

1 **Immediate early proteins of herpes simplex virus transiently repress viral transcription**  
2 **before subsequent activation.**

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12

13 **Abstract**

14 Herpes simplex virus 1 (HSV-1) utilizes the host-cell RNA polymerase II (Pol) to transcribe  
15 its genes in one of two phases. In the latent phase, viral transcription is highly restricted but  
16 during the productive lytic phase, more than 80 genes are expressed in a temporally  
17 coordinated cascade. In this study, we used precision nuclear Run On followed by deep  
18 Sequencing (PRO-Seq) to characterize early viral transcriptional events using HSV-1  
19 immediate early (IE) gene mutants, corresponding genetically repaired viruses, and wild type  
20 virus. Unexpectedly, in the absence of the IE genes ICP4, ICP22 or ICP0 at 1.5 hpi we  
21 observed high levels of aberrant transcriptional activity across the mutant viral genomes, but  
22 substantially less on either wild type or the congenic repaired virus genomes. This feature  
23 was particularly prominent in the absence of ICP4 expression. Cycloheximide treatment

24 during infection with both the ICP4 mutant and repair led to increased Pol activity across  
25 both viral genomes. However, the repair retained some ability to repress activity on IE genes,  
26 thus indicating that both virion components and at least some *de novo* protein synthesis were  
27 required for full repression. Overall, these data reveal that prior to their role in transcriptional  
28 activation, IE gene products first function to repress transcription and that the HSV-1 lytic  
29 transcriptional cascade is mediated through subsequent de-repression steps.

30

### 31 **Importance**

32 Herpes simplex virus 1 (HSV-1) transcription in the productive phase is believed to comprise  
33 a series of activation steps leading to a specific sequence of gene expression. Here we show  
34 that immediate early (IE) gene products ICP0, ICP4 and ICP22 first repress viral gene  
35 transcription to varying degrees before subsequently activating specific gene subsets. It  
36 follows that the entire HSV transcriptional program involves a series of steps to sequentially  
37 reverse this repression. This previously uncharacterised repressive activity of IE genes very  
38 early in infection may represent an important checkpoint allowing HSV-1 to orchestrate  
39 either the robust lytic transcriptional cascade or the more restricted transcriptional program  
40 during latency.

41

### 42 **Introduction**

43 Herpes simplex virus 1 (HSV-1) expresses its double-stranded DNA genome using cellular  
44 RNA polymerase II (Pol) in two phases. During the latent phase in which the genome is  
45 maintained as an episome in sensory neurons, viral transcription is mostly limited to the  
46 production of the latency transcript (LAT). In the productive phase which usually occurs in  
47 epithelial cells, transcription of its more than 80 genes occurs in a cascade involving  
48 sequential activation of different gene subsets: from pre-immediate early, followed

49 sequentially by immediate early (IE), early (E), leaky late (LL), and true late (L) genes (1,2).  
50 To initiate productive replication, HSV commandeers Pol for viral transcription by  
51 introducing VP16 from the virion into the newly infected cell. VP16 binds a specific motif in  
52 viral IE promoters and recruits cellular transcription factors, HCF and Oct-1, to these sites to  
53 drive Pol initiation (3,4). Similar to cellular genes, viral gene expression is regulated through  
54 promoter proximal pausing (PPP) of Pol, followed by release into the gene body (5).

55

56 The IE genes include  $\alpha 0$ ,  $\alpha 4$  and  $\alpha 22/US1$ , encoding ICP0, ICP4 and ICP22, respectively,  
57 and are expressed by 1 hour post-infection (6). ICP0 and ICP4 are also virion components  
58 that are introduced into the cell upon the initiation of infection. ICP4 is both an essential  
59 activator of later gene sets (7) and a repressor of IE genes (8), while ICP0 is an E3 ubiquitin  
60 ligase that leads to degradation of a set of cellular proteins that would otherwise silence the  
61 viral genome early in infection (9). ICP22 negatively regulates Pol processivity and release to  
62 elongation through reduction of serine 2 phosphorylation on the Pol C-terminal domain  
63 (CTD) (10). This activity of ICP22 is important for enhancing promoter proximal pausing  
64 (PPP) on viral IE genes, and controlling anti-sense transcription on the compact HSV-1  
65 genome (11).

66

67 The current studies were undertaken to further clarify the roles of ICP4, ICP0, and ICP22 in  
68 early viral transcription. We used Precision nuclear Run On followed by deep Sequencing  
69 (PRO-Seq) to identify sites of Pol activity to high resolution on the genomes of viruses  
70 bearing mutations in  $\alpha 0$ ,  $\alpha 4$  or  $\alpha 22$ , and corresponding viruses in which these loci were  
71 genetically restored.

72

73 **Results**

74 **In the absence of ICP4, Pol activity is dysregulated throughout HSV-1 infection.** We first  
75 used the ICP4 truncation mutant n12, derived from the KOS HSV-1 strain (1) to investigate  
76 the role of ICP4 during transcription. To ensure the control virus had a genetically identical  
77 background to the mutant, a repair virus was generated from n12 by recombination in  
78 infected cells with wild type  $\alpha 4$  DNA. Expression of full length ICP4 was confirmed by  
79 immunoblotting (Fig. S1A). HEp-2 cells were then infected at a multiplicity of infection  
80 (MOI) of 5 with either n12 or repaired virus, nuclei harvested at 1.5, 3 or 6 hours post  
81 infection (hpi), and PRO-Seq performed.

82

83 Visualization of the data on a genome browser revealed substantial differences in the pattern  
84 of Pol activity on the n12 genome compared to the repair genome (Fig. 1A, first panel).

85 Consistent with the strict temporal expression of herpesvirus genes, Pol activity on the repair  
86 virus genome was restricted to IE genes at 1.5 hpi. In contrast, strong Pol activity was  
87 distributed across the entire n12 genome. At 3 hpi, the distribution of Pol activity on the two  
88 viral genomes was more similar, but activity on the IE genes UL54 ( $\alpha 27$ ),  $\alpha 4$ ,  $\alpha 0$ , US1  
89 ( $\alpha 22$ ), US12 and L/ST (Fig. 1A, second panel) and many late genes remained higher in n12  
90 than the repair. By 6 hpi, intense Pol activity of n12 was limited almost entirely to IE genes  
91 (and UL39), while activity on the repair virus genome was more evenly distributed among  
92 genes of all temporal classes (Fig. 1A, third panel).

93

94 Quantification of sequencing reads aligned to individual HSV-1 genes confirmed a  
95 significant increase in Pol activity in n12 over the repair virus at 1.5 and 3 hpi (Fig. 1B). At 6  
96 hpi the total viral reads remained higher in n12, but this was due solely to intense IE gene  
97 activity (Fig. 1C) that did not occur in repair virus. Over time, activity on later gene classes of  
98 n12 (Fig. 1D, E, F) decreased, while in repair infection Pol activity increased on all gene

99 classes, except for IE genes between 3-6 hpi (Fig. 1C). Overall, these data indicate that ICP4  
100 decreases Pol activity on all viral genes immediately after infection, and increases E, LL and  
101 L activity later in infection.

102

103 PRO-Seq profiles of Pol occupancy on most HSV-1 genes follow that of cellular genes, with  
104 peaks at the 5' PPP site, and at the 3' cleavage/Poly(A) site (5). The promoters of the IE  
105 genes  $\alpha 4$  and US1 showed clear PPP at all time points on the repair genome (Fig. 2A). High  
106 read counts on n12 IE genes obscured patterns of Pol activity on the same scale so the  
107 browser was adjusted to a comparable read count depth between the two viruses. This  
108 revealed strong PPP on  $\alpha 4$  and US1 throughout infection in n12. Other transcriptionally  
109 active regions in n12 lacked apparent PPP at 1.5 hpi including E genes UL29 and UL30 (Fig.  
110 2B), the LL genes UL18, UL19 and UL20 and the L genes UL20.5 and UL22 (Fig. 2C). The  
111 presence of a promoter peak was also assessed by examining the relative read density over a  
112 gene and using bootstrap confidence of fit to indicate statistical differences. To remove any  
113 uncertainty of whether a read was from a promoter region or gene body, only genes with no  
114 overlapping transcripts and with a defined TSS were included in the analysis. We also  
115 separately analysed genes that were robustly transcribed in repair infection at each time point  
116 as it was assumed that these gene were transcribed in a temporally correct fashion. This set of  
117 appropriate positively regulated genes was termed “repair-active” and comprised only the IE  
118 genes at 1.5 hours, with the inclusion of more genes over the course of infection. Genes  
119 outside of this set (i.e., that were transcribed robustly in n12 but not repair at a given time  
120 point) comprised a “repair-repressed” subset.

121

122 Despite a large difference in total read counts on viral genes at 1.5 hpi, the distributions of  
123 reads across entire repair-active genes (i.e., relative read density) of n12 and repair were

124 similar (Fig. 2D, top panel). Analysis of the promoter regions of active genes showed strong  
125 PPP on both viruses but with significantly higher PPP in n12 than in repair. Read density and  
126 PPP peaks were significantly lower in the repair-repressed gene set compared to repair-active  
127 genes. At 3 hpi (Fig. 2D, middle panel) a similar pattern was seen, with a small but  
128 discernible promoter peak on n12 repair-repressed genes. When all genes in repair were  
129 included in the repair-active subset due to robust transcription at 6 hpi, both viruses had a  
130 similar pattern of read density across individual genes. Pause indices confirmed this trend and  
131 revealed that the patterns of pausing changed similarly throughout infection (Fig. S2A-C).  
132 These data indicate that the ICP4-mediated repression of most genes at IE times is due to a  
133 reduction in total Pol occupancy across entire genes rather than an increase in Pol pausing.  
134  
135 PRO-Seq visualisation indicated extensive Pol activity on the antisense strands of genes in  
136 n12 at 1.5 hpi. To examine the regulation of sense-to-antisense transcription, the proportion  
137 of sense reads was calculated on isolated genes that lacked genes on the opposite strand. At  
138 1.5 hpi there was no significant difference between n12 and repair in the overall proportion of  
139 sense transcription (Fig. 2E). Although a low level of transcription was detected across the  
140 repair viral genome at 1.5 hpi, robust transcription was limited to the IE genes and  
141 preliminary analysis indicated that the most transcriptionally active genes had the highest  
142 proportion of sense transcription (Fig. S3). Therefore, we analysed repair-active and repair-  
143 repressed subsets separately. On repair-active genes there was no significant difference in the  
144 levels of sense transcription between the two viruses, and both had a high proportion of sense  
145 reads (Fig. 2F). However, the repair-repressed genes had a significant increase in antisense  
146 transcription at 1.5 and 3 hpi in n12. While n12 did have a significantly reduced global level  
147 of sense transcription at 6 hpi, this was largely due to high levels of antisense transcription on  
148 US8, US8A, US9, UL41 and UL56. Closer analysis of these regions revealed the presence of

149 an upstream ICP4-independent promoter (US12, UL54, US1 and UL39) potentially driving  
150 read-through antisense Pol activity (Fig. S4A-D). This activity was also visible on the repair  
151 genome, indicating that it is a feature of HSV-1 transcription. The IE  $\alpha 4$  and  $\alpha 0$  genes, with  
152 promoters in the repeat regions, showed less evidence of extensive read-through (Fig. S4E-  
153 F). These data indicate that much of the aberrant transcription observed in the absence of  
154 ICP4 involves high levels of antisense transcription on viral genes, except for the IE genes.

155

156 To determine whether detected intergenic Pol activity could be a result of read-through of a  
157 transcriptional termination signal (TTS) (AAUAA), a downstream-read index was calculated  
158 by dividing the reads per bp 150 bp downstream of a TTS, by the reads per bp in the  
159 upstream ORF. For reads to be accurately assigned, only singular unnested genes with a  
160 defined TTS more than 150bp away from a transcription start site (TSS) were included. At  
161 1.5 hpi, there was no significant difference in the downstream index on repair-active genes  
162 between n12 and repair (Fig. 2G). However, there was a significantly higher proportion of  
163 downstream transcription on repair-repressed genes at 1.5 hpi. By 3 and 6 hpi, there were no  
164 significant differences in intergenic transcription on the gene sets between viruses, suggesting  
165 proper termination was restored at these time points even in the absence of ICP4.

166

167 Overall, the PRO-Seq data at 3 and 6 hpi was consistent with ICP4 mutant phenotypes,  
168 primarily consisting of a failure to repress IE genes and to promote transcription of later gene  
169 temporal classes (12,13). However, the finding that ICP4 was required to repress Pol activity  
170 on virtually all viral genes at 1.5 hpi was unexpected. Pol activity on n12 IE genes was  
171 aberrantly high at 1.5 hpi, suggesting accelerated initiation. However, these genes displayed  
172 low levels of antisense and downstream transcription, and strong PPP peaks, suggesting  
173 pausing and termination approached normal levels. In contrast, Pol activity on genes of later

174 kinetic classes was indiscriminate and included antisense and intergenic transcription.  
175 Restoration of features consistent with proper termination and PPP returned in n12 by 3 and 6  
176 hpi indicating that proteins other than ICP4 are utilised to improve transcriptional control  
177 after 1.5 hpi.

178

179 Similar results as above were obtained in PRO-Seq experiments performed at 1.5 hpi of  
180 primary human foreskin fibroblasts (HFF) showing that ICP4-mediated repression of viral  
181 transcription occurs in multiple cell types (Fig. S5A-F). In addition, genomic DNA extracted  
182 from the infected HFF nuclei in this experiment was quantified by qPCR. The results  
183 indicated that differences in genome copy number between the viruses could not account for  
184 increased numbers of PRO-Seq reads on the mutant genome (Fig. S5H).

185

186 **Virion-associated and *de novo* expressed ICP4 are required for full transcriptional**  
187 **repression at 1.5 hpi.** We next asked whether the role of ICP4 to repress Pol early in  
188 infection required *de novo* protein synthesis or could be mediated by ICP4 entering the cell as  
189 a virion component. It should be noted that n12 virions do incorporate some ICP4 from the  
190 E5 cell line used to support n12 growth (17). HEp-2 cells were infected in the presence or  
191 absence of the protein synthesis inhibitor cycloheximide (CHX), followed by PRO-Seq at 1.5  
192 hpi. Overall, CHX treatment led to a significant increase in normalised viral reads aligning to  
193 both the repair virus genome and the n12 genome (Fig. 3A), indicating that proteins  
194 expressed *de novo* are required to fully repress Pol early in infection.

195

196 DeSeq2 (14) was used to identify specific genes affected by CHX treatment. CHX led to a  
197 general upregulation of Pol activity on all genes of the repair virus, and 21 genes reached a  
198 statistically significant increase (Fig. 3B). LAT and L/ST had the lowest increase of all genes



199 after CHX treatment, indicating that virion components were able to repress most activity on  
200 these genes. Previous reports have revealed ICP4 to be a strong repressor of L/ST (15,16) and  
201 therefore suggest ICP4 as the strongest candidate responsible for this repression. In n12  
202 infected cells, CHX treatment led to a strong increase on IE genes relative to other classes  
203 (Fig. 3C). Interestingly, many of the E and L genes of n12 that had significant increases in  
204 Pol activity are in genomic regions close to or nested with IE genes; (e.g., US10/11 nested  
205 with US12, UL55 immediately downstream of UL54 and UL39 has an ICP4-independent  
206 promoter). These data support the conclusion that virion-associated ICP4 is primarily  
207 involved in repression of L/ST and other IE genes. This was visible in the PRO-Seq data  
208 tracks as CHX treatment of repair yielded no visible increase in activity on L/ST and only  
209 negligible increases on the IE genes,  $\alpha 0$ ,  $\alpha 4$ , and US1 (Fig. 3D). In contrast, CHX treatment  
210 of n12 led to extensive increases of Pol activity across all IE genes.

211

212 The PRO-Seq visualisation also revealed strong PPP on IE genes in both n12 and repair (Fig.  
213 3E). To assess whether the CHX-induced increase in reads of IE genes was a result of  
214 changes in Pol pausing, the relative read density across these genes was calculated. This  
215 indicated that in the presence of CHX, both n12 and repair had a significant reduction in PPP  
216 suggesting that the increase in reads was at least partially due to increased release of Pol into  
217 the gene body (Fig. 3E). These data further suggest that proteins other than ICP4 must be  
218 synthesized to regulate early transcription, and particularly to regulate PPP and release to  
219 elongation.

220

221 **Viral IE genes ICP0 and ICP22 are also required for early Pol repression.** To investigate  
222 possible roles of other IE genes on early Pol repression we used HSV IE mutants n212  
223 containing a nonsense mutation in  $\alpha 0$  derived from the KOS HSV-1 strain (18), and a

224  $\Delta$ ICP22 virus lacking the entire US1 coding region along with its genetically restored repair,  
225 derived from the HSV-1(F) strain (19,20). To ensure the ICP0 control virus had a genetically  
226 identical background to the mutant, a repair virus was generated by recombination with  $\alpha$ 0  
227 DNA, and immunoblotting was used to confirm repair of the ICP0 locus (Fig. S1B). HEp-2  
228 cells were infected with the mutants, their respective repair viruses, or wild type HSV-1(F)  
229 virus and PRO-Seq performed on nuclei harvested at 1.5 hpi.

