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Protocol status: Working

🌐 BIND&MODIFY: Long-range single-molecule mapping of chromatin modification in eukaryotes V.1

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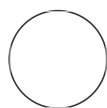
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ABSTRACT

Here we describe a powerful method, BIND&MODIFY, for probing histone modifications and transcription factors at single molecular level. Our approach used the recombinant fused protein A-M.EcoGII, which tethers the methyltransferase M.EcoGII to the protein binding sites and locally labels the neighboring DNA regions via artificial methylations. This method could reveal single-molecule heterogeneous histone modification status and CpG methylation at the same time, and could enable quantify the correlation between the distal elements. Further applications based on this method's concept could be applied to probe multiple protein binding events on the same single molecular DNA. The method proposed herein may soon become an essential tool for third-generation sequencing in the future.

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MATERIALS

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single-molecule sequencing,
methylation, pA-M.EcoGII

1.5ml DNA LoBind tubes (Eppendorf, 0030108051)

Digitonin (Abcam, ab141501)

Roche Complete Protease Inhibitor EDTA-Free tablets (Sigma, 5056489001)

Bovine Serum Albumin (BSA), 20mg/ml, (NEB, B9000S)

Spermidine (Sigma, S0266)

Glycine (Sigma, 50046)

Pierce 16% Formaldehyde (w/v) (Thermo Scientific, 28908)

Polyvinylpyrrolidone, MW 40,000 (Sigma, PVP40)

Sodium metabisulfite (Sigma, 9000)

Polyethelene Glycol 8000(PEG) (Fisher Scientific, BP233-100)

RNase A, 10mg/ml (Thermo Scientific, EN0531)

Phenol:Chloroform:Isoamyl Alcohol 25:24:1 (Sigma, P3803)

S-adenosylmethionine (SAM), 32mM (NEB, B9003S)

Concanavalin A (ConA)-coated magnetic beads (Bangs Laboratories, BP531)

Sera-mag SpeedBeads carboxylate modified magnetic particles, 5% solids, 50 mg/mL, Hydrophobic, (VWR, 10204-666) (GE Healthcare Life Sciences, 44152105050350)

DNase/RNase-Free Distilled Water (Invitrogen 10977)

KCl, 2M, Rnase free (Invitrogen, AM9640G)

NaCl, 5M, Rnase free (Invitrogen, AM9759)

CaCl₂, 1M (Sigma, 21115)

MnCl₂, 1M (Sigma, M1787)

Tris, 1M, pH 8.0 (Thermoscientific, AM9856)

HEPES, 1M, pH 7.5 (Thermoscientific, J60712AK)

Potassium acetate, 3M, pH 5.5 (Invitrogen, AM9610)

Sodium acetate, 3M, pH5.2 (Invitrogen, R1181)

Triton X-100 (Sigma, X100)

EDTA, 0.5M, pH 8.0 (Invitrogen, 15575)

SDS, 10% (Invitrogen, 15553)

Primary antibody, targeting histone modification and DNA binding protein. For example, α -H3K27me3 rabbit monoclonal antibody (CST, 9733), α -CTCF rabbit polyclonal antibody (Millipore, 07-729-25ul).

Secondary antibody, Guinea Pig anti-Rabbit IgG (Heavy & Light Chain) antibody (Antibodies-Online, ABIN101961).

OVERVIEW

1 This protocol describes step-by-step guidelines for BIND&MODIFY method.BIND&MODIFY

method is based on the indirect labelling of DNA regions bound to the protein of interest (with antibody) using an engineered recombinant fusion protein, protein A-M.EcoGII (pA-M.EcoGII), whose methyltransferase activity can be locally controlled. Firstly, BIND&MODIFY method shows comparable distribution of histone modifications (H3K27me3) and DNA binding protein (CTCF) with conventional ChIP-seq method. Secondly, BIND&MODIFY method resolves histone modification in complex genomic region, phases the epigenome, and uncovers epigenomic heterogeneity at single molecular level. Furthermore, BIND&MODIFY method reveals long-distance correlation between genome regulators. We believe BIND&MODIFY method to become one powerful tool for probing DNA binding protein and their regulatory mechanisms in the upcoming long-read sequencing technology arsenal.

