

1 **TITLE**

2 Dynamic control of Hsf1 during heat shock by a chaperone switch and
3 phosphorylation

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5 **AUTHORS**

6 Xu Zheng^{1,*}, Joanna Krakowiak^{1,*}, Nikit Patel², Ali Beyzavi^{3,5}, Jideofor Ezike¹,
7 Ahmad S. Khalil^{2,4,‡}, David Pincus^{1,‡}

8

9 ¹Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research, Nine Cambridge Center,
10 Cambridge, Massachusetts 02142, USA

11 ²Department of Biomedical Engineering and Biological Design Center, Boston
12 University, Boston, Massachusetts 02215, USA

13 ³Department of Mechanical Engineering, Boston University, Boston,
14 Massachusetts 02215, USA

15 ⁴Wyss Institute for Biologically Inspired Engineering, Harvard University, Boston,
16 Massachusetts 02115, USA

17 ⁵Present address: David H. Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research,
18 Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA 02139, USA

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20 * These authors contributed equally to this work.

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22 ‡ Correspondence: pincus@wi.mit.edu, akhalil@bu.edu

23 **ABSTRACT**

24 Heat shock factor (Hsf1) regulates the expression of molecular chaperones to
25 maintain protein homeostasis. Despite its central role in stress resistance,
26 disease and aging, the mechanisms that control Hsf1 activity remain unresolved.
27 Here we show that in budding yeast, Hsf1 basally associates with the chaperone
28 Hsp70 and this association is transiently disrupted by heat shock, providing the
29 first evidence that a chaperone repressor directly regulates Hsf1 activity. We
30 develop and experimentally validate a mathematical model of Hsf1 activation by
31 heat shock in which unfolded proteins compete with Hsf1 for binding to Hsp70.
32 Surprisingly, we find that Hsf1 phosphorylation, previously thought to be required
33 for activation, in fact only positively tunes Hsf1 and does so without affecting
34 Hsp70 binding. Our work reveals two uncoupled forms of regulation – an
35 ON/OFF chaperone switch and a tunable phosphorylation gain – that allow Hsf1
36 to flexibly integrate signals from the proteostasis network and cell signaling
37 pathways.

38

39 **INTRODUCTION**

40 The heat shock response is an ancient and conserved signaling pathway in cells
41 that regulates the expression of molecular chaperones in the presence of thermal
42 and other environmental stresses (Lindquist, 1986; Richter et al., 2010).

43 Chaperones function to maintain protein homeostasis (proteostasis) by enabling
44 de novo protein folding in the crowded intracellular environment and targeting
45 proteins for degradation (Dobson, 2003; Labbadia and Morimoto, 2015).

46 Although the heat shock response has been extensively studied, key aspects of

47 the pathway remain a mystery including the mechanisms governing its activation
48 and regulation.

49

50 In eukaryotes, the master transcriptional regulator of the heat shock response is
51 heat shock factor 1 (Hsf1) (Anckar and Sistonen, 2011). Hsf1 and its cognate
52 DNA binding site, the heat shock element (HSE), represent one of the most
53 conserved protein•DNA interactions known, having been maintained since the
54 last common ancestor of the eukaryotic lineage (Wu, 1995). The depth of
55 functional conservation is underscored by the observation that an active form of
56 human Hsf1 can carry out the essential function of Hsf1 in yeast (Liu et al.,
57 1997). Indeed, both mammalian and yeast Hsf1 drive a compact set of genes
58 dedicated to proteostasis that forms a densely connected network centered
59 around Hsp70, Hsp40 and Hsp90 (Mahat et al., 2016; Solis et al., 2016). The
60 small size of the Hsf1 regulon belies its outside importance in cellular viability.

61

62 In addition to maintaining proteostasis at the cellular level, Hsf1 plays important
63 roles in organismal health and disease. Critically, Hsf1 is frequently activated in
64 cancer cells: it has been shown to be required for cancer progression in animal
65 models (Dai et al., 2007), its activation is associated with poor prognosis in many
66 human cancer patients (Santagata et al., 2011), and it drives cancer-specific
67 gene expression programs in both tumor cells and the supporting stroma
68 (Mendillo et al., 2012; Scherz-Shouval et al., 2014). By contrast, a lack of Hsf1
69 activity has been suggested to contribute to neurodegenerative diseases with

70 hallmark protein aggregates, and activation of Hsf1 has been proposed as a
71 therapeutic avenue (Labbadia and Morimoto, 2015; Neef et al., 2011). Moreover,
72 Hsf1 contributes to organismal lifespan (Hsu et al., 2003) and protects against
73 obesity (Ma et al., 2015).

74

75 Despite the deep conservation of Hsf1 and its physiological and clinical
76 importance, the mechanisms regulating Hsf1 activity during stress remain poorly
77 defined, and thus to date it is unclear how Hsf1 controls the heat shock response
78 in cells. Some aspects of Hsf1 regulation are organism- and cell type-specific,
79 such as trimerization, which is a regulated event in mammalian cells but
80 constitutive in yeast (Sorger et al., 1987; Sorger and Nelson, 1989; Westwood et
81 al., 1991). However, two common features are thought to contribute to Hsf1
82 regulation in all organisms: chaperone titration and phosphorylation (Anckar and
83 Sistonen, 2011).

84

85 The chaperone titration model suggests that Hsf1 is bound in an inhibitory
86 complex by chaperones in basal conditions (Voellmy and Boellmann, 2007).
87 Upon heat shock, the chaperones are titrated away by unfolded or misfolded
88 proteins, leaving Hsf1 free to activate transcription of chaperone genes. Once
89 proteostasis is restored, client-free chaperones again bind to Hsf1 and deactivate
90 it. There is biochemical, pharmacological and genetic evidence to support roles
91 for the Hsp70 and Hsp90 chaperones, their co-chaperones and the TRiC/CCT
92 chaperonin complex in regulating Hsf1 (Abravaya et al., 1992; Baler et al., 1992;

93 Baler et al., 1996; Duina et al., 1998; Guo et al., 2001; Neef et al., 2014; Ohama
94 et al., 2016; Shi et al., 1998; Zou et al., 1998). However, direct, unequivocal
95 evidence for this model – i.e., a complete cycle of Hsf1 “switching” by dynamic
96 dissociation and re-association with specific chaperone(s) during heat shock – is
97 lacking. As a result, though widely invoked, the details of the chaperone titration
98 model remain unclear.

99

100 The second putative Hsf1 regulatory mechanism common across organisms is
101 heat shock-dependent phosphorylation. Multiple phosphorylation sites have been
102 mapped on Hsf1 (Anckar and Sistonen, 2011; Guettouche et al., 2005), and
103 mutational analysis has suggested activating, repressing, fine-tuning and
104 condition-specific roles for individual sites of phosphorylation in yeast and
105 mammalian cells (Budzynski et al., 2015; Cho et al., 2014; Dai et al., 2015; Hahn
106 and Thiele, 2004; Hashikawa et al., 2006; Hashikawa and Sakurai, 2004;
107 Hietakangas et al., 2003; Hoj and Jakobsen, 1994; Holmberg et al., 2001; Kline
108 and Morimoto, 1997; Knauf et al., 1996; Lee et al., 2013; Soncin et al., 2003;
109 Sorger and Pelham, 1988; Tang et al., 2015; Wang et al., 2003; Yamamoto et al.,
110 2007). Recent work in which 15 phosphorylation sites were simultaneously
111 mutated in human Hsf1 failed to disrupt Hsf1 activation during heat shock
112 (Budzynski et al., 2015), and a genome-wide RNAi-based screen for modulators
113 of Hsf1 activity found no evidence for kinase regulation (Raychaudhuri et al.,
114 2014). Thus, despite being a hallmark of the heat shock response, no clear role
115 for Hsf1 phosphorylation has yet emerged.

116

117 Here, we combine experimental and theoretical approaches to elucidate the
118 mechanism of Hsf1-mediated activation and control of the heat shock response
119 in budding yeast. Specifically, we combine mass spectrometry, biochemistry,
120 mathematical modeling, genetics and synthetic biology to propose and validate
121 that Hsp70 dynamically interacts with Hsf1 to form the basis of a bona fide
122 activation “switch” and feedback loop that regulates Hsf1 activity during heat
123 shock. Based on this finding, we then investigate the role and quantitative
124 contribution of Hsf1 phosphorylation in regulating the output of the heat shock
125 transcriptional response. We use en masse mutational analysis, combined with
126 transcriptomic and genome-wide ChIP-seq measurements, to systematically
127 define the function of Hsf1 phosphorylation. We find that phosphorylation is fully
128 dispensable for Hsf1 activation during heat shock, but contributes by enhancing
129 transcriptional output levels as a “positive gain”. Phosphorylation does not control
130 the interaction between Hsf1 and Hsp70, but rather enhances transcription
131 independent of whether Hsp70 is bound or not. Our findings reveal that Hsf1
132 uses these two modes of regulation – a chaperone switch and phosphorylation
133 fine-tuning – in a largely uncoupled fashion to dynamically control the heat shock
134 response. We propose that this allows Hsf1 to integrate diverse signaling
135 information without disrupting its direct readout of the proteostasis network.

136

137 **RESULTS**

138 **Hsp70 binds to Hsf1 and transiently dissociates during heat shock**

139 To identify proteins involved in the dynamic regulation of Hsf1 during heat shock,
140 we performed immunoprecipitation (IP) of Hsf1 from cells harvested over time
141 following a shift from 25°C to 39°C and analyzed the IP samples by mass
142 spectrometry (MS). We expressed dual epitope-tagged Hsf1-3xFLAG-V5 as the
143 only copy of Hsf1 from its endogenous promoter and performed serial affinity
144 purifications to reduce non-specific binding (Figure 1—figure supplement 1A, see
145 Materials and Methods). MS analysis revealed that the only proteins that co-
146 precipitated with Hsf1 in basal conditions in each of three independent replicates
147 were the cytosolic Hsp70 chaperones Ssa1 and Ssa2 (jointly Ssa1/2) which
148 share 98% sequence identity (Figure 1—figure supplement 1B, C, Figure 1—
149 source data 1). No peptides derived from Ssa1/2 were identified in an untagged
150 control or when we expressed YFP-3xFLAG-V5 and purified it following the same
151 protocol (Figure 1—source data 1). Notably, no peptides belonging to Hsp90 or
152 any other chaperones were identified in any of the samples. Intriguingly, following
153 a five-minute heat shock, Ssa1/2 were absent in two IP replicates and were
154 greatly diminished from the third replicate (Figure 1—figure supplement 1B, C,
155 Figure 1—source data 1). No proteins co-precipitated with Hsf1 exclusively in
156 heat shock conditions. Western blot analysis of Hsf1 IP samples collected over a
157 heat shock time course revealed a transient decrease in the relative amount of
158 Ssa1/2 followed by restoration of Ssa1/2 levels at the later time points (Figure
159 1A).

160

161 To validate that Hsf1 and Hsp70 directly interact, we tested their ability to bind to
162 each other *in vitro*. We purified recombinant Hsf1-6xHIS and 6xHIS-3xFLAG-
163 Ssa2 from *E. coli*, mixed the recombinant proteins together at an equimolar ratio
164 and performed an anti-FLAG IP. We precipitated Hsf1 only in the presence of
165 Ssa2, demonstrating that they can specifically and directly bind to each other
166 (Figure 1—figure supplement 1D). We reversed the affinity tags and likewise
167 precipitated Ssa2 in the presence of 3xFLAG-Hsf1 (Figure 1A). Addition of ATP
168 neither enhanced nor disrupted the interaction between Hsf1 and Ssa2 (Figure
169 1A). By contrast, addition of a five-fold molar excess of the aggregation-prone,
170 Alzheimer's disease-associated A β 42 peptide reduced the interaction between
171 Hsf1 and Ssa2 (Figure 1A). This suggests that hydrophobic peptides can titrate
172 Hsp70 away from Hsf1. Taken together, these *in vivo* and *in vitro* results confirm
173 that Hsp70 dynamically dissociates and re-associates with Hsf1 during heat
174 shock.

175

176 **A mathematical model of the heat shock response**

177 Based on our finding that Hsp70 transiently dissociates from Hsf1 during heat
178 shock, we next sought to develop a simple mathematical model of the heat shock
179 response. The goal of the model was two-fold: (1) to quantitatively explore if
180 Hsp70 interaction 'switching' could serve as a core, minimal regulatory
181 mechanism that recapitulates the dynamics of heat shock response; (2) to
182 generate quantitative predictions to further test this molecular mechanism. Our
183 model consisted of a system of six coupled ordinary differential equations,

184 describing a feedback loop in which free Hsf1 induces production of Hsp70, and
185 free Hsp70 in turn binds to Hsf1 in a transcriptionally inactive complex (Figure
186 1B, Figure 1—figure supplement 2A, see Materials and Methods). In addition to
187 binding to Hsf1, Hsp70 can also bind to an unfolded protein (UP), but cannot bind
188 to both Hsf1 and UP simultaneously. UPs are introduced at a level that is based
189 on the temperature in accordance with biophysical measurements (Figure 1—
190 figure supplement 2B, see Materials and Methods) (Lepock et al., 1993; Scheff et
191 al., 2015). In this manner, temperature upshifts increase the level of UPs,
192 simulating protein folding stress caused by heat shock. UPs titrate Hsp70 away
193 from Hsf1, leaving Hsf1 free to activate expression of more Hsp70, thus
194 generating the feedback loop. This minimal model ignores any potential role for
195 phosphorylation or other post-translational modifications in regulating Hsf1
196 activity.

197

198 We used the apparent kinetics of Hsp70 dissociation from Hsf1 (Figure 1C) to
199 constrain the model by computationally screening for parameter sets that
200 captured key features of these data (Figure 1—figure supplement 2C, see
201 Materials and Methods) (Ma et al., 2009). This parameter screening approach
202 revealed that a broad range of values satisfied the experimental constraints
203 (Figure 1—figure supplement 2C). We settled on parameter values that appeared
204 most frequently in simulations that fulfilled the experimental constraints (Figure
205 1C).

206

207 **The chaperone titration model recapitulates Hsf1 activation dynamics**

208 We tested the mathematical model by simulating time courses of temperature
209 upshifts (25°C to 35°C, 25°C to 39°C, and 25°C to 43°C). As an output of the
210 model, we tracked transcription of a “reporter” whose levels are dependent on
211 Hsf1 activity. This in silico reporter can be directly compared to experimental
212 measurements of an Hsf1-dependent HSE-YFP reporter that we integrated into
213 the yeast genome (Brandman et al., 2012) (Figure 1B). Simulations of the HSE-
214 YFP reporter generated induction curves that reached temperature-dependent
215 plateaus (Figure 1D). Since YFP is a long-lived protein – in cells and in the model
216 – the plateaus indicate that no more YFP is being produced in the simulation and
217 Hsf1 has deactivated. We performed the same temperature step time course
218 experiments in cells and measured the HSE-YFP reporter at discrete time points
219 by flow cytometry. As predicted by the model, we observed induction leading to
220 temperature-dependent maximal responses (Figure 1D). However, following the
221 initial rapid accumulation of YFP that was predicted by the model, the cells
222 continued to accumulate signal slowly through the later time points (this later
223 phase of transcriptional output is addressed further below). These results
224 suggest that a chaperone titration model is sufficient to account for the immediate
225 Hsf1 activation dynamics in response to temperature steps.

226

227 **Predicting synthetic perturbations of the Hsf1-Hsp70 feedback loop**

228 To rigorously test our model of the heat shock response, we used the
229 mathematical framework to predict the Hsf1 activation response for synthetic

230 perturbations of the feedback loop. For example, in addition to activation by UPs
231 (via increases in temperature), the model predicted that Hsf1 transcriptional
232 activity can be driven by Hsf1 overexpression in the absence of temperature
233 upshifts (Figure 2A, C). Less intuitively, the model also predicted that
234 overexpression of an Hsf1 “decoy”, which lacks the ability to trimerize or bind
235 DNA, would activate endogenous Hsf1 by titrating Hsp70 (Figure 2B, C). We next
236 used synthetic biology approaches to experimentally test the model predictions.
237 We constructed a decoy mutant by removing the DNA binding and trimerization
238 domains from Hsf1 and replacing them with the well-folded fluorescent protein
239 mKate2 (Figure 2B). We then placed either a wild type allele of *HSF1* or the
240 decoy under the synthetic control of a β -estradiol (estradiol) inducible system
241 (Pincus et al., 2014) (Figure 2A, B, Figure 2—figure supplement 1A, see
242 Materials and Methods). In agreement with the model, both full length Hsf1 and
243 the decoy activated the HSE-YFP reporter in dose-dependent manners, with full
244 length Hsf1 serving as a more potent activator than the decoy (Figure 2D). By
245 contrast, expression of mKate2 alone led to only a modest increase in HSE-YFP
246 levels as a function of estradiol (Figure 2D). Importantly, the decoy does not form
247 aggregates when overexpressed, remaining diffusely localized in the nucleus in
248 both basal and heat shock conditions, but does interact with the Hsp70
249 chaperones Ssa1/2 and disrupts the interaction between endogenous Hsf1 and
250 Ssa1/2 in co-IP assays (Figure 2—figure supplement 1B, Figure 2—source data
251 1). Domain truncation analysis of the decoy revealed that the C-terminal
252 activation domain of Hsf1 is both necessary and sufficient to activate

253 endogenous Hsf1, while the N-terminal activation domain is dispensable (Figure
254 2—figure supplement 1C, D). Thus, the decoy is not merely a UP, but rather
255 functions as a specific activator of Hsf1, likely by titrating away Hsp70 via its C-
256 terminal activation domain.

