

1 **General decapping activators target different subsets of**
2 **inefficiently translated mRNAs**

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14 **Running title:** Selective mRNA targeting by the yeast decapping enzyme

15 **Keywords:** Dcp1-Dcp2, decapping enzyme, decapping activators,
16 mRNA decay substrates

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29 **Abstract**

30 The Dcp1-Dcp2 decapping enzyme and the decapping activators Pat1, Dhh1, and
31 Lsm1 regulate mRNA decapping, but their mechanistic integration is unknown. We analyzed
32 the gene expression consequences of deleting *PAT1*, *LSM1*, or *DHH1*, or the *DCP2* C-
33 terminal domain, and found that: i) the Dcp2 C-terminal domain is an effector of both negative
34 and positive regulation; ii) rather than being global activators of decapping, Pat1, Lsm1, and
35 Dhh1 directly target specific subsets of yeast mRNAs and loss of the functions of each of
36 these factors has substantial indirect consequences for genome-wide mRNA expression; and
37 iii) transcripts targeted by Pat1, Lsm1, and Dhh1 exhibit only partial overlap, are generally
38 translated inefficiently, and, as expected, are targeted to decapping-dependent decay. Our
39 results define the roles of Pat1, Lsm1, and Dhh1 in decapping of general mRNAs and
40 suggest that these factors may monitor mRNA translation and target unique features of
41 individual mRNAs.

42 INTRODUCTION

43 Decapping commits an mRNA to complete degradation and plays an important role in
44 eukaryotic cytoplasmic mRNA turnover (Valkov et al., 2017, Grudzien-Nogalska and
45 Kiledjian, 2017, Parker, 2012). Decapping is required for general 5' to 3' mRNA decay
46 (Decker and Parker, 1993), nonsense-mediated mRNA decay (NMD) (He and Jacobson,
47 2001), AU-rich element-mediated mRNA decay (Yamashita et al., 2005, Fenger-Gron et al.,
48 2005), microRNA-mediated gene silencing (Behm-Ansmant et al., 2006), and transcript-
49 specific degradation (Dong et al., 2007, Badis et al., 2004). In yeast, mRNA decapping is
50 carried out by a single enzyme comprised of a regulatory subunit (Dcp1) and a catalytic
51 subunit (Dcp2). Dcp1 is a small EVH domain protein essential for mRNA decapping *in vivo*
52 (She et al., 2004, Beelman et al., 1996). Dcp2 is a 970-amino acid protein containing a highly
53 conserved Nudix domain at its N-terminus and a large extension at its C-terminus (Gaudon et
54 al., 1999, Dunckley and Parker, 1999). The Dcp2 N-terminal domain is essential for the
55 catalysis of cap removal, but may also have additional regulatory activity, as this domain also
56 contains the binding site for Dcp1 (She et al., 2008, Deshmukh et al., 2008). The decapping
57 role of the Dcp2 C-terminal domain is largely unknown. However, our recent experiments
58 reveal that this domain includes both negative and positive regulatory elements that control
59 both the substrate specificity and the activation of the decapping enzyme (He and Jacobson,
60 2015a).

61 In addition to the Dcp1-Dcp2 decapping enzyme, mRNA decapping also requires the
62 functions of specific regulators commonly dubbed “decapping activators” (Parker, 2012). A
63 large number of decapping activators have been identified in yeast and other organisms
64 (Jonas and Izaurralde, 2013, Parker, 2012), and these factors appear to target distinct

65 classes of mRNA substrates. Pat1, Dhh1, and the Lsm1-7 complex are required for
66 decapping of general wild-type mRNAs (Parker, 2012), and NMD-specific regulators (Upf1,
67 Upf2, and Upf3) are required for decapping of nonsense-containing mRNAs (He and
68 Jacobson, 2015b, Nicholson and Muhlemann, 2010). Edc3 manifests the most fastidious
69 substrate specificity, being required for decapping of only the yeast *YRA1* pre-mRNA and
70 *RPS28B* mRNA (He et al., 2014, Dong et al., 2007, Badis et al., 2004). All of these decapping
71 activators are conserved from yeast to humans, but their precise functions in mRNA
72 decapping regulation are largely unknown. The two major functions proposed for yeast
73 decapping activators, translational repression and decapping enzyme activation (Parker,
74 2012, Nissan et al., 2010, Collier and Parker, 2005), are still controversial (Sweet et al., 2012,
75 Arribere et al., 2011).

76 Yeast decapping activators exhibit highly specific interactions with each other and with
77 the decapping enzyme. Pat1 interacts with both Dhh1 and the Lsm1-7 complex (He and
78 Jacobson, 2015a, Sharif et al., 2013, Sharif and Conti, 2013, Nissan et al., 2010, Bouveret et
79 al., 2000, Wu et al., 2014), Upf1, Upf2, and Upf3 interact with each other (He et al., 1997),
80 and Edc3 interacts with Dhh1 (He and Jacobson, 2015a, Sharif et al., 2013). Pat1, Upf1, and
81 Edc3 also interact with specific binding motifs in the large C-terminal domain of Dcp2 (He and
82 Jacobson, 2015a, Harigaya et al., 2010). These interaction data and additional observations
83 led us to propose a new model for regulation of mRNA decapping (He and Jacobson, 2015a)
84 in which different decapping activators form distinct decapping complexes *in vivo*, each of
85 which has a unique substrate specificity that targets a subset of yeast mRNAs. To test
86 aspects of this model, and to further understand the roles of Pat1, Dhh1, and the Lsm1-7
87 complex in general mRNA decapping we have analyzed the effects of deletions of the *PAT1*,

88 *LSM1*, or *DHH1* genes and the large Dcp2 C-terminal domain on transcriptome-wide mRNA
89 accumulation. Our results reveal a critical role for the Dcp2 C-terminal domain in regulating
90 mRNA decapping, demonstrate that Pat1, Lsm1, and Dhh1 control the decapping of specific
91 subsets of yeast mRNAs, and uncover substantial indirect consequences of mutations in
92 genes encoding components of the decapping apparatus.

93

94

95 **RESULTS**

96 **Elimination of the large Dcp2 C-terminal domain causes significant changes in** 97 **genome-wide mRNA expression**

98 We previously identified multiple regulatory elements in the large C-terminal domain of
99 Dcp2, including one negative element that inhibits *in vivo* decapping activity and a set of
100 positive elements that promote both substrate specificity and decapping activation. The latter
101 appear to operate by binding to specific decapping activators such as Upf1, Edc3, and Pat1
102 (He and Jacobson, 2015a). To extend our previous study and to further assess the roles of
103 these Dcp2 regulatory elements in *in vivo* decapping control, we analyzed the effect of C-
104 terminal truncation of Dcp2 on transcriptome-wide mRNA accumulation. RNA-Seq was used
105 to analyze transcript populations in wild-type yeast cells and in cells harboring the previously
106 characterized *dcp2-N245* allele (He and Jacobson, 2015a). This allele produces a Dcp2
107 decapping enzyme that contains only the first 245 amino acids of the protein, and appears to
108 have constitutively activated and indiscriminate decapping activity, at least with respect to the
109 limited number of mRNAs analyzed previously (He and Jacobson, 2015a). As with any
110 mutation, truncation of Dcp2 could have a direct effect on mRNA decapping, or it could have
111 an indirect effect on overall gene expression. To identify those transcripts directly affected by
112 C-terminal truncation of Dcp2, we constructed two additional isogenic strains with severely
113 compromised decapping activity and included these two strains in our RNA-Seq experiments.
114 These strains, dubbed *dcp2-E153Q-N245* and *dcp2-E198Q-N245*, harbor the same *dcp2-*
115 *N245* allele but each also contains one additional function-inactivating mutation in an active
116 site residue of the Dcp2 Nudix domain, i.e., glutamate (E) to glutamine (Q) substitutions at
117 codon positions 153 and 198, respectively. E153 of Dcp2 has been shown to function as a

118 general base during the hydrolysis reaction and E198 is involved in Mg²⁺ coordination within
119 the Nudix domain (Aglietti et al., 2013). *E153Q* and *E198Q* mutations essentially eliminate
120 the decapping activity of Dcp2 both *in vitro* and *in vivo* (Aglietti et al., 2013, He and Jacobson,
121 2015a).

122 RNA-Seq libraries prepared from wild-type cells and from the isogenic strains
123 harboring the *dcp2-N245*, *dcp2-E153Q-N245*, or *dcp2-E198Q-N245* alleles showed good
124 read count distribution (Figure 1A) and notable consistency between biological replicates,
125 with Pearson correlation coefficients ranging from 0.96 to 0.99 (Figure 1-figure supplement
126 1). Utilizing previously described data analysis pipelines for transcript quantitation and
127 assessment of differential expression (Celik et al., 2017), we identified the transcripts that
128 were differentially expressed in each of the mutant strains relative to the wild-type strain. The
129 decapping-deficient *dcp2-E153Q-N245* and *dcp2-E198Q-N245* strains exhibited significant
130 numbers of transcripts that were differentially expressed. We identified 1921 up-regulated
131 and 1845 down-regulated transcripts in the *dcp2-E153Q-N245* strain, and 1346 up-regulated
132 and 1428 down-regulated transcripts in the *dcp2-E198Q-N245* strain (Figures 1B, C, D).
133 Given the general requirement for the decapping enzyme in yeast mRNA decay (Parker,
134 2012), the detection of a large number of up-regulated transcripts in these two strains was
135 not surprising, i.e., the up-regulated transcripts are most likely *bona fide* substrates of the
136 yeast decapping enzyme. In support of this interpretation, the up-regulated transcript lists
137 from these strains contain all our previously characterized individual decapping substrates
138 and also exhibited highly significant overlap with the up-regulated transcript lists from *dcp1Δ*,
139 *dcp2Δ*, *xrn1Δ*, and *upf1/2/3Δ* cells (Figure 1-figure supplement 2). In contrast, the finding that
140 a large number of transcripts was also down-regulated in the two decapping-inactive strains

141 was surprising. Similar observations were also made in our recent RNA-Seq analyses of
142 *dcp1* Δ and *dcp2* Δ cells (Celik et al., 2017). These results indicate that general inhibition of
143 mRNA decapping may also have severe secondary effects on transcriptome-wide mRNA
144 accumulation.

145 Examination of the up- and down-regulated transcript lists from the two catalytically
146 inactive strains revealed a significant overlap, but also a notable difference (Figures 1B, C).
147 The two strains share 1186 up-regulated and 1362 down-regulated transcripts. However, the
148 *dcp2-E153Q-N245* strain yielded 575 more up-regulated and 417 more down-regulated
149 transcripts than the *dcp2E198Q-N245* strain. To explore whether there was a significant
150 difference in the expression patterns between these two strains, we applied the same
151 differential expression pipeline but compared the *dcp2E153Q-N245* and *dcp2E198Q-N245*
152 libraries directly. This analysis revealed only 21 differentially expressed transcripts between
153 these two strains (Figure 1E, leftmost panel). From this result, we conclude that there is no
154 fundamental difference in expression patterns between the two strains. However, because
155 the two strains harbor different *dcp2* alleles, the encoded decapping enzymes may have
156 slightly different albeit significantly reduced activities. Thus, some subtle differences in levels
157 of expression may actually exist for a large number of transcripts between the two strains, as
158 we noticed in our validation experiments (see below). The subtle differences in levels of
159 expression for these transcripts were likely captured in the *dcp2-E153Q-N245* vs *WT* but not
160 in the *dcp2-E198Q-N245* vs *WT* comparison.

161 Elimination of the entire C-terminal domain of Dcp2 significantly altered genome-wide
162 mRNA expression. Compared to *WT* cells, a total of 1530 transcripts were differentially
163 expressed in *dcp2-N245* cells: 616 transcripts showed up-regulation and 914 transcripts

164 showed down-regulation (Figures 1B, C). To assess the specific effect of the C-terminal
165 truncation of Dcp2 on mRNA decapping, we compared the expression pattern of the *dcp2-*
166 *N245* strain to the patterns of the *dcp2-E153Q-N245* and *dcp2-E198Q-N245* strains (Figures
167 1B, C). Transcripts differentially expressed in these three strains shared a partial overlap, but
168 also exhibited notable differences. A significant fraction of transcripts differentially expressed
169 in the *dcp2-N245* strain (324 out of 616 for the up-regulated, and 650 out of 914 for the down-
170 regulated) had concordant up- or down-regulation in the catalytically inactive strains.
171 Interestingly, the majority of transcripts differentially expressed in the catalytically inactive
172 strains (1567 out of 1891 for the up-regulated, and 1261 out of 1911 for the down-regulated)
173 had unchanged levels in the *dcp2-N245* strain. Furthermore, a significant fraction of
174 transcripts differentially expressed in the *dcp2-N245* strain (292 out of 616 for the up-regulated,
175 and 264 out of 914 for the down-regulated) had unchanged levels in the catalytically inactive
176 strains. Together, these results indicate that the *dcp2-N245* strain and the two catalytically
177 inactive strains have largely different global mRNA expression patterns and suggest that the
178 C-terminal truncation of Dcp2 does not block general mRNA decapping, but causes
179 deregulation of decapping for specific mRNAs. To further support this conclusion, we carried
180 direct pairwise comparisons between the *dcp2-N245* and the *dcp2E-153Q-N245* or *dcp2E-*
181 *198Q-N245* libraries. The *dcp2-N245* strain yielded 1658 up-regulated and 1690 down-
182 regulated transcripts compared to the *dcp2E153Q-N245* strain, and 1113 up-regulated 1090
183 down-regulated compared to the *dcp2E198Q-N245* strain (Figure 1E, middle and right
184 panels), further illustrating these differences.

185

186 **Elimination of the C-terminal domain of Dcp2 deregulates but does not block mRNA**
187 **decapping**

188 Our comparison of the transcripts differentially expressed between *dcp2-N245* cells
189 and cells expressing the two decapping-deficient alleles suggested that the *dcp2-N245*
190 truncation causes deregulated decapping but not decapping inhibition. To explore this
191 concept further, we examined correlations of the transcriptome-wide profiles of all transcripts
192 in the *dcp2-N245* strain and in yeast strains severely comprised in decapping activity (*dcp2E-*
193 *153Q-N245* or *dcp2E-198Q-N245* cells) or strains lacking decapping or 5' to 3'
194 exoribonuclease activities (*dcp1Δ*, *dcp2Δ*, and *xrn1Δ* cells). As controls, we also did pairwise
195 comparisons of the profiles for the latter group of strains. In this analysis, profiling data for the
196 *dcp1Δ*, *dcp2Δ*, and *xrn1Δ* strains were from our recently published study (Celik et al., 2017).
197 Because the *dcp1Δ*, *dcp2Δ*, and *xrn1Δ* libraries were prepared at a different time, to improve
198 the consistency, we used the relative levels (i.e., the fold changes relative to the
199 corresponding *WT* control) of each transcript in all these strains in our analyses. As shown in
200 Figure 2A, the *dcp1Δ* and *dcp2Δ* strains, or the *dcp2E153Q-N245* and *dcp2E198Q-N245*
201 strains, showed excellent correlation (Pearson correlation coefficients = 0.868 and 0.932,
202 respectively). The *dcp1Δ* and *dcp2Δ* strains also showed good correlation with the
203 *dcp2E153Q-N245*, *dcp2E198Q-N245* or *xrn1Δ* strains (Pearson correlation coefficients =
204 0.812, 0.805, 0.748 for *dcp1Δ* and 0.772, 0.789, 0.734 for *dcp2Δ* strains, respectively). In
205 contrast, the *dcp2-N245* strain exhibited only modest correlation with each of the *dcp1Δ*,
206 *dcp2Δ*, *dcp2E153Q-N245*, *dcp2E198Q-N245*, or *xrn1Δ* strains (Pearson correlation
207 coefficients = 0.371, 0.345, 0.423, 0.421, and 0.379). These results indicate that the *dcp2-*
208 *N245* strain has a significantly different expression profile from yeast strains severely

209 deficient in or lacking decapping or 5' to 3' exoribonuclease activities, further arguing that the
210 C-terminal truncation of Dcp2 deregulates but does not block mRNA decapping.

