

# Genome-wide Consequences of Deleting Any Single Gene

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## SUMMARY

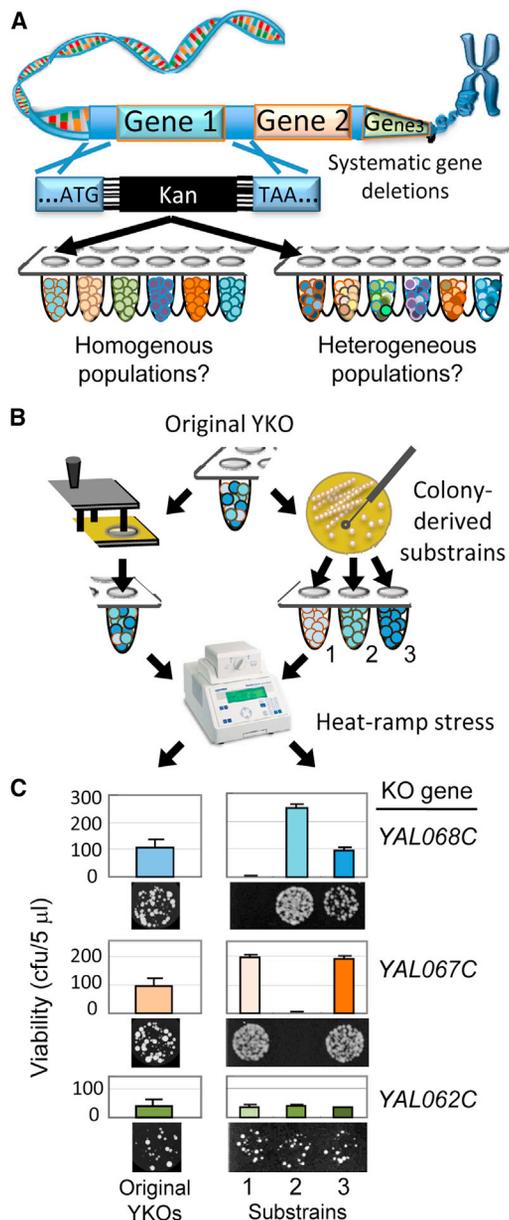
Loss or duplication of chromosome segments can lead to further genomic changes associated with cancer. However, it is not known whether only a select subset of genes is responsible for driving further changes. To determine whether perturbation of any given gene in a genome suffices to drive subsequent genetic changes, we analyzed the yeast knockout collection for secondary mutations of functional consequence. Unlike wild-type, most gene knockout strains were found to have one additional mutant gene affecting nutrient responses and/or heat-stress-induced cell death. Moreover, independent knockouts of the same gene often evolved mutations in the same secondary gene. Genome sequencing identified acquired mutations in several human tumor suppressor homologs. Thus, mutation of any single gene may cause a genomic imbalance, with consequences sufficient to drive adaptive genetic changes. This complicates genetic analyses but is a logical consequence of losing a functional unit originally acquired under pressure during evolution.

## INTRODUCTION

DNA copy number changes of whole chromosomes, chromosome segments, or individual genes can lead to further genomic changes that eventually facilitate beneficial adaptation of the species. However, this process is also thought to underlie cancer (Gordon et al., 2012; Tang and Amon, 2013). Presently, it is not known if a copy number change for all or only the few genes already identified is chiefly responsible for tumorigenesis and other genetic disorders. The phenomenon in which one genomic event leads to further genomic changes potentially extends to

knockout model organisms bearing single engineered gene deletions designed to gain new insight into gene function. If a functional mutation of any one gene in a genome will drive the selection for new mutations under normal conditions (without deliberately applied selection pressures), the phenotypes of knockout mice, flies, and yeast may not directly or fully reflect the deleted gene, potentially confounding interpretations. Yet, the full extent of compensatory changes and whether they are genetic or epigenetic is generally unknown. This effort is challenged by difficulties with distinguishing relevant changes from among a larger number of genetic polymorphisms and nongenetic events. These problems are magnified for larger genomes. Human genomics continues to reveal rare mutations unique to individuals and to subsets of cells within an individual (Abecasis et al., 2012). Further from our grasp is a comprehensive understanding of the relative contributions of cumulative genetic changes.

Individual cells from a presumed isogenic population of mammalian or yeast cells can exhibit distinct growth or death rates. Variant behaviors between sister cells can be attributed to stochastic fluctuations in protein expression levels, such as apoptosis mediators in HeLa cells, and yeast master control genes that drive fluctuations in expression of many other genes (Albeck et al., 2008; Levy et al., 2012; Newman et al., 2006; Spencer et al., 2009; Stewart-Ornstein et al., 2012). Consistent with epigenetic causes of cell-cell variation, predicted DNA mutation rates seem insufficient to explain the variant behaviors of two sister cells (Lynch et al., 2008; Qian et al., 2012). This does not, however, preclude the possibility that presumed isogenic cell populations have accumulated meaningful genetic differences between cells that are currently underappreciated. A basal error rate of  $10^{-9}$  per base pair per generation in yeast (corresponding to  $10^7$  mutations in 30 generations of exponential growth or 1 mutation/genome in every 100–200 divisions) quickly leads to every mutation in at least one genome in a large population (Lynch et al., 2008). This is consistent with clonal cell mosaicism in human development, in aging, and in cancer (Jacobs et al., 2012; Laurie et al., 2012; Liu et al., 2011). However,



**Figure 1. Heat-Ramp Stress Test Detects Phenotypic Variation within Knockout Strains**

(A) Potential heterogeneity within individual knockout strains in the yeast knockout (YKO) collection consisting of ~5,000 unique single-gene deletion strains in which nonessential genes were replaced with a bar-coded kanamycin resistance cassette.

(B) Original knockout strains (BY MATa) and their single-cell-derived substrains were heat stressed using a programmable thermocycler.

