

Supplementary Information for

DNA origami demonstrate the unique stimulatory power of single pMHCs as Tcell antigens

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Fig. S1. DNA origami scaffold routing. DNA origami (30x20 nm, 65x54 nm, 100x70 nm (1)) were designed based on the M13mp18 scaffold (2) using caDNAno (3). At sites chosen for ligand attachment, staple strands were elongated at their 3'-end with 21 bases. For attachment to the SLB via complementary cholesterol-oligonucleotides staple strands were elongated at predefined distinct positions at their 5'-end with 25 bases (red arrows).

Fig. S2. Schematics of DNA origami used in this study. Black dots indicate modification sites on the top side of DNA origami platforms. The distances are approximated with 0.34 nm per base pair along the helical axis and with 2 nm per helix perpendicular to the helical axis (2). Interhelical gaps were assigned 1 nm, depending on the spacing of crossovers between helices. Distances are given in nm. The distances between the ligand position and the platform edges define the minimum possible ligand spacing permitted by a given DNA origami platform.

Fig. S3. Agarose gel electrophoresis of DNA origami platforms. *(A)* 1% agarose gel (1xTAE, 10 mM MgCl2) pre-stained with Sybr™ gold nucleic acid gel stain was run at 100V for 75 min. A FastRuler middle range DNA ladder was used as a reference. Schematic sketches above the individual bands indicate the different DNA origami layouts functionalized with dSA. *(A),* from left to right: M13mp18 scaffold, S, M, L. *(B)* M13mp18 scaffold, Mdiv 10nm, Mdiv 20nm, Mdiv 30nm, Ldiv 10nm, Ldiv 20nm, Ldiv 30nm.

Fig. S4. AFM images of functionalized DNA origami platforms. The different DNA origami platforms used in this study were functionalized with dSA as indicated in Fig. S2 and imaged using highspeed-AFM (HS-AFM). Scale bar, 25 nm.

Note

Unfolded scaffold, which is unstructured and highly flexible, is imaged as a blur with HS-AFM. While almost all of the M13mp18 Phage DNA is used to fold the large "L" DNA origami structure, half ("M" DNA origami) or 90% ("S" DNA origami) remain unfolded. Note that the divalent streptavidin used for attachment of biotinylated TCRligands was placed on top of a ~5nm linker. During AFM imaging, the AFM tip pushes the streptavidin molecule towards the DNA origami platform surface, sometimes even ripping it off from the structure, thereby distorting the distances.

Fig. S5. Mapping ligand positions on divalent DNA origami platforms via DNA-PAINT super-resolution microscopy. *(A)* Principle of DNA-PAINT. Freely diffusing dye-labeled oligonucleotides ("imager" strands) transiently bind to their target-bound complements ("docking" strands) to achieve the necessary target "blinking" for stochastic super-resolution microscopy. For this, biotinylated TCR ligands were replaced with biotinylated DNA-PAINT docking strands (cyan) on divalent DNA origami platforms. Additionally, four staple strands at the corners were extended with DNA-PAINT docking sites as platform markers (red). Ligand (cyan) and platform (red) positions were imaged consecutively by Exchange-PAINT (4) using Cy3B imager strands. **i,** DNA origami layouts showing ligand and platform positions for the following constructs: (B), Mdiv 10nm, (C), Mdiv 20nm, (D), Mdiv 30nm, *(E),* Ldiv 10nm, *(F),* Ldiv 20nm, *(G),* Ldiv 30nm. **ii,** 4 exemplary pseudo-color DNA-PAINT superresolution images of DNA origami platforms. Scale bar, 50 nm. **iii,** DNA-PAINT sum images of ligand positions n ≥ 49. Scale bar, 20 nm. **iv,** Intensity profiles across ligand positions indicated in (iii).

Fig. S6. Determination of diffusion behavior of DNA origami on SLBs. Diffusion constants were evaluated by performing single-molecule tracking experiments. Mean square displacements were determined and plotted as a function of time lags. Assuming pure Brownian motion, the diffusion coefficient D was derived by fitting the first two data points with a linear fit. An exemplary plot for M-H57 is shown.

