

Constitutive Transcription of Yeast Ribosomal Protein Gene *TCM1* Is Promoted by Uncommon *cis*- and *trans*-Acting Elements

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The DNA sequence UAS_T (TCGTTTTGTACGTTTTTCA) was found to mediate transcription of yeast ribosomal protein gene *TCM1*. UAS_T was defined as a transcriptional activator on the basis of loss of transcription accompanying deletions of all or part of UAS_T, orientation-independent restoration of transcription promoted by a synthetic UAS_T oligomer inserted either into *TCM1* or into the yeast *CYC1* gene lacking its transcriptional activation region, and diminished transcription following nucleotide alterations in UAS_T. UAS_T bound in vitro to a protein denoted TAF (*TCM1* activation factor); TAF was concluded to be a transcriptional activator protein because nucleotide alterations in UAS_T that diminished transcription in vivo also diminished TAF binding in vitro. The sequence of UAS_T bore no obvious resemblance to UAS_{rp}, the principal *cis*-acting element common to most yeast ribosomal protein genes. Likewise, TAF was distinguished from the UAS_{rp}-binding protein TUF, since (i) TAF and TUF were chromatographically separable, (ii) binding of either TAF or TUF to its corresponding UAS was unaffected by an excess of UAS_{rp} or UAS_T DNA, respectively, and (iii) photochemical cross-linking experiments showed that TAF was a protein of 147 kilodaltons (kDa), while TUF was detected as an approximately 120-kDa polypeptide, consistent with its known size. Cross-linking experiments also revealed that both UAS_T and UAS_{rp} bound a second heretofore unobserved 82-kDa protein; binding of this additional protein appeared to require binding of TAF or TUF. On the basis of the biochemical characterization of TAF and a lack of sequence similarity between UAS_T and UAS_{rp}, we suggest that transcription of *TCM1* is mediated by a *cis*-acting sequence and at least one *trans*-acting factor different from the elements which promote transcription of most other ribosomal protein genes. A second *trans*-acting factor may be shared by *TCM1* and other ribosomal protein genes; this factor could mediate coordinate regulation of these genes.

In all cells, synthesis of ribosomal proteins (rp) is constrained by two economic conditions. First, because each protein is present in a unit amount in the ribosome, each is produced at the same rate (11, 47). For *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, equivalent synthesis rates of rp are due largely to the existence of an equal quantity of mRNA for each polypeptide (19, 49). Secondly, rp synthesis is generally limited to producing just the number of ribosomes required by a given growth milieu (21, 32, 48). Again for *S. cerevisiae*, a particular level of rp synthesis is achieved by coordinate adjustments in the abundance of all rp mRNAs, probably by changes in rp gene transcription (7, 13, 18). This balanced and coordinated expression of yeast rp genes is striking considering the large number of transcription units involved (probably more than 100) and the fact that some rp mRNAs are products of single-copy genes (8, 33) while other rp mRNAs are derived by transcription of a pair of duplicate genes (2, 30, 35, 49).

These two conditions, equimolar amounts of rp mRNAs and coordinate adjustments in rp gene transcription, are attributable to a set of *cis*- and *trans*-acting elements common to yeast rp genes (for a review, see reference 25). Most yeast rp genes possess one or two versions of the consensus DNA upstream activation sequence UAS_{rp}, present in either orientation 200 to 400 base pairs (bp) 5' of rp coding sequences. UAS_{rp} binds in vitro to a protein called TUF, the likely candidate for a transcription activation factor. Deletion of UAS_{rp} elements renders rp genes transcription-

ally inactive, presumably due to an absence of TUF factor interaction (23, 36, 40, 51). Conversely, insertion of UAS_{rp} sequences reactivates transcription (36, 50). Each UAS_{rp} sequence possesses a different ability to stimulate transcription, which correlates with its relative affinity for the TUF factor (46). Such differences in activation efficiency among UAS_{rp} sequences explain how single-copy rp genes yield mRNA levels equivalent to those of duplicated genes, i.e., the UAS_{rp} sequences of duplicated genes bind TUF factor less efficiently than do single-copy genes. Thus, rp gene promoters are amalgams of TUF factor binding sites varying in number, orientation, and affinity for TUF factor, which together promote comparable synthesis of each rp mRNA. Functional UAS_{rp} sequences are also found upstream of the *TEF1* and *TEF2* genes, which encode elongation factor EF-1 α (14); other suspected TUF binding sites have been noticed adjacent to a gene encoding a common subunit of RNA polymerase I and III (26) and the gene encoding initiation factor eIF-4E (3). Consequently, UAS_{rp}/TUF is seen as a general factor that promotes transcription of genes encoding the yeast transcriptional and translational machinery.

As far as regulation is concerned, one UAS_{rp} sequence has been shown to be capable of mediating an environmentally induced change in transcription (13). After cells were shifted from a poor carbon source (ethanol) to glucose, a three- to fivefold increase in transcription was observed for both rp gene L25 and a heterologous gene into which an L25-UAS_{rp} was inserted. Since synthesis of all rp is stimulated by carbon source upshift (7, 17) and most rp genes

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possess at least one UAS_{rp} sequence, it has been suggested that UAS_{rp}/TUF mediates coordinate regulation of all rp genes (14, 25).

The occurrence of a common *cis*-acting element in yeast rp gene transcription was originally determined by comparisons of DNA sequences adjacent to those genes (24, 43). Of 21 genes examined, 19 shared homology to what is now defined as the UAS_{rp} consensus sequence. The two genes that appeared to lack UAS_{rp} were *TCM1* and *S33*, although *TCM1* and *S33* were seen to contain, along with potential TATA homologies, nearby T-rich stretches characteristic of most yeast genes (25, 36, 46). In view of the widespread occurrence of TUF factor binding sites in genes of the yeast translational and transcriptional machinery, coupled with suggestions that a common mechanism coordinates expression of these genes, it is imperative to identify the respective sequence elements that promote transcription of *TCM1* and *S33* and to determine whether those elements are TUF dependent.

In this report, we describe a DNA sequence and its corresponding binding protein which are responsible for >90% of the transcriptional activation of *TCM1*. The *cis*-acting sequence, designated UAS_T (upstream activation sequence of *TCM1*), normally spans residues 193 to 211 upstream of the major *TCM1* transcription start site. UAS_T activated transcription of *TCM1*, as well as of a heterologous gene, in an orientation-independent manner. Nucleotide substitutions in UAS_T reduced gene expression, confirming the transcriptional function of UAS_T. In confirmation of earlier rp gene comparisons, the sequence of UAS_T showed no resemblance to the UAS_{rp} element common to most other rp genes.

DNA footprinting and mobility shift assays were used to identify a UAS_T-binding protein. The protein identified *in vitro*, designated TAF (*TCM1* activation factor), likely promotes transcription of *TCM1*, since the nucleotide alterations in UAS_T that reduced *TCM1* transcription also led to diminished binding of TAF *in vitro*. Lack of homology between UAS_T and UAS_{rp} was paralleled by biochemical differences between TAF and TUF (the UAS_{rp} binding protein). The two proteins were separated by column chromatography. Further, TAF did not bind to a UAS_{rp} sequence when that sequence was present in a 1,500-fold molar excess over UAS_T, nor did TUF factor bind to the same excess of UAS_T. Finally, photochemical cross-linking of TAF to radiolabeled UAS_T DNA, followed by sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS)-gel electrophoresis, showed that TAF had an apparent molecular mass of about 147 kilodaltons (kDa), while TUF was observed as an approximately 120-kDa protein, consistent with its known size (41). Unexpectedly, cross-linking experiments also revealed that both UAS_T and UAS_{rp} bound a previously unidentified 82-kDa protein, whose binding appeared to require prior binding of TAF or TUF. We propose that constitutive transcription of at least one yeast rp gene is mediated by a set of *cis*- and *trans*-acting elements different from the elements common to most other rp genes. An additional protein, which is shared by the promoters for *TCM1* and other rp genes, could mediate coordinate regulation of these genes.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Bacterial and yeast strains. Plasmids were propagated in *Escherichia coli* MC1061 [*araD139 Δ(ara-leu)7697 ΔlacX74 galU galK hsr rpsL*] provided by M. Casadaban or BM150 (*dam hsr Tn10*) from M. Johnston. Promoter-β-galactosi-

dase fusions were expressed in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* DBY745 (*mata ura3-52 adel-101 leu2-3,112*) from D. Botstein. *TCM1-CYC1* fusions were expressed in *S. cerevisiae* E480-1D (*mata cycl-363 cyc7-28 leu2-3,112 ura3-52*) obtained from B. Errede. *S. cerevisiae* 20B-12 (*mata pep4-3 trp1*) was obtained from the Yeast Genetics Stock Center and used for preparation of extracts containing DNA-binding proteins.

***TCM1* promoter-β-galactosidase fusions.** We described previously (8) a series of plasmids in which at various positions upstream of *TCM1* a transcriptional regulatory sequence, derived from the *GAL10* gene, was placed and to which the *E. coli* β-galactosidase (*lacZ*) coding sequence was joined 43 nucleotides downstream of the *TCM1* start site. To examine expression of these genes without the *GAL10* element but dependent only upon *TCM1* 5' sequences, each plasmid was cleaved at a *XhoI* site between *GAL10* and *TCM1* and at an *SstI* site in *lacZ*. The *TCM1-lacZ* segments were inserted into pLG669-ZX, a modified version of pLG669-Z (12) that contained a *XhoI* site at the end of the *URA3* gene. The resulting plasmids, designated pTCM-Z1 through pTCM-Z7, contained various extents of *TCM1* 5'-flanking sequence (abutting the end of *URA3*) followed downstream by 43 nucleotides of *TCM1*-transcribed sequence, at which point *TCM1* joined *lacZ* (see Fig. 1 for a pictorial representation of these plasmids). Two other plasmids were also constructed. pTCM-Z8 was identical to pTCM-Z3 except that the sequence between -145 and -97 of *TCM1* was deleted; likewise, pTCM-Z9 was the same as pTCM-Z3 except that the sequence between -202 and -145 was deleted.

To provide convenient probes for proteins that bound specifically to the promoter, the *TCM1* segments were excised from plasmids pTCM-Z1 through pTCM-Z7 by cleaving at the *XhoI* site upstream of each segment and at the *BamHI* site that marked the junction between *TCM1* and *lacZ* in each plasmid. The fragments were inserted into pUC19, yielding a source of promoter segments progressively truncated at their 5' ends and terminating 43 bp 3' of the transcription start point. This series of plasmids was named pUC-Z1 through -Z7. In addition, a 91-bp promoter segment of *TCM1* spanning a *BclI* restriction site at -146 and an *HpaI* site at -236 was subcloned into pUC19, yielding pUC-Z8.