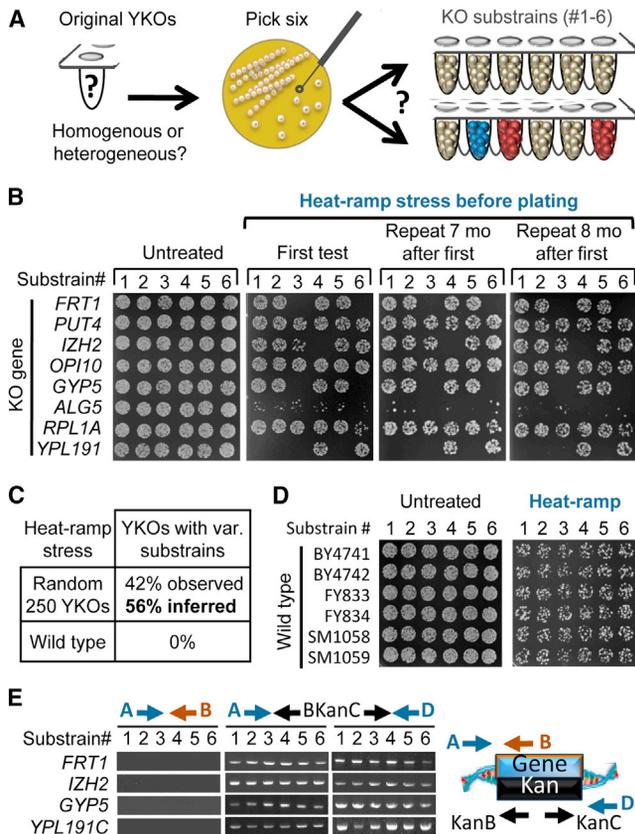
(C) Yeast viability was assessed as colony-forming units (cfu per 5  $\mu$ l starting concentration) following heat-ramp treatment. Data are presented as mean  $\pm$  SD for three independent experiments (all data generated are presented). See also Figure S1.

it can be challenging to pinpoint specific causal genetic differences between cells, despite increasingly powerful sequencing technologies (Zong et al., 2012). Furthermore, nongenetic causes of variant phenotypes can persist for several cell divi-

sions, and some perdure even through meiosis (Greer et al., 2011; Nakayama et al., 2000; Pillus and Rine, 1989; Wheeler et al., 2012), although genomes were not sequenced in this case.

Genome-wide knockout collections for *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* have 80%–95% of individual genes systematically deleted and replaced with a bar-coded antibiotic resistance cassette *KanMX* (Giaever et al., 2002) (Figure 1A). It was originally assumed that deletion strains lacking single nonessential genes would be largely genetically stable under standard laboratory conditions, as there are no obvious growth differences for 85% of single gene knockout strains (Giaever et al., 2002; Goebel and Petes, 1986). However, large genomic perturbations unlinked to the knockout gene were estimated to occur in ~8% of knockout strains of yeast, raising the possibility that genome perturbation is a consequence of engineered gene deletions (Hughes et al., 2000). Sensitive multiday competition assays detected small fitness defects in 45% of haploid yeast knockout (YKO) strains, suggesting that individual nonessential genes may be more important than previously assumed (Breslow et al., 2008; Hillenmeyer et al., 2008). If deletion of any nonessential gene has detectable consequences, as suggested by these sensitive fitness tests, then the disturbance caused by any gene knockout may also drive the selection for compensatory genetic alterations even without strong environmental pressures. Thus, just as environmental conditions can drive genome evolution (Barrick et al., 2009; Dettman et al., 2007; Gresham et al., 2008), genome evolution might also be inevitable following mutation or deletion of any single gene, given that genomes have been optimized to coexist under selection for millennia.

Although suppressor screens applying environmental selection pressures are fundamental tools in genetics, compensatory mutations that arise under normal conditions (without deliberate selection pressures) are rarely documented in knockout strains of mice or yeast (Cheng et al., 2008; Game et al., 2003; Lapinskas et al., 1995; Torres et al., 2010; Zheng et al., 2000). Thus, the impact on genome evolution in eukaryotes driven by genome-wide deletions of single genes has not been systematically explored. To determine the consequences of single gene deletions, we used the tractable yeast knockout collection and found that the majority of haploid knockout strains are phenotypically and genetically heterogeneous. Such heterogeneity is often dismissed as experimental variation, stochastic evolution, or erroneous anomalies, such as the pressures of kanamycin selection or the mechanics of knockout construction. However, we present evidence indicating that the loss of most individual genes in a genome results in a genomic imbalance capable of driving the selection for mutations. These mutations are not general survival mutations that occurred in wild-type, but instead appear to be tailored to the original knockout gene, as they often recur in an independent knockout of the same gene. Functionally similar secondary mutations are significantly more likely to recur in another knockout of the same gene than in any other gene knockout strain. If an analogous process exists in tumorigenesis, our findings predict that mutations rarely encountered in other patients drive the selection for prevalent cancer mutations. Unlike human tumors, the first mutation in yeast is known (the engineered knockout gene), facilitating efforts to connect first and evolved secondary mutations.



### Figure 2. Widespread Heterogeneity within Knockout Strains

(A) Six morphologically indistinguishable colonies from each of 250 randomly selected knockout strains (BY *MATa*) were archived as 1,500 substrains. (B) Example results of heat-ramp stress tests on colony-derived substrains from the 250 randomly selected YKOs before and after treatment in three independent experiments; first test was performed prior to freezing substrains. Colony counts differed significantly between substrains from BY *MATa* YKOs  $\Delta$ *ftr1*,  $\Delta$ *izh2*,  $\Delta$ *gyp5*,  $\Delta$ *rpl1A*, and  $\Delta$ *ypl191c* (ANOVA,  $p < 10^{-5}$ ). Variant  $\Delta$ *ypl191c* substrain #6 is an example of a false negative, as it was below the cutoff threshold (set to avoid false positives in this screen). (C) Summary of observed results from all experiments performed. Inferred proportion was estimated using a mathematical model. See Supplemental Experimental Procedures. (D) Wild-type substrains were analyzed as for knockout substrains in (B). (E) Example PCR genotyping results of variant substrains from (B). See also Figure S2, Tables S1 and S2, and Supplemental Experimental Procedures.

## RESULTS

### Heterogeneous Stress Responses within Knockout Strains

If deletion of any single gene is sufficient to impact genome evolution in the absence of deliberate selection pressures, then knockout strains may have become genetically heterogeneous (Figure 1A). To investigate this possibility, we developed a sensitive survival assay (heat-ramp delivered by a programmable thermocycler) to detect heterogeneous responses to stress within individual *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* knockout strains (Figure S1 available online) (Teng et al., 2011; Teng and Hardwick, 2013). The first three verified knockout strains listed in

