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## Transfer RNA Genes Affect Chromosome Structure and Function via Local Effects

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40

41 **Abstract**

42 The genome is packaged and organized in an ordered, non-random manner and  
43 specific chromatin segments contact nuclear substructures to mediate this organization.  
44 While transfer RNA genes (tDNAs) are essential for the generation of tRNAs, these loci  
45 are also binding sites for transcription factors and architectural proteins and are thought  
46 to play an important role in the organization of the genome. In this study, we investigate  
47 the role of tDNAs in genomic organization and chromosome function by editing a  
48 chromosome so that it lacks any tDNAs. Surprisingly our analyses of this tDNA-less  
49 chromosome show that loss of tDNAs does not grossly affect chromosome folding or  
50 chromosome tethering. However, loss of tDNAs affects local nucleosome positioning  
51 and the binding of SMC proteins at these loci. The absence of tDNAs also leads to  
52 changes in centromere clustering and a reduction in the frequency of long range *HML*-  
53 *HMR* heterochromatin clustering. We propose that the tDNAs primarily affect local  
54 chromatin structure that result in effects on long-range chromosome architecture.

55

56

57        ***Introduction***

58        The three dimensional organization of the yeast nucleus is non-random (Reviewed  
59 in (Taddei et al., 2010; Zimmer and Fabre, 2011)). Each chromosome occupies a  
60 specific territory in the nucleus anchored to nuclear substructures via specific DNA  
61 sequences. The telomeres of each chromosome tend to associate with one another and  
62 with the nuclear envelope in small clusters, based on the length of the chromosome  
63 arms (Fabre and Spichal, 2014; Palladino et al., 1993b; Ruben et al., 2011). The rDNA  
64 repeats on chromosome XII are packaged into a dense structure known as the  
65 nucleolus, which also localizes to the nuclear periphery (Oakes et al., 1998). Opposite  
66 the nucleolus is the spindle pole body, which is the interphase attachment site for the  
67 centromeres of the 16 chromosomes (Jin et al., 2000). Attachment of centromeres to  
68 the spindle pole and attachment of telomeres to the nuclear membrane dependent upon  
69 chromosome arm length helps organize the nucleus (Therizols et al., 2010). The active  
70 genes along the chromosome arms primarily reside in the nuclear interior though some  
71 active genes including some tRNA genes interact with nuclear pores and help tether the  
72 arms (Duan et al., 2010; Taddei et al., 2010; Tjong et al., 2012).

73        Besides DNA sequence elements, numerous proteins play a role in nuclear  
74 organization via networks of interactions between nuclear membrane and chromatin  
75 bound proteins. Chromatin bound proteins involved in this organization include  
76 heterochromatin proteins, (Palladino et al., 1993a), lamin like proteins (Andrulis et al.,  
77 2002; Bupp et al., 2007; Mekhail et al., 2008; Taddei et al., 2005; Taddei et al., 2004),  
78 specific transcription factors (Klein et al., 1992; Taddei et al., 2006), RNA polymerases

79 (Oakes et al., 1998) and DNA repair proteins (Kirkland et al., 2015; Kirkland and  
80 Kamakaka, 2013) (see (Taddei et al., 2010) for review).

81 tRNA genes (tDNAs) are a class of active genes found on all chromosomes and are  
82 bound by transcription factors TFIIIB and TFIIIC and RNA polymerase III. tDNAs are  
83 short, highly transcribed DNA sequences (Dieci et al., 2007) that are usually  
84 nucleosome-free with strongly positioned flanking nucleosomes (Cole et al., 2012; Oki  
85 and Kamakaka, 2005; Weiner et al., 2010; Yuan et al., 2005). The tDNAs contain  
86 internal promoter elements called A and B-boxes, which aid in the binding of the  
87 transcription factor TFIIIC (Geiduschek and Kassavetis, 2001; Schramm and  
88 Hernandez, 2002). TFIIIC helps recruit TFIIIB to AT rich sequences upstream of the  
89 tDNA. tDNA-bound transcription factors function via interactions with cofactors. tRNA  
90 genes are sites of binding for numerous chromatin proteins including the architectural  
91 SMC proteins, nuclear pore proteins, chromatin remodelers and histone modifiers.  
92 Studies from several labs have shown that tDNAs are enriched in cohesin (Smc1/Smc3)  
93 (Glynn et al., 2004), and condensin (Smc2/Smc4) complexes (D'Ambrosio et al., 2008;  
94 Haeusler et al., 2008), as well as the SMC loading proteins (Scc2/Scc4) (Kogut et al.,  
95 2009; Lopez-Serra et al., 2014) and some chromatin remodelers including RSC  
96 (Bausch et al., 2007; D'Ambrosio et al., 2008; Dhillon et al., 2009; Huang and Laurent,  
97 2004; Oki and Kamakaka, 2005).

98 While individual tRNA genes turn over rapidly as a result of mutational inactivation  
99 and gene loss (Frenkel et al., 2004; Goodenbour and Pan, 2006; Withers et al., 2006), a  
100 subset of tDNA are syntenic with respect to neighboring sequences (Raab et al., 2012;  
101 Wang et al., 2012) and data suggest that these conserved tDNAs possess chromosome

102 position-specific functions in gene regulation (reviewed in (Kirkland et al., 2013; Van  
103 Bortle and Corces, 2012)). There are several position-specific effects mediated by  
104 tDNAs. First, tDNAs have been shown to function as heterochromatin barrier insulators,  
105 which stop the spread of heterochromatic domains into adjacent non-silenced domains  
106 (Biswas et al., 2009; Dhillon et al., 2009; Donze et al., 1999; Raab et al., 2012). Second,  
107 tDNAs block communication between enhancers and promoters when located between  
108 these elements in yeast, *Drosophila*, mouse and human cells by acting as enhancer  
109 blockers (Dixon et al., 2012; Ebersole et al., 2011; Korde et al., 2013; Raab et al., 2012;  
110 Simms et al., 2008; Simms et al., 2004; Van Bortle et al., 2014). Third, the presence of  
111 a tDNA in close proximity to a RNA pol II transcribed gene promoter antagonizes  
112 transcription from the pol II transcribed gene in a phenomenon referred to as tRNA  
113 gene mediated silencing (tgm silencing) (Good et al., 2013; Haeusler et al., 2008;  
114 Thompson et al., 2003).

115 In many organisms, tDNAs have also been shown to cluster at sites in the nucleus  
116 (Haeusler and Engelke, 2006; Iwasaki et al., 2010; Kirkland et al., 2013; Pombo et al.,  
117 1999; Raab et al., 2012). In *S. cerevisiae*, DNA FISH studies have shown that some  
118 tDNAs cluster together adjacent to centromeres (Haeusler and Engelke, 2006;  
119 Thompson et al., 2003) while proximity ligation analysis suggest that tDNAs cluster at  
120 the outer periphery of the nucleolus as well as near the centromeres (Duan et al., 2010)  
121 though more recent HiC studies seem unable to detect these long-range associations  
122 (Schalbetter bioRxiv 094946). Based on these results it has been proposed that TFIIIC  
123 binding to discrete sites along the chromosome plays an important role in chromosome

124 folding and organization in the yeast nucleus (Haeusler and Engelke, 2004, 2006;  
125 Iwasaki and Noma, 2012).

126 To better analyze the role of tDNAs in chromatin looping and organization we  
127 generated a “tDNA-less” chromosome through the systematic deletion of all the tDNAs  
128 on chromosome III in *S. cerevisiae*. We characterized chromatin packaging,  
129 chromosome folding and nuclear dynamics of this chromosome. We show that tDNA  
130 loss affects nucleosome positioning and loading of SMC proteins in the vicinity of tDNAs  
131 but this has no effect on chromatin looping. While loss of the tDNAs does not affect  
132 chromatin looping, it does affect centromere clustering and the long-range interactions  
133 of the silenced *HML* and *HMR* loci with concomitant effects on gene silencing.

134

135        **Results**

136        The ~275 tDNAs in the budding yeast genome are dispersed across all 16  
137 chromosomes. Here, we focus on chromosome III, which is 316 kb long and has two  
138 tDNAs on the left arm and eight tDNAs on the right arm. In order to investigate the role  
139 of tDNAs in chromatin looping, nuclear organization and function, we created a strain in  
140 which chromosome III is devoid of any functional tDNAs by deleting an internal fragment  
141 of each tDNA. The deletions eliminate the internal promoter elements (both BoxA and  
142 BoxB) and thus eliminate the binding of the transcription factors TFIIC and TFIIB. For  
143 simplicity, we have labeled the tDNA adjacent to the *HMR* locus as t0 and have labeled  
144 the remaining nine tDNAs going from right to left as t1, t2, t3 etc. (Figure 1). To delete  
145 the tDNAs we first replaced an internal segment of the gene with a *URA3* gene and then  
146 subsequently replaced *URA3* with a DNA fragment containing a unique DNA barcode.  
147 This involved multiple sequential transformations. Each deletion was monitored by PCR  
148 analysis, and intermediate strains were backcrossed to wild type W-303 prior to  
149 additional rounds of transformations. All of the experiments described were performed  
150 in this strain background to avoid strain specific effects.

151        Most tRNA isoacceptor families have multiple copies, scattered throughout the  
152 genome, though single gene copies code for six isoacceptor families. On chromosome  
153 III eight of the ten tDNAs that were deleted are members of multi-copy gene families  
154 (with 10-16 copies in the genome) and are not essential. However, tDNA t1 (*tS(CGA)c*)  
155 is a single copy gene and is essential in *S. cerevisiae* (Ho and Abelson, 1988) and there  
156 are only two copies of tDNA t7 (*tP(AGG)c*) in the genome. Loss of t7 from chromosome  
157 III caused cells to grow more slowly. In order to remove these two genes from

158 chromosome III and simultaneously maintain the health of the yeast, we integrated  
159 single copies of these two genes on chromosome XV at the *HIS3* locus. Once the full  
160 tDNA deletion chromosome III had been constructed, the strain harboring this  
161 chromosome was backcrossed with wild-type W-303, and segregation of the deleted  
162 tDNAs was monitored by PCR using primers specific to the unique barcodes. The full-  
163 length sequence of this modified chromosome is available.

164 The strain where chromosome III lacked any tDNAs (tDNA delete) was grown in  
165 rich media at 30C and did not show any obvious growth defect, forming homogeneous  
166 and healthy, smooth edged colonies. Strains bearing this tDNA-less chromosome had a  
167 doubling time of ~90 minutes in liquid YPD media, which was indistinguishable from a  
168 wild type strain. This is consistent with data showing that loss of one copy of multi-copy  
169 tDNAs in yeast cells do not lead to growth defects in rich media (Bloom-Ackermann et  
170 al., 2014). Qualitative chromosome loss assays in a homozygous diploid strain, based  
171 on the appearance of pseudo-haploids capable of mating, showed no change in  
172 chromosome loss rates indicating that chromosome segregation during mitosis had not  
173 been perturbed.

#### 174 **Changes to the local nucleosome landscape surrounding the tDNAs**

175 The stable binding of TFIIIC and TFIIIB as well as their interactions with chromatin  
176 remodelers result in nucleosome eviction at the tDNA and positioning of nucleosomes  
177 adjacent to the gene (Dion et al., 2007; Oki and Kamakaka, 2005). At some tRNA genes  
178 a single nucleosome appears to be disrupted while at other tDNAs multiple  
179 nucleosomes are disrupted. Since tDNAs are dispersed across the chromosome and  
180 are highly transcribed we first asked if loss of all ten tDNAs from the chromosome



181 altered the nucleosome and transcription landscape of the chromosome. In order to  
182 determine if tDNAs affect nucleosome positions across chromosome III, we mapped  
183 nucleosomes in our tDNA delete strain as well as in the wild type strain.

184 Haploid yeast cells were grown to log phase, harvested and nuclei were digested  
185 with varying concentrations of micrococcal nuclease to generate mono-nucleosome  
186 protected DNAs, which were subjected to paired-end MNase-seq. Overall, the  
187 nucleosome landscape across all chromosomes except chromosome III was unaffected  
188 by the presence or absence of the chromosome III tDNAs. More focused analysis  
189 showed no change in nucleosome positioning in the proximity of the 265 tDNAs  
190 scattered on the 15 chromosomes that were not manipulated in this study (Figure 2 left  
191 panel).

