

Supporting Information

Cho and Harrison 10.1073/pnas.1106389108

SI Methods.

Cloning, Expression, and Purification of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* (*Sc*) Scm3, Cse4, and H4. Clones of *Sc* Cse4, H4, and Scm3 were obtained by PCR amplification from a *S. cerevisiae* genomic library and subcloned into pET vectors modified for ligation-independent cloning (LIC). Scm3 was cloned into an LIC vector encoding an N-terminal His₆ tag and a tobacco etch virus (TEV) cleavage site. Cse4 and H4 were expressed without affinity tags. Constructs were transformed into Rosetta (DE3) pLysS *Escherichia coli* competent cells (Novagen) and used for protein expression. For *Sc* Cse4 and H4 purification, cells were grown at 37°C in LB medium and induced at OD = 0.6 with 0.2 mM isopropyl β-D-1-thiogalactopyranoside. Harvested cells were resuspended in 30 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.0, 500 mM NaCl, and 3 mM β-mercaptoethanol with protease inhibitor cocktail tablets. Cells were sonicated and insoluble pellets were harvested from centrifugation at 20,000 × g for 1 h. Pellets were then resuspended in inclusion-body washing buffer (30 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.0, 500 mM NaCl, 1% triton X-100, and 3 mM β-mercaptoethanol), incu-

bated at 4°C for 1 h shaking, and centrifuged at 20,000 × g for 30 min. This washing procedure was repeated three times. Isolated inclusion bodies of *Sc* Cse4 and H4 were solubilized in 30 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.0, 7 M guanidinium hydrochloride (GuHCl), 10 mM DTT, and insoluble debris was removed by centrifugation at 20,000 × g for 30 min. Refolding of 7 M GuHCl solubilized *Sc* Cse4 and H4 proceeded by two-step dialysis in the presence or absence of *Sc* Scm3. Step 1 was dialysis against 30 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.0, 2 M NaCl, 10 mM DTT; step 2 was dialysis against 30 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.0, 0.5 M NaCl, 1 mM DTT. *Sc* Scm3 was expressed and purified as described for *Kluyveromyces lactis* Scm3 (see *Methods*). Misfolded proteins were removed by centrifugation at 20,000 × g for 30 min. Soluble fractions were then concentrated and applied to a Superdex 200 size exclusion column (Prep grade 16/60; GE healthcare) pre-equilibrated with 30 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.0, 500 mM NaCl, 1 mM TCEP [tris(2-carboxyethyl)phosphine].

