Mismatch repair disturbs meiotic class I crossover control

Tim J. Cooper[1], Margaret R. Crawford[1], Laura J. Hunt[1], Marie-Claude Marsolier-Kergoat[2], Bertrand Llorente[3] and *Matthew J. Neale[1].

1. *Genome Damage and Stability Centre, School of Life Sciences, University of Sussex, UK*

2. CEA/DRF, I2BC/UMR 9198, SBIGeM, Gif-sur-Yvette, France; *CNRS-UMR 7026, Éco-anthropologie et Ethnobiologie, Musée de l'Homme, 17, Place du Trocadéro et du 11 Novembre, Paris, France.*

3. *Cancer Research Centre of Marseille, CNRS UMR7258, INSERM U1068, Institut Paoli-Calmettes, Aix-Marseille Université UM105, Marseille, France.*

Summary

Sequence divergence, mediated by the anti-recombinogenic activity of mismatch repair (MMR), forms a barrier to meiotic recombination and in turn the formation of viable gametes. However, rather than MMR acting as a non-specific impediment to meiotic recombination, here we provide evidence that at regions of greater sequence divergence MMR preferentially suppresses interfering (class I) crossovers (COs). Specifically, as measured in two *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* hybrids containing thousands of DNA-sequence polymorphisms, removal of MMR components increases both the frequency of CO formation and the uniformity of the observed CO distribution. At fine scale, CO positions are skewed away from polymorphic regions in MMR-proficient cells, but, critically, not when members of the class I CO pathway, *MSH4* or *ZIP3*, are inactivated. These findings suggest that class I COs are more sensitive to heteroduplex DNA arising during recombination. Simulations and analysis of Zip3 foci on meiotic chromosomes support roles for Msh2 both early and late in the class I CO maturation process. Collectively, our observations highlight an unexpected interaction between DNA sequence divergence, MMR, and meiotic class I CO control, thereby intimately linking the regulation of CO numbers and their distribution to pathways contributing to reproductive isolation and eventual speciation.

Introduction

Meiosis, a specialised two-step nuclear division, is responsible for the generation of genetically diverse, haploid gametes. An integral feature of the meiotic program is the initiation of homologous recombination via programmed Spo11-dependent DNA double-strand break (DSB) formation (Lam and Keeney, 2015). Subsequent steps of DSB repair leads to the formation of reciprocal, interhomologue exchanges known as

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crossovers (COs)—visualised cytologically as chiasmata—that are essential for faithful disjunction of meiotic chromosomes during anaphase I (Gray and Cohen, 2016; Berchowitz and Copenhaver, 2010). Failure to form at least one CO per homologue pair risks the formation of aneuploid gametes, and thus the process of CO formation is highly regulated (Shinohara et al., 2008; Martini et al., 2006). Importantly, many DSBs—in some organisms the bulk of recombination events—repair without reciprocal exchange and are termed non-crossovers (Storlazzi et al., 1995; Baudat and de Massy, 2007a; Li et al., 2019).

Within many organisms, including *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* (the subject of this study), *Mus musculus*, *Homo sapiens* and *Arabidopsis thaliana*, two subclasses of CO co-exist. ZMM (Zip2-Zip3-Zip4-Spo16, Mlh1-Mlh3, Msh4-Msh5, Mer3)-dependent class I COs account for the majority of COs formed (~70-85% within *S. cerevisiae* (Lynn et al., 2007; de los Santos et al., 2003)). Class I COs are distributed more evenly along each chromosome than expected by chance via a process referred to as CO interference in which the formation of COs in proximity to one another appears suppressed (Berchowitz and Copenhaver, 2010). Class I CO formation requires the nuclease activity of Mlh1-Mlh3, a heterodimer otherwise involved in MMR (Zakharyevich et al., 2012; Cannavo et al., 2020; Kulkarni et al., 2020; Pannafino and Alani, 2021). The less abundant class II COs are non-interfering and depend upon the Mus81-Mms4, Yen1, or Slx1-Slx4 structure-specific nucleases (Holloway et al., 2008; de los Santos et al., 2003; Matos et al., 2011; Sarbajna et al., 2014).

Current models of class I CO formation suggest at least a two-step process involving, initially, the designation of a subset of precursor DSB intermediates by pro-class I CO factors (Bishop and Zickler, 2004). Although CO interference is proposed to become active at this stage, thereby shaping the distribution of COs along chromosomes, the final distribution of class I events is secondarily impacted by a later process: class I CO maturation (Zhang et al., 2014a). Rates of maturation less than 100% will specifically deplete class I COs. Such depletion can lead to achiasmatic chromosomes, or chromosomes with a residual CO positioned close to one or other telomere, where they are considered an "at-risk" location for successful segregation (Wang et al., 2017). Such ideas have been developed to help explain the relatively high rate of meiotic chromosome missegregation in human females relative to males (Wang et al., 2017).

Homologous recombination, the process responsible for both CO and NCO formation, requires a repair template with near-perfect sequence identity (Harfe and Jinks-Robertson, 2000). Mechanistically, Msh2, an essential MMR protein and orthologue of bacterial MutS (Reenan and Kolodner, 1992), is key in binding mismatches to promote their repair through the endonucleolytic action of the Mlh1-Pms1 and Mlh1-Mlh3

complexes (Kolodner and Marsischky, 1999; Srivatsan et al., 2014). Such mismatch detection by Msh2 is thereby integral to preventing recombination by mechanisms that include recruitment of the anti-recombination helicase Sgs1 to heteroduplex DNA (Goldfarb and Alani, 2005). As such, in MMR-proficient *S. cerevisiae* hybrids, recombination between polymorphic homoeologous substrates is inefficient, leading to reduced rates of meiotic CO formation, reduced spore viability, and increased chromosomal non-disjunction during meiosis I (Chambers et al., 1996; Hunter et al., 1996)—phenotypes linked to incipient speciation, and which are largely reversed within MMR-deficient strains (Greig et al., 2003; Hunter et al., 1996; Martini et al., 2011; Chambers et al., 1996; Spies and Fishel, 2015; Bozdag et al., 2021). However, whilst Msh2-dependent binding to mismatches it likely to be rapid (Zhai and Hingorani, 2010), the precise stage of the HR pathway(s) that mismatch recognition arises, and whether this is the same for all intermediates, and in all organisms, is unclear. Indeed, recent observations in mouse meiosis suggest only limited impact of MMR activity on recombination suppression (Peterson et al., 2020), and perhaps more intriguingly, observations in *Arabidopsis thaliana* indicate an unexpected association (rather that inhibition) of recombination within polymorphic regions (Blackwell et al., 2020). Given the fundamental intimate relationships between MMR, sequence divergence, and meiotic recombination, such observations highlight the need to thoroughly explore, and to understand better, the impacts that meiotic MMR activity may have across biology.

Results

Deletion of *MSH2* alters the genome-wide frequency and distribution of meiotic crossovers

In order to investigate the impact sequence divergence and the process of mismatch repair has upon meiotic CO formation in the budding yeast, *S. cerevisiae*, we mapped recombination patterns genome-wide (**Fig. 1a** and **Methods**) within six wild-type and thirteen MMR-defective *msh2Δ* meioses—obtained from a hybrid of two widely utilized laboratory isolates: S288c and SK1 (~65,000 SNPs, ~4,000 high confidence INDELs, ~0.57% divergence; (Martini et al., 2011; Marsolier-Kergoat et al., 2018)). Additionally, we reanalyzed datasets comprising fifty-one wild-type (Mancera et al., 2011; Chen et al., 2008) and four *msh2Δ* (Oke et al., 2014) tetrads from a S96 x YJM789 hybrid of *S. cerevisiae* (~0.6% divergence). On average, we identified 74.3 ±5.4 and 105.9 ±7.8 COs per meiosis within our SK1 x S288c wild-type and *msh2Δ* samples respectively, corresponding to a significant 1.4-fold increase in CO frequency (p<0.01; Two-sample T-test) (**Fig. 1b** and **Supplementary Table 1**). A significant *msh2Δ*-dependent increase (~1.25-fold, p<0.01; Two-sample T-test) was also observed within the S96 x YJM789 hybrid (**Fig. 1b** and **Supplementary Table 1**)—collectively reaffirming the known anti-recombinogenic activity of Msh2. Notably, CO frequencies were considerably higher

within S96 x YJM789 than S288c x SK1 (91.4 vs. 74.3 COs per wild type meiosis)—suggesting that cross-specific differences may exist.

Deletion of *MSH2* also increased observed NCO events in both hybrid crosses (SK1 x S288c: wild type = 30.8; *msh2Δ* = 92.8; S96 x YJM789: wild type = 46.8; *msh2Δ* = 56.3; **Supplementary Table 1**), supporting the established effect of Msh2 in suppressing both COs and NCOs in hybrid strains as reported previously (Martini et al., 2011). However, unlike COs, the visibility of NCOs is directly affected both by the true number of converted and/or heteroduplex markers contained within a NCO event, and by the technical efficiency of calling what may potentially be only short regions of contiguous nonreciprocal marker change (Marsolier-Kergoat et al., 2018; Ahuja et al., 2021). NCO frequencies are also more affected by homeostatic effects than are COs (Martini et al., 2006). For these reasons, quantitative comparisons of NCO frequency changes in the presence and absence of *MSH2* are not simple to interpret. Instead, we focused our attention on COs where event visibility is assumed to be similar in the presence and absence of Msh2.

To investigate any possible effect of Msh2 on CO patterning, we determined the distribution of inter-crossover distances (ICDs)—the separation (in bp) between successive COs along every chromosome. To accommodate comparisons between different sample sizes, ICDs were transformed (**Methods** and **Supplementary Fig. 1**) and visualized in rank order as empirical cumulative distribution functions (eCDFs). In all mapped strains, CO distributions deviated significantly (p<0.01; Two-sample Kolmogorov-Smirnov (KS) test (Massey Jr, 1951)) from simulated conditions in which the same frequency of observed COs were distributed randomly relative to one another (**Fig. 1c–f**). In particular, observed patterns displayed a more homogenous distribution of ICDs, with fewer short and long distances between adjacent COs than expected by chance. This change in distribution was visible as a steeper eCDF curve in the experimental data compared to the random simulation, a feature that was stronger within the S96 x YJM789 cross (**Fig. 1d**) than within S288c x SK1 (**Fig. 1c**), additionally suggesting that the meiotic CO landscape is regulated in a cross-specific manner (**Supplementary Fig. 2** and **Extended discussion**).

Unexpectedly, deletion of *MSH2* within both hybrid crosses caused ICD curves to skew yet further away from the random simulation, creating a steeper inflection point (**Fig. 1c-d**; p < 0.01; Two-sample KS test) indicative of increased homogeneity in the spacing of COs relative to one another. Removal of a second MMR factor, *PMS1*, which acts downstream of Msh2 mismatch binding (Prolla et al., 1994), caused similar changes to both the CO frequency and the CO distribution curves relative to wild type (**Supplementary Fig. 3a-b**), but no

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128 additive effect in a double *msh2Δ pms1Δ* strain was observed—thereby suggesting that these CO changes

129 arise as a general consequence of MMR inactivation.

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131 To account for any impact increased CO frequency may have upon CO distribution, we utilized an *ndt80AR*

132 ("arrest–release") strain where meiotic prophase length is extended via temporary repression of the Ndt80

133 transcription factor (Benjamin et al., 2003; Xu et al., 1995; Crawford et al., 2018). On average, we identified

134 94.5 ±16.3 COs per meiosis within *ndt80AR*—a significant increase relative to wild type (p<0.01; Two-sample

135 T-test) (**Fig. 1b**). However, no further increase occurred upon deletion of *MSH2* (*msh2Δ ndt80AR*, 97.5 ±15.4

136 COs, p=0.87; Two-sample T-test) (**Fig. 1b**). Importantly, despite the lack of change in CO frequency, the

137 *msh2Δ*-dependent skew in CO distribution was still observed in *ndt80AR msh2Δ* (**Fig. 1e**) whereas increased

138 CO frequency alone (*ndt80AR*) did not alter CO distribution compared to wild type (**Fig. 1f**) (p=0.91; Two-

139 sample KS test).

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141 Inactivation of MMR within hybrid *S. cerevisiae* strains therefore gives rise to two distinct phenotypes relative

142 to wild type: (i) increased CO frequency, as previously observed (Martini et al., 2011), and (ii) a global shift in

143 the distribution of COs relative to one another—something that can arise independently of changes in CO

144 frequency. Whilst we are not directly measuring interference between COs by these analyses, the latter change

145 to the CO distribution is consistent with the loss of MMR activity appearing to increase the presence and/or

146 impact of CO interference within the global pool of COs.

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148 **Mixture modelling of class I and class II CO distributions**

149 CO distributions can be modelled by the gamma (γ) distribution, where γ(α) values >1.0 indicate increasing

150 deviations from randomness (potentially indicating increasing strength of interference between COs) (McPeek

151 and Speed, 1995). Importantly, however, because the experimentally observed CO distribution is a composite

152 mixture of class I (interfering) and class II (non-interfering) COs, models based on a single (γ) distribution

153 deviate substantially from experimental data, which contains many more ICDs <50 kb than expected (**Fig. 2a**).

154 Indeed, the presence of these short ICDs is consistent with the presence of the subpopulation of randomly

155 distributed COs (i.e. class II).

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157 To explore this aspect of the data, we utilised a computational method based on (γ)-mixture modelling (**Fig.**

158 **2b**), to statistically deconvolute ICD data, thereby deriving estimates of the random and non-random

159 components (**Methods**). A similar approach has been developed by others to explore the parameters

governing the physical positioning of COs along chromosomes (Gauthier et al., 2011). A non-random ($\gamma(\alpha_I)$ >3.0), and a random ($\gamma(\alpha_{II})$ ~1.0) component was identified for all genotypes (**Fig. 2d**). Composite simulations (**Supplementary Fig. 4**) using the estimated proportions of these two CO distributions improved model fit to experimental data and eliminated the deviations between simulation and experimental data otherwise observed for ICDs below 50 kb (**Fig. 2c**). We henceforth refer to these random and non-random CO components as estimates of, respectively, the class II and class I CO components.

Consistent with prior estimates (de los Santos et al., 2003), using this analysis, *MSH2* wild type class I:class II ratios were estimated at ~2.0 and ~3.0 within S288c x SK1 and S96 x YJM789 respectively (**Fig. 2d**). By contrast, deletion of *MSH2* increased ratio estimates to ~5-6 in both hybrid crosses (**Fig. 2d**), suggesting a ~1.7-fold increase in class I CO formation in the absence of Msh2 (**Fig. 2e**). These models also estimated *msh2Δ*-dependent decreases in the absolute frequency of class II CO formation (~0.5 to 0.7-fold) (**Fig. 2f**). Importantly, the $\gamma(\alpha_I)$ value estimates obtained for the non-random (class I) CO population were broadly similar for all strains, irrespective of Msh2 status or estimate of total class I CO frequency (gamma values between ~3.0–3.8; **Fig. 2d**, Mixed fit)—and different from the poorly fitting global $\gamma(\alpha_s)$ estimates (1.43–2.44) generated from fitting a single gamma distribution to each entire dataset (**Fig. 2d**, Single fit).

Thus, assuming that our modelling of a mixed gamma distribution is a reasonable estimate of the class I : class II balance present within cells, these analyses suggest that the global change in CO distribution towards less randomness in *msh2Δ* arises not from an increase in CO interference strength between class I COs, but instead from a change in the relative proportion of class I and class II COs present within the total CO pool. Specifically, our results suggest that the formation of ZMM-dependent class I COs is preferentially favoured within Msh2-deficient cells and that most of the additional COs observed within *msh2Δ* relative to wild type are class I. Put another way, our observations suggest that the activity of Msh2 disproportionately impedes the formation of class I COs relative to class II.

