THREE-DIMENSIONAL GENOME ARCHITECTURE PERSISTS IN A 52,000-YEAR-OLD WOOLLY MAMMOTH SKIN SAMPLE



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DNA FRAGMENTS SURVIVE IN ANCIENT SAMPLES...



...BUT ONLY FRAGMENTS



Vinícius Contessoto Antonio Oliveira Jr. José Onuchic [CTBP]

...BUT ONLY FRAGMENTS





Vinícius Contessoto Antonio Oliveira Jr. José Onuchic [CTBP]

KNOWABLE MAGAZINE

COULD THE THREE-DIMENSIONAL ARRANGEMENT OF DNA FRAGMENTS SURVIVE?



COULD THE THREE-DIMENSIONAL ARRANGEMENT OF DNA FRAGMENTS SURVIVE?



A FIVE-YEAR FOSSIL HUNT BROUGHT US TO A PERMAFROST CAVE...



Video credit: Love Dalén

...WHERE WE FOUND A SKIN FROM A 52,000-YEAR-OLD WOOLLY MAMMOTH



THE HAIRS WERE STILL THERE





Valeri Plotnikov Dan Fisher Photo: Love Dalen

WE KEPT ZOOMING IN USING A MICROSCOPE



NOW WE COULD SEE THE HAIR FOLLICLES...







...AND EVEN INDIVIDUAL CELLS







FINALLY WE ARRIVED AT NUCLEAR SCALE,



FINALLY WE ARRIVED AT NUCLEAR SCALE, BUT ZOOMING REQUIRED A NEW METHOD: PALEOHI-C





HERE IS WHAT THE PALEOHI-C DATA LOOKED LIKE

=300

THIS IS WHAT THE ASSEMBLY LOOKED LIKE



THIS IS WHAT THE ASSEMBLY LOOKED LIKE

By the way this is a mammoth chromosome territory



SO YES, WE CAN PEEK INSIDE THE NUCLEUS OF A WOOLLY MAMMOTH







CAN WE KEEP GOING?



WHAT ABOUT COMPARTMENTS?





















COMPARTMENTS PERSIST!

Second Surgery

Active Inactive





THE FIDELITY OF PRESERVATION IS HIGH ENOUGH TO PICK UP CELL-SPECIFIC PATTERNS...



...AND WE CAN USE THE SIGNAL TO FIGURE OUT WHICH GENES WERE 'ON' IN THE SKIN 52,000 YEARS AGO



-0.02 0.02 -0.02 0.02

YES, WE CAN SEE COMPARTMENTS!





CAN WE ZOOM IN EVEN FURTHER?



DO LOOPS PERSIST?





Rao, Huntley et al., Cell 2014: Aggregate Peak Analysis (APA)

LOOPS PERSIST FOR 52,000 YEARS!





WE CAN SEE FOSSILS OF ANCIENT CHROMOSOMES!



WE CAN SEE FOSSILS OF ANCIENT CHROMOSOMES!





Simulations: Vinícius Contessoto, Antonio Oliveira Jr., José Onuchic [CTBP]

ANCIENT DNA FRAGMENTS IN OUR SAMPLES APPEAR NOT TO HAVE DIFFUSED MUCH

SURVIVAL OF ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES RULES OUT RMSD>50NM

Diffusivity and viscosity estimates for woolly mammoth chromatin based on the preservation of various architectural features

Feature	RMSD (nm)	Diffusivity (m ² /s)	Viscosity (kg/m·s)
Nucleus	\leq 5000	\leq 2.5 × 10 ⁻²⁴	$\geq 4.6 \times 10^{9}$
Chromosome territories	\leq 2000	\leq 4.1 × 10 ⁻²⁵	\geq 2.9 × 10 ¹⁰
Barr body	\leq 1000	\leq 1.0 × 10 ⁻²⁵	$\geq 1.2 \times 10^{11}$
Point-to-point loops	\leq 50	\leq 2.5 × 10 ⁻²⁸	$\geq 4.6 \times 10^{13}$

SO DOES THE MODELING



Simulations: Bernardo Zubillaga Herrera, Michele Di Pierro [CTBP]
TAKEN TOGETHER WE ARE CONFIDENTTHAT RMSD IS <50NM</td>

Diffusivity and viscosity estimates for woolly mammoth chromatin based on the preservation of various architectural features

