Transcriptomes and Raman spectra are linked linearly through a shared low-dimensional subspace

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Abstract

Raman spectroscopy is an imaging technique that can reflect whole-cell molecular compositions *in vivo*, and has been applied recently in cell biology to characterize different cell types and states. However, due to the complex molecular compositions and spectral overlaps, the interpretation of cellular Raman spectra have remained unclear.

In this report, we compared cellular Raman spectra to transcriptomes of Schizosaccharomyces pombe and Escherichia coli, and provide firm evidence that they can be computationally connected and interpreted. Specifically, we find that the dimensions of high-dimensional Raman spectra and transcriptomes measured by RNA-seq can be effectively reduced and connected linearly through a shared low-dimensional subspace. Accordingly, we were able to reconstruct global gene expression profiles by applying the calculated transformation matrix to Raman spectra, and vice versa. Strikingly, highly expressed ncRNAs contributed to the Raman-transcriptome linear correspondence more significantly than mRNAs in S. pombe, which implies their major role in coordinating molecular compositions. This compatibility between whole-cell Raman spectra and transcriptomes marks an important and promising step towards establishing spectroscopic live-cell omics studies.

Introduction

Raman spectroscopy is a laser-based analytical technique that measures the energy shift of scattered photons caused by molecular bond vibrations. Specific molecules have unique Raman spectral signatures, which in turn allows us to determine the chemical species in target samples. This technique is applicable to biological samples, and can potentially unravel the abundances of various biomolecules in cells and tissues in a comprehensive, non-destructive, and label-free manner.

Typically, interpreting spectra involves decomposing them into those of known purified spectra and quantifying the corresponding molecules. Numerous methods such as multivariate curve resolution alternating least squares (MCR-ALS) have been developed [1,2]. However, preparing spectra of each and every biomolecule of cells is laborious, or even impossible. In addition, none of these methods resolve severe spectral overlaps of biomolecules, which makes unique quantification intractable. Consequently, it is widely recognized that discerning constituent molecular species in a comprehensive manner is difficult, making the interpretation of whole-cell Raman spectra nearly intractable [3–6].

Alternative approaches of interpretation are to represent intrinsically high-dimensional cellular Raman spectra in low-dimensional spaces using dimension reduction methods such as principal component analysis (PCA) and linear discriminant analysis (LDA) [1,7,8]. Though these methods can sometimes successfully assign the spectra from different cell types or states to distinct subspaces, the interpretation still remains unclear because the resulting axes and spaces usually cannot be characterized by any biological properties. These approaches therefore often fail to provide any mechanistic insights into the differences of the spectra.

In this report, instead of pursuing the spectral decomposition, we asked whether whole-cell Raman spectra could be directly and computationally corresponded to other types of well studied omics-level information. Employing dimension reduction methods, we reveal a surprising correspondence between cellular Raman spectra and transcriptomes for *S. pombe* and *E. coli*. We show that a simple linear transformation links these two types of high-dimensional data, and demonstrate that global expression profiles of transcriptomes across culture conditions can be reconstructed in non-destructive manners from cellular Raman spectra, which was made possible by the intrinsic low-dimensionality of transcriptomes. Furthermore, interestingly in *S. pombe*, ncRNAs contributed to the Raman-transcriptome linearity more significantly than mRNAs, supporting their major role in coordinating total molecular compositions in eukaryotic cells. Together, these results show that whole-cell Raman spectra can be directly and computationally linked to cellular omics information, and paves a new way to conducting spectroscopic live-cell omics studies in the future.

Results

PC-LDA can reveal distinct cellular states of $S.\ pombe$ from Raman spectra

We obtained Raman spectra of single *S. pombe* cells sampled from 10 different culture conditions using a custom-built Raman microscope with 532 nm excitation wavelength, 10 s exposure time and 4 mW power at the sample stage (Fig. S1). Technical details on signal filtering and noise reduction are explained in Materials and Methods. Culture conditions are listed in Table S1, which includes rich and minimal media, nutrient depleted media, and various stress conditions. Prior to measurements of Raman spectra,

cells were fixed with 2% formaldehyde at 4°C. We obtained Raman spectra from 54-76 cells per condition.

Raman spectra from cells had common features: the strong signal peaks of CH₂ and CH₃ bonds around 2800 to 3000 cm⁻¹; the silent region from 1800 cm⁻¹ to 2800 cm⁻¹; and the rugged peaks from 700 cm⁻¹ to 1800 cm⁻¹ (Fig. 1A, 1B, and S2). These global features are common among various cell types including mammalian cells [3,9–11], thus reflecting the basic chemical composition of cells. The spectral range from 700 cm⁻¹ to 1800 cm⁻¹, the *fingerprint region of biological samples* [9,10], is where most of the signals such as proteins and metabolites are observed. We therefore focused on this spectral region in the following analyses.

We first asked whether these spectra can be classified based on the culture condition from which the cells were sampled, and conducted the principal component-linear discriminant analysis (PC-LDA) [7,8,12]. A Raman spectrum from a cell can be represented as a single point in a high-dimensional space (599 dimensions in our measurements) where the signal intensity at a specific Raman-shift wavenumber position corresponds to one dimension (Fig. 1C). Taking the culture-condition assignments into account and simultaneously avoiding over-fitting, PC-LDA computationally extracts the most discriminatory bases by maximizing the ratio of the between-group variances to the sum of within-group variances in the lower dimensional representation (Fig. 1C, and see Materials and Methods). PC-LDA reduces the dimensions to the number of groups (environments)—1; we therefore reduced the dimensions of Raman spectra to 9 in our analysis.

Our results show that Raman spectra from the same condition form clusters in the dimension-reduced Raman space (Fig. 1D-G). Some of the clusters could be recognized by the first few LDA axes. Most prominently, spectra from the nitrogen-depleted condition (EMM-N) formed a distinctive cluster along the first LDA axis (Fig. 1D). Clusters of ethanol stress (EtOH 10%), carbon-source-depleted condition (EMM-C), glucose-limited condition (EMM 0.1% Glc.), heat-shock stress (Heat 39°C) and glucose-supplemented minimal medium (EMM 2% Glc.) were also well recognized by the LDA2-5 axes (Fig. 1E-G). Clusters from other conditions such as osmotic stress (Sorbitol 1 M), oxidative stress (H₂O₂ 2 mM), rich medium (YE) and heavy metal stress (CdSO₄ 1 mM) mostly overlapped, so could not be recognized as separate clusters

PC-LDA reports that the classification error is approximately 9.4%, i.e. test Raman spectra excluded from the calculation of the discriminatory bases are assigned to the correct cluster with 90.6% accuracy. Thus, clusters in the low-dimensional space reflect the characteristic differences of Raman spectra across conditions.

Testing the linearity between Raman spectra and transcriptomes of *S. pombe*

We next asked whether the classification of Raman spectra in the low-dimensional space can be explained by other biological data. For this purpose, we obtained the transcriptomes of S. pombe cells under the same 10 culture conditions. All the transcripts including messenger RNAs (mRNA) and non-coding RNAs (ncRNA) except for ribosomal RNAs (rRNA) were annotated from PomBase [13,14] (see Materials and Methods for details). Our hypothesis was that the transcriptome codes molecular compositions of the cell, and it linearly determines a low-dimensional Raman data $\mathbf{r}'_{\mathcal{E}}$ obtained from cells in environment \mathcal{E} . In other words,

$$\mathbf{r}_{\mathcal{E}}' = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{t}_{\mathcal{E}},\tag{1}$$

where \mathbf{A} is a linear transformation matrix and $\mathbf{t}_{\mathcal{E}}$ is a 6560-dimension vector, in which each entry represents the expression level of a transcript in environment \mathcal{E} . $\mathbf{t}_{\mathcal{E}}$ are obtained from cell populations, not from single cells. Thus, we calculated the mean of single-cell Raman spectra from each environment \mathcal{E} to check the correspondence. To test the validity of this linear relation, we conducted a leave-one-out cross-validation (Fig. 2A). Out of all environmental conditions (10 conditions for S. pombe), we excluded one condition, and used the remaining 9 to estimate matrix \mathbf{A} in Eq.(1). Matrix \mathbf{A} was estimated by the partial least squares regression (PLS-R), which uniquely determines \mathbf{A} from given datasets of $\mathbf{r}'_{\mathcal{E}}$ and $\mathbf{t}_{\mathcal{E}}$ (see Materials and Methods) [15–17]. If our hypothesis is correct, one can predict the Raman spectrum of the excluded condition from the transcriptome data of its corresponding environment by Eq.(1) (Fig. 2A); the predicted Raman vector should be mapped onto the cluster of real spectra of the same environment. Changing the environmental condition to exclude, we repeated the same