To compare protein binding to the *TCM1* promoter with binding to a UAS_{rp}-containing promoter, we subcloned a 392-bp fragment of yeast rp gene *RP51A* into pUC19. The fragment, extending from an *AsuII* site at -416 to a *BglII* site at -24, was derived from plasmid Y1RP51A (44), obtained from M. Rosbash.

***TCM1-CYC1* hybrid genes.** Plasmid pLG669-Z contained a 1,100-nucleotide fragment of the yeast *CYC1* gene, extending from ~1,100 bp 5' of its transcription start site to ~15 bp into the *CYC1* coding sequence; at +15, *CYC1* was joined to the β-galactosidase coding sequence. To test the ability of *TCM1* upstream sequence to activate transcription of the *CYC1-lacZ* gene, we replaced a segment of *CYC1* encompassing all of the DNA necessary to activate transcription (located between an *XhoI* site at -700 and a *BclI* site at -80) with a *XhoI-BclI* fragment of *TCM1*, excised from plasmid pTCM-Z3 (see above), extending from -236 to -145 of *TCM1*. The plasmid was designated pTCYC-Z. A control plasmid, pCYCΔX-Z, lacking all *CYC1* activation sequences, was produced by digesting pLG669-Z with *XhoI* and rejoining, thereby deleting the region between -180 and -700.

Derivatives of pLG669-Z, pTCYC-Z, and pCYCΔX-Z

which transcribed the entire *CYC1* coding sequence rather than a *CYC1-lacZ* fusion were produced by replacing the *CYC1* segment between -80 (*Bcl*I) and $+15$ (*Bam*HI) in each plasmid with a 1,500-bp *Bcl*I-*Bam*HI fragment of *CYC1* extending from the same -80 position to beyond the coding portion of *CYC1*. The 1,500-bp *CYC1* segment was obtained from plasmid pAB16, kindly provided by F. Sherman.

Insertion of UAS_T into promoters lacking an activation sequence. A 19-residue DNA oligonucleotide TCGTTTTGT ACGTTTTTCA and its complement were synthesized and annealed. This sequence is denoted UAS_T and corresponds to positions -193 to -211 upstream of the *TCM1* transcription start site. UAS_T was inserted into the following plasmids at their *Xho*I sites (filled in with DNA polymerase) that marked the upstream endpoint of each *TCM1* or *CYC1* promoter deletion (see above and Fig. 7 and 2, respectively): pTCM-Z5 (*Xho*I site at -186 of *TCM1*), pTCM-Z6 (*Xho*I site at -145 of *TCM1*), pCYCΔX-Z (*Xho*I site at -180 of *CYC1*), and pCYCΔ5'-Z (*Xho*I site at -180 of *CYC1*). pCYCΔX-Z and pCYCΔ5'-Z were analogous; as described above, the -180 *Xho*I site in pCYCΔX-Z was preceded by DNA derived from -700 to -1100 of *CYC1* whereas in pCYCΔ5'-Z all *CYC1* sequences beyond -180 were absent and the -180 site abutted the 3' end of the *URA3* gene. Since insertion of UAS_T at the filled-in *Xho*I sites created a *Pvu*I site at one end of the oligomer, the orientation of the inserted UAS_T segment was determined by digestion with *Pvu*I and a second enzyme having a cleavage site in adjacent *TCM1* or *CYC1* sequences. These constructs, as well as those with altered UAS_T sequences, were also verified by direct sequencing of the relevant regions of the plasmids (38).

Determination of plasmid copy number. All of the plasmids used in this study carried the yeast *URA3* gene which encodes orotidine-5'-monophosphate decarboxylase (ODCase). Since the level of ODCase is directly proportional to gene dosage (10), plasmid copy numbers were quantitated from the specific activity of ODCase in cell extracts, relative to the ODCase activity of a wild-type strain with a single *URA3* gene. ODCase activity was measured by release of ¹⁴CO₂ from orotidine-5'-monophosphate by the method of Prabhakararao and Jones (34). This method was more rapid than Southern blotting and free of the ambiguities inherent in densitometry of autoradiographs. Plasmid copy number was also assessed from RNA blot hybridization to quantitate the *URA3* mRNA (data not shown). Results of both analyses were in agreement. The actual plasmid copy numbers are given in the legends to Fig. 1, 2, and 7.

β-Galactosidase enzyme assay. Yeast cells (10 ml), grown to about 10⁷ cells per ml, were harvested, washed once in water, and then suspended in Z buffer (29). Cells were disrupted by vigorous shaking with glass beads. Duplicate aliquots of the unclarified extracts were assayed for β-galactosidase activity by hydrolysis of *o*-nitrophenyl-β-D-galactosidase (29). All measurements were performed on at least two different extracts of each strain.

Preparation of fractionated yeast extracts. One liter of yeast cells grown in 2% glucose-2% peptone-1% yeast extract was collected at mid-log phase. The resulting 2 to 3 g of cells was washed once with ice-cold water, suspended in 10 ml of buffer C (as in reference 37 except that 10 μg of leupeptin per ml was substituted for 1 mM phenylmethylsulfonyl fluoride) and disrupted by vortexing with an equal volume of glass beads. After unbroken cells were pelleted by centrifugation (4,000 × *g* for 5 min), the supernatant was removed and the glass beads were washed with buffer C to give a pooled supernatant of 8 ml. The supernatant was

centrifuged at 145,000 × *g* for 30 min at 4°C. This cleared supernatant was removed, diluted to 0.1 M (NH₄)₂SO₄ with column buffer (37), and applied to a column of heparin agarose (25 ml, 1.0 × 50 cm) equilibrated with column buffer containing 0.1 M (NH₄)₂SO₄. The column was eluted at 1.3 ml/min with 75 ml of buffer at 0.1 M (NH₄)₂SO₄ followed by 50 ml each of buffers containing 0.25, 0.5, and 0.75 M (NH₄)₂SO₄. Fractions from each salt wash were pooled, dialyzed, aliquoted, and frozen at -70°C . Once binding activity was located in a particular (NH₄)₂SO₄ step fraction, succeeding columns were eluted with 75 ml of buffer at 0.1 M (NH₄)₂SO₄ followed with 100 ml of a linear gradient from 0.1 M to 0.4 M (NH₄)₂SO₄. Fractions were collected, brought to 12% glycerol, aliquoted, and stored at -70°C . The gradient was monitored by A₂₈₀; (NH₄)₂SO₄ concentrations were determined from conductivity measurements, and protein concentration were measured by the method of Bradford (4).

In initial experiments to identify DNA-binding activities and in binding competition experiments, we did not adjust the concentration of ammonium sulfate in various column fractions, since the levels of ammonium sulfate did not interfere with binding (data not shown). For DNA footprinting experiments (see below), samples were dialyzed to remove (NH₄)₂SO₄ (14) before the protein was concentrated 10- to 20-fold with a Centricon microconcentrator (molecular weight cutoff, 10,000; Amicon Corp.).

Gel shift assays. Promoter DNA-protein complexes were formed by incubating 2 to 20 fmol of end-labeled DNA with protein fractions eluted from a heparin-agarose column (see above). End-labeled fragments were prepared by digesting the appropriate promoter subclone with restriction enzymes to liberate the promoter fragment, followed by filling in the free ends with DNA polymerase Klenow fragment in the presence of deoxynucleoside triphosphates and [α -³²P]dATP (600 Ci/mmol; New England Nuclear Corp.). Radioactive fragments were purified from 6% acrylamide gels by electroelution and subsequent precipitation. A 280- to 1,690-fold molar excess of supercoiled pUC19 was included in each incubation to prevent interference from nonspecific DNA-binding proteins present in the extracts.

Binding reactions, carried out essentially as described by Huet et al. (14), were initiated by the addition of protein extract to DNA samples in a final volume of 20 μl. Binding buffer was 40 mM Tris hydrochloride (pH 8)-70 mM KCl-5 mM β-mercaptoethanol-0.1 mM disodium EDTA-7% glycerol (vol/vol). In preliminary experiments which included MgCl₂ and CaCl₂, label in DNA appeared to be lost as a result of nuclease activity in the extracts. Omission of MgCl₂ and CaCl₂ from the binding reaction eliminated this problem without affecting specific binding to *TCM1* DNA. Binding reactions were incubated for 15 min at room temperature. Then samples were loaded onto acrylamide gels (11 by 13 by 0.15 cm; 4.94% acrylamide-0.06% bisacrylamide) prepared in 40 mM Tris hydrochloride (pH 8)-1 mM disodium EDTA-5% glycerol (vol/vol). After polymerization, gels were equilibrated with reservoir buffer [40 mM Tris hydrochloride (pH 8), 1 mM disodium EDTA] overnight at 0 to 4°C. Gels were run at 175 V (70 mA) for 2 to 4 h at 0 to 4°C. Bromophenol blue and xylene cyanol were loaded in side wells to monitor migration.

Photochemical cross-linking. A single-stranded DNA oligomer encompassing the *cis*-acting element of either *rp* gene *TCM1* or *L25* was rendered double-stranded with DNA polymerase in the presence of 2.5 μM [α -³²P]dATP (600 Ci/mmol) and 50 μM each of dCTP, dGTP, and 5-bromo-2'-deoxyuridine-5'-triphosphate (Sigma Chemical Co.). Sec-

ond-strand synthesis was initiated by annealing the universal M13 sequencing primer (28) to its complement included as the 3' end of each oligomer. Competitor DNA was synthesized in exactly the same manner except that unlabeled dATP replaced [α - 32 P]dATP. The resulting double-stranded DNAs were subjected to G-50 Sephadex column chromatography to remove unincorporated nucleotides. The sequences of the oligonucleotides were as follows: UAS_T-UV, CGC TTCTTGAAAAACGTACAAAACGATTACTACGTCGTG ACTGGGA (-216 to -186 of *TCM1* promoter sequence) and UAS_{TPB}-UV, GTAAACACCCGTACATATTAATCA GTGACTACGTCGTGACTGGGA (-406 to -378 of the *L25* promoter sequence; see reference 50). The underlined sequence is native rp gene sequence. Three base pairs of non-*L25* DNA was added between the 3' end of the *L25* sequence and the primer annealing site so that both oligonucleotides had an identical size.

Photochemical cross-linking was carried out as follows. DNA-protein-binding reactions were performed by using the 5-bromo-2'-deoxyuridine, [α - 32 P]dATP-substituted DNA. Half of the sample was examined by gel shift assay to verify protein-binding activity; the other half was placed in a microtiter tray, covered with Saran Wrap, and irradiated for 60 min at a distance of 1 cm with a UV lamp (FOTODYNE model 3-6000; λ_{\max} , 300 nm). After irradiation, MgCl₂ and CaCl₂ were added to 10 mM and 2 mM, respectively, and the samples were treated with 0.4 μ g of DNase I for 20 min at room temperature. DNase treatment was terminated by the addition of SDS-polyacrylamide gel loading buffer followed by incubation at 100°C for 3 min. Samples, along with prestained molecular weight markers (Diversified Biotech), were analyzed on SDS-8% polyacrylamide gels (22) with *N,N'*-diallyltartardiamide substituted for bisacrylamide. Gels were dried and subjected to autoradiography.

