

1 **Multi-protein Bridging Factor 1(Mbf1), Rps3 and Asc1 prevent stalled ribosomes from**
2 **frameshifting.**

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4 **AUTHORS**

5 Jiyu Wang^{1, 2}, Jie Zhou¹, Qidi Yang¹, and Elizabeth J. Grayhack^{1, 2, †}

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7 **AFFILIATIONS**

8 ¹Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics, School of Medicine and Dentistry, University of
9 Rochester, Rochester NY 14642

10 ²Center for RNA Biology, University of Rochester, Rochester NY 14642

11 †Corresponding Author

12 **Correspondence:** elizabeth_grayhack@urmc.rochester.edu

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14 **Abbreviations:** helix-turn-helix (HTH); Ribosome Quality Control (RQC).

15 **Abstract**

16 Stalled ribosomes in bacteria frameshift, but stalled ribosomes in eukaryotes do not frameshift
17 and abort translation, suggesting that eukaryote-specific mechanisms might prevent
18 frameshifting. We show that the conserved eukaryotic/archaeal protein Mbf1 acts with
19 ribosomal proteins Rps3/uS3 and eukaryotic Asc1/RACK1 to prevent frameshifting at inhibitory
20 CGA-CGA codon pairs in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*. Mutations in *RPS3* that allow
21 frameshifting implicate eukaryotic conserved residues near the mRNA entry site. Mbf1 and
22 Rps3 cooperate to maintain the reading frame of stalled ribosomes, while Asc1 mediates
23 distinct events that result in aborted translation. Frameshifting occurs through a +1 shift with a
24 CGA codon in the P site and involves competition between codons entering the A site,
25 implying that the wobble interaction of the P site codon destabilizes translation elongation.
26 Thus, eukaryotes have evolved unique mechanisms involving both a universally conserved
27 ribosome component and two eukaryotic-specific proteins to maintain the reading frame at
28 ribosome stalls.

29 INTRODUCTION

30 Accurate translation of mRNA into protein depends upon precise, repetitive three base
31 translocation of the ribosome to maintain the correct reading frame throughout a coding
32 sequence. Reading frame maintenance is challenging because multiple movements of the
33 tRNAs and mRNA as well as conformational changes within the ribosome itself are required to
34 complete a single elongation cycle (Noller et al., 2017). For instance, the tRNA acceptor stems
35 move within the large subunit during formation of the hybrid state, while the joining of EF-G-
36 GTP (eEF2 in eukaryotes) results in additional movement of tRNA (Brilot et al., 2013, Ramrath
37 et al., 2013, Zhou et al., 2014), and finally completion of translocation, driven by Pi release,
38 requires additional movements (Noller et al., 2017). (Brilot et al., 2013, Ramrath et al., 2013,
39 Zhou et al., 2014). To accomplish this cycle, many interactions between the tRNAs and
40 ribosome are disrupted, and new interactions are created, but the relative position of the tRNA
41 anticodon to the mRNA codon must be maintained throughout all of these events (Noller et al.,
42 2017, Dever et al., 2018, Rodnina, 2018). Thus, it is critical that mechanisms exist to prevent
43 slippage during these transitions.

44 Reading frame maintenance is facilitated by structures within the ribosome as well as by
45 tRNA modifications. Structural features that contribute to reading frame maintenance, inferred
46 from analysis of prokaryotic translation intermediates, include a swivel of the 30S head relative
47 to the 30S body to form a contracted mRNA tunnel downstream of the A site prior to
48 translocation (Jenner et al., 2010, Schuwirth et al., 2005). In addition, during translocation, two
49 conserved bases in the 16S rRNA intercalate into different positions of mRNA to prevent
50 slippage (Zhou et al., 2013) while domain IV of EF-G contacts both the codon-anticodon in the
51 A/P site and the 16S rRNA, likely coupling mRNA and tRNA movement (Ramrath et al., 2013,

52 Zhou et al., 2014). tRNA modifications within the anticodon loop also assist in reading frame
53 maintenance, inferred both from genetic and structural analyses . Mutants that affect several
54 such modifications in both bacteria and eukaryotes result in increased frameshifting (Atkins
55 and Bjork, 2009, Jager et al., 2013, Tukenmez et al., 2015, Urbonavicius et al., 2001, Waas et
56 al., 2007). Moreover, a cross-strand base stacking interaction between a modified ms²ⁱ⁶A37 in
57 an *E. coli* tRNA^{Phe} and the mRNA codon is proposed to prevent slippage of P site tRNA on the
58 mRNA (Jenner et al., 2010). Thus, a number of mechanisms exist to prevent loss of reading
59 frame.

60 Nevertheless, ribosomes do move into alternative reading frames in response to
61 specific sequences and structures in mRNA (Atkins and Bjork, 2009, Dever et al., 2018,
62 Dinman, 2012). The existence of such events has implied that ribosomal plasticity with respect
63 to reading frame movement is an integral function of the translation machinery. The common
64 feature of all frameshifting events in bacteria to humans is that the ribosome stalls (Dever et
65 al., 2018). The stall can be mediated in several different ways, by combined effects of the A
66 and P site codons (Farabaugh et al., 2006, Gamble et al., 2016) or by the presence of the
67 downstream structures or an upstream Shine-Dalgarno sequence in bacteria (Caliskan et al.,
68 2014, Dinman, 2012). Analysis of programmed frameshifting indicates that there are
69 frequently requirements for additional sequences or protein factors to mediate efficient
70 frameshifting (Atkins and Bjork, 2009, Dinman, 2012). For instance, +1 programmed
71 frameshifting events are frequently enhanced by stimulatory sequences, although the role of
72 these sequences is not always clear (Guarraia et al., 2007, Taliaferro and Farabaugh, 2007).

73 The identification of mutants that either affect programmed frameshifting or suppress
74 frameshift mutations has pointed to four key factors in reading frame maintenance. First,

75 mutations of ribosomal proteins, particularly those that contact the P site tRNA can cause
76 increased frameshifting. In bacteria, frameshifting mutations are suppressed by deletions
77 within the C terminal domain of ribosomal protein uS9, which contacts the P site tRNA
78 anticodon loop (Jager et al., 2013). In the yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, programmed
79 frameshifting of the L-A virus is affected by mutations in 5S rRNA or its interactors uL18 or
80 uL5, that also contact the P site tRNA (Meskauskas and Dinman, 2001, Rhodin and Dinman,
81 2010, Smith et al., 2001). Frameshifting mutations are also suppressed by a mutation in the
82 yeast *RPS3*, although this mutation does not affect a tRNA contact (Hendrick et al., 2001).
83 Second, mutations in the basal translation machinery can also affect frameshifting. For
84 instance, frameshifting mutations are suppressed by mutations in both EF-1 α , which delivers
85 tRNA to the ribosome (Sandbaken and Culbertson, 1988), and in *SUP35*, encoding the
86 translation termination factor eRF3 (Wilson and Culbertson, 1988). Third, miRNAs can affect
87 the efficiency of programmed frameshifting, for instance at *CCR5* in humans (Belew et al.,
88 2014). Fourth, mutations that affect proteins with previously unknown functions in translation
89 can alter either programmed frameshifting or suppress frameshifting mutations. For instance,
90 in yeast, frameshifting mutations are suppressed by mutations in *MBF1*, encoding Multiprotein
91 Bridging Factor 1 (Hendrick et al., 2001), or in *EBS1* (Ford et al., 2006), while in the porcine
92 virus PRRSV, the RNA binding protein nsp1 β stimulates both -1 and -2 frameshifting events (Li
93 et al., 2014). Thus, reading frame maintenance is modulated by ribosomal components, many
94 of which contact the tRNAs, as well as by extra-ribosomal proteins and miRNAs. However, the
95 roles of many of these proteins are not understood.

96 We set out to work out the mechanisms that maintain reading frame when eukaryotic
97 ribosomes encounter a stall, the common feature of all frameshifting events. In bacteria,

98 ribosome stalls due to limited availability or functionality of tRNA seem to suffice to cause
99 frameshifting (Atkins 2005, Hayes 2011). However, in eukaryotes, the rescue of stalled
100 ribosomes by frameshifting is not observed. In wild type yeast, ribosomes stall at CGA codon
101 repeats, which inhibit translation due to wobble decoding of CGA by its native tRNA^{Arg(ICG)}
102 (Letzring et al., 2010, Letzring et al., 2013), but do not frameshift (Wolf and Grayhack, 2015).
103 Instead, eukaryotes have evolved new pathways to regulate inefficient translation events, such
104 as the Ribosome Quality Control (RQC) pathway, in which these stalled ribosomes undergo
105 ubiquitination of ribosomal proteins, followed by dissociation of the subunits, and recruitment of
106 the RQC Complex, which mediates CAT tailing and degradation of the nascent polypeptide
107 (Brandman and Hegde, 2016, Brandman et al., 2012, Joazeiro, 2017, Juszkievicz and Hegde,
108 2017, Matsuo et al., 2017, Simms et al., 2017, Sundaramoorthy et al., 2017, Shen et al.,
109 2015). The ribosomal protein Asc1/RACK1 mediates these events (Brandman et al., 2012,
110 Kuroha et al., 2010); in the absence of Asc1, ribosomes continue translation through CGA
111 codon repeats more efficiently, but also undergo substantial frameshifting at these repeats
112 (Wolf and Grayhack, 2015). However, Asc1 sits on the outside of the ribosome at the mRNA
113 exit tunnel and likely functions as scaffold for recruitment of other proteins, such as the E3
114 ubiquitin ligase Hel2/mammalian ZNF598 and Slh1 (Kostova et al., 2017, Matsuo et al., 2017,
115 Sitron et al., 2017). Based on the location of Asc1 and the precedent that Asc1 recruits other
116 proteins to abort translation, we considered it likely that Asc1 cooperates with additional
117 proteins to mediate reading frame maintenance at CGA codon repeats and set out to find such
118 factors.

119 Here, we provide evidence that the Multiprotein Bridging Factor 1 (Mbf1) and ribosomal
120 protein Rps3 work together to prevent translational slippage at CGA codon repeats.

121 Frameshifting is caused by inactivation of *MBF1*, and by mutations of amino acids in Rps3
122 located on an exposed surface of the protein near the mRNA entry site. Frameshifting in *RPS3*
123 mutants is suppressed by additional copies of the *MBF1* gene. We provide evidence that Asc1
124 mediates a distinct, but related function to that of Mbf1, acting to abort translation of stalled
125 ribosomes, which in turn reduces frameshifting. Mbf1 and Asc1 synergistically prevent
126 frameshifting at the seven most slowly translated codon pairs in yeast, all of which are codon
127 pairs that inhibit translation relative to their synonymous optimal pairs (Gamble et al., 2016).
128 We examine the precise frameshift at one of these inhibitory pairs, CGA-CGG, purifying the
129 frameshifted polypeptide, followed by analysis with mass spectrometry. We find that
130 frameshifting occurs in the +1 direction at the CGA codon and moreover, that frameshifting is
131 modulated by the competition between the in-frame and +1 frame tRNAs.

132 RESULTS

133 ***MBF1* (Multiprotein-Bridging Factor 1) prevents frameshifting at CGA codon repeats.**

134 We considered it likely that proteins other than Asc1 worked to prevent frameshifting at
135 CGA codon repeats for two reasons. First, Asc1 binds on the outside of the ribosome, not in
136 the decoding center (Rabl et al., 2011), and thus is not positioned in any obvious way to assist
137 with reading frame maintenance. Second, Asc1 recruits other proteins, Hel2 and Slh1, to bring
138 about aborted translation (Brandman and Hegde, 2016, Joazeiro, 2017), and thus is likely to
139 work with other proteins in reading frame maintenance. We note that Hel2 is not involved (Wolf
140 and Grayhack, 2015). Thus, we set out to identify genes responsible for reading frame
141 maintenance at CGA codon repeats.

142 To isolate mutants that frameshift due to translation of CGA codon repeats, we set up a
143 selection in which expression of the *URA3* gene depended upon a +1 frameshift due to the
144 presence of 6 adjacent CGA codons. The native *URA3* gene was placed in the +1 reading
145 frame downstream of an N-terminal domain of *GLN4* encoding amino acids 1-99 (*GLN4*₍₁₋₉₉₎),
146 followed by 6 CGA codons and one additional nucleotide upstream of the *URA3* coding region
147 (Fig. 1A). Thus, this strain exhibits an Ura⁻ phenotype, due to the low levels of frameshifting in
148 an otherwise wild-type background. As a secondary screen for frameshifting mutants due to
149 CGA codon repeats, we integrated a modified version of the RNA-ID reporter with *GLN4*₍₁₋₉₉₎
150 followed by 4 CGA codons and one additional nucleotide upstream of the *GFP* coding region
151 into the *ADE2* locus (Dean and Grayhack, 2012, Wolf and Grayhack, 2015). Thus, GFP
152 expression was dependent upon frameshifting efficiency (Fig. 1A). To avoid obtaining
153 mutations in the *ASC1* gene, the selection strain also contained a second copy of the *ASC1*
154 gene on a plasmid. (Fig. 1A). We selected Ura⁺ mutants from 40 independent cultures each of

155 *MATa* and *MATα* parents and then analyzed three Ura⁺ mutants from each culture by flow
156 cytometry to measure GFP and RFP expression. Most mutants (60% of *MATα* mutants and
157 80% of *MATa* mutants) showed elevated expression of GFP (Fig. 1B), and we studied those
158 that exhibited relatively high levels of frameshifting, >30% of that in an *asc1Δ* mutant. Most
159 mutants (43 of 48 examined) were recessive and mapped to single complementation group,
160 based their growth on media lacking uracil (Fig. 1-figure supplement 1A), although four
161 dominant mutants were also identified.

162 To confirm that inhibitory decoding of CGA codon repeats is required for frameshifting in
163 these mutants, we showed that introduction of an anticodon-mutated exact match
164 tRNA^{Arg(UCG)*} suppressed the Ura⁺ phenotype of one mutant (Fig. 1C). We have shown
165 previously that expression of this exact match tRNA^{Arg(UCG)*} results in efficient decoding of CGA
166 codons and suppresses their inhibitory effects on gene expression (Letzring et al., 2010).
167 Thus, the Ura⁺, GFP⁺ phenotype of this mutant was due to frameshifting that occurs when the
168 ribosome translates CGA codon repeats inefficiently.

169 We demonstrated that mutations in the yeast gene *MBF1*, Multiprotein-Bridging Factor
170 1, were responsible for the defects in reading frame maintenance in recessive high GFP
171 mutants. We identified the mutated gene by complementation of the Ura⁺ phenotype of the
172 P25 recessive mutant with two plasmids from a library that contain 97.2% of the entire yeast
173 genome (Fig. 1-figure supplement 1B) (Jones et al., 2008). The complementing plasmids
174 share a single ORF, *MBF1*.

175 We confirmed that mutations in the *MBF1* gene are responsible for frameshifting in
176 three ways. First, a plasmid with only the *MBF1* gene complemented the frameshifting Ura⁺
177 phenotype of two mutants (Fig. 1- figure supplement 2A). Second, deletion of *MBF1* in the

178 parent strain converted that strain from GFP⁻ to GFP⁺, similar to deletion of *ASC1* (Fig. 1-figure
179 supplement 2B). Third, 19/19 mutants tested contain mutations in the *MBF1* gene, some of
180 which are shown with frameshifted GFP/RFP values in Figure 1D.

181 *MBF1* is a highly conserved gene in eukaryotes and archaea (Liu et al., 2007,
182 Takemaru et al., 1997)(Fig. 1-figure supplement 3A), generally <160 amino acids with an N-
183 terminal Mbf1-specific domain and a cro-like helix-turn-helix (HTH) domain (Fig. 1D)
184 (Takemaru et al., 1997). Point mutations isolated in our selection are located at conserved
185 residues near the junctions between the domains (Fig. 1D). Mbf1, which was initially identified
186 as a transcription co-activator in *Bombyx mori* (Li et al., 1994, Takemaru et al., 1997), has a
187 similar function in yeast, in this case, interacting with the Gcn4, transcription regulator of the
188 general amino acid control pathway (Takemaru et al., 1998). In testing sensitivity to 3-
189 aminotriazole (3-AT), a phenotype of *gcn4* mutants due to inability to induce expression of
190 *HIS3*, we found that two frameshifting point mutants (*mbf1-K64E* and *mbf1-I85T*) exhibit no
191 growth defect even on high concentrations of 3-AT (Fig. 1-figure supplement 3B). Moreover,
192 deletion of *GCN4* does not affect frameshifting at CGA codon repeats in an *asc1*Δ mutant
193 (Wolf and Grayhack, 2015). Thus, it is unlikely that the defect in reading frame maintenance in
194 our *mbf1* mutants is related to *GCN4*. However, Mbf1 has also been implicated in translation,
195 based on isolation of mutations in yeast *MBF1* that suppress frameshifting mutations (Hendrick
196 et al., 2001), and the weak association of the archaeal homolog with ribosomes (Blombach et
197 al., 2014). However, there is no information on its molecular role in translation.

