Mapping Sites of *O***-Glycosylation and Fringe Elongation on** D *rosophila* Notch^{*}^S

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Glycosylation of the Notch receptor is essential for its activity and serves as an important modulator of signaling. Three major forms of *O***-glycosylation are predicted to occur at consensus sites within the epidermal growth factor-like repeats in the extracellular domain of the receptor:** *O***-fucosylation,** *O***-glucosylation, and** *O***-GlcNAcylation. We have performed comprehensive mass spectral analyses of these three types of** *O***-glycosylation on** *Drosophila* **Notch produced in S2 cells and identified peptides containing all 22 predicted** *O***-fucose sites, all 18 predicted** *O***-glucose sites, and all 18 putative** *O***-GlcNAc sites. Using semiquantitative mass spectral methods, we have evaluated the occupancy and relative amounts of glycans at each site. The majority of the** *O***-fucose sites were modified to high stoi**chiometries. Upon expression of the β3-*N*-acetylglucosaminyl**transferase Fringe with Notch, we observed varying degrees of elongation beyond** *O***-fucose monosaccharide, indicating that Fringe preferentially modifies certain sites more than others. Rumi modified** *O***-glucose sites to high stoichiometries, although elongation of the** *O***-glucose was site-specific. Although the current putative consensus sequence for** *O***-GlcNAcylation predicts 18** *O***-GlcNAc sites on Notch, we only observed apparent** *O***-GlcNAc modification at five sites. In addition, we performed mass spectral analysis on endogenous Notch purified from** *Drosophila* **embryos and found that the glycosylation states were similar to those found on Notch from S2 cells. These data provide foundational information for future studies investigating the mechanisms of how** *O***-glycosylation regulates Notch activity.**

The Notch signaling pathway is evolutionarily conserved in all metazoans and controls a number of critical developmental processes (1– 4). Consequently, defects in Notch signaling are linked to several diseases in humans (5). These diseases include various types of cancer, such as T-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia, which was the first human disease to be linked to Notch signaling (6), and a number of developmental disorders, including Alagille syndrome (7–10) and CADASIL (11). Nonetheless, Notch signaling was originally characterized in *Drosophila* (12, 13). In flies, the Notch receptor is canonically activated upon binding to either of two ligands, Delta or Serrate. The extracellular domain (ECD)³ of *Drosophila* Notch consists largely of 36 tandem epidermal growth factor-like (EGF) repeats, which comprise the ligand binding domain of the receptor (14, 15). Each EGF repeat is ${\sim}40$ amino acids in length and has six conserved cysteines, forming three disulfide bonds. EGF repeats are found in a wide variety of both cell surface and secreted proteins, including all Notch homologs, as well as the Notch ligands. In addition, EGF repeats can bear a variety of post- and co-translational modifications, including glycosylation.

There are currently three forms of *O*-linked glycosylation reported on Notch, *O*-fucose, *O*-glucose, and *O*-GlcNAc, all of which occur at consensus sequences within the EGF repeats. The consensus sequence for *O*-fucosylation exists at a site located between the second and third conserved cysteine residues on a serine or threonine $(C^2XXX(S/T)C^3)$ (16) and is catalyzed by *O*-fucosyltransferase 1 (Ofut1 in flies, POFUT1 in mammals) (17). Loss of *Ofut1*/*Pofut1* in flies or mice results in Notch-null phenotypes, indicating that *O*-fucosylation is essential for Notch function (18–20). The β 3GlcNAc-transferases of the Fringe family can extend *O*-fucose in flies and mammals (21) and most notably play important roles in modulating Notch-ligand binding (22–25). In mammals, the GlcNAc β 1-3Fuc-*O*-Ser/Thr disaccharide can be further elongated to a tetrasaccharide:

Siaα2–6Galβ1–4GlcNAcβ1–3Fuc-O-Ser/Thr (26). In flies, *O*-fucose on Notch has not been seen elongated past the GlcNAcβ1-3Fuc-O-Ser/Thr disaccharide by galactosyltransferases or sialyltransferases (23). However, in an *O*-glycomics analysis of total protein extracts from fly embryos, Aoki *et al.* (27) reported a novel GlcNAc β 1-3(GlcA β 1-4)fucitol glycan. Interestingly, this trisaccharide was observed in Fringe-rich tissues during embryonic and larval stages of fly development when Notch is known to function (27). Whether this *O*-fucose trisaccharide occurs on Notch remains to be resolved.

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³ The abbreviations used are: ECD, extracellular domain; EGF, epidermal growth factor-like; Fuc, fucose; HexNAc, *N*-acetylhexosamine; Sia, sialic acid; GlcA, glucuronic acid; Xyl, xylose; EOGT, EGF domain-specific *O*-GlcNAc transferase; EIC, extracted ion chromatogram; MRM, multiplereaction monitoring.

Notch EGF repeats are *O*-glucosylated by protein *O*-glucosyltransferase 1 (Rumi in flies, POGLUT1 in mammals) at a serine within a consensus sequence between the first and second conserved cysteine (C¹XS_{*X*}(A/P)C²) (28, 29). *O*-Glucosylation is also essential for Notch function in flies because loss of *rumi* in flies results in temperature-sensitive *Notch*-null phenotypes (29, 30). Loss of mouse *Poglut1* also results in a severe decrease in NOTCH1 signaling in embryos and several cell lines (30, 31), although POGLUT1 does not seem to be essential for NOTCH2 signaling during liver development (32). *O*-Glucose can also be extended to $Xyl\alpha1-3Glc\beta$ -O-Ser by glucoside α 3-xylosyltransferases (Shams in flies and GXYLT1 and GXYLT2 in mammals) (33, 34). This disaccharide can be further extended to a trisaccharide by the addition of a terminal xylose, generating Xylα1–3Xylα1–3Glcβ-O-Ser, by xyloside α 3-xylosyltransferase (XXYLT1) (35). We have previously observed the *O*-glucose trisaccharide as the predominant *O*-glucose glycoform on NOTCH1 expressed in mammalian cells, whereas *O*-glucose has been observed in mono-, di-, and trisaccharide forms on *Drosophila* Notch, depending on the EGF repeat examined (28, 33).