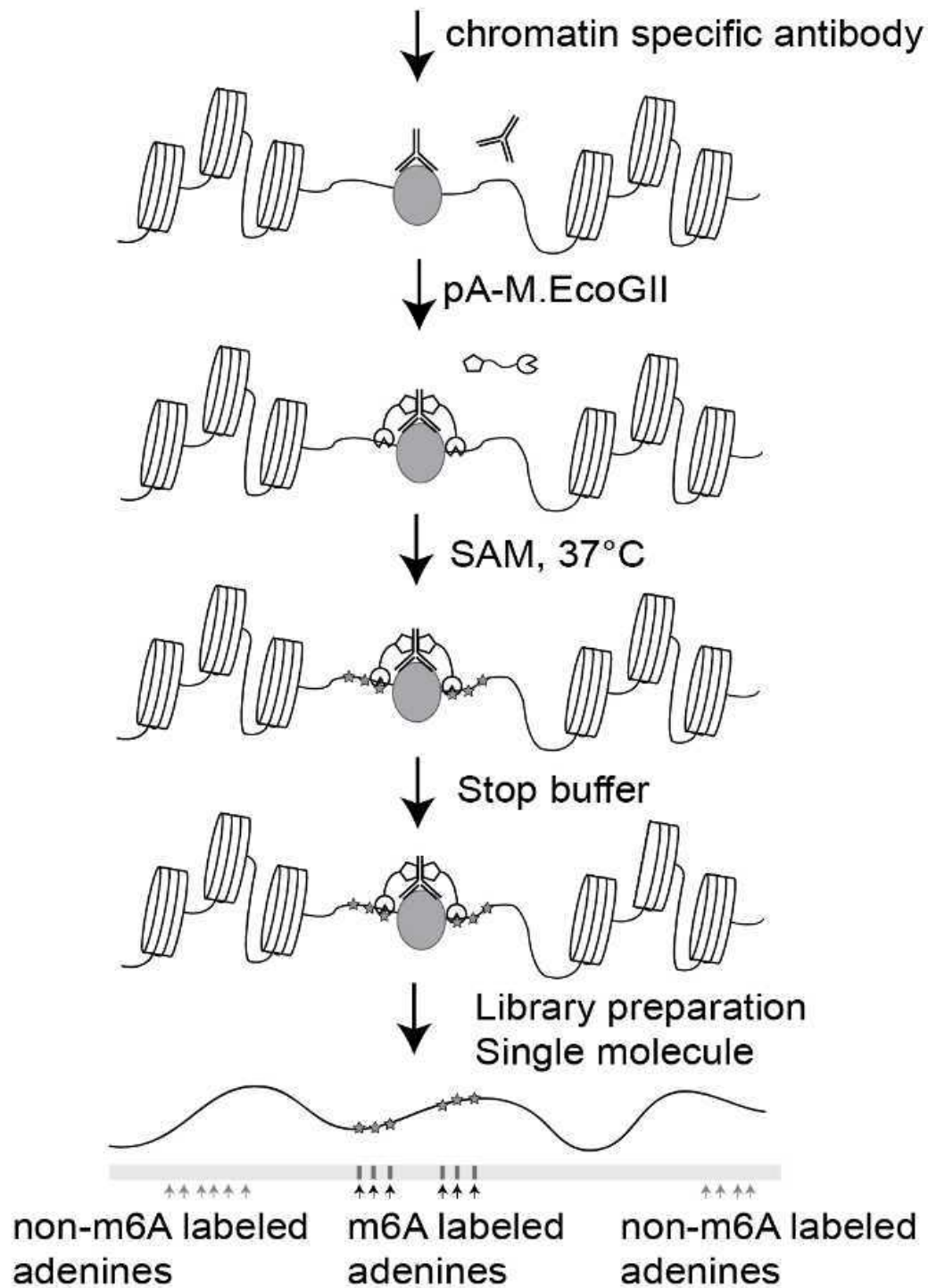


Figure1 Overview of BIND&MODIFY method

Step1 Antibody binding

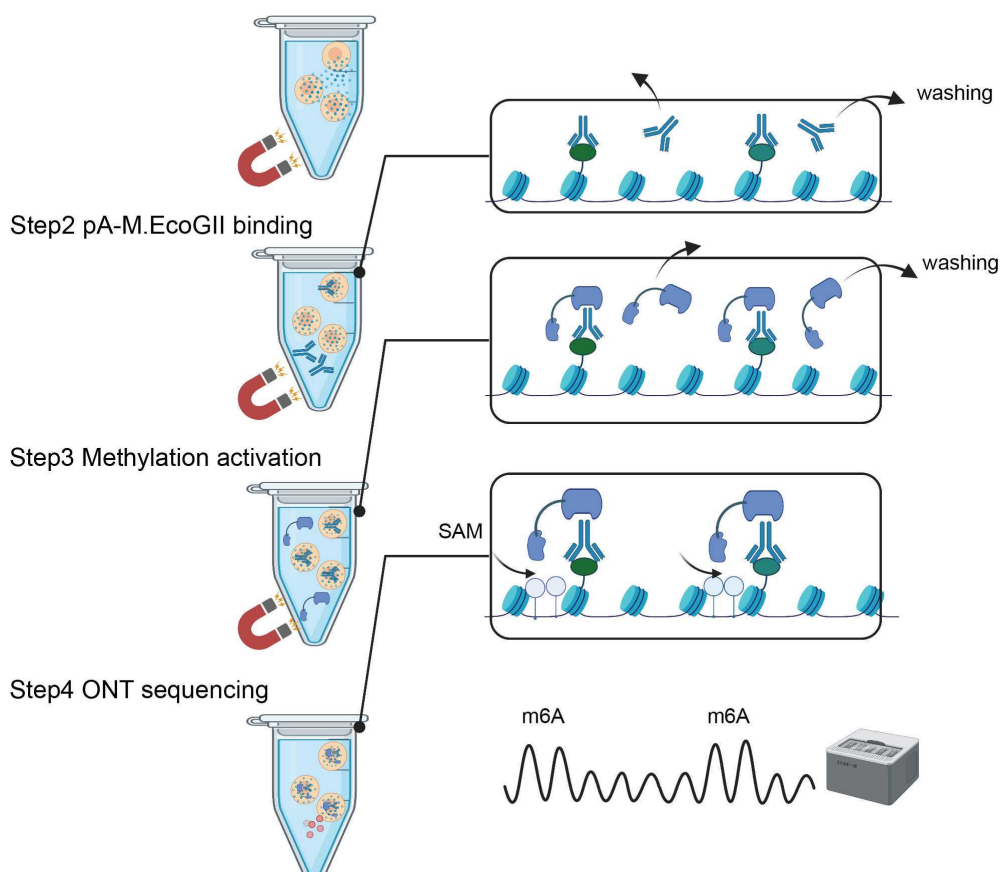


Figure1 Overview of BIND&MODIFY method

REAGENT SETUP

- Digitonin (5%):** Dissolve 100mg digitonin in 2 ml DMSO. Aliquote at 50ul per PCR tube and freeze at -20. Avoid freeze-thaw cycles.
Caution: Digitonin is toxic and avoid any direct contact with skin or during breath. Use full PPE including a mask, lab coat and gloves while handling with digitonin. DMSO can penetrate through the skin.

Binding Buffer: Prepare fresh and store the buffer at 4°C for 6 months.