192 In contrast, changes in nucleosome occupancy were observed at or immediately  
193 adjacent to the deleted tDNAs on chromosome III. Figure 2 (right panel) shows the  
194 average nucleosome occupancy across 2kb segments centered on the chromosome III  
195 tDNAs with each tDNA in WT cells aligned at its 5' end while in the tDNA delete strain,  
196 the 5' ends of the deletion points were aligned. In the wild type strain there is a clear  
197 nucleosome free region centered on the tDNA flanked by positioned nucleosomes  
198 reflecting differential digestion of the TFIIB-TFIIC complex relative to nucleosomes  
199 (Chereji et al., 2017). In the tDNA delete strain this pattern is altered and a nucleosome  
200 is usually formed over the deletion junction (see Supplementary figure 1). We were  
201 unable to determine the change in the chromatin landscape around t1 and t7 tDNAs  
202 since these two genes with 100 bp of flanking sequences were transposed to the *HIS3*  
203 locus. Nucleosome positions elsewhere on chromosome III that are distant from the

204 tDNAs are not altered on the tDNA-less chromosome (Supplementary figure 2). These  
205 results demonstrate that tDNAs create nucleosome free regions at the tRNA gene with  
206 positioned nucleosomes flanking the gene. The data also show that their chromatin  
207 organizing effects are locally confined and do not extend beyond their immediate  
208 vicinity.

### 209 **tDNA loss affects expression of very few RNA pol II transcribed genes**

210 The presence of a tDNA in close proximity to a RNA pol II transcribed gene promoter  
211 antagonizes transcription from the pol II transcribed gene called tRNA gene mediated  
212 silencing (tgm silencing) (Good et al., 2013; Haeusler et al., 2008; Thompson et al.,  
213 2003). In addition, tDNAs have also been shown to function as enhancer blockers when  
214 located between an UAS enhancer and a promoter (Simms et al., 2008). Since the loss  
215 of the tDNAs altered nucleosomes in their vicinity we wondered if these alterations  
216 affected the transcription landscape of genes on chromosome III. Rather than restrict  
217 the analysis to pol II transcribed genes adjacent to the tDNAs on chromosome III, we  
218 investigated the effects of tDNA loss on all pol II transcribed genes in the genome and  
219 analyzed the changes in RNA levels in the wild type and tDNA delete strain by RNA-  
220 seq. Total RNA was extracted from exponentially growing yeast cultures and RNA-seq  
221 libraries were prepared, sequenced and analyzed as described in the materials and  
222 methods section. The RNA levels of a very small number of genes were affected upon  
223 deletion of the tDNAs. Table1 lists the genes that were either up regulated or down  
224 regulated in the strain lacking tDNAs on chromosome III. Of the ten tDNAs present on  
225 chromosome III, tDNA t0, t8 and t9 are flanked by retrotransposon elements and since  
226 these are repetitive elements, the tDNA-mediated transcription effects could not be

227 investigated for these loci. Furthermore, tDNAs t3 and t4 are missing in W-303. The  
228 expression of only two genes on chromosome III was affected and in both instances, a  
229 tDNA (t1 and t6) was located adjacent to the gene. In one instance the gene was up  
230 regulated upon tDNA loss while in the second instance the gene was down regulated.  
231 Furthermore, we observed the up regulation of the *MRM1* gene. This gene resides  
232 immediately adjacent to *HIS3*. The tDNAs for t1 and t7 were ectopically inserted at the  
233 *HIS3* locus in the tDNA delete strain demonstrating that the ectopic insertion of the  
234 tDNAs is the cause of the change in expression of *MRM1*. These data suggest that  
235 tDNA mediated position effects are highly context dependent and only affect some pol II  
236 transcribed genes and not others.

237       Of the genes that were down regulated in the tDNA delete strain, several are  
238 involved in amino acid biosynthesis though these genes are scattered throughout the  
239 genome and do not localize near tDNAs. The reason why expression of these genes  
240 was reduced is unclear given that the two yeast strains used are isogenic with respect  
241 to nutritional markers, and there are between 10 and 16 copies of each of the six  
242 deleted tDNAs in the genome (t0=11 copies, t2=10 copies, t5=16 copies, t6=11 copies,  
243 t8=10 copies and t9=15 copies). It is possible that there is a reduction in transcript  
244 levels of these genes due to the small reduction in tDNA copy number without any other  
245 cell phenotype. This is consistent with a recent study where single tDNAs in yeast were  
246 deleted and these single deletions in multi-copy tDNA families also led to changes in the  
247 expression of a small set of genes involved in translation (Bloom-Ackermann et al.,  
248 2014).

249        **Scs2 binding at tDNAs is dependent upon a functional tDNA but other binding**  
250 **sites are tDNA independent**

251        The SMC proteins play an important role in nuclear organization (Uhlmann, 2016)  
252 and tDNAs are major binding sites for SMC proteins and the SMC loaders *Scs2/Scs4*  
253 and *Rsc*.. Our nucleosome mapping data indicated that loss of the tDNAs altered  
254 nucleosome positions at tDNAs. Since nucleosome free tDNAs are sites for the  
255 recruitment of RSC and *Scs2/Scs4* proteins (Damelin et al., 2002; Huang and Laurent,  
256 2004; Lopez-Serra et al., 2014; Parnell et al., 2008), we asked if loss of all the tDNAs on  
257 chromosome III reduced recruitment of *Scs2* proteins at these loci and whether it also  
258 affected loading of *Scs2* at other sites along the chromosome.

259        We performed a ChIP-seq of Myc-tagged *Scs2* to compare the distribution of this  
260 protein genomewide in the WT and tDNA delete strain (Figure 3). This analysis showed  
261 that *Scs2* bound multiple sites along the chromosome including tDNAs. At some tDNAs  
262 the *Scs2* binding is focused forming a sharp peak while at other tDNAs the binding is  
263 spread over a greater region. Comparison between the wild type and tDNA delete strain  
264 showed that *Scs2* levels did not decrease at any of the sites on the 15 chromosomes.  
265 Upon tDNA loss *Scs2* binding decreased at the tDNA loci on chromosome III or at sites  
266 in the immediate vicinity of tDNAs such as *LEU2* (adjacent to tDNA t8) (Figure 3 and  
267 Supplementary Figure 3) and *HMR* (adjacent to t0). On chromosome III the analysis  
268 also showed that there was no significant change in *Scs2* binding at other non-tDNA  
269 sites. For example we saw a large peak of *Scs2* binding at *Tel3L*. This peak at *Tel3L*  
270 was unchanged upon tDNA deletion (Supplementary Figure4) and similarly we did not

271 record any change in Scc2 levels at *CEN3* (Supplementary Figure4) confirming that  
272 tDNAs are not the sole determinants for the recruitment of Scc2 to chromosomes.

273 We confirmed this result by ChIP-qPCR against Scc2. A site at the *OCA4* gene was  
274 used as an internal control since this site does not bind Scc2 in wild type cells. We were  
275 unable to design unique primers at t6 due to the presence of repetitive sequences in the  
276 immediate vicinity of this gene and therefore could not map the localization of these  
277 proteins at this tDNA. Some primer pairs flank the tDNAs while others are adjacent to  
278 the tDNAs. Consistent with the ChIP-Seq data, in wild type cells, Scc2 is enriched at  
279 several of the tDNAs present on chromosome III (Figure 4A). We observed ~3.5 fold  
280 enrichment at t8 and ~2.5 enrichment at t0, t2 and t5. When the same protein was  
281 mapped in the tDNA delete strain we observed a significant reduction in Scc2 binding at  
282 these tDNAs. The levels dropped to those observed for the negative control *OCA4*  
283 except for the t8 tDNA, where the level dropped two fold but there was some residual  
284 Scc2 still present (Figure 4A). The amount of Scc2 did not change at *CEN3* when the  
285 tDNAs were absent from the chromosome, indicating that the binding of Scc2 to the  
286 centromere was independent of the tDNAs.

287 Scc2, in association with Scc4 helps recruit the SMC proteins to chromatin  
288 (D'Ambrosio et al., 2008; Kogut et al., 2009). Condensins localize to tDNAs and are  
289 necessary for the clustering of tDNAs in the nucleus (D'Ambrosio et al., 2008; Haeusler  
290 et al., 2008). We therefore mapped the binding of condensins at tDNAs on  
291 chromosome III using the HA-tagged Brn1 subunit. In wild type cells, the Brn1 profile  
292 was very similar to that previously observed for Scc2 with significant binding of Brn1 at

293 specific tDNAs. Correspondingly, the binding of the condensins was significantly  
294 reduced at these sites upon deletion of the tDNA promoters (Figure 4B).

### 295 **Chromosome mobility on the tDNA-less chromosome**

296 TFIIIC binding sites and tDNAs are described as chromosome organizing clamps  
297 because of their consistent association with specific landmarks within the nucleus  
298 (Haeusler and Engelke, 2006). The localization of tDNAs with the kinetochore is  
299 dependent upon condensins while the interactions of tDNAs with nuclear pores are  
300 dependent upon cohesins. These associations likely help tether the chromosome. Since  
301 loss of tDNAs from chromosome III led to a decrease in SMC proteins from these sites  
302 we wondered if this loss would affect chromosome tethering and mobility of the  
303 chromosome. To assess mobility we fluorescently-labeled specific sites on chromosome  
304 III, and used these to monitor chromosome mobility in the wild type and the tDNA  
305 deletion chromosomes. The location of a point on the chromosome was mapped in  
306 three-dimensional space over a defined period of time in relation to another point within  
307 the nucleus- the spindle pole body (marked with the Spc29-RFP fusion protein)- and  
308 mobility was characterized by mean square distance analysis (MSD) (Dion et al., 2012;  
309 Mine-Hattab and Rothstein, 2012; Verdaasdonk et al., 2013). Six chromosomal loci  
310 across chromosome III were assayed (Figure 5). These loci were tagged by inserting  
311 LacO arrays at these sites and monitored using a LacI-GFP fusion protein mediated  
312 fluorescence. Time-lapse movies of individual unbudded cells in the G1 phase of the  
313 cell cycle were imaged over the course of 10 minutes. Using this information, MSD  
314 curves were generated for each locus in both the WT and tDNA delete strain  
315 (Supplementary Figure 4). For the wild type chromosome III, *CEN3* was the most

316 constrained locus ( $R_c=415$  nm), with loci located further from the centromere exhibiting  
317 greater mobility. For example, *LEU2*, which is approximately 30kb from the centromere,  
318 had an  $R_c$  of 522nm while *HMR*, which is approximately 180kb from the centromere,  
319 had an  $R_c$  value of 688nm. This is consistent with previous data showing that the  
320 location of a locus in relation to the centromere is critical in determining its mobility, with  
321 loci closer to the centromere displaying decreased mobility compared to loci farther from  
322 the centromere (Albert et al., 2013; Tjong et al., 2012; Verdaasdonk et al., 2013). Out of  
323 the six loci assayed, none of the loci showed a statistically significant change in mobility  
324 following the loss of tDNAs (p values range from 0.15 to 0.75). The data indicate that  
325 tDNAs are not major determinants in constraining chromosome segment motion or that  
326 they are a subset of factors involved and the redundancy precludes observation of their  
327 function.

### 328 **tDNAs are not required for proper chromatin folding**

329 Transfer RNA genes have been proposed to affect chromatin fiber folding via the  
330 clustering of dispersed tRNA genes. The promoters in tDNAs are the binding site for the  
331 transcription factor TFIIIC and foci comprised of multiple TFIIIC-bound sites have been  
332 proposed to function in chromatin looping and folding (Duan et al., 2010; Haeusler and  
333 Engelke, 2004, 2006; Iwasaki and Noma, 2012; Noma et al., 2006; Pombo et al., 1999;  
334 Raab et al., 2012; Thompson et al., 2003). If tDNAs are major drivers of chromatin  
335 folding and looping, then elimination of these loci from an entire chromosome should  
336 lead to changes in the folding of the chromatin fiber or result in changes in chromosome  
337 packaging in the nucleus. We set out to determine the detailed three-dimensional  
338 organization of chromosome III lacking functional tDNAs. We used a modified

339 chromosome conformation capture technique called Micro-C XL (Hsieh et al., 2015;  
340 Hsieh et al., 2016). We chose Micro-C XL over HiC because it can capture both short  
341 length 3D interactions as well as long-length interactions and the method is not  
342 dependent upon the presence of restriction sites along the DNA. In brief, yeast cells  
343 were first cross-linked with formaldehyde and DSG, and chromatin was then fragmented  
344 into mono-nucleosomes via micrococcal nuclease digestion. Cross-linked, digested  
345 chromatin was ligated to capture chromosomal interactions. Size-selected ligation  
346 products were then purified and subjected to paired-end high-throughput sequencing.  
347 Sequencing reads were mapped back to the reference genome to determine the  
348 interacting regions of the chromosome, as previously described (Supplementary Figure  
349 5). Overall, Micro-C maps for wild type and tDNA mutant strains both exhibited  
350 previously described features of yeast chromosome folding, with no difference in  
351 chromatin folding between the tDNA delete and wild type strains. For example, ~2-10kb  
352 contact domains (CIDs/TADs) encompassing ~1-5 genes were observed, across all 16  
353 chromosomes, in the wild type strain. Inspection of the chromosome III in the tDNA  
354 delete cells showed that these domains persisted even upon loss of the tDNAs (Figure  
355 6). There was no significant change in the contact frequency versus genomic distance  
356 in the two strains, indicating no local chromatin decondensation or change in chromatin  
357 looping interactions. Thus, tDNAs do not appear to be responsible for the general  
358 folding of the chromatin fiber.