257

258 **Hsf1 overexpression inhibits cell growth**

259 While overexpression of either full length Hsf1 or the decoy activated the HSE-
260 YFP reporter, neither was innocuous: both inhibited cell growth in a dose-
261 dependent manner. Full length Hsf1 impaired growth 20-fold more than the
262 decoy, and the decoy impaired growth 3-fold more than mKate2 alone at the
263 highest dose of estradiol (Figure 3A). The growth impairment caused by Hsf1
264 overexpression was not the result of a specific cell cycle arrest, as the remaining
265 cells displayed asynchronous cell cycle stages (Figure 3—figure supplement 1A,
266 B).

267

268 Since both full length Hsf1 and the decoy bound to Hsp70 and induced the
269 transcriptional response, the growth inhibition could be due to either Hsp70
270 sequestration or the transcriptional induction itself through “squelching” of the
271 transcriptional machinery (Gill and Ptashne, 1988) and/or gratuitous gene
272 expression. To isolate the consequences of inducing the transcriptional program
273 in the absence of stress, we constructed a synthetic fusion of the Hsf1 DNA
274 binding and trimerization domains with a transcriptional activation domain derived
275 from the herpes simplex virus protein 16 (DBD_{Hsf1}-VP16) (Sadowski et al., 1988),

276 and placed this fusion under estradiol control. DBD_{Hsf1}-VP16 was a more potent
277 inducer of the HSE-YFP reporter than full length Hsf1 but impaired growth
278 equally to full length Hsf1 across the estradiol dose response (Figure 3—figure
279 supplement 1C, D). These data suggest that over-activating the Hsf1
280 transcriptional program impairs growth.

281

282 **Hsp70 and Hsp40 suppress Hsf1 overexpression**

283 Since Hsf1 overexpression impairs growth, inhibitors of Hsf1 activity should be
284 genetic suppressors of the growth phenotype. To test if chaperones would
285 behave as Hsf1 inhibitors, we placed Ssa2 (Hsp70), Hsc82 (Hsp90) and Ydj1
286 (Hsp40) under the control of strong Hsf1-independent promoters (see Materials
287 and Methods) (Solis et al., 2016) and assayed for their ability to suppress the
288 growth defect of cells overexpressing Hsf1. Interestingly, both Hsp70 and Hsp40
289 partially suppressed the growth inhibition caused by Hsf1 overexpression, while
290 Hsp90 failed to provide any growth rescue (Figure 3B). These data are
291 consistent with prior reports in mammalian cells showing that overexpression of
292 Hsp70 and Hsp40 attenuate Hsf1 activity (Shi et al., 1998) and in *C. elegans*
293 showing that loss of Hsp70 results in > 10-fold more Hsf1 activation than loss of
294 Hsp90 (Guisbert et al., 2013). Since Hsp40 chaperones deliver substrates and
295 stimulate the ATPase activity of Hsp70 chaperones (Kampinga and Craig, 2010),
296 Hsp40 may be enhancing the activity of endogenous Hsp70 to suppress Hsf1
297 overexpression. To determine if Hsp40 is required for efficient Hsp70 binding to
298 Hsf1, we deleted *YDJ1* and performed a co-IP heat shock time course. We

299 observed that Hsp70 was still able to robustly bind to Hsf1 under basal conditions
300 and transiently dissociate during heat shock (Figure 3—figure supplement 2A).
301 However, basal Hsf1 activity was increased > 3-fold as measured by the HSE-
302 YFP reporter in *ydj1Δ* cells (Figure 3—figure supplement 2B), indicating that there
303 is likely to be greater total Hsp70 in these cells and complicating direct
304 comparison of *ydj1Δ* and wild type cells. Thus, overexpression of Hsp40 may
305 directly increase the ability for Hsp70 to bind to Hsf1 or generally improve global
306 proteostasis such that there is more unoccupied Hsp70 available to repress Hsf1.
307 Co-expression of Hsp70 and Hsp40 afforded more rescue than either chaperone
308 alone, but addition of Hsp90 did not enhance the suppression provided by Hsp70
309 alone (Figure 3B). Hsp70 and Hsp40 together diminished the ability of Hsf1 and
310 the decoy to inhibit growth and induce the HSE-YFP reporter across the estradiol
311 dose response (Figure 3C). By contrast, Hsp90 failed to rescue growth or reduce
312 HSE-YFP induction (Figure 3D). Taken together, these data support a model in
313 which Hsp70, assisted by Hsp40, represses Hsf1 with little contribution from
314 Hsp90.

315

316 **Hsf1 can be phosphorylated on 73 sites**

317 The mathematical model along with the biochemical and genetic data implicates
318 Hsp70 as the predominant regulator of Hsf1. Given these results, we wondered if
319 we could identify a role for phosphorylation in regulating Hsf1 activity. To address
320 this question, we mapped Hsf1 phosphorylation sites in basal and heat shock
321 conditions, performed site-directed mutagenesis of identified sites and assayed

322 for changes in HSE-YFP levels (see Materials and Methods). Across 11 IP/MS
323 experiments, we observed phosphorylation of 73 out of 153 total serine and
324 threonine (S/T) residues in Hsf1 in at least one condition (Figure 4—source data
325 1). Strikingly, none of the 40 single point mutations we tested – whether mutated
326 to alanine to remove the ability to be phosphorylated or to aspartate to mimic
327 phosphorylation – showed significant differences in HSE-YFP levels compared to
328 wild type Hsf1 in basal or heat shock conditions, even when we created sextuple
329 mutants of clustered residues (Figure 4—figure supplement 1A).

330

331 **Removing phosphorylation modestly reduces Hsf1 activity during heat shock**

332 Since Hsf1 activity was robust to so many mutations, we opted to remove
333 phosphorylation altogether. We generated a synthetic *HSF1* allele with all 153
334 S/T codons mutated to alanine. We chose to mutate all S/T codons rather than
335 just the 73 identified phosphorylation sites in order to prevent utilization of
336 alternative sites, ensuring that we completely removed the ability to be
337 phosphorylated. *HSF1* is an essential gene in yeast, and when we expressed this
338 mutant as the only copy of *HSF1*, unsurprisingly the cells were inviable.
339 However, restoration of a single conserved serine (S225), which we found was
340 required for Hsf1 to bind DNA *in vitro*, was sufficient to restore growth (Figure
341 Figure 4—figure supplement 1B, C). While wild type Hsf1 robustly incorporated
342 ³²P during heat shock, this 152 alanine-substituted mutant (termed Hsf1^{ΔP04})
343 showed no ³²P incorporation during heat shock though it was stably expressed
344 (Figure 4A). Despite its 152 mutations, Hsf1^{ΔP04} showed normal subcellular

345 localization and unaltered DNA binding across the genome (Figure 4—figure
346 supplement 1D, E).

347

348 In addition to supporting growth in basal conditions, Hsf1^{PO4} allowed cells to grow
349 at elevated temperature, albeit with a deficit compared to wild type cells (Figure
350 4B). In accordance, Hsf1^{PO4} induced the HSE-YFP reporter in response to heat
351 shock to 75% of the level induced by wild type Hsf1 (Figure 4C). Global analysis
352 of mRNA levels by deep sequencing (RNA-seq) revealed that wild type and
353 Hsf1^{PO4} cells were highly correlated across the transcriptome in basal conditions
354 ($R^2 = 0.98$, Figure 4D, Figure 4—source data 2). However, while the correlation
355 remained robust in response to heat shock ($R^2 = 0.86$), the subset of genes that
356 most strongly depend on Hsf1 for their transcription (HDGs, for Hsf1-dependent
357 genes) (Solis et al., 2016) fell below the correlation axis (Figure 4E, Figure 4—
358 source data 2). These data suggest that Hsf1 phosphorylation is required for its
359 full potency as a transcriptional activator.

360

361 **Mimicking constitutive hyper-phosphorylation activates Hsf1 in basal**

362 **conditions**

363 Since phosphorylation appeared to be necessary to fully activate Hsf1 during
364 heat shock, we wondered if it would be sufficient to drive increased transcription
365 in the absence of stress. To test this, we generated a synthetic mutant, termed
366 Hsf1^{PO4*}, in which all 116 S/T residues that fall outside of the DNA binding and
367 trimerization domains were replaced with aspartate to mimic constitutive hyper-

368 phosphorylation (Figure 4A). Indeed, when expressed as the only copy of Hsf1 in
369 the cell, Hsf1^{PO4*} activated the HSE-YFP reporter to a level 7-fold higher than
370 wild type Hsf1 in basal conditions (Figure 4C). Despite its high basal activity,
371 Hsf1^{PO4*} was able to induce the HSE-YFP even further during heat shock,
372 suggesting its activity is still restrained by Hsp70 binding in basal conditions
373 (Figure 4C). RNA-seq analysis corroborated the hyperactivity of Hsf1^{PO4*} in basal
374 conditions as well as its heat shock inducibility (Figure 4F, G). However, while
375 Hsf1^{PO4*} cells grew comparably to wild type cells at 30°C, they showed marked
376 growth inhibition at 37°C (Figure 4B). Thus, rather than protecting cells against
377 proteotoxic stress, hyper-activation of Hsf1 impaired growth during stress.

378

379 Since Hsf1^{PO4*} contained 116 aspartate substitutions, we wondered if bulk
380 negative charge was driving enhanced transcriptional activation. To test if the
381 number of negatively charged residues would be proportional to transcriptional
382 activity, we generated mutants with 33, 49 or 82 aspartate substitutions in an
383 otherwise Hsf1^{4p04} background (Figure 4H). Thus, there is no opportunity for heat
384 shock-induced phosphorylation. Remarkably, we observed a direct
385 correspondence between total negative charge and the transcriptional output
386 (Figure 4I). These data suggest that increasing Hsf1 phosphorylation positively
387 tunes its transcriptional activity.

388

389 **Hsf1 phosphorylation does not interfere with its interaction with Hsp70**

390 The observation that Hsf1^{PO4*} retained its heat shock inducibility suggested that
391 phosphorylation plays little or no role in its regulation by Hsp70. To test this, we
392 deployed the decoy activation assay described above (Figure 2B). Since
393 activation of Hsf1 by the decoy depends on titration of Hsp70 away from
394 endogenous Hsf1, we wondered if the phosphorylation state of the decoy would
395 affect its ability to induce the HSE-YFP reporter. We generated additional decoy
396 mutants derived from Hsf1^{Δpo4} and Hsf1^{PO4*} to remove or mimic constitutive
397 phosphorylation (Figure 5A). Like the wild type decoy, these constructs contained
398 mKate2 in place of the DNA binding and trimerization domains and were
399 expressed across a dose response of estradiol. The wild type, Δpo4 and PO4*
400 decoys displayed superimposable HSE-YFP induction profiles with matching
401 slopes as a function of absolute expression level (Figure 5B). Thus, neither
402 removing nor mimicking phosphorylation altered the activity of the decoy,
403 suggesting that phosphorylation does not affect the ability of Hsf1 to bind to
404 Hsp70.

405

406 To directly test whether Hsf1 phosphorylation modulates its interaction with
407 Hsp70, we phosphorylated Hsf1 in vitro with purified casein kinase II (CKII) and
408 monitored its binding to 3xFLAG-Ssa2. CKII phosphorylated Hsf1 as evidenced
409 by its mobility shift, yet 3xFLAG-Ssa2 retained the ability to pull down Hsf1 in an
410 anti-FLAG IP comparably to non-phosphorylated controls (Figure 5C). These
411 data indicate that phosphorylation does not preclude binding between Hsf1 and
412 Hsp70.

413

414 **Mimicking hyper-phosphorylation increases the association between Hsf1**
415 **and the Mediator complex**

416 Since phosphorylation does not disrupt the interaction with Hsp70, we suspected
417 that it serves to increase the ability of Hsf1 to directly activate transcription. To
418 test this, we tagged full-length wild type Hsf1, Hsf1^{4p04} and Hsf1^{PO4*} with mKate2
419 and monitored their ability to activate the HSE-YFP reporter when expressed as
420 the only versions of Hsf1 in the cell as a function of estradiol in the absence of
421 heat shock (Figure 5D). In contrast to the indistinguishable transcriptional
422 responses of the decoys, these three versions of full length Hsf1 displayed
423 distinct induction curves as a function of their absolute expression level (Figure
424 5E). Hsf1^{4p04} was a slightly weaker activator than wild type Hsf1, while Hsf1^{PO4*}
425 was by far the strongest activator with the steepest slope (Figure 5E).

426

427 We hypothesized that Hsf1^{PO4*} exerts its increased activity by more efficiently
428 recruiting the transcriptional machinery. Since Hsf1 is known to engage RNA
429 polymerase II via interaction with the Mediator complex (Kim and Gross, 2013),
430 we performed ChIP-seq of the Mediator subunit Med4 in wild type, Hsf1^{4p04} and
431 Hsf1^{PO4*} cells. Indeed, recruitment of Med4 to the promoters of HDGs, such as
432 *HSP82*, *SSA4* and *SSA1*, was very clearly a function of phosphorylation state,
433 with Hsf1^{PO4*} recruiting the most Med4, wild type Hsf1 recruiting less, and finally
434 Hsf1^{4p04} showing very little recruitment (Figure 5F, Figure 5—figure supplement
435 1).

436

437 **Phosphorylation accounts for sustained Hsf1 activity during heat shock**

438 The mathematical model, which ignored phosphorylation, failed to account for the
439 persistent Hsf1 activity that followed Hsp70 re-association during the heat shock
440 time course (Figure 1D). To determine if Hsf1 phosphorylation could explain this
441 sustained activity, we monitored Hsf1 phosphorylation kinetics via mobility shift of
442 Hsf1-3xFLAG-V5 throughout a heat shock time course by Western blot. Rather
443 than coinciding with the dissociation of Hsp70, which occurs within the first five
444 minutes following temperature upshift (Figure 1A), Hsf1 phosphorylation peaked
445 after 20 minutes and was maintained out to at least two hours (Figure 6A). Thus,
446 the timing of Hsf1 phosphorylation matches the second phase of Hsf1
447 transcriptional activity (Figure 6B). This result suggests that Hsf1 phosphorylation
448 can drive increased transcription even when Hsf1 is bound to Hsp70. Consistent
449 with phosphorylation driving the second phase of Hsf1 transcriptional activity,
450 Hsf1^{Δpo4} completely lacked sustained activity at the later time points (Figure 6B).
451 Incorporating phosphorylation into the mathematical model as a “positive gain”
452 according to the experimentally determined kinetics (Figure 6—figure supplement
453 1A, see Materials and Methods) allowed the model to recapitulate the activation
454 dynamics of both wild type Hsf1 and Hsf1^{Δpo4} throughout the heat shock time
455 course (Figure 6—figure supplement 1B). Taken together, the data presented
456 here support a model in which Hsf1 integrates negative feedback regulation by
457 Hsp70 and positive fine-tuning by phosphorylation to dynamically control the heat
458 shock response (Figure 6D).

459

460 **DISCUSSION**

461 It has been suggested that the heat shock response operates as a feedback
462 loop, in which Hsf1 activity is determined by the abundance of free chaperones
463 (Voellmy and Boellmann, 2007). However, the elegance of this model has
464 perhaps overshadowed the lack of data to support it. Here we provide multiple
465 lines of evidence for a chaperone titration model in budding yeast. Specifically,
466 we showed that the Hsp70 chaperone binds to Hsf1 in basal conditions,
467 dissociates during the acute phase of heat shock, and subsequently re-
468 associates at later time points, thus providing the first direct evidence of a
469 dynamic Hsf1 “switch” (Figure 1A). Furthermore, we reconstituted the interaction
470 between Hsp70 and Hsf1 in vitro with recombinant proteins and partially
471 disrupted the complex with a hydrophobic peptide (Figure 1A). We then
472 constructed a minimal mathematical model of the Hsp70 feedback loop, and
473 showed that it recapitulated the dynamics of Hsf1 transcriptional activity during
474 heat shock (Figure 1B-D). The model also correctly predicted that synthetic
475 perturbations to the feedback loop, such as adding a “decoy” of Hsf1, would
476 activate the endogenous Hsf1 response via Hsp70 titration (Figure 2). Finally, we
477 provided independent genetic support for the model by showing that increased
478 expression of Hsp70 and Hsp40 (an Hsp70 co-factor) suppresses the growth
479 impairment caused by Hsf1 overexpression (Figure 3). Thus, biochemical,
480 genetic and computational approaches converged to support a model in which

481 Hsp70 and Hsf1 form a feedback loop that controls heat shock response

482 activation.

483

484 While our results are consistent with studies reporting biochemical and genetic

485 interactions between Hsf1 and Hsp70 (Abravaya et al., 1992; Baler et al., 1992;

486 Baler et al., 1996; Brandman et al., 2012; Guisbert et al., 2013; Ohama et al.,

487 2016; Shi et al., 1998), they are inconsistent with other reports that implicate

488 Hsp90 as a major repressor of Hsf1 activity (Brandman et al., 2012; Duina et al.,

489 1998; Guo et al., 2001; Zou et al., 1998). Biochemically, our inability to detect

490 Hsp90 binding to Hsf1 could be due to the serial affinity purification strategy that

491 we employed: if Hsp90 weakly associates with Hsf1, we would likely lose the

492 interaction during the two-step purification. However, the combination of the lack

493 of biochemical evidence with the genetic result that Hsp90 overexpression is

494 unable to suppress Hsf1 overexpression suggests a parsimonious explanation

495 that Hsp90 simply does not repress yeast Hsf1. Using our Hsp70-centric model,

496 we can explain the genetic studies in which loss of Hsp90 function activates Hsf1

497 (Brandman et al., 2012; Duina et al., 1998) by supposing that reduced Hsp90

498 leads to increased levels of unfolded proteins that titrate Hsp70 away from Hsf1.

