

1 Isw2 and Ino80 chromatin remodeling factors regulate chromatin,
2 replication, and copy number at the yeast ribosomal DNA locus
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23 **Short title:** Chromatin remodeling factors and the ribosomal DNA locus

24 **Abstract**

25

26 In the budding yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, ribosomal RNA genes are encoded in a highly
27 repetitive tandem array referred to as the ribosomal DNA (rDNA) locus. The yeast rDNA is the
28 site of a diverse set of DNA-dependent processes, including transcription of ribosomal RNAs by
29 RNA Polymerases I and III, transcription of non-coding RNAs by RNA Polymerase II, DNA
30 replication initiation, replication fork blocking, and recombination-mediated regulation of rDNA
31 repeat copy number. All of this takes place in the context of chromatin, but relatively little is
32 known about the roles played by ATP-dependent chromatin remodeling factors at the yeast
33 rDNA. In this work, we report that the *lsw2* and *Ino80* chromatin remodeling factors are targeted
34 to this highly repetitive locus. We characterize for the first time their function in modifying local
35 chromatin structure, finding that loss of these factors affects the occupancy of nucleosomes in
36 the 35S ribosomal RNA gene and the positioning of nucleosomes flanking the ribosomal origin
37 of replication. In addition, we report that *lsw2* and *Ino80* promote efficient firing of the ribosomal
38 origin of replication and facilitate the regulated increase of rDNA repeat copy number. This work
39 significantly expands our understanding of the importance of ATP-dependent chromatin
40 remodeling for rDNA biology.

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42

43 **Author Summary**

44

45 To satisfy high cellular demand for ribosomes, genomes contain many copies of the genes
46 encoding the RNA components of ribosomes. In the budding yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*,
47 these ribosomal RNA genes are located in the “ribosomal DNA locus”, a highly repetitive array
48 that contains approximately 150 copies of the same unit, in contrast to the single copies that

49 suffice for most genes. This repetitive quality creates unique regulatory needs. Chromatin
50 structure, the packaging and organization of DNA, is a critical determinant of DNA-dependent
51 processes throughout the genome. ATP-dependent chromatin remodeling factors are important
52 regulators of chromatin structure, and yet relatively little is known about how members of this
53 class of protein affect DNA organization or behavior at the rDNA. In this work, we show that the
54 lsw2 and Ino80 chromatin remodeling factors regulate two features of chromatin structure at the
55 rDNA, the occupancy and the positioning of nucleosomes. In addition, we find that these factors
56 regulate two critical processes that function uniquely at this locus: DNA replication originating
57 from within the rDNA array, and the regulated increase of rDNA repeat copy number.

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59

60 **Introduction**

61

62 In exponentially growing cells, the enormous cellular demand for ribosomes is reflected in the
63 proportion of resources dedicated to their production. For example, the production of ribosomal
64 RNAs (rRNAs) accounts for an estimated 60% of all transcriptional activity in cycling yeast cells
65 [1]. Because single genomic copies of rRNA genes would not support such large volumes of
66 transcriptional output, eukaryotic genomes have evolved to include highly repetitive clusters of
67 rRNA genes, termed the ribosomal DNA (rDNA) locus. In a typical cell of the budding yeast
68 *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, the rDNA locus comprises approximately 150-200 tandem repeats
69 (Fig 1A). Each repeat contains a 35S ribosomal RNA (rRNA) gene, transcribed by RNA
70 Polymerase I (Pol I), and an inter-genic spacer (IGS), split into IGS1 and IGS2 regions by the
71 5S rRNA gene, which is transcribed by RNA Polymerase III (Pol III). Due to its large size and
72 repetitive nature, the rDNA locus has unique regulatory needs, and the IGS1 and IGS2 regions
73 contain genetic elements that are critical to addressing these needs.

74

75 Without an origin of replication (autonomously replicating sequence, or ARS), replicating the
76 rDNA array would require replication forks to traverse multiple megabases of DNA from either
77 end of the array. To avoid this, IGS1 contains a ribosomal ARS (rARS). As a consequence, the
78 approximately 150 ARSs in a typical rDNA array account for nearly one third of all genomic
79 origins of replication. Of these rARSs, only around 20% will fire in any given round of cell
80 division [2, 3]. Because replication factors are limiting during each S-phase [4], firing of too
81 many rARSs would take vital replicative resources away from other parts of the genome, raising
82 the risk of delayed or incomplete replication. If too few rARSs fire, replication of the rDNA array
83 may be delayed or incomplete [5]. Thus, properly striking this balance by regulating origin
84 efficiency at the rDNA has critical consequences for global genome stability.

85

86 Genome stability is also affected by the size of the rDNA array [6]. Because of this, a
87 mechanism exists to change the size of the array by adding or removing copies of the rDNA
88 repeat if needed. The IGS2 region contains two genetic elements that are critical for this
89 process: a bi-directional RNA Pol II promoter, E-pro, and a replication fork block (RFB). The
90 RFB pauses replication forks moving through the IGS toward the 3' end of the 35S gene, but
91 allows forks coming from within the adjacent 35S gene, and thus moving in the same direction
92 as 35S transcription, to pass through or merge with paused forks. This activity is thought to
93 prevent head-on collisions between replication machinery and densely loaded Pol I machinery
94 in the highly transcribed 35S [3, 7]. In addition, forks paused at the RFB are the sites of targeted
95 DNA double-strand breaks (DSBs). The level of transcription from the adjacent E-pro promoter
96 influences the mechanism by which these targeted DSBs are repaired, which in turn influences
97 whether a repeat is added to or removed from the rDNA array, or whether the copy number
98 remains unchanged [8].

99

100 All DNA-dependent processes occurring at the rDNA, including transcription by multiple RNA
101 polymerases, origin firing, and changes in rDNA copy number, happen in the context of
102 chromatin structure. The Sir2 and Rpd3 histone deacetylases (HDACs) have well-established
103 roles in regulating rDNA chromatin structure, origin activity, and copy number maintenance [5,
104 8-10]. In addition, rDNA biology is regulated by ATP-dependent chromatin remodeling factors,
105 which use the energy of ATP hydrolysis to modify the position and histone composition of
106 nucleosomes. In humans, the nucleolar remodeling complex (NoRC) positions nucleosomes
107 and recruits histone methyltransferase and histone deacetylase activity to promote rDNA
108 silencing [11, 12]. In yeast, the SWI/SNF [13], Isw1, Isw2, and Chd1 [14] complexes have been
109 implicated in regulating transcription of rRNAs. Until now, no remodeling factors have been
110 shown to modify chromatin structure at the yeast rDNA or to affect any DNA-dependent
111 processes beyond rRNA transcription at this locus.

112
113 In this work, we show that the Isw2 and Ino80 ATP-dependent chromatin remodeling factors
114 regulate chromatin structure at the rDNA. The Isw2 complex is known to slide nucleosomes
115 over gene promoters [15], an activity that generally represses transcription, both for coding
116 genes [16, 17] and antisense transcripts [18]. The Ino80 complex slides and evicts nucleosomes
117 and removes the histone variant, H2A.Z [19-22]. Ino80 is also involved in regulating the
118 checkpoint response following DNA damage, DNA damage repair, and DNA replication [23-25].
119 Isw2 and Ino80 function together to promote replication of late-replicating regions of the genome
120 in the presence of replication stress and to attenuate the S-phase checkpoint response [26, 27].
121 Here, we show that both Isw2 and Ino80 are targeted to the ribosomal DNA locus in distinct
122 patterns, primarily characterized by striking enrichment of Isw2 around the rARS and of Ino80
123 through the 35S gene. Further, we report for the first time that these remodeling factors affect
124 local chromatin structure, as loss of the factors increases nucleosome occupancy in the 35S
125 and alters the positioning of nucleosomes flanking the rARS. We find that loss of Isw2 and

126 Ino80 reduces the proportion of active rDNA repeats without affecting overall transcription of
127 rRNAs, but that *lsw2* and Ino80 positively contribute both to the efficiency of the rARS and to
128 the rate of rDNA repeat copy number change. In sum, this study significantly expands our
129 understanding of how ATP-dependent chromatin remodeling factors affect both chromatin
130 structure and essential biological processes at the ribosomal DNA locus.

131

132

133 **Results**

134

135 **The *lsw2* and Ino80 chromatin remodeling complexes are targeted to the** 136 **ribosomal DNA locus**

137

138 All of the DNA-dependent processes that take place at the rDNA locus occur in the context of
139 chromatin. Although HDACs such as Rpd3 and Sir2 have well-characterized functions in
140 regulating chromatin structure, transcription, and copy number maintenance at the *S. cerevisiae*
141 rDNA [8-10, 28], comparatively little is known about the roles played by ATP-dependent
142 chromatin remodeling factors at this vitally important genomic locus. To address this, we
143 performed chromatin immuno-precipitation followed by deep sequencing (ChIP-seq) to map
144 where the *lsw2* and Ino80 chromatin remodeling factors are targeted at the rDNA. We found
145 that the namesake, catalytic subunit of *lsw2* and Nhp10, a subunit wholly unique to the Ino80
146 complex [23], were both targeted to the rDNA (Fig 1B). The ChIP-seq signal for *lsw2* was
147 slightly above the genome-average throughout the 35S gene body. The pattern of targeting in
148 the IGS included small peaks flanking the 5S gene and the region containing E-pro and RFB,
149 but the most prominent signal was a striking, bimodal peak on top of and to one side of the
150 rARS. Nhp10 was also present throughout the 35S gene body and showed a small peak around

151 the 5S. Each protein's ChIP-seq pattern at the rDNA was consistent with peaks elsewhere in the
152 genome with regard to both shape and magnitude: *Isw2* tended to have fairly defined peaks that
153 rise well above the genome average, located in intergenic regions, and *Nhp10* peaks were
154 generally less prominent relative to the genome average and more diffusely spread throughout
155 a transcription unit (Fig 1C). Given these distinct targeting patterns, we hypothesized that these
156 ATP-dependent chromatin remodeling factors might have previously unknown functions at this
157 highly repetitive, unique genomic locus.

158

159

160 ***Isw2* and *Ino80* affect nucleosome occupancy over the 35S rRNA gene**

161

162 In light of the established functions of the *Isw2* and *Ino80* complexes, we first asked whether
163 these chromatin remodeling factors affect nucleosome occupancy within the rDNA locus, as this
164 feature of chromatin structure has well-established importance at the rDNA. Individual rDNA
165 repeats canonically exist in one of two discrete states, being either highly occupied with
166 nucleosomes and transcriptionally inactive, or heavily depleted of nucleosomes and highly
167 transcriptionally active [29-31]. We assessed how nucleosome occupancy at the rDNA is
168 affected by these two chromatin remodeling factors with ChIP-seq of histone H3 in wild-type,
169 *isw2Δ*, *nhp10Δ*, and *isw2Δ nhp10Δ* strains. This analysis revealed that nucleosome occupancy
170 throughout the 35S gene body is appreciably increased in the *isw2Δ nhp10Δ* double mutant
171 compared to wild-type and single deletion strains (Fig 2A, left panel). Notably, this is the part of
172 the rDNA in which the ChIP-seq signals of both chromatin remodeling factors most significantly
173 overlap, suggesting the possibility that these factors may work together in this region.

174

175 Given that rDNA repeats canonically exist in one of two discrete states that are associated with
176 nucleosome occupancy, we hypothesized that the increased nucleosome occupancy in *isw2Δ*

177 *nhp10* Δ cells reflects a reduced ratio of active to inactive rDNA repeats. To test this, we used
178 psoralen cross-linking, a well-established method in which DNA is treated with the DNA-
179 intercalating compound, psoralen [29, 32]. Occupancy of chromatin by nucleosomes blocks
180 incorporation of psoralen. Therefore, actively transcribed, nucleosome-depleted rDNA repeats
181 become more heavily cross-linked with psoralen than inactive, nucleosome-occupied repeats.
182 After digestion with appropriate restriction enzymes, Southern blotting, and hybridization with a
183 probe targeting a region of the 35S gene unit, two discrete bands representing active and
184 inactive repeats can be resolved [29, 32]. By this method, we found that *isw2* Δ *nhp10* Δ cells
185 have a reduced proportion of active repeats compared to wild-type, *isw2* Δ , or *nhp10* Δ cells (Fig
186 2B), consistent with the observed increase in H3 occupancy in double mutant cells. Based on
187 these results, we concluded that the *Isw2* and *Ino80* chromatin remodeling factors increase the
188 ratio of active to inactive rDNA repeats.