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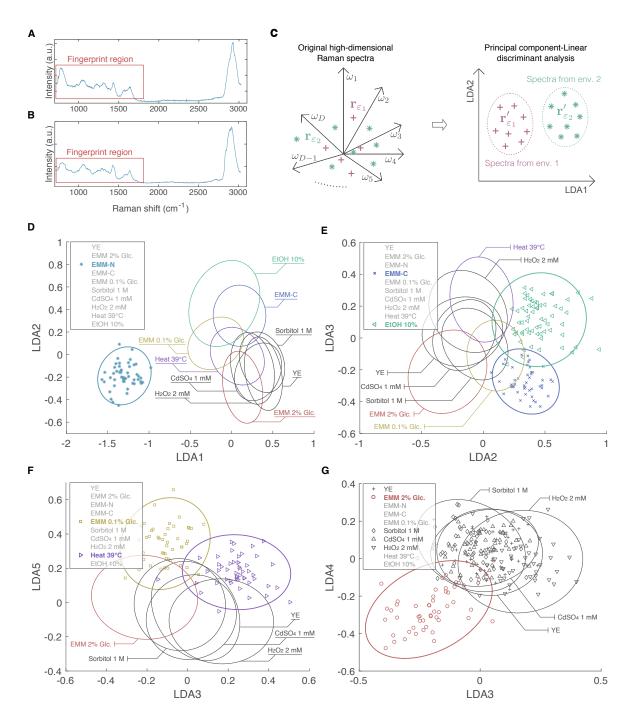


Figure 1. Measurement and dimension reduction of single-cell Raman spectra of S. pombe. A, B. Raman spectra of single cells cultured in rich medium (YE, plot A) and nitrogen-depleted medium (EMM-N, plot B). The fingerprint region of the spectra from $700~\rm cm^{-1}$ to $1800~\rm cm^{-1}$ is indicated by red rectangles. C. Dimension reduction of Raman spectra. Raman spectrum from a single cell in environment $\mathcal E$ can be expressed as a single point $\mathbf r_{\mathcal E}$ in a high-dimensional space whose axes ω_i represent the signal intensity at specific Raman shift positions. Principal component-linear discriminant analysis (PC-LDA) is applied to Raman spectra to remove systematic-error while simultaneously reducing the dimensionality. If environmentally-dependent spectral features exist, PC-LDA can assign spectra from different environments to unique different clusters in low-dimensional LDA spaces. **D-G.** Single-cell Raman spectra processed by PC-LDA and expressed in low-dimensional space (ellipses, the χ^2 95% confidence intervals of the mean of each condition). Notably, the first few LDA axes were able to distinguish spectra from cells cultured in nitrogen-depleted medium (EMM-N), ethanol stress (EtOH 10%), glucose depleted (EMM-C), glucose limited (EMM 0.1% Glc.), heat shock (Heat 39°C) and glucose-supplemented minimal medium (EMM 2% Glc.).

process of estimating matrix \mathbf{A} and predicting the Raman spectrum of the excluded condition for all environmental conditions.

Our results show that predicted spectra were indeed assigned to positions within or adjacent to corresponding clusters (Fig. 2B and S3), supporting our hypothesis of linear correspondence.

To further test the reality of the observed linear correspondence, we calculated the predicted residual error sum of squares (PRESS) and compared it with randomized data. When estimating $\hat{\mathbf{A}}$ by PLS-R and using it to predict the Raman spectrum of the excluded condition, we calculated the prediction error defined as $\|\mathbf{r}'_{\mathcal{E}_i} - \hat{\mathbf{r}}'_{\mathcal{E}_i}\|$, where $\mathbf{r}'_{\mathcal{E}_i}$ is the true data and $\hat{\mathbf{r}}'_{\mathcal{E}_i}$ is the estimated data for environment \mathcal{E}_i . We repeated the error calculation for all environments, and obtained the sum of squared errors

$$PRESS_{\mathbf{r}} = \sum_{i=1}^{N} \|\mathbf{r}_{\mathcal{E}_i}' - \hat{\mathbf{r}}_{\mathcal{E}_i}'\|^2,$$
(2)

where N is the number of environmental conditions. In our case for S. pombe, N=10 and $PRESS_{\mathbf{r}}=5.45$.

When our hypothesis of linear correspondence is reasonable, PRESS_r should be small. To check this, we conducted the permutation test [18–20] by creating 10,000 false datasets in which environmental assignments of transcriptome data were randomly permuted (Fig. 2C). We calculated PRESS_r for these false data sets, and compared them to the original experimental value. We found that the original experimental PRESS_r was extremely small: the p-value of obtaining PRESS_r smaller than 5.45 was 0.0006 (Fig. 2D). This result offers strong support for the linear correspondence between Raman spectra and transcriptomes, and shows that the classification in the Raman space can be explained by differences of transcriptomes across conditions.

To further gain insight into the observed correspondence, we asked how many environments are necessary to find a good linear correspondence. To this end, we purposely selected fewer numbers of environments (5-9 environments), and calculated PRESS_r p-values for every combination of environments (Fig. 2E). For example, 252 possible combinations exist for 5 environments chosen among 10 ($_{10}$ C₅) and 210 combinations for 6 environments chosen among 10 ($_{10}$ C₆).

The result shows that p-values are generally smaller with more environments, and

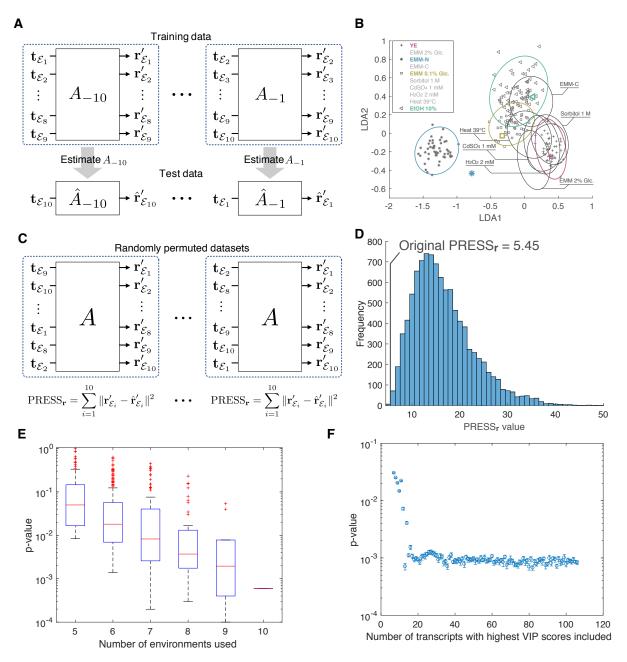


Figure 2. Linear correspondence between Raman spectra and transcriptomes. A. Leave-one-out cross-validation. Out of all environmental conditions (N = 10 for S. pombe), one condition (\mathcal{E}_i) is excluded, and the linear regression matrix \mathbf{A}_{-i} is estimated by the partial least squares regression. Then, the excluded Raman spectrum is estimated by $\hat{\mathbf{r}}'_{\mathcal{E}_i} = \hat{\mathbf{A}}_{-i}\mathbf{t}_{\mathcal{E}_i}$. This is repeated for all $i = 1, \dots, N$. B. Example predictions of Raman spectra from the transcriptomes. Thick colored points represent Raman spectra predicted from the transcriptomes. C. Permutation test for significance of Raman-transcriptome linearity. 10,000 false datasets were created where environmental assignments of transcriptome data were randomly permuted. For each random permutation, PRESS_r was calculated and compared with the original PRESS_r. D. Histogram of PRESS_r of 10,000 randomly permuted data. The original PRESS_r was 5.45, and the p-value was 0.0006. E. PRESS_r p-values when fewer numbers of environments were used. PRESS_r p-values were calculated for all possible combinations of environments for each number of environments (5-9 environments), and distributions of p-values were shown as box-and-whisker plots. F. p-values of PRESS_r when increasing the number of transcripts with highest VIP scores. p-values become stable after including 17 transcripts. The permutation test (10,000 permutations) was repeated 10 times per each point (error bar, standard error).

they all become smaller than 1% with 9 environments except for two combinations (Fig. 2E). These exceptional combinations lacked either EMM-N or EtOH 10%, a special environment distinguishable by axis LDA1 or LDA2 (Fig. 1D and 1E). These results show that having more environmental conditions and conditions in which cellular Raman spectra are largely distant from others, will generally improve the linear correspondence.

