The translational landscape of SARS-CoV-2 and infected cells

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Highlights

• Ribo-seq reveals key translationally regulated events in SARS-CoV-2 replication

• SARS-CoV-2 frameshifting is substantially more efficient than HIV-1

• SARS-CoV-2 infection results in transcriptional upregulation of inflammatory and

interferon-stimulated genes

• SARS-CoV-2 disarms host responses at the level of mRNA translation

Summary

SARS-CoV-2, a betacoronavirus with a positive-sense RNA genome, has caused the

ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Although a large number of transcriptional profiling studies

have been conducted in SARS-CoV-2 infected cells, little is known regarding the

translational landscape of host and viral proteins. Here, using ribosome profiling in SARS-

CoV-2-infected cells, we identify structural elements that regulate viral gene expression,

alternative translation initiation events, as well as host responses regulated by mRNA

translation. We found that the ribosome density was low within the SARS-CoV-2

frameshifting element but high immediately downstream, which suggests the utilization of

a highly efficient ribosomal frameshifting strategy. In SARS-CoV-2-infected cells, although

many chemokine, cytokine and interferon stimulated genes were upregulated at the

mRNA level, they were not translated efficiently, suggesting a translational block that

disarms host innate host responses. Together, these data reveal the key role of mRNA

translation in SARS-CoV-2 replication and highlight unique mechanisms for therapeutic

development.

74   **KEYWORDS:** SARS-CoV-2, ribosome profiling, ribo-seq, mRNA translation, virus

75   replication, ribosomal frameshifting, virus-host interaction, immune response, translational

76   repression

INTRODUCTION

The Coronavirus (CoV) group encompasses of a number of single-stranded, positive-sense RNA viruses with unusually large genomes (27-32 kb), which infect a wide range of animal species, including humans (Masters, 2006, Weiss and Navas-Martin, 2005). Previously, outbreaks of two members of this group, severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS-CoV) and Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS-CoV), have caused lethal respiratory illnesses in 2002 and 2012, respectively (de Wit et al., 2016). Presently, SARS-CoV-2, the causative agent of the ongoing Coronavirus Disease-2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, has infected millions of people worldwide and has devastated the global economy. Currently, there are limited options for antiviral or immunomodulatory treatment against SARS-CoV-2, with only few therapies being currently recommended for more severe COVID-19 cases. A basic understanding of the replicative mechanisms of SARS-CoV-2 and associated host responses potentially can foster the development of virus-specific therapies.

The first two-thirds of the 5' end of the SARS-CoV-2 genome is composed of two overlapping open reading frames (ORFs), ORF1a and ORF1b, which encode for two polyproteins, pp1a and pp1ab (Nakagawa et al., 2016). Pp1a is produced when translation of the genomic RNA terminates at the stop codon of ORF1a. Pp1ab is generated via a programmed -1 ribosomal frameshift (PRF) that occurs at the overlap between ORF1a and ORF1b, permitting the elongating ribosomes to bypass the termination signal in ORF1a (Plant and Dinman, 2008). Following synthesis, pp1a and pp1ab are cleaved by viral proteases to generate 15-16 mature nonstructural proteins (nsp) (Nakagawa et al., 2016). Many proteins encoded in ORF1b, are part the replication complex, thus making the -1 PRF to generate pp1ab a critical translational event for SARS-CoV-2 replication. Frameshifting in coronaviruses is regulated by a highly conserved heptanucleotide

slippery sequence (UUUAAAC) and an RNA pseudoknot structure a few nucleotides

downstream (Plant and Dinman, 2008). The current models of PRF suggest that

ribosomes stall upon encountering the pseudoknot (Plant et al., 2003, Korniy et al., 2019).

This event presumably enhances the efficiency of ribosomal frameshifting by forcing the

ribosomes to pause on the slippery sequence, which in turn promote the -1 slippage. Once

the pseudoknot unwinds and resolves, the ribosome goes on to translate the alternate

ORF.

Another well-known frameshifting mechanisms in human viruses is employed by

retroviruses through a stem-loop structure that regulates the expression of Gag/Gag-Pol

transcripts (Jacks et al., 1988, Wilson et al., 1988). Frameshifting here is thought essential

for maintenance of the ratio of Gag and Gag-Pol polyproteins as well as viral infectivity

(Shehu-Xhilaga et al., 2001, Garcia-Miranda et al., 2016). While frameshifting is thought

to be highly inefficient in HIV-1, with only 5-10% of ribosomes continuing into the Pol ORF

(Baril et al., 2003, Dulude et al., 2006, Jacks et al., 1988), CoV frameshifting is thought to

occur at a much higher efficiency (Irigoyen et al., 2016). However, to date, the behavior of

ribosomes within the frameshifting element for neither SARS-CoV-2 nor HIV-1 in infected

cells has been empirically assessed.

In addition to hijacking the host translational machinery, SARS-CoV-2 can modulate host

mRNA translation so as to suppress the immune system to ensure efficient propagation.

Indeed, several viral proteins reportedly impair host gene expression post-transcriptionally

(Lokugamage et al., 2012, Xiao et al., 2008, Kopecky-Bromberg et al., 2006, Huang et al.,

2011, Zhou et al., 2008, Kamitani et al., 2009, Narayanan et al., 2008, Nakagawa et al.,

2016). SARS-CoV nonstructural protein nsp1 induces endonucleolytic cleavage in the 5'-

UTR of cellular mRNAs, accelerating their turnover, but not in viral mRNAs (Kopecky-

Bromberg et al., 2006). Furthermore, nsp1 tightly binds to the 40S ribosomal subunit and

blocks translation initiation (Kamitani et al., 2009). This dual capacity to cleave host

mRNAs and directly inhibit their translation may allow SARS-CoV-2 to overcome the type

I IFN response in infected cells, as has been demonstrated for SARS-CoV (Narayanan et

al., 2008). On the other hand, the bulk of published research on SARS-CoV- and SARS-

CoV-2-host interactions has relied on transcriptional profiling to study the immune

response to infection (Blanco-Melo et al., 2020, Butler et al., 2020, Menachery et al., 2014,

Mitchell et al., 2013, Wilk et al., 2020, Zhou et al., 2020). Such approaches may not fully

capture the host immune response to infection, in the face of viral mechanisms that block

host mRNA translation.

Here, we have conducted in-depth ribosome profiling studies to gain insight into the role

of translational regulation in SARS-CoV-2 replication and the resulting host responses.

We found that ribosome occupancy on viral mRNAs was temporally regulated and partly

dependent on RNA abundance. In addition, ribosomes engaged with novel translation

initiation sites (TIS) and other potential regulatory elements on SARS-CoV-2 RNAs. Viral

mRNAs encoding E, S and ORF1ab were more efficiently translated than other viral

mRNAs, but the overall translation efficiency of viral mRNAs was not substantially different

than cellular mRNAs. In addition, we found that ribosomes were depleted rather than

enriched on the SARS-CoV-2 frameshifting site and SARS-CoV-2 frameshifting was more

efficient than HIV-1. Remarkably, while numerous inflammatory chemokines, cytokines

and ISGs were upregulated transcriptionally in SARS-CoV-2-infected cells, we found that

many were not efficiently translated. Overall, our study defines the translational landscape

of SARS-CoV-2-infected cells, revealing novel events that may promote viral replication

and disarm host immune responses at the level of mRNA translation.

RESULTS

Ribosome profiling reveals key features of SARS-CoV-2 translational program

To study the relationship between transcriptionally and translationally regulated events at

early and late phases of SARS-CoV-2 infection, Vero E6 cells infected at low and high

multiplicity of infection (MOIs, 0.1 and 2 plaque forming units [PFU]/cell, respectively))

were monitored by RNA-seq and ribo-seq during the course of infection (**Fig. 1A**). Viral

antigen staining of infected cells revealed that the majority of the cells were infected by 24

hpi for low MOI and by 12 hpi for high MOI infections (**Fig. S1A, S1B**). High quality

duplicate sequencing libraries with favorable mapping statistics were generated (**Tables**

S1-S4). The quality of each ribo-seq library was assessed as follows. First, the length of

distribution of ribo-seq reads that mapped to cellular and viral transcriptomes were within

the expected range of ribosome protected fragments (**Fig. S2A, S2B, S3A, S3B**) (Ingolia

et al., 2012, Ingolia et al., 2009). We noted that in one experiment read lengths trended to

be longer likely due to lesser extent of nuclease digestion (**Fig. S3A, B**). Second, the

majority of ribo-seq reads mapped to coding sequences and 5' UTRs, with clear reduction

in the fraction of reads mapping to 3'UTRs when compared to RNA-seq experiments done

in parallel (**Fig. S2C, Fig. S4**). Third, mapped ribosome footprints within the CDSs were

enriched in fragments that align to the translated frame (**Fig. S2D, Fig. S5**).

