Ribosome-associated factors must properly decode the limited information available in nascent polypeptides to direct them to their correct cellular fate. It is unclear how the low complexity information exposed by the nascent chain suffices for accurate recognition by the many factors competing for the limited surface near the ribosomal exit site. Questions remain even for the well-studied cotranslational targeting cycle to the endoplasmic reticulum, involving recognition of linear hydrophobic signal sequences or transmembrane domains by the signal recognition particle (SRP). Notably, the SRP has low abundance relative to the large number of ribosome–nascent-chain complexes (RNCs), yet it accurately selects those destined for the endoplasmic reticulum. Despite their overlapping specificities, the SRP and the cotranslationally acting Hsp70 display precise mutually exclusive selectivity for their cognate RNCs.

To understand cotranslational nascent chain recognition, here we investigate the cotranslational membrane-targeting cycle using ribosome profiling in yeast cells coupled with biochemical fractionation of ribosome populations. We show that the SRP preferentially binds secretory RNCs before their targeting signals are translated. Non-coding mRNA elements can promote this signal-independent pre-recruitment of SRP. Our study defines the complex kinetic interaction between elongation in the cytosol and determinants in the polypeptide and mRNA that modulate SRP–substrate selection and membrane targeting.

Secretory proteins are proposed to target to the endoplasmic reticulum (ER) membrane either co- or post-translationally for subsequent translocation. Mechanistic models of ER targeting and the role of the SRP derive primarily from cell-free systems using model proteins, raising the question of how these pathways function in the cell. To investigate membrane targeting in vivo, we fractionated soluble and membrane-attached ribosomes from yeast cells, and then used ribosome profiling (termed Ribo-seq) to compare the ribosome-protected mRNA footprints from polysomes obtained from both fractions. We derived a cotranslational membrane enrichment score for each coding sequence (Methods, Extended Data Fig. 1a). We obtained a cotranslational membrane enrichment score for each coding sequence (Methods, Extended Data Fig. 1b and Supplementary Table 1). Transcripts encoding cytosolic or nuclear (cytonuclear) proteins were preferentially translated on cytosolic ribosomes and not enriched on membrane polysomes (Fig. 1a). Tail-anchored proteins, whose single or transmembrane domain (TMD) at the carboxyl terminus is only revealed posttranslationally, were also translated on cytosolic ribosomes. By contrast, many nuclear-encoded mitochondrial protein transcripts were enriched in the membrane-bound ribosome fraction, as expected. Transcripts encoding ER-directed secretory proteins were highly enriched on membrane-bound ribosomes. Proteins containing a signal sequence (SS) or TMD had comparable cotranslational membrane enrichment, conflicting with the idea that the targeting signal itself distinguishes which proteins are targeted co- or post-translationally to the ER.

Ribosome profiling provides a snapshot of the abundance of ribosomes at each codon of each mRNA, revealing the dynamics of translation on soluble versus membrane-bound ribosomes. For cytonuclear proteins, soluble ribosome-protected reads were distributed across the entire reading frame, consistent with complete translation in the cytosol (Extended Data Fig. 1c). For secretory proteins, both soluble and membrane-bound polysomes produced protected reads. Cytosolic translation represented only a small fraction of any given secretory transcript, and most of the secretory mRNA pool was membrane anchored. In the classical understanding of cotranslational targeting, secretory protein RNCs bind to the membrane only after exposing a targeting signal. Thus, there should be fewer RNCs found on the membrane translating the portion of transcripts not yet

**Figure 1** | Cotranslational membrane enrichment. a, Distributions of the open reading frame (ORF) enrichment of ribosome-protected reads in the membrane fraction compared to the soluble fraction. ORFs were alternatively classified by expected SRP dependence. Values are the mean from two biological replicates. b, Ribosome-protected reads at each codon of an example transmembrane protein OLE1. Membrane topology is indicated above, with the first TMD in lavender. c, Metagene analysis of soluble fraction polysome-protected reads from transcripts that were at least twofold membrane enriched. ORFs were aligned at the targeting signal and scaled. d, Cotranslational membrane targeting is in competition with elongation. e, Elongation inhibitors provide additional time for polysomes exposing a targeting signal to localize to the membrane. f, Membrane enrichment was limited by the length of the reading frame remaining after the encoding of targeting signals. The vertical dashed line indicates 50 codons.
targeted, that is, at codon positions upstream of the first SS or TMD. However, the membrane-bound ribosome-protected reads were evenly distributed across the entire transcript (Fig. 1b and Extended Data Fig. 1c, d). This suggests that once targeted, secretory mRNAs remain associated to the ER and their translation initiates at the membrane. This is consistent with the observed proximity of secretory RNCs to the translocon before synthesis of the targeting signal16. The small fraction of secretory mRNA in cytoplasmic pre-targeted RNCs probably represents the pioneer round of targeting.

The positioning of soluble ribosomes along mRNA provides insight into how secretory transcripts are targeted to the membrane. The highest read density for these messages mapped 5′ of the region encoding the first SS or TMD; read density declined after the first targeting signal was exposed by the ribosome, as expected from cotranslational signal-dependent targeting of soluble RNCs to the membrane (Fig. 1b, c and Extended Data Fig. 1d). Surprisingly, the loss of reads after signal emergence was gradual, resulting in many RNCs that remained soluble for hundreds of residues after SS or TMD exposure. This result was inconsistent with the elongation attenuation activity proposed for the SRP17,18 and suggests that elongation continues on cytosolic RNCs upon exposure of a targeting signal (see Supplementary Discussion).