We next asked how many different kinds of transcripts are required to find a linear correspondence. To address this, we first evaluated the importance of each transcript based on the variable importance in projection (VIP) score in PLS-R analysis, which reflects the accumulated importance of each transcript to the linear regression [21,22]. A high VIP score of a transcript indicates that its contribution to the linear correspondence is significant. The top 30 transcripts with the highest VIP scores are listed in Table 1. Then, starting from 7 transcripts (the minimum number of transcripts required to conduct PLS-R, see Materials and Methods for details) with the highest VIP scores, we increased the numbers of transcripts included and conducted the permutation test each time. Both p-values and PRESS_r values initially decreased, and plateaued after including 17 transcripts (Fig. 2F and S4). Thus, based on the VIP score, knowing the expression profiles of these 17 transcripts is sufficient to find a linear correspondence.

Global expression profiles of $S.\ pombe$ transcriptomes across conditions are predictable from Raman spectra

PLS-R not only estimates the linear transformation matrix **A**, but also conducts a dimension reduction of the transcriptome data. We found that only 4 dimensions were required to explain 95% of the total variances of transcriptomes across conditions (Fig. 3A). The low-dimensionality of the transcriptome data indicates that global expression profiles of transcriptomes might also be predictable from Raman spectra. Note that this is a non-trivial inverse problem because we need to predict expression levels of 6560 transcripts in each environment only from 9-dimensional Raman data computed by PC-LDA.

We estimated the global expression profile of transcriptome in environment \mathcal{E}_i (denoted as $\hat{\mathbf{t}}_{\mathcal{E}_i}$) from obtained Raman spectra $\mathbf{r}'_{\mathcal{E}_i}$ based on the linear relation of Eq.(1) and the Moore-Penrose pseudo-inverse of the PLS-R parameter $\hat{\mathbf{A}}_{-i}$ (Fig. 3B; see

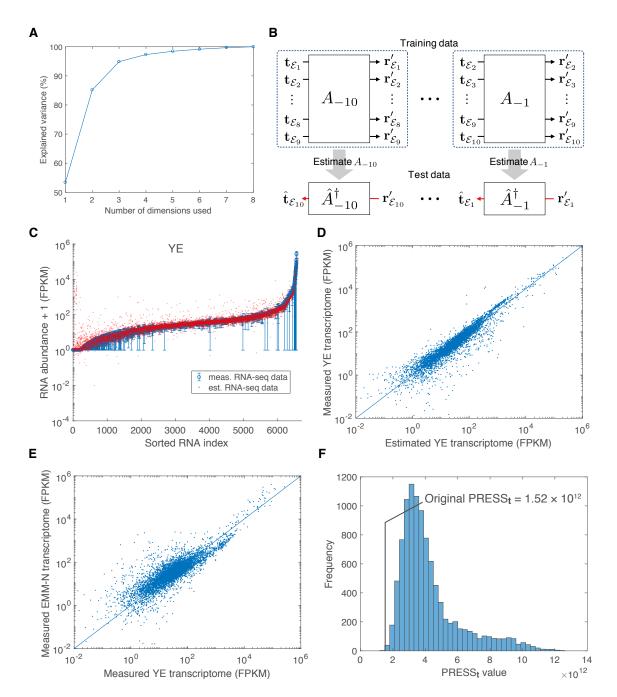


Figure 3. Predicting transcriptomes from Raman spectra. A. The total variance of transcriptome data explained by PLS-R. The horizontal axis represents the numbers of dimensions of transcriptomes after the dimension reduction by PLS-R used to calculate the variance, and the vertical axis the total variances explained. B. Predicting transcriptomes from Raman spectra. Transcriptomes were predicted by calculating the pseudo-inverse of $\hat{\mathbf{A}}_{-i}$ estimated in PLS-R as $\hat{\mathbf{t}}_{\mathcal{E}_i} = \hat{\mathbf{A}}_{-i}^{\dagger} \mathbf{r}_{\mathcal{E}_i}^{\prime}$. This is repeated for all $i=1,\ldots,N$. C. An example prediction of the transcriptome of rich medium environment (YE). Blue points represent the measured RNA abundance +1 (FPKM) (average of the two replicate measurements; error bar, max-min range) sorted from low to high along the horizontal axis. Red points represent the RNA abundance predicted from Raman spectra. D. Scatter plot of the predicted YE medium transcriptome versus the measured YE medium transcriptome. E. Scatter plot of the measured YE medium transcriptome versus the measured nitrogen-depleted medium (EMM-N) transcriptome. F. Histogram of PRESS_t of 10,000 randomly permuted data. Environmental assignments of transcriptomes were randomly permuted 10,000 times, and PRESS_t were calculated for each permutation. The probability of accidentally finding PRESS_t less than the original experimental value, 1.52×10^{12} , was extremely low (p-value 0.0004).

Table 1. List of *S. pombe* transcripts with top 30 VIP scores. The VIP score of each transcript is shown on the third column. The mean expression level of each transcript across 10 environmental conditions is shown on the fourth column, in the unit of fragments per kilobase per million mapped reads (FPKM). Type "N" on the fifth column indicates that the transcripts are known or predicted non-coding RNAs.

ID	Name	VIP	FPKM	Type	Description
SPSNRNA.06	snu6	52.3	3.95×10^{5}	N	small nuclear RNA U6
SPNCRNA.98	$\operatorname{srp}7$	26.6	3.86×10^5	N	7SL signal recognition particle component
SPMITTRNALYS.01	SPMITTRNALYS.01	23.1	1.81×10^{5}	N	tRNA Lysine, mitochondrial
SPNCRNA.510	SPNCRNA.510	21.1	1.46×10^{5}	N	non-coding RNA (predicted)
SPSNORNA.24	snoR39b	18.8	1.32×10^{5}	N	small nucleolar RNA R39b (predicted)
SPSNORNA.31	snoR39a	12.1	7.27×10^{4}	N	small nucleolar RNA snR39
SPSNORNA.43	snR91	11.2	1.29×10^{5}	N	box H/ACA small nucleolar RNA snR91
SPSNORNA.17	snoR58	11.2	7.54×10^{4}	N	small nucleolar RNA snR58 (predicted)
SPMITTRNAGLY.01	SPMITTRNAGLY.01	10.5	6.44×10^{4}	N	tRNA Glycine, mitochondrial
SPSNORNA.32	sno12	10.4	1.29×10^{5}	N	box H/ACA small nucleolar RNA 12/snR99
SPSNORNA.13	snoR69b	9.87	9.17×10^{4}	N	small nucleolar RNA snoR69b (predicted)
SPSNORNA.27	snoR47	9.25	5.38×10^{4}	N	small nucleolar RNA R47 (predicted)
SPMITTRNAALA.01	SPMITTRNAALA.01	8.25	2.88×10^{4}	N	tRNA Alanine, mitochondrial
SPSNORNA.16	snoR56	8.03	6.96×10^{4}	N	small nucleolar RNA snR56 (predicted)
SPNCRNA.507	SPNCRNA.507	7.88	7.79×10^{4}	N	non-coding RNA (predicted)
SPSNORNA.01	snR40	7.80	4.02×10^{4}	N	small nucleolar RNA snR40 (predicted)
SPATRNAILE.02	SPATRNAILE.02	7.77	3.10×10^{4}	N	tRNA Isoleucine
SPMITTRNATYR.01	SPMITTRNATYR.01	7.42	2.46×10^{4}	N	tRNA Tyrosine, mitochondrial
SPMITTRNAASP.01	SPMITTRNAASP.01	7.41	3.10×10^{4}	N	tRNA Aspartic acid, mitochondrial
SPSNORNA.21	snoU14	6.97	5.77×10^{4}	N	small nucleolar RNA U14
SPSNORNA.41	$\mathrm{snR46}$	6.29	5.33×10^{4}	N	box H/ACA small nucleolar RNA snR46
SPBTRNAARG.04	SPBTRNAARG.04	5.98	2.61×10^{4}	N	tRNA Arginine
SPMITTRNAGLU.01	SPMITTRNAGLU.01	5.52	2.39×10^{4}	N	tRNA Glutamic acid, mitochondrial
SPCTRNAARG.08	SPCTRNAARG.08	5.46	2.12×10^{4}	N	tRNA Arginine
SPBTRNAGLY.09	SPBTRNAGLY.09	5.43	1.53×10^{4}	N	tRNA Glycine
SPSNRNA.01	$\mathrm{snu}1$	5.27	6.80×10^{4}	N	small nuclear RNA U1
SPSNORNA.44	$\mathrm{snR}92$	4.80	5.22×10^{4}	N	box H/ACA small nucleolar RNA snR92
SPSNRNA.07	snu32	4.76	5.78×10^{4}	N	small nucleolar RNA U3B
SPBTRNATHR.06	SPBTRNATHR.06	4.71	1.89×10^4	N	tRNA Threonine
SPATRNAVAL.01	SPATRNAVAL.01	4.56	1.20×10^{4}	N	tRNA Valine