211 To validate our RNA-Seq results and to assess the potential mechanisms of
212 decapping deregulation caused by elimination of the Dcp2 C-terminal domain, we focused on
213 a group of 264 transcripts that were down-regulated uniquely in *dcp2-N245* cells (Figure 1C).
214 Because the levels of transcripts from this group were not altered in *dcp2-E153Q-N245* or
215 *dcp2-E198Q-N245* cells, we reasoned that their decreased accumulation in *dcp2-N245* cells
216 was likely to be caused by accelerated or indiscriminate decapping by a constitutively
217 activated Dcp2 decapping enzyme which had lost its negative regulation. To test this
218 hypothesis, we examined whether elimination of *XRN1*, a gene encoding the 5' to 3'
219 exoribonuclease that functions downstream of decapping, can restore the levels of the down-
220 regulated transcripts in *dcp2-N245* cells. To assess the specificity of *XRN1* deletion, we also
221 analyzed the effects of elimination of *SKI2* or *SKI7* on the accumulation of the down-
222 regulated transcripts in *dcp2-N245* cells. *SKI2* encodes a 3' to 5' RNA helicase, *SKI7*
223 encodes a GTPase, and both gene products are required for exosome-mediated 3' to 5'
224 mRNA decay (Parker, 2012). We constructed a set of yeast double mutant strains harboring
225 the *dcp2-N245* allele and deletions of the *XRN1*, *SKI2*, or *SKI7* genes. As additional controls,
226 we also constructed yeast double mutants harboring the *dcp2-E153Q-N245* or *dcp2-E198Q-*
227 *N245* alleles and a deletion of *XRN1*. We selected eleven representative transcripts from the
228 down-regulated group and employed northern blotting to analyze the decay phenotypes of
229 these transcripts in the respective single and double mutant strains. Among the eleven
230 selected transcripts, nine (*GDH1*, *ARL1*, *DAL3*, *YGL117W*, *RPS9A*, *SUC2*, *CPA1*, *HIS4*, and
231 *SER3*) are typical decapping substrates and two (*HCA1* pre-mRNA and *HSP82* mRNA) are

232 atypical decapping substrates, i.e., the latter are normally subject to degradation by other
233 decay pathways. As shown in Figure 2B, all eleven transcripts manifested decreased levels
234 in *dcp2-N245* cells compared to wild-type cells. Deletion of *XRN1* completely restored the
235 mRNA levels in *dcp2-N245* cells for almost all transcripts. In contrast, elimination of *SKI2* or
236 *SKI7* had no effect on mRNA levels for each of the eleven transcripts in *dcp2-N245* cells.
237 These results validate our RNA-Seq analyses and demonstrate that decreased accumulation
238 of these representative transcripts in *dcp2-N245* cells is indeed caused by accelerated or
239 opportunistic decapping of the mRNAs. This experiment provides direct experimental
240 evidence that Dcp2 is subject to negative regulation through its C-terminal domain and that
241 loss of this negative regulation causes indiscriminate mRNA decapping.

242

243 **Decapping activators Pat1, Lsm1, and Dhh1 target specific subsets of yeast** 244 **transcripts with overlapping substrate specificity**

245 To assess the roles of the general decapping activators Pat1, Lsm1, and Dhh1 in
246 mRNA decay, we generated yeast strains harboring single deletions of the *PAT1*, *LSM1*, or
247 *DHH1* genes and analyzed the expression profiles of the resulting *pat1* Δ , *lsm1* Δ , and *dhh1* Δ
248 strains by RNA-Seq. The RNA-Seq libraries from these strains showed good read count
249 distribution (Figure 3A) and notable consistency between biological replicates (Figure 3-figure
250 supplement 1). Using the same analysis pipeline described above, we identified 940 up-
251 regulated and 685 down-regulated transcripts in *pat1* Δ cells, 955 up-regulated and 681 down-
252 regulated transcripts in *lsm1* Δ cells, and 1098 up-regulated and 788 down-regulated
253 transcripts in *dhh1* Δ cells (Figures 3B-D). Because the functions of Pat1, Lsm1, and Dhh1 are
254 required for general mRNA decapping (Coller and Parker, 2005, Fischer and Weis, 2002,

255 Coller et al., 2001, Tharun et al., 2000, Bouveret et al., 2000), detection of a large number of
256 up-regulated transcripts in *pat1* Δ , *lsm1* Δ , and *dhh1* Δ cells was expected. The up-regulated
257 transcripts are likely the *bona fide* substrates of these decapping activators, but detection of
258 comparable numbers of down-regulated transcripts in each of these strains was largely
259 unexpected. Much like our observations of the strains with catalytically-deficient Dcp2,
260 deletion of the *PAT1*, *LSM1*, or *DHH1* genes may have secondary effects on genome-wide
261 mRNA expression.

262 To explore the functional relationships of Pat1, Lsm1, and Dhh1 in mRNA decay, we
263 compared the up- and down-regulated transcript lists from the *pat1* Δ , *lsm1* Δ , and *dhh1* Δ
264 strains. As shown in Figures 3B and C, transcripts differentially expressed in the *pat1* Δ and
265 *lsm1* Δ strains exhibited highly significant overlap. About 84% of the up-regulated transcripts
266 (864 out of 1031) and 77% of the down-regulated transcripts (583 out of 756) were shared by
267 these two strains. Transcripts differentially expressed in the *dhh1* Δ strain exhibited partial
268 overlap with those in the *pat1* Δ and *lsm1* Δ strains. About 50% of the up-regulated transcripts
269 (542 out of 1098) and 43% of the down-regulated transcripts (342 out of 788) in the *dhh1* Δ
270 strain were shared by the *pat1* Δ or *lsm1* Δ strains. In addition, 482 transcripts were commonly
271 up-regulated and 290 commonly down-regulated in all three strains. Given the substantial
272 overlap of differentially expressed transcripts in the *pat1* Δ and *lsm1* Δ strains, and the physical
273 interactions between Pat1 and the Lsm1-7 complex (Wu et al., 2014, Bouveret et al., 2000),
274 we tested whether Pat1 and Lsm1 controlled the expression of the same set of transcripts.
275 Utilizing the same differential expression analysis pipeline, we compared the *pat1* Δ and *lsm1* Δ
276 libraries directly. The *pat1* Δ and *lsm1* Δ strains manifested remarkable consistency in their
277 expression profiles over the entire transcriptome, with only four transcripts differentially

278 expressed between the two strains, two of which were caused by the respective gene
279 deletions (Figure 1E, leftmost panel, red dots). Direct comparisons were also applied to the
280 *dhh1* Δ and *pat1* Δ or *lsm1* Δ libraries. This analysis revealed significant differences in the
281 expression profiles between the *dhh1* Δ and *pat1* Δ or *lsm1* Δ strains (Figure 3E, last two
282 panels). The *dhh1* Δ strain yielded 1332 up-regulated and 874 down-regulated transcripts
283 compared to the *pat1* Δ strain, and 1385 up-regulated and 1037 down-regulated transcripts
284 compared to the *lsm1* Δ strain.

285 Together, these results indicate that Pat1, Lsm1, and Dhh1 target specific subsets of
286 yeast transcripts with overlapping substrate specificity. Pat1 and Lsm1 appear to function
287 together and target the same set of transcripts in yeast cells. Dhh1 appears to have distinct
288 functions from Pat1 and Lsm1 and targets a set of transcripts that only partially overlaps with
289 those regulated by Pat1 and Lsm1.

290

291 **Identification of transcripts uniquely and commonly targeted by Pat1, Lsm1, and Dhh1**

292 Based on the well established *in vivo* functions and *in vitro* activities of Pat1, Lsm1,
293 and Dhh1 (Nissan et al., 2010, Coller and Parker, 2005, Fischer and Weis, 2002, Coller et al.,
294 2001, Tharun et al., 2000, Bouveret et al., 2000), we considered the up-regulated transcripts
295 in the *pat1* Δ , *lsm1* Δ and *dhh1* Δ strains to be direct substrates of these decapping activators
296 for the most part, and the respective down-regulated transcripts in these strains to arise
297 indirectly as a consequence of general defects in mRNA decapping (see above). To evaluate
298 the reliability of these propositions, we examined the expression patterns of these up- and
299 down-regulated transcripts in *dcp1* Δ , *dcp2* Δ , and *xrn1* Δ cells as well as in *dcp2-N245*, *dcp2E-*
300 *153Q-N245*, and *dcp2E-198Q-N245* cells. Further, to gain insight into the overlapping vs.

301 distinct regulatory activities of Pat1, Lsm1, and Dhh1, we divided the differentially expressed
302 transcripts from *pat1* Δ , *lsm1* Δ , and *dhh1* Δ cells into six distinct subgroups based on their
303 decay phenotypes and examined the distribution of the relative levels of transcripts from
304 these subgroups in each of the mutant strains. The up-regulated transcripts were divided into
305 three non-overlapping subgroups: Up-o-d, up-regulated only in the *dhh1* Δ strain (556
306 transcripts); Up-o-pl, up-regulated only in the *pat1* Δ and *lsm1* Δ strains (382 transcripts); and
307 Up-a-pld, up-regulated in all three deletion strains (482 transcripts) (Figure 3B). Similarly, the
308 down-regulated transcripts were also divided into three non-overlapping subgroups: Down-o-
309 d, down-regulated only in the *dhh1* Δ strain (446 transcripts); Down-o-pl, down-regulated only
310 in the *pat1* Δ and *lsm1* Δ strains (293 transcripts); and Down-a-pld, down-regulated in all three
311 deletion strains (290 transcripts) (Figure 3C).

312 Transcripts from the six subgroups had distinct expression patterns in *dcp1* Δ , *dcp2* Δ ,
313 *xrn1* Δ , *dcp2-N245*, *dcp2-E-153Q-N245*, and *dcp2-E-198Q-N245* cells (Figures 4A-F).
314 Transcripts from two of the up-regulated subgroups, Up-o-d and Up-a-pld, exhibited similar
315 expression patterns and had significantly increased levels of expression (relative to the WT
316 strain) in all six mutant strains. Transcripts from the third up-regulated subgroup, Up-o-pl,
317 exhibited a slightly different expression pattern and had significantly increased levels in
318 *dcp1* Δ , *dcp2* Δ , *dcp2E-153Q-N245*, and *dcp2E-198Q-N245* cells, marginally increased levels
319 in *xrn1* Δ cells, but unaltered levels in *dcp2-N245* cells. These results show that transcripts
320 from the three up-regulated subgroups are all sensitive to the loss of decapping activity,
321 indicating that they are *bona fide* substrates of the decapping enzyme and the general 5' to 3'
322 decay pathway. The marginal effect of *XRN1* deletion on the expression of the transcripts
323 from the Up-o-pl subgroup may suggest that, once decapped, a significant fraction of

324 transcripts from this subgroup can also be efficiently degraded by the 3' to 5' decay pathway.
325 Transcripts from the three down-regulated subgroups exhibited two different expression
326 patterns. Transcripts from the Down-o-d and Down-a-pld subgroups had significantly
327 decreased levels in all six mutant strains. This result shows that transcripts from these two
328 subgroups are sensitive to both partial and complete loss of decapping activity as well as to
329 complete loss of the 5' to 3' exoribonuclease activity. The concordant down-regulation
330 observed for these transcripts in all our mRNA decay mutant strains strongly argues that they
331 are indirectly controlled by the general 5' to 3' decay activities. Transcripts from the down-
332 regulated Down-o-pl subgroup had significantly decreased levels in *dcp1Δ*, *dcp2Δ*, *dcp2E-*
333 *153Q-N245*, and *dcp2E-198Q-N245* cells but increased levels in *xrn1Δ* and *dcp2-N245* cells.
334 The increased expression of these transcripts in response to deletion of *XRN1* and C-
335 terminal truncation of Dcp2 suggests that they are also *bona fide* substrates of the decapping
336 enzyme and thus are likely controlled by Pat1 and Lsm1 directly. The decreased levels of
337 these transcripts in *dcp1Δ*, *dcp2Δ*, *dcp2E-153Q-N245*, and *dcp2E-198Q-N245* cells suggests
338 that when decapping is completely blocked, these transcripts may be more efficiently
339 degraded by the 3' to 5' decay pathway.

340 Collectively, these results indicate that transcripts from all three up-regulated
341 subgroups and one of the down-regulated subgroups (Down-o-pl) are substrates of the
342 decapping enzyme and thus are likely to be direct targets of Pat1, Lsm1, and Dhh1. In
343 contrast, transcripts from the other two down-regulated subgroups (Down-o-d and Down-a-
344 pld) appear to be controlled indirectly by the general 5' to 3' decay activities and thus are not
345 the direct targets of Pat1, Lsm1, and Dhh1. To obtain further support for this conclusion, we
346 analyzed the pattern of the codon protection index for transcripts in each of these six

347 subgroups. This index is a measure of the degree of a transcript's co-translational 5' to 3'
348 decay and is defined as the ratio of sequencing reads in the ribosome protected frame over
349 the average reads of the non-protected frames of the 5' to 3' decay intermediates from a
350 specific transcript (Pelechano et al., 2015). Values greater than 1 are indicators of co-
351 translational 5' to 3' decay. As shown in Figure 4G, transcripts from the Up-o-d, Up-o-pl, Up-
352 a-pld, and Down-o-pl subgroups all had median codon protection index values greater than 1.
353 In contrast, transcripts from the Down-o-d and Down-a-pld subgroups both had median
354 codon protection index values less than 1. These data strengthen our conclusion on the
355 separation of differentially expressed transcripts into direct target and non-target categories.
356 Based on their expression patterns, we suggest that transcripts from the Up-o-d subgroup are
357 targeted by Dhh1, transcripts from the Up-o-pl and Down-o-pl subgroups are targeted by
358 Pat1 and Lsm1, and transcripts from the Up-a-pld subgroup are targeted by all three factors.

359

360 **Validation of transcripts controlled directly or indirectly by Pat1, Lsm1, and Dhh1**

361 To validate the results from our RNA-Seq analyses and to assess the proposed decay
362 mechanisms for transcripts in different subgroups controlled by Pat1, Lsm1, and Dhh1, we
363 selected 34 transcripts (representing mRNAs from each subgroup) and analyzed both their
364 levels and patterns of expression by northern blotting. In this experiment, we analyzed mRNA
365 levels in wild-type, *pat1* Δ , *lsm1* Δ , and *dhh1* Δ strains, but also included *dcp1* Δ , *dcp2* Δ , *xrn1* Δ ,
366 *dcp2-N245*, *dcp2E-153Q-N245*, and *dcp2E-198Q-N245* strains to assess each transcript's
367 sensitivity to 5' to 3' decay, and *upf1* Δ , *edc3* Δ , *scd6* Δ , *ski2* Δ , *ski7* Δ , and *ski2* Δ *ski7* Δ strains to
368 serve as negative controls. Our northern analyses confirmed the expression patterns for 30
369 out of 34 selected transcripts. As shown in Figure 5, four transcripts (*CIT2*, *SDS23*, *HOS2*,

370 and *PYK2*) from the Up-o-d subgroup all had increased levels only in *dhh1* Δ cells but not in
371 *pat1* Δ and *lsm1* Δ cells; four transcripts (*DIF1*, *AGA1*, *BUR6*, and *LSM3*) from the Up-o-pl
372 subgroup all had increased levels only in *pat1* Δ and *lsm1* Δ cells but not in *dhh1* Δ cells; ten
373 transcripts (*HXT6*, *GPH1*, *HXK1*, *CHA1*, *RTC3*, *NQM1*, *PGM2*, *TMA10*, *GAD1*, and *SPG4*)
374 from the Up-a-pld subgroup all had increased levels in *pat1* Δ , *lsm1* Δ , and *dhh1* Δ cells; and
375 two transcripts (*MUP3* and *GTT2*) from the Down-o-pl subgroup both had decreased levels in
376 *pat1* Δ and *lsm1* Δ cells, but not in *dhh1* Δ cells. Importantly, the twenty transcripts from these
377 four subgroups all had increased levels in *dcp1* Δ , *dcp2* Δ , *dcp2E-153Q-N245*, and *dcp2E-*
378 *198Q-N245* cells, and nineteen out twenty transcripts (except *GTT2*) also had increased
379 levels in *xrn1* Δ cells. These results support our proposition that transcripts from these four
380 subgroups are all *bona fide* substrates of the decapping enzyme and provide direct evidence
381 that these transcripts are indeed degraded by the general 5' to 3' decay pathway. Also as
382 expected, three transcripts (*RPP1A*, *TMA19*, and *GPD2*) from the Down-a-pld subgroup all
383 had decreased levels in *pat1* Δ , *lsm1* Δ , and *dhh1* Δ cells. Consistent with the idea that these
384 transcripts were affected indirectly as a consequence of a general defect in decapping, all
385 three transcripts also had decreased levels in *dcp1* Δ , *dcp2* Δ , *dcp2E-153Q-N245*, and
386 *dcp2E-198Q-N245* cells. Interestingly, these three transcripts only had slightly increased
387 levels in *xrn1* Δ cells, suggesting they are mostly degraded by the 3' to 5' decay pathway. Five
388 transcripts (*YIL164C*, *THI22*, *EST1*, *TRP1-1*, and *ALR2*) from the Down-o-d subgroup had
389 decreased levels only in *dhh1* Δ cells but not in *pat1* Δ and *lsm1* Δ cells (Figure 7D).

390 The four transcripts that could not be confirmed deviated from expectations for
391 different reasons: one had an extremely low expression level and could not be effectively
392 verified (*SFG1*), one had complex isoforms that are not annotated in the genome releases

393 (*FRE3*), and therefore not used in our statistical procedures, and the other two (*ASC1* pre-
394 mRNA and mRNA) were most likely bioinformatics false positives due to multiple alignment
395 artifacts of sequence reads to the spliced and unspliced isoforms from the same locus.