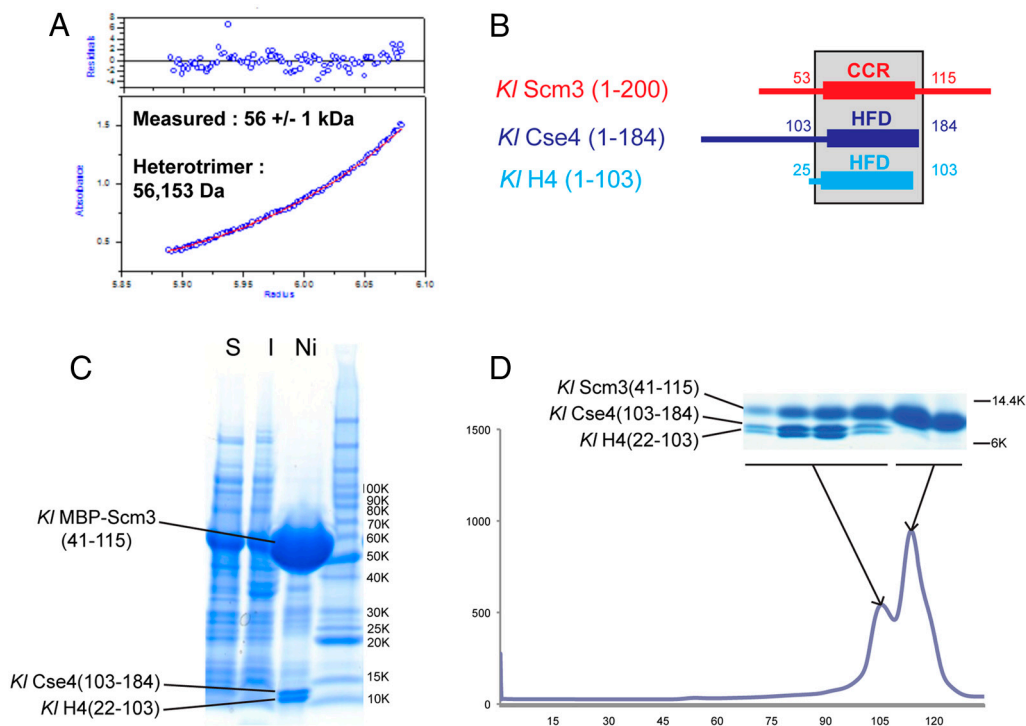


Fig. S1. Properties of *K. lactis* (*Kl*) Scm3:Cse4:H4 and its minimum stable complex. (A) Sedimentation equilibrium analytical ultracentrifugation of *Kl* Scm3:Cse4:H4 complex; the measured molecular mass corresponds to a heterotrimer. (B) Minimum required fragments of *Kl* Scm3, Cse4, and H4 for stable complex formation. Purified Scm3:Cse4:H4 complex was treated with either trypsin or subtilisin; protease-resistant fragments (gray box) were determined by mass spectrometry. CCR, central conserved region of Scm3; HFD, histone-fold domain. (C) Expression of the minimum stable complex of *Kl* Scm3(41–115):Cse4(103–184):H4(22–103). Scm3 (41–115) is sufficient for proper folding of Cse4 HFD and H4 HFD. S, soluble fraction; I, insoluble fraction; Ni, Ni-NTA eluate. (D) Purification of *Kl* Scm3(41–115):Cse4(103–184):H4(22–103) by size exclusion chromatography. SDS-PAGE gel shows that the three proteins coelute as a stable complex.

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KLa_Scm3p/41-115  RDG-----VYVIMSKENRLLPKLSDEEEMERKRDENMQRVWSQIQKYESIDNCGVDIDLQGTGEVIEDNGHRLNLSNE
SCe_Scm3p/64-144  SRPIAERNGHVYIMSKENHIIPKLTDDEEMERKRLADENMKRVSNIIISKYESIEEGDVLVDLKTGEIVEDNGHIKTLTAN
CGI_Scm3p/62-142  YKEVKKKNGRAYIYIMSKENQLPKLTDDEEMERKRLADQRMQRVWSNIIIDKYESINVDGVDIDLQSGEIIITDNGHIRNLNTG
AGo_Scm3p/34-108  PAG-----VYVIMSRRENEPPLRLSDAEEMERRRADENMQAVTRTEKFEALDDGVDVLDLRTGEIIVEDNGHIRLADG
SKu_Scm3p/65-145  VRPVAERNGHVYIMSKENQVLPKLTDEEMERKRDENMQRVWSNIIISKYESIEDGDLVDLKTGEIIVEDNGHIRKLTVN
SKl_Scm3p/66-146  NDPVTQHGDVTFIMSKENQLPKLTDEEMERKRDENMQRVWSQIQKVENVEDGDLIDLRTGEIIVEDNGHIRLGSAT
Kwa_Scm3p/67-147  EQGTQEHNDVVYIMSKESQLPKLTDEEMDRKRDENMQRVWSQIQKFEALDDGVDLIDLNTGEIVEDNGHVRLSER

