



Structure determination of  
genomes and genomic  
domains by satisfaction of  
spatial restraints

a.k.a TADbit

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CNAG-CRG · ICREA

<http://marciuslab.org>  
<http://3DGenomes.org>  
<http://cnag.crg.eu>

**cnag CRG<sup>R</sup> ICREA**

# DISCLAIMER — Many alternatives

Tool	Short-read aligner(s)	Mapping improvement	Read filtering	Read-pair filtering	Normalization	Visualization	Confidence estimation	Implementation language(s)
HiCUP [46]	Bowtie/Bowtie2	Pre-truncation	✓	✓	—	—	—	Perl, R
Hiclib [47]	Bowtie2	Iterative	✓ <sup>a</sup>	✓	Matrix balancing	✓	—	Python
HiC-inspector [131]	Bowtie	—	✓	✓	—	✓	—	Perl, R
HIPPIE [132]	STAR	✓ <sup>b</sup>	✓	✓	—	—	—	Python, Perl, R
HiC-Box [133]	Bowtie2	—	✓	✓	Matrix balancing	✓	—	Python
HiCdat [122]	Subread	— <sup>c</sup>	✓	✓	Three options <sup>d</sup>	✓	—	C++, R
HiC-Pro [134]	Bowtie2	Trimming	✓	✓	Matrix balancing	—	—	Python, R
TADbit [120]	GEM	Iterative	✓	✓	Matrix balancing	✓	—	Python
HOMER [62]	—	—	✓	✓	Two options <sup>e</sup>	✓	✓	Perl, R, Java
Hicpipe [54]	—	—	—	—	Explicit-factor	—	—	Perl, R, C++
HiBrowse [69]	—	—	—	—	—	✓	✓	Web-based
Hi-Corrector [57]	—	—	—	—	Matrix balancing	—	—	ANSI C
GOTHiC [135]	—	—	✓	✓	—	—	✓	R
HiTC [121]	—	—	—	—	Two options <sup>f</sup>	✓	✓	R
chromoR [59]	—	—	—	—	Variance stabilization	—	—	R
HiFive [136]	—	—	✓	✓	Three options <sup>g</sup>	✓	—	Python
Fit-Hi-C [20]	—	—	—	—	—	✓	✓	Python

# DISCLAIMER — Many alternatives

Method *available online	Representation	Scoring					Sampling	Models		
			U <sub>3C</sub>		U <sub>Biol</sub>	U <sub>Phys</sub>				
			F <sub>y</sub> → D <sub>y</sub> conversion	Functional form						
ChromSDE* [37]	Points	$D_{ij} = \begin{cases} \left(\frac{1}{F_{ij}}\right)^x & \text{if } F_{ij} > 0 \\ \infty & \text{if } F_{ij} = 0 \end{cases}$ $\alpha$ is optimized		$\sum_{(i,j) D_{ij} < \infty} \frac{(r_{ij}^2 - D_{ij}^2)}{D_{ij}} - \lambda \sum_{(i,j)} r_{ij}^2$ where $\lambda$ is set to 0.01	N/A	N/A	Deterministic semidefinite programming to find the coordinates	Consensus		
ShRec3D* [38]	Points	$D_{ij} = \begin{cases} \left(\frac{1}{F'_{ij}}\right)^x & \text{if } F'_{ij} > 0 \\ \frac{N^2}{\sum_{ij} F'_{ij}} & \text{if } F'_{ij} = 0 \end{cases}$ $F'_{ij}$ is the original $F_{ij}$ corrected to satisfy all triangular inequalities with the shortest path reconstruction		N/A	N/A	N/A	Deterministic transformations of $D_{ij}$ into coordinates	Consensus		
TADbit* [43]	Spheres	$D_{ij} \propto \begin{cases} \alpha F_{ij} + \beta & \text{if } F_{ij} < \gamma' \text{ or } F_{ij} > \gamma \\ \frac{s_i + s_j}{2} & \text{if }  i-j  = 1 \end{cases}$ $\alpha$ and $\beta$ are estimated from the max and the min $F_{ij}$ , from the optimized max distance and from the resolution. $\gamma' < \gamma$ are optimized too. $s_i$ is the radius of particle $i$		$\sum_{(i,j)} k_{ij}(r_{ij} - D_{ij})^2$ where $k_{ij} = 5$ if $ i-j  = 1$ or proportional to $F_{ij}$ otherwise	Yes	U <sub>ext</sub> and U <sub>bond</sub> have harmonic forms	Monte Carlo (MC) sampling with Simulated annealing and Metropolis scheme			
BACH* [45]	Points	$D_{ij} \propto \frac{B_i B_j}{F_{ij}}$ . The biases $B_i$ and $B_j$ and $\alpha$ are optimized		$b_{ij} D_{ij}^{1/2} + c_{ij} \log(D_{ij})$ where $b_{ij}$ and $c_{ij}$ are optimized parameters	No	No	Sequential importance and Gibbs sampling with hybrid MC and adaptive rejection	Population		
Giorgetti et al. [40]	Spheres	Particles interact with pair-wise well potentials of depths $B_{ij}$ and contact radius $a$ , which is larger than a hard-core radius and smaller than a maximum contact radius. The parameters are optimized over all the population of models			No	N/A	MC sampling with metropolis scheme	Population		
Duan et al. [41]	Spheres	$\overline{F_{ i-j }} = \frac{\sum_{k=1}^{N- i-j } F_{ i,k+ i-j }}{N- i-j }$ is the average of $F_{ij}$ at genomic distance $ i-j $ expressed in kb. $D_{ij} = \overline{F_{ i-j }} \times 7.7 \times  i-j $ assuming that $\approx 1$ kb maps onto 7.7 nm	$\sum_{(i,j)} (r_{ij} - D_{ij})^2$	Yes	U <sub>ext</sub> and U <sub>bond</sub> have harmonic forms	Interior-point gradient-based method	Resampling			
MCMC5C* [49]	Points	$D_{ij} \propto \frac{1}{F_{ij}}$ where $\alpha$ is optimized		$\sum_{(i,j)} (F_{ij} - r_{ij}^{-1/\alpha})^2$	N/A	N/A	MC sampling with Markov chain based algorithm	Resampling		
PASTIS* [47]	Points	$D_{ij} \propto \frac{1}{F_{ij}}$ where $\alpha$ is optimized		$b_{ij} D_{ij}^{1/2} + c_{ij} \log(D_{ij})$ where $b_{ij}$ and $c_{ij}$ are optimized parameters	No	No	Interior point and isotonic regression algorithms	Resampling		
Meluzzi and Arya [48]	Spheres	$\sum_{(i,j)} k_{ij} r_{ij}^2$ where $k_{ij}$ are adjusted such that the contact probabilities computed on the models match the $F_{ij}$			No	U <sub>ext</sub> is a pure repulsive LJ potential. U <sub>bond</sub> and U <sub>bend</sub> have harmonic forms	Brownian dynamics	Resampling		
AutoChrom3D* [44]	Points	$D_{ij} \propto \begin{cases} \alpha F_{ij} + \beta & \text{if } F_{\min} < F_{ij} < F_{\gamma} \\ \alpha' F_{ij} + \beta' & \text{if } F_{\gamma} < F_{ij} < F_{\max} \end{cases}$ where $F_{\min}$ ( $F_{\max}$ ) are the min(max) of $F_{ij}$ . The parameters $(\alpha, \beta)$ , $(\alpha', \beta')$ and $F_{\gamma}$ are found using the nuclear size, the resolution and the decay of $F_{ij}$ with $ i-j $	$\sum_{(i,j)} \frac{(r_{ij} - D_{ij})^2}{D_{ij}^2}$	Yes	N/A	Non-linear constrained	Consensus			
Kalhor et al. [14]	Spheres	$D_{ij} = R_{\text{contact}}$ to enforce the pair contact, if the normalized contact frequency $F_{ij}$ is higher than 0.25. Otherwise the contact is not enforced		$\sum_{\text{models}} \sum_{(i,j)} k_{ij}(r_{ij} - D_{ij})^2$ where $k_{ij}$ is different for pairs of particles, on different chromosomes, on the same chromosome, or connected	Yes	U <sub>ext</sub> and U <sub>bond</sub> have harmonic forms	Conjugate gradients sampling with Simulated annealing scheme	Population		

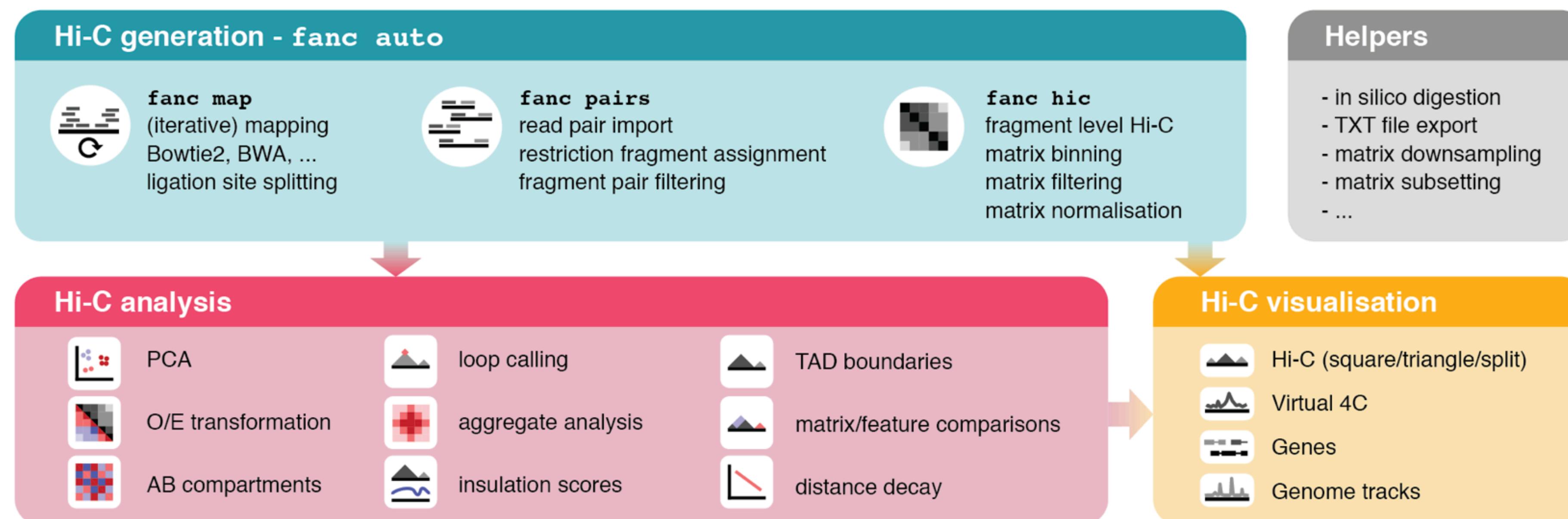
\* These methods are publicly available.

# DISCLAIMER — FANC (Vaquerizas Lab)

<https://github.com/vaquerizaslab/fanc>

## FAN-C: Framework for the ANalysis of C-like data

FAN-C provides a pipeline for analysing Hi-C data starting at mapped paired-end sequencing reads.



# DISCLAIMER — Open2C

<https://github.com/open2c>



**Open Chromosome Collective**

38 followers <https://open2c.github.io/> [open.chromosome.collective@gmail.com](mailto:open.chromosome.collective@gmail.com)

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**Pinned**

**cooler** Public

A cool place to store your Hi-C

Python 149 ⭐ 149 📂 47

**cooltools** Public

The tools for your .cool's

Jupyter Notebook 92 ⭐ 92 📂 38

**distiller-nf** Public

A modular Hi-C mapping pipeline

Groovy 69 ⭐ 69 📂 23

**pairtools** Public

CLI tools to process mapped Hi-C data

Python 59 ⭐ 59 📂 26

**bioframe** Public

Pandas utilities for tab-delimited and other genomic data files

Python 94 ⭐ 94 📂 13

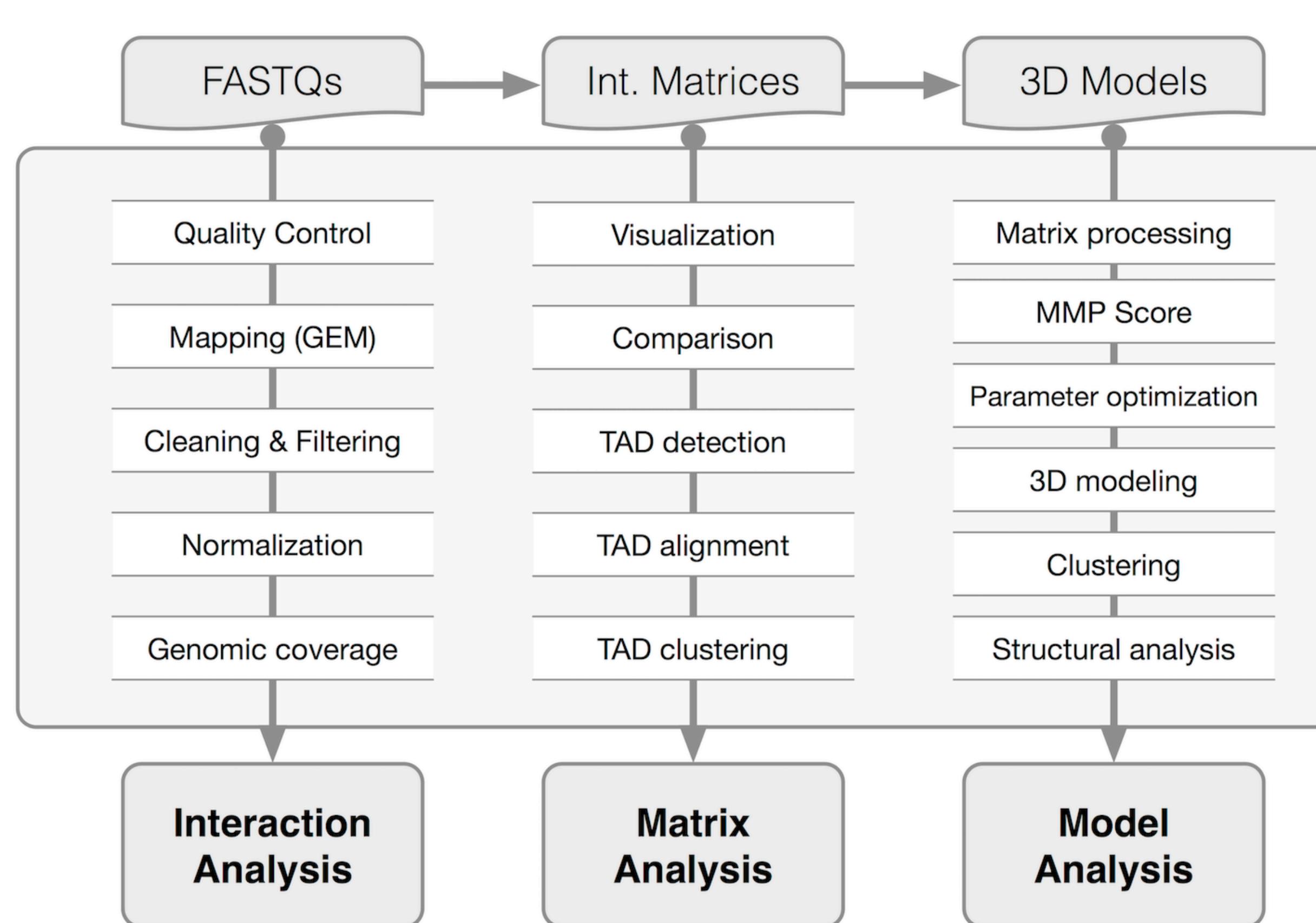
**polychrom** Public

Polymer simulations of chromosomes and generating "in silico" Hi-C maps

Python 32 ⭐ 32 📂 14



Serra, Baù, et al. (2017). PLOS CompBio  
<https://github.com/3DGenomes/tadbit>  
<https://github.com/3DGenomes/MethodsMolBiol>



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- Umbarger et al. Mol Cell (2011)
- Le Dily et al. Genes & Dev (2014)
- Belton et al. Cell Reports (2015)
- Trussart et al. Nature Communication (2017)
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- Stadhouders et al. Nature Genetics (2018)
- Kojic, Cuadrado et al. Nat Struct Mol Biol (2018)
- Beekman et al. Nature Medicine (2018)
- Mas et al. Nature Genetics (2018)
- Pascual-Reguant et al. Nature Communication (2018)
- Nir, Farabella, Perez-Estrada, et al. PLOS Genetics (2018)
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- Vara et al. Cell Reports (2019)
- Miguel-Escalada et al. Nature Genetics (2019)
- Morf et al. Nature Biotechnology (2019)
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- Soler-Vila et al. NAR (2020)
- Stik et al. Nature Genetics (2020)
- Galan et al. Nature Genetics (2020)
- Vilarassa-Blasi, Soler-Vila et al. Nature Communications (2020)

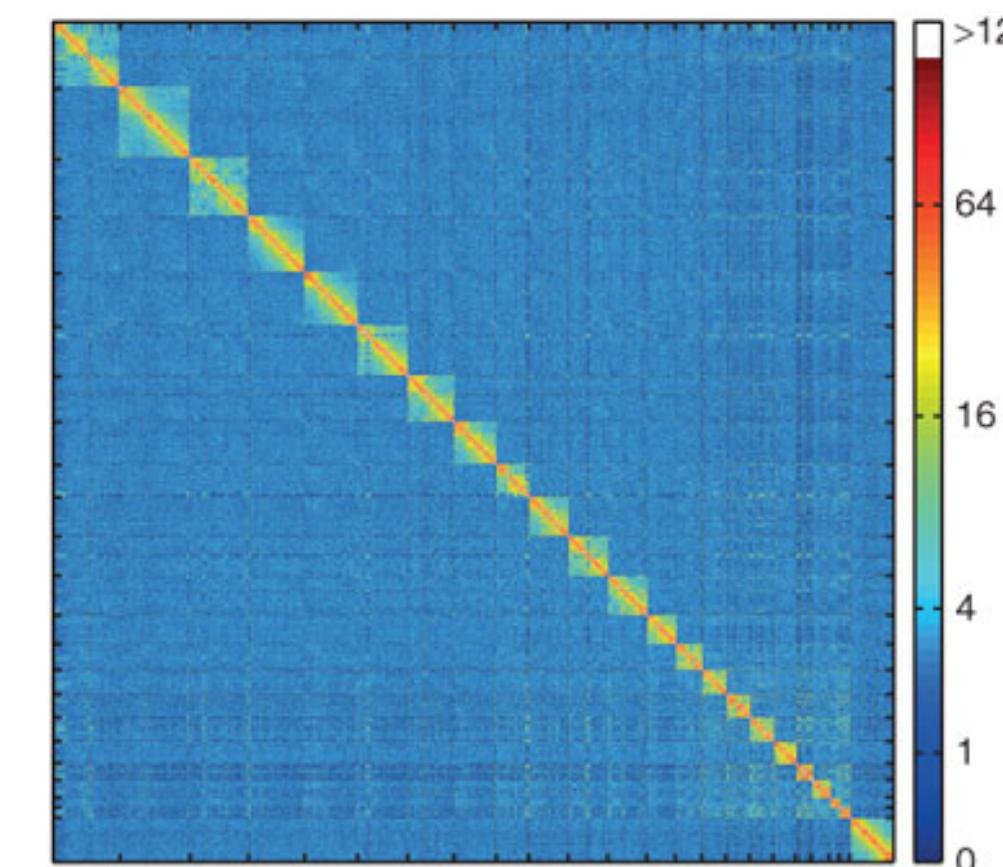
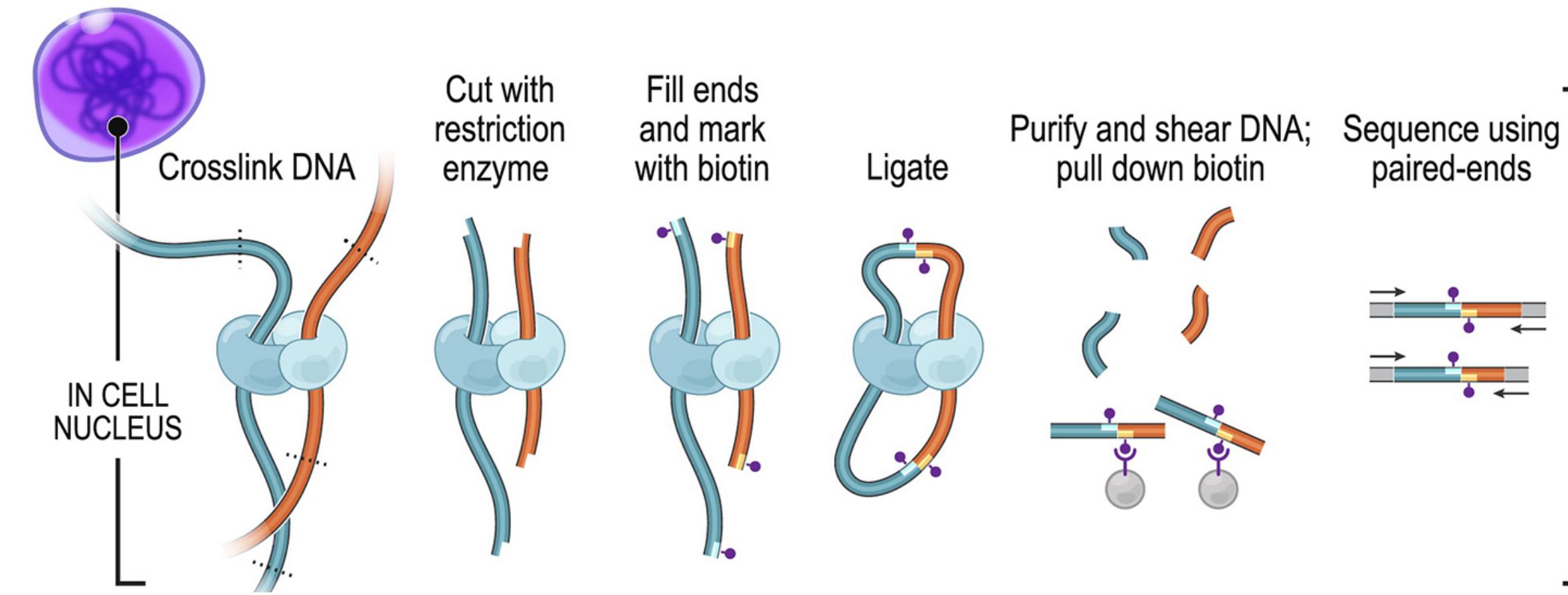
Nature Structural & Molecular Biology, 25(9), 766-777, 2018  
Cell, 173(7), 1796-1809.e17, 2018  
Structure, 26(6), 894-904.e2, 2018  
Genome Research, 29(1), 29-39, 2019  
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Cell Systems 9, 1–13.e1–e6, 2019  
Nature Communications, 10(1), 5355, 2019  
BMC Biology, 17(1), 55, 2019  
Molecular Cell, 2019  
Cell Systems, 9(5), 446-458.e6, 2019



Got FASTQ?

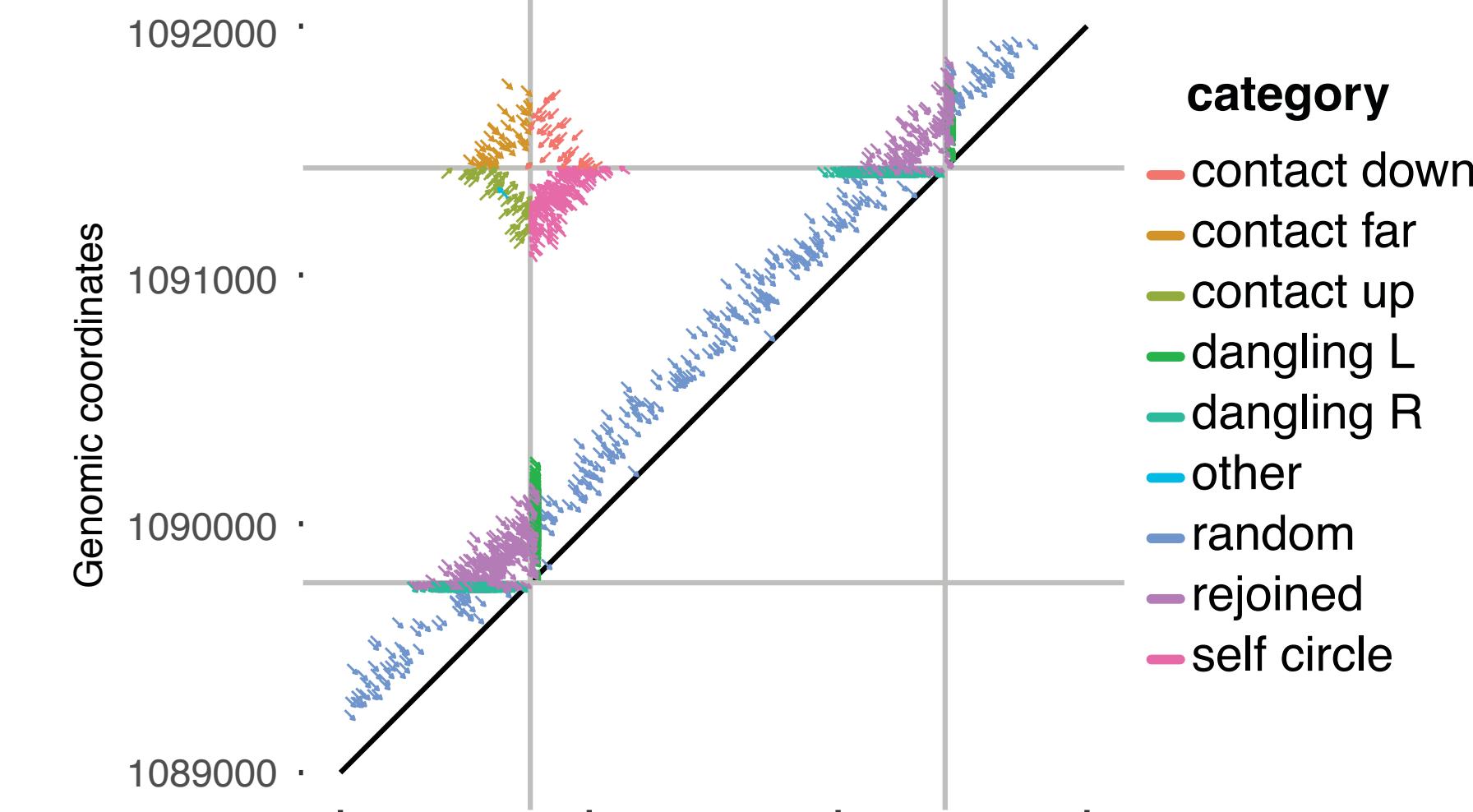
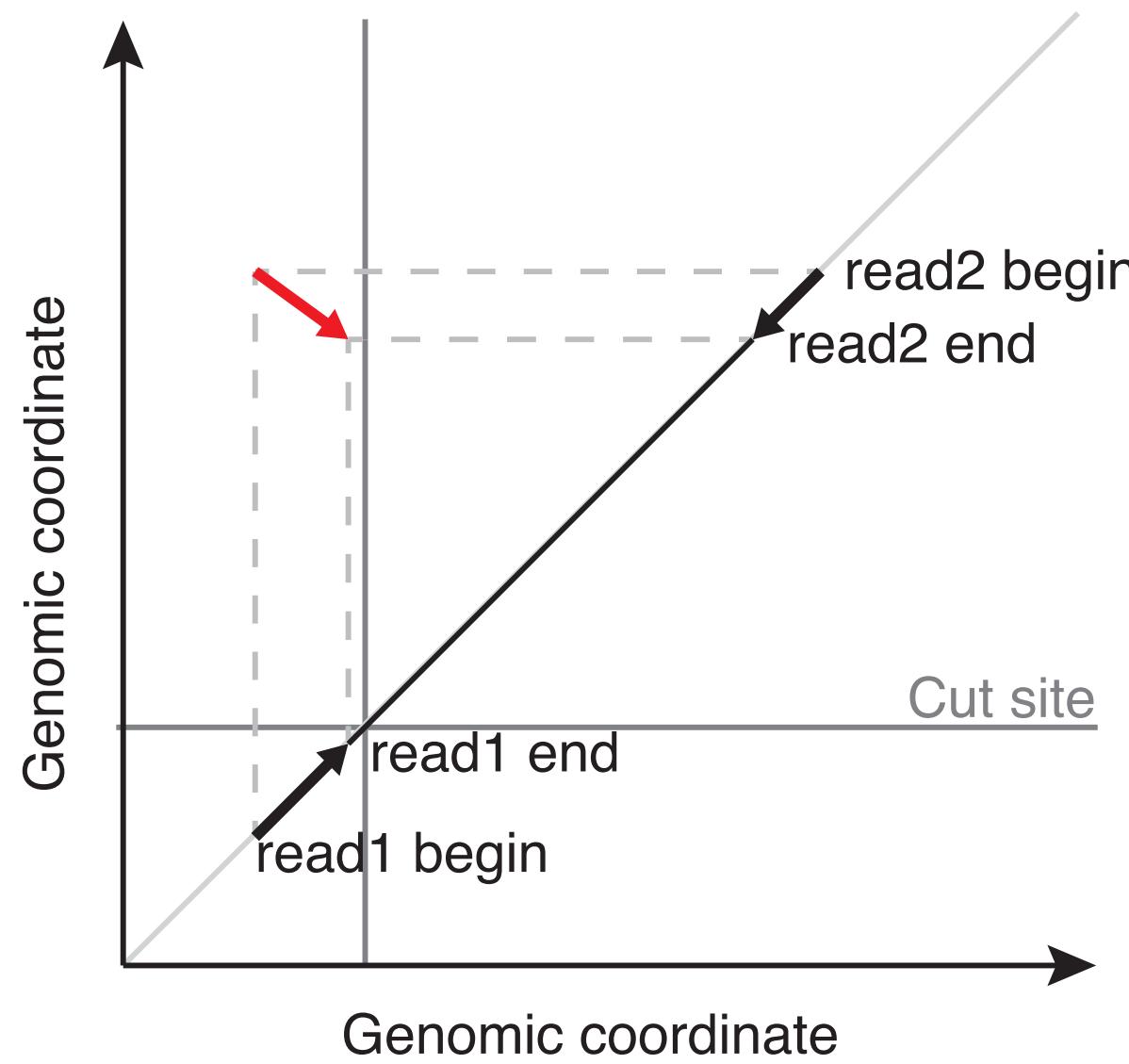
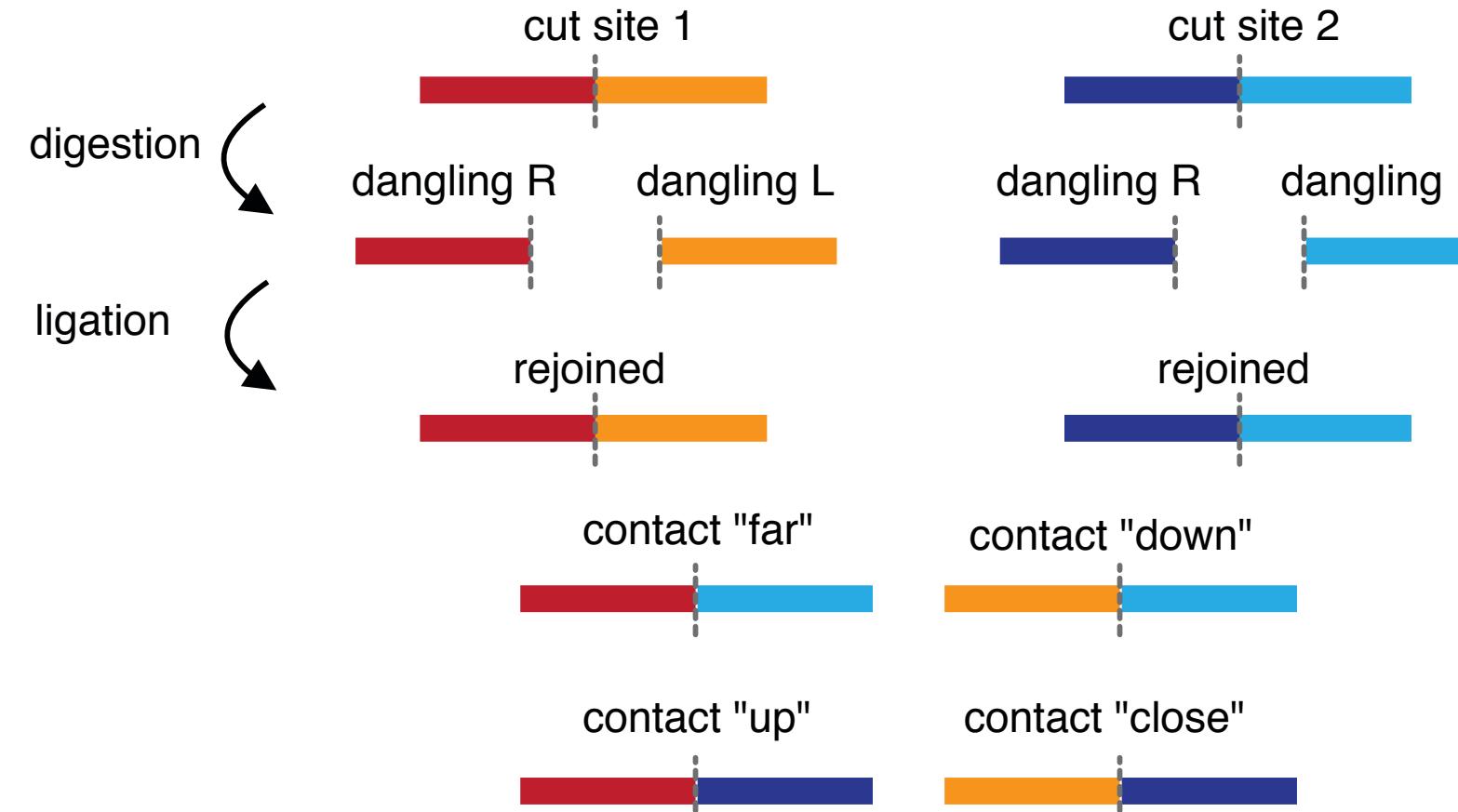
# Hi-C experiment

Lieberman-Aiden, E., et al. (2009). Science, 326(5950), 289–293.



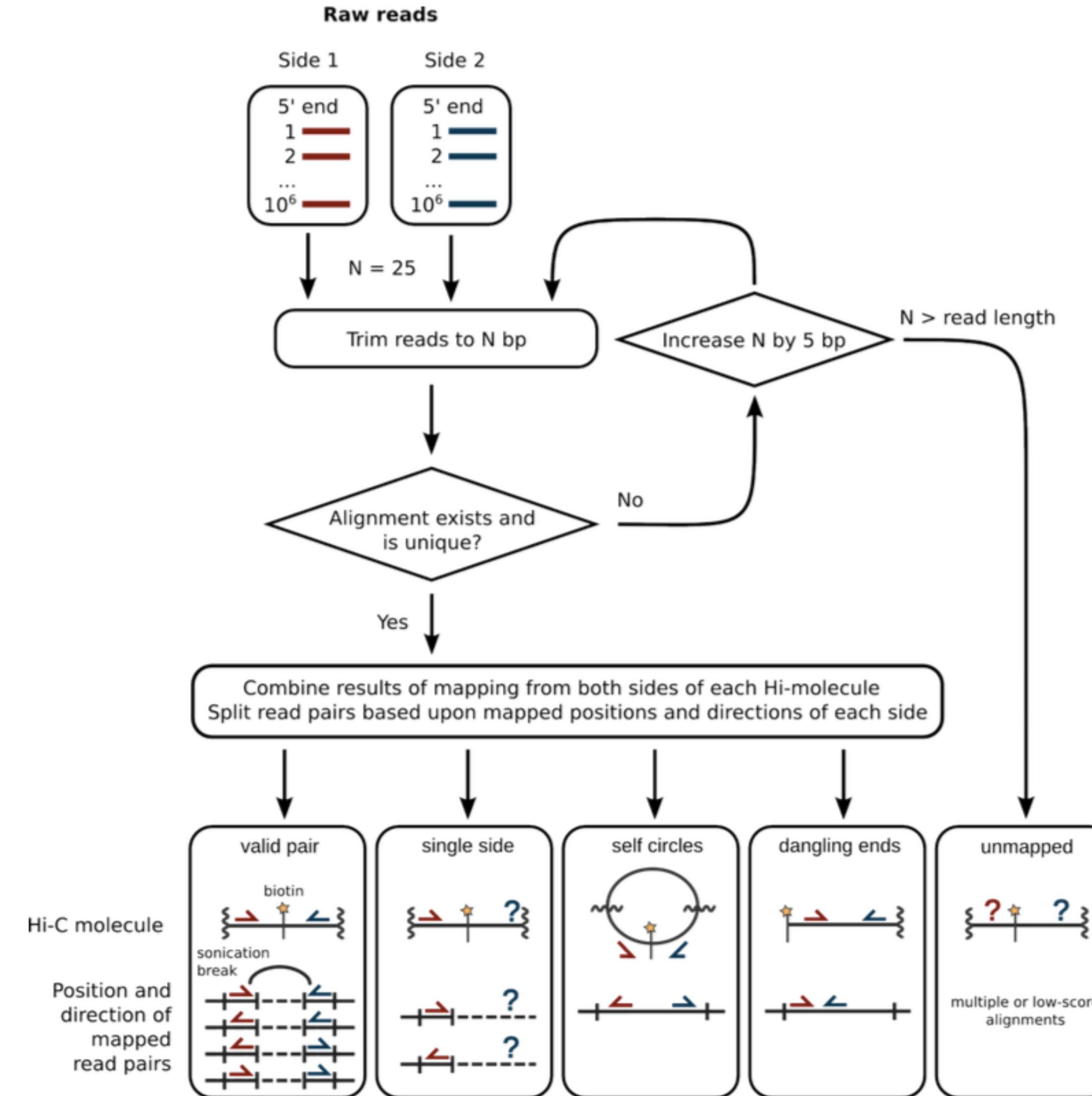
# Mapping & Filtering

Imakaev, M. V et al. (2012). Nature Methods, 9(10), 999–1003.



# Mapping & Filtering

Imakaev, M. V et al. (2012). Nature Methods, 9(10), 999–1003.