499

500 Phosphorylation of Hsf1, which is a hallmark of the heat shock response, is a

501 second longstanding mechanism proposed to regulate Hsf1 (Sorger and Pelham,

502 1988). We identified 73 sites of phosphorylation on Hsf1 across various

503 conditions (Figure 4—source data 1). Remarkably, however, Hsf1 retained its

504 essential basal functionality and heat shock-induced activity in the complete
505 absence of phosphorylation (Figure 4). Consistent with this observation, human
506 Hsf1 also remained heat shock-inducible following mutation of a subset of its
507 phosphorylation sites (Budzynski et al., 2015). Despite its qualitative functionality
508 in the absence of phosphorylation, Hsf1^{Δp04} was quantitatively impaired in its
509 ability to induce its target genes during heat shock (Figure 4E). Conversely,
510 mimicking hyper-phosphorylation increased basal expression of the Hsf1 target
511 regulon without disrupting its heat shock inducibility (Figure 4F, G). Moreover, the
512 number of phospho-mimetic residues correlated with transcriptional output
513 (Figure 4I). Thus, in contrast to prevailing models suggesting that
514 phosphorylation is required for activation, we conclude that phosphorylation is
515 not the switch that activates Hsf1; rather, phosphorylation is a positive fine-tuner
516 that amplifies the transcriptional activity of Hsf1. We propose that increased
517 negative charge in the transcriptional activation domains of Hsf1, endowed by
518 phosphorylation or phospho-mimetic mutations, increases the ability of Hsf1 to
519 recruit the Mediator complex and initiate transcription (Figure 5F). In this manner,
520 phosphorylation renders the activation domains into the “acid blobs” that have
521 long been associated with potent transcriptional activators (Sigler, 1988).

522

523 Although this work yields a coherent synthesized model for Hsf1 regulation
524 during heat shock, a number of interesting questions remain. These include
525 identifying the molecular determinants of the Hsf1•Hsp70 interaction, defining the
526 mechanism by which Hsp70 represses Hsf1 under basal conditions and whether

527 this mechanism also applies to Hsf1 deactivation, determining potential roles for
528 other chaperones (such as Hsp40, Hsp90 and chaperonins) in Hsf1 regulation –
529 particularly in different evolutionary lineages – and identifying the kinases that
530 phosphorylate Hsf1. On the latter, many kinases have been shown to regulate
531 Hsf1 in various conditions, but the pathways that converge on Hsf1 have yet to
532 be systematically defined. Given the low level of conservation of the Hsf1
533 activation domains (Anckar and Sistonen, 2011) and the preponderance of S/T
534 residues in putatively unstructured, solvent exposed regions of the protein, many
535 kinases could potentially find a substrate site on Hsf1. Defining the cohort of
536 active kinases present in the nucleus in various conditions would provide a useful
537 starting point to identify the kinases responsible for phosphorylating Hsf1.

538

539 Although both Hsp70 binding and phosphorylation contribute to regulating Hsf1
540 activity, they are independent events that exert orthogonal control. Hsf1
541 phosphorylation does not interfere with Hsp70 binding (Figure 5B, C), and the
542 kinetics of Hsf1 phosphorylation are delayed with respect to Hsp70 dissociation,
543 with phosphorylation peaking after Hsp70 has re-associated with Hsf1 (Figures
544 1A and 6A). These two distinct regulatory modes correlate with an immediate
545 surge in Hsf1 transcriptional activity followed by a sustained moderate level of
546 activity (Figure 6B). Uncoupled regulation by chaperone binding and
547 phosphorylation allows Hsf1 to function as an integration hub. Hsf1 can directly
548 link to the proteostasis network by sensing the availability of Hsp70 as a proxy for
549 protein folding conditions as well as respond to signals from multiple kinase

550 pathways that convey information about other intracellular and extracellular
551 conditions, such as oxidative stress and nutrient availability (Hahn and Thiele,
552 2004; Yamamoto et al., 2007). In this manner, proteotoxic stress could activate
553 Hsf1 without phosphorylation, and kinases could activate Hsf1 without chaperone
554 dissociation.

555

556 In this study, we employed a suite of approaches that allowed us to converge on
557 a simple model of Hsf1 regulation and the ensuing dynamics of the heat shock
558 response in budding yeast. However, given the poor conservation of the
559 regulatory domains of Hsf1, combined with the promiscuity of chaperone protein
560 interactions and the ease with which phosphorylation sites are gained and lost
561 through evolution, Hsf1 regulation has the potential to be rewired in different
562 organisms and perhaps even in different cell types within the same organism
563 (Guisbert et al., 2013). Nevertheless, this work for the first time defines a
564 regulatory scheme that synthesizes the roles of both canonical Hsf1 regulatory
565 mechanisms, and as such can serve as both a precedent and template for the
566 dissection of Hsf1 regulation in other cellular models. With a quantitative
567 understanding of how Hsf1 is regulated when it is functioning properly, we can
568 begin to unravel how it breaks down in neurodegenerative disorders and is
569 usurped in cancer.

570

571

572 **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

573 **Yeast strains and plasmids**

574 Yeast strains and plasmids used in this work are described in Supplementary
575 files 1 and 2, respectively. All strains are in the W303 genetic background. PCR-
576 mediated gene deletion and gene tagging was carried out as described (Longtine
577 et al., 1998).

578

579 **Serial anti-FLAG/anti-V5 Immunoprecipitation**

580 250 ml of cells were grown to $OD_{600}=0.8$ in YPD media at 25°C with shaking.
581 Basal condition samples were collected by filtration and filters were snap frozen
582 in liquid N₂ and stored at -80°C. For heat shocked samples, 250 ml of YPD pre-
583 warmed to 53°C was added to the 250 ml culture to immediately raise the
584 temperature to 39°C and cultures were incubated with shaking for the indicated
585 times (5, 15, 30 or 60 minutes) before being collected as above. Cells were lysed
586 frozen on the filters in a coffee grinder with dry ice. After the dry ice was
587 evaporated, lysate was resuspended in 1 ml IP buffer (50 mM Hepes pH 7.5, 140
588 mM NaCl, 1 mM EDTA, 1% triton x-100, 0.1% DOC, complete protease
589 inhibitors), transferred to a 1.5 ml tube and spun to remove cell debris. Clarified
590 lysate was transferred to a fresh tube and serial IP was performed. First, 50 µl of
591 anti-FLAG magnetic beads (50% slurry, Sigma) were added, and the mixture was
592 incubated for 2 hours at 4°C on a rotator. Beads were separated with a magnet
593 and the supernatant was removed. Beads were washed 3 times with 1 ml IP
594 buffer and bound material eluted with 1 ml of 1 mg/ml 3xFLAG peptide (Sigma) in
595 IP buffer by incubating at room temperature for 10 minutes. Beads were

596 separated with a magnet and eluate was transferred to a fresh tube. Next, 25 μ l
597 of anti-V5 magnetic beads (50% slurry, MBL International) were added and the
598 mixture was incubated for 2 hours at 4°C on a rotator. Beads were separated
599 with a magnet and the supernatant was removed. Beads were washed 5 times
600 with 1 ml IP buffer. Bound material was eluted by adding 75 μ l of SDS-PAGE
601 sample buffer and incubating at 95°C for 10 minutes. Beads were separated with
602 a magnet and sample was transferred to a fresh tube for analysis. Control
603 samples included an untagged strain and a strain expressing GFP-3xFLAG-V5.

604

605 **Mass spectrometry**

606 Mass spectrometry analysis was performed at the Whitehead Proteomics Core
607 Facility. IP eluates were digested with trypsin and analyzed by liquid
608 chromatography (NanoAcuity UPLC) followed by tandem mass spectrometry
609 (Thermo Fisher LTQ). Mass spectra were extracted and analyzed by MASCOT
610 searching the yeast proteome modified to include the 3xFLAG-V5 tagged bait
611 proteins with a fragment ion mass tolerance of 0.8 Da and a parent ion tolerance
612 of 20 PPM. Proteins were identified by Scaffold v4.4.1 to validate peptide and
613 protein IDs. Peptides were accepted with a confidence of > 95% and protein IDs
614 were accepted only if they could be established at > 99% confidence and
615 contained at least two peptides. Proteins that contain indistinguishable peptides
616 were clustered. Quantification was performed for Hsf1 and Ssa1/2 using the “top
617 three” peptide total ion current method (Grossmann et al., 2010).

618

619 **Western blotting**

620 15 μ l of each IP sample was loaded into 4-15% gradient SDS-PAGE gels (Bio-
621 Rad). The gels were run at 25 mA for 2hr, and blotted to PVDF membrane. After
622 1hr blocking in Li-Cor blocking buffer, the membrane was incubated with anti-
623 FLAG primary antibody (SIGMA, F3165) for 1hr, anti-Ssa1/2 (gift from V. Denic)
624 or anti-HIS antibody (all 1:1000 dilutions). The membranes were washed three
625 times with TBST. The proteins were probed by anti-mouse-800 IgG (Li-Cor, 926-
626 32352, 1:10000 dilution). The fluorescent signal scanned with the Li-
627 Cor/Odyssey system. For the heat shock time course, cells expressing Hsf1-
628 3xFLAG-V5 were grown to $OD_{600}=0.8$ in 25 ml YPD at 25°C. At time $t=0$, 25 ml of
629 53°C media was added to instantly bring the culture to 39°C and then the culture
630 was incubated with shaking at 39°C. 5 ml samples were collected at each time
631 point by centrifugation. Pellets were boiled with 2X SDS loading buffer for 10 min.
632 Total protein concentration was measured by NanoDrop and an equal amount of
633 each sample was loaded into 7.5% SDS-PAGE gel and otherwise processed as
634 above.

635

636 **Recombinant protein expression and purification**

637 Full-length wild type *HSF1* was cloned into pET32b with a C-terminal 6x-HIS tag
638 and sequenced. Site-directed mutagenesis was performed to introduce the
639 S225A and S225D mutations. Full length *SSA2* was cloned into pET32b with an
640 N-terminal 6xHIS-3xFLAG tag. The plasmids were transformed into BL21(DE3)
641 cells (Invitrogen). One liter of cells at $OD_{600} = 0.4$ were induced with 1 mM IPTG

642 for 3 hrs at 37°C. Cells were lysed by sonication, protein was purified with Ni-
643 NTA agarose (Qiagen) and eluted with imidazole.

644

645 ***In vitro* immunoprecipitation and competition with A β 2**

646 6xHIS-3xFLAG-Ssa2 and Hsf1-6xHIS were mixed with each at a final
647 concentration of 5 μ M in 100 μ l of IP buffer alone, in the presence of 1 mM ATP
648 or in the presence of 25 μ M A β 2. Reactions were incubated at room temperature
649 for 10 minutes. 25 μ l of anti-FLAG magnetic beads were added and incubated for
650 15 minutes before magnetic separation. The unbound fraction was removed,
651 beads were washed 3 times with 1 ml IP buffer and proteins were eluted by
652 incubating at 95°C in SDS-PAGE sample buffer.

653

654 **Mathematical modeling**

655 Overview & assumptions

656 We developed a minimal kinetic model for an Hsp70-mediated feedback loop,
657 consisting of four protein species: Hsf1, Hsp70, unfolded protein (UP), and
658 reporter protein YFP (Figure S2A). According to the model, free Hsp70 binds to
659 Hsf1 in a transcriptionally inactive complex, while free Hsf1 induces production of
660 Hsp70 (and the YFP reporter). In addition to binding to Hsf1, Hsp70 can also
661 bind to unfolded protein (UP) and become titrated away from Hsf1. There are a
662 few key assumptions to the model. First, the model assumes Hsp70 cannot bind
663 to both Hsf1 and UP simultaneously. Second, the dilution rate of YFP molecules
664 due to cell division is assumed to be negligible ($k_{dil} \sim 0$); this is because the time

665 course for our simulations and reporter heat shock assays is short (~1 cell
666 generation) and YFP molecules are relatively long lived (Figure 1D). Third, this
667 initial implementation of the model ignores any potential role for Hsf1
668 phosphorylation. Fourth, for simplicity, the model assumes the on-rate constants
669 of Hsp70 for both clients (UP and Hsf1) are the same (Mayer and Bukau, 2005;
670 Pierpaoli et al., 1998). Finally, binding of Hsf1 to DNA driving transcription of
671 *Hsp70* or *YFP* is modeled by a Hill equation with a Hill coefficient of $n = 3$ as a
672 simple representation of Hsf1 trimerization (Sorger and Nelson, 1989).

673

674 Differential equations

675 Our model consisted of a system of six coupled ordinary differential equations:

$$\frac{d[HSP]}{dt} = k_2 HSP \cdot Hsf1 - k_1 HSP [Hsf1 + (k_4 + k_5) HSP \cdot UP - k_3 HSP][UP$$

$$+ \beta \frac{[Hsf1]^n}{K_d^n + [Hsf1]^n}$$

676 $\frac{d[Hsf1]}{dt} = k_2 [HSP \cdot Hsf1] - k_1 [HSP][Hsf1]$

677 $\frac{d[UP]}{dt} = k_4 [HSP \cdot UP] - k_3 [HSP][UP]$

678 $\frac{d[HSP \cdot HSF1]}{dt} = k_1 [HSP][Hsf1] - k_2 [HSP \cdot Hsf1]$

679 $\frac{d[HSP \cdot UP]}{dt} = k_3 [HSP][UP] - (k_4 + k_5) [HSP \cdot UP]$

680 $\frac{d[YFP]}{dt} = \beta \frac{[Hsf1]^n}{K_d^n + [Hsf1]^n} - k_{dil} [YFP]$

681

682 with rate constants k_1 - k_5 , transcriptional activation rate β , and Hsf1-DNA affinity
683 K_d .

684

685 Parameter assignments and initial conditions

686 To assign these parameter values, we used our IP/MS Hsp70 dissociation data
687 as a constraint (Figure 1C). Specifically, **we chose a range of values for each**
688 **parameter (Figure S2C). We then ran simulations for all possible**
689 **combinations of parameters equally distributed across the ranges (7×10^5**
690 **total parameters) to select parameter sets that satisfy three features of our**
691 **Hsp70 dissociation data.** First, Hsf1 must be bound to Hsp70 in basal
692 conditions at 25°C. Second, the Hsf1•Hsp70 complex must dissociate to $\leq 10\%$ of
693 its basal level within five minutes following a shift from 25°C to 39°C. Third, the
694 Hsf1•Hsp70 complex must re-associate to $\geq 90\%$ of its initial level within 60
695 minutes following a shift from 25°C to 39°C. As an initial condition, we set the
696 ratio of the level of Hsp70:Hsf1 to 500:1, which is in the range of measured
697 values (Chong et al., 2015; Kulak et al., 2014). We obtained parameter sets that
698 satisfied these constraints (Figure S2C), from which we selected final parameters
699 that quantitatively recapitulated the transient dissociation behavior of Hsp70
700 (Table 1). Satisfyingly, this analysis revealed that most parameters tolerated a
701 broad range of values (Figure S2C), provided that Hsf1 induces transcription
702 cooperatively (i.e. one of our assumptions), which is consistent with prior work
703 showing that Hsf1 binds DNA as a trimer (Sorger and Nelson, 1989).

704 **Table 1. Model parameter values**

<i>Parameter</i>	<i>Value</i>	<i>Description</i>
k_1, k_3	166.8 min ⁻¹ a.u. ⁻¹	Client•Hsp70 on-rate constant
k_2	2.783 min ⁻¹	Hsp70•HSF1 off-rate constant
k_4	0.0464 min ⁻¹	Hsp70•UP off-rate constant
k_5	4.64e-7 min ⁻¹	Degradation rate of UP by Hsp70•UP
β	1.778 min ⁻¹	Transcriptional activation rate
K_d	0.0022 a.u.	Dissociation constant of Hsf1-DNA interaction
k_{dil} (fixed)	0 min ⁻¹	Dilution rate of YFP
n (fixed)	3	Hill coefficient

705

706 **Table 2. Model initial conditions**

<i>Species</i>	<i>Initial Value (a.u.)</i>	<i>Description</i>
$[HSP]_o$	1	Free Hps70
$[Hsf1]_o$	0	Free Hsf1
$[HSP\cdot Hsf1]_o$	1/500	HSP70•Hsf1 complex
$[HSP\cdot UP]_o$	0	Hsp70•UP complex
$[YFP]_o$	3	Initial YFP concentration
$[UP]_o$ (@ 39°C)	10.51	UP concentration at 39°C

707

708 To simulate responses for different heat shock temperatures, we used a simple

709 function to relate the concentration of UPs with temperature (Figure S2B).

