

## **Chromatin is an ancient innovation conserved between Archaea and Eukarya**

Ron Ammar<sup>1</sup>, Dax Torti<sup>1</sup>, Kyle Tsui<sup>1,2</sup>, Marinella Gebbia<sup>1,2</sup>, Tanja Durbic<sup>1</sup>, Gary D. Bader<sup>1,3</sup>, Guri Giaever<sup>1,2</sup> and Corey Nislow<sup>1,4</sup>

1 Department of Molecular Genetics, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario;  
Donnelly Centre for Cellular and Biomedical Research, University of Toronto,  
Toronto, ON

2 Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON

3 Department of Computer Science, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON

4 Banting and Best Department of Medical Research, University of Toronto, Toronto,  
ON

### **Abstract**

The eukaryotic nucleosome is the fundamental unit of chromatin, comprising a protein octamer that wraps ~147bp of DNA and has essential roles in DNA compaction, replication and gene expression. Nucleosomes and chromatin have long been considered to be unique to eukaryotes, yet studies of select archaea have identified homologs of histone proteins that assemble into tetrameric nucleosomes. Here we report the first archaeal genome-wide nucleosome occupancy map, as observed in the halophile *Haloferax volcanii*. Nucleosome occupancy was compared with gene expression by compiling a comprehensive transcriptome of *Hfx. volcanii*. We found that archaeal transcripts possess hallmarks of eukaryotic chromatin structure: nucleosome-free regions at transcriptional start sites and conserved -1 and +1 promoter nucleosomes. Our observations demonstrate that histones and chromatin architecture evolved before the divergence of Archaea and Eukarya, suggesting that the fundamental role of chromatin in the regulation of gene expression is ancient.

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## ELIFE DIGEST

Single-celled microorganisms called archaea are one of the three domains of cellular life, along with bacteria and eukaryotes. Archaea are similar to bacteria in that they do not have nuclei, but genetically they have more in common with eukaryotes. Archaea are found in a wide range of habitats including the human colon, marshlands, the ocean and extreme environments such as hot springs and salt lakes.

It has been known since the 1990s that the DNA of archaea is wrapped around histones to form complexes that closely resemble the nucleosomes found in eukaryotes, albeit with four rather than eight histone subunits. Nucleosomes are the fundamental units of chromatin, the highly-ordered and compact structure that all the DNA in a cell is packed into. Now we know exactly how many nucleosomes are present in a given cell for some eukaryotes, notably yeast, and to a good approximation we know the position of each nucleosome during a variety of metabolic states and physiological conditions. We can also quantify the nucleosome occupancy, which is a measure of the length of time that the nucleosomes spend in contact with the DNA: this is a critical piece of information because it determines the level of access that other proteins, including those that regulate gene expression, have to the DNA. These advances have been driven in large part by advances in technology, notably high-density microarrays for genome-wide studies of nucleosome occupancy, and massively parallel sequencing for direct nucleosome sequencing.

Ammar et al. have used these techniques to explore how the DNA of *Haloferax volcanii*, a species of archaea that thrives in the hyper-salty waters of the Dead Sea, is organized on a genome-wide basis. Despite some clear differences between the genomes of archaea and eukaryotes – for example, genomic DNA is typically circular in archaea and linear in eukaryotes – they found that the genome of *Hfx. volcanii* is organized into chromatin in a way that is remarkably similar to that seen in all eukaryotic genomes studied to date. This is surprising given that the chromatin in eukaryotes is confined to the nucleus, whereas there are no such constraints in archaea. In particular, Ammar et al. found that those regions of the DNA near the ends of

32 genes that mark where the transcription of the DNA into RNA should begin and end contain  
33 have lower nucleosome occupancy than other regions. Moreover, the overall level of occupancy  
34 in *Hfx. volcanii* was twice that of eukaryotes, which is what one would expect given that  
35 nucleosomes in archaea contain half as many histone subunits as nucleosomes in eukaryotes.  
36 Ammar et al. also confirmed that that the degree of nucleosome occupancy is correlated with  
37 gene expression.

38  
39 These two findings – the similarities between the chromatin in archaea and eukaryotes, and the  
40 correlation between nucleosome occupancy and gene expression in archaea – raise an interesting  
41 evolutionary possibility: the initial function of nucleosomes and chromatin formation might have  
42 been for the regulation of gene expression rather than the packaging of DNA. This is consistent  
43 with two decades of research that has shown that there is an extraordinarily complex relationship  
44 between the structure of chromatin and the process of gene expression. It is possible, therefore,  
45 that as the early eukaryotes evolved, nucleosomes and chromatin started to package DNA into  
46 compact structures that, among other things, helped to prevent DNA damage, and that this  
47 subsequently enabled the early eukaryotes to flourish.

48

49 **Introduction**

50 Archaeal nucleosome core particles protect ~60 bp of DNA, approximately half that of  
51 eukaryotic nucleosomes, as demonstrated by the landmark work of Reeve and colleagues(Pereira  
52 et al., 1997). Comparing both eukaryotic and archaeal nucleosomes, the former is an octamer  
53 composed of heterodimers of histones H2A, H2B, H3 and H4 whereas the latter histones  
54 assemble from homologs of H3 and H4 proteins(Talbert and Henikoff, 2010, Pereira and Reeve,  
55 1998). Archaeal histones can form both homodimers and heterodimers, as well as  
56 homotetramers, whereas eukaryotic histones contain hydrophobic dimerization surfaces that  
57 restrict assembly of the octamer from H2A-H2B and H3-H4 heterodimers(Sandman and Reeve,  
58 2006, Talbert and Henikoff, 2010).