189

190

191 **Transcription of 35S ribosomal RNA is not affected by loss of *Isw2* or *Nhp10***

192

193 Based on the reduced proportion of nucleosome-depleted rDNA repeats in the *isw2* Δ *nhp10* Δ
194 mutant, we hypothesized that these cells would also show reduced levels of 35S rRNA
195 transcription. The 35S is transcribed as a single long transcript before being cleaved and folded
196 in a series of processing steps to yield mature 18S, 5.8S, and 25S RNAs [33]. Because mature
197 rRNAs are components of ribosomes and thus highly stable and abundant, nascent RNA needs
198 to be measured to assess the transcription rate of rRNAs. The External Transcribed Spacer 1
199 (ETS1) and Internal Transcribed Spacer 1 (ITS1) sections of the 35S gene are transcribed but
200 removed at early stages of rRNA processing. Levels of these RNA sequences thus reflect levels
201 of nascent rRNA and are commonly used to measure the rate of 35S transcription [34, 35].
202 Adopting this approach, we performed reverse-transcription quantitative PCR (RT-qPCR)

203 targeting parts of the ETS1 and ITS1 regions of the 35S pre-rRNA (Fig 2A). As expected, we
204 found significantly reduced levels of both ETS1 and ITS1 in an *rpa49* deletion mutant, a strain
205 known to have a reduced rate of RNA Pol I transcription [35, 36]. To our surprise, we did not
206 see evidence of a significant difference in rates of 35S transcription in *isw2Δ nhp10Δ* compared
207 to wild-type (Fig 2C). To confirm this unexpected result by an independent method, we next
208 performed ChIP-seq analysis of the Pol I subunit RPA190, and observed virtually identical
209 profiles in *isw2Δ nhp10Δ* and wild-type strains, with regard to both shape and overall levels (Fig
210 2D). Based on these results, we concluded that *isw2Δ nhp10Δ* cells exhibit no significant
211 defects in the rate of 35S transcription despite the observed differences in nucleosome
212 occupancy and the proportion of nucleosome-occupied rDNA repeats in these mutants.

213

214

215 **Isw2 and Ino80 affect nucleosome positioning in the rDNA inter-genic spacer**

216

217 In addition to nucleosome occupancy, nucleosome positioning is known to be affected by both
218 of these chromatin remodeling factors [15, 20]. Therefore, we assessed nucleosome positioning
219 at the rDNA by micrococcal nuclease (MNase) digestion followed by deep sequencing (MNase-
220 seq). We interpret each size-selected, paired-end read as coming from a nucleosome-protected
221 fragment of DNA, and so from each paired-end read, the nucleosomal dyad center was inferred
222 and plotted, resulting in the profiles shown (Fig 3A). By this method, nucleosome positions
223 appear strongly shifted at known *Isw2* targets in *isw2Δ* and *isw2Δ nhp10Δ* mutants (S1 Fig). In
224 contrast, no gross differences in nucleosome positions are observed throughout the 35S gene
225 body (S2A Fig) or in the rDNA inter-genic spacer region (Fig 3A). Within the highly repetitive
226 rDNA, sequencing data must be interpreted carefully, however, as it represents an average of
227 the signal at all ~150 rDNA repeats in all cells sampled, and nucleosomes in only a fraction of
228 those repeats may change positions in any given cell.

229

230 To refine our analysis, we compared MNase-seq profiles for the tested strains using ribbon plots
231 in which the primary line shows the average signal at each base pair across multiple biological
232 replicates, and the ribbon represents the standard error of the mean for those replicates (Fig
233 3B). This method revealed striking differences in nucleosome positioning at the rDNA for two
234 pairs of nucleosomes. One pair is in between the 35S promoter and the rARS, with each
235 nucleosome substantially overlapping one of the two sub-peaks of the highly prominent *Isw2*
236 peak (Fig 3B, left panel, identified as nucleosomes 1 and 2). The other pair of affected
237 nucleosomes is in the region between the rARS and the 5S gene, overlapping half of the short
238 *Isw2* peak encompassing the 5S (Fig 3B, right panel, nucleosomes 3 and 4). Each of these four
239 MNase-seq dyad peaks appears to have two sub-species of nucleosome positions. We interpret
240 each of these distinct sub-species as representing one of two distinct positions occupied by that
241 nucleosome in different individual rDNA repeats in the array. Each of the four genotypes tested
242 has a characteristic pattern of the relative heights of these two sub-species, which we propose
243 reflects different proportions of rDNA arrays containing nucleosomes at either position.

244

245 At nucleosome 1, *isw2Δ* and *isw2Δ nhp10Δ* cells virtually only have sub-species 1*b*, while both
246 wild-type and *nhp10Δ* cells also have a significant signal for sub-species 1*a*. At nucleosome 2,
247 wild-type cells predominantly have sub-species 2*a*, whereas *isw2Δ* cells have more prominent
248 signals for 2*b*, and *nhp10Δ* and *isw2Δ nhp10Δ* cells have roughly similar ratios of each sub-
249 species. Nucleosome 3 resembles nucleosome 1, in that for some strains – in this case, wild-
250 type, *isw2Δ*, and *nhp10Δ* cells – there is essentially only one sub-species, 3*b*, whereas only
251 *isw2Δ nhp10Δ* cells have a small but distinct sub-species 3*a*. For nucleosome 4, wild-type and
252 *isw2Δ* cells are very similar, with 4*b* dominating and 4*a* and 4*c* of similar, lower prominence,
253 while *nhp10Δ* cells have similar levels of 4*c* but proportionally reduced 4*a* and 4*b* peaks. Again,
254 the double mutant is the most different among the tested strains, as 4*c* is barely detectable,

255 while *4a* is on par with *4b* in *isw2Δ nhp10Δ* cells. In sum, the overall trend among these mutants
256 is that in *isw2Δ nhp10Δ* cells, any given rDNA repeat is more likely to have nucleosomes
257 positioned such that they are encroaching on the rARS. In contrast, in both *nhp10Δ* and wild-
258 type cells, these same nucleosomes are more likely to be positioned farther away from the
259 rARS, and in *isw2Δ* cells these nucleosomes have profiles somewhere in between wild-type and
260 the double mutant.

261
262 Nucleosomes 3 and 4 are located in between the rARS and the 5S rRNA gene. Thus, the
263 positioning shifts of these nucleosomes relative to the rARS also happen, in the opposite
264 direction, relative to the 5S. In addition, there were slight strain specific differences at the
265 nucleosome partially overlapping the 5S: sub-species *a* is higher than *b* in wild-type, *isw2Δ*, and
266 *nhp10Δ* cells, but the sub-species are roughly equivalent in *isw2Δ nhp10Δ* cells (S2B Fig).
267 These differences in nucleosome positioning suggested that *Isw2* and *Ino80* might alter
268 nucleosomes to regulate 5S transcription. Because this gene is only 120 bp in length and
269 undergoes only minor processing before incorporation into ribosomes, it is difficult to distinguish
270 between mature and nascent 5S rRNA transcripts. Therefore, to assess 5S transcription, we
271 performed RNA Pol III ChIP-seq. Similarly to RNA Pol I levels at the 35S, Pol III levels at the 5S
272 did not differ between wild-type and *isw2Δ nhp10Δ* cells (S2C Fig). Thus, we conclude that *Isw2*
273 and *Ino80* do not significantly affect transcription of ribosomal RNAs despite changes in
274 chromatin structure around the transcription units.

275
276 It has been shown that the strength of MNase digestion can affect nucleosome mapping results,
277 especially for nucleosomes that are highly MNase sensitive [37]. Because the differences in
278 MNase-seq signal at the rDNA locus were more subtle than what is typically observed at single-
279 copy loci, we sought to ensure that these differences are not due to differential MNase
280 sensitivity of these nucleosomes. To this end, we compared the MNase-seq profiles for these

281 nucleosomes in wild-type and *isw2Δ nhp10Δ* strains using three different concentrations of
282 MNase (Fig 3C, S3 Fig). The overall shapes of the MNase-seq profiles varied depending on
283 MNase concentrations used. However, at any specific degree of digestion, the relative heights
284 of nucleosomal sub-species for wild-type versus *isw2Δ nhp10Δ* cells matched the patterns
285 described above. These results confirmed that the observed shifts in nucleosome positions in
286 mutants were not due to differential MNase sensitivity of these nucleosomes.

287

288

289 **Isw2 and Ino80 facilitate efficient firing of rDNA origin of replication**

290

291 The prominent Isw2 peak around the rARS coupled with the shrinkage of NDRs over the rARS
292 in chromatin remodeling factor mutants led us to ask whether origin activity is affected by these
293 factors. To address this question, we performed two-dimensional (2D) gel electrophoresis
294 probing activity of the rARS (Fig 4A, [3]). The Y arc of the 2D gel is comprised of restriction
295 fragments in the process of being passively replicated, and the bubble arc of restriction
296 fragments in which an origin of replication has actively fired. Therefore, the ratio of bubble to Y
297 arc signals from asynchronously growing cells reflects the ratio of actively to passively
298 replicated restriction fragments, and thus of origin efficiency. By this method, the ratio of rARS
299 bubble to Y arc signal, and thus rARS origin efficiency, was greatest in the wild-type and slightly
300 reduced in *isw2Δ* cells. In contrast, origin efficiency was moderately reduced in *nhp10Δ* cells
301 and even more reduced in *isw2Δ nhp10Δ* double mutants (Fig 4B). These results indicate that
302 the Isw2 and Ino80 chromatin remodeling factors promote the efficient firing of the ribosomal
303 origin of replication.

304

305

306 **lsw2 and Ino80 affect replication fork pausing at the rDNA Replication Fork Block**

307

308 One unique aspect of DNA replication at the rDNA locus is the presence of the replication fork
309 block (RFB). When bound by the Fob1 protein, the RFB directionally blocks the passage of
310 replication forks from the IGS into the 3' end of the 35S gene body, preventing head-on
311 collisions between the replication machinery and the densely-loaded transcriptional machinery
312 moving through the highly transcribed 35S genes [3, 7]. However, replication forks moving in the
313 same direction as that transcriptional machinery can pass through the RFB, thus allowing for
314 complete replication of the rDNA array. Replication fork blocking at the RFB can be detected by
315 2D gels as a distinct spot on the left end of the Y arc (Fig 4A). A light exposure of the 2D gel
316 revealed reduced replication fork pausing at the RFB in remodeling factor mutants (Fig 4C).
317 Quantifying the degree of replication fork blocking relative to the amount of loaded DNA is
318 difficult, however, because of the large difference in the signal intensities of the RFB and the 1N
319 spot, which represents non-replicating restriction fragments and serves as a reference for
320 normalization. To accurately measure the degree of replication fork blocking at the RFB, we
321 analyzed occupancy of Pol2, a subunit of DNA Polymerase epsilon, by CHIP-seq in
322 asynchronously growing cells, an established method for globally measuring replication fork
323 pausing [38]. Pol2 levels, and thus pausing, at the RFB are comparable to wild-type in *lsw2Δ*
324 cells, but are reduced in *nhp10Δ* and *lsw2Δ nhp10Δ* mutants (Fig 5A), similar to what we
325 observe for rARS efficiency. In contrast, Pol2 signals at known pause sites such as *PDC1* are
326 very similar across all tested strains (S4 Fig), suggesting that differences in pausing at the rDNA
327 RFB are unique to that locus, and not a genome-wide phenomenon.

328

329 Because Fob1 binding at the RFB is required for pausing at this locus, we next asked whether
330 *lsw2* and *Ino80* affect replication fork blocking at the RFB by altering the level of Fob1 binding.
331 To this end, we performed CHIP of Fob1 followed by qPCR using primers flanking the RFB. This

332 experiment revealed that the *nhp10Δ* strain, which exhibits the lowest level of replication fork
333 pausing, also shows the lowest levels of Fob1 occupancy (Fig 5B). However, *isw2Δ nhp10Δ*
334 cells, which have similarly low levels of pausing, have considerably higher levels of Fob1, on par
335 with *isw2Δ* cells and above that of the wild-type cells. Therefore, the level of Fob1 binding alone
336 cannot explain the strain-specific differences we observe in replication fork pausing at the RFB.

