Molecular mechanisms that distinguish TFIID housekeeping from regulatable SAGA promoters

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Abstract

An important distinction is frequently made between constitutively expressed housekeeping genes versus regulated genes. Although generally characterized by different DNA elements, chromatin architecture and cofactors, it is not known to what degree promoter classes strictly follow regulatability rules and which molecular mechanisms dictate such differences. We show that SAGA-dominated/TATA-box promoters are more responsive to changes in the amount of activator, even compared to TFIID/TATA-like promoters that depend on the same activator Hsf1. Regulatability is therefore an inherent property of promoter class. Further analyses show that SAGA/TATA-box promoters are more dynamic because TATA-binding protein recruitment through SAGA is susceptible to removal by Mot1. In addition, the nucleosome configuration upon activator depletion shifts on SAGA/TATA-box promoters and seems less amenable to preinitiation complex formation. The results explain the fundamental difference between housekeeping and regulatable genes, revealing an additional facet of combinatorial control: an activator can elicit a different response dependent on core promoter class.

Keywords chromatin; gene regulation; SAGA; TFIID; transcription
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Introduction

First coined almost 40 years ago, the term “housekeeping gene” is widely used to distinguish genes with constitutive expression from genes whereby expression is regulated upon environmental, cell type or developmental cues. Genome-wide analyses have facilitated the identification of housekeeping genes, resulting in the characterization of general properties such as gene structure, evolutionary conservation and promoter features (Eisenberg & Levanon, 2013). Despite the long-standing distinction that has been made between housekeeping and regulatable genes, the degree to which such a functional division strictly applies is not clear. In addition, the molecular mechanisms behind such functional differences are not understood.

As well as being grouped based on function, genes can also be classified according to the DNA elements present in their promoters. Besides cis-regulatory elements for binding transcriptional activators, promoters also harbour core promoter elements (Juven-Gershon & Kadonaga, 2010; Müller & Tora, 2014). One such core promoter motif is the TATA-box. The presence or absence of such core promoter elements has been linked to function. For example, mammalian genes without a well-defined TATA-box but with a CpG island promoter are generally associated with housekeeping function (Deaton & Bird, 2011). Functional distinction based on core promoter type is not clear-cut however. For example, many tissue-specific genes are also driven by CpG island promoters (Deaton & Bird, 2011).

A less complex regulatory system is offered by the yeast Saccharomyces cerevisiae where a similar dichotomy is present. Here promoters with a TATA-like element rather than a consensus TATA-box are also generally associated with housekeeping function (Basehoar et al, 2004; Husisinga & Pugh, 2004). A related dichotomy is based on the co-activator used to nucleate assembly of the RNA polymerase II preinitiation complex (PIC) at the different core promoter types (Lee et al, 2000; Husisinga & Pugh, 2004). An essential and early step in PIC formation is TATA-binding protein (TBP) recruitment (Davison et al, 1983; Buratowski et al, 1989; Roeder, 1996). Whereas TATA-box-containing promoters generally depend on the co-activator SAGA to recruit TBP, TATA-like promoters are enriched for the co-activator TFIID for TBP recruitment (Basehoar et al, 2004; Husisinga & Pugh, 2004; Rhee & Pugh, 2012).

In yeast, there is therefore a general distinction between housekeeping genes with a TATA-like element and preferential usage of TFIID on the one hand, versus regulatable/responsive genes with a consensus TATA-box and preferential usage of SAGA on the other. A clear explanation for the regulatory difference between these two broad classes of promoters is missing however. Several concepts are possible. For example, on average, individual SAGA-dominated/
TATA-box promoters seem to be targeted by more regulators than TFIID-dominated/TATA-like promoters (Huisinga & Pugh, 2004; Tirosh et al., 2006; Venters et al., 2011) offering a possible straight-forward explanation for their higher regulatability. There are also general differences in nucleosome configuration between the two promoter classes (Albert et al., 2007; Tirosh & Barkai, 2008; Cairns, 2009; Jiang & Pugh, 2009; Rhee & Pugh, 2012). Nucleosome occupancy and positioning differences have previously been associated with diverse regulatory properties including responsiveness (Lam et al., 2008; Tirosh & Barkai, 2008; Raveh-Sadka et al., 2009). Whether chromatin architecture explains regulatability differences between SAGA- and TFIID-dominated promoters is still an open question however (Nocetti & Whitehouse, 2016). Furthermore, neither the involvement of chromatin architecture nor a difference in the number of regulators explains the apparent involvement of the two co-activators TFIID and SAGA in regulatability differences. This is particularly poignant given that an association between TATA-box type and constitutive versus regulatable expression was first reported 30 years ago (Struhl, 1986).

Here we characterize differences in regulatability between SAGA- and TFIID-dominated genes and study the molecular mechanisms that dictate this property. Most of what is known about the relationship between core promoter type and responsiveness is derived from correlations between genome-scale datasets. We therefore first set up a tractable experimental system that allows for a clear measure of promoter responsiveness, is amenable to mechanistic analyses and is capable of addressing the role of core promoter type with minimal potential interference of different regulator use. By focusing on a single transcriptional activator that serves genes from both classes of promoters, a clear difference in regulatability is demonstrated. Whereas SAGA/TATA-box promoters are highly responsive to the presence of the activator Hsf1, TFIID/TATA-like promoters are much less dynamically responsive to changes of the same activator. On its own, this clearly establishes that there is indeed an inherent difference in regulatability between the two promoter classes, not dictated by use of different numbers or types of transcriptional activators. The system is then further analysed to uncover the molecular mechanisms that dictate the difference in responsiveness. Evidence for two contributing mechanisms is presented. The first explains the differential involvement of TFIID and SAGA on constitutive and responsive promoters, respectively, and involves a general negative regulator of TBP binding, Mot1 (Pereira et al., 2003). The second mechanism involves differences in the nucleosome architecture changes observed upon activator absence or presence on the two promoter classes. The consequence of both mechanisms is that promoter output on SAGA/TATA-box promoters is more dynamically dependent on the presence of an activator because of dynamic negative regulation particular to this promoter class. The results reveal an additional facet of combinatorial control and provide a molecular mechanistic explanation for the fundamental difference between housekeeping and regulatable genes.

