

1 **Small effect-size mutations cumulatively affect yeast quantitative traits**

2 Bo Hua^{1,2} and Michael Springer^{1,*}

3 ¹ Department of Systems Biology, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts 02115

4 ² Systems Biology Graduate Program, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, United

5 States of America

6 * Corresponding author and Lead contact, Email: michael_springer@hms.harvard.edu

7

8 **Summary**

9 Quantitative traits are influenced by pathways that have traditionally been defined through
10 genes that have a large loss- or gain-of-function effect. However, in theory, a large number of
11 small effect-size genes could cumulative play a substantial role in pathway function, potentially
12 by acting as “modifiers” that tune the levels of large effect size pathway components. To
13 understand the role of these small effect-size genes, we used a quantitative assay to determine
14 the number, strength, and identity of all non-essential genes that affect two galactose-
15 responsive (GAL) traits, in addition to re-analyzing two previously screened quantitative traits.
16 Over a quarter of assayed genes have a detectable effect; approximately two thirds of the
17 quantitative trait variation comes from small effect-size genes. The functions of small effect-size
18 genes are partially overlapping between traits and are enriched in core cellular processes. This

19 implies that genetic variation in one process has the potential to influence behavior or disease
20 in seemingly unconnected processes.

21

22 **Highlights**

- 23 • Four yeast quantitative traits are affected by thousands of small effect-size genes.
- 24 • Small effect-size genes are enriched in core cellular processes
- 25 • The effects of these genes are quantitative trait-specific.

26

27 **Introduction**

28 What are all the genes that are involved in a trait? Classically, the pathways that contribute to a
29 trait, like those involved in signaling or development, were defined by genetic screens that
30 identified genes with loss- or gain-of-function phenotypes (Nüsslein-Volhard and Wieschaus,
31 1980). As screens became more quantitative, many alleles of both small and large effects size
32 where identified (Ehrenreich et al., 2010; Friedman and Perrimon, 2006).But, the methods to
33 validate and then determine the molecular function have remained laborious. Hence, research
34 has typically focused on genes on characterizing genes with large effect size. This has lead to a
35 potential bias that these large effect size genes dominate the behavior and variability in a
36 pathway. An alternative view is that cumulatively, the mainly overlooked small effect size genes

37 significantly shape pathway function and population-level trait variation, and hence the genetic
38 architecture of a pathway is distributed not centralized (Figure 1). Until recently, it wasn't
39 possible to easily and comprehensively identify genes implicated in quantitative traits, making it
40 difficult to distinguish between these two hypotheses concerning the architecture of most
41 pathways.

42 The genetic architecture of quantitative traits has taken on increased importance as it has
43 become clear that many human traits, such as body mass index and traits that underlie
44 heritable human disease, are also quantitative. Numerous human traits and disease have been
45 studied using genome-wide association studies (GWAS) to uncover the loci containing causative
46 variants that are responsible for the genetic component of these traits (Hindorff et al., 2009). If
47 the genetic architecture of the underlying pathway were centralized, one would expect GWAS
48 would yield a small number of large effect-size genes typically of related function; if the genetic
49 architecture of a quantitative trait were distributed, one would expect GWAS would yield a
50 large number of small effect-size genes of often seemingly unrelated function. In some diseases,
51 e.g. age-related macular degeneration (AMD), GWAS indeed identified several common alleles
52 of large effect size that explain about half of the disease risk to siblings of affected individuals
53 (Maller et al., 2006). This would support the view of centralized signaling pathways. But, in
54 many cases, GWAS has yielded many small effect-size variants with low odd ratios (Hindorff et
55 al., 2009), and additionally many identified loci have not included genes with an obvious
56 connection to disease (Cooper and Shendure, 2011; Edwards et al., 2013). These results are
57 consistent with the hypothesis that the gene architecture of some pathways underlying human

58 traits is distributed. Direct experiments to separate between these two hypotheses can help
59 frame our expectation for the results from these association studies.

60 Model organisms should be a powerful set of tools for defining the architecture of quantitative
61 traits. Several studies in yeast (Bloom et al., 2013; Ehrenreich et al., 2010) show that linkage
62 analysis has the potential to identify most of the causative loci needed to explain trait variation
63 between two natural yeast isolates. But these studies, like human GWAS, are limited by
64 recombination block size and sample size, and hence are not ideal for identifying causative
65 genes or the exact number and identity of small effect-size loci. As an alternative approach,
66 deletion libraries have been used to assess the role of every yeast gene. These studies have
67 been transformative for defining the function of unknown genes (Botstein and Fink, 2011) and
68 for showing that many processes in yeast are genetically interconnected (Costanzo et al., 2010;
69 2016). While informative, the assays that are typically performed, e.g. colony size assay, are not
70 quantitative enough to accurately determine the effect size of every mutant. Hence whether
71 this interconnectedness has a significant role in pathway function is still unclear.

72 In this work, we quantified the effect sizes of all non-essential yeast genes on several traits.
73 Instead of identifying existing genetic variation in natural populations, we used a yeast deletion
74 library to measure with high precision the magnitude of effect of all non-essential genes on a
75 quantitative trait, which we refer to as gene effect size. By its design, this approach identifies all
76 the genes whose loss-of-function has the potential to influence a trait, and the effect size
77 distribution of these genes. We found that all four traits we analyzed have an exponential
78 distribution of effect sizes. The consequence of these results is that cumulatively, small effect-

79 size can significantly contribute to pathway function. Gene Ontology(GO) analysis and
80 additional experiments showed that many of these small effect-size mutations are involved in
81 core cellular processes and affect quantitative traits in a trait-specific, not generic, manner. In
82 natural populations, phenotypic variation is influenced by the actual existing variants; this
83 natural variation is more complex than our deletion library. We showed through simulation that
84 our analysis based on deletion mutants, given modest assumptions, yields an effect size
85 distribution that is close to the distribution that would be observed for other sources of genetic
86 variation.

87 **Results**

88 **A large fraction of genes can influence multiple biological processes**

89 A large number of screens have been performed with the yeast deletion library (Giaever and
90 Nislow, 2014). These screens could potentially serve as a rich source of data for determining the
91 effect size of each gene on many traits. Reanalyzing this data, we found that, due to
92 measurement noise, most of these studies do not have the power to determine the full gene-
93 level effect size distribution (Supplemental Information). This is not surprising as the goal of
94 most studies was to identify genes of large effect size rather than attempting to identify all
95 genes of any effect size. Therefore, to determine the number of genes that can affect a
96 pathway, we created a reporter library with which we could quantitatively measure the
97 response of cells to galactose (GAL). We systematically constructed a library of strains deleted
98 for all non-essential yeast genes each containing a YFP reporter driven by the GAL1 promoter
99 (GAL1pr-YFP). We then assayed the bimodal YFP response (Acar et al., 2005; Escalante-Chong et

100 al., 2015) in single cells growing in mixtures of glucose and galactose by flow cytometry (Figure
101 2A-B). Additionally, to supplement the analysis, we identified and re-analyzed two deletion
102 studies (Breslow et al., 2008; Jonikas et al., 2009), one on growth rate in rich medium and one
103 on the unfolded protein response (UPR), that had a signal-to-noise ratio that was sufficiently
104 large to determine the effect size distribution.

105 Principal component analysis of the results from our GAL response screen highlighted three
106 distinct traits (Figure S1). These traits, corresponding to: 1) the fraction of cells that are induced
107 above background; 2) the induction level of the induced ('on') peak; and 3) the background
108 level of the uninduced ('off') peak (Figure 2C, Supplemental Information). The signal-to-noise
109 ratio of the first two metrics was sufficient to calculate an effect size distribution for a large
110 number of genes. We will refer to these two separable GAL traits as the "induced fraction" and
111 the "induction level" (Figure 2D).

112 Each of the four traits - the induced fraction, induction level, growth rate, and UPR - considered
113 in isolation, was influenced by a large number of deletion strains (Figure 2E and F); the
114 distribution of mutant effects was continuous. Based on a comparison of the measured effect
115 sizes and the measurement noise estimated from biological replicates, 19% (796 of 4201), 16%
116 (735 of 4562), 16% (689 of 4162), and 20% (849 of 4162) of non-essential genes screened, at a
117 0.5% false discovery rate, affect the growth rate in rich media, unfolded protein response,
118 induced fraction in GAL, and induction level in GAL respectively. Together the two GAL traits are
119 composed of 1104 unique genes. Interestingly, if we used a single composite trait, i.e. mean
120 expression, to quantify the GAL response, fewer genes (593 of 4162) were identified,

121 highlighting the utility of sub-classifying higher-level phenotypes that might be composed of
122 separable traits each controlled by distinct genetic factors (Supplemental Information). To
123 obtain a more accurate estimate of how many genes can quantitatively affect each of the traits,
124 at the sacrifice of knowing the identity of the genes, we determined the area of the normalized
125 effect size distribution that is outside the normalized measurement noise distribution (Figure
126 S2). From this, we estimate that the fraction of genes affecting the growth rate in rich media is
127 62%, unfolded protein response is 23%, induced fraction in GAL is 28%, and induction level in
128 GAL is 34% (Supplemental Information). Together these results highlight that a large fraction of
129 the protein-coding genes has the potential to quantitatively affect a trait.

130 As a final method to determine the number of genes that influence our four traits we
131 determined whether the effect size distributions could be explained by a simply analytical
132 function. To minimize the effect of measurement noise on measured effect sizes, we first
133 focused our analysis on the genes whose effect size was significantly different from
134 measurement noise. Interestingly, we found that the effect size distribution for all four traits
135 was well fit by an exponential distribution ($R^2=0.91-0.96$, Figure 2E and F, dotted line). When
136 extrapolating the exponential fit into the measurement noise, it predicts that 27-33% of genes
137 affect each of our four traits, similar to the orthogonal estimates above. Adding measurement
138 noise to the exponential distribution (Figure 2E and F, blue line) well fit the full measurement
139 distribution ($R^2=0.92-0.98$). Therefore, a parsimonious explanation of our data is that the effect
140 size distribution of a quarter to half of genes is exponential. Half to three quarters of all genes
141 have little to no effect.

142 **Small effect-size genes can influence pathway function**

143 The shape of the determined effect size distributions implies that each of the four traits is
144 affected by genes with a continuous distribution of effect sizes ranging from a small number of
145 large effect-size genes to a large number of small effect-size genes. It has been questioned
146 whether even such a large number of small effect-size mutants could substantially contribute to
147 the functionality of a pathway (Crow, 2011). The answer to this question depends on the exact
148 shape of the measured effect size distribution (e.g. Figure 1C II versus III). We therefore
149 determined the number of genes that are cumulatively important for pathway function. To do
150 so, we devised a method to quantify the impact of each gene, which is similar to the one used
151 to quantify allelic contribution to narrow-sense heritability in a GWAS (Lynch and Walsh, 1998).
152 In the calculation, we first assumed a population of cells with independent and randomly
153 assorting alleles. We assumed only two possible alleles for each gene, i.e. deletion or wild-type
154 (a more complex model will be considered below). We then calculated each gene's contribution
155 to the trait variation in the population as $2\beta^2 f(1 - f)$ (Lynch and Walsh, 1998), where β is the
156 effect size and f is the allele frequency, assuming that each allele has a frequency of 50% and no
157 epistasis (Figure 3A). For our four traits, using the measured effect size for each gene, we find
158 that 257-352 genes with the largest effect sizes, representing 5.6-8.5% of screened genes, are
159 needed to explain 80% of total computed variation (Figure 3B and C, and Figure S4). If human
160 traits behave similarly to our yeast deletions, we would estimate that the number of genes
161 required to explain most of the heritability of a quantitative trait is in the range of 1200-1900
162 genes. Interestingly, our estimate is concordant with estimations from GWAS. For example, the

163 current estimate for human height, the best characterized human trait, is that 423 1Mb loci are
164 involved. Yet this explains only 20% of the heritability. This result suggests that both in yeast
165 and humans, some pathways and traits resemble the distributed architecture from Figure 1C III;
166 i.e. a large number of genes of slowly diminishing effect size contribute to pathway function
167 and trait variation.

168 Given their individual small effect size, our analysis also suggests that a significant portion of
169 the genes that account for pathway function would not typically be considered to be
170 contributing to each trait. Classical genetic screens identified only a fraction of the genes that
171 have the potential to significantly affect each of the two GAL traits. A compiled list of the 50
172 genes previously identified as affecting the GAL pathway (Supplemental Information) explained
173 only 32.0% and 11.7% of variation in the induction level and induced fraction traits respectively.
174 Similarly, in the unfolded protein response, genes whose products localize throughout the
175 secretory pathway (ER and Golgi) explain only 27.1% of variation, further suggesting substantial
176 roles of additional genes/processes. Hence, much of the variance occurs in genes we term non-
177 trait-specific, i.e. genes that are not typically considered to be physiologically related to the trait.
178 This is consistent with previous GWAS that identified putative causative loci that in some cases
179 contained genes that were obviously trait-specific but in other cases were involved in general
180 cellular processes. For example, human height is affected by variants in genes that underlie
181 skeletal growth defects (trait-specific), as well as general pathways such as the Hedgehog
182 pathway (non-trait-specific) (Lango Allen et al., 2010). Surprisingly, our analysis suggests that
183 the non-trait-specific processes can have a larger aggregate effect than trait-specific pathways.

184 A potential caveat to these estimates is that the GAL phenotypes of ten mutants are either fully
185 induced or uninduced, causing the effects of these genes to be underestimated. These ten
186 genes have previously described influences on the GAL pathway. *GAL1*, *GAL3*, *GAL4*, *GAL80*,
187 *REG1*, and *SNF3* are involved in either glucose or galactose signaling. *HSC82* and *STI1* interact
188 with the *HSP90* co-chaperone that has been shown to influence the GAL pathway (Gopinath
189 2016). *SNF2* is a SWI/SNF chromatin remodeling complex that was previously suggested to be
190 involved in nucleosome occupancy on GAL promoter (Bryant et al., 2008). *GCN4*, is a general
191 transcription factor that responds to amino acid starvation. We believe in most cases this
192 caveat does not affect our results. Because, the loss-of-function effect size of these alleles is
193 effectively infinite, they will behave as Mendelian not quantitative alleles. Instead, for any
194 quantitative traits, the predominant alleles of these Mendelian loss-of-function genes must be
195 hypomorphic alleles. Indeed, when we assume hypomorphic allele effect sizes for these genes
196 by randomly sampling from the tail of the fitted exponential distribution, we only observed a
197 modest increase in total trait variation (< 3%).

198 **Gene deletions in core cellular processes affect quantitative traits**

199 What are the functions of these 'pathway modifiers' we identified? Are they genes that have
200 general effects on all traits or are they specific to one or a subset of traits? We found that non-
201 trait-specific processes often affect more than one trait. All pairs of traits share significantly
202 more genes that affect their behaviors than expected ($p < 10^{-65}$, one-tailed hypergeometric test).
203 While only 2 genes would be expected by chance, 113 genes were shared by all traits (Figure
204 4A). These genes also overlap significantly with "hub" genes identified from genetic interaction

205 network (between 140 and 257 out of 380 hubs genes are significant for each of the four traits,
206 $p < 10^{-47}$, hypergeometric test) (Costanzo et al., 2010). We used Gene Ontology to ask if shared
207 non-trait-specific genes were enriched for specific biological processes. Indeed, many processes
208 were enriched (Table S1), including translation (GO:0006412), regulation of metabolism
209 (GO:0031323), and transcription (GO:0006351). Although this has not previously been
210 extensively characterized, it is not surprising that these traits might be altered by perturbations
211 in some core cellular processes.

212 The identification of these core cellular processes as having potential to explain a significant
213 amount of trait variation could be fundamental or trivial. It could reflect an architecture where
214 many biological traits integrate many external and internal factors as inputs (e.g. the GAL
215 pathway responding not just to galactose but glucose, redox status, ribosome capacity, ER
216 capacity, etc.). Alternatively, as the expression of a large fraction of yeast genes is affected by
217 growth rate control (Keren et al., 2013; Regenberg et al., 2006; Slavov and Botstein, 2011), a
218 trivial explanation could be that the effect on the UPR and GAL traits is solely an indirect effect
219 of a growth rate defect (Figure S4). Our data do not support growth rate as the sole factor
220 explaining our results. Between 40% and 60% of gene deletions affect our GAL and UPR traits
221 without affecting growth and vice versa (Table S2). Furthermore, for genes that affect both
222 growth rate and any of the other traits, there is no correlation in effect size between the two
223 effects ($R^2 < 0.02$, S Figure 7B-D). These observations argue against the idea that defects in
224 growth are the main reason that non-trait-specific genes affect the behavior of traits. The
225 involvement of many non-trait-specific genes instead suggests that many signaling pathways

226 integrate a much larger set of cellular inputs than the single input for which the pathways are
227 named.

228 **Perturbation of core cellular processes can have trait-specific effects**

229 Consistent with the idea that traits integrate a number of inputs in a trait-specific manner, we
230 find that biological processes often affect more than one trait, but importantly not all traits.
231 Using a spatial clustering algorithm in the four-trait space (Figure 4B-C), we found an
232 enrichment in core cellular components (Table S3), such as ribosomal genes (GO:0002181),
233 mitochondrial genes (GO:0005743), mannosyltransferases (GO:0000030), genes that affect
234 histone exchange (GO:0000812) or proteasome assembly (GO:0043248), and genes involved in
235 peptidyl-diphthamide synthesis (GO:0017183). Each of these sets of genes had a separable
236 direction in this 4-dimensional space suggesting each process is responding distinctly to the
237 mutations (Figure 4D). For example, the 89 genes involved in cytoplasmic translation
238 (GO:0002181) were enriched in 3 out of 4 quantitative traits, namely the unfolded protein
239 response, growth rate in rich media, and GAL induction level, but not GAL induced fraction (40,
240 21, 37 and 3 genes respectively out of the top 300 genes). Conversely, mitochondrial inner
241 membrane genes (GO:0005743) are enriched in the GAL induced fraction but not growth rate,
242 unfolded protein response, nor GAL induction level (21 versus 3, 1, and 4 respectively out of the
243 top 300 genes).

244 Furthermore, the same core processes can have distinct effects on different traits. For example,
245 at first glance, one might expect mutations in ribosomal genes to affect the level of induction of
246 a pathway (e.g., by altering the expression level of all genes) but not the fraction of cells

247 induced. Indeed, this is the case for the GAL response. But, when we examined the effect of the
248 same mutants on a phosphate responsive (PHO) promoter, PHO84pr, we obtained a different
249 result (Figure 5). The *PHO84* promoter responds to phosphate limitation in a bimodal manner
250 and can therefore be characterized in the same way as we characterize the GAL response. The
251 effects of ribosomal mutants on the induction level of PHO84pr-YFP are significantly less than
252 for GAL1pr-YFP (Figure 5B versus C; Figure 5E and Figure S5, $p=3 \times 10^{-10}$, two-tailed t-test).
253 Instead, ribosomal mutants affect the PHO induced fraction and the level of expression of the
254 uninduced cells (Figure 5C and examples in Figure 5D). In support that these results are a direct
255 consequence of perturbation of ribosomal function, cycloheximide, a small molecule inhibitor
256 of the ribosome, phenocopies the results of ribosomal gene deletions on both the GAL and PHO
257 pathways (Figure 5B-D). While this result at first may seem counter-intuitive, these results
258 could be explained if ribosomal proteins differentially impacted the expression level of positive
259 versus negative regulators of a trait. In total, this suggests that variation in genes involved in
260 core cellular processes could have both generic and pathway specific effects.