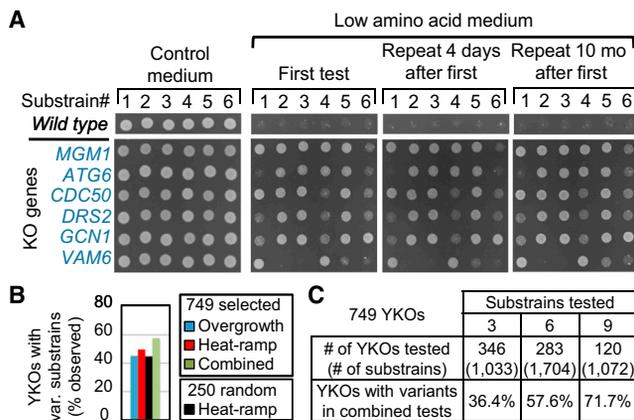
the BY *MATa* YKO collection were streaked onto agar plates, and three single-cell-derived colonies from each were grown in density-matched cultures and heat-ramp treated (Figure 1B). Viability (colony counts) varied greatly between colony-derived substrains for two of the three unique knockout strains (Figure 1C). These variant phenotypes were confirmed by retesting the same substrains, indicating biological rather than technical variation. This variation was masked when analyzing the corresponding (heterogeneous) parental strains (retrieved with a pin tool from the original frozen archive), which yielded a phenotype approximating the average of their substrains, except with larger standard deviations (Figures 1C and S1). In practice, variant phenotypes among clonal substrains are relatively common occurrences with yeast and mammals alike, which often can be avoided by using pooled subjects. However, this strategy is unreliable, as it may hide underlying genetic complexity (see below).

To estimate the frequency of heterogeneous knockout strains, a random number generator was used to select 250 unique knockout strains from the YKO collection (BY *MATa*). Six substrains derived from morphologically indistinguishable colonies of each were tested using the same heat-ramp stress test (Figures 2A and 2B). Again, we observed striking heterogeneity among substrains derived from the same original knockout strain. Of the 250 unique strains, 105 (42%) had at least one colony-derived substrain with strong phenotypic deviation (Table S1). Unlike stochastic fluctuations in gene expression, these variant phenotypes were remarkably reproducible when frozen stocks of the same six substrains were retested months later (Figure 2B). Substrain variation is not due to unequal starting cell numbers and was only revealed by applying stress, as the same substrain cultures were indistinguishable prior to treatment. By analyzing only six substrains, some heterogeneous YKO strains will be missed; therefore, a statistical model was applied, which estimates that 56% of all YKO strains contain 22%–78% variant cells (Figure 2C and Supplemental Experimental Procedures). In contrast to knockout strains, wild-type strains from different sources, including parental strains of the YKO collections, had no phenotypic variation among 26 colony-derived substrains tested per strain (Figures 2D and S2). Thus, the heritable variations within individual knockout strains appear to be stable cell-cell differences that arose as a consequence of the engineered knockout and prior to our tests.

PCR genotyping verified that variant phenotypes are not due to experimental mishaps or cross contamination between knockout strains. All 88 substrains (from 20 unique knockout strains), each tested with three primer sets to verify deletion of the correct gene and insertion junctions of the *KanMX* cassette, yielded the expected results without exception (Figure 2E and Table S2). A wide variety of other assays, such as spot sequencing of molecular barcodes has confirmed the identity of >95% of the YKOs in this collection (data not shown).

### Nutrient-Sensing Heterogeneity within Knockout Strains

The portion of knockout strains with heterogeneous memberships was likely underestimated by using a single assay to define variation. To address this caveat, we used a sensitive assay to



**Figure 3. Variant Growth Phenotypes of Knockout Strains in Low Amino Acids**

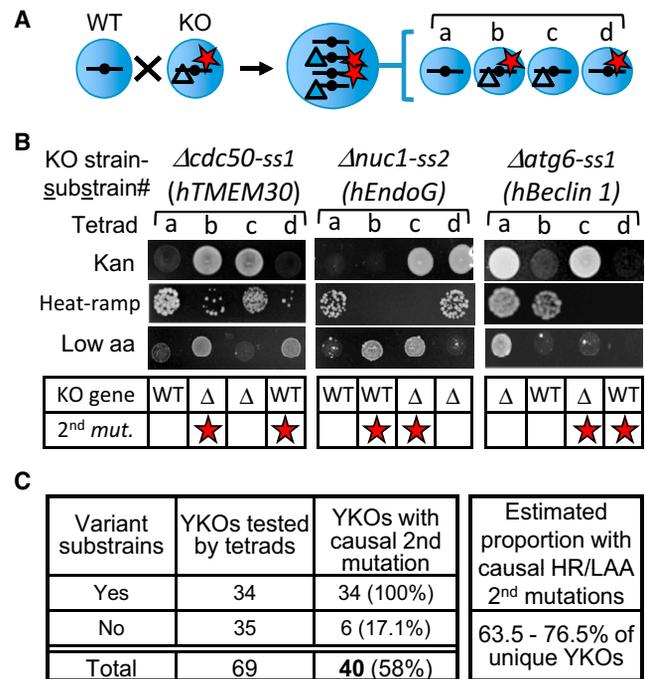
(A) Variant overgrowth phenotypes among substrains from example YKO strains in the 749 group (BY *MATa*, see Results) plated simultaneously on control ( $SCD_{CSH}$ ) and low amino acid media ( $SCD_{ME}$ ). The first test was performed before freezing substrain stocks.

(B) Percent (observed) of original YKO strains with at least one substrain among six tested with obvious variation for indicated phenotypes. Observed results from Figure 2C are plotted for direct comparison (black bar).

(C) Summary of results from heat-ramp stress and overgrowth assays for 3,809 substrains of the 749 original YKOs. Rationale for the number of substrains tested is found in Supplemental Experimental Procedures; groupings do not overlap and were grouped without regard to substrain variation. See also Tables S3 and S4.

detect strains possessing a growth advantage over wild-type when nutrients are reduced (Cheng et al., 2008). Overgrowth on low amino acid medium ( $SCD_{ME}$ , Table S3) is a characteristic of knockouts of the mitochondrial fission gene *FIS1* but is actually due to a secondary mutation in the *WHI2* gene (Cheng et al., 2008; Fannjiang et al., 2004). Therefore, we screened the entire YKO collection (4,847 BY *MATa* strains pinned from original frozen stocks) and identified 749 unique strains that overgrow, compared to wild-type, when plated on low amino acid medium without other stimuli. To assess the possibility of secondary mutations in these 749 YKOs, 3–9 colony-derived substrains from each (3,809 substrains) were tested for overgrowth, identifying 44.9% (testing 6 substrains each) with obvious substrain variation (Figure 3A and Table S4). Again, variant phenotypes were highly reproducible in subsequent tests, and this variation was detected neither on control medium spotted in parallel ( $SCD_{CSH}$ ) nor for wild-type on either medium (see also Figure 7A).