710 According to calorimetry and other previous work investigating cellular protein

711 unfolding during heat shock, the relationship between UP and temperature can

712 be simply described by an exponential function for low temperatures (25°C -

713 50°C) (Lepock et al., 1993; Scheff et al., 2015). Specifically, we used an

714 exponential function that passes through our fixed value of $[UP]$ at 39°C (the

715 value used for the parameter screen described above, Table 2), a small basal

716 value of $[UP]$ at 25°C ($[UP]_o = 0.52$), and $[UP]$ values at other temperatures that

717 generally capture steady state YFP reporter outputs. $[UP]$ for other temperatures

718 could then be obtained using this function, and used as initial values for
719 simulating upshifts to other temperatures, such 35°C and 43°C (Figure 1D).

720

721 Simulation details

722 All simulations were run on MATLAB; ode23s was used to solve our coupled
723 ordinary differential equations for a length of two hours. Code is provided as a
724 supplementary .zip file containing 7 .m files.

725

726 Addition of the Hsf1 decoy

727 To simulate an Hsf1 decoy, we added two additional species: Hsf1_dec (free)
728 and Hsf1_dec•Hsp70 (bound to Hsp70). The model assumes the decoy has the
729 same binding kinetics for Hsp70 as that of Hsf1, but that the decoy does not bind
730 DNA and drive gene expression. To simulate a titration (or estradiol induction) of
731 either WT Hsf1 or the decoy (Figure 2C,D), we varied the initial concentration of
732 these species across a range of concentrations and ran simulations for each.

733

734 Inclusion of the role of Hsf1 phosphorylation

735 Following temperature upshift, Hsf1 is fully phosphorylated within approximately
736 one hour (Figure 6A), and phosphorylated Hsf1 leads to increased recruitment of
737 transcriptional machinery (Figure 5). To model this, we assumed that the
738 transcriptional activation rate, β , correlates with phosphorylation state, and
739 allowed β to vary over time in accordance with Hsf1 phosphorylation (Figure
740 6A). Specifically, we used a sigmoid function to evolve β from an initial

741 value (pre-phosphorylated) to a final value (phosphorylated), and applied
742 this function to our heat shock simulations (Figure S2D,E).

743

744 **HSE-YFP reporter heat shock assays**

745 All heat shock reporter assays were performed with untagged Hsf1 and mutants.
746 For time course reporter inductions, 500 μ l of $OD_{600}=0.1$ cells were incubated at
747 39°C with shaking on a thermo-mixer in 1.5 ml tubes. At designated time points,
748 50 μ l samples were taken and cycloheximide was added at 50 μ g/ml to arrest
749 translation. Arrested cells were incubated at 30°C for 2 hours to allow
750 fluorophores to mature. Samples were measured by flow cytometry, and
751 population medians were computed with FlowJo. Each data point is the mean of
752 three or four biological replicates. Error bars are the standard deviation.

753

754 For basal versus heat shock experiments, we developed a protocol in which
755 samples were pulsed with repeated 15 min heat shocks at 39°C followed by
756 recovery at 25°C for 45 min. As a control, a sample was kept at 25°C during the
757 same time as heat-shocked pulses experiment. All experiments were performed
758 using C1000 Touch Thermal Cycler (Bio-Rad). Cells had been serially diluted five
759 times (1:5) in SDC and grown overnight at room temperature. Cells in logarithmic
760 phase were chosen the next morning for the experiment and 50 μ l of each strain
761 was transferred to 2 sets of PCR tubes and thermal cycled as described above.
762 After that samples were transferred to 96-well plates with 150 μ l of 1xPBS. HSE

763 activity was measured using flow cytometry (BD LSRFortessa) and data
764 analyzed using Flowjo as above.

765

766 **Estradiol dose response assays**

767 Cells bearing the HSE-YFP reporter and a chimeric transcription factor, GEM,
768 consisting of the Gal4 DNA binding domain, the human estrogen receptor and
769 the Msn2 activation domain (Pincus et al., 2014) were transformed with either the
770 Hsf1 decoy, phospho-mutant decoys or mKate alone expressed from the *GAL1*
771 promoter and integrated as single copies in the genome. Full-length wild type
772 Hsf1 and full-length C-terminally mKate tagged wild type Hsf1 and phospho-
773 mutant constructs were also expressed under the control of the *GAL1* promoter
774 and integrated as single copies into the genome, but in a strain background that
775 additionally contained a genomic deletion of *HSF1* and a *CEN/ARS URA3*-
776 marked plasmid bearing *HSF1*. Upon integration of these constructs, the plasmid
777 was counter-selected on 5-FOA. The GEM construct makes the *GAL1* promoter
778 “leaky” enough that the cells are viable in the absence of estradiol and the
779 presence of glucose. Cells were first grown to saturation overnight in synthetic
780 media with dextrose and complete amino acids (SDC). To assay for growth
781 impairment and transcriptional activity as a function of expression level, cells in
782 10 different concentrations of estradiol ranging from 512 nM to 1 nM in SDC
783 across a 2-fold serial dilution series in deep well 96 well plates (5 µl of saturated
784 culture diluted into 1 ml of each estradiol concentration). Each dose of estradiol
785 was performed in triplicate. To prevent saturation of the cultures, each estradiol

786 concentration was serially diluted 1:4 into media with the same concentration of
787 estradiol. Following 18 hours of growth, cell counts, HSE-YFP levels and mKate
788 levels were measured by flow cytometry by sampling 10 µl of each culture (BD
789 LSRFortessa equipped with a 96-well plate high-throughput sampler) and the
790 data were analyzed in FlowJo. Relative growth rates were calculated by dividing
791 the number of cells in each concentration of estradiol by the 1 nM estradiol
792 counts.

793

794 **Ubc9ts aggregation reporter and live cell microscopy**

795 Cells expressing YFP-Ubc9ts and the Hsf1 decoy were grown overnight in
796 complete media with raffinose. Cells were induced with 2% galactose for 4 hours
797 to induce expression of YFP-Ubc9ts and the decoy. One sample was untreated
798 and the other was heat shocked for 15 minutes at 39°C. 96 well glass bottom
799 plates were coated with 100 µg/ml concanavalin A in water for 1 hour, washed
800 three times with water and dried at room temperature. 80 µl of low-density cells
801 were added to a coated well. Cells were allowed to settle and attach for 15
802 minutes, and unattached cells were removed and replaced with 80 µl SD media.
803 Imaging was performed at the W.M Keck Microscopy Facility at the Whitehead
804 Institute using a Nikon Ti microscope equipped with a 100x, 1.49 NA objective
805 lens, an Andor Revolution spinning disc confocal setup and an Andor EMCCD
806 camera.

807

808 **Dilution series spot growth assays**

809 Yeast strains containing wild type or mutated versions of *HSF1* as the only copy
810 of the gene in the genome were grown overnight in YPD. They were diluted to an
811 identical final OD₆₀₀=0.3 in phosphate buffered saline (1xPBS) and serially diluted
812 1:5 in 1xPBS. 3.5 µl of each diluted yeast culture was spotted on the appropriate
813 plate. Photographs were taken after 2 days of growth at 30°C or 37°C.

814

815 **Cell cycle stage analysis by tubulin immunofluorescence**

816 Tubulin immunofluorescence was performed in the presence or absence of GAL-
817 overexpressed Hsf1 following release from alpha factor arrest as described
818 (Kilmartin and Adams, 1984).

819

820 **DNA content analysis**

821 DNA content analysis was performed in the presence or absence of GAL-
822 overexpressed Hsf1 following release from alpha factor arrest as described
823 (Hochwagen et al., 2005).

824

825 **Hsf1 phosphorylation site identification**

826 Hsf1-3xFLAG-V5 was immunoprecipitated as described above following the
827 appropriate treatment through the first (anti-FLAG) purification step. Rather than
828 eluting with 3xFLAG peptide, samples were incubated at 95°C in SDS-PAGE
829 sample buffer to elute Hsf1. The samples were run on SDS-PAGE and stained
830 with coomassie. All phosphorylation site identification was outsourced to Applied
831 Biomics (Hayward, CA). We sent them samples (cut bands from coomassie-

832 stained gels) and received excel sheets with phospho-peptides identified, called
833 sites, coverage stats, and neutral loss spectra.

834

835 **Site-directed mutagenesis**

836 Site-directed mutagenesis was performed with QuickChange according to the
837 manufacturer's directions (Agilent).

838

839 **Synthetic genes and Gibson assembly**

840 *En masse* mutational analysis was possible because of gene synthesis. We
841 ordered gBlocks from IDT containing regions of Hsf1 with all S/T codons mutated
842 to alanine. The C-terminal portion required codon optimization in order to remove
843 repetitive sequence to allow synthesis. Originally, restriction sites were
844 introduced at the boundaries of the regions to enable cut-and-paste
845 combinatorial cloning. Finally, all restriction sites were removed by assembling
846 the fragments via Gibson assembly. Gibson assembly was performed as directed
847 by the manufacturer (NEB).

848

849 **³²P incorporation**

850 Strains bearing Hsf1-3xFLAG-V5 or Hsf1^{4p04}-3xFLAG-V5 expressed under
851 estradiol control were grown in YPD liquid media to OD₆₀₀=0.5. Then protein
852 expression was induced with 1 μM estradiol for 2 hrs. Cells were pelleted and
853 washed with 50 ml SDC media without phosphate. Cells were finally
854 resuspended in 15 ml SDC media without phosphate, and incubated at room

855 temperature for 30 minutes. 50 μ Ci of 32 P-orthophosphate was added into each
856 culture and the cells were incubated for 15 min. The samples were heat shocked
857 at 39°C for 30 min, harvested, and Hsf1 was IP'ed as above. All the protein was
858 loaded into an SDS-PAGE gel. After blotting the proteins to the PVDF membrane,
859 the signal was detected by FujiFilm BAS-2500 system. The same membranes
860 were then blotted for total Hsf1 as described above.

861

862 **mRNA deep sequencing (RNA-seq)**

863 5 ml of cells were grown to $OD_{600}=0.5$ and treated with the designated condition.
864 Cells were spun and pellets were snap frozen and stored at -80°C. Pellets were
865 thawed on ice, and total RNA was purified via phenol/chloroform separation
866 using phase lock tubes (5 prime) followed by ethanol precipitation (Pincus et al.,
867 2010). Total RNA samples were submitted to the Whitehead Genome
868 Technology Core where polyA + RNA was purified, fragmented and sequencing
869 libraries were prepared with barcoding. 12 samples were multiplexed in each
870 lane of an Illumina Hi-Seq 2500 and deep sequencing was performed. Reads
871 were assigned by the barcode to the appropriate sample. Data was processed
872 using a local version of the Galaxy suite of next-generation sequencing tools.
873 Reads were groomed and aligned to the *S. cerevisiae* orf_coding reference
874 genome (Feb. 2011) using Tophat, transcripts were assembled and quantified
875 using Cufflinks and fold changes were computed using Cuffdiff (Trapnell et al.,
876 2012).

877

878 **Electrophoretic mobility shift assay**

879 An oligo containing 4 repeats of the HSE was synthesized with and without a 3'
880 fluorescent probe (IRDye800) by IDT. The reverse complement was also
881 synthesized and the oligos were annealed by heating to 95°C followed by room
882 temperature cooling. Labeled dsDNA was prepared at 5 µM and unlabeled at 50
883 µM. 1.5 µg of each Hsf1 prep was added to 1 µl of labeled DNA or 1 µl of labeled
884 DNA plus 1 µl of unlabeled DNA in 10 µl total volume. Reactions were incubated
885 at room temperature for 5 minutes. 2 µl 6x DNA loading dye were added and
886 samples were loaded into 4-20% TBE gels (Bio Rad). Gels were run at 30 mA for
887 1 hour and scanned on the LiCor. Images were analyzed and % shifted oligo was
888 quantified in ImageJ

889

890 ***In vitro* phosphorylation**

891 Casein kinase II (CKII) was used to phosphorylate rHsf1 *in vitro* as described by
892 the manufacturer (NEB). As a control CKII was boiled to denature and deactivate
893 it prior to incubation with rHsf1.

894

895 **Chromatin immunoprecipitation and deep sequencing (ChIP-seq)**

896 50 ml of cells were fixed with addition of 1% formaldehyde for 20 minutes at room
897 temperature followed by quenching with 125 mM glycine for 10 minutes. Cells
898 were pelleted and frozen in liquid N₂ and stored at -80°C. Cells were lysed frozen
899 in a coffee grinder with dry ice. After the dry ice was sublimated, lysate was
900 resuspended in 2 ml ChIP buffer (50 mM Hepes pH 7.5, 140 mM NaCl, 1 mM

901 EDTA, 1% triton x-100, 0.1% DOC) and sonicated on ice 10 times using a probe
902 sonicator (18W, 30 seconds on, one minute off). 1 ml was transferred to a 1.5 ml
903 tube and spun to remove cell debris. Input was set aside, and a serial IP was
904 performed. First, 25 µl of anti-FLAG magnetic beads (50% slurry, Sigma) were
905 added the mixture was incubated for 2 hours at 4°C on a rotator. Beads were
906 separated with a magnet and the supernatant was removed. Beads were washed
907 5 times with 1 ml ChIP buffer (5 minute incubations at 4°C between each wash)
908 and bound material eluted with 1 ml of 1 mg/ml 3xFLAG peptide (Sigma) in ChIP
909 buffer by incubating at room temperature for 10 minutes. Beads were separated
910 with a magnet and eluate was transferred to a fresh tube. Next, 25 µl of anti-V5
911 magnetic beads (50% slurry, MBL International) were added and the mixture was
912 incubated for 2 hours at 4°C on a rotator. Beads were separated with a magnet
913 and the supernatant was removed. Beads were washed 3 times with ChIP buffer,
914 followed by a high salt wash (ChIP buffer + 500 mM NaCl) and a final wash in
915 TE. Bound material was eluted with 250 µl TE + 1% SDS by incubating at 65°C
916 for 15 minutes. Beads were separated with a magnet and eluate was transferred
917 to a fresh tube and incubated overnight at 65°C to reverse crosslinks. Protein
918 was degraded by adding 250 µl 40 µg/ml proteinase K in TE (supplemented with
919 GlycoBlue) and incubating at 37°C for 2 hours. DNA fragments were separated
920 from protein by adding 500 µl phenol/chloroform/isoamyl alcohol (25:24:1), and
921 the aqueous layer was added to a fresh tube. 55 µl of 4M LiCl was added along
922 with 1 ml of 100% EtOH, and DNA was precipitated at -80°C overnight. DNA was
923 pelleted by spinning for 30 minutes at 4°C and resuspended in 50 µl TE.

924 Sequencing libraries were prepared by the WIGTC, and sequenced on the
925 Illumina Hi-Seq 2500.

926

927 **AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS**

928 Conceptualization, D.P. and A.S.K; Methodology, D.P., X.Z., J.K., A.S.K., N.P.,
929 A.B.; Investigation, X.Z., J.K., J.E., D.P.; Formal Analysis, N.P., A.B., A.S.K.,
930 D.P.; Writing, D.P. and A.S.K; Funding Acquisition, D.P. and A.S.K.; Supervision,
931 D.P. and A.S.K.

932

933 **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

934 We thank E. Spooner and the Whitehead Institute Mass Spectrometry facility; E.
935 Solís for suggesting that S225 may be the only essential serine in Hsf1; V. Denic
936 for the gift of the Ssa1/2 antisera and critical reading of the manuscript; H.
937 Hadjivassiliou for help with PyMol, beneficial discussions and critical reading of
938 the manuscript; R. Park for help establishing the gel-shift assay; J. Falk and A.
939 Amon for assistance with cell cycle experiments; G. Fink, H. Lodish and A.
940 Jaeger for critical reading of the manuscript; J. Pandey, S. Lourido, G. Victora
941 and members of the Lourido and Victora labs for valuable discussions; S.
942 Lindquist, and members of the her lab for helpful comments and suggestions. We
943 are grateful to T. Volkert and the Whitehead Genome Technology Core; P.
944 Wisniewski and the Whitehead Flow Cytometry Facility; W. Salmon and the Keck
945 Microscopy Facility; I. Barassa, P. Thiru and G. Bell at BARC for bioinformatic

946 advice and analysis; N. Azubuine and T. Nanchung for a constant supply of
947 plates and media.

948

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1155

1156 **FIGURE LEGENDS**

1157 **Figure 1.** In vivo, in vitro and in silico evidence for an Hsp70•Hsf1 dissociation
1158 switch as the core mechanism regulating the heat shock response.

1159 **A.** IP/Western blot showing Hsp70 transiently dissociating from Hsf1 during heat
1160 shock (upper panel). Western blots were probed with antisera recognizing
1161 Ssa1/2 (top) and an anti-FLAG antibody to recognize Hsf1 (bottom). IP of
1162 recombinant proteins were performed with rHsf1-3xFLAG as bait and analyzed
1163 by Western blot (lower panel). Blots were probed with an anti-HIS antibody to
1164 recognize recombinant Ssa2 (rSsa2, top) and with an anti-FLAG antibody to
1165 recognize recombinant Hsf1 (rHsf1, bottom). The IPs were also performed in the
1166 presence of 1 mM ATP or 5-fold molar excess of A β 2 peptide. The numbers
1167 below the blots indicate the normalized ratio of Ssa2/Hsf1.

1168 **B.** Cartoon schematic of the mathematical model of Hsf1 regulation illustrating
1169 the network connections and the feedback loop. UP is an abbreviation for
1170 “unfolded proteins”. See Figure 1—figure supplement 2 and Materials and
1171 Methods for details, equations and parameters.

