

Physicists discover new layer of information in DNA's folded structure

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Theoretical physicists have confirmed that it's not just the information coded into our DNA that shapes who we are – it's also the way DNA folds itself that controls which genes are expressed inside our bodies.

That's something biologists [have known for years](#), and they've even been able to figure out some of the [proteins responsible for folding up DNA](#). But now a group of physicists have been able to demonstrate for the first time through simulations how this hidden information controls our evolution.

[Since the '80s](#), scientists have found that the way DNA is folded up inside our cells actually controls this process. Environmental factors can play a big role in this process too, with things like stress known to [turn certain genes on and off](#) through something known as [epigenetics](#).

But the mechanics of the DNA folding is the original control mechanism. That's because every single cell in our body contains around 2 meters of DNA tightly wrapped up into a bundle called a [nucleosome](#).

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