Two Novel Related Yeast Nucleoporins Nup170p and Nup157p: Complementation with the Vertebrate Homologue Nup155p and Functional Interactions with the Yeast Nuclear Pore-Membrane Protein Pom152p

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Abstract. We have taken a combined genetic and biochemical approach to identify major constituents of the yeast nuclear pore complex (NPC). A synthetic lethal screen was used to identify proteins which interact genetically with the major pore-membrane protein Pom152p. In parallel, polypeptides present in similar amounts to Pom152p in a highly enriched preparation of yeast NPCs have been characterized by direct microsequencing. These approaches have led to the identification of two novel and major nucleoporins, Nup170p and Nup157p. Both Nup170p and Nup157p are similar to each other and to an abundant mammalian nucleoporin, Nup155p (Radu, A., G. Blobel, and R. W. Wozniak. 1993. J. Cell Biol. 121:1-9) and interestingly, nup170 mutants can be complemented with mammalian NUP155. In addition, the synthetic lethal screen identified genetic interactions between Pom152p and two other major nucleoporins, Nup188p (Nehrbass, U., S. Maguire, M. Rout, G. Blobel, and R. W. Wozniak, manuscript submitted for publication), and Nic96p (Grandi, P., V. Doye, and E. C. Hurt. 1993. EMBO J. 12:3061-71). We have determined that together, Nup170p, Nup157p, Pom152p, Nup188p, and Nic96p comprise greater than one-fifth of the mass of the isolated yeast NPC. Examination of the genetic interactions between these proteins indicate that while deletion of either POM152, NUP170, or NUP188 alone is not lethal, pairwise combinations are. Deletion of NUP157 is also not lethal. However, nup157 null mutants, while lethal in combination with nup170 and nup188 null alleles, are not synthetically lethal with pom152 null alleles. We suggest that Nup170p and Nup157p may be part of a morphologically symmetrical but functionally distinct substructure of the yeast NPC, e.g., the nucleoplasmic and cytoplasmic rings. Finally, we observed morphological abnormalities in the nuclear envelope as a function of alterations in the expression levels of NUP170 suggesting a specific stoichiometric relationship between NPC components is required for the maintenance of normal nuclear structure.

Communication between the cytoplasm and the nucleoplasm is controlled by nuclear pore complexes (NPCs) which extend across the nuclear envelope (NE) at circular openings along the surface of the nucleus. The NPCs are tightly associated with the NE via the pore membrane domain, a specialized subdomain of the NE which lines the pore and connects the outer and inner nuclear membranes. A major function of the NPC is to regulate the bidirectional transport of proteins and ribonucleoproteins between the cytoplasm and the nucleoplasm. The mechanism of macromolecular traffic is signal mediated, stepwise, energy dependent (reviewed in Forbes, 1992), and requires cytosolic factors (Newmeyer and Forbes, 1990; Adam et al., 1990; Moore and Blobel, 1992, 1993; Adam and Adam, 1994; Görlich et al., 1994; Morioanu et al., 1995; Radu et al., 1995a; Görlich et al., 1995; Mattaj, 1995; Enenkel et al., 1995). In addition to its role in transport, the ordered arrangement of NPCs along the nuclear surface (Maul, 1977) has been proposed to reflect a role for NPCs in the three-dimensional organization of the underlying chromatin (Blobel, 1985).

The detailed structure of the NPC has been determined at the highest resolution in vertebrates. Each NPC is an octagonally symmetric cylindrical structure. The core framework of the NPC, some 120 nm in diameter and 70 nm along its cylindrical axis, appears to be composed of sev-
eral coaxial rings which are interconnected by struts and buttresses, surrounding a variably present central plug or transporter (Hinshaw et al., 1992; Akey and Radermacher, 1993). More peripheral structures such as the cytoplasmic particles, cytoplasmic filaments, and nuclear cages have been found projecting more than 50 nm from the nuclear and cytoplasmic faces of the core structure (Unwin and Milligan, 1982; Jarnik and Aebl, 1991; Goldberg et al., 1992; Ris and Melecki, 1993).

The recent isolation and more detailed structural analysis of the yeast NPC (Rout and Blobel, 1993) supports the long-held view that the overall structure and organization of the NPC is well conserved among all eukaryotes (Maul, 1977). The conserved ultrastructure of the NPC likely reflects conserved structural features present in its polypeptide constituents. This has, in part, been observed for a related family of nucleoporins (or nups, a general terminology used to refer to NPC proteins) that have been molecularly characterized in vertebrates and yeast, all of which contain repetitive peptide motifs (Nup1p, Nup2p, Nup4p, Nup57p, Nup100p, Nup116p, Nup145p, Nup159p, from yeast and p62, Nup98p, Nup153p, Nup214p, and Nup358p from vertebrates; reviewed in Rout and Wente, 1994; Gorsch et al., 1995; Grandi et al., 1995; Kraemer et al., 1995; Wu et al., 1995). Four of the vertebrate nucleoporins from this family have been sublocalized by immunoelectron microscopy to peripheral structures of the pore. Nup214p (Kraemer et al., 1994) and Nup358p (Wu et al., 1995) are localized to the cytoplasmic filaments; Nup153p (Sukegawa and Blobel, 1993) and Nup98p (Radu et al., 1995) are present in the nuclear cage. Although proteins of this family contain primary sequence similarities within the repeat regions, functional intra- or interspecies complementation has not been demonstrated.

Only a handful of other nucleoporins and integral pore-membrane proteins or POMs (designated as such for their sublocalization to this domain of the nuclear pore) have been molecularly characterized. These include the nucleoporins Nup155p, Nup107p, and Tpr (Byrd et al., 1995) (Nup266p) from vertebrates, Ntc96p and Nup133p in yeast, and the POMs gp210 and Pom121p in vertebrates and Pom152p in yeast (reviewed in Rout and Wente, 1994). Yeast Pom152p and Nic96p and vertebrate gp210 and Nup155p are the most abundant of the nups and poms so far identified in their respective organisms and as such probably play a fundamental role in the subunit organization of the underlying NPC framework. With the exception of Pom121p which contains FXFG repeats and a 20-amino acid residue segment similar to Pom152p (Hallberg et al., 1993; Wozniak et al., 1994), the sequence of each of these polypeptides is unique and unrelated to one another. In light of the morphological conservation of the NPC, much insight into important conserved components of the NPC may be expected from the identification of functional homologues between divergent phyla. So far, however, no such homologues have been identified.

As a step towards characterizing the structure and function of the NPC framework, we have taken a combined genetic and biochemical approach. We have used a POM152 synthetic lethal screen to identify proteins which interact with this major pore-membrane protein. In parallel, polypeptides present in similar amounts to Pom152p in a highly enriched preparation of yeast NPCs have been characterized by direct microsequencing. This has led to the identification of a major yeast nucleoporin, termed Nup170p, that interacts genetically with Pom152p and when depleted (in the absence of Pom152p) leads to abnormalities in the morphology of the nuclear envelope. In addition, another abundant nucleoporin, termed Nup157p, was identified in the NPC fraction which bears striking sequence similarity to Nup170p but is functionally distinct. These two nucleoporins are structurally similar to mammalian Nup155p which, when expressed in yeast, incorporates into the NPC and functionally complements nup170 mutants.