230

231 As with the n12 ICP4 mutant, both n212 and  $\Delta$ ICP22 bore increased Pol activity across their  
232 genomes compared to their genetically repaired counterparts at 1.5 hpi (Fig. 4) and this was  
233 statistically significant for all viruses (Fig. 5A). However, each mutant displayed different  
234 PRO-Seq patterns. As seen in PRO-Seq profiles of repair and WT viruses, E genes UL29 and  
235 UL30 are not normally active at 1.5 hpi, (Fig. 5B). Although all mutant viruses showed  
236 increased activity on these genes over wild type viruses, the PRO-Seq pattern on the n212  
237 genome included features indicative of proper regulation including prominent PPP peaks and  
238 minimal antisense/intergenic activity. In contrast,  $\Delta$ ICP22 had a PRO-Seq pattern more like  
239 that of the n12 ICP4 mutant, covering the entire genome on both strands (Fig. 4). Closer  
240 examination at the  $\alpha$ 4/US1 region showed extensive antisense and intergenic transcription on  
241 the  $\Delta$ ICP22 genome (Fig. 5C), and PRO-Seq patterns consistent with regulatory features were  
242 obscured in the  $\Delta$ ICP22 PRO-Seq profile.  $\Delta$ ICP22 had a significant increase in Pol activity  
243 relative to its parent wild type strain HSV-1(F) virus, indicating the presence of a secondary  
244 mutation in the repair that affects repression. Nevertheless, ICP22 clearly played an important  
245 role in repression as activity was substantially lower in the  $\Delta$ ICP22 repair virus than in the  
246 congenic  $\Delta$ ICP22 mutant.

247

248 Analysis of sense/antisense transcription revealed that n212 had almost identical levels of  
249 sense transcription compared to repair virus on repair-active genes (Fig. 5D). There was a  
250 reduced proportion of sense transcription on the repair-repressed gene set but the proportion  
251 of sense transcription was higher than either n12 or  $\Delta$ ICP22. In addition, antisense  
252 transcription occurred heavily on US8, US8A, US9 and UL41, which bore high levels of  
253 antisense transcription in n12 and its repair (at 3 and 6 hpi) (Fig. 2F), further indicating that  
254 the antisense activity on these genes is a consistent feature of active HSV-1 transcription.  
255 Relative to its repair,  $\Delta$ ICP22 had significantly lower levels of sense transcription on repair-  
256 active genes and was not significantly different compared to repair-repressed genes. Thus,  
257  $\Delta$ ICP22 lacked regulation of sense-to-antisense transcription across the entire genome.  
258 Downstream-read index calculations also indicated a deficiency in transcriptional termination  
259 of the  $\Delta$ ICP22 virus, with significantly increased levels of reads downstream of the TTS on  
260 the repair-repressed genes (Fig. 5E). In contrast, the downstream-read index was not  
261 significantly different between repair-active and repair-repressed genes on the n212 genome  
262 indicating normal transcriptional termination.  
263  
264 Promoter peaks for the repair-active genes in n212 were unchanged relative to repair (Fig.  
265 5F). However,  $\Delta$ ICP22 had a significant reduction in the promoter peak on these genes,  
266 matching its previously noted phenotype at 3 hpi (11). Analysis of the relative read density  
267 across the repair-repressed genes indicated that n212 maintained strong PPP on these genes,  
268 similar to n12 (Fig 5G). Calculation of gene pause indices indicated that all repair-repressed  
269 genes in n212 had an equivalent level of pausing. However, in n12 there was a large amount  
270 of variation with notably strong pauses on specific genes: UL48, UL10 and UL42, (Fig. S2A,  
271 D). In contrast,  $\Delta$ ICP22 lacked any evidence of pausing on repair-repressed genes.

272

273 While n212 and  $\Delta$ ICP22 genomes bore significant overall increases of Pol activity on all gene  
274 classes relative to their repair viruses except for IE genes with  $\Delta$ ICP22 (Fig. 6A, B), DeSeq2  
275 analysis of individual genes indicated that n212 displayed the strongest increases in activity  
276 on specific E genes. There was no apparent trend for upregulation of a specific gene class  
277 over others in n12 and  $\Delta$ ICP22 (Fig. 6C-E). One interpretation of these data is that in the  
278 absence of ICP0, transcription progresses more rapidly through the temporal transcriptional  
279 program. PRO-Seq data using n212 at 3 and 6 hpi was consistent with this hypothesis, as the  
280 distribution of Pol across the genome in n212 at 1.5 hpi matched that of the repair at 3 hpi  
281 (Fig. 6F). By 6 hpi, n212 and its repair had virtually matching PRO-Seq profiles, although  
282 n212 continued to have higher read counts (Fig. 6G). This differed from  $\Delta$ ICP22 which had  
283 reduced Pol activity on IE genes at 3 hpi and loss of Pol activity from most genes at 6 hpi  
284 (11).

285

## 286 **Discussion**

287 We have shown that ICP0, ICP4 and ICP22 are individually required for early transcriptional  
288 repression on the HSV-1 genome that precedes the activation of the temporal transcriptional  
289 cascade. The role of each in transcriptional repression is likely distinct because the PRO-Seq  
290 patterns of each mutant differed. The ICP4 mutant, n12, displayed increased Pol activity on  
291 all regions of the genome but retained features of proper transcriptional regulation on the IE  
292 genes. The  $\Delta$ ICP22 mutant genome also exhibited high levels of Pol activity but with a lack  
293 of PPP and extensive anti-sense transcription across the whole genome. The ICP0 mutant  
294 n212 led to increased Pol preferentially on E genes and the pattern of transcriptional activity  
295 on these genes was equivalent to those of wild type viruses, albeit with a faster progression  
296 through the transcriptional cascade. Overall, it is apparent that prior to initiating activation of

297 transcription, IE genes first mediate transcriptional repression. We have termed this novel  
298 repression **Transient Immediate Early Gene Repression** or **TIEGR**.

299

300 TIEGR is a previously unrecognized process preceding steps outlined in the current paradigm  
301 of HSV transcription which proposes that IE gene products function primarily to promote  
302 viral gene expression (21). These data suggest that the current paradigm be modified to  
303 consider the entire cascade of viral gene expression as a series of de-repression steps on  
304 different genes.

305

306 High Pol activity might be expected early in infection because HSV-1 genomes enter the  
307 nucleus free of nucleosomes and contain densely packed, mostly intronless genes encoded on  
308 both strands. This gene arrangement necessitates a high concentration of promoter elements  
309 such as TATA boxes and initiator sequences recognised by cellular Pol (22,23), and multiple  
310 GC-rich regions that can bind cellular transcription factors including Sp1 and Egr-1 (24,25).  
311 In addition, VP16 co-introduced with the genome is a powerful transcription factor with  
312 potent DNA binding activity for viral IE promoters, and a transcriptional activation domain  
313 (TAD) that interacts with many transcription factors such as TFIIA, TFIIB, TBP and TFIIF  
314 (26). The effectiveness of these elements is supported by the observation that by 3 hours after  
315 infection, the viral genome bears 1/3 of all Pol activity of the cell (27).

316

317 It is likely that the newly introduced HSV-1 genome is rapidly engaged by not only virion-  
318 delivered VP16, ICP0 and ICP4, but also by cellular histones. Previous studies have shown  
319 that histones associate with the viral genome during lytic infection (reviewed in (28)) and that  
320 histone dynamics are important in the regulation of lytic transcription (29). Other studies  
321 emphasize the ability of ICP4 to coat the viral genome in a form of “viral chromatin” (30).

322 ICP4 in this the viral chromatin was proposed to facilitate recruitment of Pol and components  
323 of the pre-initiation complex. However, because Pol is efficiently recruited to the viral  
324 genome in the absence of full-length ICP4 (and ICP0 and ICP22) we propose that a major  
325 function of ICP4 and virally orchestrated chromatin is to transiently repress transcription.  
326  
327 This repressive role of ICP4 is consistent with ICP4's known ability to repress IE gene  
328 transcription and was supported by our 6 hpi PRO-Seq data, in which n12 was unable to  
329 repress IE gene Pol activity. ICP4 repression is associated with ICP4-binding sites (15,16,31),  
330 that have a relatively loose consensus sequence with more than 100 copies throughout the  
331 viral genome (30). n12 expresses a truncated form of ICP4 (Fig. S1A), containing most of the  
332 N-terminal activation domain but without the DNA-binding domain (32) , indicating that  
333 ICP4 DNA binding is required for repression. How ICP4 can switch from a repressor to an  
334 activator is unknown. The repressive function likely occurs through forming a complex with  
335 TFIIB and TBP (33). Activation could be linked to modifications of these proteins; for  
336 example, both ICP4 (34) and TFIIB (35) are phosphorylated. Alternatively, the switch to  
337 activation could be linked to recruitment of other HSV-1 or cellular proteins such as  
338 TAF1/TFIID, which the ICP4 C-terminal domain is known to help recruit (36).  
339  
340 The result with  $\Delta$ ICP22 likely reflects ICP22's known role in reducing processivity of RNA  
341 Polymerase (11), yet it was surprising that this occurred over the entire viral genome and was  
342 not limited to IE genes. One possible explanation is that transcription is initiated at VP16  
343 sites, but that the increased Pol processivity in the absence of ICP22 leads to substantial read  
344 through into neighbouring genes (37). ICP22 has been shown to interact with several  
345 elongation regulatory factors including FACT (38), p-TEFb (39) and CDK9 (40) and it has

346 been proposed that these interactions leads to selective repression of cellular genes (41). A  
347 similar mechanism might account for repression of the HSV-1 genome early in infection.

348

349 The increased transcriptional activity in the ICP0- mutant was surprising as ICP0 is mostly  
350 viewed as a promiscuous transactivator that acts by causing degradation of cellular  
351 transcriptional silencing factors (42). Unlike the ICP4 and ICP22 mutants, the pattern of Pol  
352 activity on the ICP0 mutant genome reflected normal regulatory features such as PPP and  
353 termination. It is known that ICP0 mutants infected at high MOI grow equivalently to wild-  
354 type (42) virus, and that these mutants produce a large number of defective particles at very  
355 early stages of infection (18). One possibility is that the large number of defective particles  
356 deliver more abundant virion components such as the incoming VP16/ICP4 to help activate  
357 the n212 genome. Our CHX experiment also highlighted the importance of virion  
358 components in early transcriptional repression. In addition, ICP0 and ICP4 physically interact  
359 (43), suggesting a potential role for ICP0 during the switch in viral chromatin from repressive  
360 to activating.

361

362 As each IE protein affects production of the others, we cannot currently determine whether  
363 the observed repression was due to the specific loss of one, or a combinatorial effect and the  
364 full mechanism of this repression remains to be elucidated. TIEGR may represent an  
365 important checkpoint for a virus that can orchestrate one of two potential transcriptional  
366 programs: one that is robust during productive replication in which TIEGR is reversed, or one  
367 during latency in which TIEGR, or a version of it, is maintained.

368

## 369 **Materials and Methods**

### 370 **Cells**

371 HEp-2 (human epithelial lung cancer), Vero (African green monkey), RSC (rabbit skin) and  
372 the Vero derived ICP4-complementing, E5, cells (44) were maintained in Dulbecco's  
373 modified Eagle's medium (DMEM) containing 10% new born calf serum (NBS), 100  
374 units/ml penicillin, 100µg/ml streptomycin (pen/strep) and maintained at 37°C with 5%  
375 CO<sub>2</sub>. U2OS (human bone osteosarcoma) cells were maintained in McCoy's 5A medium  
376 containing foetal bovine serum (FBS), pen/strep and maintained at 37°C with 5% CO<sub>2</sub>. HFF  
377 (human foreskin fibroblasts) were maintained in DMEM containing 15% FBS, pen/strep and  
378 at 37°C with 5% CO<sub>2</sub>. S2 (*Drosophila melanogaster*) cells were grown in Schneider's  
379 medium containing 10% FBS and maintained at 23°C. E5 cells were a gift from Dr. Neal  
380 DeLuca, University of Pittsburgh and HFF cells were a gift from Dr. Luis Schang, Cornell  
381 University.

382

### 383 **Viruses**

384 Mutant HSV-1 strains n12 (44) and n212 (18), both HSV-1 KOS derived, were gifts from Dr.  
385 Neal DeLuca, University of Pittsburgh. n12 virus stocks were prepared on E5 cells and n212  
386 were prepared on U2OS cells. The ΔICP22 virus and its repair, generated from a HSV-1 (F)  
387 bacterial artificial chromosome, were gifts from Dr. Yasushi Kawaguchi (19,20). Stocks of  
388 both were prepared on Vero cells.

389

390 Repair viruses of n12 (α4 mutant) and n212 (α0 mutant) were generated through homologous  
391 recombination. Plasmids containing WT HSV-1 DNA spanning 1000 bp either side of the  
392 mutation were synthesized, linearized, then transfected using TransIT-X2 (Mirus Bio) into  
393 RSC cells. 6 hours after transfection, cells were infected at a MOI of 1 with the  
394 corresponding mutant and when all cells showed CPE, harvested by scraping into media.  
395 Viruses were released from cells through 3x cycles of freeze-thaw in LN<sub>2</sub> and 37°C water



396 bath. Samples were then serially diluted onto Vero cells with an agarose overlay and  
397 underwent 3 rounds of plaque purification. Repair virus plaques were selected by size due to  
398 the growth restriction of the mutants on Vero cells. Western blotting was used to confirm  
399 successful repair of full-length protein expression (Fig. S1). Stocks were subsequently  
400 prepared on Vero cells.

401

#### 402 **Virus infections and drug treatments**

403 For assessment of IE protein expression, monolayers of  $1.2 \times 10^6$  HEp-2 cells were infected  
404 with HSV-1 at a MOI of 5 in 199V medium (+1% NBS). After 1h, inoculum was replaced  
405 with DMEM (+2% NBS).

406

407 For PRO-Seq, monolayers of  $2 \times 10^7$  cells were infected with HSV-1 at a MOI of 5 as above.  
408 Infections were allowed to continue for 1.5, 3 or 6 hpi – hpi refers to the time after the viral  
409 inoculum was first added to cells. For CHX treatments,  $10 \mu\text{M}$  of CHX was added to media 1h  
410 prior to infection and this CHX concentration was maintained in the media throughout  
411 infection.

412

#### 413 **Western blotting analysis**

414 Lysates were prepared from infected cells by washing cells x2 in ice-cold PBS before  
415 addition of an appropriate volume of NP-40 lysis buffer (150mM NaCl, 1% NP-40, 50mM  
416 Tris pH8, protease inhibitors). Cells were then scraped into suspension and incubated on ice  
417 for 30 min.  $20 \mu\text{g}$  of protein was mixed 2X Protein Sample Loading Buffer (LiCor) and  
418 heated to  $98^\circ\text{C}$  for 5 min. Samples were separated on an 8% polyacrylamide resolving gel,  
419 layered with a 5% stacking gel. Proteins were transferred to a  $0.45 \mu\text{m}$  nitrocellulose  
420 membrane using a wet transfer technique. Membranes were first blocked for 1 h at room

421 temperature in 5% BSA +0.1% Tween®20, then incubated with the primary antibodies  
422 diluted in blocking buffer at 4°C overnight. Membranes were washed 4 x for 5 min in PBS  
423 containing 0.1% Tween before being incubated with the secondary antibodies diluted in  
424 blocking buffer at room temperature for 45 min. Membranes underwent a further 4x 5 min  
425 washes in PBS-T and were then visualized on an Odyssey Scanner (LiCor). Primary  
426 antibodies were anti-ICP4 (sc-69809, Santa Cruz), used at 1:200 and anti-ICP0 (sc-53070,  
427 Santa Cruz), used at 1:100. Secondary antibodies were DyLight 680 and 800 (Cell  
428 Signalling).

429

#### 430 **Nuclei isolation and PRO-Seq**

431 Nuclei were isolated from infected cells, nuclear run-on with biotinylated nucleotides  
432 performed and sequencing libraries generated as described previously (5,11,27,45). Nuclei  
433 from *Drosophila* S2 cells were spiked into infected-cell nuclei at a ratio of 1:1000 prior to  
434 run-on. Libraries were sequenced on an Illumina NextSeq 500, performed by the GeneLab at  
435 Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine or by the Biotechnology Resource  
436 center (BRC) Genomics facility (*RRID:SCR\_021727*) at the Cornell Institute of  
437 Biotechnology.

438

#### 439 **DNA isolation**

440 The lower interphase and organic layers of the initial TRIzol LS RNA extraction from the  
441 run-on was saved. The DNA was subsequently isolated following the manufacturer's protocol  
442 for TRIzol DNA isolation (Invitrogen, MAN0016385). To clean-up the isolated DNA, 3x  
443 phenol:chloroform:isoamyl alcohol purification was performed before ethanol precipitation  
444 using sodium acetate. DNA was resuspended in DEPC water.

445

#### 446 **Quantitative PCR for viral genome copy**

447 Extracted DNA was quantified using NanoDrop spectrophotometer (Thermo Scientific).  
448 HSV-1 genome copy number was determined in 50ng of extracted DNA as previously  
449 described (5,27). Brilliant III SYBR® Green Master Mix with ROX (Agilent) was used and  
450 qPCR performed on QuantStudio™ 3 (Applied Biosystems).