337

338

339 **Isw2 and Ino80 affect the rate of rDNA copy number change**

340

341 Replication fork pausing at the RFB is an essential step in the mechanism by which rDNA copy
342 number is regulated. With some frequency, a targeted DNA double-strand break (DSB) will
343 occur at replication forks paused at the RFB. Depending on how this DSB is repaired, an rDNA
344 repeat can be removed from or added to the rDNA array, or there can be no change in rDNA
345 copy number. Thus, Fob1-dependent replication fork pausing is a critical feature of rDNA copy
346 number change. Given the differential pausing at the RFB in our remodeling factor mutants, we
347 wondered whether Isw2 and Ino80 affect rDNA copy number change. To answer this question,
348 we employed a strain in which endogenous *FOB1* has been deleted and the rDNA array
349 reduced to 20 repeats. In the absence of Fob1, there is no pausing at the RFB, stabilizing the
350 rDNA copy number. These cells can survive with 20 copies of the rDNA, but introduction of
351 Fob1 via a plasmid causes rapid increase in the number of rDNA repeats via homologous
352 recombination until the rDNA array reaches a normal size of approximately 150 copies [8].
353 Starting with a *fob1* strain with 20 copies of the rDNA, *ISW2*, *NHP10*, or both genes were
354 deleted. The Fob1 gene was then reintroduced on a plasmid, and the cells were cultured
355 continuously under selection for almost 200 generations, with samples taken at multiple time
356 points. The copy number of rDNA repeats was monitored by CHEF gel electrophoresis followed
357 by Southern blot analysis using a probe against the rDNA locus.

358

359 Although all four strains began to increase their rDNA copy number immediately following
360 introduction of plasmid-borne Fob1, each of the strains behaved differently (Figs 6A, B). In wild-
361 type and *isw2* Δ cells, and to a slightly lesser degree in *nhp10* Δ cells, there was a significant
362 jump in copy number at around 35 generations after Fob1 re-introduction, the earliest time point
363 we were able to sample. In contrast, the double mutant exhibited only a very small increase in
364 copy number at 35 generations. After nearly 200 generations in the presence of Fob1, both the
365 wild-type and *isw2* Δ strains had recovered essentially wild-type rDNA copy number of around
366 150 copies, and *nhp10* Δ was close to this number. In contrast, *isw2* Δ *nhp10* Δ had barely
367 reached 100 copies by this time point. Based on this data, we conclude that *Isw2* and *Ino80*
368 facilitate the regulated increase of rDNA copy number in the rDNA array, and that their loss
369 reduces the rate at which rDNA copy number can be increased in a population of cells.

370

371

372 Discussion

373

374 The ribosomal DNA locus is the evolutionarily conserved site of many different DNA-dependent
375 processes, all of which must be carefully balanced. Sufficient rRNA must be transcribed to
376 support ribosome biogenesis, but without interfering with faithful replication of the rDNA [1]. The
377 rDNA array must be fully replicated, while still allowing for the replication of other parts of the
378 genome [5]. The size of the rDNA array must be carefully maintained through recombination, yet
379 the array must be protected from unintended recombination despite its highly repetitive nature.
380 Despite many studies detailing these complex processes, relatively little is known about how
381 ATP-dependent chromatin remodeling factors dynamically regulate chromatin structure at the *S.*
382 *cerevisiae* rDNA locus to allow for these processes to occur. It has been shown that the

383 SWI/SNF complex localizes to the rDNA and that deletion of its Snf6 subunit reduces 35S rRNA
384 transcription [13]. In addition, it was shown that *lsw2*, *lsw1*, and *Chd1* are present at the rDNA,
385 and that their simultaneous deletion reduces 35S rRNA transcriptional termination [14].
386 However, the nature of chromatin regulation by these remodeling factors at the rDNA locus
387 remains unknown, as does their involvement in processes beyond transcription of rRNA. In this
388 study, we show that in addition to *lsw2*, the Ino80 ATP-dependent chromatin remodeling factor
389 is targeted to this highly repetitive genomic locus. We show for the first time that these factors
390 modify local chromatin structure at the levels of nucleosome occupancy, the ratio of
391 nucleosome-occupied to nucleosome-depleted rDNA repeats, and nucleosome positioning. In
392 addition, we find that these chromatin remodeling factors affect two critical activities that take
393 place at the rDNA: replication initiation from the ribosomal ARS, and rDNA array amplification.
394
395 Our data indicate that *lsw2* and Ino80 do not affect overall levels of 35S rRNA transcription, a
396 result that initially surprised us. According to the prevailing model, nucleosome occupancy
397 through the 35S gene body dictates 35S transcription, as rDNA repeats that are heavily
398 occupied with nucleosomes are transcriptionally silent, while repeats that are depleted of
399 nucleosomes are transcriptionally active. Thus, based on the increased nucleosome occupancy
400 and reduced proportion of psoralen-accessible rDNA repeats observed in *lsw2Δ nhp10Δ* cells
401 relative to other tested strains, we expected that 35S rRNA transcription would be
402 correspondingly decreased in the double mutant. The lack of an effect on transcription may be
403 explained by the robustness of 35S transcriptional regulation: when one element of this system
404 is disrupted, another element is adjusted to maintain the desired level of transcription. For
405 example, in a *S. cerevisiae* strain in which the rDNA array has been reduced from a normal size
406 of ~150 copies down to ~40 copies, loading of RNA Pol I on any given active repeat is
407 increased, such that there is no net decrease in 35S transcriptional output [30]. Similarly, in
408 mammalian cells, inducing silencing of some rDNA repeats by depletion of UBF leads to a

409 compensatory increase in transcription per active repeat [39]. We therefore speculate that the
410 robust homeostatic regulation of rRNA transcription overcomes changes in nucleosome
411 occupancy in *isw2Δ nhp10Δ* cells, reacting to a reduced proportion of active repeats by
412 increasing RNA Pol I transcription in each active unit. This would produce no net alteration in
413 rRNA production compared to wild-type cells. We also note that our H3 ChIP-seq data reveals
414 that the nucleosome-depleted region (NDR) in the 35S promoter is much deeper in *isw2Δ*
415 *nhp10Δ* cells than in wild-type or single mutant cells (S5 Fig). According to a general paradigm
416 of RNA Pol II transcription, promoter NDR depth correlates positively with transcription [40, 41].
417 This deepened NDR in *isw2Δ nhp10Δ* cells may reflect significantly increased loading of Pol I
418 transcriptional machinery in each active repeat, as needed to maintain proper levels of 35S
419 transcription despite the reduced number of active repeats.

420
421 A critical transcriptional regulator at the mammalian rDNA is the Nucleolar Remodeling Complex
422 (NoRC), which contains SNF2h, the mammalian orthologue of yeast *Isw2*. Among other
423 activities that influence rRNA transcription, this complex shifts the nucleosome at the promoter
424 of the 45S rRNA gene, the mammalian orthologue of the yeast 35S, into a transcriptionally
425 repressive position [12]. Notably, we see nearly identical nucleosome positioning profiles at the
426 comparable nucleosome in *isw2Δ* and *isw2Δ nhp10Δ* cells compared to wild-type cells (S2D
427 Fig). This finding, in conjunction with our observing no differences in rRNA transcription in these
428 deletion strains, distinguishes the *Isw2*-mediated regulation of the yeast rDNA from the NoRC-
429 mediated regulation of the mammalian rDNA.

430
431 While we find that loss of *Isw2* and *Ino80* does not affect net rRNA transcription, we do find that
432 their loss reduces the activity of the rARS. There are multiple reports that chromatin structure
433 around replication origins significantly affects DNA replication. Blocking an ARS with a
434 nucleosome reduces the efficiency of that ARS [42], and proper positioning of nucleosomes

435 adjacent to an ARS is important for replication initiation [43]. Compared to naked DNA,
436 chromatinized DNA facilitates much greater origin selectivity at the stage of origin licensing,
437 suggesting that chromatin structure regulates which origins fire during S-phase [44]. Consistent
438 with these findings, ATP-dependent chromatin remodeling factors contribute to regulating
439 replication initiation. For example, the SWI/SNF complex is targeted to a subset of origins in
440 HeLa cells [45] and facilitates replication initiation at one out of four natural ARSs tested in a
441 mini-chromosome maintenance assay in *S. cerevisiae* [46]. By applying an *in vitro* replication
442 assay to nucleosomal templates remodeled by different chromatin remodeling factors, a recent
443 study found that most factors permitted origin licensing, but that Isw2 and Chd1 prevented it
444 [47]. As far as we know, however, there have been no reports of chromatin remodeling factors
445 affecting both chromatin structure and replication initiation at a specific origin of replication at its
446 natural genomic locus *in vivo*.

447

448 We report that loss of *ISW2* and *NHP10*, individually and together, reduced the efficiency of the
449 rARS during logarithmic growth conditions in rich medium. We found that *isw2Δ nhp10Δ* cells
450 have the most robust differences in nucleosome positioning compared to wild-type cells, with a
451 clear trend of an enrichment for nucleosomes in positions that encroach on the rARS. These
452 same cells have the most reduced efficiency at this ARS compared to wild-type. This effect is
453 reminiscent of the behavior of Isw2 at Pol II-transcribed genes targeted by Isw2. At such genes,
454 when *ISW2* is deleted, NDRs at the end of the gene targeted by Isw2 tend to widen, and nearby
455 non-coding transcription increases, suggesting that this remodeling factor typically functions to
456 narrow these NDRs and repress non-coding transcription [18]. We observe a similar but
457 oppositely oriented trend at the rARS, as our data suggest that the NDR containing the ARS
458 overall becomes narrower and origin efficiency goes down in *isw2Δ nhp10Δ* cells, suggesting a
459 normal function of these factors in keeping this NDR wide and thus permissive to replication
460 initiation. We also note that although we see intermediate effects on both nucleosome

461 positioning and efficiency of the rARS in *isw2Δ* and *nhp10Δ* single mutant cells, there does not
462 appear to be a clear additive effect that accounts for what we observe in the double mutant.
463 Although *isw2Δ* cells have more rARS-encroaching nucleosomes than *nhp10Δ* cells, efficiency
464 of the rARS appears greater in *isw2Δ* cells than in *nhp10Δ* cells. Thus, it appears that
465 nucleosome positioning around the rARS can only partially account for the effect these
466 remodeling factors have on efficiency of the rARS. Reduced rARS efficiency in our mutants may
467 also be partially explained by the altered ratio of transcriptionally active to inactive rDNA
468 repeats. Evidence suggests that rARSs are more likely to fire when they are adjacent to actively
469 transcribed rDNA repeats [48]. In our proposed model, the proportion of actively transcribed
470 repeats is reduced in *isw2Δ nhp10Δ* cells, and thus a reduced proportion of rARSs in the array
471 are adjacent to actively transcribed repeats. This may contribute to the reduced origin efficiency
472 we observe in these mutants.

473
474 In addition to regulating rARS activity, a cell must carefully calibrate the size of the rDNA array.
475 This highly repetitive locus must be large enough to allow for the transcription of sufficient
476 ribosomal RNA to satisfy a cell's demand for ribosomes; in a typical yeast cell, approximately 75
477 copies of the rDNA are actively transcribed to satisfy this demand [1]. However, those 75 copies
478 of the rDNA repeat must be insufficient under some circumstances, as a typical yeast rDNA
479 array contains around 150 copies of the rDNA repeat. According to the prevailing model, these
480 additional copies are necessary to maximize genome stability. Active ribosomal RNA genes are
481 transcribed at extremely high levels, with densely loaded transcriptional machinery. This
482 presents an obstacle to the repair of damage to the underlying DNA, and persistent, un-repaired
483 damage to the rDNA array delays complete replication of the genome and progression through
484 S-phase [6]. Thus, to maximize genome stability, the rDNA array must be large enough to
485 support sufficient rRNA transcription without requiring all repeats to be actively transcribed. This
486 requirement imposes a lower limit on the optimal size of the rDNA array. Similarly, the array

487 cannot exceed a certain size. If the rDNA grows too large, its complete replication would require
488 an excessively large proportion of the finite pool of replisome components available during each
489 S-phase, depriving other parts of the genome of those replication factors [5]. In addition,
490 evidence suggests that having a smaller rDNA array improves growth during persistent
491 replication stress, perhaps by making more of the limiting replication factors available to other
492 parts of the genome [49]. Thus, the number of repeats in the rDNA locus must be actively
493 managed by the cell to facilitate optimal transcriptional output and maximize genome stability.
494 Most of our knowledge about the mechanism of rDNA copy number change comes from
495 studying the cellular response to a significant perturbation in copy number. For example, if an
496 rDNA array is artificially truncated, it will steadily increase until it reaches a normal size [50].
497 Conversely, the rDNA array will shrink when the *RPA135* subunit of RNA Pol I is deleted [50,
498 51], when the activity of the origin recognition complex is compromised [52], or when a number
499 of other replication factors are lost [49]. Together, these studies demonstrate that maintenance
500 of the size of the rDNA is a vital process that is actively regulated by the cell.