Materials and Methods

Yeast Strains and Media

Relevant yeast strains used in this study are listed in Table I. All strains were grown as described (Sherman et al., 1986) in YPD (1% yeast extract, 2% bactopeptone, and 2% glucose), or synthetic minimal media (SM) supplemented with the appropriate amino acids and 2% glucose. 5-FOA-containing plates were made as described (Ausubel et al., 1992). All strains were grown at 30°C unless otherwise stated. Procedures for yeast manipulation were conducted as described by Sherman et al. (1986). Transformation of yeast was performed by electroporation (Delorne, 1989).

Plasmids

The plasmids used in this study are as follows: pRS315, CEN/LEU2 (Sikorski and Hieter, 1989); pRS316, CEN/URA3 (Sikorski and Hieter, 1989); pRS424, 2μm/Trp1 (Christianson et al., 1992); pSB32 CEN/LEU2, PCH1122, CEN/URA3/AD13 (Kranz and Holm, 1990; kindly provided by C. Holm, Harvard University, Boston, MA); pEMBLYex4, 2μm/Leu2d/URA3/CYC1-GAL10 (Cesareni and Murray, 1987; kindly provided by U. Nehrbass, Rockefeller University, New York); pPOM152, pRS315 containing a 6.8-kb BamHI/BamHI insert encoding the POM152 open reading frame (ORF) plus its flanking promoter and terminator sequences; pCH1122-POM152, the complete POM152 ORF and its promoter (contained in a 0.6-kb BamHI/BamHI fragment from pPOM152) inserted into a BamHI site of pCH1122; p2105, pSB32 with a 9.2-kb genomic DNA insert containing the NUP170 ORF; pLS1170, pRS315 carrying a 6.3-kb Hpal/Hpal fragment containing the NUP170 ORF; p2105B, p2105 lacking a 2.1-kb BamHI fragment; pUN100-NIC96 (CEN/LEU2, Grandi et al., 1993; kindly provided by E. Hurt, EMBL, Heidelberg, Germany); p33, pSB32 containing the NUP188 locus (Nehrbass, U., S. Maguire, M. Rout, G. Blobel, and R. W. Wozniak, manuscript submitted for publication); pUP118U, pRS316 containing the NUP188 locus (Nehrbass, U., S. Maguire, M. Rout, G. Blobel, and R. W. Wozniak, manuscript submitted for publication); pADH155; pRS424 containing the ADHI promoter (a kind gift from E. Johnson, Rockefeller U., New York; Ammerer, 1983) inserted into the KpnI/Sall sites and a 4.5-kb NUP155 cDNA SalI/BglII fragment from agt11 (Radu et al., 1993) inserted into the SalI/BamHI sites. The plasmids used for gene disruptions are described below.

Isolation of POM152 Synthetic Lethal (psl) Mutants

A colony sectoring assay (Kranz and Holm, 1990; Bender and Pringle, 1991) was used to identify mutants in which POM152 had become essential for viability. The haploid strain PM152-75 was transformed with the plasmid pCH1122-POM152. The resulting strain, PM152-CF, was UV mutagenized on YPD plates with a Stratalinker (Stratagene, La Jolla, CA) (14 mJ/cm²) to a viability of ~15%. These plates were then incubated at 30°C for 5–8 d. Approximately 200,000 colonies were screened to identify red, nonsectoring (sec−) mutants. After extended growth on YPD, 61 sec− strains were identified of which 34 were Ura− and failed to grow on media containing 5-FOA (5-FOA−). The sec− phenotype and the ability to grow on 5-FOA− could be restored to 32 mutants by transformation with the plasmid pPOM152 (CEN/LEU2) but not with pRS315 alone.
Table I. Yeast Strain Genotype

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<td>W303</td>
<td>Matta ade2-1/ade2-1 ura3-1/ura3-1 his3-11,15/trpl-1/trpl-1 leu2-3,112/leu2-3,112 can1-100/can1-100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DF5</td>
<td>Matta ura3-52/ura3-52 his1-15/Δ200/his1-15/trpl-1/trpl-1 leu2-3,112/leu2-3,112</td>
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<tr>
<td>PMY17</td>
<td>Matta ade2-1 ura3-1 his3-11,15/trpl-1/trpl-1 leu2-3,112 can1-100/pom152-2::HIS3</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHI462</td>
<td>Matta ade2 ade3 ura3 his2 can1</td>
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<tr>
<td>PM152CH</td>
<td>Matta ade2 ade3 ade3 ura3/ura3-1 his3/his3 trpl/1/trpl-1 leu2/2 leu2-3,112/leu2-3,112 can1/can1 can1-100/can1-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>PM152W</td>
<td>Matta ade2 ade3 ura3 his3 trpl-1/trpl-1 leu2-3,112/leu2-3,112 can1-100/pom152-75::HIS3</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>PM152-CP</td>
<td>Matta ade2 ade3 ura3 his3 trpl leu2 can1 pom152-2::HIS3, pCH1122-POM152/(ADE3-URA3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ps21</td>
<td>Matta ade2 ade3 ura3 trpl leu2 can1 pom152-2::HIS3, pCH1122-POM152/(ADE3-URA3)</td>
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</table>
| NP170Δ         | Matta ade2-1/ade2-1 ura3-1/ura3-1 his3-11,15/trpl-1/trpl-1 leu2-3,112/leu2-3,112 can1-100/can1-100 pom170-1::HIS3/+
| NP170-11.1     | Matta ade2-1 ura3-1 his3-11,15/trpl-1/trpl-1 leu2-3,112 can1-100/pom170-1::HIS3                  |
| NP188-2.2      | Matta ade2-1 ura3-1 his3-11,15/trpl-1/trpl-1 leu2-3,112 can1-100/pom188-1::HIS3                |
| NP188-2.4      | Matta ade2-1 ura3-1 his3-11,15/trpl-1/trpl-1 leu2-3,112 can1-100/pom188-1::HIS3                |
| NP170/PM152    | Matta ade2-1/ade2-1 ura3-1/ura3-1 his3-11,15/trpl-1/trpl-1 leu2-3,112/leu2-3,112 can1-100/can1-100 pom170-1::HIS3/+
| NP170/NP188    | Matta ade2-1 ura3-1 his3-11,15/trpl-1/trpl-1 leu2-3,112 can1-100/pom188-1::HIS3                |
| NP170/NP157    | Matta ade2 ade2-1/ade2-1 ura3-1/ura3-1 his3-11,15/trpl-1/trpl-1 leu2-3,112/leu2-3,112 can1-100/can1-100 pom170-1::HIS3/+
| NP170/P157     | Matta ade2-1/ade2-1 ura3-1/ura3-1 his3-11,15/trpl-1/trpl-1 leu2-3,112/leu2-3,112 can1-100/pom170-1::HIS3/+
| NP170/NP157    | Matta ade2 ade2-1/ade2-1 ura3-1/ura3-1 his3-11,15/trpl-1/trpl-1 leu2-3,112/leu2-3,112 can1-100/pom170-1::HIS3/+
| NP170/PM152    | Matta ade2 ade2-1/ade2-1 ura3-1/ura3-1 his3-11,15/trpl-1/trpl-1 leu2-3,112/leu2-3,112 can1-100/can1-100 pom170-1::HIS3/+
| NP170/PM152-2A | Matta ade2 ade3 ura3 his3 trpl leu2 can1 pom170-1::HIS3/pom152-2::HIS3, pCH1122-POM152/(ADE3-URA3) |
| NP170/PM152-54 | Matta ade2-1 ura3-1 his3-11,15/trpl-1/trpl-1 leu2-3,112 can1-100/pom152-2::HIS3, pNUP188U (URA3) |
| NP170UG        | Matta ade2 ade2-1/ade2-1 ura3-1/ura3-1 his3-11,15/trpl-1/trpl-1 leu2-3,112/leu2-3,112 can1-100/can1-100 pom170-2::URA3-GAL10/+ |
| NP170UG-60.2   | Matta ade2-1 ura3-1 his3-11,15/trpl-1/trpl-1 leu2-3,112 can1-100/pom170-2::URA3-GAL10/+ |
| NP170UG/PM152  | Matta ade2-1/ade2-1 ura3-1/ura3-1 his3-11,15/trpl-1/trpl-1 leu2-3,112/leu2-3,112 can1-100/can1-100 pom170-2::URA3-GAL10/+ |
| NP17UG/PM152-1 | Matta ade2-1 ura3-1 his3-11,15/trpl-1/trpl-1 leu2-3,112 can1-100/pom170-2::URA3-GAL10/+ |
| PM170A         | Matta ura3-52/ura3-52 his3-Δ200/his3-Δ200/trpl-1/trpl-1 leu2-3,112/leu2-3,112 lys-2-801/lys-2-801 nup170-protA (URA3-HIS3)/+ |
Backcrosses to the parent strain indicated that each of the mutations was recessive. The diploid derived from a cross with psl21 was sporulated and tetrads were dissected. The resulting haploids showed a 2:2 segregation of the mutant phenotype suggesting a single mutation was responsible for the sec- phenotype. This strain was initially chosen for complementation (see below). Similar analyses were also conducted in various other mutants where it was necessary to establish that a single locus was responsible for the sec- phenotype.