1172 **C.** Quantification of the top three peptides derived from Hsp70 proteins Ssa1 or
1173 Ssa2 (Ssa1/2 are grouped due to 98% identity) relative to the top three peptides
1174 from Hsf1 as determined by IP/MS (left panel). The IP experiments were
1175 performed in triplicate at the indicated time points following a shift to 39°C. See
1176 Figure 1—figure supplement 1. The values are the average of the three
1177 replicates and error bars depict the standard deviation. Source data are included
1178 as Figure 1—Source Data 1. Simulation of the levels of the Hsf1•Hsp70 complex
1179 over time following a shift from 25°C to 39°C (right panel).

1180 **D.** Simulation of the levels of the HSE-YFP reporter over time following upshift
1181 from 25°C to the indicated temperatures (left panel). Flow cytometry
1182 measurements of cells expressing the HSE-YFP reporter following upshift from
1183 25°C to the indicated temperatures (right panel). See Materials and Methods for
1184 assay and analysis details.

1185

1186 **Figure 2.** Prediction and validation of synthetic perturbations to the Hsf1-Hsp70
1187 feedback loop.

1188 **A.** Cartoon schematic of activation by overexpressing full length Hsf1. Hsf1 can
1189 be expressed at many different levels by titrating the concentration of estradiol in
1190 the media (See Figure 2—figure supplement 1 and Materials and Methods). The

1191 Hsf1 domain architecture is displayed below. The DNA binding domain (DBD) is
1192 between N- and C-terminal activation domains (NTA and CTA).

1193 **B.** Cartoon schematic of activation via overexpression of the Hsf1 decoy. The
1194 decoy domain architecture is displayed below.

1195 **C.** Simulation of the HSE-YFP reporter as a function of the expression level of
1196 full length Hsf1 or the decoy.

1197 **D.** Experimental measurement of the HSE-YFP reporter by flow cytometry in
1198 cells expressing full length Hsf1, the decoy or mKate alone across a dose
1199 response of estradiol. Cells were monitored following growth in the presence of
1200 the indicated concentrations of estradiol for 18 hours. Data points are the
1201 average of median YFP values for three biological replicates, and error bars are
1202 the standard deviation. See Materials and Methods for assay and analysis
1203 details.

1204

1205 **Figure 3.** Hsp70 and Hsp40 suppress Hsf1 overexpression.

1206 **A.** Cells expressing full length Hsf1, the decoy or mKate alone were assayed for
1207 growth by flow cytometry following 18 hours of incubation with the indicated
1208 doses of estradiol. Data points are the average of normalized cell count values
1209 for three biological replicates, and error bars are the standard deviation. See
1210 Materials and Methods for assay and analysis details.

1211 **B.** Dilution series spot assays in the absence and presence of galactose to
1212 monitor growth of cells expressing full length Hsf1 from the *GAL1* promoter. Ydj1
1213 (Hsp40), Ssa2 (Hsp70), Hsc82 (Hsp90) and combinations thereof were

1214 expressed from strong Hsf1-independent promoters and assayed for their ability
1215 to rescue the growth defect caused by Hsf1 overexpression.

1216 **C.** Cells expressing an extra copy of Hsp70 and Hsp40 were assayed for growth
1217 (left panel) and for induction of the HSE-YFP reporter (right panel) as a function
1218 of the expression level of full length Hsf1, the decoy or mKate by flow cytometry
1219 following 18 hours of incubation with the indicated doses of estradiol. The thick
1220 lines in the background are the reference curves for cells lacking extra
1221 chaperone expression (taken from Figures 3A and 2D).

1222 **D.** Cells expressing an extra copy of Hsp90 were assayed for growth (left panel)
1223 and for induction of the HSE-YFP reporter (right panel). Reference curves are
1224 depicted as above.

1225

1226 **Figure 4.** Phosphorylation is dispensable for Hsf1 function but tunes the gain of
1227 its transcriptional activity.

1228 **A.** ^{32}P incorporated into wild type Hsf1-3xFLAG-V5 and Hsf1^{4p04}-3xFLAG-V5
1229 during 30 minutes of heat shock (upper panel). Hsf1-3xFLAG-V5 and Hsf1^{4p04}-
1230 3xFLAG-V5 were affinity purified by anti-FLAG IP, resolved by SDS-PAGE and
1231 phosphor-imaged. Western blot of total lysate from wild type Hsf1-FLAG-V5 and
1232 Hsf1^{4p04}-FLAG-V5 cells was probed with an anti-FLAG antibody; Hsf1^{4p04}-FLAG
1233 migrates faster than wild type Hsf1-FLAG (lower panel). Schematics of the
1234 domain architecture and color code for wild type Hsf1, Hsf1^{4p04} and Hsf1^{PO4*}

1235 **B.** Wild type, Hsf1^{Δp04} and Hsf1^{PO4*} cells were monitored for growth by dilution
1236 series spot assays. Cells were incubated at the indicated temperatures for 2
1237 days.

1238 **C.** Wild type, Hsf1^{Δp04} and Hsf1^{PO4*} cells expressing the HSE-YFP reporter were
1239 assayed for Hsf1 transcriptional activity in control and heat shock conditions by
1240 flow cytometry. Bars are the average of median YFP values for three biological
1241 replicates, and error bars are the standard deviation. See Materials and Methods
1242 for assay and analysis details.

1243 **D.** Genome-wide mRNA levels were quantified in basal conditions in wild type
1244 and Hsf1^{Δp04} cells by RNA-seq. Within each sample, relative expression levels for
1245 each mRNA (gray dots) are plotted as fragments per kilobase per million mapped
1246 reads (FPKM). Hsf1-dependent genes (HDGs) are highlighted in purple. Source
1247 data are included as Figure 4—source data 2.

1248 **E.** Fold changes of each mRNA in heat shock conditions compared to basal
1249 conditions were calculated for wild type and Hsf1^{Δp04} cells and plotted against
1250 each other. Hsf1-dependent genes (HDGs) are highlighted in purple. Source data
1251 are included as Figure 4—source data 2.

1252 **F.** Genome-wide mRNA levels were quantified in basal conditions in wild type
1253 and Hsf1^{PO4*} cells by RNA-seq (gray dots). Hsf1-dependent genes (HDGs) are
1254 highlighted in orange. Source data are included as Figure 4—source data 2.

1255 **G.** Fold changes of each mRNA in heat shock conditions compared to basal
1256 conditions were calculated for wild type and Hsf1^{PO4*} cells and plotted against

1257 each other. Hsf1-dependent genes (HDGs) are highlighted in orange. Source
1258 data are included as Figure 4—source data 2.

1259 **H.** Schematic of mutants with different numbers of aspartate (D) residues. 33, 49
1260 or 82 D residues were introduced in the CTA in the $\Delta po4$ background.

1261 **I.** Mutants depicted in (**H**) expressing the HSE-YFP reporter were assayed for
1262 Hsf1 transcriptional activity in control and heat shock conditions by flow
1263 cytometry as above.

1264

1265 **Figure 5.** Hsp70 binding and phosphorylation are uncoupled Hsf1 regulatory
1266 mechanisms.

1267 **A.** Schematic cartoon of decoy constructs based on wild type Hsf1 (WT, black),
1268 Hsf1 ^{$\Delta po4$} ($\Delta po4$, purple) and Hsf1^{PO4*} (PO4*, orange). The various decoys will
1269 activate endogenous Hsf1 in proportion to their affinity for Hsp70.

1270 **B.** Measurement of the HSE-YFP reporter by flow cytometry in cells expressing
1271 decoy constructs derived from wild type Hsf1, Hsf1 ^{$\Delta po4$} or Hsf1^{PO4*} as a function of
1272 the expression level of each decoy (mKate fluorescence). Data points are the
1273 average of median YFP and mKate values for three biological replicates, and
1274 error bars are the standard deviation. See Materials and Methods for assay and
1275 analysis details. The slope of the input-output curves are plotted (inset).

1276 **C.** IPs of recombinant proteins were performed with 3xFLAG-rSsa2 as bait and
1277 analyzed by Western blot. rHsf1 was pre-incubated with ATP alone or in the
1278 presence of ATP and either active casein kinase II (CKII) or boiled CKII. Blots
1279 were probed with an anti-FLAG antibody to recognize recombinant rSsa2 (top)

1280 and with an anti-HIS antibody to recognize recombinant rHsf1 (bottom). The
1281 numbers below the blots indicate the normalized ratio of Hsf1/Ssa2.

1282 **D.** Schematic cartoon of full-length overexpression constructs for wild type Hsf1
1283 (WT, black), Hsf1^{Δpo4} (Δpo4, purple) and Hsf1^{PO4*} (PO4*, orange), each with
1284 mKate2 fused to its C-terminus. The full-length constructs will activate the HSE-
1285 YFP reporter in proportion to their transcriptional activity.

1286 **E.** Measurement of the HSE-YFP reporter by flow cytometry in cells expressing
1287 full length constructs of wild type Hsf1, Hsf1^{Δpo4} or Hsf1^{PO4*} tagged at their C-
1288 termini with mKate2 as a function of expression level as in **B**.

1289 **F.** ChIP-seq for Med4-3xFLAG-V5, a component of the Mediator complex, in
1290 basal conditions in wild type Hsf1, Hsf1^{Δpo4}, and Hsf1^{PO4*} cells at the *HSP82* locus.
1291 Wild type Hsf1-3xFLAG-V5 ChIP-seq was also performed in basal conditions
1292 (gray filled curve). See Figure 5—figure supplement 1 for more loci.

1293

1294 **Figure 6.** Hsf1 phosphorylation accounts for sustained Hsf1 transcriptional
1295 activity during heat shock.

1296 **A.** Western blot of Hsf1 phosphorylation, indicated by its mobility shift, over time
1297 following temperature upshift.

1298 **B.** The HSE-YFP reporter was measured by flow cytometry in wild type Hsf1 and
1299 Hsf1^{Δpo4} cells over time following upshift to 39°C. Data points are the average of
1300 median YFP values for three biological replicates, and error bars are the
1301 standard deviation. See Materials and Methods for assay and analysis details.

1302 The sustained activation attributable to phosphorylation is depicted as the orange
1303 segment of the wild type curve.

1304 **C.** Cartoon schematic of the integrated phosphorylation/chaperone titration
1305 model of Hsf1 regulation. Phosphorylation (PO₄) increases the transcriptional
1306 activity of Hsf1 in a manner uncoupled from the Hsp70 feedback loop.

1307

1308 **FIGURE SUPPLEMENT LEGENDS**

1309 **Figure 1—figure supplement 1.** Ssa2 co-precipitates with Hsf1 in basal
1310 conditions but is greatly reduced immediately following heat shock.

1311 **A.** Schematic of the Hsf1-3xFLAG-V5 construct and the two-step serial affinity
1312 purification strategy.

1313 **B.** Sequence coverage of Hsf1 and Ssa2 as determined by mass spectrometry in
1314 basal conditions at 25°C. Three IP replicates were performed in each condition.
1315 The sequences of identified peptides are highlighted in yellow.

1316 **C.** Sequence coverage of Hsf1 and Ssa2 as determined by mass spectrometry
1317 following five minutes at 39°C. Three IP replicates were performed in each
1318 condition. The sequences of identified peptides are highlighted in yellow.

1319 **D.** IP of recombinant proteins were performed with FLAG-rSsa2 as bait and
1320 analyzed by Western blot. Blots were probed with an anti-FLAG antibody to
1321 recognize recombinant Ssa2 (rSsa2, top) and with an anti-HIS antibody to
1322 recognize recombinant Hsf1 (rHsf1, bottom).

1323

1324 **Figure 1—figure supplement 2.** Description and parameterization of
1325 mathematical model of the heat shock response.

1326 **A.** Model schematic depicting the kinetic parameters and transcriptional Hill
1327 function.

1328 **B.** The function used to relate the concentration of unfolded proteins (UP) to
1329 temperature to stimulate the heat shock response.

1330 **C.** The model was simulated with a wide range of values for each kinetic
1331 parameter. “Successful” parameter sets fulfilled specific criteria observed in the
1332 experimental data (see Materials and Methods). The percentages of successful
1333 parameter sets that include the indicated values of each parameter are plotted.
1334

1335 **Figure 2—figure supplement 1.** Overexpression of a decoy of Hsf1 activates
1336 endogenous Hsf1.

1337 **A.** Anti-FLAG western blot of cells expressing Hsf1-FLAG-V5 under the control of
1338 an estradiol-inducible promoter. Cells were incubated for four hours across a
1339 two-fold dilution series of estradiol (from 512 nM down to 1 nM) and the Hsf1
1340 expression level was compared to expression from the endogenous promoter.

1341 **B.** Cells expressing YFP-Ubc9^{ts} were induced to express the mKate2-labeled
1342 decoy for four hours with 512 nM estradiol and were either left at 25°C or shifted
1343 to 39°C for 15 minutes and imaged by spinning disc confocal microscopy. YFP-
1344 Ubc9^{ts} forms aggregates during heat shock, while the decoy remains apparently
1345 soluble.

1346 **C.** Schematic of decoy constructs for domain analysis.

1347 **D.** Measurement of the HSE-YFP reporter as a function of estradiol for the
1348 constructs depicted in **(C)**.

1349

1350 **Figure 3—figure supplement 1.** Hsf1 overexpression does not lead to a specific
1351 cell cycle arrest and cannot be explained by induction of a gratuitous
1352 transcriptional program.

1353 **A.** Flow cytometry analysis of DNA content of wild type cells and cells
1354 overexpressing Hsf1 from a galactose-inducible promoter following release from
1355 arrest with alpha factor for the indicated times. Wild type cells arrest in G1 and
1356 progress normally through the cell cycle. *GAL-HSF1* cells fail to synchronize and
1357 show a broad distribution of DNA contents, indicating that no specific cell cycle
1358 stage is enriched.

1359 **B.** Anti-tubulin immuno-fluorescence images of cycling wild type cells and cells
1360 *GAL-HSF1* cells that had been grown in the presence of galactose for 12 hours.
1361 Wild type cells show G1, S and G2 phases, while *GAL-HSF1* cells show non-
1362 standard tubulin staining.

1363 **C.** Cells expressing wild type Hsf1 or a chimera of Hsf1's DNA binding domain
1364 and the VP16 activation domain (DBD_{Hsf1}-VP16) were assayed for HSE-YFP
1365 induction by flow cytometry following 18 hours of incubation with the indicated
1366 doses of estradiol. Wild type Hsf1 data are from Figure 3D.

1367 **D.** Relative growth of cells expressing wild type Hsf1 or DBD_{Hsf1}-VP16 across an
1368 estradiol dose response.

1369

1370 **Figure 3—figure supplement 2.** The Hsp40 Ydj1 is not required for the
1371 interaction between Hsf1 and Hsp70.

1372 **A.** IP/Western blot showing that Hsp70 binds to Hsf1 under basal conditions and
1373 transiently dissociates from Hsf1 during heat shock in both wild type and *ydj1* Δ
1374 cells. Western blots were probed with antisera recognizing Ssa1/2 (top) and an
1375 anti-FLAG antibody to recognize Hsf1 (bottom). The numbers below the blots
1376 indicate the ratio of Ssa1/2:Hsf1 normalized to the ratio in wild type cells under
1377 basal conditions. The relative level of Hsp70 binding to Hsf1 and the dissociation
1378 dynamics during heat shock are altered in the *ydj1* Δ cells, but this is difficult to
1379 interpret due to the increased basal Hsf1 activity and reduced fold change in
1380 activity during heat shock in these cells (see below).

1381 **B.** Wild type and *ydj1* Δ cells expressing the HSE-YFP reporter were assayed for
1382 Hsf1 transcriptional activity in control and heat shock conditions by flow
1383 cytometry. Bars are the average of median YFP values for three biological
1384 replicates, and error bars are the standard deviation. Compared to wild type
1385 cells, *ydj1* Δ cells show increased basal Hsf1 activity and reduced fold change in
1386 activity during heat shock.

1387

1388 **Figure 4—figure supplement 1.** Mutational analysis of Hsf1 phosphorylation
1389 sites reveals a single essential serine and allows for generation of a phospho-
1390 mimetic.

1391 **A.** Hsf1 mutants lacking or mimicking single or clustered phosphorylation sites
1392 were assayed for activity in basal and heat shock conditions by measuring the

1393 HSE-YFP reporter by flow cytometry. The average median of the median of the
1394 YFP distribution of three replicates of each mutant is plotted and the error bars
1395 represent the standard deviation. The Δ NTA and Δ CTA mutants are known to be
1396 hyperactive and impaired, respectively (Sorger, 1990), and serve as positive
1397 controls for altered activity.

1398 **B.** Electrophoretic mobility shift assay showing that recombinant full-length wild
1399 type Hsf1 efficiently binds to and shifts HSE-containing DNA. The shift can be
1400 reverted with competition with excess unlabeled HSE. However, mutations
1401 S225A, which removes the hydroxyl group, and S225D, which partially mimics a
1402 phosphate group, reduce DNA binding and thus diminish the shift. The same
1403 amount of total Hsf1 was loaded in each lane, and the percent of labeled HSE
1404 shifted was quantified.

1405 **C.** S225 is the only essential serine in Hsf1. Mutation of S225 to alanine renders
1406 cells inviable (top right plate). Restoration of S225 as the only serine in a mutant
1407 with all the other 152 S/T residues mutated to alanine rescues growth. *hsf1* Δ cells
1408 bearing a *URA3*-marked copy of wild type *HSF1* on a plasmid (*pRS316-HSF1*)
1409 and transformed with the indicated Hsf1 mutant were streaked on 5-FOA plates
1410 and incubated at 30°C for 2 days.