The third type of *O*-glycosylation that occurs on EGF repeats is *O*-GlcNAcylation, which is mediated by the EGF domainspecific *O*-GlcNAc transferase (Eogt in flies, EOGT1 in mammals) (36, 37). EOGT is localized to the endoplasmic reticulum and modifies secreted and membrane proteins, making it distinct from the nuclear and cytoplasmic *O*-GlcNAc transferase (36). Although the function of *O*-GlcNAc on Notch remains largely unknown, recent studies show that mutations in EOGT and Notch signaling pathway proteins are linked to Adams-Oliver syndrome (38– 40). The current putative consensus sequence for *O*-GlcNAc exists on a serine or threonine between the fifth and sixth conserved cysteine (C⁵ *XX*G*X*(T/S)G*XX*C⁶) (41). Of note, whereas Matsuura *et al.* and others have reported the presence of *O*-GlcNAc on Notch (36, 37, 41, 42), like the other types of *O*-glycosylation, no data regarding how efficiently the sites on Notch are modified have been provided.

The role of *O*-glycosylation on the EGF repeats of Notch has been studied intensely in recent years, especially the mechanisms of how Fringe modulates Notch-ligand binding (16, 43). However, to gain additional insight into how these essential modifications impart functionality to the receptor, it is critical to first establish whether the predicted sites of *O*-glycosylation are modified as well as to determine the relative amounts of the various glycoforms of *O*-glycosylation at each of those sites. We have previously shown Notch to be *O*-fucosylated and *O*-glucosylated at a subset of predicted sites, using protein expressed in S2 cells (23, 29, 33). Here we present comprehensive sitemapping data of *O*-fucose, *O*-glucose, and *O*-GlcNAc glycans on EGF repeats 1–36 from *Drosophila* Notch produced in the presence or absence of Fringe in S2 cells. Using semiquantitative mass spectral approaches, we examine site occupancy and efficiency of elongation at each site. In addition, we performed an initial analysis of the glycosylation state of endogenous Notch immunopurified from *Drosophila* embryos.

Results

*Drosophila Notch Is Extensively Modified with O-Glycosylation in S2 Cells—*Using the current consensus sequences for *O*-glycosylation on EGF repeats, the *Drosophila* Notch ECD is predicted to have 22 *O*-fucose sites, 18 *O*-glucose sites, and 18 *O*-GlcNAc sites (Fig. 1*A*). To study the *O*-glycans on Notch, we used an established protocol for purifying protein from conditioned culture medium and preparing protein for mass spectral analyses, which includes reduction/alkylation, protease digestion, and analysis by nano-LC-MS/MS (44). By using multiple proteases, such as trypsin, chymotrypsin, and V8, we observed peptides covering about 90% of the sequence from EGF repeats 1–36 (Fig. 1*B*).We were therefore able to provide a comprehensive summary of the *O*-glycosylation on Notch.

Examples of spectra for each form of *O*-glycosylation are shown in Fig. 2. In each case, the *top panel* shows an MS spectrum, where *red diamonds* represent the ions chosen for fragmentation, and the *bottom panel* shows the MS2 spectrum of a particular parent ion (Fig. 2, *A*–*D*). In the MS2 spectra, we observe the neutral losses of sugars from peptides. For instance, in the absence of Fringe, we observed the peptide 61 NSCTS-VGCQNGGTCVTQLNGKTY⁸² from EGF1 modified with an *O*-fucose monosaccharide (Fig. 2*A*, *Fringe*). We identified the same peptide generated in the presence of Fringe, now modified with a GlcNAc-fucose disaccharide, indicating Fringe modification of the *O*-fucose (Fig. 2*B*, *Fringe*). An example of *O*-glucosylation is seen on a peptide from EGF16, 635ICQKQ-INECE*S*NPCQF⁶⁵⁰ (Fig. 2*C*). The MS2 spectra revealed neutral losses, showing that the peptide was modified with a Xyl-Xyl-Glc trisaccharide, which we have observed previously (33). Last, we also observed neutral losses consistent with *O*-Glc-NAcylation at several sites. One example of an unreported site of *O*-GlcNAcylation was seen on the peptide 474CNCSQGF*T-*GPR⁴⁸⁴ from EGF11 (Fig. 2D). Ultimately, from our mass spectral analyses, we can observe all three types of *O*-glycosylation on peptides generated from EGF1 to -36 from *Drosophila* Notch purified from S2 cells. Spectra for all sites identified are shown in supplemental Fig. S3 and summarized in Table 1.

*Comparison of Extracted Ion Chromatograms and Multiplereaction Monitoring as Semiquantitative Approaches to Analyzing Peptide Glycoforms—*To compare the relative levels of different glycoforms found at each *O*-glycosylation site more quantitatively, we compared two label-free mass spectral methods: extracted ion chromatograms (EICs) and multiple-reaction monitoring (MRM) (Fig. 3). EICs depict a plot of the intensity of a specified parent ion monitored over time. In contrast, instead of monitoring parent ions over time, MRM follows the intensity of a specified transition ion, which is generated upon fragmentation of a chosen parent ion. Therefore, for each technique, the data were searched for ions corresponding to peptides modified with different glycoforms, and the relative intensities were compared with each other in the same chromatograms. Fig. 3 provides a comparison between EICs and MRM for the *O*-fucose modification at EGF7 and EGF31 produced in the presence and absence of Fringe. In the absence of Fringe, both EGF7 and EGF31 were modified with *O*-fucose monosaccharide at high stoichiometry, represented by the *red*

FIGURE 1. **Total coverage from mass spectral analyses of Notch, including all predicted** *O***-glycosylation sites.** *A*,*schematic representation* of the predicted sites of*O*-fucosylation (*red*),*O*-glucosylation (*blue*), and*O*-GlcNAcylation (*green*) found on EGF repeats 1–36 from the ECD of*Drosophila*Notch based on current consensus sequences. *White ovals*, EGF repeats that do not contain any consensus sequence for *O*-glycosylation. *B*, the protein sequence of *Drosophila* Notch expressed for mass spectral analyses includes amino acids 61–1452. *Blue letters*, residues covered from peptides identified from online database searches (using Matrix Science Mascot) and neutral loss searches. Total coverage is \sim 90%.