261 **Extension to other sources of genetic variation through simulation**

262 We next wished to determine to what extent our results generalize to genetic variation beyond
263 the complete loss-of-function variants we experimentally measured. Genetic variation in
264 natural population is more complex genetically than the deletion library we analyzed. To
265 generalize our results to account for a broader range of genetic variation, we developed a
266 model where we accounted for 1) other types of alleles, i.e. hypermorphs and neomorphs as
267 originally proposed by Muller (Muller, 1932), 2) variable number of alleles per gene, and 3)

268 variable allele frequencies in the population (Figure 6). While the actual molecular cause of the
269 variation can come from many sources, e.g. single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs), copy
270 number variation, and indels, for the purpose of understanding the genetic architecture, it is
271 only important to understand the effect of the genetic change on the trait, and hence for
272 simplicity we will refer to all genetic variants as SNPs. Additionally, we assumed all SNPs
273 contribute linearly to the trait with no epistasis. This assumption is based on the fact that a
274 linear model using all SNPs genotyped in human height GWAS can explain a large fraction of
275 height heritability (Yang et al., 2015; 2010).

276 To instantiate the model (Figure 6) a series of functional forms and constants were assumed for
277 each of the potential variables. The number of SNPs that affect a given gene was chosen from a
278 Poisson distribution to reflect variable number of alleles observed in human genome
279 (Sachidanandam et al., 2001). The effect size of hypomorphic SNP was modeled by multiplying a
280 beta distributed random variable by the actual measured effect size of each affected gene. In
281 this way, the maximum effect size was the complete loss-of-function and the minimum effect
282 size was zero. A beta distribution was chosen to allow modeling of a wide range of different
283 shaped distributions (Figure 6). To simulate neomorphic (gain-of-function) SNPs, we randomly
284 selected a fraction SNPs, and reassigned their effect sizes with the effect size of randomly
285 chosen SNPs. Lastly, the allele frequency for each SNP was chosen from a beta distribution.

286 In each simulation, we calculated the explained trait variation for each SNP, and then summed
287 up all the SNPs for a single gene to obtain the explained variation for each gene. We then varied
288 the parameters in each of the distributions of the variables introduced above. Specifically, we

289 used Latin hypercube sampling to scan the parameter space of the distributions (blue dots,
290 Figure 6), and then compared the number of genes that explain 80% of trait variation obtained
291 from this model and our experimental results (Figure 3). The results from our simulation show
292 variation in the fraction of neomorphs dominates variation in the model. However, as long as
293 this fraction is below 5%, the results of the simulation do not vary from the experimental
294 results by more than 17%. Neomorphic alleles are typically assumed to be rare. In order to
295 determine the potential impact of the other parameters in our model, we fixed gain-of-function
296 rate to be 5%. Resampling the other five parameters, we found that the average number of
297 SNPs per gene is the second largest source of variation in our model. However, as long as on
298 average 5 SNPs exist per gene in the population, the effect is negligible (orange samples in
299 Figure 6B). Large-scale sequencing efforts have now identified ~20 million genetic variants in
300 humans (Sherry et al., 2001). Even if 99% of these variants were neutral, there would still be
301 enough SNPs per gene on average to support our conclusions. From this, we determined that
302 our estimate of number of genes that influence a trait from our knockout data is largely
303 insensitive to the parameters of our model, and quantitative analysis of complete loss-of-
304 function alleles should be informative even for the analysis of less severe and of rare alleles.

305 **Discussion**

306 In this work we sought to determine all the genes that can influence a pathway underlying a
307 quantitative trait. Depending on the number of genes and the magnitude of the effect,
308 pathways could in principle have a centralized or distributed architecture (Figure 1). To address
309 this question we determined the effect size distribution of deletion mutants for four

310 quantitative traits in yeast. We did this by measuring the response to galactose at the single-cell
311 level for each deletion strain from the yeast library and by reanalyzing two additional
312 quantitative screens that measure competitive growth rates (Breslow et al., 2008) and the
313 unfolded protein response (UPR) (Jonikas et al., 2009) in the deletion library. We found that in
314 all four cases, the distribution of effect sizes is such where a quarter to half of the genes follow
315 an exponential distribution, with the rest of the genes having a negligible effect size (Figure 2).
316 Based on a simple model to calculate heritability, we found this result implies that a large
317 number of genes (5-9% of all genes) would be needed to cumulatively explain at least 80% of
318 trait variation (Figure 3). Our results imply that there is a significantly larger subset of genes
319 that affect each trait than previously appreciated, but that individually their effect is difficult to
320 detect by less quantitative experimental methods. The results provide evidence for pathways
321 having a distributed, rather than centralized, genetic architecture.

322 A distributed pathway architecture suggests that many genes that are not typically considered
323 part of a pathway, such as the GAL pathway, could still play an important role in pathway
324 function. We found that these “pathway modifiers” were enriched in several core cellular
325 processes (Figure 4). Given the pleiotropic nature of these processes, it is not surprising that
326 these genes can influence multiple traits. Unexpectedly, however, we found that a mutant in a
327 core cellular process can have trait-specific consequences; e.g. a ribosomal mutant affects the
328 induction level in the GAL response, but the induced fraction in the PHO response (Figure 5).
329 This implies that, instead of making cells ‘sick’, biological processes underlying quantitative
330 traits are likely affected by a large number of inputs that have the potential to act in a trait-
331 specific manner.

332 Previous work had found that yeast traits were affected by fewer genes than we report here.
333 Work by Bloom et al. used linkage analysis to identify quantitative loci underlying 46 yeast traits,
334 and found a median of 12 loci affected each trait (Bloom et al., 2013). While it is possible that
335 our four traits happen to be more complex than the traits that were analyzed by Bloom et al.,
336 we believe the differences result from the applied methods. If either the two yeast strains used
337 in the linkage analysis of Bloom et al. are more related than two random isolates in a natural
338 population or if the traits analyzed were under strong selection, this would lead to an
339 underestimation of the number of genes. Because we are using a deletion library, we avoid the
340 confounding effect of selection and the biases due to the limited number of alleles between
341 two natural isolates. We therefore believe that the discrepancy between the results of these
342 two works is at least in part due to the applied methods, in particular selection on growth rates.

343 **Mendelian vs. quantitative trait**

344 A distributed genetic architecture, as observed in this study, has implication for patterns of
345 genetic inheritance. Different individuals can have different numbers of alleles and the effect
346 size of the strongest alleles can be different. Therefore, the expectation should be that the
347 same trait, when examined in a pairwise manner between many individuals, should exhibit a
348 range of segregation patterns from Mendelian to quantitative depending on the number and
349 strength of the alleles. Indeed, this exactly what was recently observed for multiple traits in
350 crosses between yeast strains (Hou et al., 2016). Furthermore, one should expect a smaller
351 number of genes that contribute to a quantitative trait will have rare alleles that make the trait
352 behave as a Mendelian trait. Indeed, this has also been found that many quantitative loci

353 associated with normal human height variation contain genes underlying syndromes
354 characterized by abnormal skeletal growth (Lango Allen et al., 2010).

355 **Application to human genetics**

356 Our results suggest that the number of genes that can influence a trait, when extrapolated to
357 humans, is ~ 1500. However, our results were focused on a single-celled microbe that has a
358 more compact genome with a smaller number of protein-coding genes than metazoan
359 genomes. To what extent might our observations generalize to human genetic variation, given
360 the differences in genome architecture and complexity? Do human traits, especially ones
361 involved in important human disease, also have such a distributed underlying genetic
362 architecture? One way to assess whether the genetic architecture of yeast and human traits is
363 different is to compare the number of genes and their corresponding effect size distribution.

364 While a small number of human diseases or traits can be explained by a small number of
365 causative genes, e.g. three genes explain 50% of the genetic risk in macular degeneration
366 (Maller et al., 2006), many traits are poorly explained by a small number of genes. For example,
367 a GWAS on human height found that 423 loci explained less than 20% of total heritability
368 (Wood et al., 2014). Similarly, 163 loci only explain 14% of heritability in Crohn's disease (Jostins
369 et al., 2012), and 100 loci, excluding major histocompatibility complex, explain less than 6% of
370 heritability in rheumatoid arthritis (Okada et al., 2014). Since the explained fraction of
371 heritability is far less than 100% in all these studies, it is difficult to accurately estimate the
372 number of loci required to explain a majority of heritability in a human trait, but a reasonable

373 estimate would be in the thousands. This suggests that the fraction of genes involved in a
374 quantitative trait is similar in yeast and humans.

375 While the effect size distribution of human traits is poorly defined it is consistent with our
376 results. Park et al. devised a method to determine the effect size distribution by taking into
377 account all identified alleles and the power to have detected these alleles. From this they
378 concluded that the effect size distribution alleles affecting human traits are monotonically
379 increasing (Park et al., 2010). The range of possible distribution discussed in that work is
380 consistent with an exponential distribution. While there is no good human data exists on the
381 distribution of small effect size alleles, gene essentiality can be used as a rough comparison of
382 the relative distribution of strong effect size allele between yeast and humans. Further
383 supporting the similarity in effect size distributions, the number of essential genes in yeast and
384 humans is similar. In total we believe this supports the idea that while the human genome is
385 more complex than yeast, differences in genetic architecture are likely subtle and quantitative
386 not large and qualitative.

387 **Implication of a distributed genetic architecture on human disease**

388 High-throughput genetic interaction maps have suggested that cellular processes are deeply
389 interconnected (Costanzo et al., 2016; 2010). But, it was not determined whether these
390 connections were strong enough to be physiologically relevant. Our results demonstrate that
391 cumulatively many genes of small effect size can make significant contributions to quantitative
392 traits. Importantly, the effect sizes of these variants are not infinitesimal, and therefore we
393 believe that increased power in GWAS would likely capture a significant portion of the missing

394 heritability. This conclusion is consistent with work from Yang et al., which has shown that
395 human genetic variants tagged in GWAS on body mass index is capturing the vast majority of
396 heritability even if it is underpowered to identify the causative loci (Yang et al., 2015). Of course,
397 increased power alone will not help identify which SNPs within a locus is causative.

398 Given that so many genes can affect a trait, a second expectation is that causative small effect
399 size loci should be shared between many but not all traits. Indeed, correlation among genetic
400 variants has been observed in a recent study using 24 human traits (Bulik-Sullivan et al., 2015).
401 Interpreting these results has been challenging as these genetic correlations could arise from
402 either a direct causative link between the two diseases or shared genetic factors. Our results
403 suggest that these correlations can result from shared genetic factors that are enriched in core
404 cellular processes. This means that there could be power in searching for processes that are
405 significantly enriched between diseases that wouldn't typically be thought of as related. Finally,
406 the spectrum of defects seen in some complex diseases could arise from the specific
407 combination of small effect alleles in each individual.

408 In summary, our work provides a system-level perspective into the architecture of a
409 quantitative trait. In contrast to most other works that focused on existing genetic variants, our
410 work quantitatively determined the contribution of loss-of-function alleles. With further
411 development of gene editing technologies and disease models, it will be interesting to test
412 these conclusions in more complex systems.

413

414 **Author contribution.** B.H. and M.S. designed the experiments. B.H. performed the experiments.
415 B.H. and M.S. analyzed results and wrote the manuscript.

416 **Acknowledgments.** The authors thank Rebecca Ward, Yarden Katz for critically reading the
417 manuscript; the Springer lab for helpful discussions; and Shervin Javadi and Stratedigm for flow
418 cytometry assistance. B.H. and M.S. are funded by National Science Foundation Grant 1349248;
419 and by National Institutes of Health Grant RO1 GM120122-01. The authors have declared that
420 no competing interests exist.

421

422 **Reference**

- 423 Acar, M., Becskei, A., van Oudenaarden, A., 2005. Enhancement of cellular memory by reducing
424 stochastic transitions. *Nature* 435, 228–232. doi:10.1038/nature03524
- 425 Bloom, J.S., Ehrenreich, I.M., Loo, W.T., Lite, T.-L.V., Kruglyak, L., 2013. Finding the sources of
426 missing heritability in a yeast cross. *Nature* 494, 234–237. doi:10.1038/nature11867
- 427 Botstein, D., Fink, G.R., 2011. Yeast: An Experimental Organism for 21st Century Biology.
428 *Genetics* 189, 695–704. doi:10.1534/genetics.111.130765
- 429 Boyle, E.I., Weng, S., Gollub, J., Jin, H., Botstein, D., Cherry, J.M., Sherlock, G., 2004.
430 GO::TermFinder--open source software for accessing Gene Ontology information and
431 finding significantly enriched Gene Ontology terms associated with a list of genes.
432 *Bioinformatics* 20, 3710–3715. doi:10.1093/bioinformatics/bth456
- 433 Breslow, D.K., Cameron, D.M., Collins, S.R., Schuldiner, M., Stewart-Ornstein, J., Newman, H.W.,
434 Braun, S., Madhani, H.D., Krogan, N.J., Weissman, J.S., 2008. A comprehensive strategy
435 enabling high-resolution functional analysis of the yeast genome. *Nature Methods* 5, 711–
436 718. doi:10.1038/nmeth.1234
- 437 Bryant, G.O., Prabhu, V., Floer, M., Wang, X., Spagna, D., Schreiber, D., Ptashne, M., 2008.
438 Activator control of nucleosome occupancy in activation and repression of transcription.
439 *PLoS Biol* 6, 2928–2939. doi:10.1371/journal.pbio.0060317
- 440 Bulik-Sullivan, B., Finucane, H.K., Anttila, V., Gusev, A., Day, F.R., Loh, P.-R., ReproGen
441 Consortium, Psychiatric Genomics Consortium, Genetic Consortium for Anorexia Nervosa of
442 the Wellcome Trust Case Control Consortium 3, Duncan, L., Perry, J.R.B., Patterson, N.,
443 Robinson, E.B., Daly, M.J., Price, A.L., Neale, B.M., 2015. An atlas of genetic correlations
444 across human diseases and traits. *Nature Genetics* 47, 1236–1241. doi:10.1038/ng.3406

- 445 Cooper, G.M., Shendure, J., 2011. Needles in stacks of needles: finding disease-causal variants
446 in a wealth of genomic data. *Nat Rev Genet* 12, 628–640. doi:doi:10.1038/nrg3046
- 447 Costanzo, M., Baryshnikova, A., Bellay, J., Kim, Y., Spear, E.D., Sevier, C.S., Ding, H., Koh, J.L.Y.,
448 Toufighi, K., Mostafavi, S., Prinz, J., St Onge, R.P., VanderSluis, B., Makhnevych, T.,
449 Vizeacoumar, F.J., Alizadeh, S., Bahr, S., Brost, R.L., Chen, Y., Cokol, M., Deshpande, R., Li, Z.,
450 Lin, Z.-Y., Liang, W., Marback, M., Paw, J., San Luis, B.-J., Shuteriqi, E., Tong, A.H.Y., van Dyk,
451 N., Wallace, I.M., Whitney, J.A., Weirauch, M.T., Zhong, G., Zhu, H., Houry, W.A., Brudno,
452 M., Ragibizadeh, S., Papp, B.A.Z., P a l, C., Roth, F.P., Giaever, G., Nislow, C., Troyanskaya,
453 O.G., Bussey, H., Bader, G.D., Gingras, A.-C., Morris, Q.D., Kim, P.M., Kaiser, C.A., Myers, C.L.,
454 Andrews, B.J., Boone, C., 2010. The genetic landscape of a cell. *Science* 327, 425–431.
- 455 Costanzo, M., VanderSluis, B., Koch, E.N., Baryshnikova, A., Pons, C., Tan, G., Wang, W., Usaj, M.,
456 Hanchard, J., Lee, S.D., Pelechano, V., Styles, E.B., Billmann, M., van Leeuwen, J., van Dyk, N.,
457 Lin, Z.-Y., Kuzmin, E., Nelson, J., Piotrowski, J.S., Srikumar, T., Bahr, S., Chen, Y., Deshpande,
458 R., Kurat, C.F., Li, S.C., Li, Z., Usaj, M.M., Okada, H., Pascoe, N., San Luis, B.-J., Sharifpoor, S.,
459 Shuteriqi, E., Simpkins, S.W., Snider, J., Suresh, H.G., Tan, Y., Zhu, H., Malod-Dognin, N.,
460 Janjić, V., Pržulj, N., Troyanskaya, O.G., Stagljar, I., Xia, T., Ohya, Y., Gingras, A.-C., Raught, B.,
461 Boutros, M., Steinmetz, L.M., Moore, C.L., Rosebrock, A.P., Caudy, A.A., Myers, C.L.,
462 Andrews, B., Boone, C., 2016. A global genetic interaction network maps a wiring diagram
463 of cellular function. *Science* 353. doi:10.1126/science.aaf1420
- 464 Crow, T.J., 2011. 'The missing genes: what happened to the heritability of psychiatric
465 disorders?'. *Mol. Psychiatry* 16, 362–364. doi:10.1038/mp.2010.92
- 466 Edwards, S.L., Beesley, J., French, J.D., Dunning, A.M., 2013. Beyond GWASs: illuminating the
467 dark road from association to function. *Am. J. Hum. Genet.* 93, 779–797.
468 doi:10.1016/j.ajhg.2013.10.012
- 469 Ehrenreich, I.M., Torabi, N., Jia, Y., Kent, J., Martis, S., Shapiro, J.A., Gresham, D., Caudy, A.A.,
470 Kruglyak, L., 2010. Dissection of genetically complex traits with extremely large pools of
471 yeast segregants. *Nature* 464, 1039–1042. doi:10.1038/nature08923
- 472 Escalante-Chong, R., Savir, Y., Carroll, S.M., Ingraham, J.B., Wang, J., Marx, C.J., Springer, M.,
473 2015. Galactose metabolic genes in yeast respond to a ratio of galactose and glucose.
474 *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.*
- 475 Friedman, A., Perrimon, N., 2006. A functional RNAi screen for regulators of receptor tyrosine
476 kinase and ERK signalling. *Nature* 444, 230–234.
- 477 Giaever, G., Nislow, C., 2014. The yeast deletion collection: a decade of functional genomics.
478 *Genetics* 197, 451–465.
- 479 Hindorff, L.A., Sethupathy, P., Junkins, H.A., Ramos, E.M., Mehta, J.P., Collins, F.S., Manolio, T.A.,
480 2009. Potential etiologic and functional implications of genome-wide association loci for
481 human diseases and traits. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 106, 9362–
482 9367. doi:10.1073/pnas.0903103106
- 483 Hou, J., Sigwalt, A., Fournier, T., Pflieger, D., Peter, J., de Montigny, J., Dunham, M.J.,
484 Schacherer, J., 2016. The Hidden Complexity of Mendelian Traits across Natural Yeast
485 Populations. *CellReports* 16, 1106–1114. doi:10.1016/j.celrep.2016.06.048
- 486 Jonikas, M.C., Collins, S.R., Denic, V., Oh, E., Quan, E.M., Schmid, V., Weibezahn, J., Schwappach,
487 B., Walter, P., Weissman, J.S., Schuldiner, M., 2009. Comprehensive characterization of
488 genes required for protein folding in the endoplasmic reticulum. *Science* 323, 1693–1697.