Fig. S7. Determination of DNA origami ligand occupancy. *(A)* To determine the fraction of attachment sites on DNA origami available for modification, elongated staple strands were hybridized with fluorescently labeled biotinylated oligos (Biotin-DNA-AS635P) and two-color colocalization with DNA origami, pre-stained with YOYO, was assessed. Exemplary TIRF images of M_{div} 30nm DNA origami on a SLB are shown. Green open circles indicate signals detected in both color channels; red open circles indicate signals detected only in one channel. *(B)* We quantified the colocalization of hybridized biotin-DNA-AS635P and AF555-labeled H57-scF_{VS} to determine the functionalization efficiency of existing biotin modifications with ligand (here shown for Mdiv-H57_{30nm}). *(C,D)* Exemplary TIRF images and corresponding brightness distributions ρ_n of DNA origami on SLBs decorated with AF555-labeled H57-scF_V. Data for medium-sized DNA origami bearing 1 (M-H57, 800 signals, *(C))* or 2 (M_{div}-H57_{30nm}, 708 signals, (D)) possible ligand attachment sites are shown. The detected signals were fitted and deconvolved into monomer and dimer contributions (see methods section) (5). Only \sim 0.5% of signals originate from non-specifically bound ligand. Scale bar, 2 µm.

Fig. S8. DNA-PAINT super-resolution imaging of H57-scF_V within microclusters. DNA origami platforms impose minimum distances δ on ligands in microclusters. For DNA-PAINT, biotinylated oligos were extended with DNA-PAINT docking sites at their 3' end for imaging ligand positions (cyan). Additionally, four staple strands at the platform corners were extended with DNA-PAINT docking sites to serve as platform markers (red). *(A)* DNA-anchored H57-scF_Vs free to move without restrictions (DNA-H57, $\delta \sim 5$ nm), *(B)* H57-scF_Vs on mediumsized DNA origami platforms (M-H57, δ = 48 nm), *(C)* H57-scF_Vs on large DNA origami platforms (L-H57, δ = 60 nm), *(D)* medium-sized DNA origami platforms without ligands labeled with AF647 (M-647).

i, Exemplary pseudo-color DNA-PAINT super-resolution images of H57-decorated constructs underneath fixed T-cells. Ligand (cyan) and marker (red) positions were imaged consecutively by Exchange-PAINT using Cy3b imager strands. Characteristic microcluster formation could be observed for all constructs except for DNA origami platforms without ligands. **ii**, Detected ligand positions after filtering. Ligand positions from (i) were classified as «true» or «false» based on their blinking statistics (see methods section and Fig. S9). Note that individual positions of the freely arrangeable DNA-H57 could not be resolved via DNA-PAINT at the experimental conditions applied. Scale bars, 500 nm.

Note on DNA super-resolution imaging of S-H57 platforms

The smallest DNA origami platform (S-H57, 30x20 nm) could not be successfully imaged via DNA-PAINT due to undesired binding events to the structures. This is likely caused by transient hybridization of the DNA imager strand to the unfolded scaffold (note that for the S DNA origami platform only 10% of the scaffold was used for the platform design).

Fig. S9. Filtering of DNA-PAINT data. *(A)* An exemplary DNA-PAINT super-resolution image is shown with non-filtered (magenta) and filtered data (cyan). *(B)* Overlay of images from *(A)*. Signals arising from specific binding (after filtering) classified as «true» localizations are shown in white. *(C)* Specific binding (indicated in *(A)*) is characterized by repetitive ($n \geq 12$) single-molecule detection events within a 10 nm radius due to transient binding of the imager strand to a complementary docking site. *(D)* Non-specific binding (indicated in *(B)* is characterized by a single binding event of longer duration. These non-specific signals were filtered out and discarded for further analysis. Scale bar, 500 nm

Fig. S10. Calcium imaging experiments to assess the T-cell activation state. T-cells were loaded with the ratiometric Ca²⁺-sensitive dye Fura-2 AM, seeded onto SLBs and fluorescence emission was recorded at excitation wavelengths 340 nm and 380 nm over 10 min. Activation was tracked via a change of the intensity ratio (340/380nm). Exemplary ratio images recorded at activating (ICAM-1 100 µm⁻², B7-1 100 µm⁻², pMHC 150 µm-2, *(A))* and non-activating (ICAM-1 100 µm-2, B7-1 100 µm-2, *(B))* conditions are shown 5 min after cell seeding. *(C,D)* For each cell, the intensity ratio 340/380nm was determined and plotted over time. Exemplary calcium traces for a T-cell under non-activating *(C)* and activating *(D)* conditions are shown. The threshold ratio for counting a cell as "activated" was set to 0.4 for all experiments, indicated by a red dashed line. Scale bar, 4 µm.