For low MOI infections, ~50% of the uniquely mapping RNA-seq reads were derived from

SARS-CoV-2 mRNAs by 24 hours post infection (hpi) (**Fig. 1B**). By 48 hpi >80% of the

uniquely mapping reads were viral (**Fig. 1B**) demonstrating that viral mRNAs quickly

dominate the total cellular mRNA pool. The percentage of SARS-CoV-2-derived mRNAs

did not increase further at 72 hpi (**Fig. 1B**), partly due to virus-induced cytotoxicity.

Comparatively, a smaller percentage of ribosome-associated mRNAs were derived from

SARS-CoV-2, approximating 20 to 40% at early and late time points in infection, respectively (**Fig. 1C**). Despite their relative abundance in the cytosol, viral RNAs were not specifically enriched in ribosome-bound pool. As we observed significant levels of cytotoxicity at 72 hpi, we focused our analyses on the earlier 24 and 48 hpi time points.

Plotting of RNA-seq reads on the viral genome demonstrated that N-derived sgRNAs were highly abundant throughout infection (**Fig. 1D-E, and S5**), a finding consistent with previous RNA-seq studies (Kim et al., 2020, Huang et al., 2020). Expectedly, the majority of these reads were derived from positive sense viral mRNAs, albeit substantially lower copies of anti-sense transcripts were also detectable (**Fig. S6**). Furthermore, ribosomes were enriched on N mRNAs, with a high peak surrounding the translation start site, at 24 hpi (**Fig. 1D**). As expected from the low abundance of ORF10 encoding sgRNAs, we noted that ribosome occupancy fell abruptly after the N stop codon, although footprints were still detectable within the ORF10 coding sequence with an average read count of 136 per nucleotide, A second high ribosome occupancy site was observed within the M ORF at 24 hpi, again with a distinct peak around the translation start site (**Fig. 1D**). ORFs downstream from S also were bound by ribosomes, albeit at lower levels (**Fig. 1D**). By 48 hpi, we found that high ribosome occupancy sites shifted from the N ORF to upstream ORFs, and numerous high ribosome occupancy sites were observed throughout the viral RNAs (**Fig. 1E**). In particular, at 48 hpi, ORF1a and ORF1b translation appeared to be more efficient, considering the low level of mRNA abundance observed by RNA-seq (**Fig. 1E and S7B**). Ribosome occupancy within ORF1a and ORF1b was non-uniform and did not correlate with proteolytic cleavage events occurring within these polyproteins (**Fig. S7A-B**). Ribosome footprints were also observed on antisense transcripts (**Fig. S8**), albeit fairly infrequently and with read length distributions not matching those expected from ribosome protected fragments (**Fig. S2E**).

Similar to other CoVs, SARS-CoV-2 frameshifting is thought to be mediated by the conserved heptanucleotide slippery sequence (UUUAAAC) and a RNA pseudoknot downstream from it spanning nucleotides 13408-13540 (**Fig. 1F**). Of note, ribosome occupancy was fairly low within the frameshifting site but increased immediately following it (**Fig. 1G**), suggesting a relatively high efficiency of frameshifting. Length distribution of reads that mapped to ORF1ab was similar to other virally mapping reads (**Fig. S2F**) and within the expected range of ribosome-protected fragments. Average ribosome density within ORF1b was modestly lower, and comparison of ribosome densities between ORF1a and ORF1b revealed a frameshifting efficiency of %63 (+/- 3%), in line with published reports of frameshifting efficiency with SARS-CoV-2 as well as other coronaviruses (Irigoyen et al., 2016, Dinan et al., 2019, Finkel et al., 2020). In addition, we noted that ribosome density was also depleted ~100 nucleotides upstream of the frameshifting site (**Fig. 1G**). Based on this, we speculate that the pseudoknot structure may sterically hinder translating ribosomes upstream of the frameshifting site or that the RNA structure may extend to upstream sequences.

Kinetics of early translationally regulated events in SARS-CoV-2 replication

To identify early translationally regulated events in SARS-CoV-2 replication, we conducted similar experiments in Vero E6 cells infected at a higher MOI but monitored at earlier times in infection (**Fig. 1A, S1B**). At 2 hpi, only a small fraction of mRNAs was derived from SARS-CoV-2 RNAs, though by 12 hpi, nearly 80% of the total mRNA pool was viral (**Fig. 2A**). Viral RNAs were more abundant in the ribosome bound pool at 2 hpi and by 12 hpi ~50% of the ribosome-protected fragments contained viral sequences (**Fig. 2B**). As before, viral RNAs did not appear to be specifically enriched in the ribosome-bound pool (**Fig. 2B**).

N-derived sequences were the most abundant viral RNA species throughout the infection

(**Fig. 2C-G**) and consistent results were obtained from replicate experiments (**Fig. S9-**

S10). Analysis of ribosome footprints on viral RNAs at 2 hpi revealed the presence of a

high occupancy site (**Fig. 2C, Fig. S11A, and S12A**), which accounted for the majority of

ribo-seq reads derived from viral RNAs (**Fig. 2B**). This region, spanning nucleotides

27371-27457 is located between ORF6 and ORF7, is not fully conserved between SARS-

CoV-2 and SARS-CoV (**Fig. S13A**), and is predicted to form a structured hairpin loop with

high probability (**Fig. S13B**). Reads that mapped to this region displayed a length

distribution around 29-34 nt, suggesting that they are authentic ribosome protected

fragments rather than aberrant products of PCR or digestion bias. High ribosome

occupancy in this region was maintained throughout the infection (**Fig. S13C**) and across

biological replicates (**Fig. S11A and S12A**).

Following a high MOI infection, ribosome occupancy on viral RNAs increased significantly

by 6 hpi, featuring N and M coding mRNAs constituting as the most frequently translated

RNAs (**Fig. 2D, Fig. S11B, and S12B**). Ribosome occupancy across viral RNAs increased

further by 12 hpi (**Fig. 2E, S11C and S12C**) and remained high during the remainder of

infection (**Fig. 2F, 2G, S11D, S11E, S12D and S12E**). Ribosome footprints were non-

uniform with numerous high and low frequency binding sites observed reproducibly across

viral RNAs (**Fig. 2C-G, S11, S12**). Of note, the frameshifting element had a generally low

ribosome density compared to the surrounding sequences throughout the infection (**Fig.**

S14A-E). Ribosome occupancy was low upstream of the frameshifting site (**Fig. S14A-E**),

again suggesting the possibility of an alternative RNA structure and/or steric hindrance by

the frameshifting element on translating ribosomes. Once again, read length distribution

ribo-seq reads mapping to ORF1ab was similar to other virally mapping reads **(Fig. S14F**

vs. Fig. S3B). Comparison of read density distribution between ORF1a and ORF1b

indicated a relatively high efficiency of frameshifting ranging from %75 to %100 throughout

the course of infection **(Fig. S14G).**

Analogous to SARS-CoV-2, HIV-1 also utilizes -1 ribosomal frameshifting, in this case for

generation of the Gag-Pol polyprotein (Jacks et al., 1988, Wilson et al., 1988). HIV-1

frameshifting is regulated by a slippery sequence followed by a structured hairpin loop

(Mouzakis et al., 2013, Staple and Butcher, 2005). To compare the frameshifting efficiency

of SARS-CoV-2 to HIV-1, we next performed paired ribo-seq and RNA-seq experiments

in HIV-1-infected CD4+ T-cells isolated from two independent donors (**Table S5 and S6**).

Length distribution of ribo-seq derived reads that mapped to cellular (**Fig. S15A**) and viral

(**Fig. S15B**) mRNAs were within the expected range of ribosome-protected fragments. In

addition, ribo-seq reads that mapped to cellular mRNAs had a 3-nt periodicity in frame

with annotated CDSs (**Fig. S15C**) and were largely depleted off of 3' UTRs (**Fig. S15D**),

highlighting the high quality of the ribo-seq experiments.

We found that, in contrast to SARS-CoV-2, ribosome occupancy was high within the HIV-

1 frameshifting element (**Fig. S16B**) but dropped substantially 3' to it and remained low

throughout the Pol ORF (**Fig. S16A and 16C**). This suggests that ribosomes may pause

and accumulate within the frameshifting site but only a small fraction of them continue

translating into the Pol ORF, a finding that agrees with prior estimates of low (5-10%) HIV-

1 frameshifting efficiency (Biswas et al., 2004, Dulude et al., 2006, Shehu-Xhilaga et al.,

2001, Baril et al., 2003, Jacks et al., 1988). Thus, we conclude that programmed ribosomal

frameshifting is regulated through distinct mechanisms between HIV-1 and SARS-CoV-2,

despite the similar structural elements that regulate this process.

