Accurate Recycling of Parental Histones Reproduces the Histone Modification Landscape during DNA Replication

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Highlights

- ChOR-seq determines histone PTM occupancy on newly replicated DNA
- Histone PTM positional information is preserved through parental histone recycling
- Parental H3K27me3 domains are stable and inherited to daughter cells
- Restoration of histone PTM levels follows mark- and locus-specific kinetics

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In Brief

Histone modifications are a core component of the epigenome. Reverón-Gómez et al. develop ChOR-seq to profile histone modifications after DNA replication and find that the genomic localization of modified parental histones is preserved on daughter strands while new histone modification to restore pre-replication levels follows mark- and locus-specific kinetics.
Accurate Recycling of Parental Histones Reproduces the Histone Modification Landscape during DNA Replication

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SUMMARY

Chromatin organization is disrupted genome-wide during DNA replication. On newly synthesized DNA, nucleosomes are assembled from new naive histones and old modified histones. It remains unknown whether the landscape of histone post-translational modifications (PTMs) is faithfully copied during DNA replication or the epigenome is perturbed. Here we develop chromatin occupancy after replication (ChOR-seq) to determine histone PTM occupancy immediately after DNA replication and across the cell cycle. We show that H3K4me3, H3K36me3, H3K79me3, and H3K27me3 positional information is reproduced with high accuracy on newly synthesized DNA through histone recycling. Quantitative ChOR-seq reveals that de novo methylation to restore H3K4me3 and H3K27me3 levels occurs across the cell cycle with mark- and locus-specific kinetics. Collectively, this demonstrates that accurate parental histone recycling preserves positional information and allows PTM transmission to daughter cells while modification of new histones gives rise to complex epigenome fluctuations across the cell cycle that could underlie cell-to-cell heterogeneity.

INTRODUCTION

The organization of eukaryotic genomes into chromatin influences all DNA-based processes, including gene expression and DNA repair. Chromatin organization is particularly important for establishing and maintaining cell-type-specific transcriptional programs and thus underlies epigenetic cell memory (Allis and Jenuwein, 2016; Halley-Stott and Gurdon, 2013). However, the basic mechanisms that ensure propagation of chromatin states during DNA replication and across cell division remain unclear (Alabert and Groth, 2012; Allis and Jenuwein, 2016; Almouzni and Cedar, 2016).

The nucleosome is the basic unit of chromatin, in which 146 base pairs of DNA are wrapped around a histone core composed of a central histone H3-H4 tetramer flanked by two histone H2A-H2B dimers. Histones are decorated with a large variety of post-translational modifications (PTMs) that contribute to the establishment and maintenance of active and repressed chromatin states (Patel and Wang, 2013). Many of these regulatory modifications are found on histone H3. Histone H3 lysine 4 tri-methylation (H3K4me3), histone H3 lysine 36 tri-methylation (H3K36me3), and histone H3 lysine 79 tri-methylation (H3K79me3) mark active chromatin, with H3K4me3 enriched in promoter regions and H3K36me3 and H3K79me3 enriched in gene bodies (Rando, 2007). Conversely, tri-methylation of histone H3 lysine 27 (H3K27me3) demarcates larger, transcriptionally silent domains (Schuettengruber et al., 2017).

Histone modifications associated with both transcriptional silencing and activation are proposed to play a central role in epigenetic cell memory (Allis and Jenuwein, 2016; Campos et al., 2014; Halley-Stott and Gurdon, 2013), implying that histone-based information must be transferred to daughter cells during mitotic cell division. However, the process of DNA replication is disruptive and leads to the disassembly of nucleosomes into H3-H4 tetramers and H2A-H2B dimers (Jackson, 1987, 1988, 1990; Xu et al., 2010). Electron microscopy and in vitro replication of simian virus 40 (SV40) mini-chromosomes have shown that 1–2 parental nucleosomes are destabilized ahead of the replication fork (Gasser et al., 1996; McKnight and Miller, 1977) and that histones are released from DNA, but kept in close
proximity, during fork passage (Gruss et al., 1993; Madamba et al., 2017). Shortly after fork passage, nucleosome density is restored on the two daughter DNA strands through a combination of re-deposition (recycling) of old histones and incorporation of newly synthesized histones (Alabert et al., 2012; Almouzni and Cedar, 2016; Annunziato, 2015). Recent nucleosome mapping experiments in Drosophila S2 cells and yeast have revealed that nucleosome occupancy is increased around active promoter and enhancer regions shortly after DNA replication (Fennessy and Owen-Hughes, 2016; Ramachandran and Henikoff, 2016; Vasseur et al., 2016), but it is unclear whether this reflects new histone incorporation or dispersal of positioned parental nucleosomes.

A central question in epigenetics is therefore how genome-wide chromatin disruption during DNA replication might be compatible with inheritance of genomic histone modification patterns to daughter cells. Quantitative proteomic analyses of new and old histones in human cells have shown that old and new histones (H3, H4, H2A, and H2B) are mixed in a 1:1 ratio on newly replicated DNA (Alabert et al., 2015) and that old histone H3-H4 are recycled with their modifications (Alabert et al., 2015; Pesavento et al., 2008; Scharf et al., 2009; Xu et al., 2011; Zee et al., 2012). Old histone H3-H4 dimers do not mix with new ones (Jackson, 1987, 1990; Xu et al., 2010), arguing that intact, old H3-H4 tetramers with their PTM information are transferred onto newly synthesized DNA. However, it is not known how precisely old histones are re-incorporated on the new daughter DNA strands relative to their former genomic position or whether histones and their associated marks are dispersed during DNA replication. This is particularly important because modified parental histones may direct modifying enzymes toward new histones in their vicinity (Audergon et al., 2015; Brown et al., 2017; Patel and Wang, 2013; Ragunathan et al., 2015) and allosteric regulation of the PRC2 complex by H3K27me3 facilitates a positive feedforward loop (Jiao and Liu, 2015; Margueron et al., 2009). Mathematical modeling has estimated that old histones are reincorporated within 400 bp of their original genomic location in yeast (Radman-Livaja et al., 2011). However, the re-deposition of parental histones has not been tracked directly.