The same 3,809 substrains were simultaneously evaluated in the heat-ramp stress test, revealing variant substrains in 49.8% of the 749 YKOs (testing 6 substrains), only 7.8% higher than for the randomly selected YKO strains (Figure 3B). Both stress and growth phenotypes tended to co-occur, but not concordantly so, and 71.7% of YKOs had variant substrains in one or both types of assays when nine substrains were tested (Figure 3C). This frequency will still be underestimated if secondary mutations have become fixed in the population, thereby abolishing phenotype variation among substrains (see below).



**Figure 4. Prevalence of Partially or Fully Fixed Secondary Mutations in Knockout Populations**

(A) Diagram of a tetrad type in which the knockout ( $\Delta$ ) and second mutant gene (red star) segregate independently.

(B) Example results for tetrads (tetraploids) produced from substrains with second gene mutations affecting overgrowth and heat-stress phenotypes that segregate independently of the knockout locus conferring kanamycin resistance (Kan).

(C) Number of original knockouts (BY *MATa*) with or without variant substrains that have a second mutation responsible for heat-ramp-sensitive (HR) and low amino acid overgrowth (LAA) phenotypes based on tetrad analysis. Final frequency estimates: 17.1% of YKOs with invariant substrains plus the percent of YKOs with variant substrains from Figure 2 [(44% × 17.1%) + 56%] and Figure 3 [(28.3% × 17.1%) + 71.7%]. See also Table S5.

### Genetic Changes Explain Variant Phenotypes

To establish whether substrain variation is caused by genetic changes, backcrossing and tetrad analysis were used to allow secondary mutations to segregate independently from the knockout gene (Figure 4A). Heat-ramp and overgrowth phenotypes were determined for 10–20 validated tetrads for each of 69 YKO strains (BY *MATa* strains with available tetrads from all other lab projects irrespective of strain variation, including 65 of the 749 YKOs with overgrowth). As predicted, all of the YKOs with substrain variation (34 of 69 unique strains [49%], including 2 of 4 not from the 749 group) had a single unlinked secondary mutation (inferred by 2:2 segregation within tetrads), except four strains with two secondary mutations (independent mutations for heat-stress and overgrowth phenotypes) (Figure 4B and Table S5). Thus, the presence or absence of each phenotype genetically segregated with specific genetic loci distinct from the knockout. Tetrad analysis on parental wild-type strains failed to reveal any secondary mutations, although evolution of wild-type strains in culture has been documented (Lang et al., 2013; Zeyl, 2005).

While substrain variation reliably identified strains with secondary mutations, this strategy will miss those with secondary mutations that previously became fixed in the whole population. To estimate this proportion of knockout strains, tetrads were analyzed for the remaining 35 of 69 YKO strains that lacked variant substrains, revealing that 17.1% (including 1 not from the 749 group) have a fixed secondary mutation (Figure 4C and Table S5). This further increases the estimated proportion of knockout strains with meaningful secondary mutations from Figures 2C and 3C (Figure 4C). This is still likely an underestimate because only two types of assays were used and because some secondary mutations are masked. For example, overgrowth by autophagy-defective  $\Delta atg6$  is caused by loss of *ATG6* itself (human beclin 1 homolog), while the secondary mutation restores normal (slower) growth (Figure 4B). This secondary mutation, which lacks obvious benefit, was identified by sequencing the genomes of two substrains exhibiting the overgrowth-suppressor phenotype. Both had the same premature stop near the C terminus of *IRA1*, the yeast homolog of human tumor suppressor NF1 (neurofibromin) (Table S6, see Figure 6E).

### Knockout-Driven Parallel Evolution in Independent Strains

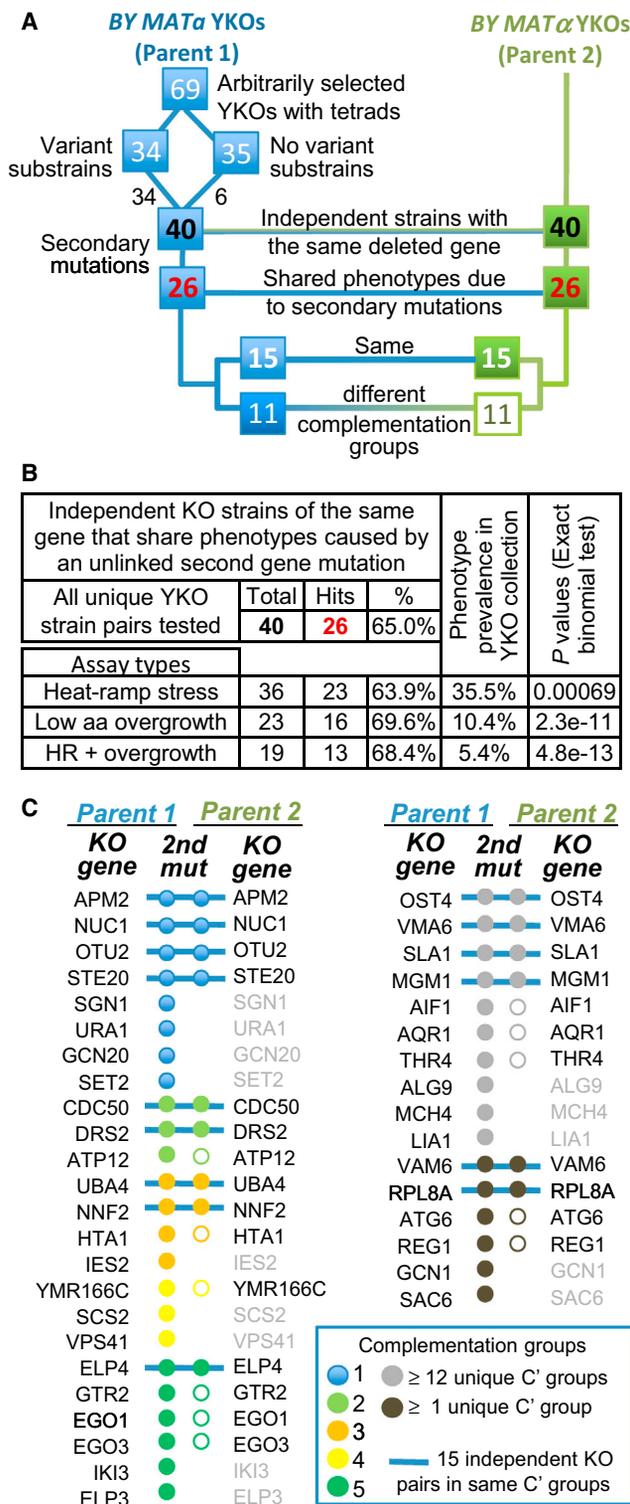
Unexpectedly, the tetrad analyses above revealed that heat sensitivity (with or without overgrowth phenotypes) was typically due to the secondary mutation rather than the knockout (Table S5). Although increased cell death may be a tradeoff for some other advantage, inconsequential passenger mutations can also become prominent in a cell population by chance. Therefore, we asked if the biological impact of losing any specific gene can drive specific secondary mutations. If the selection mechanism is specified by the gene deleted, then independently constructed knockouts lacking the same gene would be expected to evolve similarly. To explore this possibility, we analyzed a separate set of 46 independently constructed strain pairs lacking the same gene (*BY MATa* and *BY MAT $\alpha$*  YKO collections) and observed a significant correlation for the presence or absence of variant substrains using the heat-stress and overgrowth assays (Fisher's exact test,  $p = 0.00124$ ; Table S7). To provide more definitive evidence for parallel evolution, we took advantage of the tetrad analyses above, which distinguished the phenotypes due to knockout versus secondary mutations. Knowing the phenotypes caused by each secondary mutation, we asked if an independently constructed knockout has acquired the same phenotype. For the 40 YKO strains (*BY MATa*) with secondary mutations (from Figures 4C and 5A), we analyzed independently engineered knockout strains of the same 40 genes (*BY MAT $\alpha$* ). Of these, 26 had at least one substrain with phenotypes matching the corresponding secondary mutation (Figures 5B and 5C and Table S5). Based on the probability of finding these specific phenotypes (e.g., heat sensitive versus heat resistant) in the YKO collection, such co-occurrences are highly improbable by random chance (Figure 5B and Supplemental Experimental Procedures). Furthermore, these 26 knockouts are distributed across the genome and were constructed using different protocols in 11 different laboratories from 6 different countries, arguing against some types of systematic selection pressures (Table S5).