**Results**

Previously reported differences in responsiveness between SAGA- and TFIID-dominated genes, or between TATA-box and TATA-like promoters, were based on general observations of higher variation in expression levels for SAGA-dominated/TATA-like genes under a variety of experimental and genetic perturbations (Huisinga & Pugh, 2004; Tirosh et al., 2006; Venters et al., 2011). Such differences may simply reflect a difference between the type or number of transcriptional regulators used by the two classes of promoters, as has indeed been suggested (Huisinga & Pugh, 2004; Tirosh et al., 2006; Venters et al., 2011). We therefore first determined whether there is a transcriptional activator that regulates genes from both promoter classes. Based on genome-wide binding of most yeast transcription factors (Maclsaac et al., 2006), a possible candidate is heat-shock factor 1 (Hsf1). Cofactor binding data indicate that approximately half of the promoters bound by Hsf1 are dominated by SAGA and the other half by TFIID (Rhee & Pugh, 2012). This suggests that Hsf1 and its targets would likely form a good model to investigate inherent differences in regulatability between SAGA- and TFIID-dominated promoters. Since this assessment is based on genome-wide binding data, it was important to first verify which targets are indeed dependent on Hsf1 and whether these direct targets represent both classes of core promoters.

**Rapid nuclear depletion of Hsf1**

Hsf1 is required for the induction of heat-shock proteins but also binds some promoters under standard growth conditions (Hahn et al., 2004). This is likely the reason why HSF1 is essential for cell viability even in the absence of a heat shock (Wiederrecht et al., 1988), a proposal that has recently been confirmed (Solís et al., 2016). Previous studies have mostly used temperature-sensitive HSF1 mutant alleles to study Hsf1 function (Smith & Yaffe, 1991; Zarzov et al., 1997; Imazui & Sakurai, 2005). To circumvent the secondary effects associated with such approaches, an inducible Hsf1 nuclear depletion strain was constructed based on the “anchor-away” technique developed in the Laemmli laboratory (Haruki et al., 2008), but using the S288C/BY4742 genetic background. Besides the FRB (FK506 binding protein–rapamycin binding domain) tag required to induce nuclear depletion, GFP was also added to monitor cellular location. To ensure that FRB-GFP tagging of Hsf1 does not interfere with its function, growth of the tagged strain was compared to an untagged background strain (wild type: WT). Growth was found to be identical (Fig 1A). As a more stringent test, genome-wide mRNA synthesis was compared between WT and the tagged strain (Fig 1B). Only three genes show a significant difference in mRNA synthesis ($P < 0.01$ and fold change (FC) $>1.7$). The two genes with apparently decreased levels are HSF1 itself and a dubious open reading frame (ORF) overlapping the altered 3’ end of HSF1. The HSF1 gene is considerably longer because of the FRB-GFP tag, making cDNA synthesis and cRNA amplification of the region encompassing the microarray probe less efficient and thereby causing an apparent drop in transcription rate compared to WT. The gene with increased transcription is the dubious ORF YDL196W, known to have highly variable expression in WT strains (Kemmeren et al., 2014). The small number of expression changes (Fig 1B) and identical growth compared to WT (Fig 1A) indicates that tagging of Hsf1 in this way does not compromise its function under standard growth conditions.

Yeast Hsf1 is a nuclear protein (Morano et al., 2012). Anchor-away with the FRB-GFP-tagged strain facilitates induced nuclear depletion. HSF1 FRB-GFP-tagged cells cease growth approximately five hours after starting depletion (Fig 1A). This agrees with the
previously established essential role of Hsf1 under standard growth conditions (Wiederrecht et al., 1988). Given that it is the lack of expression of target genes that causes HSF1 gene deletion lethality (Solís et al., 2016), growth cessation is an indirect measure of Hsf1 loss-of-function dynamics. Fluorescence microscopy was therefore applied to more precisely determine the dynamics of Hsf1 nuclear depletion.

**Figure 1. Dynamics of Hsf1 nuclear depletion.**

A Growth curves of WT and the HSF1 FRB-GFP-tagged strain with and without rapamycin, the inducing agent for nuclear depletion (Haruki et al., 2008). WT is the parental S288C/BY4742 strain for anchor-away that has been genetically desensitized to rapamycin.

B Scatterplot of 4tU-derived mRNA synthesis in the Hsf1-tagged strain compared to WT. The x- and y-axes plot the log₂ fluorescent dye intensities of the microarray probes representing each gene (dots), averaged over four replicates. Black circles indicate genes with significantly altered synthesis (FC > 1.7 and P < 0.01, calculated using limma).

C mRNA synthesis, 30 min after induction of Hsf1 nuclear depletion versus same treatment in WT. Black circles indicate genes with significantly decreased synthesis (FC > 1.7 and P < 0.01, calculated using limma).

D Fluorescence microscopy images of Hsf1-FRB-GFP at t = 0 for induced depletion. Scale bar: 10 μm.

E Fluorescence microscopy images of Hsf1-FRB-GFP 15 min after induction of depletion.

F Boxplot showing the quantification of Hsf1 depletion from the nucleus. Dots represent individual cell measurements. Solid horizontal lines show the median, the box represents the interquartile range and the whiskers are at the most extreme data point no further away from the closest quartile than 1.5 times the interquartile range.

G, H Dynamics of Hsf1 depletion from the SSA1 promoter (SAGA-dominated) and BTN2 promoter (TFIID-dominated), as measured by ChIP-qPCR. Error bars show the standard deviation of four independent replicates.

I, J Hsf1 binding to the SSA1 and BTN2 promoters as measured by ChIP-seq.
depletion. In contrast to cessation of growth (5 h: Fig 1A), nuclear depletion of Hsf1 is much faster, with nuclear GFP signal dropping to background levels within 15 min (Fig 1D–F), in agreement with Hsf1 nuclear depletion in a different genetic background (Solís et al., 2016). To establish whether any residual Hsf1 remains bound to target promoters after 15 min, at levels undetectable by fluorescence microscopy, chromatin immunoprecipitation (ChIP) was performed on two Hsf1 bound promoters (Maclsaac et al., 2006): BTN2, which is TFIID-dominated, and SSA1, which is SAGA-dominated (Rhee & Pugh, 2012). The dynamics of Hsf1 loss from both promoters (Fig 1G and H) corresponds very well with the dynamics of nuclear depletion determined by fluorescence microscopy (Fig 1E and F), also reaching background levels after 15 min of depletion (Fig 1G and H). Taken together, these results demonstrate that Hsf1 can be rapidly depleted from target promoters and the nucleus within 15 min.