451

#### 452 **Read processing**

453 FastQ files were processed using the PRO-Seq pipeline developed by the Danko lab (Cornell)  
454 <https://github.com/Danko-Lab/utis/tree/master/proseq>. Reads were aligned to a concatenated  
455 genome file containing hg38, dm3, HSV-1 genomes. HSV-1 genome builds had the external  
456 repeats deleted to aid sequencing alignment; the modified genome files are available:  
457 <https://github.com/Baines-Lab/Public/tree/main/HSV-1>. Seqmonk software (46) was used to  
458 probe reads from the individual genomes in the output .bam files. Drosophila spike-in  
459 normalisation was used to account for variation in sequencing depth between libraries.  
460 Libraries were normalised relative to the library with the largest drosophila read count, with  
461 the scale factor for this set to 1. The output .bw files (containing only the 3' final read  
462 position) were visualized using the IGV genome browser (47). Individual reads for each bp  
463 across the HSV-1 genome was extracted from the .bw files using multiBigWigSummary from  
464 deepTools (48) and normalized as above. The resulting .txt files were converted to .bed for  
465 analysis in Seqmonk or .bedgraph for visualization in IGV. The normalized .bed/.bedgraph  
466 files were used for all subsequent data analysis. Principal component analysis of normalized  
467 HSV-1 gene reads from each sequencing experiment was used to confirm clustering of  
468 replicates (Fig. S6).

469

#### 470 **Identification of transcriptionally active genes**

471 The robust transcription threshold to identify repair-active genes was determined on data  
472 from repair-virus infection at 1.5 hpi due to restricted transcriptional activity on these  
473 samples. Genes were classified to be transcriptionally active (repair-active) if the mean read  
474 per bp (TSS -TTS) was greater than 1 standard deviation of the mean of all genes. Genes  
475 below this threshold in repair infections, but above this threshold in mutant infections were  
476 classified as repair-repressed. The same threshold was used at all time points and was  
477 calculated individually for each sequencing experiment due to variation in sequencing depth.  
478 Details of normalized HSV-1 gene reads, reads per bp and robust transcription thresholds are  
479 given in Appendix 1.

480

#### 481 **Promoter proximal pause analysis**

482 The relative distribution of reads across gene sets was determined using the Seqmonk probe  
483 trend plot on .bed files. Genes were divided into 100 bins to get relative distance across gene.  
484 Data was plotted using the smoother function in SAS JMP Pro software and the bootstrap  
485 confidence of fit calculated using 300 iterations of the data. Pause index calculations for  
486 individual genes was determined by the formula: mean read per bp (TSS +150bp)/mean read  
487 per bp rest of gene (to TTS). Only viral genes with no overlapping transcripts and with a  
488 defined TSS were included in PPP analysis to allow reads to be accurately assigned.

489

#### 490 **Sense transcription proportion calculation**

491 The proportion of sense transcription on each HSV-1 gene was calculated by formula: reads  
492 sense strand of gene (TSS-TTS)/reads antisense strand of gene (TSS-TTS). Only isolate  
493 HSV-1 genes with no gene on opposite strand were included in final analysis to allow reads  
494 to be accurately assigned. Regression analysis was used to assess correlation between sense

495 proportion and read per bp (TSS-TTS) of each HSV-1 gene. The square of the correlation  
496 coefficient ( $R^2$ ) was calculated using SAS JMP Pro software.

497

#### 498 **Downstream-read index calculation**

499 The level of reads downstream of TTS was calculated by formula: reads per bp 150bp  
500 downstream of TTS/reads per bp in upstream ORF (TSS-TTS). Only singular unnested genes  
501 with a defined TTS more than 150bp away from any other TSS were included to allow reads  
502 to be accurately assigned.

503

#### 504 **Fold change analysis**

505 Fold change analysis was performed using the R package DeSeq2 (14). DeSeq2 for HSV-1  
506 genes was performed incorporating Hg38 genes data to account for the library size correction  
507 step. Full DeSeq2 fold change and p-values are given in Appendix 2.

508

#### 509 **Statistical analysis**

510 Statistical significance was determined by unpaired Student's t-test for pairwise comparisons  
511 of normally distributed data, Mann-Whitney U test was used for pairwise comparison of  
512 nonparametric data and Kruskal-Wallis for multiple comparisons. Calculations were  
513 performed using SAS JMP Pro software. Each independent experiment consisted of 2-3  
514 biological replicates.

515

#### 516 **Data availability**

517 The data will be publicly available upon publication on the GEO database under the  
518 accession number GSE202363.

519

520 **Acknowledgements**

521 We thank Dr. Neal DeLuca, Dr. Luis Schang and Dr. Yasushi Kawaguchi for their kind gifts  
522 of cells/viruses. We thank Thaya Stoufflet and Dr. Vladimir Chouljenko at the LSU SVM  
523 GeneLab and the Genomics Facility (*RRID:SCR\_021727*) of the Biotechnology Resource  
524 Center of Cornell Institute of Biotechnology for their help with sequencing experiments.  
525 Portions of this research were conducted with the high-performance SuperMic supercomputer  
526 provided by Louisiana State University (<http://www.hpc.lsu.edu>) and we thank Dr Le Yan for  
527 his help in maintaining the PRO-Seq pipeline. These studies were supported by National  
528 Institutes of Health grants R01 AI 141968 and R21 AI 148926 to J.D.B.

529

530 **Author contributions**

531 J.D.B conceived the study, L.E.M.D performed experiments involving n12 and n212 HSV-1  
532 viruses and C.H.B performed experiments involving  $\Delta$ ICP22 HSV-1. L.E.M.D performed  
533 data analysis and made the figures. All authors discussed results L.E.M.D and J.D.B wrote  
534 and edited the manuscript.

535

536

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669

## 670 **Figure Legends**

### 671 **Figure 1: In the absence of ICP4, Pol activity is dysregulated throughout HSV-1**

#### 672 **infection.**

673 HEp-2 cells were infected with either the ICP4- mutant, n12, or its genetically restored repair  
674 and PRO-Seq performed at 1.5, 3 and 6 hpi. **(A)** Genome browser view of distribution of  
675 PRO-Seq reads (mean of 2 biological replicates, normalised to drosophila spike-in) across the  
676 HSV-1 genome. External repeat sequences were deleted for the sequencing alignment. IE  
677 gene peaks are noted. **(B)** Log10 normalised read counts of all HSV-1 genes. Mann-Whitney  
678 U test was used to estimate statistical significance. Log10 normalised read counts of **(C)**  
679 Immediate Early, **(D)** Early, **(E)** Leaky Late and **(F)** Late genes. Black diamonds indicate  
680 mean. Kruskal-Wallis test was performed to estimate statistical significance. ns =  $P > 0.05$ .

681

### 682 **Figure 2: Aberrant transcription occurs on the HSV-1 genome at 1.5 hpi in the absence**

683 **of ICP4.** HEp-2 cells were infected with either the ICP4- mutant, n12, or its genetically

684 restored repair and PRO-Seq performed at 1.5, 3 and 6 hpi. High resolution genome browser  
685 view PRO-Seq tracks HSV-1 regions (mean of 2 biological replicates, normalised to

686 drosophila spike-in): **(A)**  $\alpha 4$  and US1, shown scaled to equal sequencing depth and equal

687 viral read counts, **(B)** UL28, UL29 and UL30, **(C)** UL18, UL19, UL20, UL20.5, UL21, UL22.

688 IE genes: red, E genes: pink, LL genes: blue, L genes: yellow. **(D)** The relative distribution of  
689 reads across repair-active genes (genes that are robustly transcribed in both repair and n12 at  
690 each time point) and repair-repressed genes (genes that are robustly transcribed only in n12 at  
691 each time point). A closer view of the promoter region is also shown. The bootstrap

692 confidence of fit is shown in the shaded area. Proportion of reads mapping to the sense strand

693 on **(E)** all HSV-1 genes and on **(F)** repair-active and repair-repressed genes. **(G)**

694 Downstream-read index of repair-active and repair-repressed genes. Mann-Whitney U test  
695 was used to estimate statistical significance between viruses or gene sets at each time point.  
696 ns =  $P > 0.05$ .

697

698 **Figure 3: Both virion-associated ICP4 and *de novo* synthesis of ICP4 are required for**  
699 **early transcriptional repression on the HSV-1 genome at 1.5 hpi.** HEp-2 cells were  
700 infected with either the ICP4- mutant, n12, or its genetically restored repair in the presence or  
701 absence of the protein synthesis inhibitor cycloheximide (CHX) and PRO-Seq performed at  
702 1.5 hpi. n=2 for each treatment (A) Log10 normalised read counts of all HSV-1 genes.  
703 DeSeq2 Log2 fold change comparison of HSV-1 gene reads, separated by gene class of (B)  
704 repair CHX treated relative to repair untreated, (C) n12 CHX treated relative to n12  
705 untreated. IE: immediate early, E: early, LL: leaky late, L: late. Genes with a fold change  
706 adjusted p-value  $\leq 0.05$  are shown in red. (D) PRO-Seq tracks of the HSV-1  $\alpha 0$ -US1 IE gene  
707 region (mean of 2 biological replicates, normalised to drosophila spike-in). (E) The relative  
708 distribution of reads across IE genes. The bootstrap confidence of fit is shown in the shaded  
709 area.

710

711 **Figure 4: The absence of viral IE genes ICP0 and ICP22 also leads to increased**  
712 **transcriptional activity on the HSV-1 genome at 1.5 hpi.** HEp-2 cells were infected with;  
713 the ICP0- mutant, n212, its genetically restored repair,  $\Delta$ ICP22 mutant, its genetically  
714 restored repair and WT (F) and PRO-Seq performed at 1.5 hpi. Genome browser view of  
715 distribution of PRO-Seq reads (n12 and n212 experiments represent mean of 2 biological  
716 replicates,  $\Delta$ ICP22 experiments represent mean of 3 biological replicates normalised to  
717 drosophila spike-in) across the HSV-1 genome. Previous data from n12 and its repair at 1.5  
718 hpi is also shown. The black lines indicate separate infection experiments/library

719 preparations. External repeat sequences were deleted for the sequencing alignment. IE gene  
720 peaks are noted.

721

722 **Figure 5: The viral IE genes ICP0 and ICP22 are involved in early transcriptional**  
723 **repression the HSV-1 genome at 1.5 hpi.** HEp-2 cells were infected with; the ICP0- mutant,  
724 n212, its genetically restored repair (n=2),  $\Delta$ ICP22 mutant, its genetically restored repair and  
725 WT (F) (n=3) and PRO-Seq performed at 1.5 hpi. Previous data from n12 and its repair at 1.5  
726 hpi is also shown (A) Log10 normalised read counts of all HSV-1 genes. High resolution  
727 genome browser view PRO-Seq tracks HSV-1 regions: (B) UL28, UL29, UL30 and (C)  $\alpha$ 0  
728 and US1. IE genes: red, E genes: pink, LL genes: blue. (D) Proportion of reads mapping to  
729 the sense strand on repair-active (genes that are robustly transcribed in both repair and  
730 mutant) and repair-repressed genes (genes that are robustly transcribed only in mutant). (E)  
731 Downstream-read index of repair-active and repair-repressed genes. Mann-Whitney U test  
732 was used to estimate statistical significance between mutant/repair or gene sets. ns = P >  
733 0.05. (F) The relative distribution of reads across the promoter region on repair-active genes  
734 on n212 and repair and  $\Delta$ ICP22 and repair. (G) The relative read distribution across repair-  
735 repressed genes in IE mutant viruses: n212 (ICP0-),  $\Delta$ ICP22 and n12 (ICP4-). A closer view  
736 of the promoter region is also shown. The bootstrap confidence of fit is shown in the shaded  
737 area

738

739 **Figure 6: The absence of different IE genes leads to an increase of transcriptional**  
740 **activity with varying patterns across the HSV-1 genome.** Log10 normalised PRO-Seq read  
741 counts of HSV-1 genes, separated by temporal class at 1.5 hpi post infection with (A) ICP0-  
742 mutant and its genetically restored repair (n=2) and (B)  $\Delta$ ICP22 and its genetically restored  
743 repair (n=3). Mann-Whitney U test was used to estimate statistical significance between

744 mutant/repair. DeSeq2 Log2 fold change comparison of HSV-1 gene reads at 1.5 hpi of (C)  
745 ICP0- mutant n212 infected relative to repair infected (D)  $\Delta$ ICP22 infected relative to repair  
746 infected and (E) ICP4- mutant n12 infected relative to repair infected. IE: immediate early, E:  
747 early, LL: leaky late, L: late. Genes with a fold change adjusted p-value  $\leq 0.05$  are shown in  
748 red. (F) Genome browser view of distribution of PRO-Seq reads (mean of 2 biological  
749 replicates, normalised to drosophila spike-in) across the HSV-1 genome at 1.5, 3 and 6 hpi in  
750 HEp-2 cells infected with either ICP0- mutant n212 or its repair. External repeat sequences  
751 were deleted for the sequencing alignment. IE gene peaks are noted. (G) Log10 normalised  
752 PRO-Seq read counts of HSV-1 genes at 1.5, 3 and 6 hpi in HEp-2 cells infected with either  
753 ICP0- mutant n212 or its repair. Mann-Whitney U test was used to estimate statistical  
754 significance between mutant/repair at each time point.

755

## 756 **Supplementary Information**

757 **Figure S1: Successful generation of n12 and n212 repair viruses.** (A) Western blot of  
758 mock, n12 (ICP4-), n12 repair and WT (F) infected HEp-2 lysates using anti-ICP4 antibody.  
759 (B) Western blot of mock, n212 (ICP0-), n212 repair and WT (F) infected HEp-2 lysates  
760 using anti-ICP0 antibody.

761

762 **Figure S2: Pause index values for individual HSV-1 genes after infection with IE**  
763 **mutants and their corresponding repairs.** Pause index) values calculated from PRO-Seq  
764 data of repair-active (genes that are robustly transcribed in both repair and mutant) and  
765 repair-repressed (genes that are robustly transcribed only in mutant) HSV-1 genes in (A)  
766 ICP4- mutant n12 and n12 repair infection at 1.5 hpi (n=2), (B) 3 hpi (n=2) and (C) 6 hpi  
767 (n=2). (D) ICP0- mutant, n212 and its repair at 1.5hpi (n=2) and (E)  $\Delta$ ICP22 and its repair at



768 1.5 hpi (n=3). Data is mean  $\pm$  standard error. An unpaired student t-test was used to estimate  
769 statistical significance between mutant and repair on each gene.

770

771 **Figure S3: During early HSV-1 infection, genes with a high level of Pol activity have the**  
772 **strongest regulation of sense-to-antisense transcription.** Scatterplots comparing the  
773 proportion of reads mapping to the sense strand to the mean read per bp of the gene of (A)  
774 ICP4- mutant n12 at 1.5 hpi, (B) repair at 1.5 hpi, (C) n12 at 3 hpi, (D) repair at 3 hpi, (E)  
775 n12 at 6 hpi and (F) repair at 6 hpi. The  $R^2$  correlation value is shown.

776

777 **Figure S4: Antisense of transcription of specific genes occurs at regions downstream of**  
778 **ICP4-independent promoters.** High resolution PRO-Seq tracks (mean of 2 biological  
779 replicates, normalised to drosophila spike-in) of regions containing ICP4-independent  
780 promoters (shown by green arrows) on the HSV-1 genome after infection with ICP4- mutant  
781 n12 and its repair at 1.5, 3 and 6 hpi. (A) The UL54 ICP4-independent promoter and UL56  
782 antisense transcription. (B) The US1 ICP4-independent promoter and US2 antisense  
783 transcription. (C) The US12 ICP4-independent promoter and US8/US8A/US9 antisense  
784 transcription. (D) The UL39 ICP4-independent promoter and UL41 antisense transcription.  
785 (E) The  $\alpha 0$  ICP4-independent promoter and (F) The  $\alpha 4$  ICP4-independent promoter. Dashed  
786 lines define regions of potential read-through transcription.

787

788 **Figure S5: Aberrant transcription occurs on the HSV-1 genome at 1.5 hpi in the**  
789 **absence of ICP4 in HFF cells.** HFF cells were infected with either the ICP4- mutant, n12, or  
790 its genetically restored repair and PRO-Seq performed at 1.5 hpi. (A) Genome browser view  
791 of distribution of PRO-Seq reads (mean of 2 biological replicates, normalised to drosophila  
792 spike-in) across the HSV-1 genome. External repeat sequences were deleted for the

793 sequencing alignment. IE gene peaks are noted. **(B)** Log10 normalised read counts of all  
794 HSV-1 genes and **(C)** of genes separated by temporal class. **(D)** Proportion of reads mapping  
795 to the sense strand on repair-active (genes that are robustly transcribed in both repair and  
796 n12) and repair-repressed (genes that are robustly transcribed only in n12). genes. **(E)**  
797 Downstream-read index of repair-active and repair-repressed genes. Mann-Whitney U test  
798 was used to estimate statistical significance between mutant/repair or gene sets. ns =  $P > 0.05$ .  
799 **(F)** The relative distribution of reads across repair-active genes and repair-repressed genes A  
800 closer view of the promoter region is also shown. The bootstrap confidence of fit is shown in  
801 the shaded area. **(G)** Pause index values of repair-active and repair-repressed HSV-1 genes.  
802 Data is mean of 2 biological replicates  $\pm$  SEM. **(H)** The number of HSV-1 genomes in the  
803 nuclei at 1.5 hpi determined via UL51 plasmid standard-curve qPCR. Data is mean of 2  
804 biological replicates  $\pm$  standard error. An unpaired student t-test was used to estimate  
805 statistical significance, ns =  $P > 0.05$ .