This analysis was extended to determine if two independent strains lacking the same KO gene have evolved mutations in the same secondary gene. This was assessed by genetic complementation assays (mating the two members of each pair) for the 26 paired YKO strains with matching secondary phenotypes (from Figure 5A). Remarkably, 15 of these 26 knockout pairs failed to complement, suggesting shared secondary mutant genes or mutations in genes coding for components of a functional complex (blue bars in Figure 5C, Table S5). Importantly, these 15 knockout strains (15 different KO genes, *BY MATa*) have secondary mutations in at least 10 different unlinked genes (see below). These findings indicate that the specific gene knockout was a critical factor in driving genome evolution (see Figure 7B).

### Knockout-Driven Evolution via Distinct Paths

While parallel evolution often occurred in strains bearing the same knockout gene (15 of 26 paired YKOs from Figure 5), the remaining 11 YKO pairs have apparently evolved by different paths to arrive at the same phenotypes (see Figure 7B). Similarly, we found that secondary mutations in two different genes explain the overgrowth phenotypes of four different *FIS1* knockout strains. Three of these four strains ( $\Delta fis1-d_1$  and  $\Delta fis1-d_2$  generated with *KanMX* insertion and G418 selection and  $\Delta fis1-d_3$  with *HIS3* selection) belong to the same complementation group and have evolved unique *WHI2* mutations (Cheng et al., 2008) (Figure S3). Whole-genome sequencing of the fourth *FIS1* knockout ( $\Delta fis1-d_4$ , with *URA3* selection) identified a nonsense mutation in *SIN3*, which encodes a conserved protein deacetylase that regulates transcription and promotes autophagy (Bartholomew et al., 2012; van Oevelen et al., 2008) (Figure S3, see also Figure 6E). A causal role for this *SIN3* mutation was confirmed by wild-type *SIN3* plasmid rescue, restoring normal (slower) growth rates on low amino acids (Figure S3).

In the converse situation, knockouts of different genes may evolve the same secondary mutant genes, resembling common tumor suppressor genes in cancer (see Figure 7C). To verify this event, we estimated the number of different secondary mutant genes that exist in the 40 YKO strains bearing secondary mutations (*BY MATa*, from Figure 5), using complementation assays and sequencing. Each strain was crossed with the others, revealing that 24 of 40 unique YKO strains (*BY MATa*) have secondary mutations belonging to only 5 complementation groups, indicative of convergent evolution (Figures 5C and S4). Furthermore, knockouts of different components of the same protein complexes (*Cdc50* and *Drs2*; *Elp3*, *Elp4*, and *Iki3/Elp1*; *Gtr2*, *Ego1/Meh1*, and *Ego3/Slm4*), all of which are encoded on different chromosomes (except *Elp3* and *Elp4*), have evolved mutations in the same complementation groups, indicating that loss of function was an important driver of secondary mutations. Of the 40 unique YKOs tested (*BY MATa*), 14 have at least 1 substrain exhibiting *whi2*-like phenotypes (strong overgrowth on low amino acids and sensitivity to heat-ramp-induced death), 8 of which are in the *whi2* complementation group (group 1 of Figure 5C, Table S6). DNA sequencing of the *WHI2* gene identified unique mutations in all 8 (deletions of *STE20*, *NUC1*, *APM2*, *OTU2*, *GCN20*, *SET2*, *URA1*, and *SGN1*), demonstrating independent evolution (Figures 6A–6C and S3B). *WHI2* mutations



**Figure 5. Recurrent Secondary Mutant Genes Indicate Knockout-Driven Selection**

(A) Flow chart for the 40 pairs of independent knockout strains tested by complementation.

(B) Frequency of knockout strain pairs with the same deleted gene in which both strains (BY *MATα* and BY *MATα*) have substrains bearing the same

were not found in substrains lacking *whi2*-like phenotypes or in the sequenced genomes of four wild-type parental strains (Supplemental Experimental Procedures).