489 doi:10.1126/science.1167983
490 Jostins, L., Ripke, S., Weersma, R.K., Duerr, R.H., McGovern, D.P., Hui, K.Y., Lee, J.C., Schumm,
491 L.P., Sharma, Y., Anderson, C.A., Essers, J., Mitrovic, M., Ning, K., Cleyneen, I., Theatre, E.,
492 Spain, S.L., Raychaudhuri, S., Goyette, P., Wei, Z., Abraham, C., Achkar, J.-P., Ahmad, T.,
493 Amininejad, L., Ananthakrishnan, A.N., Andersen, V., Andrews, J.M., Baidoo, L., Balschun, T.,
494 Bampton, P.A., Bitton, A., Boucher, G., Brand, S., Büning, C., Cohain, A., Cichon, S., D'Amato,
495 M., De Jong, D., Devaney, K.L., Dubinsky, M., Edwards, C., Ellinghaus, D., Ferguson, L.R.,
496 Franchimont, D., Fransen, K., Gearry, R., Georges, M., Gieger, C., Glas, J., Haritunians, T.,
497 Hart, A., Hawkey, C., Hedl, M., Hu, X., Karlsten, T.H., Kupcinskis, L., Kugathasan, S., Latiano,
498 A., Laukens, D., Lawrance, I.C., Lees, C.W., Louis, E., Mahy, G., Mansfield, J., Morgan, A.R.,
499 Mowat, C., Newman, W., Palmieri, O., Ponsioen, C.Y., Potocnik, U., Prescott, N.J., Regueiro,
500 M., Rotter, J.I., Russell, R.K., Sanderson, J.D., Sans, M., Satsangi, J., Schreiber, S., Simms, L.A.,
501 Sventoraityte, J., Targan, S.R., Taylor, K.D., Tremelling, M., Verspaget, H.W., De Vos, M.,
502 Wijmenga, C., Wilson, D.C., Winkelmann, J., Xavier, R.J., Zeissig, S., Zhang, B., Zhang, C.K.,
503 Zhao, H., International IBD Genetics Consortium (IBDGC), Silverberg, M.S., Annese, V.,
504 Hakonarson, H., Brant, S.R., Radford-Smith, G., Mathew, C.G., Rioux, J.D., Schadt, E.E., Daly,
505 M.J., Franke, A., Parkes, M., Vermeire, S., Barrett, J.C., Cho, J.H., 2012. Host-microbe
506 interactions have shaped the genetic architecture of inflammatory bowel disease. *Nature*
507 491, 119–124. doi:10.1038/nature11582
508 Keren, L., Zackay, O., Lotan-Pompan, M., Barenholz, U., Dekel, E., Sasson, V., Aidelberg, G., Bren,
509 A., Zeevi, D., Weinberger, A., Alon, U., Milo, R., Segal, E., 2013. Promoters maintain their
510 relative activity levels under different growth conditions. *Molecular Systems Biology* 9, 701.
511 doi:10.1038/msb.2013.59
512 Lango Allen, H., Estrada, K., Lettre, G., Berndt, S.I., Weedon, M.N., Rivadeneira, F., Willer, C.J.,
513 Jackson, A.U., Vedantam, S., Raychaudhuri, S., Ferreira, T., Wood, A.R., Weyant, R.J., Segre, e,
514 A.V., Speliotes, E.K., Wheeler, E., Soranzo, N., Park, J.-H., Yang, J., Gudbjartsson, D., Heard-
515 Costa, N.L., Randall, J.C., Qi, L., Vernon Smith, A., M a gi, R., Pastinen, T., Liang, L., Heid, I.M.,
516 Luan, J., Thorleifsson, G., Winkler, T.W., Goddard, M.E., Sin Lo, K., Palmer, C., Workalemahu,
517 T., Aulchenko, Y.S., Johansson, A.S., Zillikens, M.C., Feitosa, M.F., Esko, T.O.N., Johnson, T.,
518 Ketkar, S., Kraft, P., Mangino, M., Prokopenko, I., Absher, D., Albrecht, E., Ernst, F., Glazer,
519 N.L., Hayward, C., Hottenga, J.-J., Jacobs, K.B., Knowles, J.W., Kutalik, Z.A.N., Monda, K.L.,
520 Polasek, O., Preuss, M., Rayner, N.W., Robertson, N.R., Steinthorsdottir, V., Tyrer, J.P.,
521 Voight, B.F., Wiklund, F., Xu, J., Zhao, J.H., Nyholt, D.R., Pellikka, N., Perola, M., Perry, J.R.B.,
522 Surakka, I., Tammesoo, M.-L., Altmaier, E.L., Amin, N., Aspelund, T., Bhangale, T., Boucher,
523 G., Chasman, D.I., Chen, C., Coin, L., Cooper, M.N., Dixon, A.L., Gibson, Q., Grundberg, E.,
524 Hao, K., Juhani Juntila, M., Kaplan, L.M., Kettunen, J., K o nig, I.R., Kwan, T., Lawrence, R.W.,
525 Levinson, D.F., Lorentzon, M., McKnight, B., Morris, A.P., M u ller, M., Suh Ngwa, J., Purcell,
526 S., Rafelt, S., Salem, R.M., Salvi, E., Sanna, S., Shi, J., Sovio, U., Thompson, J.R., Turchin, M.C.,
527 Vandenput, L., Verlaan, D.J., Vitart, V., White, C.C., Ziegler, A., Almgren, P., Balmforth, A.J.,
528 Campbell, H., Citterio, L., De Grandi, A., Dominiczak, A., Duan, J., Elliott, P., Elosua, R.,
529 Eriksson, J.G., Freimer, N.B., Geus, E.J.C., Glorioso, N., Haiqing, S., Hartikainen, A.-L.,
530 Havulinna, A.S., Hicks, A.A., Hui, J., Igl, W., Illig, T., Jula, A., Kajantie, E., Kilpel a inen, T.O.,
531 Koiranen, M., Kolcic, I., Koskinen, S., Kovacs, P., Laitinen, J., Liu, J., Lokki, M.-L., Marusic, A.,
532 Maschio, A., Meitinger, T., Mulas, A., Par e, G., Parker, A.N., Peden, J.F., Petersmann, A.,

533 Pichler, I., Pietiläinen, K.H., Pouta, A., Ridderstraale, M., Rotter, J.I., Sambrook, J.G.,
534 Sanders, A.R., Schmidt, C.O., Sinisalo, J., Smit, J.H., Stringham, H.M., Bragi Walters, G.,
535 Widen, E., Wild, S.H., Willemsen, G., Zagato, L., Zgaga, L., Zitting, P., Alavere, H., Farrall, M.,
536 McArdle, W.L., Nelis, M., Peters, M.J., Ripatti, S., van Meurs, J.B.J., Aben, K.K., Ardlie, K.G.,
537 Beckmann, J.S., Beilby, J.P., Bergman, R.N., Bergmann, S., Collins, F.S., Cusi, D., Heijer, den,
538 M., Eiriksdottir, G., Gejman, P.V., Hall, A.S., Hamsten, A., Huikuri, H.V., Iribarren, C., Kahonen,
539 M., Kaprio, J., Kathiresan, S., Kiemene, L., Kocher, T., Launer, L.J., Lehtimäki, T.,
540 Melander, O., Mosley, T.H., Musk, A.W., Nieminen, M.S., O'Donnell, C.J., Ohlsson, C., Oostra,
541 B., Palmer, L.J., Raitakari, O., Ridker, P.M., Rioux, J.D., Rissanen, A., Rivolta, C., Schunkert, H.,
542 Shuldiner, A.R., Siscovick, D.S., Stumvoll, M., Tonjes, A., Tuomilehto, J., van Ommen, G.-J.,
543 Viikari, J., Heath, A.C., Martin, N.G., Montgomery, G.W., Province, M.A., Kayser, M., Arnold,
544 A.M., Atwood, L.D., Boerwinkle, E., Chanock, S.J., Deloukas, P., Gieger, C., Gronberg, H.,
545 Hall, P., Hattersley, A.T., Hengstenberg, C., Hoffman, W., Lathrop, G.M., Salomaa, V.,
546 Schreiber, S., Uda, M., Waterworth, D., Wright, A.F., Assimes, T.L., Barroso, I.E.S., Hofman,
547 A., Mohlke, K.L., Boomsma, D.I., Caulfield, M.J., Cupples, L.A., Erdmann, J., Fox, C.S.,
548 Gudnason, V., Gyllenstein, U., Harris, T.B., Hayes, R.B., Jarvelin, M.-R., Mooser, V., Munroe,
549 P.B., Ouwehand, W.H., Penninx, B.W., Pramstaller, P.P., Quertermous, T., Rudan, I., Samani,
550 N.J., Spector, T.D., Vozzke, H., Watkins, H., Wilson, J.F., Groop, L.C., Haritunians, T., Hu, F.B.,
551 Kaplan, R.C., Metspalu, A., North, K.E., Schlessinger, D., Wareham, N.J., Hunter, D.J.,
552 O'Connell, J.R., Strachan, D.P., Wichmann, H.E., Borecki, I.B., van Duijn, C.M., Schadt, E.E.,
553 Thorsteinsdottir, U., Peltonen, L., Uitterlinden, A.E.G., Visscher, P.M., Chatterjee, N., Loos,
554 R.J.F., Boehnke, M., McCarthy, M.I., Ingelsson, E., Lindgren, C.M., Abecasis, G.C.C.A.R.,
555 Stefansson, K., Frayling, T.M., Hirschhorn, J.N., 2010. Hundreds of variants clustered in
556 genomic loci and biological pathways affect human height. *Nature* 467, 832–838.
557 Lynch, M., Walsh, B., 1998. *Genetics and Analysis of Quantitative Traits*. Sinauer.
558 Maller, J., George, S., Purcell, S., Fagerness, J., Altshuler, D., Daly, M.J., Seddon, J.M., 2006.
559 Common variation in three genes, including a noncoding variant in CFH, strongly influences
560 risk of age-related macular degeneration. *Nature Genetics* 38, 1055–1059.
561 doi:10.1038/ng1873
562 Muller, H.J., 1932. Further studies on the nature and causes of gene mutations, in: Presented
563 at the Proceedings of the 6th International Congress of Genetics, pp. 213–255.
564 Nüsslein-Volhard, C., Wieschaus, E., 1980. Mutations affecting segment number and polarity in
565 *Drosophila*. *Nature* 287, 795–801.
566 Okada, Y., Wu, D., Trynka, G., Raj, T., Terao, C., Ikari, K., Kochi, Y., Ohmura, K., Suzuki, A.,
567 Yoshida, S., Graham, R.R., Manoharan, A., Ortmann, W., Bhangale, T., Denny, J.C., Carroll,
568 R.J., Eyler, A.E., Greenberg, J.D., Kremer, J.M., Pappas, D.A., Jiang, L., Yin, J., Ye, L., Su, D.-F.,
569 Yang, J., Xie, G., Keystone, E., Westra, H.-J., Esko, T., Metspalu, A., Zhou, X., Gupta, N., Mirel,
570 D., Stahl, E.A., Diogo, D., Cui, J., Liao, K., Guo, M.H., Myouzen, K., Kawaguchi, T., Coenen,
571 M.J.H., van Riel, P.L.C.M., van de Laar, M.A.F.J., Guchelaar, H.-J., Huizinga, T.W.J., Dieudé, P.,
572 Mariette, X., Bridges, S.L., Zernakova, A., Toes, R.E.M., Tak, P.P., Miceli-Richard, C., Bang,
573 S.-Y., Lee, H.-S., Martin, J., Gonzalez-Gay, M.A., Rodriguez-Rodriguez, L., Rantapää-Dahlqvist,
574 S., Arlestig, L., Choi, H.K., Kamatani, Y., Galan, P., Lathrop, M., RACI consortium, GARNET
575 consortium, Eyre, S., Bowes, J., Barton, A., de Vries, N., Moreland, L.W., Criswell, L.A.,
576 Karlson, E.W., Taniguchi, A., Yamada, R., Kubo, M., Liu, J.S., Bae, S.-C., Worthington, J.,

- 577 Padyukov, L., Klareskog, L., Gregersen, P.K., Raychaudhuri, S., Stranger, B.E., De Jager, P.L.,
578 Franke, L., Visscher, P.M., Brown, M.A., Yamanaka, H., Mimori, T., Takahashi, A., Xu, H.,
579 Behrens, T.W., Siminovitch, K.A., Momohara, S., Matsuda, F., Yamamoto, K., Plenge, R.M.,
580 2014. Genetics of rheumatoid arthritis contributes to biology and drug discovery. *Nature*
581 506, 376–381. doi:10.1038/nature12873
- 582 Park, J.-H., Wacholder, S., Gail, M.H., Peters, U., Jacobs, K.B., Chanock, S.J., Chatterjee, N., 2010.
583 Estimation of effect size distribution from genome-wide association studies and
584 implications for future discoveries. *Nat. Genet.* 42, 570–575.
- 585 Pertea, M., Salzberg, S.L., 2010. Between a chicken and a grape: estimating the number of
586 human genes. *Genome Biology* 11, 206. doi:10.1186/gb-2010-11-5-206
- 587 Regenberg, B., Grotkjær, T., Winther, O., Fausbøll, A., Åkesson, M., Bro, C., Hansen, L.K., Brunak,
588 S., Nielsen, J., 2006. Growth-rate regulated genes have profound impact on interpretation
589 of transcriptome profiling in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*. *Genome Biology* 7, 1.
590 doi:10.1186/gb-2006-7-11-r107
- 591 Sachidanandam, R., Weissman, D., Schmidt, S.C., Kakol, J.M., Stein, L.D., Marth, G., Sherry, S.,
592 Mullikin, J.C., Mortimore, B.J., Willey, D.L., Hunt, S.E., Cole, C.G., Coggill, P.C., Rice, C.M.,
593 Ning, Z., Rogers, J., Bentley, D.R., Kwok, P.Y., Mardis, E.R., Yeh, R.T., Schultz, B., Cook, L.,
594 Davenport, R., Dante, M., Fulton, L., Hillier, L., Waterston, R.H., McPherson, J.D., Gilman, B.,
595 Schaffner, S., Van Etten, W.J., Reich, D., Higgins, J., Daly, M.J., Blumenstiel, B., Baldwin, J.,
596 Stange-Thomann, N., Zody, M.C., Linton, L., Lander, E.S., Altshuler, D., International SNP
597 Map Working Group, 2001. A map of human genome sequence variation containing 1.42
598 million single nucleotide polymorphisms. *Nature* 409, 928–933. doi:10.1038/35057149
- 599 Sherry, S.T., Ward, M.-H., Kholodov, M., Baker, J., Phan, L., Smigielski, E.M., Sirotkin, K., 2001.
600 dbSNP: the NCBI database of genetic variation. *Nucleic Acids Research* 29, 308–311.
- 601 Slavov, N., Botstein, D., 2011. Coupling among growth rate response, metabolic cycle, and cell
602 division cycle in yeast.
- 603 Tong, A.H.Y., Boone, C., 2006. Synthetic genetic array analysis in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*.
604 *Methods Mol. Biol.* 313, 171–192.
- 605 Wood, A.R., Esko, T., Yang, J., Vedantam, S., Pers, T.H., Gustafsson, S., Chu, A.Y., Estrada, K.,
606 Luan, J., Kutalik, Z., Amin, N., Buchkovich, M.L., Croteau-Chonka, D.C., Day, F.R., Duan, Y.,
607 Fall, T., Fehrmann, R., Ferreira, T., Jackson, A.U., Karjalainen, J., Lo, K.S., Locke, A.E., Mägi, R.,
608 Mihailov, E., Porcu, E., Randall, J.C., Scherag, A., Vinkhuyzen, A.A.E., Westra, H.-J., Winkler,
609 T.W., Workalemahu, T., Zhao, J.H., Absher, D., Albrecht, E., Anderson, D., Baron, J.,
610 Beekman, M., Demirkan, A., Ehret, G.B., Feenstra, B., Feitosa, M.F., Fischer, K., Fraser, R.M.,
611 Goel, A., Gong, J., Justice, A.E., Kanoni, S., Kleber, M.E., Kristiansson, K., Lim, U., Lotay, V.,
612 Lui, J.C., Mangino, M., Leach, I.M., Medina-Gomez, C., Nalls, M.A., Nyholt, D.R., Palmer, C.D.,
613 Pasko, D., Pechlivanis, S., Prokopenko, I., Ried, J.S., Ripke, S., Shungin, D., Stančáková, A.,
614 Strawbridge, R.J., Sung, Y.J., Tanaka, T., Teumer, A., Trompet, S., van der Laan, S.W., van
615 Setten, J., Van Vliet-Ostaptchouk, J.V., Wang, Z., Yengo, L., Zhang, W., Afzal, U., Ärnlöv, J.,
616 Arscott, G.M., Bandinelli, S., Barrett, A., Bellis, C., Bennett, A.J., Berne, C., Blüher, M., Bolton,
617 J.L., Böttcher, Y., Boyd, H.A., Bruinenberg, M., Buckley, B.M., Buyske, S., Caspersen, I.H.,
618 Chines, P.S., Clarke, R., Claudi-Boehm, S., Cooper, M., Daw, E.W., De Jong, P.A., Deelen, J.,
619 Delgado, G., Denny, J.C., Dhonukshe-Rutten, R., Dimitriou, M., Doney, A.S.F., Dörr, M.,
620 Eklund, N., Eury, E., Folkersen, L., Garcia, M.E., Geller, F., Giedraitis, V., Go, A.S., Grallert, H.,