We next tested whether SARS-CoV-2 can utilize alternative translation initiation, which is

increasingly recognized as a key post-transcriptional regulatory mechanism (Kwan and

Thompson, 2019, James and Smyth, 2018). To do so, ribo-seq experiments were

performed as in Fig. 2 but in the presence of harringtonine, which results in the

accumulation of ribosomes at translation initiation sites. In addition to accumulation of

ribosomes at the canonical start codons, harringtonine treatment resulted in accumulation

of ribosomes at alternative translation initiation sites during the course of infection, albeit

at generally lower frequencies. For example, at 6 hpi, an internal noncanonical start codon

'UUG' within M ORF was utilized at ~30% of the time, predicted to result in an out-of-frame

peptide of 53 amino acids long (**Table S7**). An alternative translation initiation codon 'AGG'

at 21868 nt appeared to be utilized within S at 6, 12 and 24 hpi, which would result in a

short 18 amino acid peptide (**Table S7**). Finally alternative translation initiation sites were

observed within M, resulting in an out-of-frame peptide and a truncated version of M

(**Table S7**). Together, these results provide the high resolution map of ribosomes on viral

mRNAs during different stages of infection and reveal key sequence and structural

elements that may influence SARS-CoV-2 translational program.

Ribo-seq in primary HBECs reveal a similar SARS-CoV-2 translational program

To corroborate these findings in a more relevant cell culture system, we performed ribo-

seq studies in primary human bronchial epithelial cells (HBEC) grown at air-liquid

interface. Cells inoculated at an MOI of 0.5 were processed for RNA-seq and ribo-seq at

6, 24, 48 and 72 hpi. A parallel set of experiments were done at MOI of 1 and followed

during a shorter time course. In contrast to Vero cells, the progression of infection in

HBECs was relatively slow and a small percentage of the cells were infected by 24 hpi

(not shown). Despite some donor-to-donor variation (as expected from primary cell culture

models), SARS-CoV-2 spread was visible by 72 hpi as evident in the presence of

numerous infection foci (**Fig. S17A**). By 96 hpi, a large fraction of ciliated cells expressing

ACE2 were infected (**Fig. S17B, S17C**). These findings were largely corroborated upon

infection of HBECs with a NeonGreen reporter virus (Xie et al., 2020) (**Fig. S17D**). In line

with this, the amount of newly synthesized viral RNAs was low at 6 hpi, although by 24 hpi

numerous virally derived sequences (as assessed by RNA-seq) were present (**Table S8**

and S9). Similar to experiments done in Vero E6 cells (**Fig. 1 and 2**), the majority of these

sequences were derived from subgenomic viral mRNAs coding for N and to a lesser extent

upstream ORFs including M, ORF6, ORF7 and ORF8 (**Fig. 3A**). As with previous

experiments, length distribution of ribo-seq reads mapping to cellular and viral mRNAs

matched the size expected from ribosome-protected fragments (**Fig. S18A**), most ribo-

seq reads mapped to CDSs and 5' UTRs but not 3' UTRs (**Fig. S18B**) and were enriched

in fragments that align to the translated frame (**Fig. S19**), highlighting the high quality of

ribo-seq libraries. The lower permissiveness of these cells to infection resulted in few viral

RNAs bound to ribosomes at 6 hpi (**Table S8**). Ribosomes bound by viral RNAs were

readily detected at 24, 48, and 72 hpi, with N and M ORFs being the most frequently

translated (**Fig. 3B-D**). We found distinct accumulation of ribosomes within N, M and

ORF1a translation start sites as well as 5' end of ORF1a (**Fig. 3B-D**). Overall, these results

suggest the presence of a similar gene expression cascade in the primary HBECs in

comparison to Vero E6 cells.

Inflammatory and innate immune mRNAs are inefficiently translated in SARS-CoV-

2 infected cells

Several studies have focused on the transcriptional landscape of innate responses to

SARS-CoV-2 (Blanco-Melo et al., 2020, Butler et al., 2020, Menachery et al., 2014,

Mitchell et al., 2013, Wilk et al., 2020, Zhou et al., 2020). However, currently there is little

evidence as to whether transcriptionally induced mRNAs are actually translated in the

setting of a virus that can in principle induce translational arrest (Nakagawa et al., 2016)

and ISGs (e.g. IFIT1 and PKR) that can inhibit mRNA translation (Li et al., 2015). Using

ribo-seq, we next assessed how cells respond to SARS-CoV-2 infection at a translational

level.

Paired RNA-seq and ribo-seq data (for high MOI infections of Vero E6 cells) obtained from

independent and reproducible experiments (**Fig. S20**) were analyzed for differential gene

expression patterns. As early as 2 hpi, we found transcriptional upregulation of several

chemokine ligands (i.e.CXCL1, CXCL3, CXCL8) and transcription factors involved in cell

cycle regulation and induction of inflammation (i.e.NR4A3 and EGR3) (**Fig. 4A, S21A,**

S22A). In contrast, we noted a general trend in RNA downregulation (**Fig. 4A**), which

persisted throughout the infection (**Fig. 4B-C, and S23**). 6 hpi timepoint was also marked

by upregulation of chemokine ligands (CXCL1, CXCL3, CXCL8, CXCL11) (**Fig. 4B, S21A,**

S22A) and by 12 hpi numerous ISGs (e.g. IFIT family members, MX1, IFI44), IL1A and

IFN-λ were also upregulated (**Fig. 4C, S21A, S22A**). Remarkably, the majority of these

transcript level changes were not apparent in Ribo-seq data (**Fig. 4D-F and S21A, S22A**),

suggesting that mRNAs encoding genes in the host defense responses may not be

efficiently translated. Of note, this pattern was not global. For example, EGR1, EGR3 and

IFIH1, were induced at equivalent levels both in RNA-seq and ribo-seq experiments (**Fig.**

S24). This pattern grossly continued at 24 and 48 hpi, though by 48 hpi upregulated genes

were primarily associated with cell death, likely reflecting viral and immune-mediated

cytotoxicity (**Fig. S21, S22, S25**).

Time-course gene set enrichment analysis corroborated the differences between

transcriptional and translational responses in infected Vero cells. For example, numerous

sets of genes involved in chemokine, cytokine and interferon signaling were upregulated

at 2 hpi in the RNA-seq data set (**Fig. 5A**), but these changes were not evident in the ribo-

seq data set (**Fig. 5B**). Although at later time points both RNA-seq and ribo-seq data sets

were enriched in gene sets related to interferon responses, inflammatory responses, IL2

and IL6 signaling, these responses appeared to be lower in magnitude for ribo-seq data,

with fewer genes enriched in each family and a significant delay in kinetics (**Fig. 5A-B**).

Together, these findings suggest that immune response genes are translationally

repressed and their expression significantly delayed in infected cells.

Many of these findings held consistent for the low MOI infections. Analysis of independent

and reproducible RNA-seq (**Fig. S26A**) and Ribo-seq (Fig. **S26B**) experiments revealed

that transcription factors ATF3 and EGR1, key regulators of inflammatory responses, were

upregulated at 24 hpi alongside with numerous chemokine ligands (i.e. CXCL1, CXCL8,

CXCL10) and interleukin 6 (**Fig. 6A**). Of note, despite the fact that Vero cells are known

to be deficient in type-I IFN production, we noted the upregulation of numerous ISGs (i.e.

IFIT1, IFIT2, IFIT3) as well as IFN-lambda at 24 hpi (**Fig. 6A**). The 48 hpi timepoint was

marked by upregulation of genes involved in cell cycle regulation and apoptosis (i.e. FOS,

NR4A3), as well as inflammatory cytokines such as IL-31 and ISGs including OASL (**Fig.**

6B). In line with our above observations, the great majority of the transcriptionally

upregulated genes were not translationally upregulated at 24 hpi (**Fig. 6C**) and 48 hpi

(**Fig.6D**). Interleukins IL11 and IL1A stood out as immune-related genes that were

translationally upregulated at 24 and 48 hpi, respectively (**Fig. 6C, D**)

Although a small percentage of cells in the primary airway culture system described above

were infected, analysis of differentially expressed transcripts revealed significant and

consistent trends in gene expression profiles upon infection. For example, we found that

gene sets involved in inflammatory response, interferon alpha, interferon gamma, IL2 and

IL6 signaling were upregulated as early as 6 hpi by RNA-seq, despite the lack of

observable virus replication (**Fig. S27A**). At 48 hpi, the transcriptional landscape was

marked by the upregulation of other sets of genes involved in IL2 and IL6 signaling,

inflammation, complement and hypoxia, amongst others (**Fig. S27A**). Many of these

responses were tuned down or non-existent in the ribo-seq data set (**Fig. S27B**),

suggesting that mRNA translation may similarly be repressed in this more relevant cell

culture system.

