

1 **RNA-DNA hybrids on protein coding genes are stabilized by loss of RNase H and are associated**
2 **with DNA damages during S-phase in fission yeast.**

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24 **Abstract**

25

26 RNA-DNA hybrid is a part of the R-loop which is an important non-standard nucleic acid structure.
27 RNA-DNA hybrid/R-loop causes genomic instability by inducing DNA damages or inhibiting DNA
28 replication. It also plays biologically important roles in regulation of transcription, replication,
29 recombination and repair. Here, we have employed catalytically inactive human RNase H1 mutant
30 (D145N) to visualize RNA-DNA hybrids and map their genomic locations in fission yeast cells. The
31 RNA-DNA hybrids appear as multiple nuclear foci in *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* cells lacking cellular RNase H
32 activity, but not in the wild-type. The majority of RNA-DNA hybrid loci are detected at the protein
33 coding regions and tRNA. In *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* cells, cells with multiple Rad52 foci increase during S-
34 phase and about 20% of the RNA-DNA hybrids overlap with Rad52 loci. During S-phase, more robust
35 association of Rad52 with RNA-DNA hybrids was observed in the protein coding region than in M-
36 phase. These results suggest that persistent RNA-DNA hybrids in the protein coding region in
37 *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* cells generate DNA damages during S-phase, potentially through collision with DNA
38 replication forks.

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41 **Introduction**

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43 The genomic stability is tightly regulated through multiple layers of mechanisms, including rapid
44 detection of stalled replication forks and DNA damages, and repair of any lesions on the genome, to
45 prevent mutations and detrimental gene rearrangement. Genomic instability is induced by DNA
46 damage caused through exogenous incidents, UV irradiation and DNA damaging drugs, or through
47 endogenous cellular events during the course of DNA replication and transcription. Double-strand
48 breaks (DSB) are repaired through two major pathways, homologous recombination (HR) and non-
49 homologous end joining (NHEJ). These pathways are well conserved from yeast to human. The HR
50 pathway accurately repairs DSBs and is essential for maintaining genomic stability. In this pathway,
51 DNA double-strand breaks are recognized and resected by the Mre11-Rad50-Nbs1 complex, and the
52 single-strand DNA overhangs are generated. The exposed single strand DNA is coated with single
53 strand binding protein RPA, and the Rad52 heptamer replaces RPA with Rad51 recombinase. Rad51-
54 DNA filaments invade into the homologous sister chromatid and form D-loops. The invading DNA
55 strand is extended on the sister chromatid strands by a DNA polymerase for repair of DSB (Scully,
56 Panday, Elango, & Willis, 2019). Failure in this process increases genomic instability, ultimately
57 leading to cancer and neurodegenerative disorders.

58

59 RNA-DNA hybrid is a part of R-loop and is associated with various important cellular functions
60 including genomic DNA replication, mitochondrial DNA replication, transcription, telomere
61 maintenance and recombination such as immunoglobulin class switching in B cells (Yu, Chedin, Hsieh,
62 Wilson, & Lieber, 2003). On the other hand, unscheduled occurrence of RNA-DNA hybrids on the
63 genome is known to cause genomic instability (Rondón & Aguilera, 2019). Therefore, the regulation
64 of RNA-DNA hybrid formation and resolution must be tightly controlled to maintain genome stability.
65 RNA-DNA hybrids are eliminated by ribonuclease H (RNase H). Other helicases can also resolve
66 RNA-DNA hybrids. These include senataxin (SETX) (Mischo et al., 2011; Skourti-Stathaki, Proudfoot,
67 & Gromak, 2011), Aquarius (AQR) (Sollier et al., 2014), WRN RecQ like helicase (WRN), BLM
68 RecQ like helicase (BLM), regulator of telomere elongation helicase 1 (RTEL1) (Kotsantis et al.,
69 2020), PIF1 (Chib, Byrd, & Raney, 2016; Osmundson, Kumar, Yeung, & Smith, 2017), ATRX, and
70 FA complementation group M (FANCM). Mutations in these genes cause aberrant accumulation of
71 RNA-DNA hybrids in cells, increasing genomic instability.

72

73 In mammalian cells, RNase H is encoded by RNase H1 and RNase H2 (Cerritelli & Crouch, 2009).
74 RNase H1 degrades RNA-DNA hybrids by hydrolyzing the RNA strands (Cerritelli & Crouch, 2009;
75 Nowotny, Gaidamakov, Crouch, & Yang, 2005; Nowotny et al., 2007). RNase H2 consists of three
76 subunits (Crow et al., 2006; Jeong, Backlund, Chen, Karavanov, & Crouch, 2004) and can remove

77 ribonucleoside monophosphates (rNMPs) misincorporated into DNA in addition to degrading RNA
78 strand of RNA-DNA hybrid (Cerritelli & Crouch, 2009; Hiller et al., 2012; Reijns et al., 2012; Sparks
79 et al., 2012). RNase H1 is constitutively expressed throughout cell cycle, while RNase H2 is expressed
80 at a higher level from late S to G2-phase in budding yeast (Lockhart et al., 2019). Thus, cellular RNA-
81 DNA hybrid levels are tightly regulated.

82

83 Defects in RNase H activity cause accumulation of pathogenic R-loop or RNA-DNA hybrids that can
84 block replication fork progression, resulting in Replication-Transcription Conflicts (RTC) (Helmrich,
85 Ballarino, & Tora, 2011). RNase H1 knockout mice are embryonic lethal due to the effect on
86 mitochondrial DNA replication (Cerritelli et al., 2003; Lima et al., 2016). Mutations in RNase H2 are
87 known to cause Aicardi-Goutières syndrome (AGS) (Crow et al., 2006).

88

89 In this study, by using *Schizosaccharomyces pombe* (*S. pombe*) as a model, we determined the genomic
90 profiles of RNA-DNA hybrids/ R-loops and examined if they are associated with DNA damages. We
91 show that RNA-DNA hybrids form nuclear foci in the RNase H mutant. Approximately 80% of the
92 RNA-DNA hybrids by ChIP-seq was detected at the Protein coding region and tRNA. 37 or 20% of
93 the RNA-DNA hybrid peaks are associated with DNA damages detected by Rad52 in wild-type or
94 RNase H mutant cells, respectively. Cells with multiple Rad52 foci increase during S-phase in the
95 RNase H mutant and Rad52 association increase around the RNA-DNA hybrids in the protein coding
96 region during S-phase, suggesting that RTC may cause DNA damages.

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103 **Results**

104
105 **Identification of RNA-DNA hybrids in *S. pombe* using human catalytic inactive RNASE H1**
106 **probe.**

107 To identify RNA-DNA hybrids in *S. pombe*, we utilized human catalytically inactive RNASE H1. The
108 active center in the catalytic domain of RNASE H1 has been identified at the residues D145, E186 or
109 D210 (Nowotny et al., 2008; Nowotny et al., 2007; Wu, Lima, & Crooke, 2001). The D145N mutant
110 of human RNASE H1 does not degrade RNA-DNA hybrids, but can still recognize and bind to RNA-
111 DNA hybrids. We used the D145N mutant of RNASE H1 as the probe for RNA-DNA hybrids.
112 Residues 1-26 amino acids containing the mitochondrial targeting sequence (MTS) were eliminated,
113 replaced with the nuclear localization signal (NLS), and 3×FLAG were fused to the C-terminus. This
114 probe was expressed under the inducible nmt41 (No Message in Thiamine 1) promoter on pREP41
115 (**Figure S1a**). The plasmid was transformed into wild-type, *rnh1Δ*, *rnh201Δ*, and *rnh1Δrnh201Δ*
116 strains. *rnh1* encodes RNase H1 that degrades RNA strand on RNA-DNA hybrids. *rnh201* encodes
117 RNase H2A, one of the subunits in the heterotrimeric complex of the RNase H2. RNase H2 removes
118 single rNMPs in RNA-DNA hybrids for ribonucleotide excision repair (RER) activity and can degrade
119 the RNA strand of RNA-DNA hybrid. Expression of the RNASE H1(D145N) probe was induced for
120 18 h in medium without thiamine and its expression was confirmed by western blotting analysis
121 (**Figure S1b**).

122
123 Next, we fused EGFP to NLS-RNASE H1(D145N) at the C-terminus to visualize the RNA-DNA
124 hybrids formed in the cells. The expression of RNASE H1(D145N)-EGFP was induced for 18 h in
125 medium without thiamine. RNASE H1(D145N)-EGFP signals were detected in the nuclei, and the
126 stronger signals were observed in the nucleoli, which was weakly stained with Hoechst 33342.
127 Nucleoplasmic foci were detected in *rnh1Δ* cells, but not in the wild-type or barely in *rnh201Δ* cells.
128 The numbers of the cells with multiple foci dramatically increased in the *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* cells
129 compared to *rnh1Δ* or *rnh201Δ* cells (**Figure 1a,b**). The results suggested that this probe could detect
130 the RNA-DNA hybrids that were not resolved due to the lack of RNase H1 and RNase H2 functions.
131 Cell shapes were elongated in *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* cells accumulating DNA damage as reported (Zhao, Zhu,
132 Limbo, & Russell, 2018). Furthermore, nuclei were also stretched in the elongated cells. We validated
133 the detected foci by examining whether exogenous expression of a RNase HI would diminish the
134 signals. Indeed, the expression of *E. coli* RNase HI decreased the number of observed RNA-DNA
135 hybrid foci in *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* cells (**Figure 1c,d**). These results show that the RNASE H1(D145N)-
136 EGFP probe can recognize and visualize RNA-DNA hybrid in fission yeast cells.

137
138 **RNA-DNA hybrid signals do not increase in RNA/DNA helicase mutant strains.**

139 RNA-DNA hybrids are known to be resolved by helicases, including Sen1, a homologue of senataxin
140 (SETX) encoding an RNA/DNA helicase (Kim, Choe, & Seo, 1999), Rqh1, a RecQ type DNA helicase
141 (Ahmad, Kaplan, & Stewart, 2002), and Srs2 (Rhind et al., 2011), a DNA helicase in the UvrD
142 subfamily. We tested whether RNA-DNA hybrid foci would be affected in these helicase defective
143 mutants. RNASE H1(D145N)-EGFP was expressed in these mutants and the cells were observed
144 under fluorescence microscope (**Figure S2**). The nucleoplasmic RNA-DNA hybrid foci, observed in
145 RNase H mutants, were not observed. The results suggest that these helicases would unwind RNA-
146 DNA hybrids rather locally at specific loci, but not extensively, in comparison to the RNase H that
147 would degrade RNA-DNA hybrids more extensively along the genome.

148

149 **RNASE H1(D145N) probe recognizes RNA-DNA hybrids in *S. pombe*.**

150 We observed that the number of RNA-DNA hybrid foci increased in living *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* cells
151 compared to wild-type cells. Next, we mapped the RNA-DNA hybrid forming loci by chromatin
152 immunoprecipitation (ChIP) seq using the RNASE H1(D145N) in wild-type and *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* cells
153 to compare the RNA-DNA hybrid peaks in each strain. The wild-type or *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* cells
154 harboring pREP41-NLS-RNASE H1(D145N)-3×FLAG was used for ChIP-seq analyses. ChIP-seq
155 data show that the peaks on some gene loci detected in *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* cells exhibited higher peak
156 intensity than that in wild-type cells (**Figure 2a**) The total numbers of RNase H1(D145N)-3×FLAG
157 peaks detected was 322 and 496 in wild-type and *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* cells, respectively.

158 We conducted by ChIP-qPCR to validate whether detected peaks were RNA-DNA hybrid and confirm
159 the peak intensity fluctuation. The result shows that the IP efficiency increased in *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* cells
160 compared to the wild-type at most of loci observed in ChIP-seq result (**Figure 2b**). It was reported
161 that RNA-DNA hybrid peaks detected by DNA-RNA immunoprecipitation (DRIP)-seq at the tRNA
162 region were higher in *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* cells compared to the wild-type cells (El Hage, Webb, Kerr, &
163 Tollervey, 2014), consistent with the results shown in this study. To test whether the detected RNA-
164 DNA hybrids were resolved by co-expression of exogenous RNase H, we expressed RNase HI
165 derived from *E. coli* in both wild-type and the *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* cells expressing the RNASE H1(D145N)
166 probe and then performed ChIP-qPCR (**Figure 2c**). IP efficiencies at almost all the sites in the
167 *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* cells decreased significantly, to the levels exhibited in the wild-type cells. These results
168 led us to conclude that the peaks detected by the RNASE H1(D145N) probe represent RNA-DNA
169 hybrids.

170

171 **RNA-DNA hybrids accumulate at protein coding region in RNase H mutant.**

172 Next, we conducted detailed analyses of RNA-DNA hybrids on the genome. The peaks of 3×FLAG
173 as a negative control were detected at 22 and 46 loci in wild-type and *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* cells, respectively.
174 These peaks, except for one locus in *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* cells, overlapped with the peaks of RNA-DNA

175 hybrid. The overlapping peaks were eliminated as non-specific peaks. As a result, we identified 300
176 and 451 peaks of RNA-DNA hybrid in wild-type and *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* cells, respectively (**Figure S3a**).
177 Among all the peaks detected in the wild-type and *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* cells combined, 43.0% (226/526),
178 14.2% (75/526) and 42.8% (225/526) were detected only in *rnh1Δrnh201Δ*, only in the wild-type, and
179 in common, respectively. We analyzed in detail the functional annotations and gene types where RNA-
180 DNA hybrids were located on the genome in the wild-type and *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* cells. Approximately
181 63% of the detected RNA-DNA hybrid peaks were present at promoter-TSS in both wild-type and
182 *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* cells (190/300 and 282/451, respectively; **Figure S3b**). This result is consistent with
183 previously reported characteristics of this probe (Castillo-Guzman & Chédin, 2021; Chen et al., 2017).
184 Among all the RNA-DNA hybrids detected, 43.7% (131/300), 33.7% (101/300), and 22.6% (68/300)
185 were at protein coding region, tRNA and other genes, respectively, in the wild-type cells, whereas the
186 distribution was 55.4% (250/451), 26.0% (117/451) and 18.6% (84/451), respectively, in
187 *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* cells (**Figure 2d, Table S1, Table S2**). Notably, the fraction of RNA-DNA hybrid
188 peaks in the protein coding region increased in the *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* cells compared to the wild-type
189 cells.

