Termination of non-coding transcription in yeast relies on both a CTD-interaction domain and a CTD-mimic in Sen1

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ABSTRACT

Pervasive transcription is a widespread phenomenon leading to the production of a plethora of non-coding RNAs (ncRNAs) without apparent function. Pervasive transcription poses a risk that needs to be controlled to prevent the perturbation of gene expression. In yeast, the highly conserved helicase Sen1 restricts pervasive transcription by inducing termination of non-coding transcription. However, the mechanisms underlying the specific function of Sen1 at ncRNAs are poorly understood. Here we identify a motif in an intrinsically disordered region of Sen1 that mimics the phosphorylated carboxy terminal domain (CTD) of RNA polymerase II and characterize structurally its recognition by the CTD-interacting domain of Nrd1, an RNA-binding protein that binds specific sequences in ncRNAs. In addition, we show that Sen1-dependent termination strictly requires the recognition of the Ser5-phosphorylated form of the CTD by the N-terminal domain of Sen1. Furthermore, we find that the N-terminal and the C-terminal domains of Sen1 can mediate intra-molecular interactions. Our results shed light onto the network of protein-protein interactions that control termination of non-coding transcription by Sen1.

INTRODUCTION

The concept of pervasive transcription emerged over a decade ago upon the discovery that a large fraction of both the prokaryotic and the eukaryotic transcriptomes is composed of non-coding RNAs (ncRNAs) without any obvious function. Pervasive transcription is potentially harmful for cell homeostasis since it can interfere with normal transcription of canonical genes and provoke the accumulation of toxic RNAs. Therefore, all organisms studied to date have evolved different mechanisms to circumvent the negative consequences of pervasive transcription. These mechanisms often rely on transcription termination and RNA degradation (for review, see Jensen et al., 2013).

In *S. cerevisiae* there are two major pathways for termination of RNA polymerase II (RNAPII) transcription. A pathway that depends on a macromolecular complex including the cleavage and polyadenylation factor (CPF) is essentially responsible for transcription termination at protein-coding genes, whereas the Nrd1-Nab3-Sen1 (NNS) complex targets a large fraction of the non-coding RNAs (ncRNAs) produced in the cell. Specifically, the NNS complex terminates transcription of most snoRNAs and a class of ncRNAs dubbed CUTs, for cryptic unstable transcripts, that constitutes the major product of pervasive transcription (for review, see Porrua and Libri, 2015). While snoRNAs are important for the correct modification of rRNA, CUTs are generally considered as non-functional molecules (Arigo et al., 2006; Schulz et al., 2013; Thiebaut et al., 2006; Wyers et al., 2005).

Each pathway is associated with distinct nuclease and polyA-polymerase activities that determine the stability and functionality of the RNAs they take care of. Precursors of mRNAs are cleaved at their 3' ends at the so-called polyA site and polyadenylated by Pap1, which stimulates subsequent export to the cytoplasm and translation (for review, see Porrua and Libri, 2015). In contrast, ncRNAs terminated by the NNS-dependent pathway are polyadenylated by Trf4, a component of the TRAMP complex. These RNAs are then targeted by the nuclear form of the exosome bearing the Rrp6 exonuclease, which catalyses either 3' end maturation, in the case of snoRNAs, or complete degradation, in the case of CUTs (LaCava et al., 2005; Vanacova et al., 2005; Wyers et al., 2005). Given the very divergent fate of the RNAs terminated by each pathway, several mechanisms have evolved to ensure the specific action of the different protein complexes on the right targets. These mechanisms involve both protein-protein and nucleic acid-protein interactions. Some of the protein interactions that are crucial for coordinated and efficient transcription-related processes as termination and 3' end processing are mediated by the C-terminal domain (CTD) of the largest subunit of RNAPII. The CTD is a large and flexible domain composed of 26 repeats of the heptapeptide YSPTSPS that undergoes dynamic phosphorylation throughout the transcription cycle (for review, see Harlen and Churchman, 2017a).

The CPF complex interacts preferentially with the S2P-form of the CTD, which is more prominent during middle-late elongation, via the CTD-Interaction domain (CID) of its associated factor Pcf11 (Lunde et al., 2010). In addition, the recognition of several AU-rich sequences, among which the polyA site, by other subunits mediates the specific recruitment of the CPF complex to mRNAs (Xiang et al., 2014). Similarly, the CID of Nrd1 within the NNS complex interacts with the CTD phosphorylated at S5, which is a mark of early elongation (Kubicek et al., 2012; Vasiljeva et al., 2008), and both Nrd1 and Nab3 recognize specific sequence motifs that are enriched at the target ncRNAs (Hobor et al., 2011; Lunde et al., 2011; Porrua et al., 2012; Schulz et al., 2013; Wlotzka et al., 2011). Both the interaction with the CTD and with the nascent RNA contribute to the early recruitment of the Nrd1-Nab3 heterodimer and the efficiency of transcription termination (Gudipati et al., 2008; Tudek et al., 2014; Vasiljeva et al., 2008). The current model posits that Nrd1-Nab3 would recruit the helicase Sen1 that in turn promotes the final step in transcription termination (i.e. the release of RNAPII and the nascent RNA from the DNA, Porrua and Libri, 2013). Subsequently, a complex network of possibly redundant protein-protein interactions involving Nrd1, Nab3 and different components of the TRAMP and exosome complexes promotes efficient degradation of the released ncRNA (Tudek et al., 2014; Fasken et al., 2015; Kim et al., 2016).

As mentioned above, Sen1 is responsible for dissociation of the elongation complex. Sen1 is a highly conserved RNA and DNA helicase belonging to the superfamily 1 of helicases (Han et al., 2017; Martin-Tumasz and Brow, 2015). Transcription termination by Sen1 involves its translocation along the nascent RNA towards RNAPII and possibly subsequent contacts between specific regions of Sen1 helicase domain and the polymerase (Han et al., 2017; Leonaitė et al., 2017; Porrua and Libri, 2013). Neither *in vitro* nor *in vivo* Sen1 exhibits any sequence-specific RNA-binding capability (Creamer et al., 2011; Porrua and Libri, 2013); implying that Sen1 activity should be regulated in order to ensure its specific action on ncRNAs. Among the mechanisms that might contribute to keep Sen1 under control we can cite: i) the relatively low levels of Sen1 protein (63 to 498 molecules/cell depending on the study Chong et al., 2015; Ghaemmaghami et al., 2003; Kulak et al., 2014; Newman et al., 2006); ii) its low-processivity as a translocase, which makes termination highly dependent on Sen1 efficient recruitment to the elongation complex and RNAPII pausing (Han et al., 2017) and iii) the interaction of Sen1 with the ncRNA targeting proteins Nrd1-Nab3, as evoked above.

Although it has been proposed that Nrd1 and Nab3 function as adaptors that provide the necessary specificity to Sen1, the precise regions involved in the interaction between these factors and whether these interactions are actually sufficient for timely Sen1 recruitment remains unclear. In this study, we identify and characterize the key interactions involved in Sen1 function. Sen1 is composed of a central helicase domain (aa 1095-1876) that is sufficient for transcription termination *in vitro* (Han et al., 2017; Leonaitė et al., 2017), together with a

large N-terminal domain (aa 1-975) and a C-terminal intrinsically disordered region (1930-2231). Here we show that the C-terminal end of Sen1 contains a short motif that mimics the phosphorylated CTD and is recognized by Nrd1 CID. We prove that this motif is the main determinant of the interaction between Sen1 and Nrd1-Nab3 heterodimer and provide the structural details of this interaction. Strikingly, we find that the CTD-mimic in Sen1 is not a strict requirement for Sen1 function, although it contributes to Sen1 recruitment and to fully efficient termination at some targets. Instead, we show that the N-terminal domain of Sen1 promotes its interaction with the S5P-CTD of RNAPII and is a global requirement for non-coding transcription termination. Moreover, we find that the N-terminal and the C-terminal domains of Sen1 can interact with each other *in vitro*, which might play a role in modulating the interaction of Sen1 with RNAPII CTD and Nrd1. Our findings allow us to propose a detailed molecular model on how inter- and intra-molecular interactions control the specific function of the transcription termination factor Sen1 on ncRNAs.

RESULTS

Sen1 possesses a CTD-mimic that is recognized by the CID domain of Nrd1

In a previous report (Tudek et al., 2014), we showed that Nrd1 CID domain can recognize a short sequence in Trf4 that mimic the S5P-CTD of RNAPII and that we dubbed NIM for Nrd1-Interaction Motif. A subsequent report described a second NIM in Mpp6, an exosome cofactor (Kim et al., 2016). During the course of our previous work, we discovered that the CID is also required for the interaction between Nrd1 and Sen1 (figure 1A), an observation that was reported in an independent study (Heo et al., 2013). This prompted us to search for a putative NIM in Sen1 protein. The S5P-CTD and Trf4 NIM share three important features: i) they contain one or several negatively charged amino acids (aa) at the N-terminal portion that interact with a positively charged surface of the CID; ii) they contain a Y residue followed by several aa at the C-terminal part that adopt a β-turn conformation and interact with a hydrophobic pocket of the CID; and iii) they are placed in protein regions that are predicted to be intrinsically disordered and therefore are fully accessible for the interaction with the CID. We identified a sequence in Sen1 C-terminal domain that fulfils the three characteristics and closely resembles the NIM in Trf4 (figure 1B). Therefore, we tested the role of this motif by comparing the ability of wild-type (wt) or ΔNIM versions of Sen1 to interact with Nrd1 by *in vivo* coimmunoprecipitation experiments using Nrd1-TAP as the bait (figure 1C). Importantly, deletion of the putative NIM did not significantly alter the levels of Sen1 protein but dramatically reduced its interaction with Nrd1. Similar experiments using Sen1 as the bait confirmed these results and showed that deletion of the NIM also strongly affects the association of Sen1 with Nab3 (figure 1D). These results indicate that Sen1 NIM is the main determinant of the

interaction of Sen1 with the Nrd1-Nab3 heterodimer. They also strongly suggest that Nab3 interacts with Sen1 *via* Nrd1.

The NIM is one of the very few sequence regions of the C-terminal domain of Sen1 that are conserved in the closest *S. cerevisiae* relatives, suggesting that this mode of interaction between Sen1 and Nrd1 is conserved in these yeast species (figure EV1). Conversely, in agreement with previous data showing that Nrd1 and Sen1 orthologues do not interact with each other in *S. pombe* (Lemay et al., 2016; Wittmann et al., 2017) and with the fact that no Nrd1 homologue could be identified in association with human Sen1(Yüce and West, 2013), we did not detect any putative NIM in Sen1 orthologues from these organisms.

Structural analyses of the Nrd1 CID–Sen1 NIM interaction

To compare the interaction of the newly identified Sen1 NIM (fragment harboring amino acids 2052-2063) and the previously identified Trf4 NIM with Nrd1 CID, we performed a quantitative solution-binding assay using fluorescence anisotropy (FA) with purified recombinant Nrd1 CID and synthetic NIM peptides. We found that Nrd1 CID binds Sen1 NIM with a K_D of 1.2 ±0.02 μM, which is comparable to the dissociation constant of the Trf4 NIM–Nrd1 CID complex (K_D 0.9 ±0.02 μM), and roughly 100-fold smaller than the K_D of the Nrd1 CID for the S5P-CTD (Tudek et al., 2014). In addition, we observed that the binding is similarly affected by previously described mutations in Nrd1 CID (L20D, K21D, S25D, R28D, M126A, I130K, R133A, see table S1). The similar binding strength was also confirmed by [^{1}H,^{15}N] heteronuclear single quantum coherence (HSQC) titration experiment of Nrd1 CID. In this experiment, the protein amide resonances of Nrd1 CID were in slow or intermediate exchange regimes between their free and bound forms relative to the NMR timescale, when titrated with Sen1 NIM, as previously shown for the Trf4-NIM interaction (Tudek et al., 2014), which indicates that the interaction of Nrd1 CID with Sen1 NIM is quite stable. The analysis of changes in chemical shift perturbations (CSP) of Nrd1 CID in the presence of Sen1 NIM and Trf4 NIM peptides suggests that this domain employs the same interaction surface for both NIMs, with only a minor difference in the area of α4-helix and tip of α7-helix (figure EV2).

In order to understand structural basis of the Nrd1–Sen1 interaction, we solved the solution structure of Nrd1 CID (1-153 aa) in complex with Sen1 NIM (figure 2; table S2). The structure of Nrd1 CID consists of eight α helices in a right-handed superhelical arrangement as previously reported (Kubicek et al., 2012; Tudek et al., 2014; Vasiljeva et al., 2008). The Sen1 NIM peptide is accommodated in the binding pocket of Nrd1 CID in a similar manner to that of Trf4 NIM. The upstream negatively charged part of the Sen1 NIM (D2052-D2053-D2054-E2055-D2056-D2057) interacts with a positively charged region of Nrd1 CID on tips of α1-α2 helices (figure 2B). Charge-swapping mutations of in this region (K21D, S25D and S28D) resulted in a significant decrease in the binding affinity (table S1), confirming the

importance of this region for the interaction. Furthermore, the L20D mutant also diminishes the binding affinity as it perturbs the overall geometry of the α1-α2 loop and thus the positioning of the positively charged residues. The downstream hydrophobic part of Sen1 NIM (Y2058, T2059 and P2060) docks into a hydrophobic pocket of the CID formed by L127, M126 and I130. Y2058 makes a putative H-bond with D70 and R74 of the CID. Sen1 I2062 shows multiple intermolecular contacts in NMR spectra with the aliphatic groups of I130, R133 and S134 side chains. Furthermore, the neighboring residue S2061 makes a putative H-bond with R74. As a result, these interactions induce the extended conformation of the downstream region of the Sen1 NIM, which contrasts with the formation of the canonical β-turn that was observed in the structures of CTD and NIM peptides bound to CIDs (Becker et al., 2008; Kubicek et al., 2012; Lunde et al., 2010; Meinhart and Cramer, 2004; Tudek et al., 2014). In these complexes, the peptides contain S/NPXX motifs that have a high propensity to form β-turns in which the peptides are locked upon binding to CIDs. In the case of Sen1 NIM, TPSI sequence is predicted as a non-β-turn motif (Singh et al., 2015). Indeed, we found that in the extended conformation the positioning of this downstream motif inside the hydrophobic area is energetically the most favorable. Our structural data suggests that Nrd1 CID is able to accommodate not only peptides with motifs that form β-turns but also peptides in the extended conformation that matches hydrophobicity and H-bonding partners inside the binding groove of the CID.

A strong interaction between Sen1 and Nrd1-Nab3 is not essential for non-coding transcription termination

Because of the importance of the NIM for the interaction between Sen1 and Nrd1-Nab3 heterodimer and its significant conservation among yeast species, we analysed the impact of the NIM deletion on growth and Sen1-mediated transcription termination *in vivo*. Surprisingly, we found that deletion of the NIM does not affect cell growth and only aggravated the thermosensitive phenotype of a *Δrrp6* mutant, which lacks an exonuclease that plays a major role in degradation of ncRNAs targeted by the NNS-complex (figure EV3A).

