

1 **Single Nucleotide Mapping of the Locally Accessible Trait Space in** 2 **Yeast Reveals Pareto Fronts that Constrain Initial Adaptation**

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4

5 **Abstract**

6 Tradeoffs constrain the improvement of performance of multiple traits simultaneously. Such
7 tradeoffs define Pareto fronts, which represent a set of optimal individuals that cannot be
8 improved in any one trait without reducing performance in another. Surprisingly, experimental
9 evolution often yields genotypes with improved performance in all measured traits, perhaps
10 indicating an absence of tradeoffs at least in the short-term. Here we densely sample adaptive
11 mutations in *S. cerevisiae* to ask whether first-step adaptive mutations result in tradeoffs during
12 the growth cycle. We isolated thousands of adaptive clones evolved under carefully chosen
13 conditions and quantified their performances in each part of the growth cycle. We too find that
14 some first-step adaptive mutations can improve all traits to a modest extent. However, our
15 dense sampling allowed us to identify tradeoffs and establish the existence of Pareto fronts
16 between fermentation and respiration, and between respiration and stationary phases.
17 Moreover, we establish that no single mutation in the ancestral genome can circumvent the
18 detected tradeoffs. Finally, we sequenced hundreds of these adaptive clones, revealing novel
19 targets of adaptation and defining the genetic basis of the identified tradeoffs.

20

21 **Introduction**

22 That gain must ultimately be associated with some cost is a fundamental premise in fields
23 spanning economics, engineering, and biology. Biology in particular has a rich tradition of both
24 alluding to and attempting to define tradeoffs: here tradeoffs imply that a part of trait space is not
25 accessible by evolution, such that, within a defined period of time, a lineage cannot evolve
26 improved performance of two or more traits simultaneously above some threshold. Such
27 evolutionary tradeoffs have been suggested by various biological phenomena - for instance,
28 organisms with high fecundity tend to have a short lifespan¹⁻³ and organisms with large eggs
29 tend to lay fewer of them^{4,5}.

30
31 Despite the plethora of such examples of negative correlations between specific traits, such
32 correlations alone are insufficient to demonstrate the existence of tradeoffs. Indeed, many
33 alternative explanations exist. For instance, consider an environment in which only one trait is
34 under selection while a second is not. Over evolutionary time, performance in the first trait is
35 likely to increase while performance of the second is likely to decrease due to the accumulation
36 of damaging mutations in the absence of purifying selection^{6,7}. At the same time, a reciprocal
37 relationship may be observed in an alternative environment if the second trait is subject to
38 selection and the first one is not. This will lead to a negative correlation between performances
39 of the two traits. However, it is entirely possible that mutations that improve both traits do exist,
40 but they are not particularly common and not particularly advantageous in either of the
41 environments. Additional explanations, such as sexual selection driving some traits to seemingly
42 suboptimal states⁸, or current selective pressures not corresponding to the way natural selection
43 acted in the past might also lead to negative correlations among traits in the absence of
44 tradeoffs. In short, negative correlation in performance between two traits is expected in the
45 presence of tradeoffs but in and of itself is not sufficiently strong evidence for the existence of
46 tradeoffs.

47
48 Consider an organism with two traits under selection (Fig. 1a): its trait-fitness space is two-
49 dimensional, with each axis representing performance for one of the traits. If a tradeoff exists
50 between the two traits, for every biologically possible value of trait 1, the best value for trait 2
51 performance will be constrained by trait 1, generating a Pareto optimality front (or Pareto front)⁹.
52 Such a Pareto front not only represents the set of optimal trait combinations, but also separates
53 the “accessible” from the “inaccessible” trait space. For individuals on the Pareto front (green
54 dots in Fig. 1a), the existence of tradeoffs can be demonstrated straightforwardly: increasing the

55 performance for one trait will inevitably decrease performance for another. By contrast,
56 individuals behind the Pareto front (the black dot in Fig. 1a) are able to improve performance in
57 both traits simultaneously. It is generally assumed that organisms should be located on or near
58 a “long-term” Pareto front as they are products of very long term evolution^{1,2,5,9–12}. Surprisingly,
59 results from experimental evolution often demonstrate the improvement of multiple traits
60 simultaneously, suggesting that at least for the conditions and traits tested, the ancestor does
61 not lie on a Pareto front^{13–19}. However, it is important to appreciate that it is possible for an
62 individual to be on a higher dimensional Pareto front, defined by multiple traits, but when
63 measuring only a subset of the traits, the organism will appear to be behind the front (Fig. 1b).
64 In this case, improvement in performance in the subset of traits must come at the cost of
65 performance in the additional, unmeasured, traits that contribute to the higher dimensional front.

66

67 The Pareto front is typically thought of as being defined by physical, structural, or physiological
68 constraints. However, the Pareto front may also be defined by genetic constraints, such that the
69 space above the front might be locally inaccessible in the short-term due to the rarity of specific
70 genetic changes required to reach that region of trait space. For example, if the “inaccessible”
71 part of trait space requires the system to move through a fitness valley the system might remain
72 at the ‘Pareto front’ at least in the short term. The transition into the locally inaccessible part of
73 the space would then be seen as a true evolutionary innovation that shifts the Pareto front to a
74 new location. The Pareto front is thus defined both by the timescale of evolution and the
75 physiological or structural relationships among the traits.

76

77 To explore whether even the first step of adaptation can reveal evolutionary constraints in the
78 form of Pareto fronts, one needs to sample a large number of adaptive mutants selected for
79 multiple traits under a range of conditions and then precisely measure their performance along
80 each trait axis (Fig. 1c,d). Pareto fronts, if present, can then be inferred by an absence of
81 mutants able to maximize both traits simultaneously (the large red dot in Fig. 1a,c). If the first
82 step mutations can reach the short-term Pareto optimality front and if the density of sampling is
83 such that any adaptive single-step mutant that would land beyond the defined front would have
84 been detected with high likelihood, then a short-term Pareto front will have been demonstrated.

85

86 Here we set out to investigate the existence of Pareto fronts among multiple traits, by evolving
87 barcoded yeast populations under a number of carefully chosen conditions, selecting for
88 improved performance in different phases of the yeast growth cycle, including fermentation,

89 respiration, and stationary phases. We isolated ~500 independent adaptive clones most of
90 which carry a single beneficial mutation. We found that a number of adaptive clones improved
91 all three measured performances to a modest extent without apparent tradeoffs, indicating that
92 the ancestor cannot be located on a Pareto front for the measured traits. However, no adaptive
93 clones were able to maximize performance in some pairs of traits. We were able to delineate
94 apparent short-term Pareto fronts between fermentation and respiration as well as between
95 respiration and stationary phases, but not between fermentation and stationary phase
96 performances. Importantly, due to a large number of sampled and tested clones we could assert
97 that no single point mutation in the yeast genome can improve the performance substantially
98 beyond either of the two defined Pareto fronts. Finally, by sequencing hundreds of adaptive
99 clones, we identified the genetic basis underlying the identified tradeoffs and revealed novel
100 targets of adaptation.

101

102 **Results**

103 **Experimental System and Isolation of Evolved Clones**

104 When yeast cells grow in conditions with a fermentable carbon source, such as glucose used in
105 this study, they go through a sequence of growth phases: (i) lag phase, where cells acclimate to
106 the medium, with no cell division; (ii) fermentation, where cells divide exponentially by
107 converting glucose into ethanol; (iii) respiration, where glucose is exhausted and cells divide
108 slowly by consuming the ethanol produced during fermentation; and (iv) stationary/starvation
109 phase, where cells cease growth because readily-available carbon has been depleted from the
110 medium (Fig. 2a).