**Complementation of the psl Mutants**

To identify the wild-type allele for the psl mutant, psl21, the strain was transformed by electroporation with a yeast genomic DNA library inserted into pSB22 (CEN/LEU2) (kindly provided by J. Rine, University of California, CA). Transformants were plated on SM-leucine plates and grown for 5-8 d at 30°C. Three sec- and 5-FOA+ colonies were selected. Plasmids were isolated from each strain and propagated by shuttling into the *Escherichia coli* strain DH5a (Strathern and Higgins, 1991). Isolated plasmids were then reintroduced into psl21 to confirm their ability to rescue the sec- and 5-FOA, phenotypes. Restriction analysis revealed that both of the plasmids contained the same insert and the third contained a unique but overlapping insert. The plasmid containing the smallest insert (9.2 kb), p2105, was partially sequenced using Sequenase (United States Biochemical Corp., Cleveland, OH) and synthetic oligonucleotide primers corresponding to plasmid sequence flanking the insert. A comparison of this sequence with available databases revealed that the insert was derived from the left arm of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* chromosome II. The complementing activity of the p2105 insert was narrowed to a 6.3-kb HpaI/HpaI fragment containing a single complete ORF previously designated YBL079w (Fig. 2; plasmid pHNP170).

To examine the ability of the YBL079w ORF to complement additional psl mutants, the p2105 plasmid was transformed into the remaining mutants. p2105 restored the sec-5-FOA, phenotype in five additional mutants. All six of the mutants were derived from YBL079w (hereafter termed NUP170). Crosses of these mutants with the haploid strain NP170/PM152-2A (pom152Δ nup170A) produced diploids which failed to grow on 5-FOA.

**Gene Disruptions**

Deletion/disruption of the NUP170 and the NUP157 genes was performed by integrative transformation using the procedure of Rothstein (1991). The NUP170 gene was disrupted using a DNA fragment assembled in Bluescript SK(--) (Stratagene, La Jolla, CA) which consisted of three separate DNA fragments arranged in the following order: (a) a fragment corresponding to a 580 bp region immediately 5' to the NUP170 initiation codon; (b) a BamHI/BamHI DNA fragment containing the HIS3 selectable marker isolated from the plasmid p2127 (Jones and Prakash, 1990); and (c) an 817 bp fragment beginning with the codon for amino acid residue 300 and extending 3' to the codon for amino acid residue 300. Both of the 5' and 3' regions flanking the NUP170 gene were synthesized using the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and appropriate sense and antisense primers. The resulting plasmid was termed pUP170-His. The disruption fragment was used to transform the diploid strain W303 and His+ transformants were selected on SM-histidine plates. His- strains were analyzed by Southern blotting to identify heterozygous diploids carrying the nup170A::HIS3 disrupted gene. Cells from the disrupted strain NP170A were sporulated and tetrads were dissected on YPD plates. All spores were viable and the HIS3 marker segregated with the expected 2:2 ratio. The absence of the NUP170 gene in the His+ segregants was confirmed by Southern blotting.

The DNA fragment used for disruption of the NUP157 gene was derived by PCR-directed amplification of the URA3 gene using the following primers with overhangs corresponding to NUP157:

- sense primer: 5'-GCT CGG ATT TCA ATT GTG ATG TAT TCA ACT CCA CTA AAA AAG AGG ATT GAT TAC CAT GAT CCC CAG AGC AGA TTT TCA GAG AGG ATT GAT TAC CAT GAT CCC CAG AGC AGA TTT TCA GAG AGG ATT GAT TAC CAT GAT CCC CAG AGC AGA TTT TCA GAG AGG ATT GAT TAC CAT GAT CCC CAG AGC AGA TTT TCA GAG AGG ATT GAT TAC CAT GAT CCC CAG AGC AGA TTT TCA GAG AGG ATT GAT TAC CAT GAT CCC CAG AGC AGA TTT TCA GAG AGG ATT GAT TAC CAT GAT CCC CAG AGC AGA TTT TCA GAG AGG ATT GAT TAC CAT GAT CCC CAG AGC AGA TTT TCA GAG AGG ATT GAT TAC CAT GAT CCC CAG AGC AGA TTT TCA GAG AGG ATT GAT TAC CAT GAT CCC CAG AGC AGA TTT TCA GAG AGG ATT GAT TAC CAT GAT CCC CAG AGC AGA TTT TCA GAG AGG ATT GAT TAC CAT GAT CCC CAG AGC AGA TTT TCA GAG AGG ATT GAT TAC CAT GAT CCC CAG AGC AGA TTT TCA GAG AGG ATT GAT TAC CAT GAT CCC CAG AGC AGA TTT TCA GAG AGG ATT GAT TAC CAT GAT CCC CAG AGC AGA TTT TCA GAG AGG ATT GAT TAC CAT GAT CCC CAG AGC AGA TTT TCA GAG AGG ATT GAT TAC CAT GAT CCC CAG AGC AGA TTT TCA GAG AGG ATT GAT TAC CAT GAT CCC CAG AGC AGA TTT TCA GAG AGG ATT GAT TAC CAT GAT CCC CAG AGC AGA TTT TCA GAG AGG ATT GAT TAC CAT GAT CCC CAG AGC AGA TTT TCA GAG AGG ATT GAT TAC CAT GAT CCC CAG AGC AGA TTT TCA GAG AGG ATT GAT TAC CAT GAT CCC CAG AGC AGA TTT TCA GAG AGG ATT GAT TAC CAT GAT CCC CAG AGC AGA TTT TCA GAG AGG ATT GAT TAC CAT GAT CCC CAG AGC AGA TTT TCA GAG AGG ATT GAT TAC CAT GAT CCC CAG AGC AGA TTT TCA GAG AGG ATT GAT TAC CAT GAT CCC CAG AGC AGA TTT TCA GAG AGG ATT GAT TAC CAT GAT CCC CAG AGC AGA TTT TCA GAG AGG ATT GAT TAC CAT GAT CCC CAG AGC AGA TTT TCA GAG AGG ATT GAT TAC CAT GAT CCC CAG AGC AGA TTT TCA GAG AGG ATT GAT TAC CAT GAT CCC CAG AGC AGA TTT TCA GAG AGG ATT GAT TAC CAT GAT CCC CAG AGC AGA TTT TCA GAG AGG ATT GAT TAC CAT GAT CCC CAG AGC AGA TTT TCA GAG AGG ATT GAT TAC CAT GAT CCC CAG AGC AGA TTT TCA GAG AGG ATT GAT TAC CAT GAT CCC CAG AGC AGA TTT TCA GAG AGG ATT GAT TAC CAT GAT CCC CAG AGC AGA TTT TCA GAG AGG ATT GAT TAC CAT GAT CCC CAG AGC AGA TTT TCA GAG AGG ATT GAT TAC CAT GAT CCC CAG AGC AGA TTT TCA GAG AGG ATT GAT TAC CAT GAT CCC CAG AGC AGA TTT TCA GAG AGG ATT GAT TAC CAT GAT CCC CAG AGC AGA TTT TCA GAG AGG ATT GAT TAC CAT GAT CCC CAG AGC AGA TTT TCA GAG AGG ATT GAT TAC CAT GAT CCC CAG AGC AGA TTT TCA GAG AGG ATT GAT TAC CAT GAT CCC CAG AGC AGA TTT TCA GAG AGG ATT GAT TAC CAT GAT CCC CAG AGC AGA TTT TCA GAG AGG ATT GAT TAC CAT GAT CCC CAG AGC AGA TTT TCA GAG AGG ATT GAT TAC CAT GAT CCC CAG AGC AGA TTT TCA GAG AGG ATT GAT TAC CAT GAT CCC CAG AGC AGA TTT TCA GAG AGG ATT GAT TAC CAT GAT CCC CAG AGC AGA TTT TCA GAG AGG ATT GAT TAC CAT GAT CCC CAG AGC AGA TTT TCA GAG AGG ATT GAT TAC CAT GAT CCC CAG AGC AGA TTT TCA GAG AGG ATT GAT TAC CAT GAT CCC CAG AGC AGA TTT TCA GAG AGG ATT 1136
fragment of the URA3 gene cloned into the XbaI/XhoI sites. The following primers were used for the PCR:

