Separable, Ctf4-mediated recruitment of DNA Polymerase α for initiation of DNA synthesis at replication origins and lagging-strand priming during replication elongation

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Abstract

During eukaryotic DNA replication, DNA polymerase alpha/primase (Pol α) initiates synthesis on both the leading and lagging strands. It is unknown whether leading- and lagging-strand priming are mechanistically identical, and whether Pol α associates processively or distributively with the replisome. Here, we titrate cellular levels of Pol α in *S. cerevisiae* and analyze Okazaki fragments to study both replication initiation and ongoing lagging-strand synthesis *in vivo*. We observe that both Okazaki fragment initiation and the productive firing of replication origins are sensitive to Pol α abundance, and that both processes are disrupted at similar Pol α concentrations. When the replisome adaptor protein Ctf4 is absent or cannot interact with Pol α, lagging-strand initiation is impaired at Pol α concentrations that still support normal origin firing. Additionally, we observe that activation of the checkpoint becomes essential for viability upon severe depletion of Pol α. Using strains in which the Pol α-Ctf4 interaction is disrupted, we demonstrate that this checkpoint requirement is not solely caused by reduced lagging-strand priming. Our results suggest that Pol α recruitment for replication initiation and ongoing lagging-strand priming are distinctly sensitive to the presence of Ctf4. We propose that the global changes we observe in Okazaki fragment length and origin firing efficiency are consistent with distributive association of Pol α at the replication fork, at least when Pol α is limiting.

Author summary

Half of each eukaryotic genome is replicated continuously as the leading strand, while the other half is synthesized discontinuously as Okazaki fragments on the lagging strand. The bulk of DNA replication is completed by DNA polymerases ε and δ on the leading and lagging strand respectively, while synthesis on each strand is initiated by DNA polymerase α-primase (Pol α). Using the model eukaryote *S. cerevisiae*, we modulate cellular levels of Pol α and interrogate the impact of this perturbation on both replication initiation on DNA synthesis and cellular viability. We observe that Pol α can associate dynamically at the replication fork for initiation on both strands. Although the initiation of both strands is widely thought to be mechanistically similar, we determine that Ctf4, a hub that connects proteins to the replication fork, stimulates lagging-strand priming to a greater extent than leading-strand initiation. We also find that decreased leading-strand initiation results in a checkpoint response that is necessary for viability when Pol α is limiting. Because the DNA replication machinery is highly conserved from budding yeast to humans, this research provides insights into how DNA replication is accomplished throughout eukaryotes.

55

56 **Introduction**

57 DNA polymerase alpha/primase (Pol α) is responsible for initiating synthesis on the leading
58 strand and for each Okazaki fragment on the lagging strand (Kunkel and Burgers, 2008). The
59 ultimate contribution of Pol α to replication is limited, and bulk synthesis on the leading- and
60 lagging-strands is carried out by DNA polymerase epsilon (Pol ε) and polymerase delta (Pol δ),
61 respectively (Clausen et al., 2015; Daigaku et al., 2015; Pursell et al., 2007; Reijns et al., 2015).
62 Despite the fact that different DNA polymerases carry out the majority of DNA synthesis on the
63 two daughter strands, Pol α hands off synthesis predominantly to Pol δ during normal initiation
64 on both strands and during replication restart (Daigaku et al., 2015; Garbacz et al., 2018; Yeeles
65 et al., 2017; Miyabe et al., 2015). The use of the same initiating polymerase and downstream
66 partner implies a possible similarity between leading- and lagging-strand initiation. Indeed,
67 recent evidence from reconstituted replisomes suggests that leading-strand initiation can occur
68 via extension of the first Okazaki fragment synthesized on the lagging strand (Aria and Yeeles,
69 2018). However, analysis of repriming during damage bypass in the same reconstituted system
70 implies that leading- and lagging-strand repriming may be mechanistically distinct (Taylor and
71 Yeeles, 2018).

72

73 Eukaryotic Okazaki fragments are considerably shorter than their prokaryotic
74 counterparts (Balakrishnan and Bambara, 2013; Ogawa and Okazaki, 1980). Okazaki fragment
75 length is quantized by the nucleosome repeat via interactions between nascent nucleosomes
76 and Pol δ in *S. cerevisiae* (Smith and Whitehouse, 2012) and *C. elegans* (Pourkarimi et al.,
77 2016). Okazaki fragment termini can also be positioned by nucleosomes in a reconstituted *S.*

78 *cerevisiae* replication reaction (Devbhandari et al., 2017). Both the distribution of Okazaki
79 fragment termini with respect to nucleosomes and the overall length profile of lagging-strand
80 products in *S. cerevisiae* and *C. elegans* are remarkably similar. Despite this apparent size
81 conservation, Okazaki fragment length can be altered on naked and non-chromatinized
82 templates *in vitro* by varying the concentration of Pol α (Kurat et al., 2017), analogous to the
83 impact of primase titration on lagging-strand synthesis in a reconstituted *E. coli* replication
84 system (Wu et al., 1992). Eukaryotic Okazaki fragment length can also be increased *in vivo* by
85 impairing nucleosome assembly (Smith and Whitehouse, 2012; Yadav and Whitehouse, 2016).
86
87 The maximum length of an Okazaki fragment is determined by the amount of single-stranded
88 DNA unwound at the replication fork before lagging-strand priming and extension. Thus, longer
89 fragments would result in the exposure of long stretches of damage-prone single-stranded DNA.
90 Shorter Okazaki fragments would expose shorter stretches of ssDNA, but at the likely cost of
91 increasing the contribution of the error-prone Pol α to synthesis of the lagging daughter strand
92 (Kunkel, 2011; Reijns et al., 2015). However, it is currently unclear to what extent changing
93 Okazaki fragment length directly impacts cellular fitness. Reduced DNA polymerase activity
94 upon aphidicolin treatment induces chromosome breakage and genomic rearrangements at
95 fragile sites in mammals (Glover et al., 1984). Analogously, reducing the intracellular
96 concentration of Pol α in *S. cerevisiae* increases S-phase duration, sensitivity to DNA damaging
97 agents, and chromosomal rearrangements at defined sites (Lemoine et al., 2005; Song et al.,
98 2014). The detrimental effects of Pol α depletion on genome integrity could arise due to
99 defective leading- or lagging-strand initiation, both of which are dependent on Pol α.
100

101 Ctf4 was originally identified as a chromosome transmission fidelity mutant (Kouprina et al.,
102 1992). Subsequent studies have identified multiple roles for Ctf4 in DNA metabolism. Ctf4 is not
103 only required for the establishment of sister chromatin cohesion (Borges et al., 2013; Hanna et
104 al., 2001), but also links Pol α to the replication fork via interaction with the replicative helicase
105 (Gambus et al., 2009; Tanaka et al., 2009), and is required for error-free lesion bypass
106 (Fumasoni et al., 2015) and rDNA maintenance (Villa et al., 2016). At least some of these roles
107 for Ctf4 are independent of Pol α binding. The metazoan Ctf4 ortholog, AND-1 also stimulates
108 Pol α binding to chromatin, and is required for efficient DNA replication (Zhu et al., 2007).
109 Interestingly, despite the conserved contribution of Ctf4 to Pol α recruitment, *ctf4Δ S. cerevisiae*
110 strains have been demonstrated to synthesize identically sized Okazaki fragments to wild-type
111 cells (Borges et al., 2013). Additionally, the Ctf4 protein has a minimal effect on the priming of
112 either DNA strand in reconstituted replication reactions (Kurat et al., 2017). Thus, the
113 contributions of Ctf4 to Pol α recruitment for origin firing and Okazaki fragment initiation have
114 not been fully elucidated *in vivo*.
115
116 Here, we analyze Okazaki fragments to directly test the effects of Pol α depletion on origin firing
117 efficiency and Okazaki fragment initiation in *S. cerevisiae*. We find that reduced levels of Pol α
118 lead to an increase in Okazaki fragment length and a global decrease in replication-origin firing
119 efficiency. In the absence of a Ctf4-Pol1 interaction, lagging-strand initiation is impaired at
120 moderate Pol α concentrations that support normal levels of origin firing. Impaired Okazaki
121 fragment initiation is well tolerated: however, a severe reduction in Pol α levels leads to a strict
122 dependence on checkpoint activation for continued viability.
123
124 **Results**

125

126 **Cells with reduced levels of Pol α synthesize longer Okazaki fragments *in vivo.***

127

128 To investigate the effect of Pol1 depletion on leading- and lagging-strand priming during
129 replication, we modified the approach of Petes and co-workers (Lemoine et al., 2005; Song et
130 al., 2014), limiting expression of *POL1* by replacing its promoter with *pGAL1*. Expression of Pol1
131 from galactose-inducible promoters generates a stable polypeptide that can persist for several
132 cell cycles (Muzi Falconi et al., 1993). Therefore, to facilitate turnover of pre-existing Pol1 and
133 focus on the acute effects of depletion, we additionally fused an N-terminal degron to the *POL1*
134 coding sequence. Western-blot analysis indicated that the concentration of this GAL1-
135 expressed, degron-tagged Pol1 (GDPol1) could be specifically and rapidly modulated within 4h
136 (Fig. 1A). The lower band marked with an asterisk in GDPol1-myc Western blots is a
137 degradation product resulting from degron-tagging (see Fig. S1A). All cultures were grown in
138 media supplemented with 3% raffinose to avoid indirect effects due to carbon limitation. Pol1
139 levels oscillate through the cell cycle when the protein is endogenously expressed, but not when
140 expression is driven by galactose (Muzi Falconi et al., 1993). Because Pol1 concentration is not
141 constant even within S-phase (Muzi Falconi et al., 1993), and only 2/3 of cells in an
142 asynchronous population are in G1, G2 or M phase, we compared wild-type POL1 expression
143 during S phase to 0.5% and 0.05% galactose in our inducible system at the zero and 60 minute
144 timepoints after release from alpha-factor-mediated G1 arrest (Fig. S1A). We estimate that the
145 expression level at 0.05% galactose is slightly lower than endogenous during the relevant phase
146 of the cell cycle, consistent with several phenotypes described below. However, we note that
147 the concentration of free Pol α might vary through the cell cycle as the complex associates with
148 elongating replication forks, especially under limiting conditions.

149

150 To analyze Okazaki fragment biogenesis, we crossed the *GDPOL1* allele into a strain
151 background in which DNA ligase I (Cdc9) can be depleted from the nucleus by rapamycin
152 treatment using the anchor away method (Haruki et al., 2008). Nuclear depletion of Cdc9
153 enriches nucleosome-sized Okazaki fragments (Fig. S1B), similarly to transcriptional repression
154 of Cdc9 (Smith and Whitehouse, 2012; Yadav and Whitehouse, 2016). Robust detection of
155 Okazaki fragments was possible after 1h rapamycin treatment: therefore, all Okazaki fragment
156 labeling and sequencing experiments were conducted after a 4h sugar switch to reduce Pol α
157 levels, followed by 1h ligase depletion by rapamycin (Fig. 1B).
158
159 By end-labeling unligated Okazaki fragments, we observed that cells with wild-type *POL1* did
160 not show an increase in Okazaki fragment length under low-galactose growth conditions (Fig.
161 1C). This result was highly reproducible (another representative gel is shown in Fig. S1C). By
162 contrast, in the *GDPOL1* strain Okazaki fragment length was normal at Pol1 concentrations
163 down to a critical concentration corresponding to growth in 0.014% galactose (Fig. 1D,
164 representative replicate experiments are shown in Fig. S1D-E). At 0.014% galactose the
165 Okazaki fragment length profile was shifted slightly upwards such that fragments were clearly
166 still phased by nucleosomes, while lower galactose concentrations (0.005%) showed a
167 significant loss of signal (Fig. 1D cf. lanes 5&6). To confirm that this loss of signal reflected a
168 further length increase (and therefore a reduction in the number of ends being labeled), we
169 analyzed Okazaki fragments by Southern blot using a whole-genome probe: as anticipated for
170 severely perturbed lagging-strand priming, Okazaki fragments at 0.005% galactose were
171 significantly larger than at 0.014% (Fig. 1E). We conclude that limiting levels of Pol α lead to
172 reduced priming frequency on the lagging strand, resulting in longer Okazaki fragments, and

173 that *S. cerevisiae* cells can sustain growth when Okazaki fragment length is substantially
174 increased. These data are consistent with the presence of multiple Pol α complexes at the
175 replication fork and/or the repeated, distributive recruitment of Pol α to the replisome for lagging-
176 strand priming during replication, since the priming kinetics of a single Pol α complex stably
177 associated with the replisome would be unaffected by cellular Pol α concentrations (see
178 discussion).
179
180 To analyze the location of Okazaki fragment termini, we purified and sequenced Okazaki
181 fragments (Smith and Whitehouse, 2012) from wild-type and *GDPOL1* strains shifted to low
182 galactose concentrations for 4h before 1h ligase depletion. Galactose concentration does not
183 significantly affect the distribution of Okazaki fragment termini in wild-type cells (Fig. 1F).
184 However, we observed that both the 5' (Fig. 1G) and 3' (Fig. S1F) termini of Okazaki fragments
185 in *GDPOL1* cells were less enriched at nucleosome dyads during growth at concentrations
186 below 0.041% galactose (Fig. 1G). Pol1 interacts with the FACT component Spt16 (Foltman et
187 al., 2013): furthermore, Pol α contains a histone-binding motif for H2A and H2B and it is
188 implicated in the maintenance of repressive chromatin during replication (Evrin et al., 2018). The
189 change in the distribution of Okazaki fragment ends at moderate Pol α levels that do not affect
190 lagging-strand priming (cf. Fig. 1D&G) supports an intimate role for Pol α in chromatin assembly
191 on the lagging strand.
192
193 **Reduced levels of Pol α lead to a global decrease in replication origin firing efficiency**
194
195 Replication origin firing efficiency can be quantitatively inferred from the distribution of Watson-
196 and Crick-strand Okazaki fragments after deep sequencing (McGuffee et al., 2013; Petryk et al.,