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KLa_Cse4p/103-184  STDLLISRMPPFARLVKEVTDQFTTESEPLRWQSMAIMALQEAASEAYLVGLLEHTNLLALHAKRRTIMRKMQLARRIRGQFI
SCe_Cse4p/148-229  STDLLISKIPFARLVKEVTDFTTKDQDLRWQSMAIMALQEAASEAYLVGLLEHTNLLALHAKRRTIMKKMQLARRIRGQFI
SKu_Cse4p/148-229  STDLLISKIPFARLVKEVTDFTTKDQDLRWQSMAIMALQEAASEAYLVGLLEHTNLLALHAKRRTIMKKMQLARRIRGQFI
Kwa_Cse4p/102-183  STDLLISKMPFARLVKEVTDQFTTEEQQLRWQSMAIMALQEAASEAYLVGLLEHTNLLALHAKRRTIMRKMQLARRIRGQFI
SKl_Cse4p/59-140  STELLISRMPPFARLVKEVTDQFTTDEQQLRWQSMAILALQEAASEAYLVGLLEHTNLLALHAKRRTIMKKMQLARRIRGQFI
AGo_Cse4p/123-204  STELLISRMPPFARLVKEVTDQFTTVDQMRWQSMAILALQEAASEAYLVGLLEHTNLLALHAKRRTVMRKMQLARRIRGQFI
CGI_Cse4p/159-240  STALLIQKIPFAKLVKEVTEEFAGESQDLRWQSMAILALQEAASEAYLVGLLEHTNLLALHAKRRTIMKKMQLARRIRGQFI

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KLa_H4/22-103     ILRDNIQGITKPAIRRLARRGGVKRISGLIYEEVRVLKTFLESVIRDAVYTEHAKRKTVTLSDVYALRRQGRTYLGFGG
SCe_H4/22-103     ILRDNIQGITKPAIRRLARRGGVKRISGLIYEEVRVLKSFLESVIRDSVYTEHAKRKTVTLSDVYALRRQGRTYLGFGG
CGI_H4/22-103     ILRDNIQGITKPAIRRLARRGGVKRISGLIYEEVRVLKSFLESVIRDAVYTEHAKRKTVTLSDVYALRRQGRTYLGFGG
AGo_H4/22-103     ILRDNIQGITKPAIRRLARRGGVKRISGLIYEDVRVLKSFLESVIRDAVYTEHAKRKTVTLSDVYALRRQGRTYLGFGG
SKu_H4/22-103     ILRDNIQGITKPAIRRLARRGGVKRISGLIYEEVRVLKSFLESVIRDSVYTEHAKRKTVTLSDVYALRRQGRTYLGFGG
SKl_H4/22-103     ILRDNIQGITKPAIRRLARRGGVKRISGLIYEEVTVLTKTFLESVIRDAVYTEHAKRKTVTLSDVYALRRQGRTYLGFGG
Kwa_H4/22-103     ILRDNIQGITKPAIRRLARRGGVKRISGLIYEEVRVLKSFLESVIRDAVYTEHAKRKTVTLSDVYALRRQGRTYLGFGG

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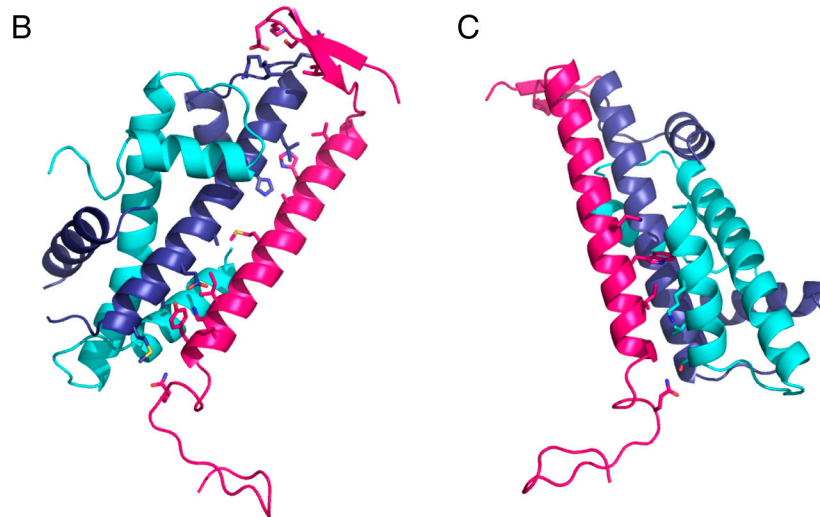