**NUP170 sense primer:** 5'-GAT CCA ATT GAA AAG TAC GTT AAG AAC AGC GGC AAT AAT TTG GGG ATT TGT TGC TAC AAA GAA GGT GAA GCT CAA AAA CTT AAT-3'

**NUP170 antisense primer:** 5'-ACC TTT ATC TTA AGG AAA AGT TCA CTC GAT ATT CTT AAT TTT ACC GTG TAG TAA GGC CTC TTT ATG ATT ACA GTT TTT TAG-3'

**NUP157 sense primer:** 5'-GAT CCG AAT ACC GCT CCC GTT CAA GAT TAG AAG GAT GTG CAT CAT CAA GTC CGT CAA AAA GGT GAA GCT CAA AAA CTT AAT-3'

**NUP157 antisense primer:** 5'-CCG TAA AAG CCC AGG TTA CAT TCA CTA TAT AAA GGA TGA TGA CGT AAG AAT TTG CCT ACG TTT ACT TAT AAT ACA GTT TTT TAG-3'

The 5' region of each sense primer encodes the carboxy terminus of either protein A beginning at the glycine at amino acid residue 24 (Uhlen et al., 1984). The 3' regions of the NUP170 and NUP157 antisense primers correspond to nucleotides +4629 to +4570 and +4282 to +4227 (where +1 is the A of the initiation codon), respectively, in the 3' untranslated regions of NUP170 and NUP157 and continue to encode 24 nucleotides corresponding to the reverse complement of the URA3 gene (nucleotides 1050-1027; Rose et al., 1984). The PCR products were transformed into DF5 cells by electroporation to insert an in frame, COOH-terminal fusion to the ORF of each gene producing either NUP170-protein A or NUP157-protein A followed by HIS3 and URA3. His+, Ura+ colonies were replica plated onto nitrocellulose. The colonies were grown overnight on nitrocellulose and probed directly for the presence of the wild-type ADE3 gene product, with white sectors which arise from the spontaneous loss of the plasmid under nonselective conditions. If the cells are dependent on a gene product from the plasmid, the colonies remain uniformly red. To screen for mutants dependent on plasmid-linked POM152, a pom152Δ strain (PM152-75) was transformed with the plasmid pCH1122-POM152 (containing the URA3 and ADE3 genes). When grown on nonselective medium, the resulting strain (PM152CP) exhibited a red/white sectoring phenotype (sec+). Following UV mutagenesis, 34 nonsectoring mutants (sec-) mutants were isolated which were dependent on the pCH1122-POM152 plasmid and sensitive to the addition of 5-FOA (5-FOAr) and 5-FOA敏感 to the addition of 5-FOA (5-FOAr). Plasmids recovered from these cells contained the pCH1122-POM152 plasmid and 5-FOA resistance (5-FOAr) phenotype could be restored to 32 mutants by pPOM152(LEU2) indicating that these mutants were dependent on the POM152 gene.

All 32 of the POM152 synthetic lethal (psl) mutants isolated were recessive. Analysis of the haploid progeny from a cross of the parent strain with one of the psl mutants, psl21, revealed a 2:2 segregation pattern of the mutant suggesting a mutation in a single locus. To identify the corresponding wild-type allele, psl21 cells were transformed with a library of S. cerevisiae genomic DNA in the vector pSB32, a centromere-based plasmid containing the LEU2 marker gene. Three clones were recovered which were sec+ and 5-FOAr. Plasmids recovered from these cells contained either of two overlapping inserts, the smallest of which (in plasmid p2105) was 9.2 kb in length. Of the psl mutants, p2105 rescued the Sec+/5-FOAr phenotype of.
A

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POM152 synthetic lethal strain (psl)</th>
<th>pPOM152</th>
<th>p2105</th>
<th>pNIC96</th>
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Transformed with LEU2-plasmid

Figure 1. (A) Complementation of the POM152 synthetic lethal (psl) mutants. The psl mutants examined can be grouped into four separate complementation groups. 11 mutants are shown in A which represent three groups. The sec+ phenotype of each of these mutants can be rescued by a CEN/LEU2 plasmid containing POM152 (pPOM152). Six mutants are rescued by the plasmid p2105, two by pUN100-NIC96 (pNIC96), and three by the plasmid p40. pNUP188 fails to complement any of these mutants, but instead rescues a fourth complementation group composed of 20 psl mutants which are characterized elsewhere (Nehrbass, U., S. Maguire, M. P. Rout, G. Blobel, and R. W. Wozniak, manuscript submitted for publication). (B) Growth of rescued psl mutants on 5-FOA plates. Three representative mutants, psl21, psl7, psl4, and the parent strain PM75CP were grown on 5-FOA plates for 3 d at 30°C. All three mutants (containing the control plasmid pRS315) are sec+, due to their requirement for the pCH1122-POM152 (ADE3/URA3) plasmid while PM75CP is sec+. 5-FOA, 5-FOA, can be restored to each mutant by the POM152 gene in pRS315 (CEN/LEU2) (pPOM152; POM152). The 5-FOA, phenotype can also be restored to psl21 by the p2105 plasmid (NUP170), to psl7 by pUN100-NIC96 (NIC96; kindly provided by Ed Hurt, EMBL, Heidelberg, Germany), and to psl4 by a NUP188-containing plasmid p33 (NUP188; Nehrbass, U., S. Maguire, M. P. Rout, G. Blobel and R. W. Wozniak, manuscript submitted for publication).