In order to test for the role of Sen1 NIM in non-coding transcription termination, we performed RNAseq transcriptome analyses of *Δrrp6* strains expressing either the wt or the *ΔNIM version of* Sen1. As expected, metagene analyses did not reveal any significant effect of the NIM deletion at protein-coding genes (figure EV3B). Surprisingly, we did not observe any major difference in the expression profile of snoRNAs and CUTs in *sen1ΔNIM* (figure EV3C and D), indicating that deletion of the NIM does not have a general impact on transcription termination at NNS-targets. Because in our coimmunoprecipitation experiments we observed that some minor interaction between Sen1 and Nrd1 persisted after the deletion of Sen1 NIM (figure 1C), we considered the possibility that this remaining interaction could support sufficient levels of

Sen1 recruitment, therefore explaining the weak phenotype of the *sen1ΔNIM* mutant. To investigate this possibility, we deleted the whole C-terminal domain (Cter) of Sen1 downstream of the previously identified nuclear localization signal (Nedea et al., 2008) and analysed the capacity of this mutant (Sen1ΔCter) to interact with Nrd1. Indeed, deletion of the Sen1 Cter did not decrease the protein expression levels but abolished the interaction between Sen1 and Nrd1, indicating that this domain of Sen1 possesses additional surfaces that weakly contribute to the interaction between Sen1 and its partners (figure EV3E). While this work was under revision, an independent study reported a secondary NIM within the Cter that mediates weak interactions with Nrd1 *in vitro*, further confirming our observations (Zhang et al., 2019). However, northern blot analyses of several typical NNS-targets revealed only minor transcription termination defects in the *sen1ΔCter* mutant compared to the wild-type (figure EV3F).

Taken together, our results indicate that the interaction between Sen1 and Nrd1-Nab3 is not a strict requirement for NNS-dependent termination.

The integrity of the N-terminal domain of Sen1 is essential for growth and for transcription termination

Our observation that the interaction between Sen1 and Nrd1 and Nab3 is not essential for transcription termination is surprising in the light of the model that posits the Nrd1 and Nab3-dependent recruitment of Sen1. Because Sen1 is a low-abundance protein that binds RNA without any sequence specificity, it seems unlikely that it could be adequately recruited to its targets solely by virtue of its RNA-binding activity. This suggests that additional protein-protein interactions might ensure timely recruitment of Sen1 to the elongation complex. A good candidate to mediate such interactions is the large Sen1 N-terminal domain (aa 1-975), which has been proposed to interact with RNAPII (Chinchilla et al., 2012; Ursic et al., 2004). In order to explore the possible role of the N-terminal domain (Nter) in Sen1 recruitment we constructed mutants that carry the deletion of this domain (*sen1ΔNter*) alone or in combination with the NIM deletion (*sen1ΔNterΔNIM).* To our surprise, contrary to reports from two other groups that only observed slow growth (Chen et al., 2014; Ursic et al., 2004) we found that deletion of Sen1 N-terminal domain was lethal, both when the mutant gene was expressed from a centromeric plasmid (figure 3A) or from the endogenous locus (figure EV4A). In order to assess the role of the N-terminal domain of Sen1 in NNS-dependent transcription termination, we constructed a Sen1 auxin-inducible degron (AID, Nishimura et al., 2009) strain that allowed us to rapidly target Sen1 for degradation by the proteasome upon addition of auxin (figure EV4B). We supplemented the Sen1-AID strain with an empty vector, as a control, or a

centromeric plasmid expressing either the wt, *ΔNIM, ΔNter* or the *ΔNterΔNIM* version of *SEN1* and we analysed by northern blot the expression of several typical NNS-targets upon depletion of the chromosomally-encoded copy of *SEN1* (figure 3B). Strikingly, transcription termination was dramatically impaired in the strain expressing *sen1ΔNter*. In addition, these termination defects were exacerbated in the *sen1ΔNterΔNIM* double mutant. These phenotypes were not due to lower levels of the mutant proteins deleted in the N-terminal domain, since these proteins were expressed at similar levels compared to full-length Sen1 (figure EV4C). Taken together, these results indicate that the N-terminal domain of Sen1 plays a critical role in transcription termination.

The requirement of Sen1 Nter for transcription termination could be explained either by a role of this domain in activating Sen1 catalytic activity or by a function in mediating its interaction with the elongation complex. Because we have previously shown that deletion of the Nter does not affect any of Sen1 measurable catalytic activities (Han et al., 2017), we favour the second possibility. In somewhat agreement with this hypothesis, we found that overexpression of *sen1ΔNter* from the *GAL1* promoter (pGAL) restored cell growth (figure 3C) and partially suppressed the termination defects associated with deletion of Sen1 Nter (figure 3D).

We set out to explore at the genome-wide level the function of the Nter and the NIM in termination at the different NNS targets. To this end we performed UV cross-linking and analysis of cDNA (CRAC, Granneman et al., 2009) to generate high resolution maps of transcribing RNAPII on two independent biological replicates of a Sen1-AID strain expressing either the wt, the *ΔNIM, the ΔNter* or the *ΔNterΔNIM* version of Sen1 on a plasmid, upon deletion of the chromosomally-encoded version of Sen1. In order to have near single-nucleotide resolution, we mapped only the 3' end of reads and we smoothed the signal with a Gaussian kernel (figure EV5A, see methods for details). As expected none of the Sen1 mutations affected transcription termination at the 3' end of protein-coding genes (figure 4A and B). However, we detected defects in premature termination at genes that were previously reported to be repressed by attenuation by the NNS-dependent pathway (figure 4C and 4D). Whereas the NIM deletion provoked some mild delay in premature termination at the *NRD1* gene (figure 4C), deletion of the Nter induced strong termination defects at both *NRD1* and *IMD2* (figure 4C and 4D). Metagene analyses of CUTs did not unveil any major change in the distribution of transcribing RNAPII in the *ΔNIM* mutant (figure 4E-H), consistent with the results of our former RNAseq experiments (figure EV3). A more detailed analysis of individual CUTs revealed significant (p-value < 0.05, see table S3) termination defects at only a minority of CUTs (≈7%, see figure 4I). In contrast, we observed a substantial increase in the RNAPII occupancy downstream of the annotated termination site of CUTs upon deletion of the Nter, suggesting that deletion of the Nter provokes global transcription termination defects at this

class of ncRNAs (see figure 4E-F and individual examples in figure 4G-H and figure EV4B-C). The increase in RNAPII signal was even more pronounced in the double *ΔNterΔNIM* mutant, reflecting exacerbated termination defects at a subset of CUTs (figure EV4D). Altogether, we detected significant termination defects at ≈61% and ≈68% of CUTs in the *ΔNter* □□□□□□□□□*ΔNterΔNIM* mutants, respectively (figure 4I). We observed a very similar trend at snoRNAs (figure 4J-M and figure EV4E-G), with ≈8%, ≈88% and ≈90% of snoRNAs being defective in transcription termination in the *ΔNIM,* the *ΔNter* and the *ΔNterΔNIM* mutants, respectively (figure 4N and table S4).

Taken together, these results indicate that the Nter of Sen1 is a critical requirement for transcription termination at most NNS-targets. In addition, the protein interactions mediated by the NIM are important for the efficiency of termination at a subset of non-coding genes.

The N-terminal domain of Sen1 mediates its interaction with the S5P-CTD of RNAPII

As evoked above, Sen1 Nter has been proposed to interact with RNAPII, more specifically with the S2P form of the CTD (Chinchilla et al., 2012), which could be the main way to recruit Sen1 to elongation complexes. We set out to further test this possibility by performing *in vivo* coimmunoprecipitation experiments with *sen1ΔNter* either expressed from its own promoter in a centromeric plasmid using the Sen1-AID system described above or overexpressed from pGAL (figure 5A and B). Strikingly, we did not detect any significant decrease in the capacity of Sen1 to interact with total RNAPII (shown by Rpb1 and/or Rpb3 subunits) upon deletion of the Nter, regardless the expression levels of the mutant protein. In both kind of experiments, protein extracts were treated with RNase to detect only non-RNA-mediated protein interactions. This result strongly suggests that regions other than the Nter can mediate the interaction between Sen1 and RNAPII. We considered the possibility that Sen1 Nter would be important for the recognition of a specific phosphorylated form of RNAPII. Indeed, analyses of Sen1 coimmunoprecipitates with antibodies against different CTD phospho-marks revealed a substantial decrease in the association of S5P-CTD RNAPII with Sen1ΔNter, whereas the levels of bound S2P-CTD (figure 5B), S7P-CTD or unphosphorylated CTD (figure S2A) did not change significantly. This result is in contrast with previous two-hybrid assays suggesting that the Sen1 Nter would interact with the S2P form of the CTD (Chinchilla et al., 2012) (see discussion for possible explanations). In order to further substantiate the notion that Sen1 Nter is critical for the recognition of S5P-CTD, we tested whether replacement of this protein region by another domain that can also interact with S5P-CTD could suppress the lethality and termination defects associated with deletion of Sen1 Nter. To this end we constructed a chimera in which the Nrd1 CID (amino acids 1-150), which recognizes preferentially the S5P

form of RNAPII CTD (Kubicek et al., 2012), was fused to Sen1 amino acids 976-2231 (i.e. equivalent to Sen1ΔNter). As a control, we also constructed a Sen1 variant carrying the CID domain of Pcf11 (amino acids 1-137), which recognizes mainly the S2P-CTD (Lunde et al., 2010). Interestingly, we found that the strain producing the chimeric Nrd1 CID- Sen1ΔNter protein become viable (figure 5C) and northern blot analysis of typical NNS-targets showed that the efficiency of transcription termination was also restored to a large extent in this strain (figure 5D). In contrast, the presence of Pcf11 CID at the place of Sen1 Nter did not suppress the growth and transcription termination defects to the same extent (figure 5C and D), despite both chimeric proteins being expressed at roughly the same levels (figure S2B). Taken together, these results strongly support the idea that the essential role of Sen1 Nter is to mediate the interaction of Sen1 with the S5P-CTD.

The N-terminal and the C-terminal domains of Sen1 can mediate intra-molecular interactions

Because the NIM mimics the phosphorylated CTD and our results strongly suggest that the Nter of Sen1 recognizes the S5P-CTD, we considered the possibility that the Nter of Sen1 could interact with the NIM. In order to test this hypothesis we conducted *in vitro* pull-down experiments with recombinant Sen1 C-terminal domain (aa 1930-2231) and the Nter expressed in yeast (figure 5E). Indeed, we observed substantial and reproducible interaction between both domains of Sen1, indicating that these protein regions have the potential to mediate intra-molecular interactions. Strikingly, the Nter could bind equally well the wild-type and the ΔNIM version of Sen1 Cter, indicating that the Nter recognizes regions other than the NIM in the C-terminal domain.

High-resolution transcriptome-wide interaction maps of Sen1 variants

Because the S5P-CTD is the most abundant form of RNAPII at short ncRNAs targeted by the NNS-complex, the results above suggest that the interaction of Sen1 with the S5P-CTD could be important for the early recruitment of Sen1. Alternatively, this interaction might play a role in a subsequent step, for instance during dissociation of the elongation complex. In order to distinguish between these possibilities and investigate the contribution of the protein-interactions mediated by the Nter and the NIM in Sen1 recruitment, we compare the interaction of different Sen1 versions (wt, ΔNIM or ΔNter) with RNA transcripts genome-wide by CRAC (see methods for details). To monitor for possible contaminations with unbound RNAs we included as a control a wt strain where Sen1 lacks the tag that allows its purification. The three variants of Sen1 where purified at very similar levels (figure S3), excluding artefactual results due to different protein yields. The position of the crosslink between the RNA and the protein of interest on the RNA can be revealed by the presence of a deletion or a mutation that is

generated during the reverse transcription process. To increase the resolution of our datasets we mapped only the reads deletions and we subsequently smoothed the signal as for RNAPII CRAC datasets (figure EV4A, see methods for details). The signal obtained with the untagged control was very low and spread, unlike the signal of the tagged samples that generated characteristic patterns, arguing for the high quality and specificity of our Sen1 datasets (figure EV5A and B).

Contrary to the previously reported Sen1 PAR-CLIP data, which did not detect the association of Sen1 with a large fraction of well-characterized NNS-targets (Creamer et al., 2011), we obtained clear and reproducible signals at all classes of RNAPII transcripts. Comparison of the distribution of Sen1 with that of RNAPII (Rpb1), revealed a remarkably different pattern for both proteins (figure 6A-F). At mRNAs, RNAPII binding is higher near the transcription start site (TSS), decreases right before the polyadenylation site (PAS) and generates a small peak just after the PAS. This trend was already observed in a former study (Candelli et al., 2018). In contrast, Sen1 occupancy is relatively low and homogeneous along most of the mRNA but increases near the 3' end to form a sharp peak just before the PAS (figure 6A, B, D and E). Heatmap analyses indicate that this characteristic pattern of Sen1 binding is not restricted to a subset of mRNAs but is rather general. The only clear exceptions to this rule would be genes that are regulated by NNS-dependent premature termination, where we observed a strong Sen1 signal also at the 5' end of the mRNA (figure 6H and I). At CUTs, Sen1 initial binding seems to be displaced around 50 nt downstream of the RNAPII signal, possibly indicating that the presence of other proteins (e.g. the CAP-binding complex, see Tuck and Tollervey, 2013) tightly bound to the 5' end of CUTs precludes the interaction of Sen1 with this portion of the RNA (figure 6C and F). In addition, while the RNAPII occupancy is maximal near the TSS, Sen1 peaks closer to the annotated transcription termination site (TTS, see figures 6C and EV5D). Accurate comparison between the binding pattern of Sen1 and RNAPII at snoRNAs was complicated by the fact that mature snoRNAs, as other highly abundant RNAs like rRNAs and tRNAs, are common contaminants in this kind of experiments and tend to pollute more the samples from low-abundance proteins like Sen1 than from RNAPII. Therefore, the Sen1 signal we detect along the mature snoRNAs is not fully reliable. Nevertheless, we detected clear Sen1 binding downstream of the 3'end of mature snoRNAs (see below).

In order to assess the role of the NIM and the Nter in Sen1 recruitment we compared the occupancy of the relevant classes of RNAPII by the different Sen1 variants (figure 6G-P). We normalized the Sen1 signal by the RNAPII signal in the corresponding background to correct for the variations in the levels of nascent RNAs due to differences in the termination efficiency by each Sen1 version. Neither deletion of the NIM nor deletion of the Nter affected significantly the binding of Sen1 to mRNAs (figure 6G), with the exception of those corresponding to genes subjected to premature termination (figure 6H and I), which followed the same trend as other

typical NNS targets (see below). This indicates that in general these Sen1 regions are not involved in the recruitment of Sen1 to mRNAs. In contrast, the ΔNIM version of Sen1 exhibited a moderate but significant decrease in the association with both CUTs and snoRNAs relative to wt Sen1(figure 6J-P). It is important to note that termination by the NNS-pathway occurs at multiple sites although only one termination site, typically an early one, is annotated (Roy et al., 2016). Therefore, the actual termination region of CUTs and snoRNAs can extend up to few hundred nucleotides downstream of the annotated TTS. Regarding CUTs, reduced Sen1ΔNIM occupancy was observed both at the body and the termination region (figure 6J-L). In the case of snoRNAs, we detected decreased RNA binding at the termination region (snoRNA-ter, see figure 6M-O). These results indicate that the interaction of Sen1 with Nrd1 via the NIM is important for fully efficient recruitment of Sen1 to target ncRNAs.

Surprisingly, despite the strong termination defects provoked by deletion of the Nter (figure 5), we did not observe any decrease in the occupancy of NNS-dependent transcripts by Sen1ΔNter compared to the wt (figure 6J-P). In fact, we found that Sen1ΔNter progressively accumulated downstream of the annotated TTS, in the case of CUTs, and downstream of the typical termination region in the case of snoRNAs. The fact that the Sen1ΔNter protein accumulates along the terminator readthrough region suggests that this accumulation is a consequence rather than a cause of the transcription termination defects observed in the mutant. These results imply that the interaction of Sen1 with the S5P-CTD should function downstream of the initial recruitment of Sen1 to ncRNAs.