Materials and Methods for details). The results showed reasonably good agreements between $\hat{\mathbf{t}}_{\mathcal{E}_i}$ and $\mathbf{t}_{\mathcal{E}_i}$ (Fig. 3C, 3D, and S5). However, we also noticed that transcriptome data across conditions were already tightly correlated (Fig. 3E and S7), and likewise found relatively good agreements even between $\hat{\mathbf{t}}_{\mathcal{E}_i}$ and transcriptome data of different environments (Fig. S8). We therefore evaluated in detail the precision level of our prediction by calculating the PRESS of transcriptomes,

$$PRESS_{\mathbf{t}} = \sum_{i=1}^{N} \|\mathbf{t}_{\mathcal{E}_i} - \hat{\mathbf{t}}_{\mathcal{E}_i}\|^2,$$
(3)

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and again implemented the permutation test by randomly permuting the environmental correspondence between Raman and transcriptome data. Again for $S.\ pombe,\ N=10.$ Thereby we found that the original PRESS_t was very small: p=0.0004 (Fig. 3F). The original prediction is thus significantly superior to randomly permuted data. In fact, transcriptomes predicted from Raman spectra explain the condition-dependent fold changes of mRNA and non-coding RNA transcripts (Fig. S6). These results prove that cellular Raman spectra allow us to capture the real global changes of the expression profile of transcriptomes across conditions in good precision. Note that without the low-dimensionality of transcriptomes, it is impossible to retrieve genome-wide expression profiles from the low-dimensional Raman spectra.

The Raman-transcriptome correspondence in *E. coli*

To understand whether the observed Raman-transcriptome linearity is specific to S. pombe or more generally applicable to other organisms, we measured cellular Raman spectra and transcriptomes of E. coli. We focused on an E. coli strain MG1655 and its $\Delta cyaA$ mutant. cyaA encodes adenyl cyclase, which catalyzes the synthesis of cyclic AMP (cAMP) from ATP [23]. The growth of the $\Delta cyaA$ mutant is suppressed in cAMP-depleted culture media, but restored by exogenous cAMP supplement in a concentration-dependent manner [24]. We measured cellular Raman spectra (Fig. 4A, 4B and S9) and transcriptomes of $\Delta cyaA$ mutant cultured in the media with 0, 0.1, 0.5 and 1 mM cAMP, and those of the parental MG1655 strain (no cAMP in the medium) all sampled from late-exponential phase (OD₆₆₀ = 0.8).

As was done for $S.\ pombe$, we first conducted PC-LDA to obtained Raman spectra, finding that spectra under five different conditions (4 for the $\Delta cyaA$ mutant, and 1 for wild type) can be classified in a low-dimensional Raman space (Fig. 4C). Interestingly, clusters of Raman spectra of the mutant became closer to that of wild type as the concentration of exogenous cAMP increased. Next we conducted PLS-R to find a linear regression, and found that Raman spectra predicted from transcriptome data were assigned within or adjacent to the correct clusters (Fig. 4C). We calculated PRESS_r by Eq. (2) where N=5 for $E.\ coli$, and subsequently conducted a permutation test. The test showed that the original combination of the Raman and transcriptome data gave

the third lowest $PRESS_{\mathbf{r}}$ (1.06) among the 5!(=120) possible permuted combinations ($PRESS_{\mathbf{r}}$ p-value 0.0250, Fig. 4D). The prediction of transcriptomes from Raman spectra also gave good results, giving the second smallest $PRESS_{\mathbf{t}}$ ($PRESS_{\mathbf{t}}$ p-value 0.0167, Fig. 4E, 4F, S11, S10-S13). Together, this confirms the linear correspondence between Raman spectra and transcriptomes even in E. coli, and indicates that it should have broader applicability to other organisms and cell types.

ncRNAs are largely responsible for the Raman-transcriptome correspondence in *S. pombe*

We next examined what types of transcripts were responsible for establishing the observed Raman-transcriptome linear correspondence. Based on the list of transcripts sorted by the VIP scores, we found out that the main contributors were largely ncRNAs including small nucleolar RNAs (snoRNAs) and tRNAs in *S. pombe* (Table 1): The highest scoring mRNA was ranked only at the 55-th from the top.

To further understand this result, we separated transcriptomes of S.~pombe into mRNAs (containing 5091 transcripts) and ncRNAs (containing 1469 transcripts), and checked whether a linear correspondence can be found between Raman spectra and these coding and non-coding subsets of transcriptomes (Fig. 5A). The result showed that the linear correspondence between Raman spectra and mRNAs was as poor as randomly permuted data (PRESS_{\mathbf{r}_{mRNA}} p-value = 0.4803), whereas the correspondence with the ncRNA subset was excellent (PRESS_{\mathbf{r}_{ncRNA}} p-value = 0.0009, Fig. 5A). This also confirms the importance of ncRNAs to find the linear correspondence between Raman spectra and transcriptomes.

We also randomly sampled different numbers of transcripts either from the mRNA or ncRNA subset, and searched for the presence of a linear correspondence between those randomly sampled subsets and Raman spectra. Our results show that only very limited combinations of the sampled mRNA subsets yielded linearity (Fig. 5B), but many subsets of ncRNAs could correspond even with small numbers of transcripts (Fig. 5C). This result again indicates the superiority of ncRNAs for finding a linear correspondence.

Note that these results do not indicate that Raman spectra cannot predict mRNA

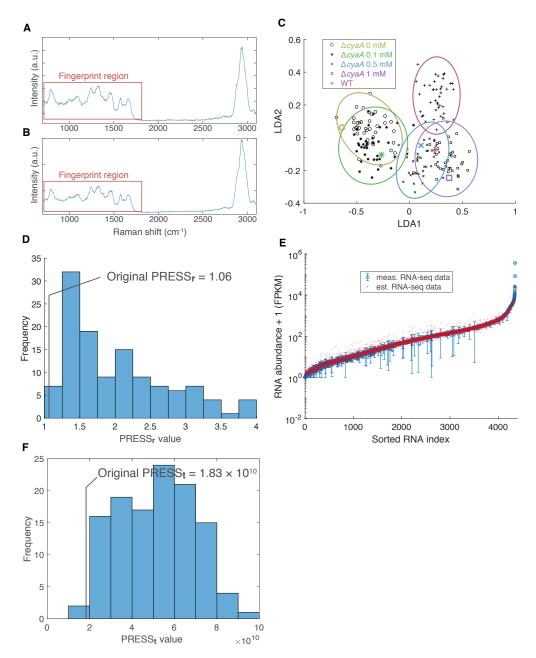


Figure 4. Raman-transcriptome correspondence in $E.\ coli.$ A, B. Example Raman spectra of $E.\ coli$ for wild type (WT, plot A), and $\Delta cyaA$ mutant supplemented with 0 mM cAMP ($\Delta cyaA$ 0 mM, plot B). Red rectangles represent the fingerprint region. C. Dimension reduction of $E.\ coli$ Raman spectra by PC-LDA. Black points represent the measured Raman spectra after dimension reduction by PC-LDA shown on the LDA1-LDA2 plane. Colored ellipses represent the χ^2 95% confidence intervals for different culture conditions: Yellow for $\Delta cyaA$ 0 mM; green for $\Delta cyaA$ 0.1 mM; blue for $\Delta cyaA$ 0.5 mM; purple for $\Delta cyaA$ 1 mM; red for WT. Thick colored points denote the low-dimensional Raman data predicted from the corresponding transcriptomes. D. PRESS_r histogram when randomly permuting environmental assignments of transcriptome data. The original experimental PRESS_r = 1.06 was the third lowest of all 5! = 120 possible permutations (p-value = 3/120 = 0.0250). E. Example prediction of $E.\ coli\ \Delta cyaA$ 0 mM transcriptomes from Raman spectra by $\hat{\mathbf{t}}_{E_i}$ = $\hat{\mathbf{A}}_{-i}^{\dagger}\mathbf{r}'_{E_i}$. Blue points represent the measured RNA abundance + 1 (FPKM) (average of the three replicate measurements; error bar, standard error) sorted from low to high along the horizontal axis. Red points represent the RNA abundance predicted from Raman spectra. F. PRESS_t histogram when randomly permuting environmental assignments of transcriptome data. The original experimental PRESS_t = 1.83 × 10¹⁰ was the second lowest of all 5! = 120 possible permutations (p-value = 2/120 = 0.0167).