Distribution and frequency of Zip3 foci appear unaltered in *msh2Δ*

Zip3 foci specifically mark the sites of interfering, class I COs (Agarwal and Roeder, 2000; Zhang et al., 2014b). Our computational analysis predicts an increase in Zip3-marked CO sites, but no change in their relative distribution along synapsed chromosome axes. Thus, to investigate the results of our modelling, we counted Zip3 foci (Shinohara et al., 2008) on spread meiotic chromosome preparations from S288c x SK1 hybrids co-labelled with Zip1-GFP (White et al., 2004), an established marker of chromosome synapsis in *S. cerevisiae*

(**Fig. 3a-b** and **Supplementary Fig 5**) (Henderson and Keeney, 2004). To reduce observational bias, samples were randomised, and counting was restricted to only well-spread nuclei showing clear thread-like patterns of Zip1. Overall, focus number per nucleus was highly variable (10–50 per cell). Perhaps because of this variation, we were unable to identify any reproducible differences in foci number upon *MSH2* deletion, both in the wild-type and the pachytene-arrested *ndt80AR* strain background. However, we cannot exclude that this high variance obscures a real difference.

Within these data we noticed a modest correlation between spread size and total foci count per spread (**Supplementary Fig. 6a**). Thus, to investigate whether technical differences in spreading efficiency was affecting Zip3 foci counts we further analysed the density of Zip3 foci per µm^2 of spread area bounded by the chromosomal (DAPI) signal, but, again, found no clear differences caused by *MSH2* deletion (**Supplementary Fig. 6b**).

We next analysed the relative distribution of Zip3 foci along synapsed chromosome axes—a potential indicator of CO interference—in cells arrested at the pachytene stage via the *ndt80AR* allele (**Fig. 3c-f**). Measuring the distances between Zip3 foci along the subset of well-resolved chromosomes in each strain demonstrated significant deviation from that expected for a random distribution (**Fig. 3e**) and instead much closer to that of a simulated interfering distribution (**Fig 3f**), as expected for Zip3 foci marking interfering Class I events (Zhang et al., 2014b). However, no additional distributional differences were detected in the absence of Msh2 (**Fig. 3e-f**). The similarity of the Zip3 foci distribution in the presence and absence of Msh2 is consistent with our mixture-modelling analysis of CO positions identified in the genome-wide data, which estimated a similar $\gamma(\alpha_I)$ parameter for the non-random component in all strains regardless of *MSH2* status (**Fig 2d**, above).

Whilst the large variation in Zip3 foci frequencies limits our ability to draw firm conclusions, taken together, our observations suggest that the differences in CO frequency and patterning that are observed in our genome-wide analysis with and without *MSH2* may arise downstream of the point at which we have assessed Zip3 foci counts ("pachytene" as mediated by *ndt80Δ* arrest). Specifically, changes in the efficiency of CO designation and/or maturation arising after this arrest point, and/or independent of Zip3 focus formation, could lead to differences in observed (Zip3 foci) and final (genome-wide analysis in tetrads) CO frequency and distribution. This possibility is explored in more detail below.

Msh2 specifically impedes class I CO formation at regions of greater sequence divergence

The MMR machinery forms a potent barrier to homoeologous recombination, presumably due to recognition and destabilisation of recombination intermediates containing DNA mismatches. To directly explore the interplay between DNA mismatches and CO formation, we calculated polymorphism densities (SNPs, Indels) ±500 bp around every mapped CO (**Fig. 4a**) and compared between genotypes. To generate a comparative reference point, the expected environment for meiotic recombination, as defined by the polymorphism density surrounding ~3600 DSB hotspot midpoints (Pan et al., 2011), was also calculated. Polymorphism density surrounding COs within *MSH2* wild-type strains (S288c x SK1: wild type, *ndt80AR*) was significantly different to that expected in both distribution (p<0.01; Two-sample KS test) and in mean variant density (5.32 vs. 6.18, p<0.01; Two-sample T-test)—characterized by a skew towards COs, on average, arising within regions of lower genetic divergence than expected from the genome-wide position of DSBs (**Fig. 4b**). By contrast, the polymorphism density around *msh2Δ* COs displayed visual and statistical similarity to that expected (p>0.25; Two-sample KS-test) (6.26 vs. 6.18, p = 0.52; Two-sample T-test) (**Fig. 4b**). Such a disparity between wild type and *msh2Δ* was recaptured within the independent S96 x YJM789 hybrid where COs were again skewed towards regions of lower polymorphism density only in the *MSH2* wild-type strain (**Fig. 4c**). A similar effect was observed when considering polymorphism density arising ±1000 bp around each CO but was diminished with increasing distance (±2000 bp)—suggesting that DNA mismatches exert a localised inhibitory effect on CO formation (**Supplementary Fig. 7a-b** and **Supplementary Discussion**).

Our mixture modelling suggests that inactivation of *MSH2* alters global CO distribution by altering the relative abundance of class I vs class II COs (**Fig. 2** and **Fig. 3**). To determine whether the influence that Msh2 has in regulating CO class outcome is related to its role in suppressing COs at sites where mismatches will arise during meiotic recombination, we further calculated polymorphism densities within mutants that disrupt class I (*zip3Δ*, *msh4Δ*) or class II (*mms4Δ*) CO formation (Oke et al., 2014). Strikingly, mutants devoid of class I COs phenocopied *msh2Δ*—that is, COs within these mutants were no longer skewed away from regions of higher polymorphism density despite the presence of Msh2—sharing mean polymorphism densities around COs that were not statistically dissimilar to expected (p>0.5; Two-sample T-test) (**Fig. 4b-c**). Moreover, the impact of *zip3Δ* and *msh2Δ* appeared to be epistatic rather than additive, with no further change in the double mutant (**Fig. 4b**), suggesting a single common pathway. By contrast, removal of class II formation (*mms4Δ*) had no impact on the interplay between CO formation and polymorphism density (**Fig. 4c**)—collectively suggesting that mismatch-dependent repression of CO formation is specific to class I COs.

Msh2 activity during class I CO maturation

Whilst our observations provide strong evidence to support a disproportionate impact of Msh2 and polymorphisms on COs formed via the class I pathway, the time and mode of action within the HR process that this occurs is unclear. To explore in more detail the possibility of early (designation) versus late (maturation) action of Msh2, we generated simulations in which mixed patterns of COs (ranging from 100% class I to 50% class I : 50% class II) were subject to varying rates of stochastic class I CO failure (up to 50% loss)—simplistically mimicking the possible outcome of class I CO maturation failure at a (late) stage downstream of interference-patterned CO designation (**Fig. 5a** and **Methods**). Resulting genome-wide patterns of simulated CO formation (presented as eCDF curves of inter-CO distances as in **Fig. 1c-f**) were then compared to our experimentally observed CO patterns and tested for statistical similarity (**Fig. 5b-g**). For *msh2Δ* datasets, in both SK1xS288c (**Fig. 5b-c**) and S96xYJM (**Fig. 5d**), better fits (P>0.9, KS test) were obtained only for parameter combinations in which either class II CO formation was low (as described above) and/or maturation failure was low—consistent with the relatively regular (interfering) genome-wide pattern of COs observed in these strains (**Fig. 1c-f**).

By contrast, and as described above, wild-type cells, where Msh2 is active, displayed global CO patterns that were better fit (P >0.9; KS Test) with a greater proportion of class II COs (**Fig. 5e-g**; ~30% in SK1xS288c; ~20% in S96xYJM). However, these simulations also identified a diagonal band of reasonable parameter fits (P >0.8; KS Test) where decreasing proportions of class II COs were offset by increasing chances of class I CO maturation failure (**Fig. 5e-g**). This trend was clear, albeit relatively modest, in the SK1xS288c hybrid, but was enhanced in S96xYJM, where the highest density of good statistical fits (P>0.9; KS test) was obtained for relatively low fractions of class II COs (~5-10%), similar to the estimates obtained in *msh2Δ* cells, but with high rates of class I CO maturation failure layered on top (20-40%; **Fig. 5g**).

Collectively, our simulations suggest that intrinsic rates of class I maturation failure may be quite low in *msh2Δ* hybrid cells. By contrast, mismatch-dependent class I maturation failure, downstream of CO designation, and thus potentially quite late in meiotic prophase, may underpin at least some of the apparent reductions in class I COs observed in *MSH2* control cells—an effect that may be more prevalent in certain hybrids such as S96xYJM.

Discussion

Sequence divergence suppresses recombination within a wide range of eukaryotes including *S. cerevisiae*, *M. musculus* and *H. sapiens* (Chambers et al., 1996; Hunter et al., 1996; Bozdag et al., 2021; Cole et al., 2010; Baudat and de Massy, 2007b; Jeffreys and Neumann, 2005). Findings presented here expand upon these observations and suggest that the anti-recombinogenic activity of Msh2, exerted at homoeologous sites, does not mediate an indiscriminate suppression of COs but rather acts disproportionately at sites of ZMM-dependent, interfering COs (**Fig. 6a-c**)—thereby altering the spatial distribution of CO recombination across the genome by modulating the class I : class II balance. Our observations underscore how even the low rates of divergence (~0.6%) present within intra-specific hybrids of *S. cerevisiae* can generate global changes in CO frequency, CO type, and genome-wide distribution. Nevertheless, in wild-type hybrids when Msh2 is active, COs still frequently arise within heterologous regions (**Fig. 4b-c**) with class I COs still forming at a high rate (67%-75% of total COs; **Fig. 2d**). Mismatches do not, therefore, form an absolute barrier to class I COs, but instead seem to influence the probability of their formation.

Current models posit that the establishment and differentiation of class I COs is a multi-step process starting with nascent recombination interactions initiated by Spo11 DSBs, designation as class I precursors, and subsequent maturation into the final class I COs (Zhang et al., 2014a). Inefficient maturation—downstream of the implementation and patterning effects of CO interference—has been proposed as a mechanism to explain CO patterns and the innate predisposition towards meiotic chromosome missegregation in human females (Wang et al., 2017).

Within this framework, it is therefore important to consider at what stage Msh2 activity causes class I CO precursors to be redirected towards alternative outcomes. Prior analyses aimed at elucidating the CO differentiation process have harnessed relatively deep (rather than broad) datasets in order to build probability distributions of expected coincident class I COs at adjacent positions along specific chromosomes (Zhang et al., 2014a). By contrast, our genome-wide maps of CO position are broad, encompassing positional information for every CO on every chromosome in individual meioses, but are of limited depth at any given locus due to the limited throughput of genome-wide sequencing of meiotic progeny (six wild type and thirteen *msh2Δ* meioses in the S288c x SK1 hybrid). These differences preclude us from performing a similar analysis. Moreover, unlike the specificity of Zip3-focus analysis for class I COs, genome-wide CO maps cannot yet distinguish between class I and class II COs at any given site. For these reasons, we have focused on

319 analysing Msh2-dependent differences in the fine-scale positions of COs and in the distribution of COs relative

320 to one another.

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322 When considering global CO positions, conversion from a class I to a class II CO would still give rise to a CO

323 in the same position and with no change in global CO frequency. Thus, because we observe changes in CO

324 pattern and frequency, we infer that most Msh2-redirected class I events become NCOs and/or become

325 otherwise invisible within our assay (**Fig. 6c**). On this latter point, recent work provides evidence for frequent

326 repair-template switches between homologues and sister chromatids (Marsolier-Kergoat et al., 2018; Ahuja et

327 al., 2021), and thus redirection of CO precursors towards repair exclusively using identical sequences on the

328 sister chromatid is also possible (events that would be invisible in our assays). However, such redirection

329 would seemingly need to happen prior to the priming of DNA synthesis by a DSB end that has invaded the

330 homologue (**Fig. 6a**). Alternatively, Msh2-dependent redirection towards inter-sister events and NCOs may

331 occur concomitantly with mismatch repair, leading in some cases to restoration of any heteroduplex markers

332 back to the parental configuration, again precluding detection by our methods (**Fig. 6c**).

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334 The fact that the estimated frequency of class II COs was greater, in absolute terms, in Msh2-proficient cells

335 suggests that Msh2-dependent suppression of class I COs may indirectly influence class II CO formation. For

336 example, more class II events (arising from increased Spo11 activity) might be enabled by spatial and/or

337 temporal changes in the efficiency of homologue engagement caused by MMR-dependent rejection of nascent

338 recombination events, similar to when class I CO formation (Thacker et al., 2014) and/or chromosome synapsis

339 (Mu et al., 2020) is disturbed by genetic mutation. However, we did not detect any obvious Msh2-dependent

340 differences in synapsis within hybrid strains (**Fig. 3b**), suggesting that, if present, such effects are transient

341 and/or relatively subtle.

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343 In our envisioned model (**Fig. 6a-c**), which builds upon prior ideas (Chambers et al., 1996; Hunter et al., 1996),

344 rejected class I events may be redirected towards the NCO pathway relatively early on during CO designation

345 and/or maturation via unwinding of the initial strand invasion intermediate with repair proceeding via synthesis-

346 dependent strand annealing (SDSA; (Marsolier-Kergoat et al., 2018; Ahuja et al., 2021)). Alternatively,

347 redirection could occur at a later stage, for example after class I CO precursors reach the double Holliday

348 junction (dHJ) stage. The potential for dHJs to undergo branch migration (Marsolier-Kergoat et al., 2018; Ahuja

349 et al., 2021) may generate large patches of heteroduplex DNA that could in turn be efficiently detected by the

350 MMR machinery and stimulate Sgs1-Top3-Rmi1-dependent dissolution. It is also possible that mismatches

351   cause dHJs to be more-frequently resolved as NCOs nucleolytically (perhaps via nicks generated by the MMR

352   process itself), whereas an almost absolute bias towards CO resolution is observed in the absence of Msh2

353   (Marsolier-Kergoat et al., 2018).

354

355   Our apparent inability to detect Msh2-dependent differences in the frequency of Zip3-marked CO precursors

356   at the pachytene-like arrest enforced by *NDT80* deletion where dHJs accumulate (**Fig. 3**; (Allers and Lichten,

357   2001)), indeed suggests that at least some class I redirection may arise after this dHJ stage. A late-stage

358   activity of Msh2 that disturbs class I CO formation would also be compatible with our simulations of CO

359   maturation failure in wild-type, but not *msh2Δ* cells (**Fig. 5**). However, why the two hybrids studied here

360   behaved differently in this regard is unclear but might suggest differing propensity for Msh2 to elicit anti-CO

361   effects before, during, or after CO patterning has completed.

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363   It is also possible that the distributional differences in CO patterns we have observed are patterned by

364   processes that are independent of CO interference and the class I or class II CO pathways. Non-uniform

365   densities of DNA-sequence polymorphisms, DSBs, and even COs themselves all have the potential to

366   influence the relative CO distributions that arise on a per-cell basis. However, polymorphisms, DSBs, and COs

367   are relatively evenly spread across the entire length of each chromosome in *S. cerevisiae* (**Supplementary**

368   **Fig. 8a-d**), and thus as expected, biasing CO site selection by these underlying population-level parameters

369   had no measurable impact on resulting patterns of simulated inter-CO distributions (**Supplementary Fig. 8e-**

370   **g**). Nevertheless, we recognise that non-random distributions of precursor events in individual cells can

371   influence downstream patterns of COs (Zhang et al., 2014a), without necessarily generating nonuniformity

372   when assayed across a population. In addition, in organisms with less uniform SNP/indel density, and/or

373   propensity to initiate recombination, such non-uniformity could result in a redistribution of CO formation towards

374   certain regions, potentially influencing relative CO patterning on a per-cell basis (e.g. the effect that highly

375   heterologous regions have in *A. thaliana* (Ziolkowski et al., 2015)).

376

377   In mitotic cells, inhibition of homoeologous recombination by means of heteroduplex rejection, relies upon

378   Msh2 and the RecQ-family helicase, Sgs1 (Sugawara et al., 2004; Goldfarb and Alani, 2005; Spies and Fishel,

379   2015). An *sgs1Δ* mutant may therefore be expected to phenocopy *msh2Δ* if suppression of class I COs occurs

380   via this mechanism. Intriguingly, however, the distribution of COs is more random in *sgs1Δ* relative to wild type

381   (**Supplementary Fig. 3c**), suggesting a decrease in the proportion of class I COs. Moreover, *sgs1Δ* also

382   abolishes the increased skew towards nonrandomness (inferred above to indicate an increased frequency of

383   class I COs) caused by *MSH2* deletion (**Supplementary Fig. 3d**)—suggesting that Msh2 and Sgs1 are not

384   epistatic, but rather antagonistic in the formation of class I COs. Thus, it is possible that Msh2 mediates

385   suppression of class I COs in a pathway different to that of Sgs1-mediated heteroduplex rejection, instead

386   relying upon the downstream properties or factors of MMR, including Pms1 (**Supplementary Fig. 3a**), to

387   achieve its effect. Alternatively, the genetic complexity outlined above may arise because Sgs1 can act at

388   multiple steps and on a range of recombination intermediates. For example, at early stages Sgs1 could act to

389   promote class I CO formation by unwinding nascent recombination intermediates—independently of Msh2 and

390   mismatches—thereby allowing them to be recycled into future potential class I precursors (Oh et al., 2007;

391   Tang et al., 2015; Kaur et al., 2015). By contrast, perhaps mediated by mismatch- and Msh2-dependent

392   destabilisation of pro-class I CO factors, Sgs1 activity at a later stage could promote dHJ dissolution thereby

393   suppressing class I maturation.