111

112 To isolate adaptive clones with improved performances in fermentation, respiration, and/or
113 stationary phase (or combinations thereof) we propagated barcoded haploid yeast populations
114 under four serial transfer conditions having differing cycle lengths: 1) 1-day (referred to as
115 Evo1D below) including 4h lag, 16h fermentation, and 4h respiration; 2) 2-day (Evo2D,
116 conducted in Levy, Blundell *et al*²⁰) including additional 24h respiration; 3) 5-day (Evo5D)
117 including a further 12h respiration and 60h stationary phase; and 4) alternating 1-day and 5-day
118 transfer (Evo1/5D) (Fig. 2a). We used barcode trajectories to determine that cell cultures in
119 cycle 11 contained a high proportion of diverse adaptive clones. Furthermore, our previous
120 analysis indicated that at this time point most adaptive clones would contain only a single
121 adaptive mutation²⁰. Subsequent sequencing of individual clones (Venkataram, Dunn *et al*²¹ and
122 see below) confirmed this supposition.

123

124 We isolated clones from cycle 11 for subsequent analysis. Specifically, from Evo1D, Evo2D,
125 Evo5D, and Evo1/5D we isolated respectively 120, 3048 (isolated in Venkataram, Dunn *et al*²¹),
126 157, and 384 distinct evolved clones carrying unique barcodes. We previously found that ~50%
127 of clones isolated from Evo2D had self-diploidized during the course of evolution²¹ and were
128 beneficial across all fitness measurement conditions²². We therefore assayed the ploidy of
129 newly isolated clones, and observed 43%, 45%, and 14% diploids among clones isolated from
130 Evo1D, Evo5D, and Evo1/5D, respectively.

131

132 We measured the fitness of all isolated clones in 1-day (Fit1D), 2-day (Fit2D), 3-day (Fit3D) and
133 5-day (Fit5D) serial transfer conditions (Fig. 2b, clones from Evo2D were measured in Li,
134 Venkataram *et al*²²) using the method developed in Venkataram, Dunn *et al*²¹. For each clone,
135 we therefore have its fitness in the “home” condition (except for Evo1/5D clones), as well as the
136 “away” conditions. Note that one condition (Fit3D) was not used as an evolutionary condition but
137 instead was important for evaluating stationary phase performance. Below we use these values
138 to investigate patterns of local adaptation and to estimate performance of each clone in
139 fermentation, respiration, and stationary phases. Using the fitness and ploidy measurements,
140 we identified 66, 144, 58, and 132 adaptive haploids and 4, 40, 57, and 6 high-fitness diploids
141 (assumed to have additional beneficial mutations besides diploidy) from Evo1D, Evo2D, Evo5D,
142 and Evo1/5D, respectively. We refer to these adaptive haploids and high-fitness diploids
143 collectively as adaptive clones.

144

145 **Local Adaptation Results from Performance Differences in Different Growth Phases**

146 We observed a large range of fitness both in the “home” and “away” environments (Fig. 2c). For
147 example, the fitness of all adaptive clones varied from -0.35 to +2.2 per growth cycle in Fit5D,
148 suggesting multiple adaptive strategies and targets of adaptation among these clones. While
149 only 4.5% of the adaptive clones are maladaptive in any away condition, we do find that in
150 general, adaptive clones exhibit evidence of local adaptation. Specifically, for each fitness
151 remeasurement condition, both the average and the highest fitness of clones evolved in the
152 home condition (indicated by arrows) are greater than those of clones evolved in the away
153 conditions. Nonetheless, under a given fitness measurement condition, not all “home” clones
154 are more fit than all “away” clones.

155

156 We further used our combined fitness data to determine the *performance* of individual clones in
157 three of the phases in the growth cycle: fermentation, respiration, and stationary phase (Fig.
158 2d). Here, we define performance as the increase in fitness, *per hour*, for a given growth phase;
159 our previous study demonstrated that the overall fitness scales linearly with the amount of time
160 spent in each of the growth phases²². The slope of the relationship between the relative fitness
161 of a clone and the length of a particular growth phase (measured as fitness change per hour)
162 can thus be used as a measure of clone performance in that phase. For instance, as the clones
163 spend 24 extra hours in respiration during every cycle when growing under Fit2D compared to
164 Fit1D we can calculate respiration performance by subtracting relative fitness of each clone in
165 Fit1D from that in Fit2D and then dividing by 24 hours. Similarly, we calculated the fermentation
166 and stationary performances (Supplementary Information section 6).

167
168 We compared these three performances for clones evolved in all four conditions. Overall, while
169 clones from each condition often revealed specific and consistent patterns of apparent tradeoffs,
170 the tradeoffs observed were not necessarily shared across all conditions (Fig. 2d,e). For
171 example, we previously found that most adaptive clones from Evo2D have improved
172 performance in both fermentation and respiration, but decreased performance in stationary
173 phase²². By contrast, adaptive clones from Evo1D have improved performance in fermentation,
174 yet decreased performance in respiration and nearly unchanged performance in stationary
175 phase. Most adaptive clones from Evo5D exhibit yet a different pattern -- improved performance
176 in both fermentation and stationary phases but their performance in respiration on average is
177 largely unchanged. Finally, adaptive clones from Evo1/5D have improved fermentation and
178 stationary phase performance and generally decreased respiration performance. Overall, we
179 found adaptive clones that improved every pair of fermentation, respiration, and stationary
180 phase performances, as well as some that showed improved performance across all three
181 (indicated by arrows in Fig. 2e), suggesting that the ancestor is behind any potential Pareto front
182 for these three performances.

183

184 **The Genetic Basis of Adaptation and Tradeoffs**

185 We determined the genetic basis of adaptation by genome-wide sequencing of 47, 67, and 85
186 adaptive clones from Evo1D, Evo5D, and Evo1/5D respectively. Putative adaptive mutations
187 were successfully identified in 35 (74%), 66 (98%), and 81 (95%) of these clones. The identity of
188 125 adaptive mutants from Evo2D was determined previously^{21,22}. Many genes or pathways
189 were recurrently mutated in our adaptive clones – in such cases we can be confident that these

190 mutations are indeed adaptive. Specifically, out of the 182 adaptive clones in which we
191 identified putative adaptive mutations, 118 (~65%) harbor mutations in genes/pathways hit in
192 multiple clones (Table S3). Furthermore, 79 of them harbor mutations in genes/pathways
193 independently hit five or more times (Table 1).

194
195 In general, within each evolutionary condition, beneficial mutations were limited to a small
196 number of genes that serve similar biological functions. At the same time, across evolutionary
197 conditions, beneficial mutations tend to differ in their genetic bases (Table 1). For instance, we
198 previously reported that the majority of adaptive mutants for Evo2D upregulated the *RAS/PKA*
199 and *TOR/Sch9* nutrient sensing pathways²¹, but we rarely recovered adaptive mutations in
200 these pathways from the other evolutionary conditions. By contrast, loss of function in *SXM1* (a
201 nuclear transport factor interacting with the nuclear pore complex²³) was the prevalent cause of
202 adaptation in Evo1D. While *SXM1* mutants were also observed in Evo5D, they were not the
203 predominant mutant class. Instead, a wide variety of mutations were observed among Evo5D
204 adaptive clones, including (i) 11 duplications of chromosome 11 (*Chr11Dup*), (ii) 10 independent
205 loss of function mutations in *FPK1*, and (iii) 9 mutations in three components of the high-
206 osmolarity glycerol (*HOG*) response pathway: *SSK1*, *SSK2*, and *HOG1*. Given that Evo5D
207 contains a long period of starvation, observation of *Chr11* aneuploidy is consistent with previous
208 findings that aneuploidies can improve survival under extremely stressful conditions^{124–26},
209 although the underlying mechanism is unknown. *FPK1* (a flippase activator) has been
210 previously shown to increase viability in stationary phase²⁷, which we experimentally confirmed
211 (Table S4). The genetic bases of adaptation among Evo1/5D clones were similar to those for
212 Evo5D clones, with mutations in *SXM1* and *FPK1* as well as duplication of *Chr11*.