 $time(s)$

Fig. S11. Population calcium flux on H57-scF_V biointerfaces. Pseudo-colored calcium flux (Fura-2 AM ratio) traces of >100 cells per region for: mSA-H57 (A), S-H57 (B), M-H57 (C), Mdiv-H57_{10nm} (D), Mdiv-H57_{20nm} (E), Mdiv-H5730nm *(F)*, Ldiv-H5710nm *(G)*, Ldiv-H5720nm *(H)*, Ldiv-H5730nm *(I)* at non-activating (**i**) and activating conditions (**ii**). For M-H57, traces at the highest measured ligand density of 248 µm-2 are shown. *(J)* A negative control containing ICAM-1 and B7-1 at 100 μ m⁻² (i) and a positive control containing ICAM-1 and B7-1 at 100 μ m⁻², and His-pMHC at 150 μ m⁻² (ii) are shown as a reference. Each horizontal line represents one cell. Cell traces are ranked by their integrated calcium flux in descending order. Calcium was imaged at 1 Hz for 10 min at 24°C.

Fig. S12. Population calcium flux on pMHC biointerfaces. Pseudo-colored calcium flux (Fura-2 AM ratio) traces of >100 cells per region for: mSA-pMHC (A), M-pMHC (B), L-pMHC (C), Mdiv-pMHC_{10nm} (D) Mdiv-pMHC_{20nm} *(E)* and Mdiv-pMHC30nm *(F)* at non-activating (**i**) and activating conditions (**ii**) are shown. Each horizontal line represents one cell. Cell traces are ranked by their integrated calcium flux in descending order. Calcium was imaged at 1 Hz for 10 min at 24°C.

Fig. S13. Comparison of signaling potency of mSA-H57 and DNA-H57. *(A)* Percentage of activated T-cells at different ligand surface densities are shown. Data were normalized (=100%) to a positive control containing ICAM-1 and B7-1 at 100 µm-2, and His-pMHC at 150 µm-2. *(B)* Dose-response curves were fitted with Eq. 6 to extract activation thresholds. For each construct, data are from at least three independent experiments and three different mice. Error bars represent the 95% CI.

Fig. S14. Ligand-free DNA origami platforms do not influence T-cell activation behavior. The presence of ligand-free medium-sized DNA origami platforms (M) at a density of \sim 50 μ m⁻² did not alter the intracellular calcium response at either non-activating (ICAM-1 100 µm⁻², B7-1 100 µm⁻²) or activating (ICAM-1 100 µm⁻², B7-1 100 µm-2, His-pMHC 150 µm-2) conditions. Data are the median of at least three independent experiments and three different mice (± 95% C.I.).

Fig. S15. T-cell activation on biointerfaces at 37°C. The percentage of activated cells at different surface densities of H57-scFv *(A)* or pMHC *(C)* was measured at 37°C. Data were normalized to a positive control containing His-tagged ICAM-1 and B7-1 at 100 μ m⁻², and His-pMHC at 150 μ m⁻² (=100%). For each construct, data are from at least two independent experiments and two different mice. *(B,D)* Activation thresholds determined from fits of data from *(A)* and *(C)*. t_{1/2} for the H57:TCR and pMHC:TCR interaction at 37°C are 6 min and 100 ms, respectively (6). Error bars represent the 95% CI. *** p < 0.001. A matrix containing the results of significance tests for all combinations of ligands is shown in Dataset S1.

Fig. S16. H57-scF_V organization at the T-cell-SLB interface. Representative TIRF images showing the organization of AF555-labeled H57-scF_V at densities of $~4~\mu m^2$ for the different constructs. The cell outline was derived via brightfield images and is indicated by a dashed white contour line. Images were recorded 10 min after cell seeding. All constructs bearing H57-scF_V (mSA-H57(A), S-H57(B), M-H57(C), Mdiv-H57_{10nm} (D), Mdiv-H5720nm *(E)* Mdiv-H5730nm *(F),* Ldiv-H5710nm *(G)***,** Ldiv-H5720nm *(H)***,** Ldiv-H5730nm *(I)*) showed characteristic microcluster formation. For ligand-free DNA origami platforms visualized by labeling with a DY548-oligo (M-DY548 *(J)*) no microcluster formation could be observed. Scale bar, 2µm.