621 Grammer, T.B., Gräßler, J., Grönberg, H., de Groot, L.C.P.G.M., Groves, C.J., Haessler, J., Hall,
622 P., Haller, T., Hallmans, G., Hannemann, A., Hartman, C.A., Hassinen, M., Hayward, C.,
623 Heard-Costa, N.L., Helmer, Q., Hemani, G., Henders, A.K., Hillege, H.L., Hlatky, M.A.,
624 Hoffmann, W., Hoffmann, P., Holmen, O., Houwing-Duistermaat, J.J., Illig, T., Isaacs, A.,
625 James, A.L., Jeff, J., Johansen, B., Johansson, Å., Jolley, J., Juliusdottir, T., Junntila, J., Kho,
626 A.N., Kinnunen, L., Klopp, N., Kocher, T., Kratzer, W., Lichtner, P., Lind, L., Lindström, J.,
627 Lobbens, S., Lorentzon, M., Lu, Y., Lyssenko, V., Magnusson, P.K.E., Mahajan, A., Maillard,
628 M., McArdle, W.L., McKenzie, C.A., McLachlan, S., McLaren, P.J., Menni, C., Merger, S.,
629 Milani, L., Moayyeri, A., Monda, K.L., Morken, M.A., Müller, G., Müller-Nurasyid, M., Musk,
630 A.W., Narisu, N., Nauck, M., Nolte, I.M., Nöthen, M.M., Oozageer, L., Pilz, S., Rayner, N.W.,
631 Renstrom, F., Robertson, N.R., Rose, L.M., Roussel, R., Sanna, S., Scharnagl, H., Scholtens, S.,
632 Schumacher, F.R., Schunkert, H., Scott, R.A., Sehmi, J., Seufferlein, T., Shi, J., Silventoinen, K.,
633 Smit, J.H., Smith, A.V., Smolonska, J., Stanton, A.V., Stirrups, K., Stott, D.J., Stringham, H.M.,
634 Sundström, J., Swertz, M.A., Syvänen, A.-C., Tayo, B.O., Thorleifsson, G., Tyrer, J.P., van Dijk,
635 S., van Schoor, N.M., van der Velde, N., van Heemst, D., van Oort, F.V.A., Vermeulen, S.H.,
636 Verweij, N., Vonk, J.M., Waite, L.L., Waldenberger, M., Wennauer, R., Wilkens, L.R.,
637 Willenborg, C., Wilsgaard, T., Wojczynski, M.K., Wong, A., Wright, A.F., Zhang, Q., Arveiler,
638 D., Bakker, S.J.L., Beilby, J., Bergman, R.N., Bergmann, S., Biffar, R., Blangero, J., Boomsma,
639 D.I., Bornstein, S.R., Bovet, P., Brambilla, P., Brown, M.J., Campbell, H., Caulfield, M.J.,
640 Chakravarti, A., Collins, R., Collins, F.S., Crawford, D.C., Cupples, L.A., Danesh, J., de Faire, U.,
641 Ruijter, den, H.M., Erbel, R., Erdmann, J., Eriksson, J.G., Farrall, M., Ferrannini, E., Ferrières,
642 J., Ford, I., Forouhi, N.G., Forrester, T., Gansevoort, R.T., Gejman, P.V., Gieger, C., Golay, A.,
643 Gottesman, O., Gudnason, V., Gyllensten, U., Haas, D.W., Hall, A.S., Harris, T.B., Hattersley,
644 A.T., Heath, A.C., Hengstenberg, C., Hicks, A.A., Hindorff, L.A., Hingorani, A.D., Hofman, A.,
645 Hovingh, G.K., Humphries, S.E., Hunt, S.C., Hypponen, E., Jacobs, K.B., Jarvelin, M.-R.,
646 Jousilahti, P., Jula, A.M., Kaprio, J., Kastelein, J.J.P., Kayser, M., Kee, F., Keinanen-
647 Kiukaanniemi, S.M., Kiemeny, L.A., Kooner, J.S., Kooperberg, C., Koskinen, S., Kovacs, P.,
648 Kraja, A.T., Kumari, M., Kuusisto, J., Lakka, T.A., Langenberg, C., Le Marchand, L., Lehtimäki,
649 T., Lupoli, S., Madden, P.A.F., Männistö, S., Manunta, P., Marette, A., Matisse, T.C., McKnight,
650 B., Meitinger, T., Moll, F.L., Montgomery, G.W., Morris, A.D., Morris, A.P., Murray, J.C.,
651 Nelis, M., Ohlsson, C., Oldehinkel, A.J., Ong, K.K., Ouwehand, W.H., Pasterkamp, G., Peters,
652 A., Pramstaller, P.P., Price, J.F., Qi, L., Raitakari, O.T., Rankinen, T., Rao, D.C., Rice, T.K.,
653 Ritchie, M., Rudan, I., Salomaa, V., Samani, N.J., Saramies, J., Sarzynski, M.A., Schwarz,
654 P.E.H., Sebert, S., Sever, P., Shuldiner, A.R., Sinisalo, J., Steinthorsdottir, V., Stolk, R.P.,
655 Tardif, J.-C., Tönjes, A., Tremblay, A., Tremoli, E., Virtamo, J., Vohl, M.-C., Amouyel, P.,
656 Asselbergs, F.W., Assimes, T.L., Bochud, M., Boehm, B.O., Boerwinkle, E., Bottinger, E.P.,
657 Bouchard, C., Cauchi, S., Chambers, J.C., Chanoock, S.J., Cooper, R.S., de Bakker, P.I.W.,
658 Dedoussis, G., Ferrucci, L., Franks, P.W., Froguel, P., Groop, L.C., Haiman, C.A., Hamsten, A.,
659 Hayes, M.G., Hui, J., Hunter, D.J., Hveem, K., Jukema, J.W., Kaplan, R.C., Kivimäki, M., Kuh,
660 D., Laakso, M., Liu, Y., Martin, N.G., März, W., Melbye, M., Moebus, S., Munroe, P.B.,
661 Njølstad, I., Oostra, B.A., Palmer, C.N.A., Pedersen, N.L., Perola, M., Pérusse, L., Peters, U.,
662 Powell, J.E., Power, C., Quertermous, T., Rauramaa, R., Reinmaa, E., Ridker, P.M.,
663 Rivadeneira, F., Rotter, J.I., Saaristo, T.E., Saleheen, D., Schlessinger, D., Slagboom, P.E.,
664 Snieder, H., Spector, T.D., Strauch, K., Stumvoll, M., Tuomilehto, J., Uusitupa, M., van der

665 Harst, P., Völzke, H., Walker, M., Wareham, N.J., Watkins, H., Wichmann, H.E., Wilson, J.F.,
666 Zanen, P., Deloukas, P., Heid, I.M., Lindgren, C.M., Mohlke, K.L., Speliotes, E.K.,
667 Thorsteinsdottir, U., Barroso, I., Fox, C.S., North, K.E., Strachan, D.P., Beckmann, J.S., Berndt,
668 S.I., Boehnke, M., Borecki, I.B., McCarthy, M.I., Metspalu, A., Stefansson, K., Uitterlinden,
669 A.G., van Duijn, C.M., Franke, L., Willer, C.J., Price, A.L., Lettre, G., Loos, R.J.F., Weedon,
670 M.N., Ingelsson, E., O'Connell, J.R., Abecasis, G.R., Chasman, D.I., Goddard, M.E., Visscher,
671 P.M., Hirschhorn, J.N., Frayling, T.M., 2014. Defining the role of common variation in the
672 genomic and biological architecture of adult human height. *Nature Genetics* 46, 1173–1186.
673 doi:10.1038/ng.3097

674 Wykoff, D.D., Rizvi, A.H., Raser, J.M., Margolin, B., O'Shea, E.K., 2007. Positive feedback
675 regulates switching of phosphate transporters in *S. cerevisiae*. *MOLCEL* 27, 1005–1013.
676 doi:10.1016/j.molcel.2007.07.022

677 Yang, J., Bakshi, A., Zhu, Z., Hemani, G., Vinkhuyzen, A.A.E., Lee, S.H., Robinson, M.R., Perry,
678 J.R.B., Nolte, I.M., Van Vliet-Ostaptchouk, J.V., Snieder, H., LifeLines Cohort Study, Esko, T.,
679 Milani, L., Magi, R., Metspalu, A., Hamsten, A., Magnusson, P.K.E., Pedersen, N.L.,
680 Ingelsson, E., Soranzo, N., Keller, M.C., Wray, N.R., Goddard, M.E., Visscher, P.M., 2015.
681 Genetic variance estimation with imputed variants finds negligible missing heritability for
682 human height and body mass index. *Nat. Genet.* 47, 1114–1120.

683 Yang, J., Benyamin, B., McEvoy, B.P., Gordon, S., Henders, A.K., Nyholt, D.R., Madden, P.A.,
684 Heath, A.C., Martin, N.G., Montgomery, G.W., Goddard, M.E., Visscher, P.M., 2010.
685 Common SNPs explain a large proportion of the heritability for human height. *Nature*
686 *Genetics* 42, 565–569. doi:10.1038/ng.608
687
688

689 **Figure Legend**

690 **Figure 1. Genes outside of the canonical signaling pathways have the potential to**
691 **substantially influence pathway function**

692 (A) A canonical pathway (red circles) can be modified by anywhere from a small number to
693 large number of currently unidentified genes (green circles). (B) Regardless of the number
694 of modifiers, the modifiers could range from having a weak to strong effect on the pathway
695 (represented by arrow thickness). (C) If the number of modifiers is small (I) or if the effect
696 size of the modifiers is small (II) the genetic architecture of the pathway will be centralized,
697 i.e. a small number of genes will control the function of and variation in the pathway. If the

698 number of modifiers is large and the effect size of the modifiers is sufficiently large (III) the
699 genetic architecture will be distributed; i.e. a large number of genes will control the
700 function of and variation in the pathway.

701 **Figure 2. Quantitative genetic screen determines that a large number of genes**
702 **quantitatively affects the yeast galactose response**

703 (A) Galactose (Gal) activates while glucose (Glu) inhibits transcription from a GAL1
704 promoter YFP fusion. (B) A mCherry expressing mutant strain (red) was co-culture with a
705 wild-type reference strain (black); both strain contained the reporter construct from A.
706 Each well contained a distinct deletion mutant. (C) We defined two metrics to characterize
707 the bimodal response of the GAL pathway. We defined the induced fraction (yellow area
708 versus total area under the curve) as the percent of cells whose YFP expression level was
709 above a threshold (black dotted line). We also defined the induction level as the mean YFP
710 expression of all induced cells (green dotted line). (D) Mutant effect sizes for the induction
711 level (D, left) and for induced fraction (D, right) are defined as the relative change in each
712 metric between mutant (red) and the co-cultured wild-type reference strain (black). (E-F)
713 Effect size distribution for two GAL traits. Effect sizes of all mutants were binned and
714 plotted as a histogram (black bars). Mutant that passed a 0.5% false discovery rate cut-off
715 were well fit with an exponential distribution using maximum likelihood estimation
716 (dashed black line, R^2 0.96 for each, see Method). The full distribution is parsimonious with
717 a convolution of experimental noise and an exponential distribution (blue line is the
718 average distribution of 100,000 simulations, $R^2=0.92-0.98$; gray shading is one standard
719 deviation around the mean).

720 **Figure 3. Pathway modifiers can significantly contribute to heritability**

721 (A) Methods to estimate the heritability explained by a set of deletion mutants. Genes were
722 sorted based on their effect size when deleted. The heritability was calculated as the sum of
723 the squares of the effect sizes for the top n genes compared to all genes. The heritability
724 (right) for the top 100 (red), 200 (blue), and 300 (green) mutant strains (left) is shown. (B-
725 C) The contribution to explained heritability, as calculated in A, from GAL genes (red) or all
726 genes (black) for induction level (B) and induced fraction (C).

727 **Figure 4. Core cellular processes affect quantitative traits**

728 (A) Venn diagram showing the overlap between genes that significantly affect each of our
729 four quantitative traits. Effect size for the unfolded protein response and growth rate in
730 rich media was determined by reanalyzing data from Jonikas et al. and Breslow et al.
731 (Breslow et al., 2008; Jonikas et al., 2009). Only genes that were assayed for all four traits
732 are included in the Venn diagram. (B) Identification of gene ontologies (GOs) that are
733 significantly clustered in the 4-D trait space. For each GO the mean circular variance in the
734 4-D trait space was determined (Methods) and plotted against the corresponding number
735 of genes in that GO (orange dots are significant, gray dots are not). To determine the 1%
736 false discovery rate (FDR < 1%, black line), gene names were permuted (10000 bootstraps)
737 before calculating the circular variance. GOs displayed in C and D are shown as squares. (C)
738 The average effect size vector for each significant GO in B projected into the 3-D induced
739 fraction-induction level-UPR response space. (D) Examples of GO with distinct spatial
740 clustering. The effect of gene deletion on the unfolded protein response vs. GAL induction
741 level (top) and on the GAL induced fraction vs. GAL induction level (bottom) was plotted

742 for all genes from five different significant GOs from **B** (GO genes in color, all other genes in
743 gray). (Inset) Average mutant vector of GO.

744 **Figure 5. Effects of protein synthesis perturbation on the phosphate response (PHO)**
745 **are distinct from the effects on the galactose response (GAL)**

746 **(A)** Schematic of experiment to quantify the effects of perturbing protein synthesis on the
747 PHO response. A PHO84_{pr}-YFP reporter was used to quantify PHO pathway activation in
748 single cells. Protein synthesis was perturbed by either (I) knocking out genes involved in
749 protein synthesis or (II) treating our wild-type strain with a titration of cycloheximide. **(B-**
750 **D)** The effects of perturbing protein synthesis are different between the GAL and PHO
751 response. Perturbation phenotypes were quantified by: 1) induced fraction, 2) induction
752 level and 3) for the PHO response, basal expression level. A set of 95 strains each deleted
753 for a gene involved protein synthesis (black dots) was assayed (GAL in **B**; PHO in **C** and **D**).
754 Cycloheximide (chx), a protein synthesis inhibitor, was added at 11 different
755 concentrations to a wild-type strain (green dots; green arrow denotes direction of
756 increasing chx concentration). Cycloheximide has a dose-dependent affect on both the GAL
757 and PHO response that phenocopies the effect of protein synthesis mutants. **(E)** The
758 expression distribution for two representative mutants, *rpl16aΔ* and *rpl35bΔ* in (red dots in
759 **B-D**). The GAL1_{pr}-YFP (top) and PHO84_{pr}-YFP (bottom) distributions of *rpl16aΔ* and
760 *rpl35bΔ* mutants are shown (red), together with the co-cultured wild-type strain (black).
761 The induction level metric is denoted (dashed line). The induction level is not change in
762 PHO (bottom) while it is in GAL (top).

763 **Figure 6 Effect size distribution estimated from gene deletions is informative for**
764 **more complex genetic scenarios**

765 (A) In figure 3, heritability versus gene number was estimated assuming an allele
766 frequency of 0.5, exactly 1 SNP per gene, and the effect size distribution measured in figure
767 2. To simulate more complex biological scenarios, we sampled allele frequency from a Beta
768 distribution, $Beta(f_a, f_b)$; number of SNPs from a Poisson distribution, $Poisson(\lambda)$; simulated
769 hypomorphs by convolving the measured effect size distribution for amorphs with a Beta
770 distribution, $Beta(S_a, S_b)$; and neomorphs by randomly sampling from the hypomorph
771 effect size distribution. The frequency of hypomorphs versus neomorphs was a constant, g ,
772 for each simulation. The extremes and middle of the range of each distribution are shown
773 (red, blue, and green) (B) Comparison of the number of genes required to explain 80% of
774 the heritability in the experimental and simulated data. Simulate data was generated by
775 Latin hypercube sampling of the six parameters (1000 iterations; blue dots). The fraction of
776 neomorphs (g) had the largest affect on the model. To examine the effect of the rest of
777 parameters, g was set to 5% (vertical red dashed line), and Latin hypercube sampling was
778 used was used to scan the remaining five parameter space 1000 times (red dots).

779

780 **Methods**

781 **Re-analysis of quantitative screening that used the yeast deletion collection.** Genome-wide
782 screens that used the yeast deletion collection (reviewed in Giaever 2014) were re-analyzed.

783 After downloading available effect size measurements for individual mutants, the measurement

784 error of each assay in Table S4 was determined as the standard deviation of the differences of
785 replicate measurements for identical strains (see Supplemental Information for details). The
786 effect sizes were compared to measurement noise distribution, $\sim N(0, \text{measurement noise})$, to
787 assign p-values for mutants. False discovery rates (FDR) were used to correct for the multiple
788 hypothesis test problem. Significant mutants were defined as ones with FDR less than 0.5%.

789 **Plasmid and strain construction.** We constructed a plasmid containing the GAL1 promoter
790 driving YFP with a Zeocin resistance marker all flanked by regions that are homologous to the
791 HO locus (A65V). This plasmid was digested with Not1 and transformed into the parental SGA
792 strain (B56Y, MATx ura3 Δ leu2 Δ his3 Δ met15 Δ can1 Δ ::ste2pr-spHIS5 lyp1 Δ ::Ste3pr-LEU2 LYS2+
793 cyh2)(Tong and Boone, 2006) to construct a base strain (D62Y), which was used to create both
794 query and reference strains used in the GAL screen. Query strains (library SLL14) were
795 constructed using the SGA techniques(Tong and Boone, 2006) on the deletion collection and
796 base strain D62Y. A reference strain (F59Y) was constructed by a second transformation with a
797 TDH3pr-mCherry construct. The PHO84 promoter driving YFP reporter (E40B) was constructed
798 using similar method by using PHO84pr PCR-ed from FY4 (using primer
799 CGTACGCTGCAGGTCGACGGATCCCGTTTTTTTACCGTTTAGTAGACAG and
800 TAATTCTTCACCTTTAGACATTTTGTATTATAATTAATTGGATTGTATTCGTGGAGTTTTG) instead of the
801 GAL1 promoter. The resulting PHO library (SLL15) and reference strain (I32Y) were used in the
802 PHO screen.

803 **Galactose induction assay.** Mutant strains from the deletion library that contains GAL1pr-YFP
804 reporter and the corresponding reference strain were pinned onto YEPD agar plate before

805 being inoculated into synthetic complete 2% raffinose medium to allow growth till saturation.
806 Mutants and the reference strain were pinned together into 150 μ l of fresh raffinose medium
807 and grown for another seven hours, before being inoculated into 150 μ l of synthetic complete
808 0.2% glucose and 0.3% galactose. After induction for eight hours, 10 μ l of cultures were
809 analyzed by flow cytometry LSRII with HTS. Each plate ran for ~20 minutes on the instrument.
810 To ensure that all mutants underwent roughly the same induction time, no more than four
811 plates were inoculated at a time. The induction level and induced fraction trait were based on
812 measurements from two biological replicates in two separate days. Data were analyzed using a
813 Matlab script (for representative raw data, see Figure S6).

814 **Phosphate starvation induction assay.** Mutant strains from the library that contain the
815 PHO84pr-YFP reporter and the corresponding reference strain were pinned on YEPD plate
816 before being inoculated into synthetic glucose medium (SD). Mutants and the reference strain
817 were then co-cultured in SD for 12 hours before washing in water twice and transferred into
818 induction medium - synthetic glucose medium supplemented with 200 μ M of K_2HPO_4 . Medium
819 recipe is from Wykoff et al. (Wykoff et al., 2007). Cultures were analyzed by a Stratadigm
820 S1000EX cytometer cytometry. The three PHO traits were based on measurements from two
821 biological replicates in two separate days. Data was analyzed using Matlab scripts.

822 **Fitting the effect size distribution.** As the measured effects of most strains are close to
823 measurement error, we first analyzed the effect size distribution of strains with significant
824 measured effect sizes (FDR<0.5%). Mutant effect sizes were binned and fitted to exponential

825 distributions. The only fitting parameter is the scale of the exponential distribution, which was
826 estimated by maximizing the following log-likelihood function.

$$\log L = \sum_{\text{significant genes}} \log (P(ES_i|\theta))$$

827 , where ES_i is the effect size of the i^{th} significant gene, and θ is the the scale of the exponential
828 distribution. The probability distribution is an exponential distribution defined over a range of
829 effect size, i.e.:

$$P(x|\theta) = \frac{\frac{1}{\theta} \int_{x_{min}}^{\infty} \exp\left(-\frac{x}{\theta}\right) dx}{\exp\left(-\frac{x_{min}}{\theta}\right)}$$

830 Parameters that maximize the likelihood of measurements were used for Figure 2. The fitted
831 exponential distribution was extrapolated into the small effect size region to estimate the
832 number of genes that are likely to follow the distribution. As a parsimonious model to explain
833 our effect size measurements for four traits, we assumed the rest of mutants to have effect
834 sizes as zero. Using this model, we predicted the expected effect size measurement distribution
835 by convolving the true effect size distribution with the measurement noise of each assay (solid
836 blue line in Figure 2). This distribution was then randomly sampled in 10,000 simulations and
837 the standard deviation of the simulation was used as the confident zone of our estimation.