213
214 Next, we examined the relationship between the identified genetic basis of adaptation and the
215 resulting increases/decreases in performance (Fig. 3a-c). As stated above, in this study
216 “performance” represents fitness change per hour in a particular growth phase rather than
217 measurements of physiological traits (e.g. growth rate) as it is commonly used. The *SXM1*
218 mutants, predominant in Evo1D, have among the highest observed fermentation performances,
219 at >6% per hour (giving >96% fitness advantage over the ancestor over the full 16-hour period
220 of fermentation in our conditions). This likely explains why nutrient-sensing pathway mutants,
221 which have lower fermentation performance, and are common in Evo2D, were not observed in
222 Evo1D. However, the high fermentation performances of *SXM1* mutants come at a cost of
223 reduced respiration performance (negative 2-3% per hour). This likely explains their near

224 absence in Evo2D given that the Evo2D condition contains a long period of respiration.
225 Similarly, the most prevalent Evo2D *RAS/PKA* nutrient-sensing pathway mutants with the
226 highest respiration performance tradeoff strongly in stationary phase²², explaining why they
227 were not observed in Evo5D. Finally, clones that are common in Evo5D, which contains all
228 phases of the growth cycle, are the least likely to show decreased performance in any phases of
229 the growth cycle. Indeed, Evo5D specific mutations, such as *Chr11* duplication and *SSK1*
230 mutation, show no obvious tradeoffs, but rather modest improvements in one or more
231 performances (Fig. S1). Interestingly, Evo5D clones also include *SXM1* mutants that show
232 increased performance only in fermentation with decreased performance in respiration and little
233 change in stationary phase. In this case, their strong improvement in fermentation and lack of
234 tradeoff in stationary phase appears to compensate enough for their reduced fitness in
235 respiration.

236
237 In summary, adaptation under these conditions is idiosyncratic yet predictable: the genetic basis
238 of adaptation under a particular evolutionary condition tends to target a narrow, recurrent and
239 thus *a posteriori* predictable set of genes. However, these gene targets are not shared across
240 all environments, meaning that adaptation across conditions often relies on entirely different
241 genetic pathways. This idiosyncratic nature explains the specific patterns of performances
242 across conditions (Fig. 2d,e). While we do detect clones that increase all performances, clones
243 that perform best in any one growth phase tend to tradeoff in performance in some other growth
244 phase(s). This hints at the existence of evolutionary constraints, preventing the emergence of
245 adaptive clones that simultaneously *maximize* performance in all growth phases.

246

247 **Identification of Evolutionary Constraints and Delineation of Pareto Fronts**

248 We observed an absence of clones near the upper limits of either both fermentation and
249 respiration performances, or both respiration and stationary performances (the large red dot in
250 Fig. 3a,d and 3b,e). Thus, there is at least the appearance of an empty space in the upper right
251 corner, where these pairs of performances would be maximized. We used the convex hull
252 algorithm to delineate potential Pareto fronts that separate the short-term evolutionarily-
253 accessible space from the empty, putatively short-term inaccessible space above the front (grey
254 curves in Fig. 3).

255

256 We first tested whether, given the marginal distributions of trait performances, the absence of
257 clones at the top right of those plots is statistically unexpected (Supplementary Information

258 section 10). Under a null hypothesis of independence of performances, the observation of no
259 clones beyond these putative fronts is indeed unexpected ($P < 1E-4$ for fermentation and
260 respiration phases and $3.5E-4$ for respiration and stationary phases, respectively; Fig. 3d,e and
261 S2a,b). By contrast, there is no unexpected lack of clones close to the upper limits of both
262 fermentation and stationary performances (Fig. 3f and S2c; $P > 0.99$).

263

264 **The Mutational Target Size of the Optimal Types is Smaller Than A Single Nucleotide**

265 To further explore the absence of clones beyond the putative Pareto fronts, we determined the
266 target size for possible single-step mutations that would give rise to the maximum performances
267 for fermentation and respiration, or respiration and stationary phase (marked by the large red
268 dot in Fig. 3a,d and 3b,e). Mutants that could maximize two traits simultaneously would be more
269 fit than the observed mutants at least in some evolutionary conditions; thus, based on this
270 increased fitness, such mutants, should they arise at a similar rate as the observed mutants,
271 should be sampled frequently in those conditions. For example, mutants that improve
272 fermentation and respiration simultaneously beyond the putative front should have a higher
273 fitness than most of sampled clones in Evo2D (Fig. S3a), as clones in this condition experience
274 only fermentation and respiration. Likewise, clones that improve respiration and stationary
275 phase beyond the putative front should have a high fitness in Evo5D (Fig. S3b), given that the
276 majority of clones with high respiration or stationary performance have a positive fermentation
277 performance as well. The fact that we didn't observe any clones beyond the putative fronts
278 suggests that the genomic mutational target size towards such extremely fit mutants located
279 beyond the putative Pareto fronts must be smaller than that for the observed mutants.

280

281 Next, we used a mathematical model to quantitatively assess the probability of sampling a
282 single-step mutation with a given selection coefficient s (Supplementary Information section 11).
283 Several factors determine the probability of sampling such a single-step mutation: the rate at
284 which a mutation occurs, the probability of such a mutation surviving random drift and
285 establishing in the population (\sim proportional to s), and the exponential division rate after the
286 mutation establishes (its cell number roughly reaches $e^{(s*t)}$, with t generations between
287 establishment and sampling). With mutations entering the population at a fixed rate, the more fit
288 a mutant is (the larger s is), the more likely the mutant establishes in the population, the faster
289 the mutant divides and eventually the higher frequency the mutant reaches by the sampling
290 time.

291

292 First, consider a gene with the same target size for adaptive mutations as *IRA1* (which were
293 observed 39 times after sampling at cycle 11 of Evo2D^{21,22}), but whose mutation results in a
294 fitness benefit at the hypothetical optimal type, with maximal fermentation and respiration (the
295 red dot in Fig. 3a,d). Such a hypothetical mutant would have a fitness of ~2.56 per cycle in
296 Evo2D, compared to ~1.64 per cycle for *IRA1*-nonsense mutations. If such a hypothetical gene
297 exists, we would expect to observe mutations in this gene ~25,000 times more frequently than
298 we observed mutations in *IRA1* in Evo2D. Thus, it is exceptionally unlikely that such a gene with
299 a similar target size to *IRA1* does exist. Furthermore, if the target size for such a gene is just a
300 single base pair, our mathematical model suggests that we would expect to see such a mutation
301 84 to 99 percent of the time in our evolution experiments (Supplementary Information section
302 11). Thus, we believe it is unlikely that there is even a single site in the genome of the ancestral
303 strain that can be mutated to provide such a high fitness.