394

395   It is important to consider how MMR-specificity for class I COs may arise. Msh2, Mlh1 and Pms1 form a ternary

396   complex during MMR (Li, 2008) and *in vitro* data suggest that Mlh1-Mlh3—essential class I CO factors—

397   facilitate binding of Msh2 to heteroduplex DNA arising, for example, at sites where mismatches exist between

398   parental strains (Rogacheva et al., 2014). Msh2 itself, via interaction with Msh6, also directly binds Holliday

399   junctions with high affinity (Alani et al., 1997). Thus, Mlh1-Mlh3, or the inherent structure of class I precursors,

400   may be responsible for the differential sensitivity of each CO subclass to sequence mismatches through

401   preferential recruitment or activation of Msh2 and MMR at class I sites. Indeed, available data (Getz et al.,

402   2008) suggest that Class I COs are more likely to recruit MMR and lead to conversion/restoration (6:2, 4:4

403   patterns)—or possibly rejection (our results). By contrast, class II COs are less likely to recruit MMR, and thus

404   not only survive in MMR-proficient cells but also show signs of post-meiotic segregation (Getz et al., 2008).

405   Such mechanisms would fit with the specific reductions in class I COs that we observe in MMR-proficient cells.

406

407   Given the evolutionary conservation of MMR and of the fundamental process of CO recombination in meiosis,

408   an important consideration is whether the processes uncovered by our study are conserved across biology.

409   With this in mind, it is interesting to note that a detailed analysis of two Spo11-DSB hotspots in *M. musculus*

410   found no evidence for MSH2-dependent suppression of recombination (Peterson et al., 2020). Furthermore, a

411   recent genome-wide study in *A. thaliana* indicates redistribution of COs towards, rather than away from,

412   polymorphic regions in MMR-proficient control lines relative to a *msh2* mutant (Blackwell et al., 2020). Thus, it

413   will be critical to elucidate what are the mechanistic relationships that underpin these species-specific

414   observations. Such differences may be directed by species-specific modulation of MMR activity at pro-CO

415 sites, or by fundamental genome-scale differences that influence meiotic recombination, such as chromosome

416 size, global recombination rate (high in yeast), distribution of DNA sequence heterozygosity (non-uniform in *A.*

417 *thaliana*), and regulation of recombination initiation (PRDM9 dependent in *M. musculus*).

418

419 Overall, understanding the molecular mechanisms that contribute to speciation is fundamental to our

420 understanding of biological diversity and evolution. In this regard, despite many unknowns remaining, our

421 observations highlight an unexpected link between DNA sequence divergence, MMR, and meiotic class I CO

422 control, thereby intimately linking the regulation of CO numbers and their distribution to pathways contributing

423 to reproductive isolation and eventual speciation.

424

Contributions

426 T.J.C, M.R.C. and M.J.N. conceived of the project. M.R.C. performed all wet-lab work, data processing and

427 event calling associated with the genome-wide mapping. T.J.C. analysed and interpreted the data, performed

428 in-silico simulations, and designed the modelling algorithms. L.J.H. performed all microscopy and foci analysis.

429 M.M.K. and B.L. provided scripts, protocols, additional samples, and ideas. T.J.C., M.J.N., and B.L. wrote the

430 manuscript with critical input from all authors.

431

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435

Competing interests

437 The authors declare no competing financial interests.

438

Corresponding authors

440 Correspondence to:

441 Matthew J. Neale (m.neale@sussex.ac.uk) and Bertrand Llorente (bertrand.llorente@inserm.fr)

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Data Availability

Raw sequence data is deposited in the NIH Sequence Read Archive (SRA) under accession numbers SRP151982 (wild type, *msh2*Δ, *ndt80AR*), SRP111430 (*msh2*Δ), and SRP152953 (*zip3*Δ). Scripts, tools, software and additional data are available at: https://github.com/Neale-Lab and https://github.com/NealeTools/RecombineSim

Methods

Yeast Strains

All Saccharomyces cerevisiae strains used in this study are derivatives of SK1 (Kane and Roth, 1974) and S288c (Mortimer and Johnston, 1986). Hybrid strains, utilised in genome-wide mapping, were derived from a cross of haploid SK1 and S288c, or used published datasets from a cross of S96 x YJM789 (Chen et al., 2008; Mancera et al., 2008; Oke et al., 2014; Al-Sweel et al., 2017). Strain genotypes are detailed in (**Supplementary Table 2**). Knockouts were performed and tested by standard transformation and PCR techniques (Longtine et al., 1998). *msh2*Δ::*kanMX6* and *zip3*Δ::*HphMX* were generated by PCR mediated gene replacement using a pFA6a-*kanMX6* or pFA6-*hphMX* plasmid (Goldstein and McCusker, 1999). The P_{GAL}-*NDT80::TRP1* allele has the natural *NDT80* promoter replaced by the *GAL1-10* promoter, and strains include a *GAL4::ER* chimeric transactivator for β-estradiol-induced expression (Benjamin et al., 2003). For cytological analyses in hybrid strains, Zip1-GFP (White et al., 2004) was expressed heterozygously from the SK1 parent only. S288c x SK1 hybrids create viable spores (91.98% WT, 72.99% *msh2*Δ spore viability), limiting observational bias that may arise from assaying a limited, surviving population (Crawford et al., 2018).

Meiotic Timecourse (*ndt80AR* strains)

Diploid strains were incubated at 30°C on YPD plates for 48h. For SK1 diploids, a single colony was inoculated into 4 mL YPD (1% yeast extract, 2% peptone, 2% glucose) and incubated at 30°C at 250 rpm for 24 h. For hybrid crosses, haploid parental isolates were mated in 1 mL YPD for 8 h. An additional 3 mL of YPD was subsequently added and the cells were grown for 16 h. Cells were inoculated to a density of (OD600) 0.2 into 30 mL YPA (1% yeast extract, 2% peptone, 1% K-acetate) and incubated at 250 rpm at 30°C for 14h. Cells were collected by centrifugation, washed in H_2O, and resuspended in 30mL pre-warmed sporulation media

15

(2% potassium acetate, 5 µg/mL Adenine, 5 µg/mL Arginine, 5 µg/mL Histidine, 15 µg/mL Leucine, 5 µg/mL Tryptophan, 5 µg/mL Uracil). The culture was then incubated at 30°C at 250 rpm for the duration of the time course. After 8h, 2 mL of the synchronised cultures were split and exposed to β-estradiol to a final concentration of 2 mM, which induces the transcription of *NDT80* and thus sporulation. Cultures were then incubated to a total of 48 h at 30°C prior to dissection. For microscopy cells were pre-grown in BYTA medium (buffered 1% yeast extract, 2% tryptone, 1% K-acetate) and *ndt80AR* cultures were not released with β-estradiol.

Tetrad Dissection

In order to produce hybrid spores for sequencing, SK1 x S288c haploid parents were mated for 8-14 h on YPD plates, with the exception of *ndt80AR* strains, which were mated and grown in liquid YPD for 24 h (see above). Haploids were mated freshly on each occasion and not propagated as diploids in order to reduce mitotic recombination. Sporulation was induced, and tetrads were dissected after 72 h in 2% potassium acetate. For octads, spores were additionally grown for 4–8 h on YPD plates until a single mitotic division had completed, after which the mother-daughter pair were separated. Colonies were grown for 16 h within liquid YPD for genomic DNA extraction. Only tetrads and octads producing four or eight viable spores/colonies, respectively, were considered for genotyping by NGS.

NGS Library Preparation

Genomic DNA was purified from overnight, saturated YPD cultures using standard phenol-chloroform extraction techniques. Samples of genomic DNA were diluted to 0.2–0.3 ng/µL. DNA concentration was measured using the Qubit High Sensitivity dsDNA Assay. Genomic DNA was fragmented, indexed and amplified via the Nextera XT DNA library Prep Kit according to the best practices recommended by Illumina. In order to check fragment-length distribution and concentration of purified libraries, 1 µL of undiluted library was run on an Agilent Technology 2100 Bioanalyzer using a High Sensitivity DNA chip. To pool samples for sequencing, 5 µL of each sample was combined into a 1.5 mL tube and mixed. 24 µL of the mix was transferred to a tube containing 570 µL hybridisation buffer. The mix was boiled at 96°C for 2 minutes and placed in ice water for 5 minutes. 6 µL of denatured PhiX control (prepared according to Illumina protocol, final concentration 1%) was added to the library, mixed well and then loaded into a MiSeq reagent cartridge. Sequencing was performed in-house using an Illumina MiSeq instrument.

Alignment, SNP and indel Detection

Individual spores were sequenced to an average read-depth of ~45x. Initially, paired-end read FASTQ files are aligned, via Bowtie2 (Langmead and Salzberg, 2012), to the SacCer3 reference genome (v. R64-2-1; (Engel and Cherry, 2013)) using the parameters: -X 1000 —local —mp 5,1 -D 20 -R 3 -N 1 -L 20 -i S,1,0.50. In order to create a custom SK1 genome to facilitate more accurate genotype-calling, SNP and indel polymorphisms were detected using the GATK (GenomeAnalysisToolkit) function *HaplotypeCaller* (Van der Auwera et al., 2013). An in-house script (*VariantCaller.pl*) subsequently parses the resulting VCF files from 72 spores to calculate: (i) the call frequency (% of spores any given allele is present within), (ii) the cumulative allelic read depth (% of reads that contain a specific allele at a specific loci), and (iii) the cumulative total read depth. To identify legitimate SNPs and indels, variants were filtered for a call-frequency between 44-55%, a total read depth of >250 and an allelic read depth of 95%. Variants within repeat regions, long terminal repeats, retrotransposons and telomeres were also discarded—yielding a final, robust list of 64,591 SNPs and 3972 indels amounting to ~0.57% divergence. A custom SK1 genome (SK1_Mod) was then generated by modifying SacCer3 (v. R64-2-1) to include all filtered/called SNPs and indels.

Genotype-Calling

Spore data from individual samples was aligned to both the custom SK1_Mod genome and the SacCer3 reference (see below). Alignment produced a SAM file, which was converted into a sorted BAM file using the Samtools function, *view* (Li et al., 2009), for downstream processing. The PySamStats (v. 1.0.1, Miles & Mattioni) module, *variation*, was used to process the sorted BAM file for each sequenced spore, producing a list of the number of reads containing A/C/T/G, insertion or deletion for each genomic position specified in the S288c and SK1 references. Variant reads were isolated and genotyped using in-house, custom scripts as follows. Genotypes were assigned according to the rules: (i) A minimum coverage-depth of 5; (ii) A SNP was called as having the variant genotype if >=70% of the reads at that position match the called variant, or as reference if =>90% of the reads match the reference; (iii) If the variant and reference reads were above 90% of all reads and within 70% of each other, the position was called as heteroduplex; (iv) indels are called as having the variant genotype if >=30% of the reads at that position matched the variant. Such a low threshold was utilised because alignment of indel sequences is biased towards the reference, which means that they are unlikely to be erroneously called as matching the variant genotype. For an indel to be called as the reference genotype, >=95% of the reads must match the reference sequence and there must be fewer than two reads matching the variant call. Any variants that fall below these thresholds were discarded. Genotype calls were converted into a binary signal, either 1 for S288c or 0 for SK1.

17

Event Calling

Using the binarised input, chromosomes were split into segments with the same segregation pattern using published scripts (Marsolier-Kergoat et al., 2018). Segment types (i.e. 1:7, 2:6, 2:6, 3:5, 4:4, 4:4*, 5:3, 6:2, 6:2* or 7:1 as previously described (Martini et al., 2011; Marsolier-Kergoat et al., 2018) were also recorded. Recombination events were subsequently called as being a set of segments located between two 4:4 segments longer than 1.5 kb (Marsolier-Kergoat et al., 2018). A 4:4 segment corresponds to a Mendelian segregation profile, 5:3 and 3:5 segments to half-conversion tracts, and 6:2 and 2:6 segments to full conversion tracts. Each recombination event can contain between 0–2 COs or NCOs. Events were additionally classified by the number of chromatids involved (i.e. 1, 2, either sister or non-sister, 3, 4). To ensure compatibility with our data-analysis pipeline, published binarised input data ("segFiles") from the S96 x YJM789 hybrid (Chen et al., 2008; Mancera et al., 2008; Oke et al., 2014; Al-Sweel et al., 2017), were minimally processed to match column naming, with spores from tetrads each duplicated to create a fake "octad". This conversion involved no changes in data, only minimal reformatting. Recombination events were then called in the same way as for SK1 x S288c octads generated for this study. Any small differences in CO and NCO counts and positions between the resulting data and that published are likely, therefore, to be due to subtle differences in the event calling criteria used (for example event merging thresholds).

Event Position & Inter-Crossover Distances (ICDs)

Crossover position, or "midpoint", is defined as the distance between the mid-points of the first and last SNP/indel markers—an estimate of true event tract length. Inter-crossover distances (ICDs) were then calculated as the distance (in bp) between successive CO midpoints.

(γ)-Mixture Modelling

Distributional analysis of CO distributions is complicated by the existence of non-interfering, Mus81-Mms4 class II COs—indistinguishable from interfering ZMM-dependent class I COs in our assay. In essence, meiotic ICDs represent a heterogenous, mixed system (**Fig. 2b**) with unknown quantities of each subclass. Latent variables (e.g. class II CO %) may, however, be inferred through probabilistic and statistical methods. Expanding upon the use of the gamma (γ) distribution to model meiotic ICDs from this type of data (Chen et al., 2008; Anderson et al., 2015), experimental data was deconvoluted by fitting two (γ) distributions—one for each subclass of CO—via an expectation maximisation (EM) algorithm (MATLAB 2018a). EM is a commonly applied method for iterative clustering and parameter estimation in mixed models (Do and Batzoglou, 2008). Briefly, any given ICD was assigned a probability reflective of how likely it is to belong to one of the two sub-

573 distributions. Subsequently, sub-distributions were iteratively shifted, and data point identity was reassigned

574 until a maximum likelihood (ML) solution was converged upon. One (γ) distribution is expected to yield a final

575 (γ)(α) value of ~1.0 (class II, random), while the other is expected to produce a (γ)(α) value of >1.5 (class I,

576 non-random), with their relative contributions to the overall mixture (i.e. the class I:class II ratio) is dependent

577 upon genotype. To validate this approach, simulated ICD datasets of two component mixtures with known

578 parameters, at variable sample sizes (S), were generated using *RecombineSim* and deconvoluted

579 (**Supplementary Fig. 4b**; see below). As a measure of accuracy, the average % difference (N(%Δ)) between

580 estimated and actual parameters was calculated. To calculate average percentage differences N(%Δ)

581 generated by the simulation, each simulated mixture (at each sample size) was performed 100 times. Gamma-

582 parameter estimates were obtained for each simulation. The parameters obtained each time were: γ(α)1,

583 γ(β)1, γ(α)2, γ(β)2, and the proportional weight of the non-random gamma present in the mixture (W1).

584 Estimated values of each parameter were then compared to the actual values used to generate the simulated

585 mixture via the standard percentage difference formula: (|X1-X2| / [(X1+X2)/2])*100. This calculation was

586 repeated for all five of the estimated parameters, with each averaged across the 100 repeats to obtain the final

587 estimated percentage difference value for each parameter. Because final errors for each of the five parameters

588 were found to be similar to one other within each trial, they were averaged to obtain a single N(%Δ) value

589 (Supplementary Fig. S4b-c). Accuracy is dependent upon sample size (S) and to a lesser extent on the relative

590 proportions of each subpopulation—and thus how likely a subpopulation is to be readily observed within the

591 mixed population. For example, (γ) mixtures containing 10 or 25% class II COs exhibit average errors of 10.0%

592 and 9.1% at (S) = 500 and 4.53% and 3.73% at (S) = 2000 respectively (**Supplementary Fig. 4c**).