198 **Ribosomal protein *Rps3* also mediates reading frame maintenance at CGA codon**
199 **repeats.**

200 To identify the mutated gene(s) in our dominant mutants, we performed whole genome
201 sequencing in two *MAT α* mutants and found that each mutant contains a single amino acid
202 change (*S104Y* and *G121D*) in *RPS3*. Similarly, the two dominant *MAT α* mutants also contain
203 mutations in the *RPS3* gene (*L113F* and a duplication of N22 to A30). *RPS3* encodes a
204 universally conserved ribosomal protein, a core component of the mRNA entry tunnel with a
205 eukaryotic-specific C-terminal extension that interacts with Asc1 (Rabl et al., 2011). One
206 mutation in *RPS3* (*K108E*) affects reading frame maintenance (Hendrick et al., 2001), while
207 others affect different aspects of translation, from initiation to quality control (Dong et al., 2017,
208 Graifer et al., 2014, Limoncelli et al., 2017, Takyar et al., 2005). The three residues *S104*,
209 *L113* and *G121* implicated in reading frame maintenance in our study, as well as *K108*, are all
210 found in two α -helices near the mRNA entry tunnel of the ribosome; these residues reside on
211 the surface of the ribosome and could interact with mRNA or proteins outside of the ribosome
212 (Fig. 2A). Furthermore, for all four of these residues, their identity is conserved in eukaryotes
213 and different in bacteria and archaea (Graifer et al., 2014).

214 We initially examined the effect of the *RPS3-K108E* mutation on frameshifting and read-
215 through at CGA codon repeats, and found that this mutation does allow frameshifting but does
216 not affect read-through. To this end, we introduced modified RNA-ID reporters into *rps3 Δ ::ble^R*
217 strains in which the only source of *RPS3* is a plasmid borne copy (either wild type or *K108E*).
218 As described previously, since the expression of GFP and RFP are driven by the bi-directional
219 *GAL1, 10* promoter, we use the ratio of GFP/RFP to reduce noise and cell type specific
220 differences in induction of this promoter (Dean and Grayhack, 2012). We found that neither the
221 *RPS3* mutant nor an *mbf1 Δ* mutant affected in frame read-through of CGA codon repeats (Fig.
222 2B). However, both the *RPS3-K108E* and *mbf1 Δ* mutants caused increased expression of

223 frameshifted GFP in the construct with four CGA codons (Fig. 2B; Supplementary Table 1).
224 Since the *K108E* mutation has only minor effects on the polysome to monosome ratio (Dong et
225 al., 2017), we infer that effects of this mutation are specific to reading frame maintenance (Fig.
226 2B).

227 If Mbf1 and Rps3 proteins function in independent pathways to prevent frameshifting,
228 we expected that *RPS3-K108E mbf1*Δ double mutants would frameshift more efficiently than
229 either single mutant. Instead, we found that the double mutant *RPS3-K108E mbf1*Δ exhibited
230 only a slight increase in expression of frameshifted GFP, much less than an additive effect
231 (Fig. 2B). We also compared expression of *GLN4*₍₁₋₉₉₎-(CGA)₄₊₁-GFP in the *MAT*α *mbf1*-
232 *R89G* mutant, two *MAT*α *RPS3* mutants (*S104Y* and *G121D*) from our selection, in an *mbf1*Δ
233 mutant, and in each *RPS3 mbf1*Δ double mutant. We observed significant amounts of
234 frameshifted GFP in both *RPS3* mutant strains and in the *mbf1*Δ strain as well as in the *mbf1*-
235 *R89G* mutant (Fig. 2C). In these cases again, the double mutants exhibited similar amounts of
236 frameshifted GFP/RFP, compared to the *mbf1*Δ strain, although an additive effect would be
237 easily detectable (Fig. 2C). Thus, we think it is likely that Mbf1 and the two α-helices in the N-
238 terminal Rps3 protein have related roles in reading frame maintenance.

239 If Mbf1 and these two α-helices in Rps3 mediate a common function, then frameshifting
240 in either *RPS3-S104Y* or *G121D* mutants might be suppressed by overproduction of *MBF1*.
241 We find that introduction of additional copies of the *MBF1* gene into either of these mutants
242 resulted in reduced expression of frameshifted GFP (Fig. 2D). Frameshifted GFP is reduced to
243 30% in the *S104Y* mutant and to 60% in the *G121D* mutant (Fig. 2D). Similarly, growth on
244 media lacking uracil is severely compromised in the *RPS3-S104Y* mutant when *MBF1* is
245 expressed on a multi-copy plasmid, relative to an empty vector control (Fig. 2E), although both

246 strains grow equally well on SD-Leu media. These observations are consistent with the idea
247 that Mbf1 and Rps3 play similar roles in reading frame maintenance and support the idea that
248 these *RPS3* mutations reduce Mbf1 function.

249 **Mbf1 and Asc1 play distinct roles at CGA codon repeats.**

250 Since Asc1 is also required for reading frame maintenance at CGA codon repeats (Wolf
251 and Grayhack, 2015), we examined the relationship between *MBF1* and *ASC1* by comparing
252 the frameshifting efficiency as well as in-frame read-through in the *asc1Δ mbf1Δ* double mutant
253 to that in either single mutant. Since we previously noted that inhibitory effects of CGA codons
254 are mediated by CGA codon pairs (Gamble et al., 2016, Letzring et al., 2010), we compared
255 effects of these mutants on a set of reporters with three CGA-CGA (or AGA-AGA) codon pairs
256 flanked by two non-Arg codons (Fig. 3A; Supplementary Table 2) to effects on a set with four
257 adjacent CGA (or AGA) codons (Fig. 3-figure supplement 1).

258 We found that Asc1, but not Mbf1, mediates the inhibition of translation conferred by
259 CGA-CGA codon pairs, and that neither the upstream gene nor the arrangement of CGA
260 codons affected this result. While deletion of *ASC1* resulted in increased in-frame expression
261 of both CGA-containing reporters, deletion of *MBF1* did not, in fact a small decrease in
262 GFP/RFP is observed (Fig. 3A; Fig. 3-figure supplement 1; Supplementary Table 2). The
263 double deletion strain exhibited an intermediate level of in-frame GFP expression (Fig. 3A).

264 If Mbf1 and Asc1 proteins function in independent pathways that affect frameshifting at
265 CGA codon pairs, we expected that *asc1Δ mbf1Δ* double mutants would frameshift more
266 efficiently than either single mutant. Frameshifting occurs in both the single and double
267 mutants (*asc1Δ*, *mbf1Δ*, *asc1Δ mbf1Δ*), but the amount of frameshifted GFP protein in the
268 double mutant was greater than the sum of frameshifted GFP produced in two single mutants

269 (Fig. 3A; Fig. 3-figure supplement 1; Supplementary Table 2). Moreover, in the double mutant,
270 a small amount of frameshifting is also detected in the -1 frame (Fig. 3A; Fig. 3-figure
271 supplement 1; Supplementary Table 2). We confirmed that +1 GFP signal detected in our
272 mutants was due to frameshifting rather than another aberrant translation event by directly
273 measuring both the size and amount of GFP fusion protein. The amount of full-length GFP
274 protein in the Western blot corresponds to the GFP/RFP values obtained from flow analysis
275 (Fig.3B) indicating that +1 GFP/RFP signal in our mutants is due to frameshifting.

276 We have three results that are consistent with an important role for Asc1 in the decision
277 between read-through versus activation of the RQC pathway, rather than a major direct role in
278 reading frame maintenance. First, the deletion of *ASC1* in an *mbf1* Δ mutant does not affect the
279 frameshifting efficiency of the (CGA-CGA)₃ constructs, but rather affects the total number of
280 ribosomes translating through the CGA codons. We calculate frameshifting efficiency as the
281 percentage of GFP/RFP from the +1 construct relative to the total GFP/RFP from the in frame,
282 +1 and -1 constructs with the same insert $[(+1 \text{ GFP/RFP}) * 100 / (+1 \text{ GFP/RFP} + \text{in-frame}$
283 $\text{GFP/RFP} + -1 \text{ GFP/RFP})]$. For the *GLN4*₍₁₋₉₉₎-(CGA-CGA)₃-GFP reporter, 34% of the GFP
284 signal corresponds to the +1 frameshift in both *mbf1* Δ and *asc1* Δ *mbf1* Δ mutants (Fig. 3A,
285 Supplementary Table 2), although this is not true for the *Renilla* luciferase-(CGA)₄-GFP
286 reporters perhaps due to a previously observed effect of Asc1 on *Renilla* luciferase (Fig. 3-
287 figure supplement 1). Second, other mutations that impair the recruitment of the RQC pathway,
288 but do not themselves affect frameshifting, also result in increased amount of frameshifted
289 GFP in *mbf1* Δ strains. Frameshifting was increased by deletions of either of two downstream
290 effectors of Asc1 (*HEL2* or *SLH1*) in an *mbf1* mutant, although neither of these single mutants
291 allows detectable frameshifting (Fig. 3C; Supplementary Table 3) (Wolf and Grayhack, 2015),

292 while both single mutants increase read-through (Brandman et al., 2012, Sitron et al., 2017).
293 Third, the amount of frameshifted GFP per mRNA is constant between *mbf1* Δ versus
294 *asc1* Δ *mbf1* Δ mutants. Frameshifting was proportional to the abundance of the *GLN4*₍₁₋₉₉₎-
295 (CGA-CGA)₃₊₁-GFP mRNA in *mbf1* Δ versus *asc1* Δ *mbf1* Δ mutants (Fig. 3D), although the
296 mRNA in the *asc1* Δ *mbf1* Δ mutant was twice that in the *mbf1* Δ single mutant (Fig. 3D). Thus,
297 we infer that Asc1 mediates the balance between read-through and aborted translation at CGA
298 codon repeats, and that aborted translation helps to maintain the reading frame. These results
299 are consistent with an important role for Asc1 in the decision between read-through versus
300 activation of the RQC pathway, while Mbf1 acts solely on reading frame maintenance.

301 If Mbf1 is responsible for reading frame maintenance in all conditions, then
302 overproduction of Mbf1 in the *asc1* Δ mutant might suppress frameshifting in this mutant. We
303 find that expression of *MBF1* on a multi-copy plasmid did suppress frameshifting in the *asc1* Δ
304 strain to 1/3 that seen with an empty vector, but did not affect the in-frame read-through (Fig.
305 3E). The overproduction of Mbf1 is not complementing a reduced abundance of Mbf1 in this
306 mutant. We did not detect a reduction in Mbf1-HA (which complements the *mbf1* Δ mutant) in
307 the *asc1* Δ strain (Fig. 3-figure supplement 2A), although *asc1* mutants generally exhibit a
308 defect in expression of small proteins (Thompson et al., 2016). We also considered that *mbf1*
309 mutants might require additional Asc1 protein, but additional copies of *ASC1* did not suppress
310 frameshifting in an *mbf1* Δ mutant (Fig. 3-figure supplement 2B). We infer that Mbf1 and Asc1
311 contribute in distinct ways to reading frame maintenance, although we have not ruled out an
312 additional role for Asc1 in reading frame maintenance.

313 **Mbf1 regulates frameshifting at slowly translated codon pairs, mainly those targeted by**
314 **Asc1.**

315 Most efficient frameshifting occurs at sequences that are slowly translated (Caliskan et
316 al., 2014). We considered that Mbf1 and/or Asc1 might be important for reading frame
317 maintenance at some of the 17 inhibitory codon pairs in yeast that cause reduced expression
318 and exhibit high ribosome occupancy, indicative of slow translation (Gamble et al., 2016).
319 Thus, we examined frameshifting at 12 of 17 inhibitory codon pairs, including 11 of the 12 most
320 slowly translated pairs (Gamble et al., 2016).

321 We found that ribosomes frameshift at 7 of the 12 inhibitory pairs in the *asc1Δ mbf1Δ*
322 double mutant, with high levels of frameshifting at 3 codon pairs (CGA-CGA, CGA-CGG, and
323 CGA-CCG) and low, but distinct, levels at 4 other pairs (CGA-AUA, CGA-CUG, CUC-CCG,
324 and CGA-GCG) (Fig. 4A; Supplementary Table 4). These pairs are the seven most slowly
325 translated codon pairs in the yeast genome, and the only inhibitory or slow pairs with CGA in
326 the 5' position (Gamble et al., 2016). We noted that in the *mbf1Δ* strain, significant
327 frameshifting occurs only at the 3 pairs with the highest frameshifting levels in the *asc1Δ*
328 *mbf1Δ* double mutant.

329 Since Asc1 primarily regulates read-through of CGA codon pairs, we considered that
330 Asc1 might have a similar role at other inhibitory codon pairs, explaining why high levels of
331 frameshifting occur in the *asc1Δ mbf1Δ* double mutant. We found that deletion of *ASC1*
332 resulted in increased in-frame read-through of 3 inhibitory pairs (CGA-CGA, CGA-CGG, and
333 CGA-CCG) (Fig. 4B; Supplementary Table 4), the 3 pairs that exhibited high levels of
334 frameshifting in both the *asc1Δ mbf1Δ* double mutant and the *mbf1Δ* strain. In each case, we
335 measured the expression of each inhibitory codon pair relative to its synonymous optimal pair,
336 obtaining a GFP^{FLOW} ratio (Gamble et al., 2016) in wild type and *asc1Δ* mutants. Therefore,
337 Asc1 mediates inhibitory effects of only a subset of the slowly translated inhibitory codon pairs.

338 Moreover, deletion of *ASC1* is important for frameshifting at four pairs for which Asc1 has little
339 (CGA-GCG; CUC-CCG) or no effect on read-through. The basis for Asc1 regulation of
340 particular codon pairs is unknown, since the dependence upon Asc1 does not correlate strictly
341 with cumulative ribosome occupancy, the A-P ribosome occupancy (Gamble et al., 2016) or
342 the ratio of long to short footprints described by Matsuo *et al.* (Matsuo et al., 2017).

343 We infer that Asc1 may have a role in frameshifting, in addition to its effects on read-
344 through, based on examination of frameshifting and in-frame read-through at CGA-CCG and
345 CGA-AUA pairs (Fig. 4C, 4D, 4E; Supplementary Table 2). For the CGA-CCG pair, we
346 detected significant +1 frameshifting with the CGA-CCG pair in both the *asc1Δ* and *mbf1Δ*
347 single mutants, but the +1 GFP in the *asc1Δ mbf1Δ* mutant was more than double the sum of
348 the +1 GFP in each single mutant (Fig. 4C); frameshifting efficiency increased from 42.4% in
349 the *mbf1Δ* to 61.2% in the *asc1Δ mbf1Δ* mutant (Fig. 4E). Even more surprisingly, for the CGA-
350 AUA pair, frameshifting efficiency increased from 0.3% in the *mbf1Δ* and *asc1Δ* single mutants
351 to 8.1% in the *asc1Δ mbf1Δ* (Fig. 4D, 4E). Thus, Asc1 may have an additional role in
352 frameshifting that is not a simple extension of its role in aborting translation.

353 **Mbf1 regulates frameshifting at other slowly translated sequences.**

354 Since ribosomes frameshift at the 7 most slowly-translated inhibitory codon pairs in the
355 *asc1Δ mbf1Δ* double mutant, we hypothesized that any slowly translated sequence might
356 provoke frameshifting in this mutant. To test our hypothesis, we measured frameshifting at a
357 sequence which forms secondary structure to slow down translation and induce No-Go mRNA
358 decay (Doma and Parker, 2006, Harigaya and Parker, 2010, Passos et al., 2009). We found
359 that frameshifting occurred in both directions, and was detectable in wild type, greater in each
360 single mutant and even greater in the *asc1Δ mbf1Δ* mutant (Fig. 4F; Supplementary Table 5).

361 By contrast, we did not observe an increase in frameshifting efficiency at the programmed
362 frameshift site for *TY1* (Fig. 4-figure supplement 1; Supplementary Table 5), in which a
363 translational pause at an Arg AGG codon decoded by a rare tRNA allows slippage between a
364 Leu CUU codon (in frame) and a UUA codon (in the +1 frame) (Belcourt and Farabaugh,
365 1990). Thus, Mbf1 regulates reading frame maintenance at a translational pause (No-Go site),
366 but does not enhance frameshifting at site in which translational slippage is encoded.

367 **Efficient frameshifting occurs at single CGA-CGG pair in a particular context.**

368 Frameshifting at the CGA-CGG codon pair yielded the most frameshifted +1 GFP and
369 exhibited similar amounts of +1 GFP in the *mbf1* Δ mutant and in the *asc1* Δ *mbf1* Δ mutant (Fig.
370 4A). Thus, we examined expression of a complete set of reporters and found that frameshifting
371 efficiency with these CGA-CGG constructs was ~35% in the *asc1* Δ , ~76% in the *mbf1* Δ and
372 ~55.4% in the *asc1* Δ *mbf1* Δ double mutants (Fig. 5-figure supplement 1A; Supplementary
373 Table 2). These results were somewhat surprising since CGA-CGG is neither as inhibitory nor
374 as slowly translated as either the CGA-CCG or CGA-CGA pair.