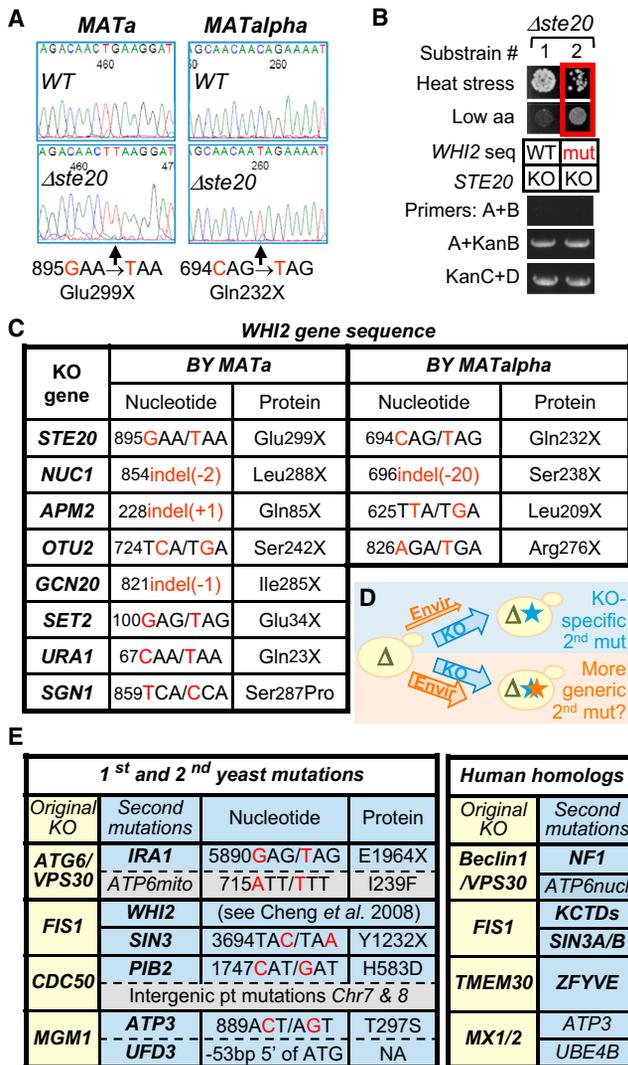
This conglomerate of eight different gene knockouts harboring secondary *WHI2* mutations suggests that environmental pressures have contributed to genome evolution, such as depletion of amino acids during normal culturing. While this is likely an important factor, a role for these specific genes, when deleted, in driving the selection for *WHI2* mutations is supported by analysis of independently derived knockouts of the same eight genes (BY *MATα*). Independent knockouts of four of these eight have acquired additional unique *WHI2* mutations (Figure 6C), verifying complementation tests (Figure 5C). Thus, the probability of a *WHI2* mutation occurring in a knockout of the same gene (50% in this case) is much greater than the frequency of *WHI2* mutations in knockouts of different genes (estimated as 2.9% per strain). Under comparable environmental conditions, loss of each specific gene function applies unique pressures, driving the selection for new mutations such that the selection coefficient over wild-type is greater than currently appreciated under normal laboratory growth conditions (Figure 6D).

#### Potential Correlations in Human Tumors

Mutations in a limited number of human genes (estimated as 138 tumor suppressors and oncogenes) are suggested to explain the prominent phenotypes of almost all human cancers (Vogelstein et al., 2013). Cancer mutations are generally thought to arise through a progression of clonal cell expansions following advantageous mutations, though few such paths have been delineated, and these are primarily drug-resistance mechanisms. The prospects of identifying potentially prognostic early mutations would be of obvious utility, but the task of identifying these mutations, if such predrivers exist, faces many challenges, including the difficulty of discerning relevant rare mutations from passengers. Extrapolating from yeast survival and growth pathways to the niches of human tumors is also highly uncertain. Nevertheless, we interrogated the available cancer genome database for possible co-occurrences of mutations in human genes homologous to co-occurring mutations found in our sequenced yeast strains (BY *MATα* deletion strains of *ATG6*, *FIS1*, *CDC50*, and *MGM1*) (Figures 6E and S3 and Table S6). Although mutations in human *TMEM30A* (*CDC50*) are rare, they tend to co-occur with mutations in human *ZFYVE16*

phenotype constellations known to be caused by a secondary mutation (from Figure 4).

(C) Summary of complementation tests (analysis of diploids after mating substrains with the indicated BY *MATα* and BY *MATα* YKOs). Of the 40 YKO pairs with secondary mutations, both partners of 26 pairs share the same secondary phenotypes (black gene names for Parent 2), 15 of which contain secondary mutations in the same gene or complementation group (blue bars), while the remaining 11 define 2 different complementation groups (open circles). Complementation groups shared by >1 BY *MATα* strain are color coded as brightly colored solid circles; secondary mutations in unique complementation groups among all BY *MATα* strains or that are shared only by their corresponding *MATα* strain are shown as solid gray circles; and overgrowth-suppressor phenotypes not testable by complementation between unique *MATα* strains are shown as filled black circles. See also Figure S4, Table S5, Table S6, and Supplemental Experimental Procedures.



**Figure 6. Knockout-Driven Evolution by the Same and Different Paths**

(A) Example DNA sequence chromatograms of independently acquired secondary mutations in *WHI2* in each of two independently constructed knockout strains of *STE20*.

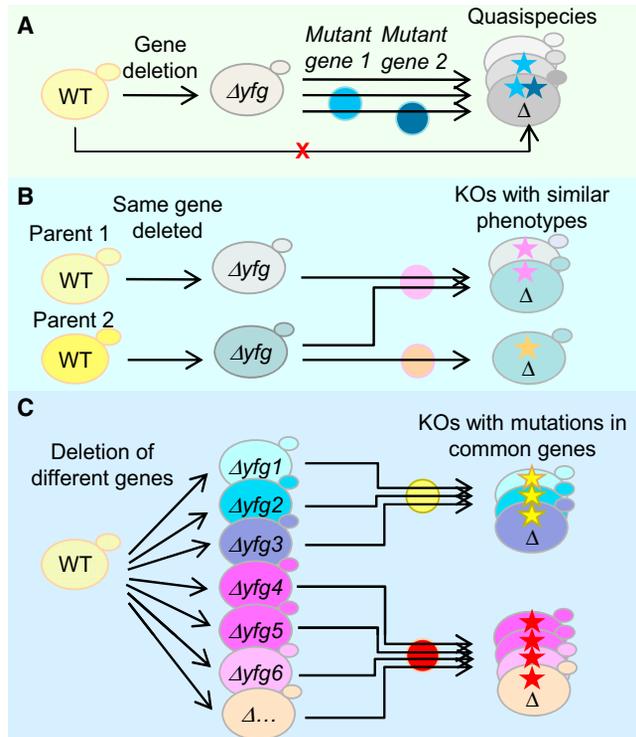
(B) Demonstration that the secondary mutant gene and corresponding phenotypes segregate independently from the knockout locus in knockout substrains.

(C) DNA sequence results for strains with *WHI2* mutations.

(D) Model depicting influences of gene deletion versus environmental conditions on genome evolution.