DISCUSSION

In budding yeast, the NNS-complex emerges as a safeguard for gene expression. On one hand, it is required for transcription termination and maturation of snoRNAs, which in turn have important functions in rRNA modification. On the other hand, via its transcription termination activity coupled to RNA degradation, it prevents massive genomic deregulation that results from uncontrolled pervasive transcription (Schulz et al., 2013). Nevertheless, the NNS-complex needs to be tightly regulated in order to restrict its activity to the right targets and avoid premature transcription termination at protein-coding genes and/or degradation of mRNAs. The final step of transcription termination (i.e. dissociation of the elongation complex) exclusively depends on the helicase Sen1, which cannot discriminate non-coding from protein-coding RNAs on its own. The fact that Sen1 forms a complex with Nrd1 and Nab3, together with the capacity of Nrd1 and Nab3 to recognize motifs that are enriched in the target ncRNAs, led several authors, including us, to propose that Nrd1 and Nab3 would play a critical role in the recruitment of Sen1, therefore conferring the necessary specificity to Sen1 activity.

In the present study, we characterize molecularly and functionally the interaction between Sen1 and its partners Nrd1 and Nab3 and provide data that challenge the former model. Furthermore, we show that the interaction between Sen1 and a specific phospho-form of RNAPII is a critical requirement for the action of Sen1 on ncRNA genes. Our results allow redefining the rules that govern the specific function of the NNS-complex in non-coding transcription termination.

Molecular mimicry to coordinate transcriptional and post-transcriptional processes

As mentioned above, the CTD of RNAPII is considered a master regulator of the transcription cycle. This is due to the capacity of the CTD to be dynamically modified by kinases and phosphatases resulting in complex phosphorylation patterns that are differentially recognized by a plethora of factors with key roles in transcription-related processes (Harlen and Churchman, 2017b, 2017a). One of these factors is Nrd1, that preferentially binds the S5P-CTD to induce early transcription termination (Kubicek et al., 2012; Vasiljeva et al., 2008). Surprisingly, in a previous study, we have discovered that the same domain of Nrd1 recognizes a sequence that mimics the S5P-CTD in the non-canonical poly(A)-polymerase Trf4. In a subsequent report, a second CTD-mimic was identified in another cofactor of the exosome, Mpp6 (Kim et al., 2016). Here we reveal the presence of a third functional CTD-mimic, designated NIM for Nrd1-Interaction Motif, in the essential helicase Sen1. This mechanism of mediating mutually-exclusive interactions with multiple partners that should act sequentially in the same RNA molecule seems an efficient manner to temporally coordinate the different steps of the NNS pathway: recruitment of Nrd1 to RNAPII, then recruitment/stabilization of Sen1 to facilitate dissociation of the transcription elongation complex and finally polyadenylation of the released RNAs by Trf4 and subsequent degradation/processing by the exosome.

Our previous structural analyses have shown that the NIM in Trf4 share with the S5P-CTD several major structural elements: one or several negatively charged residues at the N-terminal part and several hydrophobic amino acids that adopt a β-turn at the C-terminal part, flanked by a conserved tyrosine. Strikingly, in the present structure of Nrd1 CID in complex with Sen1 NIM we have not observed the characteristic β-turn, yet several important H-bonds and hydrophobic interactions between the CID and Sen1 NIM are maintained and the affinity of the CID for the NIMs of Trf4 and Sen1 is almost identical. This is due to an alternative conformation of the C-terminal region of Sen1 NIM that can be accommodated in the binding pocket of Nrd1 CID. We suggest that similar extended conformation exists also in the case of the CTD mimic found in Mpp6 (Kim et al., 2016) as its DLDK C-terminal motif (figure 2E) has no propensity to form a β-turn (Singh et al., 2015).

This relaxed sequence requirement implies that other protein regions could potentially behave as *bona fide* CTD-mimics mediating the interaction with Nrd1 or with other factors with

structurally related CTD-Interaction domains. Of course, such protein regions should be present in the appropriate protein context (i.e. intrinsically disorder regions and not covered by other protein-protein interaction regions) and in the appropriate cellular compartment (i.e. in the nucleus, in the case of Nrd1-interacting factors). We anticipate that other proteins that function both in association with the CTD of RNAPII and in a separate complex might employ a similar mechanism to either coordinate transcriptional and post-transcriptional steps of the same pathway, as in the case of Nrd1, or to mediate independent functions of the same protein (e.g. docking of a CTD kinase to a different substrate).

Several ways to recruit Sen1 to transcribing RNAPII

In order to understand how the different protein-protein interactions characterized in this study may partake in the recruitment of Sen1 to nascent transcripts we have generated high-resolution transcriptome-wide maps of Sen1 binding sites (figure 6). We have detected a clear and reproducible interaction of Sen1 with all classes of RNAPII transcripts. After normalization to RNAPII occupancy, which is proportional to transcription levels, we have found that the levels of Sen1 at mRNAs, CUTs and the termination region of snoRNAs are actually within the same range.

Our data show that the interaction of Sen1 with its partners Nrd1 and Nab3 via the NIM specifically and generally contributes to the recruitment of Sen1 to ncRNAs (figure 6). However, this contribution is rather moderate, as we have observed only a ≤2-fold decrease in Sen1 occupancy upon deletion of the NIM. In addition, this reduction in Sen1 levels only have a significant impact on the efficiency of termination at a small fraction of NNS-targets, although the effects of the NIM deletion are more severe when Sen1 also lacks its N-terminal domain (figure 4). Furthermore, full deletion of the C-terminal domain of Sen1 completely abolishes the interaction between Sen1 and its partners but has only a minor impact on transcription termination efficiency (figure EV3). This suggests that there might be a minimal level of Sen1 that can support efficient termination and that in most instances preventing the interaction with Nrd1 and Nab3 does not decrease Sen1 levels below that threshold. However, more importantly our results indicate that there should be additional mechanisms to recruit Sen1 to ncRNAs that do not involve the interaction with Nrd1 and Nab3. Because Sen1 can interact with essentially all mRNAs, regardless the presence of RNA-bound Nrd1 and Nab3, it is likely that there is a common and essential mechanism of Sen1 recruitment that operates at both protein-coding and non-coding transcripts. This mechanism might involve the direct interaction of Sen1 with RNAPII. The Sen1 surfaces involved in this possible interaction could be located at the helicase domain because we have observed substantial and reproducible interaction between Sen1 and RNAPII even in the absence of the N-terminal domain of Sen1 (figure 5). One could argue that the C-terminal domain might mediate this interaction, but the

weak phenotype of a Sen1 mutant lacking the whole Cter makes this possibility unlikely. Nevertheless, the observed interaction between Sen1 and RNAPII could be at least partially RNA-dependent. Indeed, although we include in our assays a treatment with RNase, the RNA bridging the two proteins might not be accessible to the RNase if Sen1 is very tightly bound to the nascent transcript and in very close proximity to RNAPII. In that case, it is possible that Sen1 samples all nuclear RNAs using the sequence-unspecific RNA-binding activity of its helicase domain and it induces transcription termination only when the context is appropriate. In both scenarios (i.e. direct Sen1 recruitment to elongation complexes via interaction with either RNAPII or with the nascent RNA), the specificity on ncRNAs would be provided at least in part by the concomitant presence and action of its partners Nrd1 and Nab3. Indeed, Nrd1 and Nab3 are essential and their interaction with specific sequences in the target ncRNAs is critical for termination *in vivo* (Carroll et al., 2007; Conrad et al., 2000; Steinmetz and Brow, 1998; Steinmetz et al., 2001, 2006). It has previously been proposed that Nrd1 and Nab3 would induce RNAPII pausing (Schaughency et al., 2014). In a former study, we have provided evidence that Sen1 is a poorly-processive translocase and that *in vitro* transcription termination by Sen1 strictly requires RNAPII to be paused (Han et al., 2017). Therefore, a model in which Nrd1 and Nab3 would promote Sen1-dependent termination by modifying RNAPII elongation properties would be consistent with present and previous data. Understanding how the interaction of Nrd1 and Nab3 with the nascent RNAs and/or with RNAPII-associated factors would induce polymerase pausing is an interesting subject for future studies.

The essential role of Sen1 N-terminal domain in non-coding transcription termination

In the present study we have shown that deletion of the N-terminal domain of Sen1 is lethal (figure 3). The essential character of the Nter of Sen1 was overlooked in former studies (Chen et al., 2014; Ursic et al., 2004), most likely because the *sen1ΔNter* gene was not expressed under its own promoter at the endogenous locus, and therefore possibly higher levels of the truncated protein produced in those genetic contexts would be sufficient for viability. Indeed, we have found that overexpression of *sen1ΔNter* suppresses lethality (figure 3). In addition, the role of this domain in transcription termination has not systematically been analysed before. Here we present high-resolution genome-wide data showing that the Nter is a global requirement for transcription termination specifically at non-coding genes (figure 4).

The results of our biochemical and genetic analyses strongly suggest that the essential function of the Nter is to promote the interaction of Sen1 with the S5P-CTD (figure 5). First, deletion of the Nter decreases the association of Sen1 specifically with the S5P-CTD in coimmunoprecipitation experiments. Second, replacing the Nter of Sen1 by a CID domain that preferentially recognizes the S5P-CTD supresses both the lethality and the termination defects associated with deletion of the Nter, while a CID that binds mainly the S2P-CTD does not

rescue these phenotypes. A previous work reported that Sen1 preferentially binds the S2P form of the CTD in two-hybrid assays (Chinchilla et al., 2012). It is possible that in that artificial context, because of a different conformation of the CTD separated from the rest of RNAPII and/or a different repertoire of factors bound to the CTD, Sen1 exhibits a more efficient interaction with the S2P-CTD. We cannot exclude that the Nter of Sen1 can actually bind the S2P-CTD, or even other phosphorylated forms of the CTD, in addition to the S5P-CTD. However, our results indicate that the capacity to interact with the S5P-CTD is the most relevant for the function of Sen1 on non-coding genes. In fact, a very recent genome-wide study has shown that a mutation in Sen1 Nter that has been proposed to impair the recognition of the S2P-CTD (R302W) does not have any impact on NNS-dependent transcription termination (Collin et al., 2019). We have obtained similar results on isolated targets (data not shown). In our experiments, we have also detected an association of Sen1 with RNAPII harbouring S2P-CTD that does not depend on the presence of the Nter (figure 5). Bearing in mind that Sen1 interacts with thousands of mRNAs (figure 6), it is conceivable that Sen1 associates with RNAPIIs that simply happen to be phosphorylated at S2 because this mark is present along most of the transcription cycle at protein-coding genes.

The S5P mark is the most prominent one at short non-coding genes targeted by the NNS pathway (Milligan et al., 2016). This prompted us to hypothesize that the interaction of Sen1 with the S5P-CTD might be necessary for the recruitment of Sen1 to ncRNAs. However, our Sen1 CRAC experiments support rather a role for this interaction downstream of Sen1 initial recruitment. Indeed, upon deletion of the Nter we do not observe a decrease in Sen1 occupancy but rather a progressive accumulation downstream of the early termination sites. This suggest that, when the mutant protein fails to induce termination, it tracks the transcribing RNAPII in an unproductive manner until RNAPIIs are terminated, possibly by other pathways. This behaviour would resemble to some extent that of Sen1 at mRNAs, where Sen1 is present but does not induce termination and accumulates just before the polyadenylation site, i.e. the region where RNAPII would likely get committed to termination by the CPF pathway. We do not understand at this point the role of this prominent presence of Sen1 at the 3' end of mRNAs. It is possible that it is related to a function for Sen1 as fail-safe terminator at protein-coding genes, as previously proposed (Rondón et al., 2009). Further experimental work will be required to elucidate this matter.

The crucial remaining question is why the interaction of Sen1 with the S5P-CTD is critical for NNS-dependent termination?. A previous study has provided evidence for the kinetic competition between the elongating RNAPII and Sen1-mediated transcription termination (Hazelbaker et al., 2013). The same concept has been shown later to apply also to the termination pathway for protein-coding genes in mammals (Fong et al., 2015). This notion is supported by the fact that termination is delayed (i.e. occurs downstream of natural termination

sites) for fast mutant polymerases, whereas slow mutant polymerases undergo termination earlier. A very recent report has further substantiated this kinetic competition by showing that promoter-proximal RNAPII pausing is required for efficient NNS-dependent termination and depends on phosphorylation of tyrosine 1 of the RNAPII CTD (Collin et al., 2019). The mechanisms that connect Y1 phosphorylation and pausing as well as whether they involve the action of Nrd1 and Nab3, as discussed above, remain an exciting subject for future studies. A possible explanation for the requirement of RNAPII pausing by Sen1-mediated termination is provided by our former observation that *in vitro* Sen1 is a poorly processive helicase, implying that it might undergo frequent cycles of dissociation from and re-association with the nascent transcript during translocation before it can productively reach the RNAPII (Han et al., 2017). In our *in vitro* assays, we could reproduce termination by Sen1 even in the absence of the Nter of Sen1 and the CTD of RNAPII. However, termination strictly required the RNAPII to be arrested either by a protein roadblock or by particular nucleic acid sequences (Han et al., 2017; Porrua and Libri, 2013). Therefore, it is very likely that in the *in vivo* system, where RNAPII pausing is more transient, the interaction of Sen1 with the CTD of RNAPII via the Nter is critical to couple Sen1 translocation to RNAPII pausing and favour kinetically termination. A former observation that is in seemingly contrast with our model is that a strain harbouring a S5A mutant version of the CTD, which would not support the interaction with Sen1, did not exhibit any clear termination defect at NNS-targets (Collin et al., 2019). However, such mutation provoked a massive increase in RNAPII pausing at the 5' end of genes, which would likely render unnecessary the interaction of Sen1 with the CTD, as in our *in vitro* assays. Similarly, strong overexpression of *sen1ΔNter* would increase the probability that the mutant protein interacts with the nascent RNA in close proximity to paused RNAPII, therefore providing more chances for termination and explaining the suppression of lethality.

In conclusion, because of the particular characteristics of NNS-targets as transcription units and the intrinsic properties of Sen1 as a transcription termination factor, the recognition of the S5P-CTD by Sen1 N-terminal unveiled in this study is, together with the presence of Nrd1 and Nab3 binding sites, an important determinant of the specificity of the NNS-complex for short non-coding genes.