501
502 In this study, we describe a nearly two-fold reduction in the rate of copy number increase in
503 *isw2Δ nhp10Δ* cells relative to wild-type cells, and moderate reductions in the rate of increase in
504 *isw2Δ* and *nhp10Δ* cells. This is the first demonstration of any ATP-dependent chromatin
505 remodeling factors contributing to the regulation of rDNA copy number change. We show that
506 these remodeling factors affect Fob1 binding and replication fork pausing at the RFB, two critical
507 steps in the process of copy number change, but the effects on these activities do not clearly
508 correlate with the effects on the rate of copy number change we observe in the same mutants.
509 Therefore, we do not believe the remodeling factors influence copy number change exclusively
510 through replication fork pausing or Fob1 binding. Another critical step in this process is the
511 repair of the targeted DNA double strand break (DSB) that takes place at RFB-paused
512 replication forks. In light of a well-documented role for Ino80 in DSB repair [21, 53, 54], it is

513 possible that the striking defect in copy number increase we observe may result in part from
514 mis-regulation of the recombination-based repair of these DSBs. In the absence of *NHP10*,
515 there may be some mild defect in homologous recombination (HR) that may be partially
516 compensated for by otherwise normal chromatin structure created by *Isw2*. However, in the
517 double mutant, HR repair defects may become too significant to facilitate the desired
518 recombination rate at rDNA.

519
520 In addition to this possible direct involvement of the remodeling factors in copy number
521 increase, the effect we observe may be indirect. Our data suggest that in the absence of *Isw2*
522 and *Ino80*, the ratio of active to inactive rDNA repeats is reduced. In light of work showing that
523 rARSs are more likely to fire when they are adjacent to actively transcribed rDNA repeats [48],
524 we proposed above that this reduced proportion of active repeats could explain the reduced
525 efficiency of the rARS in *isw2Δ nhp10Δ* cells. It has also been shown that copy number change
526 events require firing of the rARS adjacent to the RFB at which a replication fork is paused, a
527 DSB is induced, and then repaired. This same study found that the efficiency of the ARS in the
528 IGS correlates with the rate of copy number increase [55]. Accordingly, it is possible that the
529 reduced ratio of active to inactive repeats in the double mutant causes a change in rARS
530 efficiency, which in turn reduces the frequency of copy number change events, thus accounting
531 for the reduced rate of copy number increase in the double mutant cells. In sum, this work
532 establishes a novel role for ATP-dependent chromatin remodeling factors in strongly influencing
533 rDNA biology, including the process of rDNA copy number change.

534

535

536 **Materials and Methods**

537

538 **Yeast strains and media**

539 Strains used are listed in S1 Table. Strains generated using standard gene replacement
540 protocols. Unless otherwise indicated, yeast cells were grown in YEPD medium (2% Bacto
541 Peptone, 1% yeast extract, 2% glucose). All strains *MATa* W303-1a.

542

543 **Chromatin immunoprecipitation and micrococcal nuclease digestion followed by deep**
544 **sequencing**

545 Chromatin immunoprecipitation (ChIP) and micrococcal nuclease (MNase) digestion were
546 performed as described previously [58]. For H3-ChIP experiments, anti-H3 C-term antibody
547 (Abcam catalog # ab1791) was used; for all other ChIPs, the targeted protein was epitope-
548 tagged with FLAG, and immuno-precipitated using anti-FLAG monoclonal antibody (Sigma
549 catalog # F3165). All *Isw2* ChIP-seq performed on a FLAG-tagged, catalytically inactive allele of
550 *ISW2* as previously described [59]. All libraries were constructed using the Nugen Ovation
551 Ultralow System V2 (catalog # 0344-32) and then subjected to single-end (ChIP-seq) or paired-
552 end (MNase-seq) sequencing, with 50 bp read length, on Illumina Hi-Seq 2500. Ribbon plots,
553 bar graphs, and line graphs were generated with the ggplot2 R package (<http://ggplot2.org/>). For
554 all depictions of deep-sequencing data at the rDNA, a single copy of the rDNA locus is shown.
555 Our reference genome contains two copies of the rDNA, and any read mapping to the rDNA is
556 randomly assigned to one of these 2 copies. Thus, sequencing data reflects the average signal
557 across all rDNA repeats in all cells sampled.

558

559 **Reverse Transcription- and ChIP-quantitative PCR**

560 RNA was isolated using hot acid phenol, then cleaned up with the Qiagen RNEasy Cleanup Kit
561 (catalog # 74204) plus on-column treatment with DNase I (Qiagen catalog # 79254). cDNA was
562 generated from the RNA using Superscript III Reverse Transcriptase (ThermoFisher catalog #
563 18080093). Quantitative PCR was performed on both cDNA and ChIP DNA using 2x Power

564 SYBR Master Mix (Fisher Scientific catalog # 4367659) run on the ABI QuantStudio5 Real Time
565 PCR System machine.

566

567 **Psoralen Crosslinking**

568 Assay was performed as previously described [10, 28, 32]. Cells were grown to mid-log phase
569 ($OD_{660} = 0.5-0.7$), approximately 3×10^8 cells were collected, washed twice with ice cold water,
570 and then re-suspended in 1.4 ml cold TE buffer. Cells were transferred to 6 well plates, and 70
571 μ l of psoralen (200 μ g/ml in 100% ethanol) was added to the cells. On ice, the plates were
572 irradiated with 365 nm UV for five minutes. Psoralen addition followed by UV irradiation was
573 repeated four additional times, for a total of five rounds. Cells were collected, washed in water,
574 spheroplasted with zymoYlase 100T, and washed in spheroplast buffer. The pellet was lysed by
575 re-suspension in TE buffer with 0.5% SDS and then treated with Proteinase K overnight at
576 50°C . DNA was extracted with Phenol:Chloroform:IAA, ethanol precipitated, and then digested
577 for at least 3 hours with EcoRI-HF. Samples were treated with RNase A at 37°C for 30 minutes,
578 ethanol precipitated, quantified, and then run in 1.3% LE agarose gels in 0.5X TBE for 24 hours
579 at 60V. Gels were irradiated for two minutes per side with a Stratagene Stratalinker, transferred
580 to a GeneScreen Plus membrane in 10x SSC, and then hybridized with a probe contained
581 within a EcoRI restriction fragment in the rDNA ETS1. Membranes were visualized using a
582 Typhoon Phosphor Imager, and images were visualized using ImageJ software.

583

584 **2D gel electrophoresis**

585 DNA sample preparation based on the Brewer/Raghuraman lab protocol ([http://fangman-
586 brewer.genetics.washington.edu/plug.html](http://fangman-brewer.genetics.washington.edu/plug.html)). Cells were grown to mid-log phase ($OD_{660} = 0.5-
587 0.7$), sodium azide added to 0.1% final concentration, and then cultures were washed in water.
588 Cell pellets were re-suspended in 50 mM EDTA, mixed with an equal volume of 1.0% Low-Melt
589 Agarose (BioRad catalog # 161-3111), and pipetted into plug molds. Cells in plugs were

590 spheroplasted with 0.5 mg/ml Zymolyase 20-T, thoroughly washed, and stored in TE at 4°C.
591 Plugs were digested with NheI for 5 hours at 37°C, then run in 0.4% agarose gels in TBE at 1
592 V/cm for 22 hours at room temperature. Gels were stained with ethidium bromide (EtBr),
593 visualized with UV, and the desired size range for each sample was identified in the gel and
594 physically cut out. This piece of gel was then rotated 90° and placed in a new gel tray, and
595 warm 1.1% agarose in TBE was poured around it. This gel was then run at 5 V/cm for 6 hours at
596 4°C. After running, the gel was visualized, transferred onto a GeneScreen Plus membrane
597 (Perkin Elmer, catalog # NEF986001PK), and hybridized with a probe encompassing the RFB.

598

599 **rDNA copy number change assay**

600 Strains were made from YSI102 [6], in which the endogenous *FOB1* gene had been deleted,
601 and the number of rDNA repeats reduced to 20 copies. From the 20-rDNA-copy *fob1* parent,
602 *isw2Δ*, *nhp10Δ*, and *isw2Δ nhp10Δ* strains were generated. Separately, the *FOB1* gene was
603 cloned into the pRS426 plasmid using Gibson cloning. Either this *FOB1*-pRS426 plasmid or a
604 pRS426 plasmid with no *FOB1* gene was then transformed into each 20-copy strain and plated
605 on yeast complete (YC) –URA medium with 2% glucose. Individual transformants were re-
606 streaked on selective medium, presence of the desired plasmid was confirmed by PCR, and
607 then transformants were inoculated into liquid YC –URA + 2% glucose. Cultures were allowed
608 to reach saturation, and then aliquots were collected, washed in cold 50 mM EDTA, and cell
609 pellets were frozen in liquid nitrogen and stored at -80°C. From the remaining saturated
610 cultures, all strains were diluted by the same factor, then allowed to grow back to saturation, at
611 which point the next time point would be collected, up to ~200 generations. Generations were
612 calculated from the base 2 log of the dilution factor applied at each passage (e.g. a saturated
613 culture diluted by a factor of 1,024 into the same volume of medium would require 10
614 generations to return to saturation).

615

616 **Clamped Homogenous Electric Field (CHEF) gel electrophoresis and Southern blotting**

617 Samples for CHEF gels were prepared in agarose based on a previously described method
618 [60]. Frozen cell pellets were thawed in room-temperature water, re-suspended in 100 mM
619 EDTA, then mixed with 0.8% Low-Melt Agarose and 25 mg/ml zymolyase 20T. This mixture was
620 pipetted into plug molds, allowed to solidify at 4°C, then washed with a series of buffers
621 (Solution V: 500 mM EDTA pH 7.5, 10 mM Tris pH 7.5; Solution VI: 5% sarcosyl, 5 mg/ml
622 proteinase K, 500 mM EDTA pH 7.5; Solution VII: 2 mM Tris pH 7.5, 1 mM EDTA, pH 8.0).
623 Before being run, plugs were incubated for approximately 30 minutes in TBE running buffer at
624 4°C before being placed on gel comb teeth, positioned in gel mold, and then warm 0.8% 0.5x
625 TBE was poured. CHEF gel was run on a CHEF-DR II with a program adapted from Ide *et al*
626 MCB 2007: Block 1 = 2.0 V/cm, pulse time of 1,200 seconds to 1,400 seconds, total run time
627 72 hours; Block 2 = 6.0 V/cm, pulse time of 25 seconds to 146 seconds, total run time 7.5
628 hours. After electrophoresis, gels were incubated with 0.5 ug/ml EtBr in running buffer for 30-45
629 minutes, UV-irradiated with a Stratagene Stratalinker to nick DNA, transferred onto HyBond N+
630 positively charged membrane (GE, catalog # RPN303B), and hybridized with a probe targeting
631 the RFB.

632

633

634 **Acknowledgments**

635

636 We are grateful to members of the Brewer/Raghuraman lab, especially Bonny Brewer, MK
637 Raghuraman, Joe Sanchez, and Liz Kwan, for help with experimental design and
638 troubleshooting, as well as conceptual discussion and feedback, and members of the Smith lab,
639 especially Randy Hyppa, for help with CHEF gels. We thank Takehiko Kobayashi for strains

640 used in this study. Finally, we thank members of the Tsukiyama lab for helpful discussion and
641 commentary on this manuscript.

642

643

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645

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- 864

865 **Supporting Information**

866

867 **S1 Fig. Striking nucleosome positioning changes at a canonical *Isw2* target.** (A) MNase-
868 seq data at a well-established *Isw2* target, the 5' end of the *POT1* gene. (B) Visualization of the
869 same data shown in S2A Fig with the ribbon plots used in Fig 3B, focusing on two pairs of
870 nucleosomes.

871

872 **S2 Fig. Nucleosome positioning in single and double mutants throughout the rDNA.** (A)

873 MNase-seq data analyzed with dyad mapping showing the entire 35S rRNA gene. No clear
874 differences in nucleosome positioning can be seen. (B) Ribbon plot of the same MNase-seq
875 data focused on the 5S-adjacent nucleosome. In wild-type cells and *isw2* Δ and *nhp10* Δ cells,
876 sub-species *a* is higher than sub-species *b*, while in *isw2* Δ *nhp10* Δ cells the *b* peak is higher
877 than for *a*. (C) RNA Pol III ChIP-seq at the Pol III-transcribed 5S gene showing no appreciable
878 difference in levels of the polymerase between wild-type and *isw2* Δ *nhp10* Δ cells. (D) MNase-
879 seq ribbon plot at the 35S promoter region showing no appreciable difference in nucleosome
880 positioning across the strains tested.