396

397 **Transcripts targeted by Pat1, Lsm1, and Dhh1 are all translated inefficiently**

398 Given the intimate linkage of mRNA translation and decay (Mishima and Tomari, 2016,
399 Presnyak et al., 2015, Roy and Jacobson, 2013), and to gain insight into the roles of Pat1,
400 Lsm1, and Dhh1 in decapping regulation, we sought to identify any unique properties
401 associated with the translation of transcripts controlled by these three factors. To this end, we
402 analyzed the pattern and distribution of the average codon optimality score, the average
403 ribosome density, and the estimated protein abundance for transcripts from the six subgroups
404 of differentially expressed mRNAs in *pat1* Δ , *lsm1* Δ , and *dhh1* Δ cells. In this analysis, the
405 average codon optimality score of individual transcripts was based on the scores defined by
406 Pechmann and Frydman (Pechmann and Frydman, 2013) and these scores are in fact the
407 normalized tRNA adaptation index in which mRNA abundances are used to correct for the
408 number of codons vs. number of tRNA genes. Ribosomal densities were derived from
409 published ribosome profiling and RNA-Seq data from wild-type yeast cells grown under
410 standard conditions (Young et al., 2015). Protein abundance levels were obtained from the
411 curated PaxDb (Protein Abundances Across Organisms) database (Wang et al., 2012) and
412 comprise the scaled aggregated estimates over several proteomic data sets.

413 As shown in Figures. 6A-C, transcripts from the three up-regulated Up-o-d, Up-o-pl,
414 and Up-a-pld subgroups exhibited similar and consistent data patterns: they all had relatively
415 low average codon optimality scores, high ribosome densities, and low protein levels. These

416 observations indicate that transcripts from these three subgroups are all translated
417 inefficiently, most likely because of less efficient translation elongation. Transcripts from the
418 three down-regulated subgroups exhibited two different data patterns. Transcripts from the
419 Down-o-d and Down-a-pld subgroups exhibited one consistent data pattern: they all had
420 relatively high average codon optimality scores, low ribosome densities, and high protein
421 levels. These observations suggest that transcripts from these two subgroups are translated
422 efficiently, a characteristic probably reflecting highly efficient translation elongation.
423 Transcripts from the Down-o-pl subgroup had a distinct data pattern: they had relatively low
424 average codon optimality scores, low ribosome densities, and but relatively high protein
425 levels. These observations suggest that transcripts from this subgroup may be inefficiently
426 translated, but have relative long mRNA half-lives. Together, these results indicate that
427 transcripts targeted directly by Pat1, Lsm1, and Dhh1 are all translated less efficiently. In
428 contrast, transcripts controlled indirectly by these three factors appear to be translated more
429 efficiently.

430 Notably, although the Dhh1 function in mRNA decay was recently suggested to be
431 linked to codon optimality (Radhakrishnan et al., 2016), our analyses revealed that the
432 average codon optimality score of individual transcripts was not a reliable predictor of the
433 Dhh1 requirement for their decay. Transcripts targeted by Dhh1 (from the Up-o-d and Up-a-
434 pld subgroups) had a low but broad range of average codon optimality scores (Figure 6A).
435 Interestingly, in that range, there were also thousands of transcripts that were not targeted by
436 Dhh1, including transcripts uniquely targeted by Pat1 and Lsm1 (from the Up-o-pl and Down-
437 o-pl subgroups), as well as transcripts targeted by none of these three factors. This raises the
438 possibility that additional decay factors may be responsible for targeting these transcripts.

439

440 **Pat1, Lsm1, and Dhh1 have non-overlapping functions with NMD factors in mRNA**
441 **decapping regulation**

442 To further define the roles of Pat1, Lsm1, and Dhh1 in mRNA decapping regulation,
443 we examined the functional relationships between these three factors and the NMD factors
444 Upf1, Upf2, and Upf3. We compared the transcripts targeted by Pat1, Lsm1, and Dhh1 to
445 those targeted by the three Ups (Celik et al., 2017). As shown in Figure 7A, transcripts from
446 the Up-o-d, Up-o-pl, and Up-a-pld subgroups all had only minimal and insignificant overlap
447 with NMD substrates. In addition, as revealed by a two-dimensional hierarchical clustering
448 analysis of differentially expressed transcripts, *pat1* Δ , *lsm1* Δ , and *dhh1* Δ cells also had
449 profiles distinct from those of *upf1* Δ , *upf2* Δ , and *upf3* Δ cells (Figure 7B). These results
450 indicate that the general decapping activators Pat1, Lsm1, and Dhh1 have roles that are
451 distinct from and non-overlapping with those of the NMD factors in mRNA decapping
452 regulation.

453

454 **Deletion of *DHH1* promotes the degradation of a fraction of NMD substrates**

455 We recently demonstrated that yeast decapping activators form distinct complexes
456 with the decapping enzyme *in vivo* (He and Jacobson, 2015a), suggesting that different
457 decapping activators may compete with each other for binding to the decapping enzyme. One
458 implication of this notion is that in addition to providing targeting specificity for the decapping
459 enzyme, decapping activators can also control each other's activities indirectly by limiting or
460 promoting the free pool of available decapping enzyme. A testable prediction of this dynamic
461 mRNA decapping regulation is that, in addition to stabilizing its targeted transcripts, deletion

462 of a specific activator may also promote the degradation of substrates of the alternative
463 mRNA decay pathways. To test this hypothesis, we examined whether the down-regulated
464 subgroups from the differentially expressed transcripts in *pat1* Δ , *lsm1* Δ , and *dhh1* Δ cells may
465 contain NMD substrates. This analysis revealed that the three subgroups exhibited
466 significantly different enrichment patterns for NMD substrates (Figure 7C). The Down-o-d
467 subgroup (transcripts down-regulated only in *dhh1* Δ cells) was enriched for NMD substrates
468 (Fisher's exact test, $p=7.3 \times 10^{-15}$). In contrast, the Down-o-pl (transcripts down-regulated
469 only in *pat1* Δ and *lsm1* Δ cells) was depleted of NMD substrates (Fisher's exact test, $p=6.2$
470 $\times 10^{-6}$). Finally, the Down-a-pld subgroup (transcripts down-regulated in all three deletion
471 strains) showed neither enrichment for nor depletion of NMD substrates (Fisher's exact test
472 $p=0.12$). These results provide additional evidence that transcripts from the Down-o-pl
473 subgroup are direct targets of Pat1 and Lsm1, and show that the Down-o-d subgroup
474 contains a fraction of NMD-targeted transcripts. To validate the latter observation, we
475 selected five representative NMD substrates that were also down-regulated in *dhh1* Δ cells
476 and analyzed their expression levels and patterns in a set of yeast strains described above.
477 As expected, northern analyses showed that all five transcripts (*YIL164C*, *THI22*, *EST1*,
478 *TRP1-1*, and *ALR2*) had decreased levels in *dhh1* Δ cells but increased levels in *upf1* Δ ,
479 *dcp1* Δ , *dcp2* Δ , and *xrn1* Δ cells (Figure 7D, left panel). The decreased accumulation for these
480 five transcripts in *dhh1* Δ cells largely resulted from degradation by NMD as elimination of
481 *UPF1* from *dhh1* Δ cells caused substantial increases (ranging from 4.0- to 21.6-fold) in the
482 expression levels of each of these five transcripts (Figure 7D, right panel). Interestingly, we
483 also observed that *dhh1* Δ *upf1* Δ cells consistently accumulated lower levels (ranging from
484 28% to 81%) than *upf1* Δ cells for each of these five transcripts (Figure 7D, right panel),

485 suggesting that deletion of *DHH1* can also promote NMD-independent degradation of these
486 transcripts. Together, these results indicate that deletion of *DHH1* can promote the
487 degradation of a subset of NMD substrates by both NMD-dependent and NMD-independent
488 mechanisms, thus arguing that decapping activators can indeed exert indirect control of each
489 other's activities in mRNA decapping.

490

491

492 **DISCUSSION**

493 **Dcp2 C-terminal domain imparts critical *in vivo* regulatory activities in mRNA** 494 **decapping**

495 The yeast Dcp2 decapping enzyme subunit has a modular structure encompassing a
496 conserved 245-amino acid N-terminal Nudix catalytic domain and a 725-amino acid C-
497 terminal extension. While the catalytic function of the N-terminal domain in cap removal is
498 well established (Floor et al., 2010, She et al., 2008, Deshmukh et al., 2008, She et al.,
499 2006), the decapping role of the large Dcp2 C-terminal domain remains to be clarified. Here,
500 we provide genetic evidence that the Dcp2 C-terminal domain imparts important regulatory
501 activities to the decapping enzyme, thus playing a critical role in regulating mRNA decapping
502 *in vivo*. Elimination of the C-terminal domain altered the expression of more than a quarter of
503 yeast's protein-coding genes and led to both up- and down-regulation of specific transcripts
504 (Figures. 1B, C). A key observation supporting a predominantly regulatory role for the C-
505 terminal domain is that transcripts differentially expressed in cells lacking the Dcp2 C-terminal
506 domain only exhibited limited correlation with those differentially expressed in cells whose
507 decapping activity was either severely comprised or essentially absent (Figure 2A).

508 Our recent experiments revealed that the Dcp2 C-terminal domain harbors both
509 negative and positive regulatory elements (He and Jacobson, 2015a), leading us to propose
510 that the decapping enzyme is subject to both negative and positive regulation. Recent
511 biochemical data also supports this model (Paquette et al., 2018). Our expression profiling of
512 yeast cells lacking the Dcp2 C-terminal domain provides direct experimental evidence for
513 both aspects of this hypothesis. Negative regulation of the decapping enzyme is supported by
514 the observations that deletion of the Dcp2 C-terminal domain led to decreases in the

515 abundance of hundreds of specific transcripts, and that this down-regulation was dependent
516 on maintenance of Dcp2's catalytic activity (Figures 1C and 2B). Importantly, the vast
517 majority of these down-regulated transcripts were not normal decapping substrates (Figure 1-
518 figure supplement 3). These results indicate that deletion of the Dcp2 C-terminal domain
519 eliminates an inhibitory function of the domain and leads to uncontrolled and accelerated
520 mRNA decapping by a constitutively activated and opportunistic Dcp2. Evidence for positive
521 regulation of the decapping enzyme is provided by the observation that elimination of the
522 Dcp2 C-terminal domain also caused up-regulation of hundreds of specific transcripts. As this
523 group of transcripts also exhibited concordant up-regulation in decapping-deficient cells
524 (Figure 1B), it is likely that the observed up-regulation originates from a deficiency in mRNA
525 decapping caused by loss of a positive regulatory function. Collectively, these observations
526 indicate that the C-terminal domain of Dcp2 encodes important regulatory activities and that
527 loss of these regulatory activities can have direct consequences on decapping of hundreds of
528 specific mRNAs.

529 Over the past decade mechanistic investigations of mRNA decapping regulation have
530 largely been focused on the 245-amino acid N-terminal domain of Dcp2, with essentially all
531 biochemical and structural studies using this C-terminally truncated fragment (Mugridge et al.,
532 2016, Borja et al., 2011, Floor et al., 2010, She et al., 2008, Deshmukh et al., 2008, She et
533 al., 2006, Wurm et al., 2017, Wurm et al., 2016, Charenton et al., 2016). This Dcp2 fragment
534 binds to Dcp1, but lacks the binding sites for most decapping activators, including Pat1,
535 Edc3, and Upf1 (He and Jacobson, 2015). Our genetic experiments here reveal that this N-
536 terminal fragment of Dcp2 encodes a constitutively active decapping enzyme *in vivo* that can
537 target a variety of mRNAs including those that normally use or do not use decapping-

538 dependent mechanisms in their degradation (Figures 1B-C). Accordingly, current models of
539 mRNA decapping regulation based on the Dcp2 N-terminal domain may be informative with
540 respect to the catalytic step of decapping, but most likely do not reflect complex aspects of
541 mRNA decapping regulation *in vivo* such as substrate selection and decapping enzyme
542 activation.

543

544 **Pat1, Lsm1, and Dhh1 target subsets of yeast transcripts with overlapping substrate**
545 **specificity**

546 Pat1, Lsm1, and Dhh1 have long been considered as general mRNA decapping
547 activators and their functions are usually thought to be required for decapping of most wild-
548 type mRNAs (Parker, 2012, Collier and Parker, 2004, Fischer and Weis, 2002, Collier et al.,
549 2001, Bouveret et al., 2000, Tharun and Parker, 1999). Contrary to this expectation, our
550 expression profiling experiments revealed that Pat1, Lsm1, and Dhh1 are only required for
551 decapping of a subset of transcripts in yeast cells and suggested that these factors have
552 highly specific functions in controlling mRNA decapping (Figure 3B). Consistent with strong *in*
553 *vivo* physical interaction and shared *in vitro* RNA binding properties (Wu et al., 2014, Sharif
554 and Conti, 2013, Bouveret et al., 2000, Chowdhury et al., 2007), our results indicate that Pat1
555 and Lsm1 function together (probably as a Pat1-Lsm1-7 complex) to target the same set of
556 transcripts (Figures 3B-E). Dhh1 targets a different set of transcripts that only partially
557 overlaps with those targeted by both Pat1 and Lsm1 (Figure 3B).

558 The partial overlap between transcripts commonly targeted by Pat1 and Lsm1 and
559 those targeted by Dhh1 strongly indicates that these three decapping activators have distinct
560 functions in mRNA decapping regulation and that decapping of individual mRNAs likely has

561 different functional requirements for Pat1, Lsm1, and Dhh1. For example, we identified
562 transcripts regulated by Dhh1 but not by Pat1 and Lsm1 (the Up-o-d subgroup), transcripts
563 regulated by Pat1 and Lsm1 but not by Dhh1 (the Up-o-pl and Down-o-pl subgroups), and
564 transcripts regulated by all three factors (the Up-a-pld subgroup). Since the degradation of
565 transcripts controlled by Pat1, Lsm1, and Dhh1 individually or in combination is dependent on
566 the Dcp1-Dcp2 decapping enzyme and the Xrn1 5' to 3' exoribonuclease (Figures 4 and 5)
567 the transcripts in these three groups are most likely *bona fide* decapping substrates.
568 Accordingly, our observation that decapping of individual mRNAs can have different
569 requirements for Pat1, Lsm1, and Dhh1 suggests that mRNA decapping is a multi-step
570 process and that Pat1, Lsm1, and Dhh1 are likely to function at different steps of the
571 decapping pathway. Given the genetic and physical interactions between Dhh1 and the Not1-
572 Ccr4 deadenylase complex (Maillet and Collart, 2002, Hata et al., 1998, Ozgur et al., 2015,
573 Mathys et al., 2014), and the physical interaction between Pat1 and Dcp2 (Charenton et al.,
574 2017, He and Jacobson, 2015a), one possibility is that Dhh1 promotes deadenylation and
575 that Pat1 and Lsm1 recruit the decapping enzyme.

576 Transcripts targeted by Pat1, Lsm1, and Dhh1 all appear to be translated inefficiently
577 as they have relatively low average codon optimality scores, high ribosomal occupancy, and
578 low protein production (Figure 6). These observations indicate that the functions of Pat1,
579 Lsm1, and Dhh1 in regulating decapping are probably linked to mRNA translation, a
580 conclusion consistent with a recent study linking Dhh1 function in mRNA decay to translation
581 elongation through codon optimality (Radhakrishnan et al., 2016). However, our results
582 indicate that average codon optimality scores of individual mRNAs do not correlate well with

583 a Dhh1 requirement for their decay (Figure 6). Hence, the identity and distribution of non-
584 optimal codons in an mRNA may influence the targeting specificity by Pat1, Lsm1, and Dhh1.

585 Over past two decades models for the general functions of Pat1, Lsm1, and Dhh1 in
586 yeast mRNA decapping were largely generated by assessing the fate of the transcripts
587 derived from two key reporter gene constructs (Fischer and Weis, 2002, Collier et al., 2001,
588 Hatfield et al., 1996, Decker and Parker, 1993). One reporter codes for the unstable *MFA2*
589 mRNA and the other codes for the stable *PGK1* mRNA. Both of these transcripts are in the
590 datasets presented here and our results show that the *MFA2* mRNA is regulated by Pat1 and
591 Lsm1, but not by Dhh1, and that the *PGK1* mRNA is not regulated by any of the three factors.
592 These observations highlight potential drawbacks to the use of reporter gene assays and
593 lead to uncertainty about existing models. Most importantly, since both reporter mRNAs are
594 not regulated by Dhh1 it becomes difficult to justify models in which Dhh1 has a direct role in
595 decapping of these transcripts (Collier and Parker, 2005, Fischer and Weis, 2002, Collier et
596 al., 2001).