190

191 Furthermore, we analyzed peak distributions in “wild-type unique”, “common”, and “*rnh1Δrnh201Δ*
192 unique” groups. The promoter-TSS region occupied the largest fraction in all the groups. The fraction
193 of TSS was largest in “common”, whereas that of TTS was smallest (**Figure S3c**). In the peak
194 distribution of gene types, the fraction of tRNA was the largest in “common”, whereas it occupied
195 small fractions in “wild-type unique” and “*rnh1Δrnh201Δ* unique”. The fractions of protein coding
196 regions were 61.3% (46/75) and 73.0% (165/226) in “wild-type unique” and “*rnh1Δrnh201Δ* unique”,
197 respectively, whereas it was 38.1% (86/225) in “common” (**Figure S3d**). tRNA and rRNA were
198 predominant in “common” and the peak score of these loci was higher in *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* cells than
199 these in wild-type cells (**Figure S4a**).

200

201 To evaluate the peak intensity variation between wild-type and *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* cells, we analyzed the
202 peak distributions by Z-scoring normalization in each strain and compared these distributions. In the
203 *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* cells, the number of high-value peaks ($0 < Z$) slightly increased and that of low-value
204 peaks ($-1.0 < Z < 0$) tended to increase compared to the wild-type cells (**Figure 2e, Whole**). We then
205 broke down the peak distributions according to gene types. The peak numbers of protein coding
206 regions particularly increased within $-1.0 < Z < 0$ scores, whereas those of tRNA was shifted from
207 lower Z-score to higher Z-score ($1.0 < Z$) in the *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* cells compared to the wild-type cells
208 (**Figure 2e, Figure S4b, Table S1, Table S2**). The results indicated that the RNA-DNA hybrids
209 escaped from degradation and accumulated at the protein coding regions in the *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* cells,
210 whereas those at the highly transcribed tRNA and rRNA genes could not be completely removed by

211 endogenous RNase H1 and H2 in the wild-type cells, albeit with the reduction of peak intensities.
212 These results support that RNA-DNA hybrids are efficiently formed at highly transcribed tRNA and
213 rRNA regions in *S. pombe*, and they are not completely eliminated by cellular RNase H. On the other
214 hand, the RNA-DNA hybrids at the protein coding region may be more efficiently degraded by
215 endogenous RNase H in the wild-type cells.

216

217 **A fraction of the RNA-DNA hybrids overlaps with DNA damages.**

218 It has been reported that DNA damage Rad52 foci increased in *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* cells in *S. pombe* (Zhao
219 et al., 2018). Therefore, we first examined whether Rad52 damage foci accumulate in *rnh1Δrnh201Δ*
220 cells. The wild-type or *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* cells, expressing Rad52 fused with mCherry at its C-terminus,
221 were grown to log phase. Rad52 foci were observed more frequently in *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* cells than in
222 wild-type (**Figure 3a,b**). This result prompted us to investigate whether unresolved RNA-DNA
223 hybrids are involved in the DNA damage detected by Rad52. We performed Rad52 ChIP-seq to
224 compare the genome profiles of Rad52 binding and RNA-DNA hybrid formation (**Figure 3c**).
225 Unexpectedly, the distributions of Rad52 binding regions did not change between the wild-type and
226 the *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* cells (**Figure S5a, Table S3, Table S4**). We further examined the distributions of
227 the peaks in each of the “RNA-DNA hybrid unique”, “overlap”, and “Rad52 unique” groups (**Figure**
228 **3d, Figure S5b, Table S5, Table S6**). 36.7% (110/300) and 20.0% (90/451) of the RNA-DNA hybrid
229 peaks overlapped with Rad52 peaks in the wild-type and *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* cells, respectively (**Figure**
230 **S5b, Table S5, Table S6**). The fraction of protein coding regions significantly increased in
231 *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* cells among the overlapping peaks (**Figure 3d, overlap**). This result is consistent with
232 the increased RNA-DNA hybrid peaks at the protein coding regions in *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* cells in **Figure**
233 **2d**.

234

235 **Rad52 foci accumulate during S-phase in *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* cells.**

236 When DNA replication forks collide with unresolved RNA-DNA hybrids, DNA lesions may be
237 generated, leading to increased genome instability (Helmrich et al., 2011). To investigate whether the
238 appearance of the Rad52 foci depends on cell cycle, we observed them in the synchronized cells. Cells
239 were arrested at M-phase by *nda3-KM311* and then released into cell cycle. Cell cycle progression
240 was monitored by flow cytometry and the late S-phase population was enriched at 60 min after release
241 (**Figure S6**). The cells were observed under fluorescence microscope every 30 min for 2 h after release
242 (**Figure 4a,b**). In the wild-type cells, the number of cells with a single Rad52 focus slightly increased
243 from 60 min to 90 min after release. In *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* cells, in contrast, ~35% of cells showed a single
244 Rad52 focus at the time of release, and the cells with multiple Rad52 foci strikingly increased, as cells
245 progressed through S-phase, although intensity of each focus was lower than that of a single focus
246 observed in a wild-type cell (**Figure 4b,c, Figure S7**). These results show that DNA damages

247 spontaneously accumulate in *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* cells during S-phase.

248

249 **Unresolved RNA-DNA hybrids may collide with replication forks and increase genomic**
250 **instability.**

251 In *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* cells, RNA-DNA hybrids were not resolved in the protein coding region, and DNA
252 damages accumulated there, leading to the dramatic increase of cells with multiple Rad52 foci during
253 S-phase in *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* cells. Rad52 binding regions were analyzed by ChIP-seq during cell cycle
254 progression. The Rad52 peaks were assigned to the gene types. The number and gene type distribution
255 of the peaks at 0 min (M-phase) were similar to those at 60 min (S-phase) in the wild-type. In
256 *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* cells, in contrast, the Rad52 peaks on the protein coding region increased two times at
257 60 min compared to those at 0 min (**Figure 5a**). The Rad52 binding loci at 0 min or 60 min were
258 compared with RNA-DNA hybrid peaks in wild-type and *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* cells. Rad52 was recruited
259 near RNA-DNA hybrids of highly transcribing tRNA throughout the cell cycle in both strains. Rad52
260 binding was more robustly associated with the RNA-DNA hybrid signals within 3 kb of the RNA-
261 DNA hybrid peaks in the protein coding region at 60 min (S-phase) than at 0 min (M-phase; **Figure**
262 **5b**).

263

264 Furthermore, we broke down the Rad52 peaks in close association with RNA-DNA hybrid according
265 to gene types (**Figure 5c**). Peaks of the protein coding region at 60 min shifted down to a lower Z-
266 score in wild-type as well as in *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* cells compared to the peaks at 0 min. Some peaks did
267 not change and were still at higher score ($0 < Z < 2.0$). These peaks may contain tRNA because the
268 distribution of tRNA peaks around RNA-DNA hybrids did not change at 0 min and 60 min (**Figure**
269 **5b**). In fact, Rad52 binding was equally observed at strong RNA-DNA hybrid peaks at both 0 and 60
270 min (**Figure S8a,b**). The increased number of peaks may be due to collision of DNA replication forks
271 with unresolved RNA-DNA hybrids during S-phase. It was reported that unprocessed R-loops collapse
272 replication forks (Zhao et al., 2018). These results suggest that DNA damage increased on the entire
273 genome during S-phase in *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* cells. Rad52 appears to be recruited to RNA-DNA hybrids
274 in more selected regions such as tRNA (**Figure 3d**, overlap; ex. tRNA), which is highly transcribed
275 and tends to cause topological problems. In fact, the mutation rate of tRNA loci is reported to be 7 to
276 10 times higher than that of the entire genome (Milano, Gautam, & Caldecott, 2024). At 60 min in
277 wild-type, DNA damage can be caused more globally through conflicts between RNA-DNA hybrids
278 or transcription with replication. As a result, Rad52 recruited sites were dispersed and the score
279 decreased, although the higher score peaks at 0 min were still maintained at 60 min (**Figure 5c**, wild-
280 type). In *rnh1Δrnh201Δ*, the high score peaks also remained and the protein coding peaks increased.
281 Due to collision with forks, low score peaks significantly increased compared to those at 0 min (**Figure**
282 **5c**, *rnh1Δrnh201Δ*). The fraction of Rad52 overlapping with RNA-DNA hybrids on the protein coding

283 region remarkably increased in *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* compared to that in the mutant at 0 min or to that in
284 the wild-type at 60 min.

285

286 Taken together, these results indicate that the unresolved RNA-DNA hybrids on the protein coding
287 region accumulate in *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* cells and that Rad52 is recruited to these RNA-DNA hybrid loci,
288 especially during S-phase.

289

290

291

292 **Discussion**

293 Probes have been developed that can detect RNA-DNA hybrids. These include S9.6 antibody and a
294 hybrid binding domain of RNase H1 (Boguslawski et al., 1986; Chan et al., 2014; Ginno, Lott,
295 Christensen, Korf, & Chédin, 2012; Nowotny et al., 2008; Wang et al., 2021). These probes have been
296 shown to have some specificity in terms of target recognition (Castillo-Guzman & Chédin, 2021).
297 Catalytically inactive RNASE H1 proteins have been shown to recognize RNA-DNA hybrid in the
298 promoter region, while signals detected by S9.6 antibody spreads more broadly on genes. S9.6
299 antibody was developed against the transcription reaction mix generated on a single-stranded DNA,
300 and thus, it may recognize not only RNA-DNA hybrid but also template DNA as well as free RNA
301 including dsRNA (Boguslawski et al., 1986). Indeed, analyses of RNA-DNA hybrids by S9.6 antibody
302 showed that it recognizes dsRNA which is degraded by RNase III (Hartono et al., 2018). In contrast,
303 catalytically inactive RNASE H1 has very low affinity with dsRNA (Crossley et al., 2021). Thus,
304 RNASE H1(D145N) probe is expected to have higher specificity toward RNA-DNA hybrids.

305
306 In this work, we have used RNASE H1(D145N), a catalytically inactive derivative of human RNase
307 H1, to detect RNA-DNA hybrids in fission yeast cells. The fluorescent probe was able to detect signals
308 that were enhanced by loss of RNase H genes and were reduced by expression of exogenous RNase
309 H derived from *E. coli*, indicating that the observed signals represent RNA-DNA hybrids.

310
311 We observed strong RNase H1(D145N)-EGFP signals in **nucleoli**. ***S. pombe* ribosomal DNA (rDNA)**
312 **tandem repeats are compartmentalized within the nucleolus. rDNA consists of 100-120 tandem**
313 **repeats of a 10.4-kb fragment containing the 5.8S, 18S and 25S ribosomal RNA (rRNA) genes**
314 **and account for around 1.1 Mb in the two telomeric regions of chromosome III** (Wood et al.,
315 2002). **rRNA is actively transcribed and large amounts of rRNA are generated from the rDNA**
316 **repeats**. RNA-DNA hybrids may be formed on the rDNA tandem repeat region during rRNA
317 transcription. However, because the rDNA repeat copy numbers were variable in each cell, it is
318 difficult to quantify the efficiency of RNA-DNA hybrid formation on rDNA repeats by ChIP analyses.
319 Alternatively, it has also been reported that S9.6 immunofluorescence signals were observed in the
320 **nucleoli** of human cells, but the signals were not derived from RNA-DNA hybrids because RNase H1
321 treatment did not affect the signals in the **nucleoli** (Smolka, Sanz, Hartono, & Chédin, 2021). It is
322 possible that the probe recognized rRNA and that the signals are accumulated in the **nucleoli** because
323 the catalytically inactive RNase H1 protein has a low affinity for dsRNA (Nowotny et al., 2008).

324
325 Previous study of DRIPc-seq using the S9.6 antibody on *S. pombe* indicated the presence of two types
326 of RNA-DNA hybrids/R-loops on the basis of the sensitivity to RNase H, the peaks observed in the
327 wild-type (class A) and the other peaks observed in the RNase H mutant (class B). Class B genes are

328 transcribed less robustly than class A (Hartono et al., 2018). In our analyses, the highly transcribed
329 tRNA was detected relatively more abundantly by RNase H1(D145N) in wild-type than in
330 *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* cells. And more than half of the peaks observed in *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* cells represent low
331 intensity peaks such as those found in protein coding genes. This is consistent with the previous report
332 that tRNA loci belong to the class A, while protein coding regions to the class B which are generally
333 more readily destabilized by RNase H.

334

335 Based on the genome-wide mapping data from various species, RNA-DNA hybrids/R-loops were
336 categorized into two classes, Class I (promoter-paused R-loops) and Class II (Elongation-associated
337 R-loops) (Castillo-Guzman & Chédin, 2021). The genomic RNA-DNA hybrids mapped by RNASE
338 H1(D145N) probe in human cells were predominantly Class I R-loops that form at the promoter-
339 proximal regions of paused promoters. This is consistent with the results of the RNASE H1(D145N)
340 probe in *S. pombe*, where approximately 63% of the RNA-DNA hybrids were detected at the promoter-
341 TSS (**Figure S3c**).