B

Figure 2. Map of the p2105 insert. The plasmid p2105 restores the sec+/5-FOA, phenotype to six psl mutants (21, 31, 49, 53, 73, and 78). The p2105 insert corresponds to a 9.2-kb segment of S. cerevisiae chromosome II and contains a 4.5-kb ORF termed YBL079w. The position of relevant restriction sites within the insert are shown. The complementing activity of the p2105 insert has been narrowed to a 6.3-kb HpaI/HpaI fragment (pHN170). A truncation with BamHI which removes the last 720 nucleotides of the YBL079w ORF (p2105B) abolishes its complementing activity.

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Complementation of psl21 Identifies a Novel Yeast Nucleoporin, Nup170p, Which Is Similar to Both the Mammalian Nucleoporin Nup153p and an Uncharacterized Yeast Nucleoporin, Nup157p

We established by DNA sequence analysis that the p2150 insert corresponds to a 9.2-kb fragment of S. cerevisiae chromosome II. This fragment contains a 1,502-amino acid residue ORF designated YBL079w (accession no. sp P38181) with a deduced molecular mass of 170 kD (Fig. 2). Deletion analysis revealed that this gene alone can rescue the psl mutants complemented by p2105 (Fig. 2). Interestingly, a truncation of the p2105 which removed the last 240 amino-acid residues of the YBL079w ORF abolished its complementing activity (p2105B, Fig. 2). Finally, we have established that each of the mutants rescued by p2105 is allelic to the YBL079w locus (see Materials and Methods).

We have compared the sequence of the YBL079w ORF with available protein sequence data bases. The results of this search revealed that the YBL079w ORF shares significant sequence similarity (21.3% identity and 53.7% similarity) with the mammalian nucleoporin Nup153p (Radu et al., 1993; Fig. 3). In addition to Nup153p, searches of the data base with YBL079w also detected a closely related (41.7% identity and 78.4% similarity), uncharacterized ORF on the right arm of S. cerevisiae chromosome V (Fig. 3). This putative polypeptide, termed Yer105p (accession no. sp P40064), has a deduced molecular mass of 157 kD. The difference in the calculated molecular masses derived from the two ORFs is largely due to short insertions interspersed within the central third of the larger (YBL079w) ORF. On the basis of sequence similarities and both biochemical and in situ subcellular localization (see below),

characterized plasmid termed p40 (Marelli, M. and R. W. Wozniak, unpublished results). Finally, two psl mutants were rescued by the plasmid pUN100-NIC96 (Fig. 1) containing the gene for a previously identified nucleoporin, Nic96p (Grandi et al., 1993).

![Figure 1](https://jcb.rupress.org/1995/131/1138/fig1)

![Figure 2](https://jcb.rupress.org/1995/131/1138/fig2)
both Nup170p and Nup157p revealed no regions of significant hydrophobicity (and lacking charged residues) which could act as transmembrane segments. Finally, no sequence similarity was observed between Nup170p or Nup157p and Pom152p or any of the gene products which rescue other psi complementation groups including Nup188p and Nic96p.

**Immunofluorescent Localization of Nup170p and Nup157p to the NPC**

To examine the subcellular localization of Nup170p and Nup157p, both proteins were tagged with IgG binding domain of *Staphylococcal* protein A. This was accomplished by integrating the coding region of protein A into chromosomal copies of *NUP170* and *NUP157* following the last codon of their ORFs. The resulting strains were then examined by indirect immunofluorescence. Both Nup170–protein A and Nup157–protein A were visible along the surface of the nucleus in a punctate pattern characteristic of NPC localization (Fig. 4).

**Nup170p and Nup157p Are Major Constituents of the Yeast NPC**

A procedure has been previously described for the preparation of a highly enriched fraction of yeast NPCs (Rout and Blobel, 1993). The major feature of these isolated NPCs is the eightfold symmetry of their framework. When analyzed by SDS-PAGE, the NPC fraction revealed three prominent high molecular mass bands of 170, 160, and 150 kD that coenrich absolutely with the NPCs (cf. Fig. 3 A, arrowheads, Rout and Blobel, 1993). These can be further resolved on a 5–20% polyacrylamide gel into five distinct species: an intense, closely comigrating doublet at 170 kD, a less intense band at 160 kD, a strong band at 150 kD, and another less intense band just below that (Fig. 5). The identity of the 150-kD band had already been established (and reconfirmed here) as Pom152p (Wozniak et al., 1994; Fig. 5 A). To identify the other polypeptides, they were further purified (see Materials and Methods section) and each was analyzed by peptide microsequencing (Fig. 5 B). The lower band of the doublet at 170 kD is Nup188p (Nehrbass, U., S. Maguire, M. P. Rout, G. Blobel and R. W. Wozniak, manuscript submitted for publication) and the upper is an as yet uncharacterized protein. Microsequence derived from the 160-kD band yielded several peptides which identified it as Nup170p (Fig. 5, A and B). Similarly peptide sequence data from the band beneath Pom152p demonstrated that this polypeptide is Nup157p (Fig. 5 B).

Multiple chromatography procedures including SDS-hydroxylapatite chromatography, reverse–phase HPLC and ion-exchange chromatography suggest that Pom152p, Nup170p, Nup157p, Nup188p, and the upper 170 kD band are the only polypeptides within this molecular mass range in the NPC fraction (Wozniak et al., 1994; Rout and Blobel, 1993; data not shown). Moreover, all of the peptide sequences obtained from this region could be assigned to one of the above four proteins, with the exception of those obtained from the upper 170 kD species (data not shown). This allowed the relative amounts of all five Coomassie-blue stained polypeptides to be quantified by laser densi-
Figure 4. Immunofluorescence localization of NUP170p and NUP157p. The yeast strains NP170pA and NP157pA expressing the protein A–tagged NUP170 and NUP157 gene products, respectively, were formaldehyde-fixed, permeabilized, and probed with purified rabbit IgG followed by Cy3-labeled donkey anti-rabbit IgG (NUP170-protA and NUP157-protA). The nuclear DNA was visualized by coincident staining with DAPI. In each case the fusion proteins are visible along the nuclear surface in a punctate pattern characteristic of NPC localization. Bar, 5 μm.
were analyzed by SDS-PAGE (5-20% polyacrylamide gels) and the proteins in this fraction were determined by a laser densitometry. In combination with the calculated enrichment of the NPC fraction (Rout and Blobel, 1993), we estimated their relative contribution to the overall mass of the isolated NPCs (Fig. 5A). Each appeared to account for between 2 and 3 MD of the 66 MD measured for isolated yeast NPCs (Rout and Blobel, 1993). The yeast nucleoporin Nic96p (identified by microsequencing) is also similarly abundant (Fig. 5). Thus together, these six proteins could comprise as much as one-quarter of the mass of the isolated NPCs.