Footprinting. (i) DNase I. Protein-DNA-binding reactions were conducted as described above; complexes were formed with protein extract sufficient to bind >90% of the DNA. After incubation, MgCl₂ and CaCl₂ were added to final concentrations of 10 mM and 2 mM, respectively. DNase I (10 U; Bethesda Research Laboratories) was added and incubation was continued for 1 min at room temperature. The reaction was terminated by the addition of disodium EDTA to 50 mM. Samples were extracted successively with phenol and chloroform; the DNA was precipitated with ethanol, rinsed with 70% ethanol, and loaded onto 6% sequencing gels (for ~400-bp fragments) or 8% sequencing gels (for ~90-bp fragments). Maxam-Gilbert sequencing reactions (27) performed on the same end-labeled DNA fragment were run as markers. The gels were dried and subjected to autoradiography.

(ii) Methidiumpropyl-Fe(II)-EDTA (MPE). Binding reactions were carried out as above but scaled up to 50 μ l. After incubation, methidiumpropyl-EDTA and FeNH₄(SO₄)₂ were added to a final concentration of 10 mM (16, 45). DNA cleavage was initiated by the addition of dithiothreitol to 2 mM. After 25 min at 25°C, reactions were terminated by extraction with phenol. From this point samples were treated as for DNase I footprinting.

RESULTS

The transcriptional activation region of *TCM1*. The region upstream of *TCM1* responsible for transcriptional activation was delimited from a series of progressive promoter deletions. To monitor their effects, each deletion construct was joined to the *E. coli* β -galactosidase (*lacZ*) coding sequence

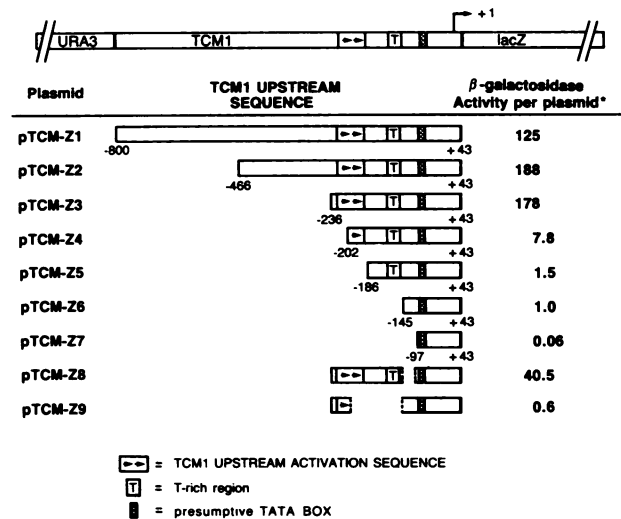


FIG. 1. Effects of promoter deletions on expression of *TCM1*. Segments of yeast rp gene *TCM1*, each extending from 43 bases 3' of the transcription start site upstream to the various positions indicated, were inserted between the 3' end of the yeast *URA3* gene and the amino terminus of the *E. coli* β -galactosidase gene (*lacZ*), placing *TCM1* in a continuous translational reading frame with *lacZ*. The constructs, contained in the multicopy plasmid pLG669-ZX (see Materials and Methods), were introduced into *S. cerevisiae*; expression of *lacZ* driven by the various *TCM1* promoters was quantitated by measuring β -galactosidase activity in cell extracts. Note that plasmids pTCM-Z8 and pTCM-Z9 were identical to pTCM-Z3 except that pTCM-Z8 lacked sequence between -97 and -145 while pTCM-Z9 lacked sequence between -145 and -186. * All results for β -galactosidase activity are presented normalized to a plasmid copy number of 1. Actual plasmid copy numbers, measured as described in Materials and Methods, were: pTCM-Z1, 12; pTCM-Z2, 9; pTCM-Z3, 9; pTCM-Z4, 5; pTCM-Z5, 15; pTCM-Z6, 15; pTCM-Z7, 8; pTCM-Z8, 19; pTCM-Z9, 5.

at the fifth codon of *TCM1*. Figure 1 shows the results of β -galactosidase assays for extracts of yeast cells carrying the various hybrid genes within multicopy plasmids. The results, normalized to a plasmid copy number of 1 (see Materials and Methods), are summarized as follows. Deletions which retained 236 bp or more upstream of *TCM1* gave high levels of expression (plasmids pTCM-Z1, -Z2, and -Z3). However, deletion of an additional 34 bp (to -202 in pTCM-Z4) diminished transcriptional activity to ~6% of normal. A further deletion of 16 bp reduced expression to ~1% (pTCM-Z5), while expression was undetectable from constructs containing only 145 or 97 bp of upstream sequence (pTCM-Z6 and -Z7). None of the deletions altered the selection of *TCM1* transcription initiation sites (data not shown).

These results suggested that efficient transcription of *TCM1* required sequences located between 236 and 145 bp upstream of its start site. Since removal of the 5'-most 34 bp of this region lowered expression by >90%, we asked whether the 34-bp segment alone would bring about transcription. This question was especially pertinent because the 34-bp segment contained one of three repeated sequences (^C/_TGTTTTN^C/_TA) that occur between -236 and -145 (see Fig. 12 and Discussion); often eucaryotic promoters consist of reiterations of a particular *cis*-acting sequence (42). To test the activity of the 34-bp segment, we deleted the DNA between -202 and -145, leaving only those 34 bp (see pTCM-Z9 in Fig. 1); however, no expression was detected from this construct. As demonstrated below, this 34-bp

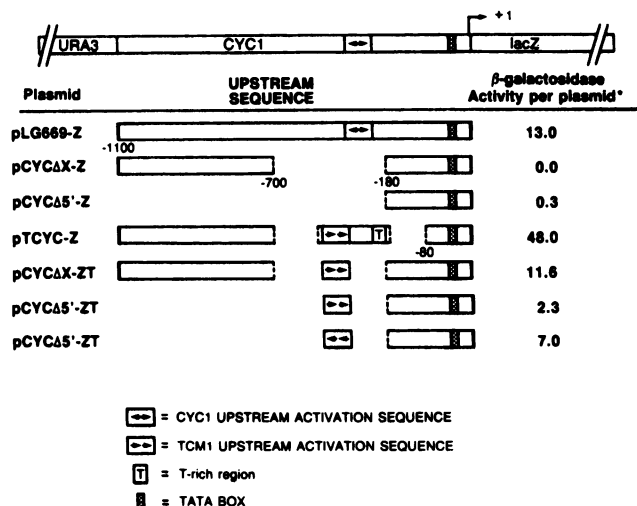


FIG. 2. Activation of *CYC1-lacZ* gene by UAS_T . Plasmid pLG669-Z contained a segment of yeast *CYC1*, extending from ~1,100 bp 5' to 15 bp 3' of the start site, inserted between *URA3* and *E. coli lacZ*. Gaps in other plasmid diagrams show regions deleted from *CYC1*. pTCYC-Z contained an insertion of a 91-bp segment encompassing UAS_T and the T-rich region of *TCM1*. pCYCΔX-ZT and pCYCΔ5'-ZT contained insertions of the 19-bp UAS_T (inserted in both orientations in pCYCΔ5'-ZT). * Actual plasmid copy numbers were: pLG669-Z, 15; pCYCΔX-Z, not determined; pCYCΔ5'-Z, 26; pTCYC-Z, 3; pCYCΔX-ZT, 3; pCYCΔ5'-ZT, 12.

segment failed to promote transcription because it constituted only a portion of the sequence necessary for most of the transcriptional activity of *TCM1*.

The results discussed above showed that nucleotide residues located between 236 and 145 bp upstream of the *TCM1* start site were probably sufficient to promote transcription. To exclude the possibility that elements in this region cooperate with sequences closer to the transcription start site, we deleted the region between -145 and -97 from a construct originally containing DNA extending to -236 (pTCMZ-8 in Fig. 1); the -97 endpoint is immediately upstream of the most likely TATA homology of *TCM1* (see Fig. 12). The promoter resulting from this internal deletion retained about 30% transcriptional activity. This result could be interpreted as suggesting that the region between -236 and -145 was not entirely sufficient for transcription; alternatively, the -236/-145 region could be sufficient, but once the DNA between it and the TATA box was eliminated (in pTCMZ-8) the two regions may have become situated on different sides of the DNA helix and unable to cooperate (39). We have not addressed this uncertainty; nonetheless, as described next, the -236/-145 region did function as an efficient transcriptional activator when positioned upstream of a heterologous gene, so that if this segment was acting in concert with other promoter elements, those other elements are not confined to *TCM1*.

Independence of *TCM1* upstream region. Before refining further the limits of the *TCM1* activation region, we tested the ability of the 91-bp -236/-145 segment to activate transcription of another gene, as cross-activation is a property common among transcriptional activation elements (42). The 91-bp segment of *TCM1* was inserted upstream of the yeast *CYC1* gene (encoding iso-1-cytochrome *c*), simultaneously replacing all of the DNA normally required for *CYC1* activation. Figure 2 shows that when joined to *lacZ*,

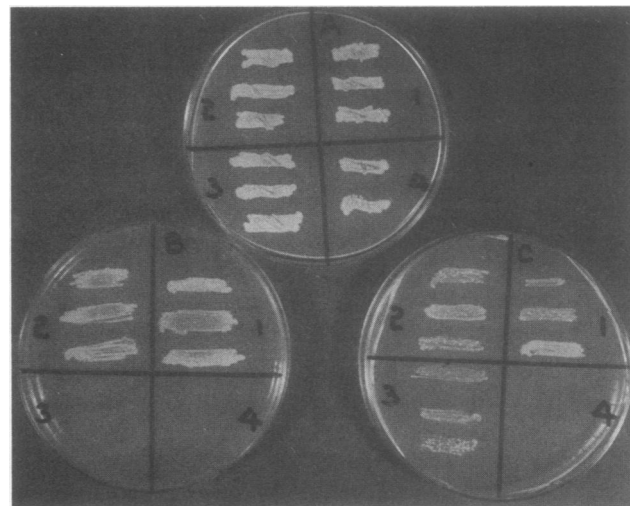


FIG. 3. Complementation of a *cycl cyc7* yeast strain by a *CYC1* gene containing the upstream activation region of *TCM1* in place of the *CYC1* upstream activation region. Plate A contained 2% glucose, plate B contained 2% lactate, and plate C contained 3% glycerol. Cytochrome *c* (product of *CYC1*) is required for growth on the latter two carbon sources. On each plate were cells transformed with a plasmid carrying a complete *CYC1* gene (quadrant 1); pTCYC, the same *TCM1-CYC1* promoter fusion as in Fig. 2 but with *lacZ* replaced by *CYC1* (quadrant 2); pCYCΔX, a *CYC1* plasmid lacking the *CYC1* activation region (analogous to pCYCΔX-Z in Fig. 2) (quadrant 3); a control plasmid without any *CYC1* gene (quadrant 4). Note that pCYCΔX, a *CYC1* deletion from -180 to -700 (see Materials and Methods), was transcribed at a low level, enough to permit growth on glycerol but not lactate. Plasmid pTCYC without the *TCM1* activation region (not shown), and thus a *CYC1* deletion from -80 to -700, did not support growth on either carbon source.