59 Using single-nucleotide resolution maps of archaeal nucleosome occupancy and gene  
60 expression, we demonstrate that the architecture of archaeal chromatin and the occupancy of its  
61 nucleosomes along transcription units are conserved. We constructed a nucleosome occupancy  
62 map of the halophilic archaeon *Haloferax volcanii*, a member of the phylum euryarchaeota,  
63 originally discovered in the highly saline sediment of the Dead Sea(Mullakhanbhai and Larsen,  
64 1975). The genome of *Hfx. volcanii* has an average GC content of 65% and a total genome  
65 length of 4Mb(Hartman et al., 2010) composed of five circular genetic elements: a 2.8Mb main  
66 chromosome, three smaller chromosomes pHV1, pHV3 and pHV4 and the plasmid pHV2. It is  
67 highly polyploid with ~15 genome copies during exponential growth and ~10 during stationary  
68 phase(Breuert et al., 2006). The histone protein of *Hfx. volcanii*, hstA (HVO\_0520), has a  
69 domain architecture containing two distinct histone fold domains in the same peptide that  
70 heterodimerize resembling that of the *Methanopyrus kandleri* histone (HMk)(Talbert and  
71 Henikoff, 2010, Marchler-Bauer et al., 2011, Geer et al., 2002).

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## 73 **Results**

74 We cultured *Hfx. volcanii* in rich media containing 2M NaCl(Mullakhanbhai and Larsen,  
75 1975). Genomic DNA was cross-linked and digested with micrococcal nuclease (MNase), with  
76 cell disruption accomplished by bead-beating(Tsui et al., 2012). Nucleosome-bound cross-linked  
77 genomic regions are protected from MNase digestion, in contrast to the linker DNA between  
78 nucleosomes. Mononucleosome-sized (50-60bp) DNA fragments were gel purified and libraries  
79 were sequenced on an Illumina HiSeq2000 (Fig. 1a). Sequence reads were aligned to the  
80 published *Hfx. volcanii* DS2 genome(Hartman et al., 2010) to generate a genome-wide  
81 nucleosome occupancy map. Controls included crosslinked DNA without MNase digestion as  
82 well as MNase treated nucleosome-free genomic DNA. The nucleosome occupancy data was  
83 significantly different than the control MNase digest of deproteinized “naked” genomic DNA ( $r$   
84 = 0.071), indicating that the nucleosome map is unaffected by any potential MNase sequence  
85 bias (Chung et al., 2010).

86 To determine nucleosome midpoints, we smoothed the occupancy data using a  
87 symmetrical convolution sum with a Gaussian filter(Smith, 1997). Extrema were detected in the  
88 smoothed signal, and maxima were defined as nucleosome midpoints. In the smoothed signal,  
89 the mean peak-to-peak distance for the main chromosome was 68.5bp in genic regions and  
90 76.1bp in non-genic regions. Genic regions were defined as the transcribed region plus 40bp (the  
91 average promoter length based on Palmer and Daniels (1995)) upstream of the 5' end(Palmer and  
92 Daniels, 1995). We observed a greater nucleosome density in *Hfx. volcanii* vs. all eukaryotes  
93 likely due to the shorter length of DNA wrapped around the archaeal histone tetramer(Pereira et  
94 al., 1997). Based on our data, the *Hfx. volcanii* genome has 14.2 nucleosomes/Kb compared to

95 5.2 nucleosomes/Kb in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*. The resulting map reveals a periodic pattern  
96 similar to that seen in all eukaryotes examined to date; with protected regions appearing as peaks  
97 and linker regions as troughs. Sequence analysis of the entire nucleosome map showed that  
98 nucleosome midpoints were enriched with G/C nucleotides from 61.4% GC at the edge of the  
99 protected fragment to 74.6% GC at the midpoint (dyad). We found an increase of G/C  
100 nucleotides and a decrease in A/T nucleotides at the midpoint, as described recently for human  
101 cell lines (Fig. 1b,c)(Valouev et al., 2011). In contrast to previous studies in eukaryotes, we did  
102 not observe a periodicity in dinucleotide frequency relative to the nucleosome midpoint(Bailey et  
103 al., 2000, Satchwell et al., 1986, Albert et al., 2007).

104 We next investigated the relationship between nucleosome occupancy and gene  
105 expression. The existing genome annotation for *Haloferax* is derived almost exclusively from  
106 ORF predictions(Hartman et al., 2010). To augment these predictions, we used deep sequencing  
107 to create a high confidence transcriptome of the main chromosome of *Hfx. volcanii*. This map  
108 allowed us to define both 5'UTR lengths and transcriptional start sites (TSSs). Total RNA was  
109 extracted from *Hfx. volcanii* cells, repetitive RNA was partially depleted via duplex-specific  
110 nuclease (DSN) normalization followed by RNA-seq (see Methods)(Zhulidov et al., 2004).  
111 Transcript sequences were aligned, assembled and quantified using TopHat and the Genome  
112 Analysis Toolkit(Trapnell et al., 2009, McKenna et al., 2010) and transcript boundaries were  
113 further trimmed based on RNA-seq coverage information, as described previously(Wurtzel et al.,  
114 2010). The final set of transcripts were manually curated yielding 3059 transcriptional units in  
115 *Hfx. volcanii*, a number that is greater than observed previously in the comparable transcriptome  
116 of the sulfur-metabolizing archaeon *Sulfolobus solfataricus*(Wurtzel et al., 2010) but fewer than  
117 the 4073 predicted *Hfx. volcanii* genes. It is likely that under the rich media conditions used in