To understand how the PTM landscape is duplicated during DNA replication, it is necessary to elucidate where and when modified histones are deposited within a given genomic locus post replication. We have developed a technology to analyze chromatin occupancy after DNA replication by next-generation sequencing, termed ChOR-seq. ChOR-seq can track the occupancy of proteins and histone PTMs after replication fork passage genome-wide. Given that newly synthesized histones are devoid of tri-methylation marks at the time of deposition (Alabert et al., 2015; Bar-Ziv et al., 2016; Jasencakova et al., 2010; Loyola et al., 2006), ChOR-seq provides a means to track recycling of old modified histones and to directly measure potential replication-dependent displacement of pre-existing histone PTMs. Using ChOR-seq to track H3K4me3, H3K36me3, H3K79me3, and H3K27me3, we find that PTM occupancy patterns are reproduced on newly replicated DNA with high accuracy in both repressed and active genomic regions, demonstrating that the positional information of histone marks is faithfully inherited to daughter strands during DNA replication. We then track restoration of H3K4me3 and H3K27me3 levels by quantitative ChOR-seq time course analysis and find that de novo histone methylation after DNA replication increases the level of the marks within regions already demarcated by modified parental histones. Notably, we find that restoration of histone PTM levels follows mark- and locus-specific kinetics, arguing that the epigenome is undergoing complex changes across the cell cycle that could underlie cell-to-cell heterogeneity.

RESULTS

ChOR-Seq Tracks Protein and PTM Occupancy on Replicated DNA

ChOR-seq is based on short (10–20 min) pulse labeling of replicated DNA with a nucleotide analog (EdU) followed by sequential chromatin immunoprecipitation (ChIP) of a specific histone PTM. Labeled DNA is then biotinylated via Click-IT and isolated by biotin-streptavidin pull-down prior to analysis by next-generation sequencing (Figure 1A). To investigate histone modification patterns after DNA replication, we first performed ChOR-seq experiments for H3K27me3 and H3K4me3. Since H3K27me3 and H3K4me3 are markers of repressed and active chromatin, respectively, this approach allowed us to assess the ChOR-seq method in distinct regions of the genome. We also performed ChOR-seq of pan-histone H3 to track overall nucleosome occupancy. To inform on pre-replication histone PTM positioning, we used S phase synchronized HeLa S3 and carried out standard ChIP-seq of H3K4me3 and H3K27me3 in total chromatin prior to DNA labeling (parental ChIP) (Figure 1B; Figure S1A). These H3K4me3 and H3K27me3 enrichment profiles from S-phase-synchronized cells were largely identical to genome-wide maps of H3K4me3 and H3K27me3 in asynchronous HeLa S3 cells available from ENCODE (Bernstein et al., 2005) (Figure S1B), confirming that parental ChIP-seq is a suitable baseline for assessing our ChOR-seq data. Our synchronization setup also allowed us to verify the specific isolation of replicated DNA by comparison to replication timing data available for HeLa S3 cells (Figures S1C and S1D) (ENCODE Project Consortium, 2012). To optimize coverage of transcriptionally active and repressed loci, we labeled replicating DNA in early S phase and mid S phase, respectively, corresponding to the replication timing of these regions (Comoglio and Paro, 2014; Julienne et al., 2013; Pope et al., 2014). We harvested samples for ChOR-seq immediately after EdU pulse labeling (nascent chromatin) and at selected later time points to track chromatin maturation (mature chromatin) (Figure 1B; Figure S1A). Finally, to allow later quantitative analyses of histone PTM levels during maturation, we spiked in EdU-labeled chromatin from Drosophila S2 cells (Figure 1A) (Bonhoure et al., 2014).

ChOR-seq profiles of pan-H3 showed a high correlation (r = 0.86) with replicated DNA profiles (EdU pull-downs) (Figure 1C; Figure S1E). This was expected due to the rapid restoration of nucleosome occupancy on newly replicated DNA (Annunziato, 2015; McKnight and Miller, 1977) and provided confirmation that ChOR-seq determines occupancy specifically on replicated DNA. Further confirmations of ChOR-seq specificity were instances in which regions of parental ChIP-seq enrichment lacked ChOR-seq signal owing to insufficient
replication of the locus at the time of EdU labeling (Figures 1C and 1D; Figure S1F). Our synchronization approach to ChOR-seq captured approximately 70% and 77% of the parental H3K4me3- and H3K27me3-enriched regions, respectively (Figure 1E). Importantly, 94% of H3K27me3 and 92% of H3K4me3 loci in replicated regions were also identified by ChOR-seq (Figure 1E). This was also true when newly replicated DNA was labeled directly by biotin-dUTP instead of EdU coupled with Click-IT chemistry, and the spiked-in Drosophila chromatin was omitted (Figures S1G and S1H). We were therefore confident that ChOR-seq was a robust and sensitive method that could directly assess histone PTM occupancy on replicated DNA genome-wide.

The Histone Modification Landscape Is Accurately Reproduced on Newly Synthesized DNA

To address how accurately histone PTM profiles are copied during replication, we compared occupancy patterns of four modifications—H3K27me3, H3K4me3, H3K36me3, and H3K79me3—in pre-replicative and nascent chromatin by parental ChIP-seq and ChOR-seq, respectively. Locally, we observed that histone modification patterns were preserved during replication (Figure 2A; Figure S2A). Plotting averaged signal over sites of expected enrichment for each mark confirmed that this position preservation occurred genome-wide (Figure 2B; Figure S2B). Heatmaps of signal over expected sites of enrichment revealed that this held true for all levels of PTM enrichment (Figure 2C). Parsing H3K4me3 regions by expression level also showed that the accuracy of parental histone deposition was unaffected by parental PTM levels (Figure S2C). Blurring of PTM occupancy at sites of expected enrichment would have indicated dispersal of parental histones during DNA replication. The average profiles of parental and nascent PTM signals did not show any indication of blurring or replication-dependent dispersal of histone PTMs. We further determined the mean difference in localization between nascent and parental H3K4me3 peaks at individual loci to be approximately 170 bp (Figure S2D). This is below the resolution of our ChOR-seq analysis given by an average DNA fragment size of 250 bp (Figure S2E). We thus conclude that parental histones decorated with PTMs are re-incorporated into replicated DNA within 250 bp of their pre-replication position.