Fig. S3. Interface of Scm3:Cse4 and Scm3:H4 in the heterotrimer. (A) Multiple sequence alignments of Scm3 (central conserved region), Cse4 and H4 (HFDs) from point-centromere yeasts. Blue boxes represent residues at the interface of Scm3 and Cse4; red boxes, residues at the interface of Scm3 and H4. *KLa*, *K. lactis*; *SCe*, *S. cerevisiae*; *CGI*, *Candida glabrata*; *AGo*, *Ashbya gossypii*; *SKu*, *Saccharomyces kudriavzevii*; *SKl*, *Saccharomyces kluyveri*; *KWa*, *Kluyveromyces waltii*. (B) Interface of Scm3 and Cse4. Interacting residues are shown as stick models. (C) Interface of Scm3 and H4, in a similar representation.

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K.lactis_Cse4/103-184  STDLLISRMPPFARLVKEVTDQFTT---ESEPLRWQSMAIMALQEAASEAYLVGLLEHTNLLALHAKRRTIMRKMQLARRIRGQFI---
S.cerevisiae_Cse4/148-229  STDLLISKIPFARLVKEVTDFTTKDQDLRWQSMAIMALQEAASEAYLVGLLEHTNLLALHAKRRTIMKKMQLARRIRGQFI---
Human_CENPA/57-140  STHLLLRKLPFSRLAREICVKFTR---GVDFNWQAQALLAQEAEEAFVLVHLFEDAYLLSLHAGRVTLFPPKDVQLARRIRGLEEGLG
Mouse_CENPA/51-134  STDLLFRKKPFMSMVREICEKFSR---GVDFNWQAQALLAQEAEEAFVLVHLFEDAYLLSLHAGRVTLFPPKDVQLARRIRGLEEGLG
Bovine_CENPA/55-138  TTHLLLRKSPFCRLAREICVQFTR---GVDFNWQAQALLAQEAEEAFVLVHLFEDAYLLSLHAGRVTLFPPKDVQLARRIRGIEEGLG
S.pombe_Cnp1/38-120  STDLLIQRLPFSRIVREISEEVANFSTVDGLRWQSTALQCLQEAEEAFVLVHLFEDTNCALHAKRVTIMQRDMQLARRIRGA-----

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B

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K.lactis_Scm3/41-115  -RDGVVYIMSKENRLLPKLSDEEEMERHKKADENMKRVWSQIQKY-ESIDNCGVDIDLQGTGEVIEDNGHRLNLSNE
S.cerevisiae_Scm3/69-144  ERNGHVYIMSKENHIIPKLTDDEEMERHKLADENMKRVWSNIIISKY-ESIEEQGDLVDLKTGEIVEDNGHIKTLTAN
Human_HJURP/1-69  -MLGTLRAMEGED----VEDDQLLQKLRASRRRFQRRMQRLIEKY-NQPFEDTPVVMATLTYETPQG-LRIWGG
Mouse_HJURP/1-62  -----MESMG-----RQDRRLHQKLKESRRFQTLMKRLIAKY-NQPFEDDPVLEMRTLTYETPQG-LRWGGK
Bovine_HJURP/1-62  -----MEGEV-----LSEDELLMKLRDSRCRFQRRMQRLIEKY-NQPFEDGPVIQMSLTYETPQG-LRIWGGG
S.pombe_Scm3/16-91  -SCPHLLSFQSVFENTNPTACDDVFCRRIESEKKNYDFLESIFKYG-GRDTSIDAEVDLAGEIIVNNGHLEALKTK

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Fig. S4. Multiple sequence alignments of centromeric histone H3s and its chaperone proteins. (A) Multiple sequence alignment of the HFDs of Cse4 and its orthologs from other eukaryotes, including human CENP-A. (B) Multiple sequence alignment of the central conserved region of Scm3 and the N-terminal regions of CenH3 chaperones from other eukaryotes, including human HJURP. The Lys-Tyr pair, conserved among CenH3 chaperones from yeast to man, is marked in the red box.