Feature	RMSD (nm)	Diffusivity (m ² /s)	Viscosity (kg/m·s)
Nucleus	\leq 5000	\leq 2.5 × 10 ⁻²⁴	$\geq 4.6 \times 10^{9}$
Chromosome territories	\leq 2000	\leq 4.1 × 10 ⁻²⁵	$\geq 2.9 \times 10^{10}$
Barr body	\leq 1000	\le 1.0 × 10 ⁻²⁵	$\geq 1.2 \times 10^{11}$
Point-to-point loops	\leq 50	\le 2.5 × 10 ⁻²⁸	$\geq 4.6 \times 10^{13}$
Contact probability			
using simple diffusion model	\leq 50	$\le 2.5 \times 10^{-28}$	$\geq 4.6 \times 10^{13}$
using excluded volume model	≤20	\leq 4.1 × 10 ⁻²⁹	$\geq 2.9 \times 10^{14}$

RMSD IS CONSISTENT WITH GLASSY STATE



WE PERFORMED SOME EXPERIMENTS IN MODERN SAMPLES TO TEST THE HYPOTHESIS

W/O INTERVENTION ARCHITECTURE DEGRADES IN 4 DAYS



W/O INTERVENTION ARCHITECTURE DEGRADES IN 4 DAYS



DEHYDRATION PRESERVES 3D ARCHITECTURE



...EVEN AFTER A YEAR AT ROOM TEMPERATURE



DEHYDRATED CHROMATIN IS VERY ROBUST



THREE-DIMENSIONAL GENOME ARCHITECTURE PERSISTS IN A 52,000-YEAR-OLD WOOLLY MAMMOTH SKIN SAMPLE

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Cell 2024



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AS PARTICLES DIFFUSE FINE STRUCTURE IS DISTURBED



BUT IN MAMMOTH FINE STRUCTURE IS PRESERVED AT ALL ASSAYABLE SCALES



A BIT OF CONTEXT



Alan Taylor Siberian mammoth pirates, The Atlantic, 2016

SOME GENES IN MAMMOTH ARE DIFFERENT...



Achyuth Kalluchi



Jordan Rowley



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IT'S BEEN PUSHING ITS BOUNDARIES





IT'S BEEN PUSHING ITS BOUNDARIES



THANK YOU!









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TUGDIACCITITIC TOTORGACE

S HI-C IS A POWERFUL SOURCE OF LINKING DATA

Folded by Jason Ku Photo: Erik Demaine

1'AC



BREAK SLIDE

Video credits: Aleksandr Grafodatsky, Albert Protopopov



PREVIOUSLY, PROMISING RESULTS WERE REPORTED IN A 15,000 Y.O. MAMMOTH...



Dark field and PI from Kato et al., Proc Jpn Acad Ser B Phys Biol Sci. 2009

...AND A 28,000 Y.O. 'YUKA' MAMMOTH



Immunostaining from Yamagata et al., Sci Rep. 2019

WE SEE ROUNDISH THINGS ON GIEMSA



FA fixed CW nuclei, Giemsa in Buffer A, 10um scale bar

WE SEE SIMILAR SHAPES WITH PI STAINING...



FA fixed CW nuclei, PI in Hi-C lysis buffer, 10um scale bar. ! Likely non-specific !

...AND EB



No-FA CW nuclei, ethidium bromide in Hi-C lysis buffer, 100x

THEY ARE SIMILAR IN SIZE AND SHAPE TO ELEPHANT NUCLEI





No-FA CW nuclei, ethidium bromide in Hi-C lysis buffer, 100x

[[WE ARE HAVING SOME TROUBLE CONNECTING THE TWO]]



Consecutive Giemsa and PI staining, no FA crosslinking

WE TRIED DOING FISH ON THESE STRUCTURES, BUT THE RESULTS ARE INCONCLUSIVE

- African elephant gDNA
- African elephant chromosomespecific probes
- rDNA
- Telomeric DNA

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WE TRIED TURNING THE TABLES ON THE MAMMOTH



Micro-dissect the mammoth

Amplify (& sequence, in progress) Label

Stain the **elephant**

MICRODISSECTION PROBES CONTAIN DNA...



...THAT LABELS SOMETHING IN ELEPHANT!

Negative control (debris and WGS)



Mammoth microdissections





Positive control (modern elephants)



LOOKS LIKE RDNA?

Negative control (debris and WGS)



Mammoth microdissections





Positive control (modern elephants)