375 We defined the contributions to frameshifting of each CGA-CGG codon pair in the three
376 codon pair construct, because this analysis might point to particular contexts that affect
377 frameshifting efficiency. Moreover, the reduced frameshifting associated with fewer inhibitory
378 codon pairs might restore synergistic effects of *ASC1* and *MBF1*. To this end, we constructed
379 reporters with all possible combinations of zero, one, two, or three CGA-CGG (I) pairs
380 [substituting the synonymous optimal pair AGA-AGA (O) at other positions] (Fig. 5A). We
381 found that all constructs with an inhibitory codon pair at the first position (III, IIO, IOI, IOO)
382 showed high levels of frameshifting in all three mutants and little synergy of the double mutant
383 (Fig. 5B; Supplementary Table 6). By contrast, constructs with an optimal codon pair at the

384 first position (OII, OIO, OOI) showed low levels of frameshifting in either single mutant and
385 enhanced frameshifting in the double mutant (Fig. 5B), consistent with results with other pairs.
386 Thus, we infer that combination of CGA-CGG and the particular sequence context of the first
387 position is responsible for highly efficient frameshifting.

388 To discern the requirements for efficient frameshifting, we analyzed a set of variants of
389 the CGA-CGG IOO construct altering a codon or nucleotide upstream or downstream of the
390 CGA-CGG pair. We found that the CGA-CGG-C 7-mer is required for efficient frameshifting.
391 Either of two changes to the sequences downstream of the CGA-CGG pair (one a point
392 mutation and another a codon insertion) eliminated efficient frameshifting in all three mutant
393 strains (Fig. 5C). By contrast, insertions of any of three codons upstream of the CGA-CGG pair
394 did not eliminate efficient frameshifting in the *mbf1* Δ or *asc1* Δ *mbf1* Δ mutants (Fig. 5C;
395 Supplementary Table 7). In fact, all upstream changes enhanced frameshifting in the *asc1* Δ
396 *mbf1* Δ mutant, two did so in the *mbf1* Δ mutant, while all three changes reduced frameshifting
397 in the *asc1* Δ mutant. These observations suggest that there are differences in the
398 requirements for frameshifting in different mutants. Thus, we infer that the CGA-CGG-C 7-mer
399 is required for efficient frameshifting, but we note that CGA-CGG-C 7-mer is not sufficient for
400 efficient frameshifting since the third CGA-CGG is also followed by a C. Furthermore, we
401 restored the synergistic interaction between *MBF1* and *ASC1* by simply altering the
402 downstream nucleotides from CA to TT in a three codon pair reporter (Fig. 5D; Supplementary
403 Table 2).

404 We investigated frameshifting at native gene sequences that contain CGA-CGG codon
405 pairs to find out if *mbf1* Δ , or *asc1* Δ *mbf1* Δ mutants allowed frameshifting in this context.
406 Expression of frameshifted fusion protein was detectable with sequences from 7/7 tested

407 genes in the double mutant, with frameshifted GFP/RFP ranging from 0.24 to 16.3 (Fig. 5E;
408 Fig. 5-figure supplement 1B; Supplementary Table 8). The levels of frameshifted GFP do not
409 correlate with the levels of in-frame expression, since the highest levels of frameshifted GFP
410 were observed with the *AYT1* gene, in which in-frame GFP/RFP (9.8) in the *asc1Δ mbf1Δ*
411 mutant was actually less than frameshifted GFP/RFP. *AYT1* is one of two genes with CGA-
412 CGG-C sequence and the sequence GTA-CGA-CGG contains two adjacent inhibitory codon
413 pairs. Thus, relatively small native sequences suffice to promote frameshifting at different
414 levels.

415 **+1 frameshifting occurs with the CGA codon in the P site**

416 To understand how frameshifting occurs, we wanted to define the direction and position
417 of the actual frameshift. The high efficiency of frameshifting at the CGA-CGG-CAC sequence
418 provided a useful tool to study frameshifting since there is only a short potential frameshifting
419 sequence (a single inhibitory codon pair). We inserted this sequence with its neighboring
420 codons from the RNA-ID reporter into a construct for purification of the frameshifted
421 polypeptide (Fig. 6A). The construct was designed such that the protein could be purified
422 either with an upstream affinity tag (GST) to yield all polypeptides or with a downstream affinity
423 tag (Strep II; ZZ domain of IgG) to yield only frameshifted polypeptides. Treatment with LysC,
424 which cleaves after lysine was expected to yield a 16-17 amino acid peptide for analysis by
425 mass spectrometry.

426 If frameshifting occurred in the local region near the CGA-CGG codon pair, there are
427 four possible events that could all give rise to +1 GFP signal. Ribosomes could frameshift in
428 the +1 direction with either the CGA or the CGG in the P site, yielding the RGTT or the RRTT
429 sequences shown in Fig. 6B. Alternatively, ribosomes could undergo -2 frameshifting at the

430 either codon, yielding the peptides RDGTT or RRGTT (Fig. 6B). In yeast, -2 frameshifting was
431 observed upon expression of the mammalian antizyme (Matsufuji et al., 1996) and -2
432 frameshifting also occurs in PRRSV virus (Fang et al., 2012). We purified the frameshifted
433 protein, as well as an in-frame control protein with the sequence expected for a -2 frameshift at
434 CGG (Fig. 6C) and subjected them to mass spectrometry. The frameshifted protein yielded
435 the peptide VTNLRGTTWSHPQFEK, the expected peptide from a +1 frameshift beginning with
436 the CGA codon in the P site of the ribosome. Thus, we infer that frameshift occurs with CGA in
437 the P site, yielding only one Arg amino acid on the nascent peptide, then switches to a glycine
438 codon GGC.

439 To determine if aminoacyl tRNA amounts affect frameshifting, we compared the effects
440 of additional copies of specific Arg and Gly tRNAs on frameshifting in the *asc1Δ mbf1Δ* double
441 mutant. We found that introduction of additional copies of the gene encoding tRNA^{Arg(CCG)},
442 which decoded the in-frame CGG codon, severely reduced frameshifting (Fig. 6D), as
443 expected if arg-tRNA^{Arg(CCG)} competes with gly-tRNA^{Gly(GCC)} for the A site. Similarly, we found
444 that addition of extra copies of tRNA^{Gly(GCC)} which decodes +1 frame GGC codon significantly
445 increased frameshifting in our original CGA-CGG-CAC context, as might be expect if the GGC
446 codon is used (Fig. 6D). Additional copies of tRNA^{Arg(ICG)}, tRNA^{Asp(GUC)}, tRNA^{His(GUG)},
447 tRNA^{Ser(AGA)} had little or no effect, as expected since none of the codons decoded by these
448 tRNAs should be occupying the A site during frameshifting. These results indicate that the
449 frameshifting occurs within the single CGA-CGG-CAC sequence and is modulated by the
450 concentration of aminoacyl tRNAs decoding the out-of-frame codon.

451 **DISCUSSION**

452 We have uncovered a eukaryotic specific system that inhibits frameshifting by stalled
453 ribosomes, in which reading frame maintenance is achieved in two ways, both by direct
454 inhibition of frameshifting and by aborted translation of stalled ribosomes. The system is
455 composed of two proteins that lack bacterial homologs, the archaeal/eukaryotic Mbf1 protein
456 and the eukaryotic ribosomal protein Asc1/RACK1, as well as one universally conserved
457 ribosomal protein Rps3. In wild type cells, ribosomes stall either due to inhibitory codon pairs
458 or structures within the RNA. Mbf1 and Rps3 cooperate at these stalled ribosomes to prevent
459 frameshifting, which, in turn, allows Asc1 to trigger a set of responses that result in aborted
460 translation and recruitment of the RQC complex. In the absence of Mbf1 and Asc1, ribosomes
461 frameshift efficiently, even at a single CGA-CGG pair in some cases, including sequences
462 found in the native yeast genome. Frameshifting on the CGA-CGG codon pair occurs in the +1
463 direction, with the CGA codon in the P site of the ribosome and is modulated by availability of
464 in-frame and +1 frame A site tRNAs.

465 We provide evidence that when ribosomes slow down during translation elongation, two
466 distinct sets of events occur. Mbf1 and Rps3 actively prevent frameshifting, while Asc1 recruits
467 Hel2 and Slh1 to abort translation and recycle the ribosome. These two pathways, a reading
468 frame maintenance system and the RQC pathway, cooperate to keep ribosomes on track. We
469 document four observations that support aspects of this model. First, we find that slow or
470 paused ribosomes require the Asc1 and Mbf1/Rps3 intervention, since frameshifting was
471 observed in the *asc1Δ mbf1Δ* double mutant at the seven most slowly translated codon pairs in
472 yeast (all inhibitory codon pairs) and at a sequence known to provoke No-Go decay. Second,
473 we demonstrate that Asc1 and Mbf1 have at least one distinct role with respect to the stalled

474 ribosomes. Only Asc1, but not Mbf1, affects the in-frame read-through at inhibitory codon
475 pairs. Asc1 mediates key processes at the stalled ribosome, including recruitment of Hel2 and
476 Slh1, which in turn recruit the RQC complex (Brandman and Hegde, 2016, Brandman et al.,
477 2012, Joazeiro, 2017, Juszkiwicz and Hegde, 2017, Matsuo et al., 2017, Simms et al., 2017,
478 Sundaramoorthy et al., 2017, Shen et al., 2015, Sitron et al., 2017). Third, Mbf1 and Rps3
479 work together, based on the observations that the double mutant has little increase in
480 frameshifting relative to either single mutant; overproduction of Mbf1 suppressed frameshifting
481 in two *RPS3* mutants; and mutations in either gene only affect frameshifting, not read-through.
482 Fourth, the Asc1 and Mbf1 pathways each act to prevent frameshifting, because *asc1Δ mbf1Δ*
483 double mutants display significantly more frameshifting than either single mutant. Asc1 activity
484 is critical to prevent frameshifting, because ribosomes that do not abort translation through
485 Asc1 action likely remain stalled and have an increased chance of frameshifting.

486 We think Rps3 and Mbf1 inhibit frameshifting in a cooperative manner, perhaps due to
487 their interactions with mRNA or to Mbf1's interaction with the ribosome. First, the role of Rps3
488 in this process is likely to involve interactions with either the incoming mRNA or proteins
489 external to the ribosome. The *RPS3* mutations that affect frameshifting map to residues
490 (*S104, L113, G121, K108*) on two α -helices or their connecting loop right next to the entering
491 mRNA. Although this section of Rps3 is involved in helicase activity and initiation selectivity
492 (Dong et al., 2017, Takyar et al., 2005), the residues mutated in frameshifting selections were
493 not specifically those involved in these activities. Instead, these residues all sit on the solvent
494 side of the ribosome and could form an interface interacting with mRNA or mRNA-bound
495 proteins. Moreover, these residues in which mutations affect reading frame maintenance are
496 specifically conserved in eukaryotes (and differ in archaeal and bacterial Rps3), consistent with

497 a eukaryotic-specific mechanism. Second, Mbf1 is likely to interact with either or both of the
498 mRNA and the ribosome, based on work by others (Beckmann et al., 2015, Blombach et al.,
499 2014, Klass et al., 2013, Opitz et al., 2017). Mbf1 is sufficiently abundant with ~85,000
500 molecules per cell to participate in general translation cycles, although it is less abundant than
501 core ribosomal proteins (~200,000) (Kulak et al., 2014). Moreover, Mbf1 is likely to interact with
502 the ribosome, since the archaeal homolog of Mbf1 weakly associates with the ribosome
503 through its HTH domain and the linker at the N terminus of this domain, which are both
504 conserved with eukaryotes (Blombach et al., 2014). We note that our frameshifting mutations
505 cluster in this region of Mbf1. Intriguingly, the apparent RNA binding domain maps to the less
506 conserved N terminal domain (Klass et al., 2013). It remains to be seen how these activities
507 come together to regulate reading frame.

508 Frameshifting occurs by a mechanism that involves the interplay between the two
509 adjacent codons, in which I•A wobble interaction in the P site in conjunction with competition
510 between tRNAs entering the A site results in the frameshift, consistent with a model proposed
511 by Baranov *et al.* (Baranov et al., 2004). First, we demonstrated that, in the *asc1Δ mbf1Δ*
512 double mutant, ribosomes frameshift at a single CGA-CGG codon pair (in a particular context)
513 when the CGA codon occupies the P site. We infer that CGA codon in the P site is generally
514 important for frameshifting, because six of the seven codon pairs on which ribosomes
515 frameshift are CGA-NNN and the three efficient pairs are CGA-CNN. The wobble interaction
516 between the CGA codon and tRNA could weaken the interaction between mRNA and the
517 ribosome, which in turn could slow down the elongation cycle. Second, we found that
518 frameshifting is influenced by the abundance of the in frame and out of frame tRNAs for next
519 position, which implies that the frameshift occurs after translocation of the CGA from the A site

520 to the P site. We speculate that the flexibility of the wobble base pair interaction between
521 inosine and other nucleotides could actively facilitate the acceptance of out-of-frame A site
522 tRNA. For instance, we consider that a rare instance in which the A base in CGA is bulged out
523 might be stabilized by the very strong I•C interaction, increasing the time available to accept
524 the out-of-frame tRNA.

525 The eukaryotic specific reading frame maintenance activity, involving Mbf1 and
526 ribosomal proteins Rps3 and Asc1, is likely to be important for translation accuracy in the yeast
527 genome. Mutations in either *RPS3* or *MBF1* suppressed frameshifting mutations in several
528 native yeast genes (Hendrick et al., 2001). Moreover, mutations in *MBF1* and *ASC1* resulted in
529 detectable frameshifting in a set of native gene sequences with only a single inhibitory codon
530 pair flanked by 6 adjacent codons on each side, although it is apparent that the frameshifting
531 potential within a particular sequence is not simply due to the presence of a single inhibitory
532 codon pair. These results confirmed that Mbf1 with Rps3 and Asc1 play a critical role in
533 maintaining the reading frame during normal translation cycles. It is still unknown why this
534 eukaryote-specific reading frame maintenance system evolved and why it is important to
535 eukaryotes, but not bacteria.

536 MATERIALS AND METHODS

537 Strains, plasmids, and oligonucleotides

538 Strains, plasmids, and oligonucleotides used in these studies are listed in
539 Supplementary Tables 9-11. Parents for all yeast strains described in this study were either
540 BY4741 (*MAT α his3 Δ 1 leu2 Δ 0 met15 Δ 0 ura3 Δ 0*) or BY4742 (*MAT α his3 Δ 1 leu2 Δ 0 lys2 Δ 0*
541 *ura3 Δ 0*) (Open Biosystems). The *GLN4*₍₁₋₉₉₎-*(CGA)*₆₊₁-*URA3* reporter used in the selection
542 was constructed with PCR-amplified DNAs (using oligonucleotides OJYW085, 086, 041, 089,
543 095 and 099), assembled by Ligation Independent Cloning (LIC) methods (Alexandrov et al.,
544 2004, Aslanidis and de Jong, 1990) and then integrated into the *CAN1/YEL063C* locus on the
545 chromosome V, selecting for canavanine-resistance; constructs were checked by sequencing
546 of genomic PCR fragments. RNA-ID reporters were constructed as described previously and
547 integrated at the *ADE2* locus, using selection with *MET15* marker in *MAT α* strains or *S.pombe*
548 *HIS5* marker in *MAT α* strains (Dean and Grayhack, 2012, Gamble et al., 2016, Wolf and
549 Grayhack, 2015).

550 Yeast strains bearing gene deletions (*mbf1 Δ* , *slh1 Δ* , and *hel2 Δ*) were constructed by
551 amplification of the *kan^R* cassette in the yeast strain from the corresponding knockout strain in
552 the systematic deletion collection (Open Biosystems) (Giaever et al., 2002). The *MAT α* yeast
553 strain bearing a deletion of *RPS3* was constructed by amplification of *ble^R* cassette (Gueldener
554 et al., 2002) (oligos OW443 and OW445) and integration of this DNA into a strain bearing an
555 *URA3 [RPS3]* covering plasmid (pEAW433). Yeast strains bearing deletions of *ASC1* marked
556 with the *S. pombe HIS5* marker (AW768), which have been described previously (Wolf and
557 Grayhack, 2015), were constructed and maintained in the presence of a plasmid born copy of
558 *ASC1* on a 2 μ , *URA3* plasmid. To obtain the *asc1 Δ* strain from the selection parent strain, the

559 *ASC1* gene was deleted by a *ble^R* cassette obtained by PCR amplification with oligos OW125
560 and OW126.