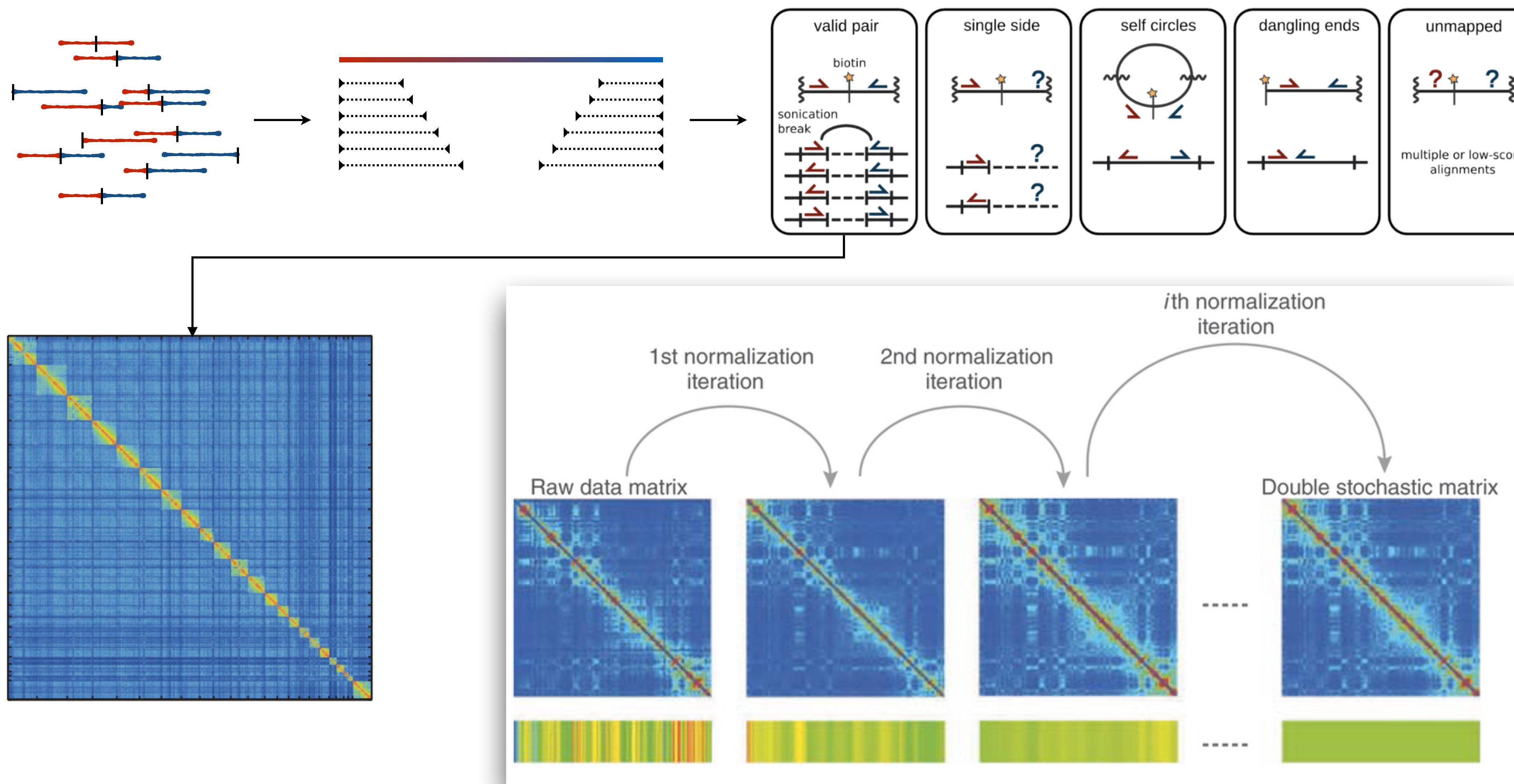
# How much you normally map?

- 80-90% each end => 60-80% intersection
- ~1% multiple contacts
- Many of intersecting pairs will be lost in filtering...
- Final 40-60% of valid pairs
- One measure of quality is the CIS/TRANS ration  
(70-80% good)



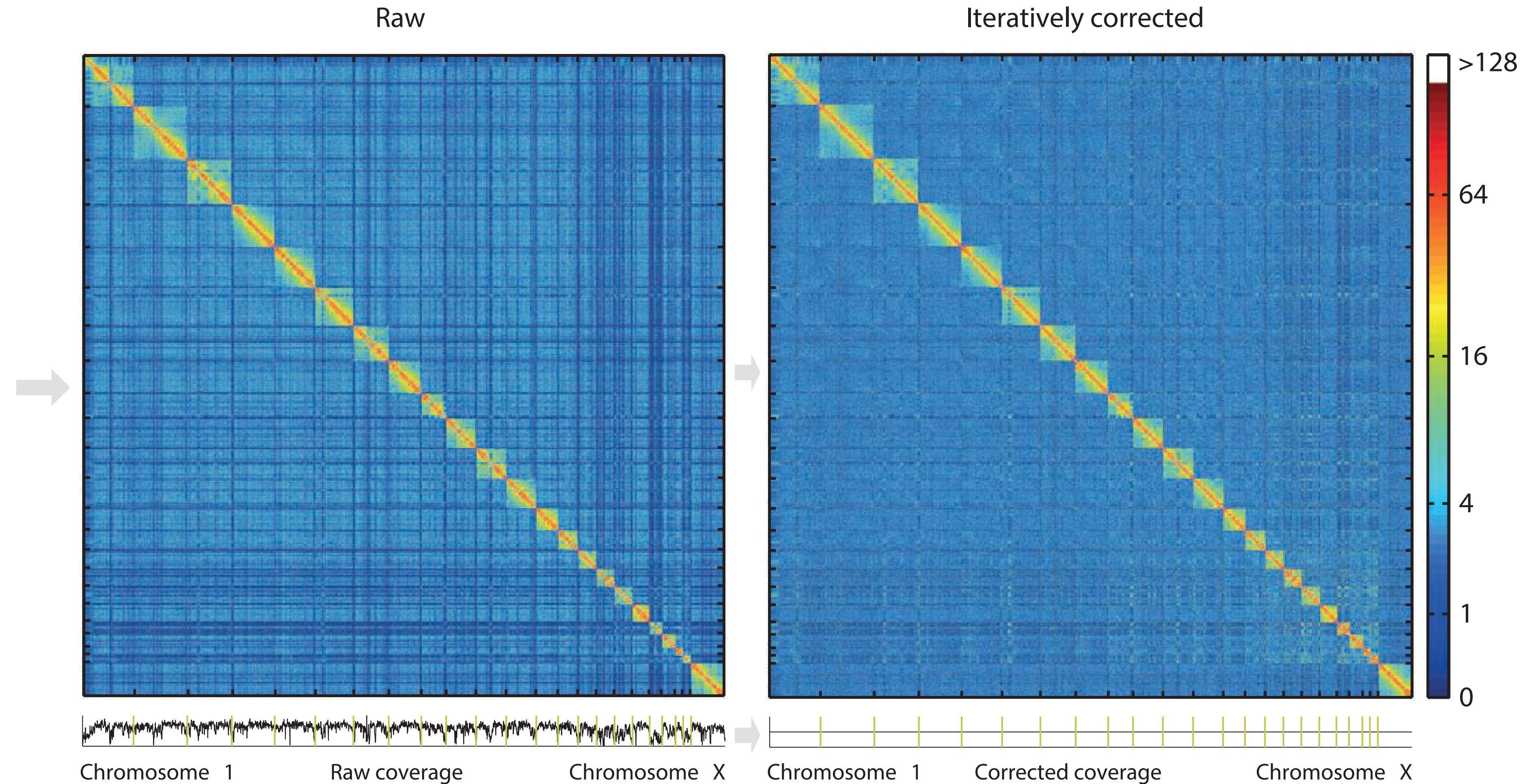
Got mapped  
reads?

# Interaction matrices



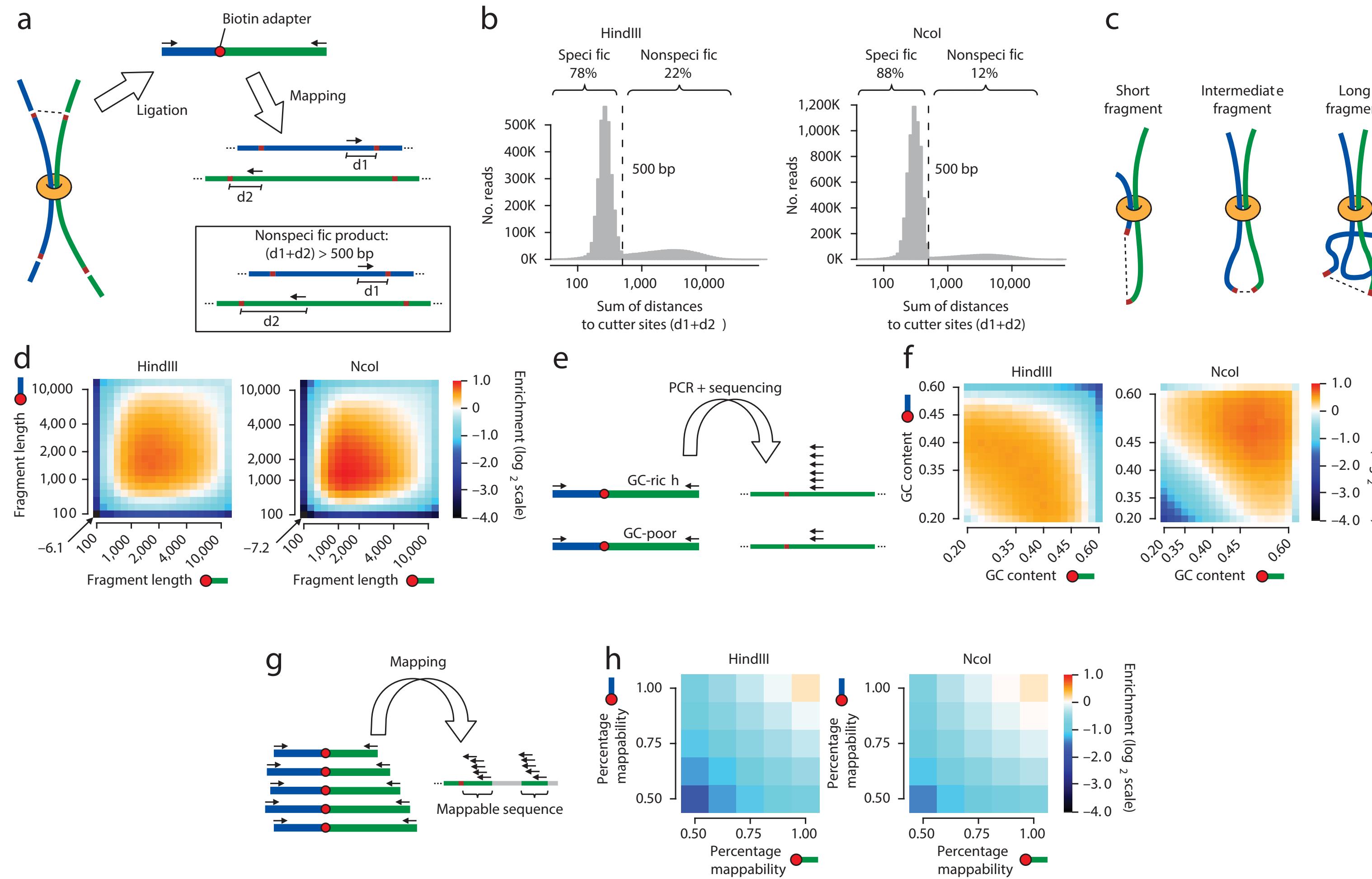
Zooming in on genome organization.  
Zhou, X. J., & Alber, F. Nature Methods (2012)

# Normalizing HiC data



# Normalizing HiC data (a la Tanay)

Yaffe, E., & Tanay, A. (2011). Nature Genetics, 43(11), 1059–1065

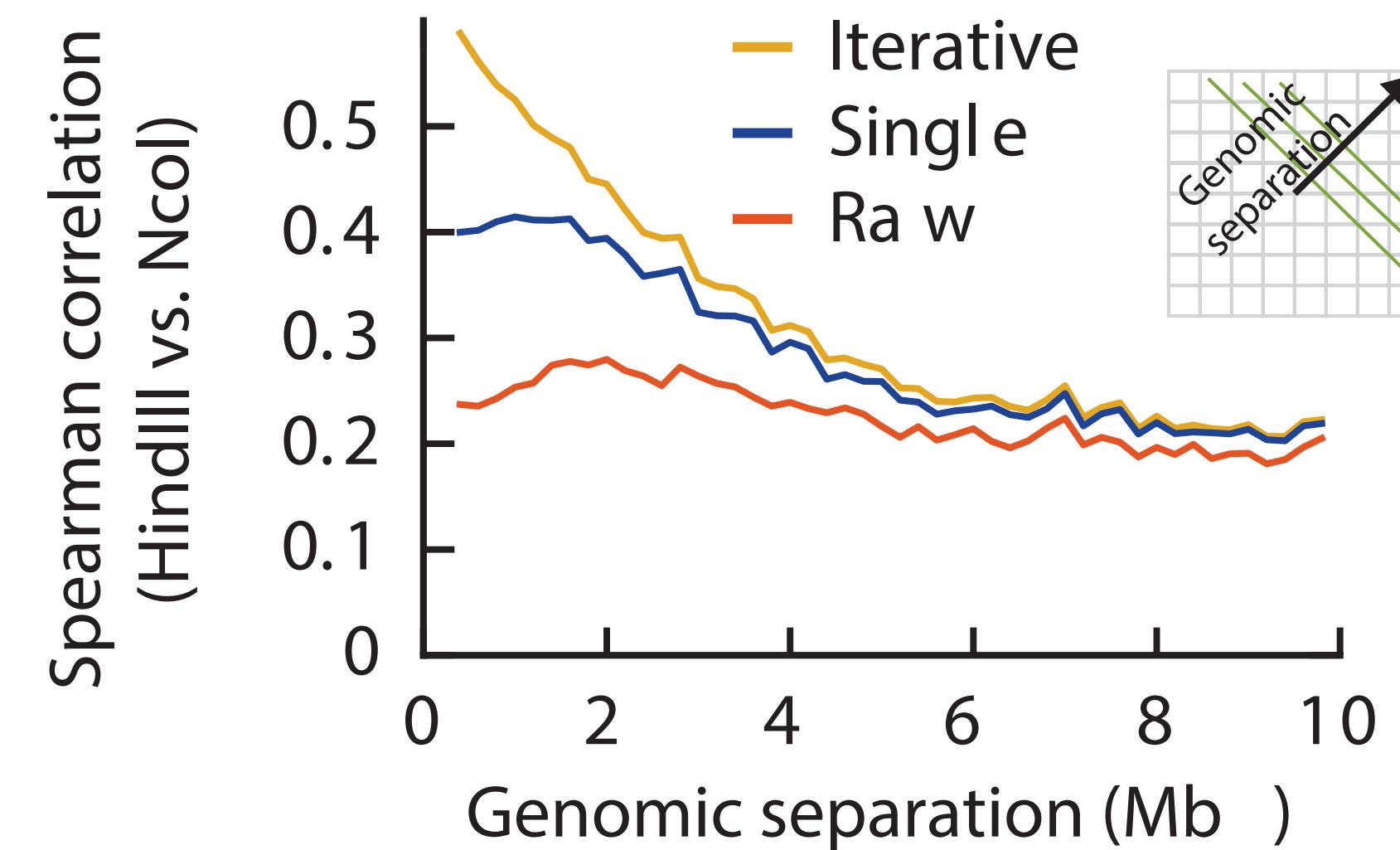
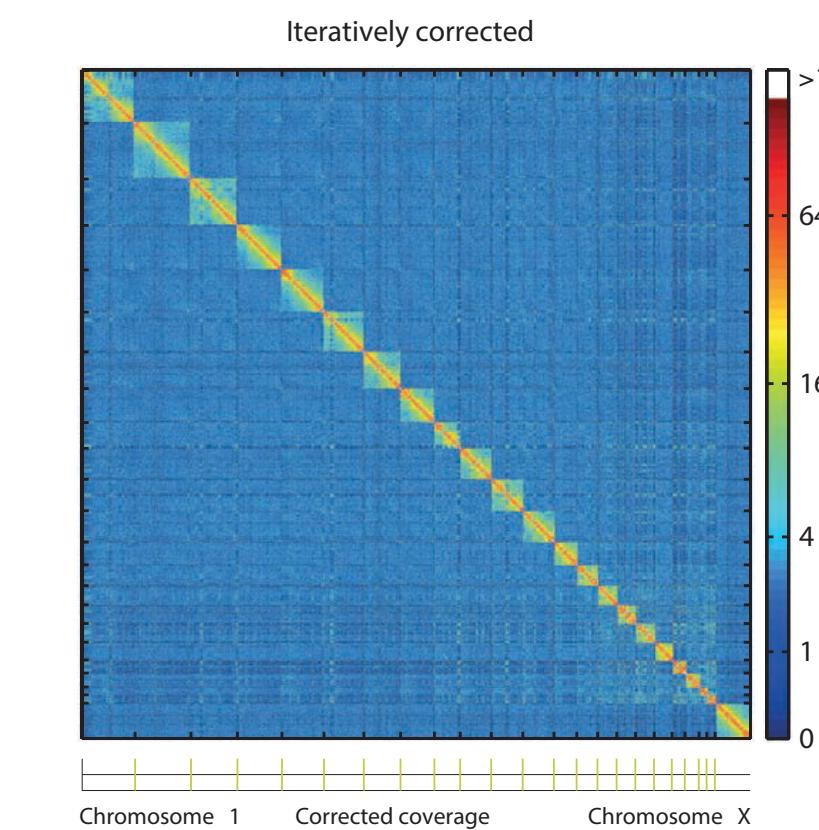


# Normalizing HiC data (a la Mirny)

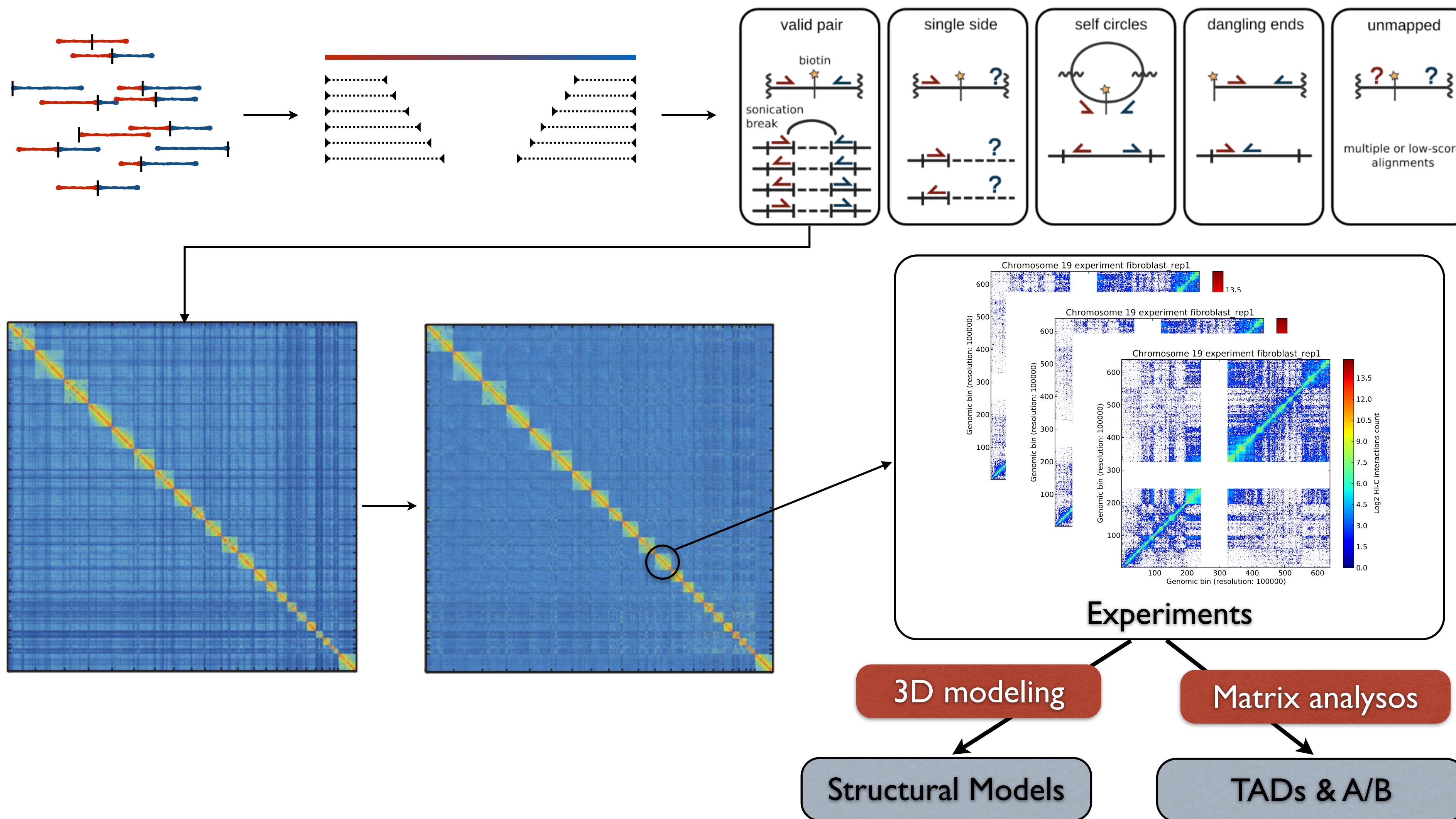
Imakaev, M., Fudenberg, G., McCord, R. P., Naumova, N., Goloborodko, A., Lajoie, B. R., et al. (2012). Nature Methods, 9(10), 999–1003.

$$O_{ij} = B_i B_j T_{ij}$$

$$\sum_{i=1, |i-j|>1}^N T_{ij} = 1$$



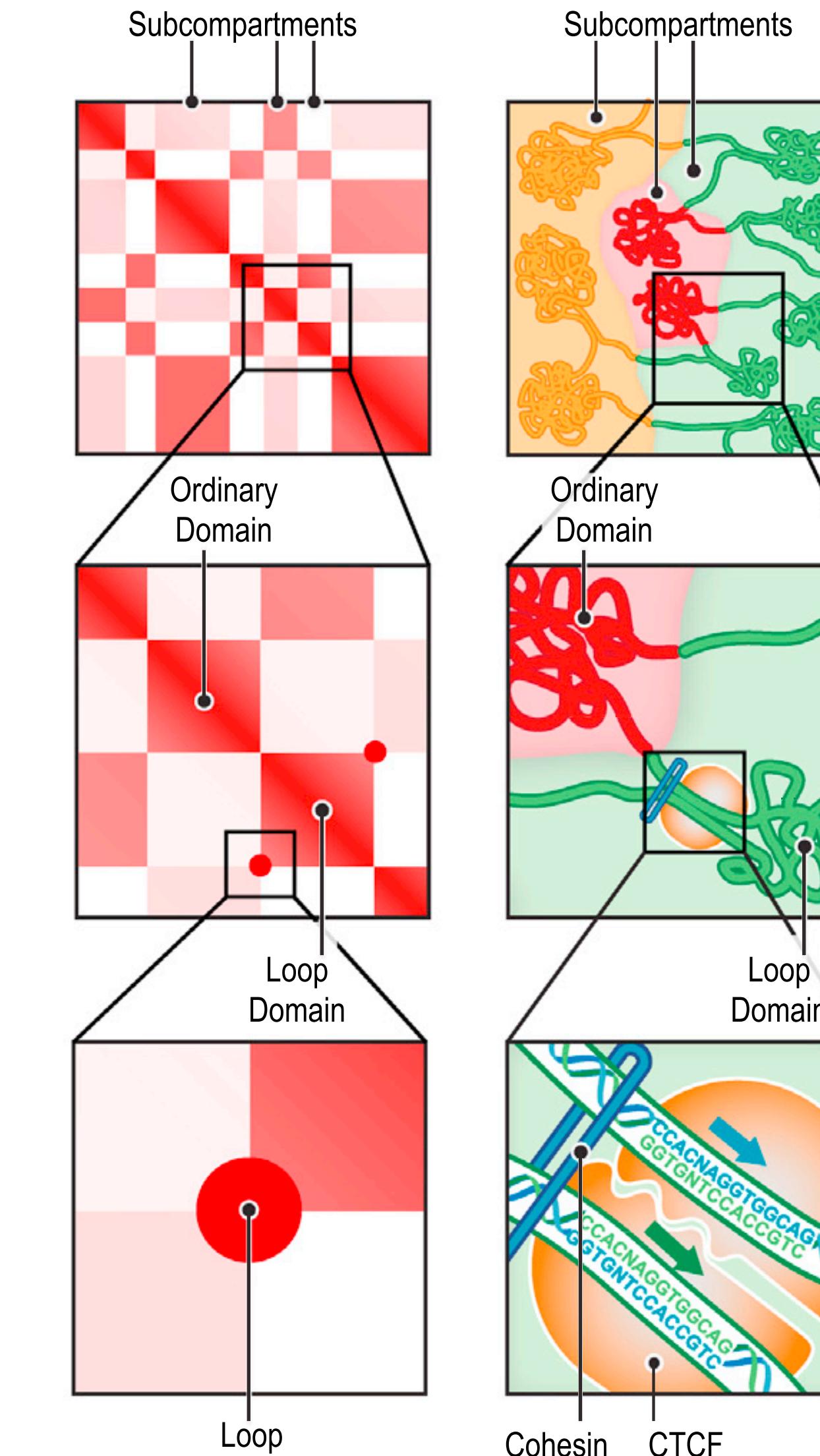
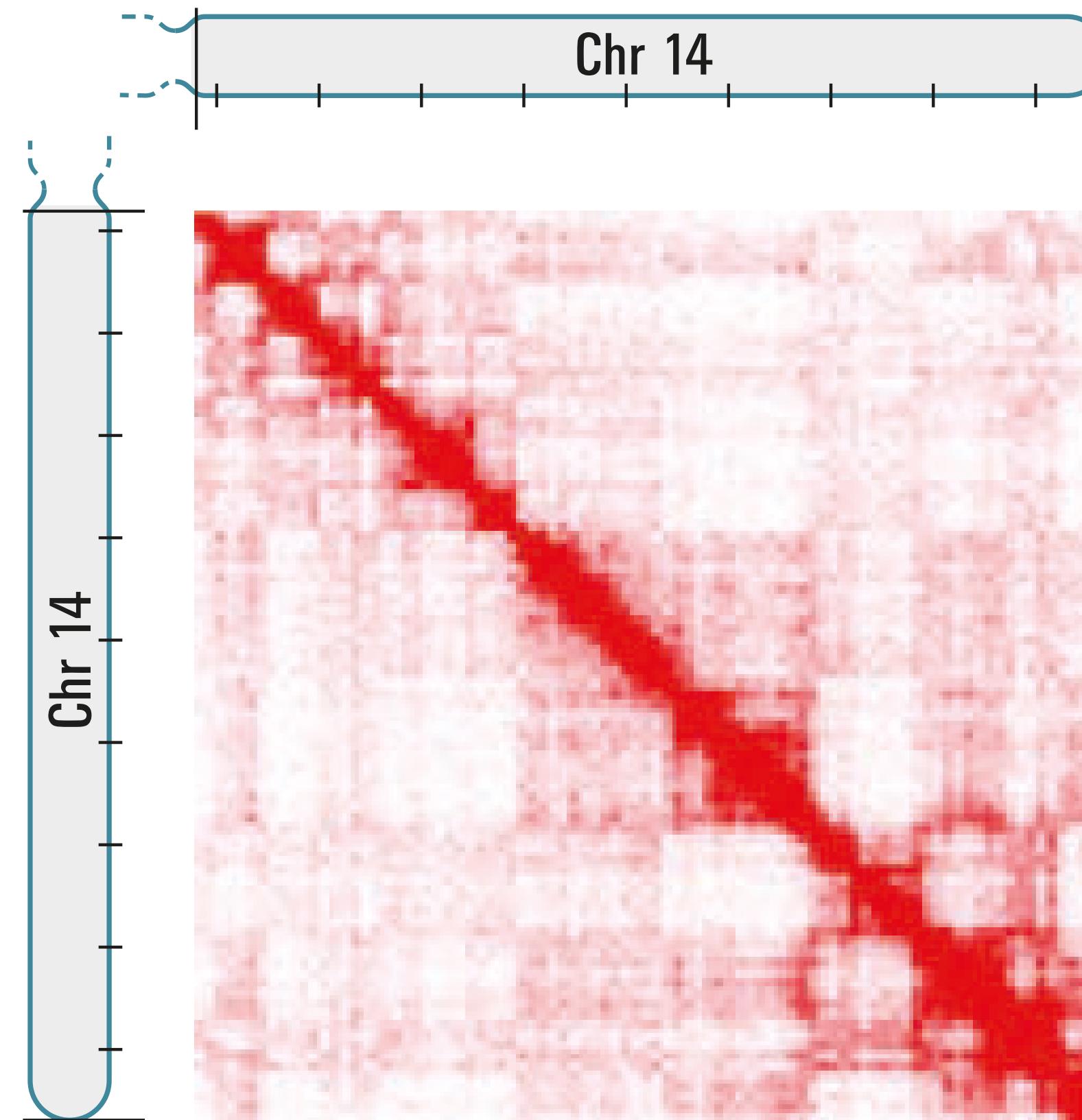
# Interaction matrices



# Hierarchical genome organisation

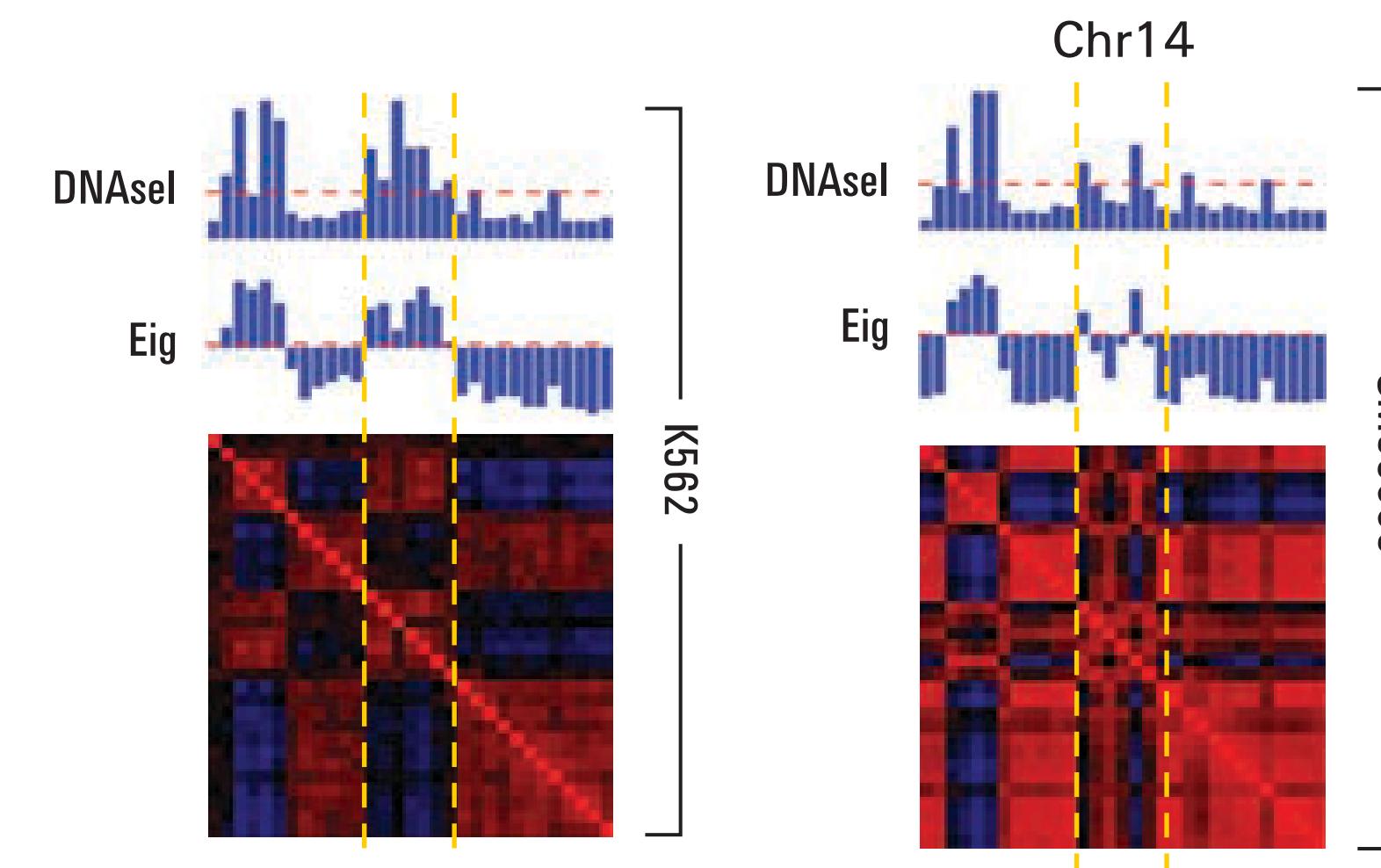
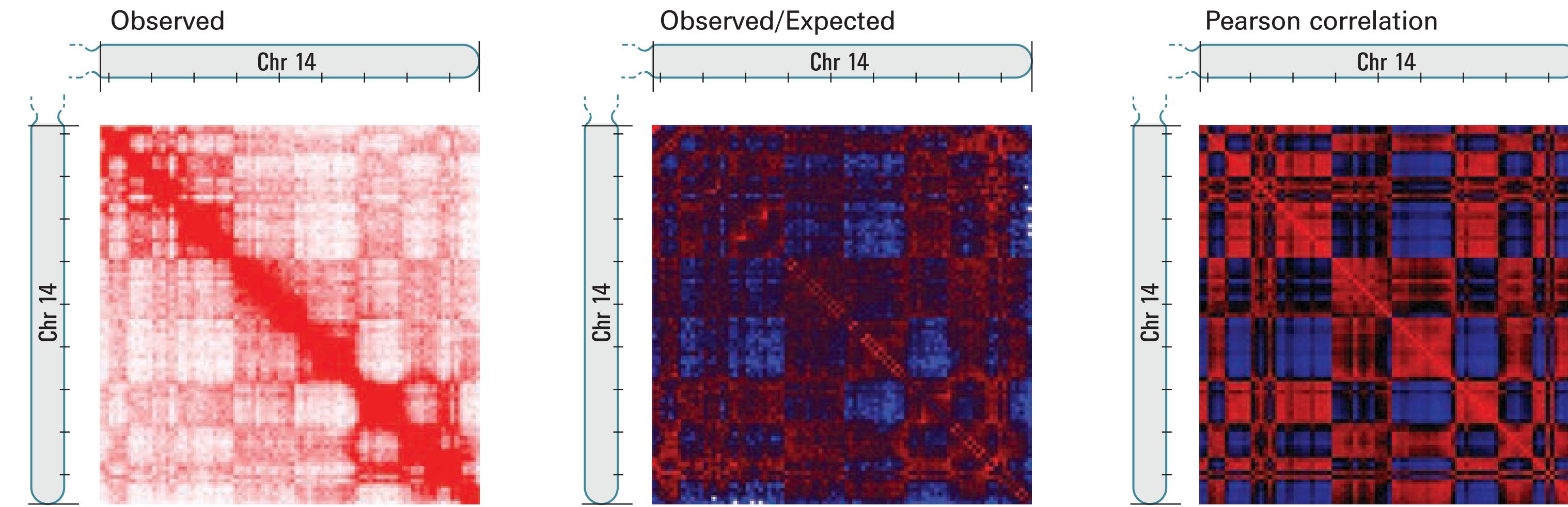
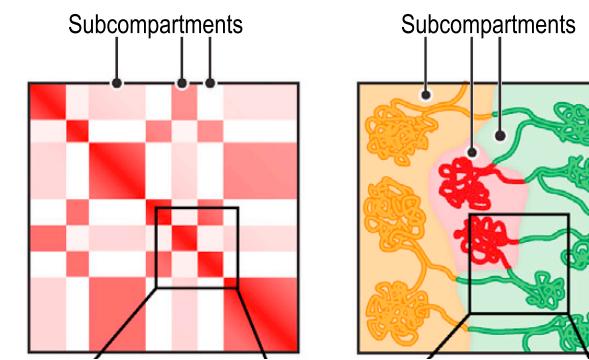
Lieberman-Aiden, E., et al. (2009). Science, 326(5950), 289–293.

Rao, S. S. P., et al. (2014). Cell, 1–29.