197 2016; Pourkarimi et al., 2016). By comparing the fraction of Okazaki fragments mapping to the
198 Watson and Crick strands in the region ±10 kb from the replication origin midpoint, an Origin
199 Efficiency Metric (OEM) can be calculated (McGuffee et al., 2013). Okazaki fragment
200 distributions across a ~400 kb region of chromosome 4 containing both early and late firing
201 regions are shown in Fig. 2A. Genome-wide origin efficiencies are quantified as OEM in Fig. 2B.
202 OEMs for each origin at all conditions are compiled in Table S1. Comparisons between replicate
203 datasets were robust across galactose concentrations (Fig. S2A), and each Pol α concentration
204 maintains a consistent trend across replicates (Fig. S2B). Data in Fig. 2 represent the mean
205 origin efficiency across three replicate experiments. In wild-type cells, origin efficiency was
206 unaffected across the full range of galactose concentrations tested (Fig. 2B). In the *GDPOL1*
207 strain, origin firing was maintained at wild-type levels above a critically low level of Pol α
208 (0.023% galactose). A significant reduction in average origin firing efficiency was observed at
209 0.023% galactose, and firing efficiency was maintained at this decreased level at progressively
210 lower galactose concentrations (Fig. 2B). These changes in average origin firing efficiency are
211 also shown in Fig. 2C as a change in the proportion of Okazaki fragments mapping to the
212 Watson strand around a meta-origin.
213
214 Interestingly, we observed that the efficiency of productive replication origin firing is impaired at
215 a similar Pol1 concentration (0.023% galactose) to the concentration at which Okazaki fragment
216 length is increased (0.014% galactose) (Fig 1D&E). This decrease in origin efficiency likely
217 contributes to the slow growth (Fig. S3A), cell-cycle delay (Fig. S3B & (Lemoine et al., 2005)),
218 and accumulation of S-phase cells (Fig. S3C) observed under limiting Pol1 conditions. However,
219 since growth is slower at 0.005% than 0.014% while origin efficiency is unchanged, reduced
220 origin firing cannot be the only cause of the slow growth. To test whether replisome stalling or

221 arrest at hard-to-replicate sites was increased under low Pol1 conditions, we analyzed
222 replication direction around 93 tRNA genes (Fig. S4) as previously described (Osmundson et
223 al., 2017). tRNA genes are the major sites of replisome stalling in the *S. cerevisiae* genome
224 (Ivessa et al., 2003; Osmundson et al., 2017), and changes in Okazaki fragment polarity can
225 robustly detect increased or decreased fork stalling at these sites (Osmundson et al., 2017). We
226 did not observe fork stalling at any galactose concentration (Fig. S4). Thus, we conclude that
227 replication-fork stalling or arrest is not substantially affected by limiting Pol α concentrations.
228
229 If one or more Pol α complexes is stably recruited to and maintained in the replisome upon
230 leading-strand initiation, reducing Pol α to sub-stoichiometric levels would privilege early and/or
231 efficient replication origins while disproportionately reducing the efficiency of late and/or
232 inefficient origins. By contrast, distributive recruitment would lead to reduced efficiency of all
233 origins under limiting Pol α conditions. We analyzed origin efficiency in the *GDPOL1* strain as a
234 function of normal firing efficiency. As the concentration of Pol α was decreased below the
235 threshold, firing of essentially all origins became less efficient regardless of their normal
236 efficiency (Fig. 2D & S2C). Both early- and late-firing replication origins showed a global
237 decrease in firing efficiency at low Pol1 concentrations (Fig. 2E). Similarly, origins whose firing
238 is stimulated or unaffected by forkhead-mediated spatial clustering (Knott et al., 2012) were all
239 affected by Pol α depletion (Fig. 2F). The firing efficiency of origins repressed by forkhead
240 transcription factors was not significantly impacted by Pol α depletion (Fig. 2F), likely because
241 these origins fire inefficiently under normal conditions.
242
243 To confirm the global decrease in origin firing efficiency at limiting Pol α levels, we analyzed
244 DNA copy number via whole genome sequencing (WGS) of cells collected in S-phase following

245 release from G1 arrest at a range of galactose concentrations (Fig. 3A). We sequenced
246 samples from early, mid, and late S-phase cells based on flow cytometry grown at 0.05%,
247 0.014% and 0.005% galactose (Fig. S3D), and combined these data to obtain a snapshot of the
248 population across the whole of S-phase.
249
250 The read depth across chromosome 4 from our pan-S-phase samples, normalized to a G1
251 sample, is shown in Fig. 3B. The global reduction in origin firing efficiency inferred from Okazaki
252 fragment sequencing (Fig. 2A-D) would be expected to 'flatten' the distribution of read depths in
253 S-phase such that early-replicating regions are less overrepresented and late-replicating
254 regions are correspondingly less underrepresented. Our data are broadly consistent with this
255 prediction (cf. labeled early- and late-replicating regions in Fig. 3B). However, a small number of
256 early-firing origins do not follow the expected trend, and are present at higher copy number
257 under limiting Pol α conditions (Fig. 3B). The three such origins on chromosome 4 are among
258 the earliest replicating sites in the genome (Raghuraman et al., 2001), and we reasoned that the
259 increased peak heights at these origins under limiting Pol α conditions might represent a
260 population of cells stuck in early S-phase, corresponding to a persistent peak offset from G1
261 observed at 0.014% and 0.005% galactose in our flow cytometry data (Fig. S3D). To test this
262 hypothesis, we compared DNA abundance around replication origins across our samples.
263 While the overall abundance of genomic DNA around all replication origins was similar for
264 0.05%, 0.014% and 0.005% galactose (Fig. 3B), the earliest 22 origins with T_{rep} under 18
265 minutes (Raghuraman et al., 2001) showed increased signal at low galactose while the
266 remaining 261 origins showed slightly decreased enrichment (Fig. 3C). Thus, for cells
267 progressing through S-phase, our copy-number data support a global reduction in origin
268 efficiency. Moreover, the observation that early-replicating regions are more highly sequenced

269 than late-replicating regions across all galactose concentrations suggests that relative origin
270 timing is unaffected by Pol α concentration.
271
272 **Ctf4 stimulates Pol α recruitment for Okazaki fragment initiation at moderate Pol α levels,**
273 **and is required for efficient origin firing during severe Pol α depletion.**
274
275 Ctf4 has previously been shown to stimulate the recruitment or maintenance of Pol α and
276 several additional proteins to the replisome (Gambus et al., 2009; Samora et al., 2016; Tanaka et
277 al., 2009; Villa et al., 2016). Indeed, it has been proposed that a Ctf4 homotrimer could
278 simultaneously recruit two Pol α complexes while the third subunit is tethered to the replisome
279 via interaction with the Sld5 component of the Cdc45/MCM2-7/GINS (CMG) complex (Simon et
280 al., 2014). *CTF4* is nonessential in *S. cerevisiae*; the absence of Ctf4 does not affect lagging-
281 strand synthesis in a reconstituted *S. cerevisiae* replication system (Kurat et al., 2017), and
282 Okazaki fragment length is unchanged in otherwise wild-type *ctf4Δ* cells (Borges et al., 2013).
283 Pol1 contains a Ctf4 interacting peptide (CIP) motif that is necessary for Ctf4 to recruit Pol α to
284 the fork: mutating specific residues in the CIP abolishes the interaction between Pol1 and Ctf4
285 without affecting the recruitment of other proteins to the fork (Simon et al., 2014, Villa et al.,
286 2016). To investigate the effect of Ctf4 on leading- and lagging-strand synthesis under limiting
287 Pol α conditions, we abrogated the Pol α-Ctf4 interaction via deletion of *CTF4* or mutation of the
288 Pol1 CIP box (*pol1-4A*) (Simon et al., 2014). We analyzed Okazaki fragments from these strains
289 using, end labeling, Southern blots, and sequencing.
290
291 In the absence of Ctf4, Okazaki fragments increase in length at ~0.06% galactose (Fig. 4A,)–
292 significantly higher than the 0.014% observed for a *CTF4* wild-type strain (cf. Fig. 1D&E). The

293 *GDpol1-4A* strain showed a similar increase in Okazaki fragment length to the *ctf4Δ* strain, with
294 longer fragments observed at 0.05% galactose (Fig. 3B&C, replicate experiments in Fig.
295 S5A&C). These longer Okazaki fragments at sub-endogenous Pol1 levels (0.05%) were further
296 confirmed by Southern blot with a whole genome probe (Fig. S5B). Continued growth while
297 synthesizing long Okazaki fragments was observed down to 0.005% galactose (Fig. 4B&C). It
298 has previously been demonstrated that overall cellular levels of Pol1 are unaffected by the
299 absence of, or a failure to bind, Ctf4 (Villa et al., 2016). Our data therefore suggest that Ctf4
300 helps to maintain robust lagging-strand priming when Pol α activity is reduced, although cellular
301 levels of Pol α are sufficient for normal Okazaki fragment initiation even in its absence (Fig. 4A
302 and (Borges et al., 2013)).
303
304 We analyzed replication origin firing efficiency in the absence of Ctf4-Pol α interactions by
305 sequencing Okazaki fragments from *ctf4Δ;GDPOL1* and *GDpol1-4A s*trains grown at various
306 galactose concentrations (Fig. 4C). Data shown are the average of two replicates. Correlations
307 between replicates were extremely robust at all concentrations of Pol α (Fig. S6A&B). In the
308 absence of Ctf4, cells maintained normal levels of origin firing down to 0.032% galactose (Fig.
309 4D). The *GDpol1-4A* strain showed normal origin efficiency down to 0.023% galactose (Fig. 4E).
310 Neither Fkh status (Knott et al., 2012) nor firing time (Raghuraman et al., 2001) modulates the
311 impact of Ctf4 on origin efficiency (Fig. S7A-C). Notably, in both *ctf4Δ;GDPOL1* and *GDpol1-4A*
312 *s*trains, further reduction in Pol1 levels below the initial threshold for decreased origin efficiency
313 led to progressively lower origin firing (Fig. 4D&E). This additional decrease in origin efficiency
314 was not observed in the *GDPOL1* strain with wild-type *CTF4* (Fig. 2B). Therefore, while the
315 absence of Ctf4 does not appear to impact origin firing at moderate levels of Pol α, the Ctf4-Pol1
316 interaction appears to maintain relatively robust origin firing when Pol α is severely depleted. We

317 conclude that Ctf4-mediated recruitment of Pol α to the replisome does not stimulate replication-
318 origin firing in *S. cerevisiae* unless Pol α is severely limiting, but plays an important role in
319 maintaining the robustness of lagging-strand priming to fluctuations in the availability of Pol α.
320
321 Each rDNA repeat in *S. cerevisiae* contains a replication origin. rDNA size has been reported to
322 change due to deletion of *CTF4* (Sasaki and Kobayashi, 2017) or lithium acetate transformation
323 (Kwan et al., 2016). Expansion of the rDNA repeat increases the total number of origins in the
324 genome, and could thereby depress origin firing elsewhere (Shyian et al., 2016; Yoshida et al.,
325 2014). We investigated whether the origin efficiency in *ctf4Δ* cells is impacted by the size of the
326 rDNA array. The proportion of Okazaki fragments mapping to the rDNA in *ctf4Δ* libraries was
327 around 70% higher than in *CTF4* or *pol1-4A* libraries (Fig. S5E), consistent with substantial
328 array expansion in the absence of Ctf4 (Sasaki and Kobayashi, 2017). However, this change in
329 rDNA copy number appears to have a minimal effect on genome-wide origin firing efficiency.
330
331 To address the possibility that chromatin assembly defects may be the major cause of longer
332 Okazaki fragments upon Pol α depletion, we analyzed the distribution of Okazaki fragment
333 termini around nucleosome dyads at 0.05% galactose – a concentration that generates longer
334 Okazaki fragments only in the context of the *ctf4Δ;GDPOL1* and *GDpol1-4A s*trains (Fig. 3A-C)
335 but not the wild-type strain (Fig. 1C). At this intermediate Pol α concentration, the distribution of
336 Okazaki fragment 5' and 3' termini was highly nucleosome-biased and very similar between
337 wild-type, *GDPOL1, ctf4Δ;GDPOL1,* and *GDpol1-4A s*trains (Fig. 3F & S5F-G). At low Pol α
338 concentrations, the distribution of Okazaki fragment 5' and 3' termini lost nucleosome patterning
339 in *ctf4Δ;GDPOL1,* and *GDpol1-4A* (Fig. S5F-G), similarly to the behavior of the wild-type
340 *GDPOL1* strain (Fig. 1G). However, the alignment of Okazaki fragment 5' or 3' end locations
341 with nucleosome dyads was lost at higher Pol α concentrations in *ctf4Δ;GDPOL1* strains

342 compared to *GDpol1-4A* (Fig. S5F-G), consistent with an additional contribution of Ctf4 to
343 chromatin assembly beyond Pol α recruitment.
344
345 *ctf4Δ;GDPOL1,* and *GDpol1-4A* cells grown at 0.05% galactose show increased Okazaki
346 fragment length (Fig. 4B-C) but no defect in the nucleosome patterning of Okazaki fragment
347 termini (Fig. 4F). Therefore, Okazaki fragment length can be increased by reduced Okazaki
348 fragment initiation in the absence of an accompanying chromatin assembly defect. We note that
349 these data are not inconsistent with impaired nucleosome assembly at severely reduced Pol α
350 concentrations contributing to a further increase in Okazaki fragment length.
351
352 **Checkpoint activation is required for viability when origin firing is reduced, but not when**
353 **lagging-strand priming is perturbed**
354
355 In response to DNA damage or replication stress, a checkpoint signaling cascade is initiated
356 and culminates in the phosphorylation of the effector kinase Rad53 (Ciccia and Elledge, 2010).
357 We analyzed Rad53 phosphorylation in the *GDPOL1* strain after a switch to low galactose.
358 Substantial phosphorylation of Rad53 was observed only at concentrations below 0.023%
359 galactose (Fig. 5A) – a concentration at which both origin firing and Okazaki fragment initiation
360 are perturbed (Figs. 1&2). To further investigate the interplay between Pol α depletion,
361 increased Okazaki fragment length, decreased origin firing, and checkpoint activation, we
362 combined the *GDPOL1* allele with deletion of *MEC1* (with additional deletion of *SML1* to
363 maintain viability of *mec1Δ* cells). Growth of the *GDPOL1; mec1Δ; sml1Δ* mutant was impaired
364 at 0.05% galactose and virtually absent at 0.014% and 0.005% galactose (Fig. 5B). Thus,
365 checkpoint-deficient cells cannot survive with limiting Pol α. Consistent with a rapid loss of
366 viability upon Pol1 depletion in checkpoint-deficient cells, we were unable to robustly detect long