561 Plasmids bearing the *MBF1* gene were constructed by amplification of chromosomal
562 *MBF1* gene from -580 in 5' UTR to +300 in 3' UTR with oligos OJYW124 and OJYW125,
563 followed by cloning into the 2 μ , *LEU2* vector (pAVA0577) and into the *CEN*, *LEU2* vector
564 (pAVA0581) to create pEJYW203 and pEJYW176 respectively. The chromosomal HA-tagged
565 *MBF1* was constructed by PCR amplification of HA-*kan^R* sequence from pYM45 (Euroscarf)
566 (Janke et al., 2004) with oligos OJYW130 and OJYW132, bearing homology to *MBF1*, followed
567 by integration into the *MBF1* locus. This *MBF1-HA Kan^R* cassette from -580 in 5'UTR to +300
568 in 3'UTR of *MBF1* (+1992 including *Kan^R* sequences) was amplified from the chromosome
569 with oligos OJYW157 and OJYW158, cloned into the XmaI and NheI sites in Bluescript as
570 pEJYW279. The *mbf1* point mutations *K64E* and *I85T* were individually introduced into the
571 plasmid pEJYW279 to make pEJYW302 and pEJYW307 respectively. The *mbf1-K64E*
572 cassette was directly PCR-amplified from the mutant strain YJYW290-P38 with oligos
573 OJYW157 and OJYW158 followed by digestion with XmaI and BamHI and integration into
574 these two sites on pEJYW279. The *mbf1-I85T* mutation was introduced by PCR amplification
575 from *MBF1-HA* cassette with OJYW170, which contains the mutation, and OJYW166, followed
576 by integration into pEJYW279 between BamHI and AatII sites. Reconstructed *mbf1* point
577 mutants were introduced into YJYW2566 (BY4741, *HIS3⁺*) with XmaI/NheI digested
578 pEJYW302 and pEJYW307 selecting with *Kan^R* marker.

579 **Selection for frameshifting mutants and identification of mutations**

580 Ura⁺ mutants were selected from 40 independent cultures of each *MATa* and *MAT α*
581 parent strains (YJYW289, YJYW329), and then were analyzed by flow cytometry to measure

582 GFP and RFP expression. Ura⁺ GFP⁺ mutants, indicative of increased frameshifting efficiency,
583 were selected for further study, with an emphasis on mutants that exhibited higher levels of
584 frameshifting, i.e., GFP/RFP >4, (28% *MAT α* and 66% *MATa* mutants). Diploids between 12
585 *MATa* mutant and 20 *MAT α* mutants were created by mating in YPD for 2 hours at 25 °C and
586 selection on SD-Lys-Leu-His media for diploid cells, followed by streaking for single colonies.
587 Then overnights of the resultant diploids and their haploid parents were spotted on SD-Leu
588 and SD-Leu-Ura plates, which were grown at 30 °C.

589 To identify the relevant mutation in YJYW290-P25, we obtained the Leu⁻ derivative of
590 this mutant (YJYW315) by screening replica plated single colonies from an overnight in YPD
591 on YPD and SD-Leu plates. The Ura⁺/FOA-sensitive phenotype of this mutant was
592 complemented with a genomic tiled library (Jones et al., 2008), selecting for FOA-resistant
593 cells. First, 17 pools of DNA, each of which contained 96 plasmids (Jones et al., 2008), were
594 transformed individually with >1000 colonies per plate. Transformants of each pool were then
595 scraped and saved in 2 ml YPD+8 % DMSO. These saves were plated based on their OD₆₀₀
596 (2×10^7 cells/OD₆₀₀ x ml) to obtain approximately 5,000 cells on SD-Leu and 50,000 cells on
597 SD-Leu+0.5xFOA. For 16 of 17 pools, there were no colonies on the FOA plates, while
598 transformants of pool 15 had 330 FOA-resistant colonies with 1404 colonies on SD–Leu plate,
599 corresponding to FOA-resistance for 2.3% cells. The plasmids responsible for FOA-resistance
600 was identified by complementing with plasmids from individual rows and columns in this pool
601 as described above, followed by complementation with individual plasmids. Two plasmids from
602 this pool conferred FOA-resistance and share a single gene, *MBF1*. The *MBF1* gene in 19
603 recessive mutants was amplified from their genomic DNA with oligos OJYW124 and
604 OJYW125, followed by sequencing to confirm the mutated residues.

605 Whole genome sequencing on two dominant *MAT α* mutants was performed to identify
606 the mutated genes. For each strain, ~30 OD₆₀₀ yeast cells were harvested and re-suspended
607 in 1 ml prep buffer (2% Triton X-100, 1% SDS, 100 mM NaCl, 10 mM Tris-Cl pH 8.0, 1 mM
608 EDTA) with ~1.5 g Zirconia/Silica beads (from BioSpec, catalog# 11079105z) and 1 ml PCA
609 pH 8.0. The suspension was then vortexed at top speed for 3 minutes and mixed with 1 ml TE
610 pH 8.0, followed by centrifugation in prespun PLG tubes (from 5prime, catalog# 2302830).
611 Nucleic acids in the aqueous layer were ethanol precipitated with 5 ml 100% ethanol, followed
612 by freezing on dry ice and centrifugation for 20 minutes at 4,000 rpm at 4 °C. The pellet was re-
613 suspended in 200 μ l TE and incubated at room temperature for 1 hour with 0.2 μ g/ μ l RNaseA
614 to remove RNA contamination, followed by addition of 200 μ l 1 M Tris-Cl pH 8.0, 2 μ l of 5
615 mg/ml glycogen and 400 μ l PCA, and centrifugation for 2 minutes at top speed at 4 °C. The
616 aqueous layer (~360 μ l) was precipitated with 720 μ l 100% ethanol and frozen on dry ice for 15
617 minutes; resulting pellets were re-suspended in 100 μ l TE pH 8.0 and 100 μ l 1 M Tris-Cl pH
618 8.0, followed by precipitation again with 400 μ l 100% ethanol. The DNA pellet was then
619 washed with 500 μ l 70% ethanol and finally re-suspended in 50 μ l sterile ddH₂O. Whole
620 genome sequencing was performed by the UR Genomics Research Center resulting in *RPS3*
621 mutations in these two *MAT α* mutants. Mutations in two *MAT α* dominant mutants were then
622 identified by amplification of *RPS3* cassette with oligos OJYW159 and OJYW210, followed by
623 sequencing.

624 **Analysis of yeast growth**

625 Appropriate control strains (previously studied) and 2-4 independent isolates of each
626 strain being tested were grown overnight at 30°C in media indicated, diluted to obtain OD₆₀₀ of

627 0.5, then serially diluted 10-fold twice; 2 μ l diluted cells were then spotted onto the indicated
628 plates and grown at different temperatures for at least two days.

629 **Flow cytometry**

630 To examine mutants in either *RPS3* or *ASC1*, reporters were introduced into sets of
631 strains bearing an *URA3* covering plasmid with either *RPS3* or *ASC1*, depending upon the
632 chromosomal deletion. All sets of strains in a given panel contained the same *URA3* plasmid.
633 Prior to analysis of GFP expression, strains were streaked on FOA containing plates, then
634 single colonies were grown for analysis by flow cytometry.

635 Yeast strains bearing the modified RNA-ID reporters were grown overnight at 30 °C in
636 YP media (for strains without plasmid) or appropriate synthetic drop-out media (for strains with
637 plasmid) containing 2% raffinose + 2% galactose + 80 mg/L Ade. The cell culture was diluted
638 in the morning such that to the culture had a final OD₆₀₀ between 0.8-1.0. Analytical flow
639 cytometry and downstream analysis were performed for 4 independent isolates of each strain
640 (Outliers were rejected using a Q test with >90% confidence level) as previously described
641 (Dean and Grayhack, 2012). Each flow experiment was also performed with proper controls
642 including a GFP⁻, RFP⁺ strain. The GFP/RFP value from this control strain was subtracted from
643 all tested strains on the same day to show signals above background (negative values are set
644 to 0). P values were calculated using a one-tailed or two-tailed homoscedastic t test in Excel,
645 as indicated in Supplementary Table 12.

646 **Western blotting**

647 Western analysis of the GFP fusion proteins in the modified RNA-ID reporter and Mbf1
648 protein in yeast strains were performed with anti-HA antibody as described previously
649 (Gelperin et al., 2005).

650 **RT-qPCR**

651 The GFP mRNA measurement with reverse transcription (RT) reaction and quantitative
652 PCR was performed as described previously (Gamble et al., 2016). For each tested strain,
653 three biological replicates were analyzed, while one of the isolates in each experiment was
654 performed with two technical replicates to obtain standard curve. P values were calculated
655 using a one-tailed homoscedastic t test in Excel, as indicated in Supplementary Table 12.

656 **Purification of frameshifted peptide**

657 To purify the frameshifted peptide from yeast, a *LEU2* plasmid containing either in-
658 frame or +1 frame protein purification constructs were transformed into the *asc1Δ mbf1Δ* strain
659 (YJYW378). Two independent transformants (FOA treated) of each construct were grown
660 overnight in SD-Leu media and transferred into 80 ml S-Leu+2% raffinose media in the
661 morning. After reaching an OD₆₀₀ of 0.8-1.2, expression of the GST-StrepII-ZZ construct was
662 induced by addition of 40 ml 3xYP+6% galactose and growth was continued for 10 hours. Cells
663 were collected by centrifugation and cell pellets were quick frozen on dry ice. The cell pellets
664 were re-suspended in 1 ml extraction buffer (50 mM Tris-Cl pH 7.5, 1 mM EDTA, 4 mM MgCl₂,
665 5 mM DTT, 10% Glycerol, 1 M NaCl, 2.5 μg/ml leupeptin, 2.5 μg/ml pepstatin) and lysed with
666 bead beating (10 repeats of 20 second beating followed by 1 minute on ice), essentially as
667 described previously (Quartley et al., 2009). The cell lysate was collected from the bead
668 beating tubes by puncturing the bottom with a hot needle and blowing with low pressure air.
669 Solid contents were removed by centrifugation before the remaining lysate was divided into
670 half and purified on either GSH or Streptactin resin.

671 For GST purification: the cell lysate was first diluted with equal volume No Salt Wash
672 Buffer (50 mM Tris-Cl pH 7.5, 4 mM MgCl₂, 5 mM DTT, 10% Glycerol) to bring the salt to 0.5 M

673 NaCl. GSH resin [Glutathione sepharose-4B from GE, catalog# 17-0756-01; pre-washed with
674 Wash Buffer (No Salt Wash Buffer + 0.5 M NaCl)] (50 μ l/ ml of lysate) was added to the diluted
675 cell lysate and the mixture was nutated for 3 hours at 4 °C. The resin was separated from the
676 liquid by centrifugation at low speed (<3,000 rpm) and washed twice with 0.5 ml Wash Buffer
677 followed by 20-minute nutation. The bound protein products were then eluted by nutating for
678 40 min with 100 μ l Elution Buffer (Wash buffer + 20 mM NaOH + 25 mM glutathione); the
679 elution step was repeated to increase the yield.

680 For Strep purification: the cell lysate was diluted with 5x volumes No Salt Wash Buffer
681 (100 mM Tris-Cl pH 7.5, 1 mM EDTA, 2.5 μ g/ml leupeptin, 2.5 μ g/ml pepstatin) to bring the salt
682 to 150 mM NaCl. MagStrep “type3” XT beads [from IBA, cat# 2-4090-002; pre-washed with
683 Wash Buffer (No Salt Wash Buffer + 150mM NaCl)] were added to the diluted cell lysate (80
684 μ l/ 3.3 ml diluted cell lysate). After nutating for 2 hours at 4 °C, resins were separated from
685 liquid using a magnetic separator, then the resin was washed with 1 ml Wash Buffer three
686 times without additional incubation. The bound protein products were then eluted by adding 50
687 μ l Elution Buffer (Wash buffer + 50 mM biotin) and nutating for 10 minutes, followed by
688 separation using magnetic separator; the elution step was repeated to increase the yield.

689 **Mass spectrometry**

690 The elution samples from both GST and Strep purification were analyzed by SDS-
691 PAGE, followed by staining with Coomassie Blue. The bands from Strep purification of both in-
692 frame and +1 frame constructs were excised and analyzed on the Q Exactive Plus Mass
693 Spectrometer in the Mass Spectrometry Resource Center of the University of Rochester
694 Medical Center.

695

696 **SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION**

697 Supplemental Information includes 12 supplementary tables provided in 2 supplementary files.

698

699 **AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS**

700 J.W. and E.G. wrote the manuscript. J.W. performed most experiments while Q.Y. examined
701 effect of overproduction of Mbf1 on frameshifting in *RPS3* mutants and J.Z. examined
702 frameshifting from native sequences.

703

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713

714 **COMPETING INTERESTS**

715 The authors declare they have no competing financial interests.

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968 **FIGURE LEGENDS**

969 **Figure 1. *MBF1* (Multiprotein-Bridging Factor 1) prevents frameshifting at CGA codon**
970 **repeats. (A)** Schematic of selection for mutants that frameshift at CGA codon repeats. The
971 indicated CGA codon repeats plus one extra nucleotide were inserted upstream of the *URA3*
972 and *GFP* coding region, resulting in an Ura⁻ GFP⁻ parent strain. Additional copies of the *ASC1*
973 gene were introduced on a *LEU2* plasmid to avoid recessive mutations in the native *ASC1*
974 gene. To obtain mutants with increased frameshifting efficiency, Ura⁺ mutants were selected
975 and screened for increased GFP/RFP. **(B)** Flow cytometry scatter plot showing GFP versus
976 RFP for 3 mutants and the wild-type parent strain. Expression of *GLN4*₍₁₋₉₉₎-(CGA)₄₊₁-GFP is
977 increased in these *MATa* Ura⁺ mutants. P15: *mbf1-R89K*, P25: *mbf1Δ125-151*, P38: *mbf1-*
978 *K64E*. **(C)** Expression of the non-native tRNA^{Arg(UCG)*} suppressed the Ura⁺ phenotype of
979 mutant P25. Serial dilutions of the indicated strains with empty vector or expressing the mutant
980 tRNA^{Arg(UCG)*} were grown on the indicated media. **(D)** Mutations in the *MBF1* mutants map in
981 conserved amino acids in both the *MBF1*-specific domain and the Helix-Turn-Helix (HTH)
982 domain of Mbf1 protein. Alignment of yeast Mbf1 amino acids 60-100 with other eukaryotic
983 species is shown (full alignment see figure 1-supplement 3A). GFP/RFP of frameshifted
984 (CGA)₄₊₁ reporter is shown for mutants obtained from *MATa* (circles) and *MATα* (triangles)
985 strains, with the color of markers corresponding to the consensus level of this residue (Blue:
986 50%-90%, Red: 90%), however the conserved residue for R61 is N, and for S86 is Q, with all
987 others identical to yeast.

988

989 **Figure 1- figure supplement 1. Classification of dominant and recessive mutations and**
990 **complementation of a recessive mutation. (A)** Analysis of complementation and

991 dominant/recessive nature of mutations. Twelve *MATa* mutants were crossed with 20 *MAT α*
992 mutants, as well as with their selection parents. An Ura⁺ phenotype of resulting diploids with
993 the wild type parent indicated that 3 mutants were dominant while the Ura⁺ phenotype of
994 mutants crossed with each other indicated one major complementation group among recessive
995 mutants. **(B)** Introduction of the Prelich library pool 15 DNA resulted in FOA-resistant cells
996 (Ura⁻) which indicates suppression of the frameshifting phenotype.

997

998 **Figure 1- figure supplement 2. Confirmation that mutations in *MBF1* are responsible for**
999 **frameshifting. (A)** Plasmid-borne *MBF1* gene suppressed the Ura⁺ phenotype of mutants P25
1000 and P38. **(B)** Deletion of the *MBF1* coding sequence in the parent GFP⁻ strain resulted in GFP⁺
1001 phenotype.

1002

1003 **Figure 1- figure supplement 3. Mbf1 is conserved and frameshifting mutations do not**
1004 **exhibit sensitivity to 3-AT. (A)** Amino acid sequence alignment of Mbf1 protein from 11
1005 eukaryotic species using MultAlin (<http://multalin.toulouse.inra.fr/multalin/>) (Corpet, 1988). The
1006 color of markers corresponds to the consensus level of this residue (Blue: 50%-90%, Red:
1007 90%) **(B)** Frameshifting *mbf1-K64E* and *I85T* mutants grow like wild type on plates with 3-
1008 aminotriazole and do not display a *gcn4 Δ* phenotype. The *mbf1 Δ* strains are more resistant to
1009 3-AT than *gcn4 Δ* strains.

1010

1011 **Figure 2. Ribosomal protein Rps3 has a shared function with Mbf1 in preventing**
1012 **frameshifting at CGA codon repeats. (A) Left:** Yeast ribosome from PDB: 3J78 (Svidritskiy
1013 et al., 2014) (light blue: small subunit; sepia: large subunit) showing Asc1/RACK1 (magenta)

1014 and Rps3 (yellow). **Right:** Residues of Rps3 in which mutations cause frameshifting are
1015 marked- *S104* (red), *K108* (dark blue), *L113* (black), *G121* (light blue). **(B)** Analysis of effects
1016 of *RPS3-K108E*, *mbf1Δ* and *RPS3-K108E mbf1Δ* mutations on expression of GFP reporters
1017 containing four Arg codons (AGA versus CGA) in frame and in the +1 frame. The *K108E*
1018 mutation in *RPS3* allows frameshifting CGA codon repeats, and the combined effects of *RPS3-*
1019 *K108E* and *mbf1Δ* are not additive. **(C)** Epistatic assay of *RPS3* mutations from this selection
1020 and the *mbf1Δ* strain indicated that these *RPS3* mutations allow frameshifting at CGA codon
1021 repeats and do not increase frameshifting in *mbf1Δ* mutants. **(D)** Overproduction of Mbf1
1022 protein in indicated *RPS3* mutants significantly decreased expression of frameshifted Gln4-
1023 GFP fusion protein (***) $p < 0.001$) analyzed by flow cytometry. **(E)** Overproduction of Mbf1
1024 protein in the *RPS3-S104Y* mutant reduced frameshifting-dependent growth on -Ura media,
1025 shown by a spot test assay.