Fig. S17. H57-scF_V enrichment at the T-cell - SLB interface. Images shown in Fig. S16 were analyzed and the relative enrichment of ligands at cell contacts is shown for monovalent *(A)* and divalent constructs *(B)*. For each construct, data are the median of n ≥15 cells from at least two independent experiments and two different mice. Error bars indicate the 95% CI. *** p < 0.001. A matrix containing the results of significance tests for all combinations of ligands is shown in Dataset S3.

Fig. S18. On biointerfaces featuring M_{div}-H57_{10nm}, only DNA origami platforms functionalized with two scF_vs contribute to signaling. A 2- or 10-fold molar excess of M-H57 was added at surface densities of Mdiv-H57_{10nm} between ~0.5 and 2 µm⁻² and the percentage of activated cells was determined. For each condition, the median (± SD) is indicated. Note that addition of a 10-fold molar excess of M-57 also leads to an increased displacement of ICAM and B7 from the T-cell – SLB interface, which did, however, not affect activation thresholds of Mdiv-H57_{10nm}. Data are from at least two independent experiments and two different mice.

Fig. S19. ZAP-70 recruitment to the TCR. Immunostaining of ZAP-70 recruited to the T-cell plasma membrane on biointerfaces featuring divalent H57-scF_V DNA origami platforms (A) or pMHC constructs (B). Ligand densities were ~50 μ m⁻² for all constructs. T-cells were fixed 10 min after cell seeding and immunostained for ZAP-70. For each construct, the TIRF signal of the cells was analyzed and normalized using a positive control containing Histagged ICAM-1 and B7-1 at 100 μ m⁻², and His-pMHC at 150 μ m⁻². Cells on bilayers containing only ICAM-1 and B7-1 at 100 μ m⁻² are shown as a negative control (Ctrl). Medians and their 95% CIs are shown. Each data point represents a single cell, *n* > 45 cells from at least two independent experiments and two different mice. *** for p < 0.001, ** for p < 0.005. A matrix containing the results of significance tests for all combinations of ligands is shown in Dataset S2.

Fig. S20. pMHC organization at the T-cell-SLB interface. Representative TIRF images showing the organization of pMHC (labeled with AF555) at densities of ~4 μ m⁻² for the different constructs. The cell outline was derived via brightfield images and is indicated by a dashed white contour line. Images were recorded 10 min after cell seeding. All constructs bearing pMHC (mSA-pMHC (A), M-pMHC (B), L-pMHC (C), Mdiv-pMHC_{10nm} *(D)***,** Mdiv-pMHC20nm *(E)***,** Mdiv-pMHC30nm *(F)*) showed characteristic microcluster formation. Scale bar, 2µm.

Fig. S21. pMHC enrichment at the T-cell – SLB interface. Images shown in Fig. S20 were analyzed and the relative enrichment of ligands at cell contacts is shown. For each construct, data are the median of n ≥15 cells from at least two independent experiments and two different mice. Error bars indicate the 95% CI. *** for p < 0.001. A matrix containing the results of significance tests for all combinations of ligands is shown in Dataset S3.

Table S1. Diffusion coefficients of H57-scF_V constructs on SLBs. Single-molecule trajectories of TCR ligand constructs were recorded on SLBs, pooled and diffusion coefficients were determined by mean square displacement analysis. DNA origami without modification were stained with YOYO. Diffusion coefficients are given as mean ± s.e.m.. Data are from at least two independent experiments.

Table S2. Ligand occupancies of DNA origami platforms. Efficiency of functionalization with TCR ligands was determined via sequential two-color colocalization experiments as described in the Methods section. Data are the mean of at least two independent experiments (± SEM).

Table S3. Fitting parameters of fits to dose-response curves. Dose-response curves recorded for the different constructs featuring one (mSA, DNA, S, M, L) or two (M_{div}, L_{div}) TCR ligands (H57-scF_{VS}, pMHCs) were fitted with Eq. 6 to extract the activation threshold T_A, the maximum response A_{max} and the Hill coefficient n. The 95% confidence intervals are shown. The mean number of cells per region (± SEM) and the number of animals used to generate dose-response curves are shown. *For fitting of data recorded for M-H57 at 24°C, Amax was fixed at 100%.

Table S4. Minimum distances of ligands as permitted by DNA origami platforms. DNA origami platforms act as spacers that limit the approach of ligands to a minimum distance δ, representing the smallest possible distance between two individual ligands. Note that for divalent DNA origami featuring two ligands, δ is a fixed value. Here, **d** is the smallest possible distance between ligands on adjacent DNA origami platforms. Quasicrystalline packing of DNA origami was assumed for all cases.