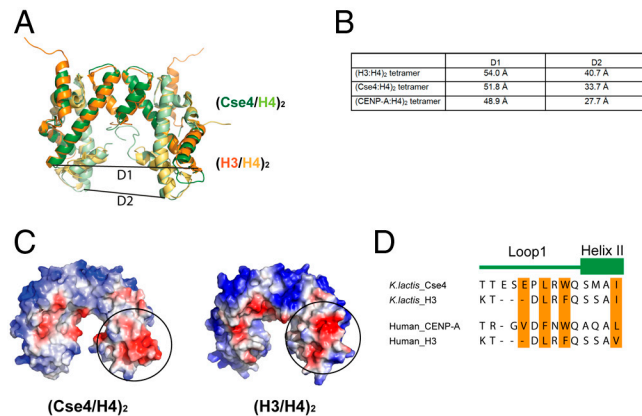


Fig. S7. Comparison of (Cse4 : H4)₂ tetramer with (H3/H4)₂ tetramer. (A) Comparison of (Cse4 : H4)₂ and (H3 : H4)₂ (PDB ID code 1ID3). Two sets of distances (D1 and D2) were measured to compare the compactness of each tetramer. (B) Measured distances, D1 and D2, from (H3 : H4)₂, (Cse4 : H4)₂, and (CENP-A/H4)₂ tetramer. (C) Comparison of surface charge distribution in the CENP-A targeting domain (CATD) of (Cse4 : H4)₂ and (H3 : H4)₂. In contrast with (CENP-A/H4)₂, the surface charge distributions in (Cse4 : H4)₂ and (H3 : H4)₂ at CATD are similarly negative. (D) Sequence alignment of loop1 from CENP-A vs. H3 and from Cse4 vs. H3. Residues proposed to increase hydrophobicity in loop1 of CENP-A are marked by orange boxes. Cse4 counterparts of those hydrophobic residues are not more hydrophobic than their counterparts in H3.

Table S1. Data collection and refinement statistics for the Scm3:Cse4:H4 and (Cse4 : H4)₂ complexes

Data collection	Scm3:Cse4:H4 complex	(Cse4 : H4) ₂ complex
Resolution (last shell), Å	50–2.3 (2.38–2.30)	50–2.6 (2.69–2.60)
Wavelength, Å	0.9795	0.9795
Space group	<i>P</i> 2 ₁ ,2 ₁	<i>R</i> 3
Unit cell dimensions (<i>a</i> , <i>b</i> , <i>c</i>), Å	32.72, 65.53, 121.10	169.48, 169.48, 81.22
Unit cell Angles (α , β , γ), °	90, 90, 90	90, 90, 120
<i>I</i> / σ (last shell)	17.0 (1.5)	15.0 (1.3)
<i>R</i> _{sym} (last shell), %*	0.085 (0.637)	0.115 (0.814)
Completeness (last shell), %	94.7 (55.3)	99.9 (98.8)
Number of reflections	47,110	100,769
<i>unique</i>	11,636	26,486
Redundancy	4.1	3.8
Refinement		
Resolution, Å	50–2.3	50–2.6
No. of reflections	11,073	25,302
<i>working</i>	10,518	23,960
<i>free</i>	555	1,342
<i>R</i> _{work} , % [†]	22.0	21.8
<i>R</i> _{free} , % [†]	25.7	27.6
Ramachandran plot, % (favored/additional/disallowed)	99.5/0.5/0	98.3/1.7/0
Structure/stereochemistry		
No. of atoms		
<i>protein</i>	1,636	4,808
<i>iodide</i>	2	
H ₂ O	58	14
rmsd bond lengths, Å	0.014	0.011
rmsd bond angles, °	1.423	1.403

* $R_{sym} = \frac{\sum_j |I_j - \langle I \rangle|}{\sum_j I_j}$, where I_j is the measured intensity of reflection j , and $\langle I \rangle$ is the mean intensity for multiply recorded reflections.

[†] $R_{work,free} = \frac{\sum ||F_{obs}| - |F_{calc}||}{|F_{obs}|}$, where the working and free *R* factors are calculated using the working and free reflection sets, respectively.