

1 **A functionally divergent intrinsically disordered region underlying the conservation of**  
2 **stochastic signaling**

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8 **Abstract**

9 Stochastic signaling dynamics expand living cells' information processing capabilities. An  
10 increasing number of studies report that regulators encode information in their pulsatile  
11 dynamics. The evolutionary mechanisms that lead to complex signaling dynamics remain  
12 uncharacterized, perhaps because key interactions of signaling proteins are encoded in  
13 intrinsically disordered regions (IDRs), whose evolution is difficult to analyze. Here we focused  
14 on the stochastic pulsing dynamics of Crz1, a transcription factor in fungi downstream of the  
15 widely conserved calcium signaling pathway. We find that Crz1 IDRs from anciently diverged  
16 fungi can all respond transiently to calcium stress; however, only Crz1 IDRs from the  
17 *Saccharomyces* clade support pulsatility, encode extra information, and rescue fitness, while the  
18 Crz1 IDRs from distantly related fungi do none of the three. On the other hand, we find that Crz1  
19 pulsing is conserved in the distantly related fungi, consistent with the evolutionary model of  
20 stabilizing selection. Further, we show that a calcineurin docking site in a specific part of the  
21 IDRs appears to be sufficient for pulsing and show evidence for a beneficial increase in the

22 relative calcineurin affinity of this docking site. We propose that evolutionary flexibility of  
23 functionally divergent IDRs underlies the conservation of stochastic signaling by stabilizing  
24 selection.

25 **Introduction**

26 One of the most remarkable features of living cells is their ability to transmit and process  
27 information about their surroundings. It is now appreciated that the dynamics of molecules  
28 connected in regulatory networks and signaling pathways underlie many of these capabilities (1–  
29 3). But how do peptide sequences underlying this ability evolve? Relative to enzymatic functions  
30 whose evolution has been studied for decades (4–7), research on the evolution of cellular  
31 information transmission and signal processing systems is only beginning to emerge (8). Most  
32 research on signaling evolution has been focused on the specificity of kinases, receptors, and  
33 transcription factors (8), and, to our knowledge, a comparison across species of p53 (9) and  
34 Msn2/4 dynamics (Dr. Yihan Lin, personal communication) are the two lone evolutionary  
35 studies of stochastic signaling dynamics. Although evolutionary rewiring of DNA-protein  
36 interactions in cis-regulatory networks has been described (10), the evolution of the molecular  
37 mechanisms that lead to post-translationally controlled signaling dynamics is much less  
38 characterized (11–14). Part of the difficulty in obtaining a mechanistic understanding of  
39 signaling evolution is that post-translational regulation and transient signaling interactions are  
40 often encoded within rapidly evolving IDRs (15–17), which are largely refractory to ancestral  
41 protein reconstruction approaches (8,18).

42 Here we consider the evolution of the pulsatile dynamics of Crz1, a transcription factor in  
43 budding yeast that responds to rapid fluctuations of cytosolic calcium concentration (which we  
44 refer to as calcium bursts (19)). Pulsatile dynamics are steady state stochastic fluctuations that

45 encode information via frequency modulation of kinase activity (e.g., ERK (20)), protein  
46 abundance (e.g., p53(21)), and cytoplasm-to-nuclear-translocalization (e.g., Msn2/4 (22),  
47 NFATC1(23,24)). Crz1 has been found to control gene expression through the frequency  
48 modulation of post-translationally controlled nuclear-localization pulses (25). To our knowledge,  
49 in no case has the fitness benefit of pulsatile dynamics been established, nor has a mechanism for  
50 their evolution been proposed, save for one pioneering study of Msn2/4 pulsing (Dr. Yihan Lin,  
51 personal communication).

52 Crz1 is widely conserved in fungi (26,27), but, although the subcellular localization of  
53 Crz1 orthologues has been studied in the distantly related fungi *Schizosaccharomyces pombe*  
54 (28,29), *Candida albicans* (30,31), and *Cryptococcus neoformans* (32,33), no evidence for  
55 pulsing has been reported. Whether Crz1 pulsing is conserved over evolution or whether it is  
56 beneficial to the cells has, to our knowledge, not been established. Like other stochastically  
57 pulsatile transcription factors, e.g., Msn2 (34) and NFATC1 (35) (Figure 1A), Crz1 contains  
58 more than 500 amino acids that are predicted to be intrinsically disordered (Figure 1B, (36)) and  
59 contain numerous interaction and post-translational modification sites (e.g., calcineurin docking  
60 site, nuclear export signal (NES), nuclear localization signal (NLS), Figure 1B, (37–40)). As  
61 expected for an intrinsically disordered region (41), this region shows little primary sequence  
62 similarity (Figure 1C).

63 In this study, we show that two orthologous Crz1 IDRs from the *Saccharomyces* clade  
64 support pulsatility, transmit environmental information, and rescue fitness, while two  
65 orthologous IDRs from more distantly related fungi do none of the three when expressed in  
66 *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*. Furthermore, we show that Crz1 orthologues pulse in the native  
67 systems of the two more distantly related fungi, consistent with conservation of the pulsing

68 phenotype over long evolutionary time. The conservation of phenotype but lack of conservation  
69 of IDR functions indicates that, within the disordered region, evolutionary changes in some  
70 elements needed for complex signaling dynamics have compensated for evolutionary changes in  
71 others. This pattern of compensatory evolution in the context of preserved function is a hallmark  
72 of stabilizing selection (42). By comparing IDR sequences of Crz1 orthologues, we infer that one  
73 of these elements is the calcineurin docking site, PxIxIT, which increased binding strength  
74 during evolution. Remarkably, by experimentally increasing the PxIxIT strength in a distantly  
75 related IDR to the *Saccharomyces* PxIxIT strength (via three point-mutations), we can rescue  
76 pulsing and improve fitness. Our study demonstrates that stochastic pulsatility is beneficial and  
77 that a position-dependent molecular feature in the IDR plays a role in rewiring the molecular  
78 basis of the stochastic signaling pathway, even though the phenotype is preserved.

79 **Results**

80 ***Evolutionary changes in Crz1 IDRs are associated with changes in Crz1 pulsing***

81 We first sought to confirm that the IDR of Crz1 was responsible for pulsing. To do so, we  
82 designed a passive reporter system in *S. cerevisiae* that expresses an IDR tagged with GFP. We  
83 found that the *S. cerevisiae* disordered region alone showed pulsing with similar dynamics as the  
84 endogenous protein, although the expression level of the protein was lower (Supplementary  
85 Figure 1). Therefore, we fused a defective Crz1 DNA-binding domain (43) tagged with GFP to  
86 the disordered regions (denoted as Sc-reporter) and found nearly endogenous dynamics and  
87 expression levels, indicating that the disordered region is sufficient for the pulsing dynamics but  
88 that the DNA binding domain is needed for protein stability (see methods for more details).

89 Since the calcium/calcineurin signaling pathway is highly conserved (26), we predicted that  
90 functional elements within the disordered regions would be conserved over evolution if the  
91 dynamics of Crz1 are important for signaling function (25). Consistent with this, some functional  
92 elements important for the control of subcellular localization, such as the nuclear localization  
93 signal (NLS), nuclear export signal (NES), and the calcineurin docking site PxIxIT (37,38)  
94 (summarized in Figure 1B), are found in orthologous Crz1 sequences. On the other hand, overall,  
95 the IDRs of Crz1 are highly diverged (little sequence similarity is detected in sequence  
96 alignments, Figure 1C), which leads to an opposite prediction that the dynamics of Crz1  
97 orthologues would diverge as has been found for p53 (9). To quantify Crz1 dynamics in response  
98 to the upstream calcium signaling pathway, alongside the GFP-tagged Crz1 IDR reporter  
99 (denoted as “pulsing reporter”), we expressed a calcium sensor GCaMP3 (44) in a “double-  
100 reporter strain” (see methods for more details).

101 We first confirmed that, as expected based on previous reports for *S. cerevisiae*, *C.*  
102 *albicans*, and *S. pombe* (28–31), every reporter strain showed transient nuclear localization as a  
103 response to 0.2M calcium induction (Figure 2A). However, only Saccharomyces reporters (*S.*  
104 *cerevisiae* (Sc), *Zygosaccharomyces rouxii* (Zr), and *Kluyveromyces lactis* (Kl)) showed pulsing  
105 dynamics during steady state (Figure 2B). The two outgroup reporters (*C. albicans* (Ca) and *S.*  
106 *pombe* (Sp)) transiently localized to the nucleus after the calcium induction and then continued  
107 with stable nuclear localization during steady state (Figure 2B). To quantify these phenotypic  
108 differences at the single-cell level, we measured the duration and amplitude of reporter dynamics  
109 by fitting Gaussian Processes to the single-cell trajectories (45). The results suggest that,  
110 compared to the outgroup, Saccharomyces reporters have a shorter duration (represented by low  
111  $\ln(l)$ ) and higher amplitude (represented by high  $\ln(a)$ ) in their dynamics (Figure 2C). Because

112 Crz1 pulses are known to follow calcium bursts (19), we adapted the technique of pulse-  
113 triggered averaging (46) to investigate the average dynamics of pulsing reporters around calcium  
114 bursts. Consistent with the pulsatile dynamics observed in single-cell trajectories,  
115 Saccharomyces reporters quickly responded to calcium bursts on average (Figure 2D). In  
116 contrast, the average dynamics of the outgroup reporters are not affected by calcium bursts  
117 (Figure 2D).