838 **Extrapolate the number of genes that affect quantitative traits to human traits.** The number
839 of significant genes were corrected by a factor determined by the gene number ratio between
840 known human genes and screened yeast genes. The number of human genes is estimated as

841 22,500 (Pertea and Salzberg, 2010). The number of screened yeast genes was determined as
842 the number of genes that passed quality control.

843 **Simulation of potential biases from the study of amorphs.** In our model, we defined the
844 explained heritability as the total explained heritability by all SNPs that affect each gene. As
845 described in the main text, we simulated the number of SNPs that affect each gene as a Poisson
846 distribution. The allele frequency and relative effect size are modeled using beta distribution.
847 Gain-of-function SNPs were modeled by re-assigning effect sizes of a fraction of all SNPs by
848 randomly sampling from the effect size distribution of all SNPs. In our Latin hypercube sampling,
849 parameters in the two beta distributions ranged from 0.5 to 9, the fraction of gain-of-function
850 SNPs ranged from 0 to 50%, and the average number of SNP per gene ranged from 1 to 100.
851 The heritability of each SNP is modeled as $2 \cdot S^2 \cdot f \cdot (1-f)$, where S is effect size and f is allele
852 frequency. Measured knockout effect size on induced level is used in the model as complete
853 loss-of-function effects. The code used for this simulation is available at Dryad.

854 **Gene Ontology analysis.** Genes that are significant for all four traits (FDR<0.5%) were used as a
855 hit list; all the genes that passed quality control were used as a background list. Gene Ontology
856 analyses were done using GO TermFinder (Boyle et al., 2004).

857 **Spatial clustering algorithm.** Each gene was represented a 4-dimensional effect size vector
858 using the effect size measured for each of the four yeast traits. Since different traits have
859 different units, we normalized each dimension of the effect size vectors by its scale, which is
860 defined as the root mean square of the effect sizes of all the genes that significantly affect that
861 trait. For any gene set, we determined the similarity of their effects on four traits by 1) filtering

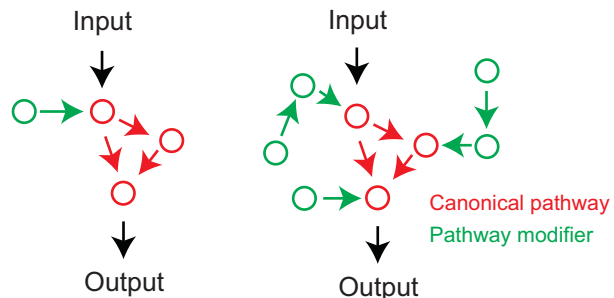
862 out all genes that are not significant to any of our traits; 2) calculate the circular mean of the
863 normalized effect size vectors (e) as: $R = \sum \vec{e} / |\vec{e}|$; 3) calculate the circular deviation as
864 $Var = 1 - R$. To determine the significance of this, we repeated the calculation 10,000 times
865 after randomizing the gene names. Gene Ontologies that have at least five genes significant for
866 any of the four traits were analyzed using the method above. Significantly clustered processes
867 were defined as $FDR < 0.01$.

868 **Cycloheximide effect on GAL and PHO.** Cycloheximide was purchased from Sigma (C7698).
869 Cycloheximide was added directly to the induction media and this was the only change in the
870 protocol from strains that were not exposed to cycloheximide. Cells were grown in a two-fold
871 dilution series of cycloheximide with the highest concentration of cycloheximide being 20 $\mu\text{g/ml}$.
872 Cycloheximide effects in Figure 5 were based on at least three biological replicates.

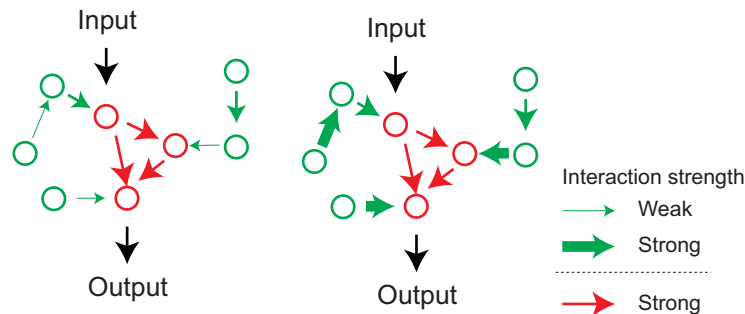
873 **Data and code Availability.** All codes and raw data will be made available on Dryad.

874

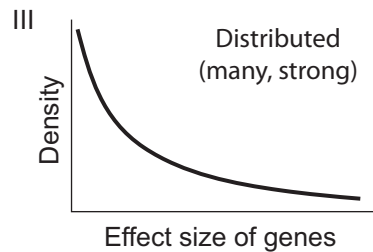
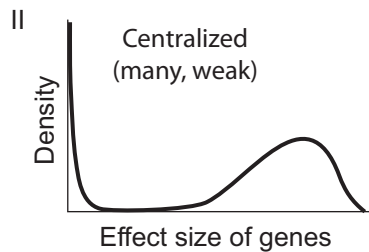
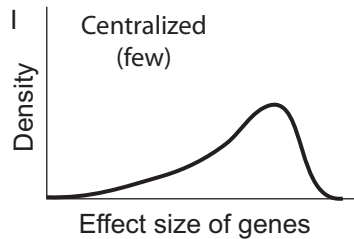
875

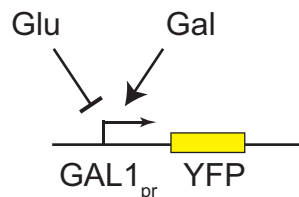
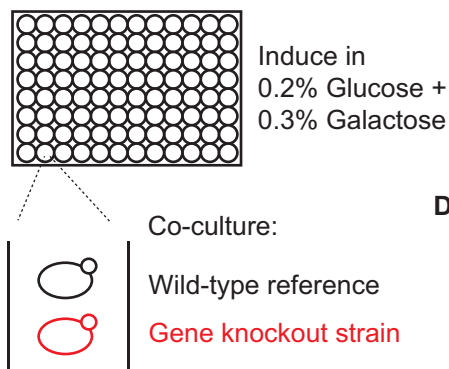
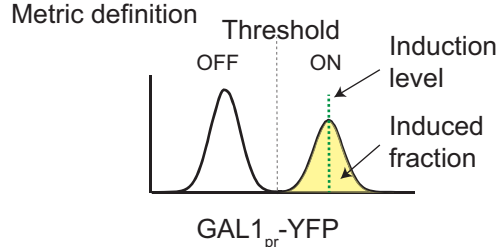
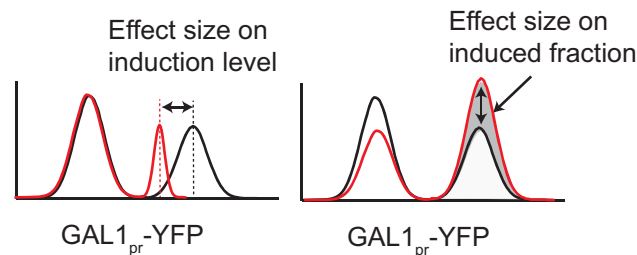
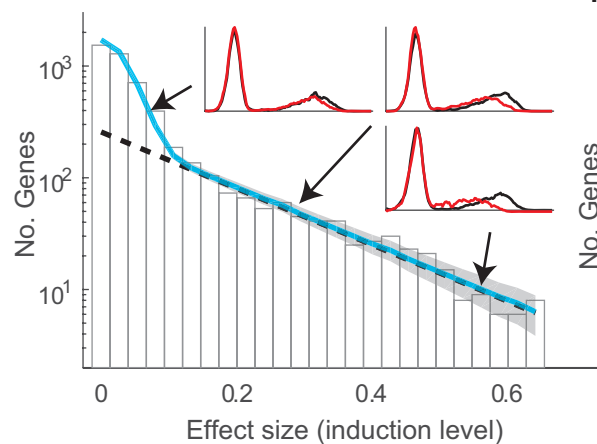
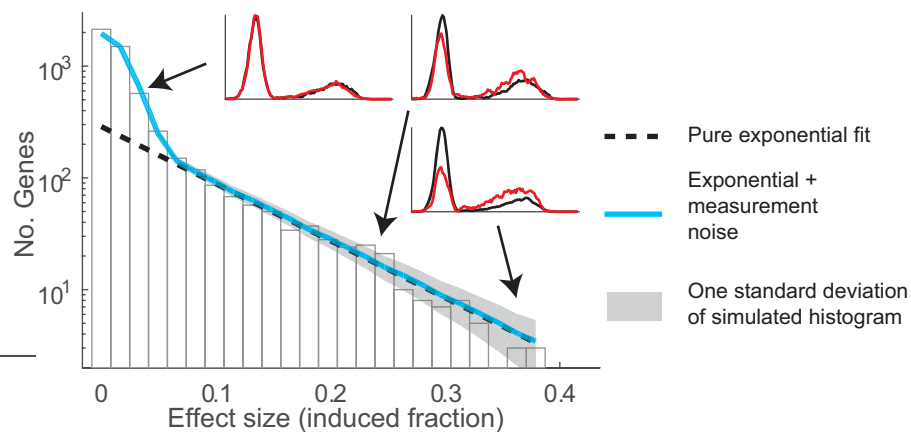
A

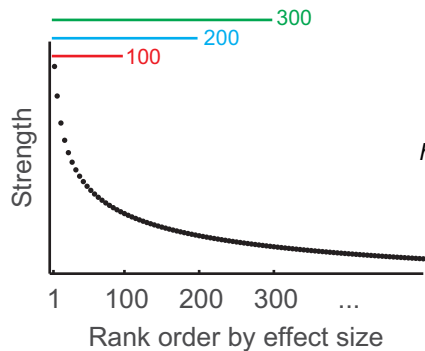
Few \longrightarrow Many
Number of modifiers

B

Weak \longrightarrow Strong
Overall modifier strength

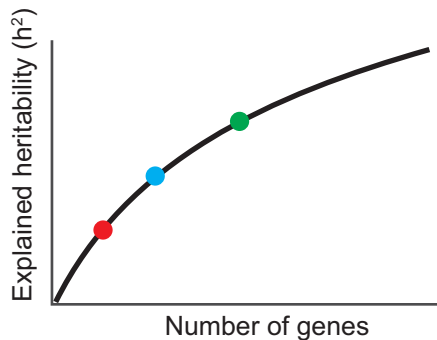
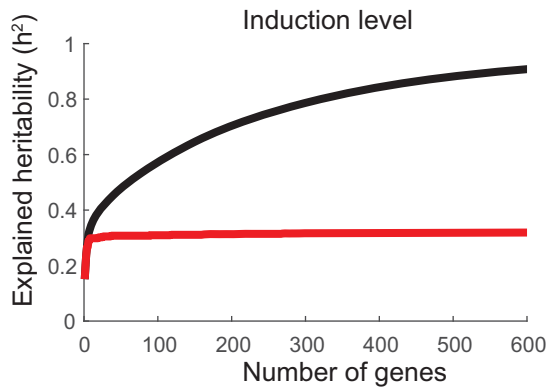
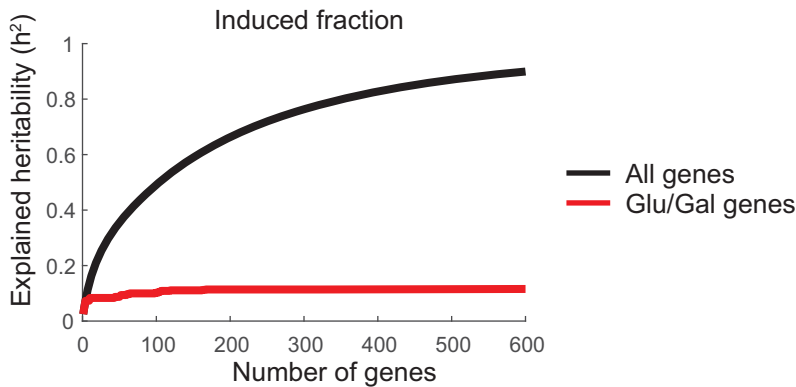
C

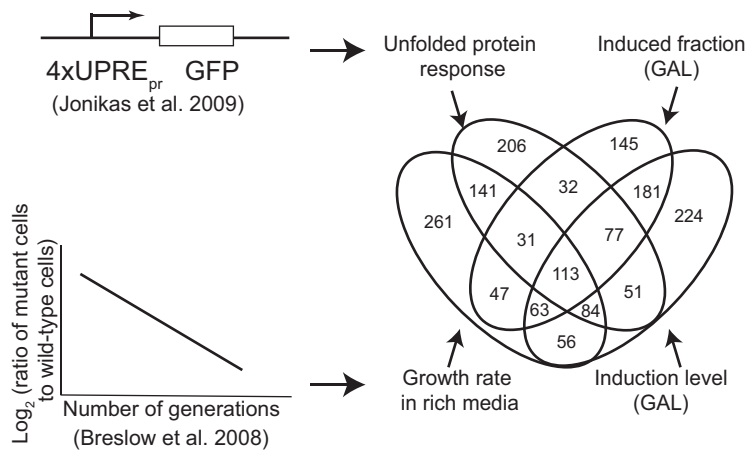
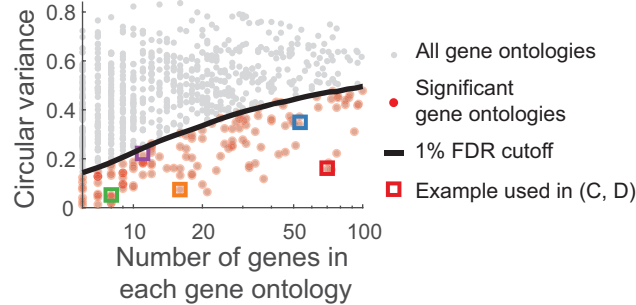
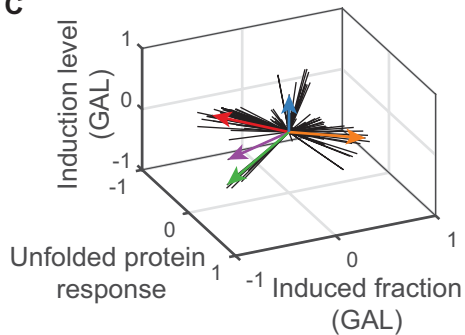
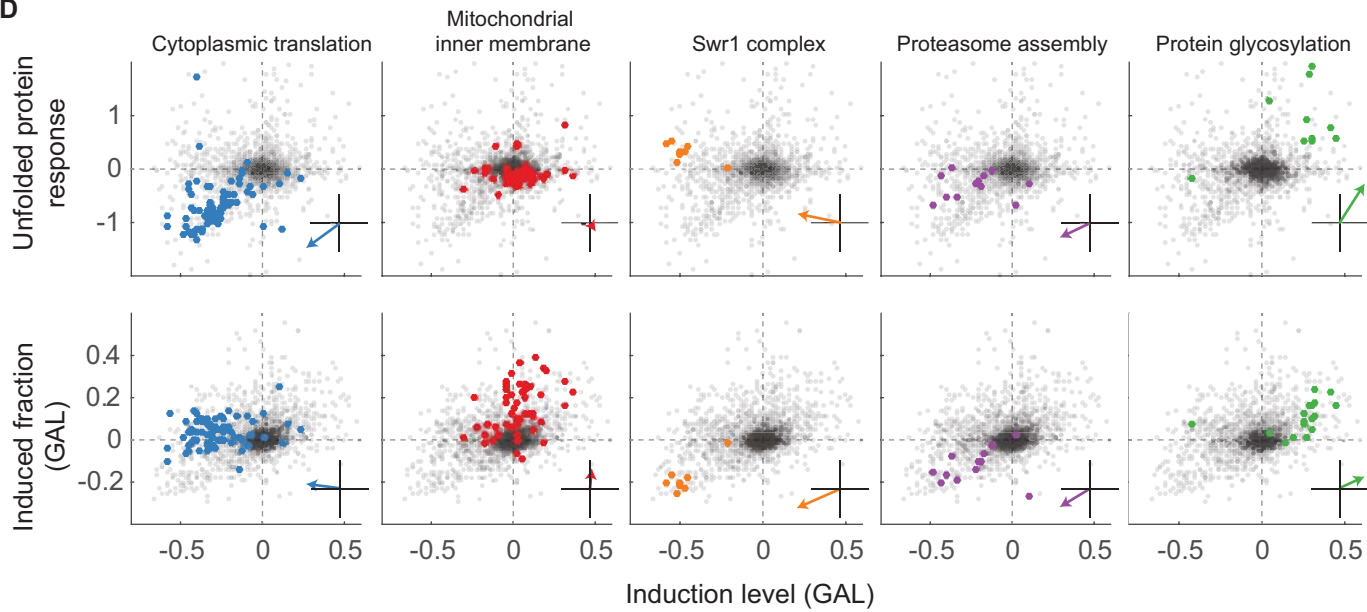
A**B****C****D** Effect size definition**E****F**

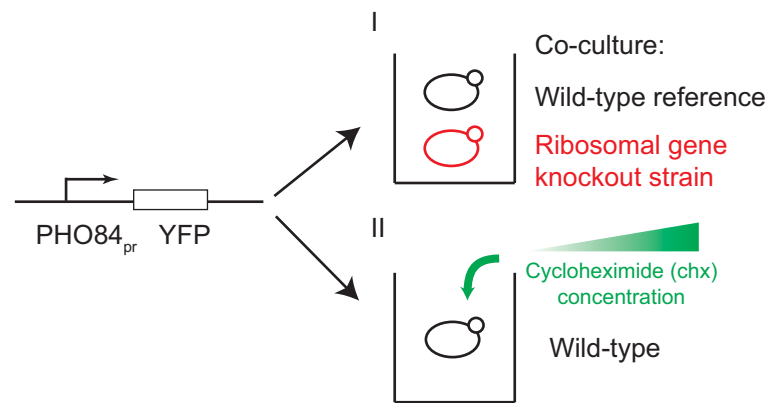
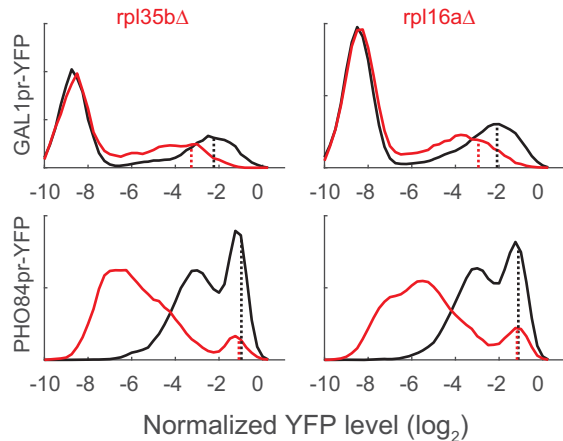
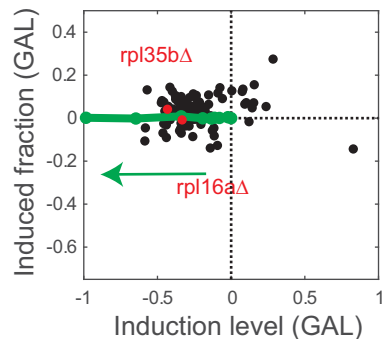
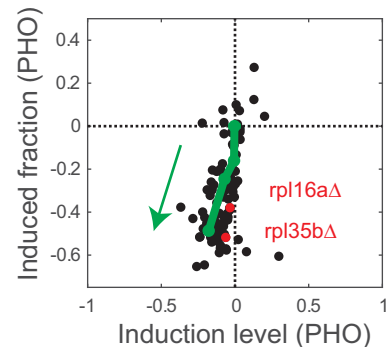
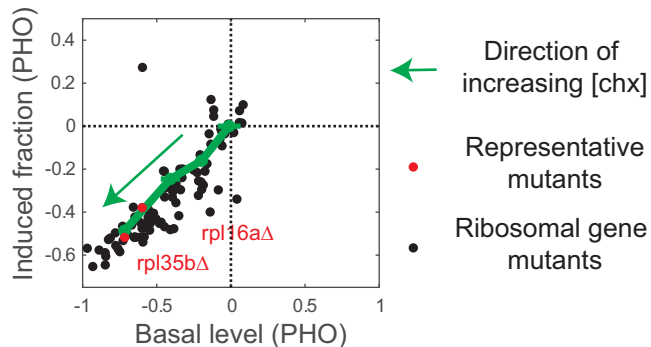
A