367 Okazaki fragments in *GDPOL1; mec1Δ; sml1Δ* cells shifted to low concentrations of galactose
368 (Fig. 5C). Okazaki fragment length was normal in this strain at galactose concentrations above
369 0.023%.
370
371 To test the contributions of the DNA damage checkpoint (DDC), mediated by Rad9, and the
372 DNA replication checkpoint (DRC), mediated by Mrc1, to survival under limiting Pol α
373 conditions, we analyzed the growth of *GDPOL1* strains in combination with *rad9Δ*, *mrc1Δ*, or
374 the non-phosphorylatable *mrc1*^{AQ} allele (Osborn and Elledge, 2003) (Fig. 5B&D; the full range of
375 galactose concentrations is shown in Fig. S8A-B). *GDPOL1* cells showed robust growth at low
376 Pol1 concentrations (0.014% galactose) in both *rad9Δ* and *mrc1Δ* strain backgrounds.
377 *GDPOL1;mrc1*^{AQ}*; rad9Δ* cells did not grow at 0.005% galactose (Fig. 5D), confirming that the
378 inviability of *GDPOL1; mec1Δ; sml1Δ* cells under these conditions is due to the absence of
379 functional DDC and DRC signaling. We note that *GDPOL1;mrc1*^{AQ} cells grow better than
380 *GDPOL1;mrc1Δ* cells at all concentrations tested; this suggests that the slight growth defect at
381 0.005% galactose observed in *GDPOL1;mrc1Δ* cells is most likely due to decreased replication
382 fork speed (Szyjka et al., 2005; Yeeles et al., 2017) in combination with decreased origin firing
383 (Fig. 2B) as opposed to impaired DRC activity. In summary, checkpoint activation is required for
384 viability under conditions of severe Pol α depletion: this activation can proceed via either the
385 DDC or the DRC.
386
387 We investigated the sensitivity of *GDPOL1* cells during Pol α depletion to either replication
388 stress or DNA damage by testing growth defects in the presence of 1 mM hydroxyurea or
389 0.008% methyl methanesulfonate (Fig. S8A-D). We observed that growth defects in the
390 presence of HU or MMS were exacerbated by lowering the concentration of Pol α; this effect
391 was apparent in both checkpoint-proficient and checkpoint-deficient strains. Indeed, in the

392 presence of 1 mM HU a significant growth defect can be observed at 0.05% galactose – a
393 concentration at which neither origin firing nor lagging-strand priming is impaired in strains
394 proficient for Ctf4-Pol α interaction.
395
396 To determine whether the requirement for checkpoint activation was due to deregulated lagging-
397 strand priming or impaired leading-strand initiation, we compared the growth of
398 *GDPOL1;mec1Δ;sml1Δ* strains with and without *CTF4* or *pol1-4A* at 0.5% and 0.05% galactose.
399 Loss of Ctf4-Pol α interactions affects Okazaki fragment initiation at relatively high Pol α
400 concentrations, before leading-strand initiation is impaired. Thus, *ctf4Δ* and *pol1-4A* are
401 effectively separation of function mutants: at 0.05% galactose, Okazaki fragment initiation is
402 reduced by the absence of Ctf4-mediated recruitment of Pol α while leading-strand initiation is
403 not (Fig. 4). *GDPOL1;mec1Δ;sml1Δ;ctf4Δ* cells grow slowly relative to *MEC1* or *CTF4* cells:
404 however, growth was minimally affected by galactose concentrations (Fig. 5E). This result is
405 recapitulated with *GDpol1-4A;mec1Δ;sml1Δ* strain, which showed essentially no growth defect
406 at either Pol α concentration (Fig. 5E). Therefore, perturbed lagging-strand synthesis does not
407 directly cause growth defects the absence of a functional checkpoint. We conclude that cells
408 with limiting Pol α become reliant on the checkpoint at least in part due to decreased replication
409 origin firing as opposed to solely due to increased Okazaki fragment length.
410
411 **Discussion**
412
413 **Cellular impact of perturbed leading- and lagging-strand initiation.**
414
415 Checkpoint activation is required for robust DNA synthesis, and therefore for viability, when
416 origin firing is significantly reduced (Fig. 5). This observation is consistent with genetic

417 interactions in *S. cerevisiae* – for example similar negative genetic interactions of *rad9Δ* with
418 alleles of the catalytic subunits of each of the three replicative polymerases (Dubarry et al., 2015). It will be interesting to determine the contributions of leading- and lagging-strand
419
420 perturbations to the many reported phenotypes resulting from *pol1* mutation or Pol1 depletion –
421 for example increased trinucleotide repeat expansion rate and size (Shah et al., 2012), and
422 increased chromosome fragility (Lemoine et al., 2005; Song et al., 2014). Furthermore,
423 mutations that reduce the levels of functional Pol α (Van Esch et al., 2019) or Pol ε (Bellelli et al., 2018) in mammalian cells increase replication stress linked to reduced origin firing, highlighting
424
425 the relevance of these studies beyond budding yeast.
426
427 **Pol α initiation on the leading and lagging strands**
428
429 Our data indicate that both origin firing and Okazaki fragment initiation in *S. cerevisiae* are
430 robust with respect to fluctuations in Pol α availability. Pol α concentration does not normally
431 limit primer synthesis and/or utilization, and significant disruption of Okazaki fragment synthesis
432 or replication initiation is only observed at very low Pol α concentrations (Fig. 1). Because cells
433 with limiting Pol α synthesize longer Okazaki fragments, as opposed to fewer Okazaki
434 fragments of normal size, our data suggest that Pol α can function distributively *in vivo* as
435 opposed to being obligately tethered at the replication fork. We additionally note that the
436 increase in Okazaki fragment length upon Pol α depletion is consistent with a priming
437 mechanism in which there is no strict coupling between DNA unwinding and primer synthesis *in*
438 *vivo* (Fig. 6A).
439

440 Although the Ctf4 protein has little to no effect on lagging-strand synthesis in chromatinized
441 reconstituted systems (Kurat et al., 2017), we observe that Ctf4 stimulates lagging-strand
442 priming *in vivo*. In the absence of Ctf4, Okazaki fragment length can still be modulated by Pol α
443 concentration (Fig. 4). Thus, in light of the potentially distributive action of Pol α, we propose a
444 simple model that Ctf4 acts by increasing the local concentration of Pol α at the elongating
445 replication fork. An alternative possibility is that Ctf4 maintains two copies of Pol α at each
446 replisome under normal conditions (Fig. 6B). It is unclear what underlies the differential Ctf4-
447 sensitivity of reconstituted and *in vivo* lagging-strand synthesis. Our data also show that, unlike
448 ongoing Okazaki fragment priming during lagging-strand synthesis, the productive initiation of
449 DNA synthesis at replication origins is not impacted by the absence of Ctf4-mediated
450 recruitment until severely limiting Pol α concentrations (Figs. 2&4). A recent report
451 demonstrated that leading-strand initiation can occur via extension of the first Okazaki fragment
452 from the opposite replication fork, and that the two replisomes are inter-dependent during this
453 establishment phase (Aria and Yeeles, 2018). The close proximity of the two replisomes at this
454 stage could underlie the differential Ctf4-sensitivity of replication-origin firing at moderate and
455 low Pol α concentrations.
456
457 All replication origins are affected by Pol α depletion, without dependence on their normal firing
458 time or efficiency (Fig. 2E & 3B). Therefore, it is unlikely that the reduction in origin firing is a
459 direct result of checkpoint activation. Our data suggest that the origin firing program is
460 determined by the relative accessibility of licensed origins to limiting soluble firing factors, even
461 when overall origin firing is reduced. We note that coordinately down-regulating the efficiency of
462 all origins, as opposed to selectively reducing the efficiency of a subset, represents a robust
463 strategy to maintain the evolutionarily selected co-orientation of deleterious transcription events

464 with replication (Chen et al., 2019; Hamperl et al., 2017; Osmundson et al., 2017; Tran et al.,
465 2017).
466
467 **Chromatin and lagging-strand synthesis**
468
469 Pol α acts distributively on naked DNA in reconstituted replication reactions (Yeeles et al., 2017).
470 Chromatin reduces Okazaki fragment size *in vitro,* and has therefore been proposed to make
471 Pol α more processive (Kurat et al., 2017). Our data suggest that Pol α can act distributively on
472 chromatin *in vivo*, but is present at saturating concentrations that would minimize the difference
473 between distributive or processive activity. Our data do, however, support an intimate interaction
474 between chromatin and lagging-strand priming. Extreme depletion of Pol α leads to Okazaki
475 fragment distributions consistent with impaired chromatin assembly (Fig. 1G and S5F-G). Since
476 Ctf4 connects Pol α to the replicative helicase, its absence also impacts chromatin dynamics
477 during DNA replication (Evrin et al., 2018). However, perturbed Okazaki fragment initiation in the
478 absence of Ctf4-mediated recruitment of Pol α to the fork can generate longer Okazaki
479 fragments in the absence of an obvious chromatin assembly defect (Fig. 4F). It is also possible
480 that the increased length of Okazaki fragments reported in histone chaperone mutants (Smith
481 and Whitehouse, 2012; Yadav and Whitehouse, 2016) represents an underlying defect in
482 priming.
483
484

485
486 **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

487 **Yeast strains**

488 All yeast strains were W303 *RAD5+*, and contained additional mutations required for anchor-
489 away depletion of Cdc9. The genotype of the wild-type strain is *mata, tor1-1::HIS3,*
490 *fpr1::NatMX4, RPL13A-2xFKBP12::TRP1, CDC9-FRB::HygMX*. The *pol1-4A* mutant from
491 (Simon et al., 2014) was generated using the CRISPR/Cas9 system in *S. cerevisiae* as
492 previously described (Dicarlo et al., 2013). Briefly, a guide RNA was synthesized specific to the
493 CIP box in *POL1* that could not be cleaved if repaired with donor sequence with D141A, D142A,
494 L144A and F147A mutations and 100 bp of homology on both sides. This created a markerless
495 strain that was confirmed through Sanger sequencing. After transformations, strains were grown
496 on YPD to lose the Cas9 and gRNA plasmids. Additional gene deletions, and replacement of
497 the *POL1* promoter, were carried out by PCR-mediated replacement in a wild-type strain, and
498 introduced into the desired background by cross.
499

500 **Cell growth, cell-cycle synchronization, and spot tests**

501 All strains were grown at 30°C, starting in YEP with 0.5% galactose plus 3% raffinose, unless
502 otherwise noted. To deplete Pol1 levels, cultures were sugar switched by growing overnight to
503 log phase then washing the cells with sterile deionized water then sterile YEP before being
504 inoculated into fresh YEP media with various galactose concentrations supplemented with 3%
505 raffinose.
506

507 For short-term experiments, strains were grown for four hours after the sugar switch before
508 adding rapamycin for one hour of ligase repression. Cells were collected four hours after the
509 sugar switch for western blot analysis.

510 For cell-cycle synchronization, cultures were sugar-switched at log phase and then added
511 5g/mL alpha factor to synchronize cells in G1 phase. Cells were released into S phase and were
512 collected every 15 minutes by centrifugation at 4°C then stored at -80°C or by immediately fixing
513 cells in 70% ethanol.
514 For spot tests, yeast cells were washed then counted. Similar numbers of cells were plated onto
515 various galactose concentrations with or without 1mM hydroxyurea (Sigma H8627) or 0.008%
516 methyl methanesulfonate (Sigma 129925) at a 1:5 dilution series and grown overnight for two
517 days at 30°C unless indicated otherwise.
518
519 **Fluorescence-activated cell sorter (FACS) analysis**
520 Cells were collected after release from G1 arrest every 15 minutes and fixed in 70% ethanol and
521 incubated at 4°C overnight. Fixed cells were then spun down and resuspended in 50mM sodium
522 citrate with RNase A (Fisher 50-153-8126) for 1 hour at 50°C. Next, with the addition of
523 proteinase K (MP Biomedicals) the samples were incubated for 1 hour at 50°C. Cells were then
524 stained with SYTOX green (Fisher S7020) then sonicated and processed using a Becton
525 Dickinson Accuri.
526
527 **Western blotting**
528 Samples were collected by centrifugation and washed with deionized water and stored at -80°C
529 before lysate preparation. Lysates were prepared by five-minute resuspension in 600uL 2M
530 lithium acetate on ice, pelleted, resuspended in 600uL 400mM sodium hydroxide at room
531 temperature for five minutes, pelleted, and resuspended in Laemmli buffer with 5% beta-
532 mercaptoethanol prior to boiling, then briefly pelleted immediately prior to loading the lysate onto
533 a SDS-PAGE gel. Samples were transferred to PVDF, blocked with 5% milk and probed with C-
534 Myc antibody (Genscript A00173-100), Rad53 antibody (Abcam ab104232), histone H4
535 antibody (Abcam ab10158), or actin antibody (Thermofisher Scientific MA1-744).

536

537 **Okazaki fragment analysis by gel electrophoresis**

538 Following the sugar switch methods above, Okazaki fragments were accumulated by adding
539 rapamycin (Spectrum 41810000-2) to 1ug/mL to anchor away Cdc9, which is tagging with FRB,
540 for 1h (Haruki et al., 2008). These cells were collected through centrifugation and immediately
541 processed or stored at -80°C. Genomic preps from spheroplasts were completed as previously
542 described (Smith and Whitehouse, 2012). For end-labeling, 5uL of genomic DNA was labeled
543 using a 50uL reaction with 5U Klenow exo- (NEB M0212L) and α-dCTP (Perkin Elmer
544 BLU513H500UC) at a final concentration of 33 nM. Reactions were then ethanol precipitated to
545 remove excess label. Normalized amounts (from either native gel or previous experiment) were
546 loaded onto a 1.3% denaturing agarose gel. After electrophoresis, gels were then blotted onto
547 nitrocellulose membrane (Fisher 45-000-932) overnight. Membranes were then dried and
548 exposed to phosphor screens.