597

598 **Pat1, Lsm1, and Dhh1 also have indirect roles in controlling genome-wide mRNA** 599 **expression**

600 Our expression profiling experiments revealed that, in addition to targeting specific
601 mRNAs for decapping, Pat1, Lsm1, and Dhh1 also have indirect roles in controlling mRNA
602 expression in yeast and that eliminating the functions of any of these three factors can have
603 severe consequences for global mRNA accumulation. Unexpectedly, we found that deletions
604 of *PAT1*, *LSM1*, and *DHH1* also resulted in down-regulation of hundreds of specific
605 transcripts (Figure 3C). In contrast to the up-regulated transcripts, the vast majority of the

606 down-regulated transcripts are not direct targets of Pat1, Lsm1, or Dhh1 and their down-
607 regulation is thus likely to result from an indirect consequence of losing the primary functions
608 of these factors in mRNA decapping. Two subgroups of transcripts that are indirectly
609 controlled by the activities of Pat1, Lsm1, and Dhh1 were identified. One subgroup (Down-o-
610 d) includes transcripts that were down-regulated only in *dhh1* Δ cells and the other subgroup
611 (Down-a-pld) includes transcripts that were down-regulated in all three deletion strains. The
612 transcripts from these two subgroups exhibited concordant down-regulation in yeast cells
613 partially compromised in, or completely lacking, decapping activity (Figures 4A-F).
614 Collectively, these observations indicate that transcripts from the Down-o-d and Down-a-pld
615 subgroups are sensitive to loss of both the regulatory and catalytic activities of mRNA
616 decapping and argue that they are indirectly controlled by the status of general decapping
617 activity in yeast cells.

618 Unlike the transcripts targeted directly by Pat1, Lsm1, and Dhh1, transcripts controlled
619 indirectly by these factors are translated efficiently. Transcripts from the Down-o-d and Down-
620 a-pld subgroups generally have higher average codon optimality scores, lower ribosomal
621 occupancy, and higher protein production (Figure 6). These observations suggest that the
622 susceptibility of these transcripts to the loss of Pat1, Lsm1, and Dhh1 functions is likely to be
623 dictated by their unique properties in translation. The Down-o-d subgroup contains a small
624 set of NMD substrates (Figure 7C) and the decreased accumulation of these NMD-regulated
625 transcripts in *dhh1* Δ cells largely results from more efficient decapping by an NMD-dependent
626 mechanism (Figure 7D, right panel). Because Dhh1 forms several distinct complexes with the
627 decapping enzyme (Sharif et al., 2013, Fromm et al., 2012, Tritschler et al., 2009), more
628 efficient decapping of NMD substrates in the absence of Dhh1 is likely caused by increases

629 in the free pool of the decapping enzyme available for NMD as a consequence of *DHH1*
630 deletion. The majority of transcripts controlled indirectly by Pat1, Lsm1, and Dhh1 are not
631 typical decapping substrates (Figures 4 and 5). The decreased accumulation of these
632 transcripts in the absence of Pat1, Lsm1, and Dhh1 probably results from more efficient 3' to
633 5' degradation. One possibility is that these transcripts are normally protected by an unknown
634 factor at their 3'-ends. Inactivation of Pat1, Lsm1, and Dhh1 leads to the stabilization of a
635 significant number of transcripts. The stabilized transcripts might sequester the unknown
636 factor from their normal binding substrates and make the latter susceptible to 3' to 5' decay.
637 An interesting implication of these observations is that deletion of the genes encoding
638 regulators of other steps in the gene expression pathway may lead to similar indirect and
639 opportunistic effects.

640

641 **Reassessing the major functions of decapping activators**

642 Current models of mRNA decapping propose two major temporally separated
643 functions for decapping activators, an initial repression of mRNA translation followed by
644 stimulation of the activity of the decapping enzyme (Parker, 2012, Nissan et al., 2010, Collier
645 and Parker, 2005). Thus, for example, Dhh1 is thought to function principally in repressing
646 translation, Edc3 is thought to activate the decapping enzyme, and Pat1 is thought to
647 possess both activities (Nissan et al., 2010, Collier and Parker, 2005). It is also generally
648 believed that decapping of individual mRNAs requires the functions of multiple decapping
649 activators (Nissan et al., 2010, Collier and Parker, 2005). Our results from *in vivo* expression
650 profiling experiments presented here, and genetic analyses published earlier (He and
651 Jacobson, 2015a), challenge these views with data indicating that: a) the main function of

652 decapping activators is to provide substrate specificity, i.e., to target the decapping enzyme
653 to specific mRNAs; b) individual decapping activators target highly specific subsets of yeast
654 transcripts and generally do not have overlapping regulatory activities (Figure 7A); and c) the
655 decapping enzyme is subject to negative regulation and its activation is most likely coupled to
656 substrate recognition. These principles are not dependent on translational repression, and
657 accumulating experimental evidence indicates that prior translational repression may not be
658 required for decapping to occur. Decapping of individual mRNAs occurs while they are still
659 engaged in translation (Hu et al., 2010, Hu et al., 2009) and this co-translational decay
660 appears to be widespread, both in genome-wide analyses (Pelechano et al., 2015) and in our
661 experiments evaluating the transcripts targeted by Dhh1 (Figure 4G). Thus, decapping
662 activators may not have primary roles in regulating mRNA translation, but instead may
663 function by monitoring mRNA translation initiation, elongation, or termination to target unique
664 features of individual mRNAs.

665

666 **Materials and Methods**

667 **Yeast strains**

668 All strains used in this study are in the W303 background and are listed in
669 Supplementary Table 1. The wild-type strain (HFY114) and its isogenic derivatives harboring
670 deletions of *UPF1* (HFY871), *DCP1* (HFY1067), or *XRN1* (HFY1080) were described
671 previously (He et al., 2003), as were isogenic strains harboring deletions of *DCP2*
672 (CFY1016), *EDC3* (CFY25), *PAT1* (SYY2674), *LSM1* (SYY2680), or *DHH1* (SYY2686), or
673 the *dcp2-N245* truncation of the Dcp2 C-terminal domain (SYY2385) and alleles thereof (He
674 and Jacobson, 2015a). Isogenic strains harboring the C-terminally truncated, catalytically
675 deficient *dcp2-E153Q-N245* (SYY2750) and *dcp2-E198Q-N245* (SYY2755) alleles or
676 deletions of *SCD6* (SSY2352), *SKI2* (HFY1170), *SKI7* (SYY17), or both *SKI2* and *SKI7*
677 (SYY21) were constructed by gene replacement (Guthrie and Fink, 1991) using DNA
678 fragments harboring *dcp2-E153Q-N245::KanMX6*, *dcp2-E198Q-N245::KanMX6*,
679 *scd6::KanMX6*, *ski2::URA3*, *ski7::URA3*, or *ski2::URA3* and *ski7::ADE2* null alleles,
680 respectively. Double mutant strains *dcp2-N245 xrn1Δ* (SYY2887), *dcp2-E153Q-N245 xrn1Δ*
681 (SYY2897), and *dcp2-E198Q-N245 xrn1Δ* (SYY2901) were constructed by gene replacement
682 using DNA fragments harboring the *xrn1::ADE2* null allele. Double mutant strains *dcp2-N245*
683 *ski2Δ* (SYY2889), *dcp2-N245 ski7Δ* (SYY2893) and *upf1Δ dhh1Δ* (SYY2700) were
684 constructed by gene replacement using DNA fragments harboring *ski2::URA3*, *ski7::URA3*,
685 and *dhh1::ADE2* null alleles, respectively. Plasmids harboring these knock-in or knock-out
686 alleles are described in Supplementary Table 2.

687

688 **Cell growth and RNA isolation**

689 Cells were all grown in YEPD media at 30°C. In each case, cells (15 ml) were grown to
690 an OD₆₀₀ of 0.7 and harvested by centrifugation. Cell pellets were frozen on dry ice and then
691 stored at -80°C until RNA isolation. The procedures for RNA isolation were as previously
692 described (He and Jacobson, 1995).

693

694 **RNA-Seq library preparation and sequencing**

695 Procedures for RNA-Seq library construction were as previously described (Celik et
696 al., 2017). In brief, total RNA was treated with Baseline-zero DNase (Epicenter) to remove
697 any genomic DNA contamination. Five micrograms of DNase-treated total RNA was then
698 depleted of rRNAs using the Illumina yeast RiboZero Removal Kit and the resulting RNA was
699 used for RNA-Seq library preparation. Multiplex strand-specific cDNA libraries were
700 constructed using the Illumina TruSeq Stranded mRNA LT Sample Prep Kit. Three
701 independent cDNA libraries were prepared for each yeast strain analyzed. Total RNA cDNA
702 libraries were sequenced on the Illumina HiSeq4000 platform at Beijing Genomics Institute.
703 Four independent libraries were pooled into a single lane and single-end 50-cycle sequencing
704 was carried out for all cDNA libraries.

705

706 **Northern analysis**

707 Procedures for northern blotting were as previously described (He and Jacobson,
708 1995). In each case, the blot was hybridized to a random primed probe for a specific
709 transcript, with *SCR1* RNA serving as a loading control. Transcript-specific signals on
710 northern blots were determined with a FUJI BAS-2500 analyzer. DNA fragments from the
711 coding regions of specific genes were amplified by PCR using the oligonucleotides listed in

712 Supplementary Table 3 and these DNA fragments were used as probes for the northern
713 analyses. Probes generated for these analyses included *CIT2* nt 1-500, *SDS23* nt 1-500,
714 *HOS2* nt 1-500, *PYK1* nt 1-500, *DIF1* nt 1-400, *AGA1* nt 1-500, *BUR6* nt 1-429, *LSM3* nt 1-
715 270, *HXT6* nt 1-470, *GPH1* nt 1-500, *HXK1* nt 60-480, *CHA1* nt 1-500, *RTC3* nt 1-336, *NQM1*
716 nt 481-1002, *PGM2* nt 1201-1710, *TMA10* nt 1-260, *GAD1* nt 1-480, *SPG4* nt 1-340, *MUP3*
717 nt 1-500, *GTT2* nt 1-500, *RPP1A* nt 1-321, *TMA19* nt 1-500, *GPP2* nt 1-500, *YIL164C* nt 201-
718 600, *THI22* nt 1207-1700, *EST1* nt 1621-2094, *TRP1* nt 1-675, *ALR2* nt 1-500, *GDH1* nt
719 766-1365, *ARL1* nt 1-552, *DAL3* nt 1-588, *YGL117W* nt 95-691, *RPS9A* nt 599-1095, *SUC2*
720 nt 1001-1599, *CPA1* nt 668-1236, *HIS4* nt 97-2328, *SER3* nt 811-1410, *HAC1* nt 662-913
721 and *HSP82* nt 1544-2130.

722

723 **Bioinformatic methods**

724 **i) General computational methods**

725 All statistical analyses were carried out using the R statistical programming
726 environment, versions 3.3.2 and 3.3.4. R packages ggplot2, gplots, plyr, reshape2, and
727 gridExtra were used for data pre-processing and visualization. Biostrings, BiocParallel,
728 doSnow, and doParallel were used for parallel processing. Statistical tests were performed
729 using built-in functions in base R distributions. Hierarchical clustering was performed using
730 Euclidian distances between libraries and transcripts with complete linkage. Non-finite
731 (division by 0) and undefined (0 divided by 0) values were removed prior to clustering. The
732 heights of the clustering tree branches indicate distance between two libraries. We used
733 Fisher's exact test to assess different subsets of transcripts for either enrichment or depletion
734 of a particular group of transcripts. We used external data (codon protection index, codon

735 optimality, and protein abundance) as presented by the respective authors without any further
736 refinement. Transcripts that were not included in these datasets were discarded prior to
737 statistical testing.

738

739 **ii) Analysis of differential mRNA expression**

740 Transcripts differentially expressed in each of the mutant strains relative to the
741 corresponding wild-type strain were identified using bioinformatics pipelines described
742 previously (Celik et al., 2017). In brief, the *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* R64-2-1 S288C
743 reference genome assembly (sacCer3) was used to construct a yeast transcriptome
744 comprised of 7473 transcripts. This transcriptome includes all annotated protein-coding
745 sequences, functional and non-coding RNAs, and the unspliced isoforms of all intron-
746 containing genes, but excludes all of the autonomous replicating sequences and long
747 terminal repeats of transposable elements. The RSEM program (Li and Dewey, 2011) was
748 used to map sequence reads to the transcriptome and to quantify the levels of individual
749 mRNAs with settings --bowtie-m 30 --no-bam-output --forward-prob 0. The expected read
750 counts for individual mRNAs from RSEM were considered as the number of reads mapped to
751 each transcript and were then imported into the Bioconductor DESeq package (Anders and
752 Huber, 2010) for differential expression analysis. The Benjamini-Hochberg procedure was
753 used for multiple testing corrections. To account for replicate variability, we used a false
754 discovery threshold of 0.01 (1%) instead of an arbitrary fold change cutoff as the criterion for
755 differential expression.

756

757 **iii) Analysis of potential mechanisms of mRNA decay**

758 Our expression analysis identified the transcripts regulated by Pat1, Lsm1, and Dhh1.
759 To assess the potential decay mechanisms for the respective sets of transcripts, we analyzed
760 the expression patterns of these mRNAs in mutant cells deficient in decapping or 5' to 3'
761 exoribonuclease activities. In addition, to assess the degree of co-translational decay, we
762 also analyzed the codon protection indices (Pelechano et al., 2015) of these mRNAs in wild-
763 type yeast cells under normal growth conditions. In our analyses, transcripts regulated by
764 Pat1, Lsm1, and Dhh1 could be divided into six different subgroups. The up-regulated
765 transcripts were grouped into Up-o-d, Up-o-pl, and Up-a-pld and the down-regulated
766 transcripts were grouped into Down-o-d, Down-o-pl, and Down-a-pld subgroups (see
767 Results). Boxplots were used to examine the distribution and the median value of both the
768 relative levels and the codon protection indices for transcripts from each of these six
769 subgroups. The relative levels of individual mRNAs in mutant cells were determined by
770 comparison to their levels in wild-type cells. The expression data for *dcp1Δ*, *dcp2Δ*, and
771 *xrn1Δ* cells were from our previously published work (Celik et al., 2017). Codon protection
772 indices for individual mRNAs were generated by Pelechano and colleagues based on their
773 data from 5'P sequencing of yeast decay intermediates (Pelechano et al., 2015). In their
774 study, the codon protection index of a specific transcript is defined as the ratio of sequencing
775 reads in the ribosome protected frame over the average reads of the non-protected frames.
776 Codon protection index values greater than 1 are indicative of co-translational decay.

777

778 **iv) Analysis of intrinsic properties associated with mRNA translation**

779 To assess the potential links between translation and the functions of Pat1, Lsm1, and
780 Dhh1 in mRNA decay, we examined several intrinsic properties associated with mRNA

781 translation for transcripts regulated by these three factors. We analyzed the pattern and
782 distribution of the average codon optimality score, the average ribosome density, and the
783 estimated protein abundance for transcripts from the six subgroups of mRNAs controlled by
784 Pat1, Lsm1, and Dhh1. In our analysis, the average codon optimality score of individual
785 mRNAs was calculated based on the optimal or non-optimal codon scores defined by
786 Pechmann and Frydman (Pechmann and Frydman, 2013). The average ribosome density of
787 individual mRNAs was derived from published ribosome profiling and RNA-Seq data from
788 wild-type yeast cells grown under standard conditions (Young et al., 2015) and was
789 calculated as previously described (Celik et al. 2017). In brief, rawfastq files were
790 downloaded and sequence reads were trimmed for adapter sequences using cutadapt with
791 settings -a CTGTAGGCA -q 10 --trim-n -m 10. After adapter trimming, sequence reads were
792 mapped to the transcriptome using bowtie (Langmead et al., 2009) with settings -m4 -n 2 -l
793 15 --suppress 1,6,7,8 --best --strata. After bowtie alignment, the riboSeqR (Chung et al.,2015)
794 was used for preliminary visualizations and frame calling. For our ribosome occupancy
795 calculations, we selected read lengths that showed a strong preference (>80%) to a specific
796 reading frame. After this filtering, the ribosome occupancy of individual mRNAs was
797 calculated as $\text{coverage_ribo}/\text{coverage_rna}$, yielding a single value of ribosome occupancy for
798 each mRNAs. We used these values to compare the translation efficiency of transcripts from
799 different subgroups of mRNAs that are differentially expressed in *pat1* Δ , *lsm1* Δ , and *dhh1* Δ
800 strains. We excluded transcripts that had no RNA-Seq reads mapping to their ORFs in our
801 analysis. Protein abundance levels came directly from the curated PaxDb (Protein
802 Abundances Across Organisms) database (Wang et al., 2012) and are the scaled aggregated
803 estimates over several proteomic data sets.

804

805 **v) Deposited Data**

806 The data discussed in this publication have been deposited in NCBI's Gene Expression Omnibus and
807 are accessible through GEO Series accession number GSE107841 at the link
808 <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo/query/acc.cgi?acc=GSE107841>.

809

810 **Acknowledgments**

811 This work was supported by grants to A.J. (5R01 GM27757-37 and 1R35GM122468-
812 01) from the U.S. National Institutes of Health.

813

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992 **FIGURE LEGENDS**

993 **Figure 1. Identification of transcripts differentially expressed in *dcp2-N245*, *dcp2-***
994 ***E153Q-N245*, and *dcp2-E198Q-N245* cells.**

995 A. Violin and box plots displaying the average and median read count distributions of the
996 RNA-Seq libraries from *WT*, *dcp2-N245*, *dcp2-E153Q-N245*, and *dcp2-E198Q-N245* strains
997 in three independent experiments.