profiles: our prediction of mRNA expression levels from Raman spectra was actually more precise than ncRNA expression levels as below. To evaluate the prediction accuracy of transcriptomes, we calculated the "coefficient of variation of prediction error per each transcript" as follows:

$$CVPRESS_{t} = \frac{\sqrt{PRESS_{t}}}{\dim t \cdot \text{mean } t},$$
(4)

where dim \mathbf{t} is the total number of transcripts, and mean \mathbf{t} is the mean expression level of all transcripts in \mathbf{t} across all environment conditions. Here, we used \mathbf{t}_{mRNA} or \mathbf{t}_{ncRNA} for \mathbf{t} . We found that CVPRESS $\mathbf{t}_{mRNA} = 0.0909$ and CVPRESS $\mathbf{t}_{ncRNA} = 0.383$, showing that the prediction accuracy of each mRNAs relative to their mean expression levels was actually higher than that of ncRNAs. This may be counterintuitive to the fact that PRESS \mathbf{r}_{mRNA} p-value is high. Instead, this indicates that expression levels of mRNAs do not change much across conditions, and there is not much difference even when the data set is randomly permuted. In fact, the coefficient of variations (CV) of expression levels across conditions were larger for ncRNAs than for mRNAs (Fig. 5D). Also, PRESS \mathbf{r}_{ncRNA} of randomized data changed over a much broader range than mRNAs (Fig. 5A), showing once again that expression levels of ncRNAs change more dynamically in response to environmental changes.

We likewise conducted the same analysis for *E. coli*. In *E. coli*, the number of ncRNAs is much smaller than that of *S. pombe*, constituting only 2.18% of the *E. coli* transcriptome. The analysis revealed that the linear correspondence can be found with both mRNA and ncRNA subsets (*p*-value = 0.0250 for mRNA, and 0.0167 for ncRNA, Fig. 5E). In fact, 28 among the 30 top VIP-scored transcripts were mRNAs (Table 2). Random sampling test also showed that the linear correspondence was more easily found with mRNA subsets than with ncRNA subsets for the current 5 conditions (Fig. S14). Therefore, the necessity of ncRNAs for the Raman-transcriptome linearity was not as apparent as that in *S. pombe*.

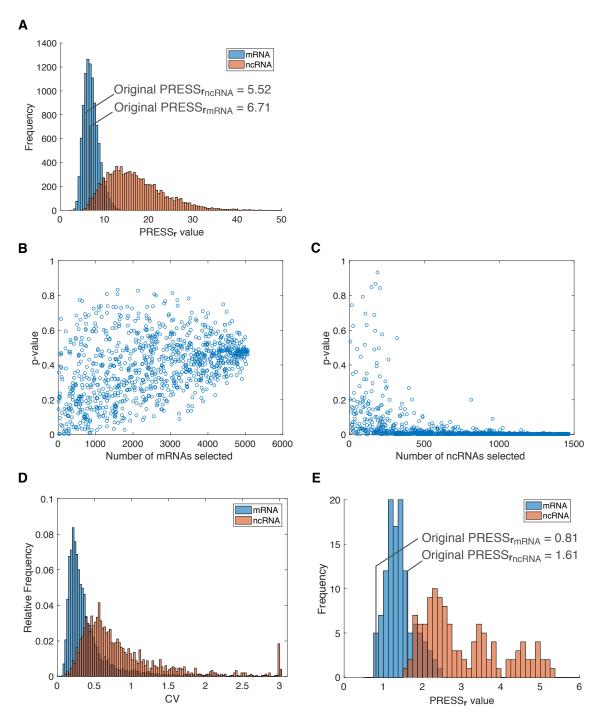


Figure 5. Transcriptome subsets contributing to the Raman-transcriptome correspondence. A. PRESS_r histograms of randomly permuted data sets of *S. pombe* mRNAs (blue) and ncRNAs (red). Original PRESS_r of mRNA was 6.71 (*p*-value, 0.4803) and that of ncRNAs was 5.52 (*p*-value, 0.0009). B. PRESS_r *p*-values of randomly selected mRNA subsets in *S. pombe*. 1,000 subsets were selected, and 1,000 random permutations per each subset were conducted to calculate *p*-values. C. PRESS_r *p*-values of randomly selected ncRNA subsets in *S. pombe*. 1,000 subsets were selected, and 1,000 random permutations per each subset were conducted to calculate *p*-values. In stark contrast to mRNAs, the vast majority of ncRNA subsets had small *p*-values. D. Histograms of coefficient of variations of mRNAs (blue) and ncRNAs (red) across 10 environmental conditions in *S. pombe*. E. PRESS_r histograms of randomly permuted data sets of *E. coli* mRNAs (blue) and ncRNAs (red). Original PRESS_r of mRNA was 0.81 (*p*-value, 0.0250) and that of ncRNAs was 1.61 (*p*-value, 0.0167).

Table 2. List of *E. coli* transcripts with top 30 VIP scores. The VIP score of each transcript is shown on the third column. The mean expression level of each transcript across 5 environmental conditions is shown on the fourth column, in the unit of FPKM. Type "N" and "C" on the fifth column indicate ncRNAs and mRNAs, respectively.

ID	Name	VIP	FPKM	Type	Description	
b2621	ssrA	54.3	2.57×10^{5}	N	tmRNA, 10Sa RNA	
b3123	rnpB	21.9	8.98×10^{4}	N	RNase P, M1 RNA component	
b1677	lpp	14.2	2.94×10^{4}	\mathbf{C}	murein lipoprotein	
b2579	grcA	13.5	9.88×10^{3}	\mathbf{C}	autonomous glycyl radical cofactor	
b3510	hdeA	8.98	1.73×10^{4}	\mathbf{C}	stress response protein acid-resistance protein	
b3708	tnaA	5.98	2.90×10^{3}	\mathbf{C}	tryptophanase/L-cysteine desulfhydrase, PLP-dependent	
b2266	elaB	5.64	$7.85 imes 10^3$	\mathbf{C}	putative membrane-anchored DUF883 family ribosome-binding protein	
b3556	cspA	4.28	1.04×10^{4}	\mathbf{C}	RNA chaperone and antiterminator, cold-inducible	
b3985	rplJ	3.32	9.30×10^{3}	\mathbf{C}	50S ribosomal subunit protein L10	
b4217	ytfK	3.05	4.27×10^{3}	\mathbf{C}	DUF1107 family protein	
b2215	ompC	2.93	1.48×10^{4}	\mathbf{C}	outer membrane porin protein C	
b3986	rplL	2.90	8.53×10^{3}	\mathbf{C}	50S ribosomal subunit protein L7/L12	
b0953	rmf	2.88	3.24×10^{3}	\mathbf{C}	ribosome modulation factor	
b0812	dps	2.85	4.45×10^3	\mathbf{C}	Fe-binding and storage protein; stress-inducible DNA-binding protein	
b3314	rpsC	2.66	5.94×10^3	\mathbf{C}	30S ribosomal subunit protein S3	
b2096	$\operatorname{gat} Y$	2.65	2.01×10^3	\mathbf{C}	D-tagatose 1,6-bisphosphate aldolase 2, catalytic subunit	
b0957	$\mathrm{omp}\mathrm{A}$	2.65	1.35×10^{4}	\mathbf{C}	outer membrane protein A (3a;II*;G;d)	
b3316	rpsS	2.64	5.82×10^{3}	\mathbf{C}	30S ribosomal subunit protein S19	
b2343	yfcZ	2.60	3.88×10^{3}	\mathbf{C}	UPF0381 family protein	
b3296	rpsD	2.57	7.45×10^{3}	\mathbf{C}	30S ribosomal subunit protein S4	
b3315	rplV	2.51	5.68×10^{3}	\mathbf{C}	50S ribosomal subunit protein L22	
b3509	hdeB	2.50	5.08×10^{3}	\mathbf{C}	acid-resistance protein	
b4240	${ m treB}$	2.48	1.32×10^3	\mathbf{C}	trehalose-specific PTS enzyme: IIB and IIC component	
b3307	rpsN	2.47	6.91×10^3	\mathbf{C}	30S ribosomal subunit protein S14	
b2092	gatC	2.46	1.65×10^3	\mathbf{C}	pseudogene, galactitol-specific enzyme IIC component of PTS;	
					transport; Transport of small molecules:	
					Carbohydrates, organic acids, alcohols;	
					PTS system galactitol-specific enzyme IIC	
b0814	$\mathrm{omp} X$	2.44	5.12×10^3	\mathbf{C}	outer membrane protein X	
b3308	rplE	2.42	7.31×10^{3}	\mathbf{C}	50S ribosomal subunit protein L5	
b3065	rpsU	2.40	7.17×10^3	\mathbf{C}	30S ribosomal subunit protein S21	
b3319	rplD	2.39	6.02×10^{3}	\mathbf{C}	50S ribosomal subunit protein L4	
b4015	aceA	2.38	3.12×10^3	\mathbf{C}	isocitrate lyase	

Discussion

Cellular Raman spectra reflect the comprehensive molecular compositions of cells, and therefore spectral differences should be associated with cellular state differences.