Comparison of SARS-CoV-2 and host mRNA translation efficiencies

We next assessed the translational efficiency of cellular host response genes in infected

cells and how this compared to viral mRNA translation. In mock-infected cells, most

cellular mRNAs were translated at levels proportional to their mRNA abundance (**Fig. 7A**).

Notable outliers included mRNAs encoding for ribosomal subunits, which were translated

less efficiently as observed before (Riba et al., 2019), and DDX25 RNA helicase, which

constituted one of the most efficiently translated mRNAs (**Fig. 7A**). The translational

efficiency of viral mRNAs was not substantially different than the majority of cellular

mRNAs with ORF1AB, S and E mRNAs translated at a modestly higher efficiency and the

remainder of viral mRNAs at a lower efficiency than average, a pattern that did not vary

with progression of infection (**Fig. 7B-F**). Thus, the high abundance of viral mRNAs, as

opposed to a specific regulated mechanism, likely ensures the abundance of viral proteins.

Consistent with our earlier observations, we found that the differentially expressed

chemokine ligands and ISGs generally were translated less efficiently (**Fig. 7C-D and**

S14). Of note numerous cellular genes with unknown functions were translationally

upregulated in infected cells (**Fig. 7B-F**).

DISCUSSION

Here we utilized ribosome profiling (ribo-seq) coupled with RNA-seq to study the

translational events that regulate viral gene expression and host responses over the

course of SARS-CoV-2 infection. SARS-CoV-2 replicates rapidly, with viral RNAs

constituting the great majority of the total mRNA pool soon after infection. Our data show

that viral mRNA abundance is the main determinant of viral protein expression and SARS-

CoV-2 mRNAs sequester ribosomes from the translating pool by competition, simply

outnumbering the host counterparts. Notwithstanding certain viral mRNAs (i.e. those

encoding S, E and ORF1ab) were translated modestly more efficiently translated than

others. While the overall conclusions are similar, another study found that ORF1ab was

less efficiently translated compared with other viral mRNAs (Finkel et al., 2020), which we

ascribe to possible differences in read depth (with our study having substantially higher

read depth within ORF1ab), RNA-seq approaches and infection conditions (5-7 hpi in

(Finkel et al., 2020) vs. a more extensive time course analysis done in our study). In

addition, we show that ribosome occupancy on viral RNAs is uneven, changes during the

course of infection, and alternative translation initiation sites and RNA structural elements

may be utilized. Analysis of mRNA translation in infected cells uncovered that

inflammatory and innate responses can be dampened by inefficient mRNA translation in

SARS-CoV-2 –infected cells. Together, our study provides an in-depth picture of

translationally regulated events in SARS-CoV-2 replication and reveal that impairment of

host mRNA translation may allow SARS-CoV-2 to evade host immunity.

We observed that, in contrast to HIV-1, SARS-CoV-2 RNA employs a highly efficient

frameshifting strategy to facilitate virus replication. Ribosomal frameshifting requires a

heptanucleotide slippery sequence and a RNA pseudoknot, generally a H-type, positioned

six to eight nucleotides downstream (Giedroc and Cornish, 2009). Multiple models for

ribosomal frameshifting posit that the ribosome pauses at the slippery sequence upon

encountering the pseudoknot, which is resistant to unwinding (Farabaugh, 1996, Dinman,

2012). While paused, ribosomes either stay in-frame or slip -1 nt before resuming

translation. A corollary of this notion is that the stimulatory structure, in turn, enhances

frameshifting efficiency by promoting ribosomal pausing. In line with this, we observed low

ribosome occupancy in the SARS-CoV-2 frameshifting site (**Fig. 1G and S14**). Notably,

ribosome pausing extended 100 nucleotides upstream of the frameshifting site,

suggesting an alternative frameshifting structure that includes upstream sequences or

steric hindrance imposed by the pseudoknot structure. Ribosome density downstream of

the frameshifting site within the ORF1b was remarkably high, suggesting high efficiency

of frameshifting in spite of ribosomal pausing.

The behavior of ribosomes was drastically different between the SARS-CoV-2 and HIV-1

frameshifting sites. In contrast to SARS-CoV-2, ribosomes accumulated within the HIV-1

frameshifting element and only a small fraction of them continued into the Pol ORF,

suggesting a significantly lower efficiency of frameshifting. We hypothesize that both

sequence-specific and structural features contribute to SARS-CoV-2 frameshifting

efficiency. It is thought that HIV-1 has a particularly slippery sequence (UUUUUUA) as

compared to SARS-CoV-2 (UUUAAAC), which may underlie this difference (Giedroc and

Cornish, 2009). In addition, structures downstream of the slippery sequence may have an

impact (Plant and Dinman, 2008). For example, the HIV-1 frameshifting element is

predicted to have a simpler pseudoknot (Chang et al., 1999, Parkin et al., 1992, Brierley

and Dos Ramos, 2006, Huang et al., 2014) or hairpin loop structure (Mouzakis et al., 2013,

Staple and Butcher, 2005). In particular, previous studies suggest that frameshifting

efficiency positively correlates with the mechanical stability and thermodynamic stability

of the pseudoknot and stem loop, respectively (Hansen et al., 2007, Chen et al., 2009,

Bidou et al., 1997). In addition, host proteins can also affect frameshifting. Of note, an

interferon-stimulated gene (ISG) product, known as C19orf66 (Shiftless), has recently

been demonstrated to impair HIV-1 replication through inhibition of HIV-1 programmed

frameshifting (Wang et al., 2019). Altogether, our data suggest that SARS-CoV-2 and HIV-

1 frameshifting occurs through distinct mechanisms. It remains to be determined how

distinct elements within the frameshifting site affect and whether other viral or cellular

proteins are involved in modulating the frameshifting efficiencies of these viruses.

SARS-CoV-2 mRNA translation may be regulated by other structural elements. For

example, we observed a high ribosome occupancy site that is present throughout the

course of infection and located between ORF6 and ORF7 (**Fig. 2C, S13**). This site is

computationally predicted to form a structured hairpin loop that may trigger ribosomal

pausing during translation of subgenomic viral RNA and thus lead to the observed high

ribosome occupancy (**Fig. S8**). Of note, ribosome occupancy within this region fell after

harringtonine treatment, suggesting that it may serve a function other than translation

initiation (not shown). While the biological role of this RNA structure is not apparent, it may

play a role in regulating the relative expression of ORF6 and ORF7 likely within the context

of viral subgenomic mRNAs. Other potential functions of this element include co-

translational protein folding, protein targeting, or co-translational degradation of both

mRNA and nascent peptide following pausing.

In addition, our study demonstrates that alternative, non-canonical translational start sites

internal to several viral genes such as S, E and M, can result in truncated isoforms or short

peptides (**Table S7**). While their presence still needs to be validated, this raises the

question of whether viral protein isoforms may play important biological role during

infection. SARS-CoV-2 infection also induced significant increase in utilization of canonical

as well as non-canonical translation initiation sites from numerous cellular mRNAs (**Table**

S10), including members of the S100 family with known roles in inflammation (Bettum et

al., 2014, Li et al., 2020) and virus replication (Bharadwaj et al., 2013, Liu et al., 2015,

Taylor et al., 2018). These findings together emphasize the potential role of translationally

regulated events that may help shape viral replication and host responses to pathogens,

which may be overlooked in transcriptomics approaches.

Our study provides the first in depth picture of how host cell responses to SARS-CoV-2

are regulated at a post-transcriptional level. This is of utmost importance given that several

SARS-CoV proteins have been reported to suppress host translation and that numerous

genes involved in innate immunity act to block mRNA translation. Such regulatory events

would be completely neglected in transcriptomic screens. In fact, we observed

upregulation of proinflammatory chemokines as early as 2 hpi followed by a more delayed

induction of ISGs, a finding in line with previous observations in immortalized lung cell

lines (Blanco-Melo et al., 2020). However, the increase in transcript abundance did not

correlate with higher levels of translation and majority of them appeared to be translated

at a low efficiency (**Fig. 7**).