118 Next, we estimated the amount of information encoded in the dynamics of pulsing  
119 reporters. Information-theoretic approaches provide a natural framework to estimate the  
120 information transmission capacity of cellular signaling pathways (47,48). We estimated the  
121 mutual information between the dynamics of cytosolic calcium concentration and pulsing  
122 reporters (Figure 2E grey bars). We found that the dynamics of the Saccharomyces reporters  
123 encoded more mutual information than that of the outgroup reporters (mean MI = 0.41 bits vs.  
124 0.04 bits, 2-tails t-test,  $p = 0.004$ ,  $n = 9$  and 6, respectively). By analyzing the inferred parameters  
125 that describe the steady state dynamics, we also estimated mutual information between the  
126 presence or absence of external calcium stress and the dynamics of pulsing reporters (Figure 2E  
127 white bars) and again found more mutual information in the Saccharomyces reporters (mean MI  
128 = 0.72 bits vs. 0.13 bits, 2-tails t-test,  $p < 10^{-3}$ ,  $n = 9$  and 6, respectively). Taken together, these  
129 results suggest that pulsing dynamics encode additional information about the environment and  
130 that some functional sequence properties arose in the Crz1 IDR along the lineage leading to the  
131 Saccharomyces.

132 ***Pulsing confers a fitness benefit in 0.2M calcium stress***

133 If natural selection favored the evolution and preservation of pulsing along the lineage  
134 leading to Saccharomyces, pulsing might confer a growth benefit. On the other hand, all the

135 orthologous IDRs support calcium-induced transient nuclear localization (Figure 2A and B,  
136 (28,31)) and contain consensus calcineurin docking sites (49), a serine-rich NES region (28–31),  
137 and several conserved phosphorylation sites (12) (Figure 1C). Perhaps these are sufficient for  
138 cell fitness, and pulsing is simply a non-functional elaboration of this phenotype. Therefore, we  
139 sought to directly measure cell fitness under calcium stress (see Methods). To confirm that Crz1  
140 function is needed for fitness in our assay conditions, we tested a mutant with *CRZ1* deletion as  
141 well as a mutant that conserved phosphorylation sites in the serine-rich NES region are mutated  
142 (“mSRR” (38)). As expected, we found a large fitness defect for the *CRZ1* deletion, and a small  
143 but significant fitness defect for mSRR strain, confirming that our assay has the power to detect  
144 both large and small effects on fitness (Supplementary Figure 4). The fitness defect of the mSRR  
145 strain is also consistent with the functional roles of pulsing (2) because it responds to calcium  
146 stress by moving to the nucleus but does not pulse (Supplementary Figure 4). This result  
147 indicates that the benefit of pulsing is not simply due to high levels of nuclear localization during  
148 steady states.

149 We next tested whether pulsing is beneficial to the cells by replacing the endogenous  
150 IDRs of Crz1 with orthologous sequences. Consistent with the model where pulsing is preserved  
151 because it is beneficial to the cell, we found that IDRs from the *Saccharomyces* clade, but not  
152 from the outgroups, rescued fitness in this assay (Figure 2F). The observed fitness defects are  
153 conditional on the 0.2M calcium stress (Figure 2F), consistent with the known functions of  
154 Crz1(25) and ruling out misfolding or misexpression effects. Although the IDRs of both  
155 outgroup species *C. albicans* and *S. pombe* support transient nuclear localization after calcium  
156 exposure (Figure 2A), mutants with the outgroup IDRs showed fitness defects comparable to the  
157 phosphorylation site mutants (Supplementary Figure 4), indicating that transient nuclear

158 localization is not sufficient for rescuing fitness. Together, these results suggest that pulsing  
159 transmits important extra information when cells are under calcium stress that is beneficial for  
160 cell growth.

161 ***Pulsing has been under stabilizing selection, but the underlying mechanisms have changed***

162 We next asked if Crz1 pulsing can be found in the native systems of the outgroups. Based  
163 on the results above and the lack of previous reports of pulsing in the other species (28–31), we  
164 hypothesized that pulsing evolved along the lineage leading to the *Saccharomyces* from a non-  
165 pulsing ancestor. Since we found that pulsing is beneficial to yeast cells under calcium stress,  
166 this model is consistent with an adaptive gain of a complex dynamic phenotype. Under this  
167 model, we would not expect the outgroup species to show Crz1 pulsing. On the other hand, if  
168 selection preserved the pulsing phenotype, we would expect to find pulsing in the other species.  
169 Under that model, our finding above that the outgroup IDRs do not pulse in *S. cerevisiae* implies  
170 that there must be compensatory changes that maintain pulsing in the outgroup species (42). To  
171 distinguish between these models, we obtained strains ((29) and methods) of the two outgroup  
172 fungi (*C. albicans* and *S. pombe*) that express endogenous GFP-tagged Crz1 orthologues  
173 (CaCrz1 and Prz1) and measured pulsing under 0.2M calcium stress. Remarkably, both CaCrz1  
174 (Figure 3A, B, Supplementary Movie 1) and Prz1 (Figure 3C, D, Supplementary Movie 2) pulse  
175 in *C. albicans* and *S. pombe*, respectively, ruling out our hypothesis that pulsing evolved along  
176 the lineage leading to the *Saccharomyces*.

177 Pulsing of Crz1 in *S. cerevisiae* shows frequency modulation (25), where the rate (per  
178 unit time) of pulsing increases with greater calcium stress. Therefore, we measured pulsing in the  
179 outgroup species at several calcium concentrations, and, consistent with conservation of  
180 frequency modulation, we also found a correlation between CaCrz1 and Prz1 pulse frequency

181 and the strength of calcium stress (Figure 3E). We note that this observation rules out the  
182 possibility that our observations of pulsing in these other strains are an artifact of microscopy or  
183 laser stress (50). The results are consistent with the model that Crz1 pulsatility (and frequency  
184 modulation) has been conserved by natural selection for a long evolutionary time, which is also  
185 consistent with our observation of a fitness benefit for pulsing in *S. cerevisiae*. However, the lack  
186 of pulsing of outgroup IDRs (and failure to rescue fitness under calcium stress) when expressed  
187 in *S. cerevisiae* implies that protein-protein interactions between the IDRs and the calcium  
188 signaling pathway has been rewired in some way.

189 ***PxIxIT strength in a specific part of the Crz1 IDR increased in the Saccharomycetaceae clade***

190 Because only the IDRs of the Saccharomyces clade support pulsing, we asked which  
191 parts of the IDRs are responsible for pulsing. Previous research showed that increasing the  
192 affinity of one of the calcineurin docking sites, PxIxIT, leads to a higher pulsing frequency (25).  
193 Therefore, we hypothesized that the PxIxIT strength of the Saccharomyces clade is higher than  
194 its sister clade that includes *C. albicans* and that this increased strength is needed for pulsing. To  
195 test this, we calculated the PxIxIT strength of Crz1 IDRs from 40 fungi of the Saccharomyces  
196 clade and the sister clade by using a Position Specific Scoring Matrix (PSSM (51,52), see  
197 methods) to predict PxIxIT strength (Supplementary Figure 5A,  $R^2 = 0.74$  between the measured  
198 affinity ( $K_d$ ) and the predicted PxIxIT strength of experimentally confirmed PxIxITs (52)).  
199 Consistent with the conservation of calcineurin regulation of Crz1, most fungi contain at least  
200 one strong PxIxIT site somewhere in their IDRs (Maximum PxIxIT strength  $>7$ , Figure 4),  
201 indicating the PxIxIT strength alone cannot explain the difference in pulsing between  
202 Saccharomyces IDRs and the outgroups.

203        Previous studies showed a connection between the position of calcineurin docking site  
204        and dephosphorylation rate (53), suggesting the possibility that evolution can fine-tune some  
205        biological functions of largely disordered proteins (e.g., Crz1, NFAT ) through selection on the  
206        sequence position of a calcineurin docking site. When we aligned the 40 IDRs (54), we found  
207        that the *S. cerevisiae* PxIxIT shows a high percent identity in three of the core residues (IS[IV],  
208        Figure 4B) but not the proline. The PxIxIT binding pocket of calcineurin buries the proline of the  
209        PxIxITs in hydrophobic residues (15,49,53), and as expected, the PSSM shows that proline is  
210        highly conserved in confirmed PxIxITs (Figure 4). We inferred a V-to-P substitution on the  
211        lineage leading to the Saccharomyces clade, which increases the predicted PxIxIT strength by ~4  
212        bits (Figure 4), corresponding to a predicted reduction in  $K_d$  by ~400 $\mu$ M (Supplementary Figure  
213        5A). Therefore, we hypothesized that the increased strength of the *S. cerevisiae* PxIxIT leads to  
214        pulsing and the associated fitness benefit. Because rapidly evolving disordered regions are  
215        difficult to align, to rule out the possibility that species outside of the Saccharomyces actually do  
216        have a strong homologous PxIxIT site, we repeated this analysis using a 100-residue window  
217        around the *S. cerevisiae* docking site and found similar results: in this region of the IDR, only the  
218        Saccharomyces showed PxIxIT sites comparable in strength to *S. cerevisiae* (Supplementary  
219        Figure 5B)