However, interpreting spectra has been challenging due to the difficulty of decomposing total cellular spectra into those of constituent biomolecules. In this report, instead of pursuing the spectral decomposition, we asked whether whole-cell Raman spectra could be directly and computationally corresponded to other types of well studied omics-level

information. Employing dimension reduction methods, we showed that dimensions of high dimensional cellular Raman spectra and transcriptomes measured by RNA-seq can be greatly reduced, and connected linearly through a shared low-dimensional subspace. Accordingly, we were able to reconstruct global gene expression profiles by applying the calculated transformation matrix to cellular Raman spectra, and vice versa. We therefore provided firm experimental evidence that the differences of cellular Raman spectra contain key information that allows us to detect cellular states.

The linear correspondence between cellular Raman spectra and transcriptomes is far from trivial because transcriptomes targeted in our study (the total RNA excluding rRNAs) constitute only a small fraction of biomass: the total RNA excluding rRNAs constitute 2\% of the biomass, whereas proteins constitute 40-50\% in Saccharomyces cerevisiae [25, 26]. Furthermore, Raman signals mostly come from proteins, and the contribution of total RNAs to the total signal is considered minor [27, 28]. It is thus implausible that the observed Raman spectra directly reflects signals from RNAs targeted in our study. The observed linear correspondence instead indicates that whole-cell molecular compositions of cells are tightly and linearly constrained by the transcriptome. Cellular Raman signals come from all the constituent biomolecules in a cell including proteins, lipids, and metabolites, but our PLS-R analysis did not take into account of the abundances of biomolecules other than a fraction of RNAs. The fact that Raman spectra and transcriptomes correspond linearly implies that abundances of other biomolecules might also be linearly related to the transcriptome. This speculation could be tested by trans-omics analyses to examine the correspondences among multi-level omics data such as proteomes, metabolomes, and transcriptomes [29]. The unexpected correspondence between Raman spectra and transcriptomes might also imply that similar multivariate analyses could find linkages between other types of non-destructive spectroscopic data such as whole-cell NMR [30,31] and omics data. It would be an important subject to explore such technical possibilities for future cell analysis study.

It is also intriguing that in *S. pombe*, ncRNAs are more linearly corresponded to Raman spectra than are mRNAs because ncRNAs do not contribute to proteomes directly. Our analysis reveals that snoRNAs and tRNAs had high VIP scores in *S. pombe* (Table 1). These ncRNAs are directly or indirectly involved in translational processes: For example, snoRNAs are known to be necessary for the maturation of

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ribosomal RNAs [32,33]. Therefore, expression levels and the combined action of these ncRNAs may influence the translation of all proteins and consequently modulate global chemical composition of cells. Importantly, our results indicate that changes of mRNA expression levels in *S. pombe* across environment conditions are subtle relative to ncRNAs (Fig. 5D), which might have prevented us from finding a linear correspondence between Raman spectra and mRNA transcriptome subset. Note that our results do not exclude the possibility that mRNA profiles are linked to Raman spectra non-linearly.

On the other hand, ncRNAs are much less abundant in *E. coli*, and most of the transcripts with high VIP scores were mRNAs (Table 2). However, we found that the VIP list contained many transcripts coding ribosomal subunit proteins and ribosome modulating factors (Table 2). Taken together, our findings might indicate that alterations in translation machinery is one of the major cellular responses to environmental changes, and thus intimately linked to cellular global molecular compositions that are reflected in Raman spectra.

Our results showing that the transcriptome is low-dimensional indicate that intracellular gene expression is globally coupled and that expression-level changes of many genes occur in a coordinated manner. The degree of freedom in transcriptomes should therefore be severely limited, which has been in fact suggested in many microarray and sequencing studies [34–43]. Importantly, as shown in our study, such global changes of transcriptomes are associated with changes of cellular Raman spectra, which can now be monitored non-destructively at the single-cell level and in a snapshot manner. Furthermore, if the transformation parameter is known beforehand, one could estimate instantly the change of expression levels of each transcript from Raman spectra as conducted in Fig. 3. It should be noted that the low-dimensionality of transcriptomes was indispensable for our prediction because they were predicted based on dimension-reduced Raman spectra; changes of transcriptomes that require more dimensions than the total number of LDA axes are unpredictable in principle. Therefore, the fact that we could predict transcriptomes in a reasonably good precision in turn provides evidence for the low-dimensionality of transcriptomes.

Single-cell Raman microscopy is compatible with live-cell time-lapse imaging, though the photo-damage on cells by incident laser and background spectral noise from culture media must be carefully considered. Our results therefore indicate that single-cell Raman spectra have the potential to provide omics information directly from living cells in a non-destructive and snapshot manner. Such *spectroscopic live-cell omics* studies would provide the way to investigate how global cellular states dynamically change in single living cells across diverse environmental conditions and cell types. If the Raman-transcriptome correspondence is further confirmed for other cell types, single-cell Raman microscopy could be applied to detecting distinct cells such as malignant cancers, pluripotent stem cells and antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

Acknowledgments

We thank the National Institute for Materials Science, Molecule & Material Synthesis Platform, for sharing the Raman microscope facilities during the initial stage of this study; Joseph Kirschvink for reading the manuscript and valuable comments; Edo Kussell and members of the Wakamoto lab for in-depth discussions. This work was supported by the Platform for Dynamic Approaches to Living System from Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Japan and Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (to Y.W. and K.O.); Japan Society for the Promotion of Science KAKENHI (grant number 15KT0075, 15H05746 to Y.W.); and Cooperative Research Grant of the Genome Research for BioResource, NODAI Genome Research Center, Tokyo University of Agriculture (to Y.K., S.Y.). K.J.K.-K. and K.N. was supported by Grant-in-Aid for Japan Society for the Promotion of Science Fellows (grant number 17J08992 and 17J07408).

Author contributions

K.J.K.-K. and Y.W. conceived the work. K.J.K.-K. performed Raman measurements. K.J.K.-K. and H.N. designed the culture conditions and prepared the cell samples for *S. pombe* experiments. K.N., H.F. and H.M. designed the culture conditions and prepared the cell samples for *E. coli* experiments. K.J.K.-K. and A.O. obtained RNA-Seq transcriptome data for *S. pombe*. Y.K. and S.Y. obtained RNA-Seq transcriptome data for *E. coli*. K.J.K.-K. and K.F.K. analyzed data. K.J.K.-K., H.N., A.O., K.F.K., H.M., K.O. and Y.W. evaluated the results and provided the interpretation. K.J.K.-K., K.F.K.

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Materials and Methods

S. pombe strain and culture conditions

A haploid strain, 972 h⁻, was used for all *S. pombe* experiments. Initially, cells were cultured at 30°C in Yeast Extract (YE) (Bacto Yeast Extract (Becton Dickinson and Co)) + 3% glucose liquid medium until OD₆₀₀ =0.7-1.0. Then, cell cultures were inoculated to the following stress conditions in liquid cultures: YE + 1 mM CdSO₄, YE + 1 M Sorbitol, YE + 2 mM H₂O₂, heat shock in a water bath at 39°C for an hour. For the other stress conditions, cell cultures were washed three times with the media EMM-N, EMM-C, EMM 2% Glucose, EMM 0.1% Glucose, YE + 10% EtOH (Table S1), and cultured in each medium at 30°C for 24 hours.

