#### **Rencontres Scientifiques des Grands Causses**

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# The role of DNA repeats in metazoans genomes

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## Genome size vs number of genes for different organisms



**10**<sup>6</sup> Genome Size (bp)

Number of genes







There are **1395** different repetitive elements in the human genome (Repbase)



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# **Example of repetitive DNA elements in the genomic context**

	chr21 (q21.1)	21p13 21p12 21p1	21q11.2	21921.1	21q21.2 21q21.3	21q22.11 21q22.12 <mark>21q22.13</mark>	21q22.2 21q22.3	
300 kb								
Scale chr21: UCSC Genes	21,950,000	22,000,000	100 kb 22,058,000  UCSC 0	22,100,000  enes (RefSeq, GenBank, CCDS,	22,150,000  Rfam, tRNAs & Comparative Genom	hg19 22,200,000  ics)	22,250,000	22,300,000
Rhesus Mouse Dog					of 100 vertebrates			
SINE LINE LINE DNA Simple Low Complexity Satellite RNA		an an tha an						

### **Example of repetitive DNA elements in the genomic context**

	chr21 (q21.1) 2191	21p12 21p11	1.2 21q11.2	21q21.1	21q21.2	21q21.3 21q22	2.11 21922.1221922.13 21	g22.2 21g22.3	
300 kb				_					
Scale chr21: UCSC Genes	21,950,000	22,000,000	100 kb - 22,050,000  UCSC	22,100,000 Genes (RefSeq, GerBani	nk, CCDS, Rfam, tRNPs	2,150,000 & Comparative Genomics)	22,200,000	22,250,000	22,300,000
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Rhesus Mouse = Dog				Muiti:	Alignments of 100 Ver	ebrates			
SINE   LINE   DNA Simple Low Complexity Satellite RNA									





Why are repeated elements so common in metazoan and plants genomes ?

1) They are just junk/selfish elements

2) They have a function and are selected by evolution

In a recent brief review (McClintock, 1956), a description was given of types of elements carried in the maize chromosomes that serve to control gene action and to induce, at the site of the gene, heritable modifications affecting this action. These elements were initially discovered because they do not remain at one position in the chromosome complement. They can appear at new locations and disappear from previously determined locations. The presence of one such element at or near the locus of a known gene may affect the action of this gene. In so doing, it need not alter the action potentials of the genic substances at the locus. Therefore, these elements were called controlling elements. It was also shown that controlling elements fall into groups, the members of each operating as an integrated system in the control of gene action.

# Evolution of the mammalian transcription factor binding repertoire via transposable elements

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Identification of lineage-specific innovations in genomic control elements is critical for understanding transcriptional regulatory networks and phenotypic heterogeneity. We analyzed, from an evolutionary perspective, the binding regions of seven mammalian transcription factors (ESRI, TP53, MYC, RELA, POU5FI, SOX2, and CTCF) identified on a genome-wide scale by different chromatin immunoprecipitation approaches and found that only a minority of sites appear to be conserved at the sequence level. Instead, we uncovered a pervasive association with genomic repeats by showing that a large fraction of the bona fide binding sites for five of the seven transcription factors (ESRI, TP53, POU5FI, SOX2, and CTCF) are embedded in distinctive families of transposable elements. Using the age of the repeats, we established that these repeat-associated binding sites (RABS) have been associated with significant regulatory expansions throughout the mammalian phylogeny. We validated the functional significance of these RABS by showing that they are over-represented in proximity of regulated genes and that the binding motifs within these repeats have undergone evolutionary selection. Our results demonstrate that transcriptional regulatory networks are highly dynamic in eukaryotic genomes and that transposable elements play an important role in expanding the repertoire of binding sites.







Flowering gene netwok in A. Thaliana (see Mendoza and Alvarez-Buylla, 1998; Mendoza et al., 1999; Espinosa-Sotoa et al., 2004).

# Why repetitive DNA is essential to genome function

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#### ABSTRACT

There are clear theoretical reasons and many well-documented examples which show that repetitive DNA is essential for genome function. Generic repeated signals in the DNA are necessary to format expression of unique coding sequence files and to organise additional functions essential for genome replication and accurate transmission to progeny cells. Repetitive DNA sequence elements are also fundamental to the cooperative molecular interactions forming nucleoprotein complexes. Here, we review the surprising abundance of repetitive DNA in many genomes, describe its structural diversity, and discuss dozens of cases where the functional importance of repetitive elements has been studied in molecular detail. In particular, the fact that repeat elements serve either as initiators or boundaries for heterochromatin domains and provide a significant fraction of scaffolding/matrix attachment regions (S/MARs) suggests that the repetitive component of the genome plays a major architectonic role in higher order physical structuring. Employing an information science model, the 'functionalist' perspective on repetitive DNA leads to new ways of thinking about the systemic organisation of cellular genomes and provides several novel possibilities involving repeat elements in evolutionarily significant genome reorganisation. These ideas may facilitate the interpretation of comparisons between sequenced genomes, where the repetitive DNA component is often greater than the coding sequence component.



T Cremer





# Nuclear structure seen with the microscope



Nuclear architecture of Mouse fibroblasts (Solovei et al., Cell, 2009).

constitutive Heterochromatin Satellite

Heterochromatin LINE

Euchromatin SINE

A Riccio

# Measuring chromosomal contact experimentally: The Chromosome Conformation Capture experiment



Measuring chromosomal contact experimentally: The Chromosome Conformation Capture experiment



Cournac et al., 2012 Duan et al., 2010 Rodley et al., 2009 Dekker et al., 2002

# 3C library





Human genome, hESC (data from Dixon et al., 2011, reprocessed Cournac and Mozziconacci)

Lieberman-Aiden et al., 2009; Dixon et al., 2011; Khalor et al., 2012; Dekker et al., 2002

# Co-localization Score (CS) of all the different repetitive elements found in the human genome.



CS<sub>AluJB</sub>=<Mij><sub>ij containing AluJB</sub>

- 30 kbp bins (80.000 bins)
- Inter-chromosomal contacts

# Co-localization score of all the different repetitive elements found in the human genome.





Pvalues are determined using random swapping of repeats positions under various null models



Cournac, Koszul and Mozziconacci, in revision

# **Comparison between two different cell types**



#### Human Embryonic Stem Cells

# **Comparison between two different cell types**



# **Comparison between two different cell types**



## Comparison between mouse and human genome 3D organization







Human chromosomes

Mouse chromosomes

# Whereas syntenic blocs are reshuffled in the mouse vs human genomes, The 3D structure is conserved







Human chromosomes

Mouse chromosomes

## The conserved 3D structure correlates with the MIR density





Human chromosomes

Mouse chromosomes

# Differences in the 3D organization of the two genomes correlated with different SINE distribution



Human chromosomes

Mouse chromosomes

# Co-localization score of all the different repetitive elements in the Drosophila genome.



#### **Element P**



**Element P** 



Anxolabehere et al.

# Summary



The genome of metazoans is full of DNA repeats.

# **<u>Role in cell differentiation:</u>** DNA repeats organize the genome folding in a cell type and transcription factor specific manner





### **Role in evolution:**

Retro-transposition waves are able to reshape the genome folding in different organisms.

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Alu DNA