549 For southern blot analysis, unlabeled genomic DNA was normalized to total genomic DNA, and
550 run on 1.3% denaturing agarose gels. After electrophoresis, the gel was blotted onto a
551 nitrocellulose membrane (Fisher 45-000-932) overnight. Next the membrane was crosslinked
552 and washed, then hybridized overnight with a probe synthesized with random hexamers labeling
553 kit (Fisher 18187-013) and sheared genomic DNA. After two low stringency washes,
554 membranes were dried then exposed to phosphor screens.

555

556 **Okazaki fragment purification, sequencing, and analysis**

557 Genomic DNA was boiled at 95°C for 5 min then salt was added to 300mM NaCl, pH 12.
558 Purification of Okazaki fragments was accomplished by running the denatured genomic DNA
559 through 400 ul Source 15Q (VWR 89128-854), binding at 300 mM NaCl, pH 12. DNA was

560 eluted in 50mM steps until 900mM NaCl, pH 12, fractions kept were 800mM, 850mM, and
561 900mM, these were stored at -20°C. DNA was ethanol precipitated then treated with RNase
562 cocktail (Thermo Fisher AM2286) for 1h at 37°C to remove any RNA. Next, these reactions
563 were ethanol precipitated then run through Illustra microspin G-50 columns (Fisher 27-5330-02).
564 The single-strand Okazaki fragments were boiled at 95°C for 5 min and cooled quickly on ice
565 and up to 1ug of purified fragments were ligated with T4 DNA ligase (Fisher 50305904) to 1ug
566 of adaptors with single-stranded overhangs that were generated as previously described (Smith
567 and Whitehouse, 2012). Purified libraries were amplified (12-16 cycles) using Illumina Truseq
568 primers according to Illumina protocols, but with Phusion (NEB M0530L). Paired-end
569 sequencing (2 × 75 bp) was carried out on an Illumina Next-seq 500 platform. FASTQ files were
570 aligned to the s288c reference genome using the Bowtie (v2.3.2). The files were converted,
571 then bad quality reads and PCR duplicates were removed using the Samtools suite (v1.9). Then
572 the genomic coverage was calculated using the Bedtools suite (v2.27.1) in a strand-specific
573 manner to make stranded bed files. Origin efficiency metric analysis was achieved through
574 calculating the strand bias in 10kb windows around predefined origins as previously described
575 (McGuffee et al., 2013) with the origin list from the same source. To map the Okazaki fragments
576 ends relative to known nucleosome dyads (Jiang and Pugh, 2009), 5' and 3' fragment ends were
577 extracted from previously generated bed files and a meta-analysis was completed as previously
578 described (Smith and Whitehouse, 2012).
579
580 **Whole genome sequencing and analysis**
581 Cells were incubated for 4h at various galactose concentrations with a simultaneous arrest with
582 5mg/ml alpha factor for 3h. Cells were collected every ten minutes after a room temperature
583 (25°C) release. Samples were collected and stored for flow cytometry at 4°C and for whole

584 genome sequencing at -80°C. Samples were selected for analysis based on flow cytometry
585 data. All samples, including a G1 control, were lysed using a FastPrep system. The lysates
586 were then sonicated using a Branson 250 sonicator at 15% for 15 seconds 5X. The sheared
587 DNA was then treated with 100µg of Proteinase K for 2h at 37°C. Samples were then phenol
588 chloroform extracted and precipitated. DNA was then quantified and libraries were prepped
589 using TruSeq Nano DNA LT Kit (Illumina 20015964). Sequencing and alignment methods were
590 performed as mentioned above, but sequencing was not strand-specific. Pertinent S phase
591 samples were pooled for analysis. These genomic coverage files were normalized to the
592 median coverage, binned to 100bps, and poorly mapped sites were removed from all datasets
593 (Table S2). Next, the coverage was calculated by taking the read depth normalized to G1 and
594 the smoothed using a Loess regression in R. To perform a meta-analysis around all or specific
595 origins of replication, the average coverage around these origins were calculated using the
596 same origin list as above.
597
598

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770

771

772
773 **LEGENDS TO FIGURES**

774 **Figure 1. Okazaki fragments increase in length when Pol α is limiting.**

775 **(A).** Western blot against 13xMyc-tagged Pol1 from S. cerevisiae from a wild-type or *GDPOL1*
776 strain, as indicated, shifted to YPD or YEP + 3% raffinose (hereafter, media) supplemented with
777 various concentrations of galactose. The lower band indicated by an asterisk is a degradation
778 product resulting from degron-tagging.

779 **(B).** Schematic of experimental workflow for Okazaki fragment analysis and sequencing (also
780 see methods).

781 **(C, D).** Alkaline agarose gel analysis of end-labeled Okazaki fragments from a wild type (C) or
782 *GDPOL1* (D) strain, shifted to YPD or media supplemented with galactose as indicated.

783 **(E).** Southern blot using a whole genome probe, on Okazaki fragments from a wild type or
784 *GDPOL1* strain shifted to media with the indicated sugar concentrations.

785 **(F, G).** Distribution of Okazaki fragment 5' ends around consensus nucleosome dyads (Jiang
786 and Pugh, 2009) for a wild-type (F) or *GDPOL1* (G) strain shifted to media containing the
787 indicated concentration of galactose. Data for Okazaki fragment 3' ends in *GDPOL1* are in Fig.
788 S1F

789
790 **Figure 2. Origin firing efficiency is decreased for all replication origins when Pol α levels**
791 **are reduced**

792 **(A).** Okazaki fragment distributions from a wild-type (black) or *GDPOL1* strain shifted to the
793 indicated media. A ~400 kb region from the left arm of chromosome 4 is shown, and the late
794 and early replicating regions are annotated.

795 **(B).** Origin efficiency calculated as OEM (see methods) in wild-type or *GDPOL1* cells shifted to
796 the indicated concentration of galactose. Data is in the form of box and whisker plots with the

797 ends of the boxes being the upper and lower quartiles, the median is denoted by the line within
798 the box, and the whiskers indicate the highest and lowest data points. Origin efficiency was
799 calculated as in (McGuffee et al., 2013), using origin locations annotated in the same study.
800 Significance was calculated by unpaired t-test; **** $p<0.0001$, *** $p<0.0005$, * $p<0.05$. Data from
801 the *GDPOL1* strain are the average of three replicates.
802 **(C).** Meta-analysis of the fraction of Okazaki fragments mapping to the Watson strand
803 (corresponding to leftward-moving replication forks) around all 283 origins normalized to the
804 maximum, using the same origin list as above.
805 **(D).** Scatter plot comparing origin firing efficiency in *GDPOL1* cells at 0.014% galactose, to wild-
806 type cells in 0.5% galactose. Analogous comparisons to other galactose concentrations, and
807 correlations between replicates, are in Fig. S2.
808 **(E).** Firing efficiency for origins with replication timing below (early) or above (late) the median
809 replication timing for origins in our dataset. Significance was calculated by unpaired t-test; ****
810 $p<0.0001$.
811 **(F).** Firing efficiency for origins with Forkhead (Fkh) status: activated, repressed, or
812 independent. Using the Fkh status determined in Knott et al., 2012. Significance was calculated
813 by unpaired t-test; **** $p<0.0001$, * $p<0.05$.
814
815 **Figure 3. Global decreases in origins firing from Pol α depletion leads to a proportion of**
816 **cells stalling in early S phase**
817 **(A).** Schematic of experimental workflow for whole genome sequencing (also see methods).
818 **(B)** Read depth of chromosome 4, normalized to G1 and RPM, then smoothed through a Loess
819 regression. Poorly mapped regions were removed for analysis (Table S2). Galactose
820 concentrations are indicated. Early and late replication regions (LRR) are marked, as are the

821 three earliest firing origins on chromosome 4: ARS428 (12min), ARS429 (14min), ARS453
822 (12min).
823 **(C, D).** Coverage from pan-S-phase samples mapped around replication origins. Either all 283
824 origins (C) or the earliest firing 22 origins compared to the other 261 origins (D) are shown.
825 Read depth was normalized to G1 and smoothed to 1kb. Note the different y-axis scale for the
826 earliest origins in D.
827
828 **Figure 4. Ctf4 maintains Okazaki fragment length at moderate Pol α concentrations but is**
829 **dispensable for origin firing *in vivo* unless Pol α is severely limiting**
830 **(A, B, C).** Alkaline agarose gel analysis of end-labeled Okazaki fragments from a wild type or
831 *GDPOL1;ctf4Δ* strain (A&B), or *GDpol1-4A* (C) as indicated, shifted to media containing various
832 concentrations of galactose. Note that the range of galactose concentrations in A is significantly
833 higher than in other figure panels. Traces of lanes are shown for wild type YPD (black), or
834 *GDPOL1* 0.5% (gray) and 0.05% galactose (blue).
835 **(D, E).** Replication origin efficiency, as in Fig. 2B, for *GDPOL1;ctf4Δ* (D) or *GDpol1-4A* (E) cells
836 at low galactose concentrations. Data were calculated and analyzed as in Fig. 2B.
837 **(F).** Distribution of Okazaki fragment 5' termini around consensus nucleosome dyads, as in Fig.
838 1F,G, for each indicated strain shifted to media containing 0.05% galactose. Data were
839 calculated and analyzed as in Fig. 1F&G.
840
841 **Figure 5. The checkpoint is required for viability under conditions of limiting origin firing,**
842 **but not increased Okazaki fragment size.**
843 **(A).** Western blot against Rad53 from asynchronous *GDPOL1* cells shifted to the indicated
844 media. A wild-type strain grown in YPGal ± 0.1% MMS were used as negative and positive
845 controls for Rad53 hyperphosphorylation.

846 **(B).** Serial dilution spot tests to assay the growth of *GDPOL1* strains carrying additional

847 mutations (*mec1Δ;sml1Δ, rad9Δ, mrc1Δ, rad9Δ;mrc1Δ;sml1Δ*) at the indicated galactose

848 concentrations.

849 **(C).** Southern blot as in Fig. 3B, for a *mec1Δ;GDPOL1* strain shifted to various galactose

850 concentrations.

851 **(D).** Serial dilution spot tests to assay the growth of *GDPOL1* strains carrying additional

852 mutations (*rad9Δ, mrc1*^{AQ,} *rad9Δ;mrc1*^{AQ}) at the indicated galactose concentrations.

853 **(E).** Serial dilution spot tests to assay the growth of *ctf4Δ;GDPOL1* or *GDpol1-4A* strains with or

854 without additional deletion of *MEC1*.

855

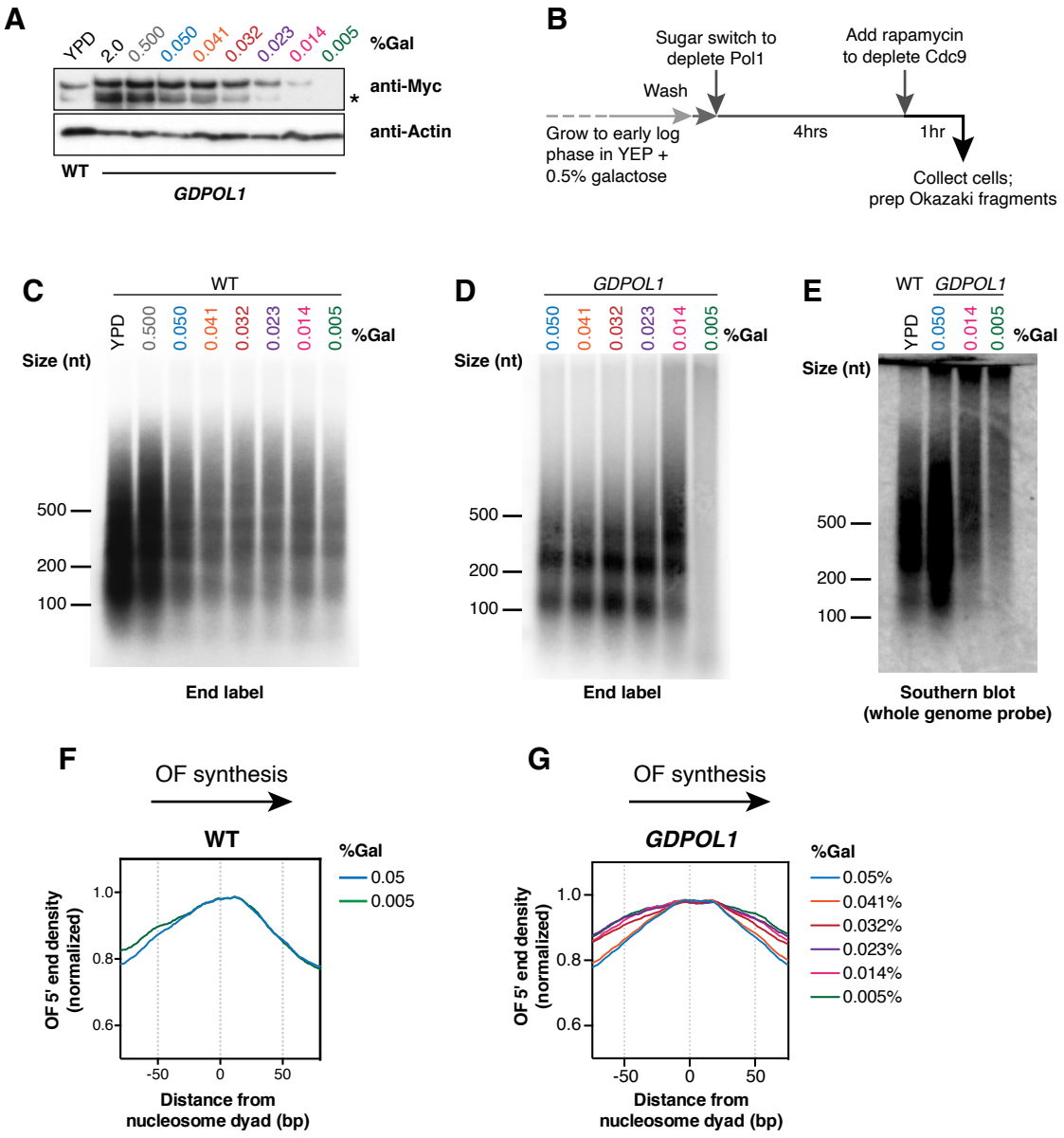
856 **Figure 6. Model of Pol α recruitment for leading- and lagging-strand priming in *S.***