881

882 **S3 Fig. Different MNase digestions.** (D) Representative gel indicating how nucleosomal
883 ladders appear after digestion with 20, 40, or 80 units of MNase. Note that for all MNase-seq
884 analyses, regardless of level of digestion, the mono-nucleosomal band was gel-purified and was
885 the sole source of material subjected to deep sequencing.

886

887 **S4 Fig. DNA polymerase pausing does not vary between tested strains at a known pause**
888 **site, *PDC1*.** ChIP-seq of DNA polymerase epsilon subunit Pol2 at the *PDC1* gene, a site known

889 to show polymerase pausing by this method (Azvolinsky 2009). Levels of Pol2 do not
890 appreciably vary across the strains tested.

891

892 **S5 Fig. *Isw2* and *Ino80* affect depth of the 35S promoter's nucleosome depleted region.**

893 The same H3 ChIP-seq data shown in Fig 2A, zoomed in on the 35S promoter region (Y axis on
894 log₂ scale). Depth of the NDR is appreciably greater in *isw2Δ nhp10Δ* cells than in wild-type
895 cells, and NDR depth is at an intermediate level in single mutant cells.

896

897 **S1 Table. List of yeast strains used.**

898

899 **S2 Table. List of PCR primers used.**

900

901 **S3 Table. List of plasmids used.**

902

903

904 **Figure Captions**

905

906 **Fig 1. The *Isw2* and *Ino80* chromatin remodeling complexes are targeted to the rDNA**

907 **locus.** (A) A schematic drawing of the rDNA locus in *S. cerevisiae*. In a typical yeast cell, the
908 rDNA accounts for approximately 1.5 Mb of chromosome XII, comprised of a tandem array of
909 ~150 copies of the rDNA repeat. Each repeat contains a 35S rRNA gene and an inter-genic
910 spacer (IGS) region in between adjacent 35S genes, itself split into IGS1 and IGS2 regions by
911 the 5S rRNA gene. IGS1 contains the ribosomal origin of replication, or autonomously
912 replicating sequence (rARS), and IGS2 contains the bi-directional RNA Polymerase II promoter,
913 E-pro, and a replication fork block (RFB). (B) The *Isw2* subunit of the *Isw2* complex and the

914 Nhp10 subunit of the Ino80 complex were each FLAG-tagged, chromatin immuno-precipitated,
915 and deep-sequenced (ChIP-seq). (C) Representative ChIP-seq signals of Isw2 and Nhp10 at
916 single copy targets outside of the rDNA.

917

918

919 **Fig 2. Nucleosome occupancy, but not transcription, is affected at the 35S rDNA in *isw2* Δ**
920 **and *nhp10* Δ mutants.**

921 (A) Histone H3 ChIP-seq through the 35S rRNA gene. Line represents average log₂ ChIP-seq
922 signal at each base pair for two independent experiments, and the ribbon represents the
923 standard error of the mean at each base pair. Schematic drawing of the 35S includes
924 transcribed spacers that are removed during processing, as well as the mature 18S, 5.8S, and
925 25S rRNAs that are parts of complete ribosomes. ETS1 and ITS1 qPCR primer sets are
926 indicated with red lines, and ETS1 hybridization probe, used in the Southern blot shown in 2B,
927 indicated in green. In this and all following figures, “wild-type” has been abbreviated as “WT”.

928 (B) Psoralen cross-linked DNA, digested with EcoRI and hybridized with a probe to the ETS1
929 region. Psoralen incorporates more readily into nucleosome-occupied, actively transcribed
930 rDNA repeats, causing these bands to migrate more slowly than nucleosome-depleted, inactive
931 repeats. Two independent isolates of each remodeling factor mutant are shown. For
932 quantification, mean intensity of each band was measured with ImageJ software. Values for
933 each genotype reflect between 3 and 5 biological replicates, and error bars represent standard
934 error of the mean. (C) RT-qPCR measuring the ETS1 and ITS1 of the 35S pre-rRNA. (D) RNA
935 Pol I ChIP-seq.

936

937 **Fig 3. *Isw2* and *Ino80* affect nucleosome positioning in the rDNA inter-genic spacer.**

938 (A) Micrococcal nuclease digestion followed by deep-sequencing (MNase-seq) profiles in the
939 IGS, with *Isw2* ChIP-seq data overlaid. From each paired end sequencing read, the nucleosome

940 dyad was inferred and plotted. (B) Ribbon plots, generated as described in Fig 2A, focused on
941 two pairs of nucleosomes, indicated with boxes in Fig 3A. Each of the four tested strains has a
942 characteristic profile of positioning at each of these four nucleosomes. Different sub-species of
943 nucleosome positions are indicated with colored arrows and letters. (C) MNase-seq comparing
944 wild-type and *isw2Δ nhp10Δ* cells across three different strengths of MNase digestion. (D)
945 Cartoon depicting different nucleosomal sub-species, highlighting the most striking differences
946 in sub-species profiles between wild-type and *isw2Δ nhp10Δ* cells.

947

948 **Fig 4. *Isw2* and *Ino80* facilitate efficient firing of rDNA origin of replication.**

949 (A) Schematic drawing of 2D gel with features annotated. The 1N spot is comprised of
950 restriction fragments that are not in the process of replicating; the Y arc of restriction fragments
951 that are being passively replicated; and the bubble arc of restriction fragments in which an origin
952 of replication has actively fired. Replication fork pausing at the RFB causes an accumulation of
953 restriction fragments with a specific size and shape, visible as a dark spot on the left arm of the
954 Y-arc. The ratio of bubble arc to Y arc signal is indicative of the ratio of actively to passively
955 replicated restriction fragments, and thus of origin efficiency. (B) Representative 2D gels over
956 rDNA ARS and RFB. Exposures of the blots have been adjusted so that the Y arc is of
957 comparable intensity for each blot, such that direct comparison of bubble arc intensity across
958 images is equivalent to a comparison of bubble-to-Y ratio. Bubble arc indicated by empty arrow,
959 Y arc indicated by filled arrow. Quantification based on measurement of average intensity of
960 arcs using ImageQuantTL software, and reflects at least two independent experiments for each
961 genotype. All values normalized to the bubble:Y ratio for wild-type. Error bars show standard
962 error of the mean. (C) Representative lightly exposed 2D gel images to allow visualization of the
963 1N and RFB spots.

964

965 **Fig 5. *Isw2* and *Ino80* affect replication fork pausing and *Fob1* occupancy at the RFB.**

966 (A) ChIP-seq of DNA Polymerase Epsilon subunit Pol2 at the RFB. Ribbon plot produced as
967 described in Fig 2A based on two biological replicates per genotype. Quantification produced by
968 integrating the ChIP-seq signal for each strain across the RFB, and then averaging the results
969 across two replicates. Error bars represent the standard error of the mean. (B) ChIP-qPCR of
970 Fob1 with primers flanking the RFB and within ETS1, all normalized to occupancy at the RFB in
971 wild-type cells. Fob1 is not expected to bind to ETS1, and thus it serves as a negative control
972 locus. Error bars represent standard error of the mean for at least three replicates per genotype.
973

974 **Fig 6. *Isw2* and *Ino80* affect the rate of rDNA copy number change.**

975 (A) rDNA copy number change assay. Blue bars indicate *fob1* copy number control strains that
976 stably contain the indicated number of rDNA repeats (identical 150-copy control samples run on
977 both ends of the gel to facilitate comparison of band migration). The gray bar denotes samples
978 grown in a time course for the indicated number of generations, in selective medium to ensure
979 retention of either a plasmid containing *FOB1* (green bar) or the plasmid backbone pRS426
980 without *FOB1* (red bar). (B) Quantification of the copy number change assay. Average copy
981 numbers at each time point were calculated based on migration of bands relative to controls.

Fig 1

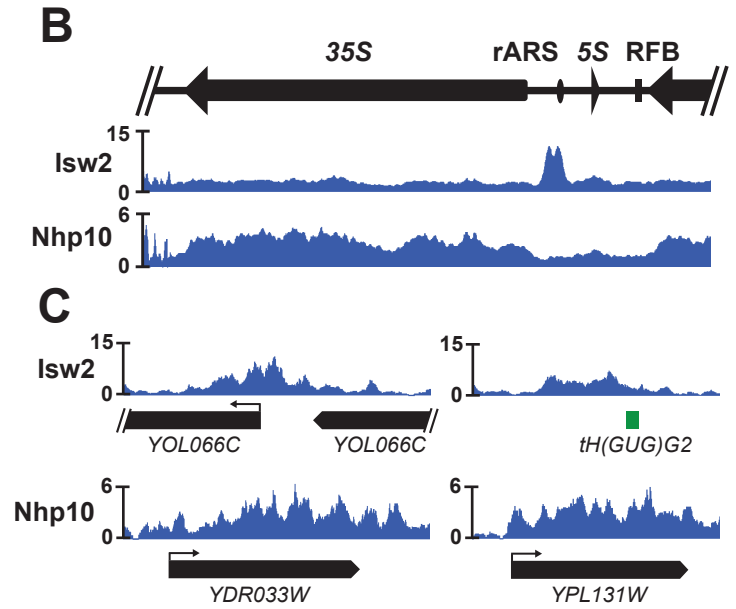
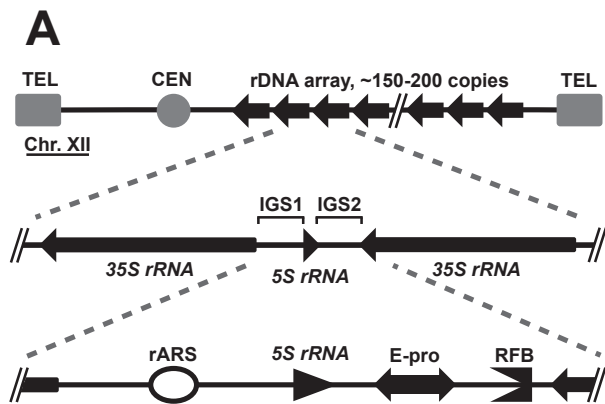