the *TCM1-CYC1* hybrid promoter (in pTCYC-Z) produced as much or more β -galactosidase as an intact *CYC1* promoter similarly joined to *lacZ* (in pLG669-Z). As a further demonstration of cross-activation, we joined the *TCM1-CYC1* hybrid promoter to the entire *CYC1* coding sequence (in pTCYC) and introduced the hybrid gene into a yeast strain lacking functional *CYC1* and *CYC7* genes, which contribute 95% and 5% of the cell's cytochrome *c*, respectively. The recipient strain was unable to grow on nonfermentable carbon sources because of an absence of an intact electron transport chain. Figure 3 shows that the *TCM1-CYC1* hybrid promoter adjacent to *CYC1* led to a restoration of cytochrome *c* synthesis, as evidenced by growth of the plasmid-bearing strain on glycerol. Furthermore, sufficient cytochrome *c* was produced for the cells to grow on lactate, which requires not only an intact electron transport chain but at least 30% of the wild-type amount of cytochrome *c* (20). These results demonstrated that the -236 to -145 segment of *TCM1* functioned as an independent transcriptional activator.

Initial identification of *TCM1* DNA-binding activity. Although sufficient to promote transcription in an autonomous manner, the 91-bp segment between -145 and -236 was relatively large. Therefore, we sought to define more narrowly a transcriptional activation sequence by first identifying a potential transcription factor (or factors) that bound specifically to a smaller portion of the 91-bp region. Specific binding to the promoter region of *TCM1* was detected by incubating a yeast protein extract, subjected to heparin-agarose column chromatography (14, 37; see Materials and Methods), with the same deletion fragments used to measure

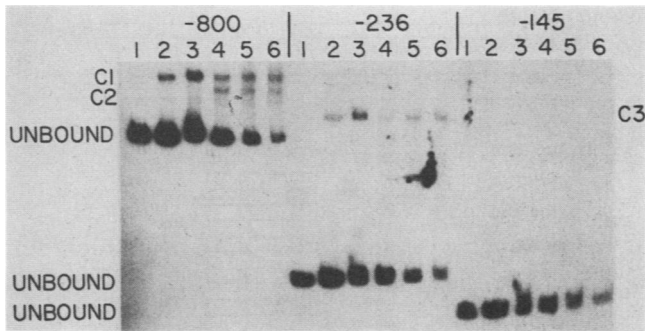


FIG. 4. Gel shift assay using promoter deletions to localize TAF binding site. Binding reactions were carried out with 5 fmol of one of three probes: an -800 promoter fragment from pUC-Z1, a -236 promoter fragment from pUC-Z3, and a -145 promoter fragment from pUC-Z6 (the actual sizes of each fragment used in the binding reactions were 43 bp larger than the values given atop the figure, as the DNA segments extended into the *TCM1* coding sequence; see Materials and Methods). Also included in the binding reactions was 280 fmol of pUC19 DNA. The protein extracts used in the binding reactions were as follows: lane 1, no protein added; lanes 2 and 3, 0.5 and 1.0 μg of protein from the 0.1 M $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$ elution of a heparin-agarose column (see Materials and Methods); lanes 4, 5, and 6, 0.5, 1.0 and 1.5 μg of protein from the pooled fractions eluted with 0.25 and 0.5 M $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$. C1 and C2 indicate specific DNA-protein complexes formed with the -800 promoter fragment; C3 indicates a complex with the -236 fragment. No complex was observed with the -145 fragment.

expression *in vivo*. Formation of protein DNA complexes was inferred from reduced mobility of the labeled DNA (relative to free DNA) in nondenaturing polyacrylamide gels (9). Figure 4 shows the results of a gel shift assay using three promoter fragments subcloned into pUC19. Presumptive DNA-protein complexes were observed with the two larger promoter fragments from pUC-Z1 and pUC-Z3 containing the 91-bp transcriptional activation sequence but not with the smaller fragment from pUC-Z5 that lacked these 91 bp. DNA fragments of equivalent size and unrelated to *TCM1* also did not bind to protein in the extract (data not shown).

These results for protein binding to promoter segments of *TCM1* paralleled the transcriptional activity of those segments *in vivo*. The promoter fragments from pUC-Z1 and pUC-Z3 truncated at -800 or -236 , respectively, supported both protein binding and maximum transcription *in vivo* (see pTCM-Z1 and pTCM-Z3 in Fig. 1), while the fragment derived from pUC-Z6 truncated at -145 sustained neither binding nor transcription (see pTCM-Z6 in Fig. 1). We also found protein binding to a fragment consisting of only the 91-bp transcriptional activation region of *TCM1* (see Fig. 6). In summary, these results suggested that binding *in vitro* reflected the interaction of a transcription factor with the *TCM1* promoter. We designated this factor TAF (*TCM1* activation factor).

The fragment from pUC-Z1 that contained sequence extending 800 bp upstream of *TCM1* generated two protein-DNA complexes (C1 and C2 in Fig. 4) while the fragment from pUC-Z3, extending only 236 bp upstream of *TCM1*, produced but a single complex (C3). Since sequence beyond -236 was not necessary for *TCM1* expression, formation of multiple protein-DNA complexes with the -800 fragment may have resulted from protein binding to an adjacent gene. However, additional transcripts have not been detected by using the -800 -bp fragment as a probe, minimizing the likelihood that another gene was adjacent to *TCM1* within

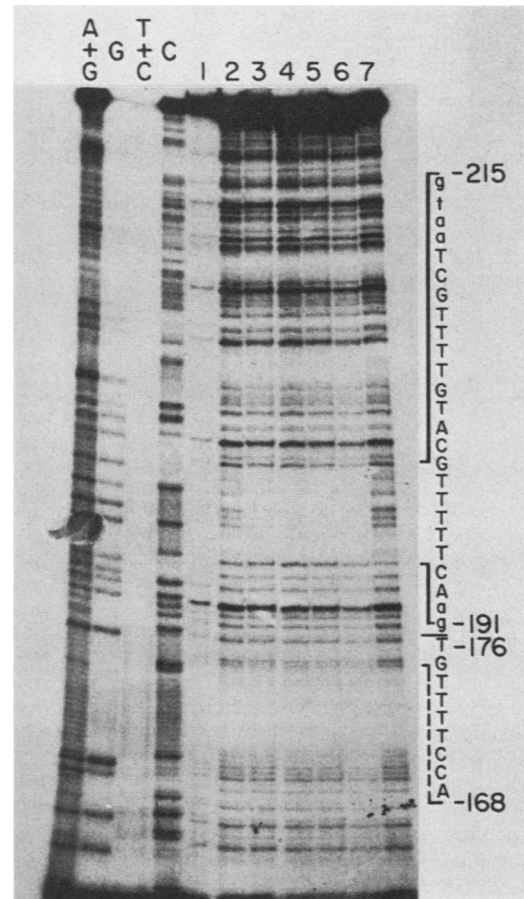


FIG. 5. DNase I footprint analysis of *TCM1*-TAF complex. Plasmid pUC-Z3 contained a 279-bp fragment of *TCM1*, extending from -236 to $+43$, inserted in the pUC19 polylinker. The plasmid was cleaved at an *Xba*I site that occurs at -10 in the *TCM1* fragment and labeled by fill-in synthesis with DNA polymerase in the presence of $[\alpha\text{-}^{32}\text{P}]\text{dATP}$. The labeled *TCM1* fragment (5 fmol) was liberated from the plasmid by digestion with *Hind*III in the polylinker, purified and incubated with sufficient protein extract to yield $>90\%$ binding to TAF, digested briefly with DNase I, and subjected to electrophoresis in a denaturing sequencing gel (see Materials and Methods). Lanes: 1 and 7, DNA incubated without protein extract; 2 through 6, DNA incubated with 1.03, 3.09, 5.15, 8.24, and 10.3 μg of protein extract, respectively. The lettered lanes are Maxam-Gilbert sequencing reactions. The sequence protected from DNase I digestion is shown alongside; numbers refer to base pairs from transcription start site ($+1$). UAS_T is indicated by uppercase letters. Dotted lines show a sequence related to the repeat unit in UAS_T but which did not produce a footprint. A complete sequence of the *TCM1* promoter region is shown in Fig. 12.

the -800 -bp fragment. On the other hand, we show below that the 5' boundary of the TAF-binding site was very close to the end of the -236 -bp segment, at -211 . Perhaps protein binding near -211 facilitated binding of additional polypeptides upstream of this region, thus accounting for the formation of multiple DNA-protein complexes with the -800 -bp fragment.

Footprinting. Two DNA footprinting techniques were used to identify the TAF binding site within the *TCM1* promoter. Figure 5 shows a result for DNase I footprinting in which the coding strand of *TCM1* was labeled. A segment of 25 bp spanning the region between -191 and -215 was protected from DNase I cleavage. The sequence of this

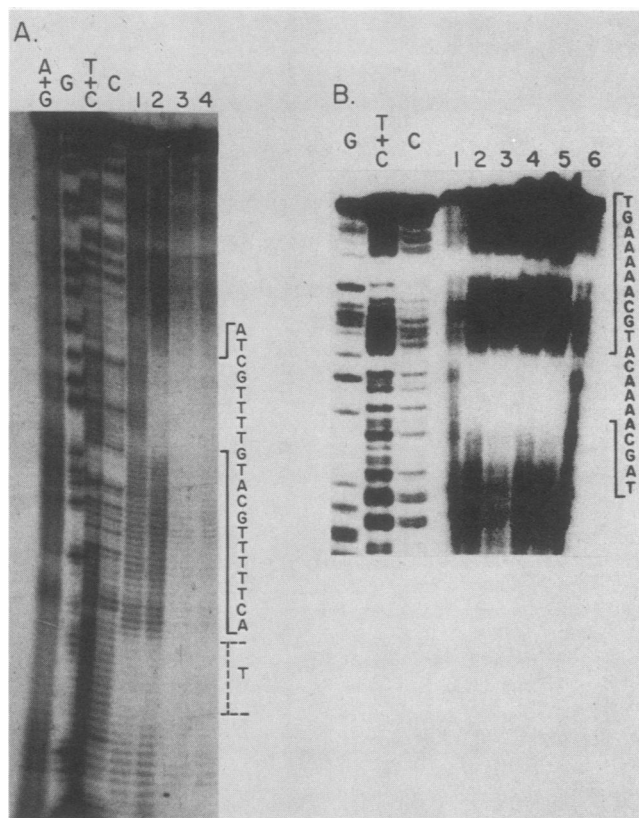


FIG. 6. MPE footprint analysis of *TCM1* promoter. Plasmid pUC-Z8 contained a 91-bp fragment of *TCM1*, extending from -146 to -236 . (A) The coding strand of this fragment was labeled by filling in the *Hind*III site of the polylinker 3' of the *TCM1* sequence. Lanes 1 through 4, DNA incubated with 0, 5.15, 20.6, and 28.3 μ g of protein extract, respectively. (B) The complementary strand was labeled at the 3' end by filling in the *Eco*RI site in the pUC polylinker. Lanes 1 through 6, DNA incubated with 0, 2.06, 5.15, 10.3, 20.6, and 0 μ g of protein extract, respectively. The respective footprints are shown alongside the figure. The region indicated by T and the dotted brackets shows the location of a stretch of 18 consecutive T's centered at -160 in *TCM1*; such T-stretches are relatively refractory to cleavage by MPE due to narrowing of the minor groove (5).

region contained the two nearly perfect 9-bp repeats first noticed in regard to the analysis of promoter deletions (see above). Interestingly, another single 9-bp sequence similar to the two adjacent repeats is located more proximal to the *TCM1* transcription start site (Fig. 5; see Fig. 12); however, even at higher protein concentrations, no protection was seen of this other single 9-bp sequence.