806

807 **Figure S6: Confirmation of replicate clustering for each PRO-Seq experiment.** Principal  
808 component analysis (PCA) plots of Log10 normalised HSV-1 gene reads (TSS-TTS) of each  
809 replicate from individual PRO-Seq sequencing experiments. **(A)** n12 (ICP4 null) and repair  
810 infected HEp-2 PRO-Seq at 1.5, 3 and 6 hpi. **(B)** n12 (ICP4 null) and repair infected HFF  
811 PRO-Seq at 1.5 hpi. **(C)** n12 (ICP4 null) and repair infected HEp-2, +/- CHX treatment at 1.5  
812 hpi. **(D)** n212 (ICP0 null) and repair infected HEp-2 PRO-Seq at 1.5, 3 and 6 hpi. **(E)**  
813  $\Delta$ ICP22, repair and WT (F) infected HEp-2 PRO-Seq at 1.5 hpi.

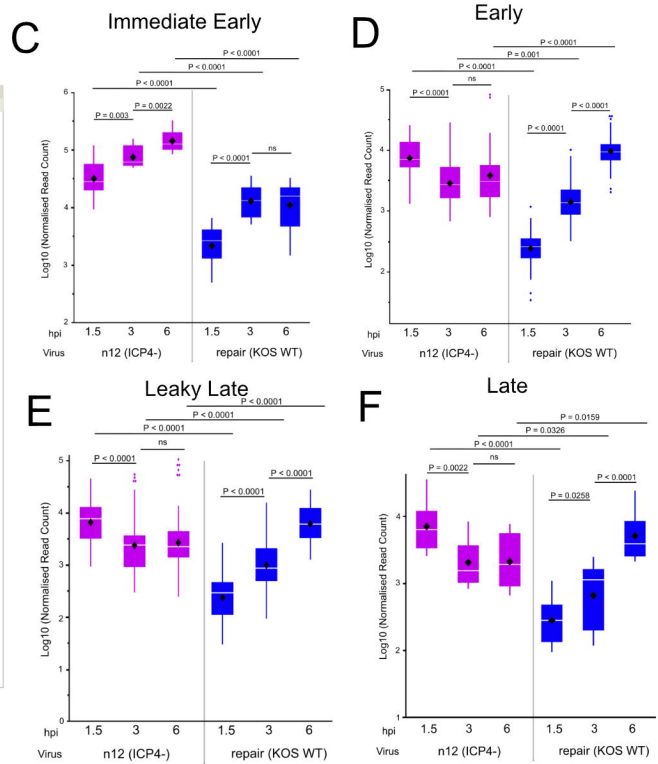
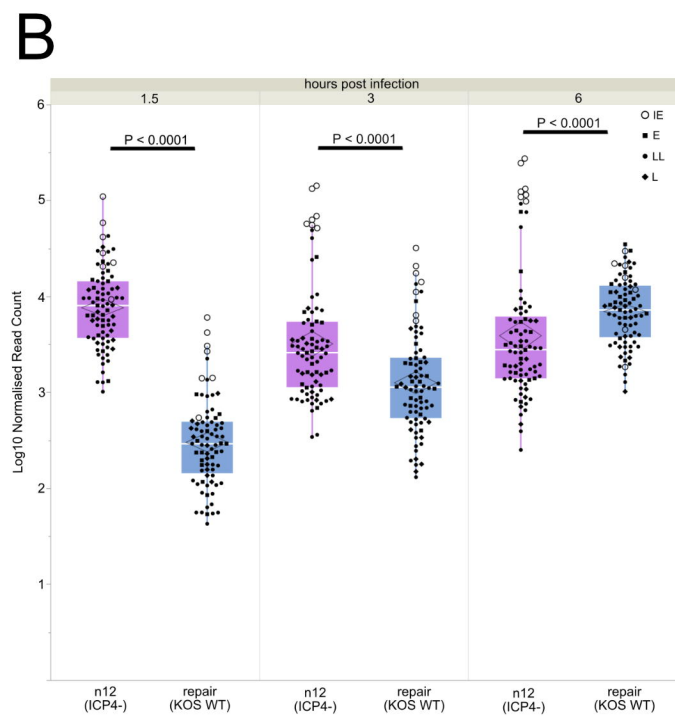
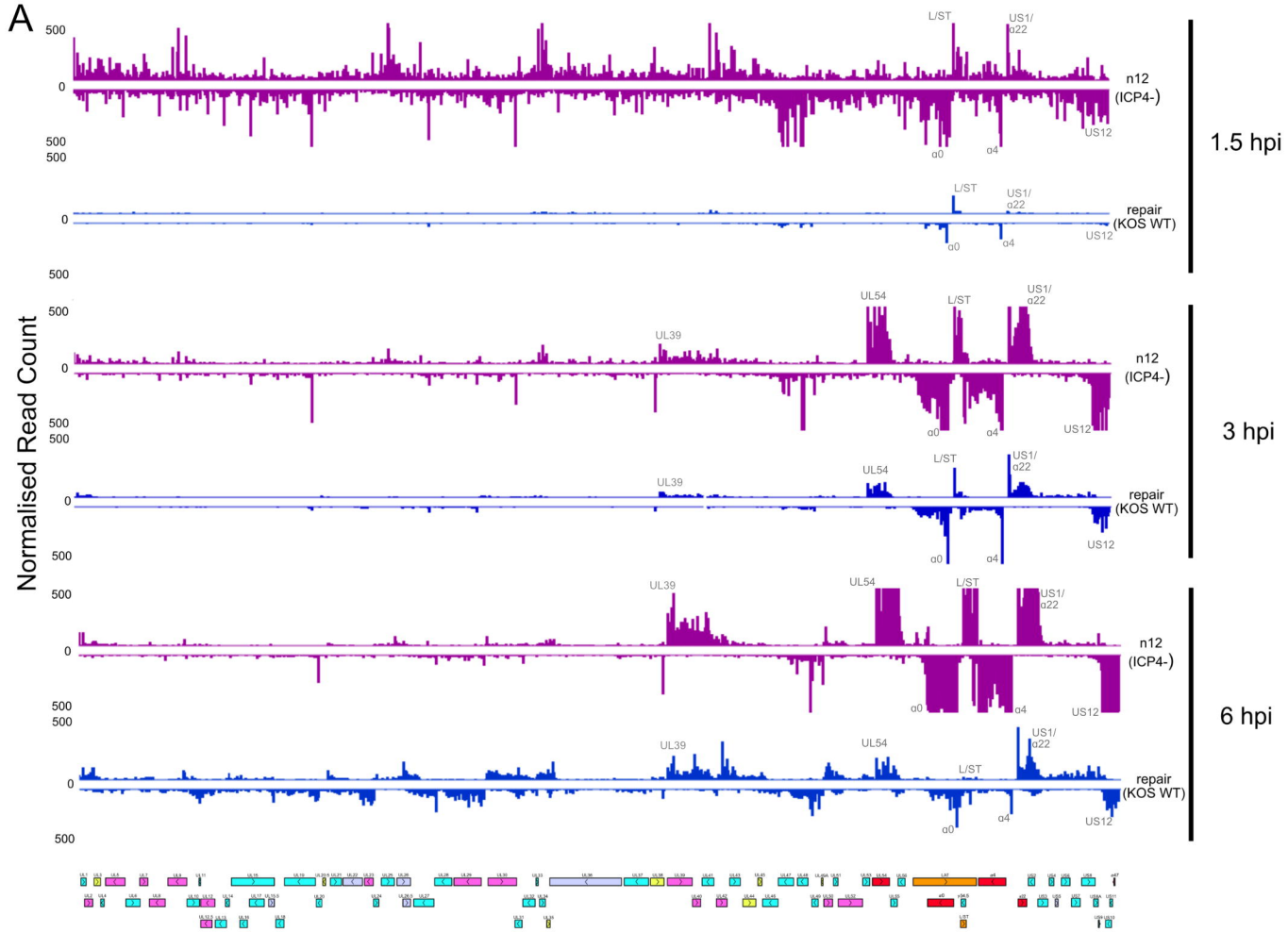
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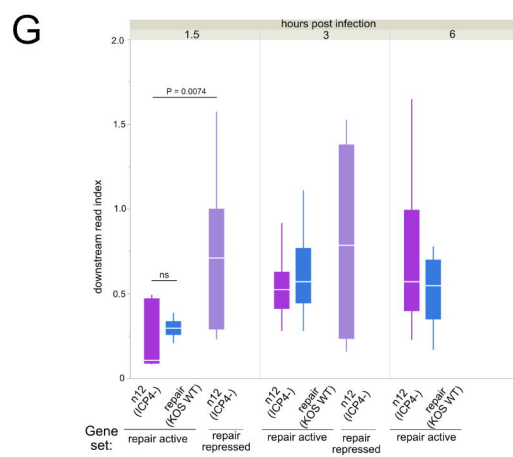
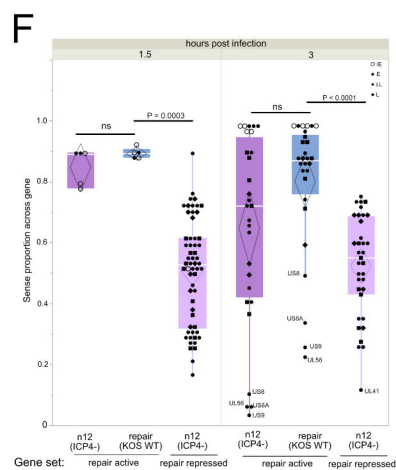
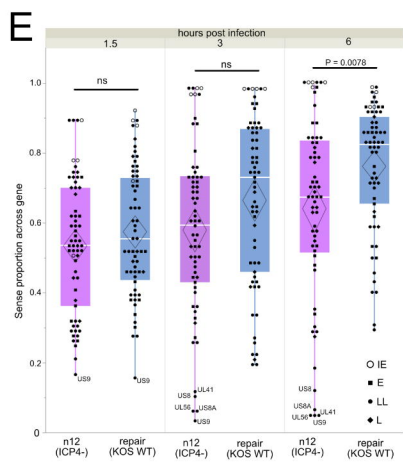
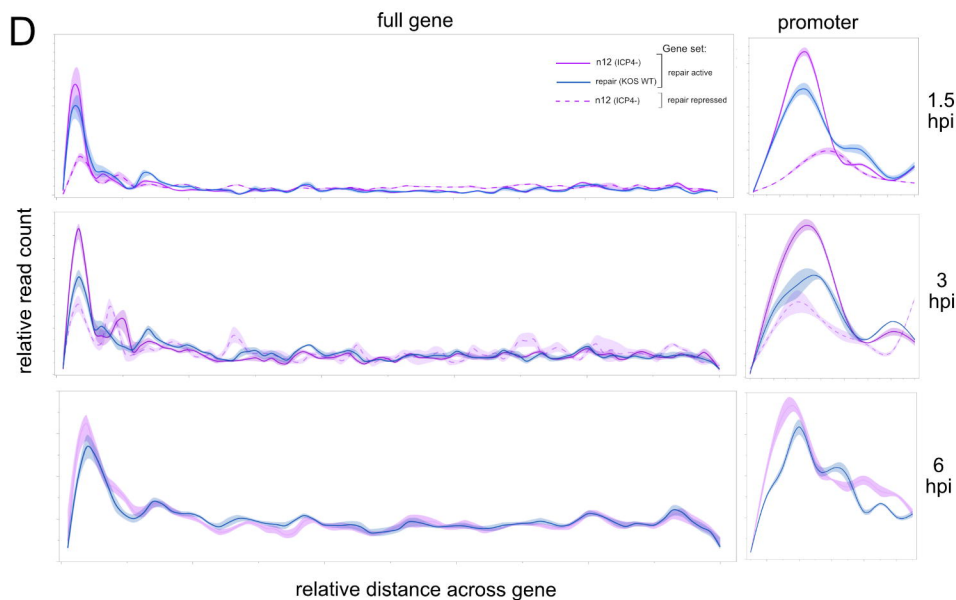
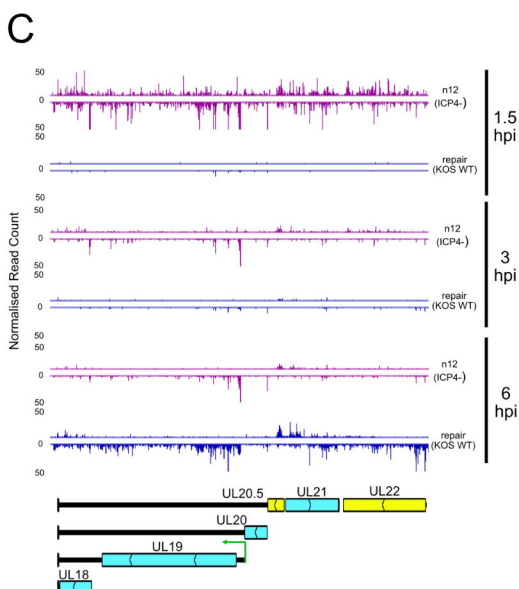
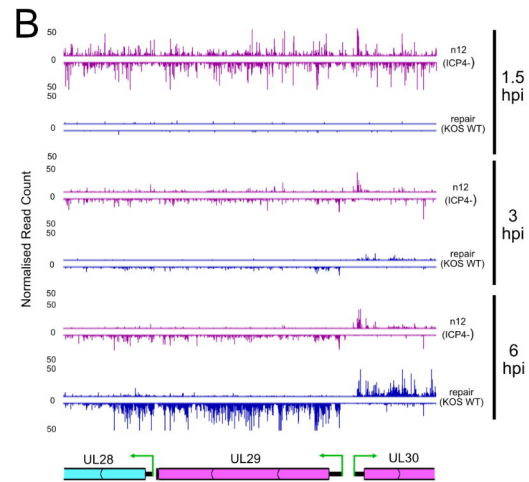
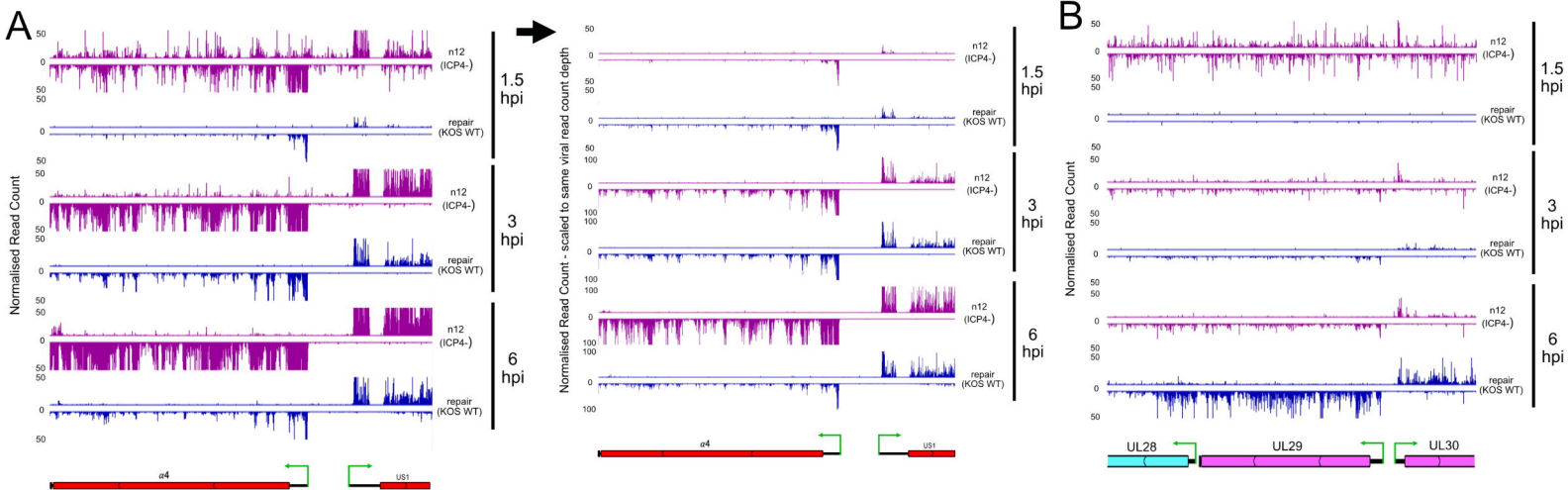
815 **Appendix 1:** Normalized HSV-1 gene reads, reads per bp and robust transcription thresholds