998 B. Venn diagram displaying the relationships between transcripts up-regulated in *dcp2-N245*,
999 *dcp2-E153Q-N245*, and *dcp2-E198Q-N245* cells.

1000 C. Venn diagram displaying the relationships between transcripts down-regulated in *dcp2-*
1001 *N245*, *dcp2-E153Q-N245*, and *dcp2-E198Q-N245* cells.

1002 D. Scatterplots comparing the normalized read counts between the *WT* and the *dcp2-N245*,
1003 *dcp2-E153Q-N245*, or *dcp2-E198Q-N245* strains for transcripts differentially expressed in
1004 each of the mutant strains. Left panel, comparison for the 616 up- and 1025 down-regulated
1005 transcripts in *dcp2-N245* cells; middle panel, comparison for the 1921 up- and 1845 down-
1006 regulated transcripts in *dcp2-E153Q-N245* cells; and right panel, comparison for the 1346 up-
1007 and 1428 down-regulated transcripts in *dcp2-E198Q-N245*.

1008 E. Scatterplots comparing the normalized read counts for transcripts differentially expressed
1009 between the *dcp2-E153Q-N245* and *dcp2-E198Q-N245* strains, or in these two strains
1010 compared to the *dcp-N245* strain. Left panel, comparison for 21 differentially expressed
1011 transcripts between *dcp2-E153Q-N245* and *dcp2-E198Q-N245* cells; middle panel,
1012 comparison for the 1658 up- and 1690 down-regulated transcripts in *dcp2-E153Q-N245* cells;

1013 and right panel, comparison for the 1113 up- and 1090 down-regulated transcripts in *dcp2-*
1014 *E198Q-N245* cells.

1015 The log₂ read count values of individual transcripts were used in the analyses of parts D and
1016 E, and the y=x line is shown in red.

1017

1018 **Figure 2. Elimination of the Dcp2 C-terminal domain deregulates mRNA decapping *in***
1019 ***vivo*.**

1020 A. Yeast cells harboring a deletion of the large Dcp2 C-terminal domain exhibit a significantly
1021 different genome-wide expression pattern from cells severely comprised in decapping activity
1022 or completely lacking decapping or 5' to 3' exoribonuclease activities. Scatterplot matrices
1023 were used to compare the relative levels of all transcripts in the yeast transcriptome in
1024 different mutant strains. The relative levels of individual mRNAs in each of the mutant strains
1025 were determined by comparisons to the appropriate wild-type strain. Data for the *dcp1Δ*,
1026 *dcp2Δ*, and *xrn1Δ* strains were from our previous study (*Celik et al., 2017*). Log₂ transformed
1027 data were used for this analysis and Pearson correlation coefficients for each comparison are
1028 shown in red.

1029 B. Yeast cells harboring a deletion of the large Dcp2 C-terminal domain exhibit accelerated
1030 and indiscriminate decapping of mRNAs. Eleven representative transcripts (nine typical
1031 decapping substrates and two atypical decapping substrates) from the group of transcripts
1032 down-regulated uniquely in *dcp2-N245* cells were selected and their levels of expression in
1033 the indicated strains were analyzed by northern blotting. In each case, a specific random-
1034 primed probe was hybridized to the blot and the *SCR1* transcript served as a loading control.
1035 The relative levels of specific transcripts in the mutant strains were determined by

1036 comparisons to their levels in the wild-type strain (indicated by the values under each blot).
1037 For presentation purposes, one of the control *SCR1* blots is duplicated and is indicated by the
1038 lower case letter “a.” The *SER3* locus produces two different transcripts and only the levels of
1039 the short isoform (indicated by #) are presented.

1040

1041

1042 **Figure 3. Identification of transcripts controlled by Pat1, Lsm1, and Dhh1.**

1043 A. Violin and box plots displaying the average and median read count distributions of the
1044 RNA-Seq libraries from the *WT*, *pat1Δ*, *lsm1Δ*, and *dhh1Δ* strains in three independent
1045 experiments.

1046 B. Venn diagram displaying the relationships between transcripts up-regulated in *pat1Δ*,
1047 *lsm1Δ*, and *dhh1Δ* cells.

1048 C. Venn diagram displaying the relationships between transcripts down-regulated in *pat1Δ*,
1049 *lsm1Δ*, and *dhh1Δ* cells.

1050 D. Scatterplots comparing the normalized read counts between the *WT* and the *pat1Δ*,
1051 *lsm1Δ*, or *dhh1Δ* strains for transcripts differentially expressed in each of the mutant strains.
1052 Left panel, comparison for the 955 up- and 681 down-regulated transcripts in *pat1Δ* cells;
1053 middle panel, comparison for the 940 up- and 685 down-regulated transcripts in *lsm1Δ* cells;
1054 and right panel, comparison for the 1098 up- and 788 down-regulated transcripts in *dhh1Δ*
1055 cells.

1056 E. Scatterplots comparing the normalized read counts between the *pat1* Δ and *lsm1* Δ strains
1057 for all transcripts, or between the *dhh1* Δ strain and the *lsm1* Δ and *pat1* Δ strains for
1058 transcripts differentially expressed in these two strains compared to the *dhh1* Δ strain. Left
1059 panel, comparison for all transcripts between the *pat1* Δ and *lsm1* Δ strains, four differentially
1060 expressed transcripts are indicated by red dots; middle panel, comparison for the 1385 up-
1061 and 1037 down-regulated transcripts in the *lsm1* Δ strain with respect to the transcripts of the
1062 *dhh1* Δ strain; and right panel, comparison for the 1332 up- and 874 down-regulated
1063 transcripts in the *pat1* Δ strain with respect to the transcripts of the *dhh1* Δ strain.

1064 For A to E, all analyses were as described in the legend to Figure 1

1065

1066 **Figure 4. Transcripts from different subgroups of mRNAs regulated by Pat1, Lsm1, or**
1067 **Dhh1 have distinct expression patterns in cells deficient in decapping or 5' to 3'**
1068 **exoribonuclease activities and also exhibit distinct extents of co-translational mRNA**
1069 **decay.**

1070 Transcripts up-regulated in *pat1* Δ , *lsm1* Δ , or *dhh1* Δ strains were divided into three non-
1071 overlapping *Up-o-d*, *Up-o-pl*, and *Up-a-pld* subgroups, representing transcripts up-regulated
1072 only in *dhh1* Δ cells, only in *pat1* Δ and *lsm1* Δ cells, and in all three deletion strains,
1073 respectively. Similarly, transcripts down-regulated in the three deletion strains were also
1074 divided into three non-overlapping *Down-o-d*, *Down-o-pl*, and *Down-a-pld* subgroups,
1075 representing transcripts down-regulated only in *dhh1* Δ cells, only in *pat1* Δ and *lsm1* Δ cells,
1076 and in all three deletion strains, respectively. Transcripts not regulated by Pat1, Lsm1, or
1077 Dhh1 were put into the *none* subgroup. Boxplots were used to depict the distributions of both

1078 the relative expression levels and the codon protection indices for transcripts in each of these
1079 subgroups. In these analyses, the relative expression levels of individual mRNAs in each of
1080 the mutant strains were determined by comparisons to the corresponding wild-type strain.
1081 The codon protection index of individual mRNAs was based on 5'P seq experiments of wild-
1082 type cells under normal growth conditions (Pelechano et al., 2015). Log₂ transformed data
1083 were used to generate all plots except for panel G, and the color codes for the boxplots
1084 include: blue for the up-regulated subgroups, red for the down-regulated subgroups, and
1085 green for transcripts not regulated by Pat1, Lsm1, or Dhh1.

1086 A to F. Boxplots showing the distributions of the relative expression levels for different
1087 subgroups in *dcp1Δ* (A), *dcp2Δ* (B), *xrn1Δ* (C), *dcp2-N245* (D), *dcp2-E153Q-N245* (E), and
1088 *dcp2-E198Q-N245* (F) cells.

1089 G. Boxplots showing the distributions of the codon protection indices for different subgroups.

1090

1091 **Figure 5. Validation of representative transcripts regulated by Pat1, Lsm1, or Dhh1.**

1092 Representative transcripts from five of the subgroups (Up-o-d, Up-o-pl, Up-a-pld, Down-o-pl,
1093 and Down-a-pld) described in Figure 4 were selected and their levels of expression in the
1094 indicated strains were analyzed by northern blotting as described in the legend to Figure 2B.
1095 For presentation purposes, the control *SCR1* blots contain duplicates and the identical blots
1096 are indicated by lower case letters (a, b, c, d, e, and f, respectively).

1097

1098 **Figure 6. Transcripts from different subgroups of mRNAs regulated by Pat1, Lsm1, and**
1099 **Dhh1 have distinct translational properties.**

1100 Boxplots were used to examine the distributions of average codon optimality scores,
1101 ribosome occupancies, and scaled protein abundances for transcripts from each of the six
1102 regulation subgroups described in Figure 4. In this analysis, codon optimality scores are
1103 based on the normalized tRNA adaptation index (Pechmann and Frydman, 2013), ribosome
1104 occupancies are based on ribosome footprint profiling data of wild-type cells under normal
1105 growth conditions (Young et al., 2015), and protein abundance scores are based on curated
1106 data in a database (Wang et al., 2015, Wang et al., 2012).

1107 **A to C.** Boxplots showing the distributions of scaled average codon optimality scores (A), and
1108 Log₂ transformed data of ribosome occupancies (B) or scaled protein abundances (C).
1109 Boxplots are color coded as described in the legend to Figure 4.

1110

1111 **Figure 7. Decapping activators have distinct targeting specificities and display**
1112 **dynamic regulation.**

1113 A. Venn diagram depicting minimal significant overlaps between transcripts targeted by the
1114 Upf factors and those targeted by Dhh1 or Pat1 and Lsm1.

1115 B. Two-dimensional clustering analysis of differentially expressed transcripts showing distinct
1116 expression patterns of yeast cells harboring deletions of the *UPF1*, *UPF2*, *UPF3*, *PAT1*,
1117 *LSM1*, or *DHH1* genes. The relative levels of individual mRNAs in the deletion strains were
1118 determined by comparisons to the corresponding wild-type strain. Log₂ transformed ratios
1119 were used for clustering analyses. The data for the NMD factors were from our previous
1120 study (Celik et al., 2017). Color coding used to represent fold change in expression employs
1121 red to indicate increases in levels and blue to indicate decreases in levels, with intermediate
1122 changes scaled to lighter versions of each color.

1123 C. Venn diagrams depicting the enrichment of NMD-targeted transcripts in the Down-o-d
1124 subgroup, but not in the Down-a-pld and Down-o-pl subgroups of mRNAs indirectly controlled
1125 by Pat1, Lsm1, and Dhh1.

1126 D. Northern blotting analysis of representative transcripts from the Down-o-d subgroup of
1127 mRNAs that are targeted by NMD. Five transcripts were selected, and northern blotting and
1128 transcript quantification were as described in the legend to Figure 2B.

1129

1130 **Figure 1-figure supplement 1. RNA-Seq libraries generated from *WT*, *dcp2-N245*, *dcp2-*
1131 *E153Q-N245*, and *dcp2-E198Q-N245* strains exhibit good correlation between three
1132 different biological replicates.**

1133 Matrices showing the Pearson correlation coefficients among three independent experiments
1134 for RNA-Seq libraries generated from *WT*, *dcp2-N245*, *dcp2-E153Q-N245*, and *dcp2-E198Q-*
1135 *N245* cells.

1136

1137 **Figure 1-figure supplement 2. Yeast transcripts stabilized by inactivating the catalytic
1138 function of Dcp2 are mostly decapping substrates.**

1139 A to D. Venn diagrams showing the extent of overlap between transcripts up-regulated in
1140 *dcp2-E153Q-N245* and *dcp2-E198Q-N245* cells and those up-regulated in *dcp1Δ* (A), *dcp2Δ*
1141 (B), *xrn1Δ* (C), or *upf1/2/3Δ* (D) cells.

1142

1143 **Figure 1-figure supplement 3. Yeast transcripts destabilized by deletion of the large
1144 Dcp2 C-terminal domain are not normally typical decapping substrates.**

1145 A to E. Venn diagrams depicting the extent of overlaps between the 264-transcript subset
1146 down-regulated only in *dcp2-N245* cells (from Figure 1C) and those up-regulated in *dcp1Δ*
1147 (A), *dcp2Δ* (B), *xrn1Δ* (C), *dcp2-E153Q-N245* (D) or *dcp2-E198Q-N245* (E) cells.

1148 F to J. Venn diagrams depicting the extent of overlaps between the entire 914-transcript set
1149 down-regulated in *dcp2-N245* cells (from Figure 1C) and those up-regulated in *dcp1Δ* (F),
1150 *dcp2Δ* (G), *xrn1Δ* (H), *dcp2-E153Q-N245* (I) or *dcp2-E198Q-N245* (J) cells.

1151

1152 **Figure 3-figure supplement 1. RNA-Seq libraries generated from *WT*, *pat1Δ*, *lsm1Δ*, and**
1153 ***dhh1Δ* strains exhibit good correlation between three different biological replicates.**

1154 Matrices showing the Pearson correlation coefficients among three independent experiments
1155 for RNA-Seq libraries generated from *WT*, *pat1Δ*, *lsm1Δ*, and *dhh1Δ* cells. Libraries from
1156 strains shown here and in Figure 1-figure supplement 1 were generated at different times and
1157 two independent wild-type controls were employed.