Fig 2

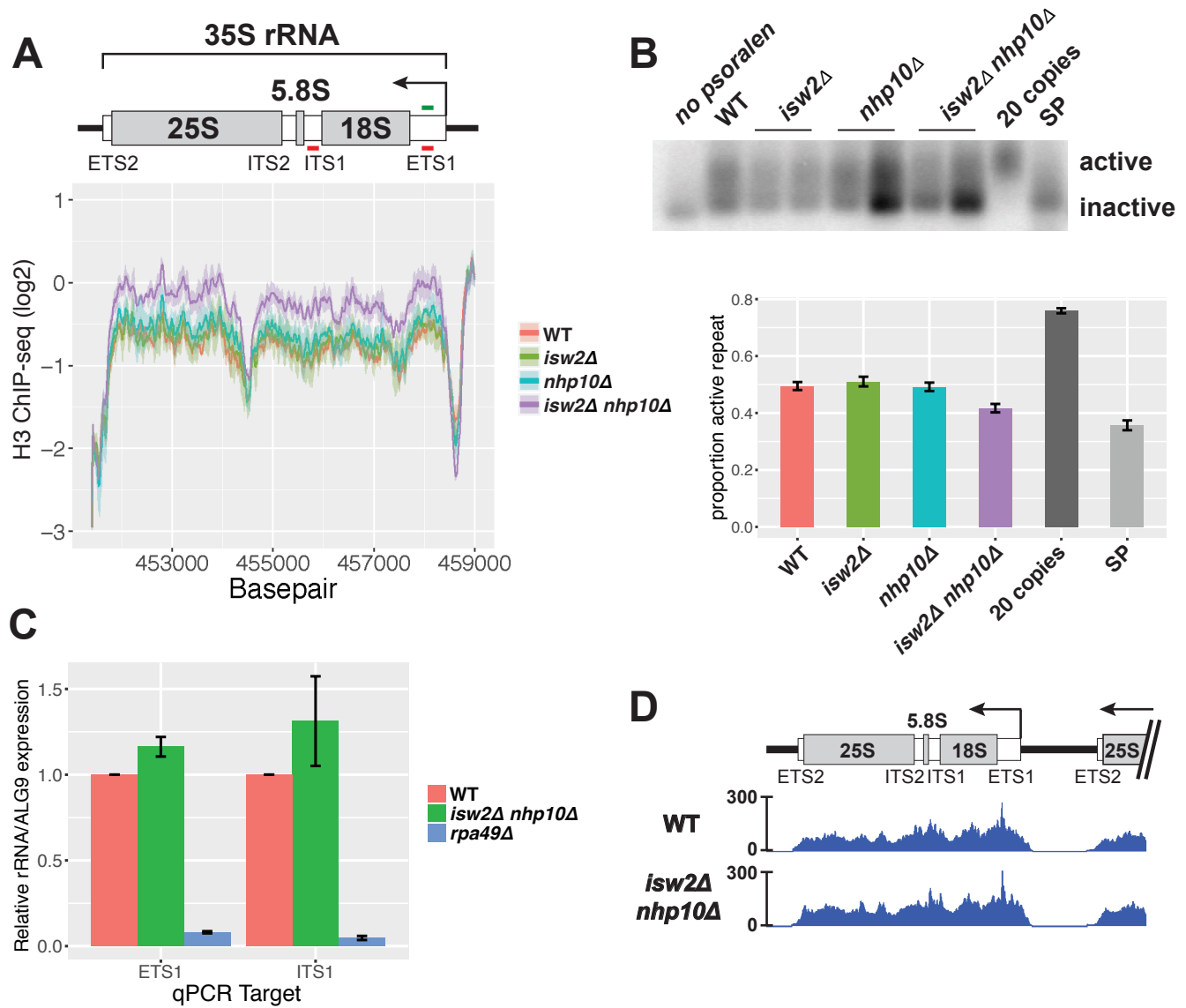


Fig 3

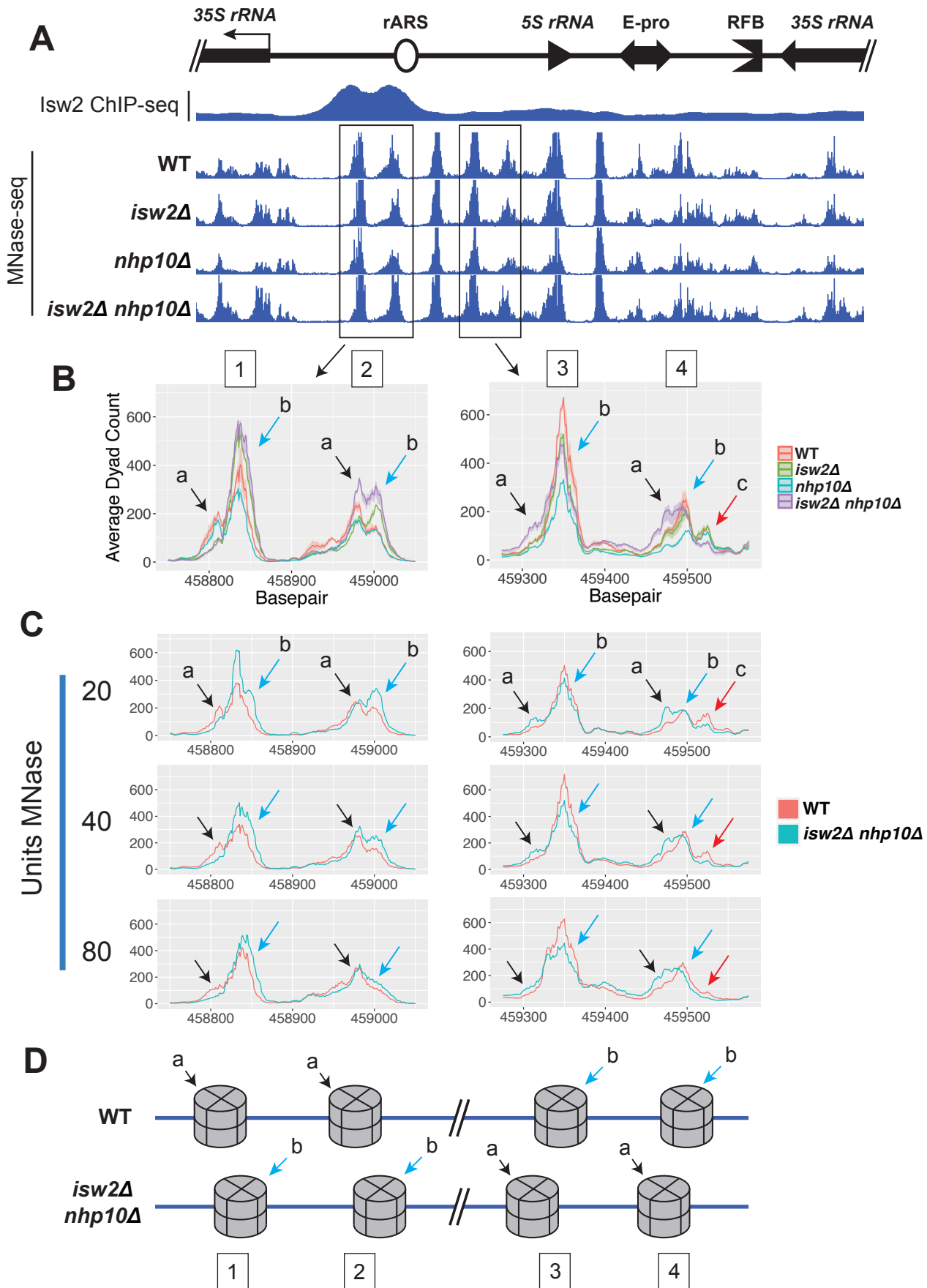


Fig 4

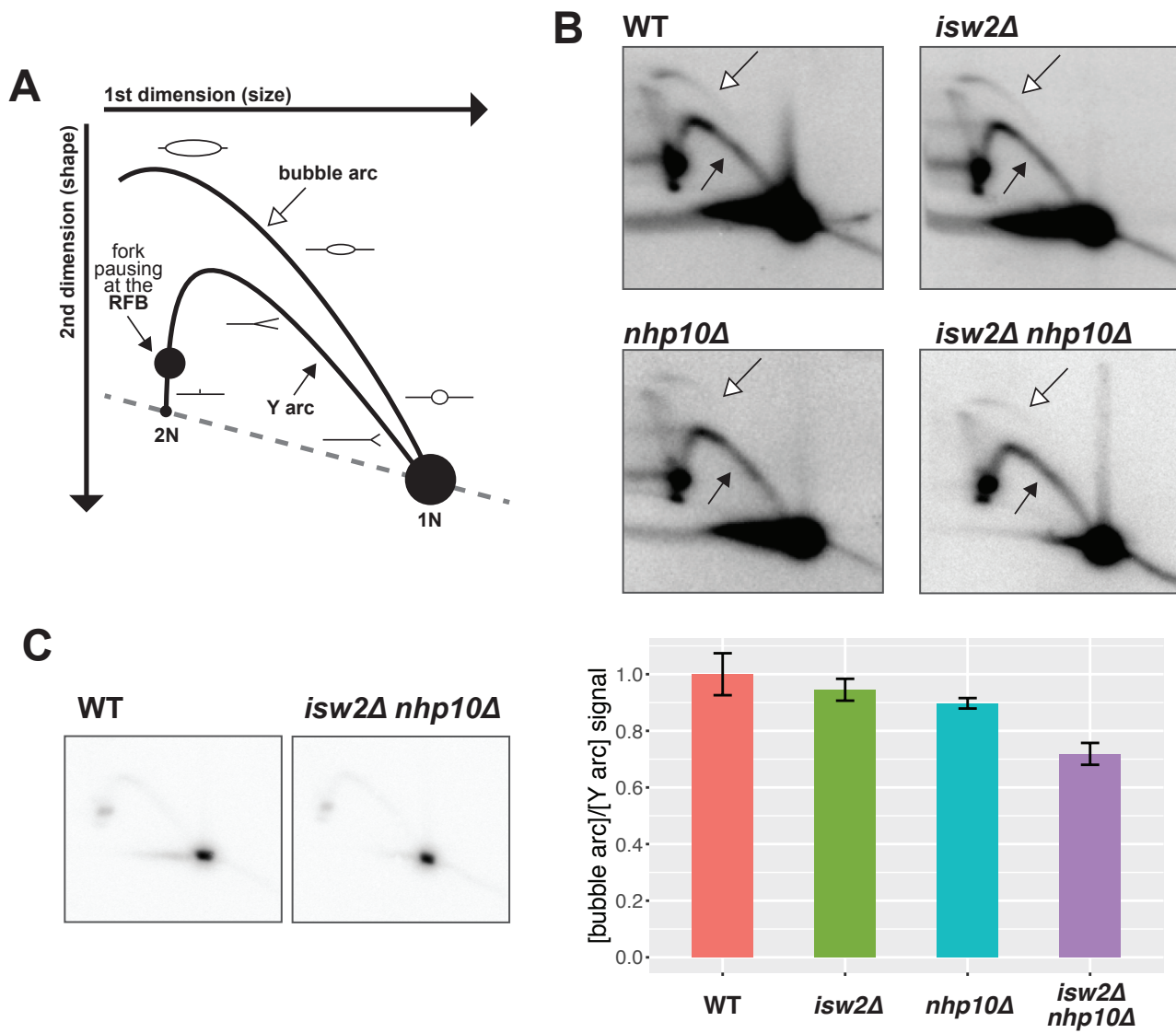


Fig 5

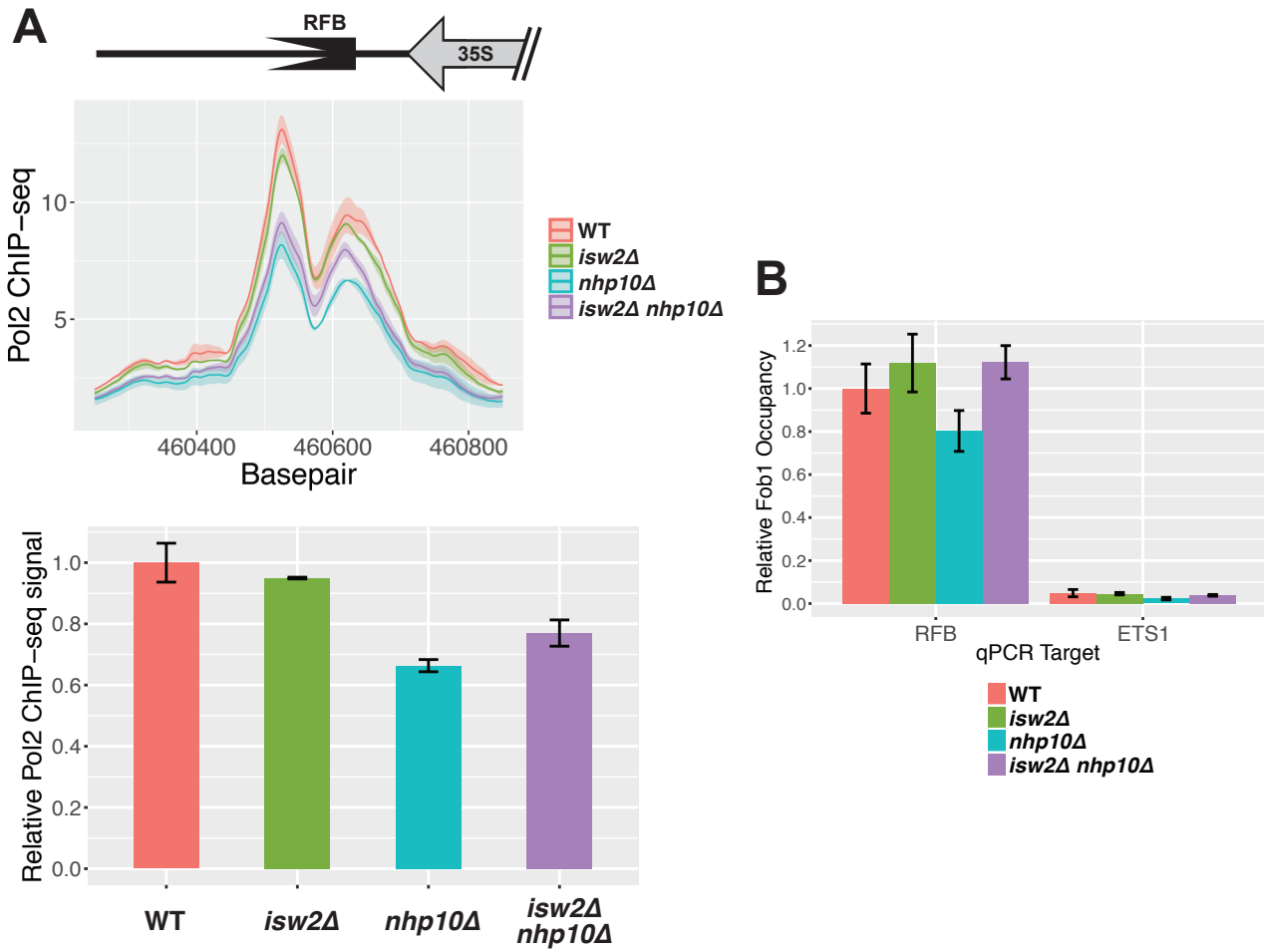
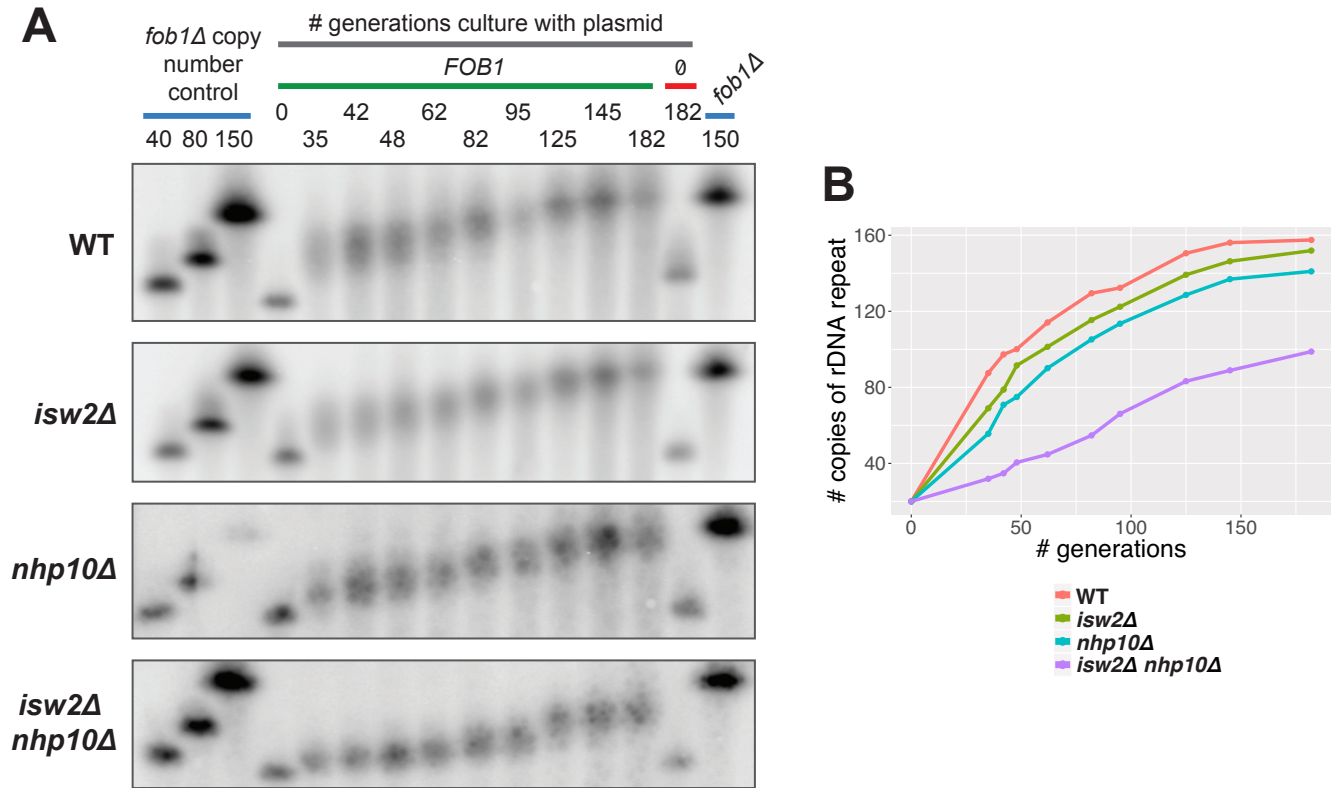
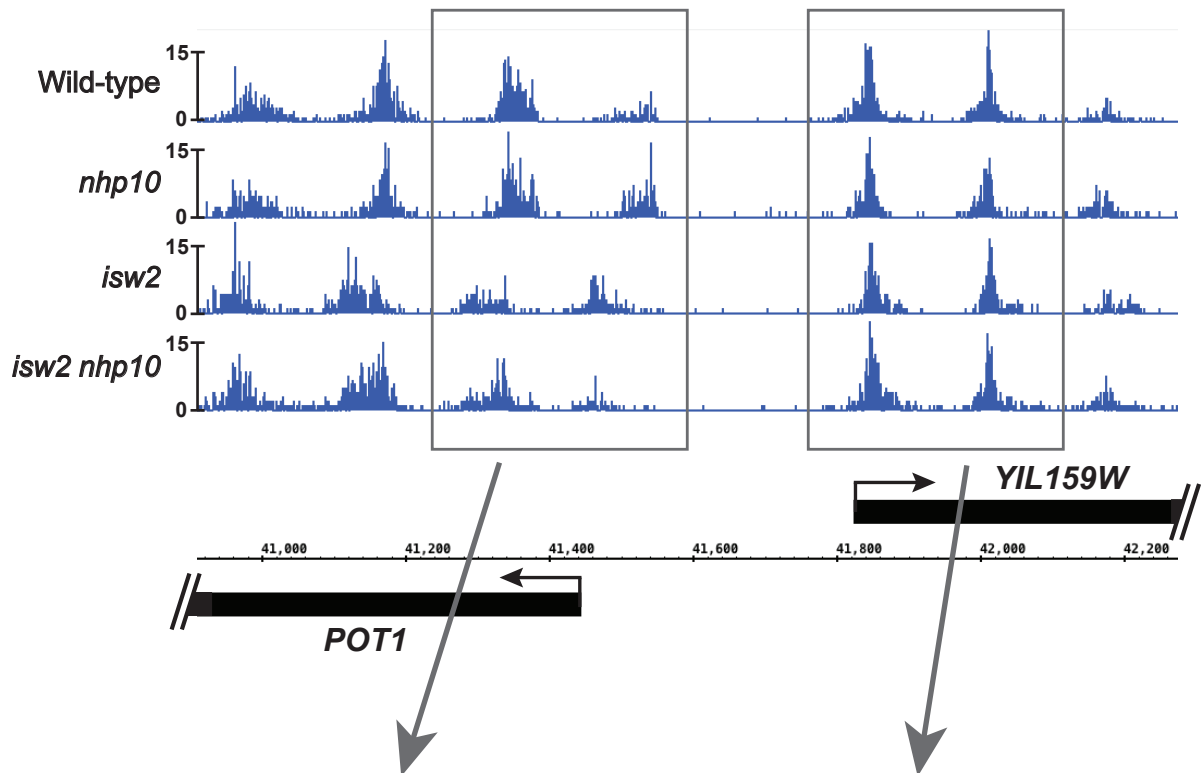


Fig 6

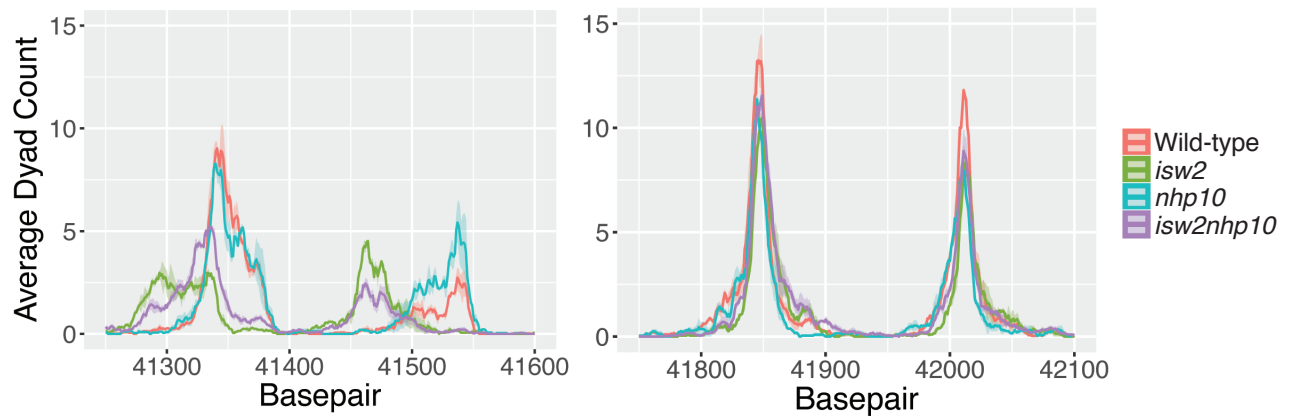


Supplemental 1