118 this study, not all genes are expressed. Specifically 75% of the predicted transcripts were  
119 detectably expressed, and this fraction is consistent with observations obtained for yeast gene  
120 expression in rich media(David et al., 2006). 32 novel transcripts (absent from the predicted  
121 sequence annotation) were identified in the RNA-seq data. Most of these 32 transcripts lack  
122 significant sequence homologs, and several were classified as transposases with paralogs in *Hfx.*  
123 *volcanii* (Supplementary File 1). Notably, the gene that was most highly expressed in the  
124 transcriptome (NTRANS\_0004) was not previously annotated and contains a putative N-  
125 Acyltransferase (NAT) superfamily domain. Homology searches revealed that this transcript  
126 appears to be restricted to the genomes of other halophilic archaea (Altschul et al., 1990). The  
127 architecture of this domain is homologous to chain A of the well-characterized histone  
128 acetyltransferases Gcn5, Gna1, Hpa2 in *S. cerevisiae*, suggesting a possible role for this  
129 transcript in regulating transcription via histone acetylation(Marchler-Bauer et al., 2011).  
130 Additional acyltransferases with a similar architecture have been implicated in bacteriophage-  
131 encoded DNA modifiers as well as cold and ethanol tolerance in yeast(Kaminska and Bujnicki,  
132 2008, Du and Takagi, 2007). Thus, while post-translational modifications have not been  
133 observed in archaeal histones (Forbes et al., 2004), our observation suggests that some  
134 rudimentary control over chromatin accessibility may occur via the action of ancient NAT family  
135 members. Furthermore acetyltransferase and deacetylase orthologs, which appear to have  
136 enzymatic activity based on their sensitivity to the histone deacetylase (HDAC) inhibitor  
137 trichostatin A have been identified in *Hfx. volcanii* (Altman-Price and Mevarech, 2009). In our  
138 subsequent analysis, we focused on all genes we empirically determined to be expressed.

139 In eukaryotes, the TSS of the majority of expressed genes is characterized by a  
140 nucleosome-depleted region (NDR)(Jiang and Pugh, 2009). This NDR is flanked by the well-

141 positioned -1 and the +1 nucleosomes. These regions direct RNA polymerase II to initiate  
142 transcription and influence the binding of promoter regulatory elements(Jiang and Pugh, 2009).  
143 This stereotypical pattern of nucleosome depletion at promoters and well-ordered nucleosomes  
144 in gene bodies is found in all eukaryotes, including yeast, *Drosophila*, *A. thaliana* and humans.  
145 Using the RNA-seq-derived transcripts for *Hfx. volcanii*, we computed the degree of aggregate  
146 nucleosome occupancy for the 2343 transcripts on the main chromosome, and found that the  
147 NDR and -1 and +1 nucleosomes are conserved in *Hfx. volcanii* (Fig. 2) suggesting that the  
148 interplay between chromatin and transcription is conserved in archaeal promoters. We generated  
149 nucleosome occupancy profiles for each transcript and clustered them hierarchically. Differential  
150 nucleosome density was observed with profiles encompassing four to six nucleosomes in a  
151 400bp DNA segment spanning 200bp on each side of the TSS (Fig. 2c). NDRs at transcription  
152 termination sites (TTSs) are also observed, and similar to those found in eucaryotes (Lee et al.,  
153 2007) they are less prominent than promoter NDRs in *Hfx. volcanii*.

154

## 155 **Discussion**

156 Our study establishes that nucleosome occupancy is conserved between archaea and  
157 eukaryotes (Fig. 4). We further show that the nucleosomal protected fragments and NDRs are  
158 shorter in archaea than in eukaryotes. Our findings are particularly noteworthy because *Hfx.*  
159 *vulcanii* likely resembles a deeply rooted ancestor that possessed eukaryotic genome architecture  
160 hallmarks such as histones, as well as bacterial hallmarks such as the Shine-Dalgarno  
161 sequence(Sartorius-Neef and Pfeifer, 2004). Archaeal histone tetramers likely resemble an  
162 ancestral state of chromatin, as it has been observed that functional (H3-H4)<sub>2</sub> tetramers can be  
163 formed *in vitro* from eukaryotic histones, and these tetramers are functional; they facilitate more



164 rapid transcription *in vitro* compared to native histone octamers(Puerta et al., 1993). The  
165 observation that archaea contain (H3-H4)<sub>2</sub> tetramers is consistent with the proposal that  
166 formation of the canonical eukaryotic nucleosome octamer begins with (H3-H4)<sub>2</sub> tetramer  
167 assembly(Talbert and Henikoff, 2010).

168 Our study demonstrates that both histones and chromatin architecture evolved before the  
169 divergence of Archaea and Eukarya, suggesting that the fundamental role of chromatin in the  
170 regulation of gene expression is ancient. As well, owing to the small bacterial-sized archaeal  
171 genome, we suggest that archaeal chromatin is not required for genome compaction. This leads  
172 us to postulate that higher-order chromatin(Sajan and Hawkins, 2012) is a eukaryotic invention  
173 and that archaeal chromatin is necessary but not sufficient for genome compaction. Furthermore  
174 our observations provide a rich dataset that addresses the evolution of chromatin and its  
175 fundamental role in the regulation of gene expression.

176

## 177 **Materials and Methods**

178 *Sample preparation.* *Haloferax volcanii* DS2 cells (obtained from the ATCC) were grown to  
179 mid-log phase at 42°C in ATCC 974 Halobacterium medium supplemented with 2M NaCl. Cells  
180 were fixed with 2% formaldehyde for 30 min then quenched with 125mM of glycine for 5 min.  
181 An unfixed control sample was also prepared to serve as as a deproteinized, “naked” DNA  
182 control, as described previously (Chung et al., 2010). Cells were pelleted and snap frozen prior to  
183 MNase digestion and DNA extraction. Frozen cells were processed according to a modified  
184 protocol from Rizzo *et al.*(Rizzo et al., 2011, Tsui et al., 2012). Samples were digested with  
185 increasing concentrations of MNase and a no MNase control. After digestion, fragments 50-60bp  
186 in length were size-selected using an Agilent Bioanalyzer High Sensitivity chip (Agilent, part#

187 5067-4626) and further processed for Illumina deep sequencing. This size-selection was critical,  
188 as the formaldehyde crosslinking causes both histones as well as other DNA-binding proteins to  
189 crosslink with bound DNA. Nucleosomal and genomic libraries were pooled equally according  
190 to qPCR quantitation, and sequenced using v3 chemistry on one single-read HiSeq2000 lane  
191 (50x8). Samples were demultiplexed using an 8bp index read at the end of read 1.

