H1 are human embryonic stem cells



H1 mC = 6.2×10^7



b, AnnoJ browser representation of OCT4.

d

d, Blue dots indicate methyl-cytosine density in H1 cells in 10-kb windows throughout chromosome 12 (black rectangle, centromere). Smoothed lines represent the methyl-cytosine density in each context in H1 and IMR90 cells. Black triangles indicate various regions of contrasting trends in CG and non-CG methylation. mC, methyl-cytosine.

EPIGENOMICS

Methylation matters

Dirk Schübeler

Genome-wide maps of methylated cytosine bases at single-base-pair resolution in human cells reveal distinct differences between cell types. These maps provide a starting point to decode the function of this enigmatic mark.

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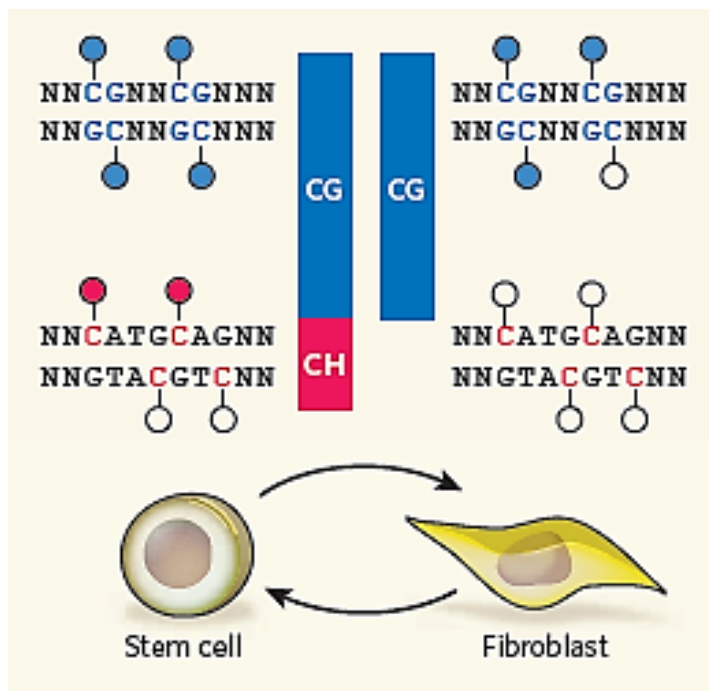


Figure 1 | DNA methylation patterns differ between stem cells and differentiated cells¹. In stem cells, regions of DNA with CpG methylation (blue) are mostly uniformly methylated, whereas this modification is more heterogeneous in fibroblasts. Non-CpG methylation (red), which occurs primarily at CA nucleotides, is detected only in stem cells, yet is asymmetric and more scarce and patchy than CpG methylation. If fibroblasts are converted to induced pluripotent stem cells they regain non-CpG methylation. Filled circles, methylated cytosines; unfilled circles, unmethylated cytosines. H stands for A, C or T; N stands for any nucleotide.