Multiple protein-protein interactions control the function of termination factors during transcription

The fact that the Nter of Sen1 behaves as a "reader" of S5P-CTD and that the NIM functions as a "mimic" of S5P-CTD for Nrd1 lead us to test whether Sen1 Nter would recognize the NIM in the Cter. Our *in vitro* results (figure 5) do not support such idea, however, we have found that the Nter can bind the Cter *in trans*, strongly suggesting that these two domains of Sen1

can mediate intra-molecular interactions. It is important to note that there are several structurally dissimilar families of protein domains that can recognize the CTD of RNAPII. It is certainly possible that the CTD-interaction domain of Sen1 does not possess the same S5P-CTD recognition determinants than Nrd1 CID and, therefore, does not bind the NIMs. Structural analyses of the Nter should shed light on this matter. Concerning the function of these intra-molecular interactions, as mentioned above, our former *in vitro* study disfavour the hypothesis of an autoregulatory role. Therefore, we propose that these interactions would play a role in modulating the interaction of the Nter and the Cter with additional factors (see below). Taking into account our past and present results, we propose a model according to which both Nrd1-Nab3 and Sen1 would be independently recruited to the elongation complex (figure 7). Once Nrd1 would be in close proximity to Sen1, the NIM of Sen1, being a much stronger binder for Nrd1 CID, would displace Nrd1 from the CTD. Indeed, we have shown that the interactions of the CID with the CTD of RNAPII and the NIM of Sen1 are mutually exclusive and that the affinity of Sen1 NIM for Nrd1 CID is ~100 fold higher than that of the S5P-CTD. The interaction of Nrd1 with Sen1 might stabilize Sen1 on the elongation complex and/or promote its recruitment. Promoter-proximal paused RNAPIIs are enriched in the S5P phosphomark that would be recognized by Sen1 via its Nter. The intra-molecular interactions between the Nter and the Cter might change the conformation of Sen1 in a way that destabilizes its association with Nrd1 (and possibly RNAPII), which could, thus, facilitate the release of Sen1 onto the RNA to subsequently translocate towards the paused RNAPII and induce termination. In addition, dissociating Sen1 from Nrd1 would be necessary for the CID to interact with Trf4 NIM to subsequently promote polyadenylation and degradation of the released ncRNA.

Our former and present data are consistent with the idea that competitive protein interactions play an important role in regulating the dynamics of termination and RNA quality factors in ncRNA metabolism. We anticipate that the concepts and mechanisms we have unveiled in this study might apply to other systems and organisms.

METHODS

Construction of yeast strains and plasmids

Yeast strains used in this paper are listed in table S8. Gene deletions, tagging and insertion of the *GAL1* promoter were performed with standard procedures (Longtine et al., 1998; Rigaut et al., 1999) using plasmids described in table S9. Strain DLY2769 expressing untagged *sen1ΔNIM* was constructed by transforming a *Δsen1 strain* harbouring the *URA3*-containing plasmid pFL38-*SEN1* (DLY2767) with the product of cleavage of pFL39- *sen1ΔNIM* (pDL703) with restriction enzymes MluI, BstZ17I and Bsu36I. Cells capable of growing on 5-FOA were then screened by PCR for the presence of the NIM deletion and the absence of plasmids pFL38-*SEN1* and pFL39- *sen1ΔNIM.*

Plasmids expressing different *SEN1* variants were constructed by homologous recombination in yeast. Briefly, a wt yeast strain was transformed with the corresponding linearized vector and a PCR fragment harbouring the region of interest flanked by 40-45 bp sequences allowing recombination with the vector. Clones were screened by PCR and the positive ones were verified by sequencing.

Plamids for overexpression of the Nrd1 CID variants R133G and R133D were obtained using QuikChange site-directed mutagenesis kit (Stratagene).

Coimmunoprecipitation experiments

Yeast extracts were prepared by standard methods. Briefly, cell pellets were resuspended in lysis buffer (10 mM sodium phosphate pH 7, 200 mM sodium acetate, 0.25% NP-40, 2 mM EDTA, 1 mM EGTA, 5% glycerol) containing protease inhibitors, frozen in liquid nitrogen and lysed using a Retsch MM301 Ball Mill. For TAP-tagged proteins, the protein extract was incubated with IgG Fast Flow Sepharose (GE Healthcare) and beads were washed with lysis buffer. Tagged and associated proteins were eluted either by cleaving the protein A moiety of the tag with TEV protease in cleavage buffer (10 mM Tris pH 8, 150 mM NaCl, 0.1 % NP-40, 0.5 mM EDTA and 1 mM DTT) for 2h at 21°C or by boiling the beads in 2x Laemmli buffer (100 mM Tris pH 6.8, 4% SDS, 15% glycerol, 25 mM EDTA, 100 mM DTT, 0.2% bromophenol blue) for 5 min. For HA-tagged proteins, protein extracts were first incubated with 25 µg of anti-HA antibody (12CA5) for 2 hours at 4°C. Then, 30 µl Protein A-coupled beads (Dynabeads, Thermo Fisher, 30mg/ml) were added to each sample and incubated for 2 hours at 4°C. After incubation, the beads were washed with lysis buffer and proteins were eluted by incubating with 2x Laemmli buffer (without DTT) for 10 minutes at 37°C.

For pull-down experiments each recombinant version of His_6-GST-tagged Sen1 Cter or the His_6-GST control was overexpressed by growing BL21 (DE3) CodonPlus (Stratagene) cells harboring the appropriate plasmid (see table S9) on auto-inducing medium (Studier, 2005) at 20°C overnight. Protein extracts were prepared in GST binding buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl, pH

7.5, 500 mM NaCl, 5% glycerol, 0.1% NP40, 1 mM DTT) by sonication and subsequent centrifugation at 13000 rpm for 30 minutes at 4°C. Approximately 5 mg of extract containing the corresponding recombinant protein was incubated with 25 µl of glutathione sepharose (SIGMA) and subsequently mixed with yeast extracts expressing Sen1 TAP-Nter (typically 0.5 mg of extract per binding reaction). Beads were washed with lysis buffer (10 mM sodium phosphate pH 7, 200 mM sodium acetate, 0.25% NP-40, 2 mM EDTA, 1 mM EGTA, 5% glycerol) and the proteins were eluted by incubation for 15 minutes in 80 µl GST elution buffer containing 50 mM Tris-HCl pH 8, 20 mM reduced glutathione, 150 mM NaCl, 0.1% NP40 and 10% glycerol. Protein extracts were treated with 50 µg/ml of RNase A for 20 minutes at 20ºC prior to incubation with beads.

Fluorescence anisotropy analyses

Nrd1 CID and its mutants were produced and purified as described previously (Kubicek et al., 2012). The equilibrium binding of the different versions of Nrd1 CID to Trf4 NIM and Sen1 NIM was analyzed by fluorescence anisotropy. The NIM peptides were N-terminally labelled with the 5,6-carboxyfluorescein (FAM). The measurements were conducted on a FluoroLog-3 spectrofluorometer (Horiba Jobin-Yvon Edison, NJ). The instrument was equipped with a thermostatted cell holder with a Neslab RTE7 water bath (Thermo Scientific). Samples were excited with vertically polarized light at 467 nm, and both vertical and horizontal emissions were recorded at 516 nm. All measurements were conducted at 10°C in 50 mM Na_2HPO_4 100 mM NaCl pH=8. Each data point is an average of three measurements. The experimental binding isotherms were analyzed by DynaFit using 1:1 model with non-specific binding (Kuzmic, 2009).

NMR analyses

All NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker AVANCE III HD 950, 850, 700, and 600 MHz spectrometers equipped with cryoprobes at a sample temperature of 20°C using 1 mM uniformly ^{15}N,^{13}C-labelled Nrd1-CID in 50 mM Na_2HPO_4 100 mM NaCl pH=8 (20°C) (90% H_2O/10% D_2O). The initial nuclei assignment was transferred from BMRB entry 19954 and confirmed by HNCA, HNCACB, HCCCONH, HBHACONH and 4D-HCCH TOCSY spectra. The spectra were processed using TOPSPIN 3.2 (Bruker Biospin) and the protein resonances were assigned manually using Sparky software (Goddard T.G. and Kellner D.G., University of California, San Francisco). 4D version of HCCH TOCSY (Kay et al., 1993) was measured with a non-uniform sampling; acquired data were processed and analysed analogously as described previously (Nováček et al., 2011, 2012). All distance constraints were derived from the three-dimensional 15N- and 13C-edited NOESYs collected on a 950 MHz spectrometer. Additionally, intermolecular distance constraints were obtained from the three-dimensional F1-

13C/15N-filtered NOESY-[13C,1H]-HSQC experiment (Peterson et al., 2004; Zwahlen et al., 1997) with a mixing time of 150 ms on a 950 MHz spectrometer. The NOEs were semi-quantitatively classified based on their intensities in the 3D NOESY spectra. The initial structure determinations of the Nrd1 CID–Sen1 NIM complex were performed with the automated NOE assignment module implemented in the CYANA 3.97 program (Güntert and Buchner, 2015). Then, the CYANA-generated restraints along with manually assigned Nrd1 CID–Sen1 NIM intermolecular restraints were used for further refinement of the preliminary structures with AMBER16 software (Case, 2002). These calculations employed a modified version (AMBER ff14SB) of the force field (Maier et al., 2015), using a protocol described previously (Hobor et al., 2011; Stefl et al., 2010). The 20 lowest-energy conformers were selected (out of 50 calculated) to form the final ensemble of structures.

Northern blot assays

Unless otherwise indicated, cells used for northern blot assays were grown on YPD medium at 30°C to OD_{600} 0.3 to 0.6 and harvested by centrifugation. RNAs were prepared using standard methods. Samples were separated by electrophoresis on 1.2% agarose gels, and then transferred to nitrocellulose membranes and UV-crosslinked. Radiolabeled probes were prepared by random priming of PCR products covering the regions of interest with Megaprime kit (GE Healthcare) in the presence of α-^{32}P dCTP (3000 Ci/mmol). Oligonucleotides used to generate the PCR probes are listed in table S10. Hybridizations were performed using a commercial buffer (Ultrahyb, Ambion) and after washes, membranes were analysed by phosphorimaging.

RNA-seq library preparation and deep-sequencing

RNA samples were treated with RiboZero to deplete rRNA and RNA libraries were prepared by the Imagif sequencing platform using a NextSeq 500/550 High Output Kit v2. Samples were sequenced on a NextSeq 500 sequencer.

UV crosslinking and analysis of cDNA (CRAC)

For RNAPII, we employed the CRAC procedure reported in Granneman et al, 2009 (Granneman et al., 2009) with several modifications described in Candelli et al, 2018 (Candelli et al., 2018). We employed a Sen1-AID strain expressing an HTP-tagged version of the Rpb1 subunit of RNAPII (see table S8) at the endogenous locus and different versions of Sen1 on a centromeric plasmid (see table S9). Briefly, 2 L of yeast cells were grown at 30°C to OD_{600}=0.3 in CSM-TRP medium before addition of IAA to a final concentration of 500 μM and further incubation for 2h. Cells were crosslinked for 50 seconds using a W5 UV crosslinking unit

(UVO3 Ltd) and then harvested by centrifugation at 7000rpm for 10 min. Cell pellets were washed with cold 1xPBS and resuspended in 2.4 ml of TN150 buffer (50 mM Tris pH 7.8, 150 mM NaCl, 0.1% NP-40 and 5 mM b- mercaptoethanol) containing protease inhibitors (Complete™, EDTA-free Protease Inhibitor Cocktail) per g of cells. Suspensions were flash frozen in droplets and cells were lysed using a Ball Mill MM 400 (5 cycles of 3 minutes at 20 Hz). The mixtures were incubated with 165 units of DNase I (NEB) for 1h at 25°C and then clarified by centrifugation at 20000g for 20 min at 4°C.

Protein extracts were subjected to IgG-affinity purification on M-280 tosylactivated dynabeads coupled with rabbit IgGs (15 mg of beads per sample). After extensive washes with TN1000 buffer (50 mM Tris pH 7.8, 1 M NaCl, 0.1% NP-40 and 5 mM β-mercaptoethanol) the protein-RNA complexes were eluted by digestion with the TEV protease and treated with 0.2 U of RNase cocktail (RNace-IT, Agilent) to reduce the size of the nascent RNA (note that the 3'end of nascent transcripts is protected from degradation). The eluates were mixed with guanidine-HCl to a final concentration of 6M and incubated with Ni-NTAsepharose (Qiagen, 100 µl of slurry per sample) o/n at 4°C. After washing beads, sequencing adaptors were ligated to the RNA molecules as described in the original procedure. Protein-RNA complexes were eluted with 400 µl of elution buffer (50 mM Tris pH 7.8, 50 mM NaCl, 150 mM imidazole, 0.1% NP-40, 5 mM β-mercaptoethanol) and concentrated using Vivacon® ultrafiltration spin columns. Then, proteins were fractionated using a Gel Elution Liquid Fraction Entrapment Electrophoresis (GelFree) system (Expedeon) following manufacturer's specifications and the different fractions were monitored for the presence of Rpb1 by SDS-PAGE . The fractions of interest were treated with 100 µg of proteinase K and RNAs were purified and reverse-transcribed using reverse transcriptase Superscript IV (Invitrogen).

The cDNAs were amplified by PCR using LA Taq polymerase (Takara) and then the PCR reactions were treated with 200 U/ml of Exonuclease I (NEB) for 1 hour at 37°C. Finally, the DNA was purified using NucleoSpin® columns (Macherey-Nagel) and sequenced on a NextSeq 500 Illumina sequencer.

For Sen1 CRAC we employed a Sen1-AID strain harboring a plasmid expressing the pertinent version of Sen1 fused to an HTP-tag at the C-terminus (table S8). We followed essentially the same protocol as for RNAPII but with several modifications. After cell lysis, the chromatin was solubilized by sonication for 15 min instead of by DNaseI treatment. The buffer used for elution from IgG beads was supplemented with NaCl to a final concentration of 0.5 M to reduce unspecific interactions between Sen1 and the IgG beads and we employed a different elution buffer for the Ni-affinity step containing 50 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.5, 50 mM NaCl, 300 mM imidazole, 1% SDS and 1 mM DTT. RNAs were phosphorylated at their 5' end *in vitro* using

the T4 polynucleotide kinase prior to adaptor ligation. Finally, the gelfree fractionation step was omitted because most protein was lost at that step.

Annotations

For mRNAs we used the annotations in Challal et al, 2018 (Challal et al., 2018). For the 5' and the 3' end of mature snoRNAs snoRNAs we used the annotations in Xu et al, 2008 (Xu et al., 2009). In addition, we generated a second annotation were we manually annotated the transcription termination site of snoRNAs according to a genome-wide mapping of transcripts 3' ends in a previous report (Roy et al., 2016). The criteria we used was to select the earliest 3' end that is strongly stabilized by deletion of *RRP6*. To facilitate snoRNA analyses we excluded intronic and polycistronic snoRNAs (table S5) . For CUTs we used a subset of 329 out of the 925 originally annotated ones by Xu et al, 2008 (Xu et al., 2009) for which we annotated the transcription termination site as for snoRNAs (table S6).

Deep-sequencing dataset processing

RNaseq reads were demultiplexed with bcl2fastq2-2.18.12; adaptor trimming of standard Illumina adaptors was performed with cutadapt 1.15. and reads were subsequently quality-trimmed with trimmomatic (Bolger et al., 2014) and mapped to the R64 genome (Cherry et al., 2012) with bowtie2 using the default options (Langmead and Salzberg, 2012). Coverage files were normalized by the library size to 10^7 reads.

CRAC reads were demultiplexed using the pyBarcodeFilter script from the pyCRACutility suite (Webb *et al*, 2014). Next, the 5′ adaptor was clipped with Cutadapt and the resulting insert quality-trimmed from the 3′ end using Trimmomatic rolling mean clipping (Bolger *et al*, 2014). We used the pyCRAC script pyFastqDuplicateRemover to collapse PCR duplicates using a 6-nucleotide random tag included in the 3′ adaptor. The resulting sequences were reverse complemented with the Fastx reverse complement that is part of the fastx toolkit (http://hannonlab.cshl.edu/fastx_toolkit/) and mapped to the R64 genome with bowtie2 using "-N 1" option. In the case of RNAPII CRAC, coverage files were normalized by the total number of 3' end counts to 10^7 counts. In the case of Sen1 CRAC, the coverage files were normalized by the total number of deletions and set to 10^7 counts. In those experiments, we had included a spike in consisting in 0.2 % of cells of *S. pombe* expressing Rpb1-HTP. Normalization using this spike in provided very similar results but a slightly higher fluctuation between the biological replicates of the same strain, therefore we prefered to use the normalization by total counts.