192  
193 *Sequence read filtering and alignment.* Illumina sequencers require the ligation of an adapter  
194 oligonucleotide to facilitate cluster formation on the flow cell. Because the library inserts were  
195 short (~60bp), many sequence reads extended into the Illumina adapter sequences. The adapter  
196 subsequences were computationally trimmed to ensure maximal read mapping. Then, using a  
197 sequence quality cutoff of Phred20, reads were trimmed from both 5' and 3' ends to ensure  
198 accurate mapping. These trimmed reads from control and MNase-treated genomic DNA were  
199 aligned to the *Hfx. volcanii* DS2 genome using the Bowtie 2 gapped short read  
200 aligner(Langmead and Salzberg, 2012). Sequence coverage was computed using the Genome  
201 Analysis Toolkit (GATK) depth of coverage walker, which revealed the periodicity in the  
202 occupancy data(DePristo et al., 2011).

203  
204 *Nucleosome identification.* To detect nucleosome midpoint positions, sequence data were  
205 Gaussian-smoothed as described previously by Shivaswamy *et al.* (2008) and Kaplan *et al.*  
206 (2009)(Shivaswamy et al., 2008, Kaplan et al., 2009). This is appropriate because signals  
207 generated by processes that are random, such as sequence coverage noise, usually have a  
208 probability density function defined by a Gaussian distribution(Smith, 1997).

209 The Gaussian filter was defined as:

210 
$$G(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma}} e^{\left(\frac{-(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right)}$$

211 where  $\mu$  is the mean of the distribution and  $\sigma$  is the standard deviation.

212 A symmetrical convolution sum was applied with the following format:

213 
$$y[i] = \sum_{j=-\frac{M}{2}}^{\frac{M}{2}} h[j] \cdot x[i-j]$$

214 where  $M$  is an integer bandwidth,  $y[j]$  is the output,  $x[j]$  is the input and  $h[j]$  is an  $M$ -point  
 215 function.

216 So, to smooth the coverage data, we applied the following convolution sum:

217 
$$y[i] = \sum_{j=-\frac{M}{2}}^{\frac{M}{2}} G[j] \cdot x[i-j]$$

218 where  $\sigma = \frac{M}{6}$ . The interval length  $M$  is constrained to  $6\sigma$  because this encompasses 99.75% of the  
 219 Gaussian (Smith, 1997).

220 We also optimized nucleosome midpoint detection by convoluting a 2-pass simple moving  
 221 average (SMA) filter, but the Gaussian filter detected midpoints with greater resolution. Optimal  
 222 interval size for the Gaussian convolution sum, as determined by Pearson's correlation  
 223 coefficient with the raw data, was 27bp. For the 2-pass SMA it was 40bp for first-pass and 15bp  
 224 for second-pass.

225 Nucleosome occupancy was normalized genome-wide by transforming sequence coverage data  
 226 into binary-like data that existed in states of "occupied", "depleted" or transitioning between  
 227 those two states. This final occupancy map was used to define nucleosome positions.

228 Nucleosome occupancy profiles were clustered hierarchically by average linkage using Pearson's

229 correlation coefficient as the similarity metric in the Cluster 3.0 software package. Clusters were  
230 visualized with Java Treeview (Fig. 2b,c).

231  
232 *Transcript identification and genome annotation.* RNA was extracted with Trizol reagent  
233 (Invitrogen, 15596-026), and DNase treated (Invitrogen, AM1907) according to manufacturer  
234 specifications. A cDNA library was generated using 100ng of total RNA according to Illumina  
235 TruSeq RNA Sample Prep protocol (Illumina, RS-122-2001) prior to duplex-specific nuclease  
236 (DSN) treatment. 100ng of cDNA library was incubated in hybridization buffer (50mM HEPES,  
237 500mM NaCl) for 2 minutes at 98°C, followed by 1 hour at 68°C. Ribosomal RNA (rRNA) was  
238 not specifically depleted(He et al., 2010). Instead, we used duplex-specific nuclease (DSN)  
239 normalization to remove recurrent RNA (rRNA, tRNA) from the total RNA sample, thereby  
240 enriching mRNA(Zhulidov et al., 2004). Samples were immediately treated with 4 units of DSN  
241 enzyme (Evrogen, EA001) in 1X DSN buffer and incubated for an additional 25 minutes at  
242 68°C, prior to addition of stop solution, and purification with Ampure XP beads (Beckman  
243 Coulter, A63881). RNA libraries were pooled equally according to qPCR quantitation, and  
244 sequenced using v3 chemistry on a paired-end single HiSeq2000 lane (100x8x100). Samples  
245 were demultiplexed using an 8bp index read at the end of read 1. Total RNA was sequenced at  
246 extremely high coverage (2587× mean coverage) so that rRNA sequences (~77% of all sequence  
247 reads) could be computationally excluded, as described by Wurtzel *et al.*(Wurtzel et al., 2010).  
248 After quality score trimming (described earlier), sequence reads were aligned using  
249 TopHat(Trapnell et al., 2009). The RNA-seq data displayed a great deal of overlap with the  
250 predicted annotations(Hartman et al., 2010), with 92.1% of the existing annotations being  
251 confirmed. Of the 4073 predicted annotations, 3751 were confirmed, and, of these, 744 were

252 merged with other transcripts to form longer transcripts. A heuristic approach was applied to  
253 adjust the transcript 5' and 3' positions of the Hartman *et al.* predicted annotations based on the  
254 boundaries of high RNA-seq coverage regions. This was vital as TSS accuracy is of great  
255 importance for NDR identification (Fig. 5).