We confirmed the DNase I footprint by cleaving DNA-protein complexes with MPE (16, 45). Since MPE is a smaller molecule with less sequence preference than DNase I, a smaller footprint was expected. Footprinting of both strands of *TCM1* with MPE showed a 19- to 20-bp protected segment within the 25 bp revealed by DNase I footprinting (Fig. 6).

The TAF-binding site revealed by DNA footprinting was consistent with TAF being a transcriptional activator protein, since the footprinted sequence was contained within a region necessary for transcription. As shown above, promoter deletions that included all or part of the 19-bp TAF binding site diminished transcription to 6% or less than normal (pTCM-Z4 and pTCM-Z5 in Fig. 1).

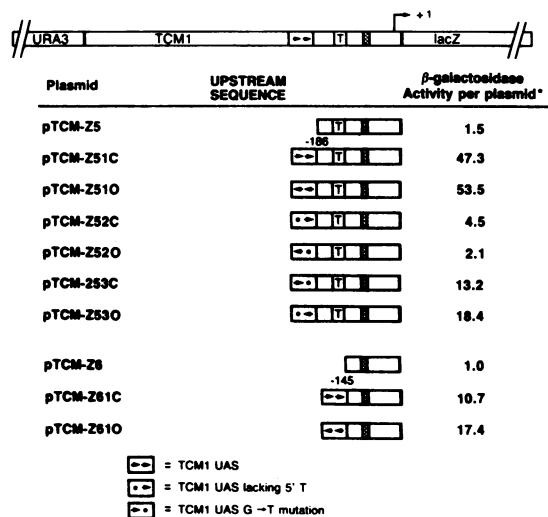


FIG. 7. Activation of *TCM1* promoter deletions by wild-type and altered versions of UAS_T . Plasmids pTCM-Z5 and -Z6 were the same as in Fig. 1. A single copy of UAS_T was inserted into each plasmid, in both orientations (C, usual orientation found in *TCM1*; O, opposite orientation), immediately upstream of the deletion endpoints -186 (pTCM-Z5) and -145 (pTCM-Z6). Note that UAS_T normally resides between -192 and -211 . Likewise, a version of UAS_T lacking its 5'-most nucleotide as well as one in which the T at position 15 was changed to a G was inserted into pTCM-Z5 in both orientations. * Plasmid copy numbers were as follows: pTCM-Z5, 15; pTCM-Z51C, 18; pTCM-Z51O, 21; pTCM-Z52C, 17; pTCM-Z52O, 13; pTCM-Z53C, 18; pTCM-Z53O, 20; pTCM-Z6, 15; pTCM-Z61C, 21; pTCM-Z61O, 15.

A 19-bp sequence activates *TCM1* transcription. The DNA footprinting experiments coupled with analysis of promoter deletions suggested that the 19- to 20-bp TAF binding site was a potential transcriptional activation sequence. To ascertain whether this binding site, which we designated UAS_T (*TCM1* upstream activation sequence) was sufficient to support transcription on its own, we synthesized a 19-bp double-stranded DNA oligomer corresponding to UAS_T and exchanged a single copy of this 19-mer for the entire activation region of either *CYC1* or *TCM1*. Figures 2 and 7 show the results of these constructs. In plasmid pCYC Δ 5'-ZT, the UAS_T element was inserted 180 bp upstream of the *CYC1* start site, resulting in about an 8-fold stimulation of expression when placed in its usual orientation and about 23-fold stimulation when inserted in the opposite orientation (compared with pCYC Δ 5'-Z, the same plasmid lacking UAS_T). Better activation, about 38-fold, was observed in pCYC Δ X-ZT which contained UAS_T at the same -180 location in *CYC1*. In this case, 400 bp of DNA separated UAS_T from the 3' end of the *URA3* gene common to all the plasmids, whereas in pCYC Δ 5'-ZT, UAS_T was immediately adjacent to the *URA3* transcription termination region; possibly the close apposition of transcription termination and initiation regions interfered with transcription of *CYC1* in pCYC Δ 5'-ZT.

Similar activation resulted from placement of UAS_T adjacent to *TCM1*. When placed in its usual orientation, insertion of UAS_T at -186 of *TCM1* restored transcription to 38% of normal while insertion in the opposite orientation restored transcription to 43% of normal (Fig. 7; pTCM-Z51C and Z51O). Likewise, while not achieving nearly as high a level of expression, insertion of UAS_T 145 bp upstream of *TCM1* did yield reproducible increases of 8 to 14% (Fig. 7; pTCM-



FIG. 8. Competition gel shift assay of wild-type and mutant UAS_T sequences. Mutant UAS_T sequences, $UAS_T\Delta T$ and UAS_TG were compared in their affinity for TAF, relative to the wild-type UAS_T sequence. DNA-protein complexes were formed with a ^{32}P -labeled wild-type UAS_T probe (from pUC-Z3; 4 fmol) in the presence of the specific supercoiled competitor plasmids containing UAS_T , $UAS_T\Delta T$, or UAS_TG sequences. Lanes 1, 2, and 2' contained ^{32}P -labeled DNA, incubated without specific competitor DNA, in the presence of 0, 0.27, and 0.54 μ g of protein extract, respectively. All other binding reactions contained 0.54 μ g of extract. Lanes A contained a 1-fold molar excess and lanes B through F contained 2-, 5-, 10-, 50-, and 100-fold molar excesses, respectively, of competitor DNA. All binding reactions also contained 560 fmol of nonspecific competitor pUC19 DNA.

Z61C and -Z61O). Less expression from these latter constructs was probably due to their lacking the T-rich region immediately 5' of -145 (see Fig. 12); such T-rich stretches are typical of yeast promoters and necessary for optimal transcription (36, 42). In any case, from these results for activation of *TCM1* and those described above for *CYC1*, we concluded that UAS_T is the principal *cis*-acting element of *TCM1* constitutive transcription.

Finally, the function of UAS_T was confirmed by finding that single-base-pair alterations introduced into its sequence resulted in reduced transcriptional activation. Whereas insertion of the 19-bp UAS_T at -186 (in pTCM-Z5) restored transcription to ~40% of normal, a double-stranded UAS_T oligomer lacking the 5'-most base pair sustained transcription at only about 3% of normal (Fig. 7; pTCM-Z52C and -Z52O). Similarly, changing the T to a G in position 15 of UAS_T yielded an oligomer capable of only one-third the transcriptional activity of the wild-type sequence (Fig. 7; pTCM-Z53C and -Z53O).

Interaction of TAF with altered UAS_T sequences. The results presented to this point have shown that UAS_T was both a transcriptional activation sequence and an *in vitro* binding site for TAF. If indeed *in vitro* binding of TAF reflected a requirement for this protein in transcription, then nucleotide alterations in UAS_T that diminished transcription should be mirrored by reduced binding of TAF. Therefore, we measured the interaction of TAF with the two altered versions of UAS_T found to be impaired in transcription.

The affinity of TAF for altered UAS_T s was assessed by measuring the relative effectiveness of the two mutant sequences, here designated $UAS_T\Delta T$ and UAS_TG , as well as the wild-type sequence in competing with a labeled (wild-type) UAS_T fragment for binding to TAF. As shown in Fig. 8, neither mutant sequence was as effective a competitor as the wild-type sequence. Relative competitiveness was quantitated by densitometric scanning of the gel, the results of which are given in Table 1. As expected, a 50-fold molar excess of unlabeled wild-type UAS_T DNA was sufficient to completely prevent TAF binding to the probe. The same excess of $UAS_T\Delta T$ was only 30% as effective a competitor while a 50-fold molar excess of UAS_TG was 37% as efficient. Nearly complete competition was achieved with a 100-fold excess of $UAS_T\Delta T$, but the same excess of UAS_TG was still capable of only 55% competition. These results were actually opposite to our expectations based on transcriptional activity, since $UAS_T\Delta T$ competed better than UAS_TG *in vitro* but *in vivo* $UAS_T\Delta T$ (contained in pTCM-Z52) was less effective than UAS_TG (in pTCM-Z53) in transcriptional activation. Nonetheless, mutations in UAS_T that diminished transcription were associated with reduced binding of TAF *in vitro*, strengthening the conclusion that TAF is required for transcription of *TCM1*.

Comparison of TAF with protein binding to UAS_{rpg} . Transcription of most yeast *rp* genes is probably mediated by TUF, a protein which binds to conserved *rp* promoter sequences referred to collectively as UAS_{rpg} (25, 36, 40, 46, 50, 51). Comparison of the sequences of UAS_T and UAS_{rpg} showed no obvious relationship between the two protein binding sites, suggesting that TAF and TUF were different polypeptides. To determine whether the two factors were embodied in different proteins, we assayed UAS_T and UAS_{rpg} binding activities present in a yeast cell extract eluted from heparin-agarose with a linear gradient of $(NH_4)_2SO_4$.

