

The cohesin complex: sequence homologies, interaction networks and shared motifs

ABSTRACT

By merging genomic and proteomic data, we have established a comprehensive network of information to better understand the function of the cohesin complex. This has led to the identification of new SMC homologs, the creation of phylogenetic changes, and the discovery of shared DNA and protein motifs. The experimental validation of the kinase-mediated mechanism of Scc2 may provide further evidence for the regulation of sister-chromatid cohesion by phosphorylation mechanisms, which are not well understood.

INTRODUCTION

Many disciplines have developed graphical representations of complex systems to communicate, archive and analyze knowledge. Although electronic circuit diagrams and architectural plans are accessible to knowledgeable individuals, there is no universal 'real' describing functional systems in biology. Knowledge in specific areas, such as metabolic pathways, gene networks, signaling networks and molecular interactions, is stored and archived in various forms in print or online, but these representations are not standardized to account for cross-disciplinary systems – for example, the interactions between genes and metabolism at the inter- and intra-molecular levels. Inadequate cartoon diagrams are frequently used by biologists to represent multidisciplinary biological problems at various levels, such as intramolecular and disease phenotype, due to their ambiguity and lack of clarity. We propose that a standardized visual biological description language would offer easier and more clear communication, and, with computational resources, provide underlying conditions for distributed searchable archives of functional knowledge, as well as CAD functionality for simulating and analyzing biological systems. Our team is currently developing a prototype biological description language, BioD, to test its conceptual foundation, explore its utility, and identify critical issues surrounding its implementation.

CONCLUSION

In summary, our findings highlight the significance of combining functional and structural approaches to understand molecular interactions. The x-ray structure of the MS2 RNA-protein complex shows that certain types of contacts have little or no impact on its stability. Figure 4 demonstrates the significance of our results by schematically illustrating the important interactions at A-4 and A-10 within the structure of the entire translational operator. Val29 and Lys61 have significant stabilizing interactions with both A-3, while Thr45, Ser47 and TH59 have highly asymmetric contributions. The interaction between Thr45 and A-4 is the primary factor that affects binding, while both Ser47 and TF59 only affect A-10.