H3K4me3 Is Restored within 6 hr Post Replication

ChOR-seq analysis of nascent chromatin showed that histone H3K4me3 occupancy patterns were accurately reproduced on newly replicated DNA, but it remained unclear whether the H3K4me3 landscape was, in fact, fully restored or chromatin maturation would be required for modification of new histones. This was particularly important to address as...
H3K4me3 cell-cycle dynamics have not been resolved by mass spectrometry due to technical limitations. Resolving H3K4me3 restoration kinetics is, however, amenable to quantitative ChOR-seq (qChOR-seq), which takes advantage of a Drosophila chromatin spike-in to normalize read counts, revealing quantitative differences in signal between samples that are lost with conventional data processing methods. We therefore carried out H3K4me3 qChOR-seq on nascent chromatin and on mature chromatin harvested 1 hr later, with cells still in S phase (T1); 6 hr later, when cells reached G2/M but had not passed through mitosis (T6); and 12 hr later, when cells had passed through mitosis and were in G1 of the next cell cycle (T12) (Figure 3A; Figure S3A). While the raw ChOR-seq signals (RPM) were highly similar (Figure S3B), normalization using spiked-in EdU-labeled Drosophila chromatin (RPPM) revealed a substantial accumulation of H3K4me3 during the first 6 hr of chromatin maturation (Figure 3B; Figure S3B).

Genome-wide, we observed marked gains in H3K4me3 signal between T0 and T1 and T1 and T6 but no further increase between T6 and T12 (Figures 3C and 3D). Notably, this gain of H3K4me3 occurred within the H3K4me3 regions already present in nascent chromatin and did not lead to expansion of H3K4me3 peaks over time (Figure 3D; Figure S3C). Thus, while the genomic location of H3K4me3 is established at the time of DNA replication, restoration of H3K4me3 levels is uncoupled from DNA replication similar to other histone di- and tri-methylation marks (Alabert et al., 2015). However, establishment of H3K4me3 on new histones is largely complete by G2, prior to mitosis, in contrast to repressive marks like H3K27me3 and H3K9me3 that are restored primarily in G1 of the next cell cycle (Alabert et al., 2015).

Expression and CpG Content Predict H3K4me3 Restoration Kinetics

The advantage of qChOR-seq is that it provides both quantitative and positional information about PTM signal. We therefore next asked whether H3K4me3 restoration occurs with different kinetics in different parts of the genome. To address this, we compared qChOR-seq signal across our time course and considered a locus restored when it reached H3K4me3 levels close to that observed at the 12-hr time point (Figure 3E; STAR Methods). This revealed that approximately 50% of H3K4me3 regions are restored within 1 hr of replication (R1), and the remaining 50% are restored within 6 hr of replication (R6) (Figure 3E). H3K4me3 data from ENCODE, produced in asynchronous HeLa cells, showed higher signal over R1 regions (Figure 3F). Since signal at H3K4me3 peaks positively correlate
with both the expression level of associated genes and the CpG density of the underlying DNA, we next compared R1 and R6 regions with respect to these two characteristics. Consistent with our predictions based on the H3K4me3 signal from ENCODE, transcription start sites (TSSs) within R1 regions were more highly expressed (Figure 3G), and R1 regions were more CpG dense (Figure 3H) than those in the R6 restoration category. This implicates both transcription and DNA sequence content as important determinants of H3K4me3 restoration kinetics. Taken together, our qChOR-seq time course has both defined H3K4me3 restoration kinetics globally and revealed important, site-specific differences in restoration rates, complementing existing knowledge about H3K4me3 biology while adding crucial and novel insights into the propagation of this mark.

**High PRC2 Occupancy Sites Show Faster H3K27me3 Restoration**

We have previously defined the restoration kinetics of H3K27me3 at the global level using quantitative mass spectrometry (Alabert et al., 2015). Bulk mass spectrometry methods, however, are unable to detect site-specific differences in PTM restoration. Therefore, to address how the H3K27me3 landscape develops across the cell cycle and reveal whether particular genomic loci restore with faster kinetics than bulk H3K27me3, we carried out H3K27me3 qChOR-seq time course analyses. We included restoration times of 4 hr, when cells were in G2 phase; 10 hr, corresponding to early G1 phase; and 24 hr, where we arrested cells at the G1/S transition to avoid re-replication of the domains (Figure 4A; Figure S4A). Applying spike-in normalization to allow quantitative comparison (Figure S4B) revealed that H3K27me3 qChOR-seq signal gradually accumulated across all time points, with the major increase taking place after mitosis in daughter cells (Figure 4B), corroborating the
previous results from quantitative mass spectrometry (Alabert et al., 2015). Importantly, this gradual increase in H3K27me3 levels was evident both at the level of individual domains (Figure 4C) and at the level of whole chromosomes (Figure 4D), with the gain in H3K27me3 being restricted to regions already demarcated by H3K27me3 in nascent chromatin. Looking with higher resolution, we observed that H3K27me3 domain borders were faithfully demarcated at all time points (Figure 4E; Figure S4C). Chromatin restoration thus increases H3K27me3 levels within domains without changing their width, comparable to how H3K4me3-enriched regions were restored.

To identify genomic loci with differential restoration rates, we parsed all replicated H3K27me3 regions according to when the maximal H3K27me3 level was reached. We considered a region restored when reaching a level close to that observed at the 24-hr time point (Figure 4F; STAR Methods). With this definition, we found that about 80% of the analyzed H3K27me3 regions were restored with very slow kinetics, taking up to 24 hr to reach their final level (R24; Figure 4F). We also identified a substantial number of sites restored within 10 hr (R10; Figure 4F), but almost none showing restoration prior to mitosis (R0 and R4; Figure 4F). These results support a model in which old, recycled H3K27me3-marked histones contribute significantly to the chromatin landscape transmitted to daughter cells, while modification of new histones replenishes H3K27me3 levels mainly after cell division. Comparison with H3K27me3 and EZH2 ENCODE data revealed that the faster restoring sites, on average, had higher H3K27me3 levels and EZH2 occupancy (Figure 4G). Further, these regions corresponded to peaks within ENCODE H3K27me3 and EZH2 domains, in contrast to the slowest restoring regions (Figure 4H). Our qChOR-seq analyses therefore demonstrate that H3K27me3 restoration kinetics are locus specific, with high PRC2 occupancy promoting the most efficient H3K27me3 restoration and border regions restoring more slowly.