342

343 Furthermore, detailed analyses show that RNA-DNA hybrids accumulate at the promoter-TSS of the
344 protein coding region in *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* cells compared to the wild-type cells. This may suggest that
345 in *S. pombe*, stable RNA-DNA hybrids are rarely formed in the gene bodies. This could be due to
346 relatively short gene sizes and AT-rich nature of the *S. pombe* genome, which makes the chance of
347 RNA-DNA hybrid formation low. The reason for the detection of tRNA and 5S rRNA as strong RNA-
348 DNA hybrid loci is not clear (**Figure S4a, Table S1, 2**). tRNA and 5S rRNA are strongly transcribed
349 by RNA polymerase III and have a high propensity to form secondary structures, which may facilitate
350 the formation of RNA-DNA hybrids.

351

352 We adapted Z-scoring to evaluate the peak intensity of RNA-DNA hybrids and Rad52 bindings in this
353 study. Although Z-scoring can evaluate the CHIP peaks intensity comparatively within each strain,
354 precise quantitative comparison is difficult between different strains since they possibly have different
355 peak distribution. It is necessary to use spike in DNA for CHIP-seq analysis to quantitatively compare
356 the intensities of RNA-DNA hybrid peaks between different strains. Thus, our Z-score analyses
357 (**Figure 2e, Figure 5c**) should be treated only as “semi-quantitative” data.

358

359 The presence of RNA-DNA hybrids/ R-loops and their potential to induce genome instability has been
360 reported in several studies (Castillo-Guzman & Chédin, 2021), and it has also been reported that
361 *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* cells accumulate DNA damages from collapsed replication forks (Zhao et al., 2018).
362 In this report, we have shown that Rad52 foci increase during S-phase (**Figure 4b,c**), and that RNA-
363 DNA hybrids colocalize with Rad52 binding sites (**Figure 5b**). We speculate that this is due to collision

364 of the replication fork with the unresolved RNA-DNA hybrids, leading to DSB. Chk1 is constitutively
365 activated in RNase H mutants (Zhao et al., 2018), suggesting that RNA-DNA hybrids and associated
366 DSBs are present outside S-phase as well.

367 The RNA-DNA hybrid and Rad52 loci overlap, and they increase during S-phase (**Figure S5, Figure**
368 **S8**), but we do not know what distinguishes damage-inducing RNA-DNA hybrid and more latent
369 RNA-DNA hybrids. RNA-DNA hybrids accumulate at the protein coding region in *rnh1Δrnh201Δ*
370 cells, and Rad52 is also recruited to the promoter-TSS of the protein coding region close to RNA-
371 DNA hybrids. Rad52 binding scores are elevated during S-phase. This indicates that DNA at the
372 promoter-TSS of the protein coding region is damaged in RNase H mutant cells, and is consistent with
373 the speculation that DNA replication forks are collapsed at the sites of unresolved RNA-DNA hybrids.
374 DNA damage in the protein coding region potentially induces the mutation or deletion in the gene,
375 resulting in critical events such as the cell death, cancer and diseases. Thus, our results reinforce the
376 importance of the cellular RNase H activity in maintaining the genome stability by reducing generation
377 of RNA-DNA hybrids in the protein coding regions.

378
379
380

381 **Experimental procedures**

382

383 **Strains and Medium**

384 All the strains and plasmids used in this study are listed in **Table 1**. Epitope-tagged strains were made
385 by integrating a 3×FLAG-, 6×PK- or mCherry-tagged gene fragment into the endogenous genes. All
386 the tags were located at the C-terminus. Yeast extract with supplements (YES) medium containing
387 0.5% yeast extract, 3% glucose and 0.1 mg/mL each of adenine, uracil, leucine, lysine and histidine
388 was used for cell culture. YES plates were made by adding 2% agar to YES medium. Synthetic
389 dextrose minimal (SD) medium contains 6.3g/L Yeast Nitrogen Base w/o Amino Acids (DB DIFCO™,
390 233520), 2% glucose and 0.1 mg/mL each of the required amino acids. Pombe Minimal Glutamate
391 (PMG) medium contains 27.3 g/L EMM Broth without Nitrogen (FORMEDIM, PMD1302), 5 g/L L-
392 glutamic acid, and 0.1 mg/mL of each required amino acid. Edinburgh Minimal Medium (EMM)
393 contains 12.3 g/L EMM Broth without Dextrose (FORMEIUM, PMD0402), 2% glucose and 0.1
394 mg/mL of each required amino acid. 15 μM thiamine was added to EMM or PMG medium to suppress
395 transcription from the nmt1 promoter on pREP expression plasmids. To induce the expression of the
396 plasmid, cells were cultured in medium without thiamine for 18 h.

397

398 **Plasmid construction**

399 To generate pREP41-NLS-RNase H1(D145N)-3×FLAG construct, RNase H1(D145N)-3×FLAG
400 fragment was amplified by PCR using pUC18-RNase H1(D145N)-3×FLAG as template. NLS
401 sequence was amplified by PCR using the plasmid containing NLS as template. pREP41 was used as
402 a vector for expression in *S. pombe*. The vector was digested with NdeI and BamHI. The two fragments
403 were cloned into the NdeI-BamHI site of pREP41 using the In-Fusion® HD cloning kit (Takara Bio,
404 639648). To generate pREP42-NLS-RNase HI-6×PK construct, *E. coli rnhA*⁺ fragment was amplified
405 by PCR using *E. coli* genomic DNA as a template. NLS sequence was included into the primer to
406 amplify the *rnhA*⁺ fragment. pREP42-6×PK was digested with NdeI and XhoI. The fragment was
407 cloned into NdeI-XhoI site of pREP42-6×PK using the In-Fusion® HD cloning kit.

408

409 **Cell cycle synchronization and analysis by flow cytometry**

410 The strains containing *nda3-KM311* mutation were arrested at 20 °C for 6 h to synchronize cell
411 cycle at M-phase and then released into cell cycle at 30 °C. To induce RNASE H1(D145N)
412 expression, the cells were grown in PMG medium containing 15 μM thiamine and then transferred
413 to PMG medium without thiamine for 12 h before cell cycle synchronization. Cells in 5 mL culture
414 were collected and resuspended in 200 μL water and were fixed with 600 μL ethanol. The cells
415 were washed with 50 mM sodium citrate (pH7.5) and were treated in 300 μL of 50 mM sodium
416 citrate containing 0.1 mg/mL RNase A at 37 °C for 2 h. The cells were stained with 4 μg/mL
417 propidium iodide (PI) for 1 h at room temperature. After sonication, the fluorescence intensity of

418 the intercalated PI was measured by BD LSR Fortessa™ X-20 to analyze the DNA content in each
419 cell population.

420

421 **Protein extraction from *S. pombe* and immunoblotting**

422 0.5×10^8 cells were harvested and washed with water. The cells were resuspended in 90 μ L water and
423 boiled at 100 °C for 5 min. 100 μ L of 2 \times SDS Sample Buffer (Tris-HCl [pH6.8], 4% sodium dodecyl
424 sulfate [SDS], 8 M urea, 125 mM 20% glycerol, 1.43 M β -mercaptoethanol, 0.2% bromophenol blue)
425 was added to the cell suspension and the cells were crushed with glass beads by Multi-beads Shocker®
426 (Yasui Kikai Co). The lysates were boiled at 96 °C for 5 min and the debris were removed by
427 centrifugation at max-speed. The extracted protein samples and ExcelBand 3-color High Range
428 Protein Marker (SMOBIO TECHNOLOGY, PM2600) were loaded and run on 4~20% gradient precast
429 gel (WSHTBIO, GSH2001-420F) and transferred to PVDF membranes (Millipore, IPVH00010). The
430 membranes were blocked with 5% skim milk in TBS-T. The target proteins were detected with ANTI-
431 FLAG® M2-Peroxidase (HRP) antibody (Sigma-Aldrich, A8592). To verify the amounts of loaded
432 proteins, the transferred proteins on the membrane were stained with Ponceau BS.

433

434 **Chromatin immunoprecipitation (ChIP)**

435 1.0×10^9 cells in the culture were cross-linked with 1% formaldehyde for 15 min at 30 °C and prepared
436 for ChIP as previously described (Kanoh et al., 2015). Briefly, the cross-linked cells were suspended
437 in lysis buffer (50 mM Hepes-KOH [pH 7.5], 140 mM NaCl, 1 mM EDTA, 1% Triton X-100, 0.1%
438 sodium deoxycholate, 1 mM PMSF, 1 \times Protease Inhibitor Cocktail [Sigma-Aldrich, P8215],
439 1 \times cOmplete™ Protease Inhibitor Cocktail [Roche Diagnostics, 11697498001], and 0.1 mM MG-132
440 [PEPTIDE INSTITUTE INC, 3175-v]), and the cell lysates were prepared by extracting DNA-
441 protein complexes using Multi-beads shocker® (Yasui Kikai Co.) and shearing genomic DNA using
442 S220 Focused-ultrasonicator (Covaris). The lysates were incubated with ANTI-FLAG® M2 antibody
443 (Sigma-Aldrich, F3165) or anti-V5-Tag antibody (BIO-RAD, MCA1360) conjugated to Protein G
444 Dynabeads (ThermoFisher, 10003D) for 6 h at 4 °C. The beads were washed several times and the
445 precipitated materials were eluted with Elution buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl [pH 8.0], 10 mM EDTA, and
446 1% SDS) for 15 min at 68 °C. DNA-protein complexes in the eluates were reverse cross-linked
447 overnight at 68 °C and then treated with RNase A and Proteinase K. DNA was precipitated with ethanol
448 and further purified using QIAquick PCR purification kit (QIAGEN, 28104).

449

450 **ChIP-qPCR**

451 Quantitative PCR was performed using TB Green® Premix Ex Taq™ II (TAKARA Bio, RR820) and
452 a Lightcycler® 480 System II (Roche Diagnostics). The immunoprecipitation efficiency was estimated
453 by calculation as a percentage of input chromatin. The primer sets in this study used are listed in **Table**

454 2.

455

456 **Fluorescence microscope observation**

457 RNA-DNA hybrids were visualized by expressing RNASE H1(D145N)-EGFP. DNA damage was
458 detected by observation of fluorescent Rad52-mCherry foci. The cells were stained with 1 µg/mL
459 Hoechst® 33342 to visualize nuclear DNA. RNASE H1(D145N)-EGFP, Rad52-mCherry and
460 Hoechst® 33342 were observed on BZ-X700 (KEYENCE) equipped with Nikon PlanApoλ 100× (NA-
461 1.45) using IMMERSION OIL TYPE NF (Nicon).

462

463 **Next-generation sequencing (NGS) and ChIP-seq**

464 Next Generation Sequencing was performed as previously described (Kanoh et al., 2015). The input
465 and immunoprecipitated DNA were fragmented to an average size of ~ 150 bp using S220 Focused-
466 ultrasonicator (Covaris). The fragmented DNAs were end-repaired, ligated to sequence adapters, and
467 amplified using NEBNext® Ultra™ II DNA Library Prep Kit for Illumina® (New England Biolabs,
468 E7645) and NEBNext® Multiplex Oligos for Illumina® (New England Biolabs, E6440) according to
469 the manual. The amplified DNA (approximately 275 bp in size) was sequenced on Illumina NextSeq
470 to generate 50 bp pair ends reads.

471 The obtained reads from ChIP and input sample sequencing were aligned to the *S. pombe* genomic
472 reference sequence (ASM294v2) provided by PomBase using bowtie2-2.4.4 with the default settings.
473 The sam files generated by bowtie2 were converted to bam files, then sorted, and indexed using
474 samtools. To quantify and visualize ChIP peaks, converted bam files were further converted to bigwig
475 file using deeptools. Peaks were called using findPeaks program included in Homer (Heinz et al.,
476 2010) through comparing immunoprecipitated sample data with that of input. In Homer peak detection
477 process, the filtering Peaks options “-F 2.0” and “-L 2.0” were applied to detect peaks with low
478 intensity. Peak-called genomic loci were annotated by annotatePeaks function in Homer to aggregate
479 the numbers of functionally assigned loci. To convert gene symbol to gene name,
480 “Schizosaccharomyces_pombe.ASM294v2.58.gtf” published in PomBase was used. The peak
481 intensities in each data were semi-quantitatively compared thorough calculating Z-score and
482 visualized using R. For visualizing peaks, Integrative Genomics Viewer (IGV) was used. Gene
483 distance between the RNA/DNA hybrid and these of Rad52 peaks were calculated using
484 computeMatrix function in deepTool (Ramírez et al., 2016) with the positional data of RNA-DNA
485 hybrid loci in BED file and Rad52 peak reads in bigwig files. The results were visualized as the
486 heatmap with the summary plot showing the density of peaks on each distance.

487

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492

493 **Author Contributions**

494 T.S., H.S., and Y.K. designed and performed experiments. D.S. analyzed all the NGS data. K.T.
495 assisted the analysis of NGS data. T.S., Y.K, D.S, and M.S designed the study and wrote the manuscript.

496

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621

622

623 **Legends to Figures**

624

625 **Figure 1. RNA-DNA hybrids in living cells can be visualized using a fluorescent RNASE**
626 **H1(D145N) probe.**

627 (a) pREP41-NLS-*RNASE H1(D145N)*-3×FLAG-EGFP was transformed into the wild- type, *rnh1Δ*,
628 *rnh201Δ*, and *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* cells to visualize RNA-DNA hybrids. RNASE H1(D145N)-EGFP was
629 expressed by thiamine depletion in PMG medium for 18 h. *RNASE H1(D145N)*-EGFP foci (green)
630 were observed under fluorescence microscope KEYENCE BZ-X700 after staining with Hoechst
631 33342 (blue).

632 (b) The numbers of the nuclear *RNASE H1(D145N)*-EGFP foci from (a) were counted, and the
633 fractions (%) of the cells containing 0, 1, 2, or 3 \leq foci were quantified.

634 (c) pREP42 vector (upper panel) or pREP42-NLS-*rnhA*-6×PK expressing the *E. coli rnhA* gene (lower
635 panel) was introduced into *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* cells harboring pREP41-NLS-*RNASE H1(D145N)*-
636 3×FLAG-EGFP, and cells were grown in PMG medium without thiamine for 18 h. *RNASE*
637 *H1(D145N)*-EGFP foci were observed under fluorescence microscope KEYENCE BZ-X700 after
638 staining with Hoechst 33342.