The apparent low translation efficiency of host response mRNAs may be mediated by the

SARS-CoV-2 protein nsp1, which was recently reported to associate tightly with the 40S

ribosomal subunit as well as non-translating 80S ribosomes to prevent binding of capped

mRNA and thus inhibit the formation of the translation initiation complex (Schubert et al.,

2020), much like its SARS-CoV counterpart (Narayanan et al., 2015). In addition, there is

increasing evidence that ectopic expression of Nsp1 can alter host mRNA translation (Rao

et al., 2020). Our study complements these studies and provides the first published

evidence on the potential inhibitory effects of Nsp1 on host mRNA translation at

biologically relevant infection settings. We cannot rule out that the observed translational

suppression may also be contributed by the host's attempt to curb viral replication,

including members of the IFIT family with known functions in translation inhibition (Hyde

and Diamond, 2015, Fensterl and Sen, 2015, Reynaud et al., 2015, Daffis et al., 2010,

Diamond and Farzan, 2013). A further alternative is that the translation of these mRNAs

is inherently inefficient due to presence of unique 5' UTR structures. Finally, it is plausible

that the relatively lower read depths obtained from ribo-seq libraries may have precluded

accurate assessment of differential gene expression changes. However, we think that this

is unlikely given the high level of mRNA expression for numerous innate immune genes

(based on RNA-seq) and the statistical models utilized herein to assess translational

suppression. Notwithstanding, future studies are warranted to empirically test these

possibilities and define the mechanism of apparent innate immune suppression.

While COVID-19 pathogenesis is in part due to virus-induced destruction of infected cells,

elevated production of inflammatory mediators and the virus-induced immunopathology

are thought to play a big role in SARS-CoV-2-induced lung injury (Channappanavar and

Perlman, 2017, Perlman and Dandekar, 2005). Our findings suggest that immune

responses in actively infected cells may be dampened or delayed for SARS-CoV-2 to

efficiently replicate and release viral progeny. As such, it is possible that the elevated

levels of inflammatory mediators in vivo is due to infection of immune cell subsets, such

as monocytes and macrophages, that are less permissive to SARS-CoV-2 but can sense

and respond to infection by secretion of immune modulatory molecules (Jafarzadeh et al.,

2020).

Taken together, we provide novel insight into and a rich resource on how translational

regulation shapes SARS-CoV-2 replication and host responses. Our finding that induction

of inflammatory and innate immune responses can be limited at the level of mRNA

translation provides a paradigm shifting mechanism of how SARS-CoV-2 can encounter

immune responses. Modulation of viral RNA structures and proteins that regulate mRNA

translation will undoubtedly provide a unique avenue for therapeutic development.

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seq and 48 sets of matching RNA-seq) are deposited in the GEO database under

GSE158930.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS: MPC, HRV, AH, TH, SGP, JBC conducted the experiments.

KT, NL, YL, WY conducted the bioinformatics analysis. HRV and SBK wrote the original

manuscript with input from MSD, SLB, JD, JBC.

FIGURE LEGENDS

Figure 1. Ribo-seq reveals uneven ribosome occupancy on SARS-CoV-2 RNAs

during low MOI infection. (A) Schematic diagram of Ribo-seq and RNA-seq experiments

conducted in this study. Vero E6 cells were infected at 0.1 pfu/cell and cells were

processed for RNA-seq and Ribo-seq at 24, 48 and 72 hpi. (B, C) Percentage of RNA-seq

(B) and Ribo-seq (C) reads uniquely mapping to SARS-CoV-2 and cellular transcripts at

the indicated time points post infection. Individual data points indicate biological replicates.

(D, E) Ribo-seq and RNA-seq reads (counts) along the viral genome at 24 hpi (D) and 48

hpi (E). Schematic diagram of SARS2 genome features shown below is co-linear. Red

arrows denote translation initiation sites. (F) Predicted secondary structure of the

frameshifting site is depicted. (G) Ribo-seq read counts at 48hpi within the SARS2

frameshifting site. The position of the frameshifting element is indicated with the red

rectangle.

Figure 2. Changes in ribosome occupancy on the SARS-CoV-2 genome during high

MOI infection. Vero E6 cells were infected at 2 pfu/cell and processed for RNA-seq and

Ribo-seq at 2, 6, 12, 24 and 48 hpi. (A, B) Percentage of RNA-seq (A) and Ribo-seq (B)

reads uniquely mapping to SARS-CoV-2 and cellular transcripts at the indicated time

points post-infection. Individual data points indicate biological replicates. (C-G) Ribo-seq

and RNA-seq reads (counts) mapping to the viral genome at 2 hpi (C), 6 hpi (D), 12 hpi

(E), 24 hpi (F) and 48 hpi (G) are shown. Schematic diagram of SARS2 genome features

illustrated below in co-linear.

Figure 3. Ribo-seq experiments in primary HBEC cultures grown at ALI. HBECs

grown at ALI were infected with SARS-CoV-2 at a MOI of 0.5 i.u./cell and processed for

RNA-seq at 24 hpi (A) and ribosome profiling at 24 (B), 48 (C) and 72 (D) hpi. Ribo-seq

reads (counts, y-axis) along the viral genome (x-axis) is shown. Schematic diagram of

SARS2 genome features shown below is co-linear.

Figure 4. Differentially transcribed and translated host genes in SARS-CoV-2-

infected cells (high MOI). Vero E6 cells were infected at 2 pfu/cell and processed for

RNA-seq at 2 hpi and Ribo-seq at 2 hpi (A, D), 6 hpi (B, E), and 12 hpi (C, F). Heatmaps

show the $\log_2$ counts per million mapped reads (cpm) of the top differentially expressed

genes (FDR<0.05, fold change>2) derived from two independent experiments. Scale of

each graph is shown below.

Figure 5. Expression dynamics of differentially transcribed cellular mRNAs in response to SARS-CoV-2 infection. Time-course gene set analysis (TcGSA) was performed on the RNA-seq (A) and Ribo-seq (B) data derived from the above experiments. The heatmap shows an under (blue) or an over (red) expression for each significant gene set. The numbers next to each gene set indicate a particular subset of genes which trend differently from other genes within the same gene set.

Figure 6. Differentially transcribed and translated host genes in SARS-CoV-2-infected cells (low MOI). Vero E6 cells were infected at 0.1 pfu/cell and cells were processed for RNA-seq (A, B) and Ribo-seq (C, D) at 24 and 48 hpi. Heatmaps show the counts per million mapped reads (cpm) of the top differentially expressed genes (FDR<0.05, fold change>2) derived from two independent experiments. Scale of each graph is shown below.

Figure 7. Comparison of SARS-CoV-2 and host mRNA translation efficiencies. Translation efficiencies of viral and host mRNAs were assessed as described in Materials and Methods. Plots show translational efficiencies of host mRNAs in mock infected cells (A), 2 (B), and 48hpi (C) as these samples all had low or zero viral replication, as well as viral and host mRNAs in infected cells at 6 hpi (C), 12 hpi (D) and 24 hpi (E). Translational efficiencies of key differentially expressed genes derived from RNA-seq and Ribo-seq are represented by orange circles. Reference genes with notably high and low translational efficiencies are represented by blue circles. Viral genes are represented by red circles.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Chemicals and reagents. Standard laboratory chemicals were obtained from reputable suppliers such as Sigma-Aldrich. Cycloheximide (CHX) was obtained from Sigma, dissolved in ethanol and stored at -20°C. Harringtonine (HT) was purchased from LKT Laboratories, Inc., resuspended in DMSO and stored in aliquots of 2 mg/mL at -20°C.

Plasmids and viruses. A proviral plasmid encoding the full length HIV-1 genome was obtained from NIH AIDS Reagents. HIV-1 stocks were generated by transfection of Human embryonic kidney cell line, HEK293T, with proviral plasmids and collection of cell culture supernatants two days after. Viruses were treated by DNase to avoid plasmid carryover and concentrated by Lenti-X concentrator. HIV-1 stocks were titered on TZM-bl cells by conventional methods. CD4[+] T-cells activated for 4-5 days were used for HIV-1 infections. SARS-CoV-2 strain 2019-nCoV/USA-WA1/2020 was obtained from Natalie Thornburg at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), propagated in Vero CCL-81 cells and titrated on Vero E6 cells by plaque-forming assays.