1026

1027 **Figure 3. Mbf1 and Asc1 play distinct roles at CGA codon pairs.** **(A)** Analysis of effects of
1028 *asc1Δ*, *mbf1Δ* and *asc1Δ mbf1Δ* mutations on expression of *GLN4*₍₁₋₉₉₎-GFP reporters
1029 containing three Arg-Arg codon pairs (AGA-AGA versus CGA-CGA) in 0, +1, and -1 reading
1030 frames. Mutation of either *ASC1* or *MBF1* allows frameshifting in the (CGA-CGA)₃+1 reporter,
1031 and mutation of both *ASC1* and *MBF1* results in significantly more frameshifted GFP/RFP. The
1032 +1 frameshifting efficiency [(+1 GFP/RFP) / (+1 GFP/RFP + in-frame GFP/RFP + -1
1033 GFP/RFP)] of all four strains is shown in the table. **(B)** Western analysis of Gln4-GFP fusion
1034 protein in yeast strains from (A) indicates the expression of frameshifted Gln4-GFP full-length
1035 protein in all three mutants. The protein was detected by anti-HA antibody recognizing the HA
1036 epitope between the codon insert and GFP. The GFP and RFP values were measured by flow

1037 cytometry while harvesting for cell lysis. **(C)** Effects of *hel2Δ* and *slh1Δ* on frameshifting at
1038 CGA-CGA codon pairs with and without deletions in *MBF1* and *ASC1*. ns: $p > 0.05$, * $p < 0.05$, **
1039 $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$ **(D)** Analysis of the mRNA levels of the *GLN4*-GFP reporter by RT-qPCR.
1040 Deletion of *ASC1* and/or *MBF1* resulted in increased mRNA. * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$ **(E)**
1041 Overproduction of Mbf1 suppressed frameshifting at CGA-CGA codon pairs in the *asc1Δ*
1042 mutant, but did not affect the in-frame read-through, based on GFP/RFP expression from the
1043 indicated reporters shown in (A). ns: $p > 0.05$, *** $p < 0.001$.

1044

1045 **Figure 3- figure supplement 1. Analysis of effects of *asc1Δ*, *mbf1Δ* and *asc1Δ mbf1Δ***
1046 **mutations on expression of Rluc-GFP reporters containing four adjacent Arg codons**
1047 **(AGA versus CGA) in 0, +1, and -1 reading frames.** Mutation of either *ASC1* or *MBF1* allows
1048 frameshifting in the $(CGA)_{4+1}$ reporter, and mutation of both *ASC1* and *MBF1* results in
1049 significantly more frameshifted GFP/RFP. The +1 frameshifting efficiency $[(+1 \text{ GFP/RFP}) / (+1$
1050 $\text{GFP/RFP} + \text{in-frame GFP/RFP} + -1 \text{ GFP/RFP})]$ of all four strains is shown in the table.

1051

1052 **Figure 3- figure supplement 2. Frameshifting is likely not due to reduction of Mbf1**
1053 **protein in *asc1Δ* mutant nor to limiting Asc1 protein in *mbf1Δ* mutant. (A)** Western
1054 analysis of HA tagged Mbf1 in the *asc1Δ* mutant (3 independent isolates shown) compared to
1055 the wild-type strain (4 independent isolates shown) indicates that Mbf1 levels were similar in
1056 both strains. **(B)** Overexpression of Asc1 does not affect either in-frame read-through or
1057 frameshifting at CGA codon repeats in the *asc1Δ* strain. ns: $p > 0.05$.

1058

1059 **Figure 4. Mbf1 regulates frameshifting at slowly translated inhibitory codon pairs,**
1060 **mainly those targeted by Asc1. (A)** Frameshifting is detected at three inhibitory codon pairs
1061 (Gamble et al., 2016) in the *mbf1* Δ mutant, and at seven codon pairs in the *asc1* Δ *mbf1* Δ
1062 double mutant. Frameshifting was assayed from reporters bearing 3 copies of the indicated
1063 inhibitory codon pair and a +1 nucleotide to place GFP in the +1 frame. **(B)** In frame read-
1064 through of three inhibitory codon pairs (CGA-CGA; CGA-CCG; CGA-CGG) is improved by the
1065 deletion of *ASC1*. GFP/RFP from reporters with three copies of an inhibitory pair were
1066 compared to synonymous reporters with three copies of the optimized pair to obtain GFP^{FLOW}
1067 ratio. **(C, D)** Analysis of effects of *asc1* Δ , *mbf1* Δ and *asc1* Δ *mbf1* Δ mutations on expression of
1068 *GLN4*-GFP reporters containing three copies of either (C) the Arg-Pro (AGA-CCA or CGA-
1069 CCG) codon pairs or (D) the Arg-Ile (AGA-AUU or CGA-AUA) codon pairs in 0, +1, and -1
1070 reading frames. Mutation of either *ASC1* or *MBF1* allows frameshifting in the (CGA-CCG)₃+1
1071 reporter, but not in the (CGA-AUA)₃+1 reporter, while mutations of both *ASC1* and *MBF1*
1072 results in significantly more frameshifted GFP/RFP in both reporters. **(E)** The +1 frameshifting
1073 efficiency at either CGA-CCG codon pairs or CGA-AUA codon pairs in all four strains is shown.
1074 **(F)** Mutation of either *ASC1* or *MBF1* allows frameshifting at No-Go sequences in the GFP
1075 reporter, and mutation of both *ASC1* and *MBF1* results in significantly more frameshifted
1076 GFP/RFP.

1077

1078 **Figure 4- figure supplement 1. Deletion of *MBF1* and/or *ASC1* does not affect efficiency**
1079 **of programmed frameshifting in the *TY1* transposon.** Analysis of effects of *asc1* Δ , *mbf1* Δ
1080 and *asc1* Δ *mbf1* Δ mutations on expression of *GLN4*-GFP reporters containing the yeast *TY1*
1081 programmed frameshift site (Belcourt and Farabaugh, 1990).

1082

1083 **Figure 5. Efficient frameshifting occurs at a single CGA-CGG pair in a particular context.**

1084 **(A)** Schematic of inserts in modified RNA-ID reporters used to identify the contributions of
1085 individual CGA-CGG pairs to frameshifting. Sequences with all possible combinations of zero,
1086 one, two or three inhibitory CGA-CGG pairs (I, shown in cyan) [substituting the synonymous
1087 optimal pair AGA-AGA (O, shown in orange) at other positions] were inserted between *GLN4*₍₁₋₉₉₎
1088 and GFP. **(B)** Analysis of effects of *asc1Δ*, *mbf1Δ* and *asc1Δ mbf1Δ* mutations on
1089 expression of *GLN4*₍₁₋₉₉₎-GFP reporters with the indicated position and number of inhibitory
1090 codon pairs. All constructs with an inhibitory codon pair at the first position (III, IIO, IOI, IOO)
1091 showed high levels of frameshifting in all three mutants. **(C)** Analysis of *GLN4*₍₁₋₉₉₎-GFP
1092 reporters with IOO CGA-CGG construct in which the sequences surrounding the single CGA-
1093 CGG insert were varied. The 3' nucleotide of the first CGA-CGG pair is required for efficient
1094 frameshifting in the mutants. All changes are shown in red. **(D)** Analysis of effects of *asc1Δ*,
1095 *mbf1Δ* and *asc1Δ mbf1Δ* mutations on expression of revised *GLN4*₍₁₋₉₉₎-GFP reporters (TTC is
1096 substituted for CAC as the 3' codon downstream of the first codon pair) containing three Arg-
1097 Arg codon pairs (AGA-AGA versus CGA-CGG) in 0, +1, and -1 reading frames. Mutation of
1098 either *ASC1* or *MBF1* allows frameshifting in this (CGA-CGG)₃₊₁ reporter, and mutation of
1099 both *ASC1* and *MBF1* results in significantly more frameshifted GFP/RFP. The +1
1100 frameshifting efficiency of all four strains is shown in the table. **(E)** Analysis of effects of
1101 *asc1Δ*, *mbf1Δ* and *asc1Δ mbf1Δ* mutations on expression of *GLN4*₍₁₋₉₉₎-GFP reporters
1102 containing the native yeast *AYT1* sequence with a single CGA-CGG codon pair in 0 and +1
1103 reading frames. This native yeast sequence provoked significant amount of frameshifting in the
1104 *asc1Δ mbf1Δ* strain with small reduction of in-frame read-through.

1105

1106 **Figure 5- figure supplement 1. Analysis of frameshifting at CGA-CGG codon pairs. (A)**

1107 Analysis of effects of *asc1* Δ , *mbf1* Δ and *asc1* Δ *mbf1* Δ mutations on expression of *GLN4*₍₁₋₉₉₎-
1108 GFP reporters containing three Arg-Arg codon pairs (AGA-AGA versus CGA-CGG) in 0, +1,
1109 and -1 reading frames. In this RNA-ID reporter, CAC is the 3' codon downstream of the first
1110 codon pair. Mutation of either *ASC1* or *MBF1* alone allows extremely efficient frameshifting in
1111 this (CGA-CGG)₃+1 reporter, and mutation of both *ASC1* and *MBF1* does not result in
1112 significantly more frameshifted GFP/RFP. **(B)** Analysis of effects of native yeast gene
1113 sequences containing a single CGA-CGG codon pair on in-frame and frameshifted expression
1114 of GFP. In each case, six codons upstream and downstream of the CGA-CGG were inserted
1115 into the *GLN4*₍₁₋₉₉₎-GFP reporter in frame and with a +1 frameshift after the inserted sequence.
1116 Expression of GFP/RFP was measured in wild type, *asc1* Δ , *mbf1* Δ and *asc1* Δ *mbf1* Δ mutants.
1117 These native yeast sequences can provoke detectable frameshifting in the *asc1* Δ *mbf1* Δ strain
1118 without largely affecting in-frame read-through.

1119

1120 **Figure 6. Frameshifting occurs in the +1 direction with the CGA codon in the P site and**
1121 **is modulated by tRNA competition at the A site. (A)** Schematic of purification construct for

1122 frameshifted peptide. An eight amino acid sequence with a single CGA-CGG pair from the
1123 RNA-ID reporter was inserted between a GST tag and an out-of-frame StrepII tag. LysC
1124 treatment of purified frameshifted protein yields a 16 or 17 amino acid peptide. The red
1125 nucleotide indicates the extra nucleotide in the +1 frame construct. **(B)** Schematic of four
1126 possible frameshifting events at the inhibitory CGA-CGG codon pair, each of which can be
1127 distinguished by one or two amino acids in the resulting peptide. Ribosomes can frameshift

1128 either in the forward direction (+1) or in the reverse direction (-2) when the P site is occupied
1129 by either the CGA codon (first amino acid in the out-of-frame peptide shown in green) or the
1130 CGG codon (first amino acid of out-of-frame peptide shown in orange). **(C)** Purified protein
1131 products of both in frame and +1 frame constructs were analyzed by SDS-PAGE, stained with
1132 Coomassie Blue. The frameshifted protein of +1 frame construct from Strep purification (in red
1133 box) was excised, cleaved with LysC and analyzed by Mass Spectrometry, resulting in
1134 identification of the peptide shown below the figure. This peptide corresponds to that expected
1135 of a +1 frameshift occurring when the CGA codon occupies the P site. **(D)** Overexpression of
1136 tRNA corresponding to +1 frame codon improved frameshifting efficiency, while
1137 overexpression of tRNA corresponding to next in frame codon significantly reduced
1138 frameshifting. ns: $p > 0.05$, * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$.

FIGURE 1

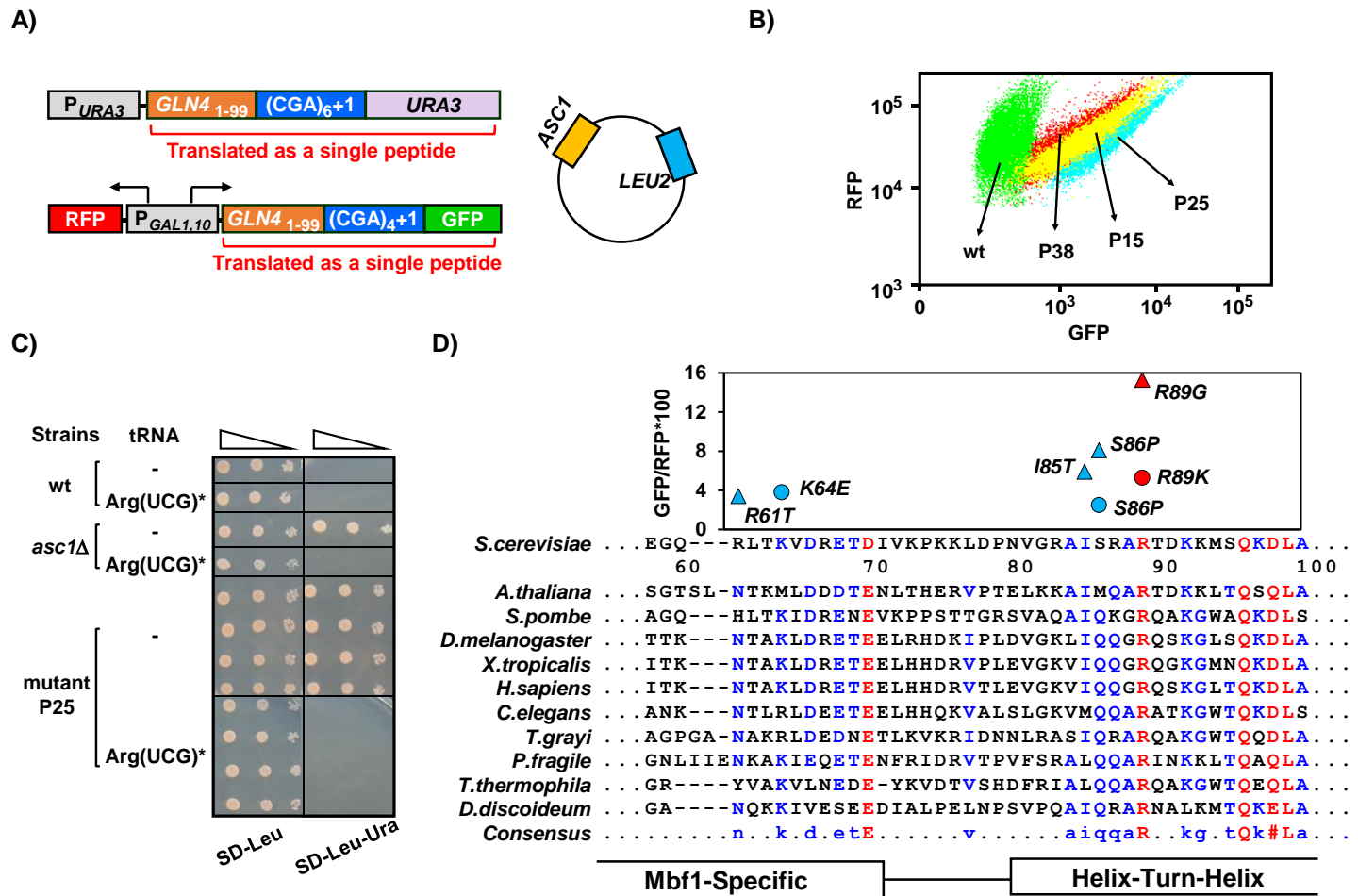


Figure 1. MBF1 (Multiprotein-Bridging Factor 1) prevents frameshifting at CGA codon repeats. (A) Schematic of selection for mutants that frameshift at CGA codon repeats. The indicated CGA codon repeats plus one extra nucleotide were inserted upstream of the *URA3* and *GFP* coding region, resulting in an Ura⁻ GFP⁻ parent strain. Additional copies of the *ASC1* gene were introduced on a *LEU2* plasmid to avoid recessive mutations in the native *ASC1* gene. To obtain mutants with increased frameshifting efficiency, Ura⁺ mutants were selected and screened for increased GFP/RFP. **(B)** Flow cytometry scatter plot showing GFP versus RFP for 3 mutants and the wild-type parent strain. Expression of *GLN4*₍₁₋₉₉₎-(*CGA*)₄+1-GFP is increased in these *MATa* Ura⁺ mutants. P15: *mbf1*-R89K, P25: *mbf1*Δ125-151, P38: *mbf1*-K64E. **(C)** Expression of the non-native tRNA^{Arg(UCG)*} suppressed the Ura⁺ phenotype of mutant P25. Serial dilutions of the indicated strains with empty vector or expressing the mutant tRNA^{Arg(UCG)*} were grown on the indicated media. **(D)** Mutations in the *MBF1* mutants map in conserved amino acids in both the *MBF1*-specific domain and the Helix-Turn-Helix (HTH) domain of Mbf1 protein. Alignment of yeast Mbf1 amino acid 60-100 with other eukaryotic species is shown (full alignment see figure 1-supplement 3A). GFP/RFP of frameshifted (*CGA*)₄+1 reporter is shown for mutants obtained from *MATa* (circles) and *MATα* (triangles) strains, with the color of markers corresponding to the consensus level of this residue (Blue: 50%-90%, Red: 90%), however the conserved residue for R61 is N, and for S86 is Q, with all others identical to yeast.