639 (d) The numbers of the nuclear *RNASE H1(D145N)*-EGFP foci from (c) were counted, and the
640 fractions (%) of the cells containing 0, 1, 2, or 3 \leq foci are shown.

641

642 **Figure 2. RNA-DNA hybrids are more enriched in the protein coding region in the**
643 ***rnh1Δrnh201Δ* than those in the wild-type cells.**

644 (a) Representative RNA-DNA hybrids peaks from ChIP-seq analysis. Normalized coverage values are
645 shown in vertical axis. The wild-type or *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* cells harboring pREP41-NLS-*RNASE*
646 *H1(D145N)*-3×FLAG or pREP41-NLS-3×FLAG were grown in PMG medium containing 15 μ M
647 thiamine, and then transferred to fresh PMG medium without thiamine at 30 °C for 18 h to induce the
648 expression of RNASE H1(D145N). The binding of RNASE H1(D145N) on the genome was analyzed
649 by ChIP-seq. The ChIP-seq peaks at selected loci [protein coding (*rna15*, *fba1* and *srp7*), tRNA (Arg,
650 Gln and His) and S5-RNA] are shown. II:4282kb region is negative control loci. *fba1* and *srp7* were
651 previously reported to be the sites of RNA-DNA hybrid by DRIP-seq (Vachez, Teste, & Vanoosthuysse,
652 2022).

653 (b) ChIP-qPCR analysis of RNASE H1(D145N) precipitated RNA-DNA hybrids. The binding of
654 RNASE H1(D145N) were measured by ChIP-qPCR at the sites of the peaks indicated in (a) in the
655 wild-type or *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* cells harboring pREP41-NLS-*RNASE H1(D145N)*-3×FLAG plasmid
656 (mean \pm SD (standard deviation), $n = 3$ biological replicates).

657 (c) ChIP-qPCR analysis of RNASE H1(D145N) precipitant with RNase HI co-expression condition.
658 ChIP-qPCR were performed under the same condition with (b) except co-express RNase HI. The

659 bindings of RNASE H1(D145N) were measured by ChIP-qPCR at the sites of the peaks indicated in
660 (a) in the wild-type or *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* cells harboring pREP41-NLS-RNASE H1(D145N)-3×FLAG
661 and pREP42-NLS-*rnhA*-6×PK plasmids. *rnhA* encodes RNase HI in *E. coli* (mean ± SD, $n = 3$
662 biological replicates). In (b) and (c), black bars; wild-type; gray bars, *rnh1Δrnh201Δ*. * $p < 0.05$, ** p
663 < 0.01 (unpaired two-tailed Student's t test).

664 (d) Distributions of gene type (%) among the detected RNA-DNA hybrids in wild-type and
665 *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* cells. RNA-DNA hybrids peaks assigned to gene type in wild-type and *rnh1Δrnh201Δ*
666 cells

667 (e) Distribution histogram of the RNA-DNA hybrid peak score showing that the peak intensity of
668 whole genome, the protein coding region and tRNA region in wild-type and *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* cells. X-
669 axis shows Z-score and Y-axis shows the counts. Intensities were compared between the wild-type and
670 *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* cells. Peaks with Z-score in the range of $-2.0 < Z < 2.0$ were plotted. All the data are
671 presented in Tables S1 and S2.

672

673 **Figure 3. Rad52 peaks overlapping with RNA-DNA hybrids in the protein coding region increase**
674 **in *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* cells.**

675 (a) DNA damage foci visualized by Rad52-mCherry (magenta) were observed under fluorescence
676 microscope in the wild-type and *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* cells.

677 (b) The numbers of Rad52 foci were counted in (a), and the fractions of cells containing 0, 1, 2 or 3 ≤
678 foci were calculated.

679 (c) The wild-type (*rad52-6×PK, nda3-KM311*) or *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* (*rad52-6×PK, nda3-KM311*) cells
680 harboring pREP41-NLS-RNASE H1(D145N)-3×FLAG was grown in PMG medium containing 15
681 μM thiamine. RNASE H1(D145N) expression was induced in the fresh PMG medium without
682 thiamine at 30 °C for 12 h. Cells were then synchronized at M-phase by shift to 20°C for 6 h in PMG
683 medium, and were released by shift to 30 °C. Cells were collected at 60 min after release. The bindings
684 of RNASE H1(D145N) and Rad52 on the genome were analyzed by ChIP-seq. Profiles of RNA-DNA
685 hybrids and Rad52 bindings at the selected loci are shown for the wild-type and *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* cells.
686 Normalized coverage values are shown in vertical axis.

687 (d) Distributions of gene type in “RNA-DNA hybrid unique” (left), “overlap” (center), and “Rad52
688 unique” (right) peaks in the wild-type and *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* cells.

689

690 **Figure 4. Rad52 damage foci increase during S-phase in the *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* cells.**

691 (a) Outlines of the cell cycle time-course experiment. The *nda3-KM311* cells, grown in the absence of
692 thiamine for 12 h, were synchronized at 20 °C for 6 h and then released into cell cycle at 30 °C, and
693 Rad52 foci were analyzed at the times indicated after release.

694 (b) The wild-type (*rad52-mCherry, nda3-KM311*) or *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* (*rad52-mCherry, nda3-KM311*)

695 cells harboring pREP41-NLS-*RNASE H1(D145N)*-3×FLAG-EGFP was grown in PMG medium
696 containing 15 μM thiamine, transferred to PMG medium without thiamine and cultured at 30 °C for
697 12 h. Cells were then synchronized at the M-phase by shift to 20 °C for 6 h in PMG medium, and then
698 were released from M-phase by shift to 30 °C. The mCherry (magenta) and EGFP (green) signals were
699 observed under fluorescence microscope every 30 min after release.

700 (c) The numbers of Rad52 foci in (b) were counted, and cells containing 0, 1, 2 or 3 \leq foci were
701 quantified.

702

703 **Figure 5. Rad52 peaks overlapping with RNA-DNA hybrids in the protein coding region increase**
704 **during S-phase.**

705 (a) A Rad52 binding peaks at 0 min (M-phase) or 60 min (S-phase) after release from *nda3-KM311*
706 arrest was assigned to gene types in wild-type and *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* cells.

707 (b) Metagene plot and heatmap showing the enrichment of Rad52 binding sites at the RNA-DNA
708 hybrids in wild-type and *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* cells. Enrichment is shown for whole genome, protein coding
709 segment and tRNA segment at 0 min (M-phase) or 60 min (S-phase). Heatmap shows whole genome
710 results. TSS, transcription start site; TES, transcription end site.

711 (c) Distribution histograms of Rad52 peaks overlapping with RNA-DNA hybrids in wild-type and
712 *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* cells. X-axis, Z-score; Y-axis, counts. Peak distributions are color-coded according to
713 the indicated gene types in the peaks with Z-score within $-1.0 < Z < 1.0$. The black dotted line indicates
714 the center of the detected peaks on the protein coding region at 0 min in wild-type cells.

715

716 **Supplementary Figure S1. Expression of human catalytically inactive RNASE H1 in fission yeast**
717 **cells.**

718 (a) Schematic drawing of the probe capable of recognizing RNA-DNA hybrids in *S. pombe*. Human
719 ribonuclease H1 functional domain consists of a mitochondrial targeting sequence (MTS: 1-26 a.a), a
720 hybrid binding domain (HBD: 27-70 a.a), and a catalytic domain (CD: 136-286 a.a). The SV40 nuclear
721 localization signal (NLS) and 3×FLAG were fused to catalytically inactive human RNASE
722 H1(D145N) (28-286 a.a) at the N- and C-terminus respectively. The resulting NLS-*RNASE*
723 *H1(D145N)*-3×FLAG was cloned under the inducible *nmt1* (No Message in Thiamine1) promoter on
724 the vector pREP41.

725 (b) Expression level of NLS-*RNASE H1(D145N)*-3×FLAG in wild-type, *rnh1Δ*, *rnh201Δ*, and
726 *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* cells. The cells were grown in PMG medium with 15 μM thiamine until log phase,
727 then transferred to the PMG medium without thiamine and cultured for 18 h. The expression of NLS-
728 *RNASE H1(D145N)*-3×FLAG was analyzed by western blotting (upper). Ponceau staining serves as a
729 loading control (lower).

730

731 **Supplementary Figure S2. Effects of various helicase mutations on RNASE H1(D145N) foci.**
732 *rqh1* Δ , *sen1* Δ and *srs2* Δ cells harboring pREP41-NLS-*RNASE H1(D145N)*-3 \times FLAG-EGFP were
733 grown in PMG medium with 15 μ M thiamine, transferred to the PMG medium without thiamine and
734 grown for 18 h. NLS-*RNASE H1(D145N)*-3 \times FLAG-EGFP signals (green) were observed using
735 fluorescence microscope after staining with Hoechst 33342 (blue).

736

737 **Supplemental Figure S3. Genome-wide profiles of RNA-DNA hybrids in the wild-type and**
738 ***rnh1* Δ *rnh201* Δ cells.**

739 (a) The wild-type or *rnh1* Δ *rnh201* Δ cells harboring pREP41-NLS-3 \times FLAG or pREP41-NLS-*RNASE*
740 *H1(D145N)*-3 \times FLAG was cultured in PMG medium containing 15 μ M thiamine. Cells were then
741 transferred to PMG medium without thiamine and grown at 30 $^{\circ}$ C for 18 h. Cells were harvested and
742 were fixed with 1% formalin, and ChIP-seq was conducted. The wild-type or *rnh1* Δ *rnh201* Δ cells
743 harboring pREP41-NLS-*RNASE H1(D145N)*-3 \times FLAG or pREP41-NLS-3 \times FLAG was grown in
744 PMG medium containing 15 μ M thiamine, and were transferred to fresh PMG medium without
745 thiamine and were grown at 30 $^{\circ}$ C for 18 h. The binding of RNASE H1(D145N) on the genome was
746 analyzed by ChIP-seq. ChIP-seq peaks of RNASE H1 (D145N)-3 \times FLAG or 3 \times FLAG as a mock
747 control is presented on the whole genome of *S. pombe*.

748 (b) Venn diagram showing the overlapping and unique peaks of RNA-DNA hybrids between wild-
749 type and *rnh1* Δ *rnh201* Δ cells.

750 (c) Distributions of functional annotations of RNA-DNA hybrids peaks in wild-type or *rnh1* Δ *rnh201* Δ
751 cells.

752 (d) Distributions of functional annotations in the “wild-type unique”, “*rnh1* Δ *rnh201* Δ unique” and
753 “common” peaks of RNA-DNA hybrids.

754 (e) Distributions of gene types in the “wild-type unique”, “*rnh1* Δ *rnh201* Δ unique” and “common”
755 peaks of RNA-DNA hybrids.

756

757 **Supplementary Figure S4. RNA-DNA hybrid peaks detected by RNase H1(D145N) probe:**
758 **association with gene types.**

759 (a) The peak scores at the RNA-DNA hybrid peaks overlapping with Rad52 peaks in the wild-type
760 and *rnh1* Δ *rnh201* Δ cells.

761 (b) Distribution histograms of RNA-DNA hybrids among different gene types in wild-type and
762 *rnh1* Δ *rnh201* Δ cells. X-axis, Z-score; Y-axis, counts. Peak distributions are color-coded according to
763 the indicated gene types in the peaks with Z-score within $-2.0 < Z < 2.0$. The peak score of RNA-
764 DNA hybrids on tRNA and rRNA are higher in *rnh1* Δ *rnh201* Δ cells than in the wild-type cells.
765 RNA-DNA hybrid counts in protein coding regions increased within the lower peak score range.

766

767 **Supplementary Figure S5. DNA damage peaks detected by Rad52.**

768 (a) The distributions of gene types among the detected Rad52 binding sites in wild-type and
769 *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* cells.

770 (b) Venn diagram showing the overlapping and unique peaks of RNA-DNA hybrids and Rad52 binding
771 in the wild-type and *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* cells.

772

773 **Supplementary Figure S6. Analysis of cell cycle progression in the wild-type and *rnh1Δrnh201Δ***
774 **cells after release from M-phase arrest.**

775 The wild-type (*nda3-KM311*) or *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* (*nda3-KM311*) were arrested at the M-phase by
776 incubation at 20 °C for 6 h with and without thiamine. The cells were released into the cell cycle at 30
777 °C and harvested every 15 min for 2 h. The cell cycle progression was monitored by flow cytometry.

778

779 **Supplementary Figure S7. Rad52 damage foci increase during S-phase in *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* cells.**

780 The wild-type (*rad52-mCherry, nda3-KM311*) or *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* (*rad52-mCherry, nda3-KM311*) cells
781 harboring pREP41-NLS-RNASE *H1(D145N)*-3×FLAG-EGFP were grown in PMG medium
782 containing 15 μM thiamine, transferred to PMG medium without thiamine and cultured at 30 °C for
783 12 h. Cells were synchronized at the M-phase by shift to 20 °C for 6 h in PMG medium, and then were
784 released from M-phase by shift to 30 °C. The mCherry (magenta) and EGFP signals (green) were
785 observed under fluorescence microscope every 30 min after release.