TABLE 1. Comparison of transcriptional activation and protein binding between wild-type and altered UAS_T sequences

Plasmid	UAS_T sequence ^a (coding strand)	% Transcriptional activation ^b	% Bound ^c at molar excess:		% Inhibition ^d at molar excess:	
			50-fold	100-fold	50-fold	100-fold
pTCM-Z5	None	3				
pTCM-Z5 UAS_T	TCGTTTTGTACGTTTTTCA	100	0	0	100	100
pTCM-Z5 $UAS_T\Delta T$	aCGTTTTGTACGTTTTTCA	9	70	22	30	88
pTCM-Z5 UAS_TG	TCGTTTTGTACGTTgTTCA	28	63	45	37	55

^a The table shows the sequences of the wild-type and mutant UAS_T oligomers that were cloned into plasmid pTCM-Z5 (Fig. 1). pTCM-Z5 contained a fragment of *TCM1* joined at its 3' end to *E. coli* β -galactosidase and truncated 186 bp 5' of the transcription start site. The various UAS_T oligomers were inserted at this -186 site (UAS_T ordinarily resides between -193 and -211). $UAS_T\Delta T$ is the same as UAS_T except that the 5'-most T was omitted. The lower case "a" at the 5' end of the $UAS_T\Delta T$ sequence indicates the nucleotide that occupied that position after insertion into pTCM-Z5. The lower case "g" in the UAS_TG sequence indicates that the T normally at this position has been replaced by a G.

^b The transcriptional activities of the various plasmids were assessed from measurements of β -galactosidase activity. For convenience in comparisons, the activity of pTCM-Z5 containing UAS_T was set to 100%; actually, relative to an intact *TCM1* promoter, pTCM-Z5 UAS_T had ~40% normal activity (Fig. 7).

^c Amount of ^{32}P -labeled wild-type UAS_T sequence that bound to protein in the presence of a 50- or 100-fold molar excess of unlabeled DNA fragments containing, respectively, UAS_T , $UAS_T\Delta T$, or UAS_TG . The % bound was determined from densitometric quantitation of the autoradiographic intensities of the bound and unbound bands in Fig. 8, lanes 7 and 8, 13 and 14, and 19 and 20.

^d Relative effectiveness of each UAS_T sequence in preventing protein from binding to the ^{32}P -labeled wild-type UAS_T sequence, i.e., 100% minus the percent that bound.

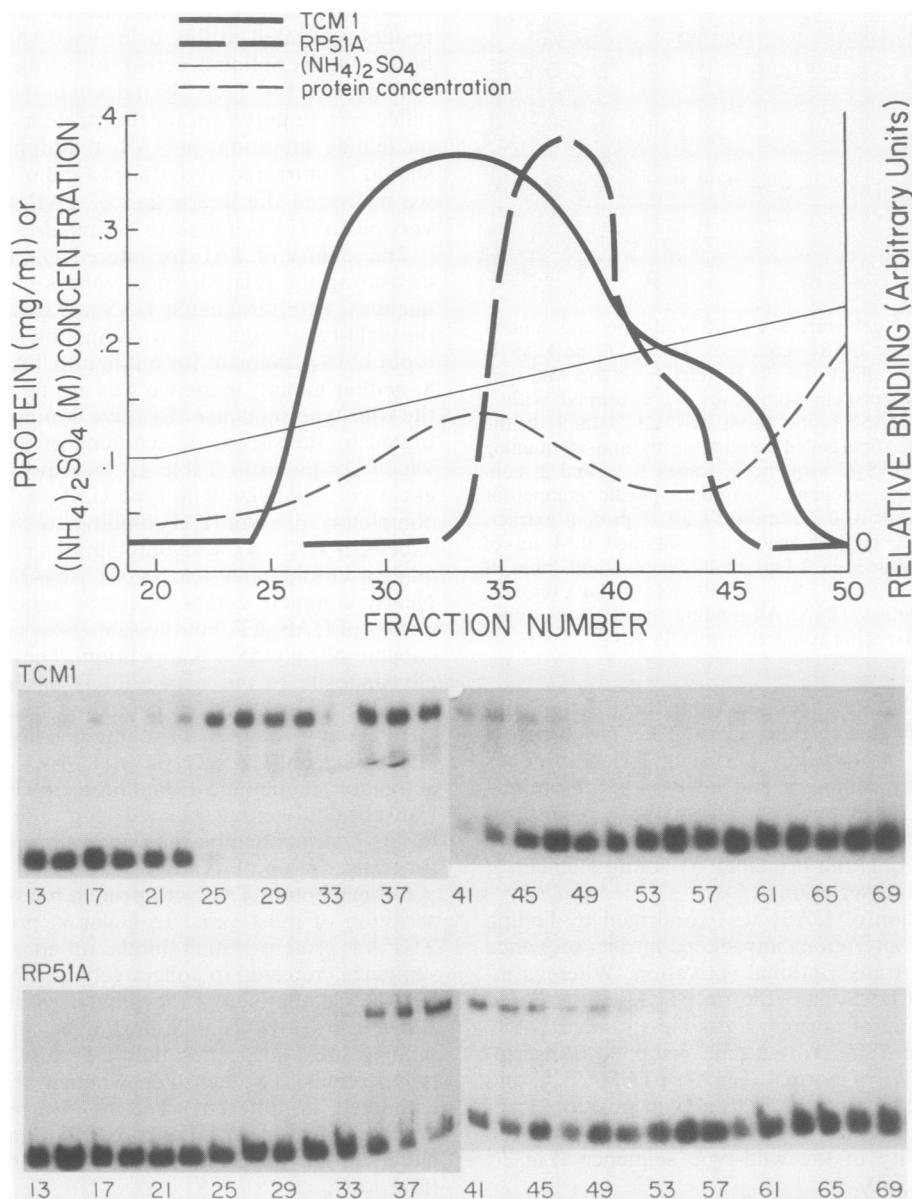


FIG. 9. Column profiles for TAF (*TCM1*) and TUF (*RP51A*) binding activities. Heparin-agarose column fractions eluted with a gradient of $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$ (see Materials and Methods) were assayed for proteins binding to rp genes. Every other fraction was screened by gel shift assay using as probes either a *TCM1* fragment extending from -236 to $+43$ (4 fmol) or an *RP51A* fragment from -416 to -24 (2 fmol), in the presence of 280 fmol of pUC19 DNA and 0.18 to 1.2 μg of protein extract. Panel A is a graphical representation of the elution of *TCM1* and *RP51A* binding activities, taken from the gel shift results shown in panel B.

UAS_T binding activity was assayed with the promoter fragment from pUC-Z3 (extending from -236 to $+43$), while UAS_{rpg} binding activity was assayed with a fragment of rp gene *RP51A*; the particular segment of *RP51A* (from -416 to -24) was the same as that used originally to detect the TUF factor (14, 46). In Fig. 9, it can be seen that UAS_T binding activity (TAF) eluted as a slightly stepped peak from 0.115 to 0.2 M $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$ with the maximal peak binding activity centered at 0.14 M. Maximal *RP51A* binding activity (TUF) eluted at 0.16 M $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$ with the peak eluting from 0.145 to 0.215 M, in agreement with the previous published value of peak elution around 0.2 M $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$ (14). This small but reproducible difference between the elution profiles of TAF and TUF suggested that there were indeed two distinct

binding activities present in the extract, a conclusion reinforced by the finding that some protein fractions exhibited significant *TCM1* binding activity but no *RP51A* binding activity. Further, in all of these experiments the binding reactions were carried out under conditions (no MgCl_2) that have been shown to greatly stabilize TUF- UAS_{rpg} complexes (46), so that even weak TUF binding to *TCM1* should have been discernable.

To verify that TAF and TUF binding activities were indeed different, we assayed the binding of a *TCM1* promoter fragment in the presence of a large molar excess of *RP51A* DNA. Figure 10 shows the results of such an experiment. In the presence of a fivefold molar excess of unlabeled *TCM1* competitor DNA (lane 4, Fig. 10), a slight

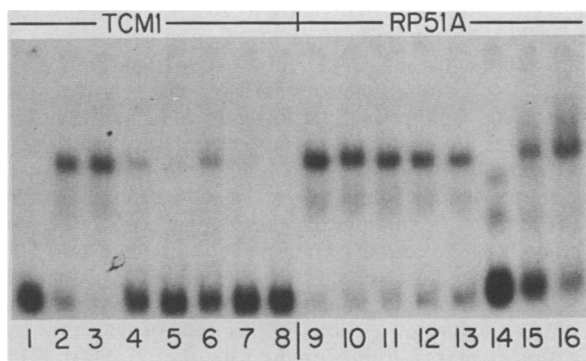


FIG. 10. Competition between *TCM1* and *RP51A* promoter fragments for protein factors. A ^{32}P -labeled *TCM1* promoter fragment (5 fmol) was incubated with protein extract in the presence of an excess of either unlabeled *TCM1* or *RP51A* DNA. Lanes: 1, no protein; 2, 0.25 μg of protein extract (from fraction 39 shown in Fig. 9); 3, 0.5 μg of extract; 4 through 8, 0.5 μg of extract and 5-, 10-, 50-, and 100-fold molar excesses of unlabeled *TCM1* DNA, respectively; 9 through 13, 0.5 μg of extract and 5-, 10-, 10-, 50-, and 100-fold molar excesses of unlabeled *RP51A* DNA, respectively (note that in lanes 6 and 11 the competitor DNA was a restriction enzyme digest containing unlabeled promoter fragments as free linear molecules; all other competitor DNAs were supercoiled plasmids containing the appropriate promoter sequence). Lane 14 contained a ^{32}P -labeled *RP51A* promoter fragment (5 fmol), as do lanes 15 and 16, in which the fragment was incubated with 0.25 and 0.5 μg of protein extract (the two larger labeled bands in lane 14 are the result of incomplete digestion of the *RP51A* plasmid used to prepare the labeled probe). All lanes contained 560 fmol of pUC19 DNA in addition to specific competitor DNA.

reduction was noticed in the amount of labeled *TCM1* DNA-protein complex. At a 50- or 100-fold molar excess of *TCM1* competitor DNA, complex formation was abolished completely (lanes 7 and 8). However, in the presence of a 50- or 100-fold excess of *RP51A* competitor DNA (lanes 12 and 13), only a very slight diminution in *TCM1* promoter-protein complex formation was observed. The slight effect was probably due to the presence of a 50 and 100% greater amount of pUC19 carrier plasmid DNA in the 50- and 100-fold excess samples, respectively, compared to the 5-fold-excess sample; similar slight effects have been seen in other experiments in which only pUC19 plasmid DNA was used as competitor (data not shown). In conclusion, these results together with other data presented below demonstrated that TAF and TUF are distinct rp gene *trans*-acting factors.

Identification of TAF by DNA-protein cross-linking. To further distinguish TAF from the TUF factor, we endeavored to identify TAF by SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis following photochemical cross-linking to radiolabeled UAS_T DNA. Cross-linking might also reveal whether more than one protein was bound to the *TCM1* promoter in our assays.