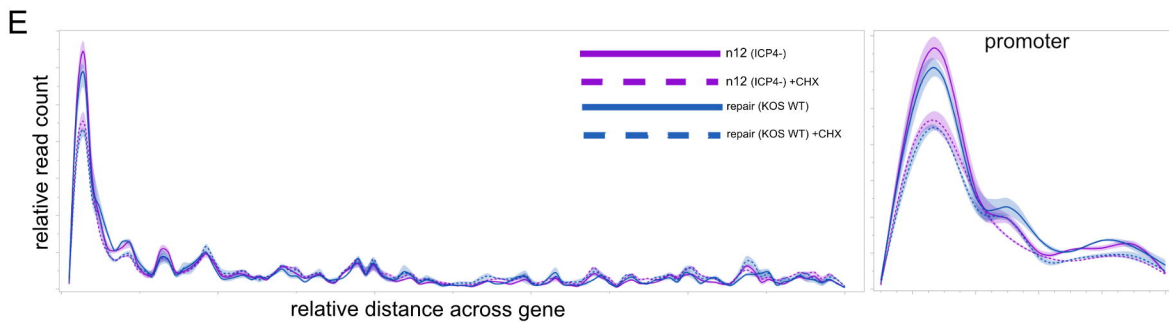
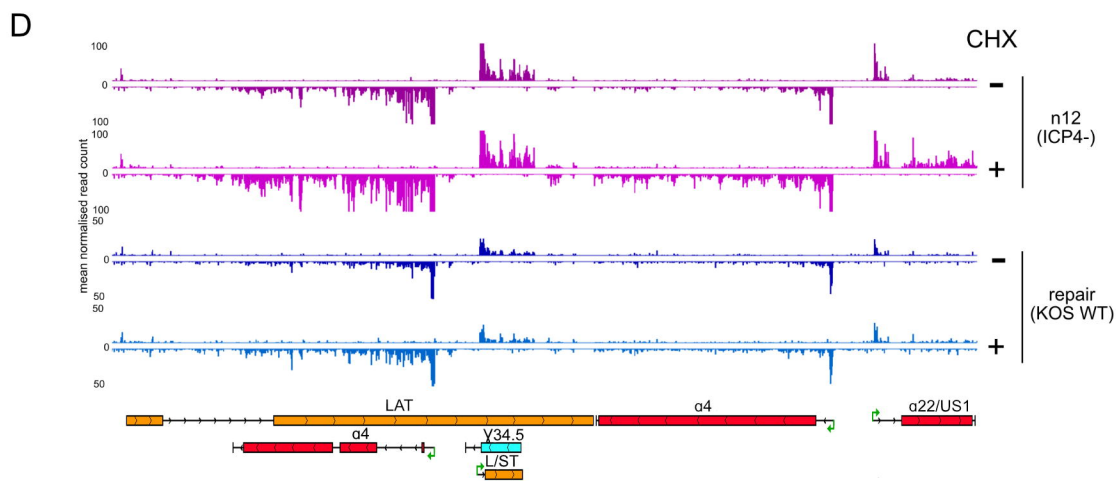
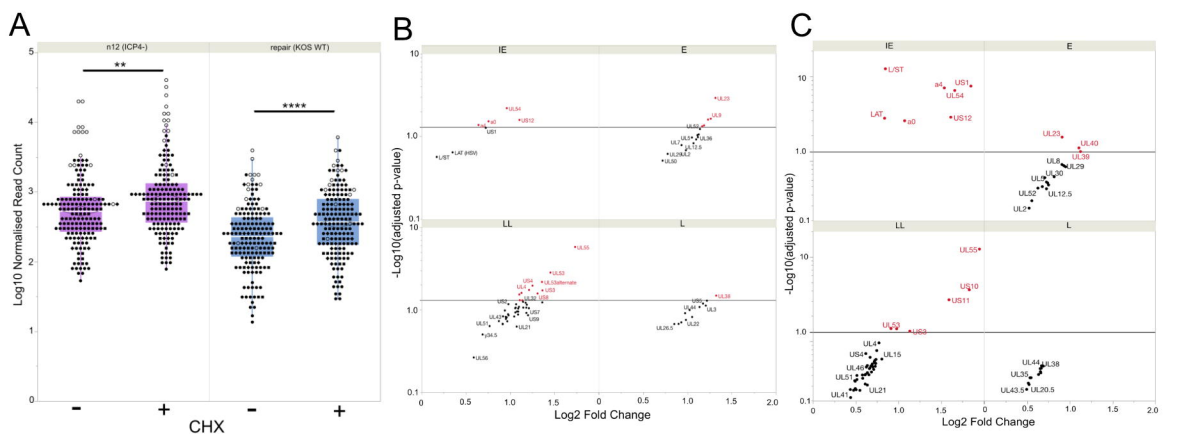
816 **Appendix 2:** DeSeq2 fold change and p-values

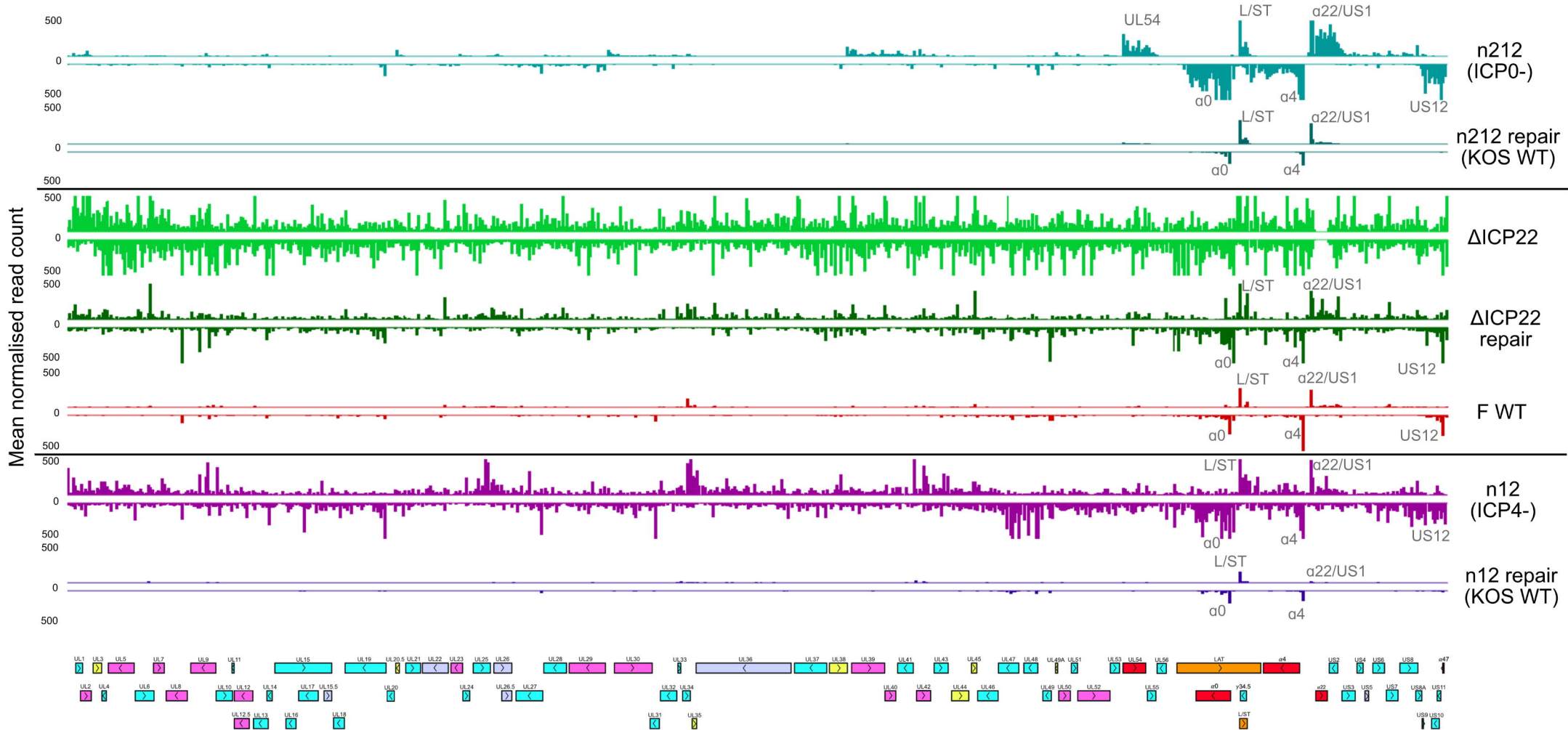
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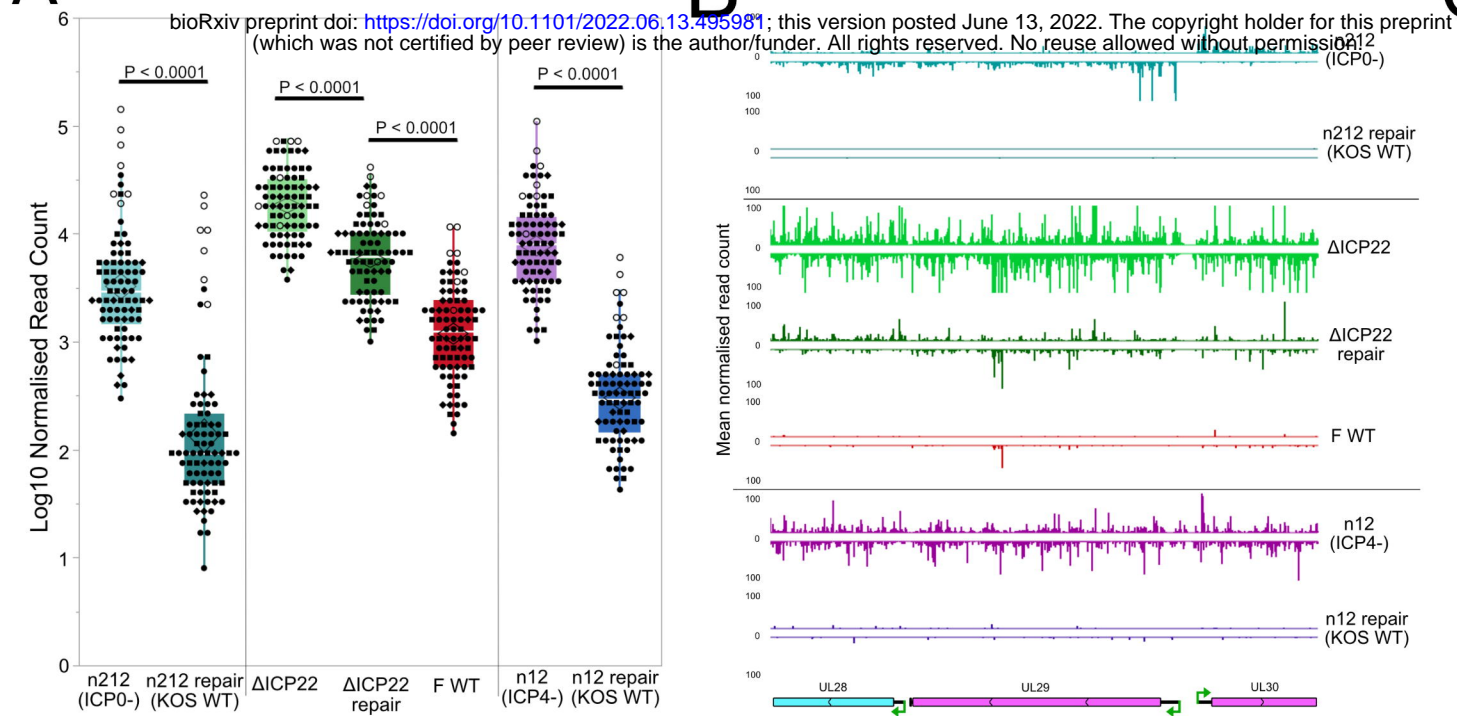
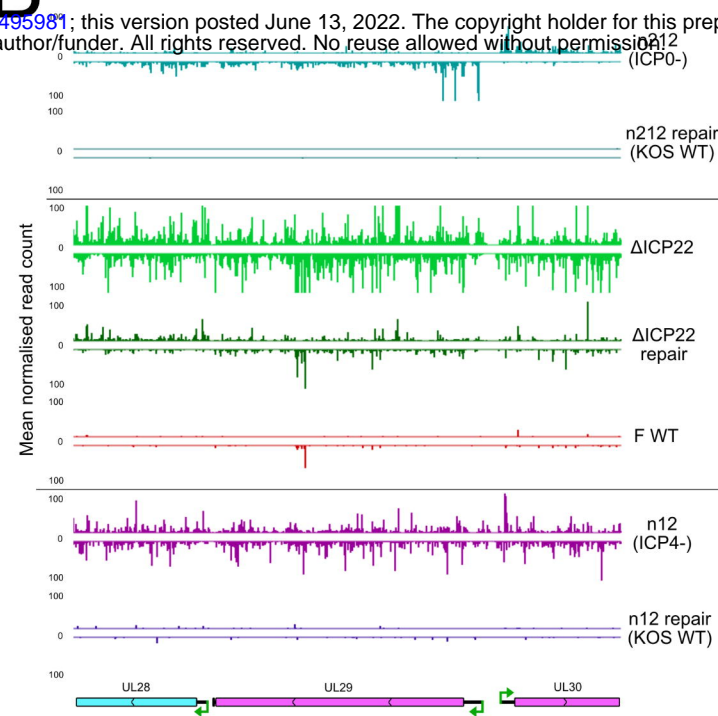
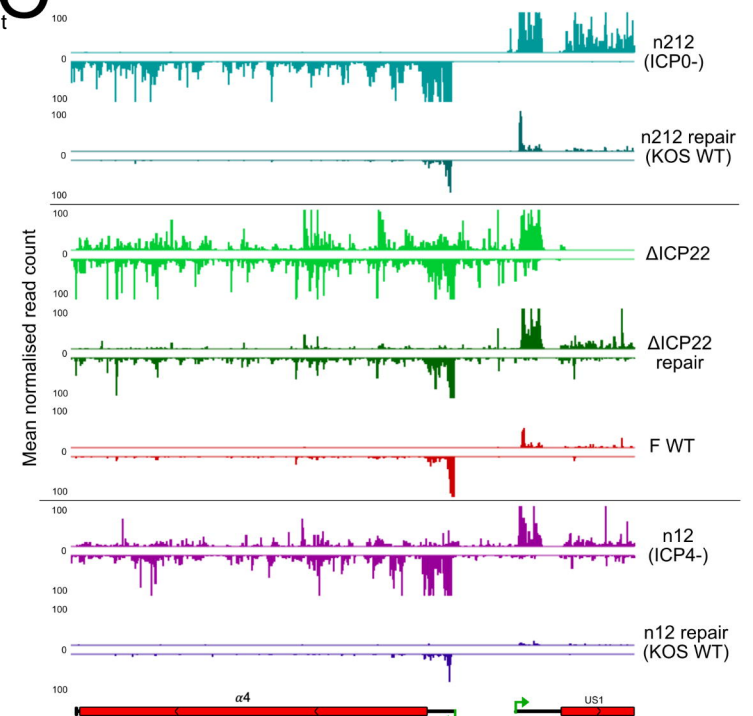
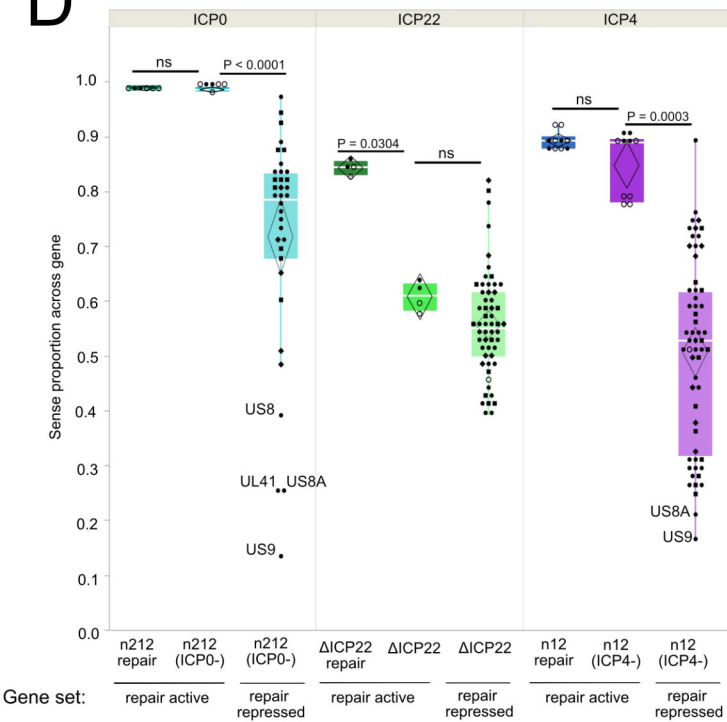
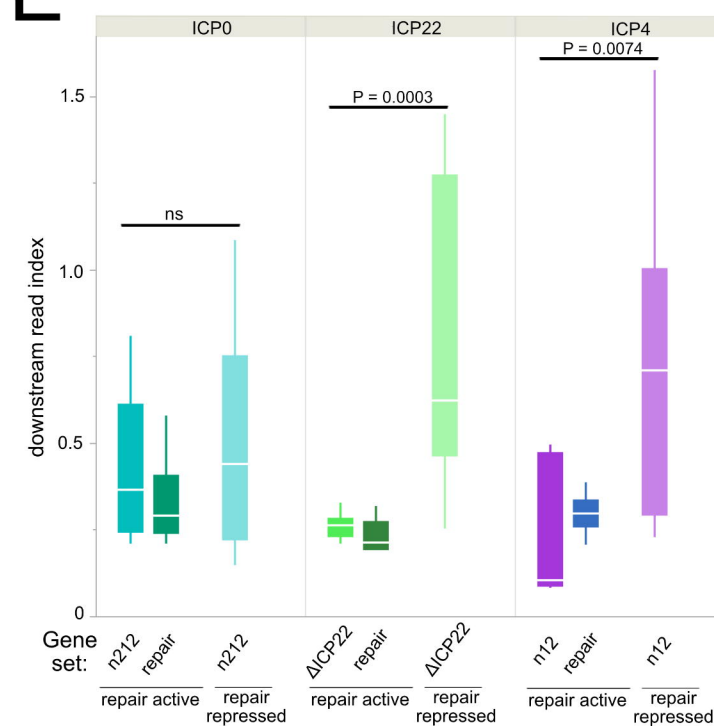
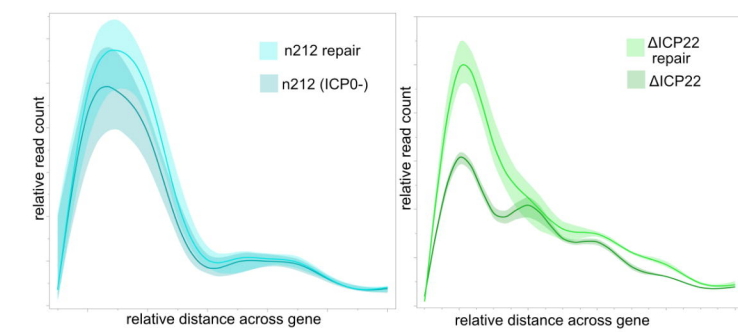
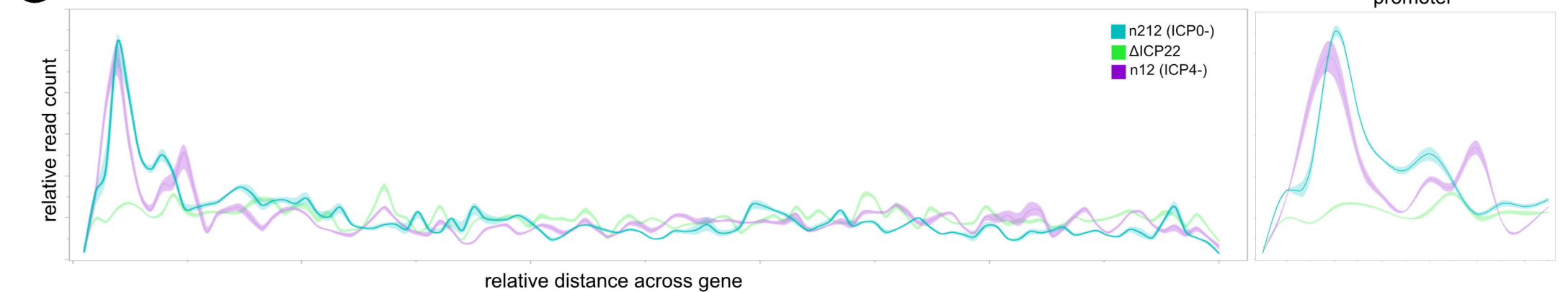