220        ***Increasing PxIxIT strength in the homologous region of *S. cerevisiae* IDR is sufficient to***  
221        ***rescue pulsing phenotype and fitness***

222        We next tested if the increased PxIxIT strength in the homologous region of *S. cerevisiae*  
223        IDR is required for pulsing. We used time-lapse microscopy to investigate if the *S. cerevisiae*  
224        PxIxIT can introduce pulsatility into an outgroup IDR. First, we designed a chimeric IDR with  
225        the *S. cerevisiae* PxIxIT and C-terminal sequences but the N-terminal region of the *C. albicans*

226 IDR (Figure 5A, denoted as Ca:PxIxIT:Sc). We note that, consistent with the analysis of PxIxIT  
227 strength above (Figure 4), the *C. albicans* IDR contains an additional strong PxIxIT in the N-  
228 terminal (PSIVIR, a.a.# 23~28), so this chimera actually contains two strong docking sites. Next,  
229 we made a chimera where we swapped the C-terminal portion of the *S. cerevisiae* IDR without  
230 the *S. cerevisiae* PxIxIT site. This chimera still retains the N-terminal *C. albicans* PxIxIT site  
231 (denoted as Ca:Sc, Figure 5A). Finally, we simply increased the predicted PxIxIT strength in the  
232 homologous region to the *S. cerevisiae* level via three point-mutations (Q445T, I446P, N451Q,  
233 denoted as Ca<sup>High</sup>, Figure 5A). This construct also contains two strong docking sites.

234 To determine if chimeric IDRs support pulsatility by responding to calcium bursts, we  
235 estimated the mutual information about the presence of calcium bursts from the dynamics of  
236 pulsing reporters (Figure 5B, C). We found that the dynamics of both constructs with the *S.*  
237 *cerevisiae* docking site (Ca<sup>High</sup> and Ca:PxIxIT:Sc) encoded more mutual information than that of  
238 the outgroup IDRs (mean MI = 0.21 bits and 0.26 bits, 2-tails t-test, p=0.00577 and 0.00157, n =  
239 3 and 3, respectively). In contrast, we did not find any evidence for the mutual information  
240 encoded in the dynamics of Ca:Sc (MI = -0.003 bits, n = 1). These results indicate that the *S.*  
241 *cerevisiae* PxIxIT strength is sufficient for the *C. albicans* IDR to support Crz1 pulsatility.

242 Motivated by our previous finding that *Saccharomyces* IDRs rescue fitness by  
243 transmitting environmental information, we wondered whether the extra information encoded in  
244 the pulsatile dynamics of the Ca<sup>High</sup>-IDR improves fitness. Therefore, we performed the fitness  
245 assay with and without 0.2 M calcium stress and compared the relative fitnesses rescued by  
246 Ca<sup>High</sup>- IDR and the *C. albicans* IDR. Previous research showed that Crz1 from *C. albicans*  
247 increased the growth rate of the *S. cerevisiae* *CRZ1* deletion strain (30). Consistent with this, we  
248 found that cells expressing the *C. albicans* IDR showed a positive selection coefficient relative to

249 *CRZ1* deletion strains (Figure 5B). Remarkably, the selection coefficient of Ca<sup>High</sup>-IDR  
250 expressing cells, relative to the same *CRZ1* deletion strains, was significantly higher than that of  
251 the cells expressing the *C. albicans* IDR (mean  $s = 0.057$  vs.  $0.031$ , 2-tails t-test,  $p=0.0031$ ,  $n =$   
252 16 and 6). In contrast, we did not find a significant difference between the selection coefficients  
253 in the absence of stress. These results support our hypothesis that the extra information encoded  
254 in the pulsatile dynamics improves fitness. Taken together, our experimental data suggest that  
255 the increase in the PxIxIT strength of ancestral IDRs is one way evolution can rewire the  
256 signaling pathway while conserving Crz1 pulsing (Figure 6).

257 **Discussion**

258 Together, our results suggest that Crz1 pulsatility transmits information beneficial for cell  
259 growth under 0.2M calcium stress and can be realized by highly divergent and functionally  
260 different IDRs. Because of the beneficial effect of transmitting more information through  
261 pulsing, our data are consistent with the idea that PxIxIT strength changes were one of the  
262 functionally compensatory changes in the calcium/Crz1 signaling pathway under stabilizing  
263 selection (Figure 6) (42). Although we cannot rule out convergent evolution that Crz1 pulsing  
264 emerged independently in the lineages leading to *S. cerevisiae*, *C. albicans*, and *S. pombe*, to us,  
265 this is an evolutionary model much less parsimonious than that of stabilizing selection. To our  
266 knowledge, our results are also the first molecular description of the evolutionary flexibility of  
267 post-translationally controlled pulsatility and stochastic dynamic signal processing. Furthermore,  
268 our observations illustrate how small evolutionary changes in IDRs can lead to (at least one)  
269 functional difference in the mechanism underlying stochastic signaling, ruling out the idea that  
270 the rapid sequence divergence is simply due to changes in non-functional residues. More  
271 generally, our results are consistent with the idea that IDR sequences encode important

272 functional information and are not “junk proteins” that evolve entirely randomly (55), but they  
273 evolve under stabilizing selection (42,56) and accumulate rapid divergence at the sequence level  
274 due to the weak constraints relative to folded protein domains (41).

275 Although the *C. albicans* IDR contains a PxIxIT consensus site in the N-terminal region,  
276 pulsing is only supported in *S. cerevisiae* when the PxIxIT strength of the homologous region to  
277 the *S. cerevisiae* PxIxIT (a.a.# 445 to 451) is increased, suggesting that calcineurin-dependent  
278 pulsatility depends on the position of PxIxIT. Effective dephosphorylation could be necessary for  
279 calcineurin-dependent pulsatility(19,23), and previous research has shown instances that the  
280 efficiency of dephosphorylation by calcineurin was affected by the distances between calcineurin  
281 docking sites and phosphorylated residues (53). Hence, we suggest that evolution has fine-tuned  
282 signaling dynamics through the poorly understood position dependency of short linear motifs in  
283 this case.

284 Previous quantitative studies on dynamic signal processing focused on the information  
285 encoded by synchronous, transient dynamics (47,48,57). Hence, it remained unclear whether  
286 stochastic pulsatile dynamics during steady state transmits information that is beneficial for cell  
287 growth. Because all five IDRs in our study show transient nuclear localization after calcium  
288 induction (Figure 2A), we could measure the effect of steady state stochastic pulsing while  
289 minimizing the effects of differences in the transient dynamics. We not only show that the  
290 stochastic dynamics during steady state encode environmental information but also that  
291 information is transmitted between two stochastic components on the same pathway: the bursting  
292 dynamics of cytosolic calcium concentration and the pulsatile dynamics of Crz1 nuclear  
293 localization. To our knowledge, this is the first application of information theory to show  
294 information transmission between two unsynchronous and stochastic cellular dynamics.

295 **Methods**

296 ***Yeast strains***

297 Lasers used during fluorescence microscopy are known to induce nuclear localization of  
298 Crz1 and can affect the dynamics of the pulsing reporters (50). To minimize these effects but still  
299 measure dynamics of both cytosolic calcium concentration and Crz1 nuclear localization, we  
300 designed double-reporter strains expressing the pulsing reporters described in the text (IDRs  
301 followed by yEGFP-tagged defective zinc finger, IDR-dZF-yEGFP) and the calcium reporter  
302 GCaMP3 (44). Plasmids expressing the pulsing reporters were constructed using Gibson  
303 assembly protocol (58). The pulsing reporter genes were assembled between the promoter of  
304 CRZ1 and the ADH1 terminator (pCRZ1-IDR-dZF-yEGFP-tADH1) and integrated at the *URA3*  
305 locus of reference strain BY4741 using a selectable marker (URA3). The fragments of  
306 orthologous IDRs were amplified from the genomic DNA of the corresponding species and  
307 corrected the CUG codon usage (59). The IDR with the mSRR mutations was constructed by  
308 modifying the Sc-pulsing reporter plasmid (URA3::pCRZ1-ScIDR-dZF-yEGFP-URA3MX). The  
309 chimeric IDRs were constructed through two-fragment transformations, with each fragment  
310 amplified from the Sc-pulsing reporter plasmid (URA3::pCRZ1-ScIDR-dZF-yEGFP-URA3MX)  
311 or Ca-pulsing reporter plasmid (URA3::pCRZ1-CaIDR-dZF-yEGFP-URA3MX). In the same  
312 strains, we integrated a previously constructed pRPL39-GCaMP3-tADH1 at the *HO* locus using  
313 a selectable marker (LEU2) (19). All transformations were performed using the standard lithium  
314 acetate procedure (60).

315 Compared to the previously constructed dual-color strains (19), the *S. cerevisiae* double-  
316 reporter strain required ~90% lower laser intensity (no observable nuclear localization induced  
317 by laser stress (50)) to record both the dynamics of cytosolic calcium concentration and Crz1

318 nuclear localization. Because of the spatial differences in the patterns (nuclear Crz1-GFP vs.  
319 cytoplasmic GCaMP3), the two signals can be distinguished using a two-component mixture  
320 model (described in the methods section of Reporter intensity quantification).