### 359 **tDNAs affect CEN-CEN interaction frequency**

360 While the overall folding of the chromatin fiber of chromosome III was not altered in  
361 the absence of tDNAs, and although Scc2 levels were unchanged at centromeres,



362 Micro-C analysis identified changes in contact frequency at centromeres (Figure 7). The  
363 16 centromeres in yeast are in close physical proximity to one another and cluster  
364 adjacent to the spindle pole body (Guacci et al., 1997; Jin et al., 1998; Jin et al., 2000).  
365 These CEN-CEN interactions are readily captured by 3C methods including HiC and  
366 Micro-C XL (Dekker et al., 2002; Duan et al., 2010; Hsieh et al., 2015), and are  
367 recapitulated in this study in the W-303 strain background. Interestingly compared to the  
368 wild type strain, the centromere of chromosome III in the tDNA delete strain showed an  
369 increased frequency of interactions with the other centromeres. Focusing on the 50kb  
370 pericentric region of each chromosome, we found that most CEN-CEN interactions were  
371 minimally affected by the loss of chromosome III tDNAs. For instance, interactions  
372 between the chromosome XVI centromere and the remaining centromeres showed that  
373 interactions between *CEN16* with the majority of centromeres remained unchanged, but  
374 that there was a ~20% increase in interaction strength between *CEN16* and *CEN3* when  
375 chromosome III lacked tDNAs (Figure 7B).

376 This increase in *CEN3* interaction was not confined to *CEN16*. When the same  
377 analysis was performed using *CEN3* as an anchor, we observed increased frequency of  
378 interactions between *CEN3* and all of the other chromosomal centromeres in the tDNA  
379 delete strain (Figure 7C). Most of the interaction counts increased approximately 20%  
380 compared to WT, with the highest increase seen at *CEN3-CEN9*. The increase in the  
381 *CEN3-CEN* interactions in the tDNA deletion strain was significantly higher ( $p=1.22 \times 10^{-14}$ )  
382 compared to values of all *CEN16-CEN* interactions (excluding *CEN16-CEN3*). These  
383 results show that upon deletion of all tDNAs across chromosome III, inter-chromosomal

384 interactions increase between *CEN3* and the other centromeres, suggesting that  
385 functional tDNAs likely antagonize CEN-CEN associations during interphase.

### 386 **tDNAs play a role in *HML-HMR* long-range association**

387 The silent loci *HML* and *HMR* reside on chromosome III separated by approximately  
388 300kb along the linear chromosome. However, the *HML* locus, located 11kb from  
389 *TEL3L*, is in close three-dimensional proximity to the *HMR* locus, located 23kb from  
390 *TEL3R*. This long-range interaction has previously been detected using both live-cell  
391 microscopy and HiC analysis (Dekker et al., 2002; Kirkland and Kamakaka, 2013; Miele  
392 et al., 2009) and we recapitulate this finding in the Micro-C experiment with the wild type  
393 strain (Figure 8A). Comparing wild type cells to the tDNA delete strain, we noticed that  
394 the interaction of *HML* with *HMR* was slightly altered in the tDNA delete strain. In wild  
395 type cells, there was an interaction between *HML* and *HMR* and this interaction zone  
396 became less defined and more diffuse upon deletion of the tDNAs and a slightly  
397 increased interaction frequency was observed across a broader region of chromosome  
398 III. While *HMR* still interacted with *HML* in the deletion strain, it appeared to also display  
399 interactions with other loci (including *TEL3L*). Similarly, the segment containing  
400 *HML/TEL3L* showed increased interactions with *TEL3R* rather than being restricted to  
401 interacting with sequences at *HMR*. These results suggest that deletion of chromosome  
402 III tDNAs subtly perturbed *HML-HMR* long-range interactions.

403 Given that Micro-C measures population averages of stable long-range interactions  
404 we decided to measure *HML-HMR* interactions in live cells using fluorescence  
405 microscopy. We wished to determine if the tDNA located adjacent to *HMR* influenced  
406 *HML-HMR* interactions. We generated a strain with multiple Lac operator sequences

407 inserted adjacent to *HMR* (at the *GIT1* gene) and multiple copies of the Tet operator  
408 sequences inserted adjacent to *HML*. Expression of the fusion proteins CFP-LacI and  
409 YFP-TetR in this strain enabled us to visualize these loci in living yeast by fluorescence  
410 imaging. The distance between *HML* and *HMR* was then measured in wild type and a  
411 strain lacking the t0 tDNA (Figure 8B). We found that in wild type cells, *HML* was in  
412 close proximity to *HMR* and the median distance between these loci was 425nm.  
413 Consistent with our expectations, deletion of Sir proteins resulted in separation of these  
414 loci, with the median distance increasing to 840nm, validating this assay. Importantly,  
415 when we eliminated the t0 tDNA, this led to an increase in the distance between *HML*  
416 and *HMR* compared to wild type cells, with the median distance between *HML* and  
417 *HMR* shifting to 706nm upon deletion of the tDNA. Given the presence of outliers in the  
418 data we used a Mann-Whitney U-Test to determine statistical significance between wild  
419 type and the various mutants. With an n of approximately 300 cells for the wild type and  
420 tDNA delete strain we observed a p value of  $3.1 \times 10^{-14}$  showing that the differences  
421 observed were statistically significant. Closer analysis of the plot also indicates that  
422 upon deletion of the tDNA there is heterogeneity in the distances between the two loci  
423 and there is a continuum of values. Thus there are cells where the two loci are in very  
424 close proximity as well as cells where the two loci are very far apart and cells where the  
425 loci are at intermediate distances. This might help explain the fact that the difference  
426 observed by Micro-C is not large.

427 The tDNA t0 is necessary for the recruitment of cohesins to the silenced loci and the  
428 SMC proteins are necessary for long-range *HML-HMR* interactions (Kirkland and  
429 Kamakaka, 2013). However not all tDNAs are equivalent in their ability to recruit

430 cohesins to the silenced loci (Donze and Kamakaka, 2001; Dubey and Gartenberg,  
431 2007). We therefore inquired if tDNAs that are unable to recruit cohesins are able to  
432 restore long-range association between *HML* and *HMR*. We replaced the *HMR* tDNA<sup>THR</sup>  
433 (t0) with tDNA<sup>THR</sup> (NL1) from chromosome XIV. This tDNA has identical sequence to the  
434 t0 tDNA in the body of the gene and therefore has the identical BoxA and BoxB  
435 promoter sequence and spacing as tDNA t0. However sequences flanking this tDNA are  
436 distinct and the NL1 tDNA is unable to recruit/bind cohesins (Donze and Kamakaka,  
437 2001; Dubey and Gartenberg, 2007). When we replaced a 300bp t0 tDNA-containing  
438 fragment with a 300 bp NL1 tDNA-containing fragment we found that the NL1 tDNA was  
439 not able to robustly restore long-range *HML-HMR* interactions, suggesting that tDNA  
440 mediated cohesin loading might be necessary for these long-range interactions.

#### 441 **Replication fork pausing at tDNA mediates long-range chromosomal** 442 **interactions**

443 We had previously shown that double strand repair proteins help deposit cohesins to  
444 the silenced loci, which then led to homology dependent long-range interactions  
445 between *HML* and *HMR* (Kirkland et al., 2015; Kirkland and Kamakaka, 2013). Since we  
446 had discovered that a specific tDNA played a role in the clustering of *HML* and *HMR*, we  
447 wished to know the mechanism by which this phenomenon occurred. Replication fork  
448 pausing/stalling is observed at many tDNAs. This results in the deposition of  $\gamma$ -H2A at  
449 the tDNA and this is necessary for fork recovery from the pause/stall (Achar and Foiani,  
450 2017; Azvolinsky et al., 2009; D'Ambrosio et al., 2008; Deshpande and Newlon, 1996;  
451 Kirkland and Kamakaka, 2013; Lengronne et al., 2004; Szilard et al., 2010). Rrm3 and  
452 topoisomerases play a role in the recovery of stalled replication forks at protein bound

453 sites in the genome such as tDNAs (Achar and Foiani, 2017; Azvolinsky et al., 2006;  
454 Ivessa et al., 2003). Therefore we analyzed the effect of these mutants on *HML-HMR*  
455 long-range association. The data show that deletion of Rrm3 as well as mutants in the  
456 DNA polymerase- $\epsilon$  subunit Dpb3 and the topoisomerase Top1 lead to a statistically  
457 significant decrease in *HML-HMR* long-range association (Figure 5B and figure legend).  
458 Thus the presence of a tDNA as well as normal Rrm3, Top1 and Dpb3 function are  
459 necessary for the establishment or maintenance of the long-range association between  
460 *HML* and *HMR*.

#### 461 **tDNA presence enhances epigenetic gene silencing at clustered *HML-HMR***

462 Since the t0 tDNA located adjacent to the silenced *HMR* domain is necessary for the  
463 long-range clustering of the silenced domain, we wondered if reduction in clustering had  
464 any effect on gene silencing. We asked whether tDNA mediated loss of *HML-HMR*  
465 interactions affected gene silencing at *HML* and *HMR*. Silencing can be assayed by  
466 insertion of reporter genes within or immediately adjacent to the silenced domains. In  
467 wild type yeast when a reporter gene is inserted immediately adjacent to these loci, the  
468 genes is metastably silenced. A cassette containing an H2B (*HTB1*) promoter driving  
469 *HTB1-EYFP* was integrated to the right of *HML* while a cassette containing the *HTB1*  
470 promoter driving *HTB1-ECFP* was integrated to the left of *HMR*. In addition, on  
471 chromosome XV, a cassette containing an *HTB1* promoter driving *HTB1-mCherry* was  
472 integrated as a control euchromatic marker (Mano et al., 2013). The *HTB1-mCherry*  
473 gene is active in all cells in the population. The *HML::YFP* and the *HMR::CFP* reporter  
474 genes are present immediately outside of *HML* and *HMR* but reside in a region bound  
475 by Sir proteins (Oki and Kamakaka, 2005; Ruben et al., 2011). These genes adopt one

476 of two expression states, either active or silent. For visualization, single cells were  
477 placed on microfluidic plates and monitored continuously by fluorescence microscopy.  
478 Fluorescent signal from each individual cell was recorded every 40 minutes over a  
479 period of ~24 hours. This allowed us to trace the lineage of each daughter from the  
480 founder cell and score the cells according to the expression of the reporter genes at  
481 *HML* and *HMR*. Cell lineage trees were traced and each cell in the lineage was  
482 assigned a positive or negative value for expressing each reporter as it underwent cell  
483 division (Figure 9A).

484 We initially analyzed the silencing of the reporter genes in the wild type strain.  
485 Consistent with previous data (Mano et al., 2013), reporters at *HML* and *HMR* were  
486 regulated such that the reporters maintained their activity state over many generations  
487 and occasionally switched to the opposite expression state. Once they switched they  
488 maintained the new state for several generations. Furthermore, when one reporter was  
489 active the other was also more likely to be active suggesting long-range coordination  
490 between *HML* and *HMR* though this coordination is not absolute.

491 We next investigated silencing of the reporters in a strain where chromosome III  
492 lacked all the tDNAs. In this strain, the reporter at *HMR* was active more often  
493 compared to the wild type strain. While the effect was not as pronounced, the same  
494 effect was also observed at *HML* (Figure 9A tDNA delete panel). Furthermore, the  
495 silenced state was less stable, and switched to the active state more often. This  
496 suggests that silencing at these loci is influenced by the tDNAs.

497 While expression states at both *HML* and *HMR* were stably inherited, the  
498 transcriptional state did flip in daughter cells (Figure 9B). An expressed to repressed

499 transition was a less frequent event compared to the repressed to expressed transitions  
500 regardless of genotype. This is not entirely surprising since the reporter genes were  
501 inserted immediately outside of the two silencers in a zone where the silent state is  
502 metastable (Valenzuela et al., 2008; Valenzuela et al., 2006). However, when analyzing  
503 the repressed to expressed transitions, we saw a discernible difference in the frequency  
504 of the expression of the reporter genes at *HMR*. The full tDNA delete strain showed an  
505 increased frequency of cells undergoing the transitions at *HMR* compared to wild type  
506 cells and the inverse was seen for the expressed to repressed transition (Suppl. Table  
507 3).

508 Taken together, the data suggest that deletion of tDNAs on chromosome III had an  
509 effect on the ability of *HMR* to interact with *HML* and diminution of this clustering led to  
510 an alteration in the stability of the silenced state at these loci.

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515        **Discussion**

516        tDNAs are middle repetitive DNA sequences scattered across all 16 chromosomes  
517        and their primary function is the synthesis of tRNAs. In this manuscript, we show that  
518        tDNAs affect local chromatin structure, which then impinges on chromosome  
519        architecture. tDNAs 1) affect chromatin structure by maintaining local nucleosome free  
520        regions along the fiber and precisely positioned nucleosomes immediately outside of the  
521        tDNAs, 2) recruit cohesins and condensins 3) affect nuclear architecture by influencing  
522        centromere clustering and 4) alter heterochromatin clustering leading to changes in the  
523        fidelity of inheritance of gene silencing.