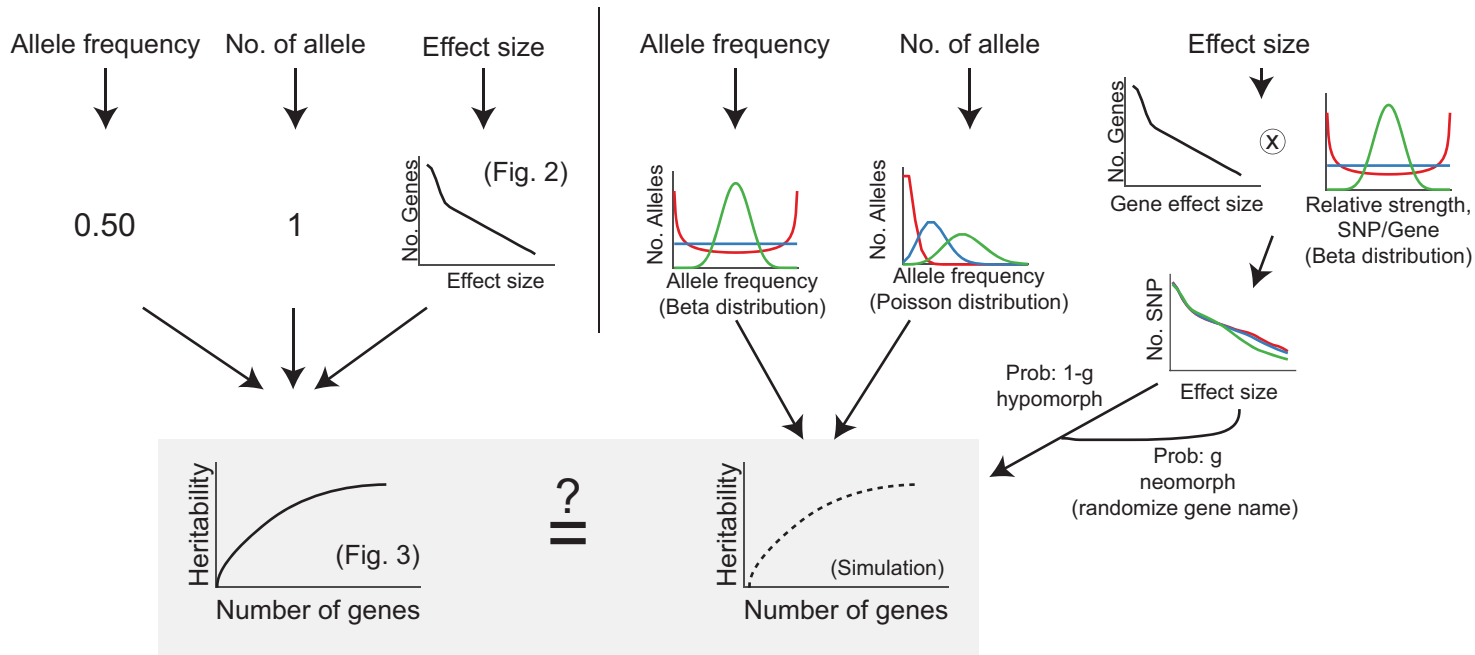
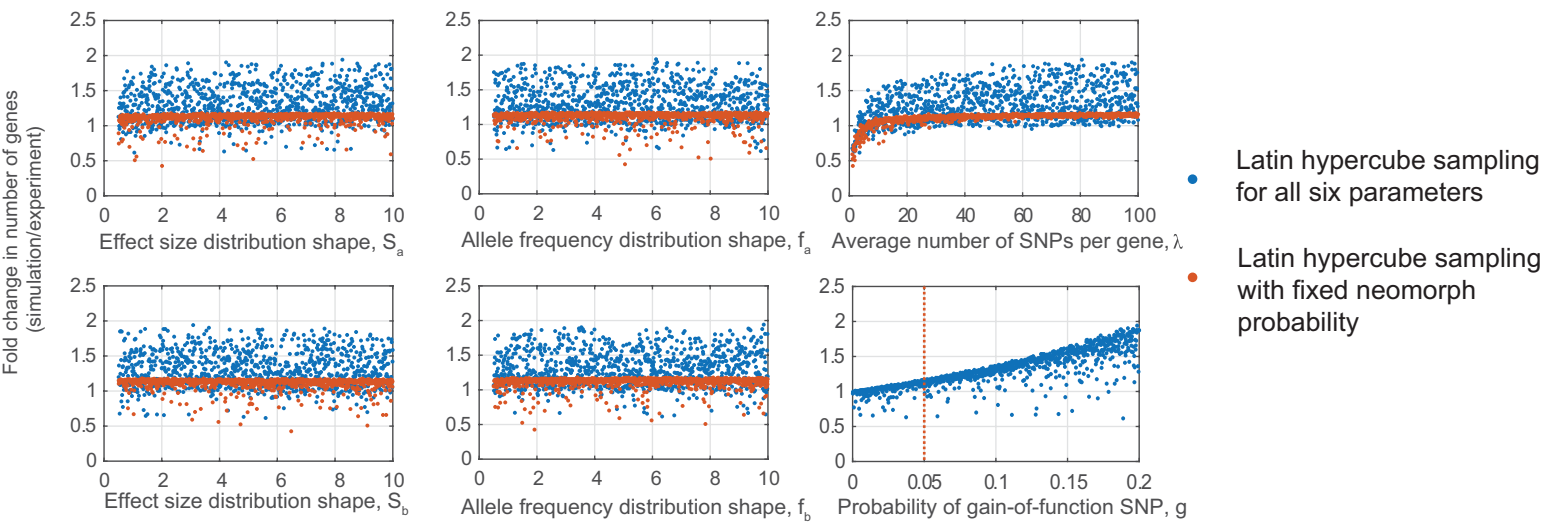
$$h^2 = \frac{\sum_{\text{top } n \text{ genes}} \text{effect size}^2}{\sum_{\text{all genes}} \text{effect size}^2}$$

→

**B****C**

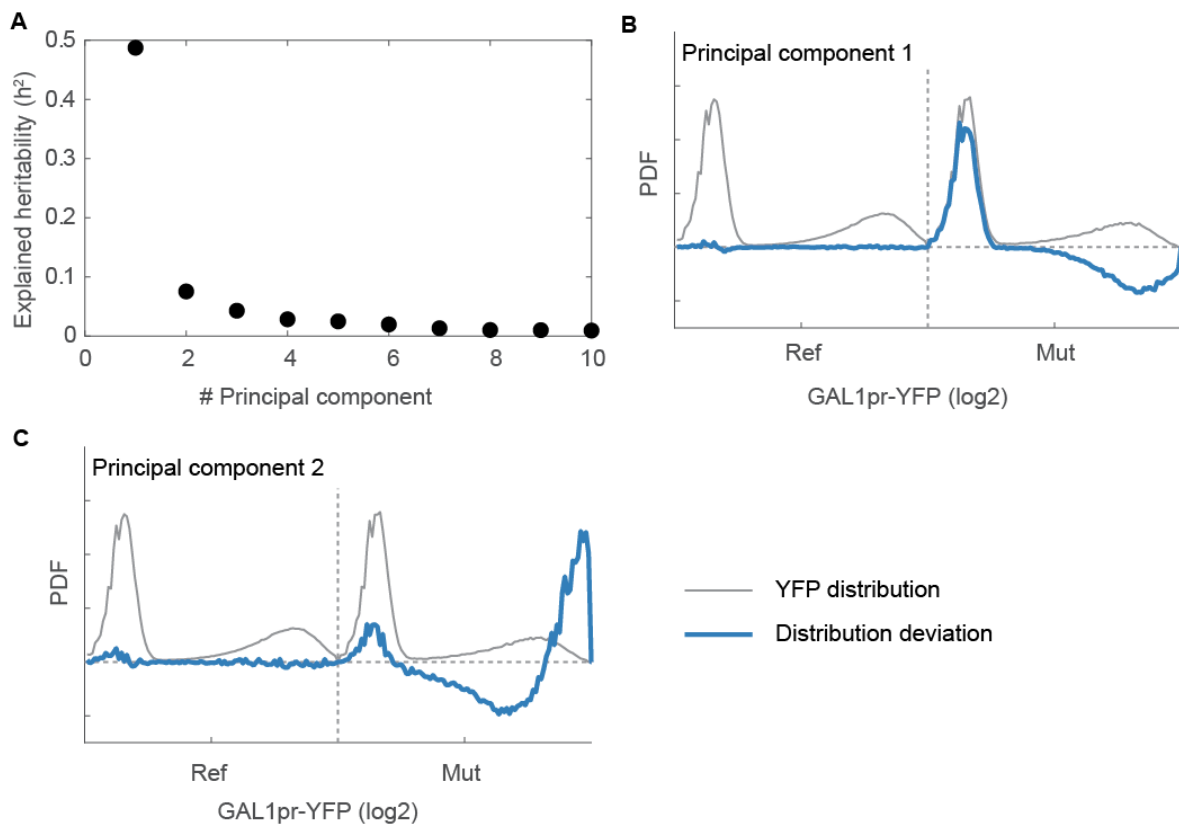
A**B****C****D**

A**E****B****C****D**

A**B**

1	Table of contents	
2	SUPPLEMENTAL FIGURES AND LEGENDS.....	2
3	SUPPLEMENTAL TABLES AND LEGENDS.....	10
4	SUPPLEMENTAL TEXT	15
5	RE-ANALYSIS OF PREVIOUS QUANTITATIVE SCREENING USING YEAST DELETION COLLECTIONS	15
6	FLOW CYTOMETRY DATA PROCESSING	18
7	PRINCIPAL COMPONENT ANALYSIS ON REPORTER EXPRESSION DISTRIBUTION OF THE ENTIRE DELETION COLLECTION	19
8	DATA NORMALIZATION	20
9	ESTIMATE THE NUMBER OF GENES THAT AFFECT YEAST QUANTITATIVE TRAITS	21
10	COMPARE THE NUMBER OF DETECTED MUTANTS BY USING INDUCED FRACTION AND INDUCTION LEVEL VS. AVERAGE	
11	EXPRESSION LEVEL	21
12	GENES THAT SATURATED OUR ASSAY	22
13	OVERLAPPING AMONG GENES THAT ARE SIGNIFICANT FOR EACH OF THE FOUR STUDIED TRAITS.....	23
14	COMPARE THE EFFECTS ON GAL AND PHO RESPONSE BY DELETING GENES INVOLVED IN PROTEIN SYNTHESIS.....	23
15	CANONICAL GENES INVOLVED IN GALACTOSE SIGNALING AND UNFOLDED PROTEIN RESPONSE.....	24
16	REFERENCE:	25
17		

18 Supplemental figures and legends



19

20 **Figure S1. Determining modes of response with principal component analysis (Figure S1.**

21 **Related to Figure 2)**

22 After data segmentation, histograms of GAL1pr-YFP for the mutant and reference strain for

23 each sample were normalized, concatenated, and then analyzed using principal component

24 analysis. **(A)** The fraction of variation explained by the first ten principal components. **(B-C)**

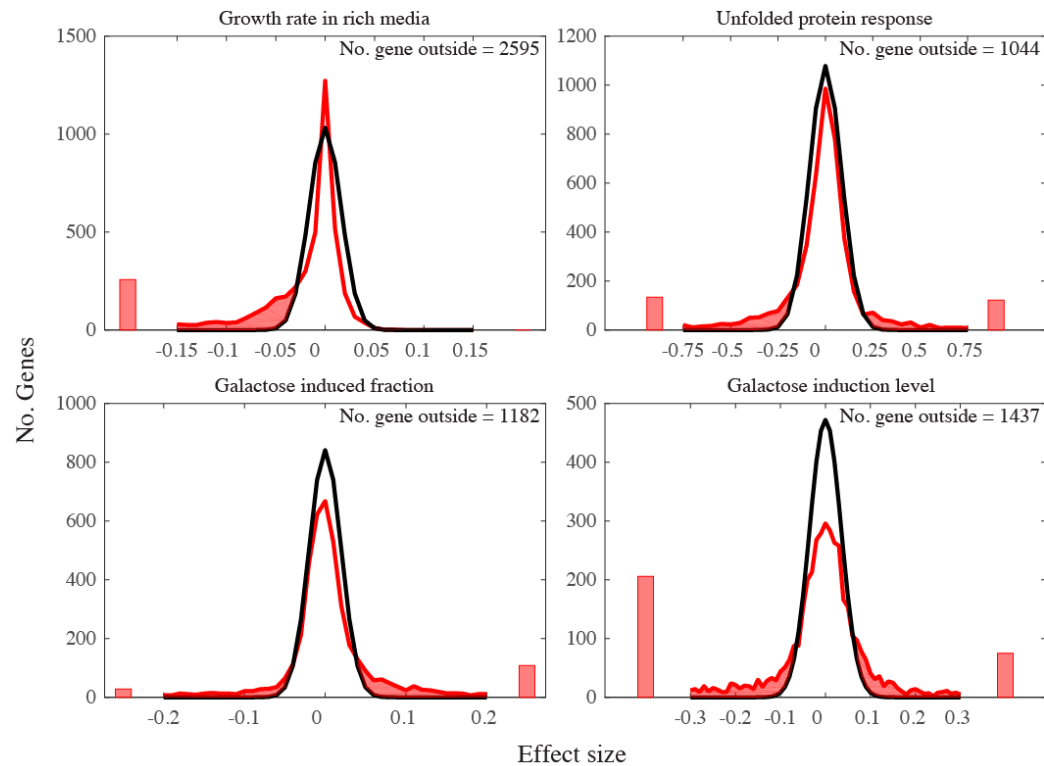
25 Effects on GAL1pr-YFP distribution by the top two principal components. The average GAL1pr-

26 YFP distribution of all reference and mutant strains are concatenated (gray). The principal

27 component (blue) from the PCA analysis is the deviation from this average profile due to

28 mutant effects. The horizontal line $y=0$ means no effects; i.e. the behavior of the wild-type

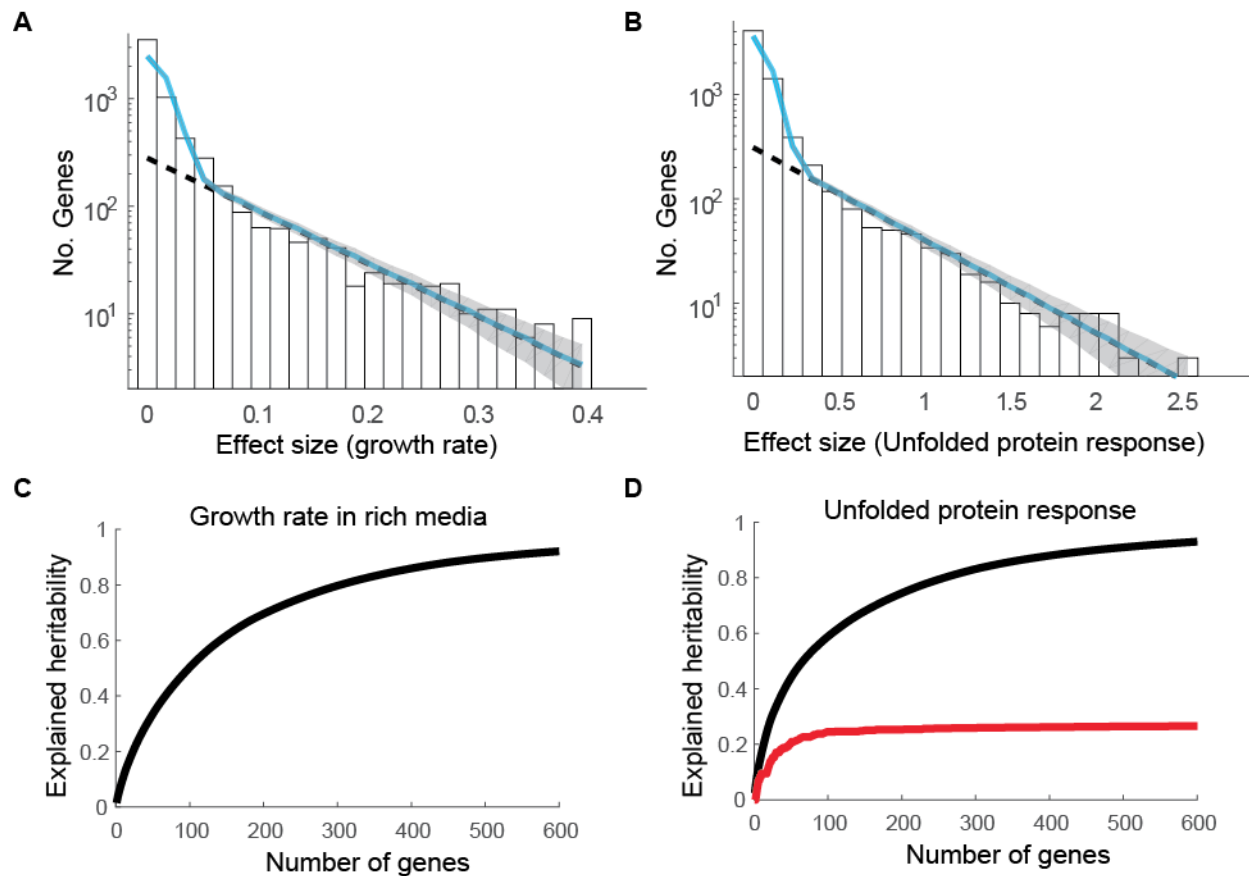
- 29 strain. Note that the first two principal components correspond to biological properties, i.e. the
- 30 induced fraction and induction level.