857 ***cerevisiae***

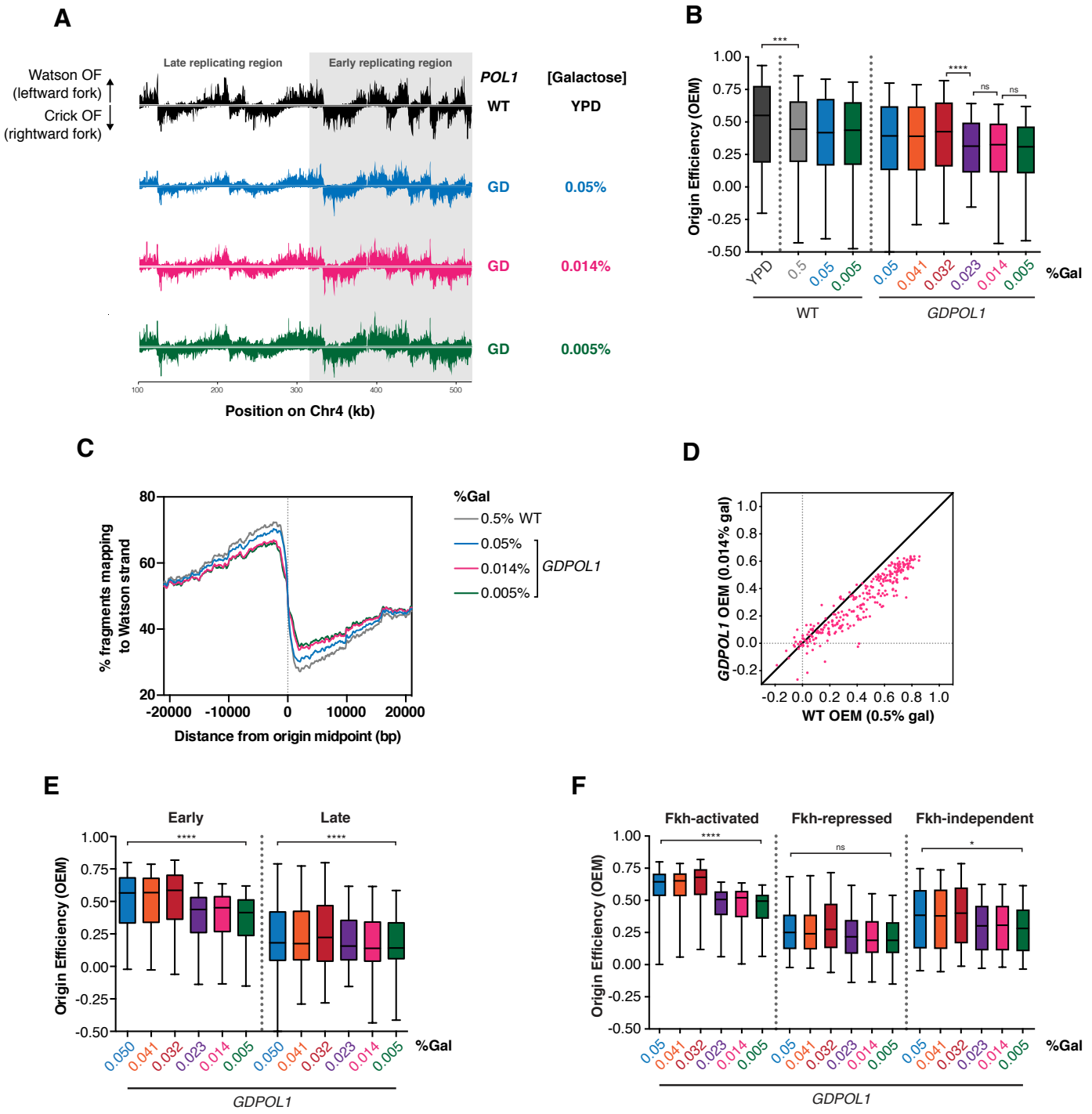
858

859

Porcella et al., Figure 1



Porcella et al., Figure 2



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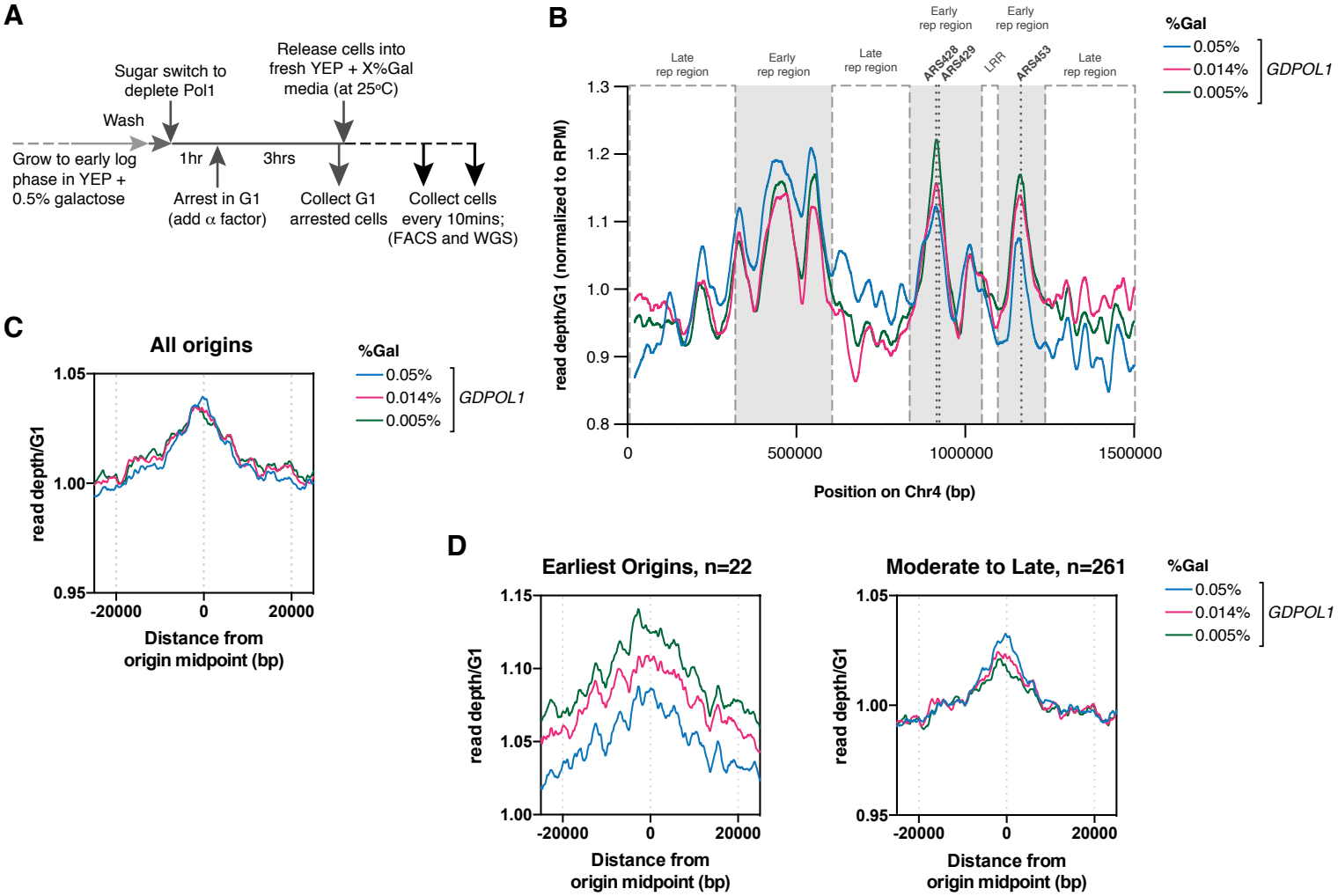

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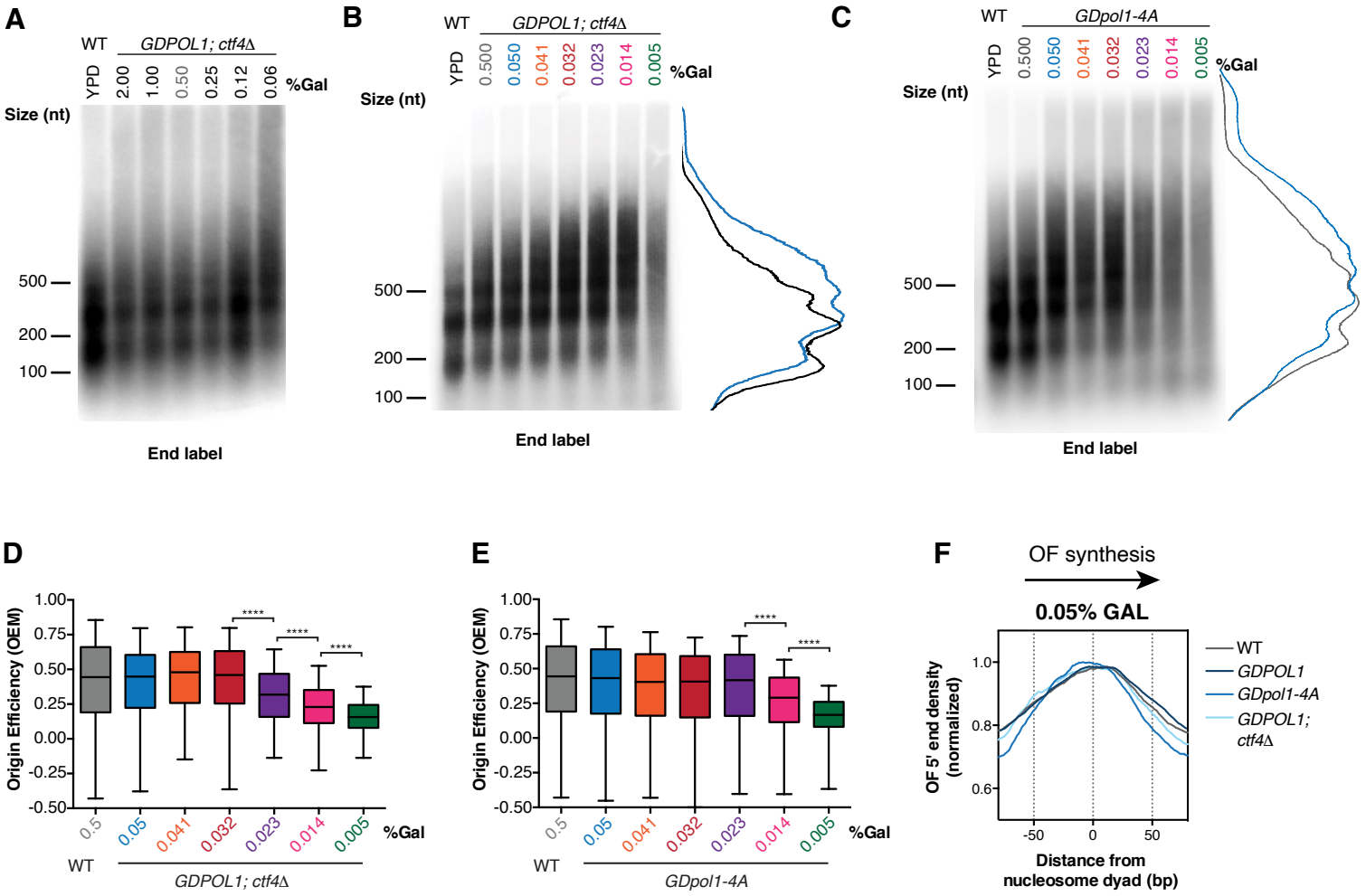