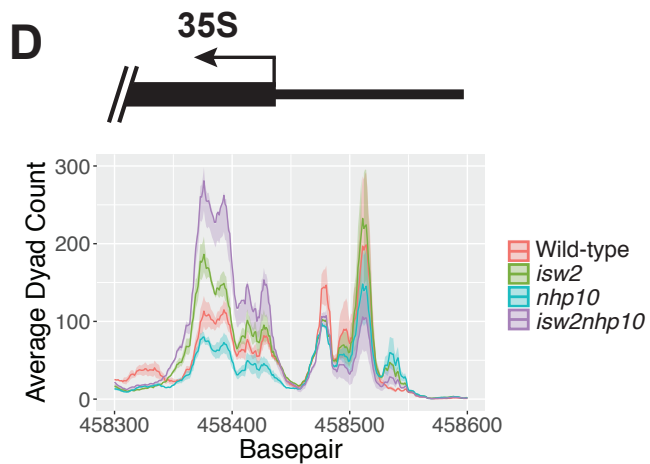
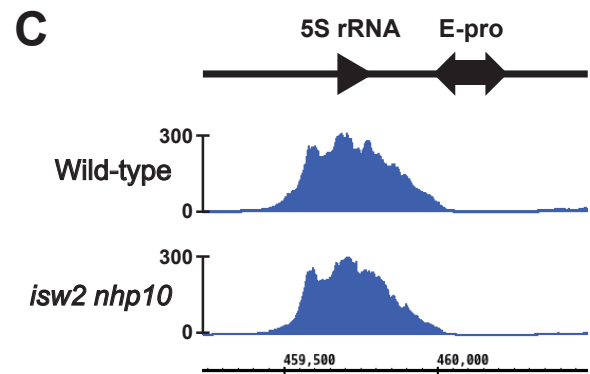
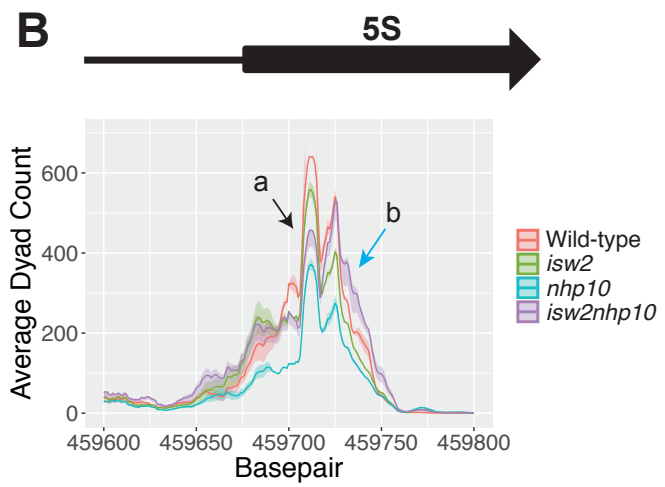
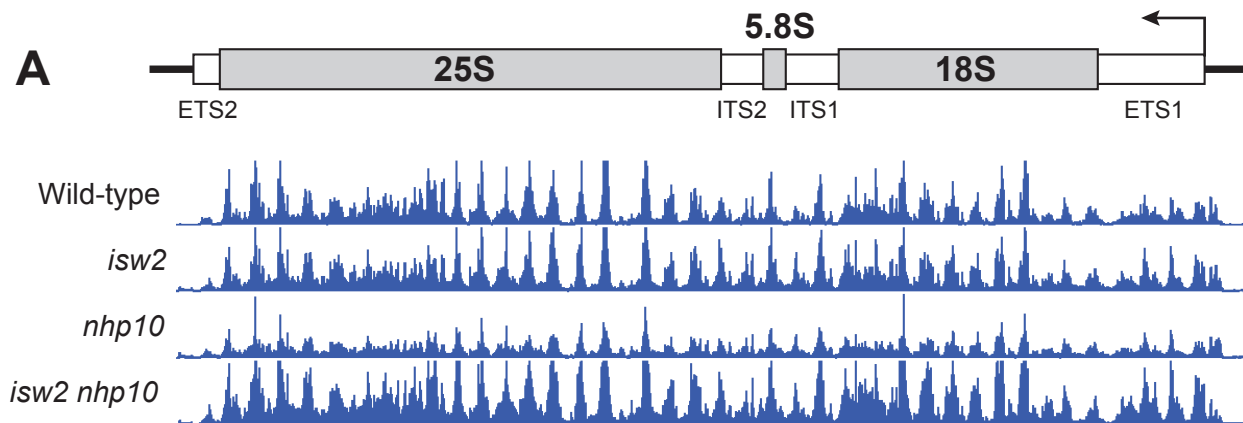
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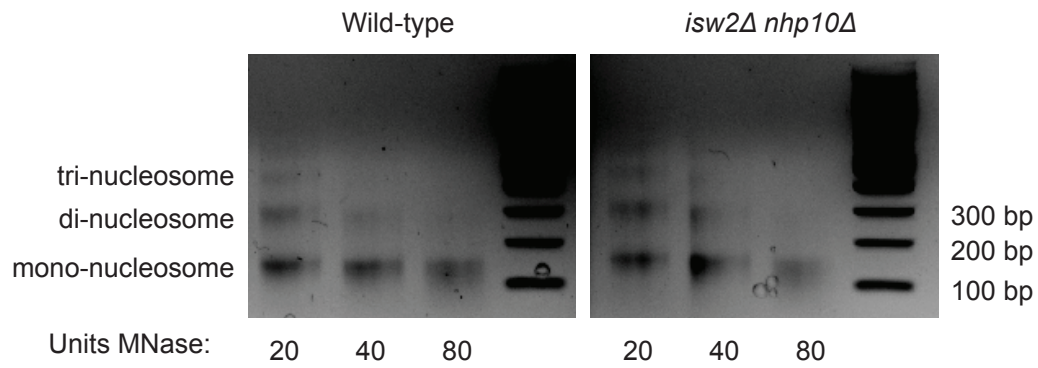
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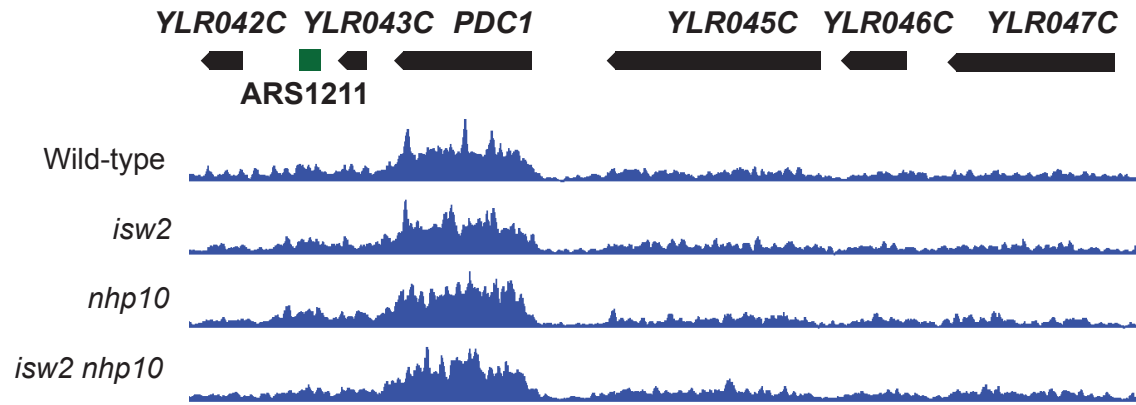
Supplemental 2