Cells and infections. HEK293T and TZM-bl cells were obtained from ATCC and NIH AIDS Reagent Program respectively and were maintained in Dulbecco's Modified Eagle's Medium (DMEM) (high glucose), supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS) in a humidified incubator at 37°C with 5% CO_2. For isolation of primary CD4[+] T-cells, buffy coats (from anonymous healthy blood donors from Mississippi Blood Center) were separated by Ficoll and CD4[+] T-cells purified using RosetteSep Human CD4+ T-cell enrichment kit (STEMCELL Technologies). CD4[+] T-cells cells were maintained in Roswell Park Memorial Institute 1640 medium (RPMI) supplemented with 10% heat-inactivated FBS and L-glutamine. Activation of CD4[+] T cells was achieved by addition of 25 U/ml of interleukin-2 (IL-2) and CD4[+] T-cell activation Dynabeads (Life Technologies). CD4[+] T-

cells activated for 4-5 days were used for HIV-1 infections. Vero CCL-81 and Vero E6

were cultured in DMEM supplemented with 10% FBS and 10 mM HEPES pH 7.4. For

SARS-CoV-2 infections, Vero E6 cells were incubated with SARS-CoV-2 inoculum in

DMEM-supplemented with 2% FBS for an hour in a humidified incubator at 37°C, after

which the initial inoculum was removed and replaced by cell culture media.

Primary human bronchial epithelial cells (HBECs) grown at air-liquid interface (ALI).

Human airway epithelial cells were isolated from surgical excess of tracheobronchial

segments of lungs donated for transplantation as previously described and were exempt

from regulation by US Department of Health and Human Services regulation 45 Code of

Federal Regulations Part 46 (Horani et al., 2012). Tracheobronchial cells were expanded

in culture, seeded on supported membranes (Transwell; Corning, Inc.), and differentiated

using ALI conditions as detailed before (You et al., 2002, Horani et al., 2018).

Immunofluorescence. Infected Vero E6 cells and HBECs were fixed with 4%

paraformaldehyde for 20 min at room temperature, followed by permeabilization using

0.5% Tween-20 in PBS for 10 min. Cells were blocked with 1% bovine serum albumin

(BSA) and 10% FBS in 0.1% Tween-20 PBS (PBST) for 1 h prior to staining with a rabbit

polyclonal anti SARS-CoV-2 nucleocapsid antibody (Sino Biological Inc. catalog # 40588-

T62) diluted 1:500 and incubated overnight at 4°C. The following day, cells were stained

with an Alexa Fluor 488-conjugated goat anti-rabbit secondary antibody (Invitrogen) at

1:1000 dilution, counter-stained with DAPI and imaged by microscopy.

RNA in situ hybridization.   Primary-culture human airway epithelial cells were fully

differentiated at air-liquid interface on supported plastic membranes (Transwell, Corning).

Cells were fixed by immersion of the Transwell membrane in methanol:acetone (50:50%

volume) at -20 °C for 20 min followed by 4% paraformaldehyde at room temperature for

15 min. Cells were washed three times with phosphate buffered saline (PBS) and stored

at 4 °C. Prior to probing for vRNA, membranes containing cells were cut from plastic

supports, divided into 4 pieces, and placed in a fresh 48-well plate. RNA detection was

performed using the manufacturer protocol for RNAscope fluorescent in situ hybridization

(RNAscope Multiplex Fluorescent v2 Assay kit, Advanced Cell Diagnostics). Briefly, cells

on membranes were treated with 3% hydrogen peroxide for 10 min at room temperature,

washed with distilled water, then treated with protease III solution, diluted 1:15 in PBS, for

10 min in a humidified hybridization oven at 40 °C. The cells were then washed with PBS

and incubated for 2 hr at 40 °C with manufacturer designed anti-sense probes specific for

SARS-CoV-2 positive strand S gene encoding the spike protein (RNAscope Probe-V-

nCoV2019-S, cat# 848561) or ORF1ab (RNAscope Probe-V-nCoV2019-orf1ab-O2-

sense-C2 cat # 854851-C2). The probes were visualized according to the manufacturers'

instructions by incubation with RNAscope amplifiers, horseradish peroxidase, and

fluorescent label (Opal fluorophores, Perkin-Elmer). Membranes were mounted on glass

slides using anti-fade medium containing DAPI (Fluoroshield, Sigma-Aldrich). Images

were obtained using a 5000B Leica microscope equipped with a charge-coupled device

camera (Retiga 200R) interfaced with QCapture Pro software (Q Imaging).

Ribosome profiling. Ribosome profiling (Ribo-seq) was performed as described before

with the following modifications (Ingolia et al., 2009, Ingolia et al., 2012). Mock- and HIV-

1- or SARS-CoV-2-infected cells were treated with complete cell culture media

supplemented with 0.1 mg/mL CHX for 1 min at room temperature followed by one round

of wash in ice-cold PBS supplemented with 0.1 mg/mL CHX. Cells were lysed in 1X

mammalian polysome lysis buffer (20 mM Tris·HCl (pH 7.4), 150 mM NaCl, 5 mM MgCl$_2$,

1% Triton X-100, 0.1% NP-40, 1 mM DTT, 10 units of DNase I, with 0.1 mg/mL CHX). The

cells were then triturated by repeated pipetting and incubated with lysis buffer for at least

20 min to ensure virus inactivation. Lysates were centrifuged for 10 min at ≥20,000 g at

4°C for clarification. The supernatants were split into multiple aliquots, with SDS added to

one aliquot to a final concentration of 1% for downstream RNA-seq sample preparation,

and flash frozen in a 70% ethanol/dry ice bath or directly placed at -80°C. Lysates were

treated with RNase I (5U/OD$_{260}$) and ribosome-protected fragments were isolated via

centrifugation through Microspin S-400 HR columns (GE Healthcare) and purified using

the RNA Clean and Concentrator kit (Zymo Research). Recovered ribosome-bound

fragments (RBFs) are then subjected to rRNA depletion using RiboZero beads from the

TruSeq Stranded Total RNA Library Prep Gold kit (Illumina) and purified using Zymo RNA

Clean and Concentrator kit. Fragments were then end-labeled with γ-^{32}P-ATP using T4

polynucleotide kinase (NEB), separated on 15% TBE-Urea gels and visualized by

autoradiography. RNA fragments of ~30 nt were excised from the gels and purified as

detailed before in 400 μL of 0.4 M NaCl supplemented with 4 μL SUPERaseIN. 3' and 5'

adapters were sequentially ligated as in a previously described protocol (Kutluay et al.,

2014, Kutluay and Bieniasz, 2016), reverse transcribed and PCR amplified. Libraries were

then sequenced on HiSeq-2000 or NextSeq 500 platforms (Illumina) at the Genome

Technology Access Center or the Edison Family Center for Genome Sciences & Systems

Biology, respectively, at Washington University School of Medicine. All ribo-seq and RNA-

seq data were deposited on GEO database under GSE158930.

RNA-seq. An aliquot of cell lysates harvested from ribosome profiling (Ribo-seq)

experiments above was processed in parallel for RNA-seq using TruSeq Stranded mRNA

library prep (Illumina) following extraction using Zymo RNA-Clean and Concentrator (5)

kit. RNA-seq libraries were constructed using TruSeq RNA single-index adapters and

deep sequenced as above at Washington University in St. Louis.

Data analysis. All of the data analysis pipelines used in this study are deposited to GitHub

under kutluaylab. Below we detail the salient steps of data analyses:

Mapping. Generated RNA-seq and Ribo-seq data were analyzed by publicly available

software and custom scripts. In brief, for Ribo-seq, reads were separated based on

barcodes and the adapters trimmed using BBDuk (http://jgi.doe.gov/data-and-

tools/bb-tools/) and FastX Toolkit (http://hannonlab.cshl.edu/fastx_toolkit/). The

resulting reads were mapped to the viral genome/transcriptome using the Bowtie aligner

(Langmead et al., 2009) (mapping criteria -v 1, -m 10), and to the African green monkey

(AGM) genome (*Chlorocebus sabaeus*) in STAR (Dobin et al., 2013) (mapping criteria

FilterMismatchNoverLmax 0.04). For AGM alignments, reads were first mapped to rRNA

to remove any rRNA-derived reads not completely removed by depletion kits and to the

SARS-CoV-2 genome to remove virally derived reads. The remaining reads were then

mapped to the AGM genome. RNA-seq reads were similarly mapped to the viral and AGM

genomes using STAR, although the rRNA alignment step was omitted. For AGM

alignments, mapped reads were annotated using the featureCounts package and GTF

files freely available from NCBI and Ensembl.

Statistical Analysis: Differential gene expression analysis was carried out using the

featureCounts output files via the edgeR package (Robinson et al., 2010), available from

Bioconductor. Considering that virally derived sequences quickly dominated the host

mRNA pool, for differential gene expression of host mRNAs, library sizes were normalized

relative to reads that map only to host mRNAs. Efforts in this area focused on determining

upregulated genes using individual Ribo-seq and RNA-seq experiments, as well as the

analysis of log$_2$-fold change differences between Ribo-seq and RNA-seq to discover

translationally regulated genes.　These same files and packages were also used to

generate quality control plots and graphics highlighting differentially expressed genes.