Parental H3K27me3 Domains Are Stable across the Cell Cycle
Our qChOR-seq analyses in unperturbed systems accurately revealed PTM restoration dynamics genome-wide but left open the question of PTM domain stability in the absence of a restoration mechanism. New histones are deposited largely without methylation marks, including H3K27 methylation (Alabert et al., 2015). Importantly, this gradual increase in H3K27me3 levels was evident both at the level of individual domains (Figure 4C) and at the level of whole chromosomes (Figure 4D), with the gain in H3K27me3 being restricted to regions already demarcated by H3K27me3 in nascent chromatin. Looking with higher resolution, we observed that H3K27me3 domain borders were faithfully demarcated at all time points (Figure 4E; Figure S4C). Chromatin restoration thus increases H3K27me3 levels within domains without changing their width, comparable to how H3K4me3-enriched regions were restored.

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Figure 5. Parental H3K27me3 Domains Are Stable across the Cell Cycle

(A) Profiles of parental H3K27me3 ChIP-seq (gray) and nascent H3K27me3 qChOR-seq in the absence (red) or presence (purple) of EZH2 inhibitor. Replicated DNA is shown in blue. Replicated DNA and parental ChIP-seq signal is scaled as a percentage of maximum at the locus depicted; nascent qChOR-seq signal is quantitated using reference-adjusted reads per million (RPKM).

(B) Average profiles of parental H3K27me3 ChIP-seq (gray) nascent H3K27me3 qChOR-seq signal in the absence (red) or presence (purple dashes) of EZH2 inhibitor. Signal is shown across 4 kb centered on the border of replicated H3K27me3 domains and Z score normalized.

(C) Hilbert curves of nascent (T0) H3K27me3 qChOR-seq signal over chromosome 20 in the absence or presence of EZH2 inhibitor. Scaled RRPM values are shown to compare the occupancy landscape (not absolute intensities).

(D) Boxplots of H3K27me3 qChOR-seq signal at T0 and T24 and in the absence or presence of EZH2 inhibitor. Signal is calculated from 2 kb non-overlapping windows in replicated parental peaks.

(E) Profiles of H3K27me3 qChOR-seq at T0 (red) and at T0 and T24 in the presence of EZH2 inhibitor (light and dark purple, respectively).

(F) Hilbert curves of T0 and T24 H3K27me3 qChOR-seq signal over chromosome 20 in the presence of EZH2 inhibitor. In (D)–(F), signal is quantitated using RRPM.

(G) Bar chart showing the proportion of H3K27me3 regions that exhibit high, moderate, and low qChOR-seq signal loss. Regions were defined as high, moderate, or low loss by comparing T0 and T24 qChOR-seq signal in the presence of EZH2 inhibitor.

(H) Boxplots of ENCODE H3K27me3 signal (left) and ENCODE EZH2 signal (right) in moderate and low loss regions. Signal is quantitated using reads per kilobase per million (RPKM).

See also Figure S5.

We next compared our T0 and T24 data, both with and without inhibitor. Signal comparison between all samples revealed that the accumulation of H3K27me3 during chromatin maturation was entirely dependent on de novo H3K27 methylation (Figure 5D), as predicted. Unexpectedly, however, the H3K27me3 landscape generated from parental histone recycling at the time of replication persisted in daughter cells 24 hr post DNA replication.
replication (Figures 5E and 5F), arguing that nucleosome turnover and/or demethylation do not generally erode the H3K27me3 landscape.

To investigate whether sustained EZH2 inhibition causes H3K27me3 loss in certain local genomic regions, we defined regions of low, moderate, and high H3K27me3 loss by comparing qChOR-seq signal at T0 and T24 from EZH2 inhibitor-treated cells (see STAR Methods). While the large majority of H3K27me3 loci did not change substantially, 3.5% of the regions showed a moderate reduction in H3K27me3 (Figure 5G).

These regions of moderate H3K27me3 loss were characterized by somewhat lower H3K27me3 and EZH2 occupancy compared to the more stable regions (Figure 5H). In Drosophila, H3K27me3-marked regions, such as Polcomb group response elements, have been identified as fragile high-turnover sites (Deal et al., 2010). However, in our inhibitor-treated HeLa cells, regions of moderate H3K27me3 loss did not correlate with higher occupancy of the replacement histone variant H3.3 (Figure S5A), suggesting that nucleosome turnover is not sufficient to explain the decrease in signal observed. Taken together, H3K27me3 qChOR-seq in the absence of de novo H3K27 methylation revealed that domains laid down at the time of replication are remarkably stable, underscoring histone recycling during DNA replication as a substantial contributor to the inheritance of H3K27me3 in daughter cells without challenges by demethylation or histone exchange.

**DISCUSSION**

Here we develop ChOR-seq to determine the occupancy of modified histones on replicated DNA. We track methylated histones associated with active and repressed chromatin and find that their position on newly replicated DNA mirrors their position prior to replication. This demonstrates that the histone modification landscape can withstand the disruptive process of DNA replication. Several lines of evidence point toward accurate recycling of modified parental histones as the underlying mechanism. First, new histones are devoid of tri-methylation (Alabert et al., 2015; Bar-Ziv et al., 2016; Scharf et al., 2009; Xu et al., 2011), arguing that we mainly detect pre-existing marks on old recycled histones. Second, H3K27me3 occupancy patterns are accurately copied in the absence of EZH2 activity. Third, quantitative ChOR-seq analysis showed a strong increase in H3K4me3 and H3K27me3 signal intensity during chromatin maturation, arguing that de novo tri-methylation occurs in a manner uncoupled from DNA replication. We did not detect dispersion of either H3K4me3, H3K36me3, H3K79me3, or H3K27me3 marks as a result of DNA replication, which would be the predicted outcome if parental histones were either fully released and re-incorporated at a different replication fork or maintained loosely at the fork and re-deposited haphazardly. Of note, canonical histones H3.1/2 and the replacement variant H3.3 are not differentiated in our analysis because they are recycled with equal efficiency during DNA replication and deposited unmodified de novo (Alabert et al., 2015; Jasencakova et al., 2010; Loyola et al., 2006). Thus, all histone H3 variants can contribute to pre-marked parental histones in nascent chromatin and be subject to de novo methylation during chromatin restora-