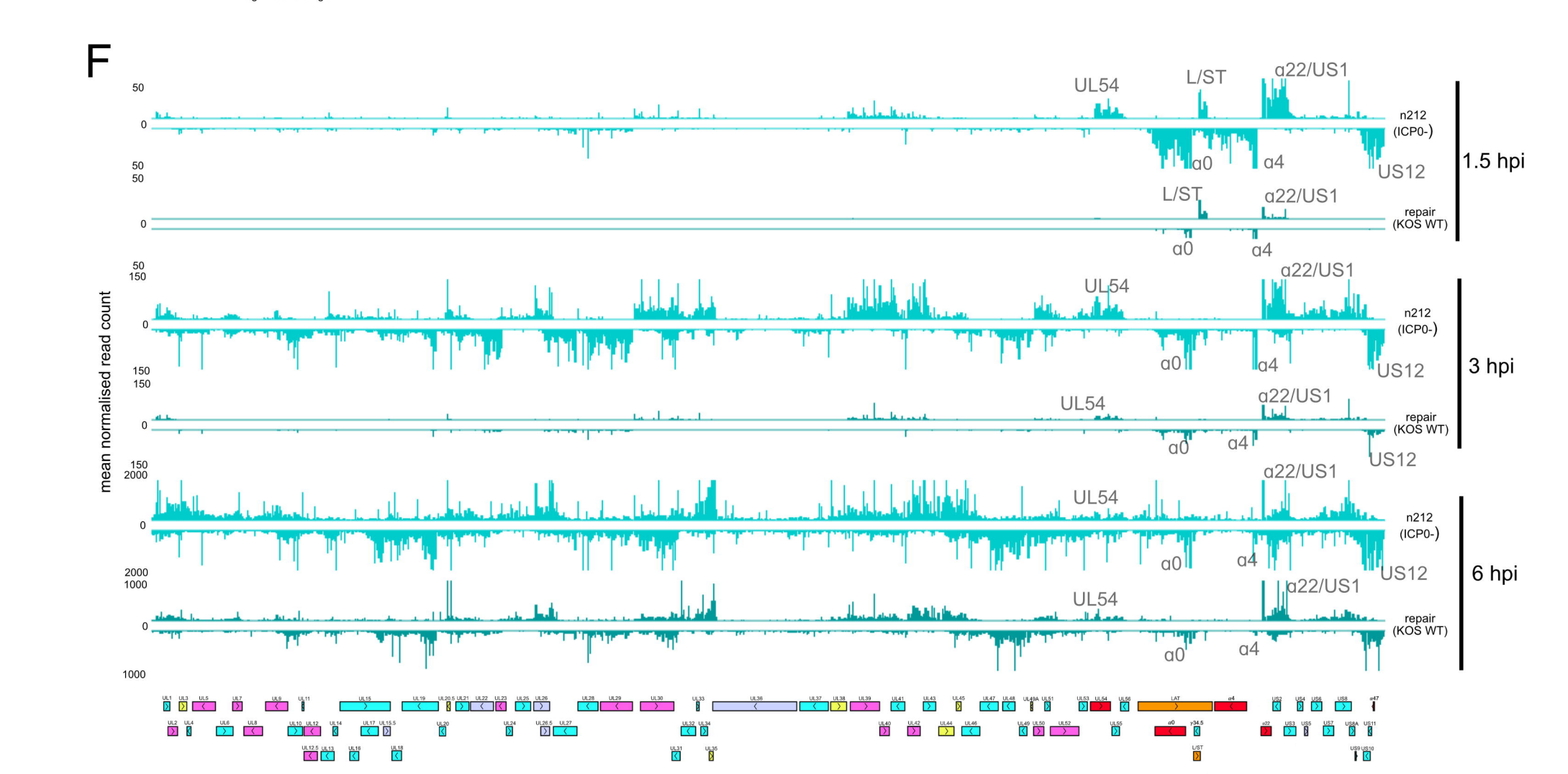
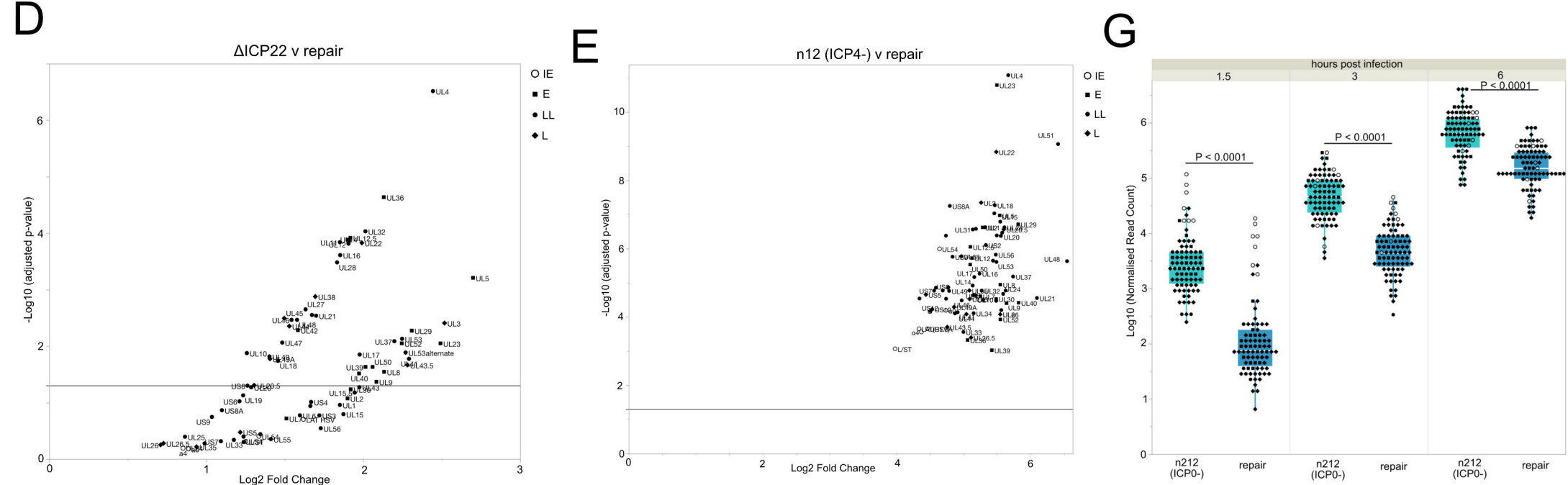
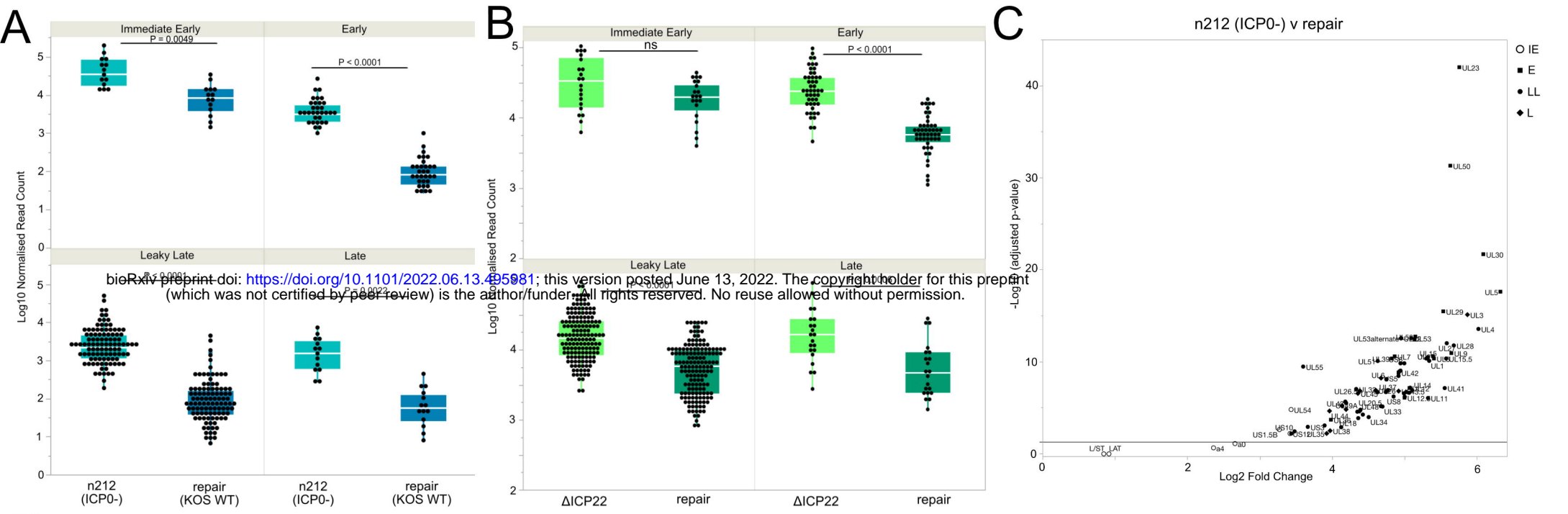


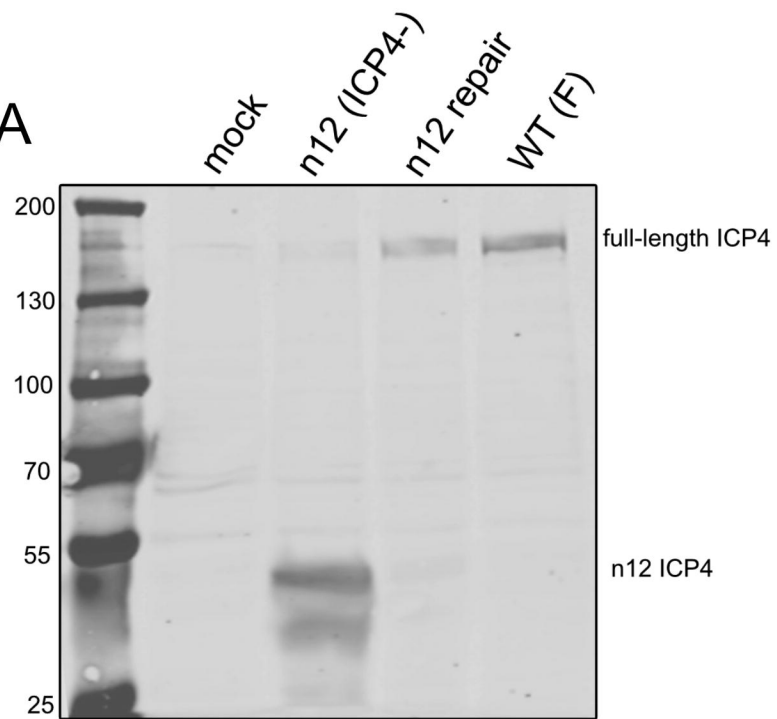
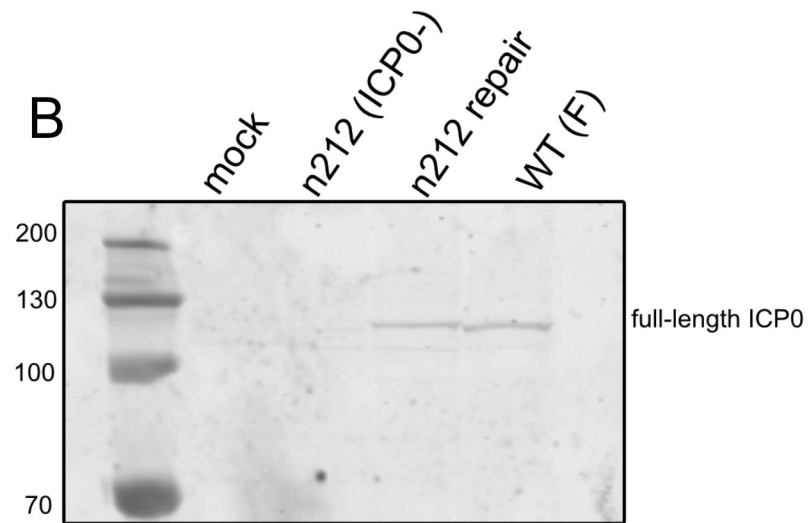