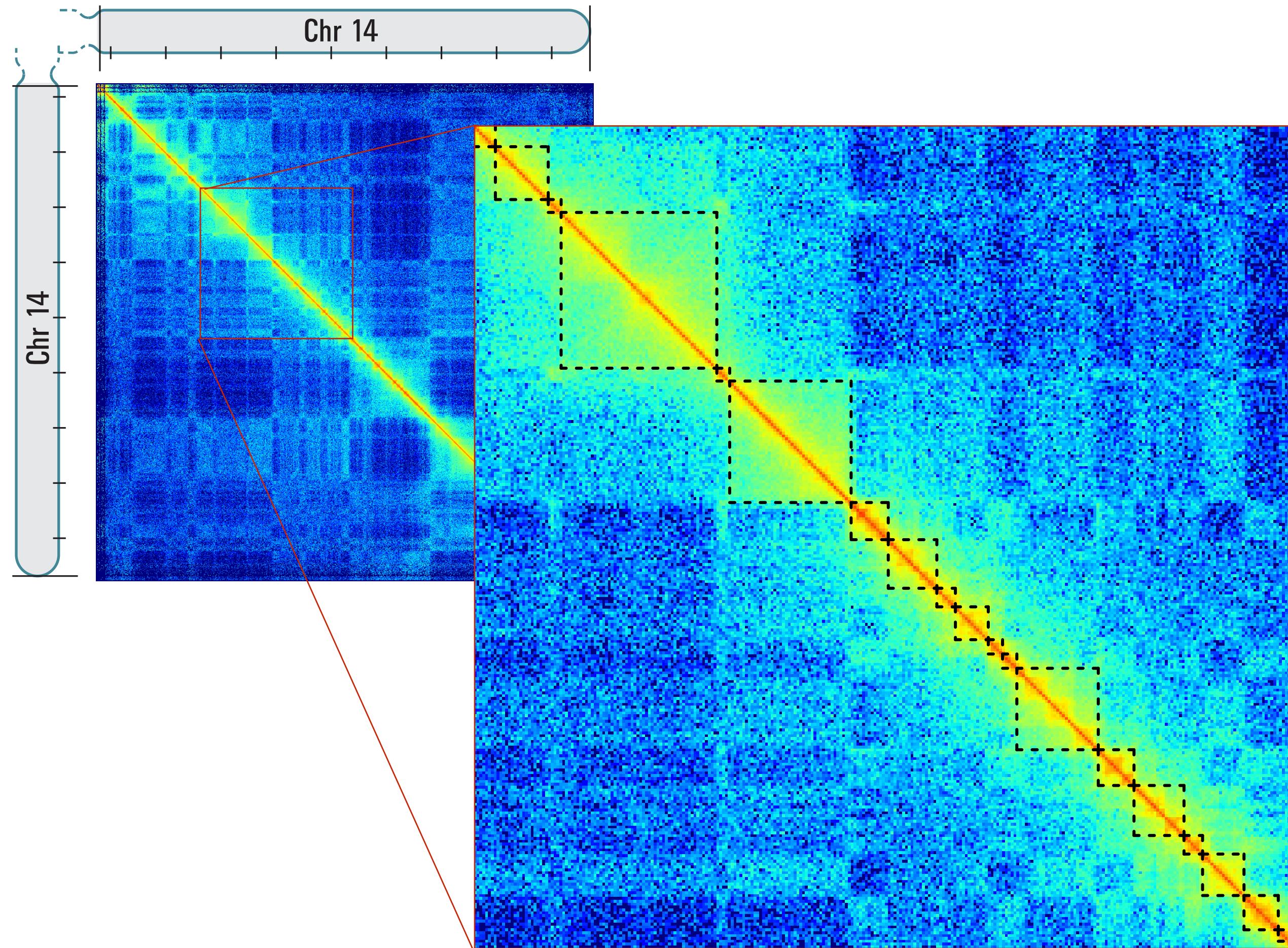
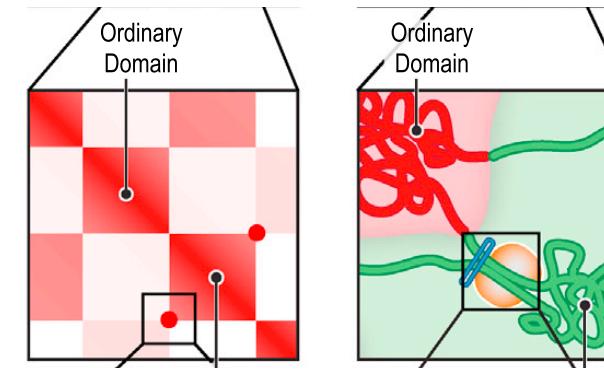
# A/B Compartment

## Human chromosome 14



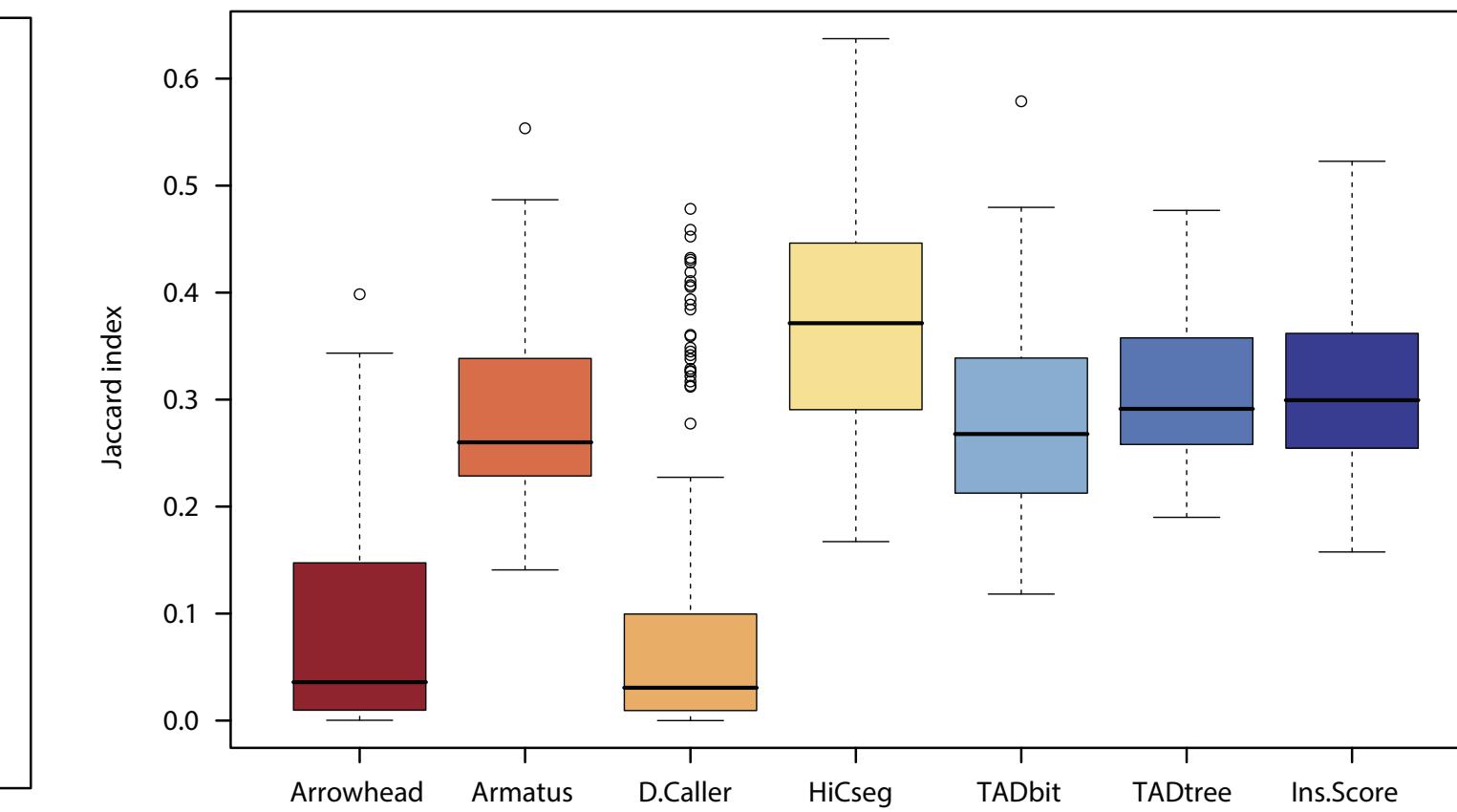
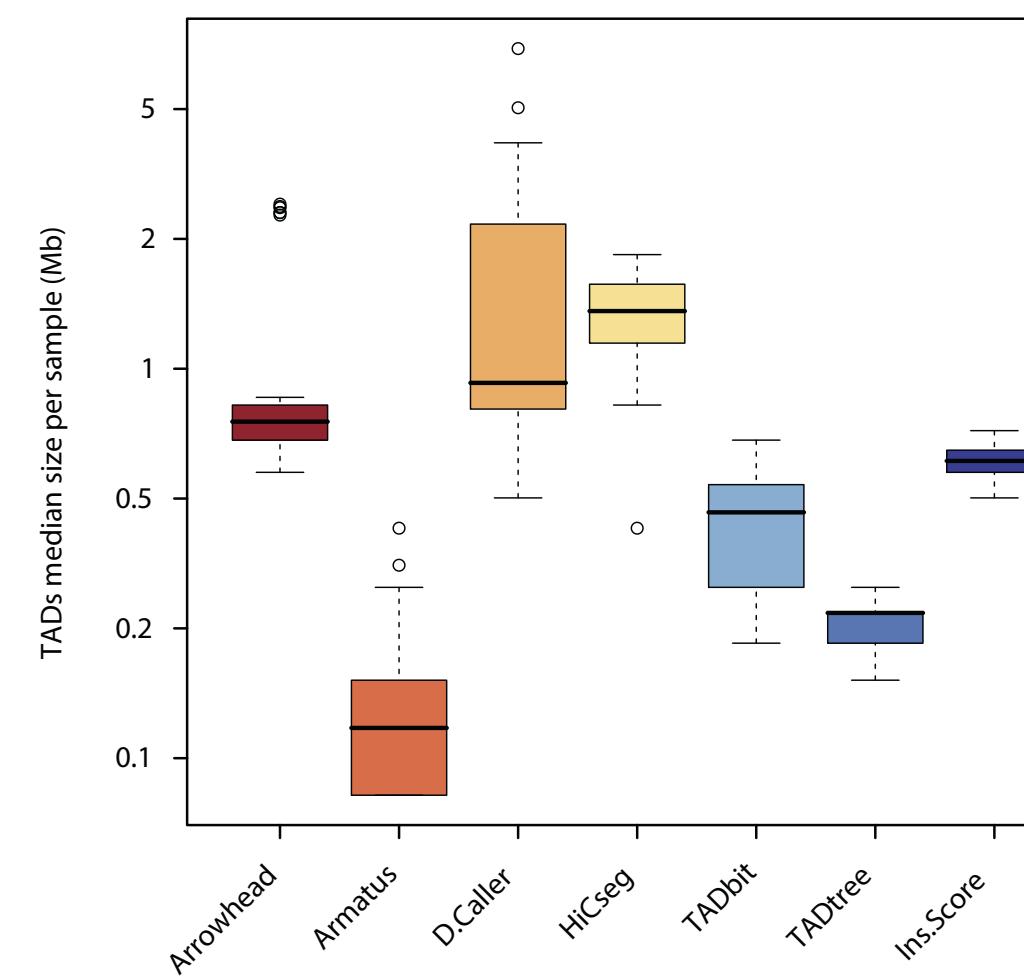
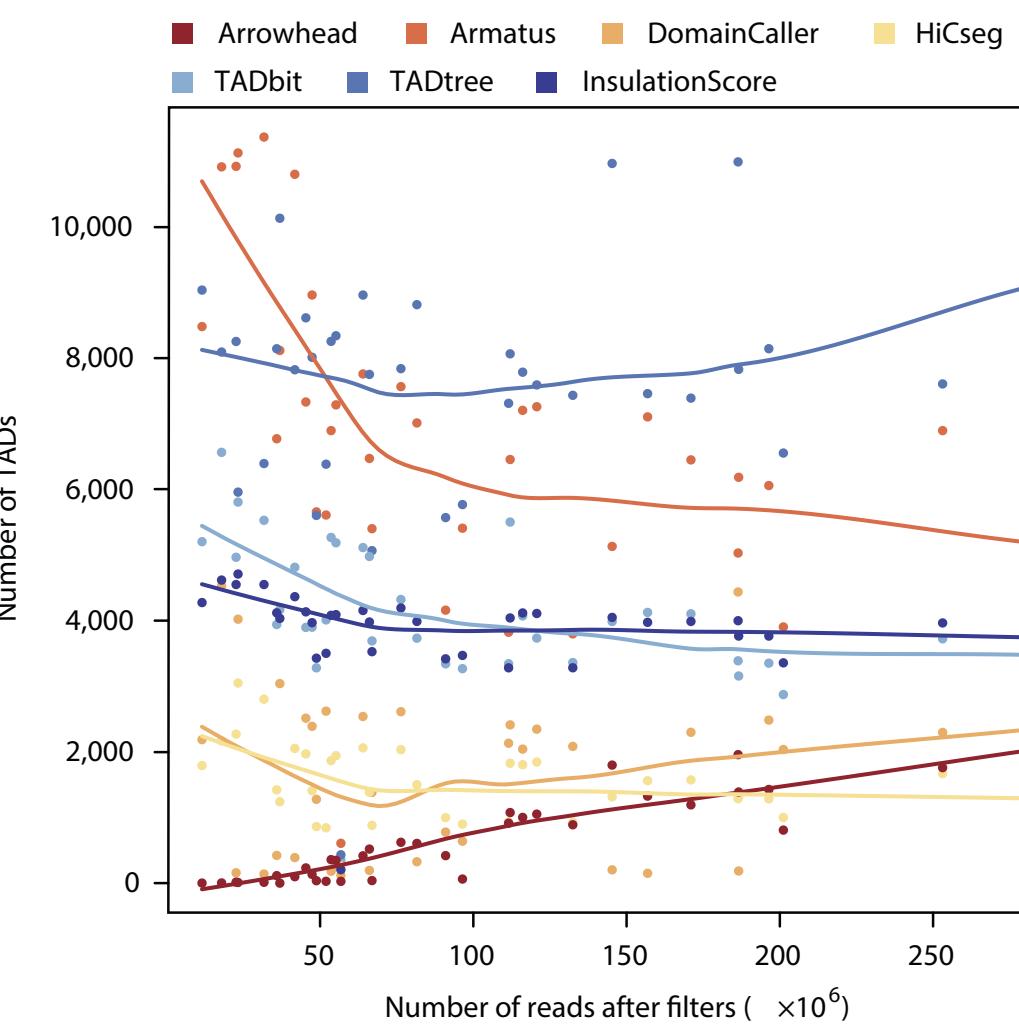
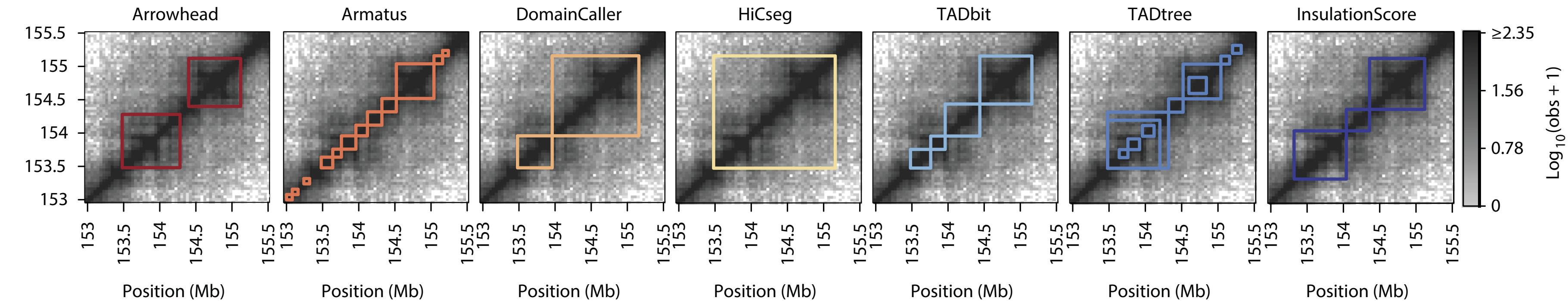
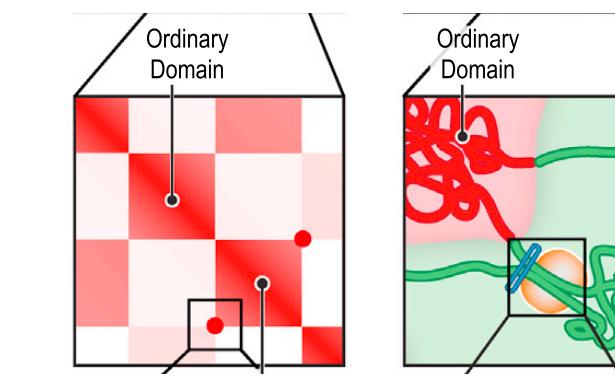
# TADs

## Chromosome 14



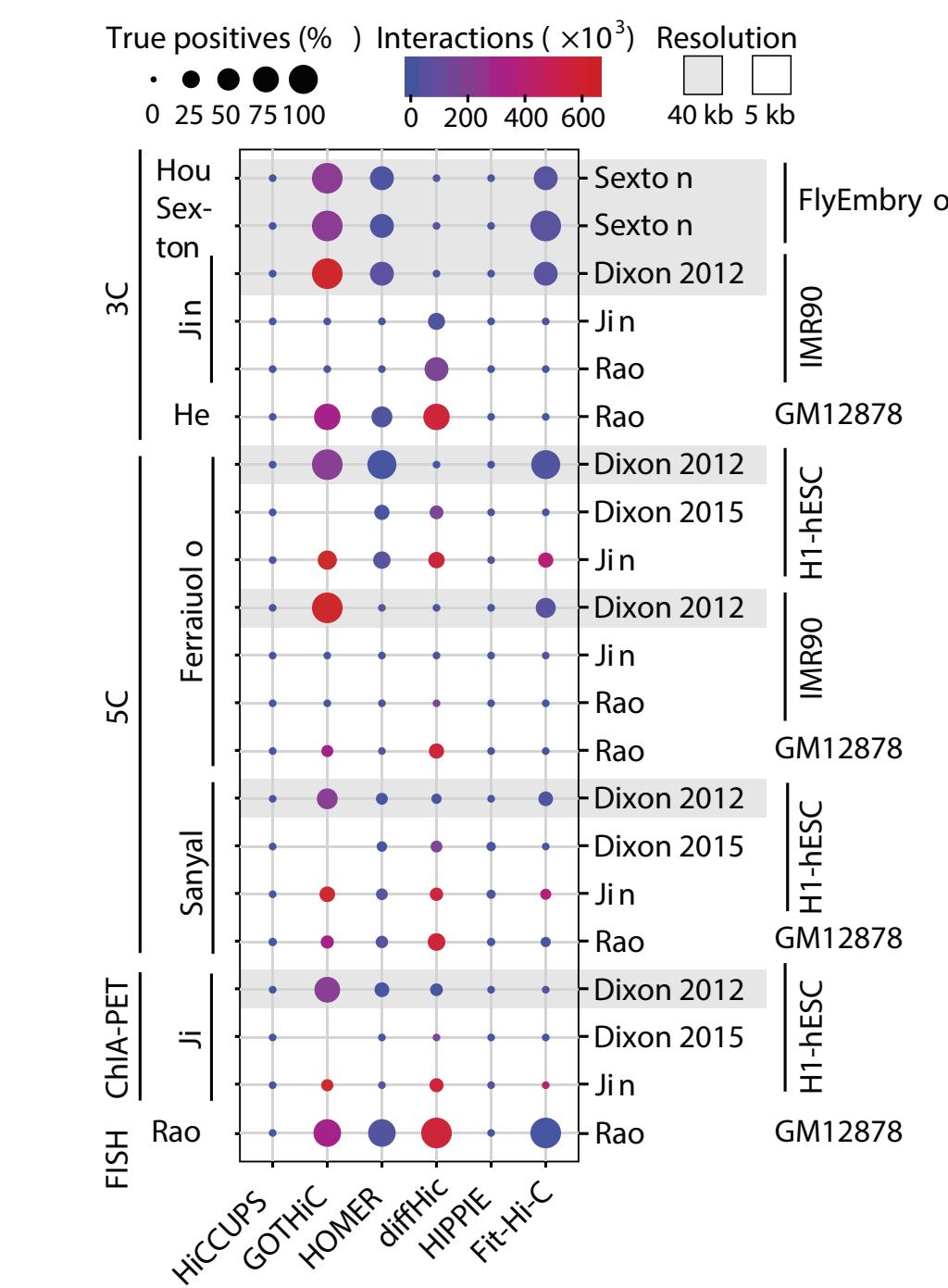
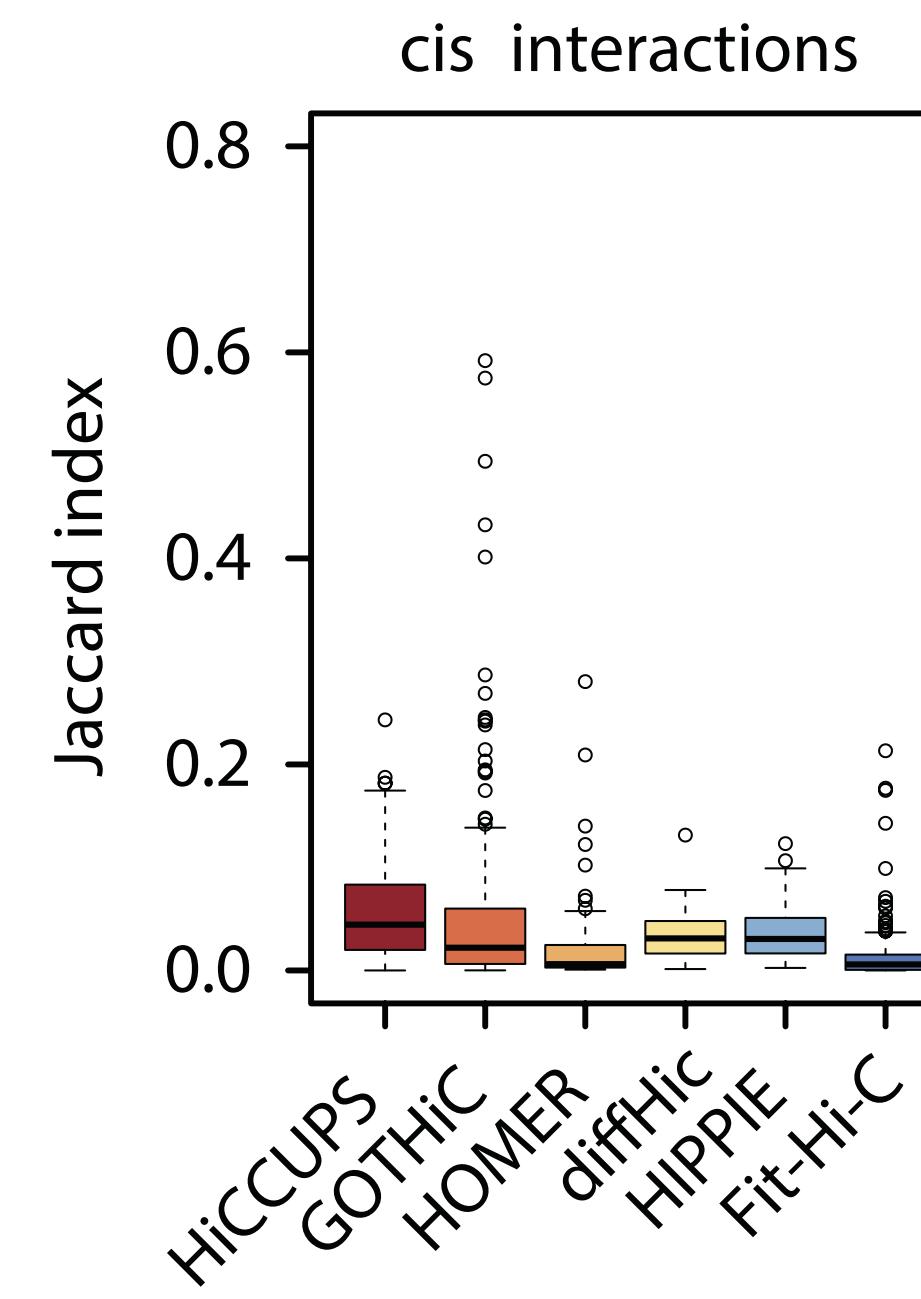
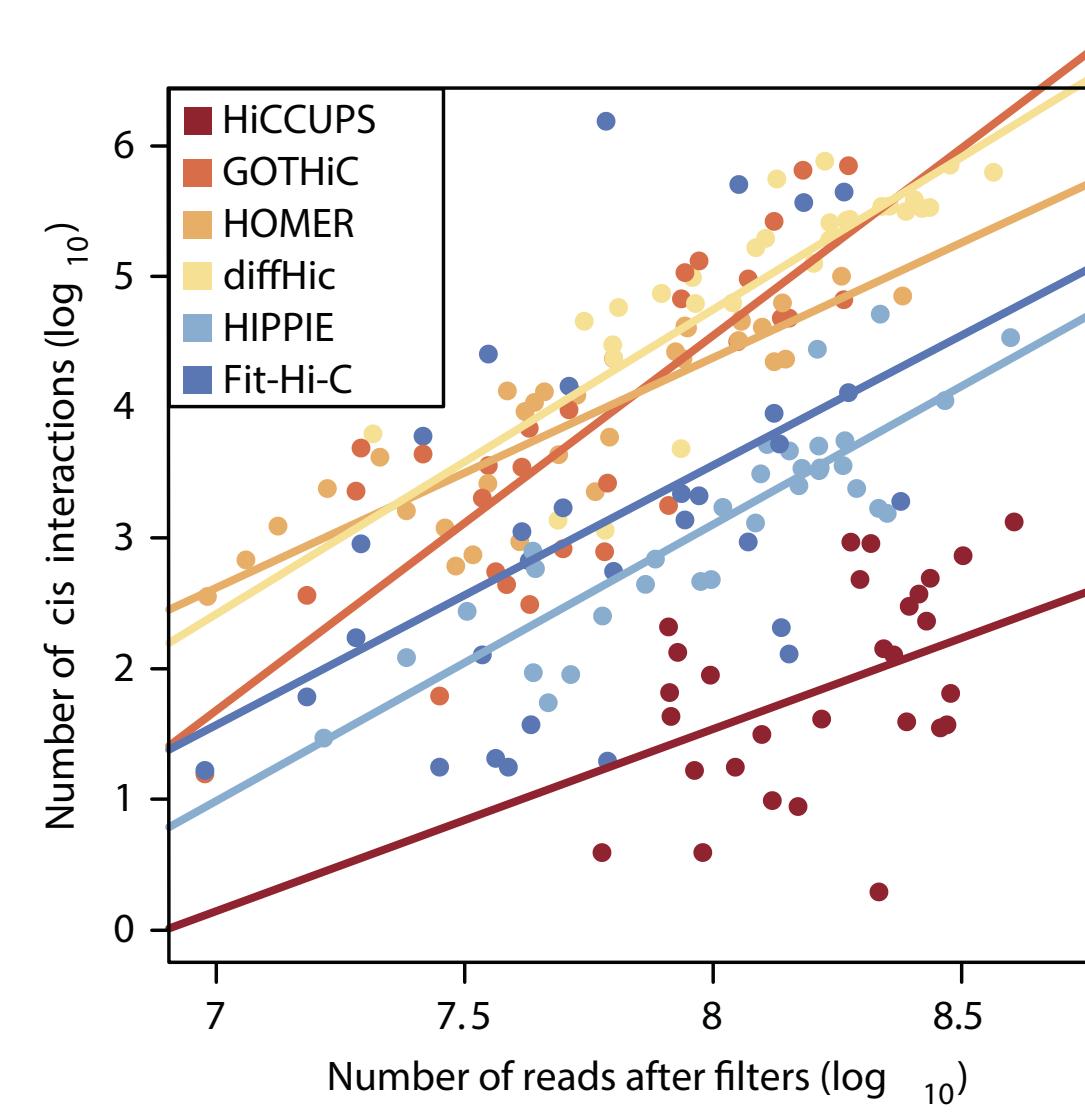
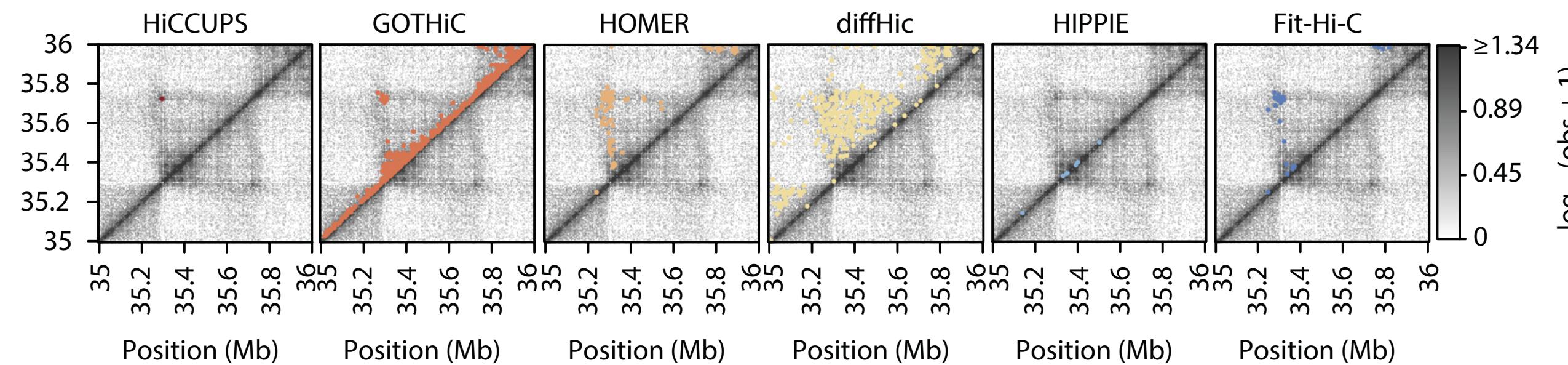
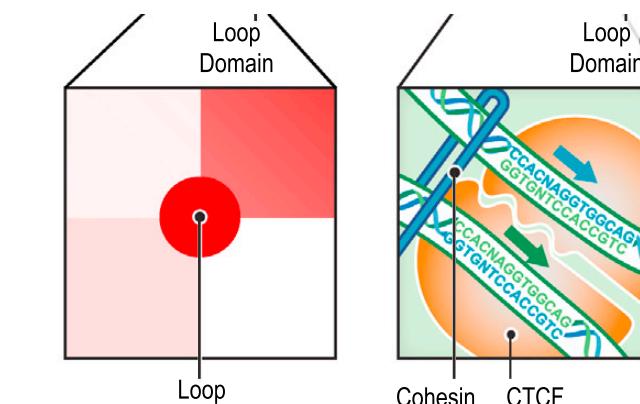
# TADs

How well we do...

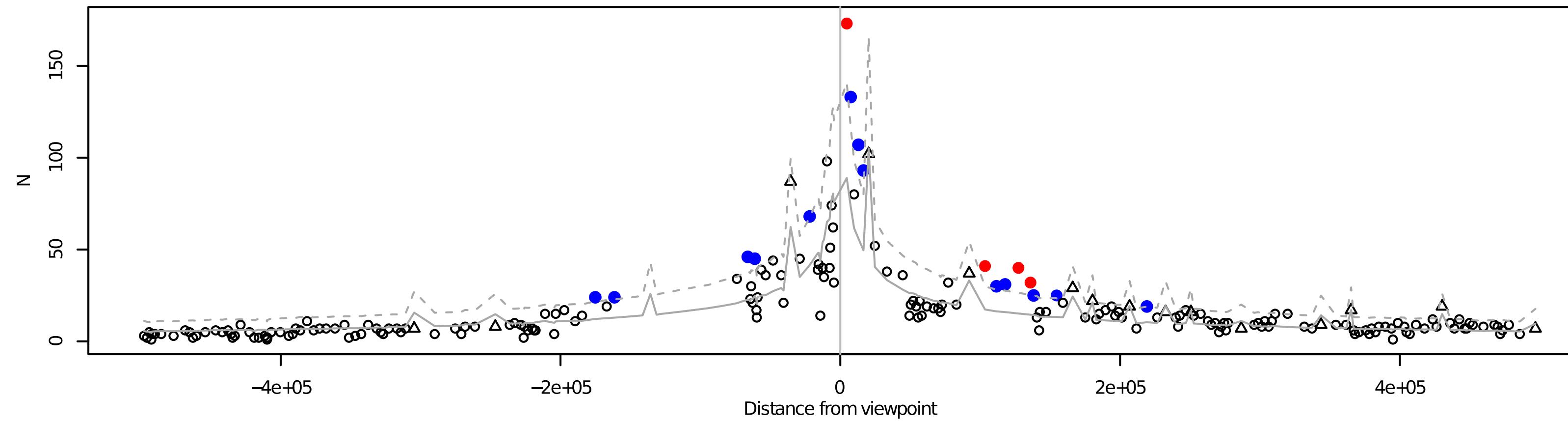
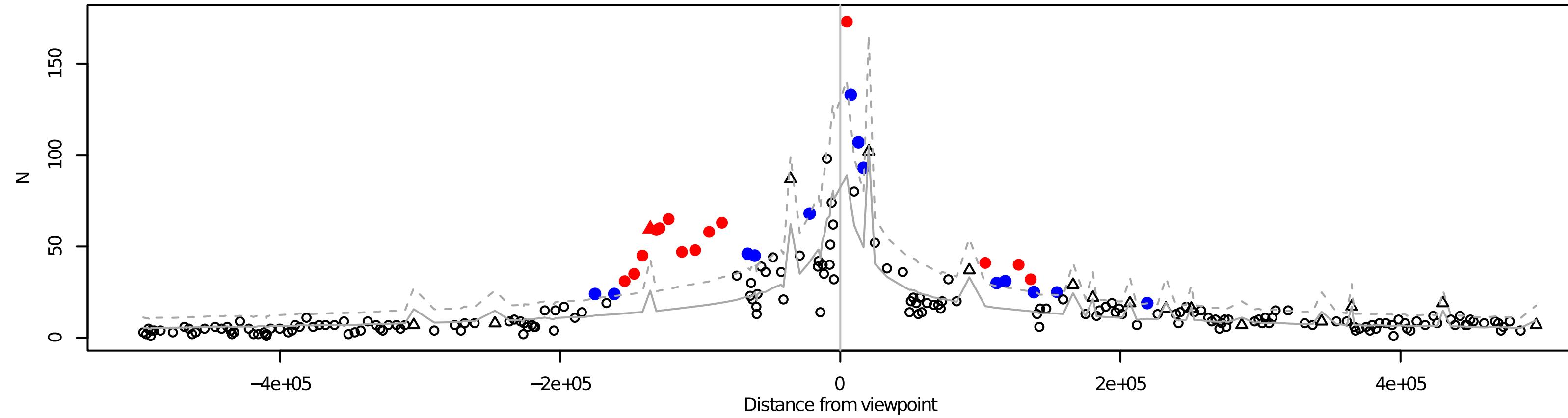


# Loops

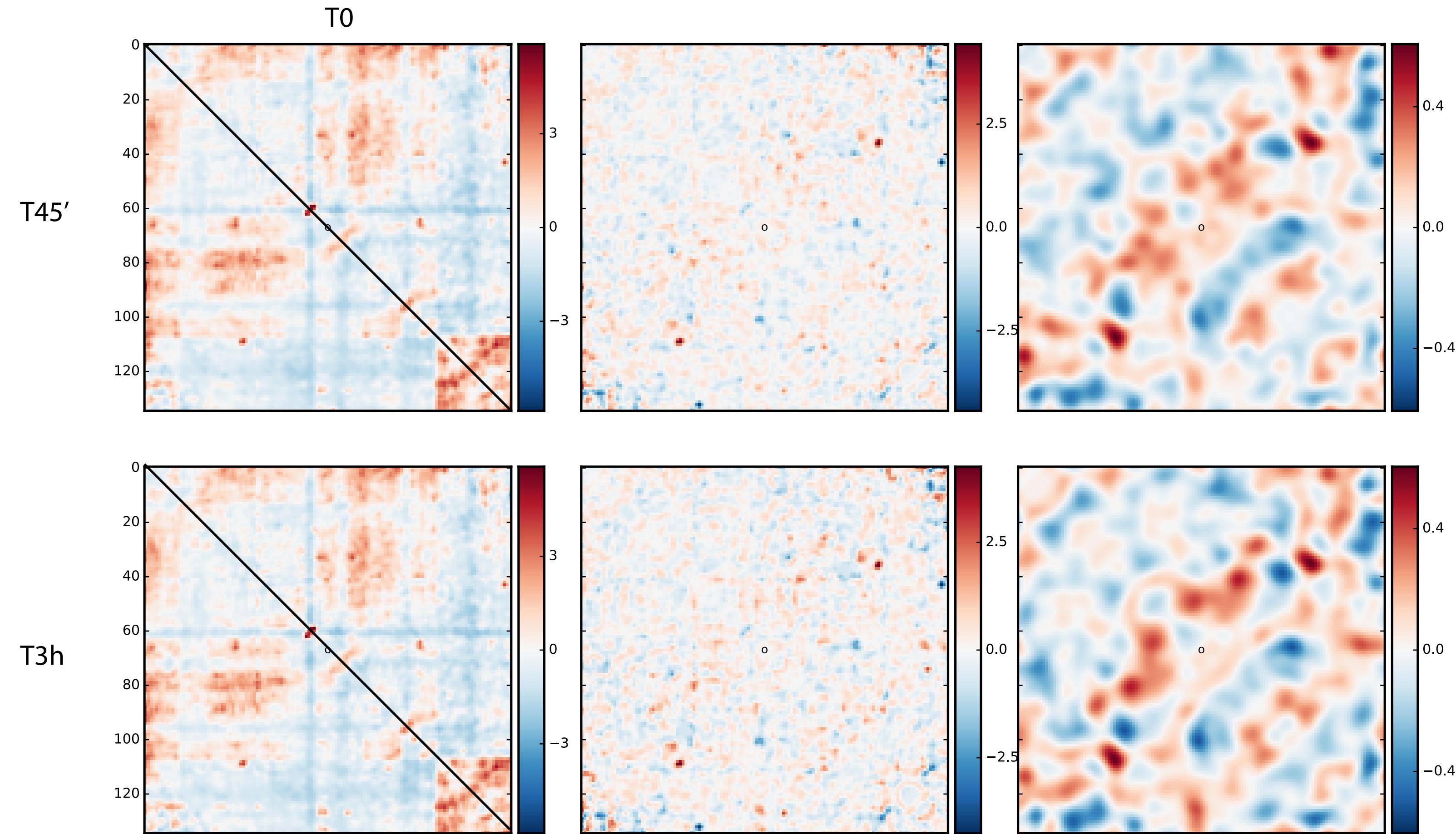
How well we do...



# Comparing HiC data



# Z-score differences (DekkerLab)



# Comparing HiC data (GOTHIC)

Mifsud, B., Tavares-Cadete, F., Young, A. N., Sugar, R., Schoenfelder, S., Ferreira, L., et al. (2015). *Nature Genetics*, 1–12.