304

305 Similarly, the hypothetical optimal type which maximizes the respiration and stationary phase
306 performances would have a fitness benefit ~2.98 per cycle in Evo5D (represented by the red dot
307 in Fig. 3b,e) (assuming a fermentation performance of zero). If a single site (1bp) can be
308 mutated to this hypothetical optimal type, we would expect to sample such a mutant 88 to 98
309 percent of the time in Evo5D experiments. Thus, there is likely no single-step mutation in the
310 ancestral yeast genome that can simultaneously maximize either both fermentation and
311 respiration, or both respiration and stationary performances to their highest observed levels.

312

313 **Discussion**

314 **A Large Number of Diversely Selected Adaptive Clones Is Needed to Delineate Pareto** 315 **Fronts**

316 Despite the fact that tradeoffs have been widely assumed in studies of evolution, it is extremely
317 challenging to formally establish the existence of tradeoffs. Here, by sampling a large number of
318 adaptive clones from a range of evolutionary conditions, and measuring their performance in
319 three different traits, we were able to demonstrate the existence of Pareto fronts between
320 fermentation and respiration, and between respiration and stationary phase performances.
321 Furthermore, we were able to show that the ancestor must be behind these fronts, because for
322 both pairs of traits there were clones that were able to improve performance in both traits
323 simultaneously; indeed, some clones were able to improve performance in all three traits.

324

325 If the ancestor was on a front delineated by two traits, characterization of the front using
326 experimental evolution would be straightforward, because no adaptive clones could improve
327 both traits simultaneously – indeed, by definition, improvement of performance in one trait would
328 lead to a loss of performance in the other. However, because the ancestor lies behind the fronts
329 we identified, only by mapping a very large number of adaptive clones whose performances
330 span the trait space could we map the Pareto fronts. By randomly subsampling our data, we
331 estimated that ~100-200 independent adaptive mutants are required to detect the Pareto fronts
332 in our experiment (Supplementary Information section 10). Furthermore, given that clones
333 isolated from a particular evolutionary condition, e.g. Evo1D, tend to occupy a specific part of
334 the trait space, clones from Evo1D, Evo2D, and Evo5D together were required to detect the
335 Pareto fronts.

336
337 Finally, having such a large number of adaptive clones enabled us to show that for both of the
338 identified Pareto fronts there is no single mutation that can occur in the genome of the ancestral
339 strain that would enable the strain to maximize performance in both traits. These fronts
340 therefore constrain the evolutionarily accessible space over short timescales.

341
342 **No Observed Pareto Front between Fermentation and Stationary Phase**
343 We were unable to identify a Pareto front between fermentation and stationary phase
344 performances, suggesting either an absence of tradeoffs between these two traits or that single-
345 step mutations provide insufficient performance improvement to reach a hypothetical Pareto
346 front between these two traits. However, this may also be due to experimental limitations:
347 specifically, clones selected under Evo5D experienced both fermentation and respiration prior to
348 stationary phase. Thus, it is entirely possible that the maximum stationary phase performance is
349 larger than we observed, if clones with such a large stationary phase performance tradeoff
350 strongly in fermentation or respiration. A longer stationary phase, e.g. a 10-day serial transfer,
351 may help select for such mutants and define a Pareto front between fermentation and stationary
352 phase performances should one exist. Additionally, evolution in a non-fermentable carbon
353 source followed by a long stationary phase may also enable selection of clones with high
354 stationary phase performance that tradeoff strongly in fermentation.

355
356 **The Shape of Pareto Fronts and Nature of Tradeoffs**
357 Levin (1962)²⁸ suggested that the geometry of Pareto fronts will affect an organism's
358 evolvability, and whether generalists or specialists will tend to evolve. For instance, a convex-

359 shaped front allows for better evolvability and produces different optimal types based on the
360 particular evolutionary condition, allowing for local adaptation (Fig. 4a). By contrast, a concave-
361 shaped front leads to less evolvability, because regardless of the importance of performance in
362 each trait, one of the two most specialized types will always be the most fit (Fig. 4b).

363

364 Previous studies have used, for example, ecological data in phytoplankton²⁹, interactions
365 between phage and *E. coli*³⁰, and synthetic, *E. coli* based systems³¹ to investigate the geometry
366 of Pareto fronts, and in one case, it has been shown that an evolving ancestor is likely on a
367 Pareto front¹². However, no study has yet quantitatively defined a Pareto front or characterized
368 its geometry in evolving populations where the ancestor lies behind the front, which is the case
369 in most experimental evolutions. Here we identified not one, but two convex-shaped fronts for
370 two independent tradeoffs under well-controlled selection pressures in our short-term evolution
371 experiments. It is possible that the shape of the Pareto front itself may change over the
372 timescales of evolution^{32,33} and the way in which it might change will be informative about
373 whether the observed front is due solely to a genetic constraint, or instead whether there is an
374 underlying intrinsic physiological constraint.

375

376 Over longer-term evolution, the space that is inaccessible in the short term may become
377 populated, and the shape change to become a rectangle (Fig. 4c). This would imply there is no
378 physiological constraint between the two traits and the observed Pareto front is purely due to a
379 genetic constraint – that is, no clones with single mutations are able to occupy the seemingly
380 inaccessible space, yet clones with multiple mutations can. Alternatively, the front may either
381 stay in place (Fig. 4d), or move forward but retain the same shape (Fig. 4e), always defining an
382 inaccessible space. This scenario would suggest intrinsic physiological constraints that no
383 single individual could maximize performances in both traits simultaneously. A final possibility is
384 that longer-term evolution may change the shape of the front from being convex to being
385 concave (Fig. 4f) such that individuals with extreme performance in one or the other trait are the
386 most fit depending upon the exact condition in which they are evolved.

387

388 The behavior of clones containing multiple adaptive mutations should provide some insights.
389 We observed three clones carrying two adaptive mutations each in genes specific to different
390 evolutionary conditions. These clones harbor mutations in *SXM1* and *HOG1*, *SXM1* and *SSK1*,
391 and *SXM1* and *CYR1*, respectively. We observed that each of these double mutants is no closer
392 to the front than the corresponding single mutants (Fig. S4), suggesting the front itself might be

393 moderately stable. However, clearly both long-term evolution and further evolution of already
394 adaptive clones under various conditions are needed to test this.

395

396 **Future Prospects**

397 Despite much focus on the study of tradeoffs in ecology and evolution, rigorous demonstration
398 of tradeoffs has proven surprisingly difficult^{15,34}. Furthermore, even when tradeoffs have been
399 demonstrated, the underlying causes typically remain elusive -- the genetic bases of adaptation
400 and tradeoffs identified here provide additional potential targets for further investigation of
401 whether the detected tradeoffs are caused by intrinsic physiological constraints. Here we have
402 shown that it is possible to use barcoding and experimental evolution across a range of
403 conditions to isolate a large enough number of adaptive mutants that together can map the
404 shape of the evolutionary accessible trait space in short-term evolution, from which tradeoffs
405 can be inferred. Our approach is generic and can be used to study tradeoffs between multiple
406 traits including ecologically relevant traits such as the ability to sporulate or undergo mating and
407 can be performed with different founding strains and species. Such studies hold promise in
408 helping us to understand the shape of tradeoffs among multiple traits both in pairs and in higher
409 dimensions.