31

32 **Figure S2. Effect size distribution versus measurement noise for four traits (Figure S2. Related**
33 **to Figure 2)**

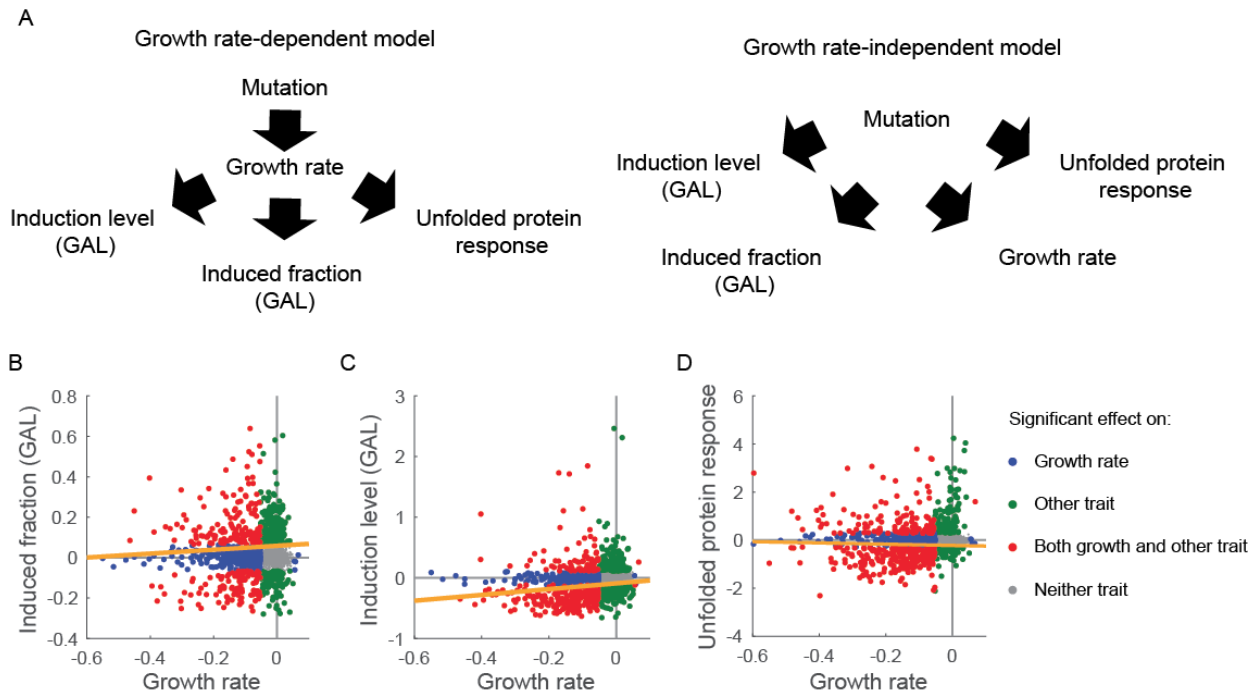
34 As many mutants have effect sizes that are close to or smaller than average measurement noise,
35 the total number of genes that affects each quantitative trait was estimated by comparing the
36 measured effect size distribution (red) and measurement noise effect size distribution (black).
37 The measurement noise effect size distribution is the distribution of measurement noises
38 between all replicated samples. The total number of genes that affect each trait was estimated
39 from the number of genes in the shaded region.



40

41 **Figure S3. Reanalysis of two screens confirms that a large number of genes quantitatively**
42 **affect yeast galactose response (Figure S3. Related to Figure 2; Figure 3)**

43 Data from two deletion studies (Breslow et al., 2008; Jonikas et al., 2009), one on growth rate in
44 rich medium and one on the unfolded protein response (UPR), were reanalyzed. Both the effect
45 size distribution (A-B) and explained heritability (C-D) were calculated as in Figure 2 and 3. Fit of
46 the significant genes to an exponential (dashed line) has an R² of 0.91 for growth rate (A) and
47 0.94 for UPR (B). The fit of the full data to an exponential plus noise had an R² of 9.2 (A) and
48 0.95 (B). (C-D) The contribution to explained heritability, as calculated in 3A, from UPR genes
49 (red) or all genes (black) for growth rate in rich media (C) and UPR (D).

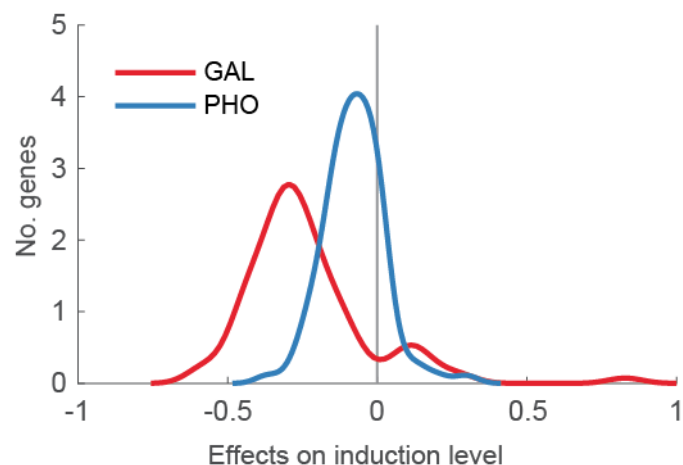


50

51 **Figure S4. Affecting growth rate is not the sole mechanism for significant mutants to affect**
52 **yeast GAL response and unfolded protein response (Figure S4. Related to Figure 4)**

53 (A) Two alternative models of how quantitative traits can be affected by gene deletion. In the
54 growth rate-dependent model (left), mutants affect growth rate that in turn affects other traits.
55 In the growth rate-independent model (right), mutants directly affect quantitative traits
56 including growth rate. These two models can be distinguished by determining whether mutant
57 effects on growth rate and other traits are correlated. (B-D) Mutant phenotypes for the
58 unfolded protein response (B), GAL induced fraction (C) and GAL induction level (D) are plotted
59 against the growth rate data reported by Breslow et al. Mutants were segmented into four
60 quadrants based on whether the mutant had a significant effect (based on 0.5% FDR cut-off) on
61 growth rate and non-growth rate trait: growth rate (blue), other non-growth rate trait (green),

62 both (red), neither (gray). A linear fit of the points that are significant for both traits (red) is
63 plotted (orange line).

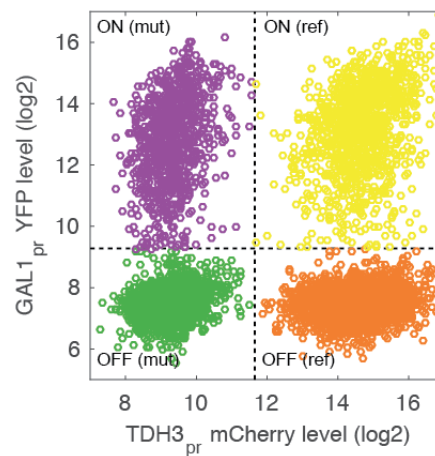


64

65 **Figure S5. The difference of effects on GAL and PHO response by deleting genes involved in**
66 **protein synthesis (Figure S5. Related to Figure 5)**

67 For each of the 95 mutants we tested that are involved in protein synthesis, the mutant effects
68 on the induction level were quantified for the PHO (blue) and GAL (red) responses. The effect
69 size distribution was smoothed with kernel smoothing with a bandwidth of 0.05. The two
70 distributions are extremely unlikely to have results from noise in a single distribution (p-value
71 3×10^{-10} , two-tailed t-test). The magnitude of the average difference in effect size between the
72 two distributions is 3 fold.

73



74

75 **Figure S6. Data segmentation example (Figure S6. Related to Figure 2)**

76 An example is shown here using data from the first replicate sample for mutant *yal068cΔ*. Cell

77 debris is filtered from the raw data using a FSC/SSC gate, and the mCherry vs. YFP values of

78 remaining events are plotted. Data is segmented on the mCherry channel to separate reference

79 and mutant strain, and on the YFP channel to separate the induced cells and uninduced cells.

80 The horizontal and vertical dashed lines show the threshold used for segmentation.

81

82 Supplemental tables and legends

83 Table S1. Enriched Gene Ontology for genes that significantly affect all four yeast traits (Table

84 S1. Relates to Figure 4)

85 GO TermFinder (Boyle et al., 2004) was used to analyze GO enrichment. The p-values are
86 corrected for multiple hypotheses. Significant GOs are defined by the ones with corrected p-
87 value less than 0.01.

GO ID	GO Term	Corrected P-Value
GO:0010467	gene expression	9.1E-21
GO:0016070	RNA metabolic process	2.1E-15
GO:0034641	cellular nitrogen compound metabolic process	2.8E-14
GO:0006807	nitrogen compound metabolic process	2.4E-13
GO:0090304	nucleic acid metabolic process	5.8E-13
GO:0044260	cellular macromolecule metabolic process	1.6E-12
GO:0044271	cellular nitrogen compound biosynthetic process	2.2E-12
GO:0043170	macromolecule metabolic process	9.1E-12
GO:0034645	cellular macromolecule biosynthetic process	1.2E-10
GO:0009059	macromolecule biosynthetic process	1.8E-10
GO:0006139	nucleobase-containing compound metabolic process	4.2E-10
GO:0043933	macromolecular complex subunit organization	2.3E-09
GO:0046483	heterocycle metabolic process	3.1E-09
GO:0006725	cellular aromatic compound metabolic process	4.2E-09
GO:1901360	organic cyclic compound metabolic process	1.4E-08
GO:0044238	primary metabolic process	2.7E-08
GO:0006396	RNA processing	1.2E-07
GO:0044237	cellular metabolic process	1.2E-07
GO:0044249	cellular biosynthetic process	3.1E-07
GO:0002181	cytoplasmic translation	3.5E-07
GO:0006355	regulation of transcription, DNA-templated	3.8E-07
GO:1903506	regulation of nucleic acid-templated transcription	3.8E-07
GO:2001141	regulation of RNA biosynthetic process	3.8E-07
GO:0071824	protein-DNA complex subunit organization	4.1E-07

GO:0010468	regulation of gene expression	5.8E-07
GO:0044267	cellular protein metabolic process	6.7E-07
GO:0051252	regulation of RNA metabolic process	7.2E-07
GO:1901576	organic substance biosynthetic process	8.1E-07
GO:0006351	transcription, DNA-templated	8.8E-07
GO:0032774	RNA biosynthetic process	8.8E-07
GO:0097659	nucleic acid-templated transcription	8.8E-07
GO:2000112	regulation of cellular macromolecule biosynthetic process	1.2E-06
GO:0071704	organic substance metabolic process	1.3E-06
GO:0010556	regulation of macromolecule biosynthetic process	1.7E-06
GO:0019219	regulation of nucleobase-containing compound metabolic process	2.0E-06
GO:0009058	biosynthetic process	2.0E-06
GO:0019538	protein metabolic process	2.1E-06
GO:0031326	regulation of cellular biosynthetic process	4.3E-06
GO:0009889	regulation of biosynthetic process	5.1E-06
GO:0022613	ribonucleoprotein complex biogenesis	6.2E-06
GO:0034654	nucleobase-containing compound biosynthetic process	7.4E-06
GO:0051171	regulation of nitrogen compound metabolic process	8.4E-06
GO:0006325	chromatin organization	9.1E-06
GO:0008152	metabolic process	1.3E-05
GO:0006412	translation	1.3E-05
GO:0060255	regulation of macromolecule metabolic process	1.8E-05
GO:0043043	peptide biosynthetic process	1.8E-05
GO:0018130	heterocycle biosynthetic process	2.8E-05
GO:0034728	nucleosome organization	3.3E-05
GO:0043604	amide biosynthetic process	3.9E-05
GO:0034660	ncRNA metabolic process	3.9E-05
GO:0019438	aromatic compound biosynthetic process	4.0E-05
GO:0019222	regulation of metabolic process	6.8E-05
GO:0034622	cellular macromolecular complex assembly	6.9E-05
GO:0080090	regulation of primary metabolic process	8.8E-05
GO:1901362	organic cyclic compound biosynthetic process	9.1E-05
GO:0034470	ncRNA processing	9.3E-05
GO:0016568	chromatin modification	1.0E-04
GO:0042254	ribosome biogenesis	1.1E-04
GO:0051276	chromosome organization	1.1E-04
GO:0006364	rRNA processing	1.2E-04
GO:0031323	regulation of cellular metabolic process	1.3E-04
GO:0043486	histone exchange	1.3E-04

GO:0006518	peptide metabolic process	1.4E-04
GO:0071840	cellular component organization or biogenesis	2.4E-04
GO:0030490	maturation of SSU-rRNA	3.5E-04
GO:0016072	rRNA metabolic process	4.7E-04
GO:0071822	protein complex subunit organization	4.8E-04
GO:0043603	cellular amide metabolic process	7.3E-04
GO:0065003	macromolecular complex assembly	1.1E-03
GO:0044085	cellular component biogenesis	1.1E-03
GO:0043044	ATP-dependent chromatin remodeling	1.3E-03
GO:0010629	negative regulation of gene expression	1.7E-03
GO:0045892	negative regulation of transcription, DNA-templated	2.0E-03
GO:0051253	negative regulation of RNA metabolic process	2.0E-03
GO:1902679	negative regulation of RNA biosynthetic process	2.0E-03
GO:1903507	negative regulation of nucleic acid-templated transcription	2.0E-03
GO:0000462	maturation of SSU-rRNA from tricistronic rRNA transcript (SSU-rRNA, 5.8S rRNA, LSU-rRNA)	2.1E-03
GO:0006338	chromatin remodeling	3.7E-03
GO:0042274	ribosomal small subunit biogenesis	3.8E-03
GO:0010558	negative regulation of macromolecule biosynthetic process	4.0E-03
GO:2000113	negative regulation of cellular macromolecule biosynthetic process	4.0E-03
GO:0016569	covalent chromatin modification	5.0E-03
GO:0016570	histone modification	5.0E-03
GO:0006357	regulation of transcription from RNA polymerase II promoter	5.7E-03
GO:0051172	negative regulation of nitrogen compound metabolic process	8.8E-03
GO:0031327	negative regulation of cellular biosynthetic process	9.4E-03
GO:0045934	negative regulation of nucleobase-containing compound metabolic process	9.6E-03

88

89

90 **Table S2. The number of genes that affect growth rate and each of the three non-growth**
91 **traits (Table S2. Relates to Figure 4)**

92 Genes that significantly affect the unfolded protein response, induced fraction (GAL), and
93 induction level (GAL) were compared to the genes that significantly affect growth rate. The
94 total number of genes that were measured in both growth rate and the other trait is listed. Of
95 this total number, the number that significantly affected growth rate, significantly affected the
96 non-growth rate trait, and significantly affected both traits is listed.

	No. genes also assayed in growth rate screen	No. genes significantly affect growth rates	No. genes significantly affect the non-growth rate trait	No. genes significantly affect both
Unfolded protein response	4152	779	594	369
Induced fraction (GAL)	3869	634	595	254
Induction level (GAL)	3869	634	744	316

97

98 **Table S3. Significantly spatially clustered Gene Ontology (Table S3. Relates to Figure 4)**

99 For each Gene Ontology that is spatially clustered, the direction in the four-trait space is shown,
 100 as well as the p-value and false discovery rate (FDR). Significant GOs were defined by FDR < 0.01.

101

102 **Table S4. Quantitative screens that are analyzed for gene effect size distribution (Table S3. Relates to Figure 2)**

104 We manually scanned over 200 published deletion library screens to identify datasets that
 105 could be reanalyzed to potentially determine an effect size distribution. Of these 200 papers,
 106 we found only 6 that contained datasets in a form that was suitable for our reanalysis.

First author, publication year	Trait	# Genes	Source of published data	Reference
Breslow, 2008	Growth rate	4204	Supplementary table S5	Breslow, D. K. <i>et al.</i> A comprehensive strategy enabling high-resolution functional analysis of the yeast genome. <i>Nat. Methods</i> 5 , 711–718 (2008).
Schluter, 2008	Endosomal protein sorting	4814	Supplementary table 1	Schluter, C. <i>et al.</i> Global analysis of yeast endosomal transport identifies the vps55/68 sorting complex. <i>Mol. Biol. Cell</i> 19 , 1282–1294 (2008).
Vizeacoumar, 2010	Spindle morphogenesis	4286	Supplementary table S6	Vizeacoumar, F. J. <i>et al.</i> Integrating high-throughput genetic interaction mapping and high-content screening to explore yeast spindle morphogenesis. <i>J. Cell Biol.</i> 188 , 69–81 (2010).
Cooper, 2010	Amino acid level	4382	Supplementary table 4	Cooper, S. J. <i>et al.</i> High-throughput profiling of amino acids in strains of the <i>Saccharomyces cerevisiae</i> deletion collection. <i>Genome Res.</i> 20 , 1288–1296 (2010).
Jonikas, 2009	Unfolded protein response	4563	Supplementary table 1	Jonikas, M. C. <i>et al.</i> Comprehensive characterization of genes required for protein folding in the endoplasmic reticulum. <i>Science</i> 323 , 1693–1697 (2009).
Hillenmeyer, 2008	Chemical genomic profile	5337	http://chemogenomics.stanford.edu/supplements/global/download.html	Hillenmeyer, M. E. <i>et al.</i> The chemical genomic portrait of yeast: uncovering a phenotype for all genes. <i>Science</i> 320 , 362–365 (2008).

107

108

109 Supplemental Text

110 Re-analysis of previous quantitative screening using yeast deletion collections

111 Since the release of the yeast deletion collection, a large number of studies have been
112 performed (Giaever and Nislow, 2014) potentially providing a rich source to understand the
113 quantitative effects of gene deletions on traits. Unfortunately, the raw data was not published
114 and readily available for all but a small handful of these studies (**Table S4**).

115 Data from each screen in the **Table S4** was analyzed using the following method: 1) download
116 raw data; 2) determine the measurement error; 3) calculate p value for each gene by
117 comparing effect size measurement to measurement error (two-tailed t-test, assuming
118 measurement error is Gaussian distributed); 4) correct the p values for multiple hypothesis
119 tests by calculating false discovery rate; 5) identify the number of significant genes as ones with
120 $FDR < 0.5\%$.

121 The measurement error for individual assays were determined as below. We assume that the
122 true effects of deleting the i^{th} gene is x^i . The two independent measurements, $x^{i,j} = x^i + \epsilon^{i,j}$
123 for $j = 1, 2$, where ϵ is the measurement noise term. Assuming that measurement noise follows
124 a Gaussian distribution, i.e. $\epsilon^{i,j} \sim N(0, \sigma)$. The difference of the two measurements on the
125 identical strain will reveal information about the standard deviation of measurement noise.

126 Specifically, since

$$x^{i,1} - x^{i,2} \sim N(0, \sqrt{2}\sigma)$$

127 we can derive the following estimate of the standard deviation of measurement noise:

$$\hat{\sigma} = \frac{\sum (x^{i,1} - x^{i,2})^2}{2 * (N_{gene} - 1)}$$

128 This method was applied to the raw data from the six assays in **Table S4**. Breslow et al. had
129 different number of replicates (Breslow et al., 2008), and hence the measurement error for the
130 individual mutants varied depending on the number of replicates. Specifically, among 4204
131 assayed genes, 2809 genes have one measurement, 874 genes have two replicates and 521
132 genes have at least three replicates. To avoid this complication, we only used the data from the
133 first measurements and used the remaining data to estimate the measurement error. We first
134 estimated the measurement error by applying the equation above to the replicate
135 measurements of 874 strains with two measurements and determined measurement error as
136 0.015. Then we calculate the measurement error the 521 strains for which three measurements
137 had been made. This yielded a measurement error of 0.017. As these two estimations are close,
138 we use the average (0.016) as the measurement error for the assay. We observed that the
139 measurement noise tends to be larger for strains with large effect size, which means that most
140 strains with moderate effect sizes probably have smaller than estimated measurement error.
141 Hence, we do not believe that this method will overestimate the number of genes affecting the
142 growth rate trait.