524        The binding of specific proteins such as CTCF to a site on the DNA can affect  
525        nucleosome positions over long distances (Fu et al., 2008). Nucleosome depletion at  
526        the gene and positioned nucleosomes flanking the gene is a hallmark of tDNAs (Cole et  
527        al., 2012; Dhillon et al., 2009; Dion et al., 2007; Harismendy et al., 2003; Moqtaderi and  
528        Struhl, 2004; Nagarajavel et al., 2013; Oki and Kamakaka, 2005; Roberts et al., 2003;  
529        Yuan et al., 2005). Our data show that loss of the tDNA promoters' only affect  
530        nucleosome positions in the immediate vicinity of the tDNA. The nucleosome positioning  
531        effects mediated by the tDNA bound transcription factors TFIIC and TFIIB are not  
532        transmitted over long distances.

533        **tDNAs, SMC proteins and chromatin folding**

534        The SMC proteins are involved in higher order chromosome organization in all  
535        eukaryotes and have been extensively mapped. tDNAs are binding sites for all three  
536        classes of SMC proteins (cohesin, condensin and repairsin), the SMC protein loaders  
537        Scc2 and Scc4 and the meiotic Rec8 SMC protein (Blat and Kleckner, 1999;



538 D'Ambrosio et al., 2008; Glynn et al., 2004; Klein et al., 1999; Kogut et al., 2009;  
539 Laloraya et al., 2000; Lindroos et al., 2006; Noma, 2017). Given these intimate  
540 connections between tDNAs and the SMC proteins our data indicate that loss of the  
541 tDNA promoters does lead to loss of SMC proteins from tDNAs but this effect is tDNA  
542 specific since we do not see a loss of SMC proteins from centromeres or Scc2 from  
543 other sites in the genome. Surprisingly the loss of Scc2 and Brn1 from tDNAs does not  
544 affect chromatin folding. While clustering of tDNAs in the nucleus (as measured by  
545 fluorescence microscopy) is dependent upon the SMC proteins (Haeusler and Engelke,  
546 2006; Noma et al., 2006) the precise contribution of tDNAs in this process remained  
547 unclear. Our Micro-C analysis of chromosome III suggests that tDNAs are unlikely to be  
548 the key drivers of chromatin looping and folding or tethering to nuclear substructures  
549 since we did not observe any change in contact frequency across the entire  
550 chromosome. Furthermore, we did not observe any discernible effect on chromosome  
551 loss rates or chromosome mobility. It is likely that tDNA independent SMC protein  
552 binding sites masks the tDNA-mediated effects. SMC proteins bind only half of the  
553 tDNAs in the nucleus and only a third of the SMC protein binding sites localize at or  
554 near tDNAs (D'Ambrosio et al., 2008). The lack of phenotype would also be consistent  
555 with previous data that showed that a reduction in the levels of the SMC proteins does  
556 not affect the properties of the chromosome arm (Heidinger-Pauli et al., 2010). Recently  
557 a synthetic yeast chromosome III was generated and characterized (Annaluru et al.,  
558 2014; Mercy et al., 2017). The synthetic chromosome lacks repetitive sequences such  
559 as TY elements, LTRs and tRNA genes. The 3D structure of this chromosome was  
560 determined using HiC and the data show that there were no major differences between

561 this chromosome and the wild type chromosome except for a shortening of the length.  
562 While this chromosome lacks multiple elements the three-dimensional folding data are  
563 consistent with our conclusions from the Micro-C analysis of the same chromosome  
564 lacking only tDNAs. While it is possible that redundancy of structural elements masks  
565 tDNA-mediated effects on chromatin folding it is also possible that chromatin folding is  
566 driven by underlying DNA sequence and not tDNA mediated interactions. The yeast  
567 chromosomes have isochores with G-C rich, gene rich R-band segments alternating  
568 with AT-rich G-band segments (Dujon, 1996; Sharp and Lloyd, 1993), which exhibit  
569 different functional properties (Blat et al., 2002; Dekker, 2007). Chromosome III has a  
570 G-C segment from 20 to 100 kb on the left arm followed by an A-T rich central segment  
571 from 100 to 200kb on the right arm and then a second G-C rich segment from 200 to  
572 290kb on the same arm. In this scenario, the underlying A-T rich DNA sequence likely  
573 plays a dominant role in the three dimensional folding of chromatin. tDNAs are often  
574 syntenic along chromosomes (Raab et al., 2012; Raab and Kamakaka, 2010) and it is  
575 possible that these positions have been selected for optimal gene activity rather than  
576 being involved in chromatin loop formation (Gehlen et al., 2012). Thus while the A-T rich  
577 isochore is structurally and functionally distinct (Baudat and Nicolas, 1997; Dekker et  
578 al., 2002; Gerton et al., 2000) and is the region rich in tDNAs (See Figure1) our results  
579 would suggest that the tDNAs do not play a significant role in either tethering of this  
580 isochore or the overall folding of this segment. The tDNA clustering observed by  
581 microscopy could simply be a function of linear proximity of tDNAs along the chromatin  
582 fiber.

583 **tDNAs and centromere clustering**

584 Chromosome tethering to nuclear substructures enables nuclear organization  
585 (Gehlen et al., 2012; Taddei et al., 2010) and centromeres and the telomeres along with  
586 their associated proteins play a key role in this process (Andrulis et al., 2002; Bupp et  
587 al., 2007; Bystricky et al., 2004; Duan et al., 2010; Gartenberg et al., 2004; Guacci et  
588 al., 1997; Jin et al., 2000; Mekhail et al., 2008; Schober et al., 2009; Taddei and Gasser,  
589 2004; Tjong et al., 2012). All sixteen centromeres cluster together in a ring around the  
590 membrane-embedded spindle pole body. The centromeres are tethered to the spindle  
591 pole body via direct interactions between kinetochore-associated proteins and the  
592 spindle pole body associated microtubules in interphase (Bystricky et al., 2004; Dekker  
593 et al., 2002; Guacci et al., 1997; Jin et al., 2000). Other factors are likely to influence  
594 this phenomenon but remain unknown. tDNA density is almost 2 fold higher in the  
595 pericentric region of *S. cerevisiae* chromosomes including chromosome III (Snider et al.,  
596 2014) (see Figure 1). While tDNAs have been shown to help tether centromeres to the  
597 spindle axis during mitosis (Snider et al., 2014), in interphase nuclei, the loss of tDNAs  
598 results in increased interactions between the clustered centromeres. The physical  
599 presence of tDNAs in the pericentric region could interfere with the close packaging of  
600 centromeres during interphase. This could be due to transcription-mediated effects  
601 since tRNA genes are highly active. In *S. pombe*, mutations that reduce tDNA  
602 transcription result in increased tDNA association with the centromere and increase  
603 chromosome condensation during mitosis. Furthermore, tDNA association with  
604 centromeres increases when the genes become inactive (Iwasaki et al., 2010). Thus,  
605 tDNA clustering at transcriptionally active RNA pol III transcription factories near the  
606 centromeres could hinder closer centromere-centromere interactions during interphase

607 while a decrease in tDNA transcription during mitosis could help tether centromeres to  
608 the spindle axis during mitosis (Snider et al., 2014).

609 An alternative though not mutually exclusive possibility is based on the observation  
610 that transcriptionally active tDNAs interact with nuclear pores (Casolari et al., 2004;  
611 Chen and Gartenberg, 2014; Ruben et al., 2011). It is thus possible that there is a  
612 competition between pericentric tDNA- nuclear pore interactions in opposition to  
613 centromere-centromere interactions. In this scenario, the loss of tDNA tethering to the  
614 nuclear pore would enable the centromere greater freedom of movement thus enabling  
615 closer centromere-centromere interactions.

#### 616 **tDNA effects on *HML-HMR* interactions and the inheritance of gene silencing**

617 Gene silencing is primarily a function of the Sir proteins though numerous other  
618 factors influence the process (Gartenberg and Smith, 2016). Proto-silencers are  
619 sequence elements that on their own are unable to silence a gene, but when located  
620 near a silencer increase the efficiency of silencing (Fourel et al., 2002; Lebrun et al.,  
621 2001). Our demonstration that the tDNA affects silencing of a reporter adjacent to the  
622 silent *HMR* domain suggest that tDNAs function as proto-silencers. Our data suggest  
623 that tDNA mediated clustering of silent loci might be important in the silencing of these  
624 loci and the loss of long-range association might reduce the efficient inheritance of the  
625 silent state. This is analogous to the observations that gene clustering at active  
626 chromatin hubs and transcription factories increases the efficiency of transcription as  
627 well as the data showing that telomere clustering increases the efficiency of silencing at  
628 sub-telomeric sequences (Gasser et al., 2004).

629 This unexpected observation also raises the question of how might tDNAs influence  
630 long-range *HML-HMR* interactions. tDNAs, including the tDNA next to *HMR*, are sites of  
631 replication slowing/pausing (Admire et al., 2006; Azvolinsky et al., 2009; Deshpande  
632 and Newlon, 1996; Ivessa et al., 2003; Lemoine et al., 2005; Wang et al., 2001). The  
633 tDNA adjacent to *HMR* is a site of replication fork pausing (Kitada et al., 2011; Szilard et  
634 al., 2010). We recently showed that long-range *HML-HMR* interactions require  
635 homologous sequences to be present at these loci (Kirkland et al., 2015; Kirkland and  
636 Kamakaka, 2013) and we now show that mutations in replication coupled homologous  
637 recombination repair proteins including the SMC proteins, Rrm3, Top1 and Dpb3 lead to  
638 a reduction in *HML-HMR* interactions. Based on the accumulated data we would posit  
639 that replication fork slowing/pausing results in the deposition of  $\gamma$ H2A and SMC proteins  
640 at tDNAs followed by a homology search leading to *HML-HMR* interactions. The re-  
641 formation of silenced chromatin following replication precludes the eviction of  $\gamma$ H2A  
642 (Keogh et al., 2006) thereby stabilizing SMC protein binding, which then maintains the  
643 long-range *HML-HMR* association. The tDNAs thus help initiate a network of  
644 interactions mediated by the SMC proteins and the Sir proteins leading to *HML-HMR*  
645 association and chromosome folding. We would like to posit that a series of transient  
646 interactions during replication aid in the setting up of the final optimal nuclear  
647 architecture found in the interphase nucleus.

648 In conclusion, tDNAs primarily affect local chromatin structure. Each tDNA affects  
649 nucleosome positions and protein binding in its immediate vicinity. These local  
650 perturbations functionally and structurally interact with neighboring regulatory regions  
651 resulting in tDNA mediated pleiotropic effects. In some instances tDNAs affect the

652 expression of neighboring pol II transcribed genes by the phenomenon of local tgm  
653 silencing. In another context tDNA mediated replication pausing result in the  
654 establishment of long-range heterochromatin interactions, which then influence the  
655 inheritance of silencing states at these loci.

656

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665

666 **Materials and Methods**

667 **Yeast strains and primers**

668 Table S1 and S2 list the yeast strains and the primer sequences that were used in this  
669 study.

670 **MNase-Seq**

671 MNase-Seq experiments were carried out as previously described (Cole et al., 2012).  
672 In brief, isolated nuclei were digested with MNase to mono-nucleosomes. Paired-end  
673 sequencing libraries were prepared (Illumina). Paired reads (50 nt) were mapped to the  
674 reference genome (SacCer2) using Bowtie-2 (Cole et al., 2014; Langmead and  
675 Salzberg, 2012; Ocampo et al., 2016). For analysis of nucleosome occupancy  
676 (coverage) at tDNAs, both across the genome and on chromosome III, tDNAs were  
677 aligned on their start sites or at the deletion points. Data sets were normalized to their  
678 genomic average, set at 1, using only DNA fragments in the 120 to 180 bp range. In one  
679 experiment, mono-nucleosomal DNA was gel-purified, but not in the replicate, in which  
680 short fragments (< 120 bp) derived from digestion of the TFIIB-TFIIC complex at  
681 tDNAs (Nagarajavel 2013) were observed. The MNase-seq data are available at the  
682 GEO

683 database:(GSE98304 <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo/query/acc.cgi?token=wnynwao>  
684 [qvnktfmb&acc=GSE98304](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo/query/acc.cgi?token=wnynwao&acc=GSE98304))

685 **ChIP-Seq and RNA-Seq**

686 Chromatin immunoprecipitation reactions were performed essentially as described  
687 above but elution of the precipitated DNA from Protein A/G beads was carried out with  
688 two successive washes in 175ul of 0.1M NaHCO<sub>3</sub>/1% SDS. 50ul of each input sample

689 was diluted to 350ul with the elution buffer. NaCl was added to a final concentration of  
690 0.2M and cross-links were reversed with an overnight incubation at 65C in a  
691 Thermomixer. All samples were treated with 60ug of RNAase A (Sigma) at 37C for 60'  
692 followed by a Proteinase K (Roche) treatment at 50C for 60'. DNA was purified with a  
693 successive phenol chloroform and chloroform extraction followed by precipitation with 2  
694 volumes of ethanol and 50ug of glycogen (Roche).