line, with very little unmodified peptide (Fig. 3, *A* and *B*, *Fringe panels*). There was also no GlcNAc-fucose disaccharide detected, consistent with the inability to detect endogenous Fringe activity in S2 cells (21). However, in the presence of Fringe, we saw that both the EICs and MRM chromatograms show that EGF7 now becomes modified with GlcNAc-fucose disaccharide, represented by the increased intensity of the *blue line*, whereas EGF31 mostly remained as the fucose monosaccharide glycoform (Fig. 3, *A* and *B*, *Fringe panels*). Interestingly, the intensities of the fucosylated peptides from $-F$ ringe and $+$ Fringe samples were comparable, and the intensities of unglycosylated control peptides from each sample were the same, indicating that Fringe elongation did not affect ionization efficiency of these peptides. We performed similar analyses for other *O*-fucose sites, and overall, we found that EIC and MRM data support each other when comparing different glycoforms of fucosylation (compare Fig. 4 with supplemental Fig. S1). Both methods are appropriate for monitoring relative amounts of peptide glycoforms; however, each has advantages and disadvantages. For instance, MRM chromatograms have a reduced signal/noise ratio.

However, the increased complexity of the fragmentation pattern of peptides bearing more than one *O*-glycan significantly complicates the MRM analysis. Therefore, we decided to use EICs for the remaining analyses.

*O-Fucosylation Occurs at High Stoichiometry, but Fringe Elongation Is Site-specific—*We then used these methods to investigate the modifications at every predicted *O*-glycosylation site in the ECD of Notch, beginning with *O*-fucosylation. We identified peptides containing *O*-fucose sites from all of the 22 EGF repeats containing the consensus sequence for *O*-fucosylation (Fig. 1*A*, Table 1, and supplemental Fig. S3). We generated EICs of naked peptides (unmodified; *black line*), fucose monosaccharide (*red line*), and GlcNAc-fucose disaccharide (*blue line*) glycoforms for each site and compared their relative amounts from samples of Notch produced in the absence of Fringe (Fig. 4*A*, *Fringe panels*). The majority of the *O*-fucose sites were modified to high stoichiometries in the absence of Fringe (Fig. 4*A*, *Fringe panels*), indicating that Ofut1 modified those EGF repeats with high efficiency. Some sites were *O*-fucosylated with small amounts of unmodified peptide (EGF3, -4, -8, -9, -12, -27,

FIGURE 2.*O***-Fucosylation,***O***-glucosylation, and***O-***GlcNAcylation of EGF repeats 1–36 fromNotch ECD.** Examples ofmass spectrafor the threemajor types of *O*-glycosylation are shown (*A*–*D*). *Top panels*, MS spectra; *red diamonds*, ions chosen for fragmentation. Parent ions corresponding to specified glycosylated peptides (*A*, EGF1 *m/z* 885.5; *B*, EGF1 *m/z* 952.9; *C*, EGF16 *m/z* 828.4;*D*, EGF11 *m/z* 743.7) are fragmented to produce MS2 spectra, shown in the *bottom panels*. Other ions in the MS spectra are from co-eluting material. *Blue diamonds*in MS2 spectra indicate the position of the parent ion. *A*, mass spectra showing the peptide ⁶¹NSCTSVGCQNGG<u>T</u>CVTQLNGKTY⁸² from EGF1 in the +3 charge state. The peptide generated in the absence of Fringe shows a neutral loss of a fucose. B, mass spectra showing the same peptide from EGF1 in the +3 charge state, now generated in the presence of Fringe, shows sequential neutral losses of GlcNAc and fucose. Loss of fucose from the same peptide in the 2 charge state is seen to the *right* of the parent ion in the MS2 spectrum. *A* and *B*, asparagine residue before amino acid 61 comes from the vector and is not part of the Notch sequence. *C*, mass spectra showing the peptide ⁶³⁵ICQKQINECESNPCQF⁶⁵⁰ from EGF16 in the +3 charge state. Sequential neutral loss of two xyloses and a glucose is seen in the MS2 spectra. D, mass spectra showing the peptide 474 CNCSQGFTGPR⁴⁸⁴ from EGF11 in the +2 charge state. A neutral *O*-glucosylation and *O*-GlcNAcylation were taken from Notch generated in the absence of Fringe. *Red triangle*, fucose (deoxyhexose); *blue circle*, glucose (hexose). *Orange star*, xylose (pentose). *Blue square*, GlcNAc (HexNAc).

and -32). EGF2 and -26 had lower levels of *O*-fucosylation, whereas EGF13 appeared to be the least efficiently modified site, as seen in the $-Fringe$ EICs.

We then co-expressed Notch with Fringe and reexamined EICs for the *O*-fucosylated peptides (Fig. 4*A*, *Fringe panels*). Some sites showed a more complete conversion of fucose monosaccharide to disaccharide with Fringe co-expression (EGF1, -5, -7, -21, and -23). Several other sites showed varying amounts of monosaccharide remaining with the appearance of disaccharide (EGF3, -4, -8, -9, -12, -17, -20, -24, -25, -27, -28, and -30). Last, there were sites that appeared to be

poorly modified by Fringe, showing very little or no apparent conversion of fucose monosaccharide to disaccharide in the EICs (EGF2, -13, -26, -31, and -32). These results revealed that Fringe modified certain *O*-fucose sites more efficiently than others. To more clearly represent the overall specificity of Fringe elongation at each site, peak areas corresponding to each *O*-fucose glycoform were quantified within EICs of triplicate samples co-expressed with Fringe (Fig. 4*B*). Quantifying peak areas in chromatograms provided a simpler and more quantitative summary of the extent of *O*-fucosylation and Fringe elongation at each site.