Prior to Raman microscopy measurements, cells from each stress condition were washed with phosphate buffered saline (PBS) three times, and fixed with 2% formaldehyde in PBS for an hour at 4°C. Then, cells were washed once with PBS + 100 mM glycine to quench the free aldehyde, and twice with PBS. Subsequently, all samples were stored at 4°C until they were measured.

E. coli strains and culture conditions

E. coli MG1655 $\Delta cyaA$ strain was constructed by P1 transduction from BW25113 $\Delta cyaA$ strain in Keio collection [44]. The deletion of cyaA ORF was verified after isolation by genome sequencing.

E. coli MG1655 strain was cultured in 10 mL L-broth (1.0% Bacto Tryptone (Becton Dickinson and Co.), 0.5% Bacto Yeast Extract (Becton Dickinson and Co.) and 0.5% NaCl). MG1655 $\Delta cyaA$ strain was cultured in 10 mL L-broth containing 0, 0.1, 0.5 or 1.0 mM cAMP. Cells were grown at 37°C to late exponential phase (OD₆₆₀=0.8). Prior to Raman microscopy measurements, cells were washed twice with physiological saline.

Raman microscopy

Raman spectra of cells were obtained with a custom-built Raman microscope where a commercial Raman imaging system (STR-Raman, AIRIX corp.) was integrated into a Nikon Ti-E microscope. A 532 nm, continuous-wave diode-pumped solid-state laser

(Gem 532, Laser Quantum) was used as excitation. For S.~pombe, a $60\times/\text{NA}~1.2$ water immersion objective lens (Olympus, UPLSAPO 60XW) was used at 4 mW power at the sample stage. For E.~coli, a $100\times/\text{NA}~0.9$ air objective lens (Olympus, MPLN 100X) was used at 18 mW power. Backscattered Raman signals were focused through a 100 μ m pinhole, dispersed by a spectrometer (Acton SP2300i, Princeton Instruments) equipped with a 300 gr/mm grating, and detected with a sCMOS camera (Orca Flash 4.0~v2, Hamamatsu Photonics). To reduce dark noise, the sCMOS camera was water-cooled at 15°C . The exposure time of each cell was 10~seconds.

Unlike CCD detectors, sCMOS detectors have pixel-dependent readout noise that must be reduced for actual use in Raman microscopy. To address this, a sCMOS specific noise reduction filter inspired by [45] was implemented. All of the following analyses were conducted by scripts written in Matlab 2017a. First, 10,000 blank, 2048×2048 pixel images with exposure time of 10 seconds were obtained to characterize the noise distribution of each pixel. The offset o_i and variance var_i of pixel i were calculated as follows:

$$o_i = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^{M} s_i^m, \tag{5}$$

$$var_i = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^{M} (s_i^m)^2 - o_i^2,$$
 (6)

where M is the total number of images taken (in this case M = 10,000), m is the frame number of obtained dark images and s_i^m is the analog-to-digital unit (ADU) count of pixel i at frame m. An offset subtraction for each pixel was conducted, and a 2-dimensional convolution filter was applied to obtained images as follows:

$$unif(D_i, n) = \frac{\sum_{i \in C_{n \times n}} \left[\frac{(D_i - o_i)}{\text{var}_i} \right]}{\sum_{i \in C_{n \times n}} \text{var}_i^{-1}}, \tag{7}$$

where D_i is the ADU count of each pixel, n is the number of pixels per window size and $C_{n\times n}$ represents the kernel region which is a $n\times n$ square box centered around pixel i. In our study, n=3. In essence, this convolution filter assigns a weighted average to pixel counts, where pixels with low variances are given higher weights than those with high variances. After applying the convolution filter, the region of the spectrum in the

image was cropped, and the sum of pixel counts along the direction perpendicular to the wavenumber was calculated to obtain a Raman spectrum. The wavenumber was calibrated referencing the standard Raman spectrum of ethanol, and spectral regions of 632 to 1873 cm⁻¹ was used for all subsequent multivariate analyses (2 cm⁻¹ per pixel). Furthermore, each spectrum was smoothed by the Savitzky-Golay filter [46], and normalized by subtracting the mean and dividing it by its standard deviation.

For preparing S. pombe samples for Raman measurements, 1 μ L of cell suspension was placed on a synthetic quartz slide glass put in place with a synthetic quartz cover glass (TOSHIN RIKO CO., LTD). The rims of the coverslips were sealed with Vaseline to prevent evaporation during measurements. The center of 15-26 cells were measured for every sample, and three biological replicates were obtained, which resulted in a total of 54-76 cell measurements per each environment condition.

For E.~coli, 5 μ L of cell suspension was placed on a synthetic quartz slide glass, and air dried for 5-10 minutes. 15 cells were measured for every sample, and three biological replicates were obtained, which resulted in a total of 45 cell measurements per each condition. 5 background spectra for each slide glass were obtained, and the average was subtracted from obtained cellular spectra.

S. pombe RNA sequencing and data processing

For S. pombe RNA-seq, two biological replicates were measured. 50 mL cell cultures of each environmental condition were prepared as described above. Each culture was pelleted down, and quickly frozen with liquid nitrogen. The total RNA was extracted as described in [47], followed by a DNA removal (RQ1 DNase, Promega) and a ribosome RNA removal by the Ribo-Zero Gold rRNA Removal kit for yeast (Illumina Inc.). Sequencing libraries were prepared using NEBNext Ultra Directional RNA Library Prep Kit for Illumina (NEB) following the manufacturer's instructions. 150 bp paired-end sequencing was conducted with MiSeq (Illumina Inc.). Raw RNA-seq reads were mapped on to the reference genome of 972 h⁻ S. pombe (ASM294v2) from PomBase [13,14] by TopHat2 [48], and FPKMs of annotated genes and noncoding transcripts were calculated by Cufflinks 2.0 [49,50].

E. coli RNA sequencing and data processing

For E. coli RNA-seq, three biological replicates were measured. In the preparation of RNAs, RNAprotect Bacteria Reagent (Qiagen N.V.) was added to exponential phase cultures, and then, cells were lysed using lysozyme (SEIKAGAKU Co.). Then, the total RNA was extracted from the lysates using an RNeasy mini kit (Qiagen N.V.) and RNase-free DNase set (Qiagen N.V.) following the manufacturer's instructions. Sequencing libraries were prepared by the NEBNext mRNA library prep kit for Illumina (NEB) with the following modifications. The random hexamer primer was used for reverse transcription. After second strand synthesis, double stranded cDNA was fragmented to an average length of 300 bp using a Covaris S2 sonication system (Covaris Inc.). One hundred cycles of paired-end sequencing were carried out using HiSeq 2500 system (Illumina Inc.) following the manufacturer's instructions. After the sequencing reactions were complete, the Illumina analysis pipeline (CASAVA 1.8.0) was used to process the raw sequencing data. RNA-seq reads were trimmed using CLC Genomics Workbench ver. 8.5.1 (Qiagen N.V.) with the following parameters; Phred quality score >30; Removing terminal 15 nucleotides from 5' end and 3 nucleotides from 3' end; Removing truncated reads less than 30 nucleotides length. Trimmed reads were mapped to all genes in E. coli strain MG1655 (accession number: NC_000913.3) using CLC Genomics Workbench ver. 8.5.1 (Qiagen N.V.) with the following parameters; Length fraction: 0.7; Similarity fraction: 0.9; Maximum number of hits for a read: 1. The expression level of each gene was calculated by counting the mapped reads to each gene and were normalized by calculating the values of FPKM. All transcripts were annotated from [51].

Principal component-linear discriminant analysis (PC-LDA)

To reduce systematic-error and dimensions of cellular Raman spectra, we conducted principal component-linear discriminant analysis (PC-LDA). In short, PC-LDA is a supervised classification technique that combines principal component analysis (PCA) and linear discriminant analysis (LDA) to find the most discriminatory bases while avoiding over-fitting. PCA is first applied to the original high-dimensional Raman spectra to reduce noise and dimension, which simultaneously reduces over-fitting and

enables conducting the following LDA analysis against high-dimensional data [7, 8, 12]. In our study, for both *S. pombe* and *E. coli*, we used principal components that in total explained 98% of the variance of the original Raman spectra. Then, against the chosen principal components, LDA takes into account the culture-condition assignments and extracts the most discriminatory bases by maximizing the ratio of the between-group variance to the sum of within-group variances in the lower dimensional space.