A recent in vitro study found that histone positioning information is lost in Xenopus extracts when large T antigen acts as the replicative helicase (Madamba et al., 2017) and suggested that dispersal of histones might be more limited when replication is mediated by the MCM2-7 helicase, as it is in human cells. Our data show that parental histones are re-incorporated within 250 bp of their original position in human cells, which argues that histone eviction and re-deposition at the fork must be tightly coordinated. In human cells, histone-based information is thus retained with higher precision than predicted by mathematical modeling in yeast (Radman-Livaja et al., 2011) and observed in Xenopus in vitro replication systems (Madamba et al., 2017), two systems in which replication-independent histone exchange is high. Collectively, this argues that recycling of parental histones at the replication fork is highly accurate, reproducing the landscape of histone modifications on newly synthesized DNA, albeit with a lower amplitude due to dilution by new naive histones.

Combining a spike-in approach with ChOR-seq, we were able to measure with base-pair resolution how histone mark levels recovered after DNA replication. The strength of spike-in ChOR-seq is that it allows quantitative comparison of restoration kinetics across the genome. Using ChOR-seq to obtain spatial information, we found that the site of occupancy is fixed at the time of replication and modifications then accumulate with kinetics inherent to the mark and genomic features of the locus as cells progress through the cell cycle. Mass spectrometry analysis had previously identified H3K27me3 and H3K9me3 as particularly slow-recovering marks post replication (Alabert et al., 2015; Scharf et al., 2009; Xu et al., 2011). ChOR-seq corroborated these results and further revealed that restoration kinetics are not uniform throughout the genome. While restoration of most H3K27me3 domains is slow, continuing after mitosis in daughter cells, sites of high H3K27me3 and PRC2 occupancy recover faster than other regions. Likewise, our results indicate that sites with the highest H3K4me3 levels, corresponding to CpG-dense, highly expressed promoters (Chen et al., 2014; Illingworth et al., 2010; Mikkelsen et al., 2007), also are first to gain H3K4me3 after replication. Our results show that the vast majority of H3K4me3 peaks are restored prior to mitosis. This means that the H3K4me3 landscape transmitted to daughter cells is not affected by differential replication rates, in contrast to the H3K27me3 landscape where the sites of the highest H3K27me3 and PRC2 occupancy have gained relatively more signal than other regions. This may not be determined solely by methyltransferase kinetics but could also be influenced by replication timing, since early-replicating chromatin is gene rich and transcriptionally active while late-replicating chromatin tends to be heterochromatic (Rivera-Mulia and Gilbert, 2016). Importantly, it argues that the epigenome is not fixed for a given cell but should be considered as a dynamic landscape changing throughout the cell cycle with regards to the total level of all marks, the relative enrichment of individual marks across different sites, and the abundance of different marks relative to each other.

Even though the correct position and relative abundance of histone marks are maintained during DNA replication, new histone deposition represents a major challenge to the epigenome,
with histone-modifying enzymes required to counteract replication-induced erosion of the landscape. Because many of these enzymes, such as EZH2, act with considerable delay, this leads to heterogeneity in the histone-modification landscape across the cell cycle. We suggest that this should be investigated as a possible source of cell-to-cell heterogeneity in gene expression, differentiation potential, and diseases such as cancer. Because the abundance, activity, and complex composition of histone-modifying enzymes, as well as cell cycle duration, varies across cell types, restoration kinetics are expected to be cell-type specific. Importantly, ChOR-seq can easily be applied to any protein or modification amenable to ChiP, thus providing a means to address replication-dependent epigenome heterogeneity and how it impacts cell-fate decisions.

Several elegant studies in model organisms have shown that histone modifications can be transmitted to daughter cells in the absence of the modifying enzyme, although the marks are progressively diluted over time (Audergon et al., 2015; Coleman and Struhl, 2017; Gaydos et al., 2014; Laprell et al., 2017; Ragunathan et al., 2015). Our findings reveal that histone-occupancy patterns are accurately copied during DNA replication prior to their transmission to daughter cells in mitosis. This is consistent with recent findings that impaired DNA replication can have major epigenetic consequences, changing gene expression and generating epi-alleles (Klosin et al., 2017; Sarkies et al., 2010). However, two studies have suggested that histone modifications are erased at the time of DNA replication and must be established de novo on new and old histones after DNA replication (Petruk et al., 2012, 2013). The investigators relied on a proximity-ligation assay to indicate the presence of modified histones on replicated DNA in Drosophila embryos. Our results, along with evidence from genetic model systems (Audergon et al., 2015; Coleman and Struhl, 2017; Gaydos et al., 2014; Hansen et al., 2008; Laprell et al., 2017; Ragunathan et al., 2015) and mass spectrometry analysis of marks on new and old histones (Alabert et al., 2015; Pesavento et al., 2008; Scharf et al., 2009; Xu et al., 2011; Zee et al., 2012), contradict with this conclusion. We suspect that this mainly reflects the lack of sensitivity of the proximity-based ligation assay, underscoring ChOR-seq as a superior technology to track modification on replicated DNA and provide highly sensitive site-specific and quantitative information. In fact, while our work was under consideration, a technology similar to ChOR-seq to track proteins on newly replicated DNA was published by Xu and Corces (nasChIP-seq) (Xu and Corces, 2018a, 2018b). NasChIP-seq and ChOR-seq have the potential to rapidly advance our understanding of the post-replicative chromatin environment and epigenome maintenance in general.

Modified old histones re-instated at their original position after DNA replication could contribute to epigenetic cell memory in two ways: by preserving the properties of the parental chromatin state and by positive feedforward stimulation of modification on new neighboring histones to facilitate restoration. Therefore, our demonstration that old modified histones are re-instated at their original position after DNA replication provides a significant advance in understanding how histone marks could contribute to epigenetic cell memory. Notably, we find that parental H3K27me3 domains not only withstand DNA replication, but they remain stable across the cell cycle, underscoring that recycled parental histones shape the chromatin environment in daughter cells. Future landmarks will include an understanding of whether histones H2A-H2B follow a similar strict pattern of transmission during DNA replication and whether modified histones are distributed symmetrically on the two daughter stands.