**Deletion Mutants of nup170 and nup157 Are Viable**

A deletion/disruption of the NUP170 gene was performed to examine the phenotype of the nup170 null mutant. The entire NUP170 ORF was replaced with a DNA fragment encoding the HIS3 gene by integrative transformation into the diploid strain W303. A His+ transformant containing a disruption of NUP170 (NP170Δ) was selected, sporulated, and tetrads were dissected. All four segregants from each tetrad were viable and exhibited a 2:2 segregation of the HIS3 marker. His+ haploids lacking the NUP170 gene reproducibly formed smaller colonies when initially grown from individual spores (Fig. 6A). However, after extended growth the nup170Δ strains divided at a rate similar to that observed in the presence of wild-type copy of NUP170 at temperatures ranging from 17°-37°C (data not shown). Similarly, the entire ORF of NUP157 was deleted and replaced with the URA3 marker by integrative transformation into the diploid strain DF5. A diploid Ura+ transformant with disruptions of the NUP157 gene (NP157Δ) was selected and tetrads were dissected. All four segregants from each tetrad were viable (Fig. 6A) and all tetrads showed a 2:2 segregation of the URA3 marker. There was no detectable growth defect associated with the nup157Δ haploids. Thus both nup170Δ and nup157Δ exhibit a non-lethal phenotype similar to that observed for pom152Δ (Wozniak et al., 1994) and nup188Δ haploid strains (Nehrbass, U., S. Maguire, M. P. Rout, G. Blobel, and R. W. Wozniak, manuscript submitted for publication).

**Genetic Interactions of NUP170, NUP157, POM152, and NUP188**

Our battery of psl mutants indicated that both Nup170p and Nup188p interact genetically with Pom152p. In addition, the abundance of Nup157p and its similarity to Nup170p suggest that it may also interact genetically with this group of proteins. To further study the functional interactions between these four genes, double null mutants of each pair were constructed and their viability assayed by their dependence on a plasmid-born copy of one of the two genes. Initially nup170Δ (NP170-11.1) was crossed with pom152Δ (PM152-W) and nup188Δ (NP188-2.2) strains. Both of the resulting diploid strains carrying a URA3 complementing plasmid (containing either POM152 or NUP188) were sporulated and their haploid segregants assayed for growth on 5-FOA-containing plates (Fig. 6B). None of the strains carrying the double deletions survived on 5-FOA. This growth defect, however, could be overcome by transformation with pPOM152 (LEU2) or p33 (NUP188/LEU2) (Fig. 6B). Similar analysis also demonstrated a synthetic lethal phenotype associated with a pom152Δ nup188Δ double null strain (Nehrbass, U., S. Maguire, M. P. Rout, G. Blobel, and R. W. Wozniak, manuscript submitted for publication). Thus all combinations of double null mutants involving nup170Δ, pom152Δ, and nup188Δ are synthetically lethal, indicating a triad of genetic interactions.
Figure 6. Analysis of nup170 and nup157 null mutations. (A) nup170 and nup157 null mutants are viable. Deletion and disruption of the NUP170 gene was accomplished by replacement of the NUP170 ORF with the HIS3 selectable marker in the diploid strain W303. The NUP157 gene was similarly disrupted by replacement of the NUP157 ORF with the URA3 selectable marker. In each case heterozygous diploids containing a wild-type and a disrupted copy of the NUP genes were sporulated and tetrads dissected on YPD plates. The haploid segregants following ~2 d of growth at 30°C are shown. While all four spores are viable in each case, a 2:2 segregation of large to small colonies was observed for NUP170 disruption with the small colonies containing the disruption (His+; data not shown).

(B) Double disruptions of pom152 and nup170 and nup170 and nup188 are lethal. Two haploid strains, pom152:~nup170A and nup170:~nup188A, were isolated which contain a plasmid (CEN/URA3)-born copy of POM152 and NUP188, respectively. Both strains were streaked on YPD and 5-FOA-containing plates and grown for 3 d at 30°C. Both strains are viable on YPD plates but fail to grow on 5-FOA plates. Introduction of POM152 into pom152:~nup170A and NUP188 into nup170:~nup188A on a separate CEN/LEU2 plasmid complements the 5-FOA⁻ phenotype (5-FOA) under identical growth conditions.

To determine if a deletion of NUP157 (nup157-2::URA3) is synthetically lethal in combination with deletions of either NUP170 (nup170-1::HIS3), NUP188 (nup188-1::HIS3) or POM152 (pom152-2::HIS3), the appropriate crosses were made and Ura⁺, His⁺ diploids were selected. Diploids were sporulated and tetrads dissected. Analysis of haploid strains derived from pom152:~nup157A diploids (PM152/NP157) demonstrated that the URA3 and HIS3 markers segregated as unlinked non-interacting genes, indicating that there is no synthetic lethality resulting from the deletion of NUP157 in combination with a deletion of POM152 (data not shown). However, similar analysis of haploid segregants derived from nup170Δnup157Δ (NP170/ NP157) and nup188Δnup157Δ (NP188/NP157) revealed a 3:1 segregation of viable:nonviable haploids. Of the viable haploids none were Ura⁺, His⁺ suggesting synthetic lethality (data not shown). Thus, while structurally similar, Nup157p and Nup170p appear functionally distinct.

Figure 7. Thin-section electron micrographs of pom152Δ and nup170Δ cells. Cells (PMY17 and NP170-11.1) were grown in YPD at 30°C, fixed, and processed for electron microscopy. In both strains the morphology of the nucleus and nuclear envelope appear indistinguishable from wild-type cells. Bar, 0.2 μm.
Morphological Abnormalities Associated with Depletion and Overexpression of Nup170p

Given the lethal phenotype of nup170Δ pom152Δ strains, we investigated the morphological consequences of depletion and overexpression of the NUP170 gene product in POM152-deleted cells. As a prerequisite for this study, we first examined the morphological phenotype of the null mutants nup170Δ (NP170-11.1) and pom152Δ (PMY17) strains by thin-section electron microscopy. In both cases these mutant cells showed no obvious structural abnormalities and appeared indistinguishable from wild-type cells (Fig. 7).

To vary the levels of Nup170p, its gene was placed under control of the GAL10 promoter fused to the CYC1 minimal promoter. The GAL10 promoter, fused downstream of a URA3 marker, was integrated into the genome immediately upstream of the NUP170 initiation codon in wild-type (W303) and pom152Δ cells. Cells were then grown on either galactose to induce, or glucose to repress, expression of NUP170. Cells carrying NUP170 under the control of the GAL10 promoter and a wild-type version of POM152 (NP170UG-60.2) grew at rates similar to wild-type cells on either carbon source. Thin-section electron microscopy revealed no major apparent morphological abnormalities in these strains (Figs. 8 A and 9 A). In contrast, growth of GAL10::nup170 pom152Δ cells (the strain NP170UG/PM152-1) on glucose led to a moderate growth defect and dramatic alterations to their cellular morphology. These cells grew ∼50% slower than GAL10::nup170 cells containing wild-type POM152 (data not shown). Light microscopy indicated that under these conditions the GAL10::nup170 pom152Δ cells were considerably larger than wild-type cells and usually contained large vacuoles (data not shown). Closer examination by electron microscopy revealed that the nuclear envelope in these cells had lost its regular shape and had developed massive extensions and invaginations (Fig. 8, B–D). Some of these invaginations appeared to surround cytoplasmic material including single-membrane bound vesicles (Fig. 8, B and D). The most likely interpretation of these images is that they represent cross-sectional views of large invaginations of the nuclear envelope which extend into the interior of the nucleus. While we see apparently normal NPCs, there are long stretches of nuclear envelope without detectable NPCs (Fig. 8 B). Areas this large devoid of NPCs could not be detected in wild-type cells and may reflect an overall reduction in the number of NPCs. In many cells there is a propensity of electron-dense material below the surface of the nuclear envelope (Fig. 8, C and D). These patches often lie juxtaposed to two double membranes.