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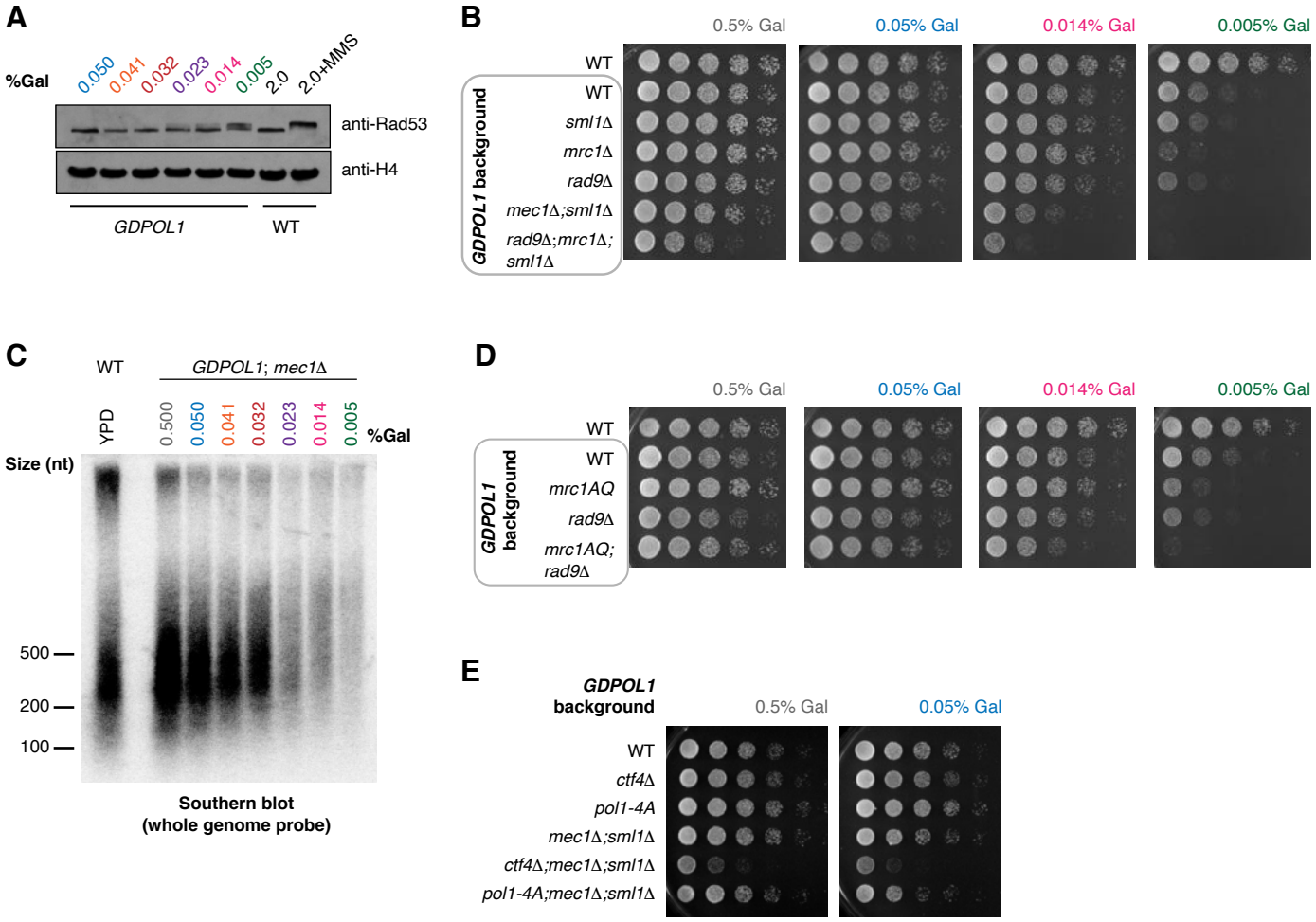
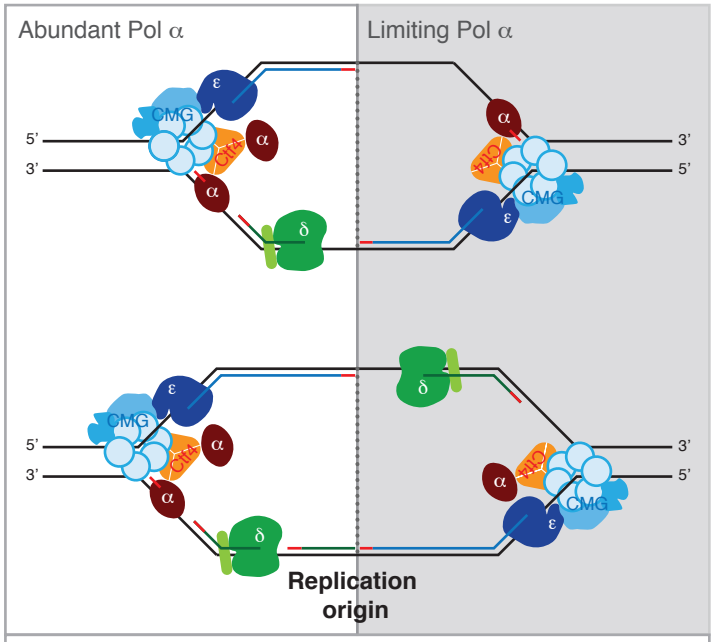


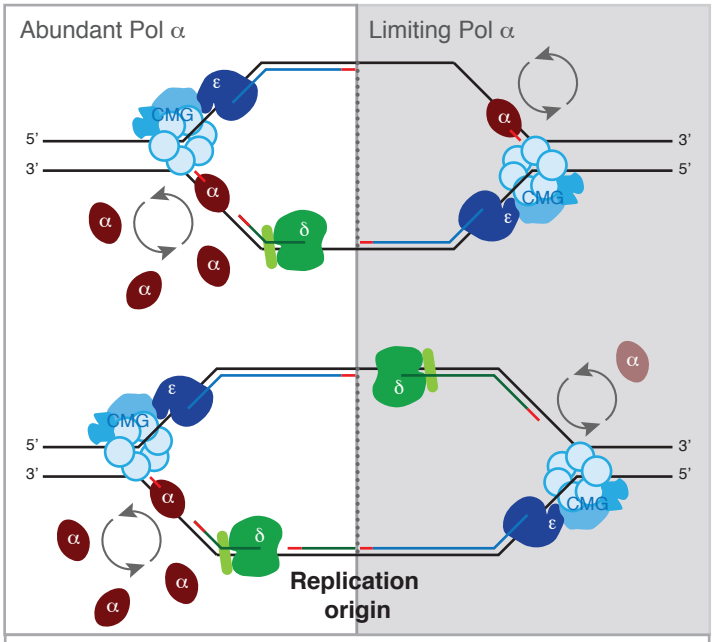
Porcella et al., Figure 6

A. With Ctf4-mediated recruitment of Pol α



- Lagging strand priming is not coupled to DNA unwinding
- Limiting Pol α:
  - Infrequent priming ⟶ Longer Okazaki fragments
  - Global decrease in origin firing
- Ctf4 concentrates Pol α at the replisome

B. Without Ctf4-Pol α interactions



- Without Ctf4:
  - Moderate Pol α levels:
    - Longer Okazaki fragments
    - Unaffected origin firing
  - Limiting Pol α ⟶ Origin firing progressively decreases

860
861 **LEGENDS TO SUPPLEMENTARY FIGURES**

862 **Figure S1 (Associated with Fig 1)**

863 **(A).** Western blot against 13xMyc-tagged Pol1 from wild-type or *GDPOL1* cells at the indicated
864 sugar concentration, released from alpha-factor arrest for the indicated time. The GDPol1-
865 specific degradation product is indicated by an asterisk.

866 **(B).** Timecourse of Okazaki fragment enrichment during Cdc9 nuclear depletion by anchor away
867 (Haruki et al., 2008). Okazaki fragments were prepared and labeled as in Fig. 1C, and as
868 previously described (Smith and Whitehouse, 2012).

869 **(C-E).** Representative replicate Okazaki fragment end-labeling gels for wild-type (C) and
870 *GDPOL1* (D-E) at the indicated galactose concentrations. Traces adjacent to the plots in D&E
871 indicate the change in size distribution of Okazaki fragments at 0.014% (pink) and 0.005%
872 (green) galactose.

873 **(F).** Distribution of Okazaki fragment 3' ends around consensus nucleosome dyads (Jiang and
874 Pugh, 2009) in the *GDPOL1* strain shifted to media containing the indicated concentration of
875 galactose

876
877 **Figure S2 (Associated with Fig 2)**

878 **(A).** Origin efficiency replicate comparisons for data from the *GDPOL1* strain shown in Fig. 2B
879 each of three replicates are plotted against each other and indicated by color.

880 **(B).** Comparison of origin efficiency data from each replicate from *GDPOL1* cells shifted to the
881 indicated concentration of galactose. Significance was calculated by unpaired t-test; ****
882 $p<0.0001$, * $p<0.05$.

883 **(C).** Scatter plots comparing origin firing efficiency in *GDPOL1* cells at various galactose
884 concentrations, to wild-type cells in 0.5% galactose.

885
886 **Figure S3 (Associated with Fig 2)**

887 **(A).** Doubling times for wild-type or *GDPOL1* strains in YEP + 3% raffinose, supplemented with
888 the indicated concentration of galactose. Data are the average of at least three replicates in
889 each case.

890 **(B).** DNA content, assayed by flow cytometry, of an arrest release of wild type or *GDPOL1* cells
891 also analyzed in A.

892 **(C).** DNA content, assayed by flow cytometry, of asynchronous cells post 4h sugar switch of
893 wild type or *GDPOL1* cells.

894 **(D).** DNA content, assayed by flow cytometry, *GDPOL1* cells, released into S-phase after 4h
895 sugar switch in G1. The samples collected at these time points were used to generate
896 sequencing libraries for the analysis shown in Fig. 3.

897

898 **Figure S4**

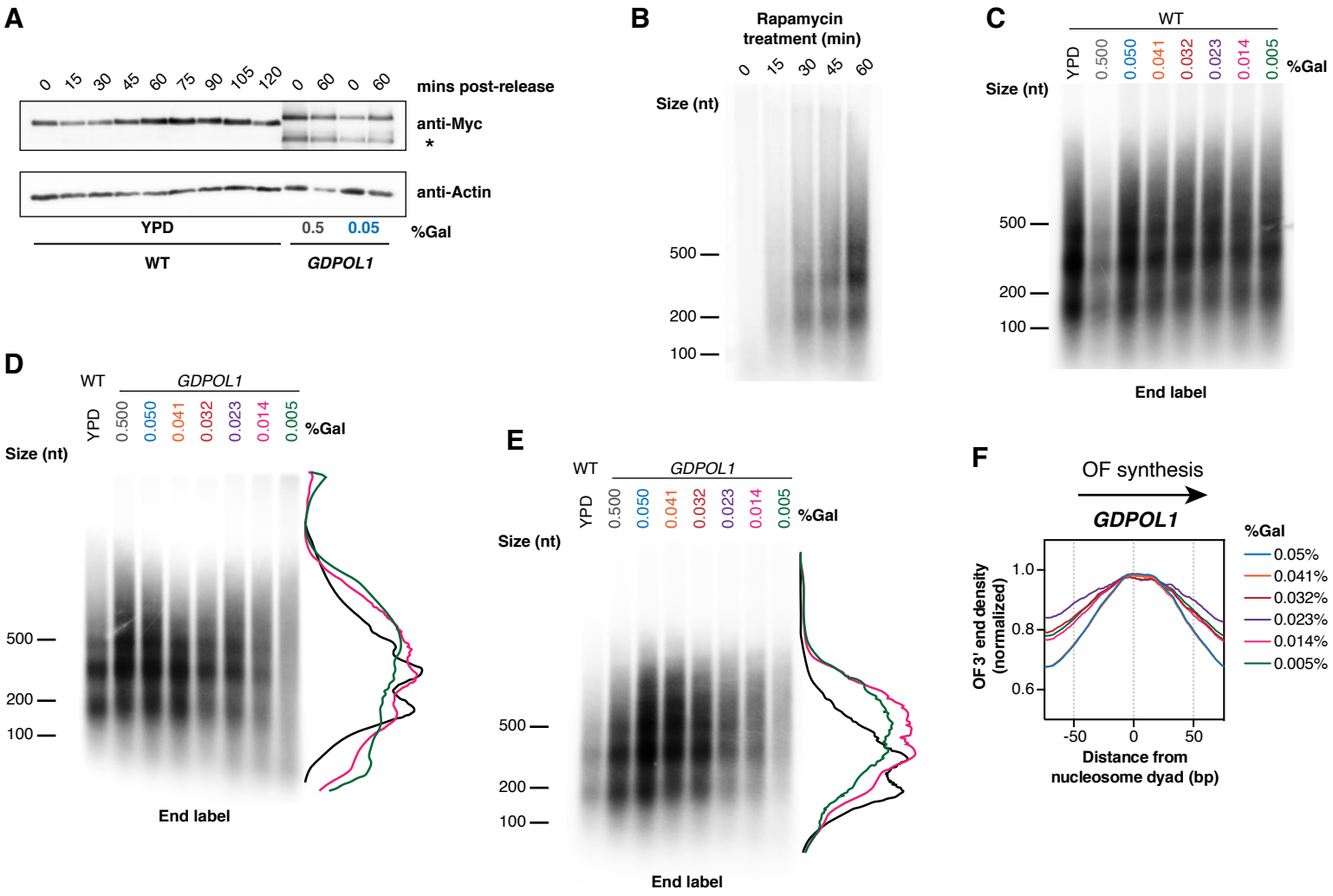
899 Analysis of replication-fork direction around 93 origin-distal tRNA genes (Osmundson et al.,
900 2017) in *GDPOL1* cells grown at various galactose concentrations. Increased replication-fork
901 stalling or arrest at these sites would manifest as a decrease at or after the midpoint of the gene
902 (Osmundson et al., 2017).

903
904 **Figure S5 (Associated with Fig 3)**

905 **(A-C).** Representative replicate end-labeling gel (A, C) or Southern blot (B), on Okazaki
906 fragments from a *GDPOL1;ctf4Δ* (A, B) or *GDpol1-4A* (C) strain shifted to media shifted to low
907 galactose concentrations. Traces of YPD (black) and 0.05% galactose (blue) lanes on the right.
908 A control lane for wild-type cells grown in YPD is included on each gel.

909 **(D).** Serial dilution spot tests to assay the growth of *GDPOL1* strains with or without FRB
910 tagging of CDC9 and/or *ctf4Δ* or *pol1-4A* mutations.
911 **(E).** The rDNA repeat is expanded in *ctf4Δ; GDPOL1* cells. The proportion of sequencing reads
912 mapping to the rDNA is indicated. Data represent the mean ± SD of all sequencing datasets
913 used for analysis in figures 2&3.
914 **(F-G).** Distribution of Okazaki fragment 5' (left panel) and 3' ends (right panel) around
915 consensus nucleosome dyads (Jiang and Pugh, 2009) in the *GDPOL1;ctf4Δ* (F) or *GDpol1-4A*
916 strain (G) shifted to media containing various galactose concentrations.
917 **Figure S6 (Associated with Fig 3)**
918 **(A, B).** Origin efficiency replicate comparisons for data from the *ctf4Δ;GDPOL1* strain shown in
919 Fig. 3D (A) and the *GDpol1-4A* strain show in Fig. 3F (B).
920
921 **Figure S7 (Associated with Fig 4)**
922 **(A, B, C).** Firing efficiency for origins separated by Fkh status or replication timing for the data
923 sets in Fig. 4. Significance was calculated by unpaired t-test; **** $p<0.0001$, * $p<0.05$.
924
925 **Figure S8 (Associated with Fig 4)**
926 **(A, B).** Serial dilution spot tests to assay the growth of *GDPOL1* strains carrying additional
927 mutations (*mec1Δ;sml1Δ, rad9Δ, mrc1Δ, mrc1AQ*) at the indicated galactose concentrations. A
928 selection of these concentrations is shown in Fig. 4A-B
929 **(C,D).** Serial dilution spot tests of the indicated strains with or without 1 mM hydroxyurea (C) or
930 with or without 0.008% methyl methanesulfonate (D). Note that the full ranges of galactose
931 concentrations were independently plated as loading/growth controls for both C and D.