786

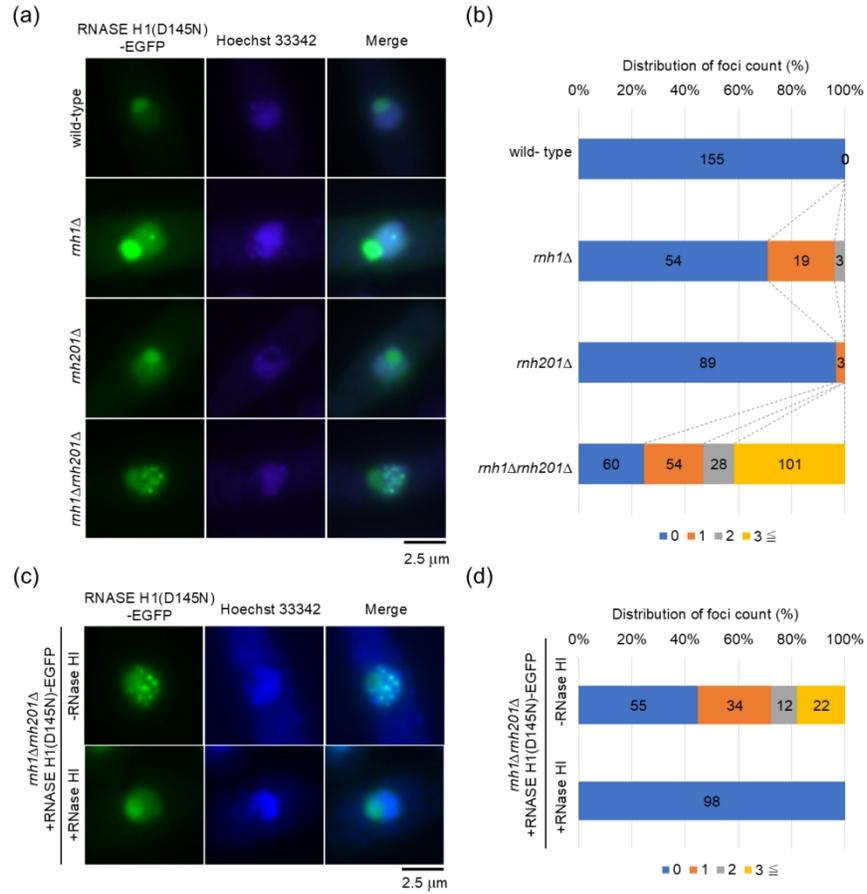
787 **Supplementary Figure S8. Rad52 damage foci and RNA-DNA hybrids: overlapping loci.**

788 (a) The wild-type (*rad52-mCherry, nda3-KM311*) or *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* (*rad52-mCherry, nda3-KM311*)
789 cells were grown in PMG medium and synchronized at M-phase by incubation for 6 h at 20 °C. After
790 release from M-phase arrest at 30 °C, cells were harvested at 0 min or 60 min. ChIP-seq patterns at
791 the selected loci of Rad52 binding closed to the RNA-DNA hybrid are shown at 0 min (M-phase) and
792 60 min (late S-phase) after release. I:1027kb and II:4282kb serve as negative controls.

793 (b) Rad52 binding was validated by ChIP-qPCR at the peaks overlapping with RNA-DNAs (mean ±
794 SD, $n = 3$ biological replicates) indicated in (a). * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$ (unpaired two-tailed Student's
795 t test).

796

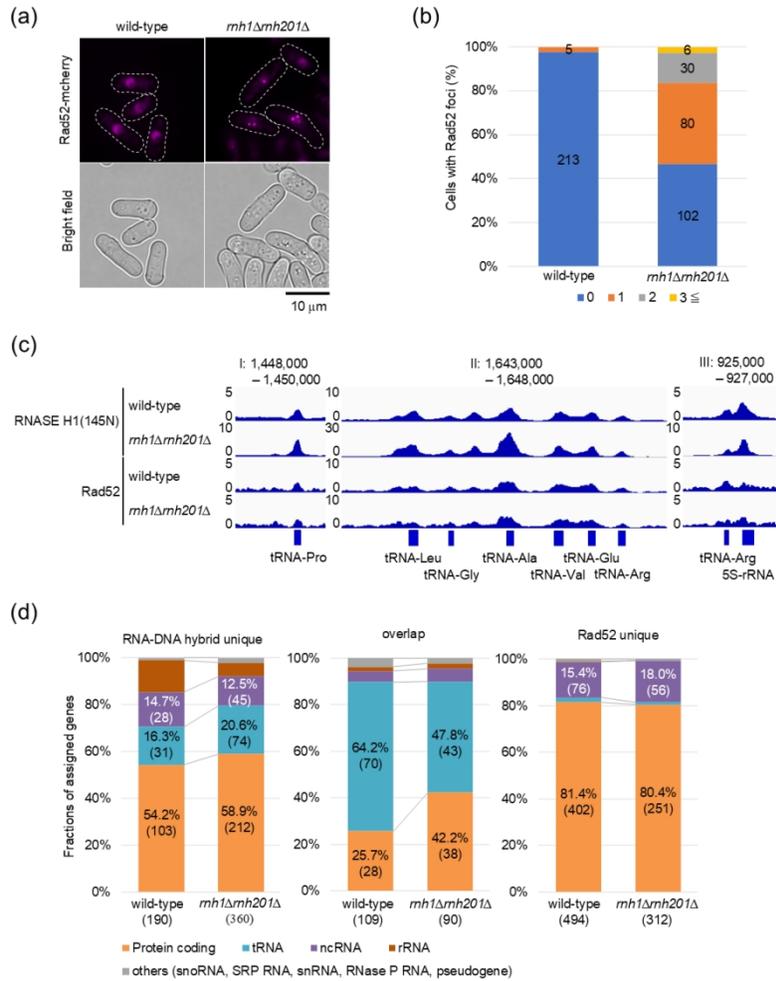
797



Sagi *et al.* Figure 1

Figure 1. RNA-DNA hybrids in living cells can be visualized using a fluorescent RNASE H1(D145N) probe.

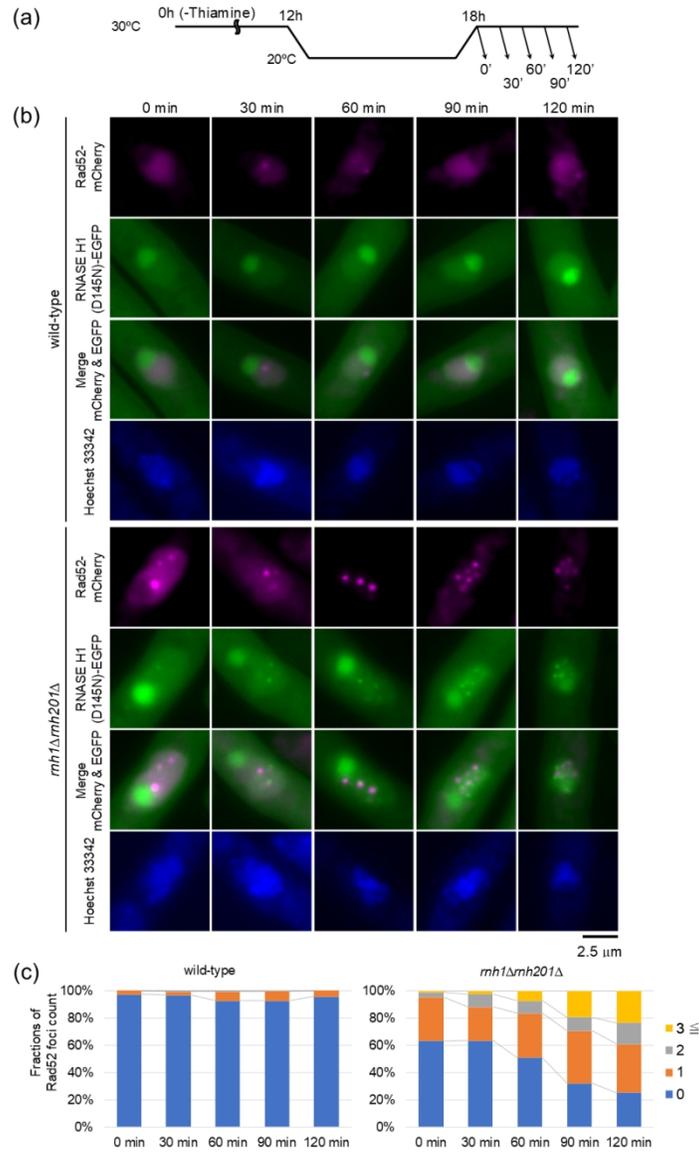
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Sagi et al. Figure 3

Figure 3. Rad52 peaks overlapping with RNA-DNA hybrids in the protein coding region increase in *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* cells.

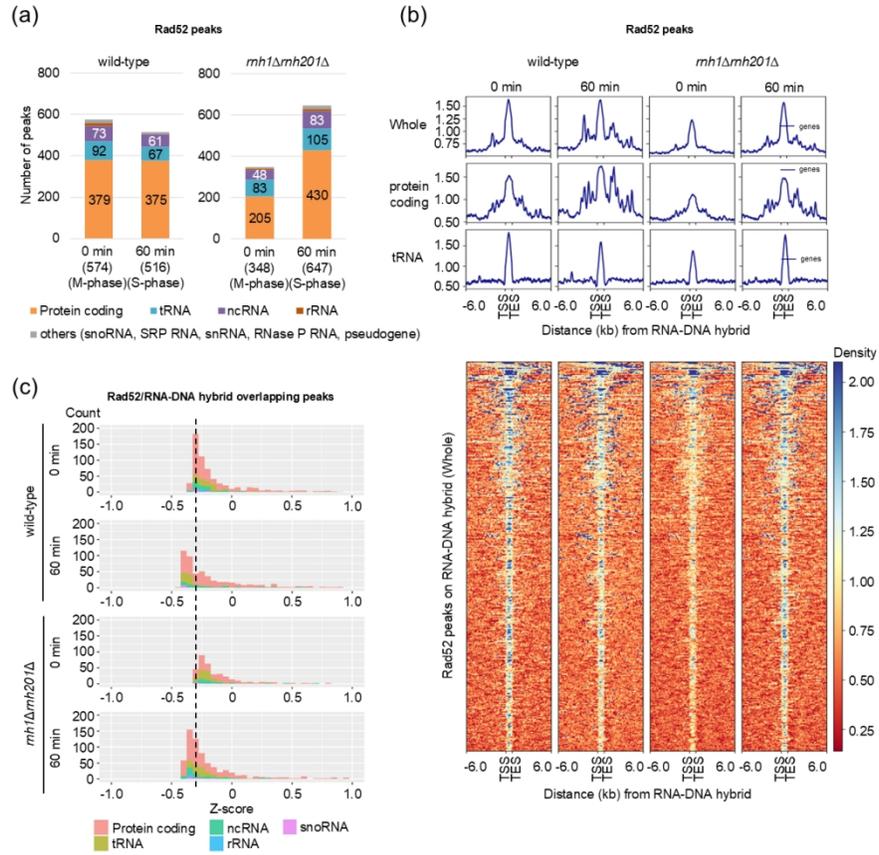
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Sagi et al. Figure 4

Figure 4. Rad52 damage foci increase during S-phase in the *rnh1Δrnh201Δ* cells.

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Sagi *et al.* Figure 5

Figure 5. Rad52 peaks overlapping with RNA-DNA hybrids in the protein coding region increase during S-phase.

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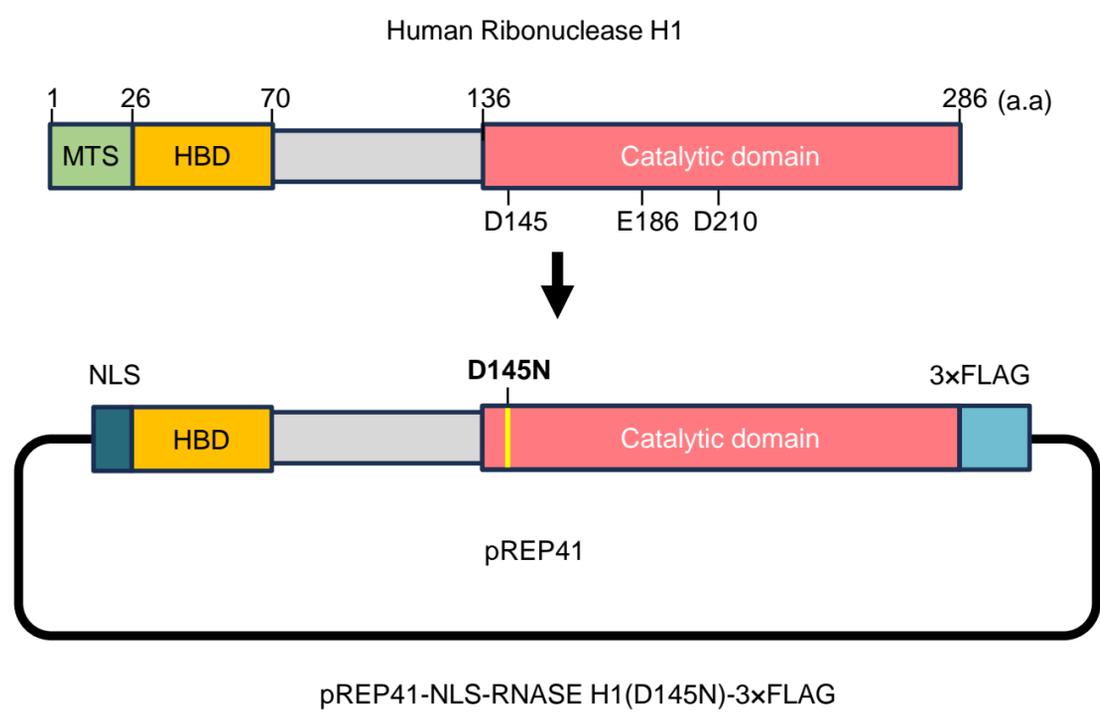
Table 1. Strain list used in this study