TABLE 1

*O***-Glycosylated peptides from EGF 1–36 of** *Drosophila* **Notch**

EGF repeats 1–36 were produced in S2 cells co-transfected with or without Fringe. Peptides were generated from protease digestions with trypsin, chymotrypsin, or V8. Certain peptides were also identified from endogenous Notch purified from *Drosophila* embryos. Spectra corresponding to each peptide are provided in Fig. S3. Predicted *O*-glycosylation sites are *underlined*, and are *colored red* for *O-*fucose, *blue* for *O*-glucose or *green* for *O*-GlcNAc. Parent ions of the most glycosylated form of each peptide found in the MS/MS data are listed, with the corresponding observed deglycosylated peptide. Peptides only seen as unmodified in the MS/MS data are listed only as the Deglycosylated Product. Masses of all ions were converted
to the singly charged state [M + H] ⁺. Predicted masses <1,500 Da were calculated with monoisotopic masses, while peptides $>1,500$ Da were calculated as average masses.

*Drosophila Notch Is Modified with O-Glucose Mono-, Di-, and Trisaccharide in S2 Cells—*In previous studies, we briefly investigated *O*-glucosylation of *Drosophila* Notch using similar mass spectral methods, and *O*-glucose monosaccharide, disaccharide, and trisaccharide were observed modifying certain EGF repeats (29, 33). However, no data regarding the relative levels of each of those *O*-glucose glycoforms was reported. Here, we have identified peptides containing all 18 sites predicted to be *O*-glucosylated based on the consensus sequence (Fig. 1*A*, Table 1, and supplemental Fig. S3). EICs were generated to compare naked peptides (unmodified; *black line*), glucose monosaccharide (*blue line*), xylose-glucose disaccharide (*green line*), and xylose-xylose-glucose trisaccharide (*maroon line*) glycoforms for each site (Fig. 5*A*). EICs showed that Rumi modified each *O*-glucose site to high stoichiometries. Several sites were modified with Xyl-Glc disaccharide in various amounts, although most notably in the region from EGF15 to EGF20, and on EGF13 and EGF25. Although *O*-glucose trisaccharide was observed on EGF16 and EGF18 previously (33), EICs showed that the trisaccharide glycoform is not the major modification at those or any other sites. To provide a similar summary as Fringe elongation of *O*-fucose sites, peak areas corresponding to each *O*-glucose glycoform were quantified and compared together for each *O*-glucose site (Fig. 5*B*). Overall, EICs revealed that whereas the addition of *O*-glucose occurred at high stoichiometries, elongation of *O*-glucose was site-specific and partial in S2 cells.

*Drosophila Notch Shows Glycosylation Consistent with the Presence of O-GlcNAc on EGF Repeats—*We have examined all 18 predicted *O*-GlcNAcylation sites based on the current putative consensus sequence (Fig. 1*A*, Table 1, and supplemental Fig. S3). Whereas previous studies have detected *O*-GlcNAc on EGF20 of Notch using mass spectral methods and other techniques (36, 37, 41, 42), here we confirm the presence of a Hex-NAc on EGF20 and several other EGF repeats. Although we cannot differentiate GlcNAc from GalNAc using these methods, the localization of the HexNAc to peptides containing *O*-GlcNAcylation sites suggests a GlcNAc modification. Additional support comes from the fact that none of the HexNAcmodified peptides in our data could be detected with an additional hexose (Gal β 1,3GalNA c is the most abundant *O*-GalNAc species in flies (27)). EICs compared naked peptides (unmodified; *black line*) and modifications consistent with that of an *O*-GlcNAc (*green line*) (Fig. 6*A*). Interestingly, only five sites showed an *O*-GlcNAc modification; none of the other predicted sites appeared to be modified. In addition to EGF20, we observed that EGF4, -11, -12, and -14 were also modified, although EGF4 and EGF14 were modified to a lesser extent. A summary of the *O*-GlcNAcylation at each predicted site is shown from the quantified peak areas from the EICs (Fig. 6*B*). Quantification of the EICs indicated that EGF5, -9, -25, and -26 could contain small amounts of modification, although we could not confirm the presence of *O*-GlcNAc at these sites in any MS2 spectra (Table 1 and supplemental Fig. S3).

Endogenous Notch from Drosophila Embryos Has O-Glycosylation Similar to That of Notch Produced from S2 Cells— Although using EGF1 to -36 of *Drosophila* Notch generated from S2 cells provides an excellent experimental system for generating protein for mass spectral studies, one possible caveat is that protein made in a cell culture system may have glycosylation patterns different from those of Notch produced *in vivo*. Therefore, we generated a Notch genomic transgene, *Notchgt-FH*, in which the expression of Notch is driven by the endogenous promoter and enhancers. To facilitate purification, the transgene also contains a triple FLAG tag and a double HA tag after the EGF repeats and before the LNR repeats in the

FIGURE 3. **Comparison of extracted ion chromatograms and multiple-reaction monitoring for semiquantitative analysis of glycosylation.** EICs (*A*) and MRM chromatograms (*B*) show the relative levels of unmodified (*black line*), *O*-fucose monosaccharide (*red line*), and *O*-fucose disaccharide (*blue line*) glycoforms of peptides 289NCEQNYDDCLGHLCQNGGTCIDGISDYTCR318 from EGF7 and 1211QGFQGQNCELNIDDCAPNPCQNGGTCHDR1239 from EGF31. Internal unglycosylated control peptides used were 272SNGLSYECK280 from EGF6 (*A*) and 1200DLIGAYECQCR1210 from EGF30 (*B*) from samples generated in the absence of Fringe (*black line*) or presence of Fringe (*red line*). Lists of the ions used for each glycoform in the EICs and MRM chromatograms are provided in supplemental Fig. S3.

ECD of the Notch protein (Fig. 7*A*). To determine whether the transgene was functional, we performed gene dosage and rescue experiments. As reported previously, removing one copy of *Notch* results in wing margin loss and wing vein thickening in adult $N^{+/}$ females (45) (Fig. 7*B*, *arrow* and *arrowhead*, respectively). These phenotypes were rescued upon the addition of one copy of the *Notchgt-FH* transgene (Fig. 7*C*). Adding an extra copy of *Notch* results in additional wing vein material in the adult wings called the Confluens phenotype (45, 46). Because $N^{+/-}$; *Notch^{gt-FH}*/ + females did not exhibit the Confluens phenotype (Fig. 7*C*), the level of Notch expressed from the *Notchgt-FH* transgene should be similar to that expressed from an endogenous copy of *Notch*. *Drosophila Notch* resides on the X chromosome, and males harboring a null allele of *Notch* are embryonic lethal (47). However, one copy of *Notchgt-FH* rescued the lethality of *Notch*-null males. The rescued adult males did not exhibit any morphological defects associated with decreased Notch signaling, as evidenced by normal leg joints (Fig. *7D*, *arrows*), normal bristle pattern in the thorax (Fig. 7*E*), and normal wings (Fig. 7*F*). Together, these observations indicate that the *Notchgt-FH* is functional *in vivo* and behaves similarly to an endogenous copy of *Notch*.