A	B	C
Reagent	Quantity	Final Concentration
1M HEPES pH 7.9	200ul	20mM

A	B	C
1M KCl	100ul	10mM
1M CaCl ₂	10ul	1mM
1M MnCl ₂	10ul	1mM
H ₂ O	9750ul	
Total	10ml	

Wash Buffer: Prepare fresh, and store the buffer at 4°C up to 1 week.

A	B	C
Reagent	Quantity	Final Concentration
1M HEPES pH 7.5	1.0ml	20mM
5M NaCl	1.5ml	150mM
2M Spermidine	12.5ul	0.5mM
Roche Proteinase Inhibitor cocktail tablet	1 tablet	1X
H ₂ O	47.5ml	
Total	50ml	

Dig-wash Buffer: Prepare fresh, store the buffer at 4°C up to 2 days.

A	B	C
Reagent	Quantity	Final Concentration
5% Digitonin	400ul	0.05%
1X Wash Buffer	39.6ml	
Total	40ml	

Antibody Buffer: Prepare fresh.

A	B	C
Reagent	Quantity	Final Concentration
1M HEPES pH 7.5	100ul	20mM
5M NaCl	150ul	150mM

A	B	C
2M Spermidine	1.25ul	0.5mM
50X Roche Proteinase Inhibitor cocktail	100ul	1X
5% Digitonin	50ul	0.05%
0.5M EDTA	20ul	2mM
20% BSA	25ul	0.10%
H2O	4555ul	
Total	5ml	

Methylation Buffer: Prepare fresh, store the buffer at 4°C up to 2 days.

A	B	C
Reagent	Quantity	Final Concentration
10X CutSmart Buffer	30ul	1x
50X Roche Proteinase Inhibitor cocktail	6ul	1x
5% Digitonin	3ul	0.05%
32mM SAM	7.5ul	800uM
20% BSA	1.5ul	0.10%
H2O	252ul	
Total	300ul	

Digestion Buffer: Prepare fresh.

A	B	C
Reagent	Quantity	Final Concentration
Polyvinylpyrrolidone 40	0.1g	1%
Sodium metabisulfite	0.1g	1%
5M NaCl	1.0ml	0.5M
1M Tris-HCl, pH 8.0	1.0ml	0.5M
0.5M EDTA	1.0ml	50mM

A	B	C
20% SDS	625ul	1.25%
H2O	6375ul	
Total	10ml	

Mix and incubate at 65°C during at least 30 minutes. The solution need to be clear before use.

Serapure Beads Solution: Store the solution at 4°C for 1 month. 4ml serapure beads wash 4 times with water to remove sodium azide, then resuspend in 10ml serapure beads solution.

A	B	C
Reagent	Quantity	Final Concentration
50% PEG8000	3.6 ml	18%
5M NaCl	2 ml	1M
1M Tris-HCl, pH 8.0	0.1ml	10mM
0.5M EDTA	20ul	1mM
100% tween 20	5ul	0.05%
H2O	4275ul	
Total	10ml	

Bead Binding Buffer: Store the solution at 4°C for 1 week.

A	B	C
Reagent	Quantity	Final Concentration
50% PEG 8000	4ml	20%
5M NaCl	6ml	3.0M
Total	10ml	

Mix until the solution becomes clear. If PEG8000 is not dissolved, it can lead to a poor yield because PEG8000 makes gDNA to bind to the beads.

Bead Washing Buffer: Prepare fresh.

A	B	C
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A	B	C
Reagent	Quantity	Final Concentration
Absolute Ethanol	35ml	70%
H2O	15ml	
Total	50ml	

Cells Preparation

- 3 Harvest fresh cells at room temperature.

Note: Use Eppendorf DNA LowBind tube during the whole protocol to reduce cell/DNA loss.

- 4 Centrifuge cells at 300g for 5 min at 4°C.

- 5 Resuspend the cells in 1ml cold PBS, repeat step 5-step 6 twice.

- 6 Resuspend the cells in 900ul cold PBS. Count the cells. For lightly fixed cells, go to step 8.