ARTICLES

## Mapping long-range promoter contacts in human cells with high-resolution capture Hi-C

Borbala Mifsud<sup>1,2,10</sup>, Filipe Tavares-Cadete<sup>1,9</sup>, Alice N Young<sup>3,10</sup>, Robert Sugar<sup>1</sup>, Stefan Schoenfelder<sup>3</sup>, Lauren Ferreira<sup>3</sup>, Steven W Wingett<sup>4</sup>, Simon Andrews<sup>4</sup>, William Grey<sup>5</sup>, Philip A Ewels<sup>3</sup>, Bram Herman<sup>6</sup>, Scott Happe<sup>6</sup>, Andy Higgs<sup>6</sup>, Emily LeProust<sup>6,9</sup>, George A Follows<sup>7</sup>, Peter Fraser<sup>3</sup>, Nicholas M Luscombe<sup>1,2,8</sup> & Cameron S Osborne<sup>3,5</sup>

Transcriptional control in large genomes often requires looping interactions between distal DNA elements, such as enhancers and target promoters. Current chromosome conformation capture techniques do not offer sufficiently high resolution to interrogate these regulatory interactions on a genomic scale. Here we use Capture Hi-C (CHi-C), an adapted genome conformation assay, to examine the long-range interactions of almost 22,000 promoters in 2 human blood cell types. We identify over 1.6 million shared and cell type-restricted interactions spanning hundreds of kilobases between promoters and distal loci. Transcriptionally active genes contact enhancer-like elements, whereas transcriptionally inactive genes interact with previously uncharacterized elements marked by repressive features that may act as long-range silencers. Finally, we show that interacting loci are enriched for disease-associated SNPs, suggesting how distal mutations may disrupt the regulation of relevant genes. This study provides new insights and accessible tools to dissect the regulatory interactions that underlie normal and aberrant gene regulation.

Genome organization influences transcriptional regulation by facilitating interactions between gene promoters and distal regulatory elements. Many contacts have been identified using chromosome conformation capture methodologies<sup>1–3</sup>. For example, the ChIA-PET (chromatin interaction analysis by paired-end tag sequencing) method has been used to map long-range interactions extending over hundreds of kilobases; however, these studies have only interrogated the subset of interactions involving highly transcriptionally active genes, whereas long-range interactions for weakly expressed and transcriptionally inactive genes remain unknown. Although the 5C (chromatin conformation capture carbon copy) method is not restricted by the nature of interactions, thus far, it has only been applied to a few small genomic regions. The Hi-C method simultaneously captures all genomic interactions, which provides a population-average snapshot of the genome conformation within a single experiment<sup>4</sup>; yet, owing to the enormous complexity of Hi-C libraries, it is costly to sequence to sufficient depth to provide enough spatial resolution to interrogate specific contacts between gene promoters and distal regulatory elements<sup>5,6</sup>. To circumvent these issues, we have used solution hybridization selection, originally developed for exon sequencing<sup>7</sup>—and recently used to capture the interactions of a few hundred promoters from 3C libraries<sup>8</sup>—to enrich Hi-C libraries for genome-wide, long-range contacts of both active and inactive promoters.

**RESULTS**  
**A genome-wide, long-range interaction capture assay**  
We prepared three HindIII-digested Hi-C libraries from GM12878 cells, a human Epstein-Barr virus (EBV)-transformed lymphoblastoid cell line that has been comprehensively assayed in the Encyclopedia of DNA Elements (ENCODE) Project, and two libraries from *ex vivo* CD34<sup>+</sup> hematopoietic progenitor cells. One Hi-C library from each cell type was sequenced to examine the di-tag (paired-end read) interaction distribution and depth of read coverage (**Supplementary Table 1**). As anticipated, we observed a higher density of di-tag interaction reads between restriction fragments in *cis* as compared with fragments in *trans*, with the highest density occurring between fragments separated by less than 20 kb (**Supplementary Fig. 1a,b**). We also observed demarcation of the genome into distinct contiguous, highly intraconnected topologically associated domains (TADs)<sup>5</sup> (**Supplementary Fig. 1c** and **Supplementary Table 2**). The distribution of read coverage was typical for a Hi-C experiment. In our initial comparison, we downsampled all data sets to 45 million unique sequencing reads. Each restriction fragment was represented by an average of 143 and 139 reads in the GM12878 and CD34<sup>+</sup> libraries, respectively (**Supplementary Fig. 1d**). We processed the reads using binomial statistics to identify ligation fragments that were significantly enriched ( $q < 0.05$ ). This approach recognizes ligation products between

<sup>1</sup>The Francis Crick Institute, London, UK. <sup>2</sup>UCL Genetics Institute, University College London, London, UK. <sup>3</sup>Nuclear Dynamics Programme, Babraham Institute, Cambridge, UK. <sup>4</sup>Bioinformatics Group, Babraham Institute, Cambridge, UK. <sup>5</sup>Department of Medical and Molecular Genetics, King's College London School of Medicine, London, UK. <sup>6</sup>Diagnostics and Genomics Division, Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, California, USA. <sup>7</sup>Department of Haematology, Cambridge University Hospitals National Health Service (NHS) Foundation Trust, Cambridge, UK. <sup>8</sup>Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology, Okinawa, Japan (F.T.-C.) and Twist Bioscience, San Francisco, California, USA (E.L.). <sup>10</sup>These authors contributed equally to this work. Correspondence should be addressed to C.S.O. (cameron.osborne@kcl.ac.uk) or N.M.L. (nicholas.luscombe@kcl.ac.uk).

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# Comparing HiC data (CHICAGO)

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Cairns et al. *Genome Biology* (2016) 17:127  
DOI 10.1186/s13059-016-0992-2

Genome Biology

METHOD

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## CHiCAGO: robust detection of DNA looping interactions in Capture Hi-C data

Jonathan Cairns<sup>1†</sup>, Paula Freire-Pritchett<sup>1†</sup>, Steven W. Wingett<sup>1,2</sup>, Csilla Várnai<sup>1</sup>, Andrew Dimond<sup>1</sup>, Vincent Plagnol<sup>3</sup>, Daniel Zerbino<sup>4</sup>, Stefan Schoenfelder<sup>1</sup>, Biola-Maria Javierre<sup>1</sup>, Cameron Osborne<sup>5</sup>, Peter Fraser<sup>1</sup> and Mikhail Spivakov<sup>1\*</sup>



### Abstract

Capture Hi-C (CHi-C) is a method for profiling chromosomal interactions involving targeted regions of interest, such as gene promoters, globally and at high resolution. Signal detection in CHi-C data involves a number of statistical challenges that are not observed when using other Hi-C-like techniques. We present a background model and algorithms for normalisation and multiple testing that are specifically adapted to CHi-C experiments. We implement these procedures in CHiCAGO (<http://regulatorygenomicsgroup.org/chicago>), an open-source package for robust interaction detection in CHi-C. We validate CHiCAGO by showing that promoter-interacting regions detected with this method are enriched for regulatory features and disease-associated SNPs.

**Keywords:** Gene regulation, Nuclear organisation, Promoter-enhancer interactions, Capture Hi-C, Convolution background model, *P* value weighting

### Background

Chromosome conformation capture (3C) technology has revolutionised the analysis of nuclear organisation, leading to important insights into gene regulation [1]. While the original 3C protocol tested interactions between a single pair of candidate regions ("one vs one"), subsequent efforts focused on increasing the throughput of this technology (4C, "one vs all"; 5C, "many vs many"), culminating in the development of Hi-C, a method that interrogated the whole nuclear interactome ("all vs all") [1, 2]. The extremely large number of possible pairwise interactions in Hi-C samples, however, imposes limitations on the realistically achievable sequencing depth at individual interactions, leading to reduced sensitivity. The recently developed Capture Hi-C (CHi-C) technology uses sequence capture to enrich Hi-C material for multiple genomic regions of interest (hereafter referred to as "baits"), making it possible to profile the global interaction profiles of many thousands of regions globally ("many vs all") and at a high resolution (Fig. 1) [3–7].

CHi-C data possess statistical properties that set them apart from other 3C/4C/Hi-C-like methods. First, in contrast to traditional Hi-C or 5C, baits in CHi-C comprise a subset of restriction fragments, while any fragment in the genome can be detected on the "other end" of an interaction. This asymmetry of CHi-C interaction matrices is not accounted for by the normalisation procedures developed for traditional Hi-C and 5C [8–10]. Secondly, CHi-C baits, but not other ends, have a further source of bias associated with uneven capture efficiency. In addition, the need for detecting interactions globally and at a single-fragment resolution creates specific multiple testing challenges that are less pronounced with binned Hi-C data or the more focused 4C and 5C assays, which involve fewer interaction tests. Finally, CHi-C designs such as Promoter CHi-C and HiCap [3–5, 11] involve large numbers (many thousands) of spatially dispersed baits. This presents the opportunity to increase the robustness of signal detection by sharing information across baits. Such sharing is impossible in the analysis of 4C data that focuses on only a single bait and is of limited use in 4C-seq containing a small number of baits [12–14].

These distinct features of CHi-C data have prompted us to develop a bespoke statistical model and a

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# Comparing HiC data (diffHiC)

Lun, A. T. L., & Smyth, G. K. (2015). *BMC Bioinformatics*, 1–11.

Lun and Smyth *BMC Bioinformatics* (2015) 16:258  
DOI 10.1186/s12859-015-0683-0



SOFTWARE

Open Access

## diffHiC: a Bioconductor package to detect differential genomic interactions in Hi-C data

Aaron T.L. Lun<sup>1,2</sup> and Gordon K. Smyth<sup>1,3\*</sup> 



### Abstract

**Background:** Chromatin conformation capture with high-throughput sequencing (Hi-C) is a technique that measures the *in vivo* intensity of interactions between all pairs of loci in the genome. Most conventional analyses of Hi-C data focus on the detection of statistically significant interactions. However, an alternative strategy involves identifying significant changes in the interaction intensity (i.e., differential interactions) between two or more biological conditions. This is more statistically rigorous and may provide more biologically relevant results.

**Results:** Here, we present the diffHiC software package for the detection of differential interactions from Hi-C data. diffHiC provides methods for read pair alignment and processing, counting into bin pairs, filtering out low-abundance events and normalization of trended or CNV-driven biases. It uses the statistical framework of the edgeR package to model biological variability and to test for significant differences between conditions. Several options for the visualization of results are also included. The use of diffHiC is demonstrated with real Hi-C data sets. Performance against existing methods is also evaluated with simulated data.

**Conclusions:** On real data, diffHiC is able to successfully detect interactions with significant differences in intensity between biological conditions. It also compares favourably to existing software tools on simulated data sets. These results suggest that diffHiC is a viable approach for differential analyses of Hi-C data.

**Keywords:** Hi-C, Genomic interaction, Differential analysis

### Background

Chromatin conformation capture with high-throughput sequencing (Hi-C) is a technique that is widely used to study global chromatin organization *in vivo* [1]. Briefly, samples of nuclear DNA are cross-linked and digested with a restriction enzyme to release chromatin complexes into solution (Fig. 1). Each complex may contain multiple restriction fragments, corresponding to an interaction between the associated genomic loci. After some processing, proximity ligation is performed between the ends of the restriction fragments. This favours ligation between restriction fragments in the same complex. The ligated DNA is sheared and purified for high-throughput paired-end sequencing. Each sequencing fragment represents a

ligation product, such that each read in the pair originates from a different genomic locus. The intensity of an interaction between a pair of genomic loci can be quantified as the number of read pairs with one read mapped to each locus. The output from the Hi-C procedure spans the genome-by-genome “interaction space” whereby all pairwise interactions between loci can potentially be detected. As such, careful analysis is required to draw meaningful biological conclusions from this type of data.

Most analyses of Hi-C data have focused on identifying “significant” interactions from a single sample [2, 3]. This is challenging because non-specific ligation and apparent interactions can arise from a variety of uninteresting technical causes and rigorous analysis requires a precise quantitative understanding of these artifacts. Identifying biologically interesting interactions from a single sample requires elaborate modeling of the background signal in Hi-C experiments in order to correct for systematic biases due to GC content, mappability and fragment length [3]. Such modeling inevitably involves assumptions and approximations. Furthermore, the interaction space

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# Comparing HiC data (diffHiC)

Galan, s. (2020). *Nature Genetics*



## CHESS enables quantitative comparison of chromatin contact data and automatic feature extraction

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**Dynamic changes in the three-dimensional (3D) organization of chromatin are associated with central biological processes, such as transcription, replication and development. Therefore, the comprehensive identification and quantification of these changes is fundamental to understanding of evolutionary and regulatory mechanisms. Here, we present Comparison of Hi-C Experiments using Structural Similarity (CHESS), an algorithm for the comparison of chromatin contact maps and automatic differential feature extraction. We demonstrate the robustness of CHESS to experimental variability and showcase its biological applications on (1) interspecies comparisons of syntenic regions in human and mouse models; (2) intraspecies identification of conformational changes in *Zelda*-depleted *Drosophila* embryos; (3) patient-specific aberrant chromatin conformation in a diffuse large B-cell lymphoma sample; and (4) the systematic identification of chromatin contact differences in high-resolution Capture-C data. In summary, CHESS is a computationally efficient method for the comparison and classification of changes in chromatin contact data.**

Ukaryotic genomes follow similar global organizational principles: a multilayer, hierarchical organization into domains, with specific 3D interactions between individual genomic regions<sup>1</sup>. Local chromatin conformation, however, can be variable across species<sup>2–6</sup>, developmental stages<sup>7–9</sup> and cell types<sup>10,11</sup>, and can change dynamically with transcription<sup>12</sup>, during replication<sup>13</sup> and cell division<sup>14</sup>, among other contexts. Mutations affecting nuclear architecture have been shown to cause misregulation of gene expression leading to developmental disorders and disease (reviewed in Spielmann et al.<sup>15</sup> and Krijger et al.<sup>16</sup>). Therefore, it is important to elucidate the relationships among nuclear architecture, evolution and fundamental biological processes.

Existing approaches to identify changes in the 3D conformation of genomic regions have relied partially on visual analysis of differences, such as a side-by-side evaluation of Hi-C matrices<sup>7,18</sup> or fold change maps<sup>19</sup>. While visual comparisons can highlight specific changes in Hi-C matrices, results are often difficult to quantify and, by nature, cannot be automated to compare large numbers of matrices. More quantitative approaches have been developed. One class of tools focuses on the assessment of the degree of similarity or reproducibility between full chromatin contact matrices/datasets and does not allow for the identification of regions with particularly strong similarities or differences<sup>20–24</sup>. Another focuses on the comparison of specific features, such as topologically associating domains (TADs)<sup>25,26</sup> or loops<sup>10,27</sup>, which limits the discovery of differences to the specific feature analyzed. A third class of tools aims to find single pairs of bins with significantly differential interactions<sup>28–32</sup> without providing any information about the specific type of structural feature that changes. Between them,

Therefore, there is a need for methods that allow a systematic comparison of the 3D conformation of genomic regions, that is, at the same time quantitative, able to identify and classify a range of structural variations and corresponding well to the visual perception of differences.

In this technical report, we describe CHESS, an algorithm that can be used to robustly identify and classify specific similarities or differences and features in chromatin contact data using a feature-free approach. CHESS applies the concept of the structural similarity index (SSIM) widely used in image analysis<sup>33,34</sup> to chromatin contact matrices, assigning a structural similarity score and an associated *P* value to pairs of genomic regions. Next, CHESS uses image processing approaches to automatically extract 3D chromatin conformation features, such as TADs, stripes or loops. We first demonstrate the robustness of CHESS scores by evaluating the method on artificially generated and real Hi-C matrices of different sizes, sequencing depths and varying levels of noise. Then, we highlight the usefulness of CHESS in different real-world applications: (1) genome-wide comparisons of syntenic regions between human and mouse models; (2) the detection of conformational changes in *Drosophila melanogaster* on knockdown of the transcription factor *Zelda* during early embryonic development; (3) the detection of 3D chromatin conformation changes in the B cells of a patient with diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCI); and (4) the automatic detection and classification of subtle changes in chromatin conformation from genome editing experiments. Overall, our results demonstrate that CHESS can be successfully applied to diverse chromatin contact datasets to quantitatively determine structural differences between them.

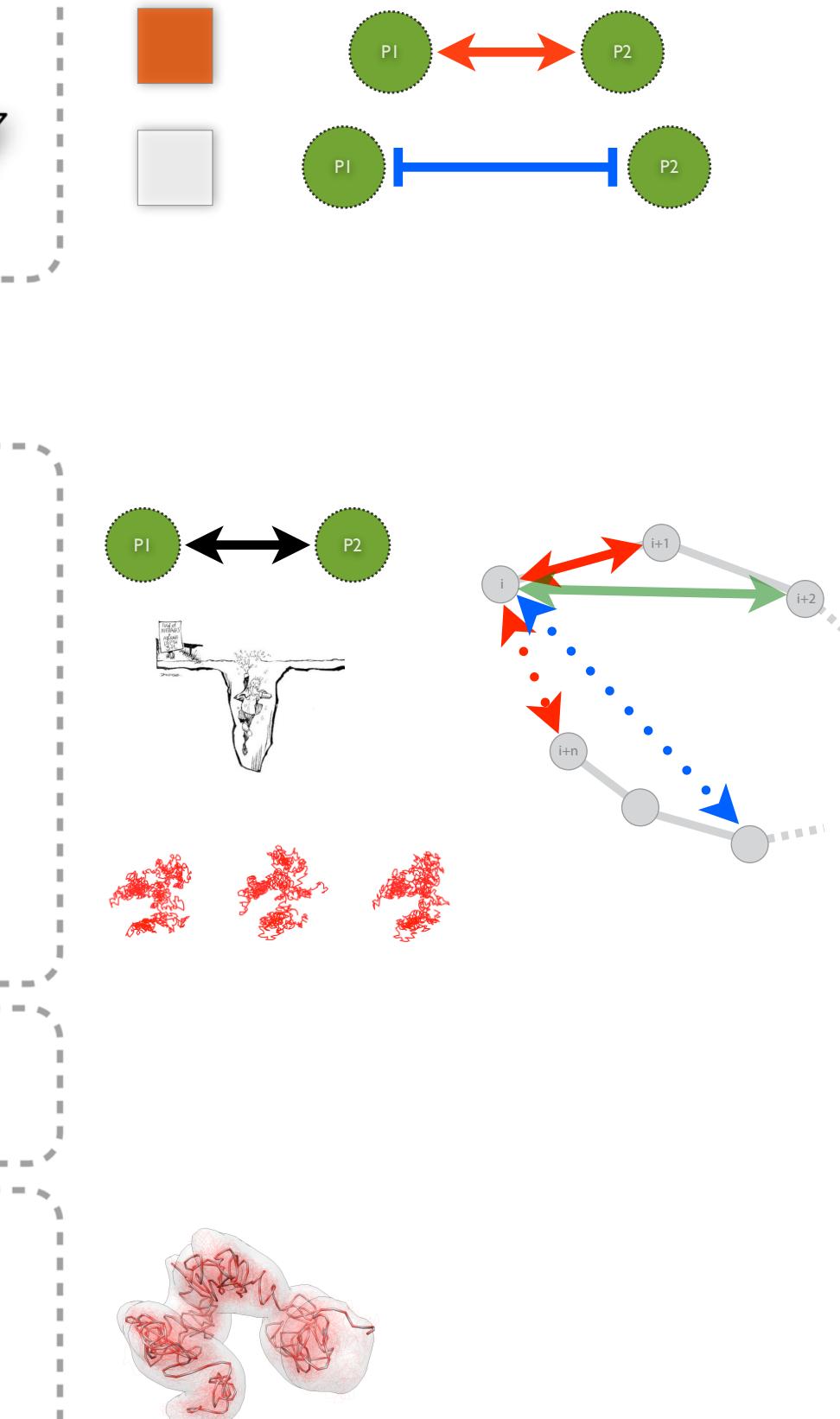
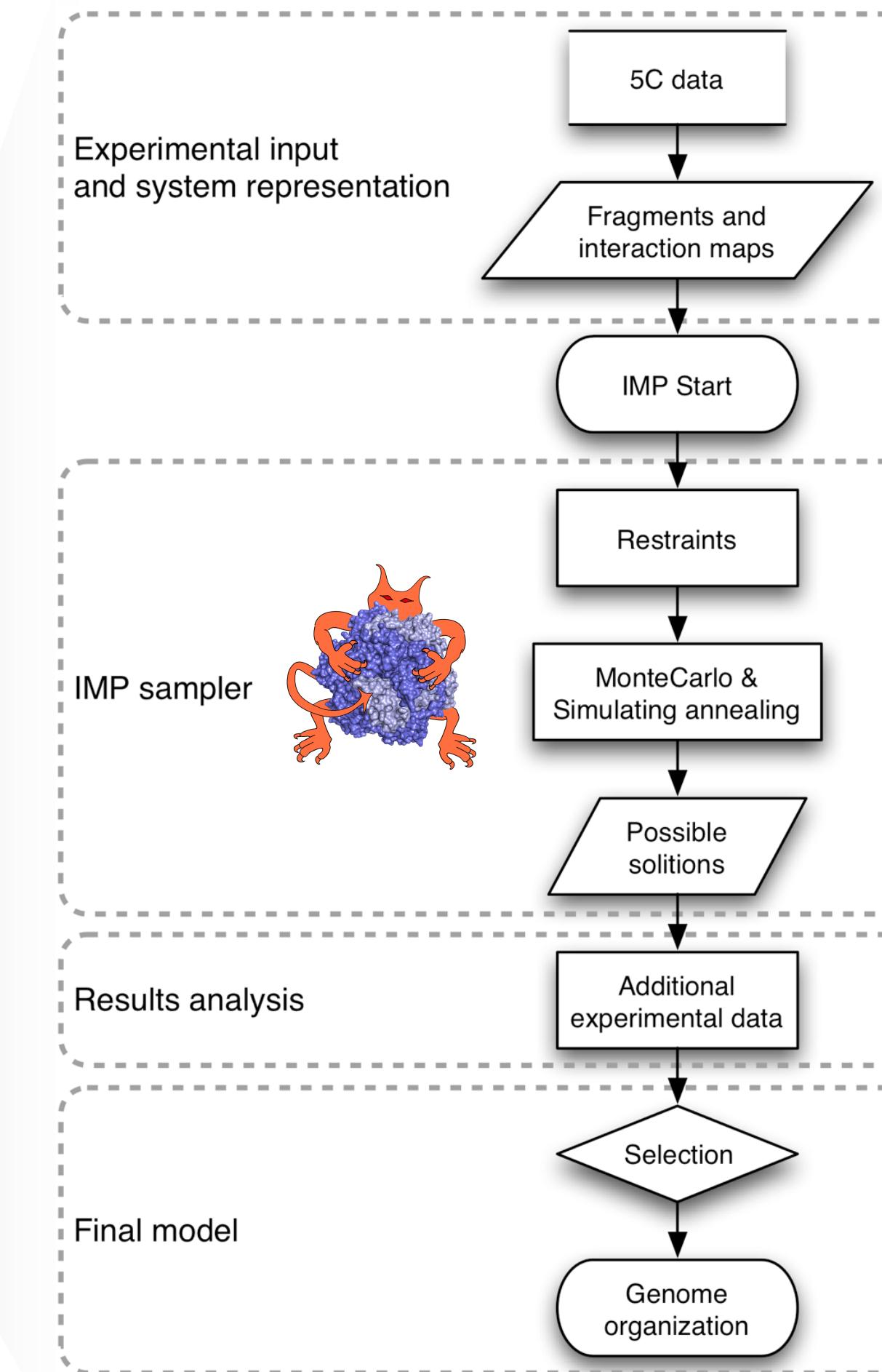
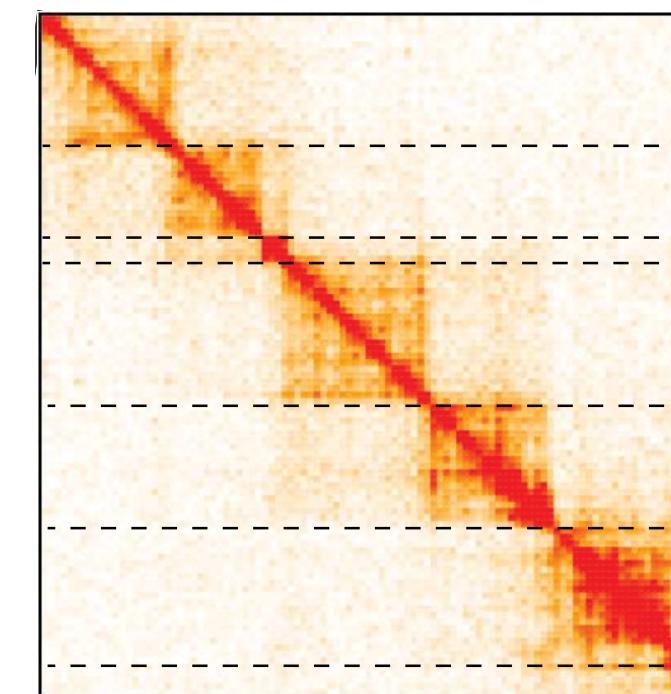
<sup>1</sup>Max Planck Institute for Molecular Biomedicine, Münster, Germany. <sup>2</sup>National Centre for Genomic Analysis, Centre for Genomic Regulation, Barcelona Institute of Science and Technology, Barcelona, Spain. <sup>3</sup>Institute of Science and Technology Austria, Klosterneuburg, Austria. <sup>4</sup>Centre for Genomic Regulation, Barcelona Institute of Science and Technology, Barcelona, Spain. <sup>5</sup>Pompeu Fabra University, Barcelona, Spain. <sup>6</sup>Catalan Institution for Research and Advanced Studies, Barcelona, Spain. <sup>7</sup>Medical Research Council London Institute of Medical Sciences, Institute of Clinical Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, Imperial College London, London, UK. <sup>8</sup>These authors contributed equally: Silvia Galan, Nick Machnik. e-mail: jmv@mpi-muenster.mpg.de



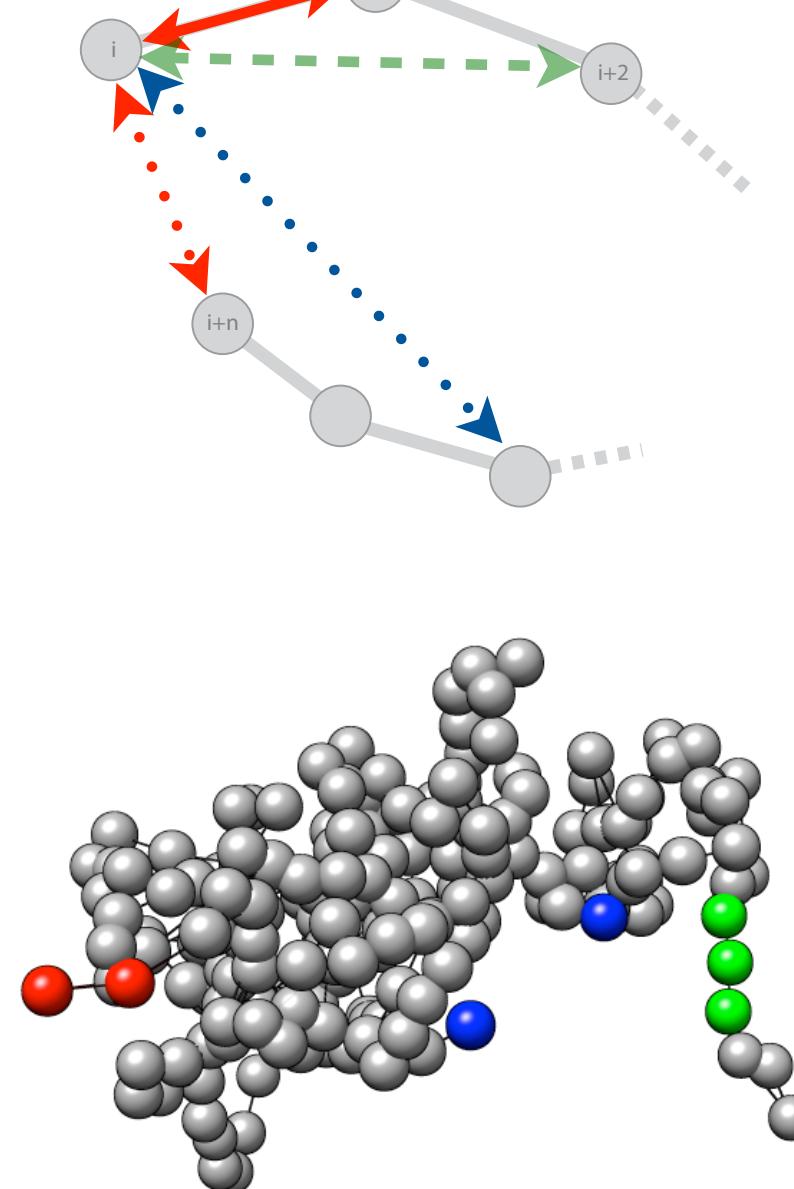
Got normalized  
Hi-C maps?



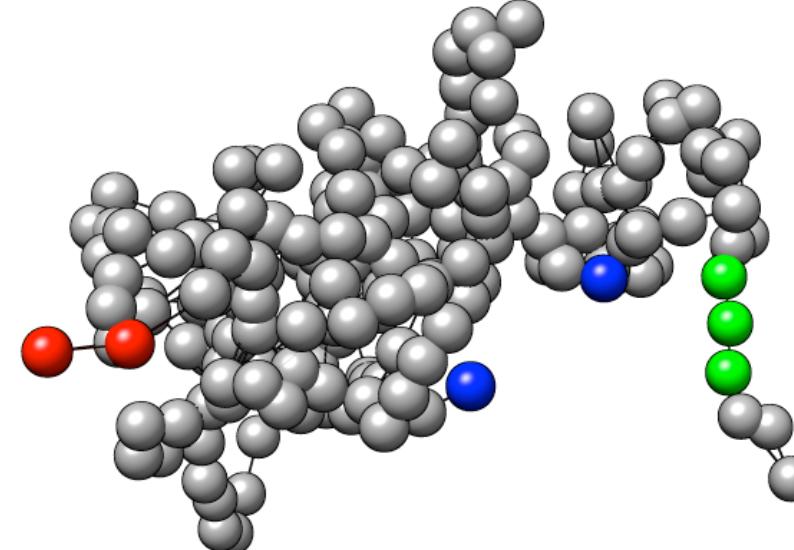
<http://3DGenomes.org>  
<http://www.integrativemodeling.org>



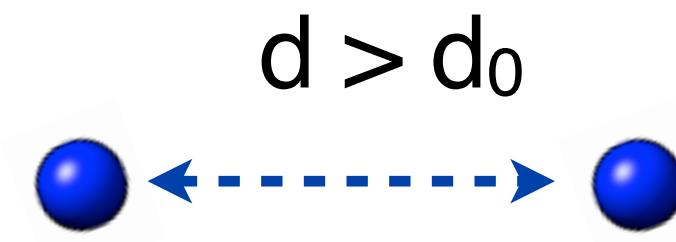
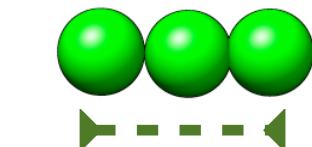
# Model representation and scoring



$$d = d_0$$

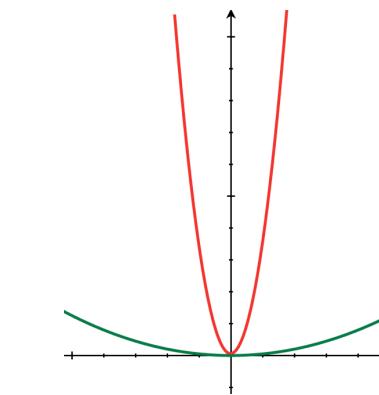


$$d < d_0$$



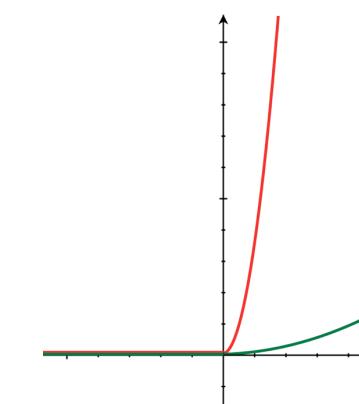
Harmonic

$$H_{i,j} = k(d_{i,j} - d_{i,j}^0)^2$$



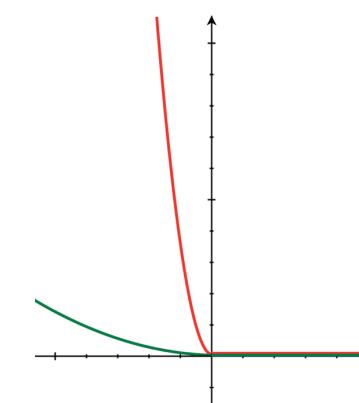
Harmonic Upper Bound

$$\begin{cases} \text{if } d_{i,j} \geq d_{i,j}^0; & ubH_{i,j} = k(d_{i,j} - d_{i,j}^0)^2 \\ \text{if } d_{i,j} < d_{i,j}^0; & ubH_{i,j} = 0 \end{cases}$$

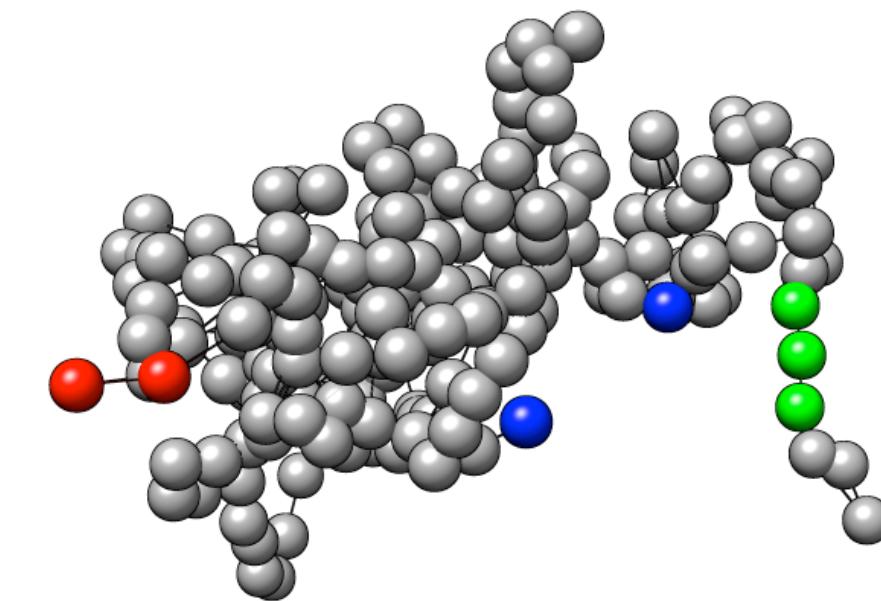


Harmonic Lower Bound

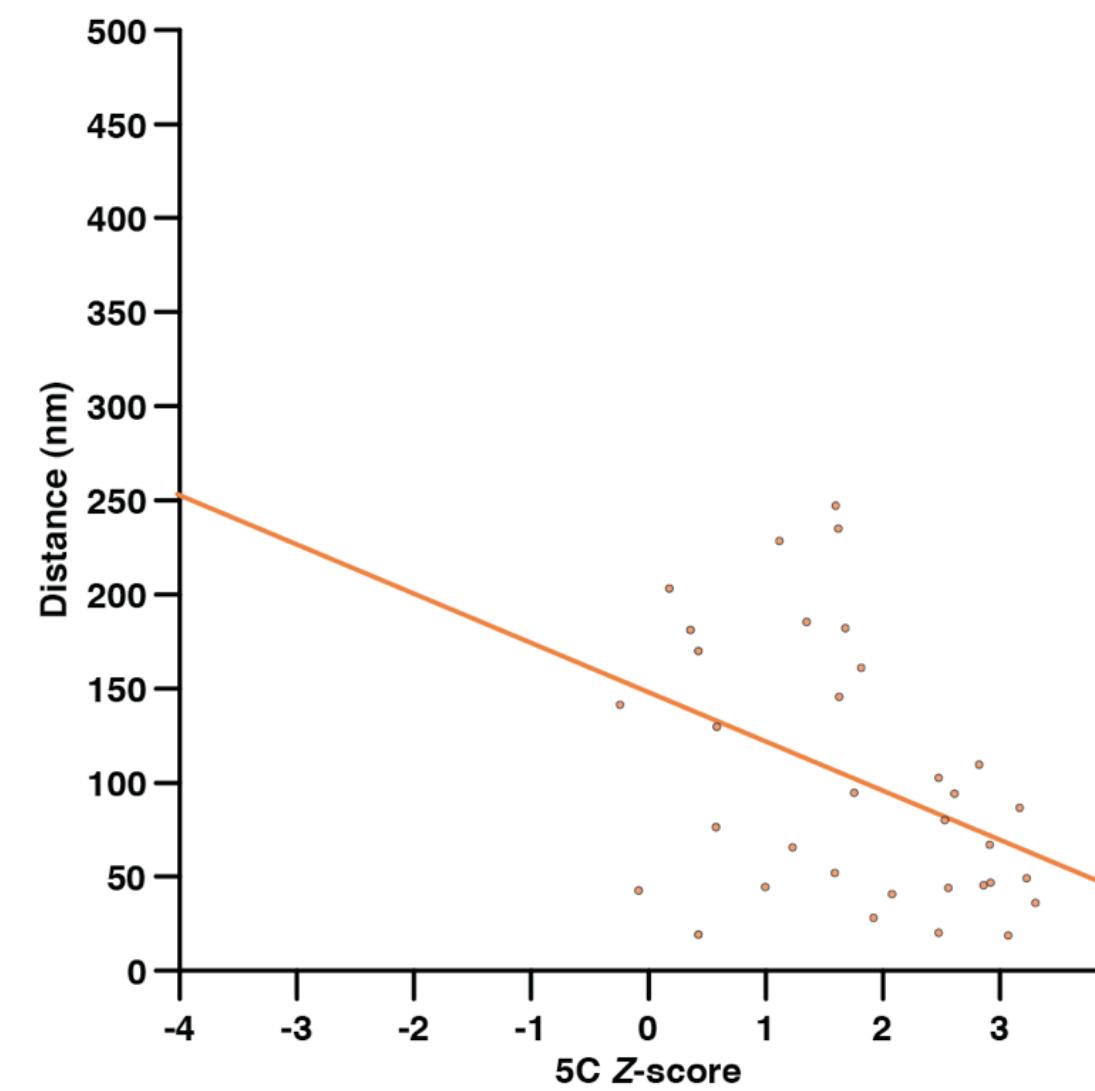
$$\begin{cases} \text{if } d_{i,j} \leq d_{i,j}^0; & lbH_{i,j} = k(d_{i,j} - d_{i,j}^0)^2 \\ \text{if } d_{i,j} > d_{i,j}^0; & lbH_{i,j} = 0 \end{cases}$$