593 Experimental datasets range from (S) values of 354 to 3365, therefore reasonable error rates of ~<10% were

594 expected.

595

596 A similar mixed-modelling approach (CODA) has been used to estimate relative proportions of mixed gamma

597 populations for distributions of COs along multiple observations of a chromosome (Gauthier et al., 2011). Initial

598 attempts to use this software failed presumably due to our low sample number. We circumvented this problem

599 by concatenating the genome-wide set of inter-CO distances within a single meiosis to generate single pseudo

600 (giant) chromosome encompassing, effectively, the entire yeast genome. Best-fit non-random gammas and

601 proportions of the non-random (sprinkling) component were subsequently estimated as: Wild type (alpha =

602 3.4, proportion 0.28); *msh2Δ* (alpha = 3.9, proportion 0.11). Such estimates are similar to those obtained using

603 our direct gamma mixture-modelling algorithm (e.g. **Fig. 2d**).

604

Simulating patterns of class I and class II CO formation

Randomised or mixed (class I + class II) ICD simulations were performed using a simulation platform (*RecombineSim*) built in MATLAB 2018a. A typical simulation run is depicted in (**Supplementary Fig. 4a**). In brief, virtual *S. cerevisiae* chromosomes are constructed as binned, numerical arrays at a 100 bp resolution adjusted to reflect the limit of experimental detection governed by the leftmost and rightmost genetic markers (SNPs/indels). Any given 100 bp bin possesses a numerical recombination potential (recom(P)), which governs the ability of an interfering CO to successfully form at that site. Once formed within the simulation, class I COs impose a zone of "interference", by altering recom(P) values in adjacent bins in a distance-dependent manner—a similar principle to the beam-film model of CO interference (Zhang et al., 2014a). The exact shape and width of interference imposed was determined by the best fit (γ) parameters (α, β) obtained from the MLE mixture modelling (see above) for the genotype currently being simulated—and applied as a hazard function (EQN 1.1):

$$h(x) = \frac{PDF(x)}{1 - CDF(x)} \ (1.1)$$

A hazard function describes the probability that, given a pre-existing CO at position x(0), another CO will form at any given distance (x) away (Chen et al., 2008)—and thus is a natural representation of interference. A fractional amount of class II COs that remain insensitive to recom(P) are introduced via the C_{PROB} parameter where necessary as in gamma-sprinkling models (Copenhaver et al., 2002; Housworth and Stahl, 2003; Housworth and Stahl, 2003; Falque et al., 2009). In order to closely match the in vivo datasets, simulated CO events arising within 1.5 kb of one another were also merged, creating a single visible event at the midpoint.

To explore the impact that failed class I CO maturation may have on genome-wide patterns, simulations were additionally performed in which, for a controlled (and variable) fraction of class I events, the class I event itself was removed from the population of counted events only after implementation of interference around the site of this precursor event. Such "failed-maturation" events are thus influenced by pre-existing patterns of interference, and indeed influence the probability of flanking class I CO events that may arise later in the simulation, but are not themselves counted, and thus do not contribute directly to the final pattern or frequency of CO events reported.

In all cases, simulations (N = 10,000 cells) were iterated until the final frequency of visible COs (class I plus class II) per simulated cell equaled the frequency observed for a given genotype. Thus, when events were

635 merged, and/or when events were removed (to simulate maturation failure), additional CO events were

636 simulated for those cells.

637

ICD Transformation

639 The formation of a variable number of events (N) within a finite space (*lim*) (i.e. a chromosome or genome

640 length) skews CDFs i.e. a higher CO frequency causes a downward shift in ICD size. An ICD distribution

641 produced under identical spatial rules but with a different event count would therefore generate significantly

642 different CDFs—failing or biasing statistical testing and undermining the ability to assess distributional

643 agreement. This skew can be readily observed using simulated data (**Supplementary Fig. 1a**). Notably, higher

644 values of (N) cause a leftward skew. The relationship between (N) and ICD size for a given *lim* is, however,

645 linear (Batten et al., 1993). Consequently, in order to isolate the distributional identity of any given sample (i.e.

646 isolate $\gamma(\alpha)$ from $\gamma(\beta)$), ICD data can be transformed by calculating the product of ICD size (ICD x event count).

647 Data transformation results in perfectly aligned CDFs despite varying (N), validating this approach

648 (**Supplementary Fig. 1b**).

649

Statistical Analyses

651 A *Kolmogorov-Smirnov* goodness-of-fit (GoF) test is a non-parametric test used to compare continuous

652 probability distributions in order to assess the null hypothesis that both samples derive from identical

653 populations, based on their maximal difference (D_{KS}) (Massey Jr, 1951; Miller, 1956). (P) values of the KS-test

654 effectively describe the probability that, if the null hypothesis is true, the observed CDFs would be as far apart

655 as observed. (P) values may therefore constitute an indirect measure of distributional agreement, as employed

656 throughout this paper. KS-tests were performed using the MATLAB 2018a packages: *kstest* and *kstest2*. A

657 two-sample T-test was utilised to determine whether a difference in mean value is significant or has arisen by

658 chance. Two-sample T-Tests were performed using the MATLAB 2018a package: *ttest2*.

659

Microscopy and Cytological Analysis

661 4.5 mL of meiotic culture was spun down on a bench centrifuge and resuspended to 500 µL with 1M pH 7.0

662 D-Sorbitol. 12 µL of 1.0 M DTT and 7 µL of 10 mg/mL Zymolyase in 10% glucose solution was added and cells

663 were spheroplasted by incubation at 37°C for 35–50 min with agitation. Spheroplasting success was

664 determined by taking 2–3 µL of the solution and adding an equivalent volume of 1.0% (w/v) Sodium N-

665 Lauroylsarcosine while under microscopic observation. Cells should immediately lyse as the exposed

666 membrane is disrupted by the detergent. 3.5 mL of Stop Solution (0.1M MES, 1 mM EDTA, 0.5 mM $MgCl_2$, 1M

D-Sorbitol, pH 6.4) was subsequently added and the cells were spun down to be resuspended in 100 µL Spread Solution (0.1M MES, 1 mM EDTA, 0.5 mM MgCl$_2$, pH 6.4) and distributed between four slides, which had been soaked in 70% ethanol overnight and wiped clean. To each slide, fixative (4.0% (w/v) formaldehyde, 3.8% (w/v) Sucrose, pH7.5) was added dropwise, followed by detergent (1% Lipsol, 0.1% Bibby Sterilin) to a ratio of 1:3:6 (suspension : fixative : detergent) before lightly mixing and incubating for 1 min at room temperature (RT). Further fixative was added dropwise to a final ratio of 1:9:6 and the mixture spread across the slide. Each spread was subsequently incubated at RT for 30 min in damp conditions, then allowed to air dry at RT overnight. Once dry, slides were sequentially washed in 0.2% (v/v) PhotoFlo Wetting Agent (Kodak) and dH$_2$O, and stored at 4°C.

Slides were washed once in 0.025% Triton X-100 for 10 min at RT and twice in PBS for 5 min at room temperature. Slides were blocked in 5% skimmed milk with PBS for 3 h at 37°C. Excess liquid was removed and slides laid horizontally in damp conditions. 40 µL of primary antibody (anti-Zip3 (Shinohara et al., 2008) from rat at 1:200 and/or anti-Red1 (Genecust, affinity purified, raised against aa(426-827)) from rabbit at 1:200) in 1% skimmed milk with PBS was added under coverslips. Slides were incubated at 4°C overnight (15.5 h) and washed three times in PBS for 5 min at RT. Excess liquid was then removed and slides were returned to damp conditions. 40 µL of secondary antibody (anti-rat AlexaFluor555 at 1:200 and anti-rabbit AlexaFluor488 at 1:500) in 1% skimmed milk with PBS iwas added under coverslips. Slides were incubated at room temperature for 2.5 h and then washed three times with PBS for 5 min at room temperature. Cover slips were affixed using Vectashield mounting medium with DAPI, sealed with clear varnish and imaged on an Olympus IX71 (z = 0.2 µM, Exposure times: TRITC-mCherry = 0.2 sec, eGFP = 1.0s, DAPI = 0.1s). Images were randomised, deconvoluted via Huygens (software) and foci were automatically counted using an in-house plugin for ImageJ (FindFoci) as previously described (Herbert et al., 2014), with an appropriate mask to discard signals outside of nuclei. For Zip3 interfoci-distance scoring, pixels denoting the centre of each Zip3 focus, and Zip1 ends, were manually selected along clearly separable bivalents as determined by Zip1-GFP signal (120-156 bivalents per strain, error margin of approximately 1 pixel = 0.1 µm). These positions were selected using the ImageJ segmented line tool and segment lengths were then calculated by macro, confirming agreement with total length as measured by ImageJ standard tool.

Supplementary Discussion

The *SK1-ML3* allele has a reduced capacity to generate CO interference

As previously noted, wild type CO frequencies are higher within S96 x YJM789 than S288c x SK1 (91.4 vs 74.3 COs/meiosis) (**Fig. 1b; Supplementary Table 1**). Moreover, CO distributions deviate even further from that expected for a random distribution in S96 x YJM789 (p<0.01; Two-sample KS test) (**Supplementary Fig. 2a**) consistent with the (γ)-mixture modelling results (**Fig. 2d**) suggesting that the class I CO fraction is greater in S96 x YJM789 (75% vs. 67%). Molecular incompatibilities between certain alleles of the CO formation or CO interference machinery may account for these cross-specific differences (Al-Sweel et al., 2017). To investigate this hypothesis further, we analysed the frequency and distribution of COs within an *mlh3Δ* S288c x YJM789 background containing ectopically expressed copies of the wild-type SK1 *MLH1* and *MLH3* alleles (*SK1-MLH3*) (Al-Sweel et al., 2017). Remarkably, introduction of the SK1 alleles was sufficient to alter the genome-wide pattern of COs, producing a relative distribution identical to that observed in the S288c x SK1 hybrid (p = 0.91; Two-sample KS Test) (**Supplementary Fig. 2b**). Surprisingly, despite this change in CO distribution, introduction of the SK1 alleles did not significantly reduce CO frequency when compared to the large pool of 51 wild-type S96 x YJM789 tetrads (90.9 COs vs 91.4 per meiosis) (**Supplementary Table 1**). However, the observed frequency was significantly reduced relative to the subset (n=5) of S96 x YJM789 tetrads generated independently (100.4 vs. 90.9 COs per meiosis; p < 0.01; Two-sample T-test; (Chen et al., 2008)). Collectively, these results suggest that, in some manner, the SK1 *MLH1* and/or *MLH3* alleles are partially deficient in class I CO formation, and/or propagation and/or sensitivity to CO interference. However, the much lower CO frequency observed within S288c x SK1 hybrids (74.3 COs per meiosis) cannot be fully ascribed to the SK1 *MLH1* and/or *MLH3* alleles alone. In the context of this study, the relative inefficiency of class I CO formation in the SK1 x S288c hybrid enhances the visibility of the *msh2Δ*-induced CO phenotype relative to in the S96 x YJM789 hybrid (**Fig. 1c-d**).

Zip3 foci located at the termini of Zip1-stained synapsed axes

We noted that within our microscopic analysis of synapsed chromosomes a large proportion of Zip3 foci appeared to occur at the terminal ends of Zip1 stretches (**Fig. 3c-d**). However, we suggest that this is less likely to represent disproportionate Zip3 occupancy at chromosome ends than the presence of at least some fraction of the chromosome length (i.e. telomere proximal) that is not visible in this assay—perhaps suggesting that Zip1 loading and/or polymerisation beyond the most terminal Zip3 focus is inefficient and/or destabilised during the spreading procedure. Indeed, in a similar analysis, Zhang *et al* (Zhang et al., 2014b) observed

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telomeric LacO/LacI-GFP staining (on Chr. XV) beyond the end of the observable synaptonemal complex as stained by Zip1. Such observations are also consistent with the observations that chromosome ends disproportionately retain markers of incomplete synapsis and persistent DSB formation (Subramanian et al., 2019), and have differential compaction that is Zip1-dependent (Schalbetter et al., 2019) at this *ndt80Δ*-induced pachytene-arrest stage.

Localised impact of polymorphism density upon CO formation

S288c x SK1 variants have an average density of 1 per 175 bp and a median inter-variant distance of 81 bp (93.12% of inter-variant distances are <500bp) and are therefore evenly spaced and present at high density across each chromosome. Maps of polymorphism density are shown in (**Supplementary Fig. 7c-d**) for two example chromosomes. In general, S288c x SK1 chromosomes are organised into local peaks and troughs of variant density while maintaining overall uniformity. Therefore, it seems unlikely that inactivation of Msh2 would result in a gross-redistribution of CO formation toward any particular region of the chromosome as it may do within organisms with less uniform SNP/indel density, such as *A. thaliana* (Ziolkowski et al., 2015). To further investigate the way in which polymorphisms sculpt the meiotic landscape, we repeated the analysis shown in (**Fig. 4b-c**) using expanded ±1000 bp and ±2000 bp windows (**Supplementary Fig. 7a-b**). A Msh2-dependent and statistically significant skew toward regions of lower sequence divergence (p<0.01; Two-sample KS test) is retained at ±1000 bp but is significantly diminished at ±2000 bp (p=0.51; Two-sample KS test), suggesting that mismatched sequences have the greatest impact when present within the recombination intermediate structures.

Figure legends

Fig. 1 | Inactivation of Msh2 increases CO frequency and the global strength of CO interference

a, Genome-wide mapping of recombination. Meiosis is induced within hybrid S288c x SK1 *S. cerevisiae* diploid cells and genomic material is prepped from individual, isolated spores for paired-end Illumina sequencing in order to genotype SNP/indel patterns and therefore determine the parental origin of any given loci (**Methods**). Only a single chromosome is shown for clarity. Inter-crossover distances (ICDs), a measure of the uniformity of CO distribution, are calculated as the distance (in bp) between successive COs along a given chromosome. **b,** Average number of COs per meioses for each genotype. The number of individual meioses sequenced per genotype is indicated. Error bars: 95% confidence intervals (CI). P values: Two-sample T-test. **c-f,** Empirical cumulative distribution functions (eCDFs) showing the fraction of ICDs at or below a given size. The total

number of experimental ICDs is indicated in brackets. ICDs are transformed (**Methods**) to correct for skews generated by differing CO frequencies. Untransformed ICD plots are available in (**Supplementary Fig. 1c-h**). Randomised datasets were generated via simulation to represent a state of no interference (Methods). Pairwise goodness-of-fit tests were performed between genotypes as indicated (triangular legend). P values: Two-sample KS-test.

Fig. 2 | Computational modelling predicts a Msh2-dependent shift in the class I:class II CO ratio

a, Ratio of experimentally observed ICD sizes (OBS) versus the theoretical expectation based on a single, best-fit gamma (γ)-distribution (EXP). Ratio values were calculated at 5 kb intervals. **b,** Example (γ) mixture model ($\alpha 1.0 | \beta 1.0 + \alpha 3.0 | \beta 5.0$). I = class I. II = class II. k datasets, owing to the existence of two CO subclasses, are a heterogenous population of three ICD types (as shown). **c,** As in **(a)** but based on a mixed (γ)-model (no. of distributions fitted = 2). **d,** Best-fit (γ) mixture modelling results. N = sample size (total number of ICDs). α_s = Single-fit $\gamma(\alpha)$ value. $P_{(s)}$ = Fit quality of a single (γ)-distribution (one-sample KS-test). αI, αII = Mixed model $\gamma(\alpha)$ values for each class. Class I, ClassII = estimated fraction of each CO subclass. Ratio = class I:class II. $P_{(M)}$ = Fit quality of a mixed (γ)-mode (Two-sample KS-test) **e-f,** Estimated class I and class II CO counts respectively. Estimates were obtained using the best-fit class I:class II ratios. Total CO frequencies are overlaid (grey bar). Error bars: 95% confidence intervals. The number of individual meioses sequenced per genotype is indicated.