STAR METHODS

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SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Supplemental Information includes five figures and can be found with this article online at https://doi.org/10.1016/j.molcel.2018.08.010.

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AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

N.R.-G., C.G.-A., K.R.S.-M., and A.G. conceived the project and designed experiments. C.A. helped to conceive the project. N.R.-G. and C.G.-A. performed the experiments and data analysis. N.R.-G., C.G.-A., and N.P. developed the ChOR-seq protocol. V.F. and K.R.S.-M. contributed to ChOR-seq experiments for active marks. K.R.S.-M. contributed to data analysis and discussions and performed CG content analysis for H3K4me3 experiments. S.G. helped with control experiments for EZH2i. J.V.J. and J.S.J. helped with data analysis and protocol development, respectively. K.R.S.-M., C.G.-A., and A.G. wrote the manuscript with inputs from all authors.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The authors declare no competing interests.
REFERENCES


### STAR METHODS

#### KEY RESOURCES TABLE

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CONTACT FOR REAGENT AND RESOURCE SHARING

Further information and request for resources and reagents should be directed to and will be fulfilled by the Lead Contact Anja Groth (anja.groth@bric.ku.dk).

EXPERIMENTAL MODEL AND SUBJECT DETAILS

Human HeLa S3 cells (female) were obtained from ATCC and were grown in suspension in spinners. Cells were grown in DMEM medium (Thermo Fisher Scientific) supplemented with dialyzed FBS (Invitrogen), penicillin, and streptomycin at 37°C and 5% CO2. Drosophila S2-DRSC cells were obtained from the Drosophila Genomics Resource Center. S2 cells were grown in suspension in spinners in M3+BPYE (Sigma-Aldrich) media with 10% heat-inactivated FBS, penicillin and streptomycin at 25°C.

METHOD DETAILS

Synchronization and DNA Labeling

For all ChOR-seq and ChIP-seq, HeLa S3 cells were synchronized at the G1/S border by a single thymidine block (2 mM, 17 hr) and released into fresh media containing deoxycytidine (24 μM) for the indicated amount of time. For H3K4me3, H3K36me3 and H3K79me3 analysis, parental samples were collected immediately after release. 2 hr and 15 min later (early S), DNA was labeled for 10 min with medium containing 5-ethynyl-2′-deoxyuridine (EdU, 10 μM). Immediately following the EdU label, nascent chromatin was collected. To study H3K4me3 maturation, following EdU labeling and collection of a subset of cells as the “nascent” sample, remaining cells in the spinner culture were washed with PBS, resuspended in new medium containing deoxycytidine (24 μM), and incubated at 37°C until collection at the indicated time point.

For H3K27me3 analysis, the same procedure as above was followed, but with different time points. The parental sample was collected 2 hr and 15 min after release from the thymidine block. 1 hr later (mid S), DNA was labeled for 20 min with medium containing EdU (10 μM). Immediately following the EdU label, nascent chromatin was collected. To study H3K27me3 maturation, following EdU labeling and collection of a subset of cells as the “nascent” sample, remaining cells in the spinner culture were washed with PBS, resuspended in new medium containing deoxycytidine (24 μM), and incubated at 37°C until collection at the indicated time point. To prevent cells from entering into a second round of replication, thymidine (2mM) was added to the medium 10 hr post-EdU label and cells were incubated until reaching 24 hr post-EdU label. For experiments using EZH2 inhibitor (EPZ-6438, 1 μM) (Knutson et al., 2013), inhibitor was added to the medium 30 min before collecting nascent chromatin and kept in culture medium until the end of the experiment.

For qChOR-seq experiments, asynchronous Drosophila S2 chromatin was labeled with EdU (10 μM) for 39 hr for use as an internal control. For Figures S1G and S1H, ChOR-seq was carried out without exogenous Drosophila chromatin and newly synthesized DNA was labeled with biotin-dUTP as described in Alabert et al. (2014). Briefly, cells were labeled with biotin-dUTP for 5 min in hypotonic buffer (50 mM KCl, 10 mM HEPES) followed by a further 15 min in fresh media with biotin-dUTP and deoxycytidine.
ChOR-Seq, ChIP-Seq, and Replicated DNA Isolation

In ChOR-seq, ChIP-seq and replicated DNA isolation, HeLa S3 cells were immediately fixed in 1% formaldehyde. Then, glycine was added to a final concentration of 0.125 M and the reaction was incubated for 5 min at room temperature. Fixed cells were lysed for 20 min in ice-cold lysis buffer (100 mM NaCl, 66 mM Tris-HCl pH 8, 5 mM EDTA, 0.3% SDS, 1.6% Triton X-100) supplemented with leupeptin, aprotinin, pepstatin, and PMSF. Lysates were passed through a 21G needle and sonicated using a Bioruptor nextGen (Diagenode) with the following settings: 20 cycles, 30 s ON, 30 s OFF, high intensity. Sonicated chromatin was centrifuged at 14,000 rpm at 4°C for 10 min and the supernatant was isolated for subsequent steps. In parallel, Drosophila S2 cells were fixed, lysed, and sonicated as described above. After sonication, HeLa S3 input chromatin was mixed with Drosophila S2 chromatin (0.025 to 2.5% of total chromatin).