695 The ChIP and Input DNA was spun, washed with 70% ethanol and re-suspended in  
696 deionized water. DNA quantitation was performed using a Qubit dsDNA HS Assay kit  
697 prior to confirmation by qPCR.

698 Libraries for ChIP-Seq were prepared at the Functional Genomics Laboratory, UC  
699 Berkeley and sequenced on an Illumina HiSeq4000 at the Vincent J Coates Laboratory  
700 at UC Berkeley.

701 For RNA-Seq, yeast strains JRY2334 and JKY690 were grown in duplicate in 50ml YPD  
702 to a cell density of  $6-7 \times 10^6$  cells/ml, spun, washed in 25ml PBS, divided into 4 aliquots  
703 per culture and transferred to 1.5ml microfuge tubes. Cell pellets were flash frozen in  
704 liquid N<sub>2</sub> and transferred to -70C. RNA, library preparation and sequencing for RNA-  
705 Seq were performed by ACGT Inc. Wheeling, IL.

706 Transcript abundances were estimated using Kallisto (Bray et al., 2016). Differential  
707 analysis of gene expression data was performed using the R package Sleuth (Pimentel  
708 et al., 2017). Likelihood ratio test and Wald test were used to identify the differentially  
709 expressed genes (false discovery rate adjusted p-value (or q-value) < 0.05 in both  
710 tests). Since the likelihood ratio test does not produce any metric equivalent to the fold



711 change, we used the Wald test to generate the beta statistic, which approximates to  
712 the log<sub>2</sub> fold change in expression between the two conditions.

713 Sequence data have been deposited in the GEO database.

714 <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo/query/acc.cgi?token=krihsykczdmbpox&acc=GSE106>

715 [250](#)

## 716 **ChIP**

717 ChIP-qPCR experiments on all Brn1 and Scc2/4 were performed as previously  
718 described (Dhillon et al., 2009; Kirkland and Kamakaka, 2013). In brief, yeast cells of a  
719 strain of interest were inoculated and grown overnight in 300 ml of YPD media to an OD  
720 of 1-2. These cells were then fixed in 1% formaldehyde for a duration of 2 hours at  
721 room temperature. The reaction was then quenched with glycine, and the cells were  
722 spun down and washed in 1X PBS. The cross linked cells were then flash frozen in dry  
723 ice and stored at -70°C. In preparation for IP, the cells were thawed on ice, broken  
724 apart by bead beating, and sonicated to achieve a desired chromatin size of ~300 bp.  
725 Once the size of the chromatin was checked, cell debris was cleared from the sample  
726 by high-speed centrifugation. The cross linked, sized chromatin was split into 2  
727 samples and IP's were done overnight in the presence of both an antibody to the protein  
728 of interest as well as pre-blocked A/G-Sepharose beads at 4°C. 50 µl of input  
729 chromatin was also taken from each IP sample prior to addition of the antibody.  
730 Chromatin elution was done using 10% Chelex 100 (Bio-Rad) along with proteinase K  
731 treatment. After elution, both input and IP DNA were quantitated via a Picogreen  
732 fluorescent quantification assay (Invitrogen). For each qPCR reaction, input DNA was  
733 run in triplicate and IP DNA was run in duplicate. An equal amount of input and IP DNA

734 was used in each individual reaction. The enrichment for a given probe was then  
735 calculated as IP/Input, and was further normalized to the OCA4 locus. The results of  
736 each ChIP-qPCR are comprised from two independent crosslinks per strain assayed,  
737 and for each crosslink two independent IPs were done.

### 738 **Mean Squared Distance Analysis**

739 Mean-squared distance analysis was carried out as previously described (Hediger et al.,  
740 2002; Heun et al., 2001; Verdaasdonk et al., 2013). In brief, we built strains that  
741 contained a 64x lacO array at specific points along chromosome III. We then integrated  
742 a cassette containing an spc29-RFP fusion protein elsewhere in the genome. This  
743 protein is an essential kinetochore protein, and therefore serves as a marker for the  
744 spindle pole body. The spindle pole body served as a fixed point to which we could  
745 measure the movement of our GFP tagged loci in 3D space over a period of 10  
746 minutes. Z-stack images of the cells were taken every 30 seconds during the time-  
747 lapse, and the data are used to calculate the radius of constraint using the equation:  
748  $\langle (X_t - X_{t+\Delta t})^2 \rangle$ . MSD curves were generated for each locus in both the WT and tDNA  
749 delete strain (Supplementary Figure 2). The plateau of the MSD curve was used to  
750 calculate the radius of constraint ( $R_c$ ) for each locus. This analysis was performed in no  
751 less than 35 cells per genotype assayed. The data were plotted in “NotBoxPlots”  
752 (source code obtained from <https://github.com/raacampbell/notBoxPlot>)

### 753 **HML-HMR Colocalization analysis**

754 Distance assays between *HML* and *HMR* was performed as previously described  
755 (Kirkland and Kamakaka, 2013). Fluorescence microscopy was performed on live yeast  
756 cells after growing the cells in YMD with Leucine, uracil, tryptophan, lysine, adenine and

757 histidine. Cells were grown to an Od A600 of approximately 0.6. Cells were washed in  
758 YMD, placed on YMD-agar patches on slides, and imaged. Microscopy was performed  
759 using an Olympus xi70 inverted wide-field microscope with DeltaVision precision stage  
760 using a Coolsnap HQ2 camera and a 100x/1.4 oil objective. The 20 image stacks for  
761 each image were acquired with a step size of 200nm using the appropriate wavelength  
762 for CFP, YFP, GFP or mCherry. The acquisition software used was softWoRx3.7.1. The  
763 images were cropped using Adobe Photoshop. For the distance analysis between *HML*  
764 and *HMR*, the distance between the yellow and cyan dots were calculated in  
765 nanometers using the “measure” tool in three dimensions. The measured distances  
766 were loaded into R software ([www.r-project.org](http://www.r-project.org)) and the data were plotted as a box plot.  
767 The box includes the middle 50% of the data with the line in the box being the median  
768 value. The data presented are the sum of at least two independent strains.

### 769 **Single Cell Expression Analysis**

770 Single cell expression analysis was performed as previously described (Mano et al.,  
771 2013). Briefly, cells were grown in YPD at 30C and placed in a microfluidics device.  
772 Time-lapse photos of growing cells were recorded using an Axio Observer Z1  
773 microscope using a 40x objective. The ECYP and EYFP fluorescence intensities were  
774 normalized to the highest level of fluorescence observed and the Euchromatic mCherry  
775 signal.

### 776 **Micro-C**

777 Micro-C was performed as previously described (Hsieh et al., 2015). The detailed  
778 method have been described (Hsieh et al., 2016). In brief, this technique provides  
779 nucleosome level resolution of all of the interactions occurring across the genome by

780 using MNase digestion in lieu of a restriction enzyme as in traditional Hi-C techniques.

781 The interactome data were deposited in the GEO database GSE98543

782 (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo/query/acc.cgi?acc=GSE98543>)

783

784 **Antibodies**

785 Antibodies used in ChIP were as follows; Scc2-Myc: anti-myc 9E10 (Abcam) = 5  $\mu$ l,

786 Brn1-HA: anti-HA HA.11 (Covance) = 5  $\mu$ l.

787

788 **Figure Legends:**

789 **Figure 1) Schematic of Budding Yeast Chromosome III**

790 The positions of the 10 tDNAs on chromosome III are shown. Yellow arrowheads  
791 denote tDNAs and the direction of the arrowhead indicates the direction of transcription.  
792 Blue arrowheads mark other loci of interest in this study.

793 **Figure 2) Deletion of tDNAs leads to local changes in chromatin structure**

794 Left Panel: Comparison of nucleosome occupancy at 265 tDNAs on all of yeast  
795 chromosomes except chromosome III. The tDNAs were aligned on their transcription  
796 start sites (TSS set at 0). WT (black) tDNA delete (red).

797 Right Panel: Analysis of the nucleosome occupancy at tDNAs on chromosome III in  
798 the wild type and tDNA delete strain.

799 **Figure 3) Scc2 binding along chromosome III in the wild type and tDNA delete**  
800 **strain**

801 ChIP-seq mapping of Myc-Scc2. The top panels show the distribution of Scc2 at  
802 tDNAs on chromosome III in wild type cells (left) and tDNA delete strains (right). Bottom  
803 panels show the distribution of Scc2 at 265 tDNAs on all chromosomes except  
804 chromosome III in the wild type (left) and the tDNA delete strain (right).

805 **Figure 4) Scc2 and Brn1 binding at tDNAs on chromosome III**

806 A) ChIP-qPCR mapping of Myc-Scc2. The data show the distribution of Scc2 at  
807 specific sites along chromosome III in the wild type and tDNA delete strain. The data

808 are the results of two independent crosslinks from which four IP's were performed. For  
809 each amplicon, the fold enrichment compared to input was first calculated and the data  
810 were then normalized to the *OCA4* locus. An unpaired t-test assuming unequal SD was  
811 used to test for significance of differences between the wild type and tDNA delete strain.

812 B) ChIP-qPCR mapping of HA-Brn1, condensin. Fold enrichment and statistical  
813 significance was calculated in the same way as for the Scc2 ChIP and normalized to the  
814 *OCA4* locus.

### 815 **Figure 5) Effect of tDNA deletion on chromosome III mobility**

816 Mean square displacement analysis of seven loci along chromosome III in wild type  
817 and tDNA delete strains are shown. Box plots represent the data obtained from the  
818 MSD experiments. Components of the boxplot are as follows; red line represents the  
819 mean, pink bar is the 95% confidence interval, purple bar is the standard deviation, and  
820 the grey dots represent individual values obtained from each cell analyzed. The green  
821 arrowheads beneath the chromosome III schematic show the locations of the loci  
822 assayed. The radius of constraint ( $R_c$ ) measurement was calculated from MSD graphs  
823 that were generated over the course of a 10-minute time-lapse movie. These  
824 experiments are the result of time-lapse images taken from at least 35 cells per locus  
825 assayed. A t-test was used to determine significance of differences observed between  
826 the wild type and tDNA delete strain for each loci.

### 827 **Figure 6) Micro-C Interaction plots of chromosome III.**

828 The heat maps show the interactomes for both wild type and tDNA delete strains for

829 chromosome III. The X and Y-axes show the positions along the chromosome. Areas of  
830 red denote regions of high densities of internucleosomal interactions, while lighter  
831 colored areas denote decreased interaction.

### 832 **Figure 7) Micro-C analysis of the centromeres**

833 A) Deletion of tDNAs on chromosome III leads to an increase in *CEN3* interaction  
834 with all other centromeres in the genome. Micro-C experiment analysis of *CEN-CEN*  
835 interactions is shown. The heat maps show a piled alignment of all centromeres.  
836 Interaction frequencies are denoted by the colored bar to the right of each heat map.

837 B) The graphs are a quantification of *CEN-CEN* interactions. The graph examines the  
838 interaction of *CEN16* with all other centromeres. The x-axis is the interaction counts of a  
839 50 kb segment centered on each centromere (in parts per million).

840 C) The graph examines the interaction of *CEN3* with all other centromeres. The x-  
841 axis is the interaction counts of a 50 kb segment centered on each centromere (in parts  
842 per million). The increase in the *CEN3-CEN* interactions in the tDNA deletion strain was  
843 significantly higher ( $p=1.22 \times 10^{-14}$ ) compared to values of all *CEN16-CEN* interactions  
844 (excluding *CEN16-CEN3*).

### 845 **Figure 8) Long-Range *HML-HMR* association**

846 A) Deletion of tDNAs on chromosome III leads to a change in *HML-HMR* interaction  
847 as measured by Micro-C. Heat maps display the interaction profile between segments  
848 on chromosome<sub>[SEP]</sub> III that include *HML* and *HMR* (obtained from the Micro-C data).  
849 Increased interactions are denoted by red and decreased interactions are denoted by

850 blue. The data are displayed in a log<sub>2</sub> format. The x and y axes denote the area of the  
851 chromosome displayed on each axis of the heat map.

852 B) Deletion of tDNA t0 leads to perturbation of *HML-HMR* long-range association.  
853 The violin plots show data of the distances between *HML::TetR-YFP* and *HMR::CFP-*  
854 *LacI* foci in asynchronously growing strains. Mann-Whitney U-Test were performed to  
855 determine statistical significance between wild type and the various mutants. Wild type  
856 (n=305), *sir4Δ* (n=134) (p=6.7 e<sup>-16</sup>), tDNA t0Δ (n=317) (p=3.1 e<sup>-14</sup>) or t0Δ:NL1 (n=330)  
857 (p=2.2 e<sup>-16</sup>) strains. The dark line in the middle represents the median distance. The  
858 data for *sir4Δ* are shown as a control and are the same as those in (Kirkland and  
859 Kamakaka, 2013).