Name	Genotype	source
MN-57	<i>h+ ade6-DN/N leu1-32 ura4-DS/E imr1L::ura4+ Otr1R::ade6+ mh1ΔhphMX6</i>	gifted from Dr. Murakami
IM1048	<i>h- ade6-704 leu1-32 ura4-D18 mh201::KanMX6</i>	gifted from Dr. Daigaku
FY11019(MY3096)	<i>h- leu1 ura4 Δrqh1::ura4+</i>	gifted from NBRP
FY23524 (SP1347)	<i>h90 leu1-32 ura4-D18 ade6-M210 sen1D::kan</i>	gifted from NBRP
SG10	<i>h- leu1-32 ura4-D18 ura4-DS/E imr1L::ura4+? Otr1R::ade6+? mh1hphMX6 mh201::KanMX6</i>	this study
SG16	<i>h- leu1-32 ura4-D18 pREP41-NLS-RNaseH1(D145N)-3×FLAG</i>	this study
SG19	<i>h- leu1-32 ura4-D18 ura4-DS/E imr1L::ura4+? Otr1R::ade6+? mh1ΔhphMX6 mh201::KanMX6 pREP41-NLS-RNaseH1(D145N)-3×FLAG</i>	this study
SG34	<i>h- leu1-32 ura4-D18 pREP41-NLS-RNaseH1(D145N)-3×FLAG-EGFP</i>	this study
SG37	<i>h- leu1-32 ura4-D18 ura4-DS/E imr1L::ura4+? Otr1R::ade6+? mh1ΔhphMX6 mh201::KanMX6 pREP41-NLS-RNaseH1(D145N)-3×FLAG-EGFP</i>	this study
SG40	<i>h- ade6-704 leu1-32 ura4-D18 mh201::KanMX6 pREP41-NLS-RNaseH1(D145N)-3×FLAG-EGFP</i>	this study
SG46	<i>h+ ade6-DN/N leu1-32 ura4-DS/E imr1L::ura4+? Otr1R::ade6+? mh1ΔhphMX6 pREP41-NLS-RNaseH1(D145N)-3×FLAG-EGFP</i>	this study
SG97	<i>h- leu1-32 ura4-D18 rad52-mcherry::ura4 nda3-KM311 pREP41-NLS-RNaseH1(D145N)-3×FLAG-EGFP</i>	this study
SG98	<i>h+ ade6-DN/N leu1-32 ura4-DS/E imr1L::ura4+? Otr1R::ade6+? mh1ΔhphMX6 nda3-KM311 rad52-mcherry::ura4 pREP41-NLS-RNaseH1(D145N)-3×FLAG-EGFP</i>	this study
SG99	<i>h- ade6-704 leu1-32 ura4-D18 mh201::KanMX6 nda3-KM311 rad52-mcherry::ura4 pREP41-NLS-RNaseH1(D145N)-3×FLAG-EGFP</i>	this study
SG100	<i>h- leu1-32 ura4-D18 ura4-DS/E imr1L::ura4+? Otr1R::ade6+? mh1ΔhphMX6 mh201::KanMX6 pREP41-NLS-RNaseH1(D145N)-3×FLAG-EGFP</i>	this study
SG128	<i>h- leu1 ura4 Δrqh1::ura4+ pREP41-NLS-RNaseH1(D145N)-3×FLAG-EGFP</i>	this study
SG162	<i>h- leu1-32 ura4-D18 pREP41-NLS-RNaseH1(D145N)-3×FLAG-EGFP pREP42-NLS-rhA-6xPK</i>	this study
SG163	<i>h- leu1-32 ura4-D18 ura4-DS/E imr1L::ura4+? Otr1R::ade6+? mh1ΔhphMX6 mh201::KanMX6 pREP41-NLS-RNaseH1(D145N)-3×FLAG-EGFP pREP42-NLS-rhA-6xPK</i>	this study
SG193	<i>h- leu1 ura4 Δrqh1::ura4+ pREP41-NLS-RNaseH1(D145N)-3×FLAG_EGFP</i>	this study
SG195	<i>h90 leu1-32 ura4-D18 ade6-M210 sen1D::kan pREP41-NLS-RNaseH1(D145N)-3×FLAG-EGFP</i>	this study
SG197	<i>h- leu1-32 srs2::ura4 pREP41-NLS-RNaseH1(D145N)-3×FLAG-EGFP</i>	this study
SG203	<i>h- leu1-32 ura4-D18 pREP41-NLS-RNaseH1(D145N)-3×FLAG pREP42-NLS-rhA-6xPK</i>	this study
SG205	<i>h- leu1-32 ura4-D18 ura4-DS/E imr1L::ura4+? Otr1R::ade6+? mh1ΔhphMX6 mh201::KanMX6 pREP41-NLS-RNaseH1(D145N)-3×FLAG pREP42-NLS-rhA-6xPK</i>	this study
SG207	<i>h- leu1-32 ura4-D18 pREP41-NLS-3×FLAG</i>	this study
SG209	<i>h- leu1-32 ura4-D18 ura4-DS/E imr1L::ura4+? Otr1R::ade6+? mh1ΔhphMX6 mh201::KanMX6 pREP41-NLS-3×FLAG</i>	this study
SG262	<i>h- leu1-32 ura4-D18 rad52-mcherry::ura4 nda3-KM311 pREP41-NLS-RNaseH1(D145N)-3×FLAG-EGFP</i>	this study
SG263	<i>h+ ade6-DN/N leu1-32 ura4-DS/E imr1L::ura4+? Otr1R::ade6+? mh1ΔhphMX6 rad52-mcherry::ura4 nda3-KM311 pREP41-NLS-RNaseH1(D145N)-3×FLAG-EGFP</i>	this study
SG264	<i>h- ade6-704 leu1-32 ura4-D18 mh201::KanMX6 rad52-mcherry::ura4 nda3-KM311 pREP41-NLS-RNaseH1(D145N)-3×FLAG-EGFP</i>	this study
SG265	<i>h- leu1-32 ura4-D18 ura4-DS/E imr1L::ura4+? Otr1R::ade6+? mh1ΔhphMX6 mh201::KanMX6 pREP41-NLS-RNaseH1(D145N)-3×FLAG-EGFP</i>	this study

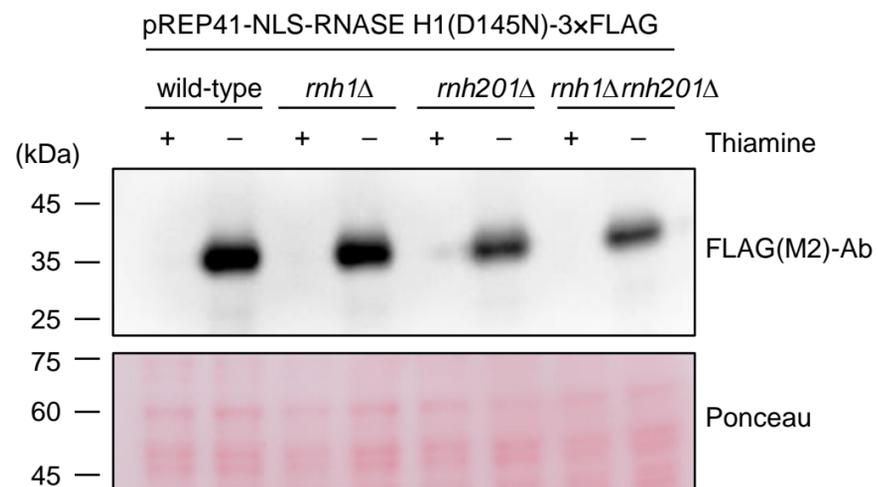
Table 2. Primer sequence for qPCR

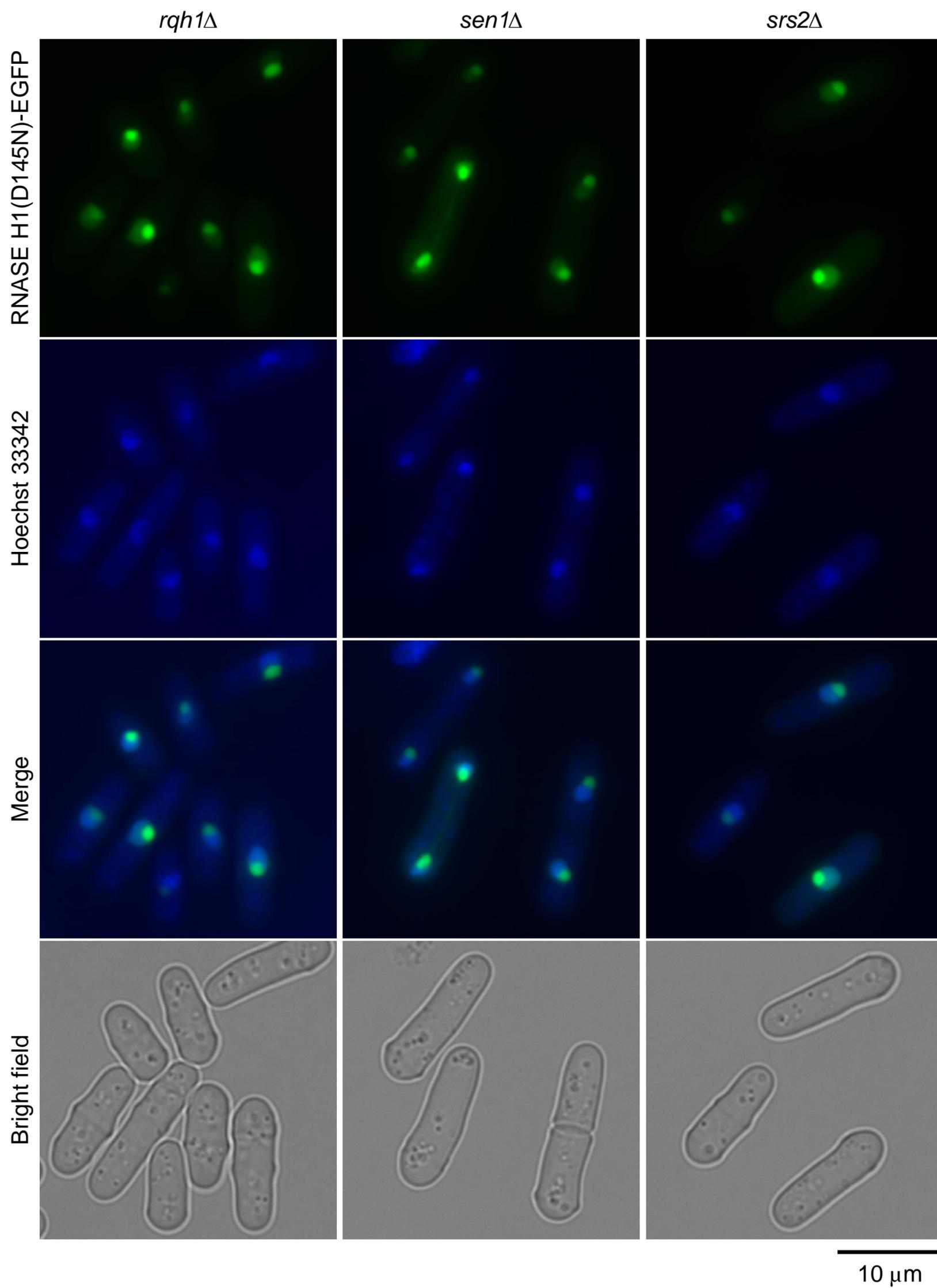
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I:2701kb_Rev	CGAACTGCAGACGCTGCAGTAG	I:2,701,836-2,701,860
I:3443kb_Fwd	TCGTGGCCTAGAAGTAAGGCGT	I:3,443,057-3,443,081
I:3443kb_Rev	GTTGACAGCAAATTTGCTTAGATGGAA	I:3,443,201-3,443,230
II:356kb_Fwd	AGCTGAGAAATCGGTTCTCAACCA	II:356,093-356,119
II:356kb_Rev	TCGTGATAGCGTAACGTTTCGTCCA	II:356,185-356,211
II:464kb_Fwd	GTCTACGGCCATACCTAGGCGAA	II:464,525-464,550
II:464kb_Rev	AAGCCTACAGCACCCCGGATTC	II:464,623-464,647
fba1_qL1	TCAAGACCACCAACGACAAG	II:1,689,117-1,689,137
fba1_qR1	AGGCGAATTGGGTATCAGTG	II:1,689,229-1,689,249
srp7_qL2	AAGAGTAGTCTTCGTGGCAACTG	I:4,268,764-4,268,789
srp7_qR2	GATGTGCATTGTTTCCAACC	I:4,268,815-4,268,835
II:4282kb_Fwd	ATGCTTCACATATGGTAGGCTCAGA	II:4,281,887-4,281,914
II:4282kb_Rev	GACCAAGGCAAGAAGTTAGTTTACGA	II:4,281,973-4,282,001
I:3991kb_Fwd	CAGTCGAATGATCGCAGCATAGC	I:3,991,540-3,991,565
I:3991kb_Rev	CTTCATGCGCTTCTCGTTCCA	I:3,991,634-3,991,656
I:4139kb_Fwd	CACTTCCATTATGTGCCTGCCGTT	I:4,139,723-4,139,749
I:4139kb_Rev	AGTGCATCTAGTCTGACAGCGA	I:4,139,819-4,139,843
II:2807kb_Fwd	ACCAACGAAGCAACGACCATCTC	II:2,807,351-2,807,376
II:2807kb_Rev	GACTATCTTTACCACAATTGCCTCGCACT	II:2,807,467-2,807,498
III:278kb_Fwd	CCTTCTCGCCACCGATTTTCTTA	III:277,458-277,483
III:278kb_Rev	CTTGACAATCGATTTTGCATTGGCAT	III:277,599-277,627
I:1027kb_Fwd	GTGCCCATATCAATCGGACATGCT	I:1,027,159-1,027,185
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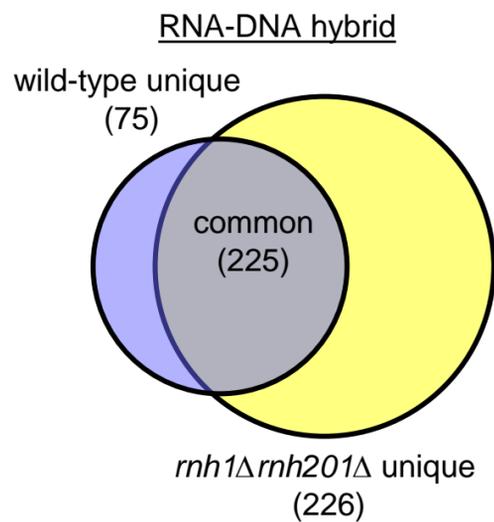