TAF was detected by using a photochemical cross-linking method similar to that described by Chodosh et al. (6). First, we synthesized single-stranded DNA oligonucleotides corresponding to the (noncoding strand) promoter sequence of either *TCM1* (containing UAS_T) or rp gene *L25* (containing UAS_{rpg}). The oligomers were each 46 bases in size, the 3'-most 15 bases being complementary to the M13 sequencing primer (see Materials and Methods). Following annealing, the M13 primer was extended across the promoter sequences with DNA polymerase in the presence of 5-

bromo-2'-deoxy(UTP) (5BrdU) and $[\alpha\text{-}^{32}\text{P}]\text{dATP}$, thereby synthesizing the second strand. 5BrdU substitutes for thymidine and increases the efficiency of photochemical cross-linking to proteins. After synthesis, the double-stranded oligonucleotides were incubated with an extract containing both TAF and TUF binding activities. Half of the incubation mixtures was analyzed by nondenaturing gel electrophoresis to confirm protein binding to the 5BrdU-substituted DNA; 5BrdU substitution did not affect binding efficiency (data not shown). The other half of each mixture was irradiated with a UV lamp (λ_{max} , 300 nm) to cross-link bound protein to the DNA. After irradiation, the samples were treated with DNase I to remove nucleotides not cross-linked to protein and the mixture was subjected to SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis. Proteins that had been bound to the DNA were revealed by the remnant of cross-linked radioactively labeled DNA.

Figure 11A shows the nondenaturing gel in which could be seen that both 5BrdU-substituted oligonucleotides, $\text{UAS}_T\text{-UV}$ and $\text{UAS}_{\text{rpg}}\text{-UV}$, were shifted in mobility by binding to proteins, presumably TAF and TUF, respectively (lanes 2, 3, 7, and 8). Binding was specific for each oligomer. Protein binding to the labeled $\text{UAS}_T\text{-UV}$ oligomer was abolished completely by a 1,500-fold molar excess of unlabeled $\text{UAS}_T\text{-UV}$ (lane 4) while a 1,500-fold molar excess of $\text{UAS}_{\text{rpg}}\text{-UV}$ had no effect on binding to labeled $\text{UAS}_T\text{-UV}$ (lane 5). The analogous situation held for the labeled $\text{UAS}_{\text{rpg}}\text{-UV}$ probe; an excess of unlabeled $\text{UAS}_{\text{rpg}}\text{-UV}$ DNA abolished protein binding to labeled $\text{UAS}_{\text{rpg}}\text{-UV}$ (lane 10), while the presence of excess $\text{UAS}_T\text{-UV}$ had no effect (lane 9). The two protein-DNA complexes also differed slightly in electrophoretic mobility; the complex containing $\text{UAS}_T\text{-UV}$ had a greater mobility than the complex containing $\text{UAS}_{\text{rpg}}\text{-UV}$ (see arrows in Fig. 11A). Since the DNA components of both complexes were exactly the same size, this difference in mobility suggested the presence of different proteins in the two complexes.

Figure 11B shows an autoradiogram of the SDS-polyacrylamide gel in which, following photochemical cross-linking and DNase digestion, the same samples as those in Fig. 11A were subjected to electrophoresis. Lane 3, which contained ^{32}P -labeled $\text{UAS}_T\text{-UV}$ and unlabeled pUC19 plasmid DNA as nonspecific competitor, revealed two labeled proteins with relative molecular masses of 82 and 147 kDa. The presence of these two proteins was dependent upon prior UV irradiation (see lane 2, no UV). Both polypeptides were absent when unlabeled $\text{UAS}_T\text{-UV}$ was used as competitor (lane 4) but unlabeled $\text{UAS}_{\text{rpg}}\text{-UV}$ competitor (lane 5) had no effect on their appearance (there was actually a slight and reproducible diminution in the 82-kDa species; see Discussion). Similarly lane 8, which contained ^{32}P -labeled $\text{UAS}_{\text{rpg}}\text{-UV}$ and pUC19, revealed proteins with relative molecular masses of 82, 102, and 126 kDa. Appearance of all three of these proteins was prevented by excess unlabeled $\text{UAS}_{\text{rpg}}\text{-UV}$ (lane 10) but not by excess $\text{UAS}_T\text{-UV}$ (lane 9) DNA.

The TUF factor that binds to UAS_{rpg} has been reported to migrate in SDS-polyacrylamide gels with a mobility corresponding to a molecular mass of 120 to 150 kDa (15, 41). It was not possible to conclude definitively which (if any) of the three polypeptides seen in lanes 8 and 9 were TUF, although we suspect that the 126-kDa polypeptide is indeed that factor. Nonetheless, the finding of at least one polypeptide (the 147-kDa species) that bound specifically to UAS_T and that had a size different from those binding to UAS_{rpg}

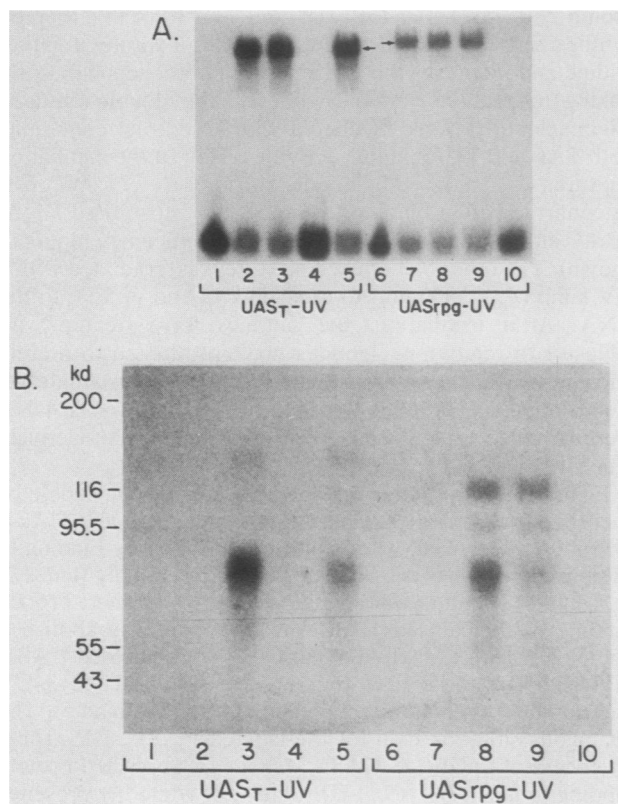


FIG. 11. Photochemical cross-linking of UAS_T and TAF. (A) Autoradiogram of a nondenaturing gel analysis of DNA-protein complexes formed with the 5BrU-substituted double-stranded oligonucleotides UAS_T-UV and UAS_{rpG}-UV, containing one copy of the *cis*-acting sequence UAS_T or UAS_{rpG}, respectively. DNA-protein complexes were formed in the presence of 5 fmol of labeled oligonucleotide, 7,700 fmol of specific competitor DNA (200 ng of appropriate oligonucleotide; see Materials and Methods) and 1,900 fmol (4 μ g) of nonspecific double-stranded pUC119 DNA. The source of DNA-binding proteins was a heparin-agarose column fraction (Fig. 9) that contained both UAS_T and UAS_{rpG} binding activity. Lanes 1 through 5 contained labeled UAS_T-UV oligonucleotide, and lanes 6 through 10 contained labeled UAS_{rpG}-UV oligonucleotide. Protein extract was absent in the samples loaded in lanes 1 and 6; lanes 2, 3, 7, and 8 contained only nonspecific pUC119 DNA; lanes 4 and 9 contained specific UAS_T-UV competitor DNA, and lanes 5 and 10 contained specific UAS_{rpG}-UV DNA. Each of the same samples analyzed in the gel shown in this panel was irradiated with 300-nm UV light to cross-link bound proteins. The irradiated samples were treated with DNase I to remove noncross-linked DNA, and the samples were then subjected to SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis. (B) Autoradiogram of the SDS gel shown in panel A; lanes are the same as in panel A. Note that the samples applied to lanes 2 and 7 were not treated with UV light. kd, Kilodaltons.

reinforced the conclusion that TAF and TUF were distinct transcription factors.

DISCUSSION

We have demonstrated that the sequence TCGTTTTGTA CGTTTTTCA, designated UAS_T, is an upstream transcriptional activation element of yeast *rp* gene *TCM1*, and we have provided evidence that TAF, a protein which bound to UAS_T *in vitro*, is a coparticipant in activation. Experiments are also described indicating that TAF is a factor distinct

from TUF, a protein that binds to the principal *cis*-acting element UAS_{rpG} common to most other *rp* genes.

The importance of UAS_T in *TCM1* transcription was revealed by promoter deletions showing that removal of part or all of UAS_T reduced transcription by at least one order of magnitude. Conversely, in promoter constructs from which UAS_T and adjoining nucleotides were absent, reinsertion of UAS_T alone was sufficient to restore transcription (8 to 38% of maximum). The finding that the sequence restored significant levels of expression when placed upstream of a *CYC1* gene that lacked its own UAS was added evidence that UAS_T is a transcriptional activator. Also, UAS_T functioned in either orientation, a common property of transcriptional activation elements. Interestingly, for either *TCM1* or *CYC1*, UAS_T promoted reproducibly greater expression when situated in the orientation opposite to its natural occurrence. Similarly higher activity associated with reversed orientation was found for the UAS_{rpG} element derived from *rp* gene *L25* (50). Finally, the role of UAS_T in expression of *TCM1* was confirmed by assaying the transcriptional potency of altered UAS_T oligomers. Either omission of the 5'-terminal T or substitution of the T in position 15 by a G rendered UAS_T a considerably less effective transcriptional activator.

The conclusion that TAF is involved in *TCM1* transcription was based on the finding that DNA fragments containing UAS_T formed specific DNA-protein complexes after incubation in a cell-free extract; DNA fragments lacking UAS_T did not bind specifically to any protein. Footprinting experiments revealed that TAF protected UAS_T from cleavage by either DNase I or MPE. Finally, two altered versions of UAS_T that were less effective at promoting transcription *in vivo* also were less effective in binding to TAF *in vitro*.

Although TAF bound less efficiently to transcriptionally impaired UAS_T sequences, we did not find an exact quantitative correlation between binding and transcriptional activity. Within experimental error, TAF bound equally well to either of the two mutant UAS_Ts, UAS_T Δ T and UAS_TG. At a 50-fold molar excess, each mutant sequence was about 30% as efficient as UAS_T in competing with a labeled (UAS_T) probe for binding to TAF. At 100-fold excess, competition efficiency was 55 to 88% that of UAS_T. However, *in vivo* UAS_T Δ T showed a greater diminution in transcriptional activity, supporting expression at only 10% the level of UAS_T, compared with 30% exhibited by UAS_TG. Further purification of TAF and in-depth kinetic studies of its binding to various UAS_T sequences will be necessary to clarify this discrepancy.