1411 **D.** Fluorescent microscopy images of wild type Hsf1, Hsf1^{PO4} and Hsf1^{PO4*} tagged
1412 at their C-termini with YFP showing that all localize to the nucleus.

1413 **E.** CHIP-seq data (reads per million mapped reads, RPM) for Hsf1 and *hsf1*^{PO4}
1414 plotted along the first 150 kb of chromosome XII.

1415

1416 **Figure 5—figure supplement 1.** Hsf1^{PO4*} recruits Mediator more efficiently than
1417 wild type Hsf1 or Hsf1^{Δpo4}.

1418 **A.** DNA binding profiles were determined by ChIP-seq for Med4-FLAG-V5, a
1419 component of the Mediator complex, in basal conditions in wild type, Hsf1^{Δpo4}, and
1420 Hsf1^{PO4*} cells. Wild type Hsf1-FLAG-V5 ChIP-seq was also performed in basal
1421 conditions. Med4 enrichment in Hsf1, Hsf1^{Δpo4}, and Hsf1^{PO4*} cells was plotted as
1422 reads per million mapped reads (RPM) at the *SSA1* locus (left y-axis). Hsf1
1423 enrichment was plotted as RPM (right y-axis). The lower track shows the position
1424 of the *SSA1* open reading frame.

1425 **B.** As in **(A)**, but at the *SSA4* locus.

1426

1427 **Figure 6—figure supplement 1.** Inclusion of the role of phosphorylation in the
1428 mathematical model of Hsf1 regulation.

1429 **A.** Phosphorylation gain (β) is incorporated dynamically according to the kinetics
1430 determined experimentally.

1431 **B.** Simulation of the HSE-YFP reporter over a heat shock time course in wild type
1432 Hsf1 and Hsf1^{Δpo4} cells using a model that includes both the Hsp70 negative
1433 feedback loop and uncoupled activation gain control by phosphorylation (see
1434 Materials and Methods for details.)

1435

1436 **SOURCE DATA DESCRIPTIONS**

1437 **Figure 1—source data 1.** Table of peptide counts from proteins identified in
1438 Hsf1-3xFLAG-V5 IP/MS experiments.

1439

1440 **Figure 2—source data 1.** Table of peptide counts from proteins identified in
1441 decoy IP/MS experiments with decoy-3xFLAG-V5 and Hsf1-3xFLAG-V5 as bait.

1442

1443 **Figure 4—source data 1.** Table of Hsf1 phosphorylation sites identified in Hsf1-
1444 3xFLAG-V5 IP/MS IP/MS experiments in various conditions.

1445

1446 **Figure 4—source data 2.** Table of genome wide transcript levels as measured
1447 by RNA-seq under basal (30°C) and heat shock conditions (30 minutes at 39°C)
1448 in wild type, Hsf1^{Δp04} and Hsf1^{PO4*} cells. Values are FPKM.

1449

1450 **SUPPLEMENTAL FILE DESCRIPTIONS**

1451 **Supplemental file 1.** Yeast strains used in this study.

1452 **Supplemental file 2.** Plasmids used in this study.

1453 **Source code files.** This is a .zip file containing 7 .m files to run the heat shock
1454 simulations in MATLAB.

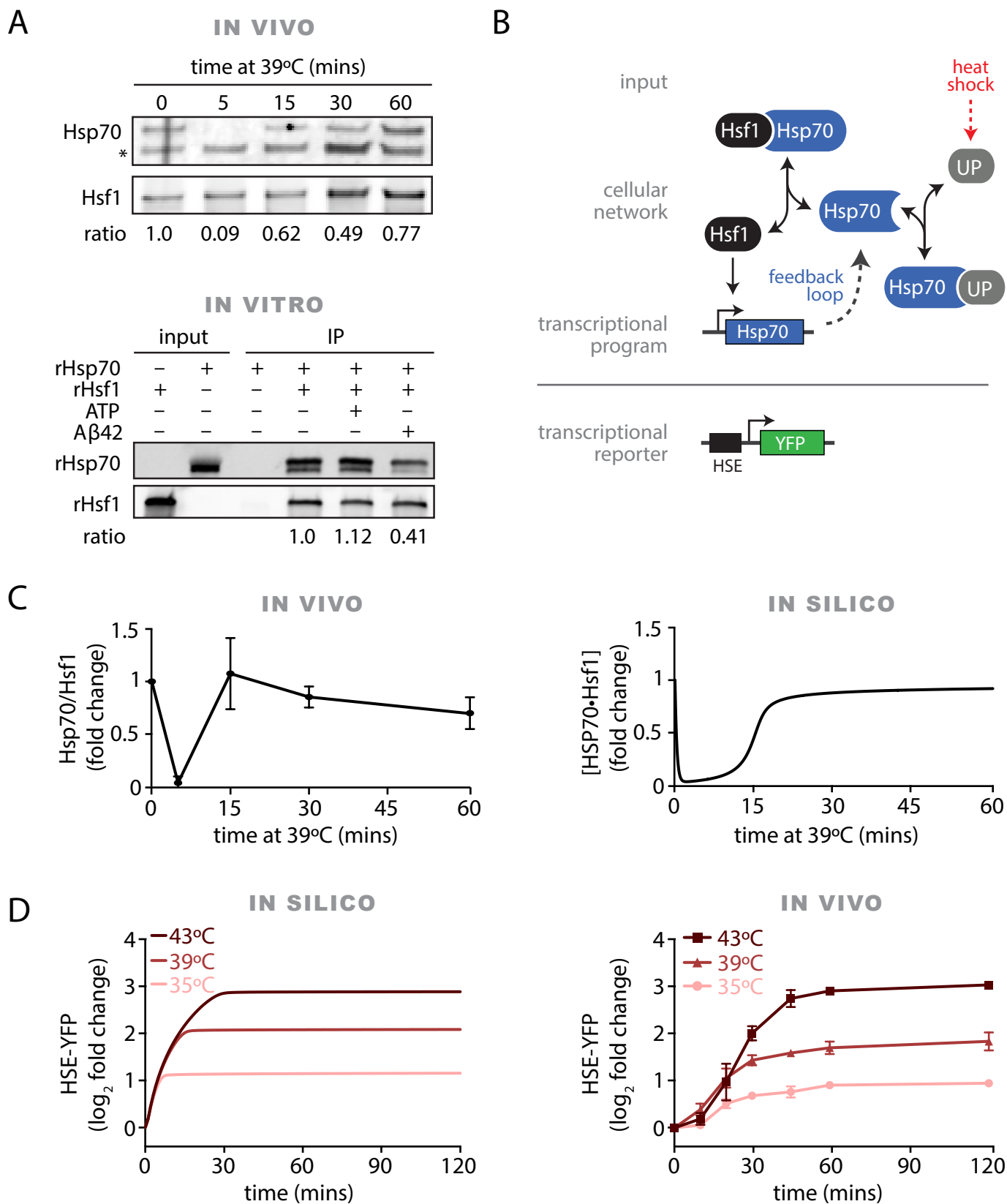


Figure 1

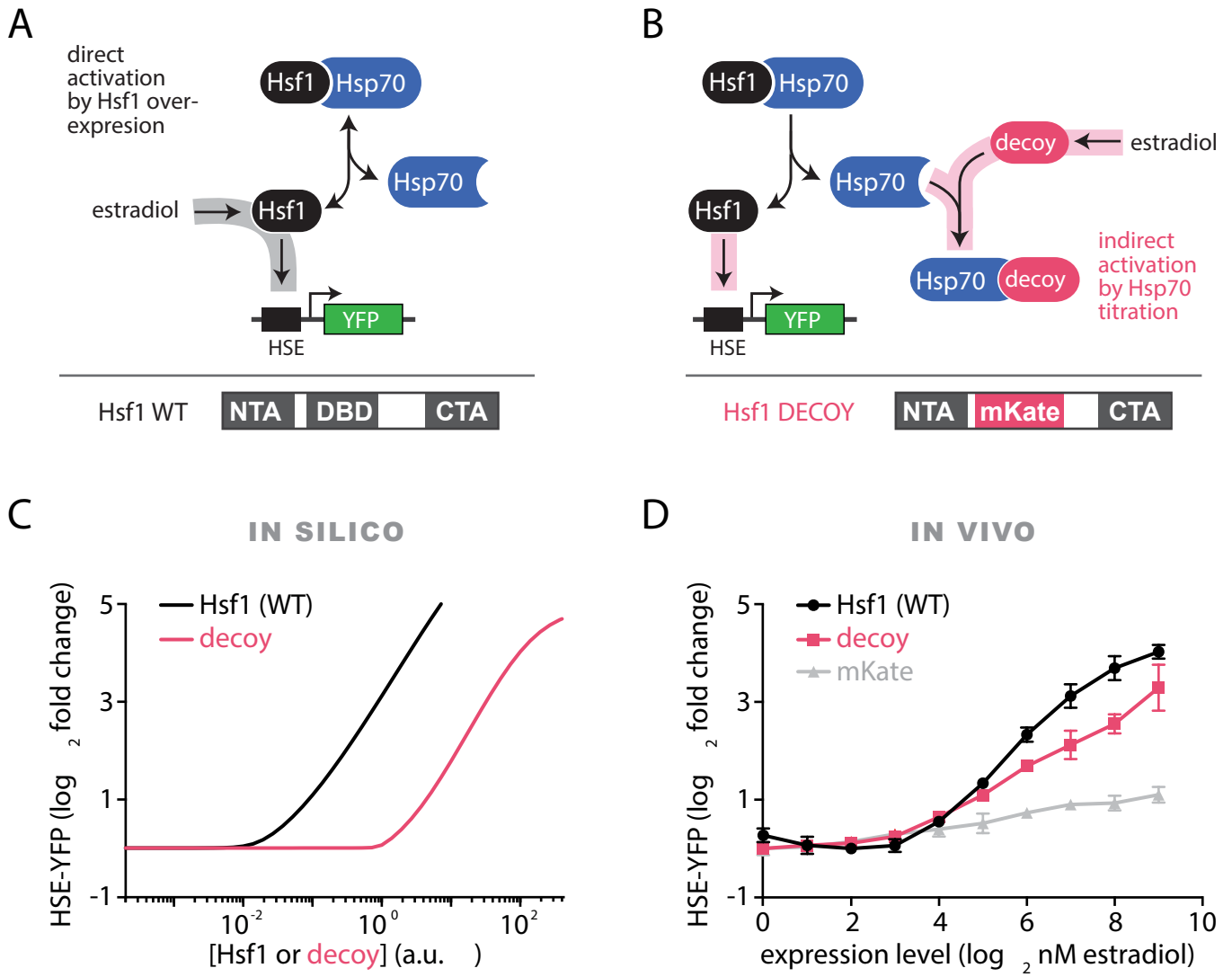


Figure 2

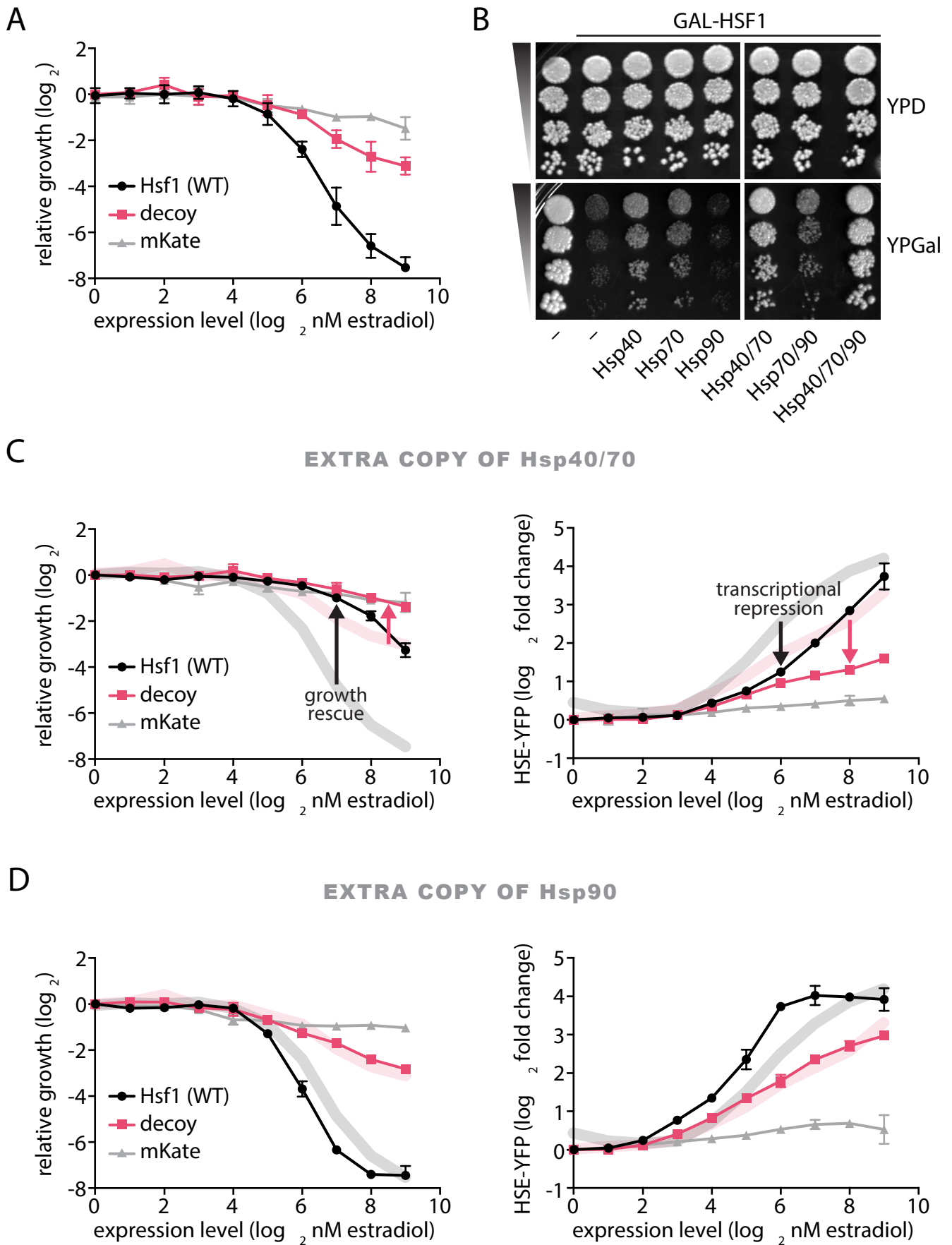


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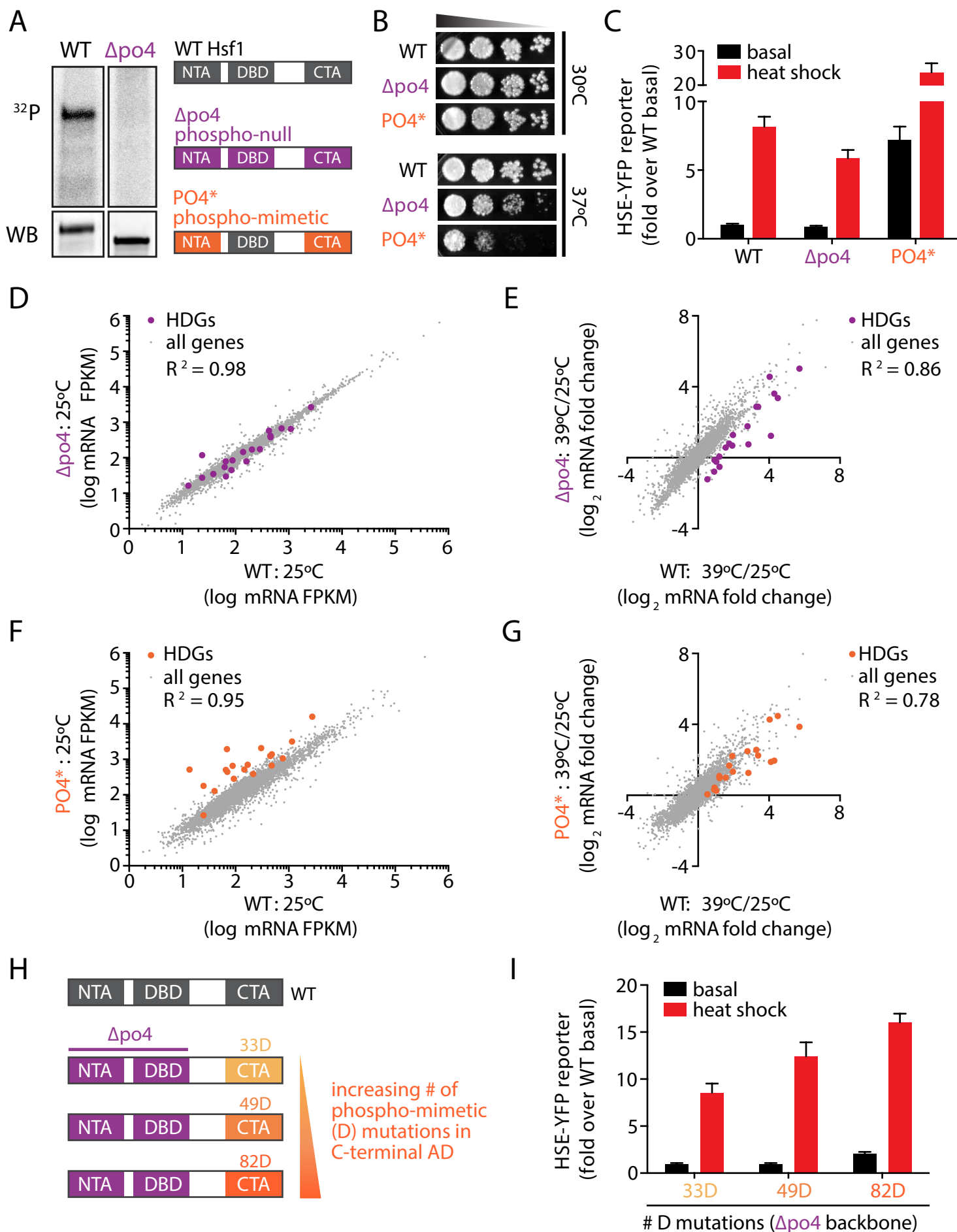