Bioinformatic analyses

Bioinformatic analyses were mainly performed using the Galaxy framework (http://galaxy.sb-roscoff.fr and http://deeptools.ie-freiburg.mpg.de). For metagene analyses we used a set of tools from the deepTools2 package (Ramírez et al., 2016). Strand-specific coverage bigwig files were used as inputs for the computeMatrix tool together with separate annotations for each strand and for each feature (e.g. mRNAs, CUTs, etc), using a bin size of 10 and the desired reference point. Matrices constructed that way for each strand were subsequently combined using the rbind option of the computeMatrixOperations tool and used as the input for the plotProfile tool. We represented the median instead of the mean values to minimize the bias towards the very highly expressed features. Heatmaps were generated using the same kind of matrix as the input for the plotHeatmap tool. For metagene analyses of Sen1 occupancy normalized to Rpb1, we divided the signal of Sen1 by the Rpb1 signal over 20-nt windows using the tool bigwigCompare. We obtained almost identical results with 30-nt windows (data not shown). Quantification of the average signal over defined windows for the calculation of the readthrough index was performed using the multiBigwigSummary tool from the deepTools2 package using the normalized bigwig files for the different samples as inputs. Termination defects were determined by comparing the distributions of RT index of both replicates for Sen1 wt and setting a threshold of 5% for false discovery rate based on these distributions.

For boxplots we used the ggplot2 R package and statistical analyses were performed with Rstudio.

ACCESSION NUMBERS

The atomic coordinates for the NMR ensemble of the Nrd1CID–Sen1 NIM complex have been deposited in the Protein Data Bank under ID code 6GC3. RNAseq data have been deposited in GEO with accession number GSE117604.

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AUTHORS CONTRIBUTIONS

Z.H. performed biochemical and genetic experiments and prepared RNA samples for deep sequencing. A.T. performed biochemical experiments. O.J. designed experiments, prepared protein samples, performed FA measurements and analysis, analyzed NMR spectra, performed structure calculation; K.K. collected and processed NMR spectra, assisted with structure calculation; R.S. designed experiments and assisted with structure calculation. D.L. advised on experimental design and contributed to manuscript writing. O.P. conceived the project and performed biochemical experiments and bioinformatic analyses. O.P. wrote the manuscript with input from all authors.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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FIGURES

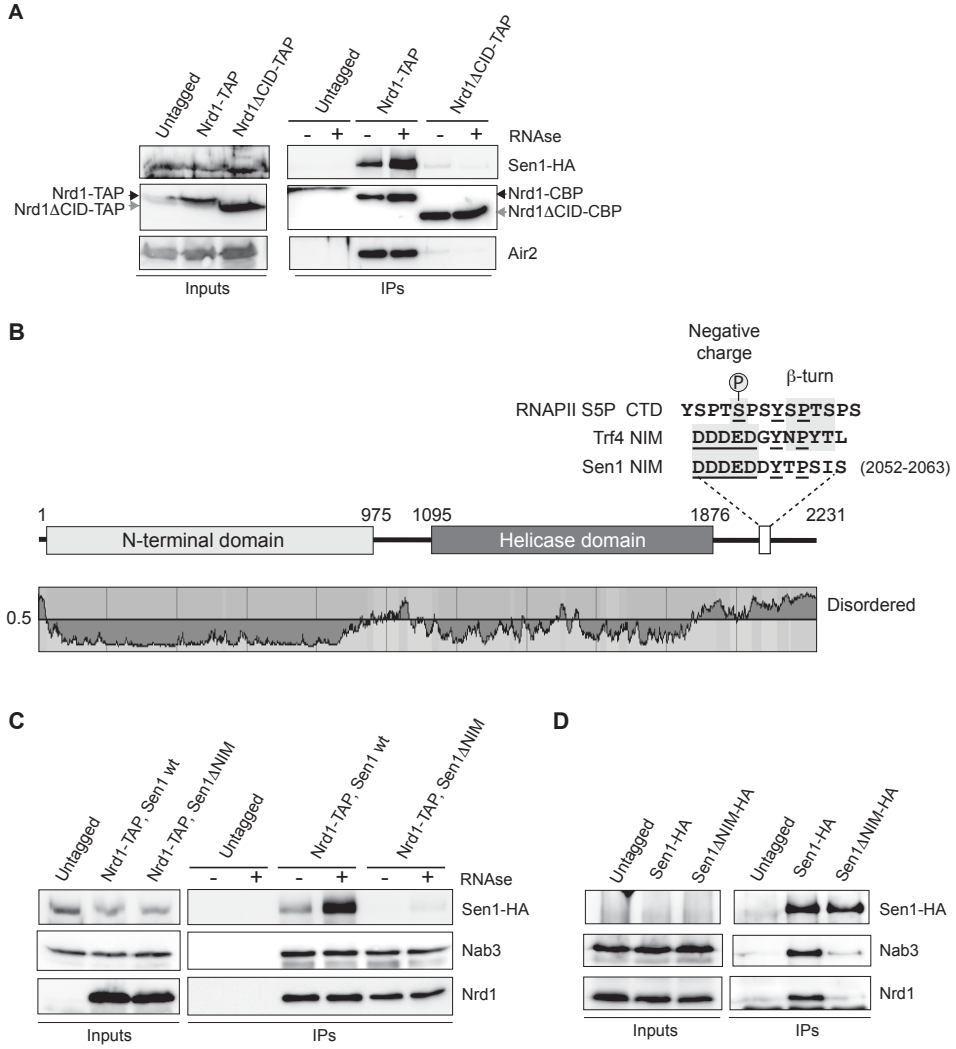


Figure 1: Identification of a Nrd1-Interaction Motif (NIM) in Sen1 that is critical for the integrity of the NNS-complex. A) Deletion of the CID domain dramatically reduces the interaction of Nrd1 with Sen1. Coimmunoprecipitation (CoIP) experiments using TAP-tagged Nrd1 (either wt or ΔCID) as the bait. Representative gel of one out of two independent experiments. **B**) Scheme of Sen1 protein. Globular domains are denoted by solid bars whereas intrinsically disordered regions are shown by a line. The disorder prediction was obtained using IUPred (Dosztányi et al., 2005). The sequence of the RNAPII S5P-CTD and Trf4 and Sen1 NIMs is shown on the top. Structural elements that are important for the interaction with Nrd1 CID are indicated. Conserved positions are underlined. **C**) Deletion of the NIM decreases substantially the association of Nrd1 with Sen1. CoIP experiments using Nrd1-TAP as the bait in a *SEN1* or *sen1ΔNIM* background. Representative gel of one out of two independent experiments. **D**) CoIP experiments using HA-tagged Sen1, either wt or ΔNIM, as the bait. Representative gel of one out of two independent experiments. Protein extracts were

treated with RNaseA prior to immunoprecipitation. In these experiment, Sen1 could not be detected in the input extracts. Antibodies used for protein detection are listed in table S7.

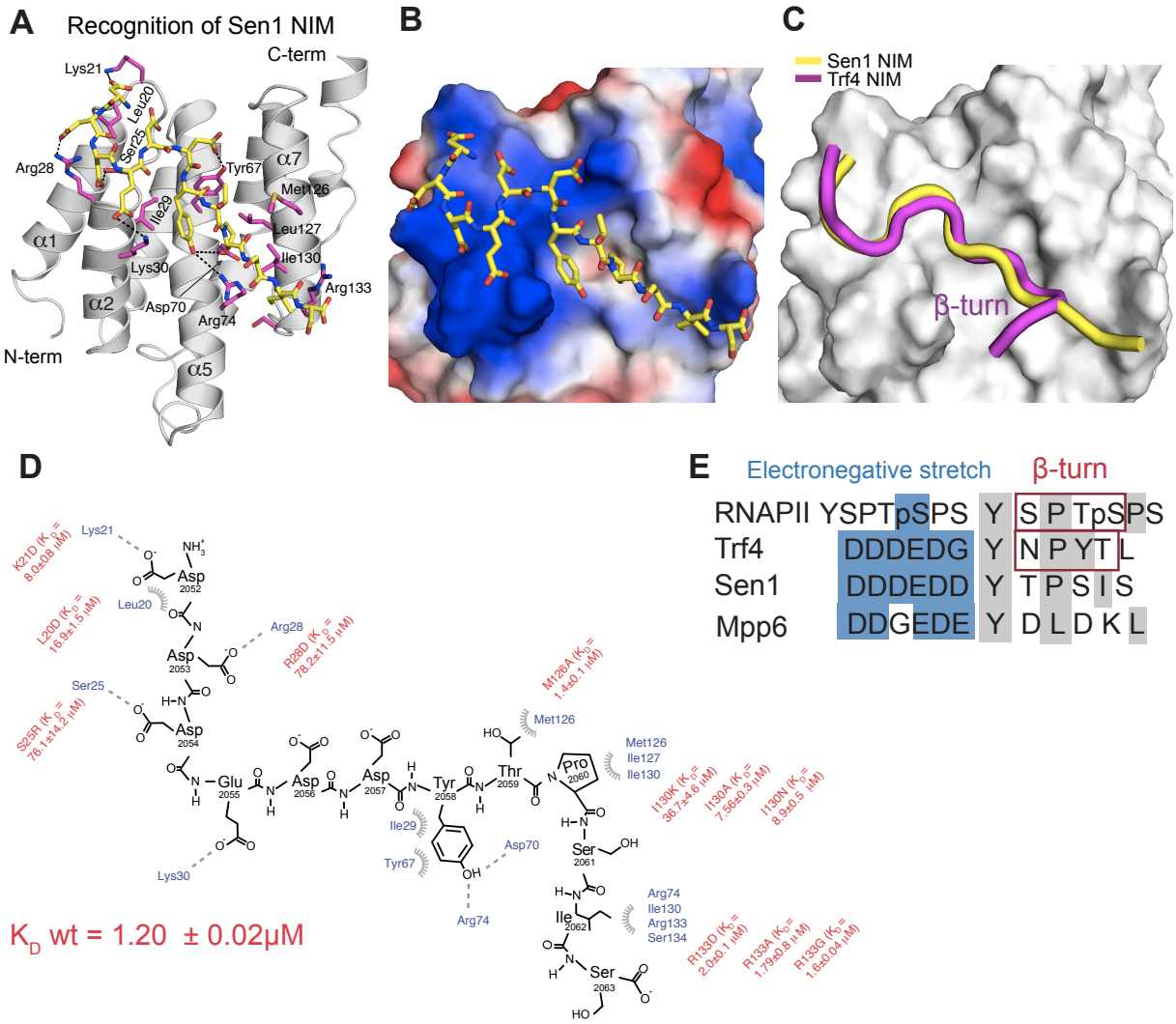


Figure 2: Recognition of Sen1 NIM by Nrd1 CID. A) NMR structure of Nrd1 CID bound to Sen1 NIM. The NIM peptide is represented in yellow sticks (only non-hydrogen atoms are shown) and Nrd1 CID is shown as a grey ribbon model. Nrd1 CID residues that form hydrophobic contacts and putative hydrogen bonds to Sen1 NIM peptide are shown in magenta sticks. **B)** Electrostatic surface representation of Nrd1 CID (electropositive in blue; electronegative in red; neutral in white) with the Sen1 NIM peptide (represented in yellow sticks; only non-hydrogen atoms are shown). The upstream electronegative stretch of Sen1 NIM interacts with an electropositive pocket of Nrd1 CID, while the C-terminal part of the peptide adopts an extended conformation that docks in a hydrophobic pocket of Nrd1 CID. **C)** Superposition of Nrd1 CID–Sen1 NIM (yellow) and Nrd1 CID–Trf4 NIM (magenta) complexes, displaying only peptide ribbons on the surface of Nrd1 CID. The comparison highlights the

extended and β-turn conformations of Sen1 NIM and Trf4 NIM, respectively. **D)** Scheme showing contacts (putative H-bonds and hydrophobic contacts) and energetics between the Sen1 NIM peptide and Nrd1 CID. Equilibrium binding experiments with the protein mutants were monitored by FA. L20D mutant disrupts the hydrophobic contact with F17 and impairs the overall geometry of the α1-α2 loop that contributes to the interaction with the upstream electronegative stretch of NIM. K_D (wild type Nrd1 CID-Sen1 NIM) equals 1.20 ± 0.02 μM. **E)** Alignment of RNAPII CTD and CTD mimics (Trf4 NIM, Sen1 NIM, and Mpp6 CTD mimic). Blue and grey boxes highlight the upstream electronegative stretches and hydrophobic regions, respectively. Previous structural works reported that S/NPXX motifs form the β-turn conformation (Kubicek et al., 2012; Tudek et al., 2014).

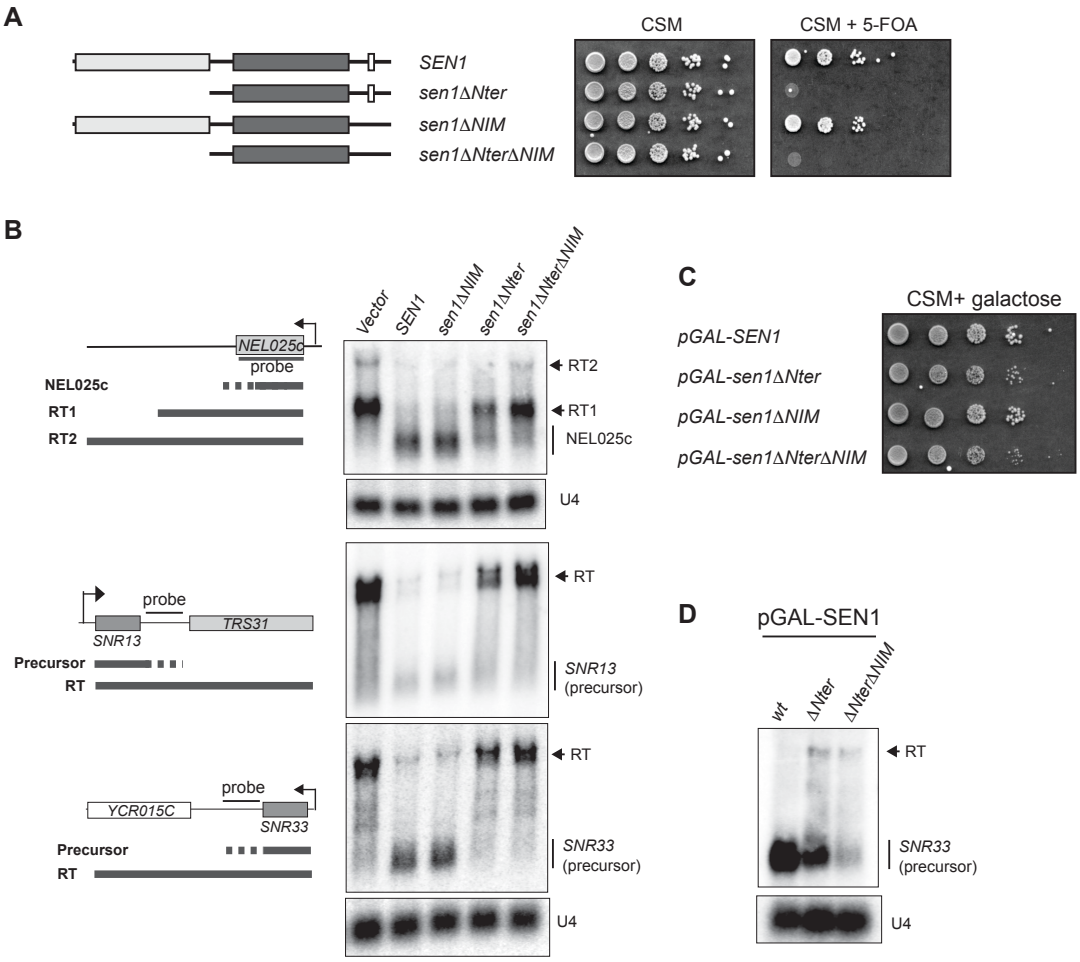


Figure 3: The N-terminal domain of Sen1 plays an essential role in non-coding transcription termination *in vivo*. A) Deletion of the N-terminal of Sen1 is lethal. A *Δsen1* strain (YDL2767) covered by an *URA3*-containing plasmid (pFL38) expressing wt Sen1 was transformed with a *TRP1*-plasmid (pFL39) carrying either the wt or the mutant versions of *SEN1* indicated in the scheme on the left. After over-night growth in non-selective medium,