**A****B****C****D****E****F****G**

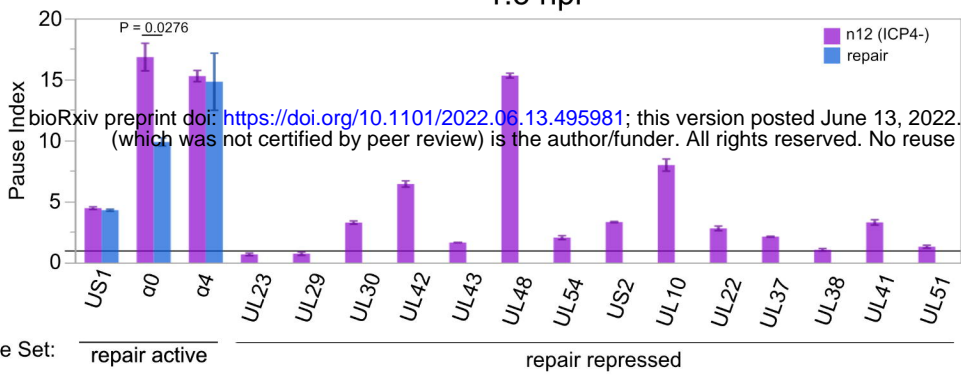




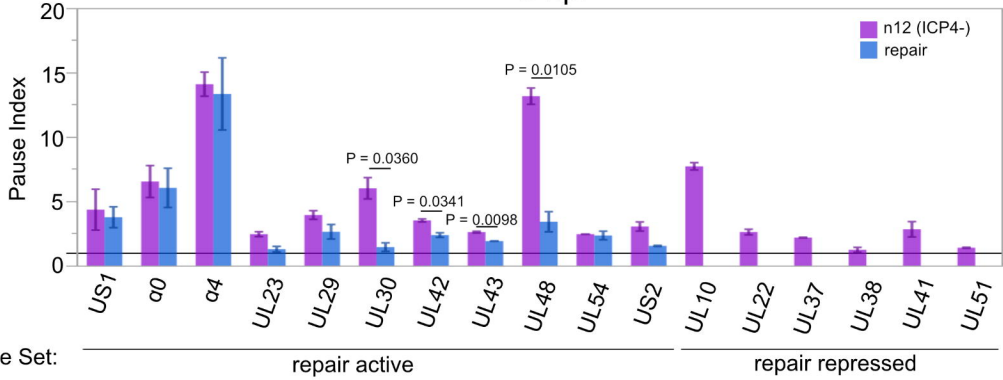
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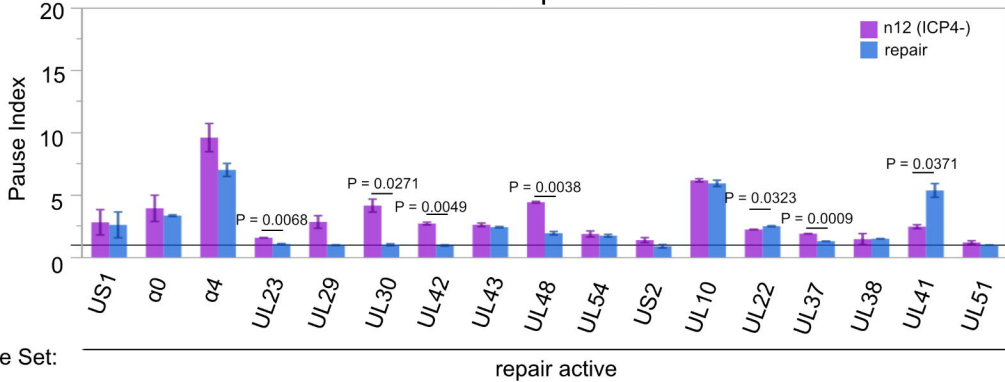
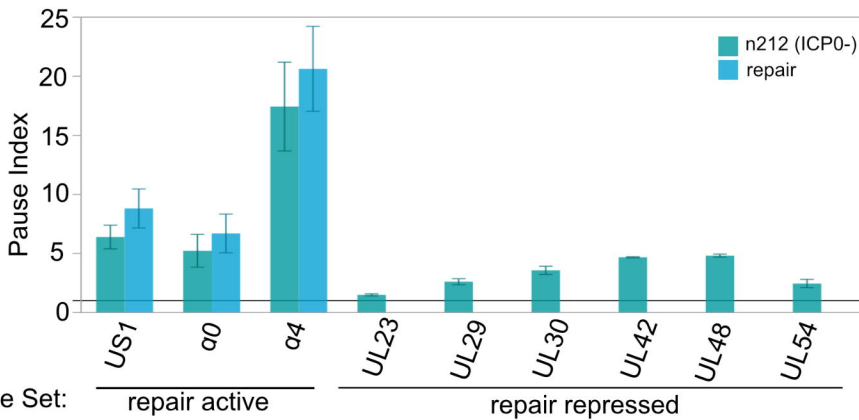
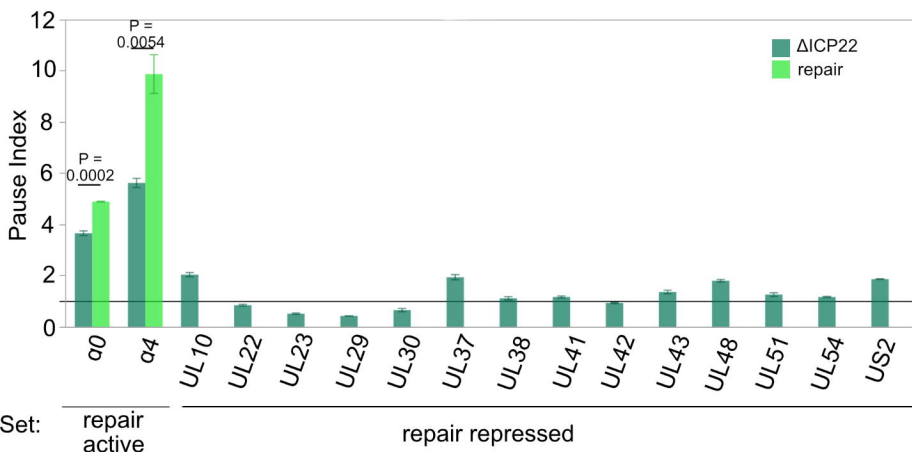
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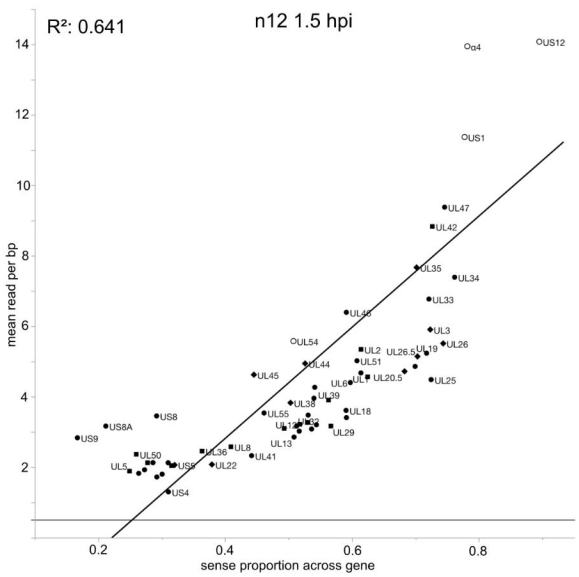
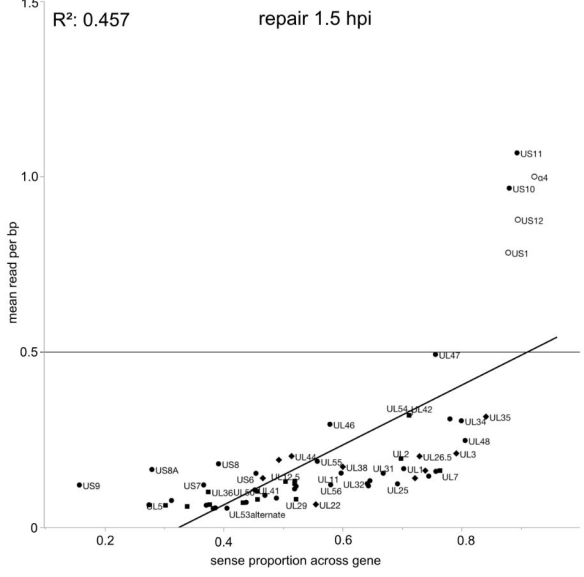
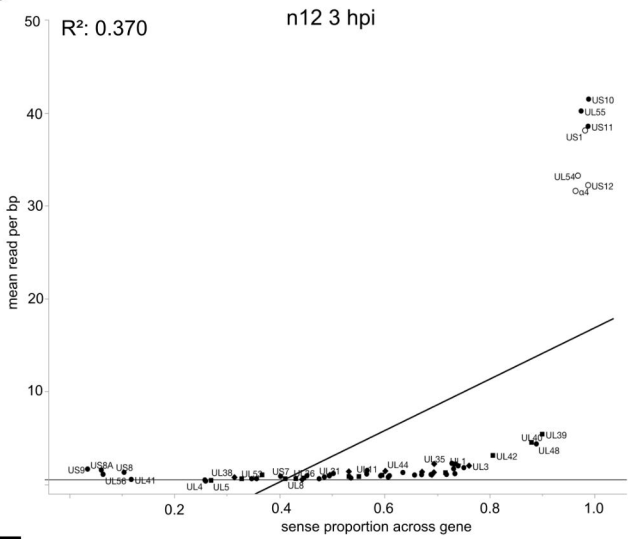
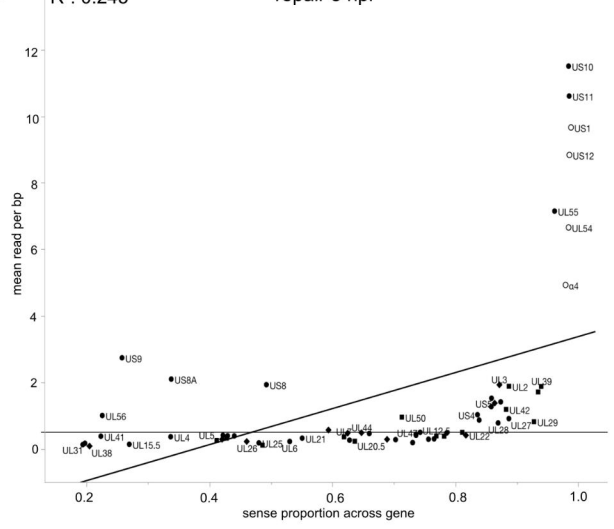
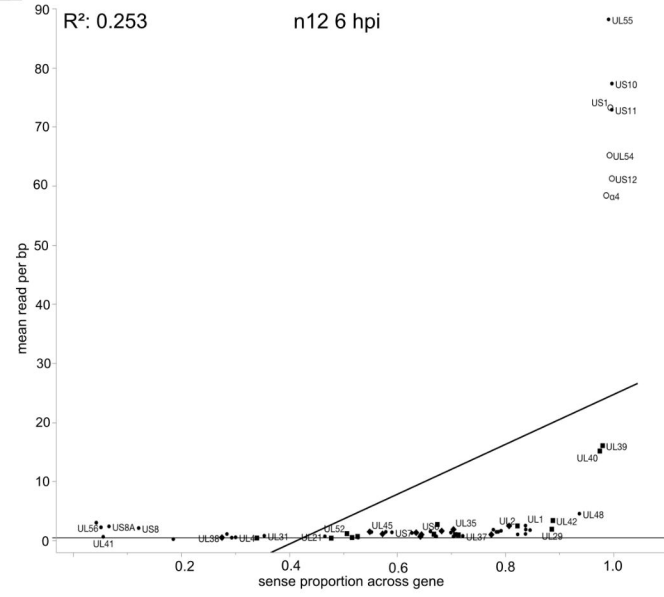
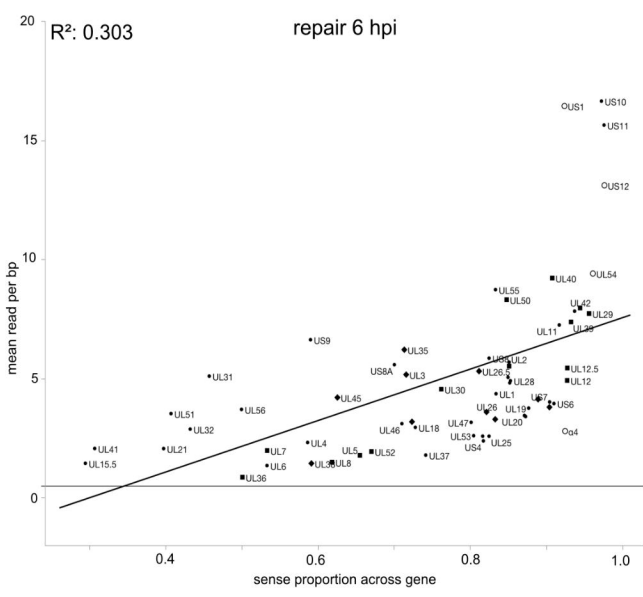
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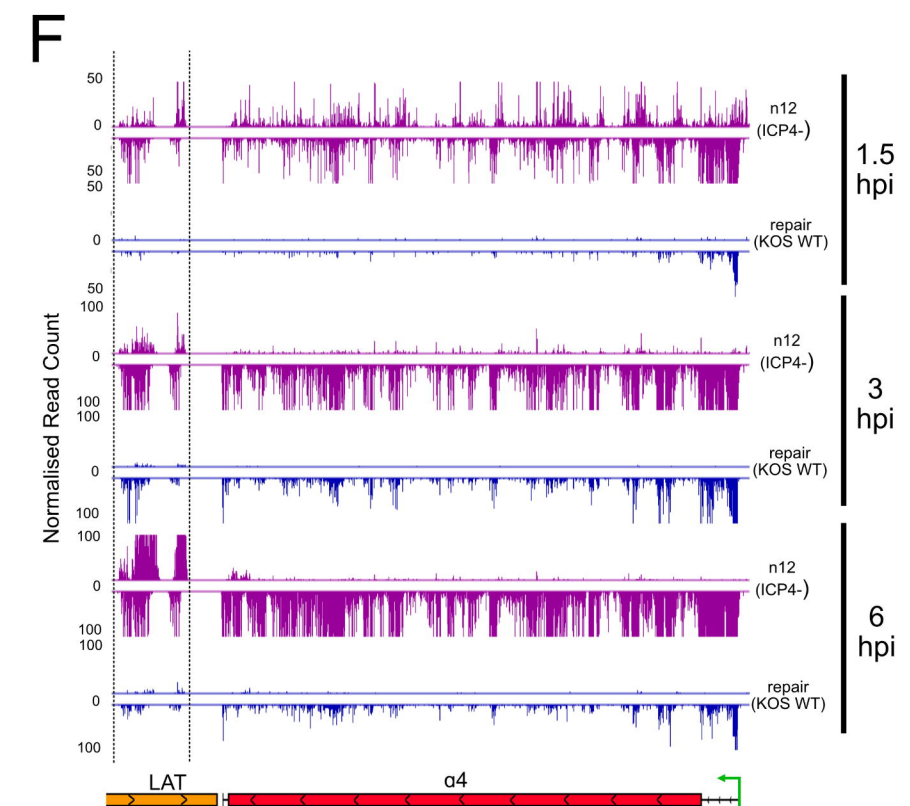