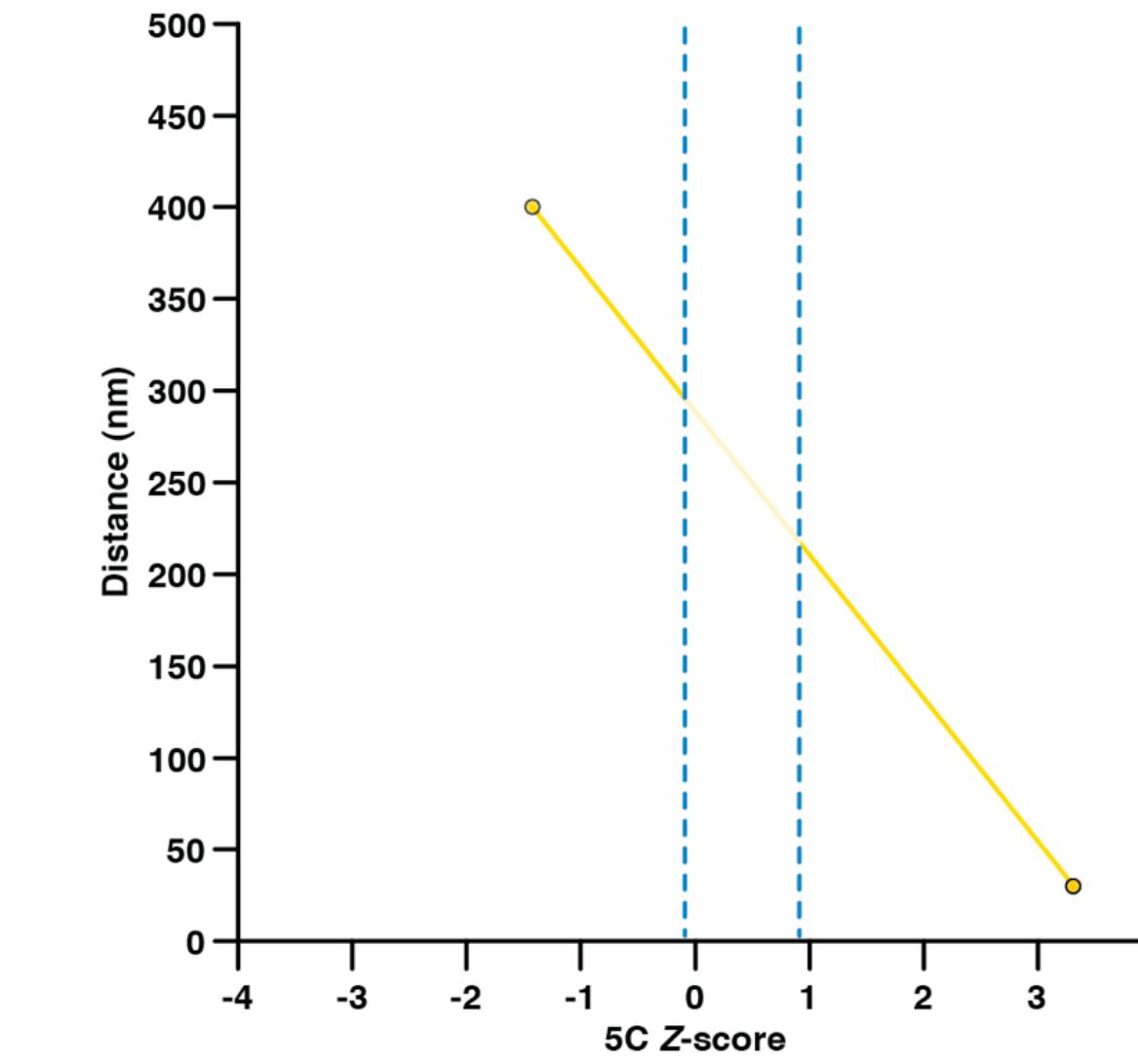
# From 3C data to spatial distances



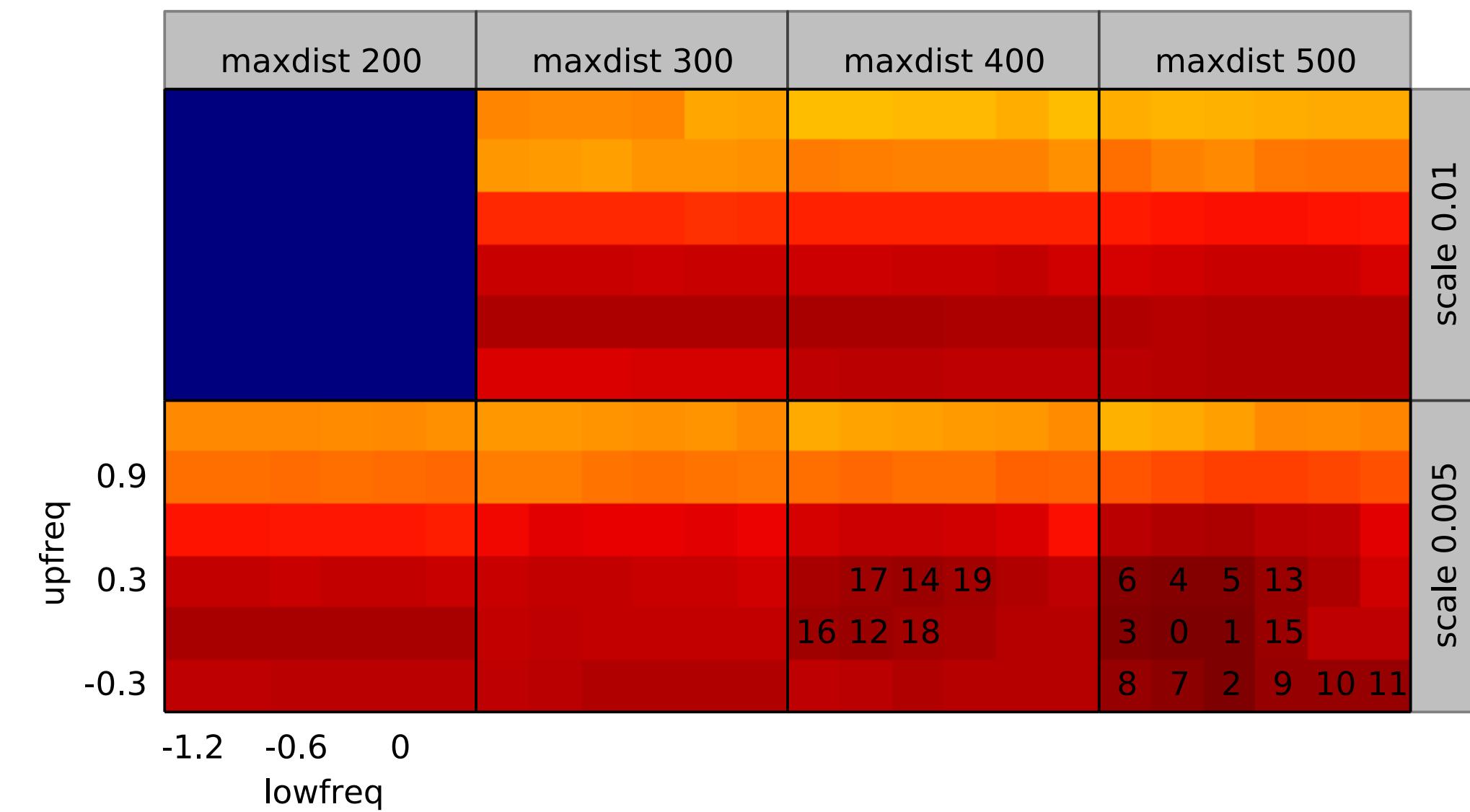
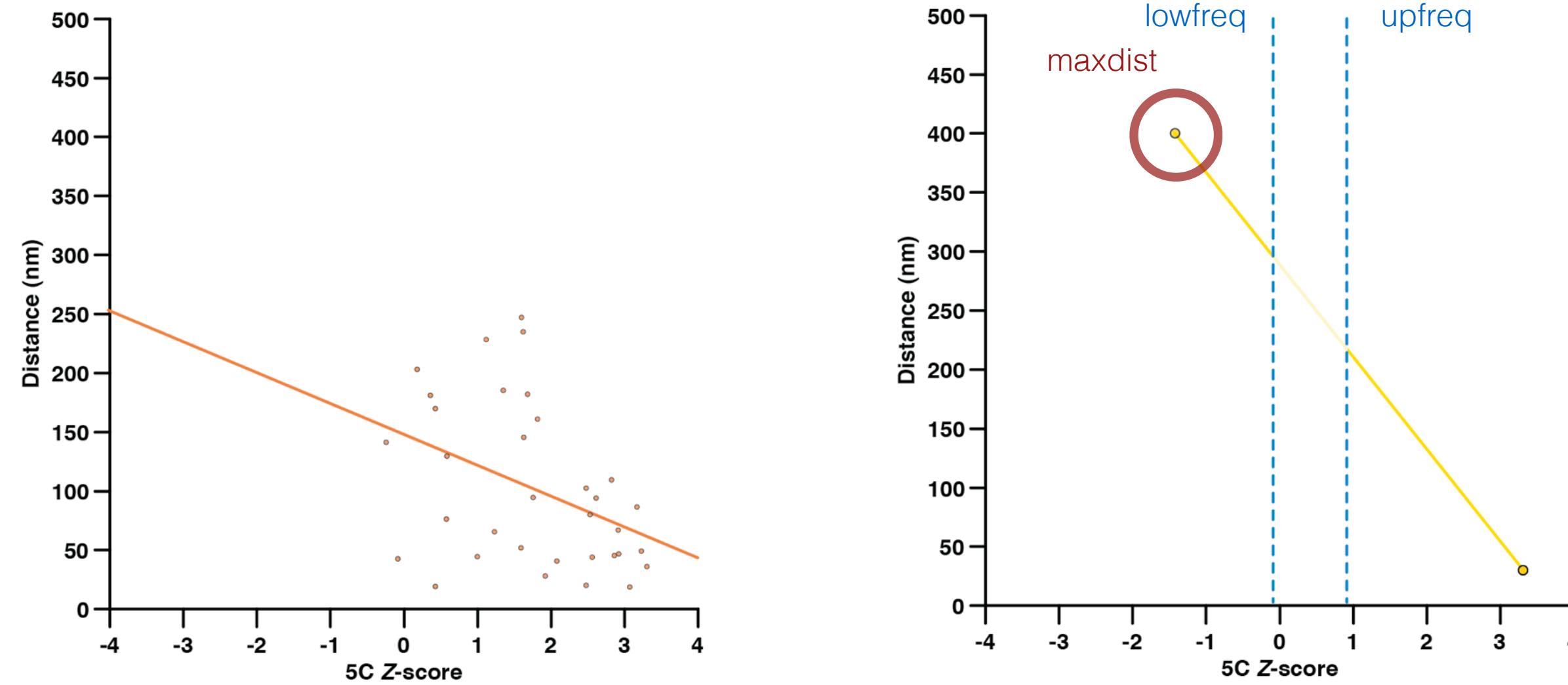
Neighbor fragments



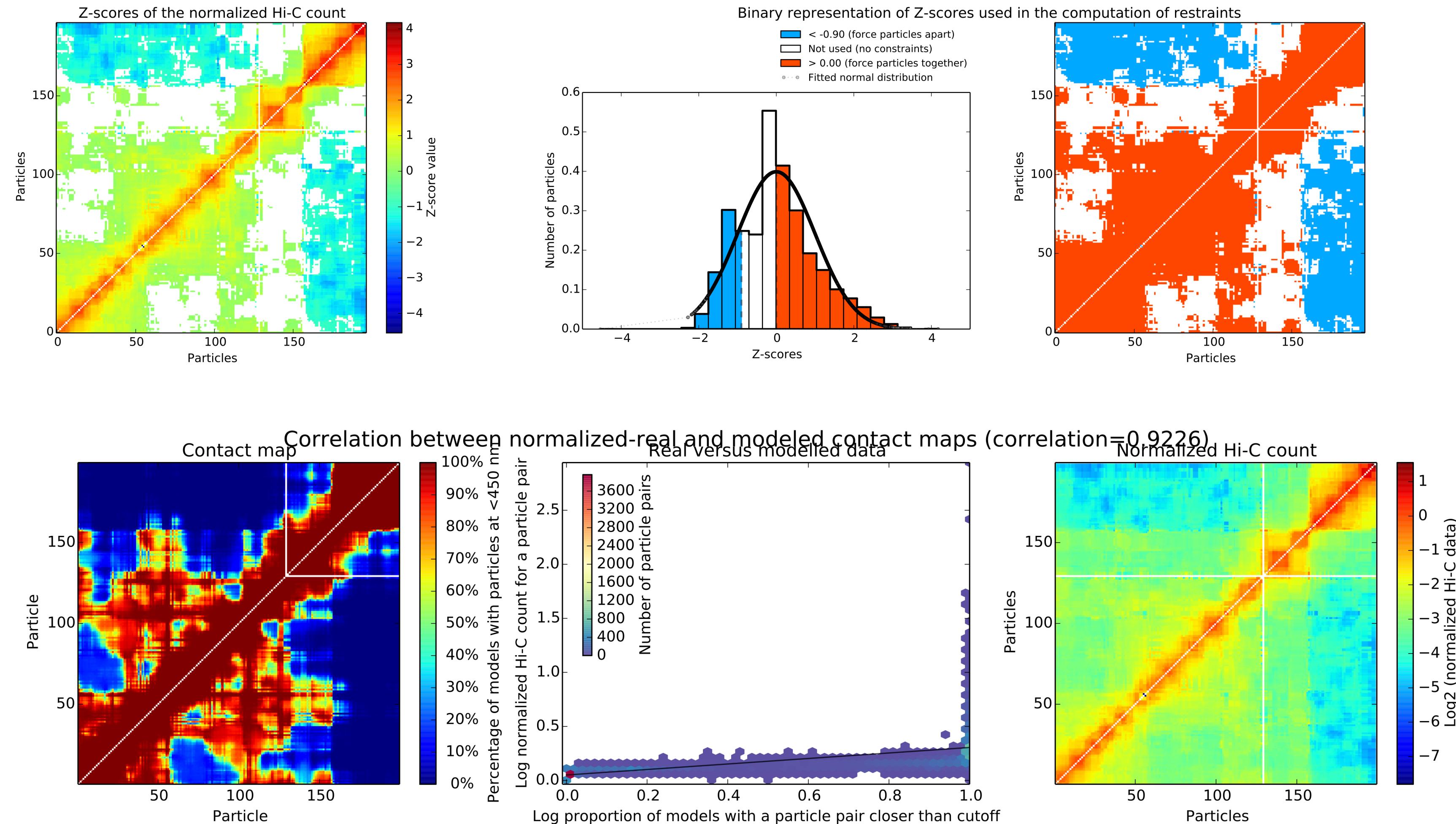
Non-Neighbor fragments



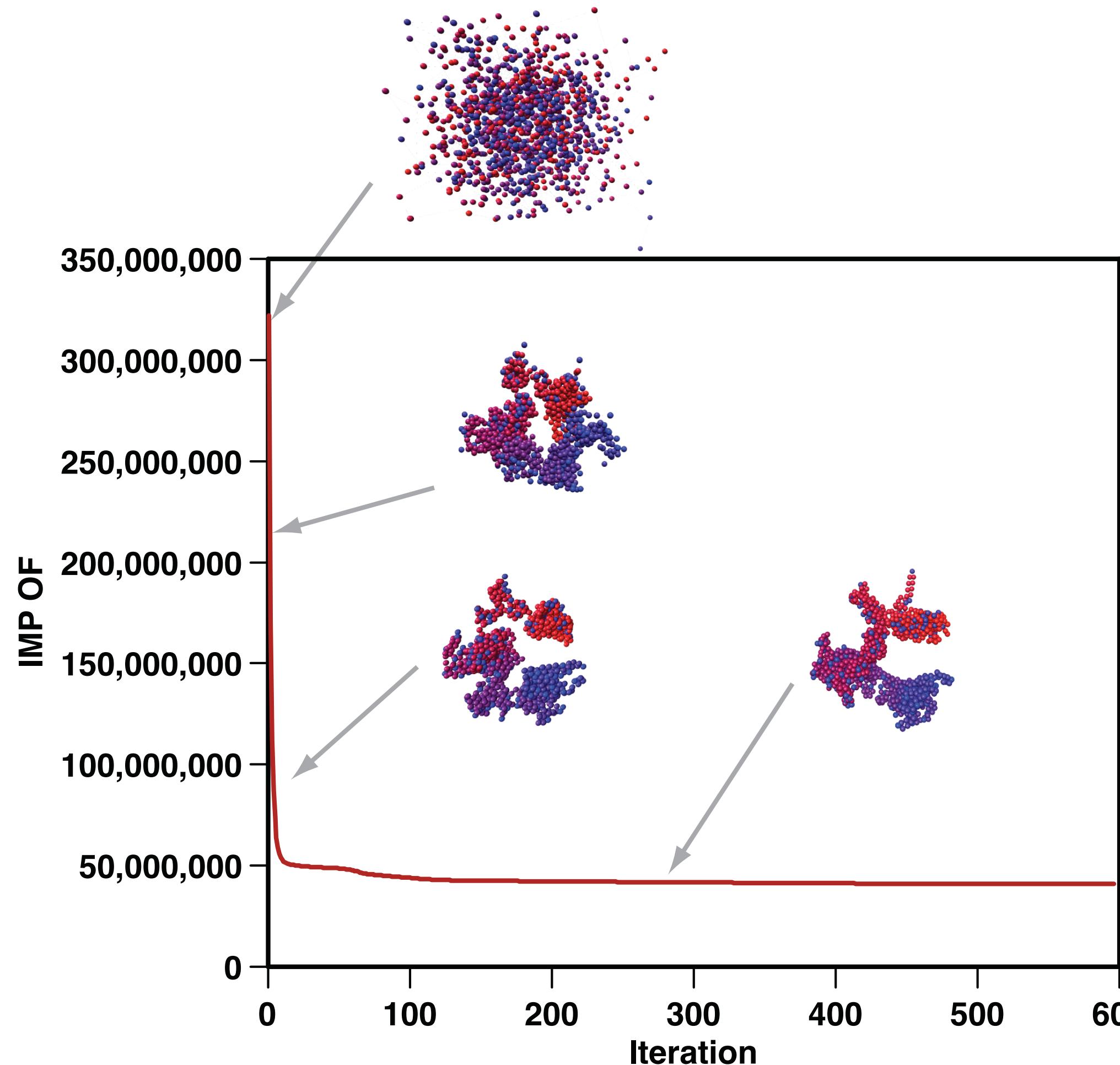
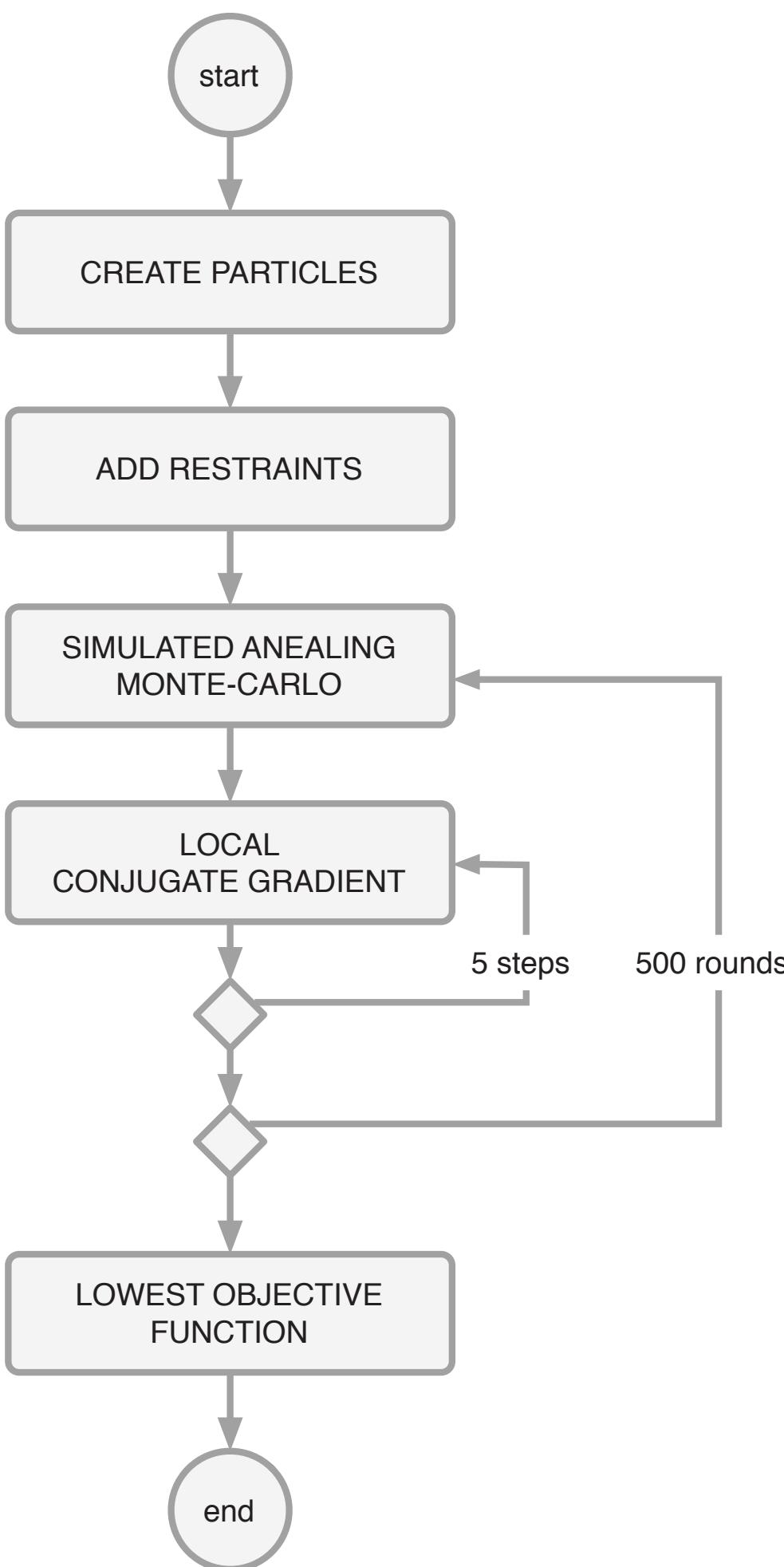
# Parameter optimization



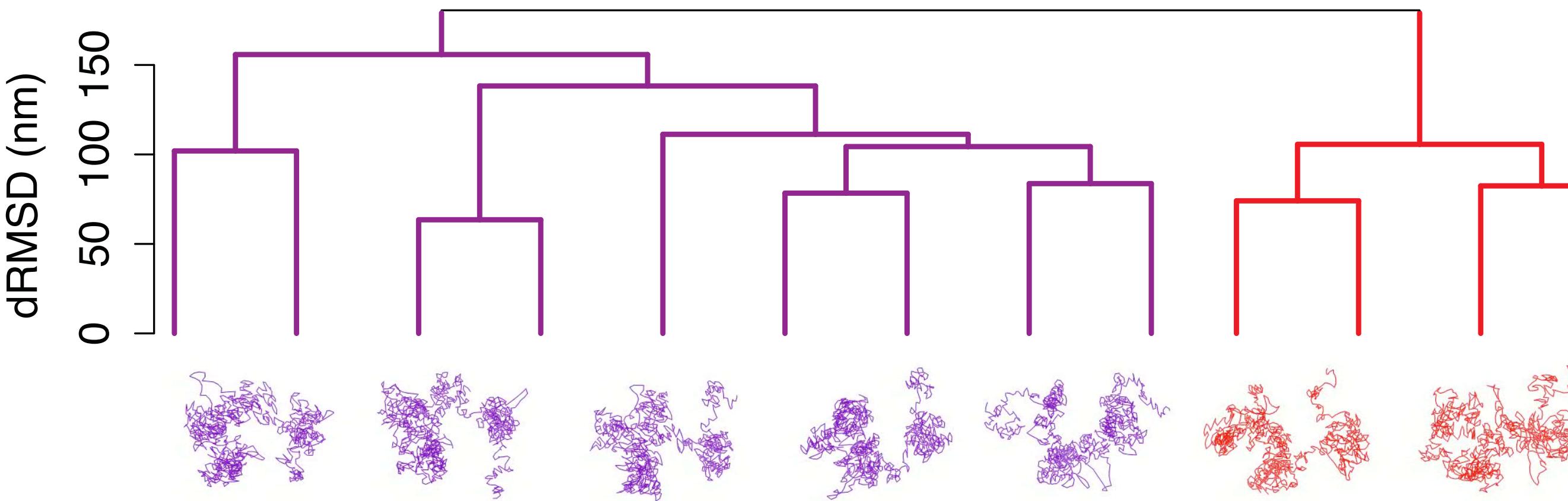
# Parameter optimization



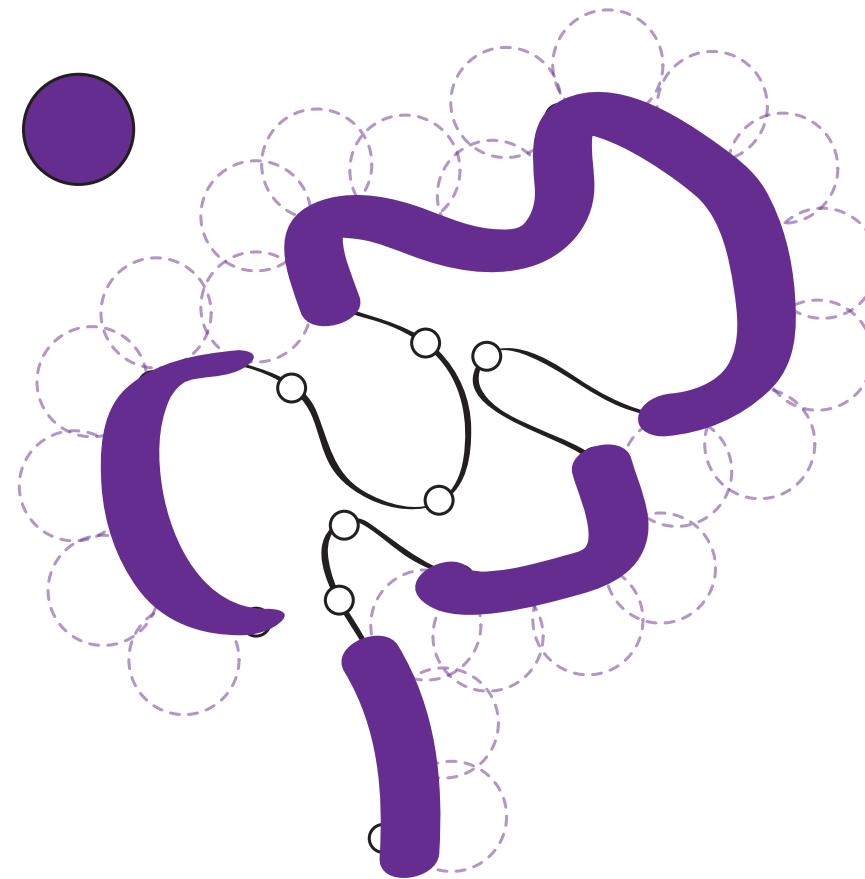
# Optimization of the scoring function



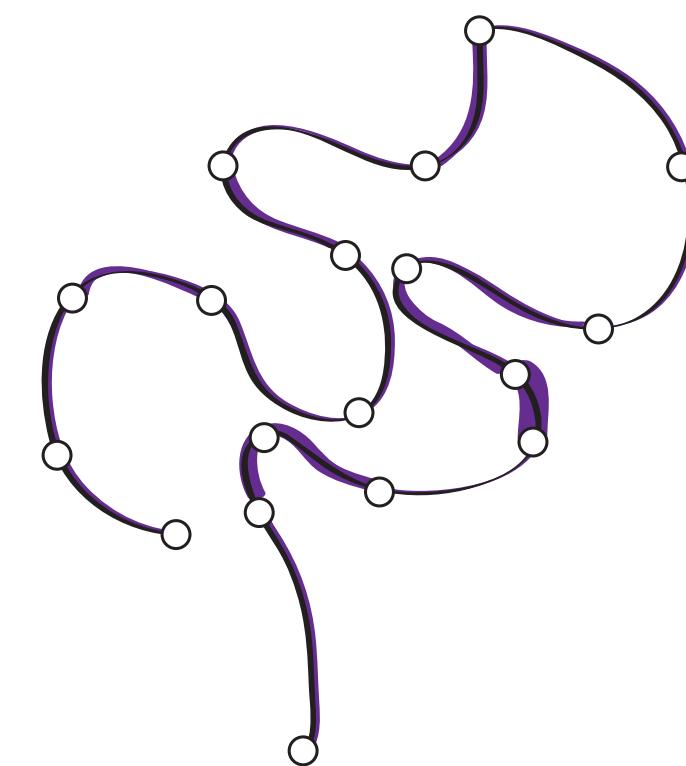
# Model analysis: clustering and structural features



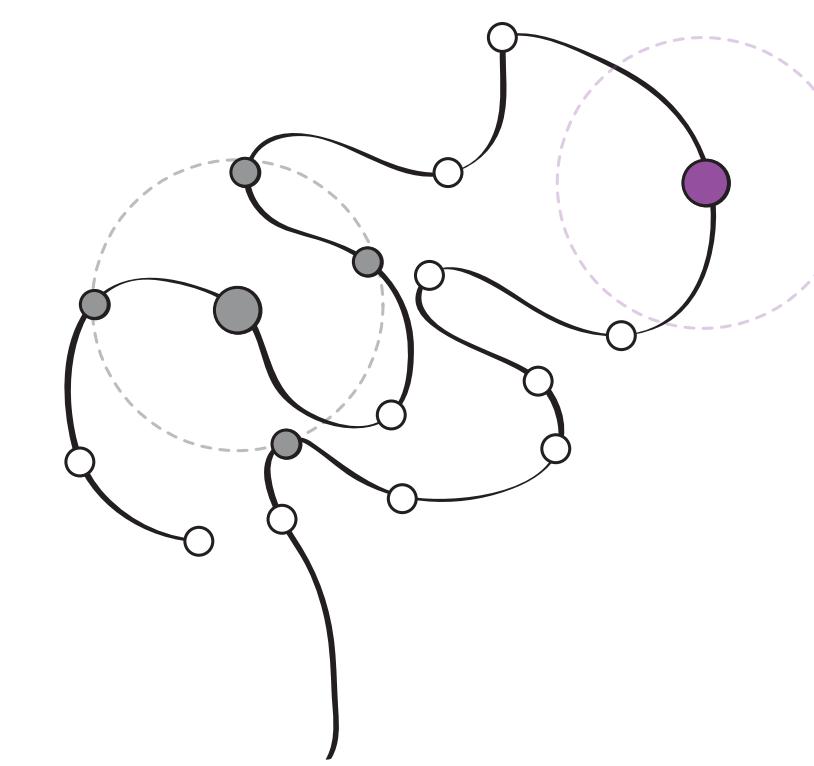
Accessibility (%)



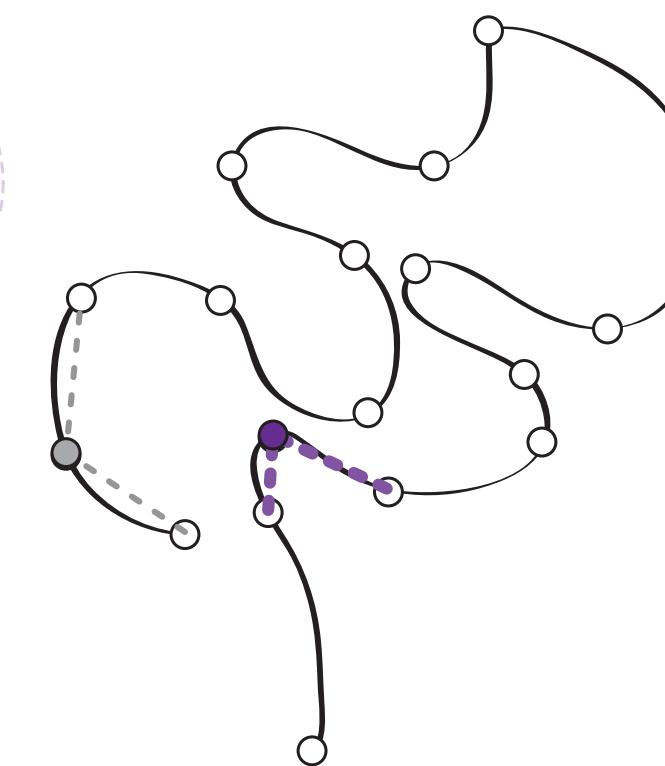
Density (bp/nm)



Interactions

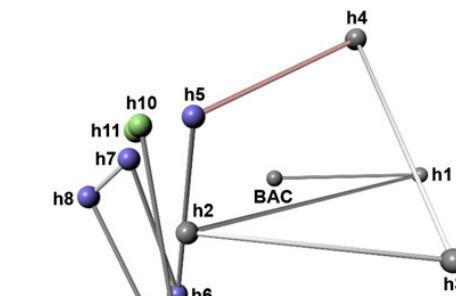


Angle

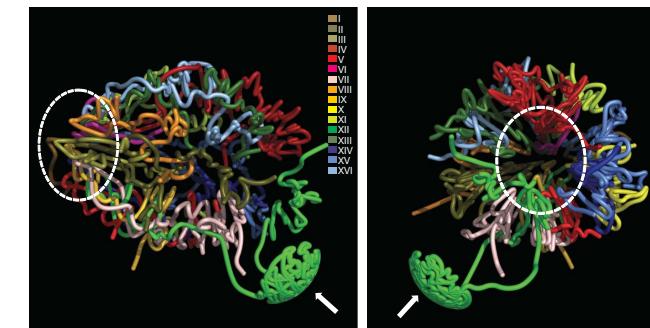


# Are the models correct?

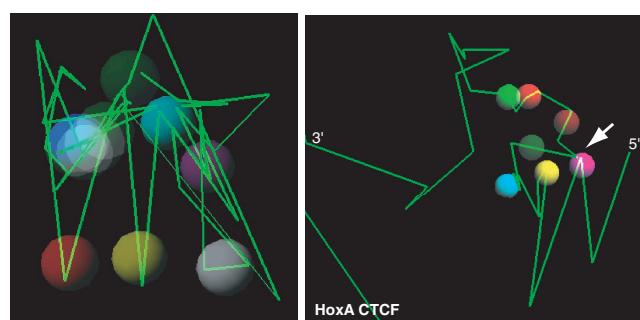
Trussart et al. NAR (2015)



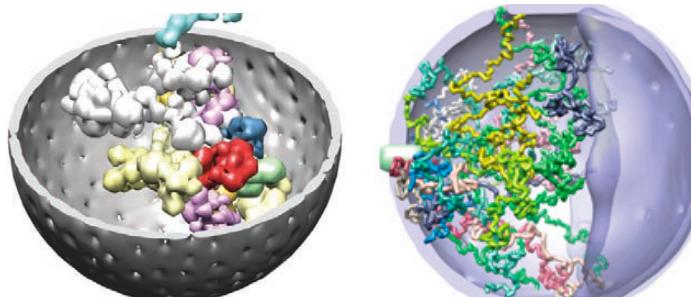
Jhunjhunwala (2008) Cell



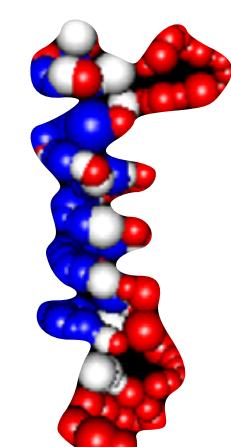
Duan (2010) Nature



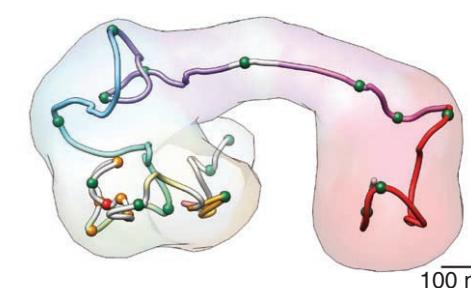
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Ferraiuolo (2010) Nucleic Acids Research



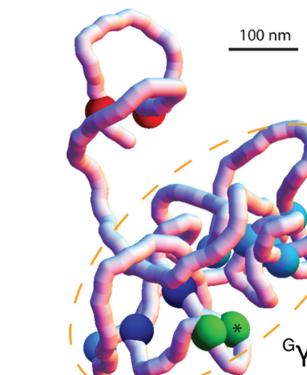
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Tjong (2012) Genome Research



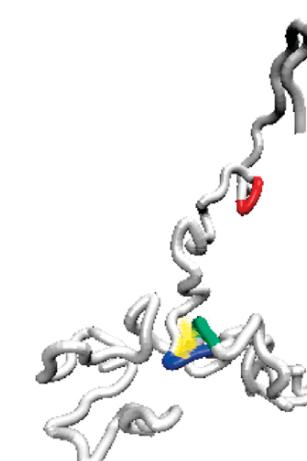
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Baù (2011) Nature Structural & Molecular Biology



Junier (2012) Nucleic Acids Research



Giorgetti, (2014) Cell

Nucleic Acids Research Advance Access published March 23, 2015

Nucleic Acids Research, 2015 1  
doi: 10.1093/nar/gkv221

## Assessing the limits of restraint-based 3D modeling of genomes and genomic domains

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### ABSTRACT

Restraint-based modeling of genomes has been recently explored with the advent of Chromosome Conformation Capture (3C-based) experiments. We previously developed a reconstruction method to resolve the 3D architecture of both prokaryotic and eukaryotic genomes using 3C-based data. These models were congruent with fluorescent imaging validation. However, the limits of such methods have not systematically been assessed. Here we propose the first evaluation of a mean-field restraint-based reconstruction of genomes by considering diverse chromosome architectures and different levels of data noise and structural variability. The results show that: first, current scoring functions for 3D reconstruction correlate with the accuracy of the models; second, reconstructed models are robust to noise but sensitive to structural variability; third, the local structure organization of genomes, such as Topologically Associating Domains, results in more accurate models; fourth, to a certain extent, the models capture the intrinsic structural variability in the input matrices and fifth, the accuracy of the models can be *a priori* predicted by analyzing the properties of the interaction matrices. In summary, our work provides a systematic analysis of the limitations of a mean-field restraint-based method, which could be taken into consideration in further development of methods as well as their applications.