cells were plated on minimal medium (CSM) containing 5-fluorootic acid (5-FOA) to select those that have lost the *URA3* plasmid. The absence of growth in 5-FOA implies that the *SEN1* version expressed in the *TRP1*-plasmid does not support viability. **B**) Deletion of the N-terminal domain of Sen1 provokes dramatic defects in transcription termination *in vivo*. Northern blot analyses of three well-characterized NNS-targets, the CUT NEL025c and the snoRNAs *SNR13* and *SNR33*, in a Sen1-AID (auxin-induced degron) strain carrying an empty vector or a plasmid expressing either the wt or the indicated versions of *SEN1.* Sen1-AID was depleted for 2h by the addition of 500 μM indole-3-acetic acid (IAA) to monitor the capacity of the plasmid-borne versions of *SEN1* to induce transcription termination. The expected RNA species resulting from inefficient termination (RT for readthrough species) are indicated. **C**) Overexpression of *sen1ΔNter* restores viability. Growth test of strains harboring the indicated version of *SEN1* at the endogenous locus under the control of the *GAL1* promoter (pGAL) in the presence of galactose. **D**) Overexpression of *SEN1* partially suppresses the termination defects associated with deletion of the N-terminal domain. Northern blot analysis of a typical NNS-target in strains expressing the indicated *SEN1* versions from pGAL in the presence of galactose. For **B**) and **D**) assays were performed in a *Δrrp6* background to detect the primary products of NNS-dependent termination and the U4 RNA is used as a loading control. All results shown were reproduced in at least one additional independent experiment. Probes used for RNA detection are described in table S10.

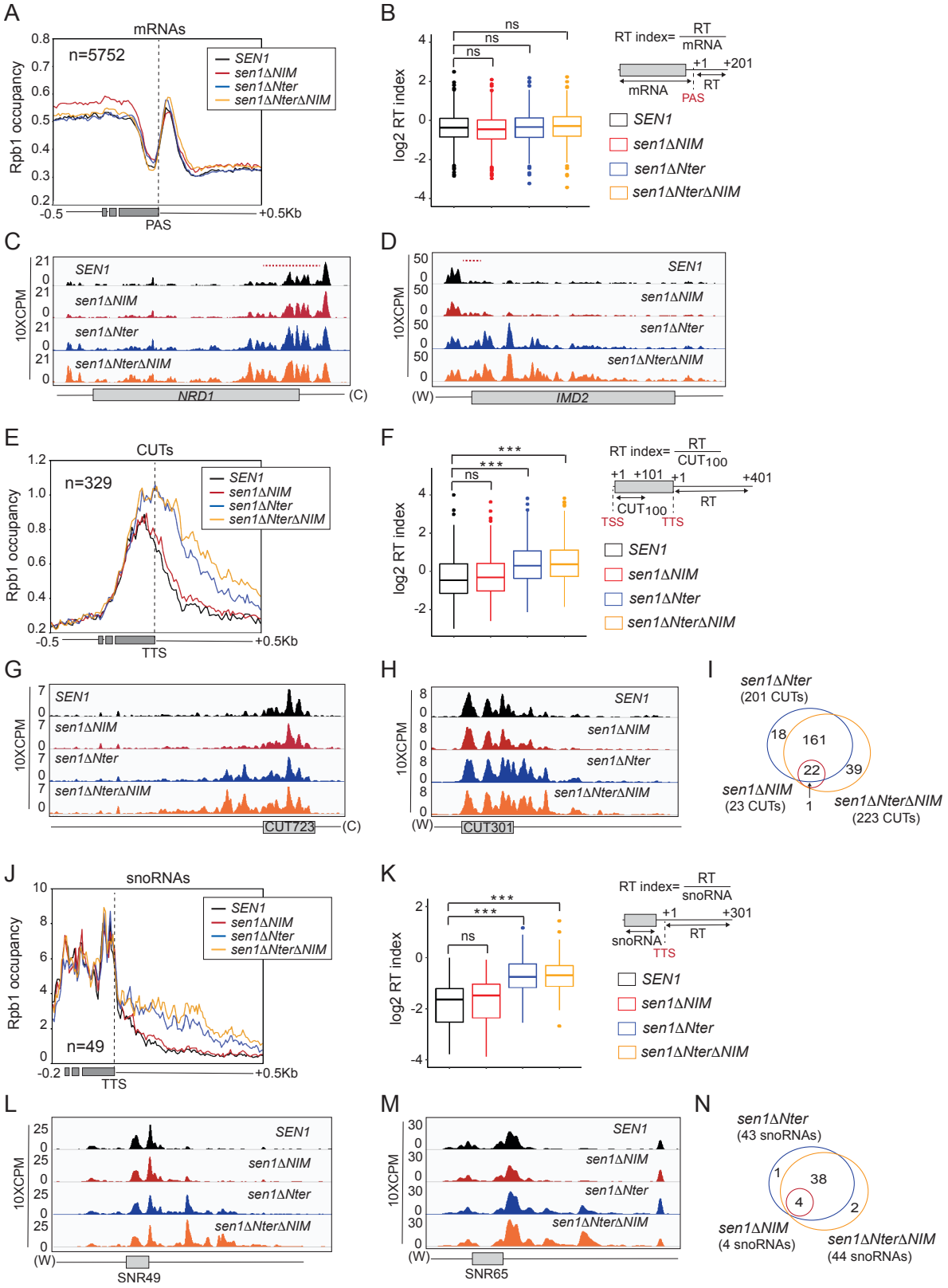


Figure 4: High-resolution genome-wide maps of transcribing RNAPII in strains expressing different Sen1 variants. RNAPII CRAC were performed in the presence of the indicated versions of *SEN1* expressed from its own promoter in a centromeric plasmid, upon

depletion of the chromosomally-encoded version of Sen1 in a Sen1-AID strain. **A)** Metagene analysis of the RNAPII distribution relative to the annotated polyadenylation site (PAS) of mRNAs. Values on the y axis correspond to the median coverage. **B)** Box-plot representation of the readthrough (RT) index as a readout of the termination efficiency at each mRNA. The RT index was calculated as the average signal over a window of 200 nt downstream of the PAS, divided by the average signal from the TSS to the PAS of each mRNA. Data populations were compared using a t-test (bilateral distributions, unpaired data) and p-values$\geq$ 0.05 are indicated as ns (not significant). **C-D**) IGV screenshots of two well-characterized protein-coding genes displaying substantial defects in premature termination in some mutants. The values correspond to the counts per million of counts (CPM) multiplied by 10. A red dashed line indicates the region were premature termination occurs according to Roy et al (Roy et al., 2016). **E**) Metagene analyses of transcribing RNAPII at CUTs performed as for mRNAs but using the annotated transcription termination site (TTS) as the reference point. **F**) Analysis of termination defects in the different mutants at CUTs as in **B**. The RT index is calculated as the average signal over a window of 400 nt downstream of the TTS, divided by the average signal over a window of 100 nt downstream from the TSS (CUT_{100}). P-values $<$ 0.001 are indicated by three asterisks. **G-H**) IGV screenshots of examples of CUTs displaying substantial termination defects in the mutants. **I**) Venn diagrams illustrating the overlap between the CUTs that display statistically significant termination defects (p-value$\leq$ 0.05, see methods for details) in the different mutants. The size of the circles is not proportional to the number of CUTs. J-N) Analysis of RNAPII occupancy around snoRNAs performed as for CUTs. The RT index is calculated as the average signal over a window of 300 nt downstream of the TTS, divided by the average signal over the mature snoRNA.

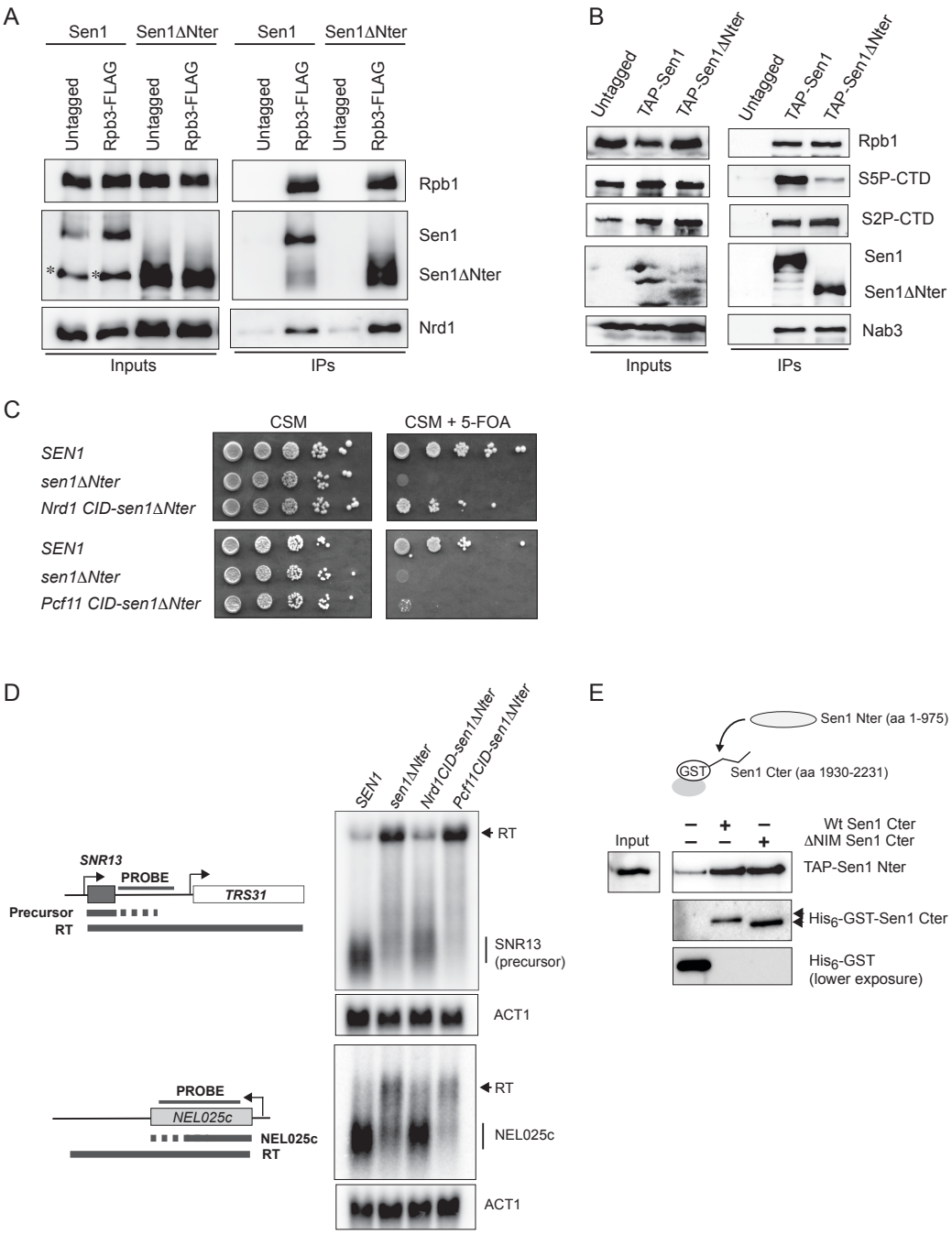


Figure 5: The N-terminal domain of Sen1 recognizes the S5-phosphorylated form of RNAPII CTD and Sen1 C-terminal domain. A) Deletion of Sen1 N-terminal domain does not prevent the interaction of Sen1 with RNAPII. CoIP experiments using Rbp3-FLAG as the bait. Assays were performed in a Sen1-AID strain harboring a plasmid expressing either *SEN1* or *sen1ΔNter* upon depletion of Sen1-AID in the presence of IAA for 2h. An asterisk denotes a major proteolytic Sen1 fragment detected in the extracts of roughly the size of *sen1ΔNter.* Nrd1 is detected as a positive control. Representative gel of one out of two independent experiments. **B**) Deletion of the Sen1 N-terminal domain reduces the interaction of Sen1 with the S5P-CTD. CoIP experiments using TAP-Sen1 as the bait. Sen1 proteins were expressed

from pGAL in the presence of galactose. Nab3 is detected as a positive control. Representative gel of one out of three independent experiments. In both **A**) and **B**) protein extracts were treated with RNaseA before immunoprecipitation. **C**) Replacing the Nter of Sen1 by the CID of Nrd1 restores viability. Growth test performed in the same conditions as in figure 3A but in the presence of a *TRP1*-plasmid carrying the *SEN1* versions indicated in the scheme on the left. The growth of the strain expressing the Nrd1 CID-sen1ΔNter chimera in 5-FOA implies that this gene can support viability. **D**) Substituting the Nter of Sen1 by Nrd1 CID but not Pcf11 CID partially suppresses the termination defects detected in the *sen1ΔNter* mutant. Northern blot assays performed in a Sen1-AID strain carrying an empty vector or a plasmid expressing the indicated versions of *SEN1* upon depletion of the endogenous Sen1 protein as in figure 3B. Experiments performed in a *Δrrp6* background. Representative gel of one out of two independent experiments.The U4 RNA is used as a loading control. Probes used for RNA detection are described in table S10. **E**) Sen1 Nter interacts with the C-terminal domain (Cter) of Sen1 both in the presence and in the absence of the NIM *in vitro*. Pull-down experiments using either a wt or a ΔNIM version of recombinant Sen1 Cter immobilized on glutathione-sepharose beads and a TAP-tagged version of Sen1 Nter expressed in yeast. Representative gel of one out of three independent experiments. Antibodies used for protein detection are listed in table S7.