321 Each fitness assay strain was constructed by integrating an IDR and a wild type zinc  
322 finger at the endogenous locus of CRZ1 through two-fragment transformation using a selectable  
323 marker (HIS3). The zinc finger was tagged with yEGFP to report expression level. The IDR  
324 fragments were amplified from the existing plasmids expressing the corresponding pulsing  
325 reporters and zinc fingers or amplified from the genomic DNA of the corresponding double-  
326 reporter reporter strains. For the competition assay on plates (see below), each fitness assay  
327 strain was labeled with red by genomic integration of pRPL39-yemCherry-tADH1 at the  
328 promoter region of CAN1 using a selectable marker (LEU2).

329 The GFP-expressing *S. pombe* strain is a gift from Dr. Gordon Chua (29).

330 The *C. albicans* strain CaLC7415 with both copies of *CRZ1* C-terminally tagged with  
331 GFP was made using a transient CRISPR approach adapted from Min *et al.* (61). The GFP-NAT  
332 cassette was PCR amplified from pLC389 using oLC9367 and oLC9368 (see tables below for  
333 plasmids and oligos). The CaCAS9 cassette was amplified from pLC963 using oLC6924 and  
334 oLC6925. The sgRNA fusion cassette was PCR amplified from pLC963 with oLC5978 and  
335 oLC9371 (fragment A) and oLC5980 and oLC9372 (fragment B), and fusion PCR was  
336 performed on fragments A and B using the nested primers oLC5979 and oLC5981. The GFP-  
337 NAT cassette, sgRNA, and Cas9 DNA were transformed into SN95. Upstream integration was  
338 PCR tested using oLC600 and oLC9369, and downstream integration was tested using oLC274  
339 and oLC9370. Lack of a wild-type allele was PCR tested using oLC9369 and oLC9373.

340 **Plasmids:**

Plasmid ID	Description
pLC963	pV1393-1 (CaCas9/sgRNA entry expression vector, contains NatR gene, targeting <i>NEUT5L</i> ) (62)
pLC389	GFP-NAT (63)

341

342 **Oligos:**

oLC9367	GATTATTATTAGAAGAACAGCAAATTCAAGTGGTAAACCACCTGCTACTAG TAGTGGTGTGAAATTACTGGTGGTCTAAAGGTGAAGAATTAT
oLC9368	TGTGTGTGCGTGTGTGTAAATACTAAACCATTCTGTATTTTTTTTTGCA TCAAAATATACACATCGTAAAACGACGGCCAGTGAATT
oLC9369	ATTTCAAACGTGAAGCAGGG
oLC9370	AATAAGTTGTTCCGGCAC
oLC9371	CCCAGTTGCAATATGATAATcaaattaaaaatagttacgcaagtc
oLC9372	ATTATCATATTGCAACTGGGGTTTAGAGCTAGAAATAGCAAGTTAAA
oLC9373	CACGATAGTTATTCCCTGTTG

343

344 ***Spinning-disk confocal microscopy and image analysis***

345 A Nikon CSU-X1 was utilized for time-lapse imaging at room temperature (22°C) for *S.*  
346 *cerevisiae* and *S. pombe* strains. 488 nm laser was applied with time resolutions of 6 sec/frame,  
347 exposure time of 50 msec, and 25% laser intensity. Bright-field images with out-of-focus black  
348 cell edge were acquired every minute for cell segmentation and tracking. The growth conditions  
349 were based on a standard protocol (19,29). A Zeiss Axio Observer was utilized for time-lapse  
350 imaging at room temperature (22°C) for *C. albicans* strain. 488 nm laser was applied with time  
351 resolutions of 30 sec/frame, exposure time of 100 msec, and 100% laser intensity. All the time-  
352 lapse imaging experiments were started when cells were in log-phase. Cells were cultured in  
353 YPD with a carbon source of 2% glucose overnight and in SC during time-lapse imaging. Time-  
354 lapse movies of every strain had been replicated on different days to control day-to-day variation  
355 and showed reproducible results.

356 Segmentation was automatically performed by YeastSpotter (64). Cell tracking was  
357 performed by identifying 90% of overlapping cell areas between two frames. Mis-segmented and  
358 miss-tracked objects were manually removed. 100-300 cells were identified in each time-lapse  
359 movie. Single-cell photobleaching correction was conducted after single-cell reporter intensities  
360 were quantified (see below) using bi-exponential regression (65) with the baseline of the calcium  
361 reporter.

362 ***Reporter intensity quantification***

363 For each time point, The cytosolic intensity of the calcium reporter and the nuclear  
364 intensity of the pulsing reporter was quantified by fitting a mixture of a Gaussian distribution and  
365 a uniform distribution to the pixel intensities of each segmented cell area, and the parameters of  
366 distributions were estimated using expectation-maximization (see the supplementary text of (19)  
367 for more details and derivation of the algorithm). Once the parameters were estimated, the  
368 estimate of the calcium reporter at a time point is the mean of the Gaussian distribution, and the  
369 estimate of nuclear localization is the difference between the means of the uniform distribution  
370 and the Gaussian distribution. The algorithm can reproduce previous observations from time-  
371 lapse movies where Crz1-RFP and GCaMP3 are merged into one channel (Supplementary Figure  
372 2).

373 ***Competition fitness assay on plates***

374 Previous research showed that competition assays could be robustly performed through  
375 plate readers (66), which provides both the sensitivity of competition assays (67,68) and the high  
376 performance of growth assay on plates (69). We followed this approach and recorded  
377 competition of fitness strains with a plate reader. Cells were grown in SC media at 30°C for ~48

378 hours and then serially diluted to 1/1024 of the initial concentration on a flat-bottom 96-well  
379 plate. The plate reader Tecan M1000 was automatically run by the application Tecan i-Control.  
380 OD600 and RFP intensity were measured every 15 minutes for 24 hours at 30°C, and the plates  
381 were constantly shaken through the whole experiment. Similar to the protocol of competition-  
382 based fitness assay on plates (66), the wells on the plates were either monoculture or mixed-  
383 culture. The mono-cultural wells contained only the RFP-labeled strain and were for the  
384 calibration between RFP intensity and OD600 absorbance through linear regression. The mixed-  
385 cultural wells contained both the RFP-labeled strain and the colorless strain. The absorbance of  
386 the colorless strains in the mixed-culture wells was estimated by subtracting the measured  
387 absorbance by the absorbance inferred from the RFP intensity, so the growth curves of both  
388 competing strains in each mixed-culture well can be obtained. The time point when the growth  
389 curves reached the 10<sup>th</sup> generation was identified and kept consistent throughout each  
390 experiment. The relative selection coefficients were calculated with the formula (70,71)

$$391 \frac{\ln \frac{EXP_t}{WT_t} - \ln \frac{EXP_0}{WT_0}}{t} = \ln(1 + s),$$

392 where  $t$  means the number of generations and  $s$  is the selection coefficient.

393 We found that this approach provides a resolution of the selection coefficient to 10<sup>-3</sup> and  
394 successfully reproduced a previously reported small fitness defect (Supplementary Figure 3).

395 ***Single-cell trajectory quantification with Gaussian Process***

396 In the previous studies of pulsatile transcription factors, pulses were identified before  
397 quantification and statistical analysis, e.g., pulse frequency(20,25) and pulse triggered averaging  
398 (46). This approach presumes that the dynamics are pulsatile. However, in our case, whether a

399 pulsing reporter pulse or not was to be determined. Therefore, we needed a more general  
400 approach to quantify single-cell trajectories.

401 We used a Gaussian Process regression model (19,45,72) with the squared exponential  
402 kernel to summarize each single-cell trajectory. The kernel can be expressed as

$$408 \quad k(x_1, x_2) = a^2 \exp\left(-\frac{(x_1 - x_2)^2}{2l^2}\right)$$

403 where  $x_1, x_2$  indicate a pair of nuclear localization scores at different time points,  $a$  determines  
404 the average distance of the trajectory away from its mean, and  $l$  determines the length of the  
405 fluctuation on the trajectory. We used was the default MATLAB (Mathworks) function for the  
406 Gaussian process, fitrgp. Estimation was considered numerically unstable if  $\ln(a) < -6$ , and  
407 cell trajectories were removed if their estimates were below this value.

409 ***Estimation of mutual information and pulse-triggered averaging***

410 Information theory provides a natural framework(73) to quantify information  
411 transmission in cells as mutual information (MI). Previous studies estimated MI encoded in  
412 signaling pathways (47,48) with decoding methodology (e.g., an SVM classifier (48)). Here we  
413 adopted a widely used kNN estimator (k=4, (47,74)) for the advantage of its simplicity. Two  
414 different parametric forms of trajectories (described below) were applied to estimate the MI  
415 between the calcium stress and the dynamics of pulsing reporters and the MI between the  
416 calcium bursts and the dynamics of pulsing reporters.