Fig. 3 | Zip3 foci counts are neither elevated nor redistributed within Msh2-deficient cells

a, Box-and-whisker plot showing Zip3 foci counts obtained from chromosome spreads of S288c x SK1 *ndt80AR* cells prepared at 8 h following induction of meiosis (pachytene arrest). Midlines denote median values, box limits are first and third quartile, whiskers are highest/lowest values within 1.5-fold of interquartile range. P values: Two-sample T-test. **b,** Representative example for each genotype. Cells are fluorescently labelled for the meiosis-specific axis protein Zip1-GFP (green), the class I CO marker, Zip3 (red) and DNA (DAPI, blue). Only well-spread nuclei with clear Zip1 threads were analysed. Only Zip3 foci overlapping within the DAPI-stained area were counted. The total number of nuclei counted is indicated in brackets obtained from three independent experiments. **c-d,** Relative distribution of Zip3 foci along individual Zip1-GFP positive chromosome axes in *ndt80AR* and *msh2Δ ndt80AR* pachytene-arrested cells, ordered from bottom to top by increasing axis length (Green bar, measured Zip1 axis length; red dot Zip3 focus position). **e-f,** Inter-Zip3 foci distances (measured in microns) were aggregated, rank ordered, and expressed as a fraction of the total (i.e. an eCDF), equivalent to our presentation of inter-CO distances detected from octad sequencing data. In (**e**),

observed distributions are compared to simulations of the same number of randomly distributed foci over the same total axial distance, using four increasingly stringent merging thresholds (0.05, 0.01, 0.15, and 0.2 microns; light grey to dark grey dashed lines) equivalent to approximate range of imaging resolution (1 pixel = 0.1 microns). Observed distributions were not statistically dissimilar in the presence and absence of Msh2, but were significantly different from all simulated random distributions regardless of merging threshold. In (**f**), the observed distributions are compared to a simulated gamma distribution, that whilst still statistically dissimilar, shows a clear visual similarity. The residual deviation from an interfering gamma distribution may be caused by inherent inaccuracies in microscopy resolution, or a real characteristic of Zip3 foci as measured along spread chromosome axes.

Fig. 4 | Suppression of class I COs occurs at regions of higher sequence divergence

a, SNP/indel count is assayed using a ±500 bp window centred on CO or DSB hotspot midpoints. All contained SNP/indels are tallied with equal weight. **b-c,** Empirical cumulative distribution functions (eCDFs) showing the fraction of COs that reside within a region of a given SNP/indel count for S288c x SK1 (**b**) and S96 x YJM789 (**c**) for the indicated hybrid strains. Expected eCDF curve (grey) is calculated using DSB hotspot midpoints (Pan et al 2011). Pairwise goodness-of-fit tests were performed between pooled *msh2Δ* and *MSH2* control datasets as indicated (triangular legend). P values: Two-sample KS-test.

Fig. 5 | Simulating impact of CO maturation failure on observed CO distributions.

a, Extended *RecombineSim* platform as described in **Supplementary Fig. 4**, but with the introduction of variable rates of stochastic class I CO maturation failure downstream of CO interference patterning in addition to variable fractions of randomly distributed class II COs. In this simulation, class I COs that fail to mature are still sensitive to, and still generate, localised regions of interference, but are removed from the final observed pattern of visible events. In such instances, additional COs are simulated until the final observed simulated frequency matches the frequency observed in experimental datasets. COs arising within 1.5 kb of one another are merged into a single event, again matching the way experimental datasets are processed. **b-g,** Coloured heat maps of P values (KS test) between observed and simulated CO distributions expressed as eCDF curves for the indicated strains. P values >0.9 indicate good statistical fits. Each pixel represents a particular combination of parameter values: maturation failure rate (Y axis) and class II CO % (X axis). See main text and Methods for more details.

Fig. 6 | Model summarising mismatch-directed suppression of class I COs

a-b, Mismatches (jagged lines) may arise within recombination intermediates at various stages of the meiotic recombination pathway due to differences in sequence between parental information A (blue) and B (red). **c,** In the presence of a functional MMR pathway, regions of higher sequence divergence are proposed to give rise to transient heteroduplexes that cause Msh2-dependent redirection of repair toward the NCO or inter-sister outcomes. Formation of NCOs could arise via destabilisation of nascent strand-invasion intermediates, dissolution of dHJs via Sgs1-Rmi1-Top3, or disruption of CO-biased dHJ resolution (see text for more details). Concomitant repair of mismatches may additionally render some NCO events invisible, and thereby indistinguishable from inter-sister events, due to restoration of parental markers. Inactivation of MMR alleviates such repression arising within CO precursors, increasing the frequency of class I CO formation and thus the spatial uniformity within relative CO positions. In the absence of pro-class I CO factors such as Zip3, Mlh1-3 and Msh4-5, class II COs can arise, but are less subject to Msh2-dependent destabilisation, perhaps due to intrinsic differences in structure, lifespan, and/or extent of heteroduplex DNA. For example, extended branch migration of Holliday junctions at class I precursors (Marsolier-Kergoat et al 2018) which may stabilise such intermediates (Ahuja et al 2021) could increase the probability of hDNA arising within them, and thereby increase Msh2-dependent redirection towards NCO outcomes.

Supplementary Figure Legends

Supplementary Fig. 1 | CO interference is present to varying degrees within all mapped strains

a, Empirical cumulative distribution function (eCDF) showing ICD data derived from interfering simulations ($\gamma(\alpha)$ = 3.0) at varying CO per cell frequencies (N). **b,** As in **(a)** but ICDs are transformed (see **Methods**) to correct for skews generated by differing CO frequencies. **c-h**, eCDFs showing the fraction of ICDs at or below a given size. The total number of experimental ICDs is indicated in brackets. Randomised datasets were generated via simulation to represent a state of no interference (**Methods**). Pairwise goodness-of-fit tests were performed between genotypes as indicated (triangular legend). P values: Two-sample KS-test.

Supplementary Fig. 2 | Cross-specific differences—the *SK1-MLH3* allele has reduced capacity to mediate CO interference

a-b, Empirical cumulative distribution functions (eCDFs) showing the fraction of ICDs at or below a given size. The total number of experimental ICDs is indicated in brackets. ICDs are transformed (see **Methods**) to correct for skews generated by differing CO frequencies. Randomised datasets were generated via simulation to represent a state of no interference (**Methods**). Pairwise goodness-of-fit tests were performed between

856 genotypes as indicated (triangular legend). A schematic of the *SK1-MLH3* strain analysed is shown. P values:

857 Two-sample KS-test. **c,** Average number of COs per meiosis for each genotype. P values: Two-sample T-test.

858

859 **Supplementary Fig. 3 | Mechanistic details of MMR-dependent suppression of interfering COs**

860 **a,** Empirical cumulative distribution function (eCDF) showing the fraction of ICDs at or below a given size. The

861 total number of experimental ICDs is indicated in brackets. ICDs are transformed (see **Methods**) to correct for

862 skews generated by differing CO frequencies. Randomised datasets were generated via simulation to

863 represent a state of no interference (**Methods**). Pairwise goodness-of-fit tests were performed between

864 genotypes as indicated (triangular legend). P values: Two-sample KS-test. **b,** Average number of COs per

865 meiosis for each genotype. The number of individual meioses sequenced per genotype is indicated. Error bars:

866 95% confidence intervals (CI*). P values: Two-sample T-test.* **c-d,** As in **(a)** but for differing genotypes*.

867

868 **Supplementary Fig. 4 | Modelling CO distributions.**

869 **a,** *RecombineSim* overview. Virtual chromosomes are constructed at a 100bp resolution as binned, numerical

870 arrays upon which meiotic CO formation is simulated (**Methods**). Any given 100bp contains a value in the

871 range of [0.0-1.0], designating its recombination potential (Rec(P)). Prior to CO formation, bins are initially

872 populated with [1.0]—denoting an equal probability of class I CO formation in any given bin. During the

873 formation of an interfering CO, *RecombineSim* imposes CO interference as a distance-dependent zone of

874 repression by modifying Rec(P) values according to a hazard function derived from a manually specified $\gamma(\alpha_I)$

875 value, or a $\gamma(\alpha_I)$ value estimated from experimental data following gamma (γ) mixture modelling using

876 maximum likelihood expectation (MLE; **Methods**). Such localised repression around each sequential event

877 thus has the potential to influence the position of all subsequent interfering COs that are simulated. Non-

878 interfering, class II COs are distributed randomly independently of Rec(P) and do not impose, nor are sensitive

879 to, simulated CO interference. Successive events falling within a set threshold of one another (e.g. 1.5 kb) are

880 merged into a single event residing at the midpoint position. These processes repeat until a pre-determined

881 number of simulated ICDs are obtained. **b,** To estimate accuracy of the MLE mixture modelling algorithm, it

882 was used to resolve and estimate individual components of simulated two component mixtures with known

883 parameters (α, β), at known weights (W)—generated via *RecombineSim*. A set of representative examples are

884 shown. Percentage differences between actual and estimated parameters are calculated and averaged to

885 estimate error rate (N(%Δ)) and algorithm accuracy. S = number of ICDs. **c,** Error rate (N(%Δ)) values for three

886 (γ) mixtures calculated at varying sample size (S).

887

Supplementary Fig. 5 | Specificity of anti-Zip3 antibody

a-b, Representative chromosome spreads of control (**a**) and *zip3Δ* (**b**) cells at the approximate pachytene stage of meiosis, indicated by Zip1-GFP thread-like signals in control cells, but more punctate Zip1-GFP patterns in *zip3Δ* cells (the most complete that they become). Occasional Zip1-GFP polycomplexes were also observed (arrowhead). In *zip3Δ* cells, anti-Zip3 staining detected only background random signals arising from random binding on the slides at locations that were not enriched in the areas of spread chromatin (blue DAPI-stained signals). Scale bar = μm

Supplementary Fig 6. Detected Zip3 foci counts are positively correlated with DAPI-delimited nuclear-spread area.

a, Scatter plot of Zip3 foci counts per cell against spread area delimited by the DAPI-positive signal for the indicated strains. R-squared correlation values are shown. **b,** Box-and-whisker plot showing Zip3 foci counts per square micron obtained from chromosome spreads of S288c x SK1 *ndt80Δ* cells prepared at 8 h following induction of meiosis (pachytene arrest). Midlines denote median values, box limits are first and third quartile, whiskers are highest/lowest values within 1.5-fold of interquartile range. P values: Two-sample T-test. The total number of nuclei counted is indicated in brackets.

Supplementary Fig. 7 | Localised impact of polymorphism density upon CO formation.

a-b, Empirical cumulative distribution functions (eCDFs) showing the fraction of COs that reside within a region (±1000bp and ±2000bp respectively) of a given SNP/indel count (S288c x SK1 only). Expected is calculated using DSB hotspot midpoints (Pan et al 2011). Pairwise goodness-of-fit tests were performed between pooled *msh2Δ* and *MSH2*[+] datasets as indicated (triangular legend). P values: Two-sample KS-test. **c-d,** Example smoothed SNP/INDEL density maps per 1 kb bin in the S288c x SK1 hybrid for ChrVI and ChrVII.

Supplementary Fig. 8 | Impact on simulated CO distributions of local deviations in density of heterozygosity, DSBs, and COs

a-b, Comparison of spatial distribution of population-average densities of heterozygosity, DSB formation (Pan et al. 2011), and CO formation in wild-type and *msh2Δ* cells for four representative chromosomes binned at 10 kb resolution. Although each chromosome has localised deviation from uniformity, each feature is spread relatively evenly across the length of each chromosome. **e-g,** To test the impact that localised deviations in heterozygosity (**e**), DSB formation (**f**), and observed CO density (**g**) might have on relative distributions of COs, simulations of example random (RND; alpha=1) and interfering (INT; alpha=3) gamma distributions were

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performed as in **Supplementary Fig. 4**, but additionally weighting CO site selection by the relative amplitude of each parameter at varying levels of smoothing (0.1–25 kb). No change in distributions were observed indicating that the nonuniform distribution of these features is unable to significantly bias relative patterns of CO formation. P values reported are the minimum observed out of the five smoothing values tested for each parameter.

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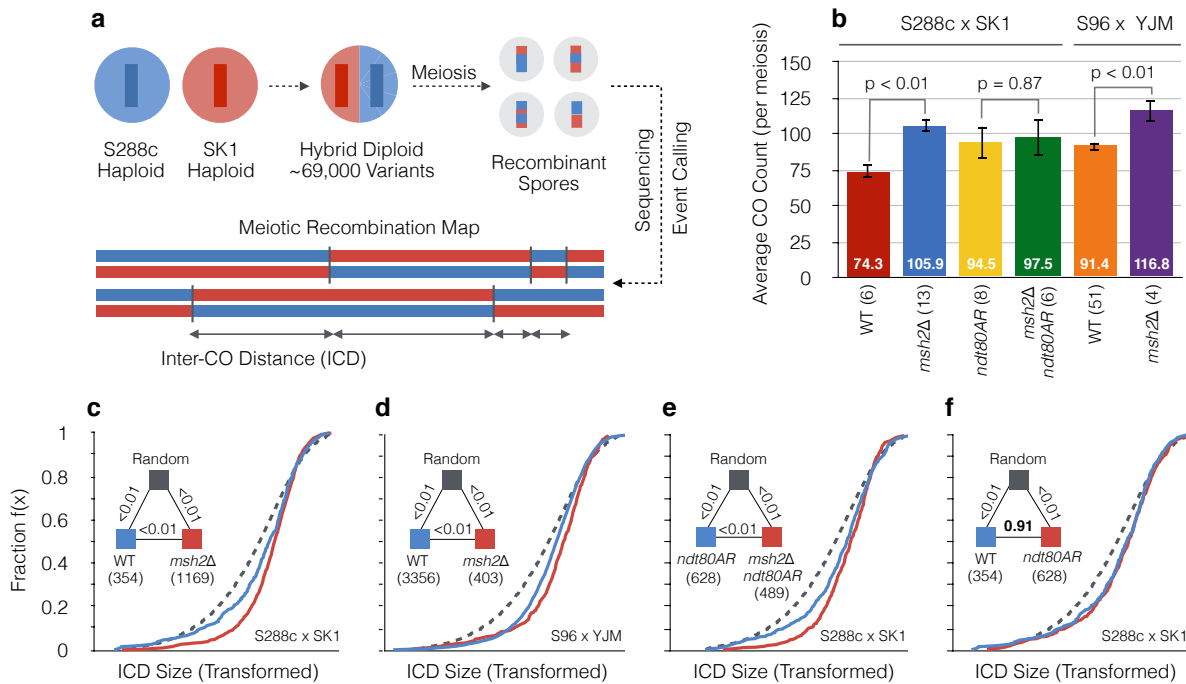
Fig. 1 | Inactivation of Msh2 increases CO frequency and the global strength of CO interference