Figure 4

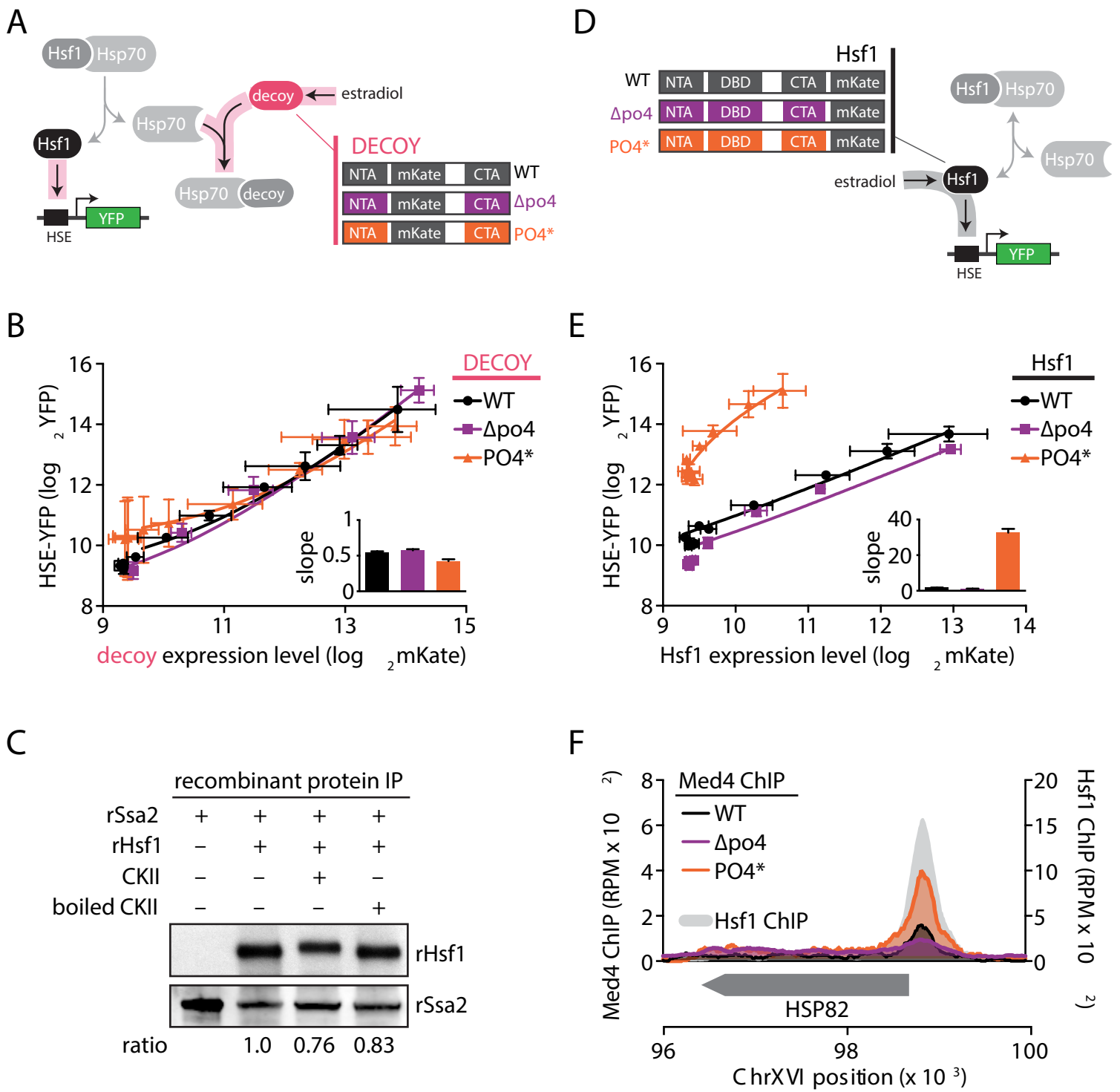


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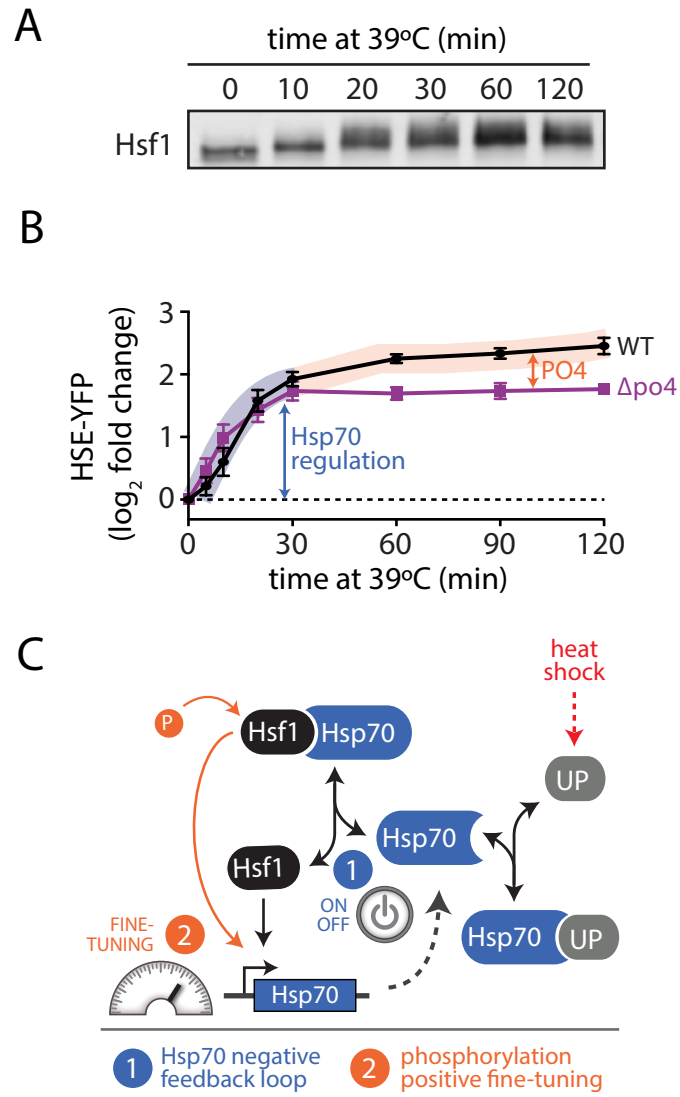
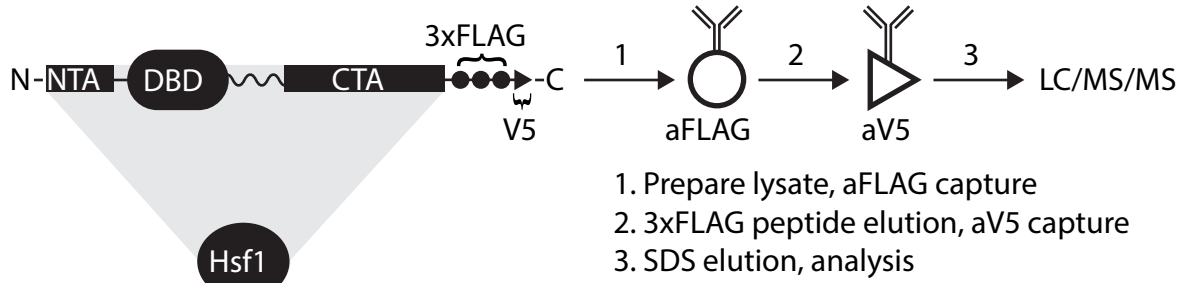
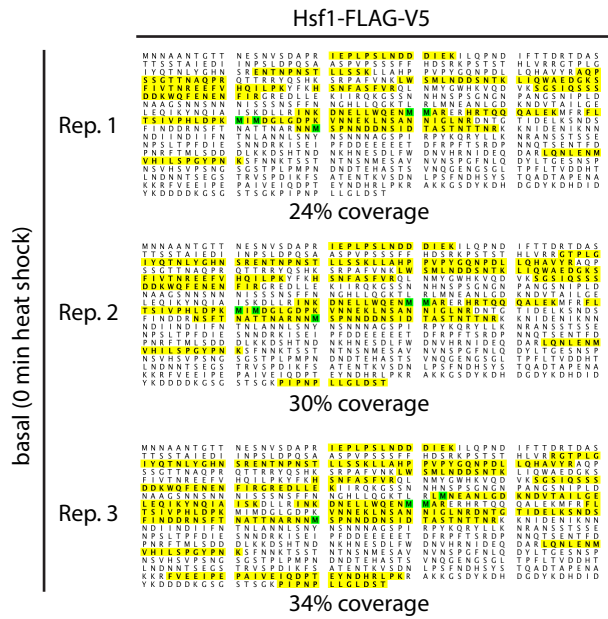


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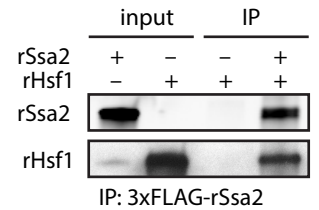
A



B



D



C

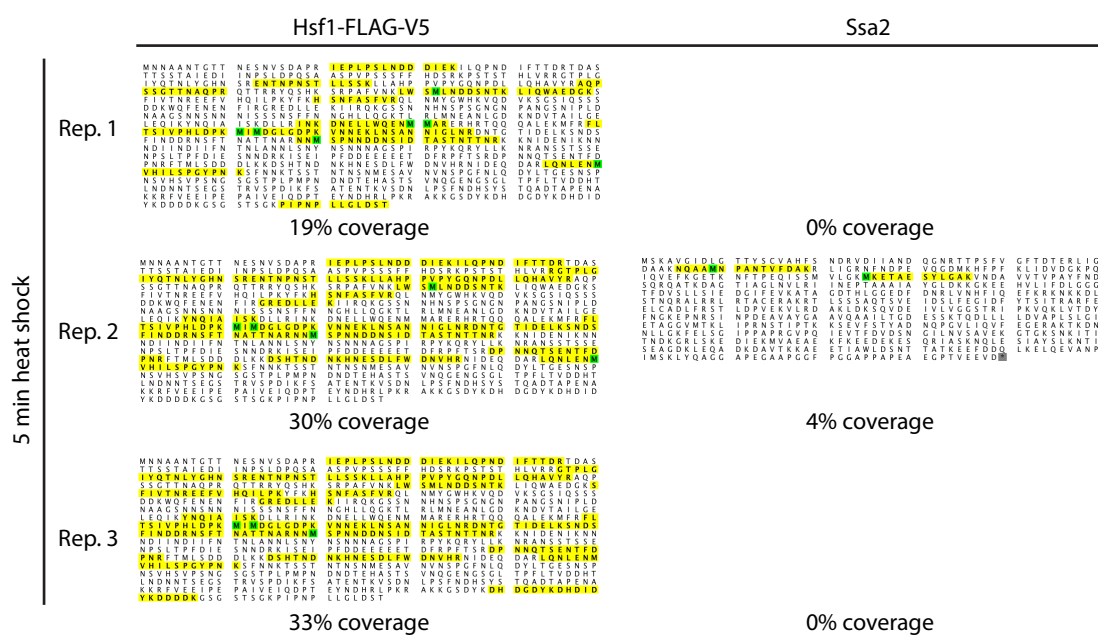
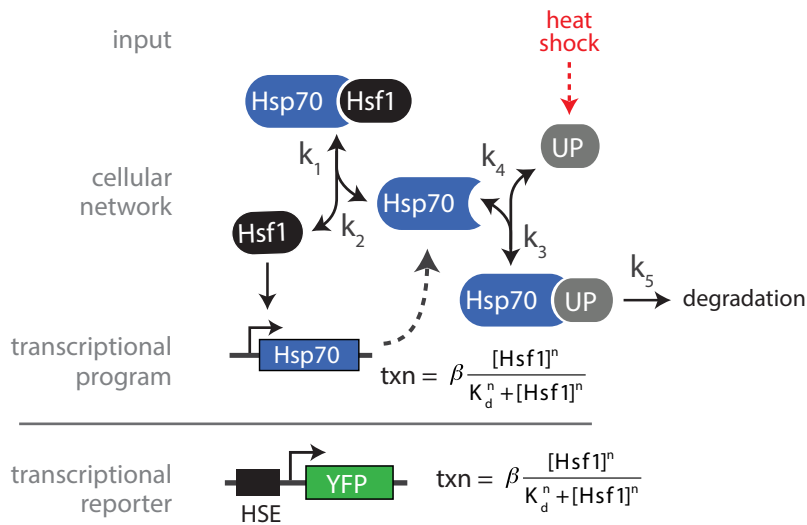
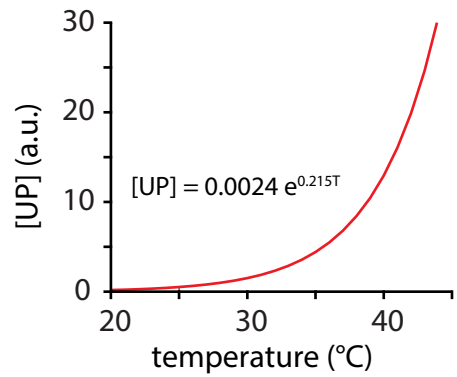