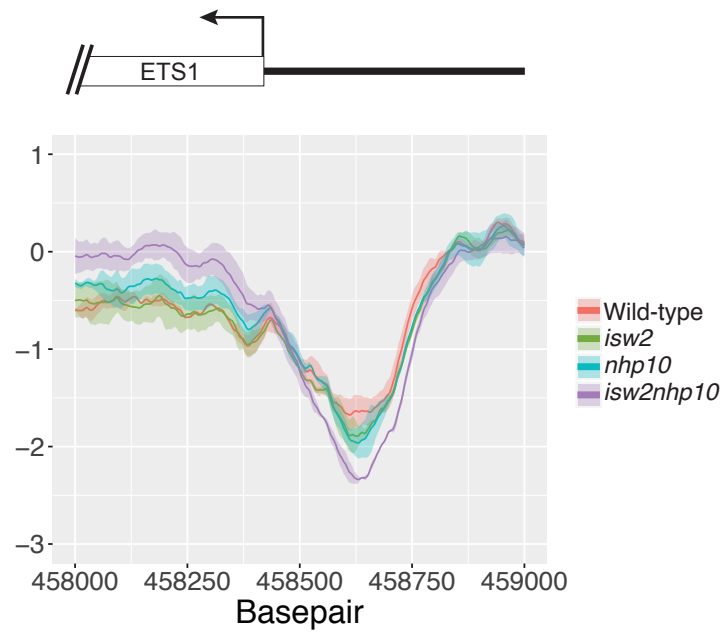
Supplemental 3



Supplemental 4



Supplemental 5



S1 Table. Yeast strains used in this study.

Strain	Genotype	Reference
W1588-4C	<i>MATa ade2-1 can1-100 his3-11,15 leu2-3,112 trp1-1 ura3-1</i>	Thomas and Rothstein 1989, Zhao <i>et al</i> 1998
YTT3320	W1588-4C; <i>isw2Δ::NatMX</i>	Au <i>et al</i> 2011
YTT6809	W1588-4C; <i>isw2Δ::NatMX</i>	this study
YTT3333	W1588-4C; <i>nhp10Δ::Hyg</i>	Au <i>et al</i> 2011
YTT2060	W1588-4C; <i>nhp10Δ::Hyg</i>	Vincent <i>et al</i> 2008
YTT3337	W1588-4C; <i>isw2Δ::NatMX nhp10Δ::HYG</i>	Au <i>et al</i> 2011
YTT2109	W1588-4C; <i>isw2Δ::NatMX nhp10Δ::HYG</i>	Vincent <i>et al</i> 2008
YTT1996	W1588-4C; <i>ISW2-K215R-3FLAG-KanMX</i>	Gelbart <i>et al</i> 2005
YTT1997	W1588-4C; <i>ISW2-K215R-3FLAG-KanMX</i>	Gelbart <i>et al</i> 2005
YTT3426	W1588-4C; <i>NHP10-3FLAG-KanMX</i>	Vincent <i>et al</i> 2008
YTT3427	W1588-4C; <i>NHP10-3FLAG-KanMX</i>	Vincent <i>et al</i> 2008
YTT6639	W1588-4C; <i>rpa49Δ::KanMX</i>	this study
YTT6673	W1588-4C; <i>isw2Δ::NatMX nhp10Δ::Hyg RPA190-2L-3FLAG::KanMX</i>	this study
YTT6679	W1588-4C; <i>RPA190-2L-3FLAG::KanMX</i>	this study
YTT6686	W1588-4C; <i>RPO31-2L-3FLAG::KanMX</i>	this study
YTT6693	W1588-4C; <i>isw2Δ::NatMX nhp10Δ::Hyg RPO31-2L-3FLAG::KanMX</i>	this study
YTT6915	W1588-4C; <i>Pol2-2L-3FLAG::KanMX</i>	this study
YTT6916	W1588-4C; <i>Pol2-2L-3FLAG::KanMX</i>	this study
YTT6917	W1588-4C; <i>isw2Δ::NatMX Pol2-2L-3FLAG::KanMX</i>	this study
YTT6918	W1588-4C; <i>isw2Δ::NatMX Pol2-2L-3FLAG::KanMX</i>	this study
YTT6919	W1588-4C; <i>nhp10Δ::Hyg Pol2-2L-3FLAG::KanMX</i>	this study
YTT6920	W1588-4C; <i>nhp10Δ::Hyg Pol2-2L-3FLAG::KanMX</i>	this study
YTT6921	W1588-4C; <i>isw2Δ::NatMX nhp10Δ::Hyg Pol2-2L-3FLAG::KanMX</i>	this study
YTT6922	W1588-4C; <i>isw2Δ::NatMX nhp10Δ::Hyg Pol2-2L-3FLAG::KanMX</i>	this study
YTT7009	W1588-4C; <i>Fob1-2L-3FLAG::KanMX</i>	this study
YTT7010	W1588-4C; <i>Fob1-2L-3FLAG::KanMX</i>	this study
YTT7011	W1588-4C; <i>isw2Δ::NatMX Fob1-2L-3FLAG::KanMX</i>	this study
YTT7012	W1588-4C; <i>isw2Δ::NatMX Fob1-2L-3FLAG::KanMX</i>	this study
YTT7013	W1588-4C; <i>nhp10Δ::Hyg Fob1-2L-3FLAG::KanMX</i>	this study
YTT7014	W1588-4C; <i>nhp10Δ::Hyg Fob1-2L-3FLAG::KanMX</i>	this study
YTT7015	W1588-4C; <i>isw2Δ::NatMX nhp10Δ::Hyg Fob1-2L-3FLAG::KanMX</i>	this study
YTT7016	W1588-4C; <i>isw2Δ::NatMX nhp10Δ::Hyg Fob1-2L-3FLAG::KanMX</i>	this study
YSI101	<i>MATa ade2-1 can1-100 his3-11,15 leu2-3,112 trp1-1 ura3-1 fob1::LEU2</i>	Ide <i>et al</i> 2010
YSI102	YSI101; 20 copies rDNA	Ide <i>et al</i> 2010
YSI103	YSI101; 40 copies rDNA	Ide <i>et al</i> 2010
YSI104	YSI101; 80 copies rDNA	Ide <i>et al</i> 2010
YTT6294	YSI102; <i>isw2Δ::NatMX</i>	this study
YTT6865	YSI102; <i>nhp10Δ::HYG</i>	this study
YTT6311	YSI102; <i>isw2Δ::NatMX nhp10Δ::Hyg</i>	this study
YTT6312	YSI102; <i>isw2Δ::NatMX nhp10Δ::Hyg</i>	this study

S2 Table. Primers used in this study.

Name	Comment	Sequence
ETS1-1	5' ETS1 qPCR	TGGGTTGATGCGTATTGAGA
ETS1-2	3' ETS1 qPCR	TCGCTGATTTGAGAGGAGGT
ALG9-1	5' ALG9 qPCR	CACGGATAGTGGCTTTGGTGAACAATTAC [1]
ALG9-2	3' ALG9 qPCR	TATGATTATCTGGCAGCAGGAAAGAAGCTTGGG [1]
ITS1-6	5' ITS1 qPCR	TGTTTTGGCAAGAGCATGAG
ITS1-7	3' ITS1 qPCR	TCGAATGCCCAAAGAAAAAG
RFB-1	5' RFB qPCR, probe	gcgggggtctagaCCACTGTTCACTGTTCACTGTTCA
RFB-2	3' RFB qPCR, probe	cccggcgctagcAGAGAAGGGCTTTCACAAAGCT
rDNA_ETS1-1	5' ETS1 probe	CCATTCCGTGAAACACC
rDNA_ETS1-2	3' ETS1 probe	AAGAAAGAAACCGAAATCTC
AG_Fob1_1	5' Fob1 Gibson cloning (insert)	ctcactatagggcgaattgggtaccgggccTTAATAATGTACTTT GCAGATGTTTGTTC
AG_Fob1_3	3' Fob1 Gibson cloning (insert)	cgcggtggcgccgctctagaactagtgggaCTAATGATAATGGC TTTCTATTTGTTTTGC
AG_Fob1_2	5' Fob1 Gibson cloning (vector)	GGAACAAACATCTGCAAAGTACATTATTAaggcccggt accaattcgccctatagtgag
AG_Fob1_4	3' Fob1 Gibson cloning (vector)	GCAAACAATAGAAAGCCATTATCATTAGtcactagtt ctagagcggccgccaccgcg

1. Teste MA, Duquenne M, Francois JM, Parrou JL. Validation of reference genes for quantitative expression analysis by real-time RT-PCR in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*. BMC Mol Biol. 2009;10:99. Epub 2009/10/31. doi: 10.1186/1471-2199-10-99. PubMed PMID: 19874630; PubMed Central PMCID: PMCPMC2776018.

S3 Table. Plasmids used in this study.

Name	Description
pRS426	URA3, 2 μ
pRS426-Fob1	pRS426 with <i>FOB1</i> promoter and coding region