Porcella et al., Figure S1, associated with Figure 1



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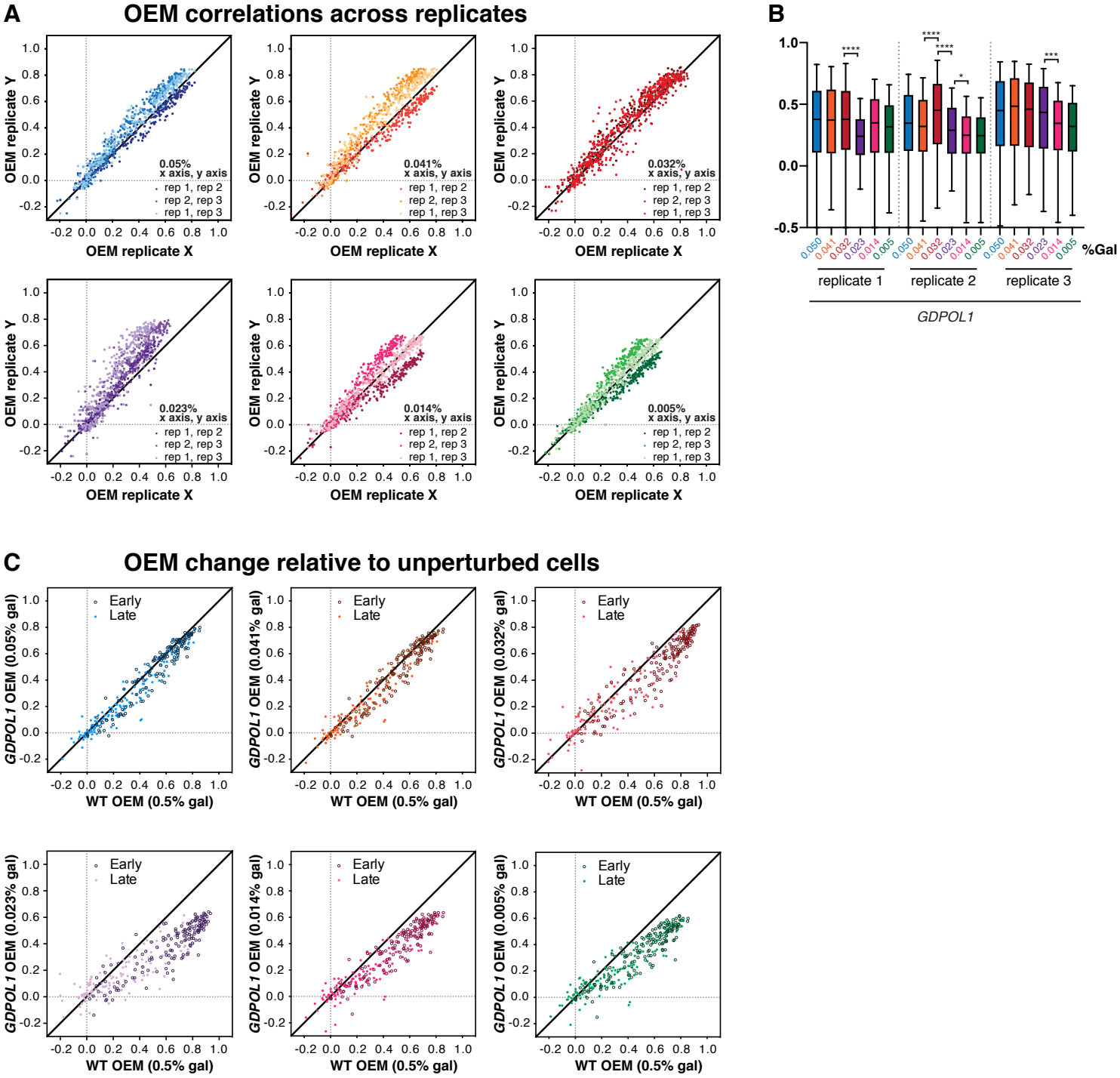

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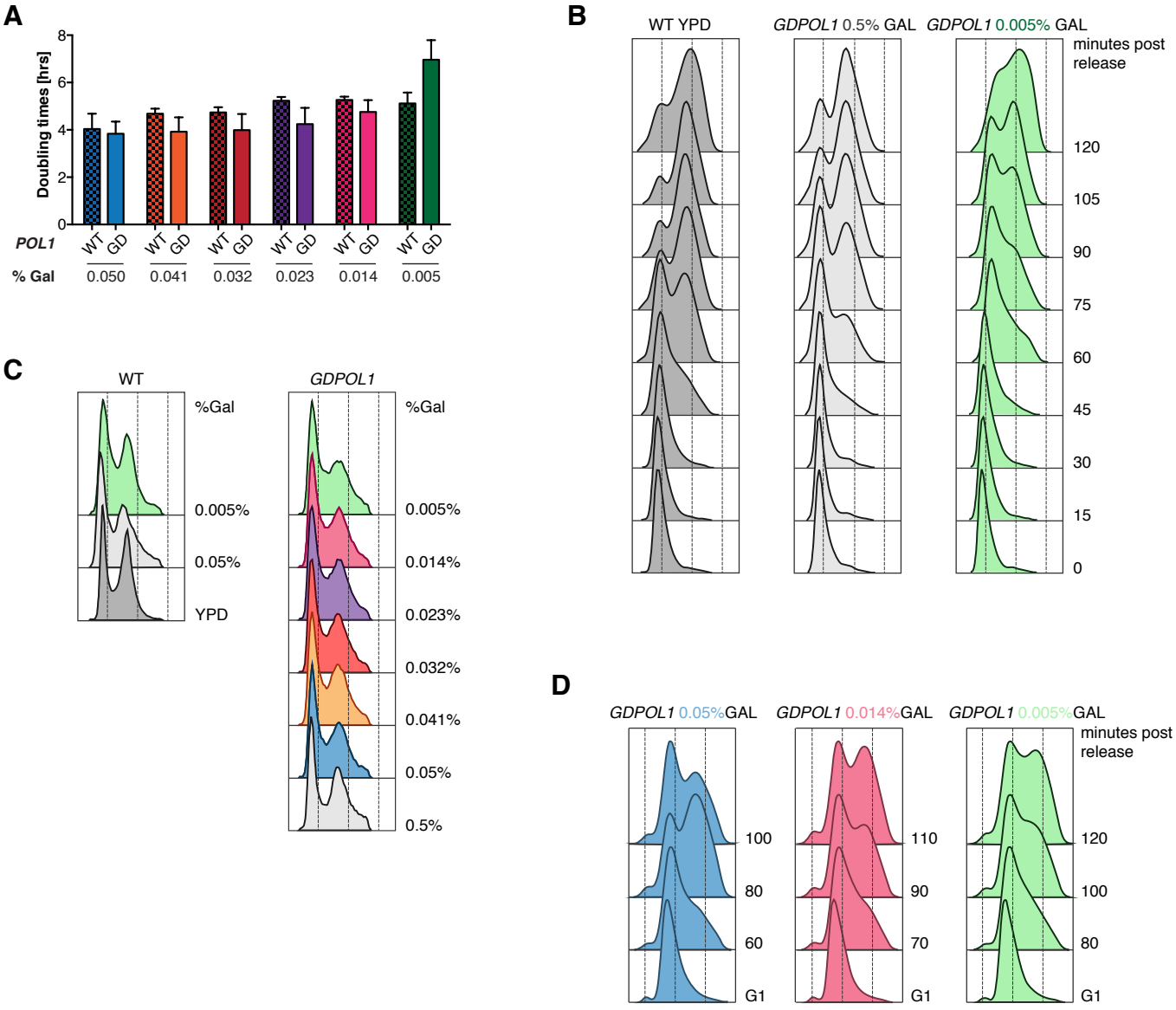
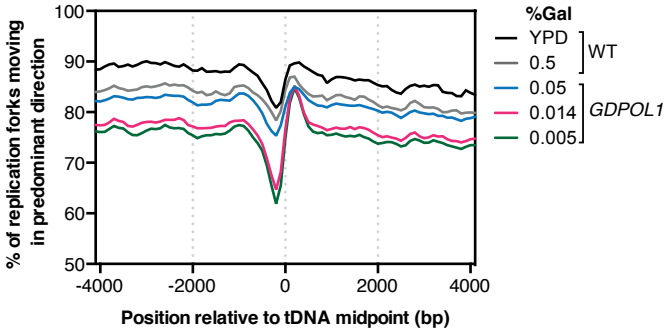


Porcella et al., Figure S4, associated with Figure 2



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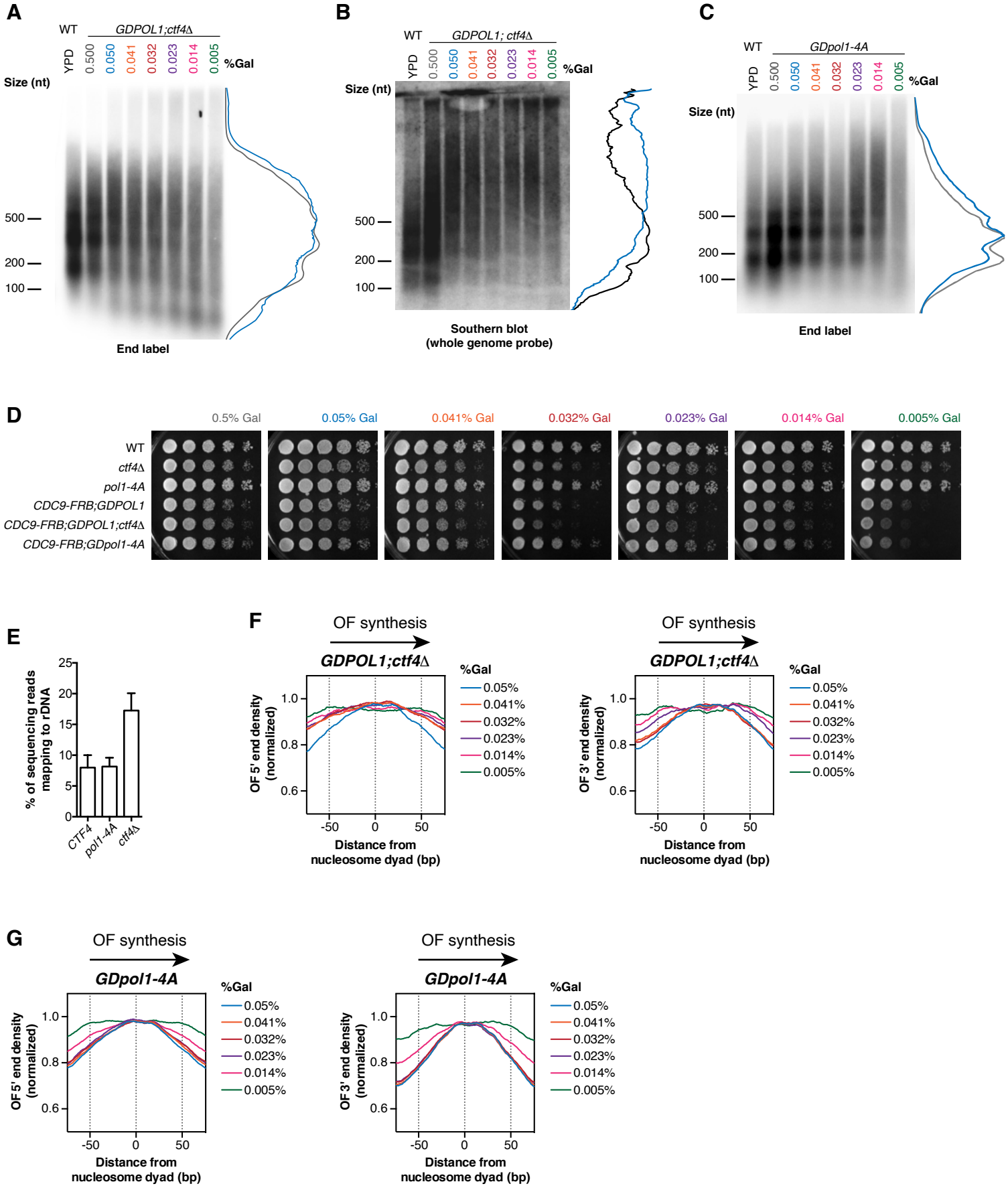
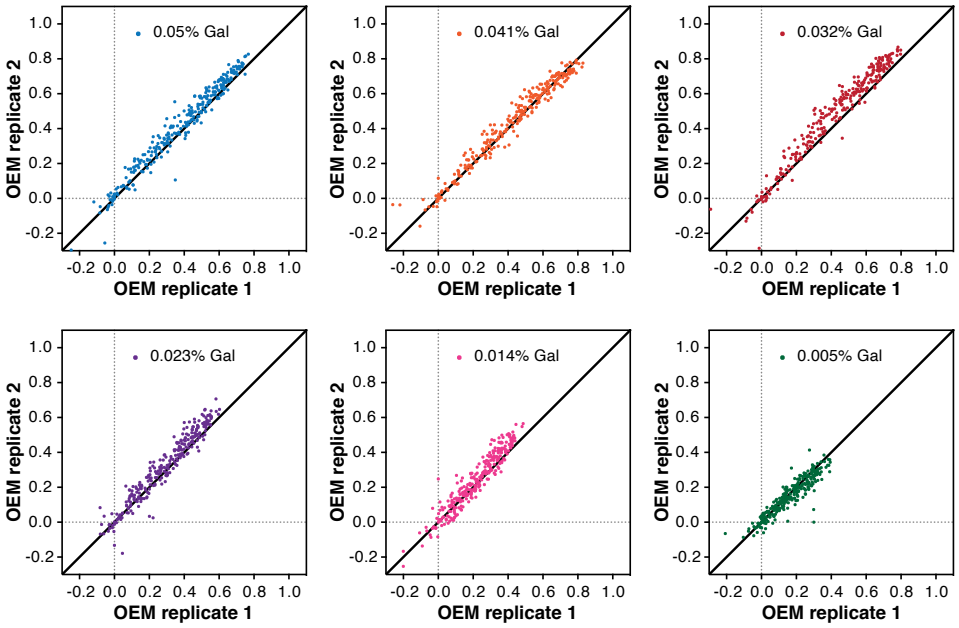
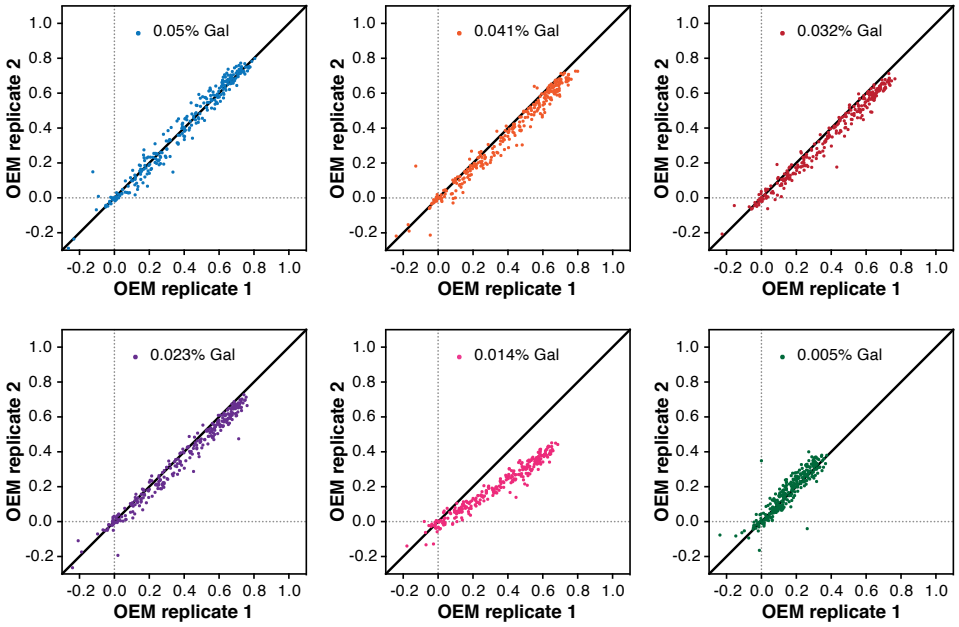