To examine whether the *O*-glycosylation patterns we observed on Notch made in S2 cells were similar to that of endogenous Notch, we performed mass spectral analysis of Notch purified from *Drosophila* in the mid-embryonic stage. Although ions were not detected for all *O*-glycosylation sites due to limited material and co-purified contaminating proteins that were not present with the S2 cell-derived protein, we did observe *O*-glycosylation at several EGF repeats (Fig. 8). Peptides containing *O*-fucose sites were detected with essentially no elongation past the fucose monosaccharide glycoform (Fig. 8*A*). This result is consistent with the fact that Fringe is not expressed at a high level during the mid-embryonic stage (48, 49). However, because Aoki *et al.* (27) proposed that a novel branched trisaccharide GlcNAc β 1-3(GlcA β 1-4)Fuc glycan could be modifying Notch protein in *Drosophila* embryos at this stage, we performed EIC searches for this glycoform. From the EICs, we did not observe the *O*-fucose trisaccharide glycoform as a major species at any of the *O*-fucose sites that we were able to obtain from the endogenous Notch protein (Fig. *8A*, *pink line*). We cannot rule out the presence of the trisaccharide at other sites.

We also detected several peptides containing *O*-glucose sites and observed that *O*-glucosylation occurred at high stoichiometries with some extension to the xylose-glucose disaccharide glycoform. Although EGF17 appeared to have slightly less *O*-glucose disaccharide, the data were comparable with the data obtained from S2 cells (Fig. 8*B*; compare with Fig. 5*A*). Several peptides containing predicted *O*-GlcNAc sites were also detected. EGF4 and 20 appeared to be modified; however, EGF4 seemed somewhat more modified than we had observed in S2 cells (Fig. 8*C*; compare with Fig. 6*A*). These slight differences may be due to the fact that the S2 samples were averages of biological triplicates, whereas the *in vivo* samples were not. Other sites remained unmodified (Fig. 8*C*). Overall, these data provide evidence that the *O*-glycosylation on Notch made in S2 cells mimics that found on Notch endogenously produced from embryos.

FIGURE 4. *O***-Fucosylation occurs at high stoichiometry, but Fringe elongation is site-specific.** *A*, representative EICs showing the relative intensities of unmodified (*black line*), *O*-fucose monosaccharide (*red line*), and *O*-fucose disaccharide (*blue line*) glycoforms of peptides containing each predicted *O*-fucose site in the absence of Fringe (*Fringe*) and presence of Fringe (*Fringe*). Peptides searched in each EIC are listed in Table 1, and corresponding spectra are shown in supplemental Fig. S3. EICs of *O*-fucose sites represented by peptides also containing an *O*-glucose site include searches for *O*-glucose monosaccharide (*) and *O*-glucose disaccharide (#). The peptide corresponding to the EGF13 *O*-fucose site also contained an *O*-glucose and *O*-GlcNAc site (##). There is a small amount of*O*-fucose disaccharide observed on EGF5 in the absence of Fringe, suggesting that there are low levels of endogenous Fringe activity in S2 cells, and EGF5 is the most sensitive to that activity. Additional combinations of *O*-fucose, *O*-glucose, and *O*-GlcNAc glycoforms were searched; however, none were present in significant amounts, and therefore, they are not included in the chromatograms shown. Time is represented in minutes. *Red triangle*, fucose (deoxyhexose). *Blue circle*, glucose (hexose). *Orange star*, xylose (pentose). *Blue square*, GlcNAc (HexNAc). The peak indicated by T– corresponds to a contaminating ion with the same parent ion mass as the ion of interest, within the specified mass precision range of ±0.5 Da used in the EIC. *B*, peak areas of each *O*-fucose glycoform were quantified and represented as a percentage of the total peak area from each EIC (see "Experimental Procedures" for more information). *Error bars*, S.E.

Discussion

Notch is an important signaling receptor that is involved in many developmental processes and whose activity is modulated by glycosylation of the EGF repeats in the ECD. Although a few prior publications have identified some sites of *O*-glycosylation on the ECD, this is the first comprehensive report that includes data showing site occupancy and the relative levels of glycan extension at each site. We performed mass spectral analyses of EGF repeats 1–36 from *Drosophila* Notch expressed and purified from S2 cells and utilized EICs to obtain semiquantitative data on the relative amounts of various glycoforms at each *O*-fucose, *O*-glucose, and *O*-GlcNAc site. Moreover, we report the *O*-glycan modifications of the Notch protein expressed in *Drosophila* embryos. To our knowledge, this is the first analysis of the *O*-glycosylation on the Notch protein expressed at nearly

endogenous levels in an intact animal. Our data confirm that the *O*-glycosylation profiles of Notch overexpressed in S2 cells in this and previous studies faithfully represent the *in vivo O*-glycosylation of Notch.