**Direct targets of Hsf1 during standard growth conditions**

To determine the direct transcriptional targets of Hsf1, mRNA synthesis rates were monitored upon Hsf1 depletion and compared to Hsf1 genome-wide localization derived from ChIP-seq. mRNA synthesis rates were determined using 4-thiouracil (4tU) which is incorporated into newly synthesized mRNAs (Sun et al., 2012). This eliminates the confounding effect of differential mRNA decay rates interfering with target gene identification and is a more direct measure of promoter effects. To determine whether any residual Hsf1 remains bound to target promoters after 15 min, at levels undetectable by fluorescence microscopy, chromatin immunoprecipitation (ChIP) was performed on two Hsf1 bound promoters (Maclsaac et al., 2006): BTN2, which is TFIID-dominated, and SSA1, which is SAGA-dominated (Rhee & Pugh, 2012). The dynamics of Hsf1 loss from both promoters (Fig 1G and H) corresponds very well with the dynamics of nuclear depletion determined by fluorescence microscopy (Fig 1E and F), also reaching background levels after 15 min of depletion (Fig 1G and H). Taken together, these results demonstrate that Hsf1 can be rapidly depleted from target promoters and the nucleus within 15 min.

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Hsf1 levels. Slow depletion was achieved by adding a fifty-fold lower concentration of the inducing agent, resulting in a delayed impact on growth compared to the high concentration (Fig 3A). Monitoring the slow depletion using fluorescence microscopy shows that it takes approximately 90 min to deplete Hsf1 from the nucleus (Fig 3B). Promoter-bound Hsf1 was monitored during the time course (examples in Fig 3C and D) and the corresponding promoter output was measured by 4tU labelling at multiple time points (Fig 3E). Hsf1 binding and the promoter output both show a gradual decrease, corresponding to a slower depletion of Hsf1 from the nucleus. When the Hsf1 binding and mRNA synthesis data are combined, a clear contrast between the two promoter classes is revealed (Fig 4). Figure 4A depicts for each Hsf1 target, the fold change in mRNA synthesis rates (log₁₀ FC, y-axis) versus the fold change in Hsf1 binding (log₂ FC, x-axis). The slope of the line fitted through these data points is a measure for the response in promoter output to a change in the levels of bound Hsf1: promoter responsiveness. Determining responsiveness in this manner yields a value that is independent of the starting amounts of either promoter-bound Hsf1 or initial mRNA synthesis rates. Comparing the responsiveness between the two classes (Fig 4B) shows that the SAGA-dominated genes have a higher responsiveness than the TFIID-dominated promoters. The difference between TFIID- and SAGA-dominated promoters is also reflected upon ranking the responsiveness (Fig 4A): almost all TFIID-dominated promoters (blue) have a lower responsiveness than the SAGA-dominated
**Figure 3.** Slow nuclear depletion of Hsf1 using a lower concentration of rapamycin.

A Growth curve of Hsf1-tagged strain after exposure to a 50-fold reduced rapamycin concentration, compared to untreated, and to WT or the tagged strain with the high dose.

B Fluorescence microscopy images of Hsf1 depletion at low rapamycin concentration. Scale bar: 10 µm.

C, D Slow depletion of Hsf1 from BTN2 (C) and SSA1 (D) promoters as measured by high-density tiling arrays, using four independent replicates.

E 4tU mRNA synthesis changes upon slow depletion of Hsf1 from the nucleus. The x- and y-axes plot the log₂ fluorescent dye intensities of the probes representing each gene (dots), averaged over four replicates, during the time course (y-axis) versus the tagged strain before depletion (x-axis). Circled dots indicate direct Hsf1 targets.
promoters (orange). This agrees with the differences observed in the fast depletion experiment (Fig 2E and F), extending the observation to promoters individually. Given the use of an identical activator by the two promoter classes, these experiments demonstrate that responsiveness is inherent to promoter type.

SAGA-dominated Hsf1 targets are also more responsive during heat shock

Before setting out to determine the molecular mechanism that underlies differential responsiveness, it was first determined...
whether the differential responsiveness observed between SAGA and TFIID Hsf1 targets in the depletion experiments (Figs 2E and F, and 4A and B) is also reflected during physiological changes. Hsf1 is an activator of the heat-shock response (Morano et al., 2012), activating its targets when cells are exposed to heat stress. Based on published heat-shock gene expression data (O’Duibhir et al., 2014), the TFIID- and SAGA-dominated Hsf1 targets indeed behave differently upon heat stress, with the SAGA-dominated Hsf1 targets showing a larger expression increase compared to the TFIID-dominated Hsf1 targets (Fig 4C). This agrees well with the higher responsiveness of the SAGA-dominated targets observed upon Hsf1 depletion under non-heat-shock conditions (Fig 4A and B).

There is also good correspondence between the responsiveness determined by nuclear depletion of Hsf1 and the heat-shock response when analysed individually (Fig 4D). This is especially striking when bearing in mind that a physiological heat shock involves many more cellular changes besides upregulation of heat-shock genes (Morano et al., 2012) and that the heat-shock response was monitored without 4tU (O’Duibhir et al., 2014). The concordance (Fig 4D) shows that the higher responsiveness measured for SAGA-dominated Hsf1 targets by nuclear depletion is physiologically relevant and reflected by the differential behaviour of these targets upon heat shock.