The idea that there is a kinetic competition between continuing elongation in the cytosol and RNC targeting to the membrane makes two testable predictions (Fig. 1d). First, pharmacological inhibition of elongation with cycloheximide (CHX) should decouple these processes, enhancing targeting of translation-competent RNCs and promoting their depletion from the soluble fraction (Fig. 1e). Cells were subjected to a brief, two-minute CHX incubation before Ribo-seq analysis of soluble and membrane-bound polysomes. Importantly, such brief incubation did not perturb non-secretory polysomes (Extended Data Fig. 1c). By contrast, CHX treatment markedly reduced the soluble secretory reads, but only after cytosolic RNCs exposed the first SS or TMD, that is, 40 codons after its synthesis (Fig. 1b, c and Extended Data Fig. 1d).

The kinetic competition between targeting and elongation predicts that cotranslational membrane attachment is influenced by translation termination. In the absence of an elongation arrest, the probability of RNCs reaching the membrane cotranslationally will decrease as the first SS or TMD is found closer to the C terminus (Fig. 1f and Extended Data Fig. 1e). Indeed, we observed a decline in the maximum membrane enrichment of secretory RNCs when the first targeting signal is near the C terminus. Thus, secretory proteins with a late targeting signal, SS or TMD, that is, near the C terminus, still bound SRP but did not target to the ER membrane (Supplementary Discussion, Fig. 2c and Extended Data Fig. 2b–d). Addition of CHX allowed these late-signal RNCs to enrich at the membrane, indicating the SRP–RNC complexes are competent for ER-targeting. We conclude that the SRP binds the nascent chain quickly, and continued elongation causes termination of late signals before targeting.

Although elongation arrest is not a general consequence of SRP binding in vivo, recent work showed that a rare-codon-directed slowdown of elongation facilitates SRP binding19. An intrinsic, non-SRP-dependent elongation slowdown should increase ribosome-protected reads at the same codon in both soluble SRP-bound and membrane-bound polysomes. Indeed, several transcripts presented such local increases in ribosome-protected reads at sites corresponding to exposure of a targeting signal on the ribosome (Extended Data Fig. 3a–c). Distinct elongation attenuation mechanisms observed at these sites included clusters of rare codons19 and stalling polypeptide elements, such as stretches of positively charged amino acids, or proline motifs, positioned within the exit tunnel20,21. While most secretory transcripts were not significantly enriched in these attenuator elements compared to the proteome (Extended Data Fig. 3d, e), the few non-secretory proteins that cotranslationally bound to the SRP were enriched in elongation attenuation elements positioned at sites that exposed a near-cognate hydrophobic sequence for SRP binding (Extended Data Fig. 3d, f). We speculate that the presence of such elements enhances SRP recognition of the near-cognate hydrophobic tracts in these non-secretory proteins.

To understand the basis for the specificity of the SRP in vivo, we next determined the initial point of SRP recruitment to ribosomes

**Figure 2 | Cotranslational enrichment of SRP.** a, Srp72p-TAP was immunoprecipitated from the total soluble fraction. SRP-bound monosomes and polysomes were separated by sucrose gradient ultracentrifugation. b, Distributions of the ORF enrichment of ribosome-protected reads from SRP-bound soluble polysomes over the total soluble polysomes, ORFs were alternatively classified by expected SRP dependence11. Values are the mean from two biological replicates. TA, tail-anchored. *P ≤ 0.05, Wilcoxon rank-sum test. c, Cotranslational membrane-fraction enrichment compared to SRP enrichment. d, Metagene analysis of soluble SRP-bound polysome-protected reads from transcripts that are at least twofold SRP-enriched. ORFs were aligned at the targeting signal and scaled.

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translating secretory proteins. Because polysomes require only a single SRP-bound ribosome to co-purify with Srp72p, additional strategies were necessary to identify mRNA footprints that originated from a single SRP-bound ribosome. We developed a protocol using in vivo monosomes to identify the initial SRP binding event on RNCs (Fig. 2a). At any given time, a fraction of transcripts contains only a single actively translating ribosome (Extended Data Fig. 4a). Total soluble monosomes yield a similar distribution of protected reads compared to polysomes (Extended Data Fig. 4b–e and Supplementary Discussion). We separated soluble SRP-bound monosomes from SRP-bound polysomes and subjected both fractions to Riboseq analysis in vivo (Extended Data Fig. 5a, b). Of note, the monosomes were necessarily bound to the SRP during the purification, and thus should reveal which codons are responsible for the initial SRP recruitment step.

The canonical model that the SRP recognizes the nascent chain after the targeting signal exits the ribosome2 (Fig. 3a) makes several predictions. First, there should be few monosome-protected reads relative to polysomes before the first SS/TMD emerging from the ribosome tunnel; second, ribosome footprints should increase beginning approximately 40 codons after the first codon in the targeting signal, and third, monosome reads should decrease after full exposure of the SS/TMD, as SRP–RNCs are delivered to the membrane. Indeed, these patterns were observed in a subset of secretory transcripts with significantly more hydrophobic signals (Fig. 3b, Extended Data Figs 2e, f and 5c). SRP recruitment to these RNCs only occurred when the translated signals were fully exposed, and not while still in the exit tunnel (Fig. 3f and Extended Data Fig. 5d). Notably, monosome reads did diminish upon full signal exposure by the ribosome. Thus, SRP is pre-recruited to secretory RNCs before the synthesis of an SS or TMD, but only after the emergence and recognition of the targeting signal can it promote membrane targeting, presumably owing to a conformational change in the SRP–RNC complex.22,24 Our findings show that the SRP stably and preferentially binds ribosomes translating secretory mRNAs in a manner independent from the sequence of the exposed nascent chain (Fig. 3e). Models in which SRP scans all ribosomes with high affinity and rapid kinetics do not explain our findings, as discussed in the Supplementary Discussion.

To begin to understand the determinants that confer specific recruitment of SRP without an exposed SS or TMD, we examined the most extreme cases of nascent-chain-independent SRP recruitment. PMP1 and PMP2 encode two abundant, small membrane proteins of 40 and 43 amino acids, respectively. Even though the entire proteins are smaller than the length of the ribosomal tunnel, PMP1 and PMP2 RNCS bind to the SRP throughout translation (Fig. 3f and Extended Data Fig. 6a, b).