It was surprising that although the nup170Δ pom152Δ double deletion is lethal, that GAL10::nup170 pom152Δ cells continued to grow on glucose for at least 36 h. Northern blot analysis indicated that although the expression of the NUP170 mRNA was greatly induced when cells were grown on galactose, transfer to glucose did not completely repress the expression of the gene (data not shown). These results suggest that the nuclear envelope distortions observed in cells grown on glucose were the result of a decrease in the expression of NUP170 and not the result of cell death. Consistent with these results, GAL10::nup170, pom152Δ cells, transformed with pCH1122-POM152 (ADE3/POM152) failed to sector on glucose over 10 d but sectored as efficiently as wild-type cells when grown on galactose (data not shown).

In contrast to the results observed with repressed NUP170 expression, a distinct morphological phenotype was observed upon overexpression of NUP170. As was the case in glucose, GAL10::nup170 cells (containing wild-type POM152 NP170UG-60.2) grown on galactose to induce overexpression of NUP170 showed no alterations in the structure of the nucleus or nuclear envelope (Fig. 9 A) as compared with wild-type strains. While appearing as wild-type in terms of the size and shape of the nucleus and nuclear envelope, galactose-induced overexpression of NUP170 in GAL10::nup170, pom152Δ cells caused the appearance of structures resembling intranuclear annulate lamellae which lie parallel to and beneath the inner nuclear membrane (Fig. 9, B–D). As has been observed with cytoplasmic annulate lamellae in higher eukaryotes (Maul, 1977), NPCs within the intranuclear lamellae often appear in register with the NPCs present in the nuclear envelope with interconnecting, densely staining material (Fig. 9, C and D).

Mammalian Nup155p Can Functionally Replace Yeast Nup170p

We determined whether the similarities between Nup170p and mammalian Nup155p were sufficient to allow functional complementation of nup170 mutants. A high-copy number plasmid, pADH155, containing NUP155 under the control of the constitutive ADH promoter was introduced into the nup170Δ pom152Δ (NP170PM152-1CH) and the psl21 strains, both of which are dependent on the plasmid pCH1122-POM152 and are thus 5-FOA−. Several Trp+ transformants were selected from each strain and then transferred to 5-FOA-containing plates. In each case 5-FOA− colonies appeared within 2 days (Fig. 10 A). No colonies were present in either untransformed cells (Fig. 10 A), cells transformed with the pRS424 alone, or in nup188Δ pom152Δ cells (data not shown). This demonstrated that the presence of Nup155p compensated for the loss of functional Nup170p in the synthetic lethal strains pom152Δ nup170Δ and psl21. It is of note that while NUP155 complements the nup170 mutants, the rescued strains grow at a slower rate than the corresponding strains rescued with NUP170 (data not shown). Consistent with this observation, psl21 cells transformed with NUP155 (pADH155) did not regain the ability to sector. These results suggest that the Nup155p-containing hybrid yeast NPCs fail to function with the same efficiency as wild-type yeast NPCs.

We examined the subcellular localization of Nup155p in pom152Δnup170Δ cells complemented with NUP155 (NP170/PM152-155) by indirect immunofluorescence using antibodies directed against mammalian Nup155p (Radu et al., 1993). A survey of a field of cells revealed variations in the intensity of staining between individual cells, which likely reflects variations in the level of NUP155 expression. At high levels of expression there was a great deal of speckled cytoplasmic staining as well as staining at the nu-
Figure 8. Depletion of NUP170p. Thin-section electron micrographs of cells expressing NUP170 under the control of the GAL10 promoter were grown on glucose to repress NUP170p synthesis in a wild-type background (A, NP170UG-60.2) or in a pom152A background (B–D, NP170UG/PM152-1). Cells were either maintained in YPD (A) or grown in YPD for 16 h (B–D) after transfer from 2% raffinose. The micrographs (B–D) depict large nuclear envelope invaginations and an overall loss of nuclear structure in the GAL10::nup170, pom152A cells. Arrows point to electron dense material below the surface of the nuclear envelope (C and D). These patches often lie juxtaposed to two double membranes. Bar, 0.2 μm.

Discussion

We have identified a two-member family of structurally related, but functionally distinct, nucleoporins, Nup170p and Nup157p. Both Nup170p and Nup157p show a high
Figure 9. Overexpression of NUP170. Thin-section electron micrographs of cells expressing NUP170 under the control of the GAL10 promoter grown on 2% galactose to induce NUP170 expression in a wild-type background (A, NP170UG-60.2) or in a pom152A background (B-D, NP170UG/PM152-1) are shown. Cells were either maintained in YP-gal (A) or grown in YP-gal for 16 h (B-D) after transfer from 2% raffinose. In contrast to depletion of Nup170p, galactose induced overexpression of NUP170 in cells lacking POM152 did not affect the gross structure of the nuclear envelope, however in many cases, intranuclear annulate lamellae were detected (B-D, arrows). Bar, 0.2 μm.

degree of sequence similarity with the mammalian nucleoporin Nup155p (Radu et al., 1993). This sequence similarity reflects an evolutionarily conserved role in NPC function as demonstrated by the ability of mammalian NUP155 to functionally complement yeast mutants allelic to NUP170. We propose, on the basis of their sequence conservation, abundance, and interaction with other major NPC components, that these proteins play a fundamental role in the organization of the NPC framework.

Pom152p is an abundant integral membrane protein of the yeast NPC (Wozniak et al., 1994). With domains extending from the pore face (175 amino acids residues) and the luminal face (1,141-amino acids residues) of the pore membrane, it is strategically located to play a role in the structural organization of the NPC and its anchorage to the pore membrane. Surprisingly, deletion of POM152 is not lethal and it can be removed from the NPC without any apparent functional consequences. This suggests that design features built into the structure of the NPC allow it to maintain a minimal framework despite the loss of a major component. Thus, we sought out methods which might allow us to identify proteins which together with Pom152p contribute to the basic framework of the NPC structure.

Two approaches were taken. In the first, a genetic screen was designed based on synthetic lethality with POM152. Mutants identified by this screen presumably require either direct physical interactions with Pom152p or an overlapping function performed by Pom152p. We postulated that the wild-type alleles of these mutants would compensate for the loss of Pom152p in pom152Δ strains and, therefore, they would be expected to play an important structural role in the NPC. In the second approach we searched a highly enriched NPC fraction for proteins of similar abundance to Pom152p. This approach was based, in part, on the hypothesis that the framework of the NPC is composed of abundant and evolutionarily conserved proteins.

From the genetic screen, genes encoding three nucleoporins were identified which complement three psl complementation groups: Nup170p, which is characterized here, Nup188p, which is described in detail elsewhere (Nehrbass, U., S. Maguire, M. P. Rout, G. Blobel, and R. W. Wozniak, manuscript submitted for publication), and a previously identified nucleoporin, Nic96p (Grandi et al., 1993). In addition to their genetic interactions with Pom152p complementary biochemical approaches also established that all three of these proteins are major constituents of a highly enriched fraction of yeast NPCs. Microsequence analysis of another major protein in the NPC fraction initiated the characterization of the nucleoporin Nup157p which shows a high degree of sequence similarity to Nup170p. We estimate that Nup170p, Nup157p, Pom152p, Nup188p, and Nic96p are present in approximately 10–20 copies per NPC and together represent as much as 25% of the mass of the isolated yeast NPCs (Fig. 5).

Nup170p and Nup157p are both structurally similar to the mammalian nucleoporin, Nup155p (Fig. 3). Like its yeast counterpart, Nup155p is an abundant NPC protein and immuno-electron microscopy studies suggest that
was detected using rabbit anti-Nup155p peptide serum followed by mouse anti-rabbit Cy3 conjugate. The α-NUP155 shows the localization of NUP155p to the nuclear periphery using a combination of phase contrast and fluorescent microscopy. Coincident DAPI staining is shown (right).