Molecular mechanisms of activator responsiveness

Having established that SAGA and TFIID promoters are differentially responsive to the presence of an identical activator (Fig 4), we next investigated the molecular mechanisms underlying the difference in responsiveness. First, several trivial explanations were explored. Importantly, the rate of Hsf1 promoter depletion from the two classes is not measurably different (Fig EV1A), ruling out differential promoter depletion as a possible explanation. Class differences in initial or final mRNA synthesis rates were also ruled out (Fig EV1B and C). There is also no significant correlation between the initial synthesis rates and the responsiveness for either class (Fig EV1D and E), as expected given the way in which responsiveness is calculated. Also, no significant Hsf1 binding motif differences or differential presence of poly[dA:dT] motifs were found between the two classes. Neither was there a differential enrichment for any of the general regulatory factors (GRFs) Abf1, Rap1 or Reb1 (Rhee & Pugh, 2011; Kasinathan et al., 2014). This indicates that motif differences or binding of GRFs do not account for the difference in responsiveness observed.

Many activators exert a positive influence on transcription through direct recruitment of PIC components (Struhl, 1995; Ptashne & Gann, 1997). One of the essential components of the PIC is TFIIB, which directly contacts DNA, TBP and RNA polymerase II (Grünberg & Hahn, 2013; Sainsbury et al., 2015). For both the TFIID- and SAGA-dominated Hsf1 targets, there is a good correlation between TFIIB binding and Pol II presence (Fig 5A and B). This suggests that any PIC formation steps following TFIIB binding and that lead to Pol II recruitment proceed similarly for the two promoter classes. Interestingly, this concordance between the two promoter classes is not observed when comparing TFIIB binding and Hsf1 binding. Whereas on SAGA-dominated promoters the amount of TFIIB correlates well with the amount of Hsf1, for TFIID promoters this relationship is almost absent (Fig 5C and D). This suggests that Hsf1 is important for PIC formation or stability on SAGA promoters, but less so for TFIID-dominated genes and that the distinguishing step takes place at or before TFIIB binding.

Negative regulation by Mot1 is associated with higher responsiveness

The disconnect between Hsf1 binding and TFIIB presence at TFIID-dominated promoters suggests that there is a difference in PIC formation or stability at the two promoter classes. A key step in PIC formation is TBP recruitment (Davison et al., 1983; Buratowski et al., 1989; Roeder, 1996), which proceeds differently for the two promoter classes due to different preferential co-activator use (Basehoar et al., 2004; Huisenga & Pugh, 2004; Rhee & Pugh, 2012). A known regulator of TBP promoter dynamics is Mot1 (Tora & Timmers, 2010; Viswanathan & Auble, 2011), which removes TBP preferentially from SAGA-dominated/TATA-box-containing promoters (Zentner & Henikoff, 2013). Differential TBP turnover can potentially explain a difference in responsiveness. When TBP is more rapidly removed from one of the classes of promoters, transcription would be more efficiently shut down in this class, leading to a larger response upon depletion of an activator. Indeed, TBP turnover has been shown to be high in SAGA-dominated promoters and low in TFIID-dominated promoters (van Werven et al., 2009). Furthermore, genes that become derepressed upon Mot1 inactivation are enriched for SAGA-dominated genes (Spedale et al., 2012). Since Mot1 evicts TBP from SAGA-dependent promoters and given the indications that there is a difference in PIC stability between the two promoter classes (Fig 5C and D), it was next tested whether negative regulation by Mot1 underlies the difference in responsiveness.

Mot1 was tagged with FRB-GFP in the S288C background and mRNA synthesis was monitored with 4tU immediately after induction of Mot1 nuclear depletion (Fig 5E). In this experiment too, SAGA-dominated Hsf1 targets behave differently, showing more sensitivity in the form of increased mRNA synthesis rates upon loss of Mot1 function (Fig 5E). This fits very well with the idea that continuous Mot1-mediated TBP removal on SAGA-dominated promoters makes such genes more dependent on activator presence and therefore more responsive. As is discussed later, the differential sensitivity of the two promoter classes to Mot1 also explains why TFIIID is linked to housekeeping genes and SAGA to regulatable genes.

Nucleosome repositioning also underlies higher responsiveness

Sensitivity to Mot1 loss of function is significantly different for the two Hsf1-dependent promoter classes (Fig 5E), but the difference is modest. This is in part due to an inability to monitor changes after longer periods of Mot1 nuclear depletion because of the onset of indirect effects (O’Duibhir et al., 2014). Nevertheless, mechanisms other than TBP eviction potentially also play a role, including promoter chromatin architecture. Nucleosome configurations generally differ between the two promoter classes (Albert et al., 2007; Tirosh & Barkai, 2008; Cairns, 2009; Rhee & Pugh, 2012), see also Fig 2). This is of interest since chromatin can have diverse roles in shaping regulatory properties including responsiveness (Lam et al., 2008; Tirosh & Barkai, 2008; Raveh-Sadka et al., 2009).

To investigate chromatin in the presence and absence of Hsf1, nucleosome positions were determined genome-wide using

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Nucleosome occupancy and positioning on the TFIID-dominated targets are only mildly affected by Hsf1 depletion, with only a slight increase in occupancy visible (Fig 6 left), consistent with reduced transcription rates. The high degree of activator independence on TFIID-dominated promoters is clear from both the average plot (Fig 6 left) and each individual promoter (Fig 7 left and Fig EV2). In contrast, nucleosomes on the SAGA-dominated Hsf1 targets are much more strongly affected by Hsf1 (Figs 6 and 7 right). On the SAGA-dominated targets, the +1 nucleosome forms two peaks in the presence of Hsf1, whereby the minor, most downstream peak (Fig 6 right, arrow), shifts back upstream upon Hsf1 removal. Due to averaging (Fig 6), some extremely large repositioning differences on individual SAGA-dominated promoters are lost (Fig 7 right). On the SSA1 promoter for example, two different cell populations of +1 nucleosome DNA fragment midpoints are observed in the presence of Hsf1, with the most downstream population completely disappearing upon Hsf1 removal (Fig 7 right). This indicates that the +1 nucleosome is in the downstream position when the gene is active, and in the upstream position when the gene is inactive. We infer that the two nucleosome positions represent different cell populations because the spacing (60 bp) is too small for simultaneous binding. Upon removal of Hsf1, nucleosomes shift from the downstream (active) position to the upstream (inactive) position. Most of the SAGA-dominated Hsf1 targets show similar effects, although to a lesser extent (Figs 7 and EV2). This is in stark contrast to the TFIID-dominated promoters, only one of which shows slight nucleosome repositioning: CUR1, the most responsive TFIID-dominated promoter (Fig EV2).