### INTRODUCTION

Recent studies of the three-dimensional (3D) conformation of genomes are revealing insights into the organization and the regulation of biological processes, such as gene

expression regulation and replication (1–6). The advent of the so-called Chromosome Conformation Capture (3C) assays (7), which allowed identifying chromatin-looping interactions between pairs of loci, helped deciphering some of the key elements organizing the genomes. High-throughput derivations of genome-wide 3C-based assays were established with Hi-C technologies (8) for an unbiased identification of chromatin interactions. The resulting genome interaction matrices from Hi-C experiments have been extensively used for computationally analyzing the organization of genomes and genomic domains (5). In particular, a significant number of new approaches for modeling the 3D organization of genomes have recently flourished (9–14). The main goal of such approaches is to provide an accurate 3D representation of the bi-dimensional interaction matrices, which can then be more easily explored to extract biological insights. One type of methods for building 3D models from interaction matrices relies on the existence of a limited number of conformational states in the cell. Such methods are regarded as mean-field approaches and are able to capture, to a certain degree, the structural variability around these mean structures (15).

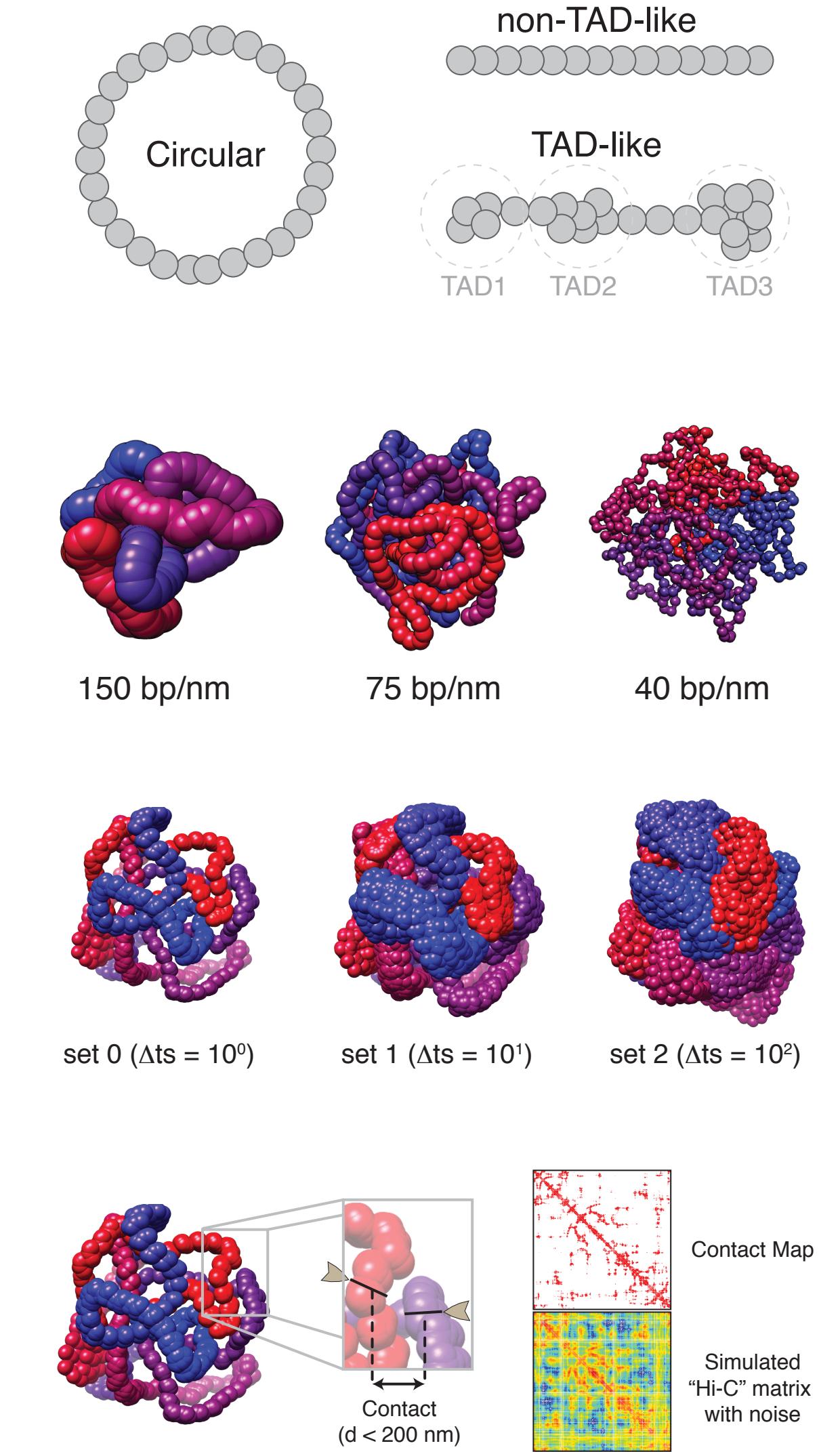
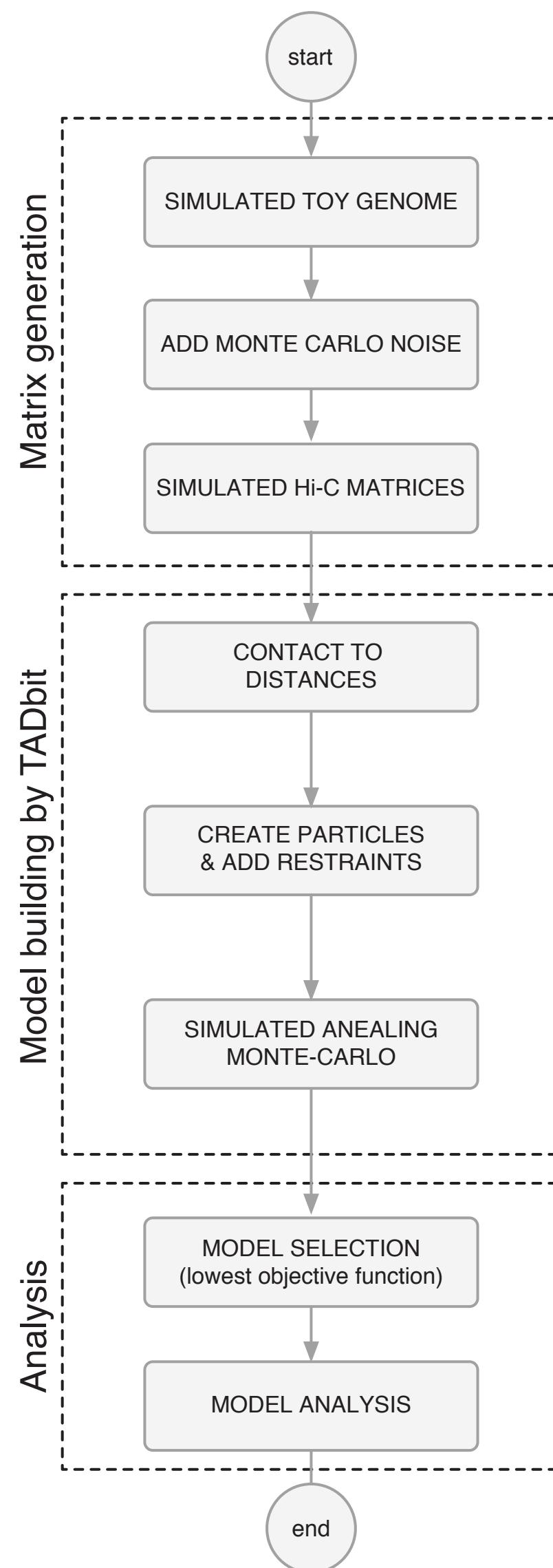
We recently developed a mean-field method for modeling 3D structures of genomes and genomic domains based on 3C interaction data (9). Our approach, called TADbit,

was developed around the Integrative Modeling Platform (IMP, <http://integrativemodeling.org>), a general framework for restraint-based modeling of 3D bio-molecular structures (16). Briefly, our method uses chromatin interaction frequencies derived from experiments as a proxy of spatial proximity between the ligation products of the 3C libraries. Two fragments of DNA that interact with high frequency are dynamically placed close in space in our models while two fragments that do not interact as often will be kept apart. Our method has been successfully applied to model the structures of genomes and genomic domains in eukaryote and prokaryote organisms (17–19). In all of our studies, the final models were partially validated by assessing their

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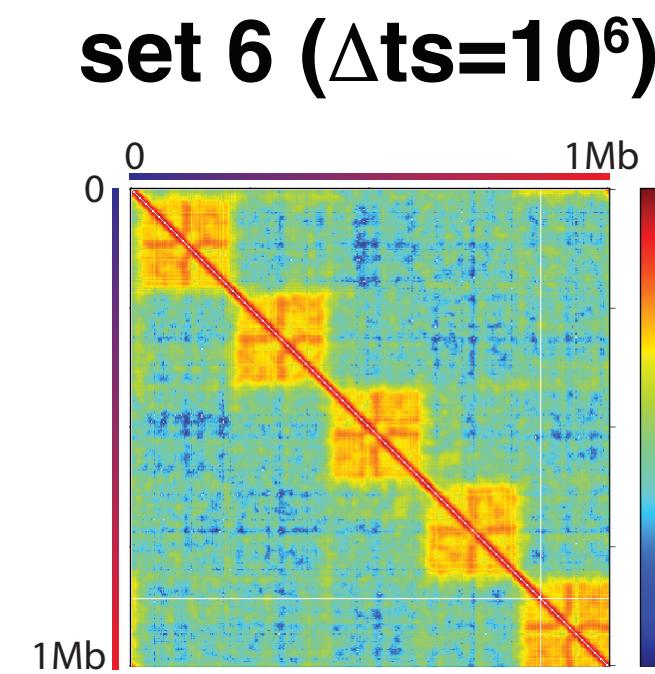
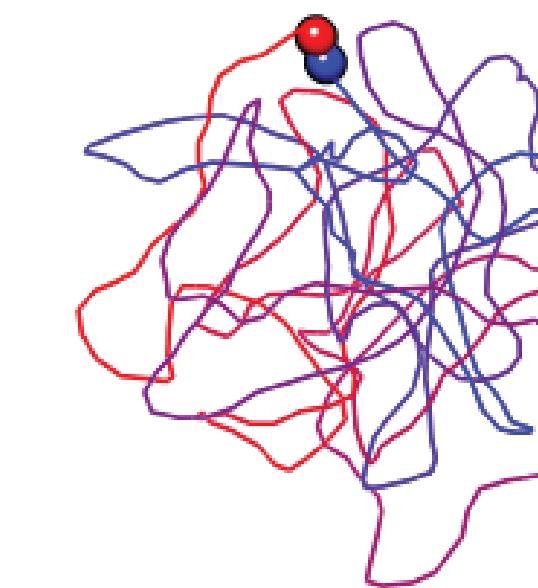
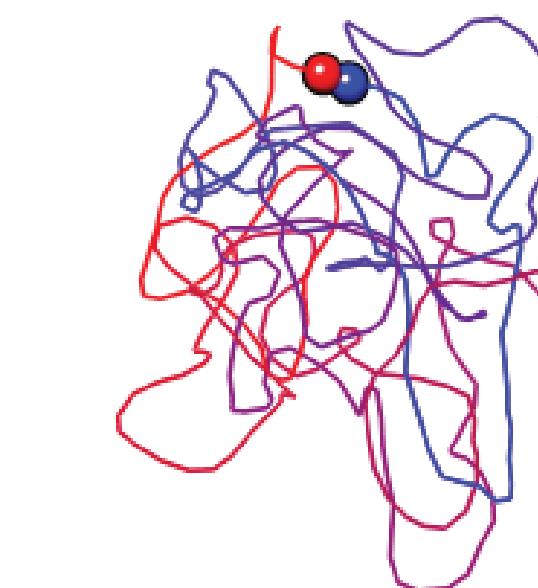
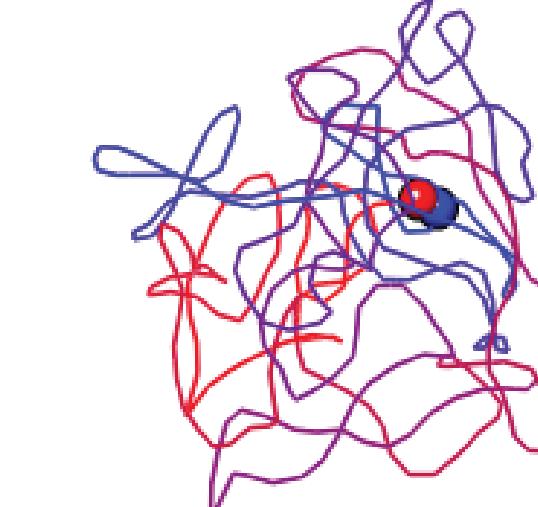
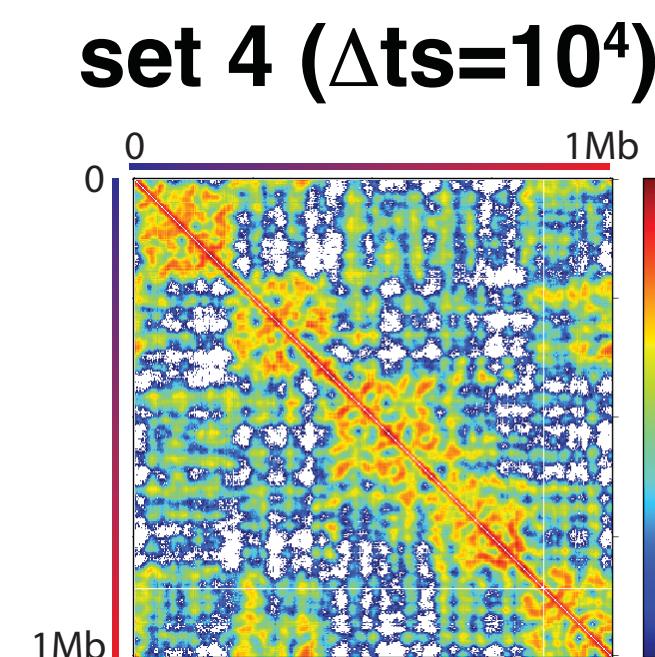
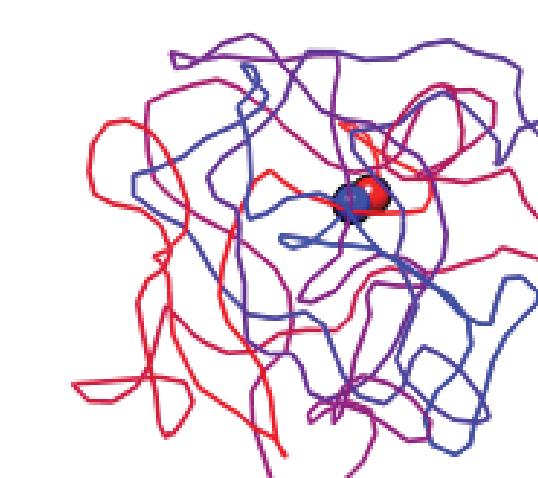
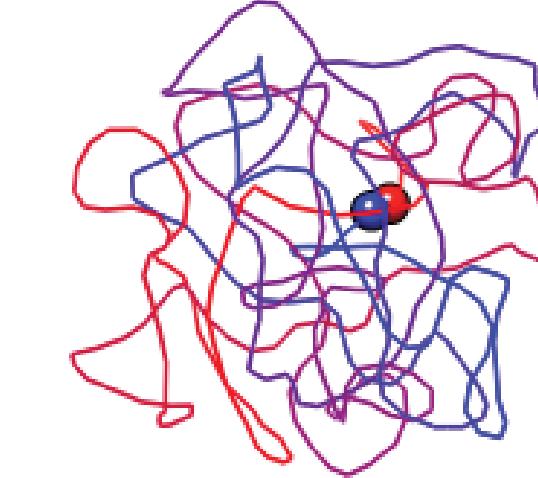
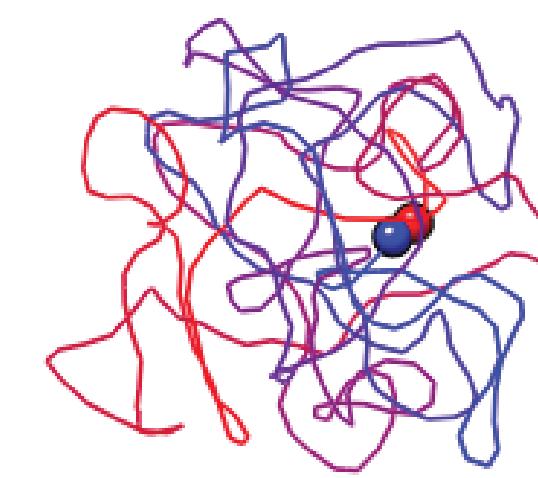
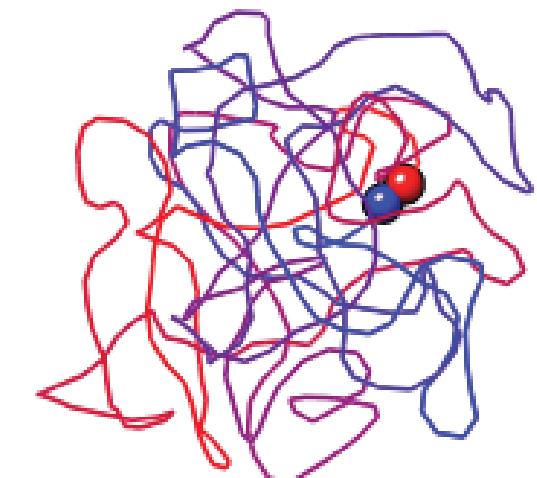
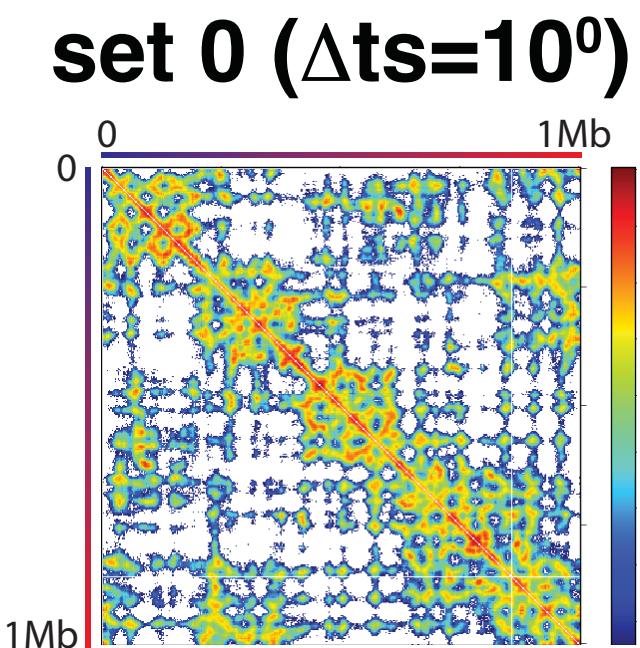
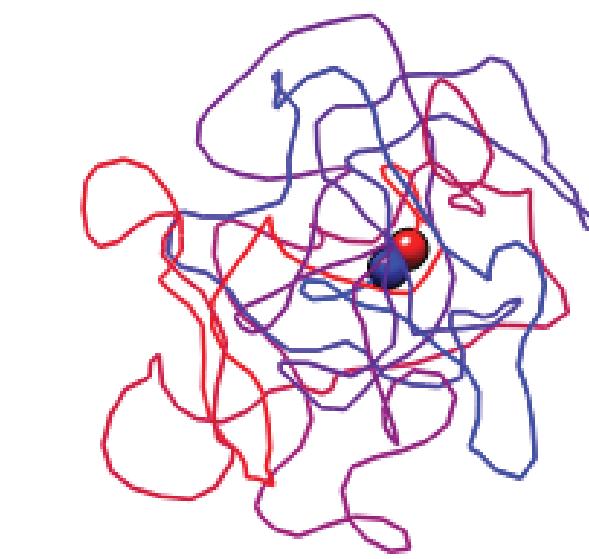
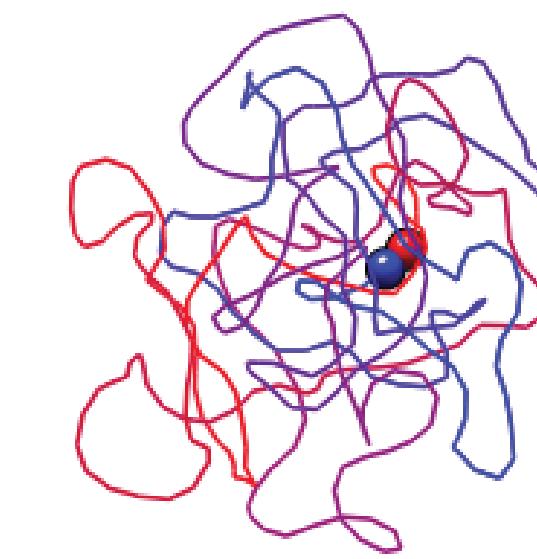
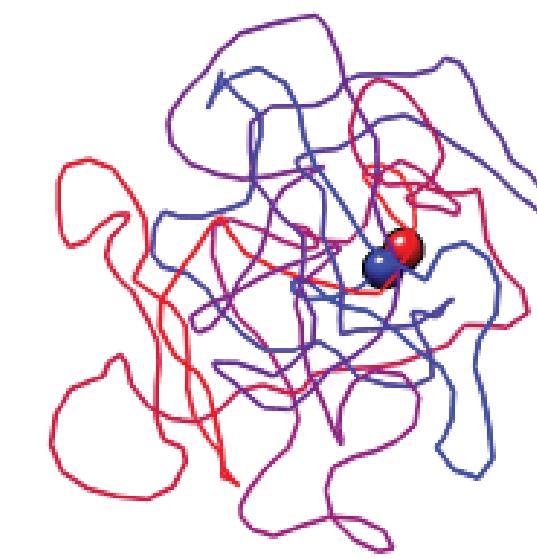
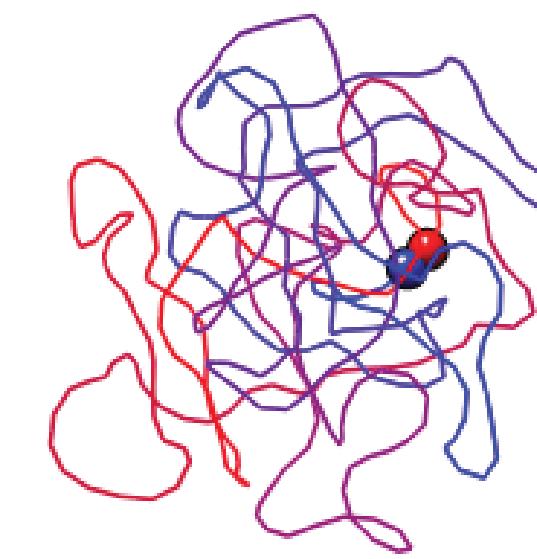
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# Toy models

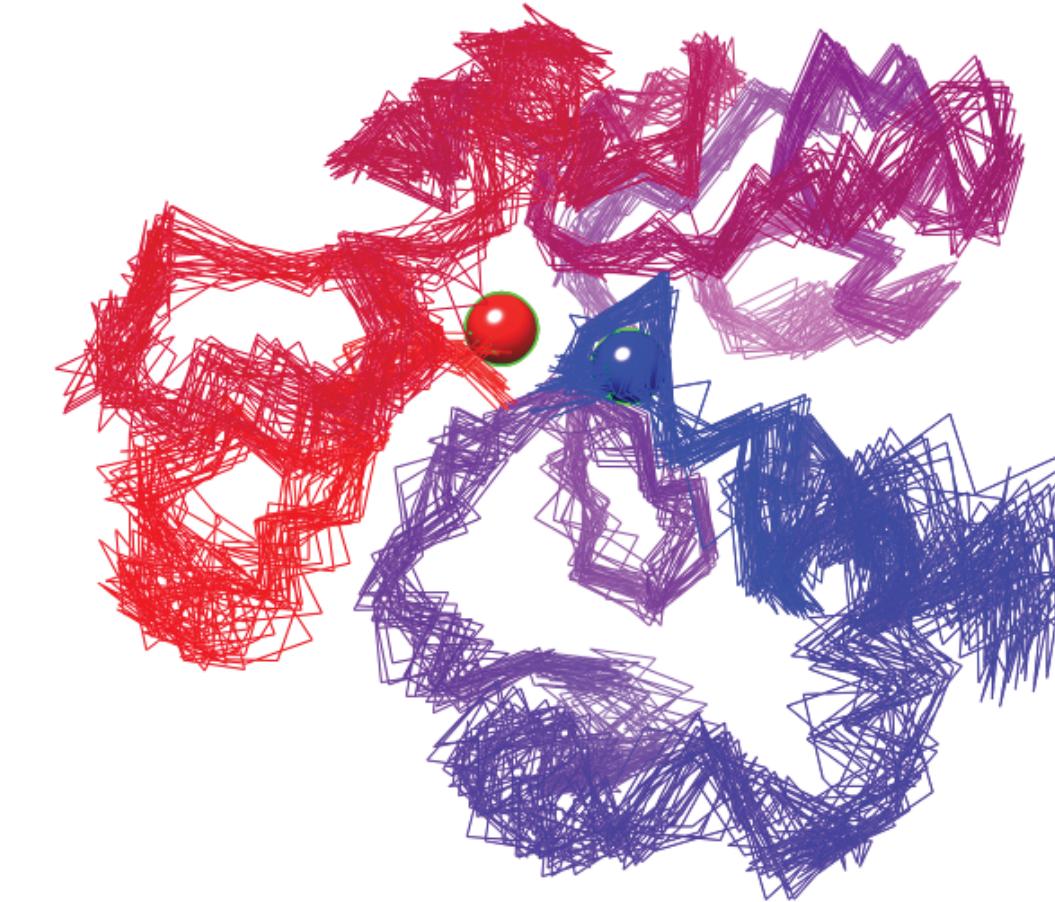
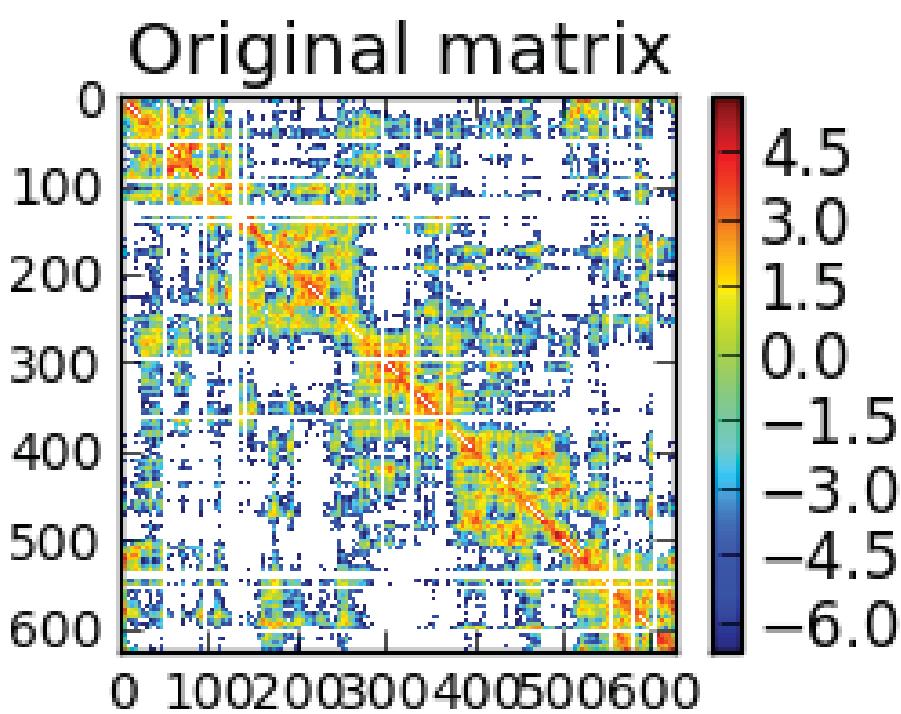
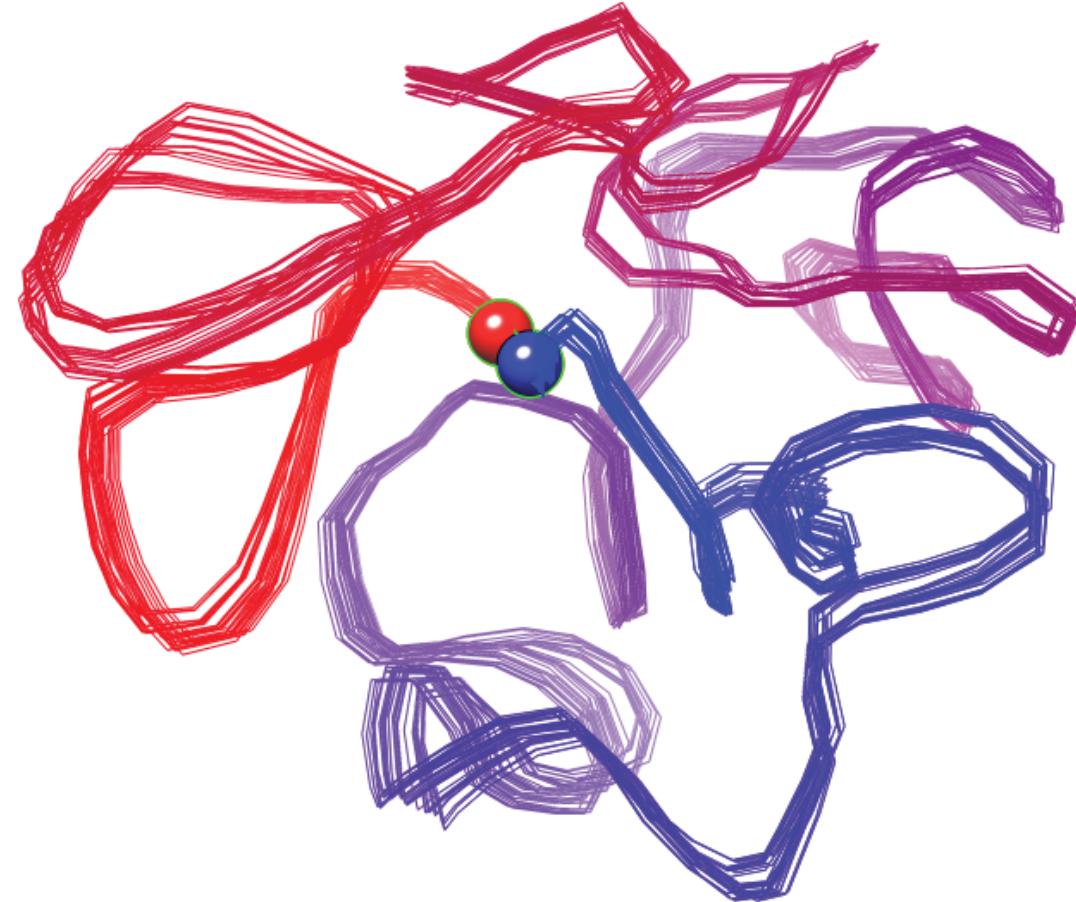


by Ivan Junier

# Toy interaction matrices



# Reconstructing toy models



**chr40\_TAD**

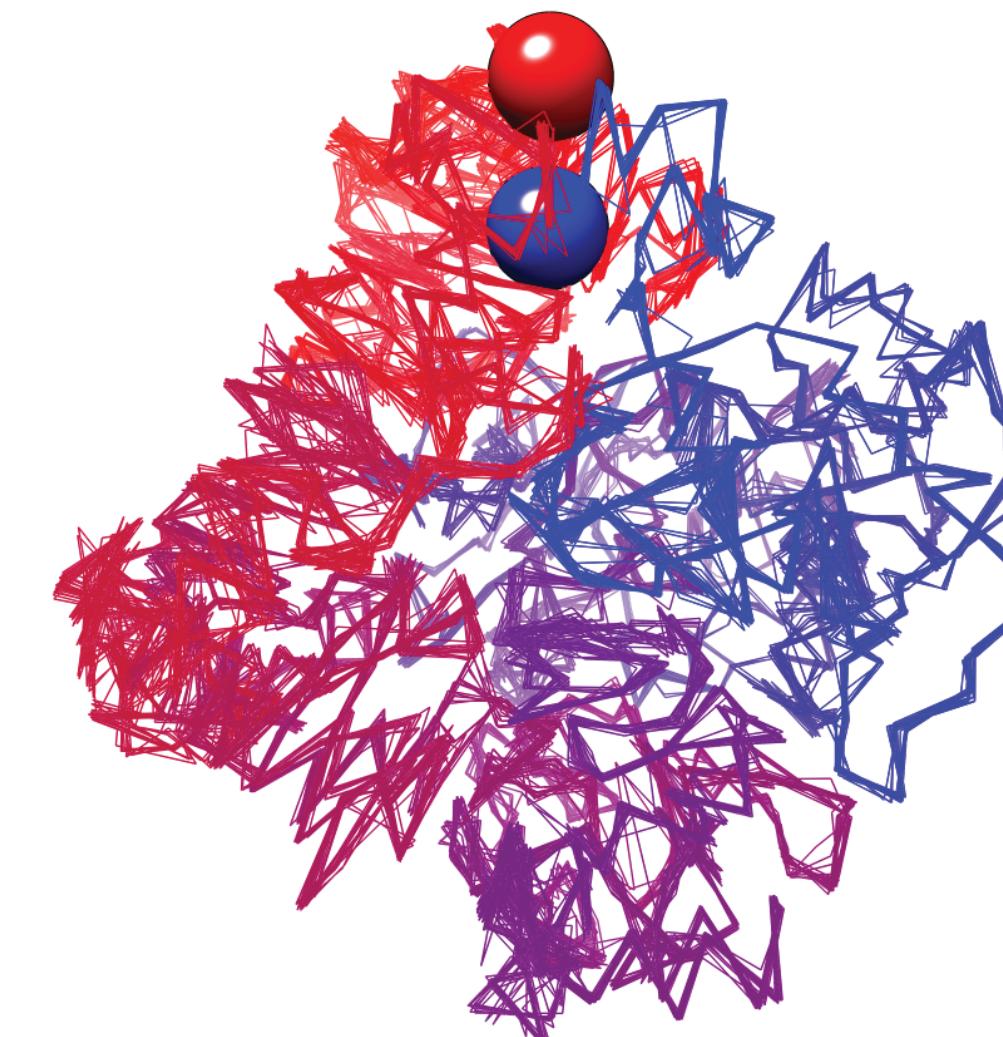
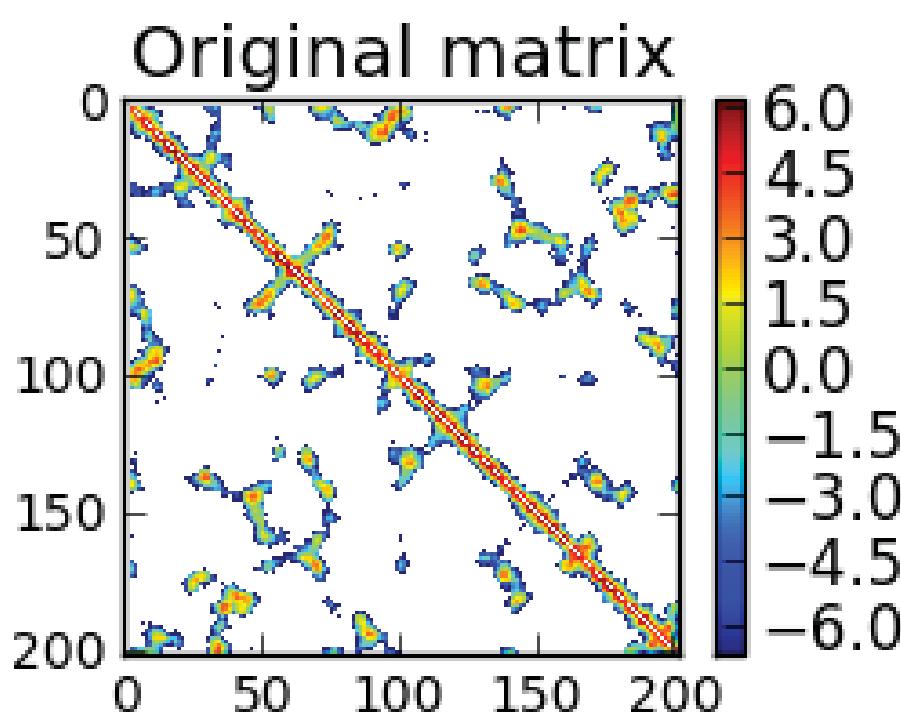
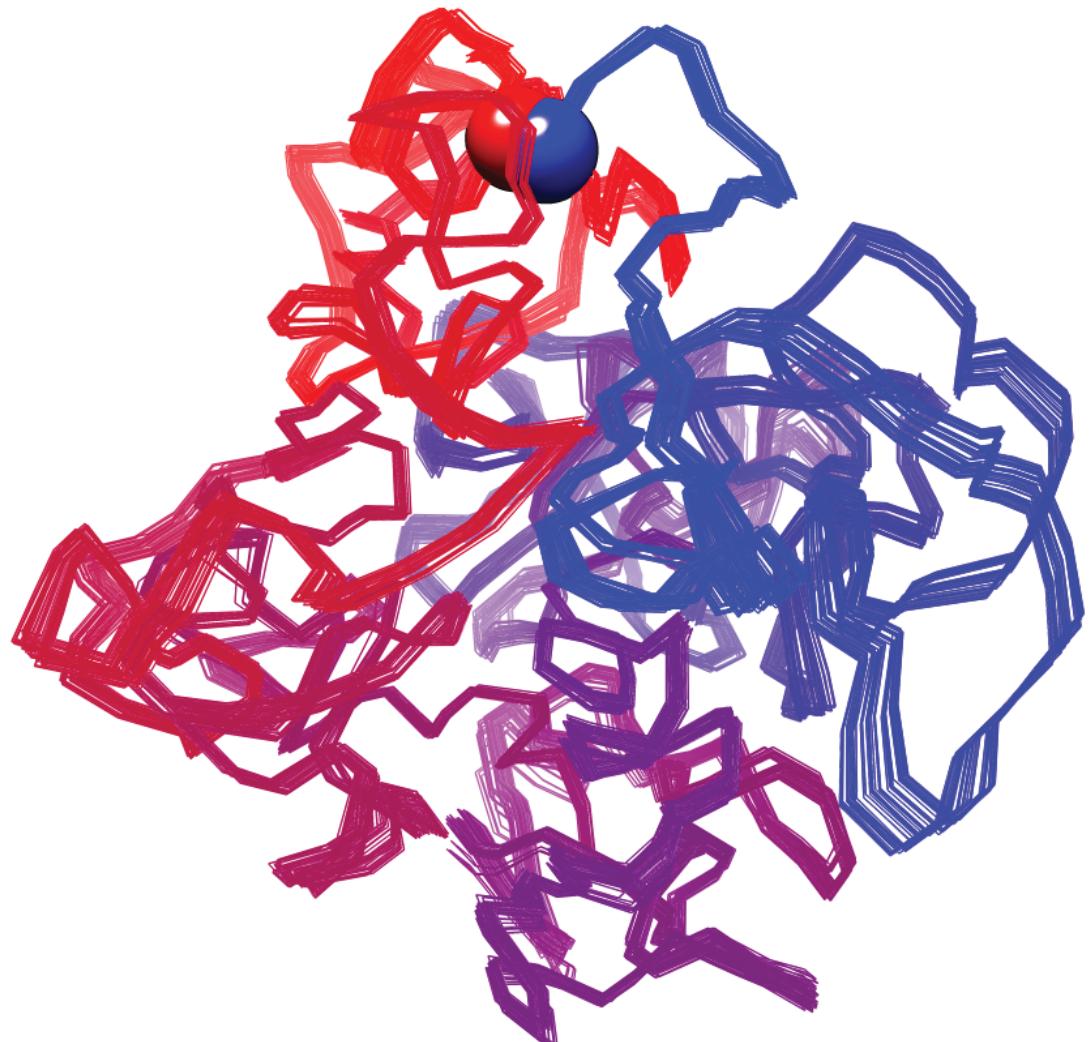
$\alpha=100$