We considered whether non-coding mRNA determinants could confer nascent-chain-independent SRP recruitment. PMP1 and PMP2 contain long 3' untranslated regions (UTRs) implicated in membrane

![Figure 3](https://example.com/figure3.png)

**Figure 3 | Distinct mechanisms of SRP recruitment.** (a) Recruitment of SRP to RNCs is expected to increase ribosome-protected reads from SRP-bound monosomes when an SS or TMD is exposed to the cytosol (orange). b. Distributions of SRP-bound ribosome reads on representative transcripts from CHX-treated cultures. Selected transcripts are RCR2 and VBA4. c. Most secretory proteins demonstrated SRP enrichment before signal exposure. d. Metagene plot of the median value of enrichment of SRP-bound monosomes compared to polysomes. Included transcripts encode TMDs at least 40 codons from the start codon. Shaded areas represent enrichment before the TMD is encoded (cyan), while the TMD is in the ribosome exit tunnel (lavender), and after the TMD is exposed (orange). e. Two mechanisms for SRP to select secretory mRNA. f. PMP1 and PMP2 were the only tail-anchored proteins that enriched SRP. g. The GFP ORF was fused to the indicated 3' UTRs and expressed in vivo. Srp72p-TAP was immunoprecipitated from the total soluble fraction and RNAs were subject to quantitative PCR (qPCR). n = 3 biological replicates; **P ≤ 0.01, Welch's t-test. h. Puromycin treatment of lysate from yeast expressing GFP with the PMP1 3' UTR was followed by SRP immunoprecipitation and qPCR. n = 3 biological replicates; *P ≤ 0.05, Welch's t-test.
attachment. We thus tested the effect of fusing the 3′ UTR of either PMP1 or PMP2 to the mRNA of cytosolic green fluorescent protein (GFP) lacking any targeting signal (Fig. 3g). The 3′ UTR of cytosolic protein TUB2 served as a control. Notably, the 3′ UTRs of either PMP1 or PMP2 conferred cotranslational SRP binding to the GFP transcripts, as well as membrane localization, whereas the 3′ UTR of TUB2 did not (Fig. 3g, Extended Data Fig. 6c). For all constructs, GFP protein was diffuse and cytosolic, indicating that the 3′ UTR alone is insufficient to promote substantial translocation of GFP into the ER (Extended Data Fig. 6d). Notably, the 3′ UTR of endogenous PMP1 is functionally important in vivo. Thus, replacing the 3′ UTR of the PMP1 gene with the 3′ UTR of TUB2 resulted in a growth defect more severe than complete deletion of the entire PMP1 gene (Extended Data Fig. 6e).

Perhaps mislocalization of the TMD in the absence of the 3′ UTR is more toxic than the loss of gene function.

Two non-exclusive models can account for SRP recruitment by the PMP1 and PMP2 3′ UTRs. First, SRP binds to the mRNA, either directly or through other RNA-binding proteins. Alternatively, ribosomes translating PMP1 or PMP2 recruit SRP in a 3′ UTR-mediated manner (Extended Data Fig. 6f). To distinguish between these possibilities, a puromycin incubation was used to disrupt elongating ribosomes before fractionation and SRP immunoprecipitation. This treatment caused a significant reduction in the GFP-PMP1 mRNA that copurified with SRP (Fig. 3h). Thus, translating ribosomes promote SRP recruitment to the GFP–PMP1 transcript. Of note, puromycin also disrupted the SRP interaction with the SEC61 mRNA control. We thus next examined the general role of translation in SRP recruitment.

We assessed the global ribosome dependence of SRP binding to secretory transcripts using either puromycin or CHX incubations to disrupt or stabilize elongating ribosomes, respectively. Srp72p-bound transcripts isolated from the soluble fraction were examined by RNA-seq (Fig. 4a). SRP association with all secretory mRNAs was sensitive to puromycin. Transcripts that only recruit SRP through a canonical nascent chain interaction were more dependent on elongating ribosomes. The reduced puromycin sensitivity observed for pre-enriched transcripts may arise from the inability of puromycin to disrupt initiating ribosomes, which appear able to recruit SRP (Extended Data Fig. 6g).

We next examined whether the membrane association of secretory transcripts similarly depends on continuing translation. In principle, ER-localized proteins could recruit secretory transcripts to the membrane in the absence of translation (Fig. 4b). Membrane and soluble mRNAs were fractionated in the presence and absence of puromycin treatment and subjected to RNA sequencing (RNA-seq) analysis (Extended Data Fig. 7). Disruption of translating ribosomes reduced mRNA enrichment for all secretory protein transcripts, including those of PMP1 and PMP2. This result was confirmed using the GFP-PMP1 reporter (Extended Data Fig. 6h).

The translation-dependence of membrane association for secretory transcripts was further examined using a temperature-sensitive allele of eIF3 subunit PRT1, prt1-1. Shifting cells to the non-permissive temperature precludes mRNA binding to the 40S subunit, allowing elongating ribosomes to run off (Fig. 4c). After displacing ribosomes from the mRNA, soluble and membrane fractions were analysed by RNA-seq. Notably, the only mRNAs that remained in the membrane fraction corresponded to mitochondrially encoded proteins. Disruption of translating ribosomes reduced mRNA enrichment for all translocational secretory transcripts, and isolated transcripts harboured abundant cytosolic chaperones that could potentially bind SSs or TMDs. For most mRNAs, SRP does not need to scan translating ribosomes rapidly for binding of targeting sequences while ignoring near-cognate cytosolic hydrophobic sequences. Instead, several mechanisms bias towards the correct SRP–RNC interactions (Fig. 4e).