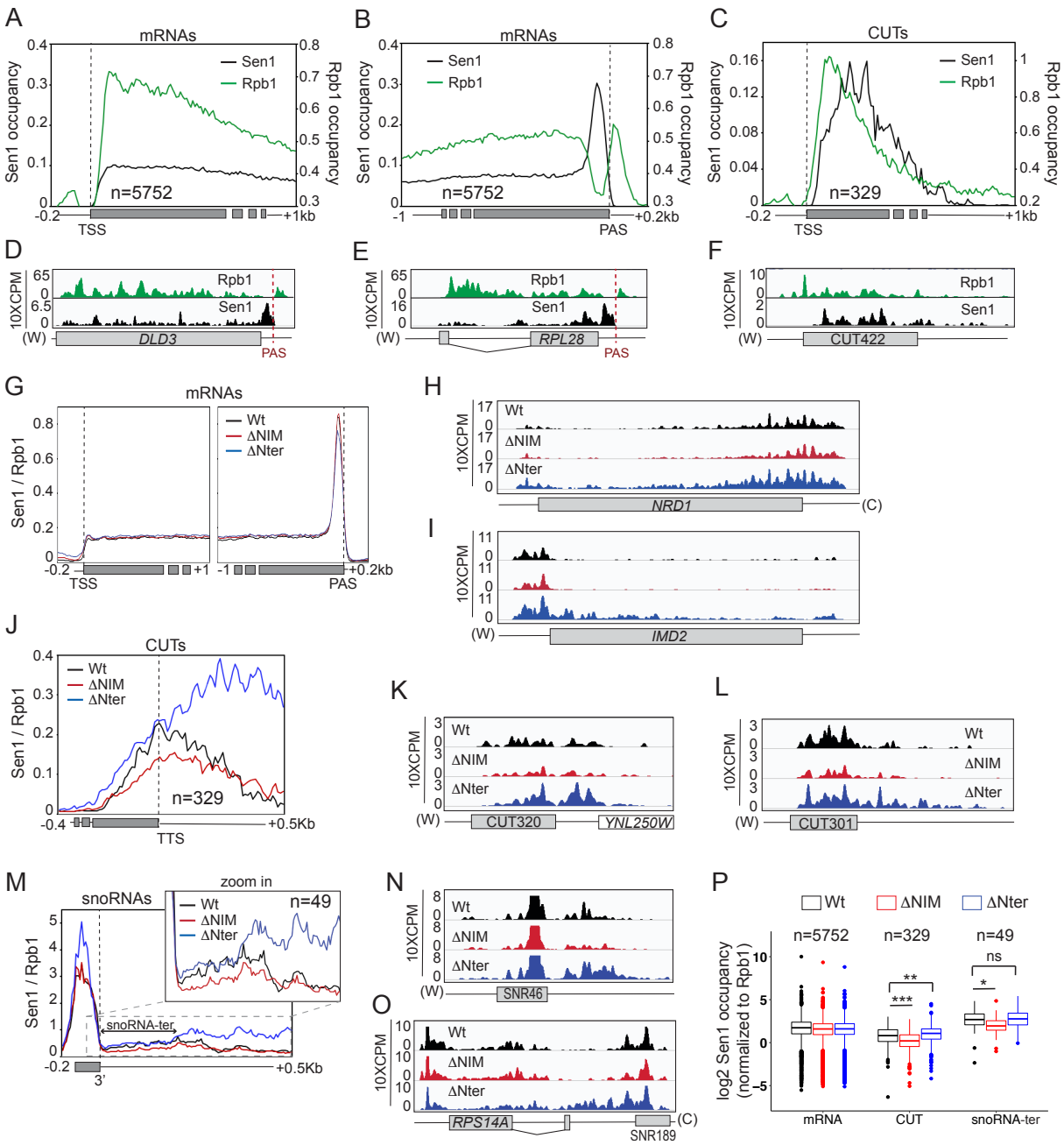


Figure 6: High-resolution transcriptome-wide maps of binding sites for different Sen1 variants. **A-C**) Comparison of the distribution of Sen1 and RNAPII (Rpb1) at mRNAs and CUTs. Values on the y axis correspond to the median coverage. Note that the scale of Sen1 and Rpb1 datasets have been modified to be able to visualize both in the same plot. **D-F**) IGV screenshots of two mRNAs and one CUT exemplifying the trend observed in the metagene plots. **G**) Metagene analysis of the distribution of the different Sen1 variants at mRNAs using either the TSS or the PAS as reference point. Values correspond to the median of Sen1 data normalized by the RNAPII signal obtained in the corresponding background. **H-I**) Screenshots of two well-characterized protein-coding genes that are regulated by NNS-dependent premature termination. Values correspond to unnormalized Sen1 occupancy. **J**) Profile of

Sen1 binding at CUTs calculated as for mRNAs. **K-L**) Examples of CUTs exhibiting differences in Sen1 occupancy upon deletion of the NIM or the Nter. Plots correspond to unnormalized data. **M-O**) Analysis of the distribution of the different Sen1 versions around snoRNAs performed as for CUTs. **P**) Comparison of the total levels of the different Sen1 variants at mRNAs, CUTs and the termination region of snoRNAs (i.e. a window of 200 nt downstream of the 3' end of the mature snoRNA, snoRNA-ter). Datasets for the different Sen1 versions were compared using a t-test (bilateral distributions, unpaired data). p-values$\geq$ 0.05 are indicated as ns (not significant), one asterisk is used when 0.05>p-value$\leq$0.01, two asterisks when 0.01>p-value$\leq$0.001 and three asterisks for p-value <0.001.

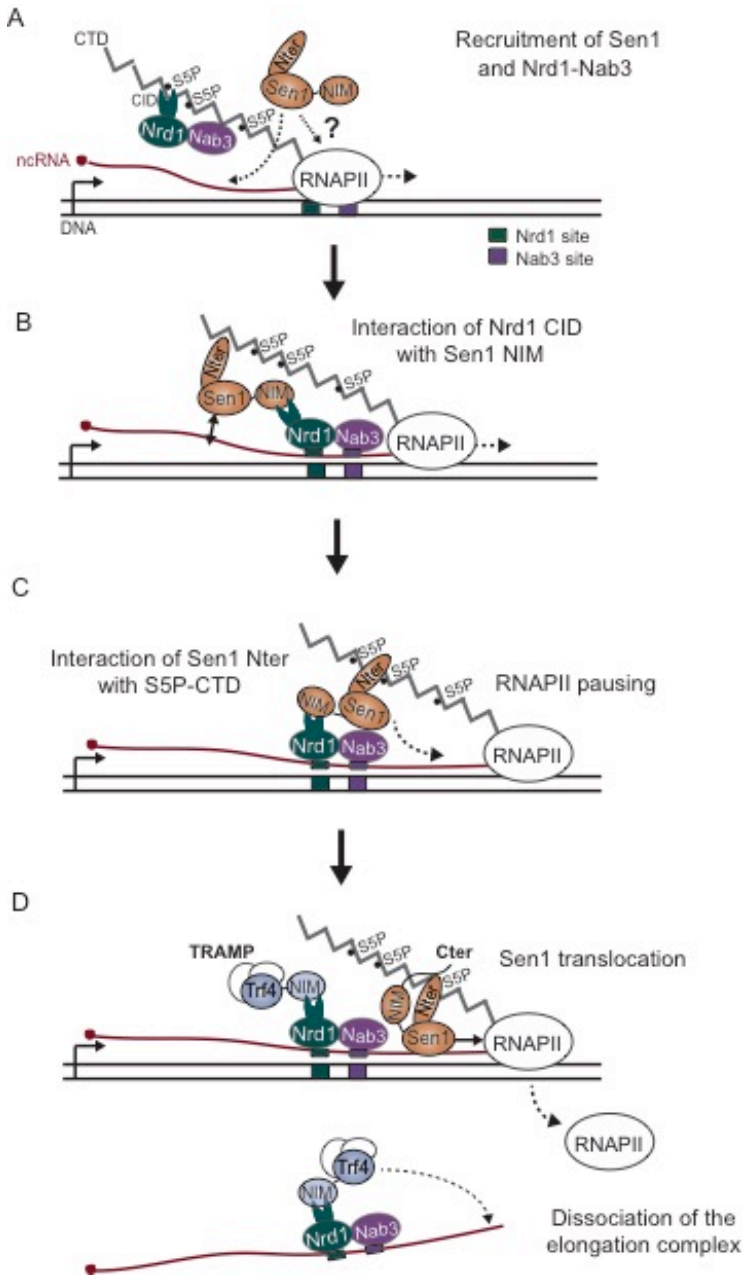
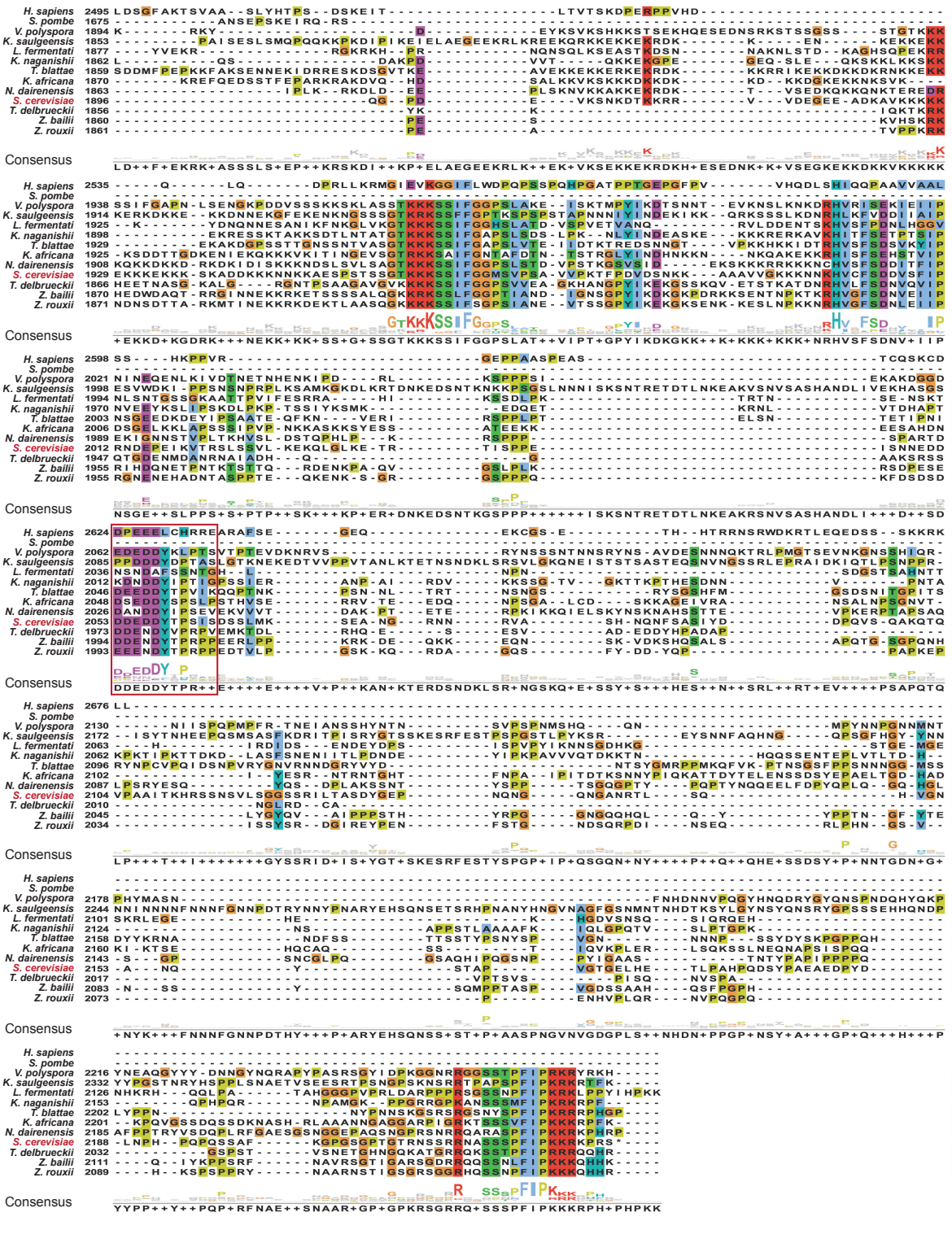


Figure 7: Model for the role of the N-terminal domain and the NIM in the control of Sen1 action at ncRNAs. A) Nrd1 and Sen1 are independently recruited to the elongation complex. Nrd1 would recognize the S5P-CTD via the CID, whereas Sen1 would be recruited either by unspecific binding to the nascent RNA or by possibly transient protein-protein interactions with RNAPII. **B**) Once Nrd1 and Nab3 RNA recognition sequences emerge from the transcribing RNAPII, Nrd1 and Nab3 would interact with them. Sen1 NIM, being a much stronger binder of Nrd1 CID, would likely displace Nrd1 from the CTD. This interaction between Nrd1 and Sen1 might be important to stabilize Sen1 association with the elongation complex and/or enhance Sen1 recruitment. **C**) The interaction of Sen1 Nter with the S5P-CTD would facilitate the association of Sen1 with the nascent RNA immediately upstream of paused RNAPII. **D**) Sen1

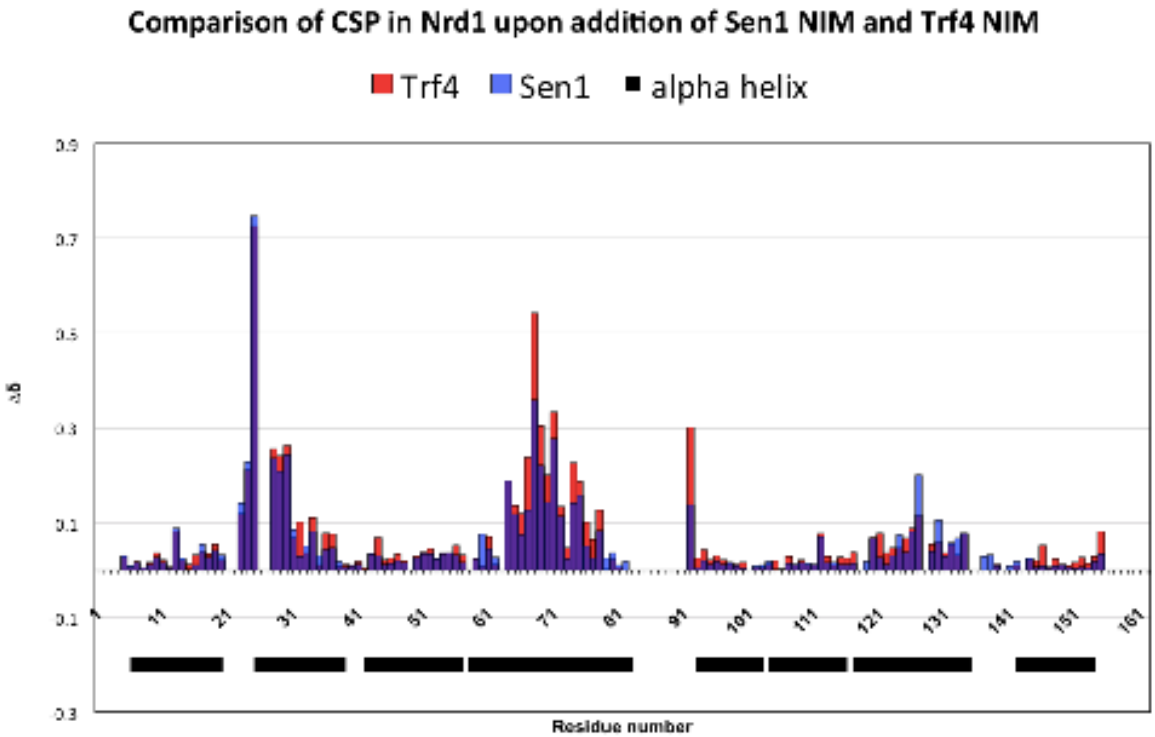
would translocate along the nascent RNA to induce dissociation of the elongation complex. Intra-molecular interactions between the Nter and the Cter of Sen1 might be important for the release of Sen1 from Nrd1 so that Nrd1 CID would be available to recruit TRAMP to the released RNA for subsequent processing/ degradation.