The results show that Hsf1 removal has different consequences at the two promoter classes. For the TFIID-dominated targets, Hsf1 removal has little immediate effect on nucleosome
positioning. On SAGA-dominated genes, Hsf1 removal results in repositioning of the +1 nucleosome upstream into what is apparently a transcriptionally less favourable position. These results agree with the idea that transcriptional plasticity is linked to nucleosome configuration (Lam et al., 2008; Tirosh & Barkai, 2008; Raveh-Sadka et al., 2009), as well as with the idea that an appropriately positioned +1 nucleosome is important for transcription (Rhee & Pugh, 2012). Notably, Fig 6 shows that removal of an activator results in nucleosomal repositioning on SAGA-dominated targets, but not on TFIID-dominated targets, even though genes from both classes depend on the same activator for promoter output. Besides differential TBP turnover, differences in nucleosome configuration therefore likely also contribute to the different responsiveness found between TFIID housekeeping and SAGA regulatable genes.

**Discussion**

The central question addressed here is regulatability of transcription and what dictates this property. The two different core promoter types, TATA-box/SAGA-dominated and TATA-like/TFIID-dominated,
have in the past been associated with increased regulatability and housekeeping transcription, respectively (Basehoar et al, 2004; Huisinga & Pugh, 2004; Tirosh et al, 2006; Tirosh & Barkai, 2008). This association was based on an enrichment for TATA-box/SAGA-dominated promoters in genes with higher expression variation. An important finding of this study is that the property of responsiveness is directly inherent to core promoter type. Genes dependent on a single transcriptional activator show different degrees of responsiveness and this difference in regulatory dynamics is due to core promoter class. This is important to emphasize since previous explanations put forward for the higher variation in gene expression observed for TATA-box/SAGA-dominated genes include increased competition between activators and nucleosomes, combined with promoter targeting by a greater number of regulatory factors. Although it cannot be formally excluded that the differences are specific to Hsf1 targets, the analyses presented here indicate that responsiveness is directly associated with core promoter type rather than the number or type of regulators. Evidence for two molecular mechanisms is presented. Both involve dynamic negative regulation that makes SAGA/TATA-box promoters more dynamically dependent on an activator.

Increased turnover of TBP would serve to make a promoter more responsive to activator presence because on such a promoter transcription would otherwise be much more quickly shut down.
Both this and the converse SAGA/TATA-box promoter upregulation upon Mot1 inactivation are observed here. The detailed analyses of a single transcription factor regulon fits well with previous genome-wide and biochemical studies showing that Mot1 increases TBP turnover preferentially at SAGA-dominated/TATA-box promoters (van Werven et al., 2009; Tora & Timmers, 2010; Viswanathan & Auble, 2011; Spedale et al., 2012; Zentner & Henikoff, 2013). This mechanism also explains the long-standing observation that TATA-box type is associated with regulatability properties (Struhl, 1986). Firstly, a consensus TATA-box puts more strain on DNA which may contribute to Mot1-mediated TBP release (Tora & Timmers, 2010). Flanking DNA sequences likely also play a role (Viswanathan et al., 2016). In addition, structural analyses indicate that TBP is protected from Mot1 interaction in the context of TFIID, but not in the context of SAGA (Bagby et al., 2000; Wollmann et al., 2011; Anandapadamanaban et al., 2013; Ravarani et al., 2016). This therefore also contributes to our understanding of why TFIID is associated with housekeeping genes, as TBP in the TFIID complex, bound to a consensus TATA-box, is less susceptible to removal.

TATA-binding protein turnover is unlikely to be the only mechanism contributing to promoter responsiveness. The differential effects on nucleosome repositioning between TFIID/TATA-like and SAGA/TATA-box promoters upon activator loss also implicate differences in nucleosome configuration. The most straightforward interpretation is that the activator Hsf1 is important for keeping SAGA/TATA-box promoters in a nucleosomal configuration that is amenable to transcription. Upon Hsf1 loss, nucleosome positioning reverts to a configuration that is less favourable for transcription. In this sense, the mechanism is similar to increased TBP turnover, that is increased responsiveness due to more dynamic state transformations of SAGA/TATA-box genes. A correctly positioned +1 nucleosome is thought to be important for transcription (Rhee & Pugh, 2012) and previous studies have indeed shown differences in nucleosome organization between SAGA/TATA-box and TFIID/TATA-like promoters that includes the +1 nucleosome (Albert et al., 2007; Tirosh & Barkai, 2008; Cairns, 2009; Jiang & Pugh, 2009; Rhee & Pugh, 2012). Models implicating nucleosomes in regulatability (Lam et al., 2008; Tirosh & Barkai, 2008; Raveh-Sadka et al., 2009) often apply direct competition as mechanism. The position of Hsf1 binding on the SAGA-dominated Hsf1 targets is only compatible with a direct +1 nucleosome competition model in a few cases (Fig EV2) and recruitment of nucleosome remodelling activity by Hsf1 may therefore be involved (Shivaswamy & Iyer, 2008; Erkina et al., 2010).

The findings presented here fit with recent studies showing the importance of an appropriate interplay between transcriptional regulators and chromatin architecture during gene expression (Kubik et al., 2015; Reja et al., 2015; Nocetti & Whitehouse, 2016). As in other studies, here too SAGA-dominated promoters show more changes in nucleosome positioning compared to TFIID-dominated promoters. It has been reported that generally, TATA-less genes have regions of lower bendability in their promoters (Tirosh et al., 2007). This disfavors nucleosome binding and stimulates a more inherently open nucleosome configuration. Lack of such regions may cause SAGA-dominated genes to be more dependent on nucleosome repositioning through activator-dependent recruitment of remodelers.