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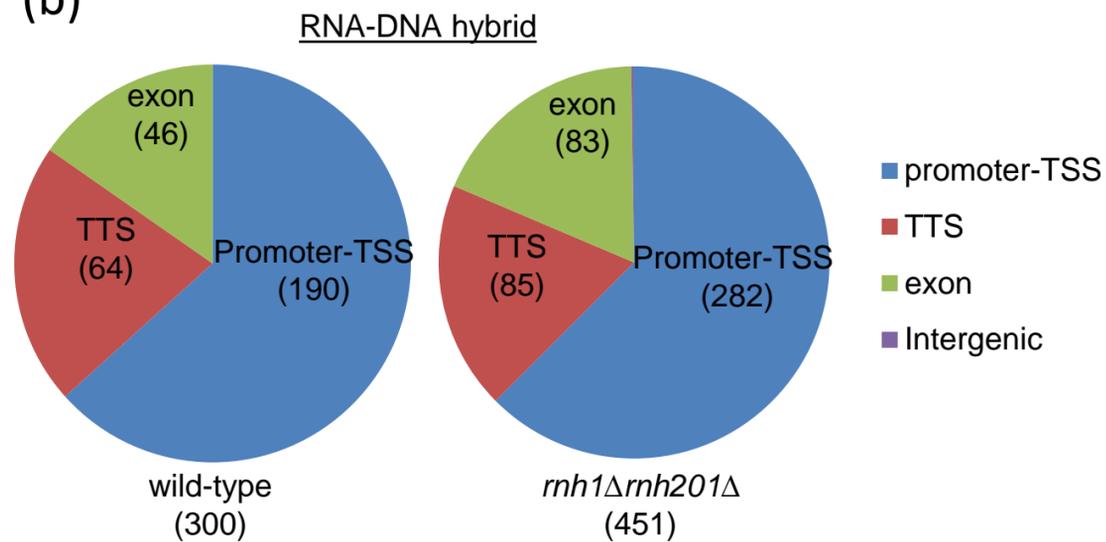




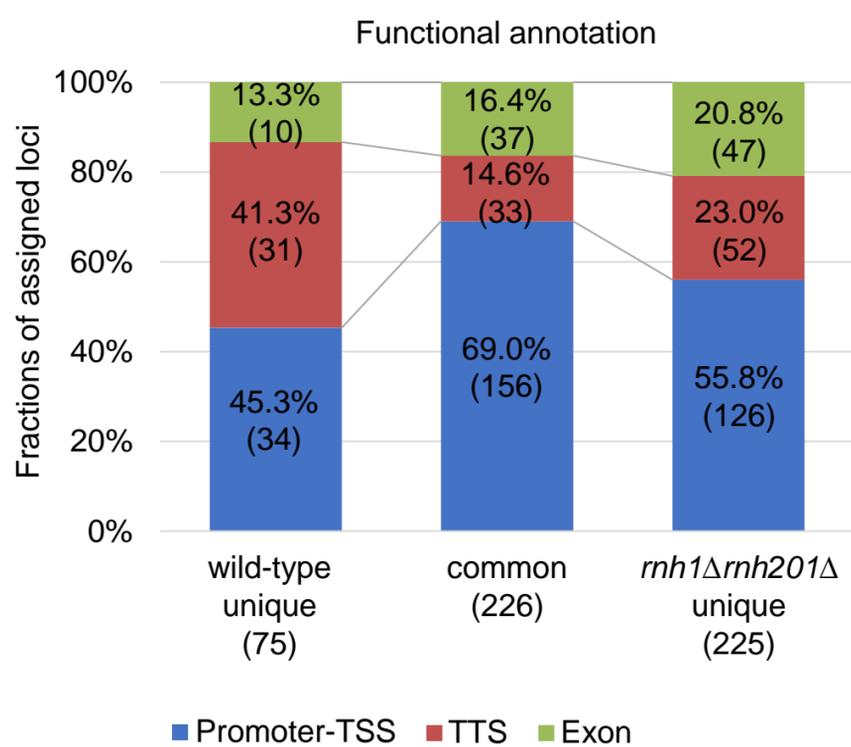
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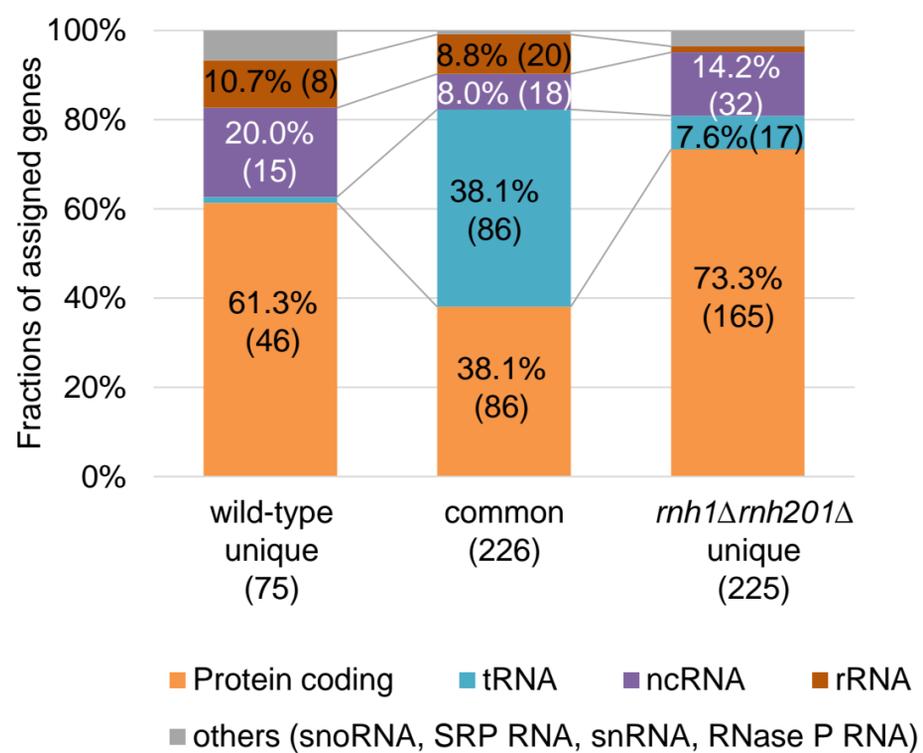
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(c)

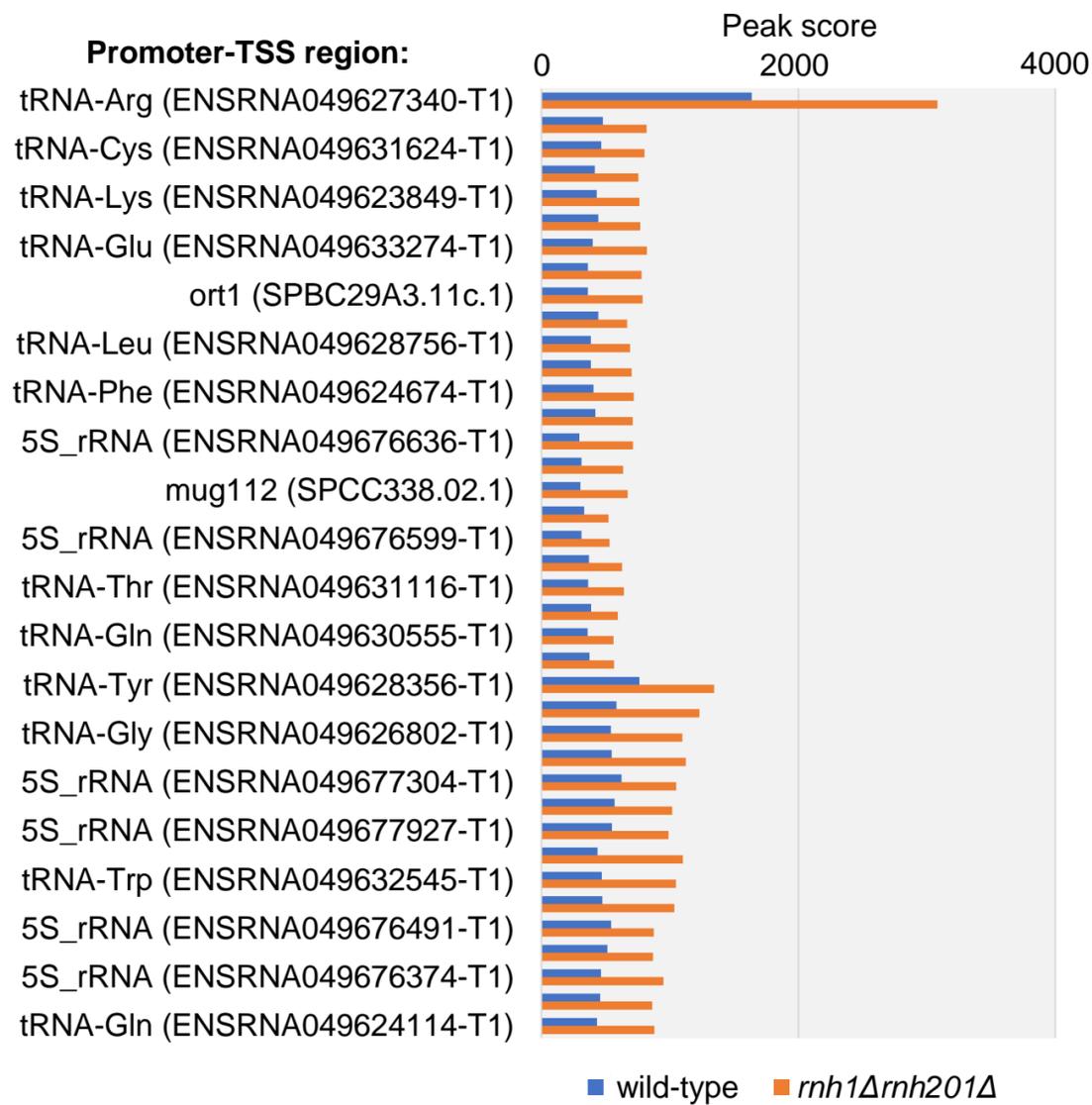


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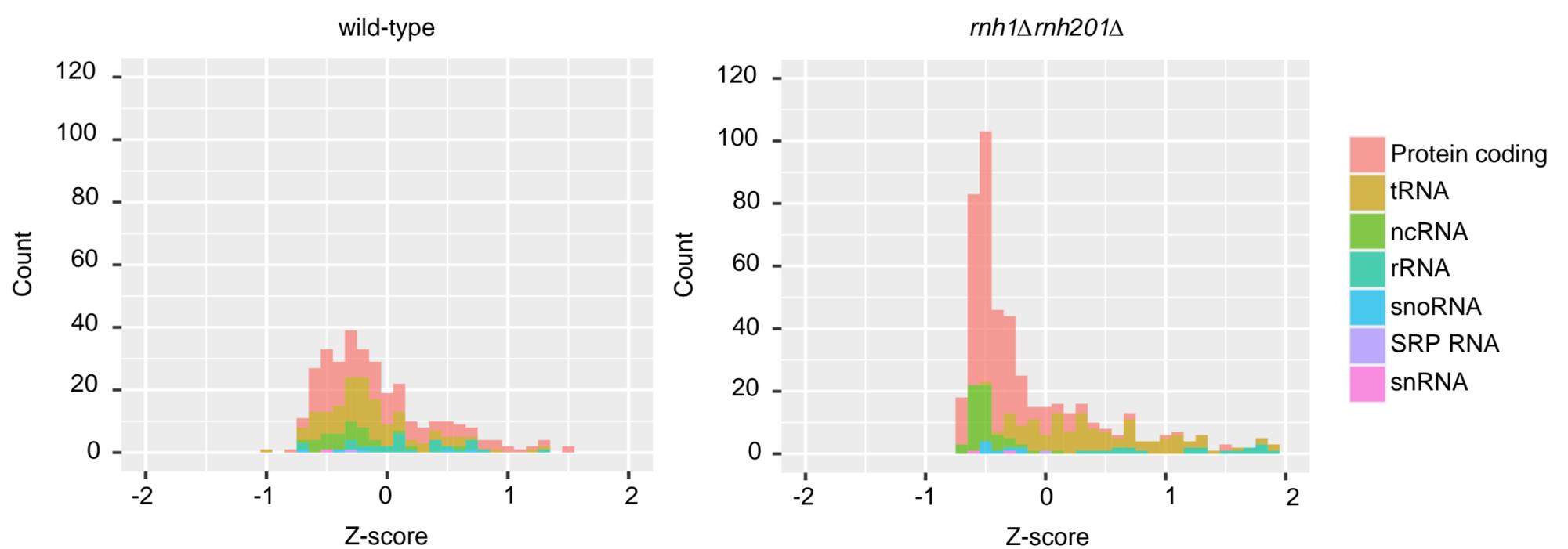
(a)