Figure 4 | Translation and the role of SRP. a, Distributions of RNA-seq SRP enrichment scores from secretory protein transcripts (SS, TMD, SS-TMD or tail-anchored), with or without puromycin treatment. Included ORFs have at least twofold SRP enrichment without puromycin. b, Transcripts are retained on the membrane through binding of the RNC to the translocon. It is also possible that mRNA binding proteins at the ER bind transcripts. c, The prt1-1 allele prevents initiation at non-permissive temperatures. Distributions of RNA-seq membrane enrichment scores of secretory protein transcripts (n = 584). d, After mRNA export, a pioneer round of targeting directs secretory transcripts to the ER membrane. SRP is specifically pre-recruited to transcripts that will present a functional targeting signal. After emergence of an SS or TMD, SRP directs RNCs to the ER membrane. e, Once at the ER membrane, transcripts are retained over several rounds of translation.

Online Content Methods, along with any additional Extended Data display items and Source Data, are available in the online version of the paper; references unique to these sections appear only in the online paper.
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Author Contributions J.W.C. and J.F. designed the study. K.C.L.H. performed experiments with prtl1-1. J.W.C. performed all other experiments and analysis. J.W.C. and J.F. wrote the manuscript.

Author Information Data are deposited in Gene Expression Omnibus (GEO) under accession number GSE74393. Reprints and permissions information is available at www.nature.com/reprints. The authors declare no competing financial interests. Readers are welcome to comment on the online version of the paper. Correspondence and requests for materials should be addressed to J.F. (jfyrdman@stanford.edu).

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METHODS

Data reporting. No statistical methods were used to predetermine sample size. The experiments were not randomized, and the investigators were not blinded to allocation during experiments and outcome assessment.

Yeast strains. Ribosome profiling (Ribo-seq) and qPCR assays were performed using BY4741 Srp72-TAP::His3MX, obtained from OPEN Biosystems43. BY4741 SEC61-GFP::His3MX was obtained from Invitrogen45. Strain CY2522, containing the prt1-1 temperature-sensitive allele46, was provided by E. Craig. BY4741 PMPLK strain M4 was obtained from the yeast deletion library47.

Ribosome profiling. For each biological replicate, six 500-ml cultures ofYPD were grown with shaking at 30 °C to OD600 nm = 0.8–1.0, and collected one at a time by filtering through a 0.22-μm membrane. Cells were scrapped off the filter in a single motion using a metal scoopula and then immersed in liquid nitrogen. When indicated, CHX treatments were performed by adding the drug to the culture to 100 μg ml−1 immediately before filtering. Filtration completed in approximately 2 min, and cells were scraped and immersed in liquid nitrogen within 3 s.

Lysate buffer comprised 50 mM potassium MOPS, pH 7.2, 275 mM potassium glutamate, 5 mM magnesium acetate, 1 mM DTT, 100 μg ml−1 CHX, and 20 μl ml−1 Superase-In (Ambion). Two 3-ml aliquots were supplemented with Complete Protease Inhibitor Cocktail, EDTA-free (Roche) and frozen dropwise in liquid nitrogen. One 3-ml aliquot of frozen lysate buffer was combined with cells from 1.5 ml of culture in a 50 ml ball mill chamber chilled in liquid nitrogen (Retseth). Cells were pulverized for 1 min at 20 Hz in a MM-301 mixer mill. Pulverized cells from 31 ml of culture were combined and thawed in a room temperature water bath. One million yeast pellets were resuspended in Trition X-100 to 0.01%, heparin sulfate to 0.2 mg ml−1, and PMSEP to 1 mM. Heparin was added as an RNase inhibitor only after fractionation as it may dislodge ribosomes from the membrane48. A low concentration of Trition X-100 reduces bead clumping during immunoprecipitation, and prevents aggregation upon elution. A portion of the supernatant was retained as the total soluble fraction. Three milliliters of Trition X-100 to 1% and heparin sulfate to 0.2 mg ml−1 were added to the pellets. Pellets were resuspended using a glass dounce homogenizer fit to the internal diameter of the tube. Membrane extracts were centrifuged as before, and the detergent-extracted supernatant is recovered as the total membrane-bound fraction.

One milliliter of streptavidin-conjugated magnetic beads (Pierce) was saturated with biotinylated total rabbit IgG (Calbiochem). Beads were incubated with the total soluble fraction for 1 h at 4 °C. Beads were then washed three times with 1 ml of wash buffer, which consisted of lysate buffer supplemented with 0.2 mg ml−1 heparin and 0.01% Triton X-100. Beads were then incubated with 100 μl wash buffer, 2 μl Superase-In and 3 μl AcTev protease (Invitrogen) for 1 h at room temperature. The first eluate was retained on ice, the digest was repeated, and the eluates combined, yielding the total SRP-bound fraction. The eluate was immediately quantified using A260 nm and the total soluble and membrane-bound fractions were diluted in wash buffer to equivalent concentrations in 200 μl. Samples were layered on a 7–47% sucrose gradient prepared in wash buffer omitting RNase inhibitors. Gradients were centrifuged in a SW 41 Ti rotor (Beckman) for 2.5 h at 39,000 r.p.m., and fractionated using a UA-6 detector and Foxy Jr. fraction collector (ISCO). Gradients were centrifuged in a Type 70.1 Ti rotor (Beckman) for 10 min to retrieve the total soluble fraction for 1 h at 4 °C. Beads were then washed three times with 1 ml of wash buffer without RNase inhibitors and centrifuged for 12 h at 50,000 r.p.m. in a Type 70.1 Ti rotor.