Responsiveness is correlated to gene expression noise and may be mechanistically linked (Lehner, 2010). This agrees with the higher responsiveness of SAGA/TATA-box promoters since the presence of a TATA-box increases gene expression noise (Raser & O’Shea, 2004; Murphy et al., 2010). Related to this, the TATA-box has a major role in determining transcriptional burst size which may in fact reflect responsiveness (Hornung et al., 2012). The latter study also highlights that individual promoter features are not always unambiguously associated with promoter properties, an aspect also illustrated here. For example, HSP60 is distinct from other SAGA/TATA-box promoters since it is less responsive than most of the TFIID/TATA-less promoters analysed (Fig 4A), indicating that there is still much to be learnt regarding gene regulation rules. In line with this, it is important to point out that TFIID does not function exclusively at TATA-like promoters (Basehoar et al., 2004; Huisinga & Pugh, 2004; Rhee & Pugh, 2012). Within the 21 Hsf1 targets defined here, there are two TFIID-dominated genes with a TATA-box and there are two SAGA-dominated genes that lack a TATA-box. This exemplifies that the difference between SAGA- and TFIID-dominated genes is not black-and-white and also explains why some TFIID-dominated genes show increased expression upon depletion of Mot1 (Fig 5E). Combinatorial control is a well-established concept in regulation of gene expression that refers to multiple transcription factors acting in synergistic combinations to specify unique gene expression patterns. This study adds an additional facet to combinatorial control mechanisms: the action of an identical activator can have a different outcome depending on promoter context.

Materials and Methods

Strain creation

The anchor-away system (Haruki et al., 2008) was recreated in the *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* S288C/BY4742 strain. To achieve this, FPR1 was deleted, a tor1-1 mutation was introduced to desensitize the strain to rapamycin and RPL13A was tagged with 2xFKBP12 as in the original anchor-away system (Haruki et al., 2008). This strain was subsequently used here as the parental strain to create each specific anchor-away strain. This strain is referred to as wild type (WT) throughout the manuscript. In order to create the specific anchor-away strains, Hsf1 was tagged with an FRB-yEGFP tag and Mot1 with an FRB-yEGFP-3V5 tag. Proper tagging was checked using PCR, Western blotting and microscopy.

Growth curves

Strains were streaked from −80°C stocks onto appropriate selection plates and grown for 3 days. Liquid cultures were inoculated with independent colonies and grown overnight (ON) in synthetic complete (SC) medium: 2 g/l dropout mix complete and 6.71 g/l yeast nitrogen base without AA, carbohydrate & w/AS (YNB) from US Biologicals (Swampscott, USA) with 2% D-glucose. The following day, ON cultures were used to inoculate 1.5 ml of SC media and cells were grown in an Infinite F200 plate reader (Tecan) alongside a WT parental strain at 30°C. Starting OD₅₉₅ of cultures was 0.15 ± 0.05 and the OD₅₉₅ was measured every 10 min. Cells were
diluted 1:3 after two doublings (OD = 0.60) by removing 1 ml of medium and adding 1 ml of fresh SC medium containing 2% glucose and various concentrations of rapamycin. This dilution procedure was repeated several times. These measurements were used to calculate doubling times and to determine the rapamycin concentration to use for slow depletion experiments.

**Anchor-away depletion**

Hsf1 and Mot1 were depleted from the nucleus by adding rapamycin, dissolved in DMSO, to a final concentration of 7.5 µM. To achieve a slow depletion, a 50x lower concentration of rapamycin was used (final concentration 0.15 µM). For the “t = 0” samples, no rapamycin, but the same volume of DMSO was added.

**Microscopy**

Nuclear Hsf1 depletion rates were determined in exponentially growing cells by fluorescence microscopy. A non-tagged parental strain was used as a negative control. All the images were set to have identical min and max brightness values. Circles were manually drawn around cells to measure pixel intensities, and the skewness of these intensities was calculated using the ImageJ tool. Nuclear GFP intensity was quantified for every cell at each time point as the skewness of the GFP signal (pixel intensities) + 1.5 in each cell.

**RNA labelling and extraction**

4-Thiouracil (4tU) was added to cell cultures at a final concentration of 5 mM, 6 min prior to mRNA extraction. Cells were then harvested by centrifugation (3,952 × g for 3 min), and pellets were immediately frozen in liquid nitrogen after removal of supernatant. Frozen cells (–80°C) were resuspended in 500 µl acid phenol–chloroform (Sigma, 5:1, pH 4.7). Immediately, an equal volume of TES buffer (TES: 10 mM Tris pH 7.5, 10 mM EDTA, 0.5% SDS) was added. Samples were vortexed hard for 20 s and incubated in a water bath for 10 min at 65°C and vortexed again. Samples were then put in a thermomixer (65°C, 1,400 rpm) for 50 min. Samples were spun for 20 min in an Eppendorf bench top centrifuge at 18,407 × g at 4°C. Phenol extraction was repeated once, followed by a chloroform–isoamyl-alcohol (25:1) extraction. RNA was precipitated with sodium acetate (NaAc 3M, pH 5.2) and ethanol (96%, –20°C). The pellet was washed with ethanol and dissolved in sterile water (MQ) to 1 µg/µl final concentration. RNA samples were heated for 10 min at 60°C and then immediately put on ice for 2 min. 100 µg RNA was then biotinylated with 200 µl of 1 mg/ml biotin-HDPD and unbound biotin was removed using chloroform extraction. Labelled RNA was separated from total RNA on a µMACs column containing streptavidin-conjugated magnetic beads. The bound RNA was washed 6× with 65°C washing buffer (100 mM Tris pH 7.5, 10 mM EDTA, 1 M NaCl, 0.1% Tween-20) and eluted using 200 µl of 100 mM DTT. The RNA was then purified with an RNeasy MinElute Cleanup Kit from Qiagen.

**Microarray profiling**

Dual-channel 70-mer oligonucleotide arrays were employed with a 4tU common reference WT RNA. For most microarray experiments, each measurement point is the average of two biological replicates, each profiled as a technical replicate in dye-swap, yielding four replicates that were averaged and statistically analysed by limma (Smyth et al, 2005) versus either wild-type or the same strain at t = 0. For the fast nuclear depletion of Hsf1, one biological replicate was used. Apart from 4tU labelling and mRNA extraction, all procedures were identical and are described in detail in Kemmeren et al (2014). Calculations were done using the statistical language R version 3.0.1 on a Linux machine running CentOS 5.5. Expression changes are the log2 ratios relative to the median of the four wild types at the same time point, or of the same strain at t = 0.