Normally this protocol works for 5×10^5 cells per methylation reaction. Aliquot 4×10^6 cells per centrifuge tube for 8 tube methylation reaction.

- 7 Add freshly prepared 1% formaldehyde into the resuspended cells (100ul into 900ul cells), and put at room temperature for 10 min.

- 8 Stop the crosslinking by adding 1.25M glycine to twice molar ratio of formaldehyde (60ul into 1ml cell fixing reaction).

9 Centrifuge cells at 500g for 5 min at 4°C. Carefully remove all the liquids from the supernatant with 1000ul pipette tip followed by 100ul and 10ul pipette tip.

10 Resuspend the cells with Wash Buffer and count the fixed cells.

Normally this protocol works for 5×10^5 cells per methylation reaction. Aliquot 4×10^6 cells per centrifuge tube for 8 tube methylation reaction.

Bind cells or nuclei to Concanavalin A-coated beads

11 Gently vortex and resuspend the ConA beads slurry, 10ul of the ConA beads would be enough for 5×10^5 cells. The following is for 4 samples.

12 Aliquot 90ul ConA beads slurry into 1ml Binding Buffer in a 1.5ml tube and mix by pipetting. Put the tube on a magnetic stand to clear (1-2min).

13 Remove the liquid completely on the magnetic stand. Add 1ml Binding buffer and mix by pipetting. Quick spin the tube to remove the liquid from the cap.

14 Put the tube on a magnetic stand to clear, remove the liquid, and resuspend in 90ul Binding Buffer (10ul per sample) and place the activated beads slurry at room temperature until cells are prepared.

15 Carefully add in 90ul Binding Buffer containing ConA beads into the tube containing 4×10^6 cells prepared from step 7 or 11. Place on end-over-end rotator for 10min.

Bind primary antibody

16 Quick spin the tube to remove the liquid from the cap. Place the tube on a magnetic stand to clear, remove the liquid.

- 17 Resuspend the cells in 400ul ice cold Antibody Buffer with gentle vortexing. Divide into 8 1.5ml Eppendorf LowBind tubes, and 50ul each tube. Scale up or down based on specific applications.
- 18 Add 0.5-1.0ul of specific primary antibody (H3K27me3 or CTCF) into each tube with gentle vortexing.
Note: We use 1:50-1:100 primary antibody dilution as recommended by CUT&TAG protocol.
- 19 Place the tube on end-over-end rotator at 4°C overnight.
- 20 Quick spin the cells with primary antibody. Place the cells with primary antibody on a magnetic stand, carefully remove the solution.
- 21 Add 1ml Dig-Wash Buffer. Invert the tube 10 times to resuspend the beads.
- 22 Repeat step 20-21 twice.

Bind pA-M.EcoGII recombinant enzyme

- 23 Add 20ul pA-M.EcoGII recombinant enzyme into 130ul dig-wash Buffer, mix gently by pipetting.
- 24 Quick spin the tube from step 22. Place the tube on a magnetic stand, carefully remove the solution.

- 25 Add the pA-M.EcoGII containing buffer to the cells with gentle vortexing.
- 26 Place the tube on end-over-end rotator at room temperature for 1h.
- 27 Quick spin the cells with pA-M.EcoGII. Place the cells with pA-M.EcoGII on a magnetic stand, carefully remove the solution.
- 28 Add 1ml Dig-Wash Buffer. Invert the tube 10 times to resuspend the beads.
- 29 Repeat step 27-28 twice.

Methyltransferase activation

- 30 Quick spin the tube from step 29. Place the tube on a magnetic stand, carefully remove the solution.
- 31 Add 300ul Methylation Buffer. Invert the tube 10 times to resuspend the beads.
- 32 Incubate at 37°C thermomixer at 300rpm for 30min. Supplement 7.5ul 32mM SAM at 7.5min,

15min, and 22.5min.