860 C) Replication–repair proteins are necessary for *HML-HMR* interactions:  
861 Violin plots of the distance between TetR-YFP and CFP-LacI foci in a given wild type  
862 or mutant strain are shown. *rrm3Δ* (n=208) (p=4.8 e<sup>-12</sup>), *dpb3Δ* (n=134) (p=1.7 e<sup>-10</sup>)  
863 *top1Δ* (n=139) (p=4.2 e<sup>-12</sup>) *scc2D730V* (n=188) (p=1.9 e<sup>-14</sup>). The data for the  
864 *scc2D730V* allele are simply shown as a control and are the same as those in (Kirkland  
865 and Kamakaka, 2013).

## 866 **Figure 9) Silencing of reporter genes at *HML* and *HMR***

867 A) tDNAs on chromosome III modulate silencing of reporter genes at *HML* and *HMR*.  
868 Representative lineage trees of the different strains that were analyzed are shown. Wild  
869 type refers to a strain containing all tDNAs on chromosome III. tDNA delete refers to a  
870 strain lacking any tDNAs on chromosome III. The expression of *HML::EYFP* or  
871 *HMR::ECFP* in each generation of cells was monitored, quantitated and is indicated by



872 the presence of their respective colors in the cells of the tree.

873 B) Deletion of tDNAs on chromosome III leads to a change in the maintenance of  
874 silencing at *HML* and *HMR*. The graphs quantify the changes in expression<sup>[SEP]</sup> state of  
875 *HML::EYFP* and *HMR::ECFP* between generations in the different genotypes studied.  
876 Expressed to repressed transitions identify reporters that were expressed in one  
877 generation but not expressed in the next. Repressed to expressed transitions represent  
878 reporter genes that were not expressed in one generation but expressed in the next.

#### 879 **Table1**

880 Genes whose mRNA levels changed in the tDNA delete strain compared to the wild  
881 type along with statistical analysis of the differences in expression levels.

882 **Supplementary Figure 1) Nucleosome occupancy plots at five tDNA deletion**  
883 **points on chromosome III.** MNase-seq data for wild type and tDNA delete were  
884 normalized to the genomic average (= 1). Coverage plots are shown using all DNA  
885 fragments in the 120 to 180 bp range. The reference point (0) is the nucleotide marking  
886 the 5'-end of the deletion on chromosome III. Upstream of the deletion point at 0, the  
887 DNA sequence is the same in wild type and the tDNA delete chromosome III.  
888 Downstream of the deletion point, the DNA sequences are different. The black arrow  
889 shows the location and orientation of the tDNA in wild type chromosome III. Meaningful  
890 plots cannot be made for two tDNAs (tP(AGG)C and tS(CGA)C), because they were  
891 moved to another chromosome. Two other tDNAs (tM(CAU)C and tK(CUU)C) are  
892 present in S288C strains but are naturally absent in W-303 strains, including the strains  
893 used here. The wild type profile is in orange and the tDNA delete profile is in blue.

894 **Supplementary Figure 2) Deletion of tDNAs does not lead to general**  
895 **changes in chromatin structure at RNA pol II transcribed genes on chromosome**  
896 **III.** Comparison of global nucleosome phasing on chromosome III in wild type (blue line)  
897 and tDNA delete (red line) cells: average nucleosome dyad positions on 106 RNA Pol II-  
898 transcribed genes on chromosome III. These genes cover most of chromosome III. The  
899 genes were aligned on their transcription start sites (TSS set at 0). The average  
900 nucleosome dyad density is set at 1.

901 **Supplementary Figure 3) ChIP-Seq graphs showing the distribution of Scc2**  
902 **at specific sites along chromosome III.** tDNAs are marked by arrowheads. Graph 1  
903 and 2 are independent ChIP-Seq data from the wild type strain. Graphs 3 and 4 are  
904 independent ChIP-Seq data from the tDNA delete strain.

905 **Supplementary Figure 4) Summary graphs for MSD analysis for each genotype**  
906 The graphs summarize the results of MSD time-lapse experiments for the 8 loci  
907 assayed. Both WT (blue) and tDNA<sub>SEP</sub> delete (red) are shown on each graph. Time-lapse  
908 images were taken over a 10 minute period, z-stack images were taken every 30  
909 seconds in 200 nm increments. The distance between the GFP marked locus<sub>SEP</sub> of  
910 interest and spc29-RFP spindle pole body protein was calculated at each 30-second  
911 interval. Mean distance traveled for each time-point was used to create the MSD  
912 curves. At least 35 cells were assayed for each genotype.

913 **Supplementary Figure 5) Whole genome interaction plots for Micro-C**  
914 **experiments that were done in this study.** The heat maps show full genome  
915 interactomes for both wild type and tDNA delete strains. On the x-axis, the

916 chromosomes are displayed from chr I to chr XVI going from left to right. On the y-axis,  
917 the chromosomes are displayed from chr I to chr XVI going from top to bottom. Areas  
918 of red denote increased interaction, while lighter colored areas denote decreased  
919 interaction.

920 **Supplementary Table1:** Strain list with genotypes

921 **Supplementary Table2:** Sequences of PCR primers used in this study

922 **Supplementary Table3:** Statistical analysis of differences in expression of  
923 *HML::EYFP* and *HMR::ECFP* in the wild type and tDNA delete strains.

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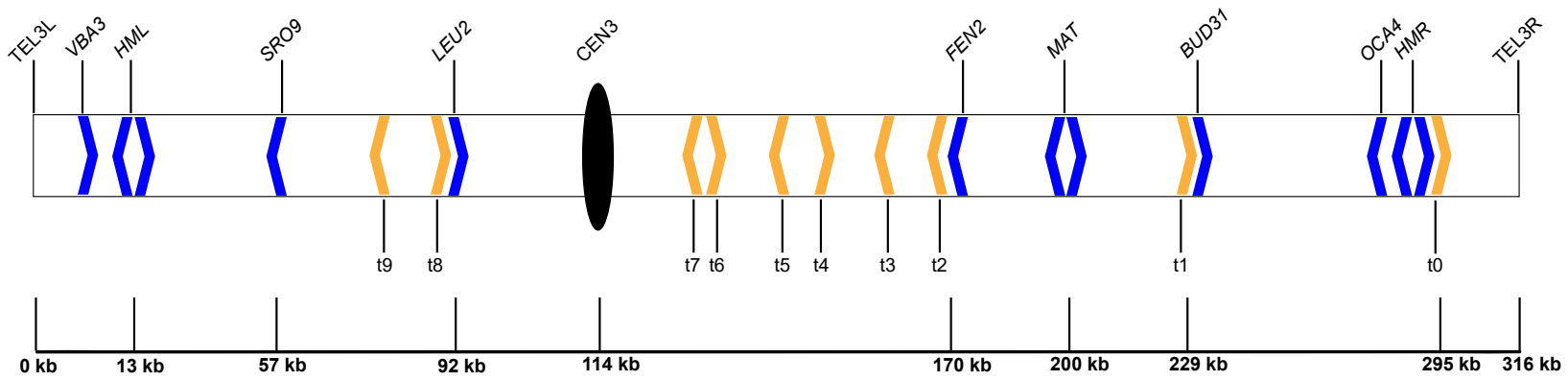


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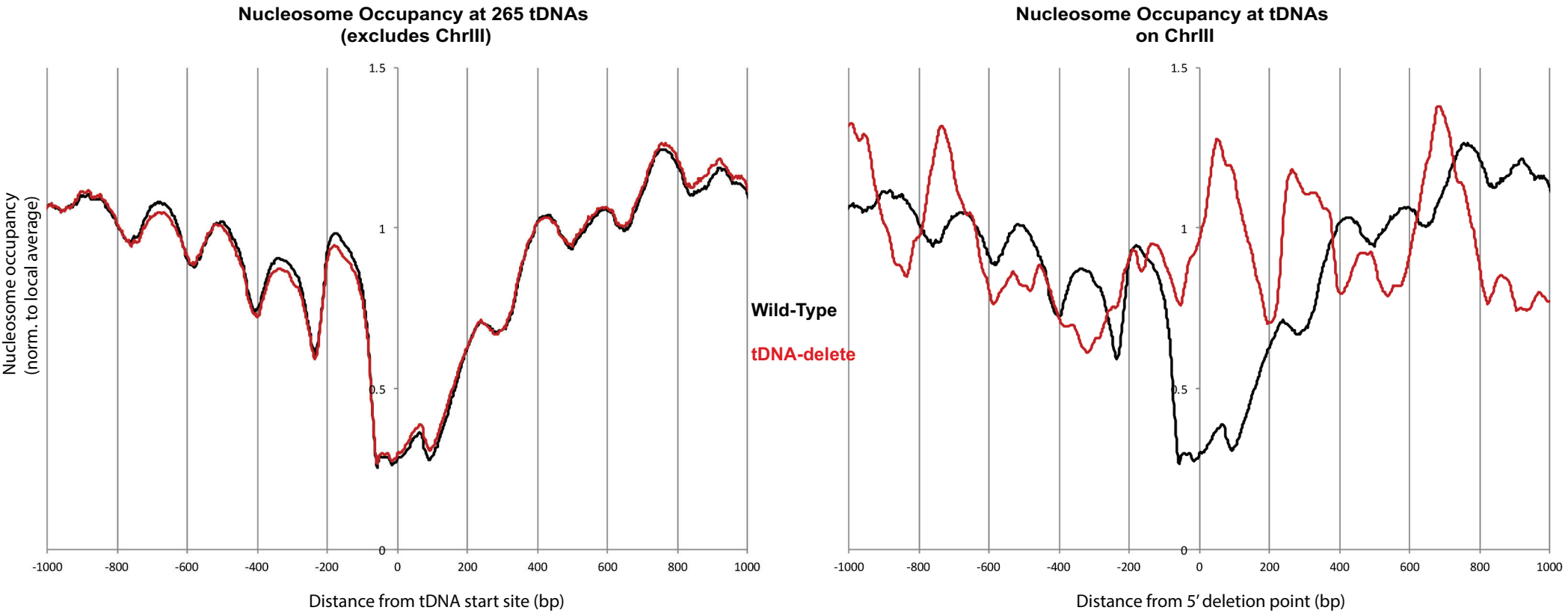
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Figure1