Parental ChIPs were performed as described in Jakobsen et al. (2013). In brief, 30 μg total of mixed HeLa S3 and Drosophila S2 sonicated chromatin were diluted up to 500 μL with dialysis buffer (4% glycerol, 10 mM Tris-HCl, 1 mM EDTA, 0.5 mM EGTA; pH 8) and 400 μL of incubation buffer (2.5% Triton X-100, 0.25% sodium deoxycholate, 0.25% SDS, 0.35 M NaCl, 10 mM Tris-HCl; pH 8) supplemented with leupeptin, aprotnin, pepstatin, and PMSF. Chromatin was pre-clear with Protein A agarose beads for 1 hr at 4°C. After pre-clearing, chromatin was incubated with the corresponding antibody (H3K4me3: C42D8, Cell Signaling Technology; H3K36me3: ab9050, Abcam; H3K79me3: ab195500, Abcam; H3K27me3: C36B11, Cell Signaling Technology; H3: ab1791, Abcam) overnight at 4°C, followed by incubation for 3 hr with pre-blocked Protein A agarose beads (incubated in 1 mg/ml BSA in RIPA buffer overnight). Chromatin bound to beads was washed three times in RIPA buffer (140 mM NaCl, 10 mM Tris-HCl, 1 mM EDTA, 1% Triton X-100, 0.1% SDS, 0.1% sodium deoxycholate, 1 mM PMSF; pH 8), once in RIPA buffer with 0.5 M NaCl, once in LiCl buffer (250 mM LiCl, 10 mM Tris-HCl, 1 mM EDTA, 0.5% NP-40, 0.5% sodium deoxycholate; pH 8) and twice in TE (10 mM Tris-HCl, 1 mM EDTA; pH 8). Chromatin was incubated with RNase A for 30 min at 37°C. SDS was then added to a final concentration of 0.5% and samples were incubated with proteinase K (1 mg/ml) for 10 hr at 37°C followed by 6 hr incubation at 65°C for de-crosslinking. DNA was purified using the MinElute PCR purification kit (QIAGEN). Finally, 10 ng of purified DNA was subjected to end repair, A-tailing and amplification using the KAPA Hyperprep kit protocol (Roche). Before amplification, DNA was size-selected with Agencourt AMPure XP beads (Beckman Coulter) to obtain fragments between 200-700 bp. For amplification, 6 PCR cycles were used followed by clean-up with Agencourt AMPure XP beads.

For ChOR-seq experiments, 30 μg total of sonicated HeLa S3 and Drosophila S2 mixed chromatin was subjected to standard ChIP as described above. 100 ng of immunoprecipitated DNA or de-crosslinked input material from labeled chromatin was then subjected to end repair, A-tailing, and adaptor ligation using the KAPA Hyperprep kit following manufacturer’s instructions, except that 1.25 μM of Illumina-compatible indexed adapters (Pentabase) were ligated to A-tailed DNA for 60 min at 20°C and cleaned-up with Agencourt AMPure XP beads. For qChOR-seq experiments, indexed DNA from all time points in the same time course were then mixed together. Then, Click-IT was performed on 200 ng of indexed and mixed DNA for 30 min at room temperature under the following conditions (modified from Presolski et al., 2011): 1X Click-IT buffer (Click-iT Edu Alexa Fluor 488 Imaging Kit, Thermo Fisher Scientific), 0.5 mM biotin-TEG-azide (Berry & Associates), 0.1 mM CuSO4, 0.5 mM THPTA (Sigma-Aldrich), 5 mM aminoguanidine (Sigma-Aldrich), and 10 mM sodium ascorbate. DNA fragments between 200-700 bp were size-selected using Agencourt AMPure XP beads and resuspended in TE. Next, to capture biotinylated products, MyOne Streptavidin T1 beads (Thermo Fisher Scientific) were washed three times with 1X B&W buffer (5 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.5, 0.5 mM EDTA) and twice with 2X B&W buffer at a volume equal to the volume of biotinylated DNA. Streptavidin beads were then mixed with biotinylated DNA and rotated for 30 min at room temperature. Beads containing biotinylated DNA were washed four times with 1X B&W buffer, twice with 1X TE with 0.05% (V/V) Tween-20, and then 10 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.5. Finally, beads were resuspended in double distilled water. PCR amplification of ChOR-seq samples was performed following the KAPA Hyperprep kit protocol using the streptavidin bead suspension as a template (10-15 cycles of PCR). Following PCR, streptavidin beads were purified using a magnetic rack, and the supernatant was cleaned-up with Agencourt AMPure XP beads.

In ChOR-seq experiments with biotin-dUTP performed without exogenous Drosophila chromatin, 120-240 μg of HeLa S3 chromatin was used per condition and streptavidin pull-downs were done on chromatin instead of on purified DNA. After the last wash with TE during ChIP, chromatin was separated from Protein A agarose beads by an incubation with elution buffer (10 mM Tris-HCl, 1 mM EDTA, 2% SDS, 15 mM DTT, supplemented with leupeptin, aprotnin, pepstatin, and PMSF; pH 8) for 30 min at 37°C in rotation. The supernatant was 1:20 with RIPA buffer and chromatin was then incubated with MyOne Streptavidin T1 beads to perform streptavidin pull-downs as described in Kim et al. (2009) and Kulyyassov et al. (2011). Briefly, MyOne streptavidin T1 beads were blocked by incubating with 1 μg/ml free biotin (Sigma) for 10 min at room temperature. Beads were then washed three times with RIPA buffer and 30 μg of input chromatin was pre-cleared with blocked beads for 1 hr at 4°C. After pre-clearing, supernatant was incubated with new, non-blocked T1 streptavidin beads overnight at 4°C. Beads were then washed for 5 min rotating at room temperature, once with RIPA buffer, twice with 2% SDS, once with RIPA 0.5 M NaCl, once with 1X LiCl buffer and twice with TE buffer. Chromatin was then purified and de-crosslinked as described for ChIP. End repair, A-tailing, size selection (200-700 bp) and library amplifications were done with 2 ng of DNA as starting material using the NEB Next Ultra DNA Library prep kit (New England Biolabs) following manufacturer’s instructions.
Data Sequencing and Processing

ChOR-seq, ChIP-seq, replicated DNA and input samples from two independent time course experiments for each histone mark were sequenced at the Danish High-throughput DNA Sequencing Centre (https://seqcenter.ku.dk) and at the Biotech Research and Innovation Centre (BRIC) (https://www.bric.ku.dk) using Illumina HighSeq 4000 and NextSeq 500 machines to obtain 50 bp and 75 bp single-end reads, respectively. Reads were aligned to the February 2009 human genome assembly (GRCh37/hg19) and the April 2008 D. melanogaster genome assembly (BDGP R5/dm3) by Bowtie (Langmead et al., 2009) using parameters -m1–best. PCR duplicates were removed and uniquely mapped reads were extended to 250 bp (H3K4me3, H3K36me3, H3K79me3) or 500bp (H3K27me3) to account for the average library size. Replicated DNA was extended to 250 bp in early S time courses and to 500 bp in mid S time courses. Reads were then summed in 25 bp (H3K4me3, H3K36me3, H3K79me3, early S replicated DNA) or 500 bp (H3K27me3, H3, mid S replicated DNA) non-overlapping bins, unless otherwise specified, and reads were normalized to reads per million (RPM). Mapping and subsequent analysis of the data were done using a local Galaxy server and custom R scripts.