The TAF binding site UAS_T has several features that lead to speculation about its interaction with transcription factors. If its 5'-most nucleotide is ignored, the sequence of UAS_T can be broken down into two nearly perfect repeats: (T)CGTTTTGTACGTTTTTCA \rightarrow CGTTTTGTA and CGTTTTTCA, with the average sequence being CGTT TT^T/_G/^C/_TA. The two repeats are each 9 bp and, since there are no nucleotide residues between each repeat, both 9-base segments would lie almost on the same face of the DNA helix, assuming standard B-form DNA. This disposition suggests that two molecules of TAF might bind to UAS_T, perhaps cooperatively, one molecule to each repeated sequence. A cooperative interaction between protein monomers on UAS_T would require slight twisting of the two repeat sequences relative to one another, as they are 1 bp from being exactly on the same face of the helix. An argument against such an interaction is that T stretches such as those in UAS_T are relatively rigid (5). An argument in favor of cooperative interaction can be made from the

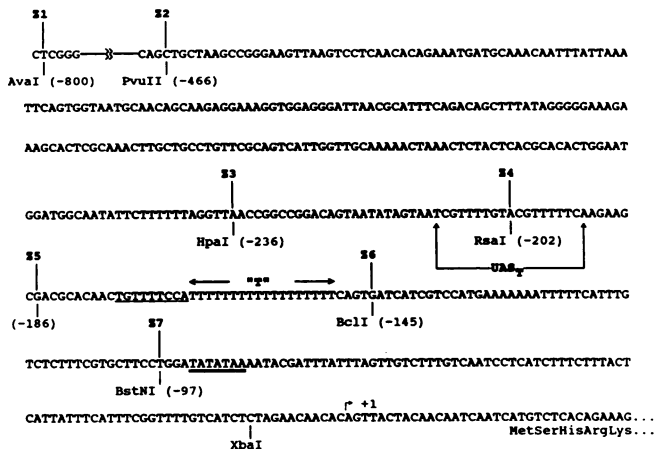


FIG. 12. DNA sequence of *TCMI* promoter region. Vertical bars designate positions of deletion endpoints described in Fig. 1. The box with arrows surrounding the *RsaI* restriction enzyme site at -202 delineates the 19-bp activation region of *TCMI*, UAS_T. The underlined sequence indicates a segment with homology to the two halves of UAS_T. "T", Prominent T-rich region; such regions are characteristic of yeast promoters, usually found between UAS elements and the TATA homology (double underlined) and necessary for maximal transcription (42). +1, Transcription start site determined by primer extension (M. Underwood and H. Fried, unpublished data).

observation that a single repeat sequence was insufficient to promote transcription; a deletion leaving only the second repeat all but obliterated transcription (pTCM-Z4 in Fig. 1; see also Fig. 12), while placement of the first repeat at -145 (Fig. 1, pTCM-Z9) likewise failed to sustain transcription. Yet, while it is interesting to speculate that UAS_T consists of two adjacent binding sites for the same protein, we can not overlook the fact that the 5' terminal residue (T) of UAS_T is also required for maximal transcription; this residue does not occur in the second repeated sequence, suggesting that UAS_T may not consist of tandemly duplicated binding sites.

Finally, we return to the original question that prompted this study. Ribosome synthesis in eucaryotes requires the coordinated accumulation of over 70 different proteins. To manage this system, it has been widely assumed that cells possess a uniform mechanism to control expression of rp genes. Indeed, transcription of many yeast rp genes involves common *cis*- and *trans*-acting elements (25). The *trans*-acting factor is a protein called TUF which binds to the *cis*-acting DNA sequence UAS_{rp}, some version of which resides 5' of at least 19 yeast rp genes. Deletion of TUF binding sites leads to near total loss of transcription.

In the original comparisons that suggested the existence of a common sequence, no readily apparent UAS_{rp} homolog was recognized adjacent to either *TCMI* or rp gene *S33* (24, 43). Lack of UAS_{rp} seemed counter to the expectation of a uniform mechanism for yeast rp gene transcription. We have confirmed the absence of a UAS_{rp} sequence in *TCMI* by finding that its principal *cis*-acting element, UAS_T, bears no resemblance to the UAS_{rp} consensus aPyCPyPutPuCaPyPy_a¹ (51). Furthermore, the lack of a recognizable UAS_{rp} homology in *TCMI* was deduced from sequence data encompassing only 236 bp upstream of *TCMI*; we have extended the sequence to -465 bp (Fig. 12) but find no obvious UAS_{rp}-like element, and in any case, deletion of all sequence upstream of -236 had no measurable effect on *TCMI* transcription. Thus, there is no indication of a

UAS_{rp}-TUF interaction in expression of *TCMI*. UAS_T may not be unique to *TCMI*; while comparison of UAS_T to sequences in nucleic acid databases failed to detect any 5' gene sequences with fewer than 3 mismatches, Southern blot hybridization between a radiolabeled UAS_T oligomer and yeast genomic DNA revealed 5 to 10 restriction fragments under conditions allowing for 15% mismatch (data not shown).

Paralleling the dissimilarity between the two rp gene UASs, the UAS_T binding protein TAF was found to be distinct from TUF, the UAS_{rp} binding factor. *TCMI*-specific binding activity eluted from a heparin-agarose column ahead of UAS_{rp} binding activity. Furthermore, neither DNA sequence competed with the other for binding to protein in such column fractions. Finally, photochemical cross-linking experiments revealed *TCMI* binding proteins with mobilities corresponding to 147 and 82 kDa. When the same technique was applied to a UAS_{rp} DNA-protein complex, proteins of 126, 102, and 82 kDa were observed. The occurrence of at least one different protein in the UAS_T DNA-protein complex than in the UAS_{rp} complex strongly suggested that TAF and TUF are different factors. As discussed below, we ascribe the designation TAF to the 147-kDa protein.

It could be argued that TAF and TUF are in fact identical and that the 82-, 102-, and 126-kDa polypeptides that bound to UAS_{rp} were simply remaining proteolytic fragments of the same 147-kDa protein that bound to UAS_T, especially since an 82-kDa protein was also found associated with UAS_T. This possibility was unlikely because the same sample of protein extract was used to form DNA-protein complexes with both UAS_T and UAS_{rp} probes; therefore, an identical spectrum of polypeptides should have been revealed with either probe, were TAF and TUF the same factor. Furthermore, the 126-kDa polypeptide had very nearly the same gel mobility as a known value for TUF (41), supporting the conclusion that TAF and TUF are different factors. Finally, results from the gel shift assay suggest that different constellations of proteins were bound to UAS_T and UAS_{rp}. The UAS_{rp} DNA-protein complex migrated slightly slower than the UAS_T DNA-protein complex in nondenaturing gels, even though the DNA components of each complex were identical in size. Reduced mobility could be explained by the fact that the minimum combined molecular mass of the polypeptides detected by cross-linking to UAS_{rp} was 310 kDa, while that for UAS_T was 229 kDa.

The TUF factor has been reported to have a mobility corresponding to 120 to 150 kDa in denaturing polyacrylamide gels (15, 41), although on the basis of sequence of the gene believed to encode TUF, the protein has an actual molecular mass of 92.5 kDa (41). We suspect that the 126-kDa protein detected in our cross-linking experiments is the TUF factor, although this hypothesis will require direct verification. Since there is yet no report of additional proteins that bind to the UAS_{rp} sequence, we were surprised to find two other polypeptides cross-linked to UAS_{rp}, a 102-kDa and an 82-kDa species. Although one or both of the other two proteins could have been proteolytic products derived from the 126-kDa polypeptide, we believe that at least the 82-kDa species is a heretofore unidentified transcription factor, since an 82-kDa polypeptide also cross-linked to UAS_T. The 82-kDa proteins were probably one and the same because when UAS_{rp} was included as a competitor, we consistently observed a slight diminution in the abundance of the 82-kDa species cross-linked to UAS_T but the competitor did not affect the amount of the 147-kDa

species bound; likewise, excess UAS_T slightly diminished binding of the 82-kDa species to UAS_{TPG} without affecting binding of the other protein(s) (Fig. 11B, lanes 5 and 10). Thus, both DNA sequences competed for the same protein. We would point out, however, that competition was far less than complete despite the presence of a 1,500-fold molar excess of competitor, suggesting that the 82-kDa protein was substantially more abundant in our extracts compared with the amount of input DNA probe.

This latter point suggests that binding of the 82-kDa protein to UAS_T and UAS_{TPG} requires prior (or simultaneous) binding of TAF or TUF. If the 82-kDa species could have bound independently of the other two factors, then for example, the presence of a 1,500-fold excess of unlabeled UAS_T should not have prevented the 82-kDa protein from cross-linking to the labeled UAS_T DNA, since the 82-kDa protein was in excess over the DNA. The fact that the 82-kDa protein totally failed to cross-link to labeled UAS_T in the presence of excess unlabeled UAS_T suggested that the excess competitor prevented TAF from binding, which, in turn, eliminated binding of the 82-kDa protein. The 82-kDa protein must also have been in contact with DNA to be cross-linked. However, this binding is difficult to reconcile with the fact that highly purified TUF factor produced the same UAS_{TPG} DNA footprint as that seen with a crude extract (15), suggesting that no other protein but TUF contacted the UAS_{TPG} sequence *in vitro*. The sequence dissimilarity between UAS_T and UAS_{TPG} also highlights the question of how the same protein might bind to the two elements.

In summary, we propose that transcription of yeast *rp* gene *TCM1* is based on a set of transcription components different in part from that common to most other *rp* genes. Curious as this situation may seem, there is no a priori reason that all such genes should rely on the same mechanism of expression. As has been demonstrated, the critical determinant appears to be the quantity of *rp* mRNAs (1, 31, 35). An equivalent amount of mRNA for each protein seems to ensure an equivalent rate of synthesis of each polypeptide, a desirable outcome given the equimolar presence of each protein in the ribosome. Thus, it need not matter which *cis*- and *trans*-acting elements constitute a particular *rp* gene transcription apparatus, providing each apparatus is similarly efficient.

Disparity between the activation elements of *TCM1* and the bulk of other yeast *rp* genes is perhaps disquieting when considering regulation of *rp* gene transcription. For example, the rate of synthesis of *rp* is stimulated by a factor of 3 to 5 accompanying a shift from a poor carbon source to glucose (17). The increase is due to elevated *rp* gene transcription (7) and, at least for *rp* gene *L25*, the effect was shown to be mediated by a UAS_{TPG} element (13). Unfortunately, data describing the effect of carbon source shift on either synthesis of *L3* (the product of *TCM1*) or transcription of *TCM1* are not available (7, 17). Nonetheless, it seems reasonable to assume that *TCM1* gene expression responds in a similar fashion and it remains to be seen whether UAS_T does for *TCM1* what UAS_{TPG} does for its other ribosomal gene colleagues. If so, are the corresponding protein factors TUF and TAF independently responsive to environmental conditions, or might each factor be subservient to others that control interaction of TUF and TAF with their respective promoters during environmental alterations? As mentioned above, the 82-kDa polypeptide we found cross-linked to both UAS_T and UAS_{TPG} may be a candidate for a factor that coordinately regulates *rp* gene transcription.

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