**Figure 2**



**Figure 3**

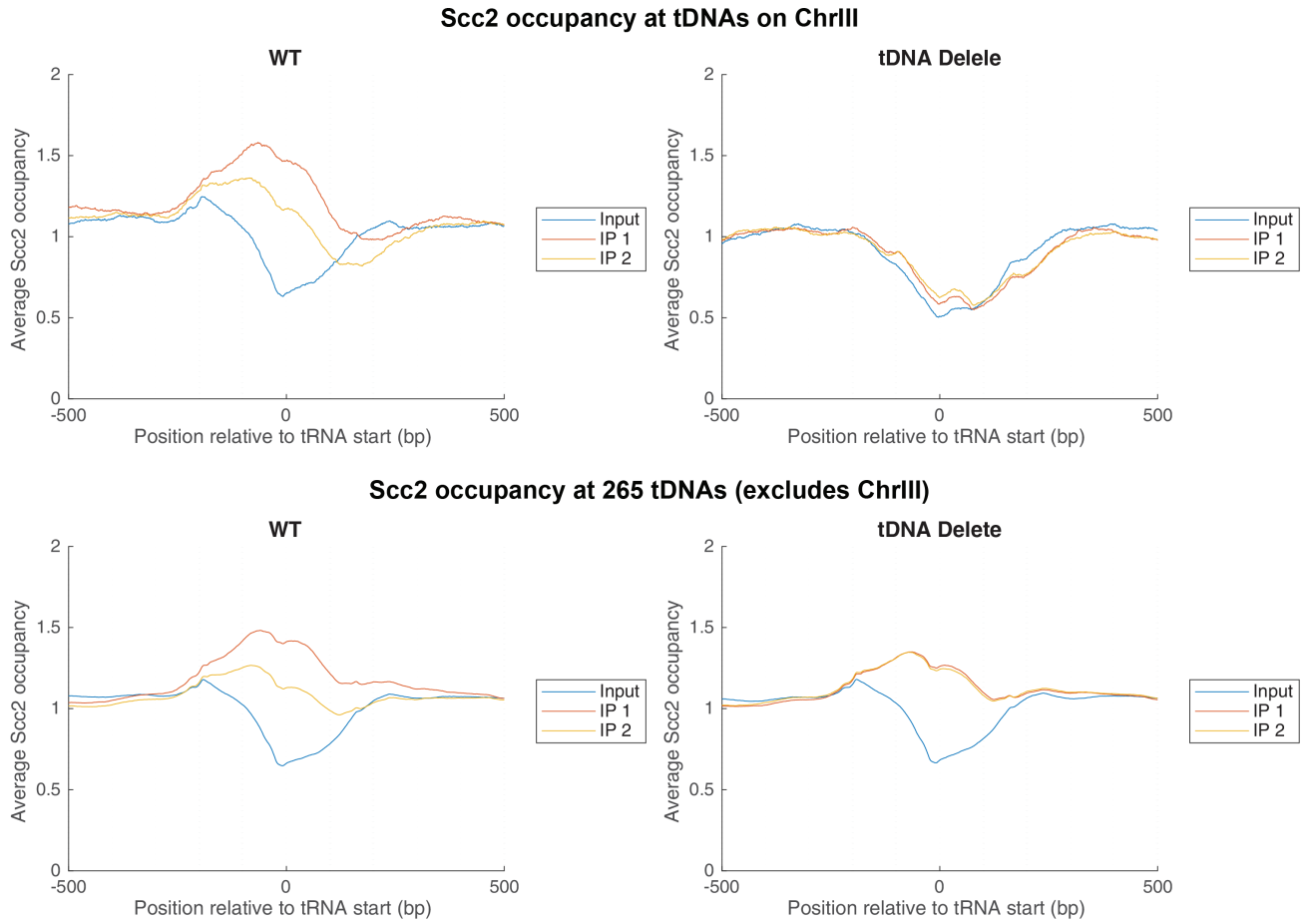


Figure 4A

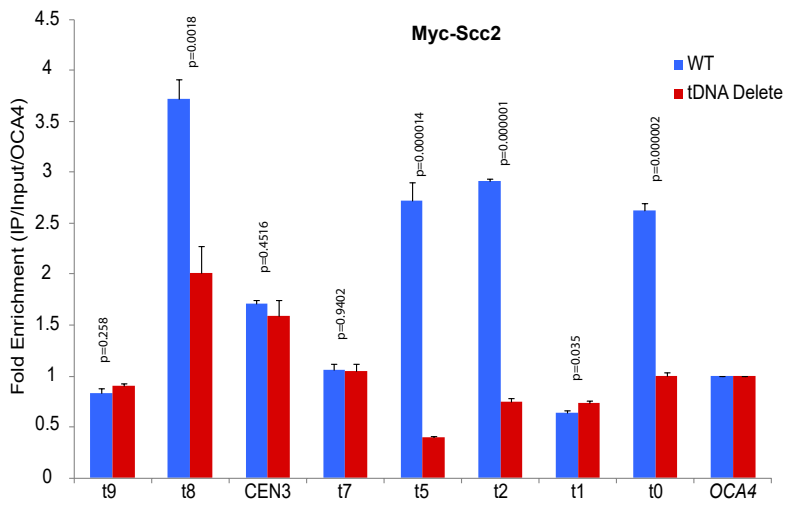
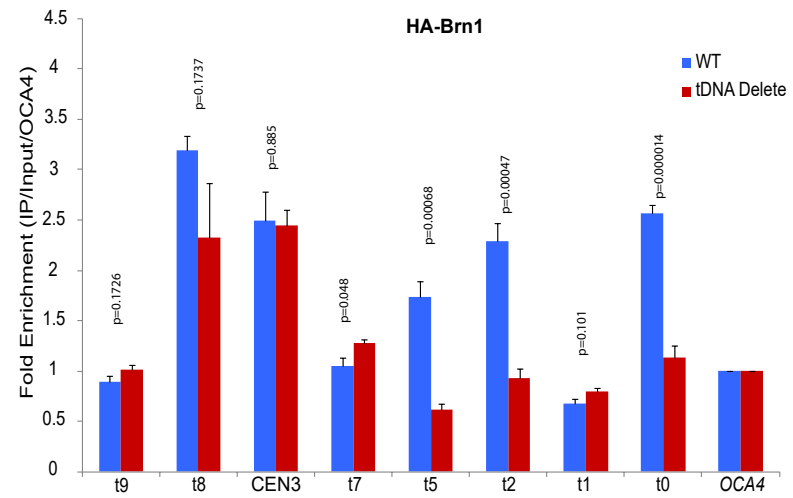


Figure 4B



**Figure 5**

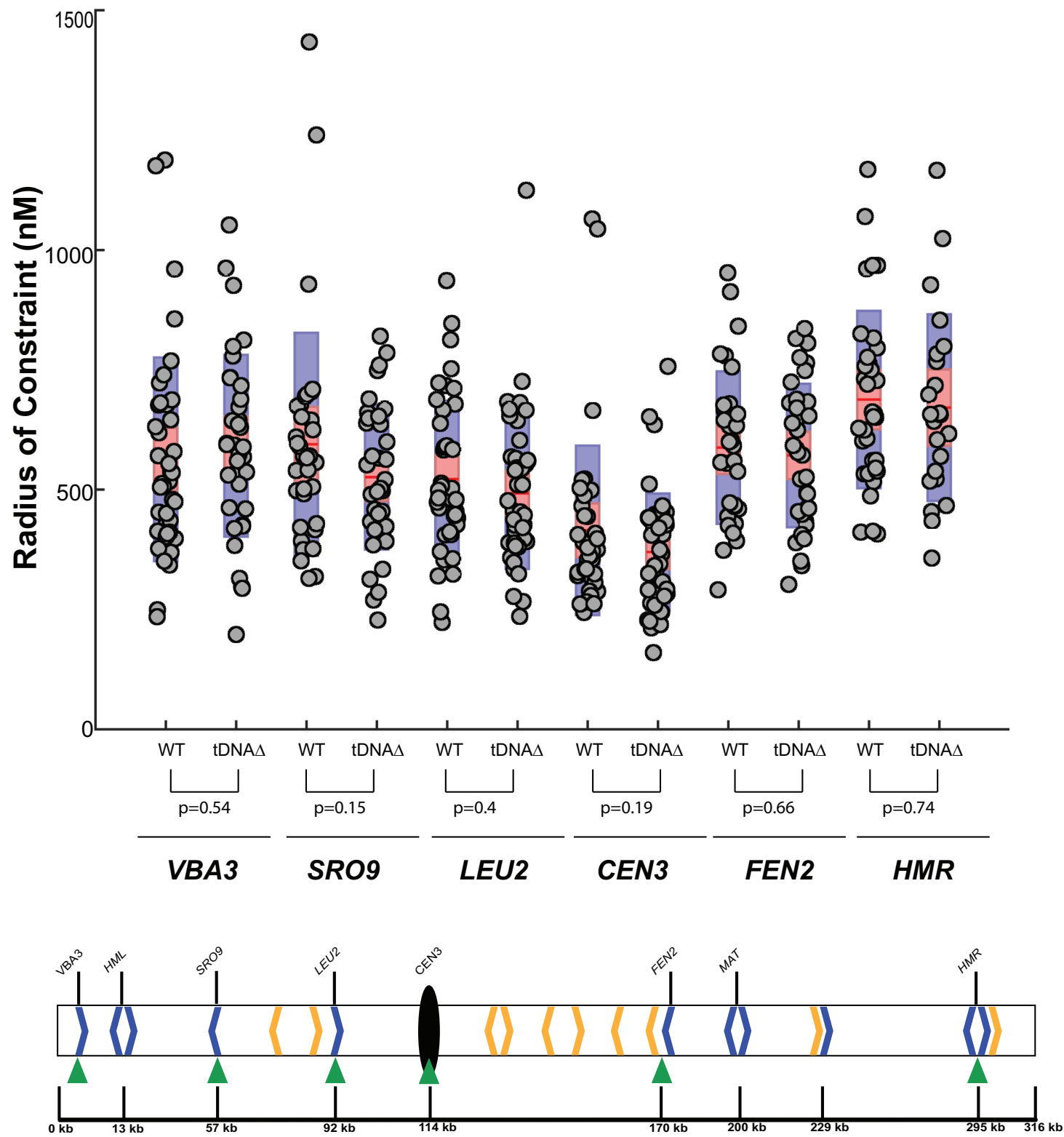




Figure 6

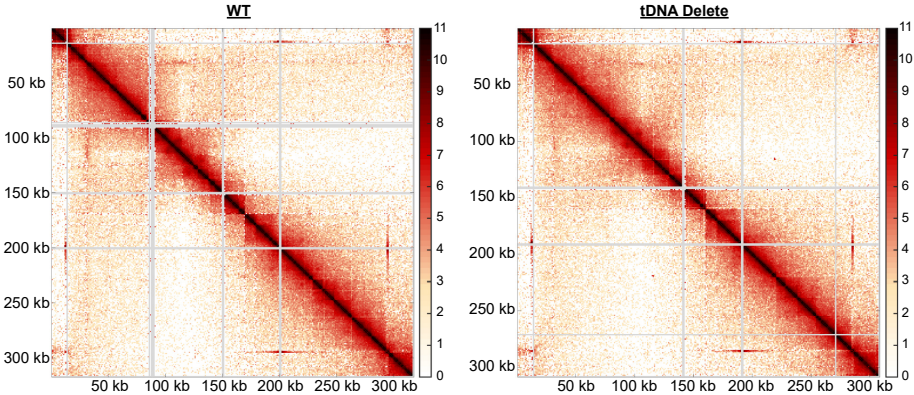


Figure 7A

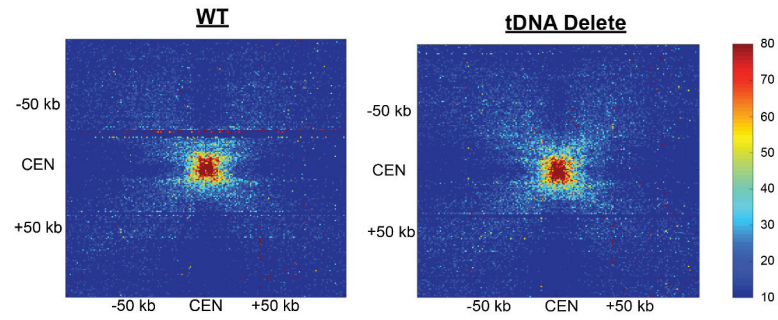


Figure 7B

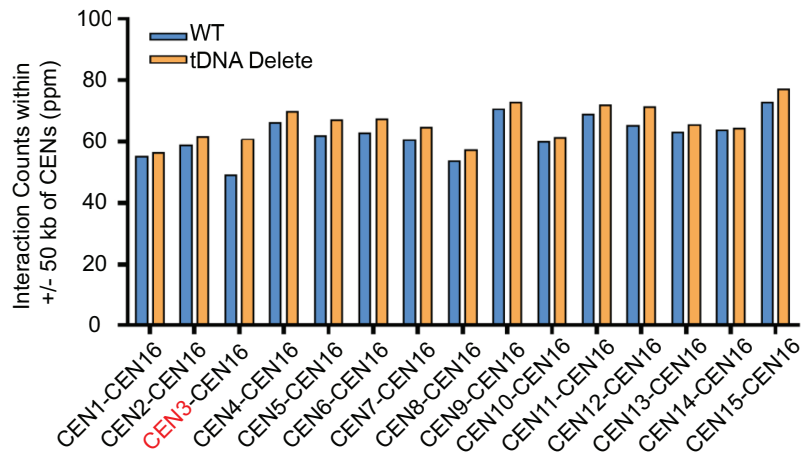
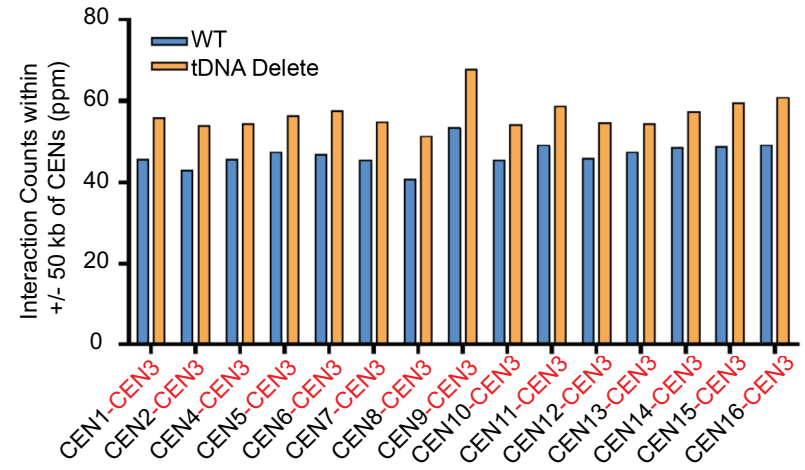


Figure 7C



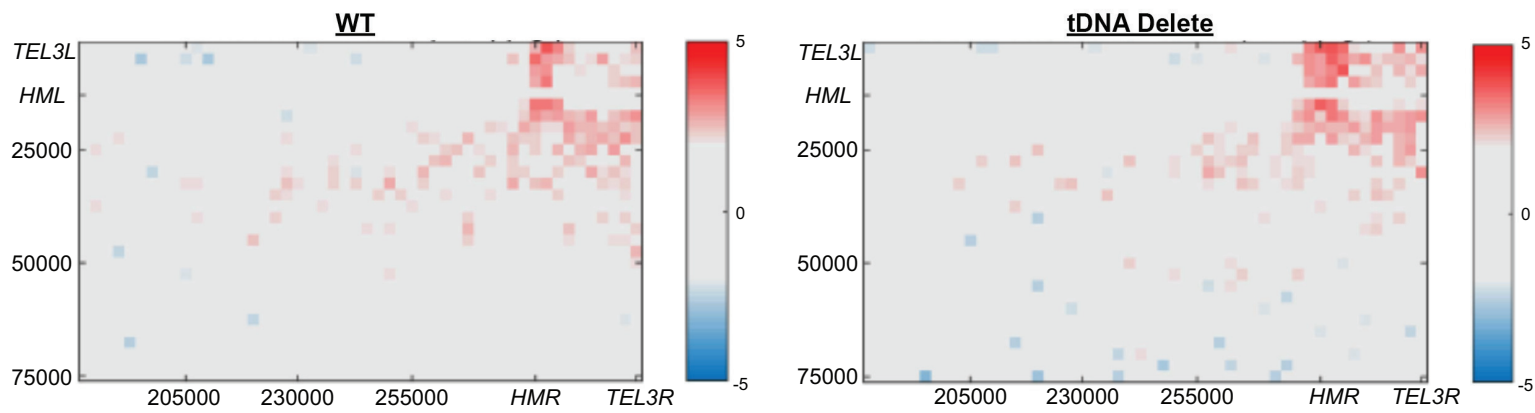


Figure 8B.