410 **Data Availability**

411 All sequencing data are deposited in Short Read Archive under Bioproject ID PRJNA515761.

412

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505 Investigation: Y.L.. Writing – Original Draft: Y.L.. Writing – Review & Editing: Y.L., D.A.P., and

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508 **Competing interests**

509 The authors declare no competing interests.

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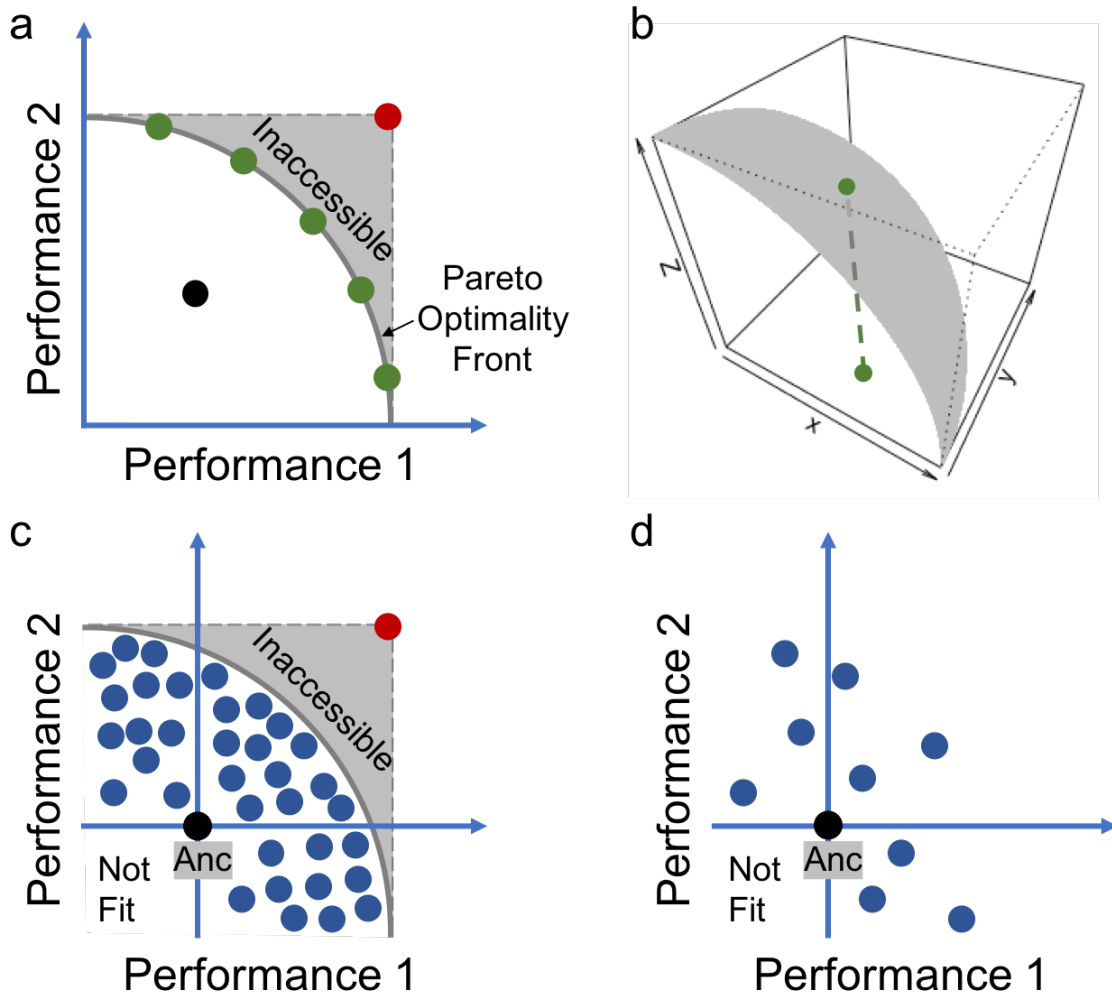
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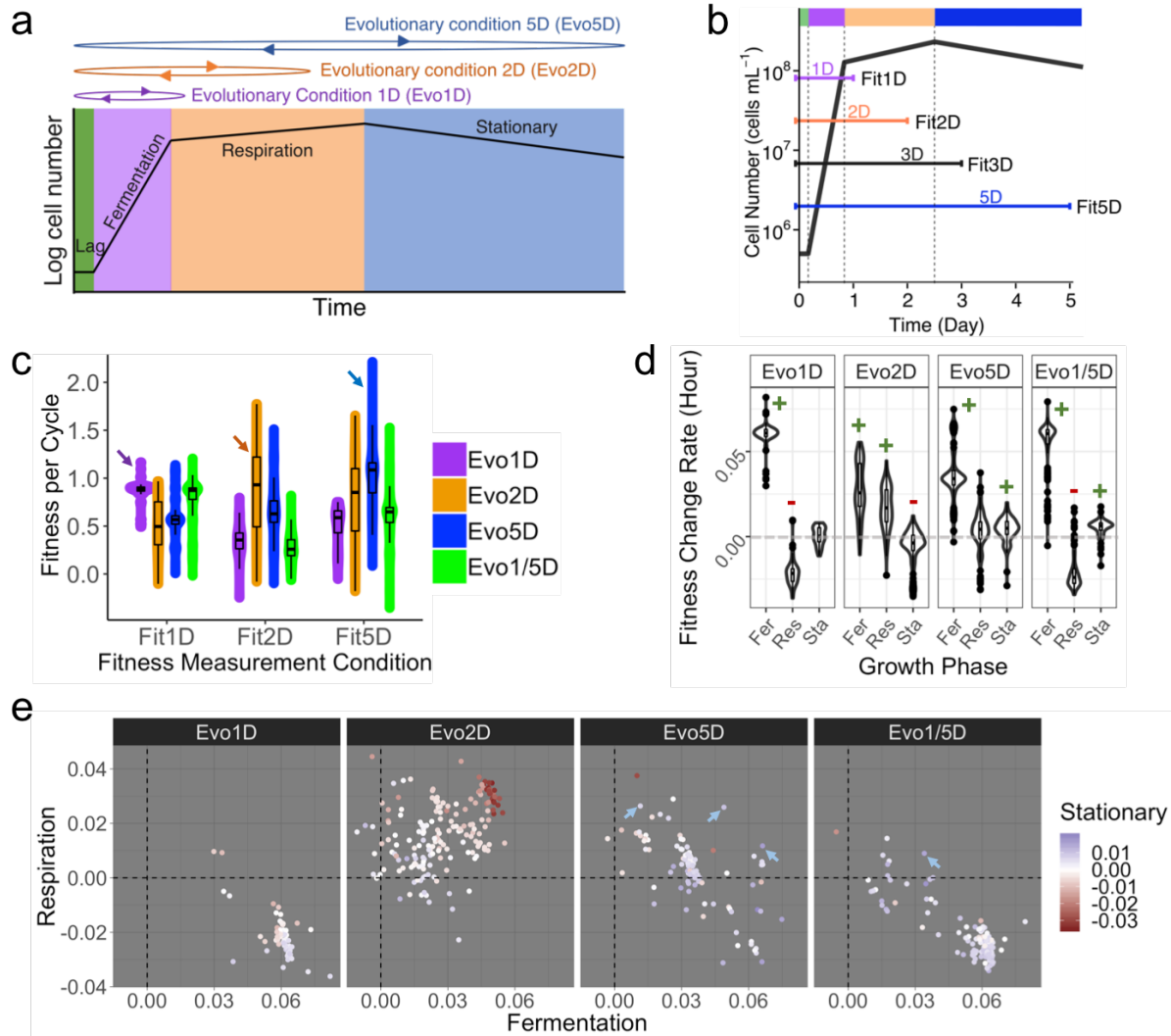
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515 **Figures**



516

517 **Figure 1: Evolutionary constraints in trait-performance space.** a, The Pareto optimality front
518 separates the evolutionary accessible (white space) from the inaccessible space (shaded
519 space). The red dot represents mutants that maximize both traits simultaneously. When
520 organisms are on the Pareto optimality front (green dots), increasing the performance for one
521 trait decreases the performance for the other. By contrast, when organisms are behind the
522 Pareto front (black dot), organisms can improve the performance of both traits until the front is
523 reached. b, An organism on a three-dimensional Pareto surface (green dot) appears to be sub-
524 optimal when it is projected onto a two-dimensional space. c-d, When the ancestor (Anc) is
525 behind the Pareto front, many individuals occupying different parts of the trait space (c) are
526 required to characterize the Pareto front. By contrast, too few individuals (d) are insufficient to
527 delineate the front.