a, Genome-wide mapping of recombination. Meiosis is induced within hybrid S288c x SK1 *S. cerevisiae* diploid cells and genomic material is prepped from individual, isolated spores for paired-end Illumina sequencing in order to genotype SNP/indel patterns and therefore determine the parental origin of any given loci (**Methods**). Only a single chromosome is shown for clarity. Inter-crossover distances (ICDs), a measure of the uniformity of CO distribution, are calculated as the distance (in bp) between successive COs along a given chromosome. **b,** Average number of COs per meioses for each genotype. The number of individual meioses sequenced per genotype is indicated. Error bars: 95% confidence intervals (CI). P values: Two-sample T-test. **c-f,** Empirical cumulative distribution functions (eCDFs) showing the fraction of ICDs at or below a given size. The total number of experimental ICDs is indicated in brackets. ICDs are transformed (**Methods**) to correct for skews generated by differing CO frequencies. Untransformed ICD plots are available in (**Supplementary Fig. 1c-h**). Randomised datasets were generated via simulation to represent a state of no interference (Methods). Pairwise goodness-of-fit tests were performed between genotypes as indicated (triangular legend). P values: Two-sample KS-test.
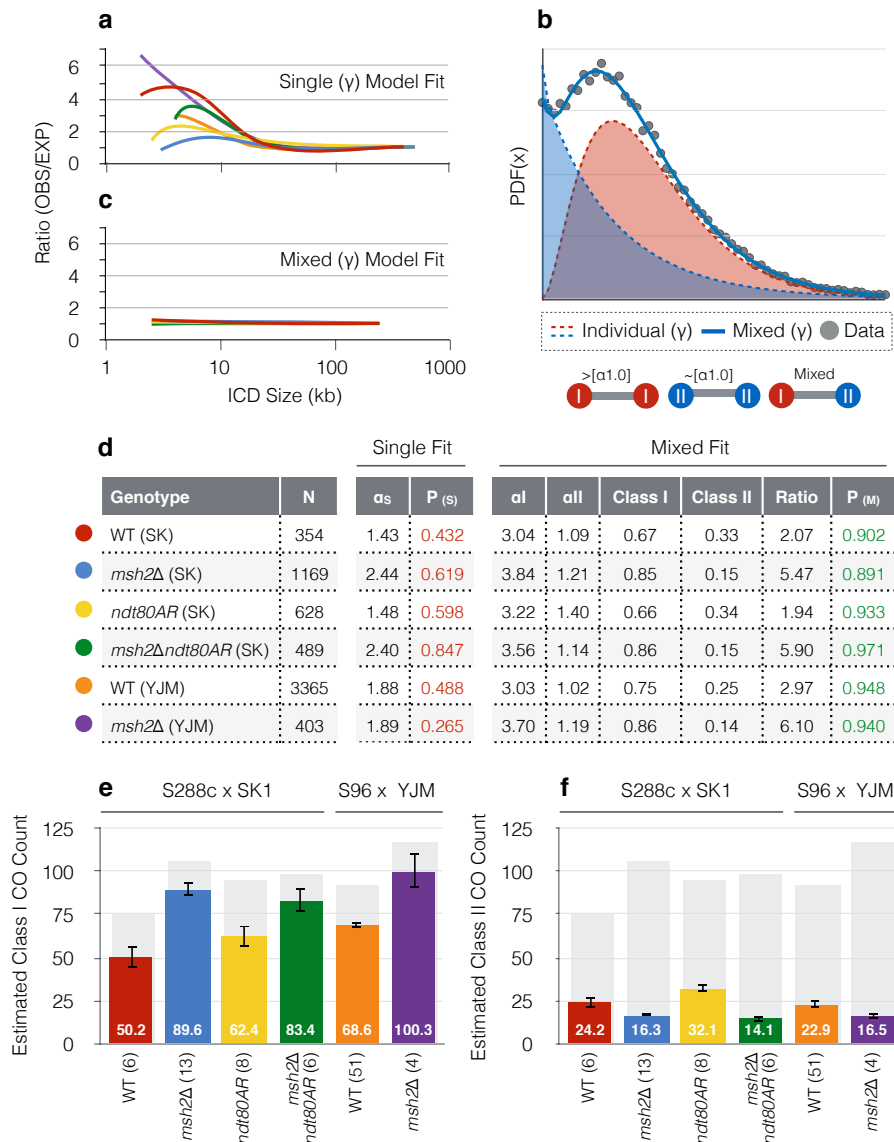
FIGURE 1

Fig. 2 | Computational modelling predicts a Msh2-dependent shift in the class I:class II CO ratio

a, Ratio of experimentally observed ICD sizes (OBS) versus the theoretical expectation based on a single, best-fit gamma (γ)-distribution (EXP). Ratio values were calculated at 5 kb intervals. **b,** Example (γ) mixture model (α1.0|β1.0 + α3.0|β5.0). I = class I. II = class II. k datasets, owing to the existence of two CO subclasses, are a heterogenous population of three ICD types (as shown). **c,** As in **(a)** but based on a mixed (γ)-model (no. of distributions fitted = 2). **d,** Best-fit (γ) mixture modelling results. N = sample size (total number of ICDs). $α_s$ = Single-fit γ(α) value. $P_{(S)}$ = Fit quality of a single (γ)-distribution (one-sample KS-test). αI, αII = Mixed model γ(α) values for each class. Class I, ClassII = estimated fraction of each CO subclass. Ratio = class I:class II. $P_{(M)}$ = Fit quality of a mixed (γ)-mode (Two-sample KS-test) **e-f,** Estimated class I and class II CO counts respectively. Estimates were obtained using the best-fit class I:class II ratios. Total CO frequencies are overlaid (grey bar). Error bars: 95% confidence intervals. The number of individual meioses sequenced per genotype is indicated.
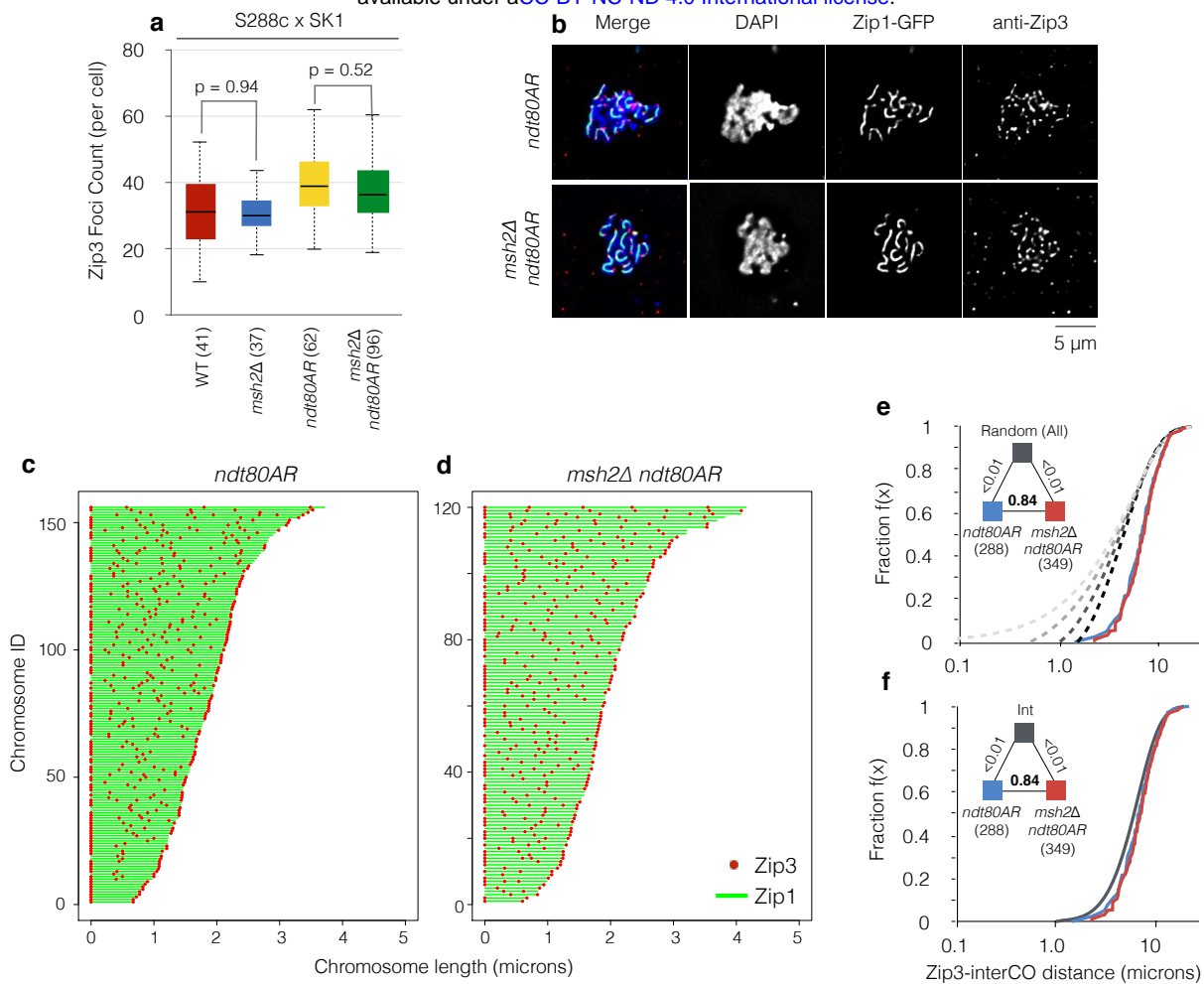
FIGURE 2

Fig. 3 | Zip3 foci counts are neither elevated nor redistributed within Msh2-deficient cells

a, Box-and-whisker plot showing Zip3 foci counts obtained from chromosome spreads of S288c x SK1 *ndt80AR* cells prepared at 8 h following induction of meiosis (pachytene arrest). Midlines denote median values, box limits are first and third quartile, whiskers are highest/lowest values within 1.5-fold of interquartile range. P values: Two-sample T-test. **b,** Representative example for each genotype. Cells are fluorescently labelled for the meiosis-specific axis protein Zip1-GFP (green), the class I CO marker, Zip3 (red) and DNA (DAPI, blue). Only well-spread nuclei with clear Zip1 threads were analysed. Only Zip3 foci overlapping within the DAPI-stained area were counted. The total number of nuclei counted is indicated in brackets obtained from three independent experiments. **c-d,** Relative distribution of Zip3 foci along individual Zip1-GFP positive chromosome axes in *ndt80AR* and *msh2Δ ndt80AR* pachytene-arrested cells, ordered from bottom to top by increasing axis length (Green bar, measured Zip1 axis length; red dot Zip3 focus position). **e-f,** Inter-Zip3 foci distances (measured in microns) were aggregated, rank ordered, and expressed as a fraction of the total (i.e. an eCDF), equivalent to our presentation of inter-CO distances detected from octad sequencing data. In (**e**), observed distributions are compared to simulations of the same number of randomly distributed foci over the same total axial distance, using four increasingly stringent merging thresholds (0.05, 0.01, 0.15, and 0.2 microns; light grey to dark grey dashed lines) equivalent to approximate range of imaging resolution (1 pixel = 0.1 microns). Observed distributions were not statistically dissimilar in the presence and absence of Msh2, but were significantly different from all simulated random distributions regardless of merging threshold. In (**f**), the observed distributions are compared to a simulated gamma distribution, that whilst still statistically dissimilar, shows a clear visual similarity. The residual deviation from an interfering gamma distribution may be caused by inherent inaccuracies in microscopy resolution, or a real characteristic of Zip3 foci as measured along spread chromosome axes.
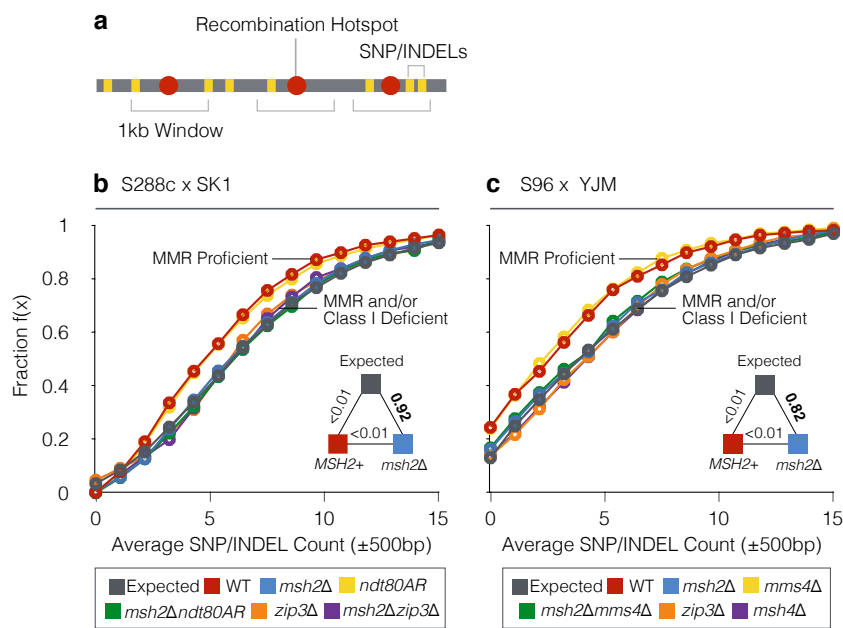
FIGURE 3

Fig. 4 | Suppression of class I COs occurs at regions of higher sequence divergence

a, SNP/indel count is assayed using a ±500 bp window centred on CO or DSB hotspot midpoints. All contained SNP/indels are tallied with equal weight. **b-c,** Empirical cumulative distribution functions (eCDFs) showing the fraction of COs that reside within a region of a given SNP/indel count for S288c x SK1 (**b**) and S96 x YJM789 (**c**) for the indicated hybrid strains. Expected eCDF curve (grey) is calculated using DSB hotspot midpoints (Pan et al 2011). Pairwise goodness-of-fit tests were performed between pooled *msh2Δ* and *MSH2* control datasets as indicated (triangular legend). P values: Two-sample KS-test.
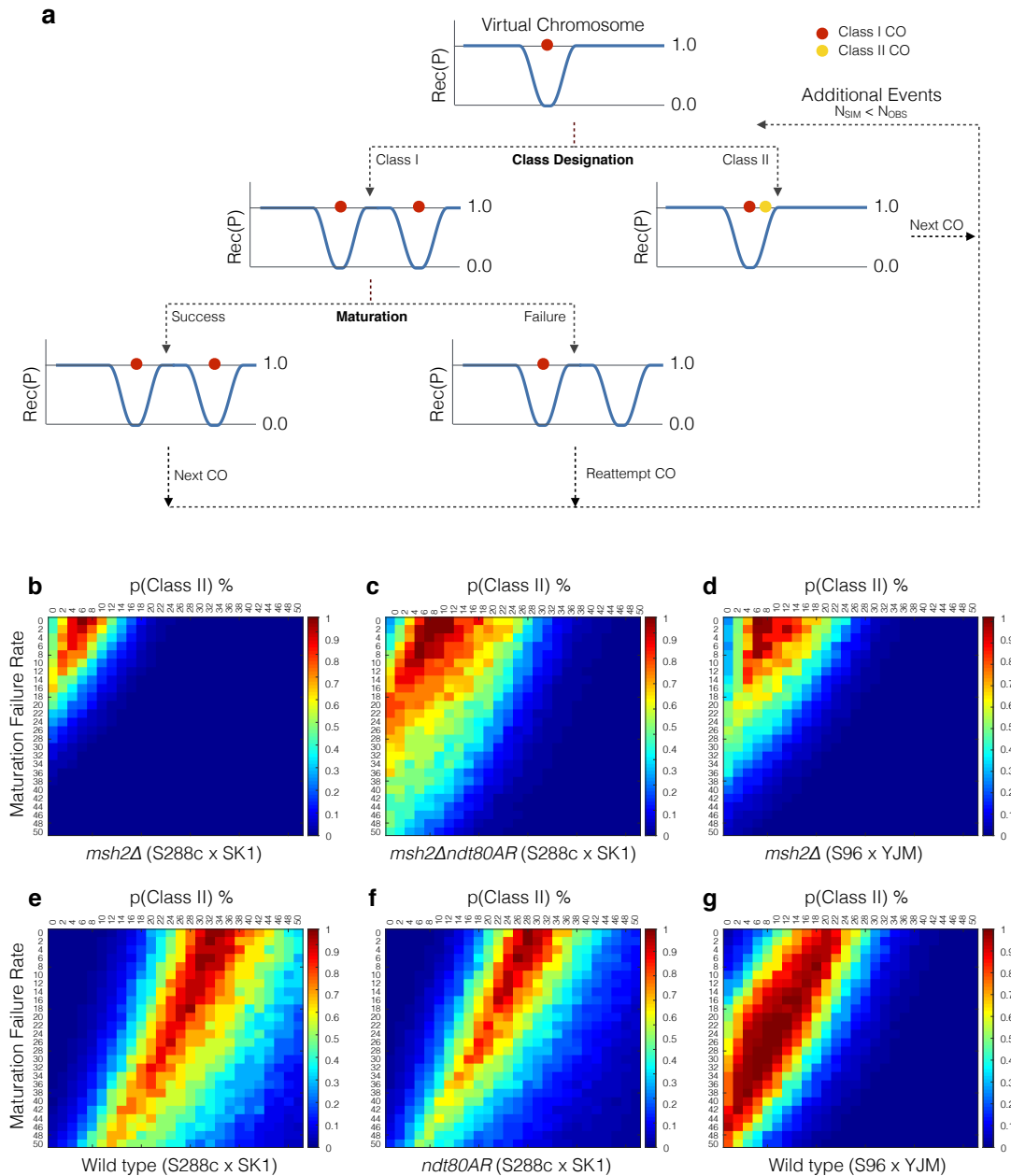
FIGURE 4

Fig. 5 | Simulating impact of CO maturation failure on observed CO distributions.