DNA extraction:PCI

- 33** Take the tube from step 32. To stop the methylation reaction, add 10ul 0.5M EDTA, 1.5ul 20% SDS, and 5.0ul 20mg/ml Proteinase K to each tube.
- 34** Mix by vortexing at highest speed for 5s. Incubate at 55°C water bath overnight until the solution is clear.
- Note: Increase incubation time if the solution is viscous or cloudy.
- 35** Add 300ul PCI and vortexing at highest speed for 30s. Invert the tube 10 times to mix thoroughly. Centrifuge at 16000g for 5min.
- 36** Transfer the upper liquid aqueous phase to a new 1.5ml centrifuge tube. Add 300ul chloroform. Invert the tube 10 times. Centrifuge at 16000g for 5min.
- 37** Transfer the upper liquid aqueous phase to a new 1.5ml centrifuge tube. Add 1/10 volume of 3M sodium acetate solution.
- 38** Add 2.5x volume of ice cold 100% ethanol in the solution to precipitate DNA. Incubate the tube at -20 overnight.
- 39** Centrifuge at 16000g for 10min. Discard the supernatant and rinse the pellet with 70% cold ethanol.
- 40** Air-dry the pellet. Dissolve in TE buffer.

DNA extraction: Serapure Beads

- 41 Take the tube from step 32, place the tube on a magnetic stand, remove all the solution.
- 42 Add 600ul pre-warmed Digestion Buffer, plus 4.0ul 10mg/ml RNase A. Mix thoroughly immediately by pipetting up and down 10 times with a wide-bore tip.
- 43 Add 10.0ul 20mg/ml Proteinase K. Incubate the tube at 55°C water bath overnight.
- 44 Add 200µl (or 1/3 of the lysis buffer volume) of 5M potassium acetate and mix by inverting the tube 20 times in order to obtain a homogenous solution to fully precipitate the proteins and the polysaccharides that will complex with SDS. It is important to incubate at 4°C after the addition of potassium acetate.
- 45 Centrifuge at 5000g for 10 minutes at 4°C. Transfer the supernatant to a new 1.5 ml tube without disturbing the pellet.
- 46 Add one volume of Bead Binding Buffer and 1:18 (v:v) of Serapure beads previously prepared (vortex the beads solution for 20 seconds before use to ensure that the beads are completely resuspended).
- 47 Mix by inverting the tube 20 times. Incubate with a gentle mixer for 10 minutes at room temperature.

- 48** Quick spin the tube to remove the liquid from the cap. Place the tube in a magnetic stand until the solution becomes clear (2-3min). The actual time required to collect beads may vary according to samples.
- 49** Remove the supernatant without disturbing the beads pellet. Add 1 ml of Bead Wash Buffer, remove the tube from the magnetic rack and mix by inverting the tube 20 times.
- 50** Quick spin the tube to remove the liquid from the cap. Place the tube in a magnetic stand until the solution becomes clear (2-3min).
- 51** Repeat step 49-50.
- 52** Quick spin the tube to remove the liquid from the cap. Place the tube in a magnetic stand to remove the remaining Bead Wash Buffer.
- 53** Let the beads air-dry for 1 minute with the cap open. Do not let the beads dry more than 1 minute as this will significantly decrease elution efficiency.
- 54** Add 80 µl of TE buffer preheated to 50°C.
- 55** Resuspend the beads by flicking the tube. It is important that the beads are not aggregated.
- 56** Quick spin the tube. Place the tube in the magnetic rack. Let the solution to become clear. If DNA solution is highly concentrated, it can take a long time. In this case, it is recommended to let the

tube in the magnetic rack overnight or to add more elution buffer.

- 57** Transfer 75 µl of the eluted gDNA solution in a new tube.

ONT library preparation and sequencing

- 58** Follow Oxford Nanopore protocol of LSK109 for adaptor ligation.
- 59** Load 500ng of the ligated DNA to R9.4.1 flow cell. Use the Flow Cell Wash Kit to wash the flow cell.
- 60** Reload the flow cell every 24h.