FIGURE 1- figure supplement 1

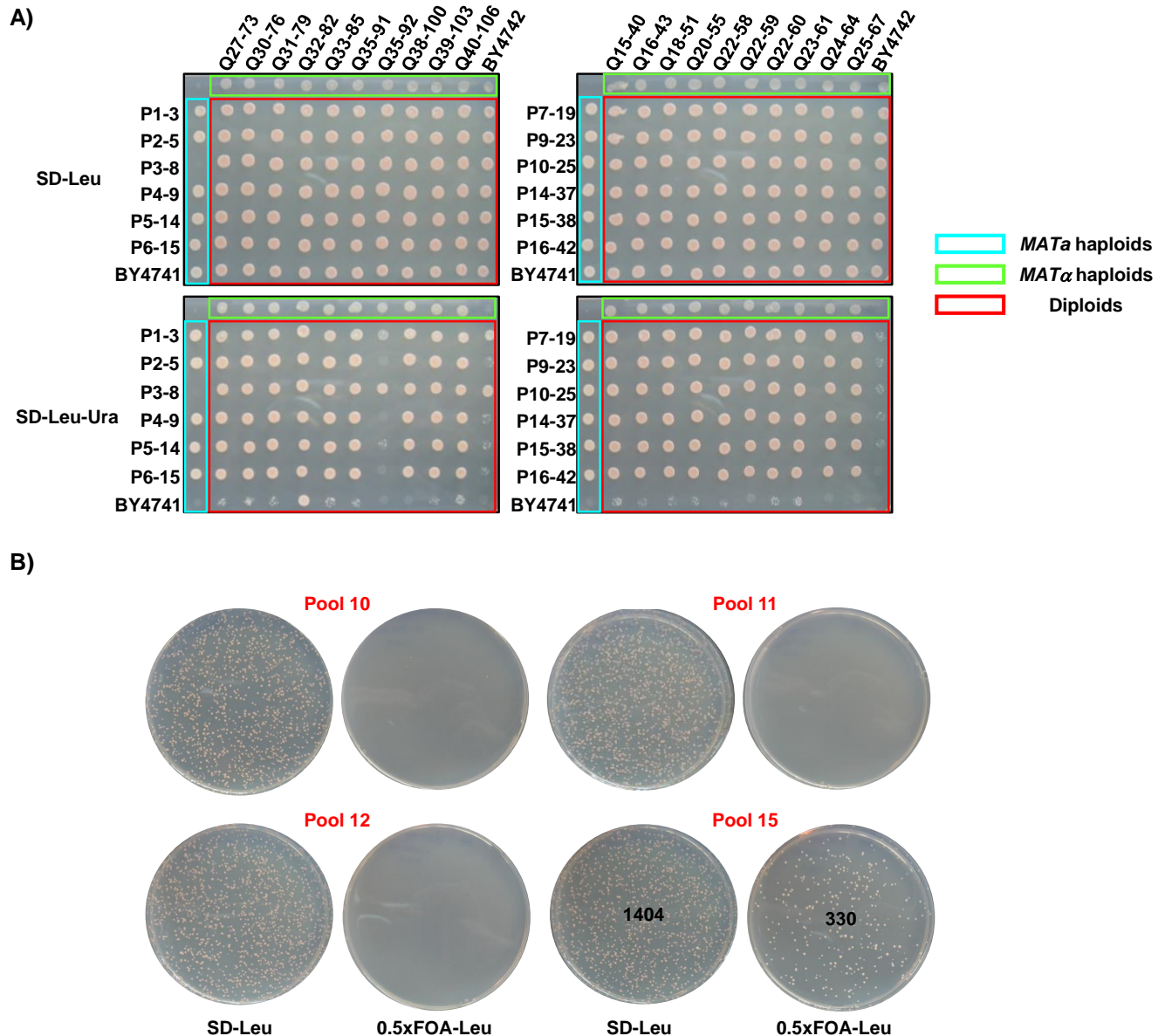


Figure 1- figure supplement 1. Classification of dominant and recessive mutations and complementation of a recessive mutation. (A) Analysis of complementation and dominant/recessive nature of mutations. Twelve *MATa* mutants were crossed with 20 *MATα* mutants, as well as with their selection parents. An Ura⁺ phenotype of resulting diploids with the wild type parent indicated that 3 mutants were dominant while the Ura⁺ phenotype of mutants crossed with each other indicated one major complementation group among recessive mutants. **(B)** Introduction of the Prelich library pool 15 DNA resulted in FOA-resistant cells (Ura⁻) which indicates suppression of the frameshifting phenotype.

FIGURE 1- figure supplement 2

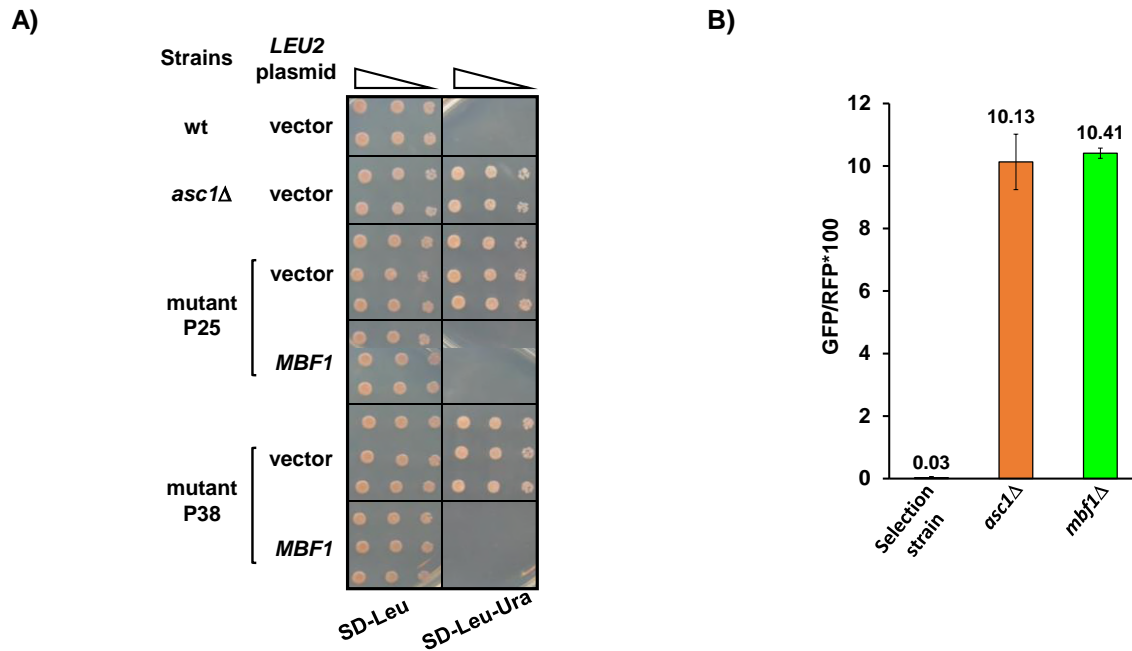
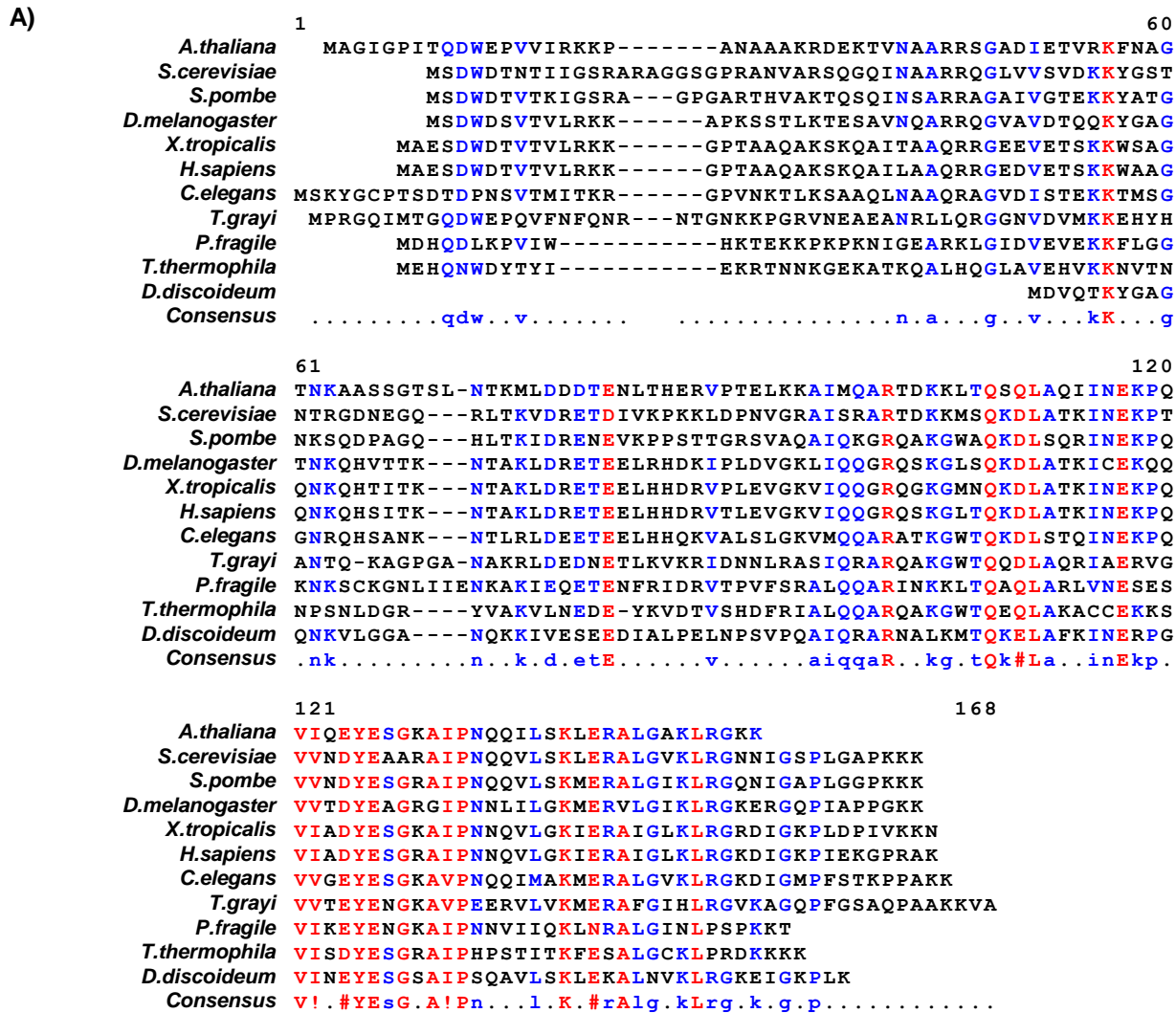


Figure 1- figure supplement 2. Confirmation that mutations in *MBF1* are responsible for frameshifting. (A) Plasmid-borne *MBF1* gene suppressed the Ura⁺ phenotype of mutants P25 and P38. **(B)** Deletion of the *MBF1* coding sequence in the parent GFP⁻ strain resulted in GFP⁺ phenotype.

FIGURE 1- supplement 3



B)

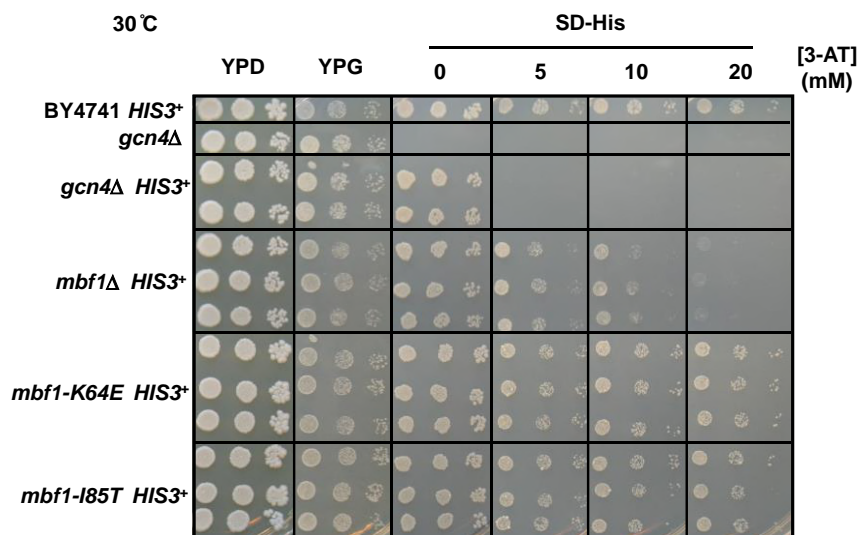


Figure 1- figure supplement 3. Mbf1 is conserved and frameshifting mutations do not exhibit sensitivity to 3-AT. (A) Amino acid sequence alignment of Mbf1 protein from 11 eukaryotic species using MultAlin (<http://multalin.toulouse.inra.fr/multalin/>) (Corpet, 1988). The color of markers corresponds to the consensus level of this residue (Blue: 50%-90%, Red: 90%) **(B)** Frameshifting *mbf1-K64E* and *I85T* mutants grow like wild type on plates with 3-aminotriazole and do not display a *gcn4Δ* phenotype. The *mbf1Δ* strains are more resistant to 3-AT than *gcn4Δ* strains.

FIGURE 2

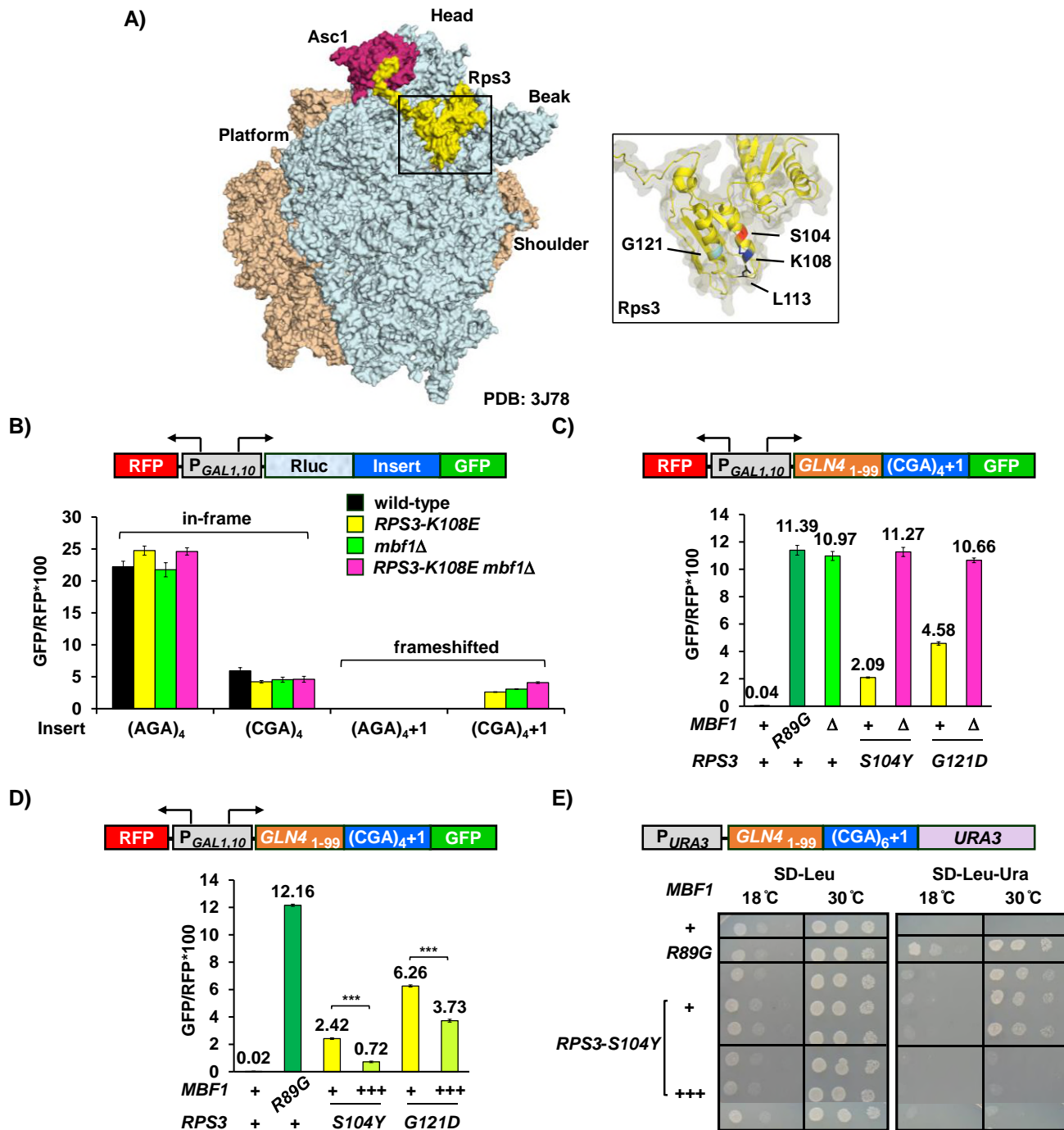


Figure 2. Ribosomal protein Rps3 has a shared function with Mbf1 in preventing frameshifting at CGA codon repeats. **(A) Left:** Yeast ribosome from PDB: 3J78 (Svidritskiy et al., 2014) (light blue: small subunit; sepia: large subunit) showing Asc1/RACK1 (magenta) and Rps3 (yellow). **Right:** Residues of Rps3 in which mutations cause frameshifting are marked- *S104* (red), *K108* (dark blue), *L113* (black), *G121* (light blue). **(B)** Analysis of effects of *RPS3-K108E*, *mbf1Δ* and *RPS3-K108E mbf1Δ* mutations on expression of GFP reporters containing four Arg codons (AGA versus CGA) in frame and in the +1 frame. The *K108E* mutation in *RPS3* allows frameshifting CGA codon repeats, and the combined effects of *RPS3-K108E* and *mbf1Δ* are not additive. **(C)** Epistatic assay of *RPS3* mutations from this selection and the *mbf1Δ* strain indicated that these *RPS3* mutations allow frameshifting at CGA codon repeats and do not increase frameshifting in *mbf1Δ* mutants. **(D)** Overproduction of Mbf1 protein in indicated *RPS3* mutants significantly decreased expression of frameshifted Gln4-GFP fusion protein (***) analyzed by flow cytometry. **(E)** Overproduction of Mbf1 protein in the *RPS3-S104Y* mutant reduced frameshifting-dependent growth on -Ura media, shown by a spot test assay.