a, Extended *RecombineSim* platform as described in Supplementary Fig. 4, but with the introduction of variable rates of stochastic class I CO maturation failure downstream of CO interference patterning in addition to variable fractions of randomly distributed class II COs. In this simulation, class I COs that fail to mature are still sensitive to, and still generate, localised regions of interference, but are removed from the final observed pattern of visible events. In such instances, additional COs are simulated until the final observed simulated frequency matches the frequency observed in experimental datasets. COs arising within 1.5 kb of one another are merged into a single event, again matching the way experimental datasets are processed. **b-g,** Coloured heat maps of P values (KS test) between observed and simulated CO distributions expressed as eCDF curves for the indicated strains. P values >0.9 indicate good statistical fits. Each pixel represents a particular combination of parameter values: maturation failure rate (Y axis) and class II CO % (X axis). See main text and Methods for more details.
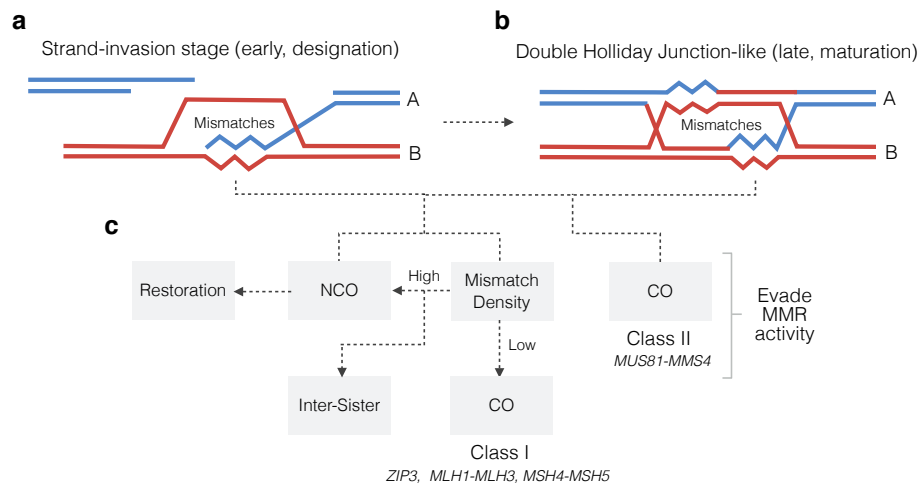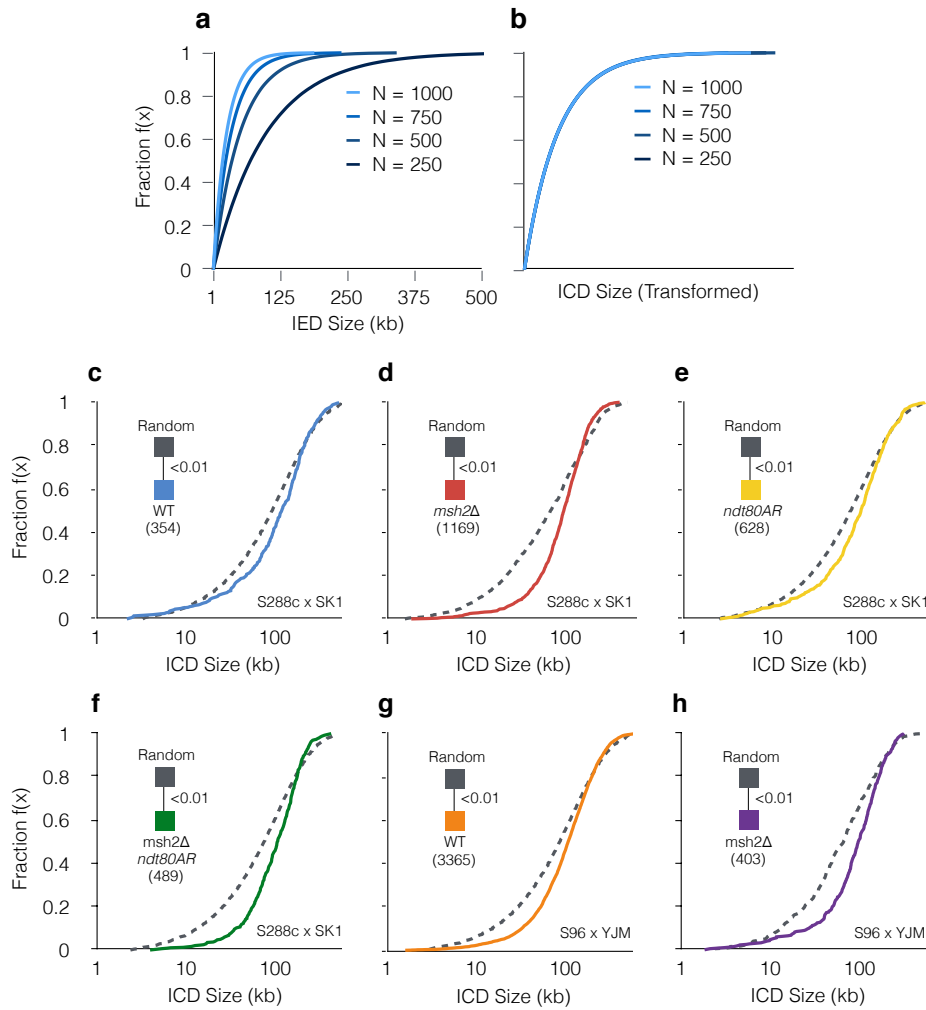
FIGURE 5

Fig. 6 | Model summarising mismatch-directed suppression of class I COs

a-b, Mismatches (jagged lines) may arise within recombination intermediates at various stages of the meiotic recombination pathway due to differences in sequence between parental information A (blue) and B (red). **c,** In the presence of a functional MMR pathway, regions of higher sequence divergence are proposed to give rise to transient heteroduplexes that cause Msh2-dependent redirection of repair toward the NCO or inter-sister outcomes. Formation of NCOs could arise via destabilisation of nascent strand-invasion intermediates, dissolution of dHJs via Sgs1-Rmi1-Top3, or disruption of CO-biased dHJ resolution (see text for more details). Concomitant repair of mismatches may additionally render some NCO events invisible, and thereby indistinguishable from inter-sister events, due to restoration of parental markers. Inactivation of MMR alleviates such repression arising within CO precursors, increasing the frequency of class I CO formation and thus the spatial uniformity of relative CO positions. In the absence of pro-class I CO factors such as Zip3, Mlh1-3 and Msh4-5, class II COs can arise, but are less subject to Msh2-dependent destabilisation, perhaps due to intrinsic differences in structure, lifespan, and/or extent of heteroduplex DNA. For example, extended branch migration of Holliday junctions at class I precursors (Marsolier-Kergoat et al 2018) which may stabilise such intermediates (Ahuja et al 2021) could increase the probability of hDNA arising within them, and thereby increase Msh2-dependent redirection towards NCO outcomes.

FIGURE 6

Supplementary Figures

Supplementary Fig. 1 | CO interference is present to varying degrees within all mapped strains

a, Empirical cumulative distribution function (eCDF) showing ICD data derived from interfering simulations (γ(α) = 3.0) at varying CO per cell frequencies (N). **b,** As in **(a)** but ICDs are transformed (see **Methods**) to correct for skews generated by differing CO frequencies. **c-h,** eCDFs showing the fraction of ICDs at or below a given size. The total number of experimental ICDs is indicated in brackets. Randomised datasets were generated via simulation to represent a state of no interference (**Methods**). Pairwise goodness-of-fit tests were performed between genotypes as indicated (triangular legend). P values: Two-sample KS-test.

FIGURE S1

Supplementary Fig. 2 | Cross-specific differences—the *SK1-MLH3* allele has reduced capacity to mediate CO interference

a-b, Empirical cumulative distribution functions (eCDFs) showing the fraction of ICDs at or below a given size. The total number of experimental ICDs is indicated in brackets. ICDs are transformed (see **Methods**) to correct for skews generated by differing CO frequencies. Randomised datasets were generated via simulation to represent a state of no interference (**Methods**). Pairwise goodness-of-fit tests were performed between genotypes as indicated (triangular legend). A schematic of the *SK1-MLH3* strain analysed is shown. P values: Two-sample KS-test. **c,** Average number of COs per meiosis for each genotype. P values: Two-sample T-test.

FIGURE S2

Supplementary Fig. 3 | Mechanistic details of MMR-dependent suppression of interfering COs

a, Empirical cumulative distribution function (eCDF) showing the fraction of ICDs at or below a given size. The total number of experimental ICDs is indicated in brackets. ICDs are transformed (see **Methods**) to correct for skews generated by differing CO frequencies. Randomised datasets were generated via simulation to represent a state of no interference (**Methods**). Pairwise goodness-of-fit tests were performed between genotypes as indicated (triang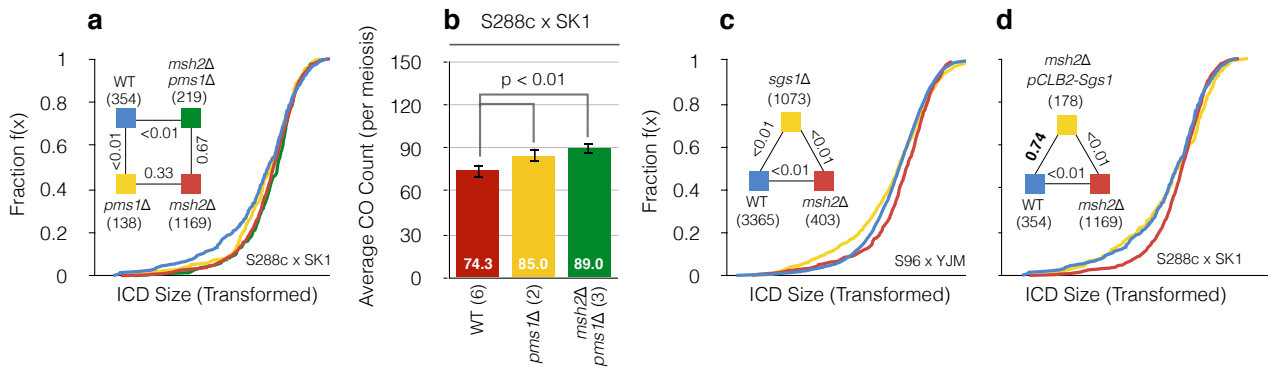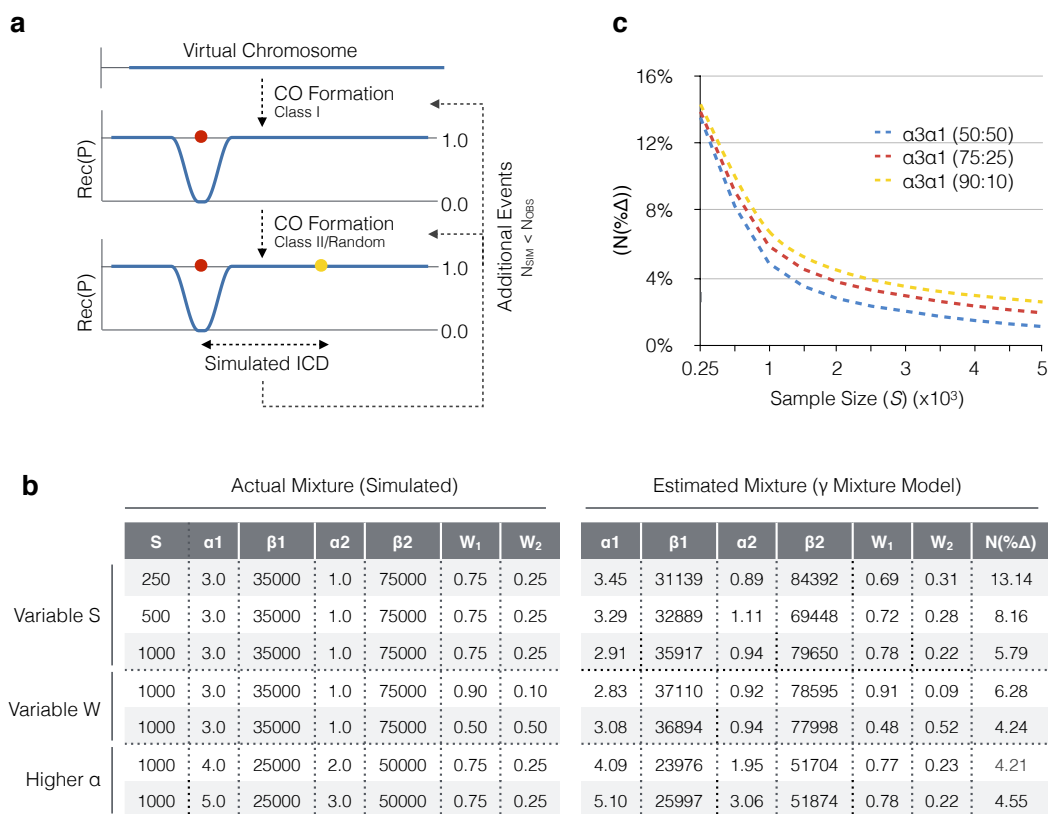ular legend). P values: Two-sample KS-test. **b,** Average number of COs per meiosis for each genotype. The number of individual meioses sequenced per genotype is indicated. Error bars: 95% confidence intervals (CI). *P values: Two-sample T-test.* **c-d,** As in **(a)** but for differing genotypes.
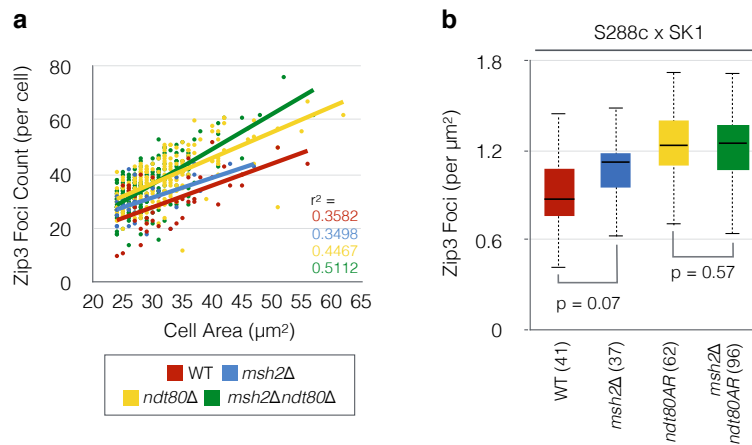
FIGURE S3

		Actual Mixture (Simulated)						Estimated Mixture (γ Mixture Model)						
	S	α1	β1	α2	β2	W₁	W₂	α1	β1	α2	β2	W₁	W₂	N(%Δ)
Variable S	250	3.0	35000	1.0	75000	0.75	0.25	3.45	31139	0.89	84392	0.69	0.31	13.14
	500	3.0	35000	1.0	75000	0.75	0.25	3.29	32889	1.11	69448	0.72	0.28	8.16
	1000	3.0	35000	1.0	75000	0.75	0.25	2.91	35917	0.94	79650	0.78	0.22	5.79
Variable W	1000	3.0	35000	1.0	75000	0.90	0.10	2.83	37110	0.92	78595	0.91	0.09	6.28
	1000	3.0	35000	1.0	75000	0.50	0.50	3.08	36894	0.94	77998	0.48	0.52	4.24
Higher α	1000	4.0	25000	2.0	50000	0.75	0.25	4.09	23976	1.95	51704	0.77	0.23	4.21
	1000	5.0	25000	3.0	50000	0.75	0.25	5.10	25997	3.06	51874	0.78	0.22	4.55

Supplementary Fig. 4 | Modelling CO distributions.