$\Delta ts=10$

TADbit-SCC: 0.91

$\langle dRMSD \rangle$ : 32.7 nm

$\langle dSCC \rangle$ : 0.94



**chr150\_TAD**

$\alpha=50$

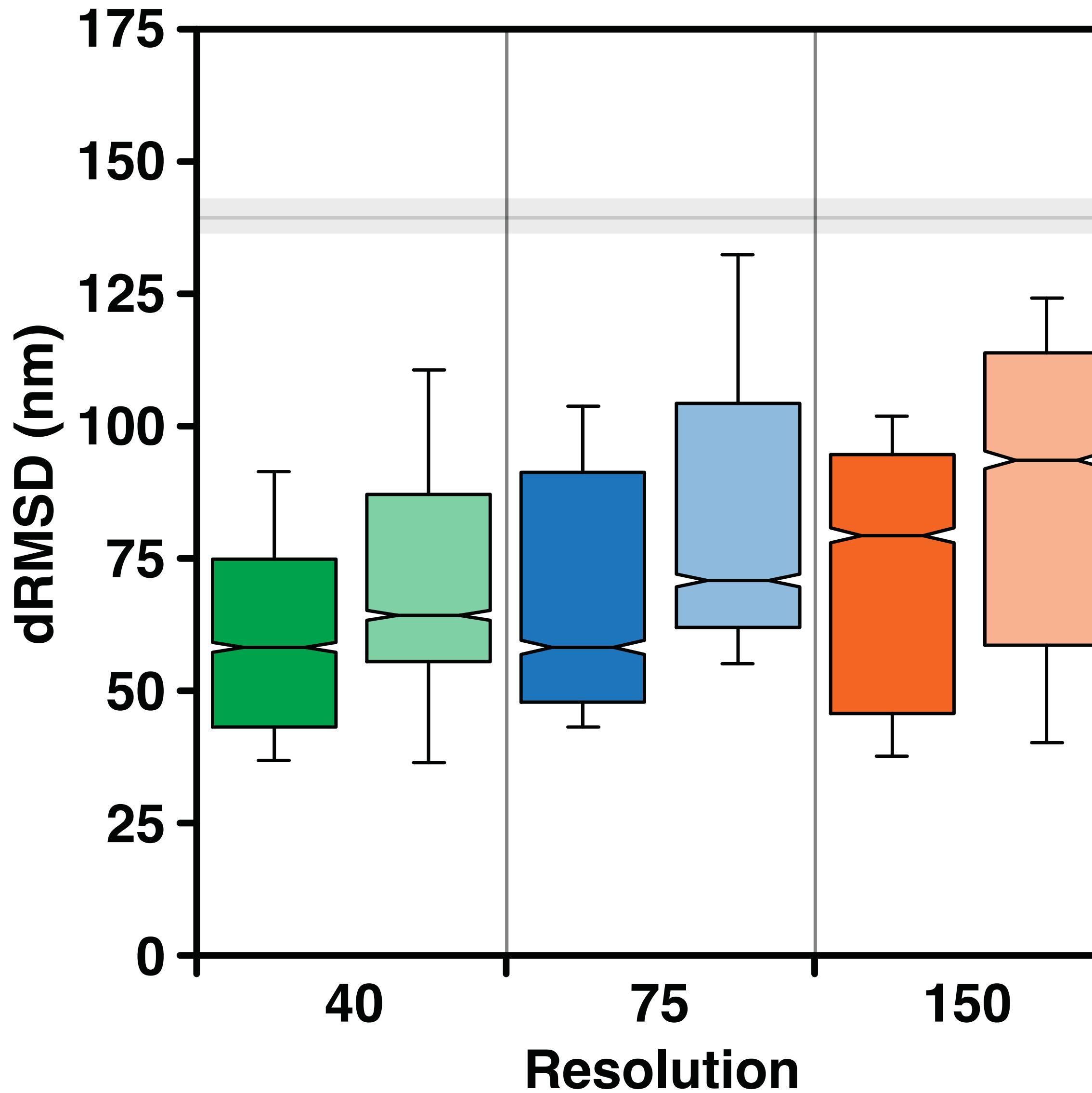
$\Delta ts=1$

TADbit-SCC: 0.82

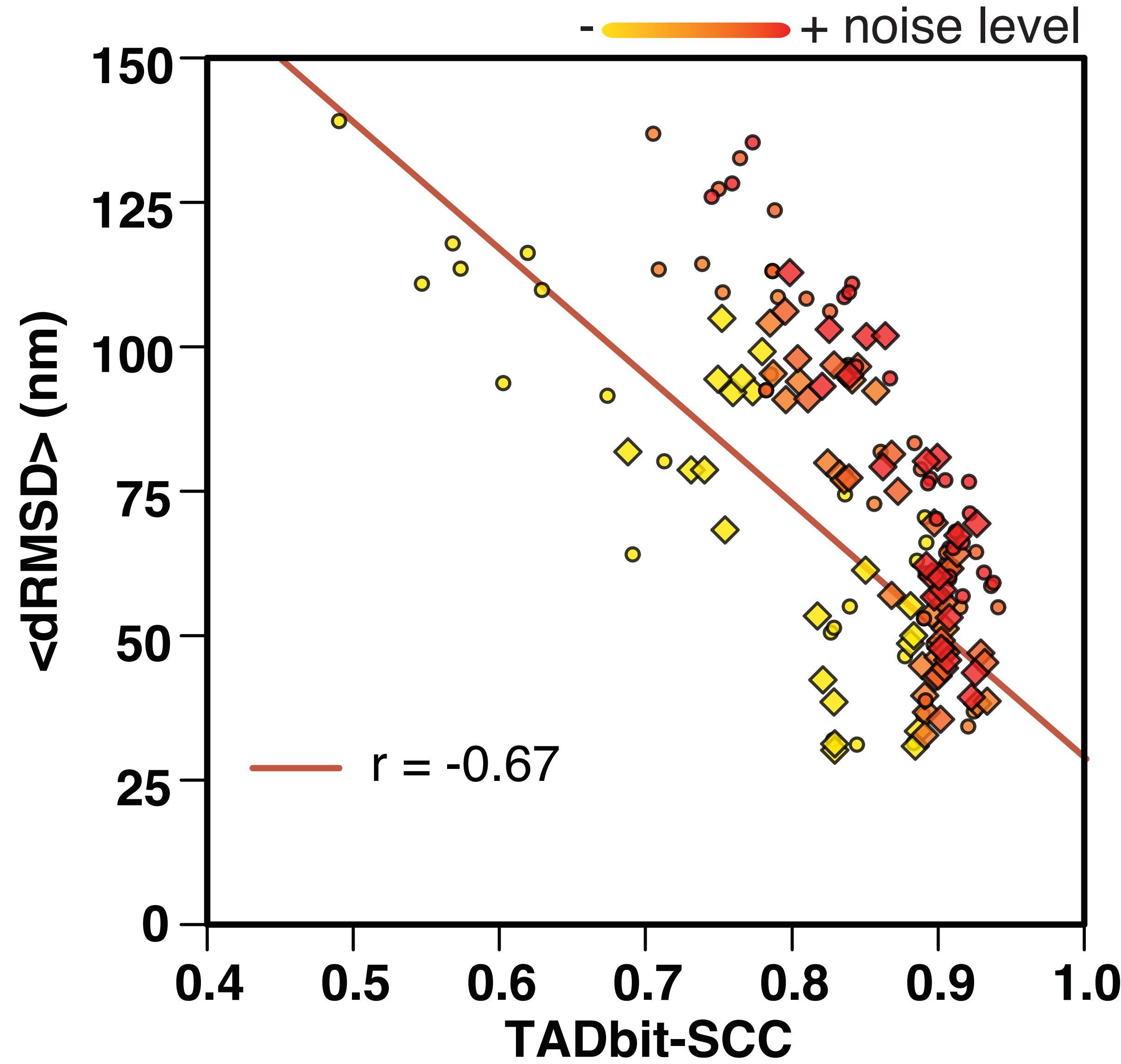
$\langle dRMSD \rangle$ : 45.4 nm

$\langle dSCC \rangle$ : 0.86

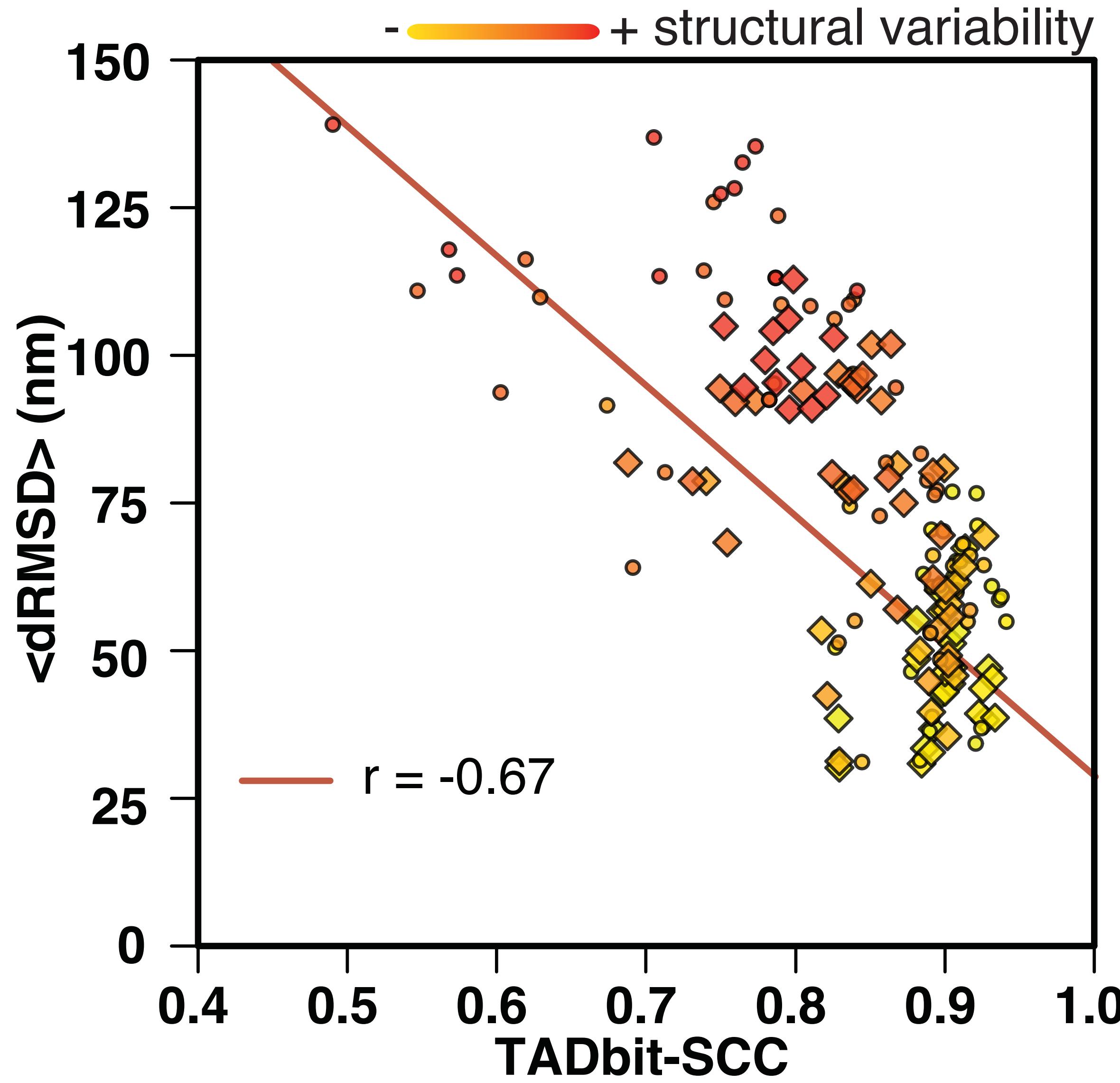
TADs & higher-res are "good"



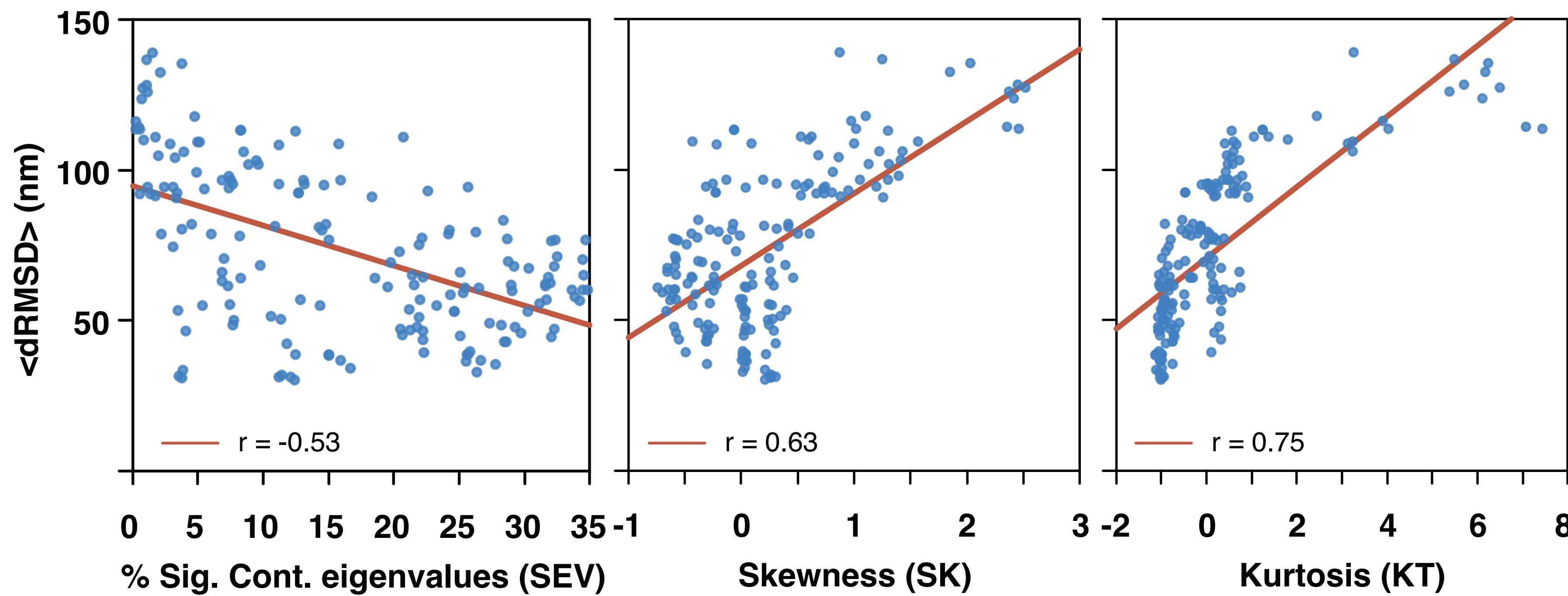
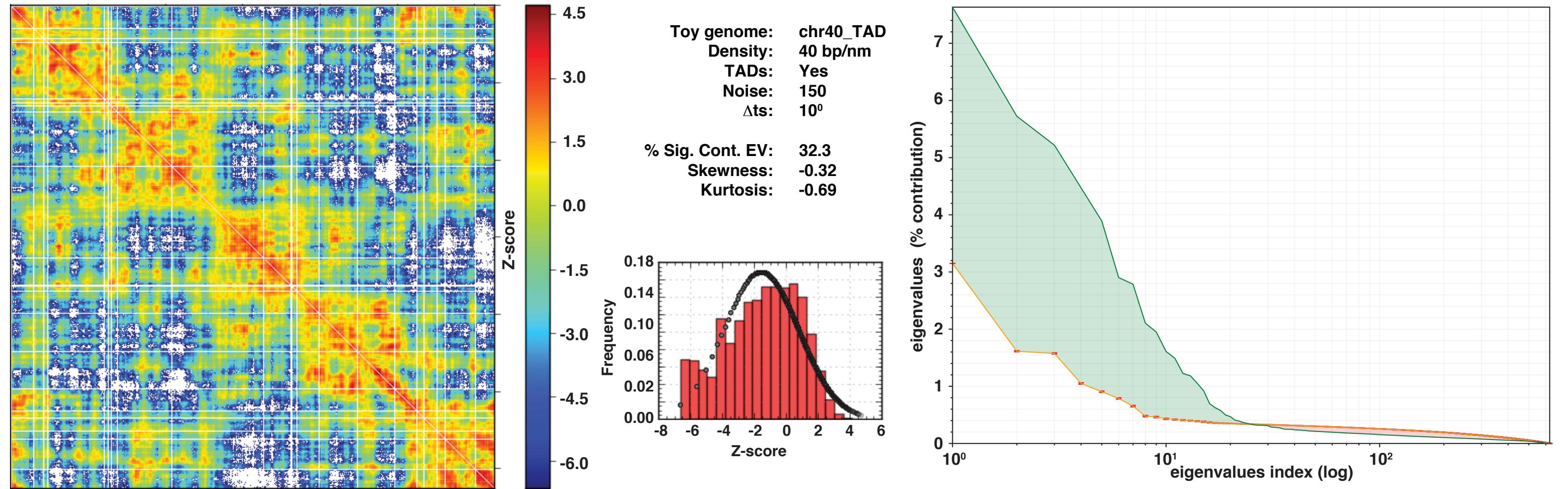
Noise is "OK"



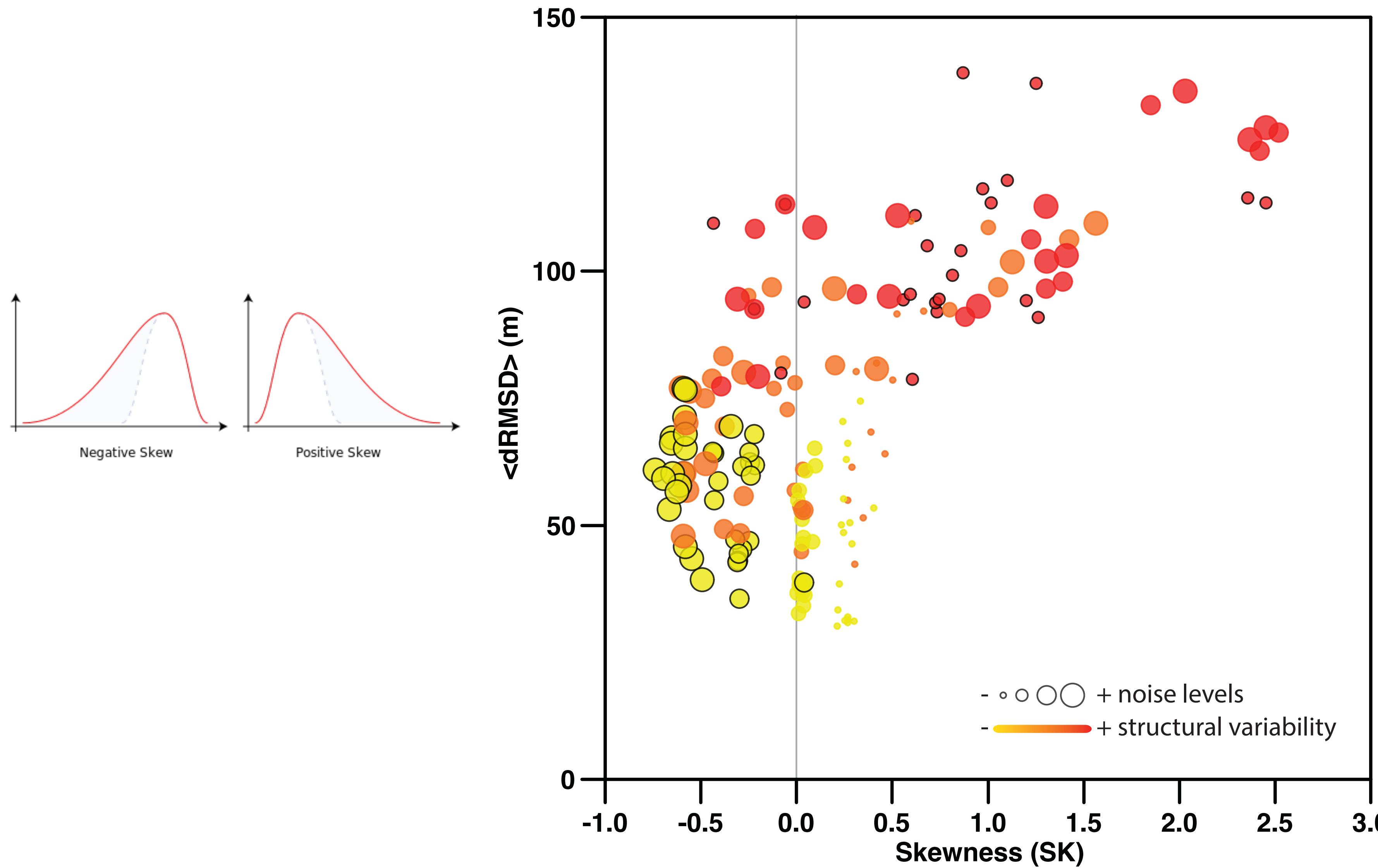
# Structural variability is “NOT OK”



# Can we predict the accuracy of the models?

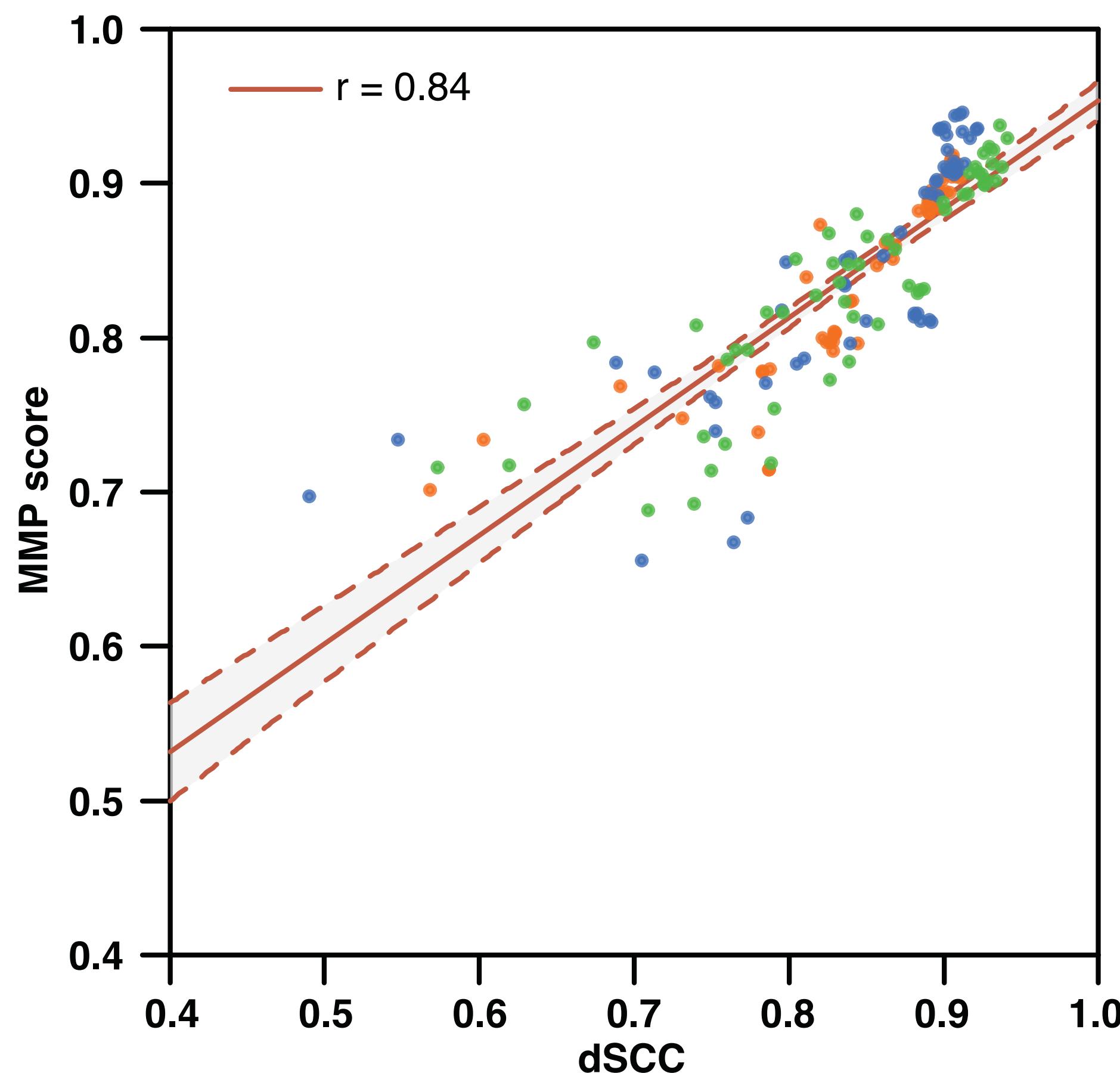


# Skewness "side effect"



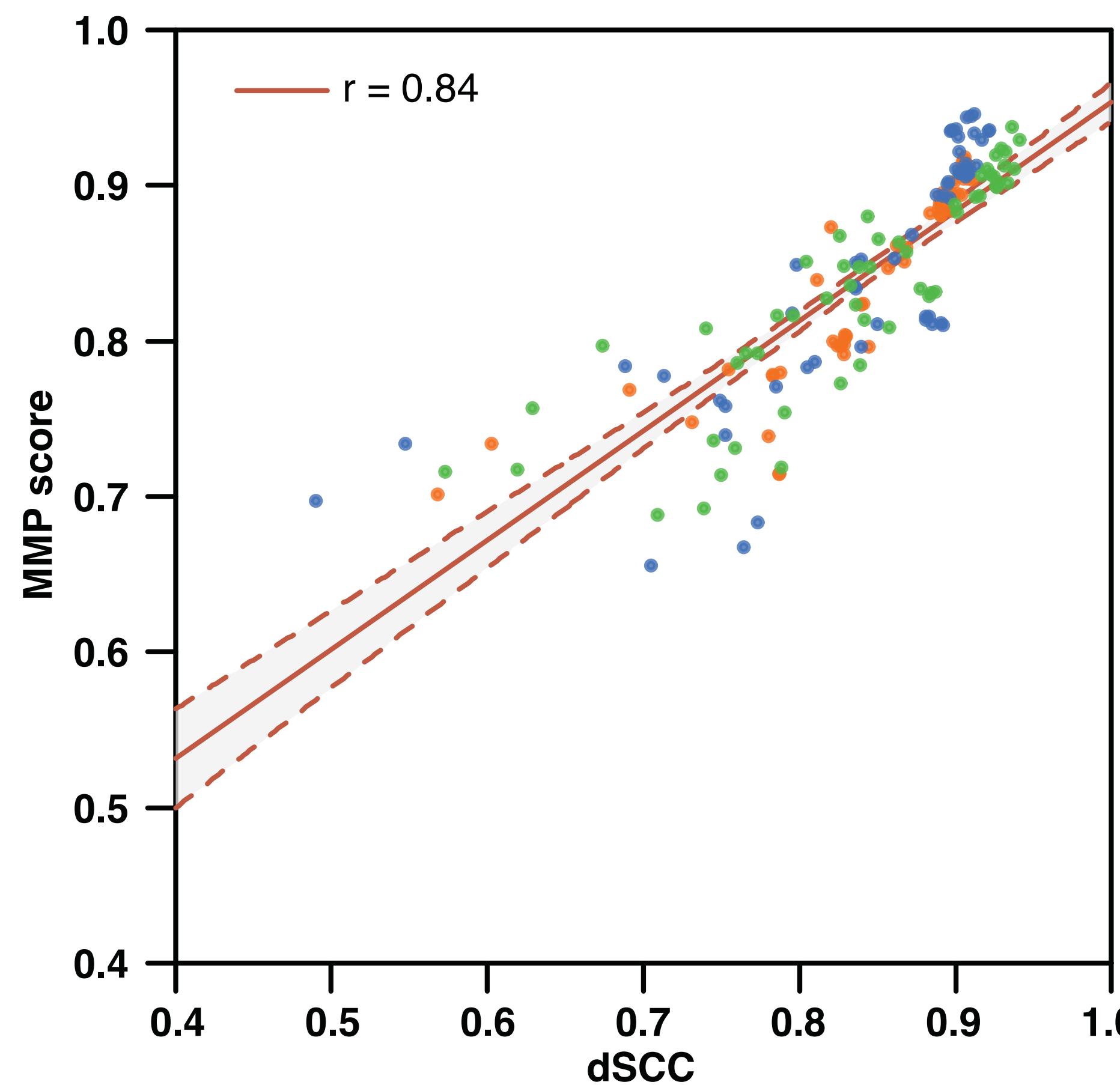
# Can we predict the accuracy of the models?

$$\text{MMP} = -0.0002 * \text{Size} + 0.0335 * \text{SK} - 0.0229 * \text{KU} + 0.0069 * \text{SEV} + 0.8126$$

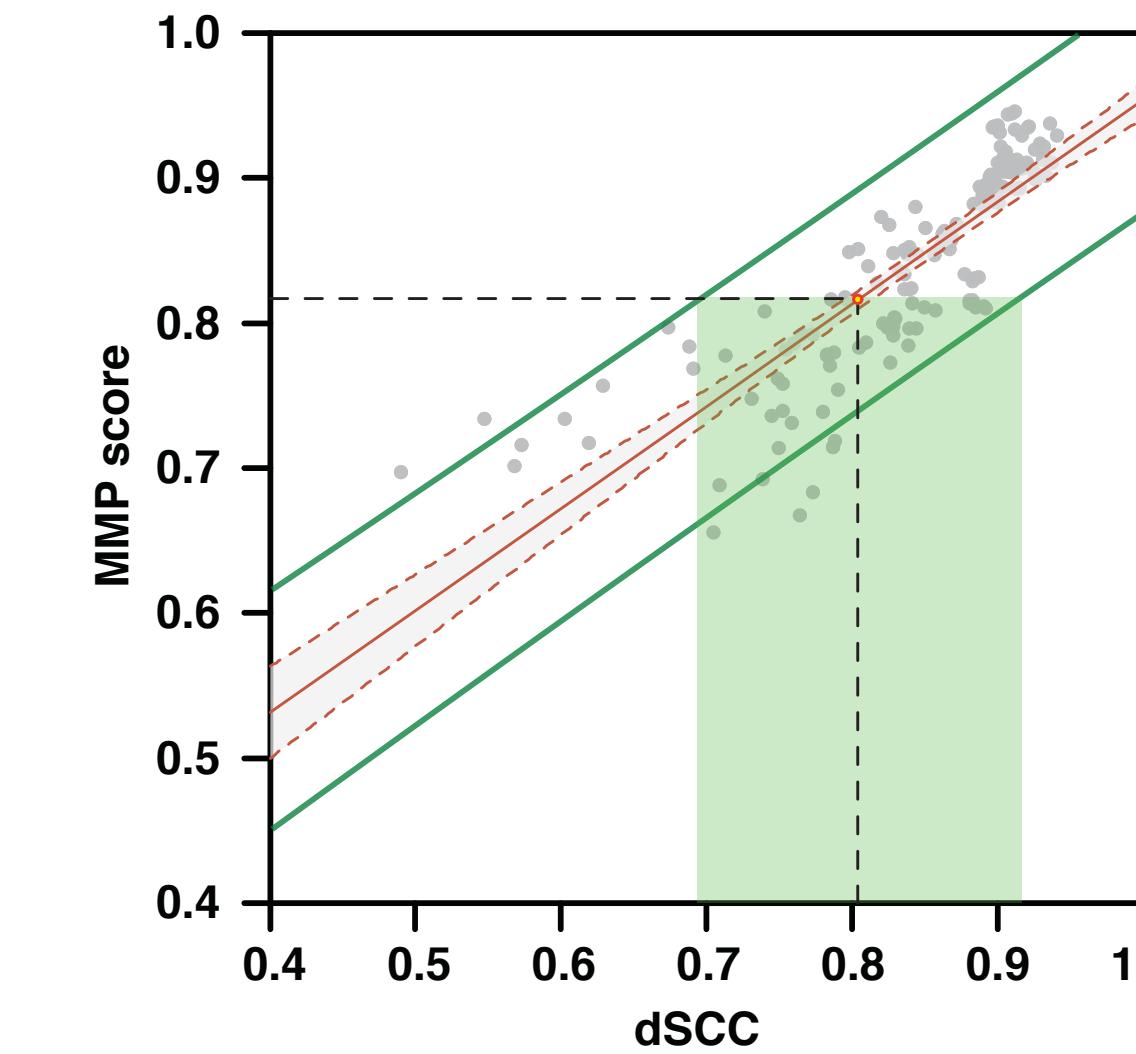
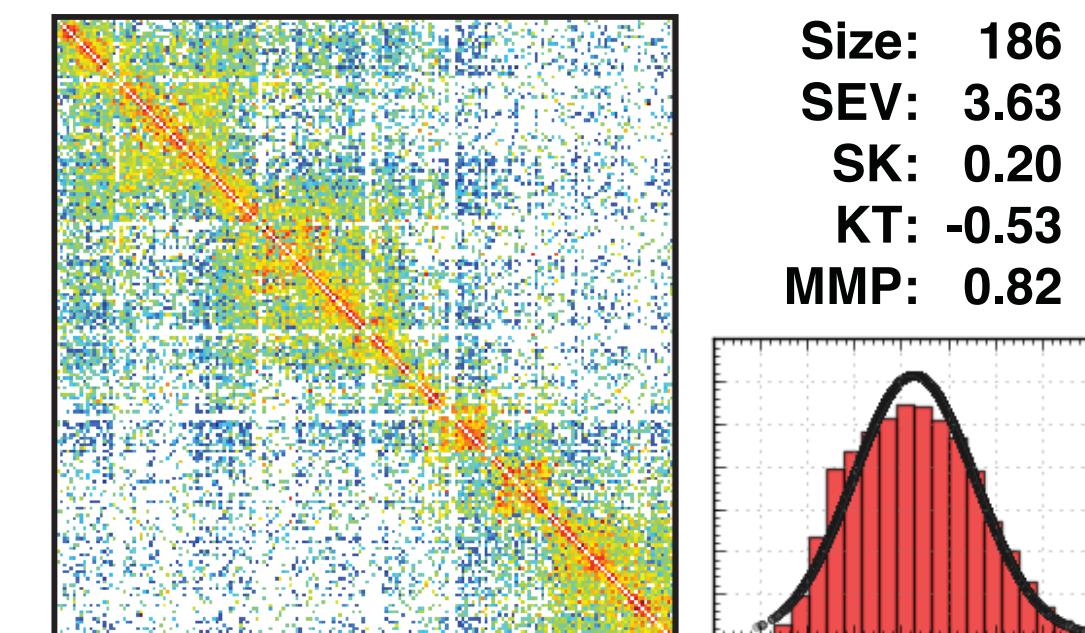


# Can we predict the accuracy of the models?

$$\text{MMP} = -0.0002 * \text{Size} + 0.0335 * \text{SK} - 0.0229 * \text{KU} + 0.0069 * \text{SEV} + 0.8126$$



Human Chr1:120,640,000-128,040,000



Higher-res is "good"

put your \$\$ in sequencing

Noise is "OK"

no need to worry much

Structural variability is "NOT OK"

homogenize your cell population!