Table S5. List of staple strands

DNA origami layout [nm]	Name	Sequence	DNA-PAINT Sequence
65x54	14[63]-6T-P1	GCGATTAAGTACCGAGCTCGAATTAATTGTTATTTTTT ATACATCTA	ATACATCTA
65x54	19[112]-6T-P1	TAGCAAGCCGATCTAAAGTTTTGTGTATGGGATTTTTT ATACATCTA	ATACATCTA
65x54	2[63]-6T-P1	TATTTTCATTAAGCAATAAAGCCTACATTATGTTTTTT ATACATCTA	ATACATCTA
65x54	7[112]-6T-P1	TAATTTCACTAACGGAACAACATTTAGGAATATTTTTT ATACATCTA	ATACATCTA
100x70	23[32]-6T-P1	CAAATCAAGTTTTTTGGGGTCGAAACGTGGATTTTTTATACATCTA	ATACATCTA
100x70	4[47]-6T-P1	GACCAACTAATGCCACTACGAAGGGGGTAGCATTTTTATACATCTA	ATACATCTA
100x70	23[224]-6T-P1	GCACAGACAATATTTTTGAATGGGGTCAGTATTTTTTATACATCTA	ATACATCTA
100x70	4[239]-6T-P1	GCCTCCCTCAGAATGGAAAGCGCAGTAACAGTTTTTTTATACATCTA	ATACATCTA

Table S7. List of DNA-PAINT staple strands

Designation	Sequence	Modification
Biotin-TEG-V	ACATGACACTACTCCAC	5'-Biotin-TEG
Biotin-TEG-V-4T-AS635P	ACATGACACTACTCCACTTTT	5'-Biotin-TEG; 3'- AS635P
Biotin-TEG-2T-P3*'	TTTCTTCATTA	5'-Biotin-TEG
Biotin-TEG-V-2T-P3*'	ACATGACACTACTCCAC TTTCTTCATTA	5'-Biotin-TFG
AF647-4T-X	TTTTCTTCTGTCTATCTTGGC	5'-AF647
DY549-4T-V	TTTTACATGACACTACTCCAC	5'-DY548
Z-TEG-Cholesterol	GGCTAAATATGCTAGGACTCT	3'-Cholesterol
Cholesterol-TEG-Z	GGCTAAATATGCTAGGACTCT	5'-Cholesterol
Z-TEG-Biotin	GGCTAAATATGCTAGGACTCT	3'-TEG-Biotin
Biotin-TEG-Z	GGCTAAATATGCTAGGACTCT	5'-TEG-Biotin
P ₁ -C _y 3 _b	CTAGATGTAT	$3'-Cy3b$
P3-Cy3b	GTAATGAAGA	$3'-Cy3b$
P3*'-2T-Z'-4T-TEG-Biotin	TCTTCATTATTAGAGTCCTAGCATATTTAGCCTTTT	3'TEG-Biotin

Table S8. List of modified oligonucleotides

Table S9. DNA-PAINT imaging parameters for divalent DNA origami platforms. In divalent DNA origami platforms (M_{div}, L_{div}), biotinylated TCR ligands were replaced by biotinylated DNA-PAINT sequences (Biotin-TEG-2T-P3') and imaged with P3-Cy3B. Additionally, four staple strands at the corners were extended with P1' DNA-PAINT docking strands for barcoding and imaged with P1-Cy3B by Exchange-PAINT. DNA origami were immobilized on neutravidin-coated glass slides and imaged under following conditions:

Table S10. DNA-PAINT imaging parameters for T-cell experiments. For DNA-PAINT, biotinylated oligos were extended with P3' DNA-PAINT docking sites at their 3' end and imaged using Cy3B-labeled imager strands (P3-Cy3B). Additionally, four staple strands at the corners were extended with P1' DNA-PAINT docking strands for barcoding and imaged with P1-Cy3B by Exchange-PAINT to verify the integrity of DNA origami platforms upon T-cell interaction as well as to ensure that derived ligand positions could be allocated to the nanoplatforms. All experiments were performed using super-resolution microscope 1 under following conditions:

Dataset S1. Results of significance tests of activation thresholds for all combinations of ligands.

Dataset S2. Results of significance tests of ligand enrichment for all combinations of ligands.

Dataset S3. Results of significance tests of ZAP-70 recruitment for all combinations of ligands.

SI References

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