1158

1159

1160 **SUPPLEMENTARY FILE LEGENDS**

1161 **Supplementary Table 1. Yeast strains used in this study**

1162

1163 **Supplemental Table S2. Plasmids used in this study**

1164

1165 **Supplementary Table 3. Oligonucleotides used in this study**

1166

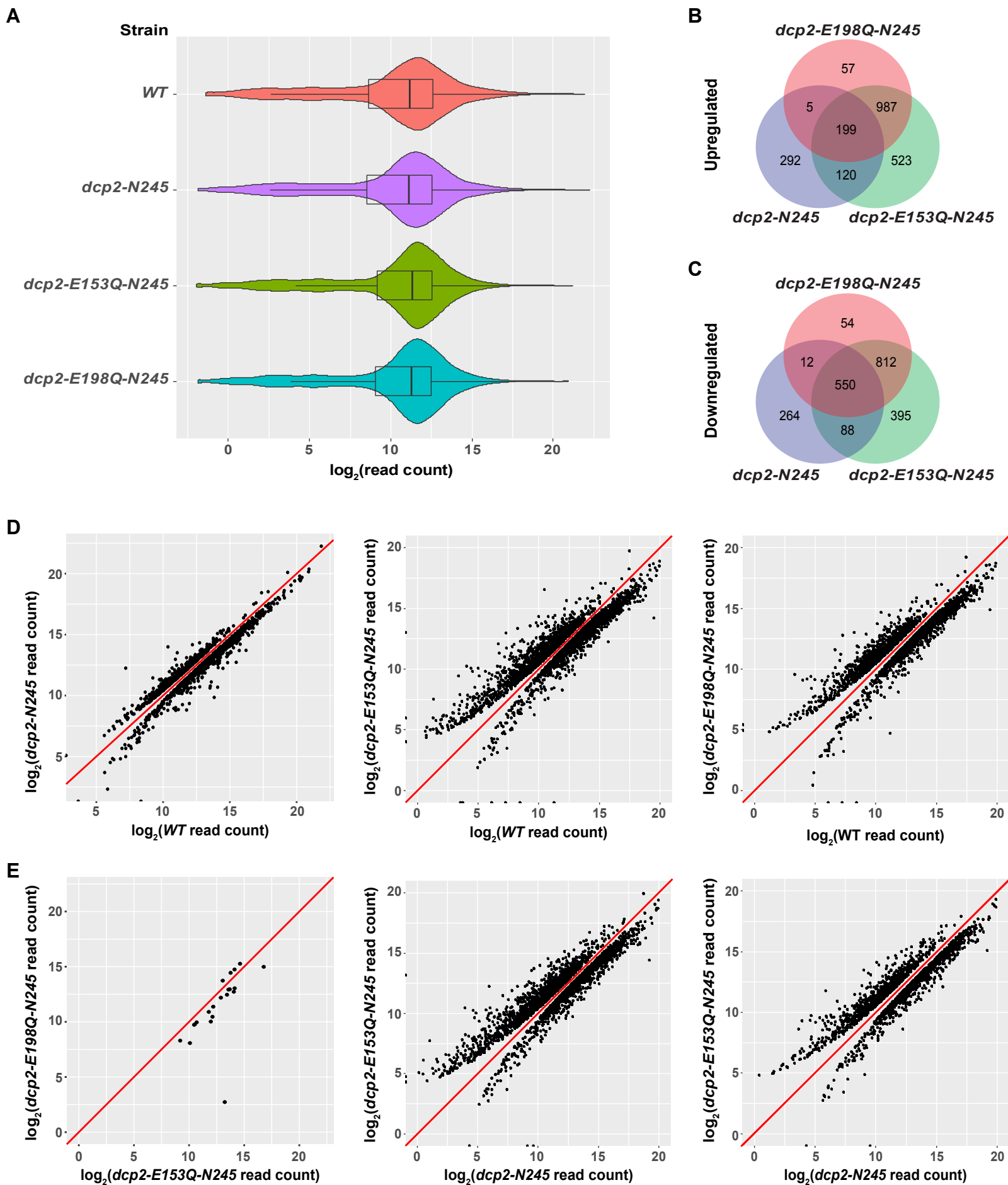


Figure 2

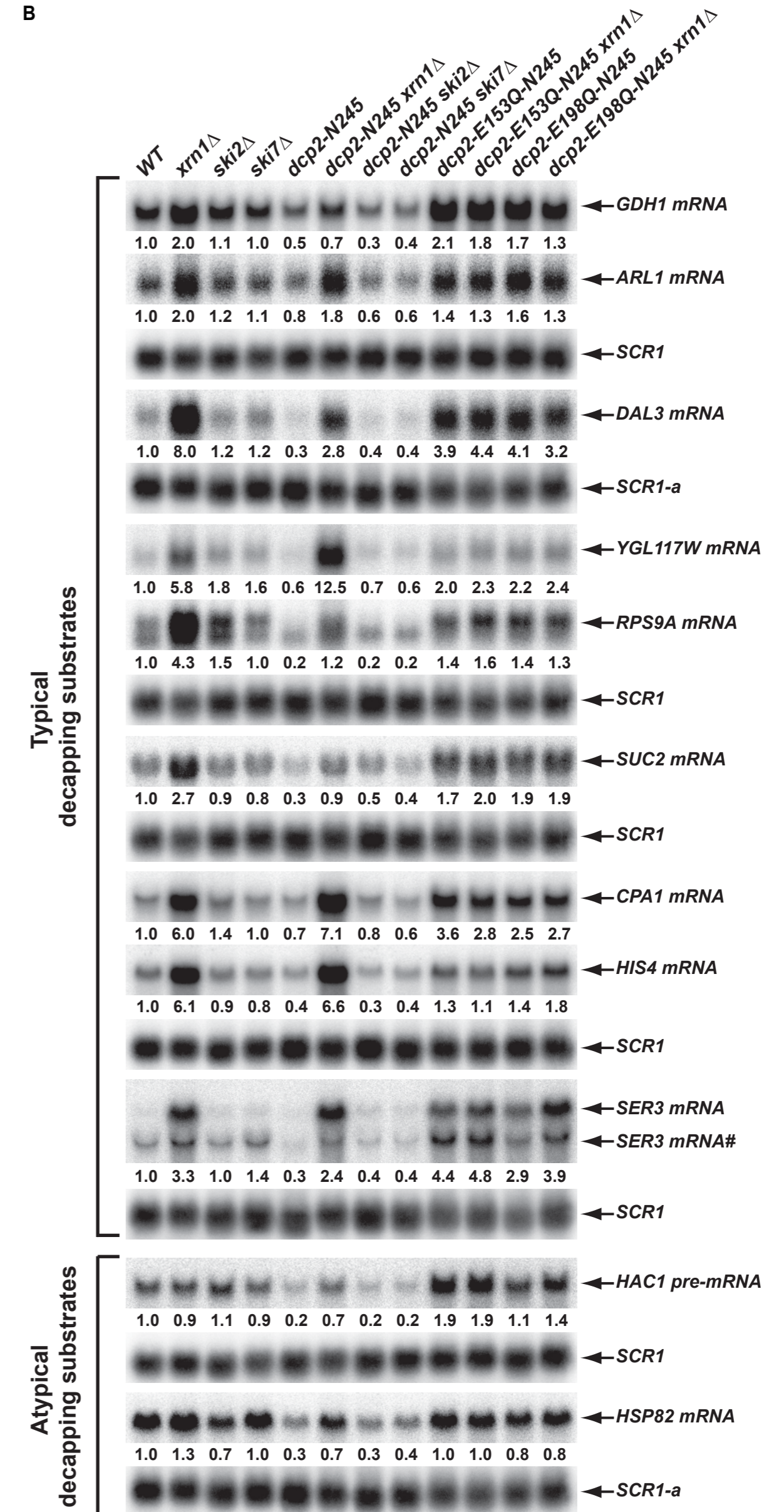
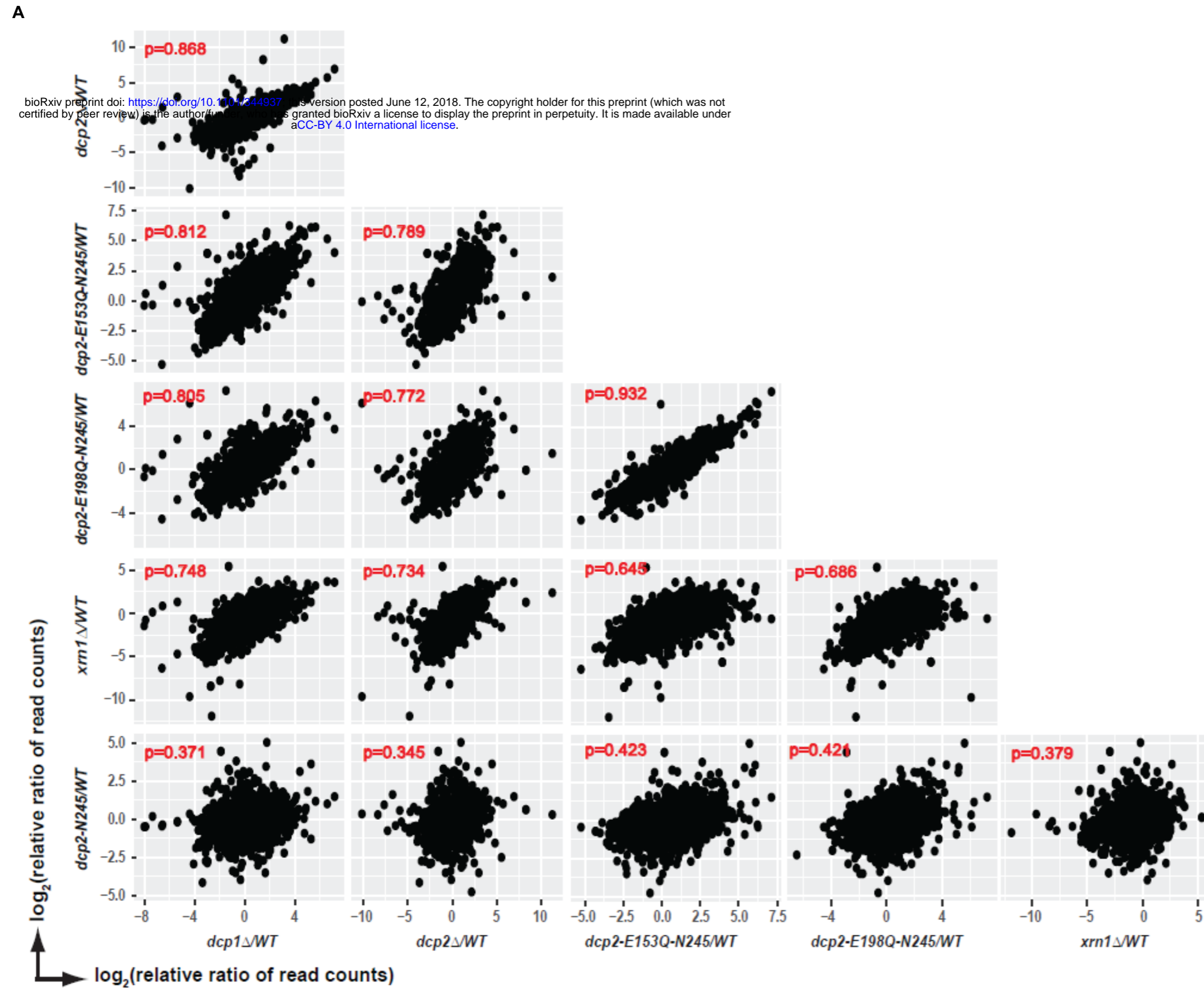


Figure 3

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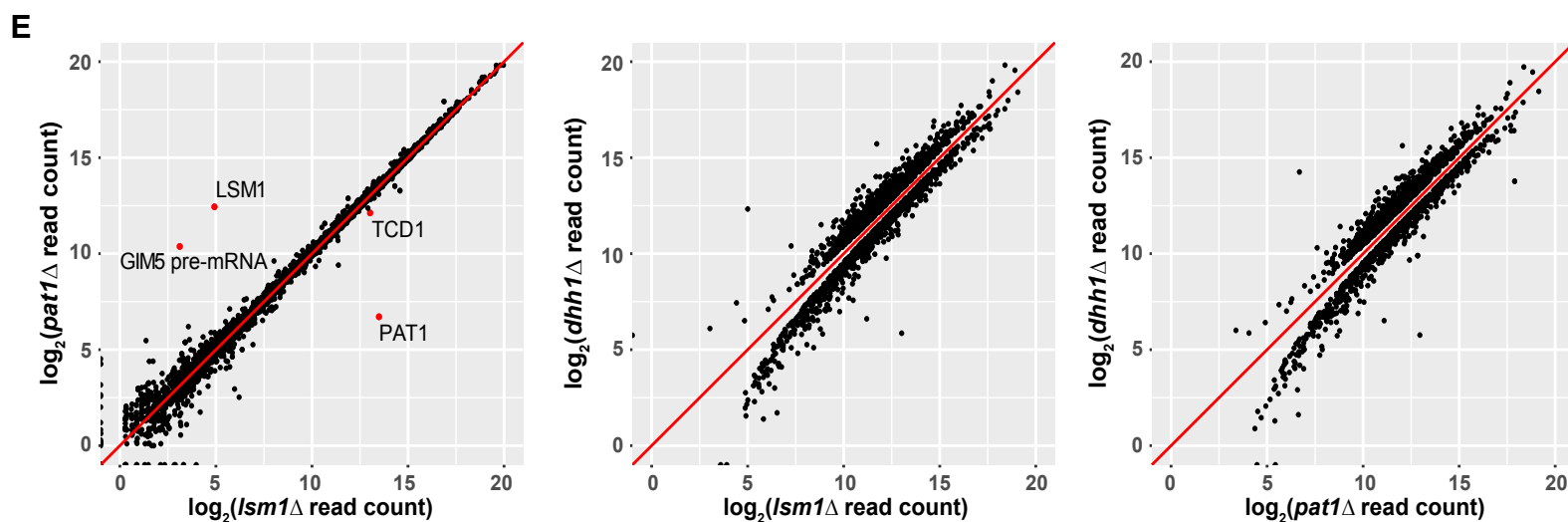
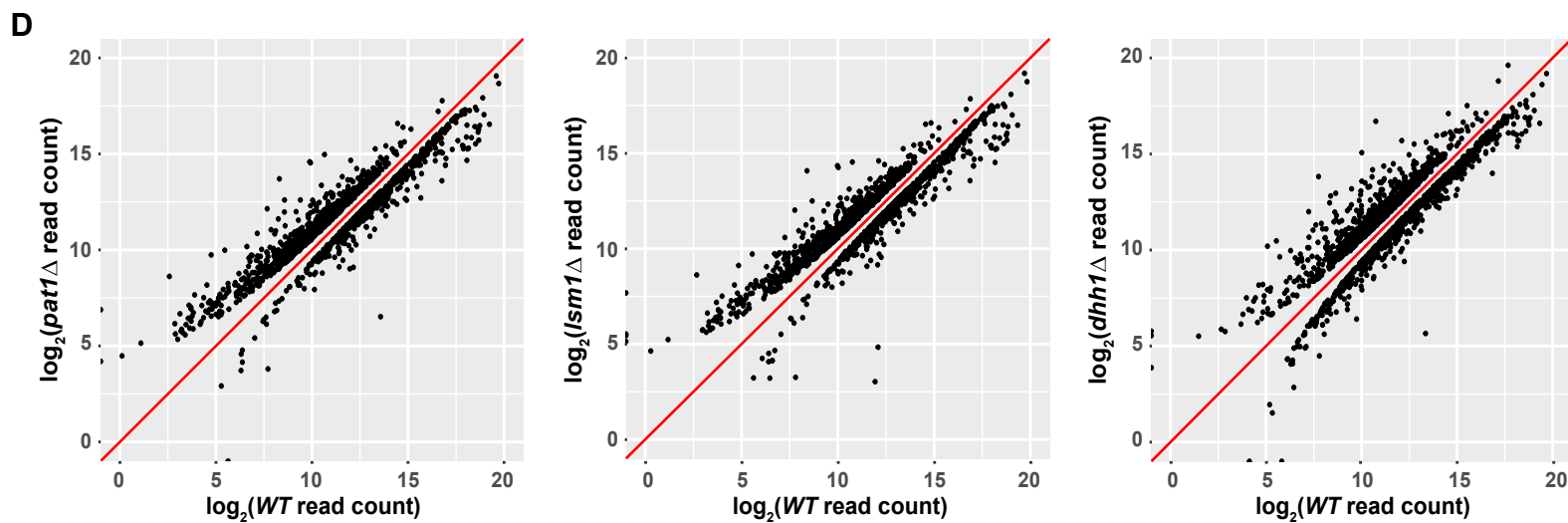
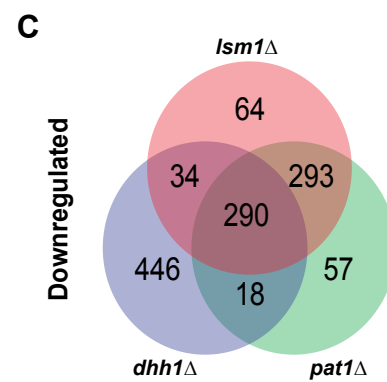
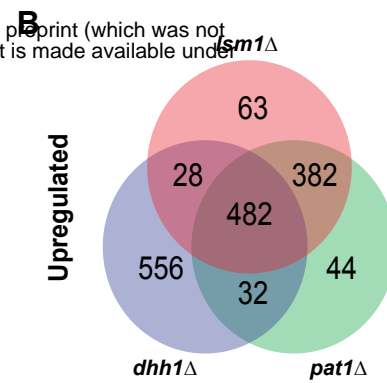
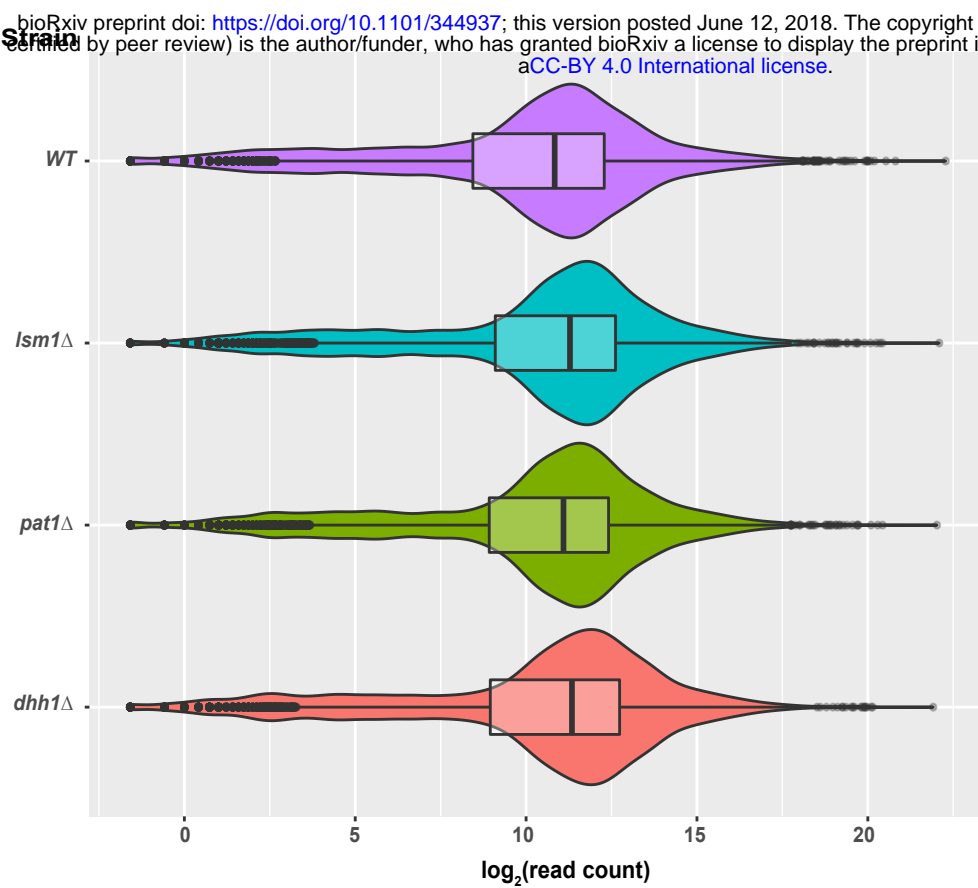