FIGURE 3

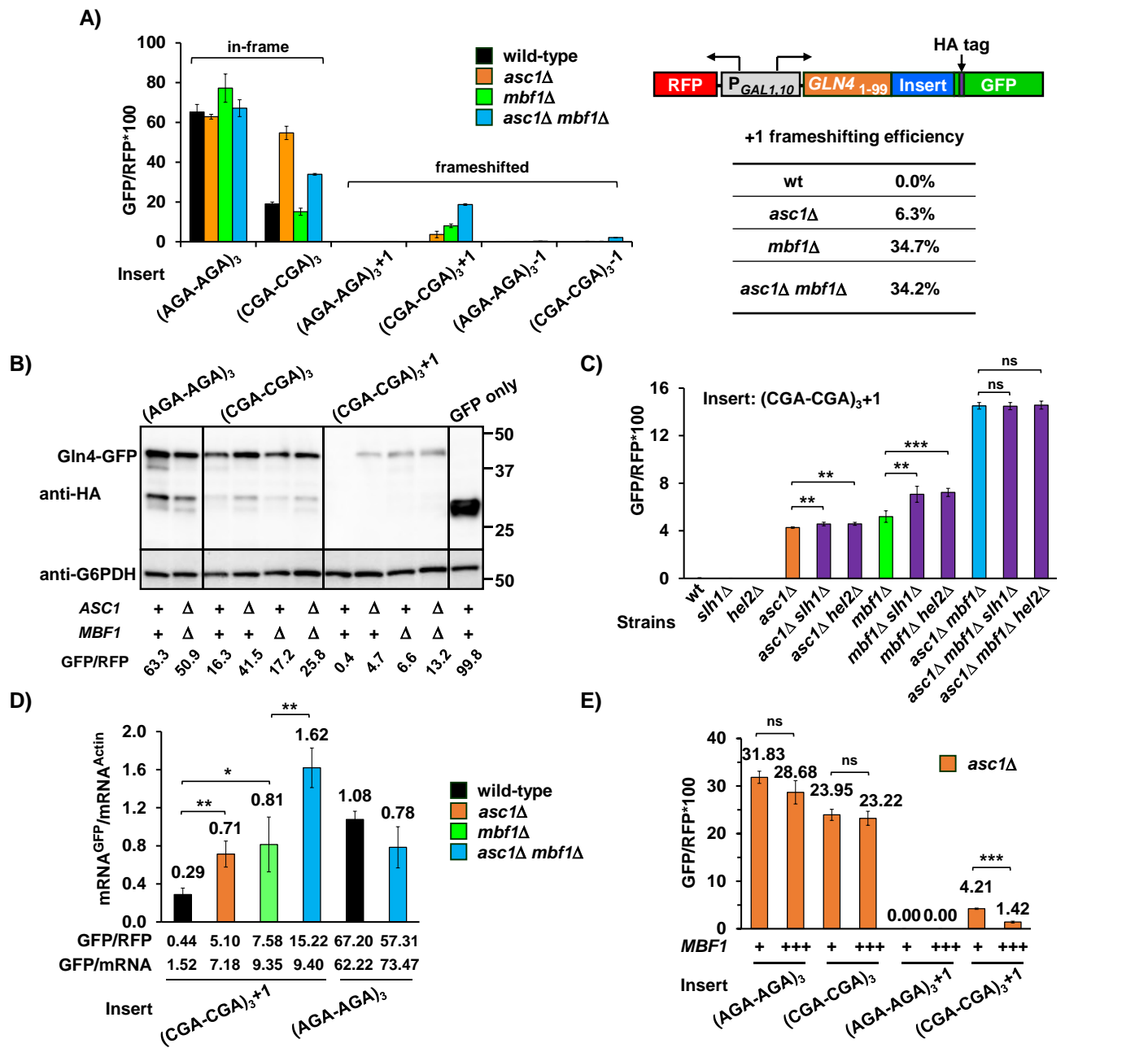


Figure 3. Mbf1 and Asc1 play distinct roles at CGA codon pairs. (A) Analysis of effects of *asc1Δ*, *mbf1Δ* and *asc1Δ mbf1Δ* mutations on expression of *GLN4*₍₁₋₉₉₎-GFP reporters containing three Arg-Arg codon pairs (AGA-AGA versus CGA-CGA) in 0, +1, and -1 reading frames. Mutation of either *ASC1* or *MBF1* allows frameshifting in the (CGA-CGA)₃+1 reporter, and mutation of both *ASC1* and *MBF1* results in significantly more frameshifted GFP/RFP. The +1 frameshifting efficiency [(+1 GFP/RFP) / (+1 GFP/RFP + in-frame GFP/RFP + -1 GFP/RFP)] of all four strains is shown in the table. **(B)** Western analysis of Gln4-GFP fusion protein in yeast strains from (A) indicates the expression of frameshifted Gln4-GFP full-length protein in all three mutants. The protein was detected by anti-HA antibody recognizing the HA epitope between the codon insert and GFP. The GFP and RFP values were measured by flow cytometry while harvesting for cell lysis. **(C)** Effects of *hel2Δ* and *slh1Δ* on frameshifting at CGA-CGA codon pairs with and without deletions in *MBF1* and *ASC1*. ns: p>0.05, * p<0.05, ** p<0.01, *** p<0.001 **(D)** Analysis of the mRNA levels of the *GLN4*-GFP reporter by RT-qPCR. Deletion of *ASC1* and/or *MBF1* resulted in increased mRNA. * p<0.05, ** p<0.01 **(E)** Overproduction of Mbf1 suppressed frameshifting at CGA-CGA codon pairs in the *asc1Δ* mutant, but did not affect the in-frame read-through, based on GFP/RFP expression from the indicated reporters shown in (A). ns: p>0.05, *** p<0.001.

FIGURE 3 - figure supplement 1

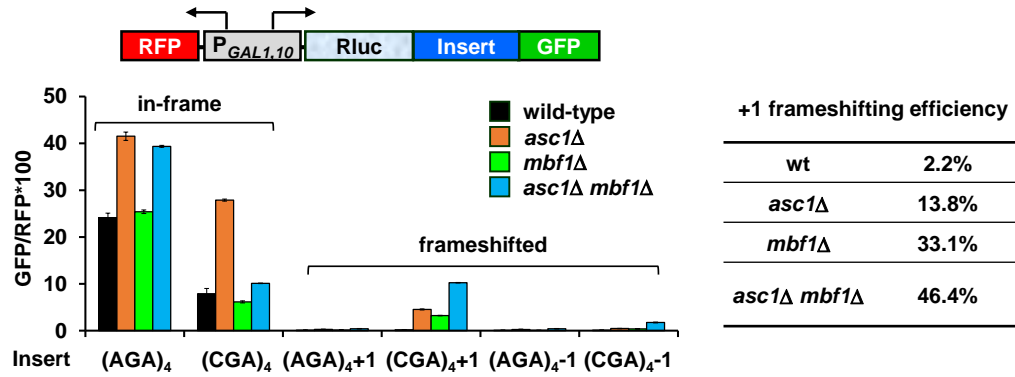


Figure 3- figure supplement 1. Analysis of effects of *asc1Δ*, *mbf1Δ* and *asc1Δ mbf1Δ* mutations on expression of Rluc-GFP reporters containing four adjacent Arg codons (AGA versus CGA) in 0, +1, and -1 reading frames. Mutation of either *ASC1* or *MBF1* allows frameshifting in the (CGA)₄+1 reporter, and mutation of both *ASC1* and *MBF1* results in significantly more frameshifted GFP/RFP. The +1 frameshifting efficiency [(+1 GFP/RFP) / (+1 GFP/RFP + in-frame GFP/RFP + -1 GFP/RFP)] of all four strains is shown in the table.

FIGURE 3 - figure supplement 2

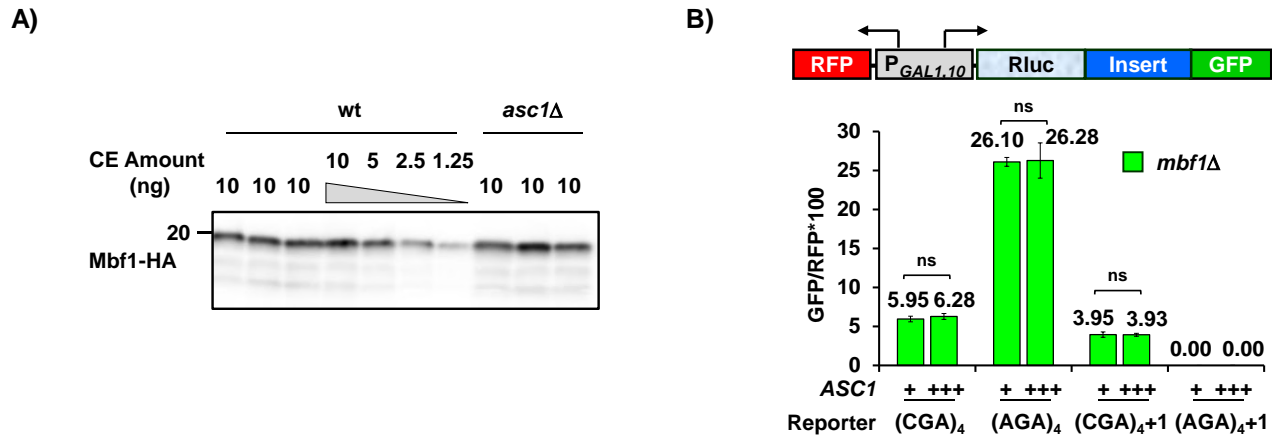


Figure 3- figure supplement 2. Frameshifting is likely not due to reduction of Mbf1 protein in *asc1Δ* mutant nor to limiting Asc1 protein in *mbf1Δ* mutant. (A) Western analysis of HA tagged Mbf1 in the *asc1Δ* mutant (3 independent isolates shown) compared to the wild-type strain (4 independent isolates shown) indicates that Mbf1 levels were similar in both strains. **(B)** Overexpression of Asc1 does not affect either in-frame read-through or frameshifting at CGA codon repeats in the *asc1Δ* strain. ns: $p > 0.05$.

FIGURE 4

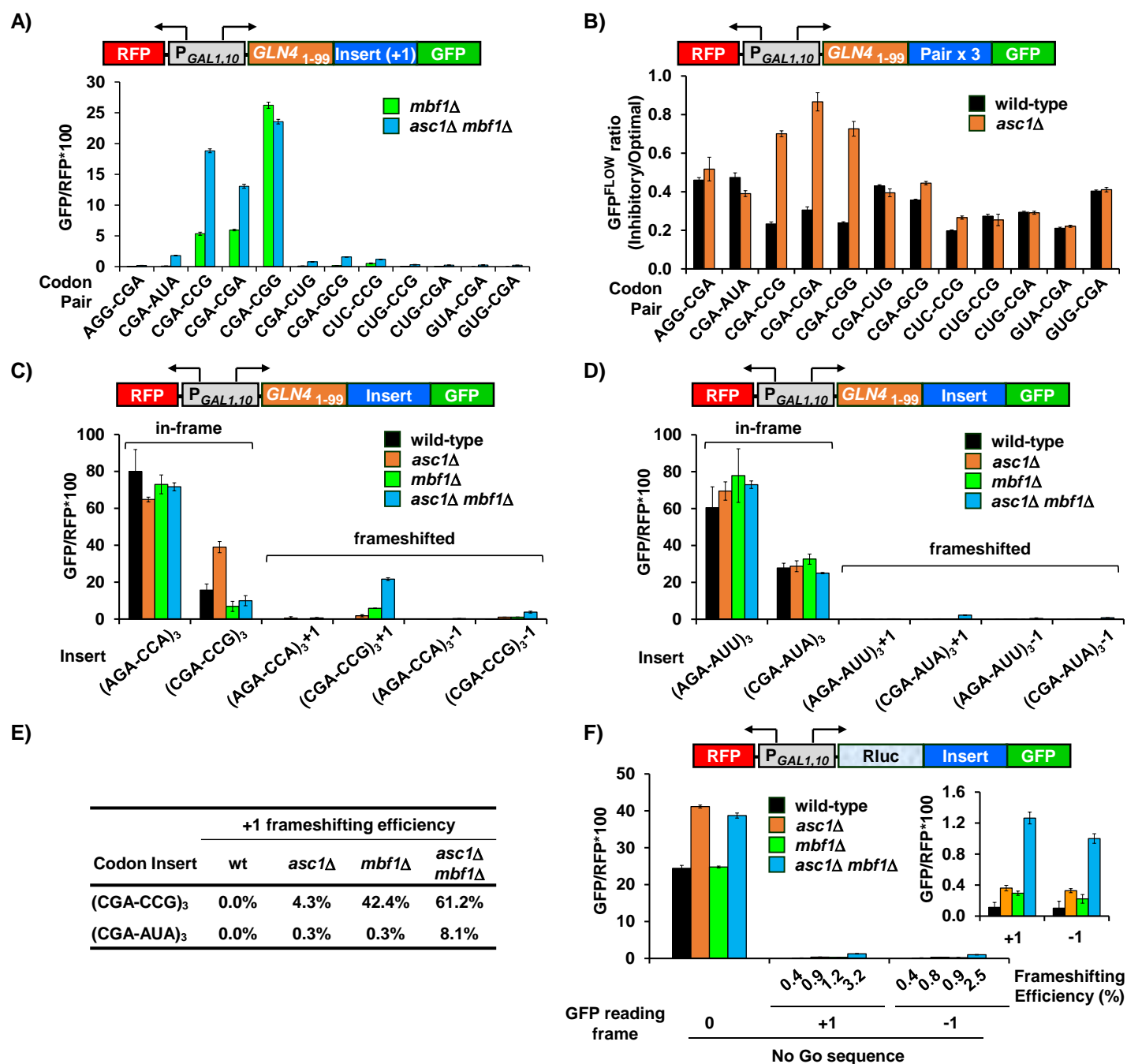


Figure 4. Mbf1 regulates frameshifting at slowly translated inhibitory codon pairs, mainly those targeted by Asc1. (A) Frameshifting is detected at three inhibitory codon pairs (Gamble et al., 2016) in the *mbf1Δ* mutant, and at seven codon pairs in the *asc1Δ mbf1Δ* double mutant. Frameshifting was assayed from reporters bearing 3 copies of the indicated inhibitory codon pair and a +1 nucleotide to place GFP in the +1 frame. (B) In frame read-through of three inhibitory codon pairs (CGA-CGA; CGA-CCG; CGA-CCG) is improved by the deletion of *ASC1*. GFP/RFP from reporters with three copies of an inhibitory pair were compared to synonymous reporters with three copies of the optimized pair to obtain GFP^{FLOW} ratio. (C, D) Analysis of effects of *asc1Δ*, *mbf1Δ* and *asc1Δ mbf1Δ* mutations on expression of *GLN4*-GFP reporters containing three copies of either (C) the Arg-Pro (AGA-CCA or CGA-CCG) codon pairs or (D) the Arg-Ile (AGA-AUU or CGA-AUA) codon pairs in 0, +1, and -1 reading frames. Mutation of either *ASC1* or *MBF1* allows frameshifting in the (CGA-CCG)₃+1 reporter, but not in the (CGA-AUA)₃+1 reporter, while mutations of both *ASC1* and *MBF1* results in significantly more frameshifted GFP/RFP in both reporters. (E) The +1 frameshifting efficiency at either CGA-CCG codon pairs or CGA-AUA codon pairs in all four strains is shown. (F) Mutation of either *ASC1* or *MBF1* allows frameshifting at No-Go sequences in the GFP reporter, and mutation of both *ASC1* and *MBF1* results in significantly more frameshifted GFP/RFP.