500 bp (H3K27me3, H3, mid S replicated DNA) non-overlapping bins, unless otherwise specified, and reads were normalized to reads per million (RPM). Mapping and subsequent analysis of the data were done using a local Galaxy server and custom R scripts.

In ChOR-seq experiments with exogenous DNA, human H3K4me3, H3K36me3, H3K79me3, H3K27me3 and histone H3 reads were divided by total Drosophila unique mapped reads to get quantitative information in the form of reference-adjusted RPM (RRPM) as described in Orlando et al. (2014). When comparing occupancy patterns between parental and nascent samples RPM or RRPM values were normalized to percentage of maximum. This normalization most appropriately represents the data, since in the parental sample we purify marks from the whole genome, while in nascent we only obtain signal from EdU-labeled domains, creating differences in signal:noise ratios that render direct comparisons inappropriate.

PTM Distribution Analyses

All data in figures correspond to replicate 1 of H3K4me3, H3K36me3, H3K79me3 and H3K27me3, respectively, unless otherwise specified. Since the ChOR-seq method purifies newly replicated chromatin, only bins overlapping with replicated regions in each experiment were considered for analysis. For H3K4me3, H3K36me3, and H3K79me3, peak calling was performed with MACS (Zhang et al., 2008) standard parameters and INPUT as control file. For H3K27me3, peak calling was performed with MACS “broad domain” parameters using replicate-matched parental ChIP-seq of histone H3 as a control. H3K4me3, H3K36me3, H3K79me3 and H3K27me3 domains were defined using parental ChIP-seq signal. Replicated regions were defined using MACS default “broad domain” parameters and replicate-matched parental ChIP-seq of histone H3 as a control and filtered for regions with a q-value greater than or equal to 0.05. Parental peaks were subsituted into 25 bp windows for H3K4me3, H3K36me3, H3K79me3 and H3K27me3 and 500 bp windows for H3K27me3, and only windows that overlapped with replicated regions were included in downstream analyses. To calculate the mean difference in peak localization at individual loci, we selected H3K4me3 parental and nascent peaks overlapping only once and computed the absolute distance in bp between overlapping peaks at both ends.

Hilbert plots were created using Hilbertvis software (Anders, 2009). Average profiles and heatmaps were generated using Seqplot (Stempor and Ahringer, 2016). For H3K4me3 analyses, average profiles were centered on TSSs. For H3K27me3 analyses, average profiles were centered at the borders of H3K27me3 domains. Since H3K27me3 domain borders often overlapped with the borders of replicated DNA regions, we only included H3K27me3 borders that were at least 5 kb from the border of a replicated region in all analyses. For H3K36me3 and H3K79me3, average profiles were centered over open reading frames. Signal inside the open reading frame was normalized using the “anchored point” parameter in Seqplot to correct for gene length differences. When indicated, signal from average profiles were normalized using z-score \( z = \frac{x - \mu}{\sigma} \) to focus on distribution differences, where \( \mu \) is the mean of the population and \( \sigma \) the standard deviation.

Restoration Categories and Analyses

To study H3K4me3 restoration reads were summed in 500bp bins that overlapped with both parental H3K4me3 peaks and replicated regions. Regions were then classified into R0, R1, R6 and R12 categories according the time they need to reach T12 H3K4me3 levels. Only bins with R12/R(X) ratios greater than 1.5-fold and present in both replicates were considered for analysis. CpG islands overlapping R1 and R6 regions were respectively assigned to that region for analysis; CpG islands overlapping both a R1 and a R6 region were discarded. To ensure the CpG densities, calculated for coordinates in the hg18 genome assembly, remained accurate, R1 and R6 region coordinates were converted from hg19 to hg18 using UCSC LiftOver before defining overlaps.

To study the restoration dynamics of H3K27me3, reads were summed in 2 kb bins that overlapped with both parental H3K27me3 peaks and replicated regions. Regions were then classified into R0, R4, R10 and R24 categories according the time they need to reach T24 H3K27me3 levels. Only bins with R24/R(X) ratios greater than 1.5-fold and present in both replicates were considered for analysis.

For analysis of the H3K27me3 loss rate in the presence of EZH2 inhibitor, H3K27me3 loss categories were defined as the 2 kb windows present in replicated H3K27me3 parental peaks that showed a T0/T24 fold change smaller than 1.5 (low), between 1.5 and 3 (moderate) and bigger than 3 (high). Only bins that fit the criteria in the two independent replicates were considered for the analysis.
**Cell Cycle Analyses**
For analysis of cell cycle progression, synchronized cells were fixed with 70% ethanol and labeled with propidium iodide (10 μg/mL) for 30 min in the dark, before analysis on a FACSCalibur machine. FACS profiles were analyzed by FlowJo 10.0.8 software.

**QUANTIFICATION AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS**
The statistical tests applied in this study are stated in the figure legends and were calculated using custom R scripts. In Figure S1E, r-values correspond to Pearson correlation. In boxplots, the bottom and top of boxes indicate the 25th and 75th percentiles, respectively, and middle lines indicate medians. Whiskers indicate the lowest and highest data points within 1.5 × interquartile range from the box.

**DATA AND SOFTWARE AVAILABILITY**
Replication timing was obtained from Repli-seq datasets GEO: GSM923449 (ENCODE Project Consortium, 2012). ChIP-seq of asynchronous HeLa cells for H3K27me3 (GEO: GSM733696), H3K4me3 (GEO: GSM733682), and EZH2 (GEO: GSM1003520) were taken from Bernstein et al. (2005). Asynchronous HeLa H3.3 ChIP-seq (GEO: GSM788633) was obtained from Ray-Gallet et al. (2011). Expression levels of genes were obtained from RNA-seq (GEO: GSM958735) (Mortazavi et al., 2008). Positions of TSSs were taken from the table of TSSs identified in Mortazavi et al. (2008). Exons, introns, 5'UTRs and 3'UTRs were defined using RefSeq annotations. CpG densities for CpG islands associated with promoters were taken from Illingworth et al. (2010). All original data generated in this study were deposited at GEO: GSE110354.