The calculation of translational efficiency involved normalizing counts to account for library

size in edgeR to generate log2 counts-per-million (log$_2$CPM) estimates for each gene in

Ribo-seq and RNA-seq, and subtracting log2CPM RNA-seq from log$_2$CPM Ribo-seq to

provide an estimate of the difference in expression level between Ribo-seq and RNA-seq

for a given gene.

Additionally, the R package TcGSA was used to determine individual host genes and gene

sets differentially regulated over time (Hejblum et al., 2015).　The normalized gene counts

at each time-point were provided as input, along with the 'hallmark' Gene Matrix file

containing annotated sets of processes and associated genes, downloaded from GSEA

(Subramanian et al., 2005, Mootha et al., 2003).　As output, TcGSA provides clusters of

genes within each gene set, which follow particular trends.　From these clusters, individual

genes differentially regulated over time were extracted and plotted as heatmaps in R.

Downstream analysis of sets of differential genes involved the use of goseq (Young et al.,

2010) and KEGGREST R packages (Tenenbaum, 2020).　Annotations of 5'UTRs, CDSs

and 3'UTRs were retrieved and repetitive low-complexity elements were removed.　The R

package riboWaltz (Lauria et al., 2018) was utilized to determine the location of ribosomal

P-sites with respect to the 5' and 3' end of reads, as well as illustrating triplet periodicity

and determining the percentage of reads within each frame in CDS and UTR .　Finally, the

metagene R package (Beauparlant, 2020) was applied to generate an aggregate analysis

of ribosomal density downstream of start codons and upstream of stop codons in the

corresponding genome.

Alternative TIS sites in both host and viral reads were found using the Ribo-TISH package (Zhang et al., 2017). For viral TIS, analysis was carried out in the 'predict' mode comparing samples mock-treated or treated with harringtonine at each timepoint (with replicates). This was replicated for host analysis, although with the additional step of analysis in the 'diff' mode to predict TIS differentially regulated between infected and uninfected cells.

Viral Counts: Viral read density plots were generated using the SAM file from viral genome alignment. The SAMtools (Li et al., 2009) package was used to create an mpileup file containing information about the read density, strandedness, mapping quality, and nucleotide identity at each position. Custom scripts (deposited at GitHub under kutluaylab) then were utilized to create files providing only the nucleotide identity and number of counts at each position for both sense and antisense reads. These were then visualized by scripts written in R.

As SARS-CoV-2 generates chimeric subgenomic mRNAs (sgRNAs) in addition to its genomic RNA (gRNA), featureCounts could not be used to accurately estimate viral gene counts from RNASeq due to the presence of nested 3' sequences. Therefore, in order to visualize and enumerate such chimeric sequences the BWA aligner (Li and Durbin, 2009) was used in 'mem' mode on viral RNASeq reads. After generating this alignment using the default parameters and same reference SARS-CoV-2 FASTA file as above, chimeric reads were isolated by searching for all reads containing the 'SA' tag and the SARS TRS sequence, 'AAACGAAC'. SARS-CoV-2 gRNAs were extracted by searching for all reads containing the first 15-20 bases of the ORF1A coding sequence (CDS), as these sequences would only be present in full-length SARS-CoV-2 genomes. This provided the sequences and alignment locations of the chimeric and genomic reads, which were then

visualized using R. For sgRNAs, the viral gene corresponding to each transcript was

determined by locating the CDS with the nearest downstream start site. This data,

together with the number of gRNAs was used to calculate relative percentages of viral

transcripts and, together with the total number of mapped viral reads, allowed for the

tabulation of viral gene counts at each time point. For ribosome profiling data,

featureCounts was used to enumerate the number of viral reads, as ribosomes only

translate the first gene on each transcript and so footprints from nested 3' gene were low

enough to be negligible.

SUPPLEMENTARY FIGURE LEGENDS

Figure S1. SARS-CoV-2 infection of Vero E6 cells (Supplemental to Figure 1 and

Figure 2). Vero cells were infected at an MOI of 0.1 pfu/cell (A) or 2 pfu/cell (B). Infected

cells were fixed at the indicated time points post-infection and stained using an antibody

against the viral N protein and visualized by microscopy.\

Figure S2. Quality control of Ribo-seq libraries derived from Vero E6 cells infected

with SARS-CoV-2 at a low MOI (Supplemental to Figure 1). Vero E6 cells infected as

in Fig. 1A at an MOI of 0.1 pfu/cell were processed for ribo-seq as detailed in Materials

and Methods. (A) Length distribution of ribo-seq-derived reads mapping to the African

green monkey (AGM) transcriptome are shown from independent replicates. (B) Length

distribution of ribo-seq-derived reads mapping to SARS-CoV-2 genome. (C) Number or

reads mapping to 5'UTR, CDS and 3' UTRs of annotated AGM genes in matching RNA-

seq and ribo-seq libraries are shown. (D) Meta-profiles showing the periodicity of

ribosomes along the AGM transcripts at the genome-wide scale from independent

replicate samples. (E, F) Length distribution of ribo-seq-derived reads mapping to anti-

sense SARS-CoV-2 transcripts (E) or SARS-CoV-2 ORF1ab region (F).

Figure S3. Length distribution of ribo-seq reads derived from Vero E6 cells infected with SARS-CoV-2 at a high MOI (Supplemental to Figure 2). Vero E6 cells infected with SARS-CoV-2 as in Fig. 1A at an MOI of 2 pfu/cell were processed for ribo-seq as detailed in Materials and Methods. (A) Length distribution of ribo-seq-derived reads mapping to the African green monkey (AGM) transcriptome are shown from independent replicates. (B, C) Length distribution of ribo-seq-derived reads mapping to SARS-CoV-2 genome (B) or anti-sense SARS-CoV-2 transcripts (C) from independent experiments are shown.

Figure S4. Ribo-seq-derived reads map to 5'UTRs and CDSs but are depleted of 3'UTRs (Supplemental to Figure 2). Vero E6 cells infected with SARS-CoV-2 as in Fig. 1A at an MOI of 2 pfu/cell were processed for ribo-seq and RNA-seq as detailed in Materials and Methods. Reads mapping to 5'UTRs, CDSs and 3'UTRs of the AGM transcriptome are depicted for the indicated samples.

Figure S5. Metaprofiles and P-site analyses of ribo-seq reads derived from Vero E6 cells infected at a MOI of 2 pfu/cell (Supplemental to Figure 2). Meta-profiles showing the periodicity of ribosomes along the AGM transcripts at the genome-wide scale from independent ribo-seq libraries.

Figure S6. RNA-seq on sense and antisense SARS-CoV-2 transcripts during low MOI infection (Supplemental to Figure 1). Data derived from experiments described in Figure 1 and a replicate experiment were plotted to demonstrate the number of reads that map to sense vs. antisense transcripts at 24 (A) and 48 (B) hpi. Schematic diagram of SARS-CoV-2 genome features shown below is co-linear.

Figure S7. Ribosome occupancy on the SARS-CoV-2 genome during low MOI infection (Supplemental to Figure 1). Vero E6 cells were infected at 0.1 pfu/cell and cells were processed for RNA-seq and Ribo-seq as in Figure 1. Ribo-seq and RNA-seq reads (counts) mapping to the first 20000 nucleotides (ORF1ab) of the viral genome at 24 (A) and 48 (B) hpi with constituent non-structural proteins (NSPs) shown below is co-linear.

Figure S8. Ribosome occupancy on sense and antisense SARS-CoV-2 transcripts during low MOI infection (Supplemental to Figure 1). Ribo-seq data derived from the two independent experiments described in Figure 1 were plotted to demonstrate the number of reads mapping to sense and antisense transcripts at 24 (A, C) and 48 (B, D) hpi. Schematic diagram of SARS2 genome features shown below is co-linear.

Figure S9. RNA-seq on sense and antisense SARS-CoV-2 transcripts during high MOI infection (Supplemental to Figure 2). RNA-seq data derived from experiments described in Figure 1 were plotted to demonstrate the number of reads that map to sense and. antisense transcripts at 2 hpi (A), 6 hpi (B), 12 hpi (C), 24 hpi (D) and 48 hpi (E). Schematic diagram of SARS2 genome features shown below is co-linear.