417 To estimate MI between the calcium stress and the dynamics of pulsing reporters, single-  
418 cell trajectories of pulsing reporters from one experimental replicate were parameterized with the  
419 Gaussian process regression model described above. Gaussian Processes normalizes the  
420 trajectories to their mean amplitudes, excluding information about the absolute level of nuclear

421 localization. For each environmental condition (no stress or 0.2 M calcium stress), an equal  
422 number of trajectories were randomly selected and parameterized. The selected data were  
423 processed into  $D = \{(\mathbf{x}_1, y_1), (\mathbf{x}_2, y_2), \dots, (\mathbf{x}_n, y_n)\}$  that consist of  $i = 1, \dots, n$  pairs of parameter  
424 values,  $\mathbf{x}_i = \{a_i, l_i\}$ , and their corresponding environmental labels of 2 discrete values,  
425  $y_i \in \{c_0, c_1\}$  (no stress or 0.2 M calcium stress).  $\mathbf{x}$  was jittered to avoid identical samples. The  
426 estimated  $MI(\mathbf{x}; y)$  of one experimental replicate was bootstrapping 60 times for the average  
427 value.

428 To estimate  $MI$  between calcium bursts and the dynamics of pulsing reporters, we first  
429 categorize time points on each calcium trajectory into two groups. A typical trajectory of calcium  
430 reporter contains two types of fluctuations: a baseline of slow fluctuation and calcium bursts as  
431 rapid and large fluctuation. Our previous research showed that only calcium bursts lead to  $Crz1$   
432 pulses (19); hence, the information about the presence of calcium bursts should be encoded in a  
433 short period of the pulsing dynamics after the bursts. Precisely, let a trajectory of pulsing reporter  
434  $\mathbf{x} = \{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_p\}$  consist of  $t = 1, \dots, p$  nuclear localization scores, a block of the trajectory  
435  $X = \{x_{t+1}, x_{t+2}, \dots, x_{t+\tau}\}$  should encode the information about the states of preceding calcium  
436 trajectory at time  $t$  (calcium burst or basal fluctuation) with the mean score  $\langle X \rangle$  and the mean  
437 velocity of the score  $\langle \dot{X} \rangle$ . Our goal is to process data extract from  $j = 1, \dots, m$  blocks ( $X_j =$   
438  $\{x_{t+1+\tau(j-1)}, x_{t+2+\tau(j-1)}, \dots, x_{t+\tau j}\}$ ) such that  $D_j = \{(\mathbf{x}_{1j}, y'_1), (\mathbf{x}_{2j}, y'_2), \dots, (\mathbf{x}_{nj}, y'_n)\}$  consist  
439 of  $i = 1, \dots, n$  pairs of statistic summaries,  $\mathbf{x}_{ij} = \{\langle X_j \rangle_i, \langle \dot{X}_j \rangle_i\}$ , and their corresponding burst  
440 labels of 2 discrete values,  $y'_i \in \{c'_0, c'_1\}$  (no calcium burst or calcium burst). We then estimate  
441  $MI_j(\mathbf{x}_j, y')$  as the information encoded in the  $j$ th block of pulsing trajectory after a calcium  
442 fluctuation. The details of the pipeline are provided in Appendix. We found that the estimation

443 from the first block,  $MI_1$ , is representative of each experimental replicate and reported  $MI_1$  in the  
444 results section.

445 We use a similar pipeline to adapt pulse-triggered averaging by simply averaging all the  
446 trajectories of pulsing reporters in a 20-min window centered around every labeled calcium  
447 burst.

448 ***Sequence analyses***

449 To predict the calcineurin docking strength of a sequence, we used a Position Specific  
450 Scoring Matrix (PSSM). PSSM is a standard statistical model widely used for predicting  
451 transcription factor binding strength of a DNA motif (75) or protein binding strength of a short  
452 linear motif in an IDR (51,52,76). In this study, a PSSM was constructed with 86 experimentally  
453 confirmed calcineurin binding sites (so-called PxIxIT sites) collected from the ELM database  
454 (77) and other sources (26,43,52,78). The calcineurin docking site of Crz1 was excluded to avoid  
455 circularity. The docking strength  $S$  of a sequence  $X$  with sequence length  $w$  was calculated as

464 
$$S = \sum_{i=1}^w \sum_b X_{ib} \log\left(\frac{f_{ib}}{g_b}\right),$$

466 Where  $b \in \mathbf{A}$ .  $\mathbf{A}$  indicates the 20 amino acids,  $X_{ib} = 1$  if the sequence is amino acid  $b$  at  
467 position  $i$  and 0 otherwise,  $f_{ib}$  is the probability of observing amino acid  $b$  at position  $i$  in a  
468 calcineurin docking site (from the PSSM), and  $g_b$  is the probability of observing amino acid  $b$  in  
469 the genomic background distribution and was assumed to 1/20. To test how well this simple  
470 model predicts measured calcineurin binding affinity, we compared the predicted strength,  $S$ , to  
471 the affinity of 10 characterized PxIxIT sites (52) and found that a linear model where a change of  
472 1 unit of  $S$  (which is measured in bits) corresponds to 74.4 unit of  $K_d$  (measured in  $\mu\text{M}$ , SE =  
473 15.4,  $p = 0.001$ )

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670

671

672 **Figure legends**

673 Figure 1. The IDRs of Crz1 and other pulsatile transcription factors contain functional elements  
674 involved in the mechanism of nuclear-cytoplasmic translocation. A, B) Schematic  
675 representations of three pulsatile transcription factors (NFATC1 and Msn2 in A), Crz1 in B)).  
676 The upper half of each representation shows predicted disorder (D2P2, (79)), and the lower half  
677 of each representation shows the known functional regions (80,81). SRR: serine-rich region.  
678 PxIxIT: *S. cerevisiae* calcineurin docking site PxIxIT. NLS: nuclear localization signal. RHD:  
679 Rel homology domain. TIG: transcription factor immunoglobulin. 9aaTAD: nine-amino-acid  
680 transactivation domain. ZF: zinc finger. B) A schematic drawing of the protein-motif interactions  
681 on the protein sequence of Crz1 from *S. cerevisiae*. C) A schematic representation of the  
682 sequence alignment of the Saccharomyces fungi from the Yeast Gene Order Browser (YGOB,  
683 (82)). Purple shades represent the percent identity of each position (83). Boxes represent the  
684 homologous regions of the elements on Crz1 from *S. cerevisiae*. Orange shadows link the  
685 corresponding regions between B) and C).

686

687 Figure 2. The IDRs of Saccharomyces species rescue both pulsing phenotype and fitness under  
688 0.2 M calcium stress. A) Population averaged localization traces show nuclear localization in  
689 response to 0.2 M calcium stress in every reporter strain, corresponding to the Crz1 IDR from the  
690 species indicated (Sc, Zr, Kl, Ca, Sp, indicate *S. cerevisiae*, *Z. rouxii*, *K. lactis*, *C. albicans*, and  
691 *S. pombe*, respectively). n > 100 cells for each strain. Shadow areas indicate 1.96 SE. Plots are  
692 broken to indicate when each experiment switched to a different microscope field to avoid laser-  
693 induced nuclear localization. B) Representative single-cell trajectories of cytosolic calcium  
694 concentration (blue lines) and nuclear localization (color-coded lines), estimated by Gaussian

695 Process regression on 600 time-points (color-coded dots). Plots are broken to indicate when each  
696 trajectory composites a different cell from a different microscope field. The reporter strains  
697 (indicated by species names as in A) are ordered according to a phylogenetic tree showing the  
698 *Saccharomyces* clade (red) and the outgroup (black). C) The distribution of dynamic parameters  
699 estimated from single-cell time-lapse data.  $\alpha$  determines the average distance of the trajectory  
700 away from its mean, and  $l$  determines the length of the fluctuation on the trajectory. D) Pulse-  
701 triggered averaging of the trajectories of pulsing reporters (black lines) around calcium bursts  
702 (blue lines). Time is relative to calcium bursts. Shadow areas indicate 1.96 SE.  $n > 100$  bursts for  
703 each strain. E) Averaged mutual information between calcium bursts and dynamics of pulsing  
704 reporters (grey bars) and between 0.2M stress and GP parameter values (white bars).  $n = 1, 3, 3,$   
705 3, 1 replicates for *Sc*, *Zr*, *Kl*, *Ca*, *Sp*, respectively. F) The selection coefficient measured under  
706 0.2M calcium stress (grey bars) or no stress (white bars). Error bars represent 1.96 SE. P-values  
707 indicated are from a two-tail two-sample t-test.  $n > 10$  replicates for each competition assay with  
708 at least three cell lines.

709

710 Figure 3. *C. albicans* and *S. pombe* show pulsing and frequency modulation. Filmstrips are  
711 showing *C. albicans* (A) and *S. pombe* (C) with GFP-tagged Crz1 orthologues (CaCrz1 and Prz1,  
712 respectively) during steady state after the addition of 0.2 M extracellular calcium. Yeast cells are  
713 outlined in each frame and indicated through the arrows in the first frame, which are colored  
714 accordingly to the single-cell trajectories in B) and D). A) Frames are separated by 30 seconds,  
715 and the actual time resolution in B) is the same. C) Frames are separated by 45 seconds, but the  
716 actual time resolution in D) is 6 seconds per frame. Image acquisitions of each species were  
717 performed through different microscopes. E) Populational average of pulse frequency increases

718 with calcium concentration for both Crz1 orthologues. Error bars represent 1.96 SE. n > 30 in  
719 each experiment.