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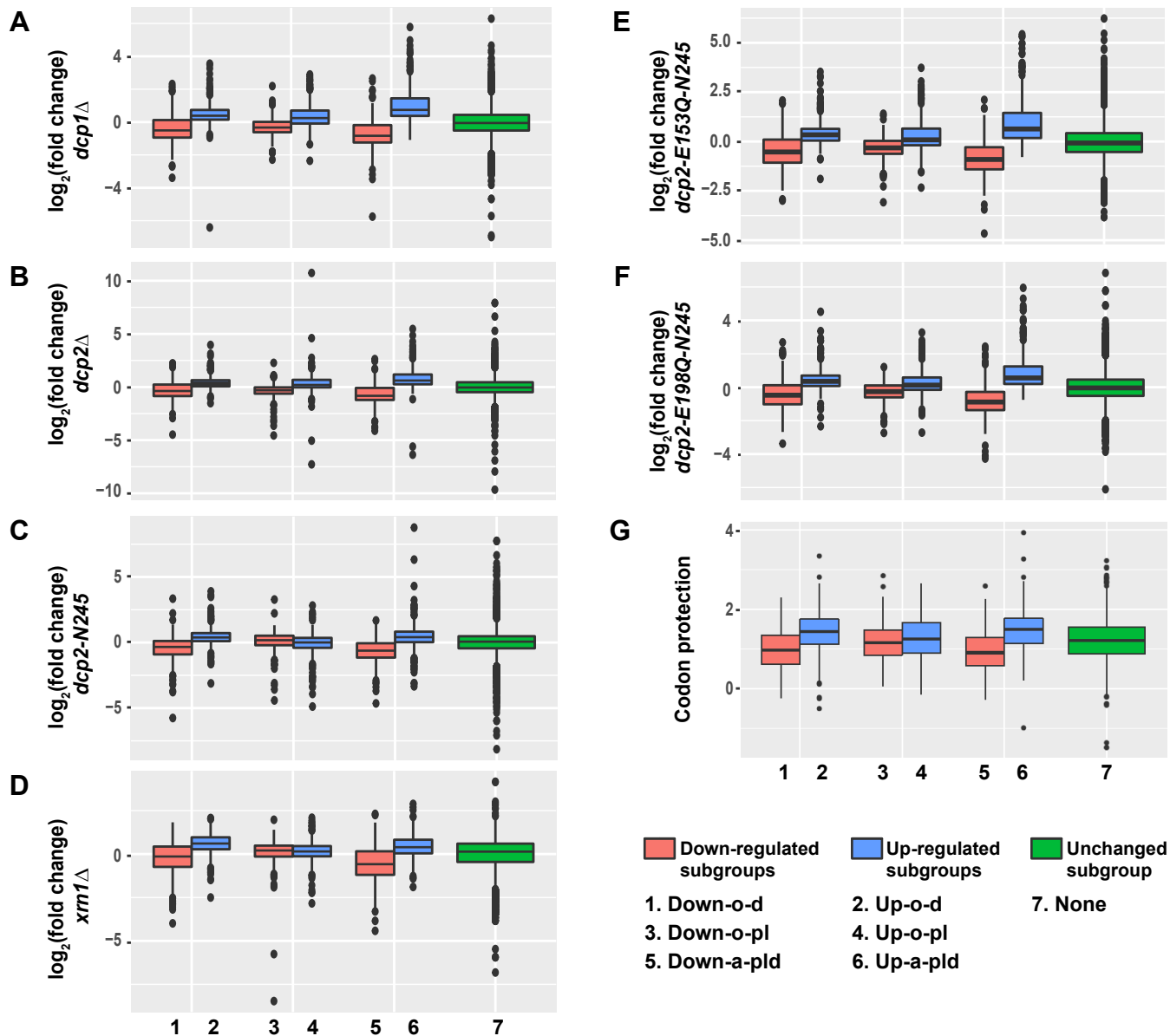


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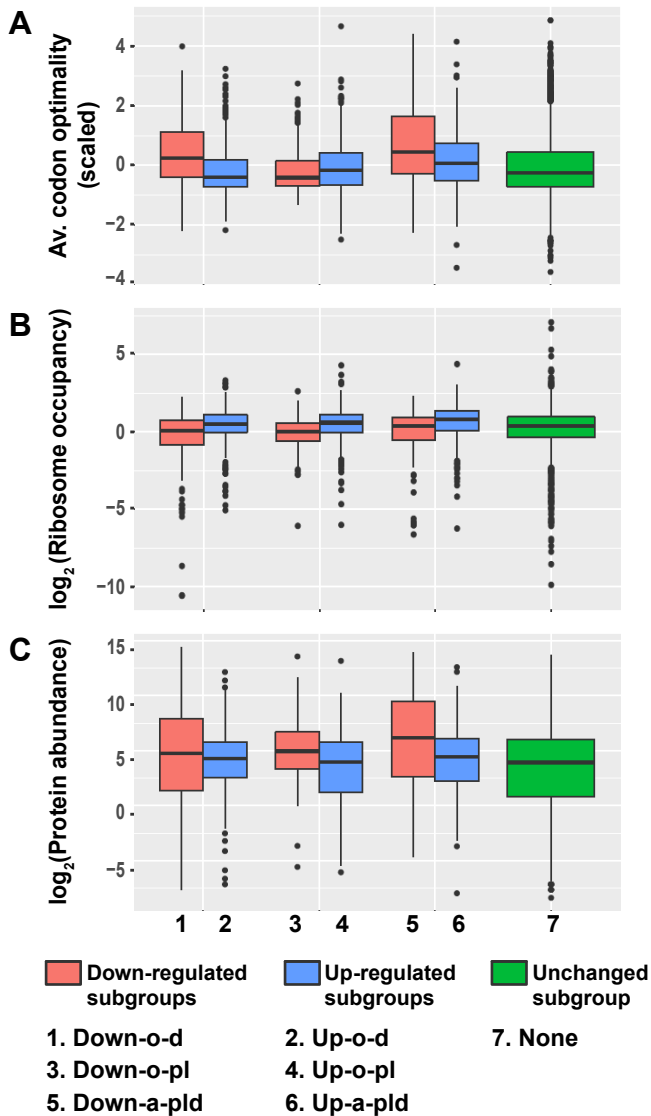


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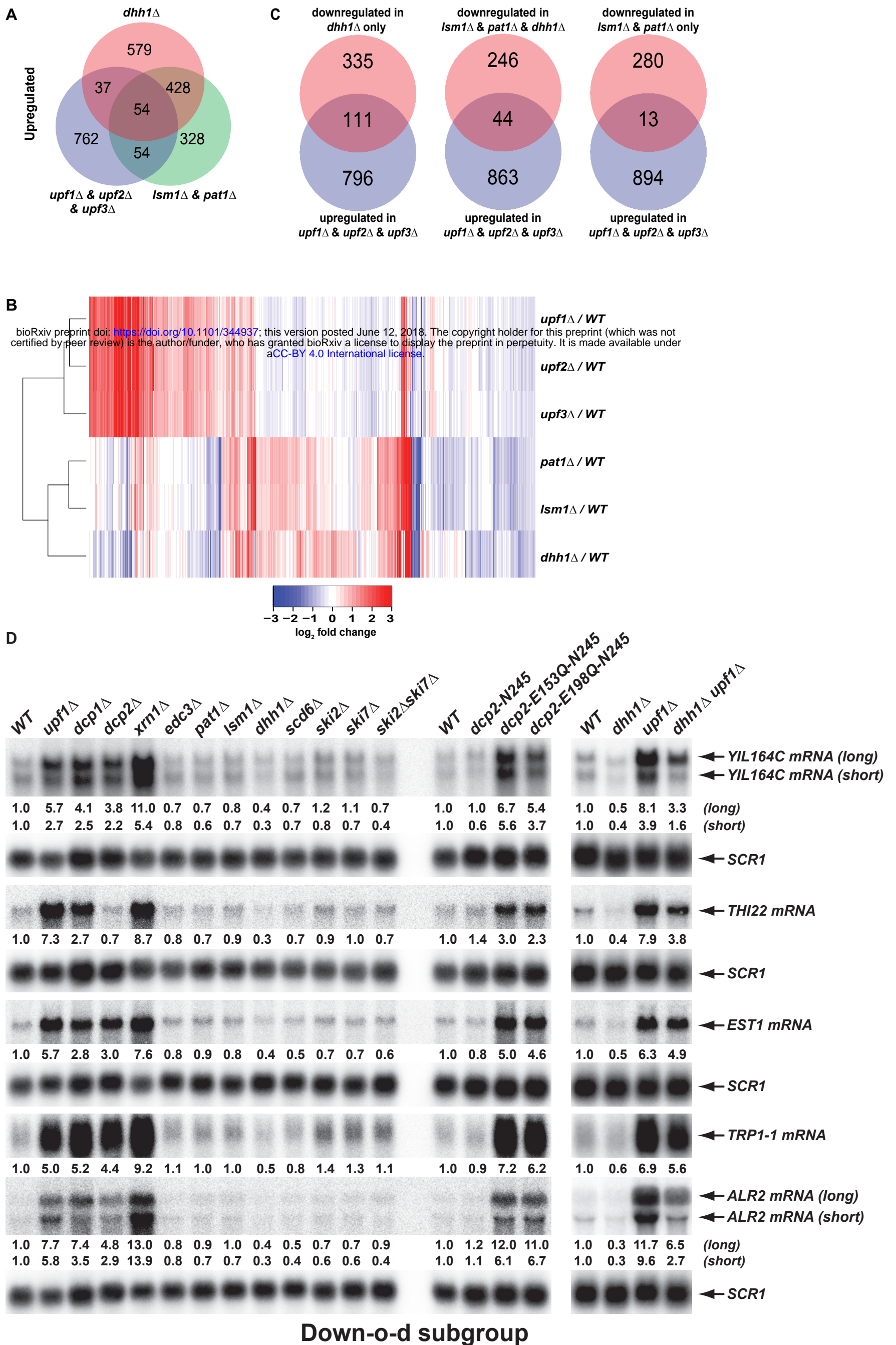


Figure 1-figure supplement 1

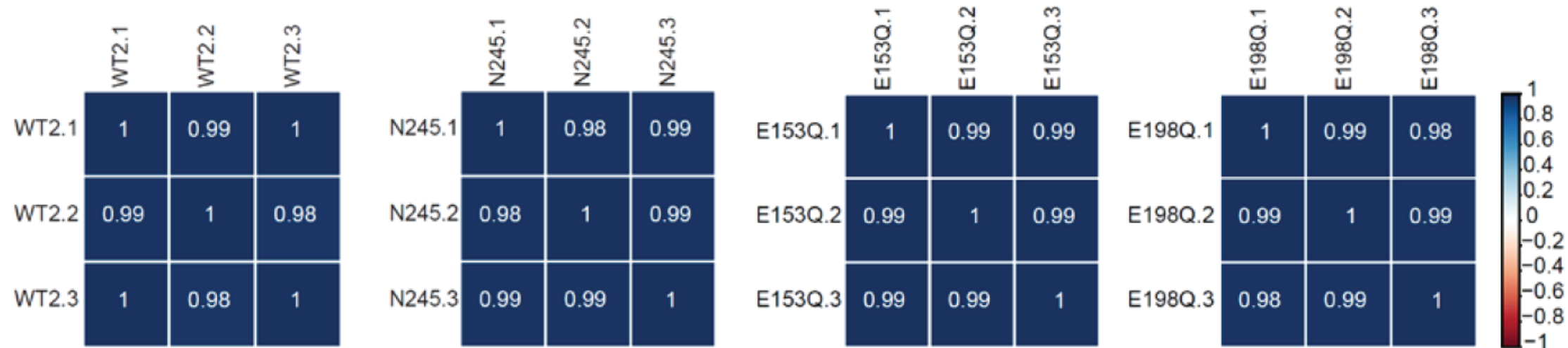


Figure 1-figure supplement 2

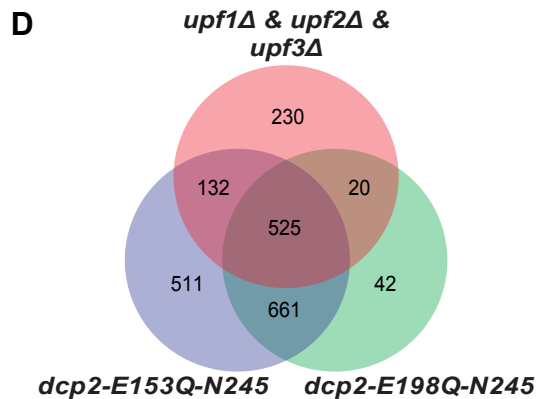
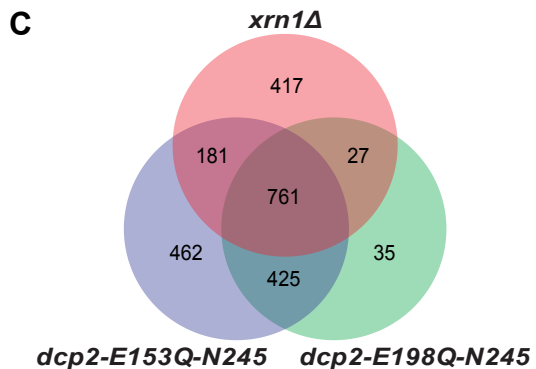
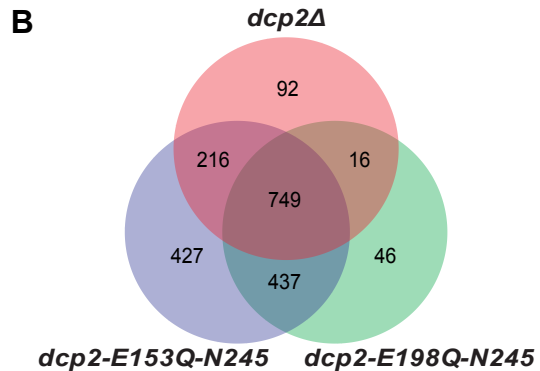
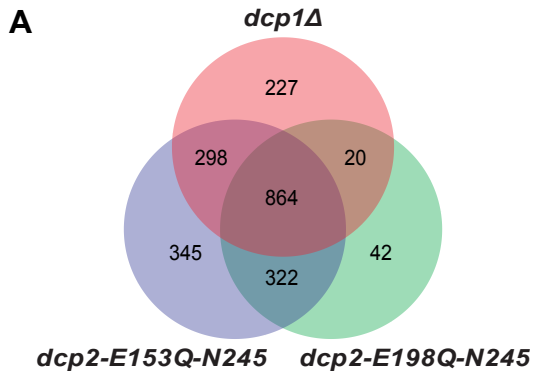