We analyzed each of the 22 *O*-fucose sites predicted to be modified by Ofut1, and we observed that the majority of sites were modified to high stoichiometries (Fig. 4*A*). Interestingly, EGF repeats 2, 13, and 26 had the least amount of fucosylation. However, comparing the residues that compose the *O*-fucose consensus sequences in these EGF repeats did not seem to provide specific amino acids predictive of low *O*-fucosylation efficiency (supplemental Fig. S2*A*). Although there is a unique aspartate two residues away from the modified threonine in EGF13, EGF12 has a glutamate in the same position and is more efficiently modified by Ofut1. The predicted modified residue

FIGURE 5. **O-glucosylation occurs at high stoichiometry, but elongation is limited. A, representative EICs showing the relative intensities of unmodified** (*black line*), *O*-glucose monosaccharide (*blue line*), *O*-glucose disaccharide (*maroon line*), and *O*-glucose trisaccharide (*green line*) glycoforms of peptides containing each predicted *O*-glucose site. List of peptides searched in each EIC are in Table 1, and corresponding spectra are in supplemental Fig. S3. EICs of *O*-glucose sites represented by peptides also containing an *O*-fucose site include searches for *O*-fucose monosaccharide (*). Peptide containing the *O*-glucose site on EGF13 also contains an *O*-GlcNAc site, so the EIC includes searches for *O*-GlcNAc (#). Additional combinations of *O*-fucose, *O*-glucose, and *O*-GlcNAc glycoforms were searched; however, none were present in significant amounts, and therefore, they are not included in the chromatograms shown. Time is represented in minutes. *Red triangle*, fucose (deoxyhexose). *Blue circle*, glucose (hexose). *Orange star*, xylose (pentose). *Blue square*, GlcNAc (HexNAc). The peak indicated by F corresponds to a contaminating ion with the same parent ion mass as the ion of interest, within the specified mass precision range of ± 0.5 Da used in the EIC. *B*, peak areas of each *O*-glucose glycoform were quantified and represented as a percentage of the total peak area from each EIC (see "Experimental Procedures" for more information). *Error bars*, S.E.

in EGF26 is a serine, which could presumably be a poorer substrate for Ofut1. However, EGF12, -23, and -32 also have serine residues. In fact, other than the serine, the residues in the consensus sequence of EGF26 are very similar to the sequence in the subsequent and more modified EGF repeat, EGF27. Thus, the C²XXXX(S/T)C³ still accurately predicts more than 95% of the *O*-fucosylation sites. The specific factors that reduce the efficiency of *O*-fucosylation of EGF13 in the Notch ECD by Ofut1 remain unclear.

Although we know that Fringe is a critical modulator of Notch activity, we do not know specifically how Fringe modification of *O*-fucose enhances Notch interactions with Delta and at the same time reduces interactions with Serrate. In our mass spectral analyses, we were particularly interested in determining which *O*-fucose sites were modified by Fringe because those sites should play important roles in the effects Fringe has on Notch. Recent structural studies on the ligand binding domain of mammalian Notch1 show that the *O*-fucose glycans on EGF12 directly interact with ligands upon binding (22, 50). From the EIC analysis, we observed that Fringe elongates some sites more efficiently than others. Elongation varied from little on EGF2, -26, -31, or -32 to almost complete modification of *O*-fucose monosaccharide to disaccharide on EGF5, -7, -21, and -23. No specific residues within individual EGF repeats appear to distinctly correlate with Fringe elon-

gation (supplemental Fig. S2*B*). Of note, EGF6, -22, and -29 are well conserved non-calcium-binding EGF repeats within Notch (15), and interestingly, the most Fringe-elongated sites surround these EGF repeats. The distribution of calcium-binding EGF repeats is well conserved across several species (15), and calcium-binding EGF repeats have more rigid structures than non-calcium-binding EGF repeats (51). It is possible that the predicted flexibility of those regions of the Notch ECD allow for more efficient modification by Fringe.

Aoki *et al.* (27) found a novel GlcAβ1–4(GlcNAcβ1–3)Fuc branched trisaccharide in an *O*-glycomics study of protein extracts from fly embryos. This trisaccharide was significantly enriched in the dorsal compartment of the third instar wing imaginal discs (27), where Fringe is expressed. Accordingly, the authors proposed that this novel glycan may modify Notch, given that a Fringe-elongated *O*-fucose can serve as a substrate for the generation of this branched trisaccharide and because of the correlation between its tissue distribution and Fringe expression. Using our established mass spectral methods for analyzing *O*-glycosylation, we did not observe such an *O*-fucose trisaccharide on endogenous Notch isolated from embryos. Our *in vivo* data from embryos suggest that the above-mentioned branched *O*-fucose trisaccharide is either on other proteins found in embryo extracts or on sites that we have not yet mapped on endogenous Notch. Isolation of endogenous Notch

FIGURE 6. *O***-GlcNAc appears present on EGF4, EGF11, EGF12, EGF14, and EGF20.** *A*, representative EICs showing the relative intensities of unmodified (*black line*) and*O*-GlcNAc (*green line*) for each predicted*O*-GlcNAc site. Peptides searched in each EIC are listed in Table 1, and corresponding spectra are shown in supplemental Fig. S3. The peptide containing the *O*-GlcNAc site on EGF12 also contains an *O*-fucose site, so the EIC includes searches for *O*-fucose (*). The peptide containing the EGF14*O*-GlcNAc site also contains an*O*-glucose site, and the EIC includes searchesfor*O*-glucose mono- and disaccharide (#). Additional combinations of *O*-fucose, *O*-glucose, and *O*-GlcNAc glycoforms were searched; however, none were present in significant amounts, and therefore, they are not included in the chromatograms shown. Time is represented in minutes. *Red triangle*, fucose (deoxyhexose). *Blue circle*, glucose (hexose).*Orange star*, xylose (pentose). *Blue square*, GlcNAc(HexNAc). *B*, peak areas of each*O*-GlcNAc glycoform were quantified and represented as a percentage of the total peak areafrom each EIC (see "Experimental Procedures" for more information). Quantification of only one EIC from a sample of Notch produced in the presence of Fringe was performed for the EGF26 *O*-GlcNAc site (✥). *Error bars*, S.E.

from later stages of fly development using our immunoprecipitation methodology would allow us to determine whether this glycan exists on Notch at later developmental stages (e.g. in third instar imaginal discs).