Ribo-seq. Ribosome pellets were resuspended in 250 μl of cutting buffer of 20 mM Tris, pH 7.5, 140 mM potassium chloride, 1.5 mM magnesium chloride, and 0.01% Triton X-100. Concentrations were typically 10–100 ng μl−1 as measured by A260 nm. Samples with greater concentration were diluted to 100 ng μl−1 in 250 μl cutting buffer without RNase inhibitors and centrifuged for 1 h at room temperature. Dispersants were added with the addition of 2 μl Superase-In, transferred to a MLA-130 centrifuge tube (Beckman) and underlaid with 750 μl of 35% sucrose in cutting buffer. Ribosomes were pelleted by centrifugation for 4.5 h at 70,000 r.p.m. Total RNA was extracted from the pellets using a miRNAeasy kit (Qiagen). Libraries were prepared as previously described49, quantified by qPCR (Kapa Biosciences), and sequenced using a HiSeq 2500 (Illumina).

RNA-seq. To test disruption of elongating ribosomes, yeast from one 500-ml culture of BY4741 Srp72-TAP::His3MX were lysed in ribosome profiling lysate buffer, which includes CHX. Yeast were lysed in ribosome profiling buffer without CHX that was supplemented with 0.5 mM puromycin, 1 mM ATP, 1 mM GTP, 10 mM creatine phosphate and 40 μg ml−1 creatine kinase. Both lysates were incubated at room temperature for 10 min after thawing.

To test the effect of initiation in vivo, two 500-ml cultures of CY2522 (prt1-1) and two 500-ml cultures of W303 were grown with shaking at 25°C to OD600 nm = 0.6. One culture of each strain was shifted to 37°C, and the four cultures were grown one additional hour followed by harvesting by fast filtration.

Samples of the total soluble, total membrane, and total SRP-bound fractions were prepared as described for ribosome profiling. RNA was extracted using the hot SDS-phenol-chloroform method, and mRNA was purified using oligo-dT beads according to the manufacturer’s instructions (NEB). Eluted mRNA was then fragmented under alkaline conditions50, and fragments of 35–50 nucleotides were purified by PAGE. Libraries were constructed as for Ribo-seq and sequenced using a HiSeq 4000 (Illumina).

Data processing for enrichment scores. Adapter sequences were trimmed from sequencing reads using Cutadapt51. Two rounds of alignment are performed using Bowtie, and TopHat52.53. First, sequences are aligned against a library comprising mature ribosomal RNA with Bowtie. Unaligned reads are retained and then aligned against S288C Release 64-1-1 (http://www.yeastgenome.org) using TopHat. Any read with more than one match was removed, and reads were assigned to ORFs and counted using the GenomicAssignments package in Bioconductor40,41. Dousific ORFs were omitted.

Identification of targeting signals and classification of ORFs. Different SS and TM prediction programs vary in their output, and so we included only consistently predicted targeting signals in our analysis. Protein sequences were given to SignalP V3 (ref. 42), Phobius48, Philius44, and TMHMM45. The following scheme was used for classification.

Mitochondrial. All mitochondrially encoded proteins, and nuclear-encoded proteins that localized to this organelle in at least one of two fluorescence-based screens52,46.

SSS. SSSs from non-mitochondrial proteins predicted by SignalP, Phobius and Philius that did not contain any TMDs predicted by Phobius or Philius. The first residue of the hydrophobic domain, as predicted by Phobius, was designated as the first signal residue. Predictions by TMHMM within the first 50 residues were ignored. SSSs were defined as ‘looped’ if they enriched on Shp1 at 90 codons after the first ss codon46. Every GPI-anchored protein (as previously annotated45) satisfies conditions for an SS, and was included. Some GPI-anchored proteins have predicted TMDs near the stop codon; these do not expose cotranslationally.

TMDs. The first TMDs of non-mitochondrial proteins were predicted by TMHMM, Phobius, and Philius within five amino acids for each pair of predictors (that is, Philius versus Phobius, Philius versus TMHMM, Phobius versus TMHMM). The first signal location was designated as the average of the three predictions, rounded down. If the TMD was within the first 50 codons, predictions by SignalP are ignored. Phobius and Philius did not predict a cleavable SS.

Tail-anchored. First TMDs that begin within 50 amino acids of the stop codon were designated tail-anchored.

Signal sequences with transmembrane domains (SS-TMD). SSSs were predicted as above with at least one TMD predicted by both Phobius and Philius.

Cytocellular ORFs. ORFs that had no predicted SS or TMD by SignalP, TMHMM, Phobius, or Philius, and which did not appear in the mitochondria. Since only fluorescence localization data were used to designate mitochondrial proteins, this set includes some true mitochondrial proteins.

Exceptions. All remaining sequences had an SS or TMD predicted by SignalP, Phobius, Philius, or TMHMM that was not predicted by the other programs. Because of the ambiguity in type and location of the targeting signal, these proteins are excluded from our analysis. Other exceptions included proteins with predicted TMDs from position 50 or later, as well as a SignalP SS prediction but no Phobius or Philius SS. We considered this ambiguity in the prediction of an SS, and excluded these ORFs.

Enrichment analysis. Count-based sequencing assays report changes in a transcript’s abundance as changes in its proportion of the total sequencing reads. Thus, when a subset of transcripts is enriched in a sample, the proportion of reads from those transcripts will increase. Direct comparison of enrichment scores is difficult. Here we assume that enrichment on the membrane or SRP represents active selection of certain transcripts, and the depletion of all others is passive. In other words, we assume that few transcripts will be specifically prevented from appearing in the membrane or SRP. The distributions of the ‘Cytocellular’ sets in Figs 1a and 2b, which skew towards enrichment, are consistent with this assumption. Thus, we expect the distribution of non-enriched transcripts to be similar to their overall expression or translation. This makes direct comparison of different enrichment scores (that is, SRP enrichment vs membrane enrichment, under various drug treatments etc.) calculated from proportional abundance46,47 uninformative, because a component as depletion of non-enriched mRNA.

In current approaches for differential gene expression, most genes are assumed to have unaltered abundance, and library sizes are normalized by a robust estimator such as median ratio method48 and trimmed mean of M-values (TMM)49. However, we expected changes for up to a third of ORFs. We used the TMM method of DESeq to derive library scale factors using reference ORFs, selected as...
those designated as ‘cytonuclear’. We applied these scale factors to the counts for every ORF, and calculated enrichment as the ratio of scaled reads between sets. Biological replicates were scaled separately and then averaged. The robust nature of scale estimation allowed for extreme cases of the reference set to have high enrichment scores. Scores were only reported for ORFs that have at least 100 total reads between replicates in each of the compared samples8,9,10.

Figure 2c included proteins designated as SS, TMD and SS-TMD that have at least 100 reads in all four data sets, with the following exceptions: YEL050C, YLR377W and YPL335W. Positions of SSs were all observed on the surface of the mitochondria13 and had at least fourfold membrane enrichment here. Membrane enrichment after CHX treatment was determined using total ribosome-protected reads from the soluble and membrane fractions.

Mapping of ribosome-protected reads to codons. Reads were mapped to codons using an alternate method. After filtering rRNA, reads were aligned to a Bowtie library comprising coding sequences, plus the stop codon and 21-nucleotides flanking upstream and downstream. Using combined data from the SRP-pulldown and membrane polysome replicates, ORFs for which at least 20% of reads could map to a second ORF were removed, leaving a working set of 5,441 genes. Footprints of 26–35 nucleotides were processed separately for each length. The nucleotide that mapped to the centre of each read (rounded down) was given a value of 1, and reads were summed at each nucleotide position. A metagene analysis was performed10 and for each footprint length, an integer offset was determined so that the characteristically large peak at the start codon was maximized at the second nucleotide position (that is, a Tg). Then, reads of all lengths were offset and combined. Nucleotide reads were summed for each codon.

Read distributions. For each sample, the total reads from elongating ribosomes were determined by adding counts from all codons excluding the first two and last two sense codons. Reads from biological replicates were summed to increase overall read depth, but owing to the high overall reproducibility, all of our conclusions can be demonstrated by treating replicates separately. The reads at each codon position are then divided by this total and multiplied by one million to yield reads per million (RPM). Values at each codon are smoothed using an 11 residue rolling average. The positions of TMDs in topology diagrams were taken from the TMHMM prediction. We caution that predictors may differ in the number and position of subsequence TMDs. Positions of SSs are the H-region predicted by Phobius. The point at which an SS or TMD begins to emerge is considered the position of subsequence TMDs. Positions of SSs are the H-region predicted by TMHMM. A p-value of 0.05 was given a value of 1, and reads were summed at each nucleotide position.

For metagene plots, reads at each codon are smoothed using a 5 residue rolling average. ORFs are then aligned as indicated, and the median and interquartile ranges are calculated at each position. For each ORF in Figs 1c and 2d, reads at each codon position are divided by the mean reads per codon within the range +20 to +40 after first signal codon. Included ORFs have at least 20 reads within this window in each data set shown. The first 30 codons of each ORF are excluded to avoid the universally observed low-density region near the start codon.

Identification of SRP recruitment to the nascent chain. Increases in ribosome-protected reads in the soluble SRP-bound polysome data set were observed for a subset of ORFs at codon positions coincident with the exposure of targeting signals. We developed a clustering scheme that sorted ORFs by the shape of the distribution of ribosome-protected reads specific to SRP-bound polysomes. The test set comprised 568 SS, TMD or SS-TMD proteins with at an average of at least 3 reads per codon in both soluble SRP-bound polysome and membrane-bound polysome sets. For each ORF, we first smooth read counts from each data set with a leading 15-residue moving average window. We corrected for local features intrinsic to the sequence (that is, appearing in all fractions) by dividing the smoothed SRP-bound polysome reads by the smoothed membrane-bound polysome reads at each codon; positions with fewer than 3 reads in either the SRP-bound or membrane polysome were omitted. Peak codons as the maximum value within 30–180 residues after the first predicted targeting signal codon. Each ORF was scaled by dividing the value at each codon position by the mean value over the range from 50 codons before to 200 codons after the peak. Codon positions outside this range are discarded. Scaled values are then used to generate an empirical cumulative distribution function (ECDF). The ECDF is sampled from 0.0 to 2.0 in 0.1 steps. The samplings from the ECDFs were used for agglomerative hierarchical clustering using a Euclidean distance function and Ward’s minimum variance method11. The first split in the population distinguished ORFs having strong peaks from ORFs with weak or no peaks.

To analyse the distances between the first signal codon and the peak, distances must be unambiguously assigned to the first targeting signal; otherwise the peak may be due to a later TMD. The distance to the peak was compared to the distance between the first TMD and the second (as determined by TMHMM) or the distance between the SS and the first TMD (as determined by Phobius). Peaks were considered unambiguous only if no more than 8 residues of the next TMD were translated. This value is the length of the shortest functional signal sequence in our set, controlling for any effect that an additional signal within the exit tunnel may have on SRP.

An alternative approach was used to determine codons with significant recruitment of SRP in mitochondrial transcripts and transcripts lacking an ER-targeting signal. For every ORF, a count matrix was built with codon position as rows, and replicates of SRP-bound ribosome-protected reads, total soluble polysome reads and total membrane polysome reads as columns. These matrices were individually input to DESeq (ref. 48), and a linear model was fit using the presence or absence of SRP co-immunoprecipitation as the coefficient; in this application, codons were treated as ‘genes’. Reads at each codon were used for fitting local dispersion trends. Genes with at least one codon that had at least threefold enrichment with $P < 0.001$ were selected. We note that all six SRP subunits had local enrichment towards the C-terminus; since this may be cotranslational particle assembly, we omitted them from further analysis. Thirteen other genes were identified, and binding sites were assigned to the first significantly enriched codon preceding the position with maximum enrichment.

Quantification of early SRP enrichment. Secretory protein ORFs which were used in the analysis of SRP recruitment to the nascent chain (see previous section) were also tested for SRP pre-enrichment by comparing ribosome-protected reads from SRP-bound polysomes and monosomes from a CHX-treated culture. The RPM values from codon 10 to the position of the first SS or TMD, plus 40, were added, and the monosome sum was divided by the polysome sum. The first 9 sense codons were omitted to avoid artefacts near the start of transcripts. Ratios of greater than 1 were designated pre-recruited.

The enrichment in Fig. 3d was determined by first smoothing SRP-bound monosome and polysome reads (in RPM) using an 11 codon window, and then dividing the monosome values by the polysome values. SRP recruitment was quantified using the Web service for computing enrichment (https://srp.nibb.ac.jp/srv/). The first 30 codons were divided by the monosome values before the first encoded residue of the signal.

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Extended Data Figure 1 | Cotranslational membrane enrichment.

**a**, Crude lysates were fractionated, and then polysomes were recovered by sucrose gradient ultracentrifugation and used for ribosome profiling. 

**b**, Enrichment of ribosome-protected mRNA reads in the membrane polysome fractions over the soluble polysome fractions from two biological replicates. Every dot represents one ORF.

**c**, Metagene plots of soluble polysome ribosome-protected reads of transcripts encoding proteins lacking ER-targeting signals (top), or of membrane-bound polysome-protected reads of transcripts encoding secretory proteins that were at least twofold membrane-enriched (bottom). For each ORF, ribosome-protected reads at each position were scaled by dividing by the mean reads per codon of the ORF, excluding the first two and last two sense codons. The median scaled reads at each position are plotted as a line, and the interquartile range is shaded in grey.

**d**, Ribosome-protected reads at each codon of an example secreted protein, β-1,3-glucanosyltransferase (GAS1), a model SRP-independent protein. 

**e**, The number of codons remaining after the encoding of the first residue of an SS, and the corresponding membrane enrichment per SS-containing ORF. Signal sequences were divided between those that bind Ssh1p directly upon exposure and those that require a looped conformation (>90 codons after the first SS codon). 

**f**, Transcripts remain at the membrane by subsequent translocon binding, thus the small soluble fraction comprises mRNA undergoing initial targeting.

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Extended Data Figure 2 | Cotranslational enrichment of SRP.

**a**, Enrichment of ribosome-protected mRNA reads in the soluble SRP-bound polysome fractions over the total soluble polysome fractions from two biological replicates. **b**, The number of codons remaining after encoding of first SS or TMD residue, and the corresponding SRP and membrane enrichment scores per ORF. Scores are determined from cultures harvested without added CHX. Enrichment scores are indicated with filled dots, and the scores from the same transcript are linked with a grey line. The vertical dashed line indicates 50 codons, the boundary for tail-anchored proteins. Here, only SSs that bind Ssh1p directly after exposure from the RNC are shown. **c**, Secretory transcripts were classified into two groups based on the ribosome-protected-read distributions from SRP-bound polysomes. Some showed a pronounced increase in reads at positions coincident with the initial exposure of an SS or TMD by the ribosome, whereas others did not. Shown here are metagene analysis plots of soluble polysome-protected reads from the categorized TMD proteins. For each ORF, the reads at each codon position were divided by the mean reads per codon within the range +20 to +40 after the first signal codon. The first 30 codons of each ORF are excluded to avoid the characteristic low-density region near the start codon. The lavender line indicates when the first TMD begins to emerge from the exit tunnel, and the dashed line indicates the position of the read peak. Notably, the total soluble polysome reads depleted in a similar manner for both classes, a read increase was not observed in the total soluble reads, and reads from the SRP-bound transcripts with a peak did not deplete faster than the total soluble reads. These features are consistent with a model in which SRP is recruited at the peak site, and elongation then proceeds at the same rate. **d**, The number of codons remaining after encoding of the first SS or TMD and corresponding SRP enrichment. Transcripts are classified by the presence or absence of a read increase following signal exposure, as in **c**. Note that for SRP-enriched transcripts with signals closest to the terminus (<100 codons), evidence of direct binding between SRP and the nascent chain was always observed. SRP can therefore bind late TMDs immediately after they become exposed by the ribosome. **e**, Maximum hydrophobicity across targeting signals using an 8-residue averaging window. Only signals with peaks that could be unambiguously attributed to a targeting signal were included. Hydrophobicity was determined by attributing the biological hydrophobicity score to each encoded amino acid. **f**, Distribution of the distance between the first codon of a targeting signal and the position of the downstream read increase. Only transcripts wherein the increase can be unambiguously attributed to a specific targeting signal were included.
Extended Data Figure 3 | Elongation pausing and local SRP recruitment. a, b, Local increases in ribosome-protected reads from membrane-bound polysomes, indicated by orange lines, were coincident with rare codons, as in cell division cycle protein 1 (CDC1, a) or polybasic nascent chains, as in the plasma membrane G-protein-coupled receptor (GPR1, b). Soluble SRP-bound polysome-protected reads were further increased at the same positions. c, In these cases, hydrophobic sequences in the nascent chain were exposed to the cytosol at the locations of increased reads, which were coincident with elongation attenuators. d, Translational efficiencies for the 6 codons following, and the number of stalling residues within the 10 residues preceding, the sites of increased SRP-bound ribosome reads. Translational efficiency was determined by attributing the normalized translational efficiency (nTE) score to each codon55. Residues that were found to stall the ribosome, based on previous investigation20,56,57, were lysine, arginine, glutamate, aspartate, proline and glycine. Because of variation in specific motifs, and uncertainty in whether these motifs are additive, we simply compared the total number of these residues in the indicated 10 residue spans. Sets of 10,000 random sequences, at least 10 amino acids from the stop codon, were sampled from 5,907 non-dubious ORFs, and translational efficiency and stalling residues were determined over 6 or 10 codon spans. *P ≤ 0.05, **P ≤ 0.01, Wilcoxon rank-sum tests. e, The targeting signals that recruited SRP directly to the nascent chain unusually far from the encoding of the signal had SRP-binding sites coincident with intrinsic elongation attenuation. Secretory protein transcripts that showed an increase in SRP-bound protected reads (see Extended Data Fig. 2c, f) were further classified by the position of the peak relative to the first signal codon. Transcripts with peaks found at least 80 codons after the signal had significantly lower translational efficiency in the 6 codons following the peak. These transcripts also had a greater, but not statistically significant, amount of stalling amino acids in the 10 residues preceding the peak. *P ≤ 0.05, Wilcoxon rank-sum tests. f, Similar increases in SRP-bound reads were observed for certain non-secretory proteins as exemplified by phosphoacetylglucosamine mutase (PCM1) and tRNA^Ssr^ Umt^44^. Hydrophobic sequences in non-secretory proteins, coupled with attenuation of elongation, may lead to SRP recruitment.

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Extended Data Figure 4 | Ribosome profiling of monosomes.

a, Ribosomes transition from monosomes to polysomes during elongation. The pioneer round of initiation will be a monosome, and during elongation there is a chance of additional initiation converting the transcript to a polysome. Similarly, a polysome will become a monosome if all ribosomes but one terminate. As mRNA is sampled closer to the stop codon, the likelihood of observing a footprint from the final ribosome will increase.

b, Metagene analysis of soluble monosome- or polysome-protected reads from proteins lacking an ER-targeting signal. Data were obtained using CHX treatment. ORFs are at least 400 codons long and have an average of at least 0.5 reads per codon in each data set. For each ORF, ribosome reads at each position were divided by the mean reads per codon over the range +160 to +240 codons. The median normalized read value at each codon position is plotted, and the interquartile range is shaded in grey.

c, Relative reads at the start codon from ORFs normalized in b.

d, Distributions of the ratio of ribosome-protected reads found in soluble monosomes over soluble polysomes.

e, A pioneer round of translation deposits mRNA on the membrane. Polysomes will be retained at the membrane and are therefore depleted from the soluble fraction.
Extended Data Figure 5 | Ribosome profiling of SRP-bound monosomes. a, Ribosome-protected reads, in tags per million (TPM) for each ORF, from SRP-bound monosome fractions from two biological replicates. b, Ribosome-protected reads from the soluble SRP-bound monosome and SRP-bound polysome fractions of the same biological replicate, with CHX treatment. c, Distribution of ribosome reads within example ORFs that display SRP-bound monosome and polysome profiles consistent with direct recognition of the nascent chain. d, If RNCs can recruit SRP while a TMD is within the exit tunnel, then there will be an increase in ribosome-protected reads from SRP-bound monosomes when the TMD begins to translate (lavender). This increase will maximize when the TMD is exposed to the cytosol (orange). e, Distribution of ribosome reads within example ORFs that display SRP-bound monosome profiles consistent with recruitment to transcripts before targeting signal synthesis. Examples are arranged for an increasing distance from the start codon to the first TMD. Only the first 600 codons for each ORF are shown.
Extended Data Figure 6 | The role of the UTR from PMP1 and PMP2.

a, The cotranslational SRP enrichment of the PMP1 and PMP2 ORFs was similar to other bona fide secretory proteins, such as SEC61. By contrast, cytosolic proteins such as tubulin (TUB2) were not enriched. The enrichment scores are determined from the SRP-bound and total soluble polysomes from two biological replicates collected without added CHX. b, Distribution of ribosome-protected reads from soluble polysomes within the PMP1 and PMP2 ORFs. c, Membrane enrichment, determined by qPCR, of the mRNA of GFP fused to the indicated 3′ UTRs. The coding sequence of endogenous SEC61 transcript was also amplified as a control for a membrane-localized transcript.

*P ≤ 0.01, n = 3 biological replicates, Welch’s t-test.

d, Localization of mature GFP. Scale bar, 5 μm. Yeast were grown to mid-log phase and imaged using an Axio Observer Z1 with a Plan-Apochromat 100×/1.4 oil immersion objective (Zeiss). Z-stacks were deconvoluted by the iterative maximum likelihood algorithm in ZEN (Zeiss) and single planes are shown. Images were representative from a set of two replicated assays.

e, Yeast growth after replacement of the endogenous 3′ UTR of PMP1 with the 3′ UTR of tubulin. Also shown is a complete deletion of PMP1 ORF. Gibson assembly was used to fuse the 300-nucleotide TUB2 3′ UTR to the KIURA3 cassette into Smal digested pUC19. The TUB2-UTR-URA3 element was PCR amplified, including 40-nucleotide overhangs matching genomic sequences, and replaced the 650 nucleotides immediately following the PMP1 coding sequence in strain BY4741 by homologous recombination. Image is representative from a set of 3 replicated assays.

f, Nascent-chain-independent SRP recognition may require ribosomes. Puromycin treatment of lysates disrupts elongating, but not initiating, ribosomes. g, Transcripts showing only canonical recognition are more sensitive to puromycin. This is consistent with puromycin resistance of SRP that has pre-recruited to initiating ribosomes.

h, Membrane enrichment of the GFP-PMP1 construct or SEC61 mRNA after lysates were incubated with puromycin. *P ≤ 0.01, n = 3 biological replicates, Welch’s t-test.
Extended Data Figure 7 | The role translation in membrane enrichment. a. Lysates were treated with puromycin before membrane fractionation. mRNA recovered from the soluble and membrane fractions were used for RNA-seq. b. Membrane enrichment of secretory protein transcripts (SS, TMD, SS-TMD, or TA, n = 729) following puromycin treatment of lysates.