a, *RecombineSim* overview. Virtual chromosomes are constructed at a 100bp resolution as binned, numerical arrays upon which meiotic CO formation is simulated (Methods). Any given 100bp contains a value in the range of [0.0-1.0], designating its recombination potential (Rec(P)). Prior to CO formation, bins are initially populated with [1.0]—denoting an equal probability of class I CO formation in any given bin. During the formation of an interfering CO, *RecombineSim* imposes CO interference as a distance-dependent zone of repression by modifying Rec(P) values according to a hazard function derived from a manually specified $\gamma(\alpha_i)$ value, or a $\gamma(\alpha_i)$ value estimated from experimental data following gamma (γ) mixture modelling using maximum likelihood expectation (MLE; Methods). Such localised repression around each sequential event thus has the potential to influence the position of all subsequent interfering COs that are simulated. Non-interfering, class II COs are distributed randomly independently of Rec(P) and do not impose, nor are sensitive to, simulated CO interference. Successive events falling within a set threshold of one another (e.g. 1.5 kb) are merged into a single event residing at the midpoint position. These processes repeat until a pre-determined number of simulated ICDs are obtained. **b,** To estimate accuracy of the MLE mixture modelling algorithm, it was used to resolve and estimate individual components of simulated two component mixtures with known parameters (α,β), at known weights (W)—generated via *RecombineSim*. A set of representative examples are shown. Percentage differences between actual and estimated parameters are calculated and averaged to estimate error rate (N(%Δ)) and algorithm accuracy. S = number of ICDs. **c,** Error rate (N(%Δ)) values for three (γ) mixtures calculated at varying sample size (S).
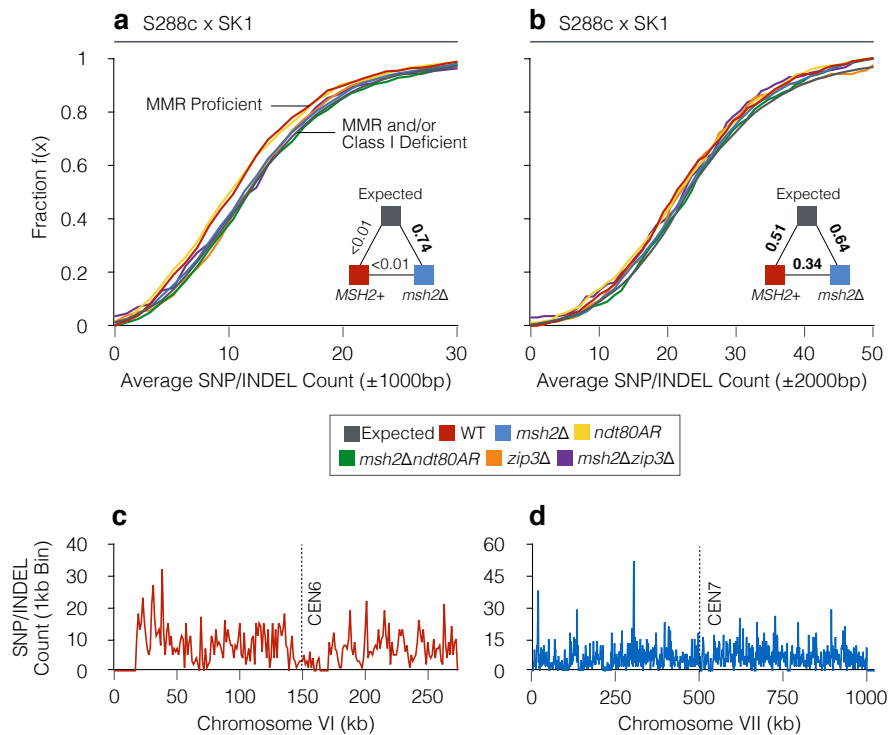
FIGURE S4

Supplementary Fig. 5 | Specificity of anti-Zip3 antibody

a-b, Representative chromosome spreads of control (**a**) and *zip3Δ* (**b**) cells at the approximate pachytene stage of meiosis, indicated by Zip1-GFP thread-like signals in control cells, but more punctate Zip1-GFP patterns in *zip3Δ* cells (the most complete that they become). Occasional Zip1-GFP polycomplexes were also observed (arrowhead). In *zip3Δ* cells, anti-Zip3 staining detected only background random signals arising from random binding on the slides at locations that were not enriched in the areas of spread chromatin (blue DAPI-stained signals). Scale bar = μm
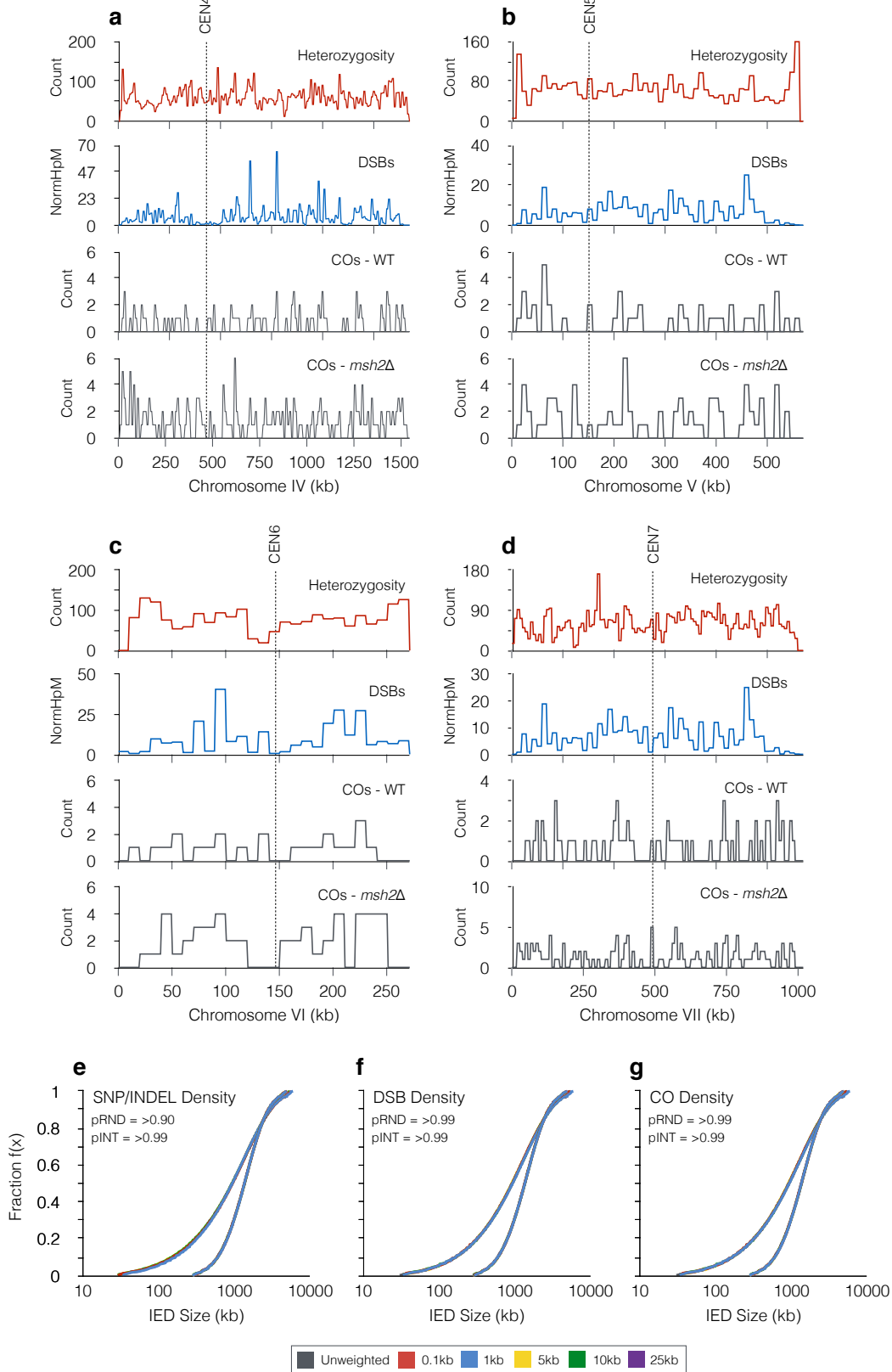
FIGURE S5

Supplementary Fig 6. Detected Zip3 foci counts are positively correlated with DAPI-delimited nuclear-spread area.

a, Scatter plot of Zip3 foci counts per cell against spread area delimited by the DAPI-positive signal for the indicated strains. R-squared correlation values are shown. **b,** Box-and-whisker plot showing Zip3 foci counts per square micron obtained from chromosome spreads of S288c x SK1 *ndt80Δ* cells prepared at 8 h following induction of meiosis (pachytene arrest). Midlines denote median values, box limits are first and third quartile, whiskers are highest/lowest values within 1.5-fold of interquartile range. P values: Two-sample T-test. The total number of nuclei counted is indicated in brackets.

FIGURE S6

Supplementary Fig. 7 | Localised impact of polymorphism density upon CO formation.

a-b, Empirical cumulative distribution functions (eCDFs) showing the fraction of COs that reside within a region (±1000bp and ±2000bp respectively) of a given SNP/indel count (S288c x SK1 only). Expected is calculated using DSB hotspot midpoints (Pan et al 2011). Pairwise goodness-of-fit tests were performed between pooled *msh2Δ* and *MSH2+* datasets as indicated (triangular legend). P values: Two-sample KS-test. **c-d,** Example smoothed SNP/INDEL density maps per 1 kb bin in the S288c x SK1 hybrid for ChrVI and ChrVII.

FIGURE S7

Supplementary Fig. 8 | Impact on simulated CO distributions of local deviations in density of heterozygosity, DSBs, and COs

a-b, Comparison of spatial distribution of population-average densities of heterozygosity, DSB formation (Pan et al. 2011), and CO formation in wild-type and *msh2Δ* cells for four representative chromosomes binned at 10 kb resolution. Although each chromosome has localised deviation from uniformity, each feature is spread relatively evenly across the length of each chromosome. **e-g,** To test the impact that localised deviations in heterozygosity (**e**), DSB formation (**f**), and observed CO density (**g**) might have on relative distributions of COs, simulations of example random (RND; alpha=1) and interfering (INT; alpha=3) gamma distributions were performed as in **Supplementary Fig. 4**, but additionally weighting CO site selection by the relative amplitude of each parameter at varying levels of smoothing (0.1–25 kb). No change in distributions were observed indicating that the nonuniform distribution of these features is unable to significantly bias relative patterns of CO formation. P values reported are the minimum observed out of the five smoothing values tested for each parameter.

FIGURE S8

Relevant genotype	Hybrid	Meioses analysed	Total COs	Total NCOs	COs per meiosis	NCOs per meiosis	ICDs	Source
Wild type	SK1 x S288c	6	446	185	74.3	30.8	354	Crawford et al 2019; This study
msh2Δ	SK1 x S288c	13	1377	1206	105.9	92.8	1169	Crawford et al 2019; This study
ndt80AR	SK1 x S288c	8	756	391	94.5	48.9	628	Crawford et al 2019; This study
ndt80AR msh2Δ	SK1 x S288c	6	585	521	97.5	86.8	489	Crawford et al 2019; This study
zip3Δ	SK1 x S288c	4	187	344	46.8	86.0	153	Crawford et al 2019; This study
msh2Δ zip3Δ	SK1 x S288c	4	104	1356	26.0	339.0	75	Crawford et al 2019; This study
pms1Δ	SK1 x S288c	2	170	234	85.0	117.0	138	Marsolier-Kergoat et al. 2018
pms1Δ msh2Δ	SK1 x S288c	3	267	236	89.0	78.7	219	Marsolier-Kergoat et al. 2018
P_{CLB2}sgs1 msh2Δ	SK1 x S288c	2	219	183	109.5	91.5	178	Marsolier-Kergoat et al. 2018
Wild type	S96 x YJM789	5	502	261	100.4	52.2	422	Chen et al 2008
Wild type	S96 x YJM789	46	4161	2128	90.5	46.3	3425	Steinmetz
Pooled wild type	S96 x YJM789	51	4663	2389	91.4	46.8	3365	
msh2Δ	S96 x YJM789	4	467	225	116.8	56.3	403	Oke et al 2014
msh4Δ	S96 x YJM789	6	214	341	35.7	56.8	118	Oke et al 2014
zip3Δ	S96 x YJM789	7	429	852	61.3	121.7	317	Oke et al 2014
mms4Δ msh2Δ	S96 x YJM789	4	391	317	97.8	79.3	327	Oke et al 2014
P_{CLB2}mms4	S96 x YJM789	3	321	260	107.0	86.7	273	Oke et al 2014
mms4Δ	S96 x YJM789	4	406	321	101.5	80.3	342	Oke et al 2014
Pooled mms4	S96 x YJM789	7	727	581	103.9	83.0	616	
sgs1Δ	S96 x YJM789	11	1249	848	113.5	77.1	1073	Oke et al 2014
SK1-MLH3	S96 x YJM789	10	909	634	90.9	63.4	749	Al-Sweel et al 2017

Supplementary Table 1 | Summary of whole-genome recombination data analysed in this study.

Meioses analysed indicate the number of four-spore viable tetrads (or eight-spore viable octads for msh2Δ SK1 x S288c derivative strains) analysed. Spore viabilities for the SK1 x S288c strains used in this study (as from Crawford et al 2019) are as follows: Wild type 82.0%, msh2Δ 73.0, ndt80AR 70.4%, msh2Δ ndt80AR 73.2%, zip3Δ 46.2%, msh2Δ zip3Δ 35.9%. Other samples analyses employ previously published datasets as indicated by Source column. COs and NCOs are total numbers analysed across all meioses of each genotype, or the average number observed per meiosis. ICDs indicates the total number of inter-crossover distances used to assess CO distributions per genotype. For S96xYJM789 two sources of wild-type data were pooled, as were P_{CLB2}mms4 and mms4Δ.

TABLE S1

Genotype	Strain	Background	Mat	Genotype
wild type	MJ513	SK1	a	*ho::LYS2 lys2Δ leu2Δ arg4Δ*
	MJ600	S288c	α	*ade8Δ*
msh2Δ	MC26	SK1	α	*ho::LYS2 lys2Δ ura3Δ arg4 leu2 msh2Δ::Kan*
	MC49	S288c	a	*ade8Δ msh2Δ::KanMX*
ndt80AR	MJ43	SK1	α	*ho::LYS2 lys2Δ arg4Δ leu2Δ::hisG trp1Δ::hisG his4XΔ::LEU2 nuc1Δ::LEU2 PGAL1-NDT80::TRP1 ura3::pGPD1-GAL4(848)-ER::URA3*
	MC42	S288c	a	*ade8Δ ndt80Δ::KanMX*
msh2Δndt80AR	MC298	SK1	a	*ho::LYS2 lys2Δ ura3Δ arg4 leu2 trp1Δ::hisG ura3Δ::PGPD1-GAL4(848)-ER::URA3 PGAL1-NDT80::TRP1 msh2Δ::Kan*
	MC300	S288c	α	*ade8Δ ndt80Δ::KanMX msh2Δ::KanMX*
zip3Δ	MC322	SK1	α	*ho::LYS2 lys2Δ ura3Δ arg4 leu2 zip3Δ::HphMX4*
	MC313	S288c	a	*ade8Δ zip3Δ::HphMX4*
msh2Δzip3Δ	MC326	SK1	α	*ho::LYS2 lys2Δ ura3Δ arg4 leu2 msh2Δ::Kan zip3Δ::HphMX4*
	MC317	S288c	a	*ade8Δ msh2Δ::Kan zip3Δ::HphMX4*
Wild type	hLH117	SK1	a	*ho::hisG, lys2, leu2::hisG, trp1::hisG, his3::hisG, ura3, ZIP1-GFP(at AA700)*
	hLH2	S288c	α	*ade8*
msh2Δ	hLH123	SK1	α	*ho::hisG lys2, leu2::hisG, trp1::hisG, his3::hisG, ura3, ZIP1-GFP(at AA700), msh2::KanMX*
	MC49	S288c	a	*ade8 msh2Δ::KanMX*
ndt80AR	hLH127	SK1	α	*ho::hisG, lys2, leu2::hisG, trp1::hisG, his3::hisG, ZIP1-GFP(at AA700), ura3::pGPD1GAL4(848)-ER::URA3, pGAL-NDT80::TRP1*
	MC42	S288c	a	*ade8Δ ndt80Δ::KanMX*
msh2Δndt80AR	hLH130	SK1	a	*ho::LYS2, lys2, leu2::hisG, trp1::hisG, his3::hisG, ZIP1-GFP(at AA700), msh2::KanMX, ura3::pGPD1GAL4(848)-ER::URA3, pGAL-NDT80::TRP1*
	MC300	S288c	α	*ade8Δ ndt80Δ::KanMX msh2Δ::KanMX*

Supplementary Table 2 | Strain Table (S288c x SK1)

TABLE S2