Porcella et al., Figure S6, associated with Figure 4

A **OEM correlations across replicates (*GDPOL1*, *ctf4*Δ)**



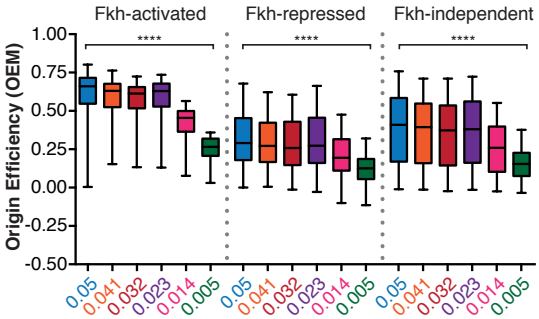
B **OEM correlations across replicates (*GDpol1-4A*)**



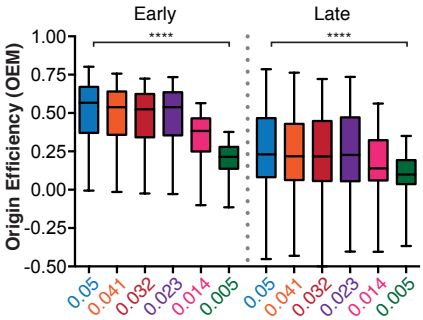
Porcella et al., Figure S7, associated with Figure 4

A. *GDPOL1-4A*

OEMs separated by forkhead status

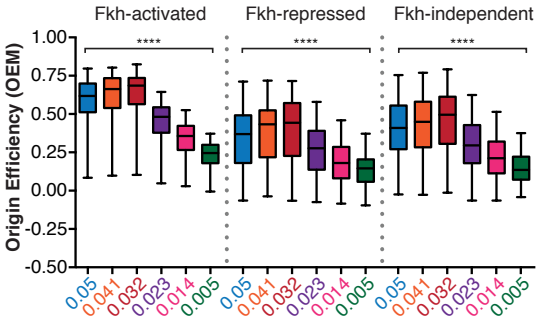


OEMs separated by timing

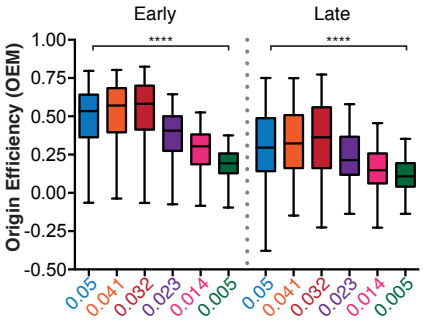


B. *GDPOL1; ctf4*Δ

OEMs separated by forkhead status

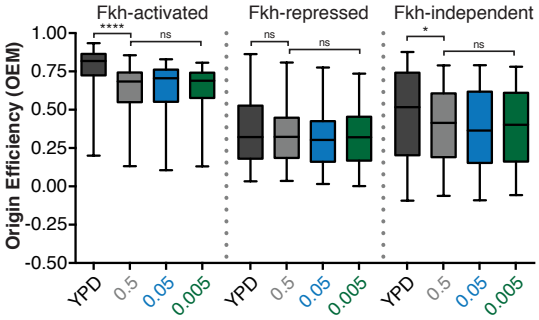


OEMs separated by timing

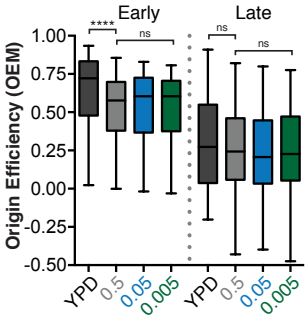
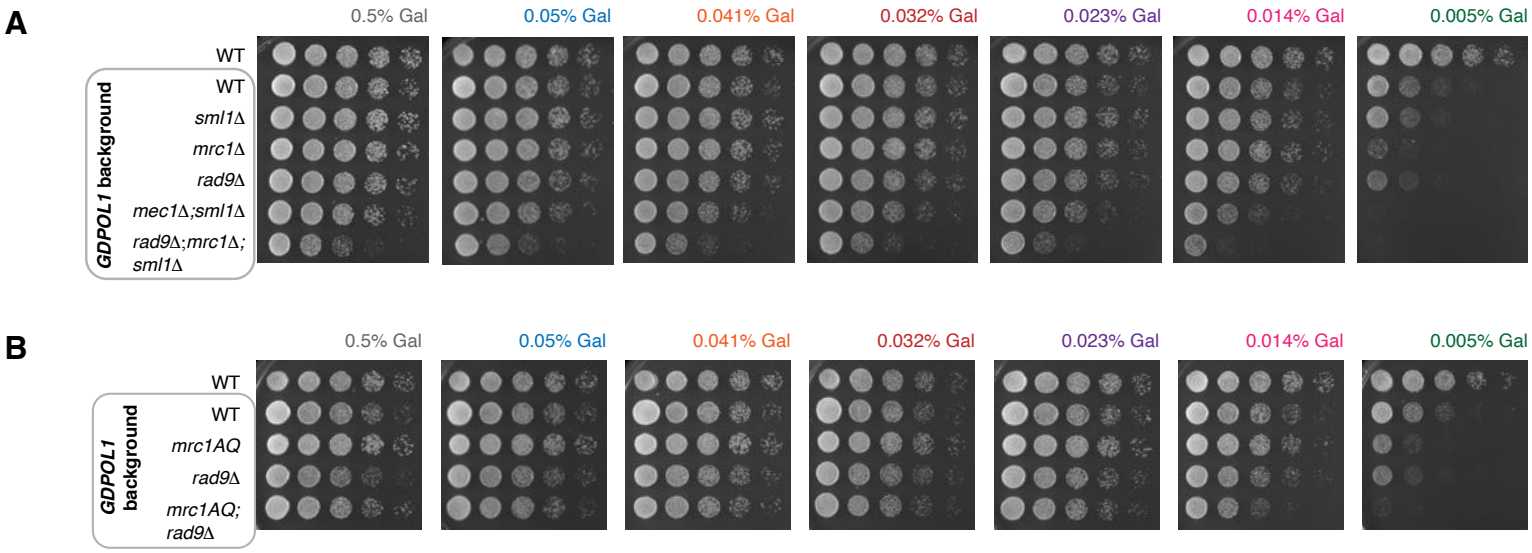
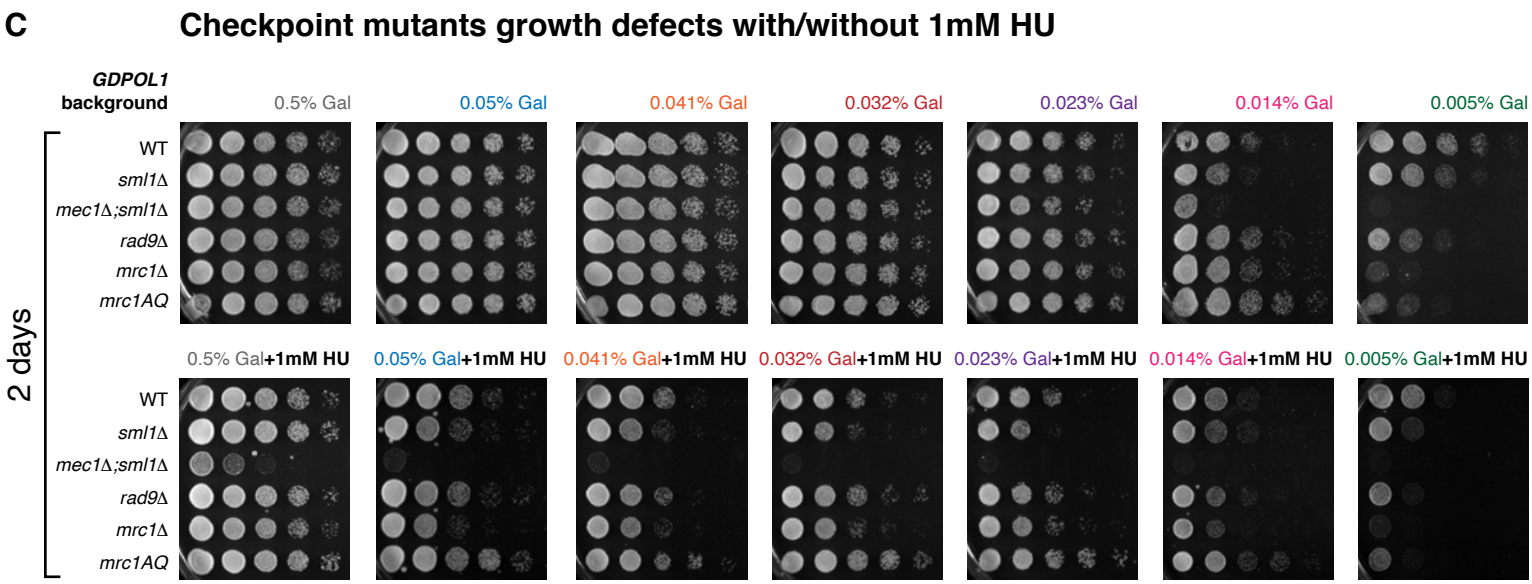
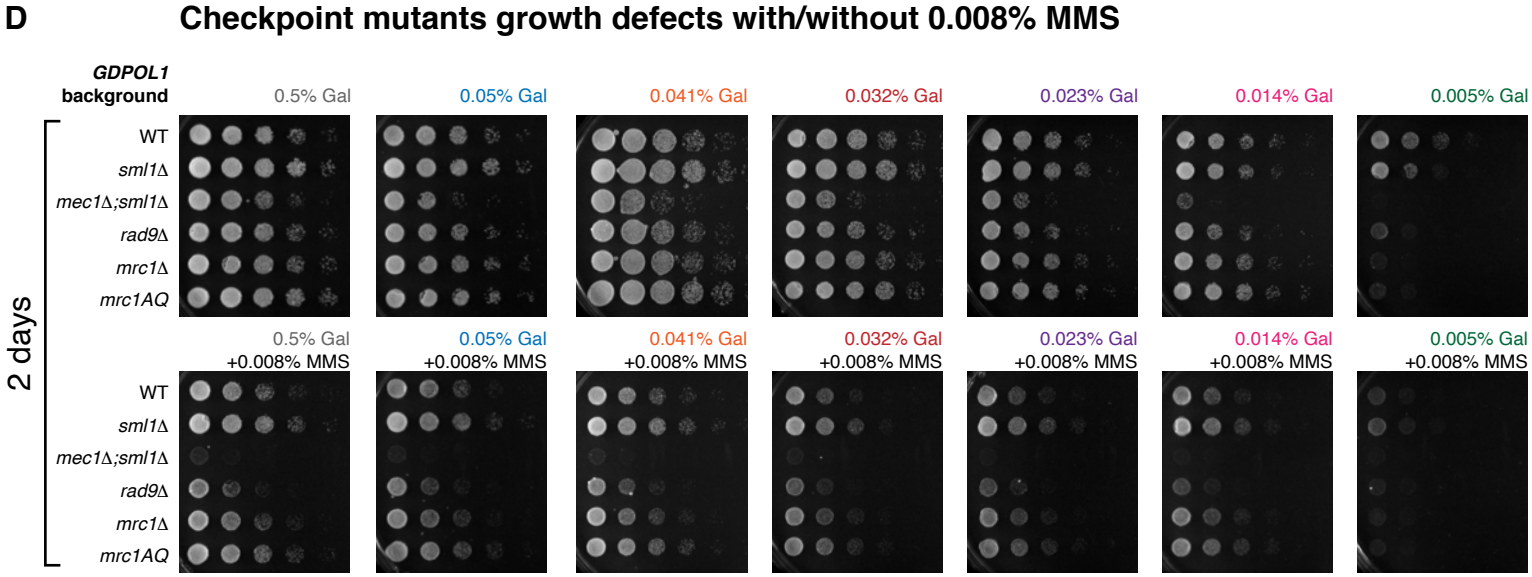


C. WT

OEMs separated by forkhead status



OEMs separated by timing



Porcella et al., Figure S8, associated with Figure 5