**Chromatin immunoprecipitation**

Chromatin immunoprecipitation was carried out as previously described (van Bakel et al, 2008) with some modifications. In short, 250 ml of mid-log growing yeast cells (OD600 = 1.0) was cross-linked with 2% formaldehyde for 30 min at 30°C, the reaction was quenched with glycine (final concentration = 125 mM), and cells were collected by centrifugation. Rapamycin addition was staggered during the time course experiment to allow harvesting of all samples at the same time and OD. Subsequently, cells were spheroplasted according to the protocol of the Rando laboratory (Rando, 2010) and then directly sonicated (Bioruptor, Diagenode: 10 cycles, 30 sec on/off, medium setting). About 200 µl chromatin extract was incubated with 10 µl of anti-GFP antisera (3, H, RT) which had been coupled to protein G agarose beads (Roche 11 243 233 01) overnight at 4°C. After incubation with the antibody, the beads were washed twice in FA lysis buffer (50 mM HEPES-KOH pH 7.5, 150 mM NaCl, 1 mM EDTA, 1% Triton X-100, 0.1% Na-deoxycholate, 0.1% SDS), twice with FA lysis buffer containing 0.5 M NaCl, and twice with 10 mM Tris at pH 8.0, 0.25 mM LiCl, 1 mM EDTA, 0.5% Nonidet P-40 and 0.5% Na-deoxycholate. Cross-links of the ChIP samples were reversed overnight at 65°C in 150 µl 10 mM Tris–HCl (pH 8.0), 1 mM EDTA, 1% SDS. Samples were treated with RNase A and proteinase K, and DNA was recovered for further analysis using phenol extraction.

**ChIP-seq and peak finding**

Prior to library preparation, the samples were sub-sheared to obtain fragments in the optimal size range (Mokry et al, 2010). Both ChIP and input samples were sequenced single end (50 bp) using a SOLiD Wildfire platform. The reads were aligned to the sacCer3 genome assembly (February 2011) using bwa (Li & Durbin, 2009) with the settings “-c –l 25 –k 2 –n 10”, yielding 32.5 million mapped reads (48%) for the ChIP sample, and 48.1 million mapped reads (60%) for the input sample. Hsf1-binding peaks were detected using the program CisGenome (Ji et al, 2008). The maximal log2(fold change) between IP and WT DNA fragment counts (max log2(fold change)), peak width and the normalized number of reads in the peak were used for further analysis.

**ChIP-qPCR**

DNA samples were recovered after ChIP as described above. The fold change of two Hsf1 targets (BTN2 and SSA1) over two control
regions (HMR and POL1) was measured by qPCR, which were performed in 384-well plates using 6 μl SYBR Green super mix (Bio-Rad), 2 μl of each primer set and 2 μl of DNA. The total volume per reaction was 10 μl. To create a standard curve, 10 μl of each of the input samples was combined and used undiluted and diluted at concentrations of 1:10, 1:100 and 1:1,000. The qPCRs were run on a 7900HT fast real-time PCR machine (Applied Biosystems). IP and mock samples were first normalized to their corresponding input samples. The fold change of 

\[ \text{fold change} = \frac{\text{signal from these genes}}{\text{average signal of the two negative control genes (HMR and POL1)}}. \]

The depletion rate was calculated by plotting the log2 fold change in Hsf1 binding against time and fitting a line through these points. If two adjacent probes switched between being the biggest and the smallest, the WT track was subtracted from all other tracks. Peaks were found by searching for genomic locations where two adjacent probes had at least a fold change of 2, with a P-value of 0.05. For each peak, the probe with the highest fold change was taken and subsequently followed during the time course. If two adjacent probes switched between being the biggest fold changer within the peak during the time course, the average of the fold change and P-value of these two probes was taken for subsequent analysis. The depletion rate was calculated by plotting the log2 fold change in Hsf1 binding against time and fitting a line through these points. The slope of this line was used as the depletion rate from the promoters.

Motifs

To find de novo motifs in the 1,000 bp upstream promoter regions of the Hsf1 targets genes, the MEME tool was used (Bailey et al., 2009). The default settings were used except for minimum motif size, which was set to 5, minimum width to 5 and the distributions of motifs was set to “any number of repetitions”. Sites were identified based on 57 high confidence Hsf1-bound targets. These targets were bound in both the ChiP-chip and ChiP-seq experiments.

Mapping of binding sites

The RSAT tool (Turatsinze et al., 2008) was used to map significant (P-value < 0.001) presence of a found motif to the promoter regions of the Hsf1 targets. As a motif-input fasta sequences, files were given that were found by MEME and used by MEME to create the motif. The standard settings were used except for the background, which was set to Saccharomyces cerevisiae upstream regions without ORFs. For the scanning options, sequence origin was set to “start”, return to “site + pval” and P-value was set to 0.001. The identified motifs were mapped to 650 bp promoters of the function Hsf1 targets. In parallel, published nucleosome positions (Jiang & Pugh, 2009) were also mapped. The average presence of the motif and published nucleosomes was calculated for the SAGA- and TFIIID-dominated genes and shown in 10 bp bins.

Direct Hsf1 targets

The direct Hsf1 targets are a subset of the genes bound in both the ChiP-seq and the ChiP-chip experiments (57 targets) that also robustly change in expression (FC > 1.7, P < 0.01) in both the fast and the slow Hsf1 depletion experiments (22 targets). HSP82 is omitted from all analysis (except the motif discovery) due to transcript cross-hybridization with its orthologue HSC82. As HSC82 is far more highly expressed, HSP82 is considered to have a negligible effect on the measured mRNA levels of HSC82 (Borkovich et al., 1998). Therefore, HSC82 is included in the analysis, resulting in 21 direct targets.