Figure 10. (A) Complementation of nup170 mutations with mammalian NUP155. A cDNA encoding the rat nucleoporin Nup155p was inserted into the plasmid pRS424 (TRPI) downstream of the constitutive yeast ADH promoter. The resulting plasmid pADH155, and the p2105 plasmid containing NUP170 were each transformed into two mutants allelic to NUP170; psl21 and the double null strain pom152Δnup170Δ (NP170/PM152-2A). Transformants were selected on SM-leu and then streaked on 5-FOA-containing plates and grown for 2 d at 30°C. Both untransformed psl21 and pom152Δnup170Δ (–) strains fail to grow on 5-FOA due to their requirement for the pCH1122-POM152 (ADE3/URA3) plasmid. p2105 complements the 5-FOA phenotype of both mutants (NUP170). Strikingly, growth on 5-FOA is also restored to both mutants by pADH155 (NUP155) demonstrating that mammalian Nup155p can functionally replace yeast Nup170p. (B) Immunofluorescence localization of mammalian NUP155p to the nuclear periphery. The double-deletion mutant pom152Δnup170Δ harboring the plasmid pADH155 (NP170/PM152-155; labeled here nup170Δ pom152Δ::NUP155) was grown in YPD and processed for immunofluorescence. NUP155p was detected using rabbit anti-Nup155p peptide serum followed by mouse anti-rabbit Cy3 conjugate. The α-NUP155 shows the localization of NUP155p to the nuclear periphery using a combination of phase contrast and fluorescence microscopy. Coincident DAPI staining is shown (right).

Nup155p may be a component of the NPC core structure (Radu et al., 1993). By complementation of nup170 mutants we have demonstrated that Nup155p can functionally replace Nup170p. This is the first example of such functional homology between yeast and vertebrate NPC proteins. The relationship between Nup155p and Nup170p, however, is unclear and awaits the isolation of the appropriate nup157 mutants. In addition to the observed similarities between this set of proteins, searches of the database have also revealed a human cDNA with a deduced amino acid sequence highly similar (25.8% identity, 60.1% similarity; FASTA; Pearson and Lipman, 1988) to another major yeast nucleoporin, Nic96p. We have, in fact, established by microsequence analysis that a major polypeptide of ~90 kD in a fraction enriched in rat NPC proteins shows identity with the ORF of the human cDNA (Wozniak, R. W., and G. Blobel, unpublished data). The high degree of similarity between the yeast Nic96p and its mammalian counterpart suggests they too are homologues, but functional complementation remains to be examined.

Given the abundance of the Nup170p, Nup157p, Pom152p, Nup188p, and Nic96p it is remarkable that, with the exception of NIC96 (Grandi et al., 1993), null mutants of each are viable. If, as we propose, these proteins are part of the major core structures of the NPC, the dispensability of each protein implies that the core framework is stabilized by multiple overlapping interactions. Thus under normal conditions, the scaffold can withstand the removal of any one of its struts or buttresses; but, if the structure is compromised by an additional loss, it is destabilized to the point of collapse. The presence of such multiple interactions is also suggested by the fact that we found NIC96 in our genetic screen. The mutant form of Nic96p must be stabilized, at least in part, by the presence of Pom152p. Moreover, with the exception of Nup170p and Nup157p, these proteins lack any apparent sequence similarity, arguing against their role in a single redundant function.

Double disruptions of POM152, NUP170, and NUP188, in any combination, are lethal (Fig. 6B). These data further support the results of the POM152 synthetic lethal screen and suggest that Nup170p, Nup188p, and Pom152p all functionally interact. However, any direct physical interactions can only be inferred on the basis of their association with isolated NPCs. Conversely, while Nup157p is similarly abundant and structurally related to Nup170p, Nup157 null mutants, unlike those of nup170, are not synthetically lethal in combination with null mutants of pom152. These results suggest that Nup157p is functionally different from Nup170p and, possibly, part of a physically distinct substructure of the NPC which is unaffected by removal of Nup152p. This raises the intriguing possibility that Nup157p and Nup170p are structurally similar proteins in morphologically symmetrical, but physically and functionally distinct substructures of the NPC, such as the nuclear and cytoplasmic rings. Such similar proteins may provide the necessary asymmetry required for anchoring structures such as the cytoplasmic filaments and the nucleoplasmic cage.

In light of the functional conservation of Nup170p, we examined the effects of its depletion and overexpression. Varying the expression levels of NUP170 produced no observable morphological changes in a wild-type background (Figs. 8 and 9). However, either repression or overexpression of NUP170 in a pom152 null background led to two separate and distinct phenotypes. First, depletion of Nup170p caused the development of enlarged and grossly distorted nuclear envelope membranes. This aspect of the phenotype is similar to the effects observed in nup1 mutants (Bogerd et al., 1994). However, contrary to that reported for the nup1 mutants, close examination of those cells revealed a distinct paucity of pores over large extended regions of the nuclear envelope (Fig. 8). In addition, structures resembling NPCs could be detected below...
the double membrane, often between areas where invaginations placed two double membranes adjacent to one another. These structures may represent partially assembled NPCs which result from the depletion of Nup170p in the absence of Pom152p. They, however, do not appear to transport substrate as they do not form herniations of the type observed in nup16 null mutants at 37°C (Wente and Blobel, 1993).

The same strain exhibited a marked difference in morphology when NUP170 overexpression was induced. Instead of a distorted nuclear envelope, intranuclear annulate lamellae were observed in many instances (Fig. 9). As was the case with the depletion phenotype, these structures are not a direct result of the overexpression of NUP170, but their formation requires the overexpression of NUP170 in the absence of POM152. Intranuclear annulate lamellae have also been observed in nup16 null mutants by Wente and Blobel (1993). However unlike the annulate lamellae observed in the nup16Δ strain, we have not observed an attachment between the intranuclear annulate lamellae and the inner nuclear membrane.

The nuclear envelope abnormalities we have observed here by varying the expression levels of NUP170, within a pom152Δ background, suggests that the maintenance of proper stoichiometry between constitutents of the NPC is important. Variations in NUP170 expression above and below wild-type levels of Nup170p leads to distinct phenotypes. The primary effect of these abnormalities is impossible to determine using the techniques employed here. The effects we observe are likely to be pleiotropic, resulting from a reduced ability for the NPC to perform any number of its many functions, including interactions with the underlying chromatin and/or nuclear matrix, changes in the overall bidirectional transport rate, or an imbalance of transport. The fact that overexpressing phenotypes are observed in nup1 (Bogerd et al., 1994) and nup16 (Wente and Blobel, 1993) mutants also indicates the effects we observe are many fold. Likewise, very little insight would be expected to be gained from employing an in vivo transport assay on different carbon sources. Any effect observed could equally be attributed to pleiotropic effects and, since the cells are viable under these conditions, bidirectional transport must be taking place. We, in fact, did not detect any mRNA transport defects associated with the depletion or overexpression of NUP170 in strains lacking POM152 (data not shown).

Nup170p and Nup157p are abundant evolutionarily conserved nucleoporins, and nup170 synthetic lethal mutants can be complemented by mammalian NUP155. This likely reflects their similar roles as proteins of the core framework of NPCs. Recently, structurally and functionally homologous nuclear transport factors have been found in both vertebrates and yeast. Taken together these observations underscore the fundamental similarities between the structure and function of all eukaryotic NPCs.

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