Figure 1-figure supplement 3

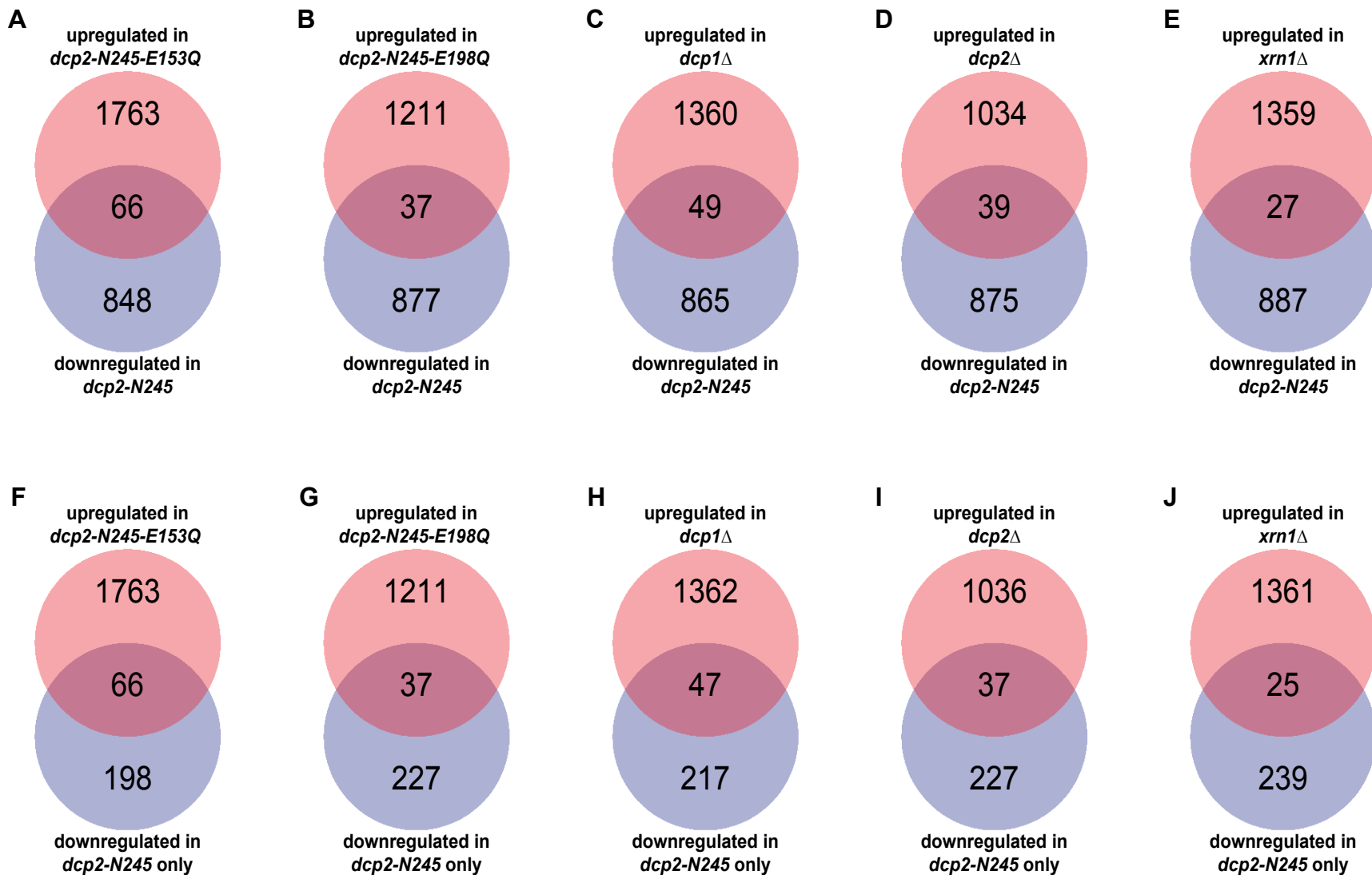
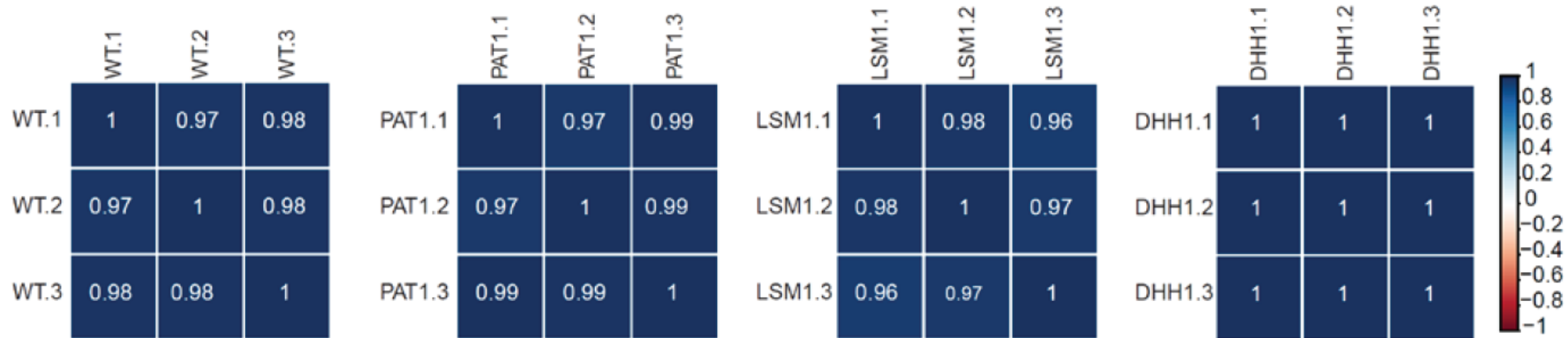


Figure 3-figure supplement 1



Supplementary Table 1. Yeast strains used in this study

Name	Genotype
HFY114	<i>MATa ade2-1 his3-11,15 leu2-3,112 trp1-1 ura3-1 can1-100</i>
SY2385	<i>MATa ade2-1 his3-11,15 leu2-3,112 trp1-1 ura3-1 can1-100 dcp2-N245::KanMX6</i>
SY2887	<i>MATa ade2-1 his3-11,15 leu2-3,112 trp1-1 ura3-1 can1-100 dcp2-N245::KanMX6 xrn1::ADE2</i>
SY2889	<i>MATa ade2-1 his3-11,15 leu2-3,112 trp1-1 ura3-1 can1-100 dcp2-N245::KanMX6 ski2::URA3</i>
SY2893	<i>MATa ade2-1 his3-11,15 leu2-3,112 trp1-1 ura3-1 can1-100 dcp2-N245::KanMX6 ski7::URA3</i>
SY2750	<i>MATa ade2-1 his3-11,15 leu2-3,112 trp1-1 ura3-1 can1-100 dcp2-E153Q-N245::KanMX6</i>
SY2897	<i>MATa ade2-1 his3-11,15 leu2-3,112 trp1-1 ura3-1 can1-100 dcp2-E153Q-N245::KanMX6 xrn1::ADE2</i>
SY2755	<i>MATa ade2-1 his3-11,15 leu2-3,112 trp1-1 ura3-1 can1-100 dcp2-E198Q-N245::KanMX6</i>
SY2901	<i>MATa ade2-1 his3-11,15 leu2-3,112 trp1-1 ura3-1 can1-100 dcp2-E198Q-N245::KanMX6 xrn1::ADE2</i>
SY2674	<i>MATa ade2-1 his3-11,15 leu2-3,112 trp1-1 ura3-1 can1-100 pat1::KanMX6</i>
SY2680	<i>MATa ade2-1 his3-11,15 leu2-3,112 trp1-1 ura3-1 can1-100 lsm1::KanMX6</i>
SY2686	<i>MATa ade2-1 his3-11,15 leu2-3,112 trp1-1 ura3-1 can1-100 dhh1::KanMX6</i>
HFY871	<i>MATa ade2-1 his3-11,15 leu2-3,112 trp1-1 ura3-1 can1-100 upf1::HIS3</i>
SY2700	<i>MATa ade2-1 his3-11,15 leu2-3,112 trp1-1 ura3-1 can1-100 upf1::HIS3 dhh1::ADE2</i>
HFY1067	<i>MATa ade2-1 his3-11,15 leu2-3,112 trp1-1 ura3-1 can1-100 dcp1::URA3</i>
CFY1016	<i>MATa ade2-1 his3-11,15 leu2-3,112 trp1-1 ura3-1 can1-100 dcp2::HIS3</i>
HFY1080	<i>MATa ade2-1 his3-11,15 leu2-3,112 trp1-1 ura3-1 can1-100 xrn1::ADE2</i>
CFY25	<i>MATa ade2-1 his3-11,15 leu2-3,112 trp1-1 ura3-1 can1-100 edc3::URA3</i>
SY2352	<i>MATa ade2-1 his3-11,15 leu2-3,112 trp1-1 ura3-1 can1-100 scd6::KanMX6</i>
HFY1170	<i>MATa ade2-1 his3-11,15 leu2-3,112 trp1-1 ura3-1 can1-100 ski2::URA3</i>
SY17	<i>MATa ade2-1 his3-11,15 leu2-3,112 trp1-1 ura3-1 can1-100 ski7::URA3</i>
SY21	<i>MATa ade2-1 his3-11,15 leu2-3,112 trp1-1 ura3-1 can1-100 ski2::URA3 ski7::ADE2</i>

Supplemental Table 2. Plasmids used in this study

Name	Allele	Description
HFE2095	Bs-Ks- <i>xrn1::ADE2</i>	Contains the <i>xrn1::ADE2</i> null allele as a <i>NotI-SalI</i> fragment
HFE2289	Bs-Ks- <i>ski2::URA3</i>	Contains the <i>ski2::URA3</i> null allele as a <i>NotI-SalI</i> fragment
HFSE26	Bs-Ks- <i>ski7::URA3</i>	Contains the <i>ski7::URA3</i> null allele as a <i>NotI-SalI</i> fragment
HFSE28	Bs-Ks- <i>ski7::ADE2</i>	Contains the <i>ski7::ADE2</i> null allele as a <i>NotI-SalI</i> fragment
HFSE1387	Bs-Ks- <i>dhh1::ADE2</i>	Contains the <i>dhh1::ADE2</i> null allele as a <i>NotI-SalI</i> fragment
HFSE1066	Bs-Ks- <i>scd6::KanMX6</i>	Contains the <i>scd6::KanMX6</i> null allele as a <i>NotI-SalI</i> fragment
HFSE1147	Bs-Ks- <i>dcp2-N245-KanMX6</i>	Described previously in He and Jacobson (2015)
HFSE1581	Bs-Ks- <i>dcp2-E153Q-N245-KanMX6</i>	Contains the <i>dcp2-E153Q-N245</i> allele as a <i>NotI-XhoI</i> fragment, same as HFSE1147 but contains glutamic acid to glutamine change at codon position 153
HFSE1583	Bs-Ks- <i>dcp2-E198Q-N245-KanMX6</i>	Contains the <i>dcp2-E153Q-N245</i> allele as a <i>NotI-XhoI</i> fragment, same as HFSE1147 but contains glutamic acid to glutamine change at codon position 198

Supplementary Table 3. Oligonucleotides used in this study

Name	Sequences
CIT2-1-F	ATGACAGTTCCTTATCTAAATTCAAACAGA
CIT2-500-R	GCAGTTACAGCAATAGAGAA TTGAGCCATT
SDS23-1-F	ATGCCTCAAAA TACAAGACACACGTCCATC
SDS23-500-R	ATCTTGTCGTTGCTCACCTTGATCCTGTTT
HOS2-1-F	ATGTCTGGAACA TTTAGTTA TGATGTGAAA
HOS2-500-R	CCAGA TGGACTA TTCTTTTTT GCA TGA TGA
PYK2-1-F	ATGCCAGAGTCCAGA TTGCA GAGACTAGCT
PYK2-500-R	ACCCTTAAATTA GATTCGTCAA TGATTTGG
DIF1-1-F	ATGGACGCACA AACTGGAATGGGCAAGCAGC
DIF1-400-R	AAAGTCTTCTCTTGGATCCA TTAACCA TTG
AGA1-1-F	ATGACATTA TCTTTCGCTCATTTTACCTAC
AGA1-500-R	GAGATTA TAGAGGCACTTGATGGTTCAA TG
BUR6-1-F	ATGGCAGATCAAGTACCA GTTACAACACAA
BUR6-429-R	TCA GGCACTCTCTTCTCCGGTTG TGT TTTGG
LSM3-1-F	ATGGAGACACCTTTGGA TTTA TTGAAACTC
LSM3-270-R	TTATA TCTCCACTGCGCCATCGTCACTTTC
HXT6-1-F	ATGTCAACAAGACGCTGCTATTGCA GAGCAA
HXT6-470-R	ATACCGA TGA TGTAGA TGACAACAACGACA
GPH1-1F	ATGCCGCCA GCTAGTACTA G TACTACCAAT
GPH1-500-R	TCA TCCAAA GCCCCTTTAA TCA TTTCTCTT
HXK1-60-F	AAGGAA TTGATGGA TGAAATTCA TCA GTTG
HXK1-480-R	TGGGTA CGAGAA GGTGAAA CCTAA TGGTAA
CHA1-1-F	ATGTGATA GTCTACAATAAAA CACCATTA
CHA1-500-R	TGTTGCGATTTCAAATCTTG TACTATTTCA
RTC3-1-F	ATGTCTACTGTAA CCAAA TACTTTTACAAG
RTC3-336-R	TCAA TTGTAGGCTTTGGTTCGGCGTTACC
NQM1-481-F	AAGCATGGTATTCA TTGTAATA TGACATTA
NQM1-1002-R	TCACATTTTTTCTTCA ACCAGTTTG TACAG
PGM2-1201-F	TTGAA CATCTTGGCCATTTA CAACAAGCAT
PGM2-1710-R	TTAAGTACGAA CCGTTGGTCTTCA GTTCC
TMA10-1-F	ATGACCA GAACTA GCAAA TGGACA GTCCAC
TMA10-260-R	TAGATGTGGTATTGTTGCAAA TCAGAAAGC
GAD1-1-F	ATGTTACA CAGGCACGTTCTAAGCAGAAG
GAD1-480-R	CAACA TGA TTGCCTCACTAGA ACCTGTGGT
SPG4-1-F	ATGGGTA GTTTTTGGGACGCA TTCGCA GTA
SPG4-340-R	TTACTTTA TTGTCGGG TCCCCCTCTCA
MUP3-1-F	ATGGAA CCGCTGCTTTTTAA TAGTGGGAAA
MUP3-500-R	ACGATAGA TCCCGTCAA TGCA TAGCCAGTT
GTT2-1-F	ATGAA TGGCAGAGGTTTCCTGATTTACAA
GTT2-500-R	TCAAAA TAATGCA TTCCA TGTA GGGCTTTG
RPP1A-1-F	ATGTCTACTGAA TCCGCTTTGTCTTACGCC
RPP1A-321-R	CTAA TCAAAA TAAACCGAA ACCCATGTGCTC
TMA19-1-F	ATGATTA TTTACAAGGATA TCTTCTCTAAC
TMA19-500-R	ATCTTTTCTTCCACAA TACCGTGCTTCCAG
GPD2-1-F	ATGCTTGCTGTCA GAAGATTAACAAGATAC
GPD2-500-R	GCACCCTTGA TGGAGTGTA AAAAGATCAGGA

YIL164C-F	AAGGGAGGAGTATGCTAAGTATCT
YIL164C-R	CTAAATAGGCCTAGCATCCACCGT
THI22-F	GATTAATGTGAGAGTTTGCTGCGTC
THI22-R	GCGGTCCAGAAATTAGTTTCTAAT
EST1-F	GAAATGTGTTCTGCGAATTAGATCA
EST1-R	AGGAGTATCTGGCACTTGGACGGT
TRP1-1-F	ATGTCTGTATTAAATTTCAACGGTAGTTCT
TRP1-675-R	CTATTTCTTAGCATTTTTGACGAAATTTGC
ALR2-1-F	ATGTCGTCCCTTATCCACTTCAATTTGATTCAT
ALR2-500-R	TTGCATCTGTACTTGACGTACCGGCAAGGT
GDH1-F	GAAACTGGTATCACCTCCGAAACAAGTCGC
GDH1-R	TTAAAAATACATCACCTTGGTCAAAACATAGC
ARL1-F	ATGGGTAAACATTTTTAGTTCAATGTTTGAC
ARL1-R	CTATAACTGTTCTCTTTTATAACATCAAT
DAL3-F	ATGGTGACCGTGGTGGCGGAGACATTGACG
DAL3-R	TTAGATGATAATACAAACGTCGCCATCGCT
YGL117W-F	ATGCAGCCAAATTTCAAATAAAGATGTGGAA
YGL117W-R	TCAATAAACCTTCTATGAGTTATTTTAAG
RPS9A-Exon-F	GAGCCCCAAGAACATATCCAAAGACTTACT
RPS9A-Exon-R	TTATTTCTTCAATCGGCTCATCAGCTTCATC
SUC2-F	TGAACACTGAAATCAAGCTAATCCAGAGA
SUC2-R	CTATTTTACTTCCCTTACTTGGAACTTGTCT
CPA1-F	TATGATTACAGAAATCAAGATGTTGCTTCT
CPA1-R	TTAGAACAACTCTTTCCCTTGGCCAACTT
SER3-F	CCACAAATTTGCTGCTATGAAGGATGGCGCT
SER3-R	TTAATAATAGCAATCTAATGAGATCTTAGC
HAC1-I-662-F	CCGTGATTACGATGACCAAGGAACTACAGT
HAC1-I-913-R	CGGACAGTACAAAGCAAGCCGTCCATTTCTT
HSP82-F	ACTCAATGAAAGGAAATCGAAAGGTAATACT
HSP82-R	CTAACTACCTCTTCCATTTCCGGTGTCAAGC
XRN1-DS5	CGCCACCGCAGAGCAAGTAACAACAGAGAC
XRN1-DS6	ACTGCCTCGAGTCTGACGATAGAAGACCCCT
SKI2-DS1	AAATCTAGAAATTAATCTTCAACGACTGAGAAAGAA
SKI2-DS2	AGAGGATCCATAAATAGTATTAAGTACAGTAAA
SKI2-DS3	AAATGATCCATAATCGATAGAGCTCATTTATCTCAATGTGA
SKI2-DS4	TAAATCGACAATACCAATTTTCGCCTATCTTACC
Ski7-1(ATG-up-500)	AAATGCGGCGCAACTGGATATTTGATGCGCCTAGCG
Ski7-2' (ATG-up)	CGAGGAGGTGGTCTTCGAAAATTAAGATCCCGGATCGATAATT
Ski7-3 (TAA-down)	AAATATCGATCCTACAACTAAGAAATTAATACTAGGCA
Ski7-4 (TAA-down-500)	TGTTTTACTTCGTCTTGACAGT TTCTGTGACAAATT
DHH1-DS1	GATCGCGGCCGCTTCGTAAAGAAAAAGACAACACAATCTTAG
DHH1-DS2	GATCCATGGAGATCTTACTACTATTTTCTTTCTTGTCGATTTTAA
DHH1-DS3	GATCCATGGGAAATTCAGAAATCTAAGAAAAAATAACTACTGTGG
DHH1-DS4	GATCGTCGACATGAAACTGGGCAAGTGCACCTTGAGCTCTT
SCD6-DS1	GATCGCGGCCGCCACATCTTCTTGTCTTCTTATTTACCA
SCD6-DS2	GATCGAAATTCATGATCTTGCCTTGTCTGTTTTTCGATGAATGCTT
SCD6-DS3	GATCGAAATTCATGATGTTTTCTATGTAATAAAGTATATC
SCD6-DS4	GATCGTCGACTAACCAATTTGGCCATCAAACTTTACGAAAA