To test how well PC-LDA was able to classify cellular Raman spectra, 1/6-th of the spectra from every environment condition was excluded from the calculation of the discriminatory bases, projected on to the PC-LDA space, and classified by the maximum likelihood method. It was assumed that single-cell Raman spectra in the PC-LDA space from each environment followed a Gaussian distribution, and the excluded Raman spectra were classified as the environment which gave the highest likelihood. For *S. pombe*, the classification accuracy was 90.6%, and for *E. coli*, 65.7%.

Prediction of Raman spectra and transcriptomes by partial least squares regression (PLS-R)

To evaluate the linearity between dimension reduced and environment averaged Raman spectra and transcriptomes, we conducted a leave-one-out cross-validation. One measurement from environment \mathcal{E}_i was removed, and PLS-R was applied to conduct a linear regression against the remaining data set. Specifically, this equates to finding a matrix \mathbf{A}_{-i} such that

$$\mathbf{R}_{-i} = \mathbf{A}_{-i} \mathbf{T}_{-i} + \mathbf{E}_{-i} \tag{8}$$

where $\mathbf{R}_{-i} = [\mathbf{r}_{\mathcal{E}_1,-i}',\cdots,\mathbf{r}_{\mathcal{E}_{i-1},-i}',\mathbf{r}_{\mathcal{E}_{i+1},-i}',\cdots,\mathbf{r}_{\mathcal{E}_N,-i}'],$

 $\mathbf{T}_{-i} = [\mathbf{t}_{\mathcal{E}_1}, \cdots, \mathbf{t}_{\mathcal{E}_{i-1}}, \mathbf{t}_{\mathcal{E}_{i+1}}, \cdots, \mathbf{t}_{\mathcal{E}_N}]$ and \mathbf{E}_{-i} is the error matrix. Here, $\mathbf{r}'_{\mathcal{E},-i}$ are the dimension reduced Raman spectra where PC-LDA against Raman spectra excluding environment i was applied. Also, $\mathbf{r}'_{\mathcal{E},-i}$ and $\mathbf{t}_{\mathcal{E}}$ are mean centered by subtracting the average of the included N-1 conditions. Now, when $N-1 < \dim \mathbf{t}_{\mathcal{E}}$, ordinary least squares regression cannot be conducted to find \mathbf{A}_{-i} (In our study, for S. pombe, $N-1=9<\dim \mathbf{t}_{\mathcal{E}}=6560$ and for E. coli, $N-1=4<\dim \mathbf{t}_{\mathcal{E}}=4349$). Therefore, we applied PLS-R, which reduces the dimension of $\mathbf{t}_{\mathcal{E}}$ to below N-1 so that a linear regression can be conducted, while retaining the linearity between $\mathbf{r}'_{\mathcal{E},-i}$ and $\mathbf{t}_{\mathcal{E}}$ [15–17].

For all PLS-R analyses in this study, the dimensions were reduced to N-3. Consequently, in our attempt in Fig. 2F to find the required numbers of transcripts to observe a linear correspondence, the number of included transcripts was increased from N-3=10-3=7.

Once \mathbf{A}_{-i} is estimated, $\mathbf{r}'_{\mathcal{E}_{i},-i}$ can be estimated as $\hat{\mathbf{r}}'_{\mathcal{E}_{i},-i} = \hat{\mathbf{A}}_{-i}\mathbf{t}_{\mathcal{E}_{i}}$. However, $\hat{\mathbf{r}}'_{\mathcal{E}_{i},-i}$ is predicted on to the PC-LDA space where environment \mathcal{E}_{i} is excluded. Therefore, this space is not designed to evaluate Raman spectra obtained from environment \mathcal{E}_{i} . Thus, to evaluate the estimated spectra, the basis of $\hat{\mathbf{r}}'_{\mathcal{E}_{i},-i}$ was changed to the PC-LDA space including environment \mathcal{E}_{i} by $\hat{\mathbf{r}}'_{\mathcal{E}_{i}} = \mathbf{C}_{-i}\hat{\mathbf{r}}'_{\mathcal{E}_{i},-i}$. \mathbf{C}_{-i} was calculated as $\mathbf{C}_{-i} = [\mathbf{r}'_{\mathcal{E}_{1}}, \cdots, \mathbf{r}'_{\mathcal{E}_{i-1}}, \mathbf{r}'_{\mathcal{E}_{i+1}}, \cdots, \mathbf{r}'_{\mathcal{E}_{N}}]\mathbf{R}^{\dagger}_{-i}$, where $\mathbf{R}^{\dagger}_{-i}$ is the Moore-Penrose pseudoinverse of \mathbf{R}_{-i} . This was repeated for all $i = 1, \ldots, N$, and PRESS_r was calculated.

To predict the transcriptome of environment \mathcal{E}_i , we obtained the Moore-Penrose pseudoinverse of $\hat{\mathbf{A}}_{-i}$ denoted as $\hat{\mathbf{A}}_{-i}^{\dagger}$, and predicted it as $\hat{\mathbf{t}}_{\mathcal{E}_i} = \hat{\mathbf{A}}_{-i}^{\dagger} \mathbf{r}_{\mathcal{E}_i}'$. Note that in general, the estimate of transcriptome $\hat{\mathbf{t}}_{\mathcal{E}_i}$ that satisfies $\mathbf{r}_{\mathcal{E}_i}' = \hat{\mathbf{A}}_{-i} \hat{\mathbf{t}}_{\mathcal{E}_i}$ is

$$\hat{\mathbf{t}}_{\mathcal{E}_i} = \hat{\mathbf{A}}_{-i}^{\dagger} \mathbf{r}_{\mathcal{E}_i}^{\prime} + (\mathbf{I} - \hat{\mathbf{A}}_{-i}^{\dagger} \hat{\mathbf{A}}_{-i}) \mathbf{v}$$
(9)

where \mathbf{v} is an arbitrary vector, meaning that $\hat{\mathbf{t}}_{\mathcal{E}_i}$ in principle cannot be determined uniquely from $\mathbf{r}'_{\mathcal{E}_i}$. However, $\hat{\mathbf{A}}^{\dagger}_{-i}\mathbf{r}'_{\mathcal{E}_i}$ is the term that can be determined experimentally. Also, the terms $\hat{\mathbf{A}}^{\dagger}_{-i}\mathbf{r}'_{\mathcal{E}_i}$ and $(\mathbf{I} - \hat{\mathbf{A}}^{\dagger}_{-i}\hat{\mathbf{A}}_{-i})\mathbf{v}$ are orthogonal $(\langle \hat{\mathbf{A}}^{\dagger}_{-i}\mathbf{r}'_{\mathcal{E}_i}, (\mathbf{I} - \hat{\mathbf{A}}^{\dagger}_{-i}\hat{\mathbf{A}}_{-i})\mathbf{v} \rangle = 0)$, meaning that removing the term $(\mathbf{I} - \hat{\mathbf{A}}^{\dagger}_{-i}\hat{\mathbf{A}}_{-i})\mathbf{v}$ does not affect the subspace spanned by $\hat{\mathbf{A}}^{\dagger}_{-i}\mathbf{r}'_{\mathcal{E}_i}$. Therefore, we estimated $\hat{\mathbf{t}}_{\mathcal{E}_i}$ by $\hat{\mathbf{t}}_{\mathcal{E}_i} = \hat{\mathbf{A}}^{\dagger}_{-i}\mathbf{r}'_{\mathcal{E}_i}$. Again, this was repeated for all $i = 1, \ldots, N$, and PRESS_t was calculated.

VIP scores in Table 1 and 2, and explained variances by the number of dimensions used in Fig 3A were calculated as the average of i = 1, ..., N when conducting the above leave-one-out cross-validation.

Evaluating the significance of Raman-transcriptome linearity by the permutation test

To test the significance of the Raman-transcriptome linearity, we conducted the permutation test [18,19]. In short, false data sets were created by randomly permuting environmental assignments of transcriptomes, $PRESS_{\mathbf{r}}$ or $PRESS_{\mathbf{t}}$ values were calculated, and p-values of accidentally obtaining PRESS values equal to or lower than the original value were obtained.

When the number of environment conditions N is larger than 8, the number of possible random permutations exceeds 8! = 40,320, and becomes computationally intensive to calculate p-values. Therefore, when $N \geq 8$, unless otherwise stated, p-values were calculated by randomly generating 10,000 permutations, and when N < 8, all possible permutations were generated. p-values calculated from randomly generated permutations are known to underestimate exact p-values [20]. Therefore, when $N \geq 8$, p-values were calculated by applying the following correction: (b+1)/(m+1) where b is the number of permutations that gave PRESS values equal to or lower than the original PRESS value, and m is the total number of permutations [20].