FIGURE 4 - supplement 1

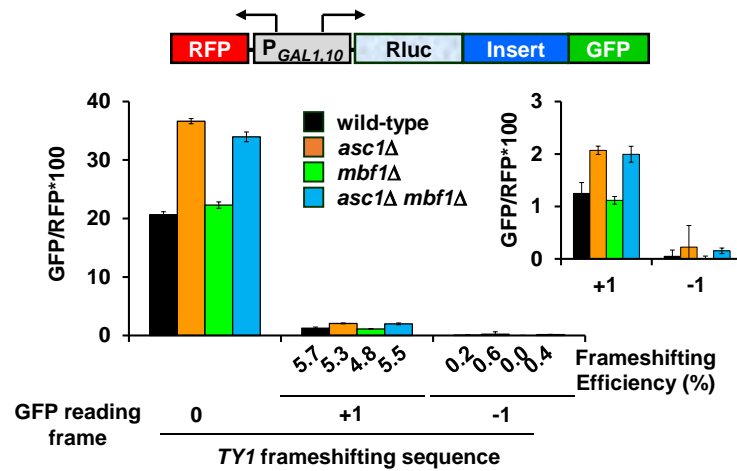


Figure 4- figure supplement 1. Deletion of *MBF1* and/or *ASC1* does not affect efficiency of programmed frameshifting in the *TY1* transposon. Analysis of effects of *asc1Δ*, *mbf1Δ* and *asc1Δ mbf1Δ* mutations on expression of *GLN4*-GFP reporters containing the yeast *TY1* programmed frameshift site (Belcourt and Farabaugh, 1990).

FIGURE 5

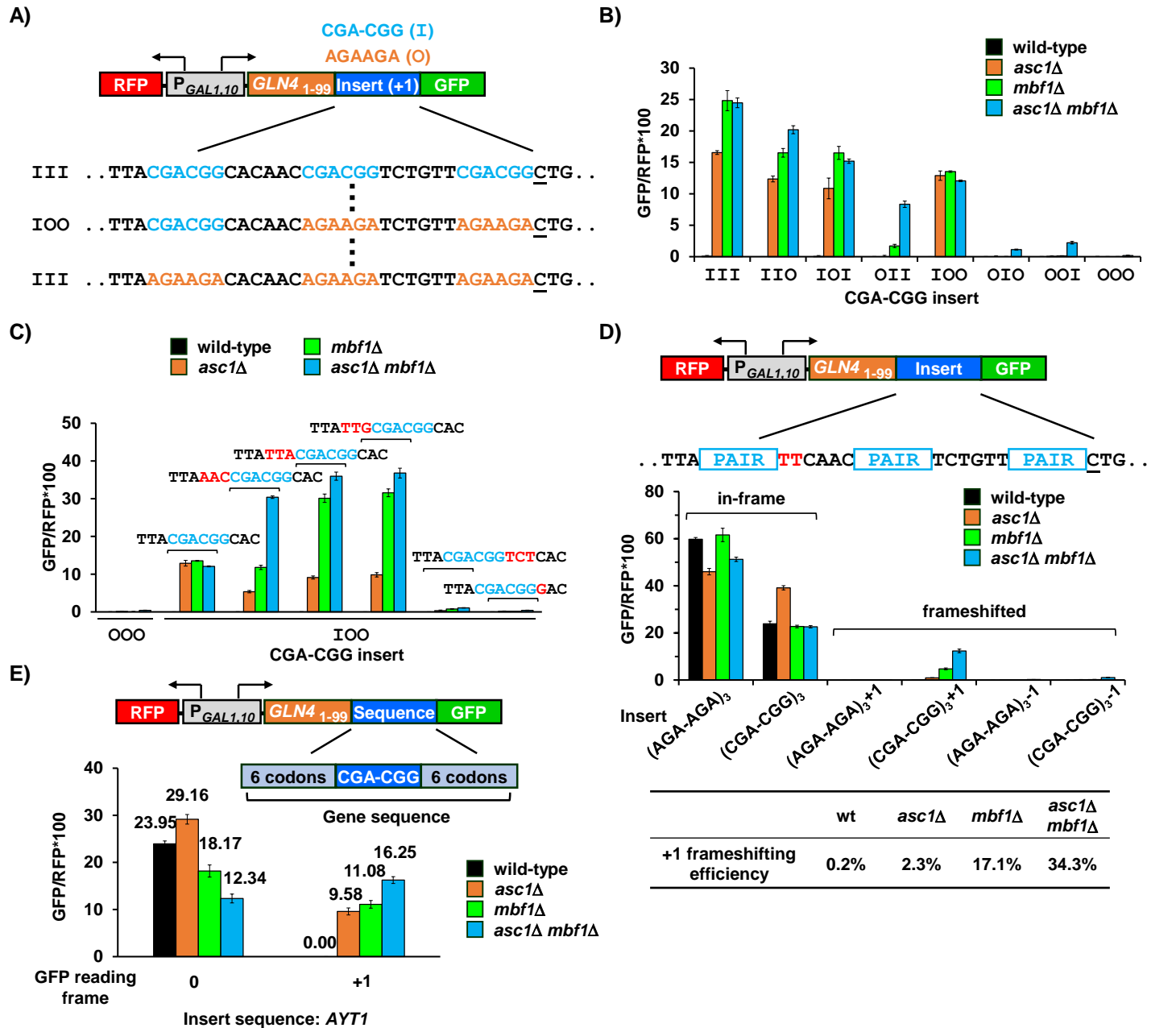


Figure 5. Efficient frameshifting occurs at a single CGA-CGG pair in a particular context. (A) Schematic of inserts in modified RNA-ID reporters used to identify the contributions of individual CGA-CGG pairs to frameshifting. Sequences with all possible combinations of zero, one, two or three inhibitory CGA-CGG pairs (I, shown in cyan) [substituting the synonymous optimal pair AGA-AGA (O, shown in orange) at other positions] were inserted between $GLN4_{(1-99)}$ and GFP. **(B)** Analysis of effects of *asc1Δ*, *mbf1Δ* and *asc1Δ mbf1Δ* mutations on expression of $GLN4_{(1-99)}$ -GFP reporters with the indicated position and number of inhibitory codon pairs. All constructs with an inhibitory codon pair at the first position (III, IIO, IOI, IOO) showed high levels of frameshifting in all three mutants. **(C)** Analysis of $GLN4_{(1-99)}$ -GFP reporters with IOO CGA-CGG construct in which the sequences surrounding the single CGA-CGG insert were varied. The 3' nucleotide of the first CGA-CGG pair is required for efficient frameshifting in the mutants. All changes are shown in red. **(D)** Analysis of effects of *asc1Δ*, *mbf1Δ* and *asc1Δ mbf1Δ* mutations on expression of revised $GLN4_{(1-99)}$ -GFP reporters (TTC is substituted for CAC as the 3' codon downstream of the first codon pair) containing three Arg-Arg codon pairs (AGA-AGA versus CGA-CGG) in 0, +1, and -1 reading frames. Mutation of either *ASC1* or *MBF1* allows frameshifting in this (CGA-CGG)₃+1 reporter, and mutation of both *ASC1* and *MBF1* results in significantly more frameshifted GFP/RFP. The +1 frameshifting efficiency of all four strains is shown in the table. **(E)** Analysis of effects of *asc1Δ*, *mbf1Δ* and *asc1Δ mbf1Δ* mutations on expression of $GLN4_{(1-99)}$ -GFP reporters containing the native yeast *AYT1* sequence with a single CGA-CGG codon pair in 0 and +1 reading frames. This native yeast sequence provoked significant amount of frameshifting in the *asc1Δ mbf1Δ* strain with small reduction of in-frame read-through.

FIGURE 5 - supplement 1

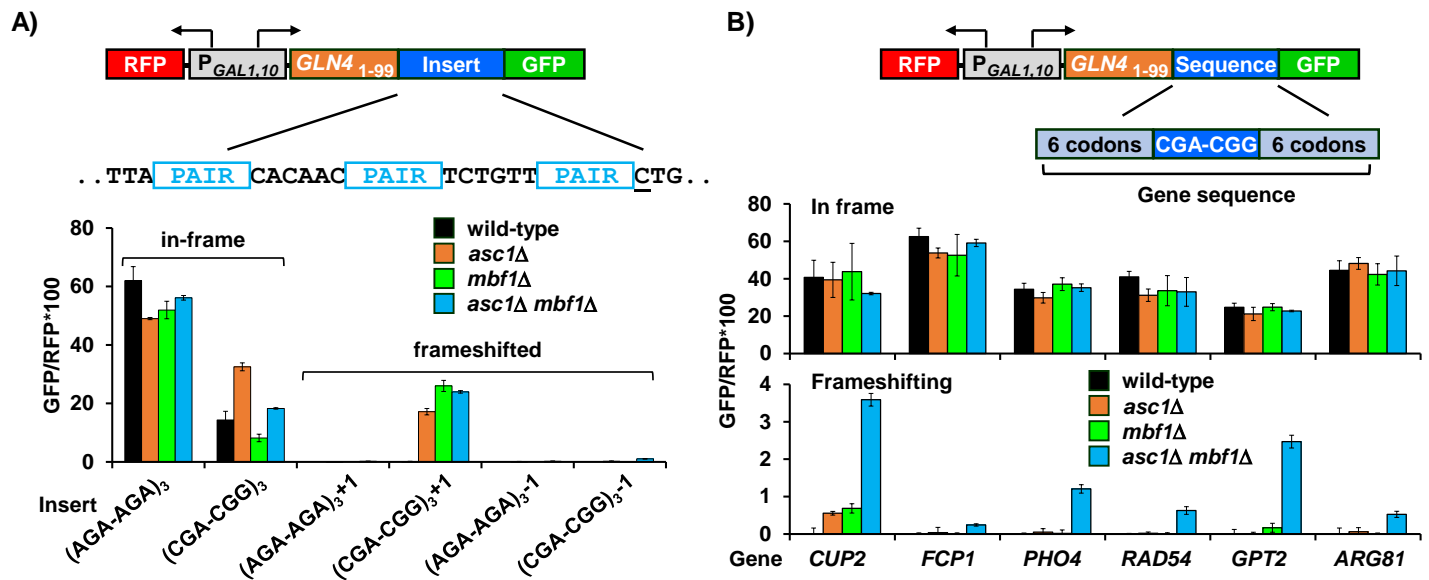


Figure 5- figure supplement 1. Analysis of frameshifting at CGA-CGG codon pairs. (A)

Analysis of effects of *asc1Δ*, *mbf1Δ* and *asc1Δ mbf1Δ* mutations on expression of *GLN4*₍₁₋₉₉₎-GFP reporters containing three Arg-Arg codon pairs (AGA-AGA versus CGA-CGG) in 0, +1, and -1 reading frames. In this RNA-ID reporter, CAC is the 3' codon downstream of the first codon pair.

Mutation of either *ASC1* or *MBF1* alone allows extremely efficient frameshifting in this (CGA-CGG)₃+1 reporter, and mutation of both *ASC1* and *MBF1* does not result in significantly more frameshifted GFP/RFP.

(B) Analysis of effects of native yeast gene sequences containing a single CGA-CGG codon pair on in-frame and frameshifted expression of GFP. In each case, six codons upstream and downstream of the CGA-CGG were inserted into the *GLN4*₍₁₋₉₉₎-GFP reporter in frame and with a +1 frameshift after the inserted sequence. Expression of GFP/RFP was measured in wild type, *asc1Δ*, *mbf1Δ* and *asc1Δ mbf1Δ* mutants. These native yeast sequences can provoke detectable frameshifting in the *asc1Δ mbf1Δ* strain without largely affecting in-frame read-through.

FIGURE 6

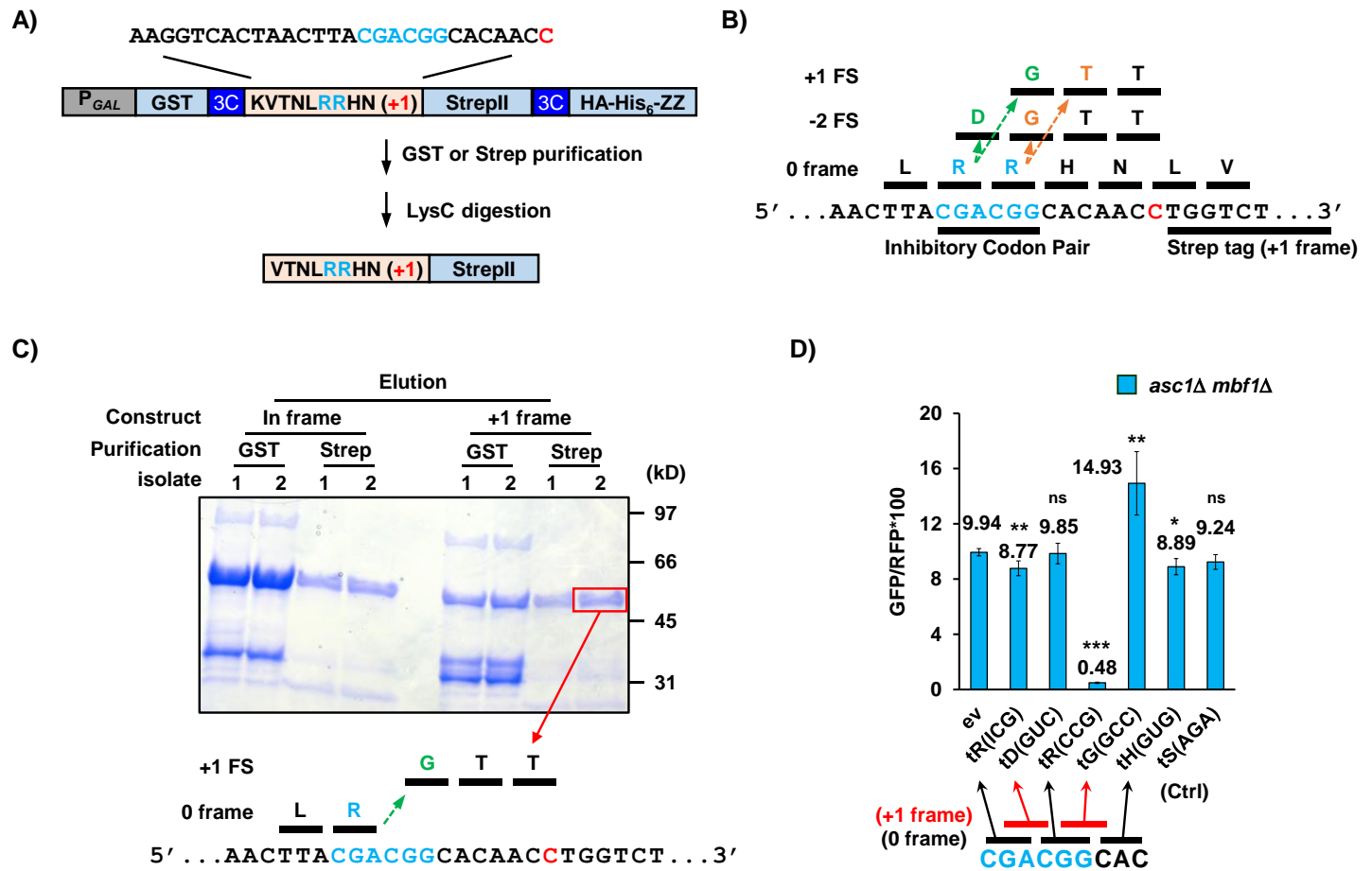


Figure 6. Frameshifting occurs in the +1 direction with the CGA codon in the P site and is modulated by tRNA competition at the A site. (A) Schematic of purification construct for frameshifted peptide. An eight amino acid sequence with a single CGA-CGG pair from the RNA-ID reporter was inserted between a GST tag and an out-of-frame StrepII tag. LysC treatment of purified frameshifted protein yields a 16 or 17 amino acid peptide. The red nucleotide indicates the extra nucleotide in the +1 frame construct. **(B)** Schematic of four possible frameshifting events at the inhibitory CGA-CGG codon pair, each of which can be distinguished by one or two amino acids in the resulting peptide. Ribosomes can frameshift either in the forward direction (+1) or in the reverse direction (-2) when the P site is occupied by either the CGA codon (first amino acid in the out-of-frame peptide shown in green) or the CGG codon (first amino acid of out-of-frame peptide shown in orange). **(C)** Purified protein products of both in frame and +1 frame constructs were analyzed by SDS-PAGE, stained with Coomassie Blue. The frameshifted protein of +1 frame construct from Strep purification (in red box) was excised, cleaved with LysC and analyzed by Mass Spectrometry, resulting in identification of the peptide shown below the figure. This peptide corresponds to that expected of a +1 frameshift occurring when the CGA codon occupies the P site. **(D)** Overexpression of tRNA corresponding to +1 frame codon improved frameshifting efficiency, while overexpression of tRNA corresponding to next in frame codon significantly reduced frameshifting. ns: $p > 0.05$, * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$.