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Figure S10. Reproducibility of RNA-seq experiments (Supplemental to Figure 2). RNA-seq data derived from a replicate experiment described in Figure 1 were plotted to demonstrate the number of reads that map to sense vs. antisense transcripts at 2 hpi (A), 6 hpi (B), 12 hpi (C), 24 hpi (D) and 48 hpi (E). Schematic diagram of SARS2 genome features shown below is co-linear.

Figure S11. Ribosome occupancy on sense and antisense SARS-CoV-2 transcripts

during high MOI infection (Supplemental to Figure 2). Ribo-seq data derived from

experiments described in Figure 1 were plotted to demonstrate the number of reads that

map to sense vs. antisense transcripts at 2 hpi (A), 6 hpi (B), 12 hpi (C), 24 hpi (D) and 48

hpi (E). Schematic diagram of SARS2 genome features shown below is co-linear.

Figure S12. Reproducibility of Ribo-seq experiments (Supplemental to Figure 2).

Ribo-seq data derived from a replicate experiment described in Figure 1 were plotted to

demonstrate the number of reads that map to sense vs. antisense transcripts at 2 hpi (A),

6 hpi (B), 12 hpi (C), 24 hpi (D) and 48 hpi (E). Schematic diagram of SARS2 genome

features shown below is co-linear.

Figure S13. Properties of the high ribosome occupancy site located between 27371-

27457 nt (supplemental to Figure 2). (A) Sequence homology of the high ribosome

occupancy site between SARS-CoV-2 27371-27457nts and SARS-CoV (27243-27336).

(B) Predicted secondary structure of the SARS-CoV-2 sequence at 27371-27457nts using

RNAstructure. (C) Ribosome occupancy surrounding nucleotides 27371-27457 at the

indicated time points post-infection.

Figure S14. Ribosome occupancy remains low within the SARS-CoV-2 frameshifting

site throughout infection (supplemental to Figure 2). (A-E) Ribosome occupancy

surrounding and within the frameshifting site at the indicated time points post-infection

(derived from Ribo-seq experiments in Figure 2) is shown. Red bars indicate the position

of the frameshifting element. (F) Length distribution of ribo-seq-derived reads mapping to

SARS-CoV-2 ORF1ab. (G) ORF1arameshifting efficiency of SARS-CoV-2 throughout the

course of infection.

Figure S15. Quality control of Ribo-seq libraries derived from primary CD4+ T-cells infected with HIV-1 (Supplemental to Figure 2). CD4+ T-cells isolated from two independent donors infected HIV-1 were processed for ribo-seq as detailed in Materials and Methods. Length distribution of ribo-seq-derived reads mapping to the human transcriptome (A) and HIV-1 genome (B) are shown for independent replicates. (C) Meta-profiles showing the periodicity of ribosomes along the human transcripts at the genome-wide scale from independent replicate samples. (D) Number or reads mapping to 5'UTR, CDS and 3' UTRs of annotated human genes in matching RNA-seq and ribo-seq libraries are shown.

Figure S16. RIbo-seq in HIV-1-infected cells reveals structural elements that regulate translation (supplemental to Figure 2). Primary CD4+ T-cells were infected with HIV-1$_{NL4-3}$/VSV-G at an MOI of 2 and infected cells processed for RNA-seq and Ribo-seq at 24 hpi. (A) Ribo-seq and RNA-seq reads (counts) mapping to the HIV-1 genome is shown. Schematic diagram of HIV-1 genome features shown below is co-linear. (B) Secondary structure prediction of the HIV-1 ribosome frameshifting element is shown. (C) Ribosome occupancy within the frameshifting site is shown.

Figure S17. SARS-CoV-2 infection of primary HBECs grown at ALI (supplemental to Figure 3). (A) Primary HBEC cultures were infected with SARS-CoV-2 at an MOI of 0.5 pfu/cell and fixed at 72 hpi. Cells were probed with anti-spike (anti-S) and anti-nucleoprotein (anti-N) antibodies and imaged by microscopy. (B, C) Primary HBEC cultures were infected with SARS-CoV-2 at an MOI of 1 pfu/cell and fixed at 96 hpi. Cells were probed with RNAScope probes against sense- and anti-sense SARS-CoV-2 transcripts, and imaged by microscopy with a 4X (B) or 20X objective (C). (D) Primary

HBEC cultures were infected with SARS-CoV-2-NeonGreen and imaged live during the

course of infection at the indicated time points.

Figure S18. Quality of ribo-seq experiments from SARS-CoV-2-infected primary

HBECs grown at ALI (supplemental to Figure 3). Primary HBEC cultures were infected

with SARS-CoV-2 at an MOI of 0.5 or MOI of 1 pfu/cell as in Figure 3 and processed for

ribo-seq at the indicated times post-infection. (A, B) Length distribution of ribo-seq-derived

reads mapping to the human transcriptome (A) and SARS-CoV-2 genome (B) are shown.

(C) Number or reads mapping to 5'UTR, CDS and 3' UTRs of annotated human genes in

matching RNA-seq and ribo-seq libraries are shown.

Figure S19. Metaprofiles and P-site analyses of ribo-seq reads derived from SARS-

CoV-2-infected primary HBEC cells (Supplemental to Figure 3). Meta-profiles

showing the periodicity of ribosomes along the human transcripts at the genome-wide

scale from independent ribo-seq libraries derived from primary HBECs infected at the

indicated MOIs and times post-infection.

Figure S20. Reproducibility of RNA-seq and ribo-seq data sets (supplemental to

Figure 4). (A) Correlation of $\log_2$(counts per million mapped reads) for each gene

derived from RNA-seq experiments is shown. **(B)** Correlation of $\log_2$ counts per million

mapped reads for each gene derived from ribo-seq experiments is shown.

Figure S21. Time-course analysis of differentially expressed genes in response to

SARS-CoV-2 infection (Supplemental to Figure 4). Differentially expressed genes

across different time points from Figure 4 were plotted to demonstrate the time-course

progression of differential gene expression in RNA-seq and ribo-seq data sets. Data

show the log$_2$(fold-change) values of genes that are up- or down-regulated greater than

2-fold with FDR<0.05.

Figure S22. Time-course analysis of differentially expressed genes in response to

SARS-CoV-2 infection (Supplemental to Figure 4). Log$_2$(cpm) values of differentially

expressed genes from Figure 4 are plotted for each experiment.

Figure S23. SARS-CoV-2 infection induces a general decrease in host mRNA

expression (high MOI, supplemental to Figure 4). Vero E6 cells were infected at 2

pfu/cell and cells were processed for RNA-seq. Volcano plots show the log$_2$ fold-change

(x-axis) vs. significance (-log(Pvalue), y-axis) of host genes at 2 hpi (A), 6 hpi (B), 12 hpi

(C), 24 hpi (D) and 48 hpi (E). Top differentially expressed genes (FDR<0.05, fold

change>2) are indicated by blue dots.

Figure S24. SARS-CoV-2 infection results in lower translation rates for mRNAs

coding for immune responses (supplemental to Figure 4). Expression levels (fold

change over mock) of select immune-related mRNAs that were significantly upregulated

in RNA-seq data set were compared to expression levels derived from ribo-seq data set.

Figure S25. Differentially transcribed and translated host genes in SARS-CoV-2-

infected cells (supplemental to Figure 4). Vero E6 cells were infected at 2 pfu/cell and

processed for RNA-seq at 2 hpi and Ribo-seq at 24 hpi (A, C) and 48 hpi (B, D).

Heatmaps show the log$_2$ counts per million mapped reads (cpm) of the top differentially

expressed genes (FDR<0.05, fold change>2) derived from two independent

experiments. Scale of each graph is shown below.

Figure S26. Reproducibility of RNA-seq and ribo-seq data sets (supplemental to

Figure 7). (A) Correlation of $\log_2$(counts per million mapped reads) for each gene

derived from RNA-seq experiments (low MOI) is shown. **(B)** Correlation of $\log_2$ counts

per million mapped reads for each gene derived from ribo-seq experiments (low MOI) is

shown.

Figure S27. Transcriptional responses of HBECs to SARS-CoV-2. HBECs grown at

ALI were infected with SARS-CoV-2 at a MOI of 0.5 i.u./cell and processed for RNA-seq

(A) and ribo-seq (B) at 6, 24 and 48 hpi. Data were analyzed for trends in gene set

enrichment over the period of infection.

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Figure 1

Figure 2

Figure 3

RNA-seq

A   **2 hpi**

B   **6 hpi**

C   **12 hpi**

Ribo-seq

D   **2 hpi**

E   **6 hpi**

F   **12 hpi**

Figure 4

Figure 5

RNA-seq

A

24 hpi

B

48 hpi

Ribo-seq

C

24 hpi

D

48 hpi

Figure 6

Figure 7