528

529 **Figure 2: Experimental design and the observation of local adaptation and tradeoffs. a,**

530 Three chosen evolutionary conditions span different phases of the yeast growth cycle. Clones

531 were also evolved in a 1-day/5-day alternating condition (Evo1/5D). **b,** Fitness measurement

532 conditions designed to quantify fermentation, respiration and stationary performances (fitness

533 change per hour) of each clone. Dashed vertical lines separate different growth phases, colored

534 as **(a)**. **c,** Fitness measurements of adaptive clones, grouped by their “home” evolutionary

535 condition, in “home” and “away” conditions. Arrows point to adaptive clones measured in their

536 “home” condition. **d,** Adaptive clones’ fermentation, respiration and stationary performances

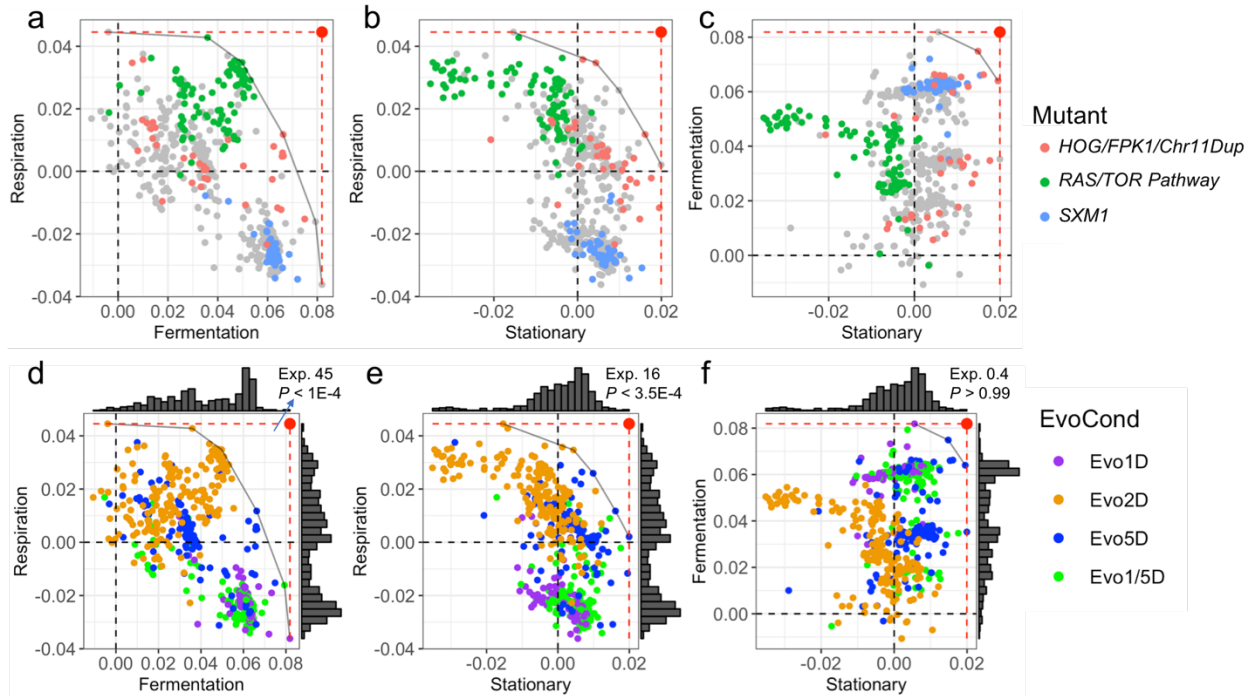
537 grouped by their evolutionary condition. +/- indicates increased/decreased performance

538 compared to the ancestor. **e,** Clones are separated by their evolutionary condition and colored

539 by their stationary phase performance. Each dot represents a clone. Note that some blue

540 colored clones from Evo5D and Evo1/5D (pointed by arrows) improve performances in all three

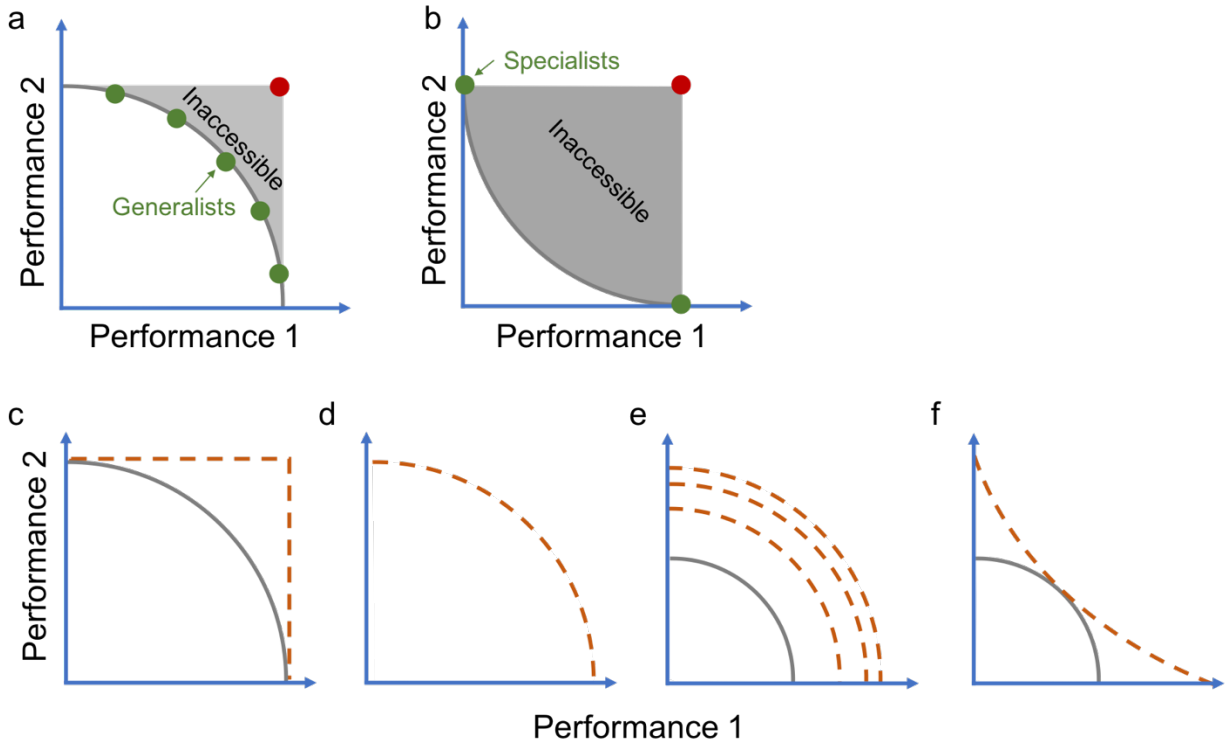
541 growth phases.