We have previously mapped several *O*-glucose sites on *Drosophila* Notch (29, 33). Here we provide data on the efficiency of *O*-glucosylation at individual sites. We were able to detect peptides from each of the 18 predicted *O*-glucosylated EGF repeats of *Drosophila* Notch. We observed *O*-glucosylation at high stoichiometries at each site, confirming the accuracy of the C^1 *XSX*(P/A) C^2 consensus sequence. Nonetheless, elongation by xylose was limited to certain sites. Although no obvious patterns of residues within the consensus sequence correlate with extension of the *O*-glucose (supplemental Fig. S2*C*), previous studies have shown that certain amino acids within the *O*-glucose consensus sequence can affect the elongation (52). In addition, it appears that the elongated sites coincide with a stretch of several tandem calcium-binding EGF repeats (15), suggesting that the rigidity of that region could enhance xylosylation. Although determining the efficiency of glucosylation and xylosylation provides additional insight to investigating the role of *O*-glucosylation on Notch activity, there are still unanswered questions. The exact molecular mechanisms of how *O*-glucosylation promotes Notch activity (29, 45, 53) and xylosylation of the *O*-glucose inhibits Notch activity (33) are yet to be determined.

Analysis of the embryonic phenotypes of the *Eogt* mutant in flies indicates that *O*-GlcNAcylation is not essential for Notch signaling during *Drosophila* embryogenesis (36). However, additional experiments have uncovered a dosage-sensitive genetic interaction between several components of the Notch signaling pathway and *Eogt* knockdown adult flies (54). Moreover, mutations in human *EOGT* have been reported in an autosomal recessive form of a human disease called Adams-Oliver syndrome (55, 56). Notably, mutations in several Notch pathway components cause an autosomal dominant form of the same disease (39, 40, 57–59). Together, these reports provide strong evidence that *O*-GlcNAcylation might modulate Notch signaling. As the third major type of *O*-glycosylation on Notch, we mapped the 18 predicted *O*-GlcNAc sites. Surprisingly, only four sites appeared to be modified with *O*-GlcNAc. This suggests that the current consensus sequence should be revised to more accurately predict sites of modification. Based on the residues found in the consensus sequences from EGF4, -11, -12, and -20 from *Drosophila* Notch, it is possible that threonines are preferred over serines as the modified residue and that only phenylalanine and tyrosine aromatic residues can be tolerated adjacent to the hydroxyl residue (C⁵XXG(F/Y)TGXXC⁶) (supplemental Fig. S2*D*). Also, the modified sites have a high prevalence of proline or glutamine immediately before the first glycine (C⁵ *X*(P/Q)G(F/Y)TG*XX*C⁶). However, previous studies have found other EGF repeats with contradictory sequences to

FIGURE 7. **A** *Notch* **transgene,** *Ngt-FH***, mimics an endogenous copy of** *Notch***.** *A*, diagram of the Ngt-FH ECD, showing 36 EGF repeats, three LNR domains, the heterodimerization (*HD*) domain, and transmembrane (*TM*) domain. A triple FLAG tag and a double HA tag were inserted after the EGF repeats and before the LNR repeats. EGF repeats containing an *O*-fucosylation consensus sequence are *colored red*. *B*, a *Notch* haploinsufficient female wing showing thickened veins (*arrowhead*) and wing margin loss (*arrow*). These phenotypes could be rescued with one copy of *Ngt-FH* (*C*). *D*–*F*, phenotypes exhibited by a *Notch*-null hemizygous male rescued from embryonic lethality to adulthood with one copy of *Ngt-FH*. Note the normal leg joints (*arrows* in *D*), normal bristle pattern on the thorax (*E*), and normal wings (*F*). The *arrowhead* in *D* marks the sex comb, which is a male-specific feature of the *Drosophila* legs.

be modified with *O*-GlcNAc (41), so ultimately, it is possible that something other than the residues within the putative consensus sequence determine *O*-GlcNAcylation. Additionally, like the other types of *O*-glycosylation, more work needs to be done to better understand the specific mechanisms of how these modifications affect Notch activity.

Experimental Procedures

*Expression Constructs—*The constructs expressing EGF repeats 1–36 from the *Drosophila* Notch ECD with a C-terminal 3XFLAG tag (N-3XFLAG) and *Drosophila* Fringe with a C-terminal His₆ tag (Fng), were generous gifts from Dr. Kenneth Irvine (Rutgers University) and were described previously (60). Construction of these plasmids, transfection of *Drosophila* S2 cells, and purification of the resulting proteins from medium has been described (21, 23, 60). pMTHy empty vector, used as a control for transfections, was a generous gift from Dr. J. Peter Gergen (Stony Brook University).

*Cell Culture and Protein Purification—*S2 cells were cotransfected with either 10 μ g each of N-3XFLAG and pMTHy empty vector or 10 μ g each of N-3XFLAG and Fng, using the calcium phosphate transfection method to generate unmodified or *in vivo* Fringe-elongated Notch protein. Transfections were performed based on protocols from the Calcium Phosphate Transfection Kit (Invitrogen), although the buffers used were made in-laboratory. Cells were cultured in Schneider's *Drosophila* medium (Lonza) supplemented with 10% heat-inactivated FBS and 1% penicillin-streptomycin.

Mapping O-Glycosylation on Drosophila Notch

For purification of N-3XFLAG (with or without Fng), expression in transfected S2 cells was induced by the addition of 0.7 m M CuSO₄ for 3 days. Conditioned medium was cleared by centrifugation and incubated with anti-FLAG beads (Sigma) overnight at 4 °C with rotation. Purified protein was eluted from beads using 3XFLAG peptide (Sigma) as per the manufacturer's instructions. To remove excess 3XFLAG peptide, samples were passed through Zeba desalting columns (Thermo Fisher Scientific).

*Analysis of Glycopeptides by Nano-LC-Electrospray Ionization-MS—*Purified Notch protein was reduced, alkylated, and subjected to in-gel digestions with either trypsin, chymotrypsin, or V8 protease and analyzed by nano-liquid chromatography/tandem mass spectrometry using an Agilent 6340 ion trap mass spectrometer with a nano-HPLC CHIP cube interface autosampler as reported previously (28, 44). Constant neutral loss searches as well as generation of extracted ion chromatograms and multiple-reaction monitoring chromatograms were performed as reported previously using the Data Analysis software from Agilent (44, 61). All *O*-glucosylation and *O*-GlcNAcylation site mapping was performed from samples generated in the absence of Fringe. Online database searches were conducted using Matrix Science Mascot, with search parameters allowing two missed cleavages and carbamidomethyl as a fixed modification of cysteines. Amino acid numbering of all Notch peptides is based on the sequence from Uniprot accession number P07207.