(E) Identification of secondary mutations by whole-genome sequencing. All mutations unique to the two phenotypically similar spore-derived substrains are shown. Additional intergenic mutations and a mutation in mitochondria-encoded *ATP6*, which is not expected to segregate 2:2 in tetrads, are unlikely to be of consequence. Presumed passenger mutations identified by genome sequencing are summarized in Table S6.

(*PIB2*) in colon cancer and uterine carcinomas ( $p = 0.000124$  and  $p = 0.000316$ , respectively, Fisher's exact test; Figure S5), but not in other tumor types (Cerami et al., 2012). Although no significant co-occurrences were found between the autophagy factor



**Figure 7. Model of Genome Evolution Driven by Gene Mutation**

(A) Most yeast knockout strains are quasispecies harboring prevalent additional mutations.

(B) Though there are potentially several evolutionary paths to compensate for the loss of any one gene, independently constructed knockouts of the same gene tend to evolve similar phenotypes, often by acquiring secondary mutations in the same gene (parallel evolution), indicating a selection process driven by the specific knockout.

(C) Deletion of different genes can drive the selection of mutations in the same genes.

beclin 1 (*ATG6*) and the tumor suppressor *NF1* (*IRA1*, a negative regulator of Ras signaling), cooperating mutations that co-occur with *NF1* mutations have been identified in neurofibromatosis patients with aggressive malignancies (Mo et al., 2013). Co-occurrences in tumors of mutations in *MX2* (*MGM1*) with *UBE4B* (*UFD2*) and *FIS1* (*FIS1*) with *SIN3A/SIN3B* (*SIN3*) were also significant (Figures 6E and S5).

Mutations in yeast *WHI2* were the most common secondary mutations, arising in several different knockout strains. Although *WHI2* is reported to be a fungal-specific gene, our HMM-Pred search readily identified mammalian KCTD (potassium channel tetramerization domain) family proteins as sequence homologs (common ancestor) of the yeast *Whi2* protein (probability 98.6, E value  $5.1 \times 10^{-8}$ ,  $p = 8.2 \times 10^{-13}$ ) (Figure S6). This analysis was aided by the presence of a BTB (bric-a-brac, tramtrak, and broad complex) domain in a solved three-dimensional (3D) structure of KCTD5 (Dementieva et al., 2009). Although the 25 human KCTD family proteins are understudied or unstudied, several have been linked to human cancers, most notably KCTD11/*Ren*, a reported tumor suppressor in medulloblastoma (Ferretti et al., 2005). KCTD11 is encoded near *TP53* and is

frequently deleted upon *TP53* loss of heterozygosity. However, loss of a single copy of *KCTD11* alone is sufficient to contribute importantly to tumorigenesis based on a mouse model of haploinsufficiency (Scuoppo et al., 2012). Yeast *SET2* is one of the eight gene knockouts with a secondary *WHI2* mutation (Figure 5C). Mutations in several human *KCTD* (*WHI2*) family members were found to co-occur in sequenced tumors with mutations in human *SETD2* (*SET2*), which is among the 138 human cancer genes,  $p \leq 1.5 \times 10^{-5}$  (Figure S5).

## DISCUSSION

Any perturbation of a genome may drive genome evolution in a predictable manner. This model is strongly supported by our observation of parallel evolution in yeast, where independently constructed knockouts of the same gene evolve mutations in the same second gene or complementation group (Figure 7). Thus, an important driver of secondary mutations is the original loss-of-function mutation, such that deletion of nearly any gene may apply selection pressure specific to the function of each of the ~4,800 different nonessential genes. A prediction of this model is that the majority of single-gene-deletion strains of yeast and other species have acquired meaningful secondary mutations. Thus, much of the contempt directed at the yeast knockout collections for presumed technical mishaps or passage history may be partially attributed to natural consequences of deleting a functional gene from a modern genome, which has arrived at its current composition of interacting genes after millions of years of optimization. We applied two assays designed to detect two critical selection criteria, avoidance of cell death and the ability to grow by ignoring signals that warn of impending nutrient depletion. Although potentially counterintuitive, but consistent with tumor biology, many secondary mutations increased, rather than decreased, sensitivity to cell death. Mutations identified by these strategies likely represent only a portion of the entire repertoire. The pervasiveness of meaningful secondary mutations in the yeast knockout collections complicates genetic epistasis analyses (which presumes isogenic strains) and encourages further scrutiny when attributing cell-cell differences (any species) to epigenetic or stochastic phenomena. Conversely, secondary mutations may be redeeming if they serve to rescue compromised mutants such as  $\Delta fis1$  without interfering with the study of mitochondrial fission. These findings also provide insight into genome malleability that may enable the delineation of evolutionary paths that possibly occur during tumorigenesis.

The mechanics of deleting a gene, rather than the biological impact of gene deletion, are widely thought to transiently increase mutation rates that tamper with genome integrity, though without direct evidence (Supplemental Methods of Giaever et al., 2002). However, normal basal mutation frequencies provide ample opportunity to accumulate random mutations that dwarf potential experimentally induced boosts in mutagenesis (Boer et al., 2008; Dunham et al., 2002; Gresham et al., 2008). Another argument against transformation-related mutagenesis in the YKO collections is the single-cell bottleneck. If the secondary mutation came from engineering artifacts and happened to be in the spore that made the haploid knockout, then these mutations would be fixed in the population. A similar argument applies

to YKOs constructed by direct transformation of haploids that also originated from single colonies. Because most YKO strains are heterogeneous quasispecies, the key secondary mutations presumably arose after formation of the KO genome. However, the 17% of YKOs with fixed secondary mutations potentially could have acquired a rare preexisting mutation from wild-type and was selected among the first knockout transformants for its compensatory function. Further passaging without clonal purification (e.g., the YKO collections) can lead to stochastic sweeps of secondary mutations by 200 or more replication cycles, even in wild-type strains (Lang et al., 2013). Anecdotally, we did not observe variant cell growth and death behaviors among 30 colony-derived substrains in a wild-type (BY4741) passaged continuously for 1–2 years (>200 replication cycles), despite an age-dependent decline in viability. However, we assume that the wild-type strains used here, which in fact have engineered gene deletions (auxotrophic markers), have also undergone compensatory evolution as a consequence of these deletions to reach their current, more stable genomic state.