542

543 **Figure 3: Mapping of the evolutionarily accessible trait space.** For each pair of
544 performances (fitness change per hour in each growth phase), adaptive clones are plotted and
545 colored by either their molecular basis (a-c), or their evolutionary conditions (d-f). Each dot
546 represents a clone. The large red dots represent the optimum phenotypes, achieving the upper
547 limits (dashed lines) of each pair of performances. The grey curves, defined by the convex hull
548 algorithm, represent putative Pareto optimality fronts. d-f, Histograms on the side represent the
549 density distribution of each trait's performance. Based on the null distribution, the number of
550 clones expected to be observed (Exp.) in the empty space between the putative front and the
551 optimal type (the large red dot) is reported, along with the p-value of not observing any clone in
552 this empty space.

553



554

555 **Figure 4: Pareto front geometry, and possible changes over longer-term evolution. a-b,**
556 **(a)** the convex-shaped Pareto front favors generalists, while **(b)** the concave-shaped front favors
557 specialists during evolution. **c-f**, The current convex Pareto front (the solid grey curve) can **(c)**
558 change into a rectangle, with the previously inaccessible space being populated, **(d)** stay in
559 place, **(e)** move forward while keeping its shape, and **(f)** change its shape over longer-term
560 evolution. Potential Pareto fronts after longer-term evolution are depicted in orange dashed
561 lines.

562

563 **Tables**

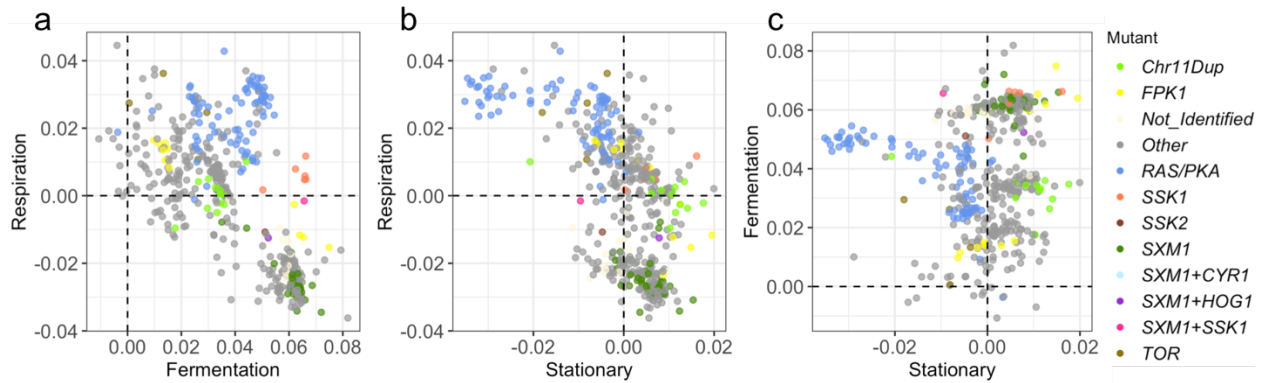
564 **Table 1: Genetic basis of adaptation and tradeoffs**

		Evo1D	Evo2D	Evo5D	Evo1/5D
RAS/PKA	<i>CYR1</i>	0	3	1	1
	<i>GPB2</i>	0	13	0	0
	<i>RAS2</i>	0	2	0	0
	<i>IRA1</i>	0	39	0	0
	<i>IRA2</i>	0	10	1	0
	<i>PDE2</i>	0	11	0	0
TOR/Sch9	<i>TOR1</i>	0	1	0	0
	<i>SCH9</i>	0	1	0	0
	<i>SXM1</i>	12	1	10	26
	<i>CHR11 DUP</i>	0	4 (diploid)	11	1
HOG	<i>FPK1</i>	0	1	10	2
	<i>SSK1</i>	0	0	7	0
	<i>SSK2</i>	0	2	1	0
	<i>HOG1</i>	0	0	1	0

565
 566 The number of clones carrying recurrent mutations within genes or pathways. These
 567 genes/pathways were independently mutated more than four times. Genes in the same pathway
 568 are grouped by the large parenthesis on the left.

569

570 **Supplementary Figures**



571

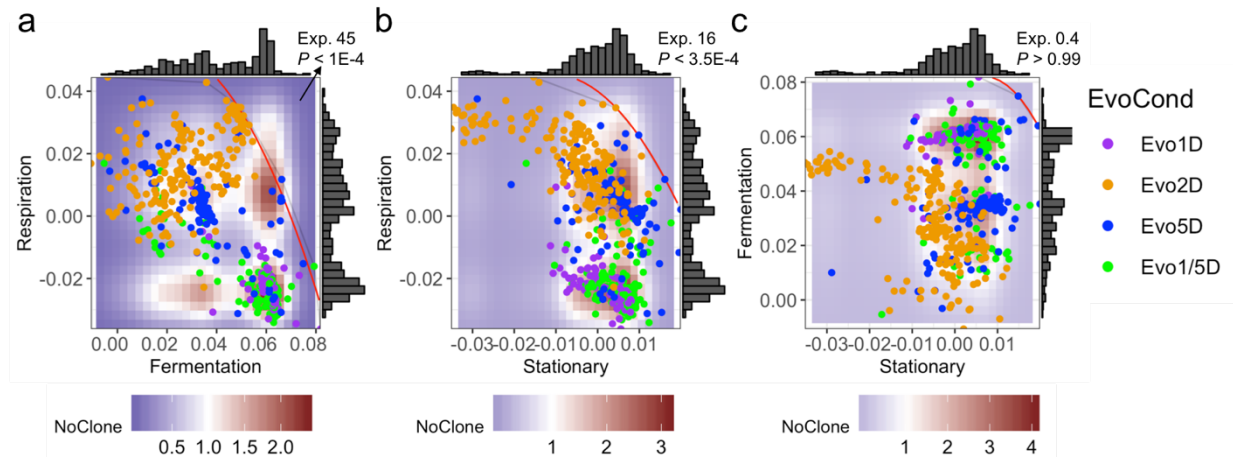
572

573 **Figure S1: The genetic basis of adaptive clones in the trait space. a-c,** Adaptive clones are

574 colored by their genetic basis and plotted for each pair of performances. Each dot represents a

575 lineage.