720

721 Figure 4. PxIxIT strength in the region homologous to the *S. cerevisiae* docking site is predicted  
722 to increase in the lineage leading to the Saccharomyces. The left heatmap represents the strength  
723 of the strongest PxIxIT site identified in the whole IDR. The right heatmap shows the predicted  
724 strength in the homologous region of the *S. cerevisiae* PxIxIT (shown in the alignment). The  
725 branch lengths of the phylogenetic tree are estimated by maximum likelihood based on  
726 alignments of the entire Crz1 protein. The label V4P indicates the branch where the inferred V4P  
727 substitution occurred. The alignment shows the 12 residues of 40 fungi. The logo represents the  
728 PSSM used.

729

730 Figure 5. The *S. cerevisiae* PxIxIT strength in the specific part of IDR is sufficient for the *C.*  
731 *albicans* IDR to show a pulsing phenotype and improve fitness under 0.2M calcium stress. A) A  
732 schematic diagram of the PxIxIT sites on orthologous and chimeric IDRs. Sc: *S. cerevisiae* IDR;  
733 Ca: *C. albicans* IDR; Ca:PxIxIT:Sc: chimeric IDR of the N-terminal region of the *C. albicans*  
734 IDR (a.a. #1 to 444) and the C-terminal region of the *S. cerevisiae* IDR including PxIxIT site  
735 (a.a. #330 to 568); Ca:Sc: chimeric IDR of the N-terminal region of the *C. albicans* IDR (a.a. #1  
736 to 451) and the C-terminal region of the *S. cerevisiae* IDR excluding PxIxIT site (a.a. #337 to  
737 568); Ca<sup>High</sup>: *C. albicans* IDR with three point-mutations (Q445T, I446P, N451Q). B)  
738 Representative single-cell trajectories of cytosolic calcium concentration (blue lines) and nuclear  
739 localization (black lines), which are the Gaussian Process regression based on 600 time-points

740 (black dots). Plots are broken to indicate when each trajectory composites a different cell from a  
741 different microscope field. C) Averaged mutual information between the calcium burst and the  
742 dynamics of pulsing reporters. P-values indicated are from a two-tail two-sample t-test. n = 7, 4,  
743 3, 3, 1 experiments. Error bars represent 1.96 SE. D) The selection coefficient calculated from  
744 the competition assays under no stress or 0.2M calcium stress. n = 6 replicates for Ca and 16  
745 replicates for Ca<sup>High</sup> with three cell lines. Error bars represent 1.96 SE. P-values indicated are  
746 from a two-tail two-sample t-test.

747

748 Figure 6. A schematic representation of the evolutionary model that Crz1 pulsing is conserved by  
749 stabilizing selection while the underlying mechanism of pulsing has been rewired. Identified  
750 components on the signaling pathway (i.e., calcineurin, karyopherin, represented by circles of  
751 different colors) are likely to interact with both Ca- and Sc-IDRs, and unidentified components  
752 (cyan and red shapes) are likely to interact specifically with each IDR.

753

754 Supplementary Figure 1. The IDR of Crz1 is sufficient for pulsing. A) Representative images of  
755 GFP channel and bright-field channel of three strains expressing endogenous Crz1 tagged with  
756 GFP (Crz1-GFP), a passive reporter of the IDR tagged with GFP (zinc fingered removed, ΔZF-  
757 reporter), and a passive reporter of *S. cerevisiae* Crz1 with defective zinc fingers (Sc-reporter),  
758 respectively. B) Representative trajectories of each strain. The trajectories of nuclear localization  
759 (black lines) are the Gaussian process regression based on nuclear localization score of 600 time-  
760 points (cyan dots).

761

762 Supplementary Figure 2. Two dynamics recorded with two-color images and merged into one-  
763 color images can be distinguished via a mixture model. A) An example of single-cell trajectories  
764 before (upper plot) and after (lower plot) merging for Crz1 (dots) and calcium (blue trace). Black  
765 traces are Crz1 trajectories smoothed with Sacitzky-Golay filtering. Black circles indicate Crz1  
766 pulses. B) Calcium bursts (left plot) and Crz1 pulses (right plot) identified in the experiments  
767 sorted from large to small. C) The distributions of the change in the number of identified Crz1  
768 pulses after merging. D) The probability of first, second, third, and fourth Crz1 pulses plotted as  
769 a function of the time they occur relative to calcium bursts from the same cells. The left and the  
770 right stacked histograms are data from the separate images and the merged images, respectively.  
771 E) Data are divided into three groups based on calcium burst sizes and aligned to each group's  
772 mean calcium burst size. The dots' size represents the probability of finding a number of Crz1  
773 pulses in a group (summed up to 1 in each column).

774

775 Supplementary Figure 3. The competition fitness assay on 96-well plates can reproduce the  
776 significant growth defect of a mutant (noted as '5A') reported by Zarin et al., 2017. A)  
777 Fluorescent intensity of the monoculture. Each marker represents the fluorescent intensity and  
778 OD of a well at each time-point. B) Mean selection coefficient calculated from the fluorescent  
779 data of mixed culture. Error bars represent 1.96 SE. Dashed line indicates the selection  
780 coefficient of 5A mutant reported by Zarin et al., 2017 (-0.038) C) The growth curves of WT and  
781 5A strains in the mixed cultures predicted by the algorithm of Ram et al., 2019. The selection  
782 coefficient is -0.05, which is calculated with the first and the last time point of the predicted  
783 growth curves.

784

785   Supplementary Figure 4. Mutations in the conserved phosphorylation sites in the serine-rich  
786   region lead to constant nuclear localization after 0.2M calcium induction and fitness defect under  
787   0.2M calcium stress. A) Upper panels show the population average of nuclear localization score.  
788   Shadow indicates SD with  $n > 100$  for each strain. Lower panels show representative single-cell  
789   trajectories of cytosolic calcium concentration (blue lines) and nuclear localization (black lines),  
790   which are the Gaussian Process regression based on 600 time-points (red dots). Plots are broken  
791   to indicate when each experiment switched to a different microscope field to avoid laser-induced  
792   nuclear localization. B) The selection coefficient obtained from the competition assays under  
793   0.2M calcium stress (grey bars) or no stress (white bars). Error bars represent 1.96 SE.  $n > 10$   
794   replicates for each competition assay with at least three cell lines.

795

796   Supplementary Figure 5. Calculate PxIxIT strength with PSSM. A) Predicted PxIxIT strength  
797   plotted against the measured PxIxIT affinity of the same sequences from the database of ref (52).  
798   Linear regression model:  $y \sim 779 - 74.4x$ ,  $R^2 = 0.74$ . B) Heatmaps represent the maximum PxIxIT  
799   strength calculated from the sub-sequences of the whole IDR or the 100-residue homologous  
800   region around the *S. cerevisiae* PxIxIT.

801

802 **Appendix**

803 Titles of supplementary movies

804 Supplementary Movie 1. An example of CaCrz1 pulsing in *C. albicans*

805 Supplementary Movie 1. An example of Prz1 pulsing in *S. pombe*

806

807 Details of MI estimation for one experimental replicate

808 1. For each single cell

809 a. Labeling calcium burst:

810 i. Fit the trajectory of calcium reporter with the Gaussian Process described

811 above to estimate basal fluctuations

812 ii. From the same trajectory, identify the highest 100 peaks (local maxima)

813 with a minimal interval of 30 sec, and classify peaks into calcium bursts or

814 basal fluctuations with the 95% CI of baseline estimated via the Gaussian

815 Process,  $\mathbf{Y} = \{y'_1, y'_2, \dots, y'_{100}\}^T, y_i \in \{c'_0, c'_1\}$ . Record the time points of

816 each peak,  $T = \{t_1, t_2, \dots, t_{100}\}, t_i \in \{1, 2, \dots, p\}$ . We used MATLAB

817 function findpeaks to identify peaks and time points.

818 b. Process pulsing dynamics of the  $j$ th block:

819 i. Fit the trajectory of pulsing reporters with the Gaussian Process described

820 above to smooth the trajectory

821 ii. For every calcium peak  $y'_i$  the  $j$ th block was chosen,  $X_j =$

822  $\{x_{t_i+1+\tau(j-1)}, x_{t_i+2+\tau(j-1)}, \dots, x_{t_i+\tau j}\}$ . We arbitrarily chose  $\tau = 5$ .

823 Calculate  $\mathbf{X} = \{\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \dots, \mathbf{x}_{100}\}^T$ ,  $\mathbf{x}_i = \{\langle X_j \rangle_i, \langle \dot{X}_j \rangle_i\}$ .  $\mathbf{X}$  was jittered to  
824 avoid identical samples.

825 2. Concatenate every  $\mathbf{X}$  and  $\mathbf{Y}$  of the cell population. Randomly withdraw an equal number  
826 of samples for each burst label and reorganize the data into  $D_j =$   
827  $\{(\mathbf{x}_{1j}, y'_{1j}), (\mathbf{x}_{2j}, y'_{2j}), \dots, (\mathbf{x}_{nj}, y'_{nj})\}$ . Estimate  $MI_j$  by bootstrapping 600 times and  
828 report mean  $MI_j(\mathbf{x}_j, y')$ .