Other factors (besides the gene knockout) may also influence the acquisition of new mutations in knockout strains. Any mutations that impair cell growth may select new mutations for improved growth rates. Indeed, strains with compensatory secondary mutations tended to have better reported growth rates (Breslow et al., 2008), though not significantly better (Tables S1 and S5). *WHI2* secondary mutations were the most common encountered, yet  $\Delta whi2$  itself has particularly slow growth (in rich medium) (Breslow et al., 2008) and is particularly prone to cell death induced by a range of stimuli (Cheng et al., 2008; Ivanovska and Hardwick, 2005). Even though nutrient depletion is an important driver of the overgrowth phenotype, secondary mutations in *WHI2*, *SIN3*, or *PIB2* arose in only a small fraction of knockout strains engineered by the same research teams. The evidence presented supports the model that perhaps any functionally relevant mutation is sufficient to drive genome evolution resulting in the selection for new adaptive mutations even in relatively normal environments.

## EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES

### Clonal Substrains

Strains from the yeast knockout (YKO) collections were obtained from frozen glycerol stocks without thawing, streaked onto YPD agar plates, and incubated at 30°C for 2 days. Morphologically indistinguishable colonies were picked for each YKO strain, inoculated into 200  $\mu$ l liquid YPD in 96-well format, incubated at 30°C for 48 hr, and frozen with glycerol as archived clonally derived substrain collections. All data generated are presented throughout.

### Yeast Strains and Plasmids

Haploid YKO strains derived from BY *MAT $\alpha$*  (Brachmann et al., 1998) were originally obtained from Research Genetics, replicated once onto YPD, allowed to grow at 30°C for several days, and stored as glycerol stocks at –80°C without thawing. BY *MAT $\alpha$*  YKO strains were obtained from R. Rao (Johns Hopkins) and D. Lew (Duke University). Substrains used in this study are listed in Tables S1, S2, S4, S5, and S7; other strains and genotypes are listed in Supplemental Experimental Procedures. The *SIN3* expression plasmid was provided by David Stillman (University of Utah), and the *WHI2* plasmid with native promoter was previously reported (Cheng et al., 2008). The *IRA1* expression vector is from the Molecular Barcoded Yeast ORF (MoBY) library (Open Biosystems). *PIB2* expression plasmids were generated by

inserting PCR-amplified coding sequences into the BglII site of pBQ23, a *PGK-URA3* plasmid, and verified by direct sequencing.

### Heat-Ramp Stress Test

Clonal substrains from fresh colonies (first test) were grown to saturation in 200  $\mu$ l liquid YPD cultures at 30°C for 48 hr. Frozen stocks of the same sub-strains (tests 2 and 3) and archived original knockout and wild-type strains were pinned from frozen stocks onto YPD agar plates. After 2 days incubation, yeast were pinned into 200  $\mu$ l liquid YPD and grown at 30°C for 48 hr. Saturated 48 hr cultures were diluted 10-fold in YPD, and 100  $\mu$ l of diluted cultures were immediately heat treated in a thermocycler (Mastercycler, Eppendorf) programmed to ramp the temperature from 30°C to 62°C (or 61°C for diploids) over 20 min and returned to ambient temperature (Teng and Hardwick, 2013). Treated cultures (5  $\mu$ l) were spotted onto YPD agar plates and incubated at 30°C for 2 days or enumerated by automation for <24 hr (Teng et al., 2011). For untreated controls, the same saturated 48 hr cultures were diluted 5,000-fold (1:500 relative to treated) in sterile double-distilled water (ddH<sub>2</sub>O), and 5  $\mu$ l of the diluted cultures were spotted onto YPD agar plates for 2 days at 30°C.

### Low Amino Acid Overgrowth Assay

Genome-wide screening for growth on low amino acid medium (SCD<sub>ME</sub>) was performed by pinning the original YKO strains and wild-type strains from frozen stocks onto YPD agar plates and then growing them to saturation in liquid YPD at 30°C for 48 hr. Saturated 48 hr cultures (5  $\mu$ l) were diluted 50-fold in sterile ddH<sub>2</sub>O, spotted onto agar plates, and allowed to grow into buttons by incubating at 30°C for 2 days on control SCD<sub>CSH</sub> (Burke et al., 2000) and 3 days on low amino acid SCD<sub>ME</sub> (Sherman, 2002), which contains 25% reduced amino acid levels (molar), primarily due to lower leucine levels (Table S3) (Cheng et al., 2008). No other conditions were applied.

### PCR Genotyping

Primer sequences for each unique knockout strain were as reported for the *Saccharomyces* genome deletion project ([http://www-sequence.stanford.edu/group/yeast\\_deletion\\_project/](http://www-sequence.stanford.edu/group/yeast_deletion_project/)).

### Tetrad Analysis

Colony-derived substrains of YKO strains (*MATa* BY4741) were mated to wild-type (*MAT $\alpha$*  BY4742), and resulting heterozygous diploids were sporulated. Spores from 10–20 tetrads per substrain were validated using auxotrophic markers *LYS2* and *MET15*, mating types, and *KanMX* cassette and subsequently analyzed for heat-stress and low amino acid overgrowth phenotypes. For the 34 YKO strains with variant substrains (Figure 4C), if the phenotype of the first substrain tested by tetrad analysis was found to segregate with the knockout gene, then a second substrain with the alternate phenotype was tested. Either the first or second substrain always identified a secondary mutation.

### Complementation Tests

Colony-derived substrains from the BY *MATa* collection were mated with either BY *MAT $\alpha$*  (BY4742) strains deleted of the same gene or *MAT $\alpha$*  ascospore segregants generated from BY *MATa* substrains (*MAT $\alpha$*  *his3 $\Delta$ 1 leu2 $\Delta$ 0 lys2 $\Delta$ 0 ura3 $\Delta$ 0*; see Supplemental Experimental Procedures) bearing the secondary mutations from wild-type backcrosses (Figure 4). Two or three diploids from each cross were subsequently analyzed for heat stress and low amino acid overgrowth phenotypes.

### Whole-Genome Sequencing

For each knockout strain, two spore-derived strains generated from characterized substrains with secondary mutations were analyzed by whole-genome sequencing, and all mutation(s) shared only by both sequenced strains are listed in Figure 6E. Sequencing was performed at the Next Generation Sequencing Center, Johns Hopkins Oncology Center, or by high-density tiling array for *Δfis1-d<sub>4</sub>*, as described (Cheng et al., 2008; Gresham et al., 2008), and confirmed by direct sequencing of PCR products. Statistical correlations with human cancer genomes were obtained at <http://www.cbioportal.org/public-portal/index.do>.

### ACCESSION NUMBERS

Read data for whole-genome sequencing are publicly available at NCBI under SRA accession number SRP030480, BioProject ID number PRJNA221721.

### SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Supplemental Information includes Supplemental Experimental Procedures, six figures, and seven tables and can be found with this article online at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.molcel.2013.09.026>.

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