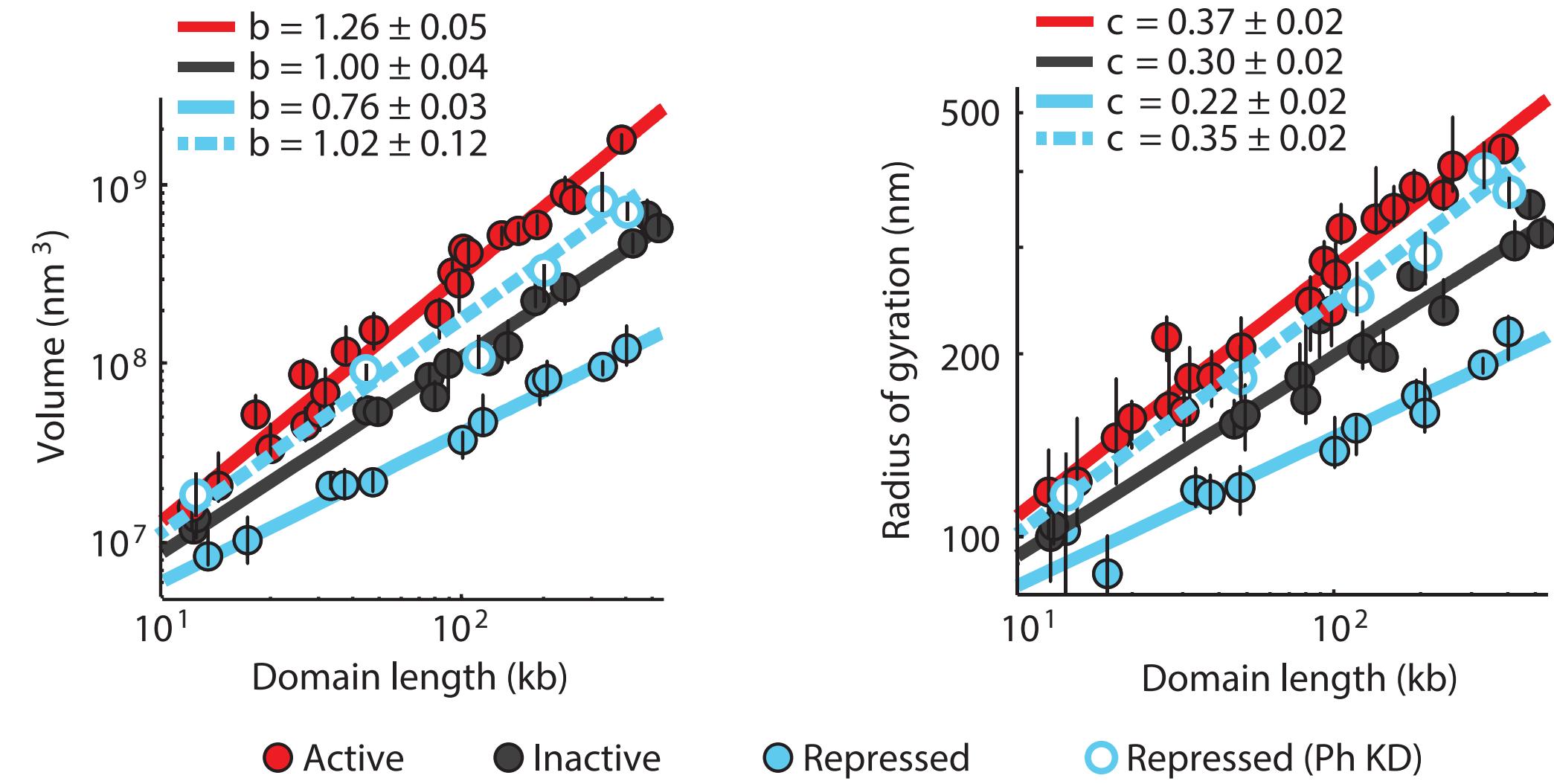
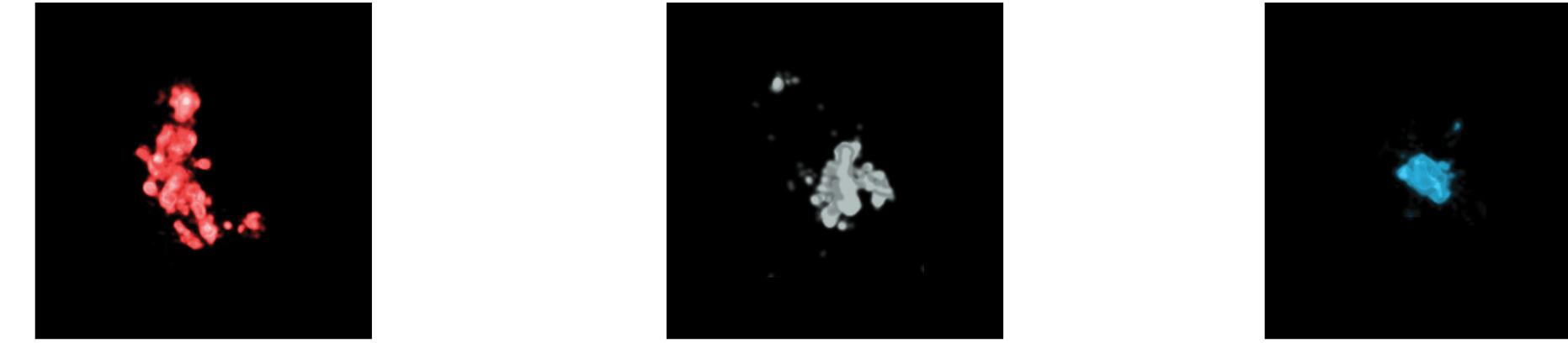
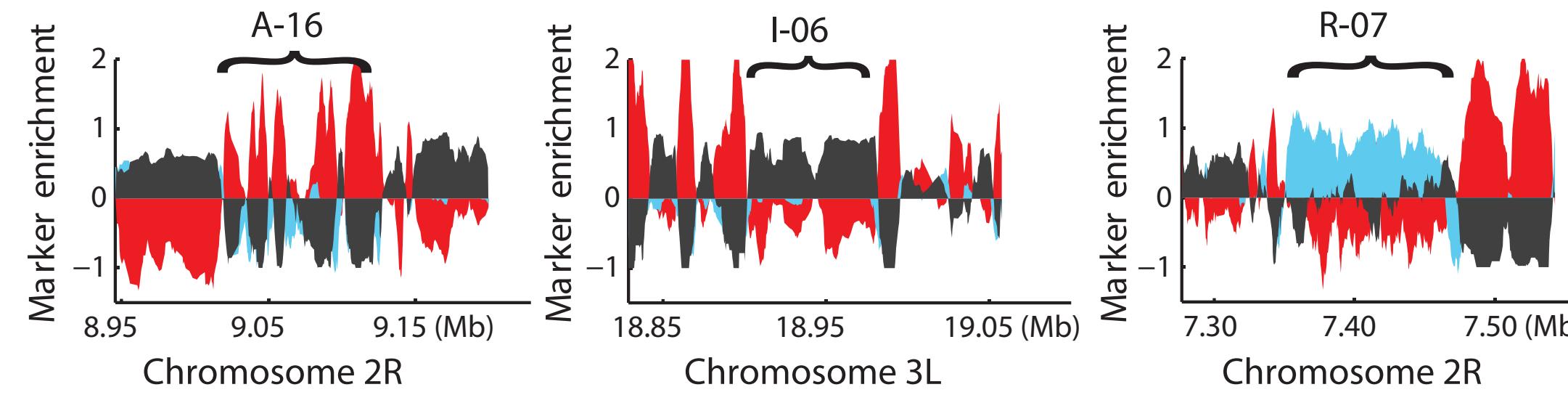
...but we can differentiate between noise and structural variability

and we can a priori predict the accuracy of the models

But... what about direct validation of models?

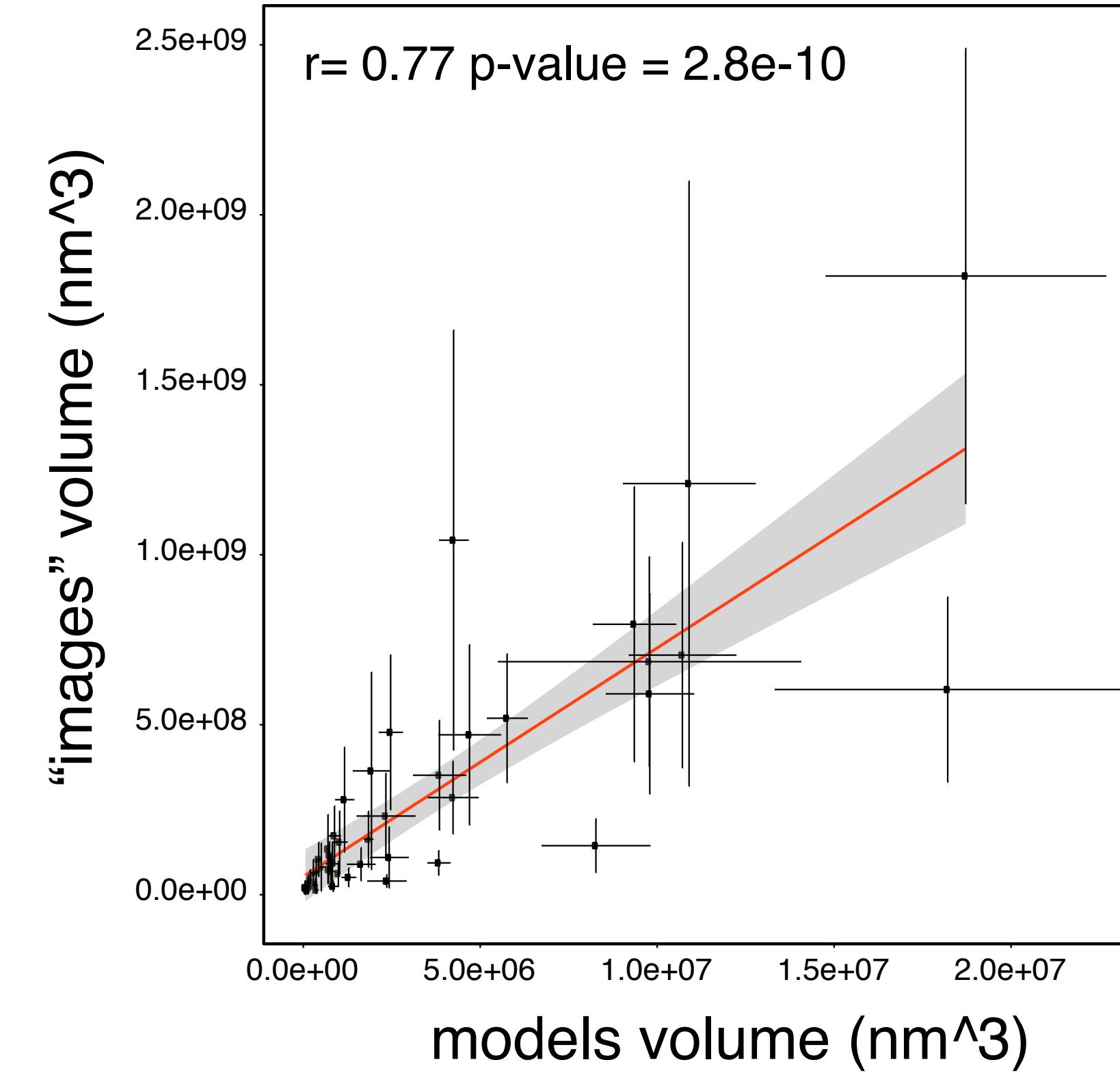
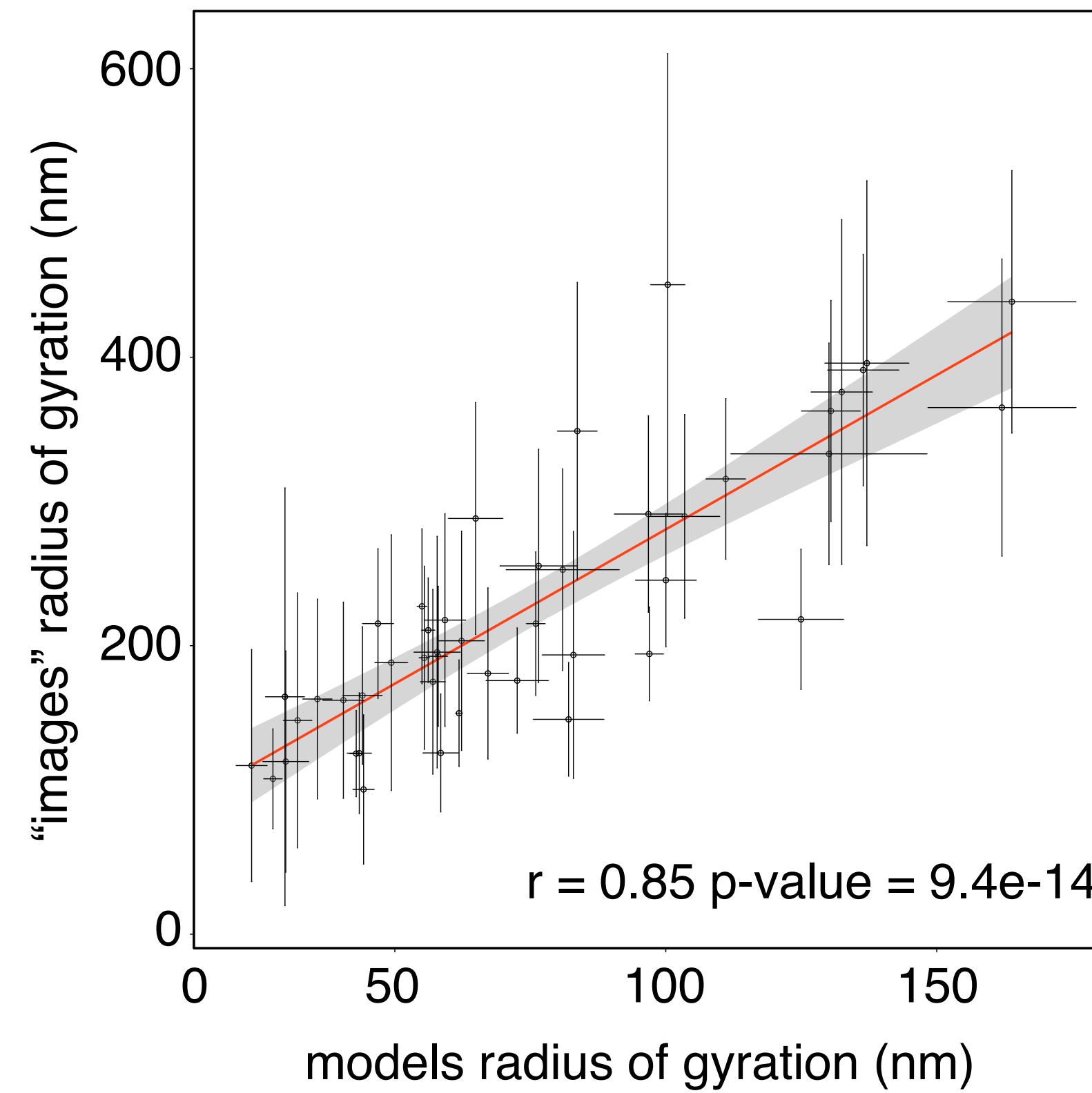
# Model accuracy

Boettiger, A. N., et al. (2016). Nature, 529, 418–422.



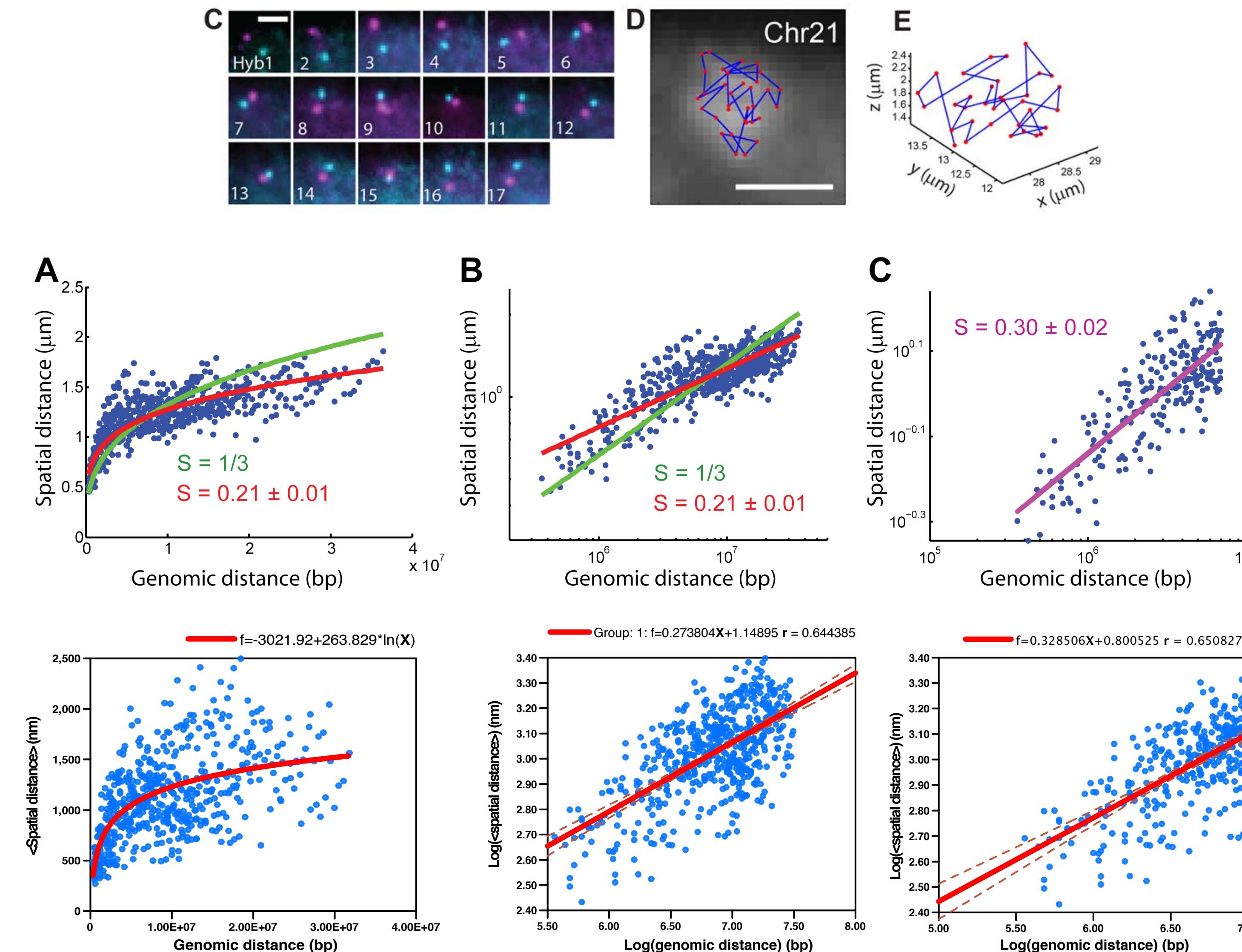
# Model accuracy (fly@2Kb)

Boettiger, A. N., et al. (2016). Nature, 529, 418–422.



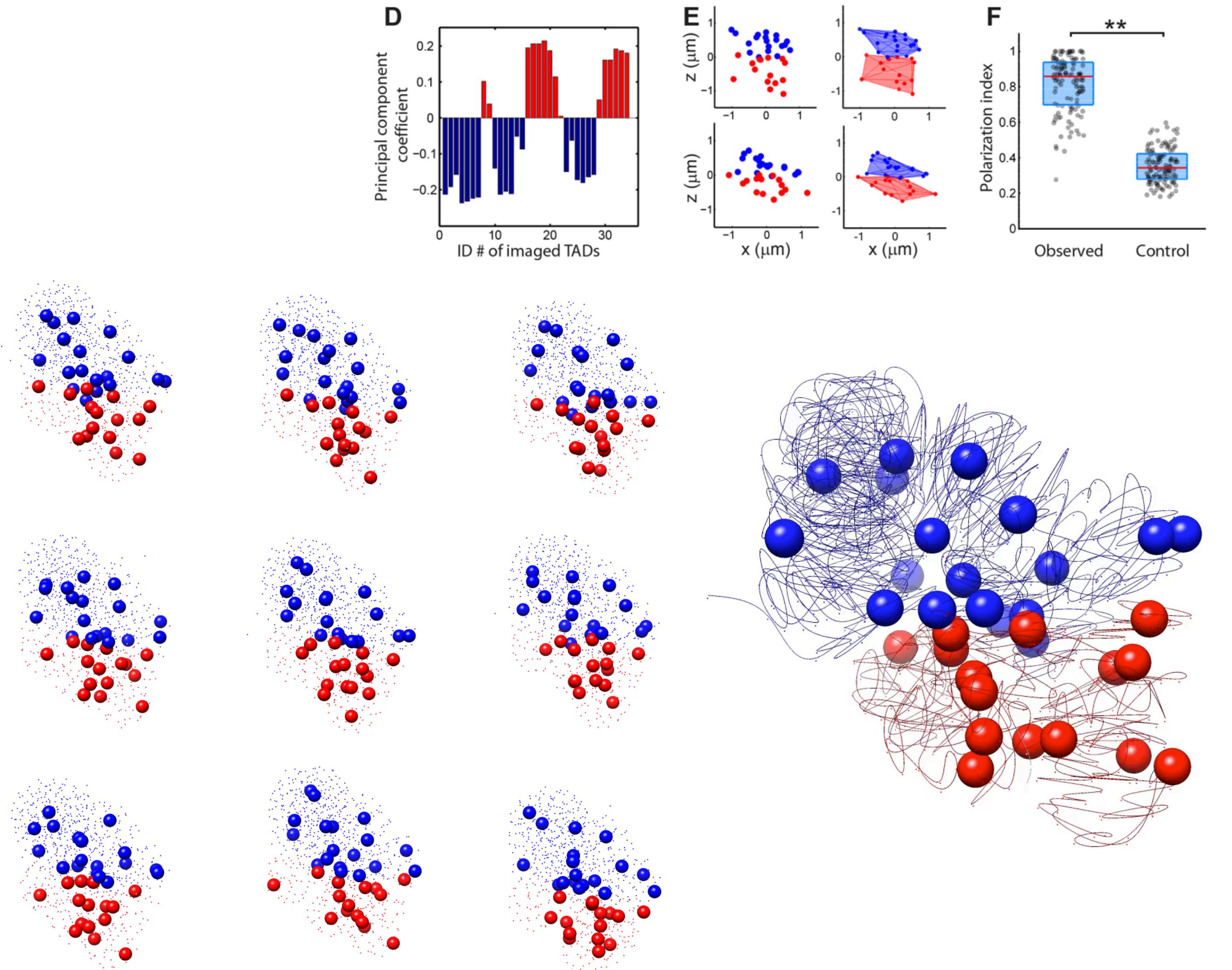
# Model accuracy (Human Chr21@40Kb)

Wang, S., et al. (2016). Science 353, 598–602.



# Model accuracy (Human Chr21@40Kb)

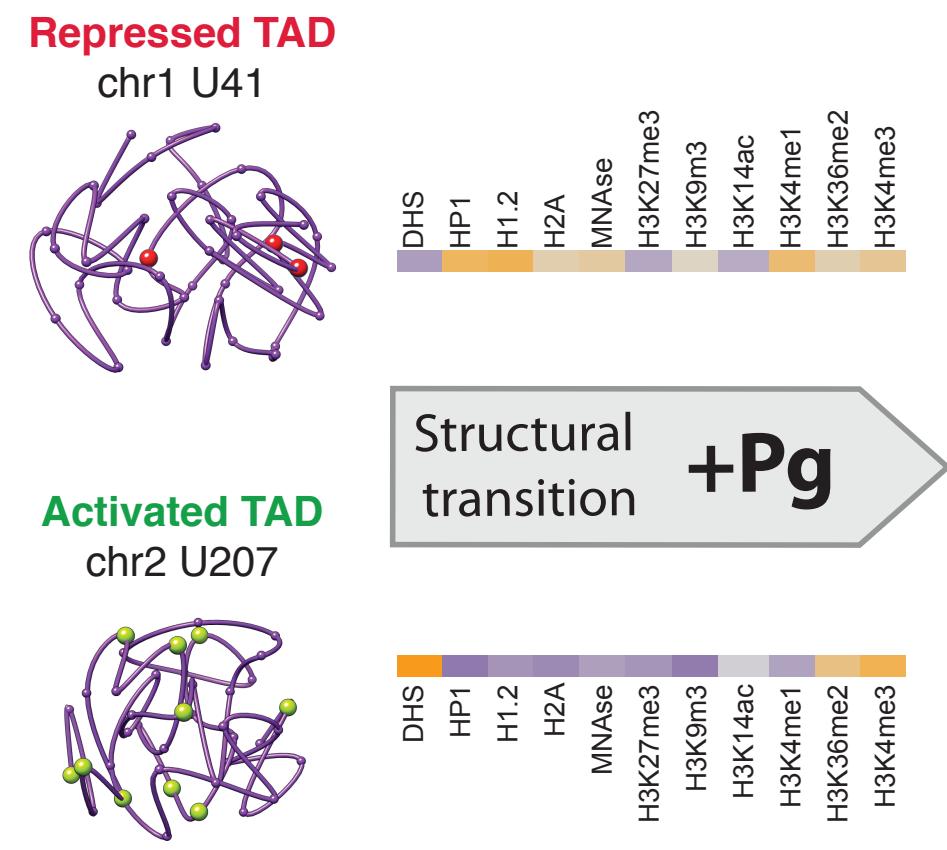
Wang, S., et al. (2016). Science 353(6299), 598–602.



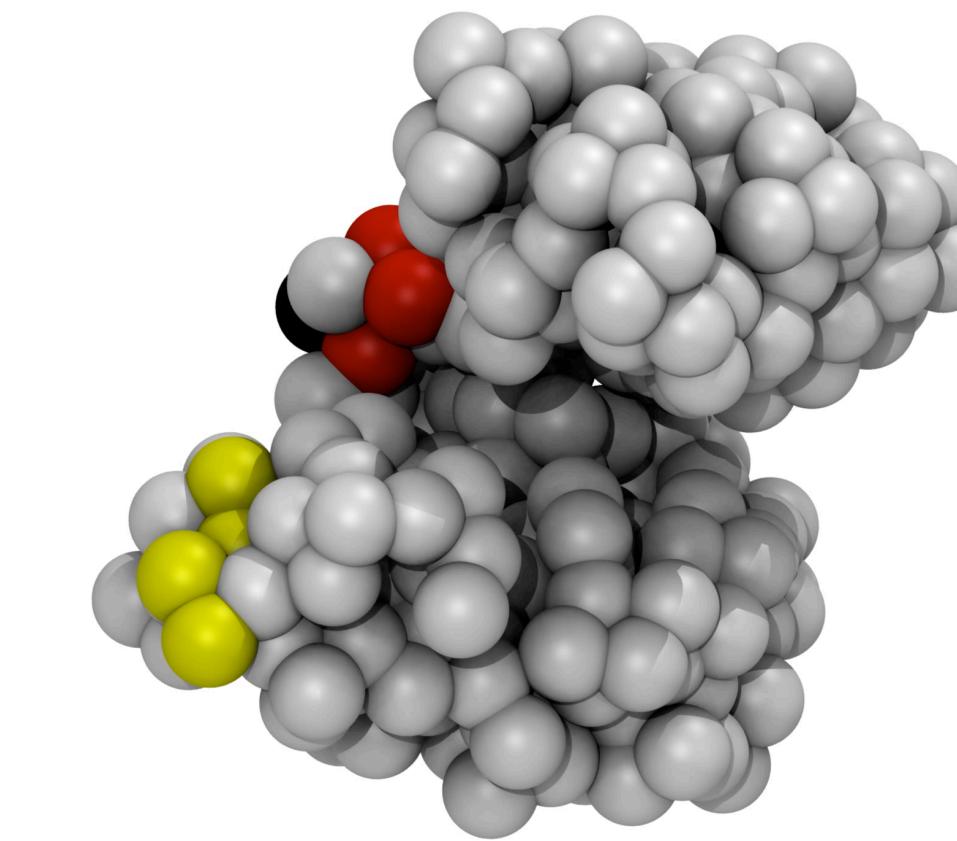
# BioApps

Let's vote!

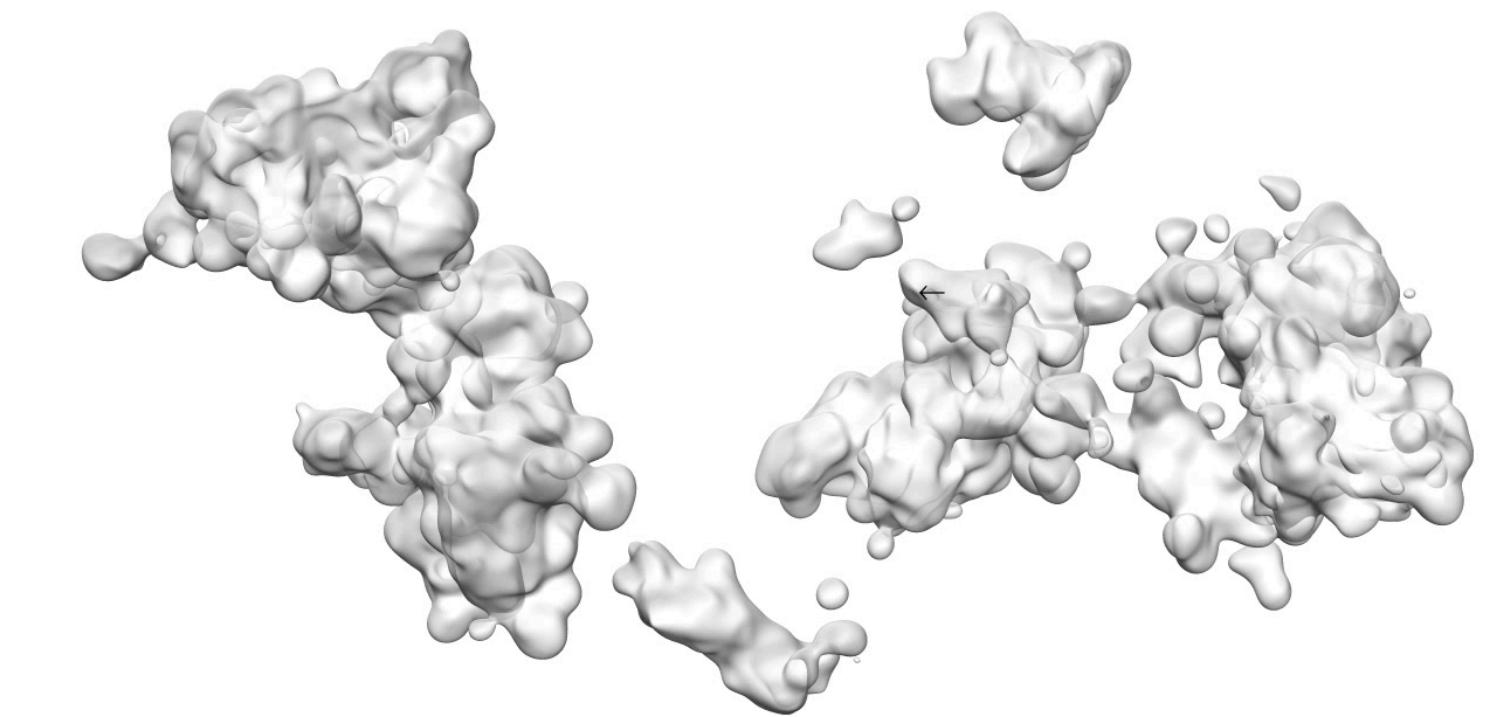
## 1. Hormones change your genome!



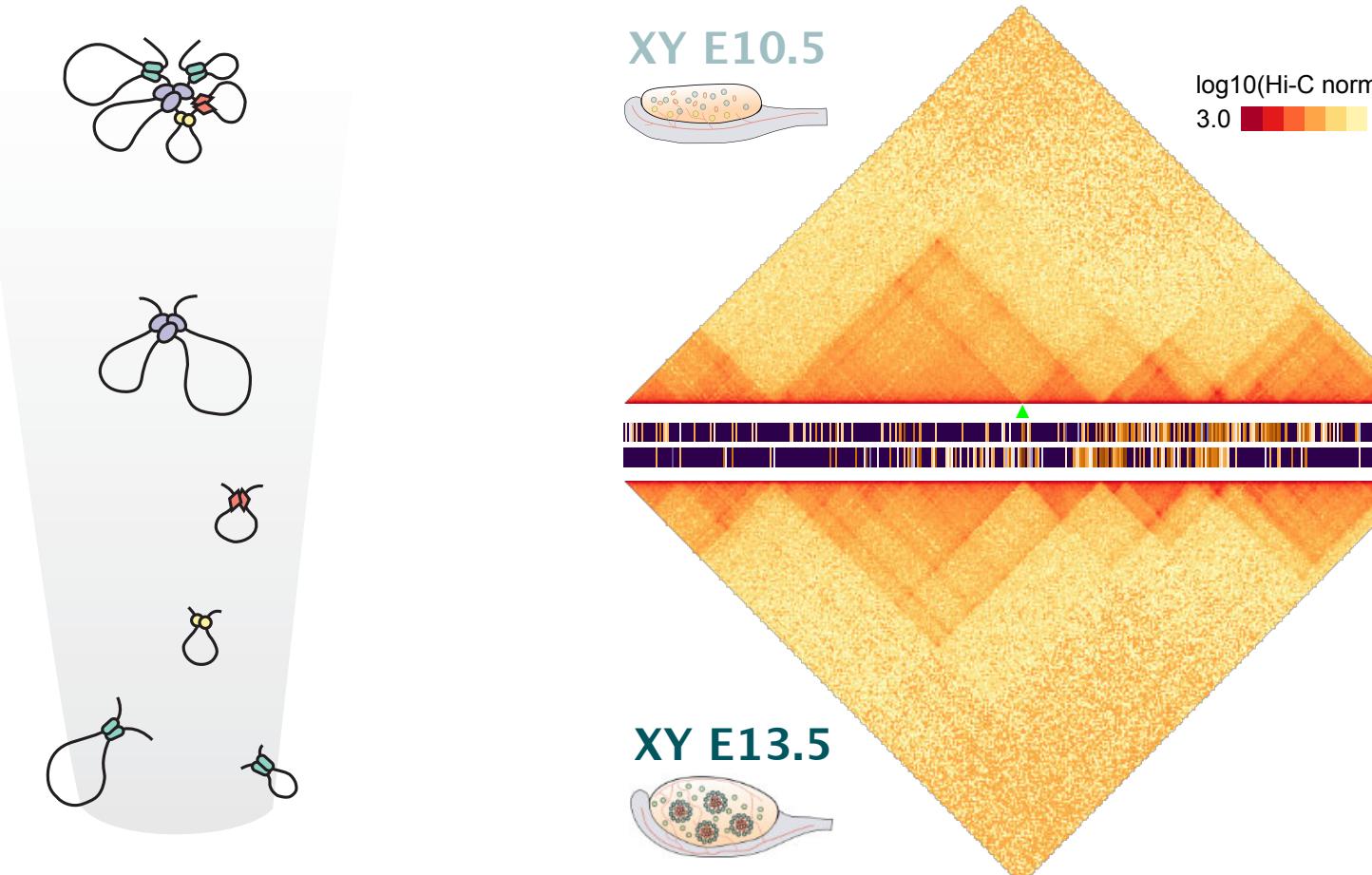
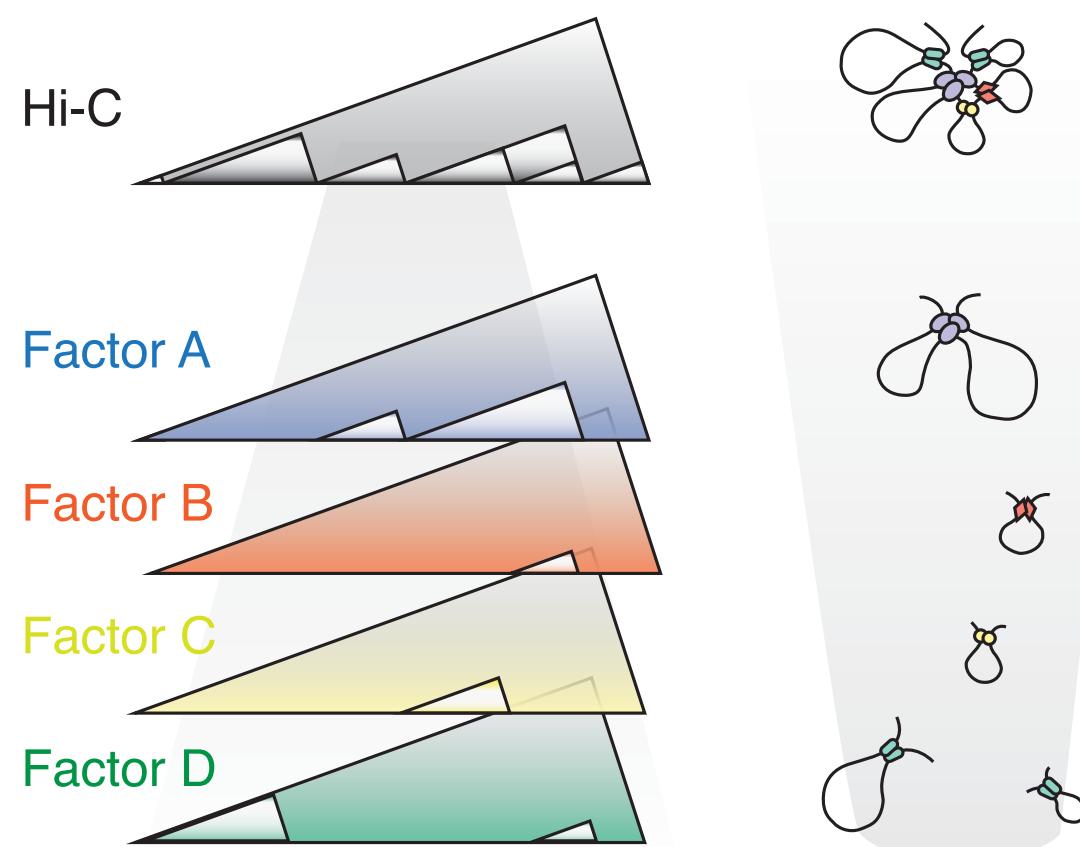
## 2. Dynamics of transcription



## 3. Chromosome walking



## 4. CHROMATIC



## 5. METALoci