143 Similarly, mutants in Jonikas et al. had different numbers of replicates (Jonikas et al., 2009).
144 Measurement noise decreased as the number of replicate increased. As a conservative
145 estimate of effect size measurements, we treated all measurements as if they had only two

146 replicate data. To estimate the measurement error, we used the data from 541 strains with
147 exactly two replicate data. In the original paper, the standard deviation of measurements for
148 each strain was reported. Since there were only two measurements for these strains, the
149 standard deviation equals the half of the difference between two measurements. Assuming
150 that measurement noise of each replicate data followed $N(0, \sigma)$, the expectation of the half of
151 the difference of two independent measurements is $\sigma/\sqrt{\pi}$. When plotting the histogram of this
152 data, we found that a number of measurement have exceptionally large measurement error,
153 which artificially increased our estimation. After removing strains with measurement error
154 larger than 0.5, the resulting measurement standard deviation has an average as 0.0678. Hence,
155 we estimated the measurement noise as $\frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{2}} = 0.0678 * \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{2}} = 0.085$.

156 Mutants in Schluter et al. were assayed in replicates for both haploid and diploid
157 strains(Schluter et al., 2008). We applied the equation above to this data and determined that
158 the measurement error was 0.027 for the MATa, haploids, 0.021 for the MATalpha haploids,
159 and 0.042 for diploids. We used the average of these three to estimate measurement error
160 (0.030). Vizeacoumar et al. provided p values for each mutants in the assay (Vizeacoumar et al.,
161 2010). We convert the p value back to a z-score using Matlab function *norminv()*. While Copper
162 et al. published raw data, they did so for only one replicate and hence we did not proceed with
163 further analysis on this data set (Cooper et al., 2010).

164 Furthermore, we analyzed the raw data from Hillenmeyer by comparing the measured effect
165 sizes in independent experiments using the same condition (drug name, dosage and the
166 duration to apply the drug) in separate batches (Hillenmeyer et al., 2008). We found a large

167 variation of the reproducibility between these replicates, determined as the pair-wise Pearson
168 correlation coefficient (ranging from -0.2 to 0.99 with a median of 0.36 depending on the
169 condition used). Hence we did not analyze the data further more.

170 To evaluate the number of gene deletions that significantly affected each of the quantitative
171 trait, we first considered a null model where all gene deletions had no effects on the assayed
172 traits. We expected the measured effect sizes to follow a normal distribution determined by
173 measurement noise, i.e. $\sim N(0, \text{measurement noise})$. However, we found this was not the case
174 for all the traits that we analyzed. To better illustrate this, we re-scaled the effect sizes by
175 measurement error for each trait, and plotted the histograms of the re-scaled effect sizes for
176 the gene deletions that have effect sizes at least 3-fold of the estimated measurement noise in
177 **Figure S2**. We found the distributions were continuous. Note that only about (1-
178 99.7%)*5000=15 genes were expected from the noise distribution. This suggests that the
179 measured effects of most of the plotted genes were not from the measurement noise. Note
180 that the data from Vizeacoumar was not shown here as the majority of genes have effects that
181 are within three-fold of measurement noise.

182 To identify assays that are sensitive enough the measure the effect sizes of as many genes as
183 possible. We estimated the number of genes that significantly affect each of the analyzed traits
184 by comparing the measured effect sizes to measurement noise. Using a cutoff of FDR < 0.5%,
185 we determined that two screens by Jonikas et al. and Breslow et al. are suitable for effect size
186 distribution analysis as they have smallest measurement errors.

187 **Flow cytometry data processing**

188 Raw data was exported from an LSRII or Stratedigm in fcs3.0 file format. All data was loaded
189 using customized *MATLAB* code. In briefly, data from each sample was first filtered on FSC/SSC
190 channel to remove cell debris, and on SSC channel to normalize for cell size. The FSC/SSC gates
191 were drawn manually on pooled samples. The SSC gate was determined to include events
192 between the 25th to 75th percentiles of the pooled sample. Pooled samples were also used to
193 find thresholds on YFP and mCherry channels to segment induced vs. uninduced cells, and
194 reference vs. mutant cells (**Figure S6** as an example). Mutants were filtered to ensure that there
195 are at least 700 events for both reference and mutant cells in at least one biological replicates.
196 Mutants in twelve plates in replicate one of the GAL screen have higher induced fraction than
197 the reference strain in the same sample. Data from the second replicate were used for these
198 mutants in the future analysis. For the PHO screen, we calculated the standard deviation of the
199 effect size differences between two replicates for each of the three traits. The effect size
200 measurements for fourteen mutants are greater than five-fold of these standard deviations.
201 These strains were filtered from future analysis.

202 **Principal component analysis on reporter expression distribution of the entire deletion** 203 **collection**

204 Yeast responds to a mixture of glucose and galactose in a bimodal way. We measured
205 expression level of GAL1pr-YFP in single cells for each of the mutant strain in the deletion
206 collection. We generally observed that the reproducibility was higher when normalizing the
207 distribution by comparing the mutant distribution to the reference distribution in the same well

208 (see the section **Data Normalization** for details); as opposed to analyzing the mutant data
209 directly. This is presumably due to slight variation between wells, plates, and days.

210 To find appropriate metric by which to analyze the mutant strains, we performed PCA analysis.
211 We did this by pooling reference and mutant YFP distribution from two replicates. After data
212 segmentation, the GAL1pr-YFP distributions of both reference strain and mutant strain were
213 binned into 92 equally size log2 bins ranging from the maximum to minimum value. Data was
214 normalized to probability distribution, separately for reference strain and mutant strain in each
215 sample. PCA results were shown in **Figure S1**. The first three principle components explain ~ 60%
216 variation. By manually examining the shape of each principle component, we could provide a
217 plausible biological explanation for the major components. The first vector affects the induced
218 fraction without affecting the expression level. The second vector has two effects, shifting the
219 expression level of induced cells as well as changing the fraction of induced cells. The third
220 vector change the expression level of both uninduced cells (basal level) and induced cells. In
221 further analysis, we found that the expression level of uninduced cells could not be accurately
222 determined for the majority of strains in our assay for GAL1pr-YFP reporter, and hence only the
223 induced fraction and the induction level are used in the main text. This third metric was used
224 for analysis of the PHO response.

225 **Data normalization**

226 The induced fraction and induction level traits were calculated for each mutant strain using the
227 following method. First, the induced fraction and induction level were calculated for reference
228 strains and query strain in each sample. The induced fraction was calculated as the ratio of the

229 number of induced events over the number of all events. The induction level was calculated as
230 the average level of YFP of the induced cells. For both traits, the mutant value was regressed
231 against the reference value using the *Matlab* function *robustfit()*. The residual of each
232 measurement from the fit was averaged between two replicates to determine the final values
233 of the induced fraction and the induction level.

234 **Estimate the number of genes that affect yeast quantitative traits**

235 The noise distribution determined from measurement noise estimation was overlaid with the
236 actual effect size measurements. Both curves were normalized to the total number of genes.
237 The area of the region where the actual effect size distribution was outside the measurement
238 noise distribution was determined for estimating the number of genes that affected each of the
239 four yeast traits (**Figure S2**).

240 **Compare the number of detected mutants by using induced fraction and induction level vs.** 241 **average expression level**

242 Our screening data on the yeast galactose response provided a test for estimating the total
243 number of significant mutants using different metrics. This is interesting as many biological
244 traits could usually be defined in different ways, yet it was unclear to our knowledge how much
245 potentially subtle differences in metric could influence genes identified. Here when we are
246 referring to different metrics it is probably easiest to think of them as different sub
247 measurements. For example, if one measured standing height as opposed to sitting height,
248 would one uncover different sets of genes. In our case, the effect of gene deletion on galactose

249 response can be represented as the two GAL traits as used in the main text, or alternatively we
250 could simply use the average YFP level as used in Jonikas et al (Jonikas et al., 2009). To estimate
251 such effects, we re-analyzed our data by quantifying not just the two GAL traits, but also the
252 average YFP level. After applying the same method to detect mutants that significantly affect
253 yeast GAL response, we found that the two-traits method detected more mutants (1104) than
254 the average YFP method (593). In addition, the one-trait method could not reveal the distinct
255 modes by which different mutants worked; i.e. 50% reduction in average can come because 50%
256 of cells don't induce or 100% of cells are 50% less induced. Hence our data suggested that,
257 biological meaningful decomposition of a complex trait will increase detection sensitivity, and
258 provides new biology insights to understand traits.

259 **Genes that saturated our assay**

260 Our GAL assay was designed to detect genes of small effect size, and as a result, ten genes of
261 larger effect size saturated our assay. These genes were manually verified by inspecting the YFP
262 distribution of the raw data. These genes are: *GAL4 (YPL248C)*, *GCN4 (YEL009C)*, *GAL80*
263 *(YML051W)*, *GAL1 (YBR020W)*, *SNF3 (YDL194W)*, *STI1 (YOR027W)*, *REG1 (YDR028C)*, *GAL3*
264 *(YDR009W)*, *SNF2 (YOR290C)*, *HSC82 (YMR186W)*. This is important when calculating the
265 explained heritability for top N genes (see main text). One of our main arguments is that the
266 number of genes that affect a quantitative trait is around 8% of the genome. If the true effects
267 of these ten genes is much larger than what we estimated, the number of genes that affect a
268 quantitative trait could be smaller.

269 When using the nominal values of the measurements as effect sizes of these genes, we
270 determined that the total contribution of these genes are 25.2% and 7.5% for induction level
271 and induced fraction respectively. As another way to estimate the effect sizes of these genes,
272 we randomly sampled the effect size distribution. The average contribution of these genes is
273 27.8% and 10.5% respectively, suggesting that this alternate method does not strongly affect
274 conclusion.

275 **Overlapping among genes that are significant for each of the four studied traits**

276 We examined the overlap between significant genes that affect growth rate and ones that
277 affect each of the three other non-growth traits. To do so, genes with missing data in one of the
278 data sets were removed. The result is in **Table S2**. The p-value was calculated between each
279 pair of growth rate and non-growth rate trait, using a hypergeometric test (one-tailed).

280 **Compare the effects on GAL and PHO response by deleting genes involved in protein** 281 **synthesis**

282 For 95 genes involved in protein synthesis, we compared their effects on GAL and PHO traits in
283 the main text and **Figure S5** using t-test (two-tailed). The average difference between the
284 effects on GAL and PHO is 0.15. The standard deviations of effects on GAL and PHO are 0.21
285 and 0.10. As an alternative method to test for significance, we pooled the measured effects on
286 GAL and PHO response and randomly split the pooled data into two groups for 1,000,000 times
287 and calculated the difference between two groups. The observed difference (0.15) is not
288 observed in the randomized sample. Hence we determined that $p < 10^{-6}$ using this method.

289 **Canonical genes involved in galactose signaling and unfolded protein response**

290 Glu/Gal gene list: *GPB2, IRA1, TOS1, GLK1, GPA2, GAL83, SAK1, GLC7, YCK1, BCY1, RGT1, ELM1,*
291 *TPK3, HXK1, GPR1, RGT2, SNF3, REG1, MTH1, MSN5, SIP1, SNF1, MIG1, SNF4, SIP2, PDE1, HXK2,*
292 *CYR1, TPK1, GRR1, SDC25, CDC25, SIP5, RAS2, YCK2, IRA2, STD1, RAS1, RGS2, PDE2, GPB1, TPK2,*
293 *GAL1, GAL3, GAL80, GAL4, SNF2, GCN4, HSC82, STI1*

294 Gene localized in ER, Golgi, and early Golgi are (298 genes): *YELO31W, YJR117W, YFL025C,*
295 *YJL062W, YML012W, YAL023C, YJR118C, YML055W, YML013W, YOR002W, YGL084C, YCR044C,*
296 *YER122C, YNL219C, YNR030W, YDL095W, YML115C, YGL020C, YGL054C, YIL039W, YEL036C,*
297 *YPL227C, YOL013C, YMR022W, YMR161W, YKL212W, YDL192W, YLR110C, YGL167C, YMR264W,*
298 *YAL058W, YER083C, YDR027C, YLR372W, YCR094W, YLR268W, YNL238W, YMR307W, YJL029C,*
299 *YBR171W, YDL100C, YGL226C-A, YBR106W, YJR073C, YNL322C, YGR229C, YGR284C, YJR010C-A,*
300 *YML128C, YFR041C, YNL323W, YEL042W, YMR123W, YBR015C, YJR075W, YBR162W-A,*
301 *YCR067C, YJL004C, YCR017C, YAL026C, YOR216C, YIL090W, YAL007C, YNL041C, YJL123C,*
302 *YIL040W, YBR164C, YCL045C, YNL051W, YIR004W, YPL050C, YPL051W, YGL126W, YCR034W,*
303 *YMR292W, YDR233C, YNL297C, YGL005C, YDR245W, YBR036C, YDR221W, YPL192C, YLL014W,*
304 *YDR508C, YEL001C, YER005W, YDR137W, YDL099W, YGL231C, YHR108W, YMR238W, YAL053W,*
305 *YIL027C, YER072W, YML038C, YER120W, YEL027W, YIL030C, YDR492W, YJR131W, YMR010W,*
306 *YHR181W, YPR063C, YIL124W, YLR350W, YJR088C, YBL011W, YML048W, YNL044W, YDR358W,*
307 *YOR311C, YDR411C, YMR272C, YNL049C, YMR015C, YDL052C, YJR134C, YKL096W, YNL280C,*
308 *YLR194C, YER113C, YDR077W, YDR055W, YNR021W, YNL327W, YLR130C, YNR039C, YJL099W,*
309 *YKL146W, YPR003C, YHL017W, YOR245C, YER166W, YBR132C, YOR016C, YPR090W, YNL300W,*

310 *YLR250W, YGR038W, YPL259C, YPR071W, YKL065C, YKL046C, YPL274W, YEL048C, YOR317W,*
311 *YDR100W, YNL146W, YMR253C, YJR031C, YER011W, YJL078C, YIL016W, YML037C, YGR247W,*
312 *YFL004W, YBR023C, YIL044C, YMR052W, YDL204W, YBR067C, YDR153C, YIL043C, YNL095C,*
313 *YDR476C, YOR307C, YOR321W, YCR011C, YMR237W, YMR071C, YER004W, YPR028W, YGL255W,*
314 *YPL170W, YKL063C, YJL044C, YLR023C, YMR215W, YMR251W-A, YGR261C, YPR091C, YDR056C,*
315 *YLL028W, YLR330W, YBL010C, YNR019W, YGL124C, YDR294C, YNL046W, YDR519W, YKR088C,*
316 *YLR042C, YKL094W, YCR048W, YCR043C, YDR084C, YKR067W, YJL196C, YLL061W, YML101C,*
317 *YDL232W, YOL030W, YMR054W, YDR410C, YBR273C, YLR120C, YHR110W, YOR044W, YDL137W,*
318 *YJL171C, YOR285W, YMR029C, YLR064W, YPL137C, YOR092W, YBR159W, YGL083W, YNL156C,*
319 *YDL128W, YBR296C, YOR175C, YJL198W, YOL101C, YHL019C, YJL117W, YGR263C, YML059C,*
320 *YOR214C, YNR013C, YOR087W, YJL192C, YGR177C, YBL102W, YPL195W, YLL052C, YLR390W-A,*
321 *YDR264C, YOR299W, YMR152W, YLL055W, YDR424C, YBR287W, YEL040W, YNL125C, YHL003C,*
322 *YBR283C, YDL121C, YHR045W, YNR075W, YOR377W, YHR039C, YGL010W, YCL025C, YNR044W,*
323 *YLR050C, YOL137W, YOL107W, YDL018C, YDR307W, YDR297W, YNL190W, YDR503C, YBR177C,*
324 *YGR266W, YER019C-A, YLR034C, YOR322C, YGR260W, YDR349C, YJR015W, YPL246C, YMR058W,*
325 *YBR290W, YLL023C, YDR205W, YHR123W, YJL024C, YJL212C, YLR292C, YPL207W, YKR027W,*
326 *YIL076W, YBR288C, YJL183W, YKL008C, YJL207C, YML067C, YGR089W, YOR291W, YNL111C,*
327 *YEL043W, YPL234C, YLR056W, YKL096W-A, YGR157W, YHR060W, YLR039C, YHR079C*

328 **Reference:**

329 Boyle, E.I., Weng, S., Gollub, J., Jin, H., Botstein, D., Cherry, J.M., Sherlock, G., 2004.
330 GO::TermFinder--open source software for accessing Gene Ontology information and
331 finding significantly enriched Gene Ontology terms associated with a list of genes.
332 Bioinformatics 20, 3710–3715. doi:10.1093/bioinformatics/bth456

- 333 Breslow, D.K., Cameron, D.M., Collins, S.R., Schuldiner, M., Stewart-Ornstein, J., Newman, H.W.,
334 Braun, S., Madhani, H.D., Krogan, N.J., Weissman, J.S., 2008. A comprehensive strategy
335 enabling high-resolution functional analysis of the yeast genome. *Nature Methods* 5, 711–
336 718. doi:10.1038/nmeth.1234
- 337 Cooper, S.J., Finney, G.L., Brown, S.L., Nelson, S.K., Hesselberth, J., MacCoss, M.J., Fields, S.,
338 2010. High-throughput profiling of amino acids in strains of the *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*
339 deletion collection. *Genome Research* 20, 1288–1296. doi:10.1101/gr.105825.110
- 340 Giaever, G., Nislow, C., 2014. The yeast deletion collection: a decade of functional genomics.
341 *Genetics* 197, 451–465.
- 342 Hillenmeyer, M.E., Fung, E., Wildenhain, J., Pierce, S.E., Hoon, S., Lee, W., Proctor, M., St Onge,
343 R.P., Tyers, M., Koller, D., Altman, R.B., Davis, R.W., Nislow, C., Giaever, G., 2008. The
344 Chemical Genomic Portrait of Yeast: Uncovering a Phenotype for All Genes. *Science* 320,
345 362–365. doi:10.1126/science.1150021
- 346 Jonikas, M.C., Collins, S.R., Denic, V., Oh, E., Quan, E.M., Schmid, V., Weibezahn, J., Schwappach,
347 B., Walter, P., Weissman, J.S., Schuldiner, M., 2009. Comprehensive characterization of
348 genes required for protein folding in the endoplasmic reticulum. *Science* 323, 1693–1697.
349 doi:10.1126/science.1167983
- 350 Schluter, C., Lam, K.K.Y., Brumm, J., Wu, B.W., Saunders, M., Stevens, T.H., Bryan, J., Conibear,
351 E., 2008. Global analysis of yeast endosomal transport identifies the vps55/68 sorting
352 complex. *Mol. Biol. Cell* 19, 1282–1294.
- 353 Vizeacoumar, F.J., van Dyk, N., Vizeacoumar, F.S., Cheung, V., Li, J., Sydorsky, Y., Case, N., Li, Z.,
354 Datti, A., Nislow, C., Raught, B., Zhang, Z., Frey, B., Bloom, K., Boone, C., Andrews, B.J., 2010.
355 Integrating high-throughput genetic interaction mapping and high-content screening to
356 explore yeast spindle morphogenesis. *The Journal of Cell Biology* 188, 69–81.
357 doi:10.1083/jcb.200909013
358