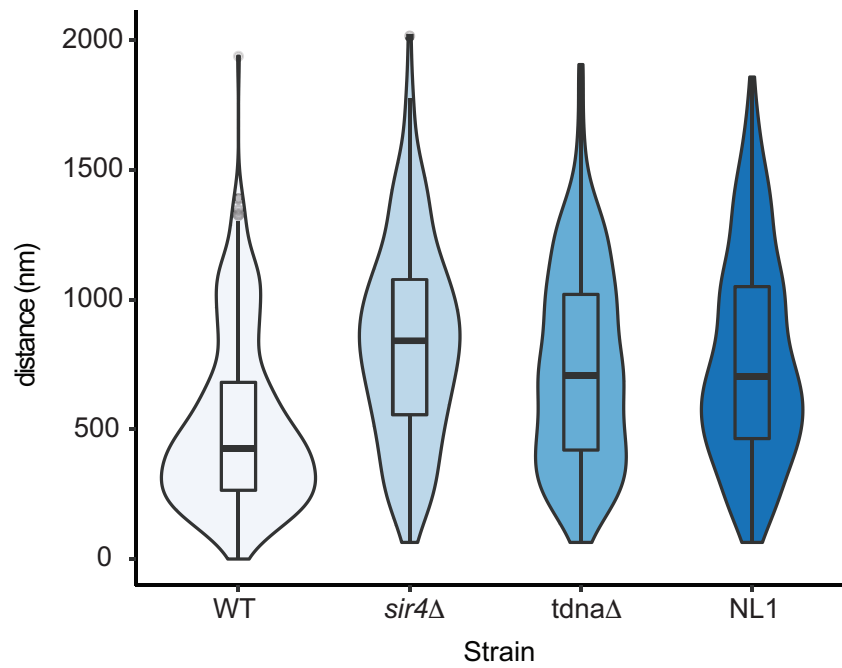


Figure 8C

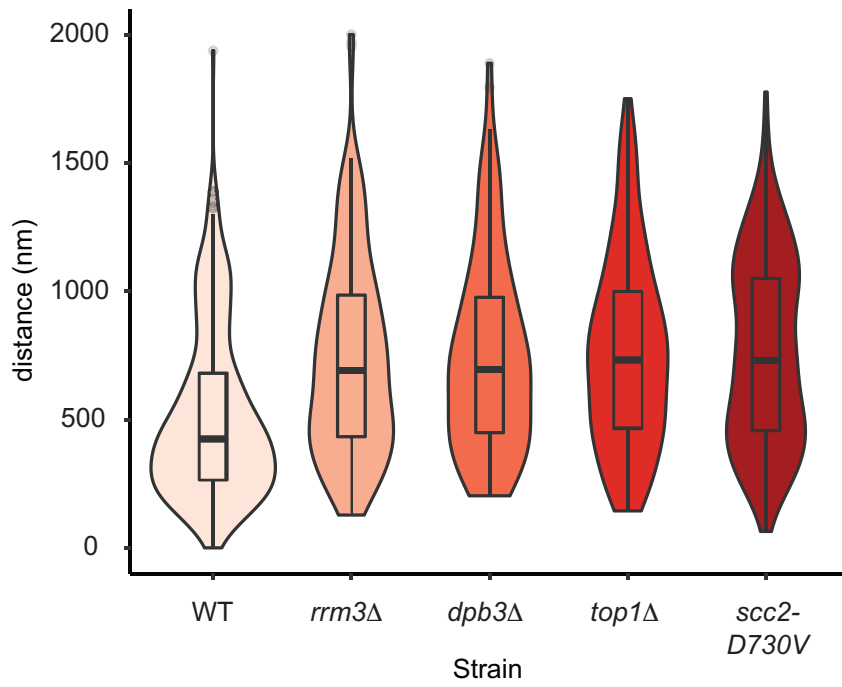


Figure 9A

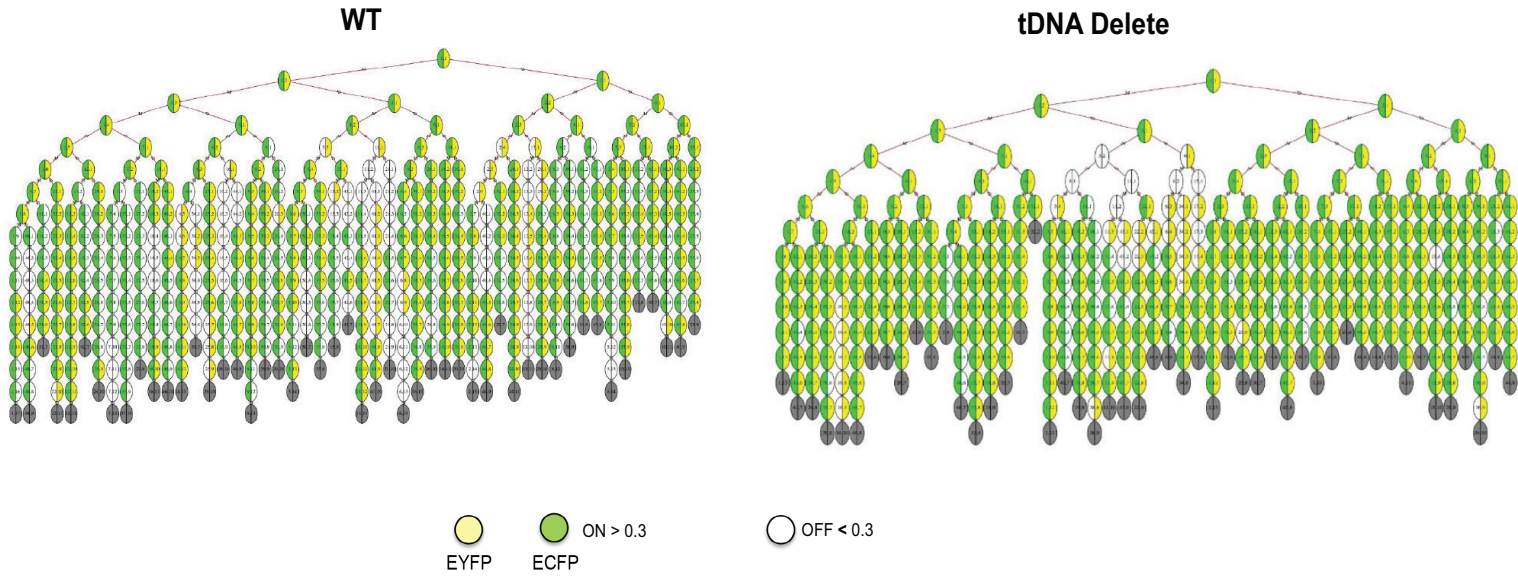
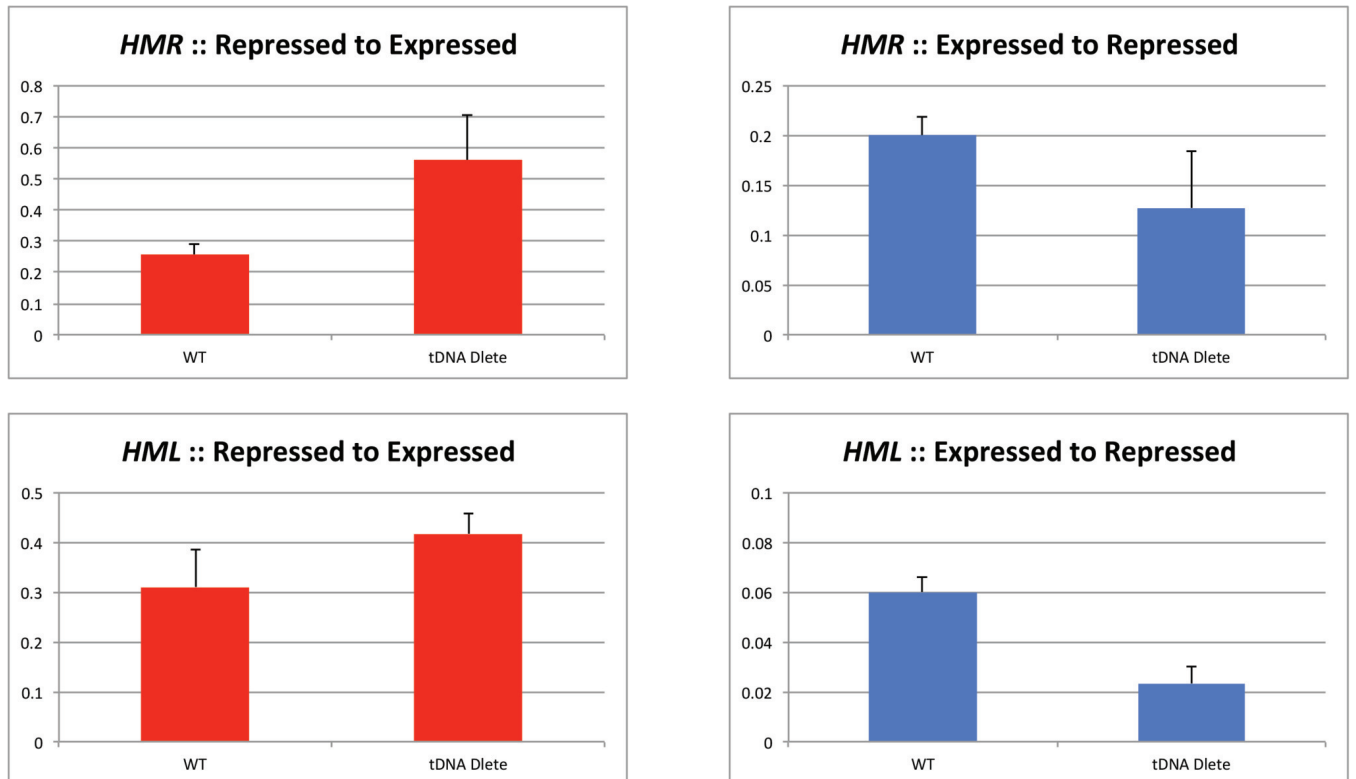


Figure 9B



<b>Upregulated in tDNA del</b>	<b>q-Val (likelihood ratio test)</b>	<b>q val (Wald test)</b>	<b>beta statistic</b>
YCR061w	0.042003857	3.22E-11	0.6580998
YDL124w	0.042003857	6.31E-14	0.4395261
YHR214c-B	0.005672182	2.35E-210	2.5870238
YNL160w	0.040272092	2.69E-20	0.5348964
YOR201c	0.020396347	9.18E-27	0.7685378
YOR202w	0.009117145	1.20E-76	3.7326308
YPL240c	0.042003857	1.20E-15	0.5188043

<b>Downregulated</b>	<b>q-Val (likelihood ratio test)</b>	<b>q val (Wald test)</b>	<b>beta statistic</b>
YBR068c	0.030966243	1.53E-20	-0.5156825
YBR296c	0.039894621	1.87E-19	-0.5692597
YCR008w	0.015662463	6.48E-43	-1.1217
YER073w	0.045197971	8.81E-16	-0.5691673
YER091c	0.042003857	1.79E-20	-0.5345605
YGL009c	0.009117145	1.47E-82	-2.0202761
YHR208w	0.007776891	7.72E-106	-1.3235331
YJR010w	0.042003857	3.34E-13	-0.8073784
YJR016c	0.017736878	3.09E-29	-0.5823368
YKL030w	0.042003857	3.46E-11	-0.6718075
YKL120w	0.007776891	1.47E-94	-1.4546702
YLR355c	0.042003857	2.35E-12	-0.387429
YMR108w	0.042003857	3.72E-15	-0.4213145
YOR271c	0.027535084	4.63E-26	-0.5903308