256 Because 85% of the *Haloferax* genome is predicted to be coding(Hartman et al., 2010), transcript  
257 detection is complicated by transcript overlap. To overcome this, computationally identified  
258 transcripts were manually curated yielding a total of 3059 expressed transcripts in *Hfx. volcanii*.  
259 Of these, 32 transcripts are novel (Supplementary File 1). Of these transcripts, NTRANS\_0004  
260 was the most abundant transcript in the transcriptome, after the 6 rRNA genes. Homology data  
261 was obtained using BLASTX with a BLOSUM45 matrix against the non-redundant protein  
262 sequence database(Altschul et al., 1990). Conserved domains were identified using the  
263 Conserved Domain Database(Marchler-Bauer et al., 2011). “Sequence data, nucleosome and  
264 transcriptome maps and supplemental tables have been deposited to the Short Read Archive and  
265 Dryad, as indicated in the datasets statement. Additionally this data is available at  
266 <http://chemogenomics.med.utoronto.ca/supplemental/chromatin/>”

267

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270

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373  
374 **Figure Titles and Legends**

375  
376 **Fig. 1.**

377 **Micrococcal nuclease digestion produces nucleosomal fragments from crosslinked *Hfx.***  
378 ***volcanii* chromatin. (A)** Formaldehyde cross-linked chromatin was subjected to MNase  
379 digestion with increasing amounts on micrococcal nuclease (from 1 unit to 5 units). De-  
380 crosslinked DNAs were separated on a 3% agarose gel and **~60bp and ~120bp mono- and di-**  
381 **nucleosomes were observed.** Markers (M) indicate \* 50bp and \*\* 150bp. **(B)** The counts of AA,  
382 AT, TA, TT or CC, CG, GC, GG dinucleotides are reported at each position showing an  
383 enrichment of G/C nucleotides and a depletion of A/T nucleotides at the dyad relative to the end  
384 points of the protected fragment. This differs from the observation of Bailey *et al.* (2000), where  
385 GC, AA and TA dinucleotides were repeated at ~10bp intervals in recombinant archaeal histone  
386 B from *Methanothermus fervidus* (rHMfB)(Bailey et al., 2000). **(C)** The sequence logo of a  
387 nucleosome-binding site in *Hfx. volcanii* centered at the nucleosome midpoint. There is a  
388 significant GC enrichment towards the nucleosome midpoint. This is exhibited using both bit  
389 score and probability measures.

390  
391 **Fig. 2. Nucleosome occupancy in *Haloferax volcanii*.** **(A)** Degree of normalized nucleosome  
392 occupancy in aggregate for the main chromosome. As observed in eukaryotes, there is a  
393 prominent nucleosome-depleted region (NDR) at the transcriptional start site (TSS) preceded by  
394 a -1 nucleosome and followed by a +1 nucleosome, demonstrating that promoter genome  
395 architecture is conserved between archaea and eukaryotes. **(B)** Hierarchical clustergram for the  
396 2343 expressed transcripts on the main *Haloferax* chromosome. Green represents nucleosome-  
397 depleted regions and red represents occupied regions. **(C)** The clustered heatmap was subdivided



398 into the largest 6 subclades, and differential density of nucleosomes can be observed with  
399 occupancy profile clusters containing between 4 to 6 nucleosomes.

400

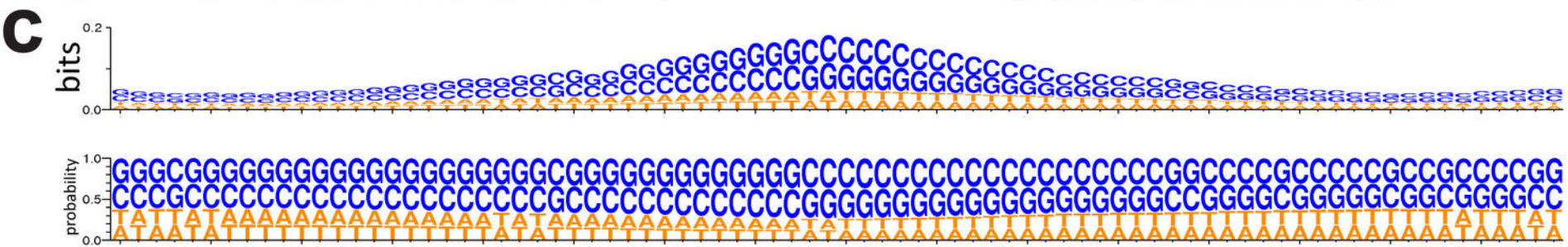
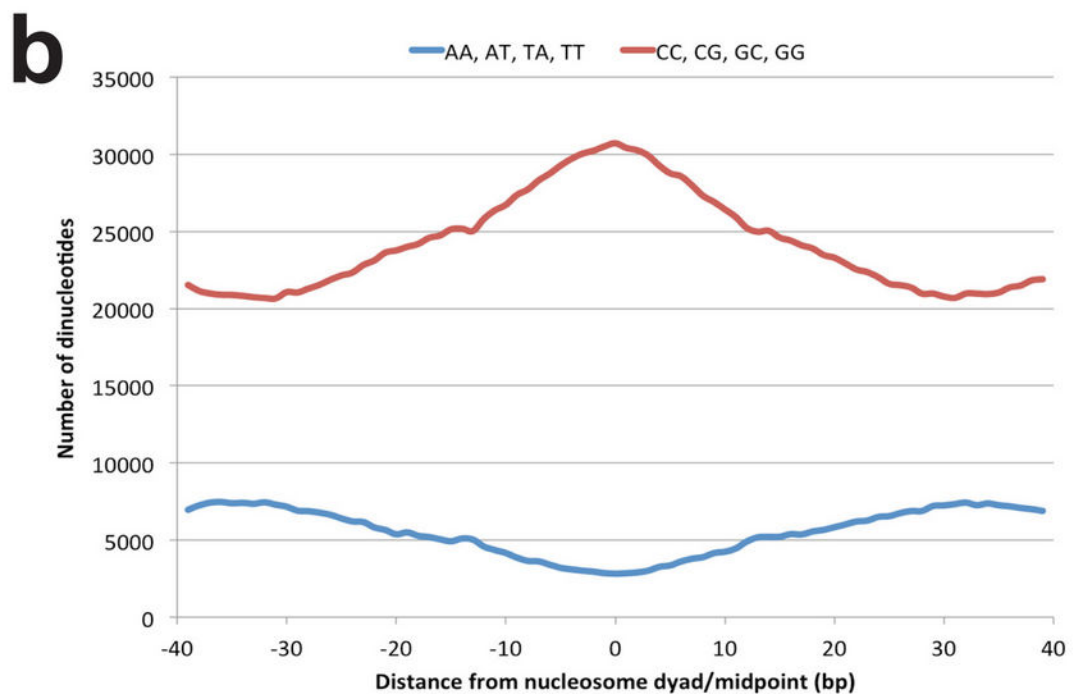
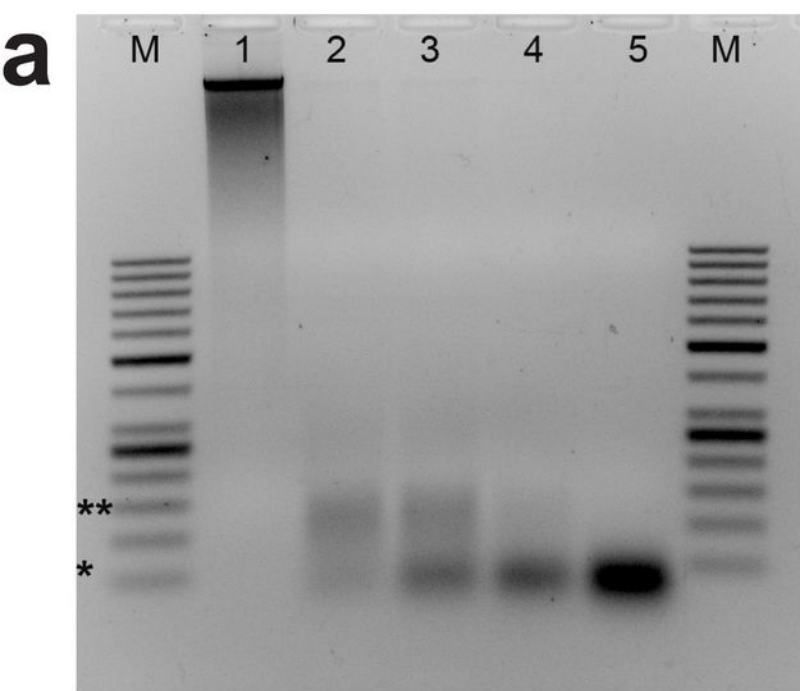
401 **Fig. 3. Nucleosome-depleted regions at the 3' end of transcripts.** As observed in eukaryotes,  
402 NDRs are also found at the transcriptional termination sites in *Hfx. volcanii*. Both 5' and 3' end  
403 profiles are overlaid in this figure for comparison. The 5' NDR is, on average, more depleted and  
404 longer.