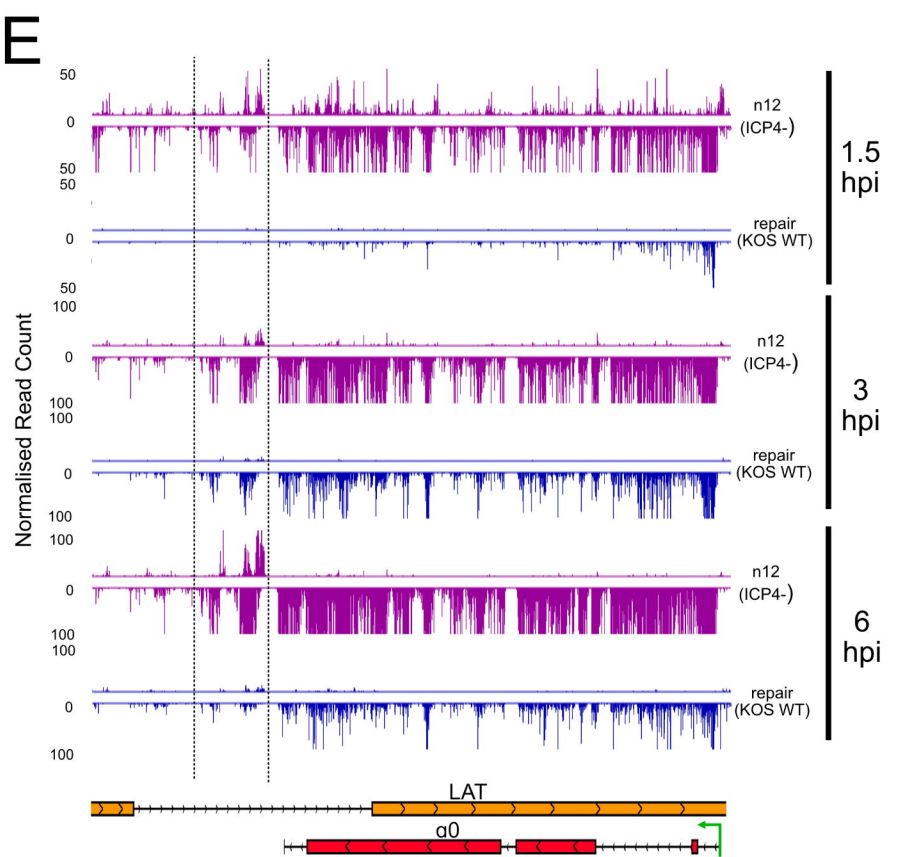
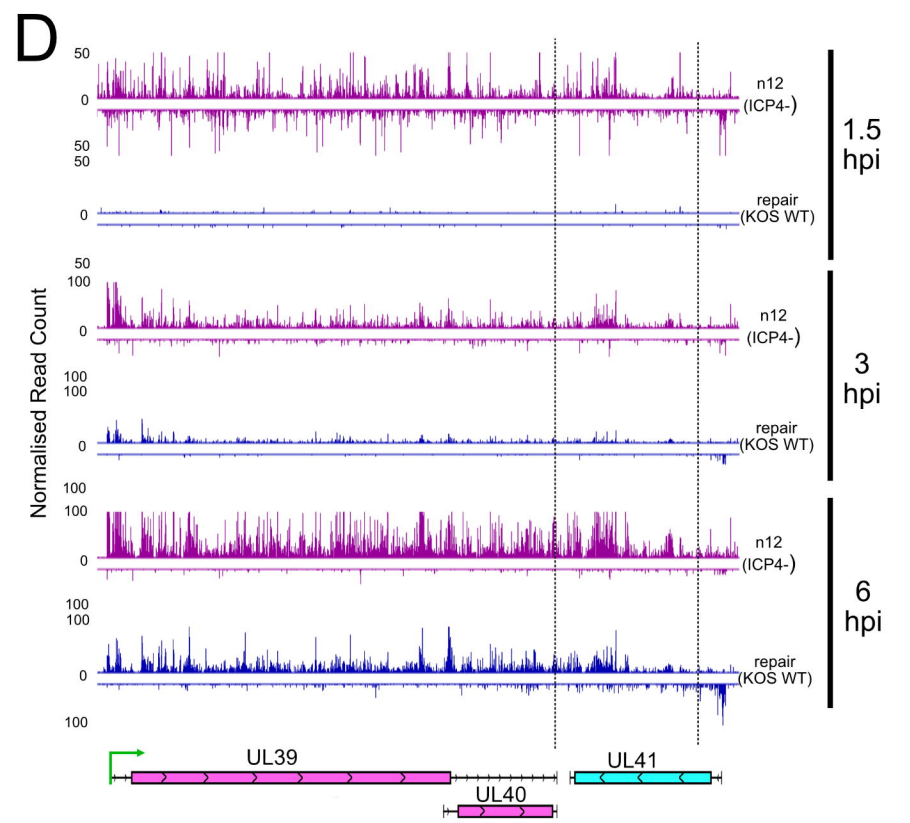
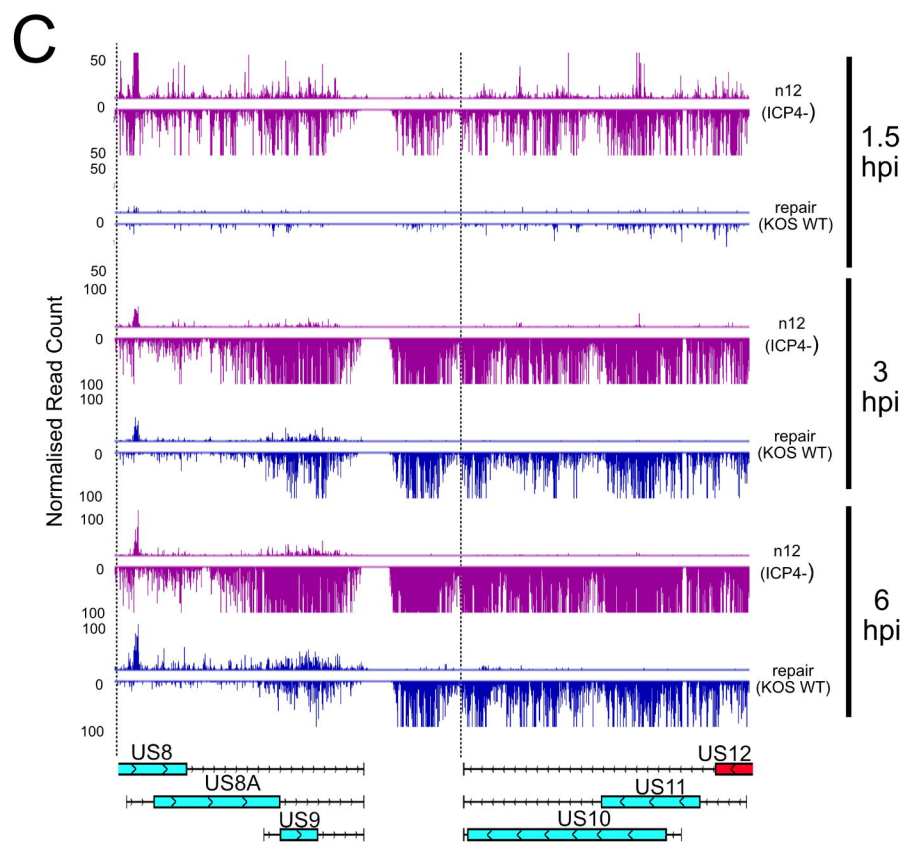
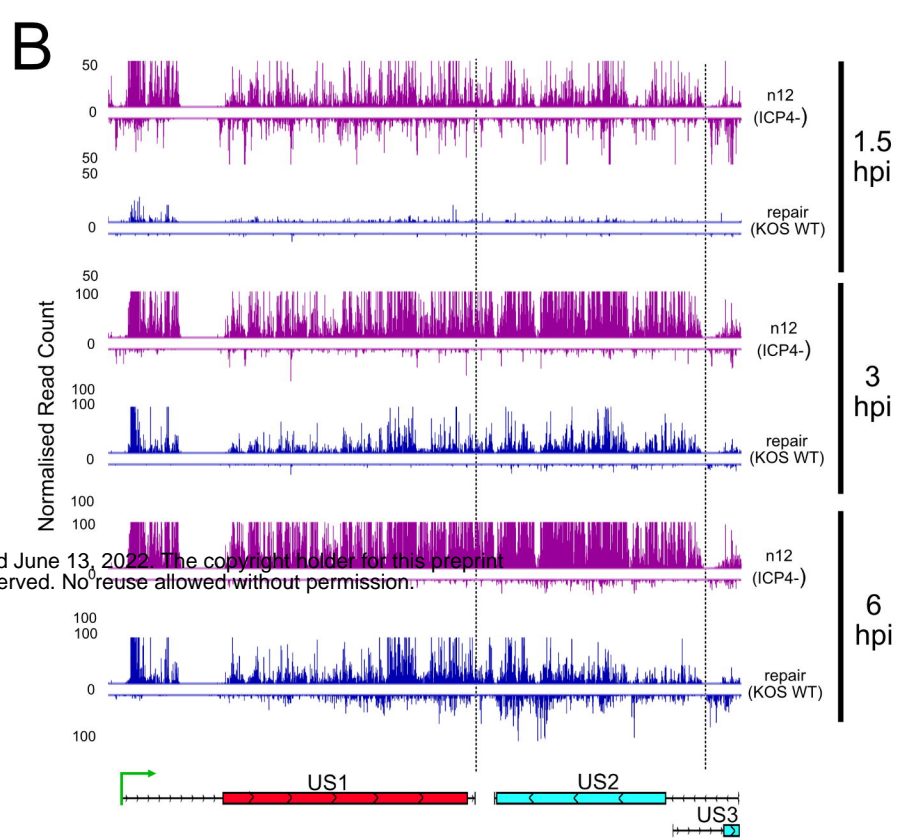
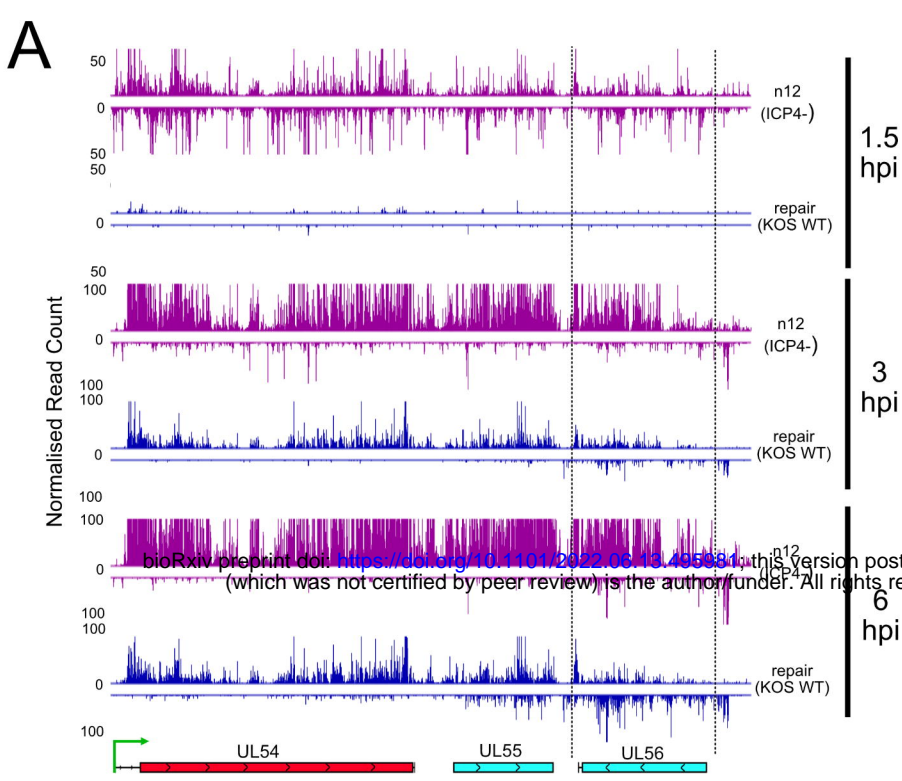
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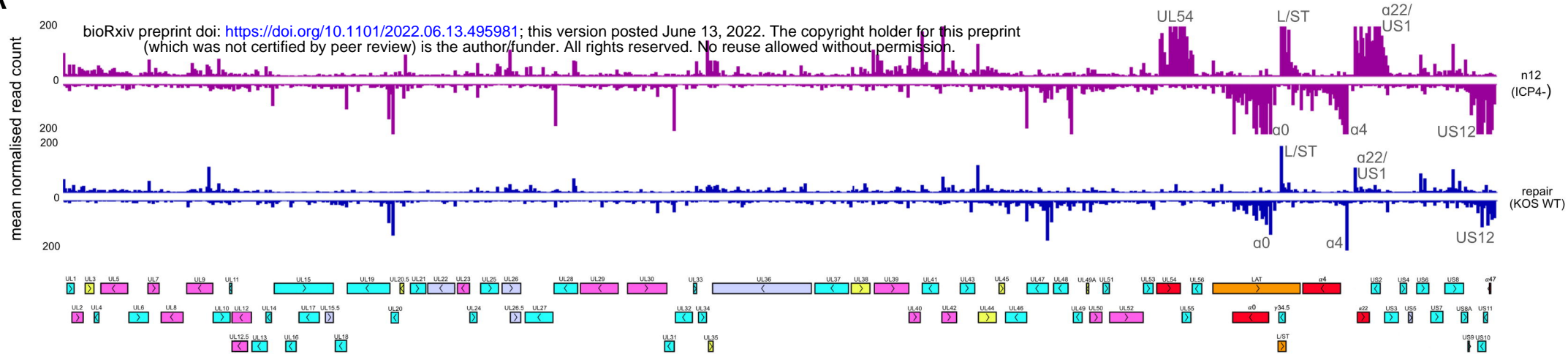
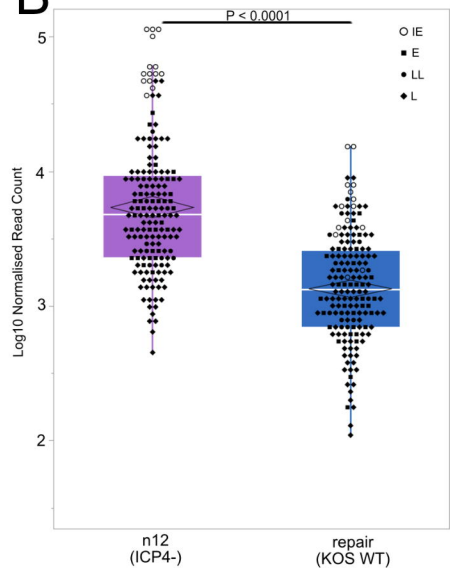
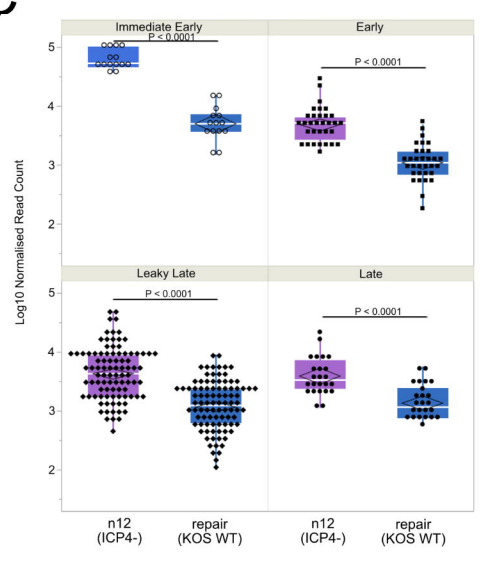
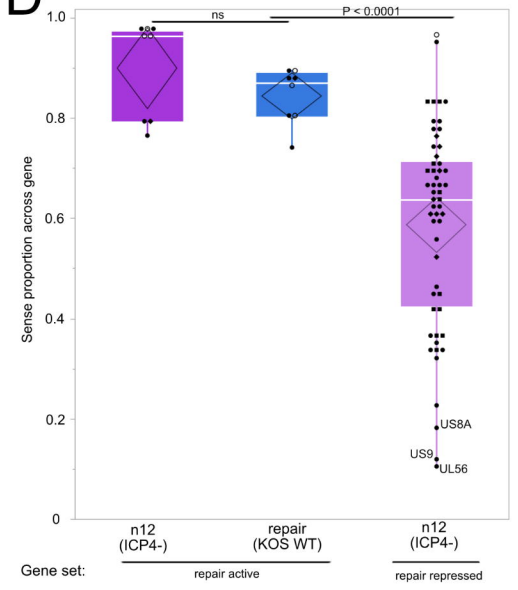
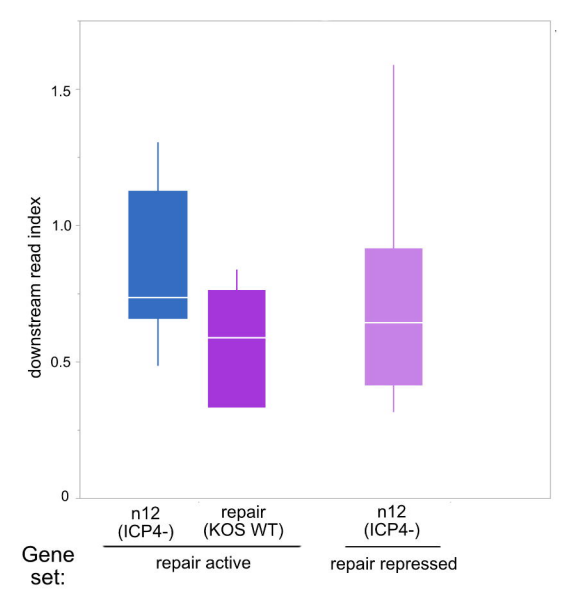
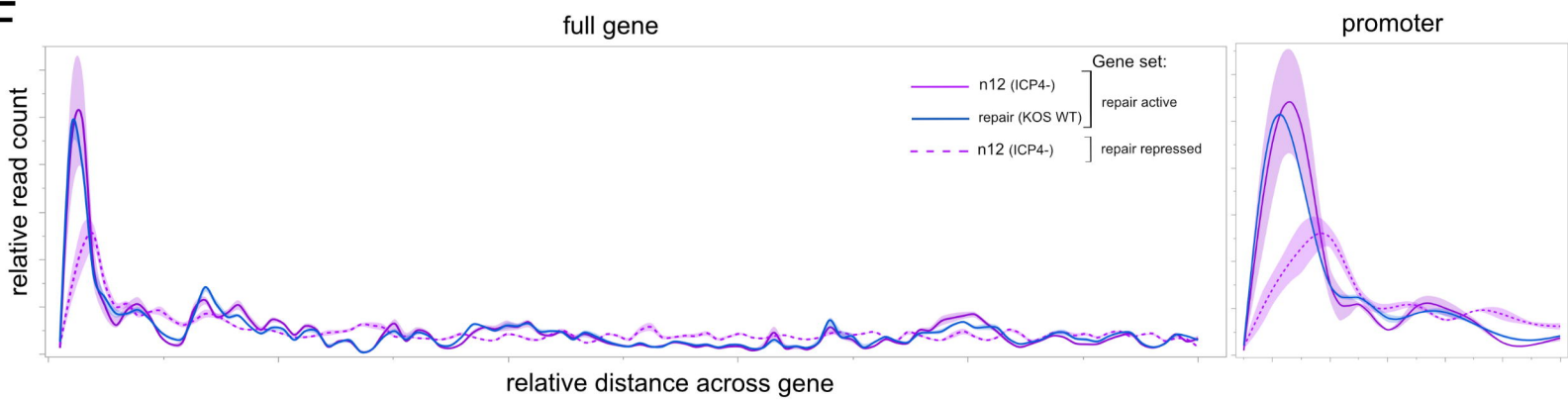
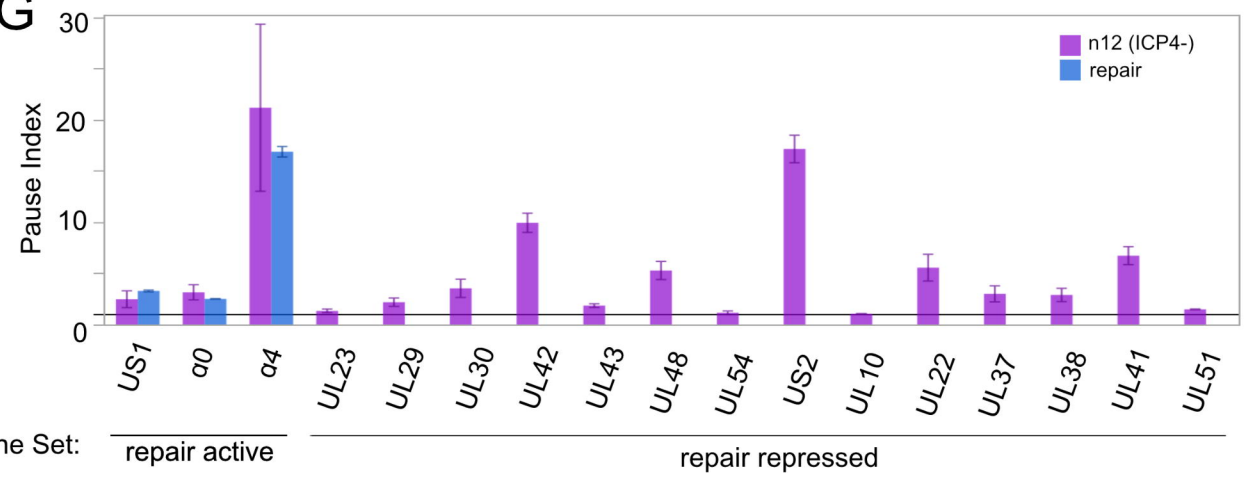
6 hpi

**D****E**

**A****B****C****D****E****F**



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**A****B****C****D****E****F****G****H**