576



577

578

Figure S2: Null distribution indicates the existence of an evolutionarily inaccessible

579

space. a-c, The background color represents the expected number of clones with

580

corresponding performances under a null hypothesis that performances in different growth

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phases are independent. Clones, represented by dots, are colored by their evolutionary

582

condition. The thin grey curves represent putative Pareto fronts drawn by the convex hull

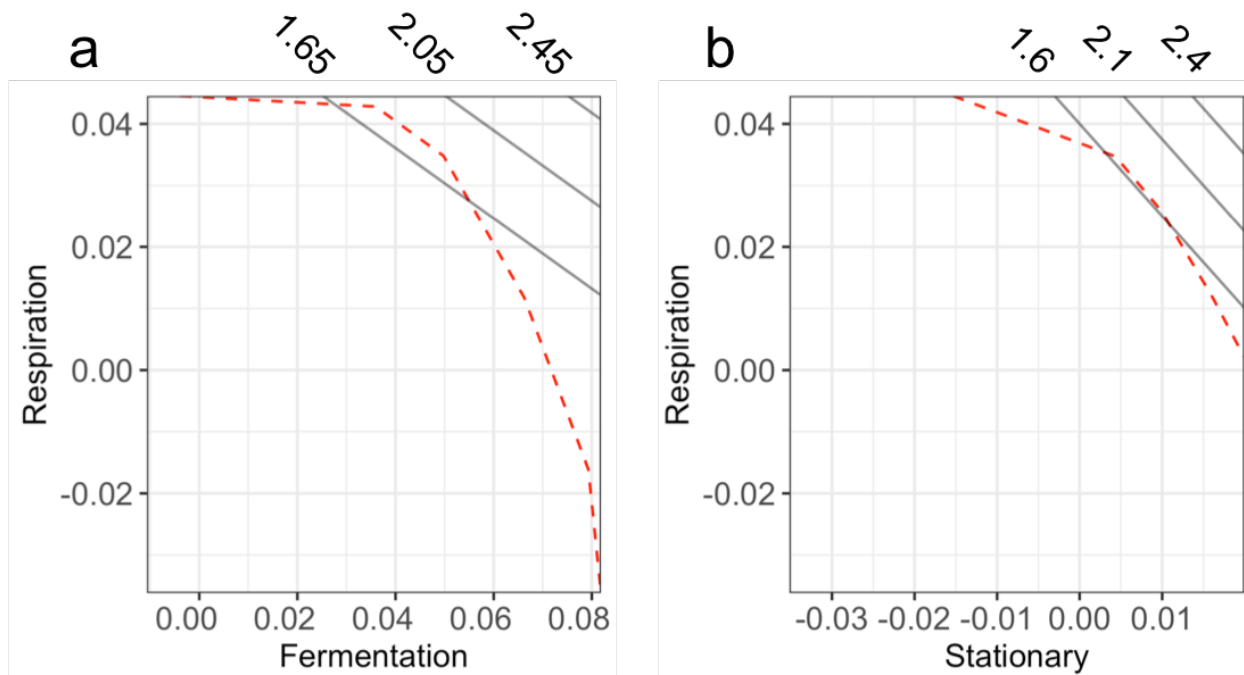
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algorithm. The red curves represent the second degree polynomial fit of these putative Pareto

584

fronts.

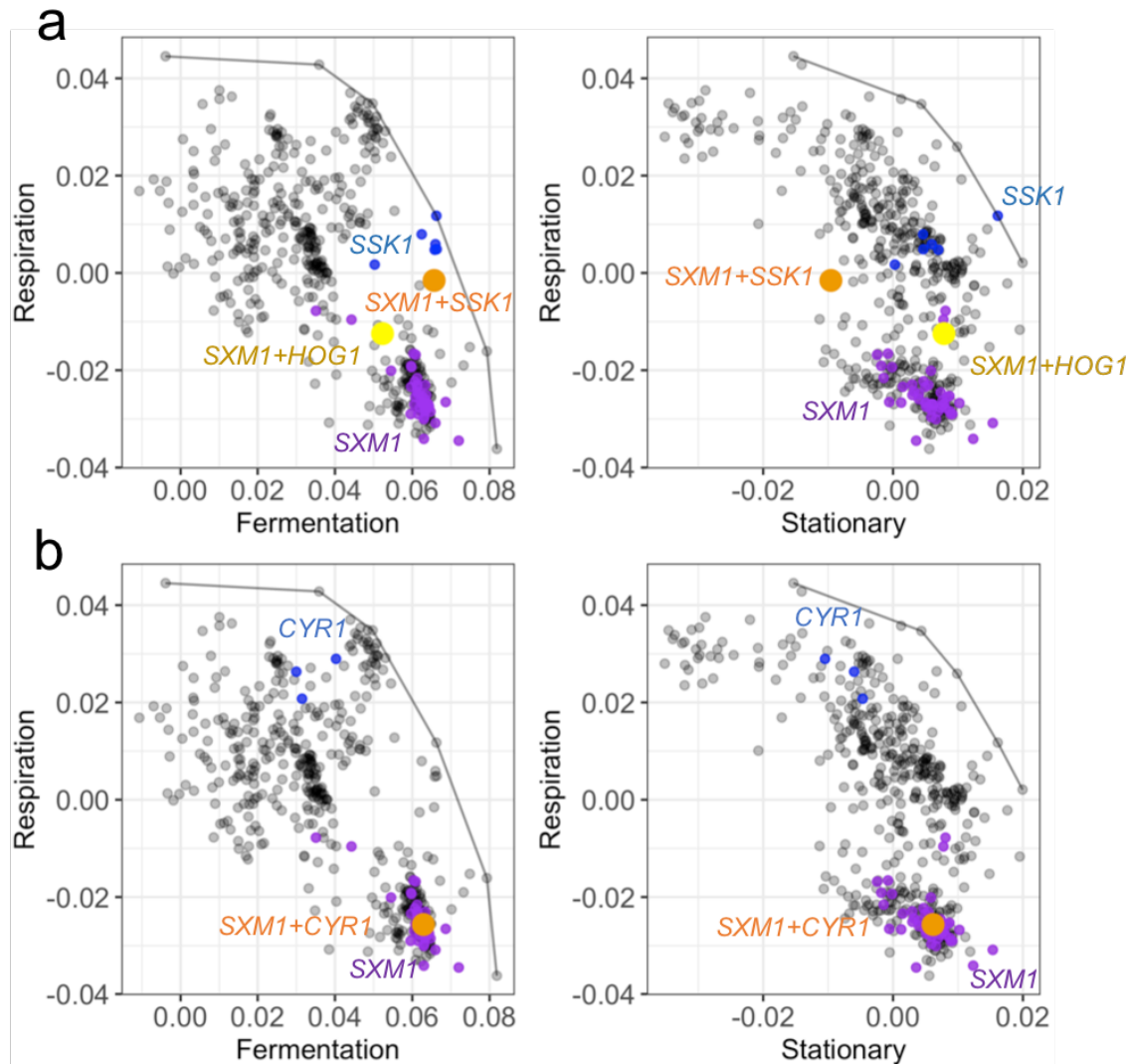
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587 **Figure S3: Fitness estimates in evolutionarily inaccessible space. a-b,** The red dashed
588 lines represent putative evolutionary fronts identified by the convex hull algorithm. The black
589 lines represent (a) estimated fitness in Evo2D using the corresponding fermentation and
590 respiration performance, and (b) estimated fitness in Evo5D using the corresponding respiration
591 and stationary phase performance with the fermentation performance assumed to be zero.
592 Fitness estimates per cycle are labeled on top of the panel.

593



594

595

Figure S4: Epistasis between recurrent beneficial mutations. (a) Two mutants carrying

596

mutations in both *SXM1* and *HOG* pathway genes, and **(b)** a mutant carrying mutations in both

597

SXM1 and *RAS/PKA* pathway gene *CYR1* are shown in the performance space. Double

598

mutants are colored and shown in large dots. Their corresponding single mutants are colored

599

and shown in small dots. Note that double mutants cannot outcompete both single mutants in all

600

conditions and cannot break the detected Pareto fronts (in grey curve).

601

602 **Source Tables**

603 Table S1: Barcode counts of all lineages during the course of evolution

604 Table S2: Fitness measurements of isolated clones

605 Table S3: Genetic basis of genome-wide sequenced clones

606 Table S4: Viability measurement of *FPK1* mutants and wild-type strains