*Quantification of Extracted Ion Chromatograms—*Specific ions corresponding to the respective glycoforms of peptides containing consensus sequences were searched from the MS data to generate the EICs. Each trace was then processed with a Gaussian smoothing algorithm, and background values across the chromatogram were subtracted from each trace using the Data Analysis software. The area under each chromatogram trace was quantified from the same time range for each glycoform in the same chromatogram. Quantifications of chromatograms were obtained from mass spectral data of protein purified from three separate transfections of N-3XFLAG (exceptions include the analyses of the *O*-fucose site from EGF32, which used protein from two separate transfections and one technical replicate of the same preparation, and the *O*-GlcNAc site from EGF26, which used protein from a single transfection). Areas were averaged, and the percentage of total peak area was calculated to represent the relative amounts of each glycoform for one site of glycosylation.

Generation of Notchgt-FH Transgenic Flies and Fly Genetics— The *Notch* genomic transgene with a 3XFLAG-2XHA (FH) epitope tag was generated by gap repair mutagenesis as described previously (45, 62). The FH sequence was inserted between EGF36 and the LNR repeats into the *Notch-attB-P*[*acman*]- Ap^R construct (45). The precise location and sequence of the tag is as follows: 1465 GSDYKDHDGDYKDHDIDYKD-DDDKLYPYDVPDYAGYPYDVPDYARS1466. The numbered amino acids mark the Notch amino acids (Uniprot accession number P07207) between which the tag was inserted; 3XFLAG and $2XHA$ are underlined. Φ C31-mediated integration (63) was used to integrate the *NotchFH-attB-P*[*acman*]*-Ap^R* construct into the *VK22* docking site (64) in the fly genome and to generate the *PBac{Notchgt-FH}VK22* strain, which will be called

FIGURE 8. *O***-Glycosylation on endogenous Notch is similar to that seen from S2 cells.** EICs showing*O*-fucosylation (*A*),*O*-glucosylation (*B*), and*O*-GlcNAcylation (*C*) of peptides from several EGF repeats from endogenous Notch protein purified from *Drosophila*. To more directly compare the *O*-glycosylation of endogenous Notch with Notch generated in S2 cells, only peptides analyzed from S2 cells were also analyzed from endogenous Notch (Table 1 and supplemental Fig. S3). Similar combinations of *O*-fucose, *O*-glucose, and *O*-GlcNAc glycoforms were seen modifying Notch produced in S2 cells. *A*, EICs showing the relative levels of unmodified (*black line*),*O*-fucose monosaccharide (*red line*),*O*-fucose disaccharide (*blue line*), and the novel*O*-fucose trisaccharide (*pink line*) for each predicted*O*-fucose site. EICs of*O*-fucose sites represented by peptides also containing an*O*-glucose site include searchesfor*O*-glucose monosaccharide (*) and*O*-glucose disaccharide (#). *B*, EICs showing the relative levels of unmodified (*black line*),*O*-glucose monosaccharide (*blue line*),*O*-glucose disaccharide (*maroon line*), and*O*-glucose trisaccharide (*green line*) for each predicted *O*-glucose site. Peptides searched in each EIC are listed in Table 1, and corresponding spectra are shown in supplemental Fig. S3. EICs of *O*-glucose sites represented by peptides also containing an *O*-fucose site include searches for *O*-fucose monosaccharide (*). *C*, EICs showing the relative levels of unmodified (*black line*) and*O*-GlcNAc (*green line*) for each predicted*O*-GlcNAc site. *A*–*C*, time is represented in minutes. *Red triangle*, fucose (deoxyhexose). *Blue circle*, glucose (hexose). *Orange star*, xylose (pentose). *Blue square*, GlcNAc (HexNAc). *Half-blue diamond*, GlcA.

Notchgt-FH hereafter. Other stocks used in this study are the *Notch*-null allele *N55e11/FM7* and the *vas-int-ZH-2A; attVK22* stock (63, 64) (Bloomington *Drosophila* Stock Center). The genetic interaction and rescue crosses were performed at 30 °C. Dissection, mounting, and image acquisition for the characterization of adult fly tissues were performed as described previously (29). Images were processed with Adobe Photoshop CS2 and were assembled in Adobe Illustrator CS2.

*Immunoprecipitation of Endogenous Notch from Notchgt-FH Embryos—*7.0 g of *Notchgt-FH* embryos were collected, aged to 16 h, and stored at -80 °C until 20 min before lysis. Embryos were lysed in TBS, pH 7.4, 1.0% Nonidet P-40, and 0.2% PMSF supplemented with Protease Inhibitor Mixture (EDTA-free, Roche Applied Science) using a probe sonicator in short pulses over a 5-min incubation on ice. Lysate was incubated on ice for an additional 10 min with vortexing and then cleared by centrifugation. The resulting supernatant was collected, followed by adding additional lysis buffer to the remaining insoluble pellet for another 10-min incubation on ice with vortexing. The second lysate was centrifuged and pooled with the previous lysate. Cleared lysates were filtered using a 0.22 - μ m filter. Approximately 85 ml of filtered lysate were incubated with 900 μ l of EZ-view red anti-FLAG beads (Sigma) on a rotator at 4 °C for

12 h. Following centrifugation, beads were washed with 0.1% Nonidet P-40 in TBS and then subjected to either a harsher ionic wash of 1.0 M NaCl in TBS or a detergent wash of 0.1% SDS in TBS. After centrifuging at 10,000 rpm at 4 °C for 1 min, protein was eluted using 3XFLAG peptide (Sigma) at 250 ng/ μ l.

Author Contributions—B. M. H. and N. A. R. designed, coordinated, and analyzed the data in Figs. 1– 6 and 8 and Table 1 and wrote the first draft of the manuscript. H. M. provided technical assistance for the data in Fig. 8. J. L. and H. J.-N. designed, coordinated, and analyzed the data in Fig. 7. R. S. H. conceived and coordinated the study and assisted in data analysis. All authors participated in editing the manuscript.

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