Figure 1—figure supplement 1

A MODEL DESCRIPTION



B TEMP. INPUT FUNCTION



C PARAMETER DISTRIBUTION

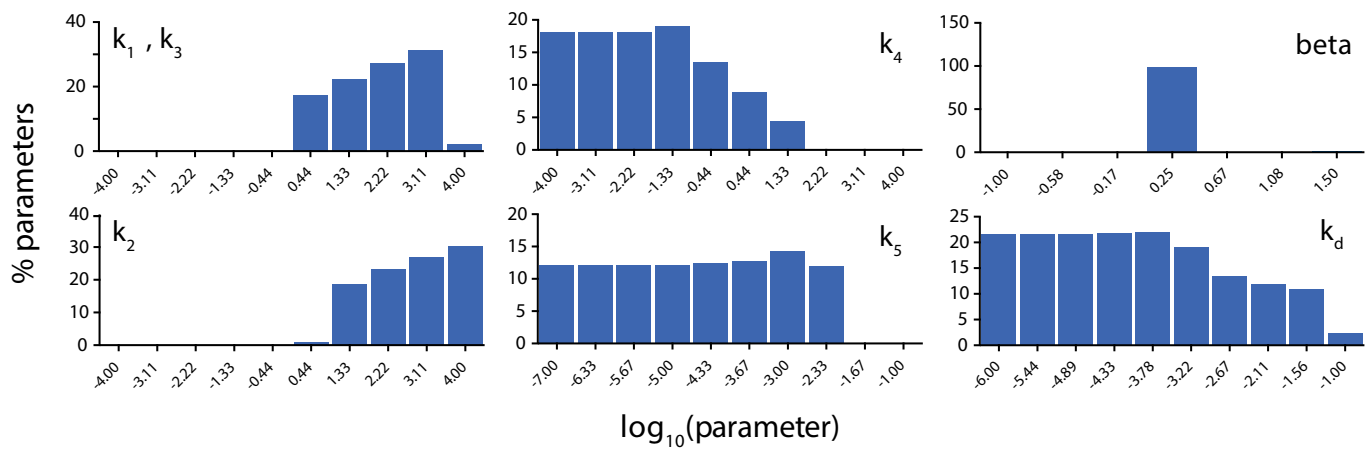


Figure 1—figure supplement 2

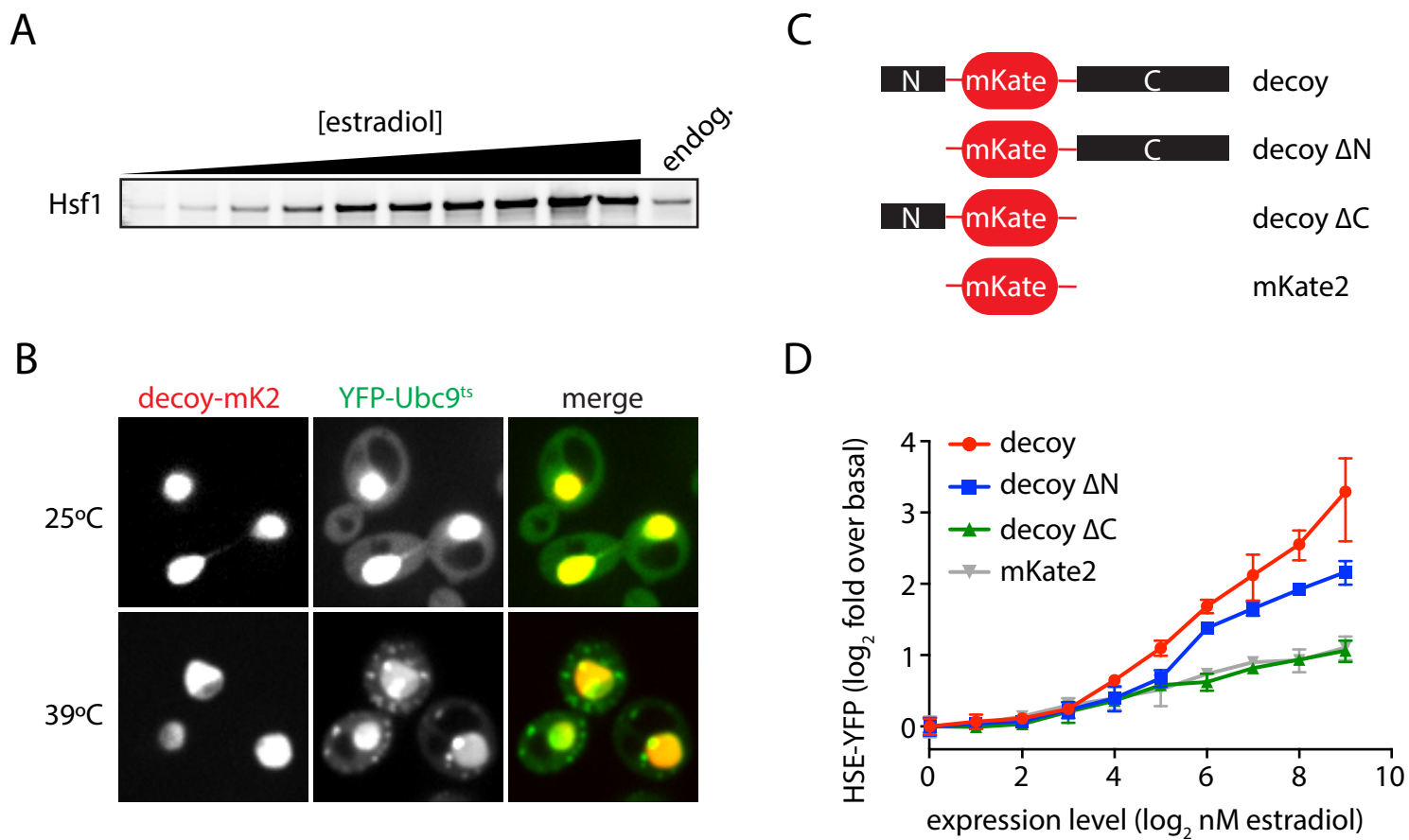
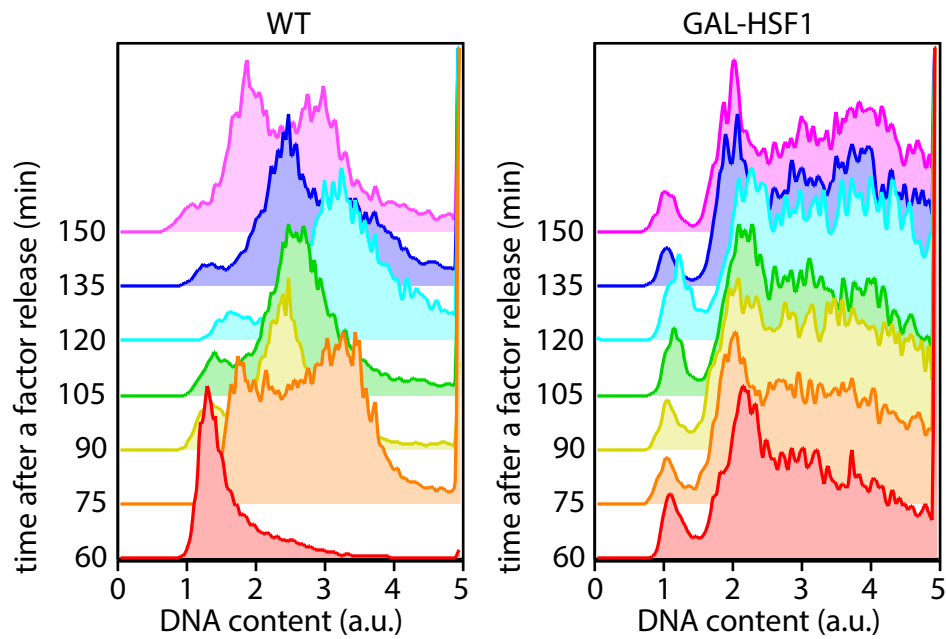
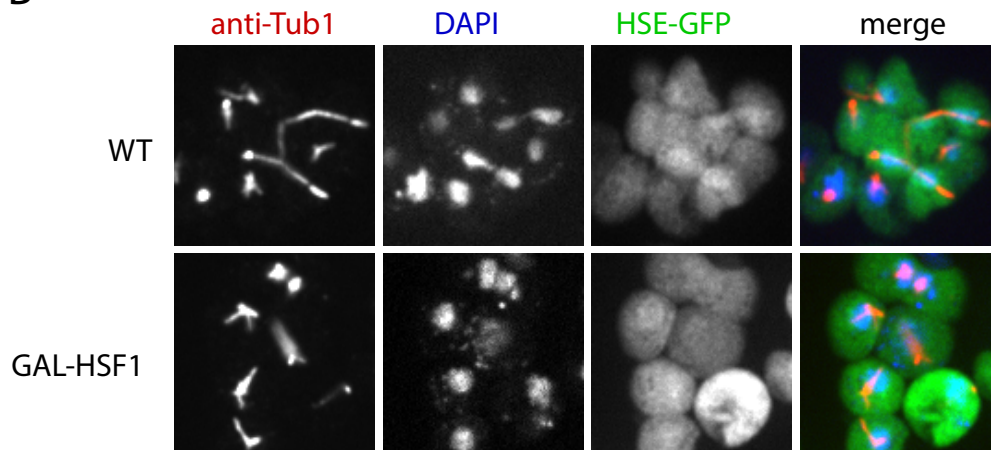


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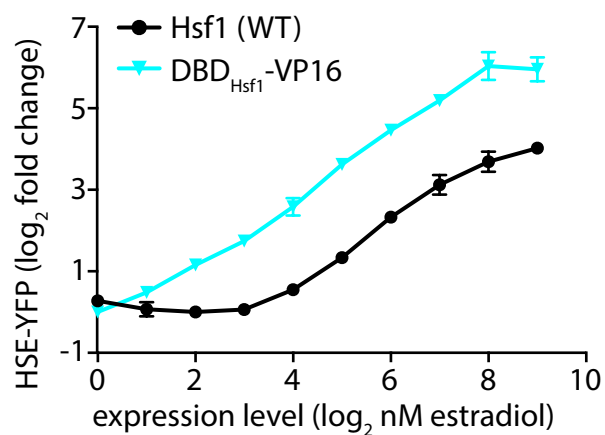
A



B



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D

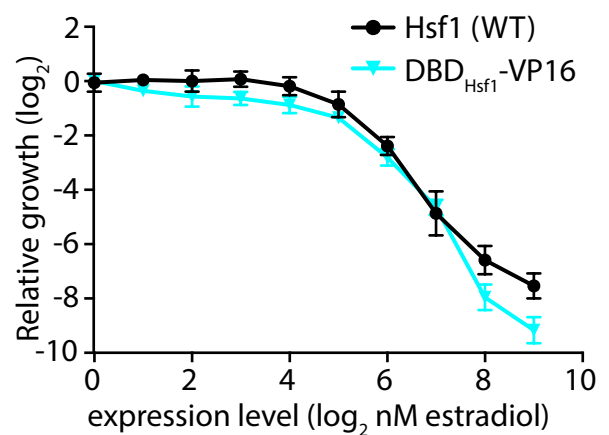
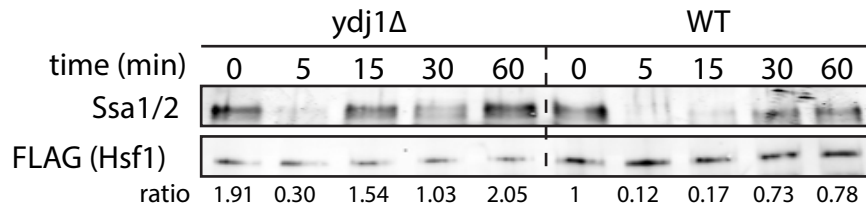


Figure 3-figure supplement 1

A



B

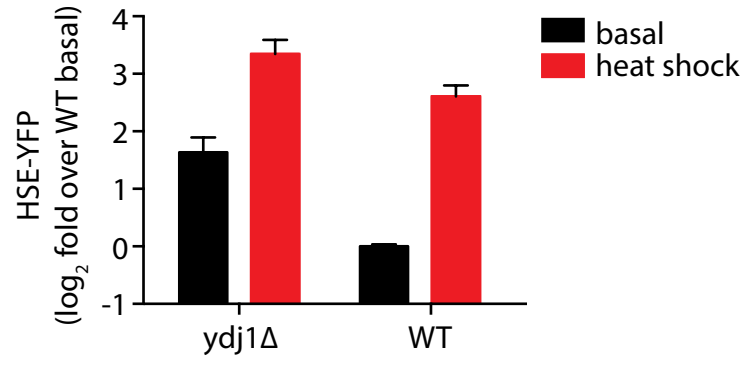


Figure 3–figure supplement 2

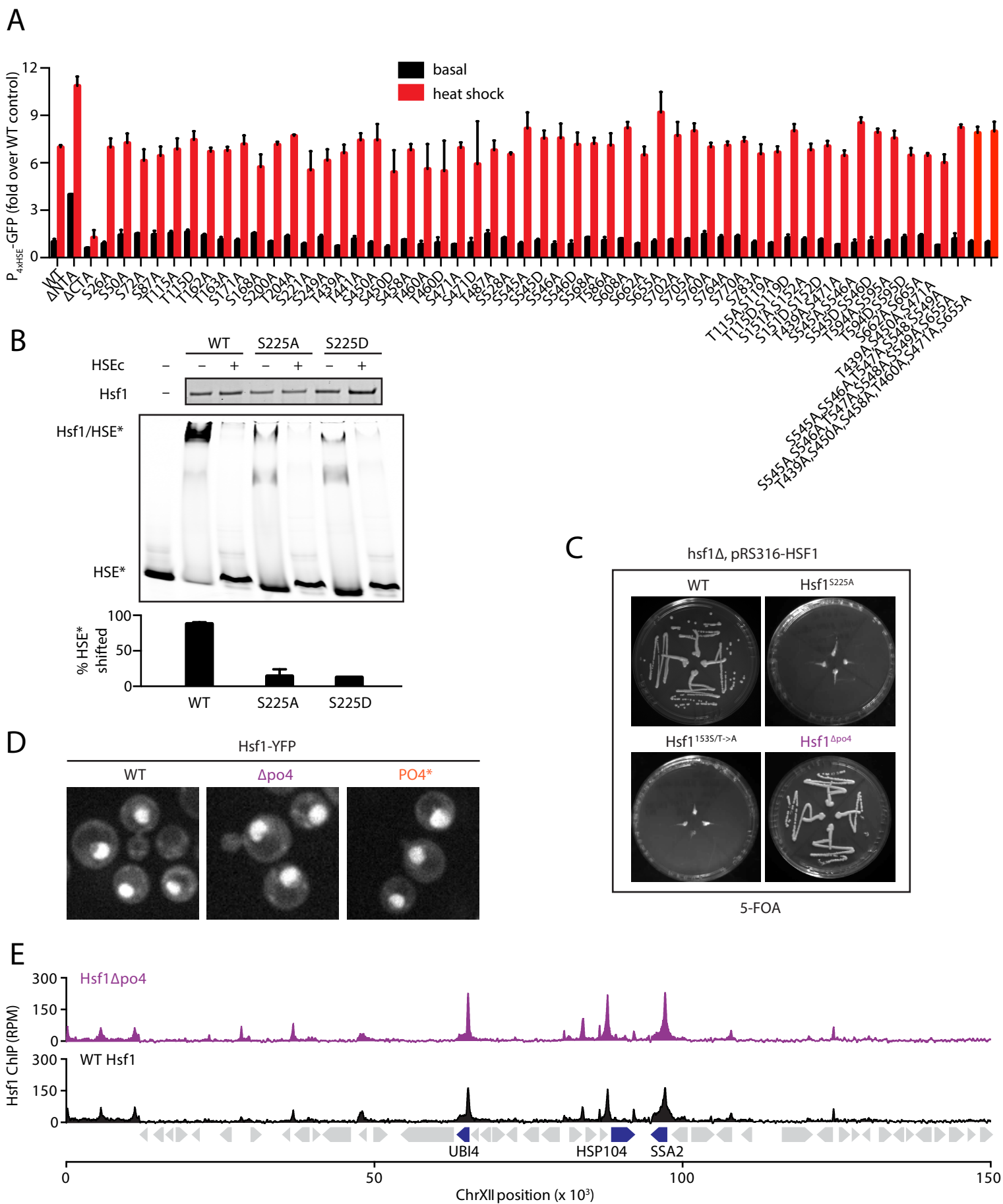
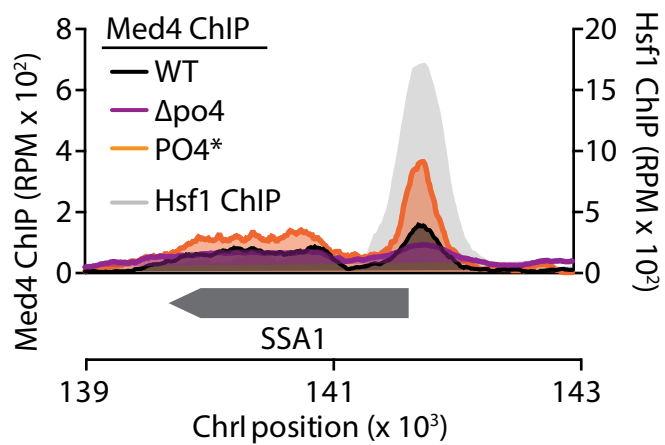


Figure 4—figure supplement 1

A



B

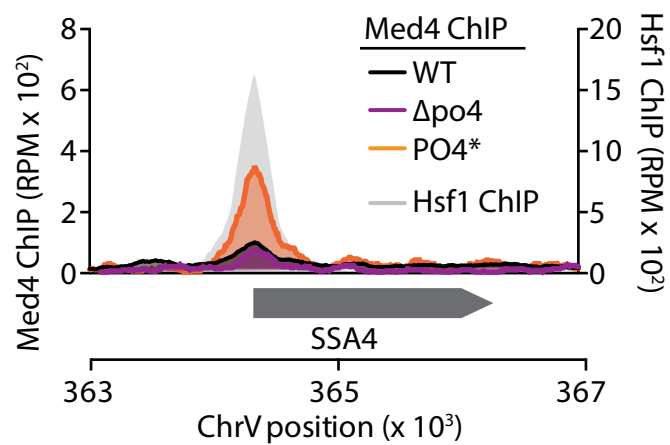


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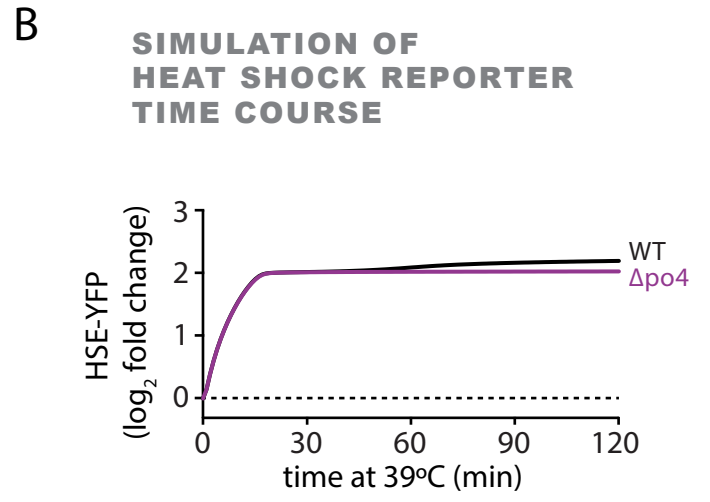
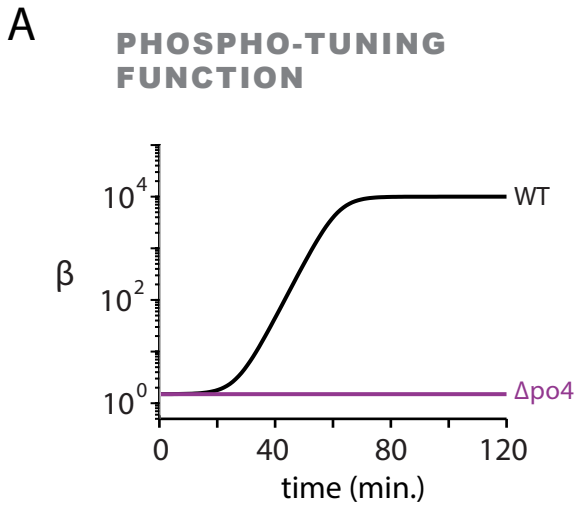


Figure 6—figure supplement 1