EXPANDED VIEW FIGURES

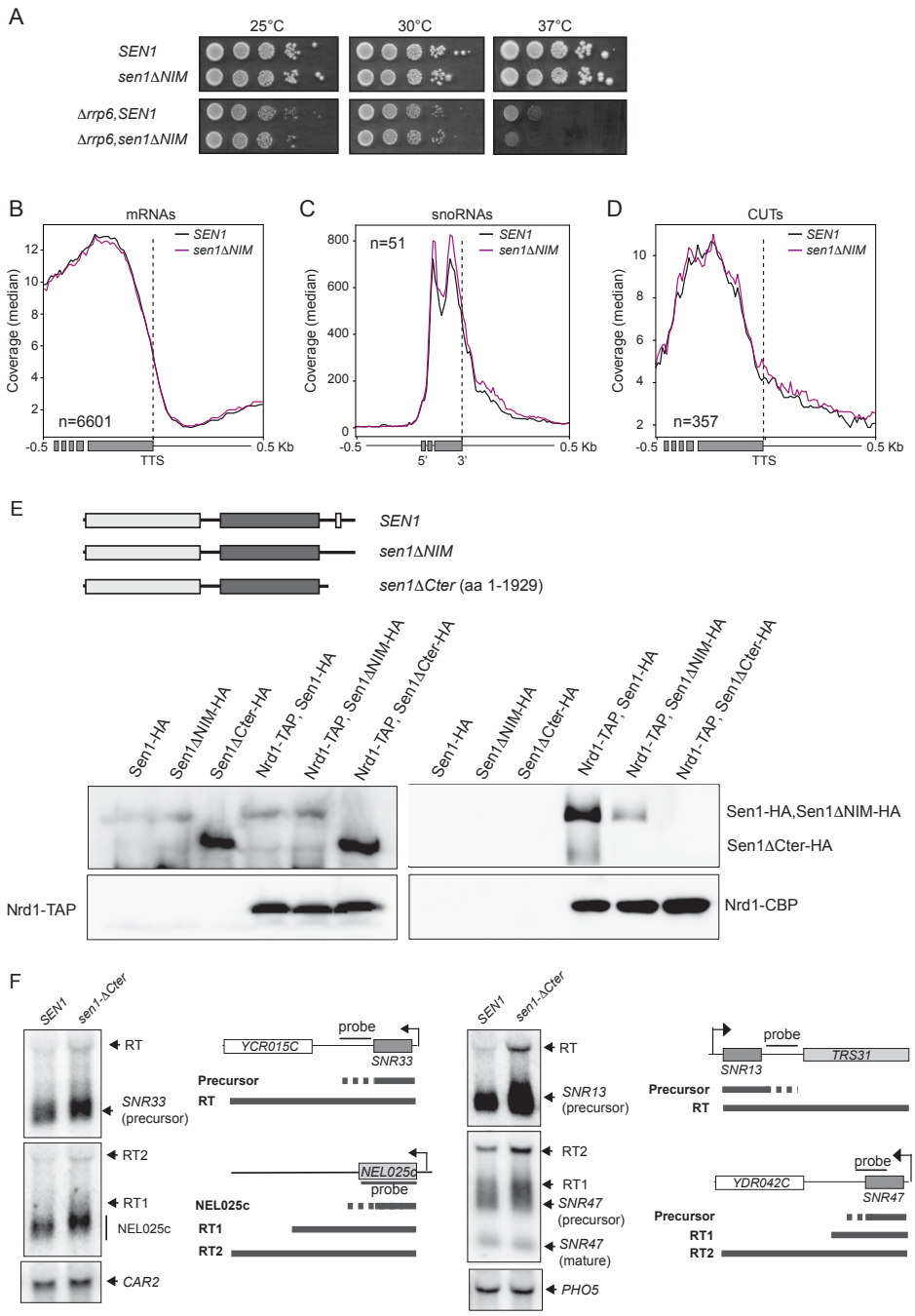


Expanded view figure 1: The Sen1 NIM is conserved in close yeast species. *S. cerevisiae* Sen1 protein sequence was submitted to blastp excluding the genus *Saccharomyces* from the search. The ten most conserved protein sequences together with Sen1 orthologues from *Homo sapiens* (SETX) and *Schizosaccharomyces pombe* were aligned to *S. cerevisiae* Sen1 using clustal omega. Visualization of the alignment and calculation of the consensus

sequences ware performed with Jalview(Waterhouse et al., 2009). Amino acids are colored according to clustal color scheme. The protein identifiers for the proteins used in the alignment are the following: Q7Z333 (*H. sapiens*), Q92355 (*S. pombe*), XP_001644478.1 (*V. polyspora*), SMN21961.1 (*K. saulgeensis*), SCV99407.1 (*L. fermentati*), CCK69072.1 (*K. naganishii*), XP_004181671.1 (*T. blattae*), XP_003955130.1 (*K. Africana*), XP_003672383.1 (*N. dairenensis*), Q00416 (*S. cerevisiae*), XP_003680903.1 (*T. delbrueckii*), CDF91445.1 (*Z. bailii*) and GAV52597.1 (*Z. rouxii*). The NIM is indicated by a red box.

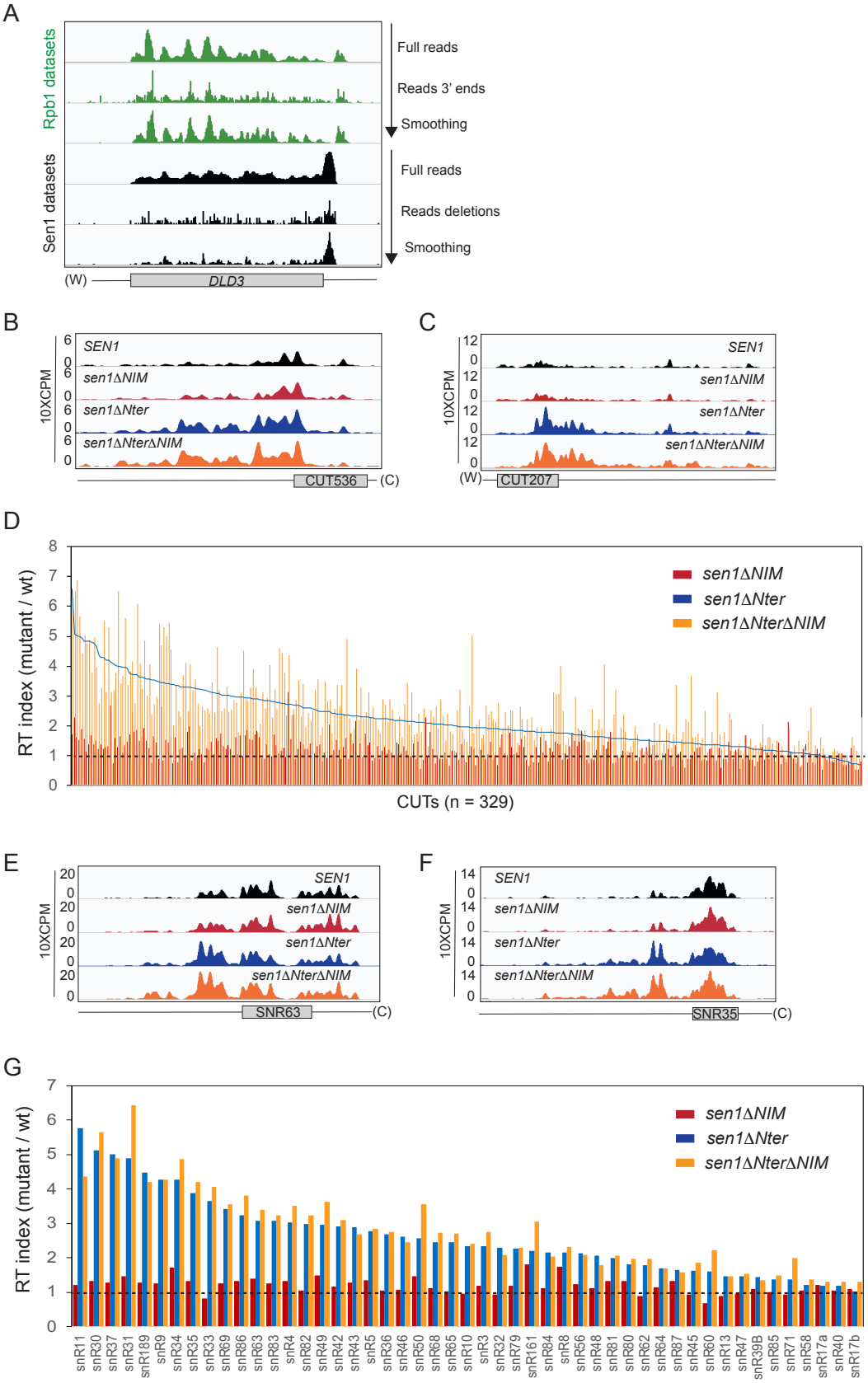


Expanded view figure 2: Quantification of chemical shift perturbations (CSP) of Nrd1 CID upon binding to the Trf4 NIM (in red) and Sen1 NIM peptides (in blue). The combined chemical shift perturbations are plotted versus the amino-acid residue number. The black boxes indicate α-helices of Nrd1 CID.



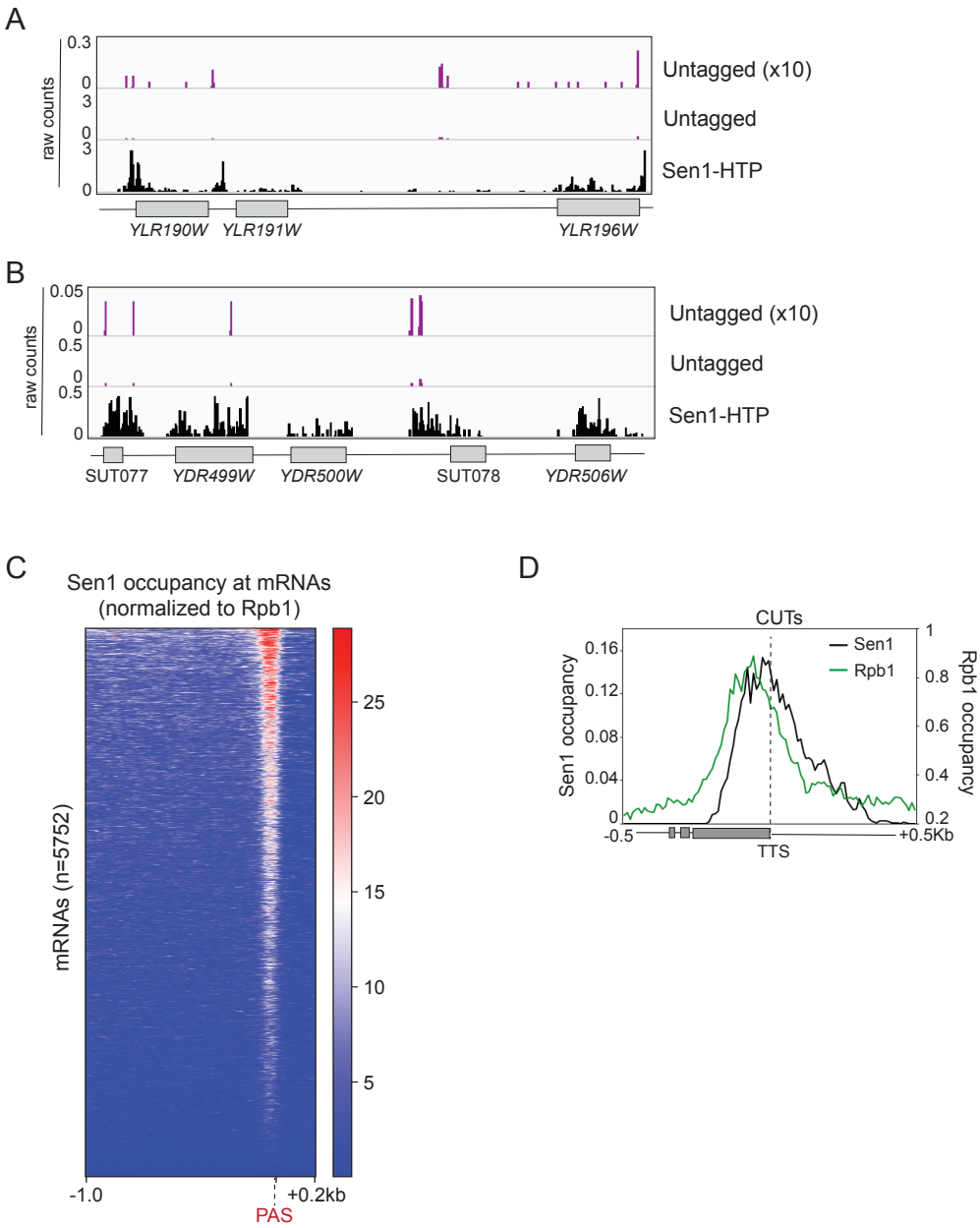
Expanded view figure 3 (related to figure 3): The interaction of Sen1 with Nrd1 and Nab3 is not essential for non-coding transcription termination. A) Growth tests of the *sen1ΔNIM* mutant in either a wt or a *Δrrp6* background. **B-D)** Metagene analyses of RNAseq experiments performed in a *Δrrp6* background in the presence of the wt or the *ΔNIM* version of Sen1. The profile corresponds to the median coverage (reads per 10^7 reads mapping at each genomic position) from 0.5 kb upstream to 0.5 kb downstream of the annotated transcription termination site (TTS) of protein-coding genes (**B**) and CUTs (**D**) or the 3'end of the mature snoRNAs (**C**). Experiments were performed in biological duplicates. **E**) Deletion of Sen1 C-terminal domain completely abolishes the interaction of Sen1 with Nrd1. **Top:** scheme of proteins analysed in

these experiments**. Bottom:** CoIP assays using Nrd1-TAP as the bait. Representative gel of one out of two independent experiments. Antibodies used for protein detection are detailed in table S7. **F)** Deletion of Sen1 Cter provokes minor transcription termination defects at typical NNS-dependent non-coding genes. Northern blot assays performed in a in a *Δrrp6* background. Results correspond to one out of two independent biological replicates.The *CAR2* and *PHO5* RNAs are detected as a loading controls. Probes used for RNA detection are described in table S10.



Expanded view figure 4 (related to figure 4): A) Screenshot of a particular mRNA to illustrate the conversions operated on RNAPII (Rpb1) and Sen1 CRAC datasets to increase resolution. **B**) and **C**) Additional examples of CUTs exhibiting transcription termination defects upon

deletion of the Nter that are exacerbated in the double *ΔNterΔNIM* mutant. **D**) Plot representing the RT index of the indicated mutants relative to the wt version of Sen1 for each CUT. RT indexes were calculated as in figure 4. CUTs are ranked in the decreasing order according to corresponding value in *sen1ΔNter***.** Data from *sen1ΔNIM* and *sen1ΔNterΔNIM* are shown by vertical bars while data from *sen1ΔNter* are represented by a line. **E**) and **F**) Additional examples of snoRNAs showing transcription termination defects in Sen1 mutants. G) Graph representing the RT index, calculated as in figure 4, of the indicated mutants relative to the wt for each snoRNA analysed.



Expanded view figure 5 (related to figure 5): A) and **B**) Screenshots of particular genomic regions to illustrate the differences in the signals obtained with the untagged control, relative

to a strain expressing the HTP-tagged version of Sen1 allowing its purification (see methods for details). The signal of the control is multiplied by 10 to allow a better comparison with that of Sen1-HTP. Values correspond to the data before normalization to total number of deletions. The data from one of the biological replicates of Sen1 wt is shown as Sen1-HTP. C) Heatmap visualization of the distribution of Sen1 wt at mRNAs. D) Metagene analysis of the distribution of the different Sen1 variants at CUTs as in figure 6J but using either the TTS as reference point.