829

830 List of 40 fungi used for sequence analysis

*Candida dubliniensis*

*Candida albicans*

*Candida tropicalis*

*Candida parapsilosis*

*Candida orthopsis*

*Lodderomyces elongisporus*

*Spathaspora passalidarum*

*Millerozyma farinose*

*Scheffersomyces stipites*

*Meyerozyma guilliermondii*

*Debaryomyces hansenii*

*Debaryomyces fabryi*

*Clavispora lusitaniae*

*Candida auris*

*Metschnikowia bicuspidata*

*Babjeviella inositovora*

*Saccharomyces cerevisiae*

*Saccharomyces mikatae*

*Saccharomyces kudriavzevii*

*Saccharomyces uvarum*

*Candida glabrata*

*Kazachstania Africana*

*Kazachstania naganishii*

*Naumovozyma castellii*

*Naumovozyma dairenensis*

*Vanderwaltozyma polyspora*

*Tetrapisispora phaffii*

*Tetrapisispora blattae*

*Zygosaccharomyces rouxii*

*Zygosaccharomyces parabialii*

*Torulaspora delbrueckii*

*Kluyveromyces lactis*

*Eremothecium gossypii*

*Achbya aceri*

*Eremothecium cymbalariae*

*Lachancea kluyveri*

*Lachancea thermotolerans*

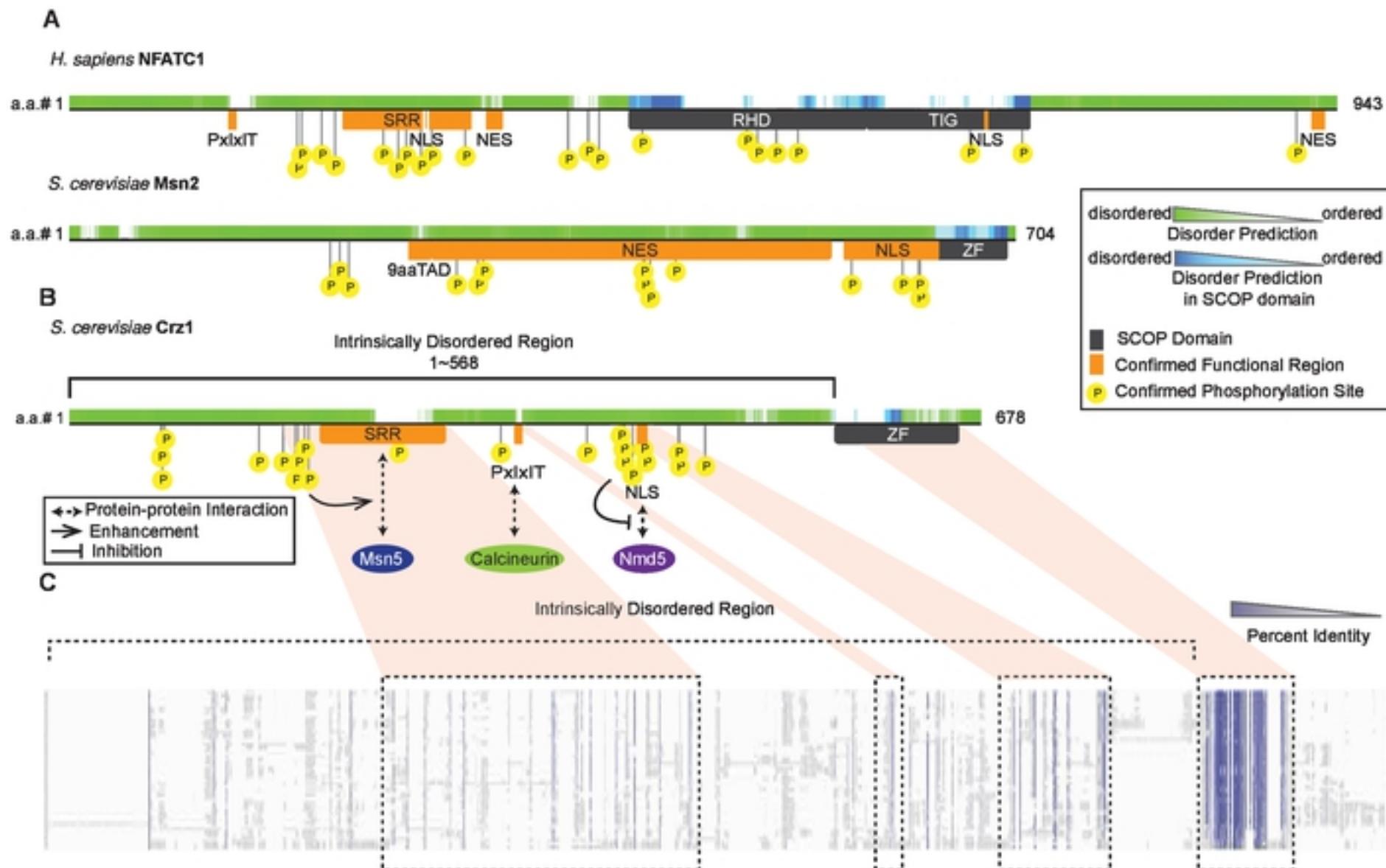
*Lachancea waltii*

*Cyberlindnera fabianii*

*Wickerhamomyce ciferrii*

831

Figure 1



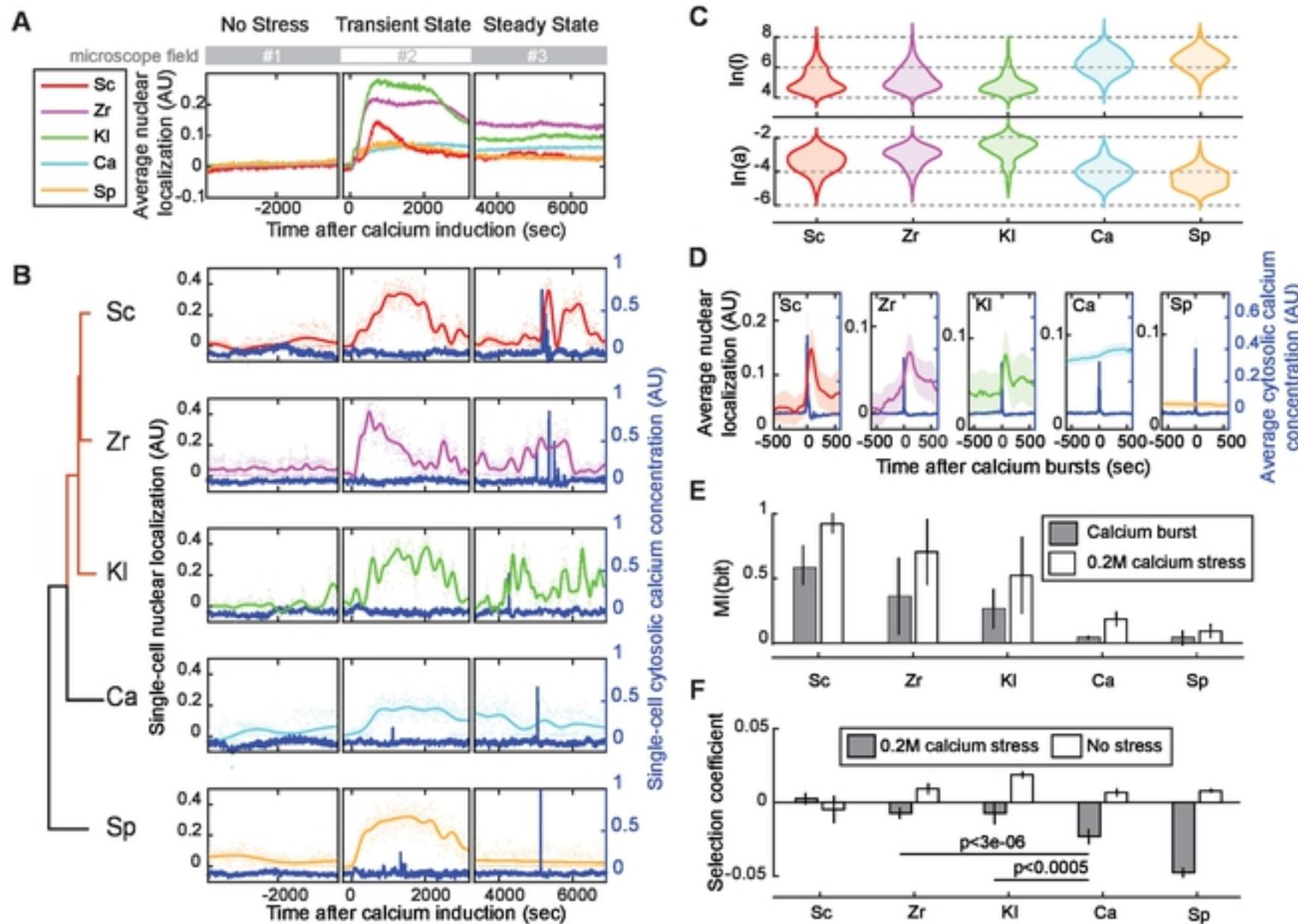
**Figure 2**

Figure 3

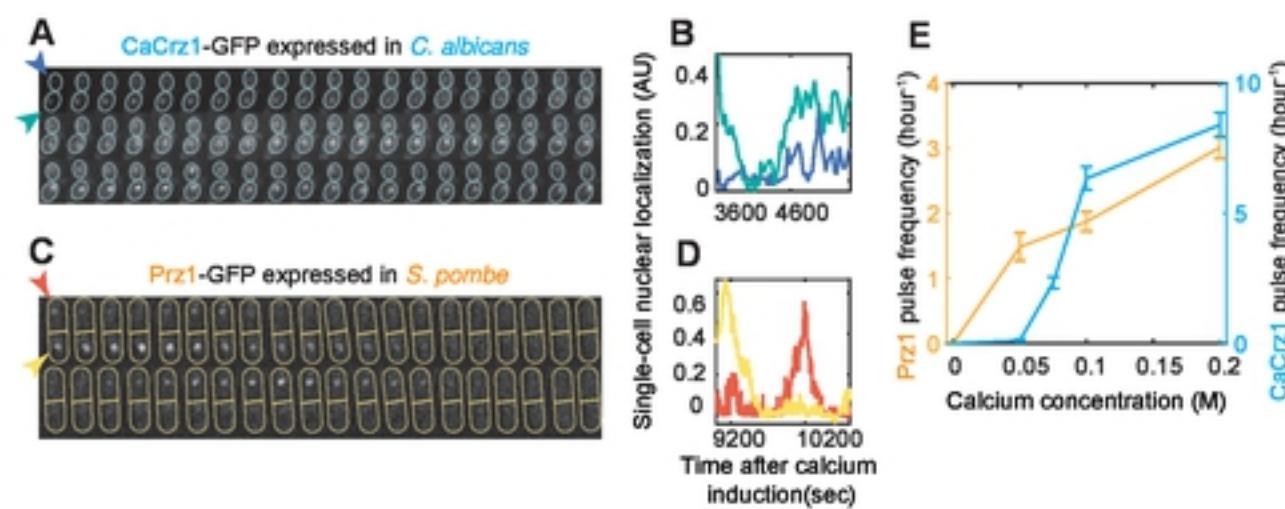


Figure 4

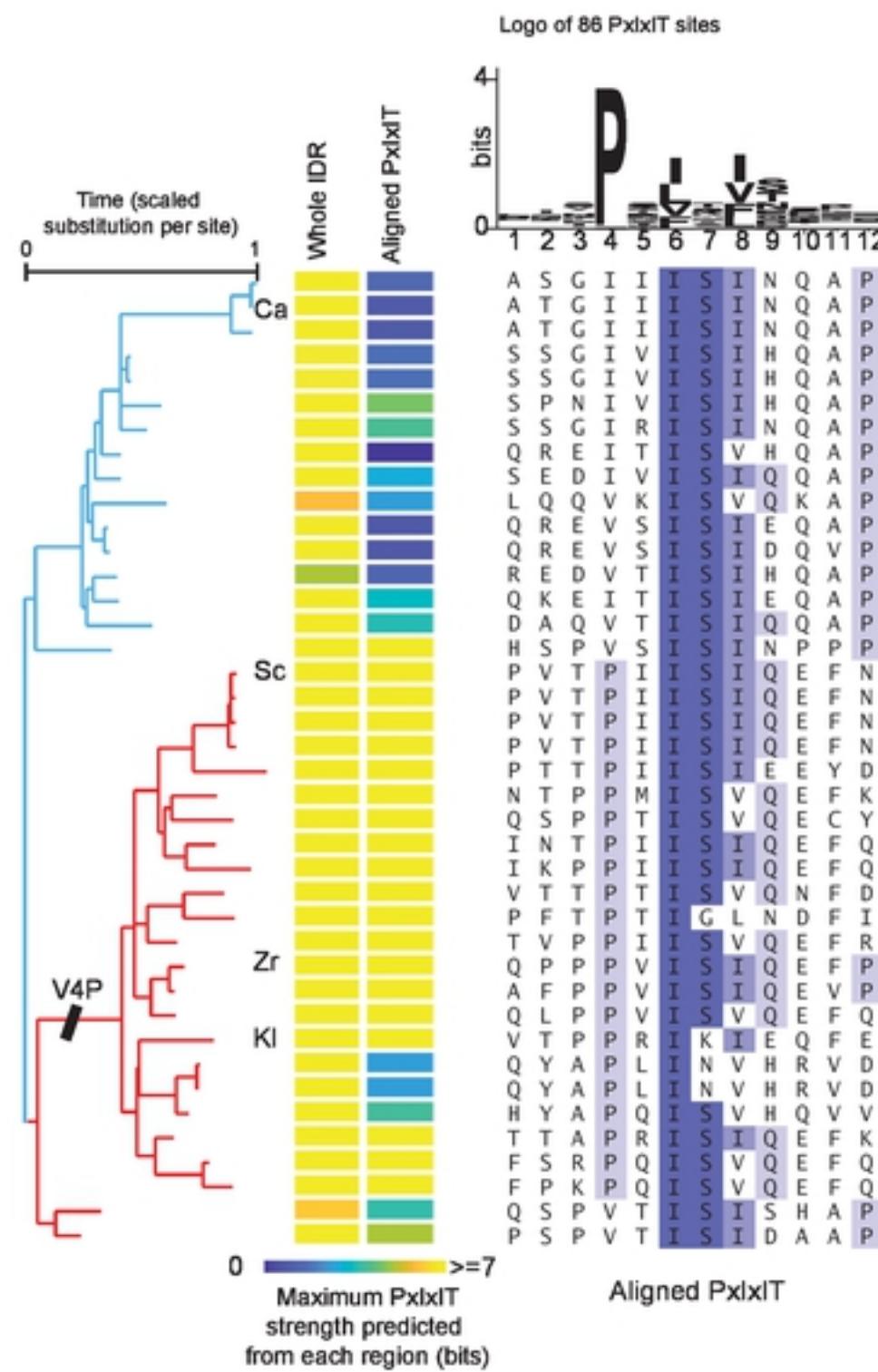


Figure 5

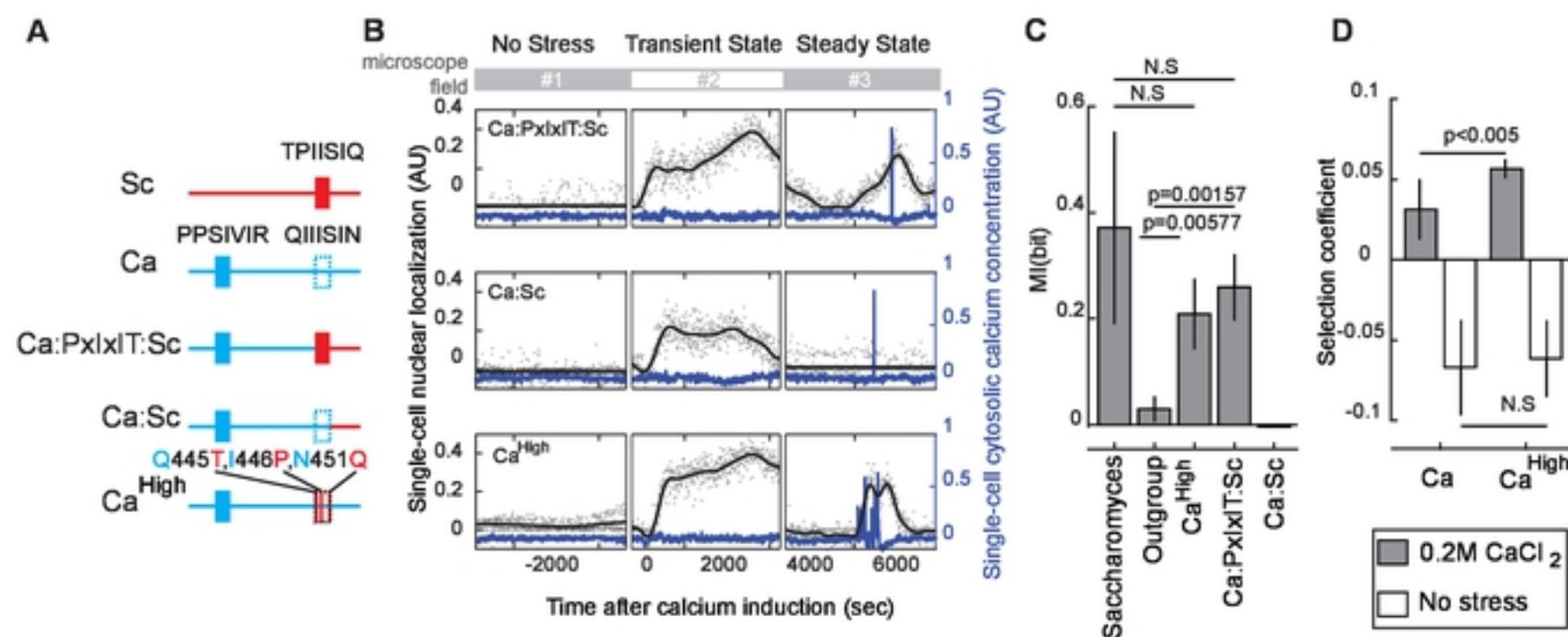


Figure 6