RNA-DNA hybrid peaks



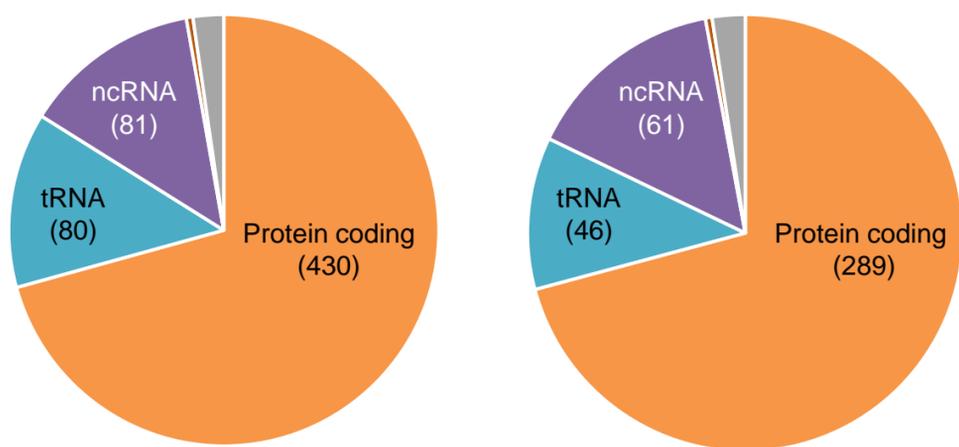
(b)

RNA-DNA hybrid peaks



(a)

Rad52 binding

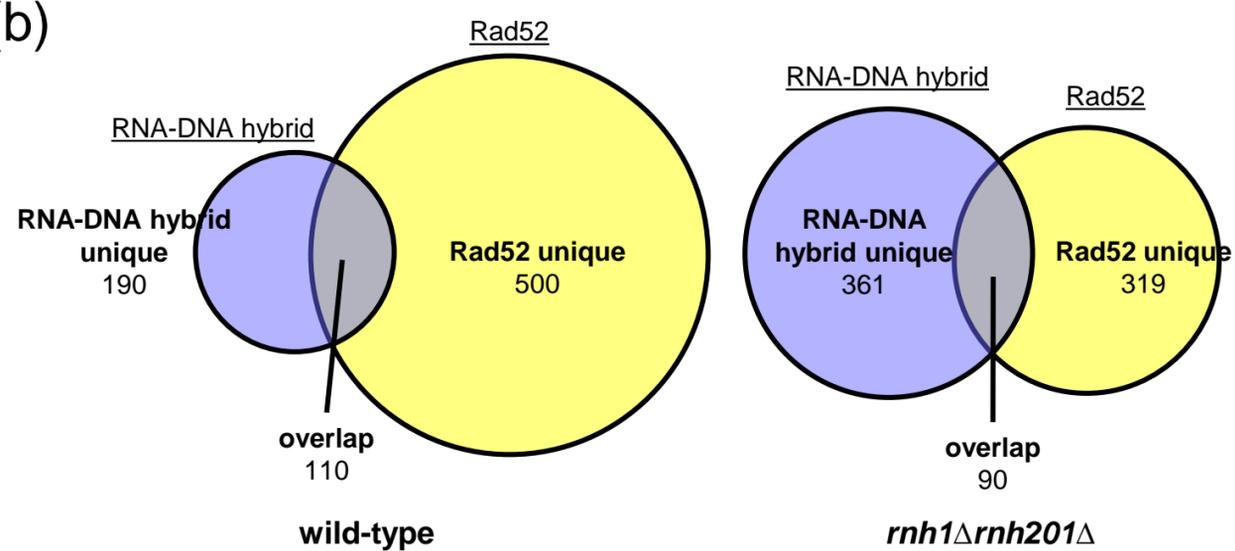


wild-type (608)

rnh1Δrnh201Δ (408)

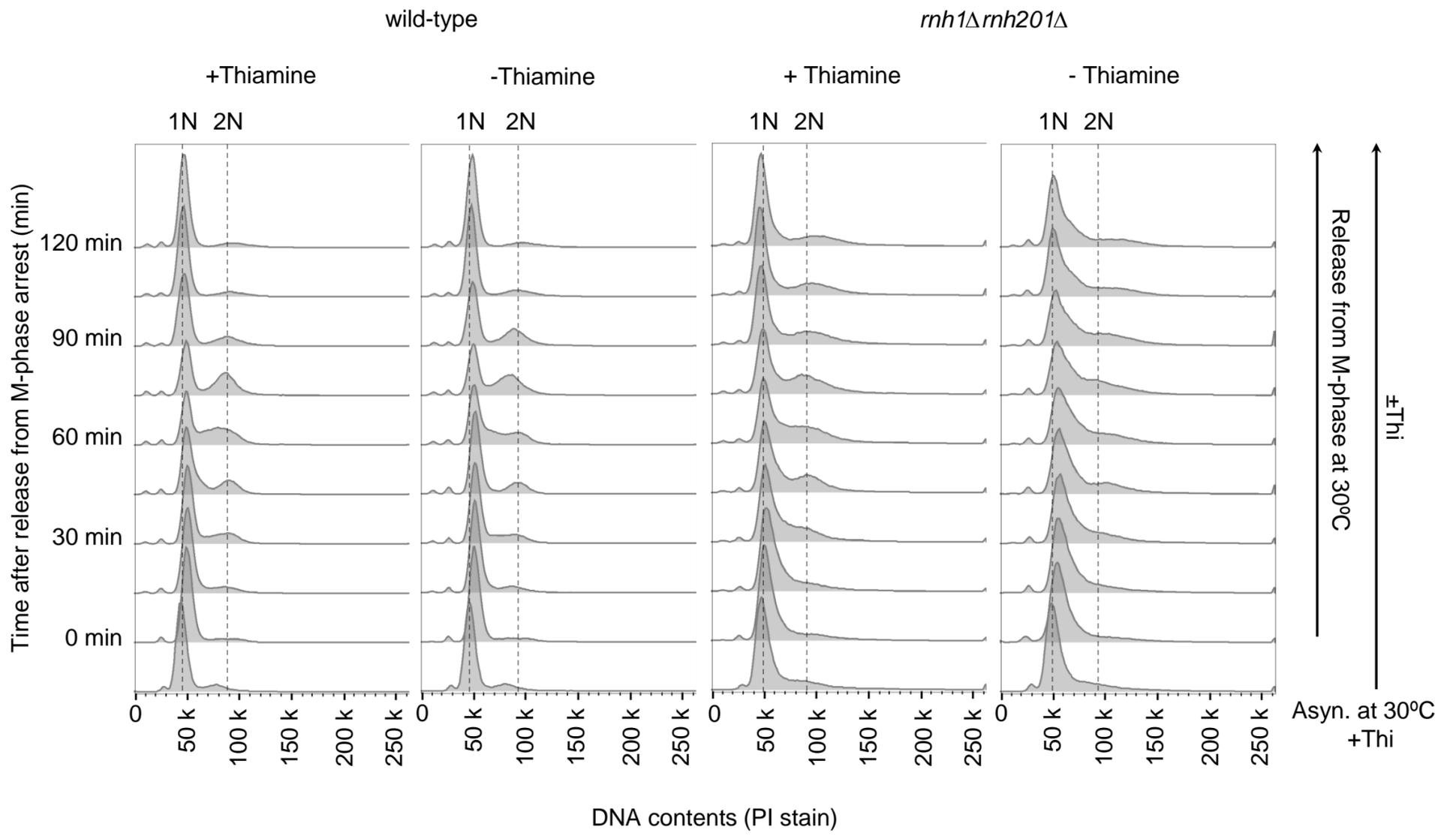
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■ others (snoRNA, SRP RNA, snRNA, pseudogene, intergenic)

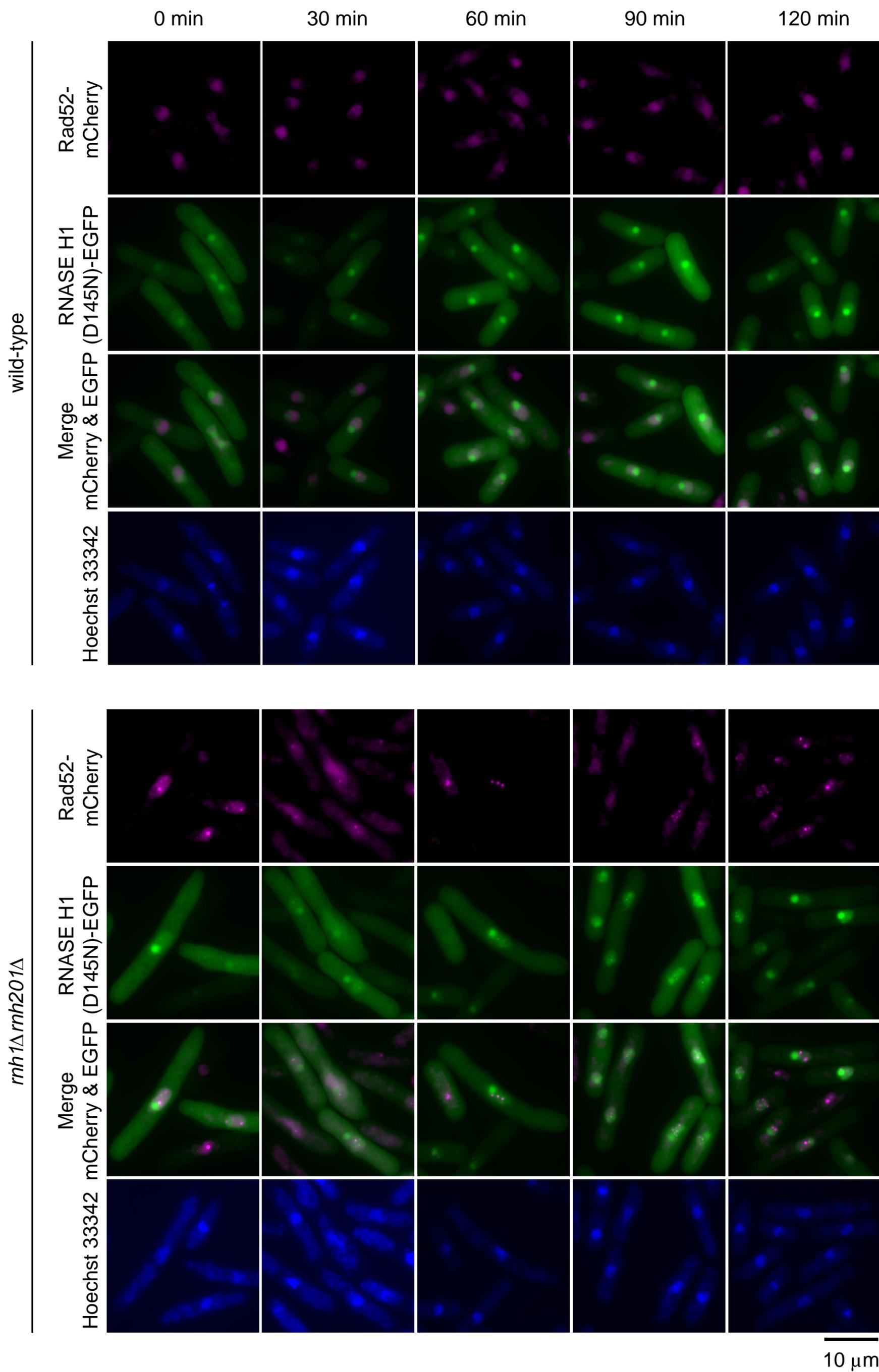
(b)



wild-type

rnh1Δrnh201Δ

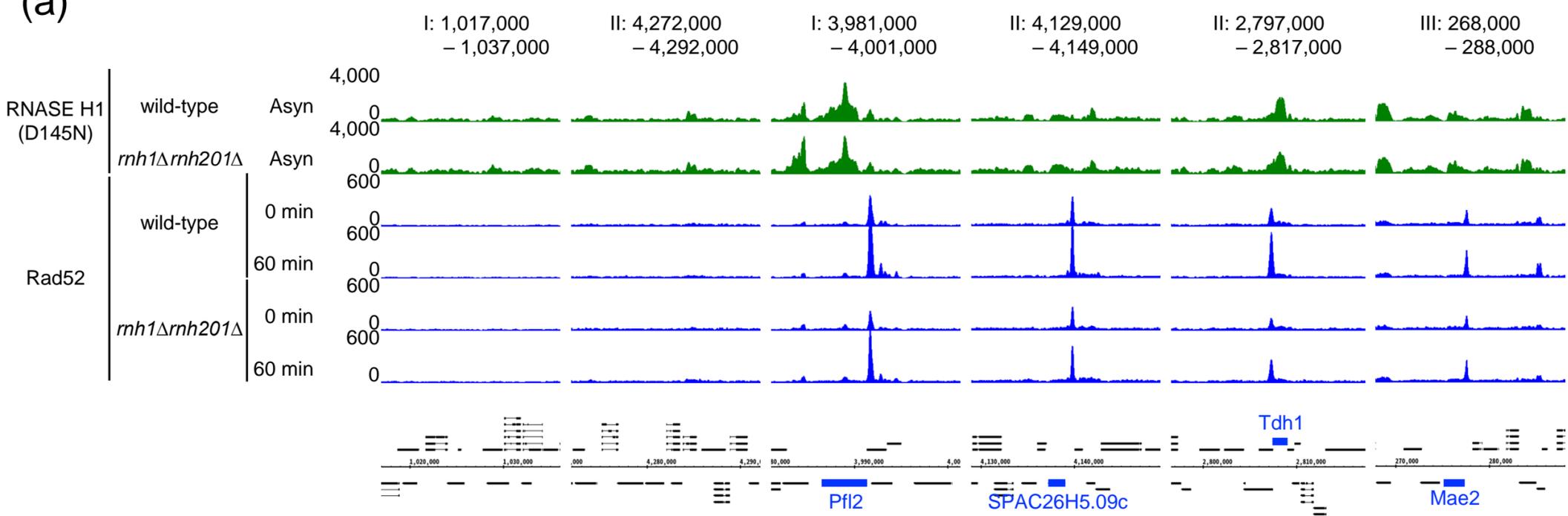




10 μm

Sagi *et al.* Supplementary Figure S7

(a)



(b)