Responsiveness

To calculate the responsiveness, the ChiP-chip and 4tU slow depletion time course data of the direct Hsf1 targets were used. The log2(fold change) values of the ChiP-chip time course were plotted against the log2(binding ratio) values of the 4tU labelling time course, in each case compared to the corresponding t = 0 sample. A line was fitted through the last three time points t30, t60 and t90. The slope of this line was used as a measure for responsiveness. The significance of the slope difference in the mRNA expression versus binding plots was calculated using the linear model:

\[ E = G + C + B + CB + \epsilon \]

with E the log2(fold change) in mRNA expression; G the effect of the gene; C the effect of the gene class, a dichotomous variable that is either SAGA or TFIIID; B the log2(binding ratio), which is a continuous covariate; CB the interaction between terms C and B; and lastly the residual error term \( \epsilon \). The overall fit is 0.88 (adjusted R²; P = 1.15e-15). The only term of interest in the model is the interaction term CB. Its effect is equal to the average difference in slope between the two classes of genes; its P-value is 0.00066. Residuals are normally distributed (P = 0.28, Shapiro test) and show no dependency on the independent or fitted values. A simple t-test of the difference, per gene class, in the slopes of their regression lines yields a P-value of 0.002. However, this approach is incorrect as it ignores the variance structure of underlying data.

TFIIB and Pol II occupancy

For the comparison of TFIIB with polymerase II and Hsf1 binding, genome-wide ChiP-exo data of PIC components were used (Rhee & Pugh, 2012). TFIIB and Pol II occupancy as provided in “Rhee_suppData1” was taken and scaled down for visualization purposes (all occupancy values were divided by 100 and 10 for TFIIB and Pol II, respectively).
Heat shock

Log$_2$ expression values of previously published expression data of heat-shocked BY4742 cells were used (O’Dulhur et al., 2014). The difference in expression changes between SAGA- and TFIID-dominated Hsf1 targets was calculated using a two-tailed t-test.

Correlations

All correlations and corresponding P-values were calculated using the function “cor.test” of the statistical language R, which uses the fact that $\sqrt{((n-2)\times r^2/(1-r^2))}$ is t-distributed with $(n-2)$ degrees of freedom.

Micrococcal nuclease chromatin digestion

Isolation of mono-nucleosomal DNA was done essentially as described (Kubik et al., 2015) with some modifications. In short, 70 ml of yeast cells was grown in SC at 30°C to an OD$_{595}$ of 1.0 in three independent biological replicates. The cells were cross-linked at RT for 5 min using formaldehyde at a final concentration of 1% and quenched for 5 min with glycine (final concentration = 125 mM). Subsequently, the cells were spun down and washed once with sorbitol (1 M) and spheroblasted for 8 min using 1 ml of spheroblasting buffer (1 M sorbitol, 1 mM β-mercaptoethanol, 10 mg/ml Zymolyase 100T (USB)). The spheroblasts were spun down and washed twice before resuspending them in 1 ml of MNase digestion buffer (1 M sorbitol, 50 mM NaCl, 10 mM Tris pH 7.5, 5 mM MgCl$_2$, 1 mM CaCl$_2$, 0.075% Nonidet P-40, 1 mM β-mercaptoethanol, 0.5 mM spermidine). The samples were divided over 4+ four-fold different MNase amounts (Sigma-Aldrich): 0.046875 U, 0.1875 U, 0.75 U and 3.0 U and incubated at 37°C for 45 min. The digestion was stopped by putting the samples on ice and immediately adding 15 μl of 0.5M EDTA and subsequently 15 μl of 10% SDS. The proteins were degraded by adding 15 μl of (10 mg/ml) proteinase K and incubating the samples for 1 h at 37°C. The cross-links were reversed by putting the samples at 65°C overnight. The next day, nucleosomal DNA was isolated using phenol extraction and RNA was digested using RNase A/T1 (Thermo Scientific; final concentration 0.2 mg/ml and 250 U/ml). The extent of digestion was evaluated on a Bioanalyzer 2100 high sensitivity chip.

Sequencing and mapping of nucleosomal DNA

Sequencing libraries were created from the purified nucleosomal DNA using the NextFlexTM rapid DNA-Seq kit (Biao Scientific) using a modified protocol. The libraries were sequenced paired end (2 × 75 bp) on a NextSeq500 platform. The paired-end reads were mapped to the sacCer3 (February 2011) genome assembly using bowtie2 (Langmead & Salzberg, 2012) (with the settings “–no-discard –no-contain –maxins 1980 –trim5 5 –trim3 15 –end-to-end –sensitive”). Only read pairs with an insert size between 95 and 225 bp were used for subsequent analyses. To compare the occupancy of all samples, they were scaled to 10 million mapped paired-end reads per sample using genomcovec from the bedtools2 suite version 2.250 (Quinlan & Hall, 2010). The middle of each mate pair was used as the position of the nucleosome dyad. The three replicates for each digestion and time point showed only minimal difference in genome-wide occupancy; hence, for the rest of the analysis, these replicates were merged. The nucleosome dyads were smoothed using a 31 bp running average. The 31 bp window was chosen because it provides clearly separated peaks, but keeps positions with a double peak (in other words: a position with two populations of nucleosomes) that are merged into a single peak to a minimum. The Hsf1 targets were manually aligned to the +1 nucleosome, which was defined as the first nucleosome down-stream of the nucleosome-depleted region (as is visible in the 0.75 U and 3.0 U digestion samples). The summit of the most upstream +1 peak in the Hsf1-depleted, 0.1875 U MNase-digested samples was used as the position of the +1 nucleosome dyad. The script that was used for the centring and smoothing is available on https://github.com/ pijinzaad/phiools/blob/master/ngs/center-smooth.pl. The TSS location in Fig 6 was taken from (Nagalakshmi et al., 2008); however, the location of the TSS in the promoter of STI1 was likely wrongly annotated. The TATA locations were taken from (Rhee & Pugh, 2012) except for AHA1. Here the TATA is annotated as a TATA-like element although there is a TATA-box without mismatches closer to the canonical position; hence, this TATA-box is shown.

Data availability

All sequencing and microarray data are available on GEO through the accession number GSE81481.

Expanded View for this article is available online.

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Author contributions

EOD, Wij and FCPH contributed to conceptualization; EOD, Wij, DL and MjAGK performed investigation; EOD, Wij, and PL performed formal analysis; EOD, Wij and FCPH contributed to writing; PK and FCPH involved in supervision; and PK and FCPH contributed to funding acquisition.

Conflict of interest

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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