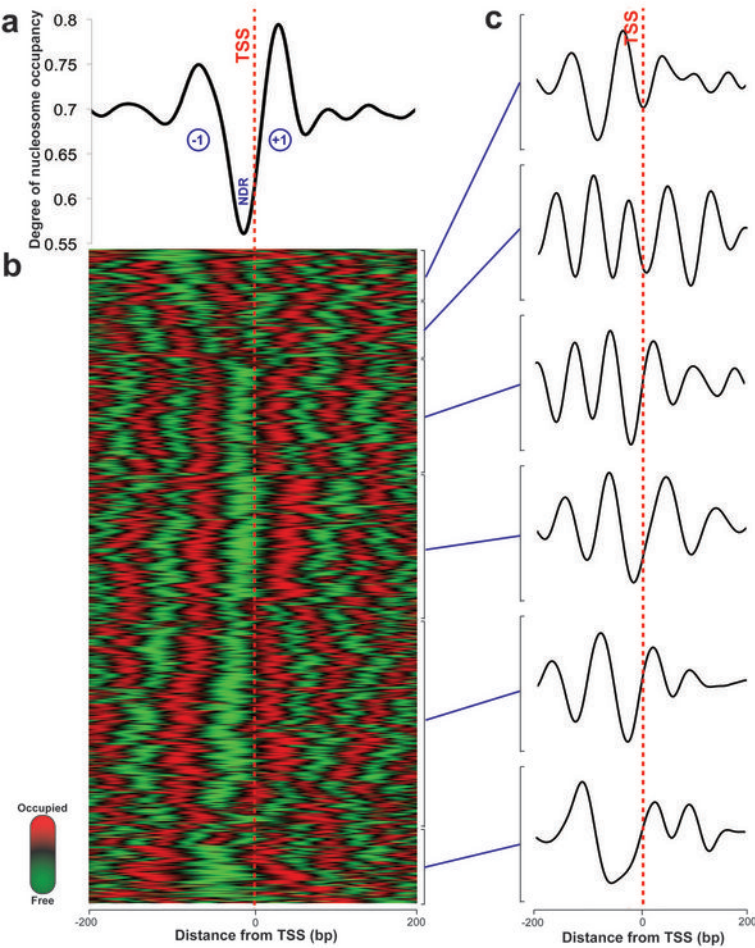
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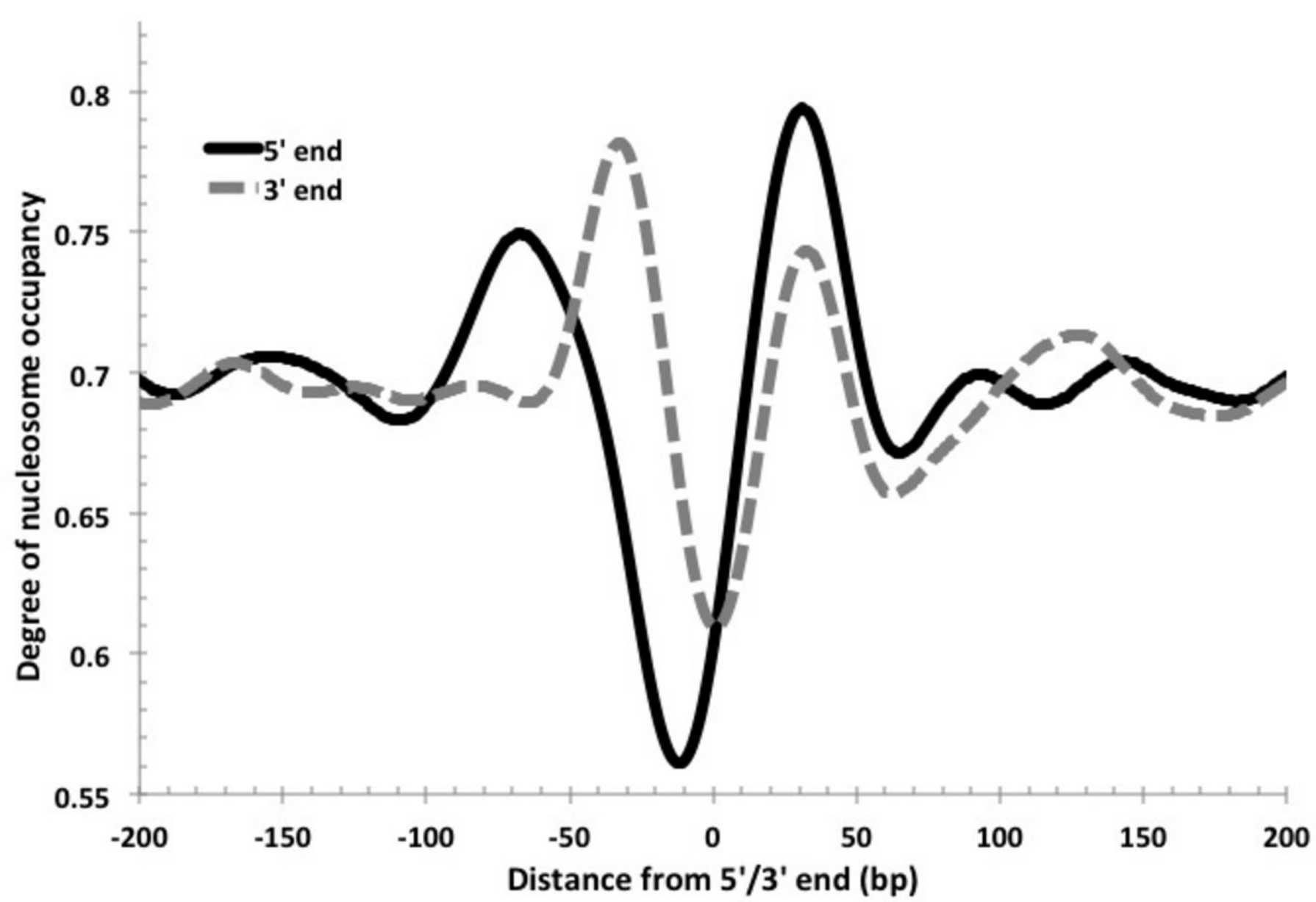
406 **Fig. 4. Chromatin architecture is conserved at the 5' end of transcripts across eukaryotes**  
407 **and archaea.** Due to the smaller size of archaeal nucleosome DNA, the occupancy has a shorter  
408 periodicity. Figure adapted with permission from Chang *et al.*(Chang et al., 2012).

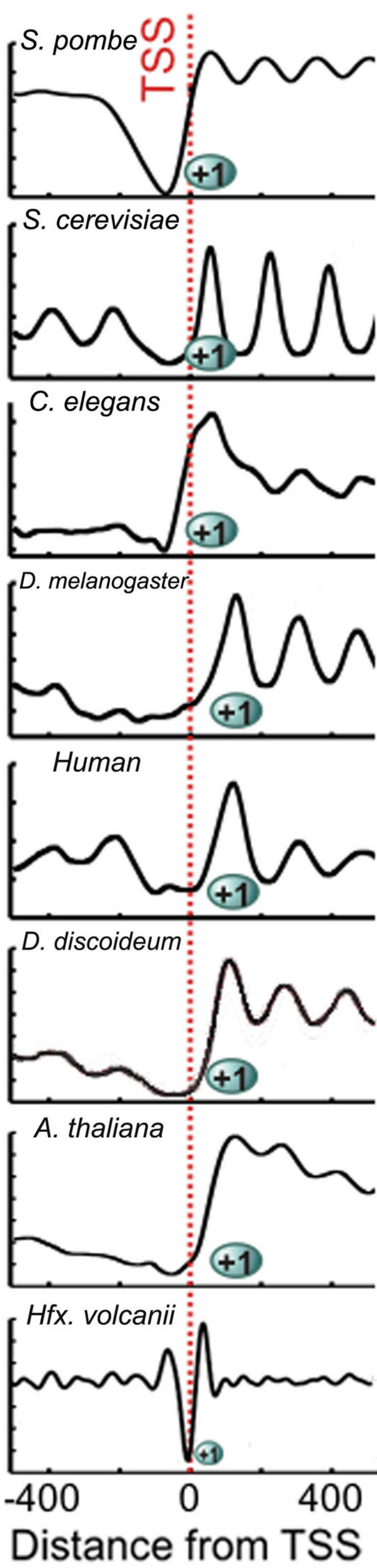
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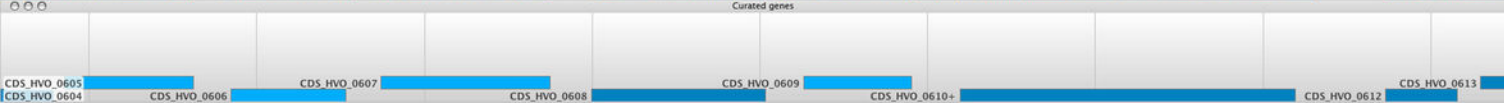
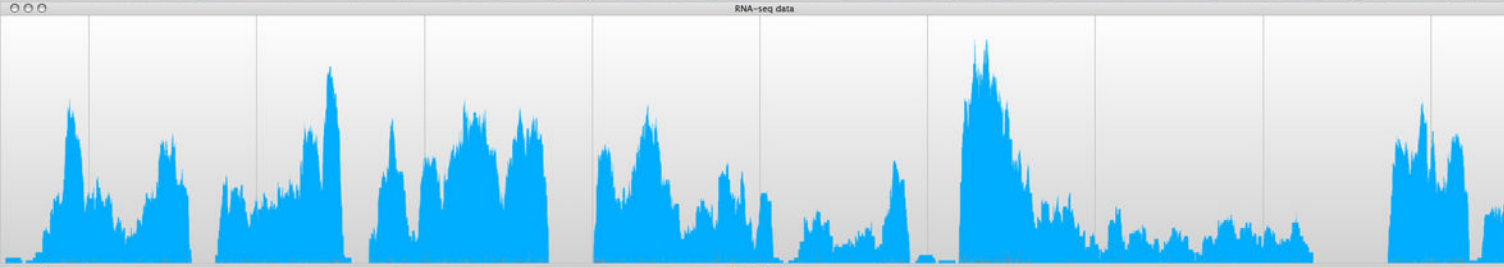
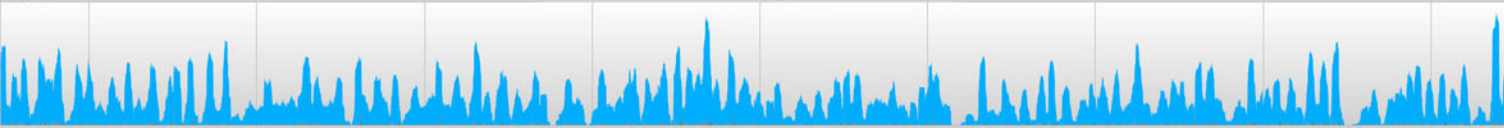
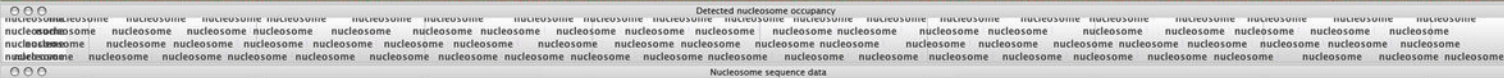
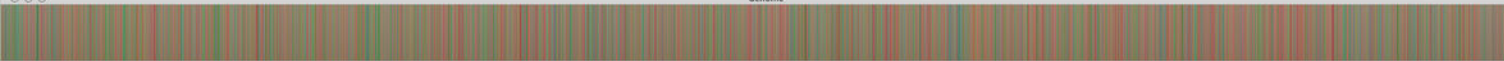
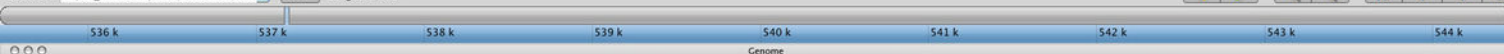
410 **Fig. 5. Sample screenshot of all data tracks loaded into the Savant genome browser (Fiume**  
411 **et al., 2010).** The nucleosome sequence data is displayed, and the periodicity reflects protected  
412 and unprotected fragments after MNase digestion (magnitude of peak is not considered). Peaks  
413 represent nucleosome midpoints, which were detected and marked. Below are the corresponding  
414 RNA-seq and curated gene tracks. In this screenshot, one can observe seven entire ORFs in line  
415 with their NDRs and -1 and +1 nucleosomes.









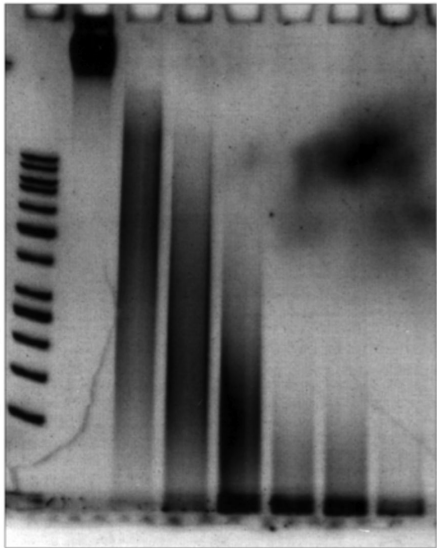


0 1 2.5 5 10 15 25

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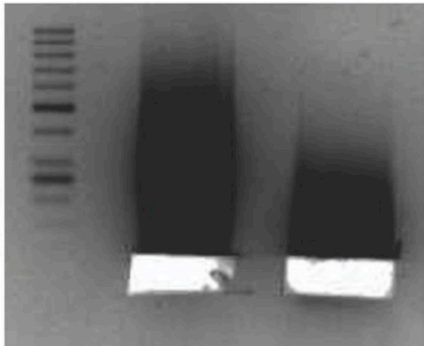
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17 k 18 k 19 k 20 k 21 k

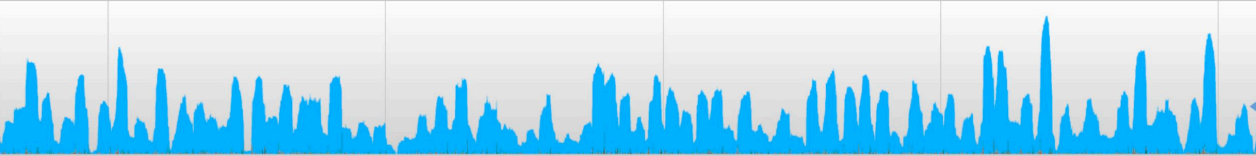
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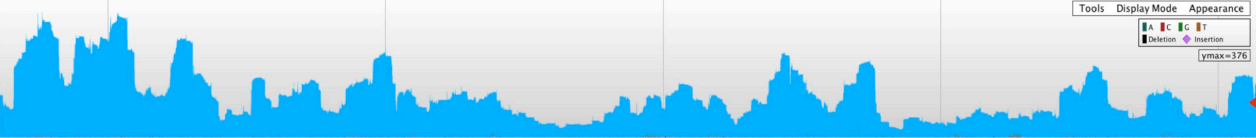
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nucleosome  
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/Users/rammar/grad/haloferax/output\_selection/transcripts\_DSN\_manually\_curated.bed.gz

CDS\_HVO\_0017 CDS\_HVO\_0018 CDS\_HVO\_0019 CDS\_HVO